



# 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. 63

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

No. 1, Whole No. 565

## NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!!!

As is specified in our Bylaws, it is the time of year for our Society to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in an election of five (5) of our fifteen (15) Board of Director positions.

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by two (2) members of the Society (other than themselves) whose signatures shall be affixed to a nominating petition. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue as a separate sheet. The names of the term-ending board members and of the remaining board members are as follows:

**Term Ending:** Frank Garancovsky, Alan Hoover, Robert Koschalk, Frederick P. Lawrence, Charles J. Rehman

**Remaining:** Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Savoy Horvath, Peter Z. Kleskovic, Edwin W. Lehecka, James T. Carone, Richard Palaschak, Kimber A. Wald, Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Jaroslav J. Verner

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Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. Of these, Frank Garancovsky has declined to run again.

If you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing
2. The nominee must have given his consent to be nominated
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board meeting location specified by the President
4. The petition originator must see to finding another member to sign the petition
5. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of January 2001.

After filling out the enclosed petition form and getting another member's signature, mail it to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225. Make sure that it reaches him no later than the last day of January 2001.

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(ISSN 0526-5843)

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A.P.S. Unit 18

VOL. 63

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

No. 1, WHOLE NO. 565

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](http://www.erols.com/sibpost)

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

## WHO IS THE LITTLE GIRL FROM THE POSTAGE STAMP?

by Karel Černý

trans. by Peter Kleskovic

On January 20, 2000 the Czech Post issued a 5.40 Kč stamp in its Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series in printing sheets of 30 stamps and in a stamp booklet of eight stamps and four coupons. Simultaneously with the stamp, they issued a first day cover; complementing it, they even issued -- in March 2000 -- a souvenir sheet to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of T. G. Masaryk's birth. The new Czech stamp depicts one of the most beautiful Czechoslovak postage stamps issued up until 1939 [Tr. 334, Sc. B151].

The 50h and 1 Kč valued stamps -- as well as the 2 Kč souvenir sheet -- of March 7, 1938 with President T. G. Masaryk holding a little girl in a Kyjov folk costume in his arms were sold with a surcharge for the benefit of the Children's Relief Program. This charitable activity, which was initiated by Karel Čapek, is also accentuated by the legend "Have Respect for the Soul of a Child" in the lower portion of the stamps.



Fig. 1: The 1938 stamp and the photo it was based upon



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This postage stamp issue of 1938 achieved great success. Before long it was known around the world and questions began to be raised -- just as they are now -- who is this little girl in the arms of the President, and, when and from where did the original photograph arise (Fig. 1)? Shortly thereafter the readers of many newspapers and magazines found out that the three-year old girl was Evička Neugebauer, and that the photograph was made on June 17, 1928 during the

President's visit to Horácko -- one of the trips made by T. G. Masaryk in 1928 while visiting all of Moravia during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Republic.



Fig. 2: Mother and daughter at the end of the twentieth and ninetieth decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century



During his stay in Židlochovice President Masaryk took part in the opening of the Exhibition of Contemporary Culture in Brno. He visited Horácko on June 17<sup>th</sup> with his daughter Alice, the Interior Minister Jan Černý, the Presidial Chief Drbal, and -- beginning with the Tišnov trip -- also the Deputy Prime Minister Msgr. Jan Šrámek. After passing through Brno, Kuřim, Čebín, Hradčany, Tišnov, and Doubravník, they took a look at Bystřice nad Pernštejn. Everywhere the President was enthusiastically welcomed below triumphal arches by the mayors of the towns and villages, by legionnaires and by the children. The same happened in Nové Město na Moravě, Žďár na Moravě, Velké Meziříčí, Velká Bíteš, and in many villages of Horácko. However, it was in Žďár na Moravě (today Žďár nad Sazavou) where the photograph which became the subject of our postage stamp originated.



The art historian, Professor Antonín Matějček, later wrote about it: "A lucky opportunity contributed to photographic skill, and the simple facts of the atmosphere and the lighting added a festive, and at the same time, intimate mood."

The Horácko newspapers from June 29, 1928, wrote about the meeting of President Masaryk with the children in Žďár: "In the name of the children from Žďár and the surrounding area, Ms. Vlasta Fňukal and a whole group of children greeted the President. The President took into his arms the smallest of them, the three year old Evička Neugebauer, and asked her: 'What is your name? Will you come with me?'"

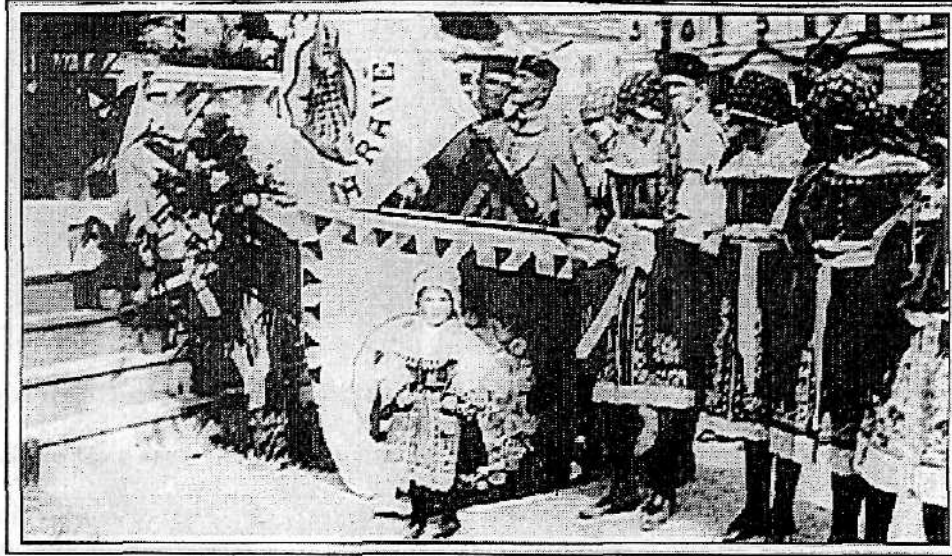


Fig. 3: Evička in her Kyjov folk costume with the other greeters

*However, Evička shakes her head, no, she will not. She does not want to leave her mother."*

For the mother of the then three year old Evička -- today the ninety-eight year old Mrs. Antonia Neugebauer -- the issuance of another postage stamp showing her daughter is a great occasion which gives her new vitality (Fig. 2). She recalls the encounter with President Masaryk in June 1928: "Oh my God, that is a surprise. After so many years someone is again interested in that picture. You know, our first president traveled a great deal and did not skip even the smallest village. In 1928, Žďár na Moravě had about 2,000 residents. The President came to Žďár for the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone for the Sokol Hall building. I dressed myself up in a Kyjov folk costume which I had personally embroidered. Along with my mother, we also prepared a Kyjov folk costume for Evička (Fig. 3).

*Evička was not afraid, and during the welcoming activities she roamed around on the platform, occasionally stepping on someone's foot (Fig. 4). The President could not help notice this and was constantly smiling at her. This is why our druggist, Mr. Švastal, who was responsible for the welcoming ceremony, put her in his arms. Evička gave the President a small bouquet, he thanked her and handed the flowers*



Fig. 4: Evička (lower right corner) on the platform with President Masaryk (in dark hat on the left)

*to his daughter, Alice. And this is the whole story of this famous picture. It is a pity that the stamp came out a year after the President's death."*

And what are the remembrances of the then three year old Evička Neugebauer, now an older lady, Mrs. Eva Haňka?

*"At the time the picture was taken, I was three years old. I can remember this occasion despite the fact that my memories are somewhat incomplete. I went to welcome the President with my mother. We were both dressed in Kyjov folk costumes. We stood below the podium next to a large group of noisy children. A man came up to me -- I learned about ten years later that it was school principal Jindra from Zámek Žďár -- who proposed that I bring a bouquet to the President on the podium. 'To that old man', he said to me. Further than that, I can only remember that I was in his arms. I did not realize that it was such a special event, but also I was not afraid, nor was I embarrassed. The President asked me what my name was and where was my mother. I tried to find my mother in the crowd and to show her to him, but it was not possible.*

*Also at that time, I was fascinated by the large organ-like photo camera on a high wooden structure in the background. Maybe it was not so big, but it looked huge to me. After many years, when the stamp came out, I would often think about that camera and the photographer behind it. I came to realize that it must have been the work of this large instrument."*

The meeting of little Eva Neugebauer -- the daughter of the owner, Richard Neugebauer, of a steam sawmill -- with President Masaryk was not their first. Eva was born on May 20, 1925 in the military hospital in Prague-Karlov, where -- through the initiative of General MUDr. Fisher -- a showcase obstetrical department for the wives of officers was founded. This department was visited by President



Fig. 5: Eva during the time of her studies in Pardubice

Masaryk, escorted by MUDr. Fisher, on the second day following Eva's birth. Actually, that was their first meeting. The second was in June 1928.

In 1931, Evička entered the first grade which she very much enjoyed. Together with her parents she was a member of Sokol. She performed gymnastics, went on field trips, and participated in the majority of the cultural events. She likes to remember the puppet theater at which her father was a frequent assistant.

Based on her parents wishes, she studied at the gymnasium [high school] in Pardubice (Fig. 5). She lived there with her grandmother and attended the school until 1944 when she finalized her studies through graduation. In 1938 she learned of the issue of the postage stamps.



Fig. 6

*"I, myself, learned about it from a friend of my mother, who was a postal official at Žďár. At that time I was studying at the gymnasium in Pardubice and had just come to Žďár for my mid-semester vacation.*

*When I returned to Pardubice from my vacation, the press already knew about me, and I suddenly became the center of attention, until it made me feel uneasy. The editors sought me out and asked that I write something or tell them something. A pile of letters came to the school and to my home with requests for an autograph. The majority of these letters came from different parts of the ČSR, but among them were also those from places which looked exotic to us at that time -- from Australia and from America."*

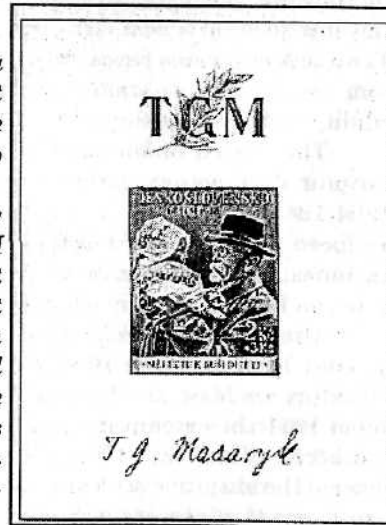


Fig. 7



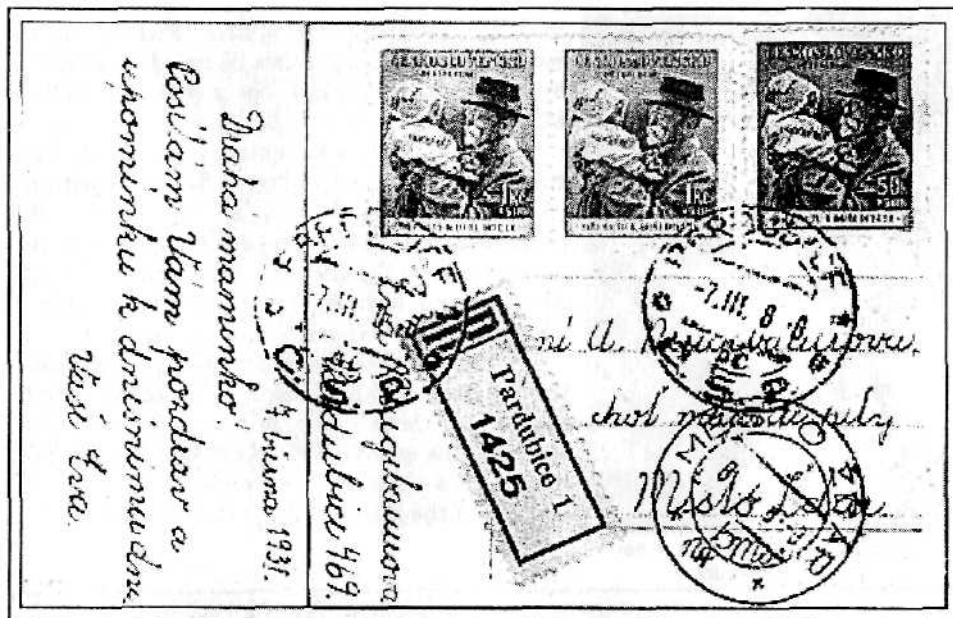


Fig. 8: A post card which Eva sent by registered mail from Pardubice to her mother in Žďár on the day the stamps were issued

