



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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*To the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Czech Mobilization in 1938*

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY FIELD POST IN 1938

by Vratislav Palkoska  
trans. by Vladimir Kralicek

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the MERKUR REVIEW, Sep/Oct 1998, with permission of the editor and the author.]

The general mobilization of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces was announced on September 23, 1938. Over 1,250,000 men were called to take up arms; they were to defend the Republic against the attacking armies of the fascist Germans. Having been betrayed by the Western Powers, Czechoslovakia had to evacuate its border areas without a fight.

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**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

**In Memoriam**

Alexander M. Unwin, 70 -- member 1305 -- died suddenly on January 24 in Bellevue, Washington. "Alec", as he was affectionately known, was a long time collector of Czechoslovakia (1918-1948) and specialized in the study of Prague postmarks.

Alec was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Motivated by the German occupation in 1939 his family moved to England, and then in 1947 on to Canada where he earned a Master's of Science degree in physics from the University of British Columbia. In 1958 he began a long term (37 years) involvement with The Boeing Company, from which he retired as a professional engineer.

In his leisure time he enjoyed postal history, travel and spending time with his family. Alec was a member of many philatelic organizations besides the SCP, including past president of the Boeing Employees' Stamp Club and secretary of BNAPS. He won numerous philatelic writing awards, including the Canadian Postal History Society's Frank W. Campbell Award for 1996 and the APS's Earl P.L. Apfelbaum Award.

He is survived by his loving wife of forty-five years, Joan, and his daughter and two sons, Judy, John and David.

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### **The Czechoslovak Army Field Post in 1938**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Modern armies place a great deal of emphasis on ensuring that soldiers in the field have good connections with the rear areas, i.e. with their home. This applied as well to the Czechoslovak army. The Czechoslovak Field Post was, according to plan, in operation eight days after the announcement of mobilization, i.e. on October 1<sup>st</sup>. At the head of this organization stood the Field Post Central Office situated at Přerov, and 5 Field Post Sorting Offices ensuring the reception and forwarding of consignments from 64 Field Posts. The collection of consignments in the rear areas was carried out by 9 Field Post Collecting Offices which were located throughout the Republic.

Of the count of 64 Field Posts, they were allocated among army units as follows:

- one Field Post each
  - 12 frontier districts
  - 6 frontier zones
  - 22 infantry and motorized divisions
  - 4 rapid divisions
  - 8 corps headquarters
  - 2 frontier groups
- two Field Posts each to three army headquarters, which were
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Army Headquarters with cover name HAVLÍČEK
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Headquarters with cover name JIRÁSEK
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Army Headquarters with cover name NERUDA
- three Field Posts to
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Headquarters with cover name ŠTEFÁNIK
- one Field Post to
  - Operational Armies High Command with cover name PALACKÝ.

During October -- within the framework of stage III (17 to 19 October) -- began the progressive demobilization of military units and, with them, the end of their Field Post's activities. As a result of unrest in southern Slovakia and in the former SubCarpathian Ukraine, it became necessary to transfer some of the military units to these regions and with them also their Field Posts. But even here their activities gradually came to an end as their military units changed over to peace time status. The last Field Post ceased its activity on December 6, 1938.

### **The Field Post of High Command PALACKÝ**

The seat of the Operational Armies High Command with the cover name PALACKÝ was in the Račice Castle in the similarly named township about 30 km northeast of Brno in the district of Vyškov. The Palacký area comprised the townships of Rychtářov, Drysice, Ivanovice, Roštěnice, Nemojany, and Račice for which the district council had to arrange for all night blackouts (MNO, hl. štáb, čj. ubyt. Taj., hl. št. 3 odd. 1938 z 25.9.1938). A component of this High Command was, besides others, also Communications Command forces (then telegraphic) with cover name PALACKÝ 12. They were transferred from Prague to Vyškov on Transport No. 14905 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August at 0814 hours, departing from the freight station

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Praha-Libeň, upper station [1]. Military material was brought to the station using transport vehicles, while the troop's baggage arrived at the station under the cover of secrecy using public transport and individually. Preserved is a record of the salaried workers and civilians attached to the High Command telegraph troops Palacký 12:

- 15 officers with Brig. General Eng. Josef Dvořák at their head, among them
- Staff Capt. Tel. Vilém Pešta, who subsequently administered the Field Post services at the Ministry of National Defense up until its complete demobilization
- Staff Capt. Tel. in reserve (reactivated) Karel Marek, head of the Postal Group
- Lt. Tel. in reserve (also reactivated) Ludvík Mach belonging to the Postal Group (both of the latter from the Ministry of Post and Telegraph), mobilized by means of Telephone Batt. 1, Kutná Hora
- Expert Advisers -- Chief Expert Adviser Eng. Václav Zoubek, Expert Adviser Eng. Laucký, Technical Adviser Alois Singer, and Chief Technical Adviser Ferdinand Šidleja
- and besides these also Staff Warrant Officers Tel. Josef Doubravský and Josef Pilař as well as a company of 20 men -- clerk typists, 2 draftsmen, one orderly, and 11 attendants.

The seat of "Palacký 12" was two classrooms in a public school, Postal No. 170, in Račice. The contact person for "Palacký 12" at the Ministry of Post and Telegraph and responsible for the Field Post service was Dr. Nájemník. The higher ranked officers were quartered privately in Račice. Thus for example, Brig. General Eng. Dvořák was at Villa Eliáš, Postal No. 67, and Lt. Colonel of the General Staff Václav Vokroj with head teacher Mergental, Komenská St. 235, etc.

The town of Vyškov had a substantial German minority, and thus it is not surprising that the presence of higher ranking officers from the Palacký High Command and the number of security measures taken in the town and its surroundings, did not remain secret. At the end of September it was announced by the mischief making radio transmitter in Vienna that the High Command of the Czechoslovak Army was to be found in Vyškov.

When the immediate danger of military confrontation with Hitler's Germany was past and the withdrawal of Czechoslovak Forces from the frontier areas had begun, the headquarters of the "Palacký" operational armies returned to Prague on 2.10.1938. This is supported by "Palacký 12" telegram No. 206 taj. 3. odd. 1938 dated 2 October at 1640 hours and addressed to "Štefánik": "Palacký transferred to Headquarters Ministry of Defense in Prague, only permanent personnel to remain in the original HQ. Therefore forward all news and requests to the address "Palacký 1 - Prague", respectively to the address of the Headquarters and relevant Departments and Ministry of National Defense section. The permanent personnel in the original HQ is Palacký 12. . ." [2].

The departure of the Operational Armies High Command "Palacký" freed up the rooms in the Račice Castle, and that is why "Palacký 12" moved there from the school as is obvious from another telegram addressed to the Chief Supply Administration Headquarters Vyškov 2 dated 4.10.1938: "On today's date the



Telegraph Forces Command freed up the 2 classrooms in the school, Postal No. 170, and moved to a single room in the Castle".

Also returning to Prague from "Palacký 12" were Brig. General Eng. Dvořák, Lt. Colonel Tel. Václav Vokroj, Staff Capt. Pešta and some others. Then on 6 October, the Ministry of Post and Telegraph civilian employees Eng. Zoubek, Eng. Laucký, and Singer also left Vyškov.

In fact, however, even the permanent personnel did not last much longer. A telegram to "Štefánik" informs the permanent personnel of "Palacký 12" that the permanent personnel status of "Palacký" is revoked as of 8 October at 1200 hours.

### Field Post No. 60

The Headquarters Command "Palacký" was served in Vyškov by Field Post No. 60 whose commander was Sr. Lt. Hofman. Its seat was the restaurant "Na Střelnici" [On the Shooting Range] (incorrectly quoted, apparently in soldier's jargon) which was correctly titled Hotel Střelec [Shooter] after the hotel owner, František Střelec. This Field Post was set up by Telegraph Battalion 7 from Turčianský Sv. Martin. This Field Post became operational on 2 October, and it was connected directly to the Field Post Central Office, as is obvious from telegram Přerov 1, No. 20, addressed to "Palacký" and dated 2.10.1938 at 1600 hours: "You will receive postal consignments today at 1700 hours by car; get the post ready for us"; conveyed by Staff Capt. Vacek, collected by Sr. Lt. Hofman.

From preserved records: ". . . to army members at higher headquarters in the field, it is necessary to indicate the headquarter's cover name in their address, for example, Lt. X. Y., Telegraph Forces Headquarters Palacký, Field Post 60".

We do not know the exact date when Field Post 60 ceased operations, so we are compelled to use what is stated in preserved records from about the time the Field Post was abolished, for example, from telegram Field Post Central Office No. 185/Classified to the Ministry of National Defense Headquarters in Prague and dated 26 October at 1815 hours: "Field Posts 16, 25, 60 were abolished . . .". The abolishment of Field Post 60 on this date is mentioned also in two additional preserved documents addressed to headquarters "Štefánik" and "Neruda".

The reciprocal exchange of information with other headquarters -- especially the neighboring ones -- was evidently ordered. Thanks to that it was possible during the study of these materials to put together and supplement or on the other hand to *confront some insufficiently recorded events; for example, events altogether missing at units where often no documentation at all was preserved.*

It is also necessary to emphasize that there exists a preserved document, telegram "Štefánik" No. 11,150 Telegraph Forces from 14 October at 1605 hours, addressed to Field Post Sorting Offices 3 and 4: "Field Post consignments addressed to Field Posts 46 and 60, return to offices with the note "Field Post No. . . . abolished"[3]. Unfortunately, even in this telegram, there is a mistake! Field Post No. 45 [sic 46] was not abolished! That is to say it belonged to VI<sup>th</sup> Group RÁZUS, which during the days of 11 to 17 October was transferred from Tábor to Vranov in East Slovakia. During the transfer travel time by train, its Field Post was not

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functioning, which caused considerable confusion up until 24 October when this error was explained (relative to Field Post 46).

Field Post 60 served the High Command "Palacký" and the military units which were distributed around Vyškov, above all the searchlight squads, antiaircraft batteries, antiaircraft machine guns, etc., which were supposed to defend Vyškov and Račice against aircraft attacks from the air.

With the departure of the High Command "Palacký" from Račice and the eventual abolishment of the local permanent personnel on 8.10.1938, this Field Post lost its significance. It is therefore possible that the date of abolishment of this Field Post's operation was more likely to have been before 14 October rather than 26.10.1938.

On the same day when the "Palacký" permanent personnel ended at Račice, "Palacký" in Prague announced on 8 October at 1830 hours that "headquarters of the II<sup>nd</sup> Army JIRÁSEK was transferred to Račice on 8.X.". From another record we can read that it remained there until 23 October, when it moved to Brno, where it was demobilized and "on 25 October its routine changed to peacetime operations (ZVV Brno)" [4].

A part of "Palacký" was Headquarters TYL (Headquarters 5<sup>th</sup> Detachment) -- the seat of the army in Přerov -- in actuality it was the Central Railway Headquarters whose commander was Lt. Colonel Zima. His mission was to ensure the serviceability of the railway tracks (for example, those destroyed by air attacks). In addition, the Regulatory Commissions and their reserve units all reported to him.

The Regulatory Commissions were the following:

- RK I - Prague (cover name Šaloun)
- RK II - Brno (Štursa)
- RK III - Vrútky (Šimáček) joined to Field Post Sorting Office 3 - Vrútky
- RK IV - Olomouc (Brožík)
- RK V - Poprad (Ruman) - FP 57
- RK V - branch Užhorod (Šalda)
- RK VI - Německý Brod, later possibly Jihlava (Čapek), to whom was subordinated branch KK 2 (ERK 2) in Pardubice
- RK VII - Plzeň (Třebízský)
- RK VIII - Leopoldov (Kukučín) joined to FP 58.

