



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,  
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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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## *President's Corner*

I was very pleased to be elected President of the Society on November 15 at CHICAGOPEX and look forward to working with all members of the Board and the Society. I especially enjoyed meeting Society members from around the country at the meeting and the chance to hear Hans van Dooremalen's superb talk on the stampless period postal history of Brno.

Perhaps I should introduce myself briefly. First of all, I wish to pay homage to my mentor, Henry Hahn, who introduced me to the fascinating world of Czechoslovak philately. I first met Henry in 2001 when I joined the board of NAPEX, when he took me under his wing as the Assistant Societies Coordinator. Later, in addition to introducing me into the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, he expertized the 1934 Czech national anthem stamps I had purchased, introduced me to the "liberation" or "revolutionary" issues of 1945, and provided valuable guidance on many Czech postal history items from the stampless period to the present. I also had the opportunity to travel with Marilyn and Henry Hahn and attend stamp meetings in Prague, Brno, and Telč in 2004, 2005, and 2006 as well as the international stamp show in Malaga, Spain, about which I wrote an article for the SPECIALIST. Henry had astounding knowledge about most aspects of Czechoslovak philately. We will all miss his expertise as well as his being a great mentor and friend.

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## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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

1. 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
2. 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: cancelcek@mwt.net
3. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21060, or e-mail: zdbob@aol.com.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/e-mail above).
6. 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.

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11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.csphilately.com

### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

e-mail: LouSvoboda@comcast.net

Phone/FAX: 303-680-7118

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Foreign Editor: Savoy Horvath, S8207 US Highway 61, Readstown, WI 54652

### Elected Officers

President: R. P. Livingston, 213 Ceret Court SW, Vienna, VA 22180

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Secretary: Philip Rhoads, 28168 Cedar Trail, Cleveland, MN 56017

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Book Sales: Savoy Horvath, S8207 US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652

Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092

Expertizing Chrm.: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Librarian: Bob Gibson, 7646 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Glen Burnie, MD 21060

APS Representative: Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

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

## MY LIDICE ADVENTURE

by Phil Rhoads

At the invitation of Památník Lidice (Memorial Lidice) and the Czech Ministry of Culture, my "The Murder of Lidice" philatelic exhibit was shown in the Památník Lidice Art Gallery, June 9 through September 16, 2007. This exhibition was in conjunction with ceremonies commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the destruction of Lidice in June, 1942, in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the SS General who was the Acting Reichsprotektor (Governor) of occupied Czechoslovakia at that time in World War II.

Because the exhibition was not strictly philatelic, the exhibit was expanded to 20-frames of material. Most of the collateral material added to the exhibit consisted of several original posters from 1942-1944 and material related to several movies made about the assassination and the destruction. The additional material also includes a broader showing of newspapers, picture postcards, and cacheted covers/sheets than is possible in a stamp show exhibit.

The exhibit was mounted on June 7, with essential assistance of the SČF (Society of Czech Philatelists) in erecting and preparing the frames. The exhibition opened on the afternoon of June 9 with a seminar attended by about 75 people. The attendees included dignitaries from Russia, Italy, Brazil and Germany as well as family members of survivors. Dr. Eduard Štehlík (Czech military historian who has

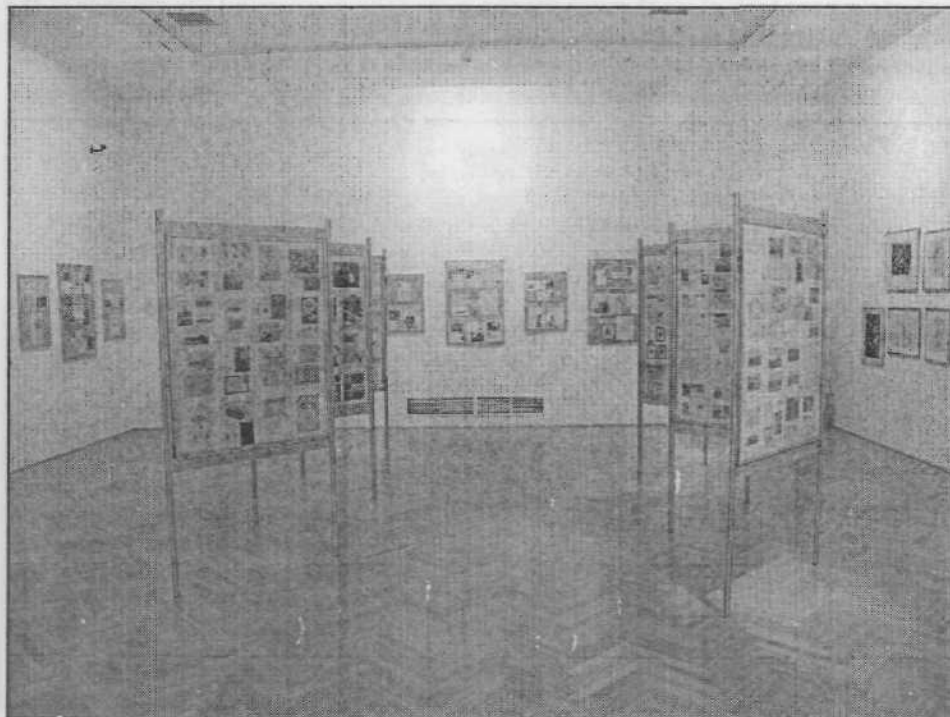


Figure 1: The exhibit in the Art Gallery.

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written extensively on Lidice) spoke on Lidice's place in history. I followed with a PowerPoint presentation on the exhibit, how I became interested in Lidice, and information on some of the more important material in the exhibit. Both presentations were translated into Czech, German, and/or English.

In addition to my exhibit, there was a very interesting exhibit of autographs related to Lidice, which included signatures of the designers of the various Lidice memorial stamps issued from 1947 to 1987. One gallery in the museum was dedicated to our exhibits, with the frames for my collection in the center of the gallery and the autographs mounted on the walls (Fig. 1).

Following the seminar, the exhibition formally opened in the Art Gallery. The Director and Art Curator of Památník Lidice spoke, a fabulous trio of women sang some Czech songs, and both the autograph collector and I spoke briefly. After the opening of the exhibition, we were treated to a traditional Czech dinner and entertainment in Makotrasy, another small village near Lidice.

June 10<sup>th</sup>, the day after the exhibition opened, was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killing of the Lidice men, the deportation to concentration camps of the women and children, and the start of the razing of the village. This anniversary was celebrated with nearly day-long activities. At 10:00 AM, wreaths were laid at the Lidice men's mass grave. It took nearly an hour, in a steady rain with a military band playing, to place all the wreaths from dignitaries, foreign nations, and organizations. Following the placing of the wreaths, the President of the Czech Republic spoke, followed by dignitaries from other countries. A variety of memorials and entertainment took place throughout the rest of the day around the grounds of the original village and the Museum. I was nothing more than one of several hundred observers but it was a moving experience being able to attend this ceremony.

The paratroopers who killed Heydrich took refuge in the Cathedral of St. Cyril



Figure 2: Souvenir sheet.

and Methodius in Prague after the attack. They were killed in a battle with the SS and Gestapo on June 18, 1942. I was still in Prague and was able to attend the memorial ceremony on June 18 at the Cathedral. The Czech President again spoke. This was another moving experience.

The philatelic highlight of the exhibition was provided by the Czech Post. The Post Office used one of the stamp sheets they had prepared for personalized postage to issue

a souvenir sheet for my exhibition and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Fig. 2). To the best of my knowledge, this souvenir sheet was/is only available in Lidice, from the post office, and in the Art Gallery gift shop. It was not available at the philatelic sales window in the main Prague Post Office during either my June or September trips. The post office also prepared a special commemorative postmark for the June 9



Figure 3: Close-up of postmark.

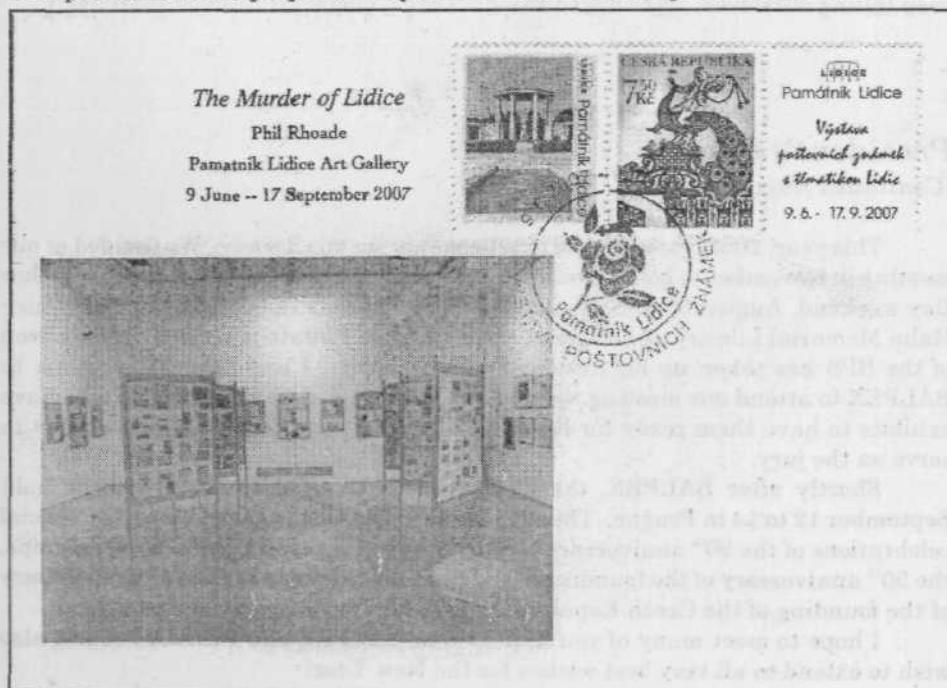


Figure 4: Cover with cachet of Art Gallery and exhibition postmark.



