



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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No. 4, Whole No. 610

President's Corner

First of all, we are still saddened and shocked at the tremendous damage done by the floods in the Mid-west in June 2008. As most of you are probably aware, many of the artifacts and collections were removed from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, before the waters from the Cedar River took over the area surrounding the museum, but there was considerable damage to the building and what remained inside. Funds are very much needed to help in the restoration. If you wish to contribute, please go to the museum's website at www.ncsml.org. I am told that you can even contribute via credit card.

I very much encourage all to come to the BALPEX 70th annual stamp show, August 29-31, 2008, at which our Society will be one of the convening societies. BALPEX 2008, sponsored by the Baltimore Philatelic Society, will be located at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn just north of Baltimore, at 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland, off I-83 at Shawan Road (Exit 20A). Their phone number is (410)-785-7000. To get a special BALPEX room rate, use the code word "BPXPBXA".

The hours of BALPEX are Friday/Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM, and Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM. The 3-day admission charge is \$4.00. BALPEX's information telephone number is (410)-332-4741; website is www.balpex.org; e-mail is balpex@verizon.net.

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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: canclek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Bob Gibson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Bob Gibson, 7646 3rd Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21060, or e-mail: zdbob@aol.com.
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.CSPhilately.org) 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 Marisa Galitz, 1430 Brickell Bay Drive, #907, Miami, FL 33131, e-mail: MMGalitz@gmail.com.

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NATIONAL CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY (NCSML)

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

As I am sure that you are aware, the state of Iowa, and more specifically the city of Cedar Rapids experienced terrible, terrible floods in June. Of particular interest to us is that the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library -- which is not only in Cedar Rapids but also right next to the Cedar River -- was inundated with about 10 feet of water (Fig. 1).



Figure 1

Besides the human interest aspect, this is of interest to us because of the close working relationship between our Society and the NCSML. They have a very extensive collection of copies of our *SPECIALIST*, they prominently display our membership information/application, and they were almost selected as the next location for our Society library (we ended up selecting a location with the Baltimore Philatelic Society in Baltimore, MD, co-locating with the German Philatelic Society library). In addition, in their permanent historical exhibit, they feature Czechoslovak stamps prominently.

I have personally been to the NCSML about eight times (attending conferences, exhibitions, etc.), have been a member for over 10 years, and have developed several friendships there. So this was a very personal tragedy for me.

I first received the following e-mail from my friend, Dave Muhlana, Library Director:

"Thank you all for your concern. All of the museum and their families

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are safe. Museum staff and volunteers were able to move two semi trailers loaded with museum artifacts and library materials to a safe location. However, we were not able to move all of the materials or our working files out due to quickly rising waters. We won't know the extent of the damage until the waters recede and [we are] given permission to enter the building. We are already making plans to re-open to the public. . . . For official updates about the museum go to www.ncsml.org."

Then, excerpted from an official announcement from Gail Naughton, President/CEO of NCSML:

". . . We have received messages of support and concern from Czechs, Slovaks, and museum members around the country and the world. It is gratifying to know their hearts are touched by what is happening here in our community. Thanks to 21st century communications, Czechs in Prague and Slovaks in Bratislava are quite aware of what is happening in Cedar Rapids and to their Museum.

The Czech and Slovak peoples have endured many devastating events in their history and have survived to become stronger. Iowa is filled with the strength of those who settled here and built the Cedar Rapids community. The museum will rise again from above the flood waters to continue as the touchstone for Czech and Slovak cultural heritage in the United States."

And finally, the following plea was received from the NCSML president:

"Dear Friends:

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has been dealt a devastating blow as part of the Cedar Rapids community, which has experienced a disaster unprecedented in its history. At the crest of the flood on June 13, 2008, the floodwater reached more than eight feet above the floor, leaving silt and muck throughout the Museum, Immigrant Home, Collections Center, and Babi Buresh Center. A dynamic team comprised of staff, board and volunteers were able to remove two semi-trailers full of artifacts and printed materials before the forced evacuation. However, we were not able to remove everything.

At this point, we have initially assessed all damaged collection items and are in the process of preparing them for conservation treatment. This is just the beginning of a long recovery phase from this overwhelming disaster.

The outpouring of volunteers and offers for help has heartened us. Even though our volunteers, board and staff worked exhaustively, we also needed to hire professional help during this recovery phase. The museum has insurance for the collection, but the buildings are not insured. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has incurred extraordinary expenses during the cleanup of our site. In addition, without the daily revenue from visitors, rentals and our Museum Store, we are facing some difficult financial realities. We are asking you, our close friend and supporter, to consider a special gift to the "NCSML Flood Relief Fund".

We desperately need your financial help during this recovery phase to ensure that this institution remains financially stable and recovers completely from this epic catastrophe. You may use [the address given below] to send your contribution, or give online at www.NCSML.org.

Please consider giving as much as you possibly can. We have never needed you more than we do now. Thank you.

Gratefully, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
[signed] 30 Sixteenth Avenue SW
Gail Naughton Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-5904
President/CEO

The mission of the NCSML is to be the United States' foremost institution preserving and interpreting Czech and Slovak history and culture.

Your gift to the NCSML is tax deductible as permitted by IRS guidelines."

Please be as generous as your heart will allow.

* * * * *

THE NACHOD GUTTERS REDUX!!

by Mark Wilson

Readers may remember my three earlier articles in the *Specialist* concerning two green unidirectional 5h Hradčany gutters (which I called "The Nachod Gutters" because of the cancel on one gutter -- Fig. 2). The first article, in the 2002 Nov/Dec issue, announced the discovery in September 2002 of the remarkable items shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. A later article, co-authored with Johan Sevenhuijsen, in the 2003 May/Jun issue presented a careful analysis of these gutters. A Czech translation of that article appeared in *Zpravodaj*, no.59, 2004. Finally, the 2004 Mar/Apr issue of the *Specialist* sadly reported their theft from the mail in September 2003 while they were on their way to Prague for final examination.

Unlike the other Hradčany unidirectional gutters -- the 3h and the 10h, the Czechoslovak Post Office never officially released any unidirectional 5h gutters. At the time of the Nachod gutter discovery, most experts believed that only one set of ten 5h unidirectional gutters existed, surreptitiously taken by someone from the Czech Graphics Union. By consulting with expert collectors here and abroad, I learned that the whereabouts of six of those ten gutters was known, but no one could account for the other four. The Nachod gutters duplicated positions in that known set of six gutters. Thus, had the Nachod gutters proven genuine, they would have demonstrated that a second set of ten gutters had been taken from the printing house.

As an aside, a third set of ten gutters surfaced this year. An illustration appears on the front and rear covers of the February 2008 issue of the *Merkur Revue*. A European friend says he has examined this uncut set of ten mint gutters, and they appear to be those illustrated in Novotný's catalog and handbook.

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To return to the Nachod gutters: early on, examination demonstrated that the provisional postage-due markings (*PORTO*) were spurious. No sensible person could believe that these gutters, having never been folded (surely, shipping a double pane of stamps to a post office would have required their being folded!) and with their original gum in place, ever saw the inside of a post officer or were legitimately marked for provisional postage-due use. Also, the Nachod cancellation on the second gutter (19 II 19) predated the printing of the gutters in May of 1919 and the manufacture of the M.41 4b canceling device of 1920. As Czech collector Jindřich Látal explained to me, "This is not the first time mischief has been done with this device".

But the stamps under these patently forged markings appeared to many as genuine. Twice they had been hand-carried to Prague, twice they had been examined -- they were stolen on their way to their third and final examination -- and twice they had not been proven forgeries. One expert even reported informally that their gum and ink had passed spectroscopic tests. My friend and mentor, the late Henry Hahn, remarked that he had no doubt that the stamps had been printed from the original plates, but theorized that the plates might have been used privately years later, long after the original Hradčany issue. However, because of the theft, no final evidence in support of their being genuine or of being forgeries was ever assembled.

A year after their loss, at the October 2004 Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition in Valley Forge, long-time Society member Charlie Chesloe mentioned in a conversation that sometime in the 1990's not only had he seen a photograph of some similar gutters belonging to Dr. E.D. Mueller of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, but that he had agreed to buy them. Before that transaction could take place, Dr. Mueller died, and Charlie said he lost track of the gutters.

Oddly enough, at the same exhibition in Valley Forge, a collector recently turned stamp dealer was about to enter the complex story of the Nachod gutters. That dealer told me the Valley Forge show was his first as a dealer. He leased a corner booth and remarked that he was pleased to have made a profit. He also said that while attending this exhibition he met many of the Czechoslovak Society's members. He indicated that sometime earlier (the dealer thought it was in the spring of 2004), he bought a large box of stamps from a Dr. Friedman in Chicago. He sold bits and pieces from this lot over the next few years.

In June 2008, several pieces of Czech material from that lot remained unsold. This dealer, not at all familiar with Czechoslovak material, considered simply discarding the items in the trash, but reconsidered and offered them for sale on the Internet.

Society member Phil Melamed noticed the sale. More specifically, he noticed two astounding items in the dealer's lots. The first was a block of four unidirectional 5h gutters hand-stamped for provisional postage-due use (Fig. 3). The second was a block of two unidirectional 5h gutters, also marked for provisional postage-due use, and bearing a NACHOD cancel (Fig. 4).

Phil, knowing of my loss, attempted to notify me immediately of this impending sale. Unfortunately, I had moved from Virginia to Arizona after retirement, and my e-mail address and phone number had changed. Phil persisted in his search and eventually located me through my website. Phil: **A VERY BIG THANK-YOU!!!!**

I immediately contacted the dealer. I explained about my loss of the first Nachod gutters and sent him a copy of the long 2003 *Specialist* article that explained

what the items he had likely were. He looked at the article, agreed immediately to sell me the items, and we arranged for payment.

In part, the cover letter sent with the stamps stated:

Enclosed are the Czechoslovakia gutter pairs we discussed. These items were on sheets with Dr. E.D. Mueller's Englewood Cliffs, N.J. address on them. I believe that I picked them up with a box lot that I purchased from Dr. Friedman in Chicago in the spring of 2004.

It appears that these gutter blocks are those seen in a photograph by Society member Charlie Chesloe back in the 1990's. In a recent telephone call, Charlie confirmed that he had seen blocks of gutters rather than singles.

