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Refresher Course

DETECTING STAMP FORGERIES AND FRAUDS

by Barry Krause

Unfortunately, stamps are not always what they appear to be. A number of fakes and frauds are common enough that they need to be publicized so that the collector won't be fooled into buying them for the real thing.

In a commonly accepted usage of the terms **forgery** and **counterfeit**, as far as many antiques dealers and law enforcement officers are concerned, the word **forgery** refers to a basically genuine article which has had one or more of its features altered with intent to defraud, while an outright **counterfeit** is an item that is totally faked.

For example, a stamp with a faked overprint that is genuine except for the overprint would be classified properly as a "*forged overprint on a genuine stamp*".

Some early Chinese stamps are completely spurious, and are correctly known as "*counterfeits*".

There are two types of counterfeits in postage stamps and other collectibles: "*collector counterfeits*" which were made to fool collectors or dealers into paying

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HENRY HAHN

1928-2007



Forty-two years ago in Zagreb I received a letter from Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, a well-known philatelist and then the editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, asking if I would help translate *Padelky* (Forgeries), a new book on forgeries, that had just been published in Czechoslovakia. He said I would be working with another young collector named Henry Hahn. When I agreed, Reiner-Deutsch sent me Henry's address and told me to work out the details.

We did. Henry translated the first half of the book, I the second. Since we needed to work out questions of style and translation, our letters bounced back and forth constantly – no e-mail then – about that project and many other interests we discovered we had in common. Only a year later, when my family and I were in Washington on home leave, did we actually meet and first experience Marilyn and Henry's warm, welcoming hospitality.

Henry started with philately in a barber's chair in his beloved Telč. Metěj Šindler, the town barber, was an enthusiastic collector and tried to make every boy in town a stamp collector. When a boy came in to get a hair cut, Šindler gave the youth a stock book to leaf through and told stories of Africa or British colonies while he snipped away. What became a passion for young Henry continued to grow even as he and his family escaped Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia, made their way through several countries in southern Europe, to Cuba, and finally to the United States.

When the family was packing, a Protectorate official promised young Henry that he would put his priceless Schaubek album into their baggage. It didn't happen. During the fourteen month journey to the United States, a journey fraught with visa problems, a missed boat (which was sunk with all 800 passengers lost), and long delays in several countries, Henry visited post offices along the way to add stamps to his collection. When the Hahn

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baggage finally arrived without his collection Henry was greatly disappointed. In one interview he claimed that at that time he missed his collection even more than the relatives who had been left behind. Only in 1959, when his father, who had returned to Czechoslovakia to search for relatives, was finally released by Czechoslovak authorities, could Henry bring himself to begin collecting stamps again and this time mainly those of Czechoslovakia.

Perhaps it was not only disappointment in losing his Schaubeck that caused Henry to leave collecting for a while. After all he had to acclimate himself to a new life in a new country. Education, sports, and girls were to be pursued. During this time he completed his degree in metallurgy, met, courted and married Marilyn, and began a family. Henry was a man of broad interests and accomplishments. He was a successful scientist and entrepreneur, a leader in his religious community, and a dedicated family man.

To put it mildly, Henry was generous with his collecting passion. Overflowing with enthusiasm, he was ever ready to share whatever most interested him in his philatelic activities – be it his collecting or exhibiting or participating in philatelic organizations or urging other collectors to ever higher achievements. He seemed to have difficulty understanding how it could be that anyone might not fully share such a compelling interest!

Philately was not only a hobby to Henry, but also an important social activity. He sought to interest others in philately and then helped them get started, and mentored them as they widened their philatelic activities. Henry was very successful in all aspects of the hobby. His collections are among the best in his areas of speciality and they have won him innumerable gold medals in regional, national, and international exhibitions. When not exhibiting he was judging. Henry was an accredited national and international judge – which he considered an honor to be taken seriously. He prepared for each judging assignment extensively to make certain he could give a knowledgeable assessment of each exhibit. Exhibitors deserved no less, he felt.

Henry could not do enough to support Czechoslovak philately. For years he was President of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. He edited their journal, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, for about 10 years, and served on its Board forever. And when he was not doing anything else he was writing or translating numerous articles about it. He was the driving force in organizing the Washington chapter of philatelists interested in Czechoslovakia.

With his passion, hard work, persistence, and enthusiasms he was a model for at least a couple of generations of collectors. Henry Hahn will be sorely missed.

Jaroslav J Verner

SLOVAK LEAGUE IN AMERICA – 100th ANNIVERSARY

by Lubomir Floch
trans. by Henry Hahn

On May 15, the Slovak Postal Administration issued a 22 Sk commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 100th anniversary (May 26) of the founding of the Slovak League in the United States.

The issued stamp (Fig. 1) contains a design showing an artistic rendering of the original seal of the League. It emphasizes the rejection of the Hungarian domination of the Slovak nation. The white, blue and red ribbons represent not only the national colors of Slovakia but also the colors of their new homeland -- the USA.

The stamp was designed by the academic artist Peter Augustovič and produced by the Czech firm PTC in Prague using offset in sheets of 50 for a total of 500,000 stamps.



Fig. 1

Since May 26, 1907, a hundred years have passed since the National Congress took place in Pittsburgh, at which 10,000 delegates -- representing various supporting organizations including Slovak-American press and private individuals -- founded the umbrella organization, the Slovak League of America. Then on October 22, 1915, an accord was reached between the Slovak League and the Czech National Committee known as the Cleveland Agreement. This agreement represented one of



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

the basic steps leading to the emancipation of Slovaks as part of the joint Czechoslovak State. For the entire 100 years since its founding, the Slovak League has remained true to its basic purpose -- "Work in order that the Slovak people be free and equivalent to other nations".

Also produced were a FDC (Fig. 2), a commemorative sheet (Fig. 3) and a sheetlet. Appearing on the cachet of the FDC is a portrait of Stefan Furdek, the first Chairman of the League, as well as the titles of the two most significant agreements between the Czech and Slovak communities in America -- the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Agreements. The commemorative sheet is built around a copy of the Pittsburgh Agreement.

The stamp, FDC and sheetlet may be purchased from the Slovak Post as given below.

Contact: Slovak Post a.s. POFIS
Division of International Services
Nam. Slobody 27
817 98 Bratislava
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Tel. 421-254-419-907
e-mail: pofis.trade@slposta.sk

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THE EXTENDED ARCH TYPES ON THE FIFTH DESIGN 25h HRADČANY

by Ladislav Olšina
trans. by Mark Wilson

Identifying the Extended Arch Types

Along with some new observations about what we propose to call 'The Extended Arch Types', it will do no harm in this part of the paper to review some previously published information [see references 8,9,12,13]. Our intent is to provide an understanding of the essential nature of an extended arch type and to distinguish it from the so-called extended bar (inner frame) type.¹

Recall that the arch types are to be found in the lower right corner of the vignette, to the left of the ninth spiral, specifically between the tree trunk and the lower part of the (vertical) inner frame just above the (horizontal) lower inner frame (it is far simpler to illustrate this location than to describe it in words). These new

¹ The extended arch, or more simply the arch, types were formed by extending the left and right ends of the arch downward toward the lower inner frame. Likewise, the extended bar, or more simply, the bar, types were formed by extending the left and right inner frames downward toward the lower inner frame. Another bar type, which consists of repairs to the centers of the vertical inner frames, is not discussed here -- tr.

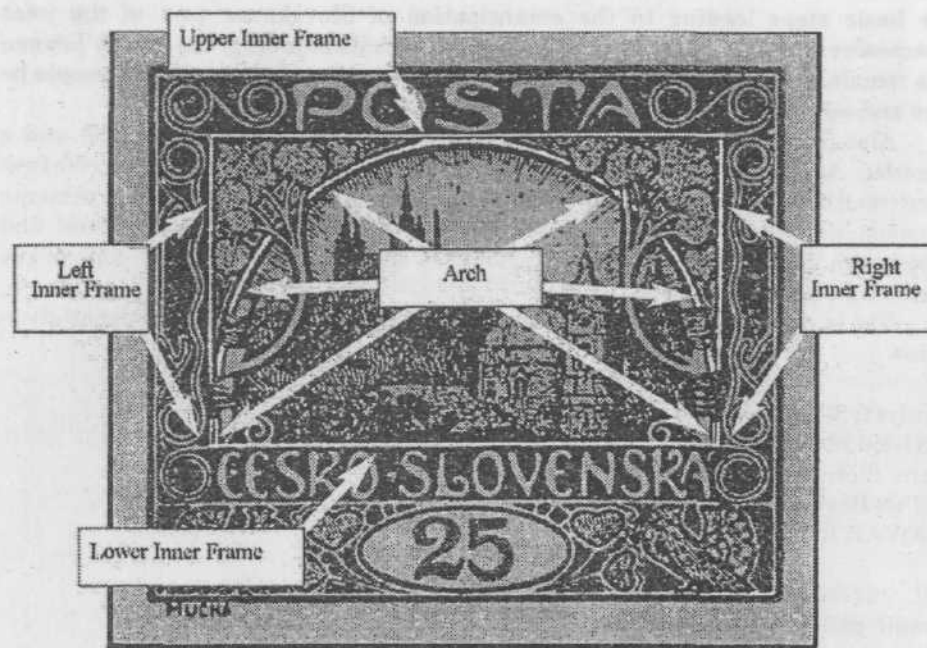


Figure 1

arch types are somewhat similar to the well-known bar types [see references 2, 7] in that they are located just above the right end of the lower inner frame (the long line above the inscription *Česko-Slovenská*), but differ in that they are the result of variations in the rendering of the arch rather than the rendering of the vertical inner frame. On the left side of the stamp's vignette, the drawing of the arch is broken above the wrap on the left tree trunk, then resumes its downward direction toward the horizontal lower inner frame, where it (depending upon the quality of the print) almost invariably appears as a thick white line. It is here that the degree to which the left (vertical) inner frame has been extended toward the lower (horizontal) inner frame gives rise to the so-called bar types.

As a visualization aid, here is listed every significant detail of the drawing in sequence (that is, its component parts) -- including those already mentioned -- the second spiral, the left inner frame, the left arch, then the left tree trunk (and on the other side) the right tree trunk, the right arch, the right inner frame, then the ninth spiral. The terms left, upper, right, and lower inner frames were used by František Fryč [see reference 2] and comprise the long white line that surrounds the stamp's vignette (their positions are rendered in *Figure 1*; as an identification aid, these lines have been brightened).

