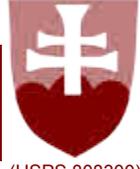




THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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President's Corner

Reminder!! The Society's annual convention this year is being held in conjunction with the Minnesota Stamp Expo 2011, July 15-17, at the Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive N, Crystal MN (a suburb of Minneapolis). The show hours will be 10 to 6 on Friday, 10 to 5 on Saturday, and 10 to 4 on Sunday. To get additional show information, go to www.stampsmnnesota.com, and click on "Minnesota Stamp Expo" on the left side.

The show hotel -- the Crown Plaza Minnesota West, ten minutes from the Crystal Community Center -- is the same one that the show has used in the past (except previously it was called the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center). Their phone number is 763-559-6600, and don't forget to ask for the special rate for the show of \$89.

We will have a table at the show (that will be attended by our members) where you can meet us, look through the various books that we have for sale, bring your questions about Czechoslovak philately, and hopefully get a chance to see some quality Czechoslovak philatelic material. At our table we will also have information about the times and locations of our various activities. We have tentatively planned: a Board Meeting (that any member is welcome to attend as a listening guest) for 1 PM on Thursday, July 14; a Society dinner for that evening

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

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/June 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@cspphilately.org
2. A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: cancelcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Bob Gibson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Bob Gibson, 7646 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.CSPhilately.org) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via e-mail, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, 1430 Brickell Bay Drive, #907, Miami, FL 33131, e-mail: MMGalitz@gmail.com.

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THE 25h CHAINBREAKER

Part I -- Introduction

by Mark Wilson

This comprehensive study of the two-plate 25h Chainbreaker¹ stamp consists of three parts. Part I contains general information about the stamp as well as basic plating details. Part II contains the visual index -- an aid for identifying particular plate positions by the location of a plate flaw. Part III contains detailed descriptions and illustrations of each of the flaws found in stamps from both plates.

General Information

Among the Chainbreaker stamps, the 25h resembles most closely V. H. Brunner's original entry in the 1919 state-sponsored competition to select a design for stamps celebrating the first anniversary of the republic. While his design won first place in the contest, in point of fact the postal authorities never used it for that purpose. Instead, it became the model for the first denomination released in the long-lived and widely acclaimed Chainbreaker definitive issue.



Figure 1a:
Original design

Figure 1b:
Solid trial

Figure 1c:
Lined trial

Figure 1d:
Released design²

The design for the 25h underwent several transformations before its release. The original version entered in the contest had the republic's founding date on the left side of the stamp: **28 X 1918** (Fig. 1a). Trial versions are known with the date removed and with only a single set of denomination numerals. One of the trials had a solid background (Fig. 1b), the other a lined background (Fig. 1c). Despite the fact that the printers prepared a solid background trial -- which became the standard background used for every other denomination of the Chainbreaker -- the 25h utilized the lined background as originally conceived by the artist.

In the released design, at the top of the stamp are the words **POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ**. Below them is an allegory of the liberated republic seen as a woman standing in a field of grass bearing on her outstretched arms shackles attached to broken chains. Her hair is windblown, and she has three clusters of linden leaves at her hip. To either side are the denomination numerals. At the lower left is Mt. Říp and to the lower right Mt. Křiván, two mountains beloved by

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the Czechs and the Slovaks respectively. Below the vignette are the designer's initials, VHB.



Figure 2: The plate identifiers (I and II)

Since the printing press accommodated four plates at a time and no other Chainbreaker denominations were yet available, the printers placed the two 25h plates on the press with two 15h plates from the Dove issue. Panes may be

identified as having been printed from either Plate I or Plate II by examining the decimal line in the control number below position 92. For Plate I, the line is broken once while the line is broken twice for Plate II.

Unlike some of the Liberated Republic denominations printed later, no stress frames were placed around the 25h's two plates. Thus, stamps at the edges of the plates sometimes suffered from the plates' movement during the printing process. An extreme example is shown in Figure 4. As can be seen, the distortion in the print is confined to a heavy line on the right side of the stamp. It is likely that the plate settled lower in the printing form causing additional space between the plate and roller. This allowed more ink to accumulate on stamps at the edge of the plate. Stamps over-inked on the left edge of the plate were created in a similar manner.

Officially, the printers called the ink's color brown, but two clearly different shades may be found as well as shades between. In Figure 3, the left stamp's color is a reddish brown while the stamp on the right is a blackish brown.



Figure 3: The stamp occurs in reddish and blackish brown shades.



Figure 4: Over-inked right side.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications released the 25h on June 18, 1920 and withdrew it less than a year later on April 30, 1921. The 25h had an active life only four days longer than the shortest-lived Liberated Republic denomination, the 20h.

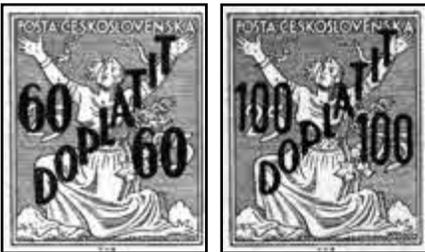


Figure 5: Overprinted and surcharged as postage dues.

Although the printers produced a total of 13,920,000 stamps, some 4,700,000 were later surcharged and overprinted as postage dues, thus leaving only 9,220,000 available for franking purposes. Thus, in the Chainbreaker issue, the 25h ranks second in terms of scarcity -- only the 150h Chainbreaker enjoyed a smaller production run.

In 1927 the postal authorities elected to twice surcharge and overprint this denomination for use as provisional postage due stamps. Of the 4,700,000 so used, 3,600,000 bore a 100h surcharge and 1,100,000 a 60h surcharge. Both surcharged issues were put into use on September 24, 1927 and withdrawn on August 15, 1928.

Stamps provided to the public appeared only with a 14 x 14 comb perforation. In spite of that the unreleased imperforate and 13 3/4 line perforated stamps are priced in the POFIS catalogs.

Plating the 25h

For my initial approach to plating the 25h, I consulted Jaroslav Moravec's *A Comprehensive Study of the Liberated Republic's 25h Brown*³ published by the Czechoslovak Typographic Stamp Collectors Society of Prague and gratefully acknowledge his pioneering work. I also examined complete panes of both plates of the 25h, hundreds of horizontal and vertical pairs of the same stamp, as well as several hundred individual pieces. When I compared some specific positions on my complete panes and strips to Mr. Moravec's descriptions, I noticed several small discrepancies. I therefore began reconstructing the two plates from the materials at hand with the goal of refining his descriptions.

In addition, I noted that his hand-drawn examples of plate flaws often exaggerated the flaw, sometimes to the point of temporarily inhibiting identification of the flaw in question. I therefore chose not to reproduce the illustrations from the Czech study but rather to supply my own constructions. I have however, without exception, accepted Mr. Moravec's identification of flaws found in the negative as he likely had access to the negative itself while I have no hope of ever reviewing it in person. Readers should note that he admits to more flaws in the negative than were reported by Chvalovský and Kašpar.⁴

Two variants of the 25h are of great interest to anyone seeking to reconstruct the two plates. First are those stamps that bear a flaw imposed by the negative (see Table I). Because the printers used the same negative to produce both plates, any flaw in the negative appears unaltered on both plates. Fortunately, all of these stamps also bear flaws unique to their particular plate, permitting collectors to determine the source plate for any specific negative flaw.

Position:	2 12 17 21 22 26 28 31 32 34 36 37 40 41 43 46 52 54 55 58 61 62 69 74 75 76 77 82 84 92 93
-----------	--

Table I: The 31 stamps bearing flaws produced by the negative.

The second of these variants are those stamp positions to which no consistent flaw can be assigned (see Table II). In their case, should one desire a precise reconstruction of a pane, exact identification can only be determined when the stamp in question is paired with a stamp bearing a recognizable flaw; single copies of such stamps cannot be distinguished from one another.

Plate I	18 24 38 42 63 67 70
Plate II	6 7 18 20 24 27 29 30 50 56 64 86 87 89 95

Table II: Stamps without consistent flaws.

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Collectors should also be aware that some items have only a single identifying flaw (see Table III). In certain cases, the flaw is so minuscule that great care must be taken to ascertain that the flaw under investigation is the actual flaw sought.

Plate I	5 6 8 15 16 19 20 23 25 27 47 49 51 53 57 89 99
Plate II	1 3 5 8 9 11 13 15 19 25 26 28 31 33 34 35 40 45 49 51 52 61 62 63 65 71 72 74 79 82 84 85 88 90 91 97

Table III: Stamps with a single flaw.

Figure 6 illustrates the terms used to describe the various components of the 25h stamp. Flaws are described in terms of this schema.

The position of any single plate flaw remains consistent. A dot a few millimeters removed from the described position is not the same dot -- be wary. Novices tend to see only the flamboyant errors and lose focus when it comes to the more insignificant appearing flaws. Also, because some flaws are the result of a weakness in the image used to create the negative, more than one stamp may share flaws that appear similar.

Finally, collectors must recognize that flaws over time appear and disappear. As plates wear, flaws resulting from high spots wear low and disappear. On the other hand, the etched plates could only print about 50,000 stamps before they had to be removed from the press and cleaned. During this latter process, new flaws might be added. Confusion may also occur when a temporary printing flaw resembles by accident a flaw intended to distinguish one position from another. Collectors should proceed carefully and thoughtfully before assigning any one stamp to a specific plate and position.



