



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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President's Corner

CHICAGOPEX

Once again, the annual gathering of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately is fast approaching. This year, the gathering will be held in conjunction with CHICAGOPEX 2007, 16-18 November.

This year CHICAGOPEX will be a Pan-Slavic show, a special interest to members of our Society. Also represented at the show will be the Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, and Hungarian societies. In addition to exhibits from the United States, there will be exhibits from the Czech Republic and Great Britain. If you have an interest in Central and Eastern European philately, this is the show for you.

The Czechoslovak Society's activities will begin with the annual board meeting on Thursday afternoon, 15 November. On Saturday, we will have the Society's annual General Membership meeting. Following the meeting the Society will sponsor a lecture by Mr. Vít Vaníček on the pre-stamp mail of Bohemia. Mr. Vaníček, the Vice President of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SCF), will use his award-winning exhibit, as the basis for his lecture.

The Society will have a table where you can meet other members of the Society. There will also be a selection of the latest Czechoslovak philatelic publications for sale. If you attend the show, please stop at the table to say 'hello'.

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3. A Society library is housed with Mark Wilson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, or e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.org
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T. G. MASARYK 1920 ISSUE

by Mark Wilson

In a country known for its beautiful stamps, the T. G. Masaryk issue of 1920 is uniquely unattractive to modern eyes. The portrait, with its crowded framing decked out in the various fruits of the earth, seems out of place among the startlingly beautiful stamps that preceded and followed its release. Be that as it may, the issue is refreshingly interesting to collectors devoted to the study of the process of how stamps are manufactured and the impact of various production procedures upon the end product.



The 125 Haléřů Masaryk
of 1920

For the most part, typographic printing produced the early Czechoslovak stamps, the Masaryk issue among them. A simple process was followed to make plates for this printing technique. From a template drawing of the stamp, typically twice the size of a normal stamp, a printing block was cut. This block was used to stamp out 100 inked copies onto suitable paper. The ink prints were arranged in ten rows of ten, a group photograph taken, and a negative produced at half the group's original size. This negative was transferred to the plate chemically, the plate etched, and the printer was in business.

Not so for the Masaryk stamps. First, two printing blocks, not one, were cut from the template. These two printing blocks were used to stamp out 25 prints and five rows of five images created a 25-stamp arrangement instead of the typical 100-stamp arrangement. Once the 25-stamp block had been photographed and the negative reduced to the proper size, the negative was transferred chemically to the metal plate which was then etched.

How is it known that two printing blocks were made and that the 25-stamp negative was transferred four times to each plate? The stamps themselves tell us.

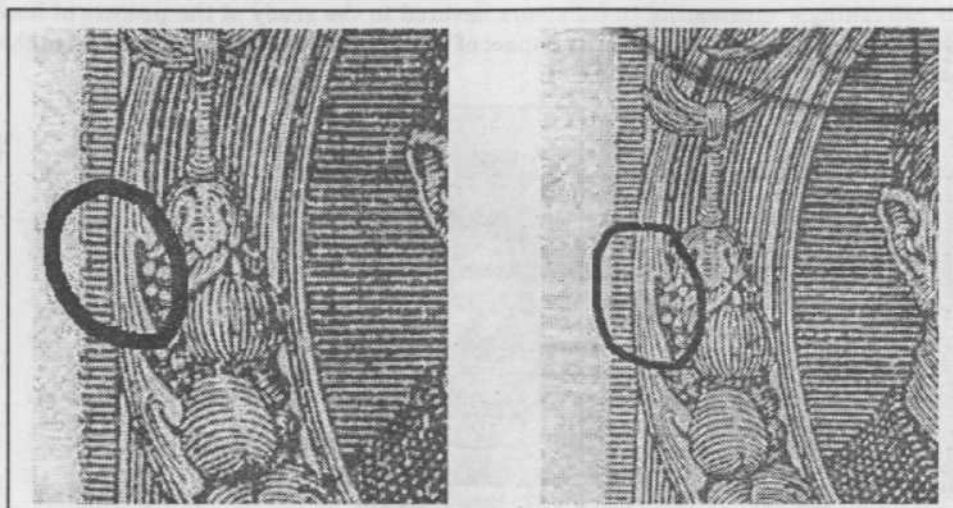
Type I and Type II Masaryk Stamps

Let us first consider the problem of the two printing blocks. The stamps demonstrate its existence because there are two broad types of Masaryk stamps. If one examines all of the stamps on a pane of Masaryk stamps produced by either of

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its two plates, one always finds every stamp matches the pattern of a Type I or a Type II stamp.

The difference between the types occurs in the center of the long scrollwork that extends along the left side of the stamp between the portrait frame and the edge of the stamp. Directly to the left of the tip of the inverted tulip on the portrait frame, the shading lines at the left edge of the scrollwork differ. For Type I stamps, the outermost line is continuous, but for Type II stamps, there is a long break.



Type 1

Type 2

There are 76 Type I stamps on each pane of Masaryk stamps and 24 Type II stamps. They are always located in the same position on panes printed from either plate. To schematically explain the distribution of Type I and Type II stamps within a pane, the problem of the repeating 25-stamp block of stamps must first be considered.

Flaws in the 25-Stamp Negative

The problem of the repeating 25-stamp block may be resolved by considering what effect it would have on the plate as a whole. Consider for a moment a defect in the negative itself, for instance a dot in the leg of the letter P in the word POŠTA. If it appears on the negative, and the image of the negative was repeatedly used four times to make the plate, then that dot in the P in POŠTA would have to appear four times on each pane of stamps and in exactly the same relative positions.

That is exactly what happens, and not just for this flaw. There are nine other flaws that each occur four times on both plates and always in the same relative positions on each pane. Table I schematically represents the ten repeating flaws, and also shows the locations of Type I and Type II stamps.

Table I is a schematic of the 100 stamps in a Masaryk issue pane of stamps. Even a quick glance at Table I indicates a recurring pattern within each of the four quarters (they have heavy outlines). Notice in the top row in each of the quarters

		1	2	3			1	2	3
	4		5			4		5	
				6					6
			7	8				7	8
	9	10				9	10		
		1	2	3			1	2	3
	4		5			4		5	
				6					6*
			7	8				7	8
	9	10				9	10		

Table I. A Schematic Representation of a 100-Stamp Pane of Masaryk Stamps.

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there is a white square, followed by a dark square, followed by three white squares with the digits 1, 2, and 3 in them. A different, but still repeated, pattern may be found in each of the remaining four rows of each quarter pane.

The light squares represent the location of Type I stamps while the dark squares locate the positions of Type II stamps. The numbers each identify a flaw in the negative that is always found on the stamp in the indicated location. Clearly, the repeated location of the flaws and the two types of stamps prove beyond doubt that the 25-stamp block was repeated four times.

Each of the ten flaws are illustrated and described below. Seven of the flaws occur on Type I stamps; only three (as mentioned in the descriptions below) occur on Type II stamps.



Flaw 1



Flaw 2



Flaw 3

Flaw 1: Dot in the upper part of the leg of the letter P in POŠTA.

Flaw 2: Break in the edge of the apple leaf.

Flaw 3: Dark nick from the inner right side of the letter O in POŠTA.



Flaw 4



Flaw 5



Flaw 6

Flaw 4: Rounded bite from the lower left edge of the stamp.

Flaw 5: Diagonal mark or line across the right end of the shelf below SKÁ.

Flaw 6: (Only on Type II stamps.) White blotch in the horizontal shading lines below the left leg of the letter K of ČESKO.



Flaw 7



Flaw 8



Flaw 9

Flaw 7: (Only on Type II stamps.) Gap in the innermost line of the portrait frame just below the lapel on Masaryk's jacket.

Flaw 8: A mark in the bottom of the left scrollwork of the value tablet just above the letter Y in the designer's signature under the stamp.

Flaw 9: A dot in the apex of the letter A in POŠTA.

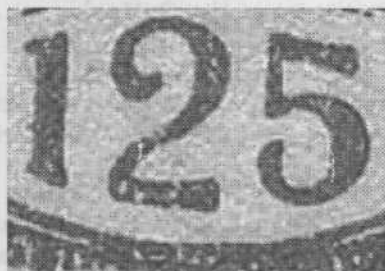


Flaw 10

Flaw 10: (Only on Type II stamps.) Gap in the shading lines directly below the tip of the ear of corn above the right end of the value tablet.

