



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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MAY/JUNE 1997

No. 3, Whole No. 543

PACIFIC '97 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are urgently needed to help staff our table at PACIFIC '97. You will answer questions about our Society, take reservations for our functions, enroll new members, and sell our books and literature. You do not have to have extensive knowledge of Czechoslovak philately. Please let Henry Hahn know at which times you would volunteer to serve. You can find his address, phone number, and FAX number on the bottom of page 24 of the Mar/Apr SPECIALIST. PACIFIC '97 will be open during the following days and hours: Thursday, 29 May - 12 noon to 6 PM; daily from Friday, 30 May through Saturday, 7 June - 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday, 8 June - 10 AM to 4 PM. [Ed. Note: We erroneously reported that the exhibit opened May 28 in the last SPECIALIST.] We would ask that you indicate which 1/2 day or day(s) you could help. We are especially hoping that our California members could find some time for us. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Meeting schedule (note some changes):

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Board of Directors | Friday, May 30, 1 PM | Room 218 |
| Society Breakfast | Saturday, May 31, 9 AM | Milano Hotel |
| Society General Meeting | Sunday, June 1, 10 AM | Room 270 |
| Seminar Lectures | Sunday, June 1, 3:30 PM | Room 212 |

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ERRATA

- In the second letter of the *Letters to the Editor* section of the March/April issue (pages 27/28), we inadvertently made a mistake in the spelling of the name of the stamp designer, painter, graphic artist, and illustrator that was being honored. His name is Vladimír Kovářík, not Vladimír Kovířk. This error of spelling occurred throughout the article. We extend our sincere apologies to Mr. Kovářík and his son for this error.

- In our PACIFIC '97 article on the cover of the March/April issue, we incorrectly indicated that the exhibition would open on May 28 -- it should have shown that it opened on May 29. We sincerely regret if this error causes any difficulties in member's plans to attend.



NEW MEMBERS

UNITED KINGDOM
1803 Pearce, DM
CANADA
1805 Young, B

VIRGINIA
1804 Dunham Jr., S
NEW YORK
1806 Vrzala, MM

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily

and without compensation.

CZECH POSTAL SERVICE MECHANIZATION

by Karel Holoubek
Trans. by Ludvik Svoboda

| |
|--|
| 506028 102 87 46 13154 20028 875 10.00Kč 01.12.95 Ustřížek pro příjemce |
|--|

Fig. 1

Compared to other countries, there was a great deal of lost time that had to be made up in the mechanization of postal services in the Czech Republic. The majority of the effort to replace manual labor and to make the postal service easier and faster was being carried out in the postal background. However, the normal user of the postal service was never involved. Postal ZIP codes being printed on the envelopes from a few towns was the only thing which signaled that something was

changing.

As a first step, terminals appeared at the money counters. They automated the preparation of internal documentation and sped up the monetary accounting. The traditional round hand cancel disappeared from the financial documentation and was replaced by a three lined text printed by computer (Fig. 1).

Then in 1994, computers came to be used in the letter and package services. These were connected to the weight scales and to printers. A consignment was weighed, and then, after the class of the consignment was coded in, the computer automatically determined the postage. In the case of packages and legal/official correspondence, it printed out the consignment number on a self-sticking franked label. It also printed out

| Podací lístek | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|---------|
| Vyhrazeno pro služební údaje pošty: | | | | |
| 767 01 Kroměříž 1 | | | | 201 |
| R 002043 677 R | | | | 8.00Kč |
| 13.06.94 0.007kg | 80806 | 10 | 70 | |
| Odesílatel | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Adresát | | | Dobírka Kč | |
| | | | | |
| | | | Cena Kč | |
| | | | | |
| Druh záсылky | Podací číslo | Hmotnost | Poznámka | Výplato |
| | | | | |

Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

the same text on the package dispatch card, the personal delivery receipt, or the certified mail receipt card (Fig. 2). However, in the case of normal consignments there was a row of stars printed in place of the consignment number (Fig. 3).

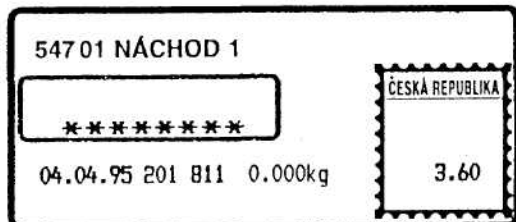


Fig. 3

The first three computers were tested at post offices in Havířov, Kroměříž, and Praha 4. During the testing period, labels measuring 68 x 48 mm were used (Fig. 4a,b,c). These labels had a color that was slightly different than the final production ones. Below the name of the issuing

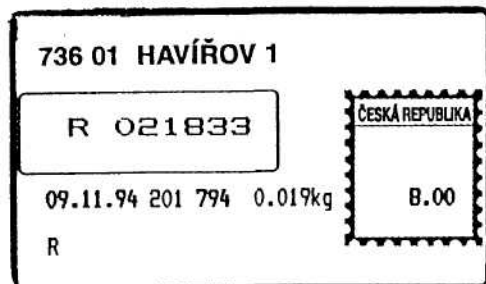


Fig. 4a

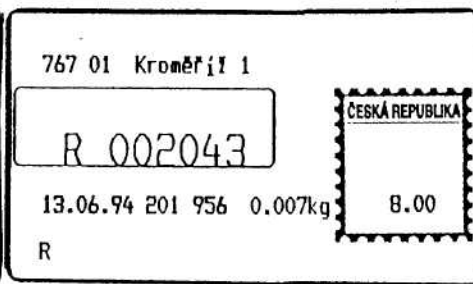


Fig. 4b

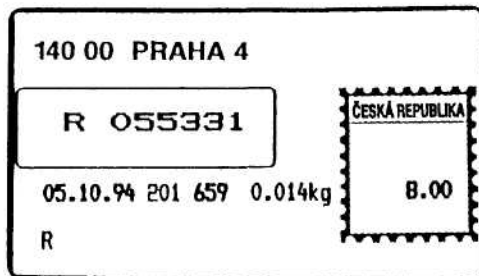


Fig. 4c



Fig. 5a

post office was a red frame. This was space for printing the consignment number of the package or legal/official correspondence. These consignment numbers can be found using different sized numerals (Fig 5a,b). Below the red frame is printed [a line of] other information which is in the following order: processing date, item transaction code, the postal worker's ID number, and

the weight of the consignment (but in the case of ordinary letters this last field contains zeros, Fig. 3). Below this line of information are one or two letters that

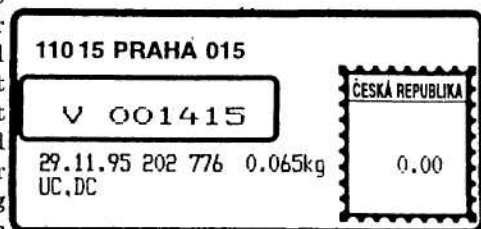


Fig. 5b

indicate the kind of consignment:

- B - parcel
- D - personal delivery
- DA - COD postal money order type A
- DB - COD postal money order type B
- DC - COD postal money order type C (Fig. 5b)
- DS - COD postal money order type IPB
- EN - oversized parcel
- EX - express
- LT - air mail (Fig. 6)
- R - registered mail (Fig. 4a,b,c)
- U - express parcel (urgent)
- UC - express parcel with declared value (Fig. 5a,b)
- UP - sealed by the post office (Fig.5a)
- VR - to addressee ONLY

