



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1998

No. 5, Whole No. 551

SOCIETY MAIL AUCTION

by Ludvik Svoboda

At the board meeting conducted in conjunction with NOJEX (May 22, 1998), the Society Board of Directors approved the concept of a Society mail auction. The primary function of the auction would be to provide Society members or their descendants with a means to sell excess materials without having them circulated through the mails in the Society circuit.

In order for this concept to be put into operation, we need an Auction Manager (AM) and an Auction Administrator (AA).

While the AM would have overall responsibility for the mail auction, this person would share the workload with the AA -- who would perform the paperwork aspects of this concept, i.e., receive and keep track of all the bids, determine the winning bids, and send out the bills. The AM would originally receive the lots, see that they are properly described, receive the payments, and mail out the lots to the winning bidders.

We already have someone that has agreed to be the AA, we still need someone to be the AM. If you feel that you might be able to assist the Society by performing this vital function and would like more information, please contact our president, Jaroslav Verner, or me.

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**POSTAL OPERATIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC
AFTER THE BREAKUP OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA**
by Lubor Kunc

The political situation in Czechoslovakia after the 1992 elections moved towards the breakup of the state and the establishment of two new republics: the Czech Republic (ČR) and the Slovak Republic. During the political negotiations in August 1992 it was agreed that Czechoslovakia would end its existence on December 31, 1992 and that the two new states would arise on January 1, 1993.



Fig. 1

In Figure 1 you can see a letter mailed on the last day of the Czechoslovak state, December 31, 1992. Figure 2 shows one of the 3 different covers -- only sold at Prague Castle on January 1, 1993 -- issued by the Czech postal service in honor of the establishment of the ČR. The three covers are basically the same except for the stamps on them. One of them was issued in such a limited quantity that although I was at Prague Castle on January 1, 1993, I didn't get it; it was already sold out, and I have not been able to find it on the market in 5 years of looking.

The normal covers mailed on that first day of the new state (January 1, 1993) are more interesting. One of them can be seen in Figure 3.

Of course, the validity of all Czechoslovak stamps, coins, banknotes and other valuables which were valid in Czechoslovakia on December 31, 1992, continued in use in the ČR. It was anticipated that when the new respective currencies were issued, the Czech currency would be in a better position than the Slovak currency. As a result, in January 1993 the Slovak people and companies began transferring as many Czechoslovak crowns as possible to the ČR. The new currencies for both republics were established on February 8, 1993. On the same date the Czechoslovak

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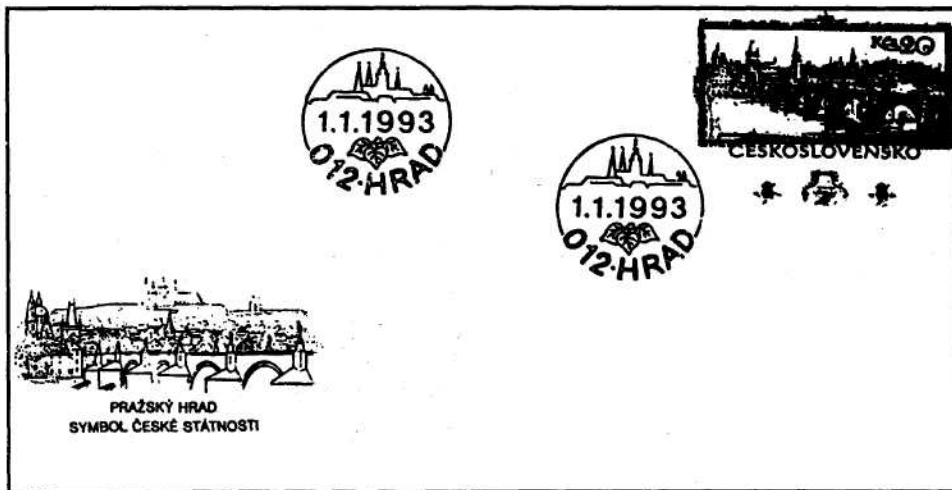


Fig. 2

banknotes with face values of 100, 500 and 1,000 Czechoslovak Crowns (Kčs) were provided with special stamps (Fig. 4) -- issued by the Czech National Bank -- to mark the currency floating in the ČR and to forestall as much as possible the further re-deployment of Czechoslovak currency from Slovakia to the ČR (similar stamps were issued in Slovakia but also for banknotes of lower face values, Fig. 5). Thus, on this date the "unstamped" Czechoslovak notes were no longer valid in the ČR. Czechoslovak "Kčs" coins continued in use but had to be converted to Czech "Kč" coins during the year in the rate of 1 Kčs = 1 Kč. The tumultuous nature of the time

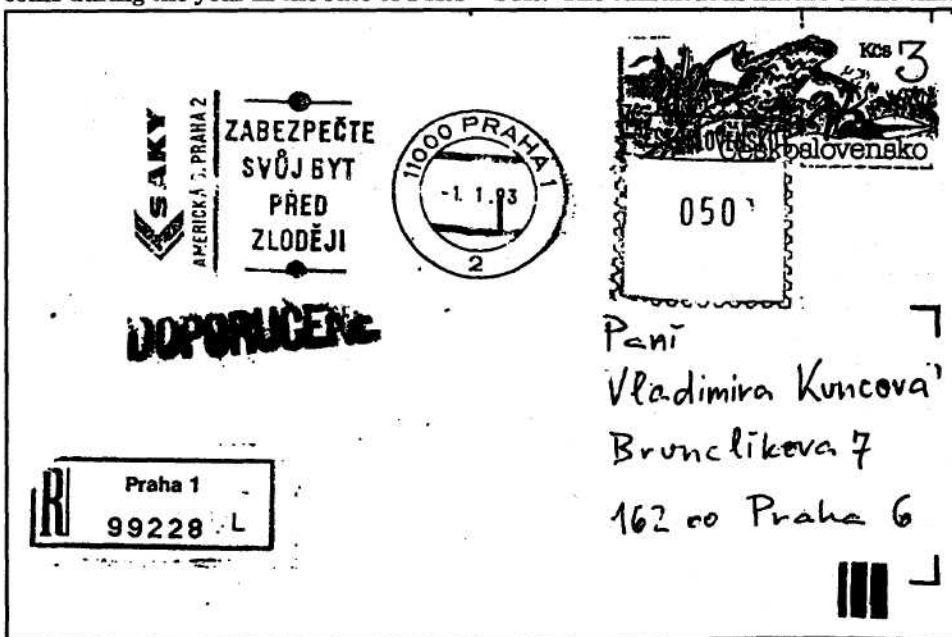


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

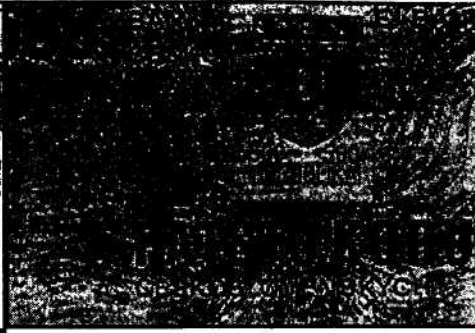


Fig. 5

can be noted in the fact that all Slovak Republic postage stamps issued in 1993 do not bear the name of the currency.

During the period of January 1, 1993 - January 19, 1993, only Czechoslovak stamps were valid in the ČR; this validity ended on September 30, 1993. The first ČR postal stamp was issued on January 20, 1993 (Fig. 6).

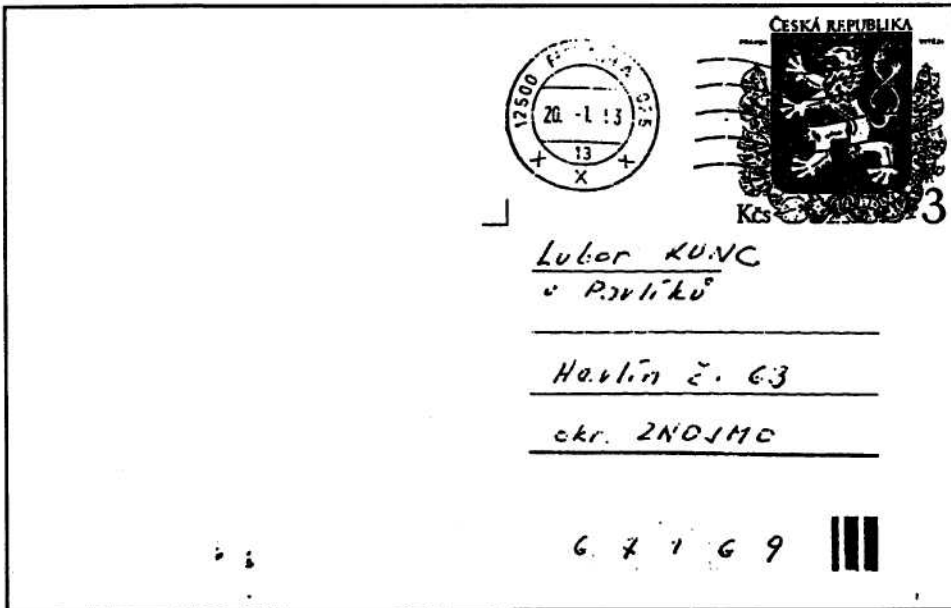


Fig. 6

During the period January 20, 1993 - September 30, 1993, the following Czechoslovak and ČR stamps could be used in mixed franking or as single franking:

- the Czechoslovak ones issued from June 19, 1953 to December 18, 1992 -- a total of 2,350 different stamps, but not the postage due, official, newspaper, personal delivery or special delivery stamps.

- the ČR stamps issued from January 20, 1993 to August 26, 1993 -- a total of 22 different stamps.

An example of this mixed franking is in Figure 7.

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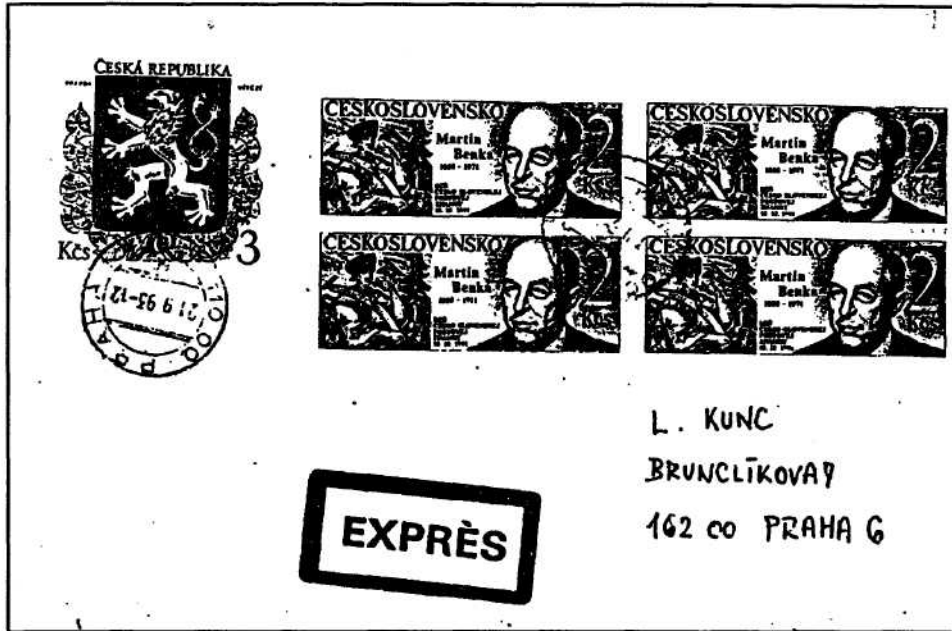