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exhibition opening. It showed the Lidice Rose and read *postage stamp exhibition* (výstava poštovních známek) (Fig. 3). Of course, this was only available in Lidice on that date. The same postmark, but with a June 10 date, was used for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I did not know about these Czech Post Office activities until shortly before I left for Prague/Lidice, but was able to prepare a few covers (Fig. 4). Czech Post also issued an illustrated postal stationery card showing the Lidice children's memorial. The souvenir sheet and a postmarked cover will have an important spot at the conclusion of my exhibit in future showings.

My goal is to continue developing the exhibit and in telling the story of Lidice. In today's troubled world, it is an important story and example from which we might learn much.

The privilege and honor of sharing my exhibit in Lidice itself is perhaps the non-philatelic culmination of what I have come to call "My Lidice Adventure". When I first started collecting material related to Lidice over 11 years ago, who could have anticipated where that road would lead? I became an exhibitor, something I had never planned on doing. I became an international traveler. I became a member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. I have made some wonderful friends, both here in the United States and in Prague/Lidice, both philatelic and non-philatelic. My philatelic, historical, and cultural knowledge has expanded exponentially. What a positive example of unanticipated consequences.

As Miloš Čufík, originally my Prague guide but now my great friend, and I keep telling ourselves, "Who'd a thunk it?" Lidice budou žít! (Lidice shall live!).

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## President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

This year, 2008, should be an excellent year for our Society. We decided at our meeting in November to hold our annual meeting in 2008 at BALPEX over the Labor Day weekend, August 30 to September 1. The Society's library, named the Henry Hahn Memorial Library, is housed at the Baltimore Philatelic Society. Bob Gibson of the BPS has taken up his duties as our librarian. I encourage all to come to BALPEX to attend our meeting and see the library. I also encourage all who have exhibits to have them ready for BALPEX. We are nominating a Czech expert to serve on the jury.

Shortly after BALPEX, the major FIP show, PRAGA 2008, will be held September 12 to 14 in Prague. The organizers of the show note there will be special celebrations of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the issuing of the first Czechoslovak stamps, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Postal Museum, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Czech Republic and the issuing of its postage stamps.

I hope to meet many of you in person at BALPEX and PRAGA 2008. I also wish to extend to all very best wishes for the New Year!

Richard P. Livingston

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## CHICAGOPEX

by Tom Cossaboom

CHICAGOPEX 2007 is in the books. The show was held at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The theme of this World Series of Philately show was a Pan-Slavic Festival. Participating philatelic societies included the Czechoslovak, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian, as well as the Austrians and Hungarians.

The Society participation in the CHICAGOPEX included the annual board and general membership meetings and sponsored a philatelic lecture. Hans van Dooremalen, a member of the Society who lives in The Netherlands, presented the lecture on the pre-stamp philatelic history of the city of Brno (Fig. 1). The lecture was based on Mr. van Dooremalen's gold-medal winning award. He illustrated the lecture with covers from his exhibit.

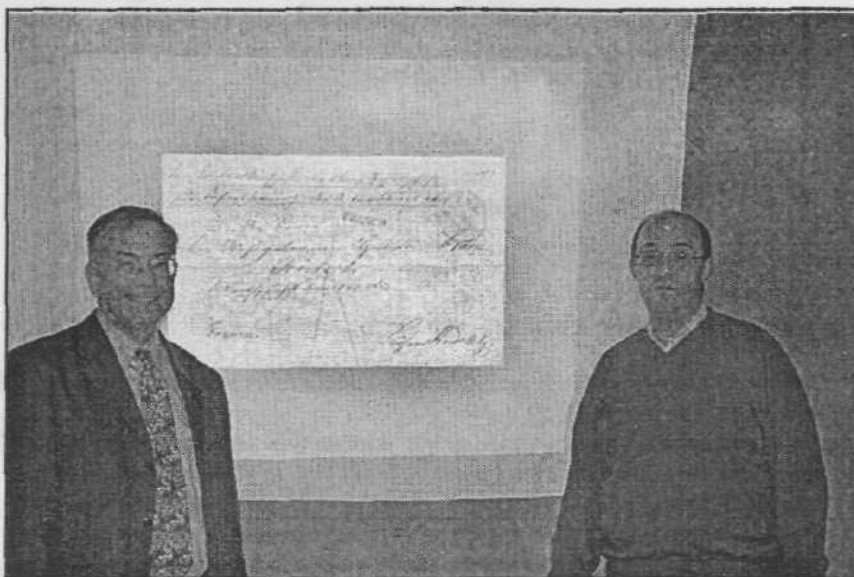


Figure 1: New president, Richard Livingston, introduces speaker, Hans van Dooremalen

Major topics of discussion during the board meeting included the continuing search for a new editor for the Specialist, future meeting sites, the Society's tax status, additional issues of the SPECIALIST on DVD, expertization, dues increase, and election of officers for the next two years.

-- The board agreed to offer a stipend of up to \$200 per issue to a new editor. Lou Svoboda will conduct the negotiations.

-- Meeting sites for 2008 and 2009 were changed while Boxborough, Massachusetts was confirmed for 2010. The board recommended that the 2008 site be moved from Prague to Baltimore (BALPEX) while the 2009 meeting will be moved from Tucson, Arizona (ARIPEX) to Denver (Rocky Mountain Stamp Show).

-- The Internal Revenue Service classifies the Society as a 501(c)(4) organization



(e.g., we do not have to pay taxes). There is interest in changing this to 501(c)(3) to allow for tax-deductible donations to the Society.

-- The board voted to place the issues of the *SPECIALIST* for the years 2000-2004 on DVD and offer them for sale. Phil Rhoads agreed to prepare the DVD's.

-- Despite the recent increase in postal rates, the board felt that the actual dues did not need to be raised; however, because the foreign "surface" postal rate had been discontinued and the foreign airmail postal rate had increased, the cost for members living outside the United States would be going up -- to \$37 (\$25+12) for those living in Canada and Mexico, and to \$45 (\$25+20) for all others outside the United States.

-- Richard Livingston was elected president. Jay Carrigan was elected vice-president. Phil Rhoads and Ed Lehecka were reelected secretary and treasurer respectively.



Figure 2: David Stueckmann, Tom Cossaboom, Dr. Bořek Lizec, Ms. Kateřina Kulhánková, Marge Stueckmann, Ludvík Svoboda

Following the meeting, the board and guests retired to the Klas Restaurant in Cicero for a very good Czech meal. We were joined by George Drost (the former honorary consul of the Czech Republic in Chicago), Dr. Bořek Lizec (the Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago), and Ms. Kateřina Kulhánková (the Head of the Consular Section at the Czech Republic's consulate in Chicago)(Fig. 2). Ms. Kulhánková is the daughter of the designer of the present banknotes of the Czech Republic as well as of a number of postage stamps of the Czech Republic (Oldřich Kulháněk's most recent stamp is the Dr. Emil Holub commemorative of October 3, 2007).

A number of the members of the Society exhibited at CHICAGOPEX. They

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were rewarded for their efforts with the following medals:

- Jay T. Carrigan -- Local Emergency Measure in Eastern Hungary, 1944-45; Court of Honor
- Alfred F. Kugel -- The Philatelic Effects of the Breakup of the Romanov Empire, 1918-23; Court of Honor
- Jaroslav Verner -- Czechoslovak Siberian Legions; Court of Honor
- Jay T. Carrigan -- Carpatho-Ukraine, 1944-45; Gold
- Jay T. Carrigan -- The Liberation of Yugoslavia; Vermeil
- Ludvik Z. Svoboda -- Editor, *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*; Vermeil
- Olech W. Wyslowsky -- The Hradčany Issue and Its Usages; Vermeil
- Charles J. Chesloe -- Eastern Silesia - Prestamp through the Issues of 1920 and their Use; Silver
- Philip K. Rhoads -- WWII Era Czech Philately; Silver
- Bohdan H. Pauk -- Ukraine 1918 - Podolia Province; Bronze
- Philip K. Rhoads -- WWII Czech Patriotic Labels; Bronze

In addition, Olech W. Wyslowsky was awarded the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Gold Award of Honor and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately's Alfons Mucha Award.

Sunday morning at the Society's award breakfast, the following received awards for the Czechoslovak-related exhibits:

- Charley Chesloe -- Eastern Silesia - Prestamp through the Issues of 1920 and their Use; Gold
- Olech Wyslowsky -- The Hradčany Issue and Its Usages; Silver
- Jay T. Carrigan -- Carpatho-Ukraine, 1944-45; Bronze

Our book sales manager, Savoy Horvath, reported great sales. Total publication sales were \$1,199 and sales of show cachets came to \$58 (2005 - 7, 2006 - 7, 2007 - 17), for a total income of \$1,257. He then turned around and spent \$771 to order the purchase of additional copies of the Carpatho-Ukraine monograph issued by the British and Dutch Czech societies which sold out early.



### PRAGA 2008 THE WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2008 PRAGUE 7 -- HOLEŠOVICE EXHIBITION GROUNDS by PRAGA 2008 Organizing Committee

International and world exhibitions of postage stamps under the name PRAGA held under the auspices of the FIP have had a long tradition in the capital of the Czech Republic. In the year 2008 it will be already 70 years since the first international exhibition PRAGA 1938. The following exhibitions were held in 1950, 1955, 1962, 1968, 1978, 1988, and 1998. The regular ten-year periodicity has

already been maintained for 40 years.

