



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

A.P.S. Unit 18

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THE IDEAL BIRTHDAY GIFT: AN S.C.P. MEMBERSHIP

We all have the problem of finding a good present for someone who has everything. All of us also have friends and loved ones with whom we exchange gifts who collect stamps or might become interested.

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Go to the SCP website (www.czechoslovakphilately.com) today, download an application, complete it, and send it in along with your check for \$18 or \$3. Or, you can write to our Secretary, Philip Rhoades for the application (his address is on page 2 of every issue). Your loved one or friend will receive a nice year-long gift as a result of your thoughtfulness.

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

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/June 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@mail.com
2. A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: canclcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Mark Wilson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, or e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.org
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/e-mail above).
6. Our web site (www.czechoslovakphilately.com) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via e-mail, and more. The site is maintained by Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.org

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

President's Corner

For your Society, WASHINGTON 2006 was a busy and very successful show. On the show's opening day, the Society's board conducted its annual meeting. The Board voted to approve the report of the Website Study Committee, including all recommendations. The recommendations include using PayPal for paying dues and purchasing publications, that the Society's website address be changed to www.czechoslovakphilately.org, and that all issues of the *SPECIALIST*, 1939-1999, be placed on the website in such a format that it can be read but not printed (note that the Index for this period is already on the website). The Board further agreed that later editions of the *SPECIALIST* could be placed on the website no sooner than one year after publication.

For many years, the Society's Board has operated on the premise that dues should cover the cost of publishing the *SPECIALIST*. Beginning in 1999 it has cost more to print and mail the *SPECIALIST* than has been collected in dues. Exceptional revenues from the sales circuit covered the deficit for a few years, however circuit sales have declined and we can no longer cover the deficit. The deficit for 2005 was more than \$3,000.

After much discussion and with great reluctance, the Board voted to raise dues. Beginning with the year 2007, dues for regular membership will be \$25. Patron dues will rise to \$50. This is the first dues increase since 1989. For those who have already prepaid dues for 2007 and beyond, your payment will be honored. For anyone wishing to prepay dues after 27 May 2006, your dues will be calculated at the new rate.

During WASHINGTON 2006, your Society operated a booth to recruit new members, to take orders for our publications, and to advertise our activities (Fig. 1). We were very successful in all three areas.

-- During the exhibition, eleven new members joined the Society and two former members rejoined -- pushing our membership above 300. *[After the show, three additional applications were mailed in, two of which were patron memberships.]*

-- Publication orders exceeded \$1,000 and cachet sales about \$100. Needless to say, Savoy Horvath, our publications sales manager was very busy mailing orders. Thanks, Savoy.

-- The Society's booth was very popular with visitors to the show. I had a number of friends who were attending the show comment on the almost constant crowd at our booth. Clearly Czechoslovak philately is popular with many collectors. This popularity was conveyed to our visitors from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. They too expressed surprise at the popularity of Czechoslovak philately.

Among the visitors were a number from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. From the Czech Republic, Dr. Lumír Brendl (president of the Union of Czech Philatelists) and Vít Vaniček (Union vice president) were judges at the show (Fig. 2). Dr. Bedřich Helm served as the commissioner for the Czech Republic. Dr. Lubomir Floch (president of the Union of Slovak Philatelists) was the commissioner for Slovakia (Fig. 3).

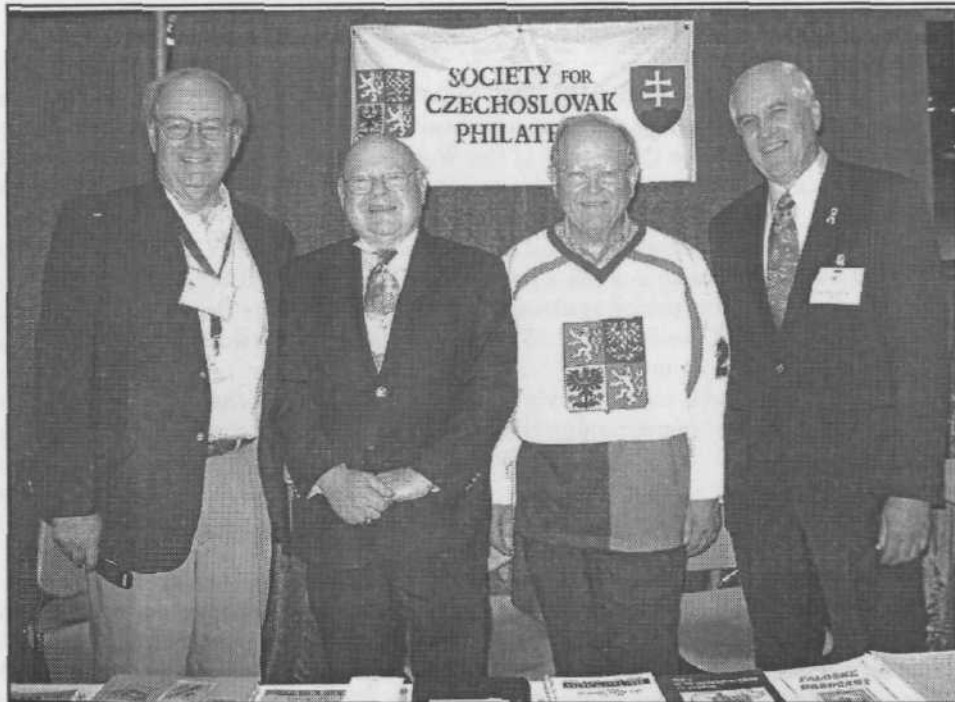


Figure 1: Attending to our booth at the moment were this quartet of Society regulars Tom Cossaboom (president), Henry Hahn, Ludvik Svoboda, and Richard Palaschak.



Figure 2: Our president, Tom Cossaboom, listening intently to the comments by Czech judge Vít Vaniček at the general Society meeting.

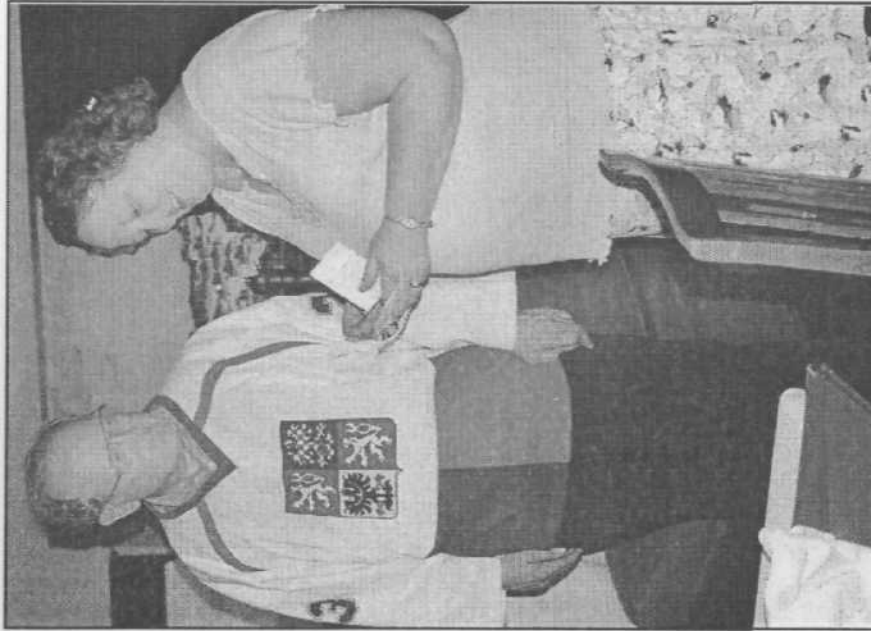


Figure 4: Our SPECIALIST publisher, Nancy Godfrey, showing her surprise and appreciation after having received an unexpected reward from the Board for 12+ years of excellent service -- presented by editor, Ludvik Svoboda.



Figure 3: Slovak commissioner, ubomir Floch, during his presentation on Slovak Postal History.

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Figure 5: Left then around to right: Richard Palaschak, David Schwartz, Lois Verner, Yvonne Wheatley, (guest), Frederick Lawrence, Richard Wheatley, Joyce Palaschak, Susan Smyth-Tucker, (Ray Tucker - taking picture)



Figure 6: Left around to right: Ludvik Svoboda, Nancy Godfrey, Phil Rhoads, Judy Carrigan, Jay Carrigan, Earl Galitz, Marisa Morgan/Galitz, Richard Livingston, Morgan Godfrey, Jaroslav Verner



Figure 7: Left to right: Milan Černík, Hans van Dooremalen, Vít Vaniček, Lumír Brendl, Tom Cossaboom, Bedrich Helm (Czech commissioner), Lubomír Floch, Frederick Lawrence



Figure 8: Jury Secretary, Stephen D. Schumann, presented the Gold medal to Henry Hahn

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On Tuesday night, 30 May, the Society sponsored a dinner. In addition to the judges and commissioners from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Hans van Dooremalen from the Czechoslovak philatelic society in the Netherlands, and Yvonne Wheatley and her husband Richard from the Czechoslovak philatelic society of Great Britain, as well as board members and other members of the Society were in attendance (Fig. 4,5,6,7).

Your Society sponsored three lectures during the show. Dr. Floch presented a very informative talk on Slovak Postal History. Dr. Floch and Miroslav Langhammer were scheduled to present a lecture on the separation in 1993 of the Czechoslovak Post into the Czech Post and the Slovak Post. Unfortunately, M. Langhammer was not able to attend WASHINGTON 2006. He did however send his notes and photos, and Society member Richard Livingston ably filled in as speaker. Also Phil Rhoad, the Society secretary, presented a very moving lecture on the background to his exhibit, The Murder of Lidice.

Society members won a number of awards. The following is a list of Society members, their exhibit and their award.

- Henry Hahn, "Czechoslovakia (1918-1939)", Gold (Fig. 8)
 - Milan Černík, "Czechoslovakia: Double Post Cards in Postal Use 1918-1939", Large Vermeil
 - William Sandrik, "Austro-Americana Shipping Line", Vermeil
 - Jaroslav Verner, "Czechoslovakia 1918-1938", Vermeil
 - Ross Wood, "Czechoslovakia 1930 Airmail Issue", Vermeil
 - Phil Rhoad, "The Murder of Lidice", Silver
 - Jay T. Carrigan, "Certified Mail in Northern Bavaria, 1945", Silver
- Congratulations to all.

Finally a special thanks to those members who helped man the Society's booth: Henry Hahn, Richard Livingston, Ludvik Svoboda, Richard Palaschak, Richard J.J. Palaschak, John Pojeta, Phil Rhoad, and Jerry Verner.

