



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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President's Corner

Today I have some wonderful news for our loyal members.

In the previous issue's President's Corner I told you about the four indices that our member Mark Wilson had developed for you to be able to research all of the past issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. (I made a couple of mistakes in what I told you there, that Mark has corrected in a Letter to the Editor which appears elsewhere in this issue. The biggest mistake was my saying that you could print copies of the Specialist, which is not true from the Internet connection which is described in that Corner.)

Well, Mark has gone one giant step further, which now allows us to announce the following to you.

Any member who notifies me by April 15 that they would like a FREE postage paid DVD containing:

- ALL of the *Specialist* issues from 1939-2009
- Mark's four Indices (author, subject, Scott number, POFIS number)
- a User's Manual for how to use the Indices,

will get one FREE DVD. You can contact me by mail, phone, or e-mail –
see page 2.

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11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.cspilately.org

Editorial Staff

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

e-mail: Lousvoboda@comcast.net Phone: 303-680-7118

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

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

Elected Officers

President: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

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

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

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

Librarian: Bob Gibson, 7646 3rd Ave., Glen Burnie, MD 21060

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THE ANNEXATION OF SUBCARPATHIAN RUSSIA TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING 1918-1920

(PART 1)

by Karel Mezera

trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

The territory of Subcarpathian Russia (later called the Carpathian Ukraine and still later the Transcarpathian Ukraine) is a very popular subject amongst many of our collectors and foreign ones also. That is not very surprising, after all, the numerous constitutional changes concerning this territory are also mirrored in the philatelic material, and thanks to the low postal usage they are sometimes very scarce and therefore highly valued. Writers and exhibitors interested in this theme generally treated the whole period of the Subcarpathian Russia postal history from a global perspective and were therefore unable to devote themselves in detail to the individual historical stages. One of the most interesting stages is the period 1918 - 1920, when Subcarpathian Russia was gradually incorporated into Czechoslovakia, since – for example – the inhabitants of Berehovo could progressively, in those years, stick on their correspondence postage stamps of four nations – Hungary, the Hungarian Republic, Romania, and Czechoslovakia. Understandably all of this could also be followed on philatelic documents.

Through the years I was able to ascertain that some specialized collectors devoted to the territory of Subcarpathian Russia have only a very vague idea of the historical evolution of this territory for the years of 1918 - 1920. Therefore, I have put together in this study all of the information available to me from expert literature and also from my personal collecting experience, which I am passing on to the philatelic community in the hope that it will help in the understanding of this challenging segment of our philately and also, to the accurate classification and description of individual entires in collections and exhibits. I am aware that with this essay alone it is not possible to fully detail everything and that for some events it is certainly possible to be more specific or complete. Therefore I would be glad of any suggestions or help.

I. General Data

I (1). Some history

On the day when the Czechoslovak Republic was formed, 28.10.1918, Subcarpathian Russia (then also known as Near-Carpathian Russia) was part of the Hungarian Kingdom of the dual Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Hungarians ruled this region already from the early Middle Ages, even though they never comprised a majority of the population. Here were found Slavic Russians and only then Hungarians, Jews, Romanians, Germans, Slovaks, and a small percentage of other nationalities. Hungarian restrictive practices and national oppression were the same here as they were in other non-Hungarian parts of Hungary, and thus a liberation movement by the Subcarpathian Russians had already appeared by the

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middle of the 19th century. These endeavors peaked at the end of WW I (when the defeat of Austria-Hungary and its allies appeared inevitable) with the direct requests of Subcarpathian emigrants in the USA for separation from Hungary and attachment to one of the neighboring Slavic states. Some representatives advocated only for autonomy within the scope of Hungary, possibly as a separate state.

I (2). After the disintegration of Austria-Hungary

Soon after the formation of the independent Hungarian Republic (16.11.1918) the Hungarian Government announced, in collaboration with the Užhorod Russian Council, autonomy for Subcarpathia. Alternatively on 12.11.1918, the American National Council of Hungarian Russians voted for annexation to Czechoslovakia and in the same way then did the National Council in Prešov on 7.1.1919. In January 1919 the National Council in Chust formulated a shift towards joining to the Ukraine. The opinions of the Subcarpathian representatives only became united at the closing meeting of the Central National Council in Užhorod, when it decided, on 8.5.1919, for the joining of Subcarpathian Russia to Czechoslovakia.

Already on 5 February 1919 the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Russia submitted a plan at the Peace Conference in Paris for uniting Subcarpathian Russia with Czechoslovakia as an autonomous region. On April 4th the Highest Allied Council considered the question of Czechoslovakia's borders, and to Czechoslovakia was added -- besides other areas -- also the lands of Subcarpathian Russia, but still without precisely defined territorial demarcation. President Masaryk informed the Russian delegation on May 23 of that year that "the Allies in Paris recognized the demands of the Carpathian Russians and awarded them the right to annex to the Czechoslovak state as an autonomous state." On

September 10, 1919 the Saint-Germain Treaty was concluded¹

[¹*Czechoslovak Minorities Accord -- Chapter II about the special status of Subcarpathian Russia.*], according to which Subcarpathian Russia would become a part of Czechoslovakia

as an autonomous region with its own parliament, whose

borders would be determined by the victorious powers, and which would be furnished with the widest possible self-government.² [²*Subcarpathian autonomy, whether under Hungary or later Czechoslovakia, did not have any impact on postal service, which proceeded according to central regulations, whether controlled from Budapest or from Prague.*]

In connection with the Russian efforts to separate Subcarpathian Russia from the Hungarians, it is yet necessary to mention also the military resistance. An element of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia was a unit of Russian soldiers, who deserted from the Hungarian forces. From this unit was later formed the



Figure 1: Letter with the unit cancel of the Carpathian Russian Rifle Regiment, sent to Charbin on 20.6.1919.

“Carpathian Rifle Regiment”, about whose activities I am unfortunately missing detailed information (Fig. 1).

I (3). Subcarpathian Russia borders

At the time of the forming of the Czechoslovak Republic, Subcarpathian Russia only had firmly defined borders north of Haliče (from 11.11.1918 with the Polish Republic). A natural geographic border with Slovakia is formed by the Uh river valley from Užocky Pass northward to Užhorod. The borders further south as far as Čop were established artificially in 1919 and at the same time the borders between Subcarpathian Russia and Slovakia were moved somewhat westerly from the river Uh (see a subsequent chapter entitled “Status of Subcarpathian Russia”).

The eastern natural border is formed by the Carpathian mountains, the southern border with Hungary was provisionally established by the Great Powers on 12.6.1919 and then definitely on 4.6.1920 by the Trianon Accord (Fig. 2), within which the provisional and definitive borders were in essence identical. The borders on the south and east with Romania were determined on 7.8.1919 by the Treaty of Sévres and confirmed on 10.8.1920 by the Sévres Agreement between the



Figure 2: Picture postcard from a member of the Hungarian Delegation to the Peace conference sent in 1920 from Neuilly, where the Delegation was quartered.

five states of the Entente, Romania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. The Border Commission between Romania and Czechoslovakia finally finished their work in 1924, with the only substantial partial change to the borders happening in fact only in 1921.³ [*ČSR handed over to the Romanians, amongst others, the village of Veliká Tarna with its post office; alternatively, it received the village of Velikij Palad, where a Czechoslovak post office began to operate.*]

II. The Užhorod Region

II (1). The Pichonov Line

The first part of the area of the future Subcarpathian Russia was officially awarded to Czechoslovakia already in December 1918. It concerned the Užhorod region and north from it, and thus it became the first provisional border between Czechoslovakia and Hungary -- the so-called Pichonov Line, established by the Allied Military Council and put forward to Hungary on 24.12.1918 by Colonel Vyx. The Pichonov Line runs from the Užocky Pass on the north side of the Uh river valley up to Užhorod, and from there further on the west side (additional details about the Pichonov Line can be found in Ref. [1]). This part of the Subcarpathian territory was, up to 16.11.1919 -- when the general status of Subcarpathian Russia was proclaimed -- administratively associated with Slovakia as part of the Užhorod district.

II (2). Occupation of the Pichonov Line

With the occupation of the Pichonov Line by the military, the Czechoslovak Command sat tight until the time when the army corps of Czechoslovak



Figure 3: Picture postcard from a soldier of the 1st Battalion of the 31st Legionnaire Regiment sent from the occupied area, posted at Field Post 75 and dated 28.1.1919, with the unit canceler of the Regimental postal unit.

Legionnaires from Italy returned home. For the occupation of the Užhorod sector there was allocated the 31st Regiment, 6th Legionnaire Division of General Rossi, which arrived in České Budějovice on 25.12.1918 and was immediately sent to Slovakia to the Poprad-Levoča area. The 31st Regiment's sector was between the rivers Ondava and Uh, and this regiment constituted the third spearhead of advance to the demarcation line in the 6th Division area. On January 11 the regiment reached

Michalovce, from which on January 13th it advanced on foot to Užhorod, which it secured almost without any fighting. The III/31 Battalion and regimental headquarters remained in Užhorod. Immediately after the occupation of Užhorod, on 13 and 14 January the I. Battalion occupied the section from Užhorod up to Užocký Pass, and the II. Battalion occupied the section of the demarcation line west of town. These campaigns can be documented by the many surviving Field Post cards,⁴ [4 *The 6th Legionnaires Division was served by Field Post #75 with head office in Košice.*] on the majority of which it is possible to find the favorite oval unit canceler of the regimental postal unit and its individual battalions (Fig. 3).

II (3). Postal operations in the Užhorod sector

In the territory occupied that was based on the Pichonov Line (and later administratively incorporated into Subcarpathian Russia) were found -- during the Hungarian postal administration -- nine post offices and one contract post office (CPO), they were: Dubriniče (Bercsényifalva), Malý Berezny



Figure 4: Postal Order dated 7.2.1919 submitted at the Tarnovce [Ungvár Tarnóc] post office and franked with the 25 filler Karel stamp of the former Hungarian postal administration.

