



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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NEW BOOK SALES MANAGER

As you will see (if you turn to the Available Publications list in the back of this issue) we have had a change in our Book Sales Manager.

For many years, Edwin Lehecka has performed this function very admirably for us (while also being our Treasurer!). Whenever you needed the latest Czech, Slovak or Czechoslovak philatelic book, catalog or periodical, Ed was always there to fulfill that need quickly and efficiently. But now, we feel that he has had enough "fun", and besides, he needs that room in his basement where all those books are being stored. So, he has shipped them all to Readstown, Wisconsin.

From now on, if you need one of our excellent publications advertised in the back of any SPECIALIST, please write or e-mail our new Book Sales Manager, Savoy Horvath at S8207 -- US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or e-mail him at cancelcek@mwt.net.

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FORGERY OR AN AMAZING FIND?

By Mark Wilson

Discovery

On September 1, 2002, for the first time in nearly a year, I pointed my web browser at EBay and did a quick search for *Czech* in the category *Stamps*. Those of you familiar with the EBay Internet auction know that the first page presented after a search is a list of those items matching the search terms for which the auction is about to expire.

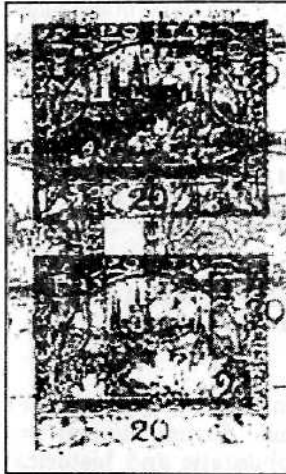


Fig. 1: First screen

The second item on this list, due to expire within minutes, had the title *Czechoslovakia Unusual Unlisted stamps; Error and a current bid price of about \$36.00*. Curious, I clicked on the link. I was rather disappointed to see displayed a small piece of printer's waste consisting of multiple impressions of the Hradčany 20h and 30h stamps (Fig. 1). A typical EBay auction, I thought; some mislabeled printer's waste being sold as a true error to the unsuspecting at a very high price.

I started to move to the next auction and as I did, part of another picture scrolled up onto my screen. It was just below the printer's waste but had been hidden from my initial view of the auction page. This bottom picture was of a homemade album page containing four gutter pairs from the first Hradčany issue (Fig. 2). I suspect that very few potential buyers actually saw this lower half of the auction page because after six days, there were just two bidders and the high bid had only reached \$36.

I enlarged the picture and could see that all four gutters appeared unfolded and were marked *PORTO*. Since I had never seen gutter pairs used as provisional postage due stamps, I became even more interested. Suddenly, and to my shock, I realized that the 5h stamps were not reciprocal. *Both stamps faced in the same direction!*

There was no doubt in my mind that these items must be forgeries. After all, the 5h unidirectional gutters are so rare they hardly show up in the literature. *POFIS 2002*, on page 16, describes the 5h unidirectional gutters as un-issued varieties.

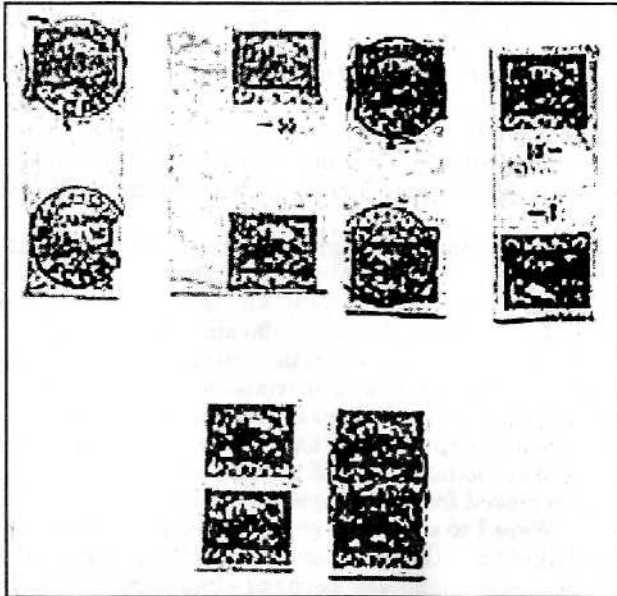


Fig. 2: Second screen

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By email I quickly contacted a far more experienced collector who advised purchase only if I wanted to collect forgeries. I decided I wanted these items as unusual examples of forged materials. I entered the auction and won the bid for a little over \$115, paying, if one disregards the piece of printer's waste, about \$20 each for my uncommon forgeries.

Provenance

When the stamps arrived a few days later, I examined them in earnest. The seller shipped them to me still mounted on the original collector's homemade page. On the back of this page, the collector had mounted the printer's waste seen in Figure 1. The commentary, at the top of the page (with original punctuation, spelling and capitalization), said:

In the years, 1918-1919 several armies occupied what is now Czechoslovakia. The AUSTRIAN army ran out of or had no access to The Fieldpost stamps therefore local stamps were Over Printed "PORTO" and used as postage dues to be paid by the person receiving the letter. Many excess stamps were CTO'd or are found mint.

The below examples were used at NACHOD a rather small town located in North Czechoslovakia near the German border, about 100 miles from the Austrian northern border.

The notes were printed using a low-resolution dot-matrix computer printer font, so it is safe to assume the page was created sometime during the last two decades of the past century. This marvelous piece of philatelic and historical misinformation was credited in handwriting to the *Michel Katalog, Europa*. It is unclear why the note was printed while the attribution was in script; perhaps a different person wrote each of them. I have not yet verified the geographic information, but assume Náchod is probably where the note says it is. In any event, it is clear that the author of these comments did not know what these items were.

When I contacted the dealer who sold me the gutter pairs, I learned that the items had come from an Oregon estate sale of a general worldwide collection and that the dealer still had the source album. Although the dealer willingly provided this information, he did not provide any other details. He agreed to sell me the Czech pages for very little, which I purchased in hope of finding some additional clues.

When the loose pages arrived, they contained a very pedestrian and incomplete collection of quite common First Republic canceled stamps. There were no other homemade pages; all of the album pages were labeled *A Vintage Reproduction Page*. I suspect the album originally may have contained other pieces of printer's waste, because the dealer, before he shipped the album to me, sent me a picture of several pieces of printer's waste which he asked me to identify and price. He said the estate agent was asking him to buy these items separately. Since there is a hinge remnant on the back of the homemade page where the Figure 1 printer's waste was mounted, I tend to believe that additional pieces of printer's waste had been removed from the page before the sale.

Were I to venture a guess on the provenance of these items, I would say that in all likelihood the collector obtained the provisional postage dues and the printer's waste at the same time, perhaps already mounted. It is clear that both the estate

agent and the selling dealer believed the printer's waste to be more valuable than the gutters. Perhaps the collector thought the same, relegating the postage dues to insignificant back-of-the-book status.

Description

Let me describe the stamps. The stamp paper appears white, very old, and bears a clear to yellowish gum. Some of the pieces have small creases, are lightly soiled, and are in unfolded condition. Every item on the page is diagonally hand stamped, sometimes inverted, with the word PORTO framed at either end with a silhouetted star. The CTO pairs bear a round cancel from NÁCHOD 4b with a date that appears to be 19-II-19-2 (Fig. 3). Although the month and year are quite clear, the day indicated on the cancel tends to have parts missing or to be very faint in most of its impressions. It was clear that whoever mounted these pieces on the homemade page also applied their first hinges, as there was no sign on any of the pieces of disturbed gum or hinge remnants that would indicate repeated mounting.

I decided to do a bit of investigation. As already mentioned, POFIS discusses the 5h gutters, but does not mention any provisional postage due use. I reviewed Karásek's *Československé poštovní známky a jejich padiělky 1918-1939*. Surely the counterfeiting of such an uncommon stamp would be mentioned there. I was surprised to see on page 43 that the only counterfeits listed for the 5h were the reciprocal, not the unidirectional, gutter pairs. Nor was there any mention of these stamps in his section on postage dues.

As for the 5h mint with the wide left margin, the control number indicated that the pair had been taken from the left-most position on the sheet. I turned to the *Monografie (Díl 1)*, and reviewed the Hradčany printing forms described on pages 100-105. On page 103, *illustration 140/A1* described the plate layout for this 5h gutter pair. On the left side of the form, TD II was placed over TD I, and on the right side, TD III over TD IV.

I assumed that the wide margins came from the left side and not from the

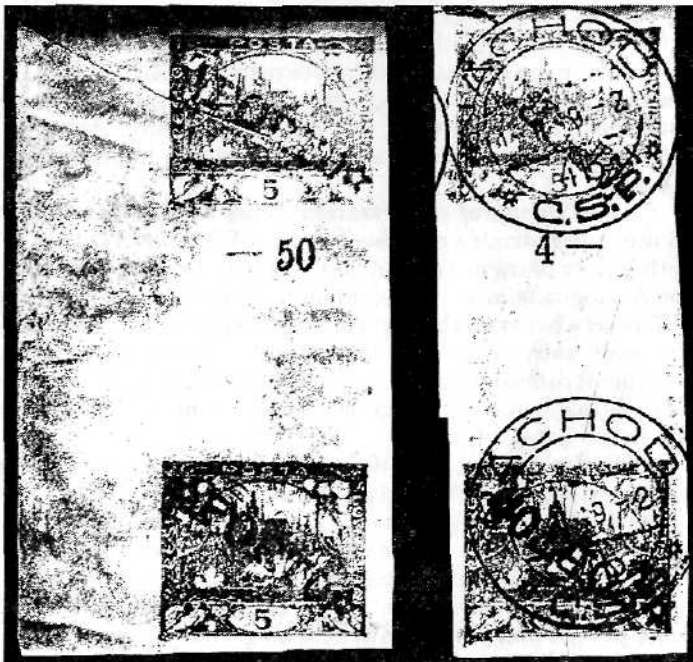


Fig. 3: Unidirectional 5h gutter pair used as provisional postage dues



Fig. 4: Dot at end of 5

center of the printing form, which meant, according to the *Monografie* illustration, that the top stamp had to be ZP II/91 and the bottom stamp ZP I/1. As it happens, I have both of these full sheets in my Hradčany collection.

I retrieved sheet TD I first and compared its ZP I/1 with the lower stamp in the gutter pair. ZPI/1 has a distinctive marking: just at the end of the tail of the 5 is a small, elongated dot. Both my sheet and the lower stamp of the gutter pair have the same small dot (Fig. 4).

