

INTRODUCTION

This fourth edition of the Catalogue of perfins from the Territory of Czechoslovakia appears five years after the third one. Thanks to new research and discoveries it contains 1029 different perfins of which 617 (ie. 60%) are positively identified; furthermore 242 perfins (ie. 23,5%) were identified indirectly. Altogether to 859 (ie. 83,5%) names of their users were added and unidentified remain 170 perfins (ie. 15,5%) only.

The catalogue lists all perfins used by firms and companies operating on the territory of present Czechoslovakia from the time of their introduction in 1877 till approximately 1950 when the use of perfins was practically discontinued. Those perfins can be found on Austrian, Hungarian, Polish, German, Bohemia & Moravia, Slovakia and Czechoslovak stamps.

Perfins produced and used by private collectors or stamp club are listed separately on page CS 172.

This catalogue has a new lay-out with less perfins per page and more information about each perfin grouped together. This arrangement required re-numbering of the perfins; new addition will be allocated decimal numbers (for example perfin B 14,5 will be placed between perfins B 14 and B 15 etc.).

The arrangement of perfins is strictly alphabetic and the drawings were newly produced and are absolutely correct. The monograms with vertical axe of symmetry (A 1, O 1 and others) should be checked in both positions to verify if the perfin pattern coincides with the drawing.

The catalogue number is to be found to the right of the perfin drawing. A slanting line (/) denotes that the letters following it continue on another line.

Letters Ć (Czechoslovakia 1918-1939), R (Austria to 1918), U (pre-1918 Hungary), M (post 1918 Hungary), Pl (Poland), P (Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia), N (Germany 1939-1945), S (Slovakia) and Ćs (Czechoslovakia after 1945) denote that the perfin can be found on stamps of the particular stamp-issuing country.

Symbols X/2, X/5, X/6, X/9 or X/10 indicate that perfins so marked are so called multiperfins, ie. perfins produced by perforators with two or more monograms grouped on the perforating head. It can occur that the perfined stamp checked with the drawing does not coincide fully with it.

It is then necessary to refer to pages CS 173 to CS 182 where the majority vertical lines between the drawings of the perfin and the numbers are not placed in brackets (for example perfin E 8/I - E 8/V), the reconstruction is not complete - ie. the spaces between the perfins and their sequence corresponds to their arrangement of the perforating head. When vertical lines between the perfin are drawn and the type number are in brackets (for example perfin C 28 (I) - C 28 (V) - the reconstruction is partial; the different types are known but not their sequence and spacing. In some cases the differences between the various types of a multiperfin are minimal. On the other hand certain multiperfins are known to exist but till now their reconstruction was not successful.

Two numbers (for example 1900-1930) following the multiperfin symbol indicate the period during which the particular perfin is known to have been used. The years are approximate and were deducted from the dates of issue and withdrawal of the stamps on which the perfin was found. For the majority perfins

existing on pre-1916 Austrian and Hungarian stamps and not found on the Czechoslovak stamps, the last year of use is given as 1918 (the year of proclamation of Czechoslovak Independence) although it is well possible that some perfins ceased to be used during the W.W.I and even earlier. Similarly the end of use of perfins owned by firms operating on the territory of Czechoslovakia and found on the stamps of Bohemia & Moravia, Slovakia, Germany or Hungary, is given as 1944, although in reality they have been used till May, 1945.

Further to the right, after these dates, some other symbols appear.

Symbol X means that the perfin exists with one or several holes missing (damaged perforator);

Symbol = denotes that the perfin can be found on coil-stamps;

Symbol X this perfin is known on perfined stationery (post-cards, parcel-post and money-transfer forms); it must be pointed out that the stationery itself is perfined, not the stamp affixed to it (which, itself, can be perfined, too);

Symbol PČ and SO mean that perfin exists on Austrian stamps overprinted POSTA/ČESKOSLOVENSKA/1919 or S.O./1920 - i.e. on Czechoslovak stamps used in the plebiscite territory of Silesia Orientale.

It has to be understood that all the dates reflect the level of our knowledge of the Czechoslovak perfins as assembled at the end of 1986.

The last symbol in the upper right-hand corner gives the relative value of the perfin. A - denotes the most common perfin, F - the scarcest.

The table on page IV shows how the rating was made. The translation of the table follows:

A - známo nad 200 kusů (over 200 items known)

B - známo 100 - 199 kusů (known items) etc.

F - známy 4 kusy a méně (four items or less known)

After these basic data information about the perfin user are given.

First the name of the company or its owner. A cross (+) preceding the identification indicates that it is positive, i.e. taken from a business card or envelope. When this cross is missing, the identification is indirect, i.e. than from a business or telephone directory. When the firm operated in a place with no postal services, the name of this commune is also included. The year in the right-hand corner shows when the company was found (Zal.) or incorporated (Prot.). This information can be useful when one wishes to determine when the company was able to start using perfined stamps. (In Austria perfins were introduced in 1877.)

The bottom left-hand corner contains the name of the post-office which the perfin owner was using. During the Austrian rule some of the post-office names in Czech lands were bilingual (Czech/German), some German only. At the same time the post-office names in Slovakia were in Hungarian only. If the post-office name did change after 1945, its present form is placed in brackets (see G 10 C & G.).


Often perfins can be found with other postmarks than those indicated in the catalogue. The reason for this can be various: the perfined stamp was removed from a reply-card or reply-envelope which some companies did send to their customers to facilitate ordering goods. In other cases the perfined stamps were purloined by dishonest employee and used for private purpose. Finally, the letter or card could have been posted in some other than the usual post-office. It has also to be taken into consideration that during the Austro-Hungarian rule and in pre-war Czechoslovakia newspapers and printed papers

sent by mail had the stamps cancelled by the receiving and not by the dispatching post-office.

Any queries, questions or new finds should be addressed to Vojtěch Maxa, P.S.50, 170 21 PRAHA 7 Czechoslovakia (correspondence can be in English, French or German) and will be heartily welcomed and answered.

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Note: This document is a translation of a condensed version (with some additional information) of the original Czech introduction (December 1986) to the Maxa catalog of 1987, written by one of the authors (Vojtěch Maxa) fourteen months later. Mr. Maxa died in March of 1989. VJD