

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Silver Award — INTERPHIL '76

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

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March 1978

No. 3, Whole No. 378

Stamps Of Skalica

Author JUDr. Jan Kostelka, Brno, Czechoslovakia

Translated by Jane Sterba

In many philatelic periodicals and daily newspapers, articles appear from time to time, referring to the stamps of Skalica. This series of stamps were issued in 1945. Due to the kindness and thoughtfulness of Ing. Josef Bures, I obtained this material and the historical background of these stamps. His explanation and knowledge permits me to convey the following facts.

Skalica is a town located in Slovakia. In order to reflect upon the beginning of the Skalica stamps, we must contemplate back to a period of time when the conflagration of the Second World War was still being fought in distant areas, far from this ancient Slovak town of Skalica. During that period of subjection, members of the Revolutionary National Council met secretly. Many times the small tool sheds, situated in the vineyards of Michal Zabadal or Dr. Quotidian served as a meeting place. During one of their meetings, the members present agreed to a plan—to endeavor to issue a series



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

of postage stamps in Skalica. This would be at the conclusion of the war, when they would be free.

Skalica was liberated by the advancing Soviet Army on the 11th day of April, 1945. The Revolutionary National Council pursued their idea of issuing a series of stamps. At a meeting held on April 24, 1945, the Council met and agreed to issue a series of charitable stamps, which would benefit the communities of Brodske, Kopcany, Unin, Letnicie, as well as other small communities situated in this locale, where bombings had resulted in the destruction of dwellings and public buildings.

On the 24th of April, the established firm of Tekla was approached for assistance and support in preparing the designs of the new Czechoslovak stamps. It was suggested that the design incorporate the slogan "Zbombardovanie a Oslobodenie," (Bombarded and Liberated). This was a very unusual request for the firm Tekla, but the director of the firm was very co-operative and directed their designer, William Krmnicek, to design the stamps and to incorporate the suggested slogan into the stamp design. Mr. Krmnicek completed 7 various designs in a very short period of time. The Revolutionary National Council selected two of the designs and returned them to him to perfect some finer detailed work upon the stamps.

The Revolutionary National Council was mainly concerned in obtaining permission from the Slovak National Council located in Bratislava, under whose administrative jurisdiction Skalica was located and governed, to print the stamps. The Revolutionary National Council formed a delegation under the leadership of Dr. D. Okalik. This delegation traveled to the liberated capital, Bratislava, to meet with entrusted members of the Slovak National Council. Dr. Husak represented the Office of Internal Affairs, while Mr. T. Tvarozka represented the Office of Finance. The Ministry of Posts had as its representative Mr. Drem Rutkayem, who approved the stamps but recommended a change in the value of the stamps. He suggested that the 1+4 Kcs. stamps be issued as 2+3 Kcs. stamps. This change was unanimously agreed upon.

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Fig. 3

The authorized verbal agreement entered into by the 3 entrusted representatives of the Slovak National Council, together with the delegation representing the Revolutionary National Council of Skalica, confirmed plans to proceed with the actual printing of the stamps. The surcharge collected would be for the benefit of the bombarded communities located in the Skalica area.

Authority to commence printing the stamps was given to the firm Tekla. At 10 a.m., on May 2, 1945, the actual printing procedure began. In attendance at the momentous occasion were: An entrusted representative of the Director of Posts and Communications and a Postal Controller, Marcela Pinkal-sky; President of the Revolutionary National Council, Dr. Okalik; an entrusted representative of the Revolutionary County National Council of Posts and Transportation, Br. Vavlavik; and a member of the Revolutionary County National Council, Ing. J. Bures, who was also the technical adviser and head director of the project. Mr. Josef Sorm, director of Tekla, was also in attendance.

Major Celovan, a commander of a Soviet military unit which liberated this area, also supported this project. He arranged, authorized and furnished necessary equipment needed to secure additional electrical power.

The stamps were printed by the offset method. A total of 100,000 copies of each stamp were printed. Upon completion of the printing, a written enumeration was recorded. The zinc plates were sealed, the designs of the stamps, cuts, films and negative prints were placed in a large, heavy envelope. This envelope was sealed and turned over to the Revolutionary County National Council of Skalica to be placed in a safe, for safe-keeping.