The postage stamps were issued by a Bulletin of the Ministry of Post and Telegraph No. 22/38 of March 3, 1938, in values of 50h, 1 Kč, and the souvenir sheet with value of 2 Kč -- all with the validity from March 7, 1938 -- as a charity issue with a surcharge for the benefit of the Children's Relief Program (Fig. 6,7,8). The postage stamps with the normal format were specified for unrestricted sale, while the souvenir sheet was available only to subscribers. It was possible to order the souvenir sheet at a post office after a pre-payment which was tied to the purchase of two sets of stamps for each souvenir sheet desired. No commission was provided from the sale of these stamps, and they were on sale until November 30, 1939. Their validity ended on December 15, 1939.

The design of the stamp including the coupon and the above mentioned souvenir sheet was executed by the eminent designer and engraver Bohumil Heinz (1894-1940). The printing of the stamps was ordered with Unie of Prague. They produced them using the rotary recess printing system on the Stickney printing machines. The souvenir sheet was printed by recess printing from flat printing plates on the Johnston machines.

After the war, Eva Neugebauer reached adulthood, married a young scientist Ladislav Haňka, and in 1950 fled Czechoslovakia with him. They both worked in Frankfurt am Main at a branch of the UN for the assistance of refugees, and at the end of 1951 they received an immigration visa for the USA from the consulate in Frankfurt. They sailed from Bremerhaven by way of the American Navy ship, General Hershey, and on November 24, 1951, they arrived in New York. "During the trip, I was thinking of my home, from which we were moving further and further



Fig. 9. Eva Haňka with her daughter Jana meeting with the Governor of Michigan, G. Milikan, in 1970



Fig. 10  
9

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*away without hope of return," recalls Eva Haňka. "It had appeared, years before, that we had ahead of us a happy future in a free country. This illusion was initially deflated by Hitler, and then the communist putch of February 1948 completely turned everything upside down. We had set out on a journey to the other end of the world, where the future was also uncertain."*

Ladislav and Eva Haňka lived in Marion, Iowa, near Cedar Rapids, one of the centers of Czech emigrants. Ladislav Haňka then got a position at the University at Ames, and after five years he received a doctorate in microbiology. From 1958 he worked for the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on research for a cancer cure, and they still live there today. They have a son Ladislav and a daughter Jana -- both were born in America. The son is an academic painter, as also is his Czech wife. Their daughter -- an economist with a good managerial position in Philadelphia -- is married to an American. Mrs. Eva placed primary importance on raising her children. They both speak Czech well and love Czech songs. Later she went on to teach Latin, German, and English in high school (Fig. 9).

While both were working, they established contacts with Czechoslovak professional people and jointly got behind the founding of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in 1958 with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

After 1989 they both visited their homeland several times, and even met with President Václav Havel (Fig. 10). It was also a great surprise to them to have a new Czech stamp issued with the motif of the one from 1938.

On the square in Žďár on June 17, 1928, originated a photograph which to a certain extent influenced the further destiny of the little girl in the Kyjov folk costume. To this day, it is not completely certain who is the actual author of this picture, which was most likely published by an intermediary of ČTK. Was it Antonín Horník, Jano Šrámek or someone else?

In any case, it is certain that this unique photograph captured in one fleeting moment the warmth of the positive human atmosphere -- the President's renowned love of children and his hope for their better future, as well as the simple effort of the child to please with a bouquet, despite the fact that she did not know to whom she was offering this kindness.



Fig. 11



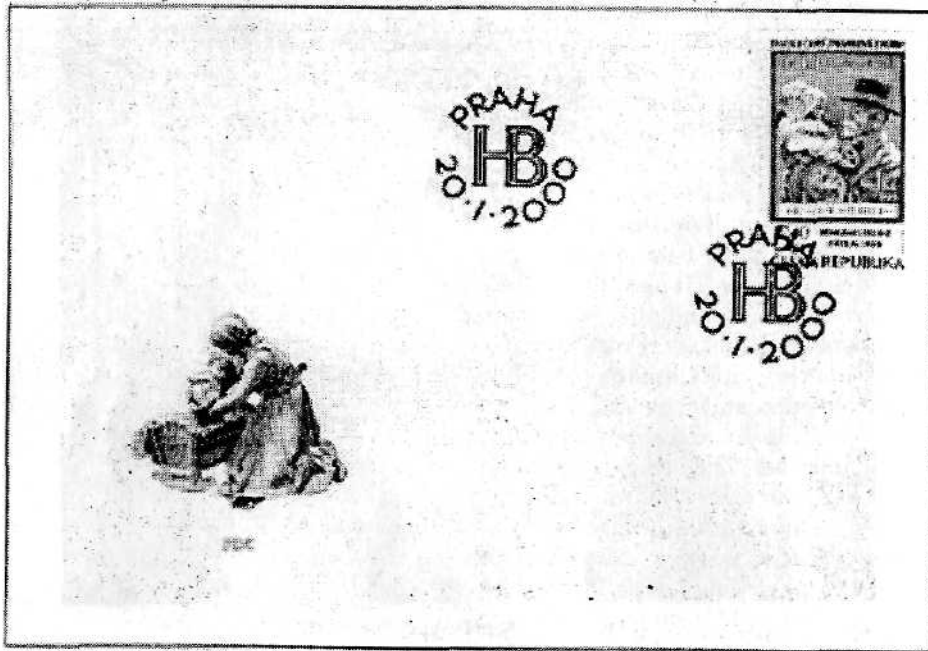


Fig. 12

The Czech postal service included once again in this year's emission program a stamp with the motif of the one from 1938 -- now graphically adapted by Bedřich Housa. The stamp was issued on January 20, 2000 in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series with a value of 5.40 Kč. It was printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black-brown combined with three-color recess print in blue and two shades of red on the WIFAG III printing machine. At the same time they issued a special booklet with eight stamps and four coupons (Fig. 11), and a first day cover (FDC)(Fig. 12). The stamp coupons also include the emblem of the National Postage Stamp Exhibition in Brno of March 5-11, 2000, which took place on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the President T. G. Masaryk's birth.

*[Ed. Note: The BRNO 2000 Exhibition saw the introduction of an 8 x 5 inch, 16 page booklet with the title "Kdo Je Děvčátko Z Poštovní Známký?" as translated above. It was issued in Žďár nad Sazavou by the author in honor of Eva Haňka, whose maiden name was Neugebauer, on the occasion of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. I purchased one of the booklets and decided that its information should be shared with all of our readers. I asked our member in Prague, Lubor Kunc, to contact the author and arrange for permission to publish its contents in The SPECIALIST. After a series of meetings with the author, Lubor was successful in getting the necessary permissions. The author, Karel Černý (born January 12, 1965 in Nové Město in Moravia) is a member of Parliament of the Czech Republic (Fig. 13). During 1989-1992 he was working in*



Figure 13: Eva and the author, 1999

*the County Museum in Žďár nad Sazavou. He was pursuing in particular the region's history in relation to World War II. He publishes in several regional and national publications and is the author or co-author of several books. The photographs are from the private archives of Mikuláš Neugebauer and Jan Janíček --except for the last which is from the author. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the booklet should write to: Karel Černý, Strojirenská 371, CZ - 591 01 Žďár/Sazavou, Czech Republic.]*

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

## THE AGRICULTURE & SCIENCE ISSUE OF 1923 -- FURTHER RETOUCHES

by František Žampach  
trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

Stamps of this issue offer collectors substantial opportunities for study -- opportunities that are still open concerns. The most common stamp of this issue, the 100h type II, is especially noted for the numerous defects in the drafting of the stamp picture, which were even sometimes corrected during the printing process by directly retouching the individual galvans of the ten-stamp printer's block. In such instances only rarely do we know the appearance of the original troublesome defect,



Fig. 1: Flaw

Fig. 2: Retouch

Fig. 3: Normal drawing

because flaws found on the examined impression of any newly finished printer's block were corrected by retouching before being placed into the printing plate assembly.

I introduce here a fairly seldom occurring instance of such a correction to a flawed location in the stamp drawing, where the original flaw is also known. We are concerned here with a colored blemish damaging the drawing of the floral decoration left of the open book's lower corner (Fig. 1).

The correction of this flaw was carried out fairly carefully. But, even so, when comparing the affected location with the normal drawing it shows obvious differences (lower arrow, Fig. 2). After the correction, parts of the floral decoration have a different form. Also, the book's white border is redrawn as an obviously thinner line of similar width as the white hatching of the book pages. Likewise, the details of the floral decorations under the book's white hatched pages is different from the normal drawing (Fig. 3).

As an identifying detail -- for both the flawed and retouched cases -- I offer the subtle coincidental line between the value tablet oval and the hint of ribbon end above the letter A of POŠTA [top arrow, Fig. 1/2).

Both of the described cases -- the flawed and its corrected retouch -- were documented through several similar stamp examples.

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



## FORMATION OF THE BORDERS OF SLOVAKIA AND POLAND (1918-1924)

by Jozef Tekel

trans./edit. by Jaroslav Verner

At the time of the collapse of the Hapsburg dual monarchy, the territory of Slovakia was part of the multinational Hungarian Kingdom, though it did not form an independent administrative-political entity. The historical northern border of Slovakia was the de facto northern border between the Hungarian Kingdom and Poland and after the partition of Poland, between Prussia, Austria, and Russia the border between Hungary and the Austrian region of Halič. The border was already established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the oldest borders in Europe.

