



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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ELECTION RESULTS AND BALPEX

Our President, Ludvik Svoboda, and our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, are happy to announce that the election of members to the Board of Directors is now over. (See May/June 1995 SPECIALIST, page 15). The results show the following have been elected to serve on the Board for the next six years:

1. Bob Koschalk
2. Phillips Freer
3. Fred Lawrence
4. Donna Lyons
5. Frank Garancovsky

What makes the election especially gratifying is that the voter turnout was the highest it has been in many years.

The President and the entire current Board along with the Editorial Staff congratulate the elected members and wish them a successful and satisfying tenure.

This issue of the SPECIALIST was mailed out early not only to apprise our membership of the election results, but to remind them that the Society is participating at the BALPEX show with a full program of activities and a general members' meeting. (See May/June issue, page 1). The show takes place at the Hunt Valley Inn in Cockeysville, MD, on Sept. 1, 2 and 3. We look forward to seeing most of you there.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Articles</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Praga Musicopolis Europea Part V	Gerald M. van Zanten	3
2. War Artist - Jindrich Krecek (Jitus)	W.A. Page	10
3. The First Railroad in Bohemia	Miroslav Vostatek	14
4. A Philatelic Tour of Legendary Prague Part 2	Michele M. Patrick	16
5. Current Printer's Waste	Miloslav Vlček	22
<i>Columns</i>		
6. New Issues - Czech Republic		25
7. New Issues - Slovakia		27

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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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PRAGA MUSICOPOLIS EUROPEA PART V

by Gerald M. van Zanten

Tuesday, September 6, 1988, was a beautiful day in Prague, a day perfect for visiting the Valdštejn gardens in the morning, some shopping in the afternoon and concluding the day with a visit to the National Theatre with our very good friend, Adolf Hujer, to Janaček's opera "The Excursions of Mr. Brouček". We went early, thus giving us time to have a good look at the interior of the Theatre before the show.

For the interior of the National Theatre, the architect Josef Zíték (1832-1909) secured many outstanding artists, among them the sculptor Josef Václav Myslivek (1848-1922) (Fig. 1, Scott No. 524). This bronze self portrait dates from 1902-1903. The stamp was issued in 1952 and measures 29x22mm. Painters Mikoláš Aleš (1852-1925) (Fig. 2, Scott No. 547), Julius Mařák (1832-1899), Václav Brožík (1851-1901), František Zenišek (1849-1916) as well as many others, were known as the "National Theatre Generation". Works of these artists may be admired on a tour around the Theatre. Fortunately, if you are unable to be there, a number of stamps will give at least some idea of the splendor inside.



Fig. 1

After extensive renovations, commencing April 2, 1977 and completed 6½ years later on November 18, 1983, the Theatre reopened to the sound of Smetana's "Libuše". This was also the day that five stamps, showing interior scenes of the theatre, were issued to commemorate this very important event.



Fig. 2

Let us have a closer look at this splendid set issued in sheets of four stamps with a pictorial strip in the center of each sheetlet. The first stamp, with a 1K denomination, shows a detail of ZALOV by Mikoláš Aleš. The original was an Indian ink drawing dating from 1880, measuring 143x280mm and situated in the West Bohemian Gallery, Plzeň. It shows a colored sketch for the 14th part of the cycle "Ma Vlast" as the final part of the cycle, where Morana, the goddess of death, points the hero on the path toward the cemetery (Fig. 3, Scott No. 2482). The cachet on the FDC shows another scene from the same cycle, which also appears in the gutter of this block and was later employed for the 1988 New Year's card sent to PRAGA '88 exhibitors (Fig. 4).

The second stamp with a value of 2Kčs depicts an allegorical figure, a small detail of the theatre's curtain (Fig. 5, Scott No. 2483), which measures 1120x1270mm and dates from 1883, the work of Hynais. It represents the allegory of the Theatre being built with the co-operation of the whole nation. Painted in Paris, the composition and design supports Hynais's interpretation of refined decorative painting. Inspired by the Paris School, he was recalled from there for this task which took him from August to October 1883 to complete. Hynais also designed the staircase and boudoir of the Royal box. As a matter of interest, the same allegorical

figure was used on March 25, 1963 on a 60h stamp, where the figure was superimposed on a background of the National Theatre (Fig. 6, Scott No. 1162). The cachet on the FDC shows another detail, this time from the extreme right of the curtain (Fig. 7). Fig. 8 shows the center portion of the curtain. In the summer of 1977, the curtain was removed from the theatre for restoration. It was rolled up on a protective foil and taken to the Barrandov film studios, which provided sufficient room to work on it. The restoration took twice as long as it had taken Hynais to paint.

The 3kčs stamp titled "Music and Lyrics" was originally charcoal on carton, dating from about 1879-1880 and measuring 126x61mm (Fig. 9, Scott No. 2484). Ženišek was entrusted with the decoration of the theatre on the basis of competition held in 1877. He sketched the cartons, from which the painter Roubalik painted the allegorical figure "Muse" on the ceiling. After the fire, Ženišek produced new pictures based on the original cartons, this time with oil on canvas depicting the eight kinds of Art: architecture, sculpture, painting, music, dance, lyrics, and mimicry. All these are situated around and above the large chandelier (Fig. 10). The cachet on the FDC depicts Josef Václav Myslbek's statue "Music" in the Theatre (Fig. 11). The same image also appears on the 8Kčs stamp in the Myslbek set of three under the title of "HUDBA" (Music)— (Fig. 12A, Scott No. 525), whereas the photo shows the actual statue in the Theatre (Fig. 12).

The 4Kčs stamp depicts a detail of "PRAHA" by Václav Brožík (Fig. 13, Scott No. 2484), who was also recalled from Paris to assist with the interior decoration of the Theatre. During 1883, he produced richly composed pictures of the ruling families –



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Přemysl, Luxemburghs and Hapsburgs - under the name "THREE PERIODS OF THE CZECH LANDS". Between the windows, he placed the Royal Prague allegory - a Majestic Woman sitting on her throne, with the crown, sceptre and shield of Prague. Around her are the symbols of Art-Music-Painting-Sculpture and Architecture. In the background is Hradčany Castle and Church of St. Mikuláš in the Mala Strana quarter of Prague. The picture is painted with a great sense of pathos and accuracy for detail.

The 5Kčs stamp depicts a detail of Hradčany by Julius Mařák (Fig. 14). The original, oil on canvas of 1882 measures 72x117cm (Fig. 15, Scott No. 3486). Mařák produced nine views of outstanding places in Czech history, situated in the ex-Royal, now Marak painted the Hradčany panorama from the direction of Opyše.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

He was thus able to show Dalibor, Lobkovice Castle and the silhouettes of St. Vitus and St. George Cathedrals. In the center of the gutter, we see a relief sculpture by Bohuslav Schnirch (1845-1901) (Fig. 16).

In addition to the above, many busts may be found in the foyer and corridors. Shown here is the one of Smetana (Fig. 17). Also illustrated is the detail of Vojtech Hynais' painting "SPRING" (Fig. 18), which is part of the cycle "THE FOUR SEASONS" decorating the ladies salon of the Royal box. Fig 19 shows the Ladies' salon with paintings by Hynais. The foyer of the first gallery decorated by Vincenc Beneš, clearly shows Mount Říp in Fig. 20. My wife, Val, and I were indeed pleased with our visit to learn about the interior of Národní Divadlo with the help of our knowledgeable friend, the late Adolf Hujer.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12a



