



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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SOCIETY MEETING AT BALPEX

Plans are beginning to fall into place for our Society's Annual Meeting and members get-together at BALPEX, September 1-3. The annual meeting is an ideal opportunity for members to publicize Czech and Slovak philately to a large group of collectors by exhibiting their philatelic material. Exhibitors will be competing for all BALPEX awards as well as our Society awards for the best three Czechoslovak or related exhibits. In the hope of encouraging new exhibitors among our members this year, a special award will be given for a first time exhibit if at least three new exhibitors participate. Society awards will be made during our traditional breakfast on Sunday morning.

The Society's annual membership meeting will begin at 1 PM on Saturday, September 2. Society officers will report briefly on the status of the organization and plans for the future. This will be followed by a lecture on **Czechoslovak Scout Mail** by Ivo Kvasnicka of Prague.

On the social side, we are planning a no-host get-together dinner Friday evening at a local restaurant. On Saturday evening an informal cocktail hour will be hosted by several of our members. It will take place before the BALPEX awards banquet which will be held at 7:30 PM at the Hunt Valley Inn. The banquet costs \$27 per person and reservations can be made on the exhibit application form.

Information on all our activities will be available at the Society table, which will be manned during the show. Philatelic literature and back issues of the SPECIALIST will be available there and, as in the past, the table will be an ideal meeting point for our members. We would like to include as many of you as possible in our activities, so introduce yourselves at the booth to our officers. Please contact me if you have any questions or need hotel reservation forms. Exhibit applications are enclosed in the centerfold of this issue.

Jaroslav J. Verner, Exhibit Chairman

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

1. A sales and exchange circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug./Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Dick Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Ct., Chantilly, VA 22021.
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 Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015.
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, translating articles from Czech to English, advertising rates and bound copies, contact Mirko L. Vondra, 2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

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

ČSSR's TWO FORGOTTEN STAMPS

by Miloslav Vlček

It was the year 1968. Political events were reaching a climax. Dubček was named the new chairman of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. The 14th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party was being organized. And for this occasion, two stamps were issued on Sept. 2, 1968, with face values of 30h (engraved by Ladislav Jirka) and 60h (engraved by Jindra Schmidt). Both were designed by Ivan Strnad. These designs won the competition in which others participated, such as F. Gross (with two designs), M. Cipár (with two designs), V. Kovařík



Fig. 1

(with five designs) and the winner, Ivan Strnad (with 8 designs). Two of the artists from Slovakia, J. Lebiš and J. Kostka, cancelled their part in the competition. (Fig. 1).

Because of political changes after August 21, 1968, the issuance of the stamps was postponed for one week. But the political situation later deteriorated so badly that it was impossible to issue the stamps even as late as Sept. 9, 1968, although the 14th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party was still held — though illegally.

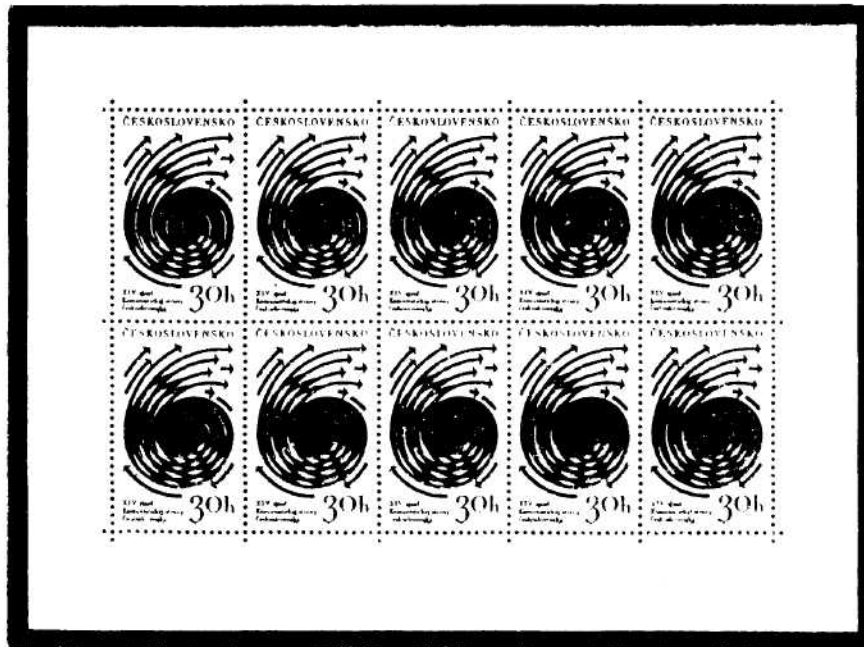


Fig. 2

For these reasons, all stamps already printed had to be returned to the printery to be destroyed. But obviously that is not what happened and some them were not

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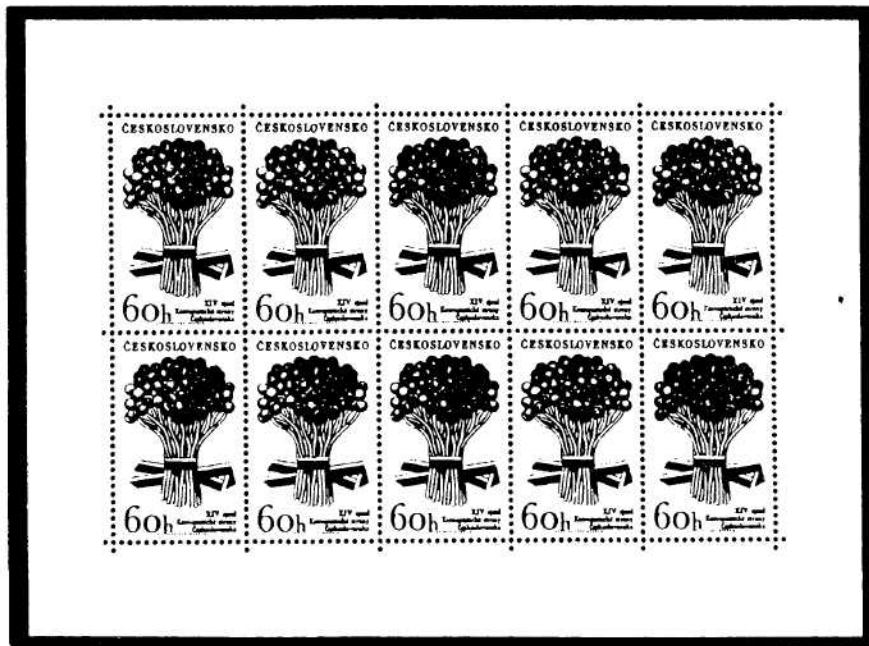
returned. These were deposited at the state enterprise POFIS in Prague and in Bratislava and were forgotten until POFIS was declassified as a state enterprise and was privatized in Sept. 1992. POFIS was sold with its entire central stock and with goods from 35 shops throughout the country to private owners. During 1993 and 1994, the new owners drew up an inventory, selected the goods they wanted and returned the firm to the market with the same name and the same logo as the original POFIS. It can be assumed that they still own the sheets of these forgotten stamps.

Stamp collectors were surprised to hear about the sale of these stamps at the post auction in Bratislava in May 1992. The firm ALBUM sold the single stamps and also the four stamp sets. No ten-stamp sets were apparently sold. To this day, the prices realized for these stamps at that auction are not known. After a long silence, news of these stamps has again surfaced; this time from a somewhat new and lesser known firm, HOBBY PHILATELIE from Pilsen in its catalog "Informace 1/94 Winter 93/94." Later in this article I submit some quotations from that catalog.

