



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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CHICAGOPEX 2001

Our annual convention and exhibition will be held at CHICAGOPEX 2001 from Friday, Nov. 16 - Sunday, Nov. 18. Our Society will, as is our practice, staff a table with books for sale, information on official and social Society activities including any changes of time and place that are necessary.

Activities include: on Thursday, 7 p.m., the Society dinner at the Czech Plaza Restaurant, 7016 W. Cermak Rd, Berwyn, IL. All Society members and guests are invited, no reservations are necessary. On Saturday, 1 p.m., the annual Society meeting will take place followed by a special presentation complete with slides by Richard Palaschak on the various aspects of collecting Czechoslovak stamps. Then, on Sunday morning will be the Society breakfast -- time and place to be announced.

Check at the Society table to get the latest information on location of the meeting and to make a reservation for the breakfast.

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**FOKKER OR ANT 9 OR WHAT?
(ADDENDUM No. 2)
by Richard Beith**

An article by Zdeněk Kvasnička about this issue provides confirmation of the French origin of the monoplane design¹:

The picture of a monoplane . . . was taken from advertising literature of the French Airline Company. In the original photograph the aircraft fuselage carried the letters F-ASJB and the rudder the letter F. These were replaced by shading in the engraving.

- (1) Kvasnička, Z: "The Third Air Mail Issue of Czechoslovakia, 1930-1939", *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, Vol XLVI, No 3, March 1984.

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Editorial Staff

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

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

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

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

Advertising Manager: Ludvik Svoboda (address above)

Elected Officers

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

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

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

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

Appointed Officers

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

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

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

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

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

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EARLY USAGE OF THE HRADČANY ISSUE

by Lubor Kunc

The first stamps of the Hradčany set were issued in December 1918 as the first stamps of the newly created Czechoslovakia. The stamps were not used very often during that month. Occasionally you can find a statement that covers franked with the Hradčany stamps and mailed during December 1918 are rarer than the first Austrian covers sent in June 1850. The reasons for the sparing usage of the Hradčany set in December 1918 are as follows:

- The first Hradčany stamps were issued in the second half of the month.
- The old Austrian and Hungarian stamps remained valid, mail senders were accustomed to using them, and they had sufficient quantities of them at home and the office. In addition, postal offices franked money orders and other postal forms with the old Austrian and Hungarian stamps in order to exhaust the stock of these old stamps.
- Prior to December 1918 there had never been any postage stamps printed on Czechoslovak territory -- the printing houses for the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were situated in Vienna and Budapest. Thanks to this situation, there was a shortage of printers experienced in postage stamp printing and the machinery, paper, and ink to produce them. Therefore, the Česká Grafická Unie printing house had to use typography, being the easiest type of printing, and the quantity of Hradčany stamps issued within the first month was very limited.

The Postal Administration issued the following Hradčany stamps in 1918:

- on Dec. 18, 1918 the 5 Heller yellow green (Tr. 3, Sc. 2)
- on Dec. 18, 1918 the 10 Heller rose (Tr. 5, Sc. 3)
- on Dec. 21, 1918 the 3 Heller red violet (Tr. 2, Sc. 1)
- on Dec. 30, 1918 the 20 Heller bluish green (Tr. 8, Sc. 4)
- on Dec. 30, 1918 the 25 Heller deep blue (Tr. 10, Sc. 5)

Not widely known is the fact that the Hradčany stamps were originally denominated in Austrian Hellers and not in Czechoslovak currency. The Czechoslovak Crown was established for the first time in February 1919 (monetary reform took place from Feb. 25, 1919 through Mar. 9, 1919 which is known among collectors as the end of validity of Austro-Hungarian stamps in Czechoslovakia). Thus, all of the stamps issued until this time were denominated in Austrian currency, and during the reform they were re-denominated into Czechoslovak currency (without any overprint, just in bookkeeping). The Czechoslovak expectation of soon establishing their own currency led to their making the face values of all Hradčany stamps in figures alone without the designation of currency.

On Dec. 18, 1918 and for the next few days the stamps were only sold in Prague. In those days the quantity of stamps was so limited that every visitor of the philatelic window of the Main Prague Post Office (Praha 1) could only buy 10 copies of each stamp issued. The collectors usually asked to have the issued

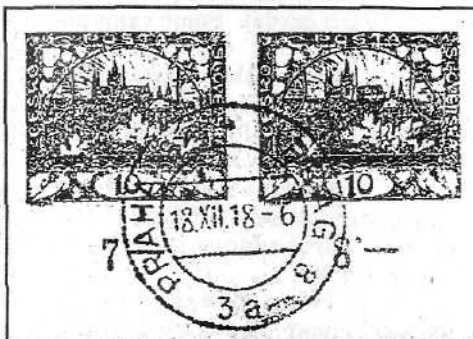


Fig. 1a

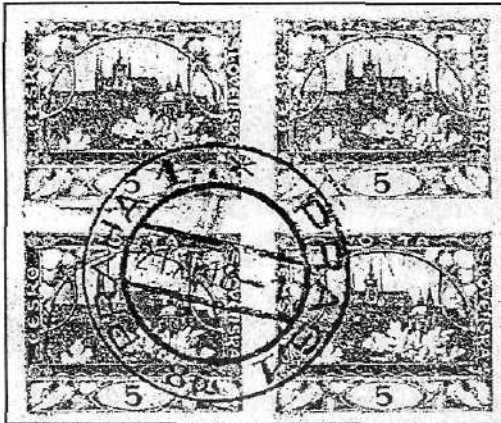


Fig. 1b

stamps canceled as souvenirs (Fig. 1a), but there are also covers known that are franked with them (usually registered) and mailed on that day. Figure 1b shows a block of four of the 5 Heller Hradčany canceled as a souvenir on Dec. 21, 1918, and finally, Figure 1c shows an Austrian stamp used in mailing from Hluboká (Tiefenbach/Desse) on Dec. 18, 1918.

The majority of covers originating from Dec. 18, 1918 were sent from these post offices: PRAHA 8 (the sender was the stamp dealer Antonín Černý), PRAHA 12 (the sender was stamp dealer František Sašek), and PRAHA

1 (other dealers and collectors, especially J. Baumgarten). Thanks to the activities of the above mentioned people, we can say that the previous statement about the rarity of Hradčany covers in comparison to the covers with the Austrian issues of 1850 is reinforced. Based on my own investigations dealer Černý mailed at least 10 registered letters franked with Hradčany stamps on Dec. 18, 1918 (to my knowledge the registration label numbers from post office PRAHA 8 on his covers are #3417 - 3426); dealer Sašek mailed at least 9 registered letters franked with Hradčany stamps (to my knowledge the registration label numbers from post office PRAHA 12 on his covers are #732 - 740); collector Baumgarten mailed at least 16 registered letters franked with Hradčany stamps to Vienna, Austria (to my knowledge the registration label numbers from post office PRAHA 1 on his covers are #6651 - 6666).

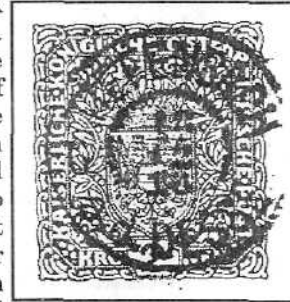


Fig. 1c

During December 1918 the Česká Grafická Unie printing house was saturated with the printing of the Hradčany stamps. Thus the quantity of stamps began to increase rapidly, and after Dec. 20 they were being distributed outside of Prague as well as to the smaller post offices. There are more cards and covers known from this second period (they were usually non-philatelic like Christmas and New Year's cards). Some examples of covers from this period are found in Figures 2 - 4.

Figure 2 shows a post card sent on Dec. 30, 1918 from Prague to Pilsen that contains mixed franking of a 5 Heller Hradčany stamp and two 3 Heller Austrian stamps. The total postage was 11 Hellers which means the card was overfranked by 1 Heller -- which is a normal non-philatelic overfranking for that period.

Figure 3 shows a post card sent on Dec. 29, 1918 from Hranice to Vienna. Any international mail from December 1918 is quite unusual -- I know of only a few covers or cards addressed to Germany and Austria. The affixed 10 Heller stamp was cut very wide.

Figure 4 shows a post card sent on Dec. 31, 1918 from the village of Bučovice to Řepčín near Olomouc and franked with a 10 Heller Hradčany stamp.



Fig. 2

The majority of the existing covers and cards from December 1918 have been franked with the 5 Heller and 10 Heller Hradčany stamps. There are a number of pieces known that contain the 3 Heller stamp that are canceled in December (Fig. 5) and even a few covers/cards. On the other hand no covers/cards have been found that were franked with either the 20 Heller or 25 Heller Hradčany stamps and canceled in December 1918.

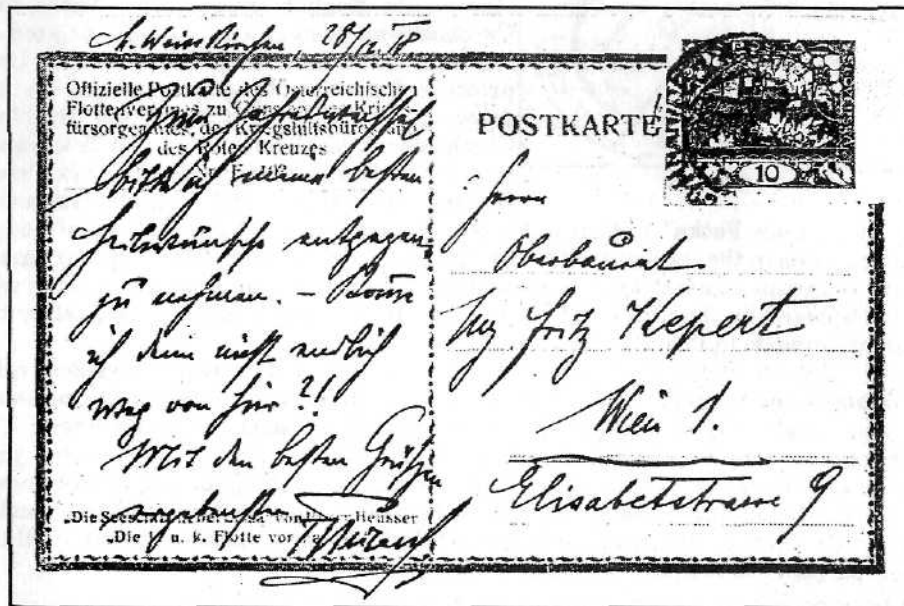


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

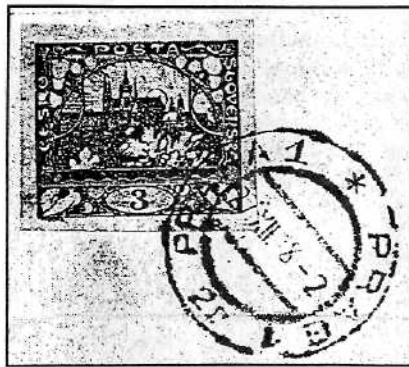


Fig. 5

Not widely known among collectors is the existence of a commemorative sheet issued by the Czechoslovak Postal Administration to celebrate the issuance of the first Czechoslovak stamps (the Hradčany as well as the SOKOL issues)(Fig. 6). It was issued on Dec. 18, 1918. Here is its English translation: "These first Czechoslovak postage stamps were printed on Dec. 16, 1918 by the Česká Grafická Unie printing house in Prague according to the drawing by Alfons Mucha, when the first Czechoslovak Minister of Post and Telegraphs was Jiří Štříbrný and the first Czechoslovak General Director of Postal Administration was

Dr. Maximilian Fatka". Of interest are the signatures of the additional people participating in the issuance of the first Czechoslovak stamps. Most popular among them is Jaroslav Lešetický, famous collector, journalist and expert of Prague who was employed by the Czechoslovak Postal Administration (and in the past by the Austro-Hungarian Postal Administration as well).

As you know, the Hradčany issue can be collected for various reasons: color differences, various perforations and papers, printing errors, "watermarks", unissued stamps, single frankings, mixed frankings with other issues, and many others. The goal of this article was to inform you of not-well-known information for your collection efforts of this stamp issue. Good luck in searching for the yet not known material! If you find a new cover or card franked with a Hradčany stamp canceled December 1918, please send me an e-mail (Lubor.kunc@seznam.cz), and I will list your discovery in my list of existing entires.



Fig. 6

Resources:

- Article published in the journal *FILATELIE* 12/1999
- Catalogs Trojan and Scott
- *Sborník Článků o Československých Známkách II*, Brno 1988

THE PRAGUE "KLAPPERPOST" or "KLEINE POST"
(The Prague Rattlemail or Small Mail)
by Henry Hahn

The postal history of Prague includes a somewhat obscure chapter concerned with a private mail service, sometimes referred to as "Klapačková Pošta" (in Czech) or "Klapperpost" or "Kleine Post" (in German). The service operated from August 1, 1782 and ceased operation on December 23, 1820. Covers of the service are mainly identified by a postmark having the script letter "P" and rarely the letter "G" in a circle.

