



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## AIRMAIL DURING THE PROTECTORATE PERIOD

by MUDr. Petr Horka  
trans. by Vladimír Králiček

*[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the March 1992 issue of Filatelie. It is reprinted here with the permission of the editor and the author.]*

For a long time it was not possible for our collectors to be informed of the historical postal events that occurred during the Bohemia and Moravia Protectorate period. The purposeful printing during that time of our postal history brought with it reduced interest in collecting stamps and other philatelic material of the Protectorate; in addition, almost no one has devoted himself to the philatelic study of this period. Perhaps the greatest harm caused by this conduct was done to the domain of aerophilately. A mistaken opinion prevailed -- which is still heard even today -- that during the Protectorate period airmail post was nonexistent, that

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## CZECHOSLOVAK STAMP COLLECTORS ON LINE

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

The following individuals have expressed an interest in corresponding via e-mail with other collectors of Czechoslovak philatelic materials. Being listed in this way will give members a great advantage in pursuing their interest areas by providing answers to their questions in potentially minutes rather than days/weeks.

Names are followed by specific interest areas (where known) and complete e-mail address. A previous list appeared in the Jul/Aug 99 issue, p.26.

### ON LINE COLLECTORS

Markku Korhonen [Hradčany, postal history of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia

from 1526(?) until 1899] -- Markku.Korhonen@helsinki.fi

Patrick Moore [General all, cancels, Austrian period, Sudetenland, Bohemia-

Moravia, railway post, philately/contemporary history links] --

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**AIRMAIL DURING THE PROTECTORATE PERIOD**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

"during the war, after all, there was no flying". So that we could -- at least in the most basic sense -- try to correct this opinion, we introduce the most important known facts concerning the airmail post during 1939-1945.

**Evolution of the airmail post in 1939**

During the autumn of 1938 there were already restrictions in the operations of the Czechoslovak airmail post. In general it was the internal air links that were closed, mainly due to the loss of airports in the surrendered lands. Some of the foreign routes were also abolished or stopped for the winter season. By the first quarter of 1939 the ČSA [Československé Státní Aerolinie -- Czechoslovak State Airlines] held on to only the internal route from Prague to Slatinské Doly (which was recently referred to in *Filatelie*). Beside ČSA and ČLS [Československá Letecká Společnost -- Czechoslovak Aviation Company], also Sabena, KLM, Air France and Lufthansa flew abroad. Still, on March 15, 1939 a KLM aircraft departed Prague on the regular Prague-Rotterdam-London route. Under relatively dramatic circumstances due to very bad weather conditions, the aircraft carried a group of Czechoslovak Army Intelligence Officers who were carrying documents.

On the day of occupation -- March 15, 1939 -- the Protectorate airspace was closed to all aircraft except for those of the German Military Forces by order of the Reich Protector. It is quite possible that some flights of a semi-military character were flown by the German Lufthansa. The airmail post from the Protectorate was dispatched by train to Berlin or Vienna.

**The airmail post during the period 1939-1945**

The Protectorate airspace was freed for civilian air service towards the end of July and the beginning of August 1939. The civilian airlines came under the jurisdiction of the German Air Ministry. The first airline to begin service was the Dutch KLM on the route London-Rotterdam-Prague-Vienna-Budapest (26 July 1939). Official civilian service was renewed by Lufthansa on 21 August 1939 on practically all of the routes which it flew (together with ČLS) before the occupation. Some new connections (e.g., to Frankfurt/M) were added. Our two airlines -- ČSA and ČLS -- were merged and then on August 17, 1939 they went into liquidation. All of their material assets and equipment were taken over by Lufthansa which then used some of the ČSA/ČSL aircraft to service the routes within the Protectorate.

The internal air transport of mail was not renewed during 1939-1945. The airmail from the Protectorate to Europe was flown out mainly by Lufthansa (in 1939 also by KLM) on its routes to Berlin with connections to Scandinavia, Switzerland, the Pyrenees peninsula, and the USSR. The airmail to Slovakia went via Vienna where on July 9, 1939 the route Vienna-Bratislava-Piešťany was opened by Lufthansa -- later to be taken over by the Slovak airline (SLS -- Slovak Aviation Company -- flew with aircraft letter code OK, i.e., with the original Czechoslovak designation). By way of Vienna the airmail was further directed to the Balkans and the Apennine peninsula. The airmail to North America was directed via Berlin or Frankfurt/M and Lisbon and then further by way of the Pan American air route

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London-Lisbon-Bermuda-New York. To South America the airmail was carried by Lufthansa or its sister airline Condor. Also significant was the Italian link of the LATI airline from Rome to South America, and the connections by the British and Dutch airlines from Rome and Athens to Asia.

The closure of air transport within the Protectorate came about gradually. KLM airlines (obviously later deprived of its London connection) was probably closed at the end of 1939 -- the exact date is not known. Other air routes and connections were gradually closed with the entry of individual countries into the war. During the whole war period the conveyance of airmail was ensured by the Lufthansa airline which was forced by the progress of the Allied Forces to shorten and reduce its links. Its longest lasting operation in the Protectorate was the Prague to Germany links -- still in operation at the beginning of 1945.

### Airmail entires in the period 1939-1945

The philatelic evaluation of the Protectorate entires is very difficult, even more difficult than evaluating those of the pre-war Czechoslovak Republic period. Foreign correspondence -- mainly airmail -- was substantially restricted and thus even fewer of the Protectorate period airpost entires were preserved. Usage of some of the transit and arrival postmarks was stopped (a process that had been already started in Germany in 1933) and thus airpost entires lost some of their uniqueness. As a consequence of wartime events there were rapid changes to which the Postal Administration was not able to react quickly enough. Even so we have several postal markings for the period 1939-1945 which will help us with the evaluation of these entires.

a) **Postage stamps** -- only the Czechoslovak airmail stamps of the III. issue used up until December 15, 1939 are taken into consideration. Airpost entires with these stamps are rare. Airmail stamps were not issued by the Protectorate (as compared with Slovakia where their airmail stamps were issued and used fairly extensively). Airmail in the Protectorate was franked with the normally used definitive stamps.

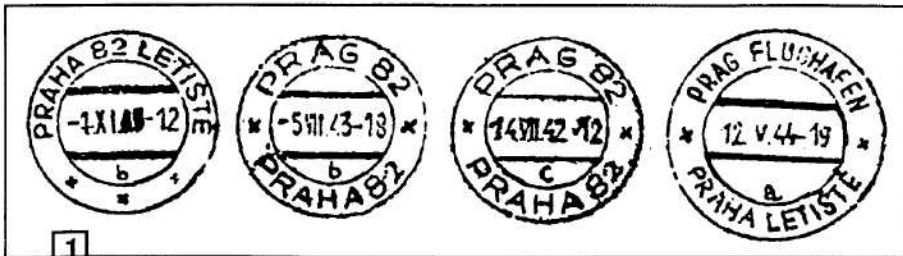


Fig. 1: Cancellations of the Prague Airport during the Protectorate period

b) **Postal cancellations** -- As arrival postmarks on airmail entires to the Protectorate, the post office at the Ruzyně airport used: up to the end of 1939, the Czechoslovak small diameter postmark "PRAHA 82 LETIŠTĚ"; from 1940, the bilingual Protectorate postmark "PRAG 82/PRAHA 82"; and in 1944, the bilingual postmark of 28 mm diameter "PRAG FLUGHAFEN/PRAHA LETIŠTĚ" was added (the reasons for this postmark are not known)(Fig. 1). The difficulty of reviewing airpost entires lies in that, among others, that a number of entires demonstrably



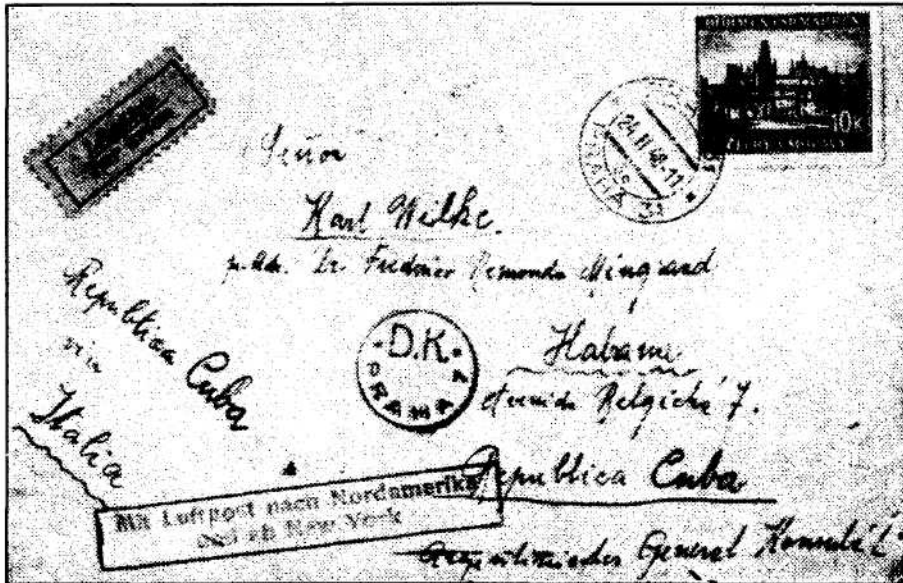


Fig. 2 - Airmail letter to Cuba, originating in Prague, and sent via Italy and the USA

carried by air have other arrival postmarks. Thus, in the evaluation process we cannot entirely depend upon the Ruzyně arrival postmarks.

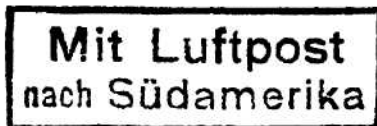


Fig. 3 - "By Airmail to South America"

**c) Auxiliary postal cancellations --**

In 1940 the framed cancellation "Mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika und ab New York", in purple, was used at post offices Praha 1 and Praha 7. At Praha 1 the framed cancellation "Mit Luftpost nach Südamerika", also in purple, was used -- entire with these cancellations are relatively rare (Figs 2,3). Some collectors also place amongst the airpost cancellations the purple circular postmark with the letters D.K. (Fig. 4). This foreign exchange control mark occurs fairly frequently on airmail entires, however in fact they do not directly relate to airmail service since consignments sent abroad by land post also went through foreign exchange control.

**d) Airmail labels --** In the Protectorate they issued a three language form -- German-Czech-French -- printed in black on blue paper measuring 25 x 15 mm (Fig. 5). In 1939 and at the beginning of 1940 the original Czechoslovak airmail labels were also used.

**e) Postal tariffs --** In spite of the fact that there was no intrastate [airmail] transport established, as of June 1, 1941 there was invoked an airmail surcharge of 0.50K for letters up to 20g; the same surcharge also applied to Germany. There was a surcharge of 1K to the rest of Europe (except for Slovakia). Overseas the air surcharge was differentiated according to the distance complexity of transport: 1K (Angola, Libya), 3.50K (e.g., Cape Verde Islands), 7K (Philippines), etc. The setting of the tariffs to the USA was interesting. So far as the consignment was being [air] transported directly to the USA, the tariff was 4K; if it was being forward by air from