The Regulatory Commissions in Bohemia and then in Moravia had their influence wane until they were gradually abolished by 15 November. In Slovakia it came down to their reorganization at the beginning of December 1938 [5].

Very few records are preserved from this command, and not even other higher headquarters have records that would illuminate its activity more closely. Not even any direct archival evidence exists to show which Field Post this command used. It is possible to conjecture that it was Field Post 61 (attached to II<sup>nd</sup> Army "Jirásek"), but it could have also been another Field Post.

### Central Reserve of the Operational Armies High Command

The majority of the below named units were the lead reserves for the Operational Armies High Command on 4 October. Thereafter these commands were

transferred and subordinated to relevant armies in whose areas they found themselves.

VIII<sup>th</sup> Corps TAJOVSKÝ -- HQ Uherské Hradiště, Field Post No. 48 joined directly to the Field Post Central Office in Píerov, telegraphically linked by means of the IV<sup>th</sup> Army "Neruda"; parts of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Corps were:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division HODŽA (HQ Nové Město n/V.), Field Post 21
- 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division JÁNOŠÍK (HQ Senica), Field Post 27
- 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division ŠAFARÍK (HQ Veselí na Mor.), Field Post 33
- 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division HEYDUK (HQ Hradec Králové), Field Post 16
- 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division FAJNOR (HQ Vsetín), Field Post 24, with the two last named divisions having a telegraphic link maintained by means of the III<sup>rd</sup> Army JIRÁSEK
- 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ÚPRKA (HQ Humpolec), Field Post 25, telegraphic link via the I<sup>st</sup> Army HAVLÍČEK
- 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division JABLONSKÝ (HQ Ružomberok), Field Post 28
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division HVIEZDOSLAV (HQ Žilina), Field Post 34, with both divisions having a telegraphic link maintained via III<sup>rd</sup> Army "Štefánik"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rapid Division ONDŘEJ (HQ Jaroměřice n/Rok.), Field Post 50

František Nesvadba introduces in his book "Proč Nezháhme Déla" [Why the Guns Did Not Thunder] (page 384) still other units:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rapid Division KAZIMÍR (HQ Pacov), Field Post 49
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mounted Brigade Lt. Colonel J. Hefman (HQ Slaný)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Motorized Brigade Colonel F. Vávry. With these two commands the Field Posts they used are not known (from the preserved archival records).

In the following sources about the Field Posts, the individual Posts are introduced within the framework of the relevant armies in whose area they found themselves at the beginning of October.

**Footnote Sources VHA Praha:**

- [1] 12665 - Ministry of National Defense IV<sup>th</sup> Department (Technical), 1938, 21 4/7 - 24 5/2
- [2] 299 ZVV Bratislava "Štefánik" -- tel. service 1054 - 11922, box 36 - 1305/38
- [3] 300 ZVV Bratislava "Štefánik" 1938, tel. service
- [4] Ministry of National Defense IV<sup>th</sup> Department, 75 6/7 - 75 ZVV Brno
- [5] "Tyl" inventory No. 1 - 39, box No. 1 - 2

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**CZECHS COMMEMORATE  
THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PNEUMATIC MAIL  
by Henry Hahn**

On December 18, 1999, coincident with Czech Stamp Day, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications issued the illustrated 4 Kč postal card, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of Prague's Pneumatic Mail System. The card includes a small hologram at the lower left and was produced by

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the Post Printing House, Prague. Though the anniversary occurred more than ten months earlier (and we had nearly given up hope) the issue was most welcome to pneumatic mail enthusiasts, who in the US commemorated the occasion with a cachet during STAMPSHOW'99.

The principle author of the Czech card is Antonín Šmíd, noted collector of Prague Pneumatic Mail who participated in STAMPSHOW'99 as an exhibitor and speaker and is currently in the process of writing a monograph on the subject.

Lack of space on the card did not permit identification of the two pieces of apparatus shown. The larger apparatus is a high pressure terminal, or receiving station, while the smaller component is a high pressure dispatching station. There exist several variations of these components, such as a low pressure receiving station and intermediate pressure receiving station, not illustrated.

The illustrated postmark within the design raises some questions since it is apparently not taken from an existing cover or period item. It has apparently been produced by combining the first pneumatic PRAG 1 postmark illustrated in Monograph 13 on page 85, but with an altered - fictional - date, i.e. March 4, 1899.

Our readers may recall that the cover illustrated on the Society's cachet bore the March 4, 1899 date, and the time as VII:40, which denotes the time as a.m., making it (probably) the earliest cover preserved. But the Czechs kept the Arabic 7:40 from the Monograph illustration, which denotes the time as p.m. It is felt that it might have been more appropriate if the card postmark bore the Roman numeral time indication.

Despite this minor shortcoming, the postmark is a First Day of pneumatic mail operation, and the card itself is a FDC. Mr. Šmíd and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications are to be congratulated on producing this lovely souvenir, which should find a home in every Czech collection.



*President's Corner*

**SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY**

During the Society's annual convention this year at STAMPSHOW 99 in Cleveland, the Directors voted to authorize a new membership category to be known as "Senior Member". To qualify as a Senior Member an individual must have maintained his membership and good standing in our Society for fifty (50) years. Senior Members will pay no dues and will receive all of the membership benefits that they previously enjoyed, including receipt of The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST. The individuals listed below (with their membership numbers in parenthesis) have been determined to be Senior Members:

- Edwin Jirousek (159)
- Edward Linhart (167)
- Emil Zaludek (211)
- George Kobylka (227)
- James Adler (386)

Congratulations to all of the above members, and thank you for your steadfast support of the Society over the years.

Richard Palaschak

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***Souvenir Sheet Varieties***

*by Frank A. Garancovsky*



Fig. 1

**SLOVAK S/S VARIETIES**

**Slovakian Folk Festival**

**Scott 273, POFIS 119**

The Slovakia folk festival souvenir sheet is the first found or reported in the American philatelic publications. This is unusual since both the Czech and Slovak Republics use the same printer in Prague, The Postage Stamp Printing House. The philatelic press in the Czech Republic has reported many varieties since 1993 including publishing a varieties catalog for 1993/1999. Information from the Slovak Republic is sketchy at best.

The format of this souvenir sheet is probably with four positions since the majority are, depending on how many colors are used. The illustrated copies are positions 1 and 2. I have a third copy

without any of the distinguishing marks shown in Type 1 or 2. A normal copy is always referred to as a Type 4.

Position or Type 1 (Fig. 1). The letter "E" in the state name has a short



Fig. 2

This souvenir sheet was probably produced from 4 different plates. A check of your copies may reveal the third plate position variety. A report of your findings would be appreciated and will be published.

horizontal line extending to the right from the top bar of the letter E. Additionally, there is no red color shift to the left.

Position or Type 2 (Fig. 2). The same letter "E" has a short vertical line just to the left of the center bar of the letter E. Also notice the results of the pronounced red color shift to the left: the man's shirt front has moved left, the tassel dangling from the man's hat touches the man's raised arm, and the girl's skirt touches the man's left leg. There are a few other minor inconsistencies in various parts of the costumes.

Position or Type 3. Distinguishing marks are unknown at this writing.

Position or Type 4. This is a normal copy without any of the above minor plate flaws.

**CZECHOSLOVAK S/S VARIETIES  
PRAGA 1978 Philatelic Exhibition  
Scott 2157 Imperf, POFIS A2294**

This souvenir sheet (Fig. 3) contains 4 imperforate copies of "Civilians Greeting Guardsmen" (Tr. 2294, Sc. 2157 - which was issued as a perforated stamp on 25 Feb 1978). The S/S was not intended for postal use. It was sold only in conjunction with a ticket to PRAGA'78, 8-17 Sept 1978.

It was printed in 12 S/S positions (AP = Aršíkové Pole). The stamp positions (ZP = Známkové Pole) are designated ZP1 - ZP4.

This listing provides the currently know distinguishing marks with which to determine S/S positions. As with most distinguishing marks for S/S varieties, most of these marks are microscopic in size and may not always be discernable.

- AP1 - vertical black line under the "78" in the lower inscription
- red blemish under the "T" of SVĚTOVÁ in the lower inscription
- two red blemishes to the immediate lower right of the left emblem
- AP2 - vertical red line under the "H" of POŠTOVÝCH
- hair thin line leading from the right edge of ZP1 down across the first "O" of POSTOVÝCH continuing down to the lower edge (not illustrated)
- AP3 - the lower arc of the "O" of ZNÁMOK is trimmed off
- vertical red line under "LO" of ČESKOSLOVENSKO of ZP3
- very strong red line between the head of the militiaman and the flower in ZP3
- AP4 - vertical red line to the lower left from the left emblem
- vertical black line to the right of the lower right corner of ZP4

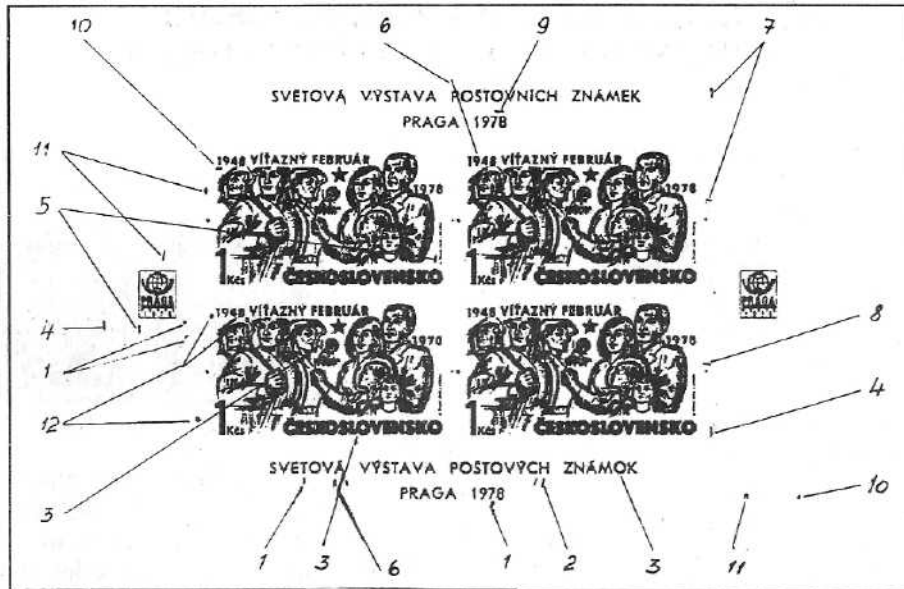


Fig. 3

- hair thin wavy line across the entire S/S from the top edge to the bottom edge (not illustrated)
- AP5 - vertical black line under the lower left corner of the left emblem
- vertical gold line to the left of the name ŠTRBA 1978 on the right side of ZP1
- AP6 - two red blemishes below "A" of SVĚTOVÁ in the lower inscription
- hair thin line leading from the top edge across "P" of POŠTOVNÍCH to ZP2
- AP7 - vertical gold line 14mm from the right end of the upper inscription
- short black line 3mm above the print alignment cross to the right of ZP2
- AP8 - horizontal black line above the print alignment cross to the right of ZP4
- AP9 - horizontal black line above the "78" in the upper inscription
- hair thin line leading from the left edge down across the lower part of "S" in SVĚTOVÁ continuing on to the lower edge (not illustrated)
- AP10 - horizontal black line under "1" of 1948 in ZP1
- red blemish near the lower right corner of the S/S
- AP11 - red blemish to the left of the upper part of ZP1
- red blemish to the lower right of ZP4
- vertical gold line above the left emblem
- hair thin line leading from the upper edge down across "CH" of POŠTOVNÍCH continuing down to the right (not illustrated)
- AP12 - red blemish to the left of the value numeral "1" of ZP
- blue blemishes near the barrels of the rifles in ZP3

## CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS ISSUED IN HONOR OF T.G. MASARYK'S DEATH

by Lubor Kunc

This year we are commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the first Czechoslovak president, Tomas Garrigue Masaryk. Although the anniversary relates to the birth of the President -- Liberator, I would like to draw your attention to the stamp set issued in 1937 to commemorate his death.