Without all of you the Society would not have had all of the success at WASHINGTON 2006.

Tom Cossaboom



SOCIETY SALES CIRCUIT

Do you have excess philatelic materials that you would like to sell? Or maybe you wish to buy? We are always looking for new members and materials. Why not contact our circuit sales manager, Alan Hoover, for details on how to submit material to the circuit or participate as a buyer. Just remember to price your materials reasonably for quick results. The circuit is currently going out to about 25 of our members and is experiencing significant sales interest because of the great variety of materials and the reasonable prices.

Alan can be reached at 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092-1383 or send him an e-mail for details at: h.alan.hoover@mail.com. You can also download the rules and regulations of the sales circuit from our Society website at: www.czechoslovakphilately.com, if you are an Internet user.

**NATIONAL ARTIST
MAXIMILIAN ŠVABINSKÝ**

Born 1873 Died 1962

Kroměříž Prague

by G M van Zanten



One of his earliest works may be seen in the entrance of the Zemská Bank built in the 1890's. This bank did pride itself as a promoter of young talent. At that time Max was a young graduate of the School of Fine Arts where he had studied under Maximilian Pirner (1854-1924). The young Max's earliest work received well deserved appreciation, opening up a new direction of decorative painting. Figure 1 (next page) depicts him in a self-portrait in a landscape c.1900 at age 27 (original 54 x 50 cm).

The 1973 set of five stamps commemorating his birth centenary is in the writer's mind one of the most delightful sets in my Art collection. Designed by Max and all engraved by his close friend Jindra Schmidt (1897-1984), resulting in their close collaboration for some 61 stamps from 1956 to 1973. A stamp for Jindra was described in the March/April SPECIALIST of 1993 (Fig. 2).

Let us now have a closer look at the mentioned 5 stamp set as well as their cachets.

The 20h value in black and pale green depicts St. John the Baptist with a staff in the woods with a dog or fox, this subject dates back to the year 1930, the original measures 540 x 416mm (Fig. 3). It is in the Prague National Gallery. The cachet depicts a pen and ink drawing with a butterfly dating from 1960 (Fig. 4).

The 60h value in black and pale ocher is entitled "August Noon", a woodcut dating from 1918, the original measuring 445 x 345mm (Fig. 5), also in the Prague Gallery. The cachet in orange, also entitled August Noon, was a pen and ink drawing dating from 1919 (Fig. 6).

The 80h value depicts a painting dating from the year 1896, when Max was just 24. It is entitled "Communion of Souls" or "Marriage of True Minds", oil on canvas (Figs. 7,9). This work is in the Brno National Gallery. [According to the Praga 88 *Umění na Známkách* catalogue, its measurements are 37 x 29cm, but according to Petr Wittlich in his book *PRAGUE Fin de Siècle*, they are 65.5 x 45.5cm.] The FDC for this stamp depicts a self-portrait done in 1897 (Fig. 8). This stamp was printed se-tenant with the 1 Kčs value (Fig. 9), entitled "Paradise Sonata", measuring 800 x 533mm and is in the Prague National Gallery. The stamp is dark green with a matching cachet in the same color depicting a detail of the work "Golden Evening" done in 1919 (Fig. 10).

The drawing Paradise Sonata was one of 4 woodcuts plus a self-portrait done in 1922 (Fig. 11). Included with it were Max's words creating a lyrical atmosphere of emotions declaring his love for his second wife, Anna -- it was created for her! This same woodcut image was used 9 January 1973 on a postal stationery envelope (COB 28)(Fig. 12), having the imprint of a 3.60 Kčs stamp commemorating the International Postage Stamp Exhibition ČSSR-SSSR at Kroměříž having an exclusive exposition of the stamp designs of Max Švabinský.



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 2

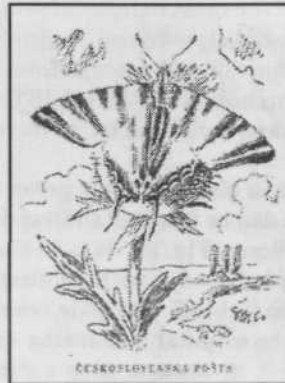


Fig. 4



Fig. 6



Fig. 8



Fig. 10



Fig. 5



Fig. 11



Fig. 7



Fig. 17



Fig. 15

ČSSR
SSSR
УСРС
СССР



MEZINÁRODNÍ VÝSTAVA
POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK ČSSR-SSSR
SE SAMOSTATNOU
EXPOZICI ZNÁMKOVÉ TVORBY
MAXE ŠVABINSKÉHO

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



360
Kčs
KROHOMÉRIE 1973

Mr.
Gerald M. van Zanten,
PO Box 49,
Napier,
NEW ZEALAND

Fig. 12



Fig. 9



Fig. 13



Fig. 16



Fig. 14

The final stamp in this 1973 set is the 2.60 Kčs value (Fig.13), issued in sheets of four stamps. It depicts one of the stained glass windows in St. Vitus' cathedral (in fact the largest, and situated at the southern end of the transept, fashioned between 1937 and 1938). The fraction of the window shown on the stamp is "The Last Judgement". The FDC depicts an image of Blanche of Valois, who was the daughter of Philip of Valois, King of France. She married Charles IV at a very young age. There is also a bust of her in the triforium in St. Vitus Cathedral (Fig. 14).

On 5 November 2003, a much more intimate stamp was issued entitled "Poor Countryside" (Fig. 15), which dates from 1900 and depicts a young woman sitting on a hill (see Jan/Feb 2004 SPECIALIST). Some research led me to the girl's name -- Ela Vejrychová, who in fact was Max's fiancée. Done in 1899, Poor Countryside measures 179 x 246cm and is also in the Prague Gallery. His aunt Marie is the subject of the FDC for this issue (Fig. 16) -- this artwork being done early in 1893.

Yet another find was the round portrait shown as Figure 17 that has a diameter of 105.5cm and also can be found in the Prague Gallery. This portrait is of his second wife, Zuzanna, who he married after his first wife died -- she was in fact his first wife's sister!

MAILINGS OF THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC POST (4)

by A. Šmíd, V. Schödelbauer
trans. by Henry Hahn

(Continued from previous issue)

Duration of consignment transport through the pneumatic post network

Naturally, express consignments could be transported between individual Prague postal stations by means other than pneumatic post. It was often more advantageous to do so (as for example between Praha 1 and Praha 7). At the same time from the standpoint of the postmarks used, these consignments were cancelled similarly to those that were sent pneumatically, i.e. two postmarks of different post offices connected to the pneumatic mail network (see Diagram 2, May/June issue, pg 6). It is thus essential to assess the time difference on the postal cancels, i.e. when

the consignment entered the PtP network and when it exited it. *This time difference should be minimal, since transport by pneumatic mail was indisputably very fast -- usually whisking along in a matter of minutes.*

Figure 33: Postal stationery card sent via PtP on 15.12.1901 from the Praha 2 post office (Staré Město) to the main railway station (delivery area of the Praha 1 post office, see the blue directional numeral in the upper left). Apparently due to operator error (incorrectly positioned PtP switch), the postal card was first sent to Vínohrady (Královské Vínohrady 1). There the error was immediately discovered, and the consignment was turned around and sent to the Praha 1 post office. The time-stamp of all three cancels shows the same time -- 11:40. From this it is evident that the entire transport, including the correction of the operator error, did not exceed 20 minutes (!). In addition, this consignment indirectly indicates the fact that the Královské Vínohrady 1 post office was at that time already connected to the PtP network (until now I have not been able to find an official record for the connection of this post office).

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Fig. 33

What transport time-span the collector considers as reasonable is his responsibility, since there does not exist any official rule as to how long pneumatic passage should take, and thus far there has not been published a uniform opinion by experts on how to assess PtP consignments from this perspective. However, I am personally convinced that in their own interest, collectors should assess consignments most cautiously and to give preference to those in which the transport time is the shortest.

Personally, on the basis of having examined a significant number of PtP consignments, I have come to the conclusion that in the Austro-Hungarian period the standard time of transport (the difference in the time-stamps of the cancels) came to a maximum of 40 minutes. The postmarks of the pneumatic post of that period had time-stamps even down to minutes. It was possible to reset these on 20

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Figure 34: Postal stationery card sent via PtP on 8.5.1918 from Praha 8 post office (Malá Strana, 9 hours) to the Praha 1 post office (telegraph, 10 hours). Both cancels have the minute time-stamp obstructed, so that the transport time cannot be determined as precisely (here to one hour). The card lacks a consignment directional marking [in crayon] and a sequence number. Most likely the number imprint (3170) is part of evidence of the receipt of written material (the card was an enclosure with the written material).

Figure 35: Postal stationery card sent via PtP on 18.8.1926 from Praha 8 post office (Malá Strana, 7 hours) to the Praha 1 post office (telegraph, 9 hours). Both cancels already have the minute time-stamp obstructed, so that the transport time cannot be determined as precisely (here the interval is to two hours). As happened frequently during this period, the postal card lacks a consignment directional marking, as well as the imprint of a sequence number.



Figure 36: PtP 25h stationery card upranked by 10h and used as a regular Special Delivery card. The consignment was sent from the Praha 1 post office at 10 hours and delivered to the Karlín post office also at 10 hours. Since the Karlín post office was at that time not connected to the PtP network, the consignment must have been delivered by a surface route.

minute intervals and according to the documents that I have seen, this is how it actually worked. The majority of PtP consignments up to 1915 (or more precisely 1916) had either the PtP entry time and exit time both be the same (see Fig. 33), or they had a time difference of only 20 minutes. Only occasionally might we see a time difference of 40 minutes (see Fig. 7). I am not familiar with consignments showing time differences of over 40 minutes.

During WW I -- specifically from 1916 -- the minute time-stamp stopped being used in the cancels (its area was obstructed -- see Fig. 5, 34), which in my opinion ties in with the war-time situation and restricted numbers of experienced postal clerks working. This perhaps also led to the slight lengthening of the time interval for delivery of PtP consignments. This period fact is evident from the cancels of PtP consignments which show time-stamps (hourly figures) for PtP entry and exit being either the same or differing by an entire hour (see Fig. 34). Again, I am not familiar with PtP consignments showing time differences in excess of 1 hour.

After the end of WW I, the minute time-stamp field again began to be used at some of the post offices that had the original Austrian cancelers. These continued to be used until they were replaced by definitive Czechoslovak cancelers. Setting the minutes was not possible, but Roman numerals were used to indicate morning hours and Arabic numerals for indicating afternoon hours. From available mailings it is possible to deduce that the time differences between entry and exit from the PtP network ranged from 20 minutes to one hour.