I next examined my ZP II/91, but was unable to quickly locate a distinguishing mark within the stamp itself. [Help here from more experienced collectors would be greatly appreciated.] However, the --50 control number is appropriate for TD II in that it lacks the decimal point.

In point of fact, the lack of this decimal point is the distinguishing mark for TD II (Fig. 5).

All four stamps measure 26 x 22.5 mm. The gutters on the mint and canceled pairs differ in size. The gutter on the mint pair is 34 mm, but the gutter on the canceled pair measures 35 mm. There is yet another measurable difference between the mint and canceled pairs. The lower stamp on the mint pair appears to be offset 1 mm to the left of the upper stamp, while the two stamps on the canceled pair appear to be aligned. Clearly these differences in gutter size and alignment are important signals.

The *Monografie* illustration shows the gutter to be 35 mm and indicates no offset between TD II and TD I. If both gutter pairs are genuine, one is lead to the conclusion that the description in the *Monografie* must be incomplete. The only situation that could account for the differences between the canceled and mint pairs would be if the canceled pair, unlike the mint pair, came from the right side of the printing form and there was an alignment difference between the left and right sides of the printing form. Of course, I simply may have made incorrect measurements, but the most likely account is that the forger got it wrong.

It also would be helpful to know if the cancellation was actually possible for these gutter pairs. Was this cancellation in use when the 5h gutters were printed? Is the date valid? Is the date appropriate for a provisional postage due? I do not own the *Monografie* volumes dealing with cancellations so do not have access to any of this information about cancels.

The other stamps in the set are worth description. The 10h pairs have the same provisional postage due marking and the same cancel. The mint pair has a small mark in the color of the stamp (red) at the lower left, while the canceled pair has part of the next stamp's inverted Mucha and a thin sliver of the next stamp at the lower right. As with the 5h pairs, these stamps are unfolded and appear to have been hinged for the first time when mounted by the collector (Fig. 6).

Note that the 5h and 10h canceled pairs have the same jagged trim: a shallow indentation that extends from the bottom of the pair to just above the lower stamp.

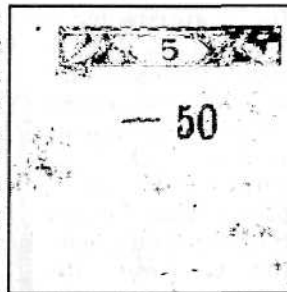


Fig. 5: No decimal

When placed one upon the other, the 5h and 10h indentations nearly coincide.

The two 20h pairs have the same provisional markings and cancellation. As before, the canceled pair shows a slight indentation along the left margin, but in this case alongside the top stamp. Their hinges also appear to have been applied by whoever first mounted them to the homemade page (Fig. 7).

The PORTO has been applied inconsistently. Most often it runs from the top left to the bottom right in a diagonal across the stamp. The 5h mint gutter has the hand stamp upright but it is inverted on the canceled 5h pair. There are several scenarios that could account for this difference: there may have been two gutter sheets, the hand stamping could have occurred at different times, or the hand stamp device may have been inverted while being re-inked. It might even be that the person doing the stamping may have wanted variation for variations sake.

The 10h pair shows another inconsistency. As with the 5h pair, the provisional mark has been applied differently to the mint and canceled pairs. While the 10h mint pair provisional marks resemble those of the 5h mint pair, the canceled stamps show the markings applied to opposite diagonals on the upper and lower stamp. The 20h mint pair are marked in the same manner as the 10h canceled pair, while the 20h canceled pair resembles that of the mint gutters, but is inverted.

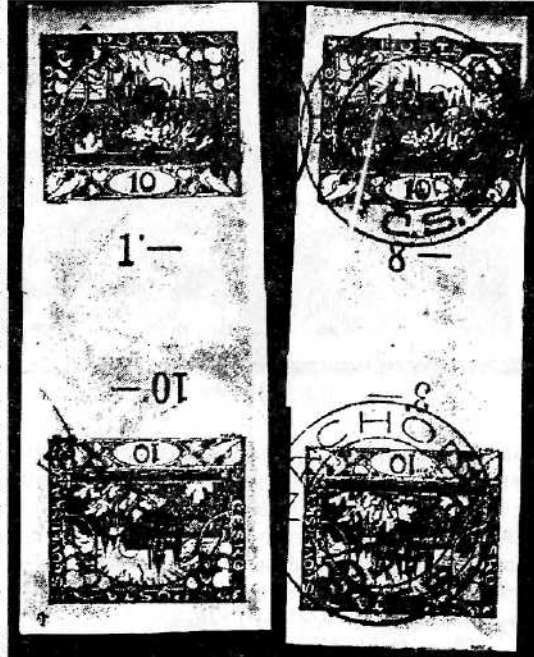


Fig. 6: 10h gutter pairs

Questions

Are these stamps forgeries? After only two years of collecting, I certainly do not have the expertise to determine whether they are or not. The odd thing is that I bought them believing them to be forgeries and have had that conviction shaken by the stamps themselves. Of course, the objective of the forger is to do just that, to put us off guard. If they are forgeries, the forger did his job very well indeed. By making what would be a very valuable piece a little less valuable (stamping it PORTO), the forger beguiles us into believing the object might be real. By setting details that can be researched (postmarks, etc.), we believe even more.

The difficulty I have with the forgery thesis is that the items are too strange to have escaped earlier notice. A more likely story is that they are favor pieces done by a local postal worker for an avid collector. The fact that (if they are genuine) the cancellations were all done on the same day and in the same place supports this thesis. I do note that the set lacks the then current 3h and 25h values. Perhaps those values, perhaps also in gutter pairs, are still out there somewhere, waiting to be discovered.

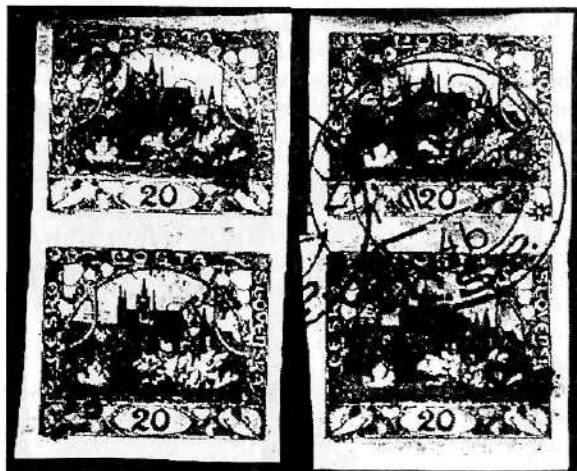


Fig. 7: 20h pairs

Since forgeries are far more common than amazing finds, I expect that the result of a professional examination of these stamps may well come down on the side of forgery. But no matter what the outcome, some notice needs to be taken of them. If they are genuine, they need to be reported and cataloged. Likewise, if they are forgeries, the literature needs to warn against them.

However it turns out, I cannot complain. If they are not genuine, I got just what I bargained for, some interesting additions to my Hradčany forgeries. But if they are

genuine, I appear to have acquired a unique set and usage of my very favorite stamps, the first design of the Hradčany issue.

I commented to one of my correspondents that it would be a fine joke indeed if the forger took genuine stamps and in a misguided attempt to increase their value applied forged provisional postage due markings and cancellations. I have to wonder if these stamps eventually might be called *The Náchod Favors*, *The Náchod Forgeries*, or *The Náchod Follies*.

Does the collecting community have any information about these pieces for me? I invite correspondence via the email or postal address below.

Mark Wilson
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FRENCH OVERPRINT ČSR ZAHRANIČNÍ POŠTA 1944

by Karel Holoubek
trans. by Savoy Horvath

For years now we have known about overprints (having Czech text) on French stamps. The words "Zahraniční Pošta 1944" are located around a heraldic shield that contains a stylized Czechoslovak flag along with the letters ČSR (Czechoslovak-Republic)(Fig. 1). Supposedly 24 different stamps from several sets were overprinted (see table at Figure 2). The overprint was produced in three colors: blue, violet, and black.

Some of the stamps were apparently overprinted in two and occasionally all three of the colors. This multiplies the number of different overprints. There are also known a number of covers bearing these overprinted stamps (Fig. 3). It seems that all of them received normal postal delivery. They were canceled at Vire or Paris. Unfortunately nothing further is known about the origin or conditions for usage of the overprint. Not even Roy E. Reader, author of the book "Czechoslovak Army in France" published in Great Britain in 1992, knows anything more about this. The book is written documentation of the entire campaign of our soldiers during WW II beginning in 1939.



Fig. 1

Czechoslovak armored brigades -- recruited in England -- landed in France in 1944. Altogether there were 4,529 officers and men divided among four regiments. Three were armored regiments and one was combined field artillery and transportation. The unit disembarked within the framework of the 21st (non-American) Army Group incorporated into the 154th Canadian Brigade. After disembarkation they set up a field camp 3 miles from Falaise and 30 miles from Vire that was formed and placed in order to lay siege to the harbor of Dunkirk. They were successful and remained there until the capitulation of the German garrison on May 9, 1945. The commander of our units, General Liška, took part in the signing at their surrender and as the highest ranking officer personally conducted it.

On April 23, 1945, 140 members of the brigade were hurriedly formed into a symbolic infantry and air defense unit that was attached to the 3rd US Army which was advancing in a southerly direction, i.e. towards Austria and Czechoslovakia. On April 18, 1945, an advanced US reconnaissance unit crossed the Czechoslovak border. Aš was liberated on 22 April, Cheb on 25 April, and on 5 May this unit along with the US Army entered liberated Pilsen.

The origin of this overprint is established as the above mentioned field camp. But there is still the question -- at that time, to where could the members of the unit write? Certainly not to their homeland, which was still occupied. One has to thus consider England, where our soldiers spent a considerable period of time. It could also have been to the USA, since members who spent the beginning of the war in

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France could have had family over there to whom they wanted to send the latest news. After the liberation of France some Czechoslovak institutions were transferred to Paris, which thus could have also been the aim of the soldier's correspondence. Thus in all of these places we could look for mementoes of this era. Nevertheless, witnesses of this period are still alive -- members of our armies in foreign lands -- and they could shed some light on this issue. Do you know of any? In addition, we have to hope that the archives will speak to us.