Fig. 7

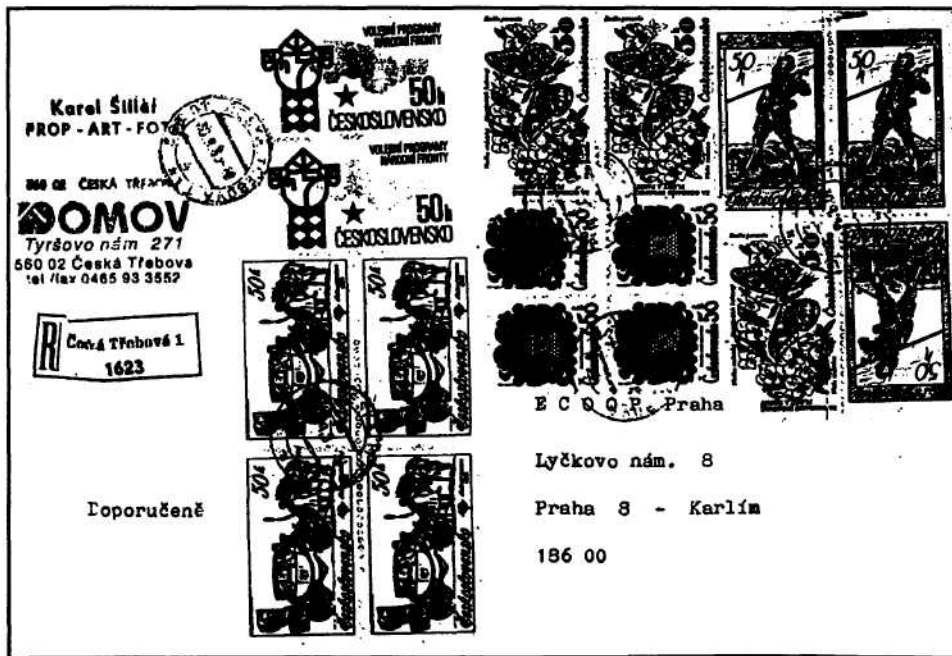


Fig. 8

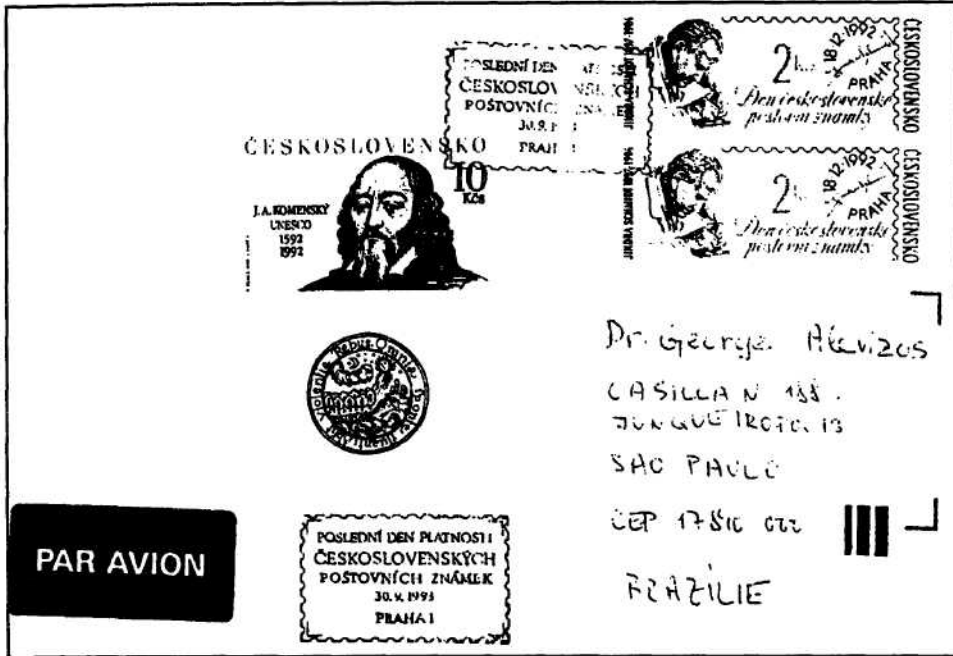


Fig. 9

These were the only mixed frankings that were sanctioned by the ČR postal authorities although combinations involving ČR and other Czechoslovak stamps as well as with other state's stamps (including with Slovak stamps) did manage to get



Fig. 10

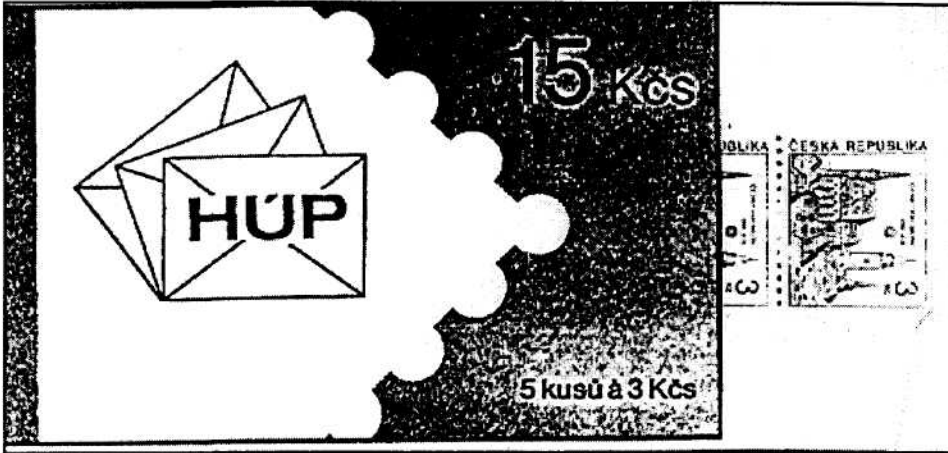


Fig. 11

through the posts. These of course were not created by the postal authorities, but rather by stamp "collectors".

In Figure 8 we see a business letter mailed on the last day of the validity of Czechoslovak stamps (September 30, 1993). In fact, the CR postal service prepared a special cancel for the end of the use of Czechoslovak stamps (Fig. 9).

Sometimes it is possible to find a letter franked with Czechoslovak stamps after September 30, 1993 (Fig. 10). As you can see, such frankings were not accepted by the postal service.

Because of the almost two month period at the beginning of 1993 when the Czechoslovak currency was still being used, the first two CR stamps (State Emblem

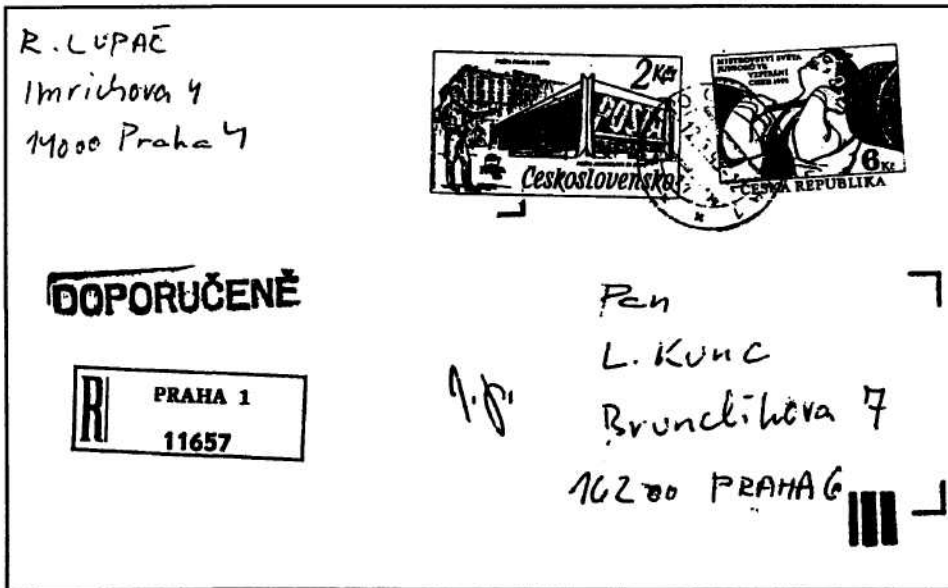


Fig. 12

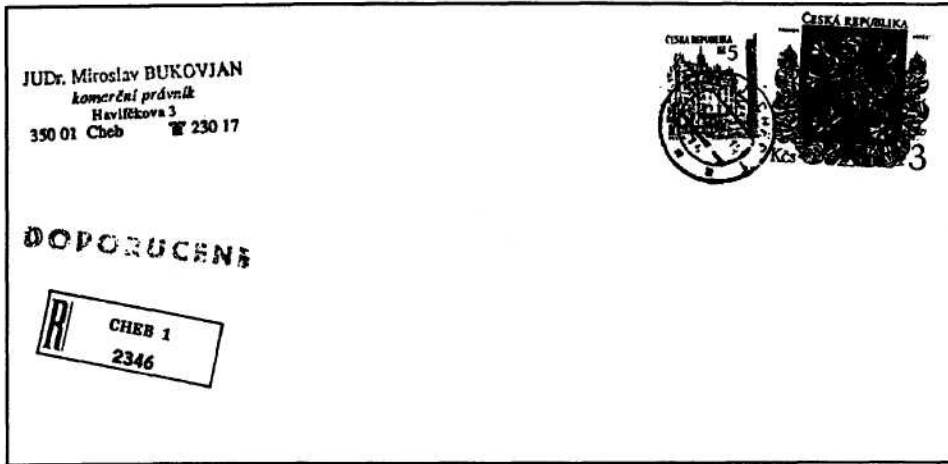


Fig. 13

and World Championship in Figure Skating) were issued with their face values in Czechoslovak Crowns (Kčs). All the other ČR stamps have been issued in ČR Crowns (Kč). A nice example of using both currencies is a booklet shown in Figure 11. Its wrapping bears a price in Czechoslovak Crowns while inside it contains 5 stamps from the City Architecture series having a face value in ČR Crowns.

With respect to the use of two currencies in the ČR, it is possible to identify some interesting variations of frankings on covers:

-- both Czechoslovak and ČR stamps being valued in Czechoslovak Crowns (Kčs) (Fig. 7)

-- a Czechoslovak stamp is valued in Czechoslovak Crowns and the ČR stamp is in ČR Crowns (Kč) (Fig. 12)

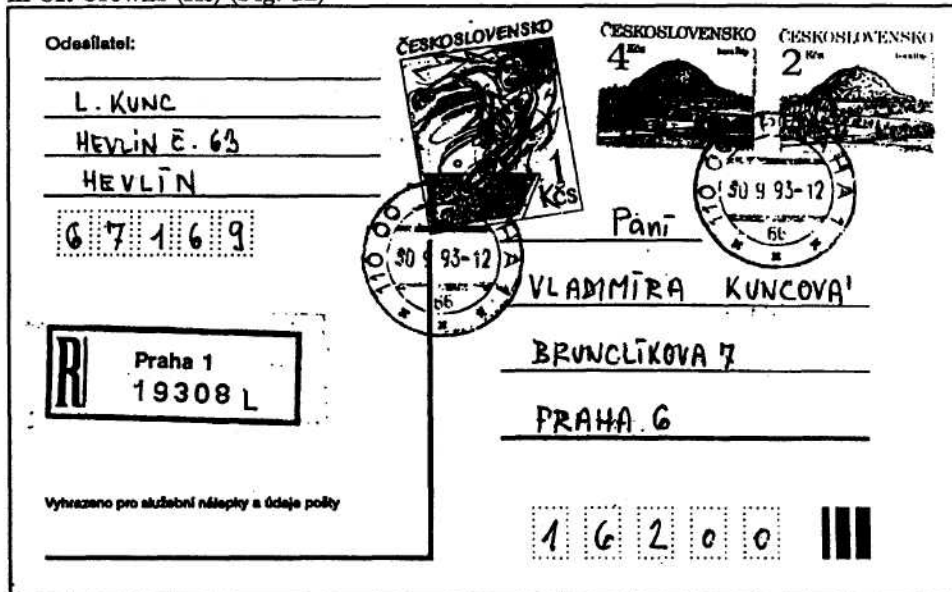


Fig. 14

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-- a ČR stamp is valued in Czechoslovak Crowns and the other ČR stamp is valued in ČR Crowns (Fig. 13).