My purchase of both the "P" and "G" canceled Klapperpost covers at the April 30 - May 5, 2001, David Feldmann auction has prompted me to look at what is published on the subject in order to answer some of the many questions that come to mind. I also contacted Mr. Václav Konstant of Písek who has published two informative articles on the subject in 1978¹ and 1988³. I have also contacted Mr. J. L. Klein of Wassenaar in the Netherlands, who formerly possessed the largest collection of Bohemian postal history and is believed to be the former owner of the two items I purchased. I also reviewed his article published in the SPECIALIST². In addition I searched the American Philatelic Research Library and the Library of Congress -- neither with success in relation to the Prague service, though the APRL provided an illustrated handbook on a similar service carried out in Gratz, Austria. I shall continue my search through Austrian philatelists whom I met at WIPA'00 and who have contacts in Gratz, where an author by the name of Heinrich Himmel-Agisburg wrote and privately published a book entitled "Gratzer Klapperpost 1796-1847" and where the owner of one of the first recorded Prague "G" canceled covers, H. Schmirler resides or once resided -- this according to Mr. Konstant. Finally, I have reviewed an article by the aforementioned Heinrich Himmel-Agisburg entitled "Klapperpost in Vienna, Prague and Gratz -- How the 'Small Post' was Founded" which appeared in the 1978 PRAGA Catalogue⁴.

The facts of the matter, based on the above cited reference⁴ by Himmel-Agisburg are as follows:

1. On January 20, 1772, Joseph Hardy and his associates received a "privilegium" (privilege or license) from the Empress Maria Theresia to found a "small post" in Vienna, which began operation the following April.
2. From the Hardy period there exist cancels with the script letters "A" and "B" in a circle, both appearing on the front of the covers. None has been recorded.
3. In the first year of operation the "small post" transported 32,312 letters at a loss of 5,233 Guilders and 30 Kreuzers (Kr)
4. On July 3, 1773 Hardy's privilege was passed on to Schoutten and later to Anton Gillowsky.
5. Uniforms and the postmen's rattles -- which announced their arrival and gave the system its name "Klapperpost" (Rattlemail) were issued during the period of Hardy's successors.
6. The privilege to found the Prague "Kleine Post" or "Klapperpost" was granted on June 24, 1782 by Joseph II to Franz (sometimes Francois) Garsie and his partner Charles Simmitsch. Service was to start August 1, 1782 and extend to a circle about Prague with a three Austrian mile radius. Headquarters of the Prague Klapperpost was at number 12 Celetna street. Several villages near Prague could only receive mail deliveries.

7. Garsie, in a public announcement of the service, promised 5 daily deliveries and pick-ups in the summer, and 4 in the winter. Receipts were to be available, and letters were to be thrown into mail boxes carried by the postmen. Mail by express couriers was to be available within the city as well as outside the 3 mile radius, and were to be "guaranteed" (registered/insured ?) up to a value of 100 Guilders.

8. Postal rates for delivery within the Old Town, the Lesser Side and the New Town was to be 2 Kr, while letters delivered to Hradčany and the Vyšehrad district were to be 3 Kr. Letters transferred for delivery by the State Post beyond the area serviced by the Klapperpost required an additional 1 Kr. Letters posted at the outer villages required 3 Kr, though if delivered by the State Post only 2 Kr.

9. Garsie also announced that letters would be marked by postage, day and hour of mailing. However, no such markings have been recorded.

10. Within Prague there were 8 additional post offices, located in shops. The Prague suburbs contained 8 stations located along postal routes.

11. In 1784 the Austrian Government ordered that the Klapperpost and State Post were to be united.

12. On December 31, 1784, the State ordered the preservation of the Klapperpost and assigned it the collection of mail in the Old Town and the New Town. It is not known whether Garsie was still the owner.

13. On September 7, 1818, the "Small Posts", i.e. Klapperposts of Prague, Gratz, and Pest, were to be rented out to others for a ten year period under the "most favorable" circumstances.

14. On December 23, 1820, the Prague Klapperpost ceased operating.

Mr. Konstant, in his reference¹ adds the following:

1. In 1792 the activities of the "Klapperpost" were reduced to pick-up and delivery of mail from-and-to the post office on the Lesser Side.

2. In 1794 the Klapperpost system was terminated by cancellation of the "privilegium".

3. Franz Garsie was a Belgian.

4. Ing. Emil Votoček in his article in the second volume of the PRAGA'78 Catalogue illustrates the Prague "P" postmark, also found in MONOGRAFIE⁵.

5. The two "P" postmarks illustrated in the Himmel-Agisburg reference⁴ show the difference between the one used in Vienna (1) and the one used in Prague (2)(Fig. 1).

6. Not many of the Vienna cancels on cover are recorded, which prevents a more detailed comparison.

7. The Prague "P" was used primarily from 1782 to 1784, but its use continued on mail handled through the post office at the Lesser Side, probably up to 1794.

8. In 1978 a collector and student of this subject, a Mr. H. Schmirler of Gratz presented the first recorded postmark of Prague with the letter "G", which was dated June 10, 1789 and was sent to Bystrice u Klatovy. The letter "G", as presented by Mr. Schmirler, was also

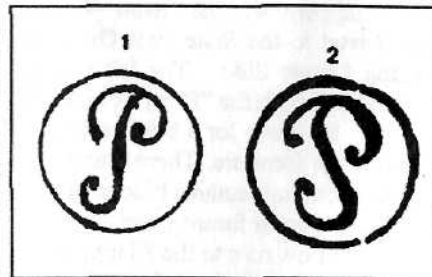


Fig. 1 – Postmark of Vienna (1), and Postmark of Prague (2)

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used 17 years earlier in Vienna, and 25 years after Vienna in Gratz. However, the postmarks in each case differed.

9. Schmirler concluded that Franz Garsie learned the trade of private delivery in Vienna from Hardy, brought it to Prague in 1782 and to Gratz in 1796.

10. Konstant¹ illustrates both an early "P" cover and the first recorded "G" cover.

The publication by prominent collector J.L. Klein² appeared considerably later. It includes an illustration of the "G" letter to Bystrice presented by Schmirler and reported on by Václav Konstant. Klein also reports on a Klapperpost cover having no postmark with letter in circle, but instead has two readable dry seals; K.K. Pr. Kleine Post: Ober Amt (Royal and Imperial Prague Small Post, Supervising Office) with an eagle in the center. He also illustrates two "P" covers in his possession.

The most recent article by Konstant³ translated by Mirko Vondra in the SPECIALIST supplements his earlier article in FILATELIE¹ in which he reports on an early Klapperpost letter posted at Celetna 14 on August 11, 1783 by the Prague Municipal Council. The main novelty of this letter is that it is a money letter, marked "N.B." (Nota Bene -- i.e. Registered). It was addressed, in German, to the City Council in Ungarisch (Hungarian) Skalice. When the letter was posted, 50 Guilders were handed to the clerk who then affixed four red wax seals to the front reading: "•K K: PR: KLEINE POST: OBER: AMT•" (Royal and Imperial Prague Small Post, Supervising Office). A fifth seal with a fingerprint appears on the reverse. Since the destination was beyond the 3 Austrian mile limit of the Klapperpost, the letter was transferred to the State Post Office on the Lesser Side. The letter is postmarked with the "P" in a circle.



Fig. 2 -- Prague Letter of January 26, 1791

So much for a brief review of available literature. There is much information that remains hidden in the archives of collectors and researchers, hopefully to be reported on in future years.

I now turn to the Klapperpost covers I bought. The first one with a "P" postmark is shown in Figure 2. It is the less interesting of the two, and was addressed to Vejprty (Weipert) via Strakonitz (Strakonice) and Horazdowitz (Horaždovice). The use of the Czech name "Vejprty" rather than the German "Weipert" is somewhat surprising, since the

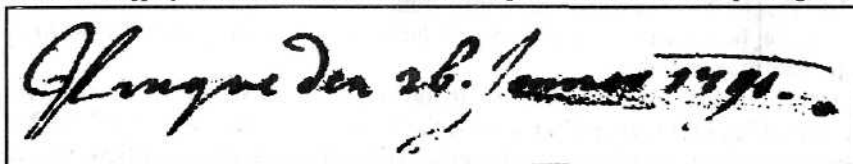


Fig. 3 -- Dating Inside of Letter



Fig. 4 – Prague Letter with Postmark “G” of October 26, 1787

other towns are listed in German and the address is listed in French. The letter is dated on the 26th of January 1791, as shown inside the letter and reproduced in Figure 3.

The number of recorded letters of the Prague Klapperpost with postmark “P” has thus far not been published. A rough guess would be between 10 and 20, if not more.

The second letter is significantly more interesting. It bears the postmark “G” and is shown in Figure 4. According to Konstant⁶ only three such letters have been recorded: one owned by a Prague collector named Dr. Václav Červ, the aforementioned letter reported by Mr. H. Schmirler of Gratz, and the letter illustrated here. This letter was written on October 26, 1787, as indicated inside the letter and illustrated in Figure 5. Hence this letter is earlier by two years than the Prague “G” letter recorded by Schmirler. The letter is addressed to Hayd (Bor u Tachova) via Pilsen (Plzeň). The Klapperpost postman delivered the letter to the State Post Office on the Lesser Side, then referred to as the Smaller Town (Menší Město), where it received the postmark “Prag” in red. This is Prague’s second postmark, which originated in 1784. The “G” canceler is believed to have been later removed by Garsie to Gratz and observed on a letter addressed from Gratz to Prague. It is obviously not counted among the three letters originating in Prague.

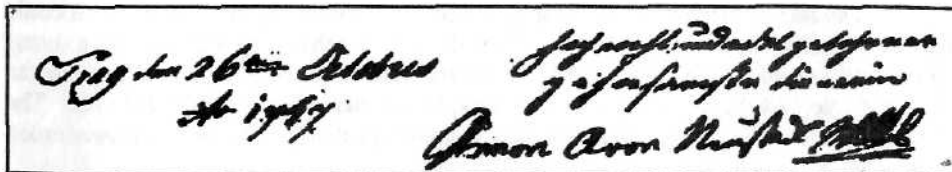


Fig. 5 – Date of Letter as Written Inside of Letter

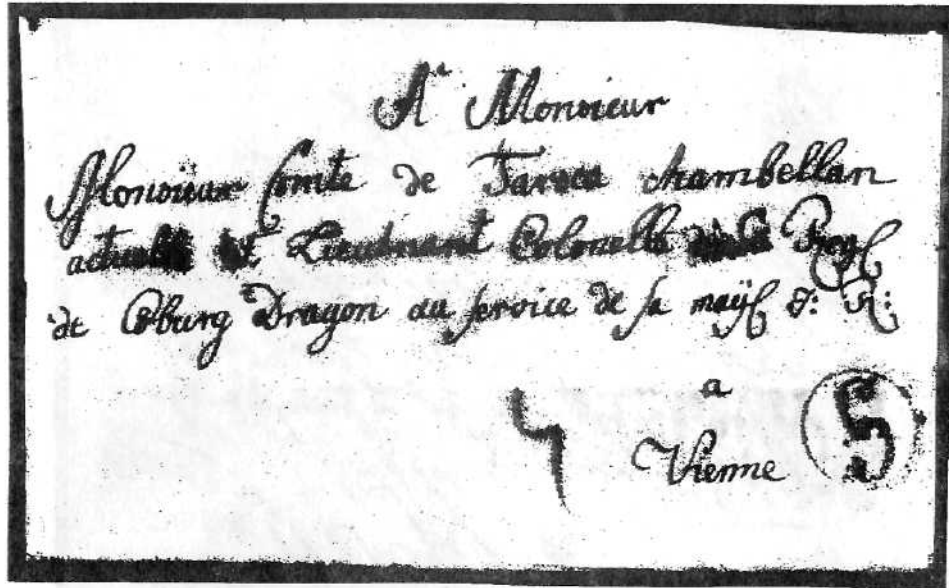


Fig. 6 -- Letter with Postmark "G" Owned by Dr. Červ

The letter is written clearly and is in excellent state of preservation. Its content is most interesting. It is written by the widow of Simon Aron Neustadt about financial matters to Mr. Knauer, Inspector of the Estates of Hayd (Bor u Tachova) and Wesseritz (Bezručice). A relatively recent note found inside the letter reads: "In the Ghetto (Judenstadt), Joachim Taussig collected the letters as authorized 'Briefsammler' (letter collector) to bring the correspondence to the Main (Lesser Side) Post Office".

