



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 62

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

No. 1, Whole No. 559

OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS – PART I

by Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

[Ed. Note: This is the first of a three part article; the other two parts will appear in future issues. This part originally appeared in the Nov/Dec 1996 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]

The national symbols of the former Czechoslovak Republic are without a doubt frequently used themes on postage stamps and sometimes also on cancellations. They are being used as a matter of law on banknotes and coinage. It might be useful to talk about this matter in greater detail.

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In Memoriam

Anthony Strechansky, 66 -- patron member 1453 -- died suddenly on October 9, 1999. "Tony", as he was affectionately known, was an active member of the Society who also provided much material for the Society sales circuit for many years.

He was a mentor for junior collectors in the New York/New Jersey area. Primarily a Hradčany specialist, he provided material of Eastern Europe to dealer and collectors. He was a patron of the arts and also served as a judge for the American Kennel Club in the United States and Europe.

He was a US Army veteran serving with the Military Police. Recently retired, he was employed by the United States Postal Service.

He leaves a sister, Sister Rose of the Humility of Mary, in Villa Marie, PA.

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Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Periodical Paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST,

11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.erols.com/sibpost

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and without compensation.***

BRNO 2000 UPDATE

by Jaroslav J. Verner

BRNO 2000 will open its doors to the philatelic public on March 5, 2000, only a few weeks away. The organizers, the Czech Post and the Union of Czech Philately, have worked diligently to prepare an exhibition of considerable philatelic import. The exhibition is organized to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the First President of Czechoslovakia, Thomas G. Masaryk. The exhibition will be centered at the Brno Exhibition Grounds with additional events scheduled for Kopernik Observatory and Planetarium and at the Training Institute for Communications. Finally, a post bus will be located at Svoboda Square in the city center for the duration of BRNO 2000. While a final acceptance for exhibits had not been determined at the time this was written, 219 exhibit applications from 15 countries have been submitted -- of these, 9 were from the United States.

The exhibition will be open to the public from Sunday, March 5 through Saturday, March 11. The following events/activities/facilities will be available every day during BRNO 2000:

- Meetings of Collectors (Bourse)
- Children's Corner (which was an extremely successful and popular feature at PRAGA 98)
- Philatelic dealers
- Guided tours of the exhibition
- Post bus Brno 1 (at Svoboda Square)
- Post office at Exhibition site, Brno 26.

Additional daily programs announced by the exhibition organizers are:

- Sunday, March 5, 2000 -- **Postal History Day**
 - Inauguration of BRNO 2000 (by invitation only)
 - Opening of exhibition to the public
 - Conference of the Society of Postal History (Communications Institute)
 - Meeting of the Society of Aerophilately (Planetarium)
- Monday, March 6, 2000 -- **Brno City Day**
- Tuesday, March 7, 2000 -- **Day of TGM**
 - Honoring the Memory of Thomas G. Masaryk (150th anniversary of his birth)
 - Communications Institute Open House
- Wednesday, March 8, 2000 -- **Thematic Philately Day**
 - Lecture by Dr. Ing. Giancarlo Morolli
 - Autographing session
- Thursday, March 9, 2000 -- **Day of FIPA and FEPA**
 - WIPA Presentation
- Friday, March 10, 2000 -- **Day of the Czechoslovak Stamps**
 - Congress of Collectors of Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps (Communications Institute)
 - ARGE Meeting (by invitation - Communications Institute)
 - Palmare Banquet
- Saturday, March 11, 2000 -- **Day of Youth Philately**

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- Meeting of the Youth Committee (Planetarium)
- Meeting of the expert (professional) section Olympsport (Communications Institute)

Congress of Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps

As noted in the schedule above, a Congress of Collectors of Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps will be held at the Communications Institute on Friday, March 10. It is envisioned there will be six short (no more than 15 minutes) formal presentations plus a paper followed by discussion of each theme. We have been assured there will be simultaneous interpretation provided to participants. The following speakers will address the following themes:

- Petr Gebaur - will submit a paper
- Henry Hahn - Pneumatic tube mail
- Ján Karásek - Newly identified fakes and counterfeits
- Ladislav Klusáček - New issues of the Czech Republic
- Pavel Pittermann - Problems of expertizing
- Jiří Škaloud - Hradčany column types
- Jaroslav J. Verner - Mail of the Czech Legions in France During WWI.

Finally, two major auctions will take place in Brno during the exhibition. The official exhibition auction will be conducted by Filatelie Klim on Saturday, March 11 at the Hotel International. Earlier in the show, on Sunday, March 5, Majer & Thraumb will hold an auction of Czechoslovak related philatelic material at the Hotel Voroněž.

The Organizing Committee of BRNO 2000 has invited Henry Hahn to represent the United States on the international jury which will judge the exhibits. They have also asked Jaroslav J. Verner to act as the United States Commissioner for BRNO 2000.

Social Activities

In addition to philatelic activities and opportunities which will be present in Brno, a full program of social and tourist activities are also being planned. Tourist excursions are planned to:

- Kroměříž castle and wine cellar tour
- Austerlitz battlefield
- Tour of Brno.

The highlight of the Exhibition organized social activities will be, not surprisingly, the Palmare banquet. The sit-down dinner will have, in addition to fine food, music by some of the best musicians in Brno. Following dinner and the awarding of the prizes, a dance band is to play until 2 in the morning -- for those of us who can last that long. The cost for the banquet will be 600 Kč.

Two more items of information should be of interest to our members who plan to travel to Brno for this exhibition. The official hotel for BRNO 2000 will be the Voroněž, a first class hotel very close to the Exhibition site. We have received word from the hotel that if there is a group coming from the United States, they would consider giving us a special rate. Travelers interested in such a possibility should contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, and very importantly, a joint dinner is being planned for the members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. It will be arranged for either Wednesday or Thursday evening (March 8th or 9th) in a local restaurant which specializes in Moravian cuisine. The uncertainty regarding the date is due to our desire not to conflict with an official exhibition event which will be scheduled for one of those dates. Our dinner will be on the other. Our member and leading expert on Czechoslovak stamps and Moravian food, Ján Karásek, has agreed to make the local arrangements. I would also ask all members planning to attend BRNO 2000 to contact me (tel. 301-530-2610, FAX 301-530-7489, e-mail: sibpost@erols.com or by mail) regarding this joint dinner so we can assure we have reservations for all members wishing to attend.

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A MOMENT IN AIRMAIL POSTAL HISTORY by John Miskevich

On December 20, 1945, the Pan American Airways Boeing flying-boat, Bermuda Clipper, took off from Southampton, England on the last of 3,650 flying-boat crossings of the Atlantic Ocean to and from New York City. Since the passengers and crew wanted nothing better than to get home in time for Christmas, stopping only to fuel, the plane sprinted home by way of its regular route via Africa and Brazil in a record three days and two and a half nights. When the flying-boat touched down on Bowery Bay just off La Guardia Field at two A.M. the day before Christmas, it was met only by the night watchman. While it was the end of the noble Clippers of the Atlantic, Pan American officials barely noticed. They were too busy preparing their air routes for land based airplanes to pay attention to their vanishing flying-boats.

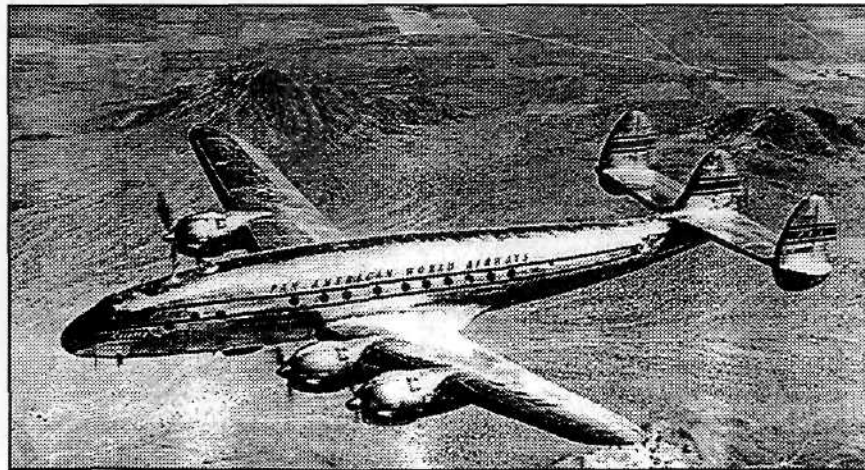


Fig. 1

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For the first time Pan American Airways (later renamed Pan Am) was facing competition from other United States airline companies. Two others had been granted seven-year certificates from the U.S. Government to fly the North Atlantic after the Second World War. On October 24, 1945 American Overseas Airways (American Airlines) inaugurated the first regular commercial non-stop air service by land planes from North America to Europe over the Atlantic portion of the journey. The trip from New York by way of Boston and Limerick, Ireland had taken fourteen hours flying time before the plane touched down at Hurn Airfield near Bournemouth, then serving as the British transatlantic terminal until Heathrow was ready. American Airlines had picked up six Douglas C-54 Skymasters from the United States War Surplus Board and had fashioned them into commercial airliners (DC-4s).

Pan American's strongest competitor and most formidable rival looked to be Trans Continental & Western Air which would be renamed TransWorld Airline (TWA) in 1950. The company that had shown the way with the DC-1 and the Boeing 307 before the Second World War was now prepared to introduce the only really new postwar commercial airplane -- the Lockheed Constellation (Fig. 1). The Lockheed company had secretly designed the airplane for TWA before the war, but it did not fly passengers until 1945. Howard Hughes was TWA's largest stockholder. With a pressurized cabin the airplane could travel at eighteen thousand feet and leap over the Atlantic's worst weather. On December 5, TWA packed an airliner cabin with government officials (including U.S. Postmaster General Robert Hannegan) and flew them to Paris in just under thirteen hours. The flight time shattered all records and made headlines around the world.

Here is where the focus of the story shifts to Czechoslovakia. Also on December 5, 1945, and with little fanfare, Pan American Airways dispatched a flight over the Atlantic to survey a route to India certified to it by the United States Civil Aeronautics Board. Carrying two dozen engineers and technicians of the line, the



Fig. 2

airplane would test airports throughout Western Europe, the Balkans, Turkey, Iran, and Karachi to Calcutta before establishment of regular air service. The Civil Aeronautics Board had assigned Pan American and TWA flights to different parts of Europe. They were not to be in direct competition, but Pan American was determined to reduce the number of its U.S. rivals flying the Atlantic (and in Europe).

The postcard shown in Figure 2 was mailed at Prague on December 19 by a member of the Pan American Airways survey team that was visiting the Prague airport. The last name of the sender is not known to me, but the card is addressed to a "Mr. Spencer Waggoner, Walkertown, North Carolina, United States". He may be a brother or the father of the sender. The postcard qualifies as a primary history source relating to the Pan American survey flight of December 1945. The following is the text of the postcard:

"Dec. 19

There are 19 of us on a survey flight aboard a C-54 checking on the route which has been granted us by the U.S. Government. The flight terminates at Calcutta, India where I leave the party and start traveling on my own covering all the countries from India to TURKEY. We spend 2-3 days at each place enroute out. So far we have been to Gander, Newfoundland, Shannon Ireland, Hurn England, Bruselles (sic), Belgium; PARIS France; FRANKFURT + Wiesbaden Germany; Vienna Austria and on to here yesterday. Back to Vienna tomorrow and then to Rome for X-mas.

Best, Chas"

I am not aware that there were philatelic cachets applied to envelopes for stamp collectors on the survey flight, but I cannot rule out the possibility. I tend to think the survey flight was "all business".