Very important is the fact that the drawing of the lower right corner of the stamp's vignette is not an exact mirrored image of the lower left corner of its vignette -- on the right, the space between the tree trunk and the tenth spiral is rather smaller than the same space in the lower left corner (the space between the

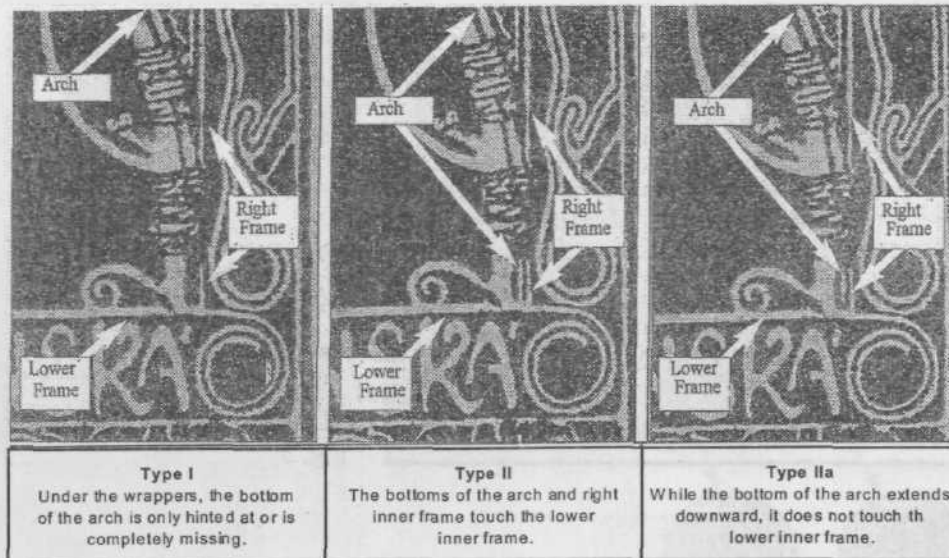


Figure 2

second spiral and the tree trunk). Perhaps this is because when the artist A. Mucha created the design, he simply made no technical drafts -- or possibly this difference is the consequence of some ambiguity in those details within his drawing. The result is that the lower part of the right inner frame, even when not intensified, filled much of this narrow gap. The arch breaks opposite the top wrapper on the right tree trunk but is not consistently terminated as (in one's imagination) it continues its flow downward. Most important of all is that for most stamps in the Fifth Design the lower right part of the arch under the tree wrappers is missing or is just barely present. The arch types occur whenever, because of variations in the vignette, there is a lower right end on the arch (and a lower right end on the right inner frame) extended toward the lower inner frame. As with the so-called bar types, there are subtypes of the arch types, for instance where the end of the arch only comes close to the lower inner frame (*Figure 2*).

The majority of Fifth Design stamps have the variation represented by a type I arch, where the bottom part of the arch is completely missing. However, for a small number of positions on Plates I and II of the 25h purple, before the stamps were printed someone repaired the bottom part of the arch so that it touched the lower inner frame; these scarcer stamps represent a type II arch. For several positions, however, this process was not fully completed (that is, the repairs did not take the arch all the way down to the lower inner frame), which resulted in an appearance that straddles types I and II; this variation represents subtype IIa. There may be a problem distinguishing this latter type from the more common first type. The length of the tip of the arch (that is, the small vertical white line) may be determined by factors other than the repair cut into the etched plate. The line's length may be adversely impacted by dirt or ink filling up the lines in the plate. The amount of dirt lodged in the plate during a printing run may vary, which is why

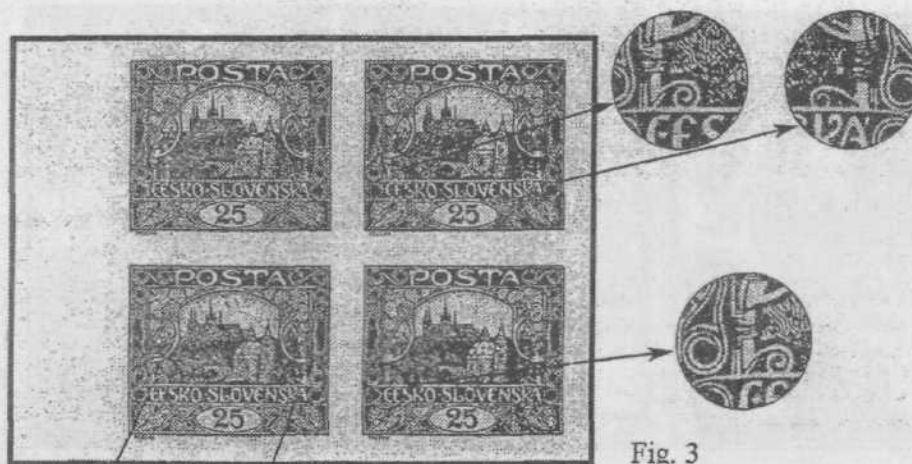


Fig. 3

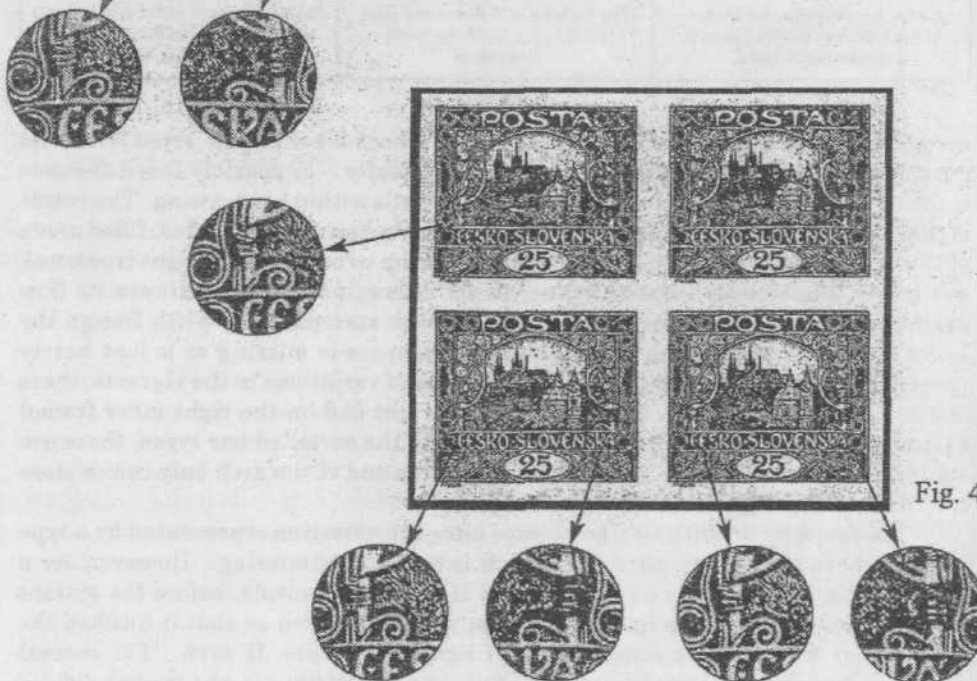


Fig. 4

sometimes in the same stamp position the size of the lower right part of the tip of the arch changes.

My investigations so far indicate that the second arch type was formed by cutting the lower part of the arch into the metal plate before any stamps were printed. This means that it resulted from a retouch (repair) of the plate -- thus it is the consequence of a willful alteration of the stamp -- quite similar to the source of

Table I

Schema of positions of Types and Subtypes on Fifth Design 25h sheets

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Plate I

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Plate II



Spiral Type I



Inner Frame Type II



Arch Type II



Inner Frame Type IIa



Arch Type IIa

Symbols

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the spiral and bar types of the Fifth Design. It is possible that the second types are actually variations of an unretouched stamp, what we are calling the first type -- the differences are perceptible to the naked eye or a weak magnifying glass. Be that as it may, the defining characteristic of an type II arch is unique; as was said, for the arch either touches or approaches the lower inner frame. My opinion is that arch types have the characteristics required for their acknowledgement as new types and are similar to the well-established spiral and bar types. As a matter of fact, though, they are different from those types in that they only occur on Plates I and II of the purple 25h denomination (with the one exception we will discuss later), while the spiral and bar types appear on several of the Fifth Design's denominations.

The location of the arch types on the plates is interesting. Implicit in the tabulation of the occurrences of the arch types and subtype on Plate I is that all three arch types occur in the lower half of the plate, while the contrary is true for Plate II: save for position 76, all of the arch types appear in the upper half of the plate. Likewise, the tendency in this denomination, with some exceptions, is for the bar types frequently to appear adjacent to the arch types.

The origin of the spiral, bar, and what we are calling arch types, coincided with a period during which the plates of a great many of the Czechoslovakian typographic stamps were touched up. It is striking to note that the area most favored with touch-ups was just above the lower inner frame, and that several corrections were made to the white inner frame lines of Plates I and II of the 25h denomination (we list them from the left side: the left inner frame, the left part of the arch, the right part of the arch, the right inner frame), such that their lower parts touched, or nearly touched, the lower inner frame.

These repairs were not implemented systematically, which created various combinations of inner frame and arch types. The number of vertical white lines that touch the lower inner frame vary from one to four. Every 25h Fifth Design stamp has a vertical white line representing the lower end of the left side of the arch. Obviously, this separate part of the arch immediately to the left of the left tree trunk existed in the original draft of the design transferred to the glass negative, and in as much as it was already so prominently drawn, there was no need to accentuate it. The first line on the left proximate to the second spiral, however, which formed the bottom of the left inner frame, was retouched on several stamps from Plates I and II of the 25h, which is where the bar types came from. For several stamp positions, the third of these white lines, the bottom of the right side of the arch, was cut into the metal printing plates, and as such, represents a retouch. The fourth white line (the bottom of the right inner frame), the one closest to the ninth spiral, was apparently somewhat attenuated in the image that was photographically transferred to the glass negative; consequently it appeared in various positions and denominations in three possible configurations: for each position it was either always there or always missing, or (and this was the most common case) for some positions it was sometimes present and at other times was not (although at times the quality of the printing was the culprit).

Together with the engraving of the left inner frame of the Fifth Design 25h stamps, the end of the right arch was often corrected, so that there occur simultaneously in several plate positions arch types with bar types (or subtype). On

sheets printed from Plate I, these are positions 72, 78, 81 and 83; on sheets printed from Plate II, these are 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 21, and 49.

As the first example, we can look at the block of four stamps representing positions 71, 72, 81 and 82 from Plate I (*Figure 3*), where: in position 72, an arch IIa subtype is found with a bar type II; where position 81 has an arch type II and a bar type II; and where in position 82 we find a bar type II. An example block of four from Plate II (*Figure 4*) represents positions 1, 2, 11, and 12, where in position 1 a bar subtype IIa is found, and in positions 11 and 12 each have an arch type II and a bar type II.

Arch type II does occur by itself, without an associated left bar type, and may be found in four plate positions -- they are: on Plate I, position 88; on plate II, positions 22, 23, and 76. For arch subtype IIa, there are three: positions 9, 44, and 48 on Plate II (see Table I to find all occurrences of the arch types and subtypes).