A Plate Flaw

All of the Types and flaws from the negative mentioned above are repeated in exactly the same place in all four quarters of the plate, which demonstrates they are from the same source. There is another very conspicuous flaw which is never repeated and, in fact, occurs only on Plate II. At the end of the third row in the fourth quarter of Table I is a square containing "6*". The 6, it is understood, represents flaw 6 from the negative. The "*", on the other hand, appears nowhere



Long Base



Short Base

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else on the schematic and represents a plate flaw. Plate flaws, by definition, occur on the plate as a manufacturing defect or injury incurred during the printing process. As such, they are unique to a single place on a single plate. This plate flaw is identified by a short base on the numeral 2 in 125.

While the comprehensive *Monografie Československých Známek*, Volume II, reports on page 152 another plate flaw -- thick and thin numerals in the value tablet -- the modern literature does not support its existence. There are retouches to some of the stamps and each stamp, like all stamps typographically produced, has its own peculiar identifying landmarks. Readers are invited to view a plating guide for the Masaryk 125 haléřů -- along with plating guides for the Hradčany and Legionářské -- on the author's website: www.knihtisk.org.

The Masaryk 125h has other interesting aspects such as color variations and its use as a surcharged stamp for the Red Cross Issue. However, here we have only focused upon the more interesting aspects of its manufacture as evidenced by the stamps themselves.

Notes

The original work supporting this article was done by several well-known Czech collectors: A. Šnoflák, F. Žampach, J. Chvalovský, and Z. Ryvola. These gentlemen identified the flaws in the negative of the 25-stamp block with uppercase letters and in the sequence in which each set of flaws was found. The numbered flaws used here are equivalent to the flaws they identified as follows: A-2; B-4; C-10; D-6; E-8; F-7; G-1; H-3; I-9; J-5. All of the illustrations, save the one of Flaw 2, are from the author's personal collection. The Flaw 2 illustration was taken from the first book in the bibliography below.

Bibliography

- T.G. Masaryk 125 hal. Vady a retuše.* Studijní Filatelistické Příručky, Společnosti Sběratelů Čs. Knihtiskových Známek, Prague, 1991.
Ryvola, Zdeněk. *Dodatek ke Studii J. Chvalovského T.G. Masaryk 125h, vady a retuše.* Privately printed in Prague.
Monografie Československých Známek, Díl II.

* * * * *

THE DARK SIDE TO JACHYMOV

A Postscript to 'The Romantic Pedigree of the Dollar'

by Savoy Horvath

Before 1948 the area described in the dollar's-origin article [*Mar/Apr 2007 SPECIALIST*, pg 13] -- the Czech silver mining region of Jachymov -- was primarily known as a great winter sports area.

Drastic changes came about there with the communist take-over of Czechoslovakia and the start of totalitarian rule. The Soviet Union needed uranium, and the communists needed a cheap labor force, so mass arrests began. Between 1948 and 1967, over 1,120,380 people were arrested and sent to hundreds of newly



Fig. 1

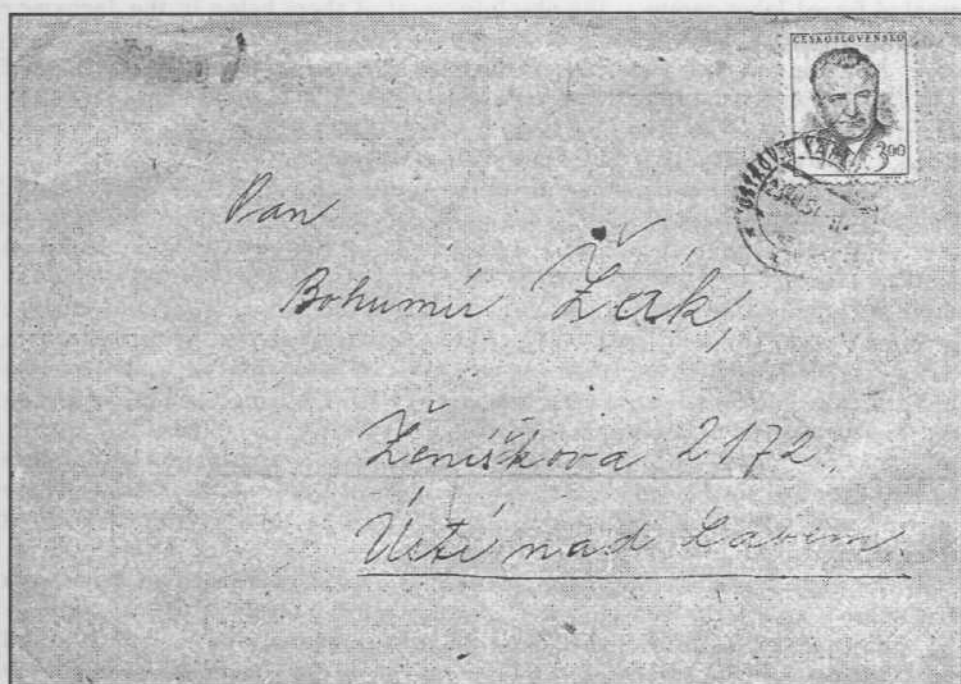


Fig. 2

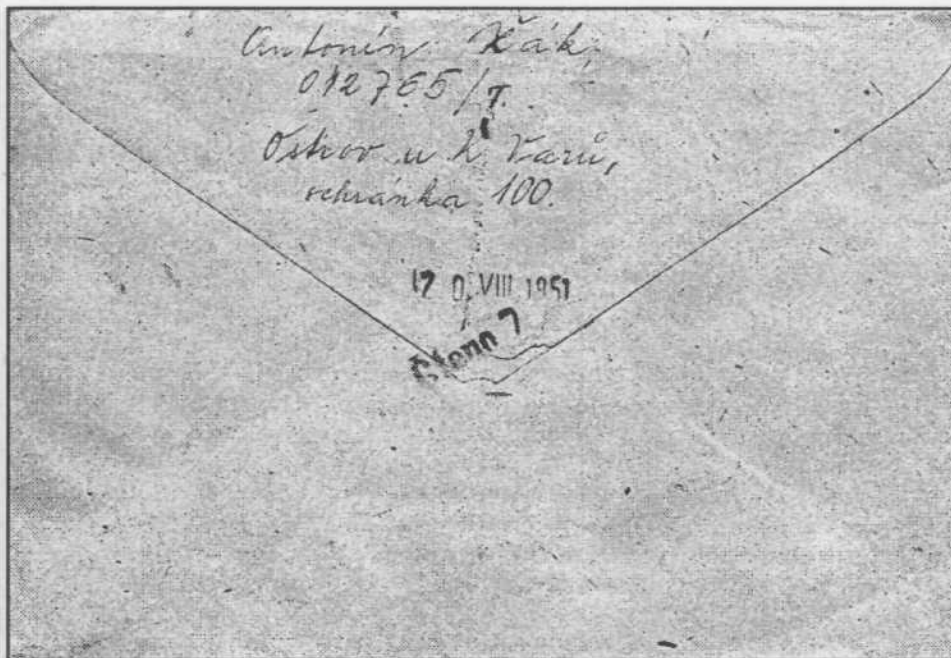


Fig. 3

created forced labor camps -- the absolute worst of them being in the Jachymov uranium mines.

According to Czech ministry of justice reports published in 1993, a total of 15,726 prisoners perished in these work camps, and most of these happened in the Jachymov region. The area had many concentration camps -- Nikolaj, Rovnost, Elias, Barbora, Svatopluk -- and many other mine names.

None of these locations had direct mail service, all mail went first through Ostrov u Karlových Varů (Ostrov by Karlovy Vary). There it was processed through censorship; each piece of mail was stamped either "CENSUROVAL:" (censored by)(Fig. 1) or "ČTENO (#)" (read by censor number #)(Fig. 2). The reverse of the cover in Figure 2 (Fig. 3) bears a typical return address on its flap that includes the prisoner's name (Antonín Žák), the prisoner's number followed by a slash and a letter (012765/T), where the letter was a code for the mine location, then "Ostrov u K. Varů", and finally "schránka 100." (postal box 100). Hand stamped below that on the flap corner as if to reseal it is the date "20. VIII 1951" and "Čteno 7".

At these places, barbed wire fences, dog patrols, and machine gun towers were lessons that had been learned just a few years prior, thanks to the Nazi's. There were escapes, but only a handful were successful. The ones who were re-captured were killed or died from beatings.

Financially, the Jachymov region was known for more than just as the dollar's birthplace -- after 1948 the concentration camps started issuing their own money.

