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PREPARATIONS FOR PRAGA'08

Editors, *FILATELIE*

trans. by Henry Hahn

Preparations for the world exhibit PRAGA'08 have assumed an accelerated pace, and members of the organizing committee have already been assigned responsibilities. Vít Vaniček will act as General Chairman, V. Muntzberger as Secretary, F. Beneš as head of publicity, J. Beloubek has finances, J. Čačka has philatelic matters, M. Langhammer is General Commissioner, J. Maleček has communications between the Union of Czech Philatelists and the organizing committee, W. Müller is first vice chairman, Z. Okáč has the youth section, J. Sedlat is vice chairman in charge of social activities, and M. Tuma is head of technical services. Negotiations with the Czech Post Office and the agency Progress Partners (which is charged with the yearly show SBĚRATEL held every two years in the Holešovice location) took place in the middle of May. PRAGA'08 will be located in the right wing of the Industrial Palace. SBĚRATEL will be located in the left wing, with the jury, organizing committee, and some non-competitive exhibits located in the center.

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PREPARATIONS FOR PRAGA'08 (Continued from Page 1)

The competition portion of the show will include 2,200 frames and will include the Traditional Class, Postal History, and single frame-exhibits. A separate competitive Philatelic Literature exhibit will be located as traditionally in the Postal Museum. The Court of Honor and Championship Class will be located in the Industrial Palace. The Championship Class and Youth Class Salon inclusion were on the agenda of FIP negotiations at WASHINGTON'06, but the conclusions were not available at the time of preparation of this article. Also included in PRAGA'08 will be exhibits of the Postal Museum, currency printers, available issues at the post office, children's post office and location of Internet connections. The show budget was approved and the availability of financial resources assured. An action associated with the show will be the rapidly growing EXPONET virtual philatelic exhibit, which could bring a significant number of PRAGA'08 exhibits to viewers who can not attend the show or could not spend sufficient time to view the exhibits of interest. As in the past, this show will require many volunteers. Those ready to offer their services will be most welcome.

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MAILINGS OF THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC POST (5)

by A. Šmíd, V. Schödelbauer

trans. by Henry Hahn

*(Continued from previous issue)***Additional identification markings of pneumatic mail consignments**

The numbering of consignments using a sequence marking device for postal evidentiary purposes is an additional and among collectors presumably the most important evidence according to which to determine that it was delivered by pneumatic mail. This marking is, however, not entirely reliable, and therefore has for determination purposes only supplementary value. The reason is simple -- all special delivery consignments were marked with sequence numbers (at least at the majority of post offices). At the same time the sequence marking device was also sometimes used by the post office on other kinds of consignments, and in some cases the numbering may have nothing to do with the post (it could, for example, reflect receipting by the addressee -- see Fig. 34). On top of that this number imprinting was relatively easy to forge.

Even so, it cannot be said that sequence numbering does not have a purpose in pneumatic mail. This method of receipting consignments came into use during the Austro-Hungarian era, at first on pneumatic mail and telegrams. The numbering was at first by hand. At the top left of the consignment was placed the number of the delivery post office (this served to provide rapid orientation during the routing of the consignment within the PtP network), and near the middle then was another number that indicated how many franked pneumatic consignments had passed through each receiving post office (see Fig. 3 and 6). Beginning in 1907 the number of the delivery post office was placed in the middle of the entire or elsewhere in the form of a fraction (see Fig. 4 or 7).

For the receipting of telegrams, both in Prague and in Vienna, there was used a numbering stamp, called a paginator. From 1.10.1916 when even special delivery consignments began to be transported by pneumatic mail without additional surcharge (see Jan/Feb 2006 SPECIALIST, pg 8), hand numbering (see Fig. 1) or paginator use occurred even on these consignments.

The numbering of special delivery consignments by the paginator was, in principle, taken over also by the Czechoslovak postal service. In addition it also served to postally receipt all submitted or received special delivery consignments that had passed through appropriate post offices (i.e. not only those delivered by pneumatic mail). I do not know the reason for this receipting, but it could have, for example, been connected with the calculation of the expenses associated with special delivery service in comparison with the usual delivery round (or more precisely with the fees for the delivery of these consignments), or it may only have had statistical purposes. However, it appears that the numbering was not mandatory, since during the period 1919-1932 this number is very often missing from consignments. On the other hand, from 1932 through 1945 pagination numbers appear on practically all surviving special delivery or airmail consignments, entirely without a view to whether they were or were not delivered by pneumatic mail.

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from there to the addressee. It is almost certain that they were transported by PIP either in a common capsule or in a so-called "train" (two or three capsules sent together by PIP over the same route). Green pagination imprints from the PIP central post office indicate the numbers 4203 and 4178 (a difference of 25 consignments), which roughly also corresponds to the information of the black pagination from the Praha 55 post office -- the numbers 4965 and 4994 (a difference of 29 consignments). From this data it is possible to estimate that within the scope of one of the capsules (or a train) there were transported by PIP at least 25 consignments, but probably somewhat more.

Figure 42 and 43: Another piece of interesting information is brought by comparing two airmail consignments sent by different senders from Sao Paulo (Brazil) to the self-same addressee in Prague. Both were posted the same day (10.10.1936) and delivered through Paris (15.10.1936) to Prague airport (Praga 82 post office, 16.10.1936 at 15 hours). The blue handwritten numbers 711 and 712 on the consignments are apparently reference numbers relating to air transport (whether the consignments were numbered at posting or until they arrived in Prague is not evident). From the airport the consignments were delivered (presumably by direct automobile courier) to the sorting post office Praha 1 (Telegraph Station, 17 hours) and from there by PIP to the delivery post office Praha 55 (Smichov, 18 hours) and

Figure 44: Pneumatic mail postal stationery card sent by Special Delivery on 15.3.1939 (i.e. the date on which the Protectorate came into existence) by pneumatic mail from the Praha 35 post office (Vinohrady, 10 hours) to the Praha 55 post office (Smichov, 12 hours). The franking for the postal card amounted to 50h + 40h. On top of that the sender paid for the Special Delivery surcharge of 1 Kč (according to the information stated on the postal card), which, however, was not enough (at that time it was already 2 Kč). The post office did not charge any postage due -- but because the card was thrown into a mail box before 12 hours, it was still delivered the same day during the next delivery round (see Table 5).



Entirely unambiguous evidence of the use of pagination numbers on special delivery consignments that were not delivered by pneumatic mail is made, for example, by special delivery and airmail consignments submitted concurrently to go also as registered mail (see Fig. 39). As noted previously, these were not permitted to be delivered by pneumatic mail up through November 1, 1940. Despite this we usually find pagination numbers on them, which eloquently confirms the true purpose (that is, statistical or receipting) of this data. Similar evidence occurs with special delivery consignments transported during the period when the pneumatic mail system was not in service (see Fig. 10).

Of course, there can exist exceptions, mainly with consignments sent to Prague on which the entry postmark into the network is missing (Praha 1 and Praha 7), but there is on them the imprint of a pagination number and only one postmark of a delivery post office that is connected to the pneumatic network (see Fig. 40). It is admittedly quite possible that the consignment was transported by pneumatic



Figure 45: Pneumatic mail postal stationery card (90h) sent 7.3.1935 from the Praha 14 post office (Letná, 12 hours) to the Praha 36 post office (Žitkov, 13 hours). On the card is also the superfluous payment for Special Delivery (+ 1 Kč), which in fact during that time period occurred rather frequently (see Mar/Apr issue, pg 3, note 3). Interesting, and unusual that on a PiP consignment there are two red commemorative postmarks (entry and exit) used on the occasion of the 85th birthday of T.G. Masaryk.



Figure 46: Airmail letter posted 27.9.1939 from the Praha 33 post office (Vinohrady, 16 hours) to the USA. The consignment was transported via PtP to the Praha 7 post office (Masaryk railroad station, 16 hours). Here it was submitted to Currency Control and already by 19 hours of the same day returned to the sender by normal routing through the Praha 31 delivery post office with the rationale that it contained a letter for someone other than the specified addressee. The consignment was transported by PtP during the period when it was only being used for internal services [see Mar/Apr issue, pg 6].

conditions are, however, that the consignment fulfills the other essential signs of pneumatic mail, i.e., that it must be the correct type of consignment with the appropriate franking, which was transported between post offices on the PtP network in a suitably short period of time. Then, pagination imprints (or more precisely even handwritten notes or numbers) can serve as auxiliary identifying signs which can sometimes decide otherwise unclear or controversial situations (see Fig. 40).

mail (and on entry was not postmarked either through carelessness or through the pressure of work), but it is also still possible that from the delivery post office it was conveyed directly by surface route. For this reason I personally do not include such items in my pneumatic mail collection -- according to my opinion they are not sufficiently verifiable.

Hence, do pagination number imprints have any significance in corroborating that a consignment was transported by PtP? I have examined hundreds of PtP consignments from the years 1932-1945, and I tried to discover in the use of pagination numbers some sort of rule or system which might serve as an auxiliary identifying sign in confirming consignments sent by PtP. I finally concluded that pagination numbers have this implication. The

In particular it is necessary to mention that on PtP consignments after 1932 it is possible to usually find one to three pagination imprints (see for example Fig. 22, 30 or 41). On the other hand, one does not have to find any of them or one can find even more of such markings (see Fig. 27). These imprints tend to be in various colors (usually black, green, red or violet). Over the years the colors could have changed at individual post offices. The imprints even have various types and sizes of numerals; thus the paginators were obviously not produced uniformly for all post offices, and in addition were used (as opposed to daily cancelers) as long as they remained functional. At the same time it should be pointed out that in later periods there is in place of pagination numbers only handwritten numeric figures (see Fig. 15 or 28).

One of the pagination imprints used is in fact common to the majority of PtP consignments. It is usually characterized by a light green (from 1938 also blue-violet), four-numeral, fuzzy to smudged or runny pagination impression, which probably belonged to the central station of the pneumatic post located on Jindřišská



Figure 47a/b: Special Delivery postal card sent by PtP on 3.7.1936 from the Praha 2 post office (Staré Město, 11 hours) to the Praha 11 post office (Hradčany, 11 hours) and from there by surface route to the Praha 51 delivery post office (Břevnov, 12 hours). At the Praha 11 PtP station there worked a female friend of the sender, who out of curiosity (and strictly against post office rules) not only read the contents of the card (an invitation to a meeting), but also there added a personal note, and -- apparently for effect -- immediately postmarked the card several times. The lady was most probably quite young and not very sensible, because for a few childish words she risked not only the loss of her job but even criminal charges. Critique her note yourself: "Many greetings! Stáša" plus "Miluška, you probably are wondering how I came to see this card. It reached my hands and hopefully you won't be angry if on it I send you my greetings. Come visit us. Stáša K." We have no choice but to hope that the postal clerk had more luck than sense and that no principled postal official noticed the transgression of the privacy of the mails . . .

