

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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S.P.A. Branch 284

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## MODERN CZECH AND SLOVAK GRAPHIC ART ON POSTAGE STAMPS

By Adolf Hujer

Czech art has the same tradition as most of the highly developed cultures in the rest of Europe. Only few European cultural areas can boast an older artistic tradition than Bohemia. For more than 1000 years this nation has always kept pace with the latest evolution on all cultural levels: paintings, sculpture, literature, religious life, architecture, etc.

Graphic art is an old tradition in Bohemia, too, and many leading European graphic artists and engravers were born and trained in this country in the heart of all Europe. Let us recall first Václav Hollar (1607–1677) who, because of political and religious oppression in his home-country at the beginning of the Thirty Years' war, had to emigrate to Western Europe where he created, especially in England, his top works. The English nation is also quite proud of the fact that this gifted artist worked and produced his very best works in London.

The Slovak nation, however, did not start to develop its own art until the XIXth Century, and its most talented people tried to catch up very quickly with the European evolution in close cooperation with their fraternal nation—the Czechs. The cultural oppression of Slovakia by Hungarian rulers from the Xth Century till the middle of the XIXth Century, did not allow the Slovaks their own cultural evolution, but once they were free, nobody could stop them any more. Today they successfully keep pace with the rest of European Continent.

Early in 1971 the Prague Postal Administration issued six postage stamps dedicated to graphic art of different epochs of both the Czech and the Slovak nations.

The success of this issue was evident and was one of the reasons why the Prague Postal Administration decided to continue this work and to create a series of issues dedicated to graphic art which might make up a kind of gallery of this almost forgotten sphere of art. Everybody in the world is issuing paintings on postage stamps, but only few of the traditional postal countries give an equal chance to graphic art on postage stamps.

This set brings several specimens of the XXth Century graphic art on five of them. It was engraved by the leading Prague engravers Josef Herčík, Miloš Ondráček, Ladislav Jirka and J. Mráček, who did their usual perfect job again. The set was printed by the

rotary recess steelprint combined with intaglio in several colors in the Prague Postal Printery.

A marvelous set of five First Day Covers was issued at the same time showing additional works of the respective artists whose pictures were used as motifs on the issued postage stamps. These FDCs really belong among the best ever done in Prague.

The first postage stamp of the set, with a face value of 40 Hellers, shows the reproduction of a drawing by Vojtěch Sedlček an important Czech artist of Prague. His "On the Pasture" (1971) brings a lovely scenery of the old times—horses grazing on a meadow under a high lonely tree—a scenery of daily life as we can see it in agricultural areas of any part of the world.

Vojtěch Sedlček was born at Libčany in Eastern Bohemia in 1882 and belongs to the most important living Czech artists of this Century. He is an excellent painter, graphic artist and illustrator. He studied in Prague under Professors Max Švabinský and J. Preisler at the Prague Academy of Arts (1912–1920). He participated in many exhibitions round the world (Milan, Venice, Kraków, Paris, Japan, USA, etc.) and gained the highest admiration everywhere. His series of drawings "The Gypsies," "A Year in a Village" or "The Evening" are works of a highly skilled and talented artist.

The second postage stamp of the set with 50 Hellers face value, is dedicated to the work of František Tichý (1895–1961) whose speciality was not only graphic art, but also painting and illustration. The reproduction shows his "High School of Riding" (1947), an impressive scene of the circus-life—a horse in movement in a typical high riding school attitude.

This is not the first time that a work of František Tichý appears on a Czechoslovak postage stamp. In 1967 his painting "Playing-Card Magician" was reproduced in the very first set of Czechoslovak postage stamps dedicated to the new long terms series of painting-reproductions—another scene of a circus-life.

František Tichý was born in Prague-Smíchov and finished his artistic studies at the Prague Academy of Arts under the guidance of Professors Obrovský and Krattner. However, the economic situation in his country forced him to go abroad and to seek a better living there. It was the time of the world-wide depression, so he tried to settle

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down in France where he worked as a designer in a textile factory and later as a decoration artist in a china-factory near Marseille. After some time (1936) he even joined a circus in Paris to travel round the world with it. After returning to Paris he tried to continue his artistic work under the influence of Pablo Picasso, M. Daumier and M. Chardin. Afterwards he returned home and since then he has been living in Bohemia.