Prisoner's that fulfilled their work quota were paid in this camp money and used it to pay for food and other extra items. The money -- with values in koruny



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

(crowns) -- was printed with the approval of the Czechoslovak national bank and was to be used only within the correctional education institutions (as the camps were called by the Ministry of the Interior, ČSSR).

Three examples are shown here (Figures 4, 5, and 6) in approximately their true size. All three constitute one koruna in value. However, as the value represented increased, so did the size of the currency so that, e.g., the 100 koruna note was almost twice as large. The note shown in Figure 4 has printed on it "ÚSTAVNÍ POUKÁZKA / V HODNOTĚ / JEDNA KORUNA ČS." (institutional coupon in one Čs crown value). It has been stamped with a rectangular surcharge from a "POKLADNA" (cashier's office) to "cancel" it so it cannot be used again. At Figure 5 is a note containing "JÁCHYMOVSKÉ DOLY" (Jáchymov mines), "NÁRODNÍ PODNIK" (national enterprise), "HORNÍ SLAVKOV" (the name of the mine/concentration camp). At Figure 6 is a note containing "MINISTERSTVO VNITRA" (Ministry of the Interior), "POUKÁZKA / NA ODBĚR VÝSTROJE" (coupon/for purchasing

goods). It also bears a triangular handstamp with a "Č" in the middle. This designates which mine/camp it applies to.

Collecting communist concentration camp mail is definitely a new part of Czechoslovak philately, and a very sad part of Czech history.

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THE CZECH LEGION POST IN SIBERIA

by William A. Jones

When World War I erupted in Europe in 1914, it was a battle of empires. This was especially true in the east, where the armies of Austria-Hungary and Russia would throw themselves against each other for four long, bloody years.

The area that now comprises the Czech Republic had been a part of the Habsburg Austrian domain since the 16th century, while its neighbor, Slovakia, had been under Hungarian control for nearly a thousand years. Centuries of foreign rule had never dampened the Czechs' and Slovaks' sense of ethnic identity or pride in their culture, however, and they were reluctant conscripts to the imperial army.

In Russia, the story was very different. A few years earlier, some 100,000 Czechs had emigrated to Russia, most settling in the region around Kiev, in the Ukraine. With the outbreak of hostilities, these Czechs, eager to prove their loyalty to their new homeland, formed their own army units to fight their old masters. Although initially limited to acting as scouts, under Russian commanders and NCOs (noncommissioned officers), the Czechs found themselves in the thick of battle.

The Czech nationalist leader, Thomas Masaryk, headquartered in Paris, began to urge the czarist government to allow him to create a Czech Army in Russia to fight on the Eastern Front for Czecho-Slovak independence. After the March 1917 Revolution, the new Russian government was agreeable (and desperate) and by mid-year the Czech Legion was formed.

In contrast to their cousins fighting for the czar, Czech and Slovak conscripts in the Austro-Hungarian army fought unenthusiastically and surrendered en masse when they could, and by 1917 tens of thousands were in Russian prisoner-of-war camps. The Legion was given permission to recruit from the camps and quickly grew from 4,000 to some 40,000 troops.

During the next two years, the Legion would distinguish itself on the battlefield and leave a philatelic legacy for generations of stamps collectors to come.

Although the Legion fought bravely and effectively, the Russian war effort was collapsing around them. Plans were made to evacuate the army through Archangel so they could join the Allies on the Western Front, but the November Revolution brought the Bolsheviks to power, and this northern route was closed to them.

In the early months of 1918, as Russian resistance dissolved and the Germans advanced rapidly through the Ukraine, the Legion, now numbering 60,000, boarded abandoned Russian trains and withdrew to the east. Blocked on the west and north by Germany and on the south by simple logistics, the only way home was east, 5,000 miles across Siberia to Vladivostok, where they could sail to Europe.

The Legion had no interest in the Russian Civil War and wanted only to move through and out of the country. The Bolshevik government in Moscow promised them free passage through Siberia, but local Soviets began to harass them at each station stop, extorting arms and supplies. In May 1918, tensions came to a head when Soviet Leader Leon Trotsky demanded that the Czechs disarm and ordered that they be arrested and interned as prisoners of war.

The legionnaires refused to lay down their arms and so became central players in the revolution. In May and June 1918, they occupied much of the Volga region of

Russia. The Legion's advance units had already reached Vladivostok, and by September the entire length of the Trans-Siberian Railway was occupied.

When news of these events reached the outside world, the gallant Czech legionnaires became the heroes of the day in the West. Allied leaders saw in the Legion a means to defeat the Bolsheviks, while Masaryk recognized it as the vehicle for Czecho-Slovak independence. It was agreed that if the Czech Legion continued to hold the railway and allied themselves with the Allied Expeditionary Force being landed in eastern Siberia in support of the anti-Soviet factions, the Allies would guarantee that the final peace would include an independent Czechoslovakia.

As the Legion settled in, it began to attend to some of the functions of a de facto government. Among these functions were the organization of its postal service and the creation of postage stamps.

The first stamp used by the Czech Legion (Scott A1 in the 2008 edition of the Scott catalogs) was created in 1918 by the general director of the (White) Russian Field Post in Chelyabinsk by overprinting Russia Scott 79, the 10-kopeck deep blue definitive of 1915, with "CZESKJA POSZTA" in Cyrillic characters. This stamp was approved by the Russian postal authorities in Omsk and put on sale for several days before it was withdrawn because of the misspelling of "CZESKJA" for "CZESKAJA". Soon after, Czech legionnaires were given free-franking privileges by the Russian post.

The Czech Field Post system began full operation in September 1918, initially with one physical post office and a number of railway mail cars. The service expanded quickly and, by the end of the year, served the length of the Trans-Siberian Railway and included parcel post, money transfer services and international mail connections.

Although the legionnaires themselves had franking privileges, there was increasing feeling that specially designed stamps should be created to publicize the Legion abroad, to support Legion charities, and to provide postage stamps for civilians using the Field Post system, who had to pay normal postal fees.

The first issue (Figure 1), nicknamed "The Silhouettes," was designed locally and printed by Legion personnel in Irkutsk. It consists of three stamps: a 25kop



Figure 1: Scott 1-3, the "Silhouettes," designed and printed by the Czech Legion in Siberia in 1919. The stamps shown are examples of the perf 13 1/4 remainders sold in Prague after the Legion's return to Europe.

carmine value depicting the cathedral at Irkutsk, an urn and a spray of laurel; a 50kop depicting an armored railway car, the innovation that enabled the Legion to control the rail lines; and a 1-ruble showing the silhouette of a Czech sentry. Imperforate sets (Scott 1-3) were issued in December 1919, followed by stamps perforated 11 1/2 in January 1920 (Scott 1a-3a). A yellow, cracked

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gum was applied locally. Ungummed and imperforate remainders were later sent to Prague, where a smooth, white gum was applied, and the stamps were perforated 13 1/4. These remainders were sold to collectors in large quantities and are still easily found.

The second issue (Scott 4, Figure 2) consists of a nondenominated stamp picturing the Bohemian Lion coat of arms, printed in blue and red and attractively embossed and die-cut. The stamp was prepared in Prague in 1919 and received in Siberia in 1920. It was overprinted "1920" (Scott 5), and stamps with the "1920" overprints were additionally surcharged in nine different values from 2kop to 1rub (Scott 6-14), two of which are shown in Figure 3. A later printing of the Lion issue, in all its forms, was made in Prague for sale to collectors. This later printing, distinguishable by its color shades sells for substantially less than the originals.

The Legion held the railways and established order in the region they controlled, but it soon became clear that the Whites were doomed by their own brutality and indifference to the populace. By September 1919, the White Russian government of General Kolchak in Omsk had been defeated by the Soviets and was in full retreat. The Soviets occupied Omsk in November 1919, and the Allies, including the Czechs, began to plan their evacuation from Siberia.

The first rescue ships had arrived in Vladivostok in April 1919, and the first legionnaires had begun leaving for Europe in the months following. By mid-1920, the last of the Czech Legion had departed Russia and, finally, nearly two years after the end of World War I, returned to the new nation of Czechoslovakia, a nation that, in no small way, they had created.

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Figure 2: The Prague Lion stamp (Scott 4) was printed in Prague in 1919 and received in Siberia in 1920, hence the "1920" year overprint (Scott 5), applied in Irkutsk.