However, Mr. Konstant comments⁶ that based on his knowledge, it was Elias Taussig who received the license to establish a post office in the Jewish Ghetto for delivery and receipt of mail from and to the only post office on the Lesser Side. Elias Taussig died in November, 1757, hence the Ghetto post office must have been established before the date of Elias Taussig's death. According to a Czech postal historian, Dr. Všeček⁷, the Ghetto post office was located at street address Červená 167. The Ghetto post office was entitled to collect 1 Kreuzer (Kr) for each delivered or picked-up letter. By 1831 this post office had moved to Josefská street -- now named Plynarská. By then its annual volume of mail had grown to 16,000 mail receipts and 60,000 deliveries. This post office apparently exists to date.

We can only surmise that the postman Joachim Taussig was the son or relative of Elias Taussig. Hereditary postmasters were not uncommon at the time, and the postmaster may well have also served as the letter carrier.

The rate, indicated on the front by a Roethel, is either "3" or "4". If "3", it could indicate collection by the Klapperpost carrier of 2 Kr for delivery to the post office across the river plus an additional 1 Kr for delivery by the State Post. If "4", it would indicate the published rate, payable by sender and recipient, for a letter weighing up to 1/2 Loth. The latter appears more likely, in which case the Klapperpost collector's fee is either unrecorded or included in the 4 Kr fee.

The strike of the postmark "G" is not as good as that in the previously reported letter of 1789. On the other hand, our letter appears to be the only recorded Klapperpost letter collected in the Prague Ghetto, whose postal history is somewhat obscure.

We have recently obtained a photocopy of Dr. Červ's letter which we illustrate at Figure 6. The letter is addressed to a Lieutenant Colonel of French Dragoons in Vienna, but the date of the letter is not evident. However, the half rate postage, 4 Kr, indicated by the Roethel, was in effect between 1751 and 1798. To support the mailing of the letter after 1784 we note that the front of the letter shows a faint impression in red of PRAG, the postmark issued in 1784, as illustrated in Monografie Vol. XIV⁸. Hence, the letter appears to have been properly sent from Prague rather than from Gratz as late as 1809, based on the presence of a French officer in Vienna and the fact that the "G" canceler was transferred to Gratz by that time.

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1. Konstant, V.: "Dvě razítka Pražské malé pošty", *FILATELIE* 24/1978, p 754
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4. Himmel-Agisburg, H.: "Klapačková pošta ve Vídni, Praze a Styrském Hradci -- Jak byla zakládána 'malá pošta'", *KATALOG - PRAGA* 1978, p 254
5. Votoček, E.: *MONOGRAFIE* Vol. XIV, Prague 1978, p 48
6. Konstant, V.: private communication to author
7. Konstant, V.: private communication by Dr. Všetečka
8. *MONOGRAFIE* Vol. XIV, Pofis-Prague, p 49-50

* * * * *

Sister Society News

Society for Czechoslovak Philately in the Netherlands

11th MAIL AUCTION

by Ctibor Sobotka

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately in the Netherlands is holding their 11th Mail Auction in the Spring of 2002. There will be extremely attractive material -- at low prices -- covering not only Czechoslovakia, but also the related areas of Slovakia, the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, Carpatho-Ukraine, and perfins + postal history from all of the world.

WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG NOW:

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POST-WWII CANCELLATIONS

by Karel Holoubek

trans. by Peter Kleskovic

The cancellations from the period right after May 1945 provide clear evidence that Czech postal clerks tried to eliminate any reminders of the occupation period. Bohemia and Moravia -- the remainder of Czechoslovakia after separating Slovakia -- was divided by the Nazis into two parts. At the time one part was called the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the other the Sudetenland. In the first one, official matters were conducted in the German and Czech languages, while in the second only in German. Consequently, even postal cancellations from this time reflected these directives.



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

But, immediately after the liberation the Czech postal clerks began to expunge anything which was in German. Eliminating the German name from the Protectorate's cancels spawned the name "znárodnování" (nationalizing). As a consequence, you will probably encounter such "nationalized" cancels.

In operation the elimination of the German name was done in two different ways. The first one -- used most frequently -- entailed removing it from the canceler by some means (Fig. 1). And the second one -- used less frequently -- blackened out the German inscription (Fig. 2). This option required a little more complicated process and special skills.

In the process of eliminating the undesirable text something else was also often lost -- e.g. the stars from cancels such as those in Figure 1 (Fig. 3). In the PLZEŇ cancel (Fig. 4) they dropped the number of the post office (there were several in Plzeň). In the ČESKÁ TŘEBOVÁ 1 cancel (Fig. 5) the post office numeral from the German text remains.

You will surely admit that the workman who was performing the modification --



Fig. 6

while handling the rubber stamp -- could have had "his hand slip" and thus remove some other parts of it -- unintentionally (Fig. 6). There are cases known where, from the whole rubber stamp, only the central bridge with the date remained.

The tools used for these modifications could be anything -- engraving tools, chisels, even a drill. It is for this reason that the varieties of these damaged cancels is very extensive.

It is obvious, however, that some of the postal clerks were planning their actions, as is shown in the following examples. They allowed those letters from the German text to remain which then represented symbols of Czechoslovakia, such as C S R (Fig. 7) or C S (Fig. 8).

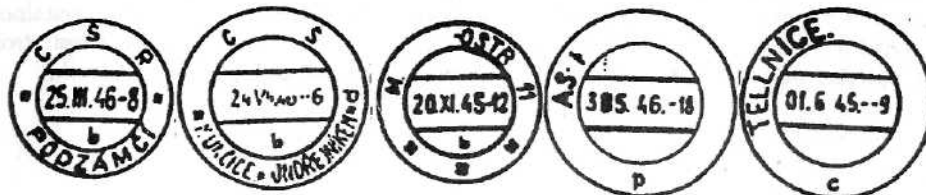


Fig. 7 Fig. 8 Fig. 9 Fig. 10 Fig. 11

In the final years of the occupation the German administration introduced cancellations which only contained German place names. However, even in this situation the Czech postal clerks knew what to do, and how to deal with these cancels of imperial German origin. Note the cancellations from MÄHRISCH OSTRAU (became M. -OSTR for Moravská Ostrava)(Fig. 9), ASCH (became AS l for Aš)(Fig. 10), TELLNITZ (became

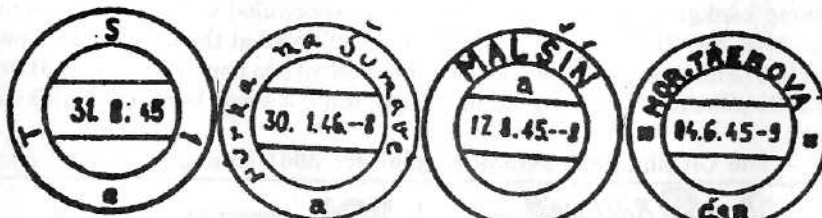


Fig. 12 Fig. 13 Fig. 14 Fig. 15

TELLNICE for Telnice)(Fig. 11), and TEPLITZ-SCHÖNAU 1 (became T S 1 for Teplice-Šanov 1)(Fig. 12).

But for the most part, after the imperial German text had been eliminated, this produced a cancel without an indication of the place of posting (such cancels gave rise to the name "dumb" cancels). While the cancel was used in such an unimproved form, it was accompanied by the imprint of an additional cancel showing a place name -- most often in a single row form, but also in arrangements of two or more rows. Of course, these cancels also are known where the place name of mailing has been written in by hand (Fig. 13) or modified by inserting the name (Fig. 14).

While making the modifications to the cancels, some of the postmasters were not satisfied with simply removing the German text. They allowed new text to be inserted into

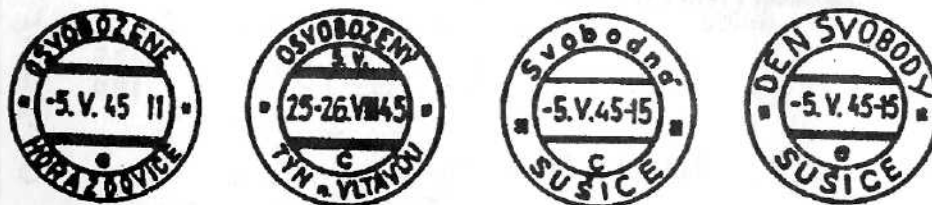


Fig. 16

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

the cancels, but in deference to the liberated Republic they included the initials ČSP or ČSR (Fig. 15).

I would like to close this presentation -- on the revisions to the Protectorate's cancellations from after the liberation in May 1945 -- with some examples of the most complicated ones (Fig. 16). These were not only "nationalized", but they also contained inserted words which reminded the viewer of the liberation. In this way, I end our stroll through this attractive collecting field which offers such rich and interesting material.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

-- Pictured here is a postal card sent to me by a friend from the June meeting between the German and Czech philatelic organizations held at Řetenice in the CR (this is one of three cards and one envelope prepared for ARGE)(Fig. 1). The cute cachet shows four German ARGE members in the balloon looking up, all on a stamp background. The postal card was scheduled to have been carried by balloon -- note the "BALONEM 10 Kč" (by balloon) label at the upper left. However, across it is a handstamp stating "Let se neuskutečnil pro nepříznivé počasí/Řetenice 17. 06. 2001/pilot/Ing. Vladimír Lacna" (flight did not occur because of unfavorable weather).

-- The CR philatelic exhibition plan for 2001 through 2005 is this: 2001

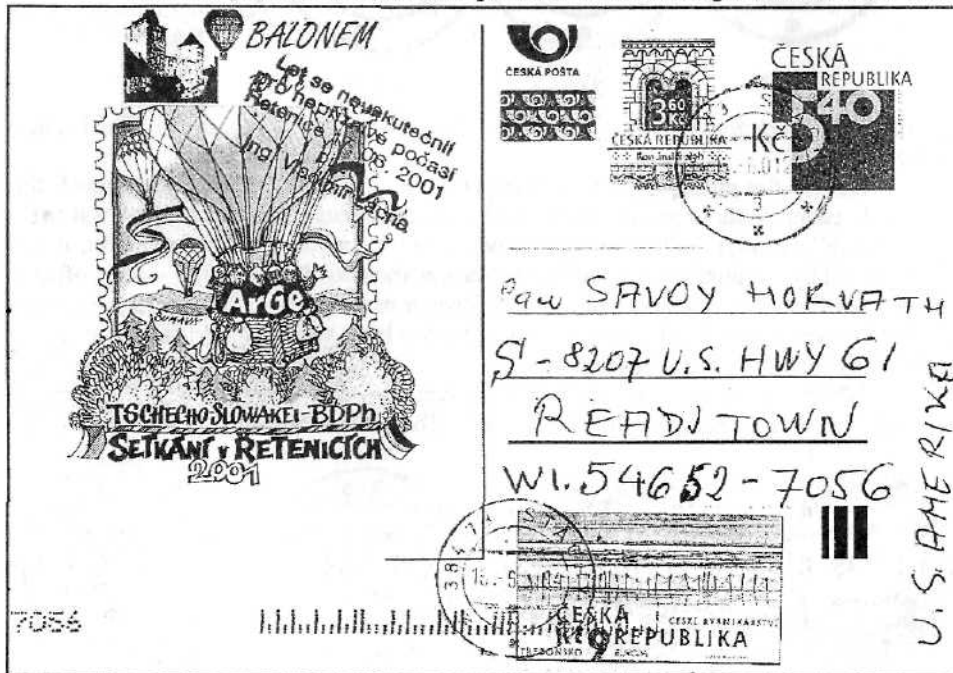


Fig. 1

Karlovy Vary - Euregio Egrensis; Roudnice nad Labem 2002 - national exhibition for young philatelists; Premiéra Příbram 2002 - exhibition for first time exhibitors; Ostropa 2003 Jihlava - second Czech-German exhibition for members of the Union of German Philatelists; 2004 Benešov u Prahy - national postage stamp exhibition; Brno 2005 - international postage stamp exhibition.



Fig. 2

-- Shown here is the 9 Kč Komensky (Comenius) stamp which experienced a printing flaw (Fig. 2 on the right). During one of the photogravure runs that applied one

of the two non-black colors, the value denomination was not inked and therefore does not appear. This is only the third time in the stamp printing history of Czechoslovakia/ Czech Republic when this has happened. Couple this with the fact that 2,865,000 of these stamps were printed and no more than an estimated 250 of these errors occurred, no wonder that they are asking over \$100 apiece for them.

-- I would encourage readers to save their received foreign mail envelopes that were in-transit over the September 11th tragedy for future postal historians. I have received two airmail letters from the Czech Republic recently. One was mailed on the 7th of September, but didn't arrive until the 21st. The second departed on the 9th, and finally arrived on the 26th.

