



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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JULY/AUGUST 2009

No. 4, Whole No. 616

2007/2008 BOUND VOLUME

Here is a great opportunity for you to get a bound volume of the last two year's of the *Specialist*.

Every two years we bind the past two year's of the *Specialist* for our Patron members. Because we have to bind a minimum of 50 and only needed about 40, we have some extra volumes.

These are attractively hard-bound in simulated black leather with gold lettering. This volume is particularly attractive because it contains in one volume (rather than searching through 12 loose issues) a number of articles that were run as series, such as:

- Arch Types on the Fifth Design 25h Hradčany
- 1928 Postage Due Issue
- A Guide to the Types and Subtypes of the 1923 Agriculture & Science Issue.

An additional benefit to having the volume involves human nature. I don't know how you are, but if I pull one of my loose issues from the year-stack for some question that has arisen, it may not ever get put back where it belongs. It may be incorporated with some paperwork that generated the question. Now, if I need that issue again, I have to do a memory reconstruction to find it.

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BRIDGE AND WATER

by Piero Santangelo
trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

Charles Bridge in the Test of Time

In August 2002, a thousand-year flood assaulted one of the best known monuments of the Czech lands -- the Charles Bridge. This was not the first time in its 650 years of existence that the bridge -- which still today connects several sections of Prague -- was attacked. The bridge -- originally called the Prague or Stone Bridge -- carries the name of Charles IV, but only since 1870 (Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Charles Bridge and panorama of the Castle

The bridge is mentioned as being in Prague already in the year 935 when the body of Duke Václav (St. Wenceslas) was transferred from Staré Boleslav (Old Boleslav) to Prague. It was most likely a wooden bridge that was destroyed by a flood in 1157. In 1167, King Vladislav I had a stone bridge built and named it after his wife Judith. From the Judith bridge there still survives the Lesser-Town's tower and from the sculptural ornamentation on the Old-Town side remains to our times the popular sculpture of Bradác that served in the measurement of the water level (Fig. 2).

During the floods of February 1342, the Judith Bridge was demolished -- as was noted by the chroniclers of that period. After 15 years -- supposedly on 9 July 1357 -- Charles IV laid the foundation stone of a new bridge. Peter Parler, who Charles IV had the year before called to Prague to continue the construction of St. Vitus Cathedral, was the builder. The construction of the bridge took many long years, and it was finally completed in 1407. The Old-Town bridge tower (Fig. 3) is the work of Peter Parler, and it is considered to be the most beautiful tower from



Figure 2: Bradáč sculpture



Figure 3: Old Town bridge tower with Castle in the background

the Middle-Ages in Europe. The tower is ornamented with the statue of Charles IV (Fig. 4a/b/c/d) and also of his son Wenceslas IV (Fig. 5) together with the coat-of-arms of the lands that were during the Luxembourg reign (1310-1437) a part of the Czech crown lands. At the end of the Thirty-Years War during the siege of Prague by the Swedes, the tower fulfilled its defensive role.

Throughout the period of its existence the bridge has had to withstand the onslaught of water. It lasted until the high water of July 1432 -- the water demolished the new stone bridge because some of the arches became plugged with cottages and timbers and thus it ruptured in three places. The repairs dragged on for decades, and finally in June 1503 the bridge was finally repaired.

Even wars were not able to destroy the bridge, and thus during the baroque period it could grow into a real beauty (Fig. 6)[A Czech Post survey identified



Figure 4: Charles IV (349, 2177, 2982b, 3040b)

this as the best stamp of 2007.] To the original Cross with the Savior was added the statue of St. John Nepomuk, whose dead body was thrown by his torturers into the Vltava river in 1393. The statue was installed on the bridge in 1638, and adorned with stone gems together with the works of earlier Baroque artists -- e.g. Mathias Braun or members of the Brokoff artistic family.



Figure 5: Václav IV (with his symbol Kingfisher in the Veil)(2982c)

The bridge was able to resist the pressure of ice floes that were brought by the swift flowing thaws of February 1784 (Fig. 7). To Prague -- along with the blocks of ice -- flowed logs that were not to appear on the Vltava until the spring. In with them were also wooden buildings and roofs, all of which plugged the arches of the bridge. The collisions with the ice damaged all of the arches and pillars, and the repair work lasted four years.

In relatively good condition the bridge survived the floods of 1845, 1862, and 1872, but the rains of August/September 1890 brought catastrophe. The flood waters aiming for the main part of the city were announced by cannon reports from the Vyšehrad Fort. During the night of September 4, the water escalated its attack on Charles Bridge. The residents of Prague were hoping that the bridge would survive, but experts with concerns were monitoring the quantity of timbers that were piling up under the arches. Then the water in the Vltava began to drop only gradually, so that only after weeks could a building commission calculate the damages inflicted by the flood. It broke two bridge pillars and three stone arches.

Only then did Prague become aware of how the bridge -- older than five centuries -- was missed in view of the mounting traffic. Neither the iron bridge of Franz Joseph I below Letná Hill (today's Stefaník bridge from 1868) nor the stone bridge of František Palacký (built in 1876-78) were enough.

The collapsed structure disclosed even additional problems that the aging bridge had suffered. During repairs the architects then used the newest modern techniques -- they utilized so-called caissons (diving bells) that enabled them to work under the river bed and concrete blocks to strengthen the structure. The bridge was operational on November 19, 1892, but an additional ten years were required to repair the pillars.



