



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY: HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW? ITS FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS!

By Kimber Wald

As you sit there leafing through your new issue of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* keep in mind 315 other people will be joining you. Like you, they collect some aspect of the stamps and/or postal history relating to Czechoslovakia. Like you they enjoy reading books they have purchased from the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) or borrowing other volumes from our library. Like you, they enjoy receiving the SCP circuit books to expand their collections and using the service to sell off their duplicates to waiting collectors.

What else do you have in common with the other 315? You belong to a society which is aging in membership and has plateaued in growth. You share a common responsibility with each other to do what you can to foster the growth of the SCP so you may continue to enjoy it and leave it as a legacy for the future. This is the thought a group of philatelists had in mind 63 years ago when they organized the Society for Czechoslovak Philately for themselves -- and for you!

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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@attbi.com
6. The Society has a web site ([www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)) on the Internet where you can find Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits and much more. The site is maintained by Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817-3846, or email: sibpost@starpower.net

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

## SLOVENSKO 2002

*I am publishing two reports on the SLOVENSKO 2002 philatelic exhibition. Both are by members of our Society -- one was the exhibition's USA Commissioner and the other is a recognized expert in Czechoslovak philately. As in any such gathering they are expressing their own personal views of their experiences and thus may not see them in the same light even if they attended the same events.*

### SLOVENSKO 2002 REPORT

by H. Alan Hoover  
USA Commissioner

SLOVENSKO 2002, the first international stamp exhibit in the Slovak Republic (Slovakia) since 1937, was held on July 4 - 10 at the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava, Slovakia, the same location as the last International Exhibit (Fig. 1). It was most appropriate to be held at this facility, within this struggling country seeking its place both in the European Union and with NATO, for the bronze plaque outside the museum reads "28 October 1918 saw the creation of the CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, the homeland of two brotherly nations -- Czechs and Slovaks", seemed to be the sentiment of many at the show and within societies, for Slovaks to be joined together with the rest of Europe and to be recognized.

One of the invited exhibits from Stephen Luster of the USA was titled "Towards a United Europe" and became the theme for the entire stamp exhibit,



Fig. 1 Opening ceremony -- Slovak dignitaries signing the official FDC cachet.



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where this small European country tried to put on both a combined national and international quality show. Only a limited number of countries were invited, and because of only limited FEPA sponsorship, and limited external financial sponsorship, arrangements had to be curtailed to be within the budget.

Although the facility was provided free of charge and portrayed a historical significance in being at the identical location as the last International Exhibit, I especially disliked the exhibit hall where the frames did not permit sufficient room to view the noted exhibits and where lighting was terrible in the long narrow halls that encased 2/3 of the exhibits. Only the main hall -- where the court of honor exhibits, literature exhibits, and the start of traditional philatelic class exhibits were -- seemed adequate with lighting, room and free space.

Recall this was an exhibit, not a show. No bourse existed. Only one supply dealer booth existed on the mezzanine. The lower entry hall included a booth for the local Bratislava #1 post office, a POFIS marketing booth, the Slovak mint occupied booth #3, The Czech Philatelic Society occupied #4 (only over the weekend), and the personalized stamp label booth was #5.

As with any show, problems arose, and this exhibit was no exception. The temperature in Europe at this time was exceptionally hot making it uncomfortable for guests during the exhibit. The Slovak National Museum is not air-conditioned. As a result of the heat and the tight confines, occasional windows were opened for ventilation which was not good for philatelic material on display within the museum. But what alternative did they have but to open them?

Overheard conversations indicated that participation from some countries was limited to less quality exhibits (or no exhibits at all from some) because of the uncertainty of whether this show would become a reality or not over the past year. It was virtually canceled 3 different times for numerous reasons including financial sponsorship.

On the other side of the coin, some countries provided powerful exhibits; especially strong were the exhibits from Hungary and one from the UK on Carpatho-Ukraine.

Although a SLOVENSKO organizing committee existed, many of the details continually changed. Whether this was due to poor or no initial planning, it left a poor taste in everyone's mouth. Fair treatment of all guests was attempted but fell short in many cases. Distribution of catalogs to exhibitors was scheduled for only distribution at the Palmares. This is way too late to have a catalog! Give me one at the beginning so I can find the lay of the exhibit and determine what I want to see! Judging results of many of the International exhibits seemed unbalanced to some of the country commissioners.

As an international show, one would have thought that appropriate new stamp or postal stationery to meet the international franking requirement would have been issued. International postcard rate for 1<sup>st</sup> class is 18 Sk, and the big push was the 6 Sk peace stamp, too big to put 3 of these on 1 postcard! Envelopes issued at the show were either 8 Sk or 10 Sk, again insufficient to send anywhere outside of Slovakia.

The Palmares too seemed way short of an organized affair. In an attempt to meet budget, initial plans were changed and a lower key buffet was held. The



facility offered little seating opportunities to eat, the facility was not air conditioned and the distribution of all awards and prizes got confused beyond all professionalism. Some guests were so appalled at the affair, they politely excused themselves for the evening.

Not everything was negative with SLOVENSKO 2002. The show catalog was

wonderfully done under the direction of Jozef Tekel, and included some excellent, detailed historical articles. This was well orchestrated and my compliments on a job well done! Some of the exhibits were outstanding, and when explained by some of the other members more familiar with the material, I was flabbergasted at the importance of some of the material. (Exhibit results were tabulated and reported on in a separate article, kindly refer to it to see how our members fared. I will send a separate .pdf of the entire Palmares catalog to you to show the results.)



Fig. 2 USA Commissioner, H. Alan Hoover, and his wife, Annette

On the social scene, Bratislava itself was an interesting city along the Danube (Fig. 2). Noted as the Coronation city for Hungary for over 250 years, the city had made significant improvements over just the

past 4 years, it had the European Charm in the old town venue. Many challenges still exist for making the city one of the beauties of Europe, of these I note to remove graffiti off many of the buildings, beautification of even common areas are of low or no priority and would make a world of difference if people paid attention to it, and improvements to mass housing complexes by simply cleaning off the years of grime would improve both social stigmas and attitudes of the 20% unemployed. Food itself was plentiful, good and very inexpensive. Us Americans found some challenges, including the lack of any smoking policies even within hotels and restaurants and the lack of ice and "sweet tea" for us southerners!

The Hotel Danube was a great location (i.e., close to shopping for the women!), close to the exhibit hall and was a first class hotel. It was fortunately air conditioned and a 4-star rated hotel. We found the staff, and especially the reception

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desk, extremely helpful in anything we could come up with. They spoke fluent English and went way beyond the normal call of duty to assist everyone I saw. Hats off to the hotel staff!

There were some slight language issues for us that spoke no Slovak, but many locals went out of their way to assist. One experience that my wife personally had was of a doctor she met on the train making a "house call" to her at the hotel for an injury and asking nothing for payment. What wonderful people! We can not even find anyone to make a house call in the USA!

Overall the SLOVENSKO 2002 was good in some respects and bad in other areas just like other shows. I write many of the shortcomings off as inexperience in orchestrating such an exhibit across international boundaries. The Slovak Organizing Committee worked hard in putting it together and this experience will hopefully not discourage them from trying to hold additional future shows on improved stature. The Czech Republic Commissioner stated it well at one of the functions: "Here's to the hope that a future show might again be Czechoslovak".

## SLOVAKIA RESUMES ITS INTERNATIONAL SHOW VENUE ROLE

by Henry Hahn

Since 1937, when it most recently served as the site of an international philatelic show, Slovakia has once again joined the ranks of international show organizers. Organized with the support of FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic



Fig. 3

Associations), the Union of Slovak Philatelists, the Slovak Post and the Slovak National Museum, the exhibition took place July 4 - 10, 2002 at the same location as the 1937 show, alongside the Danube River, near the historic and greatly restored center of Slovakia's Capital.

The show opening took place amid some lovely Slovak folk music (Fig. 3) and welcoming addresses by Messers. Dušan Faktor, State Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Post, and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic; Michael Adler, FEPA Coordinator; and Lubomír Floch, President of the Union of Slovak Philatelists and Commissioner General of the show. Professor Floch's remarks in english were particularly meaningful to the British and American participants unfamiliar with the Slovak language. Prof. Floch particularly singled out the American, Stephen Luster's invited Court of Honor exhibit "Toward United Europe", which coincides with Slovak future aspirations. Remarks by other officials, in particular Jarmila Brichtová, Director of the Postal Department, Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications set the lovely tone and spirit of the event, which characterized Slovak friendliness and strong desire to succeed as a world philatelic entity.

The show itself occupied several rooms at the Museum, fairly well lit, but unfortunately without any form of seating or rest over a cup of coffee. In some areas the frames were rather closely spaced, and the entire show lacked air conditioning.

Eleven National Commissioners including US Commissioner H. Alan Hoover were kept busy with daily meetings and coordination with their country's participants. Yvonne Wheatley represented a fairly large number of British participants, most ably and with a cheerful smile. In the course of a Commissioners/Judges luncheon, later in the week, the Czech Commissioner, Dr. Václav Svoboda expressed most eloquently the feeling of many participants, when



Fig. 4 Standing: L. Floch, J. Verner, V. Svoboda, H. Hahn, L. Brendl;  
Kneeling: H.A. Hoover, R. Palaschak, J. Tekel, ???



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he stated that he hoped a future such show might again be Czechoslovak. He received overwhelming applause by Czechs and Slovaks alike (Fig. 4).

The Jury, headed by Jozef Tekel of Slovakia and with Lumír Brendl, President of the Union of Czech Philatelists acting as Secretary, included two Vice Chairmen, Damian Lange (Germany) and Mauro Francaviglia (Italy), five Jurors, two Apprentices, and one Senior Consultant. No British or American jurors were included. The Jury faced some excellent exhibits, though surprisingly no large gold medals were awarded for stamp exhibits and just one large gold was awarded for philatelic literature -- and that to Ulrich Ferchenbauer for his "Austria 1850-1918 Handbook and Specialized Catalogue, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2000". There were relatively few large vermeils outside of thematic of which one was awarded to Olech Wyslotsky for his "Hradčany and their Usage, 1918-1920". There were many postal history golds, which included Jaroslav J. Verner showing "Czechoslovak Legions in France, Italy and Slovakia". Outstanding Czechoslovakia and Czechoslovakia related exhibits, each winning gold, included Bedřich Helm (CR) for his "ČSR Air Mail to 1930" and Otto Hornung (GB) for his magnificent "Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine".

