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## PLATING THE BRATISLAVA SOUVENIR SHEET

*By Thomáš Moravics*

*Translated by M. L. Vondra*

On the occasion of the Bratislava International Stamp Exhibition, a souvenir sheet measuring 150 X 100 mm. was issued on October 24, 1937. It pictured the blue 50 h. showing Poprad Lake in the High Tatras and the carmine 1 Kč. showing the tomb of Milán Štefanik in Bradlo. These were designed by K. Vika and engraved by K. Seizinger. The lettering and emblems were presumably drawn by someone at the printing office (see Fig. 1). Steel printed from flat plates, two printing processes are known to have been utilized and are described in philatelic literature.



FIGURE 1

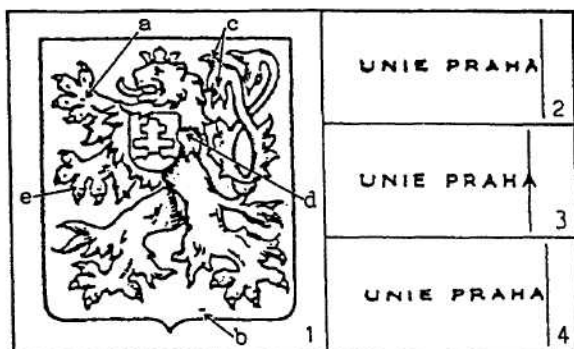


FIGURE II

Printing plates for the red dye were identified by E. Hirsch some fifty years ago in volume 18 of "Tribúna Filatelistů". He separated the plates into three groups by visual presence, ie. the location of the right border on the 1 kč. stamp and the variations in the design of the Bratislava castle logo. These differences are obvious and in the great majority of cases the types can be reliably distinguished. We know, however, that steel-engraved printing can effect color of the finished stamp. More of this is seen on sheets

containing special cancellations. If we find some off-color at the precise spot of the Bratislava emblem on cancelled sheets, it is still not possible to accurately identify which of the three plates printed with the red dye. Even as a theoretical guess, I submit further differences in the engravings which must logically have arisen during the adding on of the lettering and the emblem.

Plate I - Color spot on the lion's upper paw (see Fig. II - 1a). Extending downward, the right vertical border of the 1 kč. stamp passes just to the right of "Unie Praha" (see Fig. II - 2).

Plate II - Downward extension of the same border cuts through the second "A" in "Praha" (see Fig. II - 3).

Plate III - Between the lion's two lower paws appears a tiny dash (see Fig. II - 1b). Downward extension of the right border of the 1 kč stamp passes just to the right of the "Unie Praha" (see Fig. II - 4).

It is possible to distinguish between the individual plates by other markings as shown in Fig. II - 1c, 1d and 1e and also by the height of the letters in "Unie Praha".

Printing Plates for the blue dye have not yet been separated or identified. The publishers of "Monografie" have taken over the research files of E. Hirsch, who contends that about seven to

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FIGURE III

ten plates were used for printing the blue dye. I was able to confirm the existence of eight plates which I identified by the perfections, or rather imperfections, in the engraving and in the existence of typical faults. In the original engraving of the 50 h. stamp, the letter "S" in "SKO" has a thicker loop at the bottom (see Fig. III - 5). This feature was carried over on the transfer roll from the stamp to the souvenir sheets which were printed from plates A, B, C, D and E. Undoubtedly this was corrected at a later date (see Fig. III - 6) and is evident even on sheets printed from plates F, G and H. In reality, it appears that the alterations in letter "S" do not appear to be the same on each of the above mentioned plates. From this we surmise that the corrections were made on each individual plate.

As far as the positioning of the title in relation to the 50 h. stamp is concerned, the vertical upward extension of the right side of the stamp border passes between the last letter of "CELOŠTATNI" and the first letter of "VÝSTAVA" (see Fig. III - 7) in all the plates except plate A.

Plate A - Vertical upward extension of same border touches the left corner of letter "V" (see Fig. III - 8).

