



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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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

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2000

No. 6, Whole No. 564

Editorial Hinges

Good news!

At the BALPEX Society board meeting, the Board approved my recommendation that beginning with the Jan/Feb 2001 issue the SPECIALIST will be mailed in a protective white envelope to all of our members. This will do away with the closure tab residue, and should deliver your issue without torn cover or USPS "snowtread" cancels. It will also add almost \$60 to the cost of every issue (or \$360 more per year), but the Board elected to absorb this cost without raising the dues.

This also means that the back cover page of issues will now be available for use. My intent is to offer this premier location as a special advertising space (see the revised advertising rate table elsewhere in this issue). It is obviously a place that everyone will notice. When it is not being used for advertising it will contain the Society's Available Publications -- hopefully thus generating additional book sales for us.

Mailing the issues in an envelope will also open up the possibility that
(Continued on page 29)

Table of Contents

ARTICLES	Author	Page
1. An O.A.T. Cover from Czechoslovakia	John Miskevich	3
2. A 310g Letter to Buenos Aires – Justification for the 20 Kč Airmail Stamp	Richard Beith	5
3. Czechoslovak Exhibits at BALPEX 2000	Frederick P. Lawrence	7
4. Sky of Balloons – Hradec Králové Follow Up	Savoy Horvath	13
5. An International Super Bourse in Prague	Henry Hahn	16
6. Postage Stamps of Carpathian Ukraine 1945	Karel Holoubek	17
7. Fokker or Tupolev? One Stamp's Mystery	Dietmar Steidler	21
8. Not Only POŠTA MILITAIRE 52	Piero Santangelo	24
9. Respected and Honored Round Mountain	Jaroslav Maleček	26
10. Dr. Emil Holub – Traveller and Philatelist	Jaroslav Maleček	28
COLUMNS		
11. Editorial Hinges	Ludvik Svoboda	1
12. Souvenir Sheet Varieties	Frank Garancovsky	8
13. Philatelic News and Views	(various)	12
14. Czechoslovak Stamp Collectors On Line	Ludvik Svoboda	23
15. Book Review: History of Postal Agencies (Poštovny) in the Těšín Region	Henry Hahn	27
16. New Issues	(various)	30
17. Letters to the Editor	(various)	35

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Errata

In the September/October 2000 issue, the following errors occurred:

1. "Silesian Territory Occupied by the Czechoslovaks in 1919"
 - On page 7, line 4, the month of the date given should have been February 26, 1919 rather than the January 26, 1919.
 - On page 8, lines 7/8, the year of the date given should have been July 10, 1920 rather than the July 10, 1919.
2. "K.u.K. Censor Station Vojtanov -- Rarity or Forgery?"
 - On page 15, this article was actually translated into English by a friend of the author in Great Britain rather than Lubor Kunc. Lubor translated the article from German into Czech for publication in the Czech Republic. He could have translated it into English, but the English translation was also forwarded to him. He then supplied it to us.

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Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

e-mail: lousvoboda@home.com FAX: 303-680-7118

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Foreign Editor: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

Advertising Manager: Ludvik Svoboda (address above)

Elected Officers

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

Vice President: Robert Koschalk, P.O. Box 114, Waukegan, IL 60079

Secretary: R. T. Cossaboom, Jr., Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225

Treasurer: Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Appointed Officers

Book Sales: Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr. Norcross, GA 30092

Expertizing Chrm.: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, Co 80015

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

APS Representative: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

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

AN O.A.T. COVER FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by John Miskevich

The initials "O.A.T." stand for "Onward Air Transmission". The cover featured in this article (Fig 1a/b) was mailed from Praha on October 22, 1945 to Clarenceville, Quebec, Canada and bears an "O.A.T." marking. Rubber handstamps of this kind were applied to a small number of air covers worldwide between 1940 and 1971. They owe their origin to policies and practices initiated under Universal Postal Union Convention. They are markings of a civilian nature adopted solely by the British, and with a few exceptions, applied only at the Foreign Section of the London Post Office.

Airmail sent from one country to another was generally bundled in packets of up to sixty items. If there was a limited number of packets which could not justify the use of an individual mail bag, a number of packets to different countries or destinations would be placed within the same mail bag. The mail bags were labeled and routed to post offices in countries where air transportation diverged so as to accommodate the movement of the packets so contained. These offices were known as "exchange offices". Here the mail bag would be opened and the individual packets sorted and rebagged for further conveyance. The initial dispatch of an airmail bag from an exchange office, and any later dispatches from other exchange offices, which caused the mail bag to be opened en route was known as the "open" airmail. (Airmail in bags never opened until they reached their final destination were designated "closed" mail.) The "O.A.T." handstamps were applied in London exclusively in the course of the "open" airmail conveyance. The one notable exception was where "O.A.T." handstamps were applied to items first sent by surface mail to Britain and then entitled to onward air transmission to their destinations.

Only a small portion of the "open" airmail received the "O.A.T." mark. In most

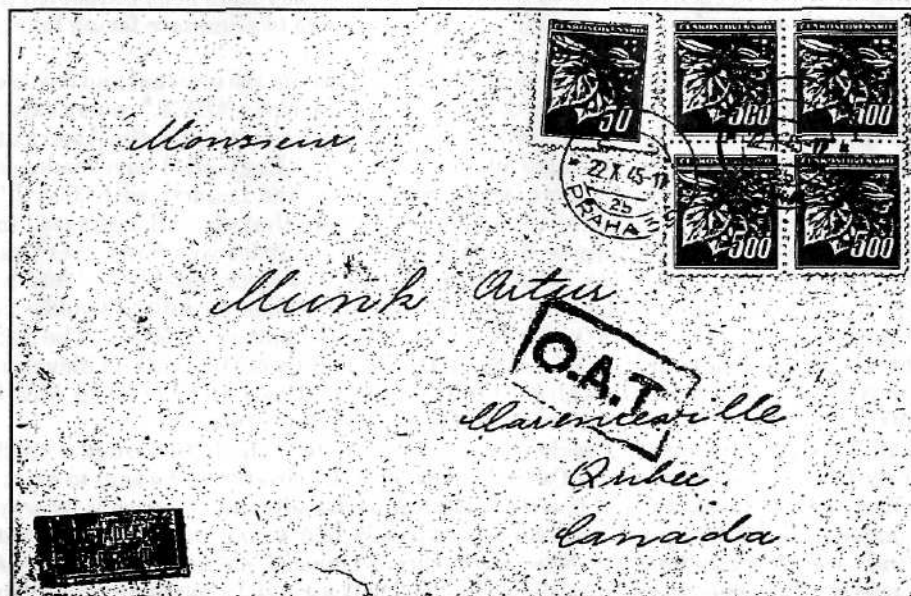


Fig. 1a

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

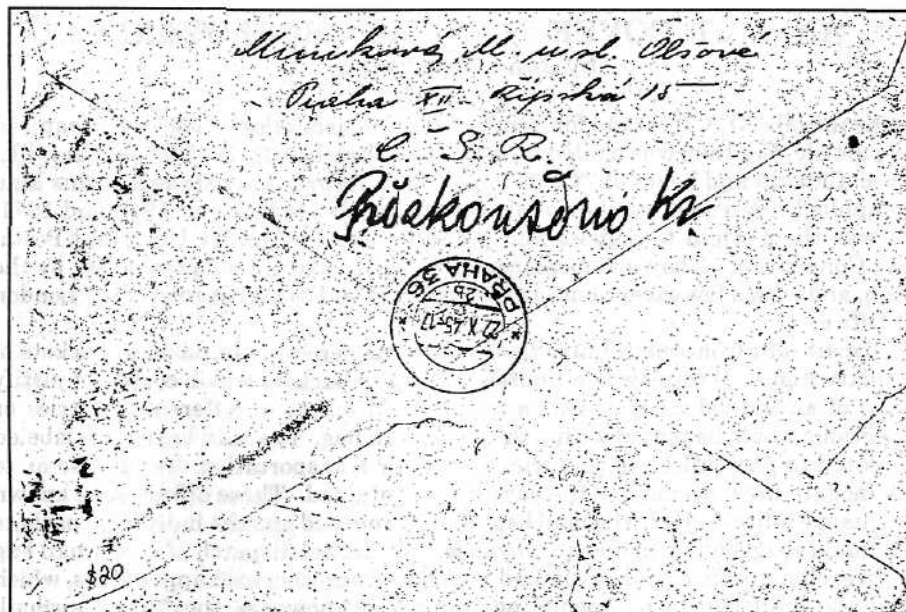


Fig. 1b

cases just the top item in a packet. A large percentage of covers that are known date to World War II. During the war years, airmail routes were subject to constant interruption and considerable change of direction as a result of enemy action. The "O.A.T." markings made for easy identification of packets (or individual letters) to be dispatched from exchange offices by air. Usage also may have been connected to a wartime shortage of paper in Britain and thus a desire to eliminate facing labels on packets.

Air covers from Czechoslovakia with "O.A.T." markings are unusual and few are known. To begin with, it is not likely that Bohemia & Moravia "O.A.T." covers exist. Until the summer of 1944, Axis airmail covers to neutral countries in the Americas were routed through Lisbon, Portugal and not via London, England. I have evidence for an air route from Switzerland via Berlin, Stockholm, and London (with "O.A.T." marks in use) late 1944 and early 1945. I'm not certain that airmail addressed to neutral countries from Germany or German occupied countries was flown over this route. I do know that the route, Germany to Lisbon, was again established late in 1944. It was flown over southern Austria, through the Italian Socialist Republic in northern Italy, and then across the Mediterranean Sea to Barcelona, Spain. The last flight was completed April 19, 1945. Airmail from Bohemia & Moravia and Slovakia to neutral countries, as well as airmail to Civilian Internees and POWs to Allied countries in the Americas, must have been flown over this route.

All "O.A.T." markings on Czechoslovak covers relate to the period August 1945 to early 1946. In fact, ten or less Czechoslovak "O.A.T." covers can be said to exist. The first Czechoslovak airmail flown to North America after the war went by way of London. Pan American World Airways already had a route from London via Ireland and Newfoundland to New York City. Onward air transmission was initiated from London. In autumn 1945, Czechoslovak airmail to North America also

began to be flown via Scandinavia. By June 1946, with the commencement of direct flights by Pan American World Airways from Czechoslovakia to North America, there was little need to sort Czechoslovak mail at London for onward air transmission. Note however that Czechoslovak airmail addressed to the British Zone in Germany was flown by way of London even in 1947.

I am attempting to compile a list of "O.A.T." covers mailed to or from Czechoslovakia in order to study the dates of usage. If you own a cover of this kind please contact the Editor.