The 1.50 Kcs.+3.50 Kcs. stamp, Fig. 1, illustrates the existing friendship between the Soviet and Czechoslovak people in their fight against Fascism. The symbolic figures are those of a Major in the Soviet Army, Alexeje Antonovice Jurasa and a female Slovak partisan, Pavla Klvace, a resident of Skalica.

The blue 2+3 Kcs. stamp, Fig. 2, represents the area around Skalica. A sad Mother, with her two small children, views the devastation of a bombarded, destroyed city.

After the actual printing of the stamps was completed, an enormous task still had to be completed. This work was carried out under the continuous supervision of a team of two members, secluded in a private room. They used a hand roulette to perforate the postage stamps. Their inexperience and lack of skill in operating the roulette, resulted in many of the stamps being damaged. The stamps were then inspected and the damaged stamps separated. The committee supervised the destroying of the damaged dstamps which were burned in the courtyard of the firm Tekla.

Final tabulation of the Skalica stamps issued was reported as follows: 52,000 stamps of the 1.50+3.50 Kcs. value were issued, whereas 82,400 stamps were issued with the 2+3 Kcs. value. Both issues were turned over to the County Post Office officials in Skalica on the 4th of May, 1945. The stamps were then distributed throughout the postal system in the County of Skalica.

The sale of the Skalica stamps resulted in collecting 429,200 Kcs. This money was to be used for the rebuilding of the bombarded buildings, and was deposited with the Revolutionary County National Council in Skalica on the 13th day of May, 1945. Michael Drzan, Post Office Director of Skalica has documentary evidence verifying this deposit.

The Revolutionary County National Council in Skalica also arranged for two commemorative cancellations, to be used at the Skalica post office. Fig. 3 illustrates one of the texts, "Skalica—Vyhlasiene Mieru 8.5.1945," (Skalica announces Peace 8.5.1945). This cancellation was used on letter consignments for a period of 14 days.

Public interest in the Skalica stamps began to spread throughout the entire County, as well as in the neighboring counties of Senica, Malacky, Myjaca and Bratislava. According to preserved documentation, Milos Oliva, President of the Post Office located in Holici, obtained 10,000 sets of the Skalica stamps on May 5, 1945.

A request submitted to the Revolutionary County National Council in Skalica proposed the continued sale of the stamps. This was contrary to standing rules and regulations. Special consideration was given this request by the President of the Slovak National Council. Formalities were waived on June 25, 1945, and Skalica stamps remaining in the post office system could be sold and used as postage until the stock would become exhausted. Actually, in the town of Skalica, the supply of stamps was sold out on the 22 of June, 1945.

The Skalica stamps have become a philatelic collectors item. Philatelic collectors will be endeavoring to obtain copies of these stamps, while the picturesque town of Skalica rests in the peaceful Slovak countryside.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1191. Louis Lunsford Corbin, 501 E. Seminole Ave., Apt. 7, Lake Wales, Fla. 33853
- 1192. Joseph Sedlar, RR 1, Box 54, Vestal, New York 13850 Patron
- 1193. Robert R. Diciara, Walsh Road, Lagrangeville, New York 12540
- 1194. Rudolph L. Knakal, 161 Van Cleve Street, Maywood, New Jersey 07607
- 1195. Gerhard S. Wolff, 3901 Spruell Court, Kensington, Maryland 20895
- 1196. James P. Gough, 10 Arlie Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
- 1197. David E. Wilkinson, 244 Amhersts Ave., Sarasota, Florida 33582

1977 Award Winning Stamps

Author, Ing. Jiri Novacek, Prague, Czechoslovakia
Translated by Jane Sterba



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Official awards are presented annually to Czechoslovak artists engaged in creating the resplendent and artistic philatelic material being issued by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, under the direction of the Ministry of Posts and Communications. The awards presented were in the form of a diploma as well as a monetary award. The Minister of Posts and Communications divided the philatelic material issued in 1977 into two categories. Stamps selected from original designs and stamps reproduced from original paintings.

Stamps Reproduced from Original Designs/Drawings



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



The 1st place award was given to the very well known and popular Czechoslovak National artist, Prof. Karel Svolinsky. Fig. 1 illustrates the 60 hal. stamp, which was issued as a tribute to "European Peace."