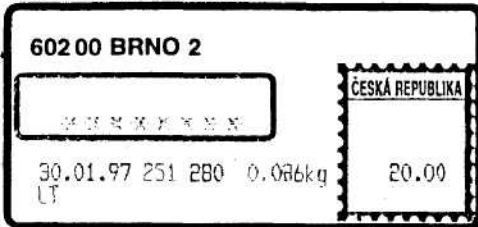


Fig.6

On the right side of the label is a red scalloped frame containing the words ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA. In this frame the computer also prints the amount paid in cash or, if necessary, what other method of payment was used. If zeros appear here then the entire

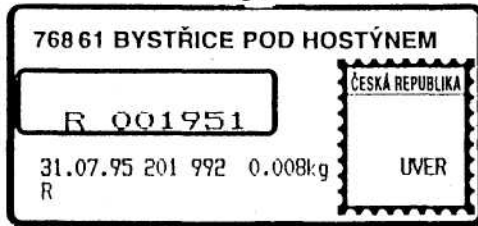


Fig. 7

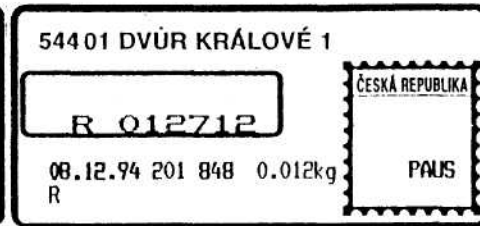


Fig. 8

postage was paid by [sender provided] stamps (Fig. 5b). If the fee was paid by a combination of stamps and cash, then only the cash amount appears. Also possibly appearing here are abbreviations for a few other payment methods:

- UVER -- postage paid on credit (Fig. 7)
- PAUS -- bulk postage rate (Fig. 8)
- BSAZ -- postal service matter only

Additional information is provided through the so-called item transaction code [found in the line below the consignment number frame]:

For domestic letter service:

- 200 - postal card (Fig. 9)
- 201 - letter (Fig. 3)
- 202 - insured letter (Fig. 5b)
- 203 - consignment for a blind person
- 204 - pamphlet
- 205 - railway station letter
- 206 - response forms
- 207 - newspaper
- 208 - EMS

For international letter service:

- 250 - postal card
- 251 - letter (Fig. 6)
- 252 - insured letter
- 253 - consignment for a blind person
- 254 - small package
- 255 - printed matter
- 256 - bulk mail
- 258 - EMS

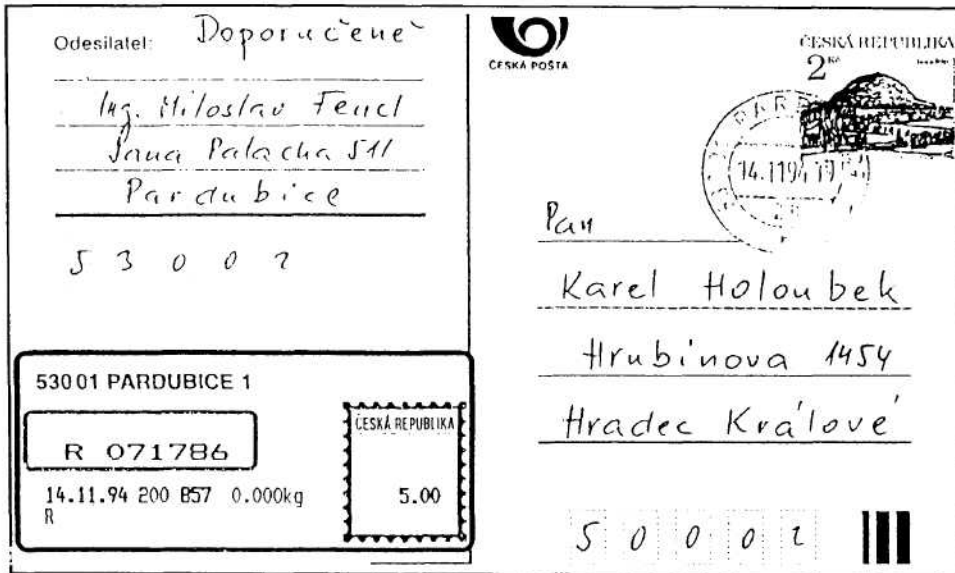


Fig. 9

For domestic parcel service:

- 230 - ordinary parcel
- 231 - COD parcel
- 232 - valuable consignment without COD
(Fig. 5a)
- 233 - valuable consignment with COD

For international parcel service:

- 280 - ordinary parcel
- 282 - valuable consignment

In practice, the use of the trial labels during the initial operational test period showed them to be unnecessarily large. The production labels were made smaller with the design staying the same. The length remained 68 mm, but the height was reduced to 30 mm [All labels shown except Fig. 4a,b,c]. During the trial period the labels used were distributed without the name of the issuing post office; the name was added during the computer printing (Fig. 4b). Later, during actual operations, the provided labels were prepared including the post office name. Errors have been discovered in the post office name and the ZIP code.



Fig. 10

The entire program to gradually equip workplaces with these terminals has been planned to take a few years. By 1998 there are to be about 1,100 post offices equipped. Of course, we do need to mention that this does not mean that there will be only the same number of machines. At some post offices, there are to be computers at many counters -- three or more.

The fact that we will have operational the optimum number of postal counters does not mean the project of automation of the postal service is over. The post offices are expecting further improvements. In the parcel service area (for the firms which send a large quantity of consignments at one time), it will be possible to replace the hand written transaction documents by a computer disk. This will reduce the labor during processing and in following [the journey of] consignments for the whole time from preparation until delivery. For COD consignments, it will allow for back-tracking their payment and, if necessary, to even return the package. All of this assumes that a ZIP code and its automatic reading by a scanner will be used. Similar markings with ZIP codes is prepared even for bulk mail transactions for financial and wagering offices (Fig. 10). These improvements will make possible machine processing at main-post offices and the speeding up of the process of finding lost consignments.

All of this will of course require time for installation and the schooling of workers -- and, it will require money.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

CZECH REPUBLIC POSTAL RATE INCREASE

by Savoy Horvath

As was first hinted in the Mar/Apr issue, the Czech Republic will raise its postal rates effective April 1, 1997. The new rates will be:

| Internal Mail (in Kč) | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|------|
| Postcard | . | . | . | 4 |
| Letter up to 20 gr. | . | . | . | 4.60 |
| Letter up to 50 gr. | . | . | . | 8 |
| Letter up to 500 gr. | . | . | . | 15 |
| Letter up to 1000 gr. | . | . | . | 22 |
| Registered | . | . | . | +8 |
| Express | . | . | . | +15 |

| International Mail (in Kč) | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-----|
| | Slovakia | Europe | Outside Europe | |
| | | | Land | Air |
| Postcard | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Letter to 10 gr. | 5 | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Letter to 20 gr. | 7 | 8 | 8 | 11 |
| Letter to 50 gr. | 15 | 15 | 15 | 23 |
| Letter to 100 gr. | 30 | 30 | 30 | 45 |
| Letter to 250 gr. | 50 | 50 | 50 | 90 |

[Ed. Note: This rate change has necessitated some changes in the planned Czech Republic stamp issues for 1997. Please see the revised plan elsewhere in this SPECIALIST.]

