



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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President's Corner/Editorial Hinges

Well, 2009 has been quite an eventful year, both personally and for the Society. My mother passed away in January at 92 (quietly) as did the national economy. My mother passing opened up the floodgates for many adventures that my wife and I had planned for many years, taking me away from the Society and my duties.

The downturn in the economy had repercussions for us all including the Society. I had previously found a replacement editor, but the downturn resulted in that arrangement to be nullified. So here I am in my fourteenth year as editor, still looking for a replacement. Is there someone out there who is adventurous enough to take on this function? I will stay on to help.

The downturn had another not unexpected result -- we have lost membership. Our goal has always been to keep our membership around 300 so that the membership dues would pay for the publication costs of the *Specialist*. Well, with our membership down to the mid-200's, some form of relief had to be found. One possibility was to increase the dues -- but that of course did not happen. We had raised the dues from \$18 to \$25 just a few years ago, so have moved to another remedy.

Beginning with 2010, the *Specialist* will be published quarterly, rather than every other month. To minimize the impact of the reduction of two issues, each quarterly issue will be at least 44 pages long. Also keep in mind that about 4 - 5

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

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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: canclcek@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 3rd 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.CSPilately.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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PLATE FLAWS OF THE POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 OVERPRINTS

by P. Severin, J. Stošek, V. Řezníček
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

Stamps having the Pošta Československá 1919 overprint do not just represent rarities valued in the millions. They also represent a great number of inexpensive and easily available stamps that can be the subject of interest for specialized collectors. Researchers, as for example E. Hirsch or the authors of *Monografie Part II*, describe the development of the overprint printing plates of the heller denominated Austrian definitive stamp issues [see *Figure 1 for an example*], in which they point out a whole group of plate errors. As we will try to point out in our article, there are in fact many more errors. These flaws could be valuable helpers during the identification of the phases of the overprint plates, and they themselves are of course an interesting diversification for a specialized or study collection. [Throughout this article, DV = plate flaw, TD = printing plate, ZP = printing sheet position.]

After the acquisition of a considerable quantity of whole-sheet material that enabled us to determine the most detailed information about individual plate flaws (DV), we decided to publish our findings. We believe that our modest contribution will help to popularize this so often damned issue, that according to our opinion plays such an important role in the collection of the stamps of ČSR I.

We will not burden our readers with the technology of their production nor with the circumstances of their printing. All of that is adequately and clearly described in *Monografie II* and in the plethora of specialized articles. On the other hand it is necessary to bring to your attention that the individual overprint DV's came about progressively during the printing from the individual printing plates (TD); thus, the progression of flaws do not even appear on some of the stamp denominations. Here it is evident that we are talking about the values that were overprinted right at the beginning of the process.

During our studies, we held to a principle to include in our work only those DV's that were repeated on all values overprinted from a given TD, or more precisely, those in the majority.

To interested parties we recommend that they collect these DV's, if possible, at least in blocks of four, which will make it possible to better identify their location on the printing sheet.

Besides these there exist a lot of incidental printing flaws. A whole group of these came about through the falling out of confetti (paper circles) from the perforation openings of the overprinted sheets and their adhering to the sheet of stamps -- white circles could appear on the overprints or black circles on the overprinted plate. Today, however, we are not concerned with these. To the extent though that the confetti impressed the TD, it is obvious that it is a DV.



Fig. 1

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TD I and Ia, check 3h values.



ZP 8
- differently trimmed "9"



ZP 9
- differently trimmed "9"



ZP 45
- damaged "č" on left

TD Ia and Ib, check 15h values.



ZP 8,9
- differently trimmed "9"



ZP 9
- cuts in top of "P",
deformed "č"



ZP 19
- sliced corner of "P"



ZP 21
- first "E" nipped out left side



ZP 29
- sliced off corner, notch on left



ZP 34
- second "9" nipped top left



ZP 36
- deformed second "1" and "9"



ZP 38
- dot in "P"/"T", gouge in top of "S", "K" damaged on left, puffy "O"



ZP 39
- cut in upper part "č"



ZP 41
- nipped out top inner edge of "P" opening



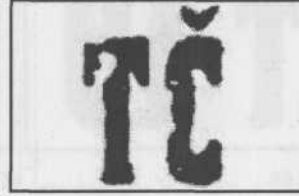
ZP 42
- nipped left side of "O", dot in "A"
POŠTA, dots in "V" and second "K"



ZP 43
- diagonal cut in top "P"



ZP 44
- diagonal cut in top "P"



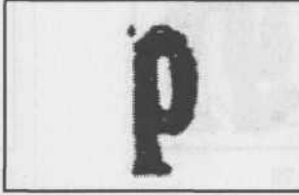
ZP 45
- blemish in "T", deformed "č"



ZP 46
- blemish in right leg of "A"



ZP 47
- dot in upper edge of "9"
Opening



ZP 49
- sliced corner of "P"



ZP 51
- nipped top of "A"



ZP 53
- cuts in top of "P", nipped bottom of "T", cut off "v" above "C"

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ZP 59
- cut in top of "P", damaged
"Č" and "v" above "Č"



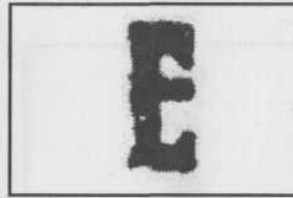
ZP 61
- dot in "L"



ZP 64
- damaged lower edge of
second "9"



ZP 68
- nipped top corner of "T",
cuts into first "1" and "9"



ZP 71
- damaged left & lower edge
of "E" in ČESKO



ZP 72
- cut into "S" and "K" of
of ČESKO



ZP 79
- damaged first "9" and
and second "1"



ZP 83
- nipped off corner of "P"



ZP 88
- nipped left leg of second "K"

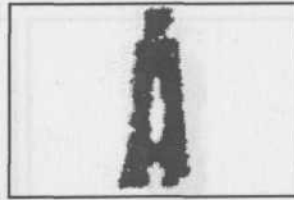


ZP 91
- nipped left upper side of "Š"

TD II, check 5h, 12h, 25h, 50h values.