In the mail order sale, it was possible to buy the set of 30h and 60h stamps (mint) for a price of 2,800 kčs (slightly over US \$100); the price of the ten-stamp set with rough gum was 47,500 kčs (almost US \$2,000); the ten-stamp set of 30h with smooth gum was 23,000 kčs (slightly under US \$1,000). (Fig. 2). It is not known if the sale was successful. We can presume that it was because the stamps were again offered in the catalog of the 9th International Auction PROFIL Prague, which took place on April 23, 1994. The stamps were offered at a starting price of 3,500 kčs (about US \$130). They sold for 4,200 kčs (about US \$160). Under lot number 620, both ten-stamp sets were offered at a starting price of 35,000 kčs (about \$1,300), which was lower than the one from Pilsen. In spite of that, they were not sold. (Fig. 3 for 60h).

In the following 10th International Auction PROFIL which took place on Nov. 11, 1994, both stamps were again available. This time under lot number 618

Fig. 3



with a starting price of 3,500 Kčs, they sold for 4,200 Kčs as in the previous auction. In addition, the ten-stamp sets of both stamps were offered under lot number 694 with a starting price again of 35,000 Kčs and this time they were sold.

By browsing among the catalogs of different firms that deal in Czech as well as foreign stamps, I could not find those particular stamps offered. That means they have not yet been cataloged. I suppose that the only owner of the stamps is the firm POFIS (mail order sales only) which obtained the stamps from the alleged owners as today those stamps can be sold on the open market for whatever price they command. It depends only on the needs of the collector and his ability to acquire stamps at the price they bring.

It should be mentioned that the symbolic meaning of both stamps was described by its author, Ivan Strnad, in this way:

“I decided that the first stamp should reflect the events called the Revival, while the second one depicts the moment that new life begins. The choice of colors was important. I had no hesitation in selecting red not because it represents blood spilled in battle, but rather in an operating room where a skilled surgeon revitalizes a dying organ by transfusion. The patient starts to recover and his devoted friends bring flowers as a symbol of freshness and joy. These are all budding flowers, not wilting blossoms. One cannot foretell what they will blossom into. This is the motif of the 60h value.

“As for the 30h stamp, who could resist in his or her young days admiring a watch and its precision timing? We know there is a spring that drives a number of small wheels forward, but never back. The best watches are made of gold. Mine has three springs — one red, one blue. The third, made of gold, makes the watch precious and it cannot be found anywhere except in Czechoslovakia. There are arrows at the tips of all the springs to show they move by their own power and will not leave their tracks.

“Putting both stamps side by side, you wish all buds will spring forth into the loveliest of blossoms and hope your country has the best watchmakers.”

These are the designer's notes. It took 21 years for Nov. 17, 1989 to arrive. Now, five years after its arrival, we can examine those two stamps objectively with their political message and without hammer and sickle. Has the designer's dream been realized? Have Ivan Strnad's buds blossomed into beautiful flowers? Do we have the best watchmakers? Or must we wait and change the water in the vase until the flowers begin to thrive? It is up to you to answer that question.

Regardless how you interpret the above quote, there will be an opportunity at the next stamp auction — the 11th International Auction PROFIL Prague in the Spring of 1995 for you to obtain these forgotten stamps, unlisted as they are in American catalogs. There may be more to these than what first meets the eye.

Consider that they are not privately issued stamps, not even provisional or local stamps such as the Olomouc set. These were stamps officially issued by the then recognized Czechoslovak government which were withdrawn from circulation before they reached the postoffice and before anyone had a chance to use them for mailing purposes. A truly unique item!

MANY THANKS

Your editor wishes to express his sincere gratitude to all our members who so graciously responded to our appeal in the Mar/Apr. SPECIALIST for certain issues published last year in short supply. Return of their issues to us has helped replenish our exhausted supply.

PRAGA MUSICOPOLIS EUROPEA Part IV - Villa Bertramka and the Dušeks

by Gerald M. van Zanten

The Villa Bertramka is set on a steep wooded slope close to a former vineyard. At the time of Mozart's visits, it was still very much part of the suburb of Smíchov.

The present building is a reconstruction of the eighteenth century house, mostly destroyed by fire in the 1870's.

The Villa was owned by František Xavier Dušek. (Fig. 1). Baptised on December 8, 1731, he died in Prague on February 12, 1799, the son of a peasant, his wife, Josefa (nee Hambacher), baptised on March 6, 1754, in Prague, died in Prague on January 8, 1824. (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

František was a composer, pianist and also a very influential music teacher. Of all the Bohemian musicians in his day, František Dušek was the most prominent composer of secular music, mostly written between 1761 and 1796.

Josefa was an accomplished soprano as well as an admirable performer on the piano and harp. A thoroughly scientific musician, and pupil of František, she married him on October 21, 1776.



Fig. 3

Both Dušeks are portrayed on the 1.4 Kčs stamp of the set issued on May 12, 1956, commemorating the 200th anniversary of Mozart's birth, (Scott No. 754, Pofis No. 891). (Fig. 3).

The Villa Bertramka became an important center of musical life in Prague for many musicians from other countries. It must have been quite an idyllic spot during Mozart's visits in 1787, 1789 and 1891 — a scene of great resort and revelry. (Fig. 4).

In the set of stamps referred to above, there is an image of the Villa on the 1 K value (Scott No. 753, Pofis No. 892). A comparison with the other illustration may be of interest. (Fig. 5).

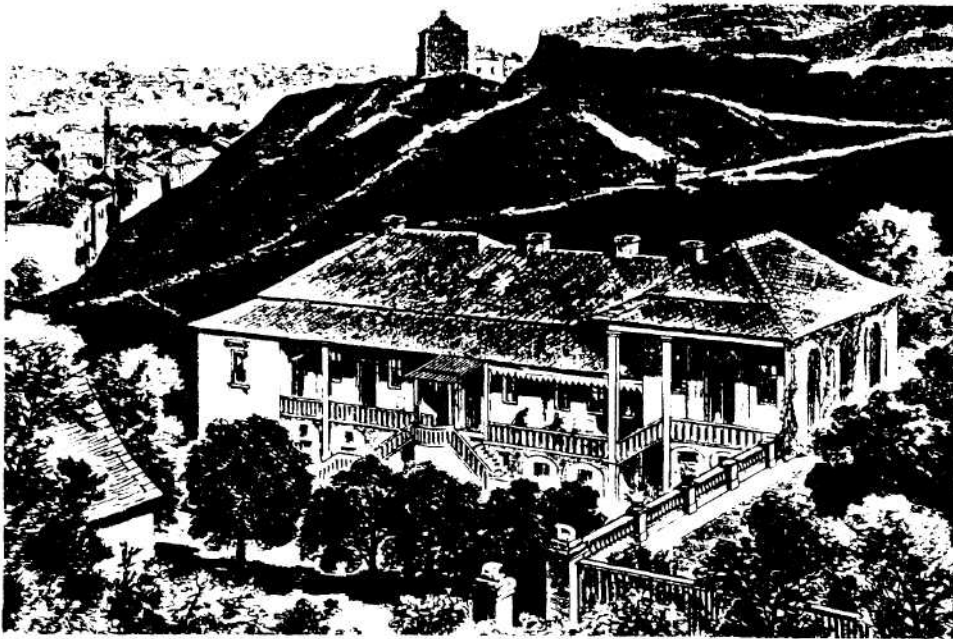


Fig. 4

In a letter by W. Broughton in "Gramophone" magazine of July 1994, it states: "Composers' homes in Europe should be viewed with some scepticism. The VILLA BERTRAMKA in Prague is not the building which Mozart knew; that was extensively altered, if not actually rebuilt, some 150 years ago and there are no known records of its original appearance; thus throwing in doubt the authenticity of figure 4, depending on the date this likeness was drawn. I feel it is an open question, but nevertheless an interesting one."