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**MEET OUR HONORED GUESTS AT PACIFIC '97 -
Ing. Jan Karásek and Ing. Pavel Pittermann
by Henry Hahn**

Knowing the two current "giants" of Czechoslovak philately for many years, I have been asked to provide an introduction to our readers and to those planning to be at PACIFIC '97 who may meet them for the first time. Both are scheduled to lecture at PACIFIC '97, as they have at previous shows.

ING. JAN KARÁSEK, better known to his friends as "Jenda", is an honorary member of our Society, and has quite recently passed his 70th birthday. A collector and philatelic functionary for over 45 years, he was a member of the former Union of Philatelic Societies representing his native Moravia from 1958 to 1965. About this time the Union of Czech Philatelists was founded. He served as an expert beginning January 1st, 1960, became the vice-chairman of the Commission of Experts in 1967, served as Chairman of the experts group



Ing. Jan Karásek

beginning 1989, and was the Chairman of the entire Union from 1990 through 1995. In Paris in 1964 he was elected to membership in the International Association of Philatelic Experts (A.I.E.P.), and became a member of the International Association of Philatelic Journalists (A.I.J.P.) in 1965.

He has authored and co-authored 12 books and about 700 philatelic articles. He has presented about 800 lectures, of which 30 were outside the Czech Republic.

As an exhibitor since 1952, he has participated in thirty-five international shows and has gained numerous medals at FIP shows, both in Prague and abroad: a large "GOLD" at PRAGA'62, five small "GOLD"s of which two were in the literature class, twelve large "VERMEIL"s of which three were in literature, plus

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several "VERMEIL", large and small "SILVER", and special prizes. At Czech National Exhibits, he received four "GOLD" and two large "GRAND NATIONAL AWARD"s.

He has been an accredited FIP judge and has served on various juries since 1959. His expertizing certificates are well known and highly regarded throughout the world. Through his writings he is our best known fighter against forgeries -- and, unlike many of his colleagues, he shares his knowledge with those around him.

Jenda has a superb sense of humor, enjoyed by all who know him, despite his not being completely fluent in English. He is a retired engineer, having worked in a government research facility in Brno. He and his wife live in a lovely home in Slapanice, a Brno suburb. They have one married son and have been recently blessed with their first granddaughter.



Ing. Pavel Pittermann

ING. PAVEL PITTERMANN became a serious collector and functionary in organized philately in 1972. His first functions were in the Prague Commission for Czechoslovak Stamps and membership of the Czech Federal Commission for Czechoslovak Stamps, of which he became secretary in 1979. He remained in that position until co-founding the Society of Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps. He has been an officer in that organization continuously through the present (with a short interruption between 1994-1996). He served as Secretary of the Commission of Experts of the Society of Czech and Slovak Philatelists (later renamed Society of Czech Philatelists) from 1984 to 1991, at which time he became its Chairman. Quite recently Ing. Pittermann was elected to membership in the International Association of Philatelic Experts (A.I.E.P.).

He co-authored the Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovak Stamps 1978, the Specialized Handbook 1988, volume 3 of the Monograph of Czechoslovak Stamps, Perforations on Czechoslovak Stamps (with Jan Karásek), the two part publication on the Agriculture and Science issue (with F. Žampach), and finally co-authored and headed the committee on Recommended Terminology published as part of Czechoslovak Philately in 1988. He has published numerous philatelic articles, both in Czechoslovakia, and the Czech Republic and abroad.

Ing. Pittermann's collecting interests encompass all of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia 1919-1921 including forerunners, and classical Saxony. He exhibited at PRAGA'78, Boskovice, Bratislava, Upper Slavkov and Budapest, all non-competitively as a member of the jury, and always Czechoslovakia (after 1945) and Yugoslavia. At PRAGA '88 he served as Chairman of the FIP jury group judging Czechoslovakia (on which I served as Apprentice) and, thanks to his guidance and instruction, at which I qualified as an FIP judge.

Ing. Pittermann claims to have been most significantly influenced as an expert by three well known philatelic personalities -- Jan Karásek, Zdenek

Kvasnička, and Jiří Kulda. He is particularly indebted to Jan Karásek for his very thorough training. Their relationship developed into a close friendship which has lasted for some 20 years. He owes the broadening of his philatelic horizons mainly to Zdenek Kvasnička who made his vast collection available for his studies. He also credits F. Šrámek, L. V. Dvoraček, and J. Bisek as his educators. He owes his rigorous scientific approach to expertizing to Jiří Kulda. Pittermann's philatelic thesis (as an expert candidate) was written on expertizing joined types of the 40h Chainbreaker issue, and on determination of genuineness of the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919, Type A, overprints. This work was completed in 1988 and resulted in his being recognized as the expert not only by his organization but also within the court system.

Pavel Pittermann is 55 years old and is an atomic physicist. When we first met, he was employed at the Rez Atomic Power and Research facility, where he was in charge of radiation safety. He now works for the Atomic Energy Commission in Prague. He and his charming wife Jarmila (whom he credits with putting up with his hobby) live in Prague - Hlubočepy. They have a daughter and a lovely granddaughter.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

Help your membership to grow! Enlist a fellow collector of Czechoslovakian stamps for membership. Applications forms are available from our secretary, Tom Cossaboom. (See page 2 of this issue for address.)

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PHILANGLES



**66th APOSTOLIC JOURNEY
OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
TO SLOVAKIA
JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 1995**

by Arkadiusz Walinski

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is proud to reprint the following article from The COROS Chronicle, February, 1996, the official bi-monthly journal of the Collectors of Religion on Stamps, with the permission of the editor, the Rev. Augustine H. Serafini, and the author, Arkadiusz Walinski, who supplied the text and illustrations. We will be publishing other articles by this author in the near future.]

The Holy Father's visit to Slovakia began on the morning of Friday, June 30 with arrival ceremonies at the international airport of Bratislava, the country's capital. The Pope was welcomed by President Michael Kováč, and the authorities of Church and State. Later the Holy Father met with religious in the Cathedral of St. Martin in Bratislava. In the afternoon the Holy Father was taken by helicopter to Nitra, where he met young people for a prayer service.

On Saturday morning, July 1, the Holy Father visited the Shrine of the Sorrowful Virgin in Šaštín, where he celebrated Mass in front of the basilica.

The highlight of the holy Father's visit to Slovakia was the mass he celebrated on Sunday morning, July 2, at the airport of Košice, during which he canonized three 17th century martyrs for the faith: Marek Křižín (born in 1588 in Croatia); Štefan Pongracz (born in 1582 in Hungary); Melichar Grodziecki (born in 1584 in Cieszyn, Silesia). In the afternoon the Holy Father was taken to the sports stadium of Prešov for a prayer service with the Byzantine-rite Catholics of Slovakia.

On July 3, the Holy Father went to the Marian Shrine of Levoča, dedicated to Our Lady of the Visitation. After spending the afternoon in the Tatra mountains, the Holy Father was taken in the evening to Poprad for departure ceremonies before leaving Slovakia for Rome.