(to be continued)

AFTER 5 YEARS, CZECH REPUBLIC STILL SEARCHING FOR A SHORT NAME

by David Rocks

[Ed. Note: Although this article originally appeared in 1998 -- thus the 5 years of the title applies to the separation from Slovakia in 1993 -- it still very much applies today, and raises the question, will Czech stamps of the future continue to bear the name 'Česká Republika'? I am including here a series of illustrations showing the names that have been used on Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps over the years.]

PRAGUE -- A half-decade into its existence, the Czech Republic continues to ponder an issue any 5-year-old ought to have cleared up years earlier: what to call itself.

The Czech Republic -- known in the local vernacular as Česká Republika -- has a name, just like the Republique Francaise, Bundesrepublik Deutschland or Repubblica Italiana have names.

But the local equivalent of France, Germany or Italy?

Although "the Czech Republic" doesn't exactly roll off the tongue in casual conversation the way, say, "Czechoslovakia" might have, no one here can seem to agree on what the country's short name should be or, indeed, if it needs one.

"Always using the long name just isn't pragmatic," said Rudolf Šrámek, a professor of Czech language at Masaryk University in Brno.

Laying out a map of Europe on a table, he lamented, "Our country doesn't have a name here because Czech Republic, even abbreviated, couldn't fit. We're the only



Figure 1 -- 1918-19

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country in Europe except Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican that's on the map without a name. Even Liechtenstein is there, but we're not."

After the split of Czechoslovakia, the Slovaks had it easy -- at least in this small domain. The region where they live had long been called Slovakia, and it was a natural name for their new country.

But for Czechs, the question was far more complex. As often as not, Czechs refer to their country as the Czech lands -- in the Czech language, "Čechy" -- because they can't seem to come up with anything better and saying the Czech Republic sounds too formal for everyday use.

One possible name would be Bohemia, the English term for the western portion of the country. Problem is, the word doesn't have that meaning in Czech. English-Czech dictionaries translate "Bohemians" simply as "Čech" (Czech), someone from the Czech lands. And in the Czech language, a Bohemian is a person who forgets to shave and spikes his morning coffee with cognac after staying out late pondering poetry and politics.

The name Bohemia also ignores the Czech regions of Moravia and Silesia. So how about a bow to the Moravians with, perhaps, The Republic of Bohemia and Moravia? This, it turns out, would stir up too many unpleasant memories.



Figure 3 - 1926-92

"During the war, the Germans referred to our country as 'The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia,' and they shortened it to 'Tschechei,' but both were always used pejoratively," said Libuše Cizmarova of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Institute for the Czech Language.

Some have even proposed that the country's name be changed to Czechomoravia, sort of a nod to the federation that foundered five years ago. But that, others fear, could lead to endless arguments over whether the name shouldn't perhaps be spelled "CzechoMoravia," or "Czecho-Moravia." The Czechoslovak Federal Parliament spent weeks debating similar issues.

"Czechomoravia is a possibility, but it's still long," Cizmarova said, "and the Silesians might be offended."

Other variants also have been proposed but haven't really taken hold: "Czechovia," "Czechistan" and "Czechlands," or, perhaps less seriously, "Lagerlandia" (due to the fine quality of the country's beer), "Vaclavia" (in honor of the dissident-turned-playwright-turned-president, Václav Havel) or "Vltavia" (after the main river flowing through Prague).

Now, after five years of indecision on the matter, a group of academics, linguists and cartographers is launching an initiative to make the country's official short name Česko, translated as "Czechia," "Tchequie" and "Tschechien" in English, French and German, respectively.

"It's shameful that this country has been around for five years and there's still no agreement on a short name," grimaced Jiří Felix, a language professor at Charles University. "This is a question of international prestige for our country. Who says,



Figure 2 - 1920-27



Figure 4 - 1939

"I'm going on vacation to the Kingdom of Spain? Or I've just returned from the Italian Republic?"

The group is sending the president, prime minister and other political leaders, as well as all of the country's media outlets, an information packet laying out all of the linguistic, historical and geographical reasons that the country should be called Czechia.

The name dates to the 14th Century and appeared in a Czech dictionary in 1777, the packet says. Furthermore, Česko was used early on in the federation with the Slovaks, when the country was officially called "Česko-Slovensko," and the name fits all of the grammatical norms of the Czech language.

Still, why bother? Just ask cartographer Pavel Boháč. "The name Czech Republic takes up the space of other important information on the map," he said, thumbing through an atlas. "Things in Europe are just too close together."

Šrámek said he was angered when he saw that the Czech hockey players who won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, had the word "Czech" written on their backs, presumably because "Czech Republic" didn't fit and the country's Olympic Committee presumably didn't want to use Czechia.

"There are economic reasons for this as well," Šrámek sputtered. "In advertising and printing, if you use the name Czech Republic, it's longer than Czechia, and that costs money. And think about stamps, how many problems that two-word name creates? And what about tables and charts?"

The pro-Czechia movement, however, faces two serious problems: apathy and active opposition. The latter starts all the way at the top.

Havel once said, "Hearing the name Česko makes my skin crawl." Former Prime Minister [and current president] Václav Klaus has said he would never call the country Česko.

The Czech citizenry, meanwhile, doesn't seem to be as up in arms over the question as the academics are. A recent poll by the daily Mladá Fronta Dnes found that 51 percent of Czechs don't think the country needs a short name at all, while 19 percent think Čechy should be the name and 10 percent prefer

Ceskomoravsko -- in English, Czechomoravia. Česko finished fourth with the support of only 7 percent of the respondents.

That leaves academics such as Šrámek pleading with teachers, politicians and journalists to begin using the name in the speeches, lectures and dispatches. If people get used to hearing Česko or Czechia, Šrámek said they'll come to accept and even love the name.

[Ed. Note: Now, almost ten years after this article was written, the issue is still undecided, although "Czechia" seems to be winning more converts and is appearing



Figure 5 -- 1939-45



Figure 6 -- 1993 - ?

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in the press more and more often. The SPECIALIST is please to reprint this article from the Chicago Tribune, May 10, 1998.]

"A POET AND A STREET"

JAN NERUDA

9 VII 1834 - 22 VIII 1891

by Gerald M. van Zanten

The son of a poor family, his father was a tobacconist, his mother a charwoman. Jan studied in Prague, became a schoolmaster, and was born in the Lesser Quarter of Prague with which he was associated for the whole of his sad life; he never married and lived alone in moderate circumstances, increasingly a prey to sickness (Fig. 1).

From 1845 till his death he lived in the house indicated by the sign DŮM U DVOU SLUNCŮ (house of the two suns), the street was STRAHOVSKÁ, NA DLÁŽDĚNÍ, OSTRUHOVÁ in early times.

This street is a narrow, steep street with early baroque buildings, part of the "ROYAL WAY" but now better known as NERUDOVA ULICE. It begins at the upper, western end of the Little Quarter and is lined its whole length



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

with 16th to 18th century buildings as shown in Figure 2, which shows the steepness of the street in a drawing signed Bohumír Kozák 1950 from the book "PRAŽSKÉ ARCHITEKTURY" published by Orbis/Praha/1965. This book has 61 images of Prague. Figure 3 is a drawing dated 1968 by the same artists and depicts the house "OF THE TWO SUNS" in more detail. Note the sign above the entrance (Fig. 4) as well as the memorial

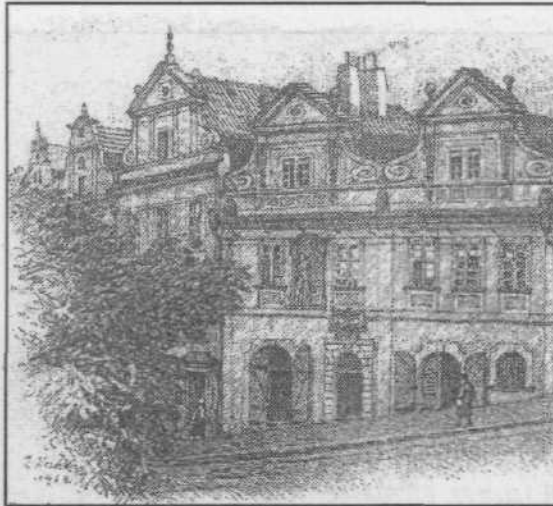


Fig. 3

plaque to Neruda. This comes from the book "PRAHA" also by B. Kozák 1972. This book has 106 illustrations.

Jan devoted himself almost exclusively to literature and journalism. As a contributor to the almanac "MÁJ" (1858) and as a literary and theatrical critic of the newspaper "NARODNÍ LISTY", he became an influential figure in Czech intellectual society of the 1860's and 1870's.

He was a major Czech journalist, poet and prose writer. His feuilletons and newspaper articles made a great contribution to the development of the modern

Czech journalistic style of the time. As a lyric poet he published many collections of verse such as "HŘBITOVNÍ KVÍTÍ" (Cemetery Flowers, 1856), "PÍSNĚ KOSMICKÉ" (Cosmic Songs, 1878) and "SPĚVY PÁTEČNÍ" (Good Friday Songs, 1878). Neruda was more original as a prose writer, however, his "MALOSTRANSKÉ POVÍDKY" (Little Quarter Tales, 1878), a collection of stories about life in the old Malá Strana section, is a masterpiece and one of the classics of Czech prose.

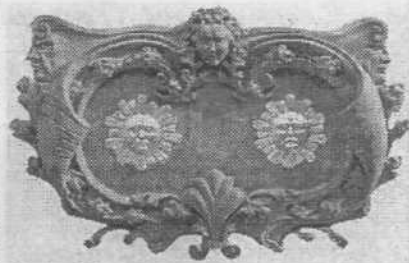


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The above comes from the book "THE MEANING OF CZECH HISTORY" by Tomáš G. Masaryk.

The tomb of Jan Neruda may be found in the Slavín cemetery of the Vyšehrad.

Finally, I close with an image of Jan in his later years from a stamp issued on November 25, 1954, as Pofis 805 (Fig. 5).