The 2nd place award was bestowed to a deserving artist, Josef Balaz. His outstanding stamp honored the Congress of the International Music Council of Unesco, Fig. 2.

Artist Jiri Mikulov received the 3rd place award. This 30 hal. stamp, Fig. 3, was issued for the 55th Anniversary of the founding of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Stamps Reproduced from Original Paintings

A 1st place diploma was awarded to Milos Ondracek for his work on the stamp, "Portrait of a Maiden," painted by Lucas Granach, Sr., (1472-1553). This painting is on display in the National Gallery in Prague, and is illustrated in Fig. 4.

It was necessary to divide the 2nd place award between two eminent engravers. Fig. 5 illustrates the two stamps which shared this honor, together with the engravers. Bedrich Housa's work appears on the 2.60 Kcs. stamp, a self portrait by Vaclav Hollar, (1607-1677). This painting can be viewed in the National Gallery in Prague. The painting shown on the 2.40 Kcs. stamp is displayed in the Slovak National Museum in the city of Martin. The original painting is by Peter M. Bohun, (1822-1879) and is a portrait of John Francisci in 1850. This stamp was engraved by Ladislav Jirka, a very popular and regular contributor of artistic stamps issued by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

"Cleopatra," by Peter Paul Rubens, is displayed in the National Gallery in Prague. The well known engraver, Josef Hercik, was the recipient of the 3rd place award.

A world-wide philatelic poll will be sponsored later this spring by "Mlada Fronta." This poll is to determine the best Czechoslovak stamps issued in 1977. The opinions and results tabulated from this poll will be those of philatelists of the world who collect Czechoslovak stamps.



Fig. 6

Editor's Gazette

By Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402

A DUES REMINDER!

Have you mailed in your annual dues. Regular and Associate membership is \$7.50—Patron membership \$15.00 and Junior membership \$3.00. Please make your remittance payable to Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. Mail to our NEW Society Treasurer: Mr. Charles R. Collins, 19 Empire Place, Greenbelt, Md. 20770.

AWARDS.

Our Society Sec. Edward J. Sabol has been comfortably reclining in his arm-chair in his home in Woodbury, N. J., and at the same time has very modestly been acquiring philatelic awards for his very fine collections of Czechoslovak philately.

The grand award at the American Stamp Dealers' Association's National Postage Stamp Show was conferred upon Ed, and more recently at the International Postal History Society Exhibition he was the recipient of a Silver Award "with felicitations of the Jury." On behalf of our Society, Ed, congratulations.

CAPEX-78.

Have you mailed in your Survey Sheet regarding your attendance at Capex-78. Some have arrived here at our home (together with the snows) and I personally am looking forward to meeting with all of you. If you have

not mailed in your survey slip (green slip which was in February Specialist) can you forward your survey as soon as possible, so that plans for our get-together can be made and published in the Specialist.

ACCOMODATIONS AT CAPEX:

Book your accomodations early—you can always cancel your reservations providing notification is prior to 48 hours arrival time. Here is a brief resume of hotels available in the downtown area of Toronto.

King Edward, \$30.00; Inn on the Park, \$49.00; Delta's Chelsea Inn, \$33.00; Harbour Castle Hilton, \$50.00. If interested in these hotels, obtain address from your local travel agent. Bond Place, 65 Dundas Street East, Toronto, Ont., Canada M5B 2G8, \$26.00.

All these rates are twin or double rooms. The management of Bond Place has informed me if our Society will be using more than twenty rooms the rate would be \$24.00 double or twin. All rates herewith quoted are subject to 7% Ontario Sales Tax. Bond Place is in the heart of downtown Toronto (300 rooms) and has convenient access to all public transportation systems. There are several easy and fast routes to the Exhibition grounds using public transportation from this hotel. The literature that was forwarded to me from Bond Place presents a very nice modern hotel in the moderate price range. They have banquet facilities as well as several lounges and a Garden Cafe. Rooms have individual controlled air conditioning and heating, color cable TV and free local telephone calls. It would be advisable that each member make your own reservations, but mention that you are a member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. In regards to parking—if you drive—the hotel has an agreement with the Imperial Garage on Victoria Street (which is directly behind the hotel) for a special guest rate \$3.50 for 24 hours with in and out privileges. You do not have to select Bond Place but it would be nice to be together if possible. Does any member have any other recommendations? Feel free to advise the Editor. Looking forward to seeing you in Toronto.