Figure 6: Component layout.

Displaying Reconstructed Panes

I choose to place my reconstructed plates of the Chainbreaker in an album on facing pages created with

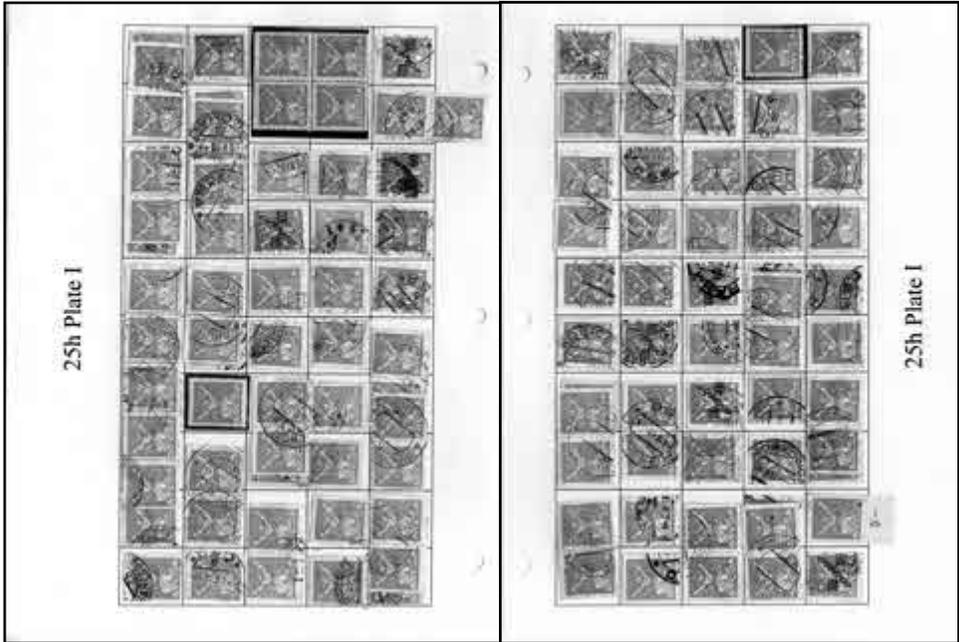


Figure 7: Pages to display the reconstruction of Plate I.

Adobe Photoshop. To prevent the hinge-mounted stamps on one page from catching on the stamps from the opposing page, I enclose each page in a three-ring clear protective wrapper available at any office supply house. The pages themselves are printed on buff cardstock (also available in bulk at office supply stores), and I use a three-ring punch to create the holes necessary to mount the pages in my album.

Each page holds 50 stamps in five ten-stamp rows, emulating a half-pane. Note in Figure 7 that the descriptive information is on the left for the upper half of the pane and on the right for the lower half. When the album is opened, the two half-panes align for a pleasing display. Because the size of the stamps in the Chainbreaker issue does not vary with denomination, the same layout can be used for every denomination in the entire issue. I have not yet but do intend sometime in the future to place the template for these pages on my website, www.knihtisk.org. In the meantime, readers who would like to print their own pages using my template may contact me via email at mark@knihtisk.org.

¹ Chainbreaker is a nickname; the issue's official name is the Liberated Republic [Osvobozená republika]

² Figs 1a to 1c are from the Monografie, Díl 4.

³ Moravec, Jaroslav. Souhrnná studie osvobozená republika 25 h hnědá. Prague

⁴ Chvalovský and Kašpar. The Chainbreaker [available from the Society bookstore]

Mysteries and Discoveries

One of my greatest pleasures with philately these days is to come across a “mystery” (usually a cover or a card) among the items that I examine from a dealer’s offerings at a bourse. Unfortunately that does not happen often enough for me here in the Denver area, because we only have one big stamp show and three small ones each year.

Nevertheless, I was lucky enough to find two such mysteries at the recent small CHERPEX show. I will be telling you about them here through this column.

Most of the time solving the mystery of the cover/card involves doing some research through books on stamps, Society contacts, and history books. Most of the books I have in my personal library that I have collected over the years. But even if you do not have the books, you can learn a lot and get many of your questions answered by simply using the *Specialist* Indices DVD. A lot of the key information that is found in the books has been translated in the past and incorporated in articles that were then published in the *Specialist*. Or, you can borrow a book that you need from our Society library (it will soon be relocated to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library just a few miles from my home). And, you can always ask for help from other members through the Internet.

So, what did I find?

First, we have a picture post card showing the Hlučín town square (Fig. 1a) -- Hlučín is northwest of Ostrava in northern Moravia not too far from the Polish border. The card (Fig. 1b) bears a 50h commemorative Sokol stamp from 1938 honoring Jindřich Fugner -- but it does not have a cancel across it. Next to it is a cancel from Ratibor dated 11.10.38. The first question was, where is Ratibor? There are 4 Ratibor’s in my Czech map book, but none is close to Hlučín. However,



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b

the cancel does not have a little “v” over the last R of Ratibor -- which it should to be a Czech cancel. Is this cancel from Germany -- which is where the card was originally intended to go (Berlin)? So where is this Ratibor? Then, there is a rectangular red “Nachgebühr” hand-stamp -- which means postage due. From what I could discern from postage rate tables in the back of my Czechoslovak First Republic catalog, the post card rate then in effect late in 1938 to Germany was 1.50 Kč. So, why is there that large hand-scribed “6” in blue on the card?

The first thing I investigated was the Ratibor cancel. The style of the cancel does not appear in the Monografie that show examples of the cancels being used in the late First Republic. Another clue was the stamp not being canceled even though the card obviously went through the mails. This often means that the stamp was not recognized as valid postage for whatever reason -- which is supported by the postage due handstamp. Also, traditionally the postage due is marked on the face of the item using blue pencil or crayon. So, I had some idea what was going on.

Tom Cossaboom and Lubor Kunc helped to clear up the questions I had.

Tom said: this is a German nationalist/Nazi propaganda card that celebrates the return of Hlučín to Germany. To understand it you must go back to the post-WW I settlement that separated Hlučín from German Silesia and gave it to Czechoslovakia. The Ratibor cancel is a German one (Raciborz in Polish) -- which is a city just over the border from Hlučín in German, now Polish, Silesia. Prior to the WW I settlement, I believe that Hlučín was part of the Ratibor district of German Silesia. The blue “6” represents a postage due charge of 6 pfennig, probably because the Czechoslovak stamp was no longer valid. At that time I think the German post card rate was 3 pfennig.



Fig. 2a

Lubor said: I confirm the previous statements, the Hlučín card shows a cancel from the Polish town of Ratibor. This part of Czechoslovakia was ceded to Germany in October 1938 as Sudetenland. Czechoslovak stamps were sometimes



Fig. 2b

tolerated, but normally German ones were used. The card shows the situation when the stamp was not accepted (therefore not canceled) and the single postage of 6 pfennig was requested from the addressee (the postcard rate was 6 Pf; the 3 Pf rate refers to Printed Matter/Drucksachen only).

The second card shows Poprad Velká -- Vys. Tatry (Big Poprad -- High Tatra Mountains)(Fig. 2a). It is sent from Poprad 1, dated 2.X.39 and is going to Henry Cord Meyer in Eldora, Colorado USA (Fig. 2b). Eldora is a very small ski area in the mountains just west of Boulder, Colorado. On the way to Eldora you go through a town called Nederland (which became world famous the past couple of years, because they were keeping a dead Swedish man on ice, frozen, until legal matters could be cleared up -- now they have a commemorative celebration in his honor every year). Either at Eldora or subsequently at Nederland (it is postmarked there on 26 Oct 1939) they changed the address to 1010 9th St., Boulder, where it was postmarked on Oct 27, and forwarded to a new address of 53 Lake St, New Haven, Conn, but there is also a 55 Lake Place finally written in. But my questions have to do with the hand-cancel of "Conzur." in black (in the middle of the addresses) and the "bav" in rose red color in the lower middle of the card. Any ideas on what these two are? By the way, at the end of the written text (in German) there is the salutation of "Sieg Heil".

Tom said: [This is also a] German nationalist/Nazi propaganda card. It is either from a German resident of the Tatra's or German tourists. By 2 October 1939, the Nazis had finished the occupation of western Poland. The more interesting question is, who was the addressee (Henry Cord Meyer)?

Lubor said: [The two] cancels are for censorship. As you know, Czechoslovakia started censorship of all correspondence in the summer of 1938, and the censorship system was up and running by 1939 -- at which time it was replaced by German or Slovak ones. The "Cenzur." [hand-cancel] is for Slovak censorship and means "Cenzurováno" (censored). The "bav" [hand-cancel] is unknown to me, but it might be the fracturing of a "zabaveno" cancel (confiscated).

Can any of our readers help to explain these mysteries?

Ludvik Svoboda

[Ed. Note: Do any of our readers have a "Mystery" cover or card that they would like to share with our readers? You need to do enough research on your own to provide a basis for describing your mystery. Then turn it over to the readers.]



