

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 - Silver Award Capex '78 - Silver-Bronze Praga '78 - Praga '88

A. P. S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 51

APRIL 1989

No. 4, Whole No. 488

WW I PRISONERS' MAIL - RUSSIAN FRONT

By Petr Reiniš

Translated by M. L. Vondra

"I don't know if this card will reach you"

So writes a prisoner in 1917 from his Russian captivity. The message is from František Ducháč to his brother at České Skalice written on a plain Austrian fieldpost card. Dated May 2, 1917 and cancelled May 20 at Omsk, it reveals he is held by his Russian captors. (See Fig. 1). Throughout his four years of imprisonment at various camps in Siberia, he faithfully wrote home, accumulating a series of cards which offer opportune studies for specialized collectors. On Sept. 4, 1917 cancelled Sept. 24 at Tobolsk, he again wrote his brother at the same address. (see Fig. 2).

Each card bears at least three different cancellations. These cancels underwent certain changes during the four year period. Based on existing mail, it is possible to determine how long some of these cancels were actually used.

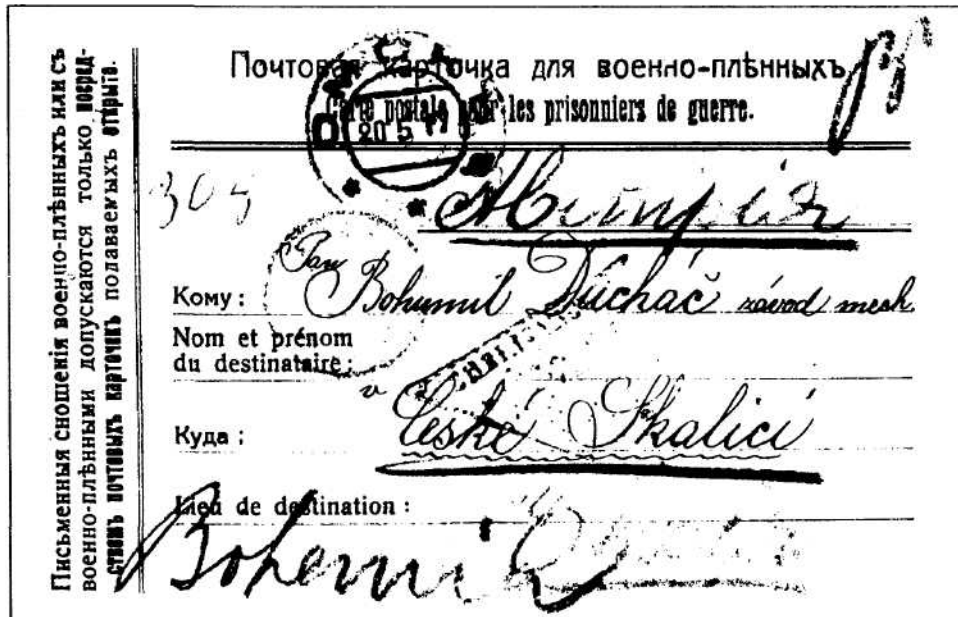


Figure 1

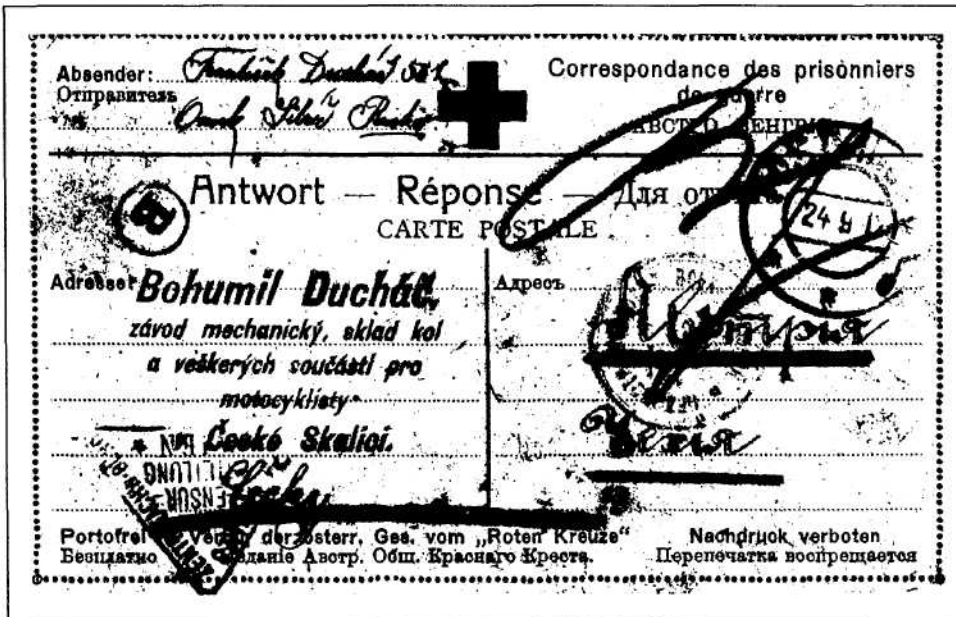


Figure 2

This writer possesses other cards from the same prisoner not illustrated here. One such card is posted in September 1914 at Moscow and carries a small rectangular cancel with the letters "D.C." (Dozvoleno Cenzuroju), a large cancel of the Austrian Red Cross organization with the dual-headed eagle and a rectangular censor mark. Another card posted at Petropavlovsk carries a dual cancel of the censoring office and of the censor, a large cancel of the central control office for war prisoners, a cancel identifying the correspondence as

