

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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THE CZECH SCOUT OFFICIAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE of 1918

By Ivo Kvasnicka

Translated by J. J. Verner

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History of the Czech Scout Mail

The first stamps associated with voluntary service of young people during difficult war conditions were issued in the city of Mafeking at the Mission of Good Hope in April 1900. That city, protected by the English, was surrounded for 217 days by the enemy Buri. The commander of the local garrison, Gen. Sir Baden-Powell, who later became international president of the Boy Scouts, organized a group of young boys for the purpose of delivering important messages. The cards and letters using this service were franked with a one-penny stamp bearing the picture of a cyclist (Sergeant-Major Goodyear) and/or a three-penny stamp bearing the likeness of Gen. Sir Baden-Powell.

A similar story was repeated in 1918 during the revolutionary beginnings of the independent Republic of Czechoslovakia at the end of the First World War. At that time Czech Scouts delivered important communications, letters and telegrams between the new governmental organs and leading political personalities. The Scouts issued their own stamps, the first truly "scout stamps" ever produced, for franking the communications they delivered.

The origins of Czech scouting are closely connected with the name of

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 50th anniversary of the Czech Scout Mail occurred Nov. 7, 1968. This monograph, translated into English by J. J. Verner, is one of the most thorough presentations to be published under one cover on the subject of this unusual mail service. The author possesses one of the largest collections of the Czech Scout Mail ever assembled. He is a young Czech engineer, residing in Prague, with broad philatelic interests. We are most grateful to the author for his diligent and accurate research and to Mr. Verner for encouraging the author to record his findings so they may be preserved in the philatelic press, both in the Czech and English languages. Mr. Verner said he has witnessed the rebirth of the Boy Scout movement in Czechoslovakia. With this revived interest, it is most timely that a philatelic account of the extraordinary Czech Scout Mail should now appear in print.—James M. Chemi.

služební předpis pro české skauty
pro doručování dopisů² listů.

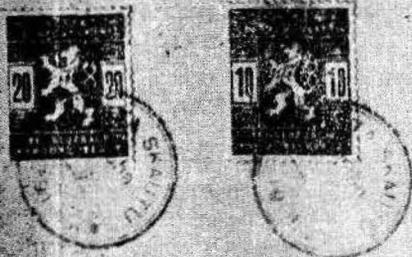
- 1/ Čeští Skauti ve službách Národního Výboru jsou náležitě opatřeni legitimací svého útředi a ruší za dopisy a listiny jim svěřené, které svědomitě na předepsanou adresu dočejí.
- 2/ Dopisy předávající se skautům k doručení v přízemí úřadovně v t. sv. Barrachovském paláci, sídle Národního Výboru v Jindřišské ul. Při doručení musí být každý dopis potvrzen přijímající osobou buď na obálce, kterou Skaut přinese zpět, nebo v recepční knize, kterou dopisy doručující Skaut adresátovi předloží.
- 3/ Veškeré dopisy Skauty doručované jsou opatřeny známkou Českých Skautů, která se nalepí v Skautské úřadovně.
- 4/ Nebylo-li by možno dopis, listiny, telegram, neb balík kápné a děl-né doručiti, musí tento ihned dotýkámu šinovníkovi, který jej ku do-pravě Skautům předal navrácen býti.
- 5/ Ku potvrzení přijetí dopisu bylo požízeno zvláštní razítko, do kte-rého se zanesse datum a jméno Skauta.

V Praze, dne 7. listopadu 1918.



Za Valitelskvi Českých Skautů na vědomí
vzali :

Skautské poštovní známky :



Dopis od skauta _____
převzal: _____

Figure 1. Official regulations covering the Scout Mail, issued Nov. 1, 1918.



Figure 2. Genuine Scout stamps

Prof. A. B. Svojsik, who organized the first scout group in 1911, giving rise to scouting in Bohemia. The number of scouts and groups grew gradually until an independent organization (spolek) "Junak—Czech Scout" was organized June 15, 1914. The South Slav name "Junak," which the Czech Scouts called themselves, expressed their moral and physical qualities. Just as other scouts throughout the world, Czech Scouts used the lily blossom, on which they superimposed a drawing of a dog's head from the flag of the "dog-headers" (psihlavci). The dog-headers were ancient Czech guardians of the state borders and their dogs were considered a symbol of faithfulness and vigilance. Prof. A. B. Svojsik gave the scout movement a nationalistic coloration and began preparing the youth for the Czechs' forthcoming battle against the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Therefore, the revolutionary events of 1918 found the Czech Scouts prepared and dedicated workers.

Czech Scouts began to prepare to serve the National Council, the main governmental institution in the new Republic, as early as September 1918. It was then that the idea of issuing their own revolutionary stamps arose. This idea became reality with the issuance of two stamps, 10 and 20 heller values. They were printed by the Kolman firm, located in the Prague district of Vinohrady. The political revolt erupted Oct. 28, 1918, and by the afternoon of that day Czech Scouts, along with Sokols, volunteers and students, were guarding threatened objects, individuals and communal property. The headquarters of the Czech Scouts, the command post for the overall commander, Prof. Svojsik, Deputy Commander Paubal and Scout President, J. Rossler-Orovsky, was located on Strelecky Island in the Vltava river.

Because the revolutionary government needed reliable co-workers for the delivery of important mail and dispatches between the members of the National Committee, the police and government offices, the National Committee turned over to the Scouts its entire mail receipt and delivery system during the evening of Oct. 28. At first, the Scout Mail was semi-official and was based on an oral agreement between the Directorate of the Czech Scouts and the National Committee, then located in the Harrachov Palace, samples of the official cancellations and announced that their use would begin at 10 o'clock the following morning.

The Scout Mail was officially approved with the issuance, Nov. 7, 1918, of official regulation No. 324//R governing the delivery of letters and communications by the Czech Scouts. The Official Regulations, signed by representatives of the National Council—Dr. Pavlasek, Rossler-Orovsky and V. Jelen—as well as by the Directorate of the Czech Scouts, on the use of cancellations and stamps of the Scouts Mail Delivery Service (Figure 1) is translated as follows:

**324 Official Regulations for the Czech Scouts Delivering Letters
and Documents**

(1) Czech Scouts in the service of the National Council are issued identification cards by their Union and are responsible for letters and documents with which they have been entrusted and which they will conscientiously deliver to the addressee.

(2) Letters are given to the Scouts for delivery in the ground floor office in the so-called Harracov Palace, the seat of the National Council, on Jindris-ska street. Upon delivery each letter must be receipted by the recipient either on the envelope, which the Scout will then bring back or in the receipt book which the delivering Scout will make available to the addressee.

(3) All letters delivered by the Scouts will bear a Scout stamp which will be affixed in the Scout Office.

(4) If it is not possible to deliver a letter, document, telegram or package promptly and accurately, the item must be returned immediately to the official who gave it to the Scouts for delivery.

(5) For verification of acceptance of a letter a special handstamp was ordered in which the date and name of the Scout will be entered. In Prague the 7th day of November 1918.

Correspondence intended for delivery by Scouts was collected in the Scout Office at the National Council and also later in the Harrachov Palace, Cadet Academy, Parliament and the Obecni Dum. Important cards, letters, dispatches and telegrams that arrived by post were accepted by the Office, sorted and immediately delivered to the addressees. The Scouts delivered communications in Prague and its environs on foot, by street car and bicycle.

Their uniform and identification papers gave Scouts access to the members of the Government and its functionaries at any time during the day or night. The addressee acknowledged receipt of a letter in a receipt book, or simply on the envelope in which the communication was delivered, which the Scout then returned to his office as a means of control. Since the mails were not particularly reliable during that period, the Scouts also made some deliveries to private individuals.

(to be continued)

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(continued from last issue)

On November 16 an office of the Scout Mail also was opened in the Ministry of Interior, which was located in the former governor's palace in the Prague Castle. There also was continual Scout Service in the Post and Telegraph Office on Jindriiska Street, at Wilson Station and the wireless telegraph station at Letna. The official service of the Scouts stopped by order of Scout President Rossler-Orovsky on the evening of Nov. 25. The great majority of the Scouts had to return to school or their jobs and by that time the individual ministries had their own dependable employees.

The Scout Delivery Service was revived Dec. 21 when Prague welcomed the Republic's first president, Thomas G. Masaryk. The return of the President to his homeland was considered a great state-political event. The Scouts also participated in the arrangements for this event and were entrusted with the delivery of important telegrams between the Castle, the Parliament and Wilson Station. For this occasion a small number of Scout stamps were overprinted "Prijezd presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk), and then were affixed to the communications delivered by the Scouts. Today it is not possible to determine who gave official approval for the overprinting and use of these stamps, since the written documents have not been preserved. However, it is known from the testimony of participants that the idea of overprinting the stamps came from the Scout leadership and that some members of the National Council knew and approved of the entire affair.

Scout Stamps and Postal Cards

Every revolution that reaches deep into the political and economic life of a state is also reflected in its postal history. The circumstances accompanying a governmental overthrow usually preclude the usual requirements demanded for the issuance of regular postage stamps. The Czech Scout Delivery Stamps, which appeared during the revolutionary period of 1918, can

be considered as a typical example of this phenomena.

As already mentioned, the idea of preparing special Scout Delivery Service stamps developed in September 1918. The proposal for their issuance was approved at a meeting held Oct. 20. By then the temporary National Council had decided to use Scouts for security and guard service, and to provide a local mail delivery service. The book publisher, Knapp of the Prague district of Karlín, recommended that the stamps be printed by the Kollman firm in Král Vinohrady and, along with Scout President Rossler-Orovsky, placed an order for stamps. The initial order was for 20,000 copies each of the 10-heller blue and 20-heller red stamps. The 10-heller value was needed to pay for delivery of postal cards and printed matter and the 20-heller for letters, telegrams, newspapers and parcels. The collection of these fees was necessary because the Scouts were paid a lump sum for their services from a special National Council fund.

Since the stamps were not sold publicly, they must be considered official delivery stamps. They were officially valid from Nov. 7 to Nov. 25, 1918, but are known on a few covers which were delivered during the period of November 3-7.

The central design of both stamps consists of a line drawing of the Czech double-tailed lion. Numbers of value appear on either side against a white field. At the top is the legend "Posta ceskych Skautu" (Mail of the Czech Scouts), and at the bottom "Ve službách Národní vlády" (In the Service of the National Government). See figure 2.

The stamps were relief printed and the edges were "died-out" approximating a 12½ perforation. The engraving on the die-out tool was done by J. Panenka. Only one die was prepared for each value so no variations are possible on either value. The die printed and simultaneously cut-out one stamp at a time from pre-gummed paper. The dies were later devalued by filing (figure 3) and placed, along with cancellation tools and other materials related to the Scout Mails, in the archives of the National Council. These materials were apparently destroyed either during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia or during the fire in the Old Town Hall during the Prague revolt of May 1945.

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(continued from ~~June~~^{May} issue)

There were two printings of these stamps. The first was on heavy paper with yellow gum, often unevenly applied, while the second on thinner paper with white gum. Stamps also exist that were printed on parchment paper. Unused stamps of the first printing are found less often because more of them were used up during their period of validity. Stamps of varying color shades and with uneven application of ink exist from both printings.

The 10-heller stamp is known to exist in a series of shades, ranging from light blue to violet blue, while the shades of the 20-heller run from rose to carmine. The printer delivered the stamps to the Scout offices in boxes of 500 and 1,000. Because of the great pressure of work, no control was established with regard to the number of stamps delivered and hence the exact quantity of the printings is not known. However, it is estimated that about 30,000 10-heller blue and 50,000 20-heller red stamps were issued.

Color trials were prepared in various colors and shades for both values. They were printed on thinner white paper which had either white or yellow gum. (The author also has a proof printed on yellow paper.) Color trials

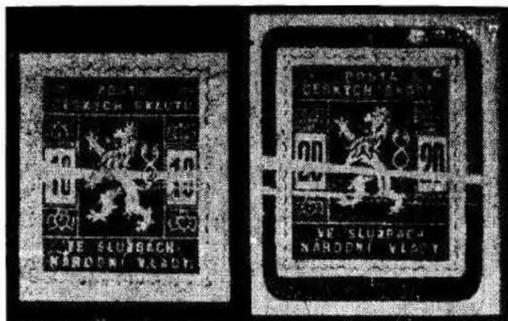


Figure 3. De-valued dies.

of the 10-heller stamp exist in various shades of red-brown, brown, purple and gray, and more rarely in red and turquoise green. The 20-heller color trials are known in shades of red-brown, brown, violet, purple, gray, grayish olive, orange—and less often in light blue and blue-green.

During the printing of the stamps the following flaws appeared: non-died-out or insufficiently died-out stamps (Figure 4); inaccurately aligned dies, negative perforations (Figure 5); double paper (Figure 6); folded paper, double impressions (Figure 7); unevenly applied or heavy inking (Figure 8); and various color spots, albino impressions, partial or complete set-offs (Figure 9). These printing errors are relatively uncommon even though the printing was done by a private firm. This fact tends to confirm the argument that originally the Scout stamps were prepared for use by the "revolutionary" mails and not for philatelic collections.

After the death of Rössler-Orovsky, Scouts stamps from his estate bearing the so-called Prague Revolutionary overprint came into possession of several collectors. The idea of using a Revolutionary overprint arose in the first days of the new state among the employees of the National Council and the overprint was applied to some Austrian stamps then in use. These overprints on Scout stamps have no practical significance. They were trial overprints which have value only as novelties. Three types of the first overprint, the so-called small seal, and one of the second overprint (large seal) are known on Scout stamps. The overprints were applied in red and black. Inverted and sideways impressions also exist.

The types of these overprint known to have been used are illustrated in Figure 10:

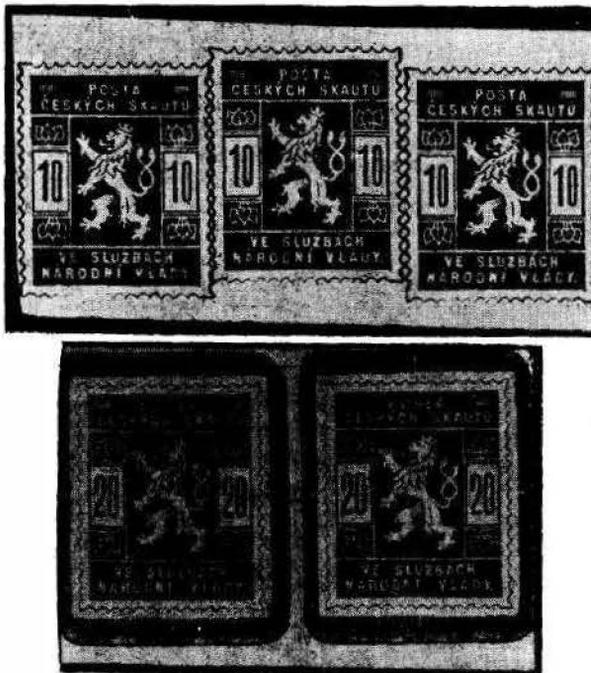


Figure 4. Incompletely "died-out" stamps.

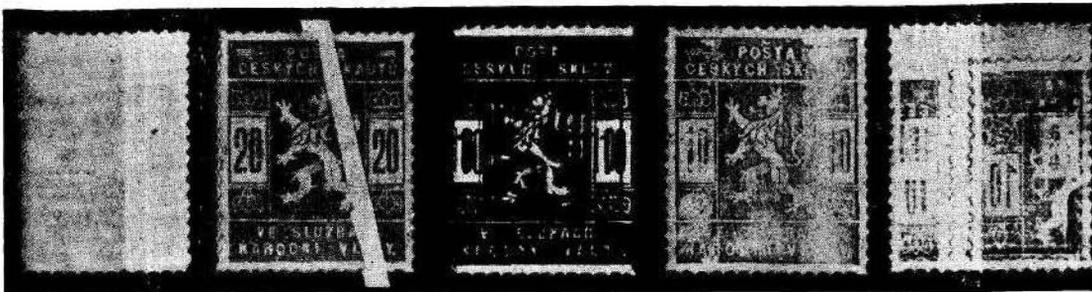


Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

Oddities illustrated above: Negative perforations (Figure 5), double paper (Figure 6), double impression (Figure 7), uneven inking (Figure 8), and offset impression (Figure 9).

(a) The legend, "Provisorní Československá vláda" (Provisional Czechoslovak Government), with the Czech lion in a perpendicularly-lined field. The Czech crown appears above the seal.

(b) The words, "Československá státní pošta" (Czechoslovak State Post) with the Czech lion and the Czech crown.

(c) The definitive overprint, bearing the legend, "Provisorní Československá vláda," the seal with the Czech lion. The crown above the seal has been filed off. When this overprint had been used several days for application on Austrian stamps, the Commission of the National Council was criticized because the Czech seal did not reflect the union of the Czech lands with Slovakia. Therefore this overprint was changed too.

(d) The definitive overprint with the words "Československá státní pošta" and the joint coat of arms, the so-called Legionnaire coat-of-arms.

A small printing of 1,000 postal cards was prepared bearing the relief 10-heller blue stamp. The stamp was printed in the upper left corner of cards from white carton stock (Figure 11). The postal cards were intended for communication between Scouts or between the Scouts and the National Council. Genuinely-used postal cards are rarely seen:



A

B

C

D

Figure 10. "Revolutionary" overprint of Scout Stamps.

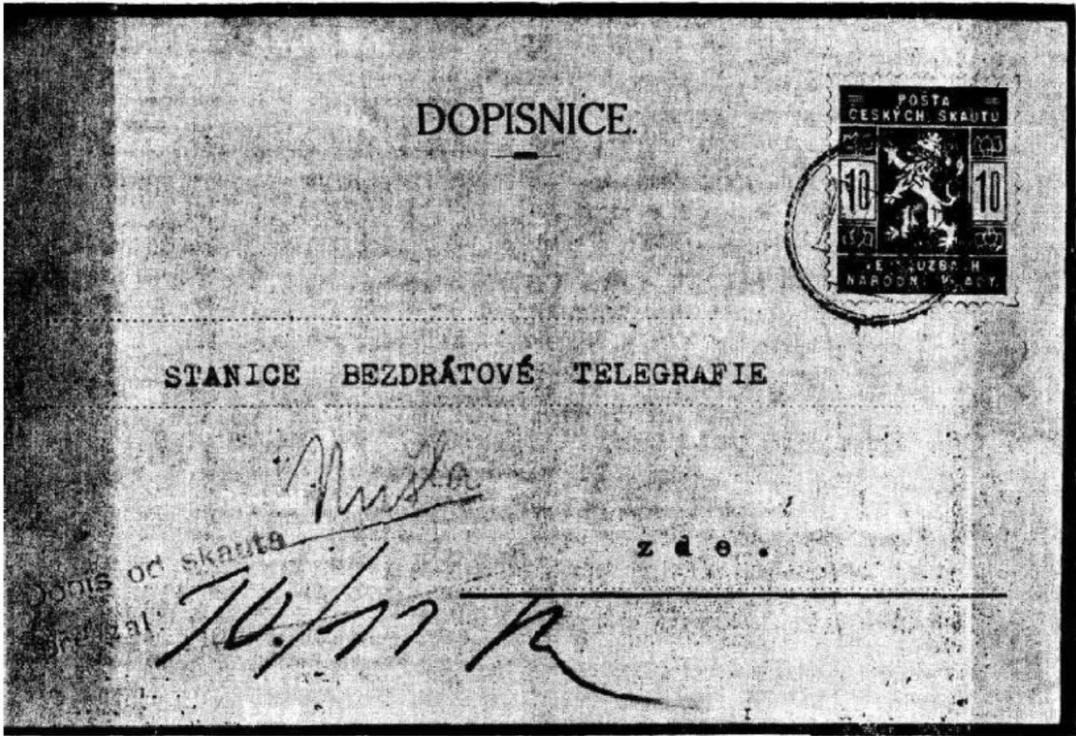


Figure 11. Genuinely-used postal card.
(to be continued)

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Scout Mail Cancellations

The Scout mails used three types of hand stamps to mark delivered mail:
(A) A round metal handstamp, 24mm in diameter, with the letters NV



Figure 12
NV cancellation.



Figure 13
Scout Mail cancellation.

Dopis od skauta _____
převzal: _____

Figure 14
Receipt stamp.

(Národní Vybor—National Council), which was used by the Scout Office at the National Council building (Figure 12).

(B) A round rubber handstamp, about 30mm in diameter, with the text "Posta Skautu—Praha 1918" (Scout Mail—Prague 1918) into which the date was written in manuscript (Figure 13). This cancellation was used by all the Scout Offices.

(C) A double-lined, rubber handstamp "Dopis od skauta _____, prevzal _____ (The letter from the scout _____, was accepted by _____). This marking (Figure 14) was signed on the top line by

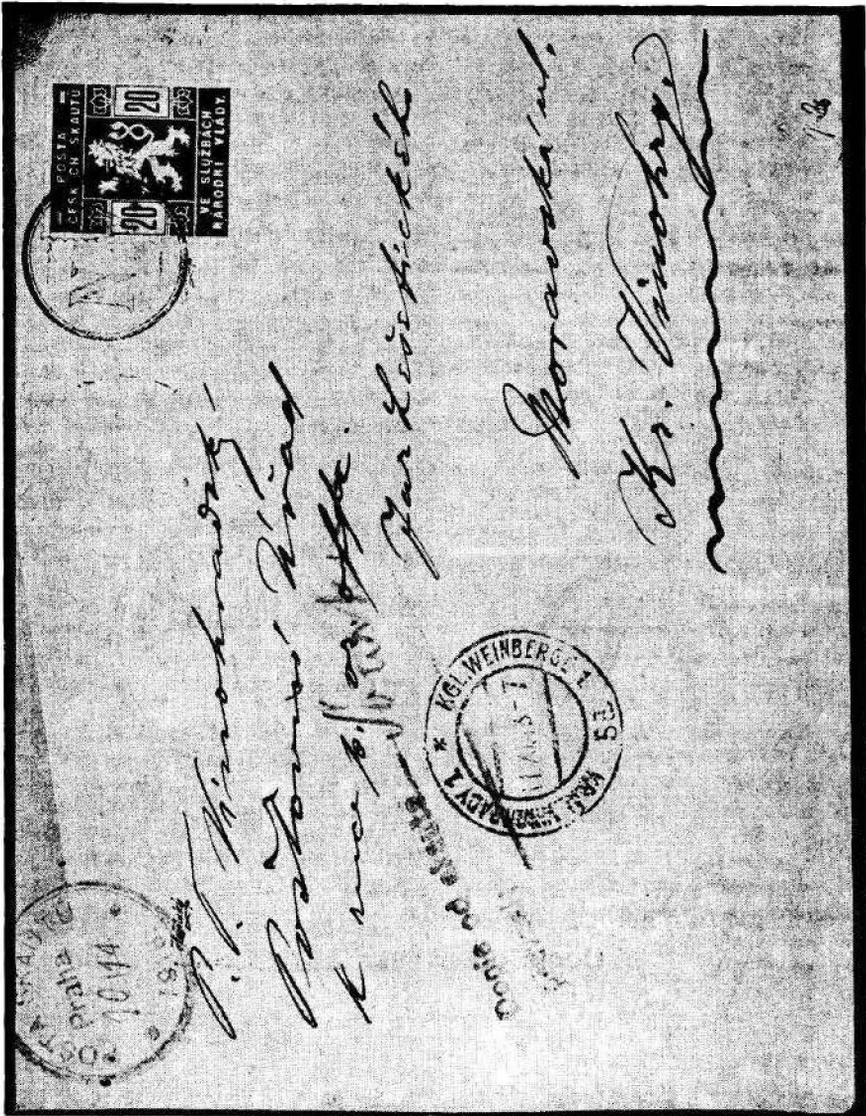


Figure 15. Genuinely-delivered letter with Scout stamps and cancellations.

applied to the first page of telegrams (Figure 17). If they were long, and included more than one page, each additional page had a Scout cancellation applied. The Scouts daily delivered packets of newspapers and journals—stamps were pasted on only the first copy of such bundles and then canceled.