VATICAN:

1. Commemorative travel postmark in Latin:
IO. PAULVS II ADIT REMP. SLOVACHAM
POSTE VATICANE 30.VI - 3.VII. 1995
Pope Paul II in prayer



SLOVAKIA:

2. Bratislava -- postage meter cancelation commemorating the fifth anniversary of the first visit of Pope John Paul II to Slovakia



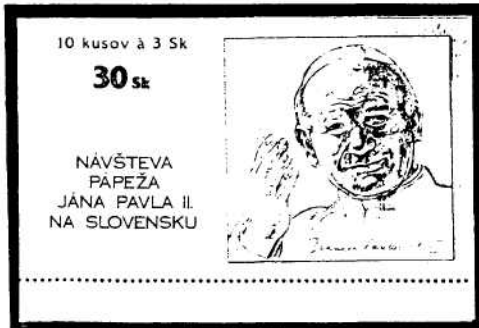
(Czechoslovakia) in 1990. Red ink was used for all postage meters.
810 00 BRATISLAVA 1 / 22.4.95 / SLOVENSKO / SPOMÍNA 22.4.1990 / MODLÍ SA ZA VÁS / OČAKÁVA: 1-3.7.1995.

Coat of arms and facsimile signature of Pope John Paul II. Translation: Slovakia remembers 22.4.1990 (first visit of Pope John Paul II); praying for you; awaiting July 1-3, 1995. (The original date of the visit was planned for July 1-3, 1995. Later it was extended one day to June 30-July 3, 1995.)

3. Stamp, 3Sk.

First day of issue: May 25, 1995.

Portrait of Pope John Paul II, coat of arms, map of Slovakia with cities --Bratislava (capital) and Šaštín and Levoča (Marian Shrines)



4. Stamp booklet consisting of 10 stamps. Front cover shows portrait and facsimile signature of Pope John Paul II. Size of booklet -- 4 3/4" long x 3 1/8" wide. 5,000 booklets issued

5. Šaštín - Stráže -- May 29, 1995

Commemorative First Day of Issue postmark.

ŠAŠTÍN-STRÁŽE 29.5.1995.

Pope's hand in blessing gesture, crozier and coat of arms



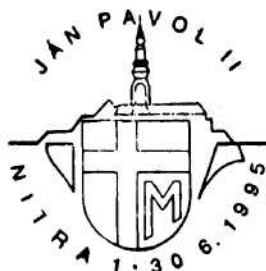
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6. Bratislava -- June 30, 1995

Commemorative postmark.

JÁN PAVOL II. / 30.6.1995/ BRATISLAVA 21.

Clasped hands and part of church



7. Nitra -- June 30, 1995

Commemorative postmark

JÁN PAVOL II / NITRA 130.6.1995

Coat of arms of Pope John Paul II, silhouette of Nitra Cathedral

8. Nitra -- June 30, 1995

Commemorative postmark

JÁN PAVOL II / NITRA 1 30.6.1995

Pope John Paul II and Nitra Cathedral



9. Šaštín -- July 1, 1995

Commemorative postmark

SVĀTÝ OTEC JÁN PAVOL II / ŠAŠTÍN - 1.7.1995

Cross, coat of arms of pope John Paul II, Basilica at the Shrine of Sorrowful Virgin

Translation: Holy Father John Paul II

10a. Košice -- July 2, 1995

Commemorative postmark

SVĀTÍ KOŠICKÍ MUČENÍCI / JÁN PAVOL II /

KOŠICE 1 - 2.7.1995

Translation: Holy Martyrs of Košice



10b. Variation of 10a

- no dot/dash between Košice 1 and the following 2 (date)
- no period after 7 (month)



11. Košice -- July 2, 1995

Commemorative postmark (exists also in violet color)

SVATÝ OTEC JÁN PAVOL II NA SLOVENSKU / RELIGIFILA'95 / 2.7.1995 / KOŠICE 1

Pope John Paul II in blessing gesture

Translation: Holy Father John Paul II in Slovakia
RELIGIFILA'95 = Religious Philatelic Exhibition

12. Košice -- July 2, 1995

Commemorative postmark (exists also in red)
svatorečenie košických mučeníkov / Marek / Štefan / Melichar / košice 1 / 2.7.1995

Translation: canonization of the Martyrs of Košice
First names of the three martyrs: Marek (Křížín), Štefan (Pongracz), Melichar (Grodziecki)



13. Trnava -- July 2, 1995

Commemorative postmark

JOANNES PAULUS pp II / SVATOREČENIE / KOŠICKÝCH / MUČENÍKOV / 2.7.1995 TRNAVA 1

Facsimile signature of Pope John Paul II, bishop's mitre, cathedral in Trnava

Translation: Canonization of the Martyrs of Košice

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14. Prešov -- July 2, 1995
Commemorative postmark
JÁN PAVOL II / PREŠOV 1 - 2.7.1995
Coat of arms of Vatican State and
Pope John Paul II

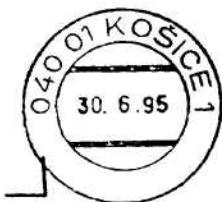


15. Levoča -- July 3, 1995
Commemorative postmark
NÁVŠTEVA SV. OTCA - LEVOČA 3.7.1995
Marian Shrine in Levoča
Translation: Visit of the Holy Father

16. Poprad -- July 3, 1995
Commemorative postmark
NÁVŠTEVA SVATÉHO OTCA / 3.7.1995
POPRAD 1
Coat of arms of Pope John Paul II
Translation: Visit of the Holy Father



17. Košice -- June 30, 1995
Postage meter
7.9.1619 2.7.1995 / MAREK ŠTEFAN MELICHAR / SVATOREČENIE
KOŠICKÝCH MUČENÍKOV / 040 01 KOŠICE 1 / 30.6.95
Translation: Canonization of the Martyrs of Košice, first names of the three
martyrs



18. Košice -- July 2, 1995

Postage meter

NÁVŠTEVA ST. OTCA / PÁPEŽA JÁNA PAVLA II / KOŠICE 2.JULA 1995 /
040 01 KOŠICE 1 / 2.7.95

Holy Father in blessing gesture, church in Košice

Translation: Visit of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II



19. Bratislava -- June 30, 1995

Postage meter

JÁN PAVOL II 30.6.1995 / BRATISLAVA / 810 00 BRATISLAVA 1 / 30.6.1995
Coat of arms of Pope John Paul II and Popemobile



20. Levoča -- July 2, 1995

Postage meter

JÁN PAVOL II LEVOČA 3.7.1995 / 054 01 LEVOČA / 2.7.95

Marian Shrine in Levoča, coat of arms of Pope John Paul II



21. Košice -- July 2, 1996
Commemorative postmark
1. VÝROČIE NÁVŠTEVY SVATÉHO OTCA NA SLOVENSKU / 2.7.1996 / KOŠICE 1
Vatican State coat of arms
Translation: First anniversary of the visit of the Holy Father to Slovakia



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CZECH REPUBLIC COUNTERFEIT ITEMS

[Ed. Note: Two articles written by our member, Savoy Horvath, are being reprinted here along with some additional information he provided since. Copyright Linn's Stamp News, Sidney, Ohio. Reprinted with permission.]

Photocopied Counterfeit Stamps Found in the Czech Republic

by Savoy Horvath



Fig. 1

In August 1995, another counterfeit stamp appeared in the Czech Republic.

In April, counterfeit copies of the 3-koruna definitive showing the city of Brno were discovered (Fig. 1)(Linn's, May 22, page 14).

