

Czechoslovakia “Krag” Machine “Advertising” Cancels of the First Republic Period (1920-1939)

Exhibit Purpose: This 7-frame exhibit shows the machine advertising/slogan cancels used in Czechoslovakia that were produced on Krag cancelling machines from early days of the new Republic (1920) till its dismemberment and termination in 1939.

Exhibit Scope: The exhibit includes at least one of each slogan cancel without regard to the number of years or number of offices of use. Different colours are shown; offices and earliest and latest dates of use identified. Quantities seen are identified when ten or fewer (five or fewer with a red background) are known.

Context of the Exhibit: The Czechoslovakia achieved independence in 1918 with a postal system inherited from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It ended in 1939 with secession of Slovakia, German occupation, and declaration of a German protectorate over rump Bohemia and Moravia.

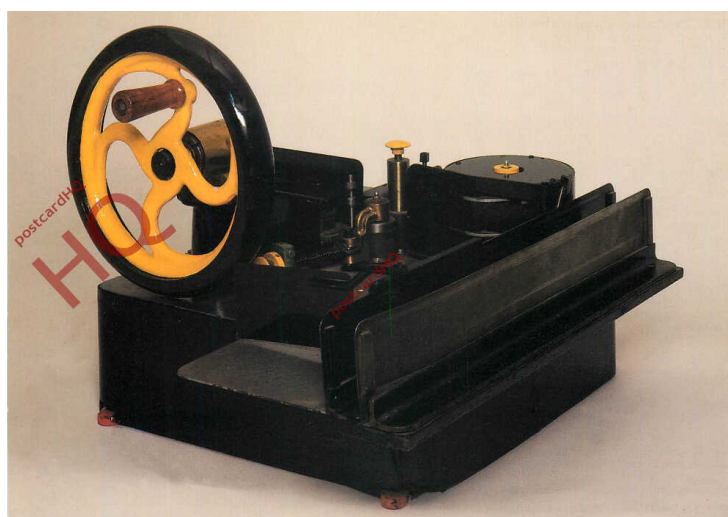
The Krag Cancelling Machine: Krag cancelling machines were a product of the Norwegian company, Krag-Maskinfabrik A/S. These machines were used by many countries in Europe, including the Scandinavian countries, Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Russia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The earliest use of Krag cancelling machines in what was to become Czechoslovakia, seen by this exhibitor, was 1908.

The Advertising Cancels: Machine advertising cancels made their first appearance in independent Czechoslovakia in 1920. They advertised charities, events, anniversaries, lotteries, postal services and directives and patriotic themes. Use of new advertising cancels increased over time. Repeating “Krag” cancelling machines pre-dominated the period (only five slogans were produced on other machines: Universal and Ascom-Hasler). Several cancels had illustrations and many had two parts to the text. Most advertising cancels are in black ink but there are also blue, red, purple, lilac and/or green.

One hundred eighty-eight (188) different machine advertising cancels are reported, including Czech and Slovak variations, all are shown in this exhibit. One hundred-fifty-nine offices have been found to have used at least one machine advertising cancel during the period. *This exhibit includes sixteen slogans with five or fewer known examples, these are identified with a red background*

Personal Study and Research: Research and publications on Czechoslovakia machine advertising cancels are very limited. Contemporary Czech philatelic journals reported only a few of the cancels. Advertisements, offices and period of use are *from a data base of approximately 12,000 examples maintained by this exhibitor* and reflected in **Czechoslovakia Machine Advertising Cancels: The First Republic Period**, published by the **Society for Czechoslovak Philately**, is the primary source of information for this exhibit.

Exhibit Plan: This exhibit is arranged in rough chronological order beginning in 1920 and ending in 1939. Earliest and latest reported dates are given (single years), and multiple years of use. Translations of advertisements are provided. An example of each presented is regardless of the number of offices and years of use, to conserve space; small offices and interesting covers are shown. Czech language and corresponding Slovak language cancels are adjacent.



Postcard showing
Krag hand-cranked
cancelling machine
(not contemporary)