



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

A.P.S. Unit 18
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PITTERMAN AND KARASEK TO LECTURE AT PACIFIC '97

The Society lecture series scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 1, 1997 will feature lectures by two eminent philatelists from the Czech Republic. Ing. Pavel Pittermann, (FIP judge, member of the Czech Expert Committee and author) will present a lecture entitled "The Computer and Non-destructive Methods for Determination of Authenticity in Expertizing Practice". Ing. Jan Karasek (head of the Czech Expert Committee, editor and author) will speak on "Newly Discovered Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps". Both have lectured in the US on previous occasions to the delight of those who heard them.

PACIFIC '97 -- this decade's only FIP show in the US -- will take place at the Moscone Center in San Francisco from May 29 to June 8, 1997. Most Society activities will take place on or about the first week-end of the show: the Society breakfast on Saturday, May 31st, and the lecture series on Sunday, June 1st.

The Society has reserved a limited number of rooms at the HOTEL MILANO, located a short walk from the Moscone Center, at the reduced price of \$125 + tax per night. You are urged to make reservations NOW by calling 1-800-398-7555. Be sure to mention your membership in the SCP to get the discounted rate.

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Reminder -- make plane reservations early for the lowest rates.

Also, if you receive an acceptance for your exhibit for PACIFIC '97, please drop me a line (info below). Let me know how many frames of material, the title, and general nature of your exhibit.

Finally, please let me know when you will be at PACIFIC' 97 and whether you will attend the Society breakfast. For this and any other matters related to PACIFIC '97 contact Henry Hahn, (SCP PACIFIC '97 Chairman), 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031, phone (703)-560-2972, FAX (703)-560-2437, E-mail: hhahn25@aol.com.

NOMINATIONS REMINDER

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to nominate a member to become one of our Directors. The deadline for us to receive a nomination is February 15, 1997. The details about who, what, and where can be found in the Sep/Oct 96 issue of the SPECIALIST on page 29.

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SIBERIAN LEGION: AIR MAIL?

by Jaroslav J. Verner

Siberia is a big place. Its geographic location creates difficult conditions for human settlement, travel, and communications. These facts are true today; at the beginning of this century they were true in spades. The main mode for human travel was by rail via the Trans-Siberian railroad which, at the time of the First World War, was not yet completed. Where it was completed the Trans-Siberian was predominantly single track. And since this was the line that tied a good part of the Russian Empire together, rail traffic was heavy and erratic.

Such were the conditions existing when, on June 10, 1918 the Temporary Executive Committee of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legion ordered the creation of a military postal service (Field Post). Communications between the Legion's far-flung units had become overwhelming for the couriers that had been used to maintain contact up to that time. The Field Post had to be built from scratch. Short of everything from paper to personnel, with no precedent to build on, staffed by a handful of former postal employees plus totally inexperienced troops, the Field Post began to function with the despatch of its first mail car on September 16, 1918.

As the Field Post grew and expanded its services, it had to resort to any and all means of transport that were available in order to reach the more isolated units, especially those off spur feeder rail lines. Rail travel in the chaotic conditions of the time was not exactly relaxed. But compared with the alternatives -- steamers and other floating modes of transport along the rivers; carriages, carts, horseback, and foot overland -- rail was quick if not always comfortable. It is unfortunate that there were no opportunities to carry mail by air. Or were there?

The size and shape of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legion was a moving target. From its beginnings as the ЧЕШСКАЯ ЦРУЖИНА (Cheskaya Druzhina) in 1914 until the last Czech troops left Vladivostok in 1921, the organization of the Legion was in almost constant flux -- first mostly due to rapid expansion and later to fulfill the needs of an army forced to be almost entirely self-sufficient. This special unit in the Imperial Russian Army began to grow by inducting willing Czechs and Slovaks who had been taken captive on the Eastern front while serving with the Austro-Hungarian armies. Eventually the Legion consisted of a Corps with three infantry divisions, each of which had four regiments. In addition, the Legion also had artillery batteries, military hospitals, quartermaster-run machine shops, factories, and even mines. There were military schools, veterinary clinics, military government units and, of course, a full service postal system. The many specialized units were required to fulfill all the needs of an army stretching, at times, across almost all of Siberia (Asia). Such specialized units were usually attached to the Headquarters of the various military levels.

The newest technology was sought by the Czechs though it was not always available in that isolated corner of the world. The use of aircraft by the military developed