1st OLYMPIC GAMES, AMERICAN ARMY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA by Savoy Horvath

The first Olympic games held by the U.S. Army in Czechoslovakia were held July 21-28, 1945 in Klatovy. The contest was mostly along Olympic sport categories,

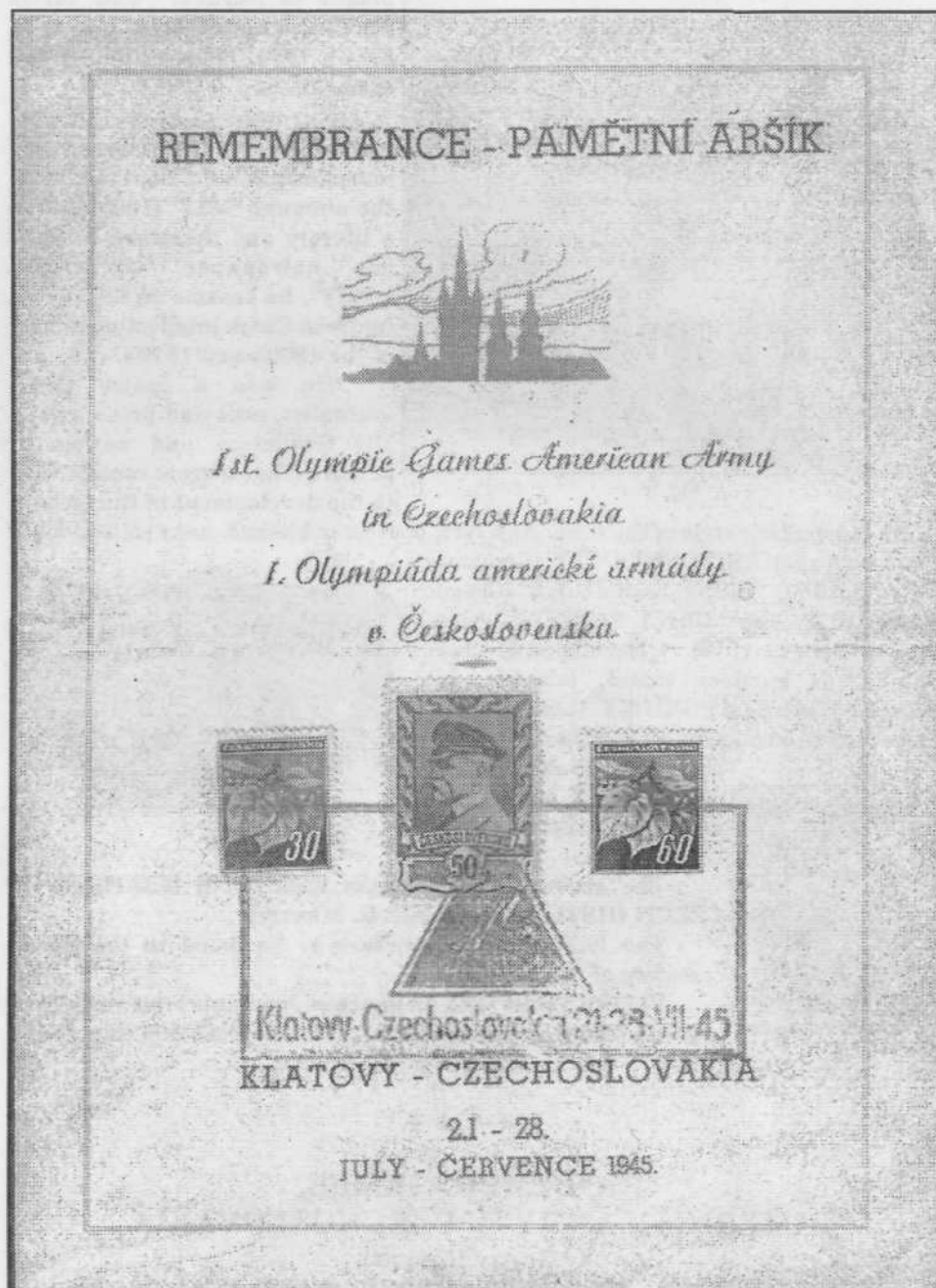


Fig. 1

but non-Olympic sports were also included, baseball, American football, rope pull and other sporting events. The games were sponsored by the 8th Armored Division and the Klatovy Dragoons.

Klatovy, located 40 km south of Plzeň, was liberated by the 2nd Infantry Division on May 5, 1945. On June 25, the 2nd Division was withdrawn and replaced by the 8th Armored Division. The U.S. Army left Czechoslovakia on November 15, 1945.

The Remembrance Sheet shows the silhouette of Klatovy with the Black Tower and the Dragoon Barracks in the background. The Klatovy Dragoons were a ceremonial unit of Czechoslovak cavalry left over from the Austrian Army. The only distinction between the Dragoons and regular Czechoslovak cavalry -- the Dragoons wore red riding breeches. Similar Dragoon units were Plzeň's 35th Regiment and a unit in Hradec Králové. The Klatovy Dragoon barracks also had a 300 piece military band, well known in pre-WW II Europe. During the war they were part of the Protektorat National Army and after WW II they played for the U.S. Army.

The Remembrance Sheet was issued by the Klatovy Dragoons. Besides the 8th Armored Division cancel, another exists bearing an APO 305 cancellation. The sheet is collected as a part of Liberation/Revolutionary Issues of postwar 1945.

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DETECTING STAMP FORGERIES AND FRAUDS

(Continued from Page 1)

a premium price for them, and what we can call "*usage counterfeits*" (or "*postal counterfeits*" in the case of postage stamps) which were made to defraud the government, usually, out of monies that should have been paid for a governmental service.

It is against federal law in the United States to possess or to buy or sell counterfeit currency and counterfeit postage stamps, but in reality the U.S. Secret Service is not too interested in prosecuting a stamp collector who happens to own a few examples of old, obsolete (not currently used for postage purposes) stamps unless that collector is trying to pass them off as genuine.

But forgeries and tampering with the appearance of stamps must be considered by all stamp collectors, especially such alterations as shaved proofs, bleached out cancels, reperfing, regumming, faked coil line pairs, faked invert errors, and so forth.

Let's look at some of these stamp frauds, and offer comments on detecting them:

Faked Gum

The semi-retired and legendary ex-New York stamp dealer Herman Hearst, Jr. has long pointed out to members of our hobby that **stamp gum** is the most valuable commodity by weight, even more valuable than diamonds or uranium per ounce. Since World War II, stamp collectors have been increasingly willing to pay vast sums of money to acquire stamps with undisturbed original gum (O.G.), leading unscrupulous "*stamp doctors*" to apply **faked gum** to the backs of ungummed unused stamps and offer them for sale.

Collectors in Europe routinely pay three or four times for a stamp that appears to have undisturbed **never hinged** (N.H.) original gum . . . as opposed to a stamp in identical condition except for obvious "**lightly hinged**" (L.H.) gum which once was disturbed with a stamp hinge stuck on, depending, of course, on the particular stamp issue involved. Rare sets, such as the Vatican City first issues, are scarce in O.G.N.H. condition, and will bring substantial premiums in today's stamp market.

Or, to put it another way, would you rather have two or three stamp collections with some degree of hinging, or one collection never hinged, for the same total amount of money? You need to ask yourself this question if you plan to pay large premiums for N.H. stamps.

Faked gum often looks "*too new*" for the stamp's actual age. A 100-year-old mint stamp should have 100-year-old gum. Does its gum look a century old: brittle and cracked, maybe yellowed or otherwise discolored?

If possible, try to compare the gum on a suspected **regummed** stamp with the gum on a known genuine copy. That's what stamp dealers and stamp expertizing services try to do if they haven't already memorized how genuine gum appears for given stamp issues.

Faked gum often appears to have "*dripped*" a bit onto the front side of the stamp, as indeed it may have if it is truly faked. Because genuine gum is usually applied to stamps **before** they are perforated, and faked gum put on **after** the

stamps have been perforated, no gum smears should appear on the front sides of genuine mint stamps unless their gum has been accidentally moistened along the stamp's edges, or possibly the O.G. stamp sheets were stored stacked on top of each other so that gum from one sheet migrated onto the printed side of a touching sheet.

Regummed stamps often have perforation *"teeth"* that are too stiff, lacking the natural softness and gentle *"raggedness"* of genuine teeth, which was caused by recently added gum that soaked into the absorbent paper fibers along the stamp's edge. Regumming jobs often look wavy or in varying thicknesses or were deliberately done to hide thins in the stamp's paper.

A regummed stamp will sometimes feel *"stiff"* and lack the flexibility and *"snap"* of a genuine mint copy. Ultraviolet light examination will often reveal faked gum that was made from a different chemical composition than the original gum for that issue, because it glows with a different color shade.

Stamps that normally have *"gum skips"* in their original gum, such as many U.S. mint issues from the 1930's, appear a little *"too perfect"* if they have smooth, shiny white gum, especially if they are in mint blocks or full panes. And the older the stamp, the less likely it has survived to the present time with undisturbed gum, so a batch of Great Britain's Penny Blacks from the year 1840 would be immediately suspicious if they seemed to have flawless, N.H. gum.

Also, don't assume that gum will appear the same on stamps from different countries in a particular time period. The gum on stamps from Latin American nations may not look exactly like the gum on U.S. stamps, even though both groups of stamps may date from 1900.

Faked Perforations

Some collectors like to collect the **imperforate** (never perforated) stamps of the world so that they don't have to worry about real or faked perforations.

A *"reperforated"* stamp has usually been made to appear with clean, undamaged perforation teeth where they once were damaged or missing (such as on natural *"straight edges"* for stamps that were on the outermost portions of their panes).

Faked perforation holes may be too *"clean"* and too *"crisp"* for the stamp's age. Faked perforations are sometimes of the wrong gauge, so we need to have one of those inexpensive perforation gauges with us when we're inspecting perforations. A good method of detecting some faked perforations is to lay a stamp with **genuine** perforations over the **suspected** stamp to see if the perforations *"match"* in gauge, for stamps of the same issue, of course.

Genuine perforation holes may be round or oval, deep or shallowly cut, cleanly cut or somewhat rough. Teeth edges that seem to have been cut with scissors, rather than torn apart naturally the way that perforated stamps are separated from each other with our fingers, may be faked.

The standard stamp catalogs list the known gauges of perforations for the world's stamps, but remember that stamps may expand or shrink a little over time and may seem to have a slightly different perforation gauge from what you would expect. Also, we customarily give the stamp's **horizontal** gauge first, then its **vertical** gauge, for stamps that have *"compound perforation gauges"*, such as 11 x

Faked and Removed Cancels

If a stamp is still on its original envelope paper to which it was affixed to pay postage, it may or may not show evidence of having been cancelled, either with a machine or a hand cancel. If it was cancelled, its cancellation may or may not extend from the stamp itself onto its envelope paper, a situation known as "*tying on*" the stamp in philatelic terminology. While cancels that tie on stamps may be fraudulent, they are harder to fake than a cancel that just covers the stamp's surface.

Also, it is usually easier to fake a cancel on an "*off-cover*" (loose) stamp than a cancel that ties the stamp to its cover because the faked cancellation ink may not evenly strike onto the cover's paper, may be differently absorbed into the stamp and cover paper, etc. Many collectors refuse to pay a lot of money for a rare cancellation on a loose stamp, preferring to have the added assurance of a validating cover that the cancel is indeed genuine.

Whole books have been researched and published on the cancellations of certain cities and time periods in given countries. The best guarantee for the genuineness of a cancel is to have looked at and studied many genuine cancels of that type and locality.

