



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

MARCH/APRIL 2001

No. 2, Whole No. 566

CHICAGOPEX 2001

Hello fellow collectors!

My name is James Carone, known to most of my philatelic friends as Cap. I will be making the arrangements for our Society annual convention and exhibition at CHICAGOPEX this year.

The exhibition will take place from Friday, November 16 through Sunday, November 18, 2001, at the Donald A. Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. Setting up your exhibit or your space to sell will take place between 5 pm and 8 pm on Thursday, November 15. Our Society Board meeting will take place on this day as well. Additional details about the exhibit can be found in the enclosed Invitation Letter, Philatelic Exhibitor Prospectus, and Philatelic Exhibit Application. The deadline for submitting your application is August 15. When you send in your application, please also send a copy to me at PO Box 681541, Schaumburg, IL 60168, so that we know who and what will be exhibited from our Society.

I have put together a map of the exhibition area showing the locations of hotels, motels, restaurants, etc., and also an information sheet with all the necessary phone numbers, addresses, and rates -- send a SASE for copies of these.

Watch the future issues of the SPECIALIST for more details on Society events and schedules. If you have any questions please contact the CHICAGOPEX organization at (630) 852-8282 or me at (847) 985-2499. Hope to see you there.

Table of Contents

<i>ARTICLES</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. A Forester's Tale	Keith Tranmer	3
2. Scott 239, An Old Friend Revisited	Frank Garancovsky	11
3. Postal Development in Sorbic Language Area of Both Lusatias	Dr. Walter J. Rauch	13
4. Airmail Covers With an O.A.T. Hand Stamp	Petr Horka	19
5. About Our Automated Stamps	František Crha	21
6. Twice the First One	Karel Holoubek	25
7. Under No Circumstances Is That a Fokker	Zdeněk Fritz	30
<i>COLUMNS</i>		
8. CHICAGOPEX 2001	James "Cap" Carone	1
9. Philatelic News and Views	(various)	28
10. Elections to the Board	Ludvik Z. Svoboda	33
11. New Issues	(various)	34
12. Letters to the Editor	(various)	40

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. Members in good standing are entitled.

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/Sep 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090, or email: edlehecka@juno.com.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Rich Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 20151-2613.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: LouSvoboda@home.com.
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: LouSvoboda@home.com.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

VOL. 63

MARCH/APRIL 2001

No. 2, WHOLE NO. 566

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

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.*

A FORESTER'S TALE

by Keith Tranmer

The assassination of the Austrian, Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo on the 28th June 1914 and the subsequent declaration of war on Serbia by the Austro-Hungarian Government was sufficient excuse -- or so it appeared -- to precipitate World War I. Present day Slovakia and the Czech Republic were formerly a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the issue of a recent stamp by the Republic recalls this. The stamp depicts 'The Good Soldier Švejk' a fictitious character on his way to volunteer his services to the Emperor Franz Josef while seated in a wheel chair wearing a military cap and waving his crutches while he calls out "Down With Serbia, On To Belgrade", to the passing people (Fig. 1). He is pushed by an old lady. The small crowd which followed Švejk to the Recruiting Office is joined by the Press and a photographer and later that day the people of Prague are able to read in the paper the news of this patriotic cripple attempting to enlist. He was of course recognized and reported for the fraud he was, trying to avoid the call-up.

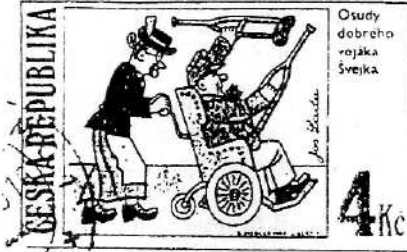


Fig. 1

The book by Jaroslav Hášek, himself a soldier, was published after the war in the Czechoslovak Republic and was a best seller. Private Švejk was the victim of the system who scored against those in command and survived and whose stupidity infuriated those officers who came in contact with him. In a country that gained independence in 1918, this was the acceptable face for a nation that was not the willing subject of the old Empire or old Procháska as they nicknamed Kaiser Franz Josef. Švejk was a survivor of the military system and the war.

The true story of the Forester Fritz Fnadschek is also that of a survivor and is related here from the correspondence sent to his wife during the years 1914-18. He was an Austrian employed on the Estate of an Archduke by the river Inn near the Bavarian border.

Fritz had served his National Service in the Imperial Army and attended the annual camps and manoeuvres and was on the reserve of the Landsturm Artillery, which suggests he had reached middle age.

We know from his letters that he liked his job and was good at it, only waiting for the Head Forester to retire before filling his shoes. He lived in a cottage at Obemberg with his wife Poldi, three children and a grandmother. He was immediately mobilized and after a tearful parting left to join his unit. We know this because he wrote twice on the journey by train taking about six hours to reach the front in Galicia and his destination the garrison town of Przemysl which at that time was behind the front line drawn by the frontier with Russian Poland. Russia had entered the War on the side of Serbia and two Austrian armies had already seized the initiative and crossed into Russia.

Corporal Fnadschek was attached to Landsturm Artillery Abteilung 24/2 5th

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

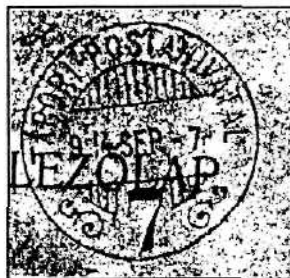


Fig. 2

Battery and took up his position in one of the concrete forts named Siedliska Fort 1.

He was allocated Fieldpost Office No. 7 (Fig. 2). He did not however use the Fieldpost Office but gave it as his address. Fritzhad had realized that the mail system in these early days with armies marching and counter marching may not be reliable. Instead he sent his fieldpost mail (post free cards and letters) through the civilian post office in the village of Siedliska. This was a good move because civilians were already complaining

about the poor mail service they were experiencing, so much so that a letter was published in all the daily papers saying that nearly two million letters a day were passing to and from the fronts (Serbia and Russia) but the soldiers did not worry about the delay in their mail because they were keen to join battle with the enemy and get the war over.

The mail from Fnadschek was going through with a postmark in Polish & German of the Austrian Post Office "Siedliska bei Przemysl-koto Przemysla" a village quite near the fort and still connected by the original now unused road, except the post office has gone (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

The civilian mail had established links so long as the trains were running but army mail which used the same trains or special military mail trains had the difficulty of sorting at different locations if they were on the move hence the publicized backlog. Mail from Przemysl is commonly found without any postmarks. The garrison in Przemysl knew their role which was to hold out in well prepared defenses should the Russian Army overrun the Austrian/Polish provinces of Galicia and the Bukovina, until relieved again in an Austrian counter offensive. There was originally 120,000 men, civilians were for the most part evacuated. Villages were destroyed and trees cut down to provide a clear field of fire. Additional trenches were dug as a defence line in front of the forts protected by a deep belt of barbed wire. Meanwhile at the front the two Austro-Hungarian armies had made contact with the Russian 5th Army which they were about to encircle, only to be themselves in danger, because the Russians were outflanking them and the promised German support from the north did not materialize. As a result the Austrian's were ordered to withdraw.

In the general retreat the garrison of Przemysl was surrounded (as planned) and the last train with supplies pursued by mounted Cossacks steamed in under the command of Oberleutnant Czerpiak, like a scene from a western film. The date was 18 September 1914. On the 22nd the Russian artillery began a bombardment of the outer defence line of trenches to which the Austrians responded by sending up observation balloons to direct the fire of their guns onto Russian batteries. But the barrage lasted until October 2nd when a Russian officer, Colonel Wandam, approached the Austrian trenches with a flag of truce asking to be taken to see the Austrian Commander, General Kusmanek, to whom he handed a letter from General

Antwort auf Ihre Anfrage de dato:.....		
Truppenkörper etc.	} des Militärs, welchen die An- frage betrifft	k.u.k. Landst. Artillerie
Kompagnie, Eskadron, Batterie etc.		Abteil. 24/2. Batt. 5.
Vor- und Zuname		Siedliska bei Przemysl.
Charge		Fritz Fnadschek
Der Genannte befindet sich in der Heilanstalt:		Zugsführer
In den bisher eingelangten ämtlichen Ausweisen über Verwundete und Erkrankte <small>wohin weitere Anfragen zu richten sind.</small> ist Angefragter nicht enthalten.		
Krankheit oder Verwundung:		
WIEN, am: 22. Okt. 1914	Auskunfts-bureau	
<small>der Österreichischen Gesellschaft vom Roten Kreuze.</small>		

Fig. 4

Dimitriews with terms for an honorable surrender. This was politely declined in a return letter.

It was now the turn of Fritz Fnadschek and his comrades to show their mettle for on October 5th, the Russian infantry who had waited in pouring rain, launched a massive attack and broke the outer defenses of Przemysl in several places. At Fort Siedliska the Russian's stormed over the walls and into the fort through the two ventilators, their sappers laying charges for demolition, while hand to hand fighting took place in the corridor and staircase to the basement magazine. Fortunately for the Austrian personnel the charges were wet, could not be fired, and the Austrian guns responding to a telephone call from Siedliska began firing shrapnel onto the fort thus cutting off any Russian reinforcements but also causing casualties among the Hungarian regiment coming to their relief. A narrow escape for Fnadschek.

The 1st Siege of Przemysl ended on 10 October 1914 with the Austro-Hungarian counter offensive in Galicia. Fnadschek wrote the news to his wife asking her to obtain a copy of the newspaper "New Free Press" which would inform her what had taken place at Przemysl and keep it for him when he returns. His card dated October 26th was posted at the civilian P.O. of Siedliska. The newspaper to which he refers was published on the 20th and reached Przemysl a week later probably by road and was read to the men by one of their officers because only a few copies had got through. There was in fact a complete breakdown of the postal service as the railways were destroyed by the retreating Russians. In an earlier card Fritz had asked for a cigarette lighter as matches were no longer available. He again informed his wife that he had not received news from her for many weeks.

His wife Poldi had likewise no news of Fritz, and like probably thousands of others, had written to the Vienna Red Cross for news. To their credit the Red Cross rose to the occasion and had printed reply postcards ready to respond. These cards are indicated for enquiries about wounded and sick personnel and were post free.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

To further save time rubber stamps were ready to mainly indicate that the soldier was on or not on their list for wounded or sick. (The dead would be dealt with by the soldiers unit.)

One simply filled in the details of the soldier on part 1 of the reply paid postcard and dropped it in a post box (Fig. 4). The answer was sent by the Red Cross on the

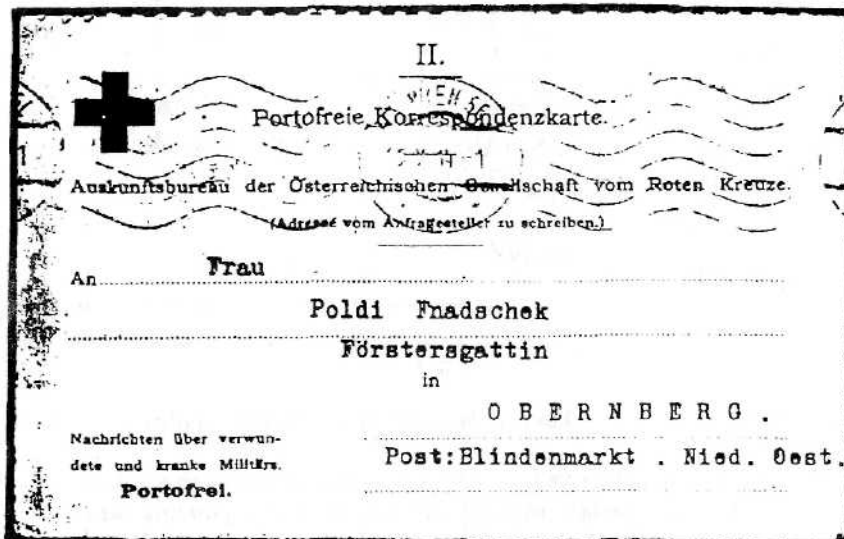


Fig. 5

part 2 perforated for separation (Fig. 5). If the Red Cross had news they would follow up the reply by keeping the part 1 on file.

Much to official surprise the multinational population of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were united as one over the events taking place at Przemysl. It was not long before this feeling was put to the test again as the Russian army once more took the initiative and not only besieged Przemysl for a second time (7 November 1914) but drove the Austrians back to the frontier of Hungary. The 10,000 beds of the hospitals intended for the garrison were filled with sick and wounded, and the stock of provisions were depleted to supply the Feldarmee.

This time the Russian soldiers were not thrown headlong into well defended positions, because the lessons of the first siege which lost them 20,000 men had been learned. They were quite prepared for a long siege during which they could bombard and attack high points which would give them access to significant targets for their guns.

By Christmas food in Przemysl was strictly rationed and no fodder for the cows which had to be slaughtered with the exception of a few retained to provide milk for the hospitals. Some soldiers were able to send a letter on one of the infrequent air flights. We know that 5000 letters and cards were carried in the so called Carpathian flight to Hungary by Felipilot Hans Danneck, but that is small for a garrison of 120,000 men. The Fnadschek correspondence has a card sent to his wife



Fig. 6

by a girl in Vienna whose boy-friend was a pilot carrying dispatches to Przemysl and who was approached by her husband in the town. It simply says that he is alive and well, but it shows also the unification of soldiers, airmen and the people at home in a time of national danger. Good thinking on the part of Fnadschek and the sort of idea Private Švejk could have had.

