

Czechoslovakia

The Allegory Issues

1920 - 1926



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I wish to thank the President of The Royal Philatelic Society London,
Frank Walton, RDP, FRPSL for inviting me to give this presentation which is a great privilege.
The staff at 41, as always, have been very helpful.

My husband, Richard Wheatley FRPSL has given me advice and has been extremely patient while I have
been preparing for my presentation.

I am particularly grateful to Dr Mark Wilson FRPSL for dealing with the technicalities
of my booklet and for editing it.

The members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain have shared
their knowledge with me which has been invaluable to the research and development
of my collection.

I would also like to thank the Fellows, Members and Guests who have taken the time
and trouble to be here today, to make this a happy and memorable day for me.

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The smallest unit of Czechoslovak currency is the haler. Since the plural in Czech is irregular 1 halář, 3 haláře, 5 halářů I have elected to use haler for the English representation of the word, for singular and plural.

100 haler = 1 krone

All the values printed on the stamps are in haler. There was no indication of the currency.

The rates quoted are for the first weight step of 20 grams. Subsequent weights are in steps of 20 grams.

Usage is shown by a single stamp covering the rate. The dates given are the dates during which the stamp was valid. The rate may have been in force before the stamp was issued and after the date it was demonetised.

There are no accurate records of the number of sheets produced which do not conform to the normal production of the stamps. I have conducted a survey amongst the Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies of Great Britain, North America, The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark as well as the Postal Museum, Prague, but I could not obtain any meaningful data.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - THE ALLEGORY ISSUES 1920 - 1926

Background to the Issues

When the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed, Czechoslovakia gained independence on 28 October 1918.

No sooner had the first stamps for the new country been released on 8 December 1918 than the stamp issuing authorities wanted a new issue to commemorate the First Anniversary of Independence.

A competition was held for artists to submit suitable designs for the new stamps. Approximately 100 entries were received and on 24 January 1919 the winners were announced. Eight designs were chosen and a ninth was commended. These designs were produced in a miniature sheet with additional designs by Alfons Mucha.



*Competition entries
printed as a miniature
sheet.*

The winners received cash prizes but it was decided that the designs, when reduced to stamp size, were too detailed to convert well into stamps.

As a result a second competition was held on 18 June 1919. The winner was Vratislav Hugo Brunner with the design of Czechoslovakia breaking the chains to freedom. It is known as the Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic and the date of independence 19²⁸18 appeared on the left hand side of the design. Brunner received the first prize but the design was not chosen for the anniversary set as it was regarded as too futuristic. It is shown here with other essays in the competition.

*Chainbreaker essay with two other
essays from the competition
submitted by J Benda.*



Background to the Issues



Trial printing of five designs from the competition including the Chainbreaker. The President Masaryk stamp in the 1000 haler denomination was issued on 7 March 1920

In 1920 a new definitive issue was required and the Ministry of Posts looked again at the Chainbreaker design. Prominent artists, including Brunner, were invited to submit designs on an allegorical theme. This resulted in three designs being chosen, the *Dove* by Jaroslav Benda, a modified design of the *Chainbreaker* with the date omitted by Vratislav Brunner and *Agriculture and Science* by Jacob Obrovský. A fourth design was required so the *Hussite Priest* by Alfons Mucha was used to complete the set. The stamps were issued progressively from 1 June 1920 to 1 May 1926 and the Agriculture and Science design was redrawn and reissued in 1923. The Dove design outlived all the other designs, the last four values being demonetised on 15 March 1932. During the period of use some values underwent a colour change and postal rates increased which necessitated new values being issued and redundant values withdrawn.

There was no government printer so the Czech Graphics Union was chosen to print the stamps. Although it was the best equipped printing firm in the Republic, there was a complete lack of personnel experienced in the production of postage stamps. It was a matter of trial and error as to which method of production would best produce the quantities required. Trials with colours and perforation had to be conducted. There was also the consideration that the stamps had to be produced as quickly as possible which resulted in printing flaws. These facts combined to make this issue worthy of study.



The Dove



Chainbreaker



Hussite Priest



Agriculture & Science

The Dove

Jaroslav Benda submitted this design in the competition, consisting of a stylised dove with a letter in its beak.

Benda worked out the design in white on a dark blue background with the 2 as the denominator. The background had 6 large and 14 small stars and the values had inner lines.

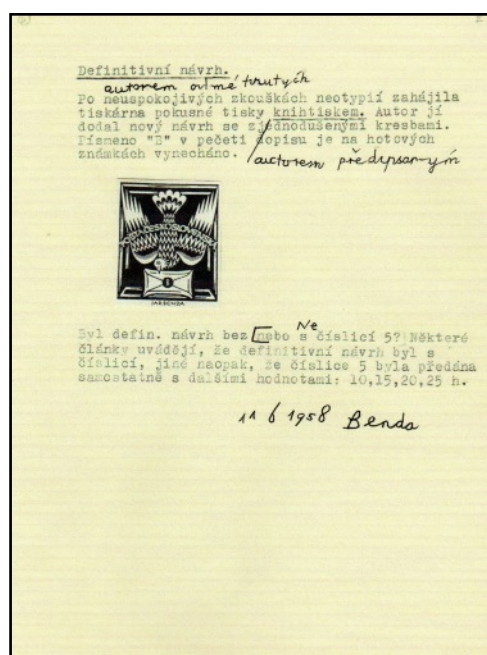
Printing trials demonstrated that modification of the design was necessary. The artist tidied up the image by removing the stars, simplifying the lower part of the wings and removing the inner lines from the values. He added the initial *B* for Benda to the seal on the envelope.



Early experimental trial in recess printing. The inner ribbon extends past the figures. This was shortened so it stopped above it. The 5 haler value being a single figure had the inner line extended to fill the space.



Die Proof on chalk paper in original design.



The last modification was to remove the *B* on the seal and add the artist's name *J A R Benda* in the centre below the bottom frame.

A draft of a catalogue page or part of an article (I have not been able to ascertain the publication) was sent to Benda for his comments. He has added these in pencil to the description of the illustration with the B in the seal, signed and dated it 11.6.1958

*Benda's handwritten notes
Scan enhanced*



Unfinished die in recess printing

The Dove

Stamp Issues

The Dove design was used for the low values in the series.

Six values were issued with the 5 and 10 halér appearing in two different colours. They were released and withdrawn in stages together with the other Allegory stamps. *See Appendix* The withdrawn values were demonetised immediately.

The 10 halér green, issued on 1 June 1920, was changed to olive on 23 November 1920. The reason for the change has not been documented, so far as I am aware, however the 25 halér released on 1 September 1920 was also green. The 10 halér green was not demonetised until 30 April 1921 so for a time both green stamps were valid.



The Dove stamps in their original colours

The 5 halér issued on 1 June 1920 was changed from blue to violet on 3 January 1921. Again this was probably done to avoid confusion with the blue 60 halér Chainbreaker, released on 15 October 1920. Although it was not the same design it meant there were two stamps the same colour in current use.

Surprisingly it was announced in the Ministry of Post and Telegraph Bulletin number 45 dated 22 April 1925 that there would be a second printing of the 5 halér blue. The stamp was reissued on 1 April 1926, the 60 halér Chainbreaker having been withdrawn on 15 January 1926. The stamp was valid in both colours until they were both withdrawn on 15 August 1928.