REFERENCES:

- Heifetz, Murray: *OAT and AV2 MARKINGS*, American Air Mail Society, Mineola, New York (2000)
- Kavan, Bedřich: "Airmail From Czechoslovakia To North and South America", *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. XLV, No. 3, Whole No. 428, March 1983, pp.1-6

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**A 310g LETTER TO BUENOS AIRES –
JUSTIFICATION FOR THE 20Kč AIRMAIL STAMP!**

By Richard Beith

Reading back issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* I have noted past concerns about the need for the 20Kč airmail stamp first issued in 1930. The cover



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

illustrated (Fig 1 and 2) was posted from a well know steel works near Ostrava and was cancelled at Bohumín on 25 February 1936. An additional 2.50Kč stamp and PRAHA 7 registration etiquette were added on 26 February. The French language manuscript instruction *Par Poste aerienne allemande* was presumably followed, but the actual day in March 1936 when the cover reached Buenos Aires is not clear. This letter, presumably containing a commercial sample, was probably carried on Haberer flight H445 of 5 March 1936. This would have been carried by *Deutsche Lufthansa* land plane to Bathurst, Gambia, and then by flying boat over the South Atlantic. The franking of 957.50Kč suggests a 310 gm letter:

Surface fee:	first 20g	2.50Kč
	remaining 290g @ 1.50Kč/20g	
	= 15 x 1.5	22.50Kč
Registration:		2.50Kč
Air surcharge:	15Kč/5g = 62 x 15	930Kč
TOTAL		957.50Kč

Reference:

Haberer E., *Katalog über katapultpost, Teil 2, Südatlantik*, Renningen, 1998

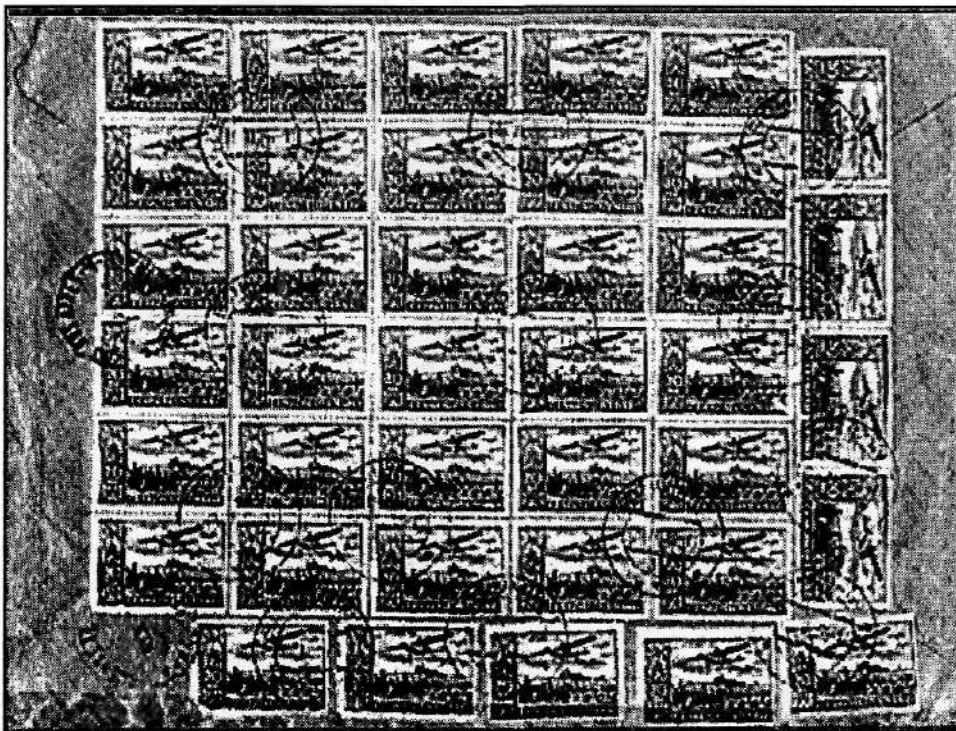


Fig. 2

CZECHOSLOVAK EXHIBITS AT BALPEX 2000

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

In conjunction with the Society's annual meeting at BALPEX 2000, eight members exhibited a total of 49 frames of Czechoslovak philately -- one exhibit in the Court of Honor and seven in the Open Competition class (two of which were entered as Non-Competitive). SCP was one of the three societies which convened annual meetings at BALPEX 2000, and our 12 frames in the Open Competition class represented just over 15% of the 302 frames in that class. Society members Henry Hahn and Dr. Frederick P. Lawrence served as members of the BALPEX 2000 jury. In addition, SCP conducted a separate competition involving only the Czechoslovak exhibits for the Society's exhibiting award medals. President Richard Palaschak appointed a three-member panel of members experienced with exhibiting but not exhibiting at BALPEX 2000 to judge the Society's exhibiting awards.

- Henry Hahn showed his spectacular seven-frame "Austrian Prestamp from Future Czechoslovakia" in the Court of Honor. This exhibit features prestamp covers and documents from 1564 to 1850 from Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and the Carpatho-Ukraine. Standout pieces include a letter from Empress Maria Teresa and a gold signature letter. Henry was awarded the Society's gold exhibiting award medal.

Five members exhibited in the Open Competition class:

- Jaroslav J. Verner's eight-frame "Czechoslovak Legions in France, Italy, and Slovakia" was awarded a vermeil medal and the APS Research Award. This exhibit is a specialized collection of mail to and from Czechoslovaks as POWs and legionnaires in France, Italy and Slovakia during and immediately after World War I, which also includes military and diplomatic courier mail.

- Olech W. Wyslowsky's five-frame "Czechoslovakia -- The Hradčany Issues and Its Usages" was awarded a vermeil medal. Featuring rarities of the Hradčany issues, this exhibit last won a large vermeil medal plus a special prize at the Czech national exhibition BRNO 2000. Olech also took home the Society's silver exhibiting award medal.

- Robert F. Koschalk's five-frame "German Occupation of Czechoslovakia", which treated exhibit viewers to a complete display of the World War II German occupation issues from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, also won a vermeil medal.

- Mirko L. Vondra's eight-frame "Masaryk on Stamps, Covers, Photos and Postal Stationery" traces the life of Thomas G. Masaryk, founder and first President of Czechoslovakia. Because of its content and construction, this exhibit was transferred by the jury from the traditional class to the display class, where it was awarded a display class gold medal. Mirko also won the Society's bronze exhibiting award medal.

- Howard H. Schloss entered his "Czechoslovak Souvenir Sheets at the New York World's Fair 1939-1940" in the BALPEX one frame class, where it achieved a BALPEX one frame bronze medal. Howard shows the overprints on Czechoslovak souvenir sheets whose sale was used to finance the Czechoslovak World's Fair Pavilion and government in exile during World War II.

Two members exhibited non-competitively.

- Charles Chesloe's ten-frame "Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine, 1919-1939" featured material which he recently acquired, but has not yet had the time to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

develop into a competitive exhibit.

- As a first time exhibitor at the US national level, Kimber Wald showed "Czechoslovakia -- The First Ten Years" in five frames, with emphasis on the Hradčany Castle issues, newspaper stamps and postage dues. The quality of Kimber's philatelic material and exhibit presentation was such that his exhibit would have fared well in the open competition.

Following Jaroslav J. Verner's talk on the Czechoslovak Legions in France, Italy, and Slovakia at the Society's annual meeting, Henry Hahn and Dr. Frederick P. Lawrence spoke about how to start exhibiting at the regional and national levels and answered questions about exhibit construction, development, and judging. President Richard Palaschak expressed the strong desire that more Society members exhibit Czechoslovak material, and particularly that there be Czechoslovak exhibits by new exhibitors at the Society's 2001 annual convention at CHICAGOPEX next November.

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Souvenir Sheet Varieties

by *Frank A. Garancovsky*

1985 Helsinki Conference
Scott 2567a, POFIS A2704

This souvenir sheet was printed in four positions (Fig. 1). As in the case of the other souvenir sheet position descriptions, this was translated from the "Zvaz Slovenských Filatelistov" handbook of specialized collectors of the postal issues of 1945-1989. The notations on the illustrations are taken from the Czech publications *FILATELIE* or the *Merkur Review*. Remember that some of these markings are visible to the naked eye, while others require a magnifying glass because they are microscopic.

- Position A: A1 - blue blemish
A2 - blue blemish left of thumb of ZP1
A3 - vertical black line below second "S" (on only part of printing)
A4 - dark dot between "OV" and in the "V"
- Position B: B1 - outline of the pigeon's neck below its beak is doubled
B2 - short vertical scratch 13 mm below right corner of ZP4
B3 - faint black print positioning cross
B4 - short horizontal black line behind the head of the bird
B5 - two dark dots
- Position C: C1 - gold blemish in the hair behind the ear and in front of the curl "8"
C2 - dull gold blemish in front of woman's chin of ZP3
C3 - dark dot under the middle cross-arm of the second "E" of ZP4
C4 - dark dots (remainders of a print positioning cross) left of second bird
- Position D: D1 - diagonal hairline right of the name "Fuchs" in ZP1
D2 - faint blue blemish on the neck of the lady in ZP4
D3 - light brown blemish to the right of the end of the ray "Španělsko-Švédsko"
D4 - faint small blemish in the leaf in front of the second bird
D5 - dull blue blemish 7 mm below the map of Europe

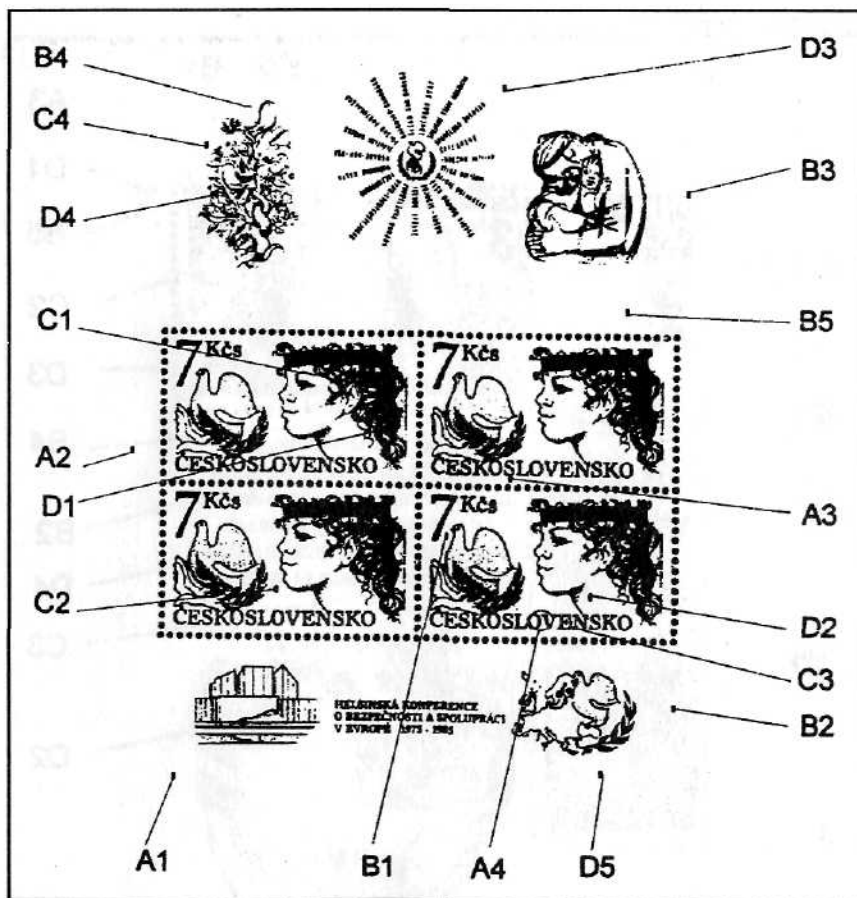


Fig. 1

1985 Bratislava Biennale of Illustrations
Scott 2575a, POFIS A2713

This souvenir sheet was printed in the four sheet format (Fig. 2).