Organized philately has also had a long tradition in the Czech Republic. The first club of Czech philatelists was established in Prague in 1887, and the Union of Czech Philatelists was one of the seven founding members of the International Philatelic Federation in 1926. In 1989 it also became a founding member of the European Federation of Philatelic Unions FEPA.

Organizing a world stamp exhibition is a great honor for every country. Like the Olympic Games, world football championships, or major cultural events of a worldwide significance this exhibition also helps a better recognition and promotion of the organizing country.

World exhibitions are held annually under the auspices of the FIP. These will include e.g. the 2007 exhibition in Petersburg, the 2008 exhibitions in Tel-Aviv, Bucharest, and Prague. The international exhibition WIPA 2008 will be held in Vienna only a few days after the PRAGA exhibition.

The World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 commemorates the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of issue of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp in 1918, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Postal Museum in Prague, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Czech Republic.

The Czechoslovak and Czech stamp designs present on postage stamps and postal stationery the natural beauties of the Czech Republic, its history and rich cultural heritage, and the relationships with European and non-European countries. The graphic design, engraving and printing art of these stamps are highly valued among collectors. This international standard has been maintained and looked after.

The traditional organizers of the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 are the Czech Post and the Union of Czech Philatelists. PRAGA 2008 invites philatelists-exhibitors from around the world to participate in these FIP competition classes:

- traditional philately
- postal history
- philatelic literature
- experimental one-frame exhibits class.

The FIP competition classes, the honorary class and the master class, if any, will be located in the Industrial Palace of the Exhibition Grounds Výstaviště together with the Young Czech Philatelists' Show. Philatelic literature will be hosted by the Postal Museum in its picturesque building.

The World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 will be held simultaneously with the 11<sup>th</sup> International Fair "Collector" dedicated mainly to philately and numismatics as well as to other collection areas. You can find more details on [www.praga2008.cz](http://www.praga2008.cz) and [www.sberatel.info](http://www.sberatel.info).

Contact details:

PRAGA 2008 Organizer Committee

Holečkova 10, 225 07 Prague 5

Tel. and fax; +420 257 313 149

E-mail: [secretariat@praga2008.cz](mailto:secretariat@praga2008.cz)

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT POSTEX 2007

by Hans van Dooremalen

In the mid 1970's two collectors, Leo Wijnkamp and Gerrit van der Velden, invited the Dutch members of the German Bundesarge Tschechoslowakei e.V. to their homes for a meeting. This can be seen now as the founding of what now is the Dutch "Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie", the society for Czechoslovak philately in The Netherlands.

To celebrate this event our society participated in the 2007 edition of POSTEX. This is an annual stamp fair which is organized in Apeldoorn and which enables Dutch specialist societies to present themselves with a smaller or larger exhibition. The big advantage of this fair is the fact that a lot of the organization is taken out of the hands of the societies by experienced people and that the societies can present themselves to an average number of no less than 2,500 visitors. The exhibition also hosts a large number of stamp dealers, a youth corner and several stands of a non-philatelic nature.

Apeldoorn is also of interest to non-collectors, because it has a royal palace and lies in the midst of a national park, the "Hoge Veluwe".

The 2007 edition of POSTEX, which was held from October 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, gave room to 4 specialist societies -- France, Germany, Eastern Europe and Czechoslovakia -- and was opened by the German ambassador to The Netherlands.

Because we are a relatively small society but wanted to give an overview of Czechoslovak philately as complete as possible, we invited our sister societies from Germany (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e.V.) and Great Britain (Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain) to join us in this celebration. Together we managed to give an overview in 130 frames. To complete this the Czech Philatelic Federation with the cooperation of the Czech Post was kind enough to provide us with a propaganda frame for PRAGA 2008.

The show was a big success and the cooperation with our British and German friends enabled us to show beautiful Czechoslovak material to the public. This resulted in obtaining 9 new subscriptions for membership. We met with many old and new friends from home and abroad. Of course there were our British and German friends but we could also welcome friends from Finland and Austria, it was a truly international happening.

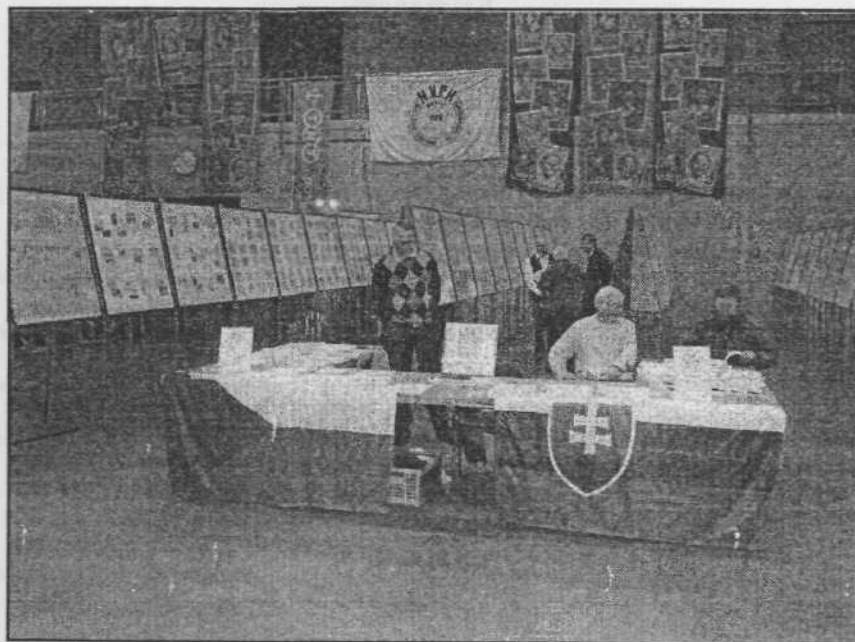
On Saturday evening everybody met for an informal meeting and dinner at the Café de Paris in the center of Apeldoorn. This evening was a highlight in the society history.

Although the main goal of the exhibition was to promote Czechoslovak Philately, some of our participants used the possibility to have their exhibits judged. This was possible in either rank 3 (a regional level) or rank 2 (a pre-national level).

In rank 3 the exhibit "A study of Routes and Rates of the third issue of Czechoslovak airmails" from Garth Taylor (GB) was awarded with a gold. In rank 2, Brian Day (GB) got a large silver for his exhibit "Military Posts in Slovakia 1918-1920". Heinz Müller (DE) got a vermeil for his exhibit "Tschechoslowakei 1938-1948". Georg Wilhelms (DE) got a vermeil for his exhibit "Moderne Tschechoslowakei, Besonderheiten zu den Markenausgaben 1943-1983". Paul Kipp



Discussion between the frames (L to R) -- Seppo Laaksonen (from Finland),  
Hartmut Liebermann (president of the German Bundesarge),  
Tony Bosworth (from England)



At our table (L to R) -- Herm Sanstra (our treasurer), Jan Verleg,  
Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer (guest from Austria)



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(DE) got a silver-bronze for his exhibit "Sonderstempel der Tschechoslowakei 1918-1939".

The big success of this event quickly answers the question whether we will do this again or not, but rises another: will it be in 5 or in 10 years. This cooperation of 3 specialist societies to make an event this successful, certainly deserves to be repeated, something about which the German Bundesarg is already thinking.



## Errata

-- Through an oversight on my part, the article "Refresher Course -- Stamp Terminology: Sheets, Panes, Souvenir Sheets and Miniature Sheets" by Rick Miller of the Sep/Oct SPECIALIST issue, pg 23, failed to include this correct attribution: Copyright 2007 Amos Hobby Publishing, Sidney, Ohio USA 45365. Reprinted with permission from the April 30, 2007, issue of Linn's Stamp News (<<http://www.linns.com>> [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)).

-- Inadvertently omitted at the end of the third and final installment of the article "Extended Arch Types on the Fifth Design 25h Hradčany" by Ladislav Olšina of the Nov/Dec SPECIALIST issue, pg 3, were the author's list of references:

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## *Philatelic News and Views*

### 1. From Alan Hoover:

#### -- SCP Library Move -- a laborer's view

After a long and tiresome 10-hour truck ride to Winchester, VA, the sky's threatened rain. It was the hope of all the SCP moving team that the weather would hold off for the library move as the truck and trailer used for the adventure were open beds and exposed to the weather. With all material boxed, it would still pose a problem if they got wet during the 2-hour move journey.

As we pulled off the interstate at 7:15 PM, the rain started. We checked into the hotel, watched the light showers roll in from the western mountain range and settle in to the Shenandoah Valley. The next morning, the rain gods brought us blue skies dotted with occasional white clouds, crisp morning air and drying pavement -- perfect weather for a move!

Upon arriving at Mark Wilson's, the previous site for the SCP library, arrangements could not have been more favorable. The truck and trailer were pulled very close to the exit door, all materials were boxed and ready to be loaded just inside a short walk from the truck. It took no more than 45 minutes to load the 90 plus boxes in the truck and trailer. It was covered on the bottom and top with heavy plastic and tarps and held down securely with ratcheted straps.

After all was secure, it was now the time to test the load -- would the vehicle be able to pull the load, remember, that was 90 boxes at 50 pounds each average totaling over 4500 pounds of weight. The truck was only a 1.2 ton vehicle (1000 pound capacity) and the trailer was rated at 3800 pounds so careful stacking and weight distribution was necessary. We also utilized a second vehicle to absorb some of the load, but it too was at its limit. But the 1991 Chevy truck met the challenge, pulled it right up the drive with no problems.