*The year (19)26
appears in the bottom
margin under stamp
100*

This internal postcard sent on 29 June 1926 at the 50 halér rate had the 5 halér stamp in both colours. The office of despatch indicated the 5 halér blue stamp was invalid and marked the card T10. On arrival at Brno a 10 halér postage due stamp was applied. The addressee refused to pay and endorsed it to the effect that the 5 halér stamp was valid. The post office removed the postage due and cancelled the charge.

The Dove

Printing of the Stamps

The stamps were printed typographically using etched plates. In the later years of production, these etched plates were used to form matrices from which electroplastic copies were taken and used as printing plates.

Numerals were pasted to the pattern which was photographed and a negative produced. A printing block was produced twice the size of the stamp. This was transferred to the face of a master printing block. One hundred black prints were made from the printing block and pasted together in ten rows of ten and appropriate tally numbers were affixed under the bottom row of stamps. This formed a paste-up about twice the size of the plate. An image of the paste-up was reduced to actual plate size on a glass photographic negative. The image was transferred photographically to a light sensitive chemical coating on a metal plate, and then following hardening in a chemical bath, the plate was etched. These were placed in a matrix of four panes.

Plate Markings

During the initial printings the plates had no marginal markings. From 1921 plates used contemporaneously with each other were given marks such as dashes in the control numbers at the foot of the sheet. From 1923 engraved vertical or horizontal numbers appeared within the stress bar. After 1924 set numbers in the left bottom corner and corresponding year numbers in the right bottom corner were employed. While some set/date identifiers had uniquely drawn figures or were associated with specific stress bar shapes and could be identified as belonging together, once separated many set/date identifiers are impossible to reunite authoritatively.



1927



1928

*The same set numbers appear more than once.
Different widths of stress bar.*



Set number with (19)24.

*After 1924 the year number appeared in the
bottom margin under stamp 100*



White circle and 4 in solid stress bar from 1923

The Dove

Printing Plates for Booklet Stamps (Tête-Bêche)

The advertising agency PIRAS offered to pay the entire cost of producing booklets providing it could use the interleaving sheets for advertising.

The original values to make up the booklet were 12 × 10 and 4 × 20 haler Dove with 12 × 50 haler Chainbreaker making a total value of 8 Krone.

Postal rates increased on 1 August 1920 therefore new values were prepared with 12 × 5 haler Dove, with 12 × 40 h and 6 × 60 haler Chainbreaker making the cost of a booklet 9 Krone.

New printing plates were prepared to produce the stamps tête-bêche. The existing plates were cut up to produce the matrix from which electroplastic copies were taken and used as printing plates.



This block is from a pane of 90 10 haler stamps. It was cut to form panes of 6 stamps, each with a selvedge for binding.

Both the 5 and 10 haler values had 90 stamp positions and 10 blank spaces arranged in three rows. The first three stamps were vertical, the next three tête-bêche then a further three vertical after a blank space.

The 20 haler printing plate had 60 stamps and 30 blank spaces in order to make up the correct values for the booklets. All tête-bêche sheets were perforated Line 13¾.



*This block is from a pane of 60, 20 haler stamps.
The pane was cut into blocks of 4 stamps with 2 blank coupons and a selvedge for binding.*

On 1 January 1922 the rates were raised yet again and for this reason the project was abandoned.

All the booklet stamps were put on sale at the Prague main post office and then countrywide as follows:

5 December 1921 5 and 10 haler Dove and 40 and 60 haler Chainbreaker
8 June 1923 20 haler Dove and 50 haler Chainbreaker



This is a strip of 5 haler stamps intended for booklets.

The Dove

Coil Issue

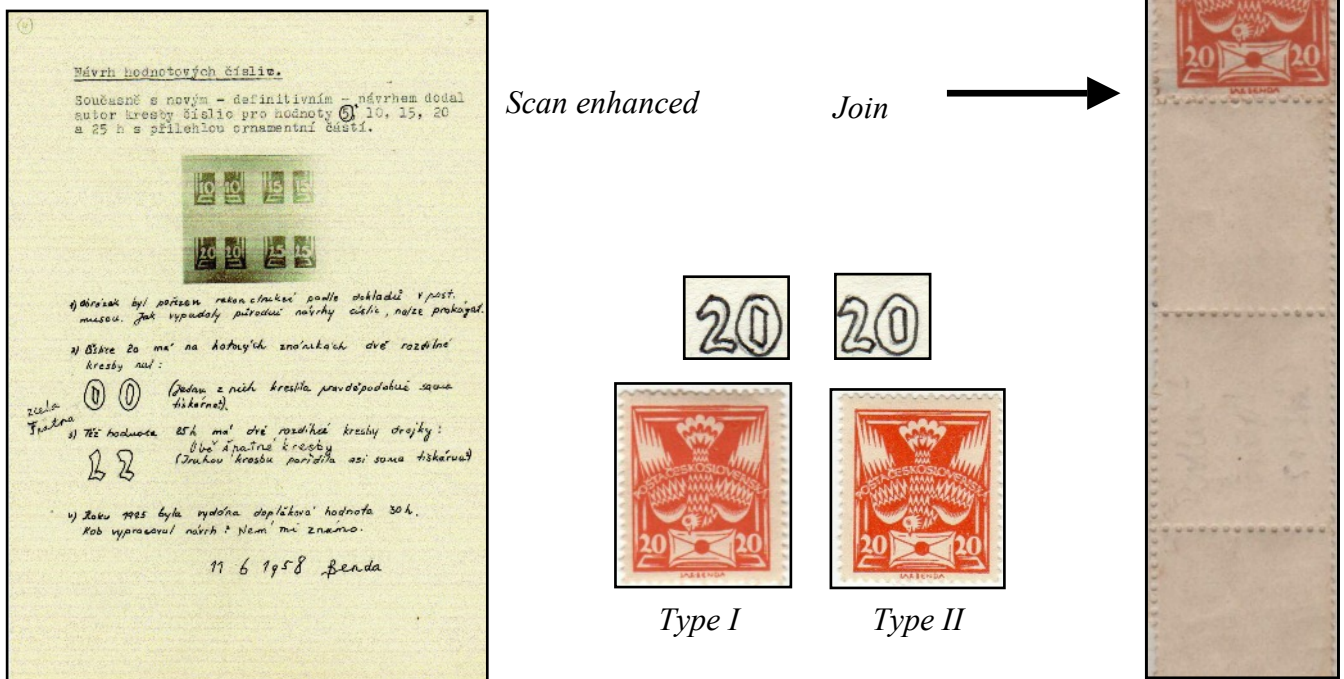
In a Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs Decree in Bulletin 98 dated 25 November 1922 it was announced that postage stamps bearing values 20 haler Dove and 50 and 100 haler Chainbreaker have been issued in coils. Each coil contained 50 stamps. Stamps in coils were used in vending machines and FLO-KA machines for affixing stamps on consignment documents.

The original printing plates were used and the stamps were cut into strips and pasted into bands that were rolled up. As the vending machines were not reliable the coils were withdrawn.

