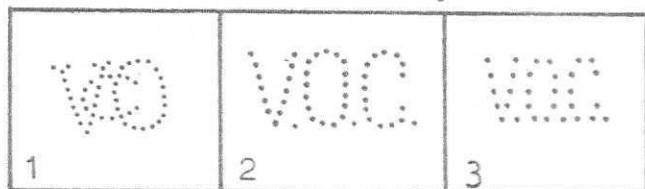


U.S. FIRMS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

U. S. firms which operate abroad quite often use Perfins to protect their postal paper and collecting the Perfins of American firms in other countries is an interesting sideline to a U. S. collection.

Not many U. S. firms operated in Czechoslovakia between 1918 and 1939, but I have found three such firms and others may well have existed. It has to be assumed that the use of these Perfins ended in 1939, but at least one survived the German occupation (1939-1945) and was used for another few years after 1945.

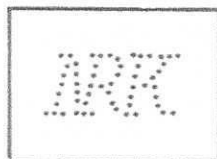
VACUUM OIL COMPANY had its headquarters in Prague and branches throughout the country. It used three different dies. The refinery



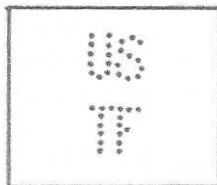
at Zvodava used #1 and it is known only on Austrian stamps from 1908 when the Czech lands were still a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The first Czech stamps (the Hradcany type) received #2,

and it is possible that it was used only a short time and then phased out. The Prague headquarters and a branch in Kromeriz used #3. It can be found on Czech stamps from 1920 until 1928. It is possible that during the 1930's the firm bought a meter machine and quit using Perfins.

NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY used the design shown below. This firm had its head office in Prague and I know copies of its Perfin exist on Czechoslovak stamps from nearly the entire pre-war period 1920 to 1938. It also exists on stamps of Bohemia and Moravia issued during the German occupation and on post-war issues also. My latest copy comes from 1948. There was only one die.



US/TF is still unidentified, but it has a distinct American flavor. I have it on a Czech stamp from 1920 and I've shown the design here.



If anyone can come up with an identification of the firm or any leads about a possible identification, I would very much appreciate them contacting me.

My address is Antoninska 8, Praha 7, Czechoslovakia.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Maxa is the author of the catalog of Czechoslovak Perfins published in June 1972 and is currently at work on catalogs of other East European nations.

POLAND 128A

JIM SHEW (#1042) has sent along a clipping from a Robert E. Lippert auction catalog of April 1972. Lot 829 in that auction is described as follows: "Poland #128a block of 4 imperf between. Used Dec. 17-20 1919 by the Bank of Przemyslowy in Lwow. All known copies have the banks initial perf in the stamp 'BP.' Claim to be only 46 copies known. This block is probably unique." The block was illustrated but the Perfin doesn't show clearly through the face-up illustration. Can anyone add any details about this item--including the price the lot brought at the auction?