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Vol. 51

Published monthly except July and August - \$18.00 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lancaster, PA 17604

and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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that of a prisoner and a round censor cancel of the Austro-Hungarian Red Cross. Since 1915, this round cancel became more widespread and with the Red Cross title in smaller print.

Cards sent from Semipalatinská are found to contain a dual cancel "Korespondencija Bojennoplennych" (Correspondence from War prisoners) and either a round or oblong censor cancel. Sometime during 1916, the censors became anonymous and cancels appeared next to the city and date cancel with only the number and initial of the officiating censor. This however did not apply to the Moscow military censors who always used round cancels with their number in the center.

Austrian censors kept a close watch on the fluctuation of rates and values in Russia. In some instances, an interesting cancel reading "Confiscated in Foreign Country" would appear in places where parts of the message were blacked out or obliterated. The space after these words was bracketed and a hand-written number inserted on the face side of the card. The censor's intervention was clearly in evidence. Judging by the high sequence of numbers, there must have been a considerable amount of censorship in practice.

The familiar triangular censor's cancel appeared at the start of 1917. Its common color was red. On rare occasion it was found in black. The last known impression of this cancel appeared on Nov. 7, 1917. After that date, postcards were no longer censored by Austrian authorities and only Russian censor marks were seen.

The last card dated June 6, 1918 is interesting just on the basis of the message its sender conveys, in that he relates he is preparing for a long journey by boat to the Arctic Ocean. "I don't expect to return till late in the fall, so you need not answer promptly", he writes.

In fact, there was no answer. The events of 1918 were swift and decisive. Adjoining the Russian censor's cancel is an American military censor's number 452. The card was delivered a year later on July 27, 1919.

(Editor's Note - Limited space did not permit reproduction of both sides of these cards. For more information on World War I censorship of Russian Prisoners' mail, see Feb. 1979 Specialist, page 17 and Dec. 1979, page 168).

LAURIN AND KLEMENT

By Gerald M. Van Zanten

It may seem strange to some readers, but Czechoslovakia is one of the countries that participated significantly in the development of auto engineering and manufacturing from the very outset. As a matter of fact, the first motor car manufactured in Czechoslovakia was the PRÁSEDENT in a factory at Koprivnice.

To celebrate 100 years of the automobile in its country, the government issued a set of 24 prints measuring 42 X 29 cm. produced by Knižnice Motoristu in 1987. They show early cars drawn by Václav Zapadlík. The writer obtained a set of these beautiful prints at an auto bookshop in London, thinking that they may perhaps no longer be available in Prague. As it turned out, a few sets were located there at a later date. Among these prints is a LAURIN & KLEMENT 110 and a PRAGA LADY (see Fig. I & II). They were built in 1926 at Mladá Boleslav by the Joint-Stock Company. Power train specifications for each car are shown on the reverse side of every print. In the case of the LAURIN & KLEMENT 110, the specs include the following :

Engine : watercooled SV in-line four cylinder ;

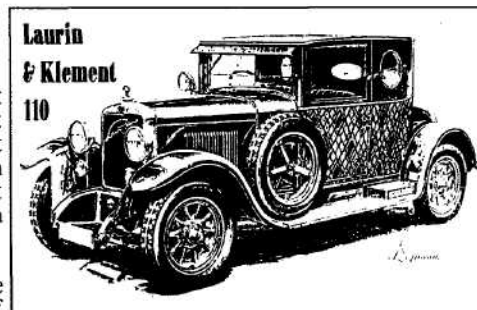


Figure I

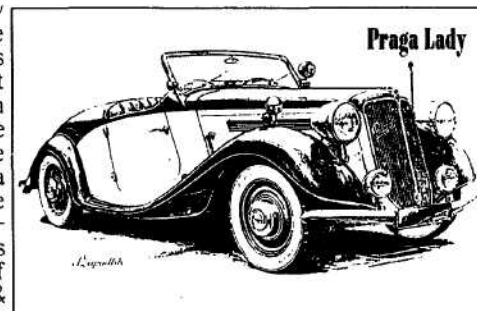


Figure II

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

swept volume 1,791 c.c. (dia. 72 X 110 mm);
 power output 17,6 KW (24 h.p.)
 Clutch : multiplate
 Gearbox : four-speed
 Chassis : of conventional design with longitudinal frame and rigid axles suspended by semi-elliptical leaf springs
 Wheels : spoke-type with size 775 X 145 MM tires
 Weight : 1,500 kgms.
 Peak speed : 80 km/hr.
 Fuel consumption: 12 to 14 liters/100km
 Body: type Opera coupé built according to Weymann patent in the Aero factory ; its wooden structure was covered with "Fabrikoid" material (substitute for leather)

In a recently issued set of five stamps, the 50h value shows an even earlier LAURIN & KLEMENT of 1914 vintage, designed by K. Lhoták, engraving by J. Herčík. It is interesting to see the changes that were evident after a period of a mere 12 years. (see Fig. III).