- Position A: A1 - black dot
A2 - faint 1 mm long black scratch
- Position B: B1 - faint horizontal black scratch
B2 - blue blemish above "LA" of BRATISLAVA in English text
B3 - greenish blue blemish to the right of the horse's head in ZP3
B4 - faint red dot and a blue blemish below ZP1
B5 - faint red dot on the level of the heading "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" of ZP2
B6 - red dot above the head of the calf

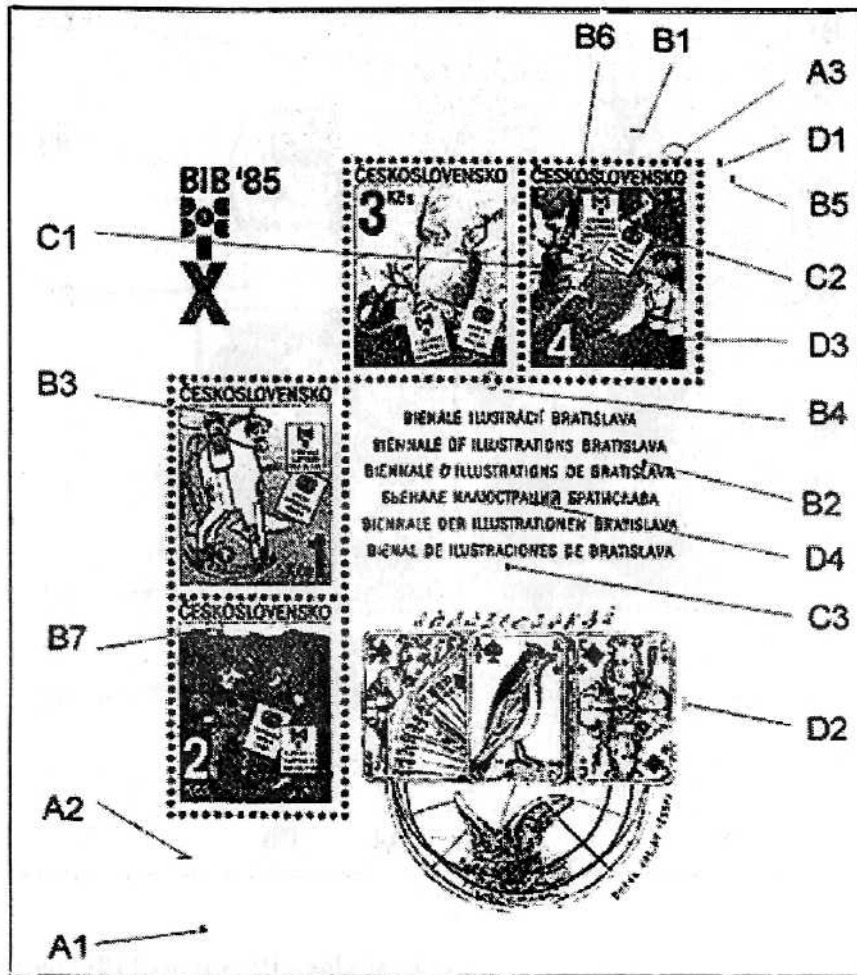


Fig. 2

- B7 - weak blue cloud contour in ZP4
- Position C: C1 - blue dot in front of the boy's head in ZP2 (on only part of printing)
- C2 - faint red dot above the apple emblem in ZP2
- C3 - faint black dot below the Spanish BIP text
- Position D: D1 - insignificant red dot on the level of the upper perforations of ZP2
- D2 - faint black vertical scratch to the right of the playing card
- D3 - tiny grayish green blemish on the pants of the boy in ZP2
- D4 - tiny blue blemish between the Cyrillic letters "U" and "N" of the Russian text ILLUSTRACI

ADVERTISEMENT

TRIBUNA AUCTION

After nearly two years of inactivity,

TRIBUNA STAMP COMPANY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE AN
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WHICH BE HELD DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF 2001.

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U.S.A.

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

- The Czech Post has intercepted a number of letters and packages franked with the new AU1 stamp where the sender has added numbers to the stamp value -- like 5.00 Kč changed to 65.00 Kč and many other combinations. The Czech Post is considering adding a cross + before each valuation. I can't say much for this idea since a cross + is easily changed into the number 4. What this change will do is make the first issue in used condition without any additional markings -- be it a cross + or anything else -- a very collectable item.

- While in the ČR, I learned something that might be of interest to our members. The Czech government charges a foreign customer tax of 22% if you spend over 1,000 Kč (\$28). The store is supposed to fill out a custom's sales receipt for you. You have to present this form within 30 days at a border custom's office or at the airport. You will receive a 30% cash rebate on all taxes you have paid and have receipts for. The refunds are in ČR crowns, but you can spend them at the airport's tax free store. While shopping in Prague only four stores out of ten had the form. When I told the sales clerk that without the tax form I am not buying, he sent his co-worker to a nearby store, and I had my form. *[Ed. Note: I believe what Savoy is describing here is a national sales tax that European countries call a value-added tax. Since it's not meant to be an export tax, nonresident travelers don't have to pay it on items such as clothing and gifts they buy in Europe to take home. But because it's built into the price of goods, you have to request a refund. Since the refund process can be complicated, countries require a minimum purchase per store. It does not apply to meals, lodging, rental cars or products used abroad. If you are going to do your refund at the airport, don't forget to leave time for it.]*

- Remember the article on missent mail to the ČR a few years ago?! I found out that the Czech Post followed up on this problem. Well, according to the director of the Czech Post's international delivery section, Petr Dřimálek, the fault goes directly to the USPS sorting centers. He alerted USPS representatives to this problem some time ago, but has yet to receive a reply. Missent mail to the ČR is so bad today that during a two week test the Czech Post found 3,804 pieces of mail (which originated from the USA) that had to be remailed from other countries. Most came in from European countries, but some were even from Asia and Africa and as much as two months delayed. Also, over 100 pieces were damaged and/or robbed of their contents. According to a Czech postal inspector, USPS mail sorting belongs among the world's worst. It seems to most of the sorters that Europe only consists of England, Germany, Italy and France, and they can't distinguish among the Slavic countries.

From Rev. Augustine Serafini:

- A single SMOM (Sovereign Military Order of Malta) air post stamp of 10 Scudi (Lit. 4800), issued on April 26, 2000, commemorates the signing on 15 October 1999 of a postal agreement with Slovakia. This is the 50th such valid and active agreement. The stamp shows the coat of arms of the Republic of Slovakia, and there were 30,000 printed in sheets of 40 by IPZS in Rome. Figure 1 illustrates a proof of the stamp. *[This information also appeared in the August issue of The COROS Chronicle.]*



Fig. 1

From Ludvik Z. Svoboda:

- What a class act!!! I just received (and I am assuming that other exhibitors also did) from the National Postage Stamp Exhibition -- BRNO 2000 Organizing Committee an 8 1/4 x 8 1/4, 64 page booklet entitled "National Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2000 in Photographs" to "bring back memories of our exhibition". It contains 200 color photographs of every aspect of the BRNO 2000 exhibition from identifying the committee, the planning of the exhibition, designing the show medal, getting the exhibit frames ready, setting up the exhibition location, putting up the frames, then pages and pages about the exhibition activities, and finally concluding even with the take down. I even found myself (in the background) in two of the pictures. It just reinforces my previous comment (SPECIALIST, May/June 2000, pg 16) that "this was an outstanding show -- arguably one of the best that I have ever attended". Once again, my heartiest congratulations to BRNO. If you are interested in seeing it, let me know.

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SKY OF BALLOONS – HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ FOLLOW UP by Savoy Horvath

During the balloon flight, pilot Jiří Pásek carried 2,160 pieces of mail of which the majority were postal cards. While some of the cards had an official imprint of balloons over the Hradec Králové skyline (Fig. 1), others had the pilot's hand stamp imprinted on the face of the card (Fig. 2).

Of the total carried there were 283 pieces destined for 28 foreign countries,

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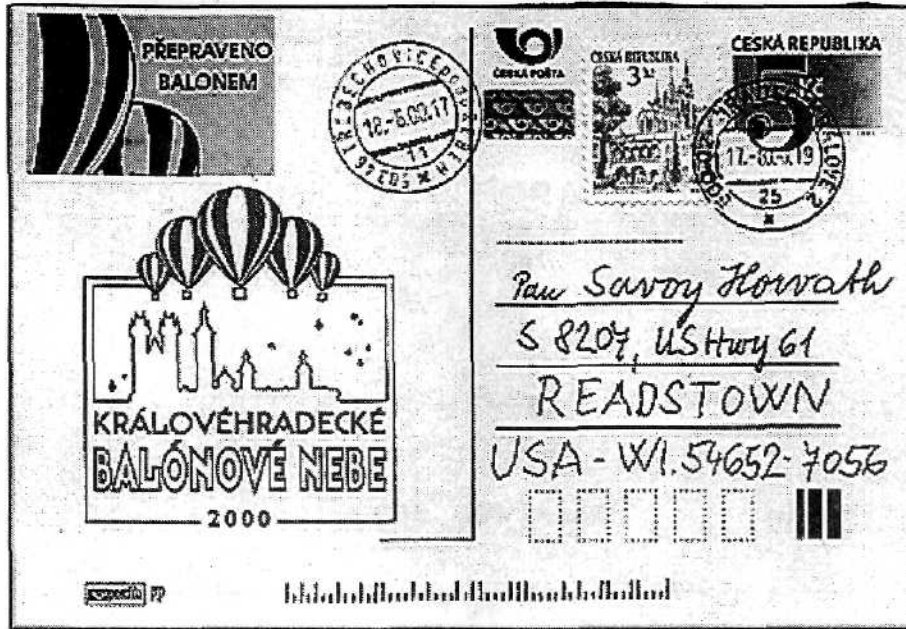


Fig. 1

and of these, 10 came to the USA. Outside of my own two postal cards illustrated, no other members showed an interest.



Fig. 2

*The Christmas Auction of
Majer and Thraumb Auctions
will be held
on December 9, 2000*

Unfortunately, the publication lead time does not allow us to give you details of all the interesting and/or unusual material we will have in this sale, but we can say it will be strong in Masaryk and POŠTA overprint issues. In addition, there will also be material from all other aspects of Czechoslovak philately.

This auction is a marvelous opportunity for you to give yourself a nice Christmas present while adding to your collection -- or for you to convince your spouse that this would be a good place for you to buy her/his present for you!

Catalogs will be sent to all of the past bidders. Others may contact us either directly or through our American representative:

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AN INTERNATIONAL SUPER BOURSE IN PRAGUE

by Henry Hahn

The week-end of September 22 - 24 was not an entirely care-free time in Prague. It was the week-end delegates to the conference of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund gathered in the Czech capital, amidst fears of violence from protesters descending on Prague from all corners of the world. But up to September 26th there was no violence -- particularly at the center and near the Palace of Culture where the conferences took place.