Figure 3: The overprinted lion set was additionally surcharged with nine different denominations (Scott 6-14), from 2 kopecks to 1 ruble.

OLDEST CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

— Nitra, Slovakia —
by Savoy Horvath

The Nitra region was densely populated thirty thousand years ago, the first settlement being erected six thousand years ago. In 400 BC, this territory was

inhabited by the Celts and the presence of Slavic people began in the 5th century (Fig. 1 - Latin inscription AD 179 of the victorious Roman 2nd Legion carved in a stone wall near Trenčín.). Nitra, alongside with Bratislava, the capital, are the oldest cities in Slovakia with the first historical reference going back to the early 9th century.

Nitra (Nyitrain, Hungarian and Neutra in German) is located in west-central Slovakia, at the foot of Zobor Mountain, in the Nitra river valley. It is the fourth largest city in Slovakia and today's population is 87,000.

Nitra had the first known Christian church in central and eastern Europe. It was erected in 828 by Prince Pribina, a pagan and convert to Christianity; the church was consecrated by the Archbishop of Salzburg, Adalram. In a later development, the Nitra principality was forcibly annexed by Prince Mojmir to the Moravian principality in 833, and a new state was created under the name of Great Moravia (Fig. 2). After the deposing of Mojmir, Prince Rastislav came to power; his rule is connected to an important event, namely, the arrival by invitation, of the Byzantine missionaries, Cyril and Methodius in 863 (Fig. 3 - 1,130th anniversary of ST. Cyril & Methodius arrival (Sc 168), issue of 1993). The first known bishopric in Slovakia was established in 880. The city reached its notability during the reign of Prince Svatopluk, who was the prince of Nitra (880-881) and then the king of Great Moravia till 894 (Fig. 4). Svatopluk had the first monastery (St. Hyppolite) in Slovakia built on top of Zobor Mountain. St. Cyril and St. Methodius, creators of the Slavic Cyrillic alphabet, participated actively in the formation of the Church and the first bishopric in Nitra (Fig. 5). A basilica discovered recently underneath the Nitra Castle, in actuality the St. Emmeram Cathedral, is believed to have been the first Christian church of the eastern and western Slavs.

Notable religious structures in Nitra are the St. Emmeram Cathedral, a Piarist church, and a monastery built in 1701 with the interior renovated in 1940 with frescos depicting Nitra/Slovak history. Medieval Nitra was divided into the Upper Town and Lower Town, the latter further divided into four independent parishes in connection with the churches of St. Michael, St. James, St. Stephen and Our Lady on Calvary Hill.

Nitra, just like Rome, is located on seven hills. St. Emmeram's Cathedral was originally built in the gothic style and is composed of many parts (Fig. 6). The entire cathedral is housed in a castle complex, much like the Prague Castle (Fig. 7). The upper church dates to 1333/1355; the rotunda houses a silver reliquary from 1674; another reliquary in the cathedral houses some relics of St. Cyril (Fig. 8 - Cover of 12th c. Code of Nitra - gospel book & cultural treasure. Occasional postmark: Nitra, Sep. 7, 2002). The lower Church was built during 1621-1642; in later years the entire cathedral precinct was remodeled in a Baroque style.

From the second half of the 18th century, Nitra escaped military hardships, which gave the city a chance to renovate and modify the Castle and Cathedral. Peaceful times brought on construction of many new buildings leading to growth in population that topped 10,000, for the first time, during the 19th century. Further development was strongly influenced during the two World Wars.



Figure 1



Figure 2: Map of Great Moravia as it was in 880 and Prince's Pribina, Rastislav, Kocel & Svatopluk. Slovakian issue of 2001 (Sc. 380).



Figure 3



Figure 4: King Svatopluk (Sc. 187)



Figure 5: 17 Sk, St. Cyril, 22 Sk, St. Methodius -- appointed Archbishop of Pannonia-Moravia. Pope John VIII established the Nitra Diocese in 880 under the jurisdiction of Methodius. Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Present Ecclesiastical Province of Slovakia.



Figure 6: Cathedral (Sc. 152)

References:

- Google.com
- Slovenska Encyklopedia
- Wykipedia Encyclopedia

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article from The COROS Chronicle, February 2007, with the permission of the editor and author.]



Figure 7: Nitra Castle on its hill (Sc. 300)



Figure 8

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

STALAG VIII-C

by RNDr Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Henry Hahn

Stalags were encampments for Allied enlisted prisoners of war held by Germans during WWII. They were located in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia as well as in neighboring countries occupied by Germany. Stalag VIII-C was located in Sagan, now Poland. It is now named Zagan in Polish, or Zahan in Czech. In that town was located the estate of Countess Eleanor of Zahan, one of the characters featured in Božena Němcová's book "Babička". It is significant to Czechs because it was the scene of escape of 50 Allied prisoners, including Czechs. One of these was Bedřich Dvořák, later living in Pardubice. Another escaped

Absender: <i>Orliac</i>		Befreiung (Post gratis)	
Rue: <i>Orliac</i>		Kriegsgefangenenpost	
A: <i>Orliac</i>		(Poste pour Prisonniers de Guerre)	
Stalag VIII-C		FRANCE	
geprüft		ADRESSE DU DESTINATAIRE	
5411 DEN KRIEGSGEFANGENEN		(Poste en casernes d'assurément)	
ZUNAME	NOM	Paul	
VORNAME	PRENOM	Orliac	
GEFANGENENUMMER	N° MATRICULE	7693	
LAGERBEZEICHNUNG	STALAC	V. III - C	
Designation du Camp (1)	ORLIAC	BATHUR	
(1) Réglez la mention Bathur		DEUTSCHLAND	
		ALLEMAGNE	

Fig. 1

POW was Arnost Valenta, who was shot by the Germans. In Zábřeh, Moravia, there was issued a private postcard and postmark commemorating the anniversary of his death.

Shown here is a card addressed to a French prisoner held in Stalag VIII-C, posted in Villeneuve-dolmes, Ariege on August 15, 1940 with a Stalag VIII-C censor marking.

President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

On Sunday morning, the Society will hold its annual awards breakfast. I invite you to join other members of the Society for breakfast. Check at the Society table for the location and time of the breakfast. Let us know if you plan to attend.

For those of you who are interested in attending CHICAGOPEX, but do not want to stay in the show hotel, other motels/hotels in the near vicinity are:

- Motel 6, 1800 Winnetka Circle, Rolling Meadows
847-818-8088, \$49.99 + tax per room per night
- Comfort Inn, 1200 Frontage Road, Palatine
847-392-2100, \$89.99 + tax per room per night
- Courtyard by Marriott, 3700 N. Wilke Road, Arlington Hts.
847-394-9999, \$94-\$104 + tax per room per night
- Holiday Inn Express, 2120 S. Arlington Hts. Rd, Arlington Hts.
847-593-9400, \$129 + tax per room per night

It may seem that this includes a lot of towns. However the Arlington Park Racetrack grounds, where the Sheraton is located, is near the borders of Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows and Palatine.

I hope to see you at CHICAGOPEX.

And on another topic, for those who have not visited the Society's web site recently (www.csphilately.org), I urge you to do so. You can now purchase publications and pay your dues through the web site using PayPal. Marisa Galitz, the Society web master, has done a great job. Thanks, Marisa.

The Society needs a volunteer to continue the indexing of the SPECIALIST. The index is completed through the end of 1999. If you are interested in helping index the SPECIALIST, please let me know.

Tom Cossaboom

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

12 Months Ended Dec 31, 2006

INCOME

Member Dues	\$8,007
Net Book Sales	1,363

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Advertising	54
Circuit Fees	175
Cachet Sales	87
Expertization Fees	18
Czech Member Dues	40
Total	\$9,744

EXPENSES

SPECIALIST	\$8,676
Administrative	474
Convention	453
Web Listing	356
DVD's	176
Miscellaneous	116
Total	\$10,251

NET LOSS

(\$507)

Our 12/31/2006 bank balance was \$12,887.

The Board felt that after the 2005 net loss of \$3,800, an increase in dues would be necessary. This dues increase materially helped our situation in 2006 as you can see, since the net loss was reduced to only \$507, and the member dues of \$8,007 were much closer to the SPECIALIST expense of \$8,676. In 2005 this difference was \$1,870.

Other income has been falling in recent years and attention should be directed to maximize this area. Other expenses included some one-time expenses as the DVD and Web expense, and convention expense was higher than usual. In 2007 we face the biannual expense of the patron books which cost \$1,300 last time. Our bank balance of \$12,887 is adequate for our current needs, although it has been steadily declining from a high of some \$18,000 a number of years ago.