ZP 3
- damaged lower part of second "9"



ZP 5
- right leg cut off on "A"



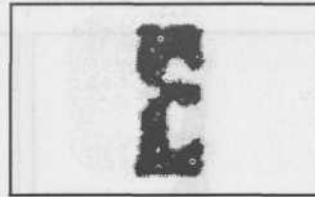
ZP 7
- cut into base of second "1"



ZP 12
- cut on right edge of second "1"



ZP 13
- cut in bottom edge of "S"



ZP 21
- cut into left edge of "E" in ČESKO



ZP 22
- damaged upper left edge of "C"



ZP 26
- cut off left leg of second "K"



ZP 31
- white dot in right arm of second "K"



ZP 38
- nipped out top edge of "S" of ČESKO



ZP 40
- cut off lower left corner of "E" of ČESKO



ZP 41
- white dot in lower part of "A"

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ZP 44
- angled cut, left edge of "P"



ZP 45
- deformed lower half of "C"



ZP 48
- cut in right leg of "A"



ZP 55
- white dot in upper inner part of "P"



ZP 56
- damaged upper parts of "P" and "S"



ZP 57
- cut into right side of "O" of ".SLOVE."



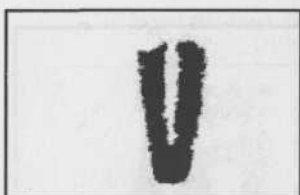
ZP 59
- deformed "v" above "C"



ZP 64
- damaged inner opening of second "9"



ZP 65
- cut into right side of "A"



ZP 66
- cut off left arm of "V"



ZP 68
- thinned right leg of "A"



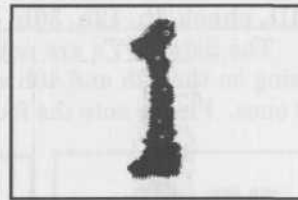
ZP 71
- deformed "O" of POŠTA and bottom of "E" in ČESKO



ZP 72
- cut into lower left side
of "A" POŠTA, damaged "K"



ZP 73
- damaged bottom of "V"



ZP 74
- damaged second "1"



ZP 76
- damaged upper part of "P"



ZP 78
- cut into right leg of "A"



ZP 79
- cut into top of "P", damaged
first "9" and second "1"



ZP 80
- nipped bottom tip of "V"



ZP 83
- cut in top of "P", nipped
upper right arm first "K"



ZP 84
- white blemish in "E" of
".VENKSA"



ZP 87
- cut into left side of "P",
damaged right side of "O"



ZP 89
- cut across top of "P"



ZP 91
- damaged left leg of "K"
ČESKO



ZP 96
- upper right of "P" damaged



ZP 99
- cut into left of "P" and top of "O" of POŠTA, top of "E"
damaged ČESKO

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TD III, check 6h, 12h, 30h, 40h, 60h, 1K values.

The listed DV's are not found on all of the values and some are completely missing on the 12h and 40h values. These values were most likely printed as the first ones. Please note the footnotes at the individual DV's.



ZP 2
- blemish in "N", diagonal cut in "A"



ZP 3
- damaged letters "POŠ", damaged letters "ČES" 1,2



ZP 7
- nipped left edge of "E" 1



ZP 12
- diagonal cut in "A"



ZP 13
- damaged letters "POŠ" 1,2



ZP 16
- blemish in top of "T" 1



ZP 21
- tip of second "9" cut



ZP 23
- damaged letters "POŠ" and "ČE" 1,2



ZP 33
- damaged letters "POŠ" and "ČE" 1,2



ZP 34
- damaged inner part of second "9" 1,2



ZP 42
- damaged middle of "N", cuts into left of "O",
blemish in left leg of "A" SLOVENSKA 1,2



ZP 43
- damaged "P" and "C" 1,2



ZP 44
- cut in top of "S" ČESKO 1,2



ZP 53
- damaged "P" and "C" 1,2



ZP 58
- cut into right leg of "A"



ZP 82
- cut into "C"



ZP 87
- cut into tip of second "9"



ZP 90
- cut into right side of first "1" 1

¹ DV was not determined to be on the 12h value

² DV was not determined to be on the 40h value

TD IV, check 20h, 40h, 60h, 80h, 90h values.



ZP 11
- nipped top of "S" SLO



ZP 12
- blemish in top of loop
of second "9"



ZP 18
- cut across top "A"

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ZP 21
- "v" above "S" has right leg missing



ZP 33
- cut into top of "S" ČESKO



ZP 41
- cut into top of "S" .SKA



ZP 43
- cut into right side of "S"



ZP 46
- cut into right side of right leg of "A"



ZP 63
- cut into left inner side of oval of "O" .SLO



ZP 66
- second "1" damaged in the middle



ZP 67
- cut into right side of second "9"



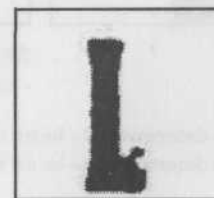
ZP 79
- nipped out lower left side of "O" ČESKO



ZP 87
- right leg of "A" shorter



ZP 88
- white blemish in top of "Č"



ZP 90
- blemish sticking out of elbow of "L"



ZP 94
- cut into tip of second "9"

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article with the permission of the editor and authors. It first appeared in FILATELIE 11/2007. To help readers understand how to use this information -- it is not very likely that you will know which TD you are looking for, so work the information in reverse. For example, if you have a 40h value of this issue that has the second "9" of 1919 with the tip cut into, you look through the information and find out that only TD III and TD IV include 40h values. So you look through

those DV's and find that TD III/ZP 87 and TD IV/ZP 94 have this DV. Now you can look more closely at you stamp to see if there are any smaller discrepancies to the overprint that will help you determine which of the two it might be. Also, if you look at TD Ia/Ib ZP 38 and ZP 42 as well as TD II ZP 55, these may represent examples of DV's created by the white "confetti" that is talked about in the article. An example of the black "confetti" may be TD Ia/Ib ZP 42 -- look at the point where the upper two legs and lower two legs of the "K" come together, it looks like a black circle to me.]



THE PHILATELIC SHOW 2010

by Richard Palaschak

The Philatelic Show 2010 in Boxborough, Massachusetts, about 30 miles west of downtown Boston, is the site of the annual gathering of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. The Show will be held from 30 April to 2 May in the Boxborough Holiday Inn at the intersection of Interstate 495 and Route 111 (Exit 28 off the Interstate). The Show rate will be \$107 a night single/double occupancy. The phone number for the inn is 978-263-8701. When making reservations there, mention the "Philatelic Show" to get the Show rate. The hotel says that in order to get the Show rate, you have to call the hotel (they have to check for availability at that rate) -- do not make the reservations over the Internet. Meanwhile, we will search for alternative motels nearby and provide that information in the next issue of the *Specialist* as well as on our Society's web site.

You can find The Philatelic Show's web site at www.nefed.org. Based upon the information posted for the 2009 Show, we can expect about 70 dealers and over 200 frames of exhibits. The 2010 Prospectus for Exhibiting is posted on the Show's web site and the Entry Form can be downloaded from the site. For those without Internet access, hard copies will be mailed to you upon request to Richard Palaschak at 703-968-8714.