Fig. 5

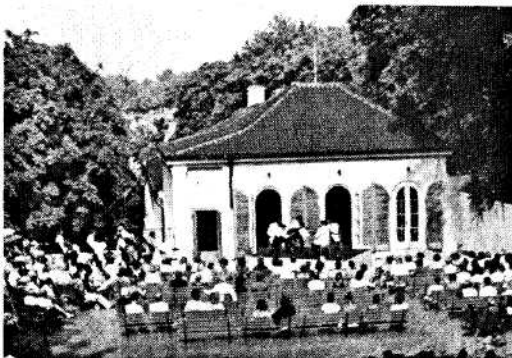


Fig. 6
A Recent View

Fig. 6 shows a regular concert in recent times being performed outside the Villa. There is however no doubt that the Villa Bertramka and the Dušeks played an important part in Prague's musical life and the Villa is still part of PRAGA MUSICOPOLIS EUROPEA and now serves as the Mozart museum.

A TRIBUTE TO BOŽENA NĚMCOVÁ

by Jane Sterba

It would be difficult to locate an area where so many historical monuments, natural beauties and culture abound. Such a place can be found in the Náchod region which is located in Eastern Bohemia. There you are in the heart of the beautiful Giant Mountains adjacent to the Silesian-Polish border. It is one of the Czech National Park areas and is known as "Krkonoše." Several national artists have resided within this locality. One of the most famous is Božena Němcová, one of the first realistic writers of Bohemia who stands unqualifiedly foremost among the women authors of her nation. This is a tribute to her, her life within this area, and to her great literature.

She was born Božena Panklová in Vienna on February 4, 1820, although she was most often called "Barunka." Her mother worked as a servant and her father was a groom. Within a few months following her birth, her parents moved to the Náchod region where her maternal grandmother lived. Her parents worked on the Ratibořice Mansion Estates in the area known today as "Babiččino Údolí" (Granny's Valley).

The mansion's history dates back to 1388, and in the 15th century Ratibořice was joined into the Ryzmburk estates. During the years, numerous changes in ownership transpired. Between 1813 and 1819 the mansion housed many political meetings and negotiations were conducted for the purpose of forming an alliance against Napoleon. The Russian Tsar Alexander I and Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III paid visits to Countess of Sagan here in this Ratibořice Mansion -plotting the history of Europe.

Božena Němcová's grandmother, Marie Magdalena Novotná, lived with the Němec family in Ratibořice, where she primarily raised Barunka. She had a happy childhood, but at the age of seventeen, Němcová entered into an unhappy marriage. She had four children with Josef Němec, who was an Austrian customs official. Their livelihood necessitated relocating into various areas of Bohemia and Slovakia where she became well acquainted with the people, their customs, traditions and folklore. These she wove into her short stories and novels. Němcová entered the literary field by writing lyric poetry which expressed her patriotic feelings. Very soon her poems began to appear in print. She was urged by Karel Jaromír Erben, one of the foremost folklorists of that time, to put into literary use her great wealth of knowledge. The most well known collection of writing is entitled "National Fairy Tales and Legends" and this was soon followed by her "Slovak Fairy Tales and Legends." She was a true patriot, feeling that women should participate in the nationalistic struggles of the Czech people who were endeavoring to rise from their obscure and suppressed nationalism following the Battle of White Mountain in 1620. Her writings likewise breathed with her Slavonic sympathies.

Božena Němcová lived most of her adult life in poverty, and died a sick and disappointed woman at the premature age of 42. She wrote her world famous book "Babička" during a period of time of great bereavement following the death of her beloved son, Hynek. She herself was already seriously ill. She based the book "Granny" on her own happy childhood and that of her grandmother. Those were memories spent with her brothers and sisters living under the sheltering love of one of the dearest and most typical characters in Czech literature — that of a Grandmother.

Božena Němcová died the 21st of January, 1862, and was buried in the Czech National burial ground of Slavín in Vyšehrad Cemetery in Praha.

Božena Němcová had been honored on stamps of Czechoslovakia as follows: On June 21, 1950, two stamps with her portrait were issued in denominations of 1.50k and 7.00k on the 130th anniversary of her birthday. (Fig. 1). Then on Feb. 26, 1962, a set of seven stamps honoring "Cultural Personalities" featured the same portrait of her on a 30h stamp. (Fig. 2). So far, so good!



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Remembering that this outstanding literary figure was born in 1820, consider that no stamp was issued in her honor in 1920, the 100th anniversary of her birth. The fact that Czechoslovakia was just in its infancy as a free nation may justify that oversight. But if the former Communist regime managed to honor her in 1950 with two stamps, what happened in 1970 on her 150th birthday anniversary? Nothing at all! Nothing was issued on her 160th anniversary in 1980 nor on her 170th birthday in 1990.

This is the 175th anniversary of her birth date. Her name does not appear on the list of stamps scheduled to be released this year by the Czech Republic. Is someone sleeping on the job?

THE SILENT SERVICE

by Frank A. Garancovsky

Many of us at one time or another have criticized the postal service here and abroad, perhaps deservedly so. On the other hand, it is not uncommon to read in newspapers of heroic acts performed by letter carriers. Rarely if at all is something written about outstanding performances by postal clerks. Yet they deserve accolades for many silent services performed for the benefit of the postal customer.

As the illustrated cover indicates, service in this case was rendered by postal clerks from the point of origin in Czechoslovakia to an unnamed city and state. "How in the world could delivery be effected to such an address"? The answer lies in the minds of dedicated postal clerks. Obviously there still are some "old timers" who are well versed in memory and work association long before the onset of computer binary logic of ones and zeros.

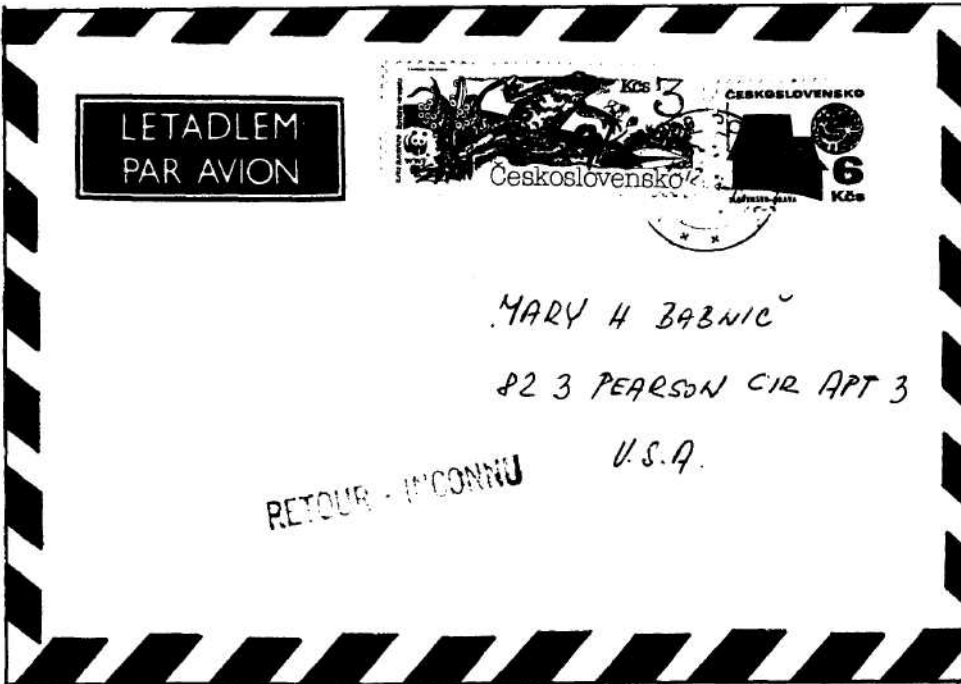
In my 31-year postal career, this type of cover was seen only once and that was long ago. While sorting an incoming air mail dispatch, I noticed an envelope with the name of a family friend. The rest of the address consisted of only a house number

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and no street, city, or state named! The very bottom line was endorsed "U.S.A. Amerika" and it originated in Czechoslovakia. Not being a collector at the time, I merely penciled in the name of the street and sent it on to the carrier for delivery. I telephoned the family that same evening to confirm delivery. Now after nearly 50 years, I live to see it happen again!