F. Juriga, a delegate to the Hungarian Parliament, declared the separation of Slovakia from Hungary on October 19, 1918. On October 27, 1918 Austria-Hungary accepted the terms of Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, for surrender. The declaration of independence of the Czechoslovak state in Prague on October 28, 1918 was the political reaction to this reality. The Slovak National Council sitting in Sv. Turčanská, accepted, on October 30, 1918, the Martin declaration with which it acceded to the unified state of Czechs and Slovaks. The

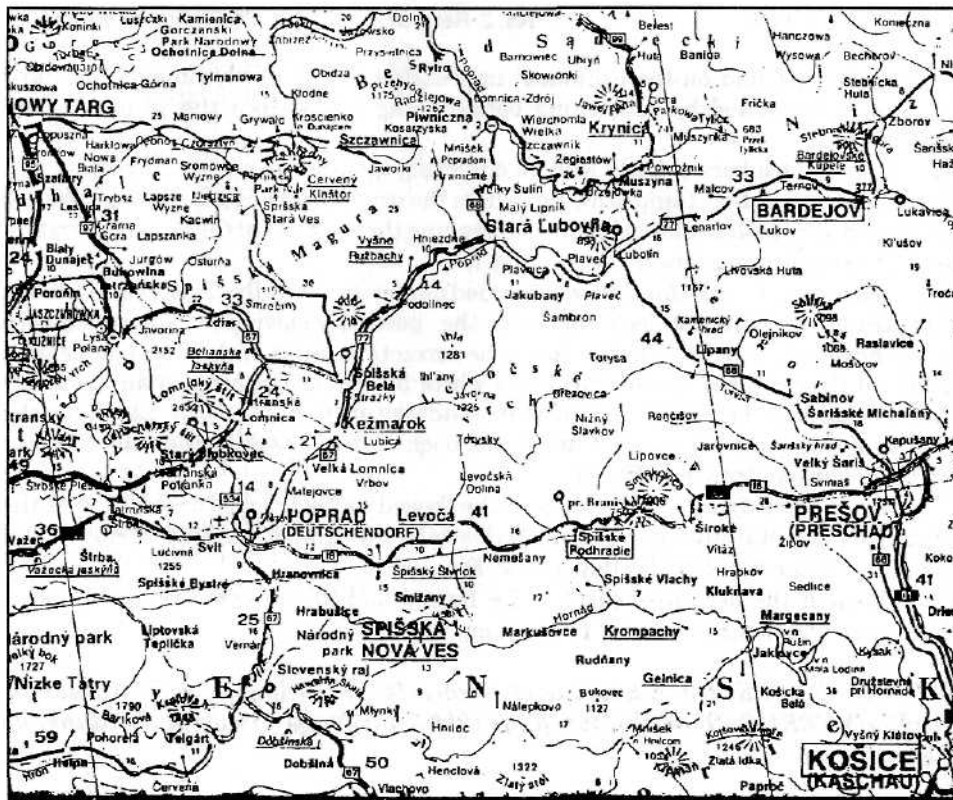


Fig. 1

independent Polish state was re-established on November 14, 1918.

Voluntary units of officers and soldiers from Bohemia and Moravia occupied a substantial part of Slovakia during November and December 1918. These relatively weak Czechoslovak units advanced in mid-December from Vrútok to Poprad and Spišská Novej Ves; their goal was the occupation of Košice. The period from the beginning of November 1918 to the second half of January 1919 is characterized by the gradual transfer of state power into the hands of the new state institutions of the Czechoslovak Republic<sup>1,2,3</sup>.

At the beginning of December 1918 the Polish army crossed the historic borders of Slovakia and advanced from north of the Spiš region into the Poprad river valley (Fig. 1). Its aim was to occupy Stará Lubovna, Kežmarok, and perhaps even Poprad. The command of the Czechoslovak army in Slovakia, headquartered in Uherské Hradiště, eliminated the Polish action with a rapid transfer of volunteer units from the Vrútok region to the Poprad area on December 14 and 15. The main goal of Lt. Col. A. Hrbenský's command (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment; Northern Czech Battalion; Eastern Czech Battalion; 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Slovak Freedom Guards; armored train and support units) was to stop the advance of the Poles driving toward Kežmarok. Czech units occupied Spišská Novej Ves and Levoča on December 16. The Command of the Czechoslovak Army in Slovakia in order No. 1216/10 instructed Lt. Col. Hrbenský to occupy Podolíneč, to send a unit to Stará Lubovna, and to order the Polish Army to immediately leave Slovak territory.

Polish units had penetrated into Spišská Belej on December 17, 1918. With the arrival of Czech units in the Spiš Magura region, the Polish army withdrew to the north without a fight, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Slovak Freedom Guards occupied Kežmarok and Podolíneč on December 16, 1918. On December 21, Polish units again penetrated Podolíneč where they ran into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Slovak Freedom Guards and were driven all the way to Magurka where battle was engaged.

Subsequently Lt. Col. Hrbenský agreed with the Poles on the following temporary demarcation line: Javorina, elevation point 1081, Malá Franková, elevation point 655, Richvald (Veľká Lesná), Height 1086, Height 976, Kamienska, Jaravina, elevation height 856, Malý Lipník. The deployment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Slovak Freedom Guards on December 24, 1918 was: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Company in Kežmarok; 2<sup>nd</sup> Company in Podolíneč and Toporec; 4<sup>th</sup> Company in Spišská Bela and Slovenská Ves. On December 25 the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment was transferred to Kežmarok and Podolíneč. A small part of the battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Company) was sent to Hniezdna, but the main force (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Companies, and headquarters) remained in Podolíneč. On January 6, 1919 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment occupied Stará Lubovna. The temporary demarcation line between the Czechoslovak and Polish armies was valid until January 14, 1919 when the Polish troops left Slovak territory under orders from the Polish government.

The military action during the occupation of the Poprad river basin during December 1918 led to temporary disruption of postal traffic in Northern Spiš. The money order (Fig. 2a/2b) was sent from Bratislava on December 16, 1918, when Bratislava was still in Hungarian hands, to Kežmarok. By December 16 the

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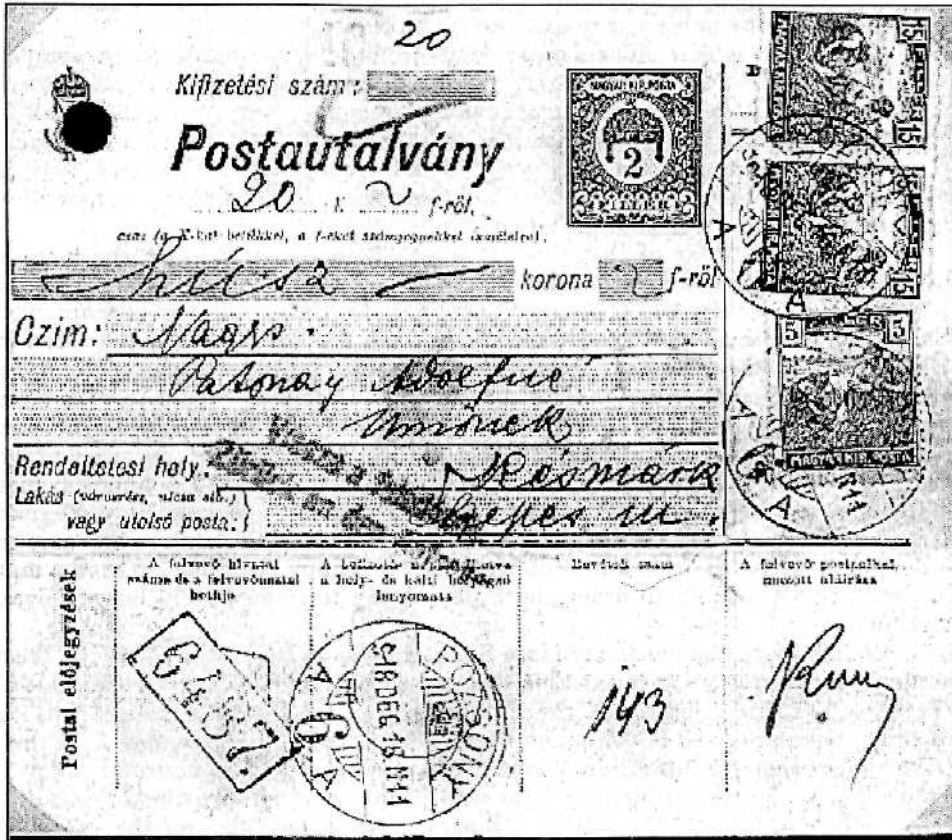


Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b



Czechoslovak army had occupied Poprad and moved toward Kežmarok and Podolínec. This military activity disrupted the Žilina - Košice and Poprad - Podolínec railroad lines thus cutting off mail delivery. Attesting to the inability to deliver this money order is the bi-lingual, two line, black marking "Vissza a feladónak / Zurück an dem Afgabe" (Return to Sender) on the front of the money letter. The money order was returned to Bratislava on December 21, and the Post Office advised the sender on December 24 and 28 that the order had been returned. Finally, on December 30, the sender picked up his money as witnessed by his signature and date on the reverse of the money order. Czechoslovak units occupied Bratislava on January 2, 1919 without resistance. This is an interesting document from 80 years ago.

After the departure of the Poles, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment secured the northern part of Spiš; the 1<sup>st</sup> Company occupied Malý Lipník; 2<sup>nd</sup> Company occupied Mníšek nad Popradem; 3<sup>rd</sup> Company occupied Veľký Lipník; and other Czech units also occupied Spišská Stará Ves and Javorina. The Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry (Volunteer) Regiment was transferred from Podolínec to Hniezdna on January 20, 1919. The Battalion stayed in these positions until April 20, 1919 when it was replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 94<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment.

Meanwhile, a Czech unit (a company of sailors) occupied the villages of Trstená, Jablonka, Suchá Hora and Hladovka in the northern part of the Orava District on December 30, 1918.

The Administration of Field Posts in Prague activated three field posts in Slovakia on January 1, 1919. The units under Lt. Col. A. Hrbenský's command were assigned Field Post 46.

Poland made territorial demands in the Orava and Spiš districts only after the disintegration of Austria-Hungary. These demands were presented in July 1919 at the Czechoslovak - Polish negotiations in Krakov, and at the same time the Poles presented the same demands at the Paris Peace Conference. The industrial region of Eastern Silesia (Těšín) was the main cause of tension between Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1919. On September 27, 1919 the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference in Paris ordered a plebiscite be held in the disputed territory of Eastern Silesia and the northern parts of the Orava and Spiš districts. The plebiscite game for the Poles was played to gain the most valuable parts of Eastern Silesia (Těšinsko). To these claims they added the demand that the border with northern Slovakia be changed, even though the plebiscite in Orava and Spiš did not promise a successful outcome for the Poles. The plebiscite in Northern Orava districts was to take place in the villages of the political district of Spišská Stará Ves. The plebiscite voting in the district of Kežmarok was prepared either in the villages to the northwest of the line of the watershed between the Danube and Poprad river basins or gateway villages who's cadastral lands crossed that line<sup>4,5</sup>.