With the introduction of Czechoslovak postmarks without the minute time-stamp it is more difficult to determine the precise transport time of PtP consignments. In general, it can be assumed that up to the expansion of the network in 1926-27, the transport times were similarly as fast as in the previous times. This fact, however, can no longer be unambiguously derived from the postmarks. The majority of consignments have on their PtP entry and exit cancels either the same hourly time-stamp or a difference of one hour (see Fig. 8, 9, and 50). Only as an exception does one find a time difference of two hours (see Fig. 35).

After reconstruction and the significant expansion of the network in 1932, transport times lengthened a bit (the routes were longer and the network more

Figure 37: Postal card sent 8.10.1942 via PIP from the Praha 10 post office (time 18 hours) to the Praha 73 post office (time 22 hours). Extraordinarily the time interval comes to 4 hours, although all of the other appropriate and helpful indicators (sequence number imprint, folding of the card) show it was transported by PtP. Today however we can only guess why it took so long; most likely it was a breakdown of the network or clerk's negligence.



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complex). The lengthening was, however, clearly only by minutes, since the majority of consignments again have on their PtP entry and exit cancels either the same hourly time-stamp or a difference of one hour (see for example Fig. 25-28). A time difference of two hours is admittedly possible, but not common (see Fig. 15).

Where the transport time tolerance of a cover does not fall within those



Figure 38: Partial printed matter (franking 30h for printed matter + 40h for PIP delivery) sent 7.2.1938 from the Praha 31 post office (Vinohrady, 17 hours) to Praha 1 (17 hours) where it however arrived after the last delivery round at 16:15 hours (see Table 5). It was therefore not delivered until the morning next day (see the note "doslo 8.2. 9h" [arrived 8.2, 9 hours]).



Figure 39: Registered/Special Delivery - letter sent from the Polička post office (time 8 hours) and through the sorting post office Praha 1 (time 15 hours) to the Praha 14 post office (Letná, 22 hours). Even though this consignment could not have been delivered by PIP, it has an imprinted sequence number (4308). This means that such imprints are not associated only with pneumatic service, but also had other (e.g. statistical) significance.



identified above (e.g. within an hour), it does not necessarily mean that it was not transported by pneumatic post (the delay could be for example caused by technical failure of the network, congestion within the post, press of business, or finally error by the responsible official). As a consequence of such delays, the means of transport is difficult to demonstrate. I am thus personally convinced that if the time interval is greater than three hours (with the exception of mail arriving at night -- see below), the consignment was transported, with exception (see Fig. 37), by surface and not by pneumatic post.

Figure 40: Special Delivery card sent 23.4.1935 from Cheb (time 14 hours) to Prague. The consignment wandered by train, apparently to Praha 7 (the Praha 7 postmark is missing due to postal clerk's error), from there by PtP to the delivery post office Praha 1 -- telegraph station (time 20 hours). Since the PtP entry postmark (Praha 7) is missing, the consignment does not fulfill all of the PtP characteristics. However, transport by PtP is indirectly confirmed by the green sequence number imprint, which belonged to the PtP central station at Praha 1 (helpful identification mark).



The increased attention devoted to the time difference of the PtP entry and exit cancels is well justified. Thanks to it, I was for example able to identify approximate data on connection of new PtP post offices to the network during the years 1900-1927 (see Fig. 33). The transport times for PtP consignments was significantly shorter (even as much as an hour) than by surface delivery.

Understandably there exist various exceptions which bear witness to the above principles. Thus it is perhaps possible to find consignments which definitely did not pass through the pneumatic post and yet on them the time-stamp on both cancels from different post offices is identical or within the above cited tolerances. This pertains, for example, to consignments transported between post offices, one of which was not even connected to the PtP network (see Fig. 36), consignments transported when the PtP was not in operation (see Fig. 11), or various Special Delivery and concurrently registered consignments (which were expressly not allowed to be transported by pneumatic post). For such instances there appear to be likely only two possibilities. The first is the erroneous setting of the canceling device, and the second the situation where the courier of personal delivery consignments between post offices received the item just as he was departing and was thus able to hand it over to the delivery post office within the same hour.⁶ [*It is not as unlikely as today's view might make it appear. It should be realized that Prague in those days was much smaller, and the distances between post offices -- especially in the central part -- were not that great. For most of these the hour interval could be managed by a courier on foot, or even more easily a courier on horse or even by automobile (also the volume of traffic was much less, so that a carriage then could have been faster than an automobile today).*] On rare occasion even some unregistered Special Delivery consignments could have been thus transported by the standard surface route.⁷ [*As we have already noted (see Footnote 5, May/June SPECIALIST, pg 7), even unregistered Special Delivery consignments -- which were more commonly transported by PtP -- could be transported by the standard surface routes with minimal time difference (e.g. between post offices Praha 7 and Praha 1). From the viewpoint of the total volume of mail, this clearly dealt with only an insignificant number of consignments.*]

Other difficult decision making occurs for example with consignments which

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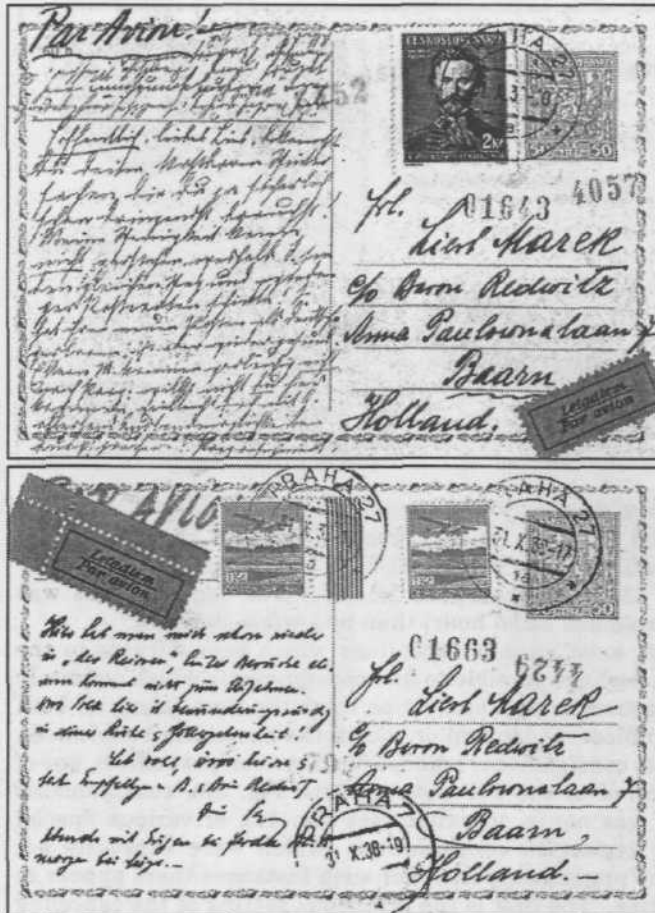


Figure 41a,b: Interesting documentation – about the numbering of consignments by means of the sequence number imprints of various post offices, and the volume of PtP transported consignments—is shown on two postal cards sent the same day (31.10.1938) by the same sender to the same addressee. They were posted at a smaller post office, Praha 27 (Nové Město), transited the central PtP post office, sent to the Praha 7 post office, and from there were expedited to the airport and on to the Netherlands. The number of Special Delivery consignments and PtP consignments passing through individual post offices in a span of about 7 hours can be derived from the sequence numbers:

Praha 27, black numerals	01643 (10 hours)	01663 (17 hours)	20 consign.
Praha 7, red numerals	4057 (11 hours?)	4429 (19 hours)	372 consign.
Central PtP office, green numerals	5152 (11 hours?)	7933 (19 hours?)	2781 consign.

were posted or delivered at the main post office (Praha 1) and forwarded the next morning to a delivery post office according to the given address. These consignments could either have passed through the pneumatic post or could have been delivered by surface route with other consignments (ordinary, registered, etc.) in the morning hours before the pneumatic post was yet open (see Fig. 49). Correct assessment is made more difficult by the fact that with all of the consignments that I have had the opportunity to see and have presupposed that they were transported the next morning by PtP, they lack the entry PtP cancel from the morning delivery (PtP delivery began between 6:30 and 8:00 am). They only have the arrival cancel of the Praha 1 post office from the previous evening or night. I therefore assess them rather guardedly, and in my collection and exhibit either substitute a credible item or at least precisely describe it.

(To be continued)

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JUBILEE AND CHARITY ISSUE OF 1919

by Zdeněk Moliš
trans. by Mark Wilson

(continued from previous issue)

Commemorative Cancel -- The "Overprint"

This well known commemorative cancel -- so overused -- belongs among the other items of collector's interest even when it precisely contributed, in no small measure, to the unpopularity of these stamps.

Current terminology makes inappropriate the use of the former term "overprint", so we will use the more accurate term "commemorative cancel" (this term was used correctly as far back as the 1930's -- e.g. ČF No. 10/32). Nor was this commemorative cancel the first used in the ČSR, as is sometimes said, because this honor belongs to the "SOKOL Slet in Znojmo" cancel used in August 1919.

We know also (see e.g. *Monografie II*) that the commemorative cancel had no postal function, that stamps with this cancel were to be considered unused, and that envelopes bearing such stamps should thus also be canceled with the daily postmark next to the stamps -- such covers are scarce (Fig. 26).

According to the *List of Official Actions*, "2000 sheets of every type of these stamps were to be overprinted with a cancel in the form of a linden leaf [why did they not mention the round cancel here? -- Author] and these stamps were to be sold with a surcharge of 10h each". According to Hirsch and Franěk, it was always blocks of four stamps that were to be struck with the cancel and apparently only "rarely" were single stamps struck. The proceeds from their sale were to go to the Legionnaires' Fund -- according to *Monografie II*, thus was raised all together 80,101 Kč

(which means that one third of the stamps with the commemorative cancel were never sold during that period).