Another interesting area from this period involves postal stationery. The Czechoslovak postal stationery issued after June 18, 1953, was valid in the ČR (Fig. 14). The validity of these -- as with Czechoslovak stamps -- expired on September 30, 1993. Mixed frankings between Czechoslovak postal stationery and ČR stamps are known.

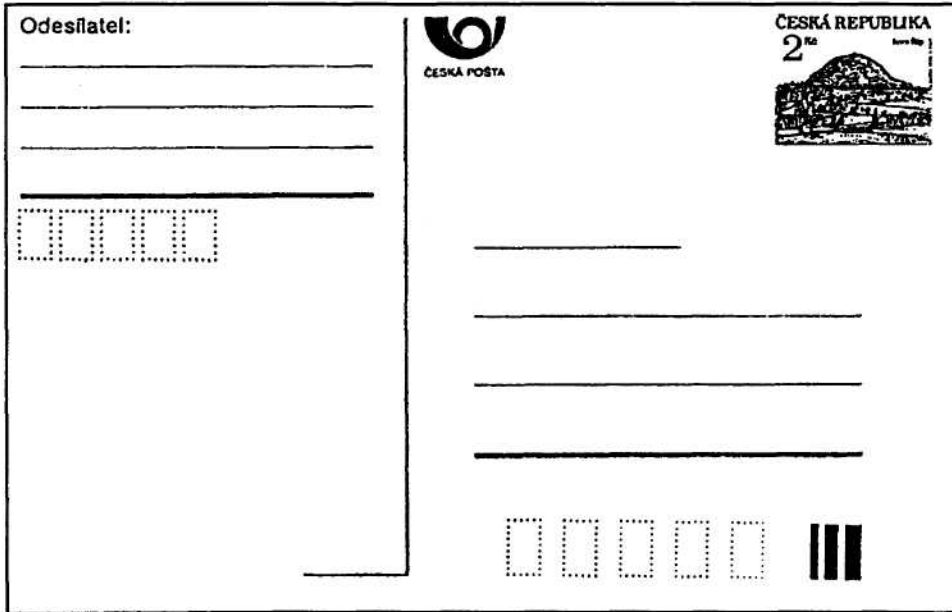


Fig. 15

The first two ČR postal stationery cards were issued on August 3, 1993 (ex. Fig. 15). Thanks to their late date of issue, mixed frankings between them and Czechoslovak stamps are not often to be found. A few examples have been shown in *SPECIALIST* articles by Mr. Hahn¹ and Mr. Tacheci².

A special kind of postal stationery is represented by return receipt cards. In Figures 16 and 17, two international return receipt cards are pictured. The one shown in Figure 16 was used in January 1995. As can be seen, this card comes from Czechoslovakia during communist times -- it bears the state name "Czechoslovak Socialist Republic". However, I bought this card at the Main Post Office in Prague in January 1995.

Figure 17 shows a return receipt card bought at the same main post office in February 1995. This card was issued in the ČR as the state name "Czech Republic" demonstrates.

Based on these two cards we can deduce that the validity of return receipt cards didn't expire on September 30, 1993, as did all other Czechoslovak postal items. The old cards were used while their supply lasted.

In closing, I would like to draw your attention to the meter cancels in the ČR. Figure 18 shows a letter franked with the ČR stamp in honor of St. John of Nepomuk (on its first day of issue) upfranked with a meter cancel with state name

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE TCHÉCOSLOVAQUE

AVIS de réception (de paiement) d'inscription
DORUČENKA **C5**

Service des postes
Timbre du bureau
renvoyant l'avis
Razítko pošty, které
doručenkou vrací zpět

A remplir par le bureau d'origine
Vyplní podací pošta
Bureau de dépôt - Podací pošta

No - Císlo
11-063
Date de dépôt
Den podání
17.09.78

A renvoyer par la voie la plus
rapide (aérienne ou de surface),
à découvert et en franchise de
port.

Vrátit nejrychlejší cestou
(letadkou nebo pozemně), volně
a bez poplatků.

Envoyé à (à remplir par l'expéditeur)
Vrátit do (vyplní odesílatel)

Nom ou raison sociale - Jméno nebo podnik
LUBOR KUNC

Rue et no - Ulice a číslo
BRUNCLÍKOVÁ 7

Localité - Město
162 00 PRAGUE 6

Pays - Země
CZECH REPUBLIC / EUROPE

11-063 (II-1988) MTR-0 11 88-707001 G

Fig. 16

"Czechoslovakia". The first definitive meter cancels with state name "Czech Republic" (Fig. 19) were used in January 1993. But these were the exception, since the majority of the meter cancelers were modified throughout the year running from February through December.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

AVIS de réception (de paiement) d'inscription
DORUČENKA **C5**

Service des postes
Timbre du bureau
renvoyant l'avis
Razítko pošty, které
doručenkou vrací zpět

A remplir par le bureau d'origine
Vyplní podací pošta
Bureau de dépôt - Podací pošta

No - Císlo
30061
Date de dépôt
Den podání
17.09.78

A renvoyer par la voie la plus
rapide (aérienne ou de surface),
à découvert et en franchise de
port.

Vrátit nejrychlejší cestou
(letadkou nebo pozemně), volně
a bez poplatků.

Envoyé à (à remplir par l'expéditeur)
Vrátit do (vyplní odesílatel)

Nom ou raison sociale - Jméno nebo podnik
LUBOR KUNC

Rue et no - Ulice a číslo
BRUNCLÍKOVÁ 7

Localité - Město
162 00 PRAGUE 6

Pays - Země
CZECH REPUBLIC

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

MORIYAMA
12.05.82
JAPAN

11-063 (IV-83) B. N. B. 1214 83

Fig. 17

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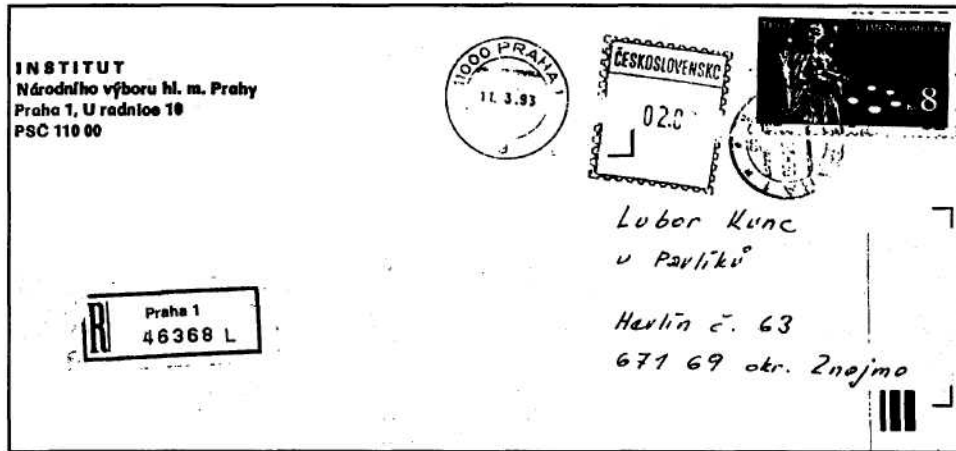


Fig. 18

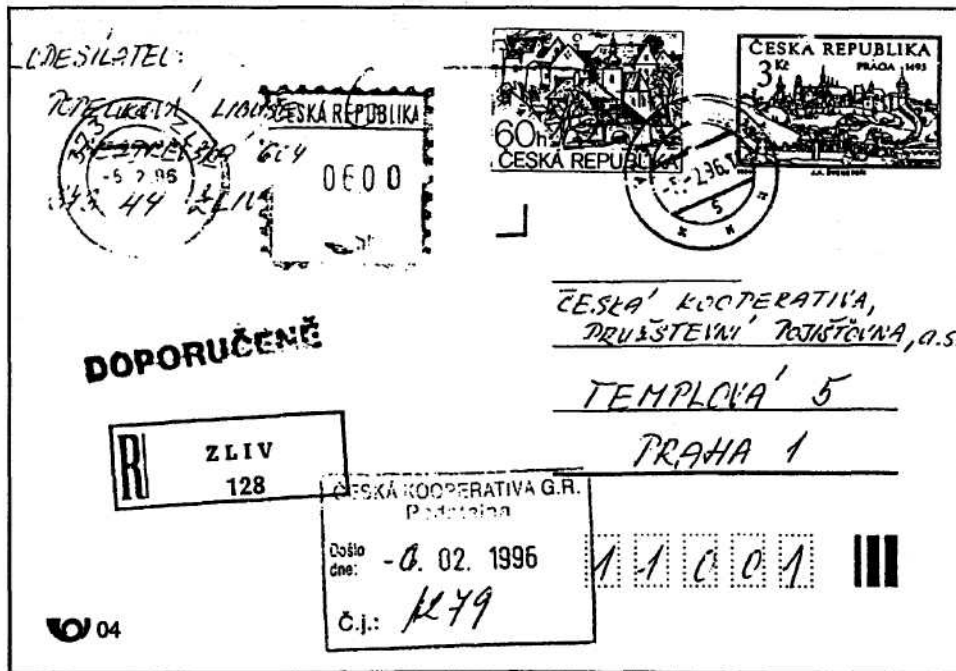


Fig. 19

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1. Hahn H, "Marking the End of Postal Validity", *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, Vol. 56, No. 1, Jan/Feb 1994
2. Tacheci A, "Postal Stationery of 1993", *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, Vol. 56, No. 3, May/June 1994
3. POFIS, ČESKOSLOVENSKO, POFIS Praha, 1997

THE 1944 CHUST OVERPRINT

by Karel Holoubek
trans by Savoy Horvath

Europe in the fall of 1944 was tormented by the events of war, but was also looking forward with great optimism to the end of the occupation of the Nazi empire. Already the allies had Germany surrounded. Then, on October 27, 1944, Carpatho-Ukraine became the first region of Czechoslovakia to be liberated.

The Czechoslovak government in exile, recognized by the allies as the only legal representative of its people, decided at that time to send a mission to the Carpatho-Ukraine area to establish a civil administration in the newly liberated land. That of course was possible only with the full understanding and permission of the Soviet authorities and their military commands. At that time the Soviet Union still stood with the Western Powers guaranteeing Czechoslovak sovereignty. This meant that after the war Czechoslovakia would retain the same lands that it had held in 1937 before the Munich dictate (Fig. 1). The legal premise for this was included in a treaty signed with the USSR on July 8, 1941.