Plate B - Colored dot and dash above the letters "ATI" in "BRATISLAVA" (see Fig. III - 9).

Plate C - Check over the last letter "S" in "CELOŠTATNI" is filled with horizontal lines only (see Fig. III - 10).

Plate D - The center line in "E" of "CELOŠTATNI" is more than halfway up the stem (see Fig. III - 11).

Plate E - The center line in "E" is midway up the stem. The last letter in "VYSTAVA" and the first letter in "POSTOVÝCH" have short stems. The letters give the impression that they are raised above the others (see Fig. III - 12).

Plate F - Again the last letter in "VÝSTAVA" and the first letter in "POSTOVÝCH" have short stems (see Fig. III - 13).

Plate G - In "POSTOVÝCH", the "S" is thicker than on the other plates and the stem of the "T" is shorter (see Fig. III - 14).

Plate H - In "POSTOVÝCH", the "S" is thinner than on other plates and the "T" is normal

(see Fig. III - 15).

So far I have been able to determine and verify these combinations of printing plates used: IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IIE, IIF, IIG, IIID, IIIG and IIH.

Of the errors which appear on some of the plates in the course of printing, I call attention to the white spot above the letters "NS" in the 50 h. stamp (see Fig. III - 16). This rather common error appears in the printing of the sheet by a combined IIF plate. I also invite your attention to an error consisting of a colored circular spot in the letter "E" on the 1 kč. stamp (see Fig. III - 17). The error is found on sheets printed by a combined IIIG plate.

This proposed categorization does not in any way contemplate the precise chronological order in which the plates were used. Distinction between the individual plates is not simple because the engraving of each plate was done with precision and quality. For example, the emblem was probably engraved before the rest of the design and the engraver used a machine tool for engraving the letters in the heading. This helps explain why relatively minor differences arose despite the somewhat heavy use of the plates.

I hope this is not an end to this particular research project. My resources were limited to but a few dozen souvenir sheets which were at my disposal. A definitive concluding of this area of research will still require considerable effort along with a bit of enthusiasm on the part of my fellow collectors.

CHARLEY'S CORNER

WHAT'S FOR SALE

For some time now there has been a considerable amount of questionable philatelic material available at various auction houses both in this country and in Germany. Some of this has come under scrutiny by specialized collectors like myself and others. Illustrated here are some Czechoslovak items which are either "made up" (mache) or outright counterfeits or forgeries.

The first is a Scout telegram with a Mahr photo attest (see Fig. 1). It has two Scout 10 h stamps affixed to an original telegram addressed to Dr. Rašín. Although the telegram itself is genuine, the Scout stamps were added presumably later to defraud collectors and were not used

for Scout delivery. I showed this photo to Jan Dvořák of Prague who is probably the foremost authority on Czech Scout issues today. He made some interesting observations:

The cancel "N.V." is rarely applied to stamps themselves. These stamps usually received the "Pošta Skautů" cancel with the hand-written date. The "N.V." on the telegrams is very blurred and not possessing the characteristics of the genuine "N.V." Note insert of the 20 h. (Fig. 1A) The two bars above and below the "N.V." are malformed. The "Pošta Skautů" cancel is not original and has the hand-written date "5/11". The Scout post did not start until November 7 "7/11". The starting bid price for this item was 2,000 D.M. (German marks). Would you pay that price for a