On January 3, 1946, Laurence A. Steinhardt, United States Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, and Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister signed a civil air transportation agreement in Prague which promised to place Czechoslovakia within twenty-four flight hours from New York and to open the Balkans and Middle East to easy air approach. The accord originated from an international aviation Congress in Chicago in 1944. Ambassador Steinhardt indicated that the present pact was the first to include all five "freedoms of the air" embodied in the Chicago resolutions. With the Pan American survey flight as far as Prague (and Vienna) already completed, the start of service depended only on overcoming final technical obstacles.

Pan American Airways, not TransWorld Airlines, carried the first paying passengers to Europe in the new Lockheed Constellation aircraft on January 20, 1946. The crossing was to Lisbon, Portugal, and it was followed on February 5 by the first Constellation flight to London. TWA began regular scheduled North Atlantic service between New York and Paris on that same day. On June 15, 1946 a Pan American Lockheed Constellation airliner took off from New York City inaugurating the route Gander (Newfoundland), Shannon (Ireland), London (England), Brussels (Belgium), Prague (Czechoslovakia), and Vienna (Austria). It has been designated F.A.M. 18 (foreign air mail route number 18). The return flight

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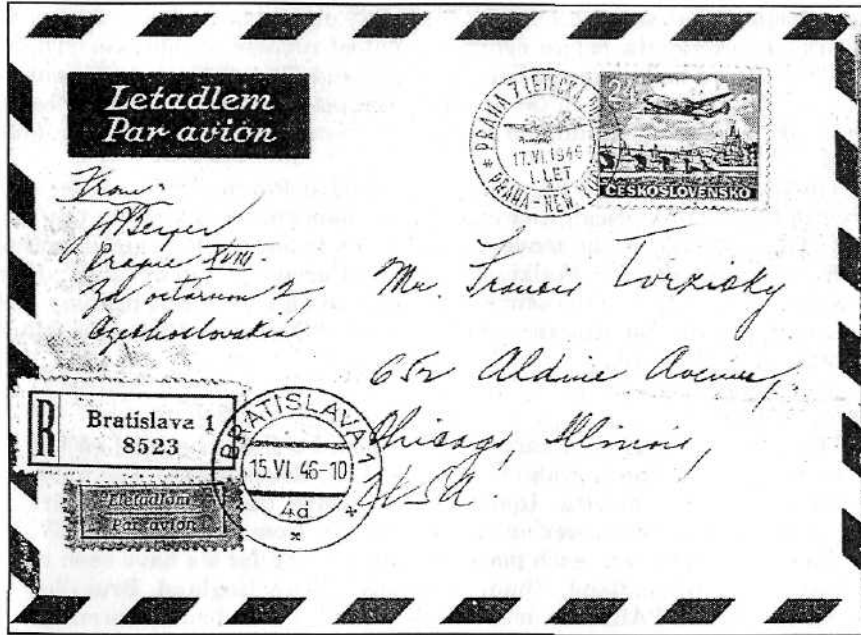


Fig. 3

for New York left Vienna on June 17. This flight produced Czechoslovakia's first postwar First Flight covers.

The covers shown next are First Flights flown either to or from Czechoslovakia. It is not my intention to present a detailed description of the Czechoslovak stamp and postmarks associated with the flights. *The Czechoslovak Specialist* has published two excellent articles scrutinizing the Pan American first flights to and from Prague. They are "Airmail From Czechoslovakia to North and

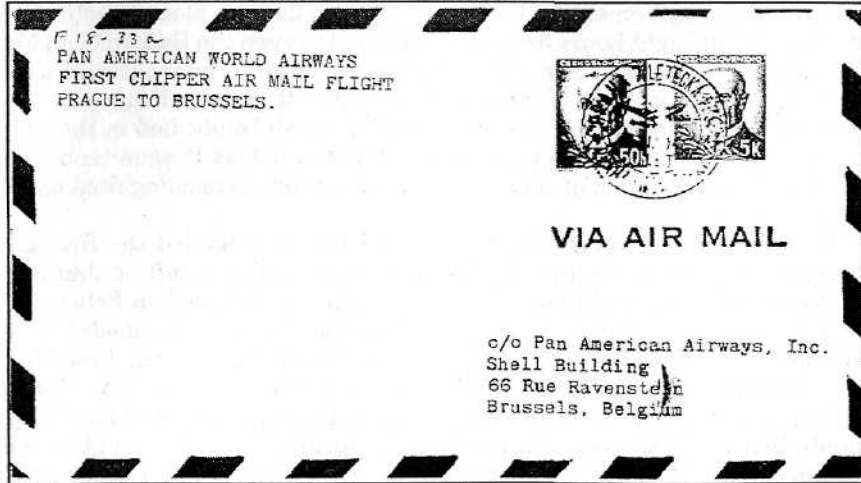


Fig. 4

South America”, by Bedřich Kavan, Vol. XLV, March 1983, No. 3, Whole No. 428, and “First Flight: New York - Prague - New York”, by Vladimír Bubák, Vol. (?), No. 4, July/August 1991, Whole No. (?). My purpose, here, is to supplement this material and provide some additional covers not previously illustrated in our journal.



Fig. 5

The cover shown at Figure 3 is an example of a registered first flight cover, point of origin, Bratislava. Mail could be sent from any post office in Czechoslovakia -- not just from Prague -- for the flight. Note that this envelope was mailed on June 15 from Bratislava and flown from Prague on June 17 to the United States. The airmail stamp was valid solely on June 17 and only for the flight. The stamp pays the 4.00 Kčs letter rate, the 8.00 Kčs registered letter fee, plus a 12.00 Kčs airmail charge. Incidentally, 12.00 Kčs had been the rate for an airmail cover weighing up to 5 grams since December 1945.

Figure 4 presents another Czechoslovak first flight cover. This one was flown only as far as Brussels, Belgium. The rate for an air cover to New York was 16.00 Kčs (4.00 Kčs letter rate plus 12.00 Kčs air up to five grams). For Belgium, the air mail fee was 1.50 Kčs. At Figure 5 is a cover flown from Gander to Prague. The envelope sports green Newfoundland stamps together with a light blue flight cachet as well as a PRAHA 7 LETECKÁ POŠTA backstamp. The volume of covers mailed between Prague and New York was far greater than the amount sent to other stops along the way.

Whatever became of the competition between Pan American and its two rivals you may ask? Both TWA and American Overseas Airlines ran into financial trouble after expanding too fast across the Atlantic. By June of 1950, Pan American had absorbed American Overseas Airlines. Both TWA and Pan American were henceforth authorized to fly to London, Paris, Rome, and Frankfurt in face-to-face competition. Taking all of its world routes together -- European, Latin American, Pacific, Alaskan, African -- Pan American had become the preeminent international airline. Nearly two-thirds of U.S. trans-ocean air traffic was theirs. However, TWA was the only airline that could provide domestic together with transatlantic service. This enabled TWA to offer direct service from many American cities to London and

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Frankfurt other than just from New York and Boston. In the long run that would work to TWA's greater financial gain.

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Příručka Pro Sběratele Československých Známek a Celin, Praha, 1988
The New York Times, "Commercial Flights to Britain Launched", October 25, 1945, at page 6; "Laski Takes Plane Here For England" [a paragraph concerns the survey flight], December 6, 1945, at page 11; "U.S.- Czech Air Accord", January 4, 1946, at page 8.

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AN IMPERFECT COLOR SE-TENANT

by Zdeněk Fritz

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the *MERKUR REVIEW*, Sep/Oct 1996, with permission of the editor and the author.]

An interesting deformation of a stamp image attributable to the flawed recess printing of se-tenant colors was discovered on a portion of the printing run of the recently issued commemorative stamp for the XXVI Olympic Games in Atlanta. The deformation is first noticeable on the symbol of the five Olympic rings. The blue color print is clearly shifted downward, so that the first ring -- the blue one -- almost reaches the level of the lower couple of rings (the yellow one -- which is slightly shifted upward -- and the green one)(Fig. 1).

Despite the displacement of the blue color being not quite a full millimeter, nevertheless we can see -- besides the deformation of the rings -- the distinct change of the position of the numeral "3" which touches the lower red frame line of the picture. In addition, the stylized stadium oval in blue (with a star in the middle) is differently situated.

So far the described faulty se-tenant has been exclusively found on the strip-of-fives used in the original stamp booklets issued by the Czech Post Office. At post office counters we have been unable so far to find any flaws on the full sheet material. It is not out of the question that some attentive readers will help us as a result of looking through their stamp materials.



Fig. 1

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
EXPERTIZING ACTIVITY**

**by Ing. Pavel Pittermann, A.I.E.P., Chairman, Commission of
Experts, Union of Czech Philatelists
trans. by Henry Hahn**

In the course of the World Philatelic Exhibition IBRA'99 in Norinberg, there was held a professional seminar sponsored jointly by the F.I.P. Commission for the Fight Against Forgeries and the International Association of Philatelic Experts, A.I.E.P., whose main host was the Union of German Philatelists in cooperation with Union of Philatelic Experts B.P.P. The theme of the seminar was devoted to working procedures used in expertizing activities in the revelation of forgeries in various types of philatelic materials. In the course of the seminar there was a demonstration of the technical equipment belonging to the Union of German Philatelists, which at the exhibition was made available to the team of experts working with the jury. It was brought there from the House of Philately in Bonn. The equipment consists of a precisely defined source of light which duplicates daylight, video cameras equipped for macro and microphotography and having digital capability enabling good reproduction by classical means as well as on a computer screen capable of storage of the image of the studied object in the memory of the computer. Application of the equipment was demonstrated in identification of forgeries of stamps, overprints, for evaluation of shades, and for distinguishing forgeries of cancels directly on covers.

Of interest was information on the means of usage of virtual images and their presentation directly in the computer, enabling reliable identification of layers of ink covering other ink layers. The application of these procedures would solve the much disputed problem with our 2 K Austrian seal dark blue stamps with the overprint POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919, there it can be uniquely determined whether the overprint was applied to previously canceled stamps or mint stamps which were subsequently canceled, i.e. one can establish overprint forgeries as well as removal of the cancellation. Major attention was paid to the problem of interpretation of the obtained results with the available software with its specialized variations. In the course of the seminar there were demonstrated examples examined in the visible portion of the light spectrum while it was generally evident that observation could also be made in the ultraviolet and infrared part of the spectrum. The main topic of discussion in the seminar were questions dealing with the technical parameters of the equipment, methods, interpretation of results as well as the limits that can be reached with the use of this type of equipment. Evaluated also were problems associated with the economic effectiveness of using such equipment.

Also extraordinarily interesting was information about new types of forgeries prepared by the most sophisticated up-to-date technical means. A seminar in this vein was conducted under the auspices of the two previously mentioned organizations (F.I.P. and A.I.E.P.), and this successful action led to the conclusion that by means of the described methods the public has gained a powerful tool in the fight against forgeries. It is good to know that also in our Republic, these contemporary methods are utilized in our expertizing practice. More specific information on this subject may be obtained from the author of this report.