The saga of this particular cover began near the end of the "Velvet Revolution". Although not too legible, it was postmarked December 19, 1989, at Pohorela in Czechoslovakia. On today's map, it is located in north central Slovakia. Because of the Christmas season, it may have been posted with other letters addressed to Ohio or Youngstown and most likely written in the same handwriting. Dispatched from Czechoslovakia, the letter received a "RETOUR-INCONNU" hand stamp at a French overseas postal embarkation facility. The endorsement means "return, unknown." Since the letter did contain a return address, normally it would have been returned for lack of a complete address. However, the clerk noticed the similar handwriting on several other letters and all addressed to Ohio and all in the same bundle of mail. Considering the proximity of Christmas, he ignored the endorsement and opted to sent it on to the United States, to Detroit, Michigan. Detroit is the receiving port for overseas mail destined for Ohio and neighboring states.

In Detroit, the small bundle was pouched to Cleveland, Ohio where it was sorted to individual cities located within the Cleveland sectional center. During the sorting, the clerk noticed this letter with no city or street designation. Reaching back into his memory bank he recalled the name of the addressee among several pieces addressed to Youngstown, Ohio.



Mary Babnič is a well known personality in the Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburgh area. He hosts a weekly Slovak radio program for the Mahoning Valley Slovak Heritage Association. Obviously she generated much mail here and from abroad. The sorting clerk remembered the name and simply slotted the letter into Youngstown.

Mary received the letter within the holiday season completely unaware of the fact that the letter had no city or state shown on it. She graciously saved me the cover since she knows that I am a collector. I am proud to share this novel cover with our readers.

Today it is a reader specialist that provided the "Directory Services" of the past, however, in limited capacity. These clerks generally sort and decipher handwritten addresses unable to be read by computerized equipment. But those few remaining "old timers" are clerks equipped with the original microprocessor called the brain. A salute to postal clerks worldwide for their dedication to serving the postal customer quietly and efficiently!

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COURT POSTMARKS ON STAMPS

by Dr. Miroslav Vostatek

translated by Henry Hahn

It is worthwhile to recall long known facts. One of these is the canceling of stamps of the First Czechoslovak Republic by courts. (Fig. 1). This was already mentioned in TRIBUNA FILATELISTU, no. 3 in the year 1937. At that time, if someone required some material for study which was located at a court in another locality, the requesting party was required to pay the postage. The courts at that time had franking privileges only in connection with their own agendas. The payment of postage was accomplished by using valid stamps, which the court cancelled with its own postmark. In addition, the stamps sometimes became the only evidence, with respect to the post office, that the requesting party actually paid the postage.



Fig. 1
Cancel OKRESNI SOUD
(County Court)

We are concerned here with a peculiar use of postage stamps. Back in 1937, stamps cancelled by county courts, as opposed to postoffices, are rarely seen today and constitute items worth collecting.

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THE ORGANIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK TYPOGRAPHIC STAMP COLLECTORS

by Jiří Kašpar

(This article is reprinted from the Jan. 31, 1994 issue of MAURITIUS by permission of the author and publisher.)

This Organization was established in December, 1986, when the founding meetings was convened. It was preceded by several months of organizational activities when Mr. Chvalovsky and his Prague colleagues presented, in basic announcement form in the periodical FILATELIE, an introductory address for those interested in becoming members of the organization and the first meeting's agenda.

The first name was the Czechoslovak Typographic Stamp Issue Section and the Section later became the Commission of Czechoslovak Stamps SCS. After a reorganization, which started after the velvet revolution, it was easy for the SCSF and the SCF to become members of the Organization of Czechoslovak Stamp Collectors. Because of differences in viewpoints, the leaderships of both of these groups could not come to any agreement at their joint meetings on Nov. 16, 1990. The Organization of Czechoslovak Stamp Collectors had been from that time on without typography and the Typography Section at its annual meeting. Afterwards it changed its name to the Organization of Czechoslovak Typographic Stamp Collectors (henceforth the "Organization"). It is presented as an independent subject, and as its name implies, concentrates chiefly on enthusiasts of the classical polished typographic stamps of the first Czechoslovak Republic: Hradčany, Holubice, the Liberated Republic, Agriculture and Science, Falcon in Flight and Postage dues 1918-1920.

The Organization, which claims more than 300 collectors, is financially independent and its activities are guided by a leadership headed by chairman Josef Chvalovsky (who currently heads the working group Liberated Republic). Other members of the leadership are František Hamr (Hradčany), Ing. Jiří Kašpar (Holubice), Jaroslav Moravec (Postage dues 1918-1920), Ing. Bohumir Pospíšil, Ing. Stanislav Komberec (Treasurer), Jaroslav Duppa (Controller), Jindřich Latal (Secretary).

Members of the Organization receive a quarterly 16-24 page Newsletter, in which members are acquainted not only with the activities of the Organization, but also with newest information from the study of the variations in stamp faces and designs of the previously mentioned stamp issues. Furthermore, the Organization issues compiled studies on these variations (plate laws, primary and secondary retouches, printing errors) in the form of either Philatelist handbooks or internal studies, which the Organization's members can order. A list of studies issued up to the present is provided at the end of the article.

Members of the Organization are invited at least once a year (more often twice a year) for the plenary convention (usually held in Prague), at which there are not only formal presentations, but also exchanges of philatelic material and contacts between similarly-oriented collectors. Members of the Organization conduct publication activities concerning typographic stamps (Sbornicích) in FILATELIE as well as articles about Czech Stamps. Members even prepared philatelic contests for aforementioned stamps in FILATELIE (Prague Castle - Jaroslav Maleček, Liberated Republic - Josef Chvalovsky and Pigeons - Jiří Kašpar).

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

The Organization, whose members still include colleagues from Slovakia, are not an exclusive group — on the contrary. If you are interested in typographic stamps, you can also become a member of the Organization with full rights and responsibilities.

For broader information "Issued Studies" (mentioned below) are available from: Josef Chvalovsky, Sobinska 681, 161 00, Praha 6, Czech Republic, for a slight charge.

References:

HRADČANY, 1h, 50h violet, 100h

Jan Kořar, Krušohorská 1653, 431 13 Jirkov

HRADČANY, 3h, 5h blue green, 10h red, 20h blue green, 30h red violet, 50h blue, 300h and 1000h

Zdeněk Ryvola, Strážné 1365, 560 01, Havlíčkův Brod.

HRADČANY, 5h yellow green, 30h bistre

Ing. Stanislav Komberec, Laudova 1017, 163 00 Praha 6

HRADČANY, 15h, 20h red, 25h blue and violet, 40h, 125h, 200h, 400h, and 500h

František Hamr, Družstevní 448/III, 392 01 Sobeslav.

HRADČANY, 60h and 80h

Jiří Krnak, Sídliště VU 168, 578 10 České Velenice.

PIGEON, 5h blue and violet, 10h green

Jindřich Látal, Maratková 916, 142 00 Praha 4.

PIGEON, 15h, 20h I.type, 25h I.type, 30h, 5h T-B, 10h T-B, 20h T-B

Ing. Jiří Kašpar, Sladkovského 2059, 530 02 Pardubice.

LIBERATED REPUBLIC, 20h, 25h, 30h, 40h I.type, 49h T-B, 50h red, 60h, 150h.

Josef Chvalovsky Sobienska 681m 161 00 Praha 6.

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President's Corner**IT'S VOTING TIME AGAIN**

Our Society is a non-profit organization founded on democratic principles. Once every two years, the general membership has an opportunity to vote for those who will govern the Society through the Board of Directors. It works this way:

The Board is composed of 15 directors. Five of them are elected every two years. In this year, 8 candidates have been nominated from which the membership must choose 5. In 1997, another slate of candidates will run from which 5 more directors will be elected. Finally in 1999, a third slate will run and 5 more directors will be chosen. In that way, there are always 10 members who served on the Board at least two years when the 5 newly elected members join them. This makes for a smoother, more efficient transition, allowing the senior members of the Board to familiarize the newly-elected ones with procedure, agenda and matters relating to the business of the S.C.P.