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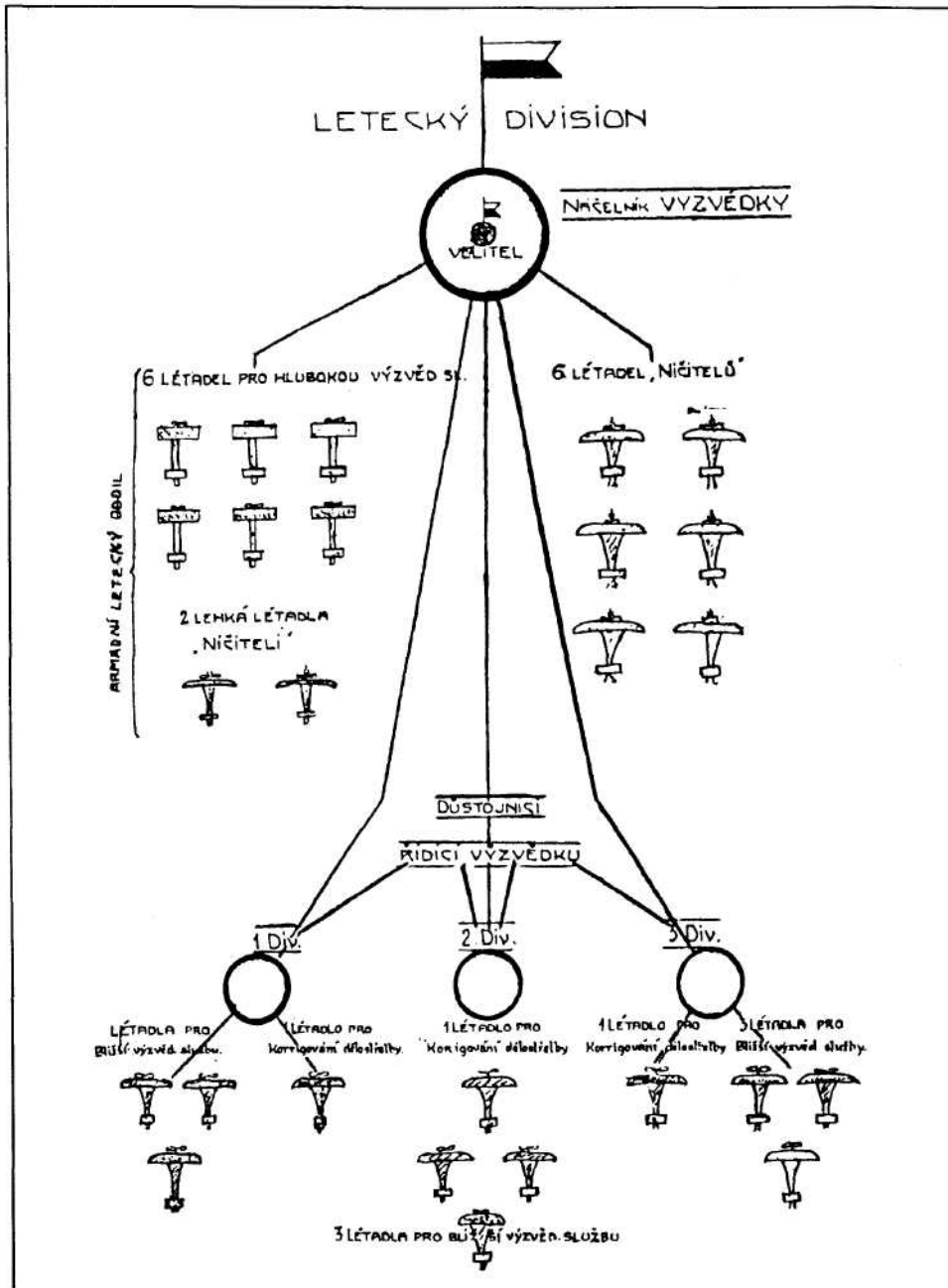


Fig. 1

quickly during the First World War. The Legion also wanted to make use of this advancement, largely for reconnaissance, but also for defensive/offensive military operations.

The Commander of the Czechoslovak Armies, General Jan Surový, sent the following telegram on February 6, 1919 to General Maurice Janin, Commander of Allied Forces in Eastern Russia and Western Siberia:

“(To) Omsk: General Janin

Cheljabinsk 6/2. I anticipate organizing an air division consisting of a commander slash one army air detachment consisting of 6 aircraft for deep reconnaissance service and two aircraft destroyers (bombers) slash one detachment of destroyers consisting of 6 destroyer aircraft. In addition

to these two detachments subordinated to the commander of the air division on my staff, I would assign three divisional air detachments, each consisting of 3 aircraft for close reconnaissance service, one aircraft for correcting artillery fire. Currently the Czech air detachment disposes of 3 aircraft of the medium type hence the following is needed colon

6 aircraft for deep penetration reconnaissance



Fig. 2

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- 9 aircraft of the medium type
- 8 destroyers
- radiotelegraph, machine guns, and photographic equipment for all aircraft