The Czechoslovak mission (which was headed by minister František Němec) had Dr. Krudský as the official in charge of telecommunications and posts. He very actively fulfilled his duties and took care of everything necessary to renew the

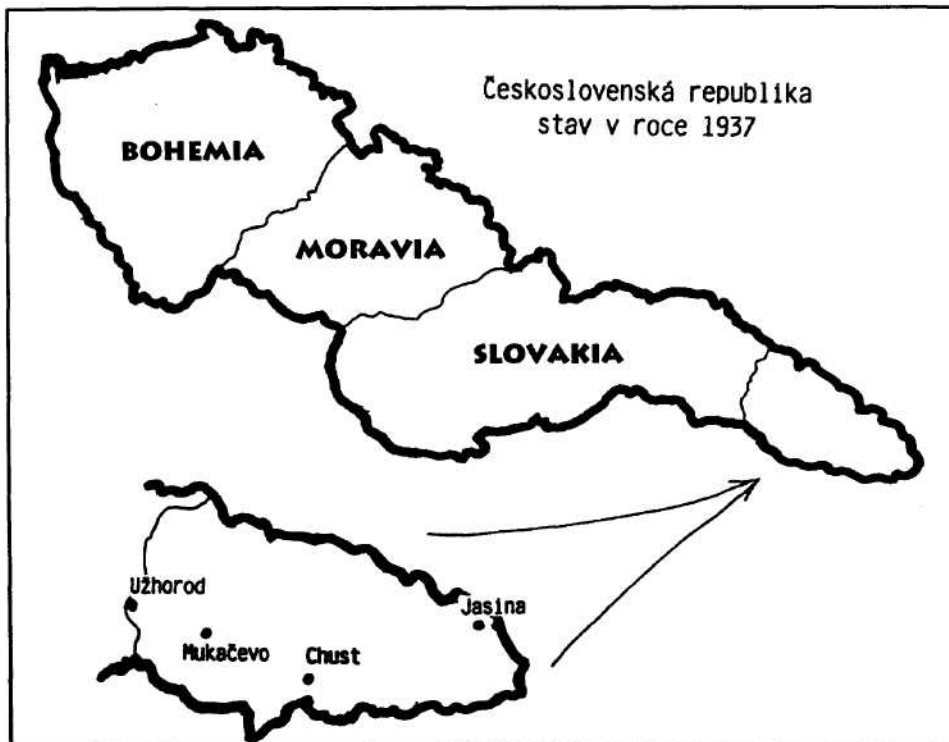


Fig. 1

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relations between the government delegation and the recovered territories. He took care of not just transportation, but also postal services, and the telegraph and telephone systems. In order for the Postal Service to operate, postage stamps and cancelers were needed. However, only Hungarian stamps and cancelers were on hand^{1,2}.

This is why on November 11, 1944, a new directive was put out ordering the interim use of the Hungarian stamps for overprinting and issuance³. The decision was to use as the overprint the three letters "ČSP" (Československá Pošta) and under them in a second line the year designation "•1944•". The numbers were to be smaller in size than the letters and were to have a dot before and after the year (Fig. 2).

The overprinting was accomplished by hand. The metal cancel was made by a local engraver and canceling device manufacturer named Izak. Flat black ink was used for overprinting 28 different definitive stamps, 10 postage dues, and also 2 postal cards³. The postage stamps for this undertaking were brought in to Chust from the surrounding post offices. The overprinting was done by postal clerk Michal Pilip under the supervision of postal director Michal Fedeles and one other unnamed postal official. On



Fig. 2

December 4, 1944, the postal director signed and issued Protocol č.j.97/1944 on the basis of which these overprinted stamps were issued for circulation. The wartime events and winter weather did nothing to speed the postal implementation of this protocol; nevertheless the overprints were put into normal use.

Even though the Soviet authorities went along with the Czechoslovak mission to Carpatho-Ukraine, their interests were aimed in another direction. Thus, a congress of delegates of the National Committee met on November 26, 1944 and requested the annexation of this territory to the Soviet Union. This kind of action -- under the then current wartime conditions -- would certainly never have been possible without the agreement and support of the Soviets!

Thus these overprinted stamps were the first post World War II Czechoslovak issues. The overprints were created and placed into use based upon a regulation authorized by an organ of the Czechoslovak government. That is why this overprint should be introduced in postal catalogs before the Košice issue⁴ which did not come out until March 26, 1945. By then the Chust overprint had been removed from sale and was no longer valid. The official character of the overprint was further confirmed by another member of the governmental delegation -- Dr. A. Pražákem⁶. The Communist regime that ruled Czechoslovakia had no interest in seeing that these circumstances be made public. Thus, if the Chust overprint ever did appear in any stamp catalog, it had to be listed as a private issue. Even in today's Czech Republic the TROJAN catalog⁴ lists it as a private overprint issue, and POFIS⁵ does not list it at all. But surely today we can tell the truth and designate this overprint as an official issue!


From the very beginning Czechoslovak collectors showed a great deal of interest in these stamps. Because of this, forgeries were soon discovered -- eventually a total of four were identified. All were well written up in many articles, so there is no danger of informed collectors getting hurt².

Additional overprints and stamps were issued in Subcarpathian Russia--whose name changed to Carpatho-Ukraine just prior to the conclusion of its existence. This was still during the period when this territory was a de jure component of Czechoslovakia, i.e., before June 29, 1945 and November 1945, respectively⁷. Of course, to set down the actual and legal relationships of the establishment of these issues is more difficult.

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2. Blaha, Miroslav: "Zakarpatsko", *Filatelistické Příručky*, No. 20, ŠVF, Praha 1990
3. *Filatelie*, 1966, No. 19-21, (copy of the overprints directive)
1972, No. 15-17
1976, No. 24
Ukrainian Philatelist, 1978, No. 41
4. TROJAN: Katalog Československo 1918-1992, Česká Republika 1993-1994, Praha April 1994
TROJAN: Katalog Československo 1918-1992, Česká Republika 1993-1996, Slovenský Republika 1993-1996
5. POFIS: Československo 1945-1992, Specializovaný Katalog 1997, Praha 1997
6. *Zpravodaj Naší Filatelie*: Vol. I, No. 6, April 20, 1946
7. Soviet/Czechoslovak treaty on Carpatho-Ukraine from 29 June 1945, which was ratified by the Czechoslovak National Assembly on November 22, 1945, and was ratified by the Highest SSSR Soviet on 27 November 1945. With these actions the surrender of this territory gained legal status.

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HRADČANY 15h - WHAT'S THE SHADE?

By Pavel Pittermann
translated/supplemented by
Henry Hahn

Note: Ing. Pavel Pitterman currently serves as Chairman of the commission of Experts and expertises for the Union of Czech Philatelists. He also serves as court expert in assessing genuineness and quality of stamps, valuation and specialization. He is a member of A.I.E.P. and A.I.J.P., member of ArGe Tschechoslowakei (Germany) and a member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

On a blustery January evening, President of the SCP, Jaroslav Verner, paid me a visit. He left with me a group of 15h Hradčany stamps -- belonging to him and Henry Hahn -- with a request that I provide clear instructions on how to differentiate between each of the shades. And, he gave me three days to do the job!

Well, on with the assignment. Mainly older collectors will recall that identification of shades in Hradčany stamps was once a very popular activity, and that shades were published in catalogues non-uniformly, in outlandish terminology, causing great confusion. The names of the shades were subject to the authors poetic imagination, rather than objective observation. This finally led post-war authors to reducing the number of published shades, with the assumption that collectors will themselves designate any shade color they desire. This, in itself, would not be bad, were it not for some of the shades to be extremely rare, putting an undue financial burden on collectors and thus requiring scientific identification and sorting.

A typical example of this is our 15h Hradčany stamp. The first attempt at serious identification of shades is still in the unsurpassed Monografie, Vol I by Kubat. This reference presents four basic shades on page 190: vermilion-red, brown-red, brick-red, and carmine-red. Aside from the somewhat incorrect terminology, we find that F. Kubat -- for the first time -- presented the four basic shades that remain in use to this day. Attempts at more precise terminology continued after publication of the Monografie, culminating in the publication of the Specialized Catalogue PRAGA 1978 and the Specialized Handbook PRAGA 1988. Both of these publications utilized terminology which agreed with the official color terminology defined and given in the official colorific literature and in contemporary applicable specifications. It is important to note that the names of the basic colors are defined for observation in daylight and in comparison with color charts, which we will discuss toward the end of this paper. At the same time, combined names of colors include the first part, which is the shade modifier and the second part, which pertains to the basic color (so that brownred signifies basic red color with brownish shading, when observed in daylight).

With the entry of photo luminescent lighting into the area of philately, color description changed, which was often correct in terms of terminology, but was often the result of subjective observation. This unfortunately led to certain mystification when entered into catalogues, particularly if it wasn't noted that the

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color applies only to observation under ultraviolet (UV) light. This applies particularly to the 15h stamp. An example of this is based on observations made by our experts between the World Wars, who discovered the so called brown-red 15h stamp, defining this shade as observed under photo luminescent light. In daylight this shade exhibits precisely the opposite shade, i.e., redbrown, both subjectively and in comparison with current color charts. For decades, this stamp was described in catalogues as brownred, taken from the original observations under photo luminescent light. To further complicate the situation, we must add that later discovered stamps -- that under photo luminescent light have the same color as the earlier discovery, i.e., brownred -- also appear in daylight as brownred. It was only the chase after the rare shade as observed under photo luminescent light that collectors overlooked the existence of the even rarer shades, observable in daylight. This even rarer shade was often classified as a trial printing due to the absence of a sufficient number of postally used examples. Such were eventually discovered, and we today include this rarity, primarily among postally used copies.

A separate issue consists of yet another color shade, whose color is carminered, observed thus far primarily in postally used copies, and only uniquely in mint copies. This shade is easy to identify, primarily due to its similarity to the carmine 20h stamp, so that its identification should not cause difficulty even to less experienced collectors. Including this shade, we arrive back at the conclusion reached by Kubat, who distinguished four shades in the 15h Hradčany stamp. Let us summarize the official terminology, giving daylight color followed by color under photo luminescent light in parentheses: 1. Orangered (under UV - bright shining orange), 2. Redbrown (under UV - brownred to brown), 3. Brownred (under UV - brownred to brown), and finally, 4. Carminered (under UV- densely carmine). But the problem is still far from solved.

The current problem is the cataloging, in particular how they are described in current catalogues. In particular, the Specialized Handbook and Specialized Catalogue distinguish the stamps in accordance with the previous paragraph with shade order numbers 1 and 2. The most recent issue of the TROJAN catalogue includes shade category 3 and does that using the terminology redbrown instead of brownred. It also explains why this terminology is used. As for the caminered shade, due to its scarcity, it is generally not listed in catalogues issued during the period of the First Republic.

Hence the correct cataloging, such as evidenced by the Society of Collectors of Czech Stamps within the Union of Czech Philatelists and as presented in the Addendum to the Specialized Handbook should be as follows (aside for the spiral types, which are readily identifiable):

15h orangered	stamp with sequence (shade) number 1
a. brownred	stamp with sequence (shade) number 2
b. redbrown	stamp with sequence (shade) number 3
c. carmine	stamp with sequence (shade) number 4

Oops! What is the author thinking! Line 2 and line 3 are reversed!

Yes, the careful reader must curse us. He is right -- but not completely. A catalogue must be accurate, but must also respect the usages and customs of its

predecessors. In our case we are concerned with the fact that thousands of stamps were marked by experts based on observation under UV lamps. Though we know today that this procedure is incorrect, we also recognize the absurdity of having to re-annotate nearly all these stamps from brownred to redbrown. Our mutual friend, Ing. Jan Karasek, in the fifth number of Merkur Revue of 1996, contemplated how to correct the present situation. His solution, however, is not generally accepted primarily because of the expense of re-expertizing and re-annotating on the reverse of the stamp. Hence the Commission of Experts of the Union of Czech Philatelists accepted the general recommendation to collectors and authors of catalogues, according to which the cataloguing is not to be changed, knowing fully that the catalogued shades do not correspond to observation in daylight. Incidentally, the stamp with shade 3 (brownred) is so rare, that it is essential that it be expertized and a certificate be issued presenting all the facts.

Finally, I shall summarize all of the facts given in this article in Table I below, which will hopefully aid the collector in distinguishing the individual shades. At the same time I wish the less experienced collectors good luck. The collecting of color shades is a somewhat neglected but beautiful field, and a part of the "classic" approach to philately. Do not avoid it because it appears complicated. In case of need, contact the author or your local experts; you will surely get a response.

Some practical advice: for fast and preliminary identification secure a supply of these stamps -- they are plentiful and surely genuine. Use these to identify the four basic shades. This is important if we do not wish to overlook a rare shade in our collection. For more detailed study, it is recommended that standard color charts be used which contain the standard colors and their shades. Finally, examination using color spectrometers may be employed. Examples of color charts include the "Tascherlexikon der Farben" by Kornerup and Wanscher, or the well known Michel, "Farbenfuhrer", which, however, differs significantly from Czech terminology.

