



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## President's Corner

As you read this, you should have your plans for WASHINGTON 2006 finalized and your reservations for the Society's dinner in to Rich Palaschak.

During the show, the Society's board of directors will hold a board meeting. Two items of major importance will be on the agenda; a review of the proposals to change your Society's on-line presence and a probable increase in yearly dues.

The board has been discussing ways to increase the Society's on-line presence for a couple of years. Following last year's meeting in Minneapolis, the board asked me to appoint a committee to review the Society's actions and to make recommendations. The committee, Randy Frank, Frederick Lawrence, and Alan Hoover, chairman, has provided the board with a number of actions to increase the Society's presence and, hopefully, membership.

The Society has not raised basic membership dues since 1989 (the year the communists were kicked out of Czechoslovakia). Your board has operated on the premise that the dues should pay for the cost of printing and mailing *The SPECIALIST*. As a result of increases in the cost of paper, postage, and printing, this is no longer the case.

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There is one other item of concern I would like to bring to your attention. In the January/February issue of *The SPECIALIST*, Lou Svoboda announced that after 10 years he was retiring as editor at the end of this year. Lou asked for volunteers to fill his shoes. To date, he has had exactly ZERO volunteers. Without an editor there can be no *SPECIALIST*. If you are interested in this position, but are concerned about not reading Czech, be assured that a knowledge of Czech is not necessary. If you have any interest in editing *The SPECIALIST*, please contact Lou or me.

I recently received some good news from the Czech Republic. There will be a PRAGA 2008 on 12-14 September 2008. It will be a FIP show. For those of you who have never visited Prague, this is a wonderful opportunity to combine tourism with philately. There will be Society activities in conjunction with the show.

While you are planning your philatelic calendar, don't forget to pencil in next year's Society meeting at CHICAGOPEX, 16-18 November 2007. This show will be a Pan-Slavic philatelic gathering including the Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, and Czechoslovak philatelic societies. Check out the show's website and mark your calendars: <http://www.chicagopex.com/id13.html>. For those people like me who live in a Czech cultural and culinary wasteland, this is an opportunity not to be missed. There should be a number of very interesting exhibits to be seen and a few *kolače* to be eaten.

Tom Cossaboom  
President

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*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.*

## MAILINGS OF THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC POST (3)

by A. Šmíd, V. Schödelbauer

trans. by Henry Hahn

*(Continued from previous issue)*

With the increasing number of delivery post offices connected to the PtP network the delivery area of the Praha 1 post office gradually decreased and the delivery of pneumatic mail became more rapid. On the other hand, post offices Praha 2 and Královské Vinohrady 5 -- up to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic -- had only a relatively small delivery area. During 1919 the delivery of pneumatic mail by these two post offices was finally eliminated. Hence, for the proper evaluation of PtP consignments it is not only necessary to know which post offices were connected to the PtP network at a specified time, but also what their character was (see Table 4).

**Table 4: Survey of P.O.'s connected to PtP network during 1899-1945**  
Praha

P.O.	Location in 1932	1899	1901	1910	1920	1926	1927	1931-32	1940
1	Nové Město - Jindřišská	PDT	PDT	PDT	PDT	PDT	PDT	PDT	PDT
2	Staré Město - Kaprova	PD	PD	PD	P	P	P	P	P
3	Nové Město - Ostrovní	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
4	Nové Město - Žitná	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
5	Staré Město - Revoluční	--	--	--	--	--	P	P	P
6	Nové Město - Denisovo RRSt	--	--	--	--	--	PE	PE	PE
7	Nové Město - Masarykovo RRSt	--	--	--	--	PTE	PTE	PTE	PTE
8	Malá Strana - Josefská	--	--	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD
9	Malá Strana - Šefkova	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
10	Telegraf Central - Malá Strana	PD	PD	--	--	--	--	--	--
10	Hradčany - Hrad	--	--	--	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD
11	Hradčany - Loretánská****	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
13	Nové Město - Na Hrádku	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
14	Letná - Letenské Náměstí***	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD	PD
15	Vinohrady - Main RRSt	--	--	--	--	--	PE	PE	PE
17	Nové Město - Sokolská	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
21	Holešovice - Rohanská	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
22	Libeň - Kaplířova	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
26	Staré Město - V Kolkovně	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
27	Nové Město - Trojanova	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
28	Malá Strana - Senát NS	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
29	Staré Město - Poslanecká Sněm*	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	--
30	Smíchov -- Ministerstvo Pošt*	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	--
31	Vinohrady - Moravská**	--	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD	PD
33	Vinohrady - Slezská	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
34	Vinohrady - Mánesova	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
35	Vinohrady - Italská**	--	--	PD	P	P	P	P	P
36	Žižkov - Fibichova	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD

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40	Karlín - Jungmannovo Nám.	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD	PD
41	Karlín - Palackého	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
45	Dejvice - Uralská	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P
46	Holešovice - Skuherského***	--	--	--	--	--	--	?	--
47	Dejvice - Dejvická	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
55	Smíchov - Presslova	--	--	--	--	PD	PD	PD	PD
56	Smíchov - Smíchovské RRSt	--	--	--	--	--	--	PE	PE
65	Nusle - Soběslavova	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
73	Vršovice - Tyršova	--	--	--	--	--	--	PD	PD
86	Holešovice - Veletrhy	--	--	--	--	--	--	P	P

Explanations:

*P* = dispatching post office connected to the PtP network

*D* = delivery post office (in **bold**) connected to the PtP network (with Praha 28, 29, and 30 however deliveries in all probability only pertained to institutions that were in the same building)

*T* = post offices which received and sorted mail coming into Prague

*E* = post offices which expedited PtP consignments out of Prague

Additional Prague post offices which had been planned to be connected to the PtP network, but obviously were not: Praha 20, 23, 32, 37, 39, 51, 57, 59, 67, 69, 74, 79.

Other Prague post offices which were not connected to the PtP network in 1932: Praha 16, 18, 24-25, 38, 42-44, 48-50, 52-54, 58, 60-61, 63-64, 66, 68, 70-72, 75-78, 80-85, 87-89.

\* = the Postal Gazette of 1940 does not list Praha 29 (Poslanecká Sněmovna = Chamber of Deputies) or Praha 30 (Ministerstvo Pošt = postal ministry) as functional. I do not know when they returned to operation, probably after WWII liberation.

\*\* = until 1922 these post offices used the names Královské Vinohrady 1 and Královské Vinohrady 5 respectively.

\*\*\* = the Praha 14 post office was originally located on Skuherské street, but in 1932 it moved to a new building on Letenská Náměstí. In its original space was established the Praha 46 post office, but in a short while it was shut down. However, in this building remained the technical basic equipment for a PtP junction.

\*\*\*\* = the Praha 11 post office was renamed Praha 12 on July 12, 1942.

From the viewpoint of rarity, we most often encounter PtP consignments with postmarks from the larger delivery post offices and also with postmarks of the expediting post offices -- mainly Praha 7 and Praha 15. Other post offices, especially those smaller ones from peripheral districts, are found decidedly rarely.



Figure 24: Pneumatic mail letter card posted by special delivery at the Praha 1 post office (time 12 hours) to Praha 13 (Nové Město, 15 hours), which at that time was not even connected to the PtP network (see Table 4). The consignment therefore could not have been transported by PtP.

Figure 25: Postal card dispatched on 18.7.1935 by special delivery PIP from the Praha 31 post office (Vinohrady, 11 hours) to the expediting post office Praha 7 (Masaryk railroad station, 12 hours) and from there by train to Štramberk (19.7. at 8 hours). The routing is documented by the postmarks of three various post offices and the green imprint of the sequence number (probably the central PiP station). The directing of the consignment to the Praha 7 post office is corroborated by the blue handwritten note "7".

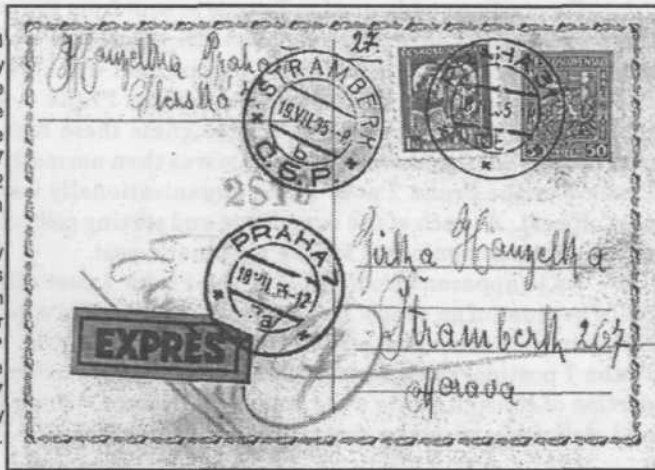


Figure 26: Postal card sent on 20.5.1933 by special delivery from the Luže post office to Prague, arriving the same day at the sorting post office Praha 7 (Masaryk railroad station, 18 hours) and from there was transported by the PiP to the delivery post office Praha 36 (Žižkov, 18 hours). The routing is documented by the postmarks of three various post offices and the green imprint of the sequence number.

Figure 27: Post card sent 21.4.1938 by air mail from Vienna to Prague (Praha 82 - Letiště [airport], at 11 hours). From there transported by courier to the Praha 1 post office (Jindřišská, 12 hours) and by PiP to the delivery post office Praha 55 (Smíchov, 13 hours). The routing is documented by the postmarks of various post offices and the sequence number imprints.





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On mailings addressed to Prague or sent from Prague, we regularly encounter the postmarks of several larger post offices, within which were concentrated the majority of extra-Prague mailings. From what I was able to determine, mail leaving Prague was expedited by railroad post offices Praha 6, 7, 15 and 56 (the last was connected to the PtP in 1932). We designate these four post offices as expediting post offices. Mail addressed to Prague was then normally received and sorted at the Praha 1 or the Praha 7 post offices (organizationally we designate them as sorting post offices). At each of the expediting and sorting post offices was also a counter for submitting consignments for the pneumatic post.