Once on the road, careful speed control was monitored and the tire pressures were visually checked frequently to make sure we were not over bearing everything. It took about 2 hours to drive to the new home of the library in downtown Baltimore, but the weather was cooperative, the scenic journey through the Virginia and West Virginia countryside was a pleasure to experience. We arrived smack downtown but somehow traffic lights got the 2 traveling vehicles separated. As fate would have it, the lead vehicle had the map and the directions to the location and the truck was stuck circling Baltimore! SO a quick stop at a service station got us back in the neighborhood and the technology of cell phones got us the needed directions to the final address. We were only 4 blocks off, but lost we were!

A space was reserved for us front and center to pull the 2 vehicles up and begin the unload process (Fig. 1). The temperature had warmed by this time but it was still a reasonably pleasant day. As always, some of the workers were sweating even before starting the labor! But additional help from 2 society members was also at the unload location (Fig. 2). The most difficult part was that this was city streets, row buildings and placement would have to be made in the basement area.

Carrying the boxes was not too difficult but the confined door and 5 steps down led to some challenges and slowed the unload process a little. With 2 members below and 4 topside, we managed to stack boxes and one member would place off a

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Figure 1: Rich Palaschak, Jr. unloading a box from the loaded trailer.



Figure 2: Rich Palaschak, John Pojeta, and Bob Gibson among the boxes of the library.

short platform so the members on the bottom could just pull the boxes and not have to climb the steps. The basement area was a bit confined, we had to just stack the boxes 4 high wherever there was free room in the centers. Timing went fast and the job got done in under 1 hour.

It was then time to wind down, have a nice cool drink, take a few photos (the fearsome 5 and the photographer -- Annette Hoover -- all accumulated in the basement, with damp shirts -- not dripping on the library material naturally) for the traditional "cheese" shot (Fig. 3). Then a short tour of the majestic home of the BPS, a history of the building and how it came to be purchased and then off again for our journeys onward.



Figure 3: The moving and unloading crew -- Rich Palaschak, Bob Gibson (our new librarian), Rich Palaschak, Jr., Alan Hoover, John Pojeta -- and Annette Hoover taking the picture.

It was a bit of a challenge, filled with worries and fears but it went flawlessly and the SCP library is now in its new home awaiting proper sorting and cataloging. Our many thanks to all the participants of the move -- Mark Wilson, Richard Palaschak, his son Rich, Alan and Annette Hoover, John Pojeta and Bob Gibson (the new SCP librarian) for all of your help and dedication; without everyone's help it would not have been done.

## 2. From Savoy Horvath:

### -- Day of Czech Philately

The Czech Postal Museum in conjunction with the SČF (Union of Czech Philatelists) and the club FILATELIE (members of the Filatelie publication society)



Figure 4: PPM 1 -- for SČF members

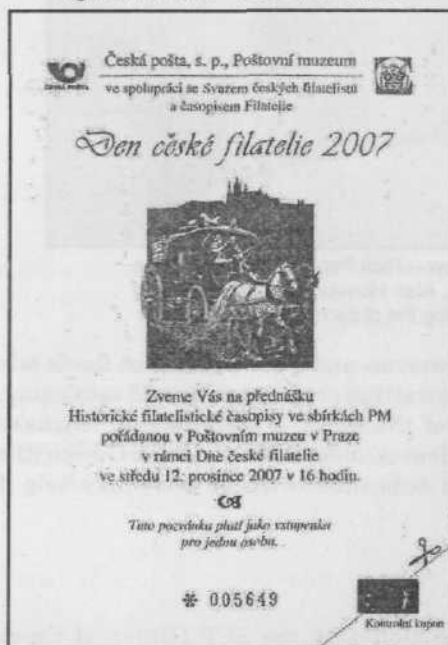


Figure 5: PPM 2 -- for *Filatelie* subscribers

have created a new tradition and issued a new collectible for people interested in Czech Republic philately.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> the Postal Museum in Prague held an open house by invitation only extended to the members of both of these organizations. The invitations were in the form of special invitation cards -- PPM 1 (Pozvánka Poštovního Muzea - Invitation of the Postal Museum) sent to SČF members (Fig. 4) and PPM 2 that was included in the *Filatelie* monthly publication sent to members (*Filatelie* is the equivalent to Scott's Monthly)(Fig. 5). *Filatelie* sold on the news stands did not have this card included.

If you look carefully, there are some differences between the two cards (words below the image, and coloring of the image). The cards are scheduled to be listed in the upcoming Pofis catalog of the Czech Republic, are printed in limited quantities (according to membership numbers), will not be sold to the public, and are expected to be sought after by collectors.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> the card served as an entrance ticket, and the lower right corner of the card was cut away. The Postal Museum had a rich program prepared for the invited visitors. There were two guided tours of the Museum -- two exhibits had been set up, one on the forgeries of Czech Republic stamps to defraud the Postal Service, and the other on valuable stamps of Czechoslovakia. There were also speaking presentations on the history of the Museum and on the historic philatelic publications stored in the Museum.

#### --Additional Postage Stamps from the Czech Republic

At the end of 2007, the Czech Postal Service issued two new previously unannounced postage stamps -- a 2.50 Kč and a 10 Kč. These two new stamps were required as a result of a postage rate increase from 7.50 Kč to 10 Kč per basic



Figure 6: The 2.50 Kč stamp -- last haléf stamp.

letter. The 2.50 Kč new rate make-up stamp is the last Czech postage stamp to show haléf valuation (Fig. 6). As of 8.31.2008, the Czech National Bank is withdrawing from circulation all 50 haléf coins and stopping their validity.

-- New Postal Rates for January 1, 2008

The previous rates for domestic local and distant letters up to 20g have been done away with. Now any regular domestic letter (whether local or distant) up to 50g will require 10 Kč. Likewise the registered letter rate up to 20g has been done away with. Now any registered letter up to 50g requires 26 Kč. Then, the new rate for an overseas letter up to 20g has gone up from 12 Kč to 18 Kč, and the rate for a letter to Europe up to 20g has gone up from 11 Kč to 17 Kč. The surcharge for delivery notice is 6 Kč, and the surcharge for personal delivery is also 6 Kč.

-- New Monografie from Pofis

Pofis publications has announced a new Monografie to become available "FDC's 1947 - 1992". As this is a limited collectible, anyone interested please notify me by e-mail or post, and I will order it for you.

Pofis has also announced a delay in the issuance of the Protektorat B+M Monografie due to the time consuming corrections of plate numbers.

-- Commemorative Cachet

As part of our participation at CHICAGOPEX 07, the Society conceived, designed, and had printed a special cachet to commemorate a significant event in Czechoslovak history that had occurred in the decades past. In this case it was the victory of the Czechoslovak Brigade at Zborov on July 2, 1917 (Fig. 7). Going along with the cachet was this narrative: "At the time of World War I, Zborov was no more than a village. Why then did a battle that took place near an insignificant place in present-day Ukraine merit two commemorative Czechoslovak stamps twenty years later? Until this battle Czechoslovak units were scattered among various Russian commands. The battle at Zborov marked the first time that Czechoslovaks fought as the Czechoslovak Brigade and won

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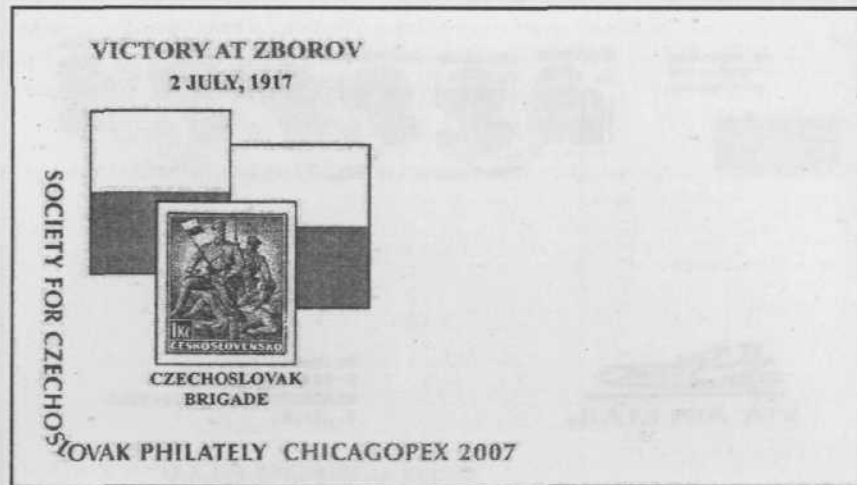


Figure 7: Victory at Zborov cachet

a striking local victory. It was at Zborov that Czechoslovaks achieved their larger goal of establishing an independent image for themselves and gained the political attention that eventually led to the creation of the Czechoslovak nation on 28 October 1918." If you are interested in this cachet, please send me \$2 for each one, postpaid, to my address on the back cover.

-- Commemorative Cancel/Postal Card

When Jaromír Jágř was traded to the New York Rangers from the Washington Capitals of the NHL the shown postal card had a cachet added showing that he was now with the Rangers, and claiming "the best European in



Figure 8: Jágř -- "best European in the NHL" postal card



the NHL" (Fig. 8). Subsequently when the post card rate went up, a special cancel was applied to add 1.10 Kč and to once again claim that Jágř was the best European in the NHL. The Czechs never miss a chance to advertise their successes and heros.

### ***Farewells***

It is with the deepest regret that we must announce the passing of several of our members:

- Ray Miller (member 1723) of Spokane, WA
- Wilmot F. Wheeler, Jr. (member 1413) of Sougħport, CT
- Dr. Jaroslav Wurm (member 1611) of No. Riverside, IL

We extend our sincerest sympathies to each of their families.