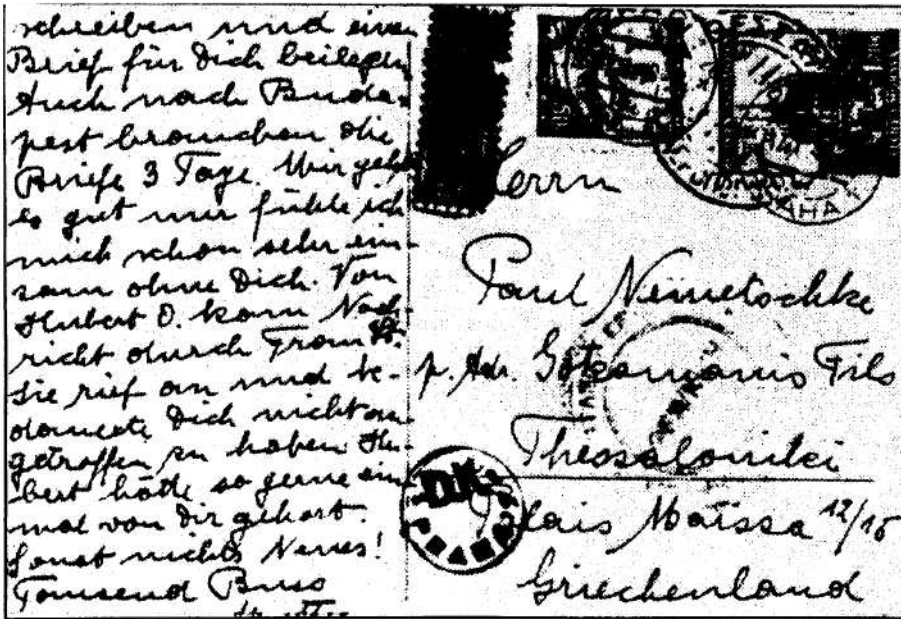


Fig. 4 - Postcard carried by air to Athens, addressed to Thessalonica in Greece

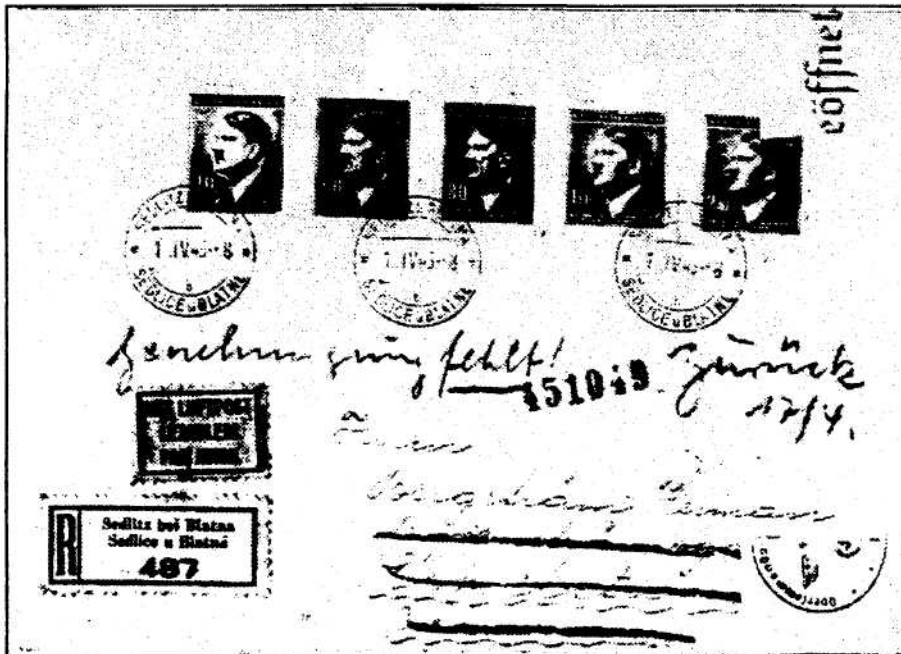


Fig. 5 - Airmail letter dates 1 April 1945, sent to Finland

New York alone, the surcharge was 1K. For transport by way of South America the tariff was 21.50K. The surcharges for Mexico, Central and South America were determined similarly.

f) **Transit cancellations** -- For us to be able to determine the air route taken by the airline by way of the transit cancellations provides us with an invaluable tool in diagnosing Protectorate air consignments. These are mainly the postmarks of Berlin, Vienna, Frankfurt/M, Athens and some others. But it also holds true in this case that we cannot depend on them 100%, because a number of air carried entires do not have the transit cancellations.

### **Military Post**

The German Army built at Prague/Ruzyne extensive air transport facilities for their JU52 transport aircraft as well as building a rear base. A great amount of air Field Post from and to the front went through this rear base facility. In addition to this, selected important enterprises had the right to use the air Field Post for their correspondence, but they had to frank their letters with stamps. There are entires known to exist today which passed through the air Field Post that were addressed to these enterprises in the Protectorate. They are, for example, sent from "Luftgaupostamt Wien" or from Paris. It is thought-provoking that an example of an important enterprise corresponding via the "Luftgaupostamt Paris" was the German buyer of French wine.

All of the air consignments were obviously subjected to German censorship with a number of them being again censored in the countries of arrival or transit.

We are placing here in front of the philatelic public the first general study of the Protectorate period airmail post. It is far from completed -- it is more of a "pricking of a wasps nest". The author is hoping for a wide response from the readers and for complementary information. Only in such a way shall we repay the debt that we have in the aerophilately period of 1939-1945.

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

### ***Book Review***

#### **CZECHOSLOVAK AIR POST 1918 - 1939**

by MUDr. Petr Horka

Published as Trojan Catalog

This 224 page, soft bound handbook published in 1997 matches in size and appearance the numerous catalogues published by Trojan. As in the case of other Trojan catalogues, it is in Czech. It appeared at a time that this reviewer was forming a Czechoslovak Air Post exhibit which gave him ample opportunity to note both the positive and negative aspects of this work.

The handbook is described in the introductory chapter as a catalogue. It is a catalogue in the sense that individual covers are point valued, where one point equals 1 Kč in 1997. But in content it far exceeds a catalogue, and should be

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considered a handbook. Its chapters include a good historical introduction, beginning with the hot air balloon of the Czech scientist Tedeas Hanka, which carried the first written message delivered "by air" in March of 1784. He covers development through the French Balloon Mail of the Franco-Prussian War, early balloon mail, early aviators, and Austro-Hungarian military mail. These are systematically listed in table form. He then covers early Czechoslovak military mail up to 1920 which pioneered the earliest Czechoslovak air routes. MUDr. Horka's presentation of history without deviating excessively from philately is believed to be the strongest part of his work.

The presentation of the earliest commercial Air Post period includes much data previously unpublished. Much has been written (and argued) about the earliest flights, but Horka's presentation is again clear and systematic. In his tables showing dates of flights with corresponding weight of mail, he includes flights to and from Warsaw, all of which occurred after the end of the first rate period -- which could cause some confusion except that the author points this out in the last paragraph of the previous chapter.

The 1922-1930 period is presented in great detail, showing schedules of both domestic and international flights. I have found no first flights in that period that were not listed and detailed in the handbook and would therefore venture to say that the listing is virtually complete. Interesting covers with foreign destinations are illustrated and described. The only lack of detail and clarity was observed in the listing of covers connecting to German Lufthansa flights in 1927 (p 102) where Czechoslovak routes and dates are not given.

The period from 1931-1939 is again presented comprehensively, with good historic narrative, good illustrations of aircraft and clear international schedules. Main emphasis is again on the listing of First Flights and commemorative cancels. As in previous chapters, the airlines are listed.

Separate chapters are devoted to commemorative flights, balloon flights, and catapult flights. The dates of all Zeppelin flights are listed, including those when foreign franking for Zeppelin flights was required (the period before the 1932 Czechoslovak treaty).

A separate chapter on crash covers and emergency landings beginning with May of 1918 gives dates, routes, airlines, pertinent notes and valuation in most cases.

The last major chapter is devoted to postage rates. Shown are tables giving basic international surface rates upon which Air Post surcharges were levied. The tables of foreign surcharges are given by continent. In each, the country and time interval are given, and surcharges for letters, postcards and printed matter are listed. Pertinent notes are added as applicable.

The author admits that the handbook is not complete and is eager to accept new information from readers. That statement is true of almost any handbook and should not detract from the usefulness of the work. I highly recommend it to those of our readers who can read Czech, though the catalogue listings may also be useful to English speaking collectors. The handbook may be purchased from the Society for \$15.00, postpaid, by contacting Edwin Lehecka whose address appears on page 2 in this issue.

Henry Hahn

## THE SO CALLED BUČOVICE STAMPS OF 1945

by A. Machala  
trans. by Savoy Horvath

[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the Mar/Apr 1997 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]

Soon after the liberation the concept to issue postage stamps in Bučovice came from the town's Municipal Commission (Národní Výbor -- N.V.) and from the local post office, where a new postmaster -- Václav Váleček -- who was also a member of the N.V. had just taken office. In addition, the financial commissioner of the N.V., Ludvík Studenka, was also the president of the area stamp club. It was decided to commission a local woodcarver from Vicemilic, Josef Staněk, to create the printing blocks. On May 7, 1945, Ludvík Studenka finalized the agreement with the woodcarver. The



Fig. 1

wood for the plates came from a hardwood called boxtree (zimostrás) which is very durable. The engraving pictured: the Bučovice castle, the statement "JEN PRO BUČOVICE" (For Bucovice Only) along the bottom edge (to the right of this was the value "120"), and along the top edge was "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" (Fig. 1). Both the N in "JEN" and the one in "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" were engraved



Fig. 2

backwards in error. Since the printing block was faulty, the same block was used to cut a new design on the opposite side. This engraving pictured: once again a view of Bučovice castle, the statement "PLATÍ JEN PRO BUČOVICE" (Good Only in Bučovice) along the bottom edge, the value "150" on the left edge, and along the top was "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" (Fig. 2). As a result of all this carving, the printing block broke and was never finalized. Later on it was glued together and loaned to the local Bučovice stamp club to print stamps in various colors for their members.



Fig. 3

New, final printing blocks were created again from boxtree wood, and on May 22, 1945, Ludvík Studentka took them to the Hořák Printing Co. in Bučovice. On that date the production of two stamps was begun. The 60h value -- in a vertical rectangular format measuring 24 x 32 mm -- was blue in color and depicted the Bučovice church (Fig. 3). The 1.20 Kčs value -- in a horizontal rectangular format measuring 32 x 24 mm -- was red and depicted the Bučovice castle (Fig. 4). The stamps were printed in pairs on white paper that was smooth on top.



Fig. 4

On this same date Bučovice postmaster Váleček went to the Postal Ministry in Brno. Here he was severely reprimanded, given strict orders not to print these stamps, and was informed of the possible consequences that he was facing. As soon as he returned



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to Bučovice, he issued an order to the printer to stop production and to the postal clerks to not accept mail franked with these stamps nor to cancel them. These orders were respected, and as a result, to this day there are no postally used examples of these "stamps". On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May even the president of the Bučovice N.V. received these same Postal Ministry orders in written form.

The printing being stopped, the completed stocks were removed from the printer and the post office with the exception of a group which Ludvík Studenka took to give to all of the stamp club members -- this being two sets per member. The printing blocks -- not having been paid for yet -- were returned to J. Staněk who turned them over to the post office for safe keeping. Later on these printing blocks along with the completed stock of stamps were taken over by a Postal Ministry section chief from Brno without an inventory (!) and without a signed certificate of conveyance (!). Later on postmaster Váleček explained it this way: "I was so scared, that I was just glad to see them all gone". The same section chief from Brno confiscated 50 sets of the stamps from L. Studenka but provided him a receipt. It is evident that the handling of this matter by the section chief wasn't exactly correct or fair (to the extent that the testimony is true).

The trial prints all remained with the engraver, J. Staněk, and these were all in black. He allegedly traded them for tobacco to a railroad employee from Moravská Ostrava who had been led to him by L. Studenka.

It is mistakenly claimed that the concept to produce these stamps was instigated by the local stamp club. In the minutes from the proceedings of the club's committee meeting of June 17, 1945 is stated: "Subsequently a debate was started regarding the issuance of stamps in Bučovice during the revolutionary period -- but only as commemorative labels. It was further decided that a printing block for the revolutionary stamps should be purchased." On May 19, 1945 the Bučovice newspaper "Pravda" (number 9) announced that the post office would no longer honor Protectorate stamps and that all mailings would be paid for in cash in as much as the local post office would possibly put out local stamps consisting of two different values.

You could get large quantities of these "stamps" as well as trial prints in all possible combinations and colors at the Prague philatelic bourse. The printing occurred on various kinds of paper (the paper that was smooth on the front was striped crosswise) and showed the wear of the printing block. This brings me to the assumption that the original stock of stamps and the printing blocks were not destroyed and that printing continued (remember the previous reference to a lack of accounting with respect to the printing blocks and stock of stamps).

Reproductions of these "stamps" were used as supplementary inserts to the catalog for the 1976 Bučovice County Youth Stamp Show. Then in a similar Bučovice show in 1985 they were used as souvenir prints.

### Sources:

1. *Filatelistické Listy*, No.12/1946
2. Dr. J. Chocholatý: *Catalog of County Stamp Shows*, Vyškov, 1971
3. MUDr. B. Svoboda: "The Stamps of Bučovice", Bučovice daily paper "PRAVDA" (No. 9), May 19, 1945
4. Archives of the Bučovice Philatelic Club
5. Memories of Witnesses: L. Studenka, V. Váleček, K. Kratochvíl, J. Langer, V. Sedláček (members of the philatelic club), J. Staněk (engraver from Vicemilic)

## CZECHS AND SLOVAKS AT PHILEXFRANCE'99

by Henry Hahn

The World Philatelic Exposition PHILEXFRANCE took place at the Parc des Expositions in Porte de Versailles (a Paris suburb) from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>. As probably the only Society attendee I shall limit my report to primarily Czech and Slovak affairs, and leave our readers to get a fuller report from other sources.

The exposition was held under FIP patronage. The President of PHILEXFRANCE was Andre Darrigrand. Mr. F. Burton Sellers was FIP Coordinator and Mr. George J. Kramer was USA Commissioner. Mr. Václav Kopecký, who incidentally served as a jury apprentice at PRAGA'98, was Commissioner for the Czech Republic. Dr. Peter Osusky served as Commissioner for Slovakia. The jury included several Americans, but to the best of my knowledge only one Czech, President of the Union of Czech Philatelists, Mr. Lumír Brendl. Ing. Pavel Pittermann served on the Expert Commission.