NEW CZECH STAMP ERROR DISCOVERED

by Savoy Horvath, Ludvik Svoboda

I recently received an e-mail from a stamp collector who had contacted our secretary, Phil Rhoads, as a result of our web site. It stated in part: "I have a friend who receives quite a lot of mail from friends and family in the Czech Republic. She knows I am a stamp collector and has given me the stamps from her mail for the past 40 years. I therefore have a nice collection of used Czech stamps. I recently was sorting stamps that I soaked off paper sometime this past year. This

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was when I noticed the two with missing red color. Since I could not find this printing error in Scott, I sent my inquiry to Mr. Rhoades. Unfortunately, at this time I don't know who may have sent her the mail using these stamps. But clearly, . . . others must exist."

The stamp in question was issued January 30, 2008 as part of an on-going definitive set The Beauty of Flowers, in this case The Rose, and was valued 10 Kč. It has a Czech POFIS number of #543 and a Scott number of #3365. The new 2011 POFIS Czech Republic Specialized 1993-2011 catalog lists this error, and values it in used condition at 2,000 Kč (about \$120) and on cover at 7,000 Kč (about \$410).

Czech catalogs list errors or flaws with a two letter code after the POFIS number:

- DV = **D**esková **V**ada = plate flaw
- DO = **D**esková **O**dchýlka = plate deviation
- TV = **T**isková **V**ada = printing flaw
- VV = **V**ýrobní **V**ada = production error/flaw

If you looked up this particular stamp in the POFIS catalog, you would find listed four different plate flaws -- 543DV1, 543DV2, 543DV3, and 543DV4. These types of plate flaws the collectors of US stamps would probably not bother with nor would they be listed in the Scott catalogs. But the Czechs make a big study out of the DV's, with most of the flaws being something akin to a fly speck or a tiny line. In this particular case, a mint copy of one of each of these plate flaws is valued at about 4 times the basic mint stamp's value.



Fig. 1

In the case of this error, it is listed as production error or flaw -- 543VV (no following number because there is only one production error of this stamp known) wherein the red color is entirely missing (the rose appears all white). Figure 1 shows both the basic stamp and the pair of errors.

Some of the most expensive Czech VV errors are POFIS 76VV1 (2,000 K) and 76VV2 (6,000 Kc), 90VV (3,000 Kč), and 284VV (6,500 Kč). A good place to obtain them is from Czech auction catalogs -- Jiri Majer Auctions always have some of them listed and available.

However, the very best place to get them, is to find them in your own accumulations. All you need is something that lists the various errors that exist, and the very best one right now is the 2011 POFIS Czech Republic Specialized Catalog 1993-2011, which is available from us right now -- see the Available Publications column in the back of this issue.

[Ed. Note: Savoy tried to get this collector to join our Society, but he declined.]

THE LOST NACHOD GUTTERS RECOVERED

by Mark Wilson

The two Nachod gutters stolen in September of 2003 surfaced at a flea market and were returned to me when they came to the attention of a well-known Prague dealer in February 2011. Illustrated here are the eight known gutters. The two returned gutters fit perfectly at the left side of the mint (Fig. 1) and canceled (Fig.

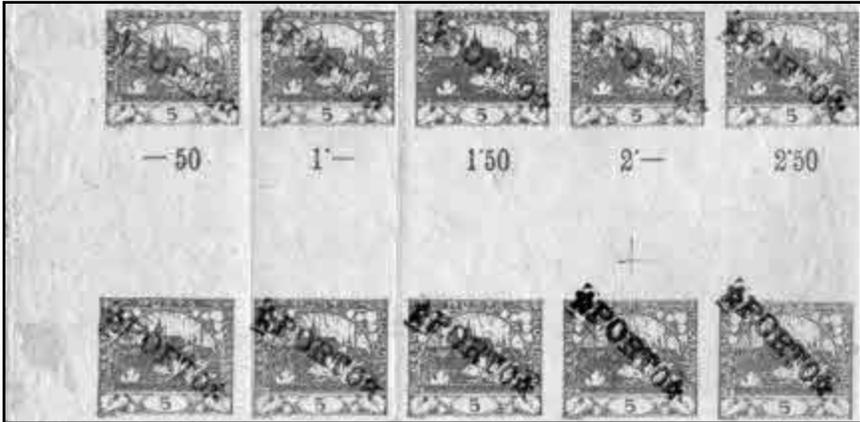


Figure 1: Five mint gutters



Figure 2: Three canceled gutters

2) strips as can be seen in the accompanying illustrations. Two more gutters, missing from the left side of Figure 2, have never been reported. Those two, with the eight shown here, make up the total of ten possible Nachod gutters.

CZECH POST CHANGE

by Savoy Horvath

At present the Czech Post has 3,346 active post offices. The new plan going into effect is to lower the number to 1,600, but at the same time to increase the total number of subsidiaries to 4,200. The change started a few months ago in just a few locations, but in the coming years it will take effect nationwide.



Fig. 1

The 1,600 will remain as full service post offices with no changes in service. One needs to keep in mind that the Czech Post also serves as a Savings and Loan and retirees get their pay in cash envelopes delivered by a mail man.

The Czech Post will have three types of subsidiaries with three types of services.

The first type, called Výdejní Místo will be along the lines of a postal contract station. Group I -- will be placed in the city halls of small villages with limited hours of service and will be as a mail pick-up only. Group II -- will look more like an existing

contract station by having a counter in stores, shops, or gas service stations. Here the customer will be able to also drop mail off. Because most of Group II locations are open 24/7 (including the postal counter), this should be the most popular type of Post service. But the Savings and Loan function of the Czech Post will not be included in either of these types. A new postal cancel has been created for both of these service types -- VÝDEJNÍ MÍSTO (Fig. 1).



Fig. 2

The second types are called Partner Post Offices which are also divided into two types. Partner I -- provide pick-up and drop-off of mail, money transfers, retiree payroll, and partial Savings and Loan services. Partner II -- services almost equal those of a regular Post Office. Both of these types of Partner Posts also have a new post mark (Fig. 2). The locations of Partner Post offices will be similar to those of the Výdejní Místo ones -- village city halls or appropriate businesses.

The final types are the remaining full service Post Offices. No changes in service are planned for now. And, their post marks basically remain as before (Fig. 3).

All of the above changes should be completed by 2018. As of now there is one Partner Post office in operation and 49 Výdejní Místo ones.

The Czech Post gives the most service in all of Europe. Each post office serves on the average 3,100 customer addresses. This compares with 3,700 in



Fig. 3

France, 4,400 in the UK, 5,500 in Austria, and 6,600 in Germany. The Czech Republic has a population of 10.3 million and is almost the size of South Carolina. In 2010 the United States has 36,400 Post Offices delivering 177 billion pieces of mail to 150 million addresses (which is about 4,000 customer addresses per post office).

In my area, my small post office serves 147 PO boxes, 277 addresses on Route 1, and 389 addresses on Route 2. This means my post office serves 813 addresses.



President’s Corner
(Continued from Page 1)

at 6:30 pm at the Glockenspiel Restaurant, 605 West 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102, Tel. 651-292-9421; a general membership meeting followed by one or two presentations on Saturday afternoon; and possibly a Society breakfast on Sunday morning at the hotel. If you are interested in any of these activities, stop by our table and get the very latest information for the times and locations.

We always welcome the opportunity to see and talk with our members and visitors who are interested in Czechoslovak philately, that is why we are constantly changing the general area of the country where we meet. Hope to see you there!!



It is with great reluctance but also with the deepest of gratitude that we announce the retirement of our dear friend Edwin W. Lehecka of New Jersey -- member #1115 -- from the position of Treasurer of our Society.

Ed has been a member of the Society for 35 years (having joined in 1976), been our Treasurer for the past 20 years (sorry Ed, we don’t have a retirement program) during which time he made a significant number of improvements that enhanced the financial stability of our Society, and has always been available to help with whatever task was required -- you could always find him at our table at our annual conventions to greet our members or visitors.

We know that you will find some new challenges to eat up your “retirement” while still remaining a member of the Society.

Marisa Galitz, who manages our web site, has volunteered to take over from Ed as treasurer. Thank you Marisa.



Speaking of books. Make sure to check out the book reviews and new books listed in this issue, and see if any of these new books are what you could use. Get yours early, because we are finding it harder all the time to get books here from Europe at a reasonable rate. Mailing them has become prohibitively expensive, so we are constantly looking for travelers who are willing to bring some of them back for us in their luggage. If you can help, contact our Book Sales manager.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

FOR BEGINNERS
The Philately of Czechoslovakia
(Part 4)
by Phillips B. Freer

BACK-OF-THE-BOOK

“Back-of-the-Book” refers to stamps which have been issued for a special purpose, other than for regular postage, or which may carry an added value in addition to regular postage charges. In the case of the Scott Catalogue, they appear after the listing of the regular postal issues and commemoratives. Hence, they are referred to as “Back-of-the-Book”. Other catalogues may list these special purpose stamps along with regular postal issues chronologically according to the date when they were issued. This is based on publisher’s choice.

Czechoslovakia back-of-the-book material is composed of semi-postal stamps, special delivery stamps, personal delivery stamps, postage due stamps, official stamps, and newspaper stamps.

Semi-Postal Stamps

The semi-postal stamps, Scott Nos. B1--B123, composed of Austrian and Hungarian stamps which were overprinted, have been mentioned previously. The remainder of the semi-postals were issued for various commemorative or charitable purposes. Among them are two Hradčany stamps and one of the first Masaryk stamps, surcharged in red for the benefit of the Red Cross. These are Scott Nos. B130--B132.