J.S.

AN INVITATION!

The editors of the Czechoslovak daily, "Mlada Fronta," are sponsoring an international philatelic poll to select the best Czechoslovak postage stamp of 1977.

Members of the CSP are invited to answer the following questions:

1). Which Czechoslovak postage stamp issued in 1977 do you like best regarding the artistic conception of its design, as far as the creation of stamps with original subjects is concerned, and regarding the artistic level of the engraving, if another master's work has been used as the subject, and why?

2). Which Czechoslovak stamps of the series issued in 1976 and 1977 on the occasion of the World Postage Stamp Exhibition, PRAGA-78, do you consider the best and why?

Collectors submitting opinions will receive a philatelic souvenir created by a Czechoslovak stamp designer, providing that a No. 10 self-addressed, envelope and two international reply coupons are enclosed to cover cost of postage.

Submit your opinions no later than April 15, 1978. Replies are to be sent to: Mlada Fronta; Philatelic Poll, Panska 8, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia 112-22.

The following name was erroneously omitted from our membership list:
102 Spofford, R. L., 4815 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60615

58th MAIL SALE

Again we have a very nice Czecho collection for sale at Auction. The prices below are MINIMUM prices. No lot will be sold below these prices.

1. Two stampless and one old Austrian cover with Cz. cancels ----	\$11.00
2. 38 cards all with cancels before 1918 -----	10.00
3. 162 stamps all with Austrian cancels before 1918 on album pages --	20.00
4. Stamps in envelope (similar lot) but only 86 stamps—nice lot --	10.00
5. BUDEJOVICE—22 values all used -----	20.00
6. Scout stamps used on piece -----	10.00
7. Same on N.V. cover—both stamps but cancel doubtful -----	25.00
8. HRADCANY 11 covers with Hradcany stamps -----	8.00
9. HRADCANY set to 1000h -----	6.00
10. 10h, 20h and 30h superb, all imperf, all signed -----	60.00
11. 3h complete sheet of 100 -----	6.00
12. 2,500 used stamps in two books of 1,000 and 500 in envelope ----	25.00
13. 68 Hradcany stamps all with Hungarian cancels -----	15.00
14. 200 "uztrizky" with Hradcany -----	4.00
15. SPEC Cancels about 600 stamps all with special cancels not all dif.	20.00
16. POSTA 1919 long set of 62 different but some are used -----	28.00
17. Better values (4) Scott 57 -----	22.50
18. Scott B59 (Maria Theresia) Superb -----	38.00
19. Blue "Franta" VF -----	32.00
20. Orange "Franta" VF -----	35.00
21. Turul set 2f to 60 filler, complete -----	25.00
22. 50h Porto Scott 250, signed and vf -----	110.00
23. Legionarske 1919, set on cover -----	2.00
24. 2 values in blocks with plates -----	6.00
25. MASARYK 1920 set -----	5.00
26. MASARYK 1920 set, used VF -----	2.00
27. 1925 complete set (Masaryk) -----	6.00
28. Same on cover RED cancel (Masaryk) -----	4.00
29. 3 essays -----	10.00
30. Essay block -----	10.00
31. Congress, VF -----	25.00
32. Congress, used -----	25.00
33. 1923 set of 4 -----	5.00
34. Same, used -----	6.00
35. SLET VF set -----	20.00
36. Same used -----	20.00