The regulations on franking with Scout stamps were not always followed, especially when a Scout ran out of stamps while on duty. For this reason, and because some Scout Mail was delivered before the stamps were valid, covers can be found that only bear Scout cancellation markings. If a receipt book was used by a Scout the cover need not bear the two line marking "Letter from Scout ----- Accepted by -----" (Figure 18).

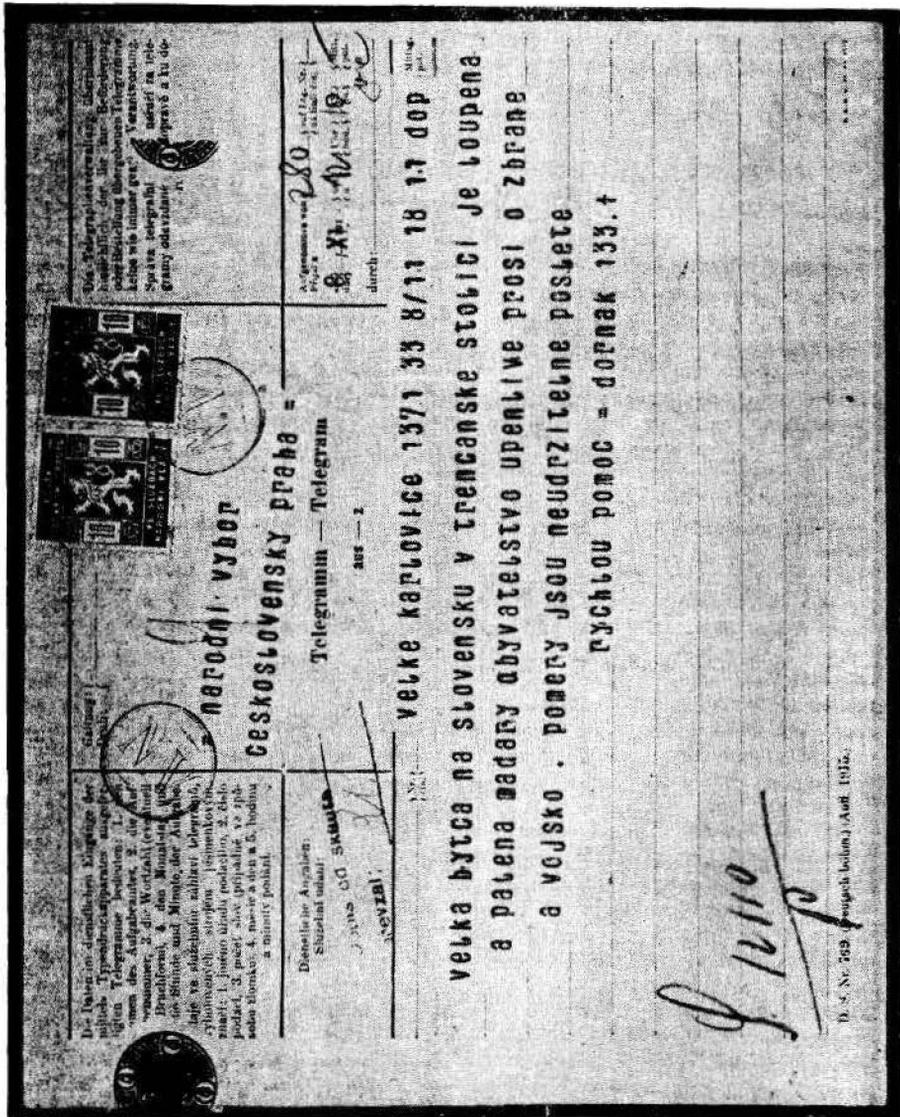


Figure 17. Telegram from Velky Karlovice and delivered to National Council by Scouts, Nov. 8, 1918.

Unofficial Markings on Covers of the Scout Post

(A) An official, but non-postal, rubber, elliptically shaped handstamp with the legend "Národní vybor ceskoslovensky v Praze" (Czechoslovak National Council in Prague)—Figure 19. This marking appears in violet, red, and black.

(B) Markings of the individual Scout units which worked for the National Council (Figure 20). These markings only represented publicity for the Scout units and had no postal significance.

(to be continued)



Figure 18. Letter delivered by Scouts.

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The official handstamp "A" only appeared on original letters. The marking was to certify official papers or communications and was not intended for canceling delivered mail. Since all the handstamp devices were kept together in the same office, this official marking erroneously found its way to use on covers. This handstamp, together with the official metal NV device and the round rubber handstamps, remained in the hands of a National Council employee when the Scout Mail ceased operations. Subsequently, he manufactured a small number of additional letters. In most cases he used an envelope with the "Národní Vybor" imprinture, affixed a stamp, canceled it with the official handstamp, and then applied either one—or both—of the postal markings (Figure 21). These covers on which the manufacturer did not write an erroneous date (Nov. 25 or after) or an address which did not exist, are impossible to distinguish from ones actually delivered by the Scouts.

'Prijezd Presidenta Masaryka' Overprint

At the beginning of this article we mentioned that the Scout Post was again activated on Dec. 21, 1918, the day of President Masaryk's return to his homeland. To commemorate this event a three-line overprint "Prijezd Presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) was overprinted on Scout stamps. The overprinting was done by the Knapp printing plant in Karlin (Prague) on values of the first and second printing. The 10-heller blue stamps bear a brick red overprint and the 20-heller red a black one. It is estimated that only 600 10-heller blue and 1,000 20-heller red stamps were overprinted. The high market price of these stamps today indicates that the overprinted stamps not actually used were almost immediately destroyed.

Various varieties of the overprint are known: black overprint on the 10-



Figure 19. Official, non-postal, marking of the National Council.



Figure 20. Scout unit marking.

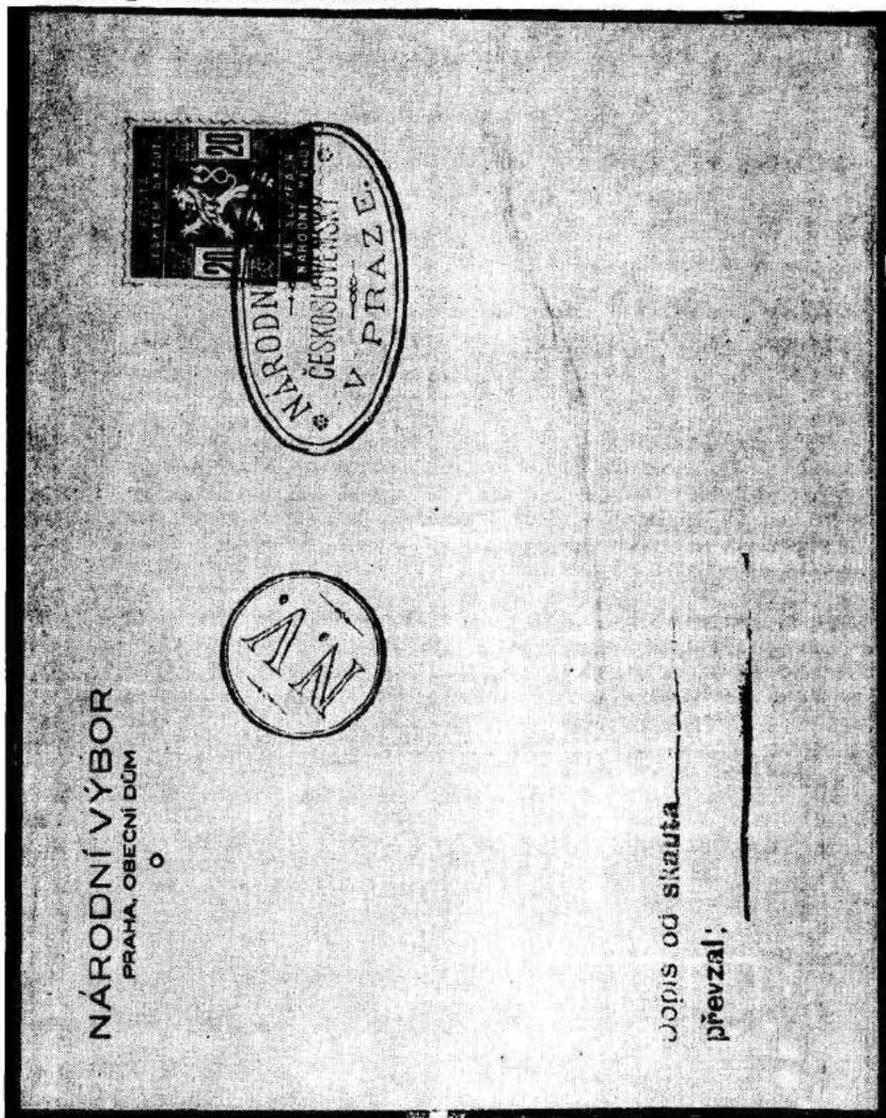


Figure 21. Manufactured cover with genuine markings.

heller blue; inverted overprint; overprint printed at a greater than usual angle; and very rarely, a light blue overprint on the blue 10-heller stamp.

All genuinely-delivered covers that include the overprinted Scout stamp were canceled with the round "Posta Skautu—Praha 1918" and marking "C" in black (Figure 23). For an exception to this rule, we must note that letters sent from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers were canceled with a round unofficial (non-postal) marking in purple that read "Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic (Figure 24). Some Scout postal cards had overprinted Scout stamps pasted on and also were used during this day.

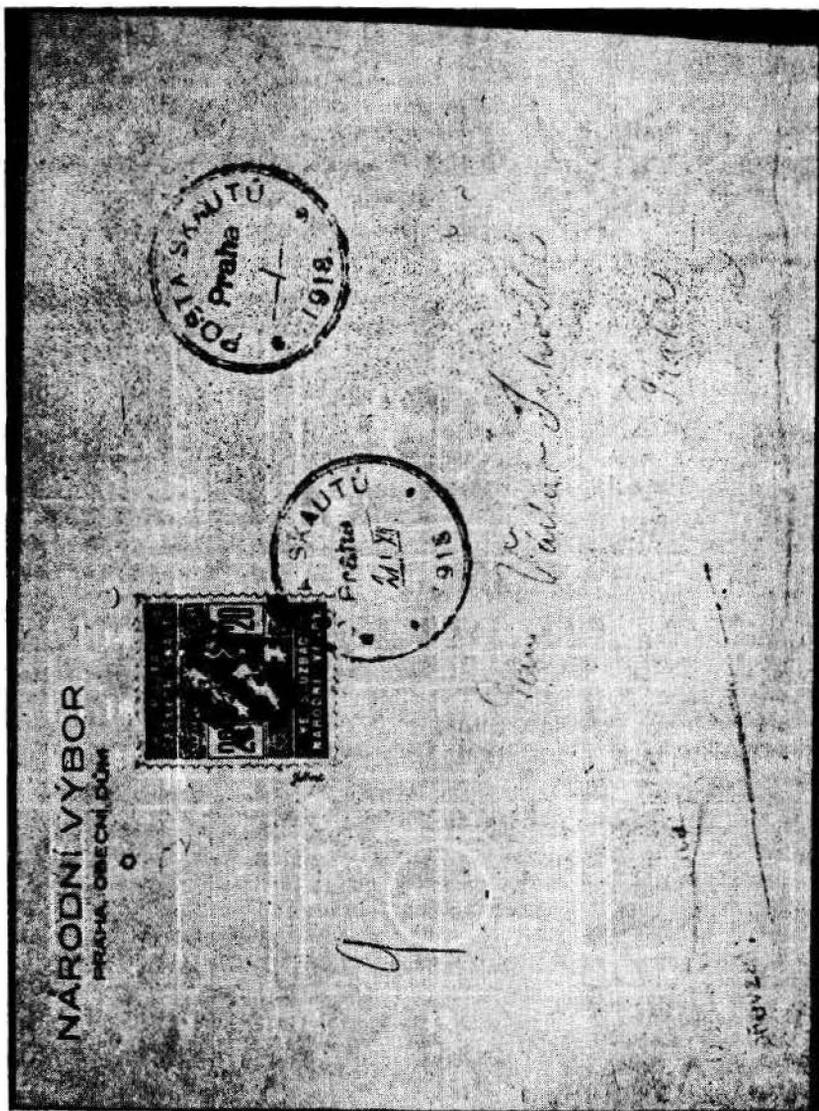


Figure 23. Letter delivered on December 21, 1918 bearing the "Prijezd" ovpt.



Figure 22. Genuine overprint.



Figure 24. Marking used on letters sent from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers on Dec. 21, 1918.

Counterfeits of the Scout Stamps

Even though Scout stamps do not belong among really rare stamps, they nevertheless were counterfeited several times. Counterfeits are not known used on cover or on piece. All counterfeits of these stamps were produced to defraud collectors.

(1) Blue 10-Heller Stamp

Counterfeit A. (Figure 25)

As his pattern, the counterfeiter used the 20-heller stamp on which the lion's right leg is nicked. This nick and the wrong configuration of the letter S in the text identify this otherwise good-appearing counterfeit. It was relief printed with the appropriate die-out. The hollows of the died-out "perforations" are shallow.

The author has several of these counterfeits which testify to the development of the final color and gum used.

The counterfeiter began with a gray color and yellowish, cracked gum. Then came counterfeits with a gray-blue color and coarse yellow gum, and finally a blue stamp with smooth yellowish gum.

Counterfeit B. (Figure 26)

The design and perforations are the same as counterfeit A, but the nick in the lion's leg has been touched up. The color of the counterfeit is blue or blue-violet and the gum is smooth, white or yellowish.

Counterfeit C. (Figure 27)

The design differs considerably from the original. They were printed in relief with simultaneous dieing out of the perforations. The hollows between the perforations are deep and round, the teeth are flat rather than pointed, and each side has two more teeth than the original "perforations" (13¼). The color is light blue or blue, and the gum is smooth and slightly yellowish.

(2) Red 20-Heller Stamp

Counterfeit A. (Figure 28)

This counterfeit was probably produced by the same man that made counterfeits A and B of the 10-heller stamp. The distinguishing marks are the wrong configuration of the letter S in the stamp's text and the absence of the nick in the lion's right leg.



Figure 25
Counterfeit A (10 heller).



Figure 26
Counterfeit B.

Individual counterfeits vary in the sharpness of the relief, but never is it as deep as the original. The dimensions of the perforations are uneven and the hollows between are shallow. The color is red or light red and the gum is smooth, white or slightly yellowish and sometimes coarse white.

Counterfeit B. (Figure 29)

This counterfeit varies considerably from the original. The letters and numerals are smaller. The lion fills the center up to the border. It was relief printed with died-out "perforations."

A distinguishing feature of this counterfeit is its small teeth and shallow hollows. Each side of the counterfeit has three more teeth than the original. The color is carmine; the gum is clear and white.



Figure 27
Counterfeit C.



Figure 28
Counterfeit A (20 heller)



Figure 29 Counterfeit B.

(3) "Prijezd presidenta Masaryka" Overprint

The small print run and high prices of the Scout stamps bearing this overprint has led to several counterfeit tamperings of the overprint.

Counterfeit overprints exist on genuine and counterfeit stamps, but they never completely match the original. The counterfeit overprint also was applied to stamps used on genuine letters. These covers often bear the NV cancellation which was not used on Dec. 21, 1918.

The following counterfeits are in the author's collection, but it is possible others exist:

Counterfeit A. (Figure 30)

The most distinguishing feature of this counterfeit is that the center point of the letter M does not come all the way to the base as in the original. Also, the center of the letter "d" is too rounded and not oblong as in the original. The counterfeit appears on genuine stamps (Figure 30) as well as on counterfeit type C of the 10-heller and type B of the 20-heller (Figure 31) and on what were originally genuine covers. The red counterfeit overprint on the 10-heller has a mat finish.

Counterfeit B. (Figure 32)

This counterfeit varies from the original by the different shape of the



Figure 30

Figure 31

Figure 32

Figure 33

Above four items are counterfeit of "Prijezd" overprint

letter "S" and the tail of the letter "t" in the word "presidenta." The letters do not have sharply defined edges.

It also exists in black on the blue 10-heller value.

Counterfeit C. (Figure 33)

The letters of this counterfeit are completely different from the original and several of the letters are incompletely printed.

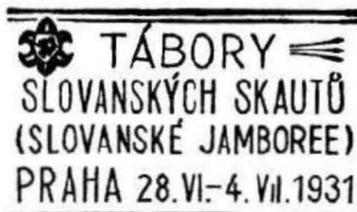
The colors of this counterfeit match the original.

Cancellations Commemorating Scout Congresses and Celebrations in Czechoslovakia

To complete the record of Czechoslovak postal recognition of Scout activities, we submit the following check-list of cancellations commemorating Scout celebrations, Jamborees and Congresses in the Republic.

1931 PRAHA-SLOVANSKE SKAUTSKE TABORY 1931 (Slavic Scout Jamboree): Circle handstamp (Figure 34a); Machine cancellation (Figure 34b). In addition to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Czechoslovak scouting, two labels were issued (figure 35) and a postal card bearing the same design.

Figure 34 — Commemorative Scout Cancellations



E

F

G

- 1934 KUTNA HORA-ZUPNI SJEZD JUNAKU SKAUTU (Regional Congress of Young Scouts). Figure 34c.
 1934 BANSKA BYSTRICA—XII. SVETOVY TABOR SKAUSKEJ ESPERANTSKEJ LIGY (XII World Jamboree of the Scout Esperanto League) Figure 34d.
 1936 PRAHA 14—ZEMSKY SKAUSKY SJEZD (National Scout Congress). Figure 34e.
 1937 JAROMER—OTEVRENI SKAUSKEHO DOMOVA (Scout Lodge Opening). Figure 34f.
 1945 ZILINA 1—1. SNEM SLOVENSKYCH SKAUTOV (1 Congress of Slovak Scouts). Figure 34g.
 1945 KLATOVY—SKAUSKE SLAVNOSTI (Scout Celebrations). Fig. 34h.
 1946 KARLOV YVARY 1—SKAUSKE DNY (Scout Days). Figure 34i.
 1946 PRAHA 1—II. JUNACKY NEM (II Scout Congress). Figure 34j.
 1948 ZLIN 1—JUNACKY SNEM (Scout Congress). Figure 34k.



H



I



J



K



Figure 35. Label issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Boy Scout movement in Czechoslovakia

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 E. Hirsch and J. Franek: Československé známky (Czechoslovak Stamps), Prague, 1935.
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

Vol. XXXV

October 1973

No. 8, Whole No. 334

Czech Scout Stamps—1918, Used on Telegrams

By Jan Dvorak and Lester A. Behnke

The telegraph service in the United States is privately owned and operated. In Europe and most other countries this is not the case as the telegraph serv-

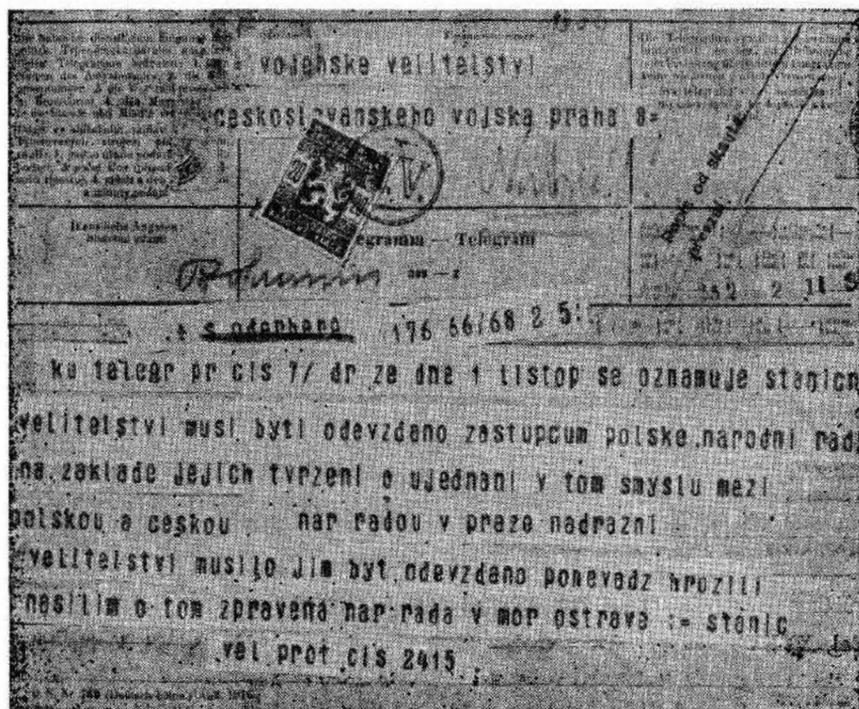


Fig. 1 (Translation) To the Military Command of the Czechoslovak Army, Prague 8. In answer to telegram no. 7/ of 1 November it is announced that station (railroad) command must be transferred to representatives of the Polish National Committee on the basis of their insistence concerning agreement in this respect between the Polish and Czech National Committees in Prague . . . railroad station command had to be transferred because of a threat of force . . . National Committee in Mor. Ostrava has been informed of this: (signed) Station Command number 2415.

ice is operated by the government as part of the post-office department, as it was in Austria and subsequently in Czechoslovakia

Many articles have appeared in the philatelic press concerning the 10h blue and 20h red Czech Scout stamps used in November and December 1918 and their use on letters, but little has appeared regarding their use on telegrams.

While the stamps were not officially valid until November 7, 1918, some were used as early as November 2 as shown on the telegram Fig. 1. This telegram was sent from Bohumin (previously S. Oderberg) by the Commander of the Station, to the Military Command of the Czechoslovak Army in Prague and refers to a change in command for the station by the Polish National Committee.*

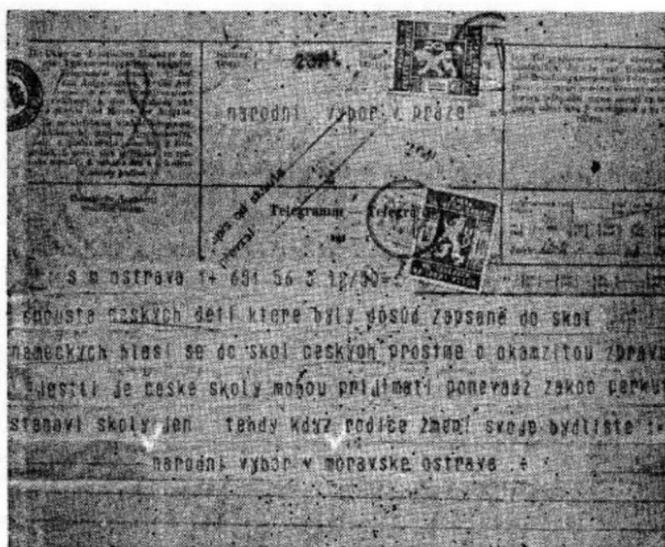


Fig. 2 (Approximate translation) To the National Committee in Prague from Mor. Ostrava. A mass of Czech children heretofore registered in German schools reporting to Czech schools . . . request immediate instruction whether Czech schools can accept them since the law regulating schools calls for change only when parents change their address . . . National Committee in Mor. Ostrava.

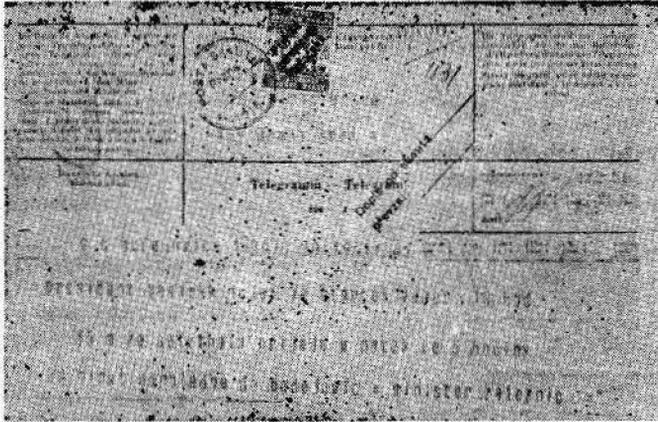


Fig. 3.

