



# Czechoslovakia 1918-1939

## Philatelic Interests and Rarities

The aim of the exhibit is to show the rarities and attractions of Czechoslovak postage stamps in their most comprehensive form and mutual relations, including their use in the postal service in the period starting with the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state on October 28, 1918, through territorial changes in the early twenties of the 20th century and in October 1938, until the breakup of Czechoslovakia in the middle of March 1939.

Although this period lasted only two decades, many postal and historical as well as philatelic points of interest were created at that time.

What is also notable is a dynamic development of printing techniques, especially when one realizes that in 1918 a new state did not have any experience with publishing and production of stamp stationeries: from wood engraving designs of "Hradčany" by engraver Jindřich Schmidt, through gradually improving typography whose initial imperfections are the reason for many plate and printing errors; gravure printing known under the trade name "neotypia"; tests of copper-plate printing; and finally die-stamping. Marginal use of lithographic printing and embossing must not be forgotten, either.

The exhibit is also a reminder of the work of famous authors, artists and engravers of postage stamps. Therefore, it presents examples of works by Alphons Mucha, Eduard Karel, Max Švabinský, Jakub Obrovský, Jaroslav Goldschmied, Bohumil Heinz, Karl Seizinger and other eminent artists, whose artistic work is not limited only to postage stamp design.

When preparing an exhibit, in addition to already known and thus adopted information I have used my own research findings, some of them yet unpublished.

Individual issues are arranged chronologically and the process of their creation is documented – starting with competitions announced by the issuer, through preparatory and trial prints, to the production of final issues; this all with the emphasis on rare specimens and their postal use if known. The greatest emphasis is naturally placed on the two most comprehensive issues: **Hradčany (the Prague Castle)** and **Pošta československá 1919 (Czechoslovak Post 1919)**; both also offer the greatest opportunities for collection for studying purposes and permanent research.

The exhibited material is part of an extensive specialized collection, is in perfect quality, and its authenticity is verified by renowned Czechoslovak and world experts, in most cases including the issuance of certificates of authenticity. Due to the rarity of the exhibited material, only unique exhibits (U), extraordinary rarities with occurrence up to 10 pieces (RRR) and very rare items with an expected occurrence up to 30 pieces (RR) are labelled with the degrees of rarity.

At the head of the most important items of the whole exhibit, there is the world-famous printing error of the **postage due stamp 50/50h** and the most valuable multiblock in the history of the Czechoslovak philately, the unique **block of 9 MAGYAR POSTA 20f**. Other extraordinary items from individual issues are, inter alia: **20h Hradčany**, block of 4, se-tenant spiral types; 15h, 25h, 50h preparatory prints from **Legionary** issue; a unique 2K block of 4, dark blue, wide format from **Czechoslovak Post 1919** overprint issue; a 5h express stamp with 4 overprinted blank fields and a semi no-overprinted blank field; newspaper stamps Merkur with plate marks and the entire set of postage due numbers ("black figures"), especially unique stamps in blocks of 4; the rarest Czechoslovak trial prints - **T.G.Masaryk 1925**, i.e. American print; 40/, the **Praha, Tatry 1926** issue includes postage stamps with vertical watermarks Wmk.1 and Wmk.4; **postage stamps 1928-1939** include vertical gutters with a right margin of CK 3.50 Křivoklát and CK 1 Nitra and postage due stamps include a unique 40/15h Hradčany stamp, compound perforation G and a not-issued stamp 50/400h Agriculture and Science in a block of 4.

### List of literature:

- Klečka, J. & Šubrt, B. (1919) - Český filatelista. Volume XXIV. Prague.
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- Karásek, J. et Col. (2000) - Vzácnosti a zajímavosti československých známek. Brno.
- Filípek, Z. (2011) - Weipert falzum. - Beneš, F. (2015) - Specializovaná příručka pro sběratele poštovních známek: Československo 1918-1939. Prague. - Klim, Štolfa, Filípek, Mádl et Col. (2016) - Specializovaný katalog známek a celistvostí Československo 1918-1939. Part II. Brno.