(Kis Berezna), Perečín (Perecsény), Tarnovce (Ungvár Tarnóczi)⁵ [5 Ref. (13) numbers this post office (for to me unknown reasons) amongst the Slovakian post offices, and that as the only one from the nine introduced ones.], Užhorod 1 (Ungvár 1), Užhorod 2 (Ungvár 2), Užok (Uzok), Velký Berezný (Nagyberezna), Volosianka (Hajasad), and the CPO of Kostrina (Csontos). According to preserved postal orders these post offices continued to function even after the Czechoslovak occupation as Hungarian post offices, and in March 1919 still used Hungarian stamps (Fig. 4). Their operations probably ended at the beginning of April, as is evidenced by four postal orders addressed to the post offices Volosianka, Velký Berezný, Perečín, and the CPO Kostrina, all of which were redirected to the Užhorod 1 post office where they were paid out to the addressees on April 24. One of these postal orders is seen in Figure 5.

Post office Užhorod 1 was already functioning as a Czechoslovak one by the end of March, and thus as the first one, and for a certain period of time the only one in the specified area. In the beginning -- due to a deficiency of postage stamps -- the postage was collected in cash. Through this post office's mediation the consignments of Czechoslovak army soldiers were also often sent. Not until May 1919 were the remaining post offices evidently re-activated, and at that time they also received Czechoslovak postage stamps (Fig. 6). Post office Užhorod 2 renewed its activities in 1920, post office Užok probably in 1921, and the CPO Kostrina not until 1924.



Figure 5: Postal order sent by the accounting department of the Czechoslovak Provincial Police Command in Košice [Kassa] on 5.4.1919 to Velký Berezný and redirected to the Užhorod 1 [Ungvar 1] post office and paid out there on 24.4.

III. The Remainder of Subcarpathian Russia under Hungarian Administration

After the formation of Czechoslovakia the greater part of the future Subcarpathian Russia continued to be a part of Hungary within the scope of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In fact, as early as October 30, 1918 there was an uprising by the citizens in Budapest and the National Council of Hungary was formed, with Count Mihály Károlyi being elected chairman. On October 31st the National Council announced the separation from Austria-Hungary and proclaimed the establishment of an independent and democratic Hungary. On November 13th a truce was negotiated in Beograd between the Entente states and Hungary, and with that ended WW I -- including for the territory of Subcarpathian Russia.

The People's Republic of Hungary was proclaimed in Budapest on November 16th, whose National Assembly elected Count Károlyi as head of government. To the -- until then -- valid postage stamps issued by the old Hungarian Postal Administration, also valid on the territory of the future Subcarpathian Russia, were added stamps with the overprint "KÖZTÁRSASÁG" (Republic), being issued on November 23, 1918. The Bolshevik "Hungarian Republic Council" Bély Kuna was proclaimed in Hungary on March 21,

1919. Several days after the proletarian dictatorship was proclaimed in Hungary a general mobilization was announced whose objectives were to build a strong revolutionary army and to attempt to reclaim the old borders. During the Republic's existence, units of the Hungarian Red Army penetrated even into Subcarpathia, where many socialist measures were introduced, meeting in fact occasionally with opposition from some of the populace. During this situation Czechoslovakia also



Figure 6: Early usage of Czechoslovak Hradčany stamps at the Velký Berezný [Nagyberezna] post office.



Figure 7: Permit order for a telegraph postal order, issued at the Nižní Verecký [Alsóverecské] post office and dated 10.4.1919 (during the administration of the Hungarian Republic Council), and franked with the Republic overprinted stamps.

quickened its continuing build up of forces in Slovakia and started to carry out preparations to occupy Subcarpathian Russia.

Postal services in Subcarpathian Russia continued on even through all of the upcoming constitutional changes in the Hungarian regulations; the old Hungarian postage stamps, forms, and cancellers⁶ were commonly used, together with the Republic overprinted stamps (Fig. 7). [With the exception of the Republic's cancelers without the royal crown having the distinguishing letter "E", which was used at the Berehovo (Beregszász) post office and introduced into service on 10.1.1919 (see Fig. 21).]



Figure 8: Picture postcard posted at Field Post 46 by a soldier of the 28th Infantry Regiment, written in Berehovo on 24.7.1919,

I have not encountered usage of the new Republic stamps with the overprint MAGYAR POSTA, issued sometime during February 1919, being used on the territory of Subcarpathian Russia.

I would like to point out that entires from the territory of Subcarpathian Russia under Hungarian administration after 28.10.1918 (with the exception of post offices introduced in the previous chapter) are Hungarian entires and cannot



Map 1: The status of the Subcarpathian Russian occupation in the first half of May 1919, showing the advance of the Romanians and the demarcation line established on May 9. [The Romanian advance started in the bottom right and proceeded along the southern border heading west (to the left). The demarcation line is the heavy dashed line along the bottom of the map just inside of the border. The heavy dashed line in the upper left is the Pichonov Line.]

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be considered as Czechoslovak ones, or even as proof of using Czechoslovak forerunner or concurrent stamps, and this is so, even despite their popularity and the handsome prices they realize at auction. This concerns only precursors of Czechoslovak postage and duty stamps, because in the aforementioned period (up to 8.5.1919) Subcarpathian Russia was not a part of the Czechoslovak State.

IV. Romanian Occupation

On 16.4.1919, Romanian units of General Oltean launched an advance -- unexpectedly and without the Entente's agreement -- into Subcarpathian Russia. On that very day they occupied Tačovo [Técső], by April 20 they stood before Berehovo, on April 26 they occupied Čop, and on April 28 -- Mukačevo [see Map 1]. The Hungarian Red Army, in danger of being encircled, withdrew from Subcarpathian Russia and northern Hungary on April 18th. With this began the Rumanian occupation of southern and western Subcarpathian Russia that lasted for over a year.

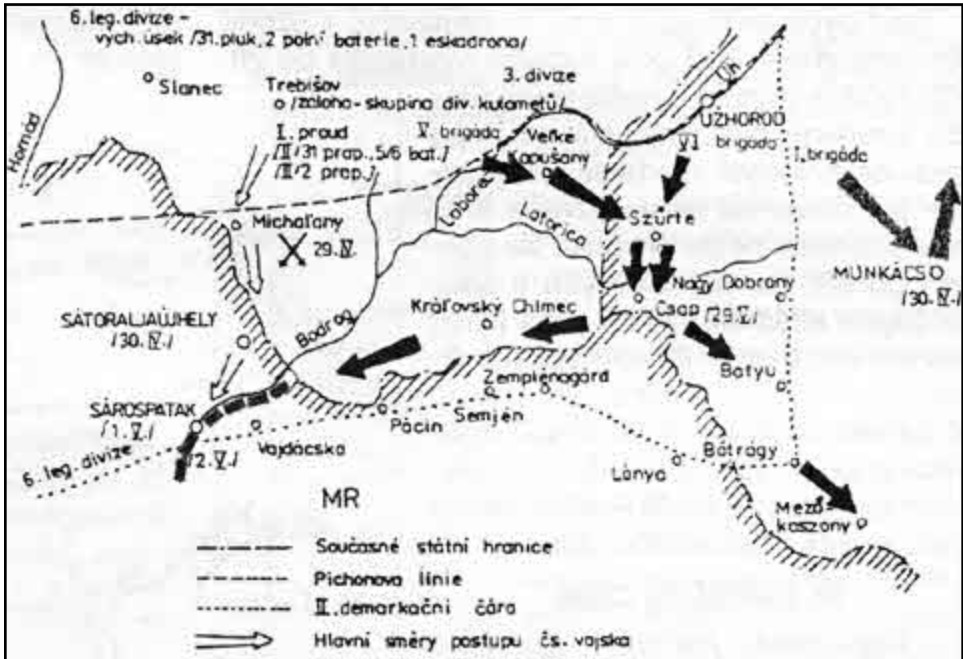
On May 9, Marshall Foch determined the demarcation line between Czechoslovakia and Romania. It went alongside the railway line Bačovo - Sighet - Jasiňa, with the railway line staying on the Romanian side. After the intervention of the Entente Powers the Romanians began (on 20.7.1919) to withdraw progressively from the territory and already by 22.7., Czechoslovak Forces (Infantry Regiment 28) occupied Berehovo (Fig. 8). On 7.8.1919 the Sévres Accord determining the borders between Czechoslovakia and Romania was arranged. The hand-over of territory proceeded rather slowly in fact and stretched finally into the second half of 1920. The Romanian Army evacuated the last place on the left bank of the Tisa river on 8.7.1920, when it departed from Tačovo, Rahovo, and Jasiňa. The takeover of post offices by the Czechoslovak Administration then continued until autumn 1920; the exact dates of the re-opening of some of them is given in reference [2] on page 45.

It is probable that after the Red Army's departure from Subcarpathian Russia on 18.4.1919, the Hungarian civil service gradually also began evacuating



Figure 9: Picture postcard from the town of Kisvárdá (in the area of Romanian occupation) with the signatures of Czechoslovak and Romanian soldiers, and posted at Field Post 46 on 31.5.1919.

including the postal workers, and the post offices temporarily suspended activities. At the very least, I do not know of any documented proof of Hungarian post office operations in Subcarpathian Russia after April 26, when the Romanians reached Čop and the road to the south was closed. But what is known is that, even in the period of the Romanian occupation there were in operation an uncertain number of post offices, which were functioning even in the face of great personal



Map 2: The occupation of Subcarpathian Russia by units of the Eastern Army Group at the end of April/beginning of May 1919 in collaboration with the 1st Spearhead of the 6th Legionnaires Division. [The dashed line running across the top is the Pichonov Line, while the dotted line running across and then up the right side is the Demarcation Line II.]

difficulties, and consignments have even been found franked with Hungarian or Romanian stamps. Such entires are naturally very rare, and this period belongs to one of the most challenging periods of our philately. One of these exceptional entires is illustrated, for example, in Ref. (3). More detailed information, about the post office's operations within the Romanian occupied area, is unfortunately not known.