No SCP member or American won the Grand Prix National, Grand Prix International or Grand Prix Thematic. The total awards presented by the Jury are shown in the table below:

Class	LG	G	LV	V	LS	S	SB	B	Cert	TOTAL
Traditional	0	2	3	3	8	1	0	0	0	17
Postal History	0	16	4	3	6	2	1	0	0	32
Thematic	0	2	8	4	3	3	5	1	1	27
Phil. Literature	1	1	1	6	11	4	6	1	0	31
TOTAL	1	21	16	16	28	10	12	2	1	107

Probably the most outstanding achievement by the show organizers is their superb show catalogue -- probably better than that of any FEPA show in recent history. Its pages contain virtually the complete postal history of Slovakia, from early pre-stamp mail to the present. The many authors who contributed chapters deserve our sincerest congratulations. Besides the usual listing and illustrations of the show organizers, judges and commissioners, the catalogue also includes illustrations of some of the most significant items included in the eight invited Court of Honor displays, all of which received gold medals and special prizes.

Each day was devoted to a theme, for which commemorative cards, covers and special cancels were available. These included:

- July 4 -- Stamp and Philately Day
- July 5 -- The Day of Europe (St. Cyril and Methodej as Patrons of Europe)
- July 6 -- The Day of FEPA and Young Philatelists
- July 7 -- The Day of Olympics and Sports Philately
- July 8 -- UN Day and its Postal Administration -- UNPA, Vienna
- July 9 -- The Day of Christian Philately (Society of St. Gabriel)
- July 10 -- The Day of Postal Museology of V-4 Countries

In addition, a coin was minted by hand at the show, a UN Postal Administration cover was sold, and a 10 Sk stamp honoring the 2002 Slovak Hockey Championship was issued on July 4<sup>th</sup>. A SLOVENSKO 2002 postage meter was available from July 4<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>, and on opening day a sheetlet honoring A. Rudnay was issued. A numbered black print of the sheetlet was included in each sold show catalogue. A Slovak stamp with "personalized" coupon honoring "SLOVENSKO 2002" was issued during the show.

Despite the very few shortcomings, exhibitors and visitors were amply compensated by the genuine friendship, enthusiasm, cordiality and attitude of the organizers, staff and volunteers. Slovakia is undoubtedly heading for a major role in world philately, and they have our heartiest wishes for future success.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

### *Philatelic News and Views*

From Frank Garancovsky:

-- On many Slovak stamps you can find the Slovak emblem showing three mountains and a double-barred cross (Fig. 1). A recent issue of the ASCA [American Slovak Cultural Association] Newsletter contained a short description by an unknown author which tells some of its background.

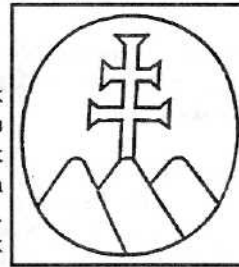


Fig. 1

"There is a legend about the mountains depicted in the Slovak Emblem. The first is said to mean belief in God, acknowledging Him as eternal Savior. The second mountain stands for hope that God will give them strength to serve Him eternally. For this they will receive the Kingdom of Heaven at death. This mountain also stands for a powerful hope of a more peaceful future for the people of the Tatras. The third mountain symbolizes love -- the love of God, country and self, love of friends and enemies. Such love is paved with suffering people must endure. The double-bar cross illustrates the suffering the Slovak people have endured. They suffered for God when they accepted the faith. They suffered for freedom which was taken from them. The more they remained steadfast, the greater the pain and the longer they endured with them hope that with their love of God, they would triumph."

From Savoy Horvath:

-- I just received the news that the Czech Post is limiting sales of postage stamps in CR to Post Offices only, this is as of last month. It used to be that, for instance in Wenceslas Square in Prague, every 200 feet there was a kiosk selling newspapers, magazines, streetcar passes, picture postcards and postage stamps. Stamps used to be thus sold all over the country. The profit margin for the seller was about 4% or 21h on a 5.40Kč stamp for a postal card or a domestic rate letter. The overall consensus of kiosk owners was -- this was too low of a profit to even bother with. Another reason for the change came from the Czech Post. In the past there were many counterfeits, the most recent just 18 months ago. All of them were created to defraud the postal service, and all appeared only in the kiosks.

-- The Czech Post is raising postage as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Even though the

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national inflation has gone up 14% since January 2000, the Czech Post is raising its rates only 6%. Letters (to 20 grams) and postal cards are going from 5.40Kč to 6.40Kč. Registered mail (to 20 grams) goes from 14.40Kč to 17Kč. Some parcel post rates are going up also, as are other postal services like money orders and special delivery rates. The rates cannot be changed for two years. Nothing was mentioned about foreign delivery, but it is expected to happen this coming January -- seems the Czech Post is taking lessons from the USPS.

-- While our domestic postal rates went up as of June 30, the international rates stayed the same. Now, sources indicate that the international rates will be going up as of January 2003.

-- ... [I] am enclosing a copy of a letter from COROS [Collectors of Religion on Stamps] ... almost every issue of their *COROS Chronicle* has something on Czech stamps. After our *SPECIALIST*, the *Chronicle* is second in US publications writing up CS philately [[www.powernetonline.com/~corosec/coros1.htm](http://www.powernetonline.com/~corosec/coros1.htm)].

Mr. Miroslav Spaček  
Deputy Director of Operations and Philately  
Česká Pošta

Dear Mr. Spaček:

I am happy to inform you that the society known as The Collectors of Religion on Stamps (COROS) has chosen the Postal Service of the Czech Republic to receive its 2002 Founders Award for Achievement in Religious Philately. This award is given annually to recognize significant contributions to the field of religious stamp collecting. It is awarded to the Czech Republic in view of the consistent array of artistic quality, religious impact, and superb execution of stamps with a religious theme since the founding of the Republic. . . . Previous awards have been presented to individuals but the Czech Republic is the first national entity chosen [to receive this award]. . .

John D. Schmidt  
President of COROS

-- In June the Czech Republic began use of a new design for its self-stick automated stamps that can only be purchased from machines (you put in your money and specify one of about 15 values to be printed on the stamp)[see the *New Issues for information on this new issue*]. These machines are now found in six locations in the Czech Republic: POSTFILA Sales Office, Ortenovo Náměstí 542, Praha 7; Praha 1 post office, Jindřišská street; Brno



Fig. 2



post office, Poštovská 3/5; Karlovy Vary 1 post office, T.G. Masaryka 1; Ústí nad Labem 1 post office, Masaryková street; and Opava 1 post office, Masaryková tr. 22.

From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- A bronze statue of Tomáš G. Masaryk (the "George Washington" and first president of Czechoslovakia) will have a home in Washington, DC later this year (Fig. 2). It is a gift from the Czech Republic to the United States. The 12-foot statue will be placed in "Masaryk Park" at Massachusetts Avenue and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, which is the entrance to Embassy Row. The statue is being raised to commemorate "one of history's foremost democrats, in the capital of the world's leading democracy" and the ideals that he championed. He fought anti-Semitism and attacked and defeated prejudice and bigotry when they were almost universal. He built a humane and democratic tradition in the heart of Europe

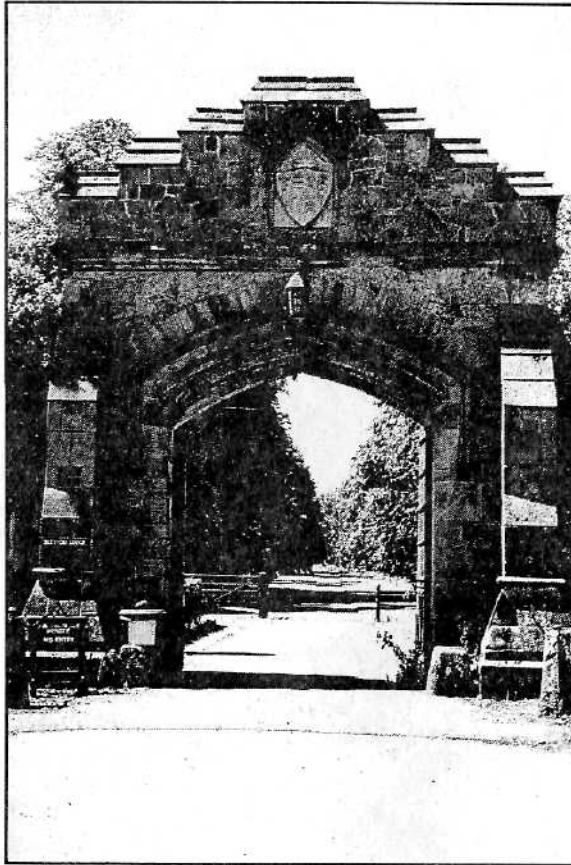


Fig. 3

at a time when despots bent on its destruction and conquest built armies and stirred hatred. Being sculpted by Vincenc Makovsky in 1937 -- the year of Masaryk's death and not long before the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia -- the statue was never before displayed. First the Nazis and then the Communists kept the statue hidden, and it was only cast in bronze during the Prague Spring in 1968. Now it is here for all to see. It displays the president holding a hat in one hand and the Declaration of Czechoslovak Independence in the other. It is so appropriate that T.G. Masaryk is featured on more Czechoslovak stamps than any other personality. *[This information and illustration are provided courtesy of AFoCR (The American Friends of the Czech Republic) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic.]*

From Richard Beith:

-- Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> was celebrated at Cholmondeley park as the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Czechoslovak Army on British soil. The sun shone on the simple, but moving ceremony. Figure 3 shows the entrance to the castle grounds, as on the 1940 postmark. Figure 4 shows the original 1940 memorial stone with the trilingual plinth added in 1999 and a view of some of the flags flying



Fig. 4

Eva Hanka Neugebauer -- the three year old girl that Tomáš G. Masaryk picked up and held in his arms on June 17, 1928 that resulted in the famous 1938 semi-postal stamp (Sc. B151, Tr. 334)[See Jan/Feb 2001 *SPECIALIST*, pg 3]. Mother Neugebauer had turned 100 on January 12<sup>th</sup> of this year.

at the memorial. Figure 5 shows some of the color bearers at the ceremony. [The Society for Czechoslovak Philately joins its British brothers in commemorating this occasion.]