The telegram illustrated in Fig. 2 is dated November 3, sent from the National Committee in Mor. Ostrava to the National Committee in Prague and concerns the transfer of Czech children previously enrolled in German schools to Czech schools.*

The delivery of telegrams, together with letters, newspapers, documents and other official papers, with Scout stamps attached, continued until November 25, 1918. If the telegrams were long and consisted of more than one page, the stamps were applied to the first page, with only the Scout cancellation applied to the additional pages.

The original stamps were overprinted for the arrival of President Masaryk in Prague on December 21, 1918 and were also used on telegrams. Fig. 2 shows a telegram sent from České Budějovice on December 19 from the

* Figure captions give complete translations of telegrams.

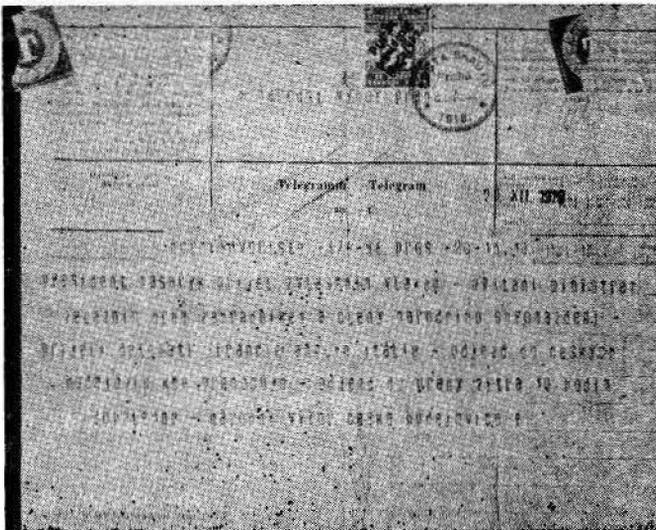


Fig. 4

Minister of Railways to the Presidium of the Cabinet, Prague Castle, informing them that "President Masaryk left Salzburg (Austria) thursday at 10 p.m. and would arrive at České Budějovice, Friday at 3:20 p.m."

The telegram shown in Fig. 4 was sent by the National Committee in České Budějovice from Horní Dvořiště on December 20 to the National Committee, Prague, stating that "President Masaryk arrived in a special train, followed by a reception by the Minister of Railways and members of Parliament, also that representatives of France, England and Italy were present. Departure for České Budějovice where he will stay overnight and departure for Prague tomorrow at 10 a.m."

Only 600 of the 10h and 1,000 of the 20h were overprinted and few were used, with most of the remainder destroyed. These stamps on covers and telegrams are exceedingly rare.

envelopes received in Prague from other towns and addressed to the National Committee; and those sent from various locations in Prague and addressed to local offices, and to individuals. These stamps were also placed on telegrams before delivery to the addressee—usually the National Committee and its members, some were even used for the delivery of newspapers and pamphlets. In other words, there were many places of origin, many destinations, and many covers in existence.

The postal card on the other hand, was intended only for use by the Scout leaders for Scout purposes as shown in the accompanying illustrations. There are today in collections, probably several hundred at least of the stamps on covers, but not more than several dozen mint and used postal cards.

Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate a card used II.XI addressed to the Wireless Station requesting that "All of the telegrams received be handed the deliverer of this official card." It is signed by Rössler-Orovsky, the President of the Scout Organization.

Figs. 3 and 4 show a card written on 19.XI to Filip Vracha, and delivered the following day by Scout Kalibera. This is in the handwriting of Capt. Rössler-Orovský, Jr., and reads as follows:

Parliament, 19 Nov. 1918

Dear Bracha:

The detachment of the troop stationed at the Castle (Hradčany, seat of the President and the government) will receive in the Castle, free lunches, dinners and breakfasts including lodgings at the guard room. Tin containers they own. Look to it that the boys have good and clean blankets. Also soap! Blocks of receipts you will get from the National Committee. Issue a receipt with the rubber stamp of Junak—Czech Scout. The copies of orders do not give up, we have to keep them for the time, to be able to prove how many cases and pieces our scouts have processed. I have sent further three scouts to the Wireless Station at Letná (a Prague street) to deliver safely radio messages to the National Committee and to the Castle. Report to Prof. Nusla what is being done at the Wireless Station. This letter will be delivered to you by some boy of the IInd or IIIrd troop. Give him the official report of Nov. 1st to Nov. 15th.

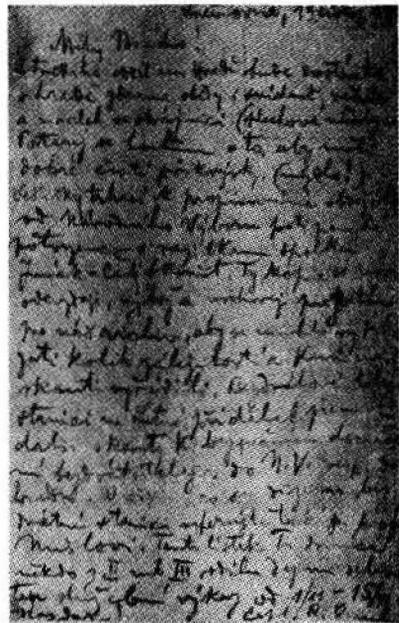


Fig. 4

Yours, Capt. R. O. Jun.

Fig. 5 shows the reverse of a card typewritten in a standard form, and then filled in with a date and the name of the Scout as a certification. It reads as follows:

Karel Hüler, Student IIIa of the Real Gymnasium in Libeň (Prague) is on duty as a Scout in the building of the National Council, or Ministry of the Interior.

Prague, Nov. 21. 1918

(Signed) J. Kalibera
Leader of the day.

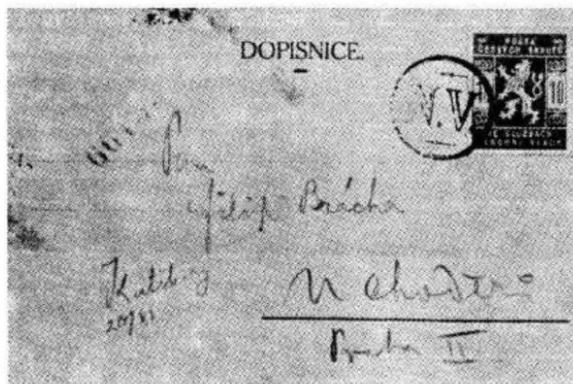


Fig. 3

Fig. 6 shows the reverse of another card, also typewritten in a standard form, dated 12/11, signed by Orovský himself, plus the handstamp of the Presidium of the Czech Scouts, with a message reading:

To whom it may concern:

Hand over to the deliverer (of this card) the received telegrams.

A few postal cards exist with the overprinted Masaryk stamp added, and cancelled 21/XII, the only day of use of the Masaryk stamps, one of which is illustrated in Fig. 7. It is addressed to A. Svojsik, the Founder of Scout-

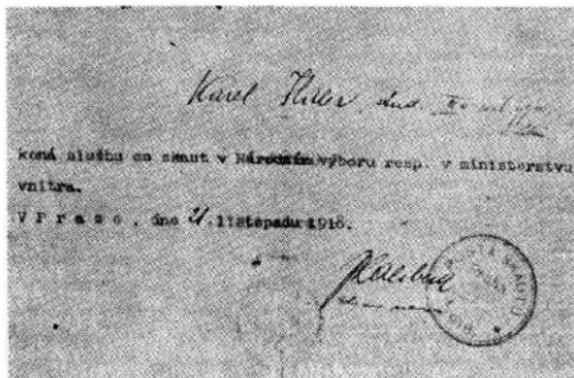


Fig. 5

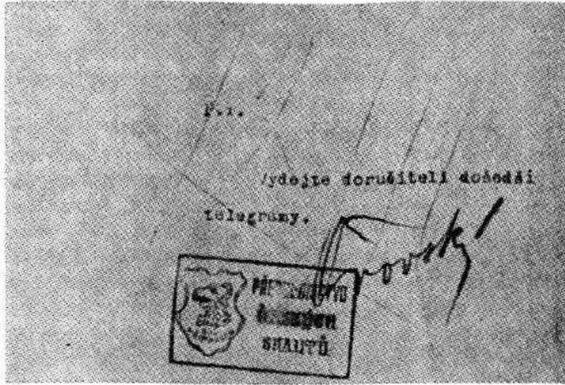


Fig. 6

ing in Czechoslovakia, and Chief Scout of Junak, (Scout Association).

There are today, probably several hundred of the stamps on covers in collections, but not more than several dozen mint and used postal cards.

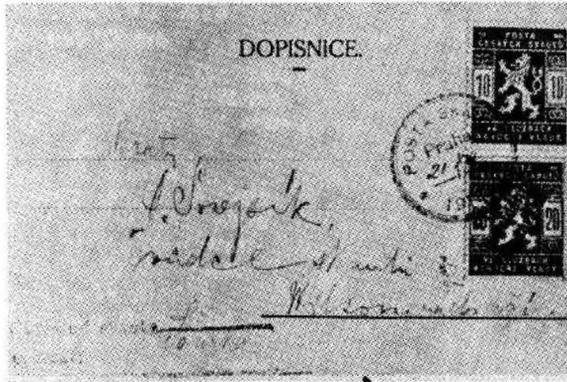


Fig. 7

USPS #908200

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Silver Award — INTERPHIL '76

SILVER AWARD — CAPEX '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXX

November 1978

No. 9, Whole No. 384

Czech Scout Stamps—The Masaryk Overprints

By Jan Dvorak and Lester A. Behnke

(Reprinted by permission from the S.P.A. Journal and the use of their engravings appreciated)



Fig. 1

Most collectors of Czechoslovak stamps and the topic of Scouts on Stamps are familiar with the two Czech Scout stamps issued early in November 1918 for use in the messenger service for local delivery in Prague of official letters and telegrams. This service terminated on November 25, but was reinstated later for one day only—December 21, 1918. This was the day when President Masaryk arrived in Prague to take office. For this one day only the stamps were used again, but with an overprint reading: "Příjezd presidenta Masaryka."

Though it is not known definitely, it is estimated that approximately 600 of the 10h blue stamp, and 1,000 of the 20h red stamp were overprinted by the Knapp printing office in Prague. The color of the overprint was brick red on the 10h and dull black on the 20h. The overprints appear to be somewhat transparent, especially when seen enlarged, as in Figure 1. The form of the letters in this overprint have very definite characteristics which are quite different from forged overprints made later. The original plate for the overprinting was destroyed shortly after the work was completed, and the remainder of the stamps was destroyed shortly after December 21, 1918. This accounts for the scarcity of these stamps and the corresponding high value today.

Most of the overprints on the 10h blue stamp were printed on the dark blue shade of this stamp, but a few also exist on the scarcer light blue (ultramarine) shade.

Evidently the black overprint was first applied to the 20h red stamp. Later, the same printing plate was inked with red for the printing of the 10h blue stamp without removing all of the black ink. This produced a few 10h stamps with the overprint showing a red color tinged with black as in Figure 2. Only a few of these exist, but they do appear occasionally in international exhibitions.

The 20h red stamp overprinted with black ink also exists in a very



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

small quantity with the overprint inverted as shown in Figure 3.

According to some of the older philatelists, one of these is in the archives of the Czechoslovak Postal Museum, one or two in collections in Czechoslovakia and one abroad.

The return of Thomas G. Masaryk to his native Czechoslovakia was a historically significant event during which the Boy Scouts again offered their services. They served as organizers and bearers of reports, statements, news, letters, and telegrams between Prague Castle, Parliament, the Town Hall, the Railway Station, the Postoffice, the Telegraph Station, members of Parliament and other notable persons.

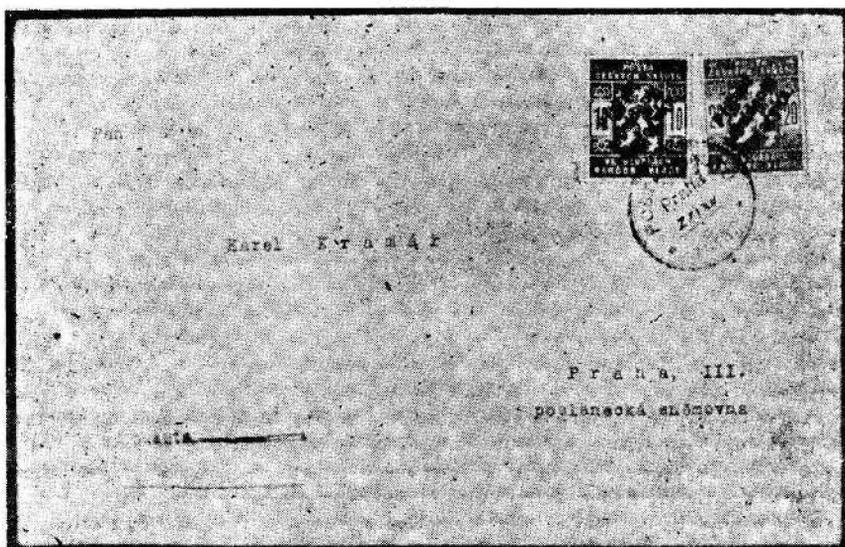


Fig. 4

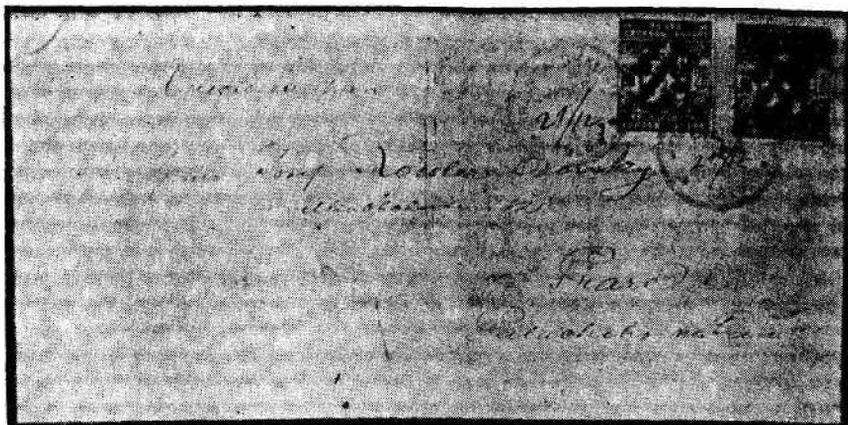


Fig. 5

Two envelopes exist with both the 10h and 20h overprinted stamps applied. One was sent to Karel Kramer (a member of Parliament), as shown in Figure 4; and the other to Josef Rossler-Orovsky, president of Junak (Scouts Organization) as shown in Figure 5. Both of these covers are cancelled "POSTA SKAUTU Praha 1918," and also have the rubber handstamp "Dopis od Skauta . . . prevzal: . . ." (Letter from scout . . . received by . . .). Only the color of the cancel is different. It is black on the first, and red or red-violet on the second.

(to be continued)

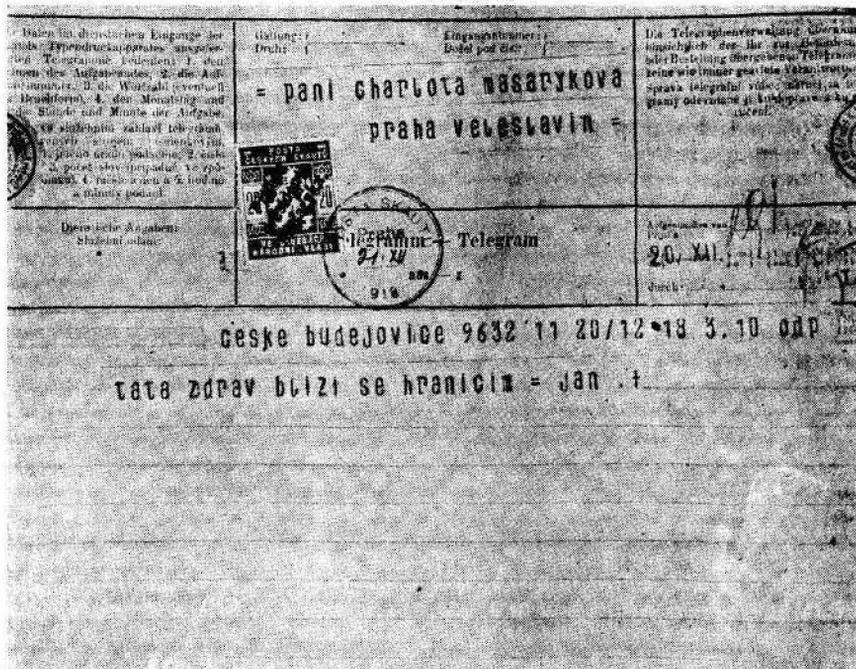


Fig. 6

THE CZECHOSLOVAK **SPECIALIST**



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Czech Scout Stamps—The Masaryk Overprints

By Jan Dvorak and Lester A. Behnke

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(Conclusion)

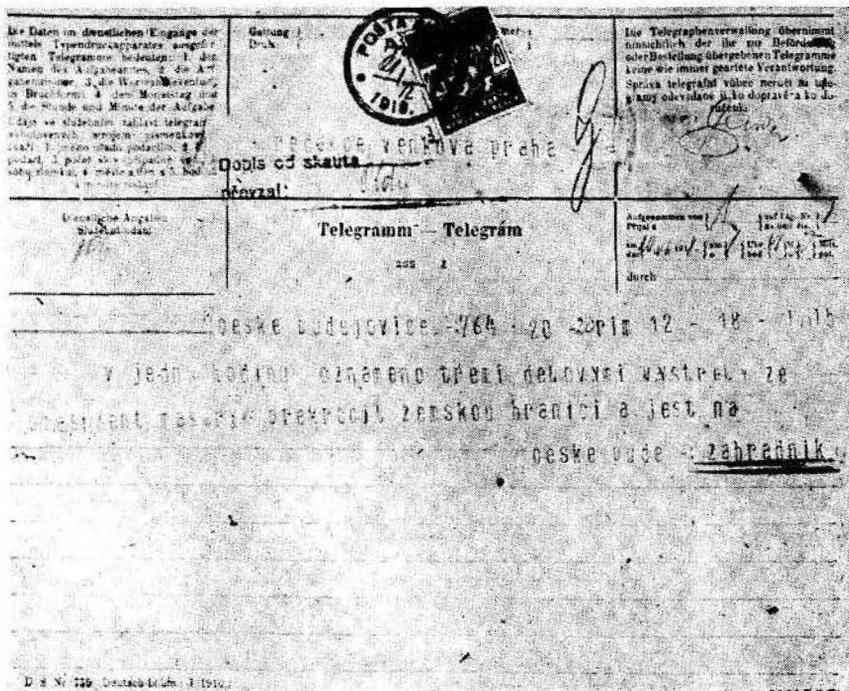


Fig. 7

A few of the overprinted stamps were applied to the Scout postal cards. One of these, addressed to Mr. A. Svojsik (the Chief Scout) at the Wilson Railroad Station, was illustrated in the Czechoslovak Specialist of April 1974 (as Figure 7), and later reprinted in the S.P.A. Journal of May 1974 (as Figure 11).

During the journey of President Masaryk from the border of Austria to Prague, telegrams were sent to various officials, prominent people, and editors of newspapers in Prague from several stops along the railroad.

One telegram, though very brief, was sent by Jan Masaryk (who was accompanying his father) to his mother in Prague which reads:

“Dad is in good health, approaching the border.”

It was sent from inside Czechoslovakia, Ceske Budejovice at 3:10 P.M., December 20, 1918. Upon receipt of the telegram in Prague, the 20h stamp was applied, and it was then delivered by a Scout to Mrs. Masaryk. See Figure 6.

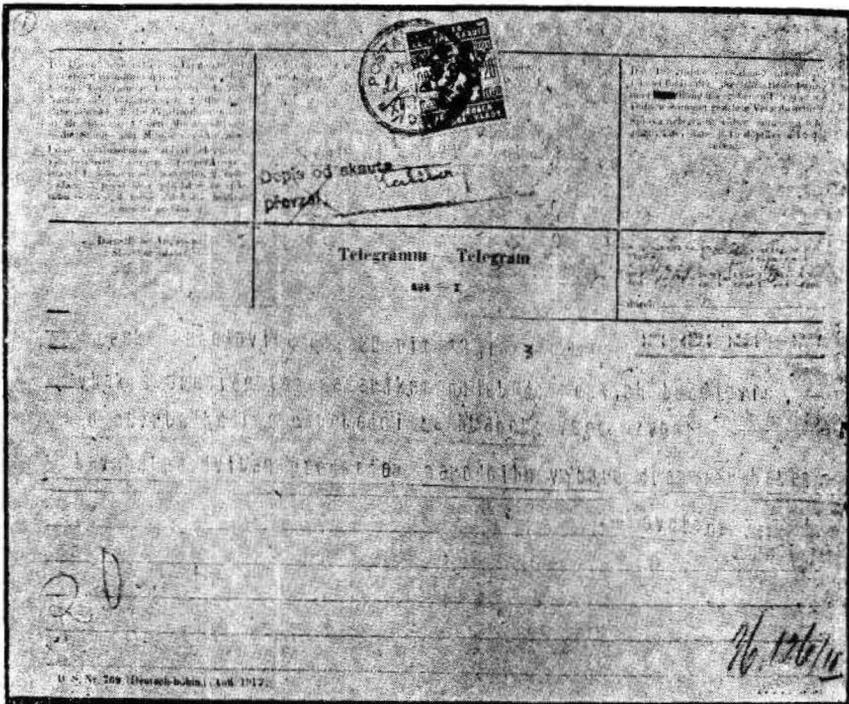


Fig. 8

Figure 7 shows a telegram with 20h stamp, sent from Ceske Budejovice by Zahradnik on December 20, at 1:15 P.M. to the Editor's office of the newspaper Venkov in Prague, which reads as follows:

"At one o'clock it was announced by three cannon salutes that President Masaryk crossed the border, and is now on Czech soil."

Zahradnik was Minister of Railways, and was in Ceske Budejovice to welcome the President.

Figure 8 illustrates a telegram with the 20h stamp sent from Ceske Budejovice by Svoboda at 4:13 P.M. on December 20 to the National Committee in Prague, informing them that:

"The train with President Masaryk arrived in Ceske Budejovice at 4 P.M. while all the bells were ringing. He was welcomed officially by the Chairman of the National Committee, Doctor Zdrahalem."

The telegram in Figure 9 shows the rare use of the 10h overprinted stamp on a telegram. It was sent by the National Committee in Ceske Budejovice from the railroad station in Horni Dvoriste on December 20 to the National Committee, Prague, stating that:

"President Masaryk arrived in a special train, followed by a reception by the Minister of Railways and members of Parliament, also that representatives of France, England and Italy were present. Departure for Ceske Budejovice where he will stay overnight and depart for Prague tomorrow at 10 A.M."