Issue	Value	Yvert No.	SG No.
Petain	60 c	509	714
	70 c	511	716
	80 c, 1F, 1.20, 1.50, 2, 2.40	513 - 519	718 - 724
	3F, 4, 4.50	521, 521a, 521b	726, 726a, 726b
	4F, 4.50, 5	522 - 524	727 - 729
Mercury	10, 30, 40, 50 c	546 - 549	750 - 753
Tricolor Legion		565 - 566	769 - 770
Relief Fund Issue		576 - 580	780 - 784
1944 Great Men		612 - 617	824 - 829

Figure 2: Table of Overprinted Values According to the Publication: Roy E. Reader -- Czechoslovak Army in France, published by : Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, supplemented in 1994

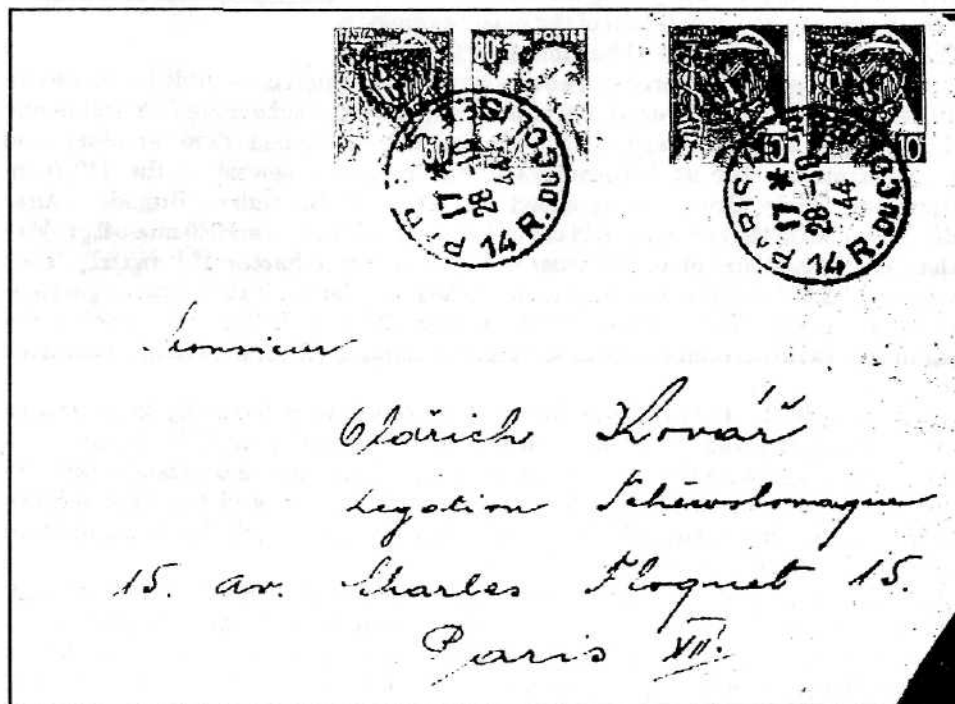


Fig. 3

THE INVALIDOVNA BUILDING

by Lubor Kunc

After the big flood in Bohemia this year, I was asked by many people -- what is the situation in Prague? First of all, I would say that Prague has been damaged as much as other parts of Bohemia -- recall the sea created by the river Labe near Litoměřice which affected about 30 towns (including Terezín, the monument for Jews killed by the Nazis). But back to Prague. I am aware that the Vltava River damaged the National Theater and the Postal Museum. But I would like to draw your attention to another Prague sightseeing spot -- the Invalidovna building. It is situated in Karlín, the most damaged district in Prague, where the flood reached a depth of 3 meters.

In the 18th century it was decided to build houses in Prague for disabled Austrian Army soldiers. Originally 9 houses were planned to be built, but due to various problems only one was really completed during 1732-1737 -- it is called the "Invalidovna". Its designer was the famous architect Kilian Ignac Diezenhofer, who participated for example in the building of St. Nicolaus Church, which is located in the Malá Strana district of Prague and shown on the Hradčany issue of 1918 (see the cupola and tower of a church in the lower right part of the stamp).

In front of the Invalidovna building you will find a statue of Earl Strozzi, who established a foundation for disabled soldiers (Fig. 1). The building is a very important cultural monument of Prague. Its importance is demonstrated by the usage of the name Invalidovna for that part of the city (see the card at Figure 2). This card was sent to the Karlín district with the additional detailed specification of its destination by mentioning "Invalidovna" area. [As an addendum, at Figure 2a/2b is an advertising card produced during WWI by a chemical company producing



Fig. 1

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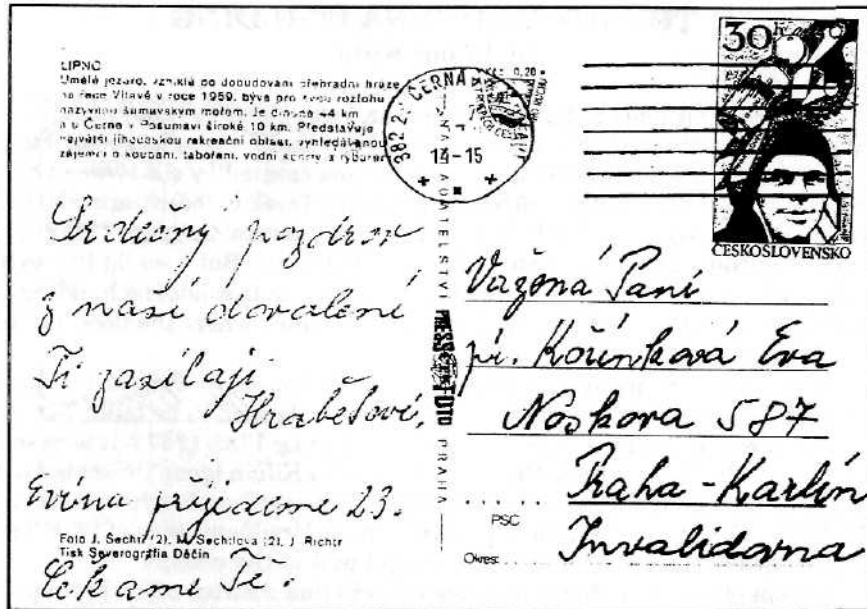


Fig. 2

the disinfectant LYSOFORM. The card was sent by an injured soldier from the military hospital at Žitnovlice in Prague (in the Sokolovna building). It shows that advertising and sales promotion was used even during WW I, and how it worked.]

Beginning in 1737 -- and since without interruption -- the Invalidovna building served the disabled soldiers of all the wars. After WW I the building was used for the disabled Czechoslovak legionnaires. The Society for Disabled Soldiers had its headquarters in the building. At Figure 3 is a cover sent by the Society to a lieutenant in Olomouc in 1931.

Today the Invalidovna building serves many institutions including the record office and military library of the Czech Army. Stored here are all of the documents relating to the Czechoslovak Army from 1918, the archives of SS troops, etc. Unfortunately, the building is in very bad condition, because there was insufficient monetary funding to properly maintain it (Fig. 4; before the flood).



Fig. 2a

The current Prague flood has made this situation even worse. The flood invaded the building and heavily damaged the stored documents as well as the building itself. Among the damaged property can be found 20,000 books of the 19th century about the military, which were damaged so much that the head of the military library decided not to save them. The army has now transported most of the important



Fig. 2b

documents to air conditioned buildings where the documents can be kept until enough money is available for their restoration. But it is clear that only a small part of the documents will be saved. In Figure 5 you can see the building as it looks after the flood (included is the white truck used for the transportation of the documents

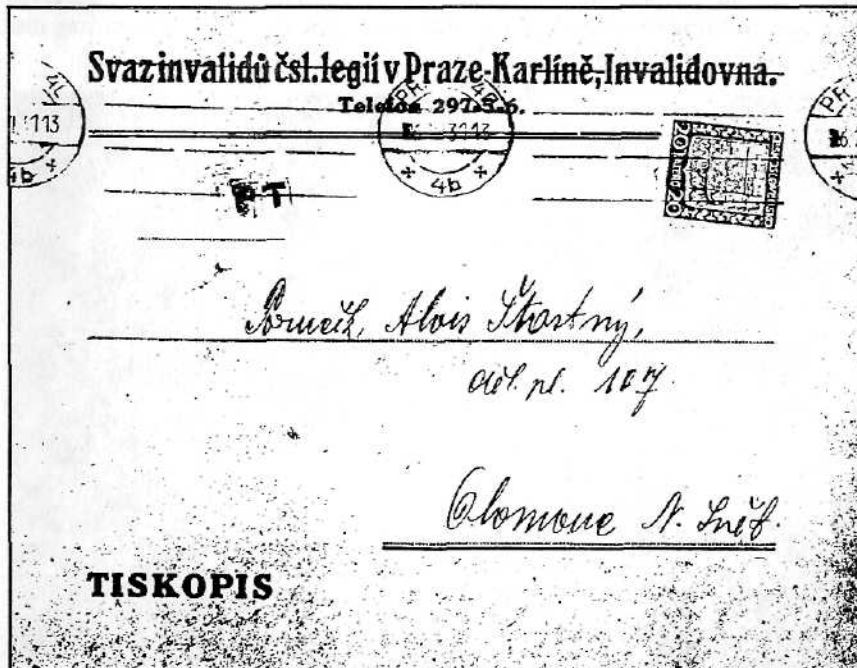


Fig. 3

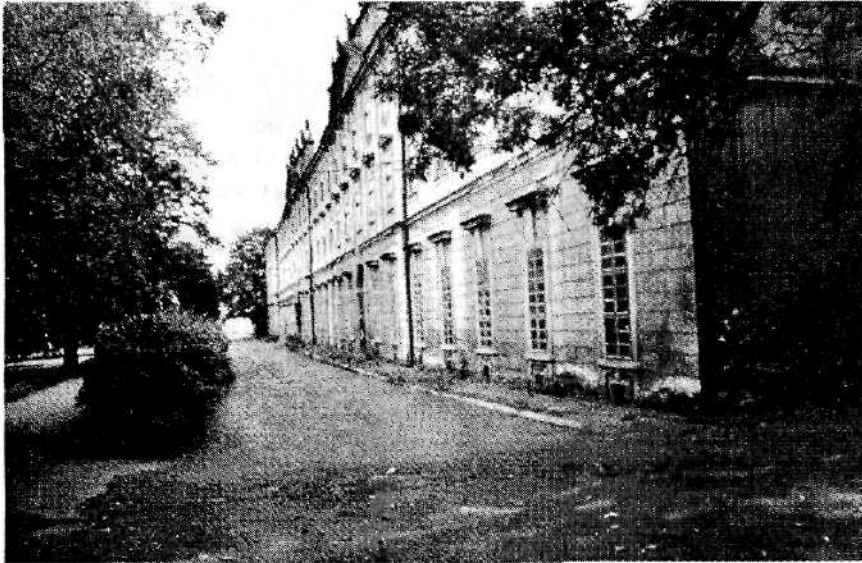


Fig. 4

to the air conditioned buildings).