From Henry Hahn:

-- At the SLOVENSKO 2002 show, what we have been told is the first Slovak variable rate stamp, was sold from a machine located in the front lobby of the exhibit. The public operation of the stamp machine was to have been Slovakia's first public exposure to its new device. The card shown (Fig. 6) is upfranked by 13 Sk to meet the current Air Mail rate of 18 Sk using the new variable rate stamp. The card is the special issue released on July 9<sup>th</sup> to note "The Day of Christian Philately" sponsored by the Society of St. Gabriel. The stamps are postmarked using that day's special cancel.

From Joe Lacko:

-- We just heard that Antonia Neugebauer died last week. She was the mother of

### Farewells

It is with the deepest regret that we belatedly inform you of the passing of two individuals who have been continuous members of our Society for a very, very long time: Edwin J. Jirousek (member 159) of Cleveland and Richfield, Ohio; and Emil E. Zaludek (member 211) of Chicago, Illinois. We extend our sincerest sympathies to their families.

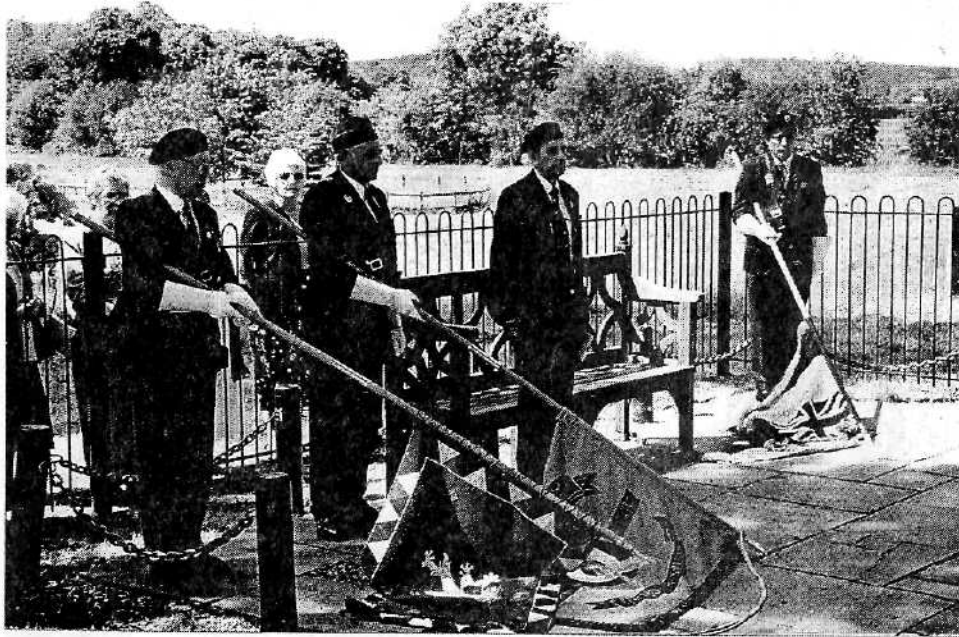


Fig. 5

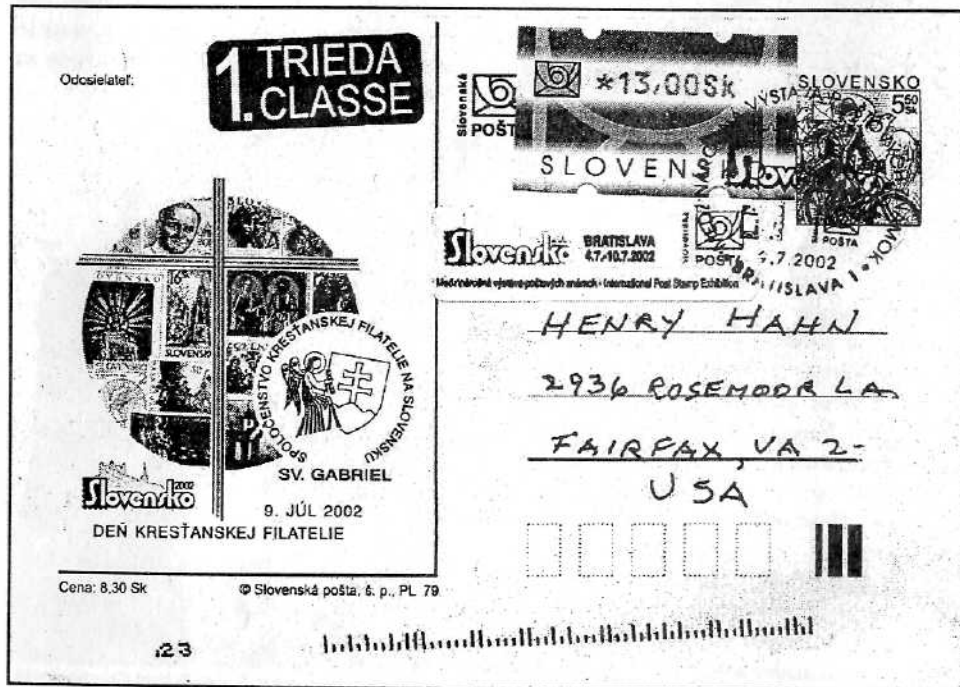


Fig. 6



## NAPEX'02 by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Well, if you didn't find time to make it to NAPEX this year, you missed one of the best conventions we have had in a while.

To start with, the facilities at the McClean Hilton were excellent whether we talk about transportation access, the convention facilities, our table location, or meeting rooms for our functions. However, while the breakfast restaurant was very nice, we had some problems because we didn't have a separate room or area -- but this was a small inconvenience to an otherwise excellent experience.

As usual our convention began with the annual Board of Director's meeting held in a meeting room that was as excellent and well set up as the one last year was spartan. You will be hearing about decisions from this meeting soon from our President, Rich Palaschak. I will just report one key decision here -- for the thirteenth year in a row we are keeping the basic dues at the same price.



Fig. 1 - R. Palaschak receiving a first issue from Susan Smyth

One other event occurred at the Board meeting that is of great interest. In attendance and introduced to the Board was member Susan Smyth whose father, George F. Smyth (member #6), was the first president of our Society (Fig. 1). Susan attended the entire convention and shared many interesting anecdotes with us and took many pictures. Most of those that you see here are from her.

Right after the Board meeting, we all retired to Nizam's restaurant for an informal dinner. While normally we hold these dinners at a Czech restaurant -- believe it or not there isn't a Czech



Fig. 2 - H. Hahn presenting Society's best Czechoslovak exhibit gold to Hans van Dooremalen



Fig. 3 - Milan Černík lecturing on Czechoslovak stationery

restaurant in the northern Virginia/Washington suburbs area. So this time we partook of Middle Eastern fare and had a very nice upstairs room all to ourselves. It was a new experience.

The exhibition itself contained a plethora of excellent Czech material, and it was very well received as is evidenced by the awards received (Fig. 2) [see the *Jul/Aug 2002 SPECIALIST*, pg21-23; which contained an error. I failed to include that Olech Wyslotsky's exhibit, *Czechoslovakia, Hradčany Issues and Usages*, received a Vermeil medal].

Our table was located in an excellent position, immediately to the right of one of the main entrances to the exhibits and dealer tables and on a main walking thoroughfare. We sold hundreds of dollars of books, met a number of potential members (of whom we signed up three), and exchanged many great hours of conversation with members and



Fig. 4 - Jan Verleg (r) receiving his vermeil award from NAPEX official

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Fig. 5 - Olech Wyslowsky (r) receiving his Society bronze award from R. Palaschak

visitors. Special thanks here to Alan and Annette Hoover and Ed Lehecka for the many hours that they devoted to manning the table.

The membership meeting and lectures took place in a well-appointed, although rather small, meeting room. This in no way detracted from the excellent presentations by our three visitors from Europe -- Hans van Dooremallen, Jan Verleg, and Milan Černík. All three used slides very extensively and thus made the time and material very interesting for all in attendance (Fig. 3).

The Palmares was one of the best that I have attended. Our members were constantly being called to receive awards (Fig. 4). The best part of the awards presentation was in its conduct. As each recipient's name was announced, a NAPEX committee member would bring the award to the individual at their seat for pictures rather than have the person come to the



Fig. 6 - Part of the happy crew being hosted by the Hahn's



podium where the microphone was. This significantly reduced the time to complete the awards. At this NAPEX Awards Banquet the first Society award for the best exhibit of Czechoslovak material (selected by the show jury) was presented to Hans van Dooremalen of the Netherlands (Fig. 2).

The Society awards presentations took place after the Society breakfast in a very attractive lecture hall (Fig. 5) [results of the awards are also found in the *Jul/Aug 2002 SPECIALIST*]. Since there were not enough novice exhibitors of Czechoslovak material, this award was not presented at this show.

Following the closing of the exhibition, many of our attendees (plus other invited guests) retired to a decompression cook out very graciously given by Henry and Marilyn Hahn at their home (Fig. 6). It gave us an opportunity to talk over our experiences, examine problems, and plan for future exhibitions all over an abundance of condiments, snacks, food and drinks. We all owe them a big thank you for a wonderful conclusion to a successful exhibition and convention.



## Its Future Is in Our Hands!

(Continued from Page 1)

I wish to emphasize the Society for Czechoslovak Philately is not at all in trouble. It is in good shape. We just need to reach out to the many thousands of Czechoslovak specialists who have not linked up with us. We will gain from their knowledge and also their financial support which will enhance the value of your membership. Their own appreciation of a common philatelic interest will be deepened.

Your reaction no doubt is, "What can I do to help an international philatelic organization of 316 members?" There are several things.

**Be a philatelic missionary!** Some religious organizations reach out to others and share their views in hopes of winning converts. You can do the same thing philatelically. Invite a stamp collecting friend over some evening and work through your Czechoslovak collection, letting him/her know what is appealing about this philatelic field. Not everyone will accept your message, but there may be that one person who does, and you have met your goal: one new member for the SCP!

You can also buy an SCP membership for a collecting friend who is interested in Czechoslovakia. Our rules allow such gifts and the thoughtfulness will be appreciated by your philatelic friend.

