



THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist



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No. 6, Whole No. 582

1939-1999 Specialist INDEX

by Ludvik Svoboda, Editor

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VÁCLAV HAVEL AND PHILATELY

by Lubor Kunc

This year will be probably marked in history as the year when Václav Havel left his office because of the completion of his second service period as President of the Czech Republic. I believe, that a personality should be described not only in the political point of view, but also from our philatelic one. Don't expect any "new discoveries", like Václav Havel is a stamp collector, but thanks to his life in turbulent periods of Czech history there is a lot of philatelic material having direct or indirect connection to him.

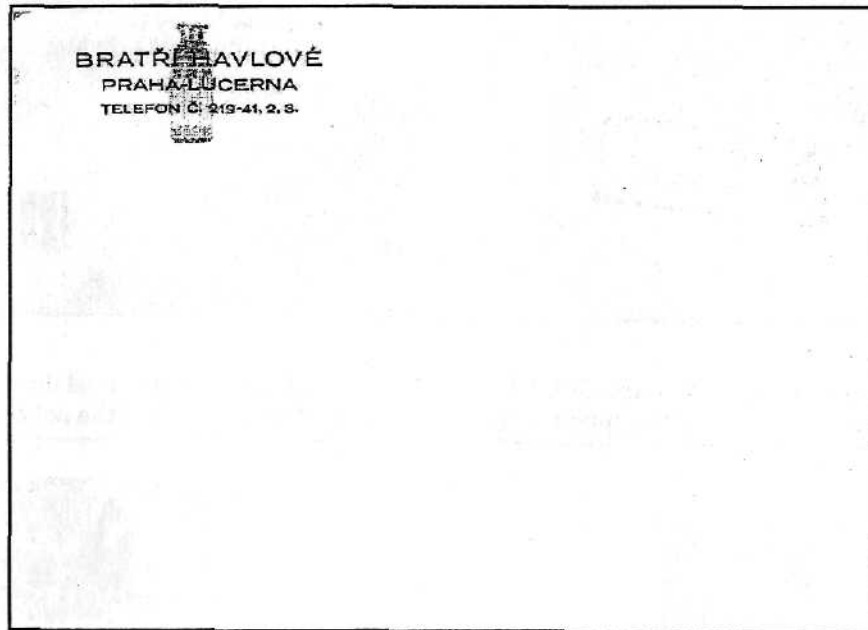


Fig. 1

We can start with his family. He belongs to a famous Prague businessman family. The Havel family owned, e.g., Lucerna Palace on Wenceslas Square as well as Barrande Terrace in Prague. Figure 1 shows an unused envelope of the Lucerna Palace from the 30's. After WW II this property was nationalized by the Czechoslovak communist regime as illustrated by the envelope at Figure 2 sent in the early 90's. The words "státní podnik" means "national undertaking". Later in the 90's the Havels got the property back.

The last presidential election in the communist era was organized in 1985, when the communist President Dr. Gustav Husák (being in function since 1975) was "surpassingly" re-elected. This event can be illustrated by Figure 3 -- a souvenir cover with special cancellation of the presidential PRAHA 012 - HRAD post office.

A radical change occurred after November 17, 1989 (see Fig. 4 -- a letter of

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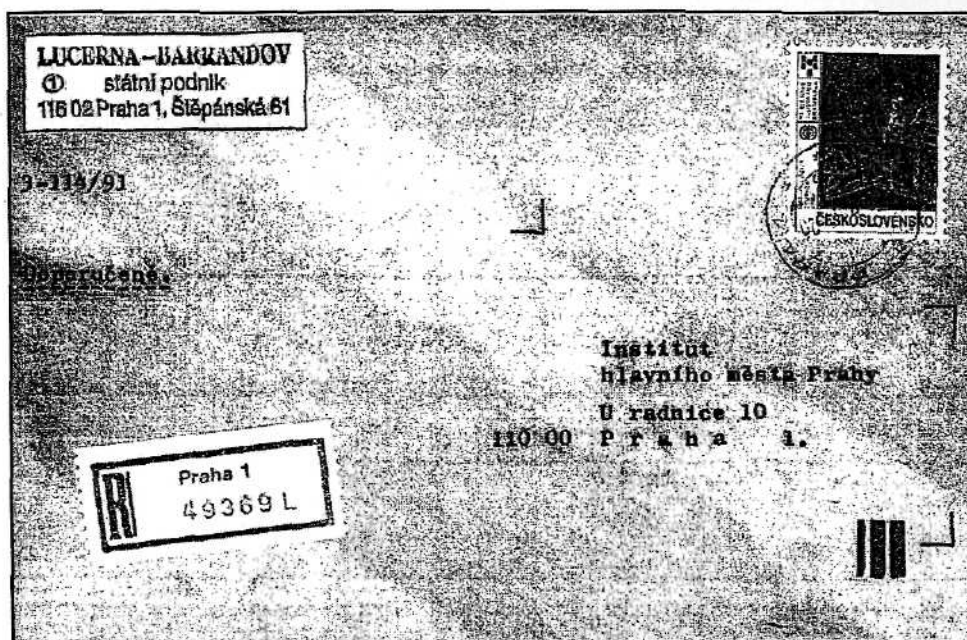


Fig. 2

that date franked with the Opletal stamp issued a few days earlier to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the student Opletal's killing by the Nazis) when the police shot

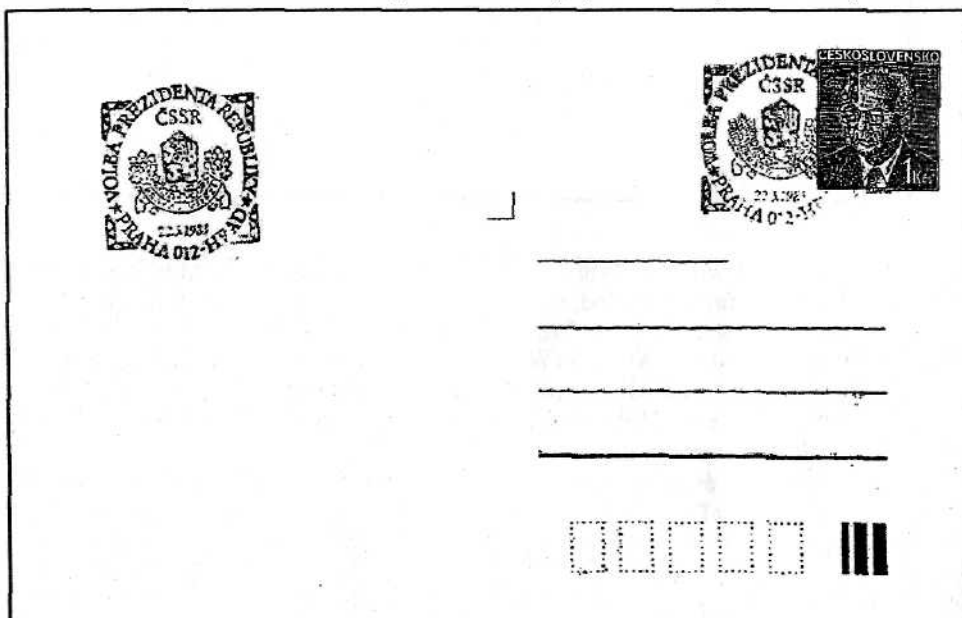


Fig. 3

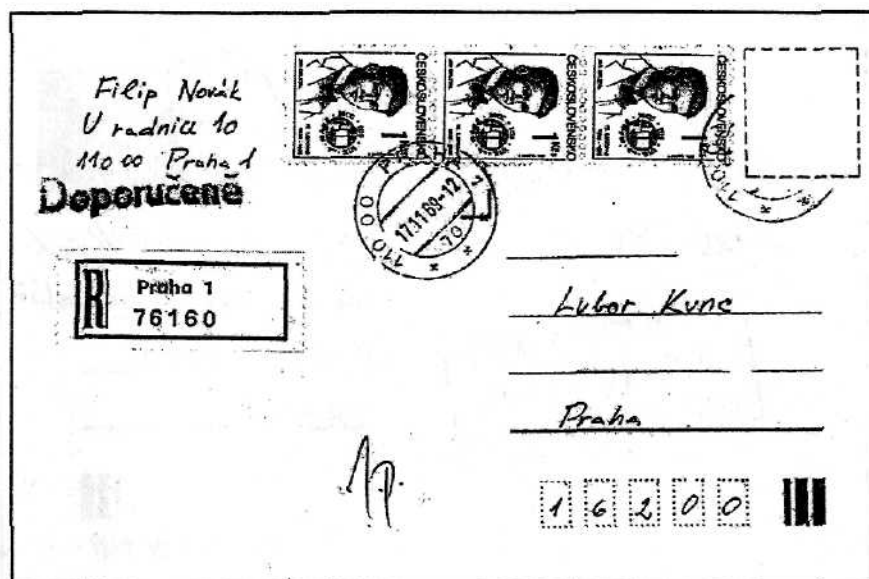


Fig. 4

a student. The outrage and demonstrations of the people were so great, that they started to demand changes in the highest positions of state as well as the end of the communist government. The

Communist Party tried to calm the situation by creating a new government with a few non-communist members, but the public refused the small change and insisted on the deconstruction of the communist regime. Because the regime was weak and could not expect any "help" from Russia which was being influenced by Gorbacov's Perestroika Reform (see Fig. 5: Czechoslovak souvenir sheet honoring the Gorbacov-Bush Summit in 1988; this is a paradox issue: a communist stamp celebrating the US Capitol!), the Communists accepted the demand. On November 19, 1989 Občanské



Fig. 5

Fórum (Citizen's Forum) was founded as representative of the non-communist public. Among its founders we find Václav Havel.

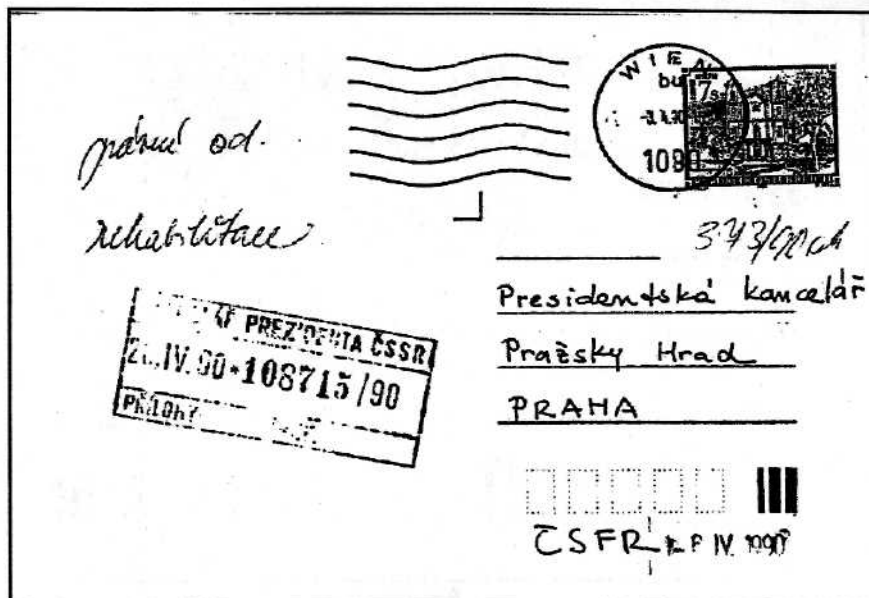


Fig. 6

On December 29, 1989 the Federal Parliament (managed by the Communists) elected Havel to be the new non-communist President. He immediately accepted the function, but only as the provisional President until the first free elections in 1990. It is a paradox, that Havel as the anti-Communist fighter was elected to President