TELČ CELEBRATES ITS 900TH ANNIVERSARY

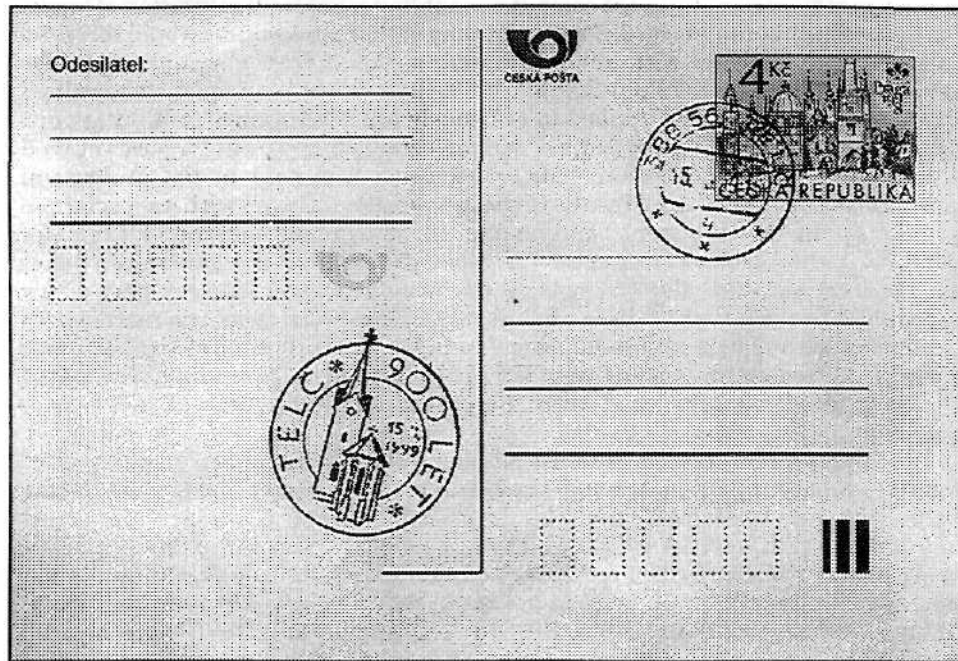
by Henry Hahn

TELČ, often referred to as "the pearl of Moravia", was founded in 1099 as a "Royal Town" during the reign of the Přemyslids. In recent years its beauty, historic and cultural significance were recognized by the United Nations, which designated the town as an object of cultural heritage -- one of two small towns in the Czech Republic so designated. In 1339, Telč became the property of the Vitkovec family, i.e. the "Lords of the Rose". The Lords of Hradec -- a branch of the Vitkovec family -- remained masters of Telč to 1604, whereupon the town passed to the Slaváts and eventually to the Lichtensteins, who remained owners of the estate and castle to 1945. The property is now owned by the Czech Republic and open to the public.

The present architectural beauty of Telč originated in the era of Zacharias of Hradec in the first half of the 16th century. It is primarily to Zacharias that Telč owes its magnification square and its renaissance castle -- all fully preserved and maintained to this day.

The celebration of the 900th Anniversary took place on August 18th amidst pomp and ceremony which included the philatelic souvenir shown below.

[Ed. Note: See an accompanying story in the Philatelic News and Views column.]



SOUVENIR SHEET VARIETIES

by Frank Garancovsky

As your collection nears completion, that is according to catalog numbers, you continue to travel the stamp show circuit. Frustration builds as you find little or nothing. Suddenly, at one show you happen to find a Type II that has eluded you for some time. Quietly you pay for your purchase and visit another dealer with renewed hope. More importantly, you have entered a new phase of collecting. You begin to study stamp designs more closely. You begin to notice things such as plate flaws, color shades, and printing errors. It also dawns on you that in the Type II you had found earlier, the flaw was not as large as pictured in the catalog. Nevertheless it was a Type II.

Many collectors cannot afford the luxury of purists. Acquiring classic material at local or regional stamp shows becomes a hunt for a needle in a haystack. The other option is auctions. Having found a new type or variety, you slowly become addicted to searching for this material. Surprisingly, much of it is available in your area if you are willing to look for it. The secret is research and specialized catalogs or monographs. Most of these are available from the Society library and auction literature lots.

In the past I have written about souvenir sheet varieties. In the coming issues, I will present new finds not found in current Czech catalogs. Recently I was fortunate to acquire a 1945/1989 POFIS catalog published in Bratislava. The 268 page catalog is mostly detailed text. Unfortunately there are few illustrations. It appears that some issue numbers were skipped purposely since the entire catalog consists of major and minor plate flaws of stamp, miniature, and souvenir sheets.



- AP 1 -- A black blemish over the left edge of the skyscraper at the right side of the picture and under the second letter "E" in Československo. [Generally it looks more like a short vertical line.]
- AP 2 -- A black blemish in the clouds, over the group of tall buildings at left and under the letters "SK" of Československo. [It is more like a larger dot.]
- AP 3 -- A black dot in the lower part of the letter "N" of "NA" before Montreal.
- AP 4 -- The souvenir sheet without the above markings.

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Some souvenir sheets consist of either 4, 6, 8, or more plate positions that make up a full plate printing sheet. Each position is then identified with major and minor flaws.

The current article features the 1967 Montreal EXPO miniature sheetlet, Scott 1466/POFIS A1606. The accompanying illustration points out the distinguishing marks on each of the 4 positions. The AP 4 is omitted since that particular position has none of the markings of the first three. AP translates as Aršíkové Pole or S/S position. Since this is a 4 position variety, it is readily found and at very reasonable prices.

Collecting S/S varieties is an exciting area of collecting, especially when you have reached a roadblock in your specialties. It is rewarding, because they are available with most well underpriced since few dealers are aware of types or varieties.

* * * * *

GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER RECEIVES A RIOTOUS WELCOME IN PRAGUE!

By John Miskevich

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was the recipient of one of the most tumultuous welcomes in Czech history when he drove through the streets of Prague on October 11, 1945 in the aftermath of the Second World War. Cheering Czechs who thickly lined the streets of their city had to be restrained by police from surging around his open car. General Eisenhower, impressed by his reception, returned the salutes of Czechoslovak soldiers along the route and repeatedly doffed his hat to civilians. At Town Hall, which had been destroyed during the war, he laid a wreath on the monument to the Unknown Soldier, and later went to Hradčany Castle for lunch with President Eduard Beneš where he was presented with a Czechoslovak military decoration. Before ending his brief six-hour visit Eisenhower met with United States Ambassador, Laurence A. Steinhardt.



Fig. 1

There is a special postmark commemorating General Eisenhower's visit to Prague on October 11, 1945, and it is shown here (Fig. 1). The cover is registered and mailed from PRAHA 10 HRAD to London, England (Fig. 2). The special postmark was utilized only at Hradčany Castle. Note that General Dwight D. Eisenhower's name appears in the device.

For those who collect United States Army V-mail to Czechoslovakia, General Eisenhower's visit to Prague just about marked the end of the era. On October 15, 1945, the last V-mail message -- its number was 338,824,081 -- was processed and sent from the U.S. Army postal unit in New York City by Major General Clarence H. Kells, commanding officer of the New York Port of Embarkation, to General Eisenhower. V-mail is the microfilm processing of written letters sent overseas to United States military personnel. By microfilming letters rather than by just transporting the actual letters, it is estimated that there was a saving of 95.5% in



Fig. 2

cubic footage of airplane cargo space during the Second World War. Once overseas, the microfilm was processed and photo-copies of letters were sent to military personnel.

I would be remiss in not reporting that General Eisenhower was not the only major U.S. Army General to visit Czechoslovakia and receive a grand reception. General George S. Patton, Jr., commander of the United States Third Army, arrived July 27, 1945 in Prague where he was received by Czechoslovak President Eduard Beneš and decorated with the Czechoslovak Order of the Lion first class and the Czechoslovak War Cross of 1939. Members of General Patton's entourage also received "Czechoslovak distinctions", and General Patton placed a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Prague. General Patton visited the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense, where he decorated the Czechoslovak Defense Minister, General Ludvik Svoboda, and Chief of Staff, General Bohumil Boček, "with high American medals". The United States Army Signal Corps produced a photograph showing General Patton being kissed by a Czechoslovak girl as she gave him a cut-glass bowl on behalf of the towns-people of Sušice.

Did Czechoslovakia issue a commemorative postmark for General Patton's visit to Prague? As far as I can determine, General Patton did not parade through the streets of the capital. If Czechoslovakia issued a cancellation to commemorate his visit, I'd like to have a copy for my collection.

References:

- *The New York Times*, "Beneš Decorates Patton", July 28, 1945 at page 3; "A Kiss For the Fighting General", July 29, 1945 at page 14; "Eisenhower in Prague Gets Riotous Welcome", October 12, 1945 at page 4; "Decline in Overseas Mail Enables Army to Vacate 3 Hotels in Herald Sq. Area", October 16, 1945 at page 25.

*Jiří Majer
and Jaroslav Thraumb
Auctions announce
their twelfth auction
on March 5, 2000*

*2,882,000 Krouns was the price for the 4 K
granite paper in our last auction!*

We have already started putting together our next auction which will mark the opening of BRNO 2000 on March 5th. The auction will have a good cross section of materials from all collecting areas and will feature several outstanding Scout rarities. It is still not too late to get your better Czechoslovak related philatelic material to us for inclusion. Catalogs will be sent to all past bidders.

Others could contact us through our American representatives:

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Czech Republic
Telephone/FAX 011-420-2-819-70425**

A Czech Expert Speaks

Ján Karásek
Committee of SCF Experts
 trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

[Ed. Note: Ján Karásek is one of the leading experts on Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps. He was just this year awarded the highest honor that the International Association of Philatelic Experts (A.I.E.P.) presents -- the Hunziker Medal (SPECIALIST, Jul/Aug 99, p29). He is a regular contributor to the MERKUR REVIEW and is on its expert's advisory board. This column will appear periodically and will highlight some of his findings that need to be brought to the attention of collectors.]

An Interesting Perforation Forgery of the 25h Hradčany Stamp
 (MERKUR REVIEW, Mar/Apr 1997)

Very dangerous forgeries of perforations appear sporadically. We are presenting readers an interesting example of a vertical pair of the violet 25h stamp having mixed line perforation 13 3/4:10 3/4 (Fig. 1). This example has a genuine horizontal line perforation 13 3/4, whereas the vertical line perforation 10 3/4 is relatively well forged. The forging happened subsequently when, very likely, the vertical perforations were missing on all or part of a print sheet. The forger used this opportunity and tried to produce a scarcer variety of line perforation.

This kind of produced forgery where one direction is genuine while the other one is forged -- whether in the vertical or



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

horizontal direction -- we find especially with line perforation 11 1/2:13 3/4 on stamps of 15 and 30h values, or with line perforation 13 3/4:10 3/4 on 15 and 25h values.

Utmost caution should be exercised when buying similar mixed perforation items. We recommend that you seek the advice of an SCF expert.

POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919
 (MERKUR REVIEW, Mar/Apr 1997)

We are presenting an interesting illustration to the collecting public: rectangular used 2h express with coupon, with black Pošta Československá 1919 overprint, on a cut-square (Fig. 2). The stamp itself has a

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Type II overprint, while the coupon has a Type III overprint. In both cases the overprints are genuine. However, through a detailed examination we determine that they are not located vertically directly underneath each other. The coupon was subsequently attached to the stamp on the cut-square, and both round cancellation parts were forged. From this example it is clear that the forger used a genuine stamp with a black overprint, a coupon also with a genuine black overprint, glued them jointly on a cut-square, and completed it with forged cancellations. Therefore collectors -- beware of similar examples!

120H Hradčany -- The So-Called Silver-Gray (MERKUR REVIEW, Mar/Apr 1997)

A light-gray 120h stamp was continuously adjusted by the use of artificial light in order to be able to offer the forged stamp for a far higher price on the philatelic market. In this case the stamp has genuine "Gilbert" and "Karásek" expert marks (Fig. 3). However, the additional mark "silver-gray" is subsequently imprinted in the place where originally the mark "light-gray" was. The footprints of the original mark are partly visible.

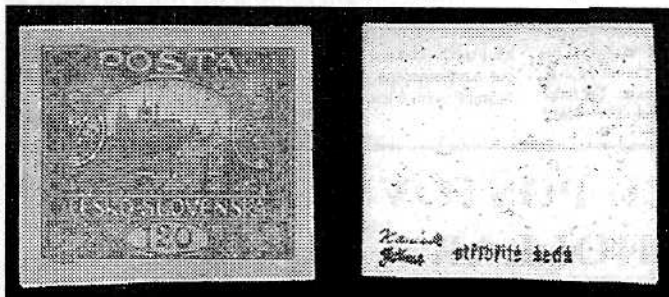


Fig. 3

In regard to this situation and similar finds of the last ten years, it is definitely necessary to obtain a photo-certificate for this color hue. Collectors -- specialists pay attention to this experience.