It is a paradox that in a park leading to the Invalidovna building is situated a monument commemorating 20 soldiers who died during the last flood in Prague in 1890. As you can see, it is not just injured soldiers that have bad fortunes, sometimes a building can have one as well. I hope the Invalidovna building and the stored documents will be saved!



Fig. 5

THE MÁCHA REGION AND KAREL HYNEK MÁCHA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

The Mácha Region situated north of Prague extends from Mělník northward and includes Bezděz castle, Kokořín castle, Střekov castle as well as Lake Mácha. On the western side is the Labe (Elbe) river, the town of Ústí nad Labem and Litoměřice.



Fig. 1

The region is named after Karel Hynek Mácha, born in Prague on 16 November 1810, and died at Litoměřice on 5 November 1836.

A monument for him is depicted on Pofis 298-299/Sc. 213-214 (Fig. 1) which were designed by B. Heinz and issued on 30 April 1936 to commemorate the centenary of his death. This statue is situated near the remains of the old Hunger Wall on Petřín Hill in Prague. It was the work of the well known Czech sculptor Josef Václav Myslbek (1848-1922) and represents Mácha the poet. Mácha was one of the greatest

Czech romantic poets and

perhaps the greatest of all time. The most authentic portrait of Mácha (Fig. 2) was by J.Z. Quast.

Mácha was best known for his masterpiece "MAJ", May 1836. Others were "Krkonoše Pilgrimage" and "The Gypsies", all remarkable for their surrealistic imagery and romantic passion. He also wrote a number of lyrical tales and a historical novel on the Hussite period.

His brief life ended apparently of cholera just three days before he was to be married. He had been working for a lawyer in Litoměřice and was interred at the local cemetery. In 1936 his remains were transferred to the Vyšehrad cemetery (Fig. 3). In Litoměřice is a memorial room in a small museum to Mácha, set-up in the house where he died.

On November 17, 1989 his grave was



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

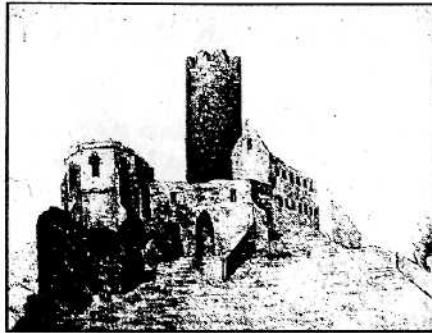


Fig. 4

One of Mácha's favorite walks followed an 8km path to the ruined medieval Royal castle of Bezděz. Figure 4 depicts a water color painting of it by Mácha dating from around 1833, and Figure 5 shows a 19th century engraving of it. The castle -- probably built between 1264 and 1278 by King Přemysl Otakar II -- had a checkered history. In 1634 it was converted by the Emaus Monastery into a place of pilgrimage.

the assembly point for the massive Wenceslas Square student demonstration, thwarted on Národní Street.

As mentioned at the outset, the Mácha region is situated in the center of the wide north Bohemian lake basin, best known as Máchovo Jezero, Mácha Lake. It covers an area of 875 acres, is a very popular bathing beach, and is also used for sailing. The lake was originally named Velký Rybník (big fishpond). It was part of a system of fishponds built around 1366 under Emperor Charles IV.

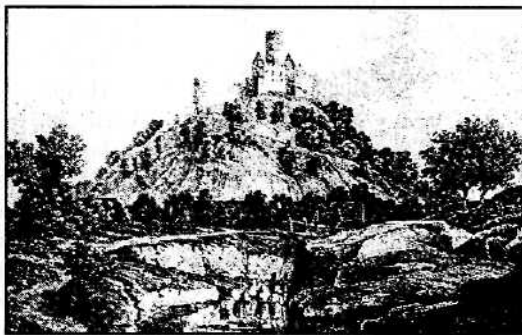


Fig. 5

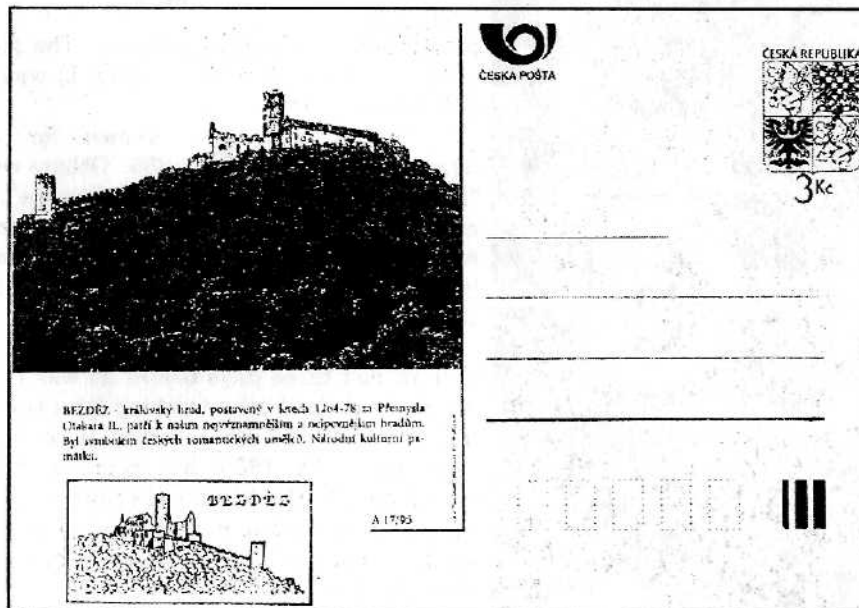


Fig. 8



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

It was closed down in 1785, after which the castle fell into disrepair. The dominant structure is still the 40m high tower. A very well preserved part is an early gothic chapel. The castle is depicted on the 10h value of the set of castle stamps issued on 21 March 1960 (Fig. 6), again on the 60h value of the set of airmail stamps issued on 24 October 1973 (Fig. 7), and more recently on postal card No. 17 issued in 1995 (Fig. 8).

Not far from here is Kokořín castle (Fig. 9) shown on Pofis 1108 and issued in the same set as the Bezděz castle stamp. A painting by Antonín Mánes done in 1839 also depicts Kokořín Castle, this time in the art set of 1984 (Fig. 10). This castle also has a memorial to Mácha. It was built in the first half of the 14th century. During the Hussite wars it was severely damaged; extensive renovations were carried out by the then owners between 1911 and 1918 giving the castle its present appearance. It



Fig. 11

is a magnificent example of early gothic castle architecture of the Luxemburg period. Interesting expositions of historical weapons, period furniture and ceramics can be seen in the castle rooms as well as unique murals and heraldic decorations, all making a visit well worthwhile.

Mácha, during his frequent wanderings through this region, fell in love with the area below the Kokořín and Bezděz castles, and these impressions became the setting for his most famous poem MAJ. Figure 11 shows the title page for this poem by engraver/painter Jan Konupek, 1883-1950.

One more castle along the Labe connected with Karel Hynek Mácha are the ruins of Střekov, perhaps better expressed in German: SCHRECKENSTEIN (Fig. 12). This



Fig. 12

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

castle is perched on a 114m high rock overlooking the Labe and was built around 1316 to protect traffic on the river. Renovated several times, changing hands frequently, and rebuilt around 1479, it was also visited by Mácha. But this was perhaps overshadowed by the most famous visitor Richard Wagner, who came there in 1842. This visit inspired him to begin work on his opera TANNHAUSER.

As far as this writer is aware, Střekov or Schreckenstein was depicted on the following two cards:

- as No. 34 in the series POZNEJTE SVOJI VLAST issued on 28 May 1937
- as No. 143 in the Propaganda card set issued on 26 May 1938.

I hope our readers visiting the Mácha region may also FIND INSPIRATION!!!

Footnote: For more extensive reading on Mácha, may I recommend the book "PRAGUE IN BLACK AND GOLD" by Peter Demetz, published in 1997, Penguin Books.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

JOINT ISSUES

by Karl Ruzicka

When two or more countries honor the same event by issuing a stamp simultaneously, they create a joint issue.

The first time that the United States issued a stamp with another country was in 1959 at the time that the St. Lawrence Seaway was opened (Scott 1131, Canada Scott 387).

Under Czechoslovakia there were no joint issues. The first Czech joint issue was the Czech Republic stamp in 1993 issued on the occasion of the 600th Death Anniversary of St. John Nepomuk (Scott 2880 -- Germany 1776, Slovakia 158)(Fig. 1). It was followed shortly by the stamp issued for the 1130th anniversary of St. Cyril and St. Methodius (Scott 2886, Slovakia 167)(Fig. 2).

The next joint issues did not occur until 1997, remembering the 1000th Death Anniversary of St. Adalbert (Scott 3012)(Fig. 3). The other countries joining were Germany (#1964), Hungary (#3569), Poland (#3337), and Vatican City (#1040)(Fig. 4). The Jewish monuments in Prague (Scott 3009-3010)(Fig. 5), Israel (#1302-3)(Fig. 6), showed Altneuschul Synagogue and tombstone of Rabbi Judah Loew MaHaRai.

In 1996, the Czech Republic and Slovakia joined Sweden honoring artist Andre Nemes, showing his baroque chair -- Sweden #2199, Czech Republic #2995, Slovakia #255 (Fig. 7).

The Czech Republic has never had a joint issue with the USA. What better opportunity than the forthcoming 100th Death Anniversary [1 May 2004] of Antonín Dvořák? Not only would it honor the famous composer, it would honor the Czech Republic and all the Czech immigrants in the USA.