Most of his pictures are taken from the daily life. His early works mostly show street, café or circus life scenes. His artistic conception is clearly romantic. Among his best known works are "Don Quixote," "Don Juan," "Paganini," etc. František Tichý belongs to the most important Czech artists of the last Century.



An item of graphic work by Václav Fiala (born 1896 in Prague) was used for reproduction on the third postage stamp of the issue, with a face value of 60 Hellers. It is the "Portrait of Otakar Kubín-Coubine" (1964)—a well known Czech painter of the XXth Century who lived in Paris for a long time. The design shows the skill of Fiala at its best. As if it were a painting, not just a drawing, capturing the atmosphere of Kubín's studio, with a painting on the easel—a very good choice for this purpose indeed.

In his youth Václav Fiala moved with his parent from Bohemia to Russia. He lived there with his family in the Crimea, later at Kharkov and finally in Petersburg where he started to study art. The beginning of the First World War forced him to join the army, and he participated in the fights on the side of Czech Volunteers during the Anabasis through Siberia to Vladivostok. After crossing to Japan (1920) he stayed some time on the Bonin Islands and finally returned to Bohemia via China, Ceylon, India and Australia. In Prague he finished his artistic studies under the guidance of Professor Max Švabinský and left for Paris (1927–1928) where he painted and drew many of his important early works. "The Black Diana," "Ile de France," the series "La Manche" and "Umbria" were created during this period, but the best known are his paintings "Summertime," "A Farmer's Family," "A Small City," etc. He illustrated many books of leading Czech writers, such as Alois Jirásek and Jiří Wolker. Václav Fiala belongs among the most important Czech painters, graphic artists, and lithographers of this our Century.

The fourth postage stamp of the set, with Kčs 1,-- face value, shows a work of Ernest Zmeták, a young Slovak artist. "The Three Wise Men from the East" (1966) as they are carolling in a Slovak village to gather their Christmas-box, a traditional national custom in Central Europe.

Ernest Zmeták was born at Nové Zámky in Southern Slovakia in 1919. Shortly after he had started to study painting in Prague on the Academy of Arts the Germans occupied Bohemia and Moravia while Slovakia was declared a "free" State under their control. Therefore Ernest Zmeták had to return home to continue his studies in Bratislava. The outbreak of the World War II forced him to leave Bratislava and resume his studies in Budapest where he finally could finish them. Since then he has been living in Slovakia where he belongs among the best Slovak painters and graphic artists. His speciality is the art of fresco.

He tried to transfer the history of the Slovak nation to the large areas of his frescoes and to give the historical crowds a dramatic life. Among his best known paintings are "Two Landscapes," "Autoportrait" and "St. John the Baptist." He participated in many exhibitions throughout Europe where he had much success.



The last of the set is a postage stamp of Kčs 1,60, which is dedicated to Ludovít Fulla's "Lady's Toilet," a nearly dadaistic work of the year 1961.

Ludovít Fulla belongs among the leading Slovak artists of our times. As a professor in Bratislava he specializes in painting, graphic art and xylography. His work is not new on Czechoslovak postage stamps. In 1967 one of his paintings—"The Recruit"—was a great success of the Czechoslovak postage stamp production. In 1968 a set of six postage stamps showing his illustrations of Slovak fairy tales aroused much attention in the philatelic world, too.

Ludovít Fulla was born in 1902 at Ružomberok in Northern Slovakia. He did his studies in Prague under the guidance of Professor Kysela. Having finished his studies, he travelled round Europe to get acquainted with artistic production outside his homeland. He was greatly influenced by Spanish art during his stay in Madrid, Sevilla and Barcelona. Germany, Italy and France also contributed in a marked degree to the formation of his talent. He has always been under the influence of folk-art and sometimes even primitive art. He is very much appreciated as a stage-designer. Among his best paintings we can mention for instance his "Madonna," "Crucifixion," etc. He participated in several exhibitions in Italy, Austria and France.