Stamp Types

The 20 haler had two types: Type I The inside of the 0 is angular at the top and bottom

Type II The inside is oval

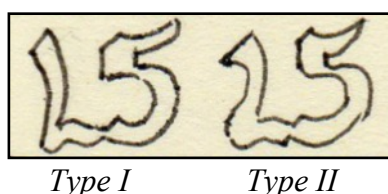


Page with drawings of the two types of the 20 and 25 haler and further comments by Benda which he has signed.

Benda was keen to ensure the numerals were in keeping with the design so he drew these himself for the values which were approved, 10, 15, 20 and 25 haler. However after six months the 2 of the 25 haler was replaced with a more traditional 2.

Type I Top of numeral points up

Type II Top of numeral points down



Type I

Type II



Type I



Type II

The Dove

Perforations

All values were produced with a comb perforation 14.

The 5 haler violet, 10 haler olive and 20 haler olive had line perforation 13¾ for the booklets.

In addition a few sheets were printed with line perforation in the normal sheet set up.

Unofficially the 5 haler blue, 10 haler green and 15 haler values were printed with line perforation 13¾. An unknown quantity fell into the hands of collectors. They are not known used.



Strip of 4 10 haler stamps as a strip of 4 must be from a normal sheet perf. Line 13¾.

Horizontal Comb Perforation

This is found on the 5 haler violet and 10 haler olive. The normal comb perforation was made by the perforating machine moving from top to bottom and on occasion bottom to top. The eleventh strike perforated the bottom or the top margin and the other margins has no perforation. With the horizontal comb perforation the perforating machine moved from left to right or from right to left. This occurred when the half sheet, ie the double pane, was rotated 90° before being inserted into the perforating machine. When looking at the sheet in the upright position the last hole fell in the top or bottom margin. The first strike of the perforating comb began on the left or right margin and the eleventh strike ended in the opposite margin.



Perforation Line 13¾



Horizontal comb perforation. One perforating hole in the top or bottom margin.



Normal perforation extends into bottom margin.

The Dove

Trial Prints

Typographical prints were made of the original design with the numeral 2 and stars in a variety of colours.

In addition the 5, 10 and 15 haler were recess printed. Trial prints were also line perforated 11½ and exist mainly as singles.

Colour trials were carried out on all values except the 30 haler. The 30 haler was not produced until 20 May 1925 as that rate was served by a Chainbreaker stamp issued on 22 June 1920.



Original design with numeral 2



Recess printed trial prints



Trial perforation II



Colour trial with Type I of the 25 haler with the top pointing up.



Colour trial Type II Rounded centre to 0



Type I with top of 2 pointing up and Type II with the top pointing down

Imperforate Stamps

Small quantities of sheets of all values, except the 30 haler, were produced but not officially issued.

Black Prints

Black prints exist in all values except the 30 haler, some as unfinished printing dies. The early printing of the black print of the 20 haler had a wide 0 in the numeral block. After the trial prints were reviewed this numeral was rejected and replaced with a normal 0.



Black print with wide 0 on unfinished printing die (left) and with replaced 0 (right)



Black print 25 haler Type I with top of 2 pointing up

The Dove

Usage

The rates were constantly changing, but not always increasing, so that by the time some of the values went on sale they no longer covered a rate.

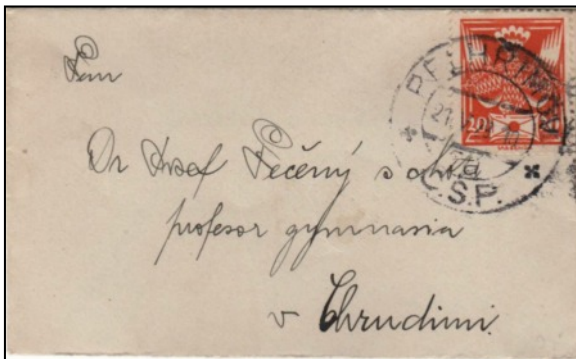
Examples of printed matter rates covered by a single stamp are shown below.



Internal Printed Matter
10 haler green
1 August 1920 to 30 April 1921



10 haler olive
23 November 1920 to 31 December 1921



Internal Printed Matter
20 haler
1 January 1922 to 30 April 1923 and
1 August 1926 to 15 March 1932



Foreign Printed Matter
25 haler
1 September 1920 to 31 December 1921



Internal Partial Printed Matter i.e. with added manuscript markings
30 haler
1 August 1926 to 15 August 1928

The Dove

Usage

District Court Cards

District Court Reply Cards had unusual rates. The respondent had to attach a 5 haler stamp if the card was mailed from within the Court's postal delivery district but if posted outside that area it was postage free.

This is explained in the text on the verso of the card. The card used in 1921 has the 5 haler rate inserted where as the card used in 1923 left the amount of postage required blank. Clearly a rate change was anticipated.

Shown here are two cards both posted within the Court's delivery district with the 5 haler stamp in both colours.



Zur Nachricht. Zur Antwort kann diese Karte benutzt werden. Wenn sie im Postbestellbezirke des Gerichtes aufgegeben wird, so muß sie mit einer 5-Heller-Marke versehen sein. Sonst ist sie portofrei.

Reply half of a Court Card received by the Court on 13 June 1921



Zur Nachricht. Zur Antwort kann diese Karte benutzt werden. Wenn sie im Postbestellbezirke des Gerichtes aufgegeben wird, so muß sie mit einer 5-Heller-Marke versehen sein. Sonst ist sie portofrei.

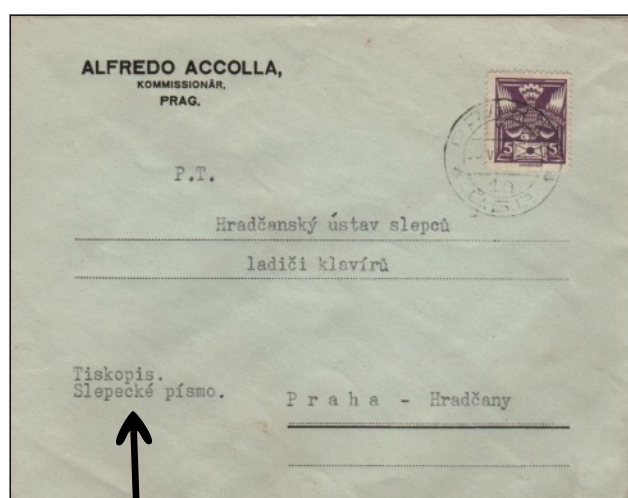
Reply half of a Court Card mailed on 15 April 1923

Concessionary Internal Rate for the Blind

The 5 haler stamp could be used on letters up to 100 g. From 1 January 1922 to 15 March 1932.



Cover addressed in raised letters using the conventional alphabet.



*Slepecké pismo = blind letter
Cover addressed to the Hradcany Blind Institute.*

The Dove

Madagascar Cachet on UPU Presentation Stamps

The Czech Postal Authority, in common with other Universal Postal Union postal authorities, sent current mint stamps to the UPU at Berne who sent copies, usually in a strip of three, to other countries within the UPU. The stamps, which were sent to Madagascar, were mounted on folio sheets and a red cachet applied.