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Figure 48a/b: Airmail letter sent 18.3.1938 at 19 hours from Basel by train (Basel - Luxembourg) to the airport in Strasbourg (18.3.1938 at 23 hours). From there it went by airmail to Prague (Praha 82 post office, 19.3.1938, 14 hours) and then by car to the Praha 1 sorting post office (time 15 hours). The Praha 1 delivery post office (telegraph office) did not receive the consignment until 16 hours, i.e. after the last delivery round at 16.15 hours, so the delivery was to be on the next day. At the post office, however, someone noticed that the addressee was Mr. Stech, the railway station restaurant owner (near the local post office) and atypically sent the consignment by PtP (see the green paginator imprint) to the Praha 15 post office (time 18 hours), even though it was not a delivery post office. This post office only accepted consignments or forwarded them by train mail routes, but did not deliver the mail. Here Mr. Stech then either picked the consignment up himself or it was informally brought to him by a postal clerk (maybe on his way home from work). An interesting fact is that this consignment from Basel reached the addressee in a mere 23 hours.

street in Praha 1. Consignments from individual dispatching or sorting post offices which came there by surface route or pneumatic mail were here again sorted according to destination address and were transported by PtP to the appropriate delivery post office. At the central PtP station the consignments were not canceled with postmarks (that was done by the individual post offices), but here, evidently for control, clerks would add the pagination receipting number. If this imprint is missing on a consignment, either -- it did not go through the central station but only through one of the subsidiary ones (for example from post offices Praha 2 to Praha 47), or -- it was not transported by the pneumatic post at all. ⁸ [For completeness I add that it could be through the error of a postal clerk who either did not cancel the consignment at all or so lightly that the numbers could not be read.] The significance of the

pagination imprint from the central PtP office is especially appreciated at the times when a consignment otherwise satisfies the basic requirements for PtP transport,

Figure 49: Special delivery postal card sent 23.1.1938 from Poděbrady to Prague. At the Praha 1 sorting post office (telegraph station), it arrived at 2 hours in the morning. From there it arrived at the Praha 13 delivery post office (Nové Město, 7 hours) at 7 hours in the morning. The consignment went by surface route, because the PtP service at this post office only started at 8 hours. This is confirmed by the fact that the pagination number imprint of the central PtP post office is missing from the consignment.



but -- for instance -- because of the time interval (circa 2 hours) we have doubts whether it was actually transported via PtP (in this case the pagination number should be there) or via surface route (the green pagination imprint would be missing).

With long-term study and abundant philatelic material we could in all probability evaluate also the paginators used at other post offices (for instance, toward the end of the 30's, the Praha 7 post office used a paginator with red or red-violet numeral imprints). However, for our purpose (determining whether a consignment went by PtP) such a detailed study probably would not have a great deal of significance, because these post offices used them also to receipt special

delivery consignments transported by a surface route.

Other hand written notations on PtP consignments could serve as secondary identifying marks. Most often we might encounter the so-called "directional", i.e. the stating of the post office number where the consignment was to be transported (for more details see the captions for Fig. 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 25). In later years, in fact, this appears only seldom.



Figure 50: For comprehensiveness, I reproduce here a CPO 1 (OR 140h) postal card issued for the needs of the pneumatic mail system in the fall of 1920. The postal card was sent 11.2.1922 from the Královské Vinohrady 1 post office (time 10 hours) to the Praha 1 post office (telegraph station, 11 hours). The postmarks of both post offices are the newer kind (Czechoslovak) without time-stamps. It is interesting that the PtP postage at that time came to 150h (50h for the postal card + 100h for PtP service), but according to an internal directive the post office -- in the first two months of tariff period V -- tolerated in operational use both the previously issued CDV 40h card and this CPO 140h one.

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During detailed study of the functioning of the pneumatic post we can also meet up with a range of atypical to curious consignments which will bring joy to every collector. For the sake of variety I have illustrated and described a number of them here at the end of this article. Belonging among them are, for instance, the use of commemorative cancels on PtP consignments (see Fig. 45), PtP consignments returned by the censor or by the currency control office (see Fig. 46), interesting means of delivery of PtP consignments (see Fig. 44 and 48), or the curious augmentation of a PtP consignment by the personal message of a postal clerk (see Fig. 47).

I hope that after reading this article and studying the illustrations, every individual on their own will -- to a high degree of certainty -- be able to determine whether a consignment truly passed through the pneumatic mail or not. Thus, they will avoid many unnecessary and unpleasant errors.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. V. Schödelbauer for his valuable help in preparing this serialized article.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

As was announced in the President's Corner article discussing decisions made at the Board Meeting held in conjunction with WASHINGTON'06, the membership dues for 2007 are going up (for the first time since 1989!). You will be receiving a bill from our Treasurer, Ed Lehecka, this November that will outline the new rates. They are basically \$25 for regular membership and \$50 for Patron membership. If you live outside the USA, then there will be a mailing cost add-on that you will have to choose and also pay.

WASHINGTON 2006, PRAGA 2008, and the 69th FIP CONGRESS

by Lumír Brendl

trans. by Jaroslav Verner

The World Philatelic Exhibition "WASHINGTON 2006" closed its extensive exhibit space in the new Congress Center the evening of June 3, 2006. It was one of the World's spectacles. We Europeans were surprised by yet another fact. The World Exhibition was organized and funded by American philatelists, exhibitors, American philatelic professional organizations, and clubs. The U.S. post office, USPS, and philatelic dealers collaborated. The exhibit frames were donated by the American Philatelic Society (2,400 frames) and the Canadian Royal Philatelic Society (1,700 frames). The exhibition catalog lists the sponsors and prize donors, too numerous to list here.

ATTENDANCE -- unbelievable

Often I have heard -- even at PRAGA 1998 -- that the only thing which attracts visitors to American stamp shows are the dealers, and there is no one to be seen in front of the exhibit frames. WASHINGTON 2006 demonstrated just the opposite. From the first to the last day, that is from May 27 to June 3, and from the daily 10 A.M. opening to the 6 P.M. closing, the halls, meeting and lecture rooms were full of visitors. During the first three days we explained this phenomenon by the fact that it was the Memorial Day holiday week-end. But the high attendance continued during the following work days. Long lines of patient and suffering customers stood before the postal counters of the USPS. They not only purchased exhibition commemorative stamps and stationery, but also waited patiently for the commemorative cancels.

PHILATELIC LEVEL OF THE EXHIBITION -- high

More than 3,000 16-page exhibition frames held over 60,000 pages of the 600 plus exhibits in 10 FIP approved exhibit categories as well as two experimental ones (single frame exhibits and open class). The philatelic literature class including electronic literature contained 227 titles. In toto the jury awarded 883 medals. It was literally a harvest of medals in the highest categories. At least 74 large golds, 188 golds, 178 large vermeil, and 163 vermeil were awarded.

Medals, prizes, and felicitations of the jury were decided by an international jury consisting of 43 members and 7 apprentices. The Honorary Chairman of the jury was FIP President Koh Seu Chuan, the Chairman was Charles J. Peterson (USA), Stephen D. Schumann (USA) was Secretary, assisted by Malcolm D. Groom (Australia). I represented FIP on the jury and judged the Class of Thematic Philately, part of the single frame exhibits, and the Open Class, while my colleague Vit Vaníček represented the Czech Republic and judged the Postal History class. Isn't the participation of two members of the Society of Czechoslovak Philately (SČF) in the Jury for such a significant World Exhibition an indication of the high esteem in which SČF is held in the philatelic world? Especially when I remind the reader

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how hard two strong European societies (German and Italian) had to press to get even one juryman?

MEDALS AWARDED to Czech Exhibitors

Members of SCF, represented by only four representatives, fared well. Milan Černík was awarded 85 points and a large vermeil medal for his exhibit "Czechoslovakia: Double Post Cards and Their Use, 1918-1939"; Miloš Červinka received 83 points and a vermeil for his "History of the Postal Service in Děčín" exhibit; and silver medals were awarded to Robert Alexa (72 points) for his exhibit "The 1923-1927 Issues of T.G. Masaryk: Rarities and Oddities" and to Miroslav Langhammer (73 points) for his exhibit "Automated Registered Mail in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic". Milan Černík attended the show so I was able to personally congratulate him on the spot. I would like to congratulate our colleagues M. Červinka, M. Langhammer, and R. Alexa via this article.

... and our foreign friends

who also deserve our thanks and congratulations for they have long and systematically shown their interest in Czechoslovak and Czech philately. Henry Hahn (USA) was awarded 90 points and a gold medal for his exhibit "Czechoslovakia 1918-1939" and Jaroslav Verner (USA) received 82 points and a vermeil for "Czechoslovakia 1918-1938". We were pleasantly surprised that Geoffrey McAuley (Ireland) received 90 points and a gold medal for his very interesting collection of postal documents.

ACTIVITIES OF THE JURY

The Jury worked according to a precise spread sheet from the afternoon of May 27 to the evening of May 31, 2006 when the official results were announced. The Palmare were held the evening of June 2, 2006. As has become the custom in recent years, the work of the jury was divided into various teams. Each is headed by a qualified team leader. The teams evaluate the exhibits. Preliminary exhibit evaluations in the format of computer printouts are posted by the Secretary or his assistant in a jury room not accessible to the public. Thus every member of the jury has access to all preliminary results. However, only the team leader can make observations or raise "protests" during reading of the results in the Jury plenary sessions. This leads to a viewing at the exhibit in question where disagreements are resolved leading to a raising or lowering of the preliminary result -- or the point count is not changed. The discussion before the exhibit depends, of course, on the qualifications of the discussants, who consider whether the exhibitor properly evaluated the FIP criteria, took advantage of the available philatelic material, and who can identify any errors the exhibitor made. Of course, closely tied to this is the preparation of the juryman and his linguistic abilities. In Washington it was again shown that even high awards in national or international exhibitions need not be a guarantee of achieving a high point count in another international exhibition, in another country, on another continent, or in a region of another philatelic culture. Here, the expert Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky, well-known to all of us as an exhibitor of American Confederate States, learned this lesson. The approach to the emergence

and value (rarity) of items shown in a given exhibit, and hence the overall evaluation of the exhibit, can be entirely different in Germany and in the USA. And so the exhibitor may not be satisfied with the resulting evaluation.

I would also like to mention that the philatelic evaluation of thematic exhibits in general FIP exhibitions is being considered more and more carefully. Therefore it is not surprising large golds are awarded in this category. In Washington six were awarded. For philatelic and thematic content the best developed and, even for the general visitor, the most interesting was the thematic exhibit of Wolf Hesse of Germany dedicated to the fate of the American Indian. For his efforts he received a gold medal and special prize. For philatelic excellence, it approaches the best thematic exhibit in the world. The best, based on its philatelic quality, theme, and research, is Damiana Läge's (Germany) exhibit "Birds of the Australasian Birdlife". It was properly awarded, along with four other exhibits, the Grand Prix d'Honneur.

MODERN PHILATELY AND ONE FRAME EXHIBITS

It is good that WASHINGTON 2006 provided the opportunity to show the greatest diversity of modern, post war exhibits. We have been calling for this for a long time. And so it was possible for the exhibits "Three-Cent Stamps of the 1954 Liberty Series" and "20-Cent U.S. Flag of 1981" to receive gold medals; or for the exhibit "D.P.R. of Korea (North Korea) 1st Decade" to take a large vermeil; and also for the "U.N. First Definitive Issue 1951-67" exhibit to also receive a large vermeil. It would be possible to continue this listing. Future promise was demonstrated by the exhibit "Surtax Stamps of Montenegro 2001-2004", which currently received only 63 points, a bronze medal. Hopefully the initiative supporting modern philately introduced at the Symposium on Modern Philately held in Klagenfurt, Austria last year will be adopted in its entirety by FIP as soon as possible and that the FIP Congress will approve the necessary changes in the rules for the Class of Traditional Philately.

