

**CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

BULLETIN

No. 7



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Edited & Published by

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to whom all communications
should be addressed

NEXT MEETING

Please note that the next meeting of the Society will be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which will be held on:-

SATURDAY, 2nd October, 1976 At 2.30 p.m.

In the Board Room of the B. P. A., National Liberal Club (Large Oak Room), 1, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

- Agenda:
1. To read and confirm minutes of the previous A.G.M.
 2. Matters arising therefrom.
 3. Correspondence.
 4. To receive the Chairman's report.
 5. To receive the Secretaries' and Treasurers' report and to approve the financial statement.
 6. Election of Officers.
 7. Any other business.

After completion of the business the meeting will be devoted to a SPOT AUCTION, followed by a display and discussion of Postal History. Members with any interesting material are asked to bring this along to the meeting.

SUBSCRIPTION. It was resolved at the last meeting held in July that owing to increases in costs, postage, etc., and our endeavour to provide Members with more data and information, (such as Monografie, Vol. 13 which has been translated for us and will be circulated free to members in the near future), the annual subscription is to be increased from £1.00 to £1.50 from 1st October, 1976. Members are asked to remit this sum promptly to one of the Secretaries, whose addresses are as follows:-

- Mr. R. Kingsley - 6, Fenn Close, Lake Avenue,
Bromley, BR1 4DX
- Mr. E. Gorge - 11, Manor Way, Blackheath,
London, S.E.3.

THE SPIRAL VARIETY OF THE HRADCANY ISSUE

It is not generally known that two types of the Hradcany issue, Type IV exist, these relating to the spiral located in the top left-hand corner of the design. In the original printings of the 5h, 15h, 20h, 25, and 500h values, issued during June/August, 1919, the spiral was open, as shown as Type IVa overleaf. The 10h, 30h, 50h and 120h values were issued with the spiral closed, as in Type IVb only, whilst the 75h had one stamp only in the two plates (200 stamps) of Type IVa, the remainder being of the second type.

The fact that the design was incorrectly drawn to correspond with the spiral at the top right hand corner must have been made aware soon after the first issues of Type IV appeared. This is confirmed by the appearance of the 75h value on the 3rd July, 1919 for it is noted that each stamp had the spiral closed, with the exception of No.82 in the sheet from Plate "A". This particular stamp can be also identified by the elongated dash in the "7" of "75", as illustrated overleaf. The closure varies in every stamp this furnishing evidence that the plate must have been re-touched by hand, one having been missed.

Later printings of the 5h, 15h, 20h, 25h and 500h values demonstrated similar re-touching, and also produced omissions. It is, therefore, possible to secure pairs showing both types se-tenant with varying degrees of rarity. The unretouched stamps of these values were as follows, although it must be appreciated that these can only be identified as having come from the later printings if they are in pairs or blocks showing both types. The references to Plates "A" and "B" indicate whether they appeared in the left ("A") or right ("B") panes of 100 of the original sheet, and the details apply to the imperforate stamps:-

Unretouched spirals of later printings. Dates of issue apply to first prints

5h - Issued 1.8.1919	Plate "A" - No.93 in pane.
15h - " 7.6.1919	" "A" - Nos. 2, 21, 22, 23, 49, 83, 91 and 99.
	"B" - No.94.

The Spiral Variety of the Hradcany Issue (Contd.)

Unretouched spirals of later printings (Contd.)

- 20h - Issued 3.1.1920 Plate "A" - Nos. 9 and 34.
"B" - No. 83.
- 25h - " 9.7.1919 " "A" - Nos. 10, 27, 31, 63
80 and 90.
"B" - Nos. 3, 12, 13, 87
and 100.
- 500h - " 9.8.1919 " "A" - Nos. 32 and 35.

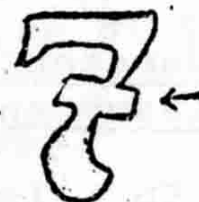
Information concerning the types to be found on colour trials, specimen stamps, and varying perforations, both official and unofficial, will follow. Additionally, these variations can be found on stamps of the values mentioned which were overprinted "DOPLATIT" (Postage Due) or "S 0 1920" for Silesia together with the 500h value used for the first airmail surcharges, but these extra items are not detailed in this article.