VALEURS POSTALES REÇUES PAR CIRCULAIRE DU BUREAU DE BERNE								
NUMÉRO D'ORDRE	PUISSANCE QUI A ÉMIS la valeur postale	PAYS DANS LEQUEL sera utilisée la valeur postale	NATURE de LA VALEUR POSTALE	SOMME de chaque des valeurs postales	VALEUR FACIALE de chaque des valeurs postales	SI LA VALEUR POSTALE EST OBTENUE par une surcharge		VALEUR POSTALE ORIGINALE ou annulée par une surcharge
						NATURE et valeur faciale de la figurine surchargee	AUTRES indications figurant à la surcharge	

Heading to Folio Sheet



All the values were sent, apart from the 20 haler and the 5 and 10 haler in the changed colours which have not been seen.

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

The Origin of the Design

The design by Vratislav Hugo Brunner which won the stamp competition for a suitable stamp to celebrate the first anniversary of independence was symbolic of the occasion. The allegorical figure of *Czechoslovakia* breaking the chains to freedom united the Czech and Slovak regions by including the mountains of Říp on the left hand side to represent the Czechs and Kriváň on the right side for the Slovaks.



Original design with date and lined background.



Date removed

*Miniature sheets with two sizes of image:
22.6×27.2 mm and 18.5×22 mm*

In another competition for stamps with an allegorical theme, Brunner modified the design by removing the date of independence and submitting two variations, one with a lined background which was his original intention, and the other with a plain background.



Lined background

Believed to be the only strip which has remained intact.

The space left by the removal of the date spoilt the symmetry of the design and the space was filled with a second denomination. The initials of the artist VHB were added under the bottom frame.



Denomination repeated. Lined and plain background

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Final Design for the Issued Stamp

The initials of the artist VHB were added under the frame.

The 25 haler stamp had a lined background and was the first of this design to be issued on 18 June 1920. The remaining denominations had a plain coloured background the 20 and 30 haler values being the first to be released on 22 June 1920. The design was modified before further stamps in the series were produced. The size of the initials was enlarged and the fingers on the left side were made slimmer.



Diagrams showing the modification of the design

Stamp Issues

Ten values were issued which were released and withdrawn at intervals together with the other Allegory stamps. (*See Appendix*) As with the Dove design there was a change of colour. The 50 haler was issued in red on 17 September 1920 although the 20 haler, issued three months earlier on 22 June 1920, was also red. It is assumed that the change of colour of the 50 haler to green on 23 January 1921 was to prevent confusion. However the 20 haler red was demonetised on 30 April 1921, shortly after the green stamp appeared. The 50 haler red continued to be valid until 14 February 1923 so both colours were in use simultaneously for just over two years.

On the day the 50 haler red was demonetised the 150 haler was issued in red.



The issued stamps in the original colours.

Printing of the Stamps

The stamps were printed typographically by the Czech Graphic Union in Prague using the same methods which were employed for the Dove design.

Plate Markings

The plates were identified in the same way as the Dove design.



Plate marking used in 1923

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Printing Plates for Booklet Stamps (Tête-Bêche)

The 40, 50 and 60 haler stamps were intended to be included in the booklets with the Dove stamps. The three values were printed in panes of 90.



Block intended for booklet panes Perf. Line 13¾



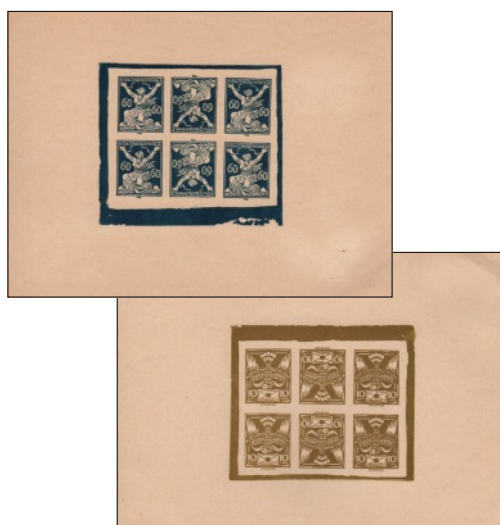
Perf. Line 13¾



Imperforate colour trials



Perf. Line 13¾



In 1935 imperforate counterfeits of tête-bêche stamps were prepared from plates produced photochemically. All the tête-bêche values were counterfeited.



60 haler stamps intended for booklets. Nemecký Brod to Malmo, Sweden, 15 May 1922 Foreign Letter rate 250 haler Registration 250 haler. Stamps to the value of 130 haler plus 125 haler on the face and balance on reverse.

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Stamp Types

The 40 haler joined types

Type I is the same as every other denomination in that it has nine leaves in the sprig of leaves on the right hand side. Type II has ten leaves although the tenth leaf is really a white blotch. The 30 haler was used as a base for the new denominations to be pasted over the 30. The original printing left part of the 3 visible which became the extra leaf. This original printing became Type II although it was printed before Type I. The intended design became Type I. Before the later printings were made the printer either filled in the area of the extra leaf or scraped the extra leaf from the glass negative.



Type I
9 leaves



Type II
10 leaves



On plate 5 position 96 the tenth leaf was not removed creating joined types, that is stamps of both types I and II together in different combinations.



Position 95 Type I, 96 Type II, and 97 Type I
Drnolec to Vienna
Reduced Postcard rate to Austria 120 haler.

*Illustrated in Vzácnost A Zajímavosti Československých Známek
(Rare and Beautiful Czech Stamps) Page 79*

One of three known covers to date

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

The 150 haler joined types

The paste-up was made from three printing blocks. In making two of these a variation of the image occurred. Type I is the standard design. Type II has a coloured line at the upper end of the shading on Mt. Říp. Type III has a nick in the upper part of the leaf under the right hand numeral. The variations were transferred to the glass negative from the paste-up and therefore every plate was the same. This resulted in joined types I + II, I + III and II + III.



Type I

Type III



Type I

Type III



3 Types shown in a block of 4.
Plate position 37-38, 47-48

Type II



Type II

Type I



Type III

The 50 haler type

When compared with the design of the rest of the series this denomination has a characteristic difference, the three peaks of Mt. Kriváň, the right hand peak is lower than on the other stamps.



Standard peak



Lower peak

Retouches

The 50 haler red plates were used to print the 50 haler green denomination. Consequently the egg in lap flaw appears in plate position 39 in both colours. The flaw was retouched on the 50 haler green perforation 14 only. The first four plates were retouched resulting in four varieties. The non-printed area had metal or some other substance poured onto it, which was then ground down and engraved with the missing part of the image.



Egg in Lap Flaw



Retouch A



Retouch B



Retouch C



Retouch D



Two 50 haler stamps with the flaw
The Internal Letter rate of 100 haler.

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Moving Sunspot Varieties

The flaw was due to some foreign body, probably a clot of ink, adhering to the plate during all or part of one printing run and moving slightly during the printing.



Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Perforations

All values were produced with a comb perforation 14.

As with the Dove design stamps, $13\frac{3}{4}$ line perforation was used for the panes perforated for the booklets. Some sheets of 100 stamps for the 40 haler, both types, the 50 haler green, the 60, 100 and 150 haler were also perforated $13\frac{3}{4}$ line.