Figure III

Two more LAURIN & KLEMENT cars are shown on Pofis Number 1757 (Scott No. 1617) in the set "Czechoslovak Automobile Transport" of 1969



Figure IV

where two 1907 models are shown on the 1.60 Kčs value of which 3,725,000 copies were printed. The design was by F. Hudaček while the engraving was by S. Jindra (see Fig. IV).

The first LAURIN & KLEMENT motor car left the gates of the L & K factory at Mladá Boleslav in 1905. This complex is now the Skoda factory just outside the town.

(Editor's Note : Step aside, General Motors, Ford, Honda and Mitsubishi, - the Laurin & Klement is coming !)



WORLD STAMP EXPO '89
 United States Postal Service
 Nov 17 - Dec 3, 1989
 Washington Convention Center
 Washington, DC

WORLD EXPO '89

Speaking of automobiles, the World Stamp Expo '89 in which our Society may be partly involved (see top of page 5, March Specialist), issued a post card to publicize its forthcoming show (see illustration). If anyone can identify the year and make of the mail truck shown on the card's stamp, please advise your editor and he will publish your answers in the June Specialist.

*See Important
 Announcement
 on page 15*

WHICH ONE IS THE HOLUBICE ?

With this issue we conclude fifteen consecutive installments of Vladimír Králíček's monumental translation of the Dove Chapter in Monografie II. Why is the chapter called "The Dove" and not "The Carrier Pigeon"? Did the authors of Monografie err in their semantics? Or was something lost in translation?

John Váňa in his old Czech-English dictionary translates "holub" as "pigeon" and "holubice" as "dove". Professors Krupička and Procházka, in their dictionary published by Kvasnička and Hampel, translate "holub" as a "cock-pigeon" or "dove" and "holubice" as a "henpigeon". That would seem to imply that "holub" and "holubice" are to be distinguished on the basis of sex. Worse than that, it also implies that a dove can only be a male. But if the two professors identify "holub" as a "dove", then why the contradiction between their translation and that of John Váňa?



Figure I

If the authors or publishers of Monografie chose to accept Váňa's translation as the correct one, then Mr. Králíček cannot be faulted for calling "holubice" a "dove". But that is really not the key question. What is at issue here is whether the bird shown on the stamp discussed in the translation chapter holding a letter in its beak is the same bird shown on the Special Delivery stamp and, if not, which one is the "holub" and which one is the "holubice"?

Oddly enough, Scott's Catalog refers to the bird with the letter in its beak (A5-see Fig. I) as a "carrier pigeon" and the bird on the Special Delivery stamp (SD-1 see Fig. II) as a "dove". Following Váňa's translation, that would mean the bird in the translated chapter is really a pigeon and the chapter should have been titled "Holub", not "Holubice". At least that is the view of your editor. To prove his point, he submits the following for your consideration:

The Colliers Encyclopedia tells us that a "pigeon is a general name applied to any of the almost 300 species of birds belonging to the pigeon and dove family. No sharp distinction can be drawn between the terms 'pigeon' and 'dove' and the names are sometimes used interchangeable. But in a general way, the word 'dove' is usually applied to the smaller, gentler and more delicate species, and 'pigeon' is applied to the more robust species. Pigeons and doves make up the family Columbidae in the order of Columbiformes." (Emphasis editor's).



Figure II

Pigeons first appeared as carriers in ancient Egypt. Egyptians used to launch them from their ships. The use of carrier-pigeons then spread to Phoenicia, Greece and Rome. In 43 B.C., Brutus, besieged in Modena by Mark Anthony, used carrier-pigeons to communicate with his allies. But it was Emperor Diocletian who, in the fourth century, established "pigeon-post" as a means of mail communication between his palace in what is now known as Split in Yugoslavia and the outside world. After that, the sport of pigeon-fancying underwent a prolonged decline in Europe, though it remained popular in Persia, Syria and Egypt. As a matter of fact, it was Egypt that organized an air mail service in the twelfth century. Then the West rediscovered the carrier-pigeon at the time of the Crusades. In France, pigeons were used to carry messages for the nobility and for the ecclesiastics. In 1573, William of Orange used carrier-pigeons during the siege of Haarlem in Holland's War of Independence. And in 1590, the citizens of Paris, besieged by Henry IV, did likewise. During the eighteenth century, pigeon-fancying became firmly imbedded in France, Britain and Germany. Pigeons kept the financiers of London informed of events in the Battle of Waterloo. In 1840, the journalist Reuter, founder of the famous news agency of the same name, set up a pigeon-post service between Verviers in Belgium and Aachen in Germany.