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

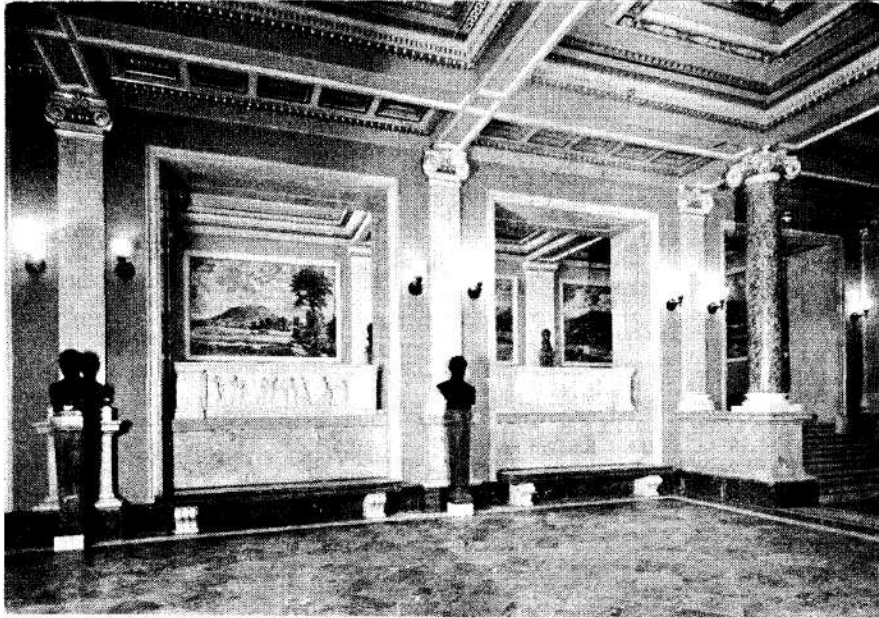


Fig. 19



Fig. 20

WAR ARTIST - JINDŘICH KŘEČEK (Jituš)

by W. A. Page FRPS,L

Jindřich Křeček was born on March 7, 1909 in Červený Kostelec and, as with many artists, his talents emerged at High School (in Úpici). He received recommendation for further studies at the Academy but his destiny was to be apprenticed to a cabinet maker, later to become a furniture designer and draftsman in Královčíně u Turnova. His last job, back at Červený Kostelec, was as a retoucher at a printery, where he became involved in producing political caricatures.

He was forced into hiding and had to flee from Nazi oppression, first to Poland, then on to the Soviet Union and eventually to Turkey. Here he was to await transport to the Middle East with other Czechoslovak soldiers. It was in Turkey that his artistic flair was rediscovered by Colonel Svoboda, and he was earmarked for special duties.

On arrival in the Middle East, he joined the editorial staff of the Czechoslovak Forces newspaper "ZPRAVODAJ", (Fig. 1) the Daily News of the Czechoslovak Contingent in the Middle East.



Fig. 1

His role of technical editor and illustrator provided a further opportunity for displaying him as a caricaturist (Fig. 2). He was also involved with Polish designers in organizing exhibitions in Jerusalem in 1941 & 1942, which is where he adopted the 'Nom-de-Plume' "Jituš" in deference to the safety of his family back in the homeland.

Sometime in 1942/1943, he received a request from the Czechoslovak Forces Mission in Jerusalem to prepare a design for a stamp for the Czechoslovak Forces in the Middle East. It is said that his inspiration for a design came from the then existing Egyptian Forces stamp, with its Sphinx and pyramid showing a soldier and camp with palm trees in the background. The stamp, however, did not materialize and the design was never completed. This was possibly due to the then planned withdrawal of the Czechoslovak contingent from the

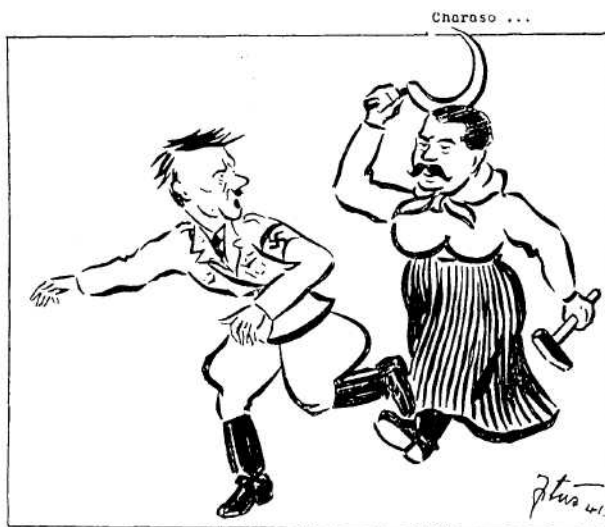


Fig. 2

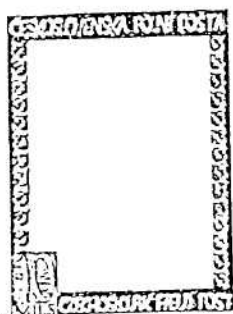


Fig. 3

Middle East in 1943 (Fig. 3). On his arrival in Great Britain, Jindřich Krecek worked with the Czechoslovak Daily Newspaper "NASE NOVINY" and with the Army Publicity Unit. Here he soon became involved in preparing designs for the proposed commemorative postal handstamps.

His first accepted design was for the National Day of Mourning commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Nazi occupation March 12, 1943 (Fig. 4), following the rejection of the design prepared by Dolfa Bartošik, who had been responsible for many earlier special handstamps. (See SPECIALIST May/June 1992, p.10) This canceller was the first of seven designs and accepted from "Jituš" up to the time that the Czechoslovak Independent Armored Brigade left

Britain for Europe in August 1944. The other cancellations are illustrated in Fig. 5.

The Brigade arrived in the Dunkirk area in October 1944 where it was to remain until the end of the war - containing the German pocket of resistance. During this period additional commemorative cancellers were not produced but sometimes the regular fieldpost handstamp was used in red ink. Nevertheless Kreček's work was still evident and the issue of NASE NOVINY on Oct. 28, 1944 (National Day) was profusely illustrated by Kreček. Its link to the fieldpost was that each copy was stamped in red with a standard fieldpost canceller - the alternative handstamp code 'B', rather than code 'A' stamp normally found on active service mail at the time (Fig. 6).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

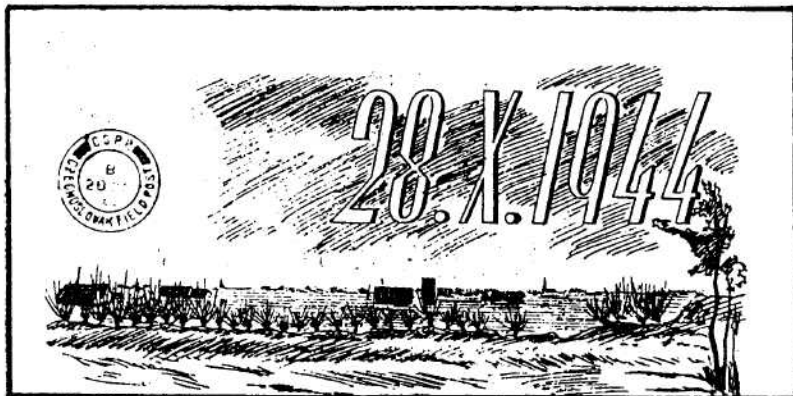


Fig. 6

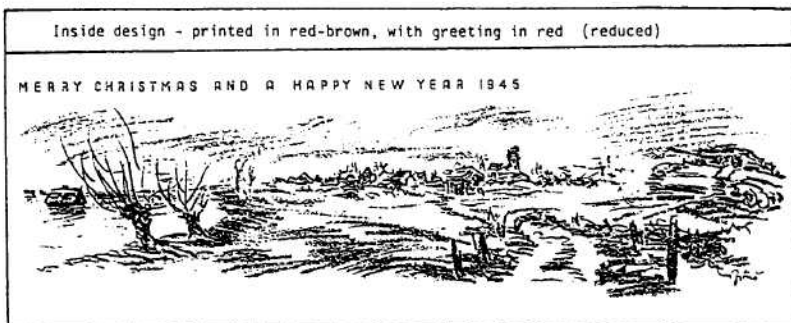
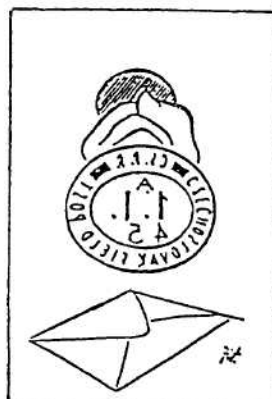