#### NEW MEMBER

1387 PETRACCO, Genarino J., 6504 Willow Ridge Rd. NW, Huntsville, AL 35806

## VOLUME SIXTEEN OF MONOGRAFIE

Reviewed by Jaroslav Verner

The good news is that the *Monografie Československých Známeč* is still under way. The bad news is that it is taking so long. Fourteen years after volume I was issued volume 16 has been published. Of course this does not mean that all the volumes between 1 and 16 are available to the philatelist. The editors of this monumental work designed the project so that when completed the series will make a logical whole. But since various authors are doing the different volumes it stands to reason that the work proceeds at different rates of speed. The editors decided long since that they would publish the volumes as completed, whether or not they appear in sequente. The editors were correct to decide to proceed this way because, thus, we collectors benefit from the research of the authors much sooner.

Volume 16 of *Monografie* is actually a two volume work. It covers the cancellations of the 1918–1920 period and represents a continuation of Ing. Emil Votoček's work in volumes 13 and 14 of this series. There are 526 pages in part one of Volume 16 and 411 pages in the second part. This volume, like its predecessors, is printed on glossy paper. The illustrations consist of several line maps, a very few photographs of cancellations of piece and many fine line drawings of the cancellations which are the subjects of the book. The cancellations are typed for easy reference, much as in the author's earlier volumes 13 and 14.

As has been the publisher's practice throughout this series a "black print" is included with each of the two parts of Vol. 16. In actuality only one is black, and that is a reprint of the 2 heller essay of the dove issue which contains the stars in the design. The other reproduction is actually in the red-brown of the 15 heller dove stamp that it copies. I have expressed my view of the practice of preparing these so-called "black prints" before in these pages. It is certainly no positive contribution to our hobby to have these re-printings produced. I have been told that many collectors in Czechoslovakia anticipate that these items will increase markedly in value and so consider them very desirable items. Speculation of this kind, aided and abetted by an official stamp issuing authority, raises questions of propriety at the very least. In the case of the copy of the 15 h Dove stamp mentioned above the activity has reached a new low. By reproducing the original color as closely as they have, the Czechoslovak authorities have produced what some might consider an official forgery. Since this practice is seen as an effective money maker it seems unlikely that our criticism will have much effect, but it is certain that the printing capacity of the Czechoslovak printeries could be better used.

My only other criticism of Vol. 16 is that the binding is not very good and will probably fall apart rather quickly if the books are used as intensely as their content suggest they should be. A very useful bonus in this volume is a supplement to volumes 13 and 14 that has been included. The author notes in the supplement that it contains new material that has come to light since the publication of these earlier volumes and, in part, as a consequence of them.

The cancellations treated in volume 16 are those used in Czechoslovakia in the period 1918–1939. The exceptions to the above should be noted. This new work does not cover military or field post cancellation, nor the cancellations used by postal agencies nor commemorative or slogan cancels.

As might be expected the most interesting material comes from the first transition years of Czechoslovakia. During 1918–1920 many of the cancellers remaining from the Austro-Hungarian days were "nationalized" and used until new cancelling devices could be produced and distributed. The author deals with this period in detail, not only cataloging the various cancellations, but describing how they came to be in the first

place. Voroček deals with this period geographically, that is the Czech Lands, Slovakia and Subcarpathian Russia (Ruthenia) which makes eminent sense given the different historical development in the three regions. Certain to be a great help to most collectors, is the translation table of place names that the author has included after each of these three sections.

Traveling post offices also are treated in some detail. Needless to say it was more difficult to "nationalize" the canceller used by these post offices. But even here there were imaginative solutions found to purge Austro-Hungarian forms.

The best news has been saved for last. The final section of this volume is an English version of the descriptive texts for the entire volume. While there are a few summaries here and there, the essential material has been rendered into rather good English. I wish to stress that this section is quite adequate to enable any collector to use this book. In fact the translation is so extensive that it includes even the texts under illustrations that are of more than passing interest.

Any collector who is remotely interested in cancellations should seriously consider obtaining this volume of *Monographie*. The volume will be available through the Society in the near future, but as in the past with *Monographie*, it is likely that the quantities will be limited.