**Exhibit your stamps!** A number of you already do so. Others aspire to exhibit but still have not gotten into it. You drive along the road looking at auto dealerships, seeking a new car for yourself. You see something that is attractive with characteristics that fit your interests, and you buy it. It is the same with stamps. People walk along rows of frames of philatelic exhibits at stamp shows. They stop in front of something and decide they would like to collect the same field. Your exhibit of Czechoslovak philately may spark that choice. Perhaps you are displaying some stamps they enjoyed as a child. I became a collector of Czechoslovak

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

material because the Hradcany Castle stamps were among my favorites as a youthful collector, and eight years ago I purchased a copy of Phillips B. Freer's book, *For Beginners: The Philately of Czechoslovakia*, when I read in Linn's that it had been published by our Society. Again, one spark was lit by another and here I am!

If you have not exhibited before, consider it. Pick out something you enjoy about Czechoslovak philately, such as the 1936 Pictorials. Perhaps you already have lots of material. If not, obtain mint and used examples, covers showing the rates in Czechoslovakia and to foreign destinations in effect at that time. Get a range of covers to various foreign countries. Buy some samples with the many different types of cancels that were current. Don't forget the plate numbers! Or any flaws. Buy a specialized catalogue from the Society to help you know what is needed. Write up a title page telling what you are trying to present with your exhibit, and organize the material rationally and neatly to show the story you are displaying. Go to a couple of exhibitions before entering it, study the displays and take notes on how others lay out their material. If you personally might find it degrading to get one of the lower awards, show the display non-competitively until you think your exhibit is ready for competition. Remember, most viewers are not judging your display by a series of complex international standards. They are just looking to see what you collect and perhaps considering it for themselves.

Hopefully there is a batch of SCP membership applications at the entrance to the show that attendees can pick up on the way out. You can arrange for those by requesting a supply from us for distribution.

Give a talk! Do you belong to a local stamp club? The member in charge of organizing programs is hard pressed to find something for each meeting. Tell them you are available to give a talk, perhaps for 20 minutes, on why you collect Czechoslovakia. Bring album pages showing your favorites and just tell the club why you think so. Oh yes, bring a few SCP membership applications to pass out. Don't forget to have a few copies of the SPECIALIST available for them to examine.

Write an article! Just about as hard pressed as the program chairperson may be the editor of the stamp club newsletter. Offer to write an article about why you collect the Czechoslovak area, or what is especially an appealing issue. Fill them in concerning the Chainbreaker issue or the Agriculture & Science definitive.

Reach out to the youth! Like many of us your interest in stamps probably began as a child. I became hooked on stamp collecting when I was a ten year old. My father brought home a cover received at work from the Union of South Africa with one of the bantam stamps on it (Scott #94). The stamp was so small and South Africa was such a long distance from Cleveland. That was it!

Keep an eye on the photos in philatelic journals of collectors. What do you see? Mostly older men. All members of the Board of Directors of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately are over 50 years of age. Give packets of stamps to kids for Christmas and birthdays. Does your grandson like dinosaurs? Buy him a packet of 100 dinosaurs on stamps. Oh yes, try to slip them a few Czechoslovak stamps.

The Boy Scouts give out merit badges for fields of special study. One of them is for stamp collecting. Contact some scoutmasters you know and tell them you would like to teach the scouts about stamp collecting to help them get the badges.

The scouts will pay close attention to you because they want the badge. Your teaching may be the spark they need! Contact me at 2949 Duvall Road, Woodbine, MD 21707-8101, and I will mail to you free of charge a photocopy of a study guide I have used for these presentations.

Summary. You have a lot of things to do. All of them will be fun! At a minimum, obtain some SCP membership brochures and place them at literature tables at your local stamp shows. Print out some copies of interesting items from the SCP website ([www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)) and place them with the literature. Set up an SCP membership table at your local show -- or share a table with another society or two -- where you can pass out the literature and talk up Czechoslovak philately and the benefits our Society offers.

Here is what we are doing. Your SCP officers are encouraging you to exhibit, publish articles, present talks, and staff Society tables at exhibition! We have just approved a handsome medal for presentation to the best exhibit of Czechoslovak philately among at least three participants at any APS-accredited show whose grand award winner may enter the Champion of Champions competition. We are approaching all of the larger national shows with requests that they distribute our material and allow us to have a table (you can be sitting there with us!). We are going to exhibit our own Czechoslovak material at as many shows as possible. As an example, one Board member who never showed Czechoslovak materials before this year will have had three such exhibits on display before 2002 is over.

Benefits. You will become even more enmeshed in your enjoyment of Czechoslovak philately. You will make new friends and strengthen other philatelic friendships. Your knowledge of Czechoslovak stamps will be enhanced. Regarding the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, it will grow, become more vibrant than ever, the new members will enhance our own appreciation, and the SCP will live on for the enjoyment of others long after we are gone.

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## A STRANGE 'PHILATELIC' FIND

by Mirko L. Vondra

I recently came across this curious item shown on the opposite page with a Czech heading which I translate as follows: "1000 Years after the Founding of the Bishopric of Prague". Along the bottom is the literally-translated saying, "Lord Have Mercy on Us" with the years "973 - 1973" below it. Directly above "Hospodine" is the Latin phrase "Praise the Lord". In the center is an illustration of the famous St. Vitus Cathedral. Directly above "Pomiluj ny" appears the phrase "Kristus keinado". "Keinado" is a word not found either in the Latin or the Czech vocabulary. This raises the first question: Is this a typographical or printer's error or is there a third language involved?

Let us now turn our attention to the "ribbon" that ties together the six buildings that surround the Cathedral. Reading clockwise from lower left to lower right is this translated text: "St. Jan of Nepomuk -- St. Louis, Missouri, 1854 -- Hostyn, Texas, 1856 -- Kingdom of the Holy Rosary -- St. Vaclav (Wenceslaus) of New Prague, Minn. -- St. Vaclav, Spillville, Iowa, 1860 -- Omaha, Nebraska, 1871 -- St. Vaclav -- St. Prokop, Chicago, 1875". This brings up the second question: There are six buildings shown, but there are seven different locations described on the ribbon. Two of them surround the second building on the left. Which one applies?

Now let us look at the stamp of President Masaryk and examine the cancellation next to it. It is a special cancellation originating at Berwyn, ILL. Between it and the stamp is a circular cancel enclosing within it the emblematic cross of Czechoslovakia with the following English text: "Millenium, Bishopric of Prague, 973-1973". This calls forth the third and final question: Who was responsible for this cancellation? Berwyn, IL was one of the more heavily populated Czech communities in the country and probably still is. The first one to come to mind is the late Joseph J. Janecka who prided himself with forming the so-called "First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of North America". But other possibilities exist. Jan Sterba, a pillar of strength among the Czechs of Berwyn, is one. Joe Vitek, current President of the "First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of North America" is another. There might even be others of whom this writer is not aware.

With all this taken into account, we return to the original probe. Is this truly a philatelic item or a conglomeration of put-togethers designed to fool a purist? No attempt is made by this writer to supply the answer. Since I am the possessor of this curious "gem", I would like to think it is what we call "the genuine article". But I leave it up to you, the readers, to decide for yourselves.

*[Ed. Note: I believe that the second question can be answered by re-examining the ribbon and not translating/listing it in sequence, but rather in how it is grouped around the buildings. By following this interpretation we read: "St. Jan Nepomuk, St. Louis, Missouri, 1854 -- Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn, Texas, 1856 -- St. Vaclav, New Prague, Minn., 1858 -- St. Vaclav, Spillville, Iowa, 1860 -- St. Vaclav, Omaha, Nebr., 1871 -- St. Prokop, Chicago, 1875". Thus, we have six buildings and six locations.]*



# 1000 let od založení BISKUPSTVÍ V PRAZE



*Starting Point*

**WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR COLLECTION  
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU?**

By Janet Klug

It happened again today. I received an e-mail message from someone who had inherited a stamp collection and didn't know what to do with it. Since he was a local resident who had found me through my stamp club's website, it was easy enough to invite him to a club meeting where he could get several collectors to look at the collection and give him some tips.

Most of the inherited collections I see are those that gave their original owners much pleasure but are not going to make the heirs wealthy. Once I had a man show me a collection he inherited from his father. Before showing it to me, he told me that the collection was "very old" and "Dad had spent thousands and thousands of dollars on it". Then I was shown dozens of mint sheet files full of U.S. 3-Cent commemoratives issued in the 1940s and 1950s, several albums full of very attractive first day covers from the Postal Commemorative Society, and a few mint sets brought back as souvenirs from someone's 1970s era European holiday.

I have been shown other inherited collections. One of the better ones consisted of several large albums that contained tens of thousands of mint and used stamps neatly hinged in their proper places. The stamps obviously had been collected carefully over a long period of time by a collector who purchased collection remainders to acquire the stamps to fill the spaces. Other "collections" I've seen have been nothing more than boxes full of loose stamps.

In the case of the mint sheets and Postal Commemorative Society first day covers, I tried to explain how these were issued and collected in the millions and that the supply vastly exceeds the demand. Yes, there is some minimal residual value, but it is not going to allow the new owner to retire to a tropical island and live in the lap of luxury.

The well organized collection had more residual value, but the collection was formed from remainders inexpensively acquired, and lacked the key values and big ticket items that would make the collection more saleable. The accumulation of loose stamps is not a collection at all and would require an enormous amount of sorting just to ascertain with any degree of accuracy if there is more than meets the eye. A dealer is very unlikely to offer more than a few dollars for material of this nature because of the amount of work involved.

Virtually none of those who inherit stamp collections have any interest in continuing to collect. They want to sell the collections and take early retirement on the proceeds. It is difficult to break the bad news to these folks.

Heirs don't like hearing this news. They become defensive and occasionally abusive. It is a pity the collectors who assembled these collections did not take the time to inform their heirs or executors about the true value of the collection or the best methods to dispose of the material.

**Don't let this happen to you!** [Editor's accent] There are things you can do now to safeguard your loved ones from deception or disillusionment, should they be

in the position of having to dispose of your collection.

The most important thing you can do is to be honest about the money you spend on the collection and the true value of it. If you are paying retail prices for the material you acquire, it is unrealistic to expect your heirs will be able to sell it for more than retail prices. If you are buying poor-quality stamps, collection remainders, mixtures, and other inexpensive material, you cannot expect to turn around and sell it for a significant appreciation. It is just not going to happen. High-quality stamps and covers will retain more of their purchase price value because they are easily marketable.

Remember that the buyers will almost certainly be dealers who will have to build into their offer labor, marketing costs, overhead, and a reasonable profit. Also remember that if your heirs are not collectors themselves, they will have no idea of who to sell the collection to in order to get the best price possible.