Supreme Commander of the Czechoslovak Armies
/signed/ Syrový

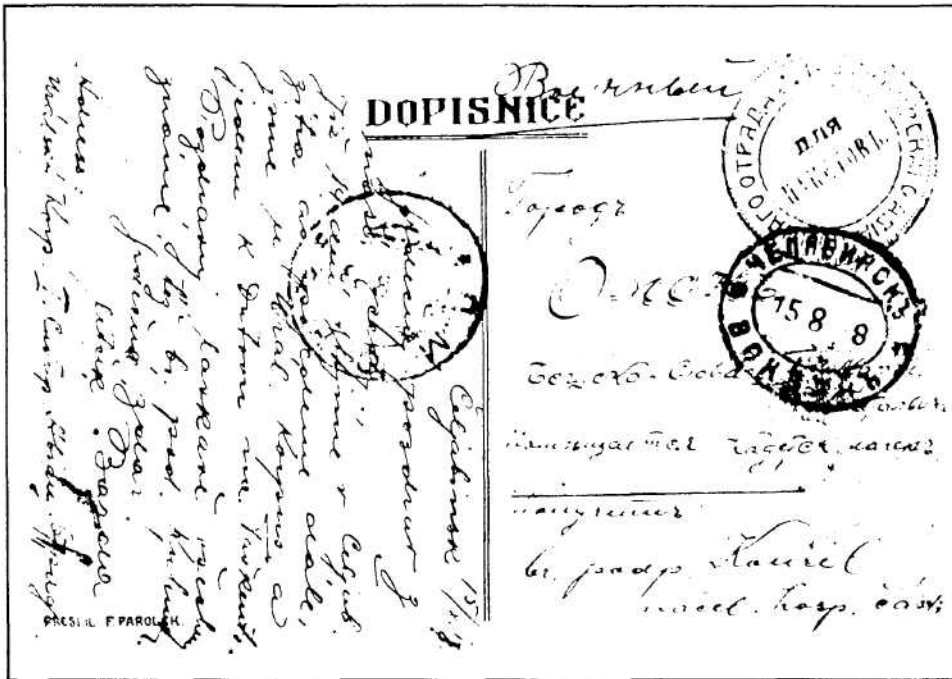


Fig. 3

So far I have not been able to find further documentation on the creation of these air units, but the records do indicate that some time later they were operational. (I have in my files copies of operational reports from one of the detachments located in Nikolsk Ussurijsky in late 1919 and early 1920.) **Figure 1** shows the command structure from mid-1919 of the Air Division of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia. It clearly shows that while three of the air detachments are attached to the three Infantry Divisions, they also are directly responsible to Army Headquarters. Other documentation I have seen attests to the existence of a flight school to train personnel for the air detachments.

Primary sources, then, establish that the Czech Siberian Legion had air capability. It is therefore possible that mail could have been transported by air in some instances, but as yet we have not found documentary confirmation that this possibility was a

reality. There are, however, a few postal items that are related to the air units and the air capability of the Legion. **Figure 2** is an illustration of a postcard that commemorates

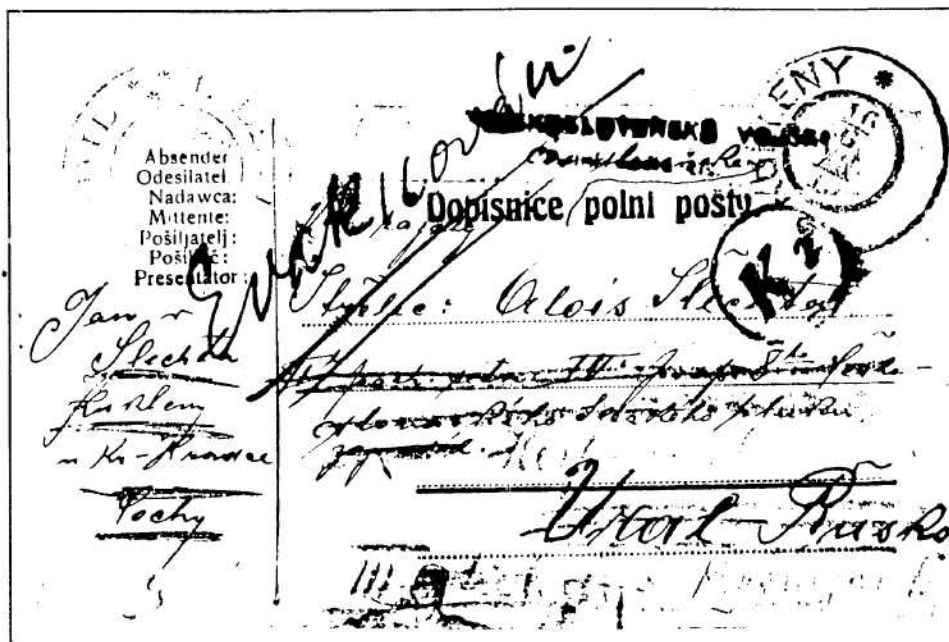


Fig. 4

the participation of the 1st Division in the battle of Zborov and which was used (**figure 3**) by a legionnaire in Cheljabinsk on August 15, 1918. The card is addressed to Warrant Officer Kouril, Chief, Quartermaster Section; 2nd Czechoslovak Reserve Battalion; Cadet Camp; Omsk. It was sent from the Cheljabinsk Railroad Station (oval cancel) on August 15. The date in the round Omsk arrival cancel is illegible so we do not know how long the card was in transit. The Russian text of the round, purple, unit mail cancel reads "1st Siberian Aviation Detachment/for parcels." The text of the message on the card reads:

Heartfelt greetings from our trip. We have already been in Cheljabinsk for 14 days. Tomorrow we will probably go on. We are at the Ural Corps and are going to Dutova near Tashkent. Please greet all who I know. Warm success!

Pilot Barda
Address: Ural Corps, 1st Siberian Aviation Detachment

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Of considerable interest in this message is the reference to Tashkent, for it was in the warmer climes of Central Asia that the air units trained during the cold Siberian winters which made flying further to the north hazardous, if not impossible.

It is not clear whether the 1st Siberian Aviation Detachment was part of the Legion or some Russian military formation in Siberia. I have consulted leading collectors and students of Russian air and military mail in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic, but no one was able to positively identify this unit. It is clear from the context of the message on the card that "pilot Barda" was with the Aviation Detachment on some kind of assignment, possibly on an operation or perhaps for training. Another possibility is that Barda was accompanying Legion aircraft being transported to Tashkent for the winter. We know from General Jan Syrový's telegram quoted above that the Legion had three aircraft by early 1919, but do not yet know how they were acquired. By the second half of August weather in the northern parts of Russia begins to turn cold. The planes the Legion had were transported over long distances aboard flat cars and Cheljabinsk lies on the likely rail route between Omsk and Tashkent. The facts we know, sketchy as they are, tend to support the theory that pilot Bard was indeed accompanying the aircraft south.