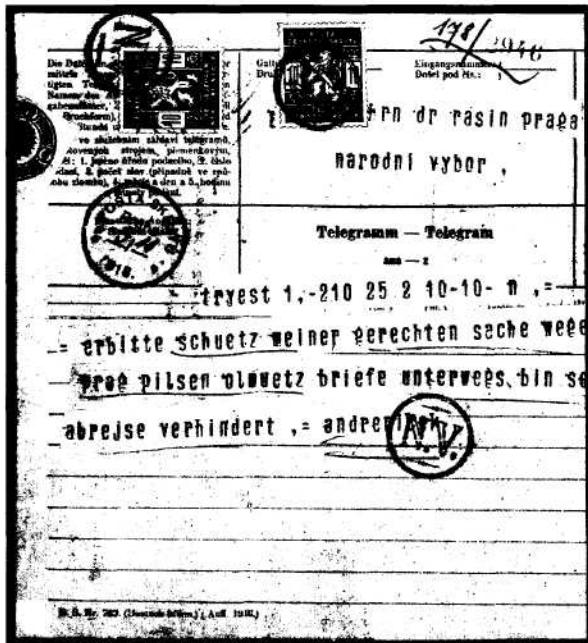


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 1a



FIGURE 2

forgery?

The second item is an "S O 1920" piece showing the Hradčany 15 h value with a description noting that it is the rare line perf 13 3/4, when it clearly reveals itself as the common perf 13 3/4 x 13 1/2. According to the Andreas Schneider catalog, it is expertized by Mahr (see Fig. 2).

The third is the 20 kčs Air Mail Issue of 1930. Supposedly, it is the rare perf 13 3/4 x 12 1/4, but one can clearly see from the photo that the sides were rather poorly re-perfed to resemble the 12 1/4 perforation (see Fig. 3).



FIGURE III

One of the best ways I know for determining genuine perforations is to secure identical perforations in the common varieties and simply align the perforations against one another. If the perforations are slightly "off", the chances are that your "rarity" is falsely perforated. It is better to use corner or end copies of cheap stamps and have them available in pairs or blocks.



FIGURE IV

The fourth item shows a Hradčany cover with an Opava cancel. Note an imperf pair of the 20 h carmine, a cover which was purchased by one of our members for over \$500. Unfortunately the pair is a complete forgery (see Fig. 4).

The fifth consists of two Siberian covers with the Lion Issue and a 1919 cancellation, as illustrated in Cherrystone Stamp Center's auction catalog. Although the "1919" is a genuine cancel, it was never applied in Siberia because it didn't arrive there until the early part of 1920. The cover shown here has a small "Polni Pošta" with the rosettes instead of numbers as shown in the larger "Polni Pošta" cancel. The dent in the outer circle at the left rosette is a clear sign of a "mache" or forged cover. I have never seen that cancel with the dent appear on a genuine cover (see Fig. 5).

There were at least eight to ten large sacks of mail undelivered which were returned from Siberia. Many of these originals covers or cards which came back were subsequently altered by affixing in most cases the Lion Issue and applying various genuine cancels in Prague. This was clearly a money-making scam. What helped it along was the fact that the cancelling devices, pads and cancel inks were also returned to Prague.

As late as 1947, a card with a "President Grant" cancel was prepared as a memento gift for



FIGURE V

As late as 1947, a card with a "President Grant" cancel was prepared as a memento gift for

As late as 1947, a card with a "President Grant" cancel was prepared as a memento gift for

some special occasion. This is supported by a letter from A. Novotny who then headed up the Czechoslovak Postal Services. It is currently in the hands of a dealer-collector in Prague.

These are but a few illustrations how an unsuspecting philatelist can be victimized. It is not enough to rely on the reputation of an auction house or a signature on the reverse of a stamp purported to be that of an expert. One who collects specialized material owes it to himself to be skeptical, critical and, above all, knowledgeable of that area of philately which he is endeavoring to make his specialty.

-C.C.

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EDITORIAL HINGES

## ON COUNTERFEITS AND FORGERIES

A recent resurgence in the sale and exchange of forged and counterfeit material has aroused new interest in the expertization of stamps. Collectors are anxious to learn how they can best detect for themselves whether an item they are about to purchase is genuine. Our Society, of course, has its famous "Padelky" as compiled by J. Karásek, Z. Kvasnička and B. Pauliček in 1966 which has been meticulously translated into English by Jaroslav Verner and Henry Hahn.