As is apparent from Table 4, the Praha 7 post office was not a delivery post office because of an overly large volume of processed consignments, and it delivered sorted mail to other post offices, in part also via the PtP. We therefore meet with the Praha 7 postmarks relatively often on PtP consignments. At the same time a large portion of consignments were bound for Praha 1, which had apparently the largest and definitely also the most utilized delivery area. In fact, it is exactly with

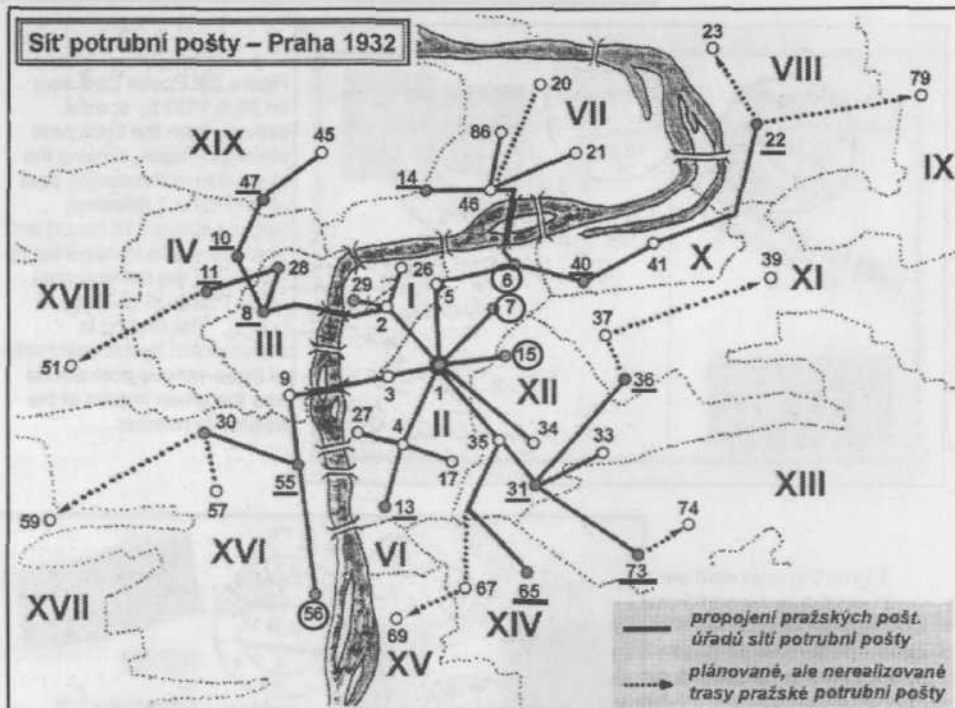


Diagram 2: To date, this is the known arrangement of PtP routes in 1932 and later years. The delivery post office numbers are underlined, the expediting post offices that dispatched consignments out of Prague are circled, and three delivery post offices (Praha 28, 29, 30) only delivered to institutions that were located within them. From the diagram it is apparent both how extensive the PtP network had become, and also the growth of the number of post offices connected to the delivery post offices and their layout. Subsequent planned routes shown on the diagram [dashed lines] (perhaps with the exception of post office Praha 67, or also 69) in all probability were never completed. I was not successful in at least obtaining any reliable proof of their existence. Nevertheless, however, it is not possible to rule out a new discovery.

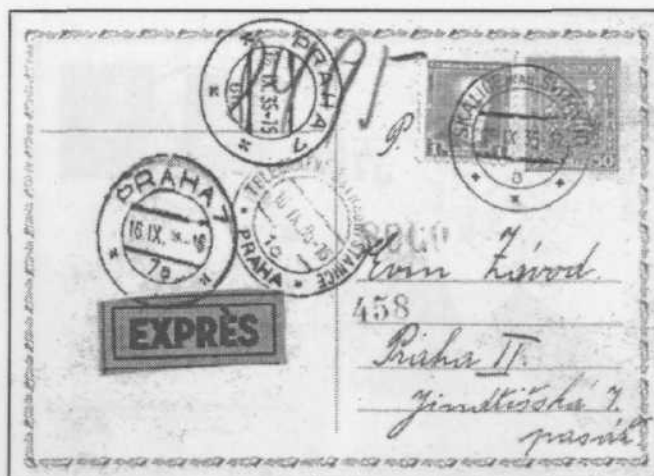


Figure 28: Postal card sent 16.9.1935 by special delivery from the Skalce nad Svitavou post office to Prague. Received and sorted the same day at the Praha 7 post office (Masaryk railroad station, 15 hours) and then forwarded by PtP (Praha 7, 16 hours) to the delivery post office Praha 1 (time 16 hours). The transport of the consignment by PtP is evidenced by the two postmarks of the Praha 7 post office, the times of transportation, the two sequencing number imprints, and the handwritten numbering.

consignments between Praha 7 and Praha 1 that it is often difficult to demonstrate the use of the PtP. These two post offices were not far from each other and their connection was thus accomplished mainly by frequent foot couriers. They -- besides ordinary mail, value letters, and Registered mail -- obviously in this way sometimes delivered also Special Delivery consignments.<sup>5</sup> [It can be imagined that in some cases, after the arrival of a train, sorted Special Delivery consignments together with other mail was delivered to Praha 1 by foot courier, because this was faster and easier for the post office. Consignments -- that were definitely delivered by PtP -- sometimes have additional helpful marks of having been delivered by the PtP, e.g., hand-written notes of direction or an imprint of the sequencing number (usually in green) from the central PtP station at Praha 1 (see for example Fig. 28).]

Besides others, the Praha 7 post office also served to dispatch air mail consignments out of Prague via the railroad. This mail was delivered there directly from the

Figure 29: Commercial letter weighing up to 20 grams sent 3.9.1936 from the Praha 67 post office (Nusle, 11 hours) via the expediting post office Praha 15 and from there by train to Hlubočep u Prahy. The consignment conforms to all of the requirements of PtP -- it has the higher correct franking, postmarks, minimal time lapse, and other companion PtP markings (labels, sequence number imprints). However, the Praha 67 post office is not on the list of PtP stations.



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Figure 30: Postal card mailed by special delivery on 21.1.1936 from Praha 69 post office (Podolí, 11 hours) to Hanspaulek. Since Praha 69 was not connected to the PtP, the card was first delivered by a surface route to the Praha 1 post office (Telegraf, 13 hours) and from there by PtP to the delivery post office Praha 47 (Dejvice, 14 hours).



airport and from there was expedited to locations outside of Prague. Consignments from the airport (Praha 82) that were addressed to Prague then were, to the largest extent, forwarded directly to the Praha 1 main post office, where they were sorted and further expedited according to their designated destinations, whether by the classic route or by pneumatic mail (Fig. 27).

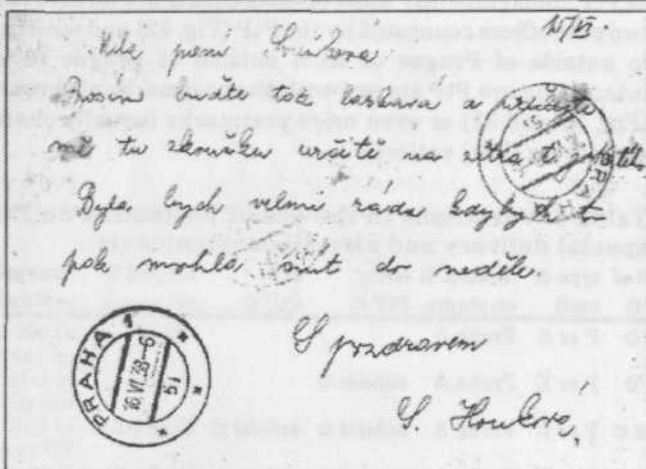
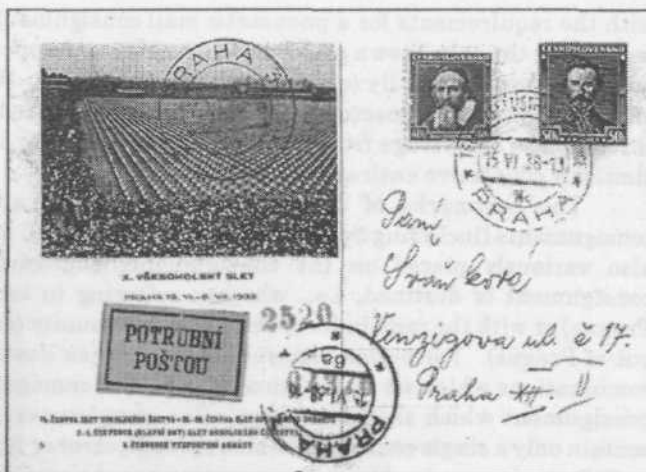
After the reconstruction of the pneumatic mail network in 1931, the majority of Prague's important post offices were connected to it (see Table 4 and Diagram 2). The connection of additional post offices (specifically Praha 20, 23, 32, 37, 39, 51, 57, 59, 67, 69, 74, 79) was planned for a later period, but in the end -- most likely for economic reasons -- it was not implemented. In the case of the remaining then functioning Prague post offices (i.e. Praha 16, 18, 24, 25, 38, 42-44, 48-50, 52-54, 58, 60-64, 66, 68, 70-72, 75-78, 80-85, 87-89), there was apparently no intention to connect them to the network. Consignments from these post offices could also be sent (via intermediary) by pneumatic mail. Only sometimes was it in fact the fastest and most efficient solution, so that usually were used the standard means of delivery



Figure 31: Postal card mailed 6.9.1937 from the Praha 14 post office (Letná, 17 hours) to Podolí. The card went first by pneumatic mail to the Praha 13 post office (Nové Město, 17 hours) and from there obviously by courier to the Praha 69 post office (Podolí, 18 hours). A beautiful example of pneumatic mail with postmarks from three different Prague post offices.



Figure 32: Postal card mailed on 15.6.1938 from Praha 1 post office (time 13 hours) went first due to an incorrect address (Praha XII instead of Praha II) by PtP to the Praha 31 post office (Vinohrady, 14 hours). After that, when the mistake was discovered, the card was sent back (presumably again by PtP, time 16 hours). Because the card arrived at Praha 1 after the last regular delivery round (see Table 5), the arrival postmark is in fact missing, and the card was delivered to the addressee the next day with the first delivery round (see the Praha 1 postmark, 16.6.1938, 6 hours). An interesting example of a "wandering" pneumatic mail entire.