Special Delivery Stamps

Special Delivery stamps were issued in 1919-1920 in three values, 2h, 5h, and 10h, and are Scott Nos. E1--E3. They were printed on yellowish paper (see Figure 1). In 1921 there was apparently another printing on white paper, Scott Nos. E1a--E3a, but there is some question as to whether they were actually issued.



Fig. 1

The special delivery stamps were issued to speed up delivery of printed matter such as circulars and newspapers. In the printing of the 2h and 5h stamps, two plates were used: Plate one with three printings and Plate two with two printings. There was probably only one printing of the 10h value.



Fig. 2

Postage Due Stamps

Although postage due stamps are no longer used in Czechoslovakia, the stamps that were issued and in use from 1918 until sometime in the early 1980s constitute a fascinating branch of Czech philately. The first postage dues, Scott Nos. J1--J14, were specially printed for postage due purposes and inscribed “DOPLATIT” (see Figure 2). From 1922 through 1926 Hradčany

postal issues were overprinted “DOPLATIT” and a surcharge imprinted for use as postage dues. These stamps are Scott Nos. J15--J31 and J42--J43 (see Figure 3). Also, in 1926 the Agriculture and Science stamps were overprinted “DOPLATIT” with a surcharged value and are Scott Nos. J44--J49 (see Figure 4). Scott Nos. J50--J56 are “Chainbreaker” stamps overprinted and surcharged as postage dues. There is a most interesting story in connection with these last overprints. By mistake, a sheet of the 50h “Chainbreaker” stamp was overprinted “50/50” as a postage due. There are no known mint copies of this error but there are probably 20 to 30 used copies in the possession of collectors. Obviously, this stamp is quite valuable. The rest of the postage due stamps, Scott Nos. J58--J106, were specially printed for postage due purposes. (See Figure 5).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Ordinarily, if there were insufficient postage on a cover, the postage due would be twice the value of the regular postage stamp that was on the cover. There are several interesting markings found on covers on which there was insufficient postage when mailed. A large “T” may be stamped on the cover or the “T” which stands for “Taxe” (French text) may be made with a colored pencil, or there may be a large “D” which stands for “DOPLATIT” (Czech text).

When the use of postage due stamps was discontinued, the remaining postage dues were used as regular postage for both domestic and foreign mail. Nowadays if a piece of mail bears insufficient postage, the recipient receives a postcard indicating the amount of additional postage due.

Official Stamps

In 1945 the first group of official stamps were issued and are listed as Scott Nos. O1--O7. They picture the Czech Coat of Arms and are perf 10 1/2 x 10. In 1947 the design of these stamps was redrawn and given perf 14. The 1947 stamps are Scott Nos. O8--O15 (see Figure 6).

Newspaper Stamps

The first newspaper stamps, Scott Nos. P1--P10 and P14--P16, were designed by Alphons Mucha, and the central figure is a bird with spread wings which is known as the “Sokol Bird” or “Sokol in Flight”. The stamps are in various colors and are imperf, although P1--P8 have been privately perforated.

This issue offers many possibilities for the specialist. The stamps were printed by topography [*typography*]. Many different plates were used and there are innumerable retouches to be found by close examination. For example, the position

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

of each stamp on the plate can be determined by examining each separate letter of Mucha's name at the bottom of the stamps.

At this point the beginner may well wonder, "What is Sokol?" Sokol is the Czech Gymnastic, Nationalistic and Pan-Slavic organizations which was formed in Prague in 1862. The first Sokol unit in the United States was formed in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1865. So what does this have to do with Czech philately other than the Sokol bird on these newspaper stamps? A specialized topical or thematic collection and/or exhibit can be made of the stamps, covers, etc., relating to the Sokol movement.



Fig. 7

In 1925-1926 the Sokol Bird 2h and 6h stamps were overprinted "* 5 *". (See Figure 7). In 1926 the 5h and 10h special delivery stamps were overprinted "NOVINY", and an additional surcharge of 5h was overprinted on the 2h stamp, to

serve as newspaper stamps. These three stamps are Scott Nos. P11--P13. (See Figure 8). In 1934 the Sokol Bird 10h, 20h, and 30h stamps were overprinted "O. T." for use by commercial firms. (See Figure 9).



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

In 1937 additional newspaper stamps were issued. They are rather plain looking stamps bearing the figure of a carrier pigeon and are listed as Scott Nos. P17--P25. (See Figure 10). In 1945 additional newspaper stamps were issued in the same format as the Carrier Pigeon stamps except the central figure on the stamps was a newspaper delivery boy. These are Scott Nos. P27--P36. (See Figure 11).

SOUVENIR SHEETS

Over the years, Czechoslovakia has issued many souvenir sheets. As with other countries, they are usually issued to commemorate some special event as, for example, an international philatelic exhibit, a special period in the life of a nationally or internationally known personality, or a date of historical significance.

Without a doubt, the most famous souvenir sheet issued by Czechoslovakia, actually two sheets (Scott Nos. 200A and 201A), issued in 1934, commemorates the centenary of the Czech national anthem. The Scott No. 200A is illustrated to the right.

Each of these sheets contains blocks of 15 stamps depicting a pastoral scene. The first sheet has stamps of 1k in value and is in claret; the second sheet has stamps of 2k in value and is in blue. The stamps themselves were issued at the same time as the sheets, same design, colors, and values, and perf 10. The stamps of the sheets are perf 13 1/2, with no gum, and the sheets are on thick, very soft

Kde domov můj?

1834

Andante con moto.

1934

Kde do-mov můj, kde do-mov můj? Vo-da
hu - ší po lu - ší - nách, bo-ry lu - mí



po - ska - li - nách, v sa - dě skví - se ja - ra
květ. zem-ský ráj - to na po - hled! A to
je ta krá - sná ze - mě, ze - mě če - ská -
do-mov můj. ze - mě če - ská - do-mov můj!



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

paper. The sheets are framed with a linden leaf motif, for the linden is the national tree of Czechoslovakia.

These artistically designed sheets commemorate the centennial of the composing of what later became the national anthem of the Czechoslovak Republic. The title of the anthem, “**KDE DOMUV [DOMOV] MUJ?**”, is translated, “Where Is My Home?”

Forgeries of these sheets exist inasmuch as they are in great demand, and their price has risen appreciably in philatelic markets. They were printed in very limited quantities: only 12,900 of the 1k sheets and 9,600 of the 2k sheets were printed.

In 1937 a souvenir sheet (Scott No. 239) was issued on the occasion of the Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition. Two stamps make up the sheet: a 50h showing a view of Poprad Lake and a 1k stamp picturing the tomb of General Štefanik. This same sheet was overprinted with French text and was on sale at a philatelic exhibit in Brussels, Belgium. (See Figure 1).

An international philatelic exhibition took place in Prague in 1955. A souvenir sheet showing five stamps was issued both perforated and imperf in September of that year. The 30h shows the rotunda of the Holy Cross Chapel; the 45h shows the Old Town Bridge Tower; the 60h features the Singing Fountain; the 75h pictures the Hibernia House; and the 1.60k shows Charles Bridge with Hradčany in the background (Scott No. 719; see Figure 2).

On March 21, 1966, a souvenir sheet commemorating the centennial of the first performance of Smetana’s comic opera “The Bartered Bride” was released, much to the gratification of music topical collectors (Scott No. 1373; see Figure 3). In May of the same year, a set of two stamps and a souvenir sheet were printed to honor Prague Castle. The sheet features a 5k stamp showing the coronation crown of Přemysl Vratislav II, the first Bohemian ruler raised to the rank of king in A.D. 1086 (Scott No. 1390; see Figure 4).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

There are many more souvenir sheets which could be mentioned, many of which are beautiful reproductions of famous paintings. Here I will mention just one in particular, and that is the Guernica sheet which was issued on the occasion of the birth centenary of the world famous artist, Pablo Picasso, and the 45th anniversary of the International Brigades in Spain (Scott No. 2374; see Figure 5).

The design of the stamp adorning the sheet is a reproduction of Picasso's famous "Guernica" painted in 1937. Guernica was a Basque town in northern Spain which was mercilessly bombed and completely destroyed during the Spanish Civil War.

How do souvenir sheets differ from miniature sheets and stamps with coupons? The answer is simple. Stamps are printed in sheets of 50 or 100. Therefore, if there are fewer than 50 stamps in the sheet, it would presumably be a miniature sheet. A sheet comprising five rows of stamps with five stamps in each row would qualify as a miniature sheet unless the stamps themselves were oversize. However, miniature sheets are usually smaller.

A typical example is the Komensky (Comenius) sheet of 1957 (Scott No. 793; see Figure 6). It is also one of the more beautiful ones. Another example of a miniature sheet is the airmail sheet of 1951 (Scott No. C-39; see Figure 7). Note that there are only four stamps in the Komensky sheet whereas the airmail sheet contains ten stamps. However, neither sheet has any text on it, and that is the clue.