On the Introductory page appears the following opening commentary:

"Counterfeits of Czechoslovak stamps can be divided into these categories:

I. Counterfeits (entire counterfeits)

II. Forgeries (partial counterfeits)."

So far, so good! But halfway down that same page is the following reference:

"II. Counterfeit Overprints and Forgeries.

1. Counterfeit overprints on genuine stamps.

2. Altered types.

3. Altered perforations.

4. Intentionally altered color.

5. Altered paper.

6. Forged watermarks.

7. Forged gum.

8. Forged or removed cancellations."

Now we start to get confused. This confusion continues as each of the above subdivisions is then explained, paragraph by paragraph.

The first paragraph seeks to explain "Counterfeit Overprints" and states that "Czechoslovak overprints intended to defraud the Postoffices are unknown on Czechoslovak stamps." Really? Well then why do the next seven lines "explain" what is known about those "counterfeit overprints"?

The second paragraph is headed "Forged Types" even though the second subdivision is "Altered Types". The same applies to the third paragraph as far as perforations are concerned.

The fourth paragraph does not tell us whether "intentionally altered color" makes a stamp a forgery or a counterfeit, nor does the fifth paragraph reveal this as far as "altered paper" is concerned.

The remaining introductory remarks tell us that the addition of watermarks, gum, cancellations and expertization markings constitute forgeries.

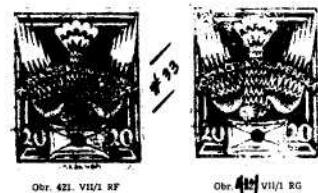
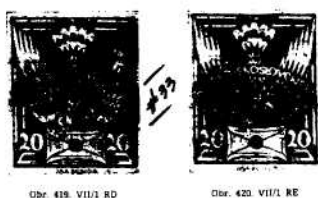
This raises an interesting question: When is a stamp a counterfeit and when is it a forgery? Or does it make no difference? Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "Counterfeit" as that which is "made in imitation of something else with a view to defraud; hence, spurious." But it also defines the word as "that which is made in imitation of something with a view to deceive; a forgery." The same dictionary defines "Forgery" as "fabrication, especially the crime of falsely and fraudulently making or altering a writing or instrument which if genuine would, or on its face might, be of some legal effect upon the rights of others." Even though it also lists it as "that which is forged, fabricated or counterfeited", these are mere synonyms, whereas we are looking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

**THE DOVE**  
**Thirteenth Installment**

(This is a continuation of a Allegory Chapter of Monografie II  
as translated by Vladimír Králíček)

(Page 245)



(Page 246)

25 h (Type 11) green

Position Marks	Description	Stamp Position	Plate
Primary Retouches			
VII/1 R	Retouch of envelope & author's name; envelope seal has oval shape; lines in envelope thinner; letters "JAR" repaired; border above them damaged; letters "BENDA" irregular & without dot after them.	20	With sheet margin frame



Obr. 423. Detail opravené části.



Obr. 424. VII 1 R

30 h. red violet

Position Marks	Description	Stamp Position
Printing Plate Faults		
I/1	Rounded notch in left upper margin with a colored dot inside.	42
II/1	White oval spot in right margin above the letters "SKA"	18
IV/1	Upper part of letter "S" in "SKA" is white	13
IV/2	Letters "VE" in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ" joined together and partly white.	29
IV/3	White spot across lower part of letter "N"; feathers below letters "SLOV" damaged; white spot to left of dove's head; right upper corner of envelope sketch not complete.	31
IV/4	Letters in "SKOSLOV" are irregular.	46
V/1	Large white notch at left wing; adjoining part of sketch damaged	90
V/2	White incision in lower part of left wing	6
V/3	Small circle under letter "O" in "SLOVENSKÁ"; one half is colored, the other half is white.	96
VI/1	Short vertical sketch above left denomination "30" appears as two lines.	
VI/2	White spot in vertical sketching above left denomination "30"; white vertical line in left bottom corner; horizontal line in envelope is broken below the seal.	100
VI/3	White spot above right denomination "30".	25