The dies used for the cancels were manufactured by the Štenc Graphics Company of Prague using the design of academic painter Al. Mudruňka. Just how many dies were produced by this firm remains unsettled even today. It was just at this time that collectors became interested in commemorative cancels. We do know that in 1919 were used two cancels in the shape of linden leaves, and also two having

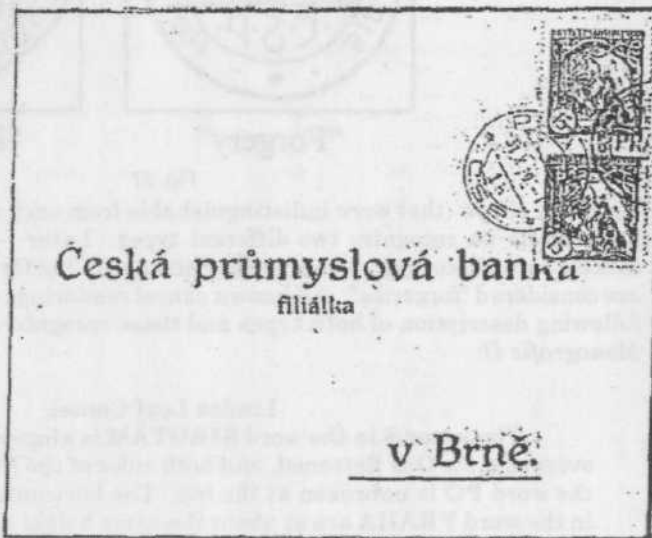


Fig. 26

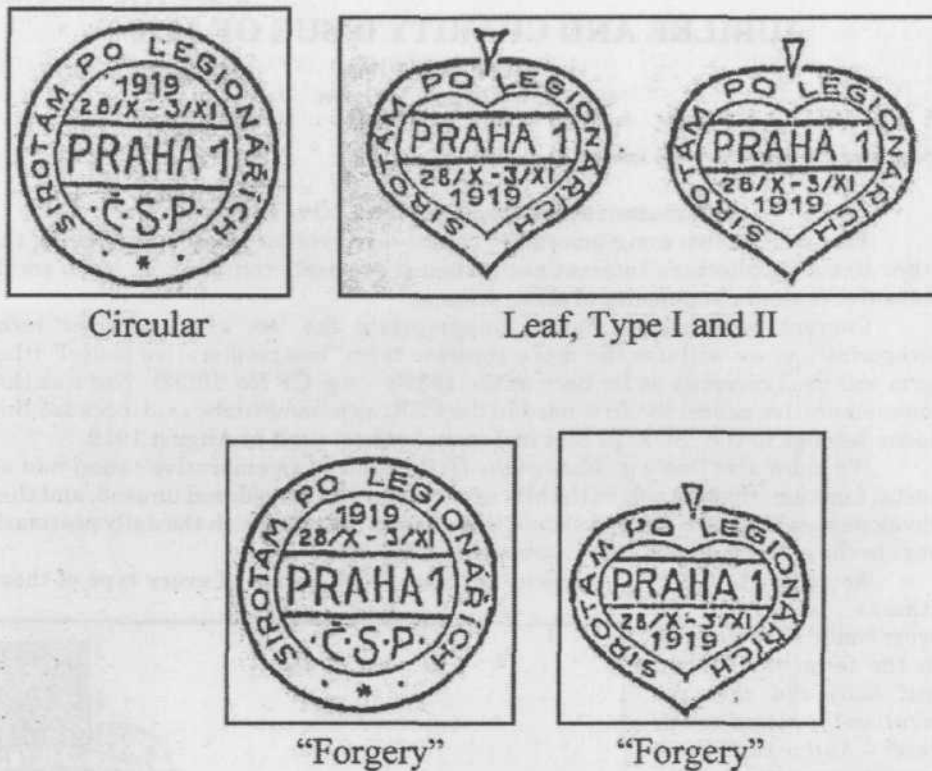


Fig. 27

a circular shape (that were indistinguishable from each other). But, with the linden leaf cancels we recognize two different types. Later -- about 1931 -- another two cancels were discovered -- one circular and one in the form of the linden leaf -- which are considered "forgeries". All known cancel renderings are shown in Figure 27; the following description of both types and those recognized as "forgeries" I took from *Monografie II*:

Linden Leaf Cancel

The letter S in the word SIROTAM is aligned with the center of the overprint, its O is flattened, and both sides of the M are vertical. The P in the word PO is unbroken at the top. The horizontal line in both letters A in the word PRAHA are at about the same height as the crossbar in the H. These identifiers apply to both types of the overprint (I and II). Take note also that the 1 in the overprint's bridge (PRAHA 1) has a long flag coming off the vertical leg.

The differences between Types I and II are small.

Type I -- has bent sides on the triangular stem of the leaf and a longer top horizontal line on the 3 in the date.

Type II -- has flat sides on the triangular stem of the leaf and a very short top horizontal line on the 3 in the date.

Greater differences are found in the forged overprints. In the forgeries, the axis of the leaf's triangular stem points somewhat to the side

of the overprint, as does the axis of the letter **S** in the word **SIROTÁM**. Both sides of the letter **M** are slanted. There is a gap in the top of the letter **P** in **PO**. Both crossbars on the letters **A** in **PRAHA** are situated significantly lower than the crossbar of the **H**, and the **l** has a shorter flag coming off the vertical leg.

Round Cancel

Although reputedly two cancels were produced for this overprint, no differences are found between the overprints, except as they differ from the forgery.

In the genuine overprint, both sides of the letter **M** are vertical, and the center line of the letter **E** in **LEGIONÁŘICH** is shorter. Both crossbars in the letters **A** in the word **PRAHA** are at nearly the same height as the **H**'s crossbar, and the **l** has a longer and more inclined flag.

For the forgery, the sides of the letter **M** are slanted and the center line of the **E** is longer. For both instances of the letter **A** the crossbar is lower than that of the **H**, and the **l** has a shorter and less inclined flag.

The description of each cancel is clear enough that any of today's collectors need have no confusion in identifying them.

It is also possible to distinguish the "forgeries" from the cancels used in 1919 by the colors used. Initially the color green was supposed to be used for the linden leaf and the color blue for the circular cancel. This rule was not closely followed even in 1919; not only were the colors interchanged, but other colors were used -- for instance, red, purple, and infrequently even black. The same "selection" of colors were used with the "forgeries". Here is the only reliable difference: the colors used for the "forgeries" had a different composition and seeped through to the back of the stamps, which the 1919 cancellation ink did not do.

A heated discussion (sometimes even distasteful) took place between philatelic periodicals and associations around the discovery of these "forgeries" in 1932. This was triggered when the Aid Fund announced a sale of the remaining supply of this issue in

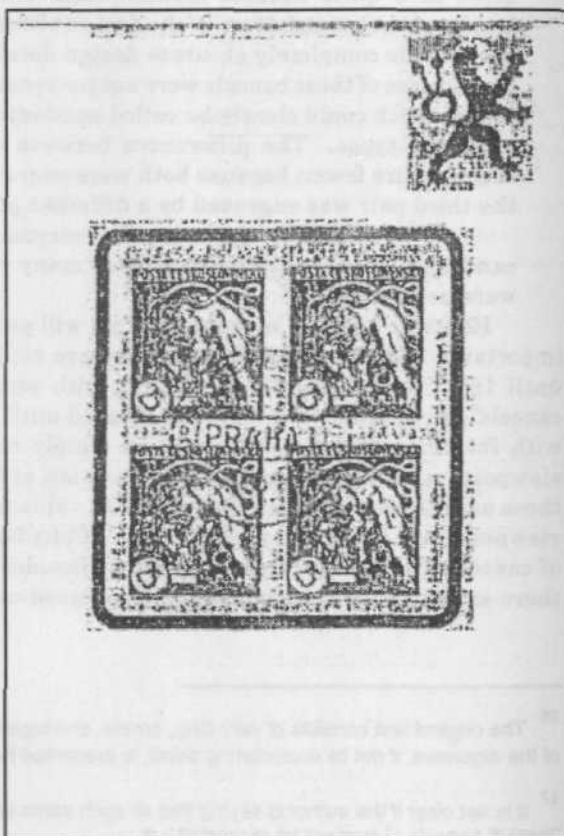


Fig. 28

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

the Spring of 1931, some of which were again supplied with the commemorative cancels, but using those which today we describe as "forgeries". The argument was -- when were these cancels actually produced. The "Society of Independent Philatelists" in Prague even issued a declaration, from which this is abstracted:¹⁶

"We believe, because the issue of leaf and circle cancellations on the stocks of leftover stamps in the Spring sale was derived from the original cancellation, and because the Legionnaires' Aid Fund assumed in 1919 from the Post Office the right to act as its agent, that we can authenticate with absolute accuracy how these stamps got to us.

We are affirming as authentic the issuance of the third pair of officially supplied original cancellations, which had not previously been used because the Legionnaires' Aid Fund had, until 1931, enough material in stock overprinted with the first two pairs of cancels; these were issued in part under Post Office authority and in part under the authority granted to the Legionnaires' Aid Fund by the Post Office, for after the Post Office used what it felt was economically necessary, official control passed to the Aid Fund with its acquisition of the stamps in 1919.

The differences found by comparing them to the original material and enlargements of the designs, and described in the meeting of June 28, 1932, arose in a quite natural manner from the way the central post office managed the manufacture of the design of the Legionářské cancels; they did not provide completely accurate design details to the engravers, which for the purpose of these cancels were not necessary. Thus certain imperfections arose, which could clearly be called accidental although they do constitute philatelic types. The differences between the first and second pairs of cancels were fewer, because both were engraved by the same person, while the third pair was engraved by a different person.

It is of course apparent to everyone that during the additional canceling, it was not possible after so many years to use the same colors as were used in 1919."

How this actually all happened we will probably never know, but that is not important. Whether these two cancels were actually created in 1919 and not used until 1931, then we would be dealing with some kind of "reprint of the original cancels"; or whether they were not created until 1931, then we are dealing clearly with forgeries [no quotes here!] -- is simply not important. From a collector's viewpoint what is important, as was written at that time in ČF 10/32, is that "All these additional cancels are fully without value from a collecting standpoint". That viewpoint still holds today. Right now, at any bourse, one can find a great number of cancelled "products" from this time. Besides the cancelled stamps from 1919, there exist various upside down and reversed cancels, and other "mounted sheet"

¹⁶ The original text consists of very long, ornate, and legalistic sentences. My belief is that the spirit of the argument, if not its excruciating detail, is presented here -- tr.

¹⁷ It is not clear if the author is saying that all such items are worthless, or only those using the "forged" cancels. I suspect he means all -- tr.

and "souvenir sheet" forms (Fig. 28), which we also consider to be without value.¹⁷ Thus, contrary to their goal, these "activities" made these stamps even more unpopular!

At this point, for completeness, I would like to bring up the commemorative cancels that, in the end, were not used. We know of two designs:

- The "large leaf" by J. Lešetický -- Figure 29.
- The "small leaf" by A. Mudruňka -- Figure 30.