Fig. 7

(Includes all four illustrations on bottom half of page)



1944



1945

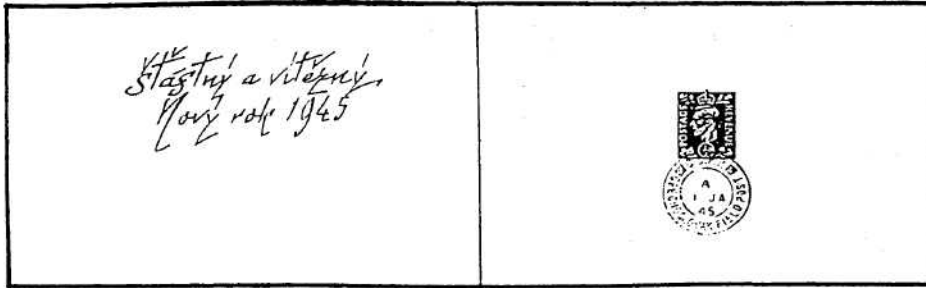


Fig. 8

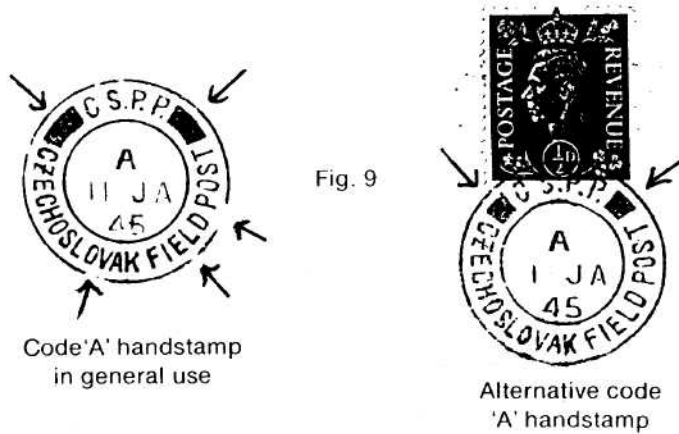


Fig. 9

The arrival of the festival season provided another opportunity for Křeček, who prepared a special Christmas/New Year card for use by the Czechoslovak Army. The text was added in English and the "B.L.A." indicated that the Czechoslovak Independent Armored Brigade was an element of the overall British Liberation Army (Fig. 7).

Finally, his design for a New Year's Card for 1945 with the text — "Ceskoslovenska polni pošta přeje" (The Czechoslovak Field Post wishes...) and inside, the message continued ... "šťastný a vítězný Nový rok 1945" (Happy and Victorious New Year 1945) (Fig. 8). A low value British stamp was also added inside which was cancelled with the Field Post handstamp - code 'A' on January 1, 1945. This handstamp was the alternative code 'A' to that found on the mails. (Figure 9 illustrates the differences between the code 'A' handstamps.)

Jindřich Křeček was demobilized in April 1946 and he resumed his work as an artist and graphic designer, first with the Central Bohemian Printing Works, and later with the MERKUR publishers in Prague. He retired in 1969 and died in Prague on February 4, 1979.

Sources and acknowledgements:

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V. J. Kralicek (New Zealand) who kindly translated the Czech material

(Note: All art illustrations are reduced - cancellation illustrations are actual size.)

THE FIRST RAILROAD IN BOHEMIA

by Miroslav Vostatek

Translated by Henry Hahn

On August 20, 1845, the first train left Olomouc for Prague, thus completing the railroad link between Vienna and Prague. Since I live in Pardubice, I naturally have a continuing interest in this event. The route went and still goes through Pardubice, giving this town an economic boost, which enabled it to pass several formerly larger towns. The 150th anniversary of this event is being commemorated this year with planned celebrations including those by stamp collectors. (See "New Issues", page 25.)

In its initial phase, track construction took place from two sides, i.e. from the west at Kolin and from the east, at Česká Třebová. The two branches met in Pardubice. Pardubice bears several important relationships with the railroad. One of the creators of the railroad was a young engineer named Jan Parner. When he traveled on the first train, an accident occurred in the tunnel near Chocen. He leaned too far out of the train, and sustained a head injury. He was taken unconscious to the hospital in Pardubice, where he died. Thus this anniversary date is also the sad anniversary of a death. To this day there is a Parner Street in Pardubice, and new in this town is a Transportation Faculty of Jan Parner, which educates engineers for railroading.

Even though the Monarchy of those times was reluctant to undertake new development, it was nevertheless forced to build railroads due to growth of industry and commerce. Without such communication, there would be no industrial and commercial progress. It is worth noting that the first rails and hardware, not only for this rail line but others, were made at the Iron Works in Polnička and the Ransk district near Zdar nad Sázavou. Today we find little to remember these factories by, because in time they went out of business.



Fig. 1A



Fig. 1B

A whole list of postmarks is known, not only of the railroad post office but also of train postmarks. Pardubice remains an important railroad center. Two such postmarks are shown in Fig. 1A & B.

As expected in the post-WWII months of 1945, the 100th anniversary of the railroad was commemorated, and various cancels were issued in Pardubice and other towns (Fig. 2). Cachet covers and postal cards (Fig. 3) and various overprints relating to the 100th anniversary were released.

Yet another aspect of postal relationship with the railroad is worth mentioning. For many years the only Czechoslovak Railroad Regiment No. 1 was located in



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

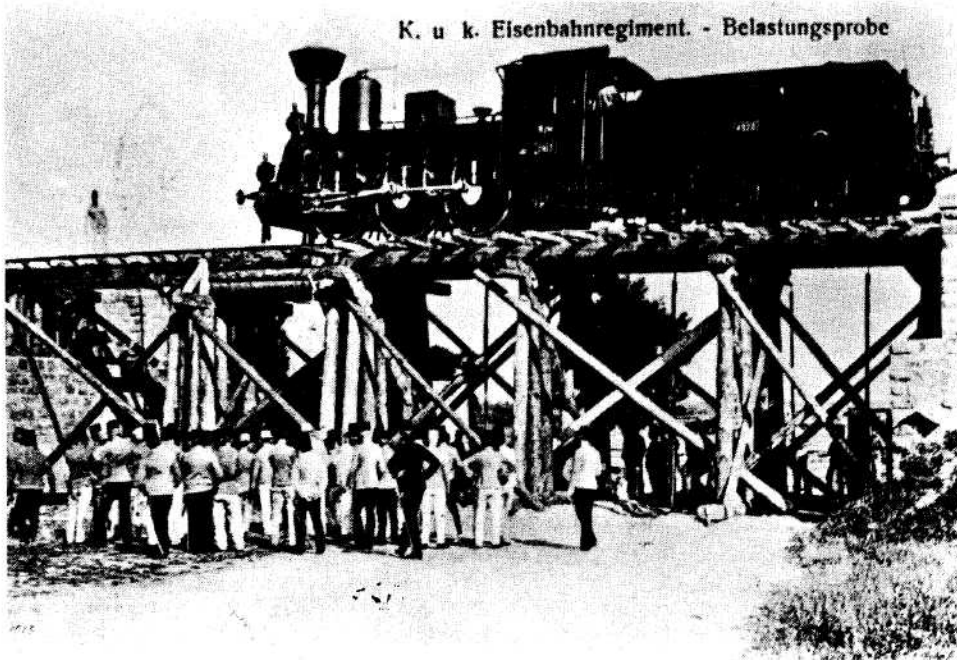


Fig. 5

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Pardubice. It was established on November 21, 1918. Present at the founding were Czech soldiers who had previously served in the Austro-Hungarian Railroad Regiment in Korneuburg, west of Vienna. It was from there that Pardubice received the basic materials needed by the Czechoslovak Railroad Regiment. Another part of the New Regiment were Legionnaires who returned from Russia. They had extensive experience in operating railroads under trying conditions for thousands of miles between the Ukraine and Vladivostak on the Pacific Ocean. Due to the presence of the railroad in Pardubice, a large hospital was created there at the beginning of WWI, which housed 10,000 wounded and sick in hundreds of buildings. Present there were the first "railroad soldiers". In the following 30 years, modern barracks and military warehouses were built there, including a narrow gauge railroad. After WWII, the Pardubice Regiment was transferred to the east and in 1993 was eliminated altogether. Part of a cover from the Military Railroad Warehouse is shown in Fig. 4.