The Single Frame Exhibits Class, as well as the Open Class, continue to be experimental classes. But here too there have been some developments. During BRNO 2005, like the Greeks before us, a four level award system was used when judging the Single Frame Class: Gold, Vermeil, Silver, and Bronze. This award system seemed to us much more sensitive than the previously used three tier system: Gold, Silver, Bronze. It seems the new system was successful and will be discussed at the Congress in Malaga.

MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF FIP

As is usual during world exhibitions, an all-day meeting of the FIP leadership, following a prepared program, was held in Washington on June 2, chaired by the President of FIP, Koh Seuw Chuan of Singapore. During the meeting I reported on the preparations for the WORLD POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION "PRAGA 2008". In accordance with the recently prepared statutes of FIP and the exhibition regulations of FIP GREX, I requested that PRAGA 2008 be held under the full patronage of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). The leadership decided that I should present this official proposal to the delegates to the 69th FIP Congress in Malaga for approval. At the same time I called attention to the fact that the

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exhibition WIPA 2008 would closely follow PRAGA 2008. I expressed my conviction that there would be close cooperation between the two organizers of these exhibitions. FIP intervened in the interests of our exhibition, but was informed that WIPA 2008 is the affair of the Austrian Post and that even the close proximity for the World Philatelic London 2000 and WIPA 2000 did not interfere in the success of either. This should also be the case between Prague and Vienna.

Added to the program was an unexpected discussion and official request from the Union of Russian Philatelists and the Ministry of Communication of the Russian Federation, signed by the Federation president V. Gorbatken. It concerned a World General Exhibition "ST. PETERSBURG 2007" in June 2007 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the first Russian stamp. This was a "last minute" request and therefore I was charged by the FIP leadership to determine whether arranging such an exhibit, this time with the support of the Ministry of Communications, is realistic.

A proposal for an exhibition FESTIVAL OF STAMPS "LONDON 2010" was presented for consideration by FIP Vice President Alan Huggins and Brian Totter. The proposal was preliminarily approved.

In addition to the discussion of the recent basic statutes of FIP at the 69th Congress at Malaga, we were informed of the personal decision of President Koh not to stand for re-election and to nominate the current Vice President of FIP Joseph Wolff of Luxembourg. The FIP Congress in Malaga, being held as part of the World Philatelic Exhibition ESPAÑA 2006, will be a further important milestone in the development of World philately.

Lumír Brendl

FIP director, jury member of WASHINGTON 2006

ADVERTISEMENT

SLOVAK TRADING PARTNER WANTED

I want to trade current mint USA for postally used Slovakia. I need various Slovakia 1993 to present. Trade on a US\$ to SK basis. Also need Slovakia mixtures.

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NEW MEMBERS WANTED

HELP your Society to grow! Enlist a fellow collector of Czechoslovak stamps for membership. Talk up the Society at your local stamp club or exhibition. Membership benefits are listed periodically on page two of the issues. Christmas is coming up, and a membership would make a welcome gift that continues to give throughout the year. Application forms and Society information are available on our website (see the address on page 2) or from our Secretary, Phil Rhoads (his address and e-mail are also on page 2).

(continued from previous issue)

The official period of validity of the stamps was from October 28 to November 3, 1919, but as we know, this was not rigorously observed. However, all of the denominations of the issue were quite routinely used in postal operations during that period. In fact, few of the covers -- which are correctly franked according to the tariff rates of the time -- have been preserved, and thus they are rare. Figure 32 shows a nice money letter bearing these stamps. The postal usage of these stamps is without question the most interesting and most philatelically valuable material from this issue.

-- postcard	15h
-- letter up to 20g	25h
-- surcharge for registered letter	50h
-- surcharge for express letter	60h

[illegible]

15

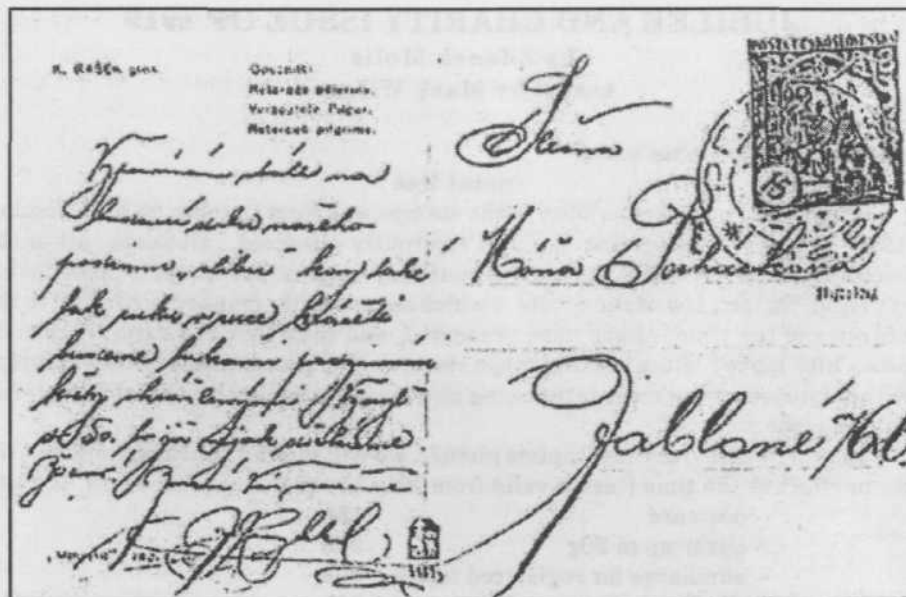


Fig. 33.

dispatch slips (generally in combination with Hradčany stamps). But even here it is possible to find interesting material.

Also common are over-franked entires -- often frankly philatelic -- which however demonstrably passed through the post. These covers cannot be considered as valueless; they bear witness to great initial interest by philatelists and the general public in the 1st Czechoslovak commemorative stamps and are thus ample evidence of the relationship between society and philately of that era. Such covers (if they are correctly described) belong in collections and exhibits. Very often, however, we continually meet up with a great number of various "manufactured" covers, which I frankly warn collectors about. Most often the "covers" are found with a subsequently added address, with R and Express labels attached, and often even with a false arrival postmark (for instance, the České Budějovice arrival postmark).

Theoretically, among the rarest Czechoslovak entires should be those having these stamps in the rarer perforations. In fact, so far I have not seen such entires in either the largest collections or in exhibits at international exhibitions.

I have already addressed the matter of these entires that were sent abroad. I myself own only a post card with a 15h stamp perforated 10 1/2 x 11 1/2 (expertised by Gilbert) -- Fig. 33. The absence of these rare entires again indirectly confirms the conjecture that the rare perforations "appeared" much later, well after the period of validity of these stamps.

Here it is necessary to mention again the entires having these stamps that were overprinted with the commemorative cancels. Such entires -- which had passed through the post (thus also canceled with the day's postmark) -- I consider as very valuable; but once again watch out for "manufactured" entires! There was probably a small number of such entires dispatched, because the use of stamps with the commemorative cancel in fact "needlessly" raised the paid franking of the entire by

10h for every stamp used. This may be why such a small number of these covers were used during that period and, accordingly, why so few have been preserved. And finally, one more remark, or better yet, a question: Does anyone know of a cover bearing these stamps that have a company's perfin in them?

Curiosities

But before ending this essay, I want to introduce several curiosities connected with this issue, better called nonsense or outright fakes, which even today are quite often found at bourses and against which I most sincerely want to warn collectors:

- "airmail" stamp -- Fig. 34 (because of its extraordinary rarity the image is enlarged in the figure) supposedly originated in Brno in 1969, when "Merkuria" prepared the release of facsimiles of the overprints of our first airmail stamp issue. It would be interesting to learn which Czechoslovak stamp expert thought it all up and advocated it.



Fig. 34

- "postage due" stamp -- Fig. 35. This image deals with a cutting affixed to cardboard (according to information on the reverse side of the cutting it was already exhibited or at least placed on pages in a collection). A Nechanice postmark (nationalized [German name removed]) off of the stamp is from 11.12.1919 and the same postmark with the date 12.12.19 is across the stamp. By December 1919, these stamps had already long before lost their validity. This is why it is feasible (but only theoretically) that an enterprising postmaster from Nechanice at that time utilized the remainder of these no longer valid stamps by applying (illegally) a rubber stamped D and used them (again illegally) as postage due stamps. But why was it



Fig. 35



Fig. 36

necessary to only pay 25h postage due? I don't know! It is possible that the shown example is simply an instance of a common counterfeit; it is in fact peculiar that I purchased this rarity in Prague (in June 1991) for a mere 5 Kčs. Does any collector from Hradec Králové or its surroundings know of any details?

• "rare" cover from 1938 (postmarked Orlová 10.10.1938) -- Fig. 36. I acquired this cover in the 1960's at a bourse in Warsaw, where it was priced very high. In my opinion it is a counterfeit, which in the greatest probability could not have passed through the post even in the tumultuous times of 1938. In addition, it has a rubber stamp with the text: "10.X.38 Coal Mines -- Property of Poland". The date 10.10.1938 corresponds to the date of annexation of Orlová.

• and finally, (Fig. 37) a cutting with a stamp bearing a "commemorative cancel" that certainly belongs in every "better" collection of Czechoslovak



Fig. 37

stamps, which perhaps does not even need any comments! [If it is not visible in the illustration, this stamp has a German cancel commemorating Hitler's arrival in Prague -- tr.]

Conclusions

The intent of this essay was first of all to supplement and expand the knowledge about the "Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919" stamps as compared with what is presented in *Monografie II*. I wanted also to show what is truly interesting and philatelically valuable about this issue while collecting and studying it, to warn about hitherto controversial questions and also about the widespread appearance of various "rarities and counterfeits".

I am convinced that the "Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919" stamps belong to the initial stage of Czechoslovak stamp creation, and from now on deserve the attention of collectors of our stamps chiefly for these reasons:

1. They offer many opportunities for various degrees of specialization,
 - types and subtypes
 - abundant plate flaws and variations
 - questions about their perforations
 - commemorative postmarks
 - postal usage
2. They are, with exceptions, always reasonably priced.