Several months ago the card pictured in **figure 4** was sold at auction in Prague. It had been written on June 14, 1919 in Kukleny. The nationalized Kukleny cancel (the German, Klena, had been cut out) indicates mailing on June 16. The card was a multilingual Austrian field post card that has the German text covered by a double strip of paper. It was addressed to a legionnaire, the writer's son, who served with the 2nd Company, 4th Battalion, 8th Czechoslovak Silesian Regiment, Urals, Russia. When the card reached Siberia it began its search for the addressee. It was in Siberia that it received the purple Field Post 3 line cancel and the blue Field Post 1 cancel. The red pencil markings forwarded the card to the Economic Section of the 3rd Division in Krasnojarsk. Somewhere along the card's wanderings it received a unit cancel (round purple marking at upper left) of the "1. Letecký Oddíl" (1st Air Detachment) (**figure 5**). It was finally determined that the addressee had left Siberia, and the card was marked "Evakuován" (Evacuated). After this the card had no alternative but to follow the addressee back to Czechoslovakia.

Mail bearing this unit marking, or those of any other air detachments, are quite rare. Obviously even rarer is mail that would confirm that it had been actually carried by aircraft of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legion.

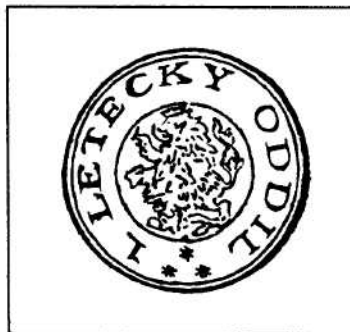


Fig. 5

THE "REVOLUTIONARY" OVERPRINTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Henry Hahn

Two liberations of Czechoslovakia, the first in 1918 and the second in 1945 gave rise to the so called "Revolutionary" issues -- overprints over the occupying country's stamps. You will not find these listed in Scott since these are at best considered "local" issues; but you will find the 1918 issues listed in Michel and other major catalogues, while the 1945 issues are currently listed in the principal catalog published in the Czech Republic, the Trojan.

The 1918 "Revolutionary" issues include overprints over Austrian issues as well as Hungarian ones. The Austrian issues were overprinted twice in Prague, and once each in Hluboka and Budweis. Hungarian stamps were overprinted in Skalica, Zilina and in Slovakia (the Jehlicka issue). The overprinting was carried out mostly in November 1918, from engraved plates of generally high quality, as illustrated in Figure 1. The illustrated stamps are representative of the second Prague, Hluboka, Skalica, and Zilina overprints. The other overprints differ in design but generally read "Provisional Czechoslovak Government", or "Czechoslovak State" or "Czechoslovak State Post" or



Fig. 1
1918 Overprints of Second Prague, Hluboka, Skalica and
Zilina Issues

"Slovak Post". References to comprehensive articles on this issue may be found in the Cumulative Index: 1939-1992 of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*¹. Genuine postally used covers are scarce. While first postal usage of the illustrated second Prague overprint occurred on October 8, 1918, postal validity of all except for the Zilina issue was never approved by the National Council or other authorized government bodies, and their use was actually forbidden. After the usage was forbidden, some additional issues appeared,

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but are not generally recognized as legitimate. The overprinted stamps and particularly genuinely used covers command high prices and are sought after by serious collectors of Czechoslovakia.

The 1945 "Revolutionary" issues are somewhat controversial. They were also issued in the enthusiastic afterglow of liberation by Allied Forces, both on the eastern and western fronts. Overprinted were stamps of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Germany, Hungary, the Slovak Puppet State, and even one stamp of France. The number of issues and overprint designs number in the hundreds. They were never



Fig. 2
1945 Overprints of Kojetin, Hulin and Brno

authorized by the Czechoslovak Government, but rather by National Revolutionary Committees, local commanding officers of the Czechoslovak Liberation Army, and by local philatelic organizations. Prompted by a speculative motive in many instances, the overprints constitute a highly controversial area of Czechoslovak philately, which only recently, and largely through the efforts of a single collector², have gained limited acceptance among collectors. The overprints are generally more primitive than their 1918 predecessors, and are of the type shown in Figure 2. Illustrated is one of the overprints of Kojetin, Hulin, and Brno. Typical other overprint designs include the Bohemian Lion, stars, hammer and sickle, "Osvobozeni" (liberation) and

many others. While some post offices accepted the overprinted stamps for franking, most covers are courtesy canceled.

Despite the negative aspects of the 1945 "Revolutionary" overprints, interest in these will almost certainly rise with the publication of a specialized handbook by the principal collector referenced above. The book is highly recommended to collectors of post-World War II philately, as it systematizes the hundreds of stamps and overprints, identifies those that have been recognized in recent years, and lists those yet to be identified. The

text is mainly in Spanish, though much of the text is translated to English, Czech, German and French. The Spanish portions present no great difficulty to the English speaking reader. (*Ed. Note - A much more comprehensive book review is contained in the Nov/Dec 1996 SPECIALIST, p 20.*)

1. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, CUMULATIVE INDEX: 1939-1992; Society for Czechoslovak Philately, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090, p 76.

2. Santaeugenia Grau, Juan, REVOLUTIONARY STAMPS AND OVERPRINTS, 1944/1945; published by the author, Travesera de Dalt, 11/13, Ate, 2^o, D', 08024, BARCELONA, Spain

EARLY UNBOUND SPECIALISTS WANTED

The 1995-96 SPECIALISTS are in the process of being bound, and these bound copies should be on their way to our patron members some time during January 1997.

Meanwhile, the Society is also binding some back issues which will be available for sale and announced in an upcoming SPECIALIST. However, there are more years we could bind but for the fact that one or two single issues are missing. If anyone has unbound copies of these issues which he or she would be willing to part with for the benefit of our Society and its members, we would be very grateful if you turned them in to us. The needed issues are as follows:

Jan, Feb, Nov 1940	Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec 1947
Jan 1951	Feb, Mar, May 1958
Jun 1960	Sep 1961
Sep 1963	Oct 1964
Jan through May 1970	

If you have any of the above, please send them to:

Mirko Vondra
2363 McCleary Drive
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Also, if you have any complete unbound years of SPECIALISTS dating prior to 1981 that you are willing to donate, please send those to the above address.