The morale of the garrison was given a boost when an order was published to say that special light weight airmail fieldpost cards (Fig. 6) were to be produced and placed on sale from the main Przemysl P.O. No. 1 (first floor). The order was dated 4 January 1915. It placed restrictions on what could be communicated, permitted no unit cachets which was normal practice in all other circumstances in order to obtain the postage free concession. Cards were limited to one per office and one per five men, and for the flight on 18 January, which was not announced, three aircraft were used. They took off at first light so to avoid Russian fire from their trenches. The pilots were from other squadrons and -- not as commonly believed -- members of No. 11 based in Przemysl for artillery co-operation work.

The airmail attracted newspaper interest. Poldi kept a cutting from a newspaper which announced the flight and the names of fortunate families who received an airmail card in a wide area from Linz (Fig. 7). The yellow card which reached her from Fritz was shared with six others, their names as senders on the front and their home addresses on the reverse sharing a single message "All are well and send greetings and kisses". It was now up to Frau Fnadschek to get in touch with their families, but writing and calling in person for there were no telephones. On 22 March 1915 after 5 months under siege, starving and with a death rate of 300 per day, General Kusmanek surrendered Przemysl after seeking the approval of the Emperor Franz Josef and destroying the forts, trenches, guns, ammunition -- of which there was plenty -- and everything else which could be denied the enemy.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

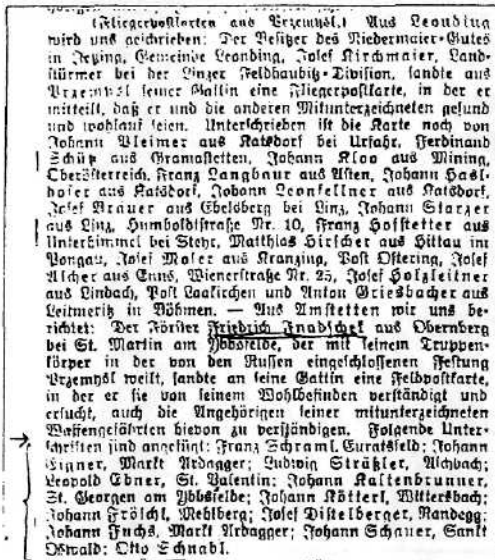


Fig. 7

Fnadschek, like very many others, was given a tin of fish and a loaf of bread and with a Cossack escort marched for 10 days to a rail head and a 21 day rail journey to Kasalinsk in Turkestan. All this was described in his first Russian postcard home.

The card was passed through the Red Cross in Vienna who sent Fnadschek a registration form. He finished his first card by requesting his wife to send him 100 Kronen in cash by registered letter.

His next letter with a Tashkent postmark asks for 50 Roubles [sic rubles] by telegram, "For one cannot survive here without money".

Strange as it may seem, money could be telegraphed across the battlefields to remote parts of Russia and was acknowledged by Fnadschek. His

completed P.O.W. registration form states, "I am undernourished, request more humane treatment, feeding, housing and clothing", in the section 'Other remarks', and after noting this the Red Cross passed the form to his wife.

In 1916 he was moved to Siberia to a place named Tiumen where he was waiting for a ship. He tells his wife that he travelled over Samarkand, Ufa, Tscheljabinsk, Katarinenburg to Nischni Tagil. "The ship will take me to Turinsk." In his next card he describes a journey of 4000 kilometers from Tashkent and 5 days on a ship to Turinsk, where his luck changed.

His next card states "I am working in Turinsk for Herr B. Skodak, a Forester in Silesia. I am a Technician for Forestry and will receive payment. I travelled by raft, 8 days and 40 kilometers down river. The people are friendly and made me welcome".

On 22 September 1916, Poldi is asked to send his Moss green coat, hat and socks which he wore as a forester in Austria. This she does in a Red Cross parcel. Fritz ends most of his letters with a request for cash, but later he describes the vast forests of Russia. "I see bears and wolves, I am contented here and happy to stay the rest of the war."

In July 1918 Frau Fnadschek received a letter from a German ex-P.O.W. in Berlin, to say that he had met Fritz in Turinsk and borrowed some money from him. This he would return when Fritz arrived home, and hinting that he may be already on the way.

The revolution of 1917 had split Russia and, taking advantage of this, some P.O.W.s attempted to escape, particularly as many were now no longer the responsibility of the Imperial Government.

From other letters one learns that Fritz had purchased false papers and travel

permits. Wearing his civilian "Moss green" suit, he had made his way to St. Petersburg and from there to Brody in Poland where he reported to the Austro-Hungarian military commander and was placed in a "Home" to recover for some weeks. No doubt in the mood of that time in Austrian Poland, Fnadschek was observed to ensure he was not brain washed by Bolshevika before entering the homeland. The date was already June 1918, and the Armistice was only 5 months away. He got leave home and travelled over Vienna where he again had to stay for 2-3 days, but he was writing to his wife often although still through the Red Cross, except one card sent by a Fieldpost Office. It is unlikely that he took a further part in the war. But there is a final twist in the story, for among his papers carried with him as a P.O.W. was a small newspaper cutting on thin rice paper with a poem "Our Heroes in Siedliska" dated Przemyśl 13.3.1915 and signed by the poet Wilhelm Hajek. Good postal historians soon learn not to throw things away, and this is a case in point. Twenty years after buying this correspondence an airmail card from Przemyśl taken out on the last flight 22.3.1915 was acquired from a trader. The sender was Wilhelm Hajek writing to his mother in Vienna to inform her that he had two of his poems published in the *Kriegensnachrichten*, and that he was paid for his contributions. My enquiries revealed that this was a soldiers and civilians newspaper printed as a single sheet in two languages German and Polish on the Reverse.

Postscript:

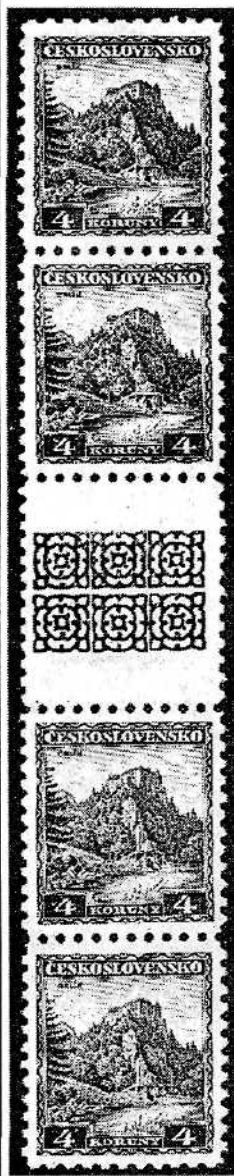
Fritz Fnadschek is forgotten, even his letters were thrown out by his descendants for a few pounds, and he would think it odd that a postal historian of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in England would write of his life, and care to do so.

The life of Švejk, fictitious as it is, is recalled in a well known restaurant off the Wenceslas Square in Prague. At the exhibition PRAGA '78 when Czechoslovakia had Communist rule, I visited with my wife to receive a medal and was singled out by the organization reception to attend special events. I must say they gave me a great deal of pleasure and interest, e.g. a private viewing of postal archive material with sheets of the early Austrian stamps, documentation and such. I foolishly remarked to my hosts that the Austrians would love to have this material and was reminded that they expected Austria to return similar material which was rightly theirs. I recall a seminar to discuss postal history (translations over earphones) and a coffee break with coffee, beer of repute, and sausages. As tourists we were booked into a modern hotel outside the city but given coupons for the money we had spent so we could eat anywhere. As a result we took up residence in an old hotel in Wenceslas Square, cosy rooms, and old world atmosphere with an orchestra at dinner each evening playing Strauss and Lehar. We only returned to our modern comfortable hotel at night to sleep. We found the restaurant of Švejk, a great space with rows of tables, a splendid portrait of Emperor Franz Josef in uniform, and the waiters dressed in Austrian uniforms with light blue tunics and red trousers, serving traditional excellent food and beer. The walls were decorated with the illustrations of Švejk by Lada who illustrated the book "The Good Soldier Švejk".

Thanks to postal history which I link to history, I was at home with Fritz Fnadschek and Švejk.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from STAMP LOVER, Vol. 92, August 2000, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

*Jiří Majer and
Jaroslav Thraumb Auctions
announce their sixteenth auction
on March 24, 2001*



Majer & Thraumb's auction 16 will be especially strong in Hradčany, POŠTA overprints, and air mail issues. Included in the sale are the very rare 4 K "Orlik" vertical gutter pair and the 24 Kč air mail overprint on block of four, joined types!

Catalogs will be sent to all of the past bidders. Others desiring a catalog or other information should contact us through our American representative:

Jaroslav J. Verner

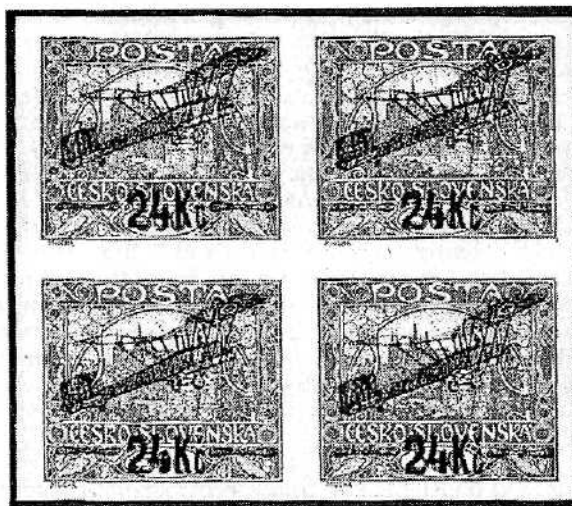
L & J Consulting

8602 Ewing Drive

Bethesda, MD 20817-3846

FAX 301-530-7489

e-mail : sibpost@erols.com



SCOTT 239, AN OLD FRIEND REVISITED

by Frank Garancovsky

The Bratislava 1937 Stamp Exhibition souvenir sheet has been the subject of numerous articles in the philatelic press here and abroad (Fig. 1). These articles focused on the varieties of the 1 Kč value -- the red General Milan Štefánik's tomb. Following this, specialists soon revealed other varieties in the blue 50h value -- the Lake Poprad stamp.



Fig. 1

February 1989 and the October 1990 issues of the *SPECIALIST*.

Before embarking on a description of this very latest new variety, a little marketing history may rekindle some new interest in this dealer 'pariah'. There were over 847,000 of this souvenir sheet printed. Hoards were exported to the North and South Americas creating a huge market glut that remains to this day.

Along came the New York World's Fair

of 1939 and 1940. Its opening on April 30, 1939 was just five months prior to the outbreak of WWII in Europe, and was heralded as "The World of Tomorrow". On the grounds was a Czechoslovak pavilion that was still not completed, and in the meantime Czechoslovakia had been occupied by the Nazi forces. A committee was formed by then Mayor of New York, Fiorello La Guardia, in an effort to complete the structure and have it operating.

To help raise money for its operation, New York stamp dealers Alfons Stach and Alois Brunner bought up huge lots of this sheet for the purpose of overprinting it as a novelty souvenir sheet commemorating the Czechoslovakian Pavilion at the world's fair. The overprint consisted of an enlarged Czechoslovak coat-of-arms at the top center, and a two line inscription below the two stamps. Early copies were printed in black, green, and red. They sold for 75¢ each, however being such a popular item the price soon was raised to \$1.50. Later came the blue, gold, and silver overprinted ones -- the silver copy sold for \$5.00. The sheets and all the proceeds from their sale were donated to the Organizing Committee of the Czechoslovak Pavilion for the benefit of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile.

Although the souvenir sheet was not a bona fide philatelic item, most collectors scoffed at their inclusion in their collections. The *SPECIALIST* had many ads

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

advertising their sale up through the mid 1950's from 75¢ per sheet to \$5.00 for a set of six. Today their auction prices are astronomical!

This successful venture by Alfons Stach followed an earlier innovative advertising gimmick while he was still a dealer in Chicago. There were several Czechoslovak issues printed in a blank se-tenant tab (coupon) format. Having a sizable stock of these issues he utilized the blank tabs as billboards to advertise his stamp business. In retrospect, he had created yet another variety, albeit a novelty not unlike that of the World's Fair overprints. Having been made aware of this practice, the Czechoslovak government stopped printing stamps with the blank se-tenant tab format.

Getting back to our story, the latest Scott 239 variety information was printed in the December 2000 issue of *Zbératel* -- a Slovak stamp monthly magazine -- and was by author Ján Mička. The variety is found on the 50h blue Lake Poprad stamp of the souvenir sheet. What was originally thought to be a fiber within the paper manufacturing process is now believed to be a sub-type or plate variety.

The new variety appears as what may be described as a 'goose neck' curved line. It is located about 3 mm to the upper right of the tree on the left edge of the stamp (Fig. 2). The trailing edge of the goose necked line appeared faint in some of the copies that I have examined, however, the leading edge of the line is always there to form what appears as another crown on the side of the mountain. The trailing edge may also be described as forming the crossed letters "T" of the slanted engraved lines. Figure 3 is the normal engraving that has no 'goose neck' line.

In closing his article, Ján Mička stated that his findings will be presented to the Czechoslovak Commission of Expertizers for evaluation. Is it a sub-type or another plate variety?

In the meantime, collectors can be scrutinizing their holdings as I have. I found several on original sheets and several more on the World's Fair overprinted ones. Stay tuned!

POSTAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SORBIC LANGUAGE AREA OF BOTH LUSATIAS

by Dr. Walter J. Rauch
edit. by Henry Hahn



Fig. 1. Historic national coat of arms of the Upper and Lower Lusatia

ancient settlements as Elbeslavs. A m m e n", of excursion-towns Lehde or Byhlegure in Spreewald, or of the Spreewaldese cucumbers.

"Wenden" is a collective term for Slavic tribes who settled within what were later German borders. Two of these were the Milzenese "in the land of Bautzen/Budyšin" (Upper Lusatia) and the Lutizens (in Lower Lusatia) (Fig. 1). They count as the ancestors of the Sorb ethnic group, which today comprise about 52,000 souls.¹

They subdivide into the national

Slovaks, Slovenes, Slavones, Serbs, Sorbs: who can clearly distinguish between these or even venture a national description?

To ask specifically about the "Sorbs" is followed mostly by helplessness. One fares somewhat better with words like the "Wends" or even the "Spreewaldese". Perhaps one knows postal towns such as Wenden, county Braunschweig, or Wendisch Evren in the West and Wendischbora or Wendisch Priborn in the East of Germany. These are names which remind one of Residents of Berlin speak of "Wendischen



Fig. 2. Map (1884) of residents speaking Lusatian Sorbic – Lower Lusatia around Cottbus, Upper Lusatia around Bautzen [area is approximately 50km NE of Dresden, N of border from Rumburk]

¹ Earlier excessive estimates reached to 70,000

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

branches: Upper Sorbians (Central Bautzen, mostly Catholic, with their own idioms) and the more shrunken group of Lower Sorbians (Cottbusser dialect, Protestant)(Fig. 2). The standard language -- westslavik -- predominantly refined by way of translations of spiritual literature through the middle of the 19th century, shows connections to the Slovak [sic Slavic] or rather Polish language.

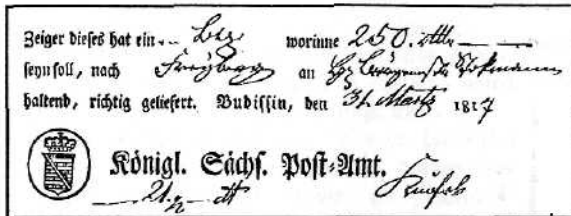


Fig. 3. 1817: Royal Saxon post office Budyšin. Receipt for a money letter

The Sorbic settlements were causes of territorial quarrels between Meißen/Saxony and Brandenburg. They belonged to the Kingdom of Bohemia until 1635 and then to Kurr-Saxony (Fig. 3). After the Vienna Congress of 1815 the whole of Lower Lusatia and half of Upper Lusatia fell to Prussia.

Further developments caused a drifting apart between

the predominantly Sorbic rural population and the German urban dwellers -- it led to an alienation between people over the industrialization/exploitation of mineral resources (brown coal) and to the separation of the upper and lower language territories near the area of Schliefe (Slepo).

All of this happened in the decades leading up to 1945 under the legal and general administrative/political conditions in the States of Prussia and Saxony.

Indications of a policy to Germanize -- as compared to the natural prevailing adaptations to the general living conditions -- are difficult to prove in Saxony, but easier so in Prussia. During the rule of the national-socialists a political/religious/cultural suppression of the Sorbic life-style, as well as a general opposition to such, is obvious.

From the end of the 18th century a slow national movement started in the Lusatias partially from missionary influence, and also from the effects of exploitation and from the romance with their concept of "national rebirth". After the translation of religious texts, the beginnings of literary publications,² the renewed revival of national traditions, and the renewed discovery of traditional songs, a student association (Macica Serbska) was formed in 1847; but it wasn't until 1912 that the "Domowina" [homeland] was established as an umbrella organization with a thriving social life



Fig 4. 1899: Sorbic birthday card from Radibor/Radwos

2 Compare with Rauch, W., Presse und Volkstum der Lausitzer Sorben, Würzburg, 1959

(Fig. 4).³ The Nazis forbade it in 1937.

After the collapse of the Third Reich there also arose a new situation in the predominantly German settled Lusatias. A protrusion of Sorbic settled territory with the Oder-Neiße line as the eastern border which had previously belonged to Silesia was annexed by Poland. And, a Sorbic group called for the Lusatias to be annexed to ČSR II.⁴ The only philatelic document about this movement is a rare

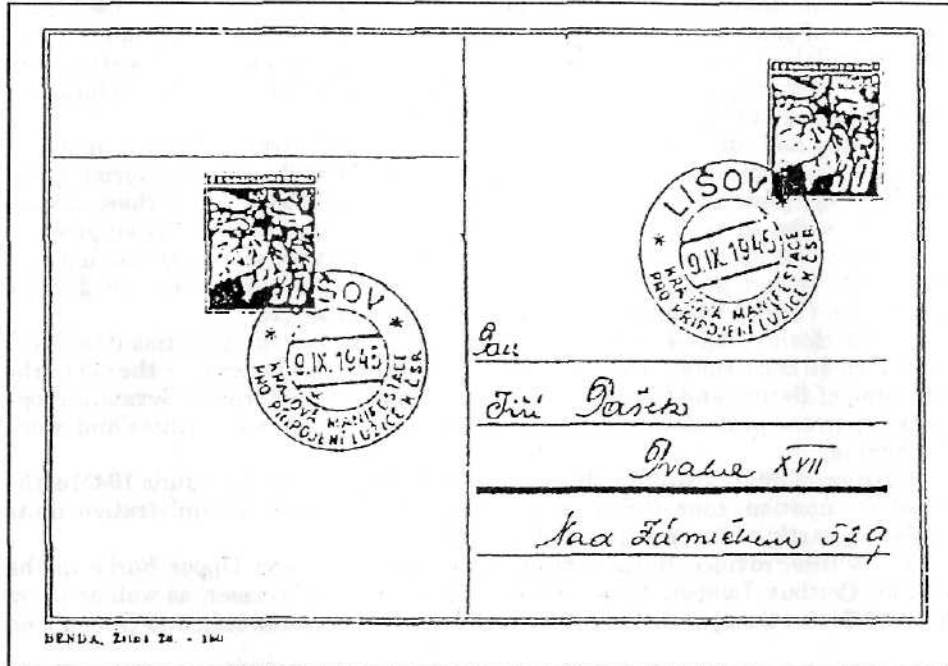


Fig. 5. Čsl. special cancellation for the union of the Lusatias to the ČSRII

Czechoslovak special cancel of September 9, 1945 for the occasion of the "Area Demonstration for the Annexation of the Lusatias to the ČSR" [Krajová Manifestace Pro Připojení Lužice k ČSR] in Lišov (Lissowa) near Pilsen with General Svoboda as the main speaker, who was later the national president (Fig. 5). Another Lusatian group demanded sweeping special rights within the Soviet occupied area (later the DDR). Finally, when Nedo -- the former delegate to Domowina -- was replaced late in 1950 by the long-time communist Kurt Krjenc, the SED (Social Unity Party of Germany) imposed Stalinist national "pure culture" politics into their relations with the Sorbs; it was a classic example of culturally ideological measures for supporting the advancement of minorities.

3 Reactivated after WWII for a short time, this central association devoted to government institutionalized Sorbic culture was hampered by the Soviet military administration which exercised complete political control.

4 In 1919 a demand had already been made by the land delegate Arnost Bart of Saxony. In 1945 Pastor Jan Cyž, freed from the Dachau concentration camp -- as speaker for a "National Committee" in Prague -- reclaimed a status of Sorbic autonomy from the victorious powers, while the ČSR II announced their wishes for the correction of their northern border, including the Lusatias as a part of the old Kingdom of Bohemia.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Postal Documents Through the End of WWII

Only with this diverse background can one understand the Sorbic problems, which since the mid sixties of the 19th century are closely mirrored in postal history. Up to then it can only be documented from secondary materials, some by ancient letters from the time that Lusatia was part of the Kingdom of Bohemia (up to 1635) or through the names of towns like Budyšin for Bautzen (Fig. 3). Otherwise it gives an account of general German postal history in a clearly defined limited area with mixed population, in which roles were played by passed on and partially still active variations of speech, and by the remnants of a fading national culture under many times changing land and government affiliations.

The first and only Sorb-related motif on a stamp, relatively unknown, appeared in 1935 on the help-in-need series "Folk Costumes" (Michel -- Catalog Germany No. 592: 8+4 Pfg. Heinersbrück in Spreewald/Sorbic: Most). Prior to that there already existed a series of special stamps -- of course only in the German language -- specifically with Spreewald motifs; and besides that, picture postcards starting with (P 178/07) Guben and (P 202/019) Cottbus up to printing notes: (P 233/B3) Neuzauche, (37/B5) Weißwasser, (40/B1) Forst (Lausitz), etc.

In the closing phases of WWII heavy battles raged in the Lusatias (the Sorbs were German conscripts). The breakthrough of the Soviet forces over the Oder, the encircling of Berlin, and the resistance of Fieldmarshal Schörner's German troops operating in the protectorate Bohemia-Moravia, led to many casualties and much destruction.

Correspondingly also difficult were the postal beginnings (from June 1945) of the Soviet Occupation Zone (SBZ), respectively the two new administrative units consisting partly of Sorbic settlement areas.⁵

1. Berlin/Province Brandenburg, including Lower and Upper Sorbs in the counties Cottbus, Lübben, Calau, Forst, Spremberg, Weißwasser, as well as (from the 1952 Soviet Occupation Zone Territorial Reform) Hoyerswerda and Guben; and in

2. The federal lands of Saxony with Upper Sorbs in the counties Bautzen, Kamenz, Niesky, and Hoyerswerda (until 1952). In these urban/rural counties the Sorbic part of the total population was very distinct.⁶

Start of Postal Service -- End of May 1945

Beginning in August 1945 -- after the return of postal service -- their own free stamps appeared, first in the Province of Brandenburg (OPD -- Upper Postal Directorship Potsdam) and then in all of the Soviet Occupation Zone. Besides that there were three local issues with general postage value issued in the Sorbic area: Cottbus, Lübbenau (Spreewald), and in Spremberg (Niederlausitz/Lower Lusatia)(Fig. 6). Finally, also valid in the Soviet Occupation Zone -- from January 1946 until the currency reform -- were the joint occupation issues, and then until

5 The ethnic and lingual transition area between both national groups does not exist today, even though lingual scholars point to dialects with a bit of both.

6 There is no clear distinction between ethnically pure Sorbic families and those of mixed origin (German marriage partner) or between those fluent in the language and those merely understanding the language.



Fig. 6. 3.30.1946: Mixed franking of community and local issues of Spremberg on a registered letter to the British Occupation Zone

July 31, 1948, the stamps with the district overprint (in this region the number "36") and ten-fold postage.⁷

The rate practice of the OPD in the Federal State of Saxony (including the Silesian-Sorbic remaining areas on the west side of the Lausitzer Neiße around Görlitz and Niesky) is important. Until about August 1945 one can find cash franking, the valid-for-postage local issues of Niesky, and a few cases of the "Saxon Blackening"⁸ (valid in Bautzen from May 23 to June 20, 1945), before "East-Saxony" issued their own 25 stamp values on June 23, 1945. Development here went similarly to how it went in Brandenburg.

The cancellations (stamp forms) in the OPD districts of Potsdam and Dresden are interesting. Here one finds the post-office-help cancels with or without an integrated "Gebühr bezahlt" [Rate paid] remarks (e.g. in Weißwasser, Rietschen, Krauschwitz - even in three varieties!) or in mid-June 1948 the early special registered rubber stamp: (2) Cottbus 1/ Philatelic Congress".⁹

With the provisional rate arrangement of June 24, 1948 (in the Sorbic area, the hand stamp overprints 36/OPD Potsdam and 14/OPD Dresden), the general stamp issues gained validity for the entire Soviet Occupation Zone as well as for the three west zones. Beginning in October the DDR (German Democratic Republic -- founded

7 The counties Hoyerswerda and Weißwasser, formerly belonging to the land of Brandenburg, were reunited to the Saxony Freestate after the German reunification of 1990.

8 Re-used Hitler stamps obliterated (defaced) by cork overprints, etc.

9 For stamp issues of the SBZ, particularly for East Germany from the end of WWII to October 1949, compare the corresponding listings in the Michel-Germany catalogue.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

October 7, 1949) marked their stamps first with the designation "Deutsche Post" (German Post), but only from March 2, 1950 did they use the name DDR.

Problems of Territorial Alignment

In 1952 the five states of the SBZ/DDR were newly realigned under a "territorial reform" and their counties combined into government districts. In 1958 the federal states were completely dissolved. Thus, from the former Soviet Occupation Zone arose a "socialist centralized state" divided into 14 districts.

Since the territorial reform of 1952 the Sorbic settled area lay west of the Lausitzer Neiße:

1. in the state of Brandenburg (in the Cottbus district since 1958), in the urban/rural counties of Cottbus, Lübben, Guben, Calau, Forst, Spremberg as well as Hoyerswerda and Weißwasser (see footnote 7).

2. in the state of Saxony (in the Dresden district since 1958), in the counties of Bautzen, Kamenz, and Niesky.