Figure 6: Charles Bridge (3352)

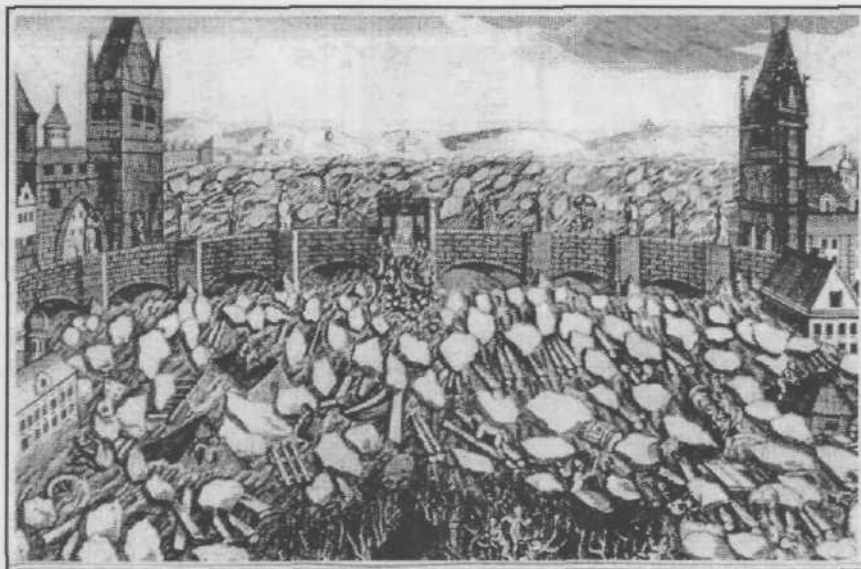


Figure 7: Ice floe in February 1784

Now, back to the beginning of our tale -- all Prague residents right now still vividly remember August of 2002 when the thousand-year flood assaulted the bridge -- after monumental rains the level of the Vltava rose many meters and inflicted lots of damage.

In July 2007, there were great celebrations in Prague for the 650th anniversary of the construction of the Charles Bridge, because the efforts of Peter Parler and his followers were able to withstand the test of the storms of the centuries.

Sources:

- Emanuel Poche: *Prahou krok za krokem* (Prague -- Step by Step); publisher *Panorama* 1985
- Miroslav Martínek: *Karlův most ve zkoušce věku* (Charles Bridge in the Test of Time); magazine *Pravo*, July 2007



EGYPTOLOGY and FRANTIŠEK LEXA

15 April 1876 - 13 February 1960

by G.M. van Zanten

If you refer to Pofis #2184 (Fig. 1) and the May 1976 *SPECIALIST*, you will be no wiser as to who Lexa really was and where he came from.

However, an article by Dagmar Eliášková in one of my old Czech Life magazines will enlighten us on the life of Czechoslovak Egyptologist František Lexa. Figure 2 shows him as one of three "celebrities anniversaries", the others being Jindřich Jindřich and Wilhelm Pieck.

It appears that Lexa was deeply involved with research into ancient Egyptian civilization. In October and November 1984 an extensive collection of valuable statues and fragments, dating back to 2,400 years BC were discovered in the temple of Pharaoh Raneferef from the 5th Dynasty in Abu Sir. This unique discovery of royal sculptures and wooden statuettes appeared to be the third biggest from that period.



Fig. 1

It is here that we make our acquaintance with academician Lexa, founder of Czechoslovak Egyptology as well as the first director of Charles University's Egyptological Institute which was established in Prague in 1958.

Lexa was born in Pardubice on April 5, 1876. In the mid-1930's he was the only expert in all of Europe who gave lectures on Demotic (a simplified form of hieroglyphics) the last but one stage of the ancient Egyptian language. This enabled him to translate most of the major Egyptian texts, and he published an "Anthology of Egyptian Literature" as well as a book "On Public Life in Ancient Egypt".

His main work is the four-volume grammar of Demotic called: "Grammaire Démotique" (1938-1951), an indispensable book for the study of this language.

He deserves special credit for his work for the oriental institute and publication of the Czechoslovak journal on oriental studies known as "Archiv Orientální" as well as his innumerable lectures in Czechoslovakia and abroad. Also, he had articles and studies in specialized journals and printed in various magazines.

In 1952 he was rewarded for his life-long work with the State Prize, and later on Professor Lexa received the Order of the Republic as well as the Czechoslovak Peace Prize.



Fig. 2

THE HISTORY OF THE MAIL IN PRASKOLESY

by Zuzana Bežová, Jaroslav Kadeřábek

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

At the 100th anniversary of the founding of the post office in Praskolesy, we (the postmaster of Praskolesy, Mrs. Bežová, and The Society for Postal History associated with the Philatelic Club of Hořovice) were able to put together some interesting information about the development of postal service in our community. As a remembrance of this anniversary, a postal label with the overprinted statement *267 54 Praskolesy 100 Years* has been prepared for all those who submit a pre-addressed envelope. By use of this label from May 16th to August 31st, 2005, we are remembering not only 100 years of postal service but also 100 years since the founding of the volunteer fire department. This article should at least make your aware of the postal history in our community.

The predecessor of the post office was the letter collection office that was opened in 1901. Such collection offices, the so-called *poštovna* [Contract Post Office (CPO)] -- see the Mar/Apr 1998 issue, pg 15], were collection points for letter mail, but they were also accepting payments in cash and packages up to a certain weight. This CPO was under the supervision of the Hořovice post office, and its servicing was guaranteed by way of a daily out-of-town mail carrier (with the exception of Mondays). The CPO had for its use a bilingual steel hand-stamp in a rectangular

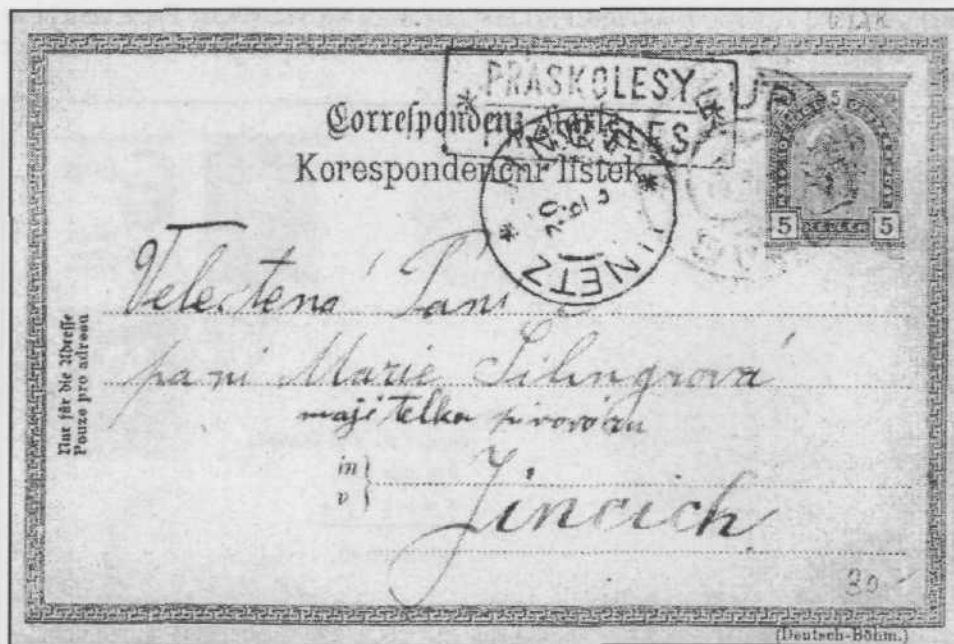


Figure 1: Correspondence card with the cancellation of the postal collection office, the so-called Contract Post Office (CPO) Praskolesy, from 1902