Obr. 425. I/1



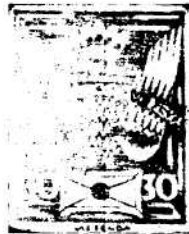
Obr. 426. II/1



(Page 248)



Obr. 427. IV/1



Obr. 428. IV/2



Obr. 429. IV/3



Obr. 430. IV/4



Obr. 431. V/1



Obr. 432. V/2



Obr. 433. V/3

(Page 249)



Obr. 434. VI/1



Obr. 435. VI/2

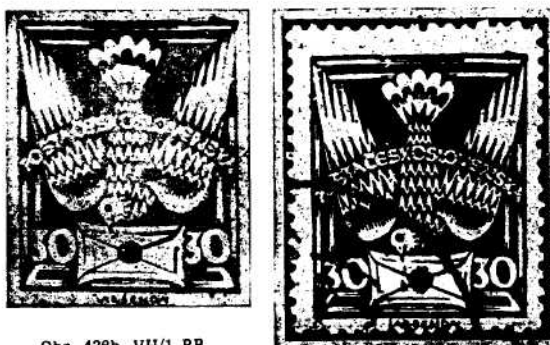


Obr. 436. VI/3

(Page 249)

Position Marks	Description	Stamp Position
Primary retouches		
VII/1 RA	Stronger line in right part of envelope; right number "3" and decorative sketching beneath it is repaired; with some stamps having this retouch, a colored dot appears in lower margin or a colored line & dot in dove's tail appears with white spots in upper part of left wing.	72
VII/1 RA	As in retouch VII/1 RA; however there are additional retouches to dove's tail, right wing and upper margin of stamp.	72
VII/2 R	Retouches of upper right part of envelope and adjacent parts of numeral "3"; part of right wing repaired	92

(Page 250)



Obr. 436b. VII/1 RB



Obr. 436a. VII/1 RA



Obr. 436c. VII/2 R

*Member of the Month***MEET ROBERT T. COSSABOOM**

Thanks to a Minkus publication, young Robert Cossaboom acquired an interest in Central European philately. His father was a college professor and gave him foreign stamps from his correspondence. Then he bought him Minkus "New Worldwide Postage Stamp Album" and young Robert was launched on his new hobby. By the time he went to high school, he developed a keen interest in European history. He narrowed his stamp collecting to Austria, Serbia and Montenegro. But his interest in Central Europe widened and the former Hapsburg Empire particularly intrigued him. He learned that the Austrian half of the Empire had sixteen languages of administration. Despite that, hand mail and passengers travelled from Vienna to Czernowitz in little more than a day. Today that same trip takes weeks via Moscow.

After matriculating at Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Michigan, Robert spent three years as an Army officer. Returning home, he attended graduate school at Ohio State and obtained his doctor's degree in Central European History. His stamp collecting was now confined to Austria and Czechoslovakia. To further his knowledge of Czechoslovak stamps, he joined the Society.

As a graduate student at Ohio State, he spent 1973-74 in Vienna researching his dissertation and two summers in Prague studying the Czech language at Charles University. While in Vienna, he acquired some unusual philatelic items, including the 1906 edition of the Austrian Post Lexicon with yearly updates for 1908 through 1911. This publication is a must for those who collect cancellations of the Austrian half of the Hapsburg Empire. In the Austrian National Archives he copied the 1910 list of all post and telegraph offices in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, including railway and ship postoffices and offices in Lichtenstein, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Levant.

While researching his dissertation, Robert attended thrice weekly stamp auctions at the Dorotheum, the state pawn-and-auction shop founded by Emperor Josef I. There he was fortunate in obtaining complete sheets of such early Czech issues as Michel no. 1, 2a, 3, 18 (perf and imperf), 162 and 164.

After returning to the U.S., he accepted a position as historian with the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. Three years later in 1978, Robert was transferred to a position as historian for the U.S. Logistics Group (TUSLOG) in Ankara, Turkey. Following two years in the Turkish capital, he was transferred to Headquarters of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) at Ramstein Air Base located about ten kilometers west of the city of Kaiserslautern, West Germany. Since 1984, he has been command historian with responsibility for managing USAFE's history program.