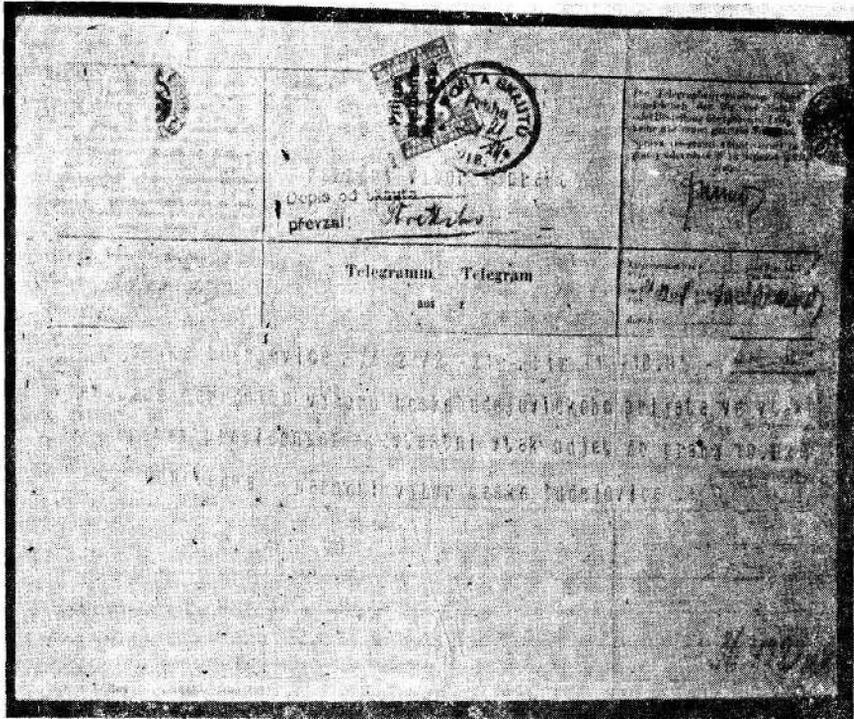


Fig. 11

Figure 10 shows a telegram with the 20h stamp sent by Hajek at 8:10 A.M. On December 21 from Ceske Budejovice to the National News (the leading daily newspaper in Prague) informing them that:

"President Masaryk spent the night in his train, and will leave for Prague at 10:00 A.M. Before his departure, he will receive the representatives of the National Committee and the Civil Authorities, as well as the representatives of the Germans in Ceske Budejovice."

Figure 11 shows another telegram with the 20h stamp sent by the National Committee in Ceske Budejovice at 10:15 A.M. December 21 to the National Committee in Prague stating that:

"The Representatives of the Ceske Budejovice National Committee were received in the train by Mr. President. The special train left for Prague at 10:02 A.M."

Other uses of the 20h on telegrams were illustrated and described in the Czechoslovak Specialist of October 1973 as Figures 3 and 4 and in the S.P.A. Journal article mentioned earlier also as Figures 3 and 4.

There is also in existence a letter shown in Figure 12 which was sent by R. Orovsky, President of Junak (Scout Organization) on December 21 to an unknown recipient (probably Dr. Domin who was a Member of Parliament and also connected with the Czech Scout headquarters), which reads as follows:

"Prague, the Parliament, 21/12.1918
Z d e

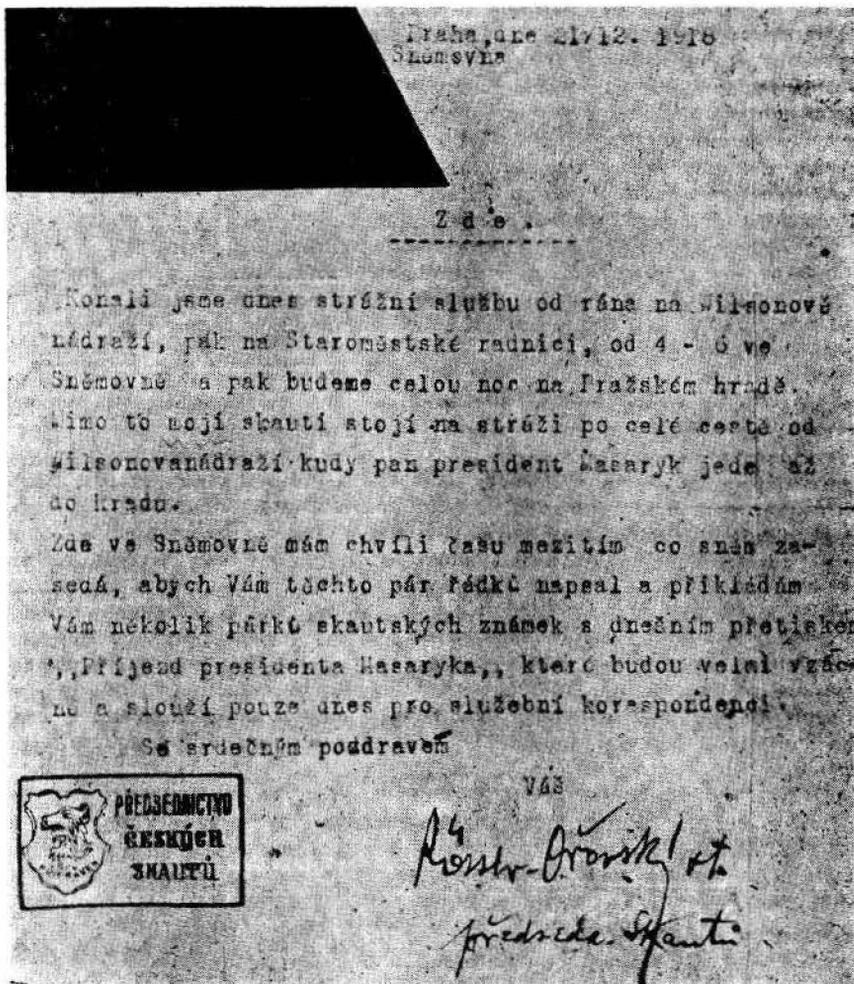


Fig. 12

"We were guarding the Wilson Railway Station from the morning, then we had sentries at the Old Town Hall and from 4-6 in the Parliament Building and then we shall be during the whole night at the Royal Castle.

"Besides that my Scouts are standing guard along the whole route from the Wilson Railway Station from where President Masaryk is going to drive to the Castle.

"I have a few minutes here in the Parliament Building while the Parliament is in session to write you these few lines and I am enclosing a few Scout stamps with today's overprint 'Arrival of president Masaryk' which will be very rare and are used today just for official correspondence.

With best wishes

(Rubber stamp)
Presidium of Czech Scouts
'Re Prepared'

Yours
Rössler-Orovsky, Sen.
President of Scouts"

There are no doubt additional telegrams and envelopes with the overprinted stamps attached in the possession of other collectors, but for the present, this is a complete list of all items available to the authors. Should additional information be available, the author of this article would appreciate being informed.

The authors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of leading collectors of these overprints who have so graciously permitted the illustrations to be shown, Ing. Dr. R. Gilbert (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Hedbom (Sweden), Mr. Kovar (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Miltner (Switzerland), and Mr. Rasmussen (Denmark).

A special debt of gratitude is also due Dr. Velen Fanderlik, former President of Junak (Czech Scout Organization) for his extremely valuable help in providing many translations, and also for sharing his personal knowledge of many of the people connected with the Scout Mail.

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I. Kvasnicka: 50 vyrocí dorucovací posty ceskych stautu (50th Anniversary of the Delivery of Czech Scout's Mail). Magazine *FILATELIE*, XVII, pages 177-184, Prague, 1968. This article was translated into English by J. J. Verner, printed in *The American Philatelist* of January 1969; reprinted in the *Czechoslovak Specialist* of April-November 1969 and later reprinted (with some minor corrections by the author in the *Journal of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI)* 1970, 1971.

J. Dvorak, L. A. Behnke: "Czech Scout Stamps 1918 Used on Telegrams," *Czechoslovak Specialist*, October 1973; reprinted in the *S.P.A. Journal*, May 1974.



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WINNERS AT CHICAGOPEX 91

by Charles Chesloe

Our Society came to Chicago to stage its annual exhibition and convention and its exhibiting members all walked away with awards. This is noteworthy because CHICAGOPEX is usually one of the most competitive national exhibits and 1991 marked the 105th consecutive exhibition hosted by the Chicago Philatelic Society.

Our newest member, Jiří "Tex" Stupka from Železná Ruda, Czechoslovakia, received a gold medal for his excellent showing of the Dove and Allegory Issues of 1920. Jiří showed beginning designs to finished stamp and plate faults with retouches. He also showed the joined types of the 40h Allegory in the comb perforation, the reverse comb perforation "lezný hřeben" and the only known Type II position 96 on an entire of the extremely rare line perf 13 3/4. His example is on a postal card. His talk covered this exhibit. (see Fig. 1)



Fig. 2 - Jiří Stupka speaking at general meeting

Particularly encouraging was the fact that other members who do not regularly exhibit submitted entries at this show. Ed Lehecka received a silver medal for his colorful exhibit of the Legionaires semi-postal issue of 1919. Mirko Vondra also received a silver medal with a special prize for his excellent entry Hradčany, first and second designs, Scott nos. 1 through 20.

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GENUINENESS OF ENTIRES WITH STAMPS OF THE DELIVERY SERVICE OF CZECH SCOUTS

by Pavel Pitterman

Reprinted from ZPRAVODAJ, no. 44, March 1991

Translated by Henry Hahn

Introduction by Frederick P. Lawrence

In this article from ZPRAVODAJ, Czech postal history expert Ing. Pavel Pitterman discusses the expertizing of entires of the 1918 Czech Scout Delivery Service (Czech "Scout Post"). The article is based on, and in some areas expands on, Ing. Pitterman's lectures on this subject presented at the World Stamp Expo in Washington, DC in November 1989 and at BALPEX in September 1990. This is a disputed subject, with Ing. Pitterman's views differing sharply with those of Milos Miltner of Neuenhof, Switzerland, who wrote and published the monograph "Werdegang, Erfolg, Uterdrückung und Wiederstehung der Tschechoslowakischen Pfadfinderbewegung aus der Sicht eines Pfadfinders und Briefmarkensammlers" (Origin, Success, Suppression and Resurrection of the Czech Scout Movement from the Viewpoint of a Scout and a Stamp Collector) in 1990. Ing. Pitterman's article joins articles previously published in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* on the Czech Scout Delivery Service by Ivo Kvasnička, Jan Dvořák and the late Lester Behnke. Since the original illustrations in ZPRAVODAJ were inadequate for reproduction, new figures have been added by this writer, as follows:

Figure 1. Charter document of the Czech Scout Delivery Service (Courtesy Ludvík Pytlíček).

Figure 2. Category 1 entire: Genuine and authentic. Internal Scout Delivery Service entire from the Czech Scout Association to J. Rössler-Orovský, President of the Czech Scouts.

Figure 3. Category 2 entire: Genuine but not authentic. Genuine registered double weight entire (overpaid 5h) to the Czech National Committee, delivered by the Prague Post Office, not carried by the Czech Scouts. Later enhanced by the addition of a genuine 20h Scout stamp tied by a genuine strike of the "N.V." marking.

Figure 4. Category 3 entire: Fabrication. Completely made-up entire, constructed for collectors, probably in the 1920's. All components - 20h Scout stamp and strikes of the "N.V.", "Dopis od skauta. . ." and oval "NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR V PRAZE" markings - are genuine, but the entire is spurious.

Figure 5a. Category 4 entire: Forgery. Genuine entire to the Czech National Committee, delivered by the Prague Post Office, not carried by the Czech Scouts. Later enhanced by the addition of a genuine 20h Scout stamp tied by a forged strike of the "POŠTA SKAUTU" marking. The expert's mark of Dr. Gilbert applies only to the Scout stamp.

Figure 5b. Category 4 telegram: Forgery. Genuine telegram to the Czech National Committee, delivered by the Czech Scouts. Later enhanced by the addition of two genuine 10h Scout stamps tied by forged strikes of the "POŠTA SKAUTU" and "N.V." markings.

The Disputes concerning justification for issuance of stamps and for entires of the delivery service are eighty years old. It is time that these disputes be replaced by factual discussion and evaluation of presently known facts.

What then are the facts? There are archival and literary documents proving the origin of the Scout courier service for the use by the National Committee starting on October 28th, 1918 during the afternoon hours, at which time independent Czechoslovak military units began to receive information from the Sštelekcý Ostrov (Riflemen's Island). Taking part in this action, besides military personnel, were also members of the Sokol and Scouts. The

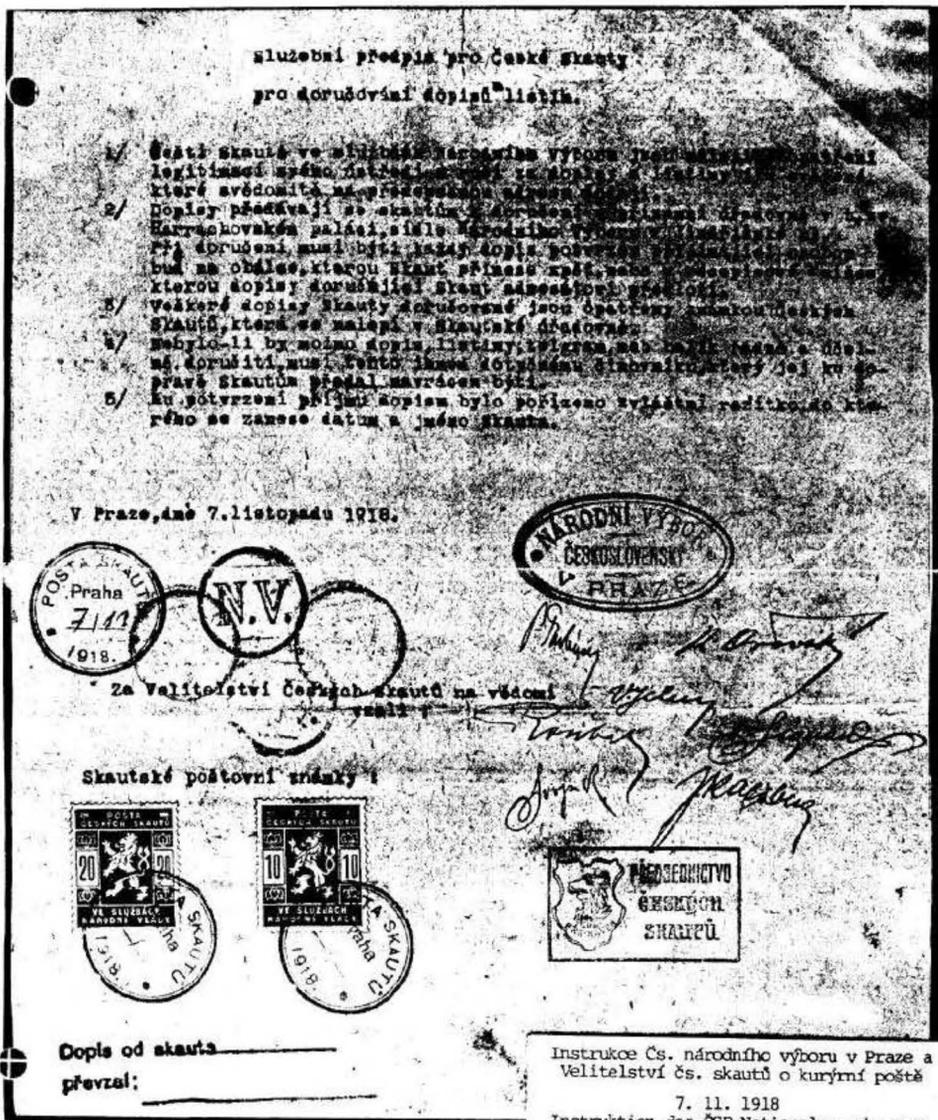


Fig. 1

Scouts served as couriers, delivering both verbal and written messages to and from leaders of local resistance. The reason was that the then current mail service did not insure sufficiently rapid and secure delivery.

The Scout service operated objectively, without stamps, postmarks or delivery books; all of this came later. This fact, often neglected in philatelic literature, is critical from the standpoint of general historical evaluation of the need for creation of the courier service. Against this background of determining circumstances, one must weigh, from the philatelic point of view, the secondary circumstances which later led to the issuance of the Scout stamps. However, it is undisputed that delivery service arose spontaneously on October 28, 1918 and ended on



Fig. 2

November 25, 1918. During this interval there were created internal regulations by the existing leaders of Czech Scouting. (Figure 1) Since this service was not organized by the postal authorities nor any other responsible institution, it must be considered as a private delivery service in any event. The principle of its private origin as well as that of its stamps and entires must be reflected in appropriate terminology. I suggest the use of the following terms and descriptions:

- Delivery service of Czech Scouts (i.e. courier service . . .)
- Stamps of the delivery service of Czech Scouts (Scout Stamps)
- Entires with stamps of the delivery service of Czech Scouts (entires with Scout Stamps)

This concept of the delivery service of Czech Scouts, in my opinion, distinguishes it by not employing the terms "post" and "postal", regarding all known facts about its origin and character. It is defined in the context of the general circumstances of the Czechoslovak Transitional Period and its postal service. From the philatelic viewpoint, it enables one to evaluate all documents originating during the period of its activity as valid material. It is an undeniable fact that this concept permits the proper interpretation of the stamps with the "PŘÍJEZD" overprint, and their usage on entires of December 21, 1918, the documentation of which from the standpoint of postal regulations valid on that date is very scarce.

Following this brief introduction, one may consider the clearly philatelic aspects of the valuation of these stamps and entires; there are many of these, and thorough consideration would suffice for several lectures. Here I shall deal with only one of the aspects, i.e. the genuineness of entires with Scout Stamps.

Expertizing of entires with Scout stamps does not differ basically from the expertizing of entires in general, though it has one prominent feature: a major role is played by the influence



Fig. 3

of non-postal circumstances and possible circumstances during the period of their origin. I am particularly thinking of local circumstances, both historic and technical. Hence, in expertizing entires with Scout Stamps, one must subject the items to the following:

- a. Genuineness of stamps (in some cases overprinted) and determine whether they are of the first or second issue.
- b. Genuineness of the marking "POŠTA SKAUTU" ("N.V.") as well as "DOPIS OD SKAUTA"
- c. Location of expert markings in items previously expertized.
- d. Location of cancels on entires, particularly in relation to the stamps.
- e. Relationship between sender and addressee, particularly with respect to the reasonableness of delivery via the courier service.
- f. In entires addressed outside the N.V., the true existence of the address and addressee.
- g. Validity of the stamps during the given time period and means of payment.
- h. Type and means of delivery.

Note the interpretation of results in accordance with the above criteria. In the case of the first three, the situation is clear, since the originals of the stamps, cancels, as well as expert marks are available and the characteristics of genuineness are known. Also well known are characteristics of typical forgeries. Hence, if any of the stamps or markings are judged to be forged, the entire is also considered to be a forgery. A question arises as to the number of types of the "POŠTA SKAUTU" markings that may be found on genuine entires. Most genuine entires include only two types, though the literature cites three types. The true answer will only be arrived at through study of a very large quantity of comparable material.

A somewhat different situation exists in the interpretation of the other criteria of genuineness, since in those we must consider current conventions on the basis of which these criteria must be interpreted. Let us try to formulate these:

1. Location of markings on the entires.

I begin with the supposed function of these markings. The circular "POŠTA SKAUTU", by its function, serves as a postal cancel and hence serves the purpose of devaluating the stamp.

NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR
PRAHA, OBEČNÍ DŮM



Fig. 4

The further circular marking "N.V." is a marking by the sender, i.e. the Scout Service, at the point of departure for mail destined for the National Committee, and should be located remote from the stamp. Finally, the two-line marking "DOPIS OD SKAUTA" was also used for control purposes in the delivery books of the individual Scouts. One can therefore begin to consider entires to be genuine only if they fully meet the above criteria. However, the absence of the "N.V." marking is not to the detriment of entires that have not been sent through the origin point used for the National Committee mail. Entires not fully meeting these criteria must be regarded with suspicion as to their origin. Entires with markings of the Presidium of the Ministerial Council (Prezidium ministerské rady), which are round, and oval markings of the Czechoslovak National Committee in Prague (Narodní Výbor Československý v Praze) may be considered to be curiosities with a certain degree of collecting justification, though they are in no way related to the Scout delivery service. The second marking mentioned is frequently found on forged entriés.

2. Relationship between addressee and sender.

This relationship is derived with considerable difficulty, particularly in view of the private character of the delivery service and the broad range of the service functions. The private nature of the services precluded manipulation of the mail sent via the normal postal system. It is further known that the service centers of the delivery service functioned exclusively within the framework of activities of the National Committee, starting on October 28, 1918 and within the framework of the Ministry of the Interior from November 16 to November 25, 1918. The delivery service was intended for the exclusive use of these institutions. Hence, those entires may be considered to be genuine in which the relationship between the N.V.

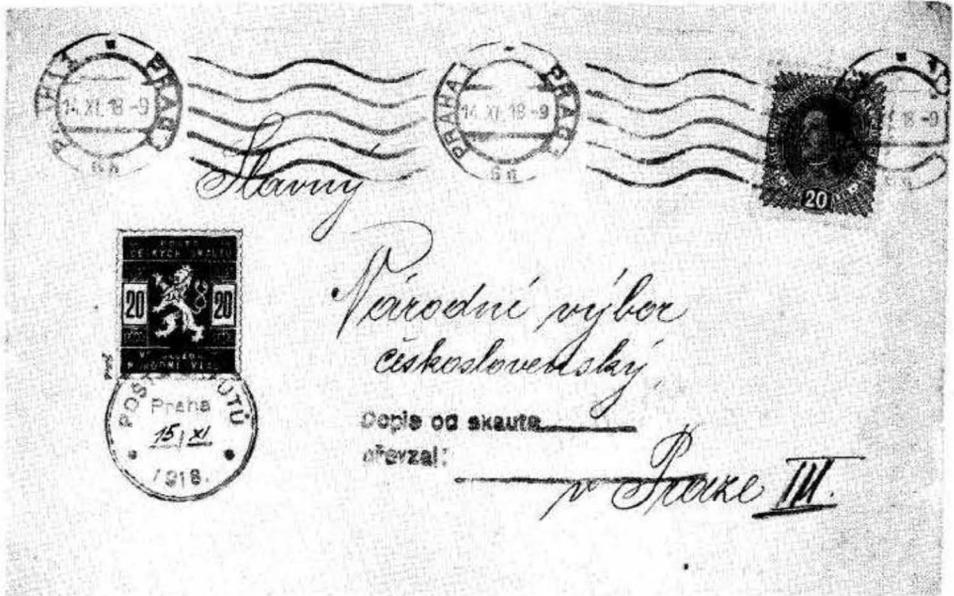


Fig. 5a

(National Committee) and sender, or between the sender and N.V. is provable, since only under those circumstances was there a realistic need for delivery by this means rather than delivery by the normal postal service. This also applies to correspondence among functionaries of the Scout movement, whose names are well known. This must be carefully considered in the instance of entires bearing the Scout stamps in correspondence between private persons.

3. Entires sent by the National Committee

A favorite means of fabricating, i.e. forging entires bearing the Scout stamps is by later adding fictitious addresses of supposed recipients. Hence the true existence of addresses must be verified. Entires that fail this test can not be considered genuine even if they bear genuine stamps and genuine markings, since they do not fulfill the purpose of their existence - i.e. to have been delivered by the Scout service.. One is also reminded that authentic letters sent via the N.V. dispatch station would bear the round marking "N.V.".