Nationality and Philately

As already mentioned, the state authorities of East Germany devoted special attention to the Slavic people in their area of control, who were threatened by pressure of assimilation. Undoubtedly, that led to a strengthening of their ethnic awareness, but at a price of becoming 100% bound to the DDR system. With this as background one can comprehend the creation of the first bilingual special cancels in 1947 (100th anniversary of Macica Serbska) and in 1956 (Serb Assembly). Soon

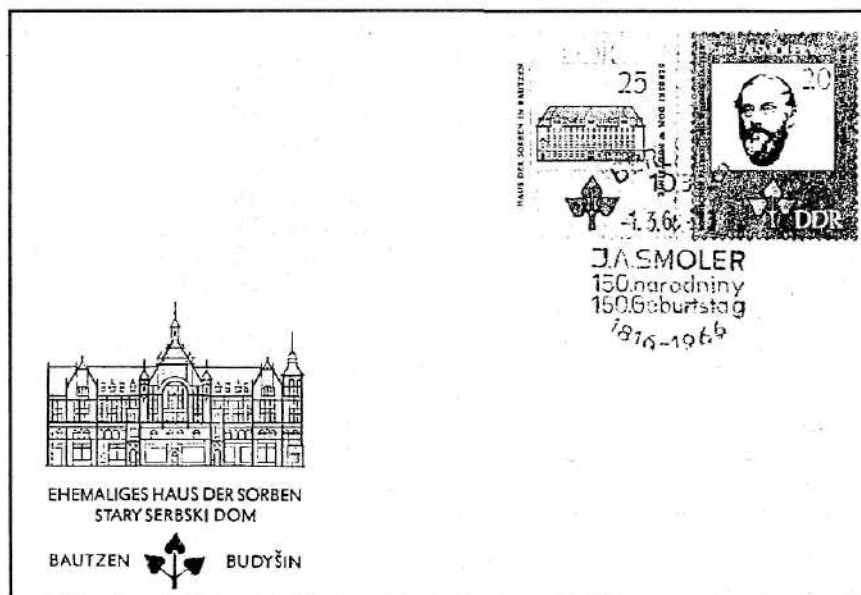


Fig. 7. 1966: First day letter with commemorative stamp of the Slav JAS with the illustration of the Sorbic club house in Bautzen

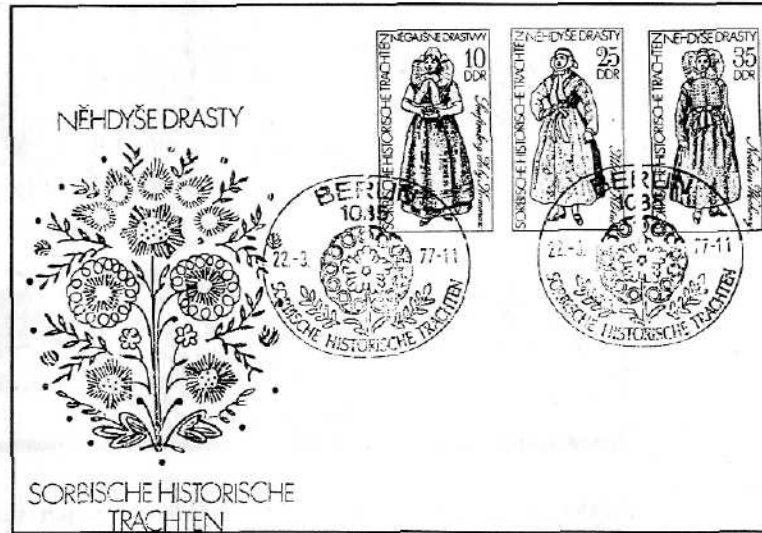


Fig. 8. 1977: Stamps -- first day letter with Special Cancellation " Sorbic Historic Costumes"

followed a commemorative stamp for the theologian and writer J. Bart-Cisinski with the third German-Sorbic special cancel. After that in the years 1959-83 there were issued a total of 33 additional stamps with Sorbic persons, landscapes, or national motifs (Fig. 7, 8). Finally, since 1960/61 the sender data on postal pieces from the authorities or institutions in the Sorbic district have been bilingual.

(To Be Continued)

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

AIRMAIL COVERS WITH AN O.A.T. HAND STAMP

by Petr Horka

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

On some of the covers transported by airmail during or immediately after WWII there appears a framed or oval cancellation containing the abbreviation O.A.T. Generally it is known or thought that these cancellations have some connection with the air transport of the mails; however, no one has yet provided a precise explanation.

Shortly after the beginning of WWII many of the airline routes from Europe were discontinued. These were, for instance, the Imperial Airways or Pan American Airlines routes across the North Atlantic from Europe. The air traffic across the South Atlantic continued, however, via the Pan American route from Lisbon; overseas airmail was also transported by Allied military aircraft as long as cargo space allowed. The frequency of these flights was in fact substantially curtailed, and the airmail had to therefore wait for some time before being transported.

After the censor's review, the airmail in Great Britain was sorted into smaller bundles according to its destination, and the top item in each bundle was stamped O.A.T. This abbreviation, explains W.J. Murphy (*The Revealer* 1987, p.55), is Onward Air Transmission, freely translated as something like future or next airmail

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

shipment. Thus, the O.A.T. hand stamp indicated the fact that the bundle of covers marked in this way was waiting for the next air transportation to the pertinent destination specified.

In practice, we encounter the O.A.T. cancel during the whole course of WWII on mail shipments from Great Britain, Ireland and some

other European countries to overseas, as well as on airmail from British Commonwealth countries -- India, Canada, Australia and on mail from such places as Palestine, etc.

These rubber hand stamp cancelers were applied using red ink almost exclusively and could be divided into three groups based upon their appearance:

Group I -- most frequently appearing, rectangular-framed cancel measuring about 33 x 18mm (Fig. 1)

Group II -- less frequently appearing, large rectangular cancel measuring about 55 x 35 mm

Group III -- least frequently appearing, oval cancel measuring about 35 x 23 mm (Fig. 2)

This frequency of appearance of these kinds of cancels is based upon the shipments which were addressed to Czechoslovakia. The frequency of their appearance on shipments mailed to or from other countries may be different.

Perhaps we could now ask, why should Czech aerophilatelists be interested in these O.A.T. cancellations. The O.A.T. cancel appears on Czechoslovak airmail after the end of WWII. The first flight between Prague and London took place on July 2, 1945. In this way Czechoslovakia was connected to a branching network of overseas airmail routes and thus the O.A.T. cancel began to also appear on airmail addressed to us. The cancels appear relatively frequently on overseas mail, and they appear less frequently on European mail transported through London. Only rarely do they appear on airmail from Czechoslovakia that has been transported through London going overseas. This was the case only when by chance that piece of mail got to the top of its bundle.

In the British East Indies (St. Christopher) the O.A.T. handstamp was used even after 1963. I have this documented through a purple colored cancel on an airmail piece to Czechoslovakia.

The O.A.T. cancels have their own attractiveness and are a welcome diversity in our aerophilatelic collections.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from FILATELIE, 6/1991, with the permission of the editor and the author.]



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

ABOUT OUR AUTOMATED STAMPS

by František Crha
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

The issuance of the first automated stamps of the Czech Republic was announced in the Postal Registry of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Section 2, of February 24, 2000. Similar information, intended for the philatelic press, was issued by the Czech Postal Service, s.p. OZ DOS Postfila. The date of their issuance was set for May 5th, the day of the opening of the National Exhibition of Postage Stamps BRNO 2000. (Parties interested in obtaining basic information regarding the automatic dispensing machine SIMA 1351, its method of printing, as well as the automated stamps themselves are directed to the article by M. Langhammer in F/2000/2/8.)

Keeping in mind the fact that the automated stamps are definitive ones, no official first day cover was issued. However, the Postal Service prepared a numbered commemorative sheet with an attached automated stamp in the nominal value of 14.40 Kč that was secured with an imprint of one of the special cancels of the BRNO 2000 exhibition (Fig. 1). The value numerals of the stamp attached to the sheet are produced using dot-matrix printing in an unusual bluish-purple color (compared to the normal black color used for these stamps). The commemorative sheet was

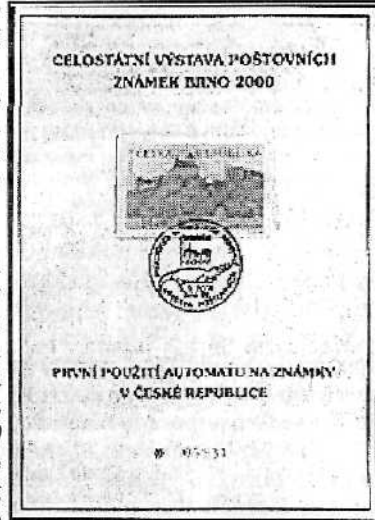


Fig. 1

ordered in a printing run of 13,000 pieces, and at the Brno exhibition post office it sold for 25 Kč, the same price as at POSTFILA in Prague.

The stamps were printed by color-screened offset print in a nearly unknown French printing house. The printing is not of a very high quality -- one can often notice shifts of the se-tenant colors (especially of the black one), common are lighter or darker color shades (especially conspicuous with the green color). Also appearing

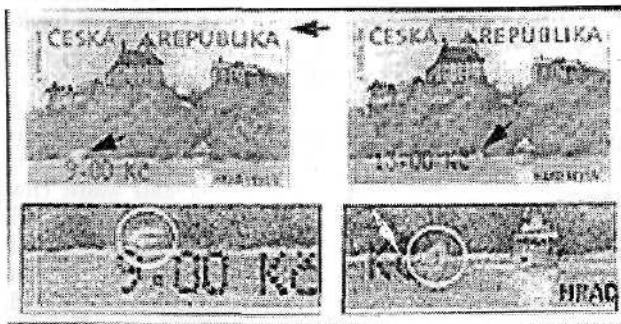


Fig. 2

not infrequently are typical printing defects such as light colored blemishes in the lower portion of the stamps (on the shore of the dam) and in the upper right corner (Fig. 2). The stamps are printed on a self-adhesived backing (samolepku) which is wider than the cut off stamp on the left and right sides; usually when lifting off the stamp these cut off

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

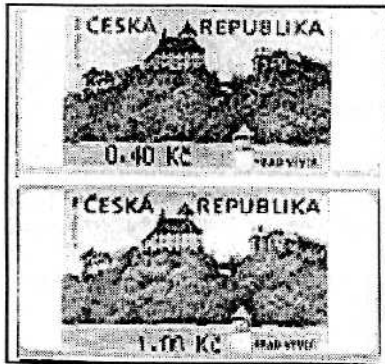


Figure 3: The appearance of the automated stamps after "dropping out" of the automatic dispensing machine. The 0.40 Kč and 1 Kč "Brno peculiarities" are pictured.

optical brightening ingredient and the other paper probably with an admixture of a luminofor. At first sight, both papers appear to be the same: white, shiny, reminding one of coated paper. Under a UV lamp they "shine" either purplish-blue (optically brightened paper) or white (fluorescent paper). According to current understanding, the ratio of occurrence of these two papers is roughly 1:1.

The first postal use of the automated stamps -- as we have already indicated -- was on March 5th at the National Exhibition of Postage Stamps *BRNO 2000*. One of the French automatic dispensing machines SIMA 1351 (of the firm Amiel Electronique) was available to the public on the second floor of the Brno 26 postal building in the exhibition area, while a second one was installed at the postal counter on the ground floor and was solely for the postal employees to use. Contrary to the original announcement that only eight basic values would be scheduled (5, 5.40, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 14.40 Kč), they scheduled and printed at Brno also the 0.40 Kč and 1 Kč values. The 0.40 Kč value was sold at the exhibition post office and also in envelopes with the complete basic set of stamps, while the 1 Kč value was only available at one of the counters of the exhibition post office.



Figure 5: A clipping from a registered letter mailed on March 6th from the Brno exhibition -- in the upper portion of the left stamp are printed the question marks and the nominal value.

margins of self-adhesive backing remain on the residual piece of silicon paper (Fig. 3).

The print of the value numerals on the stamps is performed by dot-matrix printing in black (except for the above mentioned 14.40 Kč value on the commemorative sheet).

Without question it is important to acknowledge the existence of two kinds of paper used for the printing of the automated stamps: paper having an optical brightening ingredient and the other paper probably with an admixture of a luminofor. At first sight, both papers appear to be the same: white, shiny, reminding one of coated paper. Under a UV lamp they "shine" either purplish-blue (optically brightened paper) or white (fluorescent paper). According to current understanding, the ratio of occurrence of these two papers is roughly 1:1.



Figure 4: A stamp printed with a 995.40 Kč value; a blank valued stamp; and a stamp with the 980.00 Kč value with question marks above and the 980.00 Kč value below.

Both automatic dispensing machines broke down quite often, and even their operations were not without mistakes. From my personal experiences and also from the letters of readers, we can state that occasionally the stamp roll shifted mistakenly, such that the printing of the value numerals also shifted, occasionally even printing

them twice (one above the other) along with a row of question marks. Usually after such a mistaken shifting of the roll there followed a blank stamp without the printed value numerals. One reader sent us stamps from the self-service automatic dispensing machine with the printed value numerals accidentally reaching far above 900 Kč (Fig 4 & 5).