The show was held in a single large hall which held all of the exhibits, dealers and special displays of postal hardware and special topics. There was plenty of room to sit. Unfortunately, the entire area was very hot and uncomfortable to those of us who tried to see all of the exhibits. A large booth sold a variety of Czech issues and appeared to be shared by Pofis and the Czech Postal authorities. Another booth, manned by Ing. Jan Pavlovsky of SLOVFILA, operated the Slovak booth. Both appeared to enjoy good sales. Admission to the show was charged, and each ticket included a lovely souvenir sheet honoring art.

The Grand Prix National was won by Mr. Steven Walske for "Franco-Prussian War Siege Mail, 1870-1871". The Grand Prix International was won by "PLEMAR" for "Spain, 1850-1853". The winner of the Grand Prix de Honneur was an American, James P. Gough, who attended SCP meetings in Washington some 25 years ago, and now resides on the West Coast. The title of his exhibit was "Evolution and Use of Adhesives for Postage Dues, 1790-1954".

I noted only six (6) Czech exhibits at PHILEXFRANCE, none of which were from the USA. These were:

1. Jan Karásek, "Padělky Československých Známek (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Stamps), who received a Gold
2. L. Pytlíček, "Pioneer Flights and Czechoslovak Air Mail", who received a Gold
3. V. Vaniček, "Postal History of Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Navy", who received a Large Vermeil
4. J. Horák, "Automobile", who received a Large Vermeil
5. V. Kopecký, "France 1849-1875", who received a Silver
6. Z. Cmelík, "French Postmarks 1730-1870", who received a Silver

The show was extremely educational to this visitor -- though the absence of exhibits by members of our Society was somewhat disappointing.

THE DEFACING OVERPRINTS OF MAY 1945

by Karel Holoubek  
trans. by Savoy Horvath

Even though they are admittedly controversial and a rejected inheritance from May 1945, nevertheless the revolutionary overprints are also an unforgettable part of Czechoslovak postal history. They are known for their abundance and variety, while their emotional and patriotic intent is quite forgotten. We cannot however overlook their operational postal necessity.

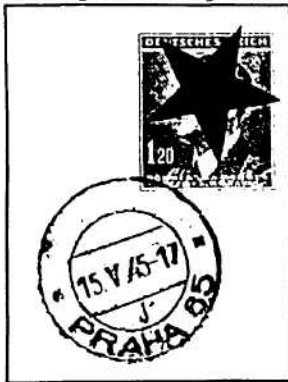


Fig. 2

In the unstable period of the liberation the

Czechoslovak postal workers had only one goal and one desire -- live through it and keep the mail moving. They saw it as their duty towards their fellow citizens. In places where the mail stream was interrupted by sabotage or the military action of the retreating German army, they wanted to reestablish the postal services as soon as possible. In order to do this they needed a means to verify that postal services had been paid -- and that was postage stamps. The stamps which were available for use were the Protectorate's definitives. However, they carried the portrait of the representative of the occupying power, Adolf Hitler -- and he was hated.

People wanted to learn how other members of their families had experienced the passage of the front lines, the period of the revolutionary turmoil, and the end of the war. As soon as the major fighting had passed, the postal workers started servicing the postal collection boxes that were still serviceable. Most people still had some of the Protectorate stamps in their homes. Thus, the postmen collected mail from the street boxes with stamps showing Hitler's picture, and they did not like it. What to



Fig. 1



Fig. 3

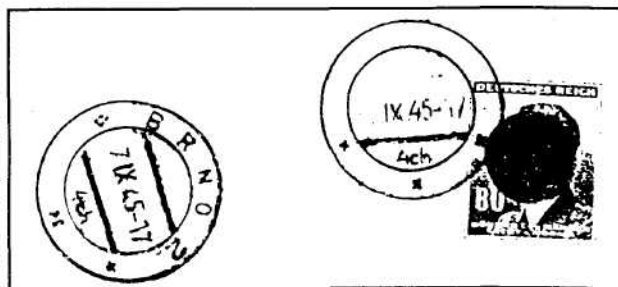


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

do about it? Well, in some post offices they decided on direct and immediate action. Blackout, obliterate! It was enough for example to use a bottle cork and to cancel with it. It was fast and easy.

Because the overprints originated individually and

spontaneously, the designs were all different. After a while, however, the designers not only wanted to do away with the appearance of hate in their designs, but also to indicate the restored existence of the Czechoslovak Republic. Thus, the need to put ones elation of liberation into words, letters, or pictures arose, and the overprints started taking on the shape of words like ČESKOSLOVENSKO, or pictures like the Czech lion -- and to honor the liberators, a star (Fig. 1 & 2). In the shadow of this rich variety, there remained the generic and simple overprints: circles (Fig. 3, 4), rectangles (Fig. 5), lines (Fig. 6, 7), and other kinds of spots or dots (Fig. 8). These blacked out the face, or, the lines blacked out the German wording on the stamps (Fig. 9). They were applied directly by the post office during normal mail processing of letters that were franked in good faith by Protectorate stamps. Later, on occasion, overprints appeared on some single mint stamps -- but these were exceptions.

Before it became known that the postage could be paid in cash (without a stamp affixed) or that it was possible to send items unpaid without fear of punitive postage due, there existed only one known possible way to send a letter -- to apply a stamp of the proper value. While doing this -- in order to give a sign that the occupation had ended -- they employed a single simple method used historically several times before -- an overprint. It immediately satisfied two functions -- it provided an easy method to ensure that the proper postage fee had been paid, and it covered the face which personified all the horrors of the occupation and the war. This practice of overprinting caught on quickly and became very prevalent.

Producing the canceling devices was quite simple. It is enough to again mention the bottle cork, and also a small wooden block, or a rubber eraser, or even a raw potato -- there was no special skill required with these. The ink for the canceling devices was available at every post office -- black for the regular metal cancelers and blue, violet, or red for the rubber ones. The overprints of Horní Bríza,



Fig. 6

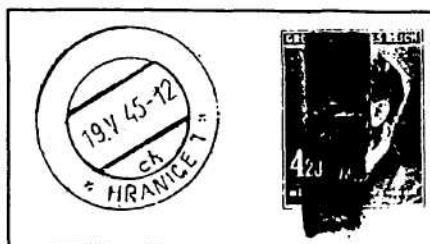


Fig. 7

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Teplice, Velké Meziříčí and Zábřeh na Moravě appeared in more than one color.

As a result of the material used for the canceling devices, the shapes of the overprints changed after some use -- mostly growing larger. Another change was that the placement of the overprints varied.

If you examine the overprints from Hranice na Moravě (Fig. 7) or from Lipník nad Bečvou (Fig. 6), they all have the general form of a rectangle, but each one is slightly different. I do not know if this correctly implies that each postal worker at

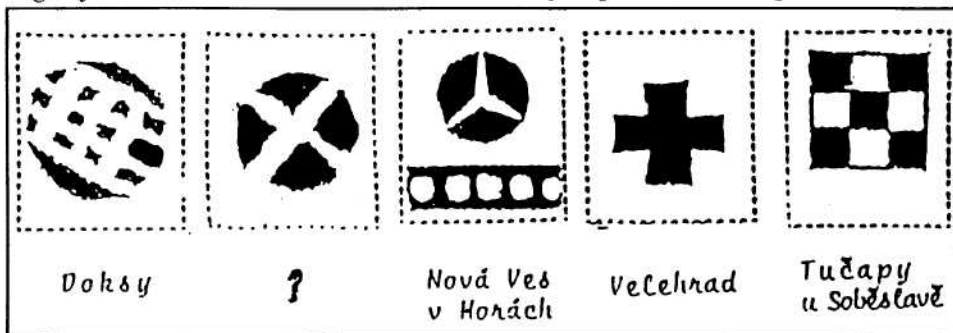


Fig. 8

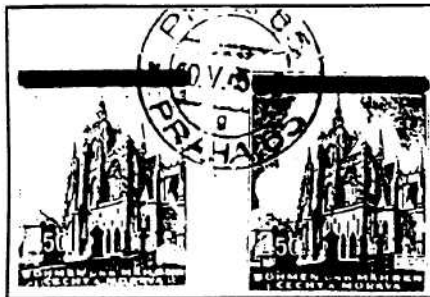


Fig. 9

Hranice had their own canceler, or that it suggests a difference in the manner of cancellation. In the illustrations from the same location you can often notice that there are some variations in the overprints. This might correspond to the practice of rotating workers at the postal counter.

Having examined the illustrations of the overprints more closely and taking into account the descriptions given above, they could be called "Postmaster Overprints" or, as a result of the materials used, "Cork

Overprints". The overprints were not impressive or appealing, but they were very useful and were simple evidence of the outlook of not only the Postal Service but also the people within the service. In those days -- the revolutionary May 1945 -- no one thought about whether the overprints were or were not legitimate, or what higher authority would say about them. Everyone understood why they existed. It was the subsequent time period that gave the overprints a different significance. Only later did people seek to find out who had given permission, why they were produced, whether regulations were followed, etc. But in May 1945, no one had time to do that.

Included among the defacing "Postmaster" overprints were also a few that were of a richer or more adventurous appearance. Some



Fig. 10





Fig. 11

examples would be: one from Kolínec "JSME SVOBODNÍ" (We Are Free) (Fig. 10), Plzeň's "Československá Republika" (Fig. 11), and, perhaps the most beautiful, from Hlučín (Fig. 12). These were initially applied to already posted and stamped mail. But we must also not forget to mention those that consisted of simple pen cancels applied to the envelope (Fig. 13).

If you think that you have seen overprints that seem to look like these, then don't worry. You will find very similar ones in the Michel - German

Specialized catalog under the section titled "Lokal Ausgaben 1945" (Local Issues 1945). These are from places like Bad Sciedeberg, Barsighausen, and Strausberg. A few pages later are illustrations of similar overprints from Sachsen in the Soviet Occupied Zone. Consequently we cannot claim the invention of these kinds of overprints since other places had the same idea. The Czech philatelists, however, "dropped the ball" on this matter, while the more farsighted German philatelists captured information and recorded each overprint as it appeared. Thus, nothing new can "pop up" for them.



Fig. 12

There is the possibility that there are still some other defacing overprints that belong to this cork category beyond the ones discussed and pictured here.

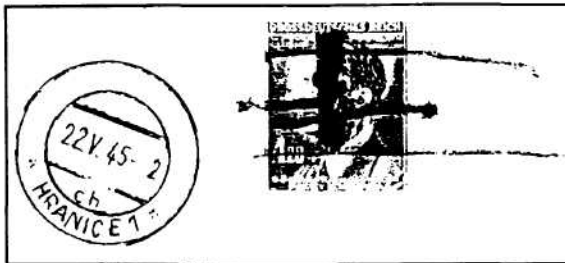


Fig. 13

However, neither I nor my associates designated below know of any others. If there are such, it would take the efforts of other collectors to come forward with information and documentation to help complete this work.

#### Acknowledgments

1. Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e. V., Specialkatalog der Tschechoslowakischen Ganzsachen, Teil VI D, 1996
2. Juan Santa Eugenia Grau: Checoslovaquia - Sellos y sobrecargas revolucionaria 1944/45, Emision Locales, V. Vydani 1996
3. From the collection of Vladimír Markus
4. From my own collection

## PRAGA 1938 WAS NOT THE FIRST!

by F. Žampach  
trans. by Savoy Horvath

[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the Sep/Oct 1998 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]

According to a supplement to the 15 August 1998 issue of the paper "Lidové Noviny", the philatelic section stated "... absolutely the first international philatelic exhibition PRAGA 1938 ..." This I have to allow myself to disagree with, because actually the first Czechoslovak international postage stamp exhibition was held between the dates of August 5 through 15, 1923 in Brno, now exactly 75 years ago, which we document here by reproducing the title page of the catalog of that exhibition (Fig. 1).

It was a memorable and successful exhibition, organized by the devoted

members of the Czech Philatelic Society of Brno, arranged through their initiative, without any previous experience, and with the decided misunderstanding and disfavor of Prague's philatelic functionaries.

With this article I wanted to bring to memory for Czech philately this particular distinguished event which in the past was evidently intentionally omitted, but for which the Brno philatelists by right are still proud. A special cancel was prepared for the exhibit stating "I. International Exhibit Postage Stamps" (Fig. 2).