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Treasurer, Ed Lehecka at elehecka@gmail.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

* * * 110 Year Family Tradition * * *

My father collected stamps for 60 years, I do for 50,
and I still get excited.

I have a good stock of Czechoslovakia 1918-1998 mint and used stamps, FDC's, stamp booklets, blackprints, covers, postcards; some pre-1918 material, also Bohemia and Moravia, Slovakia, Eastern Silesia. Prices are based on the Scott 2006 catalogue.

Send your order or wantlist to: A. Brynda, 3673 Keenan Cr., Mississauga, Ontario, L4T 3M1, CANADA. Phone: 905-677-7358. Email: alexanderbrynda@sympatico.ca

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Emmerich Vamos:

-- International stamp exposition HUNFILA 2007 will be held between 27 - 30 September 2007 in Budapest. The exposition is open for every serious philatelic exhibitor. The APS honored me to be the commissioner for the USA, and I am inviting members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately to exhibit in Budapest. If you are interested, please contact me at: emmevamos@aol.com

2. From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- Well, the ballots are in. Alan Hoover, Robert Koschalk, Frederick Lawrence, and Philip Rhoads have been re-elected and Richard Livingston has been elected for the first time to our Board of Directors. Their terms of office expire in 2013.

3. From Henry Hahn:

-- EXPONET has received the seal of approval from the Czech Secretary of Culture. His letter reads as follows:
"In Prague, March 30, 2007

I appreciate the message in your letter of February 5, 2007 in which you inform me, in the name of the executive committee of the non-profit virtual exhibit organization EXPONET o.p.s., of the international philatelic exhibit EXPONET.

Professionals of the Ministry of Culture and the Postal Museum have agreed that the exhibit EXPONET is at this time unique, and may be destined for lasting success. They also determined that the project is of value on two levels. Firstly, the project could help reverse the declining interest in philately, because its presentation is in a medium particularly favored by the younger generation. Secondly, it provides space for postal museum presentation. Furthermore, it is certain that the project provides a positive influence on yet another aspect of philately, mainly that of commercial activity.

I have determined with pleasure that on the basis of close cooperation with professionals of the Postal Museum, I gladly grant my seal to the international philatelic exhibit EXPONET.

With greetings,
(signed) Václav Jehlička
Secretary of Culture

4. From Tom Cossaboom:

-- In the *American Philatelist* I received today, the awards from AmeriStamp Expo are listed. Among the winners are a couple of our members. They are:

Single Frame Prix d'Honneur:

Alfred F. Kugel -- Austria-Hungary's Danube River Flotilla in World War I

Alfred F. Kugel -- Australian Contingents in the Anglo-Boer War

Alfred F. Kugel -- Scandinavian Volunteers in Finland During the Winter War

William A. Sandrik -- Austro-Americana Shipping Line

Single Frame Open Competition

Gold

Anthony F. Dewey -- The United Nations Precancel, 1952-1958

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William A. Sandrik -- Hawaiian Disinfected Mail
Stephen S. Washburne -- Boas Festas Cards - The Beginning Years
Vermeil
Alfred F. Kugel -- Austria-Hungary's Vistula River Flotilla in World War I
William A. Sandrik -- Austrian Earthquake Stationery Reporting

SELL - SWAP - WANT

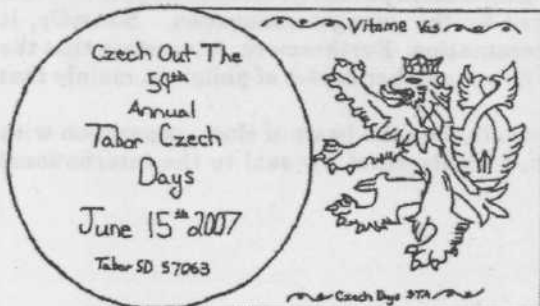
Every member is entitled to one FREE 15 word ad per calendar year. Word count does not include name and address. Send ad, clearly typed or printed, and marked Sell-Swap-Want to the editor, address on page 2.

WANTED: 1918 Scout Post stamps, varieties, overprints, covers, telegrams, postal cards, charter document, collateral material. Frederick P. Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219

WANTED: Buy Czech Republic/Slovakia new issues each with single/tab, block, souvenir sheet, FDC. G.J. Pavlik, 8503 Leawood Blvd, Houston, Texas 77072.

ADVERTISEMENT

Czech Days Stamp Cancellation



To receive a color cachet envelope with the special Czech Days Station cancellation, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) #10 size and \$1.50 for each cancellation wanted to: Janice Loyd, Postmaster, Tabor Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063. Visit our web site: www.taborczechdays.com.

Andrew Adam of Yankton, SD, created the 2007 59th Annual Czech Days design.

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

I have to say that the cowardly tone of Anonymous' vile letter in the Jan/Feb Letters to the Editor section represents an uncalled for and unseemly breach of fraternal discourse. If Frank made errors, then Anonymous could have acted like an adult and shared his knowledge.

I have often enjoyed Frank's work -- and have worked with him directly -- and

and hope he will not be discouraged by such borish behavior. Frank, thanks for contributing in a positive and useful way -- and signing your name to the things you write.

Mark Wilson

2. Dear Lou:

I have another odd item I picked up at a Show recently. . . Xerox of card enclosed (Fig. 1). . . could not find these words "Zashka Z Postovni Schranky" [Ed. Note: actually the handstamp reads "ZÁSILKA Z POŠTOVNÍ SCHRÁNKY"]. The only one I recognized was Postovni: that wold be "Postal Agency", wouldn't it.

Regards

Vernon W. von der Heydt



Fig. 1

[Ed. Note: actually it translates as "consignment from a postal mail box (or pillar box)". According to our member Lubor Kunc: "This cancel was introduced during the Austro-Hungarian Empire (see Votoček's Monografie 14) and was applied to consignments:

- which should have been properly submitted for mailing at a postal counter, but the sender instead threw it into a postal mail box (such as registered or express mail)
- that were discovered to have the incorrect franking, to show that the error had not been committed by a postman at a counter (there were penalties for such errors)
- which were to a foreign address and should have been submitted open for inspection
- that were to be forwarded from an original address to a new one (at no extra

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charge to the sender or recipient). For example, a family member at the original address could have scratched out the original address, applied a new one, and dropped the consignment in the nearest mail box. The consignment was picked up, the handstamp applied, and the item forwarded to the new address at no extra charge.

In the case of this item, note that the "arrival" Prague postmark is not from Praha 2 (the original address), but is from Praha 25 -- this is because the Praha 25 post office had the duty of servicing all of the mail boxes."

3. Dear Lou:

I read Peter Kleskovic's translation of the article about the 500h frame types [Jan/Feb 2007 *SPECIALIST*, pg 17] with some interest. Because our readers may wish to view the parts of the stamp in question (Position 93 on both plates), you may wish to refer them to the images of these positions found on my website at www.knihtisk.org/Hradcany/abstract/500h/htm/position-93.htm.

While the thinner extension to the lower part of the right frame line is quite visible on the Plate II stamp, I did not find the extension on any copy I have of the Plate I stamp. A detail of the alteration to the Plate II stamp mentioned in the article is reproduced below (Fig. 2). Note the thinner lower part of the right inner frame.