4. Validity of the stamps and means of payment

The period of validity of the stamps and means of payment were given in internal instructions by the organizers of the delivery service of the Czech Scouts. From these it is apparent that the stamps could be used in the period from November 7 to November 25, 1918. This applied to postcards and printed matter in the amount of 10h, and from letters and telegrams in the amount of 20h. This fact was often taken lightly or entirely neglected, since it was pointed out that the amount of franking was meaningless, because the service was paid for by the National Committee in bulk. This claim, however, is in dispute, since no valid proof exists and the fact whether or not the National Committee paid in bulk has little to do with the matter. If the entire matter of the delivery service were merely a "game of post office" (as some claim that it was), then only would the strict adherence to established rates be unimportant. However, under the circumstances, the period of validity and rate structure must be considered strictly in the evaluation of authenticity in entires. It should be distinguished from those which may nevertheless remain collectible items, but must be considered as having

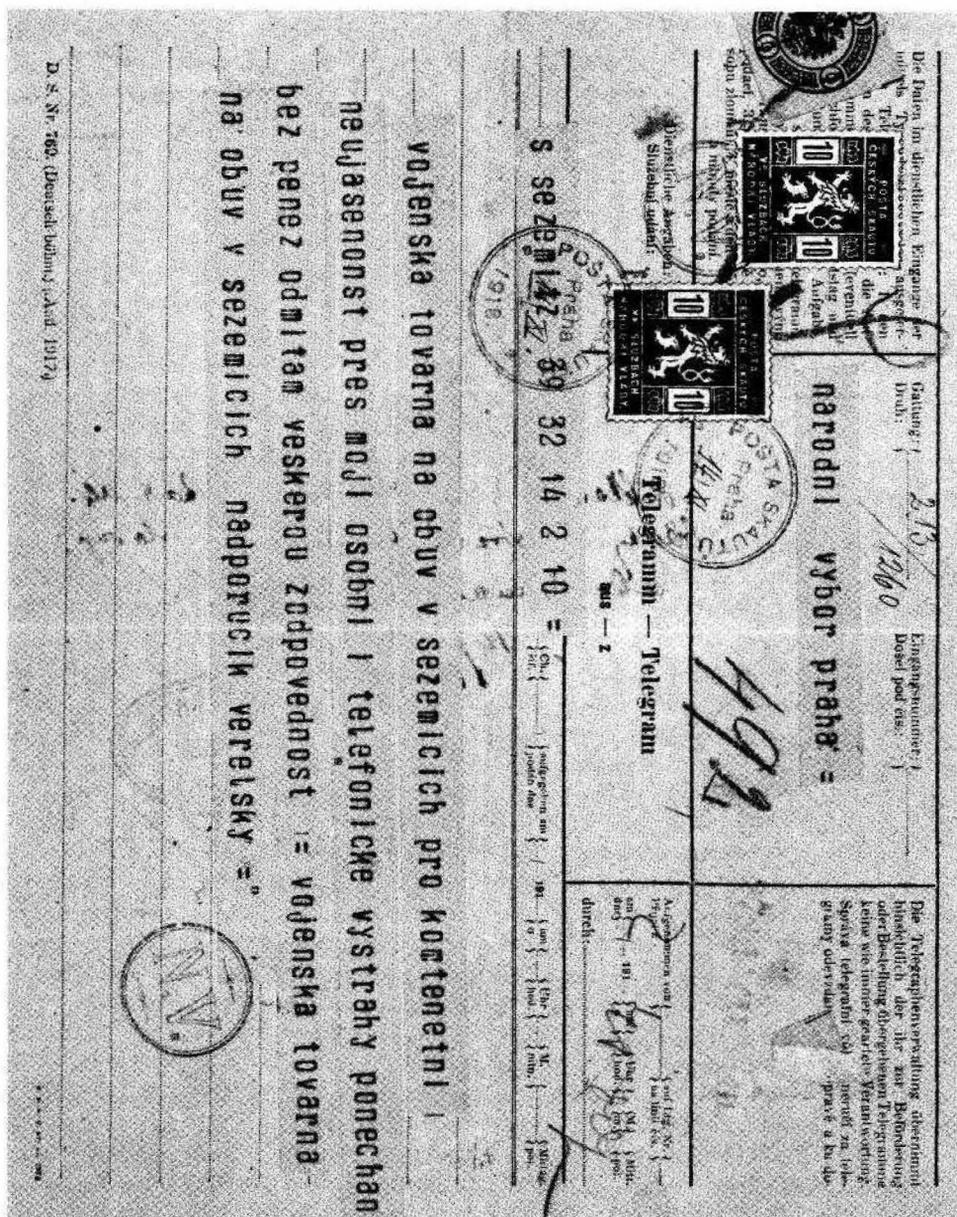


Fig. 5b

originated at a different time period or were not (or could not) have been regularly delivered.

5. Type and means of delivery

This is one of the helpful criteria for evaluation of authenticity, particularly since in recent years entire appeared with Scout stamps on items on which they simply could not have been used (such as on newspapers). It must therefore be emphasized that Scout stamps were exclusively intended for use on letters, printed matter, postcards and telegrams.

The question will certainly be raised as to proof of the foregoing statement, since this has a

critical effect on the authenticity of some presently recognized entires which the statement could place in doubt, (as well as on numerous other entires which are currently not recognized but could gain recognition). Proof of the statement is contained in all of the available literature on the subject. However the proof relied on are the actual Service Regulations for the Czech Scouts for delivery of letters and other mail, from which we can excerpt a number of truths that are sometimes neglected.

In the context of the definition of agreements between the Scouts and the National Committee, we are concerned with a document which has little legal significance, since one of the signatories, a member of the National Committee, was not empowered and therefore could not negotiate for the National Committee. Moreover, the oval marking of the National Committee appears on all documents as a representative marking used in conjunction with instructions for archiving or discarding of documents. In any event, we are not dealing with a marking having any relation with the delivery of mail. Nevertheless, this agreement between Scouts and the National Committee has value for the information it contains, since it names the individuals who had part in the organization of the Scout delivery service. The document contains means of transportation of mail, as well as genuine copies of the markings used during the period of the Scout delivery service. In the light of this document and with respect to the interpretation of the individual criteria, I find it useful to classify the genuineness of entires with Scout stamps as follows:

1. Authentic entires, genuine, without exception, conforming to all the listed criteria. (Figure 2)

2. Genuine entires, which, besides the genuineness of the stamps and markings, fulfill most of the criteria. Some of the characteristics can not be explained in the context of the then existing circumstances. Such entires may have been fabricated at a later date, for private purposes, and the facts of the circumstances are doubtful as to whether they existed or could have existed. (Figure 3)

3. So-called "mache" (fabrications), i.e. entires which are made using genuine stamps and markings, but are intended to defraud the collector by pretending facts which did not or could not have existed. Typical examples include letters and covers marked National Committee, (Narodní výdor), Public House (Obecní dum), with oval markings canceling the stamps. (Figure 4)

4. Forgeries, i.e. entires which are completely or partially forged, i.e. include forged stamps, markings, expert marks and other examples of later manipulation such as extending the postmark onto the cover, etc. (Figures 5a and 5b)

It is apparent that the above presentation will for some time remain the subject of discussion, particularly in the light of the present existence of sharply differing views between those accepting and those rejecting this philatelic subject. I believe, however, that I have offered a reasonable compromise and that the collecting public will agree, after some corrections, on this means of judging entires, at least for the present.



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CZECH SCOUT MAIL

By Ivo Kvasnička
Translated By J. J. Verner

(The editor of the AMERICAN PHILATELIST called Ivo Kvasnička's original monograph on the "Czech Scout Official Mail one of the most thorough presentations to be published under one cover on the subject of this unusual mail service." Originally published in the January 1969 issue of the AMERICAN PHILATELIST and reprinted serially in the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST in the April through November issues of the same year, this article has remained the most important reference work for collectors of both Czechoslovakia and Scout mail. After more than 25 years, Ivo Kvasnička adds details to his seminal work. The following article is based on a richly illustrated talk he gave at a joint meeting of the S.C.P. and



Fig. 1

Scout on Stamps Society International at our annual meeting during BALPEX 95. J. Verner, PRES.)

Anyone who wants to collect seriously must delve very deeply into the history of the period when the stamps and stationery in question were issued. We will examine, with the help of illustrations, some of the events and people

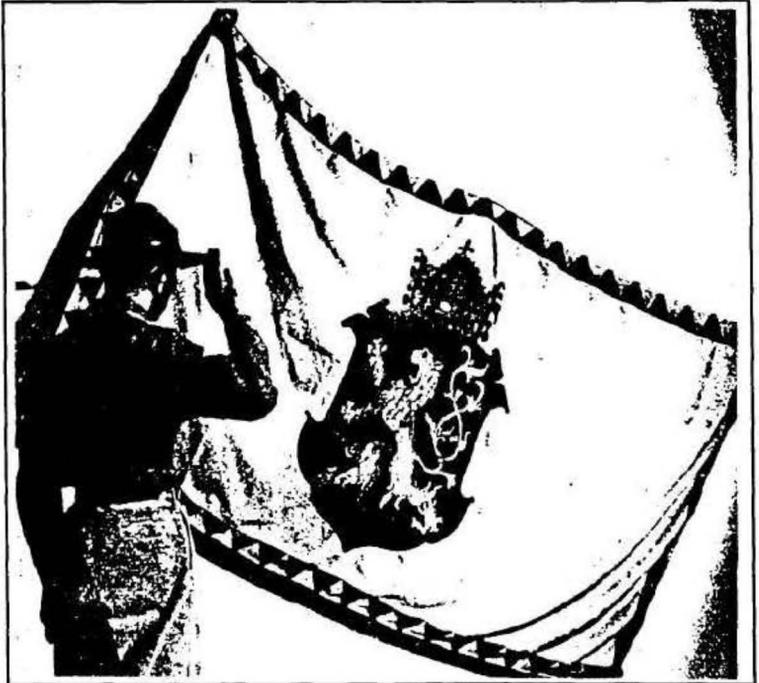


Fig. 2

surrounding the origins and functioning of the Scout official mail delivery system during the end of October and in November of 1918.

Figure 1 shows the well known features (in 1919) of the founder of the Boy Scout movement in Czech Lands, Professor A.B. Svojsik. His face is probably known to the reader from the stamp that was issued in 1991 by the former Czechoslovak Republic on the occasion of the 115th anniversary of Professor Svojsik's birth and the 80th anniversary of the Boy Scout movement in Czech Lands. Figure 2 illustrates the manner in which Boy Scouts took an oath of allegiance before the Olympic flag of Czechs - they had no national flag at the time - before becoming official helpers to, and messengers for, the Prague National Council. For those youngsters, it was not only a pleasure, but a great honor to serve the National Council.

Figure 3 shows the official scout identification card. It reads: "Boy Scout Citizen (*the Scout's name*) is empowered to maintain peace and order in the name of the National Council," and is signed by the Scout at lower left and by Professor Svojsik on the right. Figure 4 shows how the Boy Scouts in this appeared. The picture was taken October 28, 1918, the first day of their service with the National Council. The uniform

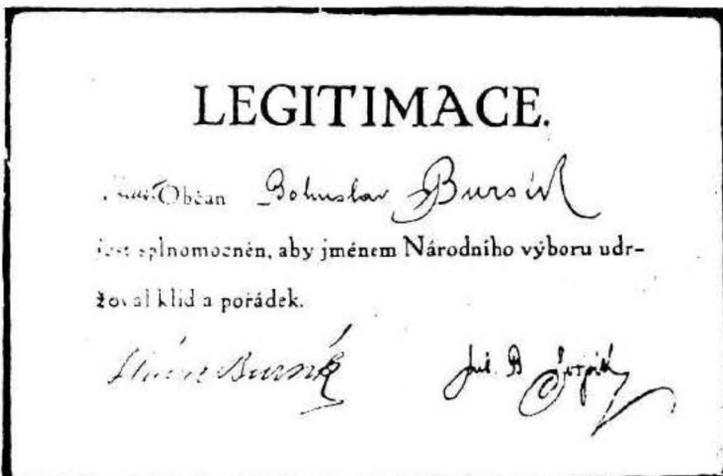


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

and identification card were the only verification of their official status used in contacts with members of the government, the National Council, and Parliament. At that time, the Prague National Council actually was the provisional government and also the institution which took over governmental functions after the end of World War I. We Czechs call it a revolution, as it was also the result of a long

struggle for national freedom. Actually, the National Council took over governmental power without blood-shed. So it, too, was a kind of "Velvet Revolution."

Only a few pictures of Mr. Rössler-Ořovský, the President of the Boy Scouts at the time, exist. One of the most famous is in Figure 5, where he is shown with his nephew, Alba, in scout uniforms. Actually, Professor Svojsík was the Chief Scout, and Mr. Ořovský, who was older than Svojsík, was president of the Scout organization. He was a very clever and intelligent man. In addition to being actively involved with the Boy Scout movement, he organized Czech Olympic teams for the Olympic

Games, and was also a member of the first Prague National Council to put together a Boy Scout service for the needs of the National Council. It is not known if he knew about the story of what happened at Mafeking in



Fig. 7

the Cape of Good Hope during the Second Anglo-Boer War. But he did almost the same thing that Sir Baden-Powell did at Mafeking in 1900. He ordered issuance of two Scout stamps (Fig. 6), both of them nationalistic in character. The 10 heller is in blue and the 20 heller is in red; both colors are usual on Slavic flags. The center of both stamps is a Czech double-tailed lion. Leaves of the Linden tree, The Czech national tree, appear above and below the value tablets. The text is obvious: "Mail of the Czech Scouts in the service of the National Government."

Mr. Ořovský also did one thing that preserved a lot of envelopes and covers. He used the envelope as a receipt, instead of receipt books. Actually, receipt books may have existed; I do not know for certain for I have never seen any. It should be noted that the official regulations establishing the Scout Mail do make reference to receipt books. But the envelope obviously did serve as a normal receipt, and Scouts were



Fig. 8

služební předpis pro české skauty
pro doručování dopisů a listin.

- 1/ Čeští skauti ve službách Národního výboru jsou náležitě opatřeni legitimací svého řádku a ruší za dopisy a listiny, jim svěřené, které svěřitelé na předepsanou adresu řádají.
- 2/ Dopisy předávají se skautům k doručení v příslušné řádovně v t. sv. Barrachovském paláci, sídle Národního výboru v Jindřišské ul. Při doručení musí býti každý dopis potvrzen příjímající osobou buď na obálce, kterou skaut přinese zpět, nebo v recepční knize, kterou dopisy doručující skaut adresátovi předloží.
- 3/ Veškeré dopisy skauty doručované jsou opatřeny známkou českých skautů, která se nalepí v skautské řádovně.
- 4/ Kdyby-li by možno dopis, listinu, telegram, neb balík řádně a účel-ně doručiti, musí tento ihned do ruce příjímajícího skauta, který jej ku do-právě skautům předal napsan býti.
- 5/ Au potvrzení příjmu dopisu bylo požádáno zvláštní raditko, do kte-rého se zanesl datum a jméno skauta.

V Praze, dne 7. listopadu 1918.



Fig. 9

instructed to have the recipient sign it and they countersigned. The scouts then returned almost all the envelopes and other items to the Postal Agency of the Scouts at the National Committee. The Scouts were, at times, quite insistent that they retain the cover when mail was delivered to the addressee. One can see hand drawn colored postal cards, probably contemporary, such as in Figure 7, illustrating this. The recipient is lying on the floor, blood drips from his nose after a fight over the envelope, and the Boy Scout is running off with the envelope in his hand. So, thanks to the way Mr. Rössler-



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

Ořovský organized delivery of official mail by the Scouts, many more covers are extant today than would have been otherwise.

I hasten to add that Mr. Rössler-Ořovský was **not** himself a philatelist. It is true he was involved with other "private issues" such as the First and Second so-called Prague Revolutionary overprints and the Siberian Lion stamps. It is known he did not make much money from the Scout issues or his other philatelic activities.

There are some interesting points regarding the National Council and, as I call it, its Postal Agency. The information was obtained from *Český Filatelista* (Czech Philatelist) of November 15, 1918, that is, during the actual functioning of the Scout Mail. The second primary source is the same magazine's December 15, 1918 issue - only 14 days after the Boy Scout post ceased. From these contemporary sources, we see service of the Scouts beginning on October 28 in the evening. At that time the National Council as well as the Scouts' office, or Postal Agency, was located in Harrach Palace

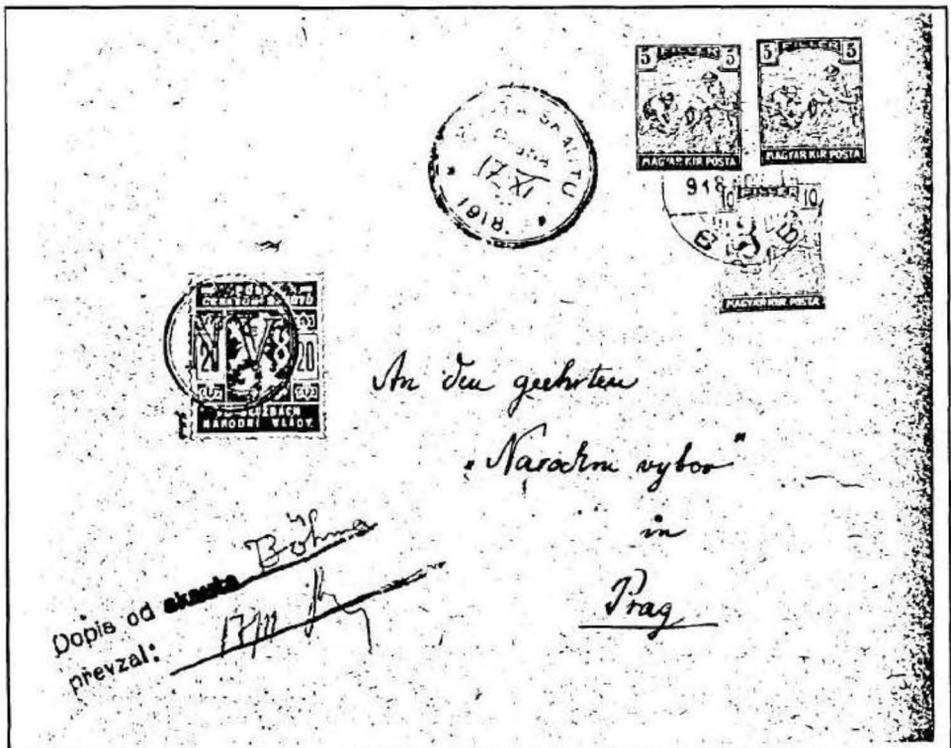


Fig. 12

on Jindřišská Street. On November 10, the entire administration moved to the Cadet Academy. On November 13, the National Council and the Scouts moved to the Czech Parliament which became their permanent home. The date of November 16 is very important because the second office was opened in the former governor's office in Prague's Hradčany Castle. The entire Scout mail operation ended on November 25, in the evening. A summary of this time line would look like this:

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START	October 23(evening)	Harrach Palace
		↓
	November 10	Cadet Academy
		↓
	November 13	Parliament
		↓
	November 16	The second Scout Post office opens in the former governor's palace
		↓
STOP	November 25(evening)	Scout Mail ends

It is important to note that an additional one or two, perhaps all three, cancelers might have been prepared for the second Scout post office. You can actually find two

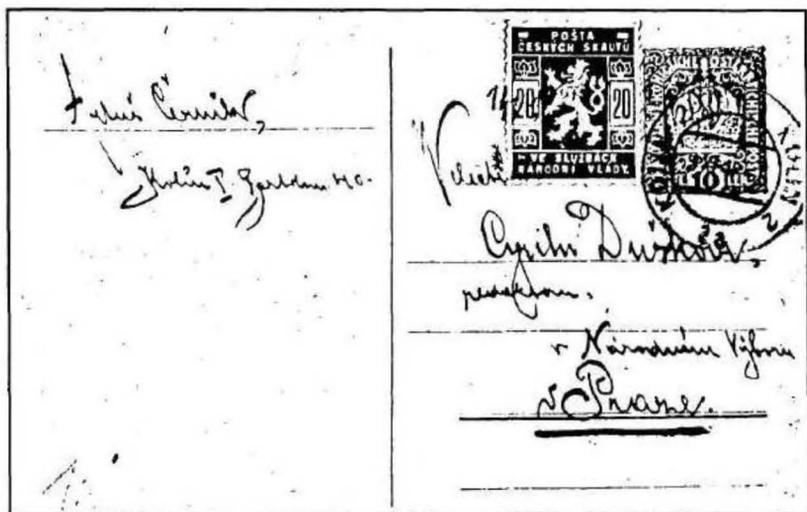


Fig. 13

different "Pošta skautů" cancellations on your envelopes or other Scout items. I cannot say for certain that all the Scout cancels exist in two examples, but it is certain that, "Pošta skautů" cancels or hand stamps do exist. The left cancel in Figure 8 has no notches on bottom or on top. The cancel on right has notches both at the bottom and a somewhat longer and shallower one on top. I think this one was used from the beginning and the second one, without notches, was used in the second Scout office. There are slight differences between them, in addition to the notches. The distance between "Praha" and "1918" in the two cancels is different. From the bottom of "A" in "Pošta" to the top, the second number "1" in "1918" measures 11.5 mm in the left cancel and in the right one, 12mm. The difference of 0.5mm is hard to recognize with the naked eye, but if the cancels are enlarged, one can see a significant difference when they are overlaid, e.g. with the help of triangles. Forged cancels or hand stamps can also be identified in this manner. The official regulations for Boy Scout Mail appear as Figure 9. Both hand stamps are shown on this document: The unnotched cancel is at center of the document on the document; on the left side of the page immediately under

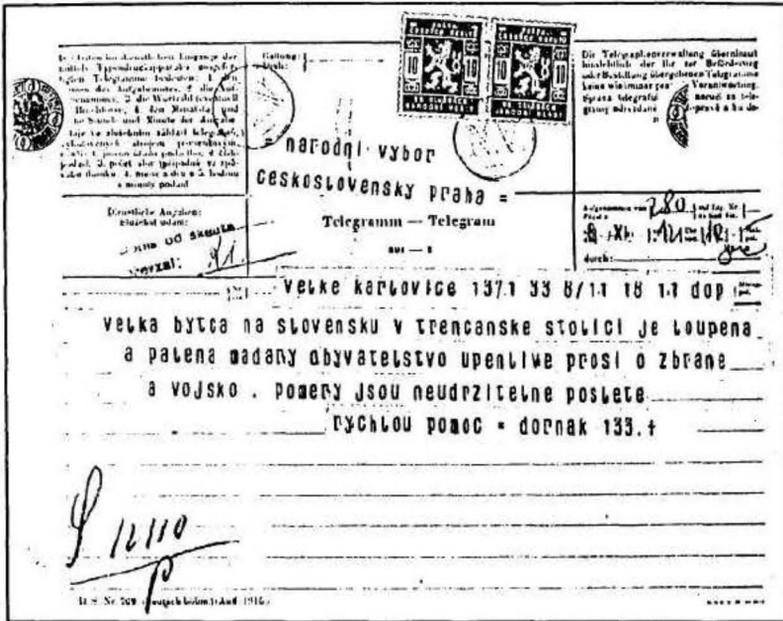


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

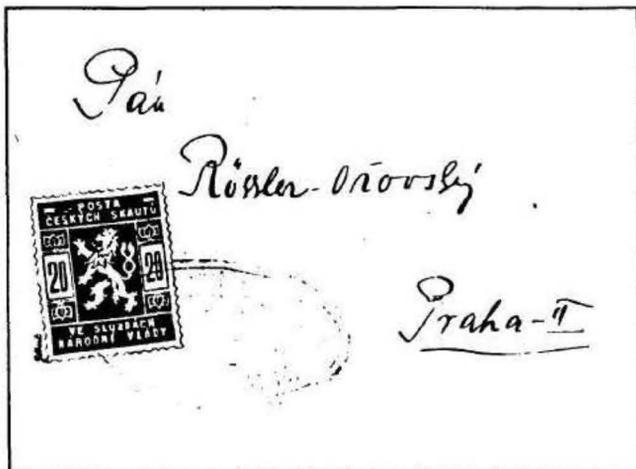


Fig. 16

the date; the one with notches cancels the two stamps.