Table I -- Basic Summary

Shade Number	Czech Shade Designation ¹	Shade Designation under UV	Catalogue Terminology	Expert Notation	Degree of Rarity
1	oranžovočervená	oranžová	oranžovočervená	not used	X
2	červenohnědá	hnědočervená	hnědočervená	hnědočervená	XX
3	hnědočervená	hnědočervená	červenohnědá	červenohnědá	XXXX ³
4	karminová	karminová	karminová	karminová	XXX ²

¹ Observed in daylight

² Applies to postally used copies; mint copies rare

³ In expertizing a photo-certificate must be included

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[The following is a supplement to Ing. Pittermann's article by Henry Hahn.]

An English color reference is Methuen's "Handbook of Colour" (which was used in developing Table II) together with five UV sources available in the United States, emitting both long and short wave UV. All UV observations in the US were virtually identical.

In the course of examining fairly large quantities of Shade 1 of both imperforate and perforated 15h Hradčany stamps, it became apparent that these included a large number of stamps that appear more yellowish than those designated as orange red. I listed these as "yellowish red" but did not separate them from the characteristic orange red, color code 8B7, with which I categorized the basic stamp. The yellowish red stamps appear closer to 7A5, occasionally to 7A4 (called "peach"), and may be the color described by old catalogues, such as Eckstein (1939) as "cihlové červená", i.e., brick red. This, however, is the only shade description of the common stamp variety in Eckstein, now designated as orange red. This shade is, in fact, referred to in the Methuen Handbook as "brick red, or tile red, or terra-cotta", though I would consider terra-cotta more similar to the 7D6 or 7D7 shades.

It has been suggested that the apparent varieties within Shade 1 that I observed may merely be differences in inking. This may well be so, since Shade 1 contains many gradations between 7A5 and 8B7. The distinction between 7A5 and 8B7 is, however, clearly observable at the extremes of the gradation when using the Methuen color charts.

Table II -- Observations in the US

Shade Number	Methuen Color ¹ Designation	Methuen Color Terminology	UV Color ²
1	8B7	orange red - yellowish red	bright orange - red
2	9B5-6	greyish red	purple
3	10B7	red	purple
4	11B8	madder red	carmine

¹Methuen, "Handbook of Colour" 3rd Ed., Eyre Methuen Ltd., 1978

²UV Sources: SPECTROLINE, Black Light Eastern Corp., Model 3-1600
RAYTECH, Raytech Industries Inc., Stafford Springs, Conn.
FLUOR-O-CHEK, Paper Corp. Of US, New York, NY
VERSALLUME by Raytech
SAFE, UNI Safe, Model G4T5

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CARPATHO-UKRAINE'S PRIVATE YASINIA STAMP ISSUES OF 1939

by Ingerit Kuzych

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is proud to reprint the following article from *THE SOUTHERN COLLECTOR*, January-March 1998, the official journal of the Ukrainian Collectibles Society of Australia with the permission of the editor, George Fedyk, and the author, Ingerit Kuzych, the retired editor of *THE UKRAINIAN PHILATELIST*.]

Ukrainian philately is replete with trident overprints, both from the "Classical Era" (1918-1920) of Ukraine's first 20th-century period of independence and from more recent times (1992-1994). Many collectors forget, however, that Carpatho-Ukraine also had its own trident overprints(!), albeit of a private, local nature. These stamps appeared in Yasinia in early March of 1939 and therefore preceded the famous 3K National Assembly Issue of 15 March, which marked Carpatho-Ukraine's declaration of independence. The Yasinia stamps were not official issues by any means, and were not produced in any great quantities. They are fairly difficult to locate and can provide quite a challenge for collectors of ephemera.



Fig. 1

The Yasinia issues consist of two types of trident overprints (in black ink) on stamps of Czechoslovakia. Type I overprints were made with a rubber handstamp and display only a trident. They somewhat resemble the Odesa VIa overprint or some of the Podillia trident overprints, all of which were made in 1918 on Romanov-era stamps. The Type I Yasinia overprints were applied to 39 different Czechoslovak stamp issues.

Type II Yasinia overprints, made with a metal handstamp, are very distinctive and do not resemble any other trident overprint types. The design is a simple, lined trident over the words -- arranged in a half circle -- CLABA YKPAÏHI! (Glory to



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Ukraine!). The Type II overprints were affixed to 21 different Czechoslovak stamp issues, five types of postage due stamps, and various postal cards.

Just who was responsible for producing the Yasinia overprints has never been determined. Michael Shulewsky, an ardent collector of all things Carpatho-Ukrainian, refers to the Yasinia overprints as a local issue and believes they were most likely made by units of the Karpatska Sich (Carpatho-Ukrainian Sich), a military organization, some of whose members were stationed in Yasinia at this time³. Borys Fessak, another respected Ukrainian philatelist, takes exception to the "local" designation, and prefers to call them simply "fantasy overprints"². Some of the overprinted stamps are known canceled (most likely as "canceled-to-order" or on a "hand-back" basis) with a Yasinia circular date stamp of 14 March 1939.



Fig. 4

The most complete description of the Yasinia overprint issues is the article by Mr. Shulewsky, which appeared in *Ukrainian Philatelist* a few years ago; in it he lists all of the Czechoslovak stamp issues overprinted with either the Type

I or Type II trident. The only drawback to his otherwise fine study are the illustrations for Type I, which are not very clear. Recently, I was fortunate to obtain some better copies of Type I overprints, which I present below. The overprinted 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, and 40 haleru Coat of Arms stamps (Scott Nos. 152-157) are numbers 1 through 6 on Mr. Shulewsky's list (Fig. 1). The accompanying blocks of four (Fig. 2) show that



Fig. 5

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care was taken in the preparation of these overprints, they are all uniformly well centered. Figure 3 shows the View and Castles stamp issues (Scott Nos. 218-226) overprinted (numbers 22 to 30 on the Shulewsky listing); while Figure 4 is of St. Barbara's Church at Kutna Hora (Scott No. 240) with the trident (Shulewsky 32). Finally, for the sake of completeness, I include an example of a Type II overprint (Fig. 5) from the Shulewsky article.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to Mirko Vondra for supplying me with such fine copies of his Type I trident-overprinted stamps.

References:

1. Blaha, Miroslav. *Zakarpatsko*, SCF Praha. p.151.
2. Fessak, Borys. "Comments on the Previous Issue of UP (No. 71/72)". *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 73/74 (1995) p. 126.
3. Shulewsky, Michael. "Carpatho-Ukraine: The private Yasiniya (Jasina) Local Issues of 1939". *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 71/72 (1995) pp. 77-79.
4. Vondra, Mirko. Letters to Ingert Kuzych dated 27 October and 11 November 1997.
5. Zabijaka, Val. "The Trident Overprints of 1918". *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 63/64 (1993) pp. 14-18.

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Philatelic News and Views

From Filatelie:

More Than a Million for Nitra Gutter

In our column we advised you about the international postal auction which took place in Prague on April 25th. During the auction the Nitra gutter pair from 1933 was offered. It is a unique specimen that has plate number 1A and a starting price of 500,000 Kč, which did not seem too high. After an extensive and thrilling bid competition, a well known Czech collector won the item. As a result the gutter will not leave our Republic. The last knockdown price -- including a 5% auction commission -- was 1,001,000 Kč. Apparently this is, until now, the highest amount received for a Czech stamp at a public auction.

Czech Special Delivery Mail

The Czech postal system expanded its offerings in international special delivery service (EMS). It is now possible to have documents or goods hand delivered throughout the Republic as well as to 81 countries around the world. Within the Czech Republic there is one standard charge, while for international use there are zonal rates. The weight of consignments cannot exceed 15 kg. In selected cities EMS delivers even on Sunday and on national holidays. The postal service insures the contents of the consignment for up to 10,000 Kč. This service is available at any post office.

From *Filatelie* 2/1998, Zdeněk Nygryn, Jaroslav Konečný:

Postal Card CDV 23 Original, Forgery I, Forgery II Comparison
 ["Problems of the Blind" postal card]

	ORIGINAL	FORGERY I	FORGERY II
paper	white to yellowish	pale pinkish	pale pinkish
K of Kč	vertical	leans to right	leans to right
K of Kč	legs do not touch vertical bar	legs connect to vertical bar	legs connect to vertical bar
č of Kč	open small hook on c does not touch c	higher small hook does not touch c	sharp small hook touches c
1st address line	letters sharp, clear	only dots	dividing dots missing
ZIP code boxes	dots are round	dots are squarish	dots are squarish
Č of ČESKA	sharp small hook touches C	open small hook does not touch C	sharp small hook touches C
Š of POŠTA	sharp small hook touches S	open small hook does not touch S	sharp small hook touches S

From Savoy Horvath:

- On April 1st there was a much rumored postal rate increase -- but not for first class mail (letters and cards). The increase was for parcel post, postal money orders, newspapers, printed matter, and the price of aerogrammes, whose price went up from 7 Kč to 8 Kč. What is interesting is that on April 1st the ČR did not have an aerogramme -- let alone one for 7 Kč -- even though the rate was on their rate charts. A new 8 Kč aerogramme was finally issued on May 5 [see Jul/Aug 98 *SPECIALIST*, p37 for details]. But so far it has been only available at the PRAHA 6 post office. The post offices in large cities have never heard of it, nor is it available from stamp dealers. Apparently there have been some printing problems with it, because there have already been identified six varieties -- three associated with ink shifts and the other three associated with the paper. The ink shifts are actually upward smears. Each of the three colors -- red, blue, and black -- has it's own variety. The paper varieties are light blue, dark blue, and white.

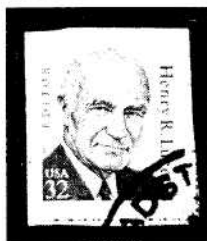


Fig. 1

The quality of the picture is OK, but what gives it away is the bad size 11 perforations.

- The Czech, Miloš Ondráček, engraved the 32 cent US definitive stamp for Henry R. Luce (Fig.1).

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Michael Rogers is a member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately



**PLATE VARIETIES IN THE PROTECTORATE
FIRST RED CROSS ISSUE**

by RNDr. Miroslav Vostatek
trans by Henry Hahn

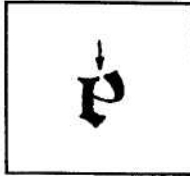


Fig. 1

On June 29, 1940, the Protectorate Postal Administration issued two charity stamps for the benefit of the German Red Cross. They contained values of 60h + 40h and 1.20K + 80h. The designer of the stamps was Max Geyer. They are listed in the Trojan Catalogue as numbers 50 and 51 and have fairly decent catalog values of 8Kč and 10Kč respectively.

The catalog also lists one plate variety in stamp number 50, which is a broken second "e" in the word "Německý" (Fig. 1). The variety occurs in sheet positions 6, 26, 46, 66, and 86.

As a result of careful study, one can find additional, thus far unlisted, varieties. Those found most prominently are listed below (Fig. 2):

-- #50, sheet position 47: In the lower portion of the soldier's pocket there is a large white spot.

-- #50, sheet position 78: Next to the lower portion of the soldier's sleeve, there is a colored dot.

-- #51, sheet position 34: Near the upper portion of the soldier's sleeve there is a colored dot, and the nurse's forehead is missing.

-- #51, sheet position 60: There is a colored spot in the rear of the nurse's hat.

-- #51, sheet positions 74 and 94: The nurse's forehead is incompletely printed such that it is practically missing (this situation is repeated in several other plate positions but to a lesser degree).

Any additional findings by readers should be sent to the translator.