Illustrated in Figure 9 is a picture postcard with the signatures of Czechoslovak and Romanian soldiers written on 27.5.1919 in the town of Kisvárdá in the territory occupied by Romania (outside of Subcarpathian Russia) and posted on 31.5. at Czechoslovak Field Post 46.

V. Beginnings of CzSl. Occupation of Subcarpathian Russia

V (1). Preparations for the occupation of Subcarpathian Russia

As I have already mentioned in the introduction, the Highest Allied Council awarded the territory of Subcarpathian Russia to Czechoslovakia on 4.4.1919. In fact, Czechoslovak representatives were apparently given a binding promise of this action even earlier (literature gives various dates -- from "sometime in February" up to March 13)⁷ [7Monori, P., Ing.: *Rodici se hranice, Filatelie 23/1983.*], because already on March 29, the Minister of National Defense V. Klofáč issued an operational order No. 9680, with which he ordered General Hennocque to prepare

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for the occupation of Subcarpathian Russia. With operational order No. 10807 dated April 7, he ordered not only the occupation of Subcarpathian Russia but also an advance to the so-called Demarcation Line II, which reached considerably deeper into Hungarian territory than the Pichonov Line⁸ [*In the Subcarpathia Russian region, this line proceeded on the south from Sátoraljaújhely to Čop, at the*



Figure 10: Picture postcard from a soldier of the 23rd Regiment from France, written on 30.4.1919 after the occupation

village of Bótrágy it turned north through Batovo (Batyu) and Velký Dobroň (Nagy Dobrony), and east of Užhorod connected with the Pichonov Line.](more detailed information can be found in Ref. (4)). To this day, the date when Demarcation Line II was established is not known (literature again gives various dates), nor who from the allied high command established this line. Lastly, it was František Beneš who stated in Filatelie Ref. (5) the date 26.2.1919.

The April 7 operational order specified, amongst other things, the division of forces operating in Slovakia into two large groups -- East and West. The Eastern Group, commanded by the French General Hennocque, was dedicated to the occupation of Subcarpathian Russia. It was composed of the 3rd Infantry Division -- formed in March in the vicinity of Košice -- and the 1st Mixed Brigade. During the general preparations for the occupation of Subcarpathian Russia, there occurred during March substantial re-deployments of the Czechoslovak army units in the area of the Eastern Group. At the beginning of April, the 3rd Division was redeployed to the area of Michalovce - Sobrance, and the western segment of the Pichonov Line (from Užhorod to Vajan) was occupied by two battalions of the 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, and thus replaced units of the 32nd Legionnaire Regiment. On the Užhorod segment the 31st Legionnaire Regiment was replaced by the 36th Infantry Regiment.

V (2). Advance of the Czechoslovak forces

The advance to the new demarcation line was supposed to be coordinated with the Romanian Forces. Since, on April 16 the Romanian Forces unexpectedly began independent action, it was not possible to wait any longer with the occupation of Subcarpathian Russia, and thus on April 27, General Pellé notified Marshall Foch that in view of the occupation of Čop by the Romanians, the Czechoslovak Army was to commence the advance into Subcarpathian Russia. On the same day General Hennocque received an order from Minister Klofáč to commence military action. The first objective was to occupy the line Sátoraljaújhely - Čop and there to link up with the Romanians. This was the mission of the VIth Brigade (I/23 and II/23 Leg. Battalion, I/42 and I, II/88 Batt., Rifle Batt. 12, 3 batteries and 1/2

squadron of the 6th Dragoon Regiment). The advance commenced on April 27 from the Palín - Užhorod area in the direction of Surty and Čop, and was coordinated with the advance of the 6th Legionnaire Division, which secured the western segment of Demarkation Line II. On April 29 the 23rd Legionnaire Regiment occupied Čop (Fig. 10); after the town was occupied, units of the VIth Brigade immediately began to secure the demarcation line west of Čop, and on May 2 they established contact with the 6th Legionnaire Division near Vajdácska.



Figure 11: Picture postcard from a soldier of the 28th Infantry Regiment, written in Kosino and posted at Field Post 46, where on May 7 the writer says, besides other things: "We are in Hungary near Mukačevo, we joined up with the Romanians."

The occupation of the territory east of Čop was delegated to the Vth Brigade (3rd Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Regiment, 3 batteries and 1/2 of the 6th Squadron). Their advance also commenced on April 27, on which day Vajany was occupied and the next day Velké Kapušany. After its occupation of Čop, the Vth Brigade immediately occupied the area east of Čop (Batovo [Baty], Kosino [Mezőkaszony]) and joined up with the Romanian Forces (Fig. 11).

The 1st Brigade (36th Infantry Regiment, two battalions of the 21st Infantry Regiment, two howitzer batteries and a mounted Squadron) along with the I/36 Battalion and a mounted Squadron occupied Mukačevo on April 30, whilst the Romanian garrison withdrew to Berehovo (Fig. 12), and in addition the II/21 Battalion arrived in Mukačevo. In the first half of May, the 3rd Infantry Regiment replaced part of the 1st Brigade in Mukačevo while other parts of the 3rd Infantry Regiment also occupied important areas around the Latorice river northeast of Mukačevo. With this, the occupation of the targeted area was practically complete.

As was already stated in the introduction, on May 8 the Užhorod Central National Council made the decision to join-up with Czechoslovakia, and this date is considered to be the official date when Subcarpathian Russia was joined to Czechoslovakia. At the

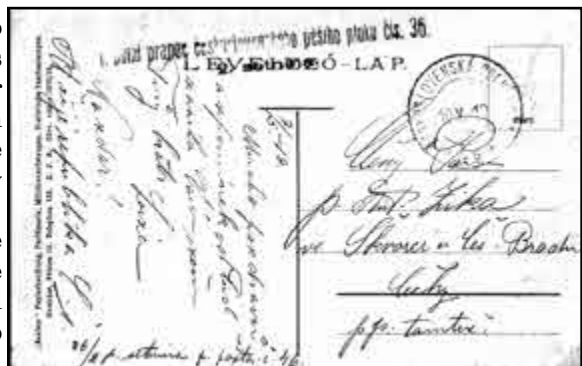


Figure 12: Picture postcard from a soldier of the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment from occupied Mukačevo, written on 7.5.1919 and posted at Field Post 46.

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time of this joining, the Czechoslovaks had occupied almost a third of the territory of Subcarpathian Russia; in the middle of May the borders of the occupied territory went roughly from Kosina through the Latorice valley as far as Volovecky Pass (see Map No. 1 [*it is the lightly dashed line running roughly from the word "Mad'arsko" diagonally right to the word "Polsko"*]).

V (3). Postal service from the occupied territory

I have treated this chapter in rather great detail, and that because, we can document the above mentioned events relatively successfully with philatelic materials. They are mostly consignments of the Field Post⁹ [*9 Field Post 46, based in Užhorod, was attached to the 3rd Division and the 1st Brigade; it used two types of the daily canceler.*] -- the soldiers often wrote home, and thanks to the benevolence of the censors, in most cases they even indicated their current destinations and frequently information about the progress of their campaigns. We seldom find consignments other than those of soldiers, because after the departure of the Hungarians, the civilian posts on the territory occupied by Czechoslovakia did not function. The one known exception is the Čop post office, which was taken over in May 1919 by the Czechoslovak Administration (see Ref. (4)). Consignments from places under Czechoslovak occupation (behind the Pichonov Line), which were later found in Subcarpathian Russia and were sent before May 8, 1919, are to be classified as consignments from territory occupied by Hungary. This also applies to consignments sent from the Čop region before 12.6.1919, when the new temporary borders between Czechoslovakia and Hungary were established (more on this in Chapter VI (5)).

Reference literature used will be given in Part 2 of this study.

(To be continued)

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Phillip H. Melamed

April 12, 1933 – December 11, 2009

Phillip Melamed, better known as Phil, was an avid stamp collector and a proud member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately for decades (member #906, joining in May 1970), but he was really more than that. He was a researcher. There was nothing Phillip did that he did not thoroughly research and understand before he took action. This was seen in his family, collection and work ethic. His peers said if you wanted to know an answer you could go to anyone, but if you wanted to understand the answer you went to Phil.

He was a family man. His beliefs in his family and his heritage meant something to him. Phil spent much time looking for information on passage through Ellis Island so that he knew when his family came to the United States, and he took the time to understand their plight in coming over as very poor immigrants. He practiced his faith in his own way and took care of his relatives, whether related by blood or not, in life and death. Education was important to him. He was the first Melamed to become a college graduate, initially an electrical engineer, and he later went on to become a patent lawyer. Our family has heard



Figure 1: Phil Melamed, Jean Melamed, John Gledhill holding Carter, Michelle Gledhill, and Susan Hyland (Jean's sister) holding Ryan in Ft. Myers, Florida

from so many friends and co-workers at Motorola where he finished his intellectual property career. We referred to him as book smart, but it was so much more. It was not where or how much he learned but what he learned that was important to him. His process of learning was exemplified in everything he did whether it was playing the accordion or piano, searching for a good restaurant, or playing tennis.

He loved collecting stamps. Due to the rich history of the Czechoslovak country and people, he ended up focusing his collection on their stamps. It was the rich history (and mystery) of each stamp, postmark and perforation that made sense to him. He also enjoyed collecting postcards, first day issues, and other international stamps.

Your journal helped in his learning process, and many times he gave back to you all by submitting articles so that he could contribute to the learning of others. Our family is currently working with Lou and the *Specialist* staff to find helpful ways we can keep the tradition Phillip loved so much alive and well. We as a family thank each and every reader of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* for providing Phillip Melamed knowledge and for accepting the knowledge he wanted to pass on and share with you.

