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### President's Corner

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

I would like to welcome a couple of new members to the Board of our Society and to introduce them to you.

I asked John Pojeta to fill the position vacated by the resignation of long-time Board member Peter Kleskovic. John has been a member of our Society for many, many years -- his membership number is 847. He is especially interested in collecting Slovakia.

Following the recent death of Henry Hahn, I asked Susan Smyth-Tucker to fill the vacancy. Susan collects general Czechoslovakia. Her father was the second president of our Society!

After almost a year of work, the Society's library has been moved to a new home at the Baltimore Philatelic Society. The BPS owns a building on Calvert Street, which already houses the library of the German Philatelic Society. We all owe thanks to Rich Palaschak and especially his son (also Rich), Alan Hoover (who provided the truck and trailer for the move and drove it throughout the change in location) and his wife Annette, John Pojeta, and new member Bob Gibson -- all of whom did the work. By the way, once everything is set up, Bob will take on the duties as our new librarian. (Continued on Page 22)

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### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled.

 A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/Jun 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@mail.com

 A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: canclcek@mwt.net

A Society library is housed with Bob Gibson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying
past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Bob Gibson, 7646 3rd Avenue, Glen Burnie,
MD 21060, or e-mail: zdbob@aol.com.

An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the
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 Our web site (www.CSPhilately.org) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via e-mail, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, 1430 Brickell Bay Drive, #907, Miami, FL 33131, e-mail: MMGalitz@gmail.com.

### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

## THE EXTENDED ARCH TYPES ON THE FIFTH DESIGN 25h HRADČANY (2)

by Ladislav Olšina trans. by Mark Wilson

(Continued from the previous issue)

## Documentation

One may differentiate the arch types from the spiral and bar types not only by form and position, but also by where they occur. That is, arch types are found solely upon Plates I and II of the purple 25h denomination (with the single exception we shall discuss later), whereas the spiral and bar types are found in several of the Fifth Design denominations.

### Arch Types on Trial Prints and Printers' Waste

Proven occurrences of the arch types and subtypes are shown in the pictures and notes describing each stamp in the illustrated section that ends this paper; their locations and association with other types are shown collectively in Table I above [pg11, Jul/Aug issue]. As proof that the arch variations in the drawings was found on the plates before most of the printings of the purple 25h were released, we present some trial prints and printers' waste with arch types.

For example, an arch subtype IIa is found with a bar type II on an orange-colored trial print of position 72 from Plate I (Fig. 5).



In a horizontal pair of trial prints of Plate I positions 87 and 88 in the same color (Fig. 6), we find a lone arch type II in position 88, something that is unique on this entire plate. Both of these positions have type II spirals, subtype 'h' [see reference 1 for further details]; they are marked as trial prints by Gilbert.

For comparison, we should also look at this block of four from Plate I in the original color -- positions 87, 88, 97, and 98 (Fig. 7) -- where position 88 shows a lone arch type II. The following Figure 8 illustrates a corner block of printers' waste that contains these same plate positions, but also position 78 where one finds a type II arch with a bar subtype IIa.

A new documentation of the occurrence of arch types on printers' waste is found in a block of nine stamps containing positions 75-78, 85-88, and 95-98 from Plate II (Fig. 9) where a lone type II arch appears in position 76, and is one of merely three from Plate II.

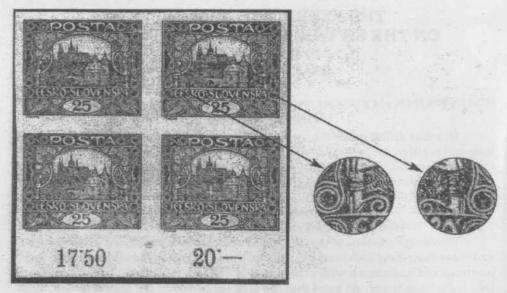
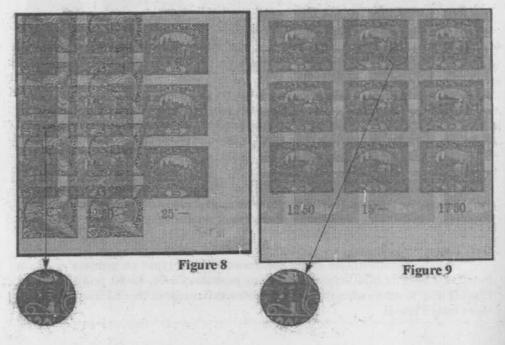
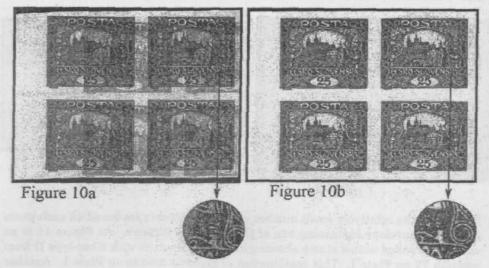


Figure 7

The influence of print quality on the distinctness of drawing details (including our tracking of the arch type II and subtype) is best shown by comparing the two blocks of four from Plate II of positions 21, 22, 31, and 32. In Figure 10a is printers' waste showing the details of position 22 quite well, while in Figure 10b, the typical





issue of this block of four, the details have been obscured by dirt (the lines ending the arch and frame are shorter). To complete the description of this block -- position 21 has a type II arch with a type II bar, position 22 has only the type II arch, position 31 has a type I spiral, and position 32 a bar type II. This combination appears nowhere else on pages printed from Plate II.

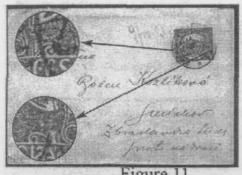
In this paper are presented illustrations and notes about every known instance of the arch variations from Plates I and II of the Fifth Design 25h. References [6] and [7] provided the illustrations and notes found in the last section of this paper, but I have appropriately augmented its text with information based upon my new finds [references 8, 9, 10, 13, 14]. I comment, it has not been my intent to replace the introduced plate position system descriptions [6, 7] or to infringe upon them; only to try to more accurately describe the plate positions having known arch types.

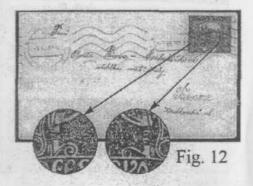
That is also why the notes given there for several positions have been enlarged with the new findings of arch types found alongside already described bar types. These concern positions 72, 78, 81, and 83 on Plate I and positions 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 21, and 49 on Plate II [see Table I].

The spiral types are neither discussed nor illustrated in the last section of the paper (positions 3, 12, and 13 on Plate I; positions 10, 27, 31, and 59 on Plate II) nor are the remaining positions that contain only inner frame types (positions 2, 29, 50, 63, 68, 73, 74, 75, 82, and 86 on Plate I and positions 1, 3, 4, 5, 32, 40, 52, 56, 62, and 64 on Plate II), which have already been described in other publications [see references 7, 11, 12]. I believe that in the future issues of these widely used publications the authors will carefully consider the inclusion of the newly presented arch types found on Plates I and II of the Fifth Design 25h stamps that will create a coherent picture using all of the information published to date.

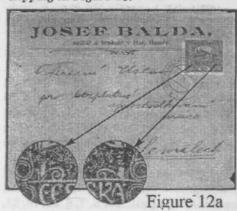
## Arch Types and Subtypes on Entires (Covers and Dispatch Clippings)

That stamps with the arch types and subtypes were readily used for postal purposes is borne out by their being found on envelopes and dispatch clippings.





Because of the relatively small number of types and subtypes found on each pane, finding an envelope containing one of them is quite difficult. At Figure 11 is an envelope franked with a stamp showing a subtype IIa arch with a bar type II from position 72 on Plate I. This combination of types is unique on Plate I. Another example of this position and type combination stamp is shown on the dispatch clipping in Figure 13.