Mark Wilson

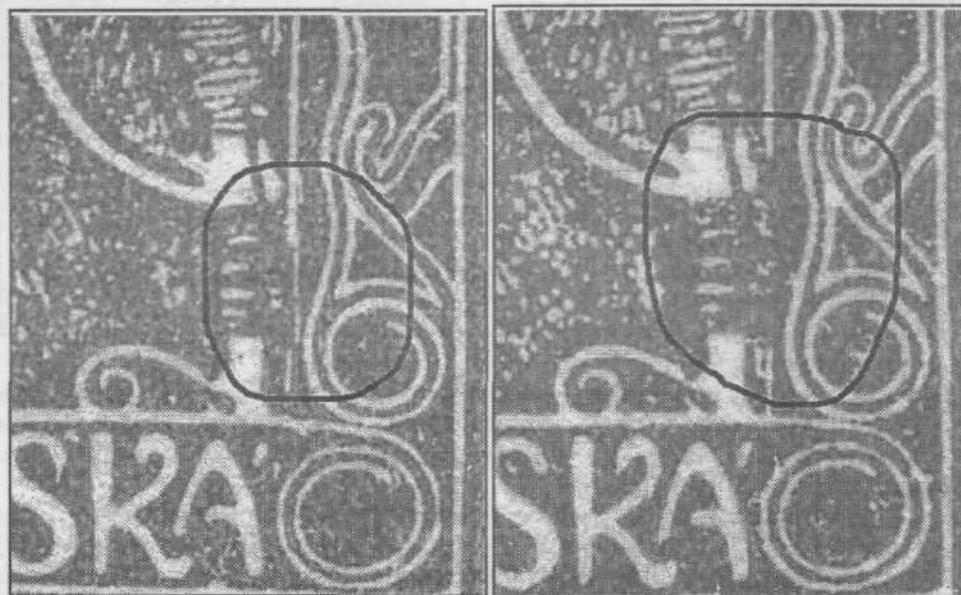


Figure 2: Position 93 with its right inner frame extended by a thinner line at the bottom is on the left. For comparison, on the right is Position 83 where the right inner frame has not been extended. It is the variations to the lower right part of the inner frame of the stamp that is the focus of the article.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On February 21, 2007, the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic issued a set of two commemorative stamps dedicated to Asian art (Fig. 1). The stamps were engraved by Martin Srb and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates combined with offset in printing sheets of 4 pieces.



Fig. 1

-- 12 Kč: Utagawa Kunisada (1786-1865), "Girl with a Puppet, 1845", National Gallery in Prague; black, golden (recess print), colored offset. Kunisada, the greatest master of the late Japanese wood carving, dominated in illustrations of scenes and portraits of the kabuki theater actors. As one of Toyokuni I's disciples he began carving theater scenes and beautiful women, especially the bijingo beauties. The wood carvings are remarkable for their colors, composition and high artistic value. In 1844 he assumed his master's name Toyokuni II which he used as his artistic name until his death. Kunisada was also a successful teacher. In his studio at the Utagawa school he set the then artistic idiom. All his contemporaries and followers from the Meiji era followed his principles. The postage stamp features an engraved version of his 1845 wood carving "Girl with a Puppet". A FDC in black-green contains the engraver's transcription of the woodcut from the diptych by U. Kunisada "Samurai Gives a Dagger to a Young Man" (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

-- 24 Kč: India, 19th Century, "Shiva, Parvati, Ganesha", National - Náprstek - Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures in Prague; black (recess print), colored offset. Under-painting on glass became popular in India in the 19th century. These paintings feature either religious or courtly themes. They show both various Hindu gods and portraits of rulers, courtiers or courtesans. The painting technique differs from printing on paper or wood in that it begins with details which are next covered with larger areas of tempera. The painting includes glossy details made of

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a metal sheet fixed to the back side of the painting in order to show through and imitate e.g. jewels. Most paintings are of a small size, the theme covers the whole painting. The painting texture is finished with dots and lines of rich and lively colors. The technique of painting on glass requires a good workmanship. In India the paintings used to be hung on walls especially by middle-class families. A FDC in black shows the engraver's transcription of a woodcut "God Shiva" (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

2. On February 21, 2007, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the prevention of oncological diseases (Fig. 4). According to the statistics published by the National Oncological Registry of the Czech Republic in Brno, the number of patients with cancer has been growing. The number of patients is expected to achieve half a million by 2010. The picture on the postage stamp featuring a blue winged figure affected with cancer is designed to express an active struggle with the disease, rather than powerlessness and resignation. The symbolism of hope appeals to a healthy lifestyle and medical prevention. By its non-violent form the stamp draws the public attention to the personal responsibility of individuals for their health condition and, especially, to the great importance of prevention of oncological diseases which -- together with an early diagnosis -- creates the pre-conditions for a successful treatment and good quality of life. The stamp is completed by the text "Against Cancer" in Czech. The stamp was designed by Jaroslav Chadima, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, green and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows a symbolic drawing of a malignant tumor (Fig. 5).

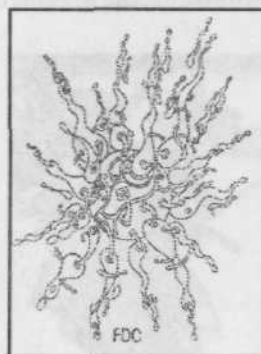


Fig. 5

3. On February 21, 2007, the Ministry issued a 12 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "Snake-- 2nd Prize in the Competition of the Czech Ministry of Informatics" (Fig. 6). In 2005 the Czech Ministry of Informatics as the issuer of postage stamps announced a competition of graphic designers for the design of a postage stamp on a free topic. The competition aimed at giving the opportunity to a larger group of designers to become involved in postage stamp design. The organizers received a total of 470 designs. The winning design was the postage stamp issued last year, featuring the theme of Ecology. The second winning design is



Fig. 6

presented now. It is a postage stamp called Snake by the academic painter I. Štrouf. The stamp was designed by Ivan Štrouf, engraved by Jaroslav Tvdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House of Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark grey shows a stylized tree with apples which freely evokes the biblical story of eviction from Paradise (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

4. On March 14, 2007, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to Easter -- Pieta (Fig. 8). This year's postage stamp dedicated to the Easter holidays



Fig. 8

has a liturgical theme. It features the Pieta from St. James the Greater Church in Nečtiny. The gothic Pieta, carved from lime wood, is 105 cm high and dates back to around 1425. The vertical composition of the sculpture, including the side incline of the upper part of the Virgin Mary's body following the left shoulder, is non-traditional. The same applies to the way in which Christ's body is held by supporting his right shoulder and to the gesture of the left hand touching with the tips of the extended fingers the cloth on the breast. The Pieta is displayed in the North Plzeň Regional Museum in Mariánská Týnice u Kralovic. The stamp was designed by Otakar Karlas, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in dark red, blue, red and yellow in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in ocher depicts a cachet which is created by the abbreviation of the name Jesus in Greek in a circle surrounded by flames (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9

5. On March 14, 2007, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp (entitled Prague -- Lesser Town -- 750 Years) to promote the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 which is to take place from 12 - 14 September 2008 at the Exhibition Grounds in Prague -- Holešovice (Fig. 10). The Prague preservation area of Lesser Town is one of the most attractive highlights of Prague. King Přemysl Otakar II founded the so-called New Town below Prague Castle, called from the early 14th century the Lesser Town of Prague, in the outer castle settlement in the area of today's Lesser Town Square.

Emperor Charles IV substantially extended the settlement by including the neighboring settlements and erecting new walls (the so-called Hungry Wall).



Fig. 10

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Today's shape of the Lesser Town comes mainly from the 17th and 18th century, the time of construction of pompous baroque palaces, churches and monasteries. In 1784 the Lesser Town lost its status of an independent town and became one of the districts of the united Prague. The stamp features a detail of Langweil's model of Prague, a unique work of art, document and rarity. The model was created in 1826-1837. Its author, Antonín Langweil (1791-1837), detailed with a maximum accuracy the colors of face walls, house signs, inscriptions and numbers as well as different types of roofs. One can see piles of wood, small walls and ladders on the back yards. The model -- sized 5.76 m by 3.24 m -- is displayed in the Museum of the City of Prague. The detail on the postage stamp features the Lesser Town Square with the former town hall, Smiřický Palace and Sternberg Houses on the northern side of the square, St. Nicholas' Church, the former Jesuit college and the neighboring blocks of houses. The stamp was designed by Václav Kučera, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red and blue in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels were issued. The label depicts the southern side of the Lesser Town Square and the logo of PRAGA 2008. A FDC in black has a cachet showing a portrait of the author of the Prague model, A. Langweil, and a facsimile of his signature (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11

6. On March 26, 2007, the Ministry issued -- together with Belgium -- a set of commemorative stamps entitled the Stoclet Palace in Brussels (Fig. 12). The theme of the common Czech-Belgian issue is Stoclet Palace in Brussels designed by the Czech native Josef Hoffmann (1870-1956).