From Gerald van Zanten:

-- If you look on this envelope corner you will see one of the newest money-makers for the New Zealand post office -- a personalized stamp where you can add a photographic image on the tab of the new Greetings stamp (Fig. 3). Yes, that is yours truly on the right. You can use a photo of yourself or anything that you want (including for example your company logo). They come in sheets of 20 stamps with tabs (each sheet has all five varieties of the Greetings stamps), and you have to get at least two sheets. The cost of each sheet is about double what the basic stamps would be.



Fig. 3

Souvenir Sheet Varieties

by Frank A. Garancovsky

Košice

Scott 310/POFIS A360/362

The October 1967 issue of the *SPECIALIST* carried a lengthy article complete with linear type sketches of varieties. The original article was published by *FILATELIE* and provided the historical data from inception to final production. The design work, the unusual burelage paper, plus the numerous plate combinations

that eventually produced 15 types was a printer's nightmare (Fig. 1).

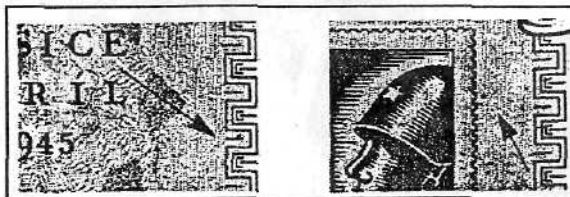


Fig. 1

As often happens with many new issues, the first published reports of varieties usually provide basic plate or printing flaws. As time goes on more information may develop to include clear or distinct illustrations as presented here. These illustrations were published in the 1995 edition (violet cover) *TROJAN* catalog, and magnified 200% to accent the variety details more clearly.

Burelage paper is described as a network of fine intricate lines printed on the face of the paper, either to discourage counterfeiting or to prevent the cleaning and re-use of stamps. The copying of these burelage paper illustrations presented some difficulty in contrast adjustment to provide visible flaws in such a dark background.

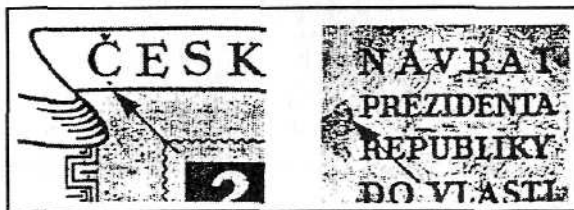
Burelage paper is described as a network of fine intricate lines printed on the face



Type I

Type I:

1. There is a blue dot within the right decorative frame line right of the year 1945.
2. In the upper right corner of the 5 K value, there is a black dot just outside the 7th printed perf.



Type II

Type II:

1. In the ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ inscription at the top, there is a blue dot 1mm below the letter "Č" and another 1mm above the second "S".
2. There is a red dot before the letter "P" of PREZIDENTA.



Type III

Type III:

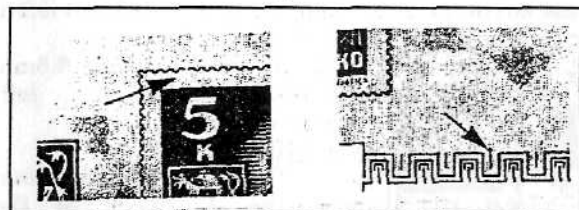
1. There is a blue dot between the letters "TA" of the word POŠTA.
2. There is a red dot within the numeral "6" of that value stamp.
3. There is a black dot 4mm beyond the word KOŠICE.



Type IV

Type IV:

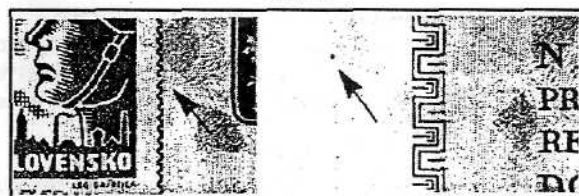
1. In the drawn perfs of the 5 K value there are 2 breaks below the letters "GAJ" of the GAJDZIKA signature.
2. In the 6 K value there is a blue dot 0.8mm below the lower left corner of the stamp.



Type V

Type V:

1. In the drawn perfs of the 5 K stamp, the 5th perf is broken.
2. There is a blue dot in the lower decorative frame (located just right of the "1945") just above the singular vertical line.



Type VI

Type VI:

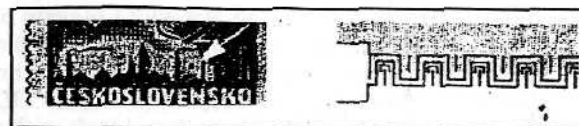
1. The 11th perf at right of the 2 K stamp is broken.
2. There is a black dot in the left margin of the sheet across from the word NÁVRAT.



Type VII

Type VII:

1. In the inscription ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ, there is a blue dot between the letters "KO".
2. There is a blue blemish in the upper right of the decorative frame.

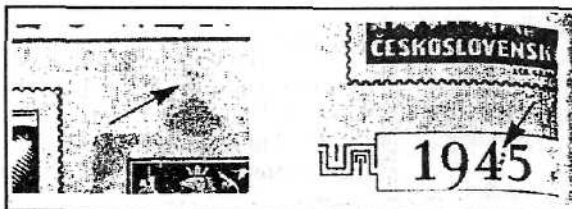


Type VIII

Type VIII:

1. On the 6 K stamp, there is a blue dot between the 2 chimneys at right above the letters "EN".
2. On the lower margin, 4mm below the 5th box of the decorative frame, there is a blue and a black dot.

below the 5th box of the decorative frame, there is a blue and a black dot.



Type IX

Type IX:

1. In the ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ inscription, there is a blue dot between the letters "VE".
2. There are 3 colored dots just below the letters "EN" of the state name inscription.
3. There are 2 blue dots between the numerals "45" of the 1945.



Type X

Type X:

1. In the 5 K value stamp there is a black dot above the first letter "O" of the state name just left of the smoke from the left chimney.

Type XI:

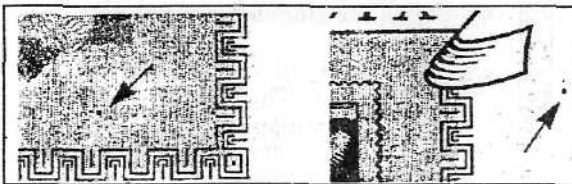


Type XI

1. Just left of the 2 K stamp, there is a black dot left of the 11th perf from the top.
2. By the 6 K value, 0.5mm from the 4th perf at lower left, there is a black dot.

Type XII:

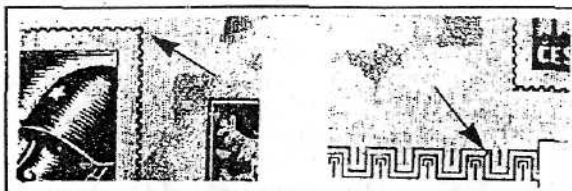
1. There is a blue dot 5mm above the 4th block of the decorative frame at lower right.
2. On the white margin 11mm right of the decorative frame's first block, there is a blue dot.



Type XII

Type XIII:

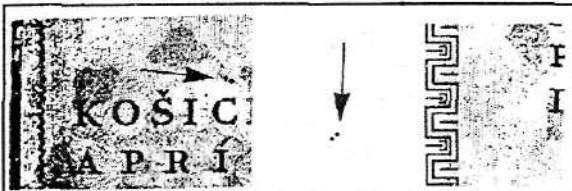
1. The very first right corner perf is very pronounced in the 2 K value.
2. In the lower decorative frame left of the year 1945, there is a slanted line in the upper right corner of the 2nd block.



Type XIII

Type XIV:

1. There is a red and a blue dot above the letter "C" of the word KOŠICE.
2. In the left white margin of the sheet, about 10mm left from the decorative frame and on a level just below the words "DO VLASTI", there is a black and a blue dot.



Type XIV



Type XV:

1. In the 5 K stamp, the lower right 7th perf is broken.
2. In the ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ inscription and 8mm above the letters "KÁ", there is a small horizontal line.

Type XV



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

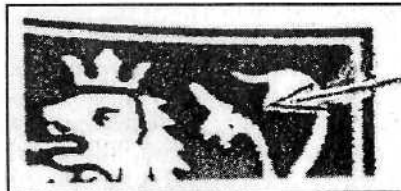


Fig. 4

These 15 varieties are still readily found at local stamp shows around the country.

Beside the above listed types, there are 3 distinct plate flaws that have been available in European auctions. These are the "broken leg" (Fig. 2), the "bite out of the tail" (Fig. 3), and the "retouched tail bite" (Fig. 4) that shows up just as a small "V" wedge intruding on the tail.

IN MEMORIAM VÁCLAV KONŠTANT 1915-2001

It is with profound sadness that we must inform you of the tragic death of a superb colleague, husband, father and grandfather -- Václav Konstant -- who was hit by a car on August 10th as he was crossing the street in his native town of Písek, Bohemia. The car was driven by an apparent drunk who left the scene of the accident. He has since been apprehended and is now awaiting trial. Mr. Konstant succumbed to his injuries and was buried at the Forest Cemetery in Písek on August 16th.

His survivors include his wife Vlasta, daughters Helena and Irena and their husbands, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

The passing of Václav Konstant leaves a large hole in the ever decreasing ranks of truly great postal historians. Despite his nearly 87 years of age, Mr. Konstant remained a vigorous researcher and contributor to philatelic literature. His past collection of Prague postal history was unique in his time, and eventually became the source of two of the greatest exhibits in the world. The article on Prague's "Klapperpost", appearing in this issue of the SPECIALIST, was in great part derived from his writings and personal communications with the author. Unfortunately, our last two letters on the subject remained unanswered.

Many of us recall our visit to Písek in 1998 when the Bundesarge (German Society for Czechoslovak Philately) met there as well as other visits with him in which he mentored us on both the Prague and Písek postal history. Those of us who knew him will always remain grateful and will honor his blessed memory.

Henry Hahn

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION "EUREGIA EGRENSIS"
in KARLOVY VARY
by Henry Hahn

A Czech National Exhibition with participation by collectors from Germany demonstrating cooperation of philatelic organizations in both countries took place in Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) on August 23-26. Having attended this show on opening day only I do not have the results of jury awards, but am pleased to report on some other interesting features.

The show was held in the modern facilities of the Thermal Hotel in spacious halls, equal or better than the facilities found at most US shows. Separate halls were devoted to the exhibits, dealers and bourse, and meeting rooms for the jury, organizing committee, the Czech Postal Service and lectures were more than adequate. Financial sponsorship was provided by the Fund for Small Projects under the program PHARE -- Cross Border Cooperation, the Union of Czech Philatelists, the City Council of Karlovy Vary, and the Czech Postal Service. There was a rather large organization committee headed by František Lenička and a Control Commission, plus a jury headed by Ing. Walter Muller and Ing. Pavel Pittermann as Secretary. A professional consulting service throughout the show was provided by members of the Expert Commission, Ing. Jan Karásek and JUDr. Svatopluk Šablatura. Ing. Lumír Brendl, Chairman of the Union of Czech Philatelists and Mr. Michael Adler, Chairman of the Union of German Philatelists welcomed the attendees on behalf of their organizations.

The entry fee was 20 Kč (about 50 cents) and only 15 Kč for members of the Union of Czech Philatelists and youths up to the age of 15 years. Touching of frames was forbidden, and dogs or other animals were excluded. Sale or trading were forbidden except in the bourse area. Tours of the exhibit with professional explanation could be ordered in advance. Visitors were required to check brief cases, bags, walking canes, umbrellas, and coats before entering the exhibition.

There were ten (10) exhibits in the National Class, sixteen (16) in the Territorial Class, fourteen (14) in the Postal History Class, two (2) in Postal Stationery, one (1) in Astrophilately, thirteen (13) in Thematics, eight (8) in Philatelic Literature, fifteen (15)!!! Youth Exhibits, three (3) in Open Class, and thirteen (13) Non-competitive exhibits. The exhibits were generally either eight (8) or five (5) frames, and judging/awarding was by FIP rules. One of the objectives of the exhibit was to qualify exhibitors to enter international FIP or FEPA shows.

It is apparent -- at least to me -- that much can be learnt by both American and Czech show organizers by visiting each others shows. Both groups have experienced poor lighting, which was particularly prevalent in Karlovy Vary. The signs in the Thermal Hotel were somewhat inadequate, and a stranger had a hard time finding his way. We were particularly impressed by the number and quality of the Youth exhibits, and a bit disappointed by the number and quality of the National Class exhibits. The Postal History and Thematic exhibits were about equal or somewhat poorer than those in the USA, and the Air Mail and Aerophilately exhibits in Karlovy Vary were rather disappointing, as was the Postal Stationery. The Czechs seem to be masters at obtaining financial sponsorship, and thus their admission, dealer and frame fees are far lower than ours (except where there are no admission fees at US shows.)