(the so-called routine and extraordinary sendings, couriers, etc.).

The majority of the planned PtP routes (indicated in Diagram 2 with dashed lines) were never realized, at least I have not thus far been able to find any official record of them, nor sufficiently credible documents of postal transportation. Despite this it is not possible to rule out that some of the planned routes were eventually created and truly placed in operation. Meanwhile I have found only one such indication which involves the Praha 67 post office. In my collection I have an authentic-seeming commercial letter weighing up to 20 grams sent on 3.9.1936 from the Praha 67 post office (Fig. 29) through the Praha 15 expediting post office to Hlubočepy u Prahy (where it was delivered by train). The consignment is franked with a 2 Kčs stamp (i.e., as a special delivery local letter sent by PtP -- 60h + 40h + 1 Kčs) and is provided with the labels EXPRESS and POTRUBNÍ POŠTOU (even cancelled with the Praha 15 post office postmark) as well as the green sequence number imprint (evidently from the central PtP station). All of this is in accordance

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with the requirements for a pneumatic mail consignment. On the other hand, this represents the only known proof, which could have happened also coincidentally, by mistake, or intentionally (e.g. for philatelic purposes). Whether the Praha 67 post office was indeed connected to the PtP network or not can only be determined through new knowledge from contemporary archives or the discovery of additional similarly conclusive entires from postal operations.

The postmarks of the different post offices appear on pneumatic post consignments (including Special Delivery and Air Mail) in various numbers and are also variously placed on the consignments depending mainly on where the consignment is destined, i.e., whether referring to local consignments (only in Prague) or with the remainder of the postal community (coming into Prague or going out of Prague). For better comprehension, I break down in Table 6 the postmark combinations which we might encounter on PtP consignments and the type of PtP consignment which they introduce. For completeness I also list entires which contain only a single cancel, but which through error or ignorance might be regarded as PtP consignments. Most often occurring are entires carrying two postmarks from two post offices connected by the PtP (Fig. 22) and entires with three postmarks sent to outside of Prague or from outside of Prague to inside (Fig. 25-27). Most interesting are PtP entires with the postmarks of three various Prague post offices (Fig. 30 and 31) or even more postmarks (usually characteristic of forwarded or wandering [lost] entires).

**Table 6: Variations in the use of postmarks on PtP consignments and on special delivery and airmail consignments**

# of ©	type of mail	submit on stamp	entry PtP ©	exit PtP ©	arrival © off stamp	Interpretation of location of postmark (©) on entire	see Fig.
©	P or E	Praha A	-	-	none	a) not carried by PtP, or entry and arrival within same PO	23
©	P or E	Praha A	submit ©	-	none	b) © lacking = clerk's error, PtP use possible, but uncertain	19
2 ©	P or E	Praha A	submit ©	arrival ©	Praha B	a) local mail, used PtP between PO's on PtP network	5/22
2 ©	P or E	Praha A	-	-	Praha X	b) local mail, non-PtP use, arriv. PO not on PtP network	24
2 ©	P or E	Praha X	-	-	Praha A	c) local mail, non-PtP use, subm. PO not on PtP network	
2 ©	P, E or L	Praha A	-	-	other © M	d) non-PtP use, because addressee outside of Prague, and was mailed from PO not on PtP network or directly from an expediting PO (usually Praha 6,7,15 or 56)	
2 ©	P, E or L	other © M	-	-	Praha A	e) from outside Prague, non-PtP use, addressee lived in delivery area of PO which accepted ex-Prague mail (usually Praha 1)	1/2
3 ©	P or E	Praha A	submit ©	Praha B	Praha X	a) local mail, used PtP, addressee in delivery area of PO not on PtP*	31
3 ©	P or E	Praha X	Praha A	arrival ©	Praha B	b) local mail, used PtP, mailed at PO not on PtP*	
3 ©	P, E or L	Praha A	submit ©	Praha B	other © M	c) used PtP, exited Prague, exit PtP © usually Praha 6,7,15,56	25

3 © P, E or L	other © M	Praha A	arrival ©	Praha B	d) from outside Prague, used PtP, 26 entry PtP © usually Praha 1 or 7
4 © P or E +**	Praha X	Praha A	Praha B	Praha Y	a) submit ©/arrival © non-PtP, however PtP used for part
4 © E or L +**	Praha X	Praha A	Praha B	other © M	b) submitted outside Prague, part by PtP, then outside Prague
4 © P or E +**	Praha A	submit ©	thru BtoC	Praha X	c) wandering PtP entire from Praha A, in error to Praha B, then to Praha C, delivery PO is Praha X outside of Prague
4 © E or L +**	other © M	Praha A	thru BtoX	Praha X	d) submitted outside Prague, 8 from Praha A via PtP in error to Praha B, and then to Praha X
4 © E or L +**	other © M	Praha A	Praha B	other © N	e) entire to Prague, delivered to addressee via PtP, and then forwarded to new address

© = postmark

PO = post office

Praha A/B = postmarks of Prague post offices connected to the PtP network

Praha X/Y = postmarks of Prague post offices not connected to the PtP network

other © M/N = postmarks of other post offices (outside Prague and foreign)

submit © = postmark where the entire was first submitted (usually on the stamp)

arrival © = postmark of delivery post office (usually off of stamp)

P, E, or L = PtP (only with surcharge for pneumatic mail), special delivery, or airmail entire

\* = as long as we find three postmarks of various Prague post offices on a PtP consignment, it is likely that either the submitting or delivery post office was not connected to the pneumatic network, and that it transferred the consignment to a post office (or it accepted it from a post office) that had such a connection. This method was -- in the setting of Prague with relatively short distances and good transport -- needlessly complicated and therefore occurred only infrequently; usually easier and quicker was the direct routing of the consignment to the delivery post office.

\*\* = we are usually concerned with forwarded or variously "wandering" consignments, which could, but need not be, transported by PtP. In the Table, we have only listed some hypothetical, isolated examples.

Regular consignments (postcards, letters) destined for Prague from outside with a surcharge for PtP (+40h, later +1 Kč) and further transported across Prague by PtP are not known to me, because the public used the Special Delivery surcharge to accomplish this purpose. However, their existence cannot be ruled out.

In the light of changes in the means of delivery of pneumatic mail to the addressee after the reconstruction of the PtP (December 15, 1932), it could even be interesting to know the time of departure of the postmen during the last regular delivery round. These details are given in Table 5. It is also essential to know the operating hours of the pneumatic post, which after its reconstruction was stipulated as follows (taken from *Vestník Ministerstva Pošt* number 44/1932): "Pneumatic postal service will operate at the central telegraph station and at post offices Praha 6, Praha 7, and Praha 15 daily from 6:30 - 23:30 hours; at the counter of the central telegraph station in the postal savings bank building and at post office Praha 10 - Hrad [castle] daily from 7:00 - 22:00 hours. At the other post offices connected to the PtP network, the time of pneumatic service was prescribed to the times for receiving telegrams." (This period was usually shorter, i.e., 8:00 - 18:00 hours -- author's note.)

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Table 5: Time of the last regular delivery round as of 15.12.1932

Post office - - - Last round	Post office - - - Last round
Praha 1 at 16:15 hours	Praha 29 as needed
Praha 8 at 16:30 hours	Praha 31 at 16:15 hours
Praha 10 at 16:30 hours	Praha 36 at 16:15 hours
Praha 11 at 16:30 hours	Praha 40 at 16:00 hours
Praha 13* time not known	Praha 47 at 16:00 hours
Praha 14 at 16:00 hours	Praha 55 at 16:00 hours
Praha 22 at 15:15 hours	Praha 65 at 16:00 hours
Praha 28 as needed	Praha 73 at 16:45 hours

\*This post office was erroneously listed in Vestník only as an accepting office, although it was also a delivery office (see Fig. 24 and 31).

(To be continued)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Errata**

There is an unfortunate error in the Legionářské article [Jan/Feb issue]. On page 17, under the heading "Typography", the first bulleted item lists the values pasted onto the photographs as 10, 15, and 50. Of course, they were 15, 25, and 50. I doubt anyone will be confused, but just wanted to set the record straight.

Mark Wilson

\*\*\*\*\*

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The Beloved Broučci:  
**FIREFLIES LIGHT THE WAY  
 FOR CZECH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

by Sandra J. Williams

[Ed. Note: In the *New Issues* column of the January/February 2006 issue of the *SPECIALIST*, page 34, we read about the issuance of a postal card to commemorate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the issue of the book "Lightning Bugs" {Broučci} by Jan Karafiát. This resulted in my digging through the top, back shelves of my bookcase to find my copy -- from 1971 with illustrations by Jiří Trnka (although I know that I had first been introduced to this book in an earlier version which my family had, but I don't know where it is today). Each of the full-page illustrations in my version -- pen-and-ink with watercolors -- was a work of art in itself. This book is probably second only to *Babička* by Božena Němcová (see the March/April 2005 issue of the *SPECIALIST*, page 34) as the favorite and most read book by Czech and Slovak children. So, when I saw this article from *Slovo*, a publication of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, I thought that it might be of interest to our readers and would give more meaning to the issued postal card.]



Figure 1: Jan Karafiát was a Pietist who combined religious themes with a love of Czech folk tales in his classic children's story.

Jan Karafiát's children's story *Broučci* (*Fireflies*) is well known and much treasured by generations of Czech families. Remarkably, *Broučci* has remained in circulation since its publication near the end of the Czech National Revival in 1876. Various editions have been superbly illustrated by Jiří Trnka, Vojtěch Preissig and Rudolf Mates. In addition, *Broučci* has been animated and more recently transformed into a ballet.

The plot concerns a family of fireflies whose job is to light the way for humans during the warm summer nights. The main character is the youngest son, aptly named Lucius. The narrative takes the

form of a *bildungsroman* (story about growing up) in which Lucius, in a series of small adventures, learns the pitfalls of disobedience, acquires the knowledge required of an adult firefly, comes of age, marries and has children of his own.