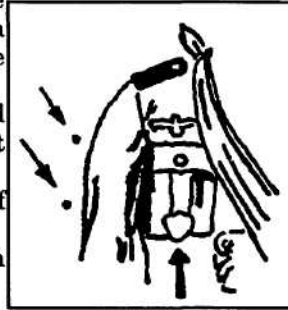


Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

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From the Specialist's Notebook

TGM 1925
60h stamp, red violet, on parchment paper
by Jan Karásek

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is proud to reprint the following article from the *MERKUR REVIEW*, the Czech professional journal for philately and numismatics, with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]

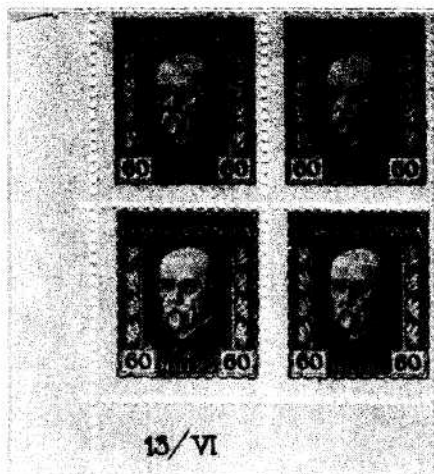


Fig. 1

An interesting discovery -- so far unannounced -- was made by a well known collector, publisher, and exhibitor, our long standing colleague Jaroslav Verner from the USA.

The issue is the red violet 60h neotype from 1925 on parchment paper with watermark type P4 in a corner block of four with plate mark 13/VI (Fig. 1). All four of the stamps of the block are back-stamped with the examiner's marks of "Gilbert" and "Mrnak" as well as the appropriate additional marks (perg. papir, 4) (Fig. 2).

The stamps printed on parchment paper occur in markedly less numbers than those on normal paper (which is smooth and white). There are two values known on the parchment paper -- the 40h orange and the

60h red violet -- always with comb perf 13 3/4 : 13 1/2, and in all four watermark positions (P1, P2, P3, and P4). In addition it is necessary to say that positions P1 and P4 occur rarely -- especially in mint condition -- and belong among the highly sought after specimens of this issue. They are also appropriately valued in stamp catalogs. Even when in Dr. Trojan's 1996 catalog this stamp is valued 6,500 Kč (there is a printing error in the catalog: instead of 65,000 Kč, it should say 6,500 Kč), we can say that the 60h stamp with watermark P4 belongs among the most sought after and the most expensive.

From my longtime collecting and expertizing practice, I can say that the submitted block of four with plate mark 13/VI belongs among the rare discoveries where we can talk in fact about uniqueness. It would be very interesting if collectors/specialists thoroughly looked through their collections -- and if need be their duplicates -- and attempted to find other specimens (the 40h and 60h on authentic parchment paper) with whatever kind of plate mark. All of these additional discoveries with watermark positions P1 or P4, we can designate as extraordinarily interesting and certainly very scarce.

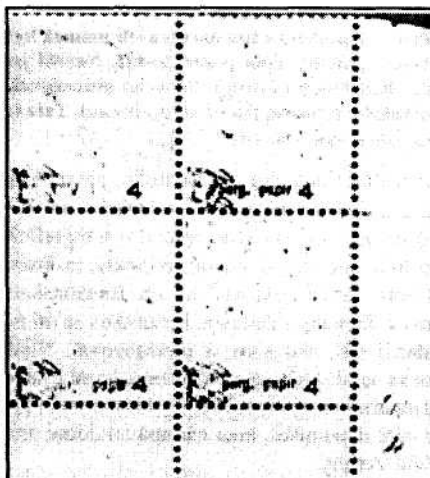


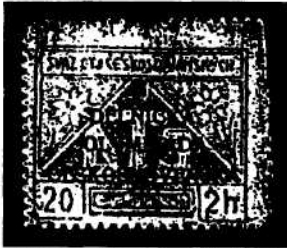
Fig. 2

Remark:

We would like to thank Mr. Jaroslav Verner of the USA for his kind loan of this specimen.

SPORT UNDER RED FLAGS (UPDATE)

by John Miskevich



DTJ dues label overprinted for II Games in 1927. Label is in yellow.

With reference to the postcard at Figure 5 in my article, "Sport Under Red Flags: Postmarks and Postal Cards of the Czechoslovak Workers Olympiads 1921-1934" (Nov/Dec 1997), I indicated that no postmarks relating to the Second Spartakiad (1928) were known to me. I have since learned why not.

On April 27, 1928, the police president of Praha pronounced a ban on this Communist-sponsored sports festival originally scheduled for June 16 and 17. The event was never held. And by their actions, the authorities turned what might have been a relatively harmless sports event with radical left overtones into a political confrontation.

The decision of the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party was to substitute a mass rally (referred to as Red Day in Praha) for the Spartakiad to be held the day on which the sports festival had been scheduled to open. The action triggered a chain of events which lead to a showdown not only with the government but between contending factions in the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

As might have been expected, the police also forbade Red Day. The communist party Secretariat was determined to carry out its plans as a test of strength against the establishment, the police ban notwithstanding. The communist party leadership put its prestige at stake in connection with the enterprise. The outcome was a disaster. Instead of the 120,000 people which were expected to march in Praha only



II Workers' Olympiad 1927. United States Athletes. Note US flag in ceremony.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

around 6,000 turned out for the rally. The demonstrators that did attend lacked guidance, and the police had no trouble dispersing them before the public could even take notice.

The failure of Red Day was exploited by the left-leaning political faction within the Communist Party. The organizational blunder led to changes in the party leadership. A result was the victory of a bolshevization course and the eventual unlimited subjection of the Czechoslovak Communist movement to the interests of the Soviet Union.

Reference:

Suda, Zdenek: ZEALOTS AND REBELS: A History of the Ruling Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Hoover Institution Press, Stanford, CA 1980, pp.107-109.

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ANOTHER FORGED CZECH STAMP TO DEFRAUD THE POST OFFICE

by Daniel Valeš
trans. by Ludvik Svoboda

[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in Filatelie 5/1998. It is reprinted here with the permission of the chief editor, Vladimír Schodelbauer, and the author.]

This year brought us not only Easter greetings but also a small surprise. It was a picture postcard that had affixed one of the commonest 4 Kč definitive stamps -- the "Klasicismus" issue from the Historical Building Styles series (Fig. 1).

More of these cards with this same stamp affixed showed up. Because the color of one of the stamps was lighter, I examined it very carefully -- and it was definitely worth the effort. Not only was it a lighter shade, but it was also produced using a different printing technique. The original was printed using line engraving combined with grided recess printing, while this one was entirely printed using two color offset. Consequently, we have here another forgery to defraud the post office. My conclusion was also confirmed by a detailed observation under a magnifying glass and a UV lamp. The size of the original stamp compared with the forgery did not show substantial variations, but the details of the stamps did show significant differences. The most significant of these are summarized in the table below.



Fig. 1

The original stamp was issued June 12, 1996. This forgery has a cancel reading April 8, 1998, 225 00 PRAHA 025.

I asked the sender if he might by chance remember where he bought the stamp. All I learned was that it could have been purchased somewhere in Prague at a tobacco shop. From this I am assuming that someone will be fortunate enough to find yet another copy with an earlier usage date.

	ORIGINAL	FORGERY
paper	fluorescent (yellow green), smooth	without added ingredients, coarse and hairy
perforations	frame	line
printing	line engraving/grided recess printing	offset
4 Kč valuation	"4" and "Kč" have crisp, clear edges/outlines	"4" and "Kč" are unclear and fuzzy
horizontal line below ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA	diagonal shading lines along entire length of line	one solid line
names of artists	J. SOLPERA, B. ŠNEIDER	O. SOLPERA, E. SNEIDER
country name	- the entire name (thanks to the grided recess printing used) is ragged - the small hook above the "C" and the line above the "A" touch the letters	- the entire name is perfectly cleanly printed - the small hook and the line do not touch the letters

⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On May 27, 1998, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Czech Republic issued a set of three multicolored commemorative stamps in the "Anniversaries of Personalities" series (Fig. 1). All three stamps were graphically designed by Michal Cihlár and engraved by Václav Fajt. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 pieces on paper with tropicalized gum.

-- The 4 Kč stamp shows a portrait of František Kmoč (1848-1912). He was a Czech band-master and composer, and founded a wind orchestra with which he gained success both at home and abroad. He composed many popular songs,



Fig. 1

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dance compositions and arrangements of folk songs. A FDC in grey-green shows a stylized drawing of Knoch leading his orchestra with the facsimile of his signature.

-- The 4.60 Kč stamp shows a portrait of František Palacký (1798-1876). He was a great Czech historian and statesman who acted as a member of important cultural institutions to the benefit of Czech science and literature. He was founder of the journal of the Society of the Patriotic Museum, the Maticе Česká Society and the National Archive. The most significant part of his extensive work is the five-volume History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia, which provided a learned picture and interpretation of Czech history through 1526. A FDC in brown shows Palacký from his young years with a facsimile of his signature.

-- The 6 Kč stamp shows a portrait of Rafael Kubelík (1914-1996). He was the artistic manager and conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra from 1942-1948. After that he lived abroad and worked as musical director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Covent Garden Opera in London, conductor of the New York Metropolitan Opera and chief conductor of the Bavarian Broadcasting Company in Munich. He was one of the most important propagators of Czech music in the world. In particular, he saw to the production of the works of Leoš Janáček. He devoted himself to orchestral, chamber and vocal works, and also composed a few operas. A FDC in blue-grey shows Kubelík with a baton and the facsimile of his signature.

2. On May 27, 1998, the Ministry issued a 15 Kč stamp commemorating the "150th Anniversary of the Revolution of 1848" showing a scene from the struggles on the Prague barricades in June 1848 that was taken from a contemporary engraving from the daily press (Fig. 2). The revolution movement -- which touched almost all of Europe -- was a struggle for the rights of the oppressed nations of the Hapsburg monarchy against the remnants of feudalism such as state labor. The graphic artist



Fig. 2

was Jiří Rathouský, and the engraver was Bohumil Šneider. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in red, green-brown and grey from flat plates in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown shows the stylized contemporary coat-of-arms of the town of Kroměříž where the imperial assembly had moved when the revolution broke out in Vienna. The postal posthorn under the coat-of-arms symbolizes the fact that during the sitting of the assembly in Kroměříž (from November 22, 1848 to March 7, 1849) a special post and telegraph office was established in the chateau to ensure the transport of all documents from the assembly and to keep a direct connection with the emperor's court in Olomouc. The assembly, whose main task was to work out a constitution which would guarantee the rights of oppressed nations, was dispersed by the army in March 1849 without completing their task

3. On June 17, 1998, the Ministry issued a set of two multicolored commemorative stamps in the "Art on Stamps" series (Fig. 3). The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 stamps with the logo of the International Exhibition Praga 1998 and the logo of the



Fig.3

National Gallery -- one of the exhibition areas of Praga 98 (Trade Fair Palace).

-- The 22 Kč stamp shows a painting by František Kupka (1871-1957) entitled "Amorpha - Two-Colored Fugue 1912" from the National Gallery in Prague. Kupka was a Czech painter, graphic artist, and illustrator who became a pioneer in abstract art and lived in France since 1906. The painting shown is amongst his most famous. The engraver of this stamp was Václav Fajt. A FDC in dark-red depicts the engraver's transposition of the original Kupka charcoal and white chalk drawing on grey paper.

-- The 23 Kč stamp shows a painting by Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) entitled "Flight 1902" from the National Gallery in Prague. Gauguin -- a French painter, graphic artist and woodcarver -- endeavored to enrich modern Western art by following the example of primitive cultures. "Flight" originated during Gauguin's second stay in Tahiti. The engraver of the stamp was Miloš Ondráček. A FDC in black depicts the engraver's transposition of the woodcut created by Gauguin for the title of the magazine *Le Sourire*.

Postal Stationery

4. On May 27, 1998, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted unbordered stamp in the denomination of 6 Kč for commercial and promotional purposes with the left free part reserved for additional surcharges (Fig. 4). The graphic designer was Jan Solpera. The card was printed by offset by the Post Printing House, Prague, in blue and black. Its selling price is 6.40 Kč.