I judged the National and Postal History class myself -- but will keep the awards to myself lest I cause confusion. I'm sure the competent jury, whose results will surely be published in Czech journals, will have dealt justly with the participants.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

Errata

-- In the July/August 2001 issue, page 38, we inadvertently left out Figure 6, the old map of the pond system in South Bohemia. It is reproduced here as Figure 1.

-- In the September/October 2001 issue:

- page 2, we listed the old web site address rather than the new one announced on page 1, www.czechoslovakphilately.com.

- page 3, I mistakenly left out that this article, "Czechoslovaks Interned in Italy During W W I I", was translated for us by our member in New Zealand, Vladimir Kralicek.



Fig. 2

- page 8, Figure 3 should have been as shown here as Figure 2.

- page 11, I failed to designate that the great pictures in this article were taken by Margaret Beith -- my apologies.



Fig. 1

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

Letters to the Editor

1. Lou:

I was very interested in the Jan Hus story on p22-23 of the July/Aug SPECIALIST (2001). I had heard about & perhaps read about him in the past, but somehow didn't realize his actual fate (nor that he lived over 300 years) . . .

Regards,
Jack C. (Copeland)

Ed. Note: No wonder that Jack was surprised that Hus lived so long. I made the mistake of saying that he was condemned to death on July 6, 1715 instead of July 6, 1415.

2. Dear Lou:

I am enclosing a copy of a cover from Znaim that I recently obtained . . . (Fig. 1). I was somewhat surprised to see on this particular Hitler visit cover a Czech



Fig. 1

Legion stamp overprinted with the "Wir Sind Frei" overprint, as I had never before seen a cover from Znaim franked with such an overprinted postage stamp. This particular cover, of course, is a philatelic item, in that it bears a 1 Groschen former Austrian stamp (still valid until 31 October 1938); a 6 Pfennig German stamp; and a 50 Haleru overprinted Czech stamp. The German inland rate at the time was 8 Pfennigs. I don't know what the 50 Haleru stamp was worth at the time, but perhaps it made up the 2 Pfennigs needed to carry the letter from Znaim to Vienna. The 1 Groschen Austrian stamp was practically worthless in value at this time, due to the changeover in currency in Austria because of this country's annexation by Germany in 1938. The cover is addressed to a Fraulein Emmi Herbst, Schiller Platz 3, Wien I [Vienna's First District]. Such a platz exists in Vienna, about a block south of the Vienna Opera House.

I sent a copy of the cover to a friend who has some knowledge in this overprint area. He wrote back: "I was very intrigued by the cover to Wien . . . This letter is a mystery -- I have handbooks on the Sudetenland provisional overprints, plus a reasonable



Fig. 2

collection of such material, but the type of this cover does not match with any 'official' or 'unofficial' type overprints. It is somewhat similar to Type I of the Rumburg overprints, but the type is smaller and the swastika too is much smaller (Fig. 2). As far as I know, there were no local 'Wir Sind Frei' overprints produced at Znaim nor any other town in Southern Moravia. So, to me, it suggests that it could well be some form of bogus overprint . . ."

Could you please throw this matter open for opinions from our specialists in this area?

Also, what I am particularly looking for is any Znaim/Znojmo cover postmarked in late April/early May 1945 (just before the end of WWII), and any cover postmarked soon after the liberation by the Russians in May-June 1945. I have not found anything about Znojmo at war's end, except for a small item about the windows being broken in the buildings at the city's German Army kaserne. Do you have any information about this period of time in Znojmo's history, and was it the Russians or the Americans that liberated the town?

Best regards,
Sal Rizza

3. Ed. Note: This correspondence was originated by the editor as a result of the "Masaryk Mourning Cancellations - A Dialogue" series -- I am showing both mine as well as the response.

-- Dear Lubor:

The series of e-mails between yourself and others on the Masaryk Mourning Cancels has caused me to examine the ones in my accumulation. This one (Fig. 3/4) generated some unanswered questions that I hoped you might be able to help me with. This one was mailed in Liberec on 21/X/37--18 for Vienna IV and has the Prague 7 airport mourning cancel of 22/X/37--3. It arrived at 1Vienna 1 on 22/X/37--



Fig. 3

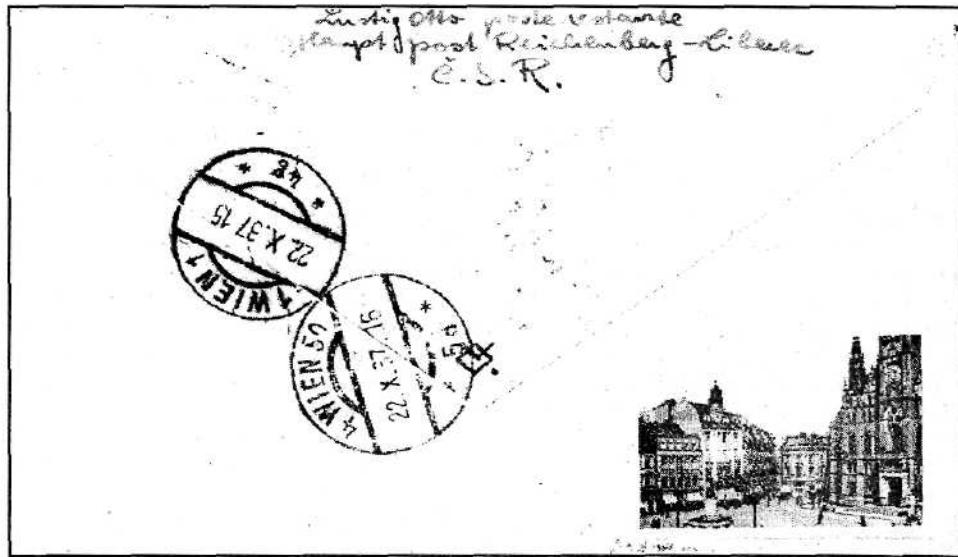


Fig. 4

15 and went on to the destination at 4 Vienna 50 on 22/X/37--16. In these respects it appears to be a genuinely used airmail cover bearing a mourning cancel. The difficulty is the postage that the cover carries. The rate for a cover up to 20 grams to Austria was 2 Kč and there was a 1 Kč surcharge for it being airmail. Then why does the cover contain an extra 1 Kč in postage?

Ludvik (Svoboda)

-- Ludviku:

As I was examining your cover, I came to the realization that we were dealing with an unintentional incorrectly franked cover. In my view the sender must have been a foreigner (a tourist or a businessman) who was only temporarily visiting Czechoslovakia. I came to this conclusion because he showed as his return address "poste restante Hauptpostamt Reichenberg" = poste restante, main post office Liberec.

I do not know if you know what 'poste restante' is. This service was provided by post offices especially for tourists who were to visit certain places but did not know where they were going to be living (i.e., they did not have a mailing address) or when they would be living there. In this kind of situation they had their mail sent 'poste restante' care of the city -- this means it was collected at a specified place in the post office, and when the said person arrived in town, he could pick it up with the use of an identity card.

During the First Republic this service was provided for a fee of 50 heller -- this charge was paid by the person when he picked up the mail (the sender thus only paid normal postage). A postage due stamp was placed on the piece of mail, but this practice was later discontinued, and now they do not even collect anything. What is the name of this service in English, and does the US Postal Service provide it? [I

responded that it is called General Delivery, that each city provides it free, and that the ZIP-code designation would be to normally add -9999 to the 5-digit ZIP-code.]

Another factor as to why I think that this was a foreigner who sent the letter is the fact that the name of the country specified in the address, Austria, was written both in German (Österreich) and in English (Austria). If it had been a Czech of German heritage, he would have written it either in German or in Germanized-Czech. As it is, it appears that he was not sure whether the Czech postal employees would recognize the German name of the country.

It is possible that he dropped the letter into a postal box, which means that he had to put the postage on by himself. It was then possible that either he did not have the exact correct postage or he overfranked by 1 Kč because someone gave him bad information that the correct airmail postage to Austria was 4 Kč.

With regards,
Lubor (Kunc)

4. Dear Lou:

I was touched by your thoughtfulness of introducing to us Alfred Weiner and his "open letter" ["Philatelic Culmination", Jul/Aug 2001 SPECIALIST, p15]. Many of us are or will face the same situation soon.

On retiring, I made several decisions regarding my stamp collecting;

1. I stopped collecting any stamps issued after Jan. 1, 2001.
2. I decided to organize all stamps and collections in my possession.

In this process, I reached several conclusions:

1. I will not complete any collections that would be timely and costly.
2. I will fully review my completed collections.

Then, I reached several conclusions:

1. Sell or trade anything that is incomplete. In this connection I have prepared stamps for the APS and Czechoslovak [SCP] circuits.
2. Prepare the rest of stamps for auction, giveaways or whatever.
3. Make decision what to do with the complete collections -- the "creme de la creme".

Regarding the latter, I have five children and eleven grandchildren. All of my children are busy making a living and raising their families. The best comment I got was: "How much is it worth?"

I started four of my grandchildren on stamp collecting. They live some distance away, and it is difficult to maintain continuity with them.

So, this is what I am going to do. My stamps to me are like my children. I want them to go to some person that loves them like me. In my will, I will make APS and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately the inheritors of my collections. In that way I know that whatever they do -- keep the stamps or sell them -- the new owners will be people who share our love for collecting stamps.

Once more Lou, thanks for being a good editor.

With best regards,
Name withheld

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5. Dear Ludvik:

While researching an unrelated topic in my back issues of the SPECIALIST, I stumbled across a past article with an illustration of an Austro-Hungarian postal card which looked rather familiar. It was another example of the PTPO [printed to private order] card illustrated in the article "Rare and Unusual Stationery #4" from the Sep/Oct 2001 issue, pg 28 (this new example only had 4 additional stamp imprints, so the stated record of six additional is still good).

The past article was entitled "Prague Expositions from 1891 to 1908 Through the Eyes of a Collector", by Jiří Nekvasil, and appeared in the April 1973 issue. In the discussion about the various expositions, the author states that there was a temporary Austro-Hungarian post office set up at each of them with exposition-specific canceling devices. At the Jubilee Exposition of 1908 in Prague, he goes on to expound further. "On the exposition grounds there was also a postal print shop, where visitors could have printed, on valid postal stationery, some of the stamp imprints having values 3, 5, and 10 hellers bearing the portrait of the Emperor with the so-called "Door Frame" type (this stamp design does not exist in the adhesive issues), or the same values of the Jubilee issues [*the larger 3, 5, 10 series found on the Sep/Oct 2001 article postal card*]. Through efforts on the part of certain Prague collectors, there emerged a large number of postal stationery items with these imprinted values, primarily since it was something novel and secondly because at that time the collection of postal stationery was even more popular than adhesive stamp collecting. It is possible that these activities were pushed by the chairman of the Prague Club of Czech Philatelists, Ing. Jaroslav Šula, as these items were eventually nicknamed "Šuloviny" [*of/by Šula*]. There are altogether 12 postal stationery envelopes, 23 letter sheets, and 104 cards, which at the Jubilee Exposition were imprinted with varying combinations of stamps as selected by individual customers. Today it is of course extremely difficult to assemble a complete collection of these items, which, incidentally, are priced rather highly in postal stationery catalogs. Wagging tongues also claim that these imprinted stamps could be purchased on ordinary paper, or even on men's starched shirt cuffs!"

I hope that this will provide some of the additional information that you were looking for.

Kivdul Adobovs

6. Dear Ludviku:

Just a note on Mr. Menuz's article about "Rare and Unusual Stationery No. 4" in the SPECIALIST No. 5 [Sep/Oct 2001, p28].

Mr. Menuz correctly states, that the Austrian Postal Administration printed post cards to private order, but this is not the case in the pictured postal card. . . . The card was issued to celebrate the Jubilee Exhibition of 1908 . . . [and the exhibition] also had a postal department showing the Austrian postal system using various "new technical machines . . .", etc. One of these areas was the printing of stamps, which is pictured on the reverse of the postal card. During the exhibition all of the visitors had a chance to have their "own" postal cards printed. Thanks to this activity there are about 100 various postal cards known that were "tailor" made for visitors. Mr. Šula, a Prague stamp collector who personally produced many of them, became famous from this.

I am not an expert in these "souvenir postal cards", but I know that some Austrian catalogs list them and that a few of the cards have a very high catalog value (but thanks to their "souvenir" character only a small number of collectors are prepared to pay these huge amounts for them), so I would like to make only a few remarks about the pictured card:

- all seven "stamps" were printed on the card during the exhibition
- the total face value of the printed stamps amounts to 38 Heller, which was not a valid postal rate at that time in Austria
- the basic postal card rate amounted to 5 Heller (for Austria and some of the neighbor countries like Germany) or 10 Heller for other foreign countries
- the registered mail surcharge amounted to 25 Heller, the special delivery surcharge was 1 Crown

Thus you can see that the postal card's printed face value was not appropriate for postal usage.