shape with the German-Czech name of the village which was applied to postal items next to the stamps.

Individual stamps on regular postal shipments were canceled using a railroad postal system cancel. The mail was delivered to the train four times a day. Other -- so-called "signed-for" shipments -- were canceled by the supervising post office in Hořovice. In the majority of communities the CPO's were operated by the local innkeeper, store keeper, or the postmaster could have also been the teacher or possibly even the mayor. According to those who remember, the CPO and later the post office were at Červenka 24. At that time Mr. Červenka was the mayor of the village.

The post office in Praskolesy was opened on May 15, 1905. The village at that time had 156 houses, in which lived 910 residents. The opening of the post office was without a question a great advantage for tradesmen, store keepers, and the general public. The daily trips to the post office in Hořovice were no longer needed and direct mail connections with the outside world were much faster. The post office accepted and expedited all mail in the so-called "closures" (the name for the sealed postal bags) directly into the train mail system at the local train station. A telegraph connection was established in 1910. At that time, *postal dispatch clerk* was the title of the postmaster of a rural post office Class III (which was termed a postal dispatch office); he received an annual salary and to this was added a lump sum to cover the expenses associated with the postal service. There were one-time problems to secure dependable messengers for the delivery of the mail, for which he would be held responsible to provide a deposit in the event of

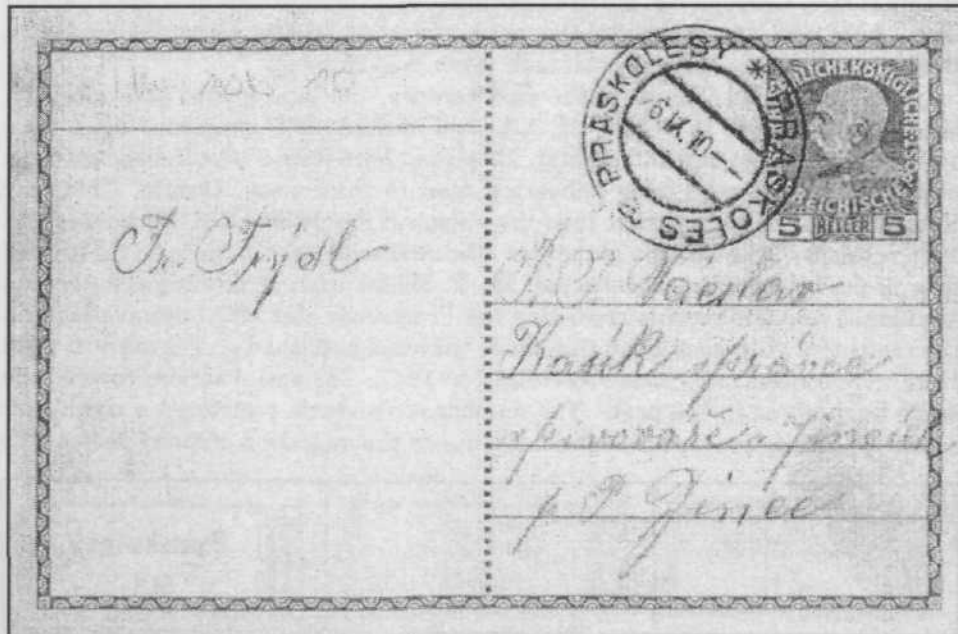


Figure 2: An example of the first type of the Praskolesy post office cancel from 6 September 1910

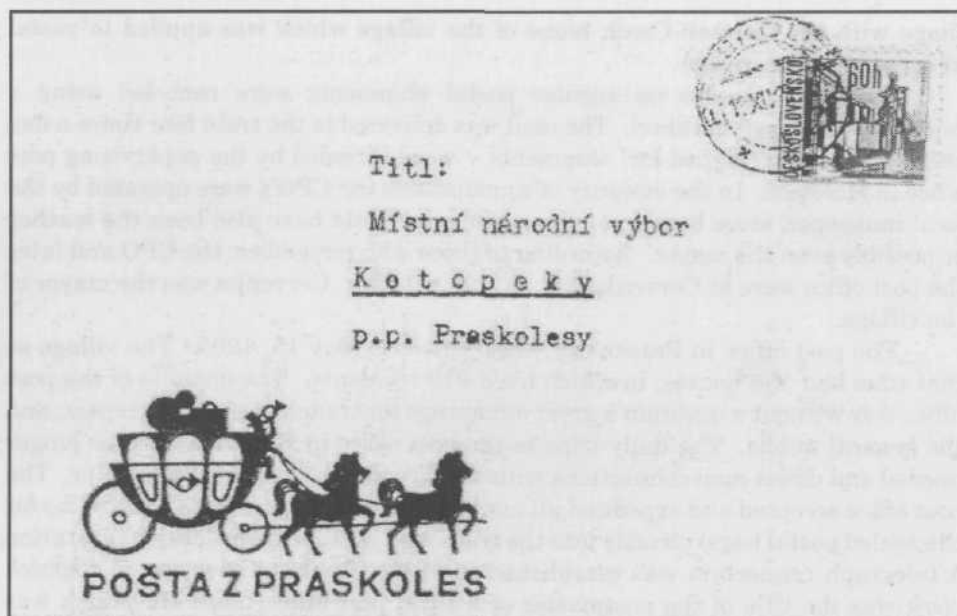


Figure 3: The envelope with golden print and a cancellation from the 1960's
[the cachet reads "Mail from Praskolesy"]

embezzlement. Often the entire postal operation remained in a family -- evidence of this is Mrs. Červenková, married Brábníková. These professions were handed down from one generation to the next; the sons of Mr. Červenka and Mrs. Brábníková later served as postal mail carriers in Hořovice.