But another form of excitement took place across the Vltava river, in the majestic Fučík Exhibition Palace, where the unforgettable PRAGA '68, '78, and '88 took place. Though occupying only half of the exhibition building, Prague's Third International Collector's Bourse, named SBĚRATEL (Collector) was in full swing. Looking as lovely as it did in 1988, or even nicer, the Fučík grounds reflected none of the anxiety of downtown Prague, with collectors of all subjects and ages paying 50 Kč (about \$1.25) or less to enter this most unusual bourse. Organized by a commercial company named PROGRESS PARTNERS Advertising, s.r.o., management of the project was by PhDr. Jindřich Jirášek and Ing. Přemysl Kopáček.

Participating organizations included The Czech Post, Union of Czech Philatelists, the Czech Numismatic Society, Czech Telecom and the Czech Collectors' Club of Phone Cards.

For sale inside was a huge variety of collectibles. Closest to the entry were large booths displaying thousands of decorative telephone cards, ranging in price from 10 Kč (25 cents) to thousands of Kč. This hobby, far more popular in the Czech Republic than in the US, represented probably the largest segment of the bourse. One stand, operated by a Greek dealer, had masses of Greek and Cypriot telephone cards, besides some philatelic and numismatic collectibles. Next to him was a Lithuanian dealer with a large stock of telephone cards originating in the former Soviet Union. Other stands included Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and others. Large booths were also operated by Bulgarian, Russian and Hungarian dealers, who also displayed numismatic material.

The numismatic section began with a booth operated by the Czech Numismatic Society. It was staffed by experts who evaluated coins and gave advice on both coins and banknotes. There followed ancient coins, medals and old postcards. There were dozens of dealers -- mostly from the Czech Republic. The mineralogical section appeared to be the most crowded, with some specimens selling for as little as 5 Kč (12 1/2 cents) and as much as several thousand Kč. One of the booths also offered evaluation and advice. One could observe grinding of garnet and other semi-precious stones, as well as finished jewelry with natural and synthetic stones. Many African stones and products could be seen in some of the smaller booths.

The far end of the bourse was devoted to philately. Booths were devoted to new issues of Korea and China. Represented at the bourse was also the publisher of a major German journal, *Briefmarkenspiegel*. Philatelic aids and albums by Safe, Michel, Yvert et Tellier, Stanley Gibbons, Domfil and Hawid were well represented. Stamps of Fiji were being sold at face value. The islands of Guernsey, Man, Jersey, Norfolk, the state of Papua-New Guinea, the islands of Pitcairn, Tonga, Tuvalu and

New Zealand were displayed. The UN (Vienna) occupied a booth and simultaneously represented Austria. Both the UN and Austria issued postcards and cachets honoring the bourse. Next to the UN booth was the booth of the Union of Czech Philatelists. The Union offered free advice and expertizing services, primarily by Ing. Pavel Pittermann, who -- despite his heavy involvement as spokesman for the controversial Temelin nuclear power station -- spent a great deal of time at the show. Next was the booth of the journal *FILATELIE*, next was the booth of the auction house Feldman of Geneva, next was Slovfile (Jan Palovsky) who also represented the German firm Lindner Falzlos. Included were also dealers in rare and classic stamps and postal stationery of Russia, Austria, Germany, the protectorate B & M, and Czechoslovakia. One dealer displayed exclusively Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Macedonia. There were numerous other philatelic dealers and auction houses represented -- too many to mention. Except for a display of rarities by Mr. Pytlíček, seen on many previous occasions, there was no philatelic exhibit -- though it was rumored that next year's SBĚRATEL will include a philatelic exhibit. Incidentally, the SBĚRATEL bourse is an annual event which started in 1998.

Also included in SBĚRATEL were dealers in general collectibles with one booth entitled Club of Collectors of Curiosities. Time did not allow me to visit this area.

The hall was well furnished, on par with Western stamp shows, and there was a comfortable coffee shop serving a variety of snacks.

It is hoped that the SBĚRATEL will continue to be operated in future years and will continue to attract young collectors, and thus provide a valuable stimulus to the collecting community.

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POSTAGE STAMPS OF CARPATHIAN UKRAINE 1945

by Karel Holoubek
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

The Carpathian Ukraine was a constituent part of the former Czechoslovakia. It disappeared from the map of our state in 1944, when the representatives of "the people" of this territory expressed their wish to join the Soviet Union.

To refresh our memory, I have to repeat a few dates which are important to appreciate the developments on this territory. On October 24, 1944, the Czechoslovak governmental delegation started its activities at Chust; it was entrusted with the administration of this territory and was under the leadership of a fully accredited minister. On November 26, 1944, a congress of representatives of Carpatho-Ukrainian communities met in Mukačevo. This congress elected the "National Council of the Carpathian Ukraine" (NRZU). The development of the situation at the end of February 1945 caused the Czechoslovak governmental delegation to leave Chust and to relocate to Košice. By this time this city was also liberated. On June 25, 1945, a treaty was signed regarding the inclusion of the Carpathian Ukraine into the Soviet Union. This treaty became effective upon ratification by both parliaments -- the Czechoslovak one did on November 22, 1945,

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

and the Soviet Union one on November 29, 1945.

Even if this brief summary might seem unnecessary, that is not the case. It indicates that the territory was -- until the ratification date -- a fully valid territory of Czechoslovakia. However, the de facto administration of this territory was performed by someone else -- NRZU! How was it then; how should we consider the postage stamps issued, postally distributed, and postally used on this territory? This is a question involving five stamp issues -- two of them overprints and three definitive ones.

The first postage stamps after the liberation -- still during the war -- on the territory of the Czechoslovak state are named after the city of their origin, the so-called Chust overprint issues. The issuer was the Czechoslovak governmental delegation. Overprinted were thirty regular stamps, 10 postage due stamps, and postal cards. Two of the overprinted issues were then not included in the official protocol, and therefore we can consider only 28 regular issue items. Before the eventual metal canceler was in use, they tried to use a rubber canceler. All of this began using the stamps of Hungary, which had occupied this territory since 1938. The final cancellation was black, very simple, and two lined. On top were the letters Č S P (Czechoslovak Post) and below them the year numerals 1944 (between periods). The stamps were sold at a number of post offices and were in use. A portion of them were taken by the governmental delegation with them during their forced relocation to Košice. The balance of them remained at the post offices. Their validity ended either when they were used up or upon their withdrawal by the order of NRZU.

Through a January 2, 1945 bulletin, the NRZU ordered the removal of all stamps from post offices to Užhorod, its official seat. Following that, it ordered new overprints. This time the text "Carpathian Ukraine Post" was produced in the Russian alphabet and was divided into three lines. A new stamp value was added

as a fourth printed line in the right bottom corner. The overprinting was produced in two processes and at two different printing offices. During the second overprinting process they again overprinted even the remainders of the Chust overprint

stamps. Therefore, there is an overprint on an overprint! Postal cards were also overprinted, not only the regular ones, but also the doubled ones with the prepaid response, and even the postal cards for the field post. In August 1945 -- by order of NRZU -- the validity of all overprinted stamps was discontinued.

Cancellations followed the same development pattern. At first they were Czech/Carpatho-Ukrainian, then they were modified to be single-languaged utilizing exclusively Ukrainian names and alphabet. By themselves the cancellations from this area and time period would enable someone to create an



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b

extensive and rich collection documenting this chapter in the history of the Carpatho-Ukraine.

In April 1945, the postal administration of the NRZU announced a competition for the definitive stamps of the Carpatho-Ukraine, and by the end of that month the first definitive issue of the NRZU was distributed to post offices. It included three stamps of a larger format in denominations of 60, 100 and 200 (Fig. 1a/b). The highest denomination was in two colors. Neither on these stamps nor on any of the previous ones was there a currency indication. Included in the design of the stamps is a hammer and sickle, the symbols of the soviet state. As far as both the printing and the perforation are concerned, the execution of the stamps is very primitive. At that time the territory in fact still belonged to Czechoslovakia, and the annexation agreement had not even been concluded -- that happened two months later.

A second definitive issue followed in June 1945. A new design was used for this printing, again including the symbols of the Soviet Union. The stamps are of a smaller format and have six denominations (Fig. 2). The two highest have their designated denominations (100 and 200) printed in a different color. The color shades of both the stamps and the red color used in the designation of the highest values fluctuates strongly. The quality of the printing is somewhat better than in the previous issue.

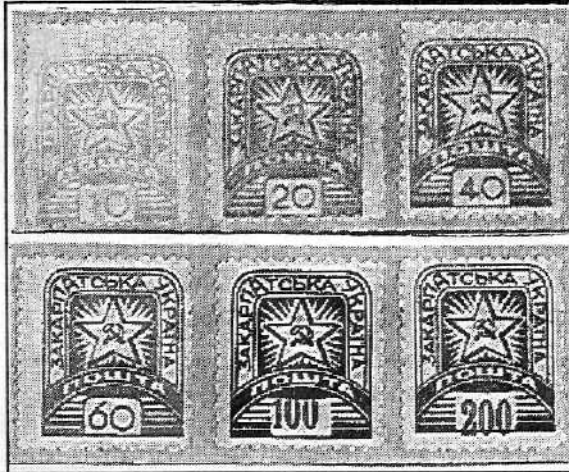


Fig. 2

In November 1945 a third issue was produced, because the two most used denominations (10 and 20) were sold out. Neither the design of the stamps nor their colors changed. Only later was the year 1945 incorporated into the design. It was positioned on the sides of the denomination tablet on the bottom of the stamp.

As was previously noted, none of the issues specified a currency. Even in this area the situation was complicated. Obviously, during the Hungarian occupation the Hungarian pengő was in use. At the end of the occupation and the introduction of the Czech civil administration the Czechoslovak military crown came into use. Soviet units used the ruble. This prevailed until November 15, 1945. One week before the ratification of the agreement of the inclusion of the Ukraine, it was ordered that the only valid currency was the soviet ruble, and the only valid stamps were soviet stamps. And similarly this also affected the postal cancellations!

It is customary that international treaties of such fundamental character derive their force after their approval by the parliaments. We should disillusion ourselves of this custom by emphasizing the historical fact that the territory of the Carpatho-Ukraine was a Czechoslovak territory up until the end of November 1945. At that time, however, someone else was governing there, and a different name was being used for the territory. Then let's answer this question: where do the stamps

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

issued by the autonomous NRZU actually belong? What actually was the NRZU (National Council of Carpatho-Ukraine)? Were these the occupying forces, the liberators, or the insurgents against the legitimate government? Were they authorized to issue stamps? It is a complicated situation! For philatelists, however, there is a more interesting question -- how to classify these stamps.

Let's do what every philatelist would do, let's reach for a catalog. Obviously in our [Czech] catalogs we currently find nothing. Therefore, let's turn to the foreign catalogs. The most current and available one is the Michel-East catalogue. In its Czechoslovak section between the last stamp of 1939 and the first stamp of 1945 we find nothing on this subject that could be of interest to us. In the catalog, however, exists an independent section with the title "Carpatho-Ukraine". And here, awaiting for us, is a surprise!

The first stamp listed here is the Czechoslovak 3K stamp for the inauguration of the [Carpatho-Ukrainian] congress (Trojan 351 [Sc. 254B]). Its history by itself is interesting, however, it is not related to our problem. This stamp is missing from the Czechoslovak section. An interesting approach!