Be that as it may, this new find of six gutters helps shed light on the mystery of the Nachod gutters. My belief is that this new find demonstrates two things. First, that the Nachod gutters all came from a single strip of ten gutters, and second, that the cancels -- and perhaps the hand-stamped provisional postage-due markings -- were applied while the ten gutters were still attached to one another.

The original position of unidirectional gutters can be established by examining the control numbers printed below the upper stamps. The stolen gutters represented positions 1 (Fig. 1) and 8 (Fig. 2). The un-canceled block of four gutters represents positions 2, 3, 4, and 5 (Fig. 3). The canceled block of two gutters represents positions 9 and 10 (Fig. 4). Thus, positions 6 and 7 still remain as yet unseen.

Let us continue our demonstration that these gutters all came from the same strip of ten gutters. Clearly, I cannot align the two stolen gutters with their newly found brothers, but the scans (and cancellations discussed in later paragraphs) strongly suggest their edges represent the two sides of the same cut.

The slanted right edge of position 1, which cuts close to the upper stamp and is much further from the lower stamp, appears to match exactly with position 2 on the block of four gutters. The indentation in the mid-upper right side of position 8 is matched by a bulge on the left side of position 9. Also, note that the top and bottom margins seem to be the same respective width. The physical evidence is overwhelming that these stamps came from the same strip of ten original gutters.

The stolen gutters had a grimy, uncared for appearance and had been mounted with hinges, disturbing their gum. The new gutter blocks, while not pristine, have never been hinged and are somewhat cleaner. If memory serves, their gum appears



Fig. 1: Position 1
(The two stolen gutters)

Fig. 2: Position 8
(The two stolen gutters)

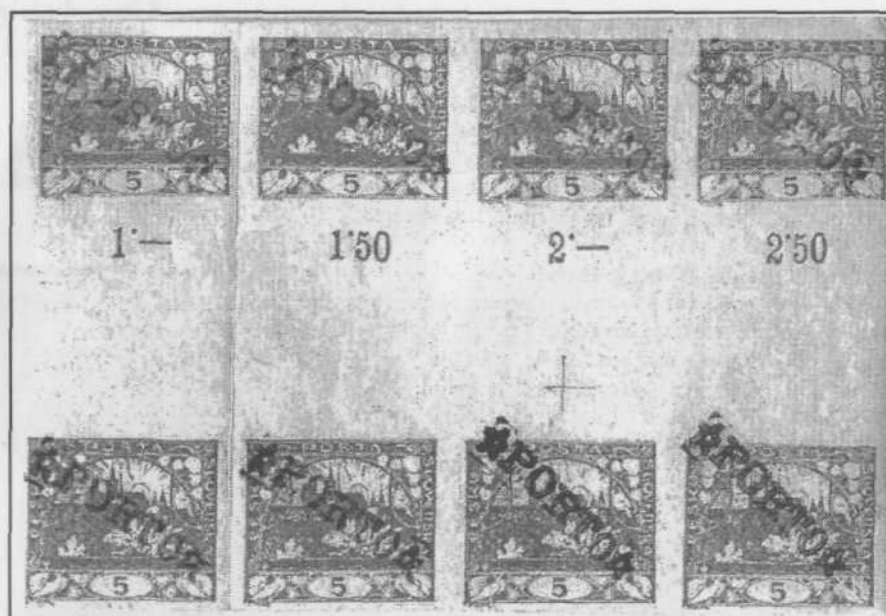


Fig. 3: Positions 2, 3, 4, and 5
(The new un-canceled gutters)



Fig. 4: Positions 9 and 10
(The new canceled gutters)

less -- for want of a better word -- stressed than on the stolen gutters, and their color similar. Like the stolen gutters, the new gutters are unfolded in the horizontal direction. However, there are vertical creases -- one between position 2 and position 3, and another between position 10 and the right-hand selvage.

Note that the leftmost five positions carry only the provisional postage-due marking **PORTO** (Fig. 1, Fig. 3), while the rightmost three positions are canceled NACHOD (Fig. 2, Fig. 4). Note also that the cancels in Figure 2 (position 8) at the right edge of the stamp are continued on the adjoining stamp (position 9) in Figure 4.

On the left edge of position 8 (Fig. 2) is a tiny bit of a cancel. Thus, should position 7 ever be found, it too will have a Nachod cancel. Since the cancels on one position carry over to adjoining positions, the gutters appear to have been canceled while

they were still tied together. In fact, my conjecture is that while all ten gutters were still in a single piece, they were hand-stamped PORTO and the rightmost five positions canceled with the M.41 4b cancel. It makes sense, in a perverted way, for half of the gutters from the strip to be canceled while the remaining gutters were not.

The gutters exhibit a consistent oddity. On all of the canceled gutters, the provisional postage-due hand stamp is inverted, while on all of the uncanceled gutters it is upright.

When the stamps are examined closely, it is clear that these stamps match Stanislav Komberec's *5h Plate I and Plate II Plating Guide*. The upper row matches his descriptions of ZP 92 - 95 and ZP 99 - 100 on Plate II, while the lower row matches his descriptions for ZP 2 - 5 and 9 - 10 for Plate I, exactly what one would expect.

Much of this story has yet to be

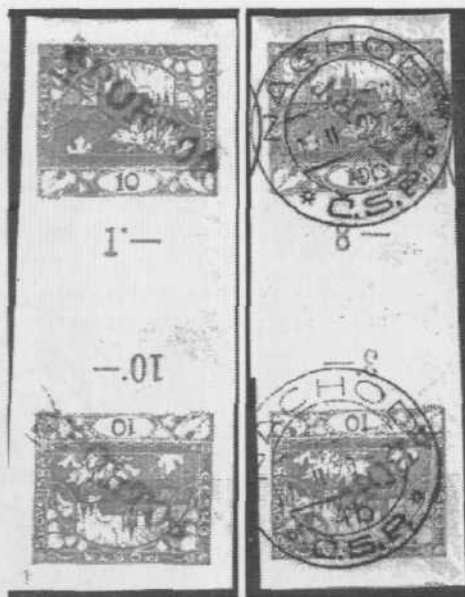


Fig. 5 Fig. 6
(Purchased with the stolen gutters)

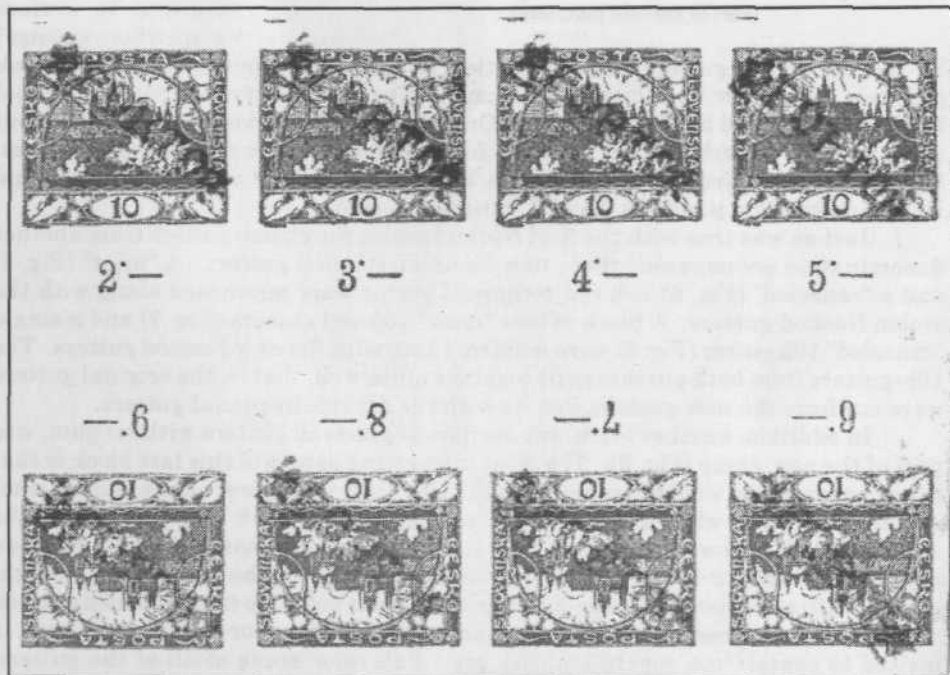


Fig. 7
(Part of the new purchase)

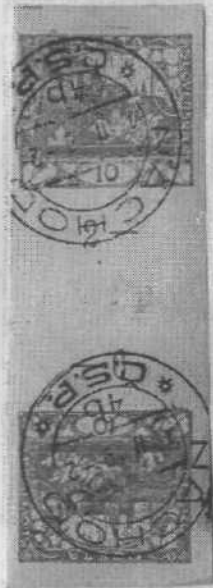


Fig. 8

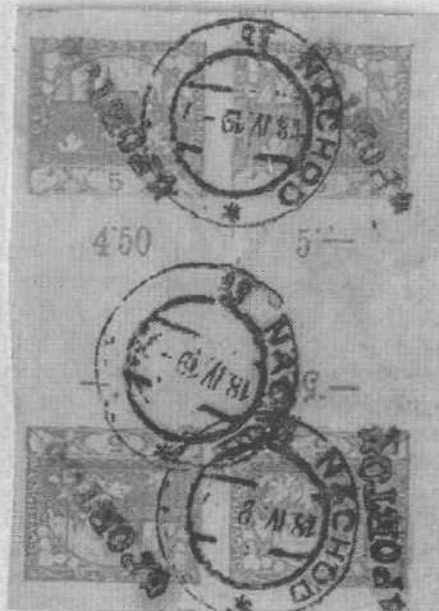


Fig. 9

(Part of the new purchase)

told. What fool marred these beautiful stamps? Did Dr. Mueller once own the entire strip of ten, or did someone else cut away positions 1, 6, 7, and 8? Since 2002, eight of the original ten gutters have appeared for sale by people who do not normally deal with Czechoslovak stamps. I have been fortunate in being in the right place at the right time (with the help of my friends).

Are gutter positions 6 and 7 waiting to surface somewhere strange?

So far, all of the gutters have been tied to long-time centers of Czechoslovak philately (near New York city and Chicago). The dealer who sold me the original Nachod gutters told me they came from Oregon, but much of what he said turned out not to be true, so perhaps they too came from the same region as these new gutters. My advice: if you live in North America, keep an eye out for two 5h unidirectional Hradčany gutters, positions 6 and 7, canceled Nachod.