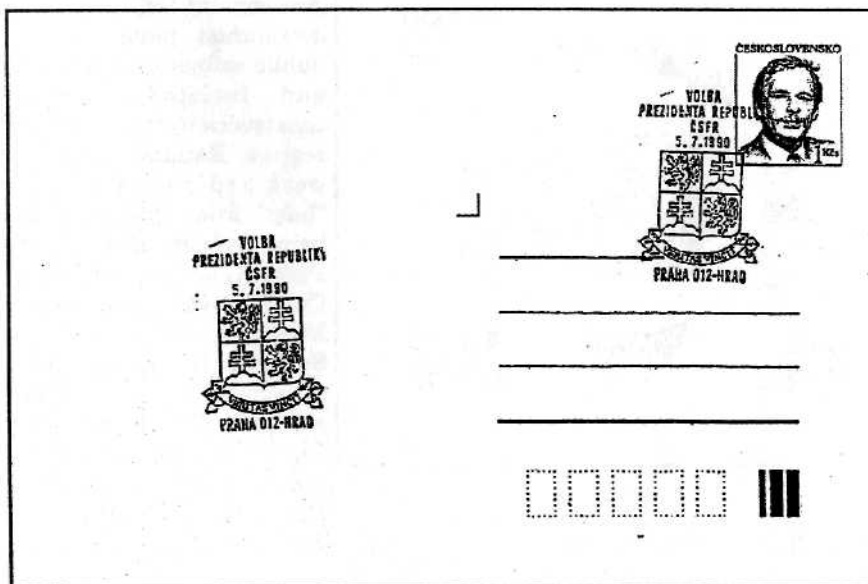


Fig. 7

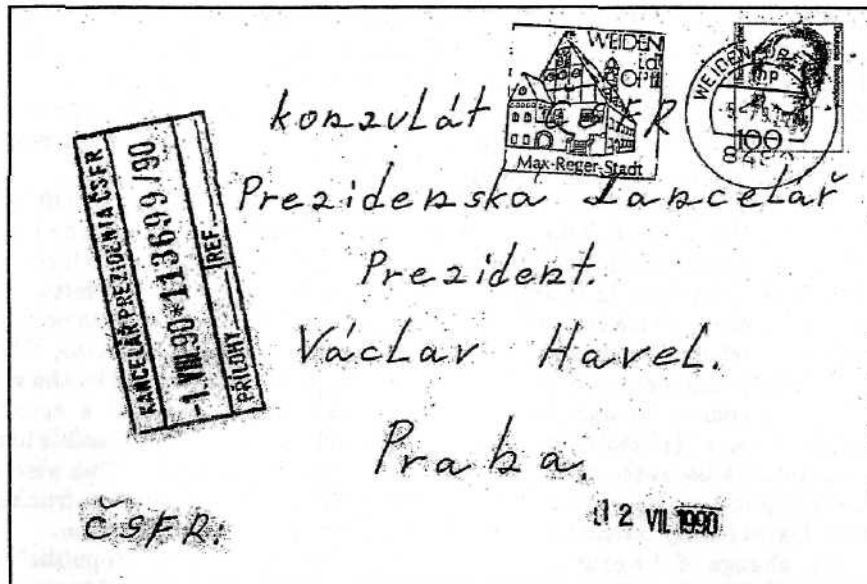


Fig. 8

of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (ČSSR). This can be documented by the cover at Figure 6 -- a letter sent during Havel's first term from Vienna (Austria) to the Presidential Office in Prague. The non-postal arrival cancel of the presidential office still shows the abbreviation "ČSSR", however the new official name of the state had

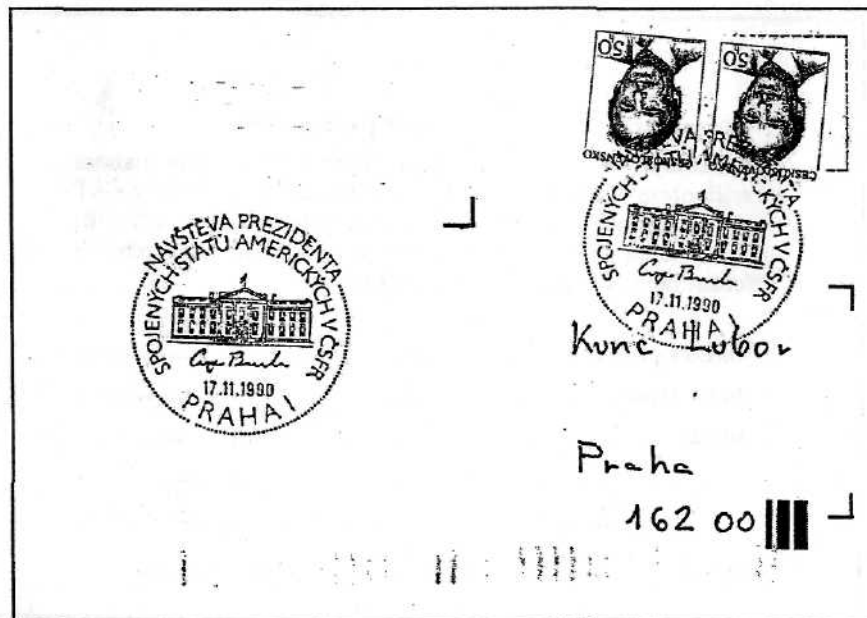


Fig. 9

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been in the meantime changed to the Czechoslovak Federal Republic (ČSFR).

The first free election in Czechoslovakia since 1946 was organized in June 1990. The winning party was Občanské Fórum (Citizen's Forum). Because of the election results Václav Havel was re-elected President on July 5, 1990 -- see souvenir cover at Figure 7. Everyone elected in 1990 only had a 2 year authorization, so Havel's presidency would expire in 1992.

The second occurrence of Václav Havel as Czechoslovak President can be illustrated by the cover at Figure 8. This is a letter from Germany sent on the first day of the second term of President Havel (July 5, 1990). It was sent to him via the Czechoslovak Consulate in Germany. The consulate forwarded the letter to the Presidential Office, which received it on August 1, 1990 as shown by the non-postal arrival cancel which now shows the correct abbreviation of the state name, "ČSFR".

The first anniversary of the "Velvet Revolution" was celebrated by the visit of American President George Bush Sr. in Prague, where he gave a speech at Wenceslas Square. I personally attended the speech, but it was not possible to meet both Presidents because of the quantity of people being there. This visit was celebrated by the special postal cancel shown in Figure 9. The letter is franked by the first Havel stamp issued in January 1990 soon after his first election.

The change of the country's name to "Czechoslovak Federal Republic" (even though the federal constitution was in force since 1968) illustrates the movement within Slovakia asking for more Slovak autonomy within Czechoslovakia -- soon the demand changed to Slovak independence from Czechoslovakia. The Czechs were against the division of the country, and this was supported by probably the majority of the Slovak people. President Havel tried to organize a referendum deciding the future of the common state. He introduced the idea in a TV speech on November 17,

Vážená paní poslankyně, vážený pane poslanče FS,
oznamuji Vám, že podporuji návrhy, pronesené panem
prezidentem Václavem Havlem dne 17. listopadu 1991 v ČST
a jako občan a volič Vás žádám o urychlené schválení zákonů,
umožňujících prezidentu republiky ještě před volbami vyhlásit
referendum o státoprávním uspořádání.

Jméno a příjmení:

Rodné číslo:

Adresa:

.....

.....

Datum Podpis

Fig. 10

1991. The referendum would have to be approved by Parliament, so Havel's supporters printed cards shown at Figure 10 with pre-printed text asking members of Parliament to vote for the referendum. The Parliament, managed by the newly established parties born after the fall of Občanské Fórum, refused the idea. The division of Czechoslovakia and the establishment of the Czech and Slovak Republics was agreed to without any referendum by the national governments after the elections of 1992 (in which the nationalistic parties won).

In 1992 the Federal Parliament tried to elect a new President, because of the expiration of Havel's second term. Unfortunately, the members of Parliament had such differing opinions that no candidate was elected, and President Havel issued a resignation letter on July 20, 1992.

As a result, while the country was being split, they were without a President. I lived in Austria at that time, so I was not able to see all the influences on the situation, but in my opinion the country should have had a president, and the situation disillusioned me very much.

The new republics were created on January 1, 1993. The president of the Slovak Republic was Mr. Kováč (Fig. 11), and the president of the Czech Republic first had to be elected on January 26, 1993 -- see the letter at Figure 12 sent on that day. The position was again occupied by Václav Havel for the next 5 years. In 1993 Czechoslovak stamps were valid on the territories of both republics, so it was possible to create mixed frankings similar to that shown at Figure 13 -- old stamps



Fig. 11

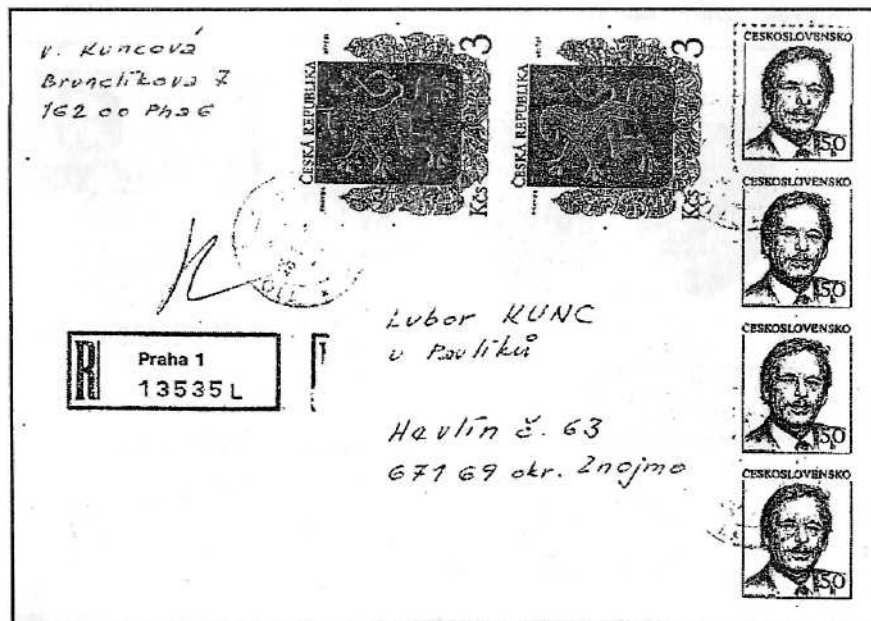


Fig. 12

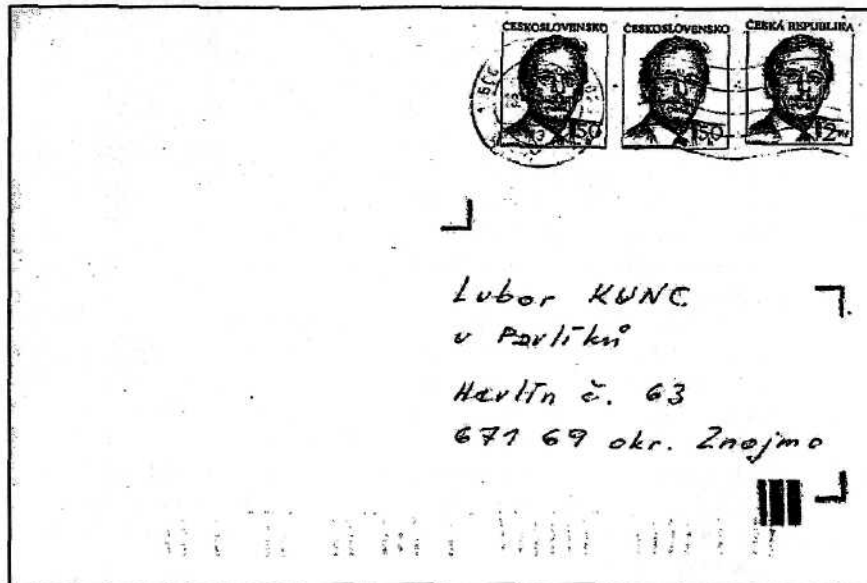


Fig. 13

showing Havel as Czechoslovak president mixed with new stamps showing Havel as Czech President.