From the mid-thirties of the past century, the local postal and telegraph office was placed in the Class III, 1.A level and annually processed more than 15,000 items (registered shipments). Employed here were a postal dispatch clerk and two postmen who were delivering mail to Praskolesy, Otmiče, Chlustiny, Kotopek, and Tihava. At that time the village of Praskolesy had 231 houses and 1046 residents. The location of the post office was evidently in space on the ground floor of the house of the storekeeper, Mr. F. Sládek (today's municipal authority). Additional valuable records regarding the Praskolesy post office are available in the register of villages of the Czech lands that was published on February 1, 1949. Here were concentrated data ascertained in 1947. The postal service covered the same territory as in the past. The number of residents registered a significant reduction, due to the Holocaust and also due to the migration of many people who

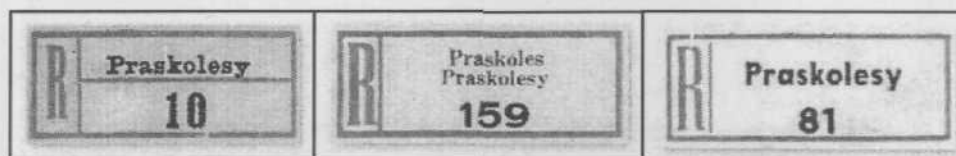


Figure 4: Registration labels from 1922, 1944 and 1970 respectively

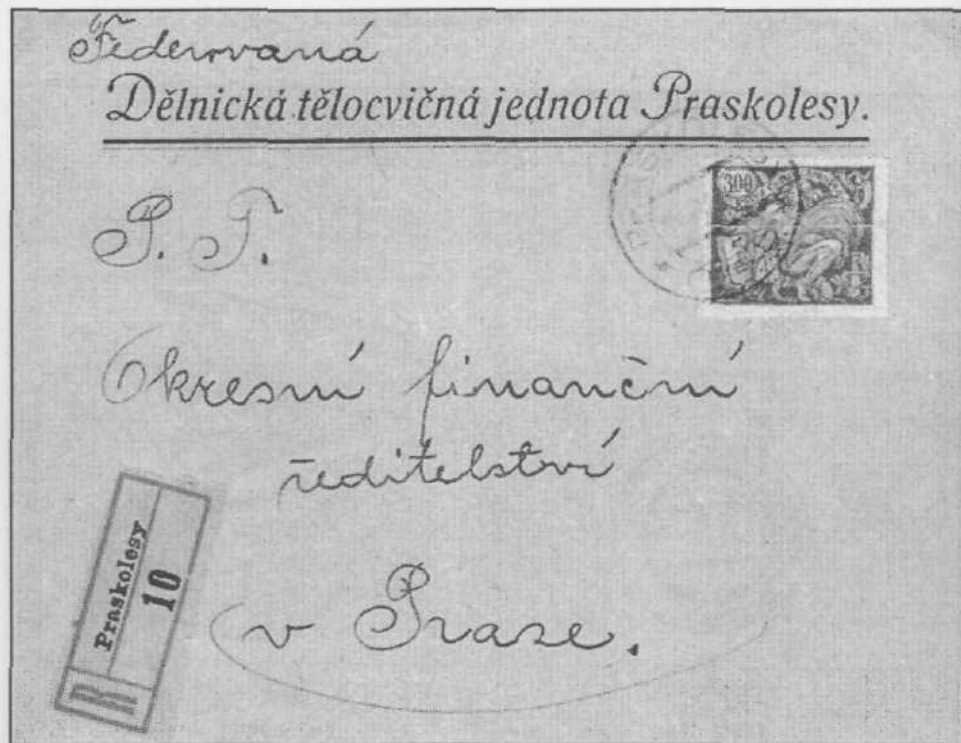


Figure 5: Registered letter sent from Praskolesy on 17 June 1920 [sent from the Federated Worker's Gymnastic Union Praskolesy to P.T. County Financial Directorate in Prague]

helped to re-populate the border territories [previously occupied by the Sudeten Germans]. At that date there were 920 residents living in the village. Further reliable information is provided by the statistical lexicon of towns from 1965. From it, we will learn that the mail carriers had in their territory a total of 417 mail delivery boxes and that deliveries were made to a total of 1,552 residents.

A significant change in the postal service was realized in the 1960's when the delivery of the mail to the train mail-wagon was discontinued and a new mail delivery system by automobile was established. This type of delivery was called -- and to this day is still called -- postal routes, which emanate from transit centers. Also at the time of these delivery changes, the location of the post office was changed to the current facilities.

Effective January 1, 1973, there came another very significant change in mail delivery -- which was the establishment of delivery zone numbers [our ZIP codes]. Every post office received a specific PSC number from which it was possible to establish the location of the community where the post office was located. The first digit denotes the part of the country (2 would mean *Central Bohemia*), the second digit would denote the county (6 would be *Beroun*), the third number would identify the village, and the last two, pertinent boxes in the given post office. Our village was given the number 267 54, which is also used on the daily cancel before