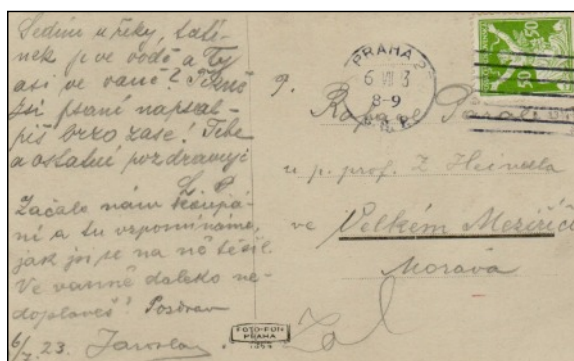
Type I



Type II from plates 7 and 8



From plates 7 and 8 which had low usage



Stamps from the sheets perforated line $13\frac{3}{4}$

Horizontal Comb Perforations

In the same way as the Dove design had a few sheets of two values perforated with horizontal comb perforation 14 (see page 12) a few sheets of the 40 haler Type I and the 60 haler were also perforated in this manner.



Type I from both plates



Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Imperforate Sheets

Small quantities of sheets of all values including both types of the 40 haler were printed but not officially issued. There was an exception with a small number of the 40 haler Type II because, for an unknown reason, they were on sale at the postal windows in Pardubice. They were posted through the postal system in the normal way.



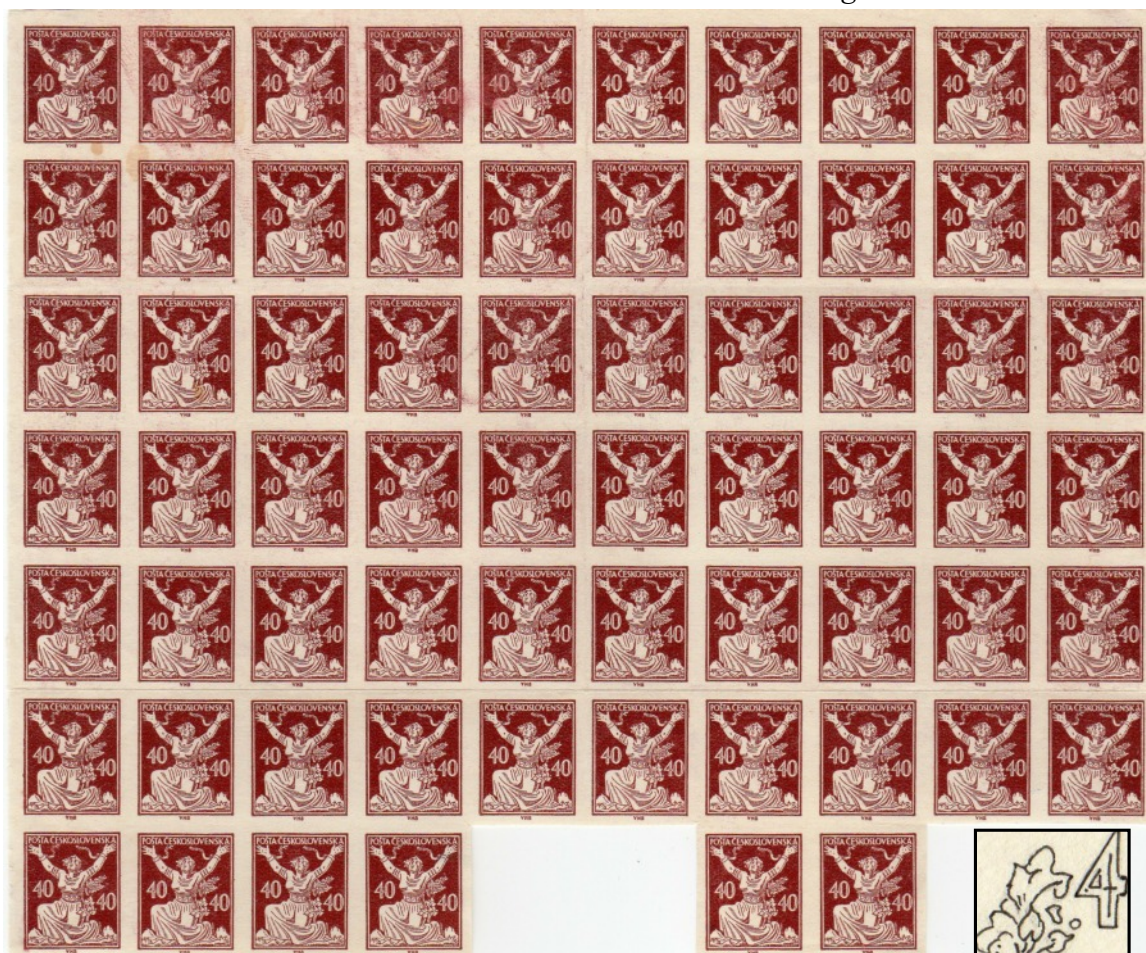
Type I Nine leaves



Imperforate Colour Trials in issued colours



*40 haler Type II imperforate used at the post office at Pardubice.
Internal Letter rate 60 haler Registration 125 haler*



Imperforate block of 66 stamps Type II

*Position 60 Plate 2
Malformed 3 top leaves*

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

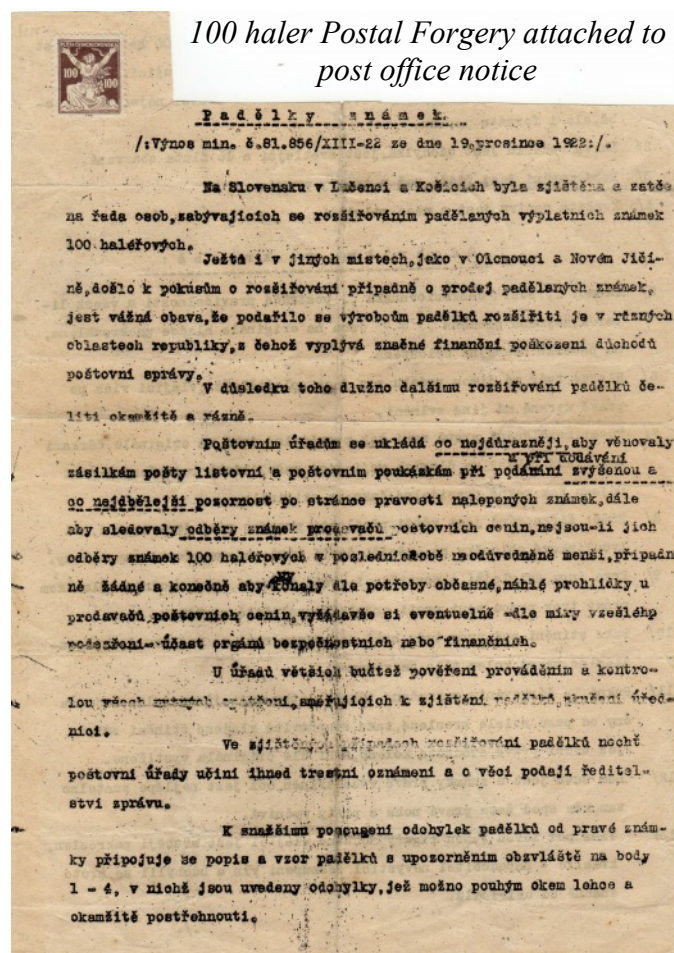
Forgeries

The typographical process used to print the stamps was not difficult to forge. The 100 haler was forged to defraud the post office and was found at Košice and Lucenec and were thought to have been created in Hungary. The reproduction of the stamps was good but the perforation was 11½ instead of 14 so it was easy to detect. Notices were printed listing the differences in the stamp design and distributed to post offices. This forgery was quickly detected by the postal security authorities and no used example is known.