**THE 20h VALUE OF THE PROTECTORATE
LINDEN LEAVES SET
by RNDr Miroslav Vostatek
Translated by Henry Hahn**

This stamp of the protectorate period was in use from 1939 to 1942. The author of the design was Prof. A. Schaumann and the stamps were printed by gravure (neotype) in sheets of 200 subjects (sheets of 100 were separated by a gutter). Patterns for the printing plates were made from strips of ten (10) enlarged black prints.

It has been true for decades that this stamp was undervalued and did not attract more careful study by collectors. Its method of printing did not give rise to printing faults on a significant scale. On the other hand, one may find some white and red spots and minor printing faults. Significant color shades may also be found. As far as major printing faults in the set are concerned, the Catalog of Bohemia and Moravia¹ notes only two: one in the 10h and one in the 25h value. Another reference² includes a study by Brno's foremost philatelist, František Žampach, concerning faults and retouches in the 10h, 30h, 40h, and 50h values.

Since these stamps remain plentiful and are inexpensive, I found their detailed study feasible. I observed a large number of these stamps, and found a large group of interesting varieties. I must note that I had at my disposal only part-sheets of this stamp. I must also note that I was inspired by František Žampach's publication to complete the study of the entire set. I noted only those items which I found in the given plate position repeatedly. I further repeat the statement by Žampach that some varieties (faults) are repeated in vertical columns beneath one another, though this does not appear regularly.

Plate varieties, description and plate position (PP)
(See Illustrations)

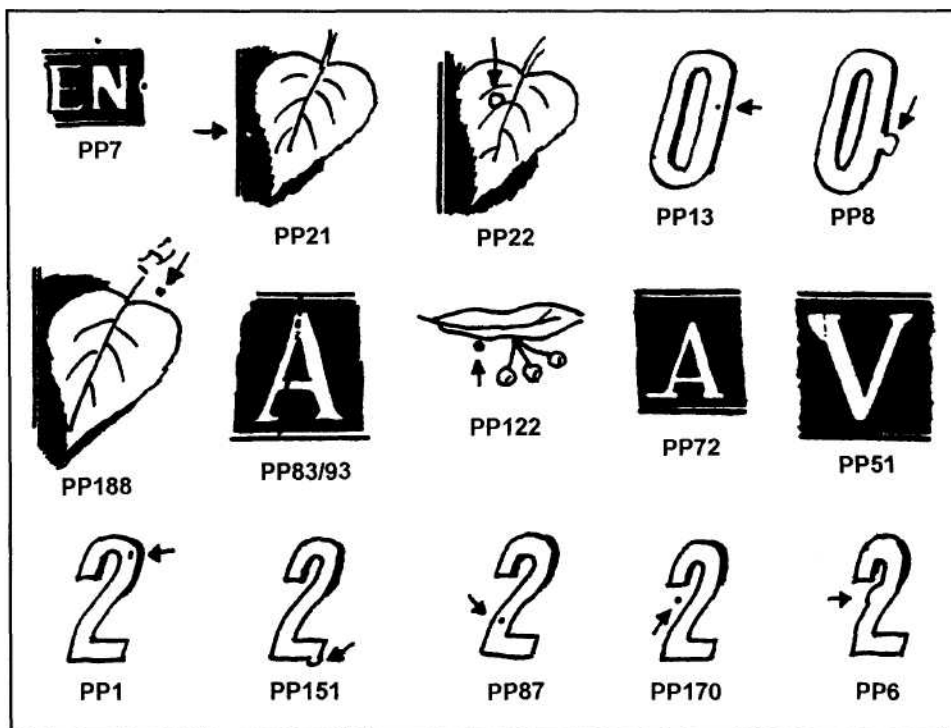
PP 1	Red dot in upper part of numeral "2"
PP 6	Widened "2" in the direction toward the leaf
PP 7	Red dot above "N" in the word Mahren, and right edge near title has an inward semicircle in which a dot is centered. This is repeated in PP 17
PP 8	The numeral "0" has a white dot in the right lower portion in the direction of the letter "h"
PP 13	Red dot in the right portion of the numeral "0". This is repeated in PP 83
PP 21	White dot to the left of the full leaf
PP 22	White spot in the full leaf, and beneath it a red dot
PP 51	The letter "V" in the word Morava has a deformation in the left portion

- PP 72 The letter "A" between Čechy A Morava has an extended left foot
 PP 83 The first letter "A" of Morava has a broken line from its peak down the inner side of the left leg. May be repeated in PP 93
 PP 87 Dot in the numeral "2"
 PP 122 Red mark under leaf with blossom
 PP 151 At the end of the foot of the numeral "2" there is a downward extension
 PP 170 Red dot under the upper ending of the numeral "2"
 PP 188 Red dot above right upper portion of the full leaf

It is easy to believe that there are other plate varieties. I intended however to only list the primary plate varieties which I hope collectors will confirm, but then also to report further ones.

1. Catalogue of Bohemia & Moravia, Slovakia and Sudetenland 1938, FILATELIE - TROJAN Pardubice, 1995, p.18

2. Žampach, Fr., Linden Leaves, issue of 1939/42, Zpravodaj společnosti pro poštovníctví v Českých Zemích, vol. 18/1996, p. 17



Editorial Hinges

MY FIRST EDITORIAL HINGE

Recently I have been waking up in the middle of the night waiting for someone to pinch me. Did I really agree to be editor of the SPECIALIST? My biorhythms (if I believed in such things) and horoscope (if I believed in that either) must have been off the bottom of the page that day. But then I start waking up, and the logic of the situation begins to sink in.