*Broučci's* importance lies not only in Karafiát's ability to entertain generations of Czech children, but also in the book's

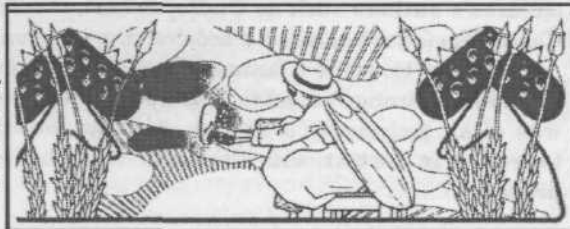


Figure 2: Vojtěch Preissig's Art Deco-style black-and-white drawings were produced for the 1903 edition of *Broučci*. His depiction of a firefly as a navigator suggests optimism about the future and the benefits of new technology.





Figure 3: Cover of a 1947 edition of *Broučci*, with illustrations by Marie Fischerová-Kvěchová.

pivotal role in the development of Czech children's literature. Moreover, in his story Karafiát manages to represent a distinct Czech culture at a time when Habsburg values were dominant.

#### *Creating a Czech children's literature*

In the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Czech lands were still under Habsburg rule, most stories for children took the form of heavily didactic and moralizing tales written in German, which was the high-status language. Children might have heard fairy tales in Czech, although at that time the language was considered inferior to German. It was during the Czech National Revival that such tales from the Czech oral tradition were collected and written

down, a significant contributor to the development of literary Czech. While such tales were not written specifically for children, they eventually found a secure place in the nursery, forming the bedrock of Czech children's literature to this day.

In addition to being written in Czech, *Broučci* is an original fantasy and not a retelling. Through this work, Karafiát provided the inspiration for subsequent children's authors such as Ondřej Sekora (*Ferda Mravenec: Ferda the Ant*), Josef Čapek (*Povídání o pejskovi a kočičce: Stories about Doggie and Kitty*) and Josef Lada.

However, while a fantasy, *Broucci* is not totally without its didactic elements, including a strong Protestant theme. Karafiát was a Pietist and most of his writing was of an ecclesiastical nature, so it is not surprising to see Christian values expressed in the text, with an emphasis on obedience. Here is the fireflies' morning prayer:

*'Heavenly Father, here we stand,  
Guide us with your gentle hand.'*

*Help, oh, help us every day  
All your wishes to obey.  
Make us strong your will to do,  
Make us kind and loving too.'*

The importance of obedience runs throughout the story. After Lucius is naughty, Mother tells him:

'A little firefly has to learn to obey,.  
Look at your father, how obedient he is.'

When Lucius asks who Father has to obey, he is told:

'Why, he obeys God.'



Figure 4: Marionettes from a 1968 edition.



Figure 5: Preparing for winter, from the 1950 edition of the book with illustrations by Jiří Trnka.

During the time of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia, such religious references were removed from the text.

Deep in the story there is an intertextual link with the German tradition in the form of a tale within a tale. During the hibernation period, Lucius wakes up and Mother tells him a story to help him to get back to sleep. This tale, concerning kittens who end up being burnt to death because they do not do as they are told, echoes the moralizing German tales satirized by Heinrich Hoffman in *Struwwelpeter*.

So it could be said that *Broučci* forms a bridge between the didactic stories from the German tradition and the fantasy or fairy tales from the Czech oral tradition.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

### *Preserving Czech identity*

*Broučci* is also significant because it represents a distinct Czech-ness at a time when the language and values of the Habsburg Empire were dominant. Karafiát's family of fireflies reflects the rhythm of the rural lives of country folk in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. For example, the changing seasons play a significant part in the fireflies' lives. Spring is greeted with pleasure:

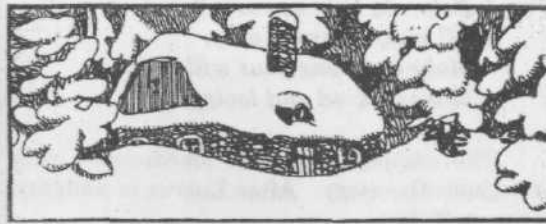


Figure 6: Winter scene line drawing from a 1922 edition with illustrations by Adolf Wenig.

*'Everything was in bloom. The grass was waist high, the dew sparkled, the bees buzzed and buzzed and the crickets chirped. Among the bushes down by the brook the nightingale warbled a love song.'*

In June the fireflies are busy lighting the way for nocturnal travelers, but once the winter approaches they prepare for the long cold months:

*'First the peas, barley, semolina, flour, lentils and a dot of butter were brought into the kitchen so that mother had it all at hand. Then the wood was piled up in the kitchen and passage. Then they filled every crack with soft moss so that no cold could get in . . . And now it could freeze as hard as it liked!'*

As this quotation suggests, Czech food features strongly throughout the book, with references to cabbage soup, poppy seed cakes, honey, and grapes tapped 'to produce strong juice.' This latter item suggests the wine-drinking tradition of Moravia rather than the beer-drinking of Bohemia. In addition, Karafiát's description of the fireflies' house evokes images of the traditional village house with its steep sloping roof, small windows with shutters, and piles of wood for the stove stacked outside.

Local flora and fauna are also included. The fireflies live under a juniper tree. Lucius is friendly with a cockchafer, has a run-in with a group of ladybirds, and learns not to fear the owl but to be wary of the woodpecker.

The fireflies support and help each other in difficult times and the precariousness of life is not hidden. The tale ends with a very hard winter:

*'Brooks froze right down to their beds, birds froze in the air, and the air itself sparkled with frost. Would the fireflies under the juniper tree ever get through a winter like this?'*

Unfortunately, they do not survive but perish in the cold. Readers of *Slovo* may know the Czech folk belief that when fireflies die, they turn into daisies. This charming notion is beautifully expressed by Karafiát, who helps the reader come to

terms with the fireflies' demise:

*'Everything was in blossom, the whole countryside had burst into bloom. And under the juniper tree were twelve daisies. Nine of them were as white as milk, and the other three had little red edges to their petals. And there they flower to this very day.'*

What is remarkable about *Broučci* is that, despite periods of censorship and repression, it has remained part of the Czech cultural landscape. Families lovingly keep their copies at home and the story was passed on unobtrusively through the Nazi invasion and Communist repression. It surfaced during the Prague Spring, went underground during "normalization," and has appeared again in spite of commercial competition from the West. As such, *Broučci* may be seen as a representation of the Czech spirit that continues to survive, like the beloved fireflies, in one form or another.

#### Further Reading on *Broučci*:

-- The English version of *Broučci (Fireflies)* has been translated by Daniela Bísková with illustrations by Jiří Trnka taken from the 1968 edition, Albatross/Kralich, Prague, 1994.

-- Two articles in *Bookbird*, 2001, Vol. 39, No. 1, published by IBBY, offer added insights:

- Naděžda Siegllová: *The Changing Image of Czech Children's Literature: The Inter-War Years.*
- Sandra J. Williams: *The Creation of a National Identity: Significance of Jan Karafiát's Broučci to Czech Children's Literature.*

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Figure 7: The death of the fireflies precedes their return to life as daisies, as depicted here in the 1947 edition.

## WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS?

by Vladimír Markus  
trans. by Savoy Horvath

In recent times many international philatelic publications had articles regarding Podkarpatská Rus. This small and beautiful country changed its name as well as its identity and citizenship many times during the years 1919 through 1945. In the times of the Austro-Hungarian Empire it was called FELVIDÉK,



Fig. 1

KÁRPÁTALJA, and RUSZINSZKO. In the years 1919 through 1939 it belonged to Czechoslovakia and successively carried the names RUSKÁ KRAJINA, KARPATSKÁ RUS, and PODKARPATSKÁ RUS. For one day only (March 15, 1939) it had autonomy and took on the name of KARPATSKÁ UKRAJINA; but practically the very next day it was occupied by the Hungarian Army and fell again under Hungarian rule for the next six years. At the end of WW II (in 1945) Podkarpatská Rus was annexed to the Soviet Union. Today it belongs to independent Ukraine and carries the name of Zakarpatská Ukrajina, or more precisely ZAKARPATSKÁ OBLAST.

And now to the interesting part of my story. On November 23, 1948, Czechoslovakia issued a souvenir sheet to commemorate the birthday of president K. Gottwald [Sc. 367](Fig. 1). Collectors are well aware that this sheet has ten types and two subtypes, all in all this sheet was scrutinized and

written about more than any other. Despite all of this, none of the experts who labored over every minute detail of this issue noticed that the Czechoslovak national coat of arms on the presidential standard included in the upper right corner a small, humble bear, which at that time was (and still is) the emblem or coat of arms of Podkarpatská Rus (Fig. 2). Here it remained as a part of the Czechoslovak national coat of arms despite the fact that Podkarpatská Rus had no longer been a part of Czechoslovakia for three years.

But this is not yet the end of the Carpathian bear. Six years later (December 18, 1954) another souvenir sheet was issued, this time with the portrait of the Czechoslovak president, A. Zápotocky [Sc. 678](Fig. 3). Above his likeness is printed the great Czechoslovak coat of arms and in its upper right corner is again our small Carpathian bear -- emblem of Podkarpatská Rus (Fig. 4). But that Podkarpatská Rus had already not belonged to Czechoslovakia for nine years. It is difficult to believe that the comrades left the bear in the coat of arms intentionally or on purpose, more likely the meaning of it all was totally overlooked. By all means though it was truly strange that they didn't do anything. After all, in those days for much smaller transgressions people ended up for many years in



Fig. 2





Fig. 3

concentration camps or mines.

We again meet up with the great coat of arms on the stamps of today's Czech Republic, first on a souvenir sheet

for the great coat of arms from June 1993 (Sc. 2887) and then on a souvenir sheet for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the president of the Czech Republic, V. Havel, from October 1996 (Sc. 2994) (here the coat of arms is on the presidential standard). In both cases the great national coat of arms is modified to not include the Podkarpatsky bear . . .

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from MERKUR-REVIEW 5/2005, with the permission of the author and editor.]