The best-known episode in the history of pigeon-keeping occurred during the siege of Paris in 1870-71. Pigeons were released in the French capital to maintain a link with various provincial centers. They were flown out of Paris by balloon beyond the encircling ring of Prussian troops. And finally, carrier-pigeons distinguished themselves in the Battle of Verdun during World War I. A pigeon carried the last message from Commander Raynal, the defender of Fort Vaux. After the war, several monuments were erected to honor the stamina and heroics of these birds.



Figure III

It may be an extraordinary bit of legend, but stories persist that the carrier-pigeon was in fact a descendant of the biblical dove which brought the famous olive branch back to Noah's Ark. Hence the ludicrous concept that this messenger could only have been a male, for no female could have kept its beak shut for that length of time. Ludicrous or not, Professors Krupička and Procházka saw fit to use "cock-pigeon" and "dove" synonymously in their translation of "holub" as if there were no females in the dove species.

Except in the few minor instances already indicated, neither the dove nor the carrier-pigeon played any major role in Czechoslovak history. Of much greater significance was the cockerel, a bird often defiled and tormented. As a matter of fact, as early as the fourteenth and fifteenth century, citizens of Prague would sacrifice a cock at the Cathedral of St. Vitus to the saint of that name in order to cast out spells put on them by the devil. Before the Cathedral was even constructed, they feared the god Swantwit, and it was in his honor that they originally offered up the bird. St. Vitus (or Sanctus Vitus in latin) was popularly known as "Sanc With", a name which sounded very similar to that of the old god Swantwit, which accounts for some of the confusion between the saint and the god. And because of this ritual, the cock was memorialized by adorning one of the peaks of the Cathedral's steeples. (see Fig. III, also Scott's no. 2518).

Based on the foregoing, your editor is convinced that a pigeon is a pigeon, a dove is a dove, and a cockerel is neither. So when we speak of a bird carrying a letter in its beak, we mean a carrier-pigeon for which "holub" is the proper Czech equivalent. But when we refer to the gentler bird with plume tail and an olive branch in its beak, it can only be a dove, the same bird to which we refer as the dove of peace. In Czech, that and only that should be the "holubice."

Bibliography

1. Colliers Encyclopedia, McMillian's Educational Center
2. Animals, Men and Myths (Richard Lewinsohn) Published by Morus in Germany
- 3 Man and Animal (J.J Barloy) Published by Gordon & Cremonesi

WHITHER OUR TRANSLATIONS ?

Your editor expresses his gratitude to our many Czechoslovak members and friends who have so thoughtfully contributed and are contributing interesting articles for publication in the Specialist. Unfortunately, most of these articles are written in Czech. Those who responded to last month's question about printing one article in each issue both in the English and Czech languages voted overwhelmingly against such a practice.

Your editor accepts that decision with modest reservations. If the Specialist is to continue publishing articles in English only, then all these fine Czech articles must be translated. We have currently only three active translators - Vladimír Králiček, Paul Sturman and your editor. Unless two more members come forth to volunteer their services in translating these articles, your editor will have to start turning back to the authors some of the fine material he is presently receiving. This will understandably deprive the members of some excellent reading material.

I therefore urge you to respond to this appeal for translators. The Society is a non-profit give-and-take organization. What you put into it is what you get out of it. Help us translate so that you and other members can read and enjoy all that is happening in Czechoslovak philately.

- M. L. V.

THE DOVE

Fifteenth Installment

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

(Page 256)

UNISSUED PRINTS

Under this heading belong the imperforate stamps, the 15h stamp with the 13 3/4 perforation, trial prints of the original and final designs, black prints and printers' waste on variously colored paper.

Unissued Stamps Imperforate Stamps

Small quantities of sheets of all values reached collectors' hands consisting of both types (20h and 25h) without perforations (except for the 30h stamp). It is necessary to consider them as stamps that were not officially issued. But since they are popular with collectors, we are mentioning them independently in this section.

In the case of imperforates, it is noteworthy that the 20h type II stamp can be found only occasionally and is therefore more highly priced than the type I stamp. In the case of perforates, the opposite is true. Imperforated stamps are not found used, though the occurrence of philatelically cancelled stamps is always a possibility.

It should also be mentioned that the 20h stamps from the printed sheet for booklets (60-piece sheet) comprise what are known as the Tête-bêche imperforated combinations. With the imperforates, machine and printing sheet offsets may be found in some smaller quantities.

15h Stamp perforated 13 3/4

This stamp was originally classified in catalogs as officially issued, just like the 5h, 10h and 20h. Later it was discovered that it left the printery in a unofficial manner and was, in time, classified with other unissued stamps (not mentioned in catalogs).