Phil passed away at his winter home in Ft. Myers, Florida. He is survived lovingly by his wife of 27 years, Jean; his son John (Michelle) Gledhill, his two grandchildren Carter (9) and Ryan (7) plus brothers Sol (Arlene) and Robert (Vicky) and numerous nieces, nephews, and other loved ones (Fig. 1). He will be missed....

John Gledhill

JUDr. EMIL HÁCHA **3rd Czech President** **by Savoy Horvath**

On March 15, 2009 the Czech Post put in use a commemorative cancel honoring the president of the so-called second republic of Česko-Slovensko, Emil Hácha (Fig. 1). March 15 was the 70th anniversary of the Republic's demise.

Emil Hácha was elected president of the federal republic of Czecho-Slovakia in November 1938 shortly after president Edvard Beneš abdicated his presidency. By then Czecho-Slovakia consisted of three factions, Bohemia+Moravia minus the Sudeten lands, Slovakia, and Carpatho-Rus. His Czecho-Slovak presidency lasted only a few months from November 30, 1938 to March 15, 1939. This was followed by the German invasion where Hácha became a puppet president of the German Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren -- Čechy a Morava (Bohemia and Moravia).

Emil Hácha (Fig. 2) was born July 12, 1872 in Trhové Sviny, located in southern Bohemia. He studied law in Prague and received a doctorate in 1895. As a highly regarded lawyer he sat as a judge at the Hague Court being an expert on Anglo-Saxon law. He was also a connoisseur of English literature and with the help of his brother translated works of American writers.

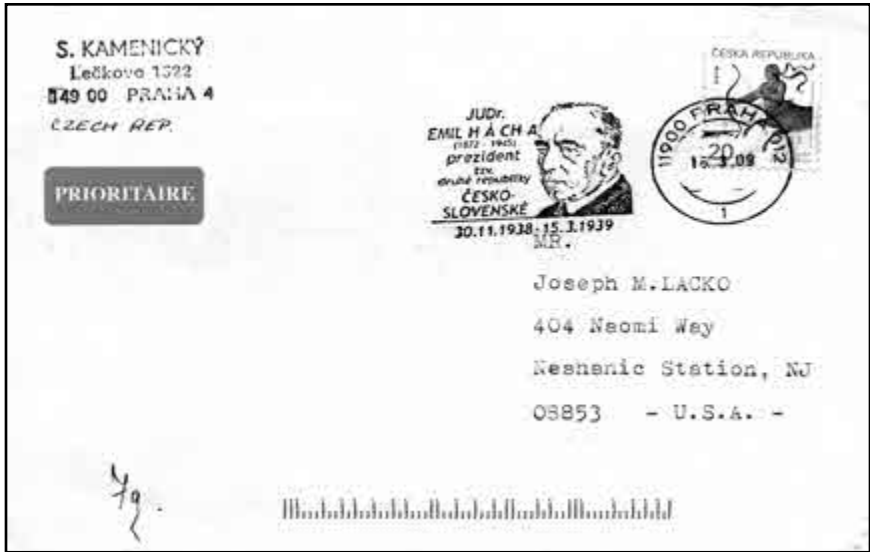


Fig. 1

Politically he was an independent. His health was bad, mainly his heart -- and he suffered many strokes. The worst one was when he was “called on the carpet” in Berlin prior to the German invasion. Hitler screamed at him, and Goring threatened that if he did not capitulate, Hradčany and most of Prague would be leveled by the Luftwaffe. Emil Hácha passed out, but was revived long enough to sign the capitulation papers for the next day invasion.

Emil Hácha was a tragic figure who made the fatal mistake of staying in office after the Nazi invasion in the hopes of preserving at least a fragment of Czech independence. He made one compromise after another, but he did stay in touch with president Edvard Beneš in London, informing him of the situation in the Protektorat by sending him reports. Late in the war -- as one can hear from the archival recordings where he is hardly able to speak let alone address the nation -- he was a completely broken man.



Fig. 2

On May 13, 1945, Czechoslovak minister of the interior Václav Nosek had Emil Hácha arrested at the Prague Castle and transferred to Pankrác jail where he died on June 27, 1945.

ILJA JEFIMOVIČ REPIN 1844-1930

by G.M. van Zanten

Born in 1844 in the Ukraine, where he trained as an icon painter, his self portrait of 1915 was shown on the 3 Kč stamp in the 1979 Art on Stamps series (Fig. 1, S2267, P2407). The original of this measures 125 x 94 cm and is in the Prague National Gallery. The cachet for the FDC of the issue shows his mother in 1867 (Fig. 2).



Figure 1: Self portrait -- 1915



Figure 2: Artist's mother -- 1867

There was a minimum of information in our Specialist at that time, but since then I have found out a good deal about him.

Ilja was born in Chugyen in the Kharkov province and attended the academy in St. Petersburg from 1864-1871. While there he won the academy's gold medal for his "Resurrection of Jairus' Daughter" and was hailed as the artist of Russia's future.

From 1873-1876 he studied in Vienna before settling in Paris. Upon his return to Russia, he joined the "Society of Wandering Art Exhibitions"



Figure 4: The home of Repin



Figure 3: Repin as a young man

showing in St. Petersburg and Moscow as well as in the provinces.

Their first exhibition held in St. Petersburg in 1871 was a tremendous success. From then until 1923 "The Wanderers" put together 48 nearly annual traveling exhibitions, including Kiev, Odessa, Kursk, Saratov, and Kharkov.



Figure 5: Vera Alexseevna Repin -- 1882



Figure 6: Portrait of Anton Rubinstein -- 1881

He was the soul of “The Wanderers” (1844-1930). He is shown as a young man in Figure 3. That painting is in the Muzey in Repino (named after him), which was formerly known as Koukkala, and is about 30 km outside of St. Petersburg. His home (Fig. 4) now houses the Repino museum.

His daughter, Vera Alekseevna, is depicted on a painting done in 1882. It is oil on canvas and measures 140 x 91.5 cm (Fig. 5).

The portrait of the conductor Anton Rubinstein (1881), oil on canvas measuring 80 x 62 cm, is in the State Tretyaakov Gallery in Moscow (Fig. 6).

The last years of his life were spent in his suburban Dacha-Studio, now his museum, and he passed away in 1930.

In 1944, the academy where he taught from 1894-1907, was officially renamed the “Repin Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture”.



President’s Corner ***(Continued from Page 1)***

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Some of you may be wondering if it is available in print. The short answer is no, because it has 15,122 citations, 3,413 subject headings, and 677 author entries in 400+ pages. However, if you have the printer ink, paper, and time, you can print a copy for yourself. This is because when you go to the alphabet letter pad of the Subject index and click on a letter, you can then click on a print option key in the lower left of the screen, and it will print out all of the subject listings for that letter (e.g., you are interested in articles about the Hradčany issue, so you click on the H in the alphabet pad, and the first page of H subjects comes up, you click on the print option key, and all of the H subject listings will be printed out, all 28 pages of them -- by the way, I don’t really know how many pages of H subject headings there really are, this is just an example). You can then do this for all of the letters shown on the alphabet letter pad, and thus get the complete listings, all 400+ pages of them.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

SAINT MAUR AND COGNAC

by Petr Manuel Ulrych, CZeCOT



Fig. 1

[Ed. Note: In the May/June 2009 issue of the Specialist, page 26, we showed that the Ministry had issued on April 8, 2009, a commemorative souvenir sheet containing a single 51 Kč stamp showing the Reliquary of Saint Maur at Bečov nad Teplou (Fig. 1, stamp only). While we told some of the story of this national treasure, I felt that it would be interesting to hear more of its story. Thus we have here an additional article on that subject, this one coming from CZeCOT, The Tourist Server of the Czech Republic, whose web site is: www.czecot.com, and can be contacted at: info@czecot.com.]

Karlovy Vary has long enjoyed the favour of tourists from all over the world as a renowned spa town. While they seek and, thanks to the unique mineral waters, truly find relief from their various complaints in the local sanatoriums, more and more of them, however, are coming in the desire to get to know the local culture, to have a good time, or to discover the points of interest in the town and its environs. The Karlovy Vary film festival has become a well-known event, the local theater enjoys a fine reputation, the number of spa quests that are playing golf on the local 18-hole course is growing, and others take side trips to the surrounding countryside. And so far only a few of them suspect that they can see a monument of inestimable value only 25 kilometers from Karlovy Vary, the reliquary of Saint Maur, the second most valuable treasure in the Czech Republic after the crown jewels. All they have to do is visit the chateau in Bečov nad Teplou.



Fig. 2

The gothic castle (Fig. 2), which rises on a high stone headland that the Teplá River flows around on both sides, dominates the entire Bečov area. The first written mention of the castle comes from the year 1314, when it belonged to the lords of Osek. The extensive Bečov estate remained in their hands until the year 1407. At the time the castle served as a sentry castle on the crossroads of various trading routes. It was later replaced by a provincial customhouse, which allegedly stood on the site of the parish Church of St. George and the parish gardens. From the year 1407 until the year 1547 the castle was held in lien by a number of families, the most important of which was the house of Pluh from Rabštejn (1495-1547) that became very rich from the mining of tin and was one of the most powerful families of the land.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

At the time Bečov castle served as an important defensive stronghold and seeing that it was the Pluh's main seat, the family carried out its extensive reconstruction in the late-gothic style. The main features have been preserved in this form until now. In later years, when the medieval castle was no longer suitable, an oblong renaissance palace with arcades, known as the Pluh Palace, was built. In 1547 Bečov castle was confiscated from Kašpar Pluh, who led the Estates uprising against the Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand I. A period when the Bečov estate once again changed hands frequently ensued, which negatively influenced the structural development and overall state of the castle.

In 1813 the Belgian governor Friedrich August de Beaufort-Spontin purchased the Bečov estate. While held by his family, the renaissance Pluh Palace was reconstructed, in the classic style, into an office building for the administration of the estate. The castle, in disrepair, served as a granary at this time. Between 1861 and 1865 only structural modifications were carried out on the terrace, castle moat and inside of the chateau, based on projects from the architects Zítek and Mocker. The Beaufort-Spontins, Bečov's last noble family, owned the estate until the year 1945, when the estate was confiscated from them.