Fig. 6

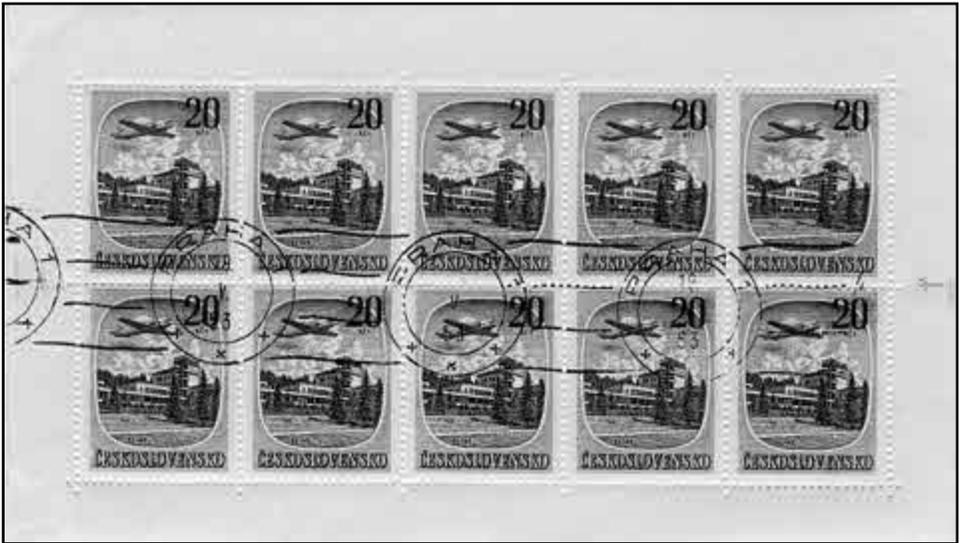


Fig. 7

As long as the borders, or selvages, of the sheet are blank, it is just a small sheet. The moment something is printed on the selvage, the stamp which adjoins the printed matter is called a stamp with a coupon.

There are two types of coupons: official and private. Official coupons are planned and printed by the government, and their drawing and design has been approved by the ministry. Private coupons comprise blank selvage which is utilized by a private person for advertising purposes. An example of this is seen in Figure 8. Alfons Stach, now deceased, who was a stamp dealer in Prague, made use of the 1k Masaryk issue of 1935 for advertising his business.



Fig. 8

A simple way to differentiate between the three is to remember that a miniature sheet is just like a regular sheet of stamps except for the number of stamps it contains. Neither has anything added to the selvage. A souvenir sheet resembles a stamp with a coupon in that both contain something more than just the stamp itself. But where a stamp with a coupon is just one small part of the whole, a souvenir sheet is itself a complete entity. Tear a coupon from the stamp and the stamp is still valid. But, separate a stamp from the souvenir sheet and the sheet is destroyed.

A souvenir sheet may have a specific catalogue value apart from the stamp or stamps it contains. On the other hand, a miniature sheet is equal in value to one of its stamps multiplied by the number of stamps in the sheet.

(To be continued)

MUCHA'S STARS An Opportunity for You to Engage in Original Philatelic Research

by Mark Wilson

I presented in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Specialist* an argument, based upon the appearance of white spots in the center bar of the initial releases of the Hradčany, that the printers employed a single die or template as the master for all



Figure 1: Wilson, Mark. Hradčany captioned design: evidence for a single master die. *Specialist*, Winter 2010, p25.

ten of the first denominations.¹ In a follow up article in the Fall 2010 issue, I noted that the red 10h Hradčany appeared to be an exception.² At the time, I thought the white spots were flaws in the master template.

Subsequently I noticed a similar pattern of white spots while working on Mucha's express stamps (what Scott calls "the special delivery stamps"). My curiosity piqued, I turned to the Hradčany section of the *Monografie I* and found on page 81 a reconstruction of Mucha's first proposed design (Fig. 1).³ Note that the illustration is a *reconstruction* and not the actual drawing Mucha submitted for transformation into a template.

Figure 2 is an enlargement of the center bar containing the "spots" in question. The two large spots in the upper center of figures 2 and 3 represent the spots mentioned in my two *Specialist* articles. Clearly, they are part of the design and not the plate flaws I thought them to be.

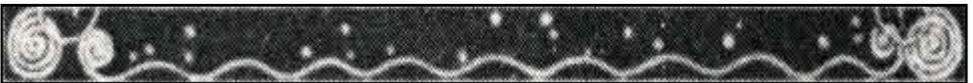


Figure 2: Wilson, Mark. Correction and new discovery: the very first Hradčany stamp. *Specialist*, Fall 2010, p10.

In the *Monografie* the spots are called **stars** or **decorative circles**. As may be seen in Figure 1, one or two stars are also present in the reconstructed top and left side panels.



Figure 3: Kubát, František. Hradčany. *Monografie československých známek. Díl 1.* Prague, 1968.

Figure 3, the center panel from a 400h Hradčany, reveals that many but not all of the stars in the reconstruction show up on actual stamps. Note as well that some stars on the actual stamp are not represented in the *Monografie's* reconstruction.

I end many of my *Specialist* articles by saying that even after nearly 100 years there are still many original research projects available. Here is one such research opportunity. Can you determine the position and number of the stars that actually appear on each of the ten denominations of the first Hradčany stamps, then prove or disprove my original theses that all but the 10h red used the same arrangement of stars?



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Savoy Horvath:

-- Watch for this new book "1944-45 ČSR Revolutionary Overprint Catalog" by Karel Holoubek, which we hope to have available in the next few months. The catalog starts out with the overprints from Chust, Rimavská Sobota, Rožnava, and the stamps from Skalice. He goes on to list 113 Czech overprints and issues, and two Czech overprints created in foreign countries. The last chapter is devoted to forgeries and fantasies. This publication is more than a catalog, it is written more like a Monograph by detailing each issue's origin, creation, and history. All items are illustrated in B+W, and it has over 300 pages in A4 format. The price has not been set yet (part of this will be determined by how we can get the catalog here).

2. From Dennis Povondra:

-- It is that time of the year again for the 63rd Czech Days in Tabor, SD, being celebrated June 16, 17, and 18, 2011. Details can be found at www.taborczechdays.com.

3. From NCSML, Rosie Johnston:

-- National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library preserves émigrés' stories. Hundreds of thousands of Czech and Slovaks fled their homeland during the communist era, many risking their lives in the process. Their stories, about why and how they emigrated, are sometimes dramatic, sometimes tragic, and essential to our understanding of the events that shaped the 20th Century.

The NCSML is midway through a major oral history project recording the personal stories, family sagas and community histories of émigrés from Czechoslovakia who primarily settled in the Chicago, Washington DC, and Cleveland areas, but we are happy to take into consideration the stories of people living elsewhere and, where possible, make arrangements to come and interview them. Their stories are personal, but they help explain monumental political and cultural shifts that occurred during the 20th Century. The NCSML is committed to gathering the personal accounts of Czech and Slovak Americans and preserving their stories for future generations. The success of this project depends on strong participation from people like you.

Do you know someone with a story to tell? If so, please contact:
Rosie Johnston -- Project Coordinator: rjohnston@ncsml.org, 319-362-8500

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Are you interested in donating to this project? If so, please contact:
Leah Wilson -- Major Gifts Officer: lwilson@ncsml.org, 319-362-8500

Recording Voices and Documenting Memories of Czech and Slovak Americans has been made possible thanks to a grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The NCSML would also like to thank the Office of Slovaks Living Abroad, the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, the Czech Consulate in Chicago, and the Czech and Slovak Embassies in Washington DC for their support.

[Ed. Note: I have already provided the contact arrangements for an NCSML representative to come to Colorado to meet with Czech/Slovak groups in the Denver and Colorado Springs areas.]

4. From Hans van Dooremalen:

-- On March 25, 2011, Jan Verleg, our past president, was honored by being presented with the “Silver Needle” of the Royal Dutch Association of Philatelic Societies in appreciation for his work for the Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-



Fig. 1

filatelie (Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately). The Silver Needle is presented to individuals who acted in a major post (president, secretary) of a philatelic organization/committee for a significant number of years. Pictured here are myself (current president) and Jan wearing his Silver Needle (Fig. 1).

*Book Review***THE 1923 AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE ISSUE****(Hospodářství a věda)****An Introduction to a Most Intriguing Issue****by Mark Wilson****CPSGB, Monograph 23, 2010**

Monograph 23 (The 1923 Agriculture and Science Issue) from the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, and authored by Mark Wilson, is now available for purchase from our Book Sales Manager, Savoy Horvath. The monograph, comprised of a one page Introduction and 29 pages of philatelic information, is a comprehensive, well organized guide for identifying the types and subtypes of this issue. For the “collector” of these stamps, it will be an indispensable tool for building the complete collection of the issue. While the clarity of the illustrative photos leaves much to be desired in many places, they are sufficiently adequate in combination with the narrative to assist in the differentiation of types and subtypes, a primary objective of the author; this is particularly the case in the fifteen pages devoted to “A Guide to the Subtypes”.

Mr. Wilson devotes several pages explaining why the main types of this issue exist or, in the case of the often discussed Type IV, does not warrant being considered a type at all. The author poses his theories and underlying rationale in a logical manner that lends new information to the philatelic understanding of this issue and, perhaps, areas for further exploration and discussion.

While I consider that this monograph is a valuable addition to your personal library, I’m troubled by the continually growing cost of these monographs and many other such philatelic publications. Combined with the extraordinary growth in the cost of the stamps, letters, etc., that we all pursue, have we become a hobby affordable to only the affluent in our society? If this is so, how do we gain the interest of young people with limited financial resources and numerous other competing interests for their time? This is a challenge for our Society with its focused collecting areas as well as the philatelic community at large.