Like the previous counterfeit, the new counterfeit again depicts the city of Brno. This time, though, it is the 8Kč commemorative issued for the 750th city anniversary (Fig. 2, Scott 2885). This stamp was issued in 1993 in a small pane of eight stamps.

The counterfeits were produced on a quality color photocopier. The picture is color perfect but is shiny because it lacks a plastic coating.

The paper used is slightly thicker than that on the actual stamp, but it shows bright blue under ultraviolet light. It seems that the perforations were made by hand and are rather crude.

Because the April 1995 counterfeit of the 3Kč Brno definitive is already selling in the Czech Republic for up to 800Kč, about \$31, one should realize that this counterfeit was printed, where the new counterfeit of the 8Kč Brno was photocopied.

Used copies of the 8Kč counterfeit have postal cancels from all major Czech cities. They also have been found on covers mailed to foreign countries.



Fig. 2

Counterfeit Czech Republic Postal Cards Being Sold

by Savoy Horvath

Another counterfeit postal issue has appeared in the Czech Republic.

In the last two years, the Czech Republic had its 3-koruna Brno definitive counterfeited at two locations, Prague (*Linn's*, May 22, 1995, page 14) and Strakonice. The Prague version was crude, but the Strakonice counterfeit was almost indistinguishable from its original.

There also was a counterfeit of the 8Kč Brno commemorative of 1993 (*Linn's*, Jan. 29, 1996, page 10). This counterfeit was produced on a good photocopier.

The latest counterfeits are of the 3Kč Village Scene postal card. Fig. 3 shows part of a normal card. Differences between the normal and counterfeit postal cards can be detected under magnification. The counterfeits appeared early in the autumn of 1996.

So far, the Czech police have been unable to find out the source of the counterfeits.

Each postal card issue from the Czech Republic, with one exception, has seen more than one paper color used. The exception is the Historical set. The counterfeits also were done on different colors of paper.

At first glance the counterfeit postal cards look excellent, but under magnification, some of the details are lost.

Specifically, the microprinting on the first line under the stamp image is not clear on the counterfeits (the dim line to the bottom left in Fig. 3). This microprinting consists of "Ceska Posts Ptc 1996" repeated five times.

On the stamp itself, the clouds and bench are missing some of their lines on the counterfeits.

Most counterfeits also have grip marks in paper on the right side.



Fig. 3

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Five varieties of this counterfeit are known.

Some of the counterfeited postal cards are being sold at stamp bourses and shows with a government expert's mark and added handwriting on the reverse. An example is pictured in Figure 4.

The handwritten notations read: "Counterfeited to defraud the postal service. Postally not valid" at the top of the card and "sixth printing -- first from second negative" at the bottom.

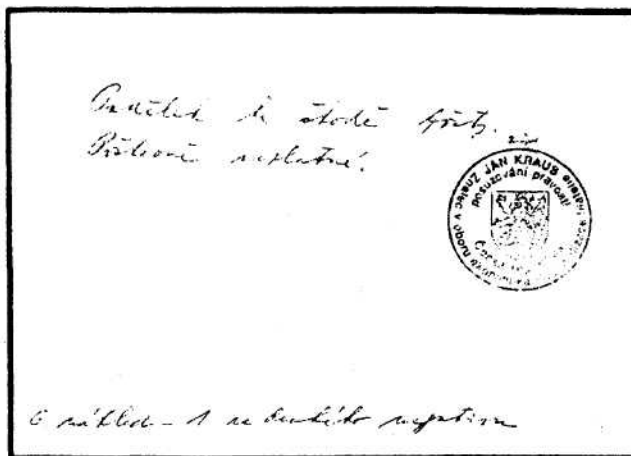


Fig. 4

* * * * *

Subsequent to these articles, Savoy Horvath has provided this additional information. (It should be noted that the microprinted text referenced in the above article was in error. The correct text is discussed below.)

Village Scene Postal Cards

Using Czech catalog postal card numbers, we find:

CDV 8A: The microprinted text reads "VSP ČESKA POŠTA 95". The height of the microprinting is 0.2mm.

CDV 8B: The microprinted text reads "PTC ČESKA POŠTA 95". The height of the microprinting is 0.3mm. Note that the only difference of this card from the previous CDV 7 is that CDV 7 has its microprinted text bunched together so there are no spaces between the words or numbers (PTČESKAPOŠTA95).

CDV 8C: The microprinted text reads "ČESKA POŠTA - PTC- 1996".

All the counterfeits are of the CDV 8B variety card. The first known example appeared early in May 1996. Since then they have been postally used almost nationwide. One can find used counterfeit postcards in stamp mixtures purchased from mail order firms and contest organizations. Mint copies can be found at stamp bourses, going for about 30Kč and up.

There seems to be three types of this counterfeit; probably three different printings:

Type I: Even under magnification the microprinting is almost unreadable. The second and third letters "TC" are missing.

Type II: Under magnification the microprinting is readable but with thick letters.

Type III: The microprinting looks deformed.

Types I and II use the same paper as the original, while Type III can be found on original paper but mostly on yellowish paper.

*New Issues***REVISED****PLAN OF CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS
TO BE ISSUED IN 1997**

[*Edit. Note: This list has been changed extensively from the previous one published in the Jan/Feb SPECIALIST because of the new postal rates that went into effect on April 1, 1997 (e.g., new issues have been added, values have been changed, dates have been changed).*]

| Date of Issue | Name of Issue | Number In Set | Value Kč |
|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| Jan 20 | Tradition of the Czech Stamp Production | 1 | 3.60 |
| Mar 12 | Easter | 1 | 3 |
| Mar 12 | Nature Conservation: Protected Flora | 4 | 3.60,4 5,8 |
| Mar 26 | Best Wishes | 1 | 4 |
| Mar 26 | (not yet described definitive) | 1 | 4.60 |
| Apr 9 | Beauties of our Country: Jewish Monuments in Prague (sheets of 8) | 2 | 8, 10 |
| Apr 23 | Millennium of the Death of St. Adalbert - sheet of 3 stamps, joint issue with Poland, Hungary, and Germany | 1 | 7 |
| Apr 30 | EUROPE - Tales and Legends (sheets of 10) | 2 | 8, 8 |
| May 14 | Prague of Rudolf II - Block of 3 diff stamps | 3 | 6,8,10 |
| May 28 | For Children - Characters from Children's Bedtime Television Cartoons | 1 | 4.60 |
| May 28 | (not yet described (definitive)) | 1 | 12.60 |
| Jun 25 | Anniversaries of Personalities: František Křižík 1847-1941 | 1 | 6 |
| Aug 27 | European Championship in Swimming and Diving | 1 | 11 |
| Sep 10 | Czech Cartoon Humour: Fortunes of the Good Soldier Švejk illustrated by Josef Lada | 3 | 4, 4.60,6 |
| Sep 24 | PRAGA 1998: International Philatelic Exhibition - 2 stamps on sheetlet | 2 | 15,15 |
| Oct 8 | Historic Service Vehicles | 3 | 4, 4.60,8 |
| Nov 12 | Works of Art on Stamps (sheets of 4) | 3 | |
| | - Antonín Chittussi 1847-1891 | | 7 |
| | - František Bílek 1872-1941 | | 12 |
| | - T. F. Šimon 1877-1942 | | 16 |
| Nov 12 | Christmas | 1 | 4 |