From Florennes to Bečov and underground

It is actually thanks to Beaufort-Spontin that the reliquary of St. Maur that was mentioned in the introduction made its way to Bečov. Most of the facts on the reliquary, basically a casket for human remains, are known. Unfortunately the same cannot be said about the person or people who have come to rest in it. The casket was made in the first third of the 13th century by goldsmiths from a workshop on the German-French border on the request of a Benedictine abbey, whose dignitaries wanted to place the remains of St. Maur, St. Timothy and St. John the Baptist, which the bishop of Cambrai received as a gift from his counterpart from Reims at the beginning of the 11th century, in the truly representative casket. The remains were deposited in the St. John the Baptist cathedral in Florennes.

The reliquary served as a revered liturgical object until the 18th century. In 1798, however, the monastery was dissolved as a result of the French revolution and its property was to a large extent destroyed. The reliquary of St. Maur was luckily saved in one of the sacristies of a local church. Duke Alfréd de Beaufort discovered it there, in a ruined state, and in 1838 he bought it from the church and had it repaired. After the Brussels exhibition in 1888 the Beauforts let the reliquary be brought to their Czech estate in Bečov nad Teplou where they exhibited it in the chateau's chapel. After the formation of an independent Czechoslovakia [1918], which meant among other things the dissolution of aristocratic titles, the family tried to ensure that nobody found out about the reliquary. The last written mention of it appeared in 1932.

During the Second World War the Beauforts sided with the German fascist regime -- Heinrich and Friedrich Beaufort were members of the NSDAP and of the SS. It therefore comes as not surprise that right before the end of the war they were very concerned about their future in Bečov as well as the fate of the reliquary.

Thus they buried the casket beneath the floor in the chapel and quickly deserted the castle and chateau.

Spy games and a bottle of cognac

The reliquary (Fig. 3) lied [*sic* lay] under the floor of the chapel for exactly forty years and was discovered by a strange coincidence. The circumstances surrounding its discovery seem to come right out of a spy film. The story of the discovery of the box decorated in gold, silver, enamel and gems and containing the remains of St. Maur, a priest and martyr practically unknown in the Czech Republic, started eighteen years ago. Until that time none of the historical

conservation-ists suspected that a relic from the thirteenth century, one which experts consider to be the second most important historical monument after the crown jewels, was buried in the Czech Republic. A certain American

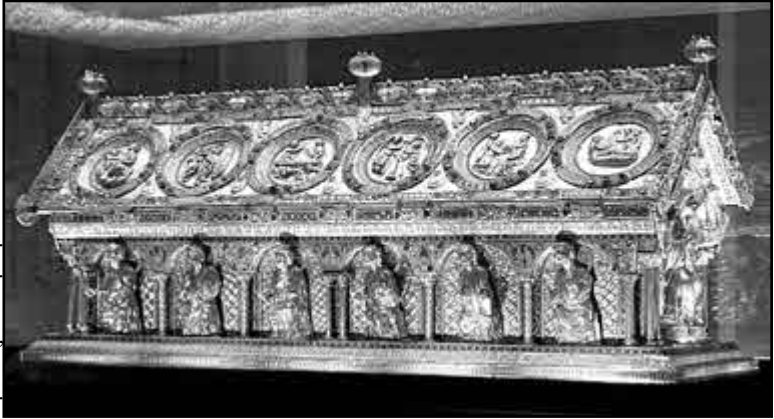


Fig. 3

citizen brought this precious secret to the attention of the authorities of the time. “In 1984 an American businessman made the Czechoslovak embassy in Vienna an unusual offer. He said he would pay a quarter of a million dollars for the legal exhumation and removal of an object which nobody here was missing anyway,” one of the criminologists at the time recalls the beginning of the search for the reliquary.

The American claimed that the Czechs would not find anything since they did not know what the particular hidden object from the Second World War was or where they should search for it, so they had nothing to lose. While the Foreign Ministry of the period prepared a contract between the American businessman and the state, the communist federal criminal central office started showing an interest in the transaction to eliminate the possibility that the state would lose a larger amount than the businessman was offering. Though the American thought that he had not given anything away about the treasure, criminologists put together a mosaic from his fragmentary references that led their search in the right direction. Gradually they learned that the object was the size of a conference table and was buried in a radius of 150 kilometers from Nuremberg. After nine months of searching, right before the purchasing contract was to be signed, the criminologists succeeded in uncovering a golden relic of immense value in the chateau’s Chapel of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, and about 100 bottles of cognac and wine along with it.

Reconstruction at the last minute

The forty-year stay underground considerably damaged the reliquary. The bottom had rotted, the decorations had warped and the golden parts had turned black. It wouldn't have taken much and the Czech Republic would have lost a priceless historical monument.

The time spent in the safe of the state bank, where it was taken after its discovery, did not help the chest either. It spent a considerable amount of time here due to ownership disputes and bureaucratic official procedures. During this time the reliquary had to be taken apart due to the deformation of the wooden core. Experts also carried out its photographic and design documentation. The casket arrived at the restoration workshop in 1991. For a further three years professional restorers performed detailed material and technological research on the basis of which the most appropriate restoration techniques were chosen. Following this they had to put together two trial models before getting down to the real work. The fact that 500 specimens of the reliquary's decorations were made up of more than 3,000 pieces shows that the work was definitely not easy. It was a demanding puzzle.

The chest itself is nearly 140 cm long [55 in.], 42 cm wide [17 in.] and almost 65 cm high [26 in.]. Its wooden core is richly decorated with gilded silver and gilded copper making up figural, relief and filigree elements. The filigrees are set with roughly 300 precious stones.

The cost of restoring the gold and silver parts reached 8 million crowns [about \$300,000] while the restoration and research of the other components and the contents of the reliquary cost another 2 million. Another roughly 10 million was necessary for the reconstruction of the interior and the preparation of its exhibition in a vault with the necessary climate and security assurances. The original estimates, according to which the restoration of the reliquary was to be completed in 1997, gradually had to be revised. This Romanesque jewel was presented to the public for the first time while it was still under reconstruction in 2000 at an exhibition at the Prague castle. Since May 4th, 2002 it has been presented in all its glory in the Bečov chateau. Visitors can admire it from April until November. Group tours should be booked in advance since the number of people in each group is limited and interest in the tours is enormous.



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THE HRADČANY CAPTIONED DESIGN: EVIDENCE FOR A SINGLE MASTER DIE

by Mark Wilson

The first stamps in the Hradčany issue carried the captions **ČESKO** in the left side panel and **SLOVENSKÁ** in the right side panel. For this Captioned Design's early phase (called in classic Czech philately the *First Design*), the letters are white on a colored background while for its later phase (termed the *Second Design* in classic Czech philately) the letters are colored on a white background. The *Monografie* describes how the Czech Graphics Union produced these stamps.

The process started with the creation from a *master die* of a *printing block* bearing an image twice the size of a released stamp. From it, they stamped out 100 double-sized *auxiliary prints* which were then arranged in a 10 by 10 array. By photographing this array of auxiliary prints with a reduction lens camera, the printer produced a plate-sized negative. An electrochemical process transferred the negative to a metal plate which was then etched and used for printing.

Sometimes the printers, to create a new denomination, simply pasted new numerals into the value oval on the auxiliary prints and repeated the above process to create the new plates. The *Monografie* demonstrates this latter technique with a nice illustration of a 25h stamp peeking out from a block of 20h stamps.¹ Whether all of the Captioned Design's early phase denominations were produced with pasted-over numerals or whether new printing blocks were created for some of the denominations, I do not know.

However, the printers could not have used this pasting-over technique to produce the later phase of the Captioned Design because each of its three denominations shows considerable variance in detail with respect to the rendition of the bottom of the left side panels.² Thus, the printers employed at least four printing blocks (perhaps one or more for the early phase, and three for the later phase) to produce all the denominations in both phases of the Captioned Design.

While we may not know exactly how many printing blocks were involved in the Captioned Design's production, there is strong evidence implying every one of those printing blocks were based upon a single master die. In order to clearly present that evidence, a small digression is in order.

In an earlier *Specialist* article, I described the different kinds of flaws one might find on a stamp.³ *Printing* flaws appear and disappear at random on a pane of stamps and are caused by printing mishaps, usually dirty plates or misapplication of the ink. *Plate* flaws occur at a specific stamp position on one plate of a denomination but not on the others. They result from variances in the etching process or from damage inflicted upon the plates during handling. *Negative* flaws -- because usually the same photographic negative was used to produce all of the plates used to print a denomination -- appear in the same stamp position on all plates, but not in every stamp position. *Printing block* flaws appear in every stamp on every plate because the auxiliary prints for any single denomination were created from a single printing block (either directly with a new printing block or indirectly by pasting numerals over the auxiliary prints used for

another denomination). Thus, even though I cannot actually examine the original printing blocks, negatives, or plates from my home in California, I can imply through its provenance the source of every flaw found on a stamp simply by examining enough material.

The one flaw not discussed above is a flaw in the *master die* used to create a printing block. If the printer uses a single master die, a flaw in the master die will appear on every stamp from every plate of every denomination issued in a specific design. *The Captioned Design has at least one such flaw.*



Fig. 1: a - 25h (early phase) b - 400h (late phase)

Most stamps from each denomination of the Captioned Design have two small white spots near the upper center of the thin panel containing the decorative wavy line (Fig. 1). The left hand spot is above the crest of the center wave and just below the top of the panel. Its companion appears to its right above the following trough in the waves, again quite close to the top of the panel. While it is true that one or both spots may be missing from specific copies of some stamp positions, examination of copies of other stamps from exactly the same position eventually confirm their presence. Most likely, when one or both spots are missing, the cause is over-inking, dirty plates, or misapplied pressure on the printing cylinder.