The photograph in Fig. 5 illustrates work carried out by the Railroad Regiment in Korneuburg. The message on the reverse side is by a "One Year Volunteer" addressed to Prague, saying that life in the Regiment is good and that there are 300 Czechs present there.

Another interesting fact is that in the Railroad Regiment during WWI, a citizen of Pardubice who became the first Czech airman, Ing. Jan Kaspar, served in Bosnia. An Air Mail stamp bearing his portrait and a view of Pardubice was issued in 1959 (Fig. 6). Ing. Kaspar served in a unit of motorized trains.

So much for this technical anniversary from the viewpoint of a philatelist from Pardubice.



Fig. 6

A PHILATELIC TOUR OF LEGENDARY PRAGUE

by Michele M. Patrick

Part 2

The oldest bridge across the river is the Charles Bridge, built by the Emperor Charles in the 14th Century. (Fig. 8, Scott No. 340) Lined with 30 gothic and broque statues of saints, it is considered the most beautiful bridge in the world and has also been called Europe's finest outdoor art gallery. (Fig. 9, Scott No. C-86) If we can fight our way through the mid-day throng of tourists and vendors, we will find a small bronze cross which is embedded in the wall at approximately the bridge's mid-point. The cross marks the spot where in 1383, St. John Nepomuk was hurled from the bridge on orders of King Wenceslaus IV. According to legend, Nepomuk refused to tell the King what the Queen had confided to him in the confessional. Wenceslaus had the priest tortured. When this did not loosen his tongue, he had him placed in a sack and tossed into the Vltava. Immediately, five brilliant stars appeared above the

floating corpse. John's body was later removed from the river and buried. In 1715, monks exhumed it and apparently found his tongue perfectly preserved. The local clergy rushed to the Pope with the news, but he was not quite impressed. Six years later they returned with a report that his tongue — which would not destroy the sanctity of the confessional — was now flapping and growing. Faced with such evidence, the Pope canonized St. John Nepomuk in 1729. Virtually every bridge in the Czech lands, including the Charles Bridge, bears a statue of the saint wearing his crown of five stars.* (Fig. 10)

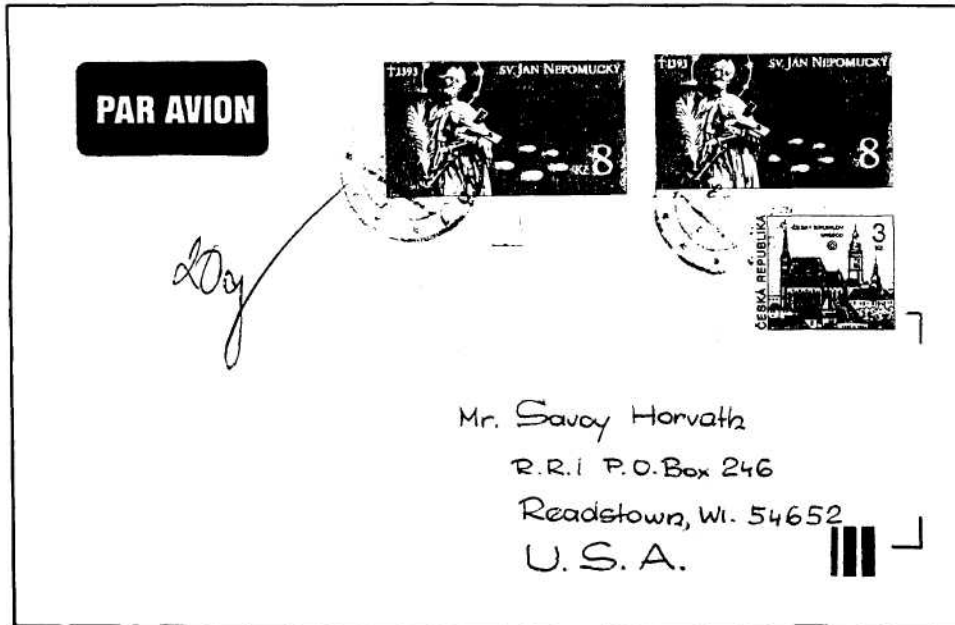


Fig. 10

Before crossing the bridge, we first descend the ancient flight of stairs that leads to Kampa Island. On the balcony of a house on the riverbank there is a beautiful picture of the Virgin Mary; a vigil light continually burns in front of it. Allegedly, the Madonna's picture was carried down river by flood waters many years ago. The raging waters swept by, depositing the icon and leaving the home unharmed by the deluge. (Fig. 11, Scott No. 2047) The vigil lamp is kept burning to eternally guide the rushing waters past the homestead and its occupants.

But not all legends are old. The last river legend involves not gothic kings or baroque saints, but Communist bureaucrats, and it tells the tale of the "Scholar's Bridge". When the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia in 1948, they initiated a rigid "re-education" program; intellectuals and



Fig. 11

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

professionals were put to work as manual laborers.

As part of this process, the government decided to build a bridge over the Vltava. (Fig. 12, Scott No. 434A) Because of all the intellectuals who toiled on it, it came to be called the "Scholar's Bridge". One day, a surely Communist foreman, enjoying his new power over those who had traditionally been above him, sarcastically shouted to a man near him, "Throw me another brick, doctor." Well, the poor foreman was immediately killed by the shower of bricks which rained down upon him — thrown by the myriad of M.D.s, J.D.s and Ph.Ds in his charge.



Fig. 12

Finally crossing the Vltava, we come to the old Town of Prague, often considered the most beautiful area in Europe. Author Sadakat Kadri calls the Old Town the "Central European fantasy in microcosm, a topsy-turvy world of baroque color and gothic gloom." It has the largest collection of preserved gothic buildings in the world. Of course, the area not only abounds in historic sites — but in legends as well.

Walking along the embankment in a northerly direction, we reach one of the loveliest parts of the Old Town. In the twilight, with its cobblestone streets and tiny homes, it seems like a movie set. In the center of this area stands the Convent of St. Agnes, which now houses the National Gallery's collection of 19th Century Czech paintings. The convent is the oldest remaining gothic building in Prague. It was founded in 1233 by King Wenceslaus I (again, not the subject of the Christmas carol) as a favor to his sister, the Princess Agnes. Agnes was known throughout Prague for her charity and pioussness, and she eventually joined the Order of Poor Clare

Sisters. Devoting her life to the poor, she became the first abbess of the Convent in 1253. Agnes was greatly beloved by the people; after her death, she was eventually beatified (the step before canonization in the Catholic Church). (Fig. 13, Scott No. 705, 706) Over the centuries, a legend grew which foretold wondrous miracles when Agnes was finally canonized. In 1989, on a Sunday in November, Pope John Paul II raised Agnes to sainthood. Four days later the Velvet Revolution began. In less than two weeks, the Czechs and their Slovak counterparts overthrew one of Europe's most repressive Communist regimes without so much as breaking a window. Was it coincidence or was it a legendary force at work?