If you, the reader, is associated with any Czech cultural association, please bring this matter to their attention at your next meeting, asking them to petition the US Postal Service for such an issue (any reader in the Czech Republic could also help petition the Czech Postal Authorities). You can also write as an individual to your congressman or senator.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

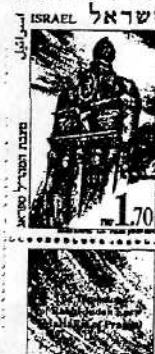


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



AMPHILEX 2002 – FOR EUROPEANS ONLY!

by Henry Hahn

Europe's most recent FEPA show, AMPHILEX 2002 took place in Amsterdam from August 30th to September 3rd. But don't fret if you missed it -- American exhibitors were generally not accepted -- except for one (this reporter) who claims both American and Czech citizenship and one other, who exhibited Netherlands postal history in the Court of Honor. He supposedly belongs to a "Dutch Club".

The opening of the show featured HRH Princess Margriet, FEPA President Pedro Vaz Pereira and Mr. Ph. Dobbenberg, member of the Royal (Dutch) Post Office. The show took place in an excellent facility, comfortably housing some 3,000 12-page exhibit frames, a large bourse, and probably the most stupendous thematic display hall ever assembled. Shown in Figure 1 is the outside of the AMPHILEX facility with prominent stamp flags which graced the front and side, and Figure 2 which featured a huge pirate ship to inspire topical collectors. Note the size in relation to the man standing in front. There was ample seating space and snacking facilities throughout the show.

Relatively moderate participation took place by Czech exhibitors accompanied by Commissioner Miroslav Langhammer, and Slovak exhibitors accompanied by Dr. Jozef Tekel. There was only one Czech judge among the 28 jurors, Mr. Vít Vaniček, who was a member of the Postal History judging team, and no Czech or Slovak on the Traditional judging team. Ing. Pavel Pittermann served on the Expert Team, but had no vote. The classes included in the show were Traditional, Thematic, Postal History, One-Frame (experimental) and Youth. Judging was by conventional FIP point count, except for One-Frame exhibits, which were rated on the basis of 40



Fig. 1

points, and where the top award was "Diamond", the next best was "Ruby", followed by "Emerald" and "Diploma". The awards appeared mostly consistent and fair, though in the words of SCP member Hans van Dooremalen, some of us were "satisfied" but not necessarily "happy". That includes this reporter. Summarized below are the results of members of the SCP as well as the Czech and Slovak national philatelic federations:

Class	Name	Country	Title	Points	Award
Tradit.	H. Hahn	CR	CSR -- The First Republic (1918-1938)	88	Lg Vermeil
Tradit.	L. Liška	CR	Rakousko-Osterreich 1850-1867	74	Silver
Tradit.	O. Foldes	SR	Slovakia 1939-1945	77	Lg Silver
Themat.	V. Jancovic	SR	The World of Pedals	83	Vermeil
Themat.	J. Horak	CR	The Motorcar	90	Gold
PostHist	M. Červinka	CR	PostHist of Dečín Region (N.Boh & Sud)	77	Lg Silver
PostHist	H.vDooremalen	Neth	Postal History of Brno up to 1875	88	Lg Vermeil
1-Frame	V. Munzberger	CR	Oldest Perfins on Austrian Stamps	29	Ruby
1-Frame	L. Brendl	CR	When Postcode Appeared	23	Emerald
1-Frame	P. Hauzner	CR	Rush News Service of the German Post	29	Ruby
1-Frame	M.Langhammer	CR	Automation of Reg. Mail in ČSR and ČR	32	Ruby
1-Frame	A. Smid	CR	Private Dispatch Stat. of Prague Pneu. Mail	28	Ruby
Youth	Z. Bacova	SR	Jesus Christ and Christianity	65	Silv-Brnz

The Czech Philatelic Afternoon and Evening, superbly organized and carried out by Jan Verleg, Chairman of the Czech Philatelic Society of the Netherlands with the assistance of Hans van Dooremalen, Secretary, took place on Sunday, September 1st. The lecture presentations included "Pre-stamp Mail in Territories of Future ČSR" (by this reporter), "Postal History of the Carpatho-

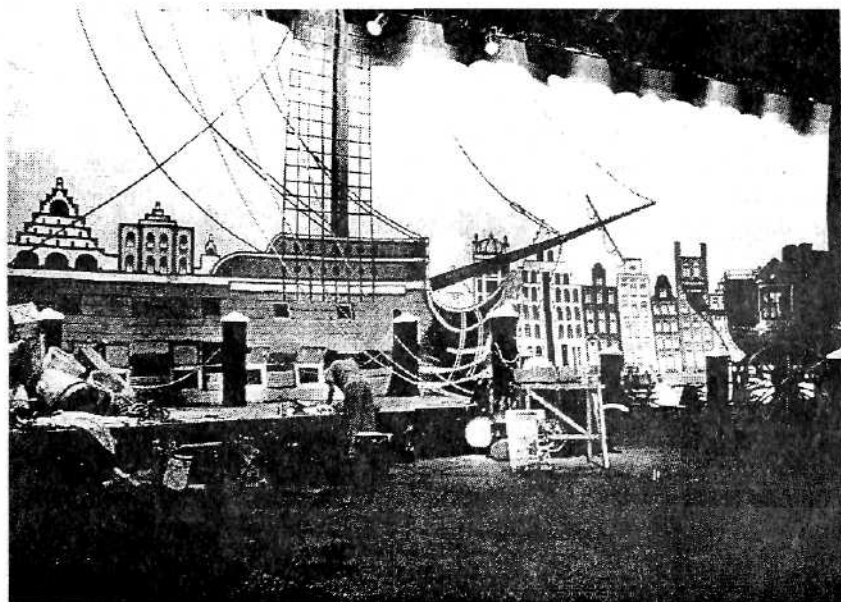


Fig. 2

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Ukraine" by Jan Verleg, and "Post-WWII Postal Markings in Czechoslovakia" by H. Liebermann, newly elected President of the German Bundesarg for Czechoslovakia. Mr. Verleg substituted for Ing. Pavel Pittermann, originally scheduled but unable due to a time conflict to lecture on "Novel Expertizing Techniques". The lectures, attended by such luminaries as Hans Klein, Otto Hornung, Yvonne Wheatley, Leo Wijnkamp -- just to mention a few of the approximately 45 attendees -- were followed by an outstandingly delicious dinner.

Except for the lack of Americans, AMPHILEX was a memorable show in which exhibits and organization were exemplary.

EXPLORE SLOVAKIA THROUGH STAMPS by ASCA Member and Philatelist, Frank Garancovsky

Those of us who have traveled to visit Slovakia remember seeing sights that we remember our parents speaking of in our childhood. These generally included the local construction of homes, the farm structures that housed the animals and provided grain storage facilities, and the lean-to type sheds providing temporary storage areas. There were the water powered wheels of the grist mill that also served as the family home, the 'kolyba' that was the shepherd's field office and the blacksmith's shop that housed the village millwright. On the periphery of the villages there were wooden bridges, dams, and various locales many of which still exist.

In the past few years of the new Slovak Republic many of these sights have been pictured on stamps through the art of stamp engraving. Unfortunately, the communist association following World War II and the recent 'friendly divorce' has dulled the country's economy. On the other hand the master craftsmen of all the arts have prevailed. Perhaps not monetarily, but their skills have gained worldwide attention. The Universal Postal Union -- according to statutes of the W.I.P.A. on November 11, 2001 -- had declared Slovakia as having produced the world's most beautiful stamp for the year 2000. This was the 20 Sk Maria Theresa commemorative stamp entitled "The History of Postal Law" (Fig. 1). Thus, 250 years ago Maria Theresa, influenced by reform efforts, introduced several changes in the field of postal transportation.

The beauty of Slovakia stamps is in their engraving. The next letter you receive use your magnifying glass and note the intricate line engraving that forms the image. Simply, in the line engraving the image of the stamp is cut directly into soft steel, and the printing plate is created from a transfer of the hardened hand engraving. Today the most prominent engravers of Slovakia's stamps are Rudolf Cigánik, Miloš Ondráček and František Horniak.



Fig. 1

The annual art stamps are particularly beautiful. They are usually issued in a set of 3 stamps and the most recent set featured the 18 Sk "Narodenie" (birth) a Gothic table painting (about 1460) from Spíšská Stará Ves, and the 20 Sk "Snímanie Z Kríza" (removal from the cross), a Romance wall painting (beginning of the 15th century) from Kocelovce. The third was the above mentioned Maria Theresa. Most of these painting stamp subjects can be found in the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava.

The definitive or common stamps since the new republic have pictured town squares in major cities. Others have pictured Slovak costumes, or famous rulers on a souvenir sheet of 4 stamps, localities such as the cold waterfalls of the high Tatras and others.

The hobby of stamp collecting in Slovakia is vibrant as it is in all of Europe because the people relish their history. Here the hobby is dormant because the elders have different priorities for their children and grandchildren. Sadly, only after they have matured do they seek information relating to their roots only to find in many cases that the village of their parents or grandparents has ceased to exist. In the meantime, save those envelopes with those miniature art scenes. Do not write or mark the face of the envelopes in ink and by no means, do not cut out the return address since this renders the cover of [sic, or] envelopes useless as a postal history item. Pencil your notes or remarks lightly on the reverse to preserve the integrity of the mailing that will in the future provide some postal history via the post office cancellation. If this seems to be too much trouble, remove the stamps allowing at least a half an inch border around the stamps.

Note:

Mr. Garancovsky is a former mailman. It is no wonder that after his retirement he began to take note of the beauty of stamps. A serious philatelist and member of the Society of Czechoslovak Philately, his specialty is Czechoslovakia but he saves all stamps especially the commemoratives. In 1999 he won a silver award for his Hradčany Castle exhibit.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from The Newsletter of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley, Issue 35, May 2002 with permission of the author and editor.]

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

(Continued from previous issue)

In 1920 the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense prepared a plan for the organization of the field post in case of a future mobilization. This plan was used in October 1921, when the former Austro-Hungarian Emperor Karl I tried to once again be an emperor, this time in Hungary. His troops occupied a great deal of the Hungarian territory, and they moved near the Czechoslovak border. Due to the situation the Czechoslovak government (as well as the Yugoslav one) called for mobilization on Oct. 23, 1921. During the period Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1921, the following Czechoslovak Army FPO's were organized:

FPO Number	Town	Territory
2	Bratislava	Slovakia
4	České Budějovice	Bohemia
6	Lučenec	Slovakia
8	Šurany	Slovakia
22	Zvolen	Slovakia
25	Brno	Moravia
37	Banská Bystrica	Slovakia
53	Praha	Bohemia
61	Plzeň	Bohemia
74, 75	Nové Zámky	Slovakia
89	Hradec Králové	Bohemia

Although these FPO's were equipped with all of the needed staff and material, they were never officially opened and put into service. On Nov. 9, 1921 the mobilization was canceled, and the soldiers (including the staffs of the FPO's) were returned home. Since the FPO's were never put into service, there is no correspondence that was delivered via these FPO's. Sometimes you can find cards or pieces of paper cancelled by the above mentioned FPO's, but all such items are souvenirs with no postal validity.