[*Ed. Note: Thanks to Savoy Horvath*]

**PLAN OF SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS
TO BE ISSUED IN 1997**

| Date of Issue | Name of Issue | Number In Set | Value Sk |
|---------------|---|---------------|----------|
| Jan 16 | Personalities -- Štefan Moyzes | 1 | 3 |
| Jan 16 | Personalities -- Svetozár Hurban Vajanský | 1 | 4 |
| Feb 3 | World Championship in Biathlon | 1 | 6 |
| Feb 15 | Folk Traditions -- Easter'97 | 1 | 3 |
| Mar 25 ✓ | Franciscan Church, Bratislava | 1 | 16 |
| Apr 15 | Žilina (definitive) | 1 | 9 |
| Apr 15 | 100 Years of Wireless Telegraph | 1 | 10 |
| May 5 | EUROPA'97 -- Legends and Myths, sheetlet of 5 stamps and 3 tabs | 1 | 9 |
| Jun 12 | Folklore Festival -- Východná | 1 | 11 |
| Jun 12 | Splendours of our Homeland | | |
| | - Cave Domica | 1 | 6 |
| | - Aragonit Cave of Ochtiná | 1 | 8 |
| Jun 19 | Triennale of Native Art | 1 | 3 |
| Jul 15 ✓ | International Slovaks' Year | 1 | 9 |
| Jul 15 ✓ | Martin (definitive) | 1 | 7 |
| Aug 5 ✓ | Bienale of Illustrations Bratislava | 1 | 3 |
| Aug 5 ✓ | River Mills | 1 | 4 |
| Sep 17 ✓ | Nature Protection -- Mushrooms | 3 | 4,12,16 |
| Sep 17 ✓ | Art on Stamps, sheetlets of 4 | | |
| | - Ján Kupecký | 1 | 9 |
| | - The Bojnice Altar | 1 | 10 |
| | - Koloman Sokol | 1 | 12 |
| Oct 24 | Černová (1907) | 1 | 4 |
| Nov 3 | Ondrej Nepela | 1 | 5 |
| Nov 3 | Christmas '97 | 1 | 3 |
| Dec 18 | Stamp Day | 1 | 4 |

[Ed. Note: Thanks to Gerald van Zanten]

Alterations to the planned program should be expected.

SLOVAKIA

1. On December 18, 1996, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 3Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Achievements of Slovak Sportsmen at the 1996 Olympic Games" (Fig. 1). This stamp is in brown and gold and depicts Olympic kayak slalom champion Michal Martikán in competition at the Games. It also commem-



Fig. 1

orates the Slovak team receiving a silver medal in another kayak event and a bronze in shooting. The designer and engraver of the issue is Rudolf Cigánik. This horizontal stamp with an image area of 23mm x 40mm was printed by Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on sheets of fifty stamps. A first day cover including commemorative cancellation with the legend Liptovský Mikuláš is being issued simultaneously. The FDC features our two other successful Olympic disciplines represented symbolically in a composition incorporating the capital of an antique column. The FDC was printed in brown by the same printing house as the stamp, using recess printing from flat plates.



Fig. 2

2. On December 18, 1996, the Ministry issued a 3Sk commemorative stamp with tab entitled "Postage Stamp Day - Martin Benka" (Fig. 2). The stamp reproduces a detail

from a self-portrait by Martin Benka and one of his unexecuted postage-stamp designs from 1938 (a women together with the patriarchal cross and a dove). The tab features a study for a postage stamp, entitled "Woman Reading". The graphic designer of the issue is Martin Činovský, who is also responsible for the engraving transfer of both stamp and tab. The stamp was engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, the tab by František Horniak. This horizontal stamp with an image of 40mm x 23mm features a dark-blue drawing on a cream background, and the tab in matching colours measures (vertically) 19mm x 23mm. Both stamp and tab were printed by Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on sheets of thirty stamps and forty tabs. A first day cover including commemorative cancellation with the legend "Martin" is being issued simultaneously. The FDC reproduces Martin Benka's stamp design "Roads to Peace" (1938). The cancellation represents a detail from the drawing "Study of a Raftsman". The FDC was printed in brown by the same printing house as the stamp, using recess printing from flat plates. The FDC engraving is by Martin Činovský. Benka was an important Slovak painter, he devoted his paintings to scenes of this native land and its people. He also wrote books and illustrated them himself. See the Art series of Czechoslovakia of 1988. The 2Kčs value of that set depicts two toiling women, both hidden under their loads. That painting is simply entitled "With Bundles". Also see "Day of the Stamp" of Czechoslovakia of 1991.

3. On January 16, 1997, the Ministry issued a 3Sk stamp entitled "Štefan Moyses (1797-1869)" which is commemorating his 200th birthdate (Fig. 3). To the right of his likeness the design shows a delegation on their way to Vienna to present a memorandum from the Slovak people to the sovereign. Štefan Moyses was the first

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chairman of "Matica Slovenská" (The Slovak Mother), an old Slovak cultural institute. It was established in Martin in 1863. It published books and periodicals and was instrumental in fostering Slovak patriotism. The design and engraving for the issue are by Rudolf Cigánik. This multi-colored stamp with an image area of 23mm x 30mm was printed by Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing on printing sheets of fifty stamps. A first day cover, including a commemorative cancellation with the legend Martin, is being issued simultaneously. On the FDC is pictured a church in Žiar nad Hronom, the place of last repose of Štefan Moyses. The FDC was printed by the same printing house as the stamp using recess printing from flat plates in dark brown color.

4. On January 16, 1997, the Ministry issued a 4Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Svetozár Hurban Vajanský (1847-1916)" which is commemorating his 150th birthdate (Fig. 4). The design by J. Baláž and engraving by Martin Činovský includes the likeness of Vajanský with a large writing quill to his right. He was a Slovak politician, writer, literary critic, and lawyer. As part of the Slovak National Party in the 1870's, he created an action group of young cultural, organizational and educational workers in Martin. The Slovak National Party was a loose political organization of leaders without a mass following and reflected several political trends. Vajanský was a poet and contributor/editor of the party's organ, *Národné Noviny* (National News) from 1878 until 1906. Together with J. M. Škultéty, he was the main ideologist of the Slovak National Movement Center in Martin. Consequently, he advocated the idea of national unification. In 1895 he was a member of the Slovak delegation to the so called National Congress in Budapest. The issue was printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing.

5. On January 31, 1997, the Ministry issued a 6Sk commemorative stamp entitled "World Championship in Biathlon -- OSRBLIE'97" (Fig. 5). The design depicts participants competing in the biathlon (cross country skiing interspersed by rifle target shooting). The design is by Júlia Buková with the engraving by Bohumil Šneider. The FDC pictures a biathlönist surrounded by the Low Tatra mountains as well as another design by Júlia Buková.



Fig. 6



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

6. On February 15, 1997, the Ministry issued a 3Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Folk Traditions" (Fig. 6). The multicolored stamp -- in sheets of 50 -- depicts a kneeling peasant woman following a folk tradition of collecting dew drops from a stretched cloth. Both design and engraving were by Rudolf Cigánik. The FDC features a scene of driving away rodents which is also the work of Rudolf Cigánik.