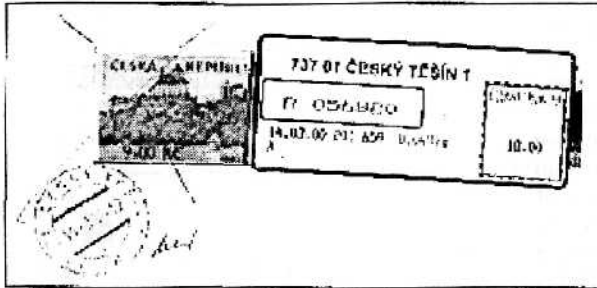


Fig. 6

In postal operations the automated stamps sometimes met up with total unfamiliarity, despite the fact that they were properly announced and pictured in the Postal Register. For instance, one of our readers who used an automated stamp on his letter was advised by the clerk at the Prague 419 postal counter that "he is not allowed to place anything else in the corner where the stamp belongs"; finally, after a long dispute and after verification his letter was accepted. In addition, some other post offices did not recognize "such labels" -- e.g., at the Český Těšín 1 post office they casually pasted an *Apost* [postal meter] label over the two automated stamps (9 Kč and 5.40 Kč), collected another 14.40 Kč, crossed out the protruding automated stamp, and even acknowledged their ignorance through a postmark and their initials (Fig. 6 & 7). Even the Brno 23 post office -- the place where the exhibition took place and where the automated stamps were used for the first time in postal operations -- did not recognize the automated stamps and returned the letter to the sender with the note "returned, invalid stamp" (Fig. 8).

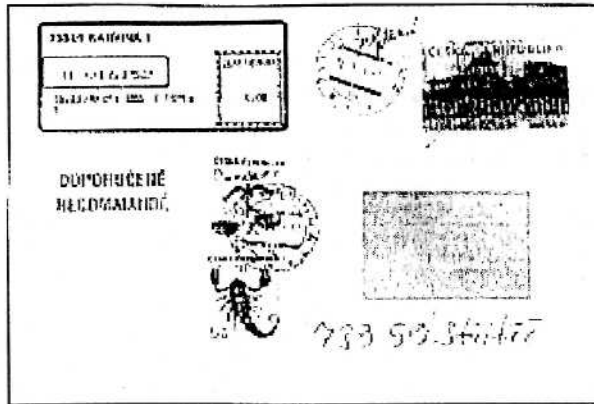


Figure 7: The post office in Karviná 1 did not acknowledge the validity of the 14.40 Kč automated stamp, again collected the appropriate postage, and attached the regular stamps to the registered letter.

So what can one say in the end? Our automated stamps have not had an easy ride, and the same can be said for collectors as well as postal clerks. The Postal Service should in any case issue and offer for sale an adequate number of the 0.40 Kč and 1 Kč values which were available only in Brno. It would also be worth considering to program the system to place several asterisks in front of the value numerals (e.g., **5.40 Kč) which would prevent "resourceful" entrepreneurs from skillfully crafting a ten's digit or even a one hundred's digit in front of the value numerals.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

So what now should be done with the automatic dispensing machines? To place one of these (freely accessible) at some Brno post office and the other at the Prague OZ DOS, as the Postal Service originally planned? Or, based on the previous experience, to put both of them into OZ DOS? Both solutions have their pluses and minuses, but above all else let us not forget that we are dealing with the printing of postage items! When all is said and done, it does not matter if the automatic machine prints question marks behind the 5 Kč value, but we cannot be unconcerned if it prints nearly thousand digit values.



Fig. 8

[Ed Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article in translation from FILATELIE, 4/2000, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

In Memoriam

Russell V. Skavaril, Ph.D., 63 -- member 1795 -- passed away suddenly at his home in Columbus, Ohio on November 29, 2000.

Dr. Skavaril was a member of many specialist societies including the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and assembled several collections, with St. Helena and Bermuda among his favorites.

He had served as president, vice president, treasurer and show chairman for the Columbus Philatelic Club, led its annual show (COLOPEX) to accreditation as a World Series of Philately exhibition and organized the first Colopex philatelic literature competition. An American Philatelic Society-accredited chief judge in both philately and literature, Dr. Skavaril was Literature Commissioner for Pacific 97, an officer of the APS Philatelic Writer's Unit, an Arizona Philatelic Ranger, and had been the treasurer of the American Philatelic Congress, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and the St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society.

During Russell's long tenure as editor, The St. Helena and Dependencies Philatelic Society Newsletter became an outstanding quarterly society publication. His book, St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society's 20th Anniversary Anthology was the first book devoted to these areas of philately.

A Professor Emeritus in Molecular Biology at the Ohio State University and an avid bridge player, at the time of his death Russell was managing five web sites that featured philately. One of these was for the APS Committee on the Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials -- of which Russell was the chairman. He is survived by his wife, Mary, their four grown children, and his Westie, Nigel.

Dr. Jason H. Manchester

TWICE THE FIRST ONE

by Karel Holoubek
trans. by Savoy Horvath

Following both world wars -- after modifying and temporarily using postmarks issued by other postal services -- the Czechoslovak Post began to produce its own cancelers. This kind of situation came about twice in Czechoslovakia -- the first was after October 28, 1918, and the second after 5 - 8 May 1945. In the first time period, in the Czech lands they modified the Austrian cancelers, and in Slovakia it was the Hungarian ones that were reworked. In 1945 the situation was much more fruitful, because in the territory of the Republic -- as the area was understood prior to 1938 -- many more postal services were operating.

Beginning with 1919 the Czechoslovak Post put into use their own postmarks, which are given the designation of Type I. They were of a larger size and had a distinguishing feature located on them that was the initials ČSP, meaning Česko-Slovenská-Pošta. They had two varieties -- single-languaged, and for areas with a larger population of foreign residents, dual-languaged. This of course had an impact on where the initials could be placed in the cancel. In some locations the Type I postmark was in use until 1938. In large post offices they were replaced in 1924 by a new type of postmark, designated Type II. While the size was similar to the Type I, the initials were removed.

From the philatelic point of view the most interesting aspect is that some of the Type I and Type II cancelers survived WWII and were put to use for the second time by post offices in some areas of liberated Czechoslovakia in 1945. Thus, they once more acted as our first official postmarks. The Type I postmark experienced several intrusions into its implementation; these modifications created a new term "znárodnování" [nationalizing]. Since this type had had two varieties before, so likewise we find that there were two varieties of the modified postmarks. The following illustrations show much more about this. The first variety -- which Ing. Emil Votoček designated as M41 (Figure 1 and following) -- was the single-languaged one with the initials in the bottom between the rings. The second variety -- designated as M44 (Figure 5 and following) -- was the dual-languaged one that had the Czech term in the top between the rings and the other languaged one in the bottom between the rings [these illustrations show them with the foreign language part expunged by postal officials to remove any record of Nazi occupation]. The foreign names were not only in German, but also in Polish, Russian, etc. The initials were located in the arch above the date bridge.

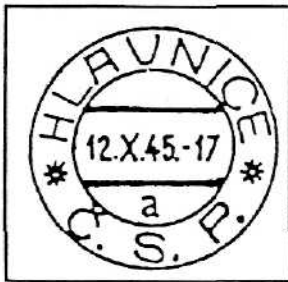


Fig. 1

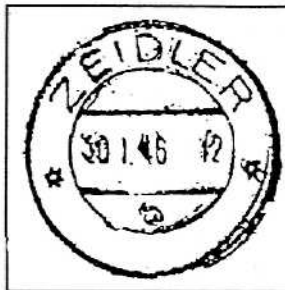


Fig. 2

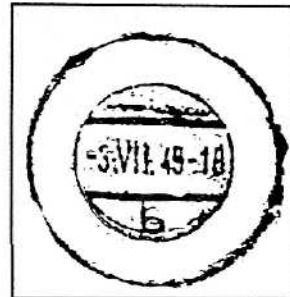


Fig. 3



Fig. 4a

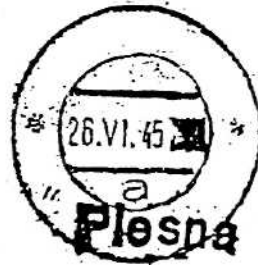
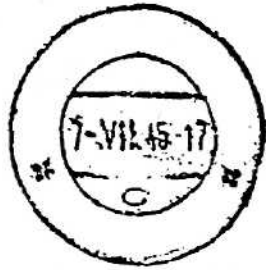


Fig. 4c

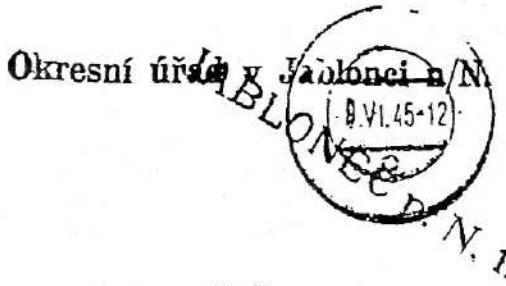


Fig. 4b

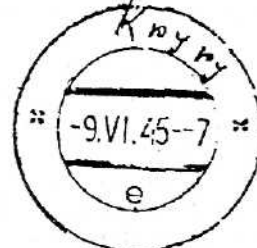


Fig. 4d



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

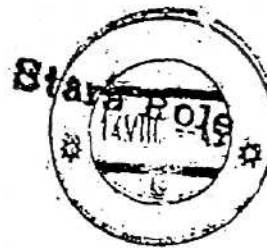


Fig. 7

(See next page for figure captions.)

Figure 1: Pre-war Czechoslovak postmark which was put into use beginning in 1919. They had several graphical variations: differences in the thickness of the date bridge, different numerals used in the date bridge, and the use or none use of different postmark designation letters in the bottom arch. These Type I's were designated by Ing. Emil Votoček as M41. The production of Type I cancelers ended in the second half of 1923, at which time Type II began its introduction as replacements in larger post offices.

Figure 2: Modified M41 postmark, single-languaged, where the ČSP has been expunged from the bottom between the rings. Note the date of the postmark, it was used in 1946.

Figure 3: For postmarks where all of the place-names were expunged, they are called "mute" postmarks. We can see when the item was mailed, but not from where, as long as it isn't evident from some other means (perhaps as a return address).

Figure 4: Mute cancels, type M41, muted after being nationalized, where a supplemental name cancel of the submitting post office was added. Several varieties of these are shown: "Poběžovice 1945" along with a mute date postmark, straight line "Jablonec p. N. 1" and "Plesna" cancels, and a "Kryry" written in to a date postmark.

Figure 5: Pre-war Czechoslovak postmarks, Type I, dual-languaged, where the initials ČSP have been moved up to the upper arch above the date bridge. The design is designated as an M44. The bottom of the rings is vacant after the expunging of the German name of the submitting post office.

Figure 6: Postmark type M44, with the initials ČSP in the upper arch, which was nationalized [muted] but there are bits of the place-name letters remaining. From identification on the cover it came from Poříčí u Trutnova.

Figure 7: Designating this postmark as a type M44 is determined by the decorations (stars) which were used to separate the dual-language place names. The stars are typical of this type. This mute postmark has a straight line place-of-submission cancel added.

In Memoriam

Juan Santaeugenia Grau, 81, died of a brain tumor on December 5th in Barcelona, Spain. He was born on 22 May 1919 in Barcelona, Spain. At the age of fourteen -- when he started working as an apprentice in a factory -- he began collecting stamps. His interest on this subject was enormous, and although he had many other interests in life, he dedicated most of his free time to stamp collecting. After his retirement he had the time to publish his catalog, "CHECOSLOVAQUIA, Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints 1944/1945, Local Issues", which was handmade by himself, and which resumes his entire life's dedication.

He was an ardent student and collector of these special overprint issues. He conducted extensive research on the subject, a particularly difficult task for one who spoke nothing but Spanish. He depended on communications with Czechs, Austrians and Americans with whose help he compiled the world's most extensive compilation of the overprints, resulting in his catalog. The book won numerous awards at international as well as national exhibits.

With his passing the hobby has lost one of the outstanding champions of this somewhat controversial specialization in Czechoslovak philately. However, through his efforts, collecting of the 1944/45 "Revolutionary" issues will probably continue, and our fellow collectors will never forget his beautiful name.

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

- The Czech Republic's Svaz Českých Filatelistů - SČF (which translates to Union of Czech Philatelists) held their Second General Assembly (2. Valná Hromada) on 9 December 2000 in Hradec Králové in the large Střelnice Cultural



Fig. 1

Hall. A special postal card was issued to commemorate the event (Fig. 1). Representatives from 453 philatelic clubs from all over the ČR met to conduct business including the election of officers and directors to run the organization for the next five years. Of note: President Lumír Brendl, International VP Vit Vaníček and Josef Beloubek, Secretary Jaroslav Maleček, and among the Members of the Board (and SCP members) Karel Holoubek and Pavel Pittermann. The first philatelic clubs were formed in the Czech lands in 1887. A delegation from the Czech postal service, headed by deputy general director Ing. Miroslav Spáček, came to greet and address the assembly.

- As forecast (Jan/Feb 2000 SPECIALIST, p25), the Czech Post has adjusted their postal rates as of January 1, 2001. For domestic traffic the biggest change is that the post card rate has been raised from 5 Kč to the basic letter rate (up to 20g) of 5.40 Kč. This probably means that some of the stamps which were scheduled to be issued with a value of 5 Kč (Jan/Feb 2001 SPECIALIST, p39) will now carry 5.40 Kč. But the biggest changes are in the international arena rates. The international parcel rates are up a whopping 26+ percent, with other international shipment rates up almost 12 percent (however, the basic international letter rate will remain at 9 Kč). Thus, if you are receiving a periodical or some other kind of regular shipment



Fig. 2

from the ČR, you should expect your subscription rate to be going up.