We should clarify that the advantages of a field post were not available for all Czechoslovak military units. Units located in other parts of Czechoslovakia and all units having had their servicing FPO closed had to send their mail via civilian post offices with the payment of postage. An example is shown at Figure 71 -- this is a card sent by a military aviation student from Hradec Králové in 1931.

Another stamp issue connected with WW I was the non-military issue of Czechoslovakia of Oct. 27, 1919 to celebrate the first anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic. Even today the issue is called the "Legionarské vydání (Legionnaire Issue, Scott B124-129). The stamps were valid only from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3, 1919. The reason for such a short period of validity was the plan of the Postal Administration to give the unsold stamps to the Charity

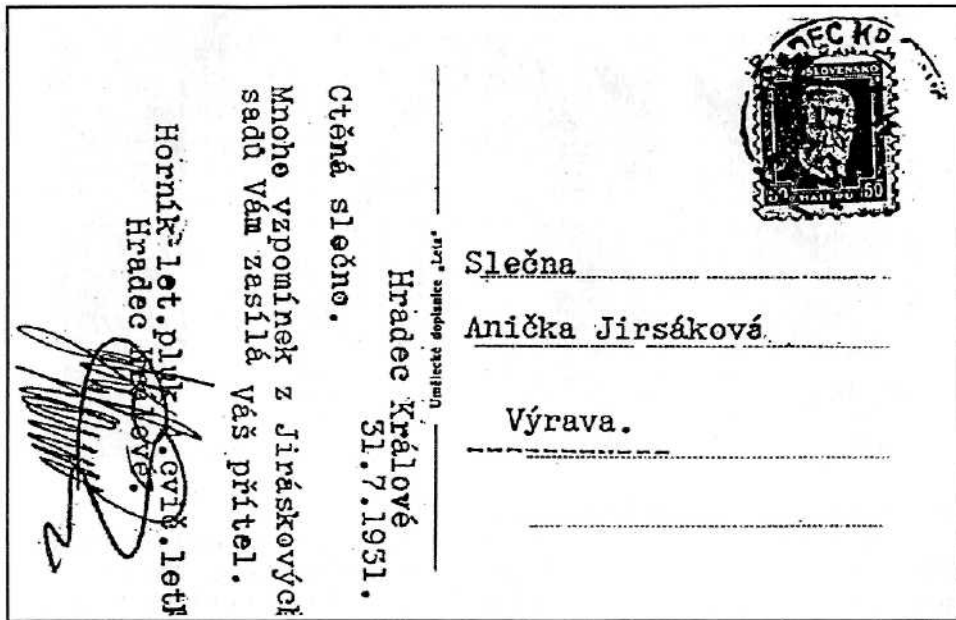


Fig. 71

Organization of the Czechoslovak Legionnaires caring for widows and orphans (called "Pomocný fond legionářský"), who would earn money by selling them. This plan was not successful however, because collectors were not as interested in the stamps as had been expected, and thus the stock of stamps lasted until the 1920's. This was also the reason why all of the subsequent charity issues of the Czechoslovak Postal Administration were arranged as stamps with a surcharge and not by such a program.

A second source of financial aid prepared by the Postal Administration for this organization was the use of special cancels at the Praha 1 post office for the canceling of the Legionnaire issue stamps. This service cost 10 heller for each canceling. The majority of stamps bearing the cancellation are usually blocks of four containing one cancel -- all such cancelled stamps have gum. Figure 72 (Sc. Czech. B126) is a block of four of the 50h stamp with joined types along with the special cancellation. It is not widely known that the stamp has joined types -- an interrupted and uninterrupted line on the lion's throat [sic shoulder?]/(the types on the block are II+I+II+II). A final footnote to the special cancellation: until now, it has not been decided whether the stamps bearing the special cancellation should be considered as cancelled stamps or mint ones. If you



Fig. 72

look at the Czech auction catalogs, you will soon discover that some of the companies

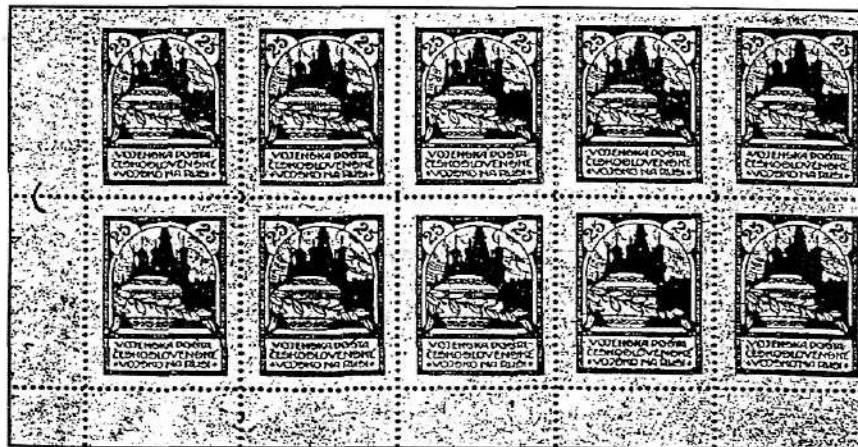


Fig. 73

offer the stamps as mint and others as used.

The Silhouette Issue of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia issued in December 1919 - January 1920 and printed in Irkutsk had a similar purpose. The goal of this issue was to contribute to the "Invalidní Fond ČS. Vojsk" (fund for the invalid soldiers of the Czechoslovak Army). The stamps were used voluntarily by the Czechoslovak legionnaires in Russia for their correspondence sent by way of the Czechoslovak Field Post and were obligatory for the Russian public wishing to send their mail via the field post.

Not widely known is the fact that there exist 6 various types of each issued stamp. The complete collection of types is easy to find, because they are situated in the plate in every block of 6. An example can be seen at Figure 73 (Sc. Czech. Legion Post 1).

I hope that you found information new to you in this article, and that experienced collectors among the readers will write their own articles on the topics just discussed.

Resources:

1. Articles of Mr. Bohumil Matejka published in the journal *FILATELIE* in 1967-1968.
2. Article of Mr. Feher published in the journal *FILATELIE* no. 21/1977
3. Article of Mr. Viktorin published in the journal *FILATELIE* no. 7/1980
4. Journal *INFORMACE* no. 144, Hradec Králové, 2000
5. Votoček's Monograph, book no. 14, Praha 1978
6. K. Pichlík, V. Vavra, J. Krížek: *Červenobílá a rudá*, Praha 1967
7. H. Thielk: *Zivilpost-Zensur in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918*, Wien 2000
8. Michel - Österreich Spezial Katalog, Munchen 1990
9. Michel - Europa ost Katalog, Munchen 1993 (for Hungarian issues)
10. *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* no. 6/1995, 4/1999, and 5/2000
11. M. Bláha: *Zakarpatsko*, Praha 1990
12. Journal "Rundschreiben" der ArGe Feld- und- Zensurpost 1914-1918, Graz 2000,2001

[Ed. Note: This is the final part of this extensive article. I have received a number of comments and clarifications on its various parts. 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.]

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Every member is entitled to one FREE 15 word ad per calendar year. Word count does not include name and address. Send ad, clearly typed or printed, and marked Sell-Swap-Want to the editor, address on page 2.

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❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

-- I have a newspaper clipping stating that the Czech Postal Printing House was damaged in the recent flooding causing tens of millions of Koruna's damage to the rotary printing presses. Also, our member Karel Holoubek states that he heard until repairs can be made, Czech stamps will be printed in foreign countries.

-- The Czech Post is releasing a semi-postal stamp in the very near future to help with the flood costs.

-- The offices of FILATELIE were dry, but the building's ground floor was in

water. The problem in Prague is that the forefathers did not have any foresight when it came to flooding.

-- Two recent stamp issues of the Czech Republic, the butterfly souvenir sheet of four issued June 19, 2002 and the children stamp booklet issued May 29, 2002 are both rapidly rising in price due to the floods. All unsold stocks of the two issues were destroyed during the flooding.



Fig. 1

From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- As reported in the Sept. 23, 2002, Linn's Stamp News, the Czech Republic's Architecture souvenir sheet (Sc. 3141)(Fig. 1), issued Mar. 28, 2001, was awarded the Asiago prize for the world's best tourism stamp design at a July 21st ceremony in Asiago, Italy. The sheet contains three se-tenant stamps containing designs featuring architectural masterpieces, including the Romanic Church of Kutná Hora from 1165, the Renaissance Castle of Bučovice from 1584, and the Tančící Dum (Dancing House) of Prague from 1996. The sheet was designed by Jan Kavan and engraved by Martin Srb.

*** **

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. van Zanten

1. Owing to the change of the inland postal rates on September 1, 2002, the self-adhesive stamp, Zvíkov Castle, issued on June 26, 2002, will have the following revised list of face values available to be printed on them at the request of the customer: 6.40, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 30, and 34 Kč.

2. On September 1, 2002, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 17 Kč definitive stamp in the Signs of the Zodiac series (Fig. 1). It shows a drawing of the zodiacal sign of Gemini -- the twins -- along with the appropriate astrological sign. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Suchánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue and violet in printings sheets of 100 stamps.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

3. On September 1, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6.40 Kč definitive stamp in a new series The Beauty of Flowers (Fig. 2). It shows a drawing of a pansy with a bud along with the Czech name for pansy. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue, red and yellow in printing sheets of 100 stamps. The drawing has an iridescent color underprinting.