The plebiscite area of Eastern Silesia as well as the northern areas of Orava and Spiš were placed under the control of the International Plebiscite Commission or Sub-Commission. The Sub-Commission was created by a decision of the International Plebiscite Commission, with headquarters in Těšín, to secure the contested territories in Orava and Spiš. The central office for the territories of Orava and Spiš was located in Rozemberk, and Jan Burjan was named administrator. That office insured communications between the Sub-Commission in Orava and Spiš, the International Plebiscite Commission in Těšín, and the

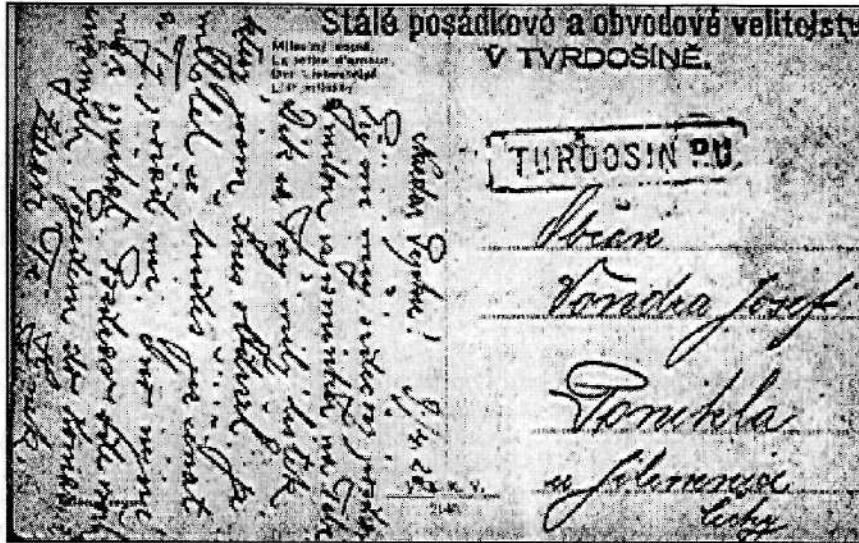


Fig. 3a



Fig. 3b

Czechoslovak state administration. The function of the Government Commissioner for the plebiscite territory of Orava was held by Ján Janeček, Jr. with an office in Trstená. The Commissioner for Spiš was Msgr. Marian Bláha with an office in Spišská Bela. At the request of the International Plebiscite Commission the

plebiscite area was demilitarized. Czechoslovak military units in northern Orava were withdrawn to the area around Tvrdošín and from northern Spiš to the area around Spišská Belej. This reality can be attested to by the two post cards in Figures 3a and 3b.

The exchange of postal cancelers in the Slovak territory was undertaken at the initiative of Ján Burjan<sup>6</sup>, who, on November 11, 1919, sent this request to the Ministry of Post and Telegraph in Prague. All the post offices in the plebiscite territory of Orava and Spiš received new cancelers bearing the initials "Č.S.P." (Czechoslovak Post) at the bottom with the circles. The Czechoslovak and Polish postal administration overprinted, at the request of the International Plebiscite Commission, currently valid stamps with the two line legend "S.O. 1920" (Silesia Orientale and/or Spiš and Orava). The overprinted stamps were valid both in the plebiscite area and in Czechoslovakia or Poland.

During the period of validity of the overprinted stamps there were 34 post offices, two postal offices, and two rail post offices in Orava and Spiš<sup>7</sup>. In northern Orava there were 25 post offices: Bobrov, Breza, Dolná Lipnica, Erdutka, Hladovka, Hruštín, Chyzné, Jablonka, Klin, Liesek, Lokce, Mútne, Námestovo, Novot', Podvlk, Polhora Oravská, Rabčice, Slanica, Trstená, Ústie, Veselé, Višná Zubrica, Zámkamenné-Klin, Zubrohlava, and the postal agency Krušetnica. In northern Spiš there were 9 post offices: Fridman, Hanušovice, Javorina, Nededza, Ostruňa, Smerdzonka, Spišská Stará Ves, Tribš, Velký Lipník, and the postal agency Velká Lesná (Kristályfalu in Hungarian). The date cancel from Velký Lipník is also known on Hradčany stamps with the SO 1920 overprint<sup>8</sup>.

Names of the post offices are transcribed here as they appear on the date cancelers of 1920 with the exception of the post office at Slanica which received an incorrectly spelled (Slanice) date canceler. The rail post office Kralovany - Suchá Hora (and return) 951 and 952 received new cancelers only in the second half of 1919.

The planned plebiscite did not actually take place, because Ministers of Foreign Affairs Eduard Beneš (Czechoslovakia) and W. Grabski (Poland) announced on July 10, 1920 that they had agreed to call off the plebiscite and accept the decision of the Great Powers regarding the disputed territory. In northeast Orava, Poland received the villages of Srnie, Pódvlk, Hrabakúz, Vyšná a Nižná Zubica, Oravka, Bukovina-Podskie, Pekelnik, Jablonka, Chyzné, Vyšná Lipnica, Hladovka and Suchá Hora. In northeast Spiš, it received Nová Bela, Krempach, and Fridman along with the settlement Falštín, Tribš, Durštín, Čierna Hora, Jurgov, Repisko, Vyšné a Nižné Lapše, Nedeca, Kacvín and Lapšanka. In total Poland received from the Conference of Ambassadors (held in Spa, Belgium) territory in northern Orava consisting of 398 square kilometers and 16,133 residents; in northern Spiš it received 198 square kilometers of territory and 8,747 residents.

*Monografie 5<sup>9</sup>* deals in considerable detail with the stamps and postal stationery bearing the SO 1920 overprints of both postal authorities and also considers their use in Eastern Silesia, Orava, and Spiš.

The exchange of part of Dolná Lipnica for the villages of Hladovka and Suchá Hora in 1924 as well as certain minor adjustments to the border in the vicinity of Javorina were the last border changes until the fall of 1938. The villages of Hladovka and Suchá Hora which the Poles acquired in 1920 were returned to Slovakia. The Czechoslovak postal administration had opened a new post office in Hladovka in 1920, still during the validity of the SO 1920 postal material. After the

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

exchange of Hladovka and Suchá Hora, the Czechoslovak postal administration opened a new post office in Suchá Hora on October 1, 1924, but it did not reopen the one in Hladovka.

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3. Hronský, M.: "Priebeh vojenského obsadzovania Slovenska Československým vojskom od novembra 1918 do januára 1919", *Historický časopis*, 32, No. 1, 1984; pp. 734-757
4. Klimko, J.: *Vývoj územia Slovenska a utváranie jeho hraníc*, Bratislava, 1980
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7. Tekel, J.: "Poštové pečiatky plebiscitného územia r. 1920", *Filatelie*, 40, No. 6, 1990; pp. 177-179
8. Tekel, J.: "SO 1920 -- poštovne plebiscitného území Slovenska", *Slovenská filatelia*, 3, No. 4, 1994; pp. 18-19
9. Tovačovský, O., Schödelbauer, V., Kypast, J.: *SO 1920, Monografie čs. známek (5 vol.)*, Praha, 1998

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## WAS THERE A FIFTH ZEPPELIN FLIGHT TO SOUTH AMERICA IN 1932?

By Henry Hahn

Collectors of Czechoslovak Air Mail are generally familiar with and use the excellent catalogue authored by MUDr Petr Horka entitled "Československá Letecká Pošta 1918-1939", published by TROJAN in 1997 and available for sale through the Society. On page 159 of the catalogue we find a listing of flights from Friedrichshafen to South America of which there are 10, giving dates of departure from Friedrichshafen in 1932. This year was the first in which Czechoslovakia was part of the treaty with Germany allowing the covers to be franked with only Czechoslovak stamps.

The catalogue gives the date of departure of the fifth flight as August 15<sup>th</sup> -- but in a note at the bottom of the page it is stated that "the announced flight on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1932 did not take place . . ."

Did I jump when I saw the 5<sup>th</sup> flight offered for sale in a recent New York auction catalogue? You bet I did! I bought the cover for about \$280, and immediately took it to Prague (where I was going anyway) to do a little bragging. The cover and the BERLIN - C transit and RACIFE arrival postmarks are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

But things are not that simple. The cachet, in purple, with the eagle indeed reads "5 SUDAMERIKAFAHRT 1932" with the 5 not entirely visible, since it is imprinted on the edge of the "MIT ZEPPELIN" label. Hence, yes! -- there was a fifth Zeppelin flight in 1932!

But now let's look at the dates, which are August 27<sup>th</sup> leaving PRAGUE, August 28<sup>th</sup> transit BERLIN, and September 1<sup>st</sup> arrival in RACIFE. These dates correspond to the date given in the Horka catalogue for departure of the 6<sup>th</sup> flight.



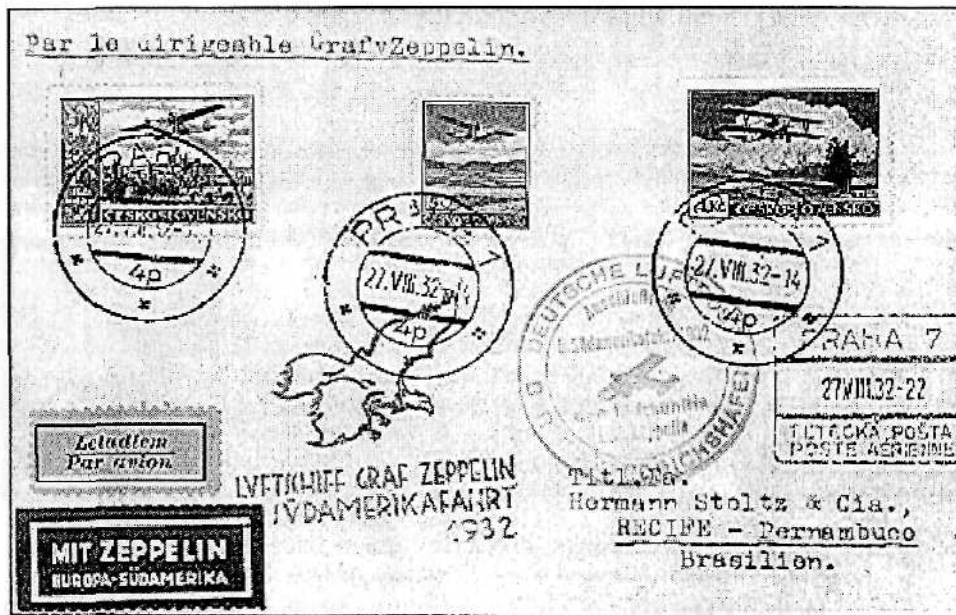


Fig. 1

Would the Germans have placed the cachet of the 5<sup>th</sup> flight on a piece of mail going on the 6<sup>th</sup> flight? Not very likely.

Could the catalogue be in error despite including the "bible" of Zeppelin mail, the Sieger "Zeppelinpost Special-Katalog, 20. Auflage" in its listing of literature used in preparation of the catalogue? Yes, I believe the catalogue to be wrong. While a flight might have been originally scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>, that flight was not issued flight number 5, but that number was issued for the next actual departure, i.e. August 29<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the departures that year include:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Flight on September 12<sup>th</sup>
- 7<sup>th</sup> Flight on September 26<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Flight on October 9<sup>th</sup>
- 9<sup>th</sup> Flight on October 24<sup>th</sup>

Thus, there were only 9 flights in 1932 instead of 10 flights as listed in the Horka Catalogue. Not having available the Sieger Special-Katalog, I instead confirmed these facts with a well known American Zeppelin mail specialist -- Gerhard Wolff. I also examined the cachet of my October 24<sup>th</sup> Flight, and found it as well as the accompanying Anschlussflug cancel to be marked as the 9<sup>th</sup> Flight.

End of story. Please correct your copy of the Horka catalogue and consider only 9 Zeppelin covers for completion of the first year of Czechoslovak Zeppelin Mail. Oh yes, the Horka catalogue is still darn good!



Fig. 2

## CZECH SCOUT POST 10h TRANSITIONAL MASARYK OVERPRINTS

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

The Czech Scout Post was reactivated for one day on December 21, 1918 to support the arrival of President Thomas G. Masaryk in Prague. Six hundred copies of the 10h blue Scout Post stamps were overprinted "Příjezd presidenta Masaryka"



Fig. 1a:  
10h blue stamp  
overprinted in red

(Arrival of President Masaryk) in brick red, and 1,000 copies of the 20h red were overprinted in dull black, by the Knapp Printing Plant in the Karlín district of Prague for use only on that day (Fig. 1a & 1b). Unused remainders were promptly destroyed, and it is estimated that only a small number of each value of these overprints have survived.