The 8 candidates that you, the general membership, have nominated, include the following:

- 1 - F.S. Duda (member #1672) of Ovido, Florida
- 2 - Phil Freer (#1515) of Oaxaca, Mexico
- 3 - Frank Garancovsky (#1489) of Youngstown, Ohio
- 4 - Bob Koschalk (#1461) of Waukegan, Illinois
- 5 - Jerry Kotek (#1577) of York, PA
- 6 - Fred Lawrence (#1180) of Tempe, Arizona
- 7 - Donna Lyons (#1675) of Simsbury, Mass.
- 8 - John Pojeta (#847) of Rockville, Maryland

Of the above, Phil Freer, Bob Koschalk and Fred Lawrence are currently on the Board and are seeking reelection.

The remaining 10 members whose terms of office have not expired are: Charles Bush, Charles Chesloe, R.T. Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Ed Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, Jane Sterba, Ludvik Svoboda, Jerry Verner and Mirko Vondra.

On the last page of this issue is the election ballot that every member in good standing is asked to complete. Please vote for 5 of the 8 candidates listed above. The order in which you list them is unimportant. What **IS** important is that you list **ALL FIVE** names whom you wish to serve on the Board. Then mail your ballot to our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, Illinois 62225 not later than June 30. He will count the ballots and have the results verified by our treasurer, Ed Lehecka. The election results will then be published in our Sept/Oct **SPECIALIST**.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Pres.

COVERS WANTED

Does anyone have any of the following covers they are willing to sell?

- 1 - Cover containing DOPLATIT overprint on at least one Hradčany stamp (Scott J15 to J31).
- 2 - Cover containing DOPLATIT overprint on at least one Agriculture stamp (Scott J44 to J49).
- 3 - Cover containing DOPLATIT overprint on at least one Chainbreaker stamp (Scott J50 to J56).
- 4 - Cover containing **inverted** Airmail overprint on at least one Agriculture stamp (Scott J15 to J31).

If you have any, please send a photocopy of the cover along with your price requirement to: Mirko Vondra, 2362 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Book Review**SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF
CZECHOSLOVAK ENTIRES 1918—1992****by Wilfried Osthues, Ctibor Sobotka & Ladislaus Kokta**

In addition to expressing our thanks to co-author Ctibor Sobotka for permission to publish this translation and to Douglas Baxter, who has kindly translated this Notification from the BUNDESARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT TSCHECHOSLOWAKEIE.V. from the German language, we are also thankful to member W.A. Page and the editors of CZECHOUT (Dec. 1994) for allowing us to reprint this book review.

At last! A supplement to the reports on research into Czechoslovak Philately! The huge interest in Czechoslovak entires, not only within the re-settled Czech and Slovak Republics, prompted the team of authors to publicize a German-language specialist catalog covering the whole spectrum of the Czechoslovak Entires. The enormous range, however, made it necessary to divide it up into several sections.

On the occasion of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the commissioning of a Czechoslovakia study group by the Federal Research Department on August 5th, 1969, we now detail the area covered by the first issue of the Specialized Catalog. The range covered by subsequent volumes, with publication dates, is listed below:

Issue	Catalog Part	Contents	Dates Covered	Proposed Publication Date
1	IA	Official Postcards	1918-1938	8/5/1993
2	IB	Official Postcards including private printings	1945-1992	4th quarter '93
2	IC ID	Picture Postcards and Art Cards Slavkov Local Post	1949-1953 1945	4th quarter '93
3	IIA	Other entires (Letter cards, change of address cards, parcel cards, cash-on-delivery sheets and cards, Prague pneumatic post, telegramme receipts and sheets.)	1918-1938	4th quarter '95
4	IIB	Other entries (Letter cards, change of address cards, aerogrammes, cash-on-delivery sheets and cards, pigeon post.)	1945-1992	2nd quarter '96
5	III	Covers (Official covers, including private printing, official mail envelopes for sending New Year greetings through the Post Minister, official envelopes with no printed value stamp.)	1945-1992	1st quarter '94
6	IV	Slovakia - Entires	1939-1945 1993	3rd quarter '94
7	VA VB VC	Forerunners - Entires So-called "Revolution Issues" "Fellow traveller" Issues	1918-1944	3rd quarter '96

For the first time in the philatelic literature of a country, this specialized catalog will describe and value every entire (with a catalog number) and every picture forming a series of picture postcards. All previously known plate faults, varieties of paper and printing, proofs, etc., have been cataloged or have been especially mentioned at the appropriate place. Depending on demand, the issue of the first part of the Catalog will consist of fifty or one hundred copies.

The cataloging of an entire in this specialized catalog follows the numbering system used in the catalog "Prirucks pro sberatele ceskoslovenskych znamek a celin" (Prague, 1988), supplemented, when necessary. At the beginning of each part of the catalog is a comparison, in table form, of the Michel numbering found in Ganssachenkatalog Ost 1993 (Entires Catalog East 1993) and the numbering used in this Specialized Catalog.

This catalog represents the most up-to-date research and takes into account earlier standard publications in the Slovak and Czech languages, to whose authors we are greatly indebted. They have made our work considerably easier.

The Catalog is arranged in two sections - Text and Values.
Munich 8/5/93. Federal Study Group - Czechoslovakia. The team of authors: Wilfried Osthues, Munich; Ctibor Sobotka, Munich; Ladislaus Kokta, Munich.
1993. Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e.V.

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Mr. Vondra:

It was with great interest that I noted the article from Karel Holoubek in the March/April SPECIALIST on the evening of Feb. 24. I was honored to be a guest at his home on the outskirts of Hradec Kralove. The meeting was arranged by a mutual acquaintance who lives in nearby Pardubice. It turned out to be the non-working highlight of my trip. I looked with amazement at his collection of Liberation Overprints, arranged in alphabetical order, housed in seven boxes full of stock cards and three albums of covers.

During conversation, he asked me to try and obtain details of the cartoon-style postcards issued to the American forces following the liberation of Pilsen. He showed me the 23 cards he possessed and expressed the opinion that there must be at least 24 because the printing layout was six postcards to the sheet.

Can any of our members help this expert in his quest to find out more about these American Army issues? If so, please drop me a line at 1435 Ashton Old Road, Manchester M11 1HJ, England.

Yours truly,
Robert J. Hill

2. I was very much interested in reading item 3, under "New Issues" in the Mar/Apr SPECIALIST, page 28, regarding the new pictorial cards issued on Dec. 21, 1994. They are called "Historical Architectural Preservation". Two of those cards you illustrated. They are the first set, of which 32,500 were printed. A second set, issued on the same day, was printed in a quantity of 17,500. They were sold in complete sets of 16 and were furnished only to those postoffices located in areas where the pictured landmarks are located. Illustrated here are two cards of the second set. (Fig. 1) Note that these have a small sketch of each landmark shown directly beneath the photo of the landmark.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

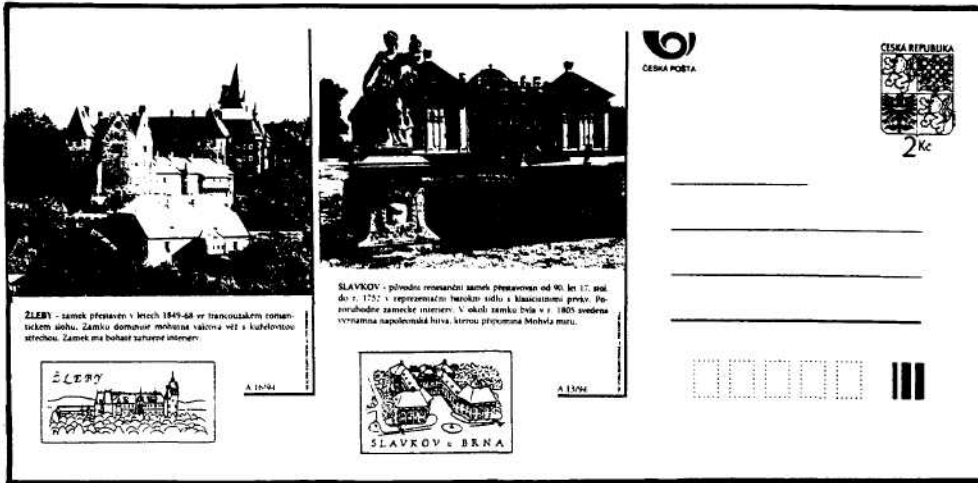


Fig. 1

Thus we have two sets, the second being a variety of the first.