Fig. 4

[Trans. Postscript: It has been sixty years since Czechoslovakia lost Karpatská Rus, but it also has been 13 years since the Czechs and Slovaks lost Czechoslovakia. Karpatsko, a mysterious, melancholy, full-of-myths-and-natural-wonders beautiful land was acquired by newly created Czechoslovakia in 1919, when the Hungarian Rusin National Council pronounced their wish to be part of Czechoslovakia. This was also the conclusion of the Paris Peace Conference in March of 1919 when it approved the autonomous annexation to Czechoslovakia. This union lasted until November 22, 1945, when the temporary Carpathian National Assembly approved annexation of Karpatská Rus to the Ukrainian SSR (Soviet Union). This action had its start in November and December 1944 when Soviet agitators and local communist party members went about the region collecting signatures from the population asking for the region's annexation to the Soviet Union. According to historians, people that gave a yes vote were given extra food rations, those voting against were deported to Siberia. People who openly spoke up against the annexation disappeared overnight and were never seen again. Carpathian withdrawal cost Czechoslovakia 10% of its land. Czechs and Slovaks who had to leave the region left behind considerable property without any compensation.]

## ADVERTISEMENT

**WANTED:** Pofis 3008, 1992 1 Kcs Gabčík & Kubis stamp variety listed as "other interesting thing" (jiné zajímavosti) with partial print of stamp from left edge of sheet; Pofis postal stationery 1952 CPH 17, Lidice card #'s 9, 10 & 11 and 1953 CPH 37, Lidice card #'s 15 & 16. Phil Rhoads: philip.rhoads@mnsu.edu

## HEYDRICH BLOCK CENSUS – UPDATE

by Phil Rhoades

An updated Heydrich Block census is listed below. Since requesting assistance with this project in the Fall of 2005 [see *Sept/Oct 2005 SPECIALIST*, pg23], the number of identified Heydrich Blocks has increased from 70 to 92. This census project is an update of one published in a monograph by the German Arbeitsgemeinschaft Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren (Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia Study Group), circa mid-1980's.

Sincere appreciation is extended to those who have provided updated data. This is an ongoing, continuous project. Anyone with additional information is asked to write me at 28168 Cedar Trail, Cleveland, MN 56017 or e-mail me at [philip.rhoades@mnsu.edu](mailto:philip.rhoades@mnsu.edu). [Ed. Note: To avoid duplication (and the resultant usage of space in this issue) the data that is given below reflects the actual update of information for the two lists that were presented in the original article. If a reader does not have the previous original article issue, please contact the author for a current complete update of the two lists.]

The following lists the updates of the additional Heydrich Blocks that have been identified. The most recently available information is listed. In most cases, the information is an auction firm, with auction date.

Control #	Last Information	Control #	Last Information
89	Exhibit (StampShow 2005)	409	Postiljonen, March 2004
101	Rapp, May 2004	446	Pofis catalog (2000)
167	Shreves, October 2005	517	Hobbyphilatelie, April 2006
179	2002 (auction ?)	534	Private sale, 1975
219	Schwanke, December 2005	535	Felzmann, 2003
248	Pyznar, 1990	613*	eBay, April 2006
254	Trojan catalog (1995)	632*	Cherrystone, September 2005
283	Majer, 1998	633	HBA, October 1986
350	eBay, June 2002?	674	Schwanke, December 2005
363	Ladewig, May 1993	679	Pofis catalog (2000)
383	eBay, March 2001	681	Pyznar, 1981

The second list showed those control numbers identified in the German study group monograph, but for which no additional information was provided. The following five numbers should be deleted from that list: 167, 383, 409, 534, and 633.

The following Heydrich Block envelope and stiffeners, but not the Block itself, has been identified:

703 German auction, ca 1980

\* updated information on this Block from previous first list

## *The Librarian's Desk*

Sometimes your librarian comes across information that might be of great interest to some members of the Society. While this information may not strictly pertain to the Library itself, it is not clear that it is available elsewhere. So, we can count this as part of my reference librarian duties.

The Czech Postal Service provides a fulfillment or standing order service for everything produced during the year: stamps, blocks, booklets, sheets, first day covers, maximum cards, postcards, even vending machine postage.

But you get much more than the stamps. Along with your order, the Philatelic Service sends a colorful pamphlet describing in English every stamp issued, the reason for its issue, its printing details, and even special postmarks. But perhaps the most wonderful thing is that they will accept your personal check in US funds as payment. Since the order sheet is priced in US funds also, you do not even have to worry about exchange rates. Once you have ordered, you are sent the next year's form automatically each December.

I discovered a few years ago that as long as packets for previous years are available, you can order them also. In 2002, I was able to order yearly packets all the way back to 1994. Unfortunately, the pamphlet series only went back as far as 1999.

You may obtain an order form by writing to:

POSTFILA  
Czech Post Philatelic Services  
Ortenovo Náměstí 542/16  
CZ-170 24 Praha 7  
CZECH REPUBLIC

Order a new form from the Philatelic Service at the above address, or, if you want to deal with an import service in the United States, you may contact either:

Bombay Philatelic Inc., P.O. Box 480009, Delray Beach, FL 33448  
(FAX 1-561-499-7553)(e-mail: [sales@bombaystamps.com](mailto:sales@bombaystamps.com))

or

George C. Kobyłka, 265 Lexington Square, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
(FAX 1-630-832-6275)

or

Julian J. Hosnedl, Les Mixes Company, 285 Dean Road, Clarksville, TN 37040  
(FAX 1-615-647-6747)

I have only dealt with POSTFILA and am simply repeating the information they provided for these agents.

Find POSTFILA on the web at <http://www.radio.cz/postfila/>, and also through <http://www.cpost.cz>, and e-mail: [postfila@cpost.cz](mailto:postfila@cpost.cz).

Mark Wilson

## JUBILEE AND CHARITY ISSUE OF 1919

by Zdeněk Moliš

trans. by Mark Wilson

*(Continued from previous issue)*

### Production Flaws

Much haste and that period's imperfect printing techniques are the reason so many various production errors have survived from then until today. Their philatelic value -- with a few exceptions -- is trivial, even though today they are offered at exaggerated prices.

### Printing Flaws

All of the values are relatively rarely found with machine or printing sheet offset transfers whether complete or partial (Fig. 15). These offsets escaped the notice of quality control, who devoted the majority of their attention to the printed side of the sheets.

Only rarely were lightly printed stamps preserved (Fig. 16).



Fig. 15

### Perforation Flaws

Such flaws are quite common and were caused by the period's poorly working perforation machines. Among the most common belong missing perforation holes and multiple perforations in the horizontal and vertical directions, and significantly shifted perforations, often all the way into the stamp's image (Fig. 17).



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

At this time I would like to warn collectors of a danger. Often we encounter an offer for an item with missing perforations for a very high price, especially when the missing perforation is line perforated  $10\frac{1}{2}$  or  $11\frac{1}{2}$  (Fig. 18). Much of this material arises out of the temptations of the relative ease to forge "scarce" perforations. This should be the real reason why our experts today should always mark forged perforations as "FALSE" and not just return them without the appropriate marking.

Belonging among the perforation flaws are the popular "coupons" of the 75, 100, and 120h denominations (Fig. 19). These "coupons" result from an additional stroke of the perforating machine into the broad margins of the printing sheet. The "coupons" can be of varying sizes -- they can be the size of the stamp or smaller. Most often these occur during the progressive perforation down the vertical direction of the sheet. Seldom do they occur in the horizontal direction.

#### *Other Production Flaws*

Less frequently, these stamps can be found incompletely printed, with folds, or with fold-overs (Fig. 20). This again testifies to the fact that quality control mainly devoted their attention to the printed side of the stamps.



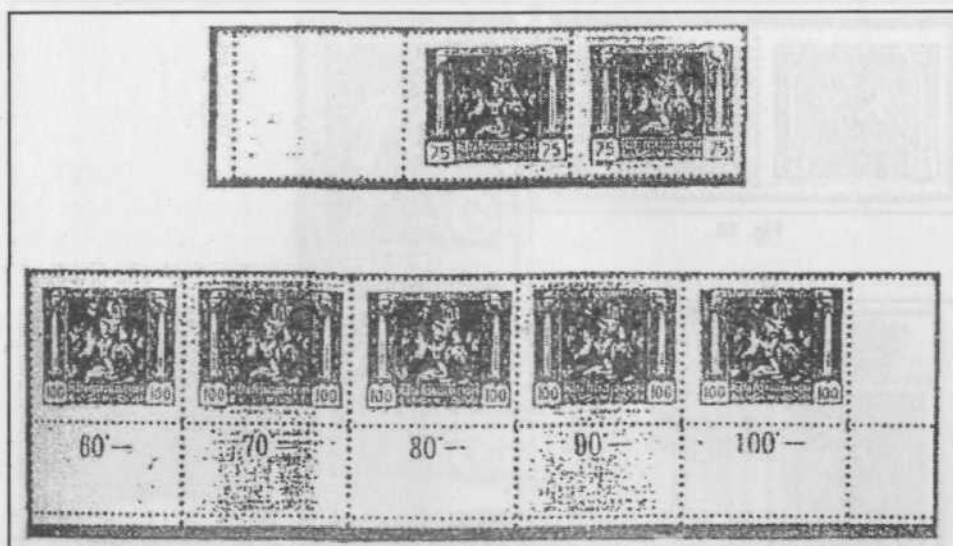


Fig. 19

#### Plate Flaws and Variations

Plate flaws and variations are naturally found much more often in the typographic part of the issue than in the photogravure portion. The most complete descriptions of these to date are in the articles by Dr. A. Šnoflák that augment those of Fr. Žampach (the authors present more than 100 of them). The *Specializovaná Příručka* describes only a small number of the known flaws and variations.

As with the Hradčany, it would be clearly possible to reconstruct the entire sheets of 100 stamps by using the plate flaws and variations.<sup>1</sup> For this issue, we can again confirm for our collectors the importance of a detailed study of each sheet position; in this case, such a study lead to the discovery of the types and subtypes of the 50h denomination (the great interest of this issue) and the evidence that the negatives for plates 1 and 3, and for plates 2 and 4 were the same (identical). Space constraints forbid a description and illustration of all plate flaws and variations within this essay, which is why the reader is referred to the footnoted publications.

#### Unreleased Printings

##### Unissued Stamps

Belonging here are the imperforate stamps, of which *Mongrafie II* says that only a small number reached dealers. Among these imperforate stamps are found all color varieties of the 15, 25, and 100h stamps. These stamps are quite prized by collectors. I do not, however, know of their being postally used. As early as 1919 it says in CF No. 19 that "not until a small number of pieces were given imperforate to a circle of officials for their disposal are these stamps perforated". This information does not correspond with the great abundance of imperforate stamps

<sup>1</sup> This article was written before any plating guides were published for this issue. Such guides now exist. — Tr.

held by collectors or available at bourses today. Closer to the truth is the assertion that early in the 1930's there appeared a large supply of these stamps including imperforate ones.

