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Commemorative sheet issued for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the two country's post offices, showing the stamps from both countries

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>ARTICLE</u>
2	<b>Allegory Stamps in Booklet and Coil Formats</b> <i>by Mark Wilson</i>
12	<b>Assessment of Czechoslovak Perfins</b> <i>by George Shaw</i>
14	<b>The Partitioning of Czechoslovakia (1938-1939)</b> <i>by Alan Hanzl</i>
16	<b>Philatelic News and Views</b> <i>by Keith Hart</i>
17	<b>Slovakia New Issues</b>
19	<b>Czech Republic New Issues</b>
22	<b>Available Publications</b>

## ALLEGORY STAMPS IN BOOKLET AND COIL FORMATS

by Mark Wilson

### The Booklet Format

The Czechoslovak postal administration began thinking about releasing its first stamp booklets in 1920. When a Prague advertising firm offered to absorb all production costs in return for the right to place advertisements in the booklets, the administration accepted the scheme as a significant cost-saving measure and began its planning. According to Czech philatelic literature, the administration failed to describe this proposed booklet issue in any of its official announcements. Despite this, sources also claim that two Dove stamps (the 5 and 10 haler) together with two Liberated Republic stamps (the 40 and 60 haler) were to be placed in booklets. Even further, they report the 20 haler Dove and 50 haler Liberated Republic were later added to the mix.

*Monografie 2*, page 194, which gave no source for its information (even today its source remains unknown) reported that one of the booklets (containing twelve 10 and four 20 haler Dove stamps plus twelve 50 haler Liberated Republic stamps) would be sold for 8 Kč. A second booklet (composed of twelve 5 haler Dove stamps plus twelve 40 and six 60 haler Liberated Republic stamps) was to be priced at 9 Kč.

The Post Office contracted with the Czech Graphics Union to produce Allegory stamp sheetlets of the right size, with enough selvedge to be attached to booklet covers (Fig. 1). The company came up with an unusual solution. Efficient use of production facilities required a plate print fifteen sheetlets with every pass of the press. This meant the plates must be made up of ninety stamps ( $15 \times 6 = 90$ ). To meet this requirement the printer assembled the plates in a very strange format using three thirty-stamp blocks (Fig. 2) cut from other etched plates.

The middle block (Block II) was inverted, pressed up against the leftmost block (Block I) then separated from the rightmost block (Block III) by a space slightly narrower than an Allegory stamp. Into that space the printer



Figure 1. Note the selvedge with a stress bar imprint found on the left edge of these 2 x 3 sheetlets.



Figure 2. A thirty-stamp block (3 x 10) cut from an etched plate.

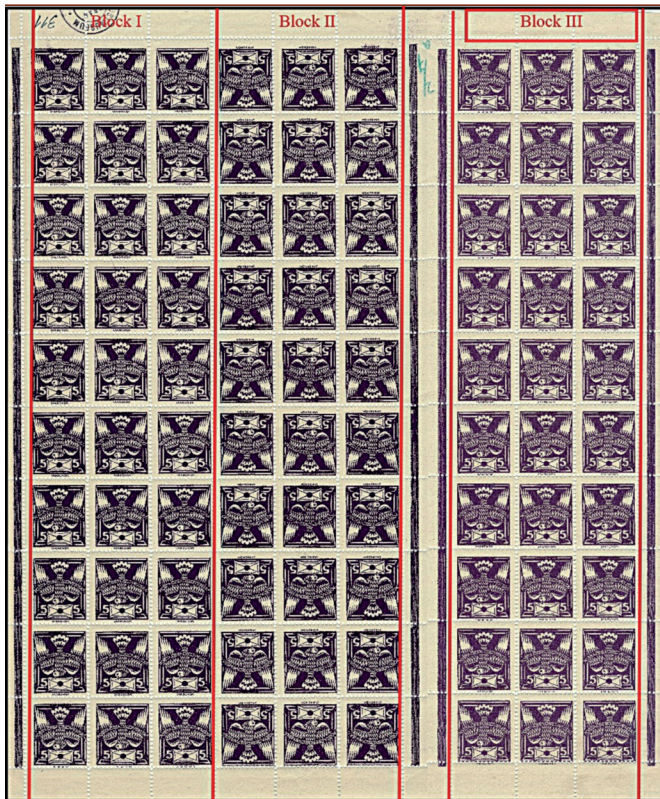


Figure 3. © Prague Postal Museum.  
 Pane made up of three 30-stamp blocks.  
 Note the inverted second stamp block  
 as well as the two stress bars in the narrow off-center space.

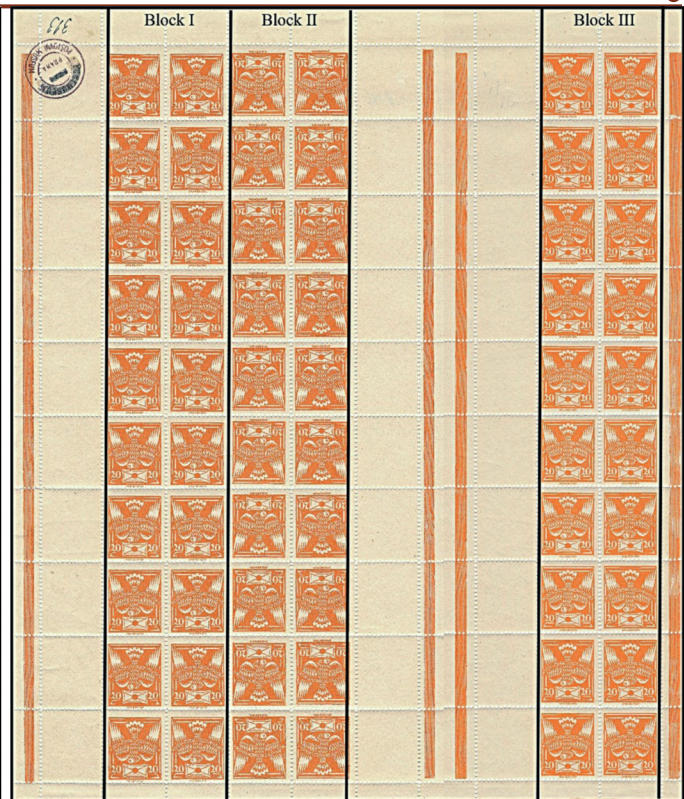


Figure 5. © Prague Postal Museum.  
 Pane made up of three 20-stamp blocks.  
 Note the inverted second stamp block.  
 Two stress bars are in the center of the large empty space.

placed two stress bars, one next to Block II, the other next to Block III, thus creating a coupon containing two vertical stripes between the middle and rightmost blocks (Fig. 3). (stress bars were used in the printing process to prevent unwanted movement of the plates on the press- see *The Czech Graphics Union* by Mark Wilson, CPSGB print-on-demand No. 150 – page 39.)



Figure 4. Sheetlet with four stamps and two coupons.

The 20 haler stamp was treated differently as it was to appear in the booklets as a four-stamp sheetlet. To meet the booklets size and selvedge requirement, the printer added two blank coupons to each sheetlet (Fig. 4).

The 20 haler needed a 60-stamp rather than a 90-stamp plate producing fifteen sheetlets. The printer used three 20-stamp blocks and left four empty spacers on the plate, one stamp-size spacer on the left and two stamp-size spacers in the middle with a narrower-than-stamp-size space between them. As before, he placed two stress bars in the narrower-than-stamp-size empty space (Fig. 5).

Every plate, whether 60-stamp or 90-stamp, had stress bars placed along its left and right edges. The location of the narrower size space and the inversion of the center block of stamps created the wide (Fig. 6) and narrow (Fig. 7) tête-bêche pairs that are so popular with collectors.

The stamps in Figure 8 are fully perforated. However, had the advertiser wished to have smooth edges on the sheetlets, this could have been accomplished. The printer would have perforated alternate horizontal rows and left imperforate the vertical space between the left and middle blocks (indicated by the solid red line) as well as the right edge of the pane. The narrower-than-a-stamp space would also be left imperforate. Guillotining these imperforate horizontal and vertical spaces would free the sheetlets. Each sheetlet would have four smooth edges.