I know quite a bit about all aspects of Czechoslovak philately, I can read and speak Czech moderately well (but can't write worth anything recognizable), after 8 years as treasurer and 4 years as past president I know the Society very well, and, I know where the skeletons are hidden (to stay).

What I don't have is a journalist's or writer's background. So this is where I am really going to need help from all of you.

I need ideas for articles -- NO, I need the articles themselves. But, of course, I am always open to suggestions on articles, on how to make the SPECIALIST better, on what you have seen in other publications that you liked, on what you want changed in the SPECIALIST, etc.

If you find an article in another publication that is worthy of consideration to be republished by us, send me the article (or a copy) and the name, address, and telephone number of the editor. If I agree that it is of value to our membership, I will take the necessary actions to get the permission, original art work, etc.

And write me letters. I like letters. It keeps me in touch with new ideas that have been generated by what you have been reading in past issues. Your letter doesn't have to be a masterpiece -- you are not writing to the President of the USA. I would especially like to hear from the new members. My experience is that these are the people who have "fresh eyes" that can see new ideas and ask good questions.

Now, having just completed putting this issue together, I now know what our previous editor, Mirko Vondra, has been going through for the past 9+ years. It's a lot of work! He built the SPECIALIST from a 12 page publication to the 32 - 36 page "books" that you have become accustomed to recently. Well, I'm sorry, but I don't have yet the expertise or the connections to produce that kind of volume of material. But give me a chance. And also, give me some help.

Finally, and by far most important, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to Mirko for the many, many years of top quality reading enjoyment that we have received while this publication was under his stewardship. Good luck and good health to you and your wife, Anne.

-- Ludvik Z. Svoboda

(P.S. I'm expecting an article from you for the March/April issue.)

Book Review

NEWEST SOCIETY PUBLICATION

Have you ever wondered what some of those abbreviations and acronyms mean in Czech or Slovak catalogs? How about attempting to understand what a variety description says? Or, look up some term in English so you can check what its Czech/Slovak translation might be?

Then you need to get yourself a copy of the newest Society publication: "Glossary of Philatelic Terminology." This is a 128 page manual (pages are 8 1/2 x 11) which provides a tool for English/Czech/Slovak stamp enthusiasts to use and to understand each others philatelic publications and philatelic items. There is a section for Czech/Slovak terms translated into English, and a section which has English into Czech/Slovak.

It is a translated listing of those technical philatelic terms (as well as everyday terms) that would most probably be encountered by a philatelist in examining and attempting to classify a philatelic item.

In order to make the navigation of Czech/Slovak catalogs easier, we have included the side-by-side translations of the Table of Contents, and the Designation and Numbering System of the typical Czech/Slovak catalog. The Designation and Numbering System section defines all the codes, symbols, acronyms, and abbreviations that are used in a typical catalog to describe a particular item, set, series, etc.

There is a Thematic Terms section for those everyday groupings such as colors, months, days of the week, numbers, military terms, continents, and countries.

But best of all, this Glossary is a "living" document. We have deliberately double-spaced all entries so that as new items are brought to our attention as being missing, they can be easily added. Overlooked items that are brought to our attention by users will be periodically published here in the SPECIALIST. Send these items to the Editor.

The Glossary is \$20.00 post paid. It can be ordered from our Book Sales Manager, Ed Lehecka, at 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.



ADVERTISE OUR SOCIETY!!!

If you subscribe to LINN'S STAMP NEWS, then you have an opportunity to advertise our Society -- for FREE!!

When it is time for you to renew your subscription to LINN'S, they will include a form to return for a free one-issue 25 word ad. Indicate that you want the ad to run in Classified Section 180, Philatelic Societies. The suggested ad is:

Society for Czechoslovak Philately, award winning bi-monthly journal, sales circuit, expertising, translations, conventions, auctions, lending library. Write: Tom Cossaboom, POB 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

Letters To The Editor

1. Dear Mirko:

In the Nov/Dec 96 SPECIALIST, I noticed the following items that should be corrected:

Page 4, figure 5: The caption should have read: ". . . Seated: Mrs. Alan Hoover (Annette), Carol Ziegelmeier, Helen . . ."

Page 11, under the Trojan column heading: The "2954" should be "2054".

Page 12, bottom box: The last item under "Number of Lines" should be a "6" instead of a "9".

Yours truly,
Lou Svoboda

2. Dear Lou:

I noticed an error on Page 13 of the Nov/Dec 96 SPECIALIST. The item listed as "A2434 2308" should be changed to read "A2460 2334".

Then, add in the correct A2434 2308 as follows:

A2434 2308 S/S Types I & II: In Type I, the surface area of the Soviet flag in the joint emblem SSSR-BLR is lined with parallel lines. In Type II, the same area is lined with crossing lines (more readily visible in the area of the sickle handle).

Yours truly,
Frank Garancovsky

3. Dear Mirko:

Because you decided to retire as editor of the Czechoslovak SPECIALIST, I would like to add my own personal thanks for your excellent work, which kept this magazine at its high level. On this occasion I wish you, and also your wife, all the best in upcoming years.

Also, I have to comment on an error, which appears in Mr. Van Zanten's article about the Czech virtuoso Frantíšek Ondříček. On page 16 of the Nov/Dec 96 issue, Figure 4, is not the bust of the artist, but rather another famous Czech violinist, Ferdinand Laub (1832-1875). Incidentally, his grave is adjacent to F. Ondříček's in Vyšehrad Cemetery in Prague.