Illustrations as follows:-

Type IVa

Type IVb

"7" of 75h No.82
in sheet



The Agriculture & Science Issues of 1923

Three values in a re-drawn type of the 1920 Agriculture and Science design appeared in February, comprising values of 100h. 200h. and 300h. This issue is of particular philatelic interest in view of the three distinctive types employed, and the two variations of perforation, namely:- $13\frac{3}{4}$ line and $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb.

Details of the issues are as follows, the approximate date of issue of each type having been obtained from a study of used copies:-

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Perf.</u>	<u>Earliest known date</u>
<u>Type I</u>	100h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	19. 2. 1923
	100h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	23. 2. 1923
	300h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	10. 2. 1923
<u>Type II</u>	100h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	3. 1923
	100h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	29. 3. 1923
	200h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	2. 1923
	200h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	21. 3. 1923
	300h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	8. 11. 1923
	300h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	25. 1. 1924
<u>Type III</u>	100h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	9. 4. 1924
	100h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	25. 4. 1924
	200h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	13. 11. 1924
	200h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	9. 12. 1924
	300h.	$13\frac{3}{4}$ line	29. 3. 1925
	300h.	$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ comb	5. 8. 1924

The 200h does not exist in Type I, nor does the 300h. Type I with comb perforation. Several of these stamps are very rare in mint condition, mainly due to the fact that the differences were not discerned at the time of issue.

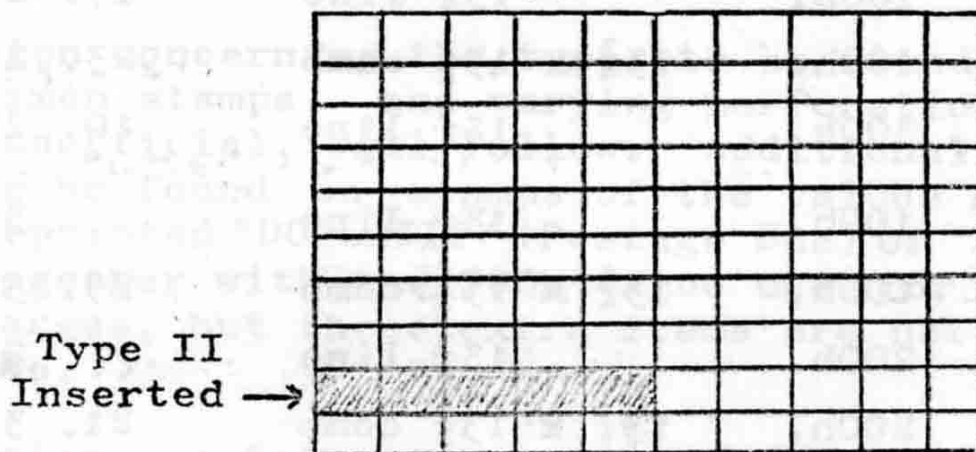
Agriculture & Science Issues (Contd.)

It has been established that the plates were prepared from horizontal galvanos of five, from slight variations being repeated in the vertical rows.

In preparing the plate for Type III of the 100h value damage occurred in the first half of the ninth horizontal row. To remedy this a galvano from the Type II plate was employed in replacing the faulty one. Resultant upon this, Types II & III can be found in both vertical and horizontal set-tenant pairs. Only one mint and two used vertical pairs are known to exist.

The position of the substituted cliches is illustrated below:-

Plate Type III - 100h.



Characteristics of the various types:-

Decoration on left of value tablet:-

- Type I - Large leaves are joined, the three smaller leaves are separated.
- Type II - 100h & 200h - all the leaves are together. The 300h has two leaves together and the rest separated.
- Type III - Two leaves are together, but the remainder are separated.

Characteristics of the various types

The three lime leaves under value tablet:-

Type I - Vein at centre goes through the whole leaf; vein on leaf under the "P" is whole but droops a little.

Type II - Vein goes through whole leaf but under the "P" is a weak fold which is not brought to an end.

Type III - Vein is weak and interrupted on two leaves. Vein on leaf under the "P" is only half length.

Triangle:-

Type I - Reaches the stalk of the lime leaves.

Type II & III - The point continues beyond the stalk.

Leaf at buckle beside the book:-

Type I - It is narrow and bow-shaped and points towards the book.

Type II - It is slightly thicker and partially deflected from the book.

Type III - Is much thicker, the bend considerably deflected from the book.