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

The center of the Old Town is, appropriately enough, Staroměstské Náměstí, or Old Town Square. With its stunning white church, medieval spires, pink sherbet palace and pastel burgher home, it seems the epitome of a mythical kingdom. (Fig. 14, Scott No. C-87)

Despite all of this, the Square's main attraction is its renowned astronomical clock; it was installed in 1410 and extensively remodeled in 1490 by a certain Master Hanus. From its inauguration, it has been considered a marvel. Every hour, two windows open and the twelve Apostles march past while a skeleton, representing death, rings its bell. Other figures nod. When the show finishes, a cock crows, additional bells ring, and the clock chimes the hour. Besides telling the time, the "astronomical" section of the clock shows the phase of the sun and moon; the length of day; the rising and setting of the stars; etc. The bottom portion of the clock boasts twelve stunning paintings, which depict the rural labors performed in the respective months. (Fig. 15, Scott No. 2185, 2186)

According to legend, the clock received such universal acclaim when first unveiled that the Prague City Counselors feared that Hanuš would make an even more beautiful and astounding timepiece for another city. Day after day, the fear continued to grow in their hearts until they devised an abominable and unholy solution. One morning, while Hanuš was busy in his workshop, three disguised men — sent by the Counselors — discreetly stepped inside. Suddenly, two of the men grabbed the dumbfounded artisan while the other held a dagger over the hearth until it became red hot. Then, as Hanuš trembled with fright and disbelief, the dagger was held against his eyes to blind him. For some time, Hanuš hovered between life and death. When he recovered, he was filled with bitterness and asked

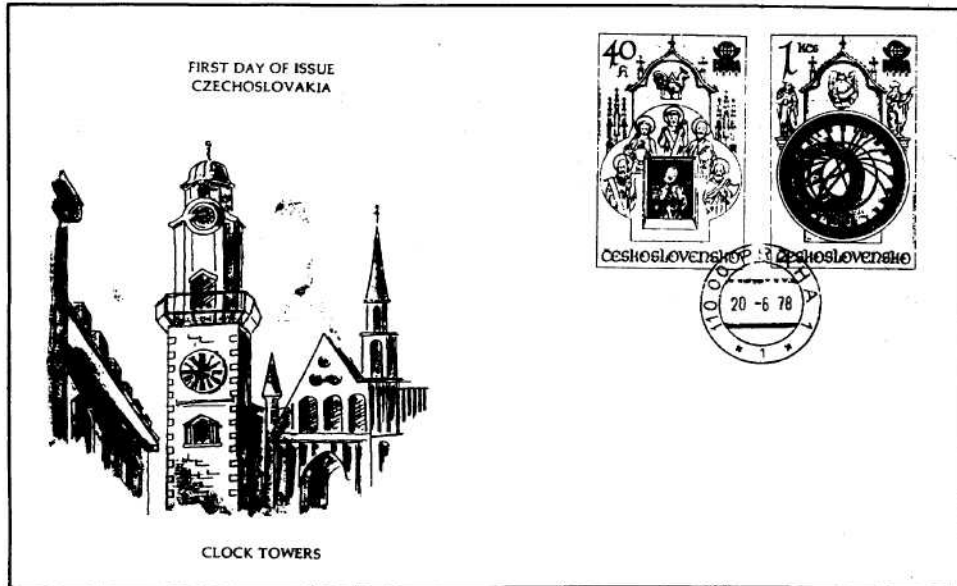


Fig. 15

one of his pupils to lead him to his clock. Standing there, listening to the mechanisms which he knew as well as his own heartbeat, Hanus waited until he heard the figure of the skeleton tolling his bell. He then thrust his hand into the gears and did something, although no one knew what. The great clock, the pride of Prague, slowly came to a halt, and Hanuš promptly collapsed and died. What is true is that no one could make the clock run for over 80 years. However, it was finally fixed in 1572 and has ticked on, without interruption, until this day.

The astronomical clock is the final stop on our day's journey. By this time, the setting sun is slowly disappearing behind the ancient spires of St. Vitus Cathedral, and darkness is descending on Prague's red tile roofs. (Fig. 16) We will continue on this tour on another day and examine other legendary stories of divine deeds and murderous



Fig. 16

miscreants which have so enriched Prague's 1,100 year history. Additional installments of this series will include tales of Frankenstein and Faust, the Prague Ghetto, the arm of divine justice and the story of Good King Wenceslaus. They will allow us to further investigate Prague's past, explore her present and, perhaps, foretell her future...

* Refer to article "An Unusual New Stamp from Germany" by Gerald van Zanten, in the May/June 1993 issue of SPECIALIST.
(Editor's Note: The van Zanten article has been supplemented by letters from our readers pointing out that both the Czech Republic and Slovakia have issued similar stamps. It is probably the first time that three countries have issued a stamp of identical design and color honoring the same event. Moreover, one of our members received a mailed letter postmarked at Doubravice nad. Svit. on Aug. 7, 1993 with two of the Jan of Nepomuk stamps on it. In the illustrated cover (Fig. 10), the stamp on the left is the 8kc of the Czech Republic; the stamp on the right is the 8sk of Slovakia. Unfortunately the text is in black letters on dark blue background, making it difficult to read in black-and-white print. This provides us with a validly posted mixed franking cover for 1993.)

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CURRENT PRINTER'S WASTE TURNED EXPENSIVE

by Miloslav Vlček

The breakup of Czechoslovakia resulted in two new states: The Czech Republic and Slovakia. Both of them started to issue their own postage stamps in January 1993.

The first stamp of both Republics had the same theme - its national emblem. On the Czech stamp, it was the small state coat-of-arms designed and engraved by Josef Hercik. The stamp was issued on Jan. 20, 1993 in a 3kč value. In the young Slovak Republic, the first stamp was issued on Jan. 1, 1993 in an 8sk (Slovak crowns) denomination without the currency symbol in sheets of six. On Jan. 2, a larger stamp of 3sk value was issued in sheets of 100 (two rows of 50 stamps) with the same theme and again without the currency symbol. Both of them were designed by Martin Cinovsky and were printed in red, blue, silver and black colors.