Another interesting usage of Havel material is shown at Figure 14. The envelope with a pre-printed Czechoslovak Havel stamp has been up-franked by a Czechoslovak commemorative stamp as well as by Slovak (two no. 1!)



Fig. 14

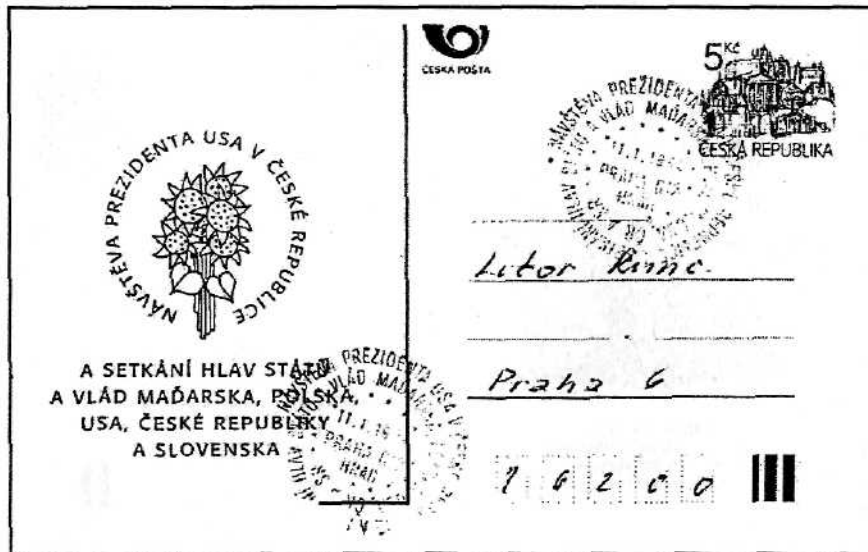


Fig. 15

commemorative and definitive stamps creating a nice Czechoslovak-Slovak franking. In addition, the letter is addressed to a Slovak member of the Czechoslovak UNPROFOR troops in Macedonia (former Yugoslavia).

After the first year of his Presidency of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel organized a meeting of the presidents of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the USA. The Czech Postal Administration issued a special postal card and cancel for the occasion (Fig. 15). The USA was represented at the meeting by

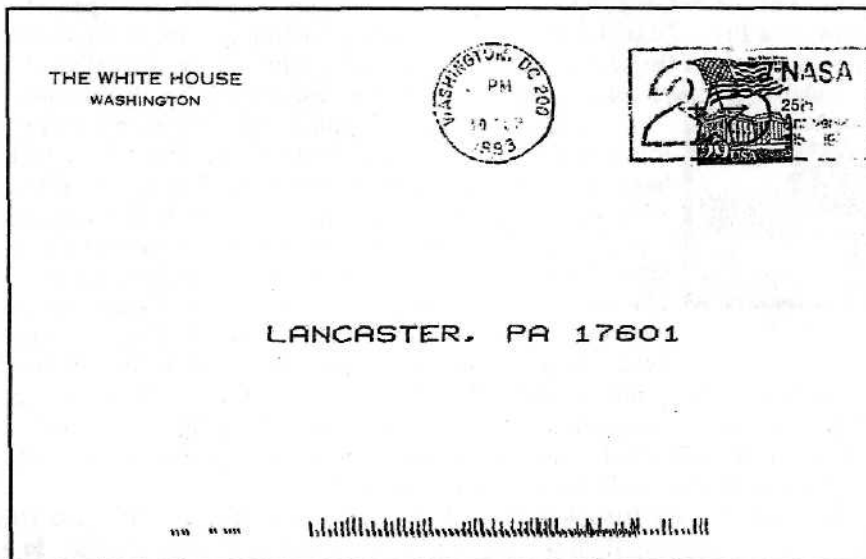


Fig. 16

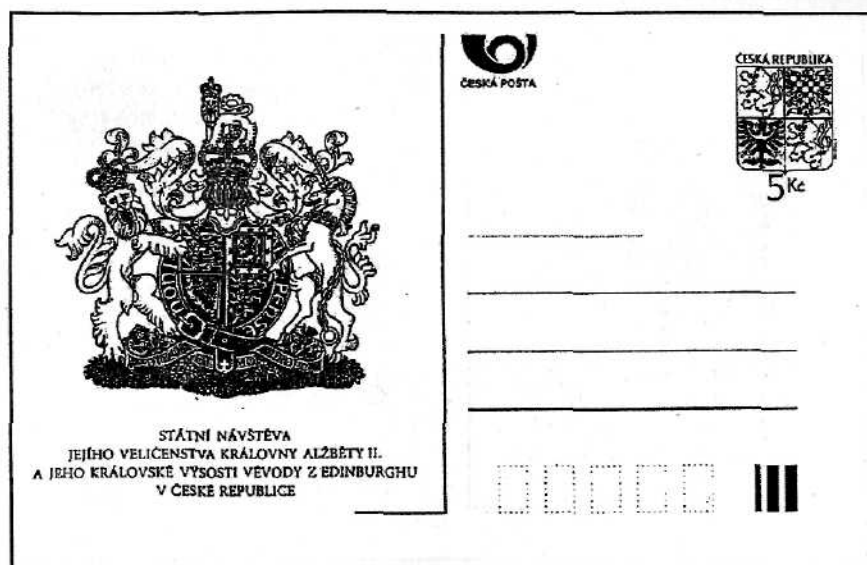


Fig. 17

President Clinton (see Fig. 16 -- a letter sent from his office and franked with a White House stamp).

In general we can say that the Czech President had very close relationships with all three US presidents. In the period 1989-2003 he co-operated with: G. Bush Senior, W. Clinton and G. Bush Junior. He also had positive relationships with statesmen from other countries as well -- he closely co-operated with Polish, Slovakian, Hungarian, Austrian and German heads of state. Also, the Czech Republic was visited, e.g., by members of the British, Swedish and Spanish Royal Families, the Pope, Dalai Llama, and the world's leading philosophers, artists and managers. Some of the visits were accompanied by philatelic material as well (see Fig. 17 showing a card celebrating the visit of British Royal Family members).



Fig. 18

In 1996 the Czech Republic asked for membership in the European Union (see Czech stamp at Fig. 18), which was heavily supported by President Havel. The process started out with our preparation and negotiation with the international organization leading to the Copenhagen Summit of December 2002, in which the Czech Republic was invited to join the EU. The entrance process is to be finished in 2003-4 by the new President Klaus. Havel's participation in the process should have expired with his leaving of presidential office, but it didn't.

In June 2003 a referendum on EU entrance was organized. The Czechs joining the organization was supported by "old" President Havel acting as a private person. Current President Klaus did not issue a statement with respect to the event, he only informed the public that he had voted the right way.

In 1996 Havel's first wife Olga died, and a year later he married Dagmar Veškrnová. On April 1, 1998 the popular journal *Mladá Fronta Dnes* made a joke



Fig. 19

for its readers informing them about the issuance of a first stamp showing the President's wife using the design of a currently valid Havel stamp (see Fig. 19 showing the pseudo stamp). Havel celebrated his 60th birthday in 1996, which was commemorated by the Czech Postal Administration by a souvenir sheet (shown in Figure 20). In 1998 Havel's first Czech presidential term expired, but he was re-elected for the period 1998-2003 (on January 20).

Another milestone of Havel's Presidency was 1999, when the Czech Republic joined the NATO organization (Fig. 21). In November 2002 the first meeting of NATO in a new member country occurred (Fig. 22). This event

was used to say good bye to President Havel. It was organized as a celebration with the participation of all the heads of the NATO countries, e.g. George Bush Jr., French President Chirac, British Prime Minister Blair, etc.

Havel's last presidential term ended on February 2, 2003. It can be illustrated by the registered letter shown at Figure 23. As you can see, there was no special stamp or cancel for the occasion, the one on the cover is the normal postal cancel of the Presidential Post Office at Prague Castle. As franking you can see all the definitive stamps showing President Havel (1993-2002) that were valid at the moment of his retiring.

He was the first Czechoslovak/Czech President leaving office at the expected time; all his predecessors left office by death, demise or by "historical events" like the Munich Treaty. It was important for Czechs to see this. Former Czechoslovak constitutions limited the presidency to two terms, but also included sentences that this limitation did not apply to the current president -- Masaryk (1920 constitution), Beneš (proposed 1948 constitution) -- which meant that they could govern without limitation! I am happy that this "solution" was not pursued for Havel and the constitution ruled.

It was not easy to find a new President after Havel's departure. There were a total of three election



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23

rounds by the Czech Republic Parliament. In the first two (on January 15 and January 24, 2003) the members of Parliament did not elect a candidate, so on the day of Havel's leaving office no new President was in place. In the third round on February 28, 2003 the new President Klaus was elected with the important support of the Communist Party (expressing its support for him even before the election) and with the help of the Social Democratic members of Parliament (voting against the candidate nominated by their own party).

Additional information about the existing material celebrating President Havel's leaving office and the election of his successor can be found in the following "philatelic section" of this article.

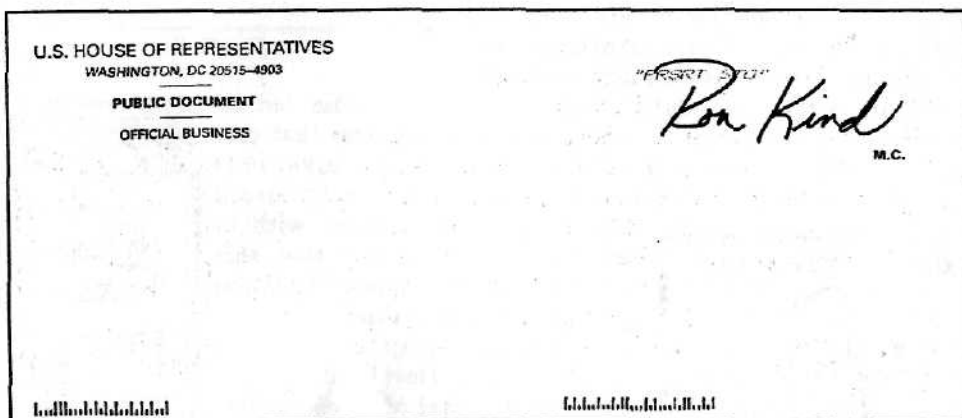


Fig. 24

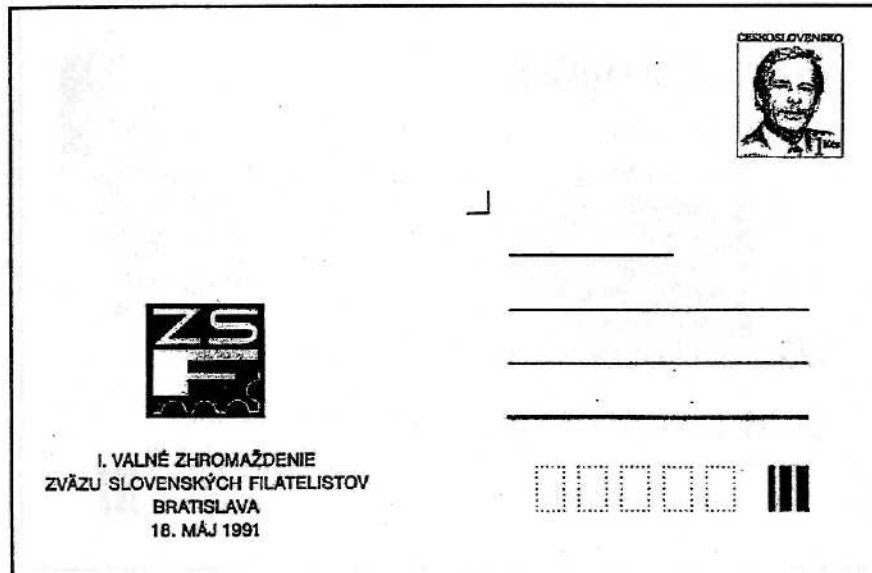


Fig. 25

President Havel was celebrated not only in the Czech Republic. On February 12, 2003 the US House of Representatives issued a "Concurrent Resolution Honoring Václav Havel (H. Con. Res. 22)". The originator of the resolution was Congressman Kind of Wisconsin (see Fig. 24 -- his official business envelope with his signature instead of franking).