- Here are two cancels used in Prague and Brno on the first day of the new millennium -- Figure 2 is the Prague cancel "In the New Millennium", while Figure 3 shows the Brno cancel "Stepping into the Third Thousand Years".



Fig. 3

- This postal card (Fig. 4) was originally destined to be carried by

a hot air balloon at Kunratice in Prague on 23 November 2000 (cancel over the stamp image and in the lower left corner). This flight was delayed by weather (three line hand stamp in the lower middle reading "VZLET HORKOVZDUŠNÉHO BALÓNU ODLOŽEN" -- Flight of Hot Air Balloon Delayed) and then took place on 8 December 2000 in Prague (cancel in middle left) by way of balloon "OK-4056" (balloon cancel in upper middle).

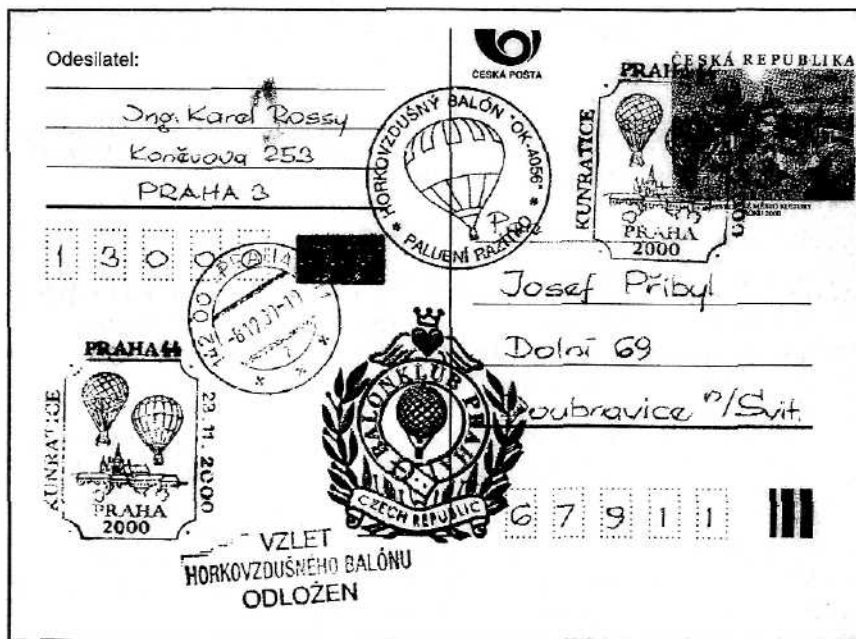


Fig. 4

From Ludvik Svoboda:

- To avoid having mail sent to Europe and other foreign countries mis-sent, mis-forwarded, or returned as "Undeliverable as Addressed", you need to make sure that your addresses are written in the proper format and with the proper postal codes. A properly addressed item to the Czech Republic or the Slovak Republic should include the proper country postal code (Czech Republic = CS, Slovak Republic = SK),

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

placed before the postal code, then the city name, and then the country name on the bottom line in capital letters. A fictitious example would be:

Ludvik Svoboda
Sokolská 124
CS-14002 Plzeň
CZECH REPUBLIC

The placement of the country postal code as well as the postal code can vary by country so check with your post office for other countries.

- The November 2000 issue of GLOBAL STAMP NEWS included an announcement that a rejuvenated Austria Philatelic Society (US)(AUSPS) has been organized and has published its first newsletter. Annual dues are \$15. If you have an interest, contact R. Schneider, PO Box 23049, Belleville, IL 62223, (618) 277-6152, e-mail: RSStamps@aol.com.

- The February 5, 2001 issue of LINN'S STAMP NEWS included an article by Charles Snee announcing an interesting error discovery. It turns out that the US 5¢ Czechoslovakia stamp, Scott 910, from the 1943-44 Overrun Countries set can have the "CZECHOSLOVAKIA" inscription below the flag doubled. The error is planned to be listed in the October issue of the Scott Specialized catalog. The article goes on to discuss how the error may have occurred -- it is very unusual, because the other red field on the stamp (the lower part of the Czechoslovak flag) is not doubled.

From Henry Hahn:

- As an adjunct to my WIPA '00 article in the Sep/Oct 00 SPECIALIST issue, I have learned that our member Alfonso Zulueta won a Gold medal for his eight frame exhibit in Nepal at that exhibition. Congratulations!

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS THAT A FOKKER

(A Reader's Observations on the Essay by D. Steidel)

by Zdeněk Fritz

trans. by Vladimír Kralíček

The author of the article "Fokker or Tupolev? One Stamp's Mystery", the German specialist Dr. Dietmar Steidel (*Merkur Review*, no. 3/1997 [*SPECIALIST*, Nov/Dec 2000]) has taken on -- with the Cz. airmail stamps of the 1930 III. issue, namely the 50h, 1 Kč, 10 Kč and 20 Kč and also the complementing 30h value (let's consider for a change Czech catalogue numbers: Troj. L7-8, L13-14 and L15) -- the provocative but also fair question of the idea of identifying the aircraft that are illustrated on these stamps engraved by K. Seizinger.

On this question, with the help of a number of correct and logical reflections, he makes the apparently surprising claim that the new and then modern three engined Dutch transport aircraft Fokker F-VIIb-3m (as stated by various catalogs) -- gradually introduced into service by a number of Cz. airlines beginning July 1930 -- is not shown on the above stamps, even though the Cz. Post had an interest to publicize this machine on its new definitive stamps. On the contrary, the author convincingly explains that the aircraft illustrated really resembles another, even more popular, somewhat larger Soviet three-engined, single high winged ANT-9 transport aircraft designed by A.N. Tupolev.

I would like to supplement colleague Steidel's veracious analysis through additional supporting arguments. First, it is necessary to emphasize once again the relevant fact that the ANT-9 was one of the first large transport aircraft of its time to use the very progressive constructional advance of placing the wing engine mounting onto the wing's leading edge, in contrast to the majority of aircraft of the same or similar categories, where the engines were mounted below the wing on various bracing or supporting systems. The progressive design of the ANT-9 proved itself so much that almost all two or more engined aircraft of the piston engined era (up to its decline) used this constructional advance. It is just this that is illustrated on those five stamps of the III. airmail issue, through which it is irrevocably

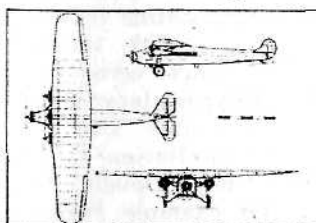


Fig. 1: Fokker F-VIIB-3m

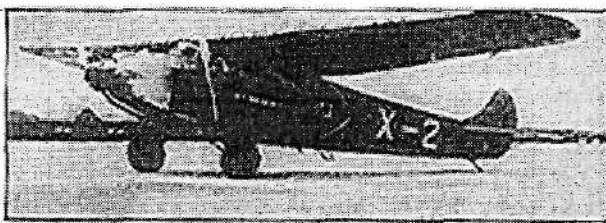


Fig. 2: Fokker F-VIIB-3m

demonstrated that the illustrated aircraft is under no circumstances a Fokker F-VIIB-3m (or any other contemporary machine of this firm)! See Figures 1 and 2.

The identity of the ANT-9 on our stamps -- compared with the Soviet stamp MI 572 with a very similar flight setting -- is supported by the detail of five large rectangular windows in a row, obvious in the side view schematic drawing (Fig. 3 -- here it is not important that the drawing involves the winter or "polar" version with skis) or the preserved picture (Fig. 4) of unfortunately rather poor quality. These five windows are distinctly seen on both of Seizinger's engravings! On the other hand, the above mentioned Fokker is furnished with eight windows in a row (Fig. 1).

It is paradoxical that colleague Steidel weakens his conclusive evidence of the identification as an ANT-9 through the incorrect assertion that Seizinger depicted twin engined aircraft on both of his engravings. They actually involve a three-engined aircraft, as we can be easily convinced through a substantial magnification of the engravings or else the designs of these stamps. The aircraft is viewed from such an angle that the wing engine and the fuselage nose engine almost totally obscure each other, such that, during a fleeting glance the inattentive or unskilled eye does not distinguish this detail. Referencing this fact is consequently reinforcing the accuracy of the authors reasoning.

In as much as Seizinger adjusted something in the designs and engravings of the stamps within the framework of his "artistic license", it is only in the curved ends of the wings and in the tail vertical surfaces (with the original ANT-9 aircraft the

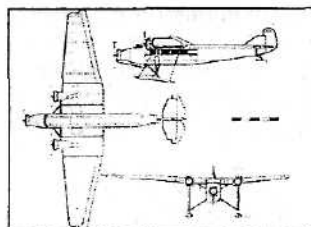


Fig. 3: ANT-9



Fig. 4: ANT-9

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

ailerons extend beyond the wing weight-bearing surfaces, and the identical thing is seen with the rudder which reaches above the vertical stabilizer -- see Fig. 3 and 4). Seizinger thus has somewhat "aerodynamically improved" the aircraft, and only in this way has he come close to the Fokker.

It is therefore possible to say that in 1930 the Cz. Post, in spite of its understandable desire to illustrate the latest additions to the aircraft fleet of CSA and CSL on its airmail stamps, unfortunately did not succeed, and "thanks to" an incorrect photo representation, a machine appeared on these stamps which was not then nor later in service with these companies either as their own or as a charter.

It is as a result of an error which ensued from ignorance of technical details in clearly differentiating between two aircraft. With striking similarities this error was repeated 16 years later (1946) on airmail stamp L16 [Sc. C25] (a Constellation being substituted for a Douglas DC-4E, see for example *Filatelie* 19/1990 or *Merkur Review* 5/1996 and 2/1997).

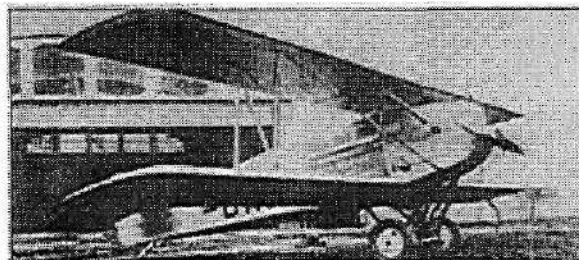


Fig. 5: Letov Š-19

I have a final comment as regards the claim by the author at the beginning of his account that it is possible, without a doubt, to identify the transport aircraft on the stamps of 2, 3, 4, and 5 Kč (catalog no. L9-12) as the Letov Š-19 or its variety Š-19W. This is valid only for the 4 and 5 Kč values, where it is possible to find considerable agreement with the preserved illustrations of Š-19 aircraft (with the Maybach Mb-IVa engine), but not however with the Š-19W aircraft (with the Walter W-IV engine). Compare Figures 5 and 6. The constructional details largely agree with the exception of Seizinger's omitted struts. On the other hand, on the 2 and 3 Kč stamps we see an aircraft that is difficult to identify; it

is possibly a Letov Š-19 or as the case may be an Š-19W identifiable only with a large helping of fantasy (evidence against this is the incorrect placement of the lower wing, the fuselage's rather odd shape, and the especially quite different strut set-up between both carrying surfaces).

It is a fact that contemporary catalogs list the incorrect designations of all or most of the referred aircraft illustrated on the above mentioned stamps, e.g. Catalog Trojan 1997: no. L7, L8 and L15 -- "Fokker FVIIIb"; no. L9 - L12 -- "Šmolík Š-19"; no. L13 and L14 -- "Fokker F-VIIb/3m". All of these designations are incorrect, not only with respect to incorrect identification, but "Šmolík" also introduces the incorrect name of a firm. This originates with the fact that Alois Šmolík was a construction chief at the firm of Letov.

In the Michel catalog (in a string of the last volumes) we find: no. Mi 303, 304, 309, 310 and 407 -- "Fokker F-VIIIb,3m"; no. Mi 305-308 -- "Šmolík Š-19"; for



Fig. 6: Letov Š-19W

analogous reasons all of these designations are incorrect.

It will be necessary to inform the publishers of the referenced catalogs (and perhaps also others) about these facts and to request that they remedy this.

In conclusion, it is necessary to say that some small inaccuracies in the Steidel article do not lessen his contribution to the detailed understanding of the Cz. airmail stamps of 1930 which are so remarkably popular with collectors.

Correction

In *Merkur Review* no. 3/1997 there occurred an unfortunate mistake during the listing of the surname of the author of the article "Fokker or Tupolev". Instead of the correct surname Steidel, there was incorrectly placed the similarly pronounced Steidler. The Editor's office apologizes to the author for this contribution.

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

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

The candidates that you, the general membership, have nominated to run in this year's election to the Board of Directors include the following:

1 -- Bruce Sebek, M.D. (member #1587) of Shaker Heights, OH; Czech collector since 1985; coordinated SCP annual meeting at APS STAMPSHOW'99 in Cleveland; pathologist.

2 -- Alan Hoover (member #1543) of Norcross, GA; has philatelic interests in both Czech and Hungarian materials; current president of Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP); sales circuit manager for both the SCP (since 1994) and the SHP; maintains the SHP website.

3 -- Robert Koschalk (member #1461) of Waukegan, IL; current vice-president; Czech collector (Bohemia & Moravia expert) since 1952; Chicagoland Branch member; runs Cicero/Berwyn bourse (oldest in Chicago); frequent Czech Republic visitor.

4 -- Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D. (member #1180) of Tempe, AZ; specializes in Scouts on stamps issues; Czech interests since early 80's; frequent contributor to philatelic journals including the SPECIALIST; APS-accredited judge in Czechoslovak materials among many others; member and officer of numerous philatelic organizations.