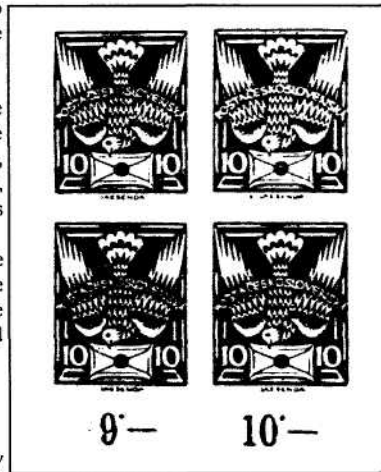


Fig.451. Imperforate corner
block of four.

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Preparatory and control Prints Trials Prints

A quantity of trial prints executed either by recess printing or by typography has been preserved. Over the course of years, most of it fell into the hands of collectors.

We know of prints made at the outset from the original design with the numeral "2" and with its appropriate stars on a stamp picture measuring 22.8 X 26.3 mm. recess printed usually on paper without gum (rarely with gum) and in a variety of colors. This trial printing is also known to exist on a strip of paper together with two other designs of unissued stamps.

This preparatory period also gave us a trio of stamp values (5 plus 15 plus 10) in essay size, black prints from an unfinished plate measuring 38 x 44 mm. on chalk or brownish paper.

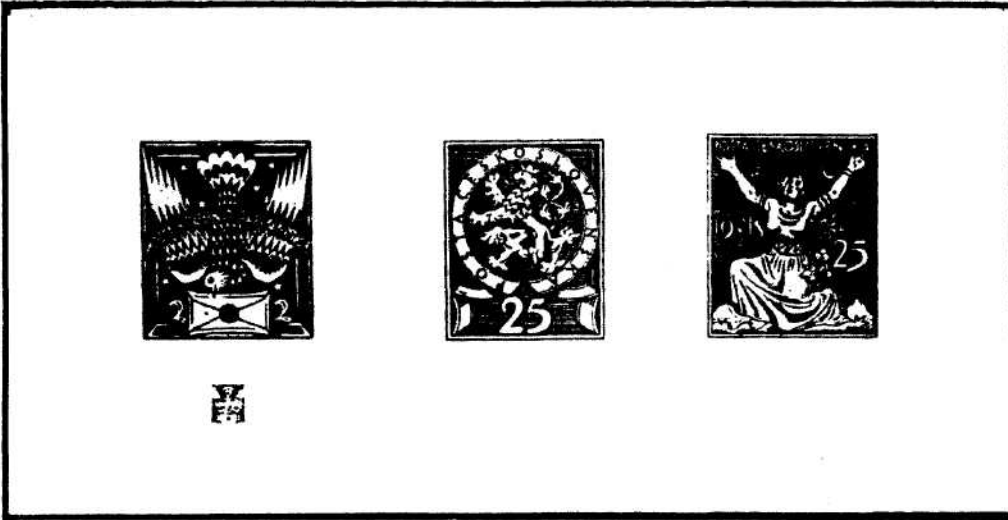


Fig. 543



Fig. 542



In addition, there is a series of trial prints of the original design which are recess printed in dimensions of 18.2 X 21.7 mm. They bear numerals "5", "10" and "15" and were provided by the printery itself. Individual samples of these three values were preserved as a unit on a strip of gummed paper in many colors, occasionally on white ungummed paper and even on cardboard paper or slightly brownish paper.

Trial prints were also line perforated 11 1/2, the majority of which were preserved as single stamps.

The same trial prints produced typographically belong to still another group. Individual units with values of 5h, 10h, and 15h are known to be placed together on a strip of paper in a 10 plus 5 plus 15 arrangements.

(Ed.-Aldo known to exist in a 15 plus 10 plus 5 arrangement) However there is a longer space between these stamps than those on the recess printed strip. They exist in several colors (through not as many colors) and are always on gummed paper. Also preserved are trial prints perforated 11 1/2 (single stamps).

There is yet another group consisting of prints of a definitive design which was preserved in a larger quantity. These were produced typographically in several varieties and in all values except 30h. On the basis of these trials, suitable colors were selected for anticipated production.



Obr. 455



Obr. 456



Obr. 457



Obr. 458

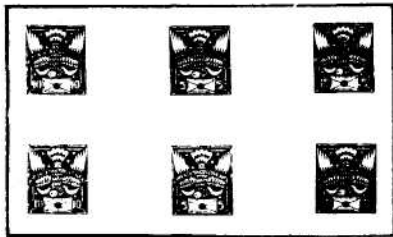
(Page 260)

Paper strips bearing values of 10 plus 20 plus 25 plus 5 are known to exist as unfinished dies, partly as complete and individual examples of stamps, caused by cutting. They are found in many colors and always on white chalky paper or on gummed paper.