You know your collection better than anyone. Tell your family about it or better still, leave written instructions with your will or your collection. You could even name a trusted philatelic friend to act as an advisor to your heirs. Let someone know the names of several dealers or auction firms you trust. If you personally had to sell your collection tomorrow, how would you do it? Think this through carefully, and then document it and make certain your heirs have this information.

Keeping a very modest inventory of your expenses is helpful in determining value. You can become a slave to record keeping, but it really doesn't have to be an onerous task. Saving receipts from purchases is the easiest method of record keeping. If you don't receive a receipt, save the canceled check, or make your own receipt recording the date of purchase, amount of purchase, seller, and a brief description. Save all the receipts in an envelope, one for each year. At the end of the year tally up all the receipts and write this on the outside of the envelope. If you dispose of any part of your collection, record this separately. After a few years you will have a really good record of how much you spend. This can be very useful for determining the relative value of your collection. Make special note of any "big ticket" items you may purchase. You determine what is "big ticket". For some it will be \$100; for others it will be thousands. These are the items that make your collection more saleable.

Your heirs may have to get an appraisal of your collection for probate purposes. You should think about that, too. If you needed an appraisal for your collection now, for any purpose (insurance, use as collateral, etc.), who would you get to do it? Many stamp dealers will do appraisals, but there is a fee involved. They may charge a flat rate, a percentage of the estimated value, or an hourly rate. The larger and more complicated the philatelic property, the higher the appraisal fees.

One of my local stamp club members had a very large collection housed in dozens of Scott Specialty albums. He was breaking up his house and moving into a retirement home. He put his collection in a sale of his household goods that included dishes, garden tools, furniture, etc. The auctioneer was not skilled in selling philatelic properties, and the collector put an unrealistic value on the collection. It did not sell and was later sold for a fraction of the reserve. Had the collector consigned the collection to a philatelic auction, it probably would have done better.

What is the best venue to sell your collection? Should you sell outright to a dealer? What about another collector? Should you send it to auction? Your favorite

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stamp dealers or auction firms would be excellent starting places. These are people you already know and who know you. They sell the type of material you purchase, and they have clients for that type of material. So why wouldn't you think of them when disposing of your collection?

Every couple of years I discuss my stamp collection with my husband. I tell him about any new "major purchases" I have made, the total amount I have spent since we last had the "stamp collection" discussion, and what I think it would bring if it had to be sold. He also knows the names of several trusted stamp collecting friends who could help him if he found himself in the position of having to sell, and he knows the names of some of the dealers with whom I regularly do business. He is about as well prepared as he could be if he had to deal with the disposal of my stamp collection. At least he knows enough to not put the albums out with the trash!

The American Philatelic Society offers several services for members that will help educate heirs regarding philatelic property. There is fairly extensive estate advice on the APS website at [www.stamps.org/Services/ser\\_EstateAdvice.htm](http://www.stamps.org/Services/ser_EstateAdvice.htm). Or you can write to the APS and request a copy of their brochure about philatelic estate planning. The APS also offers labels for your stamp albums. The label identifies you as an APS member and advises your heirs to contact the APS if they need estate advisory assistance.

Most stamp collections have some residual value. If you want to maximize that value for the benefit of your heirs, plan now while you are healthy, and be certain to include your family or your executor in your planning.

*[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from AMERICAN PHILATELIST, June 2002 with permission of the author and the editor. Readers are reminded that the estate advisory assistance service and the labels described in this article are for APS members. If you are not currently an APS member and are in your twilight years of collecting, you might want to consider joining the APS for the additional peace-of-mind that this service could bring you and your heirs. In the past, our Society has considered providing some form of estate advisory assistance but decided against it, because of the potential legal implications, our lack of permanent legal staff, and the experiences of a number of our Board Members who personally provided such assistance in the past and had quite unpleasant experiences with heirs.]*

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## COMPARISON SURVEY OF CATALOG NUMBERS OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Over the past few years (since 1997 when the above publication was first put out by your Society at no expense to our members), I have received a number of comments from members expressing appreciation for having it available.

The latest letter asked about the possibility of extending the comparison survey between POFIS and Scott numbers from the subject document's last POFIS



number of 2231 (corresponding to the last issued stamp of 1976) through the present -- a period of about 24 years.

I will propose to the SCP Board that just such an update be undertaken -- it is not an inconsequential task. I would then anticipate that it would be included as a folded, separate addition to a future SPECIALIST mailing.

As an interim tool, I am publishing here a list of the POFIS and corresponding Scott number of the first stamp issued in each of the 24 years from 1977 through 2000:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pofis</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pofis</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pofis</u>	<u>Scott</u>
1977	2232	2095	1985	2680	2542	1993	1	2877
1978	2292	2155	1986	2730	2592	1994	30	2911
1979	2356	2218	1987	2778	2640	1995	61	2939
1980	2415	2289	1988	2824	2684	1996	100	2977
1981	2467	2341	1989	2874	2725	1997	133	3003
1982	2519	2392	1990	2921	2770	1998	166	3031
1983	2574	2443	1991	2966	2815	1999	204	3077
1984	2627	2493	1992	3001	2850	2000	243	3109

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

## A MAJOR PRINTING FLAW, THE BRATISLAVA SHEET

POFIS 329-330; Scott 239

by Frank A. Garancovsky

In a late 2001 or early 2002 edition of FILATELIE, there appeared an advertisement from the PROFIL retail stamp store offering to sell various combinations of the 50h blue stamp plus the entire souvenir sheet. This was offered to subscribers of the magazine first. Following a reasonable time frame it would be available to any collector. As shown in the advertisement (Fig. 1) the prices range from 1148 Kč for the 50h stamp only; stamp with center tab, 1348 Kč; a gutter pair at 1498 Kč; and the complete souvenir sheet at 1698 Kč. A complete set of 4 items for 4688 Kč, a savings of nearly 1000 Kč. The color background for the advertisement does not reproduce very clearly to read the descriptions and prices. Consequently with a little art work on my part of removing the darkened areas, Figure 1 is at least legible. Additionally, the advertisement does not include any text for this major find. Obviously it appears that this breaking news is intended for domestic collectors primarily, and at supposedly fair retail prices. The philatelic market that follows will establish a realistic price.

This flaw has not been reported previously in any published article. Briefly the flaw is described as a white dot located at the right of the letter "L" of ČESKOSLOVENSKO on the 50h blue V TATRÁCH stamp. My collector contact in Prague sent me a copy of the advertisement, and in following letters gave me the information as reported here.

First knowledge of this printing flaw was received on March 3, 2002.



Following my request for more specific information, I received a letter in mid April with the following information. An elderly Czech collector -- whose specialty was the stamps of the First Republic -- was selling parts of his collection. The family members who remain have no interest in stamps. My Prague contact is well acquainted with this man having known him since the late 1940's. During those days the elderly collector and my contact were good friends with Mr. Pauliček, who was employed as an expertizer for POFIS. Together they scoured the various stamps shops for varieties.

It was during these days that they found this latest stunning printing variety. They continued their hunt without any publicity since this was a sheet that had a huge printing and was of little interest to collectors. Minor varieties had been reported from time to time but were generally ignored. By now my contact had found six copies in his collection. Since the political climate was so unsettled, further meetings of the three gentlemen ended.

According to this Czech collector, there are less than 70 known pieces! Many of these have been damaged to such an extent that the sheets have been cut into various pieces as provided in the advertisement. Complete undamaged souvenir sheets are estimated at less than fifty sheets. There are also retouched sheets of this variety, these number even less than the white dot variety. The white dot in the retouched sheet is clearly visible with the aid of a magnifying glass.

Each stamp, stamp plus tab, gutter pair, complete sheet, and retouched sheet are signed POFIS. Certainly these will become the gems of the Bratislava souvenir sheet collection on par with the New York World's Fair overprints. I have recently purchased a complete sheet plus a retouched sheet for my collection, since having checked my supply and found that there were none. Perhaps some of our members may have better luck. It would be interesting to learn if there are some members in our Society that have copies, and I would be interested in hearing from them.



## SAME STAMP WITH A DIFFERENCE

by Karl Ruzicka

As I continue going through my accumulations, I find some interesting things. This is just one of them.

Sometimes, the same stamp design is used more than once with changes, such as value. Typical examples are US stamps celebrating Hanukkah -- Scott #3118:32c [32 cents], #3352:34c, or for Kwanza -- Scott #3175:32c, 3368:34c.

Then there are Czechoslovak stamps whose designers and designs are the same, issued under German protectorate as Bohemia and Moravia stamps. In place of CZECHOSLOVAKIA [CESKOSLOVENSKO], we see BOHMEN UND MAHREN on the top and CECHY A MORAVA on the bottom. Or, in later issues, DEUTSCHES REICH on the top and BOHMEN u. MAHREN / CECHY a MORAVA on the bottom.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(This also gives you a good indication where the Czech Lands would have ended if Germany won the war -- as a part of the Deutsches Reich.) Such stamps are:

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA                      PROTECTORATE/BOHMEN u. MAHREN

Designer: K. Vik; Engraver: K. Seizinger

Kutná Hora	Scott #240 (Fig. 1)	#29 (Fig. 1a)
Olomouc	#225 (Fig. 2)	#33 & 34 (Fig. 2a)

Designer: J. Benda

Newspaper Stamps	#P17 - P25 (Fig. 3)	#P1 - 9, P11 - 19 (Fig. 3a, 3b)
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And then there are the Linden leaves issues, put out as Protectorate stamps:

Designer: A. Schaumann (whose design also appeared on the stamps of Czechoslovakia after WW II:

Linden Leaves	#256A - 262 (Fig. 4)	#20 - 26, 49 - 51 (Fig. 4a)
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Of course, the above stamps also differ in values, colors, or perforations.

The saving of time and money may be the main reasons for using the same design more than once.