Postal Stationery - Envelopes

7. On June 6, 1996, the Ministry issued a special envelope to commemorate the "125th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Slovak National Party" (Fig. 7). The stamp impression depicts the Slovak national emblem and the value of 8Sk. The design in the lower left bears the inscription: "SLOVAK NATIONAL PARTY - 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDATION" and the portraits of Viliam Pauliny-Tóth and Ján Francisci. The design was by Jozef Baláz with offset printing in black-green and red.

8. On June 6, 1996, the Ministry issued a special envelope to commemorate the "135th Anniversary of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation" (Fig. 8). The stamp impression depicts the Slovak national emblem and the value of 8Sk. The design in the lower left bears the inscription: "MEMORANDUM OF THE SLOVAK

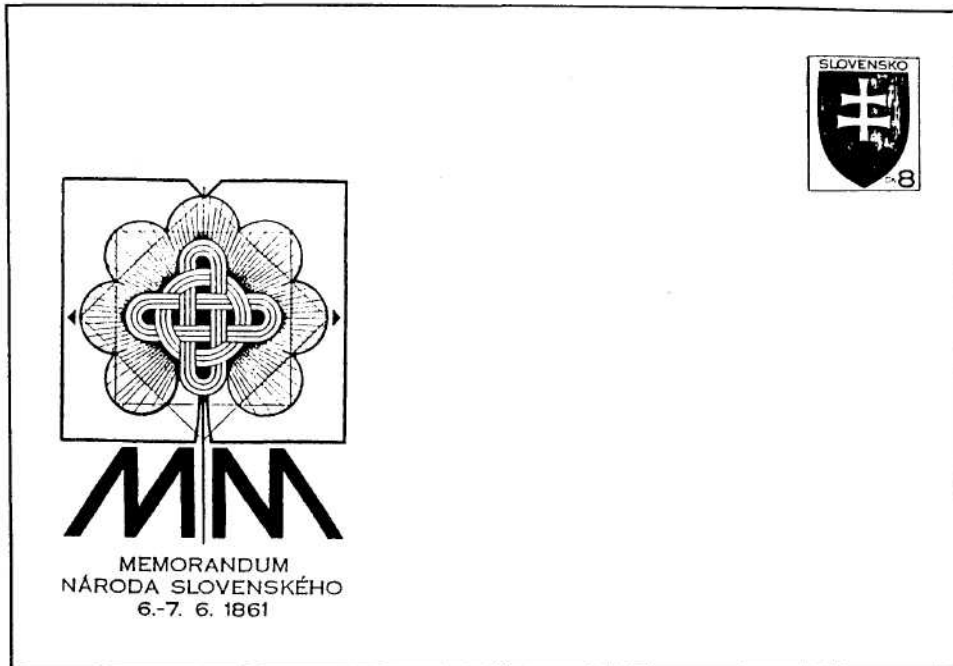


Fig. 8

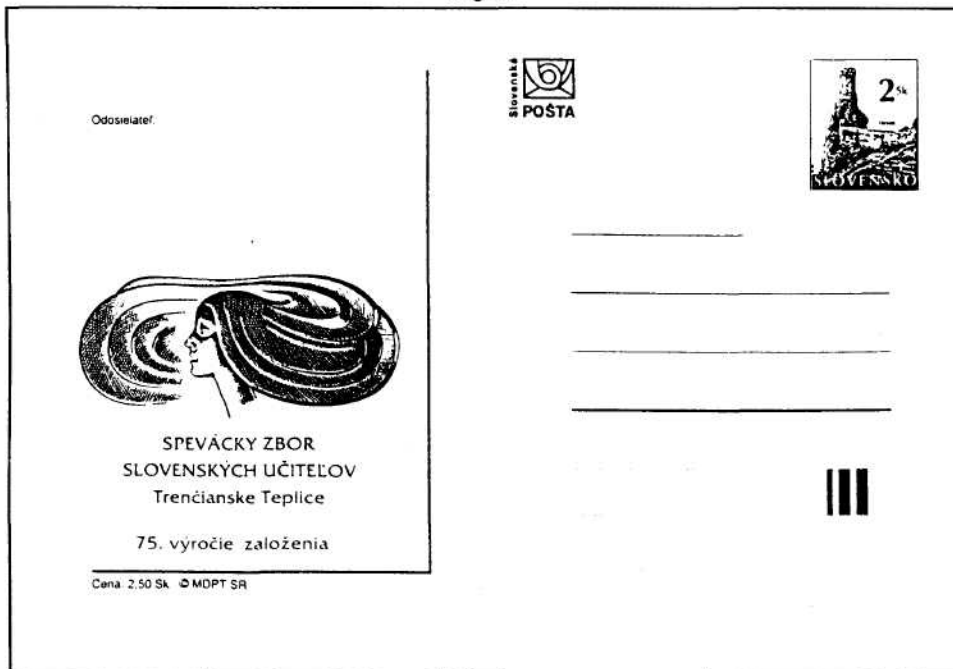


Fig. 9

NATION 6. -- 7. 6. 1861" and an illustrative motif. The design was by Jozef Baláz, with printing in offset in red and blue.

Postal Stationery - Cards

9. On June 7, 1996, the Ministry issued a commemorative postcard to commemorate the "Slovak Teachers' Choir" (Fig. 9). The stamp impression depicts the Devín castle design and the value of 2Sk. The design in the lower left bears the inscription: "SLOVAK TEACHERS' CHOIR, (in) TRENČIANSKE TEPLICE, 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING". The price of the card is shown as 2.50Sk.

**SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER
OF MALTA - S.M.O.M.**

There are some postal issuing organizations whose stamps are recognized by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) as valid for any international mail. The issues of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta are such. The following announcement of a new SMOM issue recognizes an agreement between SMOM and the Czech Republic (Repubblica Ceca) to honor this special status.

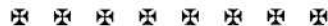


Fig. 10

Issue Date: 9 December 1996.

Title: Postal Agreement with the Czech Republic

A single air mail of 10 Scudi (4,800 lire) was issued in sheets of 40 and a quantity of 50,000 printed by the Italian State Polygraphic Institute and Mint (IPZS), Rome (Fig. 10). It features the coat of arms of the Czech Republic in full color and commemorates the bilateral agreement signed on 30 April 1996 making SMOM issues valid for correspondence to that country. Forty-six such agreements are in force for correspondence franked with stamps of the Order of Malta and deposited at the Magistral Post in Rome.



Letters to the Editor

[Ed. Note: While this first letter was actually sent to our treasurer, Ed Lehecka, I feel that its nature deserves to be seen by every member. Our Society officers and board members very much appreciate this pat on the back.]

1. Dear Ed:

First of all, enclosed please find my dues for the SCP.

More importantly, I want to pass on my complements to you and any of the other members you feel appropriate. Truth be told, I'm not much of a Czech philatelist. My great philatelic love is Poland. But you guys have (philatelically)

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swept me off my feet. I wrote for some philatelic trinkets and received a nice note (along with the magnets that decorate my refrigerator). I wrote for a book that I expected to be aimed at juveniles and instead got a wonderful introduction to a few of the specialties of Czech philately. I joined the society and got a personal note from one of the officers welcoming me to the society. And the magazine puts all (but perhaps the GPS) to shame.

This society should be a model for many to follow, and my sincere congratulations on a job well done to all of the officers and members of the society.