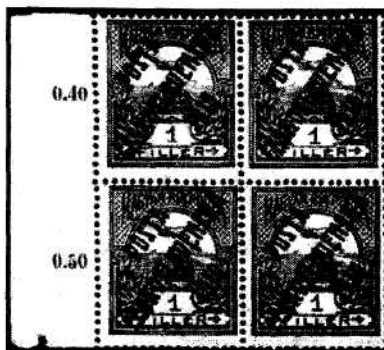
Fig. 1 - CATALOG/First/International Exhibition of Postage/Stamps in the Czechoslovak Republic/House of Art in Brno/Kobližná Street, No. 41/in the days 5 through 15 August 1923



Fig. 2

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*Jiří Majer and Jaroslav Thraumb Auctions  
announce their tenth auction  
on September 25, 1999*



The auction will contain some of the most sought after philatelic material from the territory of the former Czechoslovakia. In particular this auction will feature a strong selection of "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSÁ 1919" including a block of 4 of the 1 filler (see illustration), the 20 filler Magyar pošta, all of the black numerals, all types of the triangles and of the 6h orange with black overprints. Also included will be some of the best Hradčany stamps as well as a good selection of other areas of Czechoslovak philately.

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**THE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
STAMP OF 1999**  
by Savoy Horvath

There is an excellent chance that in the Nov/Dec issue of the SPECIALIST the Society membership will receive a ballot with instructions to help select the most beautiful Czech Republic stamp for 1999.

As an incentive for participation, the Czech Post will enter every participant into a drawing for a number of philatelic prizes such as catalogs, albums, or stamps. In addition, if you send them -- along with your ballot -- a proper sized self addressed envelope, then about 4 months after the selection the Czech

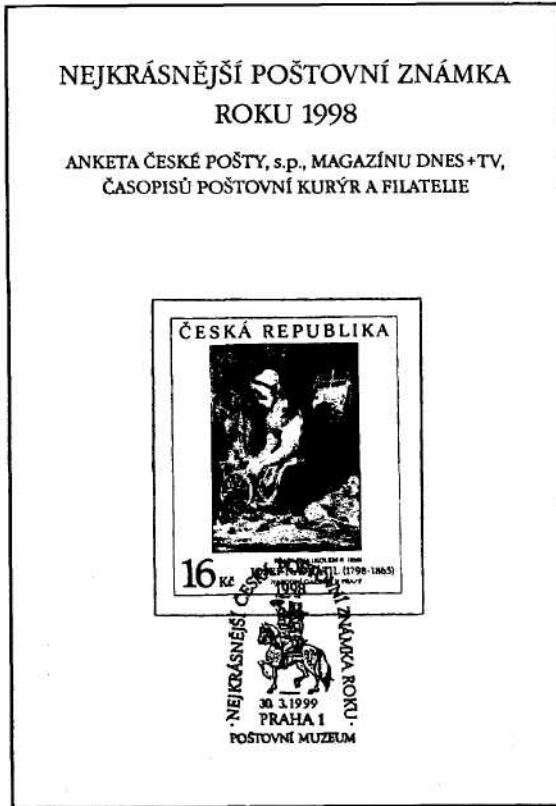
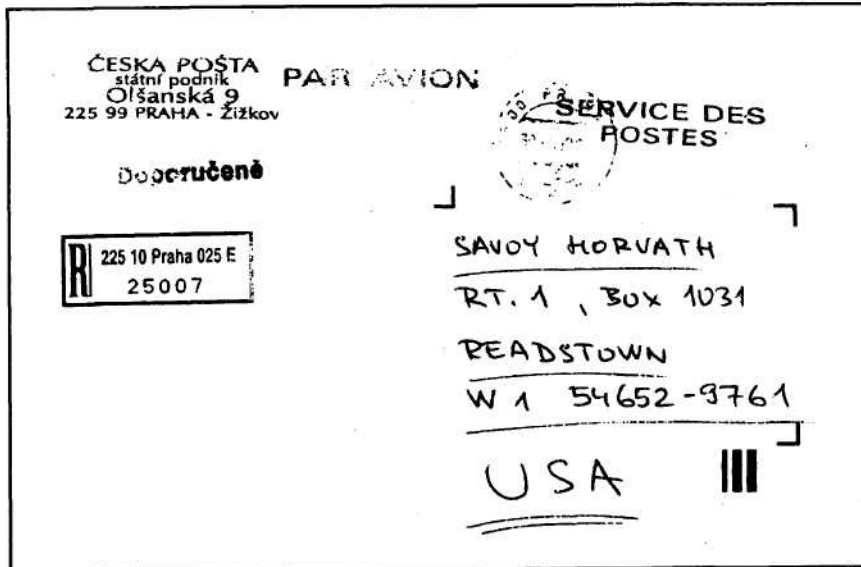


Fig. 1



Post will send you the winning stamp tied to a special souvenir card by a special Czech Postal Museum cancel (Fig. 1). The Czech Post will pay the postage by stamping the envelope "SERVICE DES POSTES" and sending it registered. It makes for a very nice collectable (Fig. 2).

As for the odd size of envelope that you will need, the souvenir card measures about 4 1/4 x 6. So get a greeting card envelope to hold that size card comfortably and put your address on it. Then include it along with the ballot in a larger size greeting card envelope that you will send to the ČR to cast your vote.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

## NEW WEB PAGE FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

<<http://www.japhila.cz>>

by Henry Hahn

A new server has been initiated in Prague which is devoted entirely to Czechoslovak and Czech Philately. The Editor in Chief is Ing. Břetislav Janík, best known to collectors internationally as the former Secretary to Praga'88, where he performed extraordinary service to a host of foreign commissioners and participants. The server is currently in the organizational stage, but already available on a world wide basis. It appears in Czech, English, German and French, though not all material appears in all four languages. Collaborating with Ing. Janík are Vladimír Čermák (Germany), Henry Hahn (USA), Otto Hornung (England), and Jan Palovsky and Pavel Pittermann (Czech Republic).

The principal section of the web is entitled "On Line Philately" and features news and reports by a variety of authors on subjects of general and specific interest. The current issue includes articles on -- the ending of railroad mail in the Czech Republic, Ing. Karásek's winning of the FEPA Hunziger award at IBRA, the SCP cachet honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prague Pneumatic Mail, and other material of timely interest.

Separate clicks bring regular features including: Auctions, Listing of World Organizations, a schedule of principal exhibitions, new stamp issues, postal history, Philatelic Literature, a Collectors' Exchange, and a Listing of Philatelic Websites (including a link to the current SCP website). At the time of this writing not all features are fully available, but should be shortly.

It is anticipated that this web site will complement the Society's web site in providing international participation and outlook. The Collectors' Exchange will provide a world-wide call for your special needs, and the Listing of Philatelic Websites will broaden your search for information.

We wish the Editor in Chief much success and cooperation by collectors throughout the world.



*Book Review*

**POSTAL HISTORY OF THE VALTICE REGION**

by Jaroslav Glončák

corrected/supplemented by

Ing. Hynek Ondrášek and Pavel Švejnár

manuscript reviewed by RNDr. Miroslav Vostatek

Published as Volume 65 of the series "Philatelic Handbooks" by the Society for Territorial Philately, Union of Czech Philatelists, the book is soft bound and contains 56 pages of text and is profusely illustrated. It is written in Czech. The illustrations are photocopied. Only 200 copies were printed in this, its first edition, in 1999.

The philatelic significance of Valtice and its surrounding villages, located along the southern border of Moravia, lies primarily in the fact that the region only became part of the Czechoslovak Republic on July 31, 1920. The region was disputed after Czechoslovakia became independent on October 28, 1918, with the majority ethnic German population desiring annexation to Austria. Through extensive diplomatic negotiations, based partly on the fact that a Czechoslovak railroad line passed through the territory, the region finally fell to the Czechoslovaks. The region after division includes the Austrian communities of Reinthal, Katzelsdorf, Schrattenberg and Herrnbaumgarten, and the Moravian communities of Valtice (Feldsberg), Postorna (Unter Themenau), Uvaly (Garschonthal), Hlohovec (Bischovert) and Charvatská Nová Ves.

The introductory chapters cover the earliest history of the area, going back to the Grand Moravian Empire, the original settlement of the town after the fall of the Empire, and the rise of the Premyslids. Covered is the development of roads through Valtice, primarily connecting major cities of commerce. By the XVI<sup>th</sup> century, Valtice was already located on the postal route from Vienna to Brno as well as on the postal route from Bratislava to Brno. The Valtice post office was established on September 17, 1807.

The earliest FELDSBERG postmark is illustrated, as are all the others up to the present time. Shown are early pictures of Valtice, pre-stamp letters and return receipts. At the time of the introduction of adhesives in 1830, the second postmark -- a dated straight line postmark -- made its appearance. Thereupon followed single circle large and small postmarks, all illustrated and described in detail. The last Austro-Hungarian postmark was a double circle postmark, bearing the name of the town only in German. Letters bearing the early Austro-Hungarian issues are illustrated.

A well drawn map of the disputed territory is included with a discussion of the dispute and its resolution. After the Czechoslovak take-over, bilingual postmarks made their appearance, the first ones spelling the name "VALCICE" rather than "VALTICE". Austrian stamps and postal stationery remained in use in the territory up to as late as 1925.

The painful circumstances surrounding the Sudetenland annexation by Germany, the ugly behavior of the Henlein gang and German population in the fall of 1938 are described. The Valtice region was part of the Czechoslovak territory occupied by Germany in October 1938. Unfortunately the philatelic consequences of the period are not mentioned. By the middle of 1939 Valtice received an all

German postmark, and in 1940 the name FELDSBERG was followed by (NIEDERDONAU) to better designate it as part of Austria. The 1945 liberation by Russian armies, the joy of the Czech minority population, and vindictive removal of all Germans from the area are described. An early, "home made" postmark used in 1945 is shown, together with double circle postmarks which followed. Three special postmarks used under Czechoslovak, German and post-war communist governments are described and illustrated. The text ends with regular and commemorative postmarks used since the establishment of the Czech Republic.

There are several areas of information that appear to be lacking. While much space is taken by history, some unrelated to Postal History, the authors do not show the systematic development of postal routes. There is no philatelic mention of the transition in 1938 -- we must assume there were no overprints over Czechoslovak stamps. There is also no mention of 1945 "Revolutionary" stamps, and we must therefore conclude that there were none. While rarity of particular postmarks is mentioned, it would have been helpful to assign a point count to the postmarks illustrated. Some of this, we expect, will appear in future editions.

The authors are to be commended for exposing this interesting byway of our hobby to the philatelic public. They write clearly, and we heartily recommend this book to our Czech language readers.

The price of the book sold to members of the Union of Czech Philatelists is 50 Kč -- a little under \$2 -- plus postage. Members of our Society can order it from Hynek Ondrasek, Bulharska 12, 101 00 Prague 10, Czech Republic. Check with him for the price and postage.

Henry Hahn

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## ČR POSTAL RATES CHANGING by Savoy Horvath

The Czech Post is raising the ČR domestic postal rates by 8.9% as of January 1, 2000, as announced by the Czech Republic Ministry of Finance. But the 8.9% increase is misleading, because unlike the USPS the Czech Post rate is tied in to other factors such as large and small money transfers, and a postal savings system which are included in their postal rate plan. If one is to look just to the basic letter and postal card rates, the increase is more like 21.5%.

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>% Incr.</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Postcard	4 Kč	25%	5 Kč
Letter to 20 gr.	4.60 Kč	18%	5.40 Kč
Letter to 50 gr.	8 Kč	12%	9 Kč
Package to 5 Kg	25 Kč	12%	28 Kč
Registration	8 Kč	12%	9 Kč
Money Transfers			
to 200 Kč	10 Kč		2 Kč
to 1,000 Kč	20 Kč		22 Kč
to 5,000 Kč	30 Kč		32 Kč

**JOSEF HERČÍK**  
**Engraver "Par Excellence" Passed Away**  
by Břetislav Janík  
trans. by Jaroslav Verner

On Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, just several months after celebrating his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, Josef Herčík died in Prague. One of the most outstanding Czech graphic artists and engravers, he was the engraver and/or designer of more than four hundred Czech, Czechoslovak, and foreign postage stamps, as well as prints, postal cancels, stocks and so on.

The name Herčík is synonymous with the value and individuality of perhaps the smallest and youngest applied art of our time. The personal contribution of Josef Herčík who -- along with Bedřich Housa -- was the Nestor of contemporary, top-quality Czech stamp engraving.