## SOCIETY CONVENTION AT BALPEX '83

The Annual Convention of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately will be held at BALPEX on Labor Day weekend, September 3, 4 and 5, 1983. Following the successful start at SEPAD last year, it will be a joint meeting with the Austrian Philatelic Society and the Society for Hungarian Philately. The BALPEX Committee has promised to reserve a minimum of 50 frames for each society until July 1; after that date members will be considered with all other applicants. You may be assured that your exhibit will be considered by a Jury which knows the material, for it will include our President Henry Hahn, George Blizel, Bernard Hennig, Otto Schaffling, Ernst Theimer, Charles Fitz and Danforth Walker.

The Society activities will all be on Saturday, September 3. They will begin with a Directors Meeting in the morning, a panel of philatelic speakers in the afternoon as a joint affair with the Austrian and Hungarian Societies, and the Society business meeting afterward. In the evening there will be a hospitality hour followed by a Society Banquet. As at all of our recent conventions a souvenir cacheted cover is planned, most probably with a theme common to all three societies. Further details on the schedule of events and the souvenir cachet will be in the June SPECIALIST.

Enclosed with this issue is the prospectus for BALPEX '83. If you plan to exhibit, don't waste time—get your entry form off to the BALPEX address right away. And whether you are going to exhibit or not, DO plan to attend BALPEX '83 for a great day with your Society.

## EXCHANGE PARTNER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Member Owen Johnson placed an ad in *Filatelie* for exchange partners and got over 300 replies. Anyone who is interested in exchange with Czechoslovakia can obtain a name and address by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Owen V. Johnson, 2611 E 5th St., Bloomington, IN 47401. While most of the letters are in Czech or Slovak, many of them can write English, French, German or Spanish, and Owen will furnish a translation of relevant parts of the letter if required.



Dr. Jan Kostelka (translated by Paul Sturman)

### BOHEMOSLOVENICA *(continued)*

Catalog of stamps and postal stationery containing reference to Czechoslovakia, its land, peoples, their fields of endeavor and achievements.

For ease in identification the Michel Catalog is utilized, presumably most widely used in philately.

In some instances catalog numbers for the latest issues were not available at the time of compilation of this work. It is hoped, however, that the description of a particular issue will be sufficiently clear for finding the proper Michel number when available.

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### MAURETANIA

In July 1969 a three-stamp set was issued for the Olympics in Mexico. On the 1.50-Franc stamp Věra Čáslavská is depicted. Mi 373-375.

### MEXICO

The portrait of John Kepler appears in the series of 1971. The Court astronomer of Rudolph II lived in Praha. Mi 1335-1337.

In 1979 a stamp was issued in honor of Prof. A. Einstein's 100th anniversary of birth. Mi 1619.

In the set of composers appears the portrait of Franz Schubert who at one time lived and was musically active in Slovakia. More about him under "Austria." Mi 1613.

### MONACO

For the winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956 a set of stamps was issued. On the 15-Franc value the Czechoslovak flag is also depicted. Mi 536-537.

On the stamp for the 34th annual automobile race "Rallye Monte Carlo" in 1964 the route map from Minsk also marks Praha as one of the checkpoints. Mi 793.

The picture of St. Elizabeth appears on an issue of 1969 for the Red Cross. Mi 927.

In 1979 a stamp was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of birth of Prof. A. Einstein. Mi 1373.

A 1979 set of stamps issued to mark the 100th anniversary of opera contains a scene directed by K. M. Weber, former director of a theater in Praha. Mi 1384-1389.

### MONGOLIA

In 1951 a set of stamps was issued with flags of communist countries, among them the flag of Czechoslovakia. Mi 73.

Also in 1956 a set of stamps was issued with flags of "interrelated" states, among them the flag of Czechoslovakia. Li 112.

In 1967 a set of stamps was issued depicting prehistoric animals as painted by Czechoslovak artists Zdenek Burian and Prof. Augusta. Mi 458-465.