One cannot imagine any circumstance that would cause these two white spots to appear on two different master dies: they are clearly accidental artifacts. Thus, the evidence presented here strongly implies that no matter how many printing blocks the Czech Graphic Union employed to produce both phases of the Captioned Design, every one of them was taken from the same master die and displays the same master die flaw.

There are seven denominations in the early phase (3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, and 40h) and three in the later phase (100, 200, and 400h) of the Captioned Design. *Figure 1*, through the exemplars shown, illustrates the master source die flaw found on every stamp in every denomination for both phases of this design.

¹*Monografie československých známek*, díl. I, p.91.

²Wilson, Mark. “Notes on variations in the Hradčany issues 1918-1920”; *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Nov/Dec 2006, p. 3.

³Wilson, Mark. “Types, retouches, and flaws”; *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Jul/Aug 2008, p. 25.

MASARYKTOWN, FLORIDA

by Savoy Horvath

Masaryktown was founded in 1925 as an enterprise by the New York Dennik, Slovak-language daily newspaper based in New Jersey. A corporation had been founded which purchased acreage of land in Florida suitable for the planting of orange trees, then the land was sold to the stockholders from among the newspaper's subscribers (Fig.1).

Initially about 70 people from 40 families went to settle on the purchased land. They were mostly Slovaks, and only two families were Czech. Most of them were from the New York city area, but others came from Pennsylvania, Illinois, and some other northern states. They were recent emigrants, but had come to the United States prior to WW I.

The acreage which the corporation purchased included the site of an old lumber town containing lumber shacks and an old abandoned Black church. These together with tents provided the shelter for



Figure 1: Florida map



Figure 2: Postcard, Dedication of Masaryktown Memorial Library -- girls in Czechoslovak kroj are Elaine Rehurek and Lydia Kovarcik.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Figure 3: Cover, 50th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, Oct. 28, 1968, with Masaryk Champion of Liberty stamp canceled Masaryktown 33512.

the newcomers during the initial settlement of the area until they were able to build their own homes.

They soon held an election and named the new town Masaryktown, in honor of their homeland's first president. A hotel was later erected and titled the Masaryk hotel; in addition, the Masaryk Memorial Library was opened on July 10, 1965 (Fig. 2). While they never had their own full post office, a contract post office was soon operating in the Masaryk hotel which had active participation in providing cancels for philatelic covers (Fig. 3, 4).

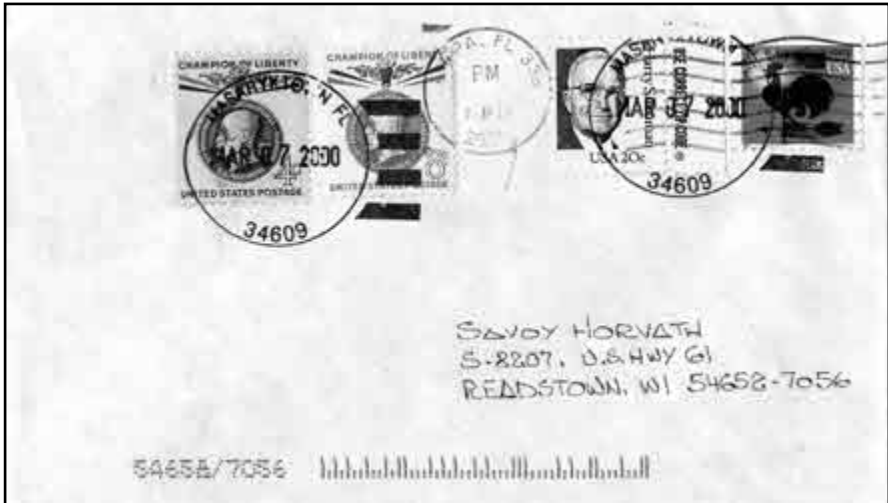


Figure 4: Cover, both values of Masaryk Champion of Liberty stamps, Mar. 07, 2000, canceled Masaryktown 34609.

The orange groves planted by the settlers were destroyed by the devastating freezes of some subsequent winters. Not giving up, the settlers changed to the business of raising chickens. In this they were so successful that Masaryktown is considered by many as the poultry capitol of Florida.

At present it has a population of about 750 and is a pleasant village with an active social life.



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Ludvik (Lou) Svoboda/Tom Cossaboom:

-- Lou wrote: Looking through my covers, I came across one addressed to the newspaper, *Národní Politiky*, in Prague (Fig. 1). The railroad post office cancel reads Rokitnitz-Daudleb, 18 VIII 20, and has a rectangular box with the number 5454. I found it listed in *Monografie 16, Vol. 2, pg 364*. I then looked up the German names and found that they translate to Rokytnice v Orlických Horách and Doudleby nad Orlicí respectively. I found both places in my Czech atlas -- Rokytnice v O.H. is due east of Hradec Králové in the mountains going to Poland, it is the end of the train line, and Doudleby nad O. is a little dinky town



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

immediately east of Kostelec nad Orlicí. The cover was correctly franked on the back (canceled with the same railroad cancel as on the front) with a 60h Hradčany. My question: does the fact that this is obviously a very little used branch line mean that this cover is very scarce?

Tom answered: What you have is a cancel for the service described as "Post Conductor im Zug." When the Austrian railroad mail service was reorganized during the 1890s, two basic levels of service were established. The higher level had a railway mail car attached to the train. The mail car had one or more personnel who dropped off and picked up mail pouches along the route. In addition, the mail cars had a regular letter slot on the outside of the car where patrons could 'mail letters' while the train was stopped at a station. This was a means of insuring fast delivery without having to pay the express mail charge. The mail car personnel would sort the mail from the mail slot as the train was moving. For these mail routes the Austrian Post Office assigned route numbers. The numbers for the Austrian routes in what became Czechoslovakia are listed in Monografie #14. (FYI: The Hungarians had a similar system.)

The lower level of service provided a postal official on the train to collect and cancel mail. I do not know where this postal official conducted his business, perhaps in a small cubicle or at a normal seat with a small table. This kind of service was used on routes with a low volume of mail such as dead-end branch lines or small connecting lines. These routes received the same number as the train on which the service was provided. As cancelers were prepared for each route, I must assume that train numbers were not frequently changed. However, for some reason, these routes are not listed in the Austrian Post Office's master list of railway post offices. Perhaps because the oversight for these routes was delegated to a lower level than the Post Directorates (for Bohemia, Prag was the directorate, and for Moravia/Silesia, Brünn was the directorate). The only means I know to find these numbers is to obtain a copy of the official Austrian railway schedule from the period 1900-1914. At the top of the column for each train with a Post Conductor there is a little symbol indicating the service. I have copies of partial schedules, but I am still looking for a complete schedule from that period. We are therefore fortunate that Monografie has the list of these routes for the Czech lands.

As to the value of your cover, we are fortunate that Volume 16 contains a point system. Your cancel carries the value of 36 out of a possible 100. Based on what I have paid recently for this type of cancel, I would estimate the value at \$25-\$30, providing the cancel is relatively clean.

Lou responded: I do not believe that we have had very much at all written about the railway cancels and the railway postal system in the *Specialist*. Would you consider writing an article or two on this?

Tom answered: I am in the process of doing some research on Czechoslovak and Austrian railroad routes and cancels. At the moment I am creating a database to compare what happened between 1918 and 1920 to routes and route numbers. Once I complete the database, I'll be ready to draw some conclusions and write an article or two. Then there are the Hungarian routes. Again, I have the routes and numbers for the mail car routes, but have yet to look into any other class of service which used a cancel. Lots to research.

I only learned about the 'Post Conductor im Zug' routes within the last year when I bought some RR covers and could not find some of the route numbers in my Austrian Post publication. A guy in England finally let me in on the big secret. The most difficult part is that the numbers for these routes are mixed in with the numbers for the postal mail car routes. The cancels look the same. Monografie has the numbers for the Czechoslovak routes, but for the rest of Austrian, who knows.

I'll be happy to write articles once I get a handle on the subject.

One last comment. Almost all of the lines which had mail service still have passenger service. Even the line your cover traveled still has service. I spent some weeks during 2007 and 2008 riding many of these lines. I passed through Doudleby, but did not ride to Rokytnice. Almost all of the rail lines in the Czech Republic date to the Austrian period.

2. From Karel Holoubek:

-- I am sending you my greetings with a short note that I would appreciate to be translated and published in the next issue of the *Specialist*.

"The Svaz Českých Filatelistů (SCF)[the Society of Czech Philatelists] in its current issue of their journal, Zpravodaj, is informing us that our member [Savoy Horvath] has been proposed and approved for the honorary recognition of the third degree for his dedicated service and for his active, long-standing publicity work and promotion of Czech philately among members in the USA."

Certainly, this recognition for Savoy is also due to his dedication to the Society in the USA.

[Further correspondence revealed that at the end of each annual SČF meeting a commission reads letters of recommendation for honorable mention for work and propagation of philately, and then votes on it. The third degree level awarded to Savoy is the highest level.]

3. From Phil Rhoads:

-- I received a letter from a Jim Miller regarding Philatelic Genealogy -- using old envelopes and postcards from postal history collections to help reveal immigrant ancestor's place of origin and other critical facts. He recently wrote an article on this subject which appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of *New England Ancestors*. If you are interested in this area, you might want to investigate their website: <http://philgen.org>, or write to him at jim@philgen.org. The Society is not recommending this site or individual, just passing on the information.