5. On July 1, 1998, the Ministry issued four postal cards with imprinted unbordered stamp commemorating the International Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1998. On all the cards the graphic design of the imprinted stamp (including the PRAGA 1998 logo) was by Jan Solpera and the picture part of the postal cards was designed by Karel Dvořák. The postal cards were printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, by multicolored offset.

-- In the picture part of the 4 Kč postal card is a drawing of a postman from the end of the 18th century made according to a contemporary engraving and including text reading "The Postman of Prague's 'Clapper' Post - 1787" (Fig. 5). The "Clapper Post" or Little Post was introduced in Prague by a Belgian, Francois

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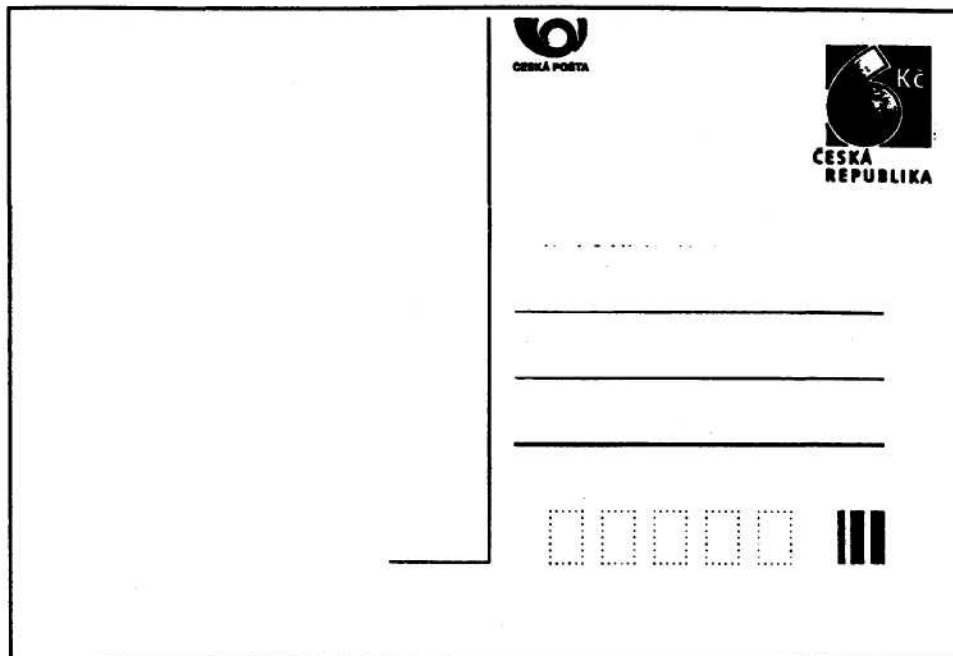


Fig. 4

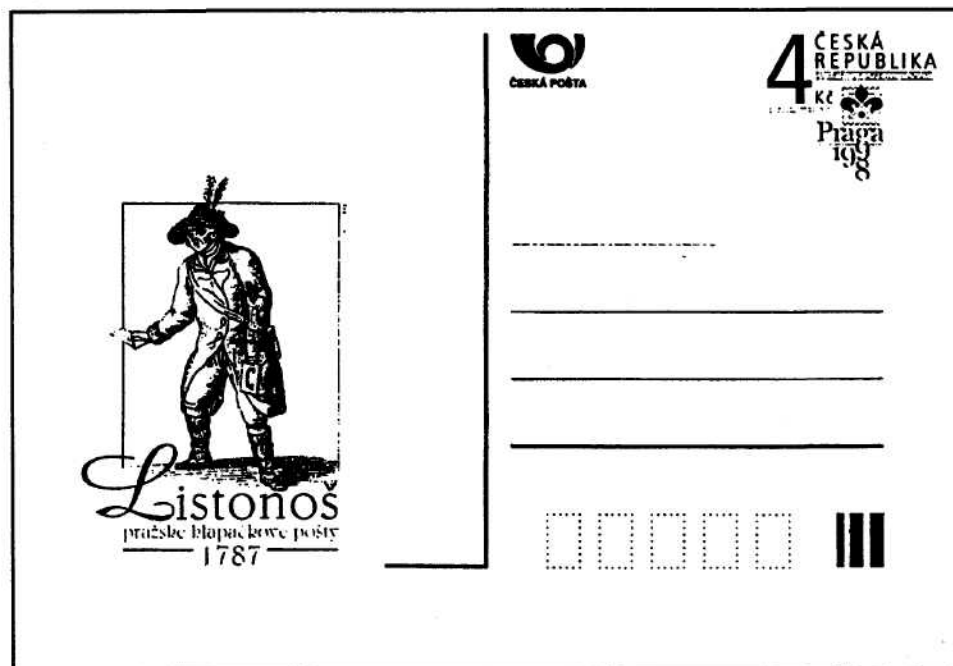


Fig. 5

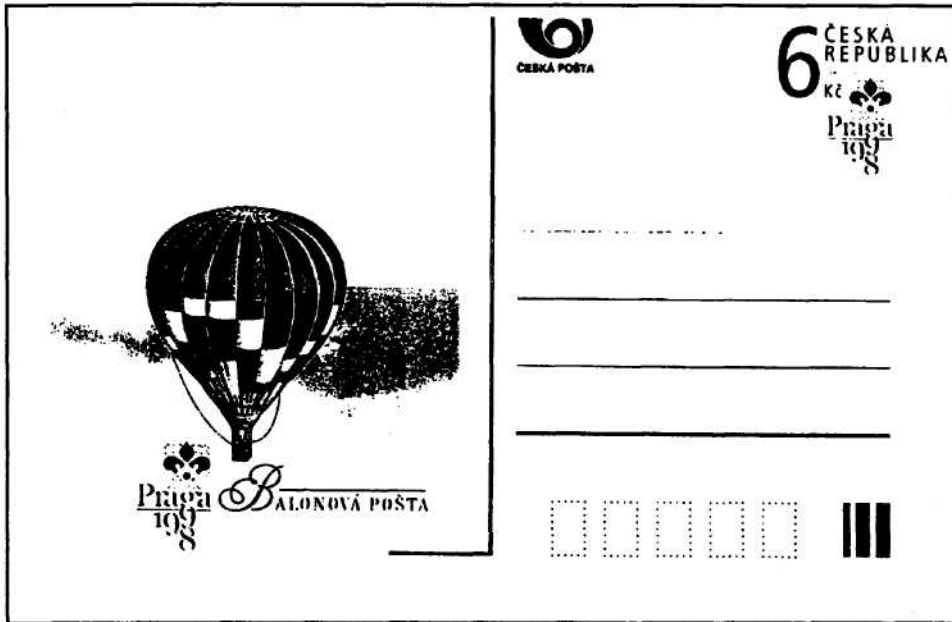


Fig. 6

Carcier, around 1787 and took care of local services, which became more and more urgent in large towns (introduced in Paris in 1653, in London in 1680, and in Vienna on April 1, 1772). The postmen walking through the streets announced their approach with the help of a clapper and thus this postal service came to be called the

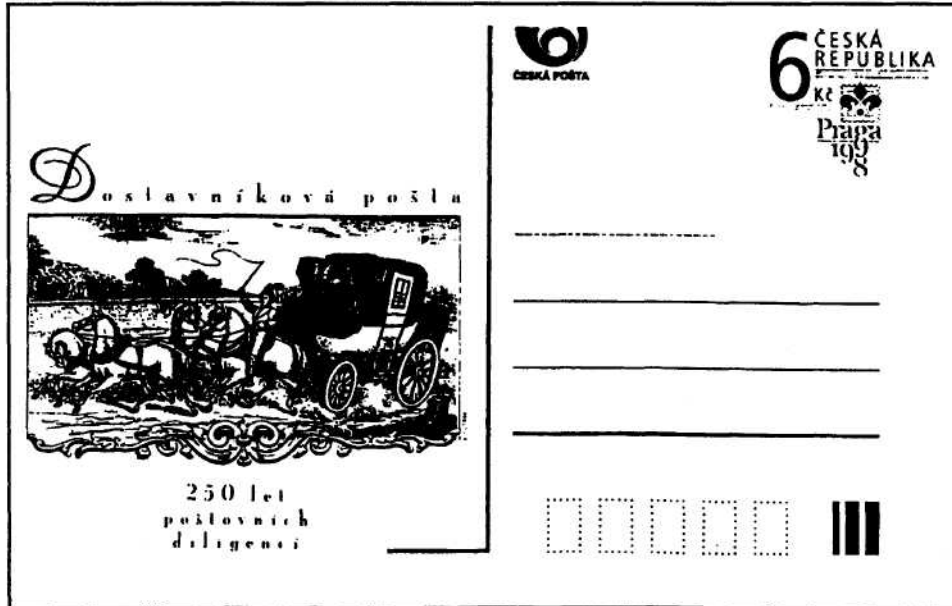


Fig. 7

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"Clapper Post". However, these local posts did not prove very profitable for their private owners, and furthermore, their activities were interfering with the services of the State Post, which eventually took over the private enterprises. The postal card sells for 4.40 Kč and is in green, reddish-brown, and black.

-- In the picture part of a 6 Kč postal card is a drawing of a balloon hovering in the clouds accompanied by the logo of the PRAGA 1998 Stamp Exhibition and the text "Balloon Post" (Fig. 6). The postal card sells for 6.40 Kč and is pink-violet, blue-grey, yellow and black.

-- In the picture part of a 6 Kč postal card is a drawing of a post coach pulled by four horses with a postilion (Fig. 7). The drawing -- created according to a contemporary engraving -- is completed by the text "Stagecoach Post - 250 Years of the Mail Coach". The postal card sells for 6.40 Kč and is in pink-violet, blackish-violet, and black.

-- In the picture part of a 6 Kč postal card is a graphic composition composed of stylized postage stamps and the logos of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SCF), International Philatelic Federation (FIP), Czech Post, and Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) (Fig. 8). The postal card sells for 6.40 Kč and is in pink-violet and dark blue.

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky and G. M. Van Zanten

6. On June 1, 1998, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a multicolored 3 Sk stamp entitled "Children Center" (Fig. 9). The stamp image shows a picture painted by 11 year old Livia Mereničová representing a

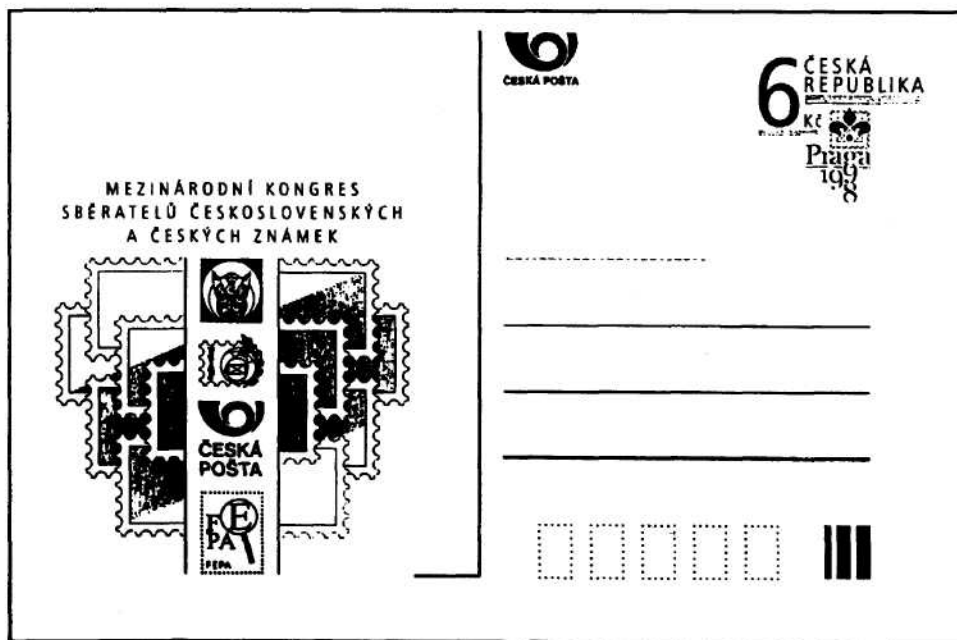


Fig. 8

butterfly and a rainbow along with the logo of the Children Center. It was the winner of a design contest specifically for this issue. The Children's Center is a function of a society in the Slovak Republic devoted to children's supplementary education. The graphic design as well as engraving was done by Martin Činovský. The stamp was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A multicolored FDC shows a picture painted by Ivana Arbetová (9 years old) representing a fairy tale tree. The postmark -- from Ružomberok -- contains a picture painted by Zuzka Tašticová (4 years old).