Beneath this stamp is illustrated the Chust overprint. Directly below it is the Užhorod overprint. The catalog has the Czechoslovak stamp as sequence number 1. It further enumerates numbers 2 through 77, encompassing the regular issues according to Hungarian designation, but without differentiating the various kinds of overprints. Numbers 78 to 80 belong to the first definitive issues of the PZU. The second definitive issue with the small format has the numbers 81 to 86. The third edition, with the year added, has the numbers 87 and 88. After that follow official service and postage due stamps, but these, whether from Chust or Užhorod, were changed to regular stamps. In total, Michel lists 101 stamps. Other catalogs of the world -- so far as they list these issues -- follow the same scheme.

However, let's return to the Czech Republic. We have plenty of our own expert studies. According to Miroslav Blaha there were overprinted in Chust 28 regular postage stamps (+ 2 officially not issued) and 10 postage due stamps. For the postal administration of Carpatho-Ukraine they overprinted 72 regular postage stamps, 10 postage due stamps and two-times-three revenue stamps. There are known cases of postage due stamps and revenue stamps being used as regular postage stamps. In addition to this, there is on record a case of an overprint on an overprint. There are no varieties in the enumeration of the regular stamps. All together Blaha records 135 stamps with overprints and 11 definitive stamps.

Independently, a second author, František Táborský, also reports the overprint on an overprint, however, he records a total count of 111 pieces. Here, I am taking into consideration that he worked up this topic several decades ago. Therefore certain data might not have been available to him. Consequently, this would explain the differences. I would bring your attention yet to the overprinted revenue stamps. Some sources report a count of 56 different items. Since they are not officially issued, they are considered to be trial prints.

All of the above mentioned issues were available on the territory of the Carpatho-Ukraine and, therefore, were used there. Is it possible to arrive at some unambiguous conclusion? For now, not at all. Let us leave it to the opinion of the collectors, provided they want to dedicate themselves to this fertile and interesting segment. One cannot forget that these stamps are documenting not only the events of postal history, but also the fate of one nation -- the Carpatho-Ukraine -- which was years ago a part of Czechoslovakia.

Literature:

- (1) Miroslav Blaha: "Zakarpatsko". Philatelic Handbook No. 20. SČF Prague 1989
- (2) František Táborský: "Zakarpatská Ukrajina", Brno 1968 (published by KF Pardubice and Brno)
- (3) Catalog Michel - East: Czechoslovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine
- (4) Catalog Trojan: Czechoslovakia 1918 - 1992
- (5) Jaromír Hořec: "Witnesses of the revolutionary days. About our postal service fifty years ago." Postal courier 5/1995, s. 76-77, Prague 1995.

[Translator's Note: I have used the term Carpatho-Ukraine, which I think is the most appropriate. The writer of the article is using the term "Zakarpatská Ukrajina", which would be more closely translated as the Transcarpathian Ukraine. In Czechoslovakia, we used to call the territory "Podkarpatská Rus" and the people "Rusini", i.e. Ruthenians. It could also be named Carpathian Ruthenia.]

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

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FOKKER OR TUPOLEV? One Stamp's Mystery

by Dietmar Steidler
trans. to Czech by Petr Gebauer
trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

The exact motivation for the theme illustrated on a stamp is often quite speculative. It is necessary to appreciate the basis from which the stamp creator came or upon which he depended, and we cannot avoid striving to even understand his artistic creativity.

In the case of a series of Czechoslovak airmail stamps issued on 16.12.1930, where the theme is an airplane flying over the countryside (e.g. above the Hradčany Castle and Prague's Charles Bridge), it is possible from today's viewpoint to presume



Fig. 1

that the stamp creator, K. Seizinger, had the mission and intention to commemorate the Czechoslovak aircraft industry and air transport. The result of his artistic creative process were four subject designs which appeared on the nine stamps of airmail issues (Mi. 303-310 and 407)[Tr. L7-15, Sc. C10-18]. The stamps satisfy even the high aesthetic requirements of today. Without a doubt it is possible to identify the subject of stamps Mi. 305-306 and 307-308 as the

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Letov Š-19 and Š-19W respectively. In the case of the aircraft illustrated on the stamps Mi. 303-304, 407 and Mi. 309-310 (Fig. 1) which regular catalogs (e.g. MICHEL) identify as a Fokker F.VIIB-3m and topical catalogs (e.g. Stanley Gibbons, Collect Aircraft on Stamps) as a Fokker F.IXD, there is the possibility for doubt. A review of current literature agrees only that on stamps Mi. 303-304, 407 and Mi. 309-310 the same type of aircraft is illustrated. The two illustrations differ only in that they are mirror images of each other, and that they are of different sizes; the illustration's perspectives are in agreement.

If it was the intention (and the job?) of engraver K. Seizinger to depict the Dutch Fokker F.VIIB-3m -- used from July 1930 (in the licensed version of the firm Avia) by the aviation companies ČSA and ČLS -- he could have used at most six machines as models. They were obtained between 9.7. and 17.11.1930 by the above mentioned aviation companies with markings OK--AFA, --ABM, --AFB, --ABN, --ASO, and --ABP (this can be checked using Václav Němeček, *Czechoslovak Aircraft, Our Forces*, Prague 1983). For practical reasons stamp designers often used in their work photographs of objects which they were to depict on stamps. We have to therefore take into consideration as examples of such graphics any photographs of the Dutch transport aircraft Fokker F.VIIB-3m which appeared in the market since 1928. Each such photograph had to in fact show the F.VIIB-3m machine or its licensed copy (Avia) as a high-winged aircraft whose outer engines hang below the wing and are simultaneously braced by a system of fixed struts to the undercarriage (this also applies to the F.IXD which was well established at ČSA since 1935); other identifying marks are the somewhat blunted nose with the third engine, and the characteristic rounding of the wings and tail surfaces.

The Seizinger engraved aircraft has only the external engines (which are in contrast to the Fokker situated on the front edge of the wing), a slender nose and a vertical tail fin with slight rounding. If we search for an example of an aircraft with these construction features, we find as an alternative machine the Tupolev ANT-9, which besides other things created a great deal of interest with its aerial tour of Europe (10.7 - 8.8.1929). The aircraft was piloted by M.M. Gromov. Without a doubt this significant occurrence was abundantly documented photographically and also through publications during its major stops (Moscow, Berlin, Paris, Rome, London and Warsaw).

In connection with the discussed stamp designs the question therefore arises whether K. Seizinger modified the Avia/Fokker F.VIIB-3m aircraft using artistic license, or whether he had available (by chance) a photograph on which was not an F.VIIB-3m but rather an ANT-9. Whatever the answer to this question, it is certain that the results of Seizinger's work in this case is an illustration of a Tupolev ANT-9 rather than an Avia/Fokker F.VIIB-3m!

The above presented "photo theory" might seem speculative, but it cannot be entirely dismissed as is evidenced by the Soviet stamp Mi. 572 designed after a photograph by V.V. Zavjalov in 1937 (Fig. 2). It depicts an ANT-9 "Krest'janskaja Gazeta" during the campaigning and propaganda flights "Maxim Gorky" instituted in 1933. The aircraft is depicted from the same viewing angle as was used by K. Seizinger for "his" machine in 1930. At the same time it is impossible to overlook the similarity in the



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

above mentioned Czechoslovak and Soviet stamps -- perhaps because, that on the undoubtedly different photographic models of Seizinger and Zavjalov was illustrated the same type of aircraft.

[Ed. Note: Figure 3 was included with this article, but is not discussed. It is another Soviet stamp -- this one from 1969 -- which depicts the ANT-9 with a view directly from the side. The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from the MERKUR REVIEW, May/June 1997, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

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CZECHOSLOVAK STAMP COLLECTORS ON LINE

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Back in the May/June 1999 issue, I established this service upon the suggestion of our member, John Miskevich. It was designed to encourage members with similar philatelic interests to correspond via internet e-mail. This of course would have tremendous advantages in corresponding with members in other countries where letters would often take days or a week just to arrive, let alone to get a response. The listing of name, collecting interests, and e-mail address was to be published periodically in the SPECIALIST.

Approximately 35 members elected to utilize this service. But we ran into one major problem. As information changed (you got a new e-mail address, a new collecting interest, new members were to be added) it was not practical to re-publish the entire list of participating members. Only the changes were published, which necessitated a maintenance function on the part of every member who was following this service.

We have come up with a much better way to provide this service. We will now be providing it via our internet web site, www.erols.com/sibpost, where Jaroslav Verner has agreed to take it over. Now, as changes are submitted to him he will simply update the master list which will always be available on our web site for anyone interested.

Interested members should submit their information (preferably electronically at sibpost@erols.com -- it avoids input typos) beginning immediately. The order of information should be last name, first name, e-mail address, collecting interests. The standard collecting interest categories are listed on the web site.

I have provided Jaroslav with the current list that I had maintained. He will be contacting each individual on that list to get their agreement to have their information shown in the list on our web site, since the information will now be available to anyone with access to the internet, whereas the previous list only went to our members. Meanwhile, he is also investigating a way to restrict access to the list to members who have registered for it.

I would encourage any of you with internet access to take advantage of this service.

NOT ONLY POSTA MILITARE 52

by Piero Santangelo

trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

POSTA MILITARE 52 (from now on, P.M. 52) was the only post office which served Czechoslovak military units operating in Italy during WWI and later also on Czechoslovak territory.

After the Czechoslovak Legion in Italy was set up on 21 April 1918, a post office (which had been given the number 52 on 4 April 1918) was assigned to the Czechoslovak Division. According to my opinion -- which I came to after the perusal of many documents -- this post office began to carry out its activities only towards the end of June 1918, probably because of security reasons.

It is worth noting that small groups of Czechoslovak volunteers were incorporated into the Italian forces as early as the middle of 1917, that is, before the Czechoslovak Legions were officially established. These groups were formed from soldiers taken prisoner on Italian territory, carried the name "Reconnaissance Detachments" (Squadroni di avvicinamento), and came under the I Army Group. In December 1917 there were so many of these volunteers that it was possible to form three large groups attached to the I, VI and VII Army Corps. Later, after the positive results of the first groups activities, additional reconnaissance units were formed across the whole front line. They were always subordinate to the relevant Army Corps. Beside the reconnaissance groups, three work battalions were formed



Figure 1: P.M. 58 -- 17.3.1918 -- card sent by an office falling under the Directorate of Work and Defense (Direzioni Lavori e Difesa). The sender belonged to the II Czechoslovak Battalion, located on the territory of Somma-campagna (Verona).



Figure 2: P.M. 132 -- 6.5.1918 -- postal card sent postage free from the headquarters of the Czechoslovak Forces Information Detachment of volunteers in the camp at Padule (Salerno). It went via P.M. 132, which fell under the headquarters of the II Army in Noventa Padova (Padova).

at the beginning of 1918 and fell under engineering units. They were used for building bunkers and defensive trenches.

The correspondence of the Czechoslovak legionnaires in Italy is very interesting. It was not always forwarded by way of the P.M., because the P.M.'s placement was not always known with certainty. It is possible to find correspondence sent via the post offices of auxiliary units, right up to the establishment of the proper P.M. 52 (Fig. 1 and 2).