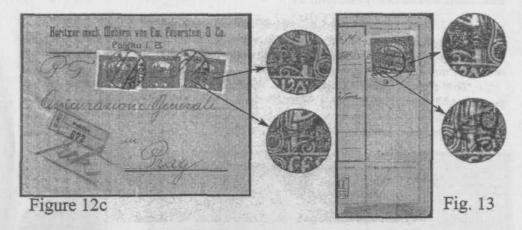




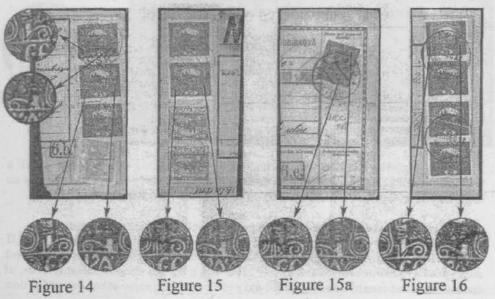
Position 78 from Plate I is shown in Figure 12, which contains a type II arch combined with a bar subtype IIa. This type combination is also unique on Plate I.

Quite interesting is the business envelope shown in Figure 12a. On it is the stamp from position 23 on Plate II, which has a type II arch without any inner frame type. This position is one of merely three from Piate II, which is why it is found only rarely on covers. In addition, in this case position 76 of Plate II, which occurs only with arch types, is on the letter in Figure 12b. And for the same reason as with the previous one, it is rarely found on cover.

On the registered business letter illustrated in Figure 12c is an example (besides the other stamps) of position 88 from Plate I which is the only stamp from that plate that has an arch type II uncoupled from a bar type II or subtype. And again, this is only rarely found on cover.



On the entires illustrated in Figures 11, 12, 12a, 12b, 12c, and 17 are illustrated every combination of the arch II types/subtypes with the respective bar types/subtypes that occur on the individual Plates I and II, including a lone arch type II.



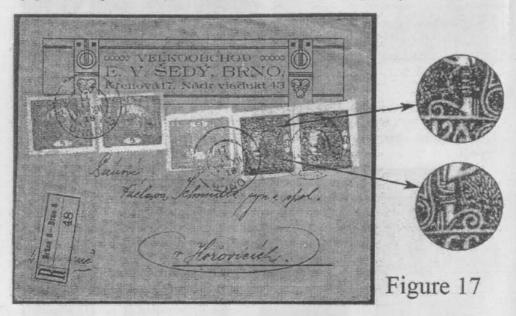
The dispatch clipping in Figure 14 is franked with a strip of three stamps from positions 78, 88, and 98 of Plate I, where position 78 has an arch type II together with a bar subtype IIa while position 88 has a lone arch type II. This combination is likewise unique to panes printed from Plate I.

The dispatch clipping in Figure 15 is franked with a strip of two stamps from positions 39 and 49 of Plate II, where position 49 has an arch type II combined with

a bar type II, but the arch type has less prominence in the effect caused by printing.

The same position 49 of Plate II is also shown on Figure 15a, but here the stamp is in fact printed in better quality such that it clearly shows the right lower arch and inner frame.

The strip of four stamps on the dispatch clipping shown in Figure 16 is positions 22, 32, 42, and 52 from Plate II where position 22 has only an arch type II while positions 32 and 52 each contain a bar type II. Of interest is the diagonal paper fold on position 42, which is not found that often on postally used items.



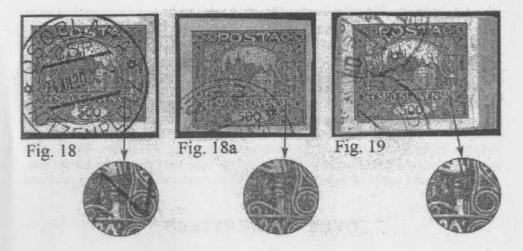
The registered letter in Figure 17 is franked, among other stamps, with a vertical pair of 25h stamps from positions 21 and 31 on Plate II. Position 21 has an arch type II with a bar type II, and position 31 has a type I spiral.

### The Extended Arch Subtype on the 500h Denomination

Occurrences of the arch types and subtypes are limited to only Plates I and II of the Fifth Design 25h purple Hradčany stamps; until now, the arch types and subtypes have never been found on the other Fifth Design denominations. This, of course, does not mean that they could not yet be found on some other denomination or plate.

For the time being, a stamp from position 2, Plate II, of the 500h issue constitutes the only exception. On it we find the presence of an arch subtype IIa and a bar type II (Fig. 18). In the illustration we can see that the right end of the arch nearly touches the lower inner frame and was retouched in this area.

In Figure 18a is another stamp originating also from position 2 of Plate II, with an arch subtype IIa, but only with a negligible difference from the usual form of the type II (the arch practically touches the lower inner frame).



In Figure 19 is yet another 500h stamp from position 2 of Plate II, from a parcel post clipping which is marked with a Karásek expert's mark with a bar type indication. Also on this stamp is clearly visible that it has an arch subtype IIa; also from this illustration it is evident that the area of the lower right corner near the 9<sup>th</sup> spiral has been retouched.

(To be continued)

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### THE O.J. SIMPSON OF CZECH PHILATELY

by Savoy Horvath Ludvik Z. Svoboda trans. by Radek Lapusnik

In the May (5/2007) issue of *Filatelie* there appeared a column by their editorial staff entitled Nad Vašimi Dopisy (loosely translated as Over Your Letters) focusing on authenticity of postage stamps.

While the beginning of the column discussed the emphasis being placed on the new esoteric world of perforation hole sizes/characteristics/distributions (more and more is appearing in the Czech philatelic press on this area lately), the majority of the column focused on the news associated with two Czech philatelic personna, Ludvík Pytliček and Radovan Krejčíř.

The former was once a member of our Society -- he joined both us and APS in December 1985. However, approximately two years later he sold a cover to one of our members which was subsequently identified by Czech philatelic authorities as a forgery, BUT refused to give our member his money back in exchange for the return of the cover. As a result the following year the Society Board voted to expel L. Pytliček from our Society (subsequently he was also expelled from the APS). Meanwhile, Pytliček tours the international philatelic circuit claiming he has the

greatest Czechoslovak collection (he does have some of the greatest rarities), goes around expertizing and attesting philatelic material, and THEN, (as you will see in the translated column below) stated during his trial for selling forgeries that he just does not know that much about stamps/was not aware they were forgeries -- AND THE COURT BOUGHT IT!

The second individual (to our knowledge) has not yet had any dealings with our members, but should be a person of interest to all collectors of Czechoslovak philately. Krejčíř was recently arrested in South Africa (on pending embezzlement charges). He also has a huge Czechoslovak collection with many more forgeries then Pytliček especially in the first Republic overprints and Hradčany. His wife is handling the sales of his various collections since they need money for his defense.

The world needs to watch out for more Czechoslovak forgeries, so read and heed!

### OVER YOUR LETTERS

Dear readers:

Recently we have again witnessed a few cases related to the authenticity of postage stamps and associated philatelic materials. Many of you sent us your reaction to these via e-mails and letters. We want to thank you for all your responses, and we promise that we will continue to address questions of authenticity in the future.

We have written about one case -- the 15h Hradčany with mixed perforations -- in today's expert column, and we mention it here because in addition to the expert's opinion it also contributed to concrete advances in the knowledge of the experts. The issue of the size of the perforation openings prompted some members of the Committee of Experts of the SCF to study additional perforation situations within which were then discovered so-far unpublished differences. F. Beneš and M. Trojan are preparing an article for the next issue concerning this topic, but already today you can acquaint yourself with the first result -- the new PofisEtalon, specializing (among other things) on the perforations of the CSR I stamps and the size of their openings. The actual differences are so remarkable that they will without a doubt become a new field of specialized collecting. At the same time it is possible to expect that some variations are significantly rarer than others, which will, with time, manifest itself even in the catalog listings. It would therefore be prudent to be interested in this issue from the beginning while the stamps are still easily available. Anyway, as experience tells us: "The most valuable commodity is information!"

The first workshop that we organized jointly with the Committee of Experts of the SČF was a big success. In addition to the scheduled program, to-date unpublished forgeries were shown and approaches that led to their revelation were demonstrated to the participants. We had so many topics that not all of them were presented, and thus we are already playing with the idea of organizing the next such workshop. We would like to concentrate at that meeting on the very current issues of the difference in the sizes of the perforation openings on our stamps (whether as a consequence of the different needles being used or randomness during the

perforation process) and the identification of repaired and counterfeited gums and of genuine and counterfeited overprints on our stamps, including distinguishing their origin (in sheets, by printing, and incurred by the pressure of the perforation device). However, we are open to any other topics, and we welcome your thoughts (please write) on what would most interest you to be covered at such a workshop.