Engraver Josef Herčík began his engraving activity by decorating guns at the arms factory in Uherský Brod. Step by step he worked his way up to becoming a phenomenon of Czechoslovak and, subsequently, Czech stamp creativity. In pursuing the engraving profession, he was assisted by his demanding and reliable preparation, often bordering on pedantic tenacity. Superlative preparation of stamp engravings is attested to by his execution of, for example, Picasso's "Guernica" or Titian's (Tiziano Vecelli) "Apollo punishing Marsyas", which exemplifies the absolute top of the engraver's art. Certainly the awards he has received, starting in 1967, attest to the recognition of his talent: five times the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of the Ministry of Communications of ČSSR for engraving transposition; Grand Prix in Naples for "Guernica"; III prize in Milan for Preisler's "Black Lake (1968)"; and the most beautiful stamps issued to mark EXPO in Osaka -- "View of Fujiyama" and Orlick Castle (1970). Together with Vladimír Kovářik, in 1971 he received the award for the most beautiful stamp with a sports theme. (Coincidentally they both died in the same year and the same month, just three days apart.) Josef Herčík received many awards, not only those enumerated. He also received politically tinged awards -- Honored Artist of the ČSSR (together with Jiří Švengsbř) and For Merit in Construction; in his case it was for persistent hard work with an engraving tool in hand, continual eye stress, thousands of "peaceful" hours of sitting at tiring miniatures engraved into the hardest metal -- steel.

Great recognition of Herčík's engraving was also indicated by the order from the German publisher Hermann Sieger Verlag to prepare facsimiles of the most beloved stamp classics, including the renowned Blue Mauritius. We recall that Herčík was constantly in the caldron of foreign postal authorities' interest, offering active participation in the stamp production plans of post offices throughout the world. At random we can cite Monaco and the United Nations Organization (UNPA), though there are many others for whom he produced. He himself said "I have long since inscribed stamp creation on my soul, but first of all I wish to create Czechoslovak stamps. Here I know precisely for whom I am creating, I know they think just as I do; I am here where the essence not only joins the contemporary, but also is the legacy of the great, world renown graphic artist Václav Hollar."

Josef Herčík made his stamp debut in 1962 when he engraved stamps in the insect series designed by Sivko. (Václav Sivko actually "discovered" Herčík for stamp creation.) Paradoxically, these stamps were issued later than his next stamp in the

series marking the World Exhibition of Postage Stamps, PRAGA 1962. From that time on he engraved or designed and engraved more than 400 postage stamps, not counting the hundreds of drawings for first day cover cachets and postal cancellations. Herčík never limited himself to only the mere engraving requirements. His transcription retains all the details of the original, but adds the engraver's creative inventiveness. It depends on his ability whether multicolored drawings will be translated by imperceptible transitional lines into engraved stamp images, produced with a maximum of the five basic colors. Furthermore, engraving works only with a network of lines, in contrast to the flat effects of a brush.

It was simpler on those stamps where Herčík himself created the design or at least was able to select the subject. Over the years Herčík was well disposed toward philatelic exhibitions. Here he met with his admirers, and he was able to sign autographs for hours on end to satisfy the long, snaking line of Czech collectors. Already in Josef Herčík's artistic development we are able to observe his inclination toward the creation of postage stamps. This, however, does not mean that Josef Herčík was focused artistically on a narrow specialization. At the beginning and throughout, Herčík devoted himself in parallel to graphic design: fine, heraldic, floral, Prague themes...

Motivation is found, first and foremost, in the hundred and one views of the Mother of Cities -- Prague. His Prague is comparable to and yet different from the Prague of Jiří Švengsbír. Where Švengsbír piled up dominants, infusing them with fanciful suns, Josef Herčík treated his observations more realistically. Even though his Pragues are static gothic lines here and there broken by the curves of baroque and renaissance structures, warmth emanates from gentle dashes of the outline and masterful control of light and shadow, together creating the feeling of gradual linking to the third dimension. The domiciliary meaning of his excellently executed calligraphy, which draws on his beloved heraldic themes, make Josef Herčík's Prague series much sought after prints. All the more so in that they are a statement of a highly cultured man who has completely mastered the intimate knowledge of steel. These are the professional demonstrations of the authors inventiveness in one of the most difficult graphic disciplines -- steel engraving.

Josef Herčík was, during all his 77 years, always an active graphic artist full of vitality. During his last years, along with his wife Helen, who was during all those years his consort and closest printer, and with their son, Josef, and daughter-in-law, founded the First Czech Graphic Society which quickly gained enormous (and State) respect and garnered orders throughout the world. It became one of the four licensed Czech security printers concentrating on production of Graphic artists' commercial and security papers as well as stocks. Josef anticipated long ago that his son Josef would continue his engraving, graphic, and printing activities and thus give continuity to the Herčík name. How many fathers succeed in accomplishing that which the late Josef Herčík accomplished? Unselfish and self-sacrificing, Herčík schooled a number of beginning engravers who today successfully continue the so-called Czech school of stamp engraving.

The entire world, especially Japan, envied our strong plethora of Czech and Slovak stamp engravers. For the entire time since his debut, Josef Herčík was at the very pinnacle of this plethora. The master's engraving tools of Josef Herčík senior have been symbolically orphaned.

We thank you, Master Herčík!

*[Ed. Note: To get more details on the accomplishments of this world famous engraver, see the article about him with a full range of illustrations on page 3 of the Mar/Apr 1997 issue of the SPECIALIST. In addition, see the book review on page 28 of the Jul/Aug 1999 issue, titled "The Story of Josef Herčík's Postage Stamps". This book is available from the Society publications manager, Ed Lehecka.]*

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### **Book Review**

## **POFIS SPECIALIZED CATALOG ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939**

The long promised specialized catalog for Czechoslovakia for the period 1918-1939 was finally issued on June 24, 1999. This is the companion volume of the very popular POFIS *Československo 1945-1992* which was published two years ago. But it is a striking improvement on that catalog in layout and content. This new catalog is so good, I will argue, that it will prove a "must have" for both the general and specialized collector of Czechoslovakia.

The POFIS 1999 Katalog "ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939" is a fairly slim, soft cover volume of 175 pages and is printed in full color on glossy paper. The color quality of the illustrations is surprisingly true to the stamp colors. The size of the catalog (5 3/4 by 8 1/4 inches) is the same as the earlier Trojan catalogs which makes it not only easy to use at one's desk, but also to take along to bourses or shows. František Beneš is listed as the author of the catalog, and its graphic designer as Martin Trojan. This later name explains why the catalog has all the finger prints of the earlier Trojan catalogs. In short this catalog is very attractive.

Most important is what Beneš and Trojan have done with the contents. Each issue of stamps is treated in depth. The basic stamp is illustrated in color as are their sub-types. Each of the types are also described by text -- though for those who do not read Czech the illustrations will more than suffice. In addition, type and sub-type illustrations are repeated wherever they appear in the catalog. For instance, the Hradčany spiral and column types are first illustrated when the imperforate stamps are listed, then again with the perforate stamps, then with the overprinted air mail stamps, the Hradčany overprinted as postage dues, and finally with the SO overprinted stamps. Overkill? I don't think so. What this does for the collector using the catalog, it supplies the information he needs where he needs it. It avoids the constant checking back to a sole reference which is the usual case with other catalogs. New entries, such as those of horizontal Hradčany gutters, have been added, while a few have been removed. Such changes usually reflect the latest philatelic thinking.

Other nice features, many of them new: this catalog, in addition to listing the basic stamps and their types and sub-types, also covers proofs, plate and printing flaws, errors, essays, plate number, and, yes, even printer's waste. All of these are illustrated and priced. Plate positions of types/sub-types in several issues are fully illustrated. A number of tables -- which summarize information also included in other forms -- have been added. Speaking of tables, rather complete postal rate



tables, which should prove especially useful to postal historians, are included at the end of the catalog. Finally, illustrations of a number of counterfeits have been included. These counterfeits are not those contained in the recent Karásek book, but mostly of the Scout and Siberian issues. All of this information on each issue appears together and is not scattered among other categories.

Though I have not made a careful study of them, the prices listed appear to reflect those of the current Czech market. At the end of the catalog Beneš discusses a method to price covers and gives a couple of examples. He identifies several components that need to be considered and their sum total becomes the price of the cover.

The POFIS 1999 Katalog *Československo 1918-1939* is a worthy addition to the excellent catalogs and handbooks which have been added recently to the literature on Czechoslovak philately.

Jaroslav Verner

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### *Charley's Corner*

#### TODAY'S PHILATELIC EXHIBITS

When looking at the truly choice exhibits these days, almost all the grand award and reserve grand awards are exhibits displaying postal history. Years ago most of all the top awards were won by exhibits showing mainly stamps with covers added in.

I myself truly admire exhibits that focus on postal history, but I believe that these types of exhibits should have their own section under "Postal History Exhibits" and be awarded separately.

Back in 1969, I made my first trip to then Czechoslovakia and stayed mostly in Prague. Of course, the thrill of a lifetime for me was the fact that I would get to see and meet Mr. Zdeněk Kvasnička, the dean of Czechoslovak philately both abroad and here in North America at that time. That September in Prague I went several times to Zdeněk Kvasnička's apartment. I was able to have a wide ranging discussion with him that covered the whole scope of Czechoslovak philately and to view many of his albums containing fabulous material -- much of which I had never seen or even heard of before.

The first thing he impressed upon me was that I should collect the whole scope of Czechoslovakia which I eventually did. This has aided me in acquiring a solid knowledge of all the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

The second and perhaps the most important thing he told me is that a true philatelist in the purest sense of the word exhibits only stamps and their use.

Displaying essays, proofs, drawings, etc., is purely a dress up tactic. This type of material should be exhibited separately. I'm sure that many of our Society members will probably disagree with me, but this fact was expressed to me by one of the most notable, knowledgeable, and astute philatelists I've ever met, Mr. Zdeněk Kvasnička, who won the Grand Prix National at the 1968 International Stamp Exhibition in Prague. God bless his memory.

Charley Chesloe

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

by Leo Šesták  
trans. by Peter Kleskovic

*[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the Mar/Apr 1998 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]*

Under the heading "Thirty years ago . . ." Ladislav Novotný published in 1969, in the first volume of the Merkur magazine, a comprehensive article on the issuance of the commemorative stamp with the cancellation "Otvorenie Slovenského snemu 18.1.1939" (Opening of the Slovak Assembly on 18.1.1939). In that article the author indicated that, among other things, when on October 6, 1938, the Czechoslovak government decided for the autonomy of Slovakia, the Slovak political circles demanded that this occasion be celebrated by the issuance of a commemorative stamp. The Prague postal service rejected this demand because it had no capacity in its print shops for an immediate issuance of a stamp. But mainly the reason was that it did not have an appropriate design without which speedy production of a stamp was not possible. They had no objection, however, if the Slovak post office -- which had begun to become independent -- could arrange for the issuance of the stamp in Slovakia.



Fig. 1

Accordingly, the postal administration in Bratislava requested the Slovak organization "Matice" and some Slovak artists to help them resolve the situation. However, it became clear that preparation of an appropriate design required more time -- which they did not have. Therefore it was decided to request that a regular issue stamp with an appropriate cancellation be used in place of the issuance of a commemorative stamp.



Fig. 2

A design of the cancellation was prepared by an academic painter from Martin, Miloš Bazovský. He departed from the previously used design (10 Kč with the picture of Bratislava) by denoting the value of the stamp with the number 3 and the abbreviation "Kčs". This denomination became the subject of a dispute between the representatives of the Prague and the Bratislava postal ministries. Later a compromise proposal was accepted according to which

the denomination was marked as "300h" (Fig. 1).

The changed drawing was entrusted to Prague Graphic Union with instructions to speedily work out the necessary variant of the design. They accomplished this in record time. The design was approved, and the Prague postal service gave the order to print it. Almost immediately another change was requested by the Bratislava representatives to decrease the size of the denomination numerals

from approximately 4 mm to 3 mm. This reduced size of the numerals was then used for the final printing (Fig. 2).

The test prints -- which were made with the larger numerals -- were officially destroyed except for a few examples which were obtained by the representatives of the Slovak postal service as samples. In his letter of March 15, 1959, L. Novotný wrote to a former owner of one of these stamps that over the years he had the opportunity to see only 2 pieces of this test printing, both partially damaged. He also knew that one of these stamps was in a collection whose existence was now unknown because of the passage of the war. Thus, he thought that the submitted example was the only existing specimen.

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## THE END OF RAILROAD MAIL IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

by Savoy Horvath

The last day of mail being transported and processed by railroad ended in the Czech Republic on May 29, 1999. Due to postal centralization and modernization this date ended 148+ years of train delivery and railroad post cancels.

Postal station PRAHA 022 had a special cancel designed for this occasion (Fig.1) showing the historical railroad coach of 1851 which began the rail-mail service.



Fig. 1

Also on this date, the Czech Post issued a special postal card [see the Jul/Aug *SPECIALIST*, p.37-38 for details].