According to Hirsch and Franěk, these cancel designs were used on a significant number of the stamp series using a green color (I am aware of other colors being used -- e.g. red, black). These authors claim that both cancel designs are in safekeeping by the Ministry of Posts. It is not possible to confirm those claims today. In another article,¹⁸ I said that I have, besides the original prints of the Mudruňka designs, also prints of the cancels produced in the later period (Fig. 31) -- they are on agency envelopes, which are for sale today. I failed to find any differences during a study of the



Fig. 29



Fig. 30

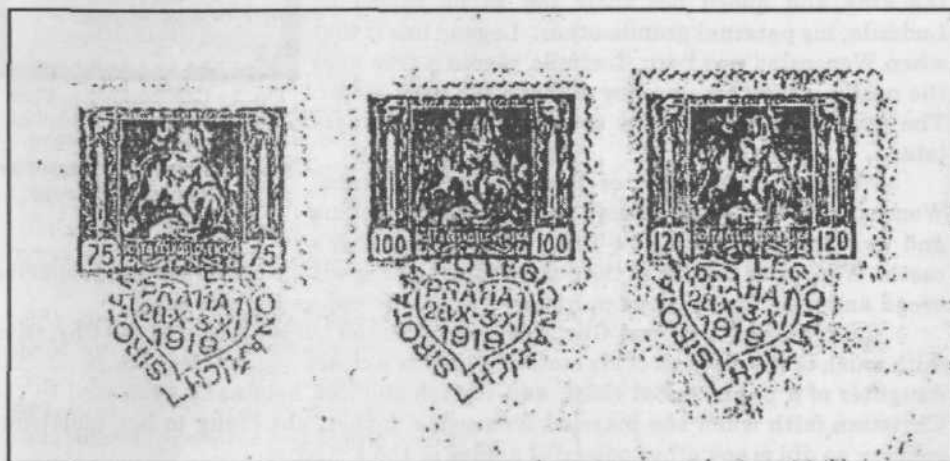


Fig. 31

original overprints and the "private" overprints. It is possible to arrive at the conclusion that at least one cancel of the Mudruňka design is today in private hands. Because of this, be careful even with "trial prints" of these dishonored commemorative cancels.

From all this that I have said about commemorative cancels, it is obvious that collectors should mostly prize only envelopes that bear the stamps overprinted, and have duly passed through postal processing (Fig. 26).

(To be continued)

¹⁸ Z. Moliš. "Málo oblíbená emise." *Filatelie* 11, 1987.

ROYALTY OF THE WORLD KING WENCESLAS OF BOHEMIA

by William Silvester

*Good King Wenceslas looked
out on the Feast of Stephen.
When the snow lay round about,
deep and thick and even.*

To many people, King Wenceslas is little more than a name in a Christmas Carol, but in his day, he was a well-known and much beloved monarch.

Wenceslas was born around 907 in Stochov Castle near Prague, in what is now the Czech Republic. The young prince was the eldest son of Prince Ratislav (Vratislav) of the house of Přemysl and his wife, Drahomira. Ratislav became king in 915 after the death of his father Borivoj. Preoccupied with matters of state, the king and queen left their son to be raised by Ludmila, his paternal grandmother. Legend has it that when Wenceslas was born, Ludmila placed a tree near the castle where his nannies dumped his bath water. The tree stands to this day over one thousand years later.

With the assistance of Paul, Ludmila's priest, Wenceslas received an education of Slavonic reading and writing. Brought up at Tetín, his grandmother's castle, Wenceslas reveled in the outdoor life helping with the harvest and preparing bread and wine for religious purposes -- a task he enjoyed all his life.

Ludmila was a fervent Christian and educated her grandson in the Christian faith much to the distress of his mother who was a closet pagan. Drahomira was the daughter of a pagan tribal chief, and though she had nominally professed to the Christian faith when she married Wenceslas' father, she clung to her idolatrous religion as did many other powerful nobles in the kingdom.

In the following years, Ratislav and Drahomira brought four daughters and a son, named Boleslav, into the world.

When Wenceslas was only thirteen, his father died in battle and as the young prince had not yet reached his majority, his mother became regent. It did not take long before Drahomira showed her true colors and reverted back to her pagan religion. The confusion resulting from Ratislav's sudden death and the animosity between the old pagan and new Christian nobles, enabled Drahomira to consolidate her position. She began persecuting the Christian priests in the kingdom, attempted to reinstate her religion and had urged two nobles to strangle Ludmila in her castle at Tetín on September 15, 921.

Drahomira now tried to undo what her mother-in-law had done and began including Wenceslas in her pagan ceremonies. The young prince, however, secretly



Fig. 1 - Czechoslovakia #159:
King Wenceslas mounted on
his horse -- from a 1929
Commemorative set issued for
the millenary of the death
of the King.

continued with his private Christian services, often in the middle of the night. He garnered support from the Christian nobles, and when he turned eighteen, they rose in rebellion and deposed his mother. Though the nobles banished her from the kingdom, Wenceslas forgave her and recalled his mother to Prague. (Another version has it that he banished her from Bohemia.)

One of his first acts was to reinstate the Christian religion and end the persecution of the priests. The rebellious nobility soon fell into line, as they discovered that Wenceslas was intending to be a stern but fair monarch. The young king soon became renowned for his acts of charity, especially the help he gave to the poor whom he sheltered and clothed. He had an especial feeling for orphans as he could relate to them. He also had an animosity towards slavery and freed those in captivity when he could. His Christian beliefs permeated his reign, and he was instrumental in raising his grandmother to sainthood and for the construction of numerous churches. All the while, he continued to humbly press his own grapes for the communion wine and harvest his own wheat for bread.

Duke Radislav, a neighboring monarch, was in the habit of conducting murderous raids against Wenceslas' people. In order to put an end to the practice, Wenceslas challenged the ruler to hand to hand, one on one combat to settle the dispute.



Fig. 2 - Bohemia & Moravia #88: 1944 commemorative showing St. Vitus' Cathedral, founded by King Wenceslas.

All was not well within the King's domain, however, for many of his pagan nobles still resented the return to Christianity, amongst them was his brother Boleslav. The last straw was when Wenceslas, believing it was in the best interests of his people, swore fealty to King Henry I, known as "the Fowler", the king of Germany and a Christian monarch. Wenceslas considered Henry to be the true heir to the great Charlemagne and supported his position as king. He also felt that it was better to willingly recognize Henry than be forced to by conquest. His nobles were enraged at this, feeling that Bohemia should be a nation unto itself and not part of a foreign King's empire.

In return for Wenceslas' fealty, Henry offered him a gift of his own choosing. Wenceslas requested a relic of St. Vitus. After he received it, he built a church (that later became a cathedral) to shelter it.

Meanwhile, brother Boleslav was beginning to become troublesome. Having been under the influence of his mother rather than his grandmother, he was raised with pagan beliefs and had the support of the pagan nobility. At one time Wenceslas is thought to have considered dedicating himself to a religious life and travelling to Rome, leaving the kingdom to Boleslav. The discussion he had with his brother on the subject may have led Boleslav to covet the throne.

The same nobles responsible for the murder of Ludmila now had influence over the young prince. The birth of Wenceslas' son, which pushed Boleslav down the line of succession, was used to convince the King's brother that if he did not act soon,

he would loose [sic] all chance to becoming king. They convinced Boleslav that the king was plotting to have him murdered and that he should join them in their plot against Wenceslas.

The conspirators invited Wenceslas to attend the feast of the saints, Cosmas and Damian that was to be

held in the chapel of Boleslav's castle. Though warned in advance that his life might be in danger, Wenceslas decided to ignore the warning and put his trust in God to see him safe. When the Liturgy was over, the king was preparing to return to his own castle when Boleslav invited him to remain and join him and his friends in a drink. Wenceslas agreed and stayed for the rest of the day. As darkness fell, he accepted his brother's invitation to stay the night even though he had been warned of a plot against him.

The next morning, September 20, 929, he awoke, found himself still alive and set off for the chapel for his morning prayers probably thinking that the threats of



Fig. 3 - Czechoslovakia #619: Prague Castle, the royal seat of the Přemysl dynasty from a 1953 Commemorative.



Fig. 4 - Czechoslovakia #1472: From a 1967 set publicizing Prague Castle, a depiction of the interior of the Hall of King Wenceslas.



Fig. 5 - Czechoslovakia #1626 and 1627: From a 1969 set issued to publicize Castle Prague's art treasures that include a mural showing King Wenceslas pressing wine and a coronation banner with St.

Wenceslas and coats of arms of Bohemia and Czech crown lands. she ran to where he lay and stricken with grief, she ordered his body taken to the priest's house to be prepared for burial. Then Drahomira, fearing for her own life, quickly left Prague for Croatia.

plots had all been rumors. Just before he arrived at the chapel, Boleslav and his henchmen caught up with him, exchanged a few pleasantries and drew their swords. Wenceslas was unarmed and attempted to seek the sanctuary of the holy place. Outnumbered he was stabbed to death on the steps of the chapel.

When his mother learned of his murder

According to legend, it was found that Wenceslas' blood had not seeped into the ground but while he lay in state three days later, his blood took his form and stood above his body. Before long many of his subjects began reporting miracles happening at his grave when they went to pray.

Boleslav, who was now king, is said to have had his brother's body moved to the church of St. Vitus, either feeling that the sacred relics would overshadow any minor miracles that might be credited to Wenceslas or because he was repentant for his deed. The chapel of St. Wenceslas was constructed around his tomb.

In time the good king, though he had reigned for only five years, became the patron saint of Czechoslovakia. His statue stands today in Wenceslas Square in Prague surrounded by four Czech saints, amongst them Ludmila, his grandmother.

The carol, "Good King Wenceslas", was written by John Mason Neale, a warden at Sackville College in England and published in 1853. The Feast of Stephen mentioned in the song was celebrated for the first Christian Martyr and falls on December 26.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from Global Stamp News, December 2005, with permission of the editor and the author, the associate editor of the publication. For issues and subscription info contact Brandewie Ink through jbrandewie@woh.rr.com.]

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Philatelic News and Views

From Linn's Stamp News, May 1, 2006, Show Awards:

-- At SPRINGPEX 2006, Mirko L. Vondra received a Silver award for his exhibit "Canadian Postal Stationery".

-- At the Nashville Stamp Show 2006, Miroslav Vrzala received a Vermeil award for his one-frame exhibit "Czechoslovakia: The Red Cross Stamps of 1920".

From Peter Kleskovic:

-- In the 12th annual poll of the Czech Post to determine the most beautiful Czech stamp of 2004, the winner by far was once again a stamp from the Works of Art on Stamps series. This time it was the 20 Kč stamp, "On the Outskirts of the Český Raj, 1860-62" by Alois Bubák, engraved by Václav Fajt, which collected 2,713 of the 9,014 votes cast. The second place stamp received 1,637 votes (and it was also an Art stamp).