Literature:

- 1) A. Šnoflák: *První Čs. Příležitostné Známky*, Filatelie č.5/1977
- 2) A. Šnoflák: *Dva Typy Legionářské Známky 50h*, Filatelie 18/1985
- 3) *Specializovaná Příručka pro Sběratele Čs. Poštovních Známeč SČSF*. Nakladatelství Dopravy a Spoju, Praha 1988
- 4) *Monografie Čs. Známeč, Díl II*. Nakladatelství Dopravy a Spoju, Praha 1971
- 5) *Monografie Čs. Známeč, Díl I*. Nakladatelství Dopravy a Spoju, Praha 1968
- 6) E. Hirsch: *Tricet Let*, Filatelie 19/1949
- 7) E. Hirsch, J. Franěk: *Čs. Známky*. Nakladatelství F. Borový, Praha 1935
- 8) Z. Moliš: *Spojené Typy a Podtypy 50h Jubilejní 1919*, Filatelie 22/1987
- 9) E. Hirsch: *Tricet Let Čs. Poštovních Známeč*. Orbis, Praha 1949
- 10) K. Rossy: *Problematika Ministerského a Soukromého Zoubkování u Emise Hradčany 1918-1920*, Zpravodaj Komise Čs. Známky, c.34/1988
- 11) J. Karásek: *Zoubkování Čs. Poštovních Známeč (1918-1939)*, Brno 1984
- 12) Z. Moliš: *Málo Oblíbená Emise*, Filatelie 11/1987

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this serialized article from "Jubilejní a Dobročinné 1919", originally published in *Sborník Článků o Československých Známkách*, Praha, Společnost Sběratelů Československých Známeč, 1993, with the permission of Jiří Sedlák, Chairman of SSČSZ (the author has passed away).]

The Librarian's Desk

In May of this year, Board Member Jerry Verner, after having created and spent a decade developing the current Society website, graciously handed over the

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duties of Society Webmaster to your Librarian. Somehow the two duties -- Librarian and Webmaster -- seem interrelated, for both are concerned with providing educational and informational resources to Society members.

After some careful thought, and on the advice of a committee appointed by the President, the Board at its last meeting authorized a new replacement website. For the time being www.czechoslovakphilately.com is still available, but soon it will be replaced by a new website, www.czechoslovakphilately.org. For those like me that have difficulty seeing the difference in these two names, the old website ended with the symbol "COM" while the new website ends with the symbol "ORG". As a non-profit organization, the ".org" symbol will be far more descriptive of our purpose than was the commercial symbol ".com".

Now, your Librarian (and Webmaster) does have a full-time job, so it will be awhile before the new website has been completed and the old website shut down. Planned, and still under construction, are many pages that will provide information and access to Czechoslovak philatelic information and materials. But work has already begun on the new website, work that will likely be of interest to many members.

On the *Resources* page, members can read online the full index to the *Specialist* and -- this is the really exciting part -- there is a copy of every issue of the *Specialist* from May 1939 to December 1999. That's right, every member -- in fact every interested person -- now has Internet access to every 20th century issue of the *Specialist*.

These *Specialists* (and the index to them) are in Adobe PDF format, which means they can be read on any computer. If your computer does not already have the Adobe Acrobat Reader installed, simply go to www.adobe.com and download a copy of their free Acrobat Reader and start reading the *Specialist* on-line today.

While the Index and the issues can be read and even copied to your computer, they cannot be printed to paper. The Board felt that this intellectual property deserved that small protection. So while everyone has access to the information, the information itself is still protected.

Many resources will be added to the new website, including translations from the famous *Monografie* series published between the 1960's and the 1980's in Czechoslovakia. In addition, the website will contain other pages of general interest. "What's New" will describe breaking news of interest to the Society, the "Calendar" will chronicle upcoming events, and the FAQ (*Frequently Asked Questions*) will attempt to provide information to members and non-members alike. Of course, it is hoped that this new, richly informative website will attract new members, and eventually it will contain a page where interested people can join and pay their dues on-line.

While many important features have been planned for the site, only some are there now. Please be patient if you visit the new website and recognize that it takes time to assemble and publish a full website. Enjoy what is there, come back often to see what new items have been added, and be gentle with your Webmaster who is doing his best to get the site completed.

Mark Wilson

UNUSUAL COVERS FRANKED WITH POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 STAMPS

by Lubor Kunc

The POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 stamp issue was valid only for a few months, and because of the surcharge paid on top of the face values they were not widely used in postal operations. The majority of existing covers franked with this issue were produced by stamp collectors for two main reasons:

- 1) To get rare stamps "on cover" -- at that time it was quite common to collect canceled stamps, and many owners of rare stamps preferred them postally used.
- 2) To use cheap stamps for the franking of philatelic mail; this was caused by the need to buy many normal stamps to get a few rare stamps; sometimes the collector was pushed to buy 100 "normal stamps" to be allowed to buy stamps with a low press run. A typical example of such a cover can be seen at Figure 1.

There is no wonder that the stamp collectors of the day hated the stamp issue. Some of them stopped collecting Czechoslovak stamps, because they were sure that they could never get all of the issued stamps and thus their collection would never be complete. This was very damaging to the stamp collecting of the country, whose first stamps were issued only one year prior to this stamp set.

Sometimes we can find a cover which really went through the postal system



Figure 1: Philatelic cover franked with a Hradčany stamp and, with one Austrian and one Hungarian stamp both bearing the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 overprint (correct postage of 25 Heller for a domestic letter)

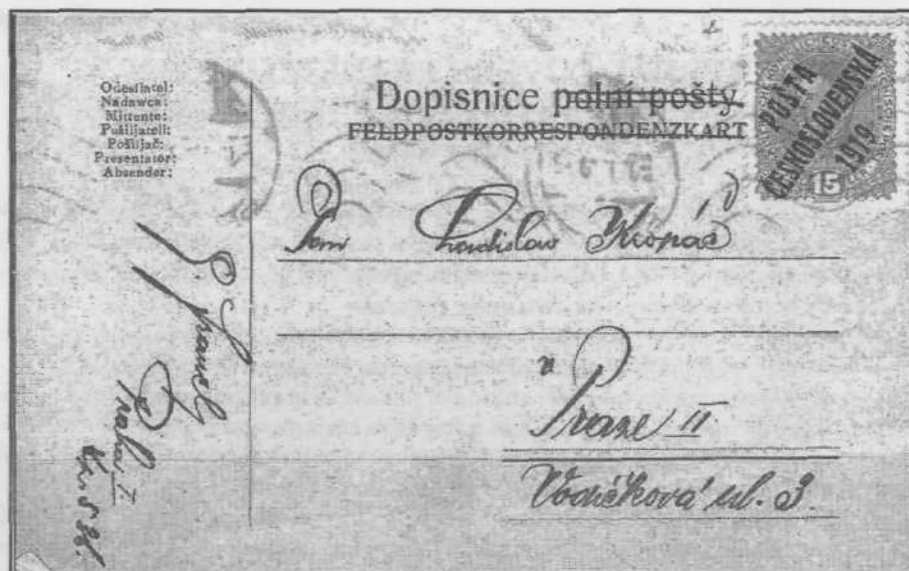


Fig. 2

franked with this stamp issue. I am not talking about the rare covers that are being sold now at the leading international auction houses for many thousands of dollars, but about "normal" covers which are franked with the common values of the set and which were really sent for postal purposes. Such a cover can be seen at Figure 2.

This is an original Austrian field postcard being franked with a 15 Heller POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 stamp, mailed in January 1920 -- which is confirmed by the not-very-clear Prague machine cancel. The franking is correct -- 15 Heller was the standard postal rate for domestic postcards. This card was sent

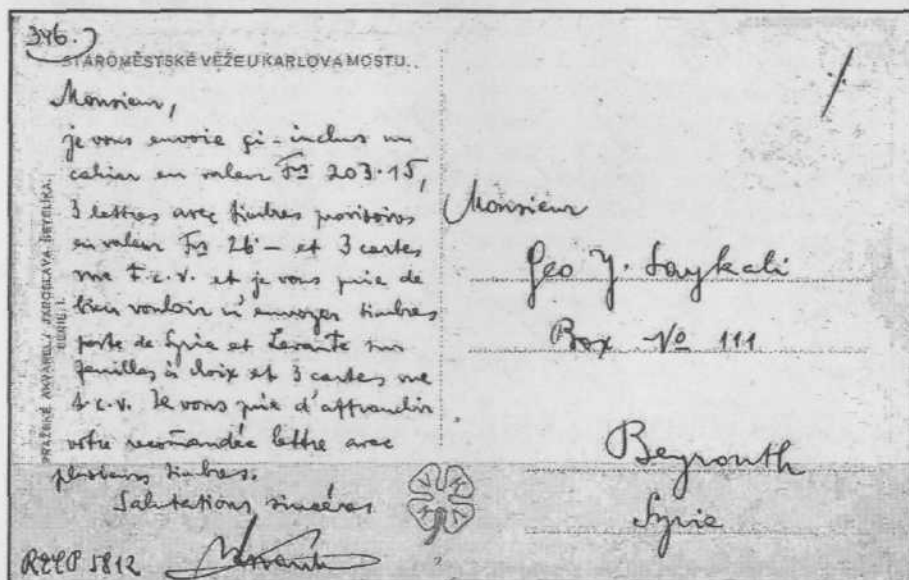


Fig. 3a



Fig. 3b

without any philatelic motivation -- the sender remembers his friend, reminds him that he has not returned a book, and asks him to do it immediately.

The other example is even more interesting, even though this card is situated on the edge of being a philatelic or a non-philatelic card. But, because it has not been returned to the sender, and because the message seems like normal correspondence between two collectors of postcards, we can believe that the main purpose for its mailing was the message and not the stamp (Fig. 3a/b). This picture postcard was sent from Prague to Beyrouth in Syria (today in Lebanon). Covers mailed abroad which are franked with this issue are very unusual. In addition, this card was prepared in a way that was very popular at that time -- having the postage stamp affixed on the picture side. The postal cancel belongs to the Praha - Hrad post office (Prague - Castle), which nicely accompanies the picture side showing the Charles Bridge being situated below the castle. The franking of 20 Heller corresponds to the international postcard rate of that time.

However, the above examples will never be sold for a great deal of money at any auction. Such cards are always welcomed by collectors, and there is no reason for our collections to discriminate against them.

EASTERN SILESIA Where is that????

by Frank Garancovsky

No, it is not on today's global collage of the third world landscape. Never heard of it most of us would reply. For the uninformed, it is an area of approximately 850 square miles that straddled the Polish and Czech frontier.

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Although Czechoslovakia and Poland had been friends and allies during World War I, this strategic piece of land was a constant irritant to both parties. The area was rich in gas, coal and coke deposits and known to be of best quality in Europe.

Eastern Silesia was known as TESCHEN to the Czechs and CIESZYN to the Poles. The occupants in this area were 65% Polish, consequently they had deemed this as a racial issue. Czechoslovakia claimed that the area was historical since the region of Cieszyn was an integral part of the old kingdom of Bohemia, which said the Czechs never ceased to exist though it was in fact, a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Czech population was only 25% and 10% German. The German

minority demanded a neutral state, which in turn stressed the economic unity of the region.

Closer to home of our Slovak ancestry, the Spiš region, was on the southern border of Eastern Silesia and Spišská Nová Ves was a headquarters for the dispatch of mail and troops to the beleaguered area. No doubt that our forefathers had served in the army of occupation during the height of



Fig. 1

the ruckus. The map (Fig. 1) pictures the Eastern Silesia area with the lower S.E. attaching Slovakia.