A cut at the dotted red line provided selvedge to attach the rightmost and center sheetlets (first flipping the latter upright) to the booklet covers. The selvedge on the left side of the plate would be used to attach the leftmost sheetlet. Advertisements would seem to be destined for the booklet covers and interleaving.



Figure 6. Wide tête-bêche pairs. Note that the space with two stress bar imprints is narrower than the stamp.

How is it known that these special 60-stamp and 90-stamp booklet plates were assembled from independent blocks – as described above- rather than being produced as a unified whole as were ordinary 100-stamp plates? Specialists learned that the blocks of twenty or thirty stamps in the booklet plates were cut from ordinary 100-stamp



Figure 7. Inversion of the center block created narrow tête-bêche pairs.

plates when they noticed the persistent flaws (negative and auxiliary print flaws) found in specific stamp positions on the ordinary plates were also found in the same relative positions on the booklet plates. (See CPSGB POD 170: *The Blue 5 Haler Dove*, page 9, [www.cpsgb.org/pod-link/170.html](http://www.cpsgb.org/pod-link/170.html), for a description of negative and auxiliary print flaws). The presence of these flaws on booklet stamps absolutely confirmed the booklet plates were constructed using vertical blocks of twenty or thirty stamps cut from the ordinary plates used to print precisely the same stamps.

Czechoslovak philately by custom, in a 10 x 10 schematic, gave every stamp a position number between 1 and 100 so that studies could report its location on any given pane (Fig. 9). If a persistent flaw occurred in position 67 on one pane, then for that denomination the same flaw would appear on every stamp in position 67 on all other panes.



Figure 8. Each set of two rows in a ten-row pane produced three sheetlets. A full pane produced fifteen sheetlets (3 sheetlets x 5 double rows = 15).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 9.

Classical 100-stamp position numbering. The marks at the bottom represent tally numbers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 10.

The blocks used to construct the two 5 haler Dove plates. Both blocks contain thirty stamps.

At the bottom of Fig. 9 are marks representing the tally numbers so familiar to most collectors of early Czechoslovak stamps. These were to aid a postal clerk's audit of stamps sold each day. As we shall see, and for good reason, panes of the booklet stamps do not have these tally numbers.

Fig. 10 represents a 100-stamp plate. On it are highlighted the blocks cut from the plate to create the 5 haler booklet printing plates. Specialists identified these specific blocks by the presence of the aforementioned persistent negative and auxiliary print flaws.

Plate 1						Plate 2											
Block I			Block II			Block III			Block I			Block II			Block III		
5	6	7	16	17	18	1	2	3	1	2	3	16	17	18	5	6	7
15	16	17	26	27	28	11	12	13	11	12	13	26	27	28	15	16	17
25	26	27	36	37	38	21	22	23	21	22	23	36	37	38	25	26	27
35	36	37	46	47	48	31	32	33	31	32	33	46	47	48	35	36	37
45	46	47	56	57	58	41	42	43	41	42	43	56	57	58	45	46	47
55	56	57	66	67	68	51	52	53	51	52	53	66	67	68	55	56	57
65	66	67	76	77	78	61	62	63	61	62	63	76	77	78	65	66	67
75	76	77	86	87	88	71	72	73	71	72	73	86	87	88	75	76	77
85	86	87	96	97	98	81	82	83	81	82	83	96	97	98	85	86	87
95	96	97				91	92	93	91	92	93				95	96	97

Figure 11.

The two 5 haler Dove plates, with flaws marked as described in the text, using position numbers from the original etched plate.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 12.

The blocks used to construct the two 10-haler Dove plates.

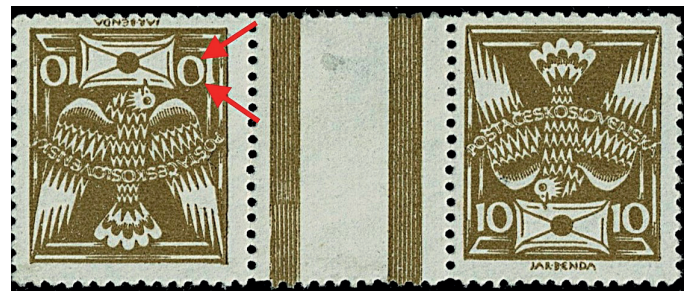


Figure 13.

Position 14 is on the left.

The arrows indicate the irregular center in its left zero. Block 1 on Plate 2 was swapped with Block 2 on Plate 1. Doing so created a novel wide tête-bêche pair.

Because specialists wanted to maintain consistent locations for persistent flaws no matter what type of plates were being referenced, rather than renumbering stamp positions on booklet plates they used the original 100-stamp position numbers from the selected block. This kept the location of flaw such as that in position 7 on the 100-stamp plates – it occurs three times in the 5 haler booklet plates – from having three different location numbers. Specialists recognize that all the so-called

Plate 1						Plate 2											
Block I			Block II			Block III			Block I			Block II			Block III		
4	5	6	00I	66	86	8	9	10	4	5	6	00I	66	86	4	5	6
14	15	16	06	68	88	18	19	20	14	15	16	06	68	88	14	15	16
24	25	26	08	67	87	28	29	30	24	25	26	08	67	87	24	25	26
34	35	36	07	69	89	38	39	40	34	35	36	07	69	89	34	35	36
44	45	46	09	65	85	48	49	50	44	45	46	09	65	85	44	45	46
54	55	56	05	64	84	58	59	60	54	55	56	05	64	84	54	55	56
64	65	66	04	39	38	68	69	70	64	65	66	04	39	38	64	65	66
74	75	78	03	29	28	78	79	80	74	75	76	03	29	28	74	75	76
84	85	86	20	61	18	88	89	90	84	85	86	20	61	18	84	85	86
94	95	96	10	6	8	98	99	100	94	95	96	10	6	8	94	95	96
8	9	10	96	95	94	8	9	10	8	9	10	00I	66	86	4	5	6
18	19	20	98	85	84	18	19	20	18	19	20	06	68	88	14	15	16
28	29	30	76	75	74	28	29	30	28	29	30	08	79	78	24	25	26
38	39	40	99	65	64	38	39	40	38	39	40	07	69	68	34	35	36
48	49	50	56	55	54	48	49	50	48	49	50	09	65	85	44	45	46
58	59	60	46	45	44	58	59	60	58	59	60	05	64	84	54	55	56
68	69	70	36	35	34	68	69	70	68	69	70	04	39	38	64	65	66
78	79	80	26	25	24	78	79	80	78	79	80	03	29	28	74	75	76
88	89	90	16	15	14	88	89	90	88	89	90	20	61	18	84	85	86
98	99	100	6	5	4	98	99	100	98	99	100	10	6	8	94	95	96

Figure 14. The 10 haler Dove block exchange illustrated red outlines indicate the positions before (top) and after (bottom) the exchange of blocks. The affected positions 14 and 18 are highlighted in blue.

position numbers given for booklet plates refer back to a block's source plate rather than to their actual location on the booklet plate.

Note in Fig. 10 that each block is comprised of three vertical columns and that the tally numbers at the bottom were not part of the blocks. Not only was there no room for them in the booklets, they served no purpose once a pane had been broken into sheetlets.

How multiple copies of the blocks were obtained is unknown. The literature suggests that newly etched 100-stamp plates were the source for blocks used in the booklet plates. Their printing press arrangement for the 5 haler is shown in Fig. 11. Colored positions represent persistent flaws. Negative flaws are highlighted in green

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 15. The blocks used to construct 20 haler plates 1 and 2.

while auxiliary print flaws are tan. How multiple copies of the blocks were obtained is unknown. The literature suggests that newly etched 100-stamp plates were the source for blocks used in the booklet plates. Their printing press arrangement for the 5 haler is shown in Fig. 11. Colored positions represent persistent flaws. Negative flaws are highlighted in green while auxiliary print flaws are tan.