In addition to his impressive career, Robert Cossaboom is the Society's "anchor man" in Europe. Through his hands pass our Specialists enroute to our European members. If you ever travel through West Germany in the area of Kaiserslautern, give him a call at the Base and he will show you around and dazzle you with his collection of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

--M.L.V.

**HONORARY MEMBER NAMED**

Every year the Board of Directors reviews its roster of members to see who has served our Society with distinction or provided it with years of unselfish devotion. Last year that honor went to Wolfgang Fritzsche, former editor and now sales and circuit manager of our Society. (see Sept. 1987 issue, page 10). This year the Board chose Clarence Joseph "Bud" Pearce (see March 1988 issue, page 6).

C.J. Pearce has been a member since the year our philatelic organization was founded. For his fifty years of service, devotion and support of the Society, he has been named an Honorary Member. Congratulations, Bud!

## OVERSEAS EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENTS

The Society has received numerous inquiries from collectors residing in Czechoslovakia offering to enter into friendly correspondence with our members in this country with a view of exchanging stamps. Members interested in communicating with these collectors are urged to write them directly. An asterisk in front of the collector's name denotes his or her ability to read and write English. However, there may be others who did not indicate their knowledge of English. Next to each name is the collector's preference for his or her philatelic need.

Only a few of these names are members of our Society. Hopefully a cultivation of rapport between our members and these collectors in Czechoslovakia will help foster greater interest in our Society and ultimately generate an increase in our membership.

It is the sincere hope of the Society's Board that most members will communicate with at least one collector on this list. That should aid all parties concerned, both philatelically and socially. All of these addresses are in Czechoslovakia:

Name and Address	Needs, Wants & Preferences
Pavel Baran Luční 307/12 851 01 Bratislava	Worldwide topical - Fauna
Pavel Capek Ostrožská Nová Ves 349 ul. Záhumení 687 22	Used U.S. from 1950 on....
Jiří Cisler E. Krásnohorská 44/16 110 01 Praha 1	Used U.S. stamps and covers
Vítěslav Chytil Heršpice 107 683 56 Nižkovice	U.S. - general
Jaromír Cejka Hornická 785 592 31 Nové Město na Moravě	U.S. - general
Jiří Gýra Vyšehradská 116 CS 250 69 Vodochody	U.S. - general
Jaroslav Herink Prokupová 7 320 05 Plzeň	U.S. mint & Sokol on stamps
Michal Hitha Volpová 33 318 09 Plzeň	Mint U.S., Mexico & Canada
*Petr Homolka Chabarovická 1322 182 00 Praha 8	U.S. - general
Anna Koloničná Klapý 170 411 16 Czechoslovakia	U.S. - current
Jiří Krňák Sidliště 168 378 10 České Velenice	Plating of Hradčany; new Sokol stamps
*Dr. M. Němečková Pri Podlužanke 7 934 01 Levice	Children's drawings on stamps- Worldwide