Forgeries of the CHUST Cancellation on Entires (MERKUR REVIEW, Sep/Oct 1996)

Today we are paying special attention to entires which have a Chust cancellation from the year 1939. These entires -- both postcards and covers -- were prepared on March 15, 1939. They were used only on that date, and then in only a limited quantity. In the afternoon hours of that day the Hungarian army entered Chust -- which at the time was in Carpatho-Ukraine. The mail consignments with the greatest philatelic significance were mainly sent by registered mail -- and only to a lesser degree by regular mail. According to available sources, a maximum of 2,000 pieces of registered mail were rushed off, and each had applied a Chust registry label with sequence numbers approaching 2000. A red commemorative cancellation was used. We also come across an occasional consignment which was canceled with a black daily postmark. The majority of the entires sent by registered mail have an arrival cancel (from the Protectorate) with dates of 22 or 23 March, 1939.

In as much as collectors began taking an interest in these entires, they gradually began to be very sought after. This, then, motivated the forgers, and within a short period of time there appeared on the market high quality forgeries of these entires (Fig. 4). They were furnished with a genuine blue 3K stamp depicting

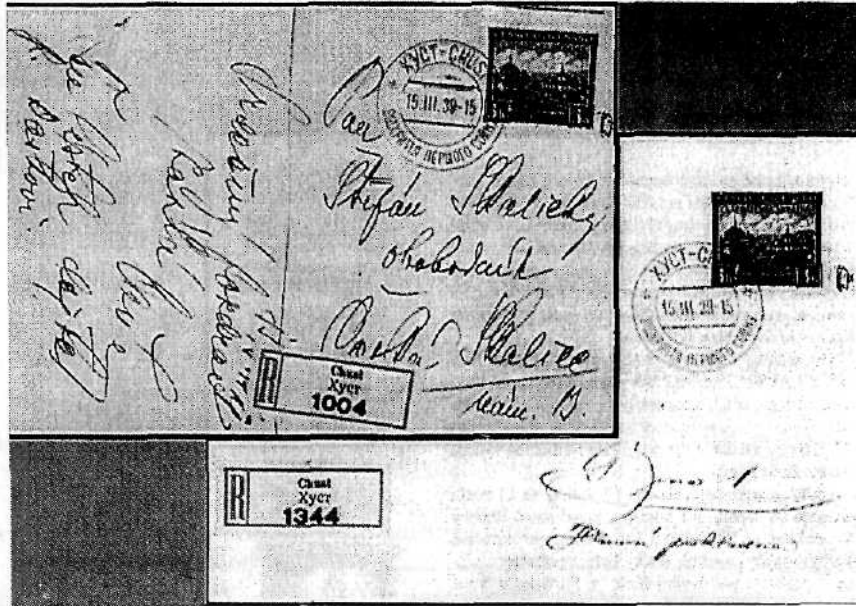


Figure 4: A genuine cover on the left and a cover with a forged cancellation on the right.

Jasina, but also with a forged cancellation of a relatively high quality. The forged cancellation has several identifying characteristics which deviate from the original including different forms both of the letters in the inscription and of the numbers in the bridge of the cancellation. Other characteristic deviations from the original appear with both of the stars between the doubled circles (Fig. 5).

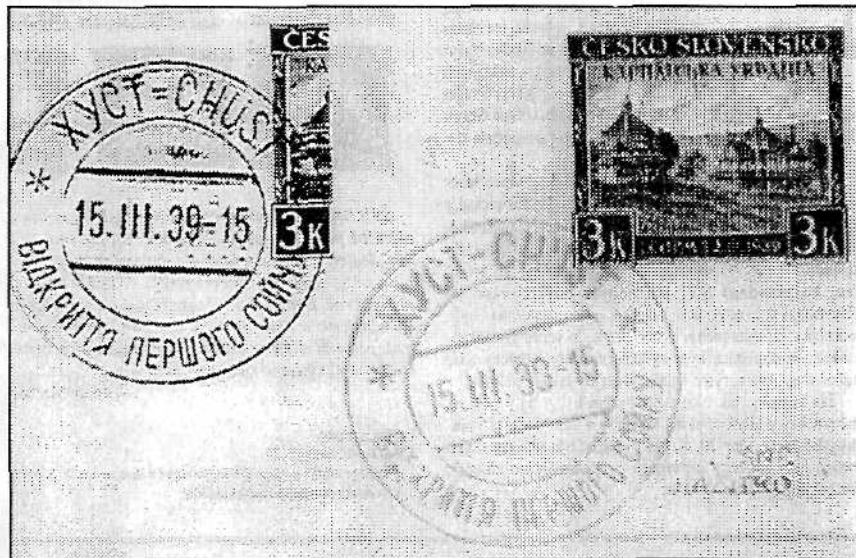


Figure 5: Close-ups of the genuine and forged cancellations.

We are making the collecting public aware of this, because similar forged entires occasionally appear on the philatelic market. It is essential to have such an item authenticated and marked with an ŠCF expert's mark.

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THREE ODDITIES FOR CZECHOSLOVAK STAMP SPECIALISTS

by Vladimír Babák
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the *MERKUR REVIEW*, May/June 1997, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

Various incomplete prints and printing flaws occurring during the course of printing postage stamps on the Wifag & Waite presses appear sporadically not only in stamp shops but also at the post office mail counters. These flaws are the consequence not only of the imperfections of the machinery, but also of the personnel -- as is the case in other fields of human activity.



Fig. 1

Presented here for the philatelic public is the 5 Kčs definitive stamp (Prof. 742) from the year 1953 which pictures a panorama of the Hradčany and the Charles Bridge. It was issued immediately after the completion of the monetary reform. It is a shame that the original Heinz engraving which was executed in copper could not have been used for the stamp production. The engraving would not have withstood the great pressure of the molette production process and would thus have been damaged. For this reason the engraver, Jaroslav Goldschmied, produced a new engraving in steel based upon the Heinz designs.

The thumb of a worker tending the printing equipment partly smeared the wet ink of the freshly printed sheet and in this way created the fog or haze behind which Prague castle is hidden. Judge for yourselves -- see Figure 1!



Fig. 2

The second oddity is the striking shift -- a full 2 mm downward -- of the red color on a 2 Kčs stamp showing an atomic electric plant (Prof. 2493)(Fig. 2). Such irregularities in the se-tenant printing of colors is always an appropriate addition for a specialized collection. The described stamp exists in four types which are distinguished by differences in how the electrical lines are drawn. The types and joined types of this stamp along with its printing shifts without a doubt belong in a specialized collection of the ČSSR. Slight shifts -- which very often appear during the printing of our stamps -- cannot be justified for collecting, since they appear relatively often in every issue and on all newly issued stamps.

And the third oddity is for good luck. It is an interesting souvenir sheet issued in Prague in 1983 for the World Convention for Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War (Prof. 2697, sic A2597, Sc. 2465a). The souvenir sheet is a fine color design and graphic execution containing four of the 2 Kčs stamps depicting Picasso's dove and



Fig. 3 [Sheet on right (bottom middle) numbered in light blue]

is numbered in blue in the lower part. The entire issue of the souvenir sheet (178,400 pcs.) was recess printed using a flat printing plate which contained an arrangement of four of the souvenir sheets. The respective souvenir sheet positions are very difficult to differentiate based upon slight printing flaws. In 1993 I bought this souvenir sheet at a bourse, but without the blue numbering (Fig. 3). In as much as it can be determined that it didn't originate from a ministerial gift or that it wasn't numbered due to an error, then it could be a case of being a misprint (?). It appears that it was not the intention of the issuer, as is often the case with numbered and unnumbered blackprints or blackprints with zeros, to produce this as a gift for a prominent person -- then too lately, to pull some extra money out of the pockets of trusting collectors . . . A printing sheetlet containing eight pieces of the same 2 Kčs stamp (Prof. 2576, sic 2596, Sc. 2465) which was issued concurrently was not numbered!

Obviously such variations between the souvenir sheet and the printing sheetlet deserve our attention.

Editor's Comment [included in the article]: The light blue numbering of souvenir sheet A2697 was carried out exclusively using typography. Thus, the leaving out of this numbering could (but doesn't have to!) have been intentional.

CZECH SCOUT POST COVERS FROM THE PRESIDIUM OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D.

[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the September / October 1998 issue of the *SOSSI Journal*. It is reprinted here with the permission of the editor and the author.]

The Czech Scout Post was reactivated for one day only on December 21, 1918, to support the arrival in Prague of Jan Masaryk, the President of the newly formed Republic of Czechoslovakia. The two Scout Post stamps -- 10h blue and 20h red -- were overprinted "Příjezd Presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) for use on that day. Although it is not known definitely, it has been estimated that approximately 600 of the 10h stamp and 1,000 of the 20h stamp were overprinted by the Knapp printing plant in Prague. The remainder of the overprints was destroyed shortly after December 21, but the numbers destroyed are not known. (Dvořák and Behnke)

"Arrival of President Masaryk" overprints are quite scarce on cover, and when they appear, infrequently, are usually auction-priced. All genuinely delivered covers franked with the overprints were canceled with the round "POŠTA SKAUTA - Praha 1918" and have the two-line delivery/receipt handstamp "Dopis od skauta . . . převzal . . ." in black. The only exception was letters sent from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, which were canceled with a round unofficial (non-postal) marking "PRESIDIUM MINISTERSKÉ RADY - REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ" (Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic) in violet-purple (Fig. 1). (I. Kvasnička)

Since the "POŠTA SKAUTU . . ." and "Dopis . . ." handstamps of the Scout Post were not at the Presidium on December 21, 1918, they do not appear on "Presidium . . ." covers. If the addressee was recognized by the Scout who delivered the letter, he was not required to sign for it; otherwise, he signed for it in the Scout's receipt book.

"Presidium . . ." covers are extremely scarce -- so scarce that none is illustrated in the three landmark articles which deal with the "Arrival . . ." overprints: Ivo Kvasnička's "The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918" (reprinted in the *SPECIALIST* serially Apr-Nov 1969) and "Czech Scout Mail" (reprinted in the *SPECIALIST*, May/June 1996), and Jan Dvořák and Lester Behnke's "Czech Scout Stamps: The Masaryk Overprints" (reprinted in the *SPECIALIST*, Nov 1978, Jun 1979). We are pleased to illustrate for readers . . . not one, but two of the extremely scarce "Presidium . . ." covers of the Czech Scout Post.