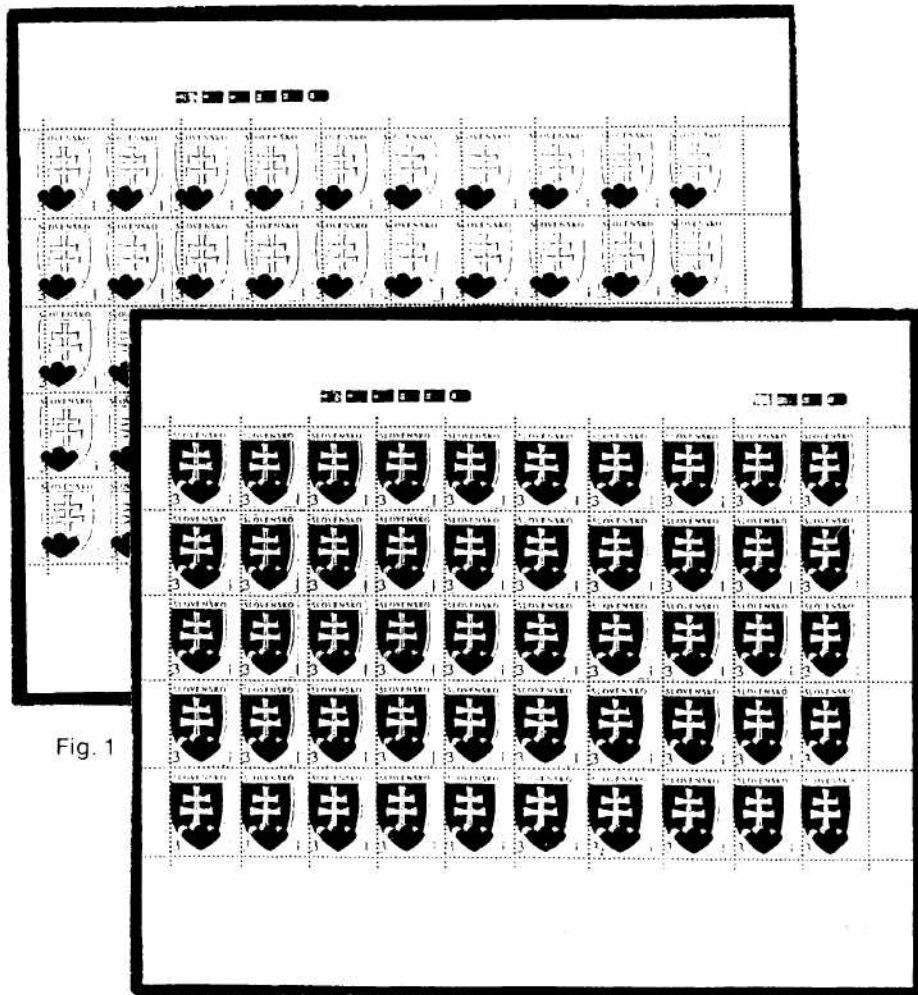


Fig. 1

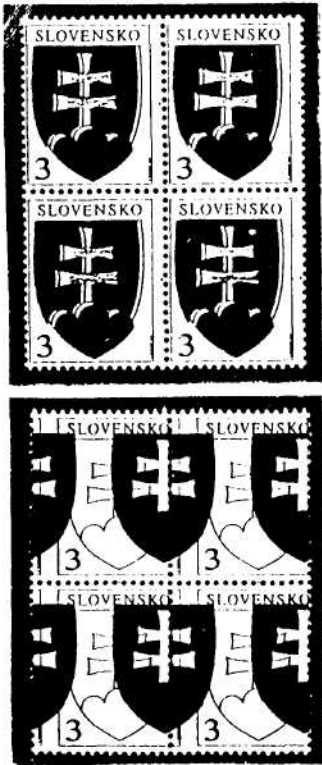


Fig. 2

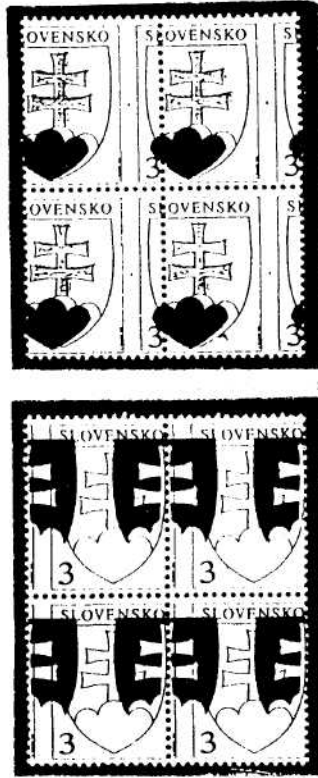


Fig. 3

All of those stamps were printed at the Post Printery in Prague. Collectors were especially interested in them and accepted them with enthusiasm. But the printing resulted in a variety of defects and flaws. This can happen during almost every printing and is a part of the printing process, ie. coordinating the colors with the design, proper perforating, etc. It causes no problems when there is adequate and conscientious quality control. But this time the realities were different. Some imperfect stamps such as those with a slight shift of one color to the side began to emerge during the printing of those first Slovak stamps. Later more striking defects were found on stamps in specialty shops throughout the Czech Republic, such as shifting of all colors to the side, stamps in black color only or perforation shifts to the middle of the stamp. This was discovered in entire sheets of 50 stamps and the asking price was high (Fig. 1). Very few postoffices in Slovakia carried these flawed stamps, especially those with color shifts. Those with perforation flaws reached Slovakia later. As the demand for those defective stamps started to rise, so did the prices. The fact that these were mere printer's waste seemed not to matter. Stamp collectors in both countries wanted them.

Opinions prevailed that the Post Printery in Prague damaged the young Slovak Republic's image with these defective stamps. Although printer's waste is an inevitable incidence of the printing process, the Printery in Prague must be held accountable at least for not destroying all the defective stamps and for allowing them to reach Slovakia.

By now, these defective stamps have already been cataloged. In the catalog

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

INFORMACE for January 1994 from HOBBY PHILATELIE in Pilsen, they are listed under number 03/81/00/04 (the stamp with heavy color shifts) at a price of 350kč (Fig. 2) and under number 03/81/00/05 (the double stamp with both color and perforation shifts) at a price of 1,500 kč (Fig. 3). In the auction catalog PROFIL PRAHA, the stamps have not yet been listed. The catalog of the 4th auction FOS PRAGUE for March 1955 under number 752 lists the stamp with minimal color and perforation shifts at a price of 250kč. And the catalog of the 9th auction KLIM held in December 1994 does not mention the stamps, though they are available for purchase from the firm's shop.

On January 1, 1994, Slovakia Ministry of Transport issues a postcard with the Slovak State insignia printed on it. Printing took place at the State Printery in Bratislava. It should be noted that color shifts appeared on those as well (Fig. 4). Slovak postoffices sold some of them; others were distributed to unknown sources. Prices sought by dealers for those cards compare with prices sought for the flawed stamps that were printed in Prague. And so, current printer's waste has become an expensive collectors' item.

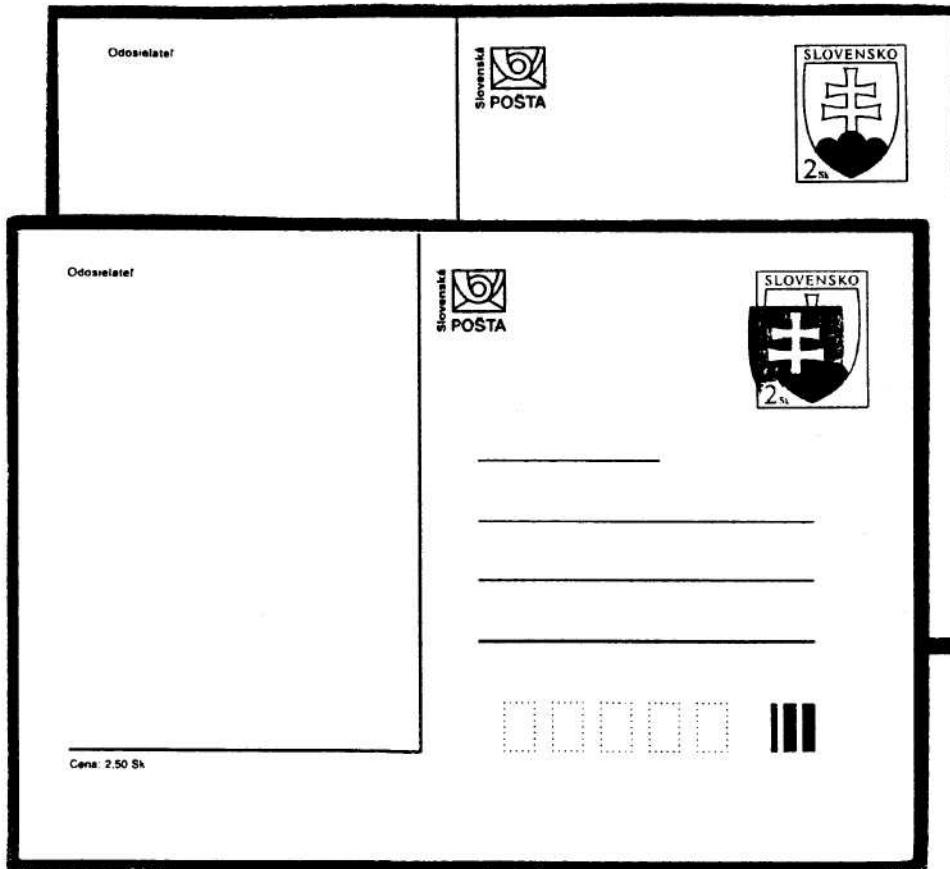


Fig. 4

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On June 1, 1995, the Ministry of Economy issued a stamp honoring its children. A 3.6kc stamp depicts the cartoon of a smiling cat with the inscription: "Dětem" (For Children). Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Josef Palaček and engraved by Václav Fajt, the stamp has a size of 30x23mm. It was printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black color combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue and violet in sheets of 50 (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

The first day cover includes a commemorative cancellation and a cachet on the left side showing a drawing of a sleeping child in a hat with a bouquet and a toy next to it. The cachet was printed by rotary print from flat plates in grey-violet colors.

2. On June 21, the Ministry issued two stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Prague of the first train from Olomouc. Designed and engraved by graphic artist and academic painter Jiri Bouda, the stamps appear in these denominations: 1.3kč and 9.60kc. The first of these pictures a train towed by an early locomotive emerging from a tunnel at Chocen with the text: "1845-1995, 150 years of the Railway Olomouc-Praha" in Czech. Its colors are black, light brown and blue. The second pictures the festive arrival and welcome of the first train through a decorative archway at Prague on August 20,



Fig. 2

1845 at what is today the Masaryk Terminal. The text in Czech reads: "The arrival of the first train at Prague." Its colors are black, ochre and brown-red. Appearing in size of 40x23, the stamps were printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue and violet in sheets of 50 (Fig. 2).