The two Scouts stamps were relief printed and the edges were "died-out" approximating a 12½ perforation. Since only one die tool was prepared for each value, no design variations are possible. However, quite a few production flaws exist. Unevenly died-out stamps were caused when uneven pressure was applied. Too little pressure resulted in almost no relief and/or incomplete "die-out" of

the stamps. Too much pressure, on the other hand, resulted in very deep relief or even a punch-through of part of the design. Figure 6, shows both values in the incomplete

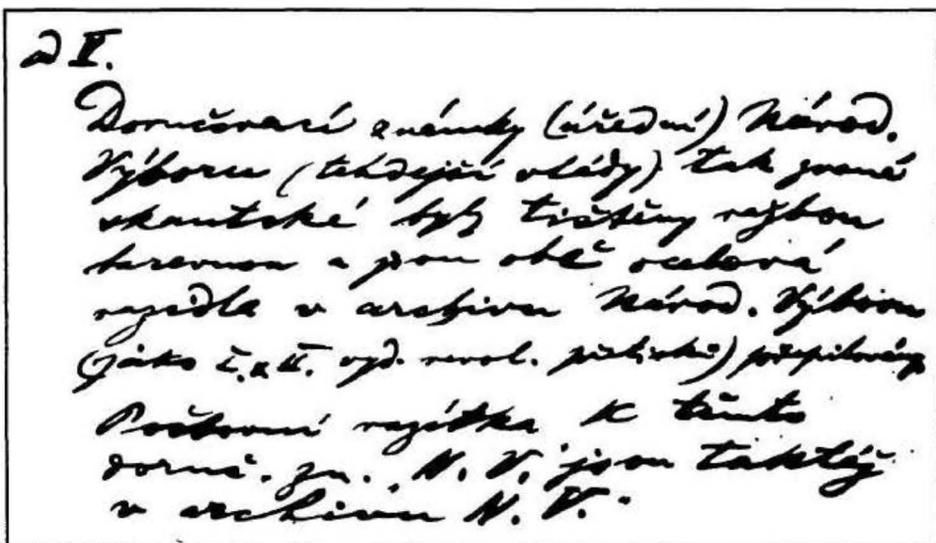


Fig. 17

die variation. Note the 20 heller stamps have a color frame around them (shown here in black) while the 10 heller stamps have none. Additional printing imperfections include double paper, paper folded during printing and then straightened out, negative perforations, and offset printing. Albino stamps are found, but rarely, while stamps with unevenly applied ink or heavy inking are relatively frequent.

More frequently one can find letters or documents delivered only by Scout mail between members of the Prague National Council, members of Parliament, important institutions and persons. Letters or cards between the headquarters of the Scouts and certain officials, institutions or even private persons or between Scout units are relatively common. The letter in Figure 15 was sent to Mr. Lešetický who was the director of the Vinohrady Post Office, the second largest in Prague at that time. In the new Republic, Mr. Lešetický became a consultant to the Czechoslovak government on stamps and postal markings it bears. Letters like this one, but without regular postal markings, can be questionable. While everything on them - stamps, cancels, markings - may be genuine, it is hard to say with certainty if they had been delivered by Boy Scouts or made up after the event. (Of course, manufactured covers with non-existent addressees are quite easy to identify for what they are). The same is true of the controversial elliptically shaped cancel which served officials in the National Council Building. Some covers exist with only the elliptical cancel on the Scout stamps which I think were really delivered by Scouts (Figure 16), especially if they were sent between officials of the National Council and Scout leaders.

The cancelers, documentation on the Scout Mail and all other material concerning the National Council were deposited in Prague's City Hall, which contained the archives of the Prague National Council. This fact is attested to in Mr. Ofovsky's personal papers as shown in Figure 17. The text of this entry reads: "Delivery stamps (official) of the National Council (the government at that time), the so-called Scout stamps, were relief printed in color. Both metal die tools are in the archives of the National Council and are de-faced (as are those of the I and II Revolutionary issue) Postal cancels "N.V." for these delivery stamps are also in the "N.V." archives."

Prague's City Hall was intentionally destroyed at the end of World War II, on May 8, 1945 by Nazi tanks. However, nobody knows if the Scout items were destroyed then or earlier by the Nazis, who did not like the Scout Movement because of the ideas it espoused. The loss of these archives deprives us of primary source material on Scout Mail. The consequence of this is that many troubling questions remain; their answers will continue to be the subject of research in secondary sources, as well as conjecture and speculation.



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CZECH POST OFFICE HONORS SOCIETY!!



SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

MAY, 1939



MAY, 1999

60. VÝROČÍ - 60th ANNIVERSARY

OVAK PHILATELY



(See story on page 3)

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POSTAL CARDS OF THE CZECH SCOUT POST TO PRIVATE PERSONS

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the following article from the SOSSI Journal, July/August 1998, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

In addition to the 10h and 20h stamps for letters carried by Scouts of the Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918, postal cards with the embossed indicium of the 10h stamp were issued for internal use with the Scout Post organization by the adult leaders who directed the message service. Only 1,000 cards were printed and the unused remainder was destroyed. Estimates are that only a couple hundred cards were actually used or retained by collectors in mint condition. It is believed that not more than several dozen postal cards, mint or used, have survived today. Of these, legitimately used cards are much scarcer than mint cards.

Although the principal purpose of the postal cards was the transmission of internal messages within the Scout Post organization, a very small number of the cards were sent by the adult leaders to private persons. One of these private persons was Dr. Karel Rix, a lawyer, whose offices were located on Jindříšská Street in

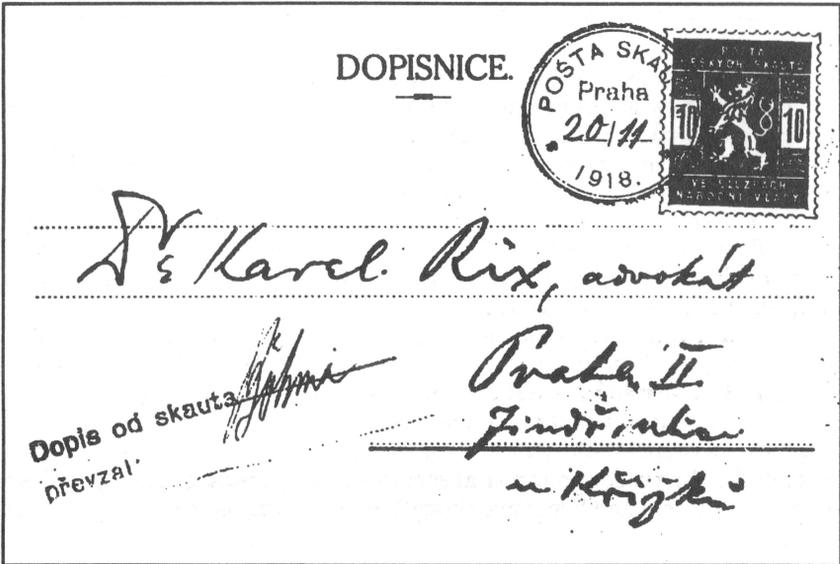


Fig. 1

Prague. Dr. Rix was personally acquainted with Joseph Roessler-Orovsky, the President of the Czech Scout Association and the organizer of the Scout Post, since he handled legal matters for Milde and Roessler, the business partnership which involved the Roessler family. Additionally, Dr. Rix was an active philatelist, who formed the premiere collection of postal stationery of the Czech Forerunners and Czech First Republic periods. Along with Roessler-Orovsky, he was a member of the Prague Yacht Club, a social organization where Prague's well-to-do collectors often gathered.

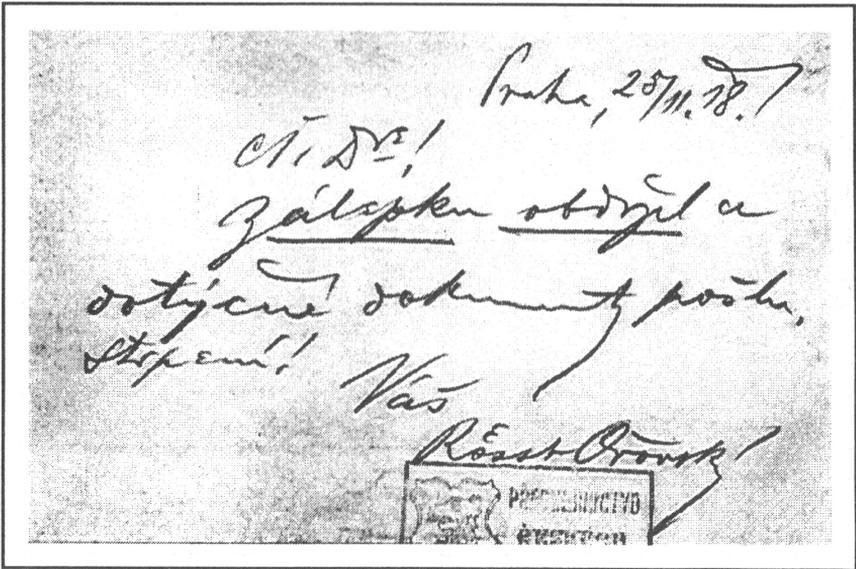


Fig. 2

The postal card and its reverse in Figures 1 & 2 was sent to Dr. Rix on November 20, 1918 by Roessler-Orovsky. It was carried by Scout Boehm. Since the recipient retained the card, he would have signed for it in the Scout's receipt notebook. The message, handwritten side by Roessler-Orovsky, reads: "Letter card received. I will send the pertinent documents. Patience!" Under the signature there is a partial strike in red ink of the scarce rectangular "Presidium of the Czech Scouts" hand stamp. This card was formerly in the international Grand Prix exhibit of Czechoslovakia formed by Fred W. Hefer of Germany. When this exhibit was broken up in 1990, the card was acquired by a Scouts collector.

Figures 3 & 4 illustrate a second postal card and its reverse sent to Dr. Rix by Roessler-Orovsky on November 25, 1918, the last day of regular operation of the Scout Post. It was carried by Scout Podobsky. (Scout Podobsky's name is misspelled "Podofsky" in the list of Scouts compiled by Lester A. Behnke and Dr. George V. Holland.) The message reads; "[from] Palace of the ministry of Internal Affairs. This evening ends for the present our postal service (rapid personal delivery with special delivery Scout stamps) and Scouting altogether depending on the future". This card

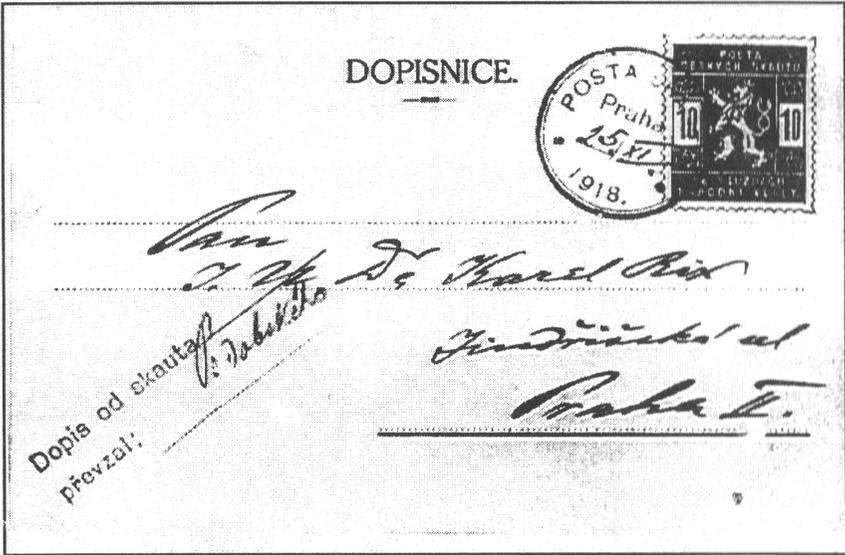


Fig. 3

was formerly in the Czechoslovakia Forerunners collection formed by the late Alexander Page, FRPSL, the well known British philatelic writer who passed away last December. As we reported previously, the card was acquired by a Scouts collector when his stamp collections were sold by his estate through Phillips International Auctioneers and Valuers in London on March 26, 1998.

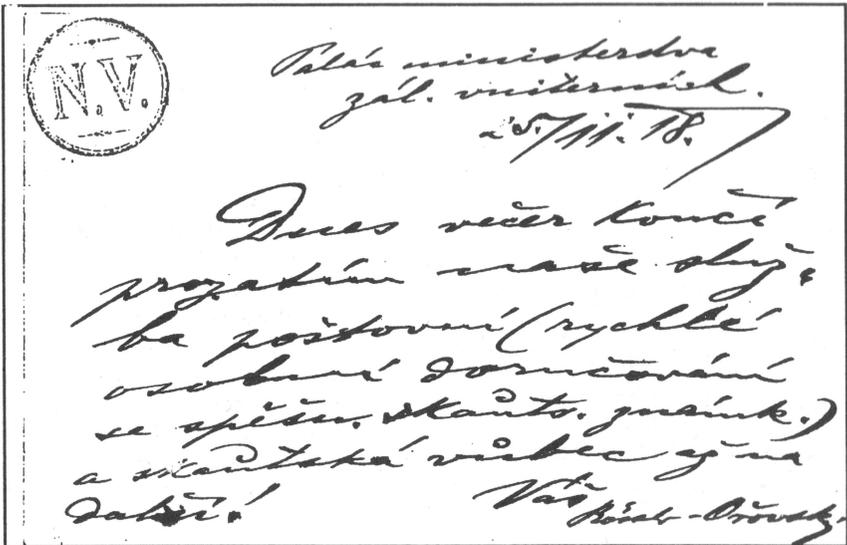


Fig. 4



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8. Telegrams of Czech Scout Post w/10h Masaryk Overprints

Frederick Lawrence

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TELEGRAMS OF THE CZECH SCOUT POST WITH 10H MASARYK OVERPRINTS

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

The Czech Scout Post was reactivated for one day on December 21, 1918 to support the arrival of President Thomas G. Masaryk in Prague. Six hundred copies of the 10h blue Scout Post stamps were overprinted "Příjezd Presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) in red, and 1,000 copies of the 20h red were overprinted in black by the Knapp Printing Plant in the Karlin district of Prague for use only on that day. Unused remainders were promptly destroyed, and it is estimated that only a small number of each value of these overprints have survived.

While the majority of the used overprints which are still on paper are on covers or on piece, a few are also found on the postal card of the Scout post and on telegrams. Jan Dvořák and Lester A. Behnke compiled a survey of the telegrams with Masaryk overprints which were known to them. They reported one telegram with a 10h Masaryk overprint, and five telegrams with 20h Masaryk overprints, all of which they illustrated (SPECIALIST, November 1978 and June 1979). In his talk on the Scout Post at the Society's 1990 annual meeting at BALPEX, Ing. Pavel Pittermann reported two additional telegrams with 20h Masaryk overprints.

On December 20, 1918 President Masaryk boarded a special train near the Czech border. The train reached Prague the next day in the early afternoon. The eight reported telegrams with Masaryk overprints were all sent from stops along the route of the train, either to the National Committee or private parties in Prague. On December 21, 1918 the telegrams were picked up by Scouts at the telegraph office at the Wilson Station, carried to the temporary Scout Post Operations Center, franked with Masaryk overprints, and then delivered by Scouts to their destinations. These telegrams are summarized in the following table.

Time/Date	Sent From	Sent By	Sent To	Franked with
1:10 PM Dec 20,1918	Horní Dvořiště	National Committee in České Budějovice	National Committee in Prague	10h Masaryk overprint
Duplicate of above	----	----	----	20h Masaryk overprint
1:15 PM Dec 20,1918	České Budějovice	Dr. Zahradník Minister of Railways	Editor's Office, Venkov (newspaper in Prague)	20h Masaryk overprint
3:10 PM Dec 20,1918	České Budějovice	Jan Masaryk (son of T.G. Masaryk)	Charlota Masaryk (wife of T.G. Masaryk)	20h Masaryk overprint
4:13 PM Dec 20,1918	České Budějovice	Svoboda	National Committee in Prague	20h Masaryk overprint
8:10 PM Dec 21,1918	České Budějovice	Hájek	National News (newspaper in Prague)	20h Masaryk overprint
10:15 AM Dec 21,1918	České Budějovice	National Committee in České Budějovice	National Committee in Prague	20h Masaryk overprint
11:45 AM Dec 21,1918	České Budějovice	Dr. Zahradník Minister of Railways	Presidium of National Committee in Prague	20h Masaryk overprint

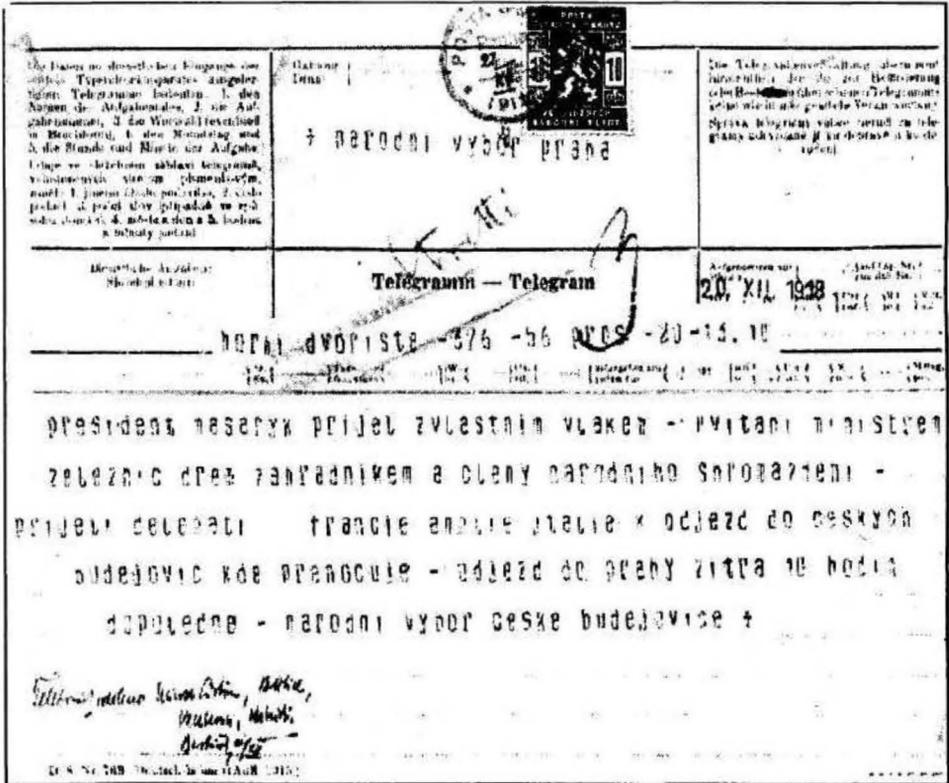


Fig. 1

The Scout Post stamps were used for accounting within the operation of the Scout Post. This accounting was necessary because the Scout Post was paid a lump sum for their services from a special National Committee fund. The 20h stamps were used for the delivery of letters and telegrams. Hence, it is unusual when a telegram is found which is franked with a single 10h stamp.

The telegram sent on December 20, 1918 from the railway station at Horní Dvoriště by the National Committee in České Budějovice to the National Committee in Prague and franked with a single 10h Masaryk overprint (first telegram in the table) is shown in Figure 1. It was previously discussed by Dvořák and Behnke (SPECIALIST, June 1979, p.102). This telegram is presently in the international large gold medal exhibit of Czechoslovakia formed by a collector in the Czech Republic.

A second, previously unreported telegram franked with a single 10h Masaryk overprint, is shown in Figure 2. It was recently sold by private treaty through the Prague dealer, Jiří Majer. Joseph Roessler-Ořovský, who was President of the Czech Scout Association and who organized and directed the Scout Post, was at the telegraph office at the Wilson Station on the morning of December 21, 1918, when the telegram sent at 10:15 AM by the National Committee in České Budějovice to the National Committee in Prague arrived (seventh telegram in the table).

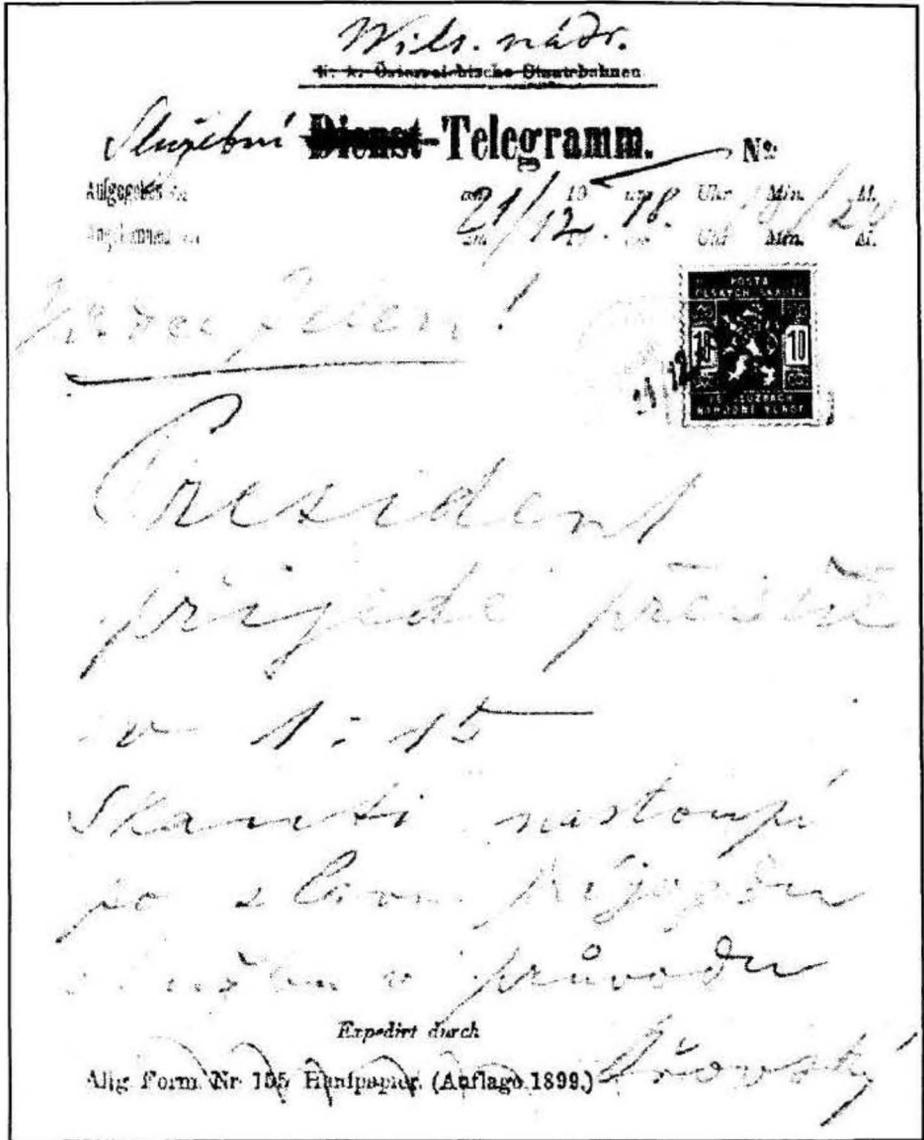


Fig. 2

At 10:20 AM he hand-wrote an urgent message to Scout Leader Jelen on an official telegram form from the former telegraph service of the Austrian state railways. He lined through the German text on the form which referred to the Austrian state railways and replaced it with "Wils.[onovo] nádr.[aží]" (Wilson Station), and he replaced the German "Dienst" (official) with "Služební" to indicate

that the message was an official communication of the newly formed government of Czechoslovakia. The message to Jelen reads:

"The President will arrive precisely at 1:15. Scouts will fall in for the celebration of the arrival and will participate in the parade. Ořovský."

Roessler-Ořovský handed the message to a Scout, who carried it to the temporary Scout Post Operations Center, where it was franked with a single 10h Masaryk overprint. From there, the message was carried to Jelen by a Scout. The two-line handstamp "Dopis od skauta ... Převzal ..." (Letter from Scout ... Accepted by ...), which was usually applied to letters, postal cards and telegrams delivered by the Scout Post, was not applied to the message, so the name(s) of the Scout(s) who carried it weren't recorded.