Both covers are on envelopes with the printed corner card of the Presidium, franked with the 20h overprinted stamp, canceled by the round unofficial (non-postal) "PRESIDIUM . . ." marking (Fig. 1), and addressed to Lieutenant Colonel



Fig. 1

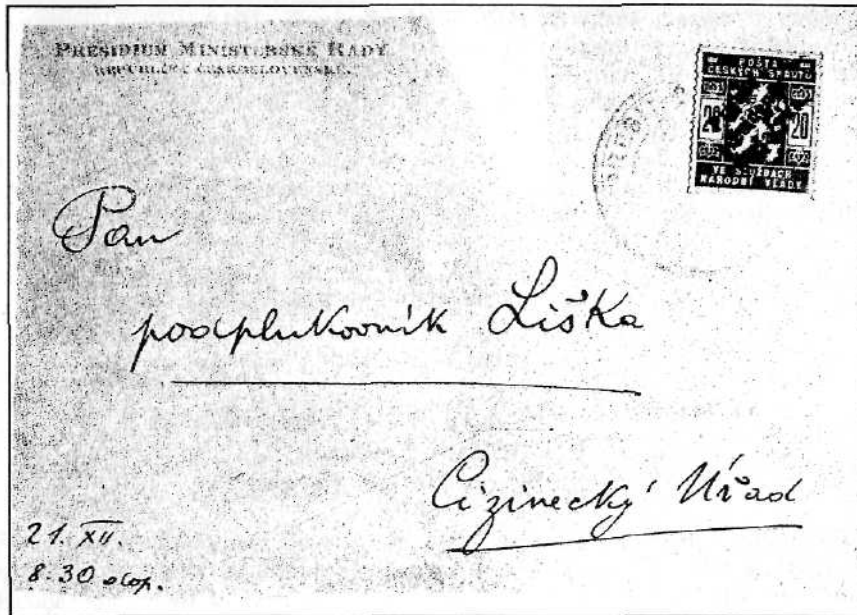


Fig. 2

Liška, Foreigner's Office, Laran Palace. Both covers were dispatched at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of December 21, 1918, but by different members of the Presidium staff. The cover in Figure 2 (3-line address, without name of Lařan Palace) appears

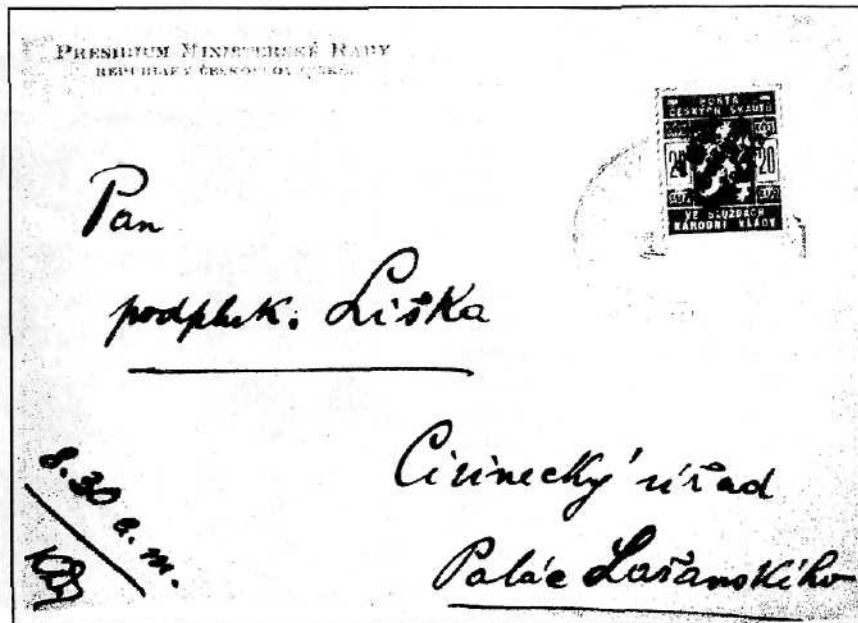


Fig. 3

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in *Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeč 1918-1939* (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps 1918-1939) by Ing. Jan Karásek, Zdeněk Kvasnička, and Bratislav Paulíček, with Jan Mrňák (philatelic expert), published by POFIS in Prague, 1963 (p.363). At the time this book was published, the cover was in the collection of Zdeněk Kvasnička. The cover in Figure 3 (4-line address, with Lařan Palace named in last line) was sold in the Majer & Thraumb Auction on September 11, 1998, in Prague, held in conjunction with international exhibition PRAGA 98. It realized 120,000 Kčs + 10% commission (about US\$4,400) and was acquired by a Scouts collector. Adjacent to the stamp are the marks of the experts Lešetický (in red), Mrňák (in shiny black) and Karásek (in flat black); the cover is also accompanied by a 1998 photo-certificate from Ing. Ján Karásek.

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MOIRÉ ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS

by Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Jaroslav J. Verner

From time to time one finds the expression "moiré" in specialized studies of the stamps of Czechoslovakia's First Republic. Specifically, in studies dealing with the air mail series of 1930. What exactly is meant by "moiré" in this context? J. Bláha wrote about this in some detail in his article which appeared in *Tribuna Filatelistu*, Vol. 1, p.9, 1937. In brief, a moiré is a series of narrow, dark strips across the entire stamp, sometimes over the entire sheet of stamps, caused by erroneous or imperfect printing.

A moiré can be created by a number of inadequacies in the printing process. For example, it could be caused by an improperly set printing plate. During printing, even a minor vibration may lead to a slight movement of such a plate. Another possible cause can be the uneven consistency of the ink. The inking equipment or the uneven draw of the paper through the rollers may also play a role here. During a long print run not only moiré can develop, but damage to the plates themselves -- which was usually caused by a series of deficiencies. Obviously printers do not like moirés and, in the past, the postal authorities changed plates which became worn and otherwise damaged.

Today this is, or so it seems, a historical concept, because now a lot of stamps are issued, and the need to exchange plates appears to happen only sporadically. If in the past stamps were printed in huge quantities, over a number of years the types of faults mentioned developed. However, it is good that we understand at least the basics about these problems. Here we illustrate a moiré on the two top stamps of the 1 K red air mail stamp (L8) of the third air mail issue where it is best seen above the wings of the airplanes on both stamps (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

- Litomyšl Commemorative Cancel: Czech Republic commemorative cancels, which are used in the postal system for various significant events, have excellent artistic standards. The periodical "Postal Courier" conducts a yearly public contest as to the most beautiful hand made commemorative cancel. A simple but striking cancel used in recent days in Litomyšl will assuredly belong among the favorites of the public contest (Fig. 1). [The outer arc of the cancel commemorates the 175th anniversary of the composer, Bedřich Smetana. The inner arc commemorates the 50th year of the Smetana festival in Litomyšl which is his birthplace.]



Fig. 1

- The September issue of *Filatelie* had a colored and folded insert ad for a MONOGRAFIE "Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren, Post-office Postmarks 1939-1940, Part I". The illustration of the cover of the book has exactly the same appearance, layout, and coloring as the recently published books in the Monografie series. It is being put out by PRESSFIL of Plzeň and is to include a blackprint insert. However, along with this insert ad there is another insert sheet from the *Filatelie* staff which is essentially a disclaimer that this Monografie is not connected with POFIS and its Monografie as we know it. On top of this, the Czech Post announced that there will be no black prints issued this year -- so *caveat emptor*.



Fig. 2

- As was reported before, the Czech postal rates went up as of January 1 on the average of 9%. The Czech Ministry of Finance has recently announced that postage rates will be raised again in 2001 by 3% and in 2002 by 10% to bring the CR rates up to the

level of the European Union (EU). The percentage figures are deceiving however. The most used postal service in the CR is the postal card and its rate is going from 4 Kč to 5 Kč (= 25%). Then, a letter up to 20 grams (less than 3/4 oz) went up from 4.60 Kč to 5.40 Kč (= 17%). And finally, letters up to 50 grams went from 8 Kč to 9 Kč (= 12%). So in reality the rate increases for the most used services have gone up much more than the average 9%.

- The Czech Post has announced a Christmas post card discount rate similar to the Easter card rate discount. The cost of mailing a Christmas post card will be 3 Kč.

- Here is an interesting cancel to look for -- Figure 2.

From Ludvik Svoboda:

- It has come to my attention that one of our members and a frequent contributor to the SPECIALIST, Henry Hahn, was presented with a singular honor just recently.

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On September 30th, Henry and his wife Marilyn were invited to the Czech Embassy for a special awards presentation. In the presence of the Czech Ambassador and Mrs. Alexandr Vondra and a large group of visiting Czech Republic Senators, Senator Václav Jehlička (who was the former Mayor of Telč) presented Henry with an Honorary Citizenship of the Town of Telč (Fig. 3). In their comments both Ambassador Vondra and Senator Jehlička praised Henry for his outstanding efforts "as a representative of Telč in the USA and in international organizations, and for authoring the book *A Historic Perspective of Postal Services in Telč and Vicinity*". Readers are reminded that this booklet was serially published in the *SPECIALIST* (May-Dec 80, Jan-Sep, Nov 81). It was then translated into Czech by Jaroslav Ježek and published in Brno in 1983 as a part of the Brněnský Kompas series being edited by Ing. Břetislav Janík. Congratulations Henry!!!



Figure 3. Award presentation group -- Senator Jehlička, Marilyn Hahn, Henry Hahn, Mrs. Vondra, Ambassador Vondra

- There is a new service available on the philatelic market for Czech stamp collectors. The service involves the delivery of regular covers franked with newly issued Czech stamps which are mailed on the first day of the stamps issue. The covers are sent from the Czech Republic direct to the collector, and they bear all of the normal signs of postal passage. Of course, the stamps affixed to the envelope are cancelled by the regular postal cancel with the date confirming the cover was really sent on the first day of issue of the stamp(s). More and more collectors of mint stamps want to enlarge their collections with genuinely mailed covers that show the postal use of the stamps. Some stamps are almost never found on cover. This service enables the collector to receive all of the issued stamps on properly franked covers or to chose the set(s) that they need for their collection. Illustrated here as Figure 4 is a sample of one such cover. If you have an interest in such a service, check out the ad found on page 33 of this issue.

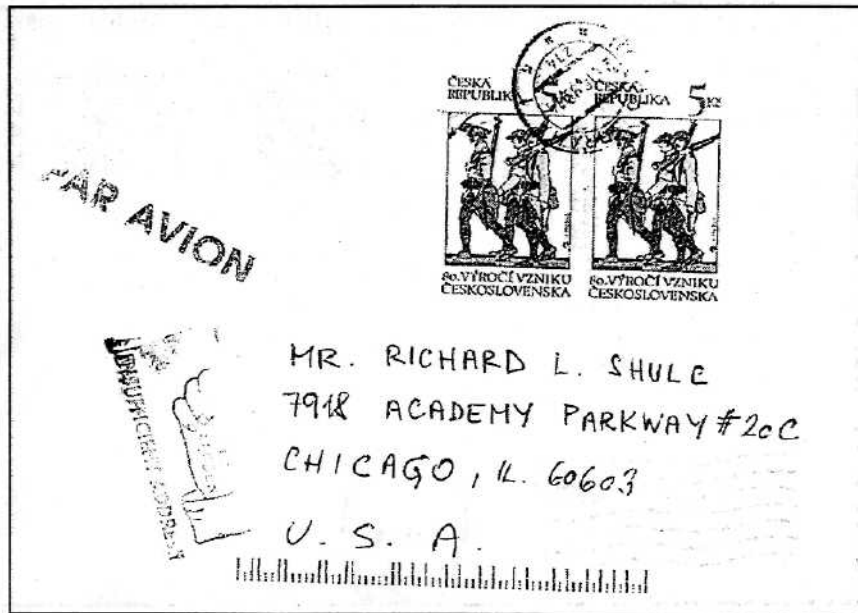


Fig. 4

- Sometimes very ordinary covers can raise some interesting questions. The airmail cover at Figure 5 is attractive, because it contains a copy of the high value of the 1979 Art on Stamps set, the 5 Kčs "Dancing Peasants" by Albrecht