Stamp forgeries to defraud collectors were made of the 40, 50 and 60 haler denominations which were produced in blocks of six as tête-bêche pairs. (See page 19)

Postal Stationery

Postal stationery was produced using stamp printing blocks which had been used to print the stamps. However, special printing blocks were made for the pneumatic postal stationery cards in 140 and 160 haler which values did not feature in the definitive issue.



Colour trials



Composite trial sheet of the two denominations made for the Pneumatic postal cards.

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Usage

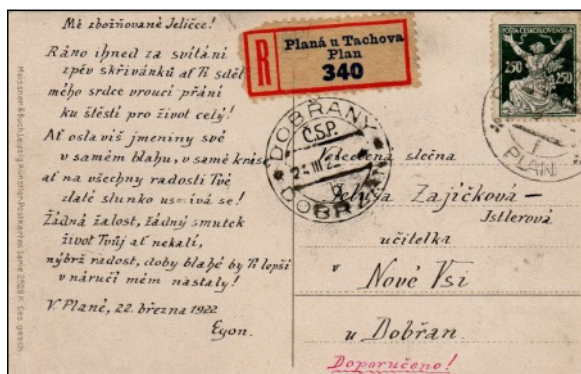
Examples where the rate was covered by a single stamp are shown below. In some instances the period of use for a single stamp lasted only a few weeks before it was demonetised.



Internal Postcard Rate

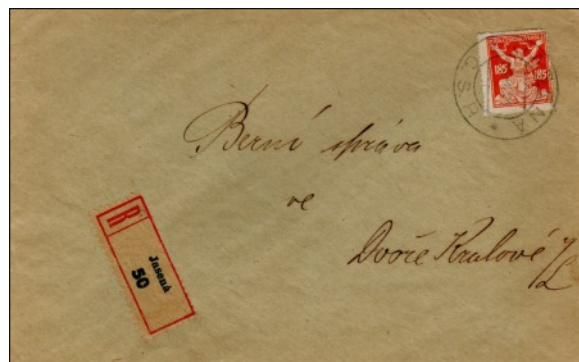
When the 20 haler stamp was issued on 22 June 1920 it covered this rate. The rate increased to 40 haler on 1 August 1920 so the use of the single 20 haler stamp **lasted for 40 days only**.

The 40 haler rate was replaced by the 50 haler rate on 1 January 1922.



Internal Registered Postcard

The Foreign Postcard rate was 50 haler and the Registration fee 200 haler so the 250 haler stamp covered the rate from 1 January 1922 to 14 February 1923



Internal Registered Letter

The Internal Letter rate was 60 haler and the Registration fee 125 haler so the 185 haler stamp covered the rate from 17 September 1920 to 31 December 1921

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Usage



30 haler



60 haler



100 haler

Internal Letter Rate

When the 30 haler stamp was issued on 26 June 1920 it covered this rate.

On 1 August 1920 the rate increased to 60 haler so the use of the single 30 haler stamp lasted for 40 days only.

The 60 haler stamp was not issued until 15 October 1920 and it could be used for this rate until 31 December 1921.

On 1 January 1922 the rate was increased to 100 haler.



Internal Express Fee

100 haler covered this rate from 15 October 1920 to 14 February 1923.

100 haler stamp used for the Express fee when the card was forwarded because of the delay.



Foreign Printed Matter

There was no 25 haler rate when the stamp was released but it was this rate from 1 August 1920 until 30 April 1921

Chainbreaker or Liberated Republic

Madagascar Cachet on UPU Presentation Stamps



Egg in lap variety from position 39

All the values of the Chainbreaker series were sent to Madagascar including the 50 haler in both colours.

Hussite Priest

The Origin of the Design

The design of the Hussite Priest and Chalice was by Alfons Mucha and was submitted as an entry in the first competition for stamp designs.

The Hussite movement was named after its founder, Jan Hus, born in 1369. He was a reformer and fought against the clerical abuses of the time. He supported the teachings of Wycliffe and was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake in 1415.

It was a sensitive subject and the design was not popular among religious non-conformists and one of the major political parties.

Stamp Issues



Colour proofs in issued colours



Sheetlet with Czech Lion by V H Brunner which he entered in the first stamp design competition.

Two values were issued, 80 and 90 haler, on 1 June 1920. In view of the opposition to the design these values were chosen because their use was generally small. They were among the first values to be demonetised on 31 April 1921.

Printing of the Stamps

The stamps were printed by a form of photogravure, known as neotype. This was a specific process used by the Czech Graphic Union printers which was originated by the Czech inventor J. Klic.

Over 4 million stamps of each design were printed but because of the sensitive design only a few post offices received supplies. Large quantities were retained by the head post office in Prague from where they could be purchased up to 1935. For this reason covers with the stamps are not at all common.

Perforation

All the stamps were perforated line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Trial Prints

There were no black prints and only colour trials. Due to the unpopularity of the subject, drab colours purple and black, were selected.



Hussite Priest

Plate Identification

Four plates were used which were marked with the appropriate number in the margin under stamp 100.

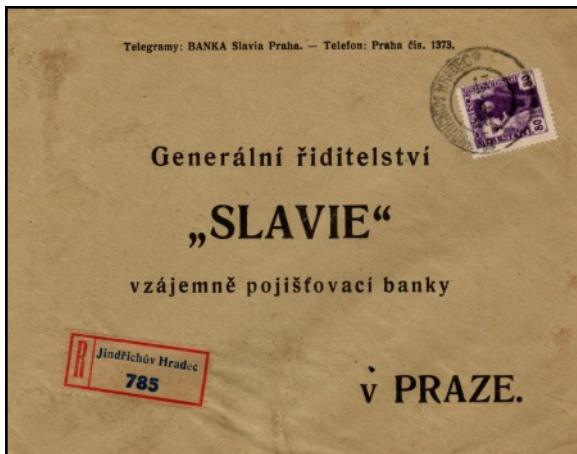


Plate 1



Plate 2

Usage



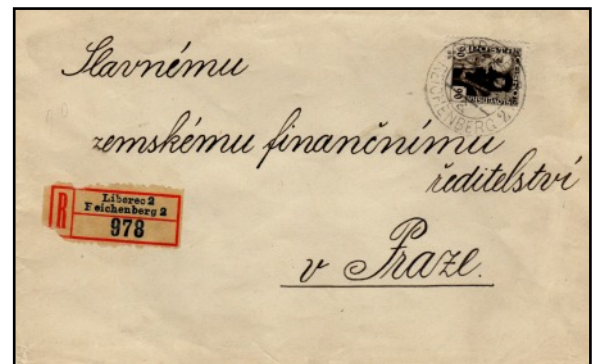
17 July 1920

80 haler

For **2 months** from the date of issue 1 June 1920 to 31 July 1920 it was the rate for Internal Registered Letters.