Fig. 1b: 20h red stamp  
overprinted in black

One of the rarities of the Czech Scout Post is the 10h blue stamp overprinted in red with tinges of black on top of the red. Such stamps were first discussed and

illustrated in the November 1978 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* in "Czech Scout Stamps -- The Masaryk Overprints" by Ján Dvořák and the late Lester A. Behnke (page 146 and Figure 2), which was reprinted from the October 1975 issue of the journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans. At that time the authors stated:

"Evidently the black overprint was first applied to the 20h red stamp. Later, the same printing plate was inked with red for the printing of the 10h blue stamp without removing all of the black ink. This produced a few 10h stamps with the overprint showing a red color tinged with black . . . Only a few of these exist, but they do appear occasionally in international exhibitions."



Fig. 2a: 10h blue stamp  
overprinted in red heavily  
tinged with black

One of these 10h transitional Masaryk overprints was offered in the Majer & Thraumb auction conducted on March 5, 2000 in Brno, Czech Republic, in conjunction with the FEPA-sanctioned regional philatelic exhibition BRNO 2000 (Fig. 2a). At first glance, the overprint on this stamp appears to be in black ink with traces of red ink bleeding out from under the overprint letters and forming thin red outlines around these black letters. The auction catalog description ". . . 10h blue, black overprint . . . under the black overprint are traces of red" reflects the appearance of the overprint. Because of the large amount of black ink still remaining on the printing plate when it was inked with red to overprint this stamp, the overprint deceptively gives the appearance that it is black tinged with red, when it is in fact red heavily tinged with black. The high pressure under

which the printing plate was pressed against the stamp caused some of the red ink to slide off the residual black ink, bleed out from under the overprint letters, and form thin red outlines around these black letters.

There is an offset (set-off) of the overprint in red on the reverse of this stamp (Fig. 2b). This offset resulted from the stamp's having been placed on top of another stamp with a red overprint before the ink of that overprint had completely dried. The red offset is only slightly tinged with black. So, the other stamp must have been produced later, after the residual black ink on the printing plate had almost completely worn off. The stamp is also signed on the reverse by the Czech philatelic experts Gilbert and Mrňák.

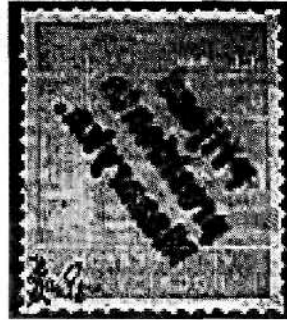


Fig. 2b: Overprint offset in red slightly tinged with black

It is not known exactly how many 10h transitional Masaryk overprints exist, though the number is probably quite small. The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog states, "This stamp was exhibited only once, at PRAGA 1968 . . . Unique item, Outstanding quality, an exceptional opportunity". The stamp had a reserve of 1,700,000 Czech krouns (about US \$46,000), drew no bids, and went unsold. After the auction, the stamp was purchased for an undisclosed amount by a Scouts collector.



## PETER JAN BRANDL 1668-1735

By G. M. van Zanten

Peter Jan Brandl was born in Prague in 1668, the youngest of six children. At the age of 13 his parents sent Petr to Kristián Schröder. Schröder was a painter of mediocre talent, who became in later life an art gallery inspector and court painter. Apparently Schröder let the young Brandl study painting in an art gallery, which greatly assisted his exceptional talent.

As a result of this enormous talent, abilities, creative potential, industry, as well as his passionate temperament as a brilliant painter, his name soon spread far and wide. As a critic once wrote: "Brandl marked and still marks the beginning of an epoch". His contemporaries described him as "celeberrimus omnino et per totem Europam famosus pictor" -- in other words, a very famous painter renowned all over Europe.

Figure 1 shows his self portrait at the age of 29 as shown on the 1.20 Kč art stamp of 1967 [Pof. 1650, Sc. 1510].

He lead a turbulent life with periods of comfort -- surrounded by servants and affluence -- as well as spells in the debtors' jail. Through all this he managed to translate his passionate, stormy and at times debauched life-style into great and first-rate paintings.



Fig. 1

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His painting technique was marked by a bold and yet unbelievably steady touch of his brush. He used thick layers of paint, and there is no other Czech creative artist who had such powerful influence on the viewer.

An exhibition of his works in 1968 listed 20 monumental altar paintings, including works measuring up to 5 meters in height and width, 27 murals with religious motifs, 7 genre paintings, 14 portraits and 23 drawings.

Fortunately his works were greatly admired by his contemporaries and subsequent generations of art lovers and were duly recorded.

Figure 2 shows a detail of the 17 Kč stamp described in the New Issues column of this issue.



Fig. 2

Brandl's works can be seen in the following churches in and around Prague: the church of Our Lady Victorious, St. Joseph's church - his 1702 gilded high altar depicting "The Holy Family", the church of St. Margaret in Břevnov - has a number of altar pieces dating from 1720.

Brandl's end provided an apt epitaph to the life of the great painter. In the year 1734 he was haunted by his creditors, settled in the rich mining town of Kutná Hora. It was in this town where Brandl created his last two paintings and where he died in utter desolation and loneliness on September 24, 1735.

An official report on his belongings found upon his death lists "neither paints nor brushes, only one overcoat which it turned out to be somebody else's anyway . . ." Only after his death did the town wake up to the greatness of the painter. A grand funeral was organized, with town councilors and 300 mineworkers carrying lamps marching in the procession.

This was a symbolic homage to a great painter.

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## NEW MEMBERS WANTED

HELP your society to grow! Enlist a fellow collector of Czechoslovak stamps for membership. Talk up the Society at your local stamp club or exhibition. Membership benefits are listed periodically on page two of issues. If you still have it, there were two application forms tied in to the middle of the July/August 2000 issue. If not, application forms and Society information are available from our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225.



**THE SLOVENSKÝ ŠTÁT/1939 OVERPRINT  
AND AIRMAIL TO FOREIGN LANDS**

by Jozef Tekel  
trans. by Joseph Lacko

The series of regular Czechoslovak postage stamps with the *Slovenský štát/1939* overprint belongs among the most popular Slovak postage stamps. The lower values (5h to 1 Kč -- national emblem and portraits) were valid as postage until July 10, 1939 and their usage on mail is common. The overprinted and un-overprinted crown values (1.20 to 10 Kč -- countryside landscapes) were only valid until April 16, 1939. Specialists especially seek covers franked with the high valued overprinted stamps. The first reference<sup>1</sup> directs our attention to such covers. The passage of six decades since the overprinting enhances the objectivity of the importance of finding certain stamps on covers and allows for a genuine evaluation of their philatelic importance. Covers franked with overprinted stamps that were posted in March or April 1939 to foreign lands forms a special group of mail. Registered, express, or airmail covers are very much sought after. Generally, this does not apply to mail addressed to the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Certain values (2 Kč to 5 Kč) of the Czechoslovak airmail stamps issued in 1930 (L9 to L12 [Sc. C12 - C15]) lost their validity in Slovakia on March 31, 1939<sup>2</sup>. These values were used for franking airmail sent to European countries and to most of the countries of the rest of the world. The highest values -- 10 Kč and 20 Kč -- were used to frank covers to countries in South America or on high valued mail. The shortage of airmail stamps created a situation where regular stamps were temporarily substituted. During the period April 1, 1939 to November 20, 1939 the



Fig. 1

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un-overprinted and overprinted Czechoslovak stamps and the regular Slovak issues were used for airmail postage. This noteworthy historical period of Slovak airmail awaits further detailed study.

This article draws attention to an interesting airmail item (Fig. 1). A regular airmail cover of the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight step (11 to 20 grams) was mailed from the Bratislava 1 post office on April 9, 1939 to an address in Paris. The postal franking (3.50 Kč) includes a total of the regular cover postage (2.50 Kč) and the airmail surcharge (2 x 50h) to France<sup>3</sup>. The airmail cover is franked with stamps of 3 Kč and 50h values which are overprinted *Slovenský štát/1939*. The arrival of the cover in Paris is verified by a high quality postmark with the text PARIS VII / 11 IV 39H / R. CLER. The cover could not be delivered to the addressee, because she had departed for the USA.

The finding of a *Slovenský štát/1939* overprinted 3 Kč stamp on an intra-state registered letter is interesting, but it is not extraordinary. Of greater value is finding an express registered cover with this stamp. Finding this 3 Kč stamp on an airmail cover to a distant European country is rare. Including such covers in a philatelic exhibit (Slovak Republic 1939 to 1945) is evidence of a collector with expert knowledge. This fact should not be overlooked by the exhibition jury.

The currency unit designation (Kč) is not correct -- it is used only because of its relationship to the stamp's face value. The currency unit in Slovakia from April 4, 1939<sup>4</sup> was the Slovak crown (Ks).

Non-philatelic covers with *Slovenský štát/1939* overprinted stamps deserve the attention of collectors both here and abroad. Unfortunately these covers are objects of intense interest by counterfeiters<sup>5,6</sup> -- thus I recommend caution in purchasing them.

### Literature:

<sup>1</sup> Tekel, J.: *Merkur Review*, 1, no. 4, 1996, pp18-19

<sup>2</sup> Tekel, J.: *Filatelie*, 46, no. 10, 1996, pp8-10

<sup>3</sup> Tekel, A.: Airmail in Slovakia 1939-1945, enclosure of the journal *Filatelie* (no.8/1997)

<sup>4</sup> Government Order No. 45, April 4, 1939

<sup>5</sup> Tekel, J.: *Merkur Review*, 1, no. 5, 1996, p10

<sup>6</sup> Tekel, J., Šablatura, S.: *Zberateľ*, 1, no. 3, 1995, pp11-12

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

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## MEET OUR FELLOW COLLECTORS IN THE NETHERLANDS by Henry Hahn

It was last October that I received an invitation from our good and notable friend, Hans Klein, to address the Dutch society of Czechoslovak collectors while enjoying a lovely visit to Wassenaar as his guest. I presented a talk on the Vienna and Prague Pneumatic Mails which lasted about 2½ hours -- Vienna before lunch and Prague after lunch -- at the Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. To my pleasant surprise, some 23 members attended, most of whom I had never met before, but essentially all of whom spoke English and proved themselves more knowledgeable and enthusiastic than I would have expected. Upon concluding, I asked their President, Jan Verleg, to provide me with some facts which would help me to introduce their Society to ours. The following is an outline of what he wrote.

The Dutch members of the German Bundesarge Tschechoslowakei formed their own group within the German society some 18 years ago under the driving force of Gerrit van der Velde. Their early members included Leo Wijnkamp, whom some of us remember from PRAGA'78, and Eckart Dissen, known to members of our Society by his book on the Czechoslovak issues of the New York World's Fair. The group included some 20 members, mostly Dutch, and a few from Flanders (the Dutch speaking part of Belgium). About 15 years ago Jan Verleg took over as President from Leo Wijnkamp, and a few years later Hans van Dooremallen took over as Secretary from Eckart Dissen.

In 1991 the group registered as an independent society with its own Constitution under the name Vereeniging voor Tsjechoslowakije Filatelie (Society for Czechoslovak Philately) and became a member of the Dutch League of Philatelic Societies. This was of particular help in enabling members to participate in exhibits and to gain recognition. However, the Constitution required that members also be members of the Bundesarge, which tied them strongly to the German society. At the time the Dutch Society had 30 members -- not enough to become a fully independent society.