Just as was true with the first Nachod gutter purchase, gutters from another denomination accompanied these new 5h unidirectional gutters. A "mint" (Fig. 5) and a "canceled" (Fig. 6) 10h red reciprocal gutter were purchased along with the stolen Nachod gutters. A block of four "mint" 10h red gutters (Fig. 7) and a single "canceled" 10h gutter (Fig. 8) were delivered long with the new Nachod gutters. The 10h-gutters from both purchases fit together quite well; that is, the original gutters were cut from the new gutters, just as with the 5h unidirectional gutters.

In addition, another block, two reciprocal green 5h gutters without gum, was part of the new group (Fig. 9). The most interesting aspect of this last block is that it was not canceled with the same Nachod M.41 4b device as were the unidirectional gutters, but with what appears to be a Nachod M.13z 5b device. Unlike the unidirectional gutters, it appears that the PORTO hand-stamp might have been applied after the 18 IV 19 postmark. Thus, whoever did this must have thought gutters with provisional postage-due markings more valuable than canceled gutters.

Finally, anyone with information about these gutters, or the stolen gutters, is invited to contact me, mark@knihtisk.org. Full color scans of all of the gutters, including the stolen ones, are available on my website, www.knihtisk.org.

HEYDRICH BLOCK CENSUS - UPDATE II

by Phil Rhoades

In the September-October, 2005 issue of *The Specialist*, I reported the initial effort at compiling a census of the Heydrich Block. An update was published in the May-June, 2006 issue. This report provides additional updated information. The original census was based on a study group monograph published in Germany in the early- to mid-1980's (it is undated). This initial census listed 70 known control numbers. The current report includes 110 numbers.

Reinhard Heydrich was the Acting Reichsprotektor (governor) of Bohemia and Moravia, having assumed that position on 27 September 1941. He was attacked in Prague by British-trained Czechoslovak soldiers on 27 May and died on 4 June 1942. This was the only successful assassination of a high ranking Nazi official during WW II. On 28 May 1943, Bohemia and Moravia issued a stamp (Sc. B20/Mi 131/Pof 111) showing Heydrich's Deathmask (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

At the same time, 1000 control-numbered souvenir sheets (the Heydrich Block) with one perforated copy of the Deathmask issue were printed, along with a similarly control-numbered invitation and envelope. These were prepared for those attending a memorial ceremony in Prague on the first anniversary of Heydrich's death. Upon attending the ceremony, the invitee presented the control-numbered invitation and was given the corresponding numbered envelope with Heydrich Block. The Heydrich Block was sent to those who did not attend the ceremony.

Approximately 700 invitations were sent for the ceremony. It is believed that the remaining Heydrich Blocks were presented to his widow, Lina. Lina remained staunchly supportive of her husband until her death in 1985. The highest number in the census is 719. If the surplus Blocks were indeed given to Lina, one must wonder if a horde of high number Blocks remains in the Heydrich family archives. Heydrich had four children, three of whom survived the war and were still living in 2007.

My appreciation to the following individuals who have reported Heydrich Block census information: Steven Bennett, Richard Bindie, Jay Carrigan, Tony Dewey, Frank Garancovsky, Howard Geisler, Tom Germack, Savoy Horvath, Geoffrey Jamieson, Pam Jana, David Jarrett, Al Kugel, Clark Lee, Mark Lorentzen, Phil Melamed, Herb Meyers, and Bruce Wright. Also to those who wish to remain anonymous.

This is an ongoing project. New, updated, or corrected information or any questions about this very interesting issue may be sent to me at philip.rhoades@mnsu.edu or to 905 E. Oakside St., South Bend, IN 46614. (Note that this is a new postal mailing address.)

The following lists the additional Heydrich Blocks that have been identified and updates to the previously listed ones. In most cases, the information is a philatelic or auction firm with auction date.

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Control #	Last Information	Control #	Last Information
23	Rapp, May 2007	89	Bennett, ? 2007
103	Schwanke, September 2007	114	Schlegel, June 2008
117	HBA, October 2007	133	Felzmann, June 2006
167	Cherrystone, June 2008	180	Burda & Pansky, October 2000
212	Francois Feldmann, Oct. 2006	242	Klim, ? 2007
280	Koehler, ?	287	Profil, November 2006
306	Majer & Thraumb, 1999	314	HBA, April 2007
324	reported January 2007	345	used, Rapp, May 2007
355	Felzmann ?	368	Koehler, ?
369	unknown auction	500	eBay, June 2007
507	unknown auction	546	Status International, May 2007
580	Pitteri, December 2007	581	Corbitts, March 2007
599	Fischer, November 2007	613	Chrrystone, May 2008
632	Cherrystone, May 2007	649	Wuerttembergishes, Aug 2007
651	Pyznar, November 2007	660	Rapp, May 2007
671	Rauch, February 2007	719	Kohler, September 2007

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

STOLEN CZECHOSLOVAK PREPHILATELY COVERS

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

I just recently received the following disturbing report from our member in Norway, Henning Qvale. I am passing it on to you here -- at his request -- in the hopes that someone of you may be able to help in spotting or locating his missing treasures.

I am including information on how you can contact Henning directly. Let us hope that we can help him.

"Dear Lou,

I am writing you because, 1 1/2 months ago we had unbidden people in our home. They stole an important fraction of my Czechoslovakia prephilately collection! The police tend to favour international criminals, since they are very active in Norway these days, and they may have channels for selling such material.

The stolen objects are from 1789 until 1850 and were part of the late Paul Jensen's top rated collection. I am missing approximately 250 covers from this period, the original exhibit plus many other spare objects. The objects were mounted as an exhibit, mostly on light grey sheets with English text, but also on white ruled sheets with text in Norwegian. Many of the sheets had Paul Jensen's personal address label on the reverse side. They may of course now appear unmounted. I possess good quality photos of many of the objects.

I ask everybody in the Czechoslovak philatelic community could keep their eyes and ears open for signals that can lead to the return of single objects or the complete collection. If in doubt of the provenance of any such objects, please do not hesitate to send me scans or photocopies, and I will be happy to verify whether they may originate from my collection.

JULY/AUGUST 2008

I would be very grateful if you could make this announcement known to the SCP membership through *The SPECIALIST*?

With my best regards,
Henning”

Henning Qvale
Oberst Angells vei 8
0787 Oslo
NORWAY

hq@qbator.no

Tel: +47 90 54 61 33

ADVERTISEMENT

CHARLES CHESLOE LITERATURE SALE

Mail bids to: Charles Chesloe, P.O. Box 100, Willow Springs, IL 60480.
Closing date is September 30, 2008. UPS shipping charges are extra.

Lot #1: Complete set of The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST from 1939 through 2006. 31 hard bound volumes in black hard book covers with gold lettering. A superb set, a once-in-a-lifetime offering.

Estimate: \$1,800 - \$2,000

Lot #2: Hard bound The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST in black hard bound with gold lettering. 1965, 1968, 1970-73, 1975-76, 1978-79, 1982-84 -- 10 books in all. Good condition.

Estimate: \$35 - \$40

Lot #3: Spiral bound volume of the Forgeries of Czechoslovak postage stamps written in English. Completely illustrated along with a hard bound handbook of Czechoslovak Forgeries written in Czech. Good condition.

Estimate: \$20 - \$25

Lot #4: Catalog of the exhibits and of the "PRAGA 78" exhibition, also a very fine catalog and price list of Czechoslovak issues from 1918-1978. Both are hard bound and in color. Very fine condition.

Estimate: \$15 - \$20

Lot #5: Three hard bound books from "PRAGA 88" in color, catalog of exhibits, Czech Philately and the printing of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps. Very fine condition.

Estimate: \$15 - \$20

POSTAGE PAID?

by Savoy Horvath,
Ludvik Svoboda

When you get your mail each day, do you really look to see what is shown on your "junk" mail to indicate that postage has been paid? Chances are it will show one of the following statements: "Pre-sorted Standard, Postage Paid", "Pre-sorted First Class", "Non-profit Org.", "Bulk Rate" as a meter, envelope imprint, or non-denominated stamp. The variety of the non-denominated stamps alone is frightening. The approach here is very much slanted towards "buy a product which is then applied to the mailing". Thus you need many different kinds of product to satisfy various needs.

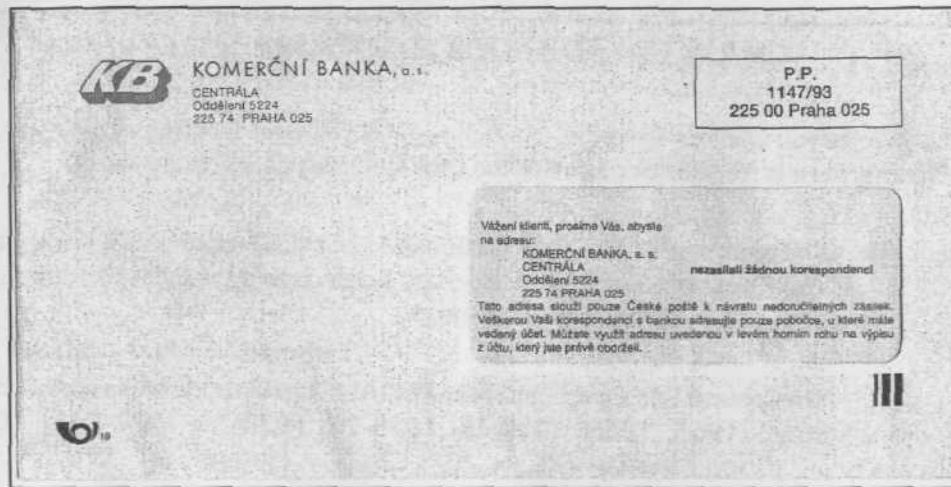


Figure 1: Postage paid envelope from the Commerce Bank, Central office.