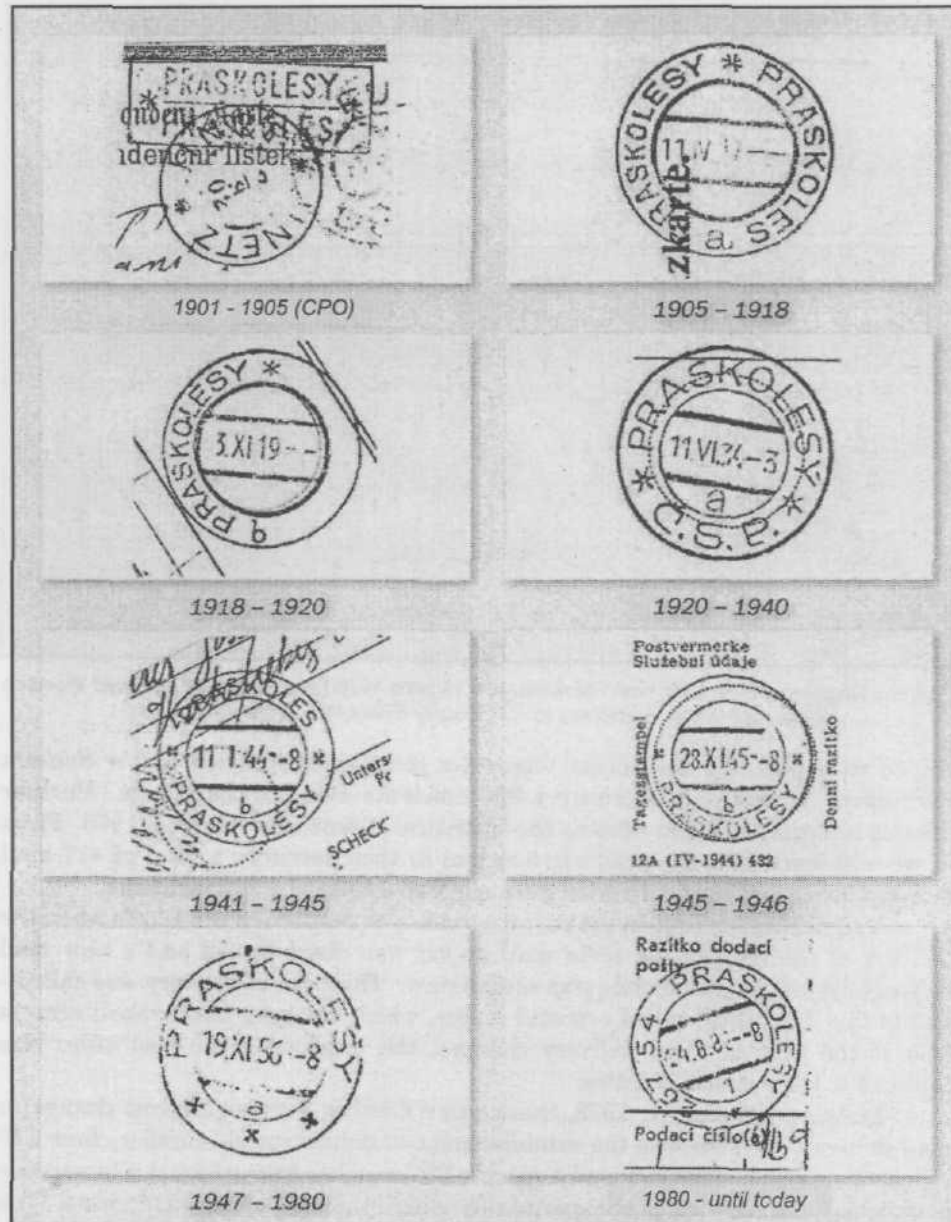


Figure 6: Cancellations from Praskolesy post office and the periods during which they were used

the name of the village, and thus also solves the problem of possible confusion with the village of Praskolesy in Jihlava county. The postal service experienced additional large changes just recently with the arrival of the Postal Savings Bank. This was certainly a great advantage for the general public at a time when the State Savings Bank closed all of its reasonably located branches. A significant change was also the introduction of Apost (computerized postal services) resulting thus in the development of a new phase of philately, i.e., the collecting of Apost labels. In 1997 and 1999 came two additional and significant changes to our postal service by the establishment of motorized mail deliveries to local villages.

The delivery to the village of Otmíče was transferred to the Zdice post office in 1997, and the postal delivery for Kotopek and Tihava was transferred to the Hořovice post office. These changes can be mainly judged by the residents of these villages, and it is an unwritten rule that not all of them always appreciate the changes.

In conclusion to our travels through the century of the mail service, it is appropriate for us to wish that the postal service in our village serves to the satisfaction of all its citizens in the future years. Hopefully, these small country post offices survive the planned privatization, and we will not experience the case of our Western neighbors where their post offices are closed and replaced by collection stations in shopping malls or at gasoline stations. Whoever has carefully read this entire article would agree with our believe that this would be for the Praskolesy post office a return to 100 years ago.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this translated article that was submitted to us by our members, Marge and David Stueckemann of Libertyville, IL. They are very active with an organization having the acronym CSAGSI which is devoted to 'preserving our Bohemian, Moravian, Slovakian, Silesian & Ruthenian heritage'. The article is actually a chapter in a book entitled "Nahlédnutí do historie obec Praskolesy" (peering into the history of the village of Praskolesy), Part 2, by Jaroslav Čáp, which was given to Marge by the Mayor of Praskolesy, Zdenka Drabková, since the village is the home of Marge's Sladek ancestors. Praskolesy is in Bohemia about halfway between Prague and Plzeň. One final note, perhaps someone might look through their holdings and see if they can find an item that shows a clear example of the railroad cancel that is mentioned in use early in the 1900's along with the CPO handstamp (if the railway cancel is on the piece in Figure 1, it is very unclear).]

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WANTED: Foreign/international mail/covers, postal history
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175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CZECH NATIONAL ANTHEM

by Karel Holoubek
trans. by Savoy Horvath

The year 2009 is bringing a very dear anniversary for Czechs around the world. Actually it will be a commemoration of the original presentation of the musical play "Fidlovačka" by Josef Kajetán Tyl (Fig. 1, S759/P896) and František Škroup (Fig. 2, S1098/P1234) wherein one of the songs, "Kde Domov Můj", was first heard by the public, and later was accepted and used by the whole nation as its national anthem. [*Kde domov můj/Where is my Home was the 19th song of the musical play. J.K. Tyl wrote the lyrics and Fr. Škroup composed the music. The play had its opening in Prague on December 21, 1834.*]



Fig. 1

For this 175th anniversary the Czech Post will issue a 10 Kč commemorative postage stamp on October 14, 2009.