The fraudulent removal of a stamp's cancel to make it appear unused often leaves the stamp a little faded where the cancellation lines once were. Ultraviolet light or dipping in watermark fluid often reveal traces of a bleached out cancel, also. Many 19th century stamps from many countries have had their pen cancels bleached out, so beware when you are purchasing an unused stamp from the mid 1800's -- is it really unused, or was its cancel removed to enhance its value?

The opposite problem exists when shopping for rare, costly cancels such as unusual fancy cancels that are known to be in demand, or any cancels on certain German stamps from the early 20th century. Assume that a seemingly rare cancel is fake unless proven otherwise. Get expertizing certificates especially when buying expensive cancels on off-cover stamps.

Cancels have often been "*reinforced*" where they were genuinely light or indistinct in appearance -- by drawing in the missing portions of the cancel. Only for stamps or cancels that are great rarities should such "*redrawn*" cancels be purchased, and then only when honestly offered for sale as such.

There is no crime in offering regummed, reperforated, and reinforced cancelled stamps for sale, unless the seller is misrepresenting these stamps as undamaged originals. The problem is that the true nature of altered stamps may have been lost and forgotten as the stamps pass from owner to owner, so all expensive stamps must be cautiously inspected by prospective buyers whenever they are offered for sale.

"Sealed" Tears and Holes

Many **torn** or **holed** stamps have had their defects "*expertly*" repaired so that the stamps appear undamaged to a casual observer. Ultraviolet light will sometimes reveal the line along which a paper tear has been glued. The traditional method for detecting thins and tears is still to dip the suspected stamp into watermark fluid in a black plastic tray, but be careful that you don't mistake normal watermarks or heavy cancellations for thins or tears.

A tear, thin, or hole that is just on the edge of the stamp and doesn't extend into the printed design is generally considered to be less damaging than a paper defect that affects the stamp's design, but any such defect will drastically lower the market value of the stamp. Heavy hinging has been used to conceal a tear or thin, so watch out when paying a lot of money for a heavily hinged unused or used stamp.

Altered Ink Shades

Beware of chemically altered colors that may mimic rare shades of stamps, such as the valuable blue color error of the U.S. 4¢ ultramarine Columbian commemorative of 1893 (Scott No. 233a). Stamp ink fades gradually over the years when exposed to doses of air pollution or direct light, not to mention deliberate chemically-induced color fraud.

Buy rare color errors on stamps that have been expertized. No ethical stamp dealer will get mad if you ask permission to submit a rare color error to an expertizing service (such as the Philatelic Foundation or American Philatelic Society) before making final purchase.

Added or Removed Design Lines

Genuine printing ink engraved lines on postage stamps should be uniformly smooth and without unusually varying shades per ink color, unless the ink was applied in different shades or line widths on the stamp. Old stamps are sometimes encountered with "redrawn" engraved lines where the genuine lines had been accidentally scraped off.

Of special danger is the possibility of a rare stamp with added or removed minor details of its design, "manufactured" by a "stamp doctor" from the cheaper variety. I like to use a 10-power (ten times natural size in its magnifying ability) hand lens to inspect the design details of stamps.

Stamps on covers sometimes have their design "reinforced" by hand-drawing into the design. For common stamps and covers, this rather destroys their monetary value. For rare covers, a moderate amount of "design reinforcing" might be acceptable to some collectors, at an appropriate cash discount off its otherwise undamaged market value estimation, or course.

Wrong Stamps on Covers

Always study carefully any expensive stamp on a cover. Does it actually belong there, or was it added recently?

For example, a high value 19th century stamp might have been substituted for a common definitive of that era, with the cancels and postmarks fixed up so that the high denomination stamp seems to belong on that cover. The addresses, letter contents, postmarking, and other markings on the cover may indicate that such a high denomination stamp couldn't have been used on a local or lightweight envelope, but how would you know this unless you've spent time investigating the postal history of the country and time period when the cover supposedly originated?

Bisected stamps "on piece" (on a portion of their original covers) are always suspect because the whole envelope isn't there to verify or contradict the validity of stamp bisect usage. Bisections should be properly tied to a cover with the cancellation extending between the stamp's cut edge and the cover's paper, and even then you

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can't be sure that the cancel hasn't been faked as well, unless you're an expert for such cancels.

Assume that stamps not tied on covers were not originally on those covers, when figuring how much to pay for them at purchase time. Stamp dealers do that.

Faked Coil Line Pairs

The inked "*guide lines*" on flat plate U.S. Coil stamps, for example, were printed every twenty stamps to guide the perforating machines. A guide line between a coil line pair is often assumed to prove that the pair is a genuine coil, but the lines themselves have often been faked, as well as the straight edge nature of the coil stamps themselves.

First, check the perforation gauge to eliminate fraudulent gauges of purported "*coils*" to start. Then, if possible, compare the "*patient*" coils straight edges, paper texture, printing ink color, and gum (if any) with those of a known genuine coil of that issue. Sometimes a faked coil edge is too clean, evidence of a recent scissors cut.

The coil guide lines of normal mono-colored stamps must be of the same ink color as the design of the rest of the stamp. Such lines on engraved stamps have to be engraved, also, not penned in, so genuinely engraved coil guide lines must feel "*raised*" from the surface of the stamp's paper, just like all of the other engraved ink impressions on it.

Guide lines were put on stamp paper *before* it was perforated, so genuine guide line ink shouldn't drip over the edge of genuine coil strip perforations. And genuine guide lines should appear very straight without abnormally wide or narrow portions in the line width for normally produced guide line stock. Genuine guide lines on engraved stamps shouldn't "*bleed*" into the paper -- as faked lines might do, because of absorption of the forger's ink supply by porous paper fibers.

Shaved Proofs

Thick "*cardboard*" stamp proofs have been shaved down to resemble stamps. However, their design's ink impressions may appear "*too bright*" and "*too perfect*" when compared with genuinely issued stamps in the same colors.

A *shaved proof* may have paper areas of varying thickness or may lack the identifying watermarks of genuine stamps. Also, a shaved proof will have to be fraudulently perforated if its production runs were perforated when the designs were printed into sheets for postal use, so faked perforations should be suspected.

The paper of proofs may not match the paper of the issued stamps in color or texture. And the shaved proof may have been given a faked cancel or gummed if it was manipulated to appear as a real stamp.

When proofs are cheaper to buy than genuine stamps of their designs, there is the temptation to shave them down to make them look like stamps. This can be more of a problem when the proofs were shaved, perforated, and used on covers of the time period when the genuine stamps were current, but "*proofs on cover*" are collectible, too, despite their illegal births in busy mail systems.

Forged Expertizing Certificates

Don't assume that a philatelic expertizing certificate is automatically genuine,

either. Certificates have been forged such as: stamp catalog numbers changed on the certificates, accompanying identifying photos substituted, and certificate wording changed from "*counterfeit*" to "*genuine*" to make it appear to guarantee the stamp's authenticity.

Expertizing services keep records of all of their certificates ever issued, so write to them and ask about the certificate which you may be wondering about. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for their reply. I usually send along a photocopy of the expertizing certificate that I am inquiring about, along with a specific question such as "Is this certificate's data the same as the information about this certificate in your records; i.e., is this stamp 'genuine, with original gum', etc"?

Even the initials of stamp experts which have been applied on the backs of stamps have been forged, so such initials aren't a guarantee of authenticity. Get a certificate when in doubt.

Forged Overprints

If a stamp with an **overprint** is much more valuable than its unoverprinted cousin, there is a chance that the overprint has been faked.

I define **overprint** as the official inked impression that has been added to a stamp's design after it was first printed. Overprints may be lettering, numerals, or other designs such as head silhouettes or circular obliterations. A **surcharge** is an overprint on a stamp that changes its face value.

Many overprint forgeries are dangerously deceptive, so get expertizing certificates when buying any expensive overprints whose unoverprinted varieties are cheap. The expertizing services greatly magnify and otherwise examine all overprints submitted to them for examinations, and they have sophisticated analytical equipment that helps them pass judgement on all philatelic items submitted for their approval.

Of special danger is the possibility that a photo of forged overprints has been carefully substituted for a photo of genuine overprints on an expertizing certificate, and then offered for sale with the forged overprinted stamps.

Buy From Reliable Dealers

If you "*don't know your stamps, know your stamp dealer*". The trusted business relationship between collector and dealer is one of the most wonderful things about our hobby. Good dealers back up what they sell with their guarantee to refund your money if you can't get a valid "*genuine*" certificate from an expertizing service for expensive stamps that you buy from them.

Don't be afraid to collect stamps. Part of the fun of collecting is learning yourself how to distinguish the genuine from the fraudulent, and that applies to the actual items collected as well as to the people who do business in them.

It is a well known fact that stamp dealers and stamp collectors are probably more honest as a group than just about any other diversely populated group of people. Wise dealers will not jeopardize their careers by forging a few stamps and trying to pass them off to unsuspecting collector customers.

And people can make honest mistakes. Nobody knows everything about stamps, so there is always the chance that a collector or dealer will offer a forgery

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for sale and be unaware of its bogus status. We share our knowledge and constructively criticize each other's philatelic opinions so we all can learn to differentiate fraudulent from genuine.

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint this article from *Global Stamp News*, May, 1995.]

Book Review

PRESERVING STAMPS AND COVERS

by George Saqqal

This seven-page philatelic reference booklet spells out in simple, easy-to-understand language the many perils, both human and environmental, that can damage your collection of stamps and covers. The concerns that are covered are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| -- airborne and organic acids | -- adhesives |
| -- artificial and natural light | -- labels, tape, and hinges |
| -- mold | -- insects |
| -- heat and humidity | -- pollutants and impurities |
| -- bare hands | -- fugitive inks |

It then goes on to advise on how to avoid these dangers and how to mitigate or reverse them if they have already attacked your collection.

I would very much recommend this booklet to any collector who would like to preserve the value and condition of their collection for posterity.

The booklet has several qualities to recommend it. First of all, while occasional articles in philatelic publications will discuss one or more of the concerns listed above, very seldom do you find such a comprehensive discussion of all of the potential dangers to a philatelic collection along with recommendations on what to do about them. Secondly, all of this is presented in a relaxed narrative style that reads like a story. Then, also included are names and addresses for helpful sites where you can get preservation materials. And finally, the technical and scientific aspects of the concerns and solutions are discussed in a clear and concise language that is easy to understand.

I can only really find one "problem" with this booklet -- because it is so concise and only 7 pages long, it is very easy to misplace it or for it to get lost among your other philatelic publications and paperwork. Thus, I would recommend that after you get it, you put it into a simple binder of some kind before you put it on your library shelf.

And one final thought -- after you have read this booklet, you will come to realize how absolutely inadequately your collection is being taken care of, and how extensively you need to modify your collection handling habits. It is all a little bit overwhelming. But, you need to start somewhere, and this will give you a good place. How much of it you do is then up to you.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

[You can purchase the booklet directly from the author. Just look for his ad in this issue.]