Fig. 5

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

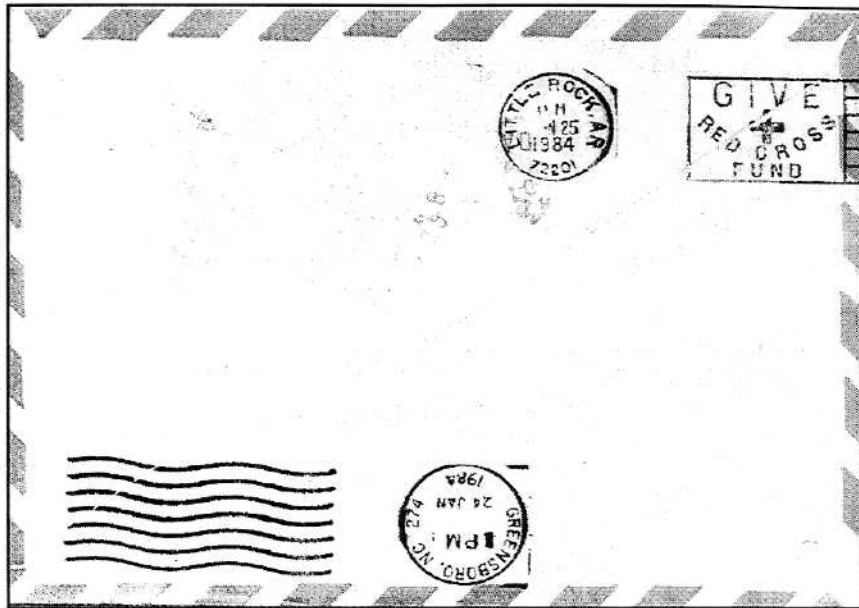


Fig. 6

Durer (Sc. 2269), and the 1 Kčs "7th World Ski Jumping Championships" (Sc. 2454). It is canceled at Hradec Králove 2 on January 10, 1984 and is very clearly addressed to Edgewater, MD 21037. But it is the back (Fig. 6) which raises the questions. Here we first notice an arrival cancel from Greensboro, NC 274xx, dated 24 Jan 1984, and then a further arrival cancel from Little Rock, AR 72201, dated Jan 25, 1984. If one can believe the markings shown here, this airmail cover took two weeks to arrive in the United States, went to North Carolina instead of Maryland, and when this error was discovered, it was then sent to Arkansas! Somehow it finally arrived at its correct destination. What will the postal service think of next.

- In the Sep/Oct issue, Savoy Horvath alerted our readers to the possibility that they might be voting on the most beautiful Czech Republic stamp for 1999. Unfortunately, the logistics of the process could not be worked out in time. We did not receive the necessary materials and information that we needed to establish the voting mechanism until after the Nov/Dec issue had to go to press. The voting deadline was January 7, 2000 -- thus, the voting materials had to be in that Nov/Dec issue to get everything to our readers in time. We are currently in discussions with the ČR postal authorities to set up the proper planning for next year's voting. Once this is set up, hopefully, voting on the most beautiful Czech



Fig. 7

Republic stamp will become an annual affair.

- Elsewhere in this issue are all of the details about BRNO 2000 as provided by the U.S. Commissioner, Jaroslav Verner. Shown here is the special commemorative cancel prepared for the exhibition as reported by Jaroslav Maleček (Fig. 7). The crocodile on the cancel memorializes the one hanging from the ceiling in the Brno city hall.



Our National Symbols - Part I

(Continued from Page 1)

It will be necessary to return to bygone times to find out how it really all came about. The original symbol of the Bohemian Přemyslid rulers was the so-called "eagle ablaze" combined with the statue of St. Wenceslas (Fig. 1, Trojan (Tr.) 243). It would not do any harm to examine it in greater detail.

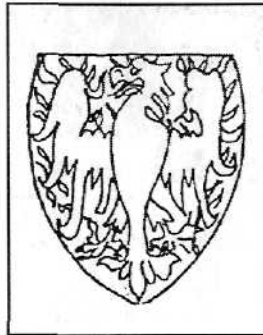


Figure 2 - St Wenceslas' eagle ablaze -- symbol of the Bohemian Přemyslids

The eagle has indeed on its periphery a similarity to blazing flames (Fig. 2). According to Dalimila, the eagle as a symbol was acquired by Prince Břetislav (1002-5/1055). It is exactly the very same Břetislav who abducted Jitka from the Svinibrod convent. His statue, from the workshop of Peter Parlér, is the theme of a stamp (Fig. 3, Tr. 1679). This theme is

complemented by two coat-of-arms which are exactly scholarly illustrations of the "eagle ablaze". The Přemyslids used this symbol up to the end of the 12th century.

Dalimila also writes about the time when the lion made his appearance -- then only with one tail -- amongst the symbols of our country's rulers. It happened during the era of the first Bohemian King Vladislav II (+1174), when as a reward for helping Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa to conquer Milan, he received a royal crown. It happened in Řezina on 11.1.1158. Both symbols -- that is the eagle and the lion -- where then used at the same time for a long period of time. In actuality it meant that it was necessary to consider the St. Wenceslas eagle ablaze as the Přemyslid family symbol and the lion as the symbol of the Bohemian lands. Thus Wenceslas II (1271-1305) had both symbols on his shield. This combination can also be found on the royal crown container box from 1347 and is used as a theme on a stamp from 1975 (Fig. 4, Tr. 2174). Somewhat later -- in 1360 -- began to appear the silver/red checkered Moravian eagle on a blue field.



Figure 1 - St. Wenceslas with the "eagle ablaze" from the design by Mikuláš Aleš and the engraving of Karel Seizinger



Figure 3 - Břetislav I with the "eagle ablaze" coat-of-arms



Figure 4 - Our national symbol

Logically the question follows as to from when the two tailed lion began to appear on the coat-of-arms? The already mentioned chronicler Dalimila assigns this to the Roman Emperor Otto IV, who in order to commemorate the victory of Přemysl Otakar I (+1230) over the Saxons, "endowed the Bohemian lion with a second tail". Invariably the historians tell us that the first illustration of the two tailed lion is to be found in the *Passionale* of Abbes Kunhuty in the beginning of the 14th century. We recollect that this king had two celebrated daughters -- Marketa from his first marriage became the highly respected Danish Queen Dagmar, and Anežka from the other marriage was just recently sanctified.

The two tailed lion is to be found on a number of our stamps. He is, for example, on the Bohemian coat-of-arms from the year 1500 (Tr. 1959), on the seal of George from Poděbrady (Tr. 991 and 1368). He is also on a standard (Tr. 2456) and on a partition (Tr. 2793). The two tailed lion is still our symbol.

When in the 14th century the Luxembourg's began to rule us, they brought with them additional lands to the Bohemian Kingdom. The recently issued M/S (A105-108) demonstrates this, where beside Jan Luxembourg is included: the Bohemian lion with two tails, additionally the already described Moravian eagle (it is, for example, stylized on stamp Tr. 1752), and Silesia's coat-of-arms with a black eagle on a golden field with a silver spring on its chest. The stylized symbol is to be seen on the commemorative stamp (Fig. 5, Tr. 1383) for the anniversary of the Silesian Museum, but also with Parlér's statue of Břetislav I (Tr. 1679). Both of the preceding



Figure 5 - Stylized Silesian eagle in black on a gold background on a stamp for the anniversary of the Silesian museum in Opava



Figure 6 - On a 1969 stamp (Official Coronation Standard) there is in the lower left part the Bohemian lion and four coat-of-arms and on top the Moravian coat-of-arms with the Silesian eagle

eagles with additional coat-of-arms are on a stamp (Fig. 3, Tr. 1769) showing the professional coronation banner from 1723. It must be remembered that the Silesian eagle was originally the coat-of-arms of the Vratislav principality. Furthermore, the Svídnik principality had a half-black/half-red eagle, and then for a change the Nissk principality had six silver lilies in a field of red. Horní Lužice was represented by the coat-of-arms of Budyšínsk with its city walls and Zhořolec which consisted of a diagonally divided silver and red shield having further the top part contain a silver two tailed lion. Dolní Lužice was represented by a coat-of-arms upon which was a red ox on a silver shield. On a stamp (Fig. 6, Tr. 1767) is one of the coat-of-arms with a wall on the left side and a red ox on the right side of the shield.

As the years passed, the lion became the symbol of the Bohemian lands. After the fateful defeat at the White Mountain, Austrian rule began to manifest its supremacy as symbolized by the two headed eagle. From the year

1918 there are known many photographs showing people pulling down these symbols from buildings and offices. Then instead of insignias on uniforms, the soldiers and other uniformed citizens pinned on a white/red tape.

So much for the history before 1918. These symbols are not unknown on our stamps, and they document our rich national history very well.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

Book Review

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE HLUČÍN DISTRICT

by Hynek Ondrášek and Pavel Švėjnar

This publication is the 68th of a series of philatelic handbooks published in Prague by the Society for Territorial Philately, which is part of the Union of Czech Philatelists.

The handbook contains 28 pages, is soft bound in a tactfully designed cover, executed by Jiří Silhan. It was printed in a surprisingly small edition of just 150 copies.

The text of the book is largely derived from the expertizations by Viktor Indra of Olomouc. Though in Czech, the handbook may be in large part understood by English speaking readers, since about 75% of the text is devoted to illustrations of the postmarks, maps and covers.

The Hlučín District is located in the north-eastern part of the Czech Republic, northern Moravia, along the Polish frontier. It includes 38 towns and villages, spread over an area of 316 square kilometers. Historically part of Austria, it was annexed by Prussia in 1742 as a result of the war of succession -- basically Europe's military reaction to the accession of Maria Theresa (a woman!!!) to the Austrian throne upon the death of her father, Charles VI in 1740. The Hlučín District remained Prussian, later German, up to the end of World War I, when as an outcome of the Treaty of Versailles it was assigned to the Czechoslovak Republic. It became part of Czechoslovakia first on February 4, 1920 and a small additional portion was added in 1923. In October of 1938, as a result of the Munich Agreement, the Hlučín District was ceded to Germany, and in 1945 it was liberated by the Soviet Army and has been part of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic ever since.

The handbook describes the early postal history, starting with 1752 when a postal collection station was established. No postmarks were employed until 1820 when the script postmark "Hultschin" appeared with a hand written dispatch date below the postmark. A series of postmarks followed, all clearly illustrated and described. Included are a registry handstamp as well as a later railroad postmark.

Upon annexation by Czechoslovakia on February 4, 1920 German stamps remained valid at the exchange rate of 1 Mk = 1 Kčs (not bad for the Czechs!). Postmarks were immediately replaced by Czech and bilingual ones.

A full chapter is devoted to illustrations of early stampless covers, starting with the name Hultschin written in and postmarked in the post office of LEOBSCHUTZ to which the Hultschin collection station was assigned. Covers with early postmarks and later German covers, including a piece with German stamps and Czech postmark used in February 1920 are shown. These are followed by Czech covers and illustrations of postmarks in use during German occupation. Finally, the post-1945 - 1992 postmarks are illustrated.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

The handbook is almost purely factual and contains none of the emotion, strife and joy experienced in this district throughout its history. As such it is first class philately and will surely awaken an interest in collecting this unique area. To be sure, Hultschin and Hlučín covers, as well as those postmarked in neighboring towns and villages are rare, and represent a sizeable challenge to the collectors.

We highly recommend this handbook, which may be purchased directly from one of its authors, Ing. Hynek Ondrášek, Bulharská 12, 101 00 Praha 10, Czech Republic for \$4.50 post paid.

Henry Hahn

From a Specialist's Notebook

Acknowledged and Delivered by the Post Office

by Zdeněk Fritz

trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the MERKUR REVIEW, Jul/Aug 1998, with permission of the editor and the author.]

A curious cover -- that I am today presenting to our readers -- was found in a packet containing some older very common correspondence from the 60's through the 80's. It can be considered to be a brilliant example of the Post Office counter personnel not being very familiar with the postal validity of the extensive assortment of definitive postage stamps then in use.