The former president died on September 14, 1937. Immediately after his death it was decided to issue some stamps in honor of the occasion. Due to the shortage of time, it was agreed to issue two stamps based upon an already released design.



Fig. 1a

Fig. 1b

On September 18, 1937 (only 4 days after the president's death!) the 50 h stamp containing his portrait (Fig. 1a) -- which took as its model the similar stamp issued in 1930 (Fig. 1b) -- was issued. As you can see, there were no changes made to the stamp design. The only changes were to the color of the stamp (the original stamp from 1930 was green, while the newly issued one was black) and to the size of the perforations.



Fig. 2a

Fig. 2b

On September 20, 1937 the second stamp of the set was issued having a face value of 2 Kč. This second stamp issued for Masaryk's death (Fig. 2a) was modeled on the stamp issued in 1935 to commemorate his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday (Fig. 2b).

On this stamp it is possible to find changes. The only change in the drawing of the stamp was in the dates located below the inscription "Československo". The original stamp from 1935 showed there the years 1850 and 1935. The stamp issued in 1937 shows in place of them the date of his death, i.e. 14.IX.1937. The original stamp is blue, while the 1937 stamp is black -- different also is the size of the perforations used.

The biggest changes were made on the tabs. The tabs of the original stamp issue of 1935 did not contain any text or illustration with the exception of only two stamps from the entire counter sheet. The tabs of these two stamps contained the date "7. III. 1935" and a printing plate number (Fig. 2B shows the stamp from plate 1A). All of the tabs of the new issue contain the inscription "T.G. Masaryk/zasloužil se o stát" (T.G. Masaryk/he played an important role in the creation of the state).

T.G. Masaryk was laid to rest on September 21, 1937. A photograph from his funeral can be seen at Fig. 3. Figure 4 shows a registered letter which is properly



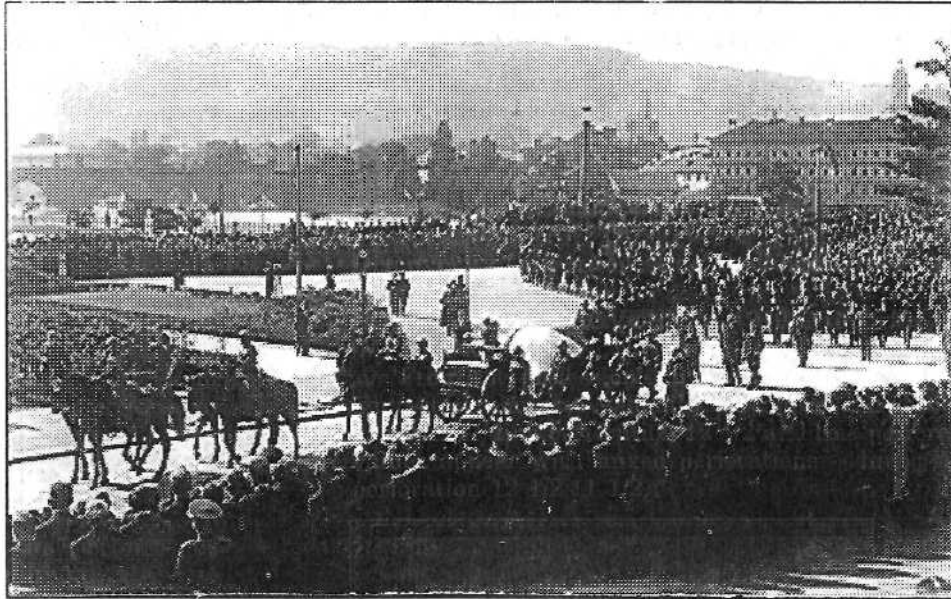


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

franked with both stamps of the issue. They are postmarked with a mourning cancellation from the Praha 10 - Hrad (Prague 10 - Prague Castle) post office on the date of his funeral.

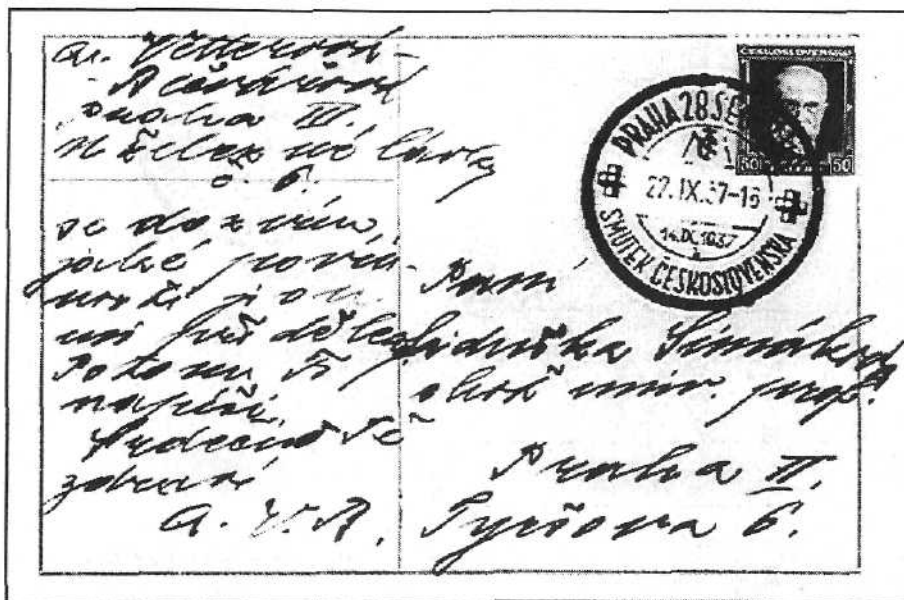


Fig. 5

A similar mourning cancellation was also used in September and October 1937 at the other post offices in all of Czechoslovakia (see Fig. 5 showing a card franked with a 50 h stamp postmarked with a similar cancellation at the Praha 28 - Senát post office). There is also known to be a printing error in the mourning cancellation -- instead of the inscription "Smutek Československa", you can sometimes find "Smutek Českoslevenska".

It is hard to find covers from September or early October which are properly franked with the mourning issue stamps. Many people affixed these stamps on anything in order to obtain a souvenir of Masaryk's death. Even today there is a large quantity of cards/letters franked with both stamps without regard for the postal rates. You can find an example of this at Fig. 6. This illustrated card (associated with Masaryk's funeral) was franked with both of the stamps from the mourning issue, although the postage fee would have been satisfied by only the 50 h stamp. This card has an interesting sender, who was the staff sergeant-major of the President's guard (Hradní Stráž/castle guard).

With the passage of time after Masaryk's death, the people began to use the mourning stamps just like all the others. At that time the stamps were used exactly according to the postal tariffs. In this way there arose some interesting frankings -- some examples are shown here:

-- Figure 7 shows a privately issued card commemorating Masaryk's death.



Fig. 6

This card is franked with the 50 h mourning stamp and was mailed from Valtice (near the Slovak border) to Prague for the purpose of ordering a book on music (business correspondence).



Fig. 7

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

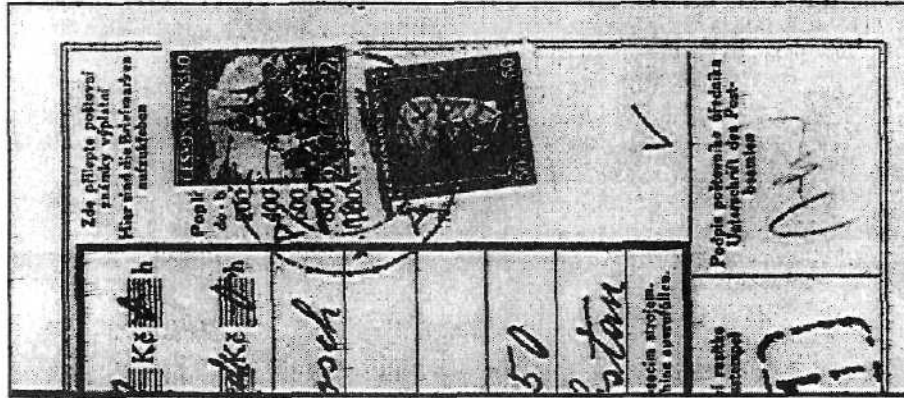


Fig. 8

-- Another example is shown at Figure 8. This is a postal money order sent from Aš in November 1937. The 50 h stamp was used together with the 2 Kč stamp from the Petite Entente issue to pay the postage for the transfer of money.

-- The last example shown at Figure 9 originates from the time of the independent Slovak state. This entire seems like a cut-out from a letter sent from Topolčany to Prague in May 1939. The entire is franked with two Czechoslovak stamps (the 50 h from the mourning issue and the 20 h from the Coat of Arms

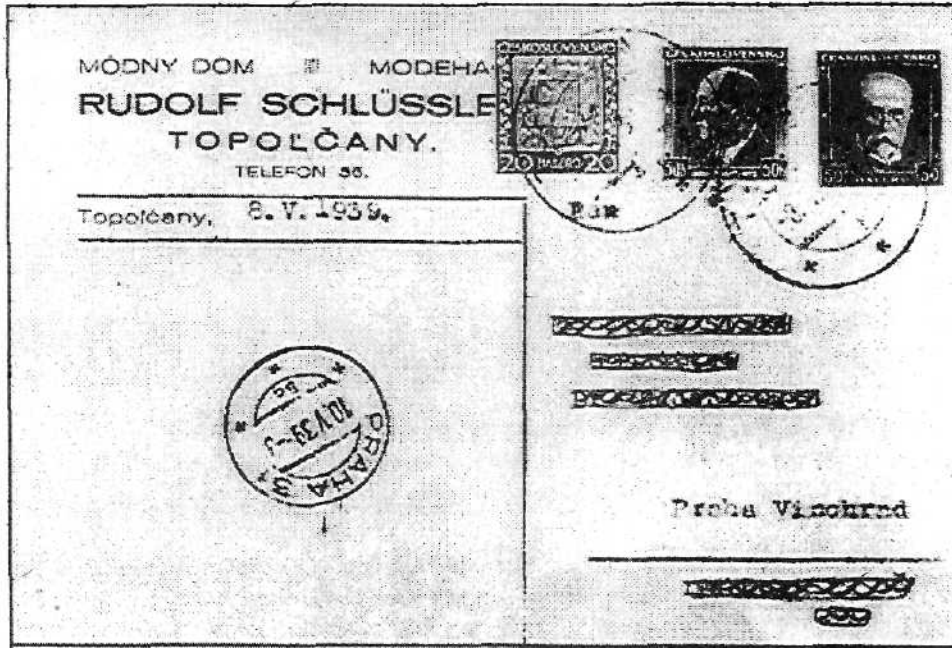


Fig. 9



issue) and one Slovak stamp (the 50 h showing the portrait of President Beneš with the "Slovenský Stát 1939" overprint).

Such mixed frankings are possible in as much as the stamps of the mourning issue were valid until December 15, 1939, and thus they could be used in three states: the Czechoslovak Republic, the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, as well as in the Slovak Republic.