5 -- Charles J. Rehman (member #1539) of Minnetonka, MN; retired pastor; son was Czech linguist in USAF; developed Czech philatelic interests.

Of the above, Alan Hoover, Robert Koschalk, Frederick P. Lawrence, and Charles J. Rehman are currently on the Board and are seeking re-election.

Enclosed in the envelope with this issue is the election ballot that every member in good standing is asked to complete. Vote for any 5 of the candidates listed above. The order in which you list them is not important. Mail your ballot to our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, at the address given on the ballot. Make sure that your ballot is postmarked no later than May 15th. The new Board will convene for the first time at our Convention and meeting at CHICAGOPEX 2001 in Chicago, IL, November 16-18, 2001.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On January 2, 2001, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "First Stamp of the Millennium" (Fig. 1). The stamp shows the famous scene of a magician in a long tailed coat bringing a "2001" rabbit out of a hat. This stamp -- as was the "Last Stamp" of the previous millennium -- was designed by Adolf Born and engraved by Martin Srb. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in ocher, orange, red, and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown also depicts a humorous scene associated with the start of the year 2001 and the 3rd millennium.



Fig. 1

2. On January 20, 2001, the Ministry issued a 5.40 Kč stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series commemorating not only the 150th anniversary of the birth of Alois Jirásek, eminent Czech novelist and dramatist, but also the prolific work of stamp designer Karel Svolinský (Fig. 2). On the stamp is the engraver's transposition of a 5 Kč stamp issued in 1951 (originally designed by today's honoree Karel Svolinský and engraved by J. Schmidt) portraying Alois Jirásek on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. The current stamp was both designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in ocher, red, and green in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in the printing sheet arrangements, there were produced and issued philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 2 labels. The labels show the text 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ALOIS JIRÁSEK 1851-2001 in Czech over a drawing of a lime bloom. A FDC in blue depicts the drawing "A Bunch of Meadow Flowers" by K. Svolinský.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

3. On January 20, 2001, the Ministry issued a 0.40 Kč definitive stamp in the Signs of the Zodiac series (Fig. 3). It shows a drawing of the zodiacal sign of Pisces -- two fish on the opposite ends of a line -- along with the appropriate astrological sign. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Suchánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in ocher and blue-green in printing sheets of 100 pieces.

4. On February 14, 2001, the Ministry issued a 12 Kč definitive stamp in the Signs

of the Zodiac series (Fig. 4). It shows a drawing of the zodiacal sign of Leo -- a rearing lion -- along with the appropriate astrological sign. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Suchánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in blue and light brown in printing sheets of 100 pieces.



Fig. 4

Postal Stationery

5. On December 18, 2000, the Czech Post, Distribution and Commercial Services --



Fig. 5

POSTFILA -- in cooperation with the Union of Czech Philatelists, issued a postal card with an imprint commemorating the organization of the Czechoslovak Field Posts in Great Britain (Fig. 5). A special card (originally issued on January 20, 2000) designed for additional overprinting and bearing an imprinted stamp with nominal value of 5 Kč, was used for this issue. On the card's left side is pictured a cover mailed from the USA to London with a cancellation of the Czechoslovak Field Post. Above and behind it is illustrated a portion of the military documentation dealing with the organization of the Field Post in Great Britain. Below the cover there appears the seal of the Czechoslovak Army and Air Force in Great Britain, and the abbreviation for the Field Post: "CS. P. P.". The left side illustration is printed by offset in black, red, brown, blue, and light ocher. The card may be purchased -- mint for 10 Kč and with a single postmark for 10.30 Kč -- in the POSTFILA store and from the Union of Czech Philatelists.



Fig. 6

6. On January 2, 2001, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp for the Czech Republic's Communication Strategy Before Accession to the EU [European Union](Fig. 6). The stamp image bears the logo of the Communication Strategy -- the Strategy informs citizens where they can obtain objective information on the European Union and on the process of accession to it. The logo is the official emblem which accompanies all materials and activities of the Communication Strategy. The left portion of the postal card contains a design that originates from the logo and is accompanied by the text **OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION**, the Internet address www.euroskop.cz, and a phone number for a free publication. The postal card was designed by Václav Kučera and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in red, blue, yellow and black. It sells for 6.10 Kč.

7. On January 2, 2001, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp for current postal operations (Fig. 7). The multicolored stamp imprint shows a view of "Nový Svět" (the New World) with Prague Castle in the background. The stamp image originates from the imprinted 5 Kč stamp on the postal card for current postal operations issued January 3, 2000. Compared to the original version the colors and the type have been changed, and the inscription "PRAGUE -- EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE" in the bottom part of the stamp image has been omitted. The postal card was designed by Alfred Fuchs and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 6.10 Kč.

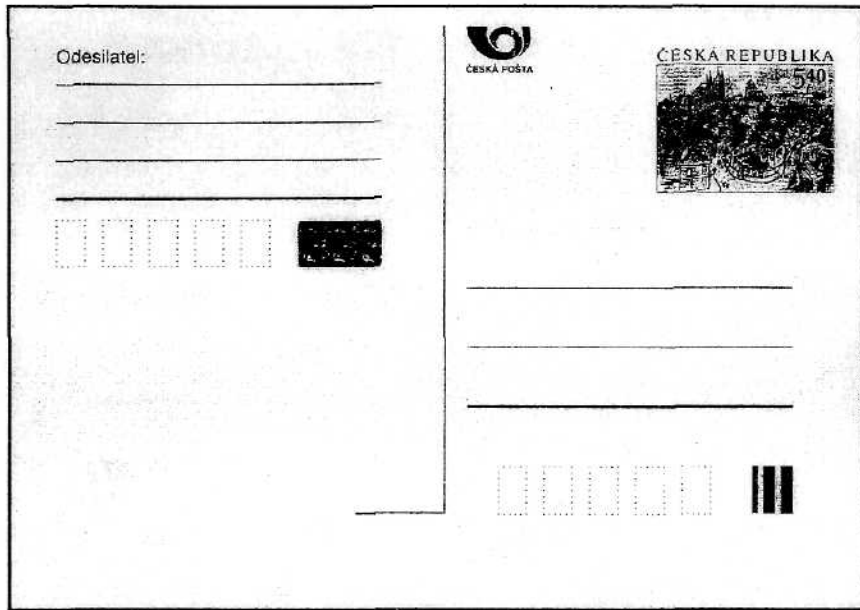


Fig. 7

8. On January 20, 2001, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp commemorating the 700th anniversary of the first written record of the town of Vítkov (Fig. 8). The stamp image consists of a composition of the coat-of-arms of

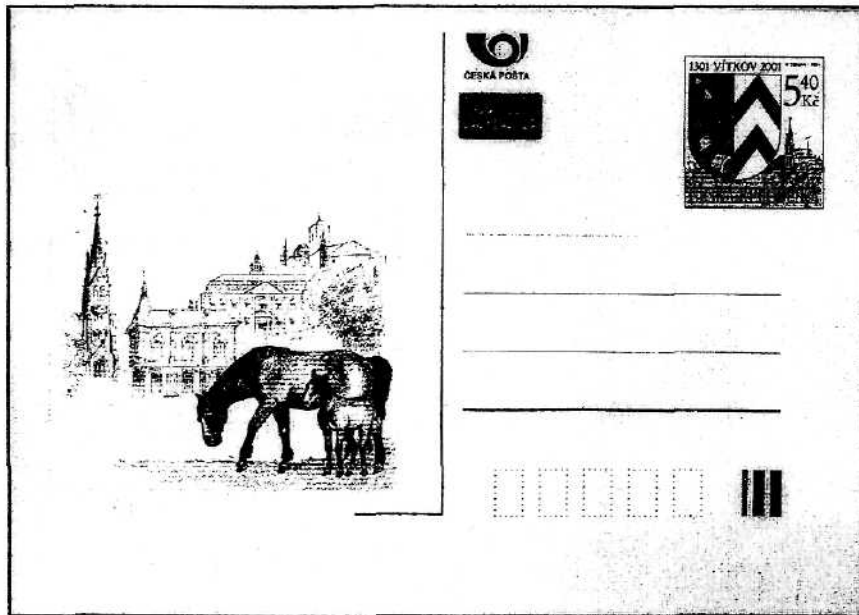


Fig. 8

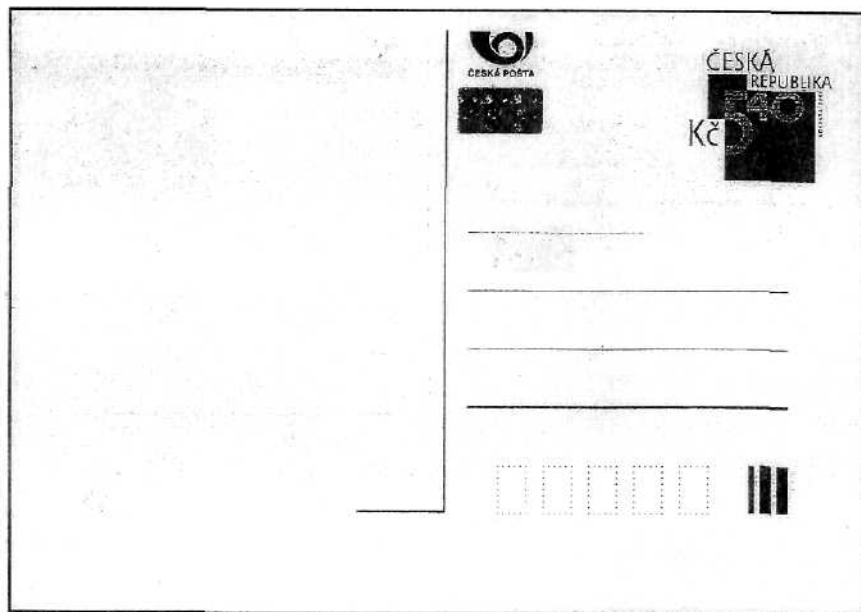


Fig. 9

Vitkov, the text 1301 Vitkov 2001, against a background of a late gothic church. In the left portion of the postal card are depicted a collection of excellent buildings from the town and its surroundings: the late-gothic church, the pharmacy from 1863, the

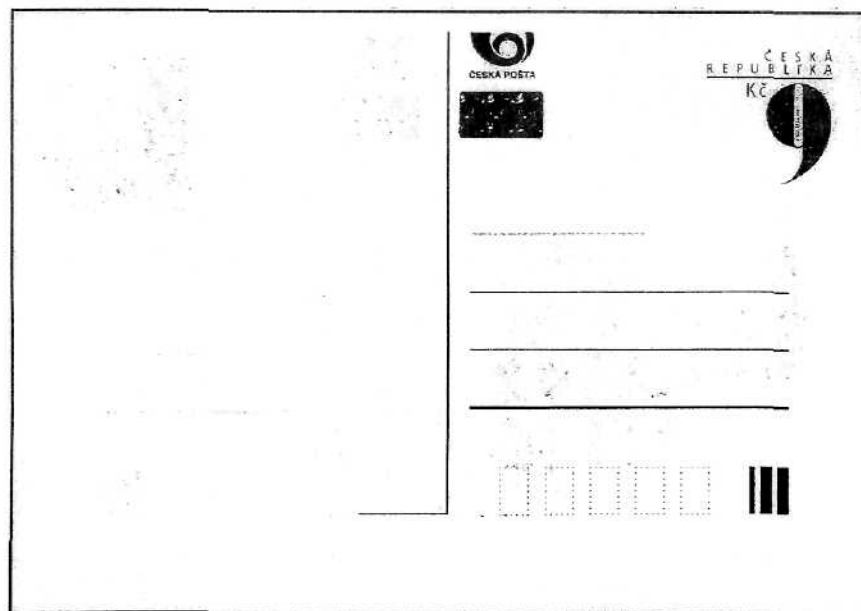


Fig. 10

castle in Radkov-Dubová, and the cemetery church from the beginning of the 17th century. In the foreground is a mare with a foal, referring to the horse breeding of Klokočov. The postal card was designed by Karel Toman and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 6.10 Kč.

9. On January 20, 2001, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp for commercial and promotional use with the left side free and reserved for surcharges (it is without any lines for the sender's address)(Fig. 9). The stamp image -- in light and dark purple -- consists of a graphic composition of the face value against rectangular fields. The card was designed by Jan Solpera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset. It sells for 6.10 Kč.

10. On January 20, 2001, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 9 Kč stamp for commercial and promotional use with the left side free and reserved for surcharges (it is without any lines for the sender's address)(Fig. 10). The stamp image -- in dark green -- consists of a graphic composition of the face value. The card was designed by Jan Solpera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset. It sells for 9.70 Kč and would appear to be for international mail use.