The history of Silesia dates from 100 A.D. known as the Polish Period. It was attached ecclesiastically to Poland under the Bishop of Breslau, but the Polish Dukes persisted to claim political sovereignty. The political in-fighting continued through the Piast Dynasty, the Bohemian Period, the Hapsburg Period, the Prussian Period and finally culminating in 1919-1921 with a settlement.

After World War I the Peace Conference at Versailles had numerous disputes to decide. A Council of Ambassadors was set up and the Ambassadors from Poland and Czechoslovakia came to present their claims with regard to each country's claim over Cieszyn. The Council of Ambassadors at Paris was not composed of Solomons and promptly rejected the German autonomy proposal and ordered a plebiscite. The scheduled date of the plebiscite was July 28, 1920. On February 1, 1920, the duly appointed commission to conduct the plebiscite arrived in Cieszyn and with the cooperation of the Czechs and Poles began their work. Both governments complied with the requests of the commission to furnish postage stamps for this region. Each government had its current stamps in use surcharged, with the required letters S

and O on the top line and the year 1920 below. These initials translate to "Silesia Oriental", which means Eastern Silesia (Fig. 2). The Poles supplied a non-descript stamp that shows the Polish Eagle while the Czechs supplied the veritable artistic Hradčany issue.



Fig. 2

Numerous disorders followed almost immediately and into the months that followed. There were two large strikes, first by the Czech miners, and quickly followed by Polish miners, both of which were quelled. Each nation sent troops and shortly afterward barbed wire, guards, and customs stations appeared. The Czechs, took advantage of Poland's pre-occupation with the Soviet Union in the war of 1920, which brought the Bolsheviks almost to the very gates of Warsaw, to seize Cieszyn for themselves. Obviously, this action generated very bad feelings between two kindred and neighboring nations, which badly needed each other's friendship and support. So they parted and remained aloof from each other. It was then that the Council of Ambassadors abandoned the idea of conducting the scheduled plebiscite on July 28, 1920. Instead it approved the partition of Cieszyn, the dividing line ran through the middle, even splitting the town of Cieszyn so that, while the town proper went to Poland, the Oderburg-Jablunkov railway went to Czechoslovakia along with the coal mines.

While the threat of a plebiscite continued, the Czechoslovak and Polish Peace Conference finally came to an agreement on definitive borders on July 10, 1919 with both sides approving the agreement. As a result of this agreement, the plebiscite never took place.

Although Poland accepted that settlement, many Poles had not forgotten the "rape" of Cieszyn and vowed they would never be contented. They kept their vow as we witnessed the dreaded "Munich Pact" of October 2, 1938, the agreement that returned Cieszyn to Poland, when the first German troops advanced into Czechoslovakia. Thus, shamefully, Poland took advantage of a crisis to seize it all. "All's fair in love and war."

The Slovaks have had two illustrious citizens that were born in the contentious region. They are Blessed Cecelia Schelingova who was born in Opava, and General Milan R. Štefánik who was born in Kosiarska. Both have been subjects of this newsletter.

Sources:

- The Plebiscite Stamp Issue for Eastern Silesia by Vincent Domanski, Jr. December 1942, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.
- Silesia by Jane Sterba, November/December 1976, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the above article from *The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley* with the permission of the editor and author.]

**THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF
THE BRANCH OF THE PRAGUE POSTAL MUSEUM
IN VYŠŠÍ BROD AND THE EXHIBIT OF
POSTAL CHANGES IN THE 16TH TO 18TH CENTURIES**

by Henry Hahn

The Vyšší Brod branch opened in July 1976 in the building which had formerly served as the abbot's residence and office (Fig. 1). The branch was dedicated to postal history, starting with the establishment of posts in Bohemia in 1526. In the past thirty years the exhibit was upgraded several times and recently it was thoroughly modernized.

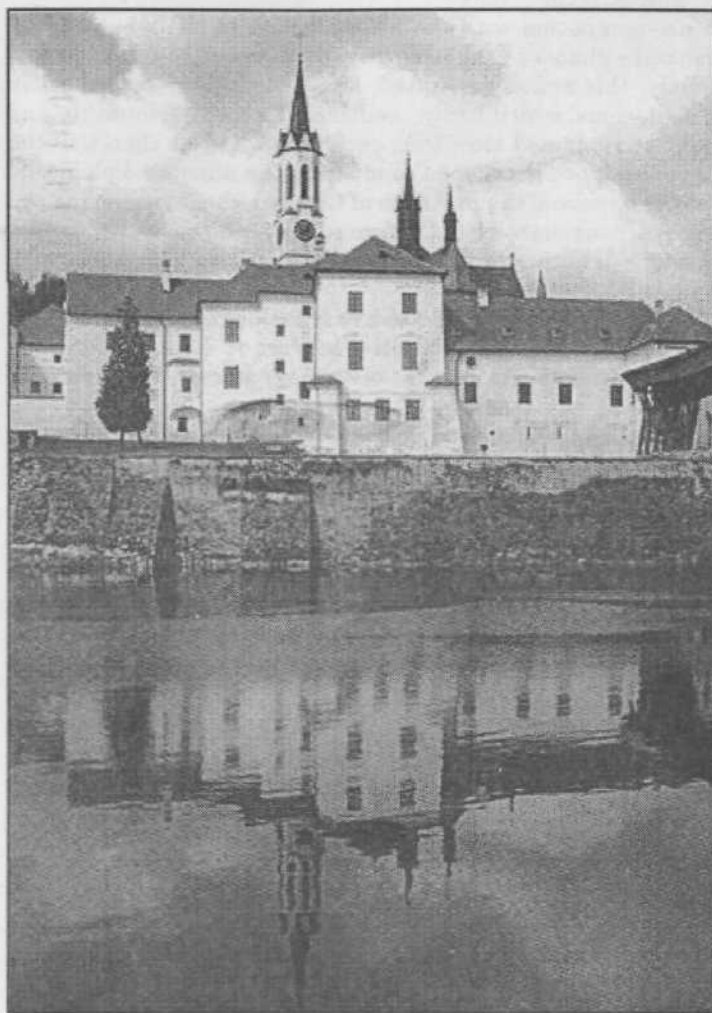


Fig. 1

A commemorative picture postal card with imprinted 10 Kc stamp was issued on the occasion of the Branch re-opening on June 24, 2006 (Fig. 2). The commemorative postmark reads "Post in changing times -- Vyšší Brod".

The ground floor of the building is devoted to postal services from the 16th to the 18th century -- the time during which its organizational and operational structure was developed. Up to 1743 the mails remained in private hands, under the highest hereditary postmasters, the Paars, and only thereafter postal services were transferred to State administration. Besides mail delivery, passenger

transport remained a State monopoly up to 1932. The history is documented by panels depicting the establishment of roads and the technology of mail coaches. The exhibit includes a full scale replica of an early postal coach, the interior of a 17th century post office, the development of writing materials, postal furniture and postal employees' uniforms. Included is imperial correspondence with original imperial signatures, postal maps, etc.

More recent postal history, the "golden age of mail service" includes the development of the telegraph and telephone. There follows the technical development of means of transportation, the automobile and bus, amplifiers, and air mail, represented by original objects.

On the second floor, visitors will find documentation of mail services during World War II, including field posts of Czech military units serving abroad. Also

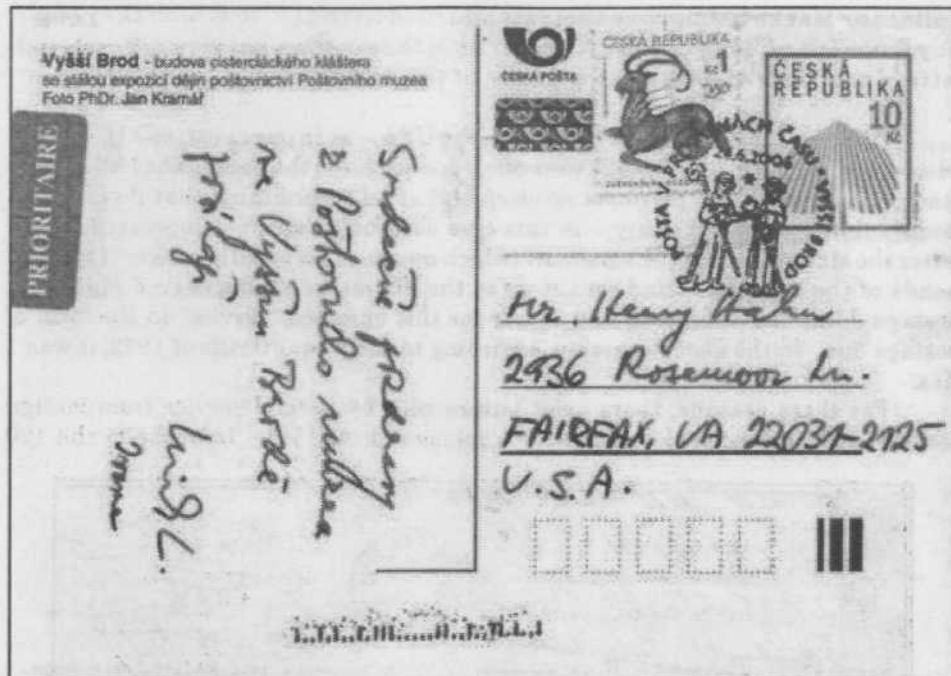


Fig. 2

included is a philatelic exhibit of selected Czech stamps. The third floor is devoted to the most recent innovations. Included is a large screen on which short films are projected, and a terminal for on-line studies of present rules and direct connection to the Post Office's web line. In an adjacent building one may purchase stamps and selected philatelic accessories.

The entry fee to the museum is about \$1. More information may be obtained from Mgr. Patricia Tošněrova, e-mail tosnerova.patricia@cpost.cz.

[Ed. Note: Henry says that he synopsized and translated this article from one by P. Tošněrová, *Filatelie*, F7/2006, pg 11.]

FORMER CUSTOMS INSPECTION
"PERSONALLY DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE" or
ABOUT LETTERS FROM PREVIOUS TIMES

by Pavel Švejnar

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

I will leave it to the notion of the reader as to what would be his reaction as a citizen, if he received a letter from a foreign country that was opened without his knowledge by the Customs Service. In the past, this was a normal occurrence. Citizens of Czechoslovakia, who had relatives or friends in foreign countries, occasionally received from them by mail some dollars or Marks to improve their standard of living (with which they could buy from Tuzex, for example, Cuban rum); the customs service opened such letters and thus violated the privacy of the mails.

If, for example, the letter came from the USA -- as in our case (see Fig. 1) -- the customs service at the Praha 120 post office opened it (on the back of the letter is the stamp "Celní kontrola" [customs service]) and after determining that it contained items subject to customs duty -- in this case obviously dollars -- impressed on the letter the stamp "Jednotlivě kartovat" (which meant to personally deliver it into the hands of the addressee) and sent it on to the addressee by Registered Mail with postage due. The addressee had to pay for this enforced "service" in the form of postage due. In the above example, according to the postal tariffs of 1962, it was 1 Kčs.

For these reasons, there exist letters sent by normal service from foreign countries to Czechoslovakia, but with a registered mail label from the Praha 120



Fig. 1

post office and, in addition, a surcharge for postage due corresponding to a domestic Registered Mail consignment.