Each stamp has its own FDC. The 3kč bears a cachet with a portrait of the master-builder, Jan Perner (1815-1845) with a draft of the Olomouc-Praha line along with surveyors' aids (Fig. 2A). The 9.60 stamp has a cover with a cachet depicting the arrival of a train at Masaryk Terminal (Fig. 2B). Both engravings are in black color.

3. On June 21, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 3kč stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Olomouc-Praha railway line. The stamp pictures a steam locomotive with tender and an antique caboose. The cachet on the left side shows travelers entering a train at a station with porters hauling a baggage cart. Above the picture, the text reads: "1845-1995, 150 years of the Olomouc - Praha railway line and postal railway transport" in Czech. The card was designed and engraved by Jiří Bouda and was printed at the Post Printery in Prague by offset in black and blue-grey. The selling price for the card is 3.3kč (Fig. 3).

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

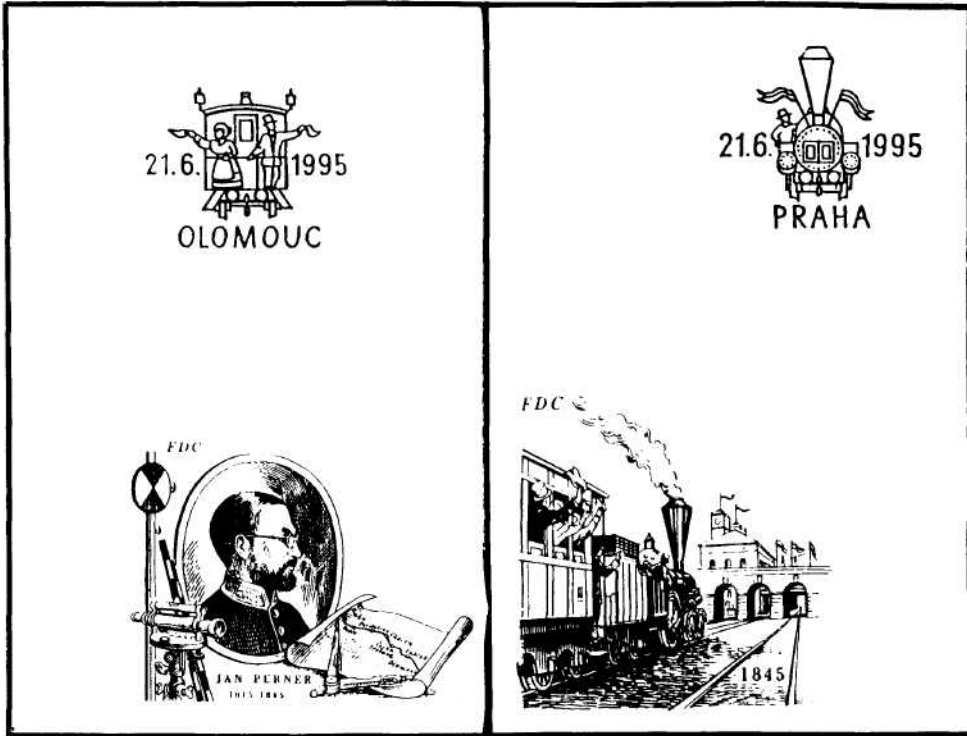


Fig. 2A

Fig. 2B

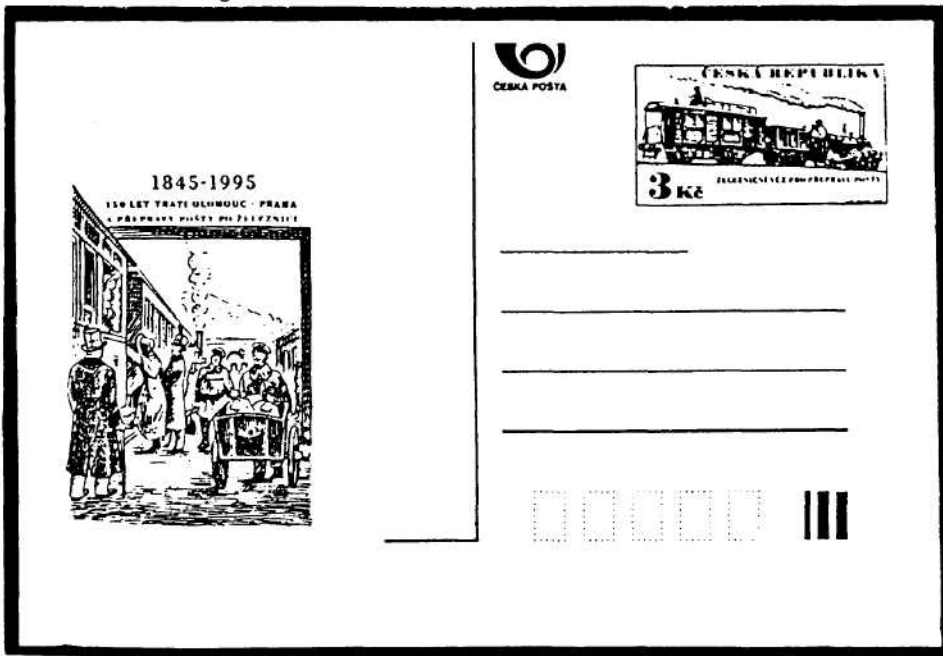


Fig. 3

4. On May 17, the Ministry issued two postal cards honoring the visit of Pope Paul II to the Czech Republic. Both have a 5kč imprinted stamp showing a closeup of the Pope with text which reads: "The visit of Jan Pavel II 1995" in Czech. The drawing of the Pope on the stamp is the work of Václav Fajt. The first card has a cachet on the left designed by academic painter and graphic artist Pavel Sivko. It bears the inscription "Svatořečení Jana Sarkandra 1576-1620-----1995" (Consecration of Jan Sarkander). The card was printed at the Post Printery in Prague by offset in blue-violet and gold (Fig. 4). The second card bears a cachet

Fig. 4

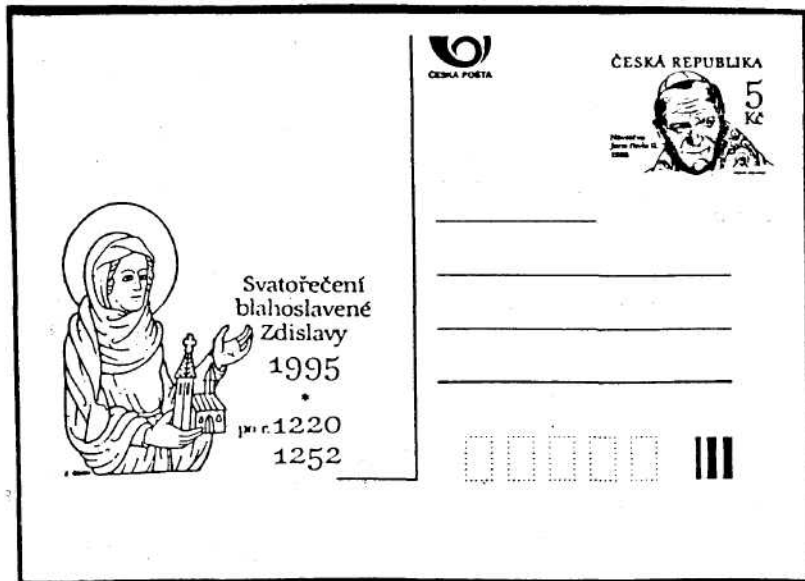
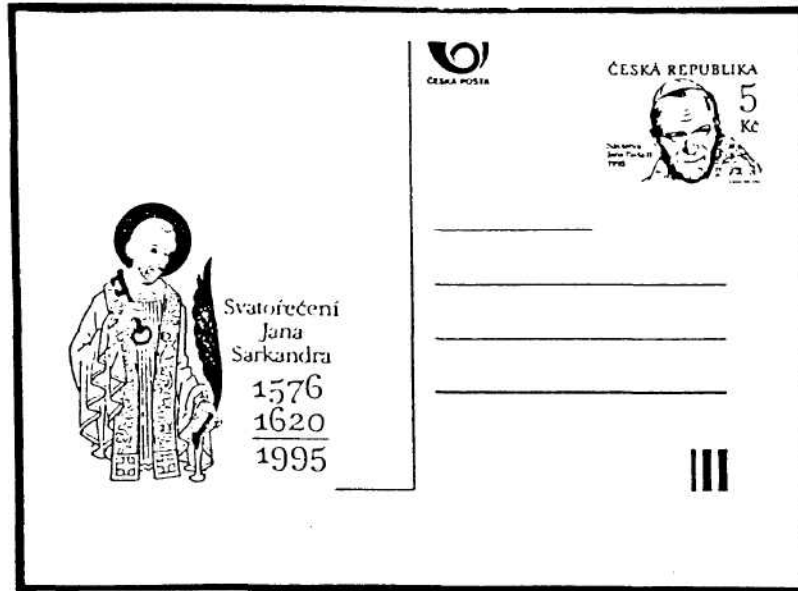