By way of this last cover we return to the beginning of the article. Maybe it was better that President Masaryk died in 1937 and thus didn't see the fall of his Czechoslovak Republic!

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

## OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS -- PART II

by Miroslav Vostatek

trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

*[Ed. Note: This is the second of a three part article; the first part appeared in the Jan/Feb 2000 issue. This part originally appeared in the Jan/Feb 1997 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]*

In this part of the series we shall talk about the symbols of the young Czechoslovak Republic. It is worth noting, that even before our new independent Republic was established, our representatives in exile had for their use numerous Legions abroad. They were already using the symbols of the future nation, and that is why the so-called Legionnaire's coat-of-arms is discussed (Fig. 1). It was composed of four individual coat-of-arms and contained the Bohemian lion, the Moravian and Silesian eagles, and finally the Slovakian coat-of-arms. The referenced Legionnaire's symbol is present on the unit postmarks used on Legionnaire correspondence. Later it was also commonly used on military papers produced in 1919-1920 Slovakia.

The matter of the Czechoslovak national symbols was validated by a statute on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1920, which introduced three types of the national coat-of-arms:

- the small one with the Bohemian lion having on its chest the double-armed cross (Fig. 2).

- then followed the intermediate one, already known from the 1929-1931 stamp issue (Fig. 4). The background of the coat-of-arms was divided into four quarters, and in its center was the Bohemian lion coat-of-arms in silver. In one of the quarters was the Slovakian symbol, which was made up of three knolls in blue with the double-armed cross in a field of red. In the next quarter was the Sub-Carpathian coat-of-arms showing three golden beams in a field of blue and on the left [*sic* - right] silver part, a standing bear. Finally there was the already mentioned Moravian eagle, and the Silesian eagle having on its chest a silver spring ending in triple leaves with the center decorated with a cross, and all of that on a golden shield.

- the large coat-of-arms was richly decorated, with two double-tailed lions holding the shield -- there was also the slogan "Pravda Vítězí" (Truth Will

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Prevail) (Fig. 5). It is interesting that this symbol was a part of the graphics of the 1938 miniature sheet (Tr. A347, Sc. B153) (Fig. 7). During the occupation period, in 1939 and 1940 it was printed on the unofficial miniature sheets issued for the occasion of the New York's World Fair, and in 1943 it was placed in a prominent position on the London Exhibition miniature sheet. Surprisingly, even in 1954 this coat-of-arms supplements the miniature sheet issued for the anniversary of A. Zápotocky's birth. Besides these already referred to symbols -- and doubtless surprising to many collectors -- there are still additional coat-of-arms on the shield. Additionally there is the coat-of-arms of the Těšín region which is represented by a golden eagle on a blue shield (Fig. 6). Těšín used to be an independent principality and came about in the division of Opolska in 1282. Here ruled the Těšín's Piastovci, and upon their dying out, the principality fell as a fiefdom to the Bohemian crown. The Opava region is represented by a second coat-of-arms where the shield is divided into red and white parts. These lands belonged to Moravia from the time of Břetislav. In the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries it was a special principality directly under the Bohemian crown. Finally the Ratiboř region has a coat-of-arms where the shield is again halved (Fig. 6). In the left blue half is a golden eagle with a tiara, and the right part is further vertically divided into white and red fields. The Ratiboř principality originated in 1282 in the same way as Těšín's, by the division of Opolska, and likewise it was ruled by the Piastovci. During the rule of Jan Luxembourg it was joined to the Opava principality in 1386. Later it was ruled by the bastard siblings of Přemysl Otakar II. Then in 1742 it fell to Prussia.

The derivation of the above mentioned symbols was the result of work done by a commission set up by a Presidium of Ministerial Advisers. The moving force of the commission was Jaroslav Kurša, an official with the Ministry of the Interior. Sitting on the commission were historians, e.g. V. Vojtíšek, G. Friedrich and others, as well as artists F. Kysela and V. H. Brunner. The artistic deciphering of the described symbols was conducted by Prof. František Kysela. It is worth mentioning that V. H. Brunner was the designer of the Liberated Republic stamp issue.

### Figure captions:

1. "Legionnaire's Coat-of-arms" on the unit canceler of the Czechoslovak 6. Division H.Q. in Italy from August 1919 having been sent through Field Post 75
2. Small national coat-of-arms on a lettercard of the Czechoslovak Army in England during WWII
3. Envelope flap paper seal, used by the Czechoslovak Army during the in-between-wars period, executed in relief using the small national coat-of-arms
4. The central symbol on a series of Czechoslovak stamps from 1929-1931 which in 1939 were used with the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Slovakian State overprints
5. The large coat-of-arms of the Czechoslovak Republic with the slogan "Truth Will Prevail"
6. Details of the Těšín and Ratiboř symbols from the preceding coat-of-arms. Both are in the lower part of the coat-of-arms; in the middle is the Opava coat-of-arms
7. The large coat-of-arms on a miniature sheet from 1938 according to a Max Švabinsky design. The miniature sheet was issued abroad after the occupation and as a consequence had a number of problems; for example, it was not allowed to be used for franking (only the torn out stamp could be used)
8. An atypical coat-of-arms on a label by the Czechoslovak exiles in Canada from 1942, often found on the correspondence of countrymen living in Canada
9. A 1918 work of Vratislav H. Brunner symbolizing the Bohemian lion and the Austrian monarchy, it did not appear on a Czechoslovak stamp until 1986



Fig. 1



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 3



Fig. 9



Fig. 2



Fig. 8



Fig. 4



Fig. 7

## SVU WORLD CONGRESS

by Mila Rechcigl

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Congress on August 9-13, 2000 in Washington D.C. This will be an extraordinary event which will feature prominent speakers and visitors from both sides of the Atlantic. It will be co-sponsored by the American University (where the meetings and other activities will take place) in cooperation with the Embassies of both the Czech and Slovak Republics.

The central theme of the congress will be "Civil Society and Democracy into the New Millennium". The aim of the proceedings will be to look at the SVU -- with all its pluses and minuses -- with the perspective of the new Millennium. Apart from this major theme, the program will include numerous discussion panels and symposia covering practically every aspect of human endeavor, including:

- a plenary session which will address the topic "Czechs and Slovaks Who Made the Difference in the Last Millennium" with the participation of major scholars;

- a discussion panel on "Civil and Human Rights in the Czech and Slovak Republics" featuring the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors to the US, the American Ambassador in Prague, plus other distinguished speakers;

- a seminar -- of interest particularly to philatelists -- organized by Henry Hahn (of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately) dealing with the future of postal service in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The point of departure will be an interview -- published by the Washington Post -- of Postmaster General William J. Henderson who testified in the House on the future of the USPS. Among the seminar participants is Mr. Gordon Morrison, former Assistant Postmaster General and a prominent philatelist. We also hope to attract a communications expert, an officer of the APS, and other visionaries of the future.

Special attention will also be paid to the questions of the vitality of Czech and Slovak communities abroad, the preservation of Czech and Slovak cultural identity and heritage, as well as the mutual relations of Czech and Slovak Americans with the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

There will also be an exciting and entertaining social and cultural program.

We call on all scholars, scientists, artists, educators, students, and anybody else who is interested in these matters to send us suggestions for topics and possible speakers, as well as to participate as much as possible.

To defray the costs of housing, accommodations have been reserved in the newly renovated American University dormitories. These are available on a first come basis. You should reserve your dormitory room promptly. We welcome any suggestions or offers to help, either with the logistics or the program.

Please contact SVU President -- Mila Rechcigl, 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; tel. (301) 881-7222; FAX: (301) 881-9667; e-mail: rechcigl@aol.com.

*[Ed. Note: Our Society Board of Directors has elected to participate in this Congress. While all of the details have not yet been finalized, we are planning to sponsor an exhibit of selected philatelic materials provided by our members from the Washington area.]*



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*Philatelic News and Views*

From Ludvik Svoboda:

- I recently learned that one of our long-time members, Joe Lacko, #1613, had a recent second stroke. He indicates that he's doing quite well, considering everything. The Board and all of his many friends wish him well and hope to see him at our next get together.

From Savoy Horvath:

- The Czech Republic Post made a big mistake last year. As is known, dealers and businesses get a discount on stamp purchases, and as a result certain stamp sets were almost completely sold out through this means. This came to light when the Post started filling standing orders for year sets and found out that some stamps were no longer available.

- The 6 Kč Slany definitive forgery has three different printings. Printings I and II can be distinguished through their gum. The gum on type I is matte, while that on type II is shiny. There is also a small difference in color, with type II being darker green. Also, there are engraving differences. On type I the corner of the building next to the engraver's name consists of two solid vertical lines, while these lines on type II are not solid. Type III glows under a UV light, but the fluorescence is of poor quality. It seems to have been applied to the counterfeit sheets of stamps with a paint brush by hand. There are examples that are completely aglow under the proper light, but other single forgeries simply show fluorescent brush strokes.

- A friend in the ČR recently wrote me that towards the end of November he was called by the Hradec Králové postmaster asking if he could come to the post office right away. It seems there were too many counterfeits on the mail in the sorting room. My friend grabbed his fluorescent lamp, his back copies of *Filatelie* where the forgeries are described, and headed for the post office. Right in front of the post office was a kiosk -- newsstand. He stopped to buy a morning paper and noticed the sales clerk tearing up sheets of postage stamps and affixing them to picture post cards and envelopes. They were the 4 Kč and 4.60 Kč building styles definitives. He bought a few examples and took them in to the Postmaster -- case solved! But by the time the postal inspector was notified and came to the kiosk to confiscate the lot, all of the counterfeits supposedly were gone. My friend sent me a postal card franked with one-each of the two counterfeits (4 + 4.60), and even though the airmail postage for a card was 9 Kč in genuine stamps, I received it in five days.

- Postal inspectors in Kladno uncovered a distribution center of counterfeit 4.60 Kč stamps that put 140,000 of them into circulation, selling them at a discount to kiosks. One person was arrested in Chrudim and according to their police department more arrests are impending. Counterfeits from this source were sold in the following cities: Kladno, Mladá Boleslav, Chrudim, Karlovy Vary, Plzeň, Vašimi, Náchod, Břeclav, and Hradec Králové.

- Soon after the Czech Republic's Minister of Education, Eduard Zeman, recommended changing the country's name to an easier to use single word -- Czechia or Česko (in the Czech language) -- more than 150 of the leading Czech intellectuals, and language, geography, and literary scholars came to support his view. To many Czech Republic citizens the name Česko does not sound right, and

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many feel aversion to the name, especially the Moravians. The Czech Republic is one of the last countries in Europe not having a single word name, and it will be only a matter of time to get used to it. It is easier to write than it sounds.

\*\*\*

## A "GOOD SOLDIER ŠVEJK" CENSOR?

By Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Half the fun for me when examining philatelic covers and cards is to discover why they were even placed into service. Often times there are some very interesting discoveries like with the illustrated letter-sheet. Let's start with the outside and see what it tells us.

It would appear to be a non-postal issued item since there are no postal system markings pre-printed, only a hand drawn "stamp" outline in the upper right-hand corner with the words "Polní pošta" in its middle, all apparently added by the sender. Very appropriately this "stamp" is surcharged by a KuK FELDPPOSTAMT 241 cancel dated 24.VI.16. The letter-sheet also carries a unit cancel of K.k. 2., 92. Landsturmetappenkompagnie, and a military censor mark handstamp, Zensuriert, with the censor's initials.

It is addressed to Adolf Růžička in Valašské Meziříčí, Moravia. Not knowing enough about WW I Austria-Hungary military unit designations, their organization, or their operations, I asked for the help of our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom. He provided me with the following information.