Our Society's activities will begin with the annual Board of Directors meeting on Thursday afternoon, 29 April, starting at 1 PM. That evening we will be going to a dinner at a local restaurant. The Show opens on Friday at 11 AM. Show hours are 11 AM to 6 PM on Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. On Saturday we will hold our Society's General Membership Meeting followed by a lecture on some aspect of Czechoslovak philately. Sunday morning we will meet for the Society's Award Breakfast at a local restaurant. The Society will have a table where you can meet other members of our Society and look over a selection of the latest Czech and Slovak philatelic publications available to be ordered from the Society. If you attend the Show, please stop by our table to say hello and to get the latest information on our activities (i.e., where and when they will be taking place).

If you have any questions, you can contact Richard Palaschak at ripalas@gmail.com or at the above phone number. Hope to see you in Boxborough this Spring!

A FLYSPECK IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

{Sudetenland – 1938}

by Edward Bendik

An off-and-on stamp collector since the age of eight (I am now 77), I purchased what I believed to be an interesting piece of postal history on E-BAY in 2005 for the nominal price of \$10.00. What aroused my interest was the postmark as well as the stamps. The envelope had been mailed from TRAUTENAU [*Trutnov in Czech*], on May 15, 1939, in what I knew to be Czechoslovakia (as I was born in that country and lived there until December 1939), yet it was affixed with German stamps (Fig. 1).



Fig.1

I found this most interesting and went to my encyclopedia to rediscover that the Munich Pact (essentially the sellout of Czechoslovakia by England and France) took place on September 29, 1938, thereby declaring that region a part of Germany.

A digression down memory lane -- as part of the redistribution of German territory after its defeat in World War I, the Republic of Czechoslovakia was established in 1918. Its most northern/western/southern borderlands contained large numbers of German speaking inhabitants and was called the **Sudetenland**. After Hitler rose to power, he financed and supported local agitators who wished to be part of The German Reich once again. Hitler threatened to invade Czechoslovakia unless Germany was granted the area, and thus the Munich appeasement, of which the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, said would "bring peace in our time". How wrong he was!

Another interesting fact -- the return address on the envelope had the country letters ČSR (standing for CzechoSlovak Republic) blackened out and replaced by Deutches Reich. I put the envelope aside with "later to be investigated" items, and there it has lain for the past years.

I recently came across this envelope by chance and examined it more closely. To my initial surprise and ultimate amazement, it contained a letter -- not just "a

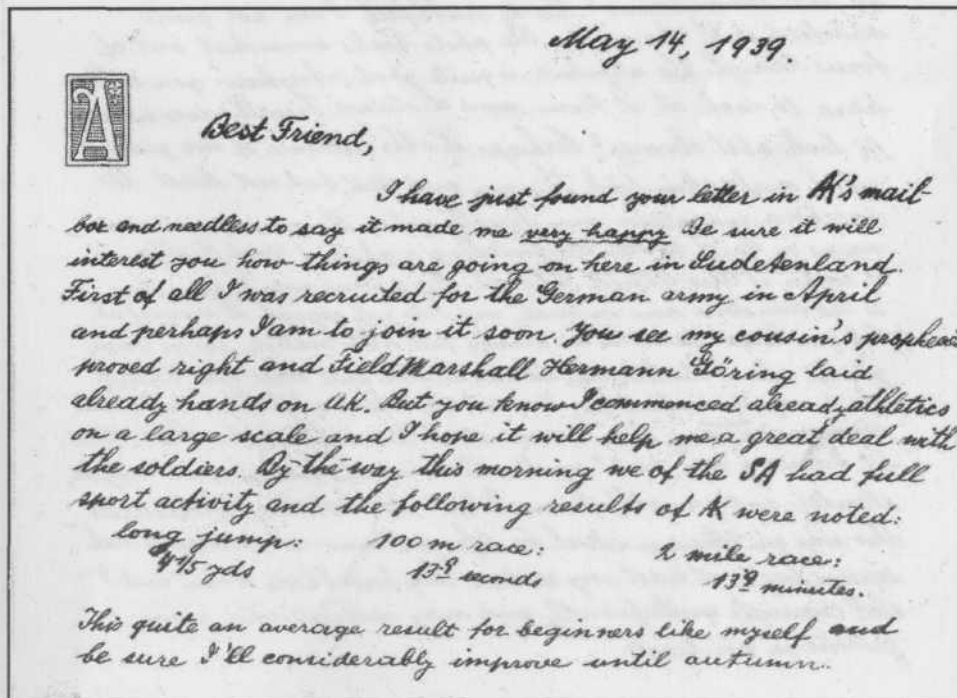
letter", but one written in perfect English and in a beautiful penmanship (Fig. 2, 3). The letter is written to a friend in upstate New York by a young man who is soon to be married.

Although most of the letter is of a social nature, it contains much thought-provoking commentary on that historic time. This young man, about to be wed, can't wait to be drafted into the German army. He praises Goering's takeover of Austria and ends his letter with "Heil Hitler"!!!

It occurred to me that the addressee, Miss Claydon, or her descendants after 70 years, would be interested in obtaining this item of family history. Unable to locate either name on the envelope from telephone information, I contacted the Hamburg N.Y. Historical Society. Although they were most helpful and provided me with several leads, I was unsuccessful in reaching any family of Doris Louisa Claydon.

Yet, Ms. Martha Hunt of the Hamburg Society assured me that a copy of Alfred Kühnel's correspondence of May 14, 1938 is now part of their World War II memorabilia.

[Ed. Note: It is also interesting that early on in his letter he makes the following statement, "By-the-way this morning we of the SA had full sport activity and . . .". To refresh your memory, SA stands for Sturm Abteilung (Storm Section) or Stormtroopers/Brownshirts. They were Hitler's private army (eventually reaching 3 million strong) started in 1921 originally intended to protect Hitler from revenge attacks. But they grew into an organization that carried out acts of violence against Jews and Hitler's left-wing political opponents.]



Besides, Dottie, I have read with concern of your illness and I hope that this nervousness of heart will soon pass. I remember that Mrs. Hilde H. our typist had the same symptoms of heart trouble a few years ago. But she soon lost it by taking a cold douche every morning and night. Well, as summer is approaching I think you might try this somewhat "chilly" cure, too for one or two months at least. I am sure it will help you wonderfully. At any rate receive my best wishes for your welfare and please damn entirely this old besetting sin of yours you call "WORRY". Please do so!!!