The Italian [Legion] contingent stationed on Czechoslovak territory from December 1918 until June 1919 also made use of P.M. 52 for sending correspondence home. Correspondence sent by courier post "Linie Kroměříž -- Padova" to Padova, the central headquarters of the Czechoslovak Forces in Italy, was later sent via P.M. 1762, which was the office attached to the headquarters from 16 December 1918 to 14 April 1919. Also of great interest in this case are the mail shipments which went by way of a different route before they reached their destinations. Perhaps this contribution will awaken the interest of collectors for deeper research of this period.

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

RESPECTED AND HONORED ROUND MOUNTAIN

by Jaroslav Maleček
trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

We seldom realize how often Říp mountain appears on postage stamps. Already in the past century it was the symbol of national hope and awakening -- it was from its foot in 1868 that the foundation stone for the National Theater was ceremoniously procured, and the mountain was often witness to people's camps and national Hussite celebrations.



In 1920 it appeared for the first time on a stamp and represented -- together with Kriván in Brunner's allegory -- the symbol of national statehood (Fig. 1). Later we could see Říp on stamps issued for the thirtieth anniversary of Czechoslovakia's founding, as well as on those which bear obvious signs of socialistic realism and advertise tourism or agriculture (Fig. 2,3,4,5). In the magnificent Švabinský butterfly series we find the rounded mountain in the background behind the

"Otakárek fenyklový" (Fig. 6); Kamil Lhoták placed it with the red historical automobile "Laurin and Klement" of 1914 (Fig. 7). When in 1991 we were recollecting the elapsed fifty years since the steamer Bohemia (1941) commenced service, it was not possible without the majestic silhouette of Říp behind the beautiful colored steamer (Fig. 8).

Standing alone as the central motif, Říp towers above the surrounding countryside on the well known and often used 4 Kč stamp by academic painter J. SASKY (Fig. 9). The picture on this stamp from the "Wonders of Our Homeland" series was also used on correspondence cards which were issued later in many variations. In order for the accounting to be complete, we cannot leave out the postage paid envelope issued in 1987 for the IX National Conference of the Cz. Socialist Party (Fig. 10). On the pre-printed multicolored stamp -- designed by the academic painter Alfred Fuchs -- Říp is rendered beside a flowering branch along with such poetry that it would delight even poets Jaroslav Seifert and Josef Hora who poeticized this mountain more than any others.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from HOBBY Magazine, 1998, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

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Book Review

HISTORY OF POSTAL AGENCIES (POŠTOVNÝ) IN THE TĚŠIN REGION

**by Oldřich Tovačovský, Jan SÍKORA, and
Vladimír Schodelbauer**

Volume 71 of philatelic handbooks published by the Society for Territorial Philately of the Union of Czech Philatelists offers a look at one of the more fascinating details of collecting Silesia. The 80 page heavy paper bound book issued in just 350 copies (in Czech) and covers the time period between 1900 and 1958, which includes the "SO plebiscite" period. The historic portion builds upon what has been published in Monografie 5¹ and explains the role of postal agencies in contrast with post offices.

The postal agencies of the Těšín region lying in the portion ceded to the Czechoslovak Republic up to 1958 are listed alphabetically. Those ceded to Poland are listed only up to 1920. Two agencies established during German occupation (1939 - 1945) are also listed.

The appearance of the postmarks are comprehensively described as to dimensions, time of use, color and type. The text with each description also indicates if and when the agency was taken over by Polish or Protectorate Governments, and each postmark is illustrated. The post office to which each agency is assigned is given. When known, the names of the heads of the agencies are listed. In many cases covers from which the information was obtained are illustrated. The difficult conditions under which mail was delivered -- particularly to remote villages having no postal agency -- are described in the concluding chapter of the book. Finally, the book lists and values (by point count) covers with agency postmarks based on rarity. This is done for both Czech and Polish agencies for the time periods mentioned

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

earlier. The catalogue listing includes the name of the village, agency postmark number, type, color and point count for cut-outs as well as full covers.

The book, though unpretentious in terms of printing and illustration quality, represents a life-time of research and effort by numerous contributors acknowledged in the introduction. As such it is an indispensable source of information to the serious student of Silesia and is highly recommended to English readers with just a smattering knowledge of Czech. The book is available from the Society for \$7.00 postpaid (see the Available Publications listing inside the back cover).

Henry Hahn

¹ MONOGRAFIE ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH ZNÁMEK, vol. 5, by Tovačovský et al, POFIS -- Prague 1998

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DR. EMIL HOLUB – TRAVELLER AND PHILATELIST

by Jaroslav Maleček
trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

Emil Holub travelled through Africa at a time when all who returned back in

good health became heroes. In spite of honors, status and celebrations he ended his life in poverty. Very few people are aware, however, that the life's love of this famous traveller was philately -- in his correspondence are preserved hundreds of letters from Griqualand and the Transvaal, while living in the USA he obtained (through exchange for African native art) many stamps and also bought two large collections.

He used the Senf catalogue and owned fourteen albums, with six of them devoted to entires. In his Austrian collection he was missing only one stamp, and that was the vermillion Merkur. Holub was interested in color shades, and collected each stamp mint and used. Foreign friends considered it to be an honor to enhance his collection and sent him blocks of old stamps, which were already very valuable even at that time.

Holub was very knowledgeable in the philatelic sphere, and his advice was sought after even by expert dealers. During his travels in the Czech countryside he asked his listeners to search their attics and chambers for old correspondence, by which means he obtained additions to his collection. In 1902, one of Prague's dealers offered him 40,000 guildens for his collection. It was an unheard of amount of money for that time, but Emil Holub refused the offer. Later on his wife sold his collections -- in parts -- to foreigners.

Philatelists are reminded of Dr. Holub by two stamps which were issued for the fiftieth anniversary of his death (Fig. 1). The designer was Karel Svolinský, and it was engraved by J. Mráček.



Fig. 1

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from NARODNÍ FRONTA with the permission of the editor and the author.]

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Editorial Hinges (Continued from Page 1)

additional folded sheets could be inserted. These could be used by advertisers, to distribute show frame applications, as election ballot forms, etc.

Which reminds me, we have elections coming up this winter. As usual, we have five of our director positions that are up for filling, but only four of the incumbents are running for re-election. So be watching in the Jan/Feb issue envelope for a form to use for nominating someone and for instructions on the electoral process.

Our Society has stayed in existence for 61+ continuous years largely because our members have volunteered to give up a small part of their time to help lead us. We need your help and your ideas. If you are concerned about not having enough available time to help, contact one of the current board members or officers and ask them how much time it takes. Except for the 5 or 6 key officers and assigned duties, the remaining 9 or 10 positions take a minimum amount of time -- except for the normal once a year board meeting in conjunction with our annual convention -- and this date is known typically at least a year in advance. So I encourage you to get involved.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On August 30, 2000 the Ministry of Post and Communications issued a 13 Kč multicolored commemorative postage stamp titled XXVIIth Olympic Games in Sydney (Fig. 1). The stamp pictures a stylized canoeist on a background of the Czech flag completed by the text XXVIIth OLYMPIC GAMES in Czech, SYDNEY 2000 and the Olympic rings. The summer Olympics, called the Games of the Olympiad according to the Olympic Charter, have the peculiarity that they are numbered continuously from 1896, even if they did not take



Fig. 1

place. They can last up to 16 days. The Czech Republic had excellent representation in water sports, particularly canoeing. Many people will surely recall the splendid performance of Martin Doktor, our most successful sportsman in this discipline. The stamp was designed by Jiří Rathousky and engraved by Václav Fajt. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in dark blue combined with photogravure in blue, blue-green, and red in printing sheets of 35 stamps and 30 labels. A FDC in grey-blue depicts a pair of canoeists on the background of the modern Sydney Opera House complete by the Olympic rings and the text SYDNEY 2000 (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

2. On August 30, 2000 the Ministry issued a 9 Kč multicolored commemorative stamp titled the Ancient Olympic Games (Fig. 3). The design of the stamp took inspiration from a painting on an amphora from the middle of the 6th century BC. It shows a chariot racer urging on his steeds during a race. In honor of the god Zeus, sporting events were held in Olympia in Greece every four years (from about 776 BC). Peace was declared throughout Greece during the preparations and the games. Only free men and boys of Greek origin were allowed to participate. The first disciplines included running, the pentathlon (a race one stadium long, wrestling, discus throwing, javelin throwing and jumping), fist fighting, chariot and horse racing, the pancration (freestyle) and armored races. The prize for the



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

winner was an olive wreath and in later times various items of value. The winner had the right to have a statue made and placed in the stadium. A balance between the physical and mental aspects of man became an ideal. All attention, including artistic interests, was concentrated on the body. The designer of the stamp was Jaroslav Fišer, and its engraver was Václav Fajt. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in red-brown and green in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in orange-brown depicts a detail of

wrestlers from the

amphora created in the workshop of the Athens potter, Andokidos (520 BC)(Fig. 4).



Fig. 5

3. On August 30, 2000 the Ministry issued a 7 Kč multicolored commemorative stamp on the occasion of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Prague which took place from 26-28 September, 2000 (Fig. 5). The stamp bears a composition depicting the leaves of the national trees of some of the member states of the IMF -- the leaves represent their currencies. The Czech Republic is the 20th country to be entrusted with preparing the annual meeting of the IMF and WBG, which took place in the reconstructed and extended Congress Center in Prague. The Prague meeting of representatives of the financial and banking world will undoubtedly determine the course of the whole world's economic development in the first years of the 3rd millennium. The IMF is an organization founded in 1945 on the basis of the Brettonwood Agreements, together with the International Bank for Renewal and Development. Since 1947 they have been a special division of the United Nations. The IMF reinforces international monetary cooperation, encourages development and balanced growth of international trade, assists member states in correcting balance of payments deficits and supports the stability of exchanging rates. Czechoslovakia was a founding member of the organization, but its membership was terminated in 1954 and was not renewed until 1990. The Czech Republic has been a member since 1993. The stamp was designed by Jan Solpera and engraved by Václav Fajt. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing in dark green combined with photogravure in red, light green, and light blue in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in blue shows the logo of the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank Group (Fig. 6).

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Fig. 6

It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing in dark green combined with photogravure in red, light green, and light blue in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in blue shows the logo of the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank Group (Fig. 6).