Substantial help, and even more importantly, the most popular help for collectors is the cost-free counseling of the Committee of Experts of the SČF. It is of course intended mainly for members of the Philatelic Society, but other interested people can use it -- which is happening more and more often. For example, at the recent National Exhibition of Postage Stamps in Hradec Králové, the presiding experts P. Aksamit, F. Beneš, and J. Maleček were contacted by a few dozen visitors, some of whom presented relatively interesting items (e.g. as yet undocumented counterfeits of Sudeten overprints and cancels from 1938, or relatively good counterfeits of the Hradčany perforations). At this time, where one has to pay for almost everything, cost-free and immediate advice and specific help of experts acts as one of the good reasons to become a member of the SČF and to be able to use its services.

The news media reported that at a Brno court, Ludvik Pytliček, was acquitted of charges of fraud in connection with the sale of forgeries. This is excellent news for all forgery sellers and very bad news for their victims. So as not to confuse you -- it was confirmed at the court that all three covers for whose sale L. Pytliček was charged were indeed counterfeit -- and even the defendant did not deny this -- rather, they failed to prove that he knew about it. This conclusion should not have surprised any visitors to the trial, who with their own ears could hear one of the major witnesses -- who had purchased a counterfeit packet clipping bearing an airmail stamp in the Klim auction -- testify that he returned it immediately "because it somehow displeased him, but definitely not for the reason that he had detected that it was a forgery". This is an obvious untruth as this collector was at the time in no way secretive that he returned the clipping because he immediately recognized it as a forgery repeatedly described in Filatelie by expert Ing. A. Tekel. It is of course a question why this witness testified as he did and thus greatly helped the people who had swindled him before (it might even deserve a small sociological study). Tantalizingly, in this case, divine retribution marched forward very quickly -- it was shown literally immediately after the trial that at the same auction this person bought another dispatch-note clipping for about 80,000 Czech crowns (this time with a 30h Hradčany stamp bearing a Janské Lázně cancel) which is most likely also a forgery (it is one of three dispatch-notes which this auction firm sold, and whose authenticity is now to a great extent doubtful -- by the way, we wrote about one of the dispatch-notes in the last issue). At any rate, his testimony supported the version of L. Pytliček that the clipping was returned to him as unsold, and he offered it in good faith to another firm. At the same time, anyone who was a little bit interested in this matter certainly noted that L. Pytliček originally exchanged this clipping with a collector, Mr. Ševeček, for a super-valuable "narrow Flugpost" from the PC 1919 issues (whose value is now about a half million Czech crowns, but was also sold in auctions for remarkably more). Then according

to his own words, he purchased it back from him [Ševeček] for 30,000 Czech crowns (before 1989!), to then finally sell it for 10,000 Czech crowns in the Klim auction, and following a complaint involving a reckoning sold it for not quite 5,000 Czech crowns in a Feldman auction. Well, as Mr. Pytliček himself said on TV: "I lost my confidence in it -- should I then keep it . . .?" In the case of the remaining two forgeries, airmail letters, which were bought in the Dresden auction by MUDr. B. Schneider, L. Pytliček was successful by claiming that they were not his, and that he was only acting as an intermediary for the sale to one old gentlemen (who meanwhile died and about whom -- incidentally -- the police found out that nobody in this hometown had heard about him being a philatelist). It was further shown at court that, on the one hand, Mr. Pytliček admittedly has -- in his own words -- "the best collection of CSR I stamps in the world", is an expert witness for stamp appraisals, and even made out photo certificates for the authenticity of stamps using a counterfeit expert rubberstamp; but, on the other hand -- as he himself said -- he does not know that much about stamps, so that he does not know how to identify even primitive and long-documented forgeries. What is the lesson to be learned here? You can sell forgeries, but you have to pretend that you do not understand the field, and if you do not want to return the money, you should not confess that the stamps were yours . . ..

And it will get worse. The news of the month is that Radovan Krejčíř was arrested in the Republic of South Africa. His story is sufficiently known to the public. Nevertheless, it is less known that he is a large investor in postage stamps of our first republic and that he has in recent years stood behind many large purchases in domestic stores and auctions. According to unverified estimates, he thus spent perhaps tens of millions of crowns during which aside from really valuable items he bought many forgeries to the detriment of collectors -- for which he paid prices as if they were authentic. Based on the media news, he has financial problems, and also in philatelic quarters it is rumored that his mother -- wife of the disappeared Ing. Lambert Krejčíř, who carried out many of the purchases -- is considering clearance sales of the collection. If this will happen, it will be necessary to be very careful because there will appear on the market many dangerous forgeries, mainly in the Czechoslovak Post 1919 issues -- these had been used by unreliable suppliers to swindle R. Krejčíř. They, meanwhile, in view of Krejčíř's known reputation did not think twice during their contemplations that he would want his money back from them . . ..

In conclusion, we have a case of unauthorized reprints of four denominations of Hradčany that we reported on in the March issue of Filatelie. They were made out of printer's blocks used to print postal stationery that got in private hands, and now they are owned by a known Slovak expert who should even offer them for sale. If this is all true -- and we have no reason to believe that it is not -- then this is unbelievable and scandalous even from the perspective of the international scale. Therefore, the chair of the experts of SČF sent to this Slovak expert a polite letter with a request to confirm or deny the given facts. This person however in his response did not comment on these issues, and he is mainly interested in who pointed out the entire issue. Because he is one of the leading representatives of the Society of Slovak Philatelists, the leadership of the Committee

of Experts of SČF recommended to hand over the case to ZSF with a request for an explanation. The chair of our society therefore wrote to the chair of ZSF a brief letter with a description of all circumstances and attached all supporting documents. We will inform you about the results no matter what they will be.

And this is all that we have for today. Have a great time, and we will see you in a month.

**Editorial Office** 

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article from the 5/2007 issue of Filatelie, with the permission of the editor.]

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## HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ 2007

by Karel Holoubek trans. by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

[Ed.Note: Karel Holoubek is a life long resident of Hradec Králové and was the lead organizer of the Hradec Králové National Stamp Show. He has been active in philately since his youth with collecting interests in USA and Czechoslovakia (where he specializes in the Revolutionary or Liberation Issues of 1944-1945 ČSR). Karel is the author of three catalogs on the Liberation issues, and the SCP/UK will soon publish his newest catalog in printed and CD format. He is also the editor of Zpravodaj -- a publication of the eastern Czech philatelic union -- and is a past board member of SČF.]

In the month of April in the Museum in Hradec Králové was held the National Exhibition of Postage Stamps. In this way the city's philatelists were recalling a similar event, the First Czechoslovak Exhibition, which was held more than 85 years earlier in the same building of the museum. Precisely as then, today's exhibition was special in its way. Back then the grandparents of today's city residents assisted in the establishment of the national organization that united the philatelists of Bohemia and Moravia, and today at the Hradec Králové exhibition got together the postal services of both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Then under the patronage of the Hradec Králové philatelists both sides of today's divided Czechoslovakia shook hands.

A surprise for the exhibition visitors was a Slovak envelope bearing the motif of the Hradec Králové spires and the name of the exhibition (Fig. 1) which they could have postmarked with a special cancel having the same text and motif [as the Czech one]. Visitors to the exhibition bought up all of these covers, thus this appealing Slovak Post initiative will be a valuable decoration to a collection.

At the exhibition were gathered together 59 large and 32 single-frame adult exhibits and 16 youth exhibits. When we look at the themes of the exhibits, Czechoslovak material predominated in all three classes. The exhibits from the period of the Protectorate were interesting also, and there were ten thematic exhibits. The quality of the exhibits is demonstrated by the fact that 85 medals were

awarded among which were 5 large gold and 12 gold medals. Altogether there were 43 gold-plated awards. The gold awards even included the youth class. Also distributed were 13 specialty awards which were presented by representatives of cities and regions which were patrons of the exhibition.

Let's take a look at the exhibition from another perspective, perhaps at the age of the exhibitors -- the oldest was 90 years old and the youngest only ten. Precisely in a similar way the oldest philatelic material (I am not speaking of the postal history class) were the Austrian jubilee stamps or the stamps of Great Britain, Hungary, and Bosnia/Hercegovina, while the newest material was the APOST labels from the present day operations of the Czech Post. For assistance with the exhibits to be displayed we also looked to foreign countries -- like to the European Union, the Indian subcontinent, and even into outer space.