The numbering used on these two sets runs in this sequence: A01/94, A02/94, A03/94, etc. This year another set of similar cards will be issued and its numbering will replace the letter "A" with "B". Because of the increase in rates expected to take effect April 1st, the "B" set will be surcharged with 1k. Whether this surcharge will appear on the "B" cards remains to be seen.

Yours truly,
Savoy Horvath

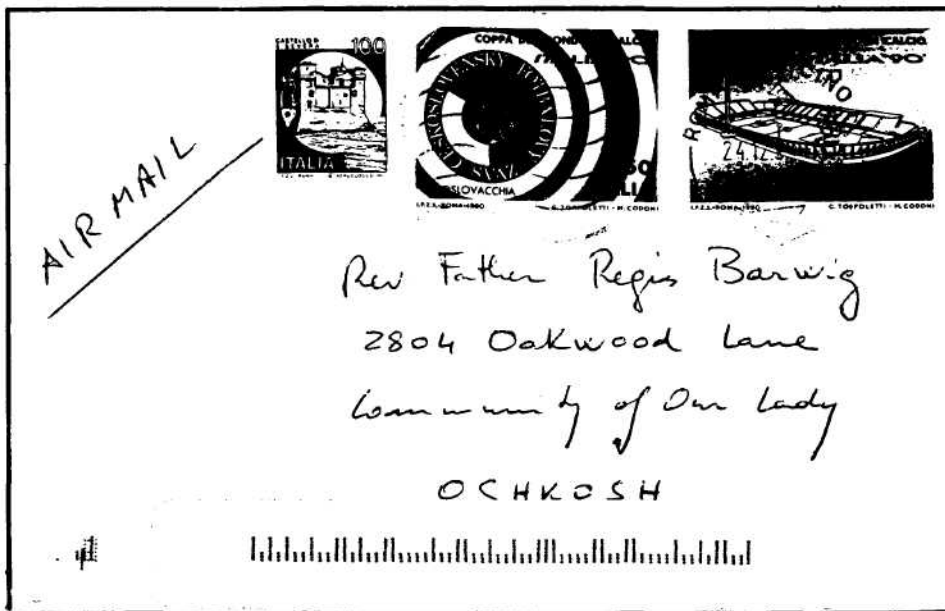


Fig. 2

3. Dear Mirko

As a topical collector, I wonder what has become of Bohemoslovenika? I happened to run across a cover recently (Fig. 2) sent from Rome, Italy, to Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The center stamp with the concentric circles has the Czech text: "Ceskoslovensky fotbalovy svaz" (The Czechoslovak Football Union) inside the black circle. In the lower left corner is the word "Cecoslovacchia" in Italian, denoting it is one of a set of Italian stamps honoring the World Championship Soccer Games of 1994 in the United States.

Yours truly,
Anne G. Vondra

Obituary

EVELYN LEHECKA



The Society mourns the passing of Evelyn Lehecka, wife of our treasurer and book sales manager, Edwin Lehecka. She died on March 1 at the Muhlenberg Medical Center in Plainfield, New Jersey.

Graduating from Barnard College (Columbia University) in New York, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics in 1948 and taught classes in Westfield. She was Administrative Board Chairperson for Westfield's United Methodist Church, Past President of the Philanthropic Educational Organization and a member of various geneological societies.

Our members will remember her for her exceptionally devoted service to the S.C.P., staffing every hospitality table our Society had at the various stamps shows at which we participated for the past ten or so years.

She is survived by her husband, Edwin; her daughter, Mrs. Elaine Pratt; and two grandsons.

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A three color cachet cover with a local contest design-winning rubber stamp pictorial cancel may be purchased. The special cancel commemorates the **47th annual Czech Days celebration on June 16 and 17, 1995.** (See illustration) The price for the cachet cover and cancel is \$1.00 each. Write to the TAVOR AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Inc., PO Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063-0021. A #10 SASE required.



New Issues

(As we noted in the Mar/Apr SPECIALIST on page 30, we had run out of space and were therefore unable to publish our latest list of New Issues for Slovakia. We are indebted to the following members for their contributions in helping to supply the information under this column: Joseph Lacko, Frank Garancovsky, Gerald van Zanten, and Miloslav Vlček.)

SLOVAKIA

1. On July 20, 1994, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works issued a stamp commemorating the 1100th anniversary of the death of King Svatopluk. Designed by Tibor Bárťay and engraved by Josef Herčík, the stamp shows a profile of the King holding a scepter in his hand. With a face value of 12sk, the stamps were printed in sheetlets of four by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague by recess printing from flat plates. (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1
King Svatopluk

A first day cover with a special cancellation and cachet designed by Tibor Bárťay was also recess printed from flat plates and had a print run of 10,000.

King Svatopluk was the most important figure in the Mojmir Dynasty and Prince of Great Moravia from 871 to 894 A.D. It was under his rule that Great Moravia achieved its greatest territorial reach. As King, he was also recognized by the then Pope as equal to all other rulers of Christian Europe. It was to Svatopluk that the papal bull "Industriae tuae" - establishing the ecclesiastical province of Great Moravia - was issued by Pope John VIII in June 880. The FDC reproduces the beginning of the bull as recorded in the Vatican archives. The cross shown on the FDC is from the Great Moravian period and was discovered at excavations in Mača.

2. On August 27, 1994, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a set of two stamps with tabs commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising.



Fig. 2 - French Partisans

Both stamps were designed by Josef Baláž and engraved by Martin Činovsky. Both were printed by the Postal Stationery Printery in Prague with a print run of 3 million each.

The first stamp, honoring French partisans in the defense of Strečno, depicts their heroic fight where, for 5 days, the main thrust of the German Army was

concentrated in an attempt to command the strategically important Kosiče-to-Bohumin railway. In 1956, a monument to those partisans - the work of Beisetzner and Snopko - was unveiled at Zvonica Hill near Strečno. The monument and the inscription on it is a feature of the first stamp. (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3 - Generals Viest and Golian

The second stamp honors two Generals - Jan Golian and Rudolf Viest. Golian was the first Commander of the Slovak National Uprising. On Sept. 5, 1944, he was appointed Supreme

Commander of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces in Slovakia. A month later, he was succeeded to that post by Viest, a member of the State Council and Minister in the Czechoslovak Government in London. Soon after taking over command of the Army in Banská Bystrica, he along with Golian were captured and executed by the Germans at an unknown location in Germany. Their portraits appear on the second stamp. (Fig. 3)

3. On Sept. 1, 1994, the Ministry of Transport issued a single stamp commemorating the Slovak National Anthem written in 1844. Designed by Vincent Hložník and engraved by Martin Cinovsky, the stamp was rotary-recess printed combined with recess printing by the Postal Stationery Printery in Prague with a print run of 250,000. Accompanying it is a first day cover showing the departure of students from Bratislava's Evangelical Grammar School to Levoča in support of L'udovit Štur's national efforts. It was then that Janko Matuška set his words "Over the Tatras Lightning Breaks" to the Slovak folk song "A Well She Dug" and the work eventually became the national anthem of Slovakia. In December 1918, the first stanza became the second part of Czechoslovakia's national anthem. After Jan. 1, 1993, its first two stanzas comprised the national anthem of the new independent Slovak Republic.