As for the request to send you more Leica pictures of myself, my friends and of our countryside, I want to emphasize that the bulk of my pictures has been sent to USA and I confess that most of the pictures were inspired by you for I wanted to show you all the lovely places of my home — and be sure I'll not tire in doing so for some day I hope to welcome you in Sudetenland and then you will have opportunity enough to see our countryside with your own eyes. By the way how do you like the picture: "Easter Vacation in the Mountains". To be truthful I am not quite satisfied with the paper. The photo looks somewhat out of focus though the negative is quite good. Anyhow you will have to look at it from some distance. Finally does not it look a bit clumsy? Perhaps it's the presence of two girls which makes him look this way and last but not least the darling mountain sun. Finally notice the enormous snow masses on April 10. I am also enclosing a photo of Emmi Richter or rather of Mrs. Alfred Köhnel. This picture was taken close to the window sun in back and I do not regard it successful. But you know cameras are always full with malice. As for Emmi you see she is black-haired, small, slender and blue-eyed. Finally she is very domestic & way I admit she differs a bit from my ideal woman. You ^{know} every man has an ideal he is enthusiastic about. Mine f.i. I dare say was 1 or 2" smaller than myself, brown-haired, — eyed, slender and you will from, Dottie — ~~an~~ domestic. But of course this was an Utopian ideal for life you know never respects such square toes or at least very seldom. Anyhow I hope Emmi and I shall cooperate quite friendly and may never discord gain ground in our hearts.

Before concluding I should like to tell you that our marriage will take place on May 25 (Whitsuntide Thursday) in the archdiaconal church of St. Peter and Paul of Trautenau. A small number of guests will only be present. Later on we shall travel to the Isle of Heligoland in the North Sea. It will be for the first time Anni leaves Sudetenland and I hope she will like this journey very much. Oh yes I am in possession of your invitation to visit the N.Y. World's Fair. I am sorry I cannot make use of it. But I hope to visit the World's Exhibition in Rome in 1942. Well, Lottie, now it's your turn to save steamship fare and I am stressing once more do not forget to visit also Sudetenland.

Heil Hitler!
and
remember
Alfredy.

See to get your health again!!!

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WANTED: Hradčany 400h stamps for study, any amount, their condition is unimportant. Mark Wilson, 8825 Lund Hill Lane, Cotati, CA 94931.
Mark@knihtisk.org

President's Corner/Editorial Hinges

(Continued from Page 1)

pages of each of the lost 2 issues was basic information that changes little (the three pages of Available Publications, the headers, Table of Contents, Masthead, Membership Benefits). Thus the loss of content material is greatly minimized. But the financial benefit for the Society is significant, because each issue costs about \$1,200 to produce and send. While producing and sending a 44 page issue costs about \$100 more, that \$400 increase is more than offset by the \$2,400 savings of two less issues.

But the economic downturn and resultant disruptions caused yours truly and other Society leaders to overlook the fact that it was the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Society. It is hard to believe that this organization has been in existence for this long (just slightly longer than I have been on the earth, having been born in 1940) -- when every day you hear about others that are going away, or a company bragging about that they have been in business since 1981! We definitely need to plan something spectacular for the 75th anniversary in 2014.

Make sure that you read the article and information (in this issue) about our annual convention to be held outside Boston at Boxborough, 30 Apr - 2 May. This is always a terrific opportunity for our members (in this case those in the eastern and north-eastern part of the US in particular) to meet others interested in Czechoslovak philately, to discuss all aspects of it, to find new treasures, and possibly to learn how to exhibit your materials.

Finally, I want to make sure that all of you that have Internet access are aware of and are using the tremendous tools that our member, Mark Wilson, has made available to you and all Society members. I am talking about your ability to go into the Society web site, go to the *Specialist* Indexes that he has established, find a topic that you are interested in, and look it up from a past *Specialist*, and then print it if you like. Follow these steps:

- go to the web site: www.cspphilately.org
- on the left side, click on "Society Journal"
- below The Czechoslovak Specialist, click on "• Specialist Issues (71 items)"
- click on "The 21st Century Indices"
- on the left click on "Open the Index". Now you are at the decision whether you want to pursue a topic (use the letter field which represents the first letter of the main topic you are seeking) or pick the Scott or POFIS catalog number (if you are interested in a particular stamp). Click on whichever you are after.
- you will now be in the Index listing for the area you are interested in. At the end of each reference in the listing, it shows the *Specialist* issue and page number that you need to go to.
- if the issue reference is in blue, you can click on that, and the system will take you directly to that issue's first page, then scroll down to the page that you are interested in.
- if the issue reference is in black, then you have to use your back-arrow to go back to the page where the "The 21st Century Indices" appeared. Scroll down on that page to the year that you want, click on that year.
- then click on the particular issue of that year that you want.

-- the first page will appear, scroll down to the page that you want.

Thus, you will have the entire contents of 70 years of the *Specialist* available to you, all thanks to Mark Wilson.

Ludvik (Lou) Svoboda



THE STRANGE ATTRACTOR

by Mark Wilson

Mathematical chaos theory describes a strange attractor as “the final configuration of the dynamic evolution of a function”. That is, even when the initial graph of a function results in seemingly random patterns, eventually the graph will settle down to a recognizable pattern, sometimes an extraordinarily beautiful pattern, if that function involves a strange attractor.

Czechoslovak philately, for me, appears to have a strange attractor. No matter what philatelic terrain I venture into, no matter which topics I explore, I am always drawn back to the typographic (letterpress) stamps produced by the First Republic between 1918 and 1928. The Hradčany, the Allegorical issues, and the postage due stamps produced in those first years call out to me for further examination.

Perhaps for me this is the result of coming to philately so late in life that I had to focus upon a single topic. My interest in philately came about as an accident. In 2000, when I had already passed my 60th birthday, I heard from some friends about a new website called Ebay. One day, just out of curiosity, I explored Ebay and ended up on a page offering 2000 Czechoslovak stamps. For a lark, I bid on them and to my surprise won the lot.

When they arrived, I sat down at the dining room table and began to sort through what was, quite frankly, an odd assortment of stamps. My interest was piqued by some odd-looking but strangely attractive stamps. These stamps were clearly quite old, and I visited my local library to see what I could learn about them.

They turned out to be the first stamps listed under Czechoslovakia in the current Scott's catalog, the Hradčany issue. While the catalog described the stamps' several designs, nothing was said about why the design changed so often in such a short period. Although I consulted with the reference librarian, no other information could be found in the library that explained these stamps in greater detail.

So, I returned to Ebay and scoured the philatelic literature pages where I found for sale a specialized catalog of Czechoslovak stamps. Again my bid was successful, but when the book arrived, I discovered it was entirely in a language I could not read: Czech. I could see the book contained a great deal of information about the Hradčany issue, but was unable to make sense of any of the descriptions.