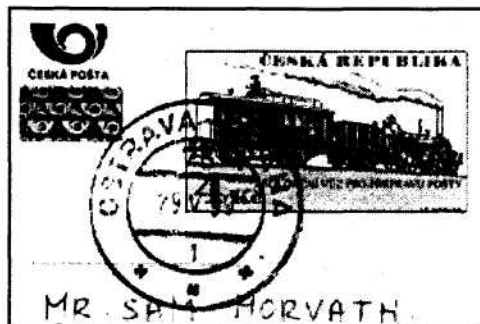


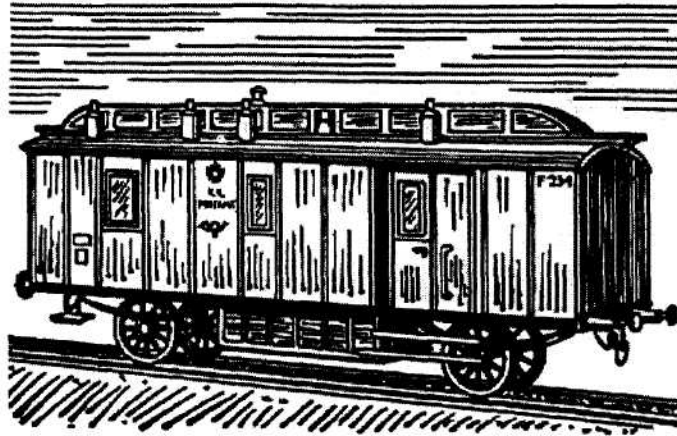
Fig. 3

Actually the card is a reprint of a 1995 card with a change in value and color, an added hologram, and an added illustration on the left showing the mail loading platform/center at PRAHA 10 - Malešice accompanied by "UKONČENÍ PROVOZU VLAKOVÉ POŠTY" (The End of the Operation of the Railway Post) 29.5.1999. A special souvenir card measuring 6 x 8 1/4 was also available (Fig. 2 - see next page).

On the last day of service two special railroad mail cancels were used in Moravia. One was OSTRAVA-PRAHA (Fig. 3), and the other BŘECLAV-PRAHA (Fig.4). Ostrava is the former Moravská Ostrava, while Břeclav is the nearest city to the point where the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria come together.

Finally, a special 36 page color booklet entitled "Postal Service on Rails" was issued in Prague. It tells the history of the use of trains in picking up, servicing, and delivering the mail in the area of the Czech Republic over the past century and a half. A copy of this booklet has been forwarded to our Society library.

# PROVOZ VLAKOVÉ POŠTY



ZAHÁJENÍ  
1. 8. 1850



UKONČENÍ  
29. 5. 1999

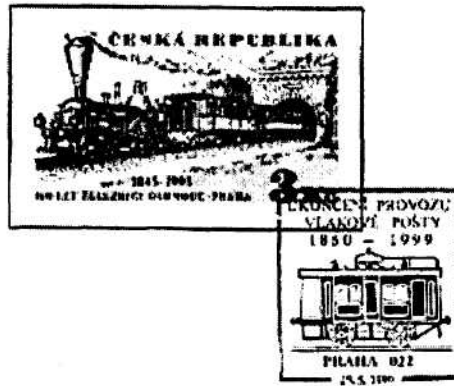


Fig. 2

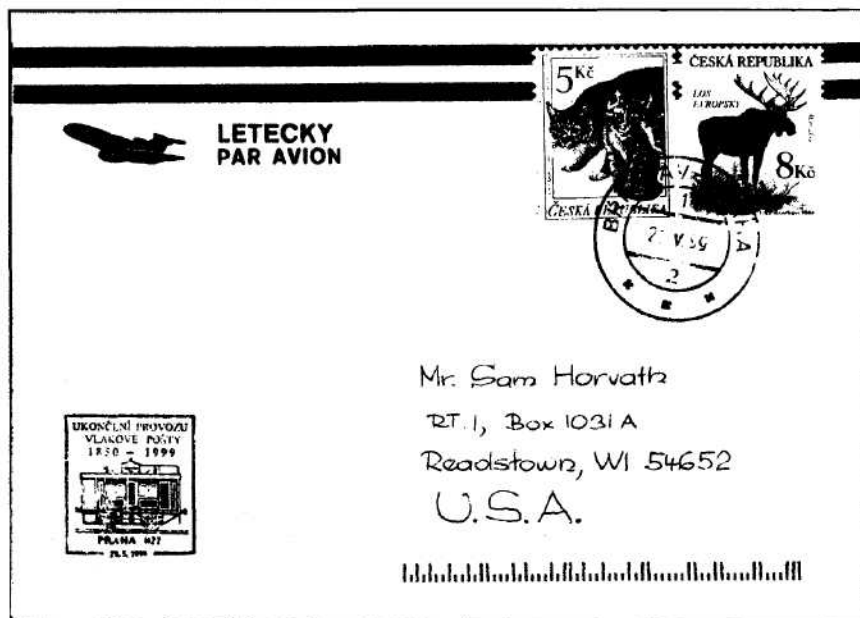


Fig. 4

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### *Philatelic News and Views*

From Karl J. Ruzicka:

- Recently, I was surprised to see a letter from a Czech bank posted via Brussels, Belgium. The enclosed envelope (Fig. 1) shows two metered markings -- one identifies the mail class rate "A PRIOR" while the other identifies that Belgian postage was paid. Looking into this, I found that a private courier service collects letters from various Czech businesses, sends them by airfreight to Brussels and posts them from there (the same service is available from a number of other European countries). This makes for efficient delivery -- there are more international flights from Brussels to overseas destinations than from Prague. Thus, the mailer saves, because his fixed rate per letter is less than regular postage rate from the Republic. No stamps, but it makes for an interesting story.

From Savoy Horvath:

- The total printing of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Society ČR postal card was 9,000 cards.

- Czechs send as many Easter greeting cards as they do for Christmas. As I reported in this column in the May/June issue, the Czech Post once again issued an Easter stamp. This year it came out at a special Easter reduced rate of 3 Kč (the regular postal card rate is 4 Kč). This special 3 Kč rate stamp was for use between March 20 and April 2. However, only a handful of post offices received the Easter

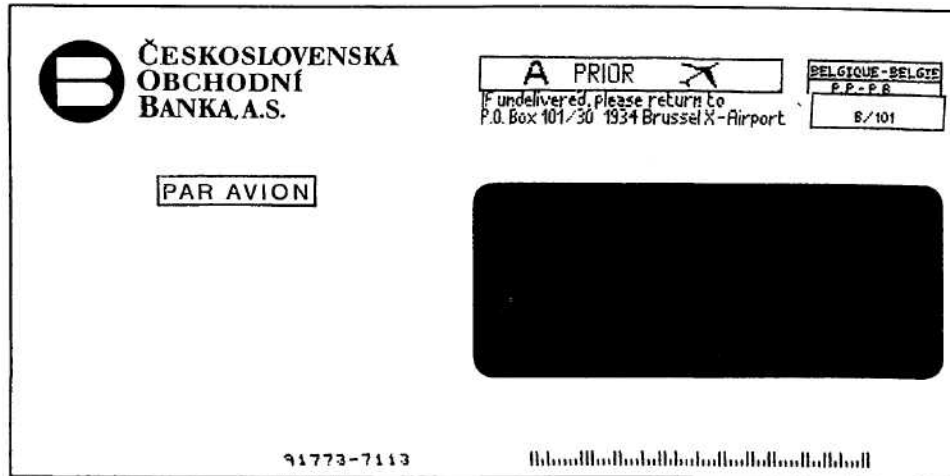


Fig. 1

stamp before Easter. To further complicate the matter, there was a shortage of 3 Kč definitive stamps going on at the same time. Thus, finding a card with this stamp being validly used during the proper period may be a real challenge.

- Just days after the start of the bombing of Serbia, the Czech Post quit accepting letters, postcards, and packages addressed for Yugoslav delivery. A representative of the Czech Post, L. Vančura, announced the stoppage was due to the disruption of plane and train service to that country. It is unknown where mail shipments sent just days prior to the conflict ended up.

- There is another counterfeit in the Czech Republic. This time it is the basic letter rate 4.60 Kč issue -- Building Style of Rokoko (Fig. 2). So far it has appeared in kiosks in Prague, Hradec Králové and Česká Třeboň. The counterfeit is of excellent quality and would fool even collectors. But there are differences. The gum on the original is of the tropical type while the counterfeit has shiny gum. Also, the paper of the counterfeit is stiffer (and thus harder to separate at the perforations) and is without fluorescence.



Fig. 2

The original is perforated 11 3/4 x 11 1/4 while the counterfeit is line perfed 11 1/4. The original is rotary steel engraved with the counterfeit being printed by offset. Finally, the original has a tiny cross in the middle of the top and bottom perforations and the cross is always the same color as the stamp; the counterfeit has no crosses (see Fig. 2). The thought in the ČR is that the same group of people -- including a top notch engraver -- is responsible for all of the counterfeits to date. The Czech Post again announced that this counterfeit was



produced to defraud the Postal Service. That is only half of the truth, because while the many other counterfeits in the ČR have appeared for sale in kiosks (some already applied to postcards), they also appeared almost at the same time at different stamp bourses for highly inflated prices. To be more specific, the counterfeit story showed up in the *Filatelie* that appeared about June 10; about the same time it also appeared in different Czech daily's. All of these stories indicated that the counterfeit was showing up in kiosks and souvenir stores that sell postage in Hradec Králové, České Budějovice, and Praha. In Hradec Králové the philatelic clubs called a special meeting for the following weekend (12/13 June), and groups of collectors visited every place that sells stamps outside of the post offices. Not a single counterfeit was found in that city -- not until about over two weeks later, June 30. It sure sounds like the counterfeiters floated the stories early as advertisement for their product.

- At the recent Home of Philately Profil international auction in Prague the costliest imperforate block of four of the carmine 20h Hradčany with joined spiral types was sold at auction. With a suggested price of 400,000 Kč (\$11,425), a floor bidder at the auction won the item for 514,500 Kč (\$14,700).

- On May 22, 1999, PRAHA 2 used a special machine cancel which commemorated the Czech victory in the World Hockey Cup (Fig. 3). The pictorial part of the cancel shows the Czech lion in the national team uniform holding a hockey stick in one paw and hoisting the world cup with the other paw. The Czech text "Česká Republika Mistr světa" translates as "Czech Republic is the World Champion". The cancel is in red ink, and according to the information I have

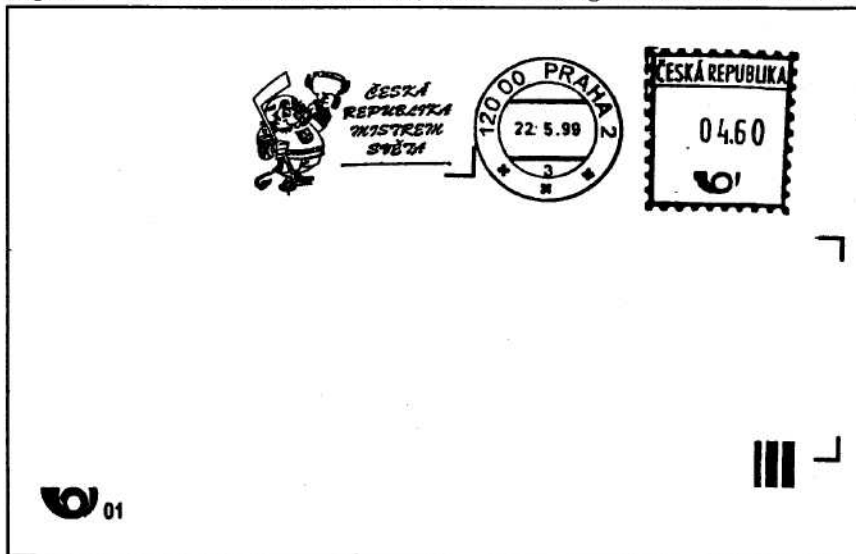


Fig. 3

received exists only on the illustrated envelope with postal horn 01. The Czechs are truly a world hockey power -- winning the gold in the 1998 Olympics and this year the World Hockey Cup. This time the achievement came without the help of Dominik Hášek, Jaromir Jágr, and the other numerous great Czech hockey players

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

who were busy winning or losing the NHL Stanley Cup. The Czechs were first known in world hockey in the late 1940's and were well on the way to be a world champ. But then communism moved in and the Iron Curtain fell. Because of the national team's contacts with the West -- where only real hockey existed -- the Czechoslovak national team including coaches, trainers and anybody involved with the team were arrested, tried on phony treason charges, and sentenced to years of hard labor, some in uranium mines. They were released under a general amnesty in the 1960's.

### From Tom Cossaboom:

- A quick word on three books that might be of interest to members of the Society who are interested in Hungarian cancellations in Slovakia or Ruthenia.