#### Trial Prints and Essays

I confess I always found troublesome the large number of trial and "essay" prints of the first issues of Czechoslovakian stamps. For the issue at hand, it is quite important to closely differentiate those trial prints which are truly meaningful to collectors -- for instance, for a study of the issue -- and those that cannot be called true trials.

Both of J. Obrovsky's designs have already been adequately described in the introduction. Among the typographic trial prints belongs primarily the imprint with the denomination figure 15h in a different drawing than that of the released stamps (Fig. 21) and without the designer's name presented. It is very likely that today this print exists only in the single known example -- and as such is unique.

As scarce (rare)



Fig. 20

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

one might consider the prints from printing blocks (only in black color), twice linearly enlarged, that are on chalk paper, have the designer's name, and which were used in the development of the auxiliary paste-up (Fig. 22).

Of great value are trial prints of pairs of stamps in various denominations which may be readily found in various production colors (including silver and golden-yellow) -- Fig. 23.

For the photogravure stamps, the most valuable are only those that were printed in denominations that later were never released, most often as 50h (I have seen however even a 15h -- see Fig. 24, the print shop's photograph of the design). These prints are found in various colors on paper with gum and without gum, and on paper of various types and colors (*Monografie II* mentions stamps in eight colors). According to documentary evidence these prints were produced individually, not in larger blocks or whole sheets.

Additionally, one may find with this issue (with both production technologies), as with the "Jan Hus" stamps, huge numbers of prints in all denominations in the



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

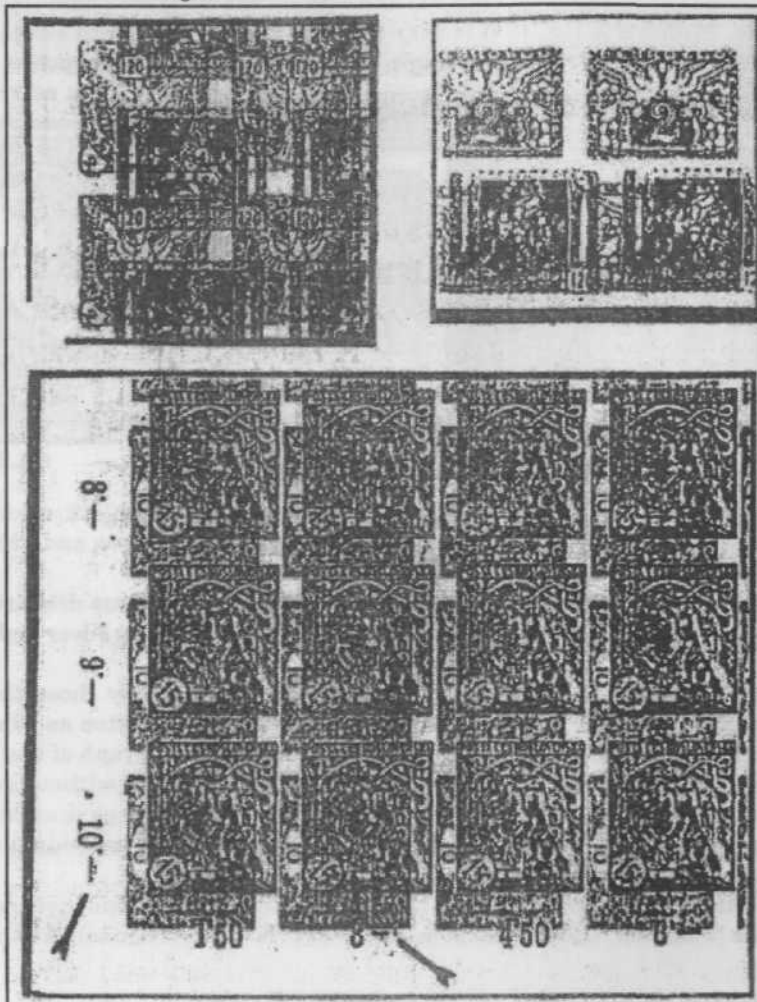


Fig. 25

various colors and on various papers. Among collectors these prints are usually called color trials. I am convinced that in 1919 it was not necessary for the "Unie" print shop to disseminate among collectors such a quantity of "essays". Here the photogravure department of Unie in particular distinguished itself when it produced more than 15 colors and their variations for each denomination. But even the typography department's development of silver and golden-yellow "stamps" -- they are known with the 50h denomination -- was definitely not the search for a suitable color for their new stamps.

These prints are known produced on white, yellow, gray-brown or brownish paper, and rarely on chalk paper or cardstock. A synopsis of all of these prints (but even the synopsis is apparently not exhaustive) may be found in *Monografie II*. I think that today we must frankly say that these so-called "trial prints" are practically insignificant and that they have a "role" only in the study of this issue. These "trial prints" may be found also in various perforations.

#### Black Prints

It is the same with black prints -- even when one has difficulty ascertaining their necessity for production or their purpose -- which are found for every denomination on various kinds of paper, from chalky to cardstock. Some of the black prints occur more frequently. None the less our collectors should not greatly overrate their philatelic value.

#### Printers' Waste

The printers' waste from this issue have little significance for collectors. Today one can still find a great deal of it among collectors. Such prints can be found for all denominations on variously colored papers -- but typically on brown or gray paper -- in their issued colors. The scarcest is printers' waste in an unissued color (e.g., in black). Waste in comb perforations are quite common, but line perforated waste is scarcer.

Also common with this issue are concurrent printers' waste prints of various denominations; philatelically of much greater interest are the concurrent prints of these stamps with the Hradčany stamps (I have concurrent prints of practically all denominations) and with postage due, newspaper, or special delivery stamps, which occur only sporadically (Fig. 25). (To be continued)

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Philatelic News and Views*

From Richard Palaschak:

-- Just a reminder that you can pre-register for WASHINGTON 2006 at [www.washington-2006.org](http://www.washington-2006.org) and avoid waiting in long registration lines at the Convention Center. Based on my own prior experiences with the annual AUSA gathering at the Center, I assure you that this will save you time. If you have already registered . . . , I apologize for sending this message to you, but wanted to be sure that everyone understood the advantage of pre-registration. Last week, some

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

of my colleagues and I, along with our wives, went to the restaurant at which I've made reservations for our Society dinner [Tuesday, 30 May, 7 pm, see pg 23 of Mar/Apr issue]. We went during the week to get an idea of the crowd, atmosphere, service and the food. The service was outstanding, the food was very good, . . . and the wine was expensive. . . . Several of the ladies had different fish dishes that they all said were outstanding. All of the pasta dishes that we tried were very good also. . . . I estimate that dinner will cost between \$25-\$35 per individual without liquor and could be higher if you order some of the higher cost menu items. Thought that I'd give everyone some advance notice regarding the cost, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THANK YOU!!!

It is with a great deal of reluctance that I accepted the resignation of Jerry Verner as the Society's Webmaster. It was Jerry who dragged the Society from the 'stubby-pencil', OK maybe electric typewriter, era to the Internet. Jerry and his daughter, Lida, have been running the Society's web page for 10 years. The web page has become the principal means of advertising the Society. As a result it has become the principal means of recruiting new members. Through the efforts of Jerry and Lida, the website has become a valuable source of information on Czechoslovak Philately. The Society's website has been recognized for its excellence by the American Philatelic Society.

I would like to thank Mark Wilson for volunteering to take on the job of Society Webmaster. At the same time, Mark will continue to serve as the Society's Librarian. Thanks, Mark, you have a big set of shoes to fill. I know you will do well.

Tom Cossaboom  
President

\* \* \* \* \*

## Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Mr. Svoboda:

Some years ago I got from a friend a set of Hradčany stamps on pieces, postmarked (or overprinted?) with a design celebrating the first year of Czechoslovakia's independence. Since I have never been able to find out anything about these postmarks, I



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



am asking for the help of other members, through publication in the Society's magazine, to gather some information about these interesting items. I am enclosing a reproduction of the postmark/overprint(?) (Fig. 1), and of a Hradčany stamp postmarked PRAHA 3f (Votoček 1860/3a), 10-28-1919 with the celebrative postmark (Fig. 2). I have 7 of them in all, on piece, imperforated and perforated. Thanks a lot for your help.

Yours truly  
Michele Pallini

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## New Issues

### CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. Van Zanten

1. On 22 February, 2006, the Ministry of Communications issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Personalities series (Fig. 1). The stamps were designed by Markéta Prachatická, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 11 Kč -  
František  
Josef Gerstner  
(1756-1832) --  
in black, ochre,  
dark blue,  
blue, yellow.



Fig. 1

He was a significant Czech scientist who studied mathematics and astronomy at the University in Prague. After a short stay at the Viennese observatory he was appointed professor of higher mathematics in Prague. He was a member of the Royal Bohemian Society of Science. In 1795 he was called to become a member of the Court Study Committee in Vienna and by his proposals of reorganization of the technical education system contributed to its development in the Habsburg empire. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century his motions led to the transformation of the Prague Engineering School to a technical vocational center which started teaching in 1806. Gerstner became its headmaster. He also contributed to the development of a number of technical disciplines and their practical application. In 1810 he was raised to the peerage for his merits. The postage stamp is issued on the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth and bears his portrait and bibliographical data. A FDC in black shows an astrolabe (Fig. 2).