Fig. 2

The last time the Czech anthem was remembered (by the then Czechoslovak post) was via the renowned two souvenir sheets [the infamous



Fig. 3

"music sheets"] (Fig. 3/4, S200/200a) of 1934, among the most expensive Czechoslovak issues of modern times.

Osice, a small village southwest of Hradec Králové, is the birthplace of František Škroup the composer of the song. The issuance of this stamp represents a symbolic christening of the song. A celebration will be held in Škroup Hall on October 17, 2009 with the presence of the stamp's author/engraver Bedřich Housa, area dignitaries, and philatelic



Fig. 4

representatives. A commemorative sheet, designed by a local university student, will be available along with a special cancel created for the occasion by the Czech Post (Fig. 5).

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Alfonso Zulueta:

-- In a shameless plug for myself,

I am pleased to announce that my "Afghanistan, Amanullah Period, 1920-1929" recently was awarded a Large Gold at STAMPSHOW 2009 in Melbourne, Australia.

At the following web site:

<http://www.melbournestampshow2009.com/gallery.htm>

you can also see some of the pictures I took at the show. (Mine are of set-up and the show itself.) My favorite one is the "action shot" of Patrick Frost of Argyll Etkin showing the shelf in the cabinet collapsing!

2. From Savoy Horvath:

-- Something of interest for our readers. I was asked recently to help with the identification of the following item (Fig. 1). There was a short article in the Aug/Sep Ukrainian Trident/Visnik publication, with the heading "An Unknown Stamp of Carpatho-Ukraine". Well, the heading has two mistakes -- it isn't a stamp and it isn't from the Carpatho-Ukraine. As it looks like it is from the 1920's, it is from Podkarpatská Rus -- Czechoslovakia. The illustrated item is not a stamp, not a revenue, nor a label. It is a receipt from Občanské Úvěrní Družstvo (Community Credit Co-op) -- a forerunner of today's Credit Unions. When a person joined, he was given a booklet, and each time he made a deposit the Co-op clerk applied a sticker in the booklet in the amount of the deposit. 10 Kč (Czechoslovak Koruny) equaled to about \$2.00 then, and was quite a lot of money for that time period. The sticker is printed in Czech and Hungarian -- Czech being the official language of Podkarpatská Rus. Note that the city name Užhorod is also in Czech in the Hungarian portion.



Fig. 5



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

2008 FINANCIAL REPORT
The Society for Czechoslovak Philately
by Edwin Lehecka, Treasurer

INCOME

Member Dues	\$ 6,397
Book Sales	1,610
Circuit Sales	2,009
Other	(42)
	\$ 9,974

EXPENSES

SPECIALIST	\$ 8,308
Administrative	568
	\$ 8,876

NET GAIN

\$ 1,097

Due to fortunate circumstances, the Society was able to report a profit of over a thousand dollars. Although our dues did not pay for SPECIALIST expenses (a long stated goal of the SCP), good book and circuit sales more than made up for the shortfall. Also, this was an off-year for Patron Book expenses. To increase membership (down to about 256 from the 300 area a couple of years ago) – and thereby dues – and to keep control of expenses–these should continue to be long term goals.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Book Review

**SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF
1944-1945 CARPATHO-UKRAINE**
by Jiří Majer

This is the first comprehensive catalog of all of the issues of the Carpatho-Ukraine, sixty-four years after the appearance of the first stamps of this disputed region. Finally we have a catalog with much more complete information to refer to, and not only articles about some issues. The listings of Carpatho-Ukraine in the Michel catalog are at best standard and are incomplete.

This catalog is a very serious attempt by the author to shed more light on this complicated area of philately. I am delighted to write that he has done so with much success. The only flaw (if I may call it that) is that it is entirely written in the Czech language. But it is here that our Society's glossary can be of great help.

Considering the wealth of information (some heretofore unknown), it is a great addition to philately. One look at the contents tells the story:

- Documents (pertaining to the issues by authorities)
- Overprints of Chust, Mukačevo, Berehovo, Teresva
- First, second overprints of NRZU (National Council of Carpatho-Ukraine)
- Overprints of NRZU on Chust stamps
- First, second, third definitive issues of NRZU
- Postal stationery with Chust overprints
- Postal stationery forms of Mukačevo overprints
- Postal stationery with NRZU overprints
- Postal rates, postmarks of Chust, Mukačevo
- Postal rates, postmarks of NRZU

All overprint types, joined types, rare and interesting usages are excellently described and illustrated.

Hardbound and printed in color on glossy paper, 160 pages, it is priced in Kč (Czech Koruny). This catalog is a must for any collector of Carpatho-Ukraine -- beginner, advanced, or specialist. It is also a great addition to any philatelic library. Just contact our book manager (back of this issue) if you are interested in purchasing it for \$26.00 postpaid.

Olech Wyslowsky



2007/2008 BOUND VOLUME

(Continued from Page 1)

If you live in the USA and would like one of these volumes, it will cost you \$20 postpaid -- just write or e-mail our book manager, Savoy Horvath, his information is on the back cover of any *Specialist*. If you live outside the USA, please contact Savoy and be prepared to pay \$30 (yes, it now costs an extra \$10 to send such a book outside the USA).

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WANTED: Material between June, 1938 and August, 1946
related to Czech dealer Alfons Stach --
postal history, price lists, catalogs, etc.
Stach was a Prague stamp dealer who emigrated just before WW II
and continued his stamp business in New York.
Phil Rhoads, 905 E. Oakside St., South Bend, IN 46614
philip.rhoads@mnsu.edu

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten



Fig. 1

1. On June 17, 2009, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 26 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the 400th Anniversary of the Majesty Letter of Rudolf II (Fig. 1). The Emperor and Czech King Rudolf II issued his Majesty Letter on July 9, 1609 as a result of the political activity of the Czech non-Catholic aristocrats claiming the principle that faith is a gift of God and as such it may not be coerced against anyone. This principle, which was granted already at the 1485 Kutná Hora Religious Conciliation, was refined at the 1575 Czech Confession negotiations and made a law by the Majesty Letter. By this law the emperor

gave the non-Catholics their (lower) consistory, university and the right to elect defenders. The legalization of such a broad religious freedom, granting as religious freedom one of the basic human rights to the whole population including subjects, was completely unique in Europe. The fight for religious freedom belongs to the greatest and from the global point of view most significant traditions of Czech history. The stamp shows raised hands against a background of calligraphic writing from the heading of the Majesty Letter of Rudolf II symbolizing the freedom of religion. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulháněk, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in gray, light brown, dark-brown, and red in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC in brownish-red has a cachet showing the profile of the emperor (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