The telegram possesses a 1979 photo attest from Bundesprüfer Max Mahr and a 1999 color photo certificate from Ing. Jan Karásek, and is signed by both of these experts. It is presently in the international gold medal exhibit of the early issues of Scouting on stamps formed by a Scouts collector.

To date, only two telegrams with 10h Masaryk overprints have been reported. These telegrams are important historical documents from the formation of Czechoslovakia and world-class rarities of Czechoslovak philately.





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OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS – PART I

by Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

[Ed. Note: This is the first of a three part article; the other two parts will appear in future issues. This part originally appeared in the Nov/Dec 1996 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]

The national symbols of the former Czechoslovak Republic are without a doubt frequently used themes on postage stamps and sometimes also -- cancellations. They are being used as a matter of law on banknotes and coinage might be useful to talk about this matter in greater detail.

(Continued on page 29)

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CZECH SCOUT POST COVERS FROM THE PRESIDIUM OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

by **Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D.**

[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the September/October 1998 issue of the *SOSSI Journal*. It is reprinted here with the permission of the editor and the author.]

The Czech Scout Post was reactivated for one day only on December 21, 1918, to support the arrival in Prague of Jan Masaryk, the President of the newly formed Republic of Czechoslovakia. The two Scout Post stamps -- 10h blue and 20h red -- were overprinted "Příjezd Prezidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) for use on that day. Although it is not known definitely, it has been estimated that approximately 600 of the 10h stamp and 1,000 of the 20h stamp were overprinted by the Knapp printing plant in Prague. The remainder of the overprints was destroyed shortly after December 21, but the numbers destroyed are not known. (Dvořák and Behnke)

"Arrival of President Masaryk" overprints are quite scarce on cover, and when they appear, infrequently, are usually auction-priced. All genuinely delivered covers franked with the overprints were canceled with the round "POŠTA SKAUTA - Praha 1918" and have the two-line delivery/receipt handstamp "Dopis od skauta . . . převzal . . ." in black. The only exception was letters sent from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, which were canceled with a round unofficial (non-postal) marking "PRESIDIUM MINISTERSKÉ RADY · REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ" (Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic) in violet-purple (Fig. 1). (I. Kvasnička)

Since the "POŠTA SKAUTU . . ." and "Dopis . . ." handstamps of the Scout Post were not at the Presidium on December 21, 1918, they do not appear on "Presidium . . ." covers. If the addressee was recognized by the Scout who delivered the letter, he was not required to sign for it; otherwise, he signed for it in the Scout's receipt book.

"Presidium . . ." covers are extremely scarce -- so scarce that none is illustrated in the three landmark articles which deal with the "Arrival . . ." overprints: Ivo Kvasnička's "The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918" (reprinted in the *SPECIALIST* serially Apr-Nov 1969) and "Czech Scout Mail" (reprinted in the *SPECIALIST*, May/June 1996), and Jan Dvořák and Lester Behnke's "Czech Scout Stamps: The Masaryk Overprints" (reprinted in the *SPECIALIST*, Nov 1978, Jun 1979). We are pleased to illustrate for readers . . . not one, but two of the extremely scarce "Presidium . . ." covers of the Czech Scout Post.

Both covers are on envelopes with the printed corner card of the Presidium, franked with the 20h overprinted stamp, canceled by the round unofficial (non-postal) "PRESIDIUM . . ." marking (Fig. 1), and addressed to Lieutenant Colonel



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Liška, Foreigner's Office, Laran palace. Both covers were dispatched at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of December 21, 1918, but by different members of the Presidium staff. The cover in Figure 2 (3-line address, without name of Lařan Palace) appears

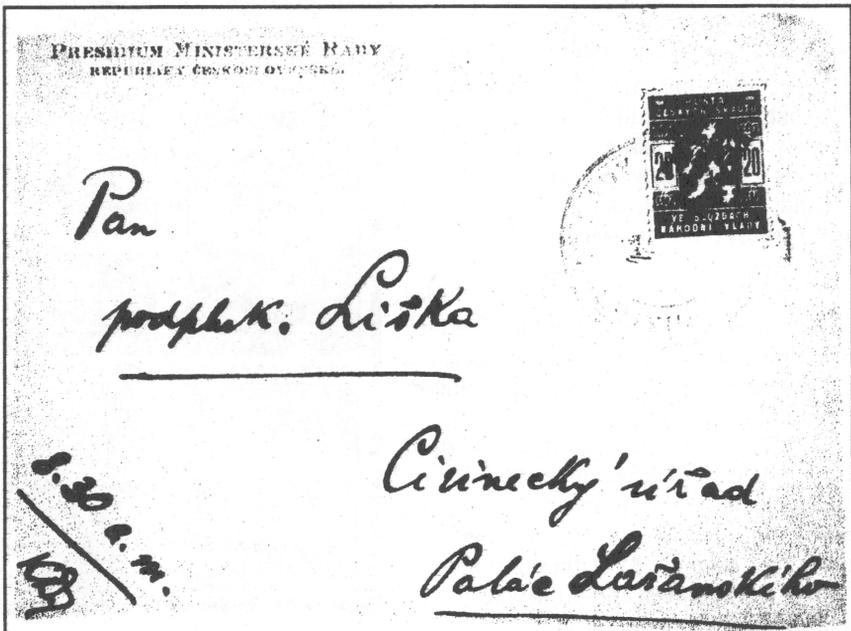


Fig. 3

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

in *Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeček 1918-1939* (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps 1918-1939) by Ing. Jan Karásek, Zdeněk Kvasnička, and Bratislav Paulíček, with Jan Mrňák (philatelic expert), published by POFIS in Prague, 1963 (p.363). At the time this book was published, the cover was in the collection of Zdeněk Kvasnička. The cover in Figure 3 (4-line address, with Lařan Palace named in last line) was sold in the Majer & Thraumb Auction on September 11, 1998, in Prague, held in conjunction with international exhibition PRAGA 98. It realized 120,000 Kčs + 10% commission (about US\$4,400) and was acquired by a Scouts collector. Adjacent to the stamp are the marks of the experts Lešetický (in red), Mrňák (in shiny black) and Karásek (in flat black); the cover is also accompanied by a 1998 photo-certificate from Ing. Ján Karásek.



MOIRÉ ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS

by Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Jaroslav J. Verner

From time to time one finds the expression "moiré" in specialized studies of the stamps of Czechoslovakia's First Republic. Specifically, in studies dealing with the air mail series of 1930. What exactly is meant by "moiré" in this context? J. Bláha wrote about this in some detail in his article which appeared in *Tribuna Filatelistu*, Vol. 1, p.9, 1937. In brief, a moiré is a series of narrow, dark strips across the entire stamp, sometimes over the entire sheet of stamps, caused by erroneous or imperfect printing.

A moiré can be created by a number of inadequacies in the printing process. For example, it could be caused by an improperly set printing plate. During printing, even a minor vibration may lead to a slight movement of such a plate. Another possible cause can be the uneven consistency of the ink. The inking equipment or the uneven draw of the paper through the rollers may also play a role here. During a long print run not only moiré can develop, but damage to the plates themselves -- which was usually caused by a series of deficiencies. Obviously printers do not like moirés and, in the past, the postal authorities changed plates which became worn and otherwise damaged.

Today this is, or so it seems, a historical concept, because now a lot of stamps are issued, and the need to exchange plates appears to happen only sporadically. If in the past stamps were printed in huge quantities, over a number of years the types of faults mentioned developed. However, it is good that we understand at least the basics about these problems. Here we illustrate a moiré on the two top stamps of the 1 K red air mail stamp (L8) of the third air mail issue where it is best seen above the wings of the airplanes on both stamps (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1



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Editorial Hinges

I am now finishing up my fourth year as editor of the *SPECIALIST*. It would seem therefore like an odd time to be laying out my editorial policy, but here it is nevertheless.

As editor I see my primary function being to bring to our members the widest possible range of topics and views on philately related to our interest areas. As such, any article submitted is just about automatically destined for publication, because the majority of problems which face an article such as grammar, errors in content, etc., can normally be worked out with the author. But I still have to look at articles with a critical eye.

The one area that can force me to have to make an excruciatingly difficult decision involves an article that in some way demeans someone with unverifiable accusations. In this case the author's word or reputation simply are not sufficient grounds to justify publishing the article. I have to remember that -- as editor of the *SPECIALIST* -- I am representing our Society and must adhere to a higher standard.

I welcome your views on this policy whether in support or in opposition. Also remember that contrary to articles, letters to the editor can express personal unverifiable views and thus could be published.

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THE CLASSICS CORNER

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

In the Auctions: Rarities of the Czech Scout Post

One of a very small number of postal cards of the Czech Scout Post, upfranked with an “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprint, was hammered down to a new owner in the Majer & Thraumb auction conducted on March 5, 2000 in Brno, Czech Republic, in conjunction with the FEPA-sanctioned regional philatelic exhibition BRNO 2000. The card (Fig. 1) bears a carmine-red 20h “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprint in addition to the original 10h blue embossed indicium, both of which were canceled on December 21, 1918 by a single POSTA SKAUTU handstamp. Addressed to A. Svojsik, the founder of Scouting in Czechoslovakia and the Chief Scout of the Junak (Scout Association) at the Wilson Station and carried by Scout Sourek (genitive case of his name, Sourka, on the two-line delivery/receipt handstamp), the card carried a message about the assignments of some of the Scouts who had been reactivated for one day only to support the arrival of President-elect Masaryk to Prague (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1: Czech Scout postal card upfranked with 20h carmine-red overprinted in black

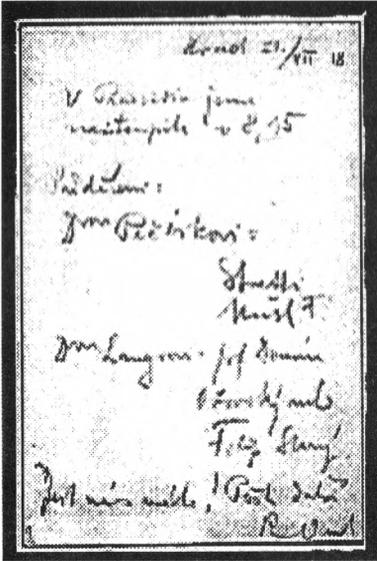


Fig. 2: Message side (reverse) of upfranked Czech Scout postal card

This card was first discussed and illustrated in the December 1975 (Vol. 24, No. 11) *SOSSI Journal* in "Czech Scout Stamps -- Use on Telegrams -- The Postal Cards" by Jan Dvorak and the late Lester A. Behnke (page 10 and Figure 11), which was reprinted from the October 1973 and April 1974 issues of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, the journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, and subsequently reprinted in the May 1974 issue of the *Journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans*. At that time the authors stated, "A few postal cards exist with the overprinted Masaryk stamp added, and canceled 21/XII, the only day of use of the Masaryk stamp. . . ." The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description states, "This cover is extraordinarily rare and interesting. Apparently only one additionally franked card exists." This card gives every appearance of being completely genuine. Adjacent to the stamp are the marks of the Czech philatelic experts Gilbert and Mrnak. The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description further states, "[Jan] Karasek certificate

available on request", which means that the buyer could elect to pay for a photo certificate from Karasek as a condition of purchase. The card was purchased by a Scouts collector for 875,000 Czech crowns + 10% buyer's commission (about US \$26,000).

A second rarity of the Czech Scout Post was also offered in the Majer & Thraumb auction: a 10h blue stamp overprinted "Arrival of President Masaryk" in black with traces of red under the black, and with a set-off (offset) of the overprint in red on the reverse (Fig. 3). The normal color of the overprint on the 10h stamp is red. Such stamps were first discussed and illustrated in the May 1976 (Vol. 25, No. 5) *SOSSI Journal* in "Czech Scout Stamps -- The Masaryk Overprints" by Jan Dvorak and the late Lester A. Behnke (page 4 and Figure 2), which was reprinted from the October 1975 issue of the journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans and subsequently reprinted in the November 1978 issue of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*. At that time the authors stated:



Fig. 3: 10h blue stamp overprinted in black with traces of red underneath and red offset on reverse

Evidently the black overprint was first applied to the 20h red stamp. Later, the same printing plate was inked with red for the printing of the 10h blue stamp without removing all of the black ink. This produced a few 10h stamps with the overprint showing a red color tinged with black . . . Only a few of these exist, but they do appear occasionally in international exhibitions.

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The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description states, "This stamp was exhibited only twice, at PRAGA 1968 . . . Unique item, outstanding quality, an exceptional opportunity."

The stamp also gives every appearance of being completely genuine. It is signed on the reverse by the Czech philatelic experts Gilbert and Mrnak. The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description further states, "[Jan] Karasek certificate available on request." The stamp had a reserve of 1,700,000 Czech crowns (about US \$46,000), drew no bids at or above this reserve, and went unsold. It is expected that the stamp will be re-offered in a Majer & Thraumb auction later this year.



CZECHS, SLOVAKS AND SOCIETY MEMBERS SCORE AT WIPA 2000

by Henry Hahn
US Commissioner

For the first time since 1981, Vienna was host to the legendary WIPA event. The previous ones took place in 1881, 1933, 1965 and 1981. This time the show was under the auspices of FEPA, the European Federation of Philatelic Societies, and was dedicated to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the issuance of Austria's first postage stamp.



Though WIPA was not a FIP (International Federation for Philately) sponsored show, the difference could hardly be detected in this superb exhibit, held in Vienna's modern "AUSTRIA CENTER" (Fig. 1), located just minutes by subway from Vienna's



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Frederick P. Lawrence

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CZECH SCOUT POST 10h TRANSITIONAL MASARYK OVERPRINTS

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

The Czech Scout Post was reactivated for one day on December 21, 1918 to support the arrival of President Thomas G. Masaryk in Prague. Six hundred copies of the 10h blue Scout Post stamps were overprinted "Příjezd prezidenta Masaryka"



Fig. 1a:
10h blue stamp
overprinted in red

(Arrival of President Masaryk) in brick red, and 1,000 copies of the 20h red were overprinted in dull black, by the Knapp Printing Plant in the Karlin district of Prague for use only on that day (Fig. 1a & 1b). Unused remainders were promptly destroyed, and it is estimated that only a small number of each value of these overprints have survived.



Fig. 1b: 20h red stamp
overprinted in black

One of the rarities of the Czech Scout Post is the 10h blue stamp overprinted in red with tinges of black on top of the red. Such stamps were first discussed and

illustrated in the November 1978 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* in "Czech Scout Stamps -- The Masaryk Overprints" by Ján Dvořák and the late Lester A. Behnke (page 146 and Figure 2), which was reprinted from the October 1975 issue of the journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans. At that time the authors stated:

"Evidently the black overprint was first applied to the 20h red stamp. Later, the same printing plate was inked with red for the printing of the 10h blue stamp without removing all of the black ink. This produced a few 10h stamps with the overprint showing a red color tinged with black . . . Only a few of these exist, but they do appear occasionally in international exhibitions."



Fig. 2a: 10h blue stamp
overprinted in red heavily
tinged with black

One of these 10h transitional Masaryk overprints was offered in the Majer & Thraumb auction conducted on March 5, 2000 in Brno, Czech Republic, in conjunction with the FEPA-sanctioned regional philatelic exhibition BRNO 2000 (Fig. 2a). At first glance, the overprint on this stamp appears to be in black ink with traces of red ink bleeding out from under the overprint letters and forming thin red outlines around these black letters. The auction catalog description ". . . 10h blue, black overprint . . . under the black overprint are traces of red" reflects the appearance of the overprint. Because of the large amount of black ink still remaining on the printing plate when it was inked with red to overprint this stamp, the overprint deceptively gives the appearance that it is black tinged with red, when it is in fact red heavily tinged with black. The high pressure under

which the printing plate was pressed against the stamp caused some of the red ink to slide off the residual black ink, bleed out from under the overprint letters, and form thin red outlines around these black letters.

There is an offset (set-off) of the overprint in red on the reverse of this stamp (Fig. 2b). This offset resulted from the stamp's having been placed on top of another stamp with a red overprint before the ink of that overprint had completely dried. The red offset is only slightly tinged with black. So, the other stamp must have been produced later, after the residual black ink on the printing plate had almost completely worn off. The stamp is also signed on the reverse by the Czech philatelic experts Gilbert and Mrňák.



Fig. 2b: Overprint offset in red slightly tinged with black

It is not known exactly how many 10h transitional Masaryk overprints exist, though the number is probably quite small. The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog states, "This stamp was exhibited only once, at PRAGA 1968 . . . Unique item, Outstanding quality, an exceptional opportunity". The stamp had a reserve of 1,700,000 Czech krouns (about US \$46,000), drew no bids, and went unsold. After the auction, the stamp was purchased for an undisclosed amount by a Scouts collector.





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Editorial Hinges – Closing Chapter

I have finally had to come to a decision that I had hoped would never have to be made. At the end of this year -- 2012 -- I will end my tour as editor of the *Specialist* after 16 years.

Who will take over? I have no idea. I have tried for years to find a replacement, had several people step forward, and then have to withdraw before they started.

What has changed to help precipitate this decision? It is not a lack of material to put into the *Specialist*. I have enough lined up for a number of issues. It is simply that there are higher priority items and events in my life now that require my attention and time.

And the most pressing one is that my wife was diagnosed with cancer a year ago. Since then, the medical therapies that she has been receiving have either caused the cancer to stay in check or to actually decrease in size or presence. But we all know how that can go with cancer -- you just cannot count that the future will continue to be positive.

So, beginning next year, I will be focusing my time on other matters, and hoping for the best.

I hope that now there will be someone out there who will step forward to learn this business before it is too late. I will help, but I will no longer lead.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Editor, The Czechoslovak Specialist

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the Melamed family will be supporting our library being located with the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library by financing the movement of the library to Denver, and by providing a yearly stipend to the RMPL. We are and will continue to be greatly appreciative of Jean's and her family's generosity. May she rest in peace with her husband, Phil.



SELL - SWAP - WANT

WANTED: Looking to buy various used Czechoslovak stamps.
 If interested, please e-mail me for a want list.
 Jarka Havel, 146 Forest Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ 07006.
 (973) 228-1453. jarkahavel@yahoo.com.

Every member is entitled to one FREE 15 word ad per calendar year. Word count does not include name and address, phone #, e-mail address. Send ad, clearly typed or printed, and marked Sell-Swap-Want to the editor, contact info on page 2.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. Van Zanten

1. On March 7, 2012, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Country series. The stamps were designed by Prof. Zdeněk Ziegler, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

– 14 Kč: Kuks – graphics by Michael H. Rentz (Fig. 1); in dark brown, blue, and red. Kuks, one of the most beautiful Czech sites, is located in the lovely area below the Krkonoše Mountains, 5 km from Dvůr Králové. Count Franz Anton von Sporck built his own residence of Kuks in 1694-1724; it became the center of his entire estate. The site was chosen after medical tests revealed the presence of healing mineral springs; the name Kuks (also known as Kux) was chosen by the founder in memory of gold mines whose traces were discovered locally. The Labe river forms the axis of the site. Secular buildings were located on the left bank, religious buildings on the right bank. Additional structures include gardens, sculptures, fountains, and a bridge (today a technical monument) connecting both banks. The first building, completed in 1697, was the Chapel of the Assumption of Our Lady, which replaced the



Fig. 1



Fig. 12

the then Czech Jewish community and gave access to literature also to less educated male and female readers. Yiddish was used to print not only biblical translations or moral texts but also entertaining literature books, songs, and all sorts of practical manuals to entertain and educate these readers. In the first half of the 17th century, Prague was the European center of Yiddish book printing. The 19th century process of emancipation and assimilation of Czech and Moravian Jews removed the need to print this kind of literature; Jewish printers already printed in German or Czech, and Hebrew was used only to publish prayers and Bibles required to practice religion. The stamp was designed by Renáta Fučíková, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset with linear drawing in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC in black depicts a feast in a Jewish home with a family in a happy mood, in the atmosphere of belonging and intimacy (Fig. 12).

6. On May 2, 2012, the Ministry issued a 21 Kč commemorative stamp celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Czech Scout Movement (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13

The stamp shows boy scouts looking at the scout emblem and the scout camp located in the forest. The year 1911, in which a Czech high school PE teacher Antonín František Svojsík (also known as Antonín Benjamín Svojsík, or simply as A.B.S.), inspired by a visit to England, set up the first Czech Scout group, is considered to be the year of origin of Czech scouting. Svojsík's book *Základy Junáctví* (The Foundations of Scouting), which reflected his idea of Czech Scouting based on Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*, and a first Scout camp organized by Svojsík at the gamekeeper's lodge Vorlovna below Lipnice castle, followed in 1912.

Unlike Baden-Powell, Svojsík did not rely on his own knowledge only but asked thirty experts in relevant disciplines to help him write his book; the result is a compilation of papers on different, theoretical as well as practical, aspects of Scouting. Following his failure to foster Scout ideas and methods in the Sokol (Falcon) movement Svojsík established *Junák-Český Skaut* as an independent organization in 1914. The Scout movement enjoyed a high degree of respect in 1918-38 Czechoslovakia, with numerous former members of Czech Scout groups -- i.e., President Edvard Beneš, poet Jiří Wolker, physician Josef Charvát, traveller František A. Elsner (the first Czech Scout attending the International Scout Summer



Fig. 14

Camp in Gilwell, England), member of the international resistance movement and one of Heydrich's assassins Jan Kubiš, Alois Rašín, and Prokop Drtina -- later becoming important people. The stamp was designed by Marko Čermák, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multi-colored offset in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC in gray depicts Scouts kindling a camp fire (Fig. 14).

7. On May 2, 2012, the Ministry issued a 20 Kč commemorative stamp in the common EUROPA series (announced by the Association of European Public Postal Operators PostEurop) entitled *Invitation to the Issuing Country* (Fig. 15). On the stamp are depicted the old Town Bridge and the Dancing House -- history mingling with the present. The Old Town Bridge Tower is believed to be one of the most beautiful Gothic buildings in Europe. It is located in Křižovnické Square in Prague's Old Town on the right bank of the Vltava river, and served as the gateway to Charles Bridge on the Royal Road. This Gothic tower was built not only as part of the town fortifications but also as a grandiose triumphal gateway. The building was likely completed in the late 14th century. Petr Parléř, the architect of the bridge, can be considered as the designer of virtually all sculptures and stone adornments on the tower. The 138 stairs lead to the tower view platform. The height of the tower is 47 meters above the bridge level, or 57 meters above the Vltava river. The 1996 Dancing House, also known as Ginger and Fred, is located in Prague on the right bank of the



Fig. 15

Vltava river, at the corner of Rašínovo Embankment and Jiráskovo Square. It is the first construction built by top world architects in the post-Velvet Revolution Prague. The house was named after the shape of its two corner towers, inspired by the famous dance couple Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers of the inter-war period. Its designers were Vlado Milunić and Frank O. Gehry who was invited by the investor to join the project. Interior decorations of the investor's offices were partly designed by the British architect of Czech origin Eva Jiříčná. The building triggered a wide-ranging public debate on architecture in Prague. The Dancing House won a Time Magazine Design Award. The professional Czech magazine *Architekt* shortlisted it among the top five Czech buildings of the 1990's. The building, financed by Nationale Nederlanden (today ING), houses offices, a luxury café, and a restaurant. The stamp was designed by Eva Hašková, engraved by Bohumil Sneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue, red, green-blue, and gray-green in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC in dark brown depicts the towers of Old Town churches, including the Klementinum Astronomical Tower, the Astronomical Clocks, the Emauz church, and the church in the area of the St. Agnes Monastery in front (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

More than 21 years ago, I received a phone call from our editor of the *Specialist*, Mirko Vondra. His eyesight and hearing were going downhill, and so he was looking for someone to take over the function of editor.

Because I knew Czech (as he did), knew the Society and had held a number of other jobs within it, and received many of the Czech and Slovak publications, he felt that I would be a good candidate for the function.