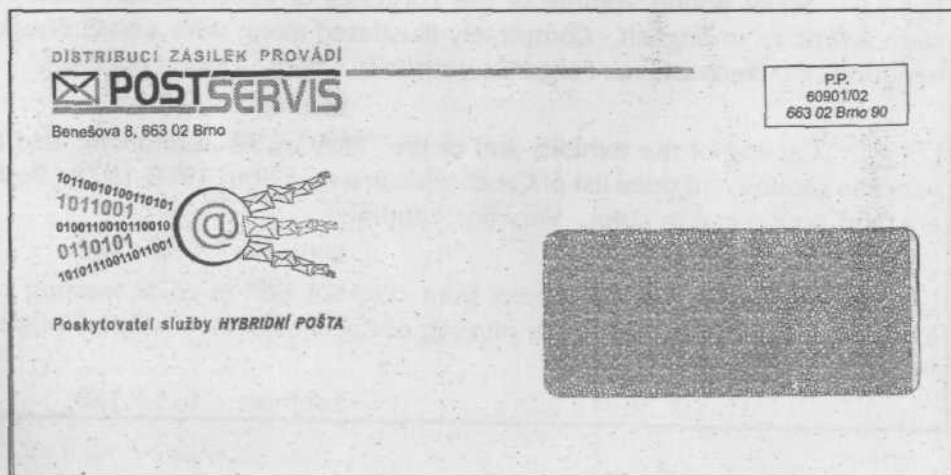


Figure 2: Postage paid envelope from Post Servis, providing hybrid postal services.



Figure 3

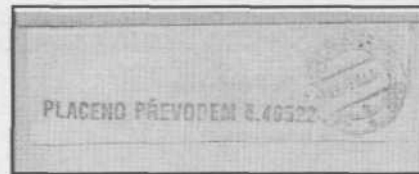


Figure 5

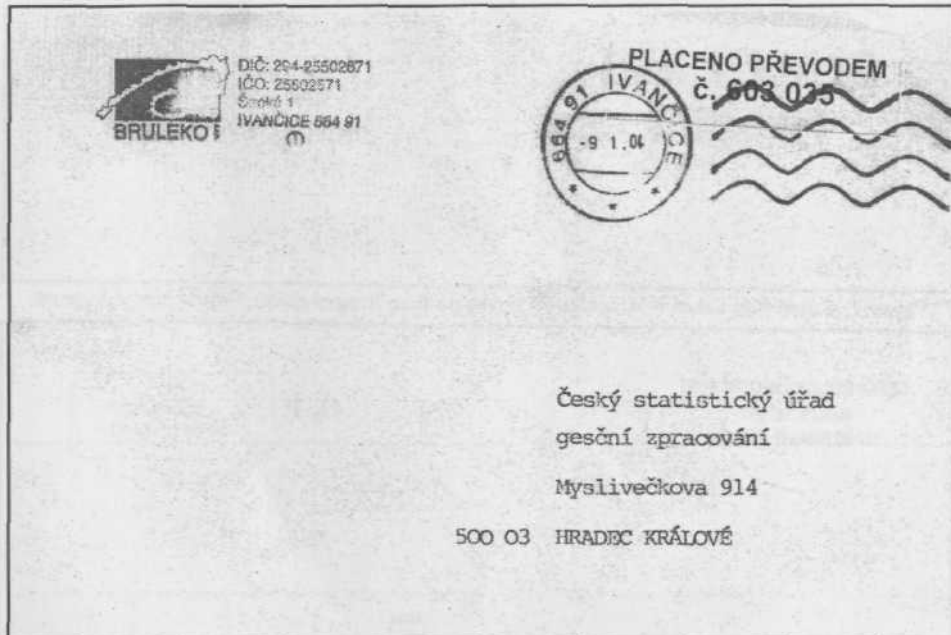


Figure 4: Casual envelope with affixed label and hand-stamp return address.

Well, the Czechs have taken a little different approach to this area. Part of this has to do with the fact that their postal service used to be the primary banking organization for the people. As a result, their approach is based upon the user making a deposit (perhaps monthly) to a special postal account for themselves. Then when they come with their mailings (which have their account number indicated on them), the total postage cost is simply deducted from the amount in their account. No products need to be purchased and applied to the mailings. So you do not see a bewildering array of non-denominated stamps.

What you do see is a variety of ways to indicate that the postage has been paid, to which account it should be charged, and in which post office the account is located.

Under the ČSR/ČSFR regimes, they used the abbreviation "P.P.". While this looks like it should be an abbreviation for Postage Paid, it actually was an abbreviation for "Poštovné Paušalované". The irony is that it basically means the same as Postage Paid. It is just how it was paid. Literally, it was private mail sent having been paid in a lump sum (per month).

Today, the "P.P." is still used, but now it is an abbreviation for "Placeno Převodem", which means Paid Through Transfer. Thus, once again, funds were

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Figure 7: Czech Red Cross P.P. non-profit envelope from Prague office, Přeřov postal account.

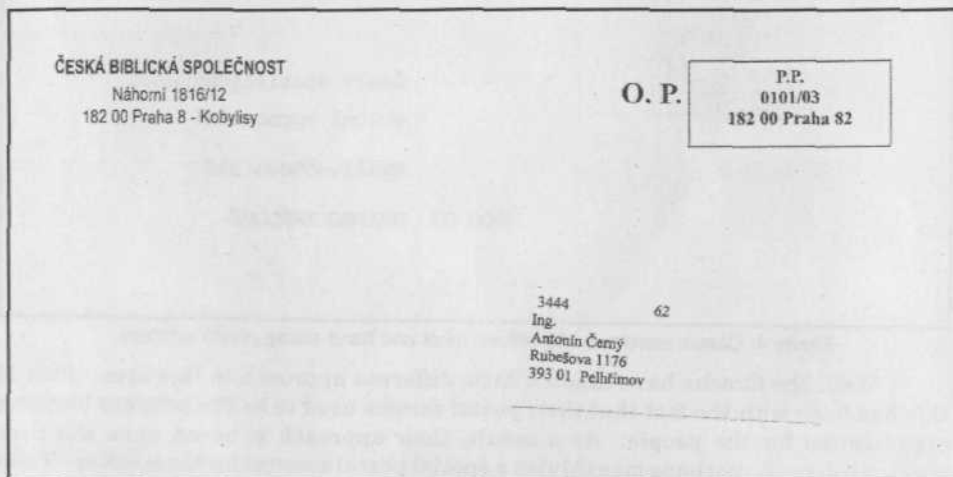


Figure 8: Czech Bible Society P.P. non-profit envelope.

transferred from a postal account to pay for the mailing. This designation often appears on business, commercial, or private mailings. It can be shown in a variety of ways.

Often businesses or large organizations will have pre-printed rectangles on their envelopes showing the P.P., along with their account number, and a central post office for the organization (Fig. 1, 2). If the organization only has one location, then they may resort to other methods of designating the information (besides pre-printed envelopes (Fig. 3)): a pre-printed label that is affixed to the envelope (Fig. 4), a hand-stamp (Fig. 5), or a rectangle hand-stamp (Fig. 6). In these later cases, the postmark indicates the location of the account.

Non-profit organizations and certain others that are entitled to special mailing rates get to have an "O.P." added to their designations. It is an abbreviation for



Figure 6

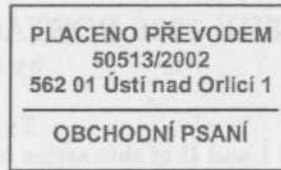


Figure 9



Figure 10

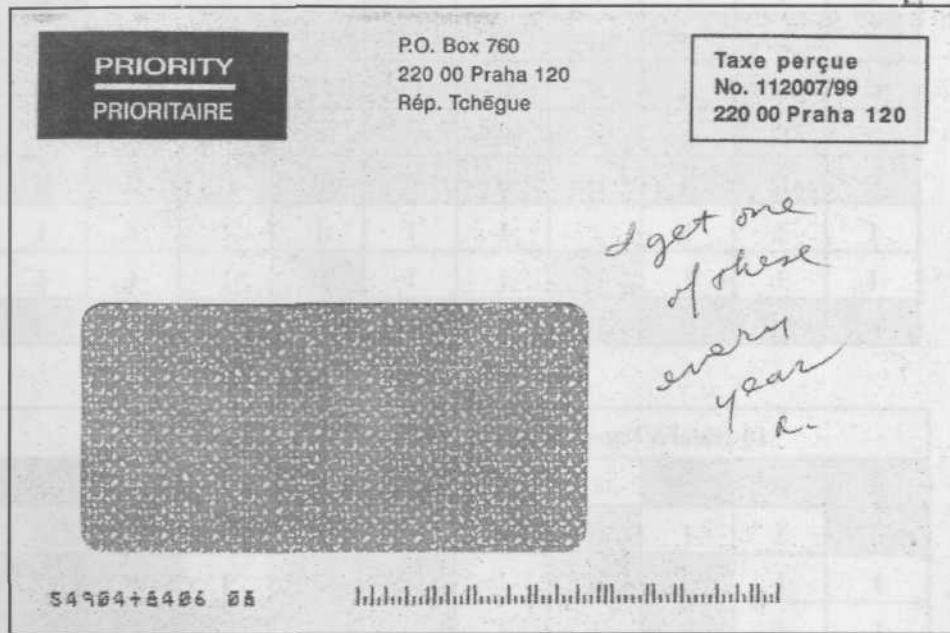


Figure 11: Swiss firm's postage collected envelope

Obchodní Psaní (= business/commercial mail). Shown here are a couple of pre-printed envelopes for organizations (Fig. 7, 8) and a couple of designation rectangle variants: one with the P.P. and the O.P. spelled out (Fig. 9) and a second that has the commercial mailer's name and address included (Fig. 10). Finally, shown here is a business letter from a non-Czech company that has an office in Prague (Fig. 11). They are not using the postal account deduction system, thus their designation does not have the "P.P.", but rather the international designation of "Taxe perçue" (= postage collected).

THE 1928 POSTAGE DUE ISSUE: PART III

by Mark Wilson

Type Locations

Parts I and II of this series of articles discussed the general features of the 1928 Postage Due issue and described its many type variations. Part III describes the location of the several types by Type Number on each pane and reflects information found in *The Monografie*.