In the set of stamps "National gallery of fine arts" in 1969 the pictures of "Young woman with violincello" by Jan Kupecký and "Study of a head" by Friedrich Amerling appear. Jan Kupecký was born in Pezínok near Bratislava, and for a while lived in Karlovy Vary. Died in Nürnberg on 16 of July 1740. Friedrich Amerling studied in Praha, was born in Vienna on 14 of April 1803 and died in London on 14 of January 1887. Mi 522-529.

In 1973 an airmail stamp was issued depicting the Czechoslovak issue for PRAGA 1968 and the emblem of Czechoslovakia. Mi 781-789.

In 1973 a stamp was issued for the 15th anniversary of founding the periodical "Problems of peace and socialism" a creation of Czechoslovak artist Ivan Strnád. Mi 815.

For the world championship in ice hockey in Moscow 1979 a set was issued in April 1979 in honor of the sport. On two of the stamps are depicted scenes from the games Czechoslovakia vs Finland and U.S.S.R. Recognizable in the scenes are Czechoslovak players Hlinka and Pospíšil. Mi 1215-1221.

For advertising the World Philatelic Exposition PRAGA 78 a special miniature sheet was issued. Mi 1170.

For the 30th anniversary of economic mutual aid a special stamp was issued in 1979 bearing also the flag of Czechoslovakia. Mi 1192.

## MOZAMBIQUE

For PRAGA 78 a Czechoslovak stamp of 1919 was reproduced, and also a special miniature sheet. Mi 1170.

## NEW ZEALAND

Bohumil Heinz engraved stamps for this country too. In the issue of 1935 he engraved the portrait of the Maori girl on the 3-penny issue. Scott 193-206.

## PANAMA

In honor of congress of the American states in Panama in 1956, a large set of stamps was issued bearing the portraits of Presidents of the states involved. All the stamps had the same value. One of the stamps bore the portrait of Brazil's President Dr. Jusceline Kubitschek of Czechoslovak origin. Mi 458-478.

In 1964 a set of stamps bearing the pictures of cathedrals was issued in honor of the ecumenical congress in Rome. One of the stamps bears the picture of the Košice cathedral erroneously locating it in Hungary. Mi 676-697.

For the winter games at Innsbruck in 1964 a souvenir sheet was issued containing the names of participating countries, among them Czechoslovakia. Mi 773-775.

In 1965 a souvenir sheet was issued in honor of the Tokyo Olympics bearing the name of Czechoslovakia. Mi 794-796.



In July 1968 a series of stamps was issued for the Olympic games at Grenoble with illustration of the Olympic medals and their winners. On the 3-cent value is the name of Czechoslovakia's Hanka Mašková. A souvenir sheet was also issued bearing the name of Czechoslovakia. Mi 1077-1086.

In Panama a post office bears the name of Lidice.

## PARAGUAY

In June 1965 a set of stamps "Scientists" was issued. One of the values bears the portrait of Prof. Einstein at one time active at the Prague German university. A series of airmail stamps was also issued together with two souvenir sheets, one perforate and one inperforate. Mi 1431-1438.

In Paraguay a town named after "Jan Nepomucký" exists and its post office bears the name of this Czech saint.

In 1966 a set of stamps was issued with the theme "outstanding writers," among them J. W. Goethe. The same portrait also appears in the airmail set. A souvenir sheet was also issued. Mi 1575-1579.

For the world championship in soccer in Mexico, 1970, a special set of sports stamps was issued. The name of Czechoslovakia appears twice as finalists in 1934 and 1962. Mi 1962-1970.

In 1972 a souvenir sheet was issued with the medals for the Winter Olympics at Sapporo. The sheet also bears the name of Czechoslovakia. A similar sheet was issued for the Summer Olympics at München. Mi 2375-2420.

In 1971 an airmail stamp and a souvenir sheet were issued for the 400th anniversary of birth of Johann Kepler who lived in Praha. Mi 2352-2353.

For the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck and the Summer Olympics at Montreal in 1976 souvenir sheets were issued listing the names of States and the number of medals won by each. Czechoslovakia is listed. Souvenir sheet No. 277 and 37.