Stationery

4. On September 1, 2002, the Ministry issued a postal card for current postal operations with imprinted 6.40 Kč postage stamp (Fig. 3). The stamp drawing shows

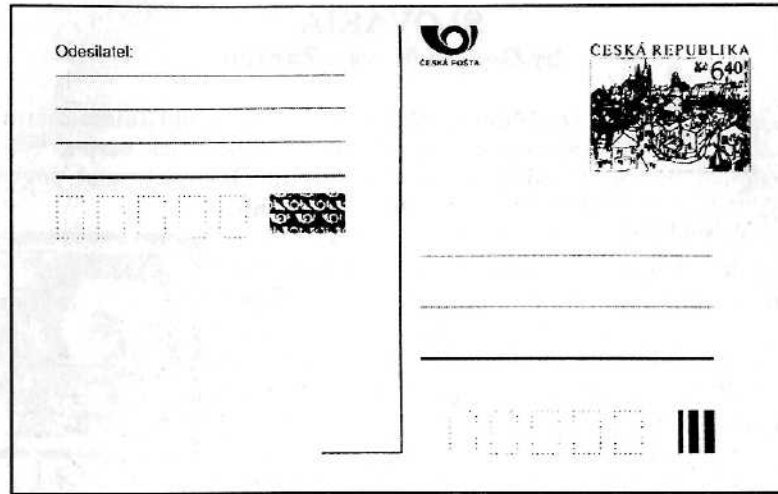


Fig. 3

a view of "Nový Svět" (New World) with the Prague Castle in the background. The drawing originates from the imprinted 5.40 Kč stamp on a postal card issued in 2001, but its color is more expressive. The card was designed by Alfred Fuchs and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 7.10 Kč.

5. On September 1, 2002, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted 6.40 Kč stamp for commercial and promotional use with the left side free and reserved for surcharges (Fig. 4). The stamp shows a graphical arrangement of the value 6.40 Kč and was designed by Jan Šolpera. The card was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by offset. It sells for 7.10 Kč.

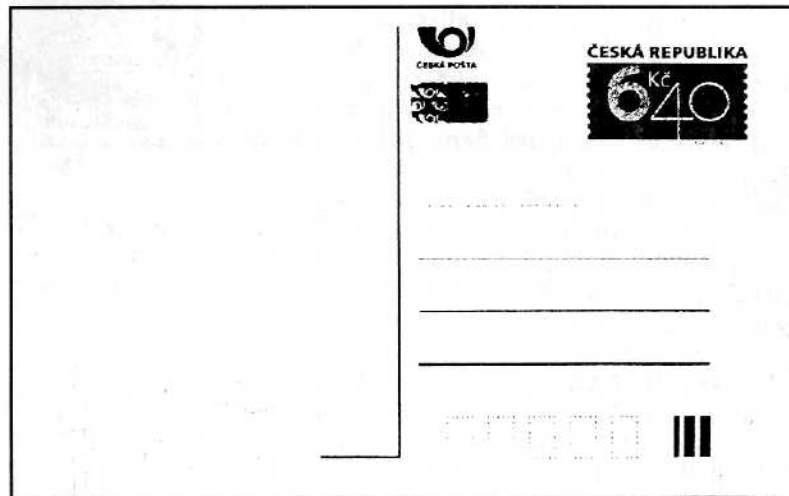


Fig. 4

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

6. On January 15, 2002, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the "Personalities" series. The stamps were designed by Jozef Baláž, drawn by Martin Činovský, and engraved by František Horniak. A FDC was issued for each stamp.

-- 10 Sk - Juraj Papánek (Apr. 1, 1738 - Apr. 11, 1802)(Fig. 5) - historian, author of the first preserved systematic history of Slovak territory and nation. He was born in Kuklov to a yeoman's family and studied philosophy in Budapest, jurisprudence in Eger, and theology in Pécs. In the Pécs diocese, he was a chaplain, a priest, and finally a dean in the Olasz village where he died and is buried. From among his wide ranging work especially *The History of the Slovak Nation (Historia gentis Slavae)* deserves notice. He considers the Slovaks



Fig. 5

to be the earliest known nation (autochthony) in the Carpathian Valley. The other Slavonic nations extended from there, so the Slovak language was the origin of all Slavonic languages. In 14 chapters he devoted the most attention to the Great Moravian Empire and its greatest ruler Svätopluk. He unequivocally ascribes the heritage of Cyril and Methodius and its connection with the origins of Christianity to the Slovaks (in Papánek's time the historians of several nations tried to appropriate the heritage to their countries). His work became a manual for the renaissance generation. The founder of world Slavonic studies, P.J. Šafárik, also accepted his theory of the autochthony of the Slovaks and Slavs.

-- 14 Sk - Björnstjerne Björnson (Dec. 8, 1832 - Apr. 26, 1910)(Fig. 6) - Norwegian author, poet, dramatist and editor, 1903 Nobel Laureate in literature, representative of Scandinavian realism, and fighter for the rights of oppressed nations. As editor, he fought for the rights of oppressed nations and especially for the equality of the Slavic nations in Austro-Hungary. Defending them, he unleashed fierce polemics against Count Apponyi, the originator of the anti-Slovak language act. The Count was the Hungarian minister at the international peace congress in Munich, 1907. Björnson raised world public opinion by informing them of the bloodshed in Černová near Ružomberok. With his articles on the electoral system and the freedom of meetings in Hungary, he drew attention to the existing Slovak cause.



Fig. 6

7. On January 25, 2002, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games 2002" (Fig. 7). Salt Lake City hosted the XIX Winter Olympic Games, and following Lake Placid (1932 and 1980) and Squaw Valley (1960), it is the third place in the USA to be so honored. The Slovak Olympic team took part in these games. The stamp was designed by Ivan

Schurmann, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

8. On February 8, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "European Sled Dog Race Championship, Donovaly 2002" (Fig. 8). The sled dog race has become a most attractive winter sport. In Slovakia there are a hundred mushers organized into 17 clubs that have achieved significant success in a short period of time. Thousands of spectators (especially children) come out to watch these competitions. The stamp was designed by Peter Uchnár, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

9. On February 15, 2002, the Ministry issued a 5.50 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Easter" (Fig. 9). A stamp issue dedicated to the feast and season of Easter can be regularly found in the postal stamp issue plans of the Slovak Republic. The design for this year's stamp was selected by means of a competition among 15 participants ranging from experienced stamp creators to beginning artists from art academies and visual arts programs. The winner of the competition and thus the designer of this stamp was Professor Karol Ondreička. His design shows Jesus carrying a white banner with a red cross in it. Jesus is walking through a field of flowers, perhaps lilies of the valley. It was engraved by Martin Srb and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 9

10. On March 20, 2002, the Ministry issued a set of three stamps commemorating the First Slovak Gymnasium (schools). These three Slovak secondary Christian schools were established without the support of the state. The gymnasiums were supervised and materially supported by a patronage group which included important personalities of Slovak national life. The gymnasium played a progressive role in Slovak national history and many intellectuals -- national and cultural personalities -- were educated there. These were the only schools in which the Slovak youth could be educated in their mother tongue. Slovak patronage gymnasiums played an important and irreplaceable role in the history of the Slovak nation and of the educational system. All three stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. Each was issued with a FDC.



Fig. 10

-- 12 Sk, Martin (Fig. 10) -- this gymnasium was opened in 1867 as the second Lutheran patronage gymnasium. It educated students in their mother tongue in democratic, Slavonic and national spirit and a predominantly humanitarian character. It was attended by 671 students who came from all over Slovakia from different social strata. It was abolished in 1875. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and engraved by Miloš Ondráček.



Fig. 11

-- 13 Sk, Revúca (Fig. 11) - in the 1860's, Revúca became one of the centers of Slovak national life. The Slovak Lutheran gymnasium, the first of the gymnasiums, was opened in September 16, 1862 -- it was the first complete secondary school in Slovak history. Altogether 556 students attended the gymnasium, of which one in every six became a personality in Slovak national history. Because the gymnasium played an important role in the Slovak national uprising effort, the negative attacks against the school escalated and the

gymnasium was closed on August 20, 1874. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovic and engraved by Miloš Ondráček.

-- 15 Sk, Kláštor pod Znievom (Fig. 12) - this Catholic patronage gymnasium was established in 1869. During its existence it became a national uprising center of its region. It had the "pushiest" or most radical curriculum from among the Slovak gymnasiums. The gymnasium was closed in 1874. The stamp was designed by Doc. Robert Jancovic and engraved by Arnold Feke.



Fig. 12

11. On April 18, 2002, the Ministry issued a 16 Sk definitive stamp entitled "Levoča" from the series on Slovak cities (Fig. 13). The ancient city of Levoča arose around the year 1245 with German colonization after a



Fig. 13

Tartar raid on old Slavonic settlements. The town is situated in the Hornád valley and in the middle of the Spiš region. The earliest written reference of Levoča is from 1249 when Hungarian King Stefan V mentioned Levoča in conferring the privilege as the capital of the Saxon Province. Its rapid economic growth was aided by its advantageous location on important long distance trade routes and the granting to it of several rights, e.g. the right of store bestowed upon it by Karol Robert in 1321. By the 16th century, Levoča became an

important economic center in Europe, but battles against Turks and anti-Habsburg insurrections held back its promising growth. The disastrous fire in 1550 contributed to its splendid reconstruction as a Gothic town in the Renaissance style. Levoča also became a center of arts and crafts with 40 craft guilds being there in the 18th century. Although its economic prosperity declined in the 19th century, it

became the administrative center of the Spiš region and was the seat of many secondary schools. [Also reference my article in the Nov/Dec 1997 SPECIALIST.] The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

12. On May 6, 2002, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp from the EUROPA series which is entitled "Circus" and shows the oil painting *Clown with Trumpet*, 1990, by Emil Bačík, 1929 - 1999 (Fig. 14). The circus is a great historical phenomenon. It is characterized by the clown -- his mask and the contrast between joy and sorrow -- and by the big top full of colors and the hope above it. Bačík said, "I could stand near a circus for hours even though there was no performance yet. I loved everything about the circus, including what it meant." Emil Bačík was the artist of clowns and women, of smiles, posters, book illustrations, and unforgettable trademarks of Makyta, the Slovak Savings Bank and many others. He brought the fantasy of the circus environment, the grace of a child's face, and the charm of women's femininity. He was born on May 4, 1929 in Piešťany and studied at the University of Art Industry in Prague. He kept asking questions, formulating answers, discovered many truths, learned to create, and thus painted life and its variants. The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 14

13. On May 6, 2002, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk definitive stamp entitled "Kežmarok" from the Slovak cities series (Fig. 15). The historical town of Kežmarok is located in the Poprad River valley between the steeply rising High Tatras Mountains to the west, tree covered Levočské Mountains to the east and picturesque Spišská Magura Hills to the north. The first written record of Kežmarok dates from 1251, and a few years later, in 1269, it was granted town privileges. In the 15th century, having become a Free Royal Town, it gained further important economic and political privileges. Its position on important merchant routes connecting the north of Europe with the Orient helped local crafts, schools, trade and culture to flourish over the centuries. Kežmarok today is the administrative center of its district as well as the Spiš region. Many fine examples of Romanesque, gothic, renaissance and baroque architectural styles grace the town square which has an unusual long V-shape with the majestic Town Hall and the Thököly Castle on the opposite ends. Two more significant buildings of the town -- the

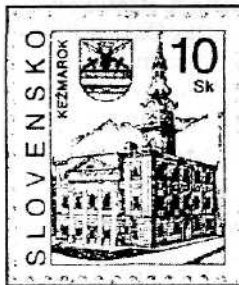


Fig. 15

Wooden Articular Church and the Lyceum -- are listed among the National Cultural Monuments of Slovakia. The stamp was designed and engraved by František

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Horniak and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

14. On June 24, 2002, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps from the Technical Monuments series commemorating Old Winemaking Implements. Both stamps are set-tenant with a label. They were designed by Karol Kallay and engraved by Václav Fajt and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued for each.