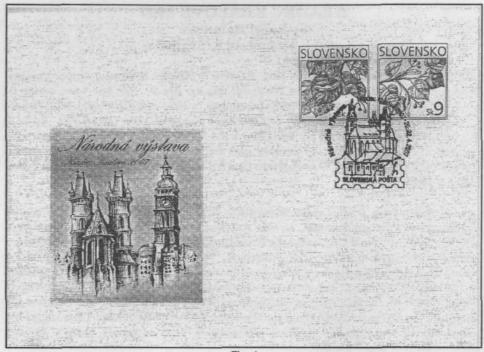


Fig. 1

The exhibition program was accompanied by an exchange bourse. The Czech Post was represented not only with an exhibition counter providing special cancels and registry labels, but there they also sold two special exhibition postal cards, and several kinds of printing sheets of stamps with exhibition surcharges on coupons; but there was also a workstation for producing surcharges on coupons based upon the desires of customers. Also admired was the exposition by the Prague Postal Museum -- one part was dedicated to the designers of stamps which had a relationship with or coming from Hradec Králové, and another part showed historical documents, again with the same focus. This kind of activity is not

normally found at postal exhibits. A youth postal system was also in operation which offered its own postcards and cachets. Visitors could get a free commemorative sheet upon which they could have pasted 15 crowns of stamps having images of jewels from the depository at the Hradec Králové museum -- the jewels were exhibited at the exhibition. Thus the visitors could compare the originals with the images on the stamps. An enclosure to the exhibition catalog was a multicolored "blackprint" which not only commemorated the Hradec Králové exhibition but also announced the upcoming PRAGA 2008 [see Fig. 2, pg 28, Jul/Aug issue]. Twice during the course of the exhibit, artists -- creators of Czech stamps -signed autographs. Another item of interest, which is not normal at philatelic exhibitions, was a survey for the visitors. In it they voted on which exhibit appealed to them the most, without a view to the professional assessment of the exhibit jury. With the visitors the exhibit "Revenue Stamps of the Indian States" won by a large margin. They were exotic not only for the motifs used but also for their unusual format. Among relevant awards made at the exhibition was also one earmarked for this spectator evaluated exhibit.

The organizers of the exhibition could not complain about the attendance. It is estimated that during the four days about 5,000 interested people came. In conclusion we can say that the exhibition was successful from all perspectives and that the group, which devoted a great deal of time to its preparation, can be satisfied with the outcome.

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## Philatelic News and Views

1. From Washington Post, Patricia Sullivan:

-- Henry Hahn, Engineer

Henry Hahn, 79, an engineer who ran a research laboratory at Melpar, died of a heart attack June 7 at his home in Fairfax.

Mr. Hahn was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia. He and his family escaped their Nazi-occupied homeland, arriving in New York in 1947. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received a master's degree in metallurgical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1953, and did postgraduate work at Columbia University.

He was a chief project engineer in development metallurgy at Curtiss-Wright, working on aircraft and missile design and propulsion systems. In 1963, Mr. Hahn moved to Northern Virginia to work at Melpar, at the time a division of Westinghouse Airbrake.

In addition to performing basic and applied research, he patented and developed the Irreversible Warm Up Indicator for frozen foods and NASA astronaut foods. His patent for a porous coating for implants has been used throughout the world in hip, knee, joint and dental implants.

He retired in 1995.

Mr. Hahn wrote more than 30 professional papers and held seven patents in composites, coatings and implants. He was an expert witness in areas of failure

analysis, patent infringement and product liability. He was a member of the American Society for Metals, the American Society for Testing Materials, the American Welding Society and the International Standards Organization.

He also served as a volunteer adviser on aircraft restoration at the Paul E. Garver restoration facility of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Mr. Hahn was an editor, exhibitor and judge of stamp exhibits and was internationally recognized as an expert in Czechoslovak philately. He was also a member of the Czech Torah Network, which, after retrieving Hebrew Torahs that had been confiscated by the Nazis, restored and distributed them to congregations throughout the world. Mr. Hahn was a member of the American Society for Czechoslovakia and recently published a postal history of Telč in the Czech Republic.

He was instrumental in bringing the "Neighbors Who Disappeared" exhibit (a project by non-Jewish schoolchildren in the Czech Republic documenting those lost in the Holocaust) from the Czech Republic to the United States for a national tour.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Marilyn Hahn of Fairfax; two children, Anita C. Thornton of Leesburg and Jeffrey S. Hahn of West Chester, Pa.; and three grandchildren.

## 2. From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- Imagine my surprise when I opened up my Sunday, July 29, 2007 issue of the Denver Post newspaper and discovered this image (Fig. 1). I spent some time trying to figure out which set of stamps this particular one must belong to. The general artistic layout and quality of image made it appear to be a product of the late 1950's. But there was one aspect of it which immediately made me suspect -- the denomination field did not specify a monetary unit (it would appear that there should have been an "h" after the "30" to signify 30 heller -- which would correspond to the revalued currency after the June 1953 currency reform).

I sent an inquiry to the Denver Post E and received the following response:

CESKOSLOVENSKO

30 PHA

Fig. 1

"Sorry to mislead you, but the stamp doesn't exist. I collaged the Czech stamp background with the musician art in the center. I was trying to show a group of musicians who could play together yet be in different locations.

### Jeff Neumann"

This image was one of three -- the other two stamps were from two other European countries (and were probably also fake) -- that were part of the lead-in to an article entitled "Musical Postings" which discussed the new concept of musicians playing/recording music when they are not physically co-located, but might in fact be 100's or 1,000's of miles apart.

## A VISIT TO KEŽMAROK

by Gerald van Zanten

A panoramic view of the town of Kežmarok (around 17,500 inhabitants) is shown in Figure 1. It has a medieval town-center, now a conservation area.

As a tourist center it is a good base for excursions into the High Tatra mountains and the Spišska Magura, situated at altitudes averaging 625 meters. It is northwest of Levoča in Eastern Slovakia in the valley of the Poprad river on the northern edge of the Spiš basin.



Fig. 1

Kežmarok was founded in the 12th century during the Saxon colonization of the Spiš region. The town's coat of arms (Fig. 2) was originated in the 15th century and was chartered by Matthias Corvinus in 1463. The heraldic design adopted shows two sabres -- crossed at an angle, a gold crown and red rose on a field of blue with red and white bars below.

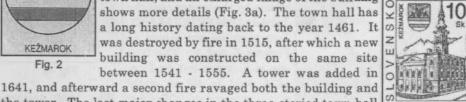
In its long history the town had several names:

Latin: Caesareoforum and Kesmarkinum

German: Käsmark Késmárk Hungarian:

A stamp issued on May 6, 2000, (Fig. 3) depicts the majestic

town hall, and an enlarged image of the building shows more details (Fig. 3a). The town hall has a long history dating back to the year 1461. It was destroyed by fire in 1515, after which a new building was constructed on the same site between 1541 - 1555. A tower was added in



the tower. The last major changes in the three-storied town hall

took place after yet another fire in 1922.

KEŽMAROK

Fig. 2



Fig. 3a

SLOVENSKO

A portion of the late Gothic window on the south facade has been preserved as well as the original Renaissance portal crowned with a coat of arms; on the east side it is possible to see portions of the Gothic and Renaissance windows.

A FDC cachet (Fig. 4) depicts the Thököly castle wall (detail) which was topped off with a crenelated parapet which was in fashion at that time. The name Thököly came about in the year 1583 when the Thököly family became the owner. Over the years the castle was used for many activities, but in 1985 after a general restoration it



Fig. 4

became a museum. The cancellation for the FDC of the above stamp depicts the Renaissance belfry in the foreground and

the Holy Cross basilica 1444-1498 (Fig. 5). The main altar in the church dates from 1500, and the Stations of the Cross sculptures were created in the workshop of Master Paul of Levoča.



A 27Sk stamp that was issued on 19 May 2006 depicts a belfry that was built

between 1586 and 1591 (Fig. 6)(the cancel is a rose from the coat of arms of the town). It is a typical Spiš-style bell-tower erected by a local master builder V. Materer. More details of the belfry can be seen in Figure 6a where it is seen from the outside. The cachet of a FDC depicts a detail of a botanic ornament associated with the belfry (Fig. 6b).





