

THE CZECH SCOUT POST 1918



Cover of the National Committee directed to Karlín bearing both stamps of the Scout Service franked "N.V." and delivery mark with messenger and recipient signatures, but without the cds.

Introduction and Plan

During the first days of Independence of the Czechoslovak Republic (at the evening of 28th October 1918) an auxiliary Scout Post Service was created in Prague to assist the National Committee. The then Deputy Chief Scout and Member of the Government J. Rössler Orovsky offered in organizing this Service as well as in designing and printing suitable stamps and cancellations.

Between the 7th (official start of mail delivery) and the 25th November 1918 (last day), official correspondence from and to the Members of the National Committee, the Police, different organizations and government stations, as well as individual personalities was guaranteed a rapid, secure and discrete delivery made on foot or with a bicycle by the Sea Scouts having their Headquarters at the Czech Yacht Club, on Streletsky Island in the centre of Prague. Main destinations, apart of the National Committee's Headquarters at Harrachovský Palace, were the Ministry of Justice, the Prague Fortress, the Parliament and the Telegraph Office at the west bank of the Vltava river and the Rail Station, the Post and Telegraph Office and other places in the east bank.

The idea of printing Scout stamps was first put in September that year. On October 20th a design depicting the national character of the Service was adopted and 30000 stamps of the blue 10 H and 50000 of the red 20 H values plus 1000 pieces of a blue 10 H stationary forming all colours of the Czechoslovak flag were printed. They were engraved by J. Panenka and printed by Kolmar House, while the relevant postmarks and marks were made by Kármel & Kysely. All stamps were printed one by one, so there is no block or sheet in existence whatsoever. Both stamps (600 pieces each) were also overprinted "Arrival of President Masaryk" for that occasion.

A Introduction and Plan

B The Scout Postal Service Stamps

1-2 Errors, Varieties, Proofs and Forgeries

C The Scout Incoming Mail Delivery Service

- 1 Austrian Stamps mixed with 10 H on Cover
- 2 Austrian Stamps mixed with 20 H on Cover
- 3 Austrian without Scout Stamps on Cover

D The Scout Official Mail Delivery Service

- 1 10 H Tied by N.V. - Cds - Delivery Handstamps
- 2 10 H Tied by Cds - Delivery Handstamps
- 3 20 H Tied by N.V. - Cds - Delivery Handstamps
- 4 20 H Tied by Cds - Delivery Handstamps
- 5 10 H or 20H Tied by N.V. Handstamp
- 6 10 H or 20H Tied by N.V. Oval Handstamp

B. THE SCOUT POSTAL SERVICE STAMPS

To support of the Scout Post Delivery Service two values (10H and 20H) were issued

The regular issue (Nov. 7-25, 1918)

The 10H (blue) and 20H (red) stamps of the Scout Post Service are the first Scout on Stamps following the foundation of Scouting



There was also a 10H (blue) embossed stationery card issued:



(e)

The Masaryk overprint (Dec. 21, 1918)



The "Arrival of President Masaryk" overprint (red for the 10H and black for the 20H) was valid for postal use only for one day



The 10H and 20H "Arrival of President Masaryk" overprinted stamps on cover (address cut out) tied with Dec. 21, 1918 cds and the two-line delivery handstamp (signed either by Scout Stretti or Sourek). On reverse the Czech Scout Presidency official squared handstamp (with Czech Scout emblem)



40%

B. THE SCOUT POSTAL SERVICE STAMPS

B1. THE ERRORS AND VARIETIES



10H (blue) perforation error reducing the size of the stamp



A selection of colour shades of the accepted blue 10H and red 20H Scout Post Service stamps

B2. THE PROOFS AND FORGERIES

THE 10H BLUE STAMP COLOUR PROOFS



(e)



A selection of the existing colour proofs of the accepted blue 10H Scout Post Service stamp

THE 20H RED STAMP COLOUR PROOFS



(e)



A selection of the existing colour proofs of the accepted red 20H Scout Post Service stamp

THE 10H BLUE STAMP COLOUR VARIETY FORGERIES



Colour variety fakes of the blue 10H Scout Post Service stamp. Fakes are detected by:
(a) The size (Original is 27X22 mm). (b) The crown over the lion's head (Original is symmetric with a cross in the middle). (c) The lion's ear (Original has a short vertical line just below it). (d) The lion's mane (Original has a longer line between the second and third). (e) The shape and position of some letters (Original: Accents on letters C and S are clear. Letter D is just below letter S. Letter I is below but between letters U and Z). (f) The right foot of the lion (Original has four toes long and thin).