From Henry Hahn:

-- Second Edition of Philatelic Lexicon. The comprehensive three language philatelic Lexicon (English-German-Czech) published by Vladimír Cermak, reviewed previously, has been sold out. A second edition will be published by November, and the publisher would like an expression of interest in purchasing a copy by the Society's members. If you might be interested in purchasing a copy (price not yet determined), please notify Henry Hahn by e-mail hhahn25@ntmail.net. Your notification is only for planning purposes and there is no obligation to purchase.

FRANKING BY BISECTED PROTEKTORÁT POSTAGE DUE STAMPS?

by František Beneš
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

Our reader, Josef Lounek from Hradec Králové sent me the following letter: "Some time ago a friend of mine found in the attic of his parent's house an open box with Protektorát [Bohemia and Moravia] envelopes and postage stamps. They were dirty from soot dropped from above, and so I cut some of them out. Among all of this there were also some covers with bisected stamps, and from these I am sending you a few clippings that were not dirty. Nowhere have I read that it was possible to do franking in this way. I am over 80 years old, and before I depart this world, I would like to know if during 1942 such an exception was allowed, and that not only in Hradec Králové, but also elsewhere in the Protektorát."

Enclosed were three clippings and also a photocopy of an article (most likely from a *Zpravodaj* magazine) illustrating an additional six similar clippings. On the clippings is always a horizontally bisected *Protektorát* 60h postage due stamp, and on two of the clippings in addition is an obliquely cut 1 K postage due stamp. On all of these nine clippings is the absolutely same "posting" cancel Hradec Králové 2 / 29.X.42 - 17 / j (the impression is off of the stamp) and the absolutely same "receiving" cancel Hradec Králové 1 / 30.X.42 - 15 / 3h (the impression is across the bisected postage due stamps).



Fig. 1

In the first place it is important to note that the emergency bisecting of postage due (or whatever other) stamps in the period of the *Protektorát* was not permitted by postal regulations and the literature does not even describe them. The range of nominal values of the postage due issue was sufficiently broad, and in addition, at such a large post office -- as the Hradec Králové 1 office without question was -- it is difficult to envision that there was a shortage of them. Already during a cursory examination of the imprints of the cancels we are fascinated by the fact that both the "posting" and the "receiving" cancels have unusually "high [late]" distinguishing letters: "j" or "3h". As a general rule cancels with such letters usually occur infrequently at postal windows or in delivery service, and as long as they were not primarily in reserve, were used for example on internal postal documents. Of course, both of these points urge for greater vigilance while judging the authenticity of the presented clippings.

And now let us look in greater detail at the trio of received clippings. All of them are on practically the same one-side glazed greenish paper, evidently coming from postal envelopes. (As a separate item from this analysis, I observe that the clippings look literally "like new" and carry no signs of crumpling or soiling -- which

in fact has no significance in our professional assessment, but I mention it only for the obvious contrast with the circumstances of the supposed discovery, described by the writer.) The color of the postal cancellations is oily black -- the same on the "posting" and "receiving" imprints (which does not necessarily mean anything, because of course the post offices within a city could have all been supplied with the same cancellation color). Definite doubts arise from the further cancellations which occur on the clippings. This pertains to the imprints of the "T" stamp and two "sender" cancels, whose color already at first glance gives indication of being modern, as does the typewriter that was used, whose type corresponds more to the *Consul* typewriter from the 60's than the machines used in 1942. Unusual also is the laying out of all of the described elements on the clipping -- on a relatively small surface is concentrated all that is important: it starts with a part of the address, and goes through the "sender" cancel, the receiving post office cancel, the "T" stamp, a cipher using red pencil, and the postage due franking with "delivery" cancellation, which -- as we know from our experience -- is unusual on entires.

And now let us take a look at what the objective of the consignments actually was. The sender (according to the rubber stamps imprinted on some of the clippings) was supposed to be Karel Matoušek, a Notary in Hradec Králové. Of the addressees we know nothing; from their addresses there remains only the forms of address *Titl.* or *Miss.* According to information about the cancel imprints, there were to be posted at the same time at the HK 1 post office



Fig. 2

(at least) nine unfranked consignments, all addressed to the HK 2 post office delivery area. There, all at one time, they should have been charged postage due of 30h (in 7 instances) and of 80h (in 2 instances) and delivered to evidently different addresses (a remaining question is the reasoning for the 30h postage due charge on consignments of this kind). Afterwards these clippings through an unknown manner were supposed to have again come together, so that for decades they rested together in a box in the attic awaiting their discoverer, who eventually cut out of them the submitted clippings . . .

While we are discussing the cutouts from the envelopes sent in by the writer of this letter, I have noted during my examinations under the magnifying glass also their edges. In the places where the imprint of the postal cancellation transcends the edge of the paper clipping, it can be seen that the color is also imprinted on the edge of the paper. This is unmistakable proof that these are not cutouts from envelopes, but pieces of paper (most likely cut out of envelopes from that period) on which the forger imprinted these cancellations. To convince myself of this, I have used (entirely as an exception) a somewhat destructive method of examination by cutting from one of the clippings at the place where the cancel crosses the edge of the paper a short, very thin strip; it turned out that in the place where the paper was cut (that is, its "shoulder side"), the edge of the paper was completely clean, without any trace of the stamping color.

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Since we have now familiarized ourselves with all of the available information, we have no choice but to claim that all of the submitted clippings are clearly forgeries to the detriment of collectors. I have to now remark, that to an expert or an experienced collector this is obvious even with the first look; however, such clippings (individually offered) could lead astray a less experienced philatelist. And this is exactly the reason why we have jointly conducted this examination of them and described it step by step.



Fig. 3

The main danger with similar forgeries is the fact that they were most likely produced with the assistance of the original cancellers, apparently held in private hands, which of course greatly complicates this identification. Next to the round cancel of the Notary, K. Matoušek, and the line stamp -- from which appears the word *Komisařství* [Commissariat] (from which the private ownership might be possible to perhaps explain), there are unfortunately also the postal cancellations (which, if they are

genuine, must have been stolen from the post office -- apparently at the withdrawal of the bi-lingual cancellers after the downfall of the *Protektorát*). It is known since at least the 1970's, that the genuine postal cancellers are owned by unauthorized persons (and that the number of such lost cancellers is unfortunately not small). It certainly would be a good idea to prepare a step by step inventory of them (according to the discovery of fakes) and to publicize them for example on the Internet, where it would be possible to update the list with new discoveries.

But, as we have just shown, even when the forger had for his disposition some ideal tools (almost certainly the genuine postal and period official cancellers), despite this he made a number of errors, through which we discovered his creation. And we are not even discussing at all that on one of his clippings he applied -- by mistake -- the round "sender" cancel (Notary Matoušek) across the corner of the postage due stamp, which is obviously clearly nonsense, and that the observant collector should notice at first glance.

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the above article from *FILATELIE* 5/2004 with the permission of the editor and author.]

Book Review

RAKOUSKO 1850-1918
Monografie a Specializovaný Katalog
by Pavel Hirš

At first glance many might consider this nothing more than the Czech

language version of Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer's seminal 2000 work, Österreich 1850-1918, Handbuch und Spezialekatalog. In fact, Dr. Hirš' work is less and more than Dr. Ferchenbauer's.

It is less because it does not include postal stationery. This is strictly a stamp monograph and catalogue. It includes Austria, Lombardy-Venetia, Crete, the Levant, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Feldpost. It also includes newspaper and telegraph stamps. All prices are in Euros.

It is more because in some areas, Dr. Hirš has greater information than Dr. Ferchenbauer. For example, Dr. Hirš' work has a very detailed discussion of the varieties of the 1867 issue. The discussion includes detailed illustrations of each variety. It is the most detailed discussion of this issue I have ever seen.

The stamp and cover illustrations are in color. Some of the material shown is very seldom seen. For example the two strips of the 1916 2 Heller express mail triangle on page 311 and the covers on pages 140 and 141 illustrating very unusual franking using the 1867-1874 issue.

This work is in Czech only. However, the tables and illustrations make it easy to use, even for non-Czech speakers. For anyone with an interest in the stamps of Austria-Hungary used on the territory of Czechoslovakia, Dr. Hirš' work is highly recommended.

[Note: If you have an interest in this book, please contact our book sales manager, Savoy Horvath, by August 31 (see the back cover for contact particulars). We do not stock this item but would order it if you are interested. The price for members is \$49.00, and for non-members it is \$59.00 plus postage.]

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten



Fig. 1

1. On 26 April 2006, the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp entitled Congratulation Stamp: May -- Season of Love (Fig. 1). The stamp is not dedicated, however, to lovers only. Its tender theme -- a flower with violin -- expresses best wishes we use to send to our friends and acquaintances on various occasions. Looking at the date of issue, we can exaggerate that it is a postage stamp addressed in advance to those in love. The gentle artwork of a rose affects our senses with beauty, fragrance, and music, as if heralding the poetry of the month of May -- the season of love, forever connected in this country with the work of K.H. Mácha [see also the article "The

Mácha Region and Karel Hynek Mácha", in the November/December 2002 issue of the *SPECIALIST*]. The postage stamp was designed by the famous illustrator Anna Khunová, among others the author of many past issues of postage stamps. Her work won much recognition and publisher's prizes for accompaniment of bibliophile prints and book illustrations. She is a member of the association of graphic designers Hollar. The stamp was engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue, ocher, pink and green in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in pink shows a poetic drawing of a small bird sitting on top of a lot of flowers (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

2. On 3 May 2006, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the EUROPA series (Fig. 3). Integration is the common widely understood theme of postage stamps declared for this year by the Association of Public European Postal



Fig. 3

Operations PostEurop. The Czech issue is focused on special therapies trying to return handicapped people to a normal life. Animals can contribute to the

efforts for a full-value cohabitation of sound and handicapped people in various areas of life, such as education, employment and leisure time. The stamps were designed by Renáta Fučíková, engraved by Pavel Kovářík, and produced by the Post Printing

House in Prague using rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

-- 10 Kč: Hippotherapy -- a horse's head and a boy in silhouette; in black, ocher, brown, and blue. Hippotherapy (from the Greek word "hippos" which means horse) is a supportive rehabilitation using a horse whose three-dimensional trotting movement stimulates the central nervous system and involvement of all muscles of the patient. The patient is mounted on the horse saddled instead of a saddle with a soft cover with handles in order to minimize the interruption of transmission of the movement between the horseback and the patient's pelvis. Specially trained physical, occupational and speech therapists use this medical treatment for clients who have movement dysfunction. Historically, the therapeutic benefits of the horse were recognized as early as 460 B.C. The use of the horse as therapy evolved throughout Europe, the United States and Canada. Hippotherapy is used in patients with multiple sclerosis, defective posture, poliomyelitis, moderate brain dysfunction, logopaedic and breathing problems, Parkinson disease, orthopaedic diseases, etc.