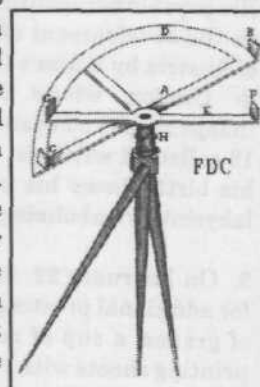


Fig. 2

## THE CZECKOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

-- 12 Kč - Jaroslav Ježek (1906-1942) -- in black, ocher, red, rose, yellow. Ježek was -- beside J. Werich and J. Voskovec -- a leading personality of the Osvobozené Divadlo (Liberated Theater) where he acted as a composer, playwright and conductor. From his birth he suffered from gray cataract, he had only weak one-eye sight, and after a period of scarlet fever he was hard of hearing. He obtained the basic music education in the Institute for Blind Children. On completion of the Prague Conservatoire he continued his studies for a masters degree with J. Suk and A. Hába. During a one-year stay in Paris he met the American jazz and contemporary serious music. He was an excellent pianist. His long-time cooperation with J. Voskovec and J. Werich started in 1928. He was the author of stage music and songs for the Liberated Theater which are the basis of modern Czech jazz and

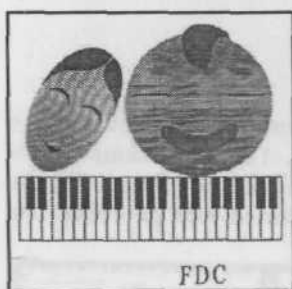


Fig. 3

dance music (e.g. *Tři Strážníci*, *Nebe Na Zemi*, *Tmavomodrý Svět*). He also composed film music (e.g. *Hej Rup*, *Pudr a Benzin*), concert, chamber and orchestra compositions. In the early 1939 he and V+W went to America where he conducted the Czechoslovak Singers, and taught music. He also died there. The postage stamp with his portrait and bibliographical data commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. A FDC in black shows caricature portraits of Voskovec and Werich with a piano keyboard (Fig. 3).

-- 19 Kč - Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) -- black, ocher, dark green, green, yellow. He was a significant Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist who was born in Příbor in Moravia to a Jewish family. After his studies at the University in Vienna he was a successful physiologist and neuropathologist. Later on he began an intensive study and treatment of neurosis. He founded the scientific discipline of psychoanalysis as a concept of personality development and a method of treatment of mental disorders. The treatment was based on a technique of free associations and interpretation of dreams. All forms of human activity were interpreted by him as expressions of instincts, especially sexual instinct. His psychotherapeutic school had a large impact not only on the development of psychology. After the annexation of Austria by Hitler's Germany he was forced to emigrate to London where he soon died. His extensive, independent and systematic scientific work is compiled in

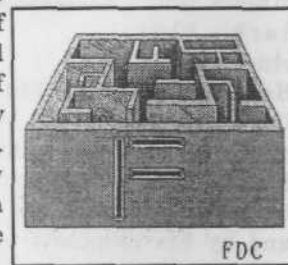


Fig. 4

18 collected writings. The postage stamp commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth shows his portrait and bibliographical data. A FDC in black shows a labyrinth symbolizing the complicatedness of the human soul (Fig. 4).

2. On February 22, 2006, the Ministry issued a 12 Kč definitive stamp with labels for additional printing entitled *Still Life of Wine* (Fig. 5). The stamp bears a still life of grapes, a cup of red wine, and flowers. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The right upper label bears a twig with three ripe peaches, the other 11 labels show a drawing of a bunch of grapes. A part

of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printing in compliance with the wish of customers. The stamps and labels were designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and were produced by Victoria Security Printing, a.s. by multicolored offset.



Fig. 5

3. On February 22, 2006, the Ministry issued a 24 Kč definitive stamp entitled Daffodil from the series of definitive



Fig. 6

stamps The Beauty of Flowers (Fig. 6). The stamp shows the flower with a bud together with the Czech name of the daffodil. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black (recess print), combined with photogravure in red, green, and yellow in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

4. On March 15, 2006, the Ministry issued a modified previously issued 9 Kč postage stamp with additional printing stating K. NEUMANNOVÁ -- ZLATÁ MEDAILE (K. Neumannová -- Gold Medal) (Fig. 7) to point out the excellent success of the Czech sportswoman at the XX<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games. The additional printing was made by typography in red and was placed on a free portion of the stamp dedicated to the XX<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games, Torino 2006, that was previously issued on February 8, 2006, and that featured skiing women. The Post Printing House in Prague used a portion of the originally printed stamps for this additional printing.



Fig. 7

5. On March 22, 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč stamp to commemorate Easter (Fig. 8). In the spring the Earth wakens to life and nature revives. The Easter season is therefore a festival of spring. Gentile peoples celebrated this season as a festival of fertility. The Christian Easter is connected with the commemoration of Christ's death and resurrection, which opens the way from death to life. The Sunday after the first spring full moon is Easter Sunday, and the following Monday (Easter Monday) belongs to carollers. The stamp features a colorful hen seated on a decorated Easter egg. In addition the design includes a caroller's whip made of plaited twigs. The whip, known as a pomlázka, is traditionally made from braided pussy willow twigs that have been soaked overnight in salty water to make them supple. On Easter Monday, boys go from house to house whipping girls' legs while reciting Easter carols. According to a custom that dates back to pagan times, anyone whipped with the pomlázka is supposed to have



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

good health, luck and wealth in the following year. The stamp was designed by Karel Franta, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, green, red and green-blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in light brown shows a small caroller holding an Easter pohlazka and a decorated sack holding chickens (Fig. 9).

6. On March 22, 2006, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Country series (Fig. 10). The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with color photogravure in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

-- 12 Kč: Monastery in Osek -- in black, green, light brown, blue-gray, red;

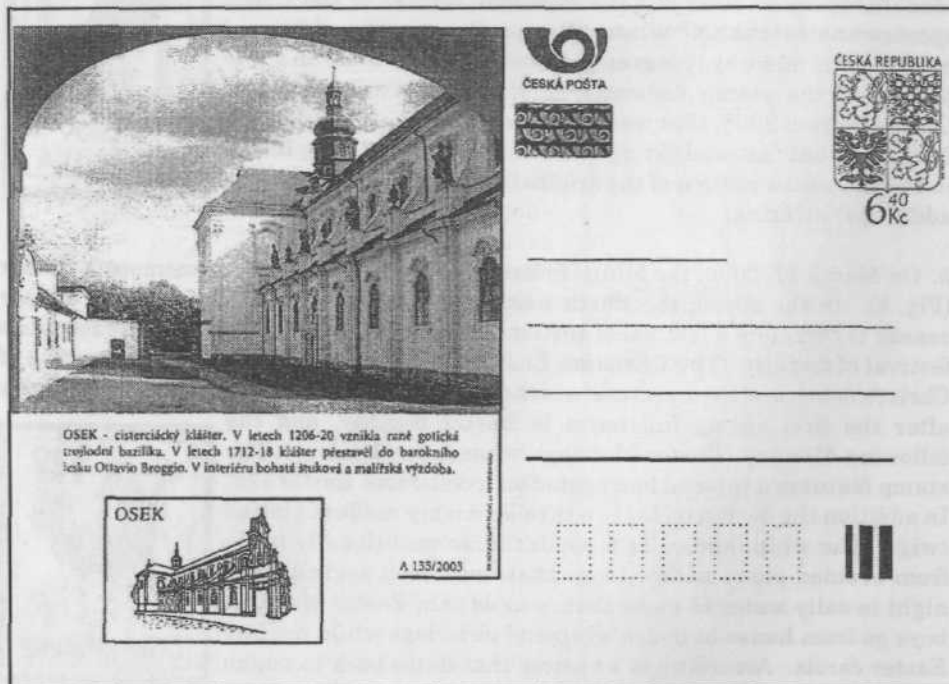


Figure 11: Postal card A 135/2003 in the Architectural Monuments series in the Czech Republic showing the Monastery church.

designed by Pavel Dvorsky and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. The Cistercian Monastery in Osek by Duchcov determined for centuries the history of the town as well as the whole region (Osek is near the Czech/German border, just north of Most). It was founded in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century by a Czech nobleman, Slávek of Hradišice. The monastery consists of a large complex of buildings from the Romanesque to the Baroque era (Fig. 11). The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary was built in 1206-20 as a Romanesque three-nave basilica (the stamp shows a view of the church). It was destroyed during the Hussite wars, and rebuilt by O. Broggio to the Baroque form in 1712-18 (Fig. 12). Its decoration is the work of leading artists, e.g. V.V. Reiner (Fig. 13, Pof 2895/Sc 2745, 9 May 89), M.L.



Fig. 12

Willmann, etc.



Fig. 13

The author of

the main altar painting of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is K. Liška. The most precious part of the monastery is the chapter hall, one of the first early Gothic buildings in the Czech lands, with a Romanesque reading stand made of stone on two knotted columns (seen on the left side of Figure 14 and again as the cachet of the FDC for this stamp, Fig 15). The cloister around the garth is connected to the church by a Romanesque portal. The terraced gardens of the monastery were also preserved and are presently in an early stage of reconstruction. The top one is a view terrace, the middle one consists of a large pool with sculptures, the bottom one is decorated with flower beds, fountains, and a gloriette. The

monastery is a part of the national heritage and is open to the public. A FDC in gray shows the stone pulpit with the knotted columns in the cloister in Osek (Fig. 15).

-- 15 Kč: Kokořínsko Capstone Formations -- in dark brown, ocher, orange, blue, green; designed by RNDr. Adolf Absolon and engraved by Martin Srb. The Kokořínsko region was declared a protected landscape area in 1976. It spreads over a 271 km<sup>2</sup> area between the right bank of the Elbe river and Ústě. It is a unique region of the Bohemian Chalk Table with a rare relief -- vast sandstone mountains of unusual shapes and deep ravines. The most precious locations include the natural



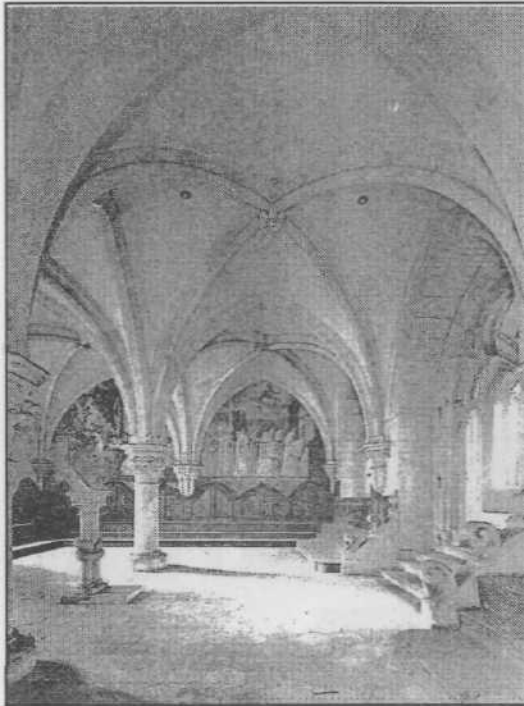


Fig. 14

reserve of Kokořínský Valley which is 23 km long. The Capstones are a remarkable sandstone formation above the opening of the Močidla Narrow into the Kokořínský Valley. It is the result of a process of uneven erosion of secondary sandstones. It appeared in places with the surface layer of massive iron sandstones lying on a softer sandstone layer with loamy clay based again on a massive siliceous layer. In the course of millions of years the

effect of water, frost and wind led to a massive erosion of the middle, easy-to-erode layer. The remaining "leg" in the shape of an irregular cone holds up to 1 m thick capstones. The process of erosion still continues. A FDC in black-brown shows a part of the Kokořín castle (Fig. 16).