THE 20H RED STAMP COLOUR PROOF FORGERIES



Two colour proof fakes of the red 20H Scout Post Service stamp. Fakes are detected: (a) on both sides of the word "POSTA" at the top of the stamp where the three horizontal lines have to be all of equal width. On the fakes, the middle line is longer, and (b) the right foot of the lion must have four toes short and thick. On the fakes the situation is just the reverse.

C. THE SCOUT INCOMING MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

C1. AUSTRIAN STAMPS MIXED WITH 10H ON COVER



Cover with a 5H and a 15H (on reverse) Austrian stamps tied with PRAHA 1 (6p) postmarks (Nov. 5, 1918) and delivered to the National Committee by Scout Kalibera the following day, bearing an additional 10H Scout stamp tied with the Scout cds and delivery handstamp



Cover tied with a 5H overprinted (2nd Prague overprint) Austrian stamp and delivered to the National Committee by Scout Vavra (Nov. 3, 1918), bearing two additional 10H Scout stamps tied with the N.V. and franked with both the cds and the delivery Scout handstamps

10H Colour shade varieties

C2. AUSTRIAN
STAMPS MIXED
WITH 20H ON
COVER

Express cover with a 80H
Austrian stamp tied
PRAHA 9 (a) and
delivered to the National
Committee without any
other indication, bearing
an additional 20H Scout
stamp tied with the N.V.
Scout handstamp



Registered cover with a
15H and a 60H Austrian
stamps tied CHRUDIM 3
and delivered to the
National Committee
without any other
indication, bearing an
additional 20H Scout
stamp tied with the N.V.
Scout handstamp

Vysokému

Národnímu výboru



v Praze.



Two covers tied with a 20H (top) and a 2H overprinted (2nd Prague overprint, bottom) Austrian stamps and delivered to the National Committee by Scouts Stretti (sent from POTŠTYN, addressed to Rössler) the first and by Novotný the second, bearing an additional 20H Scout stamp each tied with the N.V. and franked with the delivery Scout handstamps. The latter with a cds (Nov. 3, 1918) as well

C. THE SCOUT INCOMING MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

C2. AUSTRIAN STAMPS MIXED WITH 20H ON COVER



C3. AUSTRIAN WITHOUT SCOUT STAMPS ON COVER



Registered cover with a 5H and two 20H Austrian stamps tied with KOMOTAU 1 (Ba) postmarks (Nov. 29, 1918) and delivered to the National Committee two days later, bearing no Scout stamp (since the Scout Service had already ended), but is franked with the Scout cds (Dec. 1, 1918) and the Committee's oval incoming mail handstamp

D. THE SCOUT OFFICIAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

D1. COVERS WITH THE 10H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH N.V. - CDS - DELIVERY HANDSTAMPS



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp and delivered (Nov. 15, 1918) to Dr. Joseph Scheiner, Head of the Czechoslovak Sokol Organization (C.O.S.) by Scout Novak. The Scout ods and delivery handstamps are shown too



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp and delivered (Nov. 23, 1918) to the newly founded Czechoslovak News Agency (C.T.K.) by Scout Sourak. The Scout ods and delivery handstamps are shown too

D1. COVERS WITH THE 10H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH N.V. - CDS - DELIVERY HANDSTAMPS



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp and delivered (Nov. 20, 1918) to the Vinohrady district by Scout Rodofky. The Scout cds and delivery handstamps are shown too



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp and delivered (Nov. 22, 1918) to the Praha II district by Scout Salda. The Scout cds and delivery handstamps are shown too

D2. COVERS WITH THE 10H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH CDS - DELIVERY HANDSTAMPS



(e)

Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with the cds Scout handstamp (Nov. 16, 1918) and delivered to Karlín district by Scout Novak. The Scout delivery handstamp is shown too



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with the cds Scout handstamp (Nov. 19, 1918) and delivered to Karlín district by Scout Kalibera. The Scout delivery handstamp is shown too

D2. COVERS WITH THE 10H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH CDS - DELIVERY HANDSTAMPS



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with the cds Scout handstamp (Nov. 19, 1918) and delivered to Nusle district by Scout Nusl. The Scout delivery handstamp is shown too



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with the cds Scout handstamp (Nov. 18, 1918) and delivered to Praha II district by Scout Stretz. The Scout delivery handstamp is shown too