Fig. 12 highlights the two blocks cut from etched plates to construct the 10 haler booklet plates. Father and son researchers, Jiří and Martin Kašpar<sup>2</sup>, were fortunate enough to have access to trial prints of the 10 haler booklet plates taken before printing began. When they compared printed panes to these trial prints, they noticed that some panes were identical but others showed that two blocks had exchanged places. The red outlines in Fig. 14 mark the blocks exchanged, the trial print arrangement on top, the exchanged version at the bottom.

Why the blocks were exchanged is not known. It is likely that the switch was unintentional and occurred while the plates were being cleaned. Note that this exchange demonstrates that the individual blocks were clamped together, not soldered. This was

likely true for all of the booklet printing plates. As a clamping arrangement was used for the 1920 purple 30 haler Hradčany plates, this plate-assembling technique was not unusual.

Stamp position 14 on one of the exchanged blocks had a very distinctive flaw, a so-called retouch, a damaged zero in the left denomination digits (Fig. 13). The switch transformed position 14 from a Plate 2 edge stamp into

Plate 1					Plate 2						
Block I		Block II		Block III		Block I		Block II		Block III	
	5	6	96	96		5	6	9	10	001	66
	15	16	98	88		15	16	19	20	06	68
	25	26	76	75		25	26	29	30	80	67
	35	36	99	69		35	36	39	40	07	69
	45	46	56	55		45	46	49	50	09	59
	55	56	46	45		55	56	59	60	50	49
	65	66	93	35		65	66	69	70	40	39
	75	76	26	25		75	76	79	80	30	29
	85	86	16	15		85	86	89	90	20	19
	95	96	9	5		95	96	99	100	10	6

Figure 16. The 29 haler Dove booklet plates. Note the imprint of the stress bars between facing coupons.

a wide tête-bêche pair on Plate 1, replacing as it did the quite unexceptional wide tête-bêche pair containing position 18. This new, clearly identifiable tête-bêche wide pair became a much prized piece in specialist collections.

Plate 1 of the 60-stamp 20 haler plates contained three 20-stamp blocks made from a normal plate's fifth and six columns. Plate 2, on the other hand, but in the same configuration, used three copies of the ninth and tenth columns (Fig. 15). The layout of the plates themselves is shown in Figure 16.

It is obvious that the use of these 20- and 30-stamp blocks for the Dove plates forced the printer to make or salvage three 100-stamp etched plates for each denomination. An alternative method would have the printer creating a positive matrix, then replicating it three times using an electroplating process. This procedure would have made the work far less labor intensive, and as a bonus made fabrication of further copies if necessary far easier.

The printer did indeed use this electroplating method to produce all standard Dove and Liberated Republic printing plates from 1924 onward. However, there is no information indicating this method was used before then. Be that as it may, use of this method may gain credence as we explore the Liberated Republic plates.

While the Dove booklet plates all used two blocks replicated three times and the blocks taken were never adjacent to one another on the etched plate source, the Liberated Republic plates were arranged quite differently. Look at the blocks cut for the 40 haler plates (Fig. 17).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 17. The blocks used to construct the two 40 haler plates.

Plate 1						Plate 2											
Block I			Block II			Block III			Block I			Block II			Block III		
8	9	10	16	96	56	8	9	10	8	9	10	16	92	16	8	9	10
18	19	20	17	98	58	18	19	20	18	19	20	17	92	18	18	19	20
28	29	30	17	76	75	28	29	30	28	29	30	17	72	71	28	29	30
38	39	40	17	99	59	38	39	40	38	39	40	17	62	19	38	39	40
48	49	50	17	56	55	48	49	50	48	49	50	17	52	51	48	49	50
58	59	60	17	46	45	58	59	60	58	59	60	17	42	41	58	59	60
68	69	70	17	36	35	68	69	70	68	69	70	17	32	31	68	69	70
78	79	80	17	26	25	78	79	80	78	79	80	17	22	21	78	79	80
88	89	90	17	16	15	88	89	90	88	89	90	17	12	11	88	89	90
98	99	100	7	6	5	98	99	100	98	99	100	7	2	1	98	99	100

Figure 18. An odd selection and number of blocks were cut to construct the 40 haler Liberated Republic plates. The same block appears four times, two others only once each.

For the 40 haler, three blocks, not two, were cut from an etched plate. The printer used four copies of the final three columns, and one copy each of two other blocks (Fig. 18). It is most difficult to understand why he



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 19. The blocks cut to construct the two 60 haler plates.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 20. The blocks cut to construct the two 60 haler plates.

Plate 1						Plate 2											
Block I			Block II			Block III			Block I			Block II			Block III		
5	6	7	L6	96	S6	5	6	7	5	6	7	E6	Z6	I6	5	6	7
15	16	17	L8	98	S8	15	16	17	15	16	17	E8	Z8	I8	15	16	17
25	26	27	L7	97	S7	25	26	27	25	26	27	E7	Z7	I7	25	26	27
35	36	37	L9	99	S9	35	36	37	35	36	37	E9	Z9	I9	35	36	37
45	46	47	L5	95	S5	45	46	47	45	46	47	E5	Z5	I5	45	46	47
55	56	57	L4	94	S4	55	56	57	55	56	57	E4	Z4	I4	55	56	57
65	66	67	L3	93	S3	65	66	67	65	66	67	E3	Z3	I3	65	66	67
75	76	77	L2	92	S2	75	76	77	75	76	77	E2	Z2	I2	75	76	77
85	86	87	L1	91	S1	85	86	87	85	86	87	E1	Z1	I1	85	86	87
95	96	97	L	9	S	95	96	97	95	96	97	E	Z	I	95	96	97

Figure 21. The 50 haler Liberated Republic plates.

would fabricate four etched plates to satisfy this construction. Perhaps, instead of creating that many newly etched plates, the printer cut blocks from existing, perhaps even partially damaged, plates for at least some of the blocks.

The construction of the two 50 haler plates is even odder. They used five copies of columns 5, 6, and 7, and one copy of columns 1,2, and 3. It is even more difficult to believe that five new plates were etched for the bulk of the blocks with perhaps the sixth block coming from one of those five. It seems much more likely that at least some existing etched plates or the electroplating method were used instead (Figs. 19 and 21).

The 60 haler plates are yet another strange assemblage (Figs. 20 and 22), but do resemble the 40 haler's use of four copies of one block and a single copy of two others, but ordered differently within the plates.

An unplanned increase in postage rates from 1 January 1922 caused the authorities to announce the booklet project had been abandoned. The First Republic never again proposed a booklet issue but did eventually put the printed booklet panes up for sale, first at the Prague Philatelic window, then in post offices throughout the country.

Plate 1						Plate 2											
Block I		Block II		Block III		Block I		Block II		Block III							
8	9	10	36	26	16	5	6	7	8	9	10	001	66	86	8	9	10
18	19	20	38	28	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	06	68	88	18	19	20
28	29	30	73	72	71	25	26	27	28	29	30	08	79	78	28	29	30
38	39	40	63	62	61	35	36	37	38	39	40	70	69	89	38	39	40
48	49	50	53	52	51	45	46	47	48	49	50	09	65	58	48	49	50
58	59	60	43	42	41	55	56	57	58	59	60	50	49	48	58	59	60
68	69	70	33	32	31	65	66	67	68	69	70	40	39	38	68	69	70
78	79	80	23	22	21	75	76	77	78	79	80	30	29	28	78	79	80
88	89	90	13	12	11	85	86	87	88	89	90	20	19	18	88	89	90
98	99	100	3	2	1	95	96	97	98	99	100	10	9	8	98	99	100

Figure 22. The 60 haler Liberated Republic plates.

The Postal Administration released booklet panes of the 5 and 10 haler Dove together with the 40 and 60 haler Liberated Republic in December of 1921. The stamps were not divided into sheetlets, but were sold as fully perforated panes, thus preserving their narrow and wide tête-bêche pairs. Having lost the advertising firm’s financial support, distributing the stamps broken into sheetlets would likely have cost the Post Office far too much. Most of these stamps were used for ordinary franking and it was only much later that collectors learned that instead of the normal Dove and Liberated Republic’s comb 14 perforations, these stamps were line perforated 13 ¾.