Fig. 15

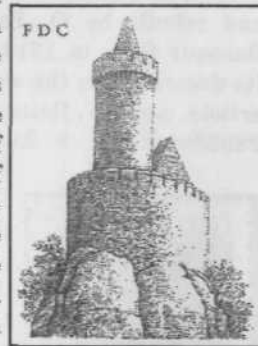


Fig. 16

Stationery

7. On March 2, 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 11 Kč postage stamp dedicated to the Days of Francophony in the Czech Republic, March 2006, and at the same time to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poet, philosopher, and statesman Léopold Sédar Senghor (1906-2001), one of the founders of Francophony and the recent president of the Republic of Senegal (Fig. 17). Since 1999, the Czech Republic has observatory status at the International Organization of Francophony which includes at present 49 membership, 4 associated and 10 observatory countries. The term "Francophony", the author of which is French geographer Onésin Reclus, determines the community of people speaking French. It originates from 1880. The institution of Francophony began being formed in the 1960's on the initiative of the African's Hamani Diori, Habib Bourquiba, and Léopold Sédar Senghor. In 1996, the Chapter of Francophony was passed. The prime target

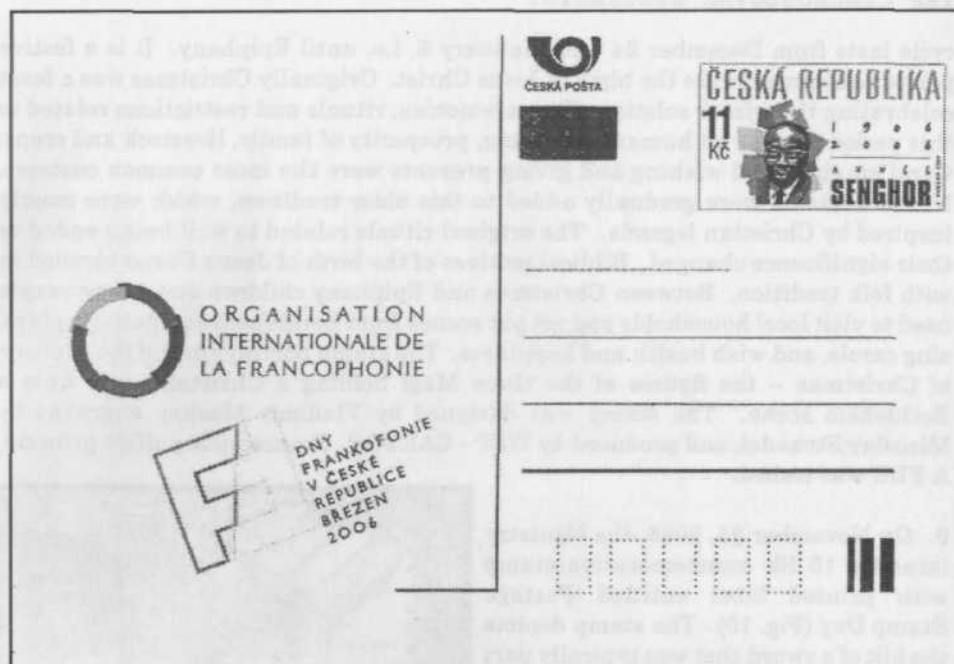


Fig. 17

is the support of teaching and spreading of the French language, Francophony finances, and also projects which influence nowadays all domains of men's activity, above all human rights, the development of democracy, and cooperation in education, environmental protection and economy. The last summit of Francophony took place in November 2004 in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso -- the next one is planned for 2006 in Bucharest. In the scope of its observatory status the Czech Republic concentrates above all on the cultural dimension of francophone cooperation. On the occasion of the International Day of Francophony (March 20), the Days of Francophony take place in many countries every year. The stamp shows the logo of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of L.S. Senghor while the cachet portion has the logo of the International Organization of Francophony and two reversed letters F with Czech text for the celebratory days. The postal card was designed by Václav Kučera, produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset, and sells for 16 Kč.

## SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten



Fig. 18

8. On November 16, 2005, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 9Sk commemorative stamp entitled Christmas 2005 (Fig. 18). Christmas is one of the most significant annual family and religious holidays. In the current civil calendar, three days from December 24 - 26 are reserved for Christmas. According to the religious calendar, the Christmas

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

cycle lasts from December 24 until January 6, i.e. until Epiphany. It is a festive period to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally Christmas was a feast celebrating the winter solstice. The ceremonies, rituals and restrictions related to this period focused on human well-being, prosperity of family, livestock and crops. Carol singing, well wishing and giving presents were the most common customs. Newer customs were gradually added to this older tradition, which were mostly inspired by Christian legends. The original rituals related to well-being ended or their significance changed. Biblical motives of the birth of Jesus Christ blended in with folk tradition. Between Christmas and Epiphany children and young people used to visit local households and act out scenes from Bethlehem and nativity plays, sing carols, and wish health and happiness. The stamp portrays one of the symbols of Christmas -- the figures of the three Magi holding a Christmas crib from a Bethlehem scene. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Machaj, engraved by Miroslav Strnadel, and produced by WSP - CARTOR, France, using offset printing. A FDC was issued.

9. On November 25, 2005, the Ministry issued a 15 Sk commemorative stamp with printed label entitled Postage Stamp Day (Fig. 19). The stamp depicts the hilt of a sword that was typically part of the uniform of a postal official in the 1800's. The label depicts an early horse drawn mail van in blue livery. All employees in the service of post offices wore a uniform. Higher officers and postmasters wore especially beautiful and richly decorated "gala" liveries made of high-quality cloth. The design of the uniforms for officers and other employees of post offices is described in detail in the Decree of the Vienna Court Chamber, dated 1815. According to this Decree a gold-plated cord was worn with the uniform. Preserved uniforms, as well as accessories, such as the prerequisite trumpet, and the models of means of transport used for postal services in the past are only some of the precious collections of the Post Museum. They provide reference to the history of post offices and post office services in Slovakia. The cord provides unique evidence of the significance of the uniform in rating the public and social status of a post officer. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Vierošlav Ondrejčíka, and produced by WSP - CARTOR, France, using offset printing. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 19

10. On February 3, 2006, the Ministry issued a 21 Sk commemorative stamp to honor the 2006 Torino Winter Olympic Games (Fig. 20). For the second time in history, the Winter Olympic Games will be hosted by Italy. Half a century after the 7<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games that were held in Cortina d' Ampezzo -- a town in



Fig. 20

the area of the Dolomites -- in 1956, this honor and responsibility has been awarded to the Northern Italian city of Torino. While in Cortina the Czechoslovak Olympic Expedition of 41 members included only three Slovak sportsmen, more than thirty sportsmen and sportswomen in Torino will represent Slovakia. Karol Divín -- a legendary Slovak figure skater -- took up to a successful 5<sup>th</sup> position in the Olympic debut. The only Slovak representative in the entire ice hockey team of that time was the goalkeeper Ján Jendek, a Slovan Bratislava legend. In the history of the Slovak Republic, the medals of the Winter Olympic Games were out of our reach. Ice hockey players, biathlonsists and representatives of both Nordic and Alpine skiing and bobsledders will compete in Slovak colors at the 20<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games. The motif for the Slovak postage stamp to honor this year's Olympics portrays a slalom skier. Slovakia has an Alpine skiing tradition to uphold: the achievements of Jan Šoltysová-Gantnerová have not been forgotten. The stamps was designed by Igor Piačka, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by WSP - CARTOR, France, using offset printing. A FDC was issued.

11. On February 3, 2006, the Ministry issued a 16 Sk commemorative stamp in the Personalities series to honor Karol Kuzmány (Fig. 21). Karol Kuzmány -- poet, novelist, and theologist -- was born on November 16, 1806, to the family of a protestant priest from Brezno. He received his higher education in theology, history, and philosophy at a university in Jena. He started performing pastoral activities in Banská Bystrica, and in 1849, the Faculty of Theology in Vienna conferred on Kuzmány the title Professor of Practical Theology. Following the publication of his scientific work on protestant cannon law in Austria, he was awarded the golden medal of the king of Prussia for Science and Art, and subsequently in 1863 a Doctorate Honoris Causa in theology. The greatest achievement of Kuzmány's work devoted to the Slovak nation was when he was elected a vice-chairman of Matica Slovenská (the Slovak National Foundation). He assisted in the establishment of the Lutheran secondary grammar school in Turčiansky S. Martin. As a publisher of the literary journal Hronka, he devoted his time to religious literature. He wrote the novel Ladislav, was a committee member of the Tatrín Association, and one of the representatives of the Slovak deputation before the Emperor in 1849. The exceptionally fruitful life of Karol Kuzmány ended prematurely on 14 August 1866 in Turčianské Teplice. Motifs for the stamp, a portrait of Karol Kuzmány and his manuscript pictured in the background, are from the collections of the archive of literature and art of the Slovak National Library in Martin. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Lucie Bandiková, and produced by WSP - CARTOR, France, using offset printing. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 21



Fig. 22

12. On ???, 2006, the Ministry issued a 23 Sk definitive stamp in the Cities series honoring Poprad (Fig. 22). This town is the "Gateway to the High Tatras" and lies on the river of the same name. In the 1990's it had a population of about 38,000. It was

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by settlers from middle Germany as "Deutschendorf". It received its town charter in 1221 and fifty years later joined the "Federation of the 24 Free Towns of Zips".

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