Fig. 4
Janko Matuska

The stamp itself is of 34sk denomination and measures 40x23 mm. It shows a portrait of the poet Matuška with the inscription "Nad Tatrou se blíská - 1844-1994." The sheetlet measures 67x80 mm. and contains, beneath the stamp, an allegorical symbol of the original Slovak song from which the music was taken. (Fig. 4).

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

4. On Oct. 18, 1994, the Ministry of Transport issued a 12sk stamp honoring 75 years of Comenius University. Designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Martin Srb, the stamp was printed at the Postal Stationery Printery in Prague by rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing with a print run of 2 million. The stamp, in black and gold, shows the Comenius University medal with a portrait of Comenius surrounded by 12 symbols of the faculties. The medal was designed by O. Španiel. Accompanying it is an FDC with a special cancellation and cachet designed by Dušan Kalláy and recess printed from flat plates with a run of 10,000. (Fig. 5).

Comenius University was the first Slovak tertiary-level institution to be established by the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1919. It took over the short-lived Hungarian Elizabeth University (1914-1919) in Bratislava. Its founding bears a certain historical parallel to Academia Istropolitana, founded by King Matthias Corvinus in 1467 and marked the beginning of Bratislava's tradition as a university town.

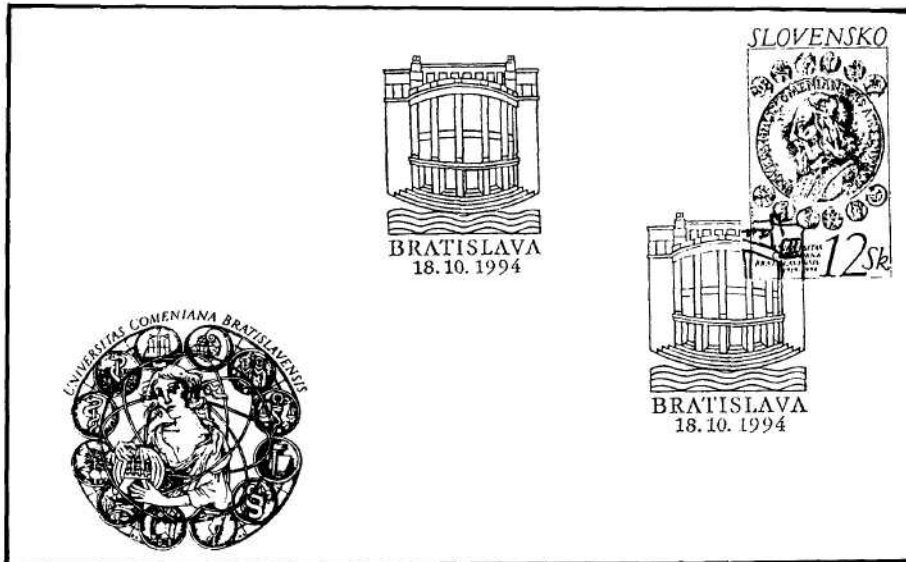


Fig. 5 - Comenius University

5. On Oct. 25, 1994, The Ministry of Transport issued a 2sk stamp commemorating the 180th anniversary of the oldest races in Central Europe - The Horse Races on the estate of Count Josef Hunyady at Mojmirovce (then Urmín), 15km south of Nitra. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and engraved by Rudolf Cigánek. Printed at the Postal Stationery Printing House, it was printed by rotary-recess print combined with recess printing with a print run of 5 million. (Fig. 6). An accompanying FDC with special cancellation by Dušan Grečner was recess printed from flat plates. The cachet features the chateau at Mojmirovce with its adjacent park.

The first season of races began on May 19, 1814, along a 2,600 meter-long course laid out across the estate between Polný Kesov and Velká Dolina. At that time, long

distance races were also held over two routes: Budapest-Urmín and Urmín-Vienna. The most famous horse to come out of the stud farm was called Tajár and it is shown in the lower left corner of the stamp.

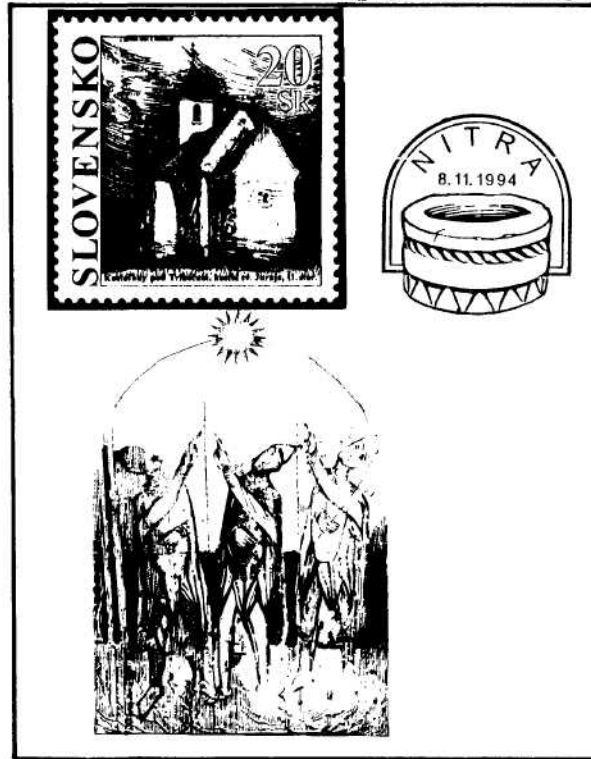


Fig. 6 Horse Racing

6. On Nov. 8, 1994, the Ministry of Transport issued a 20sk stamp honoring the Church of St.

George at Kostolany pod Tříbečom in the Nitra district. Designed by Igor Benca and engraved by František Horniak, the stamp was printed at the Postal Stationery House by rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. It appears in a striking combination of orange, yellow and black in a size of 33x33 mm. The FDC bears a cachet and special cancellation designed by Igor Benca showing the Three Kings following the star of Bethlehem. Shown here is the stamp in Fig. 7 superimposed over the FDC to save space.

The Church is a national heritage monument dating back to the first half of the 11th century. It was built on the remains of a fortress in a settlement, part of which belonged to the Zobor Monastery. The cachet is a reproduction of a painting from the latter half of the 11th century and is the oldest preserved fresco of significant size in Slovakia. The cancellation shows a font from the interior of the Church from the 13th century.

Fig. 7
Church of St. George

7. On Nov. 15, 1994, The Transport Ministry issued a stamp honoring the mining town of Banská Bystrica on the 350th anniversary of the beginning of postal service in Neusohl by the River Hron. Designed by Stanislav Tropp and engraved by František Horniak, the stamp was printed at the Postal Stationery Printery by rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. An accompanying FDC with cachet and special cancellation designed by Stanislav Tropp was printed by offset at Kasico in Bratislava. Shown here in Fig. 8 is the complete FDC with stamp, cachet and cancel.