## *Letters to the Editor*

1. Dear Lou:

Just a short note to enclose Bill Dawson's remarks on my Znojmo cover with the three locally overprinted PORTO stamps [see the Nov/Dec 2001 *SPECIALIST*, pg23-25]:

"I really like your cover from Alt Schallersdorf bearing the three "Hradčany" stamps with "PORTO" overprint. What makes it more intriguing is that the three overprints 5h, 10h and 20h were the only three values overprinted at Znojmo 1 as shown in the specialist catalogue by Ladislav Novotný published in 1970. All such provisional postage dues were of "local" provenance, and apart from "PORTO" other overprints were applied at very many locations with "FRANKO", "DOPLATIT", "DOPLATEK", "T", "D" and "P" on various values of the Hradčany stamps. Similarly most of those various overprints were also used on both Austrian and Hungarian adhesives at various locations. The Novotný catalogue lists many of these issues, though I am not certain that that list is complete. I have a few such covers in my collection, but again many purely philatelic covers are around. Though no doubt you have discovered ALT SCHALLERSDORF -- STARÝ ŠALDORF lying 2 kms south from the center of Znojmo and in 1926 it was designated ZNOJMO 3. And this rate charged was correct. Internal letter rate at the time was 20 halěrů, thus a deficiency of 17h with double deficiency to be collected 34h, so the nearest possible was 35h as



applied, since 1h adhesives were not issued until 14.3.1919 and no such overprints on Austrian stamps are recorded for Znojmo. Hope this is of some help, though I would be interested to hear any response you get from Lou. A rare cover indeed which may well be unique. Sincerely, Bill [Dawson]

Sal Rizza

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**WARS, FIELD POST OFFICES and CZECHOSLOVAKS  
1878 - 1921  
by Lubor Kunc**

*(Continued from previous issue)*

The other situation was in Slovakia and the Carpatho-Ukraine. On November 2 the first Czechoslovak military units crossed the Slovak borders. On Nov. 25, 1918 a peace conference in Paris set preliminary borders between Slovakia and Hungary. During November and December 1918 there were no field posts available for Czechoslovaks. All correspondence of Czechoslovak soldiers was collected by their military units and delivered to the civilian post office in Trenčín (Fig. 61).

Our field post on Slovak territory was established by a Dec. 18, 1918 order stating that all correspondence of Czechoslovak military units in Slovakia should be sent as legionnaire's mail for free. The order went into effect on Jan. 1, 1919. The first Czechoslovak FPO's had the numbers 22, 46, and 75 (Fig. 62). This order was not widely known by the public, thus from the early days there is legionnaire's mail

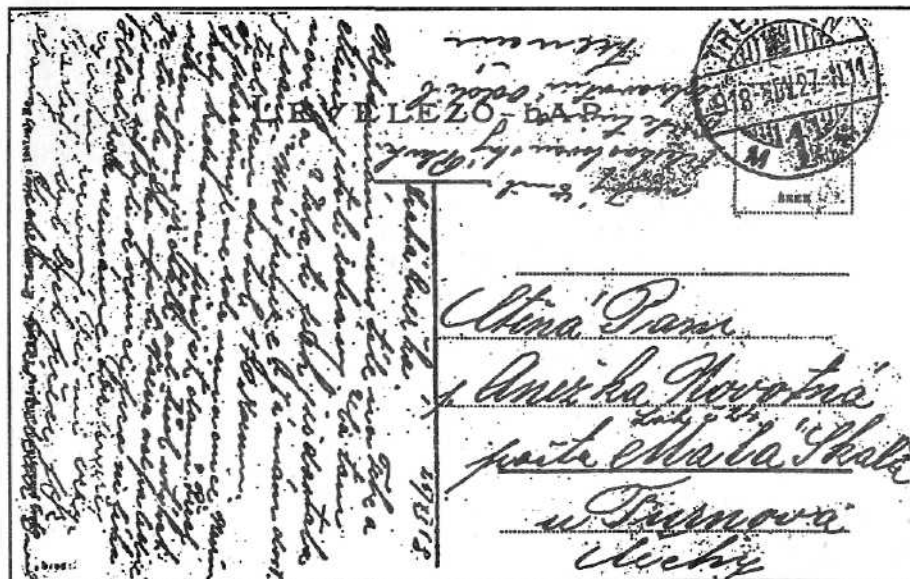


Fig. 61



Fig. 62

known that is franked with stamps (Fig. 63 -- card franked with a Hradčany stamp in January, which is early usage of the stamp as well). In Figure 64 you see a card with the hand inscription "Pošta legionarská, porta prosta" (Legionnaire's mail, free of postage). Mr. Hlavsa (the addressee of the two previous cards) is the same soldier as the addressee on the card pictured in Figure 56. In a set of old cards I found a

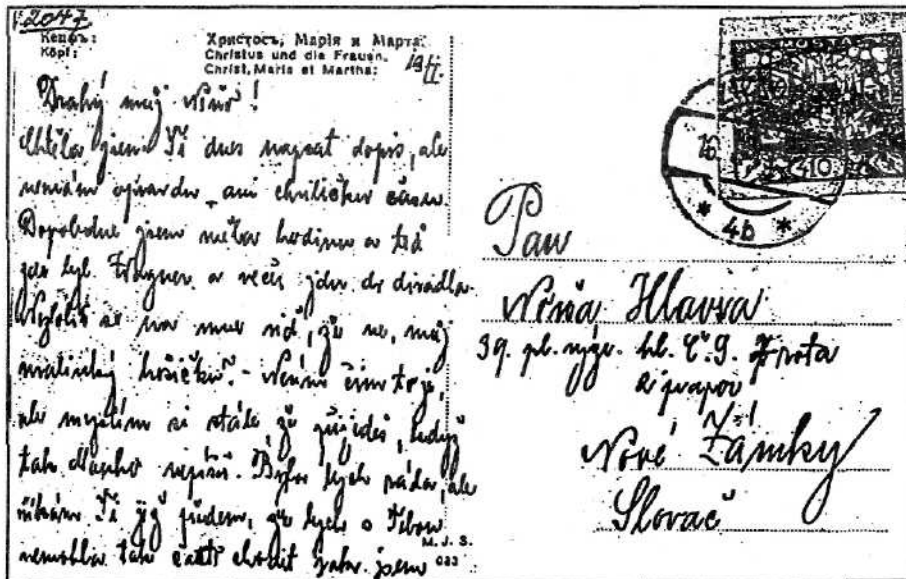


Fig. 63

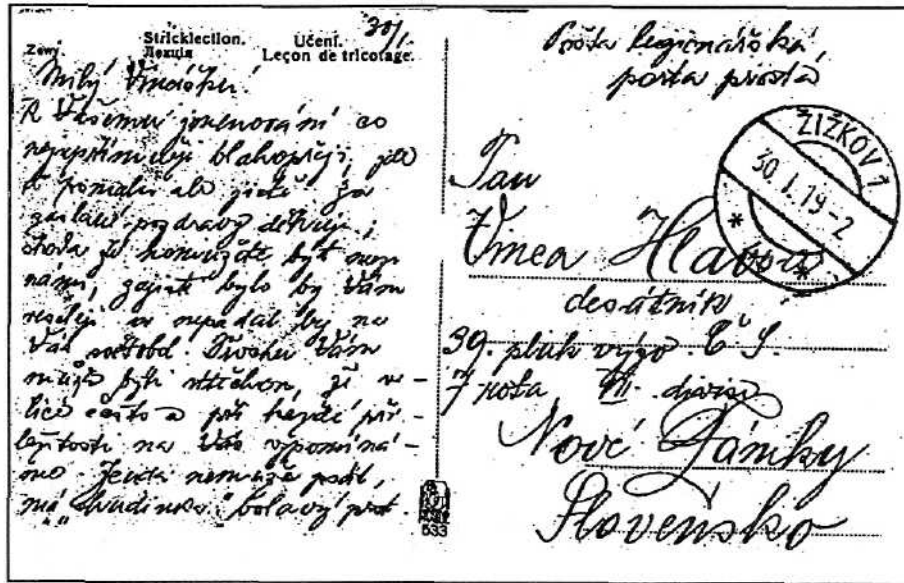


Fig. 64

group of cards connected with Mr. Hlavsa. He was a student at the beginning of WW I; after finishing his studies he served in the Austrian Army; then he joined the Czechoslovak Legion in Italy; and after that he returned home to serve in the Czechoslovak Army in Slovakia.

In January 1919 the Czechoslovak Army started the occupation of the territory of Eastern Silesia (for more details please see the Czechoslovak SPECIALIST No. 5/2000 where you will find in Figures 9 and 10 other examples of Czechoslovak field post items from that time).

In Figure 65 you see a YMCA letter card. The YMCA homes in Slovakia were founded to serve Czechoslovak soldiers. All correspondence sent from the homes was free of postage. You can sometimes find the YMCA cancels directly on sent cards (Fig. 66).

During 1919 the following field post offices were created:

FPO Number	Date of Opening	Date of Closing
FP sorting office	01.01.1919	30.07.1920
22	01.01.1919	10.11.1919
46	01.01.1919	29.05.1920
75	01.01.1919	05.09.1919
50	25.01.1919	15.09.1919
38	01.03.1919	08.07.1920
63	20.04.1919	08.12.1919
44	22.04.1919	30.06.1920
Bratislava office	02.06.1919	15.07.1919
12	25.06.1919	30.06.1920



LE FOYER DU SOLDAT

Union Franco-Américaine

1. 12. 1918

Kde milovani Vilem  
 primum ad nos videmus  
 primum a vobis primum  
 vedet ti darum ze me zohar  
 a unas je primum ruzi jeste  
 me me vedelali vprich a zole  
 nas zoharit jen primum narvat ki  
 a b Bozen ka je unas oni te ter  
 zoharaji Jezovki ja tam bil  
 unich a Vaclav jel ras do Prate  
 primum ruzi ruzi ruzi ruzi  
 Janem Bohem kde milovani  
 vilem a jestli budes moct tak tu  
 kup matu kbrani a primum clomni tati