The manufacture of the plates has one unanswered question. One must ask if multiple new plates were actually etched for each repeated block, especially with respect to the complex multi-block Liberated Republic plates. Far more practical would have been the use of existing, even if partially damaged, etched plates. Certainly the fact that blocks for any one booklet plate were taken from different parts of an etched plate without ever overlapping argues for the use of existing or newly etched plates.

On the other hand, did the printer perhaps experiment with the soon-to-be used electroplating method to make the many identical blocks needed for the Liberated Republic plates? If electroplating was the replication method then we should expect to see blocks taken from the same set of columns because many copies of identical blocks could be electroplated simultaneously; there would have been no need to use more than one source block on any plate. Given the scant evidence we have it appears that this was not the case. We must argue for the use of newly etched source plates or existing plates that might have failed quality control measures.

Now for a final conundrum associated with the booklet release. Mentioned in the second paragraph of this article was the fact that the 20 haler Dove and the 50 haler Liberated Republic stamps were added to the original selection of booklet stamp denominations but at an unknown time and for an unknown reason. Some writers suggest a possible anticipated rate change was behind their addition, but there is another quite believable reason, even though it suffers from the taint of skulduggery.

These two ‘supplemental’ denominations were not released into circulation until 8 June 1923, a full year and a half after the release of the other booklet stamps. Knowing the Czechoslovak Post Office’s propensity for issuing stamps to sell for profit (consider for example the ill-fated 1923 Fifth Anniversary Issue with its monogrammed gum designed solely to milk money from collectors), we here propose an alternative to the rate increase theory.

It is entirely possible collectors purchased full panes of the earlier 1921 release of the booklet panes simply to obtain wide and narrow tête-bêche pairs. Such purchases would explain, as collectors ridded themselves of the excess stamps in the panes, why so many of the booklet stamps were used for ordinary franking. Perhaps because of an extraordinary number of full-pane sales with the earlier release, the Post Office ordered the printer to prepare two more unplanned booklet denominations. Could it be that the 20 haler Dove, with its especially wide and attractive tête-bêche pairs, and the more expensive 50 haler Liberated Republic were actually printed in 1922 or

1923 to satisfy collector demand for additional tête-bêche issues? Remember, the booklets' price (8 and 9 Kč) and makeup were never officially announced and were only reported by *Monografie 2*, a book not renowned for its accuracy. In addition, postal authorities never reported the printing dates or exact number of stamps produced and released for the booklet issue. Readers may draw their own conclusions.

### The Coil Format

In 1922 the Post Office announced it had released 500-stamp coil versions of Allegory stamps. The coils were meant to be used in vending machines or in another device designed to affix stamps to outgoing commercial mail. The announcement mentioned two issues: the 20 haler Dove along with the Liberated Republic's 50 and 100 haler stamps. The 10 haler Dove was inadvertently omitted from the announcement. Although included in that announcement, no Liberated Republic coil stamps produced by the Post Office have ever been reported.

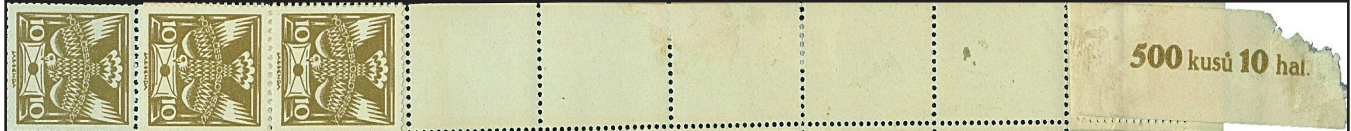


Figure 23. Courtesy of Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL.

Outer wrapper and first three stamps from a coil of 10 haler Dove stamps.

Note the contents label at the far right: "500 copies of the 10 haler" printed in the same color as the stamps.

Unlike the complex arrangements involved in producing plates for the booklet stamps, coil stamps were simply taken from existing printed and perforated panes. They were produced by cutting a standard 100-stamp pane into strips of ten. Judging from the alignment of the stamps in Figs. 23 and 24, these were vertical rather than horizontal cuts made to match a vending machine's apertures.

The strips were pasted end-on-end to form a roll headed by a contents marker printed in the stamp's color and separated from the stamps by a strip of blank perforated coupons



Figure 24. Courtesy of Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL.

Here the stamps' reversed direction and the flat end on the rightmost coupon suggest that this is the inner tail of a roll.

Note also that the tail's coupons are quite obviously pasted to the gummed side of the last stamp.

The coupons here and in Figure 23 appear to be taken from a blank pane of stamp paper comb perforated 14.

(Fig. 23). A similar strip of coupons, but without contents markings, served as a tail (Fig. 24). Both were from a blank pane of stamp paper comb perforated 14. The coils were sold and shipped to commercial customers and post offices in cardboard boxes.

The labor intensive cutting, pasting, and rolling of the strips by hand greatly increased production costs. In light of that cost, postal authorities strictly controlled their distribution. Post offices were cautioned not to order coils unless their clients had a specific need for them. This was because in the event of a rate change (quite common in the Republic's early years) unsold coils might become a considerable financial liability for the Post Office. As it turned out the target vending machines proved unreliable. The postal authorities halted all coil production well before the stamps used in them were demonetized.

Collectors showed little interest in these stamps for two reasons. First of all, since the stamps were taken from ordinary perforated panes, they displayed no design differences. Just as important was their shabby appearance, from a collector's viewpoint, in that cutting the stamps from these panes often damaged their perforations.

#### SOURCES:

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2. Kašpar and Kašpar. *Holubice 5, 10, a 20h tiskové desky pro sešitková vydání* (1997).
3. Kašpar, Moravec, Kašpar. *The Dove Issue*. CPSGB Monograph 32 (2019).
4. Chvalovský and Kašpar. *The Chainbreaker Handbook*. CPSGB POD 146 (2006).
5. Choba, J and Münzberger, V. *The Coil Stamps of the Dove and Liberated Republic*. *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Winter 2022, pages 3-8 [Ed. Note. *The Czechoslovak Specialist* is pleased to print this article first published in the December 2023 *Czechout*, with the permission of the author and publisher.]

## ASSESSMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK PERFINS

### by George Shaw

A major project has been underway since 2020 and there have already been several articles in the *Specialist* outlining this endeavor.

One of the thrusts is an inventory and assessment of perfins from the First Republic. Do you have a collection of these perfins? Please join our team – we are always looking for new discoveries! Interested readers can contact me at g0b07shaw@gmail.com.

The existing literature does not evaluate pricing at a sufficiently granular level to determine the relative scarcity of individual stamps by specific perfin type.

There have been two excellent reference books dedicated to Czechoslovak perfins published in recent years. **Perfiny Hradčany (H15)**<sup>1</sup> covers a single issue of stamps. It gives prices for perfin device separately for imperforate and perforated stamps. There are about 780 prices given but there are nearly 5000 known combinations of perfin types and Pofis numbers. This survey will enable more detailed pricing.

**Monografie 24 (M24)**<sup>2</sup> gives a price for each of roughly 350 stamps issued during the First Republic and for each of the approximately 1200 device types. It also lists minimum valuations for each Hradčany denomination and for other premium stamps. Once again prices are not given for a combination of Pofis number and perfin type.

### **INVENTORY**

At present 9 collectors in the United States and Europe are participating in this project. This inventory will be broken into nine segments as follows:

- \* Hradčany issue (1918-1920). The Hradčany will be the focus of the next articles for the project.
- \* 1919-1920 Special issues including the Legionnaire, Posta Československá, the first Masaryk and Hussite issues
- \* Allegory issues (1920-1923)
- \* Masaryk regular issues of the 1920s.
- \* Small views (1926-1937) – castles, cities and vistas.
- \* High values (1927-1937).
- \* Regular issues (1929-1938)
- \* Commemorative and special issues.
- \* Back of Book issues, including semi-postal, airmail, postage due, and newspaper stamps.

### **ASSESSMENT**

We have developed a methodology to systematically value specific stamps. This includes the frequency of usage as well as the value of the stamps from the Pofis catalog. We have also undertaken assessments of the underlying postal history in terms of postage rates and usage of stamps.