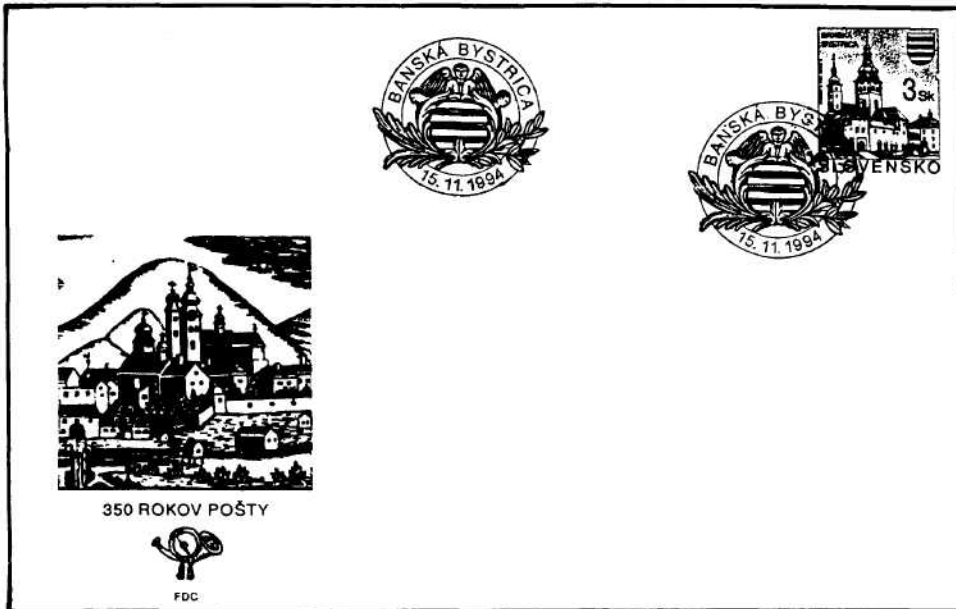


Fig. 8 - Banska Bystrica

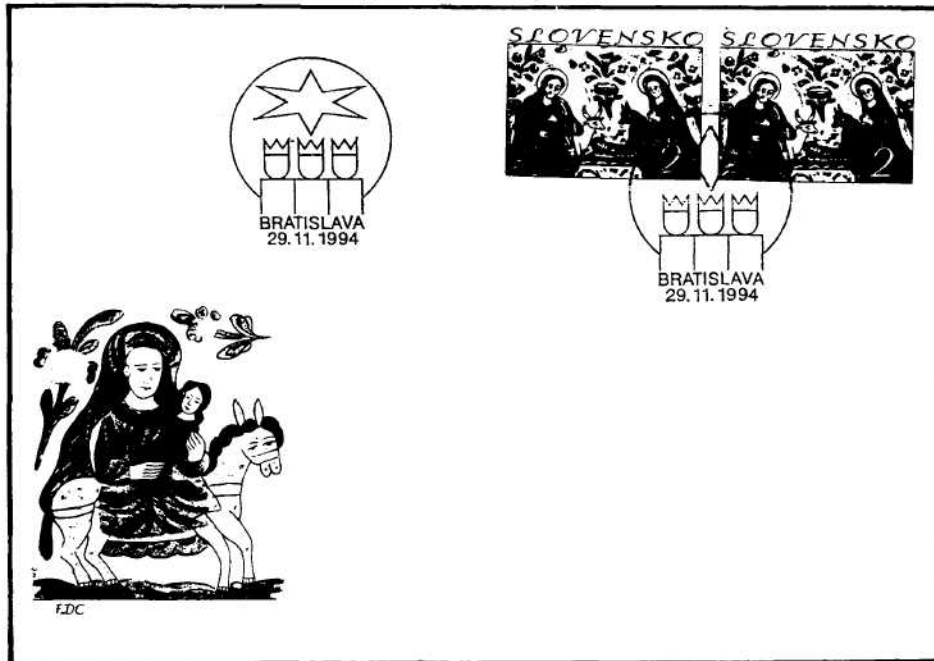


Fig. 9 - Christmas Folk Art on Glass

Originally a Slav settlement, Banská Bystrica was destroyed in a Tartar onslaught and later settled by Germans. In 1255, Bela IV granted the town privileges and it was incorporated into a Lusatian community. During the 15th and

16th centuries, the Thurzo-Fugger Company dealing in the copper trade, was located in Banská Bystrica and was probably the largest copper-silver mine of its kind in the world.

8. On Nov. 29, 1994, the Transport Ministry issued a 2sk Christmas stamp illustrating "The Nativity" as folk painting on glass. Designed and engraved by Martin Činovský, the stamp was printed at the Postal Stationery Printery by rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in a press run of 3 million. Measuring 30x23 mm, the stamp was printed in sheets of 50. The FDC features another Slovak painting on glass: "Flight into Egypt", a 19th century work by Hontianske Nemce. Shown here in Fig. 9 is the complete FDC with stamp, cachet and cancel.

9. On Dec. 12, 1994, the Transport Ministry issued the second in a series of Celebrated Personalities. Involved are three stamps.

The 5sk shows a portrait of the Chief Bratislava Rabbi, Chatam Sófer (Moshe Schreiber), one of the great Jewish scholars of the 19th century. Designed by Dušan Kallay and engraved by Martin Činovský, the stamp shows his portrait and a menorah.

The 6sk stamp shows a portrait of Wolfgang Kempelen, a mathematician, mechanic, inventor and director of a salt mine in Transylvania. Designed by Josef Balaž and engraved by Martin Činovský.

The 10sk stamp shows a portrait of Štefan Banič, inventor of the parachute and honorary member of the U.S. Air Force. Born in Smolonice in 1870, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1907, where he worked as a miner in Greenville, PA. After producing the first usable parachute which was patented in the U.S., he returned to Slovakia in 1921 and died in 1941.

All three stamps were printed at the Postal Stationery Printery by rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in press runs of 3 million and with accompanying FDC's. (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10
Sofer, Kempelen and Banič

10. On Dec. 15, 1994, the Transport Ministry issued two stamps in the Art on Stamps series. They comprise the 7sk Janko Alexy stamp and the 14sk Vincent Hložník stamp.

Janko Alexy (1894-1970) was a contemporary artist born in Svedernik (Žilina district) who studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague under Bukova, Pirner and Max Svabinsky. He worked in Martin, Piešťany and Bratislava. His work titled "Girls" is the subject of the 7sk stamp. The stamp picture measures 50x40 mm. (Fig. 11). It was designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The accompanying FDC with special cancellation and cachet was designed by Martin Činovský.



Fig. 11
J. Alexy



Fig. 12
V. Hložník

Vincent Hložník is a contemporary artist born in 1919. After studying at the School of Applied Arts in Prague, he returned to his native Slovakia where he first exhibited his paintings in Bratislava in 1942. He was head of the Department of Graphic Arts and Rector at the Fine Arts College in Bratislava from 1960 to 1964. He designed the sheetlet for the Janko Matuška stamp issued by the Ministry on Sept. 1, 1994. (See item 3). His painting shown on the 14sk stamp was laid out by Martin Činovský and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The stamp picture measures 40x50 mm. (Fig. 12).



Fig. 13

Both stamps were printed by the Postal Stationery Printery in five-color recess printing from flat plates in miniature sheets of 4 stamps and two blank margins in press runs of 400,000. Accompanying FDC's were designed by the respective artists and engraved by Josef Hercik.

11. On Dec. 30, 1994, the Transport Ministry issued a set of three stamps honoring the Slovak Shipyards at Komárno. The 5sk stamp shows a cargo ship of the EMS type leaving the docks. The 8sk stamp depicts a cargo ship of the Rýn type on the seas. The 10sk stamp shows a late-model passenger vessel of the Rostock type.

Designed by Julia Bukova and engraved by Martin Činovský, the stamps were printed by the Postal Stationery Printery by rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in print runs of 5 million each. Each stamp measures 40x23 mm. (Fig. 13)

Accompanying the three stamps is a single FDC with special cancellation and cachet designed by Julia Buková and engraved by Martin Činovský and printed by recess printing from flat plates with runs of 10,000.

(The New Issues of the Czech Republic will appear in the next issue of SPECIALIST.)

Obituary

MRS. L. V. FISCHMEISTER

The Society deeply regrets the passing of Mrs. L. V. Fischmeister, M.S.L.S., formerly Maria Mašková of Czechoslovakia who, after many years of suffering, died on Jan. 18, 1995. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Ladislav Fischmeister, a member of long standing. Our condolences go out to Dr. Fischmeister.

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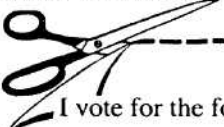
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VOTING BALLOT

I vote for the following five candidates to serve on the Board of Directors of the S.C.P. starting later this year:

- 1. _____ 3. _____
- 2. _____ 4. _____
- 5. _____

Signed _____ Member Number _____

Mail to: _____ Date _____

Mr. R. T. Cossaboom Jr., Secretary
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