Richard Palaschak

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Book Review

**CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2011
POFIS 2011**

This is a new specialized catalog of the Czech Republic which lists and values every product that has been issued by the Czech post and postal museum during the years indicated. It has been expanded to 216 pages, all in color, and is a must for Czech specialist stamp collectors. The section on stamps includes the different varieties, different types of printing errors, production errors (including two new discoveries), plate flaws, and perforations. It also lists all of the stamp booklets, special prints, special prints for the postal museum, postal museum invitation sheetlets, commemorative prints of the postal museum, most beautiful stamp survey souvenirs, most beautiful handstamp survey souvenirs, commemorative occasion envelopes, commemorative sheetlets, maxim cards, postal cards, and postal stationery. It also lists the postal rates from 1993 to 2008 and shows a big change in upward valuation in Czech postal material. You can find it listed among our Available Publications for \$35.

Savoy Horvath
Ludvik Svoboda



New Issues

**CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. van Zanten**

1. On February 9, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a 30 Kč commemorative stamp honoring Jiří Melantrich of Aventinum (Fig. 1). Jiří



Fig. 1

Melantrich (Rožďalovský) of Aventinum (or Aventyn; born Jiří Černý Rožďalovický; c.1511, Rožďalovice -- died Nov. 19, 1580, Prague) was an important Czech Renaissance printer and publisher. It is not clear when Jiřík Černý, later known as Jiří Melantrich of Aventinum, was born. He came from a non-wealthy Ultraquist family. The first mention of him is from 1534, the year he became a bachelor at the Faculty of Arts at Charles university in Prague. He set up a printing shop, and gradually started to flourish and gain European significance. The Melantrich's Bible (so-called "Melantriška"), issued by him in four or five editions, was at the core of his activities as publisher, although he published also three editions of the New Testament as well as a large number of other religious and moral books (e.g. works by Desiderius Erasmus) for both

Catholic and Lutheran or Ultraquist readers, Czech Renaissance humanist literature or collections of Latin poems. The publication of a Czech and later also German edition of Mattioli's Herbarium, resulting from Melantrich cooperation

with famous Italian physician and botanist Pietro Andrea Mattioli, gained European importance. Other of his publications included all kinds of handbooks and dictionaries, legal literature, as well as inexpensive amusing books for ordinary people. Melantrich also served as Prague's Old Town councillor. He was raised to the rank of nobleman and granted a single coat of arms in 1557. Throughout his life Melantrich was known as a person educated in the spirit of Renaissance Humanism, an Ultraquist influenced by Lutheranism, who tolerated Catholicism. The stamp was designed by Pavel Hrach, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in dark brown combined with photogravure in red and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark brown shows an engraving from the Melantrich's Bible, 2nd edition, Prague 1556/1557, a signet with snakes, cut-out from the cartouche (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

2. On February 9, 2011, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Country series. The stamps were designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

-- 12 Kč: Cheb 950 Years: Imperial Fortress Chapel from the 12th century - a view from the ground floor, St. Nicolas church built in 1230 with restored towers, and "Špalíček" - a typical block of half-timbered houses from the 15th century in the lower part of the square; in ocher, red, blue, and brown-black (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

Cheb is the ancient capital of the westernmost region of the Czech Republic. The first known settlement in the vast area on the banks of the upper Ohře river was a Slavic stronghold, built as early as the 9th to 11th centuries on a hill overlooking the river. The first mention of cheb dates back to 1061; it is the oldest evidence of the ongoing medieval colonization of the area surrounding Cheb during which the German colonists pushed the original Slavic settlers back to the hinterland. The first castle made of stone was built around 1125 by the Vohburg family, and rebuilt after 1167 by Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa in the typical Paletinate style. A settlement, first mentioned in 1203 as Cheb, grew at the foothill outside the castle walls. The century-long disputes between Czech and German rulers about the ownership of the Cheb region ended in 1314 with the victory of Czech king John of Luxembourg. In the 14th century Cheb, with an exclusive location on a major Czech-German trade route, developed into a strong town state with an army of its own, gradually gaining control over the surrounding region. During the Thirty Years' War, Albrecht von Wallenstein, chief commander of the Imperial Army, and his chief officers and secretary, were killed in Cheb. The town suffered severely during the era. Since 1643, Cheb was to become a vast Baroque stronghold, but the project failed. After the construction of a railway station in 1865, the town was transformed into a major railway hub. In the 20th century Cheb was strongly

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affected by the events of both world wars and their consequences. The historical center underwent a large reconstruction (1956-69), and Cheb became a town conservation area in 1981. The town highlights include the Castle and the Black Tower, built in the Romanesque style. The 18.5 meter high tower was built of bossed blocks of black ash rock. The most important building in the castle area is the Chapel of SS Erhard and St. Ursula in Romanesque and Gothic styles, with a unique interior architecture -- each of the two floors of the chapel boasts a different building style. The main square (Náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad -- square of George of Poděbrady) has a selection of architectural treats. A group of 11 medieval houses called the Block (Špalíček) was erected in its lower part, starting from the 13th century. The magnificent St. Nicholas Church, built in 1220-30, is closed to the square. The star attractions of Cheb monasteries are St. Francis and St. Clare. The Monastery of St. Francis, originally Friars Minor, was built in the early 13th century and rebuilt in 1275-85, as a complex of double-floor buildings with a tall square tower from the time of Charles IV. The cloisters (1310-30) with window tracery are the town's Gothic highlight. Just across a small square called Františkánské Náměstí stands St. Clare monastery (1264, rebuilt in the early 18th century into a Baroque shape) and church. The church (1708-11) is a fine high-Baroque example by Christoph Dientzenhofer. A FDC in brown shows a stone



Fig. 4

statue of the knight Roland originally from the late 16th century, symbolizing the rights of a free city. Its copy is now located on the restored fountain in the upper part of the square (Fig. 4).

-- 14 Kč: Cubist architecture - Black Madonna House (Prague): entrance portal of the house and the Baroque statue of the Black Madonna transferred to the Cubist facade corner of the house from the original home of the Knights

Granovský; in yellow, orange, blue, and black (Fig. 5). The Black Madonna House is a masterpiece of Czech Cubist architecture. The house, located at Prague's Old Town between Celetná street and Ovocný Trh square, was designed by Czech architect Josef Gočár and built in 1911-12. The house, named after the Baroque statue of the Black Madonna in an alcove on the facade, hosts Prague's National Gallery Museum of Czech Cubism. The Black Madonna House was built on the site of the former Baroque Granovský house, whose name it



Fig. 5

adopted, for merchant František Herbst who wanted to use it as a department store. The interesting thing is that Gočár's first design was refused by the Prague City Hall due to a lack of harmony with the historical neighborhood. Gočár responded by adding further Cubist features. All interior decorations, including furniture and other details, had also a Cubist design. Allegations of unfashionableness haunted the building since its creation, leading to the closure of the café as early as the 1920's. The ongoing trend of transformation of the house

culminated in the 1950's when the entire house became an office building used by the exhibition firm Výstavnictví. During a 1990's reconstruction project, led by Karel Prager, the house was returned to its original shape to match Gočár's original design. The house was reopened to the public at a ceremony in 1994, attended by former president Václav Havel, and became the venue of the Czech Museum of Fine Arts, including a permanent exhibition of Czech Cubism. A replica statue, carved of wood with multicolor finish, of the original Black Madonna was mounted in an alcove on the facade in 2000. The house was added to the National Heritage List as a cultural site in 2010. A FDC in yellow-brown depicts a table clock designed by J. Gočár in 1913 as a part of the features of the men's room of the actor Otto Boleška. The clock is known as a miniature monument of the Cubist movement (Fig. 6).

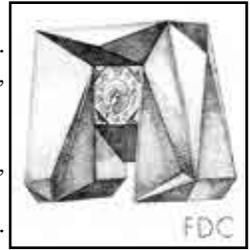


Fig. 6

3. On February 9, 2011, the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with definitive postage stamps with imprinted letter “A” from the edition of the original



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

Czech comic book Čtyřlístek (the four-leaf-clover)(Fig. 7). The theme of this stamp booklet is a hare named “Pinda” (Fig. 8). The stamp shows Pinda holding a brush and palette in his hands and is painting a picture; before him is lying a small box of tempera paints. Yet to come from the Čtyřlístek “boys” is Bobík. The stamp was designed by Jaroslav Němeček -- the creator of the cult comic book series Čtyřlístek. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in self-adhesive definitive stamp booklets of 10 pieces. A FDC in multicolored offset depicts the foursome of friends sitting in a “flying machine” delivering packages at cosmic speed (Fig. 9).