By now, I had become a habituate of Ebay. During a very lucky bidding session, one of my competitors for a forged set of provisional overprints (yes, I was slowly becoming a collector), was Richard Berry who also lived in Virginia. We

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began a very friendly email correspondence during which it put me in touch with some Washington area members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

I contacted Richard Palaschak who kindly invited me to the next meeting in his home. There I met a number of collectors who would later become friends, among them Henry Hahn and Jerry Verner. All present were quite friendly and obliging, and although they seemed confused as to why an Irishman had an interest in their special branch of philately, they took a few moments to translate for me a line of two from my Czech catalog.

However, I was not satisfied and wanted to know more about these strange stamps. I had learned enough from the Washington group to once again return to the internet but this time with proper search terms. They had informed me that the typographic technique used to print the Hradčany issue was in Czech called knihtisk.

Searching on that term, I found an organization in Prague that specialized in typographic stamps. Although the site was entirely in Czech, I figured out that they had for sale a number of booklets, each one devoted to a single Hradčany denomination. Here, I thought, would be the information I wanted.

I wrote in English to the Secretary of the club, Mr. Jindřich Látal, who was kind enough to respond shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, his letter was in Czech and it was several months before I was able to get a translation from Jerry Verner. From Jerry's translation I learned that, although I had sent no money with my letter of inquiry, Mr. Látal had forwarded a complete set of his society's publications to me.

The package would have arrived just as Washington was undergoing the horrible anthrax letter attack that followed 9/11. All mail into the area had to be examined for anthrax contamination and, as some of you may remember, was sent to various sites around the country to be inspected. My belief is that Mr. Látal's packet somehow got lost or damaged during inspection. Whatever the cause, the package never arrived.

My then wife, always on the lookout for special Christmas presents, noticed a Thanksgiving weekend trip to Prague with hotel and airfare included for \$500. She bought our son and me two tickets. I arranged through an intermediary to meet with Mr. Látal at my hotel.

It would be a digression to describe that first trip to Prague and all the fun we had, so I shall stick to the topic of my fascination with typographic stamps. To our meeting Mr. Látal brought a set of his society's publications, perhaps forty booklets in all. I was overjoyed.

Upon my return home, my initial joy was somewhat dampened by the fact that every word in all forty booklets was in Czech. Undaunted, I purchased a Czech grammar and dictionary and began puzzling my way through the first of them, the 5h light green Hradčany stamp.

Meanwhile, I had made some more friends on Ebay, all interested in the typographic issues. When I mentioned that I had the booklets and was trying to translate them, all of my new friends became very excited. Because Czech is not a common second language, and because most of them had never even heard of these books, everyone wanted a copy.

So, I began a task that was to take several years. I created a website to support my interest; www.knihtisk.org. As I finished each translation, I made it available on my website. Although anyone could read these copies for free, because I had agreed to pay the Czech Society for each copy I sold, the website contained only unprintable copies. At first I sold paper copies of my translations, then later printable copies on CD. From each sale the Czech society received payment, the largest being around \$500.

People interested in plating the Hradčany comprise a very small, but intense, world-wide circle of people. Although I shipped many copies of my translations during the first few years, recent years have seen a sharp decline in purchases. In fact, only one copy was sold for the entire past year (2009).

As I gained more skill reading Czech -- I have never learned to speak or write the language -- I began to look for other sources of information in Czech about the stamps I had come to love so much. I began with a chapter in Volume I of the *Monografie*. I asked Jerry Verner to examine my translated text for errors and he suggested I submit it to Lou Svoboda for publication in *The Specialist*.

It became the first of many articles I would write for *The Specialist*. In fact, I found I enjoyed writing about stamps even more than I enjoyed collecting them. I derived even greater pleasure when several of my articles describing the discoveries I had made about various typographic stamps were translated into Czech and published there.

Thus, although from time to time I find myself interested in some of the non-typographic stamps of Czechoslovakia, time and time again I return to those so-special stamps with my magnifying glass in hand hoping to reveal yet one more of their unknown aspects. Life could not be better.



Book Review

PRAGUE'S POST OFFICES Their History and Present Day by Jiří Kratochvíl

This excellent publication appeared on the philatelic market in August 2009 (Fig. 1). It is a must for collectors of Czech postal history even if it is only written in Czech.

The book is well illustrated showing every past and present post office in at least one photograph. It consists of two parts.

The first part describes Prague's postal history dating back to 1526, includes tables of the postal rates for different periods, and describes the beginning of the pneumatic mail system including maps and locations of each pneumatic mail station. Also included are maps showing all of Prague's post offices that no longer exist -- the buildings razed long ago.

The second part tells of the existing Prague postal services including names, numbers, and locations -- also completely illustrated. Here is also found a chapter dealing with Prague's military mail.

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The author, Jiří Kratochvíl, is well known in Czech philately having published among others the 2002 Monografie 20, Historický Vývoj Názvu Pošt v Českých Zemích (The historical evolution of post office names in the Czech lands).

Our "Available Publications" should have this book in early spring 2010. With book publication costs rising, at today's exchange rate the book would cost \$38.00. With the dollar continuing to fall one does not know what the price will be next March.

Should any member be interested in obtaining the book, please e-mail me at cancelcek@mwt.net, and I will adjust my order to accommodate member's wishes.

Savoy Horvath



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Savoy Horvath:

-- I have received two more items dealing with the commemoration of the national anthem song anniversary (see the past two SPECIALISTS for items on this topic including the new issue). The first is a picture post card from Osice (the birthplace of František Škroup, who wrote the song) that is a first day of issue with

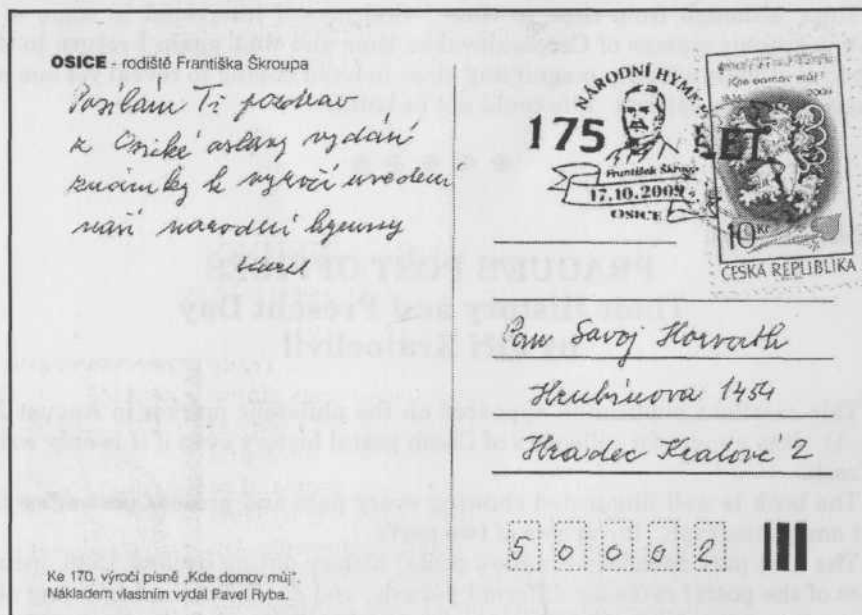


Fig. 1

the new stamp issue and the commemorative postmark (Fig. 1). The second is a special postal card with imprinted 10 Kč stamp with the commemorative postmark that was originally issued for commercial and promotional purposes, and in this case was used to have a cachet that commemorates the 175th anniversary of the