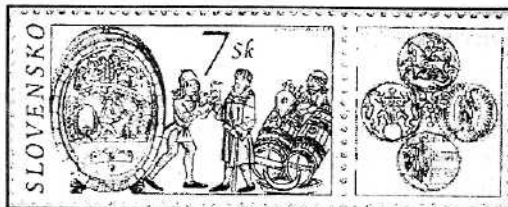


Fig. 16

-- 7 Sk stamp (Fig. 16) shows a decorated wine cask, two people wine tasting, and a worker filling casks with a bellows. The accompanying label shows four medals representing wineries.



Fig. 17

-- 9 Sk stamp (Fig. 17) shows a wine press and two workers carrying an exaggerated bunch of grapes. The accompanying label shows four medals depicting winemaking activities.

15. On June 26, 2002, the Ministry issued a commemorative sheet containing Butterflies (Fig. 18). The multicolored printing sheet contains three stamps side-by-side with stamp sized labels in the top portion and a group of seven butterflies in the lower portion. The stamps and sheet were designed by Karol Felix and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset.

-- 10 Sk, Southern Festoon - *Zerynthia polyxena* (swallowtails family -- *Papilionidae*). It is common in the warmest areas of Central Europe, in steppe and forest-steppe stands up to 900 meters above sea level, where the Calico Flower (*Aristolochia*) -- foodplant for caterpillars -- grows. Southern Festoon has a local occurrence. The butterfly is striking with its bright colors. It flies from March to June. Today it is becoming extinct at many places because its foodplant appears rarely. It is a protected species. The cancellation on its FDC shows the Old World Swallowtail butterfly.

-- 16 Sk, European Peacock - *Inachis io* (peacock family -- *Nymphalidae*). We can identify the European Peacock butterfly by the garish eye-spot pattern on the front wings. The eye-spots frighten off enemies. This butterfly occurs in dry and hot sands from lowlands to hills. It forms two generations (from March to May, and from August to autumn). It hibernates in ceilings, cellars, hollow trees, and other protected places. In mild weather it soon begins to fly. The female does not lay eggs earlier than May. Black caterpillars covered with spiky horns feed mostly on nettle



Fig. 18

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leaves. Butterflies hatch from pupas at the end of June. The cancellation on its FDC shows the Apollo butterfly.

-- 25 Sk, Old World Swallowtail - *Papilio machaon* (swallowtail family -- *Papilionidae*). The Old World Swallowtail belongs to the most bright and beautiful as well as biggest butterflies in Central Europe. It flies up to 2,000 meters above sea level. It has two generations -- the first appears from the end of April to the first half of June, the second occurs from the first half of July to August. The third generation can appear from September to October during warm seasons. It prefers flowery meadows, copses of clover and alfalfa at open hilly areas and lowlands. Generally, it is very scarce and occurs in small isolated populations. The caterpillars live with wild carrot plants. It is protected by law. The cancellation on its FDC shows the Peacock butterfly.

16. On July 4, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Congratulations" with an attached "personalizable" coupon (Fig. 19). The stamp shows two doves above a bed of flowers. By the publication of a personalizable issue, the Slovak Post of Banská Bystrica wants to enrich the production of postal stamps in a form which is attractive for philatelists as well as for the general public. The issue of this stamp with a personalizable coupon gives the anyone the opportunity to print one's own portrait or some collective photography on the coupon. Stamps with an unprinted coupon can not be sold. Part of the print run,



Fig. 19

aimed for FDC and free sale at the "Slovakia 2002" exhibition (July 4 - 10, 2002, Slovak National Museum, Bratislava), was released with the logo of the exhibition on the coupon. The rest of the print run is aimed for personalization by surcharging the coupon. Stamps with personalized coupons (on printing sheets of 12 stamps and 12 coupons) can be made at the Post Technical Center of the Slovak Post, Bratislava on July 4 - 10, 2002, or beginning July 11, 2002 at their work place at 52 Kukucínova Street, Bratislava. To have your personalized stamps printed, you have to fill out a form which is available at certain post offices and in the Post Technical Center in Bratislava. The stamp was designed by Alexej Vojtášek and engraved by Václav Fajt. It was produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary

recess printing combined with recess printing in printing sheets of 12 stamps and 12 coupons. A FDC was issued having the "Slovakia 2002" logo on the coupon.



Fig. 20

17. On July 4, 2002, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk stamp commemorating the Slovaks being the World Ice Hockey Champions 2002 (Fig. 20). When the ČSFR [1989 - 1992] divided, the

successor's rights to membership in the A group of the Ice Hockey World Championships devolved to the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, Slovak representation had to struggle for a return to the prime ice hockey venue. After winning in the C group at the World Championship 1994 in England, Slovakia won in the B group in Bratislava a year later and progressed to the world's hockey elite. Subsequent victories -- 6th place at the Lillehammer Winter Olympic Games, the silver medal at the World Championship 2002 in St. Petersburg -- helped establish hockey traditions. The contrast between the Slovak participation at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games and their recent feat managed a few years later at the World Championship 2002, confirms the statement about the fickleness of sport's fortune. Real professionalism, fighting spirit and sport heart are celebrating the recent triumph. A basis for future successes is being laid on Slovak ice. This multicolored stamp showing a Slovak hockey player celebrating the victory along with the trophy was designed by Ivan Schurmann, typographed by Martin Činovský, and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

18. On July 4, 2002, the Ministry issued a sheetlet containing a 17 Sk stamp commemorating Cardinal Alexander Rudnay (Oct. 4, 1760 - Sept. 13, 1831)(Fig. 21). He was born to a yeoman's family in Svätý Kríž nad Váhom (today a part of Považany). He studied at the gymnasium in Nitra, at Emerikána in Bratislava, philosophy in Trnava, theology in Budín and at the general seminary in Bratislava. He acted as a priest in Častá, Hronsky Benadik, Trnava and Krusovce. He became Esztergom's canon in 1805, titular bishop in 1808 and later Esztergom's general vicar and governor's counsellor, bishop in Alba Iulii in 1815, Esztergom's archbishop in 1819, high Hungarian civil dignitary prince, Hungarian primate and cardinal from 1828. As archbishop primate, he dedicated himself to improve the church



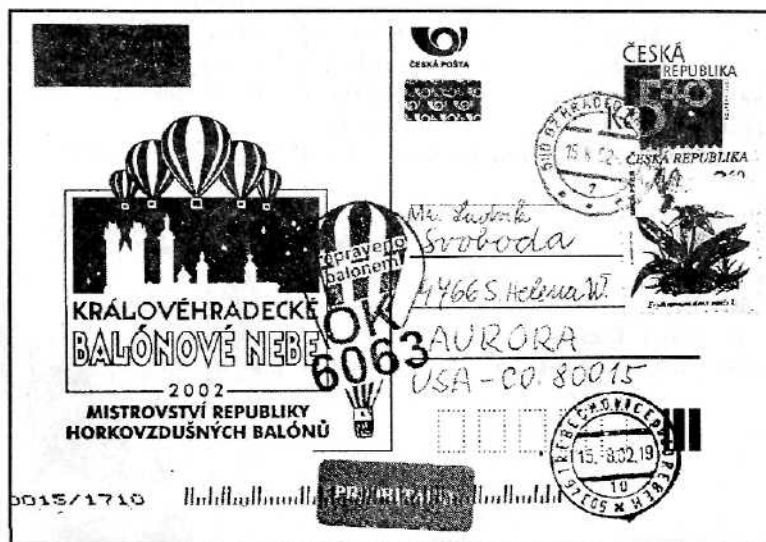
Fig. 21

educational system, to reorganize clerical studies, to publish religious literature and textbooks. He supported the construction of churches, gave an impulse to build a monumental basilica in Esztergom, and moved the archbishop's seat to Esztergom. Cardinal Rudnay was an enlightened intellectual, church and national official, member and patron of the Slovak learned journeycraft, supporter of Bernolák's followers and the Slovak national movement. When appointed as cardinal, he said to Pope Leo XIII: "I am a Slovak, and even if I would sit on Peter's stool, I still would be a Slovak". The sheetlet with its stamp was designed by Prof. Dušan Kállay and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates. A FDC was issued.

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

You have most likely received a post card from Karel Holoubek from the balloon flight [May/June 2002, pg37, Hradec Králové's Sky of Balloons, August]. This time around there is a little story attached to the flight. The balloon landed a few hundred meters short of the field where it was supposed to land. Instead it landed in the middle of the street and hit the streetcar wires. The balloon's skin got singed, but luckily no major fire occurred. The fire department had to be called to lower the pilot to the ground. Also, the police arrived to investigate this as any other street accident. As such they gave the pilot an alcohol test and found his alcohol



level was at 1.7%. [Figure 1 shows the referenced postal card. It was dispatched from Hradec Králové 2, 15.8.02 - 6, and arrival canceled Třebechovice pod Orebem, 15.-8.02.19. With the above information, it is really a shame that it is not hand-stamped "Balloon Crash, 15 August 2002".]

Sincerely
Savoy (Horvath)

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

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