Fig. 12

Stoclet Palace, built in 1905-1911, is considered as his supreme work of architecture. The two postage stamps, which will be issued with the same graphic design both in the Czech Republic and in Belgium, feature the interior and the exterior of the palace. The 20 Kč stamp depicts Hoffmann's interior drawing of the hall of the Stoclet Palace from the years 1905-06, while the 35 Kč stamp features the exterior view from the street of the part of the building with the tower having a cupola with four figures. Josef Hoffmann was born in Brtnice na Moravě, studied in Jihlava and Brno and

continued his studies at the Viennese Academy. For four decades he was a professor of architecture at the Industrial Art College in Vienna. He became the best-selling architect and a co-founder of the artists' association Secession. He designed numerous private villas and palaces. In 1903 he and the painter K. Moser and the industrialist F. Wärndorfer founded the famous workshop of crafts, the Wiener

Werkstätte, which produced a whole scale of things of art usable for home furnishing. Stoclet Palace was therefore designed and built according to a uniform design covering both the construction and furnishing aspects. The palace has numerous Art Nouveau elements which are however combined in a sophisticated way with direct lines of the classical style. The author of decorations for the framing elements in the dining room is Gustav Klimt. The palace is set in a large garden designed in a corresponding style. J. Hoffmann is also the author of several buildings in the territory of the Czech Republic (in Kladno, in Vrbno pod Pradědem, Bruntál and Kouty nad Desnou).

The designer of the 20 Kč stamp is the Belgian graphic artist Leen Depooter, while the designer of the 35 Kč stamp is Zdeněk Netopil, the engraver of both is Jaroslav Tvrdon, and they were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, gray, green and blue (the 20 Kč stamp) and in gray, golden, orange and blue (the 35 Kč stamp) in printing sheets of 50 pieces. There are two FDC's in

red-brown -- the cachet for the 20 Kč stamp cover shows a part of the Stoclet palace with its tower (Fig. 13), while the one for the 35 Kč stamp cover shows a detail of this tower with the cupola and the four figures (Fig. 14).

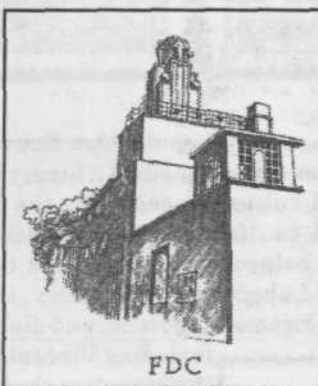


Fig. 13



Fig. 14

7. On March 26, 2007, the Ministry issued an 11 Kč definitive stamp depicting a "Congratulation Bunch of Flowers" (Fig. 15). The identical stamp with a face value of 10 Kč was issued on February 1, 2006. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels.



Fig. 15

The upper right label bears a detail of a bloom with a butterfly, and the other 11 labels will be provided with fine motifs. A number of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The designers of the stamp were Libuše and Jaromír Knotek. The stamp was produced by the Victoria Security Printing, a.s. by multicolored offset. There is no FDC.

8. On April 4, 2007, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Country series dedicated to Spa Resorts (Fig. 16). The stamps were designed by Antonín Odehnal, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

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-- 12 Kč: Luhačovice - Jurkovič House; dark brown, yellow, red, green, blue.

The Luhačovice spa belongs to the most beautiful spas in the Czech Republic. It is located in Southern Moravia, in the protected land area of the White Carpathian Mountains. The beautiful landscape is completed in a sensitive way with the unique architecture of the



Fig. 16

spa buildings in the style of popular Art Nouveau, designed by Dušan Jurkovič. Located directly on the spa colonnade is a luxury hotel, the so-called Jurkovič House. Presently a national cultural monument, the building was originally built as a residential mill and in 1902 rebuilt by Jurkovič into a spa building offering accommodation and balneotherapy. In 2002 the building was reconstructed and modernized. The Luhačovice spa offers treatment mainly of respiratory, gastrointestinal and locomotor systems and diabetes. There are 17 healing springs including Vincentka which is bottled for sale. A FDC in gray-green shows a stone swan from the decoration of the banister at the entry to the Jurkovič House (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17

-- 15 Kč: Bohdaneč - Gočár Pavilion; dark brown, yellow, red, green, blue. This quiet spa town is located in the Polabská lowlands nearby Pardubice. The local peat and carbonic spa for the treatment of locomotor and vascular systems was established in 1897 by Dr. J. Veselý. Gočár Pavilion, opened in 1913, is a major building of the spa resort. Both the building and its interior were designed by the architect Josef Gočár. The cubist building is 62 m long and 18 m wide. The rooms on the ground floor are used for balneotherapy, the upper floors include rooms for accommodation and an open-air terrace. In 1926 another floor was built on top of the pavilion, which somewhat affected the original cubist architecture. The pavilion is still used for its original purpose. The spa gardens are the place of an alkaline artesian source coming from the depth of 347 m. A FDC in gray-green shows the windows of the corridor of the pavillon Gočár (Fig. 18).

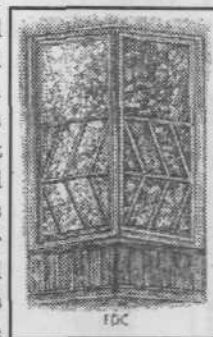


Fig. 18



Fig. 19

9. On April 4, 2007, the Ministry issued an 11 Kč definitive stamp to promote the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 showing the logo of this exhibition (Fig. 19). The identical postage stamp in the

face value of 7.50 Kč and in another color was issued on December 1, 2006. The stamp was designed by Jan Solpera and is being produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 100 pieces. There is no FDC.

Stationery

10. On February 21, 2007, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 11 Kč postage stamp for commercial and promotional purposes with a free left portion for

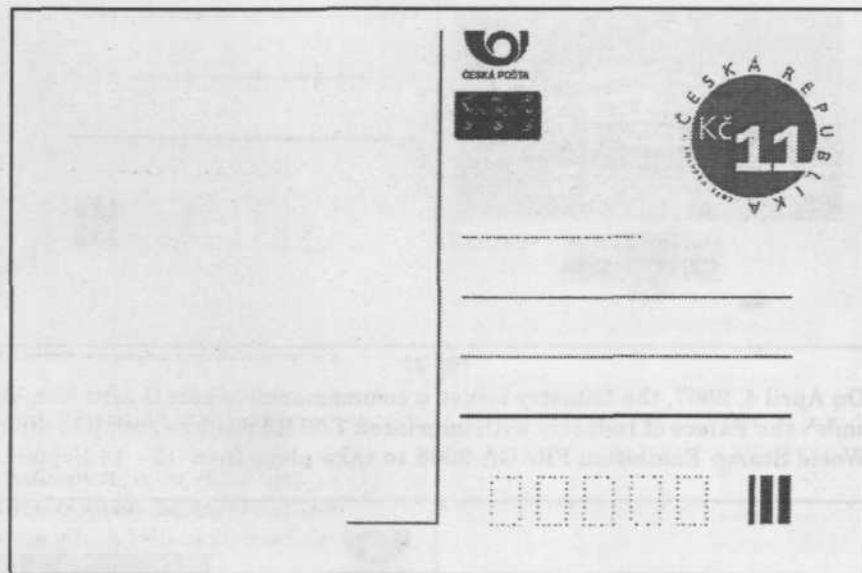


Fig. 20

additional printing (without lines for the sender)(Fig. 20). The imprinted postage stamp consists of the face value in a full circle. The card was designed by Jan Solpera and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. The card sells for 12 Kč.

11. On April 4, 2007, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 7.50 Kč postage stamp to promote the National Postage Stamp Exhibition in Hradec Králové to take place 19-22 April, 2007 (Fig. 21). The imprinted postage stamp is a colored modification of the 3 Kč stamp issued on the occasion of the Centenary of the philatelic press. In the previous years the stamp was used on several postal cards in different colors and face values. In the left part of the postal card is depicted the venue of the exhibition -- the Congress Centrum in Hradec Králové and its logo. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. The card sells for 12.50 Kč.



Fig. 21

12. On April 4, 2007, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card Exhibition Grounds - the Palace of Industry with imprinted 7.50 Kč postage stamp to promote the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 to take place from 12 - 14 September,



Fig. 22

2008 (Fig. 22). The imprinted postage stamp with the silhouette of Prague Castle evokes freely the first postage stamps of Czechoslovakia "Hradčany" by Alfons Mucha issued on December 18, 1918. The picture portion of the postal card shows a view of the Palace of Industry from the Exhibition Grounds in Prague-Holešovice (the venue of the exhibition) along with the logo of the exhibition. The postal card was designed by Václav Kučera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. The card sells for 12.50 Kč.