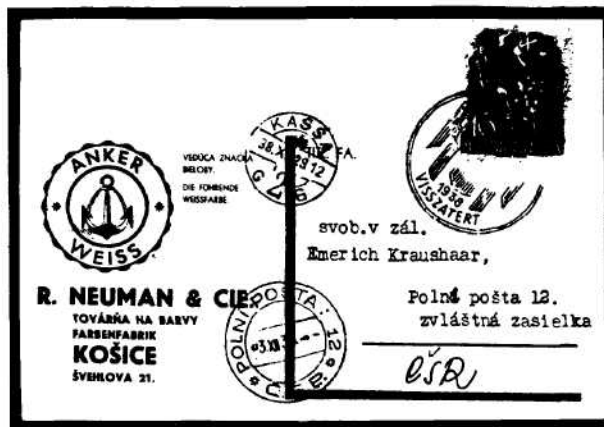
Name and Address	Needs, Wants, & Preferences
Jiří Neumann Tešínská 8 312 03 Plzeň	Specialized Czechoslovakia - 1928 to 1939
Jaroslav Ošanec Cechová 1380 765 02 Otrokovice	U.S. - 1980 to present
Viliam Progner Topolevová 8/D 851 01 Bratislava	U.S. - general
František Roztočil 267 62 Komřov 216	U.S. - general
*Zdenek Texl Na Zavadilce 785 551 01 Jaroměř	U.S. - Used & mint
Michel Teubner dr. Nováka 531 294 71 Benátky nad Jizerou I	U.S. & Czechoslovakia
Boháč Tibor ulice Boženy Němcovej 8/11 040 01 Košice	U.S. - Mint & covers
František Valášek Mrštiková ul. 929 500 09 Hradec Králové 9	U.S. - Mint up to 1985
Jaroslav Vicenuk 687 71 Bojkovice 229	Worldwide topicals - Flora, fauna & ships; Countries - Pitcairn Islands, Norfolk & Tristan da Cunha
Miloslav Vlček Poštovní přihrádka 13 768 24 Hulín	U.S. - general
Jan Zajíc Suvarovová 631/IV 339 01 Klatovy	U.S. - general

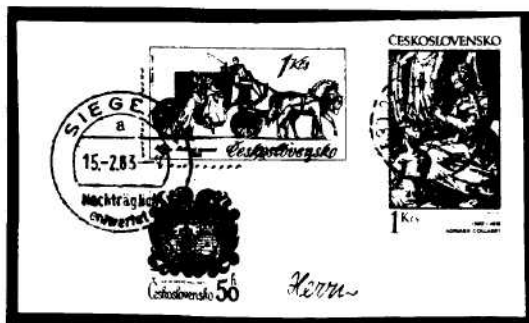
**SPECIAL  
PARCELS**

By Dr. Miroslav Vostatek  
Translated by Mirko L.  
Vondra

The Field Post of the Czechoslovak Army was active in October 1938. One of its rules was that it did not accept parcels for overseas mailing nor did it guaranty its troops delivery of letters from foreign lands. These conditions changed abruptly.

The German Army occupied strategic territory





illustrated above. From Košice, then occupied by Hungary, a letter was directed to a soldier serving in Carpatho-Ukraine. Headquarters for Field Post number 12 was at that time in Perečině. The envelope bears the notation in Slovak: "Zvláštní Zasielka."

This has become a rarity of its time. It is a curiosity item which not many philatelists can take credit for having in their collection.

with a population of three million, many of whom were Czechs. Czech soldiers wanted to write home and their families sought contacts with them. Therefore the Ministry of National Defense inaugurated a so-called Special Parcel Service distinguishable from Special Delivery in the U.S. The recipient had to have permission from the Director of the Field Post who maintained a special listing. That way he could receive mail from abroad and respond to it in kind. Such mail had to be labelled "Speciální Zásilka" (Special Parcel).

An example of such a cover is illus-

## UMĚNÍ A ZNÁMKA - ART AND THE POSTAGE STAMP

BOHUMIL KUBIŠTA

by G.M. van Zanten



In the 1973 Art stamp series, there appears a miniature sheet calling attention to the Brno 1974 National Stamp Exhibition. The 2 Kčs. value of the sheet shows a clown named "Pierot" painted in the year 1911 by Bohumil Kubišta. The original of this work which measures 100 x 68 cm. hangs in the Prague National Gallery. The subject of the miniature sheet is "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 drafting and painting. However his life was one of hardship and poverty. He enrolled at the Industrial Art School in Prague and, after a brief period there, he went to the Prague Academy. Later he studied in Florence and Paris where he also wrote articles and essays on art. In 1907 and 1908, at the age of only 23-24, he took part in exhibitions with the

"Group of Eight" and there his name became linked to modern expressive Czech painting. His works revealed his mathematical-analytical thinking.