4. On February 11, 2011, the Ministry issued a 20 Kč commemorative stamp in honor of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad Group (Fig. 10). This year’s issue is a stamp designed by the four member countries of the Visegrad Group (also known as the Visegrad Four, or V4) on the initiative of the Slovak ambassador to the V4 (in conjunction with the Slovak Post) to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of this alliance of four Central European countries, i.e. Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. It is a joint issue by all four of these countries. The idea of the V4 alliance derives from a meeting of the Czech, Polish, and Hungarian rulers in Visegrad, Hungary in 1335. Charles I of Hungary, Czech king John of Luxembourg, and Casimir III of Poland entered into an agreement of a close cooperation in political and commercial affairs, and of eternal friendship. This agreement inspired the next successful Central European initiative established 656 years later. The present group was formed on February 15, 1991 (ten days before the end of the Warsaw Pact) at a meeting of Hungarian Prime Minister József Antall, Czechoslovak President Václav Havel, and Polish President Lech Walesa in Visegrad, as the so-called Visegrad Three group. The politicians signed a declaration of a close cooperation of the three Central European countries on their way to European integration. The countries saw their cooperation in the era after the collapse of the communist regime as vital for transition from the totalitarian system to a free, plural, and democratic society. The group became known as the Visegrad Four (V4) after the split of Czechoslovakia into the successor states Czech Republic and Slovakia; both states became members of the alliance. All four of the V4 countries have now joined NATO, and the foreign policy activities of the four further merged after their accession to the European Union in 2004. The group’s core activities (including programs under the Regional Partnership with Austria and Slovenia -- the V4+ concept) focus on cooperation and stability in a broader Central European region. The stamp -- showing two hands forming the letter “V” and four fingers for V4 and having “2” “0” in their palms -- was designed by the Hungarian artist Barnabás Baticz. It was produced by the



Fig. 10

Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 8 pieces having its edges containing text and flags of all four states. A FDC in multicolored offset depicts V4 in a blue circle surrounded by yellow stars -- a symbol of the European Union (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11

5. On February 23, 2011, the Ministry issued a set of two letter-denominated definitive stamps in the Folk Architecture series. The natural, material and cultural conditions in the small territory of the Czech Republic created locations with typically autonomous features of folk architecture. The stamps were designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in (A) gray and blue and (E) pink and brown in printing sheets of 100 pieces.

-- Denominated A: shows a simplified summary of nationwide folk architecture, featuring characteristic gables and gates across all regions of the Czech Republic: a South Bohemian gable from the Blatensko region (front), a North Bohemian gable (left), a gable shutter common in North Bohemia as well as North Moravia (right), a West Bohemian half-timbered gable (back)(Fig. 12). Both, architectural landmarks built in major styles, and, exceptionally rich countryside architecture, abound in the Czech Republic. Throughout history, regional and natural diversity has contributed to the use of various technologies and aesthetics in the structure of folk dwellings. Thanks to historical circumstances,



Fig. 12

the countryside can offer a large number of superb examples of folk architecture preserved on their original site. The fact that they are mostly located outside any protected or museum area means that they frequently face the risks associated with a lack of knowledge or sensitivity. Fortunately, this is compensated for by the numerous examples of excellent care provided by their owners holding them as summer houses -- like a hobby. A FDC in blue-black depicts an empty white silhouette of a gable from the Vodňany region, a building from the Hluboká region, a gable from the Horažďovice region (front), combined with a horizontal outline of the square of a village in the Blatensko region, a small South Bohemian church and an outbuilding gable (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13

-- Denominated E: shows a North Bohemian gable and a Central Bohemian gate (front), combined with a Wallachian cottage and a South Bohemian gable from the Tábor region (back)(Fig. 14). As part of the national cultural heritage, folk architecture has always been an inspiration for contemporary people. A few simplified examples can include: the characteristic frame structures common in the West Bohemian border region; the two-storied half-timbered building with richly decorated gables typical of North Bohemia; the mostly



Fig. 14

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

single storied Central Bohemian chamber structures built of wood, stone, or bricks; the wide-front mountain house of East Bohemia and West Moravia; the white farm buildings in the South Bohemian Blatensko region famous for their gables with a multitude of shapes; the longitudinal grid of buildings in South Moravia, distantly echoing the Roman portico, with hand painted porches and separate wine cellars; the half timbered cottages in the North Moravian Wallachian region, etc. A FDC in brown depicts folk architecture from North-East Moravia, featuring a building from Rožnov pod Radhoštěm (front), the local reeve's house in Velké Karlovice (left horizontal), a Wallachian cottage (right), and a lath gable, small grange church and cottage from the Vsetín region (Fig. 15).

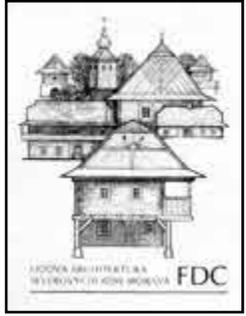


Fig. 15

6. On March 9, 2011, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing one 49 Kč stamp showing the brothers Petr Vok of Rožmberk and Vilém of Rožmberk (Fig. 16). The souvenir sheet and stamp were designed by Oldřich Kulhánek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in green, red, and brown. A FDC in wine-color contains calligraphically depicted two interlocking letters R as symbols of the Rožmberks, and under them is the five-petalled rose of the Rožmberks (Fig. 17).



Fig. 16

-- Vilém of Rožmberk (1535, Schützendorf, Oberösterreich - 1592, Prague), an important Czech politician, representative of the Czech estates, and one of the main leaders of moderate Catholics in the sensitive religious landscape before the Battle of White Mountain, was born into the aristocratic family

of Rožmberks (also known as Rosenberg), to Jost III of Rožmberk and Anna of Rogendorf, as the older brother of Petr Vok of Rožmberk. Aged sixteen, he became the ruler of the Romberk estate. In 1566 he was appointed commander of the Czech army involved in the war against the Turks in Hungary. In 1572-73 as the top diplomat, he was sent by the Habsburgs to Poland as the chief negotiator for the Polish throne -- he became so popular with the Polish nobility that he was nominated as a candidate to the Polish throne. In the 1580's, Vilém commissioned the construction of a Jesuit College in Český Krumlov and received the Order of Golden Fleece -- the highest imperial order presented to a Catholic aristocrat.

Although he married four times, he remained childless, and after his death the Rožmberk estate passed to his brother Petr Vok. Vilém boosted the economic development of the estate, and his manager Jakub Krčín continued the pond building and fishing business set up in the Třeboň area by famous pond builder Štěpán Netolický, built crop and sheep farms, breweries, mills, silver mines, and glass works. Vilém transformed the castle in Český Krumlov into a Renaissance chateau, worthy of his position and power, and had the summer mansion Kratochvíle (Pastime in English) near Netolice built. Vilém hosted a large number of musicians, composers, painters, and alchemists at Třeboň Castle.



Fig. 17

-- Petr Vok of Rožmberk (1539, Český Krumlov - 1611,

Třeboň) was the last member of the aristocratic family of Rožmberk. Living in the shadow of his older brother Vilém for more than fifty years, he publicly admitted that he suffered from the “younger, unwanted, and less able sibling syndrome”. From his early life, Petr Vok loved learning, knowing, and inventing things, as evidenced by his keen interest in science, literature, arts and culture in general. He sponsored local literature, theater, education (Rožmberk School in Soběslav), and arts. The library he created belonged to the largest in Central Europe. His collection of artifacts, physical instruments, and works of nature was comparable to those gathered by Rudolf II at Prague Castle. Although he ruled in a way similar to his brother Vilém’s, each brother had a different personality. Petr was a sensitive, open person, standing behind his decisions (as shown by his negative attitude toward the Habsburg dynasty). His marriage to Kateřina of Ludanice (1580) remained childless, and Kateřina began suffering from an unknown mental illness, but she was well-looked after by her husband until her death. Nor did he impose excessive or new taxes on his subjects, despite his considerable debts. He looked after poor and sick people at both Bechyně and Třeboň estates. He became a proficient manager of the Rožmberk estate after his succession to power, twice preventing an imminent bankruptcy and division of the estate. The last of the Rožmberks was one of the leading figures in 16th and 17th century Czech history.

7. On March 23, 2011, the Ministry issued a letter-denominated “A” definitive stamp honoring Easter, showing one of the symbols of Easter -- newly hatched chicks in their nest with spring flowers (Fig. 18). Easter is the central Christian



Fig. 18

religious feast, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Since the Catholic Church (First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD) established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the first spring full moon, the feast moves and can be celebrated in March or April. Easter still enjoys much popularity in the Czech Republic. Normally people associate it with children who go carolling on Easter Monday and get decorated eggs, sweets and other treats. The stamp was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full color offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in gray-brown depicts the Easter bunny holding a pussywillow twig



Fig. 19

next to a large egg that has a 10 Kč Czech Republic stamp on it (Fig. 19).

Stationery

8. On March 23, 2011, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” postage stamp honoring “Václav Brožík” (Fig. 20). The imprinted stamp depicts a portrait of Václav Brožík against a background of a painter’s palette with paintbrushes. This year we are celebrating the 160th anniversary of the birth of the academic painter Václav

Brožík -- 1851, Třemošná. He served his apprenticeship as a lithographer in a porcelain factory. Beginning in 1868 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, Dresden, and Munich. In 1879 he undertook an educational journey to the Netherlands, where he studied old Flemish and Dutch painters, and then was selected to be a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He married the daughter of a wealthy Paris art dealer, thus achieving success in French high society, and then divided his time during the rest of his life between Prague and Paris. He became the most famous Czech painter in Europe at the end of the 19th



Fig. 20

century. As a member of the French Institute, he was selected to be among the “Forty Immortal”, which no other Czech artist ever achieved. He reached huge public success and was considered to be the greatest living Czech painter. He created fourteen great historical works between 1871 and 1901 when he died suddenly of a massive cardiac failure; he was buried at Montmartre. His ninth

painting in 1885 (Christopher Columbus at the Spanish Court) was used in 1893 on the 5 cent issue of the United States' Columbian series which is shown on the left side of the postal card. Arguably this stamp makes him the first Czech artist to have his work be shown or used as the major theme of a postage stamp. The postal card was designed by Pavel Sivko and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. It is protected by a hologram and a line of microprinting at the top of the addressee area. [Ed. Note: I also received one of these cards mailed to me, and neither one has the imprinted stamp canceled, only the additional postage stamps were.]