Internal Letter rate 1st 20 g. 30 haler

Registration 50 haler = 80 haler



20 June 1920

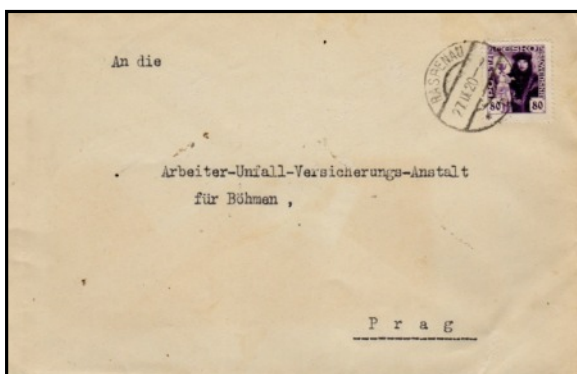
90 haler

During the same period of **2 months** each additional 20 g. was 5 haler.

This is a third step Internal Registered Letter.

Internal Letter rate 40 haler

Registration 50 haler = 90 haler



27 September 1920

The Internal Letter rate was increased to 60 haler on 1 August 1920.

From then until 30 April 1921 the 80 haler stamp can be found as a single stamp covering the rate for an Internal Letter second step.

Internal Letter rate 30 haler additional 20 g. 20 haler = 80 haler



Madagascar Cachet on UPU Presentation Stamps

Agriculture and Science or Husbandry and Knowledge

Origin of the Design

The design was submitted to the second competition for definitive stamps sponsored by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph. The artist was the painter Jacob Obrovský.

The drawing's central theme is an allegorical male figure gazing upon an open book representing science and culture. In his left arm is a sheaf of grain, under which is a sword decorated with a laurel symbolising preparation for defence linked with peaceful economic development.

Stamp Issues

The design was chosen initially for the high values, 100 to 600 halér. They were issued two values at a time. The two lower values were demonetised in 1921 after only ten and a half months probably because of the similarity of the colours with the two highest values.

The remaining values remained in use until 1923 when three of the values were redrawn. (See Appendix)



Printing of the Stamps

Original intention was to print the stamps by photogravure and proofs were prepared. However this technique could not quickly and economically support the large production run needed for these commonly used values so once again the typographical printing process was employed using the Czech Graphic Union printers.

Draft I was prepared with the denomination 100 halér. The numerals 200, 300 and 400 were pasted over the value tablet, either as a complete number or using individual digits. Traces of the edges of the pasted numerals were not always removed during the hasty preparation of the stamps.



Photogravure trials from an unfinished printing block.

The four values were printed tête-bêche.

Line under the '40'



These printing blocks, although not considered a success were used to produce trial prints combined with other values current at the time: the Dove, Chainbreaker and the T G Masaryk portrait in small format. They were in two formats which differ from one another in the placement of the Agriculture and Science and the Dove and Chainbreaker designs which were inverted. (Illustration on page 32)

The combined prints were produced on various gummed papers in several colours.

The results failed to meet the printer's requirements and they were not willing to compromise their reputation as they wanted to maintain their monopoly for printing Czechoslovak stamps.

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Trial I

Trial prints with other values and designs.

New printing blocks were prepared, probably in copperplate, bearing the denomination 100. The engraving was done by the head engraver, Jaroslav Goldschmidt, and excellent prints were taken from the engraving.



Prints taken from Copperplate Engravings

Groups of five stamps were printed as proofs with the 100 halér appearing twice with a lined as well as a solid background. The lined background was not used. This was Trial II.

Trial II



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Finally a copy of the original engraving with the solid background was made to which the artist's name, J. Obrovský, was added. This became Trial III.

These three trials can be distinguished by differences in the white lines representing the pages of the book at the left hand side.



Trial I Four white lines suggest the pages; white spot below second line from the left.

Trial II Five white lines suggest the pages; white dot under leftmost line.

Trial III Four white lines suggest the pages; artist's name at bottom left.

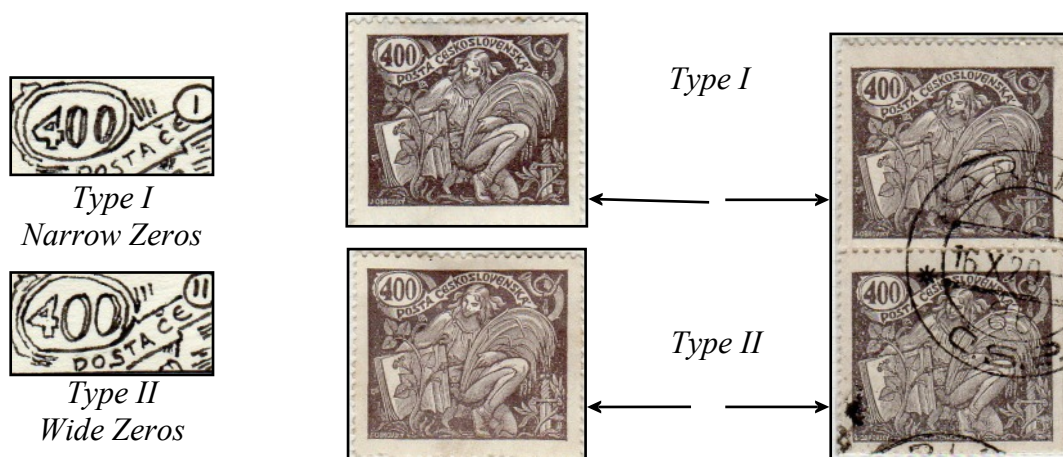
The plates reproduced electrochemically, produced excellent prints. The material used for the plates was relatively soft copper and the plates frequently wore out. When a need arose for 500 and 600 haler denominations the printers returned to the faster, less effective, typographic printing method.

The printers etched the numerals 600 into the blank value tablet of one copy of the 100 haler that had no artist's name. The printing block for the 500 haler was produced from an electrochemical copy of the 600 haler.



The 400 haler Joined Types

A label imprinted with narrow zeros was pasted onto the original photograph. After inspecting the trial prints it was decided to alter the numerals to wide zeros. The corrective action involved considerable work and the results were not always satisfactory therefore the task was abandoned before completion.



Since the plates were constructed with ten, ten-cliché strips of either Type I or Type II, pairs combining the two types exist but only in the vertical format.

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Perforations

The normal perforation was line $13\frac{3}{4}$. The 300, 500 and 600 haler were also issued with comb perforation $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.



Comb Perforation $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$

Imperforate Stamps

Small quantities of sheets of all values were produced imperforate but not officially issued.



Type II Wide zeros

Colour Trials

Colour trials were carried out on all values.



Black Prints

Black prints exist in all values.



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Usage

Examples where the rate was covered by a single stamp are shown below.



Foreign Reduced Letter Rate
100 haler paid the letter rate up to 20 g. to certain neighbouring countries, of which Croatia was one.
The rate lasted for the period the stamp was valid from 17 June 1919 to 30 April 1921.

Cover dated 22 July 1920



Internal Registered Letter Rate
300 haler paid the internal letter rate of 100 haler plus the Registration fee of 200 haler for the period 1 January 1922 until after the stamp was demonetised on 14 February 1923.

Cover dated 16 XI 32 (year transposed) which was 10 months after the stamp was demonetised but no penalty payable.