The first book is *Magyar Neve Határokon túli magyar helységnévszótár* (roughly translated as: a place name dictionary for those Hungarian names outside present-day Hungary), by László Sebok, published in 1990 by Arany Lapok (267 pages, Hungarian text, 168 Ft in 1990 -- I paid \$15 recently). This is not a philatelic publication, but it is still very useful to those interested in Hungarian place names. It contains a list of all the place names in those territories which the Kingdom of Hungary gave up in signing the Treaty of Trianon in 1920. For each of the successor states, there are two alphabetical lists of locations acquired from Hungary. One list is in Hungarian; the other is in the language of the gaining state. As the book was printed in 1990, the successor states include Czechoslovakia. For Ruthenia, the names appear in both Cyrillic and Latin alphabets. The non-Hungarian listings also indicate in which Hungarian county (megye) and district (járás) the place was located. The book includes a simple map for each secession state showing the old Hungarian counties and districts.

The second book is *Magyarország postahivatalainak és postaügynökségeinek helykeletbélyegzései (1871-1920)* (The Postmarks of the Hungarian Post Offices and Postal Agencies, 1871-1920) by Márfai Árpád and Szép Endre. Published in Budapest in 1995, 449 pages in Hungarian, German and English, soft bound, bibliography with map and statistical tables. This is a philatelic book. For anyone interested in Hungarian cancellations in the period 1871-1920, this is the book.

Finally, there is *Magyar Helyséfnév-Azonosító Szótár* by Görgy Lelkes. Published in Baja by Talma Könyvkiadó (934 pages, 64 maps, Hungarian and German text, 4480 Ft). If you want to locate a village in the old Kingdom of Hungary, this is the book for you. There is an introduction in Hungarian and German. This is followed by listing of every village in Hungary (606 pages) to include varieties in spelling in Hungarian, and any other applicable language. Each village listing includes the results of the 1910 census, which breaks down the population by nationality. As an example, you learn that the village of ÓLUBLÓ in Szepes county, Ólublói district, had a population of 1841 (1359 Slovaks, 261 Germans, and 189 Hungarians) and was also known as O-Lublyo, Lublyo, Lublovia, Lublau (German), Lubowna (Polish), and Lublovaralja - Podsadek, and is now located in Slovakia and named Stara L'ubovna. There is then a section for each of the post-1920 secession states listing the current name of each location and the Hungarian name. At the end of the book are 64 very nice maps, one for each of the pre-1920 counties, plus Hungary in 1942, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Moldavia -- all in color. Each of the county maps includes the coat-of-arms.

From Radio Prague, June 30, 1999:

- Higher Prices for Foreigners are Wrong, Poll Says; A new opinion poll carried by the public opinion agency Factum shows that the majority of Czechs do not approve of price differentiation for foreigners. Fifty-five percent of those asked said it is wrong for foreigners to pay more for services than Czechs. Forty percent believe that foreigners should pay more.

From various Czech newspapers (translated by Mark Vrzala):

- New Commemorative Overprint: The philatelic club of Velké Meziříčí remembered the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia and the issuance of the first postage stamps through a public exhibition. It was extremely successful. Notable also was a cachet that contained a commemorative postal cancel (Fig. 4).

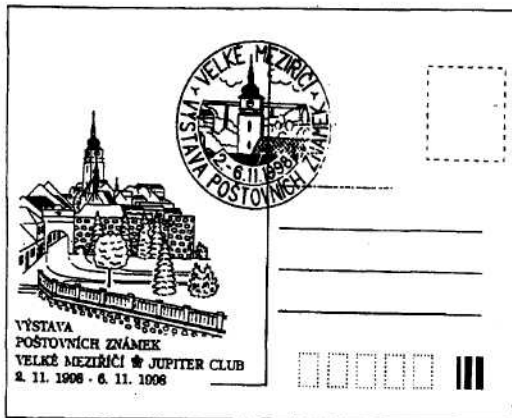


Fig. 4

- The EURO on Stamps: Certain European nations have established a new currency called the Euro. And it is only natural that the new symbol or logo for the Euro will not only appear on coins and paper currency, but also on the stamps from the participating nations. The nominal Euro value on them will have to correspond to the currency rate of exchange of each of the respective nations. While extensive discussions are going on in the European Union about these matters, the postal services of these nations have already begun the process of the design of stamps with the new Euro value. The first was the French

postal service which has already issued a stamp featuring the Euro. The stamp has a value of 3FF and has the Euro symbol along with question marks for its Euro value (Fig. 5). Only the future exchange rate will determine what these question marks mean.

- Postmark for Nelson Island: Not too many of us know that we have had -- for some time now -- an established Czech polar station on Nelson Island in Antarctica. Philatelists of course have been collecting documents about postal service to this island and, the other way around, from there to the Czech Republic. On 26 February 1999 the Czech Post in Praha 06 at Hybernská Ulice will be canceling presented mail with a commemorative postmark with the text: 10 Years of Polar Station on Nelson Island.

- Tradition of Czech Stamp Production issue, 20 January 1999: And here is something interesting for our readers. The printing plate for this issue is made up of



Fig. 5

two parts (Fig. 6). The first part has 30 stamps while the second has 8 stamps in two identically arranged blocks of four. In the middle of each block of four is a coupon half the size of the stamps. The coupon has the logo for the upcoming International Stamps Exhibit BRNO 2000, the words "BRNO 2000", and a representation of the historical sections of Brno -- Petrov and Špilberk. The 8 stamp blocks-of-four part is being used to produce a stamp booklet to be issued for the upcoming exhibition.

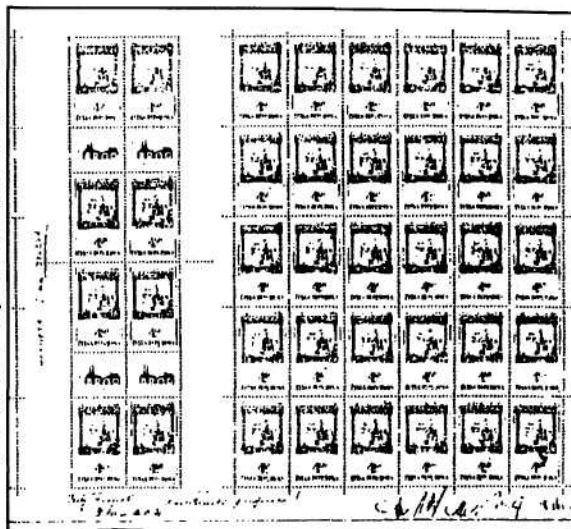


Fig. 6

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## UPDATED LIBRARY CATALOG AVAILABLE

by Richard Palaschak

The Society's Library Catalog was recently updated. It is now available both on the Society's web site at [www.erols.com/sibpost](http://www.erols.com/sibpost) and in written form through our Librarian. The library currently contains over three hundred (300) items. If you do not have access to the Internet, members of the Society may obtain a copy of the current Catalog and the Rules for Borrowing Books by sending a request to the Librarian along with your membership number.

Richard Palaschak, Librarian  
4050 Carbury Ct.  
Chantilly, VA 20151-2613

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## EXCHANGE PARTNER

The following individual has contacted the Society with a request for an exchange partner. Any exchange relationships are strictly between the two individuals, because the Society is a disinterested and uninvolved party.

1. Jaromír Skácel                      Understands English well enough to correspond; offers  
Pod vodojemem 1053      ČSSR and Czech Republic; seeks USA mint.  
14900 Praha 4 - Chodov

*New Issues*

**2000 ISSUE PLAN\***  
**FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS**  
 from Savoy Horvath

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	1	5
Jan 20	BRNO 2000 --International Exhibition of Postage Stamps (souvenir sheet w/stamp)	1	5 50
Mar 1	Personalities I -- T.G. Masaryk, 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (souvenir sheet w/stamp)	1	17
Mar 1	700 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary -- Royal Miner's Law - Kutná Hora (UNESCO)	1	5
Apr 5	Easter	1	4.60
Apr 5	Prague -- Europe's City of Culture in 2000 (souvenir sheet w/three stamps)	1	9,11,17
May 9	EUROPA (joint issue)	1	9
May 9	Transportation (railroads in 1900 and 2000) (souvenir sheet w/two stamps)	1	8,15
May 9	Personalities II - Vítězslav Nezval - Gustav Mahler	2	5 8
May 31	For Children	1	4.60
May 31	World Year of Mathematics	1	7
Jun 28	Beauties of Our Country -- Royal Road	3	
	- gothic	9	
	- baroque		11
	- art nouveau		13
Jun 28	Nature Conservation -- Rare Mushrooms	4	4.60,4.60 5,5
Aug 30	27 <sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in Sydney	1	13
Aug 30	Classic Olympic Games	1	9
Aug 30	MMF and World Bank Conference in Prague	1	7
Oct 4	Hunting in Different Seasons	4	4.60,4.60 5,5
Nov 15	Works of Art on Stamps	3	
	- Mistr Theodorik (~1320-1370)		13
	- Petr Brandl (1668-1735)		17
	- Alfons Mucha (1860-1939)		26
Nov 15	Christmas	1	4.60
Nov 15	Last Stamp of the Millennium	1	4.60

\* The Czech Republic is raising its domestic postal rates on January 1, 2000. Thus, the stamp values shown above will possibly change.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On June 23, 1999, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a commemorative souvenir sheet titled "Joachim Barrande and the Czech Trilobites" containing two stamps and two labels (Fig. 1). J. Barrande (1799-1883), the French geologist and paleontologist, came to Prague in 1831 as a tutor with the Bourbon royal family, but Czech Paleozoic fossils in the area between Prague and Pilsen (now called Barrandien) fascinated him so much that he devoted his whole life to them.



Fig. 1

He collected his knowledge into the 22-volumed work "Silurian System of Central Bohemia". He bequeathed the whole extensive collection to the National Museum in Prague. (Note also the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress issue of August 8,



Fig. 2

1968 -- Fig. 2, Sc. 1563, Pof. 1703. This 1.60 Kčs value shows central Bohemian "Barrande" limestone rock formations near Prague which are approx. 420 million years old and a trilobite of approx. 460 million years.) The two stamps will be issued se-tenant in a souvenir sheet with two labels to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this notable researcher's birth. The stamps and labels are placed cross-wise in the souvenir sheet -- the 13 Kč stamp with the portrait of

J. Barrande with trilobites is in the upper left, while the 31 Kč stamp with three trilobites and their Latin names (*Deiphon forbesi*, *Ophioceras simplex*, *Carolicrinus barrandei*) is in the lower right. The other corners contain the labels showing



Fig. 3

different trilobites and mentioning the place where they were found -- Barrandien. The graphic artist of this souvenir sheet was Jan Kavan, while the engraving was done by Miloš Ondráček. The sheet was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using recess print from flat plates in black-brown, brown, and green. A FDC in black bearing the 13 Kč stamp depicts a geologist's hammer with the inscription "Barrande 1842" on a background of a fossilized trilobite, a compass and a pair

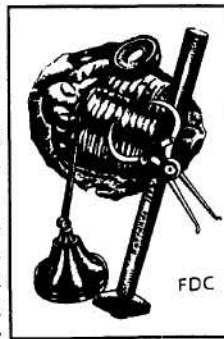


Fig. 4



of glasses (Fig. 3). The FDC in black bearing the 31 Kč stamp depicts a hammer with the inscription "Barrande 1883", a magnification stand, and adjustable calipers against a background of a fossilized trilobite (Fig. 4). They both bear a post mark from Prague containing a fossil.

2. On June 23, 1999, the Ministry issued an 8 Kč stamp to commemorate the occasion of "The 750th Anniversary of the Jihlava Mining Right" (Fig. 5). The Jihlava Mining Right was issued as a part of the town rights in 1249. It was the first mining right in the world to be ratified by monarch (King Wenceslas I). It contains four chapters dealing with: the allocation of mining property, the recognition of priority on the basis of discover of the seam, economical mining and the exhaustion of mineral resources, mining safety with regard to flooding, and the very first codification of mining franchises. The Jihlava mining right was used as a model for mining laws in this country and elsewhere in Europe. This black, yellow, blue, and red stamp depicts on the left the ruler passing down the document of the mining right and on the right a mining labor scene with a Prague silver coin in the foreground. The stamp was designed by graphic artist Zdeněk Mézl and engraved by Josef Herčík. It was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in printing sheets containing 30 stamps. They will also be printing philatelic booklets containing 8 stamps and 4 labels. The labels depict miner's tools together with the king's crown, the initials of the city of Jihlava, and the date 1249. There will be a FDC in black depicting mining operations portrayed in humorous exaggeration accompanied by a stylized coat-of-arms of Jihlava in the foreground (Fig. 6). It bears a post mark from Jihlava showing crossed miner's hammers.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

3. On June 23, 1999, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč stamp to commemorate the "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)" (Fig. 7). The Universal Postal Union was founded at the first World Postal Congress in Bern, where it also has its seat and

permanent international office. It links the postal administrations of individual countries including the Czech Republic. Its main task is to improve postal services and to support international cooperation in this area. This blue, green, and black stamp bears a stylized drawing of the globe on the background of the bold colored initials UPU with the official logo of the UPU in the upper left corner. This stamp was designed by Jaroslav Fišer and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. It was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates in combination with colored offset in printing sheets of 5 pieces with 10 coupons. Five



Fig. 7

coupons show the logo of the UPU while the others contain a picture of the globe with envelopes flying around it. The coupons are placed alternately in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> columns. The FDC in blue depicts a stylized logo of the UPU (Fig. 8). It bears a post mark from Prague showing a pigeon carrying an envelope in its beak.