Letter "P"

Type I & II - There is a small protrusion on the stem.

Type III - Is thicker and without the protrusion.

Characteristics of the various types

Numeral and Nought:-

Type I - Thin.

Type II - The numeral is thicker and the nought is squared.

Type III - The numbers are large and the No. 1 is cut off at the bottom.

Illustrations of the various types:-

Type I



Type II



Type III



With acknowledgement to J.H.Marton, LL.D.
The Stamp Magazine - May, 1957.

On 1st June, 1926 the Czechoslovak Republic until then using for the designs of its stamps the portrait of its venerable President T.G. Masaryk, issued pictorial stamps for the first time. For these views of famous Czech castles and its capital the ancient city of Prague, were chosen as motifs for the designs. The views were taken from photographs but in the engraving one cannot fail to recognise the masterly hand of Karl Seizinger, who for many years remained the principal engraver of the Czech State printing press. The small size of the stamps they were $21\frac{3}{4}$ x $18\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres, provided an admirable medium for his art. Their clean, neat appearance is, however, to no small measure due also to the printing process used. They were printed from steel engraved dies on rotary Stickney presses at the Czech State printing office. Two values the 20 & 30h respectively, were printed in coils perforated vertically but not horizontally. The perforation is line $9\frac{3}{4}$ throughout. Coil stamps were printed in coils containing 1,000 stamps, whereas the normal printing in sheets produced only 200 copies in the sheet. In either case paper with and without watermark was used.

Before going into further details of these interesting issues it is desirable to mention something about the designs themselves. Almost all the designs used were repeated on several denominations. In order to avoid any misunderstanding it should be mentioned that the table or numbers will not be found in any catalogue.

1. Karlstein or Karluv Tyn Castle - depicted on the following values:-
 - a. 20h orange, coil stamps, first issued on 16th October, 1926 and finally withdrawn from circulation on 29th July, 1928.
 - b. 1K.20h mauve, issued 1st June, 1926, withdrawn on 31st July, 1928.

The 1926 - 1928 Pictorial Issues (Contd.)

1. Karlstein or Karluv Tyn Castle (Contd.)

c. 1K.50h carmine red, issued 1st June 1926 withdrawn 28th February, 1937.

d. 2K.50h blue, issued 1st June, 1926, withdrawn 29th February, 1932.

The terms "issued" and "withdrawn" are used to indicate the date of the first issue and of the final withdrawal respectively, thereby bearing in mind that several of these stamps were re-issued either as new printings or on paper without watermark. The first issue in all cases was invariably on paper with watermark.

Karlstein Castle is situated some twenty-five miles to the Southwest of Prague. It dates from the 14th century and was built by command of the Emperor-King Charles IV of Bohemia as a treasure chamber for the Bohemian Crown Jewels. It is one of the best preserved medieval castles of Bohemia.

2. Pernstyn or Perstein Castle. To be found on the following stamps.

a. 30h green, coil stamp and sheet issue first issued 16th October, 1926 finally withdrawn 29th February 1932.

b. 2K. green, issued 31st June, 1929 withdrawn 28th February, 1937.

Pernstyn Castle is one of the Country's ancient fortifications, perched high on a rock overlooking the river Eger in Western Bohemia. Once upon a time it used to be the seat of "Robber Knights", those terrors of the travelling merchants in the middle ages.

The 1926 - 1928 Pictorial Issues (Contd.)

3. Irava Castle. It is pictured on the following:-
- 40h brown, issued 16th October, 1926 and withdrawn 29th February, 1932.
 - 3K. brown, issued 15th May, 1931, withdrawn 28th February, 1937.

4. Strahov Monastery

On 1K.20h mauve only. First issued 1st June 1927 in substitution of like value in Karlstein design withdrawn 28th February, 1937.

The castle is situate in Northern Slovakia, and one of its oldest strongholds. It rises proudly from the surrounding narrow valley of the river Waag, where the same winds its course towards the lowlands of the South. Orava Castle stands on ground trodden by the Roman Legions and protecting the frontiers of the Roman Empire against aggressive Slavs. It also barred the way to the hordes of the Sultans many centuries later.

The stamp depicts the Strahov Monastery in Prague, seen from the neighbouring heights on the banks of the river Vltava or Moldau. It is one of the showpieces of the Bohemian Baroque architecture and used to contain many art treasures.