The reader will perhaps forgive me for a personal remembrance. When during the early 1970's I was going to take personal English lessons from an older lady, she complained to me about just exactly this procedure. She was the widow of a well-known electrical engineer, who had frequent contact with overseas friends during the pre-communist era. Her "job" was to take care of her husband and to accompany him on his trips. As a result her pension was not adequate, and she supplemented her income during her private hours by teaching English, French, and German. Her husband's former colleagues, both those overseas as well as the ones who had left Czechoslovakia in one of the emigration waves, were sending her from time to time small support amounts in ordinary letters -- in Czechoslovakia to be "personally delivered into her hands".

This lady also collected USA stamps, and after the language lesson, with a cup of coffee in hand, we would always spend some time over her collection -- someone else has already noted that there is no more interesting conversation than with an older lady, and I would like to add -- when she is also a philatelist. We have said goodbye to some things; some, thank God for that, and some, unfortunately . . .

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the above article from FILATELIE 4/2004 with the permission of the editor and author.]

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Savoy Horvath:

-- Have you seen on television recently an insurance company commercial which shows the people of a typical turn-of-last-century eastern European town hurrying down the cobble stone streets to the stone bridge going over the river that runs through it? They all want to see this lunatic townsman that is perched on the edge of the stone railing preparing to hurl himself over the edge down towards the river below. Draped around his body -- just below his shoulders -- is what seems to be a round semi-rigid cape. The townspeople are talking about him in a foreign language (there are English subtitles) debating whether he will try to fly or not. He goes ahead and does it, and begins to glide. The townspeople are elated that he is flying! But one old man turns and walks away and makes a comment in the foreign language -- which is translated as "But he cannot swim!". And sure enough, after about several hundred yards of gliding, he falls into the river. Well, since this is a stamp journal, we now have to tie this in philatelically. It turns out that the lunatic was Štefan Banič of Smolenice (which, at the time, was in the Slovak portion of the Austro-Hungarian empire). His attempt at human gliding took place about 100 years ago. All of this was brought to my attention when a friend sent me a post card recently from Smolenice (Fig. 1). The left side of the card shows the patent drawing for his "aviation parachute" along with the patent number. The affixed 10 Sk stamp is the commemorative one that was issued by Slovakia on 12 December 2004 to

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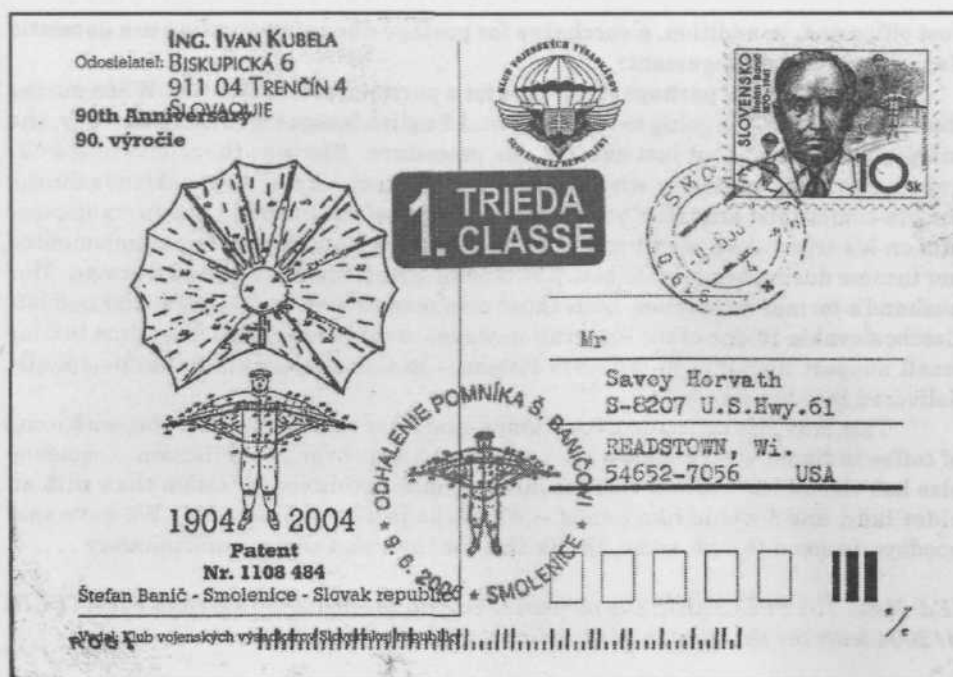


Fig. 1

honor Štefan Banič (1870-1941) as the inventor of the aviation parachute (Sc. SL-198). In the center bottom of the card is a commemorative cancel stating "Unveiling of the Monument to Š. Banič * 9.6.2006 * Smolenice". The card was produced by the Club of Military Parachutists of the Slovak Republic. Oh, and of course, the "foreign language" that was being spoken in the commercial was Slovak.

-- As Book Manager, I don't often get compliments from the recipients of our books. Thus it was a pleasant surprise to receive a post card that said "Dear Savoy, Thank you for sending the 3 books I ordered at Wash. 2006. I didn't arrive home until June 8 -- the books beat me home! Great service!"

2. From David Schwartz:

-- It was great meeting you at Washington 2006 . . . I was browsing on the web tonight and found the website below, [www.batz-hausen.de/stampeng.htm] which seems to be a comprehensive site devoted to the designers and engravers of Czech and Slovak stamps, dating right back to Mucha. Many of the pages are in German, but I thought you might put a reference to this in the *Specialist* . . .

[Ed. Note: So I checked the website out. It is quite interesting and definitely worth your time. It is titled "The Stamp Gallery of Czech and Slovak Graphic Art". There is an option to read the several page introduction in English, German or Czech. Then you are encouraged to visit the eight different departments (each has its own ikon button): Tradition of Stamp Art, Designers, Engravers, Prague, Artists,

Lexicon, Banknotes, and German Graphic Artists. Each of these departments has its introduction in both German and English and then the remainder is in German (with the exception of the Artists one which is entirely in English). The author of the website is Gerhard Batz. In some places he even has references to authors and their articles in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.]

3. From Henry Hahn:

-- Last issue's President's Corner listed Society members who had exhibited at WASHINGTON'06 and what award they had won. Listed here are the additional Czech and Slovak exhibitors and their awards (thanks to Dr. Bedrich Helm and Dr. Lubomir Floch, Czech and Slovak commissioners respectively):

- Robert Alexa, "T.G. Masaryk on the 1923-27 Issues -- Rarities and Oddities", Silver
- Miloš Červinka, "History of Postal Services in Děčín Region", Vermeil
- Miroslav Langhammer, "Automation of Registered Mail in Czechoslovakia and Czechia", Silver
- Ing. Alexander Urminský, "Mills", Large Silver
- MUDr. J. Pálka, "Prestamp Period Hungary", Large Silver
- Ing. I. Lužáka, "Good Light Photography", Silver Bronze

* * * * *

Book Review

HANDBOOK OF CARPATHO-UKRAINIAN PHILATELY

by Jay Carrigan and Ingert Kuzych

[Ed. Note: We are publishing here excerpts from a Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society write-up and a book review by Joe Hahn from the July 2006 *American Philatelist* on this new book by two of our members. Published 2005 by Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150. Softbound, 74 + ii pages, ISBN 1-889581-16-X. The book can be purchased directly from them or through our publications manager at comparable prices.]

1. It is with great delight that Ukrainian Philatelic Resources announces its latest special release, a *Handbook of Carpatho-Ukrainian Philately*. This publication is the most comprehensive English-language treatment ever of this obscure yet fascinating area of philately. Because of its tumultuous past, Carpatho-Ukraine is an area that is avidly collected by Eastern European specialists, including -- but not limited to -- Ukrainian, Czech, Slovak, and Hungarian philatelists.

Three main chapters in this profusely-illustrated book cover all facets of Carpatho-Ukrainian collecting. Chapter One introduces the region Carpatho-Ukraine, how it came to attain independence, and its stamps of 1939 and 1945. Also presented is information on Carpatho-Ukrainian postal rates, watermarks on stamps, and local issues.

The second chapter is a comprehensive catalog of Carpatho-Ukrainian stamps that includes all major varieties of the 110 stamps issued by this short-lived entity as well as their prices. Supplementing this chapter is an appendix of unissued

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stamps: a listing of overprinted Hungarian revenue stamps that were prepared but never went into circulation.

Chapter three deals with Carpatho-Ukrainian postal stationery, and is the most complete such listing ever compiled. Included are all of the various stationery products prepared in March of 1939 for Carpatho-Ukraine's first-ever stamp issue, the famous 3-koruny blue. In 1945, when Carpatho-Ukraine again regained its independence, no less than 22 distinct Hungarian postal card types were overprinted into Carpatho-Ukrainian stationery. Quality control, however, was not that stringent, so many varieties were created; they are all carefully described and priced in this book.

A fourth "bonus" chapter concludes the *Handbook*. It covers the 1941 provisional postal cards overprinted in the town of Kolomyia -- just outside of Carpatho-Ukraine proper. Other than the Carpatho-Ukrainian issues detailed in the first three chapters, these overprinted Soviet postal cards were the only other Ukrainian-produced postal items from the Second World War.

2. In 1939 Carpatho-Ukraine declared its independence and on March 15 the government issued a 3-koruny stamp that was valid for only two days. This stamp is listed as 245B in the *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue*, so many collectors in the United States think they can have a "complete" collection by obtaining this stamp. However, this is not the case, as 110 stamps actually were issued between 1939 and 1945 by this short-lived entity.

There are three chapters in this small handbook, the first dealing with the region and how it became independent as well as the stamps issued during this time. There is also information on rates, watermarks and local issues. The second chapter deals with all major varieties of the stamps and includes a pricing guide. The chapter is supplemented with a listing of overprinted Hungarian revenue stamps that were prepared but never put into circulation. The third chapter provides the most detailed listing of Carpatho-Ukrainian postal stationery ever compiled.

Although, strictly speaking, it was not part of Carpatho-Ukraine, there is also a chapter dealing with the 1941 Kolomyia provisional postal cards. Germany incorporated this area into the General Government and these cards were the only other Ukrainian-produced postal items from World War II.

I found this to be a well-researched, well-written work on a little appreciated but very challenging area of collecting. The authors are to be congratulated on doing an outstanding job.

Joe Hahn

* * * * *

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

I was rummaging through the half-off box . . . and found this block of French stamps on a card (Fig. 1). Affixed is a lower left corner block-of-4 of the 70 centimes Maid of Languedoc stamp of France, actually issued August 24, 1939, as the French



Fig. 1

Government stamp printers always stamp the dates of issue in the corner blocks... The Special Cancellation is bi-lingual in French & Czech languages "Czechoslovak Army Posts, S.P. 2197, 1 FEB 1940". I do not know if this is listed at all in the Monograph 12, "Military Cards of the Exiled Czechoslovak Forces in France and Britain", published by Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. This appears to be a special commemorative souvenir card, not a field service card, so may not be listed at all! Would you or any reader of the Specialist be able to give me any information about this card??

By the way, David Straight, another new member of our GPS Chapter who specializes in Rohrpost, has been enjoying the articles on Prague Pneumatic Mail. I've been supplying the copies.

