Wheatly

## DRAFT

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA: THE MASARYK 1920 & ALLEGORY ISSUES 1920 TO 1923

Scope and Purpose: The purpose of this exhibit is to show how the printers, Czech Graphics Union, used the Allegory and Masaryk issues to experiment with printing methods and perforations to improve their printing techniques and produce high quality stamps.

The Structure: The stamps of each design are analysed to show the printing methods:

Essays Proofs Specimens Varieties Issued stamps and Usage

Importance and Rarity: The importance of these issue is the fact that so many experiments were conducted. Rarity is demonstrated by the fact, that in several instances, only a small quantity of stamps was produced. During the period when these stamps were issues there were frequent rate changes; in some cases the values could only be used for their intended purpose for as little as eight weeks.

Background: The etched plates prepared for the countries first issues wore out quickly requiring labour intensive replacement involving several steps and the opportunity for faults. The replacement issues, the Allegories, and the Masaryk, demonstrate the printers grappling with solutions to those problems. The Chainbreaker and Dove used etched plates indirectly to create matrices capable of quickly providing multiple electroplated copies. The Agriculture & Science issue used individual dies so that a damaged matrix could be repaired easily and put back into service. The Masaryk issue used a quarter-plate matrix from which quadrants could be taken out and replaced. All these designs demonstrate a shift away from photographic towards matrix typography. The short lived Hussite Priest issue was the last attempt at printing better stamps. It was printed by rotogravure.

Items of the greatest importance have text in red.

Printing information for the issued stamps has text in blue.

Uncommon perforations are mounted on a black background.

## Plan:



Chainbreaker 10 values Frames 1.2 & 3



Dove 6 values Frames 4, part 5



Agriculture & Science 1920 and 1923 9 values Frames part 5, 6, part 7



President Masaryk 3 values Frame part 7, part 8



Hussite Priest 2 values Frame part 8

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