The unit -- K(aiserliche) k(önigliche) Landsturmetappenkompagnie 2, 92 -- in English is 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 92<sup>nd</sup> Imperial Royal Landsturm Rear Area Security Battalion. Kk simply means the unit was raised in the Austrian part of Austria-Hungary (Moravia was part of Austria). The Landsturm were the second line troops, as opposed to the Imperial and Royal (KuK) infantry regiments of the common army and the Kk Landwehr infantry of Austria. Both of the latter two

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

were considered front-line troops along with the Hungarian Landwehr.

Some Landsturm battalions were organized into regiments and saw front-line service. Others operated as independent battalions. The independent battalions were numbered sequentially (I have seen battalions numbered as high as 516). Those battalions assigned rear area security duty received the added designation "Etappen".

As to the location of the unit or the field post -- given it is a 1916 date, I would guess the unit is on the Isonzo Front, that is, north of Trieste. Aircraft had a much more difficult time climbing up to the heights on the other parts of the Austrian-Italian front [as you will see, aircraft are discussed in the letter-sheet]. Also, the fact that the cover has a censor cancel indicates to me that the unit was not in the front lines. Most covers and almost all covers from front line units do not have a censor marking.

Now as to where FELDPSTAMT (Field Post Office) 241 was located around May/June 1916. FPA 241 was assigned to the Quartiermeister Abteilung des III Armee Korps (3AK/QuAbt) -- the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps Quartermaster Detachment. This detachment was located in Bozen (Bolzano) and Trient (Trento) Südtirol; this is now in Italy. As a guess, the unit was probably closer to Trient and the front lines, than to Bozen.

Now, lets examine the inside of the letter-sheet. The translation proves to be quite interesting.

"22/6 16

Dearest ones!

Most sincere thanks for your best wishes. On Tuesday we had a visit here by 9 Italian airplanes. They flew in, one after another, and were vigorously fired upon by our guns, which were not even able to hit any of them. Then appeared 2 of our planes which drew a bead on one of theirs and got involved in a terrible fight. One of ours was on top of him and was releasing hand grenades on him, and he, in turn, was responding with a machine gun. This lasted for a while, then suddenly the enemy plane did two spirals and, with amazing speed, was heading for the ground. All of those here who witnessed this cried out with pleasure that it was an enemy plane. But when he was very low to the ground, he straightened himself back up and began to fly like before. Then again they began to shoot at each other with machine guns. We were lying comfortably in a meadow and were observing this interesting scene. This was going on above us for about two hours, planes flying about and even towards the interior. Finally one after another they began turning back. One flew so low above us that we could see the pilot with our bare eyes.

Heartfelt greetings, Adolf"

Now wasn't this a curious letter to be sending home! What happened to censorship? But Tom notes: Breach of censorship is not unusual, as the writer did not list his exact location.

That notwithstanding, I find this piece of correspondence fascinating. Perhaps there was a "Good Soldier Švejk" censor in the Austria-Hungary army. I am, of course, referring to the bumbling but patriotic military character (analogous to the US's Sad Sack) devised by the clever Czech writer, Jaroslav Hašek, and the adroit Czech illustrator, Josef Ladá. This character was most recently memorialized in the September 10, 1997 issue of three stamps (Sc. 3019-21).



## INTRODUCTION OF MECHANICAL CANCELING MACHINES

by Ing. Antonín Hašek

trans. by Henry Hahn

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the journal, *FILATELIE*, 18/1986, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, postmarks had become an indispensable confirmation of postal transport. With the expansion of industry and commerce, there arose a greater need for communication, which the mail provided through delivery of written messages. The increased volume of mail demanded an increase of postal employees of which some, mainly in the larger post offices, were employed merely to postmark mail. All who have ever held a canceling device in their hand know that canceling is a tiring job and one which has hardly changed from then to now. And therefore, at the start of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, attempts were made to mechanize this labor intensive and tiring activity. In England and in France there appeared variations of cylindrical (rolling) canceling devices, while in Germany there appeared the first mechanical canceling devices. New devices of original design brought about pioneering efforts which were not always successful. Only at the end of the last and the beginning of the present century, after 30 years of development and improvements in the devices, were they successfully introduced into the postal services.

How did this development manifest itself in Czech lands and Austria itself? According to information available at the Technical Museum in Vienna, which also includes a Postal Museum, hand driven canceling devices were already being tested for various purposes starting in 1873. Beginning January 1, 1903 an experimental device was used in Vienna 1 for canceling postal receipts. Approximately in 1905, two canceling devices were placed in service at the Main Vienna post office for canceling letters. These were from the Bickerdike system -- which was provided by the Berlin firm "Deutsche Waffen -- und Munitions -- Fabriken" (German Arms and Munitions Works). At that time -- already for several years -- there were 4 canceling devices operating at the central office for the acceptance of mail. The first device was manufactured by the London firm "The London Postal Machinery Co. Limited" and the other by the Vienna firm "Czejja and Nissl". On February 1, 1906 there was put into use at the Vienna 1 post office a canceling device known as the Krag system. The manufacturing rights for this system were taken over by "Donauwerk, Ernst Krause & Co." Apparently this firm also supplied the first canceling machines used in Bohemia (and Moravia) where the post offices Prague 1, Brno 2, and Ustí nad Labem 1 were the first to use these for canceling letter mail.

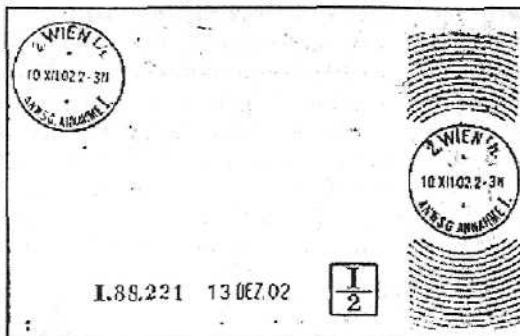


Fig. 1

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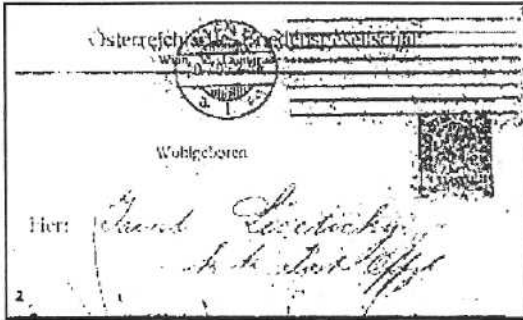


Fig. 2

Figure 1 illustrates a postmark experimentally introduced on January 1, 1903 for canceling receipts. On December 24, 1902 the Austrian paper "Post und Telegraphen-verordnungsblatt" published the following: "At the money deposit window of the Vienna 1 Post Office, starting on January 1, an experimental device will be placed in service which will simultaneously apply all of the data on the postal receipt -- including the

receipt sequence number, day/month/year of payment, and county designation -- as shown in the illustrated example". So much for the news release -- we only wish to add that the mechanical device was manufactured by the firm "Bachrach and Harner".

Based on facts provided from Germany we add the illustration shown in Fig. 2 of an imprint of the canceling device "Bickerdike". According to an article by Alois Sammüller, "Canceling of Letters", in the journal "Zeitschrift für Post und Telegraphie" from 1905, such a device operated using electricity or gear drive, was supplied by the above German firm, and operated at a speed of 120 letters a minute (Fig. 3). The article also compares this capacity with that of a trained postal clerk who could cancel 80-100 letters per minute. The device required envelopes of a single size, dedicated space of 0.85 x 0.5 meters, and skilled maintenance. It in fact increased service and improved the work environment, if only minimally. Obviously, already then, there was distrust of technical innovation, because the author attempts to agitate in favor of the use of this technology.

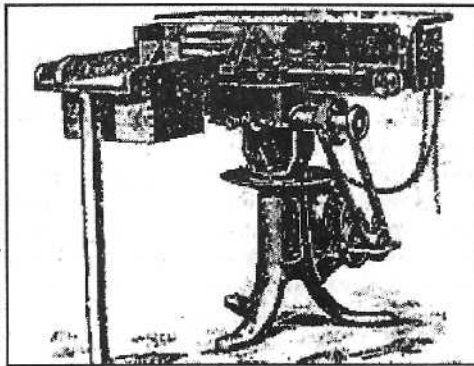


Fig. 3

Further in this article, A. Sammüller describes a device provided by the London firm "The Postal Machinery Co. Limited". The device is located on a table, includes two canceling heads, which in one revolution cancel two letters. It is hand driven, and its capacity is 200 letters or 300 postcards per minute. The actual canceler has the peculiarity that the solid portion is engraved in metal, and the second part is of flexible interchangeable material (rubber padding) which extends over the straight



Fig. 4

table, includes two canceling heads, which in one revolution cancel two letters. It is hand driven, and its capacity is 200 letters or 300 postcards per minute. The actual canceler has the peculiarity that the solid portion is engraved in metal, and the second part is of flexible interchangeable material (rubber padding) which extends over the straight

portion of the head and is compressed during cancellation.

Fig. 4 illustrates an imprint of a mechanized receiving postmark of Vienna 1 which was struck in blue. The imprint is from the Krag system in which, for reasons of legibility of the addressed side, the spacer ribs have been removed from the cancel head. In the case of the expediting postmark shown in Fig. 5, the spacer ribs are in the form of 8 horizontal lines and are there for the purpose of canceling the stamp(s). As mentioned previously, this type of canceling device was placed in service in Vienna 1 on February 1, 1906.

Thus far we have been unable to determine the dates on which the above device was introduced on Czech lands, i.e. whether it was in 1906 or 1907.



Fig. 5

All evidence thus far points to the end of the first half of 1907.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. P. Čtvrtník, Director of the Postal Museum in Prague, and Dipl. Ing. R. Neiderhuemer, Director of the Technical Museum in Vienna for their extreme kindness and cooperation.

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## SMALLEST AND LARGEST?

By Karel Holoubek

trans. by Savoy Horvath



Fig. 1

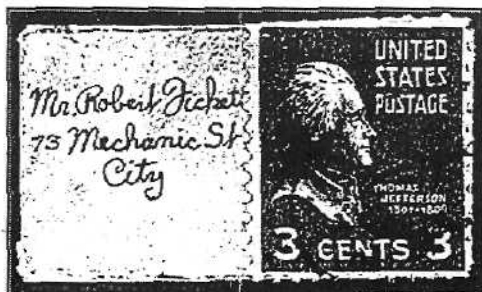


Fig. 2

It would appear that at one time the US Postal Service had not stipulated mandatory dimensions for the acceptance and conveyance of letters and cards. When mail was sorted only by hand, its size did not pose any problems. Only with the advent of machine processing and other mechanization in the posts did it lead to pressure for uniform sizing of consignments.

So then take a look at two rarities shown in Linn's Stamp News of July 14, 1997 (Fig. 1 and 2) [1]. I guess they are the smallest of postal consignments. I do not know how to classify them -- they are not letters, nor are they postal cards. Because they were properly franked, therefore they were transported and also delivered. It is really surprising that they didn't fall among the normal mail and get lost.



Fig. 3

The pictured stamp (Fig. 1) is 25 mm high and 22 mm wide [about 1 x 7/8 inches]. The measurements are only for accuracy's purpose, since surely you must know well this ordinary definitive stamp. How much of a message could this stamp have held?