Fig. 26

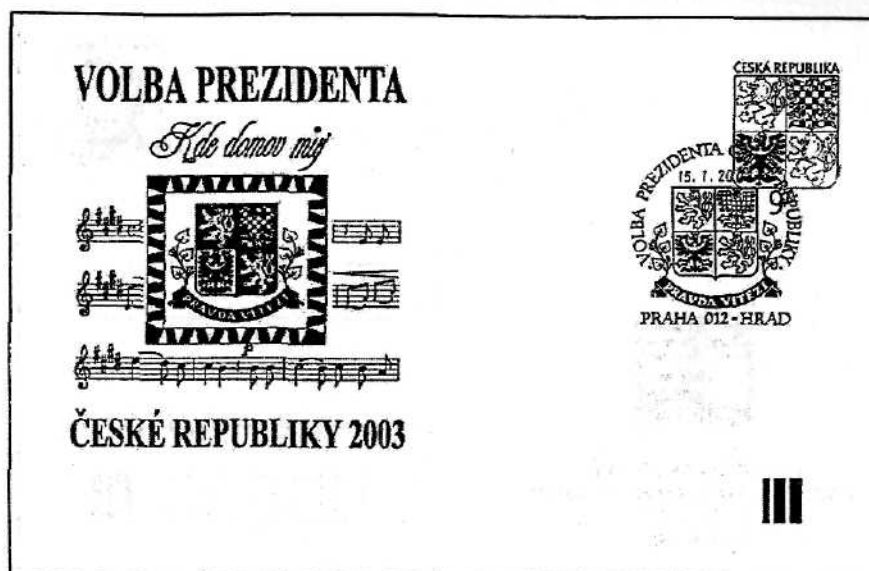


Fig. 27

We can now go to the philatelic material relating to President Havel. There are stamps and souvenir sheets, postal stationery, cancels, meter stamps as well as stamp booklets showing Havel. I have prepared a list of such material, but without a guarantee of its exhaustiveness.

Czechoslovak Stamps

Year	Face Value	Pofis No.	Scott No.	Figure in the Text
1990	0,50 Kčs	2928	2777	10
Czech Stamps				
1993	2.00 Kč	3	2879	23
1995	3.60 Kč	72	2948	23
1996	s/s 12 Kč	A124	2994	20
1998	4.60 Kč	168	3033	23
2000	5.40 Kč	248	3114	23
2002	6.40 Kč	335	3182	23

Czech Stamp Booklets

Year	Face Value	Pofis No.	No. of Booklets	Motif on Jacket of Booklet
1993	2.00 Kč	ZS3, ZS12	2	Havel, Prague
1995	3.60 Kč	ZS 39	1	Prague

Postal Stationery of Czechoslovakia

Year	Face Value	Motif	Color	Pofis No.
1990	1 Kč	Havel Envelope	Blue	COB 91 (Fig. 14)
1991	1 Kč	Havel Envelope	Green	COB 92
1991	1 Kč	Havel Envelope, text "ZSF"	Green	COB 93 (Fig. 25)

Postal Stationery of the Czech Republic

1994 5 Kč Presidential Summit Prague Multi CDV 4 (Fig 15)

Commemorative Envelopes of the Czech Republic

1993 4 Kč Havel becomes first president Multi POB 2

1998 4.60 Kč Havel president again Multi POB 3 (Fig. 26)

Commemorative Sheets of the Czech Republic

1993 6 Kč Havel becomes first president Multi PAL 1

In addition to the above official material there are known some private products relating to President Havel. A large quantity of such material was issued this year to "celebrate" Havel's leaving office and the election of a new president. Examples of the products can be seen at Figures 27 and 28. Figure 27 shows an envelope celebrating the first election round of the new President on January 15, 2003. Similar items were produced for the next rounds (January 24 and February 28, 2003) as well as for the inauguration of the new President Klaus (March 7, 2003). At Figure 28 is an envelope issued to commemorate Havel's last day in office (February 2, 2003).

Also known are postal envelopes with and without stamps, postal cards, as well as souvenir sheets. They exist in many colors. However, all such items were produced privately; they were sold at the Postal Offices as "ware in commission". Unfortunately, the postal employees didn't inform the buyers about the non-postal origin of the material, thus many people bought them as postal items. The philatelic value of such material is zero; they will not be listed in catalogs. In short, think carefully before buying them.



Fig. 28

ICONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by G. M. van Zanten

On December 17, 1970 a set of four stamps depicting Slovak folk icons was issued by the Czechoslovak postal authorities -- the values were 60h, 1Kčs, 2Kčs, and 2.80Kčs.

This set fascinated me so much that I started looking for more information on the subject. When in London in 1988, prior to going to the PRAHA 88 exhibition, I visited several second hand book shops, and as luck would have it I found a book entitled "ICONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" which was destined to be mine -- and the price was very reasonable!!

The book is by Heinz Skrobucha, published in 1971 by Artia, reference ISBN 0.600.02005.3, large format, with 80 full page illustrations in color and full description on each facing page.

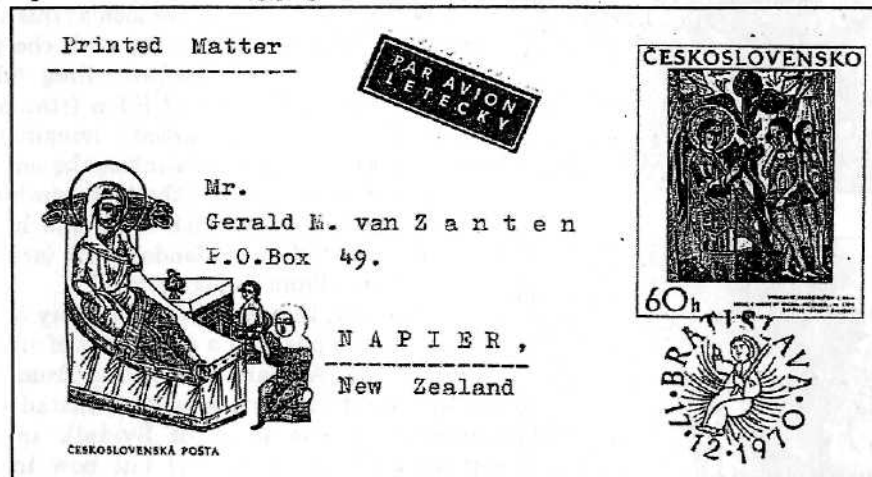


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

It certainly taught me a lot about icons as well as information for the article you are about to read, hopefully.

First, a few brief notes on the origins of icons. They appeared mainly in the wooden churches of Carpathian villages, where many still have their place to this day. As most countries outside of the realm of Orthodoxy, both the public and private collections in the Czech Republic and Slovakia are found to include Greek icons dating from post-Byzantine times and Russian icons from the 16th century onwards.

The Byzantine heritage dominates to a large extent throughout the 17th and 18th centuries.

Unfortunately only a few icons from early times



Fig. 3

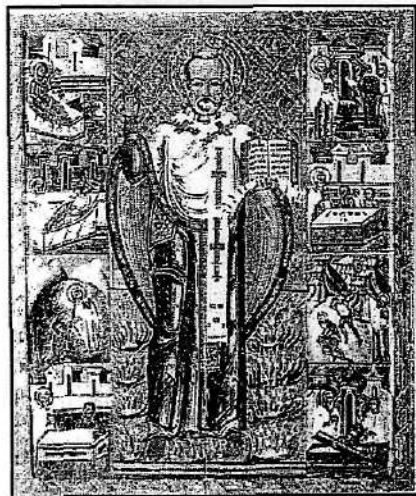


Fig. 4

have been preserved, time has also taken its toll on many of them. A great number of them were no doubt lost when the present day wooden church, which had its origins in the 18th century, took the place of its predecessor. Several of the icons, formerly from local churches, remain in these churches today, others are in museums at Bardejov and Svidník. We are therefore fortunate that both Czech and Slovak postal authorities have reproduced several of these works of art on our stamps. In future articles I shall deal with other icons and religious paintings which have been depicted on the stamps of Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Let us now have a closer look at this very interesting 1970 set, beginning with the 60h value which depicts Michael expelling Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (stamp on FDC in Figure 1). The artist's imagination found a striking way of representing the serpent -- its body is coiled around the tree trunk and ends in a human torso with arms and hands and a round head on a slender neck (see the page from my album in Figure 2).

However, this is not the full story of the FDC. The stamp is only a small part of an icon depicting the Archangel Michael from the wooden church in Rovné (which is situated 4 km southwest of the town of Svidník in the northeast part of Slovakia) but now in the museum for the Šariš district of Bardejov. This icon is shown in Figure 3. It measures 145 x 93 cm and is painted on wood. The stamp image is shown at top right on this larger icon.

Let us now have a look at the cachet. Once again it is a very small part of a much larger and interesting icon which depicts "Saint Nicholas" and measures 120 x 100 cm also on wood (Fig. 4). It is in the wooden church of the Archangel Michael in Prikra, in East Slovakia

about 2 km from the Polish border. The top left image is the subject of the cachet and depicts the "Birth of Saint Nicholas".

The 1Kčs stamp shows the "Mandilion" and the veil of St. Veronica (see the FDC at Figure 5). This icon also dates from the 16th century and measures 55 x 89 cm and is done in tempera. It is framed both on the right and on the left with scenes from the life of Christ. This icon is in the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava.