5 Haléřů Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations									
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	II	I	I	II	I	I	I
II	II	II	II	I	II	II	II	II	II

10 Haléřů Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations									
II	II	III	I	II	III	II	I	I	III
II	I	I	II	III	I	II	III	III	II
I	I	II	II	I	III	III	I	II	III
I	I	II	I	I	II	III	III	III	III
I	III	II	I	III	II	I	II	III	III
I	I	II	I	II	II	II	I	III	III
II	I	III	I	II	II	III	I	II	II
III	III	III	I	II	II	I	III	II	I
II	III	III	II	I	I	II	III	II	I
II	III	II	I	II	III	I	II	II	I

20 Haléřů Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations

III	III	I	II	I	I	II	II	I	III
I	III	III	III	II	III	I	I	II	II
II	III	I	III	III	III	I	II	III	I
III	II	II	I	II	II	I	I	III	I
I	II	III	I	II	III	II	III	I	II
III	III	I	II	I	I	II	III	I	I
I	II	III	I	II	I	II	III	I	II
I	II	III	II	III	I	I	III	I	II
II	II	III	III	III	I	II	II	III	III
III	I	I	II	III	III	II	I	II	II

30 Haléřů Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations

III	I	II	I	II	I	III	II	III	I
II	III	I	II	III	II	III	I	III	II
III	III	II	III	I	II	I	III	I	I
II	III	II	III	III	II	II	I	I	III
III	II	II	III	II	II	I	III	II	I
I	II	III	I	III	III	I	II	I	III
II	I	II	II	II	III	II	I	III	I
III	I	III	I	II	I	II	II	I	II
I	I	III	I	III	II	III	II	III	III
I	I	I	III	III	III	II	I	III	II

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40 Haléřů Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations									
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III	III
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II
I	II	II	II	II	II	II	I	II	II
III	III	III	III	III	III	I	I	I	I
II	I	I	I	I	II	I	III	III	III
II	II	II	II	I	II	II	I	II	I
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II

50 Haléřů Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations									
II	III	III	III	II	II	II	II	III	I
II	I	I	II	I	I	II	I	II	I
III	II	I	III	II	I	III	III	III	II
II	III	II	I	I	II	III	III	II	II
II	I	III	II	I	I	II	III	II	I
III	III	III	III	II	III	III	I	I	I
I	III	I	I	I	I	III	I	III	I
II	II	I	II	I	III	I	III	II	III
III	III	II	III	II	I	I	I	III	II
III	I	I	I	I	III	III	III	I	III

[There are no types for the 60h or the 1 Kc.]

2 Koruny Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations

III	I	I	I	I	III	II	I	I	II
I	I	III	I	II	III	II	I	I	I
II	II	II	III	III	I	I	II	III	I
I	II	I	III	I	II	II	I	I	I
III	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I
II	II	I	I	III	I	II	I	I	II
III	I	II	III	I	II	III	II	I	II
I	I	III	II	III	III	I	I	II	II
II	II	II	III	III	III	II	III	I	I
I	III	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	II

5 Korun Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations

I	II	III	II	I	I	III	II	I	III
III	II	II	II	II	I	I	II	III	III
I	I	I	I	II	III	II	I	I	II
II	II	III	I	II	III	II	III	II	III
I	II	II	III	III	I	III	I	II	I
I	I	I	I	II	III	III	I	II	II
I	III	I	I	II	III	III	II	I	I
II	II	II	III	I	II	II	III	I	III
I	III	I	III	II	II	I	I	III	I
I	I	II	II	II	III	III	I	I	II

10 Korun Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations

III	III	I	III	I	I	III	I	II	II
II	I	III	III	II	III	I	II	I	I
I	II	III	II	II	I	III	I	I	I
II	II	I	II	II	I	II	II	I	II
III	I	II	I	II	I	II	III	III	III
I	I	III	II	II	I	III	III	III	III
III	III	II	I	II	III	II	I	III	II
II	I	III	III	I	III	I	III	II	II
III	I	II	II	II	III	II	II	I	III
I	III	III	III	III	II	I	II	I	I

20 Korun Pane Schema Indicating Type Locations

III	I	II	III	I	I	II	II	I	II
III	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II
I	II	III	II	I	III	II	I	I	III
II	II	III	II	III	I	III	III	I	III
I	II	II	III	II	I	I	II	I	I
I	II	III	I	I	II	II	I	III	I
II	III	III	I	II	III	III	III	II	II
I	II	I	II	III	I	III	III	II	II
II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	III	III
I	I	I	III	III	II	III	I	II	II

ON WHAT DATE WAS THE "1ST-PARLIAMENT-OF-THE-CARPATHO-UKRAINE" STAMP OF 1939 PLACED ON SALE?

by František Beneš
trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

In the March 1999 issue of *Filatelie*, I ran an article for the 60th anniversary of the rise -- and concurrently the demise -- of the stamp issuing country of the Carpatho-Ukraine in which were described the events leading up to the issuance of the 3K stamp for the 1st Parliament of the Carpatho-Ukraine of 1939, Pof. #351. In it, among other things, I concerned myself also with the question -- when exactly was this stamp delivered to the post office in Chust and when did its sale begin?

According to the literature (e.g. Monografie Čs. Známek, Vol. 3, pg. 317) sheets of this stamp were delivered to Chust on March 1, and as the earliest date when the stamps were available to the public, I gave the date as 9.3 -- which is the postmark date on a cover to which the stamp was attached (not at all as part of the franking) and inadvertently canceled across a few of its perforations. Now however, an entire has been submitted to me which could change the perspective on this problem. It concerns a picture postcard (ppc) of Svalavy, franked with the 3K stamp canceled with the special red Chust postmark dated 15.3.39 and addressed to Nového Města nad Metují in Bohemia. So far there is nothing special about it, apart from the fact that on the ppc the arrival postmark is missing (which of course is nothing special since it was not sent registered).

Of exceptional interest is the message text on the ppc. From it follows that the



Fig. 1

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stamp was already available to the sender on February 27, thus two days earlier than currently presumed as to when the stamps were delivered to Chust (February had 28 days in 1939). The ppc was addressed to "Esteemed sir, Mr. Jaroslav Laštovička, accounting firm J. Rousek & Son, Nové Město / Metují, Čechy", and its text reads: "27.II.39. I am sending you herewith a stamp, which will be issued on 2.III, and in which you will be surely interested. We have been very busy here, always something new. On Saturday we drove out towards Skotársko and were as far as the Polish border. There, the Poles quite literally demolished the Rozsypal's chalet. Even so the day was nice, and we enjoyed the outing. In addition, last week we again rode out to Užhorod on the Hungarian border. We have already sent the furniture to N.M., and now one can see that it is possible to live happily in one room. Kisses for Emu(?), and I beg of her to arrange greetings to all of the Sokol ladies from a far away patriot. To you, and to Mr. F. many greetings from my husband. Máňa Hušková".

The text is written in blue ink, in neat "teacher-ly" letters, both together could hint that the writer was a Czech schoolmistress, who together with her husband worked in the Carpatho-Ukraine, and from where (in the anxious times of the end of the first republic) they should have returned to the Czech lands. The addressee was their friend or acquaintance, about whom they knew that he was interested in stamps and to whom they wanted to give some pleasure by way of the new stamp (there was great excitement surrounding its issuance). What is most interesting about this whole matter is the date written at the head of the message on the ppc. It could confirm that the 3K stamp was on this day already at the Chust post office (it was Monday, following Sunday's outing that is written about in the text), even if the stamp was not yet allowed to be sold. Even so, it appears that the postal workers sold an example that was then attached to the ppc (they were mostly Czechs and countrymen who, if she had asked them nicely, might have wanted to oblige, and anyway at that time they most likely were plastering stamps on consignments they were preparing, upon which the post had already received payment). The ppc was then set aside to be canceled and sent onwards after the stamp's official issuance. That occurred more than two weeks later, when the ppc was added to the other consignments and was transported to the Czech lands.

The fact that this event does not pertain merely to a willingly applied cancel on an unused ppc (whose text would be written in later), is testified to by the imprint of the cancel that is applied across letters in the address: in places the cancel color of the inner and outer circles is heavily imprinted and covers the written ink, whilst the letters of the inscription in the lower semicircle are imprinted weaker, did not adhere that well to the ink, and sometimes in places are even interrupted by pen strokes (this besides other things confirms the fact that the printing positions of the circles and the inscription of the cancel were not the same height -- the letters were somewhat less prominent).

All of the above-mentioned contemplations are of course only hypothetical, but it appears that a small part of the history of the last stamp of pre-war ČSR (and concurrently also the only stamp of the Carpatho Ukraine) we have today made more precise -- namely when was it delivered to the post office in Chust and from when was it possible to buy it (either as an exception or even as an entirely isolated

occurrence). Also contributing to this enhancement in our knowledge was a part of the consignment to which we normally do not pay much attention -- the message on the ppc. But it is exactly this kind of thing which possibly has the greatest appeal for philatelists: the most important information can be provided to us by a detail which until then everyone else simply overlooked.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article which first appeared in FILATELIE 2/2007.]

* * * * *

TYPES, RETOUCHES, AND FLAWS

by Mark Wilson
www.knihtisk.org

Philatelists refer to variations in stamps from a single denomination of the same issue sometimes as types, sometimes as flaws, and yet at other times as retouches. One might ask, "How do they determine which is which?"

A plate **flaw** is typically the result of some failure in the manufacturing process, usually a defect in the negative used to produce a plate or perhaps introduced by uneven etching of, or damage to, the plate itself. The most salient feature of a flaw is its appearance in a single stamp and, so long as the plate is not reconstructed, always in the same plate position. **Retouches** are repairs to existing flaws and thus share the same characteristics: they appear in a single stamp in a single position on the plate. As an aside, printing flaws (as versus to plate flaws) also have these characteristics, but they appear and disappear throughout the life of a printing run.

While **types** may also appear as only a single stamp in a pane, most often they appear in more than one position, and they differ significantly from flaws and retouches in their source. Instead of a fault in the negative or plate, types are typically the result of some or all of the stamps in a pane having different sources or treatments. For plates produced from photographed black prints¹ (typically in a ten-by-ten array), types are the result of differences in the black prints themselves. Other plates, manufactured by soldering dies together, give rise to types when the dies differ in some specific detail.

Another source of types may be a regular or erratic intervention on the part of the printer before the stamps are printed. For instance, the Spiral, Bar, Frame,

1. Please note also that while we have referred to the images used in paste-ups as black prints, the more common philatelic term used in the Czech literature is auxiliary print. Such prints were usually much larger than the actual image of the stamp and were reduced photographically when producing a negative.

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and Arch Types of the Hradčany issue appear to be the result of someone's tampering with the negative or plate. For some Spiral Types, this means that someone closed the spiral in certain positions and did not in others. The 400h Hradčany displays a similar sporadic tampering in the outline of its side panel.