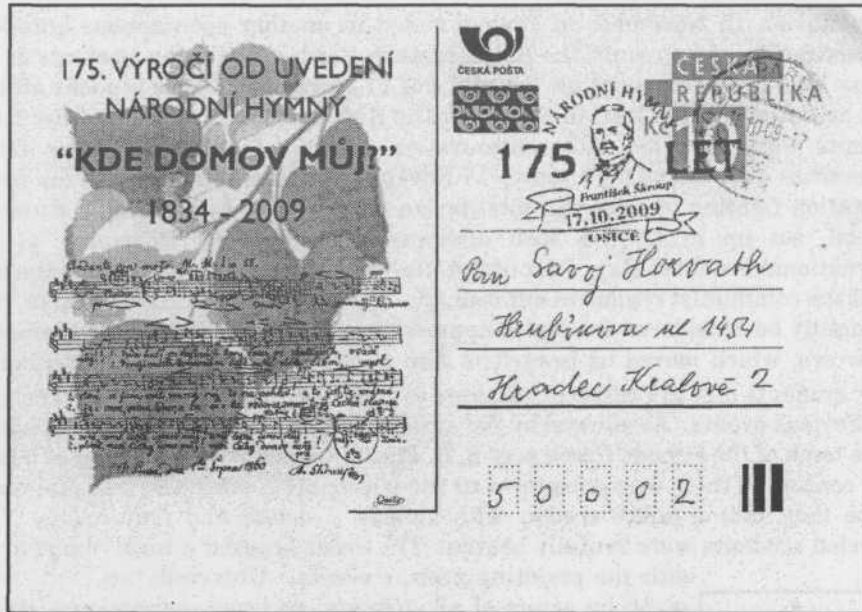


Fig. 2

first-playing of the song in 1834 (Fig. 2). The cachet shows the song's music against a background of a linden tree branchlet.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. van Zanten

1. On November 4, 2009, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 14 Kč commemorative stamp the theme of which is the fatal years of 1939 and 1989 (Fig. 1). The months of November 1939 and November 1989 were, and still are, very significant milestones for the Czech people. The first year represents the beginning of the occupation by Nazi Germany, the Second World War, and years of suffering. On October 28, 1939 -- the anniversary date of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic -- people gathered at numerous demonstrations in towns of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the stormiest of which were held in Prague. Large numbers of people were arrested, two men -- the medical student J. Opletal and the worker V. Sedláček -- who were shot, suffered from fatal injuries. The funeral of the student



Fig. 1

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J. Opletal on 15 November in Prague ended in another spontaneous anti-Nazi demonstration. As a result, the Reichsprotektor ordered raids on students at the Prague and Brno campuses on the night of 17 November. Nine student officers were executed without trial in Prague at the Ružyne barracks, and another 1,070 students were deported into concentration camps. On Hitler's order Czech universities were closed for 3 years. 17 November became the symbol of the young generation fighting against the totalitarian power. The International Students' Council, set up in London soon afterwards, declared 17 November as the International Students Day. In contrast, the year 1989 is the year ending the long era of the communist regime in our country. The Revolution of 17 November 1989 can rightly be considered the end of oppression, persecution, and the beginning of a new era, which moved us towards a free world. Recalling -- on November 17, 1989, students met in Prague at Albertov to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the previous events. As allowed by the authorities, they took the road to Vyšehrad, to the tomb of the famous Czech poet K.H. Mácha. The large assembly of students then continued their way downtown to the National Theater and Národní street where they met a police cordon with shields, helmets and truncheons. The encircled students were brutally beaten. The event aroused a huge public anger with the resulting protest events. University students soon



Fig. 2

joined by actors of all theaters, declared occupational strikes. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in the center of Prague to manifest against the regime. They called for the removal of the Communist Party monopoly and the democratization of political life. November 17, 1989 marked the beginning of the stormy political events resulting in the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. The stamp was designed by Ivan Štrouf and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess print from flat plates by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows a maple leaf with bullet holes (Fig. 2).

2. On November 4, 2009, the Ministry issued a set consisting of two commemorative stamps and one souvenir sheet having a single stamp in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps and souvenir sheet were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague; the two stamps were printed by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 pieces; the souvenir sheet with one stamp was printed by recess print from flat plates combined with four-colored offset.

-- 24 Kč: Alfred Sisley (1839-1899), "Canal Lock in Moret, 1882" (Fig. 3), National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Miloš Ondráček; in tan, dark red, green, and blue. Alfred Sisley was a French painter of English origin. Born in Paris, he



Fig. 3

studied fine arts there at the École des Beaux Arts. He came from a very wealthy family; however, the family got into big financial trouble and so Sisley became a professional painter. During his studies he became a friend of C. Monet, E. Bazill and A. Renoir. Together they worked in the plain-air in Fontainebleau and laid the basis of impressionism. Sisley was exclusively a landscape painter. His paintings are full of motion with special dynamism and a fine detailed approach. His most frequent themes came from the area of the river Seina, from Ile-de-France, the surroundings of Fontainebleau, and from Moret-sur-Loing where he settled in 1879. Sisley created about nine hundred paintings, but his much deserved credit came only after his death in 1899. A FDC



Fig. 4
in black shows his work "A Ferryman" (Fig. 4).

-- 26 Kč: Alfred Justitz (1879-1934), "An Alley, 1924" (Fig. 5), The Gallery of Fine Arts in Cheb, engraved by Václav Fajt; in yellow, red, green, blue, and black. The Czech painter, graphic designer, and illustrator Alfred Justitz belongs to the generation of the founders of modern Czech painting. He was born to a Jewish family. Formerly a student of architecture at the Czech Institute of Technology, he later continued his studies at the Academy of



Fig. 5



Fig. 6
in green shows his drawing "A Still Life with a Jug" (Fig. 6).