Fig. 6a

Let us now explore some further interesting things around the town. A visit to the above mentioned museum includes seeing samples of shooting targets on display there. These were the subject of a previous article by the writer (see the Jul/Aug 1996 SPECIALIST). Two samples are shown as Figures 7 and 8. The first one is a cyclist dating from

Fig. 6b 1873, and is oil on metal plate measuring 109x63cm. The 1850 designed highwheeled bicycle appeared 20 years later in Kežmarok. The text partially reads: "The cyclist has overtaken a horse carriage, with the coach driver behind and angry at the new invention." The other target commemorates the brewery owner Winzer Meese. Here the text partially reads: "Brothers! For this festive banquet, the good God has united us, lets forget all our worries, and join in a drink with a well meaning friend." Well worth a visit?

Let us now meet one of the town's famous sons. Who else but --Pavel Josef Šafařík (1795-1861), the

Slovak scholar who became one of the





Fig. 7

Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

greatest Slavists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A stamp was issued for him on May 12, 1955, as one of a set of 7 on cultural anniversaries (Fig. 9). Šafařík studied philology, philosophy, history, natural sciences, mathematics, and astronomy at Jena (1815-17). He left there as an ardent Slav patriot and an enthusiastic proponent of Slavic reciprocity. Returning home, in 1819 he was appointed professor and director of the Orthodox gymnasium at Novi Sad. He studied Serbian literature and published a series of works on it that remained the standard work of its kind for fifty years. This work had a great influence on the development of Slavic studies among the Russians, Poles, and southern Slavs. In 1833 he moved to Prague where for the next about 20 years he published a number of important works.

Another person of note from Kežmarok was Martin Kukučin (1860-1928). He also was the subject of a stamp, issued on February 28, 1953 (Fig. 10). He was a prose writer as well as a playwright — the author of many stories and sketches describing village life. He founded the tradition of Slovak village novels, having enriched Slovak literature in terms of genre, language and stylistics. During the period of Magyarization in the middle of the 19th century he gave up publication as hopeless and went in voluntary exile, first in Dalmatia, than to South America — only to return to his country and resume literary efforts after an interval of a quarter of a century.

I hope that I have thrown some light on this beautiful city of the Slovak Republic.

[On May 13, 1995, an envelope was issued to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Šafařík's birth. It was described in the Nov/Dec 1995 SPECIALIST, but by some mistake it was noted as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Enclosed is a copy of the cachet (Fig.

## AM I CZECH OR CZECHOSLOVAK?

by Karl Ruzicka

Back in September 1991, the then Czechoslovak Republic issued a 10Kčs stamp, featuring Father Andrej Hlinka (Sc 2836, Fig. 1). This puzzled me, since Hlinka -- in the 1930's -- was a controversial figure in the Republic -- but a national hero in Slovakia. I made a mental note to myself and now in retirement, decided to look further into this.



Fig. 2

On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Since Vaclav Havel (Sc 2777, Fig. 2) -- then the president of Czechoslovakia -- tried his



very best to keep the Republic together, I believe that Hlinka stamp was but one of many attempts to preserve the Republic.

To get to the root of all of this, we must go back in history and start with the Great Moravian Empire, which lasted most of the 9<sup>th</sup> century and came to an end in 906. It consisted of what is now Moravia, Slovakia, and the northern portions of Austria and Hungary. There are two noteworthy occurrences during this period.



Fig. 3

One was the invitation by Prince Rastislav to Christian missionaries to come and preach in the Slavonic language. And so, in 835, came Sts. Cyril and Methodius who translated into Slavonic the Septuagint Greek version of the Old Testament (Czechoslovakia, Sc 209-211, Fig. 3).

The other occurred when, on his deathbed, King Svatopluk

(Slovakia, Sc 98, Fig. 4) implored his sons not to fight each other in order to keep the empire

together. He gave them a bundle of sticks bound together and asked them to break it. None could. He then took the bundle apart and asked them to break the individual sticks -- which they could easily. Unfortunately this allegory did not impress his sons. One of them asked the Magyars to help him against the others. The Magyars came, helped, and stayed. Thus, what is now Slovakia, became part of Hungary. Its name became "Upper Hungary" under the Hungarian rule. This was the only time when the Czech and Slovak people were together until



Fig. 4

1918. For one thousand years the Slovaks were under Hungarian domination.

How did the Slovaks survive as a nation for 1000 years under Hungarian occupation? The answer lies in the Slovak nationalist Štúr's saying "The Slovak language is our life" (Slovakia, B17, Fig. 5).

Moravia became, in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, a part of Bohemia -nobody knows exactly how and when, and thus a part of the "Czech lands".



Fig. 5





The Czechs came to what is now Bohemia in the 6th century (the Romans, when first coming there, met up with a Celtic tribe called the Bohems -- since then Bohemia). Then under the Czech Přemysl dynasty it became the Kingdom of Bohemia. When the dynasty died without an heir, the Bohemian noblemen first elected Luxembourgs and then in 1620 Hapsburgs to

Fig. 6 become kings of Bohemia. Some of the stamps commemorating this era are St. Wenceslas (Czechoslovakia, Sc 159-60, Fig. 6), Hussites (Czechoslovakia, Sc 74-5, Fig. 7), Luxembourgs (Czech Republic, Sc 2982, Fig. 8) and

Rudolf II (Czech Republic, Sc 3015, Fig. 9).





Fig. 8

attempt to Germanize Bohemia.

Such attempts were fought by Czech patriots, examples being: Tyrš -- founder of the Sokol organization (Czechoslovakia, Sc 187, Fig. 10), poet Macha (Czechoslovakia, Sc 2130, Fig. 11),

František Palacký (Czechoslovakia, Sc 355, Fig. 12), and many others. Of course, there were always the famous composers Smetana and Dvořák (Czechoslovakia, Sc 194/199, Fig. 13/14).



Fig. 11



Altogether, the Czechs did not have it as

tough as the Slovaks -- 300 years of Hapsburg control versus 1,000 years of Hungarian domination.

That brings us now to the end of WW I when

Czechoslovakia was born. Because of the efforts of Czech nationalist T.G. Masaryk (who became the first president), US president Woodrow Wilson included the freedom of the









Fig. 14

Czech/Slovak people as point #14 of his declaration. The leader of the Slovak people was Gen. Milan Štefánik, who agreed that Slovakia should become an autonomous part of Czechoslovakia. Thrown into the pot was a region called "Carpatho-Ruthenia" -- then a part of Hungary. This region was never before associated with the

Czech or Slovak people. But, it was a part of Hungary, and the victors had to do something with it.

What happened in 1938-39 was a precursor of 1993. One of the last stamps of the first Czechoslovakia was the stamp of Masaryk with a hyphen -- Czecho-Slovakia (Sc 246, Fig. 15). A similarly hyphenated stamp with Andrei Hlinka was produced --





Fig. 16

but never used -- except with the overprint "SLOVENSKÝ ŠTÁT" (Slovakia, Sc 24, Fig. 16).

Thus, we have two peoples -- Czechs and Slovaks -- brothers Slavonic -- but separated by history and culture. As Mark Twain said "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet".

When I first came to the USA, I was asked: "Who are you?" I proudly answered: "I am a Czechoslovak". After learning the history -- I now say "I am a Czech" -- even though, at times, I am tempted to say "I am a Moravian" -- even Wallachian (a region in Moravia called "Valášsko").

Now, I am American of Czech heritage.

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## President's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

Once the library is shelved and indexed, it will be open for your use. Rich Palaschak and John Pojeta have volunteered to help with the unpacking and shelving. Tim Ryan has volunteered to help with the indexing.

In addition to the library, the team also moved the collection of unbound copies of the SPECIALIST. Most of the copies are recent issues, however there are a few older ones. This collection needs to be reduced. Prior to any decision on how we dispose of the excess, there will be a one-time offer to members of the Society to purchase back issues.

Your Society's next meeting and exhibition is almost here. CHICAGOPEX will take place 16-18 November at the Sheraton Arlington Heights Hotel near Chicago, Illinois. Since I least mentioned the show in the May/June issue of the SPECIALIST, a few plans have changed. Mr. Vít Vanícek will not be able to present the Society's lecture. Hans van Dooremalen, a member of our Society who lives in the Netherlands, has graciously agreed to present the lecture. His subject is the postal history of Brno, based on his award-winning exhibit.

