

T.G.Masaryk on Jubilee stamps 1923 and their overprint issues

Introduction of the Jubilee 1923 postal stamps, which was released on the occasion of the 5th Anniversary of independence of Czechoslovakia. This is the main goal of this exhibit. These stamps have been second edition with a portrait of T.G. Masaryk. Max Švabinský was an author of the portrait as well as in the first case.

This series has a number of specifics and several primacies in the history of Czechoslovak stamps. The first is the form of printing. The stamps were printed using a relatively complicated recess method of printing from flat plates. This original and revolutionary printing technology gave only minimal chances for plate flaws to occur. This was also the first time watermark paper was used (except for an overprint issue "Pošta Československá 1919" on Austrian and Hungarian stamps with a watermark). And thirdly, the glue. For the first time, glue was applied in two layers, of which the second layer is darker and was applied in the form of a grid with the ČSP monogram.

The stamps of this issue were sold with a 100% surcharge to their nominal value, and the profit from the sale was divided in various proportions among several Czechoslovak humanitarian organizations. The stamps had a quite limited period of validity from October 27th 1923 to December 31st 1923, which was extended twice until the end of February 1924.

The unsold stocks of printed Jubilee stamps were in 1925 or 1926 used for overprint issues on the occasion of the International Olympic Congress in Prague in 1925 and on the occasion of the VIII. Sokol Turnfest in 1926 in Prague. The overprint was also made by recess print from the flat plates and were sold with a 100% surcharge. The validity of both overprint issues was also very limited. In the case of the Congress reprint, the period was May 11th 1925 to June 30th 1925. For the reprint of the Sokol Turnfest the period of validity was set from June 1st 1926 to July 31st 1926.

From a collector's point of view, this is a very interesting but limited area in terms of stamp quantity. The short validity of all three issues and the 100% surcharge caused that there is a minimal amount of sent and at the same time non-philatelic motivated letters with an accurate postage. The recess print from flat plates gave an opportunity for only a limited number of significant plate flaws. Despite this fact, there were also a few attempts to forge stamps, glue and watermarks, as well as overprints on genuine stamps.

Exhibit Summary

1. **Jubilee edition stamps 1923**
 - a. watermarks types
 - b. production errors and printing plates types according to plate numbers
 - c. trial print and paper types
 - d. forgeries
 - e. postal usages - covers
2. **Olympic Congress stamps edition 1925**
 - a. watermarks types
 - b. production errors and printing plates types according to plate numbers
 - c. overprint forgeries, trials and their color variances
 - d. postal usages - covers
3. **VIII. Sokol festival stamps edition 1926**
 - a. watermarks types
 - b. production errors and printing plates types according to plate numbers
 - c. overprint variances
 - d. postal usages - covers