This approach will also be used to determine the relative scarcity of perfins on covers, postal stationery and revenue documents. Finally, the methodology will provide insights into the organizations using perfins.

### **OVERALL TRENDS FOR THE FIRST REPUBLIC**

How fast did perfin usage expand after its inception in 1879? Which time period had the most known types? How fast did the number of known devices decline after 1916? Why?

We developed two categories of usage to address these questions:

1. **Probable** usage. M24 gives the earliest and last known usage for every device type. Perfin type J80 was used from 1893 to 1934, a period of 42 years.
2. **Possible** usage. M24 lists the earliest and last dates that the stamps were valid for postage. J80 **could** have been used from 1890 to 1939, a timeframe of 50 years.

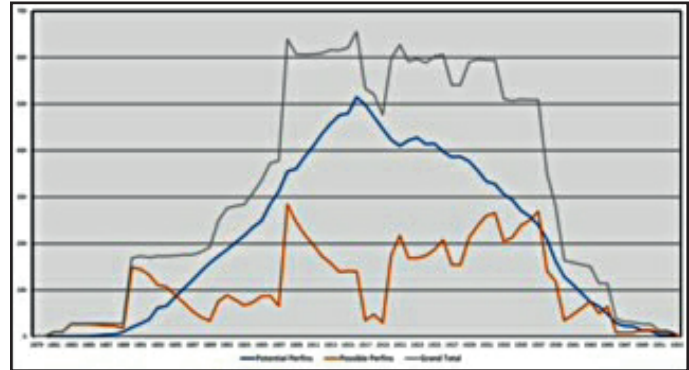
There was steady growth in the number of probable devices from the initial one in 1879 to the record setting year of 1916. This was caused by growing industrialization, increased commerce, as well as population growth.

There was a 20% reduction in the number of probable types through 1921 because of World War I and economic dislocations caused by the transition to the First Republic. There was a slight rebound in the number of perfin types through 1925 as stability and growth returned to the economy.

However, there was then a steady downward trend in the number of types through 1939. This was primarily caused by the Great Depression which impacted Central Europe in 1931, as well as the growing substitution of perfins by metered mail during the 1930s.

The number of types continued to decline due to the disruptions of World War II, as well as the seizure of private businesses during the Communist era. The only organization using perfins after 1953 was Orbis (the State publishing company). They continued to use type P3 through 1979.

Issuance of Perfins 1879-1953



Blue line- potential perfins. Red line- possible perfins.  
Gray line- potential total perfins

### **FUTURE ARTICLES AND WEB CONTENT**

There will be a series of articles covering the results of this project. The underlying spreadsheets and detailed analysis will be posted on the Society website.

Future tasks include expanding coverage to time frames beyond the First Republic as well as an inventory of perfins on covers and documents.

#### **Footnotes**

1. *The Czechoslovak Specialist* Winter 2022 (p.12), Spring 2022 (p. 8), Summer 2022 (p. 8) and Fall 2022 (p. 3).
2. *Perfíny na Znamkách Hradčany Katalog: Jan Marenčík and Oldřich Špreňar*. First published 2015. Updated in 2016 and 2020. The original document is available free of charge on the SCP website.
3. *Monografie 24. Československých a Českých Známeč a Poštovní Historie. Perfíny z Území Československá: Vladimír Münzberger and Oldřich Špreňar*. Published 2022. Copies can be ordered from the SCP Book Store for \$35.

## **SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY**

*If you are a collector/enthusiast of that period when Czechoslovak and Hungarian philately overlaps, as well as the earlier shared postal history, you should consider joining the **Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)**. Annual membership includes four*

*issues of **The News of Hungarian Philately**, access to member's sections of their website, and participation in their quarterly auction.*

*Annual dues are \$25 for N. America, \$30 Worldwide, or \$20 for online access only. You can join by following the link on the home page of their website, [www.hungarianphilately.org](http://www.hungarianphilately.org), using PayPal (adding \$1 to whichever level you require), or direct to the treasurer:*

**Wes Learned, P.O. Box 802, Powell, WY 82435-0802**



## **COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: [www.cpsgb.org.uk](http://www.cpsgb.org.uk), and through their Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at [cpsgb1@gmail.com](mailto:cpsgb1@gmail.com).

Their publication *Czechout* and our *Specialist* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies! CPSGB dues are \$12 for digital, \$44 for printed copies by airmail or \$39 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to [sales@csphilately.org](mailto:sales@csphilately.org) or by check to:



**SCP, c/o Marisa Galitz  
PO Box 646  
Owing Mills, MD 21117**

## THE PARTITIONING OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1938-1939)

by Alan Hanzl

### Ceded Territories Special Issues (1938)

Country	Issue	Initial Date	postal value
Germany	Sudeten Referendum	4 December 1938	6 + 4pf, 12 + 8pf
Poland	Teschen (Zaolzia) Region Freedom	11 November 1938	25gr.
Hungary	Hazateres Overprints on St. Steven set	1 December 1938	20f, 70f

### Czechoslovakia (1938 – 1939)

Issue (Regular)	# stamps	postal value	Validity Period
Sokol – 10 <sup>th</sup> anniv. (Fugner image)	3	50h, 1Kc, 2Kc	16 June 1938 – 15 Dec 1939*
Scenery (Plzen, Kosice)	2	50h, 50h	24 June 1938 – 15 Dec 1939*
1938 Prague Phil. Exhib. Sheet	2	50h, 1Kc	26 June 1938 – 15 Dec 1939*
Stefanik portrait	1	50h (green)	21 Nov 1938 – 15 Dec 1939*
Czech. Independence – 20 <sup>th</sup> anniv.	2	2Kc, 3Kc	19 Dec 1938 – 15 Dec 1939*
Carpatho – Ukraine independence	1	3K	15 Mar 1939 (one day only)

\* 15 Dec 1939 for Protectorate only, 31 July 1940 for Slovakia

### Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate (1939 – 1945)

Issue (Regular)	# stamps	postal value	Validity Period
Masaryk (redesigned)	1	1K	14 Apr 1939 – 15 Dec 1939
Airmail	1	30h	22 Apr 1939 – 15 Dec 1939
Provisional Overprints	19	5h, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 1Kc, 1K 1.20Kc, 1.50, 1.60, 2, 2.50, 3, 4, 5, 10	15 July 1939 – 15 Dec 1939
Castles, Churches and Cities I	11	40h, 50, 60, 1K 1.20K, 1.50, 2, 2.50	29 July 1939 – 31 Mar 1943 15 Aug 1939 – 31 Mar 1943
		3K (4 Nov), 4K (1 Dec), 5k, 10K, 20K	30 Aug 1939 – 31 Mar 1943
Newspaper	9	2h, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 20, 50, 1K	25 Aug 1939 – 31 Mar 1943
Linden Leaves I	8	5h, 10, 20, 25, 30(2), 40, 50	30 Aug 1939 – 31 Mar 1943

### Slovakia's First Republic (1939)

Issue (Regular)	# stamps	postal value	Validity Period
Parliament Opening	1	300h on 10Kc	18 Jan 1939 – 31 Jan 1939
Stefanik (blue)	1	60h	30 Mar 1939 – 15 July 1940
Slovenska Stat Overprints (hor.)	11	5h, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50(2), 60(2), 1Kc	21 Mar 1939 – 10 July 1939
Slovenska Stat Overprints (diag.)	11	1.20, 1.50, 1.60, 2, 2.50, 3, 3.50(2), 4, 5, 10	21 Mar 1939 – 16 Apr 1939
Hlinka Stat Overprints	2	50h, 1Ks	21 Mar 1939 – 10 July 1939
Hlinka Regular	10	5h, 10, 20(2), 30(2), 50, 1Ks, 2, 3	17 Mar 1939* – 30 Apr 1945
Newspaper Stat Overprints	9	2h, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 50, 1Kc	1 Apr 1939 – 10 July 1939
Stefanik Regular	4	40h, 60h, 1Ks, 2Ks	4 May 1939 (one day only)
Newspaper (new design)	9	2h, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 50, 1Ks	1 June 1939 – 30 Apr 1945

\*Various denominations issued 17 March to 25 March 1939, 20h and 30h also imperf



Sudetenland was ceded to Germany on 1 October 1938.  
Silesia portion was ceded to Poland on 3 October 1938.  
Shaded portion of Slovakia was ceded to Hungary on 2 November 1938.  
Slovakia began its separation as an independent state on 18 January 1939.