Fig. 65



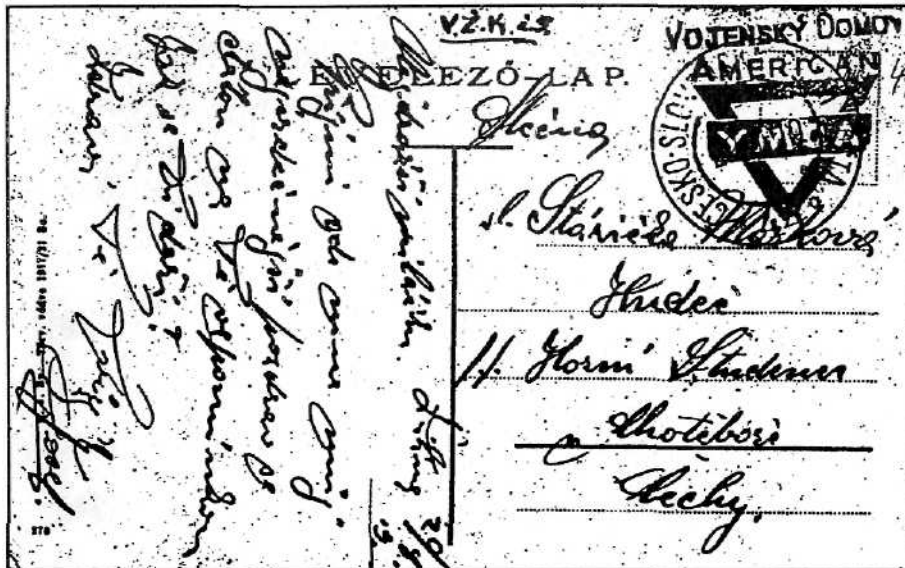


Fig. 66

25	26.06.1919	03.10.1919
10	27.06.1919	23.09.1919
35	11.07.1919	28.10.1919
8	16.07.1919	08.07.1920
5	30.07.1919	01.07.1920
14	30.08.1919	30.06.1920
20	20.10.1919	08.07.1920

The Italian Field Post Office No. 52 played a special role among Czechoslovak FPO's. It served Italian officers and soldiers who were a part of the Czechoslovak military units in Slovakia. It is necessary to say that the commander of all Czechoslovak military units in Slovakia was Italian General Piccioni, and the key officers were of Italian origin. The FPO entered Czechoslovak territory in December 1918 and moved to Kroměříž (Moravia). On Mar. 8, 1919 it moved to Bratislava (Slovakia). The cancel of FPO 52 from the pre-Czechoslovak period can be seen in Figure 56. The FPO served on Czechoslovak territory until Jun. 2, 1919, when the Italian commander of the Czechoslovak military units in Slovakia was replaced by a French one (commanders General Mittelhauser and General Hennocque).

The change of commanders was caused by the Hungarian attack against Slovakia and by the establishment of the communist Slovak Republic Council (Slovenská Republika Rad). Its history is as follows: on Mar. 20, 1919 the Hungarian government announced its own resignation. Next day the communists organized a general strike in Hungary and immediately declared the Hungarian Republic Council (see its



Fig. 67

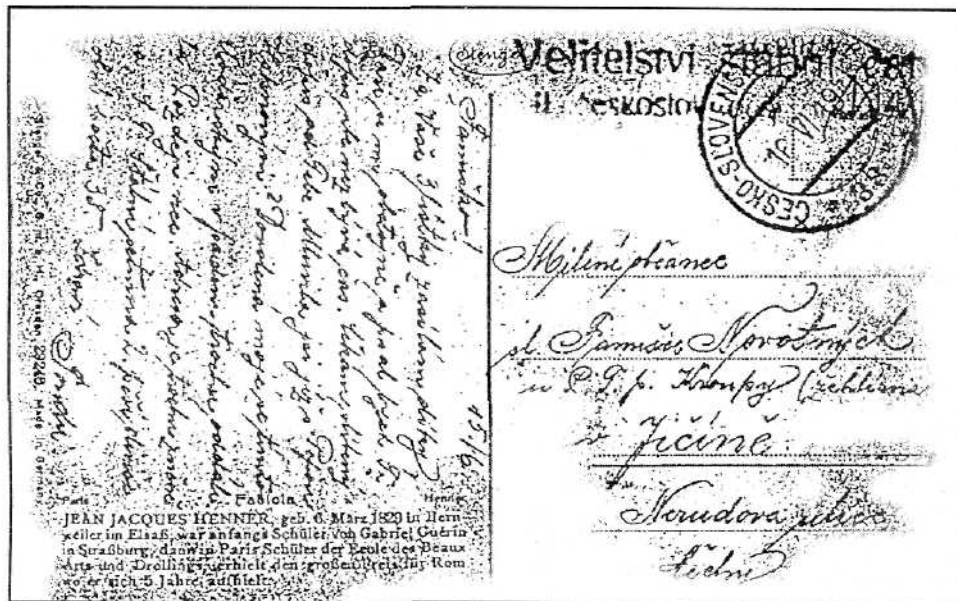


Fig. 68

stamp of 1919 showing the founder of communism, Karl Marx -- Fig. 67, Sc. Hungary 198). Early in April the Republic Council's territory was attacked by the Romanian Army and on Apr. 27, 1919 by the Czechoslovak Army from Slovak territory. The Czechoslovak and Romanian armies met near Cop on Apr. 29, 1919. On May 3, 1919 the Hungarian Republic Council established the so-called Red Army, and on May 20, 1919 it started their own military expedition into Slovakia. The Czechoslovak military units were beaten, and the Hungarian Red Army started to occupy Slovak territory.

On June 16, 1919 in Prešov (occupied territory) the communist Slovak Republic Council was declared. The Hungarian units occupied Slovak territory including the following important towns: Štúrovo, Nové Zámky, Zlaté Moravce, Levice, Zvolen, Revúca, Krompachy, Bardejov, Michalovce, and Košice. The Czechoslovak government moved military units from all of Czechoslovakia to Slovak territory and began the liberation of the occupied territory. On June 24, 1919 the armistice with Hungary was signed in Bratislava, and on July 1, 1919 the Hungarian communist military units moved back to Hungary.

The Czechoslovak as well as the Hungarian sides used their own FPO's during the battle for the Slovak Republic Council territory. The Czechoslovak units used the services of the FPO's mentioned in the above table. For example, see Figure 68. This is a card sent from a Czech soldier on June 16, 1919 via Czechoslovak FPO 38. He informed the addressee he is not allowed to go on vacation due to the Hungarian attack.

The Hungarian Red Army used FPO's with cancels having the inscription TABORI FÖPOSTAHIVATAL (the mail post office), TABORI POSTAHIVATAL (field post office), and HADTAP POSTAHIVATAL (occupation field post office). As you can



## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

incorporated into Czechoslovakia in the second half of 1919 after getting the concurrence of the American representatives of Carpatho-Ukraine in October 1918 and of local leaders in May 1919. On Sep. 10, 1919 the country was officially entrusted to Czechoslovakia by the peace conference in Saint Germain. Before its integration into Czechoslovakia, Hungarian and Romanian stamps were valid on the majority of the territory. Only a small part of Carpatho-Ukraine was occupied by Czechoslovaks earlier -- e.g. Užhorod in January 1919.

However, in connection with the establishment of the Hungarian Republic Council and Romanian military action, Romania occupied the southern part of Carpatho-Ukraine (including the towns of Rachovo, Jasina) and refused to give it over to Czechoslovakia without a peace conference in Saint Germain. To incorporate the occupied territory into Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak and Romanian governments had negotiations for about a year. The Romanian Army finally left the occupied territory on July 5, 1920. In Figure 70 is pictured a letter mailed by a Czech soldier from Mukačevo (Munkacs) in December 1919.

Because of the peaceful solution to the status of the territory, the last serving Czechoslovak FPO's (38, 8, and 20) were closed on July 8, 1920. Effective July 30, 1920 the whole Czechoslovak Field Post was closed.

(To Be Continued)

[Ed. Note: I have received a number of comments and clarifications already on the first couple of parts of this extensive article. Rather than try to run them as Letters to the Editor piecemeal, I am holding them all for a follow-up article which will appear in the Jan/Feb 2003 issue of the SPECIALIST, so watch for it then.]

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

## New Issues

### CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On June 6, 2002, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "The Freshwater Pearl Oyster" in the Nature Conservation series (Fig. 1). [This is a joint issue with Germany -- the German stamp has a value of .56 EU (Fig. 2)]



Fig. 2



Fig. 1

The multicolored stamp shows the freshwater pearl oyster (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), a freshwater bivalve with thick, 8 - 12 cm long shells, which forms pearls in its mantle. The pearls originate when a small foreign body penetrates by chance into the mantle, which secretes a layer of mother of pearl. The oyster can live for decades; however it is very

sensitive to water pollution and the associated presence of certain animal and plant species on which its life and development depend. The brown trout and the Atlantic salmon act as temporary hosts for its larvae. This critically endangered mollusc can currently be found in the upper reaches of the rivers Vltava, Malše and Blanice and in their numerous tributaries. As some of these streams form the borders between the Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany, these countries are cooperating on rescue programs for the freshwater pearl oyster. The largest and most significant Central European population is in the South Bohemian river Blanice, where young pearl oysters are also bred under semi-natural conditions. The Blanice National Natural Monument has thus become a model area for protection of and care for a whole habitat in its broad relationship with plant and animal populations and the year-round natural functioning of the ecosystem. The Czech stamp was designed by Josef Saska and engraved by Václav Fajt. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, brown, light blue and dark blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown shows a group of pearl oysters and has a commemorative cancel from Prague. [The German stamp was designed by Günter Jacki. The freshwater pearl mussel is geographically widespread in Europe. It lives in clear, nutrient and lime poor, strong flowing waters in low mountain ranges and lowlands, where it prefers to live among fine gravel and crushed stone beds. For its development from a tiny larva to a mature mussel it depends on host fish (today only brown trout, but previously also salmon that are currently being reintroduced to our water), in whose gills it lives as a parasite for several months. The animals only become sexually mature after 15-20 years and reach a high of up to 130 years, whereby the shells lined with a relatively thick layer of mother of pearl can become up to 15 cm long. The mussel owes its name to its ability to form impressive pearls. However, since only a maximum of one out of around 1,000 mussels contains a usable pearl, pearl fishing was the sovereign's prerogative in centuries gone by. Pearl theft was subject to the death penalty. The yield was always very low and fluctuated greatly (e.g. in Bavaria between 1814 and 1857 only around 26,000 better quality pearls were found). The increasing water pollution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to such a great reduction in stocks that today in Germany there are only very small populations in some low mountain regions and on the Lüneburg Heath. In the rest of Europe, too, the population of freshwater pearl mussels has fallen by over 95%. Intensive efforts to save the last populations that have been ongoing for the last 20 years have the objective of conserving and improving their natural habitats.]