Sincerely yours,
Vladimir (Bubak)

**WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOOD PHILATELIC
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION.**

SLOVAKIA NEW ISSUES SOURCE

by Frank Garancovsky

(Ed. Note: Our member, Frank Garancovsky, went to a lot of time and trouble to get and check out the information that is provided below. He has used it himself, and the system seems to be reliable. But you still need to understand that the arrangement for services is between yourself and the Slovak Postal Administration -- the Society does not necessarily endorse this source over any other.)

**ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL
STATIONERY FROM THE SLOVAK POSTAL AUTHORITIES**

Information and orders may be submitted in the English language to the following address:

Slovenska Filateliska Sluzba
Mamateyova 16, P.O. Box 1
850 05 Bratislava 55
SLOVAKIA

A notation on the lower left of the envelope may expedite the request and identify you as a member of The Society of Czechoslovak Philately:

POZORNOST: Vazena Pani Jana Horvathova
Veduca POFIS u.

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I sent a \$50.00 check. This paid for all postal stationery of 1993 through 1996, plus all stamps of 1996 (that includes singles, sheetlets, and souvenir sheets). In return you will receive a listing of current issues and past issues to 1993. Most items are still available with the possible exception of the six stamp sheetlet of the 8 SK coat of arms issue. Although stamp booklets are not listed, they are available if you request them.

Your only other charges will be the postage and registration fee for each shipment, which may run anywhere from \$3 to \$5 per shipment. For 1996 I received 3 shipments.

**Have you paid your 1997 dues? If not, please do so at once.
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

New Issues

PLAN OF CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS
TO BE ISSUED IN 1997*

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of the Czech Stamp Production	1	3.60
Feb 5	Best Wishes	1	3
Mar 12	Easter	1	3
Mar 12	Nature Conservation: Protected Flora	4	3, 3.60 4, 5
Apr 23	Millennium of the Death of St. Adalbert - sheet of 3 stamps, joint issue with Poland, Hungary, and Germany	1	7
Apr 30	EUROPE - Tales and Legends (sheets of 10)	2	5, 7
May 14	Prague of Rudolf II - Block of 3 diff stamps	3	6,8,10
May 28	For Children - Characters from Children's Bedtime Television Cartoons	1	3.60
Jun 25	Beauties of our Country: Jewish Monuments in Prague (sheets of 8)	2	8, 10
Jun 25	Anniversaries of Personalities: František Křižík 1847-1941	1	6
Aug 27	European Championship in Swimming and Diving	1	3.60
Sep 10	Czech Cartoon Humour: Fortunes of the Good Soldier Švejk illustrated by Josef Lada	3	3, 3.60 4
Oct 8	Historic Service Vehicles	3	3.60, 4 5
Nov 12	Works of Art on Stamps (sheets of 4) - Antonín Chittussi 1847-1891 - T. F. Šimon 1877-1942 - František Bílek 1872-1941	3	7 10 12
Nov 12	Christmas	1	3

* This list is not definitive and is subject to change. Usually additional issues are announced or some different issue dates occur during the course of the year.

For this entire year's issues, there will be an individual First Day Cover (FDC) for each individual stamp. If there are 3 stamps in a set, then there will be 3 FDC's.

SLOVAKIA

1. On June 14, 1996, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 6Sk commemorative stamp for the town of Senica. The issue depicts the town's coat of arms against a wavy decorative background standing above a horizontal banner with the name "SENICA". The coat of arms contains a long haired warrior holding a sword across his middle (Fig. 1). The design and engraving was by František Horniak. Rotary recess printing was employed (deep blue), combined with recess printing (red and yellow) in sheets of 100. The information on the FDC is not yet available. Senica is on Route 51, about 42km north of Trnava and 29km south of Hodonin.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

2. On July 16, 1996, the Ministry issued a set of three stamps in the "Nature Protection" series. Each stamp carries a value of 4Sk, and all three are vertical. The stamps depict the Tatra chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra tatrica*), the European bison (*Bison bonasus*) and the mouflon (*Ovis musimon*) (Fig. 2). The design of the

issue was by Vladimír Machaj, the engravings (from drawings by Martin Činovský) are by Rudolf Cigánik, Martin Činovský and František Horniak. Rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing was used in sheets of 50. The information on the FDC is not yet available.

3. On September 25, 1996, the Ministry issued a set of three further stamps in the "Splendors of our Homeland" series. This time the subjects to be depicted were mountain lakes (Fig. 3). The designer of this set was Karol Felix. The engravings (done from drawings by Martin Činovský) were done by František Horniak, Martin Činovský and Rudolf Cigánik. All stamps are vertical and multicolored; they are printed in sheets of 50.

- 4Sk: This stamp depicts the Popradské pleso (lake). The lake is situated at an altitude of approximately 4,993 feet. On the bank of the lake is a tourist hostel backed by a stand of tall fir trees. The FDC shows a motif of a symbolic cemetery in deep brown. Engraving was done by František Horniak.



Fig. 3

- 12Sk: This one depicts the Štrbské pleso at an altitude of approximately 4,430 feet. This Alpine lake has an area of some 41 acres. Nearby is the highest village in Slovakia (named Štrbské Pleso) which is the Tatra Mountain's main ski resort. On the slopes of the mountains can be seen a ski jump tower. The FDC has the legend "Štrbské Pleso" in black/green; the FDC is engraved by Rudolf Cigánek. Reference should also be drawn to the 1958 issue, Scott #866, denominated 1.20Kčs, of the former Czechoslovakia.

- 8Sk: This one depicts the Skalnaté pleso which is at an altitude of approximately 5,256 feet. The lake is surrounded by large boulders; several boulders can be seen sticking up out of the middle of the lake. The FDC has the legend "Tatranská Lomnica" in blue/pink. The engraving was by Martin Činovský.