CZECH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBIT IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ, 2007

by Bohuslav Makovička
trans. by Henry Hahn

The competitive National Exhibit took place in Hradec Králové's Museum from April 19 - 22, 2007. This show represented the last opportunity to obtain qualifications to exhibit at PRAGA'08. This resulted in several problems to the organization committee. The organizers of the show were the philatelic clubs 05-01

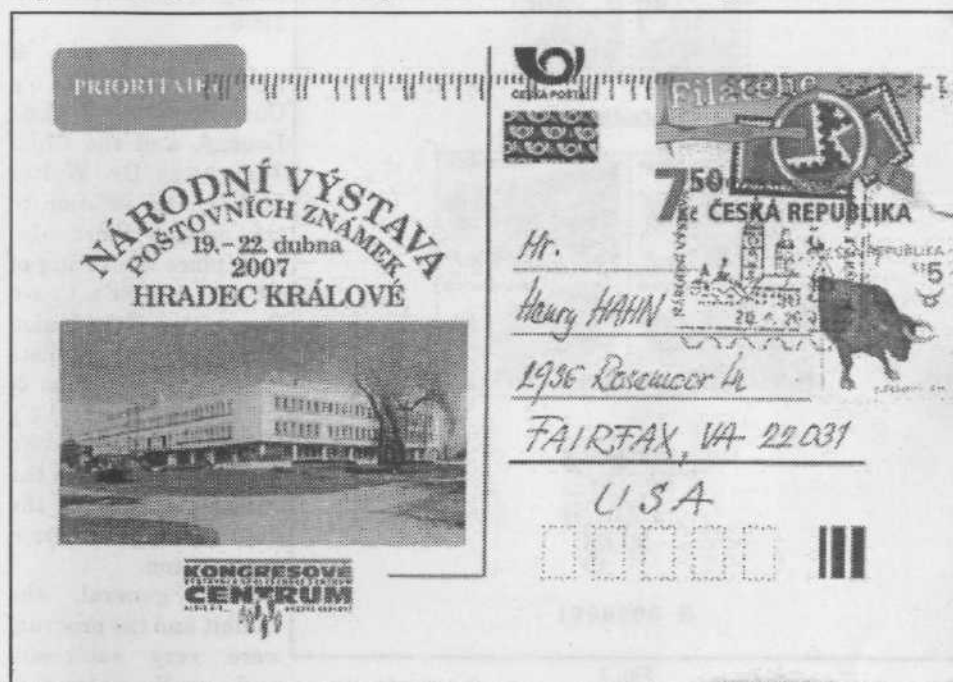


Fig. 1

and 05-22 of Hradec Králové. The exhibit took place on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the first philatelic show in Hradec Králové in 1922, the 700th anniversary of the designation of the town as a loyal Royal Town, and the 120th anniversary of organized Czech philately.

The exhibition included 102 exhibits, of which 8 were reclassified as non-competitive for failure to meet FIP qualification requirements. Fifteen (15) exhibits in the traditional class, nine (9) in postal history, four (4) in postal stationery, four (4) in aero philately, two (2) in thematic philately, five (5) youth exhibits, thirty-one (31) single frame exhibits and three (3) in open class were evaluated. The highest award was received in Postal History by Vít Vaníček who received a Large Gold for his showing of the "Postal History of the Czech Lands". Miloš Červinka received a Large Gold for his showing of "Postal History of the Děčín Region". The third highest award, also a Large Gold, was received in traditional philately by Miloš



Fig. 2

There was issued a postal stationery card and a commemorative postmark, including one for the Children's Post. The 7.50 Kč card, upfranked to 12.50 Kč is shown at Figure 1. Attendees also received a numbered commemorative maxi-card along with their exhibit catalog (Fig. 2).

Hauptman for "ČSR 1950-1961: Multistamp Printing from Flat Plate Steel Engraved Plates". The highest single frame exhibit award, Gold, was gained by Jan Pelikan for "Austria - Hungary, 10K Issue of 1908".

The chairman of the Organizing Committee was Zbyněk Loučný, and the Chief Judge was Dr. Walter Müller. In addition to the exhibit there also took place a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČP) and meetings of the Specialty Organizations who primarily dealt with the reclassification of the nine (9) exhibits from competition.

In general, the exhibit and the program were very successful and well attended.

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"Preserving Stamps and Covers"

is a preservation guide for the serious philatelist. Send \$5.75 for US addresses, US\$6.50 to Canada/Mexico, and US\$7.75 to foreign addresses. O'seas buyers can remit the equivalent amount in the form of large format, mint, never hinged commemoratives.

G. Saqqal, 9728 Third Avenue, Suite 556, Brooklyn, NY 11209

120th ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION OF THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC MAIL SYSTEM

by Henry Hahn

Our readers may recall our commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Prague Pneumatic Network to the public in 1999, when we sold a cachet with an illustration of what is recorded as the earliest card posted by pneumatic mail in Prague. That was on March 4, 1899 at 7:40 am. But by then the first three pneumatic stations were already operating in the distribution of telegrams.

We were primarily reminded of this fact by Mr. Antonín Šmíd, our most notable mentor and author of the recent discourse on the Prague Pneumatic Post which appeared in the *SPECIALIST* in recent months [Jan/Feb -- Sep/Oct 2006 issues]. Similarly to the 100th anniversary of the opening of the system to the public, Mr. Šmíd has again added a commemorative label on the 120th anniversary to a recent letter (Fig. 1). The opening of the system for distribution of telegrams occurred on August 6, 1897.

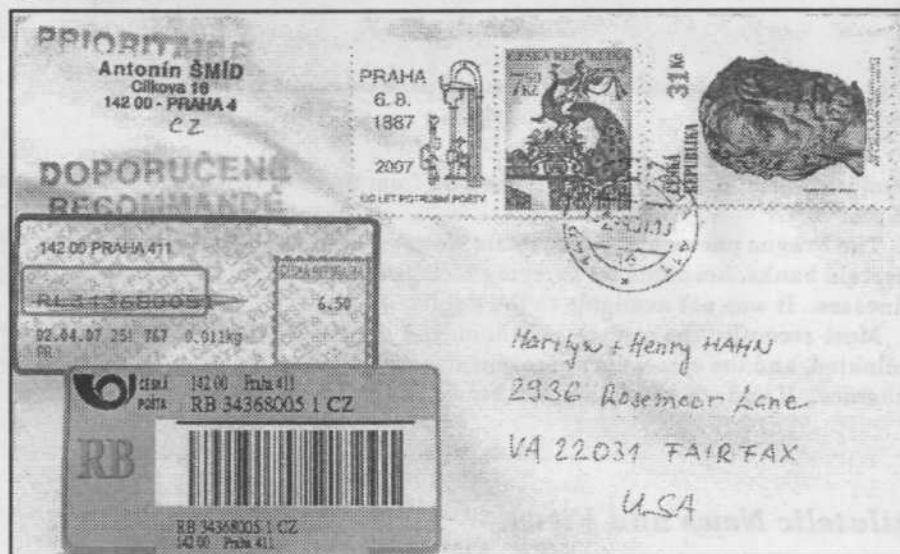


Figure 1

We have borrowed an illustration of a telegram delivered by pneumatic mail from Mr. Šmíd's outstanding exhibit on *EXPONET*, the world's most comprehensive virtual exhibit of this subject. Telegrams were forwarded from 1849 to August 6, 1897 exclusively by messenger. From that date they were forwarded to the center of Prague by pneumatic mail, terminating at either Pneumatic Station Prague 1 or Prague 2.

The telegram (Fig. 2) was sent at 2:15 pm on August 9, 1912 (19 9/8. 12). In the red line marking, Krakes is most likely the name of the forwarding clerk, and the numbering of the telegram is 2121. It is without a postmark (Praha 1) -- Central

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Figure 2

Pneumatic Postal Station. It was forwarded from there to Královské Vinohrady at 3:13 pm.

The Prague pneumatic mail system was operated by the postal service for use by certain banks, hospitals for carrying biological specimens, and for certain large businesses. It was not available to the public.

Most recently, the system was damaged during the floods, operations were terminated, and the system is at present undergoing slow repairs -- by two or three mechanics. If and when it will again become operational has not been reported.

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Tom Cossaboom:

-- We have applications for 41 frames of Czech-area exhibits at CHICAGOPEX 2007 (among the applications for 304 frames in total):

- 10 Jaroslav J. Verner Czechoslovak Siberian Legions (Court of Honor)
- 5 Olech W. Wyslowsky Czechoslovakia -- The Hradčany Issue and Its Usages
- 1 Philip K. Rhoads WWII Czech Patriotic Labels
- 10 Philip K. Rhoads WWII Era Czech Philately
- 5 Bohuslav Makovička Postal History of Southwestern Moravia, 1664-1918
- 5 Václav Svoboda Spezielle Studie "T.G. Masaryk in der Tschechoslowaki-schen Briefmarkenproduktion 1918-1937"

2. From Alfred Kugel (on CHICAGOPEX):

-- First, since we are holding a PanSlavic Festival, it is appropriate that the theme of the show will be "Honoring Slavic Scientists". The show cachet will depict Poland's Marie Curie and also list three other Nobel Prize honorees -- Ivan Pavlov of Russia and the husband/wife team of Carl & Gerty Cori, both of whom were born in Prague.

The meeting schedule is essentially complete and I think that I have assigned SCP the time slots as requested -- board meeting room on Thursday afternoon and membership meeting Saturday afternoon.

As we discussed earlier, your society will share a table with the Hungarians in the hallway near the entrance. However, I have arranged with the hotel for some additional tables to be placed in the hallway on the lower level (near the area where the exhibits will be displayed). One of these will be assigned to the SCP. There will also be chairs available so that members will be able to use the place to "hang out".

We are planning a considerable amount of publicity for the show, including ads in the philatelic press and the Chicago Tribune. We will print a description of each of the convening societies in the show program. . . .

With all of the activity that is scheduled, we are especially keen on making the show a success for our convening societies. As a result, please let me know if there is anything else we can do.

3. From Linn's Stamp News, June 11, 2007:

Bulletin and entry form ready for Praga 2008. Bulletin No. 1 and the entry forms are available for the Praga 2008 world philatelic exhibition to take place Sept. 12-14, 2008, in Prague, Czech Republic.

The exhibition, which is sanctioned by the International Federation of Philately, will be held in the Palace of Industry on the Prague Exhibition Grounds.

Praga 2008 will commemorate the 90th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's first postage stamps (issued in 1918), the 90th anniversary of the Prague Postal Museum and the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Republic.

The Praga 2008 organizing committee reported that it expects collectors from more than 70 countries to participate in the 2,500-frame exhibition.

The exhibition will include the following categories: traditional, postal history, literature and one-frame. The deadline for submission of exhibiting applications to the United States commissioner is Sept. 1, 2007.