On October 28, 1999, (a symbolic date for Czechoslovakia), the Dutch Society declared its own independence by a Constitutional change eliminating the need for members to belong to the Bundesarge. Jan Verleg and Hans van Dooremallen continued in the functions of President and Secretary, and currently their Society's membership approaches a total of 60. Ctibor Sobotka was named Auction Officer, and Henk van der Heiden was named Circuit Officer. The Society is currently planning its own web site and the publication of a journal within one year. There are currently three meetings each year, attended by about 20 members. One of the meetings each year is in the home of a member -- the last one having taken place at Hans Klein's.

Members of the Dutch Society have numerous publications to their credit, including "De Tsjechoslowaakse Veldpost in Siberie" (The Czechoslovak Field Post in Siberia) by Jan van der Kreke, "The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair" by Eckart Dissen, "Handboek Tsjechoslowakije 1918-1948, deel 1 Frankeerzegels" (Handbook Czechoslovakia 1918-1948, part 1, Postage Stamps) by Jan Verleg -- the last one donated by the author to our library.

The Dutch Society has recently participated in a non-competitive Dutch

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exhibition called Postex by submitting an exhibit prepared by 10 members. Their best known exhibitor is Hans Klein, winner of numerous international Grand Awards, Large Golds and Special Prizes with his exhibits Czechoslovakia 1918-1938 and Kingdom of Bohemia. His exhibits are considered the finest ever assembled anywhere and at any time. Others include Hans van Dooremallen's "Postal History of Brno 1638-1869" which won a Large Vermeil + Special Prize at BRNO'00, and Jan Verleg's "Postal History and Stamps of the Carpatho-Ukraine" which has received a Vermeil + Special Prize (under the pseudonym ANNIE). There have been many others, shown both in Europe and the USA.

The Dutch Society has no library, though Jan Verleg's with some 110 titles is available to all members. According to Mr. Verleg, I was the first non-Dutch lecturer to the newly independent Society, to be followed by Jan Karásek of the Czech Republic in April 2001.

Dues for local members are 15 Dutch Guilders or 7 Euro. For members abroad, dues are 15 Euro (about \$12.80), and those wishing to join may contact their Secretary, Hans van Dooremallen by e-mail at <cs-filatelie@wolfsweide.nl>.

Finally, I believe I speak for the entire SCP in wishing our Dutch friends many years of success, and offer them our closest cooperation.

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## NEW MEMBERS

### ARIZONA

1889 Eugene Dreger

### COLORADO

1901 Cloff Lownes

### MINNESOTA

1895 Hugh Osborne

### NEW JERSEY

1905 Eileen Derry

### OHIO

1900 Kenneth Neal

### WASHINGTON D.C.

1893 Don Prater

### DENMARK

1898 Rene Jensen

### GREAT BRITAIN

1897 Richard Beith

### CALIFORNIA

1899 John Ayres

1902 John Merritt

### MARYLAND

1904 Dr. Greg Herbert

### NORTH DAKOTA

1896 Ernest Breznay

### NEVADA

1888 Eugene Dreger

### PENNSYLVANIA

1894 Nancy Godfrey

### VIRGINIA

1890 Richard Small

1891 Martin Wilson

### CZECH REPUBLIC

1892 Jiří Sedlak

1903 Vladimír Munzberger



## PHILATELIC JOURNALS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

by Miloslav Vlček

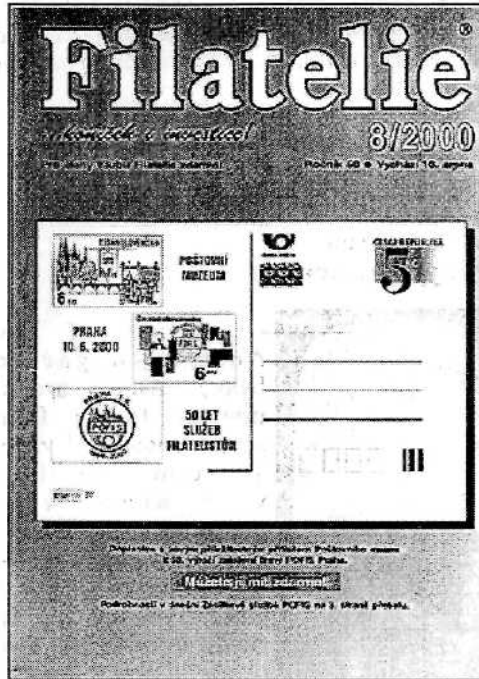


Fig. 1

dealer booths or shops as well as by subscription. The single copy price is 37 Kč. The annual subscription cost is 398 Kč.

*Merkur Review* (Fig. 2) is a specialized journal on philately, numismatics and bank notes. Published by Merkur Review of Brno, it is issued five times a year on chalk paper and is for sale only at certain stamp shops or by subscription. As a concession, the publisher issues a philatelic print each year free to its subscribers. Its contents feature news about past and future stamp shows, auctions and other philatelic activities, including short surveys of literature, many of which are abstracted and translated from our *SPECIALIST*. Price of a subscription

Just as in the U.S. where there are two leading journals in the form of newspaper publications -- Linn's Weekly and Global Stamp News (a monthly) -- so there are also two major journals in the Czech Republic -- *Filatelie* and *Merkur Review*. While this bit of information may be of common knowledge to many of our American members, some of the details concerning these two Czech journals may be of further interest to them.

*Filatelie* (Fig. 1) is published by the Klub Filatelie Praha and issued the eighth day of each month. It contains specialized articles about new stamps printed within the Czech Republic and elsewhere along with information contained in foreign journals including the *SPECIALIST*. It has a circulation of about 6,000 and is available at stamp



Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

from abroad is available on request to the publisher.

*[Ed. Note: The biggest problem with both of these journals is that -- other than for a possible very short synopsis paragraph in English for some of the articles -- they are entirely in Czech or Slovak. The cost to receive Filatelie for a year is 1,090 Kč, and for Merkur Review it is about \$35.00. They are both excellent journals, and if anyone is interested, please contact the editor.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL HEAVY ARTILLERY

by Miroslav Vostatek  
trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

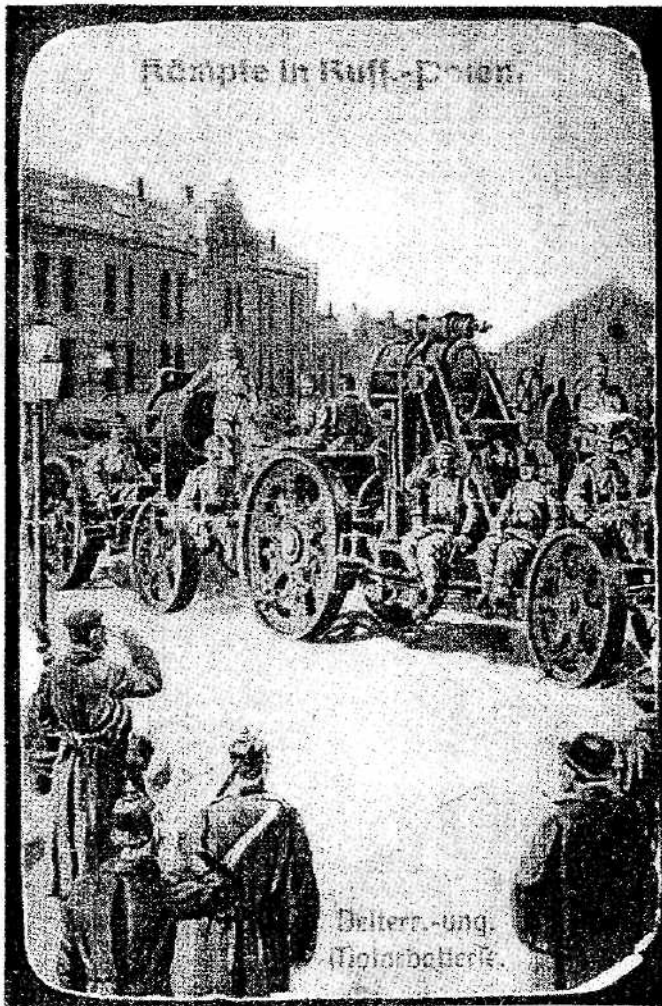


Fig. 1

Units of the Austro-Hungarian heavy artillery are of interest to us from several points of view. To begin with these very arms were produced by the Škoda Factory in Plzeň, where a number of our technicians took part in their construction. Two of the heavy howitzer Divisions had their stations in Bohemia: No. 8 in Prague and No. 9 in Terezín. The Škoda' arms were very modern and efficient for that time, and it would probably surprise many people to know that they were motorized. The well known designer Ferdinand Porsche created the so called gas/electric train for the guns. It was a motorized vehicle with some very useful features which was originally to have been built in Adamov, but was eventually

produced by the firm Austro-Daimler. In order to continue this tale, it is certainly worth mentioning that in 1938 these vehicles were used in the transportation of steel turret fortifications through the difficult hilly terrain of the border area.

There are not many documents from these units that went through the post. One of them is a postally used picture postcard from

"Battles in Russian Poland" illustrating an Austro-Hungarian motorized battery (Fig. 1/2). This Field Post card is dated 24.4.1917 and was posted by way of FP 399 (Fig. 3), which began operations in October 1916. In the 1917 military journal it states that the Schwere Haubitz Division No. 4 was in Hajmastér (I was unable to find it on the map, perhaps now it is named differently). In the written communication on the card we do not find any historical information or description, but springing forth from it are a soldier's feelings of unhappiness and depression as he writes to České Budějovice.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

It would surely be helpful to say something more about the artillery. The Imperial heavy artillery was also active on the Western front against France. For example, in 1916 and in 1918 two batteries of 42 cm howitzers, model 14, were repeatedly located near Verdun [France]. In addition, on various sectors of the front there were positioned batteries of 38 cm howitzers and 42 cm cannons from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiments. The 8<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment was supplemented by personnel from Czech lands, and its reserve battery was stationed in Jaroměř. At Verdun the commander of the Austro-Hungarian heavy artillery group was Colonel Nádherný. Later -- after 1918 -- he became an officer in the Czechoslovak Army. On 5

November 1918 at 0800 hours a 42 cm self-propelled Škoda howitzer fired the last artillery rounds of the dying Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Literature:

Karlický, V.: "Tricetiletá cesta těžkých děl Škoda", *Hist. a Voj. XLV*, 1996, 2, 173

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from the MERKUR-REVIEW, May/June 1999, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

*Souvenir Sheet Varieties*  
by Frank A. Garancovsky

Václav Havel, 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Scott 2994, POFIS A124

The following information is translated from the new Merkur Revue catalog of the Czech Republic issues from 1993-1999. The printing format of this issue (Fig. 1) included 12 s/s positions designated as A through L which are differentiated by minute plate faults. The descriptions listed are generally microscopic and many are only visible under a 30 power magnification. A recent lot from a Czech auction was individually marked, however, several were miss-identified. Additionally, some dots