2. On June 17, 2009, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the International Fire Brigades Competitions CTIF, which will be held from July 19 to July 26, 2009, in Ostrava (Fig. 3). The CTIF (Comité Technique International de Prévention et D'extinction du Feu, or The International Association of Fire and Rescue Service), established in 1900 in Paris, is the major global organization of fire brigades. The



Fig. 4

Czech Republic is present in the CTIF through the CTIF Czech National Committee which will organize the XIV International Fire Brigades Competitions and the XVII Youth Fire Brigades Competitions, or the so-called fire brigades olympics. Fire brigades olympics has always been considered by any organizing country as an event of national importance. The Ostrava competitions are expected to be attended by up to 3,500 direct participants (sportsmen, referees, organizing staff members and V.I.P.'s) from over 30 countries worldwide. The events include the classical men', women', and children's CTIF disciplines and the fire sports disciplines. The stamp features a fire being fought. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC printed by monochromatic offset shows a relay race in progress (Fig. 4).

Stationery

3. On February 18, 2009, the Czech Post issued six postal cards with an imprinted stamp to promote the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships Liberec 2009 that was held 18 February to 1 March, 2009. The 10 Kč imprinted stamp has a linden leaf motif -- a national symbol (this stylized linden leaf design framed in a red and blue border was first used on May 31, 2006) [see the July/August 2006 issue] and has the following five themes:

- Liberec - Jěstěd Mountain (1012m altitude), Tipsport Arena Liberec, the swimming pool, the town hall of Liberec, the cableway to Jěstěd Mountain, the dam.
- Liberec - Jěstěd, the center, the Nord-Bohemian Museum, the Dr. E. Beneš Square, the Botanical Garden.
- Liberec - the TV transmitter, the mountain hotel Jěstěd.
- Liberec - the town hall in Dr. E. Beneš Square.
- Liberec - Jěstěd Mountain (1012m altitude).

The 17 Kč imprinted stamp has the silhouette of Prague Castle evoking the first stamps of the Czechoslovak Republic -- Prague Castle by Alfons Mucha -- and has the following theme:

- Liberec - Jěstěd, the center, the Nord-Bohemian Museum, the Dr. E. Beneš Square, the Botanical Gardens.

In the lower left corner of the right address portion of the post cards is located the logo of a little lion -- the mascot of the Championship -- completed with the text: FIS Nordic World Ski Championships Liberec 2009 in Czech. The postal cards were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. Under the logo of the Czech post is located a hologram serving as a protective element.

4. On June 24, 2009, the Czech Post issued a set of 8 picture postal cards with an imprinted stamp dedicated to motifs of church monuments in the Czech Republic:

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- PRAGUE: the former Augustinian canon monastery with the church of the Virgin Mary and Holy Charles the Great.
 - SLANÝ: the former Franciscan monastery with the Holy Trinity Church.
 - HAVLÍČKŮV BROD: the area of the Augustinian cloister with the Holy Family Church.
 - JABLONNĚ V PODJĚSTĚDÍ: the former Dominican monastery and hospital.
 - BRNO: the monastery of the Order of Franciscans with the church of the Holy Mary Magdalena.
 - DAČICE: the Franciscan cloister.
 - KLÁŠTERNÍ HRADISKO U OLOMOUCE: the area of the former Benedictine cloister (since the middle of the 12th century the Premonstratensian cloister).
 - VALTICE: the former monastery of the Order of Merciful Brothers with the Holy Augustin Church.
- The imprinted stamp with a value of 10 Kč was designed by Bedřich Housa and printed by multicolored offset by OPTYS, Ltd.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

5. On February 27, 2009, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.33 € commemorative stamp entitled Easter 2009 -- Decorated Easter Eggs (Fig. 5). Painted and decorated eggs -- kraslice -- are intrinsically associated with Easter. They symbolize spring and new life; for Christians they are associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of the egg dates to pagan times when it was associated with fertility and the cycle of life. This may be the reason why the tradition of putting eggs into a grave alongside the deceased existed in many ancient cultures. We still find the custom of egg decoration connected with the celebration of spring in the greater Slavonic territory. Hen, duck and goose eggs are most often used for decoration. Various egg-decorating techniques are used in different Slovak regions. The most traditional include waxing, tie-dyeing, etching, scraping, sticking with grass or straw, and the wiring of eggs. The stamp was designed by Júlia Piačková and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC showing a painted egg among Easter ribbons was issued (Fig. 6).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

6. On March 13, 2009, the Ministry issued a 0.60 € commemorative stamp entitled Sports -- Martial Arts (Fig. 7). Martial arts represents an extensive system of techniques which determine its character -- depending on style, school, tradition,

and other specific elements. Judo, iaido, kendo, aikido and other martial arts today comprise at least two different forms. This also applies to karate, which is the motif for the stamp as well as the entire Martial Arts issue. Contemporary karate, mostly a sport today, developed from the traditional Okinawan tode. We ought to bear in mind however that this traditional way of fighting also has its historical predecessors: the Greek "pancratation", the Indian "vajramushti", and the Chinese "chuan fa" all have something in common with the Okinawan tode. Historical and political circumstances, the occupation of the Ryukyu islands in 1609, and the subsequent ban on bearing/owning weapons in 1629 led to the uniting of chuan fa and tode into a single fighting system called "te" -- i.e. hands. "Te"



Fig. 8

was trained in absolute secrecy at that time and its sole purpose was to kill an opponent with a single blow. Three hundred years later, when Okinawa became a prefecture of Japan and karate became accessible to the public -- the sport form of karate developed. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows two competitors with one administering a kick to the other (Fig. 8).