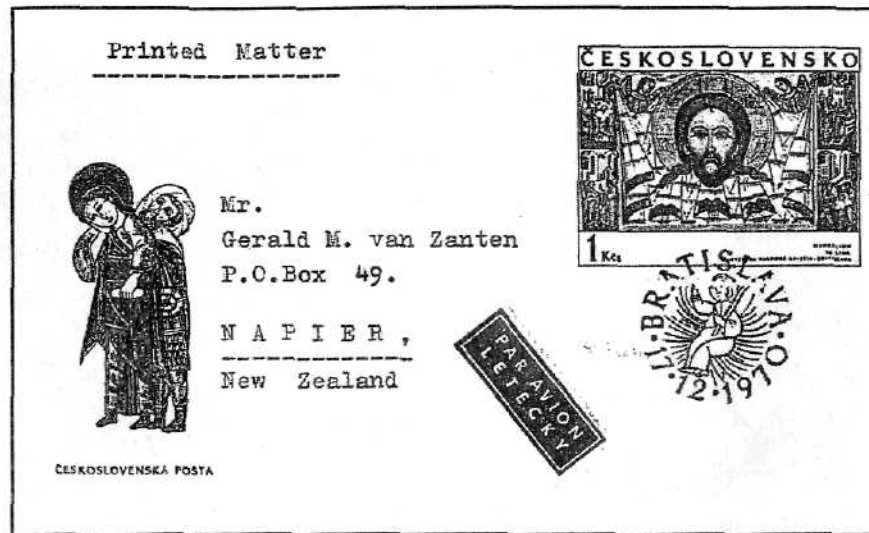


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

The cachet for this cover depicts once more a detail from a much larger icon "The Crucifixion" which measures 107 x 78 cm and is shown in Figure 6. This icon originated in the church in Vyšná Polianka (also very close to the Polish border) which is just north of the Bardejov/ Svidník road. It is now in the Šariš museum in Bardejov. The cachet depicts a small section of the large icon and shows the young John bowing his head down his right shoulder with his right hand holding a scroll. Behind John stands Longinus in his armor. The spear on the icon has not been included on the cachet.

The 2Kčs stamp has "Saint George Slaying the Dragon" as its subject (see the FDC at Figure 7). The original measures 62.5 x 103.5 cm and dates from the 18th century. It is now in the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava. It was previously in the Šariš museum, Bardejov. The cachet depicts "an angel driving devils

away from the holy scales" (indicated by an arrow in Figure 8) again is a very small part of a much larger icon entitled "The Last Judgement" and measures 170 x 130 cm. It is situated in the wooden church of Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian in

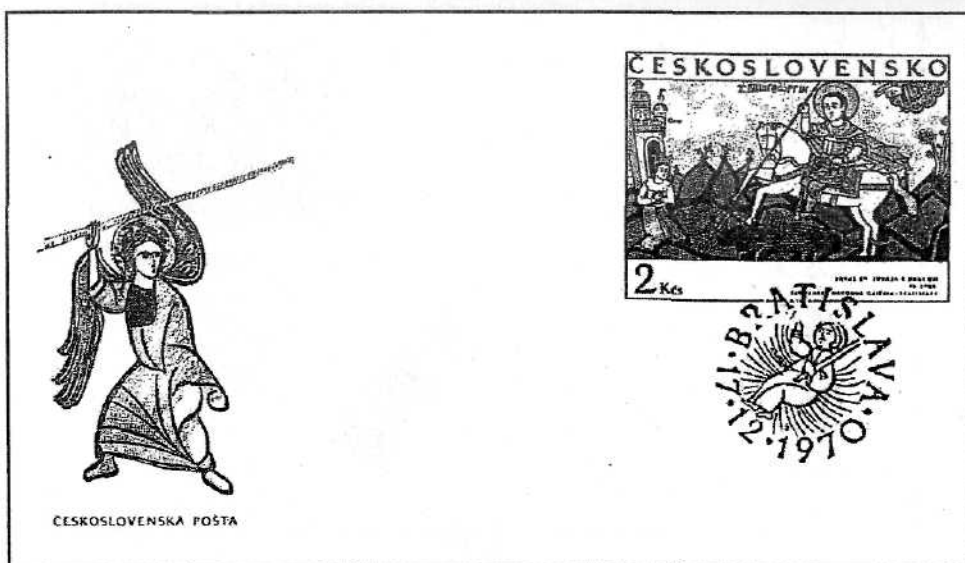


Fig. 7

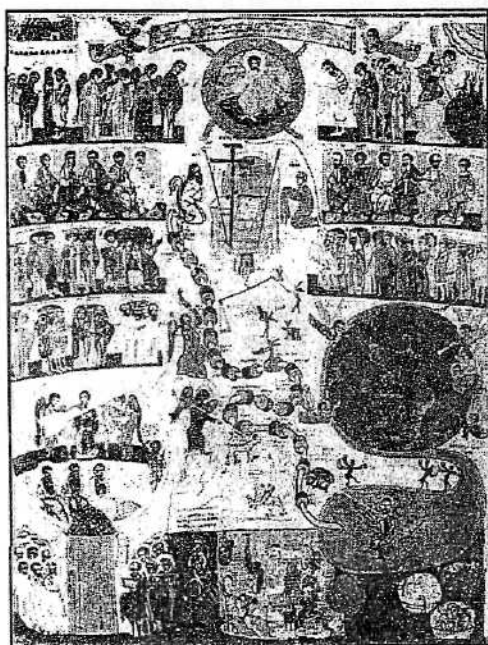


Fig. 8

Lukov-Venecia, a very small village just off route 77, west of Bardejov.

The 2.80Kčs stamp represents the Archangel Michael, Patron Saint of House and Home and thus also of Towns (Fig. 9). This icon dates from the end of the 17th century, is painted on wood, and measures 75 x 72 cm. It is in the wooden church of Kranjé Cierna, also in north Slovakia. The FDC depicts Beelzebub: Chief of Evil Spirits. It is a detail from an icon "The Last Judgement".



Fig. 10

Footnote:
Going back to

the 60h stamp and referring to the large icon of St. Michael (Fig. 3), we see -- on the third figure down the left margin -- the image of "The Three Men in the Furnace"



Fig. 9

(Fig. 10) which was the cachet of the Slovak 20Sk stamp issued on October 15, 2001. Can anyone assist me with the story about this subject? I would be very grateful.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

THE ŠARIŠ MUSEUM IN BARDEJOV by G. M. van Zanten

Bardejov, a town of 33,200 inhabitants is situated in the center of the Upper Šariš region in North East Slovakia at an altitude of approximately 277 meters. Figure 1 shows two major buildings on a Slovak 0.50Sk stamp. They are the large Gothic church of St. Aegidius and the former town hall. This stamp was issued on 1/2/2000. Also shown on the stamp is the town's coat of arms. Prior to using this coat of arms a seal was used, which had an engraving of St. Aegidius, the patron



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

saint of the parish church. The town commenced using arms in the 15th century, adopting the halberd (an ax-like blade and a spike mounted on a long shaft). Ladilas V chartered them in 1453 -- it can be seen in Figure 2.

The first settlement of Bardejov dates back to pre-historic times, while the foundation of Bardejov goes back to the 9th century -- in 1376 it became a free Royal town. It is one of the best preserved old towns in Slovakia with an almost unspoiled architectural whole; the town makes a decidedly medieval impression. In 1950 the town was declared an Urban Preservation



Fig. 3

area. Among the buildings are the aforementioned church (Fig. 3) and the former town hall (Fig. 4), which was also used for the cancellation of the 20Sk Art stamp issued on 15/10/2001 (Fig. 5).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The former town hall, located in the middle of the square, has on display the most valuable items of the Šariš Museum. The town hall was begun in 1505, completed in 1511, and the exterior paintings date from 1641. It was renovated several times, the last reconstruction took place in 1988. It is the first renaissance edifice in Slovakia.

The Šariš Museum -- a Gothic style building with a projecting renaissance arcade added later -- is shown in Figure 6.

Let us now have a look at some of the icons displayed in both the museum and the town hall as they have appeared on Czechoslovak and Slovak stamps:

1) The 20Sk stamp depicting "St. Michael the Archangel and St. Paul the Apostle", a fragment of a panel painting. Dimensions of the whole panel measure 107.3 x 199.2 cm which dates from the 16th century (Fig. 7). The cancellation

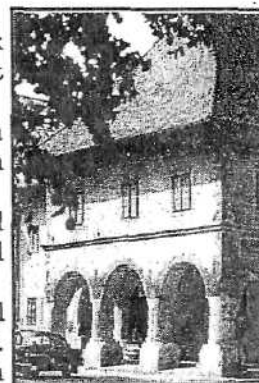


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

for this stamp was the former town hall mentioned and shown as Figure 5.

2) The 60h Czechoslovak stamp issued in 1970 depicting the Archangel expelling Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (Fig. 8). Here again this image is part of a much larger icon, also from the 16th century, which measures 145 x 93 cm. The whole wooden icon



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

[Ed. Note: I realize that there is some duplication between this article and the previous one, but felt that it was better to publish them in concert.]



Fig. 10



Fig. 12



Fig. 14

originated from the wooden church in Rovné and dates from the second half of the 16th century. It is shown in Figure 9 -- the stamp part was taken from the upper right of it. Figure 10 shows an enlargement of the stamp subject. On looking closer at the whole icon you will find -- about a third of the way down on the left side -- another image which was used as the cachet on the 20Sk stamp of 15/10/2001, namely "The Three Men in the Furnace" (Fig. 11).

3) The 1.60Kčs Czechoslovak stamp issued for the Osaka Expo of 1970 depicting an angel and saints -- a detail from an icon of the late 17th century (Fig. 12).

4) A 2Kčs Czechoslovak stamp depicting "St. George Slaying the Dragon" (Fig. 13) was issued on 17/12/1970. The whole of this icon measures 62.5 x 103.5 cm.

5) Figure 14 deals only with the cachet of a cover issued on 17/12/1970. The cachet is part of, once again, a much larger image, which measures 107 x 78 cm (Fig. 15). As with all the previous icons, it is also part of the Bardejov collection and depicted on various stamps.

I intend to cover further icons and also altar subjects that are shown on our stamps.



Fig. 11



Fig. 13



Fig. 15

References:

- ICONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA by Heinz Skrobucha, 1971 by ARTIA, ISBN 0-600-02005-3
- SLOVAKIA, Walking through Centuries of Cities and Towns, by various authors, latest edition 2000, ISBN 80-07-01134-X

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

-- Back to the new forgery of the 6.40 Kč Pansy definitive stamp. As CR forgeries are one of my collecting interests, I have pursued this matter to the limit. I have contacted philatelic friends and relatives in every corner of the republic, and to date read six different news articles relating to this forgery. They all state that the forgery originated in Ostrava, and that it is available at most places that sell postage stamps like kiosks, new stands, and stores. There was also a report that even post offices sold this forgery. The news stories claimed this forgery was created to defraud the Czech Postal Service. I believe just the opposite -- this was created solely to defraud the collectors. For instance, a good friend in Prague visited 38 locations outside of post offices -- like news stands and kiosks. A dozen of these did not handle postage stamps, all the rest had the 6.40 Kč Pansy stamp which in each case he purchased. All of them proved to be the original issue and not a single forgery. The locations he visited were from different areas of Prague. I had similar reports from Plzeň and other major cities of the CR. I believe that time will prove me right, especially if the forgeries will start appearing in Czech auctions. A similar thing can be said of the 1993 Pofis #9, 8 Kč Brno. This also was a photo copy forgery, written up in the news media as a forgery to defraud the Postal Service, but in the long run available only at stamp sales or auctions.