That the tampering was done by hand is evident in the slight differences in their rendition. A more accurate description would term this class of types as retouches done before the stamps were printed, but custom labels them *types* and reserves the term *retouches* for post-printing corrections.

The 125h denomination of the 1920 Masaryk issue, the 1923 Agriculture and Science issue, and many of the 1928 Postage Due denominations are clear examples of types caused by different image sources for some stamp positions. Either their black prints or the dies soldered together to make the plates differed in one aspect or another.

Interest in types quite often arises when one type is significantly less common than another, or when a pair of stamps is made up of differing types. For instance, some plates of Hradčany stamps are composed entirely of one Spiral Type, while other panes may contain both types. Usually, the latter stamps are collected in pairs of differing types because they are less common than pairs made up of identical types: collectors find appeal in scarcity.

Are there undiscovered types? Perhaps, perhaps not. Consider for instance the very common 3h Hradčany denomination. Collectors who plate this stamp already know that most stamps from Plate I differ from Plate II stamps in a specific detail. This difference is found above the right-most spire on the stamp. Stamps from Plate I almost always have a dot clearly separated from the top of the spire, while most stamps from Plate II have the dot missing, or perhaps joined to, the top of the spire. However, not every stamp on Plate I has a separate dot, nor is the dot missing from every stamp on Plate II.

Thus, we may ask, is the 3h Hradčany made up of two types? The stamps themselves are not sufficient to answer the question, nor are the two metal plates used to print them. However, any of three other printing artifacts could be used to make this determination. The best proof would be evidence that more than one die was used to produce the black prints used in the paste-up for the plate-transfer photograph or photographs, and if these dies differed in the rendition of the top of the right-most spire, then by definition, there are two types of the 3h Hradčany stamp.

But if the dies are not available, perhaps if the black prints used to produce the paste-up for the negative were available, inspecting them would answer the question immediately. A final, indirect proof would be the existence of two negatives, each of which was used to transfer the image to a metal plate. Since the negative is two steps removed from the origin of the possible types, it would be less likely to resolve the issue. However, if the two negatives failed to show different renditions of the right-most spire top, then clearly the differences are plate flaws introduced in the metal plate preparation. The same would hold, if as the *Monografie* states, a single glass negative were used, for then by definition all of the

images on both plates had the same source so there could not be different types. In this instance, an insufficient etching of Plate II would likely be the agent responsible for the difference.

We are not asserting that two types of the 3h Hradčany *actually* exist, but are only indicating the information needed to *demonstrate* whether or not two types exist, and how types differ from flaws and retouches. Also, we wish to make clear the importance of resource material, such as that held by private collectors and by the Postal Museum in Prague, to the resolution of such philatelic problems.

Readers with internet access are invited to explore descriptions and images of many well- and lesser-known types, flaws, and retouches of Czechoslovakian stamps on the web pages of www.knihtisk.org.

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8. HISTORY OF POSTAL AGENCIES (POŠTOVNY) IN THE TĚŠÍN REGION (Cz) by Tovačovský, Sikora, and Schodelbauer. For Silesia collectors. This 80 page bound book covers the time period between 1900 and 1958 -- which includes the "SO plebiscite" period -- and includes alphabetic listings of the postal agencies of the Těšín region ceded to Czechoslovakia/Poland/German period, describes their postmarks, village where found, and number/type/color/point count for cut-outs as well as full covers. \$4.00 (7.00)

9. MANUAL FOR HRADČANY COLLECTORS -- Vol. 3 (Cz) by Hamr and Škaloud. This third Hradčany volume has two sections. The first part is devoted to Printing Plate VII which was unknown until about 1994 (75 years after its use) -- all aspects of the plate are discussed and illustrated. The second part covers less routinely encountered entires: value letters, entires not requiring basic franking, and consignments of the postal check administration in Prague. \$12.00 (18.50)

10. STORY OF JOSEF HERČÍK'S POSTAGE STAMPS (E) by Jan Chovanec. Herčík engraved many of the best stamps produced in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. The book is written in good English, and is extensively illustrated. It includes interesting insights on how the engraver mastered his art, how he came to produce so many beautiful stamps, and deals with the specific stamps the engraver created giving the story behind the stamp. \$4.00 (6.00)

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ERRATA

-- In the article "The 1928 Postage Due Issue: Part I" of the Mar/Apr 08 issue, page 1, last sentence of the Introduction paragraph, where it says "... may be found on pages of 1928 postage due stamps.", it should have read "... may be found on panes of ...".

The President's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

There will be many fabulous exhibits including several by our members that you don't want to miss. Our plans are: to have a Society booth/table manned throughout the show where you can get the latest information on Society activities, where you can meet fellow Czech/Slovak collectors and Society members, and where you can review the various books that the Society has for sale; to have the Society's Board of Director's meeting on Thursday, 28 August, 1 PM, in the McCormick Suite, where members are welcome to sit and listen; to have the Society's annual general membership meeting on Saturday, 30 August, 1 PM, in Salon A, to which all are welcome; to have the Society's awards breakfast on Sunday morning to which all are welcome (time and place will be available at the Society's table). We arranged our general meeting so as not to conflict with the meetings of the Austrian and Rossica Societies, which are also convening at the Show. Do come -- see the exhibits, visit dealers who may have material of interest to you, and meet fellow collectors of Czechoslovakian philately.

The Henry Hahn Memorial Library, housed at the Baltimore Philatelic Society, will not be open during Show days as our librarian, Bob Gibson, is in charge of BALPEX. It is normally open on Tuesdays, Wednesday evenings, and Saturdays. We now have a special arrangement (since June 2008) that members of SCP can borrow philatelic materials not only from the Hahn Library, but also from the German Philatelic Society library, which is also housed at the headquarters of the Baltimore Philatelic Society. The point of contact is Bob Gibson. His e-mail address is on page 2 of any recent issue of the SPECIALIST.

I also want to offer special thanks from the Society to Mark Wilson, our former librarian, who has been able to convert many of the library's paper holdings, including previous copies of *The SPECIALIST*, onto discs. These and other publications will be available for your viewing and ordering at our table.

Shortly after BALPEX, the major FIP show, PRAGA 2008, will be held September 12-14 in Prague. The organizers of the show note there will be special celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the issuing of the first Czechoslovakian stamps, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Postal Museum, and the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the issuing of their stamps. Please note that there is a new entry requirement since last fall for U.S. Citizens to enter the Czech Republic -- according to the Czech Embassy in Washington, no visa is required, but visitors must bring evidence that they have medical insurance. (For more details, please check with the Embassy's Consular Section.)

I hope to meet many of you in person at BALPEX 2008 and at PRAGA 2008.

Richard P. Livingston



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Richard Palaschak:

-- The latest DVD containing the 2000-2004 Czechoslovak SPECIALIST's were all scanned by our member Mark Wilson. Thank you Mark.

2. From Tom Cossaboom:

-- Our secretary, Phil Rhoads, was awarded a Gold Medal, the APS 1940-

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1980 Medal of Excellence, and the German Philatelic Society's chapter award for his exhibit "The Murder of Lidice" at COLOPEX, which is a World Series of Philately show that was held 1-3 February at Columbus, Ohio. He also exhibited at Plymouth (Detroit) at the end of April and was awarded the Reserve Grand.

3. From Ed Lehecka:

-- I am the Treasurer of the SCP and have the following new address: 100 Monroe Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On May 7, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series entitled "Writing Letters"



Fig. 1

(Fig. 1). The Association of European Public Postal Operators PostEurop declared "Writing Letters" as this year's common theme for the postage stamp issue EUROPA in order to promote written correspondence. In the past, writing letters significantly cultivated the language and contributed to a better and more precise formulation of ideas. In today's world of mobile phones and e-mails hardly anyone will find the time for a handwritten letter. Despite the present massive spread of computers,

handwritten news still remains an expression of a special attention. Correspondence of leading authors is published as an organic part of their work, e.g. the correspondence of B. Němcová. These days, waiting for a letter from a friend is rather a curiosity. We get an occasional card with Christmas or Easter greetings or from a holiday trip. The spoken word dies out, the message in mobile phones erases, but a letter remains. The stamp displays the salutation and first few lines of an amative letter. The stamp was designed by Marina Richterová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in printing



Fig. 2

sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC in blue shows a drawing of a woman writing a letter (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3

2. On May 28, 2008, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp in the For Children series entitled "The Doggie's and Kitty Cat's Tales" by J. Čapek (Fig. 3). Josef Čapek (1887-1945) was one of the most comprehensive and significant personalities of the Czech culture between

the two world wars. He belongs to the founders of modern Czech fine arts. His radical and socially engaged creative expression was strongly anti-Facist and anti-war. He worked as a painter, graphic designer, illustrator, stage designer. His less known work is also extensive; he was a poet, prosaist, playwright, essayist and journalist. The world of children became an inspiration for J. Čapek after his daughter Alenka's birth. The book "The Doggie's and Kitty Cat's Tales, How They Kept Their House, and About Many Other Things" (1929) was written and illustrated mainly for her. The book of events of the Doggie and the Kitty Cat who lived together like human beings contains other short poetic fairy tales. The kind humor of the author and the beautiful language created a work which became in the course of years a bestseller. The stamp features the Doggie and the Kitty Cat with a ball and a facsimile signature of Josef Čapek. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in light blue, red and yellow in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the printing sheets, philatelic booklets with 8 stamps and 2 labels were issued. The label shows a drawing of the author of the book with the Doggie and Kitty Cat. A FDC in brown shows an illustration from the tale "The Doggie and Kitty Cat Baking a Cake" (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