## **LAST CHANCE!!!!**

### **VIRTUALLY FREE LOOSE & BOUND SPECIALIST's**

We are going to be giving away our excess copies of loose SPECIALIST's (except that you have to pay the postage), and selling the bound ones for \$5 each (which includes postage)

We have come to this decision as a result of several events which occurred this past year:

-- in attempting to find a new home for our library and then moving it there, we came to the sudden realization that we were "storing" 50+ boxes of loose SPECIALIST's.

-- when we offered them at negligible prices to our members, there were very few, if any, takers.

-- these 50 boxes take up a lot of valuable space in our new library location.

-- when we ran an ad discounting the price of our bound SPECIALIST's to \$10 plus postage, we only had a few takers (we still have about 56 left).

-- our making available the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1939-1999) of SPECIALIST's on disk was great for our membership, but terrible for the resale market on past issues.

Thus, we are going to make one final offer to our membership.

If you would like particular back issues of the SPECIALIST or one or more of our available bound copies, you have until May 1 to notify us. Any of the loose copies that are not spoken for by then will be sold for scrap paper. Any remaining bound copies will be auctioned on Ebay to the highest bidder (with no preference to members).

For the loose back issues, specify which issues you are missing and write: R.E. Gibson, SCPLibrary, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (include your phone number) or email: [zdbob@verizon.net](mailto:zdbob@verizon.net). If the item is available, you will be contacted about the mailing

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fees. If you plan to come to BALPEX 2008 and the SCP convention there, you can avoid the mailing costs and pick-up your requests there.

For the bound copies, the following years are currently available: 1968 - 1, 1968/69 - 1, 1978/79 - 3, 1980/81 - 1, 1981/82 - 7, 1982/84 - 3, 1983/84 - 3, 1985/86 - 2, 1987/88 - 5, 1993/94 - 6, 1997/98 - 6, 1999/00 - 2, 2001/02 - 3, 2003/04 - 2, 2005/06 - 11. Send your request to our book sales manager, Savoy Horvath (his particulars are on the back cover of this issue). He will notify you of availability (include your phone number).

REMEMBER: this is first come, first served, and the deadline to receive your order is May 1, 2008. Then, they are gone.

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## Letters to the Editor

[Ed. Note: As a result of an e-mail, this further series of e-mails has generated the following information on what we can call "WW II undercover mail".]

1a. Dear Sir:

I have today just read one of the magazine's old articles. Back in the Feb 1990, page 10 and 11, there was an article about WWII era "undercover mail" sent via a neutral country, such as via the Thomas Cook & Son mail scheme that used Box 506 in Lisbon. The article by V. Palkoska, translated by Henry Hahn, raised some interesting questions. There are of course a few things that might be added, and I don't have the May 1990 issue that I guess had a follow up. Most interesting were some comments made about the Czech route through Palestine, and I would be most curious if any current members are involved with this "WWII Undercover Mail" topic? Since the title isn't always the best clue, I also would ask if you might know of other articles that have appeared? I can add that I have only a modest representation of Czech mail using Box 506 in my collection -- basically 4 covers [two of his covers are shown -- front and back -- as Figures 1 - 4]. Thank you for any help or suggestions.

Ed Fraser

[edfraser@gmail.com]

1b. Dear Ed:

Thank you for your inquiry about the article in the Feb 1990 issue. I am transcribing here a Letter to the Editor that you reference from the May 1990 issue: "... I did some research on this myself a few years ago, as I had a P.O. Box 506, Lisbon letter included in an exhibit of letters from Slovakia.

A Danish postal historian, Menne Larsen, has written an article about the subject in which he tells about the origin of the P.O. Box 506:

'After the fall of France and the German occupation of the Channel Islands in June 1940, there was a great need for contact between the many refugees in England and their relatives in the occupied islands. Permission was granted to establish the P.O.B. 506 in Lisbon with Thomas Cook & Son's office in London in charge of the

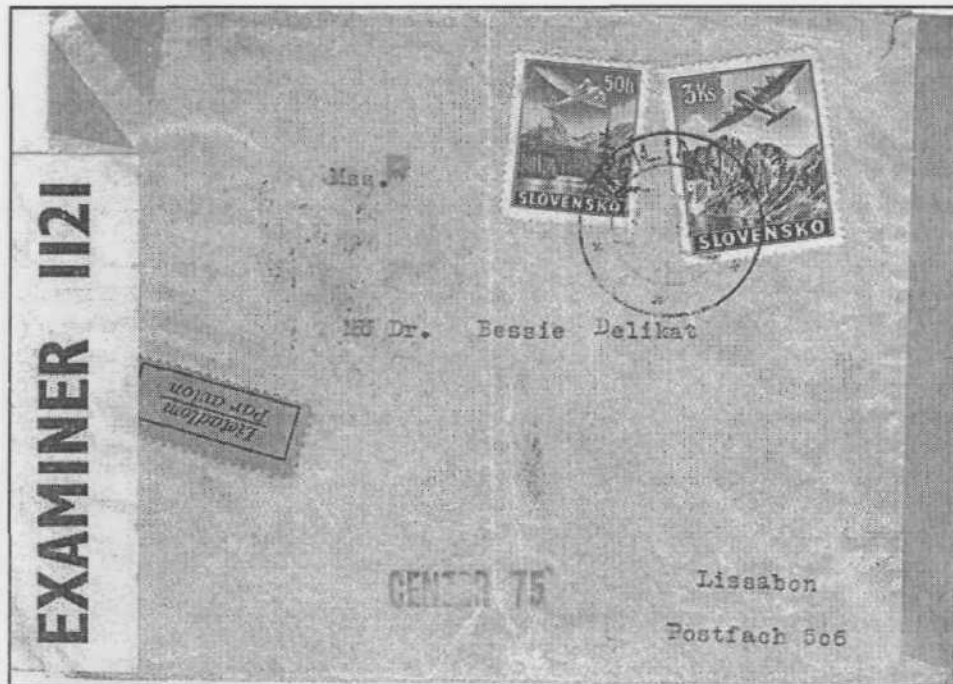


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

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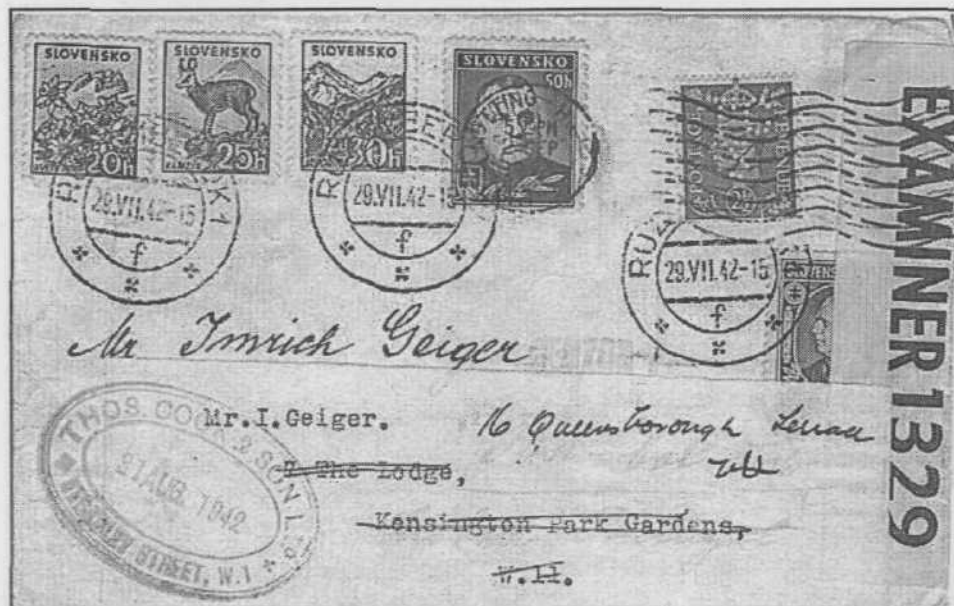


Fig. 3

whole business. The regulations for correspondence were issued by the Channel Islands' Refugees Committee and, as we know, others were soon allowed to make use of this service. A similar cover address had existed in Holland, P.O.B. 604 Amsterdam, until that country was occupied on May 10, 1940 . . .

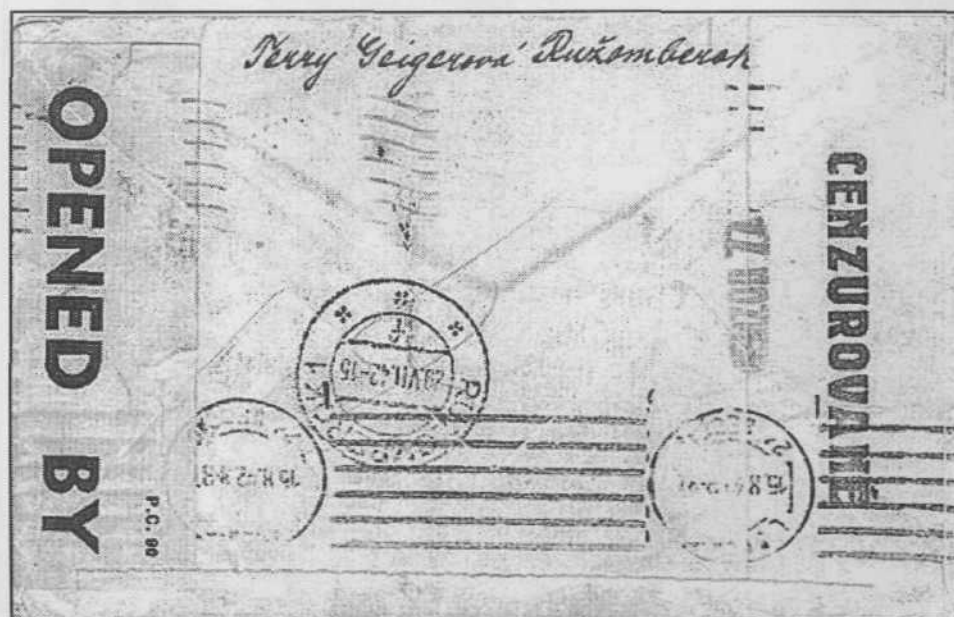


Fig. 4

In his article, Mr. Larsen also mentions that a Mr. A. E. Gilbert tried to register all such known letters. So far (and that was more than five years ago), he has a list of 92 letters, four of which were from the area of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia. Two of them were from 1940; one from 1941; and one from 1944. Unfortunately I have no information about Mr. Gilbert.