One of the issues that will certainly be discussed at our Board meeting at CHICAGOPEX is the recent postal rate increases and changes to methods of mailing that have impacted us. While the changes seem to have impacted our outside-USA members the most, we will have to look at all the changes carefully.

I hope to see many of you at CHICAGOPEX. Be sure to visit the Society's table and introduce yourself.

Tom Cossaboom

## Refresher Course

# STAMP TERMINOLOGY: SHEETS, PANES, SOUVENIR SHEETS AND MINIATURE SHEETS

by Rick Miller

One of the most misunderstood and misused terms in stamp collecting is "sheet of stamps".

In common parlance, what collectors and noncollectors alike often refer to as a sheet of stamps is in fact a pane of stamps.

The sheet is the complete printing unit of stamps as it comes off the press, either as a sheet or part of a long roll called a web.

Sheets usually comprise two to 12 (or more) panes. Panes are the units into which sheets are divided before delivery to the post office for sale. Many recent United States commemorative stamps, for example, have been produced in 240 stamp sheets that were divided into 12 panes of 20 stamps each.

The U.S. Postal Service (and its predecessor the U.S. Post Office Department) have occasionally sold full uncut sheets of stamps to the public. A sheet of 180 1997 U.S. 32¢ Classic Movie Monsters stamps (Scott 3168-72) is shown in Figure 1. Notice that there are nine panes of 20 stamps each in the sheet.

Souvenir sheets have been issued by most countries. They usually have a wide margin or a lot of selvage with an inscription describing the event, person or thing



Fig. 1

being commemorated. Souvenir sheets can have a single stamp or up to 25 stamps or more. The stamps in a souvenir sheet might be available in other formats, such as panes or booklets, or they might be available only in the souvenir sheet.

What distinguishes a souvenir sheet from a pane is that, although the stamps are postally valid, the postal authority that issued it generally intended it to be saved as a souvenir, rather than to be used for postage.

The first U.S. souvenir sheet was the International Philatelic Exhibition souvenir sheet of 25 (Scott 630), issued Oct. 18, 1926. The sheet contains 25 2¢ Battle of White Plains stamps. Identical 2¢ Battle of White Plains stamps

(Scott 629) were also sold in panes of 100.

A Latvian 2006 100-santims Raunu Railroad Bridge souvenir sheet (Scott 644) is shown in Figure 2. Unlike the U.S. International Philatelic Exhibition souvenir sheet of 1926, this Latvian souvenir sheet contains only a single stamp that was not sold in any other format.

"Miniature sheet" is also a term that suffers from imprecise usage by many dealers and collectors.

A miniature sheet is a smallerthan-normal pane of stamps issued in that form in addition to being issued in full panes. The smaller size and fewer stamps are what distinguishes it from a regular pane.

A miniature sheet is usually without marginal markings or text saying that the sheet was issued in conjunction with or to commemorate some event, which is what distinguishes it from a souvenir sheet.

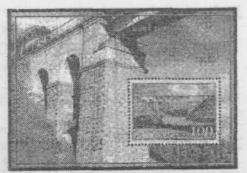


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

A 1957 New Zealand 3-penny+1d Children Playing and Boy in Canoe Health semipostal miniature sheet of six stamps is shown in Figure 3.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article from Linn's Stamp News, April 30, 2007.]

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## Letters to the Editor

### 1. Dear Lou:

I wanted to make some comments and add some information to that given in the July/August 2007 issue, pg 37, \$7, about the Slovak stamp on the town of Modra.

We passed through Modra on September 13, 1984, on our way to Pieštany. It is 29km N/E of Bratislava.

Human activity around Modra dates back to 3000BC -bronze objects were discovered in the surroundings.

Modra was permanently settled in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The economy of Modra was based on highly successful grape growing and wine making, which had already



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

been well developed by the 13th century. The town was granted town privileges in 1361.

In 1702, Modra was set on fire by the Emperor's soldiers and two thirds of the town burnt down. Another fire destroyed the town in 1705.

Modra was walled between 1610 and 1646, the Upper Gatehouse has survived, and is shown on our stamp (Fig. 1) as well as on an early postcard (Fig. 2). Figure 3 shows a view of the town from the south.

In the Dolná Ulice (lower street), we find the Ľudovit Štúr Museum, a monument to Štúr (1815-1856) is situated in the square. It was made of white marble, and executed by F. Motoska in 1938. He was a leading Slovak poet, writer and politician.

The Coat of Arms of the town depicts grapes and red and white bands (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Its population is around 9,000. Its famous pottery, Modra majolica, is shown as Figure 5.

This information came from the book "Slovakia walking through centuries of cities and towns".

Hope this will assist you and our readers in better understanding Modra.

Gerald van Zanten



Fig. 5

2. Good afternoon Lou from wet Wombourne in the UK:

You may have seen the flooding in the UK has been extensive -- so far my collection is safe. Thought the following might add to the excellent article of Savoy Horvath on the 1st Olympic Games in Klatovy [Jul/Aug 2007, pg 17].

It was interesting to read Savoy Horvath's article on the 1st Olympic Games, American Army in Czechoslovakia. Amongst my items for liberated Klatovy is the sheet with the APO 305 cancellation that Savoy alludes to (Fig. 6) and also an eight page fold out program for the games which sure makes interesting reading (Fig. 7, 8, 9).

Robert Hill

## REMEMBRANCE - PAMĚTNÍ ARŠÍK



1st. Olympie Games American Arny in Ozechoslovakia 1. Olympiáda americké armády o Československu



KLATOVY - CZECHOSLOVAKIA 2.1 - 28. JULY - ČERVENCE 1945.

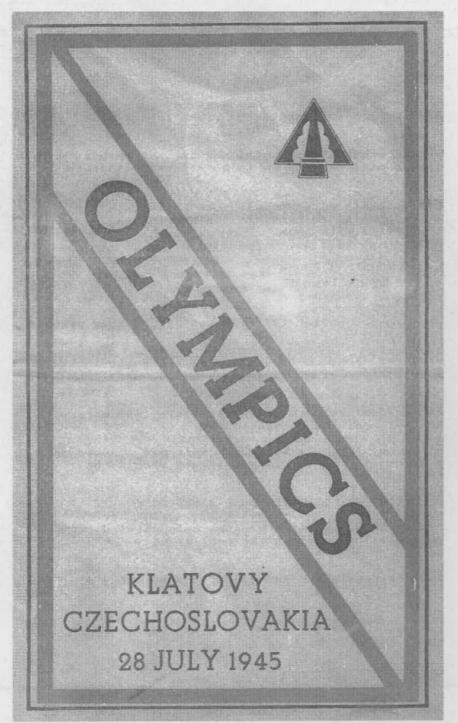


Fig. 7

FIELD



## CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMMANDING GEN: MAJ. GEN. ERNEST HARMON CHIEFOFSTAFF: COL. S. T. WILLIAMS

### LEAGUES AND COMMANDING OFFICERS

DIVINE LEAGUE (8 A. DIV) MAJ. GEN. JOHN M. DEVINE WATSON LEAGUE (79 DIV.) BRIG. GEN. L. H. WATSON PIERCE LEAGUE (16 A. DIV.) BRIG. GEN. JOHN L. PIERCE FORTIER LEAGUE (94 DIV.) BRIG. GEN. L. J. FORTIER HORTON LEAGUE (XXII-ARTY) COL. JOHN B. HORTON FYE LEAGUE (CORPS TPS) COL. JOHN H. FYE

MEET DIRECTOR: CAPT. C. B. EVERETT ASST. DIRECTOR: CAPT. JAMES A. ROY

HEAD REFERENCOL R. G. STILWELL
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ANNOUNCER, PFC. M. STERN

CLERK OF COURSE, CWO. M. LEVY
STARTER: 1st LT. W. L. SHARP
FIELD JUDGE: CAPT S. A. SOLOMAN
TIMER: 1st LT. J. PALMER
TRACK JUDGE: CAPT, R. G. THOMAS



# EVENTS

## FIELD

STARTING TIME	EVENT	WINNER	DISTANCE
14.30	POLE VAULT		
14.30	SHOT PUT		
14.30	DISCUS		
14.30	HIGH JUMP		
4	HAMMER		
15.40	JAVELIN		
15.40	BROAD JUMP		
15.45	HOP STEP & JUMP		
			A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH

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....