3. On May 28, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet entitled

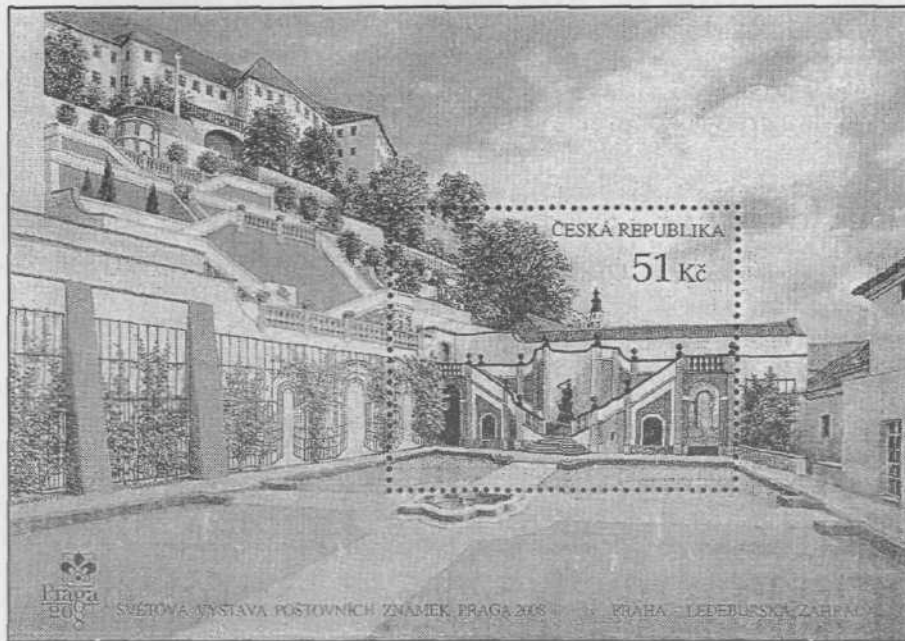


Fig. 5

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"Ledeburk Garden in Prague" containing a 51 Kč stamp to promote the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 to take place from 12-14 September 2008 at the Exhibition Grounds in Prague - Holešovice (Fig. 5). Together with the Little and Large Palfy Gardens, Kolowrat Garden and the Little and Large Fürstenberg Gardens, Ledeburk Garden is a part of the system of joined palace gardens located on the southern hillside below the Prague Castle. The gardens were created as independent ones in the 18th century; as such, they have each a different design and specific character. Ledeburk Garden has an area of 0.18 ha. The garden, located at 205 - 230 m above the sea level, was created at the early 18th century. In 1787, when it became the property of the Kolowrat family, it was re-designed by I.J. Palliardi in the middle Baroque style. The garden has two parts. The lower one is on a level ground in the width of the palace, the upper one of a half-width on a downhill area is arranged into five terraces connected with balustraded stairs. A small eight-sided pavilion is erected at the top axis. The palace parterre contains a three-part sala terrena rich in decorative stuccoes and mythological scenes painted by V.V. Reiner

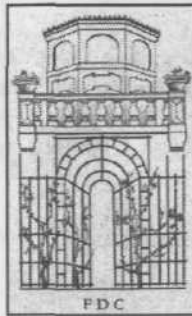


Fig. 6

in 1730. The opposite side of the parterre, featured on the postage stamp, both closes the lower part of the garden and connects it with the terraces via a two-arm stairway. It is decorated with a fountain with fighting Hercules. Another fountain is in the middle of the green parterre. The garden decorations include, but are not limited to, a couple of functioning sundials and the female nude "Fertility" by J. Štursa (1920). Ledeburk Garden underwent a demanding reconstruction; together with the adjoining Little Palfy Garden it was re-opened to the public in June 1995. The souvenir sheet with stamp was designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset. A FDC in black shows a drawing of the small pavilion from the upper part of the Ledeburk Garden (Fig. 6).

4. On May 28, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet in the Nature Protection series entitled "Třeboňsko -- An Area of Ponds and Pools, A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve" containing 4 stamps and 3 labels (Fig. 7). Třeboňsko, a flat fishpond basin of 700 km² crossed with the Lužnice river, was declared a protected land area in 1979. In 1977 it was designated a UNESCO biosphere reserve. The originally monotonous wetland region of Southern Bohemia became diversified in the process of creation of extensive fishpond networks starting in the 16th century. The present harmonic pattern of water and farming areas changed from the typical residential areas and forests, making it an internationally significant area from the ornithological point of view. It is the home of many kinds of song-birds and most of the Czech water and wetland birds, e.g. white egret, gray heron, marsh harrier, white-tailed eagle (reintroduced). A significant part of Třeboňsko flora are the large oak trees growing on pond dikes and a most precious variant of Třeboňská pine. Like the meadows and ponds and pools with white and yellow water lilies, bladderworts or pondweeds, the sand hills, peat lands, and marsh meadows are also a place of specific flowers. The area is the home of different kinds



Fig. 7

of insects, amphibians, about twenty-five kinds of fish, several couples of Eurasian otter and the reintroduced beaver. The most precious small protected locations are Červené Blato, Stará Řeka, Velký Tisý and Malý Tisý, Novořecké Močály, Meandry Lužnice, etc. The souvenir sheet with stamps and labels was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset.

There are four FDC's featuring other protected species of the fauna of the Třeboňsko.

- 10 Kč - *Alcedo atthis*. The FDC shows *Ixobrychus minutus* (Fig. 8).
- 12 Kč - *Lutra lutra*, *Spirea salicifolia*. The FDC shows *Astacus astacus* (Fig. 9).
- 14 Kč - *Haliaeetus albicilla*. The FDC shows *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Fig. 10).



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

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-- 18 Kč - *Netta rufina*, *Nymphaea alba*. The FDC shows *Libellula depressa* (Fig. 11).

The three labels show:

- *Limenitis populi*, *Egretta alba*
- *Anser anser*
- *Rana esculenta*



Fig. 11

5. On June 18, 2008, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps entitled "Travellers". The stamps were designed by Vladimír Novák, 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.

-- 12 Kč - Ferdinand Stolička (1838-1874)(Fig. 12): black (recess print), brown, blue, yellow, and blue-green. This Czech geologist, paleontologist and natural scientist of world significance graduated in geology from the Faculty of Arts in Vienna. He did mapping in the Eastern Alps, in Hungary and Dalmatia. As a paleontologist of the Indian Geological Institute he researched mainly the



Fig. 12

Himalaya and the Karakoram. He set for his first journey to the Himalaya in 1864. During the four-month expedition he created geological maps of extensive areas of the mountains; in particular, he made it an exact fact that the core of the Himalaya consists of gneiss layers covered with high primary and secondary sediments. He contributed also to other disciplines, mainly to ornithology. On his return from the third expedition to the Himalaya he died, probably of high mountain disease. A FDC in brown shows a bird from Central Asia commemorating the ornithological research of F. Stolička (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13

-- 21 Kč - Alois Musil (1868-1944)(Fig. 14): black (recess print), dark-red, yellow, black, and ocher. After graduation from the Faculty of Theology in Olomouc, this world-famous Czech geographer, orientalist and traveller continued his studies in Jerusalem and Beirut. He travelled through Arabia and made detailed maps there. He was engaged in ethnography and botany. In addition to world languages, he had a command of 35 Arabian dialects. He became the sheikh of two tribes. Bedouins brought Musil to his greatest discovery -- they showed him the mysterious 8th century building in the dessert Kuseir Amra in the territory of today's Jordan. After World War I he was appointed professor of Charles University for oriental sciences and the Arabian language. With President



Fig. 14

Masaryk's support Musil initiated the foundation of the Oriental Institute. He contributed to the popularity of the Near East and published dozens of traveller's books for the youth and adults. A FDC in sienna shows a Bedouin riding a camel (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15

6. On June 18, 2008, the Ministry issued an 18 Kč commemorative stamp celebrating The XXIXth Olympic Games in Beijing which are to be held on August 8-24, 2008 (Fig. 16). Most competitions will be held directly at Beijing. Yachting competitions will be held in Qingdao, equestrian competitions



Fig. 16

in Hong Kong, football matches in Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao. Ready for the winners are 302 sets of medals in 28 sports. New disciplines include, e.g. BMX bike discipline or the so-called swimming marathon. The postage stamp features the athletic discipline Discus Throwing Women. The stamp was designed by Pavel Hrach,



Fig. 17

engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black also shows the discipline of Discus Throwing Women (Fig. 17).

7. On June 18, 2008, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp celebrating the Summer Paralympic Games 2008, Beijing (Fig. 18). Handicapped sportsmen in the Czech Republic are registered in sport clubs including more than 17,500 members.



Fig. 18

The best of them will participate in the XIIIth Summer Paralympic Games which will be held in Beijing on September 6-17, 2008. Paralympic games are the top competition for top sportsmen with different handicaps. The key philosophy behind the paralympic movement is that these world sportsmen have abilities and experience equal to their healthy counterparts and that like them, the handicapped ones have to undergo strict qualifications and selection to get into national teams.

The First Paralympic Games were held in Rome in 1960, only several weeks after the XVIIth Olympic Games in Rome. They were attended by 400 athletes from 23 countries. The initial actors of the paralympiad were only wheelchair sportsmen. As the paralympic movement developed they were joined by sportsmen with other handicaps. The last paralympiad was held in Athens in 2004 where the Czech representatives won altogether 31 medals (16-8-7). The postage stamp features archery. The competitors, including blind archers, are divided into categories

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according to the degree and type of handicap. The stamp was designed by Pavel Hrach, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows an archery target (Fig. 19).