37.	1930 set with TOP tabs -----	10.00
38.	Same with bottom tabs -----	10.00
39.	KDE DOMUV MUJ 1K sheet -----	50.00
40.	Same, 1K and 2K on carton paper -----	15.00
41.	Same, same used on pieces -----	15.00
42.	Dove and Republic Set IMPERF, 10 values -----	40.00
43.	Agriculture 100h til 600h IMPERF -----	25.00
44.	Tete beche set 6 values complete -----	40.00
45.	56 Postal stationery and all periods -----	15.00
46.	Stefanik 60h blue -----	4.00
47.	Same, block -----	16.00
48.	Miniature blocks: 100 Praga, Scott 250 -----	45.00
49.	Same, 100 Masaryk, Scott 350 -----	70.00
50.	Same, 100 Independence, Scott 300 -----	60.00
51.	Same, 100 Scott B158, NO gum -----	10.00
52.	Air, Scott 1/3 VF \$57 -----	20.00
53.	Second issue C4/6 VF Sc. 90 -----	35.00
54.	Third Issue -----	5.00
55.	Scott 10/18, Scott \$13 -----	4.00
56.	10 sets of same but no gum -----	13.00
57.	Boh-Moravia, first set -----	12.00
58.	Same, used -----	12.00
59.	Complete country on album pages -----	22.00
60.	Used but in envelope -----	22.00
61.	Complete leaves in Gutter pairs -----	6.00
62.	Complete PORTO in gutter pairs -----	14.00
63.	New York Worlds Fair 1939 Bratislava -----	2.00
64.	Same, Canada -----	2.00
65.	Same, PRAGA -----	2.00
66.	Same, very nice collection sheets of 46 sheets all together, hard to find these days -----	60.00
67.	Collection of Czecho in album well worth -----	55.00
68.	Shoe box with stamps, covers, sheets, part sheets and different cancels on stamps, commemoratives, etc., all periods -----	40.00
69.	125 covers all periods -----	22.00
70.	Sheets and part sheets used mostly, modern nice lot -----	35.00

Closing date for bids, March 31st, 1978

ALFONS STACH

P. O. Box 450386, Shenandoah Station

Miami, Florida 33145

A Philatelic Tour of Prague

By Mrs. Jos. F. Sterba, Jr.

(Continued)

(Note: Regrettably there was an error in last month's installment. Fig. 20 should have been, of course, the Lidice stamp shown here. In explanation, several illustrations were grouped together when sent to the cut maker, with the figure number marked on the backing. Unluckily a couple came off in transit, and the engraver put them back where he thought they should have gone, incorrectly as it turned out. He did enclose a note—which wasn't discovered until after the first run was made with figure 20 incorrect. —Mgr. Editor)



During your visit to Prague, you will probably be staying in one of the hotels in the vicinity of St. James Square (Vaclavske Namesti) also known as Wenceslas Square. This long, broad avenue is the center of the city and the center of New Town (Nove Mesto). Vaclavske Namesti is the largest Square in Prague and is an important business center. "Vaclavak," as it is often referred to, begins "Na Prikope" (On the Moat Street) and ends at The National Museum. This imposing Neo-Renaissance building was erected in 1885-90, according to plans drawn by architect J. Schulz. Money to build the museum was obtained by a nation-wide subscription campaign, and the building was to be known as The Kingdom of Bohemia Museum. The Museum stands on the original site of the former "Horse Gate." In olden times horse markets were held in this immediate area of Vaclavske Namesti.