Fig. 4

This therapy may be operated only by an experienced physio-therapist together with a hippologist. A FDC in dark brown shows a hippologist leading a horse that is carrying a boy (Fig. 4).

-- 20 Kč: Canistherapy -- a seated dog with a child in silhouette; in black, light green, dark green, and blue. Canistherapy is a method using contact with a dog. The emphasis is put on the solving of psychological, emotional, and social intelligence problems. The effect on physical health is secondary. This therapy is applied as a psychotherapeutic method, e.g. in establishing a contact with patients who are difficult to communicate with, autists, mentally handicapped patients, in logopaedic and rehabilitation practice, in long-time patients, patients with apathy, etc. Different races of dogs can be used. A FDC in green shows a handicapped woman in an invalid chair with a dog (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

3. On 31 May 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp in the For Children series (Fig. 6). This year's postage stamp designed mainly for children shows the three heroes of tales of the writer Václav Čtvrtek -- Rumcajs, Manka and their fidgety little son Cipísek. The stamp shows the three of them. They were designed by a leading Czech graphic designer Radek Pilař (1931-1993), the author of the figure of Večerníček inviting children for already more than 40 years to their bedtime television tale. R. Pilař was a universal artist of an extraordinary talent. Apart from

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being an illustrator he was also a painter, graphic designer, photograph assembler, stage designer, camera man and film director. He was the founder of the Czech video art, a new art discipline of video creation. The stamp was designed by Pavel Hrach, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue, and orange in printing sheets of 30 pieces. In addition to the stamps the issue also includes philatelic booklets with 8 stamps and two labels. The labels of the same size show Rumcajs, Manka and Cipísek, too. The labels are printed by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in orange. A FDC in blue-gray shows the three heroes on a deer with a squirrel in its antlers (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

4. On 14 June 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet of five postage stamps and one label entitled Hereditary Kings of the Přemyslid Dynasty (Fig. 8). The author designed the portraits of the last five Přemyslid sovereigns -- hereditary Bohemian kings as imaginary pictures which are nevertheless based on the anthropologic studies of skeleton remains of these persons conducted by Prof. MUDr. Emanuel Vlček. O. Kulhánek maintained the common features of these sovereigns, e.g. the nasal base passing straight from the forehead area. Also their prominent cheek-bones are characteristic of the Přemyslid family. The stamps feature the portraits of the kings and the era of their ruling. The portraits are completed by the lockets characterizing single rulers. The portrait of Přemysl Otakar I is completed by the reverse side of his Golden Bull, in the locket of Wenceslas I is the detail of his seal, the portrait of Přemysl Otakar II is accompanied by the emblem with the Czech lion, the one of Wenceslas II is completed by the Prague groschen, and in the locket of Wenceslas III is the St. Wenceslas' eagle. In the gutter is a drawing of monarchical insignias, and the label in the middle of the bottom part of the souvenir sheet is the symbol of the Czech State -- the jumping two-tailed lion with a crown.

-- 12 Kč: Přemysl Otakar I (1198-1230). With the succession of Přemysl Otakar I the Czech state overcame one of the worst crises in its history. The diplomatic mastership and warrior skills brought to Otakar and the country a time of calming of feuds and ceasing of prolonged wars. In 1198 he was granted the hereditary title of Czech king for Czech sovereigns, acknowledged in 1212 by the Golden Sicilian Bull regulating also the relationship between the Czech state and the Roman empire. In 1228 he let his son Wenceslas be coronated a Czech king. Two years later the approximately 70 years' old Přemysl Otakar I died. He is buried in St. Vitus' Church at Prague Castle. A FDC in red shows the obverse of the Golden Bull of Přemysl Otakar I used on the document from 1224 (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9



Fig. 8



F D C

Fig. 10

-- 14 Kč: Wenceslas I. (1230-1253). During the reign of Wenceslas I both the economic and cultural prosperity continued. The silver mining industry was spreading in Bohemia, the king founded new castles and towns. However as a ruler Wenceslas I differed from his father. He loved merriments at the court, arts, poetry and hunting. He lost one of his eyes at a hunt. In 1241 he was one of the organizers of the defense against the foray by Mongolian invaders of Central Europe. With the exception of a part of Moravia the Czech lands were saved from the Mongolians. Wenceslas I was buried in Agnes Monastery in Prague. A FDC in green-blue shows a drawing of the royal crown (Fig. 10).

-- 15 Kč: Přemysl Otakar II. (1253-1278). The politically integrated and strengthened Czech lands which were economically prosperous became the ideal base for territorial expansions of Přemysl Otakar II. Gradually he obtained the Austrian and some Alpine countries. However he had no time to gain strong control over the territories. The conflict with the Roman emperor Rudolf Habsburg and the subsequent defeat and death of Přemysl Otakar II at the Moravian Field wrecked the hopeful expansion of the ambitious Iron and Golden King. His remains finally rested in St. Vitus' Church in Prague. A FDC in red shows the reverse of the seal of Přemysl Otakar II with the portrait of the riding king (Fig. 11).



F D C

Fig. 11



F D C

Fig. 12

-- 22 Kč: Wenceslas II. (1283-1305). After the death of Přemysl Otakar II the country was invaded by the Austrian and Brandenburg troops. Instead of the minor Wenceslas the ruler was his guardian Otto von Brandenburg who kept Wenceslas imprisoned at Bezděz Castle and later on in Brandenburg. Wenceslas II returned to Prague in 1283 but he remained under the influence of Závěš of Falkenštejn who married his mother. Wenceslas II became the ruler in fact no earlier than in 1288. He proved to be an able diplomat and organizer. In 1300 he gained the Polish crown and secured for his son the Hungarian throne. He issued the Mining Code and had the Prague groschen coined. He obtained from Rudolf I Habsburg an acknowledgment for Czech kings of the

position of emperor's elector. At the age of 34 years he died at Prague Castle from tuberculosis and like his son Wenceslas III, who died later on, he was buried at Zbraslav Monastery. A FDC in green-blue shows a Prague groschen (Fig. 12).

-- 28 Kč: Wenceslas III. (1305-1306). Wenceslas III became the king at the age of sixteen. He finally abdicated the right to the insubordinate Hungary and tried to maintain the Polish crown. However at the beginning of the campaign against his

Polish opponents he was mysteriously killed in Olomouc on 4 August 1306. The four hundred year rule of the Přemyslid dynasty died out on the end of a spear. A FDC in dark red shows a drawing of a dagger and the fatal year 1306 (Fig. 13).

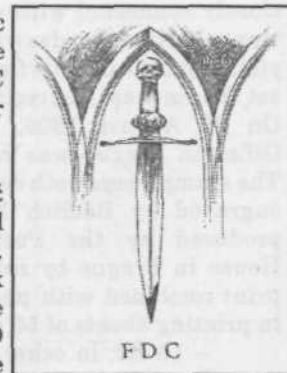


Fig. 13

5. On 14 June 2006, the Ministry issued a 19 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the Czech Switzerland National Park -- The Kamenice River Narrows (Fig. 14). The Czech Switzerland area was declared a national park in 2000. It is located in the most valuable part of the Děčín Highlands and the Šluknov Hills on an area of 79 km². It boasts of a unique geomorphology of sandstone rock towns, canyons and narrows and the connected various ecosystems.



Fig. 14

Apart from the Pravčická Gate the most attractive locations are the Kamenice River Narrows. For a long time the three wildest of them (Srbskokamenická, Divoká, and Edmundova Narrows) were a hard-to-overcome obstacle for the local population. On the other hand the river used to be a major source of their employment -- wood rafting and fishing at the run of trouts and salmon. Today it is a part of the Hřensko Instruction Pathway connected with an attractive boat passage. The Kamenice River Narrows show the best developed reversal of vegetation levels where, due to climatic inversion, the mountain species come down to unusually low elevations around 150m above sea level. The stamp shows the

Divoká Narrow, opened to the public in 1898. The stamp was designed by RNDr. Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, pink, and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown-black shows a sandstone formation in the Tichá Narrow (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15

6. On 14 June 2006, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps entitled Crafts: Bohemian Gems, Jewel-making and Hallmarking (Fig. 16). Bohemian garnet-pyrope has for centuries been the Czech national gem. Since the Middle Ages garnets from Bohemia were believed to have a magical as well as healing power. They were used for highly appreciated liturgical as well as secular jewels and for decoration of important garments, chalices, monstrances, reliquaries and weapons. Bohemian garnet was beloved by many Czech rulers, e.g. Přemysl Otakar II, Rudolf II, etc. A boom in the production, sales and exports of Bohemian garnet jewelry came in the 19th century, and in the post-war era of the past century the modernized garnet jewelry met with ovations at world exhibitions. The postage stamps featuring Bohemian garnet jewelry commemorate also the 200th anniversary of Czech hallmarking which is

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closely connected with gems. The tiny hallmark drawings with picture motifs include figures which set the fineness of precious metals. On 20 August 1806, the Assay Office in Prague was established. The stamps were both designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 15 Kč: in ocher, blue, red, and silver. It features a brooch of gilded silver decorated with Bohemian garnets and a pearl from the collection of the Museum of



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

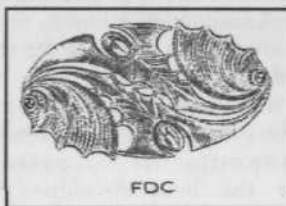


Fig. 18

Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové. In the left upper corner of the stamp is the hallmark of silver. A FDC in pink features a silver brooch from 1900 (Fig. 17).

-- 18 Kč: in ocher, green, red and gold. It features a gold hanging decorated with Bohemian garnets, made in 1930, from the collections of the College of Applied Arts in Turnov. In the left upper corner of the stamp is the hallmark in gold. A FDC in blue shows a silver brooch from 1921 (Fig. 18).

Stationery

7. On 1 December 2005, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč postage stamp to be printed on picture postcards and also issued a postal card with the imprinted 7.50 Kč stamp. The stamp is based on the original stamp (face value of 12 Kč) from the commemorative souvenir sheet Protected Flora and Fauna of the Krkonoše Mountains (having 4 stamps and 4 labels) which was issued on 22 June 2005 [see Sep/Oct 2005 issue, pg34]. The stamp shows two protected plants of Krkonoše -- *Viola lutea sudetica* and *Hedysarum hedysaroides*. The drawing part of the postal card is based on the arranged design for the commemorative souvenir sheet. The stamp imprint was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, and the postal card was printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset, and sells for 9.50 Kč (but canceled with one current daily postmark it sells for 10 Kč).