The bulletin and entry forms are available from the U.S. Commissioner, Darrell Ertzberger, Box 16208, Crystal City, VA 22215-1208; e-mail: mteton@aol.com.

Ertzberger asks that exhibitors and collectors who would like to receive future bulletins include \$5 to help defray the cost of postage.

* * * * *

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

At the local stamp club auction earlier this week I won a lot of used

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Czechoslovak stamps on torn envelopes . . . most from the 1960s and 1970s. I soaked the stamps last night and noticed that many had little bits of paper stuck between the stamp and the envelope. There was no writing on the paper . . . Any idea why the paper? Trying to reuse stamps?

Tom Cossaboom

2. Lou:

On p.33, in ¶13, Fig. 23 is mentioned. The postal card described sounds interesting, and I'd like to view the image, but I can't find Fig. 23. Where did you hide it?

Best regards,
Frederick [Lawrence]

[Ed. Note: This was a test to see if anyone was reading the issue. Since you were, here is Figure 23.]



Fig. 23

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

2008 ISSUE PLAN FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production -- F. Hudeček	1	7.50
Jan 20	Personalities	2	
	-- Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808-1856)		7.50
	-- Karel Klostermann (1848-1923)		11
Feb 20	International Planetary Year -- Earth	1	12
Feb 20	Jiří z Poděbrad -- 550 Years since Election as Czech King	1	12
Mar 5	Easter	1	7.50
Mar 5	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008	1	
	-- J. Navrátil -- Fresco from Postal Museum in Prague		7.50
Mar 19	J.A. Komenský Publication: Orbis Pictus -- 350 th Anniversary	1	20
Mar 19	Beauties of Our Country	2	
	-- Ještěd		12
	-- Hradec Králové		15
Apr 16	100 th Anniversary of the National Technical Museum in Prague	3	7.50
May 7	EUROPA: Letter Writing	1	11
May 28	For Children -- J. Čapek: About Doggie and Kitty	1	7.50
May 28	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008	1 s/s	
	-- Ledebur Gardens in Prague		53
May 28	Nature Preservation -- Třeboň - Region of Fish Ponds/Pools	4 s/s	11/12
	-- UNESCO Biosphere Reservation		15/18
Jun 18	Explorers	2	
	-- Alois Musil (1868-1944)		11
	-- Ferdinand Stolička (1838-1874)		12
Jun 18	XXIX Olympic Games in Peking	1	12
Jun 18	Summer Paralympics 2008, Peking	1	7.50
Sep 3	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008		
	-- Emaus Monastery in Prague	1	12
Sep 3	100 Years - Assoc. of Artists of Applied Arts - Artel	1	18
Sep 12	Joint Issue with Slovakia: Karel Plicka (1894-1987)	1 s/s	35
Oct 15	Arts and Crafts - Historical Stoves: baroque, rokoko	2	7.50,
			11
Nov 5	Works of Art on Stamps		
	-- Zdenka Braunerová (1858-1934)	1	23
	-- Otakar Nejedlý (1883-1957)	1	25
	-- Jan Jakub Hartmann (1658-after 1738)	1 s/s	35
Nov 5	Christmas Traditions	1	7.50
Nov 5	Třebechov Nativity Scene	1 s/s	44
Nov 5	Czech Republic Chairmanship in the EU Council	1	11

1. On May 9, 2007, the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic issued an 11 Kč stamp in the EUROPA series commemorating Scouting (Fig. 1). This year

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Fig. 1

the worldwide scouting movement celebrates the 100th anniversary of its foundation. The Association of Public European Postal Operators, PostEurop, declared scouting as the common theme of the 2007 EUROPA issue. This worldwide education movement was founded in 1907 by the Englishman, Sir Robert Baden-Powell. In the background printing of his book *Scouting for Boys* he wrote that scouting is the education of a good citizen by way of forest wisdom. Scouting met with a tremendous enthusiasm not only in boys but also in girls, and spread rapidly throughout the world. The first Czech scout boy club was set up in 1911 by Professor A. B. Svojsík. The first girl club of the Czech scout movement Junák was set up in 1915 by PhDr. A. Berkovcová. The golden age of the scout movement came after the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic. It enjoyed a great respect and became a school for numerous personalities, such as J. Wolker, A. Rašín, the academic professor J. Charvát, etc. In 1948 the scouting movement was by force integrated into the Czech Youth Association and after two years liquidated. The Czech scouting movement preserved numerous traditional elements, such as the way of camping, a close relationship to wildlife, romance, serving the neighbors, and traditional uniforms. A completely original element, typical for the Czech scouts, is the tent with a wooden substructure invented at a camp led by J. Půlkrábek in 1913. The stamp shows a Czech scout camp with a boy scout and girl scout participating in typical camp activities along with the Junák emblem. The stamp was designed by Jiří Petráček, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue and ocher with iridescence in printing sheets of 6 pieces. A FDC in brown shows a boy and girl scout on a hike (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

2. On May 9, 2007, the Ministry issued a 1 Kč definitive stamp in The Beauty of Flowers series entitled Cyclamen (Fig. 3). The stamp shows the flower with a bud and the Czech name for Cyclamen, *bramborík*. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in pink, violet, and green in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

3. On May 9, 2007, the Ministry issued a 23 Kč definitive stamp in The Beauty of Flowers series entitled Geranium (Fig. 4). The stamp shows the flowers on a leafed stem along with the Czech



Fig. 4

name for *Geranium, pelargonie*. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in light green, red, and green in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

4. On May 30, 2007, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp in the For Children series that is dedicated to their favorite heroes -- Fast Arrows (*Rychlé šípy*) as well as to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jaroslav Foglar (Fig. 5). The Fast Arrows are a club of inseparable friends and a synonym of adventure, mystery, but mainly also of fair, decent conduct. Mirek Dušin, Jarka Metelka, Jindra Hojer, Červenáček and Rychlonožka. These names have come to be very well known already to several



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

generations of readers. Their "father" is Jaroslav Foglar (1907-1999), the writer, editor of youth magazines, tutor and scout named Hawk. The Fast Arrows were published as a series of cartoons from December 1938, with enforced political breaks, until June 1971. The collected series were published no earlier than in 1998. The number of the illustrated stories totalled 316. Unlike the single author of the texts, J. Foglar, there were several illustrators. The first series was drawn by Dr. Jan Fischer, the illustrator of 213 stories. It is his illustrations which are most often associated with the Fast Arrows. The five boys are also the heroes of the three novels by Foglar, *Záhada Hlavalamu*, *Stínadla Se Bouří* and *Tajemství Velkého Vonta*. The stamp shows the Fast Arrows in an arc looking at a puzzle (spiked roller in a cage) along with their name in Czech. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, red, yellow, and blue in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps, there were also issued philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and four labels -- the labels show a portrait of Jaroslav Foglar along with his name and the years 1907-1999 (Fig. 6). A FDC in brown shows the Fast Arrows with their friend, the dog Bublina (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

Stationery

5. On May 30, 2007, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 7.50 Kč to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Žďár nad Sázavou being promoted to a town (Fig. 8). The settlement of Žďár was built at the Cistercian Monastery established in 1252. The small town of Žďár is mentioned -- for the first time -- in 1293. In 1588, the monastery came under the authority of the bishopric of Olomouc. Owing to the permanent disputes between the monastery and the bishopric, the monastery

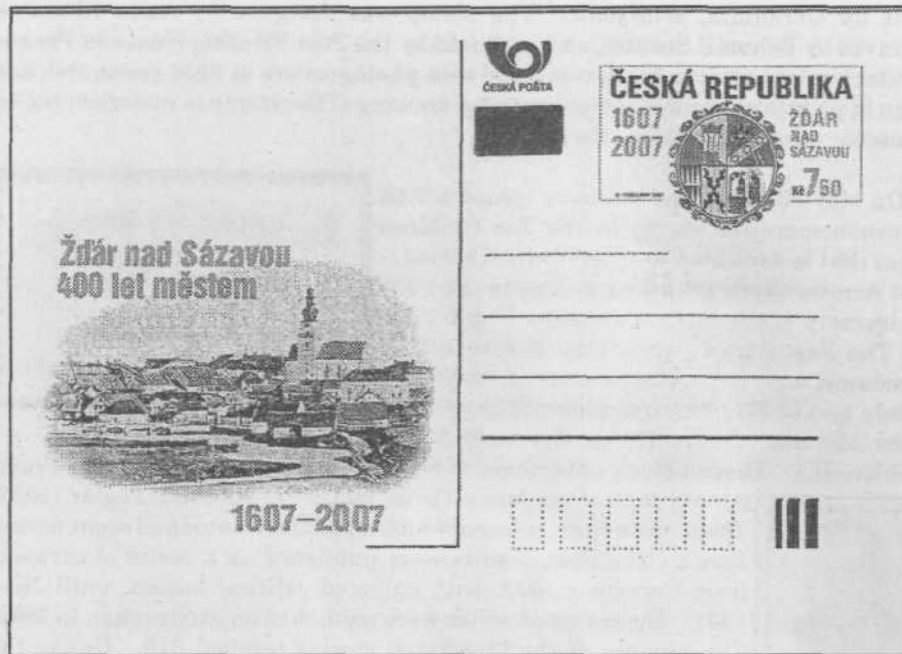


Fig. 8

was dissolved in 1606. In 1607 the small town Žďár was promoted to a town with new privileges and a new coat-of-arms. In 1704, these privileges as well as the new coat-of-arms were confirmed by Emperor Leopold I. The stamp shows this still-used coat-of-arms along with the years 1607-2007. In the cachet portion of the postal card is shown a view of the town. 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.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

6. On February 7, 2007, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 19 Sk commemorative stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of Terézia Vansová -- writer, publicist, and public official (Fig. 9). This creative woman active in public life, who helped create the cultural and social life of Slovakia at the close of the 19th century, was born in 1857 to the family of the nationally-conscious protestant priest Samuel Medvecký. She attended school in her hometown of Zvolenská Slatina, as well as Banská Bystrica, and Rimavská Sobota. The years she spent in Lomnička and later in Rimavská Píla, her new homes after her marriage to Ján Vansa -- a protestant priest -- were the background to the realistic memoirs of life in village schools and vicarages. Vansová's novel "Sirota Podhradských" (Podhradská, The Orphan), published in 1889, represents the first



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

novel by a Slovak female author. In 1927, Vansová was awarded the national prize for her novel "Kliatba" (The Curse). Terézia Vansová wrote short stories, drama, translated the writings of Božena Němcová, and compiled a new cookbook (Nová Kuchárska Kniha) where she published 900 collected recipes. She was also the founder and editor of "Dennica" (Daily), the first magazine for women ever published in Slovakia, and she was the vice-chairwoman of Živena -- the Society of Slovak Women. Her printed work reflected both her political thinking and personal interests. Her personal experiences became the inspiration for her literary work. In

1911, she moved to Banská Bystrica, where she edited the magazine "Slovenská Žena" (Slovak Woman) and contributed to Živena. After the death of her husband in 1922, she stayed with her protégé Olga Vraná. The pioneer of the Slovak female novel and the female representative of Slovak literary realism died in 1942 at the age of eighty-five. The stamp was designed by Zdeno Brázdil and printed by Állami Nyomda Nyrt. in Hungary using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC shows a woman's face looking out from a bouquet of flowers and having tree branches as wavy hair (Fig. 10).