Fig. 7

4. On October 4, 2000 the Ministry issued a set of four commemorative postage stamps titled Hunting and Gamekeeping in Different Seasons, depicting some of the activities associated with hunting (Fig. 7). Hunting has a very long tradition in this country and is associated with nature conservation. Most hunters go hunting as a hobby, but some have become professional gamekeepers. Some of the activities associated with hunting are captured on the stamps of this issue, which are in chessboard arrangement on the printing sheet (2 and 2). In spring, nature wakes from its winter sleep. Leaves and blossoms are everywhere. This is nesting time for game birds. Not only must their clutches of eggs, and the chicks when they hatch, be protected from injury at haymaking time, from spring flooding of swollen streams and rivers, and from stray dogs and cats, but the birds must also be provided with



Fig. 8

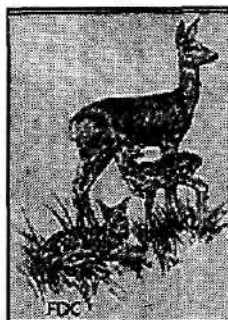


Fig. 9

the quiet they need for nesting. Summer is the rutting season for roe deer. If we are to keep these animals successfully, we must know their habits and way of life perfectly. In places frequented by deer, hunters and gamekeepers set up observation towers where they can watch them undisturbed. Falconry is one of the oldest methods of hunting, using birds of prey. It is very popular among the public. The motto of falconers is "We do not hunt for the catch but for all that is beautiful in the hunt". Falconers look after species of birds of prey which are now rare, and return them to the wild. Winter is a time of need for animals. The deep snow makes food inaccessible. Gamekeepers must feed the animals, otherwise they would become weak and die. They build various types of forage racks, troughs, feed piles and salt-licks in suitable places for the animals. Not only deer but also pheasants, partridges, hares and wild boar find food here. All of the stamps were designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, and engraved by Martin Srb. They were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue, and gray in printing sheets of 50 (25 + 25) pieces alternating in columns.



Fig. 10

- A 5.40 Kč stamp titled Spring (Jaro) and Protection of Young Animals shows a flying male duck and a mother duck with three ducklings. The FDC in dark brown depicts a hound laying on the grass (Fig. 8).

- A 5.40 Kč stamp titled Summer (Léto) and Keeping of the Animals shows deer in a clearing below an observation tower. The FDC in light brown depicts a roe with two fawns (Fig. 9).

- A 5 Kč stamp titled Autumn (Podzim) and Hunting - Falconry shows a handler holding a falcon while another one sits on its prey, a pheasant. The FDC in black-gray depicts a hooded falcon sitting on a handler's fist (Fig. 10).

- A 5 Kč stamp titled Winter (Zima) and Care of Animals shows deer at a winter feeding station. The FDC in gray-green depicts a hare hiding in winter grass (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky

5. On June 15, 2000 the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 5.50 Sk definitive stamp titled and picturing the "President of the Slovak Republic Rudolf Schuster" (Fig. 12). It was designed by Martin Činovský using a photograph by Pavol Kastl. This dark brown stamp was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in printing sheets of 100 stamps. A FDC in blue gray pictures the entrance gate of the presidential palace, and bears a postmark from Bratislava.



Fig. 12

6. On June 27, 2000 the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp titled "Olympic Games -- Sydney 2000" (Fig. 13). The stamp pictures a rifleman while in Olympic competition. The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 stamps and 25 labels -- alternately. The label contains a view of Sydney harbor with its opera house against a background of the harbor bridge below a setting sun. The stamp and label



Fig. 13

were designed by Ivan Schurmann and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. They are multicolored and were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing. A unicolored FDC pictures a motif of traditional Olympic competitors, the outline of Australia and the Olympic rings. It has a postmark from Bratislava.

7. On July 26, 2000 the Ministry issued a 20 Sk definitive stamp in the Cities series commemorating Rožňava (Fig. 14). The two-colored stamp depicts the dominant feature of the historical town -- a watchtower -- and its coat of arms. The stamp was designed 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 printing sheets of 100 pieces. A FDC in brown depicts an engraving of Rožňava in 1828 and bears a postmark from Rožňava.



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

8. On August 18, 2000 the Ministry issued a 4 Sk commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the "Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)" (Fig. 15). The multicolored stamp depicts a stylized symbol (a dove in the shape of an E), the dates 1975/2000, and Helsinki/the final act (in Slovak). It was designed by Miroslav Cipár and engraved by Martin Srb, and was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary

recess printing in combination with recess printing on printing sheets of 50 stamps. A single colored FDC shows a symbolic drawing of doves, the Organization title, and Helsinki/the final act (in Slovak) and bears a postmark from Bratislava.

9. On September 14, 2000 the Ministry issued a multicolored sheetlet entitled "Berries" from the "Nature Protection" series and containing three stamps with a label (Fig. 16). The three stamps are arranged in a vee-shape with the label in the



Fig. 16

crotch of the vee. The label and the side margins contain drawings of forest flora. The sheetlet was designed by Vladimír Machaj and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using recess printing from flat plates in combination with offset printing.

-- The 11 Sk stamp depicts *Rubusidaeus* (wild raspberry). The dark-green FDC shows a secluded forest location with a butterfly and a raspberry, and it has a postmark from Donovaly.

-- The 13 Sk stamp depicts *Fragaria vesca* (common strawberry). The dark-brown FDC shows a bouquet of strawberries in a jug, and it has a postmark from Blatnica pri Martine.

-- The 15 Sk stamp depicts *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry). The dark-blue FDC shows a secluded forest location and a bird with a bilberry in its beak, and it has a postmark from Dobšina.

10. On September 14, 2000 the Ministry issued a 6 Sk commemorative stamp



Fig. 17

entitled "Wooden Bridge, Kluknava -- Stevens Ironworks" from the "Historical Bridges" series (Fig. 17). The multicolored stamp illustrates the one and only preserved timber bridge in Slovakia. It was built in 1832 in Kluknava across the Hornád river. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on printing sheets of 35 pieces. A single colored FDC shows a section of a bridge project on the Orava river from 1856. It bears a postmark from Kluknava.



Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

I received the enclosed from Juan Page. I have already written to thank him and have written to Vostatek for a response.

"About the paper 'Helmei-Košice' appearing in the *SPECIALIST* of July/August. May be that Miloš Vostatek wrote it. May be there is some translation error, but Kralovo nad Tisou is NOT Vinogradov today. Kralovo is now Korolevo and Vinogradov was Sevluš. During the Hungarian administration the names were Kiralyhajen and Nagyrjöllöes."

Regards
Henry Hahn

2. The following two letters and one in response from the author belong together.

-- Dear Lou:

I was somewhat disturbed by the celebratory article on Zdeněk Nejedlý in the May/June issue of *The SPECIALIST*.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

While the author researched the history around Nejedlý, he really did not realize what kind of evil man Nejedlý was. While some communists could kindly call him "red grandpa", he was a devil incarnate himself.

Václav Černý, unquestionably the greatest historic writer and literary critic of the modern period, dedicated a long chapter in his four volume *Memoirs* to this *mental Lilliputian*, as he calls him. He basically states that nobody in Czech cultural life and education created worse disaster in the Czech educational system than Nejedlý due to his dilettantism and inexperience in education. The communists who did not want to make him the president, as he would have wished, gave him a free hand in the educational and cultural arena.

Peter Z. Kleskovic

-- Dear Lou:

I protest the commemoration of Zdeněk Nejedlý in the May/June SPECIALIST. He was a communist, enough said, or will there be a story on Klement Gottwald as a great humanitarian . . . My own father was sentenced to death in absentia by the government and school of thought the likes of Zdeněk Nejedlý!

Savoy Horvath

-- Dear Mr. Svoboda:

The article on Zdeněk Nejedlý in the May/June issue of the SPECIALIST was based on information I had to hand and was obviously outdated, well prior to the Velvet revolution and thus giving a much more favorable impression than he deserved.

I am grateful for having been corrected in this matter by some of our members. In particular the letter by P. Z. Kleskovic was very helpful by mentioning the four volumes of "MEMOIRS" by Václav Černý.

In NZ, Czech/Slovak history is practically unknown, I however am intensely interested, having studied it for over 40 years. Therefore I take this opportunity to apologize for the Nejedlý article.

G.M. van Zanten

3. Dear Lou:

Thanks for publishing my brief ad on page 28 of the last issue. A favorable response came very quickly from one of our members. Now I have exactly what I was looking for.

I am a supporter of our Sales Circuit, and I often contribute material for it. But items like a 1946 double postal card is something one will not readily find in a circuit book. So I encourage members who are unable to find a particular piece in a circuit book to take the time to submit a brief ad in the SPECIALIST. The cost is minimal, and the reward can be a pleasant one.

Best wishes,
Mirko [Vondra]

4. Dear Lou:

I am pleased and honored that in the Sept/Oct 2000 issue of the SPECIALIST you reprinted my article, "The Classics Corner -- In the Auctions: Rarities of the Czech Scout Post", which originally appeared in the July/August 2000 issue of the SOSSI Journal of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI). Regrettably,

no credit was given to the *SOSSI Journal*. Considering the perspective of that article, I suspect that *SPECIALIST* readers were quick to pick up on the fact that it was written for an audience of Scouts on stamps collectors. Nonetheless, I would be remiss in not drawing the attention of *SPECIALIST* readers to the *SOSSI Journal* as the original source of the article.

Best regards,
Frederick Lawrence

[Ed. Note: Frederick is completely correct. My apologies.]

5. Dear Mr. Svoboda:

I'm sure that you remember our correspondence (February - June last year)[May/June 1999 issue, pg 42] concerning a wreck mail piece (fire on a TPO Bratislava - Praha). You have published an article in *SPECIALIST*. The result was less satisfied.

Now I have got from a collector another crash cover from Czechoslovakia from 1947, and I send you enclosed a copy (Fig. 1a/b). I think it is also a piece for publishing in your paper. When you can get from your members information about this accident I would be glad if you would inform me.

Kind regards,
Herbert Pfeifer

P.S. - In meantime I have found out that the accident was in Sekule (6.5 km south of Kutly and 57.2 km north of Bratislava) on 5th August 1947. The reverse of the cover has a handwritten note "Poškozeno při vykolejení vlaku" (Damaged because of train derailment).



Fig. 1a

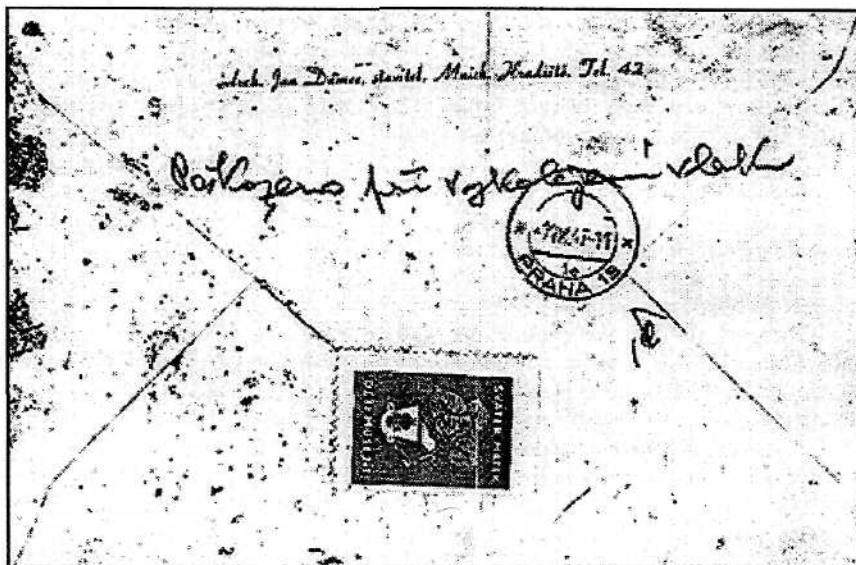


Fig. 1b

6. Dear Ludvik:

I would like to comment upon the letter of Mr. Pallini dealing with the Feldkorrespondenz Karten published in the *SPECIALIST*, May/June 2000.