The 2 Heller stamp showing Merkur's head was a newspaper stamp, which normally could only be used for the delivery of newspapers and not for normal mail.

All of the above information shows that the card is a souvenir, and in my opinion we cannot accept it as "rare stationery" (however, it could reach high catalog value), because the "stationery" could not be used in the normal postal system.

With regards,
Lubor [Kunc]

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten



Fig. 1

sure to please everyone who receives a card with a pair of cats on the stamp. As said, the design is based on the illustration of Karel Franta, and it is engraved by Bedřich Housa. It was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown depicts a stylized double bass in bloom with a singing small bird (Fig. 2).

1. On June 20, 2001 the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 5.40 Kč commemorative Stamp for Well-Wishers (Fig. 1). The black, red, yellow, rosa-red, and blue stamp shows a composition of two stylized cats with red roses and the term Gratuluji (Congratulations). This is the second time a stamp has been issued in this country with a theme especially suited to posting birthday wishes and for other such special occasions. The cheerful picture by K. Franta, a well-known illustrator of children's books, is



Fig. 2

SLOVAKIA

by G. M. van Zanten
and F. Garancovsky



Fig. 3

2. On October 5, 2000, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 4 Sk commemorative stamp in the Christmas Stamp series entitled Jubilee 2000 (Fig. 3). It was designed by K. Sevellová and engraved by Martin Činovský. The cachet on the FDC depicts a piece of artwork which seems to be showing the Adoration of the Magi (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

3. On October 13, 2000, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk stamp commemorating the first anniversary (October 15, 1999) of the signing of a postal agreement with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM)(Fig. 5)[see also the Nov/Dec 2000 issue, pg 12/13]. The stamp shows the coat-of-arms of SMOM, was designed by Dušan Kállay,



Fig. 6

and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The cachet on the FDC depicts a piece of artwork which seems to be showing the Shepherd holding a lamb (Fig. 6).



Fig. 7

4. On October 17, 2000, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps from the Art on Stamps series.

-- The 18 Sk stamp depicts "Narodenie" (birth), a Gothic tablet painting (about 1460) from Spisska Stará Ves, and on display in the Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 7). The stamp was engraved by Frantisek Horniak. The cachet on the FDC depicts an enlargement of the right central portion of the painting (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

-- The 20 Sk stamp depicts "Snimanie Z Križa" (scene from the cross), a Romance wall painting (beginning of the 15th century) from Kocelovce (Fig. 9).

The stamp was engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. The cachet on the FDC depicts a piece of artwork which seems to show a monk reading from a classical book (Fig. 10).

5. On December 18, 2000, the Ministry issued a 20 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "The History of Postal Law" (Fig. 11, on FDC). Having in mind the history of postal service, it may be concluded that a special role has been played by the Postal Law, through which it is possible to follow the development of relations between state power and the postal service. Since the first legislative norm was issued by Ferdinand I in 1535, the Postal Law in Hungary --



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

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and thus also in Slovakia -- could have been characterized as the royal law. Thus, the revenue gained by the postal service belonged to the royal treasury. At the same time, the Postal Law records the social and political conditions in the various periods, and serves as an indicator of social-political events in Hungary. By modifying postal regulations, the sovereigns reacted to the economic and social life in the country. Thus, 250 years ago Maria Theresa -- influenced by reform efforts -- introduced several changes in the field of postal transportation; predominant among these we should mention *The Postal Act No. 31* of 1741, *The Postal Order* of 1743, and *The Postal Patent* of 1748. Researching the Postal Law is performed by Slovakia's Museum of Postal Service, established on March 1, 2000 in Banská Bystrica. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. It was produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates in a miniature sheet containing four stamps with central artwork showing officials with *The Postal Patent* of 1748.

6. On December 18, 2000, the Ministry issued a 5.50 Sk commemorative stamp on the occasion of Postage Stamp Day and entitled "50th Anniversary of POFIS" (Fig. 12). The stamp image portrays a newspaper announcing the anniversary and having

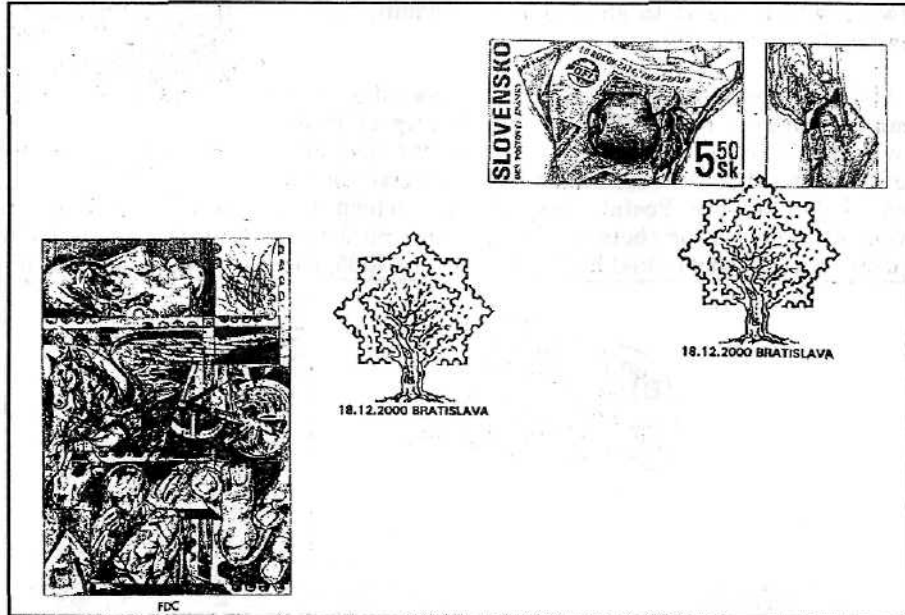


Fig. 12

an apple lying on it. There is an attached tab showing a stamp being passed from one hand to another. POFIS was founded in 1950. Based upon the issue plan approved by the Ministry, the Postal Philatelic Service (POFIS) of the Slovak Post Office is responsible for the development and printing of issues in the required quantity for the operational needs of both the Slovak Post Office and philately. It issues postage stamps, FDC's, stamp sheetlets, postal cards, and even imprints postal cards devoted to important cultural, social and sporting events. POFIS also

sells all of these items both domestically and for export. It provides a commemorative post-marking service and participates in philatelic exhibitions. The stamp and its tab were both designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. The FDC is shown in the illustration.

7. On January 1, 2001, the Ministry issued a 13 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Historical Watches and Clocks" (Fig. 13). In this newly conceived series "Museum Treasury Chamber" -- which will present interesting museum exhibits from several museums in Slovakia -- we are introducing a precious historical clock from the

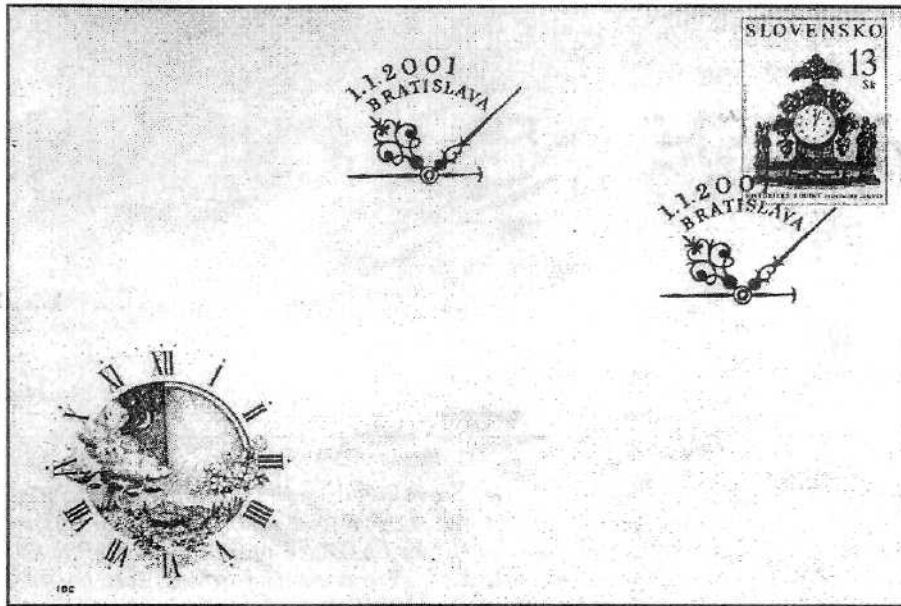


Fig. 13

collections at the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava. In this case it is a figurative classical clock, manufactured around 1780 by an unknown watchmaker in Slovakia, having a pendulum-driven clockwork with hour bells in a carved and gilded wooden housing, with dimensions of 72 x 65 cm, and also having a hand written remark about being repaired in Hlohovec in 1884. The multicolored stamp was designed by Marián Čapka and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and was produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. The FDC artwork shows symbols of the passage of time -- the sun, moon, and stars in the sky and above the land and water. The storm clouds symbolize the beginning of a new era. The author has composed these symbols together with the Slovak countryside into the middle of the clock dial -- a symbol of the circulation of time. The cancel artwork pictures the clock arms from a cabinet clock stemming from the Banská Stiavnica museum, being made in Slovakia around 1770.

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8. On January 15, 2001, the Ministry issued a 5.50 Sk commemorative stamp in the Personalities series entitled "Janko Blaho" (Fig. 14). Janko Blaho (born 15 Sept. 1901 in Skalica -- died 24 Apr. 1981 in Bratislava) was the leading Slovak professional opera singer. He was a famous soloist of the Slovak opera stage from

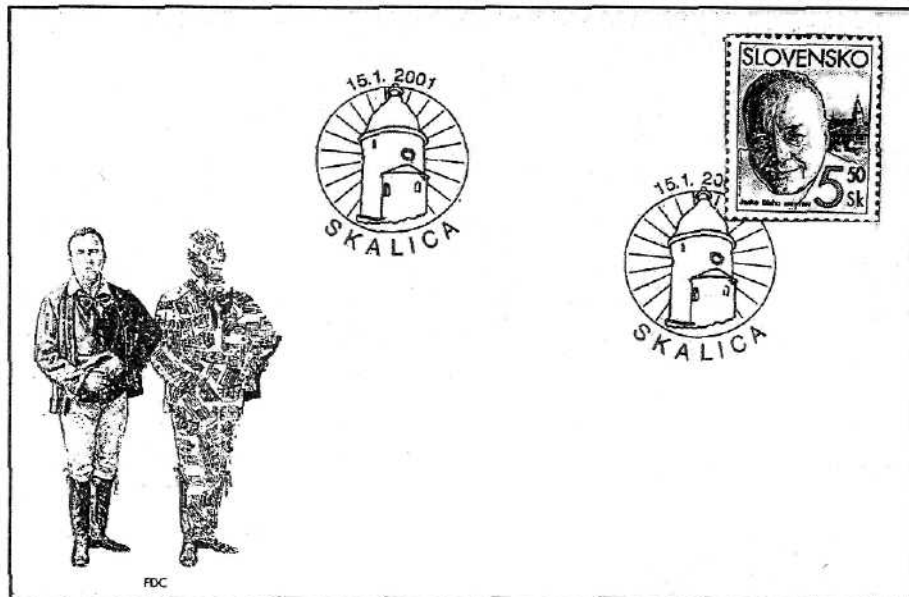


Fig. 14

1926 through 1965. He debuted in the Slovak National Theater in Bratislava on March 23, 1924 and had his last role on the stage at the State Theater in Košice on April 28, 1965. During his professional career he played more than 150 characters and roles from classical operas. He acquired a reputation as a recognized performer of Smetana and Mozart operas and became the opera audience's favorite soloist in Italian and French romantic opera. He was a leading promoter of the first premieres of Slovak opera (from composers Bella, Figuš-Bystrý, Rosinský, Holoubek, Suchoň and Cikker), pioneered Slovak radio music broadcasts, performed arias as well as popular music on records, and was an enthusiastic promoter of folklore songs mainly from his native Záhorie region. The multicolored stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. The FDC artwork shows Blaho in one of his character costumes standing next to a "shadow" Blaho made up of musical scores.