His first cubistic portrait was completed in 1910. But it did not ease his financial situation which was always hopeless and at times he was on the verge of committing suicide. But he kept painting and developing his art form.

In desperation, he joined the Austrian Army in 1913 as a reserve officer. As one might imagine, 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. That was in the autumn of 1918. Soon thereafter he was struck down by the Spanish influenza epidemic that raged at the time. And so at the age of 34 ended the life of one of the great painters of Czech art. His legacy has been an inspiration to younger generations of Czechoslovak artists. His name has coined the phrase "Cubistic Painting."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

for sophisticated differences which might apply mainly to philatelic material. You will find slight variations in these definitions in other dictionaries, but essentially they mean the same.

Unfortunately, our philatelic friends often fail to make the distinction and invariably use the two words interchangeably. There is a subtle difference and the key can be found in the definition of "Forgery". When referring to "making or altering a writing or instrument", what is the first thing that comes to your mind? A check, of course. Be it a bank check or a personal check, it is printed on a form that is perfectly legal, valid and genuine. But when some one comes along and alters that instrument by adding another number to the amount or signing or endorsing it with a name not his own, he has "forged" the check and committed the crime of "forgery". The same applies to a postage stamp. If a person affixes an overprint to a stamp which had none, he has "altered" the stamp and committed "forgery." This makes it a "forged" stamp. Without that overprint, the stamp would be perfectly genuine. Similarly, if a person "alters" a stamp by adding the signature of an expert on the gummed side, he has "forged" a signature and committed "forgery". Therefore making any change or alteration on a stamp which otherwise is genuine constitutes a forgery and makes the stamp itself a forgery. If by some miraculous method that alteration could be completely removed and the stamp restored to its original form, it would again be genuine. But don't try it-it won't work!

Now consider a stamp which was printed on a press by a private party to match perfectly the design, color and denomination of one that was printed either by the government or under government sponsorship and supervision. Such unauthorized printing is "spurious" because it is done with an intent to "deceive and defraud" the public. That stamp is a counterfeit. It was never genuine to begin with. If, at a later date, an overprint is added to it by a private party or an experts signature is forged on the gummed side, that stamp is both a counterfeit and a forgery.

A counterfeit stamp can only be one which was "created" under illegal circumstances. It was made to "imitate" a valid genuine stamp. But a forgery need not be limited to overprints or experts' signatures. It may involve bleaching or altering the shading or color of a stamp, removing perforations to make the stamp appear as an imperforate or even adding marks to it to make it appear as an "error" or "plate variety."

Returning to the introductory remarks to "Padelky", the last page of that Introduction offers a plausible explanation of these distinctions. Let me quote it for you here:

"Editor's Note: In the Czech language, "padělky" denotes fake, forgery or counterfeit." We wish to present this translation with the use of the following nomenclature:

"Fake: Manufacture of non-existent stamp, perforation, color, denomination, date stamp or other hand stamp. In addition, placing postmark on stamp which had no validity at that particular place or that particular date. (To defraud collectors)."

"Forgery: Changing perforation, removing perforation by making stamp imperforate, changing color, denomination, falsifying postmark, treating paper, repairing stamp. (To defraud collectors)."

"Counterfeit: Imitation of a stamp or overprint. (To defraud government or collectors)."

For the sake of accuracy, your editor suggests that we refer to stamps as being either genuine, forged or counterfeit. But if they are not genuine, let us identify why they are not so. If they were not printed by the government or under the government's supervision and authority, as in the case of the 1,000 kčs. Hradčany miniature sheets, they are counterfeits. All others are forgeries.

As for a "fake", Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines it as a "counterfeit or imitation presented as genuine with fraudulent intent." Your present editor suggests that the word "fake" is simply a synonym for "counterfeit", meaning nothing more, nothing less, nothing different.

Incidentally, to those of you who do not own and have not read the "Padelky" translation, I recommend the book highly. Once you get past the introductory remarks, the book is a masterpiece in guiding the collector toward the recognition of genuine stamps of the early First Republic period.

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