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

THE IDEAL BIRTHDAY OR CHRISTMAS GIFT: AN S.C.P. MEMBERSHIP

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✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

COMPARISON SURVEY OF CATALOG NUMBERS OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS

by Savoy Horvath

(continued from previous issue)

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

CZECH REPUBLIC

POFIS/Scott/Michel

<u>1995 (cont)</u>	<u>1996 (cont)</u>	<u>1997 (cont)</u>	<u>1998 (cont)</u>
82/2960/82	122/2992/122	160/3025/159	199/3062/198
83/2962/84	123/2993/123	161/3026/160	200/3063/199
84/2963/85	124/2994a/124	162/3028/161	201/3064/200
85/2964/86	A124/2994/BL3	163/3029/162	202/3075/201
86/2961/83	125/2996/126	164/3030/163	203/3076/202
87/2947B/87	126/2997/127	165/3027/164	
A87/2947B/BL2	127/2998/128		<u>1999</u>
88/2965/88	128/2999/129	<u>1998</u>	204/3077/203
89/2966/92	129/3001/130	166/3032/165	205/3078/204
90/2967/94	130/3002/131	167/3031/166	206/3079/205
91/2968/95	131/2995/125	168/3033/167	207/3080/206
92/2969/89	132/3000/132	169/3034/168	208/3081/211
93/2970/93		170/3035/170	209/3082/207
94/2972/91	<u>1997</u>	171/3036a/169	210/3083/208
95/2971/90	133/3003/133	A171/3036/BL6	211/3084/209
96/2973/96	134/3005/135	172/3037/172	212/3085/210
97/2974/97	135/3006/136	173/3038/171	213/3086/212
98/2975/98	136/3007/137	174/3040a/173	214/3087/213
99/2976/99	137/3008/138	175/3040b/174	215/3088/214
	138/3004/134	176/3040c/175	216/3089/215
<u>1996</u>	139/3011/139	A174-6/3040/BL7	217/3090/216
100/2977/100	140/2968A/140	177/3039/176	218/3065/217
101/2978/101	141/3012/141	A177/---/BL8	219/3091/220
102/2979/102	A141/---/---	178/3041/177	220/3092/218
103/2980/104	142/3009/142	179/3042/178	221/3093/219
104/2981/103	143/3010/143	180/3043/179	222/3094a/221
105/2982a/106	144/3013/144	181/3044/180	223/3094b/222
106/2982b/107	145/3014/145	182/3045/181	A222-3/3094/---
107/2982c/108	146/3015a/146	183/3046/182	224/3095/223
108/2982d/109	147/3015b/147	184/3047/183	225/3096/224
109/2983/105	148/3015c/148	185/3050/184	226/3097/227
110/2984a/110	A146-8/3015/BL4	186/3051/185	227/3066/225
111/2984b/111	149/3016/149	187/3052/186	228/3067/226
112/2984c/112	150/2969A/150	188/3053/189	229/3098/228
113/2984d/113	151/3017/151	189/3048/187	230/3099/229
A110-3/2984/BL4	152/3018/152	190/3049/188	231/3100/230
114/2985/114	153/3019/153	191/3054/190	232/3101/231
115/2986/115	154/3020/154	192/3055/191	233/3102/232
116/2987/116	155/3021/155	193/3056/192	234/3103/233
117/2988/117	156/3022/156	194/3057/193	235/3104a/234
118/2967A/118	157/3023/157	195/3058/194	236/3104b/235
119/2989/119	A158/3022-23a/	196/3059/195	A235-6/3104/BL9
120/2990/120	BL5	197/3060/196	237/3105/236
121/2991/121	159/3024/158	198/3061/197	238/3106/237

<u>1999 (cont)</u>	<u>2000 (cont)</u>	SLOVAK	<u>1994 (cont)</u>
239/3107/238	277/3135/276	REPUBLIC	39/189/200
240/3108/239	278/3136/277	<u>1993</u>	40/190/201
241/3069/241	279/3137/278	1/151/162	41/---/202
242/3068/240		A1/---/---	A41/191/BL2
	<u>2001</u>	2/150/163	42/192/203
<u>2000</u>	280/3138/279	3/154/164	43/193/204
243/3109/242	281/3139/281	4/155/165	44/194/205
244/3110/243	282/3071/280	5/159/166	45/153/206
245/3111/244	283/3072/283	6/158/167	46/195/207
A245/3111/BL10	284/3140/282	7/160/168	47/196/208
246/3113/246	285/3141a/284	8/161/169	48/197/209
A246/3113/BL11	286/3141b/285	9/162/170	49/198/210
247/3112/245	287/3141c/286	10/163/171	50/199/211
248/3114/247	A285-7/3141/BL14	11/164/172	51/200/212
249/3115/251	288/3142/287	12/165/173	52/201/213
250/3116a/248	289/3143/288	13/166/174	53/202/214
251/3116b/249	A289/3143/BL15	14/168/175	54/203/215
252/3116c/250	290/3144/289	15/167/176	
A250-2/3116/BL12	291/3145/290	16/169/177	<u>1995</u>
253/3120/256	292/3146/293	17/170/178	55/204/216
254/3117a/252	293/3147/291	18/156/179	56/205/217
255/3117b/253	294/3148/292	19/159A/180	57/206/218
A254-5/3117/BL13	295/3149/294	20/172/181	58/207/219
256/3118/254	296/3150a/295	21/B28/182	59/208/220
257/3119/255	297/3150b/296	22/173/183	60/152/221
258/3070/257	298/3151a/297	23/---/184	61/209/222
259/3121/258	299/3151b/298	A23/174/BL1	62/210/223
260/3122/259	300/3153b/???	24/175/185	63/211/224
261/3123/264	301/3153a/???	25/157/186	64/---/225
262/3124/265	302/3152b/???		A64/212/BL3
263/3125/266	303/3152a/???	<u>1994</u>	65/213/226
264/3126A/260		26/176/187	66/214/227
265/3126b/261		27/177/188	67/215/228
266/3127a/262		28/178/189	68/216/229
267/3127b/263		29/179/190	69/217/230
268/3130/267		30/180/191	A69/217a/BL4
269/3129/268		31/181/192	70/221/231
270/3128/269		32/182/193	71/228/232
271/3131a/270		33/183/194	72/229/233
272/3131b/271		34/184/195	73/230/234
273/3132a/272		35/185/196	74/231/235
274/3132b/273		36/186/197	75/232/236
275/3133/274		37/187/198	76/233/237
276/3134/275		38/188/199	77/224/238

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

<u>1995 (cont)</u>	<u>1997 (cont)</u>	<u>1998 (cont)</u>	<u>1999 (cont)</u>
78/234/239	115/267/275	154/306/314	A189-91/339/BL13
79/235/240	116/268/276	155/307/315	192/340/352
80/235A/241	117/269/277	156/308/316	193/341/353
81/236/242	118/270/278	157/309a/317	194/342/354
82/237/243	119/---/279	158/309b/318	195/343/355
83/238/244	A119/273/BL8	159/309c/319	196/344/356
	120/271/280	A157-9/309/----	197/345/357
<u>1996</u>	121/272/281	160/310/320	198/346/358
84/241/245	122/274/282	161/311/321	
85/239/246	123/276/283	162/313/322	<u>2000</u>
86/240/247	124/275/284	163/312/323	199/347a/359
87/242/248	125/277/285	164/314/324	200/347b/360
88/---/249	126/278/286	165/315/325	201/348/361
A88/243/BL5	127/279/287	166/316/326	202/349/362
89/244a/250	128/281/289	167/317/327	203/350/363
90/244b/251	129/282/290	168/318/328	204/353/364
A89-90/---/----	130/283/291		205/352/365
91/---/252	A128-30/281-3a/BL9		<u>1999</u>
206/351/366			
A91/245/BL6	131/280/288	169/319/329	207/354/367
92/---/253	132/284/292	170/320/330	208/355/368
A92/B29/BL7	133/285/293	171/321/331	209/357/369
93/247/254	134/286/294	172/322/332	210/356/370
94/246/255	135/287/295	173/324/333	211/358/371
95/248/256	136/289/296	174/325/334	212/359/372
96/249/257	137/288/297	175/326/335	213/360/373
97/250/258	138/290/298	176/323/336	214/361/374
98/251/259	139/291/299	177/328/337	215/363a/375
99/252/260		178/329/338	216/363b/376
100/253/261	<u>1998</u>	A177-8/---/----	217/363c/377
101/254/262	140/292/300	179/330/339	---/363/BL14
102/259/264	141/296/301	A179/330a/BL11	218/362/378
103/255/263	142/293/302	180/327/340	219/364/379
104/256/265	143/294/303	181/331/341	220/365/380
105/257/266	144/295/304	182/332/342	221/366/381
106/260/267	145/297/305	183/---/343	222/367/382
107/258/268	146/298/306	A183/333/BL12	223/368/383
109/261/269	147/299/307	184/334/344	224/369/384
110/262/270	148/---/308	185/335/345	
	A148/300/BL10	186/337/346	
<u>1997</u>	149/302/309	187/336/347	
111/263/271	150/301/310	188/338/348	
112/264/272	151/303/311	189/339a/349	
113/265/273	152/304/312	190/339b/350	
114/266/274	153/305/313	191/339c/351	

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OF 1920 BUSSETT ISSUE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Tony Dewey 157 Warrenton Avenue Hartford, CT 06105 AFDewey@AOL.COM

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

In my Book Review of Henry Hahn's excellent *Postal History of Telč and Its Region* [Sep/Oct 2003 *SPECIALIST*, pg 27], I failed to mention that this publication is available for sale by our Society for \$7.00 postpaid.

Savoy Horvath

[Ed. Note: This is also an oversight on my part, so Savoy should not bear all of the blame.]

2. Dear Lou:

Can you or someone answer the following two Czech FDC questions?

1) Many Czech catalogs list high prices for Ministerial FDCs as opposed to the normal FDCs. However, there is no description of how these "Ministerial" FDCs differ from the standard ones. Do the FDCs shown in Figures 1 and 2 show such "Ministerial" FDCs since they come from the Czech Bureau of Posts and Czech PTT?

2) Is there any information about the hand colored Czech FDCs that exist from some FDCs in the early 1950s (1950-1953)? Such as, who made them, what Czech FDCs exist in color, why they do not seem to exist after early 1953 (except for a 1959 colored FDC for the Russian Lunar Rocket stamp), are they scarce, and what prices

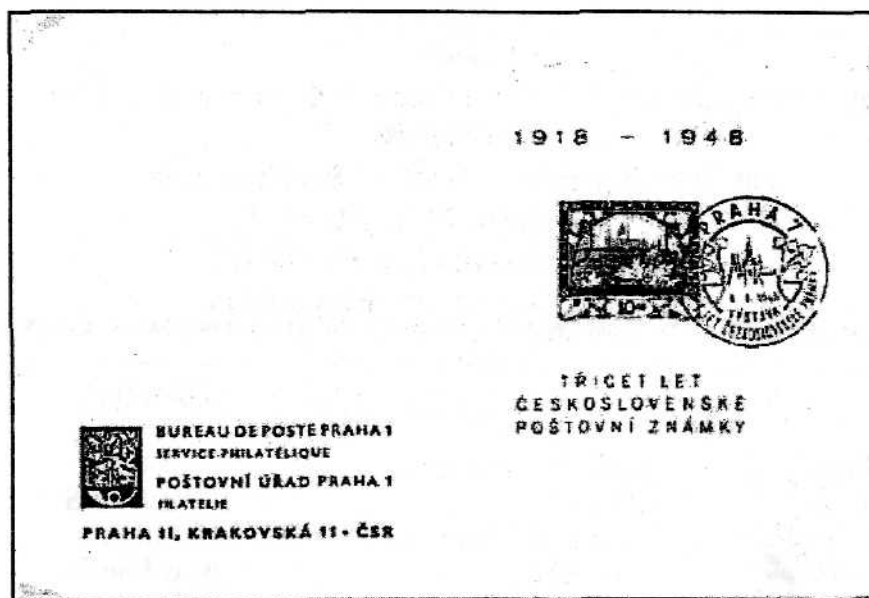


Fig. 1

do they normally sell for? Most of these, such as the Lidice FDC below (Fig. 3), are just hand colored versions of the standard single color engraved FDC. But a few, such as the Tatra cover (Fig. 4), seem to be a totally new design that differs from the standard FDC design. Do you have any information?