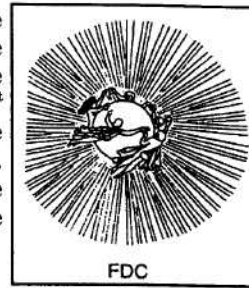


Fig. 8

**Postal Stationery**

4. On May 31, 1999, the Czech Post through the Supply and Trade Service (POSTFILA) in conjunction with the American Society for Czechoslovak Philately issued a postal card with a surcharge commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of this oldest foreign society collecting the postage stamps of the territory of the former Czechoslovakia (Fig. 9). The basis for this stationery issue was the special 7 Kč postal card issued on April 14, 1999, for commercial and promotional uses with the left part free for surcharges [see p35, Jul/Aug 99 issue]. In the left part of this card is shown: a reproduction of the cover of the first issue of the American periodical *The Czecho-Slovak Specialist* from May 1939, the Czech Republic and American flags, Czech and English text stating "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary", the dates "May, 1939" and "May, 1999"

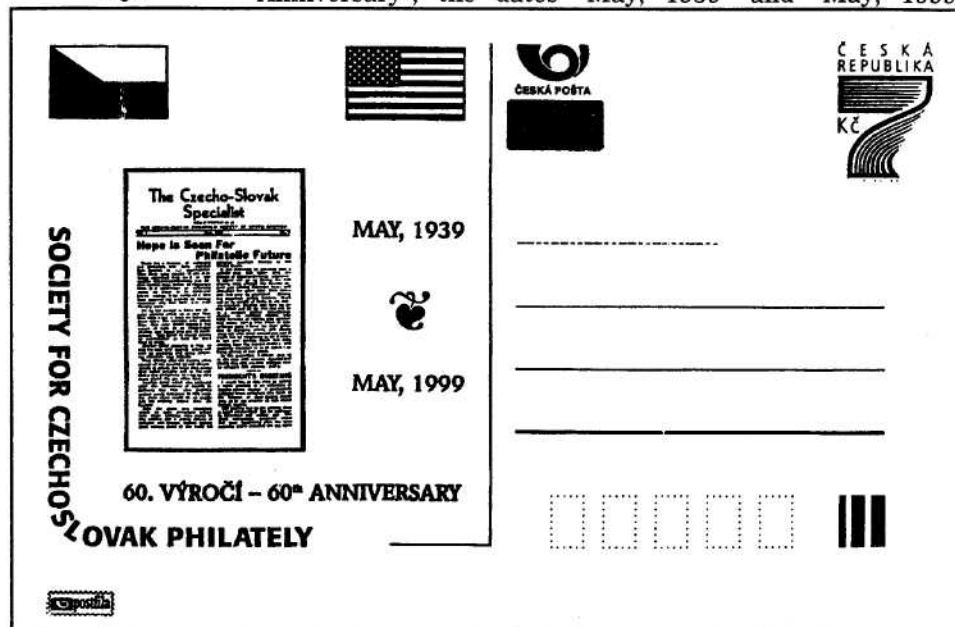


Fig. 9

separated by a stylized linden leaf, and the name of the Society bent around the lower left corner of the card. The appropriate security hologram is located below the Czech Post logo in the upper center of the card. The designer of the card was Jaroslav Verner with the collaboration of POSTFILA. It was printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, using three color (red, blue, and black) typography. The postal card is for sale at the POSTFILA sales locations as well as through the sales systems of contracted subscribers. Part of the production run was designated for the use of the above mentioned American society. The sales price of the postal card is about 11 Kč mint and 11.30 Kč with the first day cancel. There were 9,000 cards printed.

**SLOVAKIA**  
by F. Garancovsky

5. On June 15, 1999, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 4 Sk stamp commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra (1949-1999) (Fig. 10). This multicolored stamp depicts a singing nightingale sitting on the scroll of a violin all against a background of a musical score formed in a circle. The graphic design as well as the engraving of this stamp was done by Rudolf Cigánik. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black includes a symbolic drawing with a motif of a conductor. It bears a postmark from Bratislava.



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

6. On June 15, 1999, the Ministry issued a 5 Sk stamp commemorating the "International Senior Citizen Year 1999" (Fig. 11). This multicolored stamp depicts a symbolic drawing showing the hands of three generations along with an eternal flame in the upper left corner. The designer of the stamp was Mikuláš Klimčák, while the engraver was Arnold Feke. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown includes a symbolic drawing with a swinging armchair. It bears a postmark from Bratislava.



Fig. 12

7. On June 15, 1999, the Ministry issued a 12 Sk

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

stamp in a sheetlet measuring 70 x 85 mm commemorating the "Flight of the First Slovak Spaceman" (Fig. 12). The perforated stamp on the multicolored sheetlet shows a portrait of the Slovak cosmonaut -- Ivan Bella, a part of the orbital station "MIR", the flight dates of "20.2 - 28.2.1999", and the spaceship designation "Sojuz TM-29". The remainder of the sheetlet contains a drawing of the "MIR" station. The sheetlet was designed by Dušan Nágel and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing. The unicolored FDC includes a drawing of the space ship "Sojuz TM-29". It bears a postmark from Bratislava.



Fig. 13

8. On July 15, 1999, the Ministry issued a 12 Sk stamp commemorating the "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UPU - Žilina University" (Fig. 13). The multicolored stamp depicts an open book and a pigeon/envelope/posthorn against a background of Žilina University, and the UPU logo in the lower right corner. The graphic artist was Marián Čapka, while the engraver was Pavel Kovařík. The stamp was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in black shows a

symbolic painting representing the diversity of the school -- in the areas of transportation and telecommunications. It bears a postmark from Žilina.

9. On July 15, 1999, the Ministry issued a 16 Sk stamp commemorating the "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UPU - Slovak Post Office" (Fig. 14). The multicolored stamp depicts a symbolic composition consisting of the Slovak Post Office logo (a stylized envelope) with the earth superimposed and representing the mission of the post office. On the left is the logo of the UPU. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and engraved by Pavel Kovařík. It was produced by the



Fig. 14

Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. A unicolored FDC shows the ancient hero "Mercur" -- a symbol of the post. It bears a postmark from Banská Bystrica.

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### *Letters to the Editor*

*[Ed. Note: There have been four letters responding to the #2 Letter to the Editor, page 42, Jul/Aug 99 issue, about the Gustav Husák stamps. I am presenting here the two key replies.]*

1. Dear Lou:

Since submitting my letter to you, I have received the following information from the Lighthouse people whose album I use to mount my stamps:

"The 'Phosphor' remark (on page 78.107 Czechoslovakia) is INCORRECT. It should be "Fluorescent Paper". The Stanley Gibbons catalog remarks in a footnote to stamps 2245/6 that these were printed on phosphorescent paper which is wrong.

They are listed in Michel under 2283y and 2284y and in POFIS catalog 2165y and 2166y. Scott does not list the variety. The page will be corrected with the next reprint of the entire album."

My question now is - if there is such a variety, what is the best way to recognize fluorescent paper from the regular one?

Karl J. Ruzicka

Dear Mr. Svoboda:

President Husák's issue of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1975, is composed of two stamps, 30h blue and 60h red, numbered in Pofis as 2165 and 2166 respectively.

[My Pofis] catalogs list the Husák stamps as having been issued on OZ paper (papír se záměrnou přísadou opticky zjasňující látky, that is, paper that has had a special substance added to make it glow brightly under UV light) and fl1 paper (fluorescent paper type 1, that is, glows with a yellow response under ultraviolet light). OZ paper stamps bear Pofis numbers 2165xb/2166xb, and the fluorescent ones bear numbers of 2165ya and 2166ya.

Fluorescent stamps are quoted to have been issued in 1977, without further date specification, except for a 60h světle červená (light red) (2166ya sub-type b), issued May 6, 1977.

In addition, a 30h stamp with bp paper (in Czech "Bez záměrné přísady", without any response under UV light) is listed, bearing number 2165xa -- this being the rarest of all five -- priced at 10,000 Kč mint and 120 Kč used. The date of issue for this stamp is November 11, 1976.

Dr. Michele Pallini

2. Dear Lou:

We all like to receive mail from family and friends. Most of them know I collect stamps and make extra effort to "dress" the envelope with special stamps. At times when such is not convenient, I receive letters with post office labels (Fig. 1). The label is very colorful and gives the local ZIP code, the name of the city, date posted, weight and postage fee.

Right now, I have envelopes from Vsetín, Zlín, and Brno and will start accumulating.

I wonder if there is anyone else in the Society who would be interested in starting an exchange club for these labels? It would be fun to see how many one could accumulate from various cities -- from Aš to Zlín.

With best regards,  
Karl J. Ruzicka

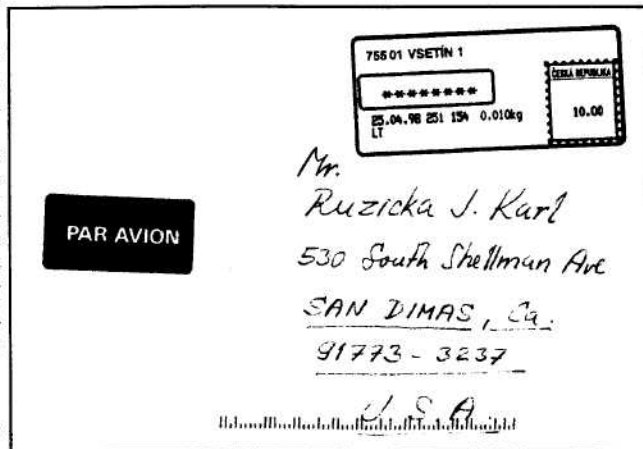


Fig. 1

[Ed. Note: Our May/June 1997 issue contained an article discussing the development of these post office labels and a complete description explaining all the numbers, letters, etc., found on them.]



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

3. Dear Lou:

[Here is] my view on e-mail. It is great for any urgent messages, but for a stamp collector, e-mail is an eventual death knell. While writing letters with overseas partners, you can put together a used country collection (ČR and SR). I do realize that most Society members collect the classics like the Hradčany, so they do not really care if e-mail takes over and in the years to come postage stamps disappear. But what if . . . some hundred years ago they had developed a large, powerful breed of pigeons that could fly thousands of miles, and this service took over the then fledgling mail delivery service? Then, there would not have been any early Czechoslovak classics to collect, only pigeon poop smeared little mailing tubes!!

With best regards,  
Savoy Horvath

4. [Ed. Note: The following two letters refer to the #1 Letter to the Editor, Jul/Aug 99 issue, about a Feldpost post card franked with a 5h postage due.]

Pozdrav z Prahy!

The postcard mentioned on p.41 is interesting. I suppose that the sender affixed postage for one or both of two reasons. First, because the sender (Dagmar) is a woman and presumably not entitled to use military mail in those days. And second, because perhaps Austro-Hungarian Feldpost cards had lost their validity by May 1919 (i.e., roughly 7 months after the dissolution of the monarchy). Maybe Dagmar grabbed the first "post card" at hand in the family writing desk, one left there by a relative who had served in the Great War?

Regards  
Patrick Moore

Dear Lou:

Regarding a Letter to the Editor from Tony Dewey. At first I thought that this card had been sent from Zwickau, Germany -- about 40 miles north of Karlovy Vary and 20 miles north of the border. But then I realized that there was a Zwickau in old Böhmen - Bohemia. Today it's Cvikov. It is located near the northern border (below the first camel hump). And, it's definitely not a Fieldpost matter as the card is between two girlfriends. The message side translates: "Dear Mano! [Mana is diminutive of Marie] Reporting that I arrived home in good order. And now I am looking forward to your visit. Forgive me that I am only writing a postal card, when I have more time a letter will follow. Till then, hearty greetings and kisses. Yours, Dagmar"

Savoy Horvath

5. Dear Lou:

I was sorry to read that Capt. Carone didn't get elected to the board. He is a dynamic type guy and one who would have put a lot of effort into the Society.

In the future I think it would be a very good idea to let each candidate write a couple of paragraphs about his or her candidacy and their ideas about the Society . . . This would enable the membership to help pick the candidates to serve the Society.

Best regards  
Charley (Chesloe)



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