In honor of Ferdinand Porsche, inventor, a souvenir sheet was issued on the 100th anniversary of his birth bearing his portrait and a picture of one of his automobiles. Porsche was born at Vratislavice (Mafersdorf) of Northern Bohemia on September 3, 1875. Sheet No. 266.

One of the sports set of stamps pictures a view of the hockey game between Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R.

In the set of racing cars issued in June 1978 the Porsche car is depicted. Porsche was born in Czechoslovakia. Mi 3060-3066.

In a set of stamps for the world championship in soccer (1978) the name of Czechoslovakia appears as the finalist in the 1934 games at Rome. It is an airmail issue of 1977. Mi 2974-2978.

In the sports set of 1979 the portrait of Czechoslovakia's Höhnl, an outstanding skier and jumper appears. Mi 3197-3203.

In a set of stamps propagating world philatelic exhibits for 1978 the 20-g value announces the Praga 78 exhibit. The painting "Cleopatra" by Rubens is reproduced on the stamp. The original painting of "Cleopatra" is in the National Gallery in Praha, and was also used on a Czechoslovak stamp, Pofis No. 2288. Mi 3092-3098.

## POLAND

In 1927 at the opening of the airline Cracow to Vienna a special cancellation was issued bearing the name "Brno."

Prior to WWII a postal card was issued with a view of the Pienin mountains. The view contains part of Czechoslovakia on the right bank of Dunajec river.

Poland has a village named "Czeska Wies" (Czech village) and it has a post office of the same name.

In 1933 for the flight of Polish aviators Fr. Zwirko and St. Wigura across the Atlantic ocean a special value of 30-gr was issued. These two heroic aviators lost their lives under tragic circumstances on Czechoslovak soil at Horní Terlice in the Těšín region. In September 1972 a special cancellation seal was used in Cracow and Lodz 1. Mi 280.

The same stamp was overprinted in 1934 with the legend "Challenge 1934" for an aviation meet. Mi 289-290.

For the 20th anniversary of Poland in 1938 a set of stamps was issued. On the 10-gr value is depicted Charles IV of Bohemia who together with Polish King Kazimierz the Great, the Hungarian King Lajos and King Peter are greeted by the famous Polish citizen Wierznik with traditional bread and salt. On the 15-gr value is the Polish Princess Jadwiga being betrothed by Prince Jagello of Lithuania. Her progeny reigned over Bohemia. On the 5-gr value is depicted Boleslav the Brave, son of Měčislav I and Doubravka Přemyslid. They reigned in the years of 967-1025. In 1003 for a short period he also reigned in Bohemia. Finally on the 20-gr value is Kazimir Jagellon who in 1448 was elected King by the Calixtine Knights in opposition to Albrecht of Austria. Mi 331-343.

In 1938 a special postal card was issued with a value of 15-gr with a portrait of King Kazimir Jagellon. The background consists of a map containing the legend Praha and Bohemia.

An altered design of the 15-gr value with Queen Jadwiga was issued in 1939. The alteration was done at the insistence of the German ambassador in view of approaching WWII. Mi 355.

Another stamp indicating the attachment of part of the Těšín area to Poland is a reminder of approaching WWII. Issued in 1938. Mi 330.

A part of the issue for the 20th anniversary of Poland in 1938 was overprinted in 1940 and some of the values changed for the territory occupied by Germany. Mi 17-29, 33-34.

In 1942 in the then Poland a "cultural" set was issued for the German-occupied territory. The 50 + 50-gr value depicts Josef Xaver Elsner, composer and conductor, who in 1799 was a member of the Brno opera. Elsner was born on 29 June 1769 in Grotkow, died on 18 April 1954 in Elsnerowce near Warsaw. Mi 96-100.

In 1947 a stamp was issued bearing the portrait of Polish poet Emil Zegadlowicz (1888-1941). He was a foremost Polish poet associated with the "Czartaka" group. His mother was a Czech, and he indicated his friendship to the Czech people with the poem "The fields of Budějovice." For the 30th anniversary of his death in 1971 a special cancellation was used in Wadowice with his portrait and also the designation "poet of the Beskyd mountains." Another depicted the museum named after this poet in Górný Gorzen. Mi 453.