-- 34 Kč: František Ženíšek (1849-1916), "Oldřich and Božena, 1884" (Fig. 7), National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Bedřich Housa; recess print in black plus four color offset. František Ženíšek was a Czech painter who already scored his first success during his student years. His artistic style complied with the fashion of those years. He was a member of the so-called generation of the National Theater and the National Museum. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (where he also later taught) and in Vienna. His academically smooth form was influenced by neo-Renaissance with strong emphasis on patriotism and clear associations with works by J. Mánes. This exceptionally talented and hardworking

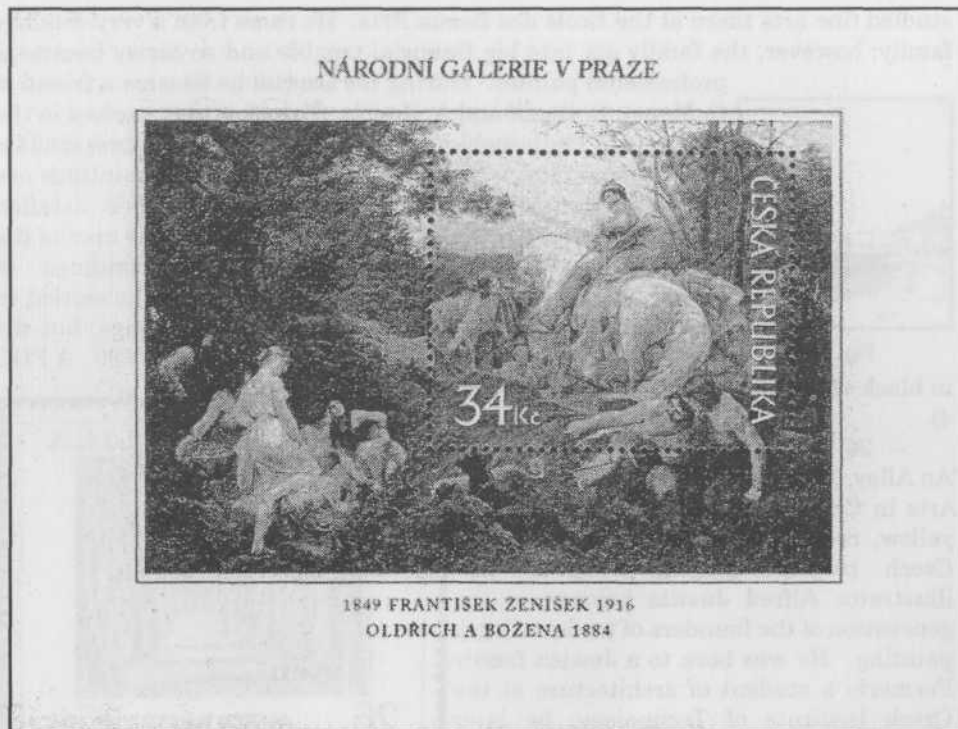


Fig. 7

author used drawing as the main tool of his expression, leaving to color the basic role of coloring. He painted the eight allegorical figures in the stage ceiling at the



Fig. 8

“Oldřich and Božena” (Fig. 8).

3. On November 4, 2009, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to honor Christmas (Fig. 9). Long before the coming of Christianity, December used to be a month of festivities. Its peaceful and joyful character has still



Fig. 9

been preserved. It is the month when the real winter season begins. It was the time when ordinary people could take a breath after the hard summer autumn work, after harvesting and storing of the crops. Late December thus became a time of rest, relaxation, and relatively sufficient food. The main theme of Christmas used not to be gifts -- rather, it was about love and friendship, joy and feeling the unity of the family members who met under the one roof to celebrate Christmas together. On Christmas Eve people feast, the dinner beginning with a common prayer and thanksgiving to God. The dinner being finished, those gathered would try to see their future by, for instance, cutting apples or pouring lead into water. The Christmas Eve's celebrations culminated with midnight mass in the local church. The stamp includes a bell that has a comet, stars, and a snow-covered landscape. The bell is hung on a sprig of mistletoe with a decorative ribbon. The stamp was designed by Lenka Vybíralová, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in blue combined with photogravure in yellow, red, green, and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows a small package on which is depicted a comet and a snow-covered landscape (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

4. November 27, 2009, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using recess printing from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 stamps.

-- 1.20 €: Ján Mudroch (1909-1968), "Lady with a Black Hat, 1940", designed/engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 11) Ján Mudroch (born in Senica-Sotina) attended the private school of painting of Gustáv Malý continued at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (1930-1933), and completed his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts also in Prague. He left a permanent impression in the history of Slovak fine arts with the starting point of his production reaching back to the examples of P. Cézanne and post-impressionism painting. Apart from his career in painting, Mudroch was involved in public life. He was involved in the renewal of the Art Society (Umělecká Beseda), the establishment of the Slovak National Gallery, and of the Academy of



Fig. 11

Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, where he was the Chancellor. He returned to Slovakia in 1938 and immediately established himself as a leading art personality

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Fig. 12

-- teaching at the School of Applied Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. The most productive years of his work fall within this period -- the turn of the 1930's into the 1940's. Produced during this period are "Murdered Poet, 1939", "Madonna with Black Glory, 1939" (which he painted several versions of), "Foreign Rose (1940), and the painting that is the theme of this stamp. On a background of chiaroscuro painting, in which the glaring colors emerge, he pervaded his works with a visionary atmosphere accentuated by the name of the painting that he selected. It is these works that are nowadays considered to be the peak of Mudroch's art. A FDC was issued that shows another of his works (Fig. 12).

-- 1.20 €: Cyprián Majerník (1909-1945), "Don Quixote, 1943", designed/engraved

by František Horniak, Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 13). Cyprián Majerník (born in Velké Kostoľany) studied at the private art school of G. Mally in Bratislava as well as the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (1926-1931). His talent was versatile -- besides painting he was also active in literature and publishing. Despite his Slovak origin, Majerník's life was linked with Prague -- an urban environment -- where he studied and lived later. His work in art-historical literature aroused attention relatively early, and he was rated among the outstanding talents of Slovak art on the scene. The author went through a significant developmental transformation. His early works are based on folklore themes, but their interpretation is different -- he looks at the topic from the position of a



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

"townsman", i.e. he perceives the topic as a peculiar anecdote. In the second half of the 1930's, there is a fundamental change in his artistic output. His painting are dark, crowded with lonely figures waiting for fateful meetings -- Good Samaritans, Don Quixote's, and fugitives. Experts in his work agree that his spiritual attitude was significantly expressed right here, namely in the need to express the topic of an escape from the world. These are more pictures of personal drama, which the author was facing -- his deteriorating health, frequent depressions, and the bad situation in the Protectorate. These very paintings end his productive period with an untimely death, at the age of 35,

a few weeks after the end of WW II. A FDC was issued showing a drawing of Don Quixote on his horse (Fig. 14).