Fig. 19

Stationery

8. On May 28, 2008, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 17 Kč stamp to commemorate EXPONET - Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition (Fig. 20). The imprinted stamp with the silhouette of Prague Castle freely evokes the first postage stamps of the Czechoslovak Republic by Alfons Mucha -- Hradčany -- issued on December 18, 1918. The same stamp in the face value of 11 Kč was used on the commemorative postal card The Postal Museum -- the Venue of the Exhibition issued on April 4, 2007. On July 2, 2004, on the Internet-site www.exponet.info the on-line international philatelic exhibition with nearly 400 post-historical and philatelic exhibits of exhibitors from 36 countries of the world was opened. Many of them belong into the Fund of the World Cultural Heritage and are to be seen only at EXPONET. EXPONET is also a part of the official program of the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 -- visitors of which will have this computer site at their disposal. EXPONET is also the name of the non-governmental non-profit organization which supports young people in joining into the development and spreading of information technologies and

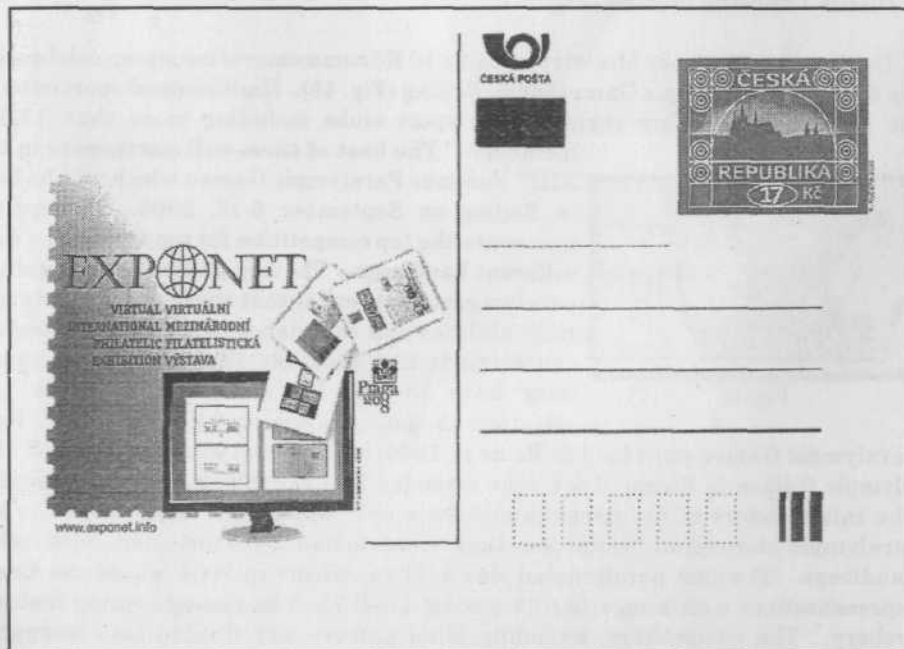


Fig. 20

knowledge of postal history and philately. The cachet of the postal card is a composite of philatelic exhibits coming out of a computer screen along with the logo of the EXPONET exposition with its Internet address. The designer of the imprinted stamp is Václav Kučera, while the cachet was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset and sells for 22 Kč.

9. On June 18, 2008, the Ministry issued a postal card entitled "The Postal Museum" with imprinted 17 Kč stamp to promote the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 (Fig. 21). The imprinted stamp is as described for the previous postal card. The cachet of the postal card shows the Alpine lounge of the Postal Museum in Prague decorated with wall pictures by Josef Navrátil (1798-1865) along with Czech text indicating it to be a venue of the exhibition for philatelic literature. The postal card was designed by Václav Kučera, produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset, and sold for 22 Kč.



Fig. 21

10. On June 18, 2008, the Ministry issued a postal card entitled "Prague - Exhibition Grounds - The Palace of Industry" with imprinted 10 Kč stamp to promote the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 (Fig. 22). The imprinted stamp is as described for the previous two postal cards but with different denomination. The cachet of the postal card shows the Palace of Industry along with Czech text indicating it to be a venue of the exhibition. This postal card with imprinted 7.50 Kč stamp was issued on April 4, 2007. The postal card was designed by Václav Kučera, produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset, and sold for 15 Kč.



Fig. 22

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

11. On May 29, 2008, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a commemorative stamp in the Children's Stamp series honoring Pavol Dobšinský with a face value of T2 50g (responding to the postage rate of 2nd class up to 50g - domestic service)(Fig. 23). Fairy tales have probably been around for as long as people have communicated by speech. Maybe the tales are transformed myths; maybe they used to be told about God's creatures which later changed into earthly kings, princes and princesses, and also witches, wizards, multi-headed dragons, giants and heroes acquiring magic items. Maybe they have always been here,



Fig. 23

alongside stories for higher ranks -- the social elite; fairy tales as stories for 'ordinary' people, to both entertain and instruct, and to transfer norms within a certain social rank. Originally, such tales had no author and the contents changed with each storyteller. Storytellers skillfully adjusted the tales to the period and audience. In this way fairy tales have survived centuries, passed from parents to children and "children's children" until being recorded in written form. There are several such collections of "Slovak fairy tales" in Slovakia. Pavol Dobšinský was one of the most famous collectors/storytellers. A multi-headed dragon often appears in his fairy-tale collections, the number of heads in multiples

of three -- the dragons thus have three, six, nine, or exceptionally even twelve heads. The motif of the dragon is very old -- it probably originates from Slavic mythology where it most probably represented Svarog, the god of heavenly fire and flame symbolizing good. Subsequently this symbol probably underwent some transformation and became the symbol of "evil" which must be conquered. The fairy-tale hero conquering the dragon thus embodies the basic principle of a fairy-tale, where good conquers evil. Usually it is an ordinary man who wins thanks to his wisdom, cleverness, and good heart. With his good deeds, the man wins the favor of magic helpers such as a dwarf, a fairy, a fairy godmother, an old woman, and others (but also "the tall", "the wide", and "the sharp-eyed"); helpers are often from the



Fig. 24

animal kingdom (an eagle, a duck, a fish, an ant, etc.) or embody the heavenly bodies and natural elements (the sun, the moon, the wind, etc.). The principle of the fairy-tale is still valid and with a bit of effort can be found in all successful present-day fairy tales that please children and adults alike. The stamp -- which shows a twelve headed dragon -- was designed by Peter Uchnár, engraved by Vierošlav Ondrejčíčka, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s. Praha, using rotary recess printing in combination with gravure printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a drawing of some of the "magical helpers" -- "the wide", "the tall", and "the sharp-eyed" (Fig. 24).

12. On June 4, 2008, the Ministry issued a 25 Sk commemorative stamp dedicated to "The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games" (Fig. 25). The XXIX Olympic Games will be held 8-24 August 2008 in Beijing, with the slogan 'One World One Dream'.



Fig. 25

The Olympic Football Tournament will be played in Shanghai, Tianjin, and Qinhuangdao, while Qingdao and Hong Kong will host the sailing and equestrian competitions, respectively. About 10,500 sportsmen and sportswomen will compete in 302 disciplines (thereof 165 men's, 127 women's, and 10 mixed competitions) covering 28 sports. Today, the official

symbol 'Dancing Beijing' invites the world to experience Chinese culture. The modern architecture of sports facilities and the impressive flower decoration of Tiananmen Square -- otherwise having very different connotations -- should make the impression that the country of over a thousand years' of traditions is ready to make another leap. This time, it's a leap into the 21st century. About 50 Slovak competitors will expect difficult climatic conditions and tough global competition, but nevertheless hope to enrich the Slovak collection of 15 previous Olympic medals. The stamp depicts a female broad jumper against a background showing the face of a Chinese competitor, was designed by Igor Piačka, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin,



Fig. 26

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a.s. Praha, using offset printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a pillow covered with Olympic pins (Fig. 26).

13. On June 6, 2008, the Ministry issued a 30 Sk commemorative stamp dedicated to "The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games" (Fig. 27). The XIII Paralympic Games will be held 6-17 September 2008 in Beijing. The sailing and equestrian competitions



Fig. 27

will be hosted by Qingdao and Hong Kong, respectively. A record number of competitors -- more than 4,000 sportsmen and sportswomen from 150 countries -- will compete in a record number of 18 sports, with the assistance of 2,500 trainers and support team members. A total of 471 gold medals will be distributed. Media coverage will involve 4,000 people, and 30,000 volunteers from all over the world will facilitate the smooth course of the Games. The

competitions will take place in the Olympic sports facilities with the paralympic slogan "Spirit in Motion". The Paralympic movement was inspired by Sir Ludwig Guttman (1899-1980), a great physician, the Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and the father of the idea of sport as a method of therapy for the disabled. He is also the founder of the Summer (1960) and Winter Paralympic Games (1976). As evident from the increasing number of participants, the paralympic movement is flourishing. The first PG was organized in Rome in 1960 and attended by 400 competitors from 23 countries. Then, as many as 3,195 sportsmen and sportswomen from 103 countries competed at the Xth Paralympic Games in Atlanta in 1996, including Slovak competitors who won 11 medals. Altogether Slovak participants have received 10 gold, 7 silver, and 14 bronze medals in athletics, cycling, archery, swimming, table tennis, and volleyball. The stamp shows a lower-leg prosthesis running along the top of the Great Wall of China, was designed by Igor Piačka, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s. Praha, using offset printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows runners going by a wall of faces from all races (Fig. 28).



Fig. 28



Fig. 29

14. On June 30, 2008, the Ministry issued a 33 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Discoveries from Bojná -- Nitrafila 2008" (Fig. 29). Gilded copper plaques, measuring from 13 to 15 cm in diameter, discovered at the Great Moravian hill fort Bojná I. - Valy are among the most significant Great Moravian art findings from the 9th century. All six plaques are decorated with figural scenes, two of them have unique inscriptions in Greek or Latin majuscule. The stamp depicts plaque #1 with a winged Christ "the Angel of Great Council", which is a rare Christian iconographical motif. Its oldest known graphical depiction is known from illuminated manuscript of the



Fig. 30

Homilies of Gregory of Nazianzus, which was commissioned by Constantinople Patriarch Photius for the Byzantine emperor Basil I in 880 ? 886. The stamp printing sheet contains images of all six plaques -- there are three copies of the perforated stamp depicting plaque #1, three other plaques are shown on perforated coupons of the same size as the stamp, and the two other plaques are contained in the selva on either side along with angels (Fig. 30). The coupons present the other



Fig. 31

plaques from the treasure: plaque #2 depicts an archangel holding labarum, an analogy to this figure comes from the Great-Moravian belt decoration from grave No. 240 discovered in the Great Moravian hill fort "Val" near Mikulčice; plaques #3 and #4 depict angels; plaque #5 illustrates Seraph, the "fire angel", and plaque #6 a tetramorph angel Cherub. Angels on plaques represent different angelic orders, according to the Byzantine theologian Pseudo-Dionysios Areopagite at the turn of the 5th and the 6th century in the work on Celestial Hierarchy. Saint Constantine-Cyril knew this work by heart and since Gregory of Nazianzus was his literary pattern, it follows that the plaques relate to theological culture from the Byzantine imperial court, which this scholar introduced to the Great Moravian Empire. The set of plaques with the iconography of angels was probably part of a reliquary. The stamp and printing sheet were designed by Igor Benca, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, a.s. Praha, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset. The FDC shows the reverse of a Byzantine coin, with the portrait of Emperor Michael III holding a labarum (Fig. 31). The coin was found in grave No. 480 (also in Mikulčice) and its head -- as used on the FDC cancellation -- portrays Christ with cross nimbus.

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

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