7. On February 7, 2007, the Ministry issued a 14 Sk definitive stamp in the towns/cities series honoring the town of Modra (Fig. 11). The stamp shows a view of the Upper Portal of the old part of the city, along with the city coat of arms. The stamp was designed by Martin Kellenberger and produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt. in Hungary using multicolored offset in sheets of 100 stamps.



Fig. 11

8. On February 14, 2007, the Ministry issued a definitive stamp called Greeting Stamp -- Bunch of Flowers (Fig. 12). The nominal value of the stamp is shown as T2 50g which responds to the postage of a 2nd class letter mailing of up to 50 grams in domestic service. In 2007 this was 10 Sk. The

stamp was designed by Soňa Patúcová and produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt. in Hungary using multicolored offset in sheets of 100 stamps.



Fig. 13

9. On March 15, 2007, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk commemorative stamp as congratulations on Easter (Fig. 13). The stamp depicts a painting entitled "Crucifixion" (1976) by Vincent Hložník. The stamp was designed by Lubomír Krátky and produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt. in Hungary using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 12

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10. On March 21, 2007, the Ministry issued a 16 Sk commemorative stamp in the Sports Stamp series entitled Tennis (Fig. 14) (the first stamp in this series was issued in 2006). The first tennis courts in Slovakia were built in the 1880's -- in Grassalkovich (today's President's) palace in Bratislava, and on Kúpeľný Ostrov (Spa Island) in Piešťany. More tennis courts were built and tennis clubs founded (Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Piešťany, Trenčianské Teplice) after the formation of the First Czechoslovak Republic. In 1931, the first place in the national list of tennis players was held by Ladislav Hecht from Žilina, who had played 36 Davis Cup matches by 1938. After the decline followed by the accession to power of the communists whose ideologists considered tennis a "gentry sport", tennis in Czechoslovakia gradually regained popularity at the end of the 1950's. Slovak juniors (including Jozef Golonka) won the traditional tournament in Pardubice, and Milan Tajcnár was a member of the winning Czechoslovak team in the King's Cup (1969). In 1988, tennis was again included in the Olympic Games after 64 years and Miroslav Mečíř, the most renowned player in Slovak tennis history, won the gold medal in singles. He was one of the top world tennis players for years. Together with Helena Suková he won the Hopman Cup, and with Tomáš Šmíd they became doubles world champions. As coach of Karol Kučera and the non-playing captain of the team that played the 2005 Davis Cup final, he contributed to the greatest recent achievement of Slovak men's tennis. The victory in the 2005 Federation Cup represented the strength of Slovak women's tennis. Dominik Hrbatý and Martin Kližan, Daniela Hantuchová and Dominika Cibulková are the present and past of the sport that still entralls millions. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and produced by Állami Nyomda Nyrt. in Hungary using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC shows two dueling tennis players (Fig. 15).



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

11. On April 18, 2007, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Preservation of Nature series (Fig. 16). The stamps were designed by Vladimír Machaj, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by PTC in Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in miniature sheetlets of two stamps (one of each).

-- Slovensky Čuvač, 31 Sk (Fig. 17): this dog is a descendant of the Big White Polar Dog. This fact is, among others, supported by research and biometric measurements of Čuvač skeletons, and comparing these with skeletons from previous periods. Most likely, the Čuvač was brought by Goths and Burgundians from Pomeranian regions in the first centuries A.D. Its oldest roots could lead up to the original Pomeranian dog breeds. Early last century the Čuvač was a popular breed in Slovakia. The first person to breed and improve the characteristics of the Slovensky Čuvač was Prof. Antonín Hruža. The first litter was registered in 1929. Four years later, the Tatra-Čuvač Breeders Club was founded, later renamed the Club of Slovakian Čuvač Breeders. At first, an average number of 40 to 50 puppies

were registered annually. Up until 1960 the number of breeders continued to



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

increase, resulting in 200 dog registrations annually. However, an international standard was only recognized and approved in 1965. The characteristics of this breed, a robust body and thick white coat, are similar to those of mountain dog types. Dogs are 62-70 cm high. Čuvač moves with ease, quickly, and likes to run. Historically the Čuvač was a valuable helper to border guards, shepherds, and cattlemen. It protected sheep pens, chalets, and farms. This wide range of skills shows its immense value and character. It is a calm sheepdog, and if bred in suitable conditions displays not only inherited skills but also new tasks. For example, the Čuvač is a reliable avalanche rescue dog and sledge dog.

It is a very keen and extraordinarily faithful breed. The name Čuvač derives from its characteristics, namely its ability to listen which in Slovak can be rendered as "čuč", hence "Čuvač". A FDC includes a cachet showing a Čuvač standing guard over sheep under some pine trees (Fig. 18).

-- Slovensky Kopov, 31 Sk (Fig. 19): there is hardly a country without a dog breed represented within the hound

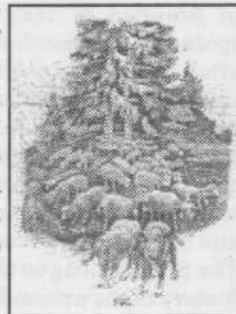


Fig. 18

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

group. The Slovensky Kopov belongs to this group. Besides other well-known hound breeds, Slovensky Kopov has been bred in Slovakia for centuries. It has specific characteristics, maybe as a result of isolation from common hound predecessors. The breeding of Slovensky Kopov was first considered after the end



Fig. 19

of World War I. Koloman Slimák, an important figure in Slovak cynology, initiated the first meeting of hounds in order to select the first suitable pair for breeding. Despite the temporary break caused by World War II, breeding developed and produced results in a special hound breed. The standard was acknowledged as a separate breed early in the 1970's. Slovensky Kopov is not very sturdy; it has a height range from 45-50 cm, and typically a black coat with brown to mahogany marks. The breed is extremely fierce; therefore it is used mainly for wild boars and vermin. It has a highly developed sense of orientation. Slovensky Kopov follows a fresh scent unwaveringly for several hours.

However, it is also good at tracing shot animals. Nevertheless, Slovensky Kopov is not a kennel dog. It works best when hunting individually. Despite its typically fierce character and temperament, Slovensky Kopov is a cuddly and friendly companion. Currently, the Slovensky Kopov is the highest-bred hound in Slovakia. On average, 300-400 puppies are registered annually. During the last ten years, there has been great international interest in this Slovak national breed, particularly from Germany, France, Austria, Sweden, Poland, and countries of the former Yugoslavia. A FDC includes a cachet showing a Slovensky Kopov harassing a group of wild boars (Fig. 20).



Fig. 22



Fig. 20

12. On May 15, 2007, the Ministry issued a 22 Sk stamp to commemorate 100 Years of the Slovak League of America (see the illustrations of this stamp, its FDC, and a special commemorative sheet in an article elsewhere in this issue). Slovak history in America is very long. In the territory of the present USA, Slovaks are sporadically recorded from the 17th century. Mass emigration to "America" started after 1880 as a result of unprecedented social and national oppression in the-then Hungary. By 1910, around 750,000 Slovaks had emigrated to the USA (almost 1/3 of the population). In the country's democratic conditions they very quickly achieved both civil and national emancipation and their brotherhood (fraternal) organizations quickly became concerned with the situation of Slovaks in their home country. In order to help their oppressed countrymen, on 26 May 1907 all Slovak brotherhood and cultural organizations in the USA were joined under an umbrella organization -- The Slovak League of America (SLA). This organization significantly influenced the history of the nation-liberating struggle of the Slovaks during World War I, becoming the voice of the oppressed nation both at home and abroad. The League's program of the creation of a constitutional state for Slovaks -- an equal union with Czechs in

one state was realized in 1918, also thanks to the support of funds and volunteers from the Czechoslovak Legions. After 1918, in particular after the program of Slovak autonomy within the Czechoslovak Republic was not actualized, the significance of the SLA diminished. However, the SLA continued its struggle to make the status of Slovaks equal. In 1970, the SLA was present at the establishment of a new umbrella organization for Slovaks in the free world -- the World Slovak Congress. At present, the SLA represents several fraternal organizations and continues to show keen interest in the life of its countrymen in the old home country. The stamp depicts an artistic interpretation of the original SLA logo which shows the motto: "For the Slovak Language". This stressed the Slovak resistance against the Magyarization policy of the Hungarian government as the principal tool of oppression of the Slovak nation. The white-blue-red stripes on the stamp represent the national colors of Slovaks, but also their new home of the USA. The first day cover of the issue features the portrait of one of the founders and first chairman of the SLA, Stefan Furdek, and includes the headings of the two most significant constitutional documents elaborated by the SLA -- the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Agreements. The anniversary stamp derives from the current SLA logo.

13. On June 30, 2007, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk stamp in the EUROPA series commemorating 100 Years of Scouting (Fig. 21). This August we will commemorate the centenary of the establishment of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Its founder, British General Robert S. S. Baden-Powell (1857-1941) drew his inspiration from the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa where young boys who were used to finding their way in the country were successfully



Fig. 21

used as scouts. After his return to the United Kingdom, Baden-Powell founded, in cooperation with Canadian writer and traveller E. Thompson-Seton, the movement focused on the young and their education, especially their relationship with nature. Also at present, scout groups mainly spend their time in the country, deal with nature conservation and pursue activities such as hiking, water rafting, etc. The first organization in the Czech Republic called Junák - Český Skaut (Czech Scout)



Fig. 22

was established in 1911 by founder A.B. Svojsík. Czech Scouts made their mark at the establishment of Czechoslovakia. At this time they operated a courier post for the newly-established state authorities in Prague. On this occasion, two courier stamps were issued, later with overprint, which represented the first scout stamps in the world (7 November 1918), i.e. before the Hradčany stamps. Scouting was banned by the totalitarian governments in Czechoslovakia in 1939, 1949, and 1971. It was re-established in 1990. Today, in its two organizations: WOSM -- for boy scouts and girl scouts, and WAGGGS -- for girl scouts only, world scouting unites more than 35 million global members (only Andorra and six countries with totalitarian regimes are not members).

The representatives meet every four years at a World Scout Jamboree. The stamp shows boy and girl scouts playing at a campsite in the evening. It was designed by Peter Uchnár and produced by Cartor in France using multicolored offset printing in sheetlets of 10 stamps. A FDC includes a cachet showing scouts making up the number 100 in honor of the Scout anniversary (Fig. 22).

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Prague's postal history. (Reviewed Mar/Apr 06)
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