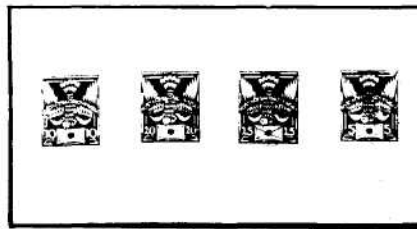
Other prints include the values 5 plus 10 plus 15 on paper strips with smaller spaces between the stamps (9.5mm.) produced in many colors and only on gummed paper. Singular examples are known with the perforation 11 1/2.

The three values (5 plus 10 plus 15) shown below were also produced as trial prints on a printed sheet combined with Masaryk, the Dove, the Liberated Republic and Science and Agriculture) in many colors (approximately 17) on gummed paper and occasionally on white chalky paper. On the whole, there were very few of these combined sheets preserved. In the majority of cases, the sheets were cut up into blocks or singles.

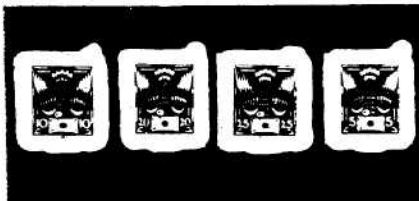
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Obr. 459



Obr. 461



Obr. 462

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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To the conceding portion of the trial period belong trial prints 100-unit sheets. Tried in this way was the 10h value in olive green, orange red and violet colors, all on gummed paper. Also tried was the 5h dark blue and the 15h reddish brown on white chalky paper. The 30h stamp is the only one which has not gone through the trial stages and no trial prints are known of this value.

In summary, Table 47 shows all the different kinds of trial prints and known colors, including all varieties:
(Page 262)

Type	Dimensions	Print	Value	Description	Colors	Paper	Trial perfs
Original design - trial prints (six stars)	22.8 x 26.3 mm.	Recess print(neotype)	2	With combined designs on a large strip of paper	Yellow Reddish orange Reddish brown Dark brown Violet Light blue Blue Light green Dark green Grey	Ungummed	11 1/2
			single			Rarely gummed	
	18.2 x 21.7 mm.	Recess print(neotype)	15 +10 +5	Small paper strips	Orange Red (Carmine) Reddish Violet Violet Brown Olive Blue Blue green Light green	Gummed	11 1/2
			5 10 15	single		Rarely on white gummed paper or cardboard	
		Typography	10+5 +15	Paper strips Greater spacing between printing dies	Rose red Blue green Light green Yellow green and others	Gummed	11 1/2
			5 10 15	single			
Trial prints of definitive design	18.2 x 21.7 mm.	Typography	10+20 +25 +5	Paper strips unfinished or finished printing dies	Carmine red Grey violet Light blue Blue Dark blue Dark brown Light green Dark green (15 colors)	Chalky or gummed	
			5, 10 20, 25	single			

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Type	Dimensions	Print	Value	Colors	Paper	Paper	Trial perfs	
Trial prints of definitive design	18.2 x 21.7 mm.	Typography	5+10 +15	Paper strips Smaller spacing between printing dies	Orange yellow Rose Red Carmine red Reddish violet Grey violet Dark violet Olive Grey brown Dark brown Green (17 colors)	Gummed	11 1/2	
			5 10 15	single				Gummed Rarely chalky
			5+10 +15	Trial print on combined printed sheet (Masaryk, Liberated Republic, Age. & Science, from a 100-units sheet)				Gummed Rarely chalky
			10					Gummed
				Dark olive Dark vermilion red violet				

Black Prints

Black prints are known to exist in all values and types (except the 30h), partly on chalk paper and partly on ordinary yellowish paper. Some of these are preserved as unfinished printing dies, though only certain values.

Also known to exist is a blackprint of the 20h value with the wide "O" in the numeral block. After the trial prints were viewed, this design was rejected and was replaced just before production with a new type of "O" (type I).

The original design of numeral "20" also exists on white chalk paper in the finished and unfinished printing die as well as on brownish paper. (See Table 48 for overview)

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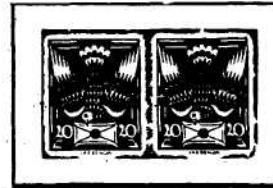
Obr. 463.



Obr. 464.



Obr. 465.



Obr. 466.

Fig. 464 to 466 - Original design "20" with the wide "O"

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Table 48 - Overview of Blackprints of the Dove Issue