4. From Slovak Post:

-- Expiry of the Validity of Postage Stamps with Face Value in Sk. The Slovak Post announces that from 1.1.2010 [it] has finished the sale of all postage stamps and postal stationeries (Slovak postage stamps, postcards, aerograms, pigeongrams and postal covers) with face value in "Sk" (Slovak Crowns). In all stores of POFIS [there] will be sold only postage stamps with Euro face value or without face value with tariff rate indication "T". *[It is unclear to me whether the title of this announcement -- that the "validity" of the Sk stamps has expired -- is the intent or whether it for now is only that they will no longer be sold. The announcement title and the content seem to be at odds with each other.]*

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Ludvik:

I am sending you my “jubilee” greetings and remembrance of Nov. 17, 1989 to you and the SPECIALIST readers (Fig. 1). [Shown is a postal card with an imprinted 10 Kč stamp with a special commemorative postmark and a cachet



Fig. 1

commemorating the 20th anniversary of the ouster of the communists after the public demonstrations in Prague on November 17, 1989. The postmark includes the image of a hand shaking some keys, which at the time became a symbol by the people for saying that they now held the keys to the nation. This cacheted postal card is just one of several postal items that were created to help celebrate this anniversary.]

Lubor Kunc

2. Hi Lou:

I was happy to see the Interactive Indices to my 1939-2009 *Specialist's* mentioned in your President's Corner column (Nov/Dec 2009, page 18). I would like to clarify three items you mentioned and bring up one you did not cover.

First, the issues of the *Specialist* on the Society website cannot be printed -- you may only read them. Printable copies are only available on the Society's DVD.

Second, Apple computers, such as the one you use, do act as you described and will only link to the first page of an issue. I suspect that this is some sort of an Apple configuration setting, but I do not know what it is. If anyone does, please let me know so I can publish that information. However, if members are using a PC

with Vista or XP, the indices will take them directly to the first page of the article, not just to the first page of an issue.

Third, if the citation is not in blue -- it is in black -- that issue of the *Specialist* is not yet mounted on the Society website. No amount of backspacing or searching will find it on the website.

You did not mention that members must use the most recent version of their browser -- the latest versions can be downloaded for free from the Internet. The index pages will not work properly with any Internet Explorer version earlier than the current one -- version 8. I have also successfully tested the indices on Firefox version 3.5 and Safari version 4.0.

Hope this helps members when they use the Interactive Indices.

I received the Nov/Dec issue today [5 Feb 2010] and will be adding its contents to the indices immediately. The new quarterly format for the *Specialist* sounds great. I am looking forward to the first issue.

Mark Wilson

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. van Zanten

2010 ISSUE PLAN
FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production -- Vladimír Kovářík	1	10
Jan 20	Magdalena D. Rettigová (1785-1845)	1	12
Feb 10	XXI Winter Olympic Games Vancouver 2010	1	18
Feb 10	Winter Paralympic Games Vancouver 2010	1	18
Feb 10	Universal World Exhibition EXPO 2010 in Shanghai	1 s/s	35
Mar 10	Happy Easter Holidays	1	10
Mar 10	Karel Hynek Mácha and his Region	1 s/s	43
Apr 14	Explorer Enrique Stank Vráz (1860-1922)	1	24
Apr 14	Zakavkazský Rugs, National Museum in Prague	2	21/24
May 5	EUROPA: Children's Book - Karel Čapek -- Dášenska	1	17
May 5	Prague Castle in Postage Stamp Art	1	17

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

May 26	For Children -- Helena Zmatlíková	1	10
Jun 16	700 Years since the Luxembourg Ascendance to the Czech Throne -- Joint Issue with Luxembourg	1	17
Jun 16	Beauties of Our Country	2	
	-- Klatovy		12
	-- Štramberk		14
Jun 16	Protected Landscape, Žďárské Hills Region, 40 th Anniversary	1	10
Jun 16	600 th Anniversary, Old Town Astronomical Clock	1	21
Sep 8	Nature Preservation -- Lower Moravia	4 s/s	10/12
	-- UNESCO Biosphere Reservation		14/18
Sep 8	World Championship in Women's Basketball 2010 in ČR	1	17
Sep 29	Personalities	2	
	-- Adolf Branald (1910-2008)		10
	-- Karel Zeman (1910-1989)		12
Oct 20	Technical Monuments	2	
	-- Hanging Bridge in Ústí nad Labem		10
	-- Historic Bridge in Písek		12
Oct 20	Arts and Crafts - Historical Stoves: Empír, Biedermeier	2	
	-- Art Nouveau		10
	-- Art Deco		17
Nov 10	Works of Art on Stamps		
	-- Karel Škréta (1610-1674)	1	24
	-- Miloš Jiránek (1875-1911)	1	26
	-- Karel Špilar (1871-1939)	1	30
Nov 10	Christmas -- yellow hymnal	1	10

1. On January 20, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production (Fig. 1). The stamp commemorates the stamp by Vladimír Kovářík from the series Tradition of Czechoslovak Porcelain issued in June 1977. This series contained six stamps, the author of which was Vladimír Kovářík (born 1921 in Brunovice, died 1999 in Prague). On the stamps were depicted the products of the porcelain works in Klášterec nad Ohří, Březová, Slavkov and Dubí. On the stamp, the engraver of which was Bedřich Housa, is depicted a gold decorated vase -- the so-called Medici vase -- with a face value of 30h. Vladimír Kovářík studied at the School of Applied Art in Prague with professor Antonín Strnadel and Jaroslav Benda. The first stamp by Vladimír Kovářík was issued in 1949. Since then he has created more than 100 postage stamps, many of them on various subjects, and awarded to him mainly by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. At the international biennial event in Buenos Aires his 30h stamp "75 Years of the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee" won first prize. The stamp was graphically arranged and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

photogravure in wine-color, blue, dark yellow, and light ochre (chamois) in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels are issued. The labels bear a picture of a sauce-boat and are printed by recess print combined with photogravure in black. A FDC in black shows a stylistically depicted vase from the stamp with a face value of 40h, originating from 1820 when it was produced by the porcelain works in Horní Slavkov (Fig. 2).

-- Support of Girl's Culture and of Cooking Mastery (Fig. 3). The parents of Magdalena Rettigová (1785-1845) talked to their children only in German. Magdalena started to write and speak Czech intensively only after her wedding at the age of 23 to Jan Rettig -- her acquaintance of ten years. Jan Sudiprav Rettig was a great patriot and an adherent of the national revival, which was manifested by the fact that both of them added Slavic names to their



Fig. 3

names -- Dobromila and Sudiprav. Magdalena contributed her stories to many magazines and almanacs. But she found her mission in life only in the moment when she started to advise young girls and ladies how to be a good housewife, cook and wife. Her most famous work is her revivalist cookbook which has been coming out for more than 100 years in renewed editions, and to this day her recipes -- that are still suitable and tasty -- can be found on the Internet. In 1834 she moved with her husband to Litomyšl, where Magdalena organized cultural events for ladies. Magdalena had 11 children, but only 3 lived to adulthood. On the stamp is shown Magdalena with her tool the inkwell, which symbolizes her writing passion. The stamp was designed by Antonín Odehnal,



Fig. 4

engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in purple, azure, and yellow in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black contains a drawing of a teapot with a cup/saucer, a pen, and a sheet of paper with the text by Rettigová for women in which she appeals for the necessity of the education of women and its importance in marriage (Fig. 4).

3. On February 10, 2010, the Ministry issued an 18 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the "XXIst Winter Olympic Games, Vancouver 2010" (Fig. 5). The stamp shows a figure of a speed skater. Speed skating is one of the Olympic disciplines in which the Czech Republic was successful. In



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

the right upper corner of the stamp is placed the name of the Olympic Games and their symbol. The winter Olympic Games will start in February in Canadian Vancouver. They are coming back to Canada after twenty years. The venues will not be concentrated at one place: in Vancouver -- acrobatic skiing and snowboarding; in Whistler -- biathlon, bobsledding, and other skiing disciplines. The Olympic Games are the most significant meeting of sportsmen from around the world. The Czech hot favorites in the fight for medals are speed skater Martina Sáblíková, downhill skier Šárka Záhrobská, biathlete Michal Šlesinger and figure skater Tomáš

Verner. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in light blue, dark blue, orange, and red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows a stylistically depicted moving speed skater (Fig. 6).

4. On February 10, 2010, the Ministry issued an 18 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the “Winter Paralympic Games 2010, Vancouver” (Fig. 7). The stamp shows two competitors in downhill skiing. In the left bottom corner of the stamp there is the logo of the Czech Paralympic Team. In March, after the conclusion of the Olympic Games, the Winter Paralympic Games will take place in



Fig. 7

Vancouver. More than 600 athletes from 45 countries will participate. They will compete in alpine and classic skiing, biathlon, sledge hockey, and wheelchair curling. For the first time in the history of the Paralympic Games, the organizers of the Games involved the four tribes of the original inhabitants of British Columbia -- the region where the Paralympic Games are taking place -- in the games' organization. The Czech Republic will have some representatives at the Paralympics in alpine skiing and sledge hockey. The stamp was



Fig. 8

designed by Ladislav Kuklík, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in gray, red, and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows a stylistic drawing of two downhill skiers (Fig. 8).

5. On February 10, 2010, the Ministry will issue a commemorative souvenir sheet containing a single 35 Kč stamp to promote the World Exhibition EXPO to take place from spring to autumn 2010 in China (Fig. 9). On the stamp is a view of the exhibition pavilion in which the Czech Republic will be represented. The underprint on the multicolored souvenir sheet contains the inscription “EXPO 2010”. In the upper right from the stamp is a coupon containing the full name of the exhibition in the Czech language: “SVĚTOVÁ VÝSTAVA EXPO 2010

SANGHAJ”. The international exhibition EXPO is held every five years. It always has a main theme; each participating country may, in the scope of the main theme, introduce itself to the general public and professionals. The main theme of the



Fig. 9

World Exhibition EXPO 2010 in Shanghai is “Better City -- Better Life”. The Czech Republic’s theme for its presentation is “The Blessings of Civilization”. The Czech pavilion will be constructed on an area of 2000 m², and a daily attendance of around 30,000 people is expected. On the front of the pavilion will be an aerial view of the ground plan of Prague’s Old Town. Inside the pavilion, the guests will be able to walk on soft undulating grass and over their heads will be spread out the network of streets.