Sincerely,
Scott Marusak

2. Dear Lou:

Who has read the article on "Some Stamps of Czechoslovakia and the Stories They Tell" in the March issue of *Global Stamp News*? It is a gem because it tells a simple story in a simple way. The author, Phillips Freer, is on our SPECIALIST's editorial staff and is also the author of one of the Society's best-selling books, "For Beginners: The Philately of Czechoslovakia".

Freer has caught the flavor of the moment: how to bring the young novice to appreciate stamps of the Czech Republic and Slovakia and of their united predecessor, Czechoslovakia. There is no attempt here to beat the drums with fancy terminology. Phrases like "comb perf, line perf"; "double overprint, inverted overprint"; "control numbers, plate numbers"; "tete-beche"; "offset"; etc., may impress the average collector, but will not bring young blood into our Society. Freer tells a story in plain language about a small central European nation whose first stamps were issued at the end of World War I, and whose later stamps have won world-wide recognition as being some of the most beautiful ever designed, engraved and printed. If a simple statement like that will not attract a young collector, then nothing will. Or will it?

There is the other side of the story, . . . exemplifying the "greed for money" side. [These societies/companies] carry the concept of dealership to the other extreme. Having attracted thousands of collectors, mostly the young and the gullible, [they] sell them stamps issued for and by tiny obscure nations glamorizing celebrities like Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Jacqueline Kennedy, the Beatles, the Marx brothers, etc. These stamps, often sold in display leatherette cases at exorbitant prices, constitute the kind of rip-off that sent Albania reeling over "get-rich-quick" schemes.

Inasmuch as I choose the former approach, I challenge our present members to write articles similar to Freer's and get them published in our nationwide (or even regional) philatelic journals publicizing the advantages, both esthetic and economic, of collecting stamps of former Czechoslovakia and its successor nations. No rip-offs here! Just plain humble talk!

Yours truly,
Mirko Vondra

3. Dear Mr. Horvath:

I am well aware that Mr. Santa-Eugenia Grau is not the only author on the subject. I reviewed Mr. Karel Holoubek's book (which you mention) on p. 12 of the

March/April issue, and I am aware of several journal articles on the subject. I'm sure you are right in commenting that many of the issues in the Santa-Eugenia Grau book are fantasies - some of which he points out. I don't quite understand your comment about the role of the communist government, though I would agree that they didn't appreciate some of the issues showing liberation by US forces.

Sincerely,
Henry Hahn

[Ed. Note: This letter is a response to Mr. Horvath's letter on p. 26 of the Mar/Apr issue commenting on Mr. Hahn's article, The "Revolutionary" Overprints of Czechoslovakia, p. 9, of the Jan/Feb issue. Both books that are being discussed obviously took a great deal of time and effort to compile and to decide which issues to include. I believe it could serve the best interests of our membership if one or several of the authors or letter writers could put together an article for the SPECIALIST outlining which of the issues were fantasies, why this is claimed, where and when they originated, etc.]

4. Dear Mr. Svoboda:

I always enjoy receiving the latest Czech SPECIALIST. However, one of the features I found especially useful was "New Issues". This enabled me to update my catalog of Czech stamps. Would it be possible to renew this feature in future issues?

Joseph Drvostep

[Ed. Note: I advised Mr. Drvostep that the absence of the Czech Republic new issues was a matter of no information being available at this time. And, that it is my policy to always include whatever new issue information I have available in the next issue. The probable reason that information is delayed has to do with the change in the Czech Republic postal rates on April 1 of this year. The New Issues section of this SPECIALIST contains a revised Czech Republic stamp issuance plan.]



Fig. 1

5. Dear Lou:

While cleaning out my drawers of accumulated material during my 9½ years

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as editor, I came upon the enclosed engraving by Herčík. I would not exactly call it an essay, but maybe a submitted design for a stamp that was never accepted (Fig. 1).

Mirko Vondra

[Ed. Note: Does anyone recognize what the purpose of this particular engraving may have been? In the lower right there appears - "I STRNÁD 1975 J HERČÍK".]

6. Dear Sal:

I'd like to comment briefly with regard to your question about the introduction of bilingual postmarks in the Czech lands. According to Monografie vol 13, p. 18, the first official German-Czech postmarks were to have been introduced in 1871. However, on p. 24 it is noted that bilingual "postmasters" postmarks were introduced after 1850; apparently without official postal orders or change in the law. However, in 1871 an order was issued which permitted the use of German-Czech on officially issued cancelers. This became law as a result of Czech political pressure for language equivalency after the lost Franco-Prussian war in 1866. The official postmarks have the Czech in smaller letters and sometimes in parenthesis. During this period, some postmasters still had the right to order privately made postmarks, some in Czech only, some bilingual. Officially issued Czech language only postmarks were issued after 1886, though bilingual postmarks still bear the German name on top. Only in 1898 was the language of the local population declared to be the official language, and lingual equivalency became the law. This remained in effect until 1918.

The official date of issue of the bilingual Znaim-Znojmo postmark, according to Monografie 14, was 1884. However, it is possible that it was 1873 if you have such a cover. Vostatek is not always reliable in these matters.

Henry Hahn

[Ed. Note: Having done some map reading and research through past SPECIALIST's on my own, I would add these comments. I believe the Vidnava-Weidenau being discussed is in fact in the northwestern part of Moravia above Šumperk and very close to the Polish border. This area had a fairly heavy representation of Germans who, like those in Aš and Rumburk, "jumped the gun" on the assimilation of the Sudetenland into the Reich, even though this part of Moravia was not technically considered a part of the areas that were to be assimilated. While the actual takeover dates were staggered beginning October 1, in some places, like for example Aš (September 21) and Rumburk (September 22), the Nazis celebrated early -- and so it may have been in Vidnava-Weidenau. You may be interested to know that according to Roger Richet in "The Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations, and Vignettes of the Sudetenland (1880-1970)", serially published in the SPECIALIST, Mar 75-Apr 77, a cover that is triple franked (Czech, German, and Austrian) is extremely rare. This book as well as its translated (without illustrations) version can be checked out from our library -- contact our librarian, Richard Palaschak (his address can be found on page 2).

And, on your second letter, I believe the date of 21 III 38 was a year error by the postal clerk on the cancelling device (should have been 21 III 39 -- 6 days after Germany took over completely), or the date was not clear enough to be read correctly as a 39. It would not make much sense for a postmaster or postal clerk to take such a blatant step in March 1938 when even the Austrian Anschluss hadn't taken place yet (April 10, 1938).]

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***** AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS *****

(All prices are postpaid, E=English, Cz=Czech)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Czechoslovak Society of Great Britain monographs (E) | |
| #1 - CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY & AIR FORCE IN EXILE | \$14.00 |
| #3 - POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA OVERPRINTS 1919 | \$10.00 |
| #4 - CARPATHO-UKRAINE POSTAL MARKINGS | \$14.00 |
| #5 - CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN FRANCE -- WWII | \$19.00 |
| #6 - GERMAN OCCUPATION SUDETENLAND | \$14.00 |
| #8 - OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK FRONTIER TERRITORIES | \$14.00 |
| #9 - FIELD POST OF CZECH. & ALLIED FORCES IN RUSSIA 1918-20 | \$14.00 |
| #10 - 25TH ANNIV. OF CZECH. INDEPENDENCE (LONDON 1943 EXHIBIT) | \$15.00 |
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