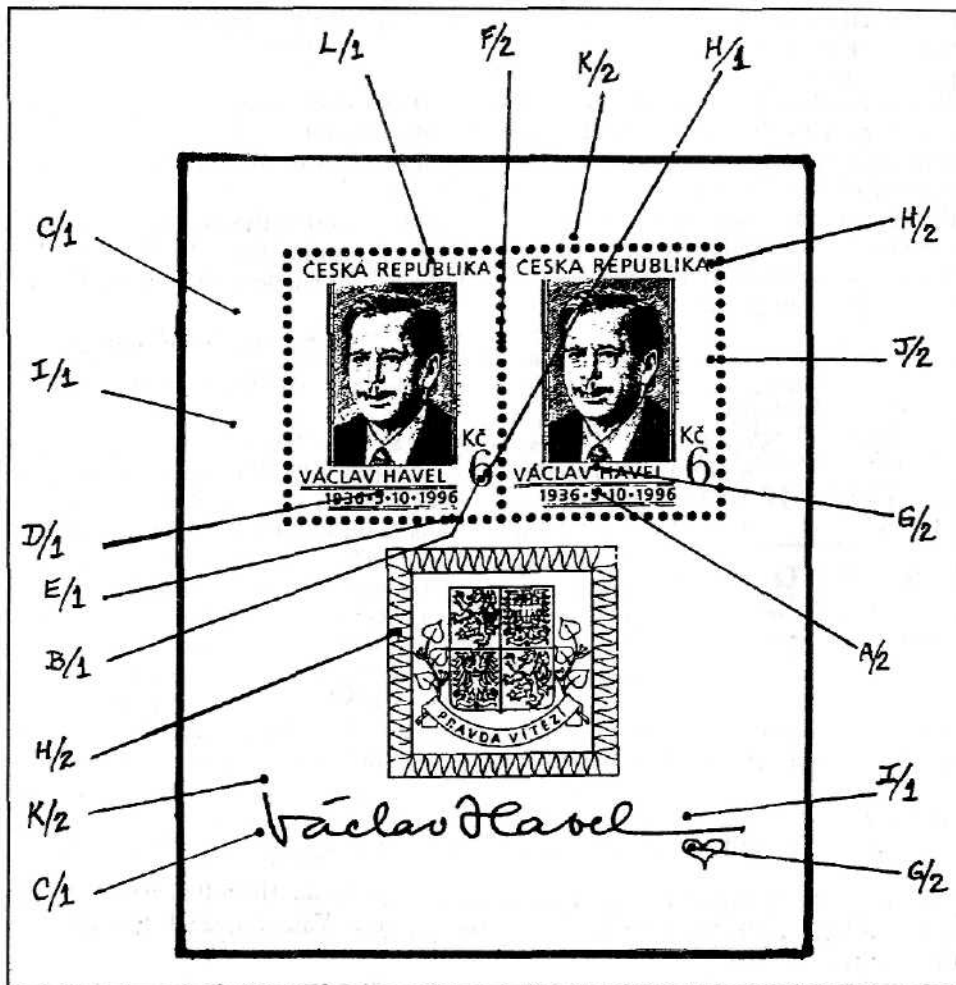


Fig. 1



may appear as scratches and vice versa.

- A: ZP 2 - weak dot within the "5" (·5·10·), immediately next to the vertical middle bar of the 5
- B: ZP 1 - small blue blemish or group of blemishes to the lower right in the "6" (6 Kč)
- C: ZP 1 - blue scratch in the left margin 7 mm left of ZP 1 on the level of the 5<sup>th</sup> perforation opening from the top  
- by the signature below left, red dots near the first letter "V" (Václav)
- D: ZP 1 - very weak dot to the right in the "5" (·5·10·), immediately beneath the top horizontal cross-piece of the 5
- E: ZP 1 - red blemishes under the numbers "96" (1996) within the bottom perforations
- F: ZP 2 - weak horizontal scratch in the perforations between the stamps on the level of the 8<sup>th</sup> perforation opening from the top
- G: ZP 2 - blue dot on the upper right after the second "V" (Václav)  
- horizontal scratch to the left in the heart
- H: ZP 1 - red blemishes to the right in the number "6" (6 Kč)  
ZP 2 - weak scratch behind the "A" (Republika)  
- by the Presidential standard, blemishes in the left border 11.5 mm from the top of the standard
- I: ZP 1 - weak blue horizontal scratch 7.5 mm left of the left perforations on the level of the 8<sup>th</sup> perforation opening from the bottom  
- weak blue scratch above the horizontal portion of the "L" of Havel's signature
- J: ZP 2 - two blue scratches about 1 mm to the left of the right perforations on the level of the 12<sup>th</sup> perforation opening from the bottom - to the right of "Fajt"
- K: ZP 2 - short scratch about 3 mm above "A" (Česká)  
- blue dot 1.5 mm from the upper tip of the first "V" (Václav) of his signature
- L: ZP 1 - weak blue dot very near the upper right part of the "U" (Republika)



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The finest collection of Czechoslovak philatelic literature outside of the Czech and Slovak Republics is at your fingertips as a Society member. Contact our librarian, Richard Palaschak, for a Library Catalog listing of the books and periodicals that are available (or if you have an Internet connection, go to: [www.erols.com/sibpost](http://www.erols.com/sibpost)) -- there are currently 342 of them. He will also provide you with all of the details on borrowing items by mail. You can reach him at 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 22031.

## A VISIT TO BRNO

by Ian Nutley

From 5 - 11 March, Brno, second city of the Czech Republic, was the venue for a National Philatelic Exhibition. Doctor Johnson once said of the Giant's Causeway: "Worth seeing but not worth going to see." The same can be said of Brno, which does not contain very much of great beauty except the cathedral and one or two fine churches, and certainly cannot compare with the jewel that is Prague. In addition, the city suffers from an acute graffiti problem, the price of freedom perhaps although it boasts an excellent tram system but no subway. Also, the city has no airport, so that the group with which I travelled, about 30 members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of G.B., flew to Vienna where a coach awaited us to transfer us to Brno.



Souvenir Postmarks from Brno

The Exhibition was excellently organized, and held in the Kongresové Centrum, a short tram ride from the city center, and but a short walk from the first class, four-star hotel, the Voroněž, which was our home for nearly six days. As is common with Czech exhibitions, the main halls contained only the frames, and no dealers. There were 235 exhibits, from 20 countries, including the U.K. The standard was generally quite high, obviously the accent being on Czechoslovak material, although fine entries were represented of other territories including Switzerland, French Levant, Montenegro and Ceylon among others, along with thematics

and airmails. I thought one or two entries were well below national standard, but overall a good level was maintained. Only one large gold medal was awarded, to the Dutchman Hans Klein, with an exhibit of the postal history of Bohemia; ten gold medals were awarded. Ten official dealers were present in an adjacent information center, although two of them were selling accessories only, and almost next door to this was the post office. The modern Czech collector is very well provided for, there being here a plethora of stamps, postal stationery and the obligatory souvenir covers, to which one of four commemorative postmarks could be applied. Business was brisk, and I had to wait some time for six 7 Kroner stamps to put on postcards to England! Again, in common with most Czech exhibitions, nearby was a bourse organized by the dealers themselves and not officially connected with the exhibition. Here one could spend many happy hours browsing amongst dealers of all grades, with of course a heavy accent on Czech and German material. I saw very little GB, Commonwealth or American items on offer. Prices in the Czech Republic, at around 55 Kroner to the pound, are generally amazingly low. I bought a few German covers at around 80p each (!), and found one extremely rare German cover from 1945 for

which the dealer apologized for the high price, which was 1400 Kr. [Kč] or about £25! Different dealers appeared on different days, laying out their wares on bare wooden tables, none of the sophistication of Stampex here!

In addition to the philatelic attractions, visits were made by our group to Kroměříž, which the Germans call Kremsier, the battlefield and museum at Austerlitz, and a tour of the city. As good fortune would have it, a production of Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" was staged at the Janáček Theater on the evening of March 9, and four friends and I attended a wonderful production. Sung in French with Czech subtitles, mercifully a synopsis appeared in the programme in English.

The excellent food provided in flight by Lauda Air rounded off a splendid trip, proving once more, if any proof were needed, that membership of a specialist society is highly desirable and enjoyable, not only from the philatelic point of view, but also, and equally importantly, from the social aspect of our hobby. Many new friends and acquaintances were made during what were several days of undiluted pleasure.

*[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from The Stamp Lover, Vol. 92, May/June 2000, with the permission of the editor and the author.]*

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## CATASTROPHIC AIR MAIL

by Dr. Petr Horka

trans. by Peter Kleskovic

The study of philatelic material always brings us new pieces of information. Today we can expand our knowledge of the facts dealing with catastrophic air mail (KLP) relating to Czechoslovakia through an additional item.

The fastest air connection between Central Europe and South Africa is through the air route Frankfurt/M - Johannesburg of Lufthansa airlines. The Czech postal administration uses this air route to transport its air mail. On November 20, 1974, a Boeing 747 "Jumbo"-- aircraft D-A-BYB -- flew this route under the command of captain Ch. Krack. In the early morning hours of that day the aircraft took off -- after a stopover at the Nairobi Embakasi airport -- in the direction of Johannesburg. Shortly after starting out, due to mechanical failure and while still only a few meters in altitude, the aircraft sank, crashed, and burned. Of the passengers who were on board, 59 of them died. During salvage operations they recovered, among other things, a portion of the transported mail. With respect to the damaged mail, a line cancel in reddish-purple was applied to the envelopes:

RETRIEVED FROM AIR CRASH OF 20  
NOVEMBER 1974 AT NAIROBI .

HIKWIN VAN LUGRAMP OP 20  
NOVEMBER 1974 TE NAIROBI .

I have this cancel documented through an air mail cover to South Africa posted on November 14, 1974 in Hradec Králové and addressed to Cape Town. The letter is franked with a regular postage stamp, Pof. 1881. According to the KLP analysis, which I published in *Filatelie* 82/23/718, we can assign this letter into the D-KLP category -- foreign aircraft crashes occurring

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

abroad. Without a doubt, the appearance of this KLP item on Czech air mail is very rare, even unique.

*[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from FILATELIE 15/1991 with permission of the editor and the author.]*

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## SALE OF UNBOUND SPECIALIST'S

The Society has back copies of the SPECIALIST available for sale to members at reduced prices. Years 1981-1999 are priced at 25 cents per copy. Prior years are priced at 50 cents per copy. We do not have all years complete, and in many cases only have a few copies of an issue. Therefore, the issues will be sold on a first come first served basis. Photocopies can be made (at cost -- about 3 cents per page) to provide a limited number of copies to complete some year's issues, if specifically requested.

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Richard Palaschak  
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Chantilly, VA 20151-2613

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SPECIALIST's are available for the following years: 1966, 1968 to 1971, and 1973 to 1999. Not all years are complete! If you only want complete year sets, please say so; otherwise I'll send those copies currently available for any year which you request.

I sometimes obtain a very limited number of loose issues from earlier years; if you are missing an issue from one of these earlier years, I may be able to help, but these will be sold to you at the cost which the owner sets.

Richard Palaschak

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Do you have excess philatelic materials that you would like to sell? Why not contact our circuit sales manager, Alan Hoover, for details on how to submit them for sale in our circuit. Just remember to price your materials reasonably for quick results. The circuit is currently going out to about 35 of our members and



experiencing tremendous sales interest because of the great variety of materials and the reasonable prices. Alan can be reached at 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.