The aim of the participation of the Czech Republic at EXPO 2010 is cultural and economic presentation. The graphical arrangement of the stamp and the souvenir sheet was designed by Aleš Najbrt and Petr Štěpán, and they were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset with colors prevailing on the logo of EXPO -- dark blue, azure, red, and light green. A FDC in the colors of the official logo depicts colored inscriptions of “EXPO 2010” (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10

Stationery

6. On January 6, 2010, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card in honor of the 60th Anniversary of the Specialized Magazine *Filatelie* (philately) with an imprinted 10 Kč stamp (Fig. 11). The magazine *Filatelie* is the longest running Czech professional magazine issued for philatelic specialists. Its jubilee edition will be issued on January 10, 2010. Throughout the 60 years, the magazine cooperated closely with the Czech Post (formerly the Czechoslovak Post) especially in promoting new postage stamps and postal stationery. The magazine cooperates with the Postal Museum and the Union of Czech Philatelists in organizing postal exhibitions and the Days of Czech Philatelists. For a long time the Union of Czech Philatelists was editor of the magazine. The imprinted stamp depicts stamps and philatelic tools which are probably in the drawer of every stamp collector -- tweezers and a magnifying glass. Depicted in the cachet portion are various



Fig. 11

historic headings from the magazine *Filatelie*, i.e. from the years 1951-2010. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

2010 ISSUE PLAN FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Number Name of Issue	Value in set	€
Jan 4	Slovak Cultural Heritage Series -- Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Spišská Nová Ves	1	0.60
Jan 15	Winter Olympic Games Vancouver 2010	1	1.00
Jan 29	President of the Slovak Republic	1	0.40
Feb 26	Easter 2010	1	0.40
Mar 12	Personalities -- Matúš Čák of Trenčín (1260-1321)	1	0.70
Mar 30	400 th Anniversary of the Žilina Synod	1	1.10
Apr 16	Personalities -- Milan Hodža (1878-1944)	1	0.50
May 7	World Cup 2010	1	1.00
May 28	EUROPA 2010 -- Children's Books	1	0.90
Jun 18	Beauties of Our Country	2	
	-- Castle of Topolčianky		0.40
	-- Castle Betliar		0.40

Jul 16	Seven Saints - Joint Issue with Bulgaria	2	
	-- St. Gorazd		0.60
	-- St. Clement		0.60
Sep 15	Castle of Topolčany (w personalized coupon)	1	0.40
Oct 15	Nature Protection	2	
	-- Muránska Plain -- Daphne Arbuscula		0.80
	-- Muránska Plain -- Primrose (Primula Auricula)		0.80
Nov 12	Christmas 2010	1	0.40
Nov 26	Art	2	
	-- Gothic Mural Painting		1.20
	-- Gothic Madonna from Lubica		1.20
Dec 1	Fight Against HIV	1	0.40
Dec 12	Stamp Day -- Karol Ondreička (1944-2003)	1	0.70

7. On January 4, 2010, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.60 € commemorative stamp in the Cultural Heritage of Slovakia series for The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Spišská Nová Ves (Fig. 12). The parish church in Spišská Nová Ves belongs among the biggest Gothic cathedrals in Slovakia. Although it is possible to identify an even older structure at this place, the three-naved hall was built in the 2nd half of the 14th century, and probably even before its completion the space was vaulted with cross-ribbed vaulting. The church building is interesting mainly for its challenging architectural relief -- cornices and sectroids of the vaults alternate with plant and figural motifs (Madonna, God the Father, and busts of the Saints). The monumental sculptural decoration of the south portal with its profiled scuncheon lining originally also included statues in the side niches; today however they are missing. The relief of the Virgin Mary's coronation in the tympanum above the entrance is embedded into the architectural framework with Gothic pinnacles terminating with crossed rosettes. A round window with tracery -- a rosette -- crowns the main entrance into the church. Similarly challenging elements were not unique in Spiš at the end of the 14th century; the builders probably also cooperated in the building of contemporary Levoča cathedrals -- a parish church and the Minorite monastery. In the parish church in Spišská Nová Ves, there are also preserved important liturgical objects, e.g. a monstrance (about 1520). Extremely valuable is one reliquary cross from partly gilded silver that is dated in the 2nd quarter of the 14th century. On its front side is preserved a cast figure of the Crucified Christ, on the back side there is nowadays only an empty box for relics -- wood fragment of the Holy Cross -- originally covered with transparent mountain crystal. The figural program of the reliquary also includes three- and four-leaved engravings on the arms of the cross. On the front are -- the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist together with St. Helen and Emperor Constantine the Great, and on the back -- the symbols of the four Evangelists. Other engravings, the Suffering Christ and contributors, may be found on the leg.



Fig. 12

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

These were also originally covered with transparent colored enamel of which only some remains were preserved. According to some authors, the court jeweler Nicolas Gallicus was the creator of the cross; according to others, the initials NC may refer to a possible contributor -- the Spiš castellan Nicolaus Castellanus. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 100 pieces. A FDC shows the south portal (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13

8. On January 15, 2010, the Ministry issued a 1.00 € commemorative stamp for the Winter Olympic Games 2010 Vancouver (Fig. 14). The XXIst Winter Olympic Games will take place on February 12-28, 2010 in the Canadian city of Vancouver on the Pacific coast and in its vicinity. An important



Fig. 14

part of Olympic competitions (Alpine and Nordic ski disciplines, bobsledding, tobogganing, and skeleton) will take place in the Alpine resort Whistler, 117 km from Vancouver -- which will also have its own Olympic Village. Even the onset of the economic crisis has not stopped the completion of the sports activities. The opening and closing ceremonies will take place "under the roof" for the first time in the modern Olympic Games' history. They will take place in the gigantic BC Place hall (BC -- British Columbia, the most western Canadian province) with a capacity of 60,000 spectators. The Slovak Olympic representation should be the largest in the history of our participation at the Winter Olympic Games. Four Slovak men and four Slovak women have won medals at the various Winter Olympic Games over the years. The last one was a silver medal in snowboard cross won by Rastislav Židek at Torino. The stamp shows four competitors getting ready to enter their four-man bobsled. The stamp was designed by Peter Uchnár and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using the Heidelberg Speedmaster offset printing method in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows the four-man bobsled making a turn (Fig. 15).

part of Olympic competitions (Alpine and Nordic ski disciplines, bobsledding, tobogganing, and skeleton) will take place in the Alpine resort Whistler, 117 km from Vancouver -- which will also have its own Olympic Village. Even the onset of the economic crisis has not stopped the completion of the sports activities. The opening and closing ceremonies will take place "under the roof" for the first time in the modern Olympic Games' history. They will take place in the

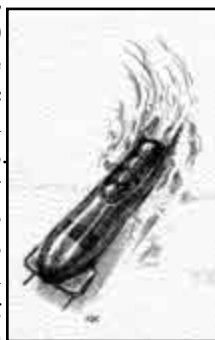


Fig. 15

9. On January 29, 2010, the Ministry issued a 0.40 € commemorative stamp to honor Ivan Gašparovič, President of the Slovak Republic (Fig. 16). Ivan Gašparovič, doc. JUDr., Csc. -- President of the Slovak Republic, was born on March 27, 1941 in Poltár. He is married with two adult children. He studied at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava (1959-1964). In 1964 he started work for the District Prosecutor's Office in Martin. Over the next 28 years he held variously higher and higher legal prosecutorial, teaching, and



organizational positions; interestingly in 1966-1989 he was the Vice-Chairman of the International Commission of the Czechoslovak Ice Hockey Federation. In 1992 he became active in political leadership positions in Slovakia and participated in the development of the Constitution of the nascent Slovak Republic. He then held various positions in the government of the new Slovak Republic. As an independent candidate he won the direct presidential elections on April 17, 2004. He won re-election in April 4, 2009. He has been awarded a number of

honorary Doctorate degrees, foreign state awards, and national awards. The stamp was designed by Ivan Schurmann, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 100 pieces. A FDC shows a statue with two figures (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17

10. On February 26, 2010, the Ministry issued a 0.40 € commemorative stamp honoring Easter 2010 -- An Initial with Suffering Christ from the Bratislava Mass-book (Fig. 18). The manuscript of the Bratislava Mass-book VI had 310 parchment sheets (films) based on the description of the priest Nándor Knauz in the 2nd half of the 19th century. In the City Museum of Bratislava and the Archive of the City, only fragments with several figural miniatures (e.g. the figure of King David) or Initials with side decoration have been preserved. Only recently, in the Szépművészeti Museum in Budapest, another part of this Code was identified -- a whole-page miniature of the so-called Canonical Crucifixion. In 1870, Knauz also published a record from today's missing sheet, based on which the manuscript was completed by the Bratislava priest Michael from Trnava in 1403. The Initial T- e igitur on sheet 7r emphasizes the beginning of the most important liturgical part of the mass-book -- canon. The topic of the framed miniature is a half-figure of the Suffering Christ with

crossed hands at the belly standing in the grave -- the so-called Imago Pietatis. The bleeding wounds are emphasized in the hands and in the wrists. Three nails, a knot and whip, but also the sepulchre of the tomb, extend the initial contents by the motifs of the tools of Christ's Martyrdom -- Arma Christi. While out of the letter T there is only the blue upper arm visible behind its figure (at the same time like the indication of a cross), the rest of the heading is carefully painted with golden letters standing upright next to the miniature. Another decoration consists of colorful, thin-line outlined acanthus leaves on the inner edge of the page. According to the shape of this decoration, as well as with the comparison of the above-mentioned miniature from Budapest, we may come to the conclusion that the illuminator of the mass-book



Fig. 18

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

was inspired by the Prague manuscripts of King Wenceslaus IV, mainly its Bible (illuminator Frána, around 1390). The impact of the Czech art of that time was really important in the entire Central Europe, and also in the library of the Bratislava Canonry we may find many such focused illuminations. On the other hand, its relatively abundant library and the vicinity of Vienna's illuminator's studios suggest also the possibility of the operation of separate painting shops directly in Bratislava. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was issued.

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

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