I reluctantly accepted (I am a math/science guy) since I had no experience in editing a publication, nor had I taken any writing classes in college. But my friend Mirko needed help.

Well, here we are 21 years and 110 issues later (the first 13 years there were six issues a year), and the time has come for me to let someone else have all of the fun.

I am so terrifically fortunate that Keith Hart came forward and volunteered to now have some of the fun. He has been co-editor this past year and has shown himself to be highly capable. We are very lucky to have him now as editor. I know that you will give him all of the help that you gave me over the years.

I will stay on to help him with Czech/Slovak articles and such matters.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

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UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL, DP-1, HD
No. 106 in the Series

The Classics Corner appeared in the *SOSSI Journal* in 100 columns and an epilogue from October 1994 through November/December 2012. Since then, there has been further research into, and new discoveries about, both the “classics” and modern issues of Scouting on stamps. *Updates* will report on recent developments.

100th Anniversary of the 1918 Czech Scout Post

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Czechoslovak Scout Official Mail Delivery Service (Czech Scout Post), which operated unofficially from October 28, 1918, and officially from November 7, 1918, through November 25, 1918 – in the service of the Czechoslovak National Committee of Liberation (National Council), the provisional government in Prague following the collapse of the



Fig. 1. February 23, 1919 Czech single weight registered express lettercard at the 105h rate (courtesy J.J. Verner).

Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I— and which was reactivated for one day only on December 21, 1918 to support the arrival of President Thomas G. Masaryk. Readers should consult Kvasnička^{1,2} for background of the Czech Scout Post, Pittermann³ for classification of entires (covers, postal cards, and telegrams), and
(Continued on Page 22)

UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

(Continued from Page 19)

columns in *The Classics Corner* for additional information⁴. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Scout Post, throughout this year *Updates* will report on recent research and developments.

**Part 1: Registered Express Combination
Austria/Czech-Scout Post Covers**

Among covers of the Czech Scout Post, the most desirable are combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post covers, of which the scarcest are registered express combination covers, with only a few having been reported. Following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I, the Austrian post office maintained services in the territory which became the new country of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918⁵ until the Czechoslovak Ministry of Post and Telegraph Offices was established on November 13, 1918⁶. During the first Czech postal rate period (October 28, 1918 – May 19, 1919), the rates followed those of the Austrian rate period which began on September 1, 1918: single weight letter or lettercard (up to 20 grams) local or inland – 20 heller (h), registration – 25h, and express (special delivery) – 60h^{7,8}. Thus, the rate for a single weight registered express letter or lettercard was 105h (Fig. 1).

On November 9, 1918, Prague stationer and stamp dealer Antonín Černý sent a registered express letter to Josef Roessler-Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association and organizer of the Scout Post, at the family pharmaceutical supply business on Štěpánská Street in Prague (Fig 2a). On November 10, a 20h Scout Post stamp was applied to the cover at the Scout Post Operations Center, then at the Cadet Academy, and tied with an “N.V.” handstamp. However, Roessler-Ořovský was not at the family pharmaceutical supply business: rather, he was participating in National Council affairs at the Deymův Palace (Fig. 3). The cover was carried to the palace by Scout Salda, and signed for there by Roessler-Ořovský (“10/11 Ry”). A private poster label was applied to the back of the cover by the sender as advertising (Fig. 2b). This cover is a Pittermann Category 1 entire: genuine and authentic³.

This writer has collected, studied and researched the Scout Post since 1960, during which time we have seen only two registered express combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post covers: a cut-down (trimmed) envelope with the stamps on the back, once offered by our late SOSSI member and stamp dealer Barry Mann, and the cover discussed and illustrated here. This reflects that among covers of the Czech Scout Post, the



Fig. 3. Deymův Palace in Prague (courtesy Wikipedia ⁹).

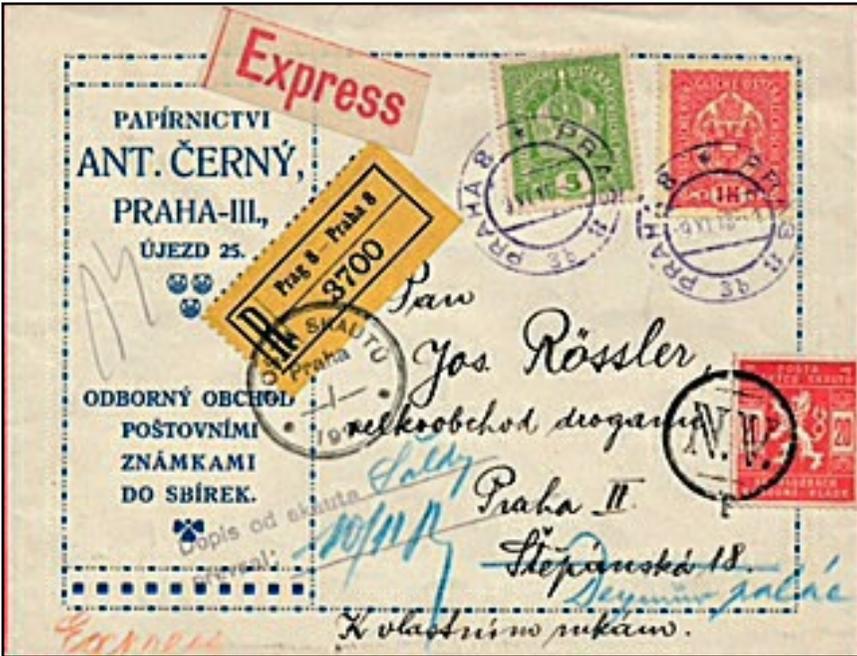


Fig. 2a. November 9, 1918 registered express combination Austria/ Czech-Scout Post cover to Josef Rössler-Ořovský (courtesy Milan Černík).

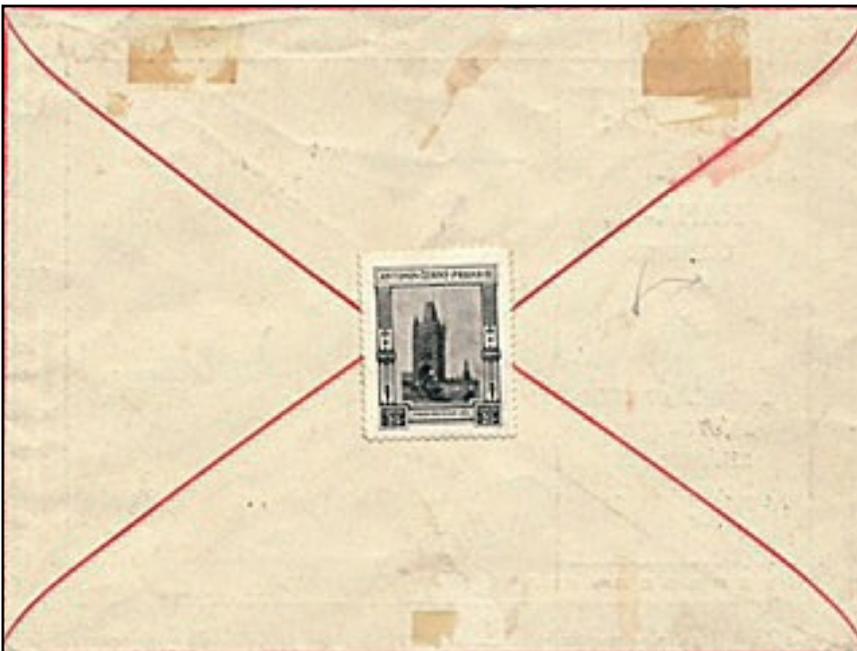


Fig. 2b. Private poster label of Prague stationer and stamp dealer Antonín Černý on back of cover (courtesy Milan Černík).

scarcest are registered express combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post covers, and helps to explain how the cover discussed and illustrated here was sold for US\$3,400 (about €2,825) in Milan Černík's 46th Postal History Auction in March 2017.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr. Jaroslav J. Verner and Mr. Ludvik Z. Svoboda of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, who are experienced and knowledgeable collectors of Czechoslovakia, for information about Austrian and Czech postal rates during the period of the National Council provisional government and operation of the Scout Post and for the image of the cover illustrated in Figure 1 (Mr. Verner), and for translation of the Czech text on the cover and private poster label illustrated in Figures 2a & 2b (Mr. Svoboda).

Endnotes:

1. Kvasnička, I. "The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918" *The American Philatelist*, Vol.83, No.1 (Jan 1969), pp. 27-41. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. XIX, No.1 (Jan 1970), pp.8-9 & ff. (multiple segments).
2. Kvasnička, I. "Czech Scout Mail" *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.58, No.3 (May/June 1996), pp. 3-13. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol.45, No.5 (Sep/Oct 1996), pp. 6-14.
3. Pittermann, Ing. P. "Genuineness of Entires with Stamps". *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 1992), pp. 4-11. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol.42, No. 2 (Jan 1993), pp. 1, 8-9, & ff. (two segments).
4. Lawrence, F. "The Classics Corner" in the *SOSSI Journal* October 1994-November /December 2012 [CD]. Available from the author.
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Czechoslovakia.
6. <https://www.ceaskaposta.cz/sl?o-ceske-poste?historie>
7. Verner, J. Personal communications (March 2017)
8. <http://www.austrianphilately.com/postrates/index/htm>
9. https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deymovsk%C3%BD_pal%C3%A1c

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from SOSSI Journal Jan/Feb 2018 with the permission of the author and editor.]

SELL - SWAP - WANT

Once again I am reminding members about a feature column that used to be a staple of the SPECIALIST many years ago (in the 970's). I am hoping that it will help members find philatelic items that they need or to sell/swap those that they have in excess -- AND, it is all free! Every member is entitled to one FREE 15 word ad each calendar year which will run in the column headed the way this one is. Your name, address, and other contact information does not count towards the 15 words. Send your ad (please type or print it so there are no misunderstandings) to me at the address or e-mail address found on page two of every issue.

EXAMPLES of ads are:

WANTED: Buy International Reply Coupons all countries.

L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SELL: Hard cover bound copies of 1951-53 issues of SPECIALIST, \$15 postpaid.

L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SWAP: Interested in Hradcany perf/imperf sheets, covers, freaks, anything -- especially 25h blue.

L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015



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No. 2, Whole No. 652

LAST CALL FOR PRAGA 2018

If you are still thinking about a visit to Prague for this exhibition, you need to decide soon. If the exhibits and meetings themselves are not enough to encourage you to go, then think about the other attractions available. Besides the main location at the Clarion Congress Hotel, there are other interesting venues. The Postal Museum is a wonderful place to learn about the history of postal services going back hundreds of years. The Mucha Museum is, of course, the place to see the work of the most famous Czech artist. You can also pick up a print of your favorite Mucha subject to take home. Don't forget Prague itself, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Book your flights and hotel now! The people of Prague will give you a warm welcome and memories of the trip will last a lifetime.

A buffet dinner for foreign Czechoslovak specialist stamp societies will be held at Restaurant Adria on Friday, August 17 from 7 pm until late. The cost for this will be €29 (\$35). Anyone interested in attending should contact Chris Jackson, whose email address and phone number can be found on page 2.

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UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL, DP-1
 No. 107 in the Series
 100th Anniversary of the 1918 Czech Scout Post

Artifacts of the Czech Scout Post- stamps, covers, telegrams, postal cards, ...- were created for Josef Roessler-Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association, and his friends, as philatelic souvenirs. When their existence became known to other stamp collectors, demand quickly exceeded the supply of original material (Pittermann category 1), which resulted in the creation of additional entires (Pittermann categories 2 & 3), and then non-genuine material (Pittermann category 4). Parts 2-5 of this commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Scout Post will report on non-genuine material.

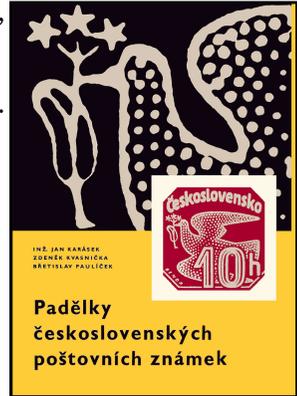


Fig. 1

Part 2: Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles - *Padělky Forgeries A & B*

The first discussion of forged stamps and overprints appeared in *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939* (Figure 1)¹. (We will refer to this book as the *Padělky*).

Figures 2a & 2b show 10h and 20h genuine stamps (*Padělky* images on the left). The *Padělky* describes these as follows:

10h genuine

1. The cross on the crown is centered in the center.
2. There is a colored line in the mane.
3. Beneath the mane the left front leg is lengthened with a line into the body.
4. The outline of the body of the lion is made with one stroke of the burring tool.
5. The hooks on the letters S and C have a sharp shape.
6. The letter D is under the letter S. The Letter I is directly under the space between the letters U and Z.



Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

20h genuine

1. The lion's tongue is curved towards the top, beneath is a thin parallel line.
2. The second lock of the lower mane is ended with a short line.
3. The outline of the left front leg is ended with a small indentation into the body.
4. The paws have very distinct shaped claws.
5. Under the knee of the right hind leg there is found a small indentation.
6. The letters S and C in the words POSTA CESKYCH are true.
7. The B in the word SLUZBACH has top and lower curves equal in roundness.

Figures 3a & 3b show 10h and 20h *Padělky* Forgery A stamps. The *Padělky* describes these as follows:



Fig. 3a

10h Forgery A

1. The middle of the crown of the lion's head has the same design as the original 20h stamp.
2. The colored line in the mane is missing.
3. The left leg of the lion has only a small line leading into the body.
4. The line of the outline of the lion's body is deformed and open in the middle.
5. The hooks over the letters S and C are smaller than on the genuine.
6. The letter D is shifted to the left and under the letter S. The letter I is to the left and under the letter U.
7. The indentation under the right knee of the hind foot is like the 20h value and is a little wider. (The genuine 10h does not have this indentation).
8. The left leg has a small colored dot between the first and second claw.



Fig. 3b

20h Forgery A

1. There is a curved beak under the tongue. In the original there is a small line.
2. Second lock of the lower mane runs out into a long line.
3. Outline of the left leg has a parallel small curve.
4. The claws are coarse and uneven.
5. The indentation is missing under the knee of the right hind leg, which is characteristic on the genuine.
6. The letter C in the word ČESKÝCH is deformed.
7. The letter S in each case is also different than the genuine in that they have smaller curves.
8. The letter B in the word SLUŽBACH has the curve running into the upright stem at an angle.
9. The line above the left knee on the hind leg ends with a dot.

Figures 4a and 4b show 10h and 20h *Padělky* Forgery B stamps. The *Padělky* describes these as follows:

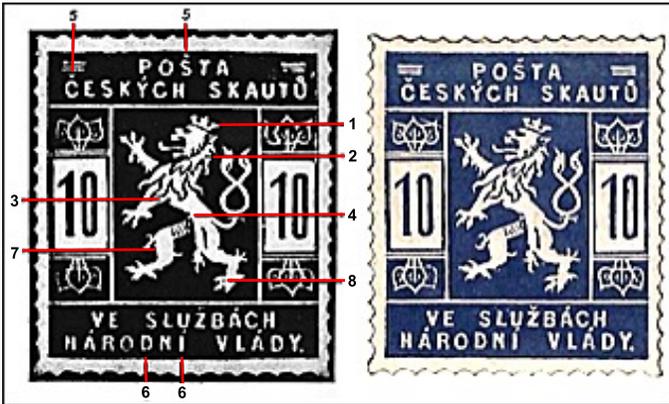


Fig. 4a

10h Forgery B

1. The middle of the crown on the lion's head is the same as in forgery A. Uneven in shape and having the cross in the middle deformed.
2. The dot in the mane is missing.
3. Left leg of the lion has a small line leading into the body.
4. The line creating the outline of the lion's body is deformed and broken in the middle.
5. The hooks over the letters S and C are smaller than the genuine.
6. The letter D is to the left and under the letter S. The letter I is to the left and under the letter U.
7. The indentation under the right knee of the hind leg is removed.
8. Left leg has a colored dot between the first and second claw.

20h Forgery B



Fig. 4b

1. The parallel lines are missing under the tongue which curves towards the top.
2. The ear is connected with the mane. In the genuine, it is independent.
3. The mane has five principal locks. The genuine has nine.
4. The distance of the left front paw from the knee of the right leg is much smaller.
5. The hooks of the letters S, C, Z have the shape of a small curve.

6. The stems of the linden leaves do not come together.
7. The three ornamental lines in the right and left upper sides are different lengths, while in the original they are the same length.

Endnote

1. Karásek, J., Kvasnička, Z., Paulíček, B. : *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939, 1st edition, 1963, pp. 352-364.*

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) Journal Mar/Apr 2018 with the permission of the author and editor].



*** BOOK AUCTION ***

We recently received a number of books from members that you may have an interest in. Many of these are out of print and difficult to find.

In order to make it fair to all of our members, we are making this an auction. The price that is indicated is a beginning price, and for our members, includes mailing. Contact our Book Sales Manager, James Buckner, at 706-255-6823, or wellseats@hotmail.com, or Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., Attention: James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606, with your best offer. The highest bid gets the book.

The sooner you contact James with your bid, the better. Tie bids will go to the earlier bid. Phone call bids will be recorded with the date and time of the call, e-mail bids will be recorded with the date and time on the e-mail, and postal bids will be recorded with the date of the cancel on the envelope (if unreadable, the date received). So bid early and bid high. All proceeds go to the Society.

All bids must be received by June 15, 2018, and must include: the book name; the paragraph number from this list; your best offer; name; and phone number or e-mail address. If this information is not included, the bid will be invalid.

Each book is in Czech (Cz), Slovak (Sl), or English (E), as marked. In the listing, Mono means a book from the Czechoslovak *Monografie* series, and CzSl means Czechoslovak. [If more information about a specific book is required, contact Lou Svoboda at 303-680-7118 Lousvoboda@comcast.net.] These are previously used books in good condition.

1. Mono #1 -- Revolutionary/Transitional Period, Hradčany 1918-1920 (Cz) -- \$75
2. Mono #2 -- Legionnaire Issue (1919) through Agriculture & Science (1923), Stationery (Cz) -- \$50
3. Mono #3 -- Postal issues 1923-1939, Stationery (Cz) -- \$50
4. Mono #4 -- Airmail, Newspaper, Postage Due, Special Delivery, Personal Delivery Stamps (1918-1939)(Cz) -- \$50
5. The previous four (Mono 1, 2, 3, and 4) -- \$200. Such a bid will take precedence, especially if one or more of the books does not have a bid on it. The decision of the Book Sales Manager is final.
6. Mono #11 -- Postal Service in the Terezín Ghetto (Cz) -- \$30



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UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

Nos. 108 & 109 in the series

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100th Anniversary of the 1918 Czech Scout Post

Artifacts of the Czech Scout Post- stamps, covers, telegrams, postal cards, ...- were created for Josef Roessler-Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association, and his friends, as philatelic souvenirs. When their existence became known to other stamp collectors, demand quickly exceeded the supply of original material (Pittermann category 1), which resulted in the creation of additional entires (Pittermann categories 2 & 3), and then nongenuine material (Pittermann category 4). Parts 3 (update 108) and 4 (update 109) of this commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Scout Post continues our report on nongenuine material.

Part 3: Fakes, Forgeries and Facsimiles *Padělky* Forgery C, and Modern Fakes and Facsimiles

Figure 1 shows the 10h *Padělky* Forgery C stamp (*Padělky* image on the left)¹. The *Padělky* describes this as follows:



Figure 1

10h Forgery C

1. Crown on lion's head has five ornaments. (The genuine only has three).
2. The mane is divided with a few coarse strokes and lines.
3. The three decorative lines in the right and left top corners are uneven in size.
4. The figures 10 are thicker and closer together.
5. The stems of the linden leaves are straight down. (The genuine come together.)
6. The word NARODNI is shifted to the right noticeably.

An additional characteristic of the 10h *Padělky* Forgery C stamp is that it is perforated, rather than being die-cut out ("died out") as are genuine Scout Post stamps.

Modern fakes and facsimiles are produced by offset printing – a commonly used printing technique in which an inked image is transferred (or "offset") from a plate to a rubber blanket, and then to a printing surface, such as paper² - or are electronically reproduced from genuine stamps – such as by photocopying, or by



Figure 2



Figure 3

scanning and then digital printing using ink (inkjet printers) or toner (laser printers)³. Figure 2 shows 10h and 20h offset facsimiles, and Figure 3 shows a 10h offset imperforate facsimile, none of which anyone should mistake for genuine Scout Post stamps.

Part 4: Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles “Arrival of President Masaryk” Overprints



Figure 4

The Scout Post was reactivated on December 21, 1918, the day of the arrival of President Masaryk into Prague, to provide rapid delivery by Scouts of reports between the railroad station, the city hall, the Hradčany castle, and the national senate. A small number of Scout Post stamps (about 600 pairs) were diagonally overprinted by typography with three lines “Příjezd presidenta Masaryka” (Arrival of president Masaryk), by the Knapp printing company in Karlin, using both 10h and 20h values from both the first and second printings. Black overprints on 20h stamps are dull and translucent, and because of the pressure of the printing of the overprint, the outline of each letter is sharp¹.

Figure 4 shows the *Padělký* genuine “Arrival” overprint on a 20h stamp¹. The *Padělký* describes this as follows:

Genuine “Arrival” Overprint

7. The letter “i” in the word PŘÍJEZD has a small hump on the left side in the lower portion.
8. The letter “j” in the word PŘÍJEZD has the upper right corner of the dot and letter slanted, but the lower curve is sharp.
9. The letter “t” in the word PRESIDENTA is curved toward the right in the lower section.

The lengths of the lines of the genuine overprint are (1) 12.5mm, (2) 18.5mm, and (3) 19.1mm¹.

Figure 5 shows genuine “Arrival” overprints, in red on a 10h stamp (left) and in black on a 20h stamp (right).



Figure 5



Figure 6

Figure 6 shows the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery on a 20h stamp¹. The *Padělky* describes this as follows:

“Arrival” Overprint Forgery

- 10. The letter “i” in the word PRÍJEZD is without its hump.
- 11. The letter “j” in the word PRÍJEZD has no variation in the dot and the lower part of the letter “j” is rounded.
- 12. The letter “t” in the word PRESIDENTA is shaped differently.

The lengths of the lines of the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery are (1) 12.8mm, (2) 18.8mm, and (3) 19.2mm¹. Additional characteristics of the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery are that it occurs most frequently on genuine Scout Post and Forgery C stamps. The red overprint on the 10h stamps is dull red which shows through the stamps. The black overprint on 20h stamps is glossy and evenly applied, and the letters of the overprints are coarse without sharp outlines¹.



Figure 7



Figure 8

Figure 7 shows forged “Arrival” overprints, similar to the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery on 10h Forgery A and 20h genuine stamps⁴.

Figure 8 shows a trial impression of a forged red “Arrival” overprint on a 1919 Legionnaire stamp, which was similarly produced as were the Scout Post stamps (relief-printed on pre-gummed paper, with edges die-cut out [“died out”])^{4,5}.



Figure 9

Figure 9 shows offset “Arrival” overprint facsimiles on offset Scout Post stamp facsimiles, while Figure 10 shows modern photocopy “Arrival” overprint facsimiles—none of which should be mistaken as genuine. We’ll look at forged entires of the Scout Post in Part 5: Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles-Covers.



Figure 10

ENDNOTES:

1. Karásek, J., Kvasnička, Z., Paulíček, B. : *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939, 1st edition, 1963, pp. 352-364.*
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offsetprinting>.
3. <https://www.printingforless.com/Digital-Printing-Explained.html>
4. Kvasnička, I. “The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918.” *The American Philatelist*, Vol 83, No. 1 (Jan 1969), pp27-41. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. XIX, No. 1 (Jan 1970), pp 8-9 & ff. (multiple segments).
5. Kvasnička. I. “Czech Scout Mail” *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (May/June 1996), pp. 3-13. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 5 (Sep/Oct 1996), pp. 6-14.

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