Vernon W. von der Heydt

[Ed. Note: The described commemorative cancel is shown in Monograph 12. I sent a description of the item and cancel to our member, Vladimir Kralicek of New Zealand, who happens to be the co-author of Monograph 12. His response follows.]

Dear Vernon:

I have been asked by Lou Svoboda if I could help with your request for information on the French card. From the information given I am unable to provide any information about the card in question.

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The canceller itself was produced for the occasion of the 1st Czechoslovak Regiment readiness for battle. The date 1st February is indeed the 1st Day of usage. You will find it being used philatelically on many covers, cards (including French), on paper tied to various stamps, etc. Perhaps if you send photocopy of the card I may be able to tell you more.

There is much of new material still waiting to be discovered and you might have been lucky in finding something new. I myself, have about 8-10 items with the 1st Feb cancel on. It was used in red on the 1st Day and in black on other days.

With regards,
Vladimir J. Kralicek

2. Hi, Lou:

What can you tell me about this label or cover, front and back (Fig. 2, 3)?
Frank Garancovsky



Fig. 2

An interesting cover, sent Jan. 11, 1919 from Mor. Zem. Inspektorátu pro Pivní Dávku in Brno (= Moravian provincial inspectorate for beer rates) going to Správa Provozu Místních Drah (= administration of traffic of local routes), arriving there Jan. 12, 1919 via Special Delivery mail (= hand delivered by postman). The rate is correct -- letter = 20h, Special Delivery = 60h, for a total of 80h. Nice fairly early mixed franking which was legal until a few months later.

I would assume that they were trying to find out what to charge customers for various delivery schemes in the local Brno area, or what routes of delivery were

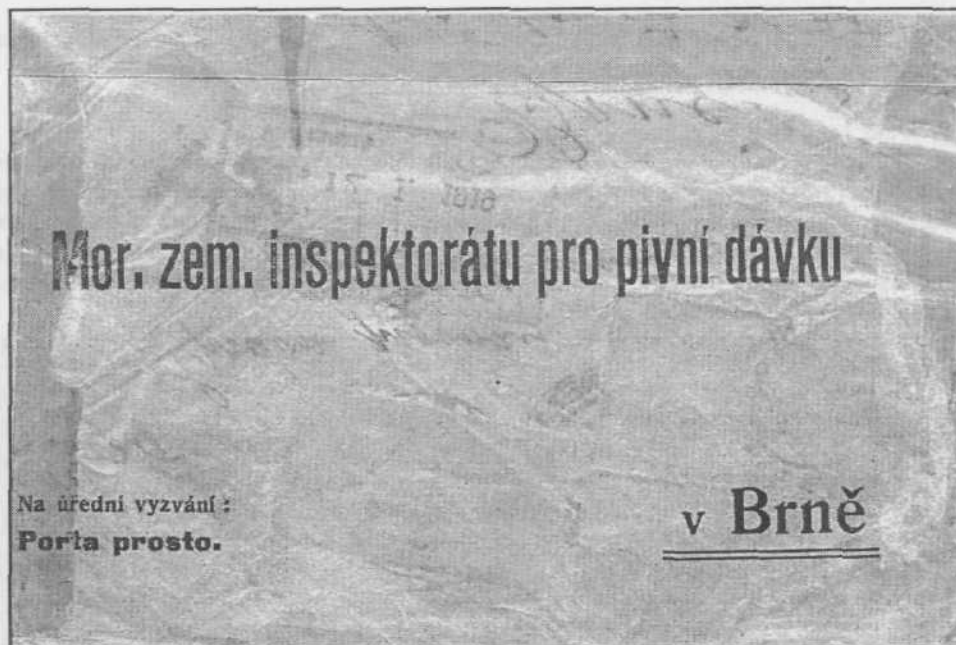


Fig. 3

available. But why send it Special Delivery? I guess they needed an answer quickly.

Too bad we cannot read the black two-lined straight line cancel above the stamps. I believe that it starts out on the second line reading Nezamyslice (which is where the cover was dispatched) but the second word there appears to be Markovice. But I can find no such town or city name in my map book. Nezamyslice is about 30 km east-north-east of Brno towards Kroměříž.

Lou

Thanks Lou. I wonder about that boxed auxiliary cancel with číslo [number] 109 and delivery date. Is this possibly just an internal office marking instead of a postal stamp?

Frank

That is simply a receipt rubber stamp from the business office to record when the piece of mail was received, it has nothing to do with the post office.

Lou

I found the listing for this item from the Brnofila auction of 13.1.2006, it reads: "F Celistvosti, Ex Průvodní list železnice, Smíšená frankatura RU 2 páska Mi 222 + 2x c 8, neupravené Raz. Nezamyslice 13.1.19 + dražní Raz - Raz. Správa Provozu Brno, dv v okrajích" . . . perhaps there is a railroad cancel here.

Frank

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I don't see where this is a railroad cover at all. Can any of our readers shed additional light on this cover?

Lou

3. Dear Lou:

From time to time I have heard that the Czechoslovak Postal Service -- under the communist government -- returned letters sent from the USA because of the stamps used on the envelope. I ... have such a letter ... it was sent ... using four of the 4c TG Masaryk stamps -- from the "Champion of Liberty" series used for postage. This was too much for the communists who wanted no reminder of free democracy to be circulated in the country.

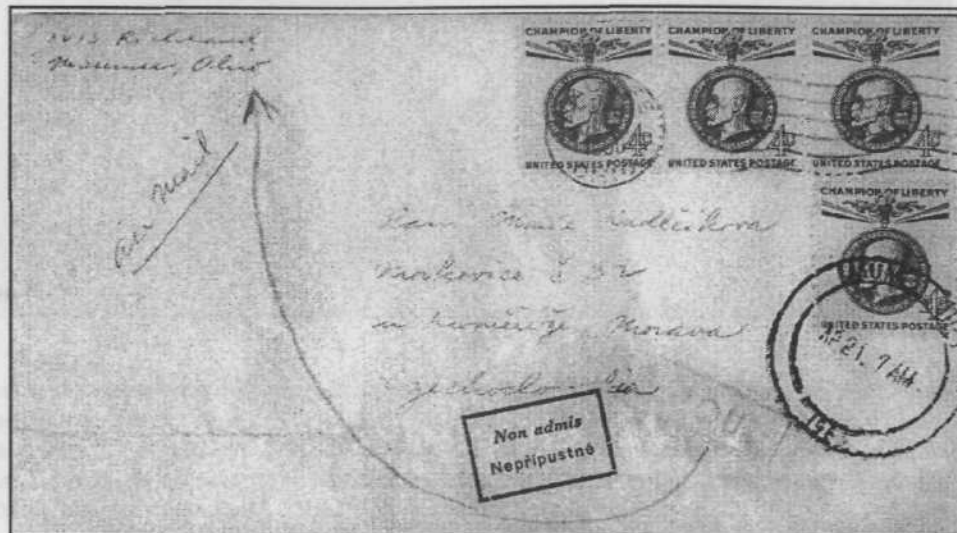


Fig. 4

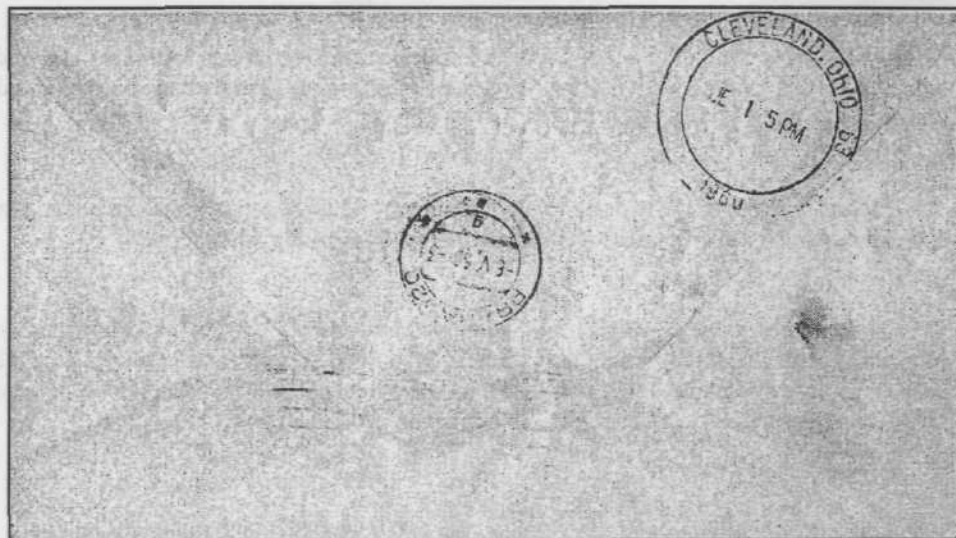


Fig. 5
36

The front of the envelope has a sticker "Nepřipustné -- Non admis" and a red line pointing to the returned address (Fig. 4). The back page carries return cancellations from Prague and Cleveland (Fig. 5).

Karl Ruzicka

A nice cover of its kind. I found the cancels to be interesting also. Since the machine cancel from Maumee (? April 1960) only hit the three stamps in a row on top, a secondary hand cancel was used on the lower stamp -- Maumee, 21 April. It took more than two weeks before the Czechs acknowledged the cover -- Praha 120, 6 May, and another 3 1/2 weeks before it finally made its way back to Cleveland -- 1 June. Where is the final Maumee cancel?

Lou

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

New Issues

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

1. On March 31, 2006, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 10 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Easter 2006 -- The Celebration of Spring (Fig. 1). The stamp shows a young boy and young girl with Easter symbols -- the boy is holding a plaited switch and has a bouquet of flowers near his knee, and the girl is holding a bowed basket with fruit and wears a garland of flowers on her head. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Machaj and produced by WSP - CARTOR, France, using offset printing. A FDC shows an open basket of Spring flowers with a chick decorated with painted Easter eggs hanging by ribbons (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1

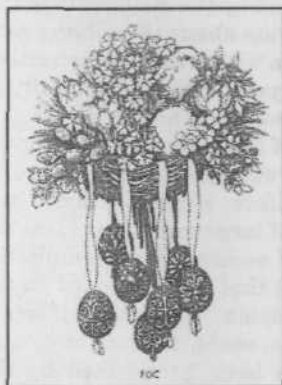


Fig. 2

2. On April 21, 2006, the Ministry issued a souvenir sheet of two commemorative stamps in the Nature Protection series recognizing Geological Localities (Fig. 3). The souvenir sheet and stamps were designed by Karol Felix, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset.