When I bought the letter, I had to pay a price in Danish Kroner approximating 100 U.S. Dollars, I did not know anything about the matter, so I asked a Danish specialist for advice. He said: 'If the letter had been sent from the Faroe Islands, the price would have been 400 dollars. If you want the letter, then buy it. It may well be your only chance to get hold of such an object', so I did.

E. Skovbo Jensen"

... I have forwarded your request for information to a number of our members both here in the States and in Europe. I have asked them to respond to you directly with a copy to me.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda  
Editor

1c: Dear Mr. Fraser:

... Firstly, I'm not aware of any specialized publication dealing solely with Box 506. ... However, the topic is discussed in a useful publication: 'Undercover Addresses of World War II' by Charles R Entwistle, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2006. (Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth, Scotland PH2 9LW).

As far as Czechoslovak Forces in the West during WWII were concerned, CPSGB Monograph No 15, 'The Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain, 1940-1945', by myself (2002) does include four pages on 'Soldiers' mail to and from overseas locations' which goes into contacts with enemy countries in some detail, including the Red Cross scheme and Thomas Cook. CPSGB Monograph No 16, 'The Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and Russia 1939-1941, and Czechoslovaks in the Middle East, 1940-1942', by the late Dr. Palkoska and Otto Hornung RDP, FRPSL, again gives very good background information on the rules for communicating with enemy territories. Both these monographs are available in the USA via our American friends. Contact Savoy Horvath at [cancelcek@mchsi.com](mailto:cancelcek@mchsi.com).

In the quoted 1990 article there was a reference to mail via Amsterdam, when still neutral. In the collection of a Brno-based friend I have seen two covers from Brno, franked with Protectorate stamps, both from October 1939, addressed to the same Czech national, c/o a private address in Amsterdam-Zuid. These have then been redirected to the 'Camp Militaire, Tchecoslovaque at Agde', in the Departement of Herault. Agde was the location of the main Free Czechoslovak training camp in the south of France.

Richard Beith  
Chairman, CPSGB

1d: Dear Lou:

Thank you for your good responses, especially including the detail from the additional May 1990 reference ...

I was especially interested in the February 1990 article's mention about the



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Regimental Command Order of August 29, 1940. It appears to exactly reflect the wording of the July 29, 1940 printed announcement of the Posts & Telegraph, as published in the August 1, 1940 Palestine Gazette newspaper, which I have attached to this e-mail:

"(e) No reference may be made in such letter to any phase of the war.

(f) The envelope containing the letter to enemy territory must be fully addressed to the addressee, must be left open and no stamp affixed thereto.

(g) The envelope containing the letter for transmission to enemy territory should be placed in an outer cover, together with certain other enclosures enumerated in conditions (h) and (i) below. The outer cover should be addressed to the Postal Censor, Palestine Censorship. On the outer cover the sender must write "Letter for Enemy Territory".

(h) The sender must enclose in the above-mentioned outer cover a sheet of paper bearing his name and address in block capitals.

(i) The sender may enclose in the outer cover a plain open envelope addressed to himself at his Palestine address. Any reply received at P.O.B. 506, Lisbon, will then be forwarded in this envelope.

(j) Letter of transmission to enemy territory must not be placed in an ordinary posting box but should be handed over the counter at one of the following Post Offices: -- General Post Office, Jerusalem; Head Post Office, Haifa; Head Post Office, Tel Aviv and Head Post Office, Jaffa. The sender must pay a fee of 125 mils. The packet tendered must not weigh more than 25 grams. A receipt for the money should be asked for and obtained."

A question has been if any covers have been identified as using this route from Palestine (or Transjordan), and if even any payment receipts from the post offices

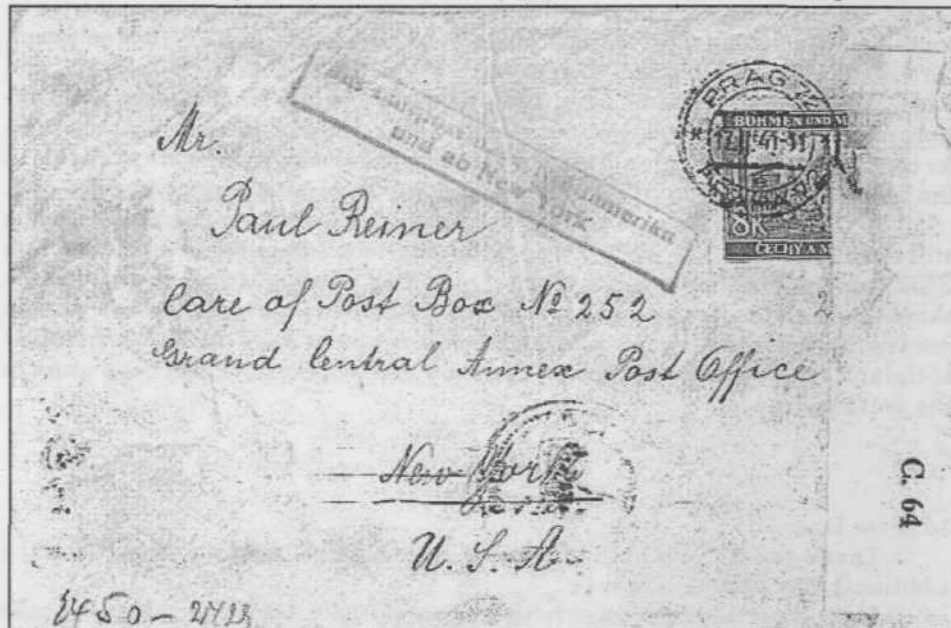


Fig. 5





Fig. 6

are known. I would expand this question to ask if any mail is identified as having used the Regimental Command Order of August 29<sup>th</sup> procedure referred to -- or if it is even just known to have been used?

On the topic of WWII undercover mail, I will ask a different question. Do you know any further detail about Box 252 in NYC, and possible mail into Axis Europe using that service?

I have attached a typical scan of one cover (Fig. 5/6). We certainly know less about this service than we do about Box 506, Lisbon. Box 252, Grand Central Annex, New York City is believed to be the address used by Thomas Cook in Toronto for their service to Canadians using the neutral US -- until Pearl Harbor. (Hence the Canadian censor tape on the cover acquired between NYC and Canada, it is generally understood.)

Ed Fraser

1e: Ed:

... One question. On the Geiger yellow label [Figures 3/4], I am assuming that the embassy in Lisbon put on the yellow label with the "forwarding" address. Who put on the British postage? Walk me through that cover, please.

Lou

1f: Hello Lou:

It's good you ask.

The understanding is that the covers, intact, were forwarded in bulk by Thomas Cook in Lisbon to Thomas Cook in London. They were apparently censored

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and resealed before they got to Thomas Cook in London. I also would be very surprised if any were opened or censored in Portugal by Thomas Cook or British censors. I also am concluding that Thomas Cook didn't keep any "reference books" with senders' names in Portugal, perhaps because they didn't think it was safe. (A WWII comment in Portugal was "What would it take for Hitler to take over Portugal?" The reply was "Just a phone call".)

Once at Thomas Cook in London the mystery deepens because it is not clear which covers they readdressed by just putting "yellow labels" on the original envelope, unopened, which ones they opened and just sent along the contents in a new envelope, and which ones they put into a new envelope and sent original envelope and all.

We also know from experience that often envelopes Cook retained (where the letter alone was sent onward in an "ambulance" cover) would wind up in the philatelic market as ordinary covers -- but I guess none were recognized for a long time.

Many of the surviving original envelopes fail to have the addressee's name on them, so that would necessitate the Cook people to open it and see if they could figure out who it was to be forwarded to. I don't think I have ever seen a cover without a clear name on the outside being readdressed with a yellow label.

Next question?

Ed

#### 2. Dear Lou:

An interesting article in Nov-Dec Specialist ["On the New Postage Rates", pg 1]. Cost increases are effecting my life in many ways. It might be good to consider mailing The Czechoslovak Specialist as a Quarterly publication. Less work load on editor. Less need for large dues increases. Some of us are forced to give up memberships and activities because of cost increases. Hate to be forced to cut back on things I enjoy because of price but it is happening. Always enjoy the publication and thanks to all who work hard to bring it to us.

Louis Matustik

#### 3. Dear Lou:

On a recent rainy night in November, I was looking through some of my stamps and came upon the 1937 -- Children -- semipostal 2Kč+1Kč. The two bottom left stamps -- position 90+100 [*sic* 81+91] had B.Heinz (bottom right) misspelled. Position 90? had B.Keinz and position 100? had B.Yeinz. My other corner pair had the correct spellings [positions 90+100].

During another rainy day I found the Austrian Spešné známky pro tiskopisy z roku 1917 (Pofis 57). The perforations known are either 12 1/2 or 11 1/2 or combined. This stamp has perforations 12 1/2 x 12 1/4? [12 1/2 horizontally, 12 1/4 vertically] I measured this on a perforation gauge and by a perforator (SAFE) and combined with other stamps. The perforations 12 1/2 did not match. Has anyone seen this before, where or to whom can this be sent, to have a look at this stamp.