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**1999 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE  
SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Member Dues	\$7,229.70	SPECIALIST	\$7,417.00
Circuit Sales Fees	2,000.00	Patron Books	902.18
Net Interest & Fees	220.50	Printing	180.80
Donations	118.00	Membership Expense	188.96
Advertising	156.00	Officers Expense	187.57
Net Book Sales	1,037.77	Advertising	81.05
Miscellaneous	350.25	Convention Expense	177.56
Postcard/Cachet Sales	(687.01)	Miscellaneous	179.82
Czech Members	(45.00)		
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$10,380.21</b>	<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u></b>	<b>\$9,314.94</b>
<b><u>NET GAIN/LOSS</u></b>	<b>\$1,065.27</b>		

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT  
Jan 1, 1999 – Dec 31, 1999**

Membership --	January 1, 1999	345
	December 31, 1999	344
	Regular Members	274
	Patron Members	51
	Honorary Members	11
	Senior Members	5
	Complimentary Members	3

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### Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Ludvik:

Last week I came across a Polish stamp series from 1919 issued for the opening of the Polish Parliament in that year. The set was released by the North Poland District on June 15, 1919 to commemorate the opening of the Polish Parliament (in Polish -- Sejm). The man on the stamp from the set (Fig. 1)[Sc. 135] is the first chairman of the Polish Sejm, Wojciech (Adalbert) Trampczynski. You may remember that the Snejdárek expedition [Silesian Territory Occupied by the Czechoslovaks in 1919, Sep/Oct 2000, p3] was the Czechoslovak government's military reaction to the Polish government's announcement of parliamentary elections in voting districts which were to include the disputed area of Eastern Silesia. The result of the elections was the first Parliament which was led by the pictured man. I am sure that he also played a role in the Czech-Polish negotiations about the common borders.



Fig. 1

I need to add that this set of stamps was not valid on the Silesian territory. During the years 1918-1919, Poland was divided into several districts with different currencies and with their own different stamps -- the first Polish stamps valid on the entire area of the country were not issued until 1920. The North Poland District (the issuer of the set of stamps) used as currency the "Mark" and "Pfenig" (as in Germany) -- in Polish "Marka" and "Fenig".

Although this information is not directly involved with the theme of the previous article, I hope that readers will find it informative.

With friendly greetings,  
Lubor Kunc

2. Dear Lou:

I was much interested in the article 'Fokker or Tupolev' in the Nov/Dec *Specialist*. I agree that the plane shown is not a Fokker, but not sure about the ANT-9 either! This had a stepped tail fin, not the smooth one shown on the

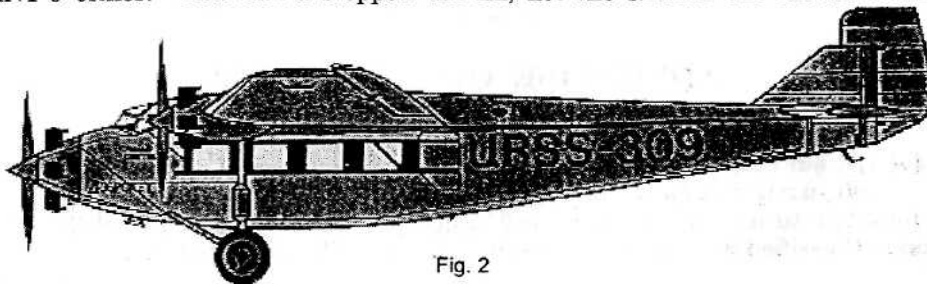


Fig. 2

Czechoslovak stamp, see enclosure (Fig. 2). Have had an idea on the origins of the design which requires input from France. Have written to an aerophilatelic friend there.

Yours sincerely  
Richard [Beith]

*[Ed. Note: The first Russian stamp in the article definitely does not show a stepped tail fin, but the second one (from the side) has a small step in it. Also, there was an article in response to the original one in the Merkur Review that appeared in the next issue of that publication. I am having it translated now, and it should appear in a near future SPECIALIST. Perhaps it will shed some more light on this issue.]*

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**New Issues**

**2001 ISSUE PLAN  
FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS  
from Savoy Horvath**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 2	First Stamp of the Third Millennium	1	9
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	1	5.40
Mar 14	Czechs of Europe -- J. A. Komenský	1	9
Mar 28	1000 Years of Architecture on Czech Republic	1	13,17
	Territory (souvenir sheet with three stamps)		31
Mar 28	Easter	1	5
Apr 18	Czech Baroque Art (souvenir sheet with one stamp)	1	50
May 9	EUROPA -- Czech Lake Management	1	9
May 9	European Championship in Men's Volleyball	1	7
May 31	For Children	1	5.40
May 31	Personalities - Fr. Škroup	2	5.40
	- Fr. Halas		16
June 20	Congratulations Stamp	1	5
June 20	Dog Breeding	4	5,5
			5.40,5.40
Sep 5	Nature Conservation -- Wildlife Preservation - Zoo	4	5,5
			5.40,5.40
Oct 9	Beauties of Our Country - Kromeríž	2	11
	- Holaršovice		13
Oct 9	Technological Memorials - Windmill	2	7
	- Water Mill		8
Oct 9	Dialogue Between Civilizations	1	9
Nov 14	Art on Stamps - Michael Jindřich Rentz	3	11
	- Cyril Bouda		17
	- Václav Brožík		26
Nov 14	Christmas	1	5

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On November 15, 2000, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series (Fig. 1). The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague in printing sheets of 4 pieces, the stamps in the denominations of 13 Kč and 17 Kč were printed by recess print from flat plates, while the 26 Kč stamp was printed by recess print from flat plates combined with offset.



Fig. 1

-- the 13 Kč stamp (in ocher, light blue, red, blue, and black) depicts a painting on wood "St. Luke the Evangelist (c. 1365)" by Master Theodoricus (after 1320 - c. 1370). Known as Dětrich or Zelo (the Zealous), he led the Old Town painters' fraternity and became court painter to Emperor Charles IV. He was well acquainted with Byzantine and Italian icon painting. Charles IV, who had Karlštejn Castle built near Prague in 1348-1357 to safeguard the crown jewels, documents and relics, commissioned Theodoricus to decorate the Chapel of the Holy Cross with paintings. The chapel, with its walls set with semi-precious stones, was decorated with 127 paintings on wood (of which this is one) by Theodoricus and his associates from his workshop, which are among the finest of European paintings of their time. The stamp shows an engraver's transcription of a painting of St. Luke the Evangelist, which has been proven to be the work of Master Theodoricus himself. The stamp was engraved by Miloš Ondráček. A FDC in grey-green depicts a drawing of St. Peter (Fig. 2)(Charcoal and chalk on plaster in the Chapel of the Holy Cross, on the location where later the painting on wood of St. Peter was placed). It bears a cancel from Karlštejn showing a church window with a stylized letter T.

-- the 17 Kč stamp (in yellow, orange, red, blue-grey, and black) depicts the painting "Simeon with the Infant Jesus (after 1725)" by Petr Jan Brandl (1668-1735) which is in the National Gallery in Prague. This Czech painter was one of the principal representatives of Czech high baroque. He was a



Fig. 2





Fig. 3



Fig. 4

master of the Old Town Painters' guild and became a much sought-after painter of portraits and altar paintings. Particularly in the heads of saints, whom he painted as old men, he showed an exceptional feeling for psychological characteristics and a relaxed style of painting, including impasto painting. The painting on this stamp is a masterful example of his work. The stamp was

engraved by Václav Fajt. A FDC in black-green depicts Brandl's painting "Sketch for a Portrait of a Man" (Fig. 3). It bears a circular cancel from Praha with the script "Peter Brandl".

-- the 26 Kč stamp (in black - recess print) depicts a drawing "Bruneta (1897)" (brunette) by Alfons Mucha (1860-1939) which is in the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague. It is a colored lithograph measuring 34.5 x 28 cm (Fig. 4) -- one of a set of two lithographs from the Byzantine Heads series -- the other with the title of "Blonde" (Fig. 5). Both of these have a variant with an ornamental border. These drawings are among Mucha's most impressive creations. The success of this pair of pictures is evidenced by the numerous reprints, the art postcards on which they are featured, and the abundance of copies. Their motifs also appeared on embossed leather, enamelled metal, and as cast reliefs. The Czech painter, graphic artist and designer A. Mucha was a leading representative of European art nouveau. He spent much of his life in France and the USA. He created a new

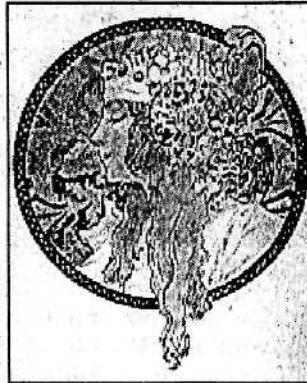


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

decorative style based on a characteristic form of stylization and ornament. He worked on graphic art for commercial use, decoration and books, illustration, and design of furniture and jewelry. His best known works include posters publicizing exhibitions, industry and various products, as well as theater posters, and last but not least, a series of posters celebrating the beauty and charm of women. After returning to the Czech lands he created a monumental work entitled "The Slavonic Epic" and designed banknotes, the first stamps, and a window in St. Vitus' cathedral in Prague. The stamp was engraved by Bedřich Housa. A FDC in black depicts Mucha's study of a woman with ivy leaves for table no. 13 of the work "Documents Décoratifs" (Fig. 6). This collection of decorations (characters, furniture, jewelry) became an aid used all over the world. Also shown here is the original print from which it was taken entitled "Vient de



Fig. 7

Paraître" which measures 70 x 40.5 cm (Fig. 7). It bears a stylized oval cancel from Praha with MUCHA in the middle.

2. On November 15, 2000, the Ministry issued a commemorative 5 Kč stamp showing a motif of the Nativity -- Mary and Joseph around the cradle holding the baby Jesus (Fig. 8). As has become traditional, this stamp, giving us a foretaste of the peace and quiet of Christmas, is issued some time before the festive season, which is especially loved by children. The designer of the stamp was Vladimír Suchánek, while the engraver was Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in ocher, red, blue-green and gold in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in dark green depicts a shepherd with his lambs under a tree (Fig. 9).



Fig. 8

3. On November 22, 2000, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "The Last Stamp of the Millennium" (Fig. 10). The stamp shows a cat with a year 2000 mouse in its food bowl. This playfully conceived stamp concludes not only this issue plan and the year 2000, but the whole millennium. It will be followed next year by the "First Stamp of the Third Millennium". The stamp was designed by Adolf Born and engraved by Martin Srb. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in ocher, green, red-violet and orange in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown depicts a boy throwing a 2000 snowball at a FDC snowman while a crow looks on (Fig. 11). It bears an oval Praha cancel half made of a clown half-moon.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

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**SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.**  
**\*\*\* AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS \*\*\***

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

[NEW] RARE and REMARKABLE CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS(E,Cz,G) -- A large and attractive volume depicting rarities, by Jan Karásek. (Not yet reviewed)	\$25.00
[NEW] POST WAR CANCELS 1945-46 -- by Bláha(Cz). (Not yet reviewed)	\$ 7.00
[NEW] CZECHOSLOVAK REVENUE STAMPS -- by Korinek(Cz). (Not yet reviewed)	\$ 7.00
HISTORY OF POSTAL AGENCIES (POŠTOVNY) IN THE TĚŠIN REGION -- Philatelic handbook on the Eastern Silesian area, by Tovacovsky, Síkora, and Schodelbauer(Cz). (Reviewed: Nov/Dec 00)	\$ 7.00
POSTAL HISTORY OF THE HLUČIN DISTRICT -- Philatelic handbook on this north-eastern Moravian border area, by Ondrášek and Švejnar(Cz). (Reviewed: Jan/Feb 00)	\$ 7.00
POSTAL HISTORY OF THE VALTICE REGION -- Philatelic handbook on this southern Moravian border area, by Glončák, Ondrášek, and Švejnar(Cz). (Reviewed: Sep/Oct 99)	\$ 7.00
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