I would like to provide its author and other interested collectors with some additional information I have ascertained from the cards pictured in the *SPECIALIST*, as well as from cards I have in my own collection or that I have seen in other collections.

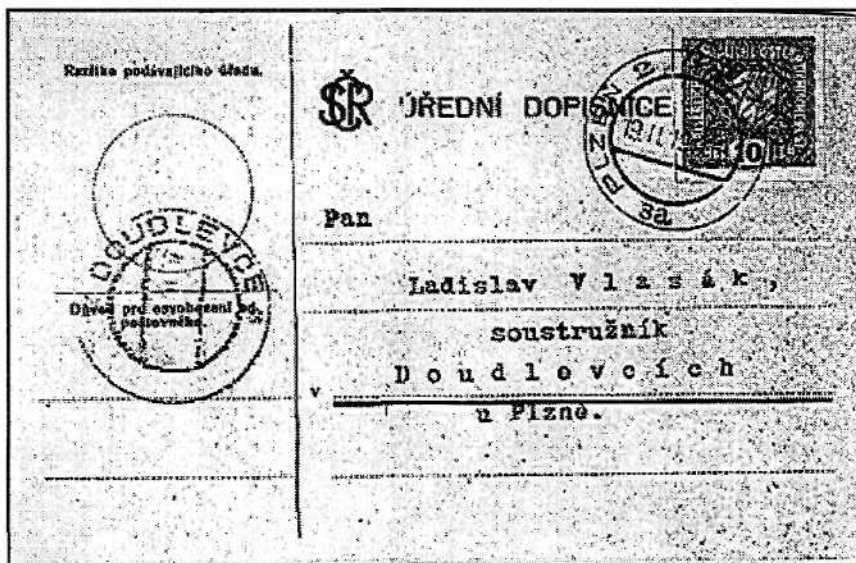


Fig. 2

The first piece of information is the fact that the majority of cards with "interesting" franking (e.g. bisected stamps, stamps with "Franko" overprints, etc.) have "Plžen 2" cancel 3a and "Doudlevice" cancel a. Most of the time the Doudlevice cancel is not very legible. The Plžen 2 cancel is usually quite nice, however the line over the date is partially missing.

The second piece of information is the fact that the above "interesting" franking appears not only on Feldpostkarten cards, but also on "official business" cards as well. These cards were issued for the official business correspondence of postal officials or other authorities exempted from the payment of postage. You can see an example of such usage in Figure 2. This is the Official Business card issued by the Czechoslovak Republic, while similar cards were issued in German or in German-Czech versions in the Austrian Empire as well. These Austrian cards were also used in Czechoslovakia (see the article "German Bohemia Province" in the SPECIALIST, Jul/Aug 1999).

I do not believe that the originator of such cards was Mr. Novák (the name Jan Novák is as commonly used as John Smith is in America/England). Such cards in fact exist "used" by other originators and companies also. An example can be found at Figures 2/3.

This card was sent from Plžen to Doudlevice in January 1919 by the administration of the daily newspaper "Naše Noviny" (Our Newspaper) to ask the addressee if he wants to continue to receive the newspaper in the future. The message was pre-printed on the card. For franking, the Austrian

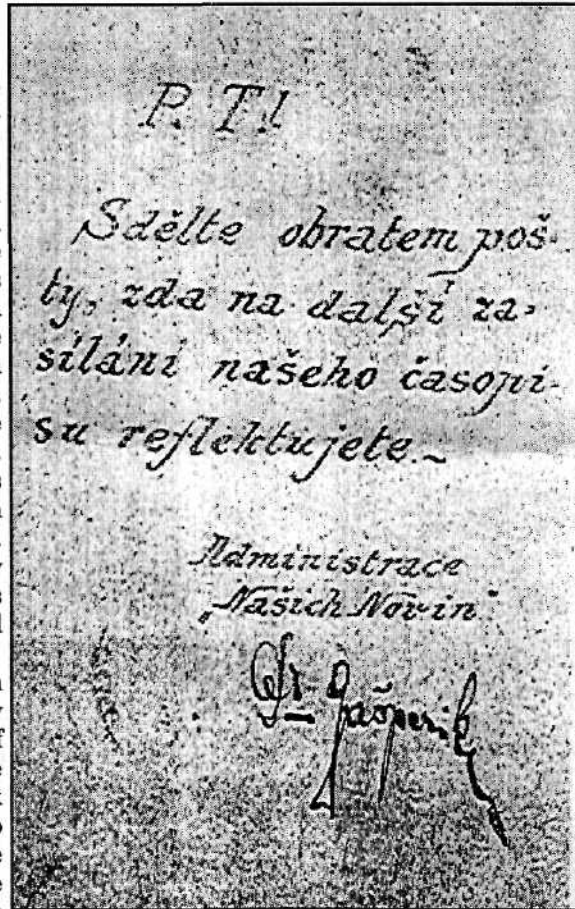


Fig. 3

Merkur newspaper stamp with a face value of 10 Heller (the post card rate) and overprinted FRANCO was used. This post card -- without knowing of other cards such as the ones shown in Mr. Pallini's letter -- seems to have been genuinely mailed, but I personally do not believe this to be true.

I thoroughly studied Votoček's Monograph to determine whether both post offices used cancels of the same types as were found on the cards. After my examination I can confirm that the offices really used such cancels. The Plžen 2 post

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

office used cancels of type M13 (with office name Plzeň 2/Pilsen 2) and M13z (with office name Plzeň 2 only). The first one was used during the period 1918 - 1919, while the second one was used from 1919 to 1920. The Doudlevice post office (which is mentioned in the Monograph under the name "Plzeň 10") also used the type M13 cancel (Doudlewetz/ Doudlevice) and type M13z (Doudlevice) as well -- the dates of usage were the same as those for the Plzeň 2 cancels.

This fact could confirm the genuineness of these cards, but . . . ! There are known examples of stolen cancels from that time period (e.g. Praha 1) or totally forged ones. I would like to draw your attention to the above mentioned dates of usage of the cancels. Votoček states that the original Austrian cancels with the bi-lingual post office names of Plzeň 2/Pilsen 2 and Doudlewetz/Doudlevice were used in the period 1918-1919. When we compare these dates with the ones used on the cards pictured in the SPECIALIST, May/June 2000, we detect that the cancels with the Czech names only were first used on January 13, 1919, which means the bi-lingual cancels were used only 12 days in 1919! Deciding if the cards are genuine or forged can be achieved provided someone finds a letter or card with bi-lingual cancels Plzeň 2/Pilsen 2 and Doudlewetz/ Doudlevice used after January 13, 1919 (Doudlevice) or January 15, 1919 (Plzeň 2). In such a case these cards would have been forged. If no such entire can be found, it could indicate that these cards were postmarked by genuine cancels. Do any of the SPECIALIST readers have such a card or cover?

In advance, I would like to thank you for any information -- my e-mail address is lubor.kunc@post.cz.

Sincerely,
Lubor [Kunc]

7. Dear Lou:

I was fascinated by my friend's Lubor Kunc article "Silesian Territory Occupied by the Czechoslovaks in 1919" (Sep/Oct 2000). He is correct when he says that this is the "best kept secret" of the Czech history. It made me curious as to why we Czechs were interested in Silesia in the first place. I did not have to go far in the history -- just to Frederick the Great and Maria Theresa and to the War of the Austrian Succession: 1740-48.

The Duchy of Silesia -- at the time of Maria Theresa's ascension -- was a part of the Austrian Empire. Prussia made a claim to a part of the Duchy, and when the second Silesian War ended with the Treaty of Dresden (December 17, 1745), Austria lost the Duchy of Silesia and the county of Glatz -- a part of the hereditary land of the Kingdom of Bohemia. It was that part of Bohemia where Božena Němcová was born. A small part of Silesia, called "Austrian Silesia", situated north of the Margravate of Moravia was all that was left to Austria (see the map of Central Europe about 1789, Fig. 4). It was this land -- the Austrian Silesia -- that was contested between the Germans, the Poles, and the Czechs after WW I. Lubor Kunc's article tells us what happened.

Incidentally, the county of Glatz (does anyone remember its Czech name?) became part of Poland after WW II. The Beneš government in exile approached the Polish government to return this hereditary Czech land to Czechoslovakia. Poland flatly refused that request. It seems that our Polish cousins were not too fond of the Czechs in 1939 and 1945.

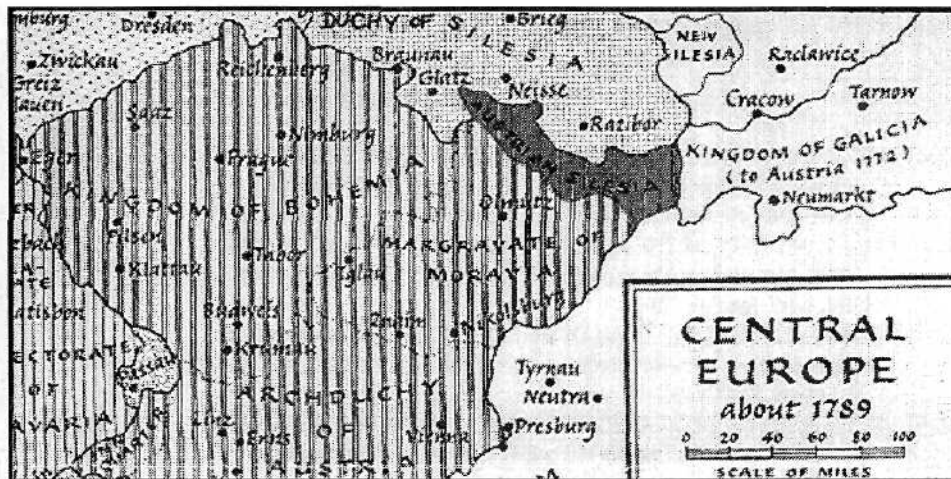


Fig. 4

During the War of Austrian Succession, Prague was occupied in turn by Bavarian, French, and Prussian troops, as well as those of the Electorate of Saxony.

Again, I compliment Lubor for his thoroughness in giving us a historical picture of the history of our land, and how it came to be that a sliver of Silesia is now a part of the Czech lands.

With best regards,
Karl [Ruzicka]

8. Dear Ludvik:

In an article "Happy 80th Birthday -- Flag of ČR" -- #5 [Sep/Oct 2000], pages 24-25 is written:

-- "The Czech flag as an overall design has appeared only once [underline added] on a Czechoslovak stamp, Scott 1579 (Fig. 2)".

Is this true?? I find ČR flag on these stamps: (Scott numbers from 1945 - 1991) 311-14, 288 + s/s, 322-24, 369, 372, 425, 487, 621, 1397, 1416, 2312, 2424a, 2425a, 2493, 2558.

On page 41 [Letters to the Editor -- Karl Ruzicka]: "It seems that (Czech flags) were shown MORE OFTEN [capitalization added] on foreign than (Czech) stamps". **THIS IS NOT CORRECT!**

Sincerely,
Karel [Fischer]

[Ed. Note: I believe that the key here has to do with the wording of the original statement, i.e. "The Czech flag as an overall design . . .". I read this to mean that the flag should constitute virtually all of the design on the stamp, not that the flag is simply included as a part of the design.]

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