*[Can any of our readers shed any light on either of these items?]*

Miroslav Vrzala

*New Issues***CZECH REPUBLIC**

by G.M. van Zanten

**2008 ISSUE PLAN  
FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS**

[The previous plan that was in the July/August 2007 issue is still correct except that the postal rate changes of late 2007 have caused a significant number of value changes, plus there have been two additions: April 16 -- 100 years, Czech ice hockey, and September 12 -- joint issue with Austria.]

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production -- F. Hudeček	1	10
Jan 20	Personalities	2	
	-- Karel Klostermann (1848-1923)		11
	-- Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808-1856)		14
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	10
Mar 5	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008	1	
	-- J. Navrátil -- Fresco from Postal Museum in Prague		10
Mar 19	J.A. Komenský Publication: Orbis Pictus -- 350 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	1	10
Mar 19	Beauties of Our Country	2	
	-- Ještěd		12
	-- Hradec Králové		15
Apr 16	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Technical Museum in Prague	3	10
			14,18
Apr 16	100 Years -- Czech Ice Hockey	1	11
May 7	EUROPA: Letter Writing	1	11
May 28	For Children -- J. Čapek: About Doggie and Kitty	1	10
May 28	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008	1 s/s	
	-- Ledebur Gardens in Prague		51
May 28	Nature Preservation -- Třeboň - Region of Fish Ponds/Pools	4 s/s	11/12
	-- UNESCO Biosphere Reservation		14/18
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	10
Sep 3	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008		
	-- Emaus Monastery in Prague	1	12
Sep 3	100 Years - Assoc. of Artists of Applied Arts - Artěl	1	26
Sep 12	Joint issue with Austria	1 s/s	35
Sep 12	Joint Issue with Slovakia: Karel Plicka (1894-1987)	1 s/s	35
Oct 15	Arts and Crafts - Historical Stoves: baroque, rokoko	2	10,11
Nov 5	Works of Art on Stamps		
	-- Zdenka Braunerová (1858-1934)	1	23
	-- Otakar Nejedlý (1883-1957)	1	26

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-- Jan Jakub Hartmann (1658-after 1738)		1 s/s	35
Nov 5	Christmas Traditions	1	10
Nov 5	Třebechov Nativity Scene	1 s/s	43
Nov 5	Czech Republic Chairmanship in the EU Council	1	11

1. On November 7, 2007, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 pieces.

-- 22 Kč: Amálie Mánesová (1817-1883), "Vrbičany Castle, 1846" (Fig. 1),



Fig. 1

National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Martin Srb; black, yellow, green, blue, and red. The postage stamp features an engraved version of her painting "Vrbičany Castle" where she stayed as a guest. A. Mánesová was born to a family of famous painters. On her father Antonín Mánes' wish she painted mainly landscapes although she tried also figural painting; she was said to have a gift for the latter. She painted also fruit and flower still-lives. She was also an important teacher. She ran a special painting and drawing school in Spálená Street in Prague, and she also taught pupils from aristocratic families. One of her pupils was Zdenka Braunerová who later became a famous painter. As the eldest of the three children Amálie lived with and supported her brothers Josef and Quido. She joined Josef on his painter's expeditions to the Krkonoše Mountains, to Dresden, to the Hrubá Mountain; she stayed in



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Vienna and the Austrian Alps. Her paintings gradually became richer in colors. A FDC in black-gray shows A. Mánesová's drawing in pencil "Cottage in Trees" (Fig. 2).

-- 25 Kč: Otakar Lebeda (1877-1901), "Way to Bechyně Castle, 1899" (Fig. 3), National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Václav Fajt; dark-brown, yellow, red, green, and blue. The landscape painter O. Lebeda studied at the Prague Academy with J. Mařák and then in Paris at Colarosi School with Courtoise. In Paris he became acquainted with the colorful tones of impressionism which nevertheless did not suppress the expressiveness of his paintings. He was a man of a great sensitivity. He was attracted with motifs of mountains which he

used as the background for expressing his sadness and loneliness. Deep depressions led him to the tragic end of his life. His prematurely ended work belongs to the most significant ones in the Czech art on the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and maintains a stable position in the development of modern landscape painting. The painting "Way to Bechyně Castle" shows the great talent of this very young artist. This castle above the valley of the river Lužnice dates from after 1268 (Fig. 4). Between the years 1569 and



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

1596 it was enlarged by the addition of a new chateau, the castle itself being reconstructed in the renaissance style. A FDC in black-green shows a drawing in ink on paper by O. Lebeda, "Courtyard at Jerabek's" from 1893 (Fig. 5).

-- 28 Kč: Soběslav Hippolyt Pinkas (1827-1901), "Montmartre, 1856" (Fig. 6). National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Miloš Ondráček; black-brown, ochre, brown, red, and blue. The



Fig. 6

painting "Montmartre" dates back to his stay in Paris. The Czech painter, graphic designer and journalist S.H. Pinkas was actively involved in the cultural and political life including, inter alia, the radical student movement in 1848. He studied at the Academy in Prague and Munich and with Coutur in Paris where he lived for several years. Under the influence of the Barbizon school he chose motifs from everyday life.

Later on, under the influence of Courbet and Millet, he put more emphasis on realism. On his return to Prague he painted mainly family motifs and portraits. He was an active member of the artists' association Umělecká Beseda and other public associations, maintained relationships with France, and in 1898 was granted the order of the Legion of Honour. He also continued his work as a caricaturist and political cartoonist, designed utility things, e.g. faience plates. A FDC in black shows a sketch of workmen in black chalk to the painting "Workmen at Montmartre" by S.H. Pinkas (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

2. On November 7, 2007, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč stamp





Fig. 8

to commemorate Christmas (Fig. 8). Czech Christmas without picture cards with Josef Lada's illustrations could hardly be called Czech. His pictures became a symbol not only of idyllic Christmas but also of Czech villages. This year's Christmas correspondence can be further decorated with the postage stamp featuring an India ink drawing and watercolor of the crib by Josef Lada. J. Lada (1887-1957), graphic designer and writer, is likely the most famous and most popular Czech painter. He used to be described as the "poet of landscape". His style resumed the drawing tradition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially the work by M. Aleš. Lada's works followed a way from the Art Nouveau morphology to a distinctive expression based on a fixed continuous line of square concept. His illustrations of Hasek's book "Adventures of the Brave Soldier Švejk", J. Seifert's poems, and J. Mahen's tales are unforgettable. Equally famous are his settings of theater plays and movies, e.g. Drda's "Hrátky s čertem". Located in his native village Hrusice, which most of all inspired Lada's works, is a monument and museum dedicated to his life and work. It is the time before Christmas which reminds us of the anniversary of Lada's birth and also his death. The stamp shows villagers portraying a live nativity scene with a *babička* hurrying forward with a gift -- a *vánočka* (Christmas bread) -- for baby Jesus. The stamp was designed by Otakar Karlas, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue-green, red, yellow, and light-blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows Lada's illustration from the book *Zeměklíč* from 1940 (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

3. On December 12, 2007, the Ministry issued a 2.50 Kč definitive stamp in The Beauty of Flowers series entitled *Gaillardia* (Fig. 10). The stamp bears a flower with a bud. 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 green, red, and yellow in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

4. On December 17, 2007, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp entitled Czech Republic in the Schengen Area (Fig. 11). Five states of Europe, members of the European Union (France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Netherlands) came to an agreement to create an area without border controls of persons travelling in their territory. This area is called after the



Fig. 11



village Schengen in Luxembourg, where on June 14, 1985, the Schengen agreement was signed. Actually the Schengen area covers the territory of 13 states of the EU that have signed the Schengen agreement. After the abolition of custom controls on the internal borders of the other nine membership countries of the EU the free movement of persons on the territory of 24 states will be guaranteed. The Czech Republic will become a part of the Schengen area on December 21, 2007, when the custom controls on territorial borders will be abolished, and at the end of March 2008 also on international airports on flights in the Schengen area. The stamp shows the emblem of the Czech Republic's entry into the Schengen area created by a traffic light with three green signal lights and the Czech text "THROUGH EUROPE BY FREEWAY". The stamp was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC printed by multicolored offset shows the map of the enlarged Schengen area.

5. On December 19, 2007, the Ministry issued an 18 Kč definitive stamp to promote the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 showing the logo of this exhibition (Fig. 12). The identical stamps with face values of 7.50 Kč and 11 Kč in other colors were issued on December 1, 2006 and April 4, 2007. The stamp as well as the exhibition logo were designed by Jan Solpera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in dark-blue and green in printing sheets of 100 pieces.