Slovakia formerly declared its independence on 14 March 1939.  
Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate created by Germany on 15 March 1939.  
Carpatho-Ukraine declared its independence on 15 March 1939.  
Carpatho-Ukraine was ceded to Hungary on 16 March 1939.

### Czechoslovakia Postal Rates (Korunas) 1937 – 15 March 1939

		Domestic surface	Domestic airmail	Germany*	International**
Postcard		50Kc	1Kc	1.20Kc	1.50Kc
Letter (local/ other)	< 20g	.60Kc/ 1Kc	1.50Kc	2Kc	2.50Kc
	<100g	1.10Kc/ 1.60Kc	.50Kc each	3.50Kc	4Kc
	<250g	2Kc/ 2.50Kc	additional 20g		
	<500g	2.50Kc/ 3Kc			
	<1000g	3Kc/ 4Kc			
Registered		2Kc	2.50Kc	2Kc	2.50Kc
Special delivery		2Kc	2.50Kc	5Kc	5Kc

\* also neighboring countries Austria, Poland, Hungary      \*\* surface mail

The existing Czechoslovak postal rates were continued throughout the Sudeten region until the occupation was concluded. Mail to Germany became domestic while mail to the remaining Czechoslovakia became international.

### Sudetenland Postal Rates (Pfennigs)

		Domestic (local)	Domestic	Hungary*	International
Postcard		5Pf	6Pf	10Pf	15Pf
Letter	< 20g	8Pf	12Pf	20Pf	25Pf
	<100g	16Pf	24Pf	40Pf	40Pf
Printed matter	< 50g	4Pf	4Pf	5Pf	5Pf
Registered		30Pf	30Pf	30Pf	30Pf
Special delivery		40Pf	40Pf	50Pf	50Pf

\* also western Czechoslovakia until 15 March 1939 when the partitioning was completed

The abbreviated chart below contains the basic Slovakia postal rates effective thru the end of 1941. Note that the rates to the new neighboring Protectorate increased dramatically just 16 days after it was created.

### Slovakia Postal Rates (Korunas) 14 March 1939 – 31 December 1941

		Domestic	Protectorate*	Protectorate**	International
Postcard		.50K	.50K	1.20K	1.50K
Letter (local/ Slovakia)	< 20g	.60K/ 1K	1K	2K	2.50K
	<100g	1.10K/ 1.60K	1.60K	2K each	2K each
	<250g	2K/ 2.50K	2.50K	additional 20g	
	<500g	2.50K/ 3K	3K		
	< 1 kg	3K/ 4K	4K		
Registered		2K	2K	2.50K	2.50K
Special delivery		2K	2K	5K	5K

\* 14 March 1939 – 31 March 1939      \*\* 1 April 1939 – 31 December 1941

Initially, the postal rates in the Protectorate were essentially the same as they had been in Czechoslovakia prior to the Munich Pact. The Sudeten area was now part of Germany and the newly separated Slovakia was considered to be part of the international rates.

### Protectorate Postal Rates (Korunas) 15 March 1939 – 31 December 1941

		Domestic *	Domestic**	Germany	International***
Postcard		50K	60K	.60K	1.50K
Letter (local/ Protectorate)	< 20g	60K/ 1K	80K/ 1.20K	1.20K	2.50K
	<250g	2k/ 2.50K	1.60K/ 2.40K	2.50K	1.50K each
	<500g	2.50K/ 3K	2K/ 4K	4K	additional 20g
	<1000g	3K/ 4K	3K/ 6K		
Registered		2K	2K	2.50K	2.50K
Special delivery		2K	2K	4K	5K

\* 15 March 1939 – 31 May 1940      \*\* after 31 May 1940      \*\*\* 15 March 1939 – 1 January 1942

The chart below contains the periods that Czechoslovak stamps were permitted for use after each territory was ceded, occupied or declared independent. Limited use beyond the declared deadlines did occur for various reasons.

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Declared Periods</u>	<u>Known Limited Use</u>
Sudetenland (ceded to Germany)	1 Oct 1938 – 15 Oct 1938	Until 25 Oct 1938
Eastern Silesia (ceded to Poland)	3 Oct 1938 – 10 Oct 1938	Until 1 Nov 1938
Southern Slovakia (ceded to Hungary)	2 Nov 1938 – 19 Nov 1938	
Slovakia (declared independence)	14 Mar 1939 – 31 July 1940*	
Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate (occupied)	15 Mar 1939 – 15 Dec 1939	

\* For stamps issued by Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939 only

21 Mar 1939 – 16 Apr 1939

21 Mar 1939 – 10 July 1939

21 Mar 1939 – 16 Apr 1939

21 Mar 1939 – 10 July 1939

21 Mar 1939 – 16 Apr 1939

21 Mar 1939 – 10 July 1939

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

## *Philatelic News and Views*

by Keith Hart

1. Here is a little more information regarding the Society's next meeting which will take place at **PIPEX 2024** held from May 3-5, 2024, at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center in Clackamas, Oregon. PIPEX is an American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately event and will feature a 30-booth dealer bourse and 200 frames of competitive exhibits. The Monarch Hotel is situated at 12566 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Clackamas, OR 97015. The special room rate of \$139/night (+ 12.5% lodging tax) is available for nights May 2-6. Phone numbers for the hotel are (800) 492-8700 and (503) 652-1515. Parking for the show is free and EV charging is available onsite. Our annual Board meeting will take place on May 2. We will have a fully manned table throughout the show and we encourage local members to drop by and have a chat with us. On Saturday May 4 there will be a General Membership meeting where as well as answering any questions about the Society, there will be 2-3 presentations offering insight into collecting Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak philatelic material. The hotel is well situated south of Portland and the MAX rapid transport system has a terminus of the Green Line in Clackamas Town Center. The hotel provides a free shuttle to the station, which is also immediately adjacent to a mall. The Green Line can take you directly to Downtown, Union Station, Pioneer Sq., and the Rose Quarter. A single change can also take you to the airport. If you are thinking of exhibiting, the final date for receipt of applications is March 20 and if you are submitting an exhibit please let Alan Hanzl know.

2. There is another stamp show this year where the Society will have a presence. It is the **Great American Stamp Show (GASS) 2024** which will be held at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hall A/B, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford CT 06103. The show dates are August 25-28. Philatelic and Literature entries must be received by May 3, 2024. The show hotel is the Hartford Marriott Downtown which is interconnected with the convention center. The address is 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford CT 06103. To reserve a room call (888) 236-2427 and specify that you are booking in the APS Stamp Show block. Room rates are \$159/night plus local taxes. Self-parking is \$19/day, valet parking is \$25/day. EV charging stations are available onsite. I have recently heard that the APS block is now full. Please use the APS website [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org) to obtain the latest information on possible other hotel blocks which might be available

3. Unfortunately there are caption errors in the **Josef Herčík and Pablo Picasso article**, published in the 2023-3 Specialist, pages 12 and 13. At the last minute I changed the images used for Figures 1, 3 and 4 to add more color to the article by substituting the actual stamps for the FDC in Figure 1, and the Black Proofs in Figures 3 and 4. But as you can see I forgot to amend the captions. Apologies for these errors which are nobody's fault than mine.



## New Issues

### SLOVAKIA by Keith Hart

Ed. note: Unless otherwise stated all issues from both countries are produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. using multi-color offset. Images are taken from the respective websites of the two countries.