9. On March 23, 2011, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “Z” postage stamp honoring “50 Years of the OECD” (Fig. 21). [Ed. Note: the “Z” denomination corresponds to the price of an ordinary letter up to 20g to a non-European country -- currently equals 21 Kč.] On the



Fig. 21

imprinted stamp is depicted a map of the world with the Czech text reading “50 Years of OECD 1961/2011”. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was established in 1960 as the successor organization to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)(created in 1948) which administered the Marshall Plan in Europe. While the OEEC focused on Europe, the OECD is a world organization currently unifying 34 of the economically most advanced countries of the world. The Czech Republic became a member in 1995 (Slovakia is also a member). Membership fosters cooperation in economic and social functions. The image on the left portion of the postal card represents the OECD integrating the activities of two world hemispheres. The postal card was designed by Jan Ungrád and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by

colored offset. It is protected by a hologram and a line of microprinting at the top of the addressee area.

SLOVAKIA by Gerald M. van Zanten

10. On February 11, 2011, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.90 € commemorative stamp for the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Visegrad Group (V4)(Fig. 22). V4 is an informal grouping of four central European countries -- the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. In the wake of post-1989 changes, three central European countries decided to forge closer cooperation with the aim of returning to Europe. On Feb. 15, 1991, the presidents of the three countries signed the Visegrad Declaration in Visegrád. After the split



Fig. 22

of Czechoslovakia and the creation of the independent Slovak and Czech Republics in 1993, the trilateral Visegrad cooperation was transformed to a V4 format. At the May 1999 summit held in Bratislava, the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries agreed on the deepening of cooperation in all areas of mutual interest and for mutual support in integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures. For 20 years, regional cooperation of the V4 has successfully developed in the intersectional/interministerial field, coordination of foreign policy positions and pursuance of common interests within the EU and third countries. This stamp is a joint issue of all four of the V4 countries. The stamp was designed by Barnabas Baticz and produced by the Postal



Fig. 23

Stationery Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC was issued that shows a stylized V4 surrounded by stars on a square field (Fig. 23).

11. On March 4, 2011, the Ministry issued a 0.40 € commemorative stamp celebrating Easter 2011 (Fig. 24). Easter is the most important Christian feast which is a movable event falling in March or April. The celebration of this feast by the Church was already mentioned in the 2nd century. The lamb -- shown on the stamp -- has been a sacrifice object for millennia and has become a symbol of Jesus Christ's sacrifice to save Christians at Easter.



Fig. 24

Easter celebrations in Slovakia vary depending on the different regions. The various folk traditions combine habits and customs from pre-Christian times with Christian religious dogma. Thus, the egg contains the seed of life and was a symbol of fertility and resurrection in many cultures. To the Christians, the egg is interpreted as a symbol of the closed grave from which Christ

rose from the dead as a symbol of immortality. Similarly, the character of the Easter bunny, which now brings chocolate eggs to children, has an archaic origin. In various cultures, the bunny has an attribute of fertility and resurrection, just like the motif of the chick, which is hatched from the egg. The stamp was designed by Júlia Piačková and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC pictures Easter chicks of egg whites with chocolate-butter creme decorated with marzipan (Fig. 25).



Fig. 25

12. On March 25, 2011, the Ministry issued two commemorative stamps (a 0.40 € and a 0.50 €) celebrating the Ice Hockey World Championship 2011 (Fig. 26A/b). When the Congress of the International Hockey Federation (IIHF) decided to hold the 2011 World Championship in Slovakia, many Slovak hockey fans were delighted. Thus, world-class hockey players will be playing in Bratislava and Košice from 29 April to 15 May. The last time our country received such an honor was sixteen years ago, but at a lower category. Since then, a lot has happened in the hockey world -- in 2000 the Slovaks became the world vice-champions, winning silver medals; then

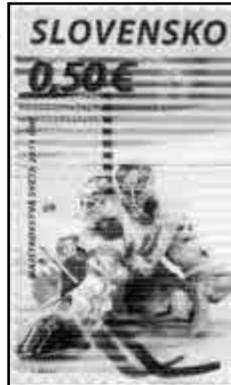


Fig. 26a



Fig. 26b



Fig. 27

two years later, the Slovaks made hockey history by defeating the Russians and won gold medals; in 2003 they won the bronze medal. So there is a huge chance that our hockey players may now continue the success in front of the home crowd. The stamps were designed by Igor Benca and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 25 pieces. A FDC was issued for each stamp; each contains a shadowy image of a hockey player in a square field (Fig. 27).

13. On April 15, 2011, the Ministry issued a 1.10 € commemorative stamp in the Sights of Our Homeland series entitled Dobšinská Ice Cave (Fig. 28). Dobšinská Ice Cave is located in the Slovak Paradise National Park in the Spiš-Gemer karst. The cave entrance is near the village of Dobšinská Ladová Jaskyňa. It was discovered on June 15, 1870 by Eugen Ruffiny accompanied by Gustáv Lang and Andrej Mega. The cave was formed as a part of a bigger complex, the so-called Stratenská Nappe, by the river Hnilec in the Middle Triassic limestones, along the tectonic faults and interbed surfaces. Dobšinská Ice Cave was formed

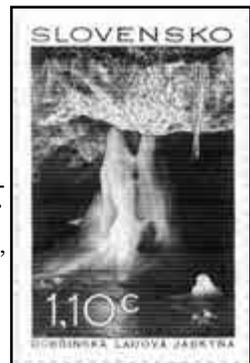


Fig. 28

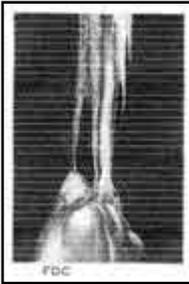


Fig. 29

approximately 400,000 years ago, when a massive collapse separated it from this system. Ice fill occurs in the form of floor ice, icefalls, ice stalagmites and columns. The main part of the cave is the Great Hall (72m x 36-42mx10m high). The hall contains a large quantity of floor ice, which is almost 27m thick. A dominant feature of the Great Hall and its symbol, is a hollow ice stalagmite called Studňa (well). The cave is a most important wintering place of various bat species. The cave has been open since 1871 and is among the largest and most important ice caves in the world; in 2000 it became part of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage system of UNESCO. The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 6 pieces. A FDC shows one of the many stalagmites occurring in Dobšinská Ice Cave (Fig. 29).



Fig. 30

14. On April 29, 2011, the Ministry issued a 0.40 € commemorative stamp honoring the Beatification of John Paul II (Fig. 30). John Paul II -- properly named Karol Wojtyła -- was born on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. During WW II he started studying theology secretly and continued with it after the liberation of Poland at Jagiellonian University. In November 1946 he was ordained a priest, was given more responsibilities and advances, and in 1963 became the Krakow archbishop. Pope Paul VI

appointed him a cardinal in 1967, and in a conclave on October 16, 1978 the cardinals elected him to be the 264th successor of Apostle Peter -- the Pope. He was the first Pope of Slavic origin. His pontificate lasted 26 years, 5 months, and 17 days, and was the third longest; during it he made 104 foreign apostolic trips (three of them to Slovakia -- in 1990, 1995, 2003), beatified or canonized 1,340 people, and during 1,200 general audiences he met 20 million people. He was a diligent declaimer for keeping peace, human rights and the observance of human dignity. His charisma impressed a new dynamism into the Catholic Church. Already at his funeral, people were carrying banners saying "Santo subito" (sainthood immediately). In fact, his beatification process is on a very fast track. The stamp was designed by Jozef Baláž, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskarna Cenin in Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with

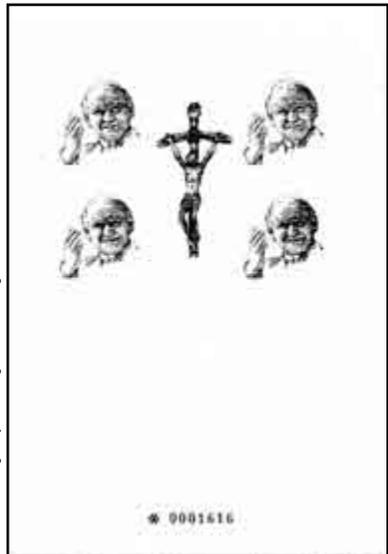


Fig. 31

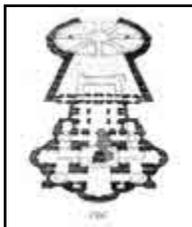


Fig. 32

offset in printing sheets of 4 pieces. There was also a numbered black print with four images of the stamp around the Papal crosier (in the form of a cross)(Fig. 31). A FDC shows the floor plan of the Basilica and St. Peter's Square in the Vatican (Fig. 32).

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