In 1947 a special cancellation was issued with the name of St. Adalbert on the 950th anniversary of his death with the cathedral at Hnězdno in the background.

During the period of March 7 to 14, 1949 a special cancellation was used at post office No. 2 in Warsaw with the legend "Polish-Czechoslovak friendship, March 7 to 14, 1949." During this period the following post offices used similar hand cancellations: Gdansk 2, Poznan 2, Szczecin 2, Warszawa 1, Wroclaw 2.

In the set of commercial ships of 1953 is depicted the ship "Czech." Mi 807-808.

For the Great Fair at Poznan in 1956 a special card was issued bearing, inter alia, the Czechoslovak flag.

For the stamps in honor of the Congress of Nations in 1952 an envelop bearing the Czechoslovak colors, inter alia, was issued.

In 1952 a set of stamps was issued in which on the 1-zł value the Castle Niedzica is depicted. It is located on the left bank of Dunajec river and until the 18th century was known as the Dunajec castle. It was built probably in 1325 by Hungarian nobles. In the 15th century it was held by Hussite troops. Later it alternated between Polish and Hungarian owners. Today it is state property. Mi 767-769.

In the tourist series of 1969 Castle Niedzica is depicted on the 3.40-zł value, and the tab has an illustration of the Czech lion. In the same set appears a view of Kladsko which until 1942 was part of Czechoslovakia. A view of the Castle Niedzica also appears in the set for 1971. Mi 2058-2069. Zu 1804-1811, 1947-1954.

A great historical event for Poland and other Slav countries is the battle at Grunwald. In Poland this event is often commemorated with issues of stamps. Already in 1944 a stamp was issued depicting the memorial to Grunwald at Krakow. Mi 383-384.

The same stamp was overprinted in 1945, value of 1-zł changed to 50 gr. Mi 408-409.

A scene of the Battle at Grunwald is depicted on a stamp issued in 1945. Mi 405.

In 1947 the set with the Grunwald memorial was overprinted for use as airmail stamps. Mi 476-477.

In 1952 for the fifth anniversary of death of Gen. Swiercewski (1896-1947) stamps were issued with his portrait, and on the left-hand side of the stamps are the logos of Grunwald. The values are 45 + 15 gr. and 90 gr. Mi 726-727.

The 15th anniversary of the Polish national army is commemorated with a special set in 1958, with values of 40 and 60 gr, and 2.50 zł. On the 60-gr value appear the shields of Grunwald. The same emblems of Grunwald appear on a set issued in 1970. Mi 1069-1071, Mi 2029-2031.

The 450th anniversary of the battle at Grunwald is the subject depicted on a set of stamps in 1960, values of 60 and 90 gr, and 2.50 zł. On all values appear historic scenes of the battle. On the 60-gr value is Vladislav II Jagellon (1348-1434). The original is on the monument in the Wawel of Krakow. The 90-gr value depicts a scene on the Grunwald monument, and finally on the 2.50 zł. value is a painting of Jan Matejka, a Polish painter of Czech antecedents. It is a scene of the battle. In the center of the picture is Jan Žižka of Trocnov. A special envelope with a cachet depicting part of the battle scene was issued for the set. Mi 1174-1176.

A set of outstanding Poles issued in 1963 was issued with the 60-gr value bearing a portrait of Gen. Swiercewski and the emblems of Grunwald. Mi 1411-1414.

A monument to the Jagellonian King Vladislav appears on a set for 1945, the 50-gr value. Mi 393-397.

For the cycling tour Warszawa-Praha-Warszawa in 1948 a stamp of 15-zł value was issued bearing the colors of Czechoslovakia. Mi 486.

For the international year of women in 1952 a set of two stamps was issued with values 45 + 15 gr. and 1.20 gr. The latter stamp bears the Czech word "mír." Mi 724-725.

For cycling tour Warszawa-Berlin-Praha in 1952 a stamp was issued with the shield and name of Praha. Mi 735.