1. On September 8, 2023, the Ministry of Trade and Construction issued a T2 50g (0.90 €) stamp to celebrate **The Biennale of Illustrations – Bratislava 2023** [Pofis 799]. The stamp was designed by Marek Menke using an image by Elena Odriozola from Spain,

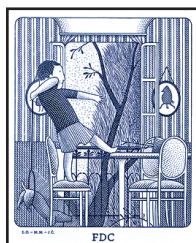


Figure 2

who was awarded the Grand Prix at the previous biennale in 2021. The stamp is an illustration from her book *Sentimientos encontrados* (Mixed Feelings). It was engraved by Jozef Česla (Fig. 1) and produced in sheets of 50 by recess printing from a flat plate. This year's biennale was hosted by BIBIANA, the International House of Art for Children and took place from October 4 until December 3. The FDC cachet, also engraved by Česla, shows another illustration from the book (Fig. 2) and the cancellation shows a child looking at a mouse. A Cartes Maximum (with four more illustrations from the book) was also issued.



Figure 1



Figure 3

2. On September 22, 2023 the Ministry issued a T2 50g stamp in the series **Beauties of Our Homeland: The Renaissance Manor House in Brodzany** [Pofis 800]. The stamp, showing the front of the house (Fig. 3) was designed by Martin Činovský, engraved by František Horniak and was produced in a miniature sheet of six stamps (3 x 2) using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. The center of the sheet shows a plan of the building. The original residence dates from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century, but the building as we know it is from a late-17<sup>th</sup> century rebuild as István Kvassay restored the neglected structure into the fortified home of his family. The Friesenhof family (closely related to Alexander Pushkin, the poet, novelist and playwright) owned the house in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, softening the external look and transforming the land around the house into an English landscape park, with a summer house and funeral chapel on a nearby hill. It was completely restored in the 1970s and is now administered by the Slovak National Library as the A.S. Pushkin Slavic Museum. The FDC cachet shows a cascade in part of the landscaped grounds (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is a detail from the entrance gates. A Cartes Maximum was issued at the same time.



Figure 4

3. On October 2, 2023 the Ministry issued two 1 € stamps as a **Joint Issue with Azerbaijan: The Music of Terchová and the Azerbaijani Mugham** [Pofis 801 and 802]. The stamps were designed by Marcel Benčík and show instruments from the two countries against a background of their landscapes. The stamps were produced using multi-color offset combined with serigraphy in sheets of 30 (15 copies of each stamp). The 1 € stamp for the **Terchová Valley in Slovakia** features a small two-stringed bass (Fig. 5) which is commonly observed in the three or four-piece string ensembles that are found in virtually every town and village in the area. The music there is a type of archaic folk music with singing by the musicians themselves. The style of music is lively, with fast energetic interludes and slower vocal passages. The FDC cachet shows sheet music of a song famous in the area (Fig. 6) and the



Figure 5

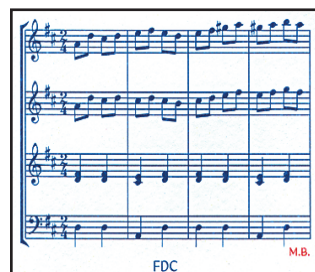


Figure 6

The FDC cachet shows sheet music of a song famous in the area (Fig. 6) and the



Figure 7

cancellation is a bow. The 1 € stamp for the **Kamāncha Mugham Music of Azerbaijan** shows a two-string Kamāncha of ancient origin (Fig. 7). Mugham was developed as long ago as the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries, commonly played by an ensemble of three accompanied by a single singer who often improvises the words. In 2003 UNESCO proclaimed Azerbaijani Mugham a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The FDC cachet shows



Figure 8

sheet music from the opera *Leyli and Majnun* (Fig. 8) and the cancellation is a bow. A commemorative sheet was issued at the same time, as was a special miniature sheet with single copies of each Azerbaijani stamp.

4. On October 2, 2023 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet jointly with the Czech Republic to commemorate the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Division of the Two Country's Post Offices Following the Dissolution of Czechoslovakia** [Pofis 803]. The 3.00 € stamp was designed by Filip Hejduk, engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by recess printing with a flat plate combined with multicolor offset. The sheet contains a single stamp and two coupons (Fig. 9). The stamp shows a homing pigeon holding an envelope with the logo of the Slovak Post Office. The central coupon shows the logo of the Czechoslovak Post Office (originally designed by Jiří Figer) and the left hand coupon has a homing pigeon holding an envelope with the logo of the Czech Post Office. On January 1, 1993, upon the dissolution of Czechoslovakia into the constituent parts today known as the Republic of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, the Post Office became part of the Slovak Ministry of Transportation, Communications and Public Works. It immediately put in place the extremely necessary modernization of buildings and technology. Today they are still striving to improve their services so that they can compete with private postal operations working in the country. The FDC cachet shows a homing pigeon holding an envelope flying between the digits 93 and 23 (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is a pair of intertwined postal horns. A special numbered, perforated commemorative sheet showing both the Slovak and Czech stamps was also issued (see cover of this issue), as well as a numbered imperforate sheet.



Figure 9



Figure 10

5. On October 10, 2023 the Ministry issued a 1.20 € stamp to celebrate the **1400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of Samo's Empire** [Pofis 804]. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and produced using multicolor offset combined with serigraphy in sheets of 25. The stamp has a depiction of Samo with a raised sword against a background of an Avar soldier on horseback and an eagle (Fig. 11). Samo was a Frankish trader, possibly trading swords in Slavic territory populated by the Wends, but subjugated by the Avars. Samo sympathized with the Wends and as told in Fredegar's Chronicle "In the fortieth year of the reign of Chlothar II (623 AD), a man named Samo, a Frank by nationality, from the region of Senonago, brought many merchants with him and set



Figure 11

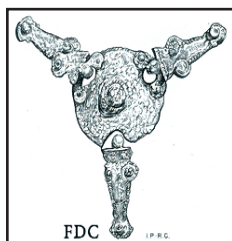


Figure 12

out to trade with the Slavs called Wends. The Slavs had already begun to rebel against the Avars, called Huns .....The Wends, recognizing Samo's usefulness, chose him as king over them, and here he reigned happily for 35 years". By the time Samo died the area he ruled was becoming part of what we now know as Great Moravia. The FDC cachet is part of a metal horse harness (Fig. 12) and the cancellation is an Avar stirrup. A commemorative sheet which shows a page from Fredegar's Chronicle, was also issued.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

1. On September 6, 2023 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series **Nature Protection: Podyjí National Park** [Pofis 1222-1225, A1222]. The sheet contains four different value stamps (27, 31, 34 and 38 Kč) and four coupons (Fig. 1). The margins of the sheet are filled with protected species of flora and fauna found in the park which includes the Šobes Vineyard. The graphic designers were Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and the engraver was Martin Srb. The park is in southern Moravia and adjoins Thayatal



Figure 1

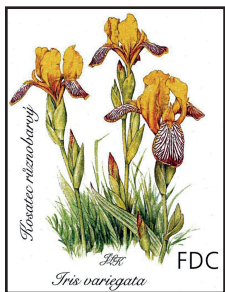


Figure 2

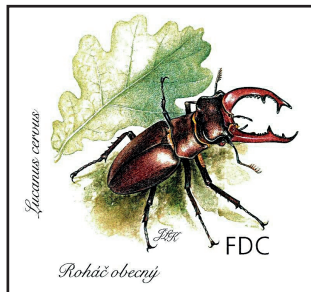


Figure 3

National Park in Austria. The **27 Kč** stamp features a **Clouded Apollo butterfly** which can only be found in Southern Moravia. It is shown on a Hungarian Mullein flower. The FDC cachet is a Hungarian Iris (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a grasshopper. The **31 Kč** stamp shows two **European Ground Squirrels**, which had disappeared from the park for half a century, only returning when wild horses grazed the

park again instead of mechanical mowers. The FDC cachet is a European Stag Beetle (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is a coiled snake. The **34 Kč** stamp shows the **Dyje River flowing past the Šobes vineyards**. The owners of the vineyard have commenced efforts to place the vineyards on the UNESCO list of World Natural Heritage sites. The FDC cachet shows an Aesculapian Snake (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is a bunch of grapes. The **38 Kč** stamp shows a **Black Stork**, which is highly sought after by photographers. The FDC cachet shows a Ladies Slipper Orchid (Fig. 5) and the cancellation is a stork in flight. A Cartes Maximum for each of the stamps was also issued.