13. On April 4, 2007, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card The Postal Museum with imprinted 11 Kč postage stamp to promote the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 to take place from 12 - 14 September, 2008 (Fig. 23). As with the previous postal card the imprinted stamp evokes freely the Hradčany issue of 1918. The Alpine lounge of the Postal Museum in Prague decorated with wall pictures by Josef Navrátil (1798-1865) in the picture part of the postal card along with the logo of the exhibition. The postal card was designed by Václav Kučera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. The card sells for 16 Kč.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

2007 ISSUE PLAN

FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 7	Personalities -- Terézia Vansová	1	19
Jan 7	Cities -- Modra	1	14
Feb 14	Congratulatory Stamp -- Bouquet	1	?
Mar 15	Easter -- V. Hložník	1	14
Mar 21	Sports Stamp -- Tennis	1	16
Apr 18	Nature Preservation	2	
	-- Slovakian čuvač		31
	-- Slovakian kopov		31
May 2	EUROPA -- 100 Years of Scouting	1	18
May 23	100 Years - Slovak League in America	1	22
May 30	Stamp for Children -- Janko Hraško	1	10
Jun 6	Beauties of Our Country	2	
	-- Jasov Monastery		30
	-- Hronský Benadik Monastery		34
June 27	Bratislava Biennial of Illustrators	1	25
June 27	Bratislava Castle	1	37
Aug 24	Joint Issue with San Marino	2	
	-- Orava Castle		21
	-- Gulata Tower		21
Sep 5	Technical Monuments -- King's Bridge at Senec	1	29
Sep 22	Kleťnotnica Museum -- Nitra Gospel	1	15
Oct 17	Art	2	
	-- Ján Želibský		33
	-- F. X. Palko		33

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Oct 26	Personalities -- Seton Watson	1	24
Nov 14	Christmas 2007 -- Christmas Tree	1	10
Nov 28	Postage Stamp Day -- Field Post	1	28

14. On September 27, 2006, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of two stamps (a joint issue with Indonesia) for Puppet Theater. The stamps were designed by Vladislav Rostoka according to a photograph by Helena Bakaljarova and were produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary, using offset and gravure in sheets of six (three of each design).

-- 22 Sk: the puppet Semar (Fig. 24). Semar is a character in the Wayang Golek traditional theater, which has a following all over Indonesia. The characters for these plays are centered on the fight between good and evil. Semar is a good character with his make up and clothing reflecting this. The puppet represented on the stamp is about 75cm tall with head, arms and tongue controlled by straight rods. A FDC has a commemorative Bratislava cancel and a cachet drawing of a female puppet operated with straight rods [see the figure in the upper left of the maxim card (Fig. 25)].



Fig. 24



Fig. 26

-- 25 Sk: the puppet Gašparko (Silly Billy)(Fig. 26). The puppet on the stamp was carved from limewood in 1936 for

a professional puppeteer. It stands about 48cm tall, is dressed in textiles and is a traditional string operated marionette. The character Gašparko has evolved from the medieval character of a middle aged clown but with a distinctive Slovak character. In plays he is often represented as a bandit and redresser of wrongs. A FDC has a commemorative Bratislava cancel and a cachet drawing of another comic male marionette [see the figure in the upper right of the maxim card].

15. On October 20, 2006, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using 4 and 5 color recess printing from flat plates of 4 stamps per printing sheet.

-- 37 Sk: Dezider Milly, "Krivý Jarok, 1944" (Fig. 27). Dezider Milly, holder of National Artist honors, was the founding and most significant artist representing Ruthenian-Ukrainian art in Slovakia. He was born on 7 August 1906 in Kyjov, Stará Ľubovna district.



Fig. 27



Fig. 25

He received his artistic training from 1926-1933 at the Vysoká Umelecko-priemyselná Škola (Academy of Art, Architecture and Design) in Prague under the tutelage of Professors J. Schusser and A. Hofbauer. Returning home, he had greater appreciation of the country around him, and in the daily life of the village. This is

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evident in his work: Orlov Landscape, 1941; Kyjov, 1942; Betrothal, 1942; Orlov Bride, 1942; Bleak Fields, 1944; and Shop in Kyjov, 1945. His most significant compositions of this period have a symbolic, melancholy character, specifically the multiple depictions of Vagabond and Krivý Jarok. The girl's face, reflecting grief, angst, desolation and desperation, embodies the hard life of the village, while the terraced, furrowed, knoll of the Krivý Jarok hill epitomizes the artist's birthplace. D. Milly died on 1 September 1971 in Bratislava, where he is also buried. The stamp was designed and engraved by František Horniak. A FDC features the work Grief from a series of illustrations (lithograph, 1946, Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava).



Fig. 28

-- 38 Sk: "Venus of Moravany" (Fig. 28). The oldest documented examples of artistic expression on the territory of Slovakia are from the Paleolithic period, or Stone Age. These consist mostly of small objects such as amulets, pendants, and beads. These represent a separate kind of artistic/practical article. An exceptionally artistic example of such an object was found in the form of a woman with exaggerated sexual features. The Moravany Venus figurine, of mammoth ivory, was carved around 22,800 B.C. (according to Carbon 14 dating) by a modern human. De-emphasizing other parts of the body, the sculptor attempted to stress symbols of human nurturing. Woman, as the emblematic giver of life, had the most significant status in the society of the period. This

emphasis on female attributes in the recent Paleolithic appeared throughout anthropomorphic sculptures of women, as documented by finds in various parts of Europe. Significant discoveries often have strange histories. The Moravany Venus figurine, discovered before the Second World War at an excavated mammoth hunters' camp at Moravany nad Váhom-Podkovice, was taken to Germany. Later, a casting was displayed at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. Only in 1967 did the original permanently return to Slovakia. Though the precise conditions of the find have never been reliably ascertained, the Moravany Venus figurine remains a key document of artistic sensibility, and represents a superior specimen of artwork created by bearers of Gravettian culture. The stamp was designed and engraved by Arnold Feke. A FDC features a pendant from the era of Gravettian culture, discovered in the Čertova pec cave near Radosina. The pendant consists of pierced mollusks of the *Melanopsides* species.

16. On November 10, 2006, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk commemorative stamp honoring Christmas 2006 -- Carol Singers (Fig. 29). In the past, carol singing was an intrinsic part of the Christmas tradition. Various types of well-wishing and carol singing usually took place on



Fig. 29

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, St. Stephen's Day (26 December), and Epiphany. Children and adults alike visited their relatives and neighbors singing Christmas songs and carols and wishing them health, happiness, and good financial tidings for the year. Bethlehem-themed plays were a specific form of carol singing. These acted stories complemented the atmosphere of Christmas by depicting the annunciation of the birth of Christ enriched with scenes from the lives of shepherds. Young boys gave these performances from door to door throughout the whole village. The most popular Epiphany play was "Walking with a Star" which illustrated the biblical Three Wise Men with a person carrying a star or with an angel. When walking around the village, psalms and recitations were accompanied by carol singing, as well as cheerful and humorous pastoral and folk songs. Such activities were by a request for a reward such as apples, nuts, and cakes or money. Often the poorer classes went carol singing to earn a little money for Christmas. The main reason for carol singing nowadays is to socialize and entertain, its ritual function having weakened or disappeared completely. The stamp was designed by Kamila Štanclová and produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Budapest by offset in sheets of 50 pieces.

17. On November 24, 2006, the Ministry issued a 19 Sk commemorative stamp honoring Stamp Day -- Jozef Cincík (Fig. 30). Jozef Cincík -- a visual artist, illustrator, graphic designer, art historian, stage designer, editor, and university professor -- was born on March 8, 1909 at his parents' adopted abode of Clopodia, Romania. After the family returned to Slovakia in 1914, he attended the elementary schools in Kláštor pod Znievom and Trnava, Lučenec grammar school, and Charles University in Prague where he graduated in law. After 1932 he worked at the Matica Slovenská as an officer and simultaneously studying philosophy and art history at Komenský University, Bratislava. J.



Fig. 30

Cincík illustrated books and publications, graphically edited Matica publications, elaborated designs of Slovak postal stamps, and participated in the design of Slovak banknotes. He was co-founder of the Slovak Chamber Theater and was an artistic advisor for the design of stages and costumes for Frič's movie "Janošík". In 1945 he immigrated to the USA where he gave lectures on archaeology and sacred art history, and worked as an independent artist on church interiors. He died in Danville on January 28, 1992 and was buried at the National Cemetery in Martin, Slovakia. Apart from Jozef Cincík's portrait, the stamp contains motifs based on his stamps *Kniežatá* (Princes, 1944)[see *Sc. Slovakia 95-102*]. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič and was produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Budapest by offset in sheets of 50 pieces.

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