Fig. 7

7. On April 17, 2009, the Ministry issued a 0.33 € commemorative stamp in the Personalities series dedicated to Aurel Stodola (1859-1942)(Fig. 9). Aurel Stodola was born on 10 May 1859 in Liptovský Mikuláš. His technical talent was already evident at school-age, therefore after completing his secondary school education he went on to study at the Technical University in Budapest, the Polytechnic Institute in Zurich, and completed his studies in 1884, graduating from the Sorbonne in Paris. He worked at various engineering companies, lectured at university, and spent a half-century on pioneering engineering work in Zurich. His greatest achievements concerned the field of steam and gas turbine construction. He became a recognized world expert in steam turbines, writing several books that served as the basis for this engineering field and laid the foundations for its development for many years to come. He received his greatest honor in 1940 when England awarded him the James Watt Gold Medal. He died in 1942 in Zurich, but is buried in his home town. The stamp was designed by Ivan Schurmann and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a figurative display of the water-gas cycle (Fig. 10).



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

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8. On April 29, 2009, the Ministry issued a T2 50g commemorative stamp celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Union of Slovak Philatelists (USP)(Fig. 11). Philately is a fine and remarkable area of interest. It extends one's horizons and is an excellent way to relax. Organized philatelic activity in Slovakia goes back over 110 years. Currently the USP is a citizens'



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

association with approximately 1700 members in 93 philatelic associated clubs. As a member of Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA), the USP represents its members' interests

at home and abroad.

The USP webpage at www.zsf.chtf.stuba.sk provides detailed information on its activities. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grecner, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 8 stamps and coupons (Fig. 12). A FDC shows the portrait of J.E. Gray -- who was the first registered philatelist and publisher of the first catalogue of postage stamps -- in a "stamp" set into a perforation gauge, one of the most used philatelic tools (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

9. On May 7, 2009, the Ministry issued a 0.80 € commemorative stamp celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic (SAO SR)(Fig. 14). The Supreme Audit Office is an institution with vivid historical tradition. The history of the Audit Office, with certain administrative and functional changes, dates back to the times of Empress Maria Teresa. Upon the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, it became the

Supreme Accounting Audit Office. In 1993 a portion of it transformed into the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic. It is therefore an institution which has maintained a stable position in all social structures over its 250-years tradition. It has not lost its respect, and it has been the guarantee of impartial control over public funds until now. The stamp shows the heraldic emblem of the SAO SR illustrating a spread-winged golden eagle with silver armor holding the state symbol of the Slovak Republic on its chest. It is holding the silver-spiked spear of the Apostle Thomas, all wrapped with a ribbon displaying the motto PARSIMONIA EFFECTIVITAS COMMODO. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in sheets of 50 pieces.

A FDC shows a cachet which portrays the eagle in profile with a plaque repeating the office motto (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15

10. On May 28, 2009, the Ministry issued a 0.90 € commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series celebrating Astronomy (Fig. 16). The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) is an initiative of the International Astronomical Union, UNESCO, and is supported by Slovakia. IYA2009 celebrates the first astronomical use of the telescope by Galileo in 1609 -- an event which had global implications. The Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences



Fig. 16

in Tatranská Lomnica is the coordinating body for IYA2009 activities in Slovakia. Astronomy is one of the oldest sciences on Earth. It originated in the ancient Sumerian and Egyptian civilizations, which used cardinal point basic orientation and time measurement techniques as early as the 5th millennium

BC. As a branch of science it has developed since the 16th century thanks to the works of Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, and Newton. The stamp was designed by Marián Komáček and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using multicolored offset in sheets of 8 and 50. A FDC shows the astronomer's tools along with a medal displaying a woman's head in profile (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17

11. On June 2, 2009, the Ministry issued a 0.80 € commemorative stamp in the Personalities series dedicated to Žofia Bosniaková (1609-1644) (Fig. 18). Žofia Bosniaková was born on 2 June 1609 in Šurany. She was married for the first time when she was just seventeen, but her husband died shortly thereafter of a sudden illness. She moved back home and then married again, moved to Teplice nad Váhom and had two sons, Adam (1630) and Ladislav (1633). She was a modest, deeply religious, and kind-hearted woman, always eager to help. Her deep sympathy for the poor and suffering led her to found and sustain a poorhouse. She died on 28 April 1644 at Strečno Castle where her family had taken refuge from some riots going on at the time. She was buried at Strečno under the castle chapel. In 1729, her body was found intact, and subsequently deposited in a glass-lidded coffin in the church in Teplice, the Loretan Chapel of the Virgin Mary, built for that purpose by Count Löwenburg. Her great popularity, which went beyond the area of



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

Marián Čapka, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s., in Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset. A FDC shows the castle in Šurany where Žofia was born together with her signature placed into ornaments of mass vestments which -- according to tradition -- she embroidered herself (Fig. 20).



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

12. On June 15, 2009, the Ministry issued a 1.00 € commemorative stamp honoring the President of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Gašparovič (Fig. 21). He studied at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava and received his degree in 1968 and subsequently became a docent at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University. Over the years he has held many and varied positions of steadily more importance and responsibility. In 2004 he ran for the presidency of the Slovak Republic, and won in the second round of the direct election on April 17, 2004. During this presidency he has been awarded a number of distinguished orders and

Teplička, is one factor in her potential beatification. The remains of Žofia Bosniaková were burned by a mentally unstable man on April 1, 2009. The postage stamp represents the portrait of Žofia Bosniaková in clothes of her time with the Strečno castle in the background. The stamp is included as a single in a souvenir sheet that shows the parish churches in Šurany and Teplička nad Váhom on the sides (Fig. 19). Below these are located small bread loaves called "bosniaky" which Zofia used to feed the hungry and the poor. Above the stamp there is a fragment of the Loretan chapel portal. Under the postage stamp is depicted the coffin with the remains of Žofia. The stamp and souvenir sheet were designed by



Fig. 22



Fig. 23

medals. He successfully defended his re-election to a second term on April 4, 2009. The stamp shows an outline drawing of President

Gašparovič, was designed by Ivan Schurmann, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin,

a.s., in Prague in a souvenir sheet with two labels (Fig. 22). A FDC shows cherubs holding plants (Fig. 23).

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