Internal Registered Express Letter
400 haler paid the internal letter rate of 100 haler plus the Registration fee of 200 haler and the express fee of 100 haler. The rate was in force from 1 January 1922 and remained at that rate after the stamp was demonetised on 14 February 1923.

Cover dated 2 December 1923



Foreign Registered Letter Rate
500 haler paid the Foreign Letter rate of 250 haler plus the Registered fee of 250 haler. The rate was in force 1 January 1922 and remained at that rate after the stamp was demonetised on 14 February 1923.

Tomsk, Russia 1 December 1922.



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Madagascar Cachet on UPU Presentation Stamps



Type I

Type II

Type I



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The 1923 Issue

The design was redrawn by Jacob Obrovský and three denominations, 100, 200 and 300 haler were issued in January and February 1923 in different colours from the originals. The 100 and 200 haler issued in 1920 had been withdrawn on 30 April 1921 and the 300 haler of that issue, together with remaining values, were withdrawn two weeks after the new stamp appeared.

The official reason as to why the three values were redrawn and reissued has not been disclosed. The most convincing theory is that the artist was dissatisfied with the way his original design was converted into a stamp. He removed the heavy shading and revised the drawing of the post horn in the upper right corner to provide a mouth piece.

Stamp Types and Perforations

There were 3 distinctive types and two perforations, line $13\frac{3}{4}$ and comb $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. The 100 haler is the only denomination which has all 3 types in both perforations.

Type I



Left leaf: vein touches the top

Triangle stops at stalk

'P' has small protrusion

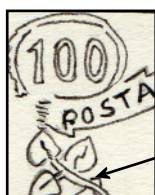
Line perf. $13\frac{3}{4}$



Comb perf.
 $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$



Type II



Right leaf: vein resembles a bayonet

Triangle continues

'P' has small protrusion



Type III



Left leaf: vein broken

Triangle continues

No protrusion to 'P'



In Type III the 1 in the value tablet is slanted at the foot



The 200 haler value does not exist in Type I

Line perf. $13\frac{3}{4}$



Type II

Comb perf.
 $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$



Type III



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Stamp Types

Type I



Type II



Type III



Line perf.

Type I Comb perf. Does not exist

Comb perf.

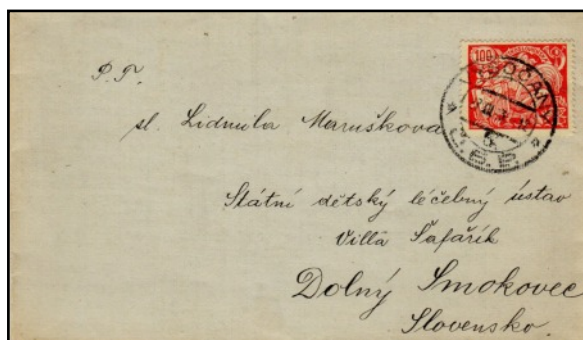
Type IIIa in a block with Type III Line perf.

Sub Type IIIa Comb perf.

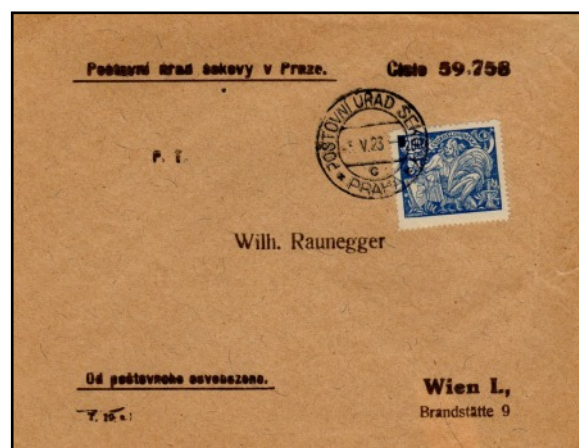
This is a printing difference and the right hand leaf is a Type II with the vein resembling a bayonet.

This subtype is referred to as Type IV in Zampach et al. *Hospodářství a Věda 1923* but actually it is a printing variation.

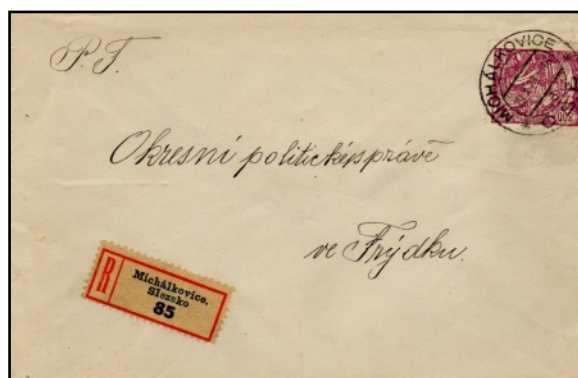
Usage



Internal Letter Rate
100 haler paid the first 20 g
24 January 1923 to
15 January 1926



Reduced Foreign Letter Rate
200 haler from 24 February 1923 to
15 January 1926. Cover to Austria



Internal Registered Letter
300 haler paid the internal
letter rate of 100 haler plus
200 haler registration fee.
24 February 1923 to
15 January 1926

Appendix: Timetable for the Issue and Withdrawal of the Allegories Issue

The denomination column is arranged in the order in which the stamps were issued.

Denomination	Dove	Chainbreaker	Hussite Priest	Agriculture & Science
5 haler blue	1 June 20 - 30 April 21			
10 haler green	1 June 20 - 30 April 21			
80 haler			1 June 20 - 30 April 21	
90 haler			1 June 20 - 30 April 21	
15 haler	5 June 20 - 15 Mar 32			
100 haler				17 June 20 - 30 Apr 21
200 haler				17 June 20 - 30 Apr 21
25 haler		18 June 20 - 30 Apr 21		
20 haler		22 June 20 - 30 Apr 21		
30 haler		22 June 20 - 15 Jan 26		
300 haler				23 June 20 - 14 Feb 23
400 haler				23 June 20 - 14 Feb 23
40 haler		16 Aug 20 - 15 Jan 26		
500 haler				24 Aug 20 - 14 Feb 23
600 haler				24 Aug 20 - 14 Feb 23
25 haler	1 Sept 20 - 15 Mar 32			
50 haler red		17 Sept 20 - 14 Feb 23		
185 haler		17 Sept 20 - 14 Feb 23		
60 haler		15 Oct 20 - 15 Jan 26		
100 haler		15 Oct 20 - 14 Feb 23		
250 haler		15 Oct 20 - 14 Feb 23		
10 haler olive	23 Nov 20 - 15 Mar 32			
5 haler violet	3 Jan 21 - 15 Aug 28			
20 haler	3 Jan 21 - 15 Mar 32			
50 haler green		23 Jan 21 - 15 Jan 26		
150 haler		10 Apr 22 - 14 Feb 23		
30 haler	20 May 25 - 18 Aug 28			
5 haler reissue	1 May 26 - 15 Mar 32			
100 haler redrawn				24 Jan 23 - 15 Jan 26
200 haler redrawn				24 Jan 23 - 15 Jan 26
300 haler redrawn				1 Feb 23 - 15 Jan 26

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Various articles in *Czechout* and *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, the journals of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of GB and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. respectively.