-- 35 Sk, Sandberg: The range of geological processes over different geological eras resulted in the formation of a wide range of rocks in Slovakia. The mutual action of often opposing phenomena (such as accumulation/removal and redistribution of rock masses, alternation of sea and land) due to climatic changes resulted in many unique

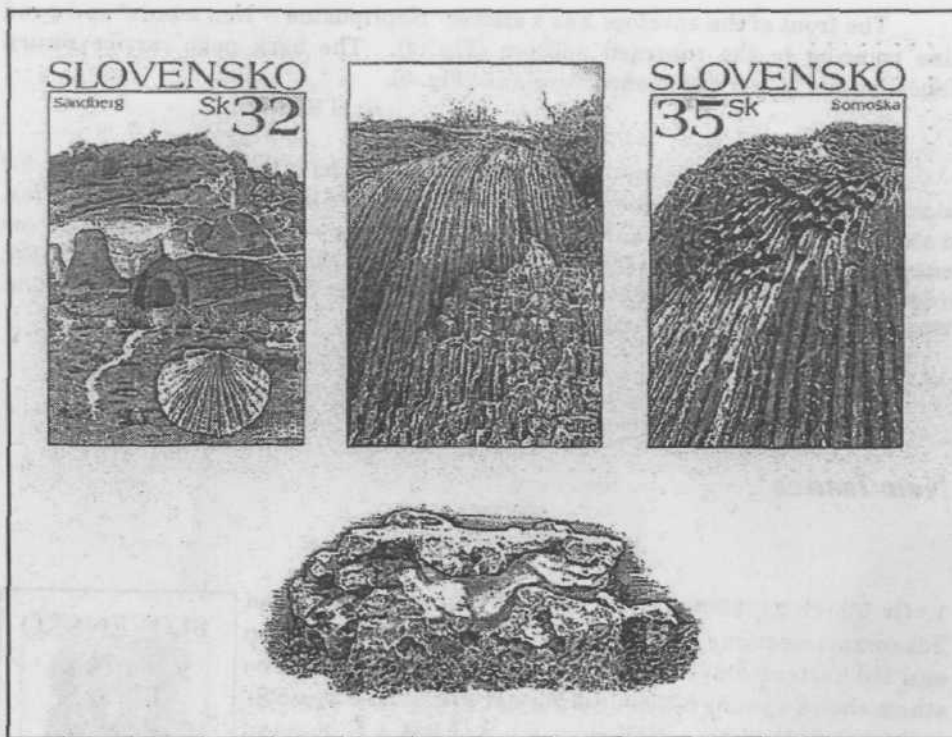


Fig. 3

natural formations, many of which are now legally protected. One of the most remarkable geological areas is the theme of this Slovak postage stamp. It is world-renown for its 300 types of fossil: Sandberg (-- from the German 'sand hill'). It is situated in the National Nature Reservation of Devínska Kobyla, in the municipality of Devínska Nová Ves, in the southwest margin of Bratislava. From the geological point of view, this area is in the transient sector between the Alps and the Carpathians. The wider zone around Sandberg was formed by the sediments of the warm (subtropical) tertiary sea that intruded into this region about 15 million years ago. Littoral and beach sediments with horizontally settled layers are characteristic. The layers are formed mainly of fine-grained sands and gravels, with compacted sandstone in the upper banks. The layers of lithotamnia carbonates are also interesting. The sands were largely excavated in the past. The shells of foraminifers, slugs, shellfish, and even shark teeth and the bones of large mammals form the majority of fossils. Fractions of pectens, for example the *Flabellipecten Solarium* (Lamarck) that is reproduced on the stamp, are amongst the most common. The fossils of larger animals (e.g. vertebra of a whale, seals, turtles) have also been unearthed. This site has been proclaimed by the international geologic community as a standard locality for the substage "devín", i.e. the upper part of Badenian. In



Fig. 4

terms of flora and fauna, many species of protected plants (e.g. iris, pheasant's-eye, etc.) flourish in this area, and in the sand walls many protected species of birds -- including the honey-buzzard and sand-martin -- build their nests. The slug *Panopea Menardi* is reproduced on the FDC (Fig. 4).

-- 35 Sk, Šomoška: Slovakia, despite its relatively small area, is characterized by a very diverse and complicated geological structure. Endogenous and exogenous processes continually repeating and alternating with each other have determined -- during their intricate evolution -- the variability of the rock. The important part of the endogenous processes is volcanic activity, the result of which is the birth of volcanoes that have produced a wide spectrum of volcanic rocks. Under the influence of changes of climatic factors (temperature, wind, precipitation), the exogenous processes cause the weathering of rock surface layers, and transport the products of such erosion with water and air onto the places of their repeated accumulation and subsequent building up of new sedimentary rocks. Under the influence of just the above-mentioned phenomena, many unique natural formations have emerged in Slovakia. One such formation, "the stone basalt waterfall" at castle hill Šomoška, is reproduced on a Slovak postage stamp. This formation represents the selectively preserved part of basalt lava intake canal (neku) with distinctive mildly bent columnar jointing. Šomoška is situated in the Cerová upland, the municipality of Šiatorošská Bukovinka (post office Radzovce), near the Slovak-Hungary border. It is a national nature reserve with an area of about 90 acres, and with a nature trail passing through it. Sea sediments (mostly sandstones) prevail in the lower parts of the geologic structure Cerová upland which evidences the former presence of a sea bay. Volcanic activity is represented by less frequent older andesites (15.5 to 16.5 million years) -- in the vicinity of Šiatorošská Bukovinka. But younger basalts (5 to 1.2 million years) prevail, forming peaks and extended crests in the west part of the upland. The territory of the Cerová upland is an outstanding phenomenon of both inanimate and animated nature summarily written up in the popular scientific work "Geological educational map of Cerová upland in scale 1 : 50 000 (RNDr. M. Elečko, CSc et al.)". This was published by the Dionýz Štúr National Geological Institute in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in 2001. A FDC shows once again (but a slightly different view) of "the stone basalt waterfall" at castle hill Šomoška (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

3. On May 5, 2006, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp in the EUROPA 2006 series entitled "Immigrants seen through the eyes of young people" (Fig. 6). During the years 1948-1989, according to statistics, approximately 300,000 inhabitants of former Czechoslovakia left the country. They were opposing the former communist regime, and they were hoping to find a more democratic environment abroad. It is estimated that out of this number, approximately

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80-100,000 were Slovaks. Today, Slovakia -- as the EU countries in general -- has opened its door to different groups of foreigners and migrants who wish to live on the territory of this country. Though most of the world's estimated 150 million migrants are people searching for better economic and job opportunities abroad, there is still a specific group, that of the refugees, that consists of people who -- due to the well founded fear of persecution for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of particular social group or political group -- are forced to flee and should be provided international protection. This group is under the UNHCR protection and all states signatories of the 1951 Convention related to the status of refugees have international obligations towards them. Nowadays, young people living in the new democratic Slovak Republic have an unique chance to pay back the moral debt their older generation had made. The central motif of the postage stamp, which was chosen at the competition for young creative artists, is a flower with petals in four colors -- white, red, yellow, and brown -- which characterize the connection of all races. The stamp was designed by Martin Mistrík and produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary, using offset printing. The FDC shows a detail of the central seeds spiral with the Chinese symbol of harmony and balance (Fig. 7).

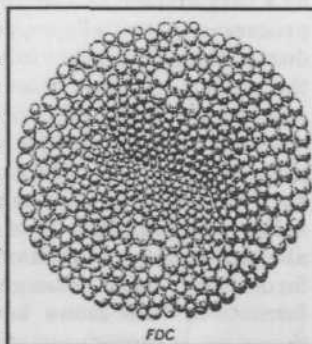


Fig. 7

4. On May 19, 2006, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps in the Sights of Our Homeland series recognizing Renaissance Belfries. The stamps were designed by Igor Benca, engraved by Arnold Feke (27 Sk) and Lucie Bandiková (29 Sk), and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with gravure printing.



Fig. 8

-- 27 Sk, Kežmarok (Fig. 8): It was mainly the towns of Eastern Slovakia which participated in the development of Renaissance architecture in Slovakia from the middle of the 16th century. The social and political conditions following the defeat of the Hungarian troops by the Turks at Mohács in 1526 and the onset of the Reformation paved the way to the Renaissance. It was in the towns of the Spiš region (German: Zips) where the Renaissance impacted stronger in comparison with other regions. The mutual interaction of the native traditions with the architecture of southern Poland (with its center in Cracow) contributed to the development of the unique style called East-Slovak Renaissance. Typical Renaissance structures in Eastern Slovakia also include belfries. These stand-alone structures with their characteristic gable-attics are unique in Europe. Although belfries were usually built within church areas, they were not

actually used for church purposes. Rather, towns used them as watchtowers and observation bases, raising alarm of imminent threats such as fire, other forces of nature, or military attack. The belfry of Kežmarok, in the closed area of the Holy Cross parish-church, is one of the most beautiful sights in the Spiš region. Its

designer was the local architect Ulrich Materer, who built in the period 1586-1591. This rather small structure with a square-shaped ground plan didn't actually exceed the surrounding buildings by its elevation. Typical for its clear composition is the striking horizontal division of the areas. The elevated ground-floor is smooth and fitted with an entry opening. The slightly salient story (resting on arch-like consoles) is on all four sides architectonically accentuated by arcade openings (biforium and triforium type). The entire structure ends in a gable-attic. An important role in the structure's overall composition is played by the extensive sgraffito decoration by an unknown author with the initials H.B. The FDC shows a detail of the styled botanic ornament constituting the blind sgraffito arcature beneath the attic (Fig. 9).

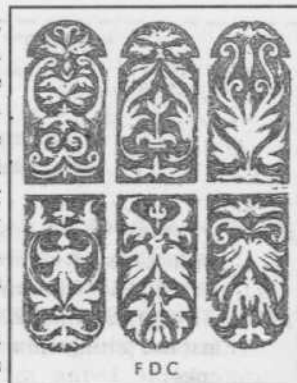


Fig. 9

-- 29 Sk, Podolíneč (Fig. 10): Renaissance art in Slovakia arose in the early 16th century, simultaneous with the dying embers of the Gothic tradition. Thanks to artists and craftsmen from Italy and Dalmatia invited to Budína by King Mathias Corwinus, the Renaissance came to Slovakia a little earlier than other countries



Fig. 10

north of the Alps. Following the defeat of Hungarian troops by the Turks at Moháč in 1526, the architecture focused (especially in the southern parts of Slovakia) on the construction of fortifications and defense systems. Typical examples of Renaissance architecture in Slovakia are mansions (kaštiele). The Renaissance boomed especially in Eastern Slovakia, mainly in the Spiš region (German: Zips). The influence of the neighboring Poland and strong native traditions brought a unique style -- also called East-Slovak Renaissance. Typical of this construction style are belfries with the typical gable-attic, often extensively decorated with sgraffitos. The town of Podolíneč is one of the oldest Slovak towns -- achieving its urban privileges in 1292. This prosperous town with well-developed trade and crafts (one of many Spiš towns belonging to Poland between 1412 and 1772) significantly contributed to the development of

Renaissance architecture. The original urbane structure with its medieval layout and fortifications has survived to the present. The Renaissance belfry in Podolíneč was built in 1659 and was situated in the area of the parish-church dedicated to the Virgin Mary's Ascension. The low prismatic tower with striking double-attic and plastic blind arcature and arcade sound-openings are typical examples of Renaissance structures of the Reformation Era. A specialty of this belfry is the use of its ground-floor as a town-hall. Upstairs (accessible through an attached semicircular staircase) is a precious bell from 1392. Next to the belfry's staircase is a missionary-cross with the statue body of the crucified Jesus. The FDC shows a detail of this impressive statue (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11

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