

Hradčany letter mail in the first postal rate period (Czechoslovakia 12/1918 - 05/1919)

Since 18th December 1918, when the first Czechoslovakian stamps with the Hradčany motif were issued, it was officially possible to pay for the postal charges not only with these new first edition stamps, but also, until 28th February 1919, with the Austro-Hungarian stamps. This short period that lasted about two and a half months was affected by the lack of concurrent stamps and shortage of materials for the printing of the new stamps, as well as the want of experience with their printing and distribution problems. It all affected the postal traffic and generated many uncommon or even rare combinations of Hradčany stamps with the concurrent stamps. In the first days of March some of the now invalid Hungarian stamps were still occasionally used to pay for postage in Slovakia, while Austrian stamps were used in the Czech lands mainly in the internal postal system. After expiry of Austro-Hungarian stamps the Postal rates remained the same until 14th May 1919. In this time AH postal stationeries issued previously still remained valid.

This exhibit offers the first comprehensive elaboration of given topic and has a major impact on the way of collecting and evaluation of entire covers of this kind and on the development of Czech and Slovakian philately.

Plan of the exhibit:

Exhibit presents the First Czechoslovak postage stamps of Hradčany on letters, postcards and printed matters (hereinafter referred to as letter mail) not only individually, but also in a variety of combinations with parallel Austrian and Hungarian stamps. There are represented letter mail with basic postal tariffs, registered, special delivery and more weighting rates. The same combination of stamps are often presented as domestic letter mail, as well as on letter mail to near abroad.

Own research consists in rating of frequency and rarity shown items which is contained in their descriptions. This exhibit forms part of the research input to articles link 1st reference.

The first period - selected postal tariffs	Rate			Surcharge				
	Letter to 20 g	Postcard	Printed matter to 50 g	Upper weight	Registration	Special delivery	COD (Cash on delivery)	Preferential treatment
domestic and near abroad	20 h	10 h	3 h	5 h per 20 g	25 h	60 h	10 h	2 h
international	25 h	10 h	5 h	5 h per 20 g	25 h	60 h	2 h per CZK 2	-

Time period I.A (18th December 1918 - 28th February 1919)

Part 1. - 18th December 1918 - 31st December 1918

Early use of the First Czechoslovak postage stamps Hradčany issue on letter mail.

All Letter mail are arranged chronologically. All days include Sundays are presented.

Part 2. - 1st January 1919 - 28th February 1919

Letters franking with the first issue separately and also in a variety of combinations with postage parallel Austro - Hungarian stamps. They are not arranged chronologically, but according to the type and nature of the shipments.

- A. > Letters - to 20 grams weight and other weight levels - basic tariffs valid for domestic and to near abroad, likewise to foreign countries.
- B.a > Registered letters - to 20 and up 20 grams weight - basic tariffs valid for domestic and to near abroad and to foreign countries.
- b > Special delivery letters - basic tariff valid for domestic and to near abroad.
- c > Registered, special delivery letters - domestic tariff.
- C.a > Letters franking with the first issue and Austrian special delivery stamps used as postage ones. Change of postage stamp function.
- b > Letter and postcards franking with the first issue and AH due and newspaper stamps used as postage ones.
- D. > Postcards - tariff and other rates.
- E. > Printed matters - basic tariff valid for domestic and to near abroad. Special delivery.

Time period I.B (1st March 1919 - 14th May 1919)

Part 3. - A. COD (cash on delivery) letters.

- B. Regular use of Hradčany issue on letter mail (including valid AH postal stationeries) after expiration of AH stamps.

The most significant items exhibited are shown thus: ®

References:

- Maleček J., Kapitoly z exponátu Jiřího Škalouda (The chapters from exhibit of Jiří Škaloud), časopis Filatelie 1 - 4, Praha 2013.
- Schödelbauer V., Rané použití hradčanských známek na celistvostech (Early use of the postage stamps Hradčany issue on letter mail), časopis Filatelie 12, Praha 1999.
- Specializovaný katalog známek a celistvostí (Specialist Catalogue of Postage Stamps and Covers), Československo (Czechoslovakia) 1918-1939, Merkur-revue s.r.o., Brno, 2002.

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