

Book Review



Technical Literature **PERFINS ON HRADČANY STAMPS**

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The collecting of perfins on Hradčany stamps is lately quite popular and provides good opportunities for the enjoyment of collectors. The first attempts to catalog perfins on Hradčany stamps took place several years ago -- of course, at that time, only within the limited circle of a few enthusiastic perfin collectors. Thanks to the systematic work of authors Ján Marenčík and Oldřich Špreňar in

cooperation with other collectors, they managed over time to prepare a catalog in such a version that it can now be introduced to a wider collecting public.

The collecting of perfin on Hradčany stamps is an interesting specialization, and that is immediately for several reasons. The validity of these stamps conveniently coincided with the peak period of perfin use, of which we already know a considerable amount on Austrian stamps, and fittingly Hungarian stamps. The catalog shows 370 various perfins that were found on different values of mostly the normally used stamps of the Hradčany issue including some rarer kinds of perforation and printing varieties. Since at that time perfins were viewed mostly as damaging stamps, it escaped the philatelists' attempts to create fake rarities, but alternatively quite accurately reflected actual postal service. The imperfect printing techniques used present an opportunity to combine stamp specialization with perfins.

This catalog is arranged in agreement with perfin labeling according to the commonly used *Katalog Perfinů z Území Československa* [Catalog of Perfins in the Lands of Czechoslovakia] from 1987 and harmonizes it with the newly released catalog. For each perfin is stated its document numbering, diagram/description of

A.D.&C.	A14 A.D.*&C. Liberec/Reichenberg		
	+ Alfred Deutsch & Co. + Mezinárodní doprava		
	N 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22		7
	Z 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17		8
AEG	A16 AEG - Praha, Teplice-Sárove, Liberec, Moravská Opatava, Podmokla/ Frag, Tepitz-Schönau, Reichenberg, Mähr. Opatava, Bodenbach		
	+ AEG Elektrotechnická akc. spol. + Výroba elektrických přístrojů		
	N 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24		4
	Z 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17		4
	CDV ?		

Perfin image is the exact size; N = POFIS imperf stamp #;
Z = perf stamp #; number at end is rarity #.

initials, place of use, and in most cases, also the perfin's user with the type of business. On the other hand, Hradčany collectors will appreciate the enumeration of all stamps of this issue (identified by their POFIS catalog number) on which the perfin has so far been reported, including whether perforated or imperforated

along with their rarity of occurrence. This rarity is based on a scale from 1 to 48, where 1 point roughly corresponds to 2.50 Kč (or 0.10 Euro). Of course, this valuation should be roughly judged by the fact that we are describing the most inexpensive variety, but also as examples that correspond to all of the rules on the quality of canceled stamps and perfins. In the record of every perfin, the reader will also learn whether it is known to be on any philatelic item bearing a Hradčany stamp.

With this catalog, collectors are getting into their hands a quality useful tool not only for perfin collectors but also for lovers of Hradčany stamps. Nevertheless, even this carefully crafted catalog cannot comprehend all of the possible combinations, and therefore the authors welcome any comments or additions.

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