Phil Melamed



Fig. 2

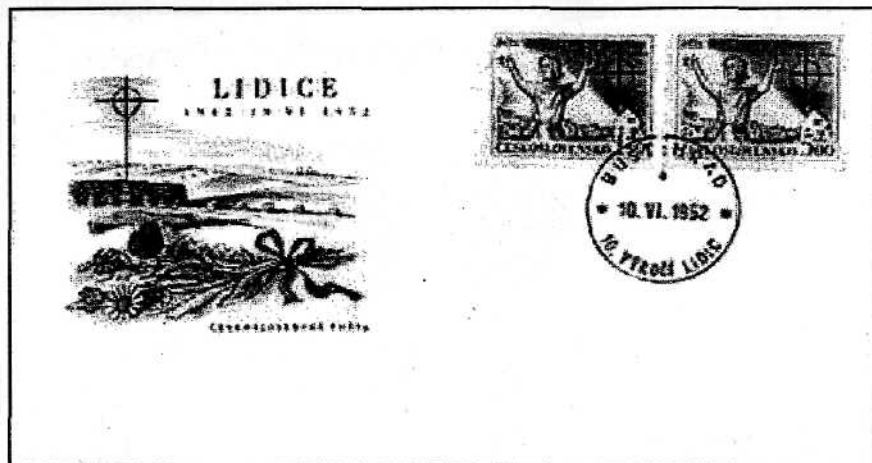


Fig. 3

3. Dear Lou:

I am enclosing my request for the 1939-1999 *Specialist* Index. I am sure that I will find much use from the Index and it will be greatly appreciated.

Also, may I congratulate you on the continuing excellent standard of the *Specialist*. From personal experience I am aware that putting a successful magazine together is not so simple as most people think. Prior to my retirement I was editor of Australia Post's *Australian Stamp Bulletin*, so I feel qualified to offer this praise.

With kind regards to yourself and all at the Society. Please keep up the good work.

John Tinney

4. Dear Lou:

We recently published this query in our 4/2002 issue of *Czechout* and have not



Fig. 4

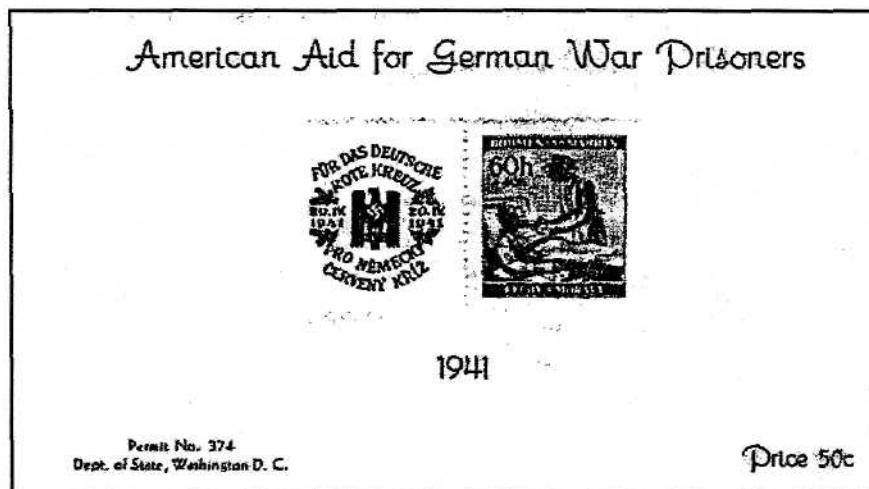


Fig. 5

had a successful response. Could you publish it and see if any of your readers have an answer?

From John Hammonds: I recently obtained this card inscribed "1941 American Aid for German War Prisoners". Can anyone tell me its background? [Fig. 5]

[Ed. Note: Since some of the smaller print may not show up well enough, on the lower left corner are the words "Permit No. 374 / Dept. of State, Washington D.C." and in the lower right "Price 50¢". The stamp with label is Sc. B&M B3.]

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

SELL - SWAP - WANT

Once again I am reminding members about a feature column that used to be a staple of the SPECIALIST many years ago (in the 1970's). I am hoping that it will help members find philatelic items that they need or to sell/swap those that they have in excess -- AND, it is all free!

Every member is entitled to one free 15 word ad each calendar year which will run in the column headed the way this one is. Your name and address does not count towards the 15 words. Send your ad (please type or print it so there are no misunderstandings) to me at the address or e-mail address found on page two of every issue.

EXAMPLES of ads that have run in the past are:

WANTED: Buy International Reply Coupons all countries. L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SELL: Hard cover bound copies of 1951-53 issues of SPECIALIST, \$15 postpaid. L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SWAP: Interested in Hradcany perf/imperf sheets, covers, freaks, anything -- especially 25h blue. L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Farewells

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of our member, Leo K. Shigut (member #1633), of Torrance, CA. We extend our sincerest sympathies to the entire Shigut family.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 10, 2003, the Ministry of Post and Communications issued a commemorative souvenir sheet of four commemorative stamps and four labels with the theme of Animal Breeding: Aquarium Fishes (Fig. 1). According to archaeological findings, the history of breeding aquarium fish goes back to ancient Egyptians and Assyrians who kept large piscinas for breeding ornamental fish. Selective breeding of goldfish was started by the Chinese in the 10th century, and the popularity of aquarium fish began to spread in Europe in the 16th century. The Czech pioneer of this hobby was the noted scientist Jan Evangelista Purkyně. Breeding aquarium fish is normally not very demanding in terms of time or costs, and so it is affordable to many. An aquarium with water plants and colorful fish serves as the decoration of an imposing number of apartments, offices or public buildings. The aquarium fish pictured in the miniature sheet and on the First Day Cover are among the most widespread in this country. This multicolored souvenir sheet was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using bi-colored recess print from



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

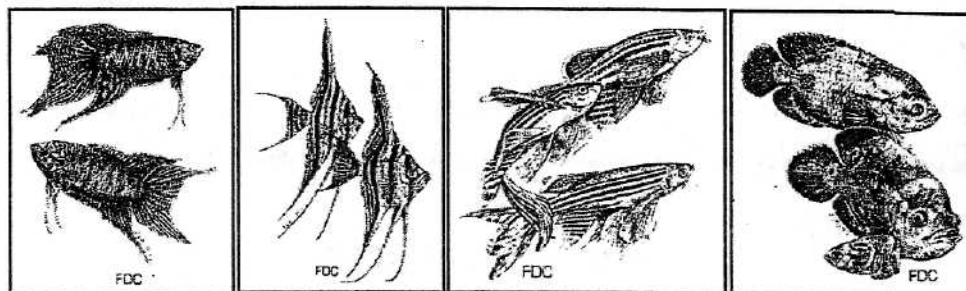


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

flat plates in black and ocher combined with multicolored offset.

-- 12 Kč, *Betta splendens*, comes originally from Thailand. These 6 centimeters long fish have a special organ under their gills, a sort of labyrinth which enables them to breath atmospheric air. A FDC in blue (Fig. 2) has a cachet showing the fish *Macropodus opercularis*.

-- 14 Kč, *Pterophyllum scalare*, is one of the most popular kinds of aquarium fish. It has been genetically developed into a broad color variety and forms of veil. A FDC in black-brown (Fig. 3) has a cachet showing the fish *Pterophyllum altum*.

-- 16 Kč, *Carassius auratus*, this kind of fish appearing in many colors and bizarre shapes can be kept also in garden ponds. In contrast to their tropical cousins they do not need warm water. A FDC in gray-green (Fig. 4) has a cachet showing the fish *Brachydanio rerio*.

-- 20 Kč, *Symphysodon aequifasciatus*, originates from the waters of South America. It appears in many colors -- both natural and genetically developed. It has high requirements concerning the quality and temperature of water. A FDC in brown (Fig. 5) has a cachet showing the fish *Astronotus ocellatus*.

The labels on the souvenir sheet show further kinds of aquarium fish: the left upper label -- *Trichogaster leeri* and *Colisa lalia*, the right upper label -- *Xiphophorus variatus* and *Poecilia reticulata*, the left lower label *Synodontis multipunctatus*, the right lower label *Corydoras virginiae*. The souvenir sheet is composed as an aquarium with water plants, stones and refuges for fishes, which are arranged in the sheet in accordance with their natures.

2. On October 1, 2003, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps entitled Oriental Carpets (Fig. 6). Both stamps feature Turkish carpets, recently described as Anatolian. They differ from other Oriental carpets in their artistic idiom -- in their specific compositions, original use of patterns and motifs, and in their typical wealth of color. Oriental carpets which



Fig. 6

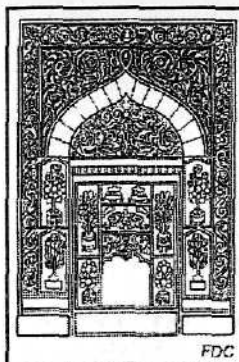


Fig. 7

represent probably the most typical Muslim handicraft with centuries of tradition, are usually found in luxurious palaces, but also in ordinary households and nomad dwellings. The carpets are laid on the ground, hung on the wall, and they also replace beds and pillows. A specific category of carpets are the prayer carpets. Both carpets come from the highly recognized collection of the connoisseur of Anatolian carpets Rainer Kreissl (born in 1924 in Děkov near Rakovník, currently living in Munich) who in 1994 donated

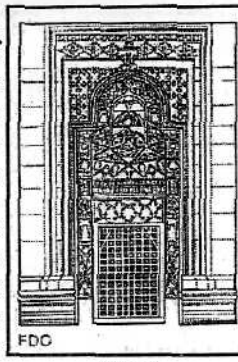


Fig. 8

his valuable collection (1160 carpets) to the Czech Republic. The collection documents the development of the Turkish carpet production from the 13th to the 20th centuries from the ethnographic and artistic viewpoints. The collection is maintained by a branch of the National Museum, Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American cultures. The stamps were designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 pieces.

-- 9 Kč stamp shows a 19th century Anatolian prayer carpet with a stylized *mihrab* -- an alcove in the wall which is oriented in the direction of Mecca -- thus giving the believers the direction in which to pray. A FDC in pink-violet has



Fig. 9

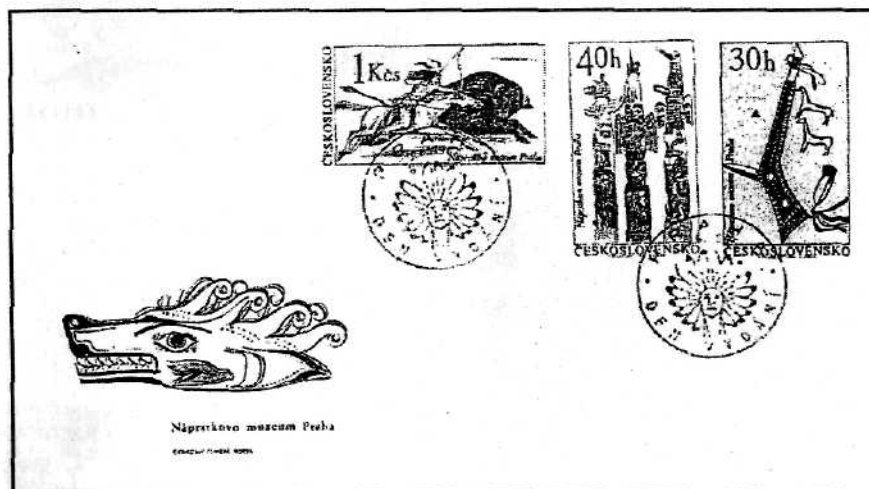


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

a cachet that shows an example of Islamic architecture (Fig. 7).

-- 12 Kč stamp shows an 18th century carpet for everyday use with rich ornamentation. A FDC in pink-violet has a cachet that shows an example of Islamic architecture (Fig. 8).