## ELECTRONIC PICTURED POSTCARDS OF THE CZECH POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

by Lubor Kunc

On July 24, 2006, the Czech Postal Administration started a new service for the public -- the sending of electronic pictured postcards to friends, family members or other persons. The system is a combination of electronic postcards being offered by various Internet companies and classical pictured postcards delivered by post offices.

The postcard sender makes a picture by cellphone (e.g. Motorola SLVR or Nokia 3650 phones) or downloads it from the Internet. This picture is to be sent by e-mail or via an MMS message (multimedia messages sent from cellphones) together with card text and addressed to the Czech Postal Administration. The postal administration prints the picture and text on a special card and delivers it by the traditional way to the addressee.

The service costs 30 CZK (about \$1.50) and is paid by sending an SMS message to a specific number. So you pay for this card through your cellphone bill without respect to who your cellphone service provider is. This is a very easy and effective way being used very often in the Czech Republic -- you can use it, for example, to pay for products, insurance premiums, or other services. However, you cannot use this system to send the cards to foreign countries.

The cellphone penetration of the Czech population is more than 100%. This means that in the Czech Republic "live" more cellphones than people! This situation is caused by people using different cellphones for private and business calls. [But it is also as a result of the very extensive time required over the years since the fall of communism to get a land-line installed for a residence phone -- so everyone opted for the more immediate solution, the cellphone.]

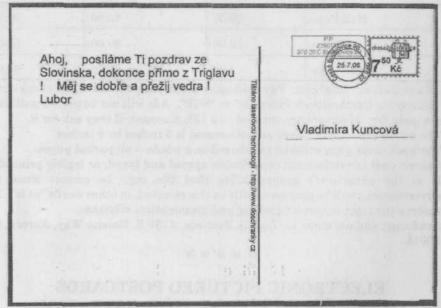


Figure 1: Electronic pictured postcard sent via the Czech Postal Administration from Slovenia on the second day of this service.

However, while the cost for this service seems too high (in comparison, 10 CZK is the cost of sending a normal domestic pictured postcard), the price is comparable with the standard postage valid in other European countries, where the cost for sending a normal pictured postcard is about 1 EUR. This is one of the advantages of the service -- you get faster service for the price of the normal slower card. If you

take a picture during your foreign holiday, you can send it by way of your cellphone to the Czech Postal Administration, which produces the pictured postcard and delivers it to your friend. While the whole process takes about 2 - 3 days, this is a

shorter period than mailing the postcard at the normal post office in the country you are traveling in, because regular mail within Europe takes 5 - 7 days and Overseas mail about 10 - 14 days.

As you can see from Figure 1, the electronic pictured postcard bears special "postage stamps", which have never been issued in standard form (Fig. 2). It will be interesting to see if the postcards will be listed in philatelic catalogues or not. The detailed listing of every produced

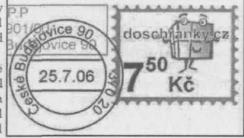


Figure 2

card is not possible, because the picture on each postcard will be personalized to the sender; but the catalogues might possibly list the postcard as a specific type of postal stationery based on the pre-printed stamp.



Figure 3

The Czech Postal Administration also offers pre-printed cards with pictures on the Internet (Fig. 3), which can be used by anyone if the sender has no personal image for publishing on the card. You can choose congratulations cards, Christmas cards, greetings from a particular Czech town, etc.

Generally, the Czech Postal Administration supports this service by way of a special web site (www.doschranky.cz), which is used for the downloading of the card images, sending pictures to the postal administration, etc.

This system seems to be a second stage of a hybrid post launched by the Czech Post in 2000 (Fig. 4) which was used by corporate clients for the mailing of large quantities of mail to consumers. This service is used by utility providers or insurance companies for the mailing of invoices or documents. The sending of the mail is very easy, the client just

delivers a CD containing the data to the postal administration, which then transmits them electronically to special centers, where the documents are printed, put into envelopes and delivered by the normal way to the addressees. The electronic processing of the mail makes it cheaper than production by the individual customers.

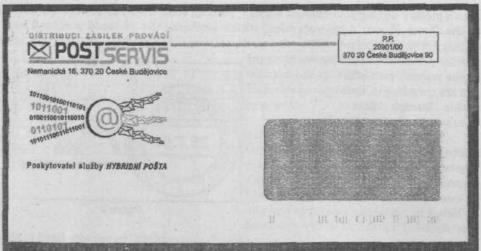


Figure 4: Envelope used for hybrid mail delivery bearing an advertisement of POSTSERVIS (a division of the Czech Postal Administration providing the hybrid mail service).

The derivation of the pictured postcard service from the hybrid post is supported also by the use of the České Budějovice 90 (Budweis) post office in the cancel, because it is the main hybrid mail station in the Czech Republic.

When we compare both of the services, we can conclude that the electronic pictured postcard service is just a special application of the hybrid post, tailor made for public consumers who are not interested in the sending of large quantities of mail, but rather just wish to send "something special" to their friends.

We will see what the next development of this interesting service will be. But, an already positive aspect is that the Czech Postal Administration started early with electronic services in order to substitute for the loss of income caused by the huge usage of Internet devices to transmit messages versus traditional mail.

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### New Issues

## CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. Van Zanten

1. On June 20, 2007, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a souvenir sheet containing a 45 Kč stamp commemorating the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the construction of the Charles Bridge (Fig. 1), considered to be a gothic jewel. The issue is designed to promote the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 to take place from 12-14 September 2008 at the Exhibition Grounds in Prague -- Holešovice. Charles Bridge is the oldest bridge in Prague. It belongs to the most beautiful bridges in the world. Originally it was called the Stone Bridge, later Prague Bridge. In 1870 it was renamed the Charles Bridge. It is located in the place of the original Romanesque Juditin Bridge, destroyed by the 1342 floods. The base stone of the new bridge was laid by the

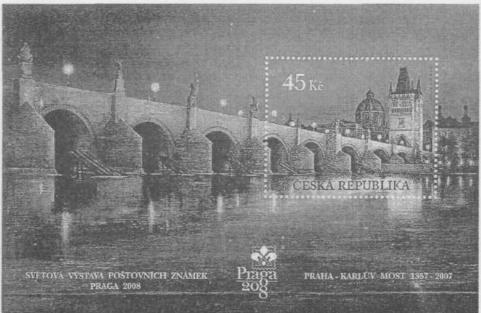


Fig. 1

Emperor Charles IV on 9.7.1357 at 5:31 a.m., which was the best time according to astrologers. The construction was committed by Petr Parlér and his works. The bridge, almost 520 m long, up to 10 m wide and based on 16 arches, was finished in 1402. At that time it belonged to the largest ones in Europe. It is made of sandstone blocks and protected by towers erected on both its ends. The Old Town Bridge Tower is considered as one of the most beautiful gothic buildings. The bridge is the gallery



Fig. 2

of 30 mostly baroque sculptures made, inter alia, by M.B. Braun and F.M. Brokoff. The sandstone original sculptures have gradually been replaced with replicas. Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century Charles Bridge was used as a major way of communications. From 1965 it has been used by pedestrians only and is one of the most attractive Prague sights. The stamp and souvenir sheet were designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset. A FDC in gray-black contains a cachet showing an image of the statue of Charles IV from the Old Town Bridge Tower (Fig. 2).