D3. COVERS WITH THE 20H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH N.V. - CDS - DELIVERY HANDSTAMPS



Cover with a 20H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp and delivered (Nov. 17, 1918) to the Vinohrady district by Scout Kalibera. The Scout cds and delivery handstamps are shown too



Cover with a 20H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp and delivered (Nov. 23, 1918) to the Praze district by Scout Salka. The Scout cds and delivery handstamps are shown too

D. THE SCOUT OFFICIAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

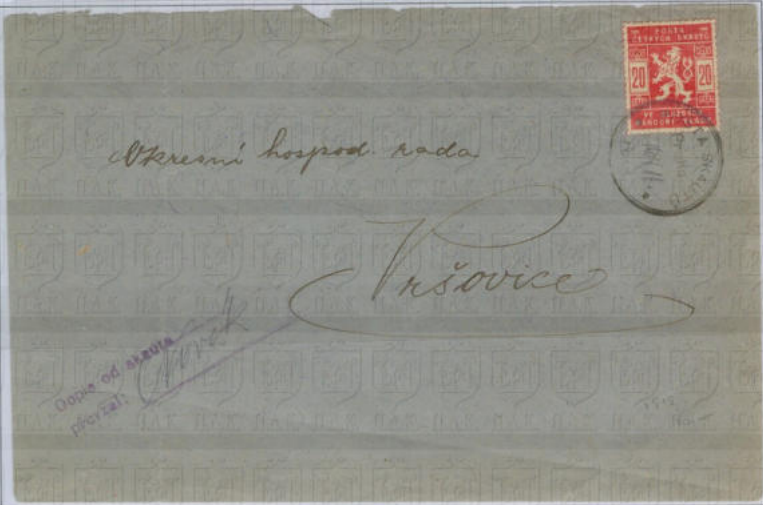
D4. COVERS
WITH THE 20H
SCOUT STAMP
TIED WITH
CDS -
DELIVERY
HANDSTAMPS



Two covers with a 20H
Scout stamp tied with
the old Scout handstamp
(Nov. 14, 1918) and
delivered at the Hotel
Central Andel. The
Scout delivery
handstamp is shown too

D. THE SCOUT OFFICIAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

D4. COVERS WITH THE 20H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH CDS - DELIVERY HANDSTAMPS



20H on covers tied with cds and franked with the delivery handstamp. The former (Nov. 8, 1918) was mailed registered from the National Committee office at Ostrava and delivered in Prague by Scout Sourek the second day of the service. The latter (Nov. 16, 1918) was delivered at Vrsovice district by Scout Novak (colour variety).

D5. COVERS WITH THE 10H OR THE 20H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH THE N.V. HANDSTAMP

Covers with the 10H or the 20H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp but with no indication that they have finally been delivered were either franked to be mailed and then handed over directly, or were cancelled to order at the National Committee's Headquarters



Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp



Cover with a 20H Scout stamp tied with N.V. Scout handstamp

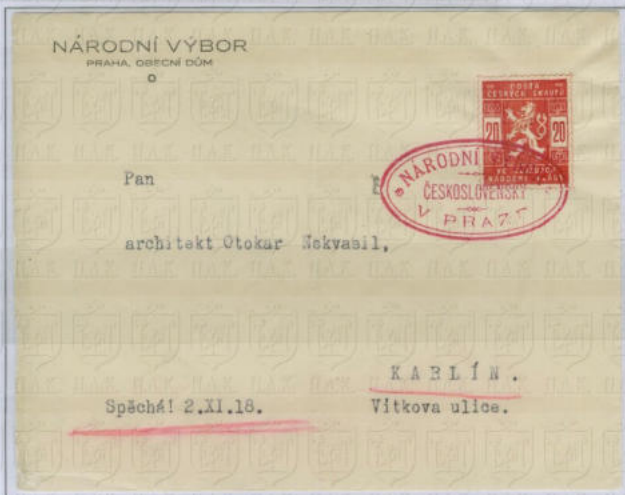
D. THE SCOUT OFFICIAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

D6. COVERS WITH THE 10H OR THE 20H SCOUT STAMP TIED WITH THE N.V. OVAL HANDSTAMP



Covers with the 10H or the 20H Scout stamp tied with the N.V. oval entry or filing handstamp

Cover with a 10H Scout stamp tied with the N.V. oval handstamp (blue) and signed by Scout Nusl



Cover with a 20H Scout stamp tied with the N.V. oval handstamp (red). It was prepared as an express letter (Nov. 2, 1918) before the official start of the Scout Post Service