4. On October 5, 1996, the Ministry issued a 14Sk stamp in the "Art" series. This design was a three-way joint issue by Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Sweden to honor artist Endre Nemes. This artist had connections with all three countries: he grew up in Slovakia, studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, and lived in Sweden from 1940 to his death in 1985. Nemes was born in Hungary in 1909. All three stamps reproduce his 1941 painting "Baroque Chair", which is in the Museum of Modern Art in Stockholm, Sweden (Fig. 4). Below the picture image is the legend: "BAROQUE CHAIR, 1941, ENDRE NEMES 1909-1985, MUSEUM OF MODERN ART STOCKHOLM". The Post Printing House in Prague printed the 14Sk Slovak stamp (as well as the 20kč Czech Republic version).



Fig. 4

The design was by Martin Činovský, with engraving by Václav Fajt. Both stamps are printed in sheets of four with a detail from his painting "Supervisor" in the border as well as a facsimile of his signature. The Slovakia FDC depicts a drawing "SOCIETY" by Nemes. (NOTE: The new-issue announcement from Sweden Post Stamps explained the painting's significance: "The BAROQUE CHAIR from

1941 was his first notable work in Sweden. His intention was to dissect the world situation during the Second World War, seen from the neutral Swedish perspective. A pike is swimming around greedily in the seat with an ignored fishing float close by, while the Royal Palace is basking in the afternoon sunshine." Sweden Post Stamps printed the 6-krona Swedish stamp in coils.) (*Editor's Note: Much of the above information was provided through the World of New Issues column of Linn's Stamp News, November 25, 1996.*)



Fig. 5

5. On October 5, 1996, the Ministry issued a 10Sk stamp in the "Art" series. This design was a commemorative stamp showing a sculpture entitled "Suppressed Laughter" by Franz Xaver Messerschmidt (Fig. 5). Below the image of the sculpture is the legend: "SUPPRESSED LAUGHTER, F. X. MESSERSCHMIDT (1736-1783), SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY". Graphic artist for this stamp is Martin Činovský, with engraving by Bohumil Šneider. This multicolored stamp was produced by 3-color recess printing from flat plates in sheets of four stamps and two blank labels. The FDC reproduces Messerschmidt's work: "The Most Pervasive Smell", while the commemorative cancellation depicts the sculpture "Second Bird's Head" in black/gold.



Fig. 6

6. On October 15, 1996, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps to commemorate events considered to be "Technological Monuments" (Fig. 6). Both stamps were designed and engraved by Martin Činovský.

- **4Sk**: This stamp celebrates the Bratislava - Trnava horse drawn railway (1840-1872). It depicts the

horse-drawn carriage below two separate buildings (probably the two railway stations). The FDC shows the equipment that was used in dark brown.

- **6Sk**: This stamp celebrates the aircraft developed by Andrej Kvasz (1883-1974). The issue depicts two views of his Type VI aircraft design. The FDC shows Andrej Kvasz in dark blue.

7. On November 5, 1996, the Ministry issued a multicolored 2Sk stamp to celebrate

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Christmas. The stamp depicts a fanciful scene in a wintry Kysuce village (Fig. 7). Shown are a villager with a cat-faced hood and heart bow tie, a woman with a black-cat skirt, another with a snow man in her back pack, and a three winged owl. This issue was produced in sheets of fifty stamps. The graphic artist was Ondrej Zimka, with engraving by Martin Činovský. The FDC shows Christmas motifs in deep blue.



Fig. 7

8. On November 13, 1996, the Ministry issued a 7Sk stamp in the "Art" series. The stamp depicts a work entitled "Queen Ntombi Twala 1985" by Andy Warhol (Fig. 8). Below the picture image of this multicolored stamp is the legend: "QUEEN NTOMBI TWALA 1985, ANDY WARHOL (1928-1987), WARHOL FAMILY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, MEDZILABORCE". Graphic artist was Martin Činovský, with engraving by Miloš Ondráček. It was a 5 colour recess printing from flat plates in sheets of four and two blank tabs. The FDC reproduces the work "Flowers" (a colour serigraph from 1974) in black and yellow. The colour print was made by an adaptation of the silk-screen process. (NOTE: Andy Warhol was born on August 6, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as Andrej Varchola. His parents came from near Medzilaborce in the far north east of Slovakia. Warhol never acknowledged his roots, he used to joke: "I came from nowhere". The Warhol Family Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce was founded in 1987 after Warhol's death by his US and Slovak relatives - in particular his brother John. There are at least 17 Warhol paintings to be seen. Andy died during an operation on the 22nd of February 1987. His famous prediction was that in the future, "Everyone will be famous for 15 minutes".)



Fig. 8

QUEEN NTOMBI TWALA 1985, ANDY WARHOL (1928-1987), WARHOL FAMILY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, MEDZILABORCE". Graphic artist was Martin Činovský, with engraving by Miloš Ondráček. It was a 5 colour recess printing from flat plates in sheets of four and two blank tabs. The FDC reproduces the work "Flowers" (a colour serigraph from 1974) in black and yellow. The colour print was made by an adaptation of the silk-screen process. (NOTE: Andy Warhol was born on August 6, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as Andrej Varchola. His parents came from near Medzilaborce in the far north east of Slovakia. Warhol never acknowledged his roots, he used to joke: "I came from nowhere". The Warhol Family Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce was founded in 1987 after Warhol's death by his US and Slovak relatives - in particular his brother John. There are at least 17 Warhol paintings to be seen. Andy died

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