Footnote: Vojtěch Náprstek 1826-1894 (Fig. 9). The first set of five stamps on "American Indian" subjects from the Náprstek Museum was issued on 20/6/1966 (Fig. 10 shows a FDC example). Vojtěch studied law in Vienna, but he

was however attracted to distant countries. After the 1848 revolution he fled to the United States where he settled in Milwaukee. He visited the Indian tribes of the Dakotas where he obtained valuable objects, some of which were the subject of the 1966 stamps. He was instrumental in publishing the first Czech periodical in the United States. After his return to Prague, one of his most important actions was the establishment of the Czech Industrial Museum. The many guests he received at his home also included explorers and Czech expatriates. He received many gifts from these visitors from all the continents, which formed the core of the present Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American cultures (Fig. 11).

Stationery

3. On September 10, 2003, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted 9 Kč postage stamp for the European Postage Stamp Exhibition BRNO

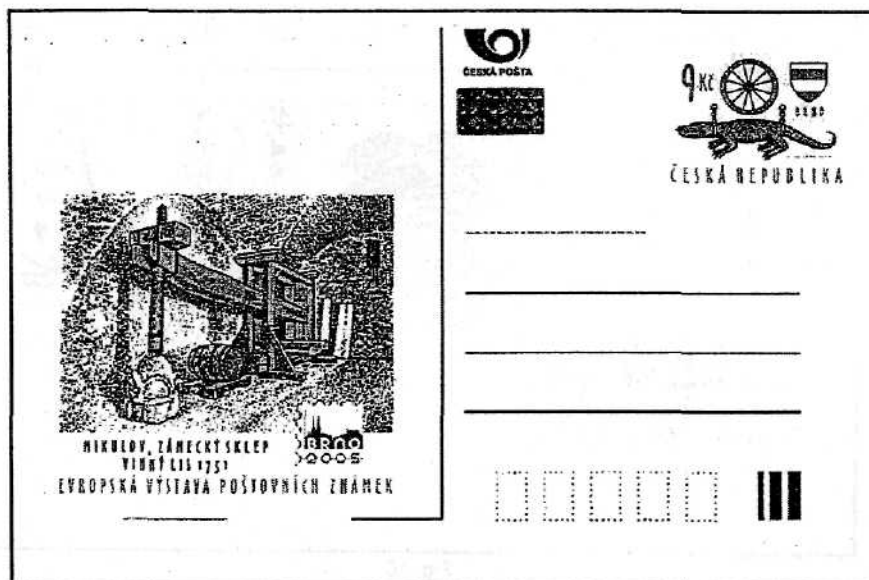


Fig. 12

2005 (Fig. 12). The imprinted stamp's design is created from a graphical composition consisting of the coat-of-arms of Brno, the Brno "dragon", and a wooden wheel. The design of the cachet on the postal card is a wine press from 1751 from the unique wine culture exposition to be found in the cellar of the Mikulov castle, along with the exhibition logo. The postal card was designed by Karel Dvořák and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 14 Kč.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

4. On June 1, 2003, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 7 Sk commemorative stamp for Fairy Tale Characters -- Mat'ko and Kubko (Fig. 13). Issues dedicated to children have already been published for several years



Fig. 13

on the occasion of the International Day of Children. For some of them, children's drawings from various competitions were used. This presented Fairy Tale Characters issue brings children Mat'ko and Kubko (Matthew and Jacob), their favorite animated heroes from the successful TV bedtime stories in the 70's, *The Shepherds Tended Sheep*. The series was also published as a book later. Slovak animated children's cartoons rank prominently in the world due to their quality. There are generations of children who were raised on the Slovak TV animated bedtime stories -- and they loved them. The success of animated Slovak cartoons has also been proved abroad by way

of several international awards substantiating that fairy tales are everlasting, knowing no frontiers. The book *Mat'ko a Kubko*, written by Marianna Grznárová, consists of several tales about amusing happenings of Mat'ko and Kubko -- shepherds living in a shepherds cottage. The charm of the story lies in the humorous parody of the topic and of the language of folk fairy tales. The text is supplement by equally humorous illustrations by Ladislav Čapek. Some of the illustrations are reproduced on the stamp and on the FDC. The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

5. On June 25, 2003, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing 4 stamps with denominations of 13, 14, 16, and 18 Sk in the Nature Conservation series honoring the European Wild Cat (Fig. 14). This latest Nature Conservation issue was created with the working cooperation of the WWF -- World Wildlife Fund for Nature. There are four stamps in this issue which depict the endangered European Wild Cat (*Felis silvestris silvestris*) with the WWF's giant panda logo near the top of each stamp. The Wild Cat is extinct in most parts of Europe, and today it can only be found in a few parts of Scotland, Germany and Slovakia. Its natural habitat is thick forest land. This fierce, handsome animal is heavier and larger than the domestic cat and although rarely seen, can be distinguished by its thick bushy tail. Its staple diet is mice, voles, rabbits, hares and

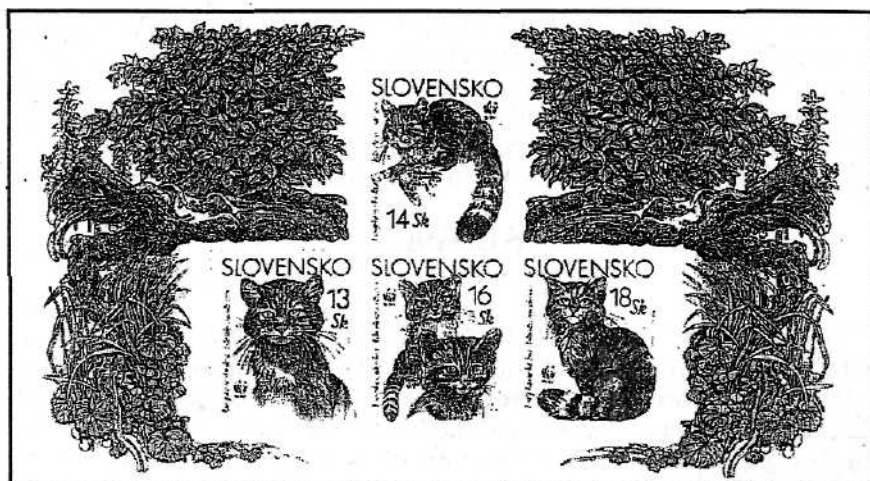


Fig. 14

small birds at night. Mating occurs in March and most litters, of between one and eight kittens, are born in May. The souvenir sheet was designed by Vladimír Machaj, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset. A FDC depicts motifs of the European Wild Cat's natural habitat.

6. On July 3, 2003, the Ministry issued an 11 Sk commemorative stamp honoring the World Swimming Championships 2003 (Fig. 15). Swimming competitions were already a part of the modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896. Together with track and field athletics, swimming still plays a major part in the Summer Olympics. La Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) -- established in 1908 -- organized the first European Swimming Championships: for men in 1926,



Fig. 15

which was held in Budapest, and for women in Bologna the following year. FINA started the first World Swimming Championships, which included also diving and water polo, in 1973 in Belgrade. During the last century many medals were won by Slovaks in competitive swimming: Zoltán Halmaj from Vysoká nad Moravou alone won 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 1 Bronze medal in the Olympic Games of 1900 and 1904. One of the successful swimmers between the two wars was J. Steiner, who won Bronze at the 1931 European Swimming Championships, and major contributors to the success of Slovak swimming since WW II were the finalists at the Olympic Games: L. Komadel (1952), O. Kozičová (1968) and M. Roľko (1976, 1980). In 1977 M. Roľko also became the European Swimming Champion in the 100 meter backstroke in Jönköping. This stamp is also being issued to honor Martina Moravcová from Piešťany. This year in Barcelona, she will have the opportunity to enlarge her rich medal collection from top world competitions. The stamp was designed by Igor Rumanský, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Postal

Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

7. On July 15, 2003, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet having two stamps and a common coupon in the Technical Monuments series entitled The "Tajchy" of Banská Štiavnica and also for the 50th Anniversary of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Fig. 16). The old mining town of Banská Štiavnica has a unique and ingenious system for the management of water, dating back to the early

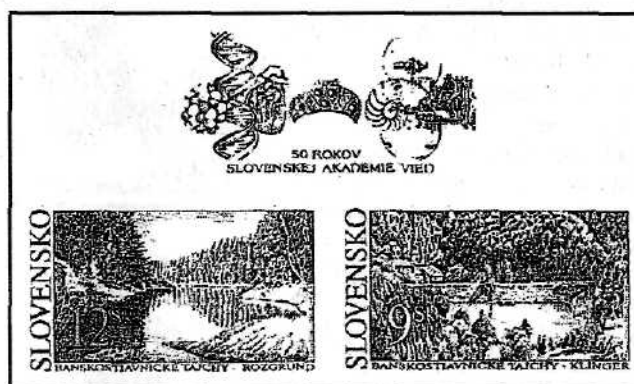


Fig. 16

1700's. A complete system of "tajchy", or reservoirs, with interconnecting racing channels, was built for the accumulation of surface water and also as a source of energy. The energy generated proved invaluable for subterranean water pumping machinery in the local mines; indeed Banská Štiavnica became the most important center of precious metal mining during the Habsburg

dynasty. It is thanks to the inventors Matej Kornel Hell and Jozef Karol Hell, as well as the scientist and polymath Samuel Mikovíni that this system was devised. By the end of the 1800's as many as sixty reservoirs were built, of which twenty-three still exist today. Banská Štiavnica and the "tajchy" are UNESCO World Heritage sites. The coupon is issued on the 50th anniversary of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1953 - 2003), a science and research institute for the advancement of technological, cultural and environmental know-how. Forty-one scientific and scholarly societies are affiliated with the S.A.S. The stamps and coupon were designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates.

-- 9 Sk, depicts the Klinger Tajch. On the FDC is the Wheel from the Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica.

-- 12 Sk, depicts the Rozgrund Tajch. On the FDC is Hell's water pumping machinery.

Footnote: 50th Anniversary of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The Hell family played a role in the history of mining and mining technology which exceeded the frontiers of Slovakia. Matej Kornel, 1653-1743, was a founder of this family. He saved many mines from flooding. His son, Jozef Karol, 1717-1789, was a talented designer of water-driven pumps. Banská Štiavnica was a rich and important town in those times, a center of the mining industry employing about 8,000 people. The first technical high school was established there in 1762. A brother of Jozef Karol (Maximilian, 1720-1792) was portrayed on a stamp from 1970. He was a famous astronomer.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

8. On August 15, 2003, the Ministry issued a 12 Sk commemorative stamp to celebrate the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2003 (Fig. 17). The Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) is the international competitive exhibition of illustrations for children's books. Works reproduced in this edition are illustrations which were awarded by the International Jury on the BIB 2001. There were 290 illustrators from 43 countries of the world who participated at this exhibition. The International Jury awards these prizes: Grand Prix, 5 Golden Apples, 5 Plackets and honorable acknowledgement for publishers. Eric Battut of France won the Grand Prix BIB 2001. His works have the character of paintings and the essence of humor. In his colorful illustrations are shown figures and objects composed on a clear surface, viewed from perspective. Jana Kiselová-Sitekóvá -- the many time winning Slovak illustrator -- won one of the Golden Apples BIB 2001. She created ethereal and fragile illustrations using fine colors, using unusual techniques and micro-drawings. Although the art work of both illustrators is different, they both achieve high artistic and aesthetic qualities which captivate many people. The stamp depicts a work of art by Jana Kiselová-Sitekóvá, was designed by Martin Činovský, engraved by Arnold Feke, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. The cachet on the FDC shows a work of art by Eric Battut.



Fig. 17

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