2. On June 20, 2007, the Ministry issued a souvenir sheet containing a 35 Kč stamp with 2 illustrated coupons commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the world famous graphic artist Václav Hollar (Fig. 3). Václav Hollar (1607-1677) is one of the major graphic designers both in local as well as world graphic art. Born in Prague, he went abroad in his 20's to further develop his graphic talent, i.e. he left in order to gain knowledge, rather than for religious reasons. He joined the famous



Fig. 3

works in Frankfurt am Main (with M. Merian), in Strassburg. Cologne, Antwerp where he saw Rembrandt's works (1606-1669 being Rembrandt's dates). In 1636 he entered into the service of the Earl Thomas Howard of Arundel which gave Hollar an opportunity to travel extensively and to come to London where he found his new home. Characteristic of Hollar's works is the factual, even scientific consistency, purity and softness. The most

frequent themes include maps, portraits, genre drawings, natural motifs, separate graphic sheets as well as book illustrations. His best works include town vedutas and landscapes created during the travels with the Earl of Arundel. V. Hollar's works are the evidence of his versatility and at the same time they laid the tradition



Fig. 4

of graphic design in the Czech lands. Even though he stayed for most of his life abroad, he remained a Czech, which he clearly demonstrated. The panoramic view of Prague, featured in the souvenir sheet, is based on his outline drawing made in 1636 during his short visit to Prague. Prague Castle has the form imprinted on it by the Emperor Rudolf II. The central motif of the souvenir sheet is the self-portrait of Hollar according to Jan Meyssens. The side coupons show the personified Spring and Winter by Hollar. The souvenir sheet and stamp were designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess printing from flat plates in black and

brown combined with three-colored offset in red, ocher, and gray-green. A FDC in brown-black contains a cachet showing a butterfly and bumblebee from Hollar's etching "Five Butterflies and a Flying Bumblebee" (Fig. 4).

3. On June 20, 2007, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Arts and Crafts series entitled Historical Stoves (Fig. 5). Glazed-tile stoves have their origin in medieval Europe. The quality of Czech and Moravian gothic tiles was always very good. Quite extraordinary is their iconographic richness exceeding the production in the neighboring countries. No gothic stoves were preserved locally. Even though the renaissance brought about some recession, the local producers still made remarkable pieces. There are several



Fig. 5

renaissance pieces, but they are often reconstructed on other than the original place, rebuilt or amended. The really authentic material are only thousands of glazed tiles stored in museum or private collections. These fragments, contemporary graphic designs and the preserved written documents are used for 2D or 3D reconstructions of medieval glazed-tile stoves. The postage stamps feature reconstructed gothic and renaissance stoves whose shape is as close to the original ones as possible although it is not identical due to the above mentioned reasons. The stamps were designed by Michal Vitanovský, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with multicolored photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 6

-- 7.50 Kč, in black, gray, orange, blue -- a reconstructed gothic stove and an unglazed tile from Olomouc featuring a motif of a sword duel. The stove has the usual division into the base and the top; both these severe angular parts are completed with a mantel-piece with merlons. A FDC in blue-

black contains a cachet showing a tile stove with a servant in historical costume (Fig. 6).

-- 12 Kč, in black, light green, dark green, orange -- a reconstructed renaissance stove from Říčany u Prahy and a green glazed mantel tile featuring

a motif of an aristocratic couple. The stove has a soft decoration. The top is a polygon and the mantel-piece consists of a number of lunettes. A FDC in blue-green contains a cachet showing a tile stove with a lady in historical costume (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

## SLOVAKIA by Gerald M. Van Zanten

4. On May 30, 2007, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 10 Sk commemorative stamp in the Stamps for Children series entitled



Fig. 8

Janko Hraško [Johnny Little Pea] (Fig. 8). The stamp showing an elf taking frost off of a branch was designed by Peter Cpin based upon an illustration by Štefan Cpin and was produced by Cartor of France using offset in sheets of 50 pieces.

5. On June 6, 2007, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps in the Beauties of our Homeland series. The stamps were produced by PTC in Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with gravure printing in sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 30 Sk: Jasov Monastery (Fig. 9). On the territory of the Slovak Republic,

baroque architecture only developed fully after the defeat of the Turks and following the anti-Habsburg uprising in 1711. The revival of construction work was mainly driven by the Catholic Church, especially the religious orders, which began to build numerous churches and monasteries. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Slovak baroque architecture was strongly influenced by the work of Austrian architect František Anton Pilgram. The building of the Premonstratensian church and monastery in Jasov, south-eastern Slovakia, is one of his most significant projects. Between 1750-1766 and thanks to Andrej Sauberer, the prior of the abbey, a large monastery complex was built on the site of an older fortified monastery founded before 1171.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Inspired by Austrian baroque monasteries, it ranks among the most extensive buildings in Slovakia. The church, situated at the heart of the symmetrical complex, is linked on both sides to the monastery buildings, thus forming the inner courtyards. The twin-towered facade of the Church of St. John the Baptist divides the convent with a residential building for monks on the right from the prelates offices on the left, all of which is accentuated by buttresses and portals with pediments. A FDC depicts the

1920 coat of arms of the Jasov monastery, which includes St. John the Baptist and the doubled cross

upon three mountains (Fig. 10).

- 34 Sk: Hronský Beňadik Monastery (Fig. 11). The abbey in Hronský Beňadik was one of the largest and most affluent Benedictine abbeys in Slovakia. Located in the Hron valley on the ancient road linking Nitra and Zvolen with its mining communities, it served as a medieval public notary ("locus credibilis") up until the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The first Romanesque three-aisle basilica was consecrated in 1075 by King Gejza I. Between 1346 and 1375 a twin-towered Gothic church was built on the site of the former monastery complex. Today's three-aisle hall ending in a polygonal presbytery was renovated after a fire



Fig. 11

in the 15th century. The church builder chose a Gothic skeleton construction with a three-aisle core supported by elaborate piers and cross-vaults. The four-winged building of the monastery, with the so-called "abbey wing" located south of the

church, was completed in 1508. Only a few of the several works of art of significant value, especially altars, were preserved, but this does include the late-Gothic field altar of St. Scholastica dating to 1450 which is located inside the church. One of the most significant panel paintings was the Passion altar, which — like many others — is currently on display at the Diocese Museum in Esztergom. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the monastery was rebuilt into a fortress against the Turks. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, preservation works were performed and the exterior was re-Gothicised. The neo-Gothic altars including the parts of the original Gothic furniture were installed in the interior. A FDC depicts an interior view of the monastery's cloister (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

6. On June 27, 2007, the Ministry issued a 25 Sk stamp in the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) series (Fig. 13). The Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) is an international competitive exhibition of original children's book illustrations. The work reproduced on the stamp is a book illustration awarded by the jury at the 20th year of BIB in 2005. In total, 411 illustrators from 48 countries participated in this jubilee Biennial, with the BIB Golden Apple awarded to the Slovak illustrator Ľuboslav Paľo. The theme of the illustration was

chosen from the award-winning book Nicht erwischt'. While participating in a BIB-UNESCO workshop in 2001, Palo

experimented with previously unused techniques and expressions, and there found his unique artistic style -- using ostentatiously rich shining colors combined with figures lightly outlined by paintbrush. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka using an illustration by Euboslav Paľo and was produced using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was issued that has as a cachet a follow-the-dots kitten (Fig. 14).

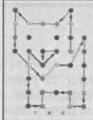


Fig. 14

7. On June 27, 2007, the Ministry issued a 37 Sk stamp commemorating the 1,100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the earliest recorded use of the oldest name for Bratislava (Fig. 15). For a long time we did not know the oldest name of the capital of the Slovak Republic. The name traditionally used was Presburg, which originated from the German language and was adapted by the Slovaks as Prešporok. In the Hungarian language the name Pozsony (Požoň) was used. In 1837, Slovak scientist P. J. Šafářik was the first to note that the seemingly German name concealed a Slovak first name -- Brecislav. The Štúr generation thus called the town Bretislav (Bratislava). The newly found Salzburg Chronicles contain the oldest name, recorded in 907 in the

following wording: Bellum pessimum fuit ad Brezalauspurc (= unsuccessful battle took place at Brezalauspurc). The name of the town contains the name of a Great Moravian duke who ruled from the present Bratislava castle. Archaeologists had unearthed its foundations dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The term burg (burgus) was used to designate a fortified object on the border of the Limes Romanus since the period of the Roman Empire. It is thus Braslav's burgus. The duke was later followed by Duke Poznan -- which is the origin



Fig. 16



Fig. 15

Slovak, or Slovak-Latin name, since as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The stamp depicts Bratislava Castle from the Vienna Illustrated Chronicles dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The defenders of the castle are drilling holes in the ships of Emperor Henry III in 1052. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by PTC in Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset. A FDC depicts a view of a medieval Bratislava with the town's coat of arms in the forefront (wood-carving from 1562 with the name PRESBURG on top)(Fig. 16).

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