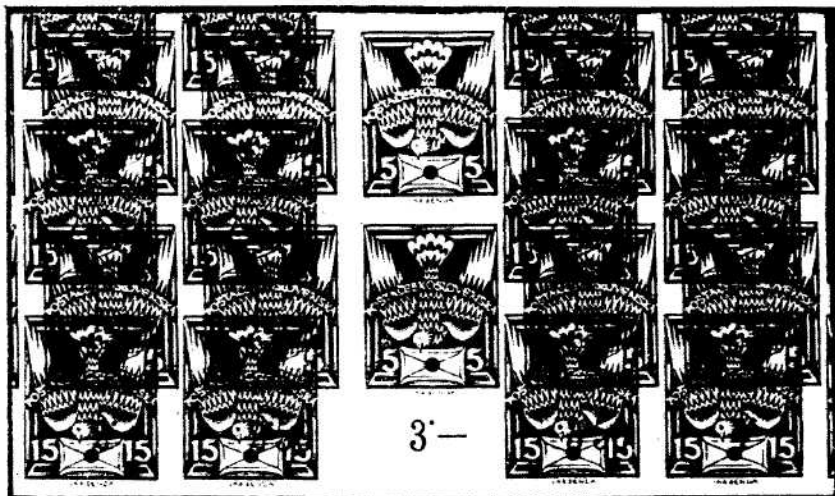
Size of stamp 38 X 44 mm. unfinished printing die (six stars)	chalk paper	triple 5+15+10
	brownish paper	
Normal stamp size (six stars)	chalky, cardboard	5, 10, 15
Chalk paper	finished printing die	5, 10, 15, 20 (type I & II) 25 (type I) 20 - wide "O"
	unfinished printing die	5 20 - wide "O"
	Gummed	20 (type I)
	back side brownish ordinary paper	5, 10, 20 (type I)
Brownish paper	finished printing die	5, 10, 15, 20 (II), 25 (I), 20 - wide "O"
	unfinished printing die	25 (I), 20 - wide "O"
	thick	25 (I)
	gummed on front side	25 (II)

Printer's Waste on Colored Paper

In this group we classify printers' waste on colored paper (yellowish, brownish, light green, yellow-green, grey, rose-violet, blue-green violet-blue, etc.) They are known to exist in all values.

Small quantities exist in some values with trial comb perf 14. Parts of sheets have been preserved by collectors as se-tenants of two different values on white or brownish waste paper. They comprise evidence of individual printing formats and their plates as well as some whole sheets deposited in the Prague Postal Museum.

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Obr. 467.

Overview of Individual Values Found on Various Paper

White to brownish (yellowish)	5h blue, 10h green, olive, 15, 20 25h
Yellow	25h
Rose violet	5h blue, violet, 10h green, olive, 20h
Dark reddish violet	5h blue, violet, 10h green, olive, 15h
Orange	10h olive, 20h
Violet blue	10h olive
Blue green	5h blue, violet, 10h green, olive
Light grey	5h violet, 10h olive
Blue	20, 25h
Yellowish green	10h olive
Grayish green	10h olive

Printers' waste on colored paper is always referred to as se-tenant tête-bêche.

Forgeries

Forgeries exist to deceive postal authorities and to defraud collectors. For details, see PADELKY CESHOSLOVENSZYCH ZNAMEK, published in 1963.*

*PADELKY (FORGERIES OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS) has been translated into English by Jaroslav Verner and Henry Hahn and is available for sale through our Society.

(This concludes Vladimír Králíček's translation of the first section known as "The Dove" of the Allegory Part of MONOGRAFIE II. The second section known as "The Liberated Republic" will start in a later issue of the SPECIALIST).

BOOK REVIEW

POSTAL STATIONERY FOR FRANK-FREE POSTAL COMMUNICATION

By Ing. Jaroslav Petrásek

We have recently received (as a gift) the above mentioned publication, which was originally published on the occasion of the Postal History exhibit in Kolin, CSSR, in 1987.

The author is careful to point out that the items described in his 32-page brochure are not truly postal stationery items, since they lack the franking indicia which is a necessary component of postal stationery. However, since their purpose is most certainly postal and similar to that of postal stationery, they deserve to be included in specialized postal stationery collections.

The publication makes no pretense of completeness, but rather serves as a pioneer publication in this area. It begins with the Austrian issue of 1884, and describes three printings in considerable detail. There follow several issues, culminating in bilingual issues prior to World War I.

The Czechoslovak First Republic section is well documented and comprehensively illustrated. Issues of 1945 include an overprinted Slovak issue.

The booklet, which I highly recommend to collectors of postal stationery, is now available on loan from our Society Library.

-Henry Hahn

NEW ISSUES

DAY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMP

By Gerald M. Van Zanten
(courtesy of ARTIA of Prague)

On December 18, 1988 the annual "Day of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp" was commemorated with a 1Kčs stamp issue.

The stamp was designed by the Slovak artist, Ivan Schurmann, and engraved by another Slovak artist, Martin Cinovský.

Rotary recess print combined with multicolor photogravure was employed by the Post Printing Office in Prague.

The stamps measure 49 X 19 mm and are printed in sheets of fifty. As has become a tradition, a Czechoslovak artist linked with stamp production has again been chosen as the subject. This time the stamp is devoted to Jaroslav Benda who lived from 1882 to 1970. He was a Czech book artist and professor at the Arts and Crafts School in Prague. He designed several book types. He also designed a number of posters, book covers and banknotes, as well as postage stamps. His stamp "The Dove" was issued in 1920, and later reappeared in various face values and colors up to the year 1926. The picture on the stamp is an allegory of postal services in the form of a dove carrying a letter in its beak or, more accurately, a carrier pigeon. For details of this unique stamp, please refer to the serialized translation of the Allegory Chapter of Monografie II starting on page 7 of this and previous issues.