In comparison to this, I am showing you an Austrian maxi-postcard (Fig. 3). Its measurements are 27.5 x 17.5, but this time in centimeters instead of millimeters [about 11 x 7 inches]. The card was actually used as it had a message written on it. It belonged to a group which was termed "long address". In its time it was quite popular. On it you could write a large and lengthy communication. Because its size made this maxi-postcard not space-saving enough, you can appreciate that they began to fold them up three times -- those are the vertical lines you see. When and why this folding began, I do not know, but it was necessary. In the illustration you can see four cancels, of which three are quite clear while the fourth is not. They prove that this correspondence card was accepted, transported and delivered to Hradec Králové by the post office.

1. Used with the permission of the editor, Linn's Stamp News.

\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

If you have any questions about the SPECIALIST, its content, editorial policies, mailing problems, or just plain non receipt of issues, please contact me at 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015 or e-mail: Lsvoboda1@aol.com.

**DO NOT** write to our past editor, Mirko Vondra, at 2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201. All that will do is greatly delay the response, because Mirko has to first forward your letter to me.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Editor

*Charley's Corner*

**SLOVAKIA ODDITIES**

**The M. Bozovsky Overprints**

A few months ago an article appeared in the *SPECIALIST* dealing with Slovakia's autonomy. On the date of autonomy overprints were prepared by Mr. Bozovsky but were never released. These stamps fetch very high prices in Czech auctions whenever they are available. Several different designs were used, most of which contained the date 6.X.1938 (the date of Slovakia's autonomy) with the Slovak coat of arms.

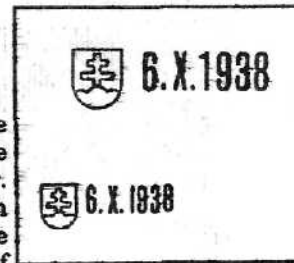


Fig. 1

Figure 1 shows proofs of the overprint in large and small formats. Figure 2 has the 2 Kčs value from the castles and cities issue of 1936 in the small format. Figure 3 has the larger format overprint on the 5 Kčs value. I classify these stamps as Type I (small format) and Type II (large format). Both of these types come in black and red overprints. Figures 4 and 5 deal with overprints (Types III and IV) that have the coat of arms only. They are very similar but have minor differences. These overprints come in blue and red colors. An overprint that I classify as Type V is shown in Figure 6 and comes in black and red. In Figure 7 is shown the 25 h coat of arms issue with an overprint that I classify as Type VI. These overprints exist in black, blue, and red. The last photo, Figure 8, shows the 40 h Komensky issue with overprint Type VII. These overprints come in blue and red colors.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

I have no idea of all the various overprint types used for this issue or which values were used. For instance, I've never seen the 10 Kčs Bratislava issue with these types of overprints.



Fig. 4

**Provisional Cover**

Figure 9 shows a cover sent from Prievidza in early April 1945, where apparently the Russian Army had already liberated the territory. The cover is franked with Slovakian stamps which were not canceled. It was sent on to the addressee who resided in Banská Bystrica. The Slovak stamps -- which were recognized as not valid at the destination -- were crossed out with blue crayon. Having noticed that the cover came from Prievidza, this was also marked in blue crayon. On the reverse -- again in blue crayon -- is the arrival date "Banská Bystrica/12.4.1945/X". A "T" -- for postage due -- is shown at the right side of the cover and was probably paid for by the addressee.



Fig. 5

**Slovak Liberation Committee Unofficials**

A set of 5 "stamps" (Fig. 10) -- in reality labels -- was issued by Slovaks in exile, somewhere in England,



Fig. 6

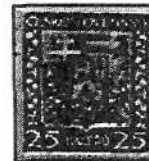


Fig. 7



Fig. 8





Fig. 9



Fig. 10

calling for Slovak independence. This particular issue was printed in later 1947 or in 1948, because on the 5 Ks value with Father Tiso depicted, the date of his death 18.IV.1947 is shown. He was put to death by the war tribunal. The set reads "Slovenský Oslobodzovací Výbor" [Slovak Liberation Committee] in the lower right margin immediately below the stamp image.

Charles Chesloe

ADVERTISEMENT

**WANTED: Set of 2 labels, Czechoslovak Bazaar, New York, 1940,**  
 "For the Benefit of Czechoslovak Refugees". Inscribed "1" and "2". Mint, n.h.  
 Jeffrey D. Beller  
 3724 Greentree Dr., Wantagh, NY 11793. (516) 826-4909  
 E-mail: [jdbstamp@aol.com](mailto:jdbstamp@aol.com).

## A Czech Expert Speaks

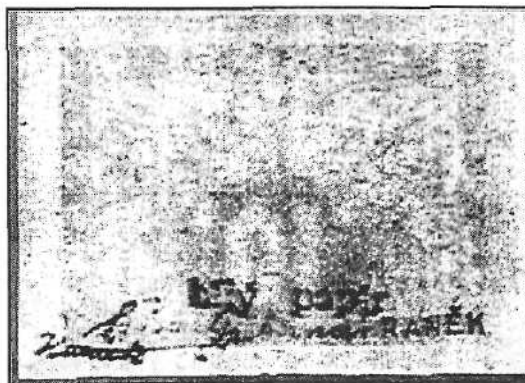
Jan Karásek  
Committee of SCF Experts  
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

[Ed. Note: Jan Karásek is one of the leading experts on Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps. He is a regular contributor to the MERKUR REVIEW and is on its expert's advisory board. This column will appear periodically and will highlight some of his findings that need to be brought to the attention of collectors.]

### Forged Expert's Mark

(MERKUR REVIEW, Mar/Apr 1997)

A short while ago there appeared on my desk -- among many other stamps for expertization -- a 10 h brown express stamp printed on white paper. It just so happened that at the same time I also received the two other values -- 2 h and 5 h -- printed as well on white paper.



During a formal examination it was determined that both lower values of the set were genuine (white paper) as well as their expert marks -- "Karásek". The third stamp, which is much sought after by collectors/specialists and has a pretty high priced value, in fact was not in order. The question had to do with a stamp which, at first sight, was printed on white paper.

The pattern of the paper -- which for this value is known (minutely small regularly spaced lozenges) -- was not found in this case. Therefore, it must have been without a doubt normal yellowish paper of inexpensive quality.

On the back of the stamp, however, it was possible to identify the expert marks "Hirsch-Tribuna-Franěk", "Karásek", and the additional marking "white paper". After a detailed examination, including a comparison with enlargements of the original markings, it was possible to state the following:

- the expert mark "Hirsch-Tribuna-Franěk" is forged,
- the additional marking "white paper" was subsequently imprinted,
- the expert mark "Karásek" is also forged.

Some time ago the above mentioned forged "Karásek" expert mark was already found on two other different Czechoslovak stamp specimens.

### Overprint Forgery

(MERKUR REVIEW, Nov/Dec 1997)

We are presenting a portrayal of a recently found forgery of the BÖHMEN u. MÄHREN - ČECHY a MORAVA overprint on a canceled 5 Kč green stamp. The overprint is produced by typography using a different style of letters. In as much as it was possible in the past to find forgeries of this type of overprint, they were

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

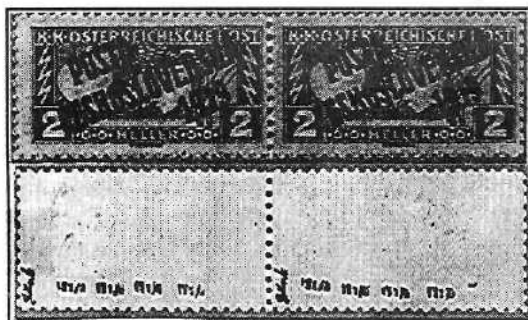
universally produced on used stamps. It is interesting that the forgeries -- which occur very sporadically -- appear alone as one or two examples from the entire 19 piece set. In relatively very few instances do we find overprint forgeries of the whole issue; however, in these cases it is on mint stamps. Keeping in mind the unusualness of this find, it is probably always important to thoroughly examine each stamp of the entire set.

### Discovery of an Interesting Perforation Forgery of a Stamp with the

#### POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 Overprint

(MERKUR REVIEW, Nov/Dec 1997)

From the professional literature and catalogs it is known that the 2 h and 5 h rectangular express mail stamps from the year 1917 appear in two perforation varieties -- line perforation 12 1/2 and line perforation 11 1/2. Infrequently both values appear with mixed perforations -- line perforation 11 1/2:12 1/2 or line perforation 12 1/2:11 1/2.



order (i.e. genuine). Additionally, it was discovered that the "Gilbert" expert mark was forged (being an already known type of forgery of this mark), and also that the additional markings were not identical with ones that Professor Gilbert used.

As you can see, the forger tried to "manufacture" this specimen -- a so-called great rarity -- so that with the help of other collectors he could put it up for sale in the earliest possible auction with a significantly higher price, having many zeros.

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## SALE OF UNBOUND SPECIALIST'S

The Society has back copies of the SPECIALIST available for sale to members at reduced prices. Years 1981-1998 are priced at 25 cents per copy. Prior years are priced at 50 cents per copy. We do not have all years complete, and in many cases only have a few copies of an issue. Therefore, the issues will be sold on a first come first served basis. Photocopies can be made (at cost -- about 3 cents per page) to provide a limited number of copies to complete some year's issues, if specifically requested.



Recently the depicted 2 h purple-red strip-of-two specimen was presented to authenticate its genuineness. Its upper horizontal edge is provided with perforation of 12 1/2 while the lower horizontal edge and the vertical sides have perforation of 11 1/2.

After a precisely controlled measurement, it was found that the upper horizontal perforation of 12 1/2 was re-perforated (i.e. forged), whereas the other sides were in

You may order the SPECIALIST's which you wish to purchase by submitting a request to the Society Librarian:

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SPECIALIST's are available for the following years: 1966, 1968 to 1971, and 1973 to 1998. Not all years are complete! If you only want complete year sets, please say so; otherwise I'll send those copie currently available for any year which you request.

I sometimes obtain a very limited number of loose issues from earlier years; if you are missing an issue from one of these earlier years, I may be able to help, but these will be sold to you at the cost which the owner sets.

Richard Palaschak

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### *New Issues*

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

1. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 5.40 Kč stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first President of the Czech Republic T.G. Masaryk (1850-1937)(Fig. 1). On the stamp is an engraver's transposition of a stamp by Bohumil Heinz "For Children" from 1938 depicting President Masaryk holding in his arms a girl in a national costume. The original stamp (Tr. 334, Sc. B151) was in the denomination of 1 Kčs with a surcharge of 50 h and was completed by the text "Respect the Soul of the Child". This year's "stamp on a stamp" is accompanied by the texts "The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production", "Bohumil Heinz", and "For Children 1938". The designer, graphic arranger, and engraver was Bedřich Housa. The stamp was printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, by rotary recess print in black-brown combined with photogravure in blue and two shades of red in printing sheets of 30 pieces. At the same time, philatelic booklets will also be issued with 8 stamps and 4 labels. The label commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of T.G. Masaryk. The labels bear, together with the initials TGM, a lime sprig taken over from the souvenir sheet arrangement of the stamp "For Children" from 1938, the years 1850-1937, the logo of the exhibition, and the



Fig. 1

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

BRNO 2000 National Exhibition of Postage Stamps in Czech. The label is printed by rotary recess print in black-brown. A FDC in blue-grey includes a commemorative cancellation, and the cachet shows a motif from the stamp by Bohumil Heinz "For Children II" from 1937 based on an ornamental sculpture by S. Sucharda, "Cradle Song".

2. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry issued two commemorative stamps BRNO 2000 to support and promote the Brno National Philatelic Exhibition with international participation, which is to take place March 5 - 11, 2000. The 5 Kč stamp (Fig. 2) bears the oldest view of Brno from 1593 freely based on the later colored execution of Willenberg's woodcut. The stamp is completed by the text "BRNO 1593" and the logo of the exhibition. A label bears the coat-of-arms of



Fig. 2

the left depicts ornamental sculptural elements from the northern side of the church. Under the stamp is the logo of the exhibition and the text "The National Exhibition of Postage Stamps" in Czech. The designer of the issue was Antonín Odehnal, while the engraver was Vaclav Fajt. The stamps were printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure. The 5 Kč stamp will be issued in printing sheets of 35 pieces in black (recess print), ocher, blue and two shades of red (photogravure) with 30 labels in black and red. The 50 Kč stamp will be issued in a souvenir sheet sized 88 x 100 mm in black (recess print), yellow, red and two shades of blue (photogravure). There are 2 FDC's including commemorative cancellations. The brown cachet for the 5 Kč stamp depicts a goblet in the form of a face with handles, probably for a wedding. On the dark-grey cover with the 50 Kč stamp is a drawing of an ornamental water spout on St. James Church.

### Postal Stationery

3. On January 3, 2000, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 5 Kč stamp for current postal operations. The multicolored stamp imprint shows a view of New Town with Prague Castle in the



Fig. 3



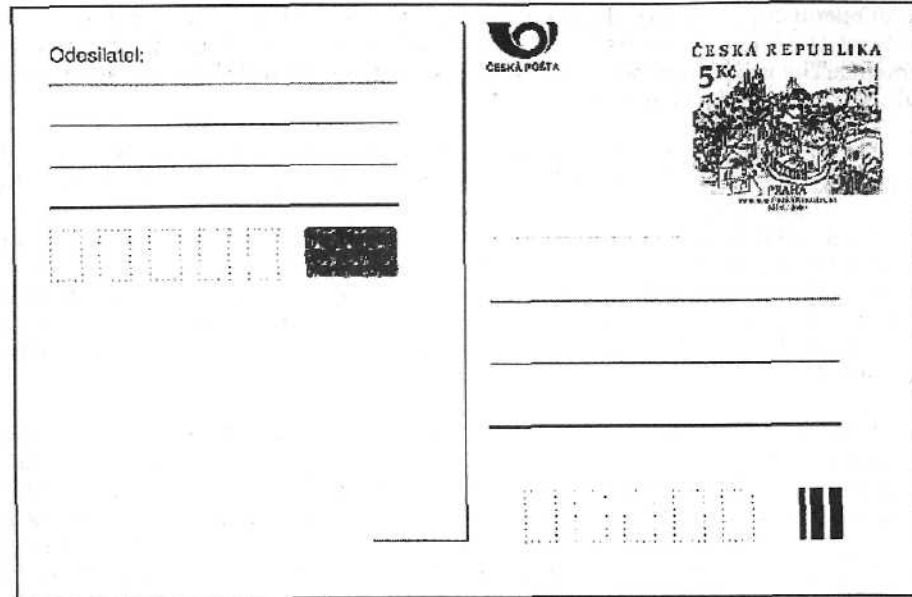


Fig. 4

background and is completed by the Czech text "Prague -- Europe's City of Culture of the Year 2000" (Fig. 4). This postal card is identical (except that the previous one was denominated 4 Kč) to the one issued September 8, 1999, also for current

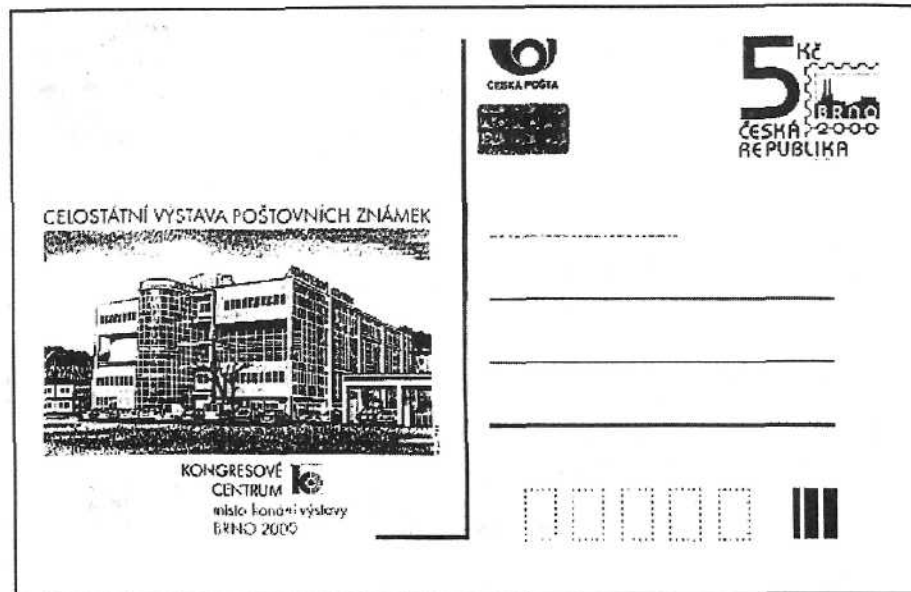


Fig. 5

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

postal operations. As with that one, the designer was Alfred Fuchs, and engraved by Karel Dvořák. To the right of the ZIP code boxes is a hologram as a security element. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset and sells for 5.70 Kč.

4. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 5 Kč stamp for the BRNO 2000 Exhibition -- Congress Centrum (Fig. 5). The stamp image consists of a graphic composition of the face value and the logo of the exhibition, which is taking place March 5 - 11, 2000. This postal card is identical (except that the previous one was denominated 4 Kč) to the one issued May 5, 1999. As with that one, the designer and engraver was Karel Dvořák. Below the logo of the Czech Post is a hologram as a security element. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset and sells for 5.70 Kč.

5. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 5 Kč stamp for the BRNO 2000 Exhibition -- The Day of Young Philatelists (Fig. 6). The stamp image consists of a graphic composition of the face value and the logo of the exhibition. The left part of the postal card bears an illustration by Josef Čapek for the Postmen Fairy Tale written by Karel Čapek. The drawing is completed by a facsimile of the signature of Josef Čapek and the texts "The National Exhibition of Postage Stamps", "BRNO 2000", and "The Day of Young Philatelists" in Czech. The designer and engraver of the postal card was Karel Dvořák. Under the logo of the Czech Post is a hologram as a security element. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset and sells for 5.70 Kč.

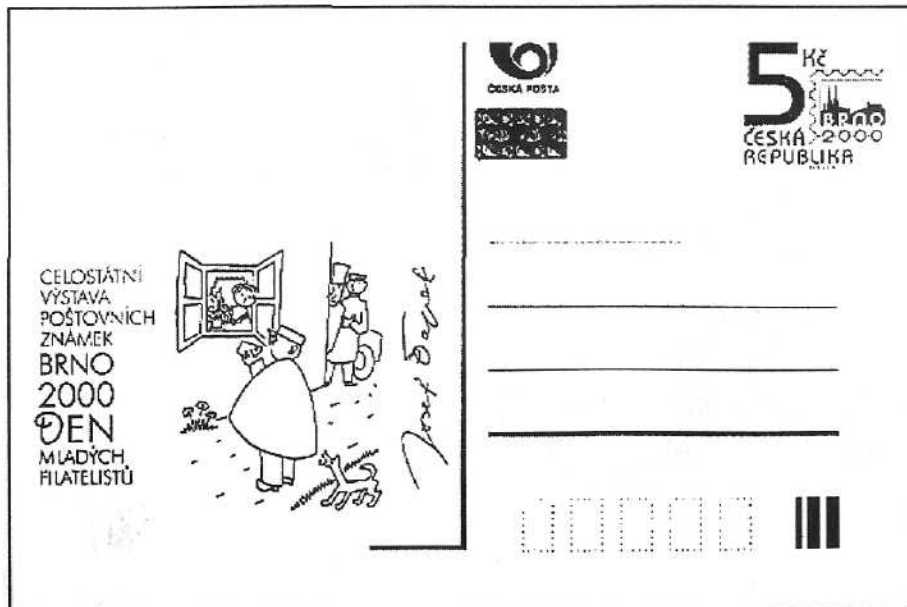


Fig. 6

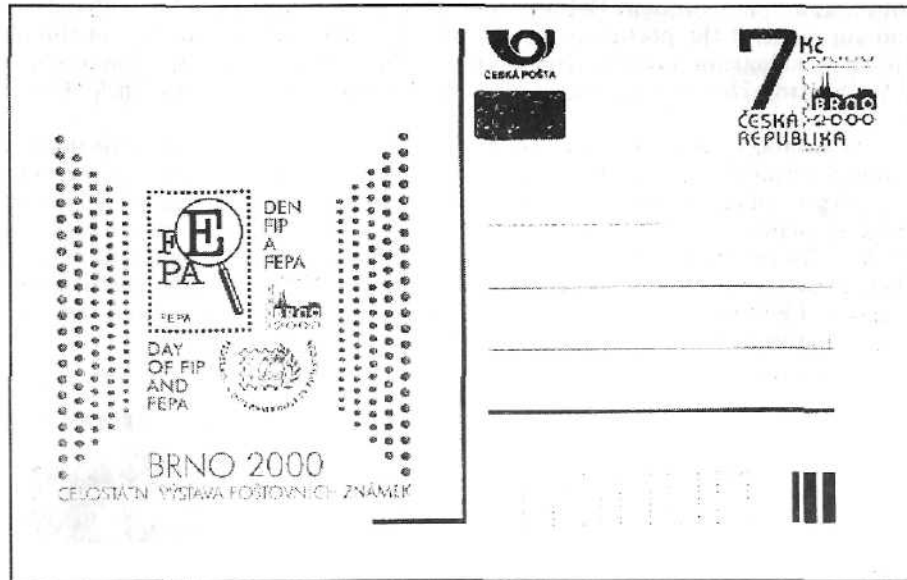


Fig. 7

6. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 7 Kč stamp for the BRNO 2000 Exhibition -- The Day of FIP and FEPA (Fig. 7). The stamp image consists of a graphic composition of the face value and the logo of the exhibition. The left part of the postal card bears a graphic composition of the logos of FIP, FEPA and of the BRNO 2000 Exhibition completed by the texts "Day of FIP and FEPA" in Czech and English, and "BRNO

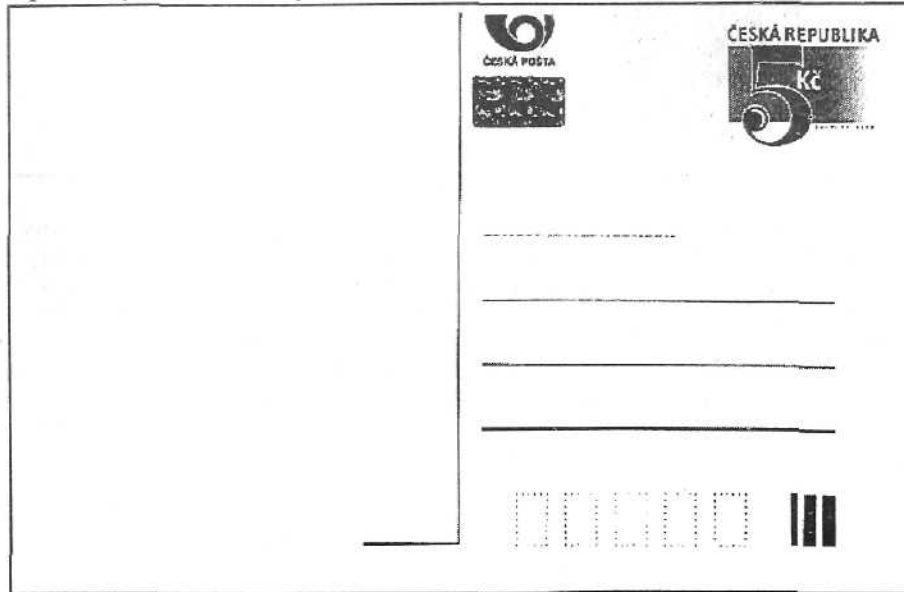


Fig. 8

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

2000", and "The National Exhibition of Postage Stamps" in Czech. The designer and engraver of the postal card was Karel Dvořák. Under the logo of the Czech Post is a hologram as a security element. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset and sells for 7.70 Kč.

7. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 5 Kč stamp for commercial and promotional use with the left side free and reserved for surcharges (it is without any lines for the sender's address)(Fig. 8). The stamp image consists of a graphic composition of the face value against a rectangular field. The designer and engraver of the postal card was Jan Solpera. Under the logo of the Czech Post is a hologram as a security element. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, by offset in blue (stamp image) and black (address lines, logo, dividing lines). It sells for 5.70 Kč.

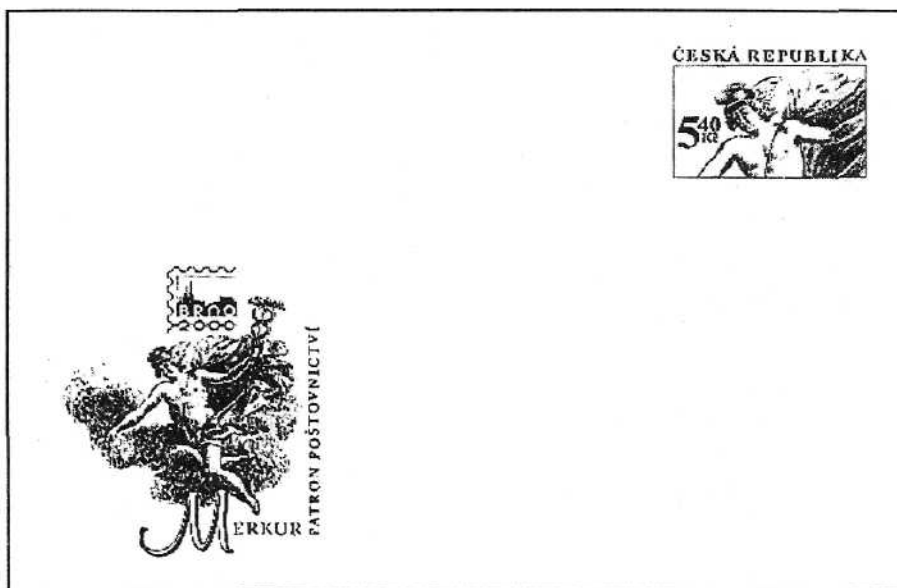


Fig. 9

8. On January 20, 2000, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal envelope with an imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp for the BRNO 2000 Exhibition -- Mercury (Fig. 9). The stamp image consists of an image of Mercury -- a messenger of the gods and patron of literature -- who wears a winged hat on his head and a fluttering cape behind his back. The graphic composition on the left part includes a drawing of a flying Mercury in the clouds with winged sandals and a winged staff twined by two snakes. This drawing is based on a contemporary engraving by J.G. Mansfeld (1764-1817) and is completed by the text "Mercury -- Patron of the Post" in Czech and the logo of the BRNO 2000 Exhibition. This envelope is a modification of the envelope with face value of 4.60 Kč issued in different colors on March 11, 1998 on the occasion of PRAGA'98. The designer of the envelope is Karel Dvořák, while the engraver was Martin Srb. The envelope was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, by recess print from flat plates in brown and sells for 10.40 Kč.

**SLOVAKIA**  
by F. Garancovsky

**2000 ISSUE PLAN  
FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 11	Personalities	3	
	- Hana Meličkova		4
	- Štefan Anián Jedlík		5
	- Jan Holly		10
Feb 15	Easter Stamp - Route to Calvary	1	4
Feb 15	The Year of Mathematics (J. Hronec, S. Schwarz)	1	5
Feb 15	Basketball Life	1	4
?	15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1 <sup>st</sup> Stamps Valid in Slovakia	1	5
Apr 25	Splendors of Our Homeland	2	
	- The Danube River Gorge		10
	- The Vah River Gorge		12
May 9	EUROPA -- Joint Theme Europa 2000	1	12
Jun 1	Children's Stamp -- UNICEF	1	5
Jun 27	Summer Olympic Games	1	16
Jul 26	Nature Protection -- Forest Fruits	3	
	- Bilberry		11
	- Strawberry		13
	- Raspberry		15
Sep 14	Philatelic Exhibition (in 2001) -- Slovakia	1	14
Sep 14	Technology Memorials -- Historic Bridges	1	6
Sep 22	Art	2	
	- Gothic Tablet Painting		18
	- Romance Wall Painting		20
Oct 5	Knights -- Joint Issue	1	10
Oct 5	Christmas Stamp -- Jubilee 2000	1	4
Dec 18	Stamp Day -- 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of POFIS	1	5

9. In the Jan/Feb 2000 issue we inadvertently left out some of the information on the 7 Sk commemorative stamp depicting "J.K. Hell's Water-Pillar Machine" that was issued September 21, 1999. It should have included: the multicolored stamp was designed by Igor Benca and engraved by František Horniak; it was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 35 stamps; a FDC includes a portrait of J.K. Hell and carries a commemorative cancel from Banská Stiavnica.



Fig. 10

10. On November 3, 1999, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 4 Sk commemorative stamp "Christmas 99" (Fig. 10). The



## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

stamp contains a pastel drawing by Stanislav Sekereš (15 years old from Detva) showing a snowy landscape, a snowman, and people taking part in winter activities. A competition of children's creative works was organized in 1997 by the Slovak Post and the Union of Slovak Philatelists for children to design a stamp with the theme "Wintertime and Winter Rejoicing". The winning designs are represented on this year's Christmas issue. A similar competition is held annually in Detva organized by the Union of Slovak Philatelists. The stamp's graphic layout was performed by Martin Činovský, and it was engraved by Arnold Feke. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue-grey shows a drawing of hockey players by Lenka Jašová and its commemorative postmark from Detva has details from a drawing by Jana Paškuliaková (13 years old).

11. On November 17, 1999, the Ministry issued a 5 Sk multicolored stamp commemorating the "10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution" -- the peaceful end of communist rule in Czechoslovakia (Fig. 11). The stamp depicts a stylized woman's head in profile with the text "Velvet Revolution, 17 November 1989" in her streaming hair. Miroslav Cipar designed the stamp, and Rudolf Cigánik



Fig. 11

engraved it. It was produced by the Postage Stamp Printing House -- Prague using offset in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in bright blue contains a Bratislava cancel and a cachet showing the logo and symbol, respectively, of the organization "Public Against Violence".

12. On November 23, 1999, the Ministry issued a set of two multicolored commemorative stamps in the Slovak "Museum of Jewish Culture" series (Fig. 12). On the stamps are represented exhibits from the Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava -- "haban" ceramic jugs made for the "Chevra Kadiš" brotherhood. The



Fig. 12

12 Sk stamp shows a ceramic jug from Senica (1776) depicting a decorative motif of visitors comforting a sick man. The 18 Sk stamp shows a ceramic jug from Senica (1734) depicting a scene of a funeral. In 1994 an independent Museum of Jewish Culture in Slovakia was created from an earlier small exhibition of artifacts. It is part of the Slovak National Museum and contains mainly objects that were used in households and Jewish religious services. A further permanent exhibition was opened in Bratislava in 1993 which chronicles the history, culture and life of the Jews of

Slovakia from the times of The Great Moravian Empire (9<sup>th</sup> century AD). Both stamps were graphically arranged by Martin Činovský; the 12 Sk stamp was engraved by František Horniak, while the 18 Sk stamp was engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. The stamps were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using two-color rotary recess printing in combination with offset printing

on a common counter sheet -- two blocks-of-four se-tenant with a printed gutter between. The gutter motif contains a pointer for use when reading the Torah, the symbol of the Slovak National Museum, and the symbol of the Museum of Jewish Culture. A single dark blue-grey FDC has a cachet with a silver and partly gilded "Chanukija" from the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the commemorative Bratislava cancel contains an embroidery detail from a covering from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

13. On December 18, 1999, the Ministry issued a 5 Sk multicolored commemorative stamp "Albín Brunovsky" (with tab) from the "Postage Stamp Day" series (Fig. 13). The stamp displays a portrait of Albín Brunovsky in conjunction with an image of a portion of a stamp design by him (the Czechoslovak stamp "Matica Slovenská" [Sc. 2700]). The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský. The tab bears a motif taken from the FDC of the above-mentioned Czechoslovak issue.



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

River Gorge (12 Sk). Róbert Jančovič designed both stamps, and Arnold Feké engraved them. They were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with offset printing on a common counter sheet -- two blocks-of-four se-tenant with a printed gutter between. A blue-grey FDC (10 Sk) has a commemorative cancel from Červený Kláštor and a cachet with natural scenery. A grey-green FDC (12 Sk) has a commemorative cancel from Strečno and a cachet with natural scenery.

15. On January 11, 2000, the Ministry issued a set of two multicolored commemorative stamps in the "Personalities" series (Fig. 15). The stamps display portraits of Hana Meličková (1900-



Fig. 15

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

1978)(4 Sk) and Štefan Anián Jedlík (1800-1895)(5 Sk) with appropriate text -- the Jedlík stamp also shows an electric component. The Melíčková stamp was designed by Igor Benca, drawn up for engraving by Martin Činovský, and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. The Jedlík stamp was designed by Karol Felix, drawn up for engraving by Martin Činovský, and engraved by František Horniak. They were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on sheets of 50 stamps. A dark-green FDC (4 Sk) has a commemorative cancel from Martin and a cachet showing an actor in theater costume. A blue-grey FDC (5 Sk) has a commemorative cancel from Zemné and a cachet showing a signature, an electric motor (1929), and a homopolar inductor (1861).

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### *Letters to the Editor*

1. Dear Lou:

I sent a copy of John Miskevich's query on a Persia-Czech cover to a colleague of mine in the Iran Philatelic Study Circle, and I have pleasure in enclosing his reply for the *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

MAIL FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO PERSIA IN 1924, by John Miskevich [Nov/Dec 99, pg19]

I have no knowledge of the routing of the mails from Czechoslovakia to Persia, but as a collector of Persia, I have some knowledge of the transport of the foreign mails from that country.

The usual route for mail from northern Persia was via Russia. Enzeli (not Euzeli) was a port on the Caspian Sea which had steamboat connection with Baku in Russia. From there the mails would go by rail via Moscow to Europe on the Berlin route.

Mails from northeastern Persia usually went via the exchange office at Gaudan and then by rail from Ashkhabad to Moscow.

Mails from northwestern Persia usually went by road via Joulfa to Baku and then by rail to Moscow. I do not know of any mail going from this area via Turkey. Similarly there was no mail from the east to Afghanistan, and I suspect that the Persian post office did not have agreements or arrangements with these two countries for the transport of mail.

Mail from the south usually went via Bombay and as Mr. Miskevich states, the Overland route, Baghdad to Beirut was used, at first by paying a postage premium, but later this became the normal route to the Mediterranean without a premium. However, I would think that from the north Persian area to Europe the Russian route would have been the quicker.

I must thank Colin Spong of Worthing, England for letting me see this article.

Bernard Lucas  
President/Secretary  
Iran Philatelic Study Circle

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