5. Prague National Museum

On 2K.50h blue only. First issued on 12th June, 1929 withdrawn 28th February, 1937.

The Museum at the higher end of Wenceslas Square, famous Prague thoroughfare is a place of National Pilgrimage. In front of it is the equestrian monument of King Wenceslas, easily to be recognised on the stamp, first King of Bohemia, later beatified by the Roman Catholic Church.

The series of pictorial designs was completed by four high values of 2, 3, 4 and 5K. denominations.

The 1926 - 1928 Pictorial Issues (Contd.)

A. On paper with watermark

It is both necessary and desirable to mention certain features at each issue. The watermark appears in four different positions on the stamps in question. Before going into detail it is worth mentioning that on Czech stamps there are eight positions of the watermark in all. The mark as such represents linden leaves impressed, either vertically or horizontally on the paper used. Of both the vertical and horizontal impressions four different types exist. On the pictorial stamps as before described only four types of the horizontal position, catalogued as watermarks 5 to 8, will be observed. They were not printed on paper with horizontal types of the watermark known as types 1 to 4. The chart overleaf shows the individual values and the watermarks appertaining to them. It will be noticed that not one of the stamps described exists on paper of all watermarks, types or positions. Used copies of all types of watermark are not too difficult to find. There is one exception to this, namely the 20h coil stamp with watermark in position 6. This stamp is extremely hard to find in either mint or used condition and in either represents a rarity.

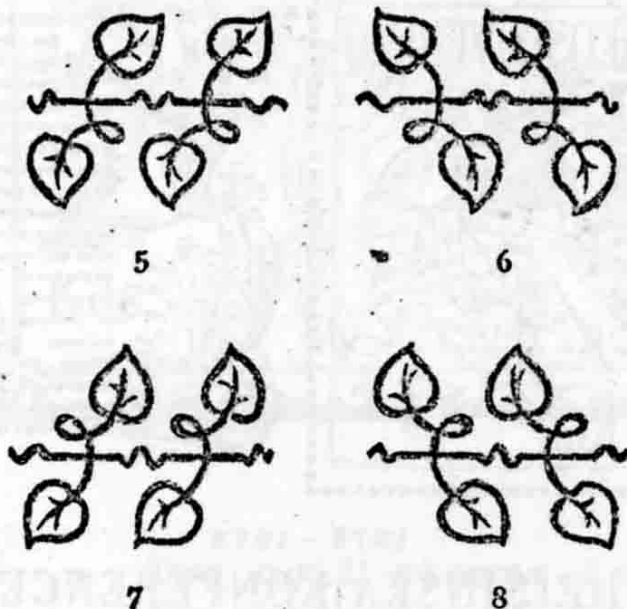
B. On paper without watermark

Two obvious variations are to be distinguished. The much more common one showing a pattern of diagonal stripes across the gum on the back of the stamps; the other variation without the "striped" gum. The gum stripes are similar to those known from the early Austrian issues of the 1860's but then they appeared on the face of the stamps. The stripes disappear if the stamps are immersed in water, and therefore, cannot be distinguished on used stamps.

The 1926 - 1928 Pictorial Issues (Contd.)

Position of Watermarks

Horizontal Watermark Positions:



Value	Position or Type of Watermark				Notes
	5	6	7	8	
20 Heller	—	*	*	*	} Coil stamps perf. line 9½ All stamps listed hereunder printed in Sheets. Perf. as above.
30 Heller	*	—	*	—	
30 Heller	—	—	—	*	
40 Heller	—	*	*	*	
a./brown	—	*	*	*	
b./light brown	—	*	*	*	
1K. 20H.					
a./Karlstein Castle	—	—	—	*	
b./Strahov Monastery	—	*	—	—	
1K. 50H.	—	*	—	*	
a./brown gum	—	*	—	—	
2K. Pernstein	—	—	—	—	2K. Pernstein and 2K. 50H. Prague Museum issued without water- marks only.
2K. 50H. Karlstein	—	*	—	*	
a./bluish paper	—	*	—	*	
2K. 50H. Prague Mus.	—	—	—	—	

NEW ISSUES

30th July, 1976 - Sheet containing two 6 Kcs. stamps.
Subject - Helsinki Conference



New Issues (Contd.)

7th August, 1976 - Subject: Fight against Smoking



7th August, 1976 - Two coil stamps issued for use in automatic machines.