9. On January 16, 2001, the Ministry issued a 16 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "The European Figure Skating Championship" (Fig. 15). After 28 years the European championship in figure skating has come back to the capital of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava. The best figure skaters of the "Old Continent" will be performing in this 130th anniversary year of organized skating in Slovakia. This championship provides historical ties to the International Skating Union (ISU) Championships which took place in this city in 1958, 1966 and 1973 and will

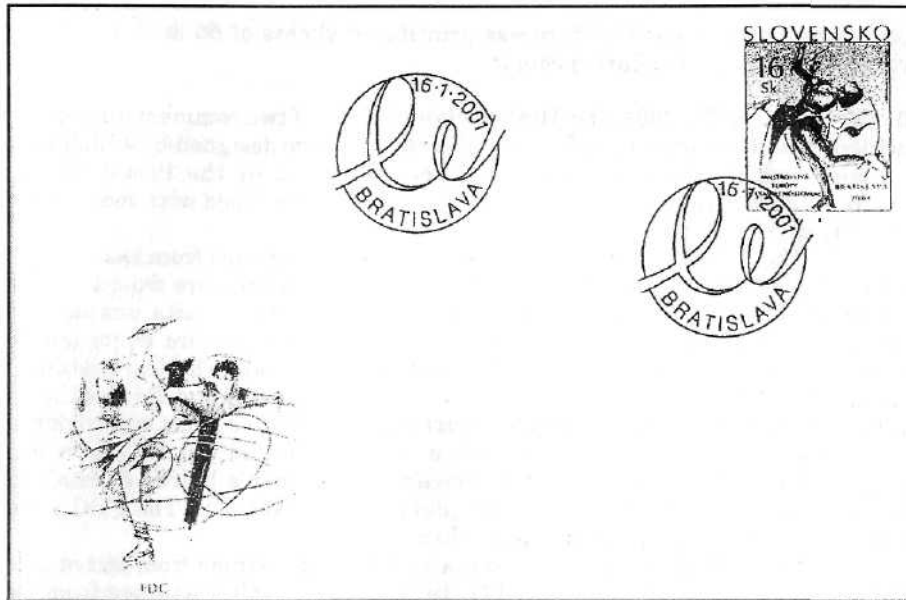


Fig. 15

continue the tradition of top performances which combine sport and art. This multicolored stamp was designed by Ivan Schurmann and engraved by Bohumil Šneider and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-

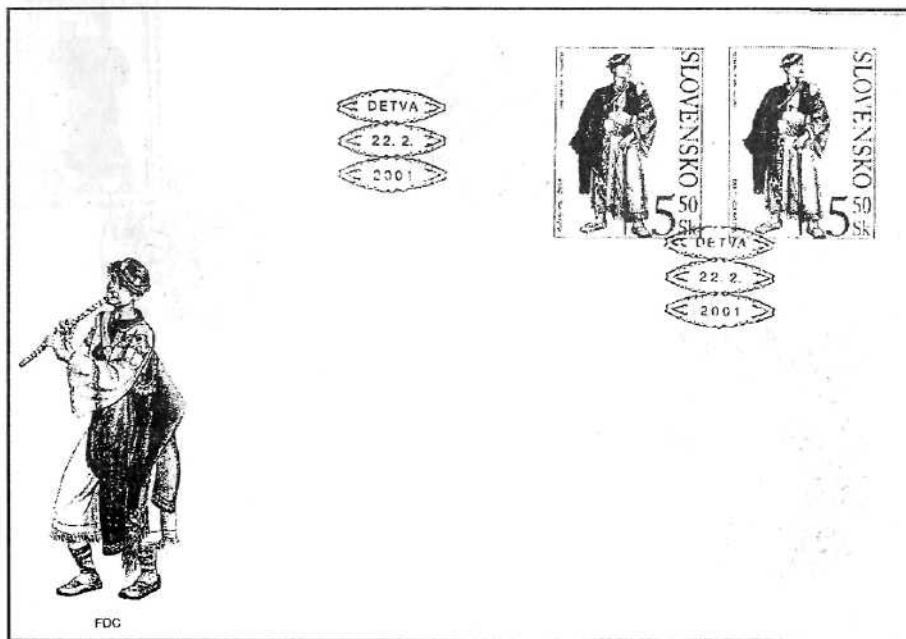


Fig. 16

recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. The FDC artwork shows a pairs skating couple.

10. On February 22, 2001, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps entitled "Folk Costumes from Detva". The stamps were designed by Júlia Piačková and engraved by Miloš Ondráček and were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps.

-- The 5.50 Sk stamp depicts a man in the folk-costume from Detva (Fig. 16). The most distinctive types of costumes from the Detva area are from the villages Poľana Detva, Očová, and Hriňová. The men's costume is quite unique. While mostly they wore wide linen pants ("gäti") here, they also wore white felt-fabric trousers (which were common also elsewhere in Slovakia). The folk-costume was completed with a short shirt of a special cut. It reached just to one-third of the chest, so there was naked waist left between shirt and belt. With a short embroidered fur coat ("cucaj"), felt-fabric waistcoat, and a small decorated hat, it was a unique costume, the only one of its kind in Slovakia. The men's hairdo fit the unique clothing -- long hair plaited into many plaits (called "kečki"). The FDC artwork shows a man in folk-costume playing a flute.

-- The 6 Sk stamp depicts a woman in the folk-costume from Detva holding a baby who is also in costume (Fig. 17). In the past the folk-costumes from Detva emphasized needlework including fibre and lace in natural yellow shades that was based on a simple technique using flat sticks. At the end of the 19th century another technique came to be used -- later becoming typical for textiles produced in this area

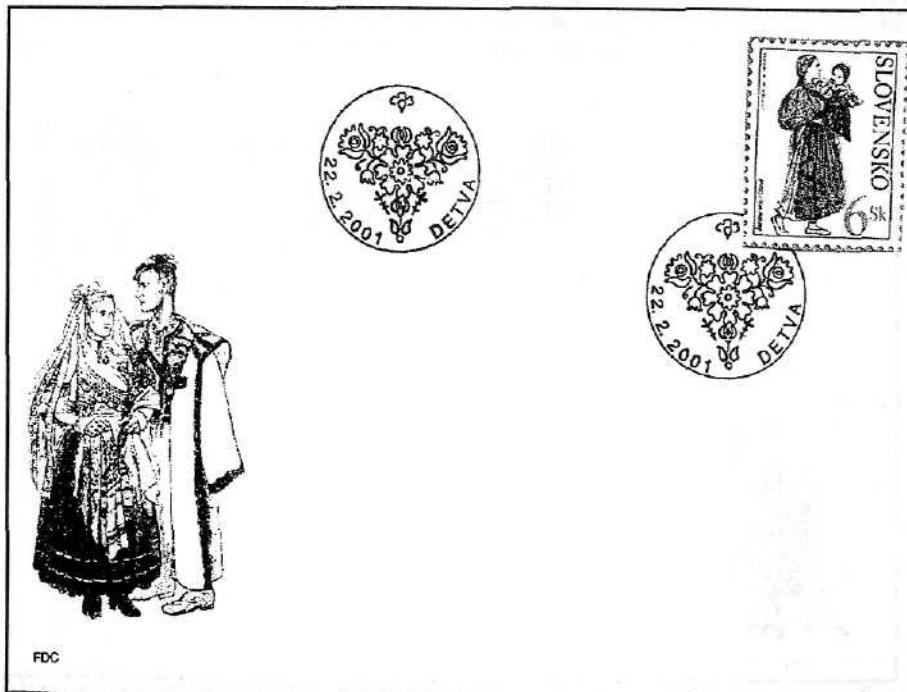


Fig. 17

-- involving inscribed needlework made using curved needles with the fabric held on a frame. There are some that claim that this technique was brought here by the Turks, but this has not yet been confirmed. This newest technique changed the ornamental appearance at the structural change points. It also made significant color changes between the major pieces (e.g. red, blue, etc.) -- although orange and yellow remained as the foundation colors and all of the finer details were done with needlework. The FDC artwork shows a man and woman in their folk-costumes.

11. On February 22, 2001, the Ministry issued a 12 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Central Agricultural Control and Testing Institute -- 50 Years" (Fig. 18). The history of the origin of agricultural control and testing in Slovakia dates from 1884. This early period established the foundation of other research and agricultural institutes founded in 1920. The descendant of these institute's activities was the Central Agricultural Control and Testing Institute (1951) of Bratislava. The main function of the institute was to carry out the state's control and testing of the conditions of the agriculture industry, and especially inspection of the quality of



Fig. 18

inputs into agriculture (agrochemicals, forages, etc.). In 2001 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of both the signature of the International Agreement for Plant Protection as well as the foundation of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) with its headquarters in Paris. This organization handles international co-operation in the field of plant protection in Europe and the Mediterranean area. This multicolored stamp was designed by Alexej Vojtášek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. The FDC artwork shows a man with stalks of grain.

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12. On April 10, 2001, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Splendours of Our Homeland series. The stamps were designed by Karol Felix and engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using recess printing from flat plates in a miniature sheet having eight stamps -- two groups of four (holding two each of the stamps of this issue) with artwork between showing bronze hair-clips from Ducové and from Liptovská Mara.

-- The 12 Sk stamp displays the archaeological locality Liptovská Mara -- Havránok (Fig. 19). It is located in a vanished municipality which was flooded during the construction of a reservoir near the village of Liptovská Sielnica. In this locality were discovered treasures from the younger Bronze Age, a fortification from the younger Lateen Age, and a housing estate from the Great Moravian Age. The stamp shows a reconstruction of the inner fortification with a hall-type gate having an observatory and being from the first decade of the first century A.D. (the beginning of the Roman Age) and also shows Celtic coins from Liptovská Mara. The

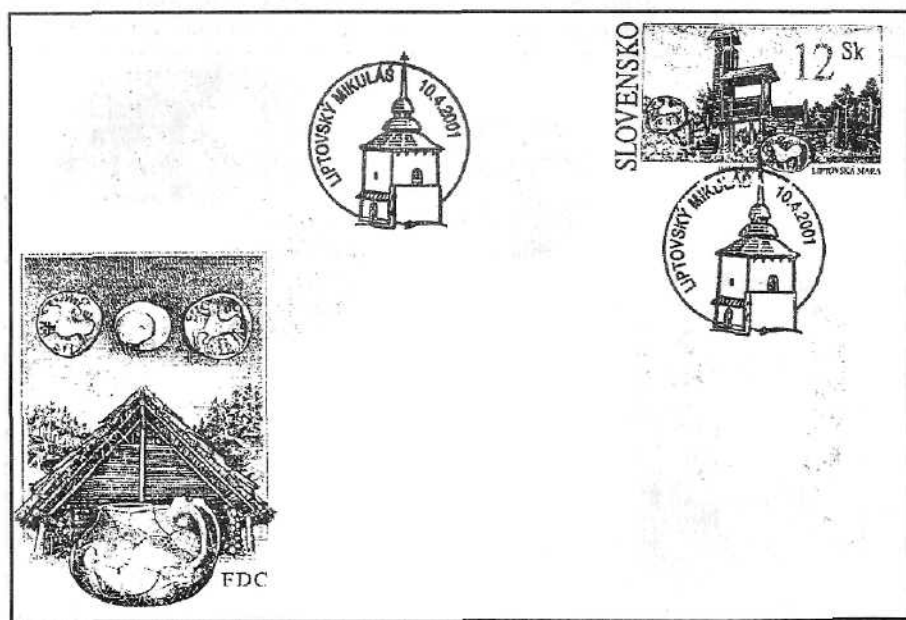


Fig. 19

FDC artwork depicts a reconstructed semi-detached house (3rd-1st century B.C.), a piece of pottery from the location, and Celtic coins.

-- The 15 Sk stamp displays the archaeological locality Ducové -- Kostolec (Ducové is part of the Moravany nad Váhom municipality) which is on a promontory above the Vázska Valley (Fig. 20). In this locality were discovered a settlement from the older Stone Age, a fortification from the younger Bronze Age, a Great Moravian feudal courtyard from the middle of the 9th century with residential and fortified constructions, and a rotunda near which graves contained gold and silver jewelry. The stamp shows a reconstruction of the stockade fortification with the entrance gate, the remainders of the masonry, the foundations of the Great Moravian rotunda, an ornamental button from a grave near the rotunda, and a jewel found in the

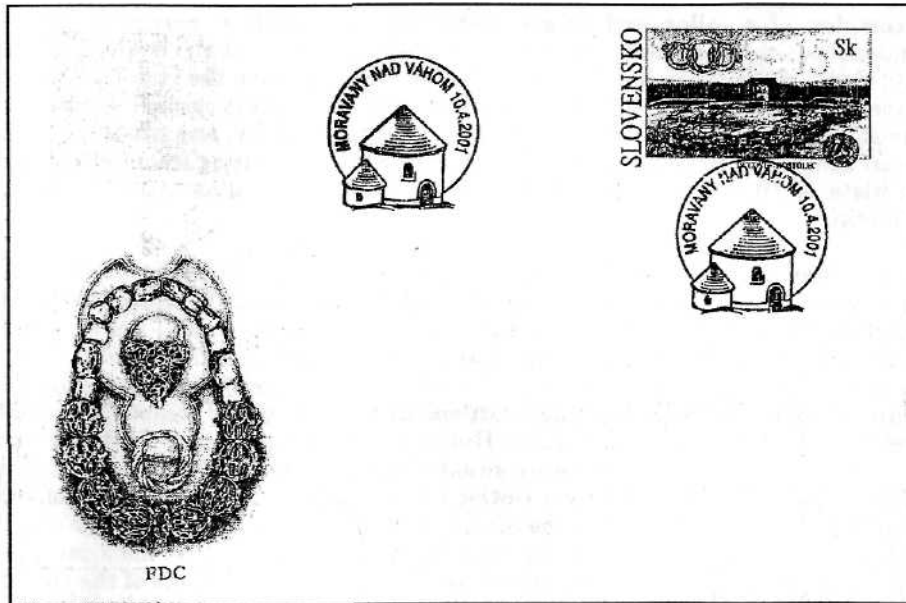


Fig. 20

locality. The FDC artwork depicts jewelry (earrings, necklace, ring) from a wealthy woman's grave (11th century).