The core of the building is formed by the vestibule, staircase and the

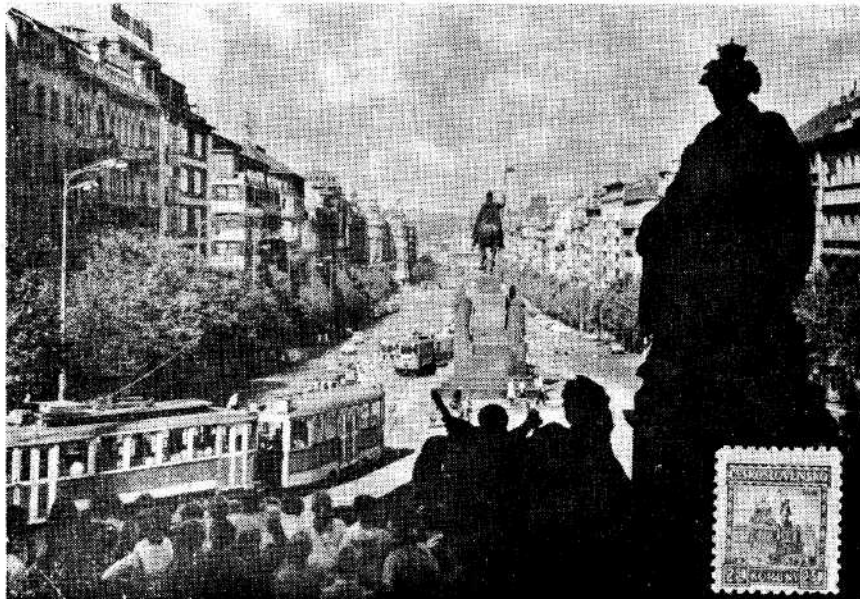


Fig. 22

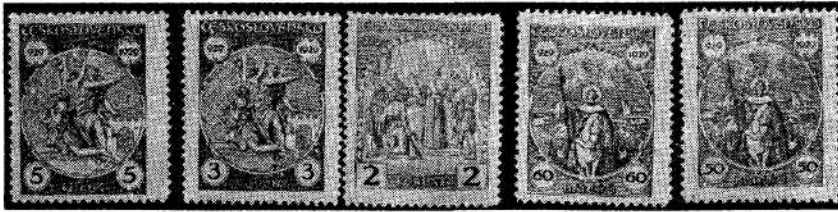


Fig. 23

Pantheon, which is the ceremonial hall used during periods of lying-in-state of the country's greatest sons. The facade of the museum has a beautiful entrance ramp. A fountain and numerous sculptures are located at the base of the museum, facing the Square. The many collections that are housed in the National Museum are too numerous to list here but try and spend at least a half day viewing the beautiful and unique objects of art.

Across from the National Museum, a new modern complex has been built. It is the Federal Assembly Building which will also house the offices of member representatives therein.

Just below the museum, in the center of the upper part of the Square is St. Vaclav's Monument which is the work of J. V. Myslbek. The statue of St. Vaclav, astride his horse, commands a view from the museum down Vaclavske Namesti. Fig. 22 is the view looking down from the museum, toward "Na Prikope," whereas affixed to the post-card view is a 2.50 Kcs. stamp, one of a series of stamps issued between 1927/31. Here you can see the museum with Sv. Vaclav astride his horse, while you are looking up toward the museum.

On May 14, 1929, on the millenary of the death of St. Vaclav, a series of five stamps was issued. The illustrations are scenes taken from Sv. Vaclav's life which appeared on painting by M. Ales, Felixe Jeneweina and Josef Manes. Karl Seizinger was the engraver of these stamps, Fig. 23.

St. Vaclav was the good King Wenceslas which has been immortalized by the English Christmas carol. He ruled over Bohemia and Moravia from 920-929. His chief efforts were directed at spreading Christianity. He was murdered by his brother, Boleslav, who was part of a faction that believed Vaclav's Christianity when applied to practical politics was actually cowardice in the face of foreign influence. It is good to know that Boleslav eventually repented his dreadful deed. The martyred Vaclav became a Saint—watching over Vaclavske Namesti, and is known as The Patron Saint of Bohemia. Moreover, St. Vaclav stands as a symbol of Czechoslovak unity and independence.

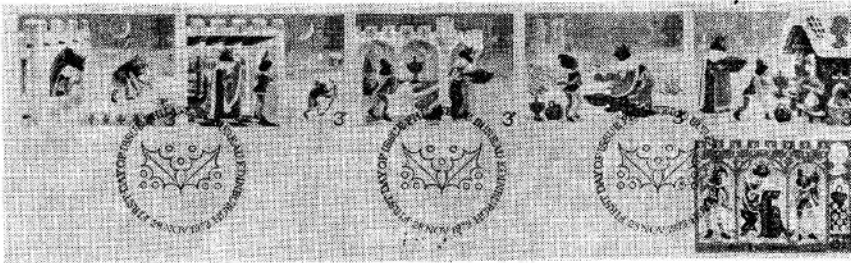


Fig. 24

The English Christmas carol tells of the kind deeds performed by the Good King Wenceslas on the Feast of Stephen, December 26th. Legend discloses that in the cold winter months, St. Vaclav cut wood in the forest and secretly carried it to needy widows and orphans. His servant, Podivin, helped him and it is said that he did not feel the cold when he followed in the Saint's footprints. On November 28, 1973, a series of six stamps was issued in Great Britain (Edinburgh) honoring the Good King Wenceslas, Fig. 24.