8. On 1 December 2005, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč stamp and a 9 Kč stamp to be printed on picture postcards with a motif of Linden Leaf -- A National Symbol (Fig. 19). The imprinted stamp shows a stylized linden leaf framed in a red and blue border. The imprinted stamps were designed by Václav Kučera and were printed by the Post Printing House in Prague using colored offset. In addition, on this date

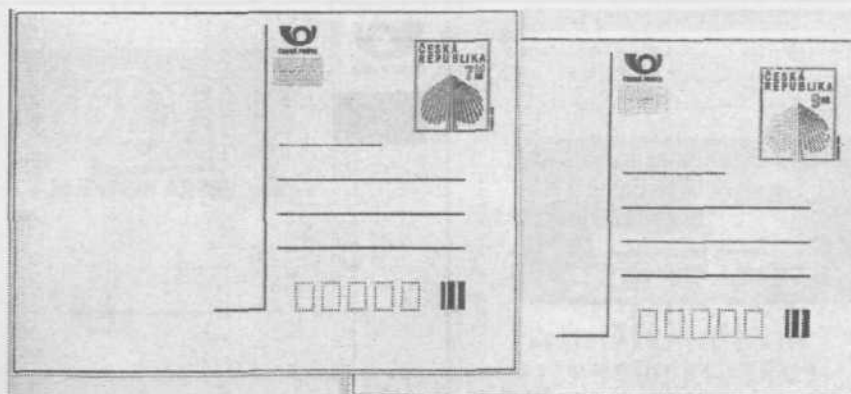


Fig. 19

were issued 4 postcards imprinted with the 7.50 Kč stamp (the basic inland rate):

- Castle Hluboká nad Vltavou
- Český Krumlov
- The Battle of Slavkov
- Former Cloister of the Church of St. Gabriel

and one postcard imprinted with the 9 Kč stamp (the basic rate for abroad):

- Prague -- Prague Castle.

9. On 31 May 2006, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč stamp to be printed on picture postcards with a motif of Linden Leaf -- A National Symbol. The stamp will be issued due to the alteration of the international postal rate and is identical with that in denomination of 7.50 Kč and 9 Kč issued on 1 December 2005. Design and production is the same as the previous issue. In addition, on this date were issued 4 postcards imprinted with the 10 Kč stamp (the basic rate for abroad):

- Konopiště -- Renaissance castle
- Post office Praha 1 -- wall frescos
- Open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm
- Vyšší Brod -- Cistercian monastery from 1259

and 11 postcards imprinted with the 7.50 Kč stamp (basic inland rate):

- Vlašim -- Castle
- Křivoklát -- royal Gothic castle
- Kutná Hora (UNESCO) -- St. Barbara's Cathedral
- Mělník -- the Renaissance castle and the Peter and Paul Church
- Stará Boleslav -- Romanesque style church of St. Clement and the Basilica of St. Wenceslas
- Post office Praha 1 -- the vestibule
- Open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm
- Jihlava -- the fountain at the square issued on the occasion of the postage stamp exhibition of young philatelists with international participation Mladá Jihlava
- Karlovy Vary -- the Market Colonnade and the Castle Tower
- Krkonoše Museum in Jilemnice, and Metelka's moving creche
- Postal coach of the Austrian postal administration from the Postal Museum

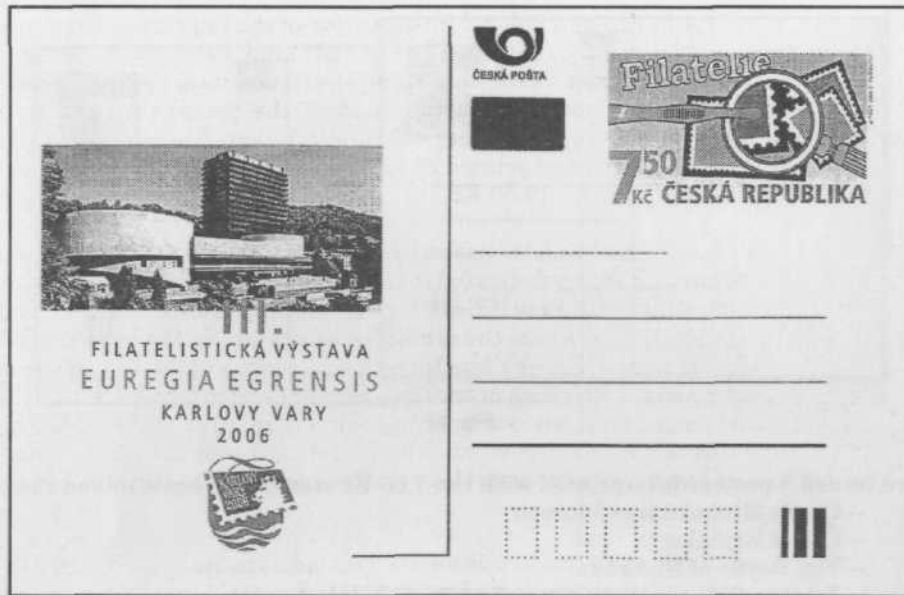


Fig. 20

10. On 14 June 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 7.50 Kč postage stamp on the occasion of the national exhibition Euregia Egrensis under the participation of German exhibitors to take place at the Thermal Hotel in Karlovy Vary from 24-27 August 2006 (Fig. 20). The imprinted stamp shows a composition consisting of stamps, a magnifying glass, tweezers, and the title

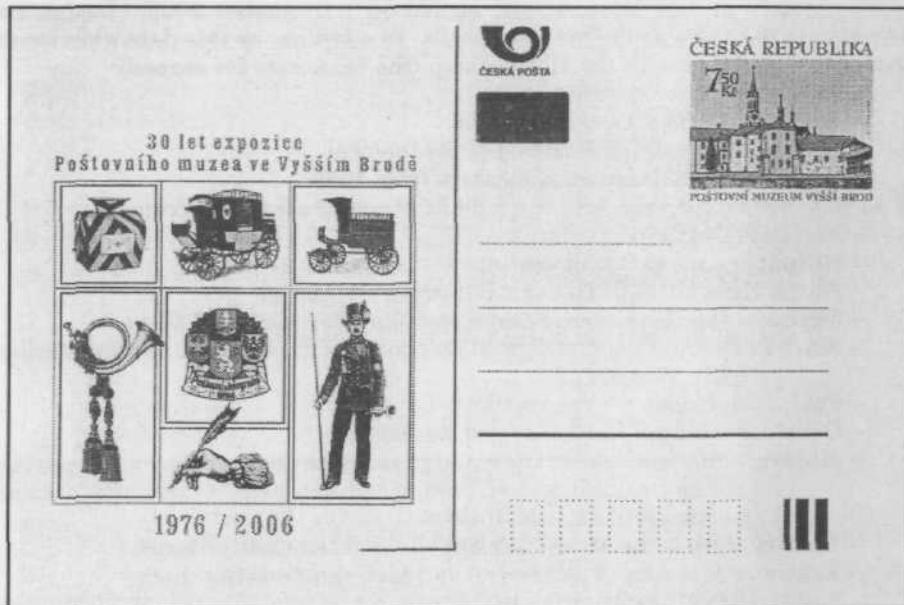


Fig. 21

of the magazine *FILATELIE* as a colored modification of the imprinted 3 Kč stamp from the commemorative postal card issued for the 100th anniversary of the philatelic press in 1996. During the past years, this stamp has been used several times in different colors and face values. The picture part of the postal card shows the Thermal Hotel in Karlovy Vary and the logo of the exhibition. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. The card sells for 12.50 Kč.

11. On 14 June 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 7.50 Kč postage stamp dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the exposition in the Post Museum in Vyšší Brod (Fig. 21). The stamp shows the Cistercian Cloister building in Vyšší Brod where the exposition is located. In the left part of the postal card are illustrations of the exhibits from the collections of the Post Museum, where, besides the greatest collection of cars and carriages, also post boxes, shields, cash registers, uniforms, maps, post stamps, and exhibits relating to the beginnings of telegraph and telephone, are deposited. The postal card was designed by Karel Dvořák and printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. The card sells for 12.50 Kč.

12. On 14 June 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 10 Kč postage stamp dedicated to the Water Slalom World Championship to take place from 2-6 August 2006 in Prague - Troja (Fig. 22). The stamp depicts

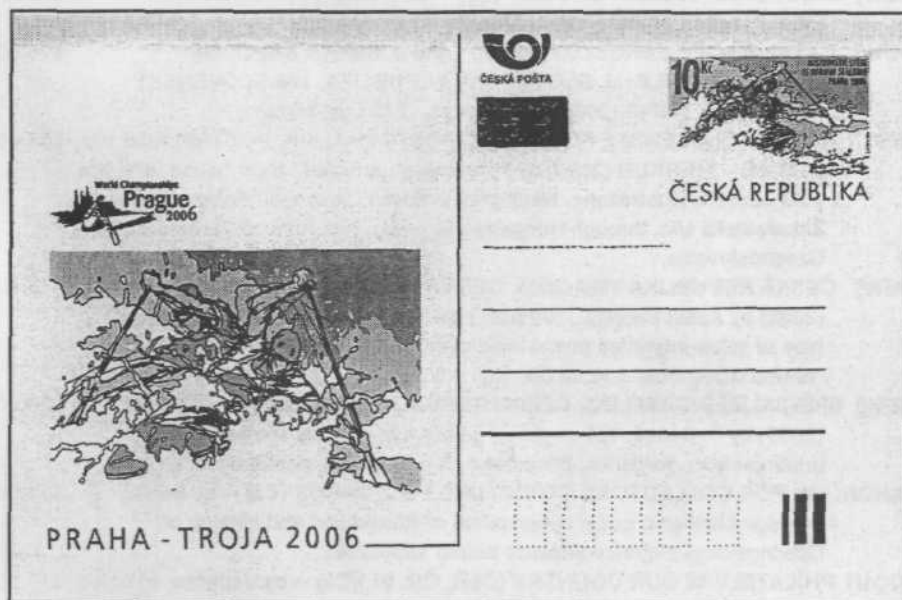


Fig. 22

two competitors of the category C2. In the left part of the postal card is a drawing of a further canoe with the logo of the world championship. The postal card was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. The card sells for 15 Kč.

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