SLOVAKIA
by F. Garancovsky
2001 ISSUE PLAN
FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 1	Historical Clocks	1	13
Jan 15	Personalities -- Janko Blaho	1	5.50
Jan 15	European Figure Skating Championships	1	16
Feb 22	Folk Customs	2	
	- Folk Costume -- Woman's		4
	- Folk Costume -- Men's		5.50
Feb 22	Agricultural Inspection & Experimentation Institute	1	10
Mar 26	Definitive -- Komárno	1	35
Apr 10	Splendors of Our Homeland -- Sheetlets of 8	2	
	- Liptovská Mara		12
	- Ducové - Kostelec		15
May 5	EUROPA -- Sheetlets of 10	1	
	- Cold-water Waterfall		18
May 25	Definitive -- Piešťany	1	40
Jun 5	Personalities of Greater Moravia -- Se-tenant sheetlet of 4	4	
	- Pribina		5
	- Rastislav		9
	- Koceľ		11
	- Svätopluk		14
Jul 10	Nature Protection -- S/S of 3 stamps	3	
	- Bear		14
	- Wolf		15

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

	- Lynx		16
Aug 1	Dobro Guitar	1	19
Aug 15	Biennial of Children's Book Illustration	1	4
Oct 9	Victims of Political Oppression	1	4
Oct 9	Postal Museum	1	5.50
Oct 15	Art on Stamps	2	
	- Imrich Weiner Král		16
	- Albín Brunovský		18
Oct 15	Joint Issue with the Ukraine	1	20
Oct 15	Christmas Stamp -- Rococo Nativity	1	4

✻ . ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Recently, I have been acquiring a number of items with newspaper stamps used on them. Some are actual newspapers, such as one announcing Masaryk's death. A few are interesting newspaper wrappers. Others are covers that carried correspondence, not newspaper wrappers. Most are to locations in Czechoslovakia. A couple went to Germany and Austria.

Here is my question. There are a number of denominations of newspaper stamps. We see eight denominations issued in 1918 and nine more released in 1937. Is there any reference to what the various Czechoslovak newspaper rates were? If not, is there anyone in our membership who has studied this material and can write an information article for the SPECIALIST? All of my examples seem to be either 2h or 5h regardless of the size of the periodical or destination. I do have one large piece of a newspaper which has about 30 5h denominations on it.

One further question: who was allowed to use them as ordinary postage, publishers? Were elements of the trade given postal rate breaks?

Best wishes,
Kimber [Wald]

[Ed. Note: I have checked through my sources and can find no article on the questions on this subject in the SPECIALISTS from the past. The definitive book that treats the subject (but not answering all of your questions) is Monografie #4. In one of my Czech catalogs I read that the earliest newspaper stamps were allowed to be used as "filler" postage during periods of rapid rate changes (generally in the early years of the 1st Republic). They even talk about using them to send Printed Matter and Business Printed Matter in envelopes. To some extent it seemed to depend on the postmaster at the submitted post office. Also, if I read it correctly, there was a 50% reduction in newspaper rates sometime in the middle 1930's. The 2h and 6h were only good until 30 April 1921, but the rest were good until 15 December 1939. As to their usage, it seems that originally there was a flat fee (2h) for any newspaper that was put out at least weekly and another for those put out at least monthly, etc., irrespective of weight. That then changed to so-much for the first 100g, and then graduations up per additional 10g, etc. But the Monografie does not go into enough detail to give all that

is needed. Hopefully one of our readers will come up with more information.]

2. Dear Lou:

Even though I have only been a member for a very short time (but I have collected Praha postal history for nearly twenty years), I must congratulate you on the decision to mail the bulletin in an envelope. Since I joined, I don't think I have received one issue that passed through the US postal service completely undamaged, so I really appreciate this decision. I know it costs a bit more, but I am happy to receive an untorn and undamaged SPECIALIST.

[Even though] my interest in Czech material is limited to Praha, I still always find something of interest in the SPECIALIST in every issue. Keep up the good work, I know how thankless an editor's work is, because I was one.

Thanks
Karl [Winkelmann]

3. Dear Mr. Svoboda:

I enjoy the Czechoslovak SPECIALIST and appreciate the work that goes into production of the magazine. So I'm reluctant to point out errors. I hope you will understand. It's a fine magazine, but the January/February 2001 issue had two major gaffes:

1. Page 4, the cutline to the picture: Centuries have ten decades. The "twenties" are the third decade; the "nineties" are the tenth.

2. The van Zanten article, p.41: Alphons Mucha, whose work is well represented in the current Art Nouveau exhibit at the National Gallery of Art, painted "the Slav epic", not "the Slavonic Epic", whatever that might be.

Again, I apologize for my crankiness. Thanks again for the fine magazine.
Frank Schubert

4. Dear Lou:

Ever since I ran across a collection of bullseye cancellations, I started to pay more attention to the cancellations on the stamps. Previously, I was usually looking for stamps with the least cancellation. The bullseye cancellation seems to add character to the stamp -- also, many times, it tells an additional story about the stamp.

As an example, I am enclosing four stamps, all canceled in the year 1920 (Scott 6 and 32):



Fig. 1

- Figs 1 & 2 have the Hungarian crown above the upper inner bar. Also, one lists the year first, then month and day (fig. 1 -- 920-JAN.-8.), the other in reverse (fig 2 -- 23 JAN.920).



Fig. 2

- Fig 3, canceled in Trenčín has a blank over the upper inner bar

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

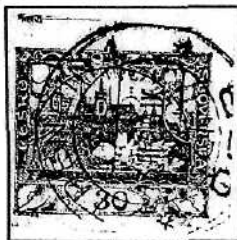


Fig. 3

(please note the cancellation date shows the month in Roman numerals and just the last two digits of the year -- 13.III.20).

From the above it would be indicative that areas of Slovakia with strong Hungarian population continued using the old Hungarian stamp cancellation, while others started with new ones.

- Fig 4 shows a cancellation with words [sic letters] Č.S.R. over the upper bar (there is also an oddity in that the date of the day is given as 1a --

this could be a reversed 6).

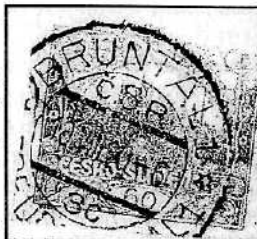


Fig. 4

Apart from the above is Scott #214 (Fig. 5). It is a revelation to me that apparently the names of cities were shown in cancellations both in Czech

and German (LIBEREC -- REICHENBERG) in the first republic. From this it would be indicative, that such was the practice in areas with strong German population. Looking over pre 1918 Austrian stamps, I know that names of cities in Bohemia and Moravia were then given both in German and Czech -- and, of course during the Protectorate era.



Fig. 5

It is possible that these matters were discussed in previous issues of the SPECIALIST -- before I became a member of the Society. If so, I apologize. In any case, it would be interesting to hear from those who have more expertise.

With best regards,
Karl [Ruzicka]

[Ed. Note: You are right. There is an excellent article which synthesizes this whole area for the Czechoslovak lands -- March 1969 SPECIALIST, pg 33-37, "Postal Cancellations and the Language Question in the Czech Lands", Dr. Karel Všetěčka. It covers cancellations from the earliest times to just after 1945, and comes with 57 illustrations of cancels. Contact our librarian for a copy. However, if you want the definitive information on the subject, you need to turn to the Monografie -- Monografie 13/14 cover the history of post offices/cancels from the earliest times to 1918, Monografie 16 (I & II) cover the transition period of 1918-1920, and Monografie 17 (I & II) cover after that.]

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

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)

\$20.00

MARCH/APRIL 2001

[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
[NEW] CZECHOSLOVAK STATIONERY & POSTCARD CATALOG 1918-1992(Cz) Vol. 1, by Starec and Beneš (Not yet reviewed)	\$ 7.00
[NEW] CARPATHO-UKRAINE CHECKLIST(E) -- by Bylen. A 28 page catalog of Czechoslovak related Carpatho-Ukraine issues.	\$ 5.00
HISTORY OF POSTAL AGENCIES (POŠTOVNY) IN THE TĚŠIN REGION -- Philatelic handbook on the Eastern Silesian area, by Tovačovský, Síkora, and Schodelbauer(Cz). (Reviewed: Nov/Dec 00)	\$ 7.00
POSTAL HISTORY OF THE HLUČIN DISTRICT -- <i>Philatelic handbook on this</i> 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
MANUAL FOR HRADČANY COLLECTORS - VOL. 1, by Hamr and Škaloud(Cz) -- Detailed and extensively illustrated handbook.(Reviewed Jul/Aug 99)	\$10.00
MANUAL FOR HRADČANY COLLECTORS - VOL. 2, by Hamr and Škaloud(Cz) -- Follow on to the previous basic volume. (Not yet reviewed)	\$10.00
HRADČANY, by Jan Karásek(Cz)	\$ 7.50
TROJAN -- CZECHOSLOVAK AIRMAIL 1918-1939(Cz) -- (Reviewed Sep/Oct 99)	\$15.00
CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS AND THEIR COUNTERFEITS 1918-1939 (PADĚLKY)(E,Cz,G) -- A beautiful hard cover, illustrated, updated version in English, Czech, German. (Reviewed Jan/Feb 99)	\$35.00
SPECIALIZED CATALOG, CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-99, by <i>MERKUR REVIEW</i> (Cz) -- A handsome 160 page color catalog dealing with the stamps, stationery, and specialized items. (Not yet reviewed)	\$10.00
PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA 1939-1945, by František Beneš, Martin Trojan (Cz) -- (Not yet reviewed)	\$15.00
SPECIALIZED CATALOG, SLOVAKIA 1993-97, by ZSF(Cz). (Not yet reviewed)	\$10.00
SPECIALIZED CATALOG, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1945-1992, by POFIS(Cz) -- 1997 edition that is an absolute must for the varieties collector. (Reviewed: Jan/Feb 98)	\$15.00
SPECIALIZED CATALOG, CESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939, by Beneš and Trojan (Cz) -- The specialized catalog for Czechoslovak stamps for the period 1918-1939, 175 pages, in color, on glossy paper. Each issue is treated in great depth. (Reviewed: Sep/Oct 99)	\$15.00
STORY OF JOSEF HERČÍK'S POSTAGE STAMPS, by Jan Chovanec (E) -- (Reviewed: Jul/Aug 99)	\$ 6.00
AGRICULTURE & SCIENCE ISSUE 1923(Cz)	\$10.00
PERFORATIONS 1918-39, by Jan Karásek(Cz)	\$ 7.00
GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY -- Second Edition (E) -- A must for non-Czech reading collectors. (Reviewed: Mar/Apr 97)	\$20.00
CUMULATIVE INDEX OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK <i>SPECIALIST</i> 1939-92 (E)	\$15.00
BOUND BI-ANNUAL VOLUMES OF THE <i>SPECIALIST</i> (E) each	\$19.00
Many years available.	
THE PHILATELY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR BEGINNERS by Phil Freer (E)	\$ 3.50

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

CZECH POST POSTAL CARD commemorating the 60 th Anniversary of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately -- May 31, 1999 (see Jul/Aug 99, p1-3; Sep/Oct 99, p38)	\$ 1.50
SCP CACHET commemorating the 100 th anniversary of Prague Pneumatic Mail with illustration of First Day of Operation postal card (see Jul/Aug 99, p20)	\$ 1.00
--- with special SCP commemorative day cancel	\$ 2.00
MONOGRAFIE Series(Cz):	
MONOGRAFIE 1 -- Forerunners, Hradčany, Listing of Austrian and Hungarian names of post offices taken over and their new Czech names.	\$30.00
MONOGRAFIE 5 -- THE SO 1920 ISSUES (Cz) -- A complete study of these issues, including valuations of stamps, varieties, and on cover. Some color illustrations. (Reviewed: Mar/Apr 99)	\$30.00
MONOGRAFIE 13 -- Czech area postal cancels from antiquity through 1918 (Abertham - Oubenice)[Monografie 14 completes the list]	\$22.50
MONOGRAFIE 16, Part I -- Catalog of 1918-1920 period postmarks: on Czech lands (Abertham - Syrovice)	\$22.50
MONOGRAFIE 16, Part II -- Catalog of 1918-1920 period postmarks: on Czech lands (Šafov - Žumberk), on Slovakia, on Carpatho-Ukraine, railroad cancels; English translation of key information in order to use Mono. 16	\$22.50
Publications of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain(E):	
Monograph 1 -- CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY & AIR FORCE IN EXILE 1939-45, by W.A. Page	\$12.00
Monograph 3 -- POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ OVERPRINTS, by Dehn	\$11.00
Monograph 4 -- CARPATHO-UKRAINE -- POSTAL MARKINGS of the Years 1938-45, by Juan Page	\$12.00
Monograph 5 --CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN FRANCE (WWII), by Reader	\$15.00
Monograph 6 -- GERMAN OCCUPATION OF SUDETENLAND 1938, by Dawson	\$15.00
Monograph 7 -- INDEX OF ARTICLES ON CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY 1950-1979, by Negus	\$2.00
Monograph 8 -- OCCUPATION OF CZECH FRONTIER TERRITORIES BY BECK'S POLAND FROM THE POSTAL HISTORY VIEW-POINT, by Neumann	\$12.00
Monograph 9 -- FIELD POST OF CZECHOSLOVAK & ALLIED FORCES IN RUSSIA 1918-20, by W.A. Page	\$12.00
Monograph 10 -- 25 th ANNIVERSARY OF CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE (The 1943 London Exhibitions), by Kralicek and W.A. Page	\$15.00
Monograph 11 -- THE SOKOLS IN PHILATELY -- COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS AND POSTCARDS, by Day	\$17.00
Monograph 12 -- MILITARY CARDS OF THE EXILED CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN FRANCE AND BRITAIN, by Kralicek and W.A. Page	\$12.00
Monograph 13 -- THE HRADČANY ISSUE 1918-20, by Bradford	\$12.00

All publications available on postpaid basis from:
Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc.
Attention: Edwin W. Lehecka
217 Hazel Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090