Fig. 9

7. On June 1, 1998, the Ministry issued a multicolored 3 Sk stamp entitled "Kragujevac 1918" (Fig. 10). The stamp depicts a portrait of revolt chief Viktor Kolibrík from the Trenčiansky 71st Regiment of the Austro-Hungarian empire army. The design and engraving of the stamp was by Rudolf Cigánik. The stamp was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in sheets of 50. A FDC in brown-black was issued. It bears a cancel from Trenčín.



Fig. 10

8. On June 1, 1998, the Ministry issued a commemorative multicolored 4 Sk stamp entitled "SLOVAK UPRISING 1848-49" remembering the 150th anniversary of that event (Fig. 11). In Eugene Steiner's "The Slovak Dilemma" -- "The Slovak Rebellion was merely a counteraction against the Hungarian revolution which started a few weeks earlier (spring 1848). The Slovak rebels consisted of a few hundred volunteers who were quickly and brutally suppressed by the Hungarians. The subsequent Russian intervention helped to suppress the Hungarian revolt without paying the slightest consideration to the Slovak cause and their Slovak supporters". The stamp depicts Slovak rebels, while the tabs show the historical seal of the Slovak National Council. The stamp was designed by Ivan Schurmann and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 30 stamps and 40 tabs. A FDC in black shows an assemblage of the "Slovak Volunteer Committee". It bears a cancel from Bratislava.



Fig. 11

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Ludvik:

I would like to make comments on three texts in the 2/98 SPECIALIST.

First, in Mr. Kleskovic's letter about the proposed 1998 issues, he commented that he was not familiar with the work of J. Preissig, a Czech graphical artist. Vojtěch Preissig was very active in the recruitment of American countrymen for the Czech legions [during WW I]. He prepared postal cards which were used to find volunteers. I am enclosing a copy of one of the cards (Fig. 1). Mr. Preissig also prepared the designs for stamps for the time after liberation from the Nazis [anticipating the end of WW II], but he didn't make it through the holocaust and died in Dachau in 1944.

Second, in Mr. Rizza's letter about the advertising slogan cancel "wanting" pilots, you will find under the legend the script "M.N.O. šek.úč.82.300". The legend stands for "Ministry of Defence checking account no. 82.300".

Thus, the cancel did not call volunteers to arms, rather it asked the public to contribute to help pay for the training of 1000 military pilots.

Finally, here is an interesting item on the CPO's discussed by Karel Holoubek. Figure 2 shows a letter from the CPO Velkomoravské Mikulčice mailed just before the big flood that occurred last year. Because the CPO is situated in southern Moravia in the area damaged by the flood, it was not possible to send it to the addressee in time. The solution was to prepare a small label "Poštovna Velkomoravské Mikulčice -- Zpožděno pro povodeň" which translates as "CPO Velkomoravské Mikulčice -- Delayed due to the flood".

Lubor Kunc

2. Dear Lou:

- The balloon mail card (which was signed by the pilot) is marked as going by air mail -- it took 8 days getting to me -- but it only carries 4 Kč postage (Fig. 3). When I took it back to the post office a while later and pointed this out to them, they charged me the 20 cents postage due.

- I received a much better copy of the special cancel commemorating the Nagano gold medal victory that was only supposed to have been used on February 22, 1998 (Fig. 4). This one is affixed to the Nagano 1998 commemorative's FDC and is in black.

- The membership directory was a great idea, and I enjoy finding out what others collect. My hat off to Phillips B. Freer for compiling it and putting it out.

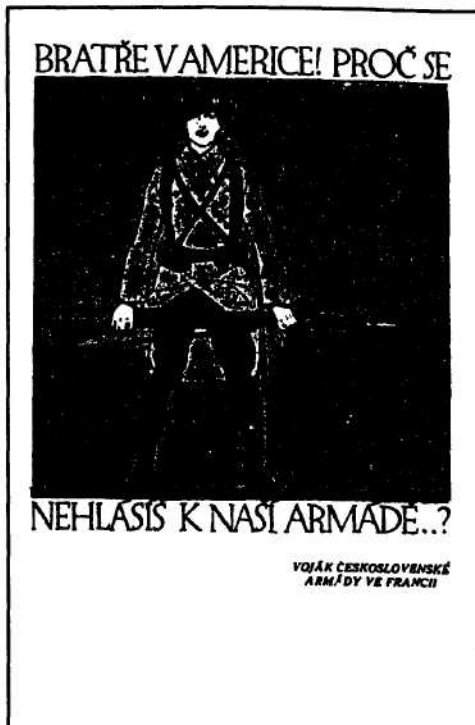


Fig. 1

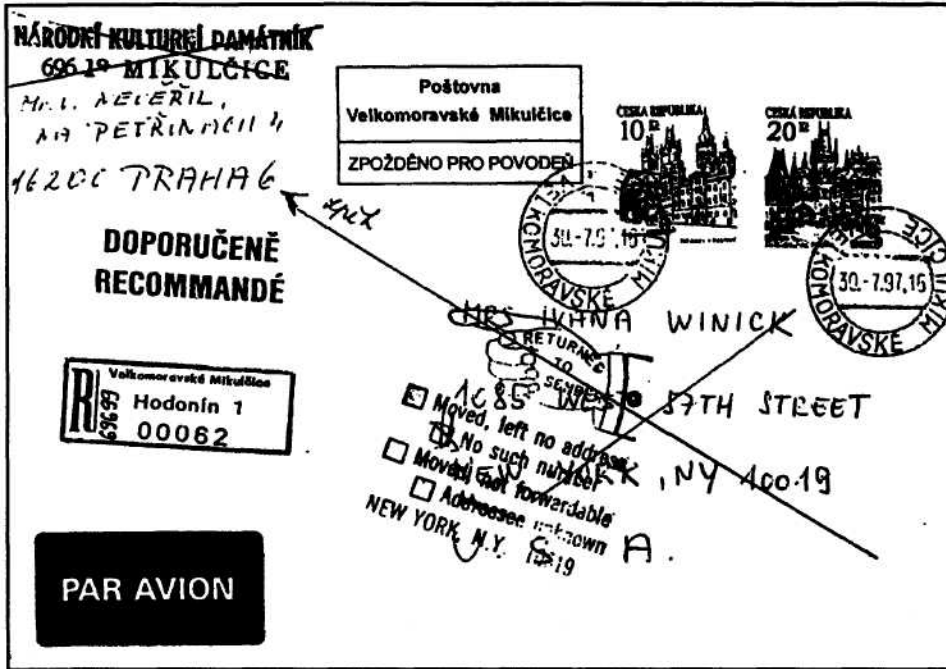


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

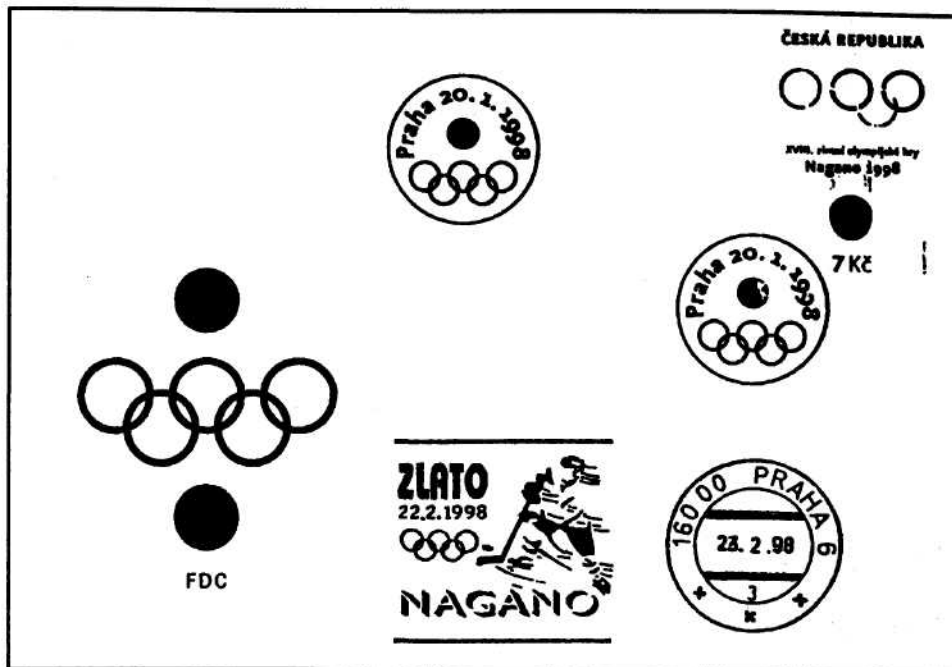


Fig. 4

- My idea for a commemorative cover for PRAGA 98 would combine the 80th anniversary of Czechoslovakia with the 60th anniversary of our Society. We should somehow include the founding father of Czechoslovakia, T. G. Masaryk. His nicest stamp is Scott B150-1. By the way, the little girl he is holding escaped in 1948 and today lives in central Michigan as a retired school teacher.

- The 4 Kč forgery ["Klasicismus" of the Historical Building Styles series] when compared to the 3 Kč Brno, this is a very good forgery. But I cannot see why the forgers misspelled the artist's first initials. Note that 4 Kč is the Czech postal card rate and with the counterfeited postal cards,



Fig. 5

this tells us of the popularity of postal cards in the ČR. The last 5 - 7 years the Czechs are obsessed with contest and lotteries. To participate in either, the entry has to be attached to a postal card. As a matter of fact, all of my counterfeited ČR cards that are domestically postally used and my unissued stolen 2 Kč Mt. Říp cards are contest/lottery entries, and therefore not philatelic mail.

- In the New Issues of the May SPECIALIST was presented the 11 Kč "Ride of the Kings" commemorative. I believe only a Czech-born person would know about this event and festival. The festival dates back to the middle ages and was practiced in almost every country in Europe. It spread even into the middle east as far as Persia. For many years the festival was held in every region of Bohemia, Moravia,



Vlčnov - jízda králů

Fig. 6

Silesia, and the Slovakian Slováčko Region. It started as a celebration to assure good crops in May/June and evolved to the last Sunday in May -- Holy Ghost Sunday. The kings entourage consists of flower and ribbon decorated horses and riders in national costumes. The king and his two escort side-riders, callers, gift collectors, thankers and guards usually consists of about 19-20 riders. The king and his two side-riders are dressed up in richly decorated women's costumes with flowered tiaras. The king has to clasp a white rose in his teeth as he is forbidden to speak (Fig. 5). The white rose is a sign of purity as the king has to be between 9-12 years of age. (The 11 Kč stamp shows a red rose, but that is because of Czech Post production problems of having a white rose against the white face of the king.) The rest of the king's men are young men of draft age only 17-18 years old. Today the Ride of the Kings is held only in Vlčnov in the Moravian Slováčko Region (Fig. 6). Vlčnov is located between Uherské Hradiště and Uherský Brod.

Sincerely,
Savoy Horvath

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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