In my many visits to Prague, I have found it very easy to travel around the city on public transportation. Most tram lines converged into Vaclavske Namesti. Recently modernization has overtaken Prague. A metro is being built. This project is a joint undertaking of Czechoslovak and Soviet cooperation. One section of the metro has been completed. On Vaclavske Namesti, about the center of the Square, close to the intersection of Henry Street (Jindrisaska Ulice), a metro station is being constructed. This is part of the second link of the metro project, which will be a lengthy one due to the basic earth foundation. Prague is built on seven hills—between which are valleys. The natural underground elements, the stone and streams, have to be taken into consideration and planning in this project as naturally the base of the metro must be constructed on a very firm foundation. Therefore the many existing structural problems must be decided upon during the actual time of construction, and this is time consuming. Fig. 25 illustrates and honors the joint building project known as "The Metro" which is being built by Czechoslovak and Soviet cooperation. The metro and the tunnel are illustrated on the stamp, as well as a view of the Federal Assembly Building, and the National Museum with the St. Vaclav monument. The "Tab" attached to the 1 Kcs. stamp is honoring the success of 30 years of Socialistic building. This stamp was issued in 1975 on the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

Due to the reconstruction in the area of Vaclavske Namesti, there might be some rerouting of public transportation. I therefore am suggesting to you, to inquire about locating street cars numbered 9 or 21. Verify that they are still traveling into the district of Prague, known as Zizkov. There stands the National Memorial on Vitkov (Narodni Pamatnik na Hore Vitkove). It was built in 1927 from designs by architect B. Zazvorka. In the mausoleum are the embalmed remains of Klement Gottwald, the first President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. In front of the mausoleum is a fine equestrian statue of Jan Zizka of Trocnov by B. Kafka. It was constructed in memory of the great Hussite victory over the crusading forces of Emperor Sigismund, in 1420.



Fig. 25

(to be continued)

Austro-Hungarian Naval Forces During the 1914-1918 World War

By Jiri Nekvasil

Translated by Henry Hahn

(Reprinted by permission of the Postal History Journal)

(Continued)

(C) Single circle postmark having a 28mm diameter, at the center having the title of the home port, e.g., POLA, and inside the circumference the inscription K.u.K. Marinefeldpostamt. The postmark also shows the date. The degree of scarcity of the postmarks is as follows:

- (A) common
- (B) less common
- (C) rare

The above described system of forwarding mail to the "Marinefeldpostamt" is also illustrated by a cover (see Fig. 7), which was mailed by a member of the crew of the cruiser S.M.S. Erzherzog Karl to Bohemia. On the upper right is a postal censor marking of the cruiser, next to it is the transit postmark of the Marinefeldpostamt. Both bear the date 27.9 (September 27 1915).

In the instance that the naval vessel was far from Pola, mail was transferred for delivery to the nearest field post of the land army or military post office or, frequently, to the civilian postal system which forwarded the mail to the addressee. In Fig. 9 we see the upper portion of a field-post card which was sent on 10 IX 16 (September 10, 1916) from the cruiser S.M.S. KAISERIN u KONIGIN MARIA THERESIA through civilian mail in Sebenico from whence it was forwarded to the addressee. In such correspondence of the seamen of the Adriatic fleet we often come across transit postmarks of the civilian posts on the Austrian Dalmatian and Istrian coasts such as Sebenico, Ercegnovi/Castelnuovo di Cattaro, etc.

The situation was similar in the Danubian Austro-Hungarian Naval fleet

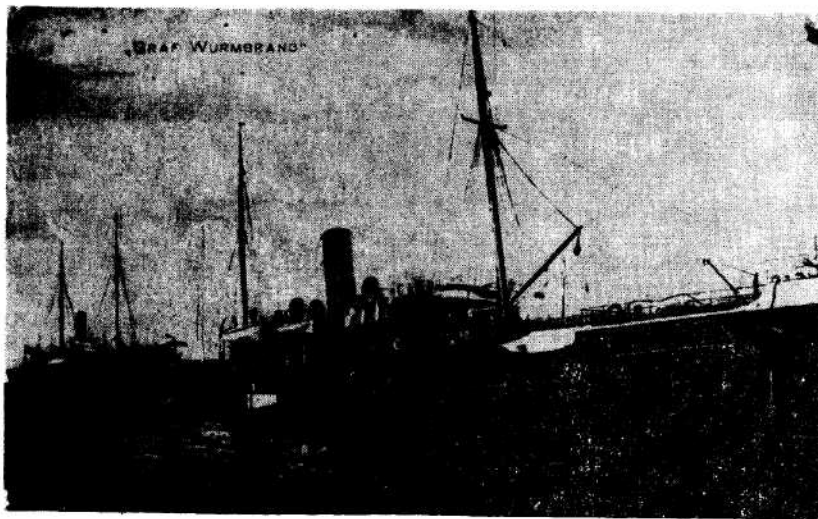


Fig. 8. Seespitalschiff (Hospital Ship) Graf Wurmbrand IV.