The illustrated, completely authentic, money letter cover (using a standard envelope used in the 1970's and 1980's) weighing 32 grams and having contents valued at 7,000 Kčs, has all of the various appropriate servicing requirements, i.e. completed preprinted headings "weight", "value" and "postage"; a stuck on service

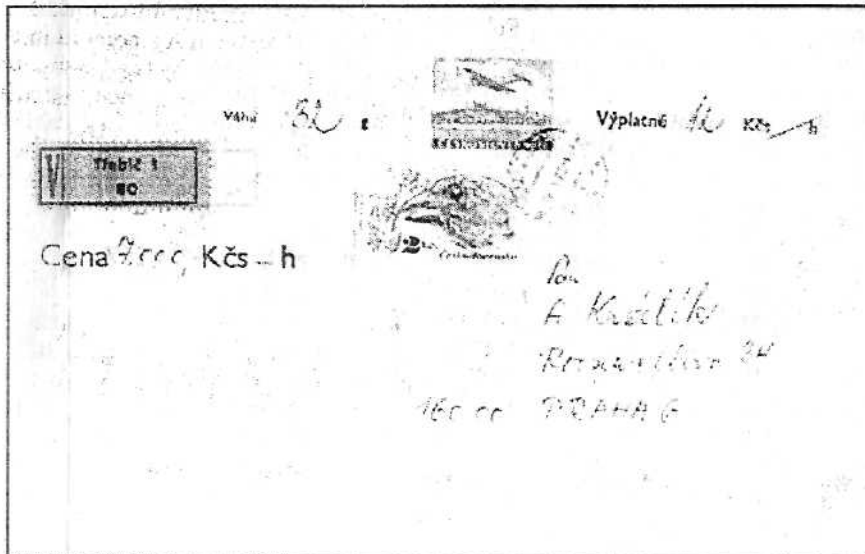


Fig. 1

"V" label; the sender's address on the back side; its flap over-sealed by the prescribed adhesive tape with two signatures; two of the sender's cancellations with two of his seals. Of greatest interest on this envelope is how the exact tariff of 12 Kčs was defrayed (2 Kčs rate for a letter between 20-500g, 4 Kčs for the first 1,000 Kčs of value and 1 Kčs for each additional or part of 1,000 Kčs value -- therefore altogether 6 Kčs more): besides the contemporarily just issued 2 Kčs stamp from the "Protection of Nature" series (1983, Pofis 2589), we find a 10 Kčs green stamp from the 1946 airmail series (Pofis L20), that is, a stamp from the period preceding the currency reform of 1953 and valid only until 18.6.1953 (!). The postage stamps are correctly devalued with the current postmark of the sending post office 674 01 TRĚBÍČ 1 (the same location appears on the red "V" label) dated 26.8.1983. On the reverse of the cover is the arrival postmark 190 00 PRAHA 6 -- where the consignment is addressed to -- dated 28.8.1983.

This cover does not belong to those curiosities which are sometimes "fabricated" by collectors and then placed in a postal box with the intent to cheat the Post Office. Sometimes such a consignment escapes the Post Office attention. In this case the consignment was correctly checked out at the postal counter, where the Post Office official accepted the long invalidated airmail stamp (doubtless he was unaware of its invalidity). But not only that: even the delivery post office did not change anything, nor did it charge any postage due, and unsuspectingly suffered a loss due to its believe in the validity of the original franking.

Another thing is of course the part played by the sender in the origin of this curiosity. It would probably be impossible to determine whether it was the intention of a well informed sender, who tried to find out how far he could get (at the postal counter he "managed" to get it through), or whether it was an innocent act where the sender himself was unaware that the postage stamp was not valid. I believe that the second possibility is much less likely. Unbelievable also is the theoretical possibility that some individual official at a postal counter "manufactured" this franking. With the possibility of the discovery of the misuse of the invalid stamp, he would have risked repercussions.

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I have been preparing such covers since 1992!

HUSITA STAMPS USED IN EASTERN SILESIA by Lubor Kunc

Monografie No. 5 deals in one of its chapters with the use of Czechoslovak stamps without the SO 1920 overprint in the Eastern Silesia area. On page 228 of the book is a list of all of the stamps which were or could have been used in the area. In that list you will find both values of the 1920 Husita issue along with a note that, until now, their use in the Eastern Silesia area is not known.

In fact, the above mentioned issue was definitely used in that area! In my collection I found a money order franked with an 80 h Husita, a 5 h deep blue Holubice [carrier pigeon with letter], as well as two 10 h green Holubice. The total franking of 1.05 Kčs exactly satisfies the transfer of an amount between 750 and 800 Kčs.

Here are some more details about the money order: the money was sent from Trstená (located in Orava, Slovakia) on July 17, 1920 to Žilina, Slovakia, where it arrived on July 19, 1920. The money order form was in Slovak.

Based upon the discovery of this money order -- which has been acknowledged by Mr. Tovačovský the author of the outstanding monografie -- we can state that the Husita issue was used in the Eastern Silesia area. Meanwhile, however, we are waiting for the discovery of a non-philatelic cover franked with Husita stamps and stamps with the SO 1920 overprint. Is there such evidence in your collection?

* * * * *

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On October 20, 1999, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a commemorative souvenir sheet titled Beuron Artistic School and containing two postage stamps (Fig. 1, next page). The Beuron school originates from the Beuron Benedictine Monastery in Baden-Württemberg (Germany). During the period of Bismark's cultural fight, the Benedictines were ejected from this monastery, and from 1880 they lived among others in Prague in the Na Slovanech monastery. The artistic spirit of this environment influenced Countess Gabriela Sweerts-Spork to found the Benedictine convent in Prague. The construction began in 1888. The church is also called St. Gabriel, and its construction and decor are reminiscent of early Christian basilica construction. The founder of the Beuron artistic school was Pater Desiderius Lenz (1832-1928), who worked with many other Benedictine artists (Jan Verkade, Carl Gresnicht, Paul Krebs and others). Lenz developed the philosophy and character of the new artistic concept which was based on elements of ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Jugendstil. The Beuron School inspired some significant artists, e.g. Alfons Mucha and Josip Plečnik. In the middle of the souvenir sheet -- which is 108 x 165 mm -- is an ornamental drawing of panels with the text BEURON ARTISTIC SCHOOL, P. DESIDERIUS LENZ (1832-1928), and THE FOUNDER in Czech. In the bottom of the sheet is a panel, Pieta - Our Lady with the crucified Jesus, a mural painting from the western side of the church, the figures of which create a cross. The designer of the issue is Zdeněk Ziegler, while the engraver was Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess printing from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset.

-- The 11 Kč multicolored stamp shows an altar painting depicting Our Lady with the Infant Jesus in the form of the Egyptian goddess Isis. A part of the round painting is formed of the Latin texts *Maria Mater Misericordiae*, and *Qui me invenerit inveniet vitam et hauriet salutem a Domino* and a *Sedes sapientiae*. The stamp is completed by the Latin text *MATER DEI* (1898), and the Czech text *THE CHURCH OF ST. GABRIEL IN PRAGUE*. A FDC in black contains a geometrical drawing of a head according to the canon of the Beuron school (Fig. 2).

-- The 13 Kč multicolored stamp shows the Saviour - Jesus, who is depicted in the church in the vault of the apse. A part of the painting is formed of the Latin texts *Ego Sum*, *Qui Sum*, and *Pax Vobis*. The stamp is completed by the text *PANTOKRATOR* (1911) in Latin,

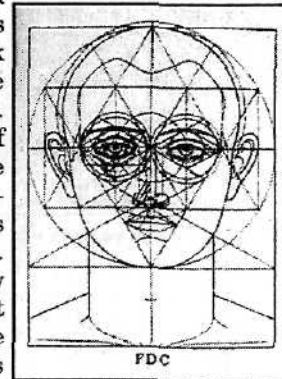


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

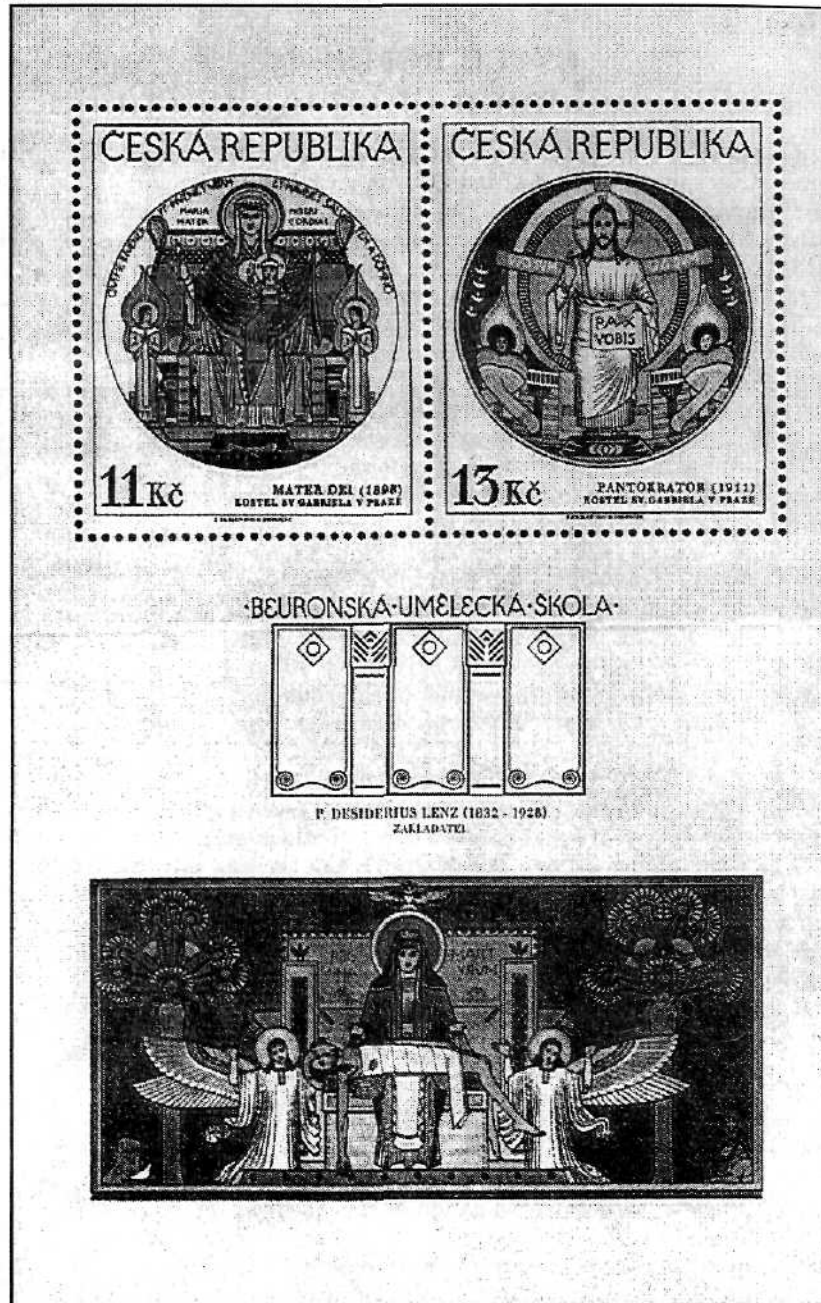


Fig. 1

and the Czech text THE CHURCH OF ST. GABRIEL IN PRAGUE. A FDC in black contains a geometrical drawing of an angel (Fig. 3).