Fig. 12

### Stationery

6. On December 12, 2007, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 10 Kč stamp commemorating Český Krumlov (Fig. 13). The drawing of the Český Krumlov

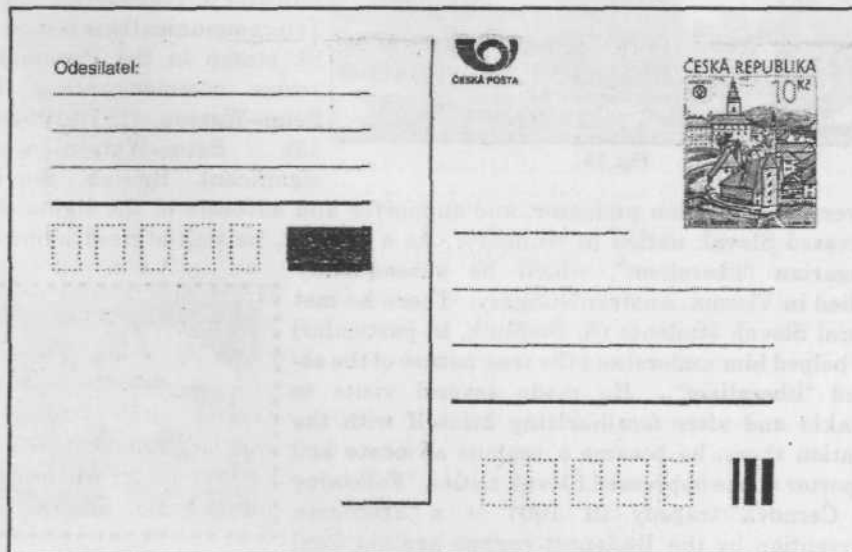


Fig. 13

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stamp is identical with that on the previous postal cards for postal operations with face values of 6.50 Kč and 7.50 Kč. The postal card was designed by Josef Saska and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. The selling price of the card is 11 Kč.

## SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. Van Zanten



Fig. 14

University of London professor, and supporter and advocate of the rights of the oppressed Slovak nation in Hungary. As a student, he was a great admirer of Hungarian "liberalism", which he subsequently studied in Vienna, Austria-Hungary. There he met several Slovak students (A. Štefánik, in particular) who helped him understand the true nature of the so-called "liberalism". He made several visits to Slovakia and after familiarizing himself with the situation there, he became a zealous advocate and supporter of the oppressed Slovak nation. Following the Černová tragedy in 1907 -- a draconian intervention by the Budapest regime against local

7. Shown here in Figure 14 is a special commemorative sheet that contains the 37 Sk stamp issued June 27, 2007 in honor of the 1,100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the earliest recorded use of the oldest name (Brezalauspurc) for Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic. We reported on this stamp in the Sep/Oct issue, pg 39. The commemorative sheet shows various views of Bratislava at various times and with various names -- 907, 1436, 1563, 1655, 1735, 1815, 2007 with Brezalauspurc, Posonium, Presburg, Bratislava.

8. On October 26, 2007, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 24 Sk stamp in the Personalities series commemorating R.W. Seton-Watson (1879-1951)(Fig. 15). Seton-Watson was a significant British Slavacist,



Fig. 15

parishioners (leading to 13 fatalities) in which the people of Černová stood up against the Magyarized (assimilated) priests trying to consecrate the Černová church built from local finances -- he helped gain international publicity for the Slovak problem. He flatly refuted the myth of Hungarian "liberalism" by presenting strong factual arguments in his work *Racial Problems in Hungary*. After the outbreak of World War I, he was on the side of the Czechoslovak resistance movement and supported the creation of a common Czech and Slovak Republic. During the inter-war period, he continued to promote Slovakia abroad and advocated reconciliation between the Czechs and Slovaks. During World War II he supported the Czechoslovak resistance movement. The stamp depicts Robert William Seton-Watson in his earlier years. The rose, associated with the city of Ružomberok [translator's note: derived from Rosenberg: the "rose hill"], was added in recognition of his support for Slovaks. The stamp was designed by Ivan Schurmann and produced by PTC in Prague using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 pieces. The FDC depicts Černová church, the site of the tragedy which shocked the cultured world and highlighted the gravity of the Slovak problem (Fig. 16). The cut trees symbolize the absurdity of the pitiable death of parishioners in the Černová incident and the stylized rose -- the Ružomberok coat of arms.

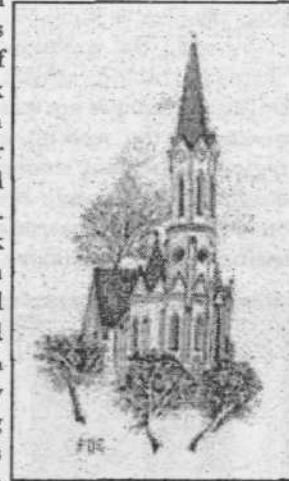


Fig. 16

9. On November 14, 2007, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by PTC in Prague using multicolored recess printing from flat plates in printing sheets of four.



Fig. 17

-- 33 Sk: Ján Zelibský, "Bouquet of Chrysanthemums, 1936" (Fig. 17). Ján Zelibský (1907-1997) was a painter. From 1924 through 1938 he studied at various schools of art all over Europe. After World War II he taught as professor at various schools including in Prague and Bratislava. The origins of his painting and drawing are rooted in Post-Impressionism -- the echo of Cézanne -- mainly depicted through still-lives (1934-1935). Such works aimed at the presentation of the figural motive. In 1936, he created stimulating figural compositions -- Lucia, Wedding, and a reproduced piece of art - Bouquet of Chrysanthemums -- in which he focused on the issue of light and color in an expressive interpretation. During 1939-1949, he developed the figural compositions of fugitives: refugees from the artistic world of theater and concerts. In the post-war period he returned to the rural and urban motive, which thereafter became a constant theme. His paintings and drawings are characterized by clear design and expressive colors and have an important place in

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

the history of Slovak visual arts. The stamp was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by PTC of Prague using recess printing from flat plates in sheets of four. A FDC shows a still-life of an oil lamp on a table (Fig. 18).

-- 33 Sk: anonymous (František X.K. Palko (?)), "Saint Elizabeth, circa 1750" (Fig. 19), Slovak National Gallery. Baroque art was very closely associated with the revival of the worship-cult of the Saints, even in our region. Potrident iconography brought newly canonized Saints and purposely revived a whole variety of various medieval Saint patrons and guardians. Those also included the Bratislava-born daughter -- Elisabeth of



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

Hungary (\*1207) -- of the Hungarian king Andrew II.

She was also known as Elisabeth of Thüringen after her husband, the Thüringisch Count Ludwig IV. After his death in 1227, she forsook her estates and lived voluntarily in poverty in the Franciscan monastery in Marburg, where she took care of the sick. There she died in November 1231. For her self-sacrificing charitable activities she was -- just four years after her death -- canonized by Pope Gregory IX. Together with other Saints -- St. Hedwig of Andechs and St. Agnes of Bohemia -- she forms the trinity of great female charity-saints of Central Europe. She is frequently pictured as a Franciscan nun or in the noble costume of this period with a crown and typical beggar at her feet. She was

painted similarly in an altar canvas painting of uncertain origin, introduced to the Slovak National Gallery collection in 1972. As the question mark by the artist's name indicates, the identity of the painting's authorship (dating back to the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) has yet to be resolved. After its restoration by M. Keleti -- the SNG's curator of the Baroque collection -- this painting was again attributed to the Palko brothers, the members of an important artistic family of Silesian origin who worked in Vienna as well as Bratislava. And more specifically, based upon stylistic criteria to the younger František K. Palko (1724-1767). However, this attribution has not been fully accepted and still requires further research. The stamp was

designed and engraved by František Horniak and produced by PTC of Prague using recess printing from flat plates in sheets of four. A FDC shows an enlargement of the portion of the painting showing St. Elizabeth (Fig. 20).

10. On November 11, 2007, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Christmas 2007 -- Christmas Tree (Fig. 21). The stamp depicts an angel

holding a decorated Christmas tree. Green decorated trees as a symbol of Christmas appeared in the territory of Slovakia at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tradition derived from Germany and Austria, and initially became part of Christmas season solely in bourgeois families. Only at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century did the tree also start to become part of peasant culture. In village households it gradually replaced the Christmas cribs and straw decorations that had originally constituted the Christmas decorations of such houses. Later, trees became common in Northern and Eastern Slovakia, replacing larger straw objects, which were hung over the dining table as a symbol of Christmas. The Christmas tree was also initially hung over the table, subsequently placed on the table, and finally, as in towns, put in a stand. Originally, the tree was decorated with nuts, apples, paper and straw decorations, gingerbread, and pictures. With time, glass and colorful Christmas decorations, lights and other ornaments replaced traditional decorations. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the decoration of Christmas trees started to follow fashion trends in terms of colors and richness of decoration. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Christmas presents started to be put beneath the Christmas tree. In folk



Fig. 21



Fig. 22

culture, greenery symbolized new life, rebirth, freshness and health. The tree creates a special atmosphere and is a distinct aesthetic part of the Christmas season. The stamp was designed by Jana Kiselová-Sitekova and produced by an unspecified printer using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a fairy smoking a long pipe while sitting on a heap of flowers (Fig. 22).

11. On November 28, 2007, the Ministry issued a 28 Sk commemorative stamp with coupon entitled Postage Stamp Day -- Field Post (Fig. 23). The stamp shows the postal clerk's desk at the field post from the 20<sup>th</sup> century along with a pigeon carrying a posthorn. The field post appeared

in the history of post and postal services at the origin of message transport. In the middle ages, couriers using postal lines delivered military messages. Archive evidence, however, testifies that alternative postal lines were necessary during wars. The first military postal line was established in 1496 during the Italian war of Maximilian I. Later, provisional military postal lines were called the "field post". Censor cancellation documents the fact that the field post was censored. Soldiers in World War I and World War II only used field postal cards. "Captive post" is a special type of field post that



Fig. 23



## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 24

preserves important historical evidence and also philatelic specifics. After World War II, Slovak soldiers participated in many international supervisory or observer missions around the world. Until 1993 they were part of the Czechoslovak Army, and since that time they have been representatives of the Military Forces of the Slovak Republic. The first mission of Slovak soldiers took place in North Korea. The stamp was designed by Marián Čapka and produced by an unspecified printer using offset in sheets of 30 stamps with coupons. The FDC presents typical field post cancellations of the 20<sup>th</sup> century along with the two principal means of post transport -- via train and military vehicle (Fig. 24).

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