The stamp commemorating Postage Stamps of Czechoslovakia was the last stamp to be issued in 1988 but, due to spacing problems, could not be included under "New Issues" until now. The left side of the stamp pictures a close-up of Jaroslav Benda. His name appears on a label in the center overshadowing two of his stamp designs in the background. To the right is the value denomination "1Kčs."

The First Day cover shows a drawing of Benda's dove carrying a sprig in its beak. The postmark on the cover also uses a dove motif.



FRANK KOHN (1902 - 1989)

Frank Kohn, dean of "Old Prague" collectors, died in New York City on February 12. Though primarily active in the Austrian Stamp Society of which he was a founder and former President, Frank was best known for his magnificent collection of Prague Mail which served as a model for those with the same passion. Frank's exhibit, which included the Bohemian Monarchs prior to the battle of White Mountain as well as the rarest "Winter King" and "Klapperpost", received numerous U.S. Golds including the Grand Award at BALPEX. It won an FIP international Gold at PRAGA 68.

Due to reasons of poor health, Frank was unable to participate at PRAGA 78 and PRAGA 88, though he won many high international awards at other shows including WIPA and, most recently, at CAPEX. Professionally, Frank was a bank officer in Prague prior to his arrival in the U.S. just before World War II. Before his retirement, Frank practiced accounting.

Frank Kohn was a delightful person, never tiring of research and always seeking new sources of knowledge. His acquired knowledge was generously shared with those who knew and admired him. He is survived by his loving wife, Frances, and by nephews and their families. We bow our heads and cherish his memory.

MORE OF VARIETIES OF THE 1 Kčs POSTAL STATIONERY

By Henry Hahn

On February 15th, 1987 the Czechoslovak government issued an envelope with the impression of a 1 Kčs stamp in blue bearing the likeness of President Gustav Husák. The Husak likeness was patterned after the stamp of 1983.

We described two varieties of this postal stationery envelope on page 13 of the December 1988 issue of Specialist. Dr. Vratislav Palkoska has recently brought to our attention additional varieties. One of these appeared at Prague post offices in February 1988. In this variety the indexing mark is again of a lighter shade, the three machine-sorting lines differ from those in the previous varieties and the black printing ink appears denser.

In February the stamped envelope reappeared, but with a heavier frame surrounding the portrait. The printing of the address lines is by typography, rather than by offset which was used in the previous printings. The envelope itself differs significantly from the other varieties in that it has no side flaps. This envelope is of a new type described in the Specialized Handbook for Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps and Postal Stationery* as type XI.N.1.

We appreciate Dr. Palkoska's bringing these varieties to our attention.

Henry Hahn

*"Specializovaná Příručka" published by The Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Prague, 1988; available for sale through our Society.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

Bylaw V, par. 1 on the Society's Bylaws read : "In March and April of the election year, the President and Secretary, acting as an election committee, shall accept nominations of candidates to the Board."

In accordance with this provision, your President, Charley Chesloe, and your secretary, Jane Sterba, are now accepting nominations for candidates to the Society's Board of Directors. Any member in good standing may be nominated, but such nomination must be in writing and must be signed by two members of the Society.

Mail your signed nominations either to Charley Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480, or to Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402.

Nominations close on April 30. If your nomination is postmarked not later than April 30, it will be accepted. The names of all duly nominated candidates will be published in the June issue of the Specialist.

If you enjoy reading the Specialist and participating in the Society's numerous activities, please consider it a privilege as well as a duty to nominate those who, when elected, will continue the process of governing the Society as it embarks on its 51st year of continuous service to its member collectors.

BALLOT	
	Date _____
The undersigned hereby nominate:	
Name: _____, Member No. _____	
To serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., for a term of four (4) years.	
Nominator: _____, Member No. _____	
Nominator: _____, Member No. _____	

II. APPLICATIONS FOR EXHIBITING

We had hoped to print on this last page the applications for exhibiting at both INDYPEX (Indianapolis, Ind. - Sept. 15, 16 & 17) and at SEPAD (Valley Forge, Pa. - Oct. 6, 7 & 8). These applications would have been reproduced from the Prospectuses of the two forthcoming shows. Unfortunately, neither Prospectus has yet been released.

Those of you who want to reserve your frames for either exhibit, please contact your respective exhibition chairmen and notify them how many frames you require. The Society has been allotted fifty frames at each exhibit. They will be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis.

If you wish to exhibit at INDYPEX, our exhibition chairman is : Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. If you wish to exhibit at SEPAD, the chairman is : Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave. Westfield, N.J. 07090.

Applications will be mailed directly to those who send in their requests now. However, applications will still be printed in the Specialist as soon as they are available.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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