2. On October 20, 1999, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps showing the drawings of Miroslav Barták titled Czech Graphic Humor (Fig. 4). Miroslav Barták (1938) publicizes his non-verbal jokes on the pages of papers and magazines, but he has also



Fig. 4

cooperated with film and television. Besides publications with graphic humor and book illustrations, he also creates watercolors, pastels and sculptures. He has arranged tens of exhibitions in his country and abroad and his drawings appear in many books and memorial volumes of graphic humor in Europe and America. The designer of the stamps was Václav Kučera, and they were engraved by Bohumil Šneider. They were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with multicolored photogravure in sheets of 50 pieces. There are three FDC's in black which show further jokes by Miroslav Barták

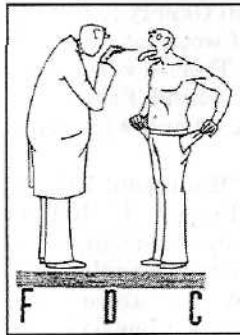


Fig. 5

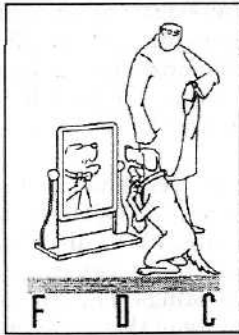


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

and thematically complete the drawings of the stamps.

-- The 4.60 Kč stamp (in light green, green, pink, red) shows a doctor with a clown's mask delivering a baby. The FDC shows a doctor checking a patient's throat

while the patient turns out his pockets to show that he has no money (Fig. 5).

-- The 5 Kč stamp (in green, blue, yellow, red) shows a dog smoking a pipe while standing before two signs which forbid dogs and forbid smoking. The FDC shows a dog tying his tie while the doctor waits impatiently (Fig. 6).

-- The 7 Kč stamp (in blue, yellow, red, orange) shows a man and woman standing together looking out the window at a starlit sky which is seeping in through the bottom of the window. The FDC shows the doctor pointing up to the sky while an alien shows him a book (Fig. 7).

3. On November 10, 1999, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series (Fig. 8). All three were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored recess printing from flat plates in sheets of 4 stamps.

-- The 13 Kč stamp (in black, ochre, red, green, blue) shows "Red Orchid, 1939" by Jindřich Štyrský (1899-1942) from the National Gallery in Prague. J. Štyrský was the creator of a new graphic style which he called artificialism, later he passed



Fig. 8

on to surrealism. He interpreted his dreamlike vision in a number of works, which included colored collages, illustrations of books, photos and scenography. He was also an editor of literary works and a bibliographer of J. A. Rimbaud and the Marquis de Sade. It was engraved by Martin Srb. A FDC in grey-blue contains J. Štyrský's drawing from ca. 1933 called simply Drawing.

-- The 17 Kč stamp (in black, yellow, red, green, blue) shows "Landscape With Marsh (c. 1880)" by Julius Mařák (1832-1899) from the National Gallery in Prague. J. Mařák was an excellent and successful painter, above all of wood interiors. He was the one landscape painter of the generation of the National Theater who created paintings of monumental Czech history for this (e.g. Blaník, Vyšehrad, Radhošť). A FDC in brown shows J. Mařák's Hart on the Wood Verge, a coal and white paint drawing on paper (undated).

-- The 26 Kč stamp (in black, ochre, brown, red, blue) shows "Monument 1931" by František Hudeček (1909-1990) from the National Gallery in Prague. F. Hudeček exhibited his paintings from 1932. He created above all metaphysical monuments, peculiar cubic formations. Later, in the 40's, he began to interpret reality as a dream and poetical vision. His cycle of paintings, The Night Walker, arose at this time. He used the figure of this cycle in many other paintings and graphic works. A FDC in black shows a drawing from the cycle Night Walker based on the graphic sheet from 1944.



Fig. 9

4. On November 10, 1999, the Ministry issued a commemorative 3 Kč stamp showing the Christmas symbols of a smiling baby Jesus with a sheep and a lamb (Fig. 9). The designer of the stamp was Josef Paleček, while the engraver was Jiří Bouda. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in brown combined with photogravure in pink, yellow, red-violet and blue in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC shows a drawing of a flying comet printed by recess print from plat plates in violet with stars in gold print.

5. On December 8, 1999, the Ministry issued two multicolored definitive stamps in the Signs of the Zodiac series (Fig. 10). Both stamps



Fig. 10

were designed by and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. They were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with multicolored photogravure in sheets of 100 pieces.

-- The 5 Kč stamp in black, brown-red, and yellow depicts the zodiacal sign of Taurus -- the bull -- along with the appropriate astrological symbol.

-- The 5.40 Kč stamp in black, green, and yellow-brown depicts the zodiacal sign of Scorpio -- the scorpion -- along with the appropriate astrological symbol.

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky
and G. M. van Zanten

6. On September 3, 1999, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 5 Sk commemorative stamp in the "Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava" series (Fig. 11). This multicolored stamp contains a very stylized illustration of the French illustrator Martin Jarrie. The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House - Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown shows an illustration by Robert Innocenti, and bears a postmark from Bratislava.



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

7. On September 3, 1999, the Ministry issued a 4 Sk commemorative stamp for the "50th Anniversary of the University of Fine Arts in Bratislava" (Fig. 12). This multicolored stamp contains a symbolic drawing of an archway with the letters VSVU standing on top. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Arnold Feke. 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 blue-grey shows a symbolic painting by Dušan Kállay and bears a postmark from Bratislava.

8. On September 21, 1999, the Ministry issued a souvenir sheet titled "Song Birds" which contains three multicolored stamps (Fig. 13). The three stamps are in a vertical strip in the middle of the sheet, flanked by vertical panels showing more birds. The designer of the sheet was Zdeno Brázdil, and it was engraved by Rudolf Cigánik.

-- The 14 Sk stamp depicts *Panurus biarmicus* (Bearded Titmouse). A FDC shows an *Oriolus oriolus* (Nightingale)

-- The 15 Sk stamp depicts *Lanius collurio* (Red-backed Shrike). A FDC shows *Regulus ignicapillus* (?).

-- The 16 Sk stamp depicts *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Common Redstart). A FDC shows the same bird.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

9. On September 21, 1999, the Ministry issued a 7 Sk commemorative stamp depicting "J. K. Hell's Water-Pillar Machine" in the "Technical Monuments" series (Fig. 14). The Hell family played a role in the history of mining technology which far exceeded the frontiers of Slovakia. Members of his family were active in mining in central Slovakia for almost two centuries. Matej Kornel Hell (1652-1743) was a founder of the



Fig. 15

family, he saved many mines from flooding. His son Josef Karol (1713-1789) was a talented designer of water driven pumps. This is the second time that someone from the Hell family has been featured on a stamp. Pofis 1814/Scott



Fig. 16

1670 of February 17, 1970 shows Maximilian Hell, Slovak Jesuit and astronomer (Fig. 15).

10. On October 5, 1999, the Ministry issued a set of two multicolored stamps in the "Art" series. They were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -



Fig. 17

Prague using multicolored recess printing from flat plates on sheets of 4 stamps and 2 tablets.

-- The 13 Sk stamp depicts the painting "MALATINÁ 1940" by Miloš Alexander Bazovský, 1899-1968 (Fig. 16). The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by František Horniak. A FDC was issued. Refer also to Scott 1781 which shows another Bazovský work of art titled "Woman With Pitcher".

-- The 14 Sk stamp depicts the painting "Study of a Blacksmith" by Dominik Skutecký (1849-1929) (Fig. 17). The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. A FDC was issued. Refer also to Scott 1714 which shows another Skutecký work of art titled "Banská Bystrica Market".

NEW MEMBERS

	<u>CALIFORNIA</u>		<u>PENNSYLVANIA</u>
1863	Cizek, Lubomir	1883	Goldberg, Hugh M.
1878	Hart, Keith		
1868	Novak, John		<u>VIRGINIA</u>
1879	Petko, Edward	1864	Berry, Richard
	<u>ILLINOIS</u>		<u>WASHINGTON D.C.</u>
1880	Stefanek, John P.	1877	Newton, David O.
	<u>MARYLAND</u>		<u>WYOMING</u>
1870	Zajicek, Bohumil	1872	Potter, John J.
	<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>		<u>AUSTRALIA</u>
1875	Wright, Les	1869	Starling, Scott
	<u>MISSOURI</u>		<u>CZECH REPUBLIC</u>
1867	Barbercheck, Paul	1866	Onuki, Yuji
	<u>NEW YORK</u>		<u>GREAT BRITAIN</u>
1884	Healey, Barth	1865	Day, Brian C.
1874	Shpilsky, Leonid		
1882	Uzakowicz, Douglas		<u>ITALY</u>
1876	Weiner, Alfred N.	1886	Lazzari, Roberto
	<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>		<u>MEXICO</u>
1873	Vopelak, Mark R.	1887	Gonzalez, Mario
	<u>OHIO</u>		<u>SPAIN</u>
1885	Brown, Donald A.	1871	Gonzalez-Bugallo, Benito
1881	Kasperak, Donald J.		

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

... the article in the latest "Specialist" by Mr. William A. Dawson [Nov/Dec 1999, p3] caught my attention, since it used illustrations of three Znaim covers, as well as a commemorative handstamp from this city in Southern Moravia. As you may remember, I collect Znojmo/Znaim covers from all periods. What especially caught my attention was the Figure 3 write-up which explained that the "red 'Der Fuehrer in Znaim' which was not true".

Actually, Adolf Hitler did visit Znaim on 26 October 1938. As proof of this statement, I am enclosing a copy of a page from "The New York Times", Thursday, 27 October 1938. The item that I call your attention to is entitled "Hitler in Occupied Area". The last paragraph of this story narrates the fact of the Hitler visit to Znaim. It was probably the first and last time that he visited there . . .

I enjoyed reading Mr. Dawson's article with its multiple covers from Znaim. Apart from the cited private red handstamp which is probably the work of the Hamburg, Germany, stamp dealer Karl Hennig (Fig.1), this town does not seem to have had too many Nazi propaganda cancellations. In fact, it did not have any "Wir Sind Frei" overprints on its stamps, as far as I have been able to discern.

Sincerely,
Salvatore J. Rizza

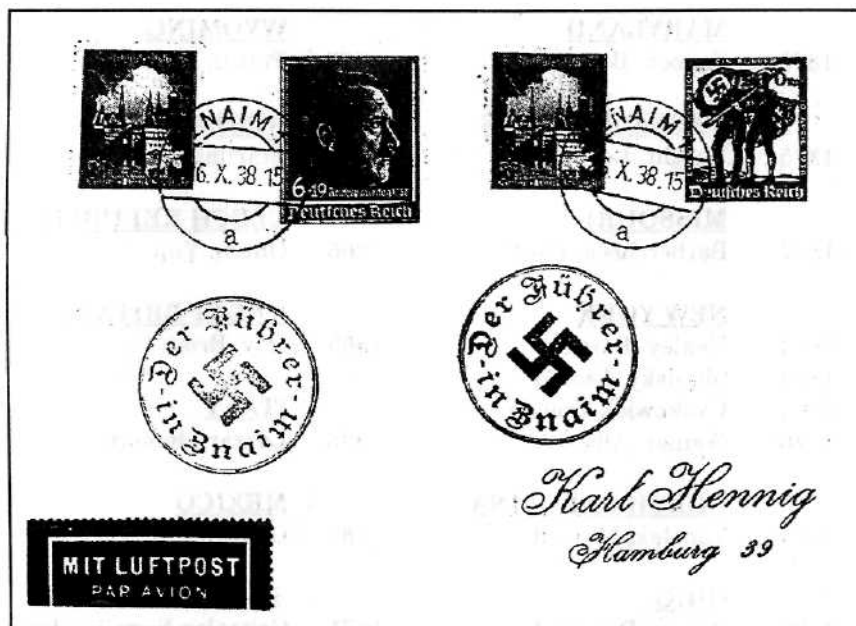


Figure 1: In connection with the plebiscite which was to be held on 4 December 1938, the Fuehrer visited Znaim on 26 October. According to the New York Times, "Adolf Hitler, accompanied by several generals, drove the 50 miles from Vienna to Znaim, where he received a tumultuous welcome." After speaking to the people, Herr Hitler spent the night in the city. This cover was prepared by a German stamp dealer following the official entourage.

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