2. On June 19, 2002, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp (from the "Czechs for Europe" series) dedicated to a significant personality in Czech history -- the reformer, clergyman, preacher and vice chancellor of Charles University Jan Hus (c. 1371-6.7.1415); also known as John Hus (Fig. 3). He was the leader of the Czech reform movement striving to reform the Christian



Fig. 3



Church, which he criticized for immorality and avarice. He had the support of leading personalities in the court of King Václav IV and some of the people of Prague, who listened to his preaching in the Bethlehem Chapel in the Old Town. He made a great contribution to having the Decree of Kutná Hora issued, guaranteeing Czechs a decisive influence in the Charles University. In 1412 he lost the support of the king over his opposition to the sale of indulgences, left Prague and went to live in the country, where he continued preaching, under the protection of supporters among the aristocracy. In 1414 he ignored warnings and left for the Council of Constance, where he was imprisoned and brought before the council court, which accused him of heresy. Hus refused to recant his opinions, was sentenced, and then

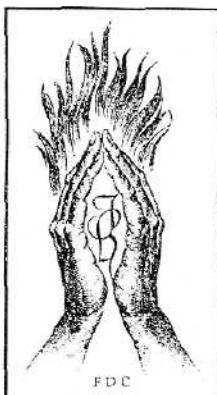


Fig. 4

burnt at the stake. His death strengthened the revolutionary movement which grew into a Hussite revolution. Hus's most significant works include Books on Simony, which criticizes the fiscalism of the Roman Church, On Finding the True Path to Salvation, and De Ecclesia (On the Church). Jan Hus raised the status of his mother tongue in relation to Latin and simplified Czech spelling by introducing diacritical marks. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulhánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, red, red-brown, and brown in printing sheets of 25 stamps and 25 labels of the same size placed in columns. The drawing on the label symbolizes the bravery, resolution and martyred death of Master Jan Hus. A FDC in brown shows two hands during prayer with flames above and bears a cancel from Husinec (Fig. 4).

3. On June 19, 2002, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with four postage stamps and four labels which is entitled Endangered Butterflies and is part of the Nature Conservation series. The sheet has two stamps in the denomination of 4.50 Kč and two in the denomination of 9 Kč (Fig. 5). For the third time (the first time was in 1989 with Czechoslovak stamps and the second in 1996 with Czech stamps), the Czech Republic was invited by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund) to cooperate in issuing stamps showing endangered animal species which occur in the Czech Republic. Both the stamps and the miniature sheet are marked with the WWF's giant panda logo, and part of the proceeds from their sale will go to the protection of endangered species. Each stamp shows a pair of butterflies seen from above with extended wings, on the labels the given species is shown from the underside. The butterflies are depicted with their host plants, and complemented on the label with other flowers which occur in the same places. All four species of butterfly shown belong to the genus *Maculinea* in the family *Lycacnidae*, and are extremely sensitive to changes in the environment. As a result of the intensive exploitation of meadows and their transformation into arable land in recent decades, they have disappeared from many areas. They are dependent on certain species of plants as a food source for their caterpillars. The rarest and most endangered in the Large Blue, whose host plant is wild thyme



Fig. 5

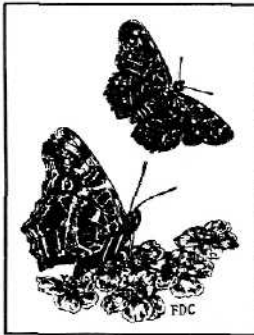


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

(*Thymus serpyllum* L.), which grows in dry grassy areas and along paths. The Alcon Blue caterpillar initially lives on the flowers of a very rare species of march gentian (*Pneumonanthe vulgaris*, formerly classified as *Gentiana pneumonanthe* L.), which grows in damp meadows and marshes. The great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis* L.), which also grows in damp meadows and peat bogs, is the host plant for the Dusky Large Blue and the Scarce Large Blue. At the end of the summer the caterpillars leave the plants on which they live, and ants of the genus *Myrmica* carry them into their nests, where the caterpillars complete their development. The ants and the caterpillars have a symbiotic relationship -- the ants drink sweet nourishing secretions from glands on the caterpillars and the caterpillars live off their hosts' larvae and pupae.

-- 5.40 Kč - the Dusky Large Blue butterfly (*Maculinea nausithous*)

-- 5.40 Kč - the Alcon Large Blue butterfly (*Maculinea alcon*)

-- 9 Kč - the Scarce Large Blue butterfly (*Maculinea teleius*)

-- 9 Kč - the Common Large Blue butterfly (*Maculinea arion*)

This issue was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and engraved by Martin Srb. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in brown-black and green combined with multicolored offset. There are four FDC's showing further endangered and protected butterflies: *Araschnia levana*, *Apatura iris*, *Parnassius mnemosync* in brown, and *Parnassius mnemosync* in gray (Fig. 6,7,8,9).



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

4. On June 26, 2002, the Ministry issued a definitive stamp entitled Zvíkov Castle to be used in postage stamp vending machines (Fig. 10). The self-adhesive stamp, sized 40 x 25 mm, has been printed by multicolored flexography in rolls of 1,000 pieces. The face values -- 5.40, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 33 Kč -- will be printed additionally by the vending machine according to the wish of the customer. These values will be adjusted as operational needs change. Coins as



Fig. 10

well as banknotes can be inserted into the machine, which is made by the firm Amiel Electronique. The stamp will be catalogued under the number Au 2 [in Czech catalogs].

**Postal Stationery**

5. On June 19, 2002, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp to mark the anniversary of the birth of the priest Josef Toufar (Fig. 11). The stamp image bears a portrait of J. Toufar and gives the dates of his birth and death. J. Toufar was active in Čihošť near Ledec nad Sázavou, where in 1949 the so-called Čihošť miracle was stage managed by the State Police

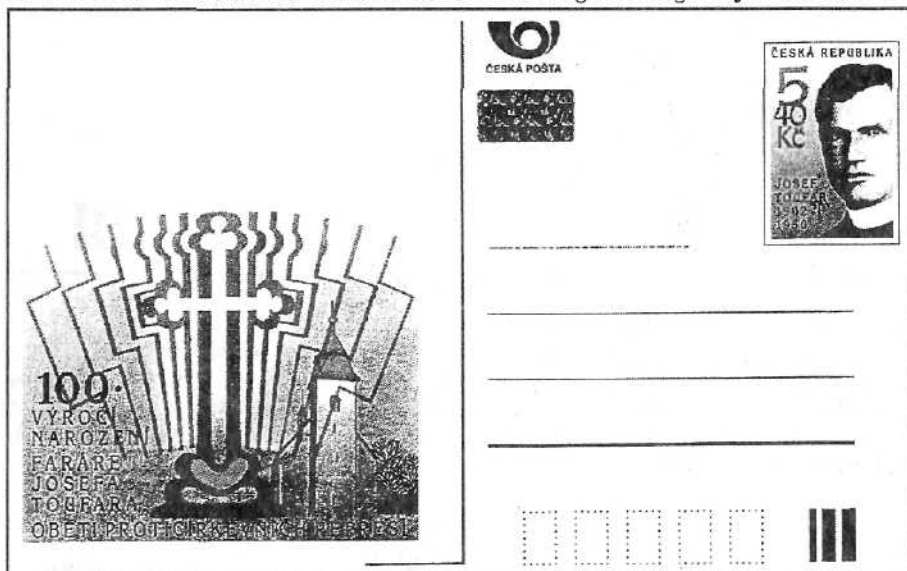


Fig. 11

to damage the reputation of the Catholic Church. In January, 1950, J. Toufar was arrested and forced to make a public confession. A month later, he died from the consequence of torture. The “Čihošť miracle” led to the trial processes of church dignitaries and to the liquidation of monastic orders. The cachet design is a symbolic drawing expressing the movement of a crucifix, the Čihošť church and the text CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF PRIEST JOSEF TOUFAR, MARTYR OF ANTI-CHURCH REPRESSION in the Czech language. The card was designed by Jiří Rathouský and printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 10.40 Kč.

6. On June 19, 2002, the Ministry issued a pair of commemorative postal cards with imprinted stamps for the European postage stamp exhibition BRNO 2005. Both of the postal cards were designed by Karel Dvořák and printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

-- 5.40 Kč (Fig. 12) - the stamp image is composed of the Brno dragon, the coat-of-arms from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the inscription Brno. The cachet shows the processing of grapes based on a wood cut from a calendar (1604). This drawing is accompanied by the logo of the BRNO 2005 exhibition and the text EUROPEAN



Fig. 12

POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION (in Czech).

-- 9 Kč (Fig. 13) - the stamp image is composed of the BRNO dragon, the coat-of-arms from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the inscription Brno. The cachet shows a motif of the grape harvest from a breviary (1356). This drawing is accompanied by the logo of the BRNO 2005 exhibition and the text EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION (in Czech).

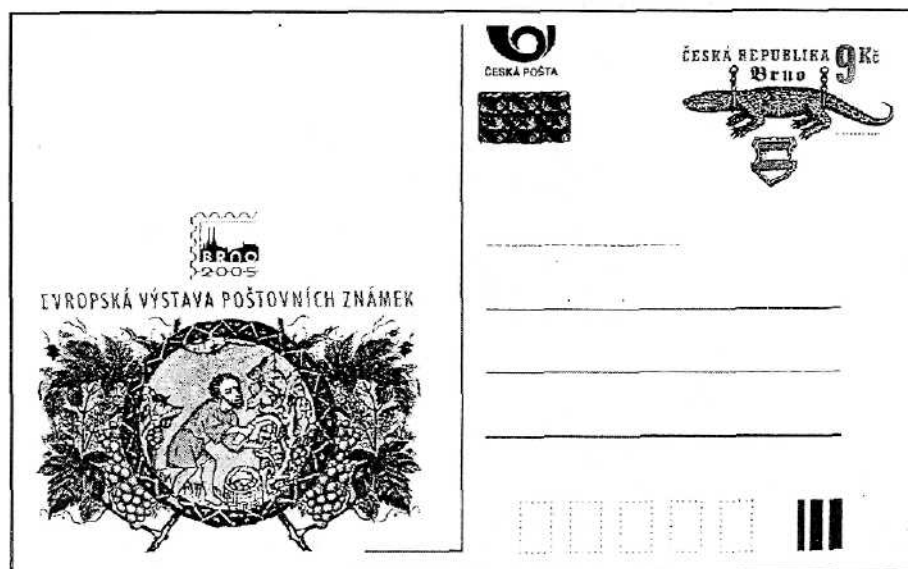


Fig. 13



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