Fig. 5

depicting the blessed Zdislava with aureole and holding a model of a church. The inscription reads: "Svařocení blahoslavené Zdislavy 1995----1220-1252." Consecration of the blessed Zdislava. The drawing is that of Zdirad Čech with typographic arrangement by Pavel Sivko. The card was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by offset in brown-violet (Fig. 5). The selling price of each card is 5.3kč.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

3. On February 28, 1995, A stamp commemorating 75 years of the theatre was issued with face value of 10Sk. The stamp depicts a symbolic drawing of theatre masks with text in Slovak: "75 Years of the Slovak National Theatre". The design is the creation of Ivan Schurmann with engraving by M. Srb. The FDC shows the front of the theatre with Ganymedes fountain. The first performance in the theatre was on March 1, 1920 when "The Kiss" by Smetana was performed. The first Slovak opera, "Wieland, the Blacksmith" by Ján Levoslav Bella (1843-1936), was staged here in 1926. He was the first truly Slovak composer (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8

SLOVAKIA

1. On February 8, 1995, a single stamp with a face value of 9sk was issued to commemorate 150 years of the Landlords' Association — Sobotistě 1845. The stamp bears a portrait of Samuel Jurkovič, its founder. The text is in Slovak. Translated it reads: "Landlords' Association founded in Sobotišti in the year 1845." Also shown is one of the town's buildings. Designed by Martin Čincovský and engraved by Rudolf Ciganik, it was printed in dark brown color. The FDC depicts in its cachet a contemporary cash box with Slovak text: "The first cooperative on the continent of Europe"(Fig. 6).

2. On February 28, 1995 a set of three stamps was issued for the European Nature Protection Year with face values of 2sk, 3sk, and 8sk, all showing protected plants. 2Sk Depicts a gentian, the name honors Gentius, a pirate king of Illyria (Hungary) who lived in 170 BC and is considered to be the discoverer of the medicinal uses of plants.

3Sk Shows the pasqueflower. This flower takes its name from "Pasques", the French word for Easter because it blooms around that time.

8Sk Has for its subject the Onosma tornense.

All three stamps also bear a text in Slovak: "European Nature Protection Year" and the International symbol of a broken leaf held together by a safety pin. The stamps were designed by Miss Kamila Stanclová with engraving by František Horniak. The two FDC's for the 2sk and 3sk show the Eriocla Clusii and the 8sk shows a picture of the Onosma tornense (Fig. 7).



Fig. 9

4. On March 15, 1995, a 28k definitive stamp was issued with the town of Nitra as its subject. Shown on the stamp are architectural features of the town as well as the town peapon. Design was by Igor Benca, engraving by František Horniak (Fig. 9).

Nitra is the oldest town settlement in the Slovak Republic and has an illustrious history. In 829 A.D. a court chapel was established there. In the 11th century, the town entered its so-called Golden Age under Hungarian rule. Nitra has been the subject of previous stamp issues in 1934, 1965 and 1982.



Fig. 10

5. ICE HOCKEY WORLD CUP, GROUP B. On March 29, 1995, a 5sk stamp was issued commemorating this event. The stamp depicts an ice hockey-player's equipment, a globe and the Kriváň mountain as well as the text: "ICE HOCKEY WORLD CUP, GROUP B BRATISLAVA '95" in Slovak. Designed by Svetozár Mydlo with engraving by Pavel Kovářík, it was printed in sheets of 50 (Fig. 10).

6. On April 20, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a two-stamp set honoring a Hungarian music composer and a Slovak helicopter inventor, as part of their "Great Personalities" series (Fig. 11).

BELA BARTÓK (1881-1945) The 3Sk stamp was issued to commemorate the death of the Hungarian composer Béla Bartók, who died in New York on September 26, 1945. The green-blue stamp depicts the composer as well as a dancing figure. The image was created by Igor Piačka, engraving by Bohumil Šneider and printed in sheets of 50.



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

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JAN BAHÝL (1856-1916) On April 20 a 6sk stamp was issued to commemorate the inventor Ján Bahýl. The red and grey-green stamp shows the inventor and a helicopter motif (his original construction). Design was by Igor Piacka and engraving by Bohumil Šneider, printed in sheets of 15 pieces.

7. L'UDOVIT ŠTÚR (1815-1856) This multicolored stamp was issued in the form of a block measuring 70x90mm. The stamp image is 26x40mm. Date of issue was April 20 with a value of 16sk. Designed by Jozef Baláž with engraving by Martin Čonovský, the stamp depicts a portrait of Štúr along with linden leaves adorning an allegorical Woman's head. An open book and facsimile of Štúr's signature complete the picture. Štúr was a leading Slovak poet, writer and politician and was one of the organizers of the Slovak political and armed resistance against Hungary (Fig. 12).

8. "EUROPA" "PEACE AND FREEDOM" On May 5, a multicolored commemorative stamp with a value of 8sk was issued in the "Europa" series. The stamp measuring 40x23mm depicts an allegorical Freedom figure. Designed by Igor Rumanský with engraving by Rudolf Cigánik, it was produced in sheets of 10 stamps (Fig. 13)



Fig. 13

9. "ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS LIBERATION" On May 5, a 12sk multicolored stamp was issued to commemorate this event. Showing a group of liberated prisoners, it was designed by Jan Trojan with engraving by Václav Fajt and printed in sheets of 35 stamps (Fig. 14).

10. "SLOVAK SCOUTING" On May 18, a 5sk stamp was issued showing a scout in green as the dominant figure, complimented by the scout emblem and tricolor. Designed by Jozef Baláž with engraving by Miloš Ondráček, it was printed in sheets of 35 stamps (Fig. 15).

11. "VISIT OF THE POPE TO SLOVAKIA" To commemorate this event, a 3Sk stamp was issued on May 29 in red. It bears the portrait of Pope Johannes Paulus II, the Papal weapon and a map of Slovakia with only the towns he visited listed. Printed in sheets of 35, it was designed by Jozef Baláž with engraving by Martin Činvoský (Fig. 16).



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

**1994 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
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INCOME	TOTAL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
Member Dues	\$6,332.50	SPEC. Printing	\$4,918.55
Net Book Sales	\$104.30	SPEC. Mailing	\$673.06
Advertising	\$129.75	Membership Expense	\$172.68
Interest	\$215.44	Officers Expense	\$144.99
Circuit Sales Fees	\$4,143.45	Convention Expense	\$196.50
Expertization Fees	\$83.52	Patron Books	\$673.86
Miscellaneous	\$31.00	Printing	\$45.32
Donations	\$177.00	Czech Mmber Exch.	\$18.17
Net Donations RD	(\$2.00)	Miscellaneous	\$103.71
Indiv SPEC Sales	\$200.00		
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