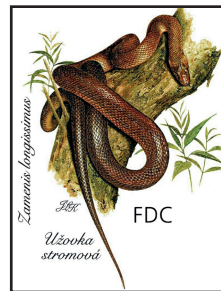


Figure 4

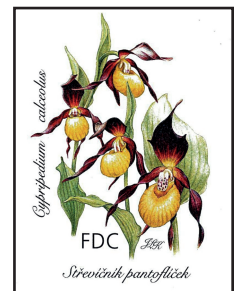


Figure 5



Figure 6

2. On September 6, 2023 the Ministry issued a stamp booklet to celebrate **Poppy Doll and Emanuel the Butterfly** [Pofis 1226]. The 'B' value (27 Kč) stamp was designed by Petr Foltera and shows Emanuel presenting Poppy Doll with a heart. The booklet contains 10 self-adhesive stamps (Fig. 6). The characters are based on Gabriela Dubská's illustrations for the 1970 Václav Čtvrtek fairy tale book *About the Poppy Doll and Emanuel the Butterfly*, which describes the adventures of the two characters. The FDC cachet shows Emanuel hovering over Poppy Doll offering her a blooming meadow flower (Fig. 7) and the cancellation is a flower.

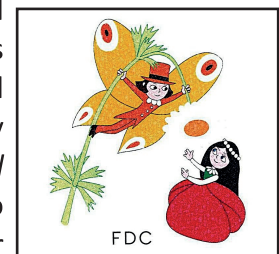


Figure 7

3. On September 6, 2023 the Ministry issued a 'B' value stamp celebrating the spa town of **Františkovy Lázně** [Pofis 1227]. The stamp, designed by Adolf Absolon, shows the Glauber Springs Hall (Fig. 8) which covers three springs at the spa. It was produced in sheets of 50. A stamp booklet with eight



Figure 8



Figure 9

self-adhesive stamps and four coupons (2 x 2) was also issued. The springs are first mentioned in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century had become a restorative destination for the well-known and wealthy. The carbonic baths are thought of as providing better performance of the cardiovascular system and the associated mud baths are said to have a positive effect on muscular pain. The FDC cachet, engraved by Martin Srb, shows the pavilion covering the František Spring, the oldest known spring in the town (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is a giant stone vase from the towns Isabella Promenade.



Figure 10

4. On September 6, 2023 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet to celebrate **Shakespeare's Plays** [Pofis 1228 – 1231]. The sheet was designed by Marina Richterová and contains two different

'E' value (44 Kč) stamps, two different 'Z' value (50 Kč)



Figure 11

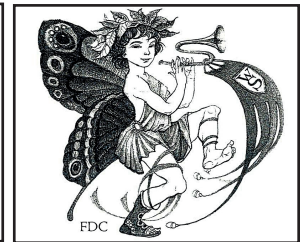


Figure 12

stamps, and four coupons (Fig. 10). One 'E' value stamp portrays a Queen holding a Cleopatra mask and a jester's staff. The FDC cachet is a muse with a mask (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is a variation on the initials W and S. The other 'E' value stamp shows the figure of a winged elf with a trumpet and the FDC cachet is a marching Puck blowing a trumpet (Fig. 12) with a cancellation showing a different variation on W and S. One 'Z' value stamp depicts a masked figure with a lute, with an FDC cachet showing Hamlet holding Yorick's skull (Fig. 13) with another

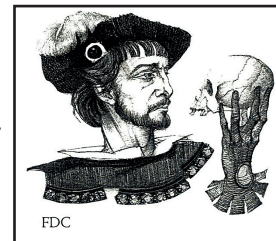


Figure 13

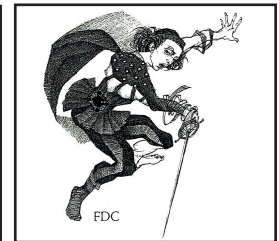


Figure 14

cancellation showing different variations on W and S. The other 'Z' value stamp depicts a jester holding a mask with an FDC cachet showing Mercutio with a rapier (Fig. 14) and the cancellation has the word Praha with the P and H adapted to appear to be the letters W and S.



Figure 15

5. On September 6, 2023 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with the value 'B' [Pofis 1232]. The stamp depicts **Discobolus**, a famous figure by the Greek sculptor Myron and dates from the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. It was designed by Eva Hašková and stylistically shows the athlete in

motion. The miniature sheet is printed with seven stamps and eight coupons that show the subject matter in reverse (Fig. 15). These coupons are available for private content. The sheet also contains a central block of six coupons depicting a larger version of the subject matter with a laurel leaf background.

6. On October 2, 2023 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet jointly with the Republic of Slovakia to commemorate the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Division of the Two Country's Post Offices Following the Dissolution of Czechoslovakia**. [Pofis A1233]. The 63 Kč stamp was designed by Filip Heyduk, engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with multicolor offset. The sheet contains one stamp and two coupons (Fig. 16). The stamp shows a homing pigeon holding an envelope with the logo of the Czech Post Office. The central coupon shows the logo of the Czechoslovak Post Office (originally designed by Jiří



Figure 16

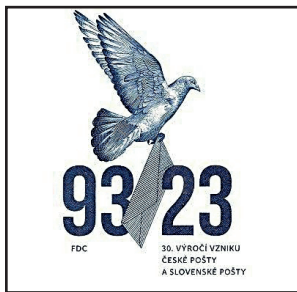


Figure 17

Figer) and the right hand coupon has a homing pigeon holding an envelope with the logo of the Slovak Post Office. The earliest mention in history of carrier pigeons being used for transporting messages dates back more than 4000 years, being used successively by the Egyptians, Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans. More recently, in the years leading up to the formation of Czechoslovakia, homing pigeons were used as an effective form of communication in the battlefields of World War I. Soon after Czechoslovakia became independent, realizing their essential use by the military, a special law regulating their breeding was introduced and only repealed in 1961. The FDC cachet shows a homing pigeon holding an envelope flying between the digits 93 and 23 (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is a pair of intertwined postal horns.

7. On October 10, 2023 the Ministry issued a sheetlet containing a single 72 Kč stamp to commemorate **František Běhounek** [Pofis A 1234]. The stamp was designed by Milan Bauer, engraved by Václav Fajt and produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with multicolor offset. The central motif of the stamp (Fig. 18) is a portrait of the polar explorer František Běhounek (1898-1973) with an airship behind him and a tent on an ice floe. The surround to the stamp illustrates the various interests of the explorer. Běhounek was a scientist, explorer and writer. He studied radiology with Marie Curie and in the 1920s was a co-founder of the Czechoslovak State Radiological Institute. By 1926 he had become interested in polar exploration and accompanied Roald Amundsen to the North Pole in the airship *Norge*. In 1928, as an expert in cosmic rays, he was a member of Umberto Nobile's crew on the airship *Italia*, which crashed on the ice and left the survivors marooned for six weeks. He later described this journey in the book *Castaways on an Ice Floe*. Later in life, besides his work as a scientist, he published 28 novels aimed at young people, popularizing science. The FDC cachet is a globe (Fig. 19) and the cancellation is the face of a compass.



Figure 18

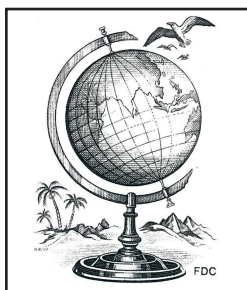


Figure 19

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### Editorial Staff

#### **EDITOR: KEITH HART**

4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104

Email: [kdhart46@icloud.com](mailto:kdhart46@icloud.com) Phone: 303-594-0697

#### **ASSISTANT EDITOR: LUDVIK SVOBODA**

4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Email: [Lousvoboda@comcast.net](mailto:Lousvoboda@comcast.net)

Phone: 303-680-7118

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4. A Society library is housed with Keith Hart, librarian pro-tem. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104 or Email: [kdhart46@icloud.com](mailto:kdhart46@icloud.com)
5. An online sales circuit is now available. Members can sell surplus philatelic material, as well as inquiring as to whether anything they need is available from other members. Members wishing to use this service should contact our circuit manager Marisa Galitz at [mmgalitz@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalitz@gmail.com).

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