which was assigned field post number 299 (K.u.K. Feldpostamt 299). Each ship of this fleet cancelled its own mail with its official postmarks, in addition to the transitory postmark of field post number 299, and in the instance that the letter or card was destined to a member of the Adriatic fleet, the mail received either an additional postmark of the Marine Feldpostamt in POLA or some civilian coastal post office which was the closest to the ship to which the mail was destined. These postmarks, in a majority of cases, are a means of establishing that a particular naval cover really performed its postal function, and that we are not concerned with a favor postmark or a "mache" (concoction).

The Navy personnel used the normal form of the so-called "Feldpostky," i.e. cards of the field post with titles in German or Hungarian (Tábori-Levelező-Lap). The paper was yellowish red, greenish, etc. Even in the Navy there existed registered mail, however, the registry surcharge had to be franked using regular postage stamps. On such registered mail R-labels of yellowish paper with black printing was used. The printing was merely a frame, which was separated from its left portion by means of a vertical line. To the left of the line was a large letter (R); the remaining area was separated horizontally into two portions. At the top there was printed: "S.M. Schiff . . .", and the name of the vessel, was written or rubber hand stamped in the blank area. Toward the bottom of the label was an empty space for entering a registry number. The majority of R-labels were also stamped by a particular ship postmark. Some ships used a rubber hand stamp that simulated the R-label. All registered letters and cards of naval field post origin are extremely scarce.

Postmarks of the Naval Field Post by Type

In the Austro-Hungarian Navy during the First World War numerous postmarks of a variety of types were in use which we now find on field post covers. These postmarks are distinguishable not only by their shape, but also by their usage. We will attempt to categorize these in accordance to their shape and other particulars.

By shape we distinguish single line, double line, frame, round, oval, etc.

By use, we can categorize ship's postmarks into three major divisions: A. Postal Markings, B. Official Postmarks, C. Censor Markings.

Large naval units utilized numerous postmarks of various types and shapes whereas small units or command posts used but one postmark. With few exceptions which will be discussed later, the majority of the postmarks bore the clear and visible title "K.u.K. KRIEGSMARINE."

A. Postal Markings

The majority of naval units of the so-called "Hochseeflotte" (high sea fleet) were supplied with actual postal cancellers having a date, the name of the naval unit and the title K.u.K. KRIEGSMARINE. Cancellers were provided to the Navy by the regular Austrian postal service and they therefore appear quite similar to the ordinary local Austrian postmarks. These postmarks might be further categorized into three subtypes:

1. Single circle postmarks with vertical dates always bore at the top the inscription K.u.K. KRIEGSMARINE, below the name of the ship (Figs. 10, 11). At the center of the postmark is the date arranged in a vertical sequence; day, month and the last two digits of the year, e.g. 15, 16, and so forth. The entire date is always expressed in Arabic numerals. The postmarks have a diameter of 30mm; only a single one, illustrated in Fig. 9, from the cruiser S.M.S. Kaiserin und Konigin Maria Theresia has a diameter of 35mm. The size was due to the long name of this vessel. This subtype is the oldest in this

category. Some postmarks of this subtype are distinguishable merely by the almost imperceptible difference in the size of the lettering.

(to be continued)

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- 1122 Clyde Sarzin, Port Washington, L. I., N. Y. 11050
- 1063 Alex. Minarik, Montreal, Canada H32 1N2
- 910 Bertha Mead, 211 Benewick Ave., Norwalk, Ohio 44857
- 688 Henry Lasch, 11915 Foxboro, Los Angeles, Calif. 90049
- 1056 Robert Worley, Box 261, Agoura, Calif. 91301
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