13. On April 26, 2001, the Ministry issued a 50 Sk definitive stamp in the Cities series commemorating Komárno (Fig. 21). Komárno, situated on the confluence of the Danube and the Váh rivers, is one of the oldest settlements with a rich historical tradition in the Karpatian Valley. Its importance centers on its advantageous location on the most traveled international river arterial road in Europe. Komárno has grown (38,000 inhabitants) to be the cultural and sports center of its like-named district. One can see many sights in the historical center of the city. The fortification system of the town is declared a national historical monument. Two-thirds of the inhabitants are of Hungarian nationality, therefore the town is an important cultural center of Hungarians living in Slovakia. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and engraved by Martin Srb, and was produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 100 stamps. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 21

14. On May 5, 2001, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp from the EUROPA series entitled "Studenovódský Vodopád -- Vysoké Tatry" (cold-water waterfalls -- High Tatra mountains)(Fig. 22). Down from the confluence of the Malý Studený Potok and Veľký Studený Potok (small cold brook and large cold brook) is situated



Fig. 22

a complex of smaller and larger waterfalls for which a summary term of Studenovodské Vodopády (cold water waterfalls) is used. At the beginning of the Cold Brook there is the Small Waterfall (8 meters tall), then the Hidden Waterfall (5 meters), and finally the Large Waterfall with the highest cascade (13 meters). The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using recess printing from flat plates on sheetlets of 10 stamps. The FDC artwork contains an illustration by Martin Činovský.

15. On May 25, 2001, the Ministry issued a 40 Sk definitive stamp in the Cities series commemorating Piešťany (Fig. 23). Piešťany is a popular European health resort with spa set in picturesque surroundings. The spa is well known for the medicinal effects of its sulphuric thermal water and mud treatments, as well as the highly professional medicinal care. The oldest mention of Piešťany was found in writings from 1113, where a small settlement was registered under the name of Pescan in the Zobor's document of the Hungarian King, Koloman I. In the territory



Fig. 23

of Piešťany were situated some ancient settlements, and in the 14th century a Gothic church (probably a part of a monastery) was built in the center on the site of an old Romanesque church. The Hungarian King, Matej Korvín, as well as the aristocracy, used to take advantage of the medicinal effects of the thermal water. The foundation stone of the first bath-buildings was laid by Count Ján Nepomuk Erdödy between the years 1773-1778. In 1821, Count Jozef Erdödy built a new building in classic style, named the Napoleon bath, which is the oldest existing functional building in Piešťany. Later on, the bath was extended to incorporate a complex of three buildings shaped in a "U". After the reconstruction, new spaces for bath health resorts, massages, and hydrotherapy were created. The multicolored stamp was designed and engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 100 stamps. A FDC was issued.

16. On July 4, 2001, the Ministry issued a set of four commemorative stamps entitled "Great Moravian Rulers". This set of four stamps is located on the bottom part of a presentation sheet (Fig. 24). They picture portraits of important Great Moravian rulers from the beginning of the 9th century -- Pribina, Rastislav, Kocel, Svätopluk. These Great Moravian rulers were from the Mojmir dynasty. They founded the original west-Slavic state, extended the territorial boundaries, and expanded the culture. They are pictured with the map of Great Moravia at its greatest extent. The map was based on the findings of academician Ján Dekan. Also included is a shield depicting a falconer which is reproduced from an archaeological find. The stamps and presentation sheet were designed by Jozef Baláž and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset printing.

-- The 6 Sk stamp depicts Pribina (c.800-861). He was Prince of Nitra until 833 and also the prince of Blatno between 846-861. He gave approval for the first Christian church in Slovakia to be built in his Principality of Nitra. It was consecrated by Adalrá, Archbishop of Salzburg, in 828. Moravian Prince Mojmir

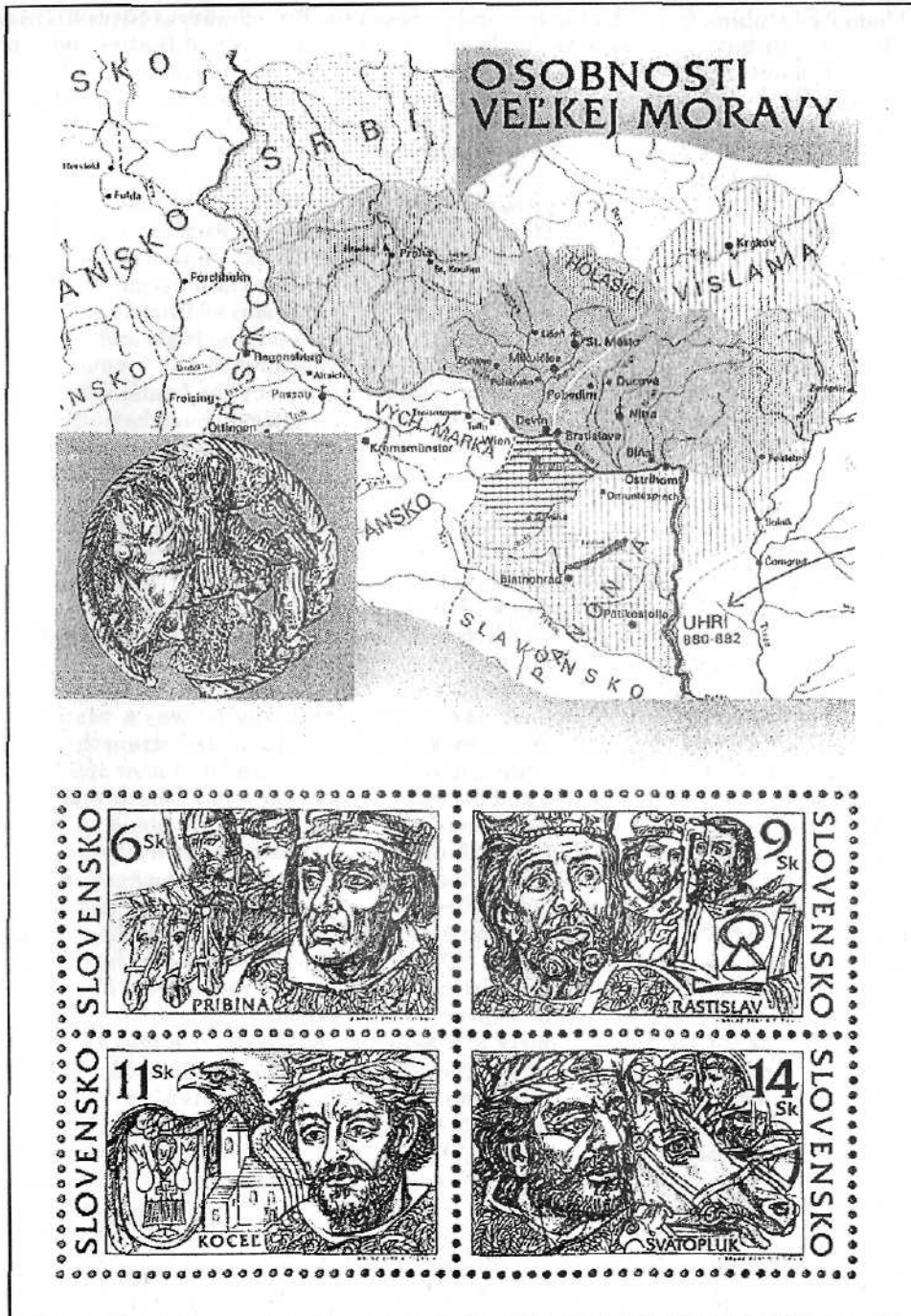


Fig. 24

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

I banished Pribina from Nitra in 833 and annexed the Principality of Nitra to Great Moravia. Pribina then became the Prince of the Principality of Blatno and built Blatnohrad near Zalavár in Hungary. He died in battle as an ally of Ludovit Nemec. The FDC artwork depicts the Great Moravian doubled-cross found in Nová Mača, a reconstruction of St. Method's church -- the archbishopric in Nitra (880), Nitra castle, and archaeological relics. The cancel from Nitra shows a tin crescent earring, 7th-8th century, Holiare.

-- The 9 Sk stamp depicts Rastislav (c. 820-870). He was the Great Moravian Prince from 846-870. He inherited the principality from his uncle Mojmir I and defended Great Moravia against attack from the Franks. Based on Rastislav's invitation, in 863 the Byzantine emperor Michal III sent the mission of the two Thessalonian brothers, Constantine-Cyril and Method, to spread Christianity in the local language throughout Great Moravia. They translated the Bible and created a Slavonic liturgy, thus creating the basis of the Slavonic and Slovak languages. In 870, Rastislav was betrayed by Svätopluk I and captured by the feudal lords of the East-Frankish Kingdom, who gave him a life sentence in Regensburg, having blinded him. Under Rastislav's rule, Great Moravia was free from the political influence of the Franks, and having gained its independence, greatly expanded its borders. The stamp includes an imaginary portrait of Rastislav, the Thessalonian brothers with the Holy Writ, and letters from the Glagolitic alphabet -- the symbols of God and the Holy Trinity. The FDC artwork depicts Devín castle -- having survived attacks in 869, a silver button encrusted with blue glass, and a bronze medal (Devinská Nová Ves). The cancel from Devín shows a silver earring, 9th century, Nitra.

-- The 11 Sk stamp depicts Kocel (9th century). He was the Prince of the Principality of Blatno (c. 861-876), the son of Prince Pribina of Nitra. While his father was alive, he actively participated in the development of Blatno. He succeeded his father on Prince Pribina's death. Originally he was a vassal of a Frankish king, but around 869 he united with Great Moravia and strengthened its national and Christian independence. He was a supporter and protector of Slovanic writings (Frizinske manuscripts) and played an important role in the development of Christianity. He delayed Constantine-Cyril and Method in Panonia in 867 on their return from the mission in Great Moravia. The Thessalonian brothers trained fifty students in Blatnohrad and converted Kocel to their idea of propagation of the Slavonic liturgy. The stamp includes a fictitious portrait of Kocel, a reconstruction of a church, and a silver belt tip with the figure of a bishop -- an archaeological relic from the Great Moravian period. The FDC artwork depicts Panonia, fruits of the land, remnants of churches, and archaeological relics. The cancel from Michalovec shows a cast bronze cattle-ring, 9th century, Bernolákovo.

-- The 14 Sk stamp depicts Svätopluk (c. 840-894). He was the Great Moravian Prince from 871-894 and was the most famous ruler of Great Moravia. He was a nephew of the Great Moravian King Rastislav and extradited his uncle to the Franks in 870. After the revolt of the Moravians, he took the throne. Svätopluk participated in the liberation of the archbishop Method, who was interned by the Franks. He made peace with Ludovit Nemec in 874. He became the independent ruler of Great Moravia and strengthened the domestic and foreign position of the state. He annexed Czechia, Lužica, Sliezsko, the Principality of Krakov, regions as far as the Carpathian Mountains on the east side of the Tisa river, a whole territory of today's Hungary, and a part of eastern Austria. Under his rule the Great Moravian state encompassed the greatest amount of territory and had the greatest

power. Svätopluk had rich diplomatic connections, and he corresponded with the Popes. In 880, a Popes' agreement *Industriae tuae* declared Old Slavic as a Liturgical language. Testimony about Svätopluk and an old legend about him were written down by the Byzantine emperor Konstantín Porfyrogenet. Today, Svätopluk's sons are known as a metaphor for disunity, which resulted in the death of the Great Moravian state. The FDC artwork depicts Svätopluk, a sword, stirrup, and spurs from the magnate court in Ducové. The cancel from Bratislava shows a gold earring with glazed pendants, 8th century, Holiare.

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Westfield, NJ 07090