5. On December 4, 2009, the Ministry issued a 0.70 € commemorative stamp for Postage Stamp Day honoring Louis Braille (1809-1852)(Fig. 15). Louis Braille was



Fig. 15

born on 4 January 1809 in Coupvray, France, to the family of a harness maker. He was the youngest of four children. When he was just over three years old, he unfortunately lost his sight while playing in his father's workshop. It is an exciting experience to run your fingers over a piece of paper that provides information. That is what blind and visually-impaired people around the world are able to do thanks to Louis Braille, the inventor of the ingenious system used by blind people to read and write. At the age of sixteen (in 1825) he developed a system of characters with six raised dots which can be variously combined to represent the whole alphabet. The invention represented a real breakthrough on the path of knowledge, education, and self-assertion for millions of blind and visually-impaired across the world. Louis Braille died on 6 January 1852 in Paris. As a sign of the French society's gratitude, his ashes were deposited in the Panthéon in Paris, a place of last repose for the greatest men and women of France. Several years ago, the Society of Friends of Louis Braille turned his birth house in Coupvray, located about 35 km from Paris, into a museum. On the left half the stamp shows a profile of Louis Braille along with a stripe of Braille coding, and on the right is the eyes portion of a face along with the words for Postage Stamp Day. The coupon shows the Braille coding for the letter "B". The stamp was designed by Lubomír Pařo, graphic lay-out by Vladislav Rostoka, and produced by Pořtovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using Heidelberg Speedmaster print technology in printing sheets of 30 stamps and coupons. A FDC shows hands "reading" some Braille code (Fig. 16).

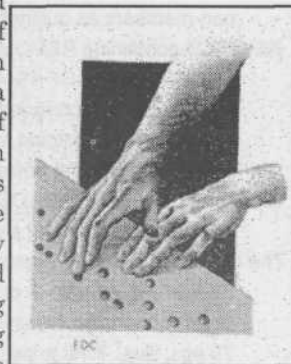


Fig. 16

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

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Please check by e-mail if books are available before ordering.

Prices are postpaid in USA

(E=English, Cz=Czech, Sl=Slovak, G=German, H=Hungarian)

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[NEW] 1861-1918 RAKOUSKO, Vol. II (Cz) by Pavel Hirš. Includes black print and a CD. This is a catalog/monograph of Austrian postal stationery used in the Czech lands.	\$34.00
[NEW] 2009 CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2008 (Cz) -- POFIS, color, specialized, every product issued by the Czech post.	\$29.00
[NEW] SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF 1944-1945 CARPATHO-UKRAINE(Cz) by Jiří Majer. Hard bound, 160 pages, in color, with values listed based on actual market prices.	\$26.00
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[NEW] POST WW II POSTAL CANCELLATIONS 1945-1946 (Cz) by Václav Blaha. Soft-bound, 124 pgs. Postal cancel illustrations in b+w, covers in color. Must have for Revolutionary Overprints collectors.	\$19.00
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[NEW] DVD containing copies of the SPECIALIST for years 2000 - 2004 like the DVD listed below that covers 1939-1999. The two prices are for members/non-members as outlined below. Out of USA add \$1 for postage.	\$ 5.00 \$10.00
[NEW] CD containing REVOLUTIONARY AND LIBERATION OVERPRINTS AND LOCAL ISSUES OF 1944-45 CZECHOSLOVAKIA(Cz) -- by Karel Holoubek	\$20.00 \$27.00
A catalog and monograph on CD. First price is postpaid for members, second one is postpaid for non-members. All foreign orders please add \$3.00 for additional postage. [Reviewed Mar/Apr 08]	
2007 SPECIALIZED CESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939(Cz) -- POFIS, in color, highly specialized 232 pages. [Reviewed Nov/Dec 07]	\$29.00
The CHAINBREAKER (Liberated Republic)(E) by Chvalovsky/Kaspar.	\$16.00
Specialized handbook on the stamps, covers and postal stationery of this issue with pricing, technical, and historical info. Trans. by Mark Wilson.	\$ 9.00
79 pgs, illus. First price is for book, second for CD.	
DVD containing 20 th CENTURY ISSUES of the SPECIALIST (1939-1999)	\$10.00
along with INDEX for them (E). First price is for members in USA, outside of USA members must add \$1 for postage to this price. Second price is for USA non-members, outside USA non-members add \$1 for postage.	\$20.00
ČESKOSLOVENSKO I and II, ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA, PROTEKTORAT B+M,	\$19.00

SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA, and SLOVENSKÝ ŠTAT (Cz) -- POFIS (2000) OBLOUKOVÉ TYPY (Arch Types), 25h HRADČANY, V. KRESBA (5th Design)(Cz) by L. Olšina -- POFIS. 25 pages, in depth, well illustrated study. [See Jan/Feb '07 issue, pg 21]	\$ 6.00
2006 SPECIALIZED CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1945-1992 (Cz) --POFIS catalog for Czechoslovakian stamps since WW II with lots on varieties including the Chust overprints (IN COLOR!!). ***BACK IN STOCK***	\$31.00
CZECHOSLOVAK STATIONERY & POSTCARD CATALOG 1918-1992(Cz) Vol. II, by Starec and Beneš.	\$23.00
SCOUT PHILATELY IN OUR COUNTRY (ČSR, ČR, SL)(Cz) -- by Vapenka. In color, describes all scout stamps, covers, postmarks, overprints, cancels.	\$11.00
COMPLETE 20 th CENTURY SUBJECT INDEX, 1939-1999 (E) -- Index of articles published in the SPECIALIST over 61 years. First prices are for \$2/3 printed version US postpaid/foreign + postage. Second prices are for CD version US/foreign postpaid. See Jul/Aug 2004 issue.	\$9/6+p
CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS AND THEIR COUNTERFEITS 1918-1939 (PADĚLKY)(E,Cz,G) -- A beautiful hard cover, illustrated, updated version in English, Czech, German. (Reviewed Jan/Feb 99)	\$30.00
GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY -- Second Edition (E) -- Translate Czech terms into English and back; 130 pgs. (Reviewed: Mar/Apr 97)	\$20.00
MAIL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS IN FRANCE (Cz,E) -- by Jaroslav J. Verner. This 80 page, English/Czech publication is the first on this subject and is being published by the Society. It includes political/ historic context, development of units and their postal arrangements, illustrations of cancels, point valuation system, and B/W and color illustrations. (Reviewed: Jan/Feb 03)	\$12.00
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