HRADČANY

POSTAL USE OF THE FIRST DRAWING

INTRODUCTION

This exhibit is the selection from a large collection of Hradčany covers, postal cards and forms. It is aimed to show the variability of postal use of the first Czechoslovak postage stamps — HRADČANY — particularly of their FIRST DESIGN (DRAWING) TYPE. During the validity period of Hradčany stamps, this type was in postal use for the longest time, namely in all postal rate periods. The first design type so provides the most variable postal use, including combinations with Austro-Hungarian withrunner stamps and other subsequent stamp emissions issued until the end of validity of Hradčany stamps, i.e., April 30, 1921. This applies in the most pronounced way to the first and second rate period with low fees for particular postal services and to franking and uprating of forms of Austrian or Hungarian origin and of postal stationery. The exhibit is organized according to rate periods and consists of three sections, the first two rate periods forming its major part.

The postal use of the first design type is focused mainly into the first rate period when its denomination range sufficiently covered the common postal rates either as single frankings both on forms in the first and second rate period and on postal cards and covers according to the actual rates in the individual periods, or as special surcharges as, e.g., for registered letters or special delivery.

FIRST DESIGN TYPE













The design by Alphonse Mucha shows the panorama of the Hradčany Castle with the St. Nicholas Church in Malá Strana in the foreground and two shrubbery groups in the bottom part. It is framed by linden sprigs and leaves, tagether with stylized hearts and doves. Text is placed along the left, top and right frame, the value in an oval in the bottom centre. This design type was used for the print of stamps with the values 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30 and 40 h.



SCHEDULE OF THE EXHIBIT:

Section 1 - first rate period

Page 1-35 Hradčany letter mail-domestic and near abroad

Page 36-41 international letter mail

Page 42-58 special use of the first design type and franked postal forms

Section 2 - second rate period

Page 59-99 domestic and international letter mail, uprated postal stationery, courier and insured letter mail

Page 100-110 special use of the second design type and franked postal forms

Section 3 - third and fourth rate period

Page 111-128 domestic and international letter mail and special use of the third design type

PAGE DESCRIPTION:

The heading of the page indicates the particular postal rate period and kind of mail shown. Explanation of postal system function related to shown covers and forms is given in the top part of the page. Description of the particular covers, postal cards and forms including applied postage, place of dispatch and recipient's address and also degree of item rarity are given below. Scarce items are marked * on the right.

LITERATURE:

Specialized catalogue of stamps and postal stationery of Czechoslovakia 1918 - 1939 Czechoslovak forerunner and withrunner stamps and postal stationery Monograph of Czechoslovak stamps No. 1 Karel Mezera - Franked postal forms of Austrian and Hungarian origin Škaloud, Hamr- Manual for collectors Hradčany 3 vol.

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