The politician P. Hugo Kollotaj (1750-1812), foremost in the enlightenment movement, was imprisoned in Olomouc and Josefov, and appears in the 1952 set of stamps. For the 150th anniversary of his death a set of two stamps was issued with his portrait in the value of 45 + 15 gr. and 1 zł. With the set a first day cover was authorized and is in the set of 1973. Mi 741-742, 2279-2280.

The cycling tour Praha-Berlin-Warszawa was the subject of a set in 1953. Three values were issued with the emblem of Praha and the legend "Rudé Právo" (Red Justice). A first day cover was also authorized, together with a special cancellation. A special souvenir card was also issued showing the map of the tour and the names of cities enroute. Among others the card bears the name of Praha and its emblem. Mi 799-801.

In the set of spa cities in 1953 the river Dunajec in the Pienin mountains is depicted on the 1.75-zl value. The stamp depicts the right bank of Dunajec which is part of Czechoslovakia. The same theme appears on the 1966 set of tourist stamps. Mi 827-830, 1705-1713.

For the tournament of peace in 1954 a set of two stamps was issued. The 90-gr value bears the emblem of Praha and a view of the Charles Bridge towers. Mi 845-846.

The international sailboat competition in 1954 warranted an issue of stamps, the 60-gr value also bears the colors of Czechoslovakia. Mi 851-854.

The 8th tournament of peace in 1955 was honored with a set of two values. On the 40-gr value is the logo of Praha. A first day cover was also authorized for the set. Mi 905-906.

The Fifth International Festival of Youth in Warszawa (1955) was the subject of a set of stamps. The 1-zl value contains the legend "mír." The set is both perforate and imperforate, and a first day cover was also authorized for it. A postal card bearing the flags of participating countries, among them Czechoslovakia, was also issued. Mi 922-927.

For the international exposition of stamps in Warsaw, 1955, a souvenir sheet with the flags of participating states was issued. The flag of Czechoslovakia appears in the lower center of the sheet. Mi 940-941.

The 9th annual tournament of peace in 1956 warranted an issue of two values. The tournament is symbolized with three circles, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Poland. A first day cover was also authorized. Mi 964-965.

The Tenth anniversary tournament of peace in 1957 is subject for a two-value set of stamps in value of 60-gr and 1.20-zl. On the 60-gr value appears the legend "Praga." For the set a first day cover was issued bearing the flag of Czechoslovakia. In addition a special cancellation was issued for the towns enroute: Praha, Bratislava, Katowice, Lodz and Warszawa. Mi 1015-1016.

The picture of Jan Amos Komenský appears on the "Unesco" stamps of 1958 in the value of 2.50-zl. A first day cover was also issued. Mi 1041.

The 500th anniversary of the annexation of Pomerania to Poland was commemorated with a set of stamps. On the 20-gr value is the town of Elblag where, before his departure to Sweden, Jan Amos Komenský made his residence. A first day cover was also authorized. Mi 872-876.

In several sets of stamps the High Tatra mountains are depicted with the well-known peaks of Rysy, Swinica and others bisected by the boundary between Poland and Czechoslovakia. These issues are of 1935-6, 1953, 1958 and 1972. Mi 301-311, 827-830, 1080-1084, 2204-2208.

For the international exhibition "Balpex I" a cover was issued in Gdansk in 1959 bearing the flag of Czechoslovakia.

In the set honoring scientists the 60-gr value bears a picture of Dr. Albert Einstein, a former professor at the German university in Praha. Mi 1132-1137.

In the set of towns in 1960 the 5-gr stamp has a view of Hnězdno where St. Adalbert is buried. Mi 1188-1196, 1209-1217, 1228-1229.

For the tournament of peace in 1961 a cover with a special cancellation and the word "Praga" was issued.

For the 15th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in Warsaw, December 1961, two values were issued. The 60-gr value bears a map where Czechoslovakia is indicated by the initials "ČSSR." A first day cover was also authorized. Mi 1275-1276.

The 15th annual tournament of peace was honored with a set of three values. On the 3.40-zl stamp is the shield of Praha. Two covers for the first day of issue were authorized, on one appear three doves in the colors of Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany. Mi 1306-1308.

To be continued

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