



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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No. 2, Whole No. 578

WESTPEX 2003 by Richard Palaschak

Here are the latest details about our participation at WESTPEX 2003 in San Francisco, April 25-27, Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Avenue (at Geary Street). Those members who have access to the Internet can get the absolutely latest information from our web site (address found on page 2).

The Board of Director's meeting will take place immediately prior to the exhibition on Thursday, 24 April, 1 - 7 p.m., room 375, at the show location. Interested Society members may attend as observers. That evening we are planning an informal dinner for all who would like to attend; check the web site for the location and time or get these details at the board meeting.

Show Hours: 25 April, Friday, 10 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.

26 April, Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

27 April, Sunday, 10 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

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WESTPEX 2003 (Continued from Page 1)

The SCP General Membership meeting takes place Saturday, 26 April, 10 a.m.-12 noon, in room Telegraph Hill B. As a conclusion, Jaroslav Verner will make a presentation on "The Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France", which is the title of the book he has recently published. Don't miss this fascinating topic presented by a consummate author.

We will hold a Society Awards breakfast on Sunday morning. Check at our Society table for location and time, and also sign up there.

Speaking of our Society table, look for it near the Admissions Desk for the show. Times and locations of events may change, so make sure that upon your arrival you check in at our table for the latest information and to sign up for events. There you will also find most of our literature to order, as well as a focal point for discussions about the latest Czechoslovak philatelic topics.

We hope to see, meet, and talk with all of our West Coast members at the show.

Farewells

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the recent passing of our member, Jerry Sudlik, of Hinsdale, Illinois. We extend our sincerest sympathies to the entire Sudlik family.

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SOME RARE KOŠICE ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION OF KAREL FISCHER

by Henry Hahn

Some of our members may know Karel, a modest but most knowledgeable member of our Society, living in Burlington, Ontario. His collecting specialty is relatively narrow -- just the 1945 Košice issue -- but to some of us, it is a philatelic powerhouse. He seldom exhibits in the USA, where most judges are unfamiliar with this issue. Unfortunately he also missed the recent FEPA show, SLOVAKIA 2002, held in Bratislava, where his exhibit would most likely not have been overlooked for a solid "Gold". After years of prodding (by the author), Karel has finally permitted publication of just four (4) of his interesting rarities.

The first one is an innocent looking First Day Cover, a relatively common item in most issues (Fig. 1). But have you ever seen one? I doubt it, since the one in Karel Fischer's collection is the ONLY recorded FDC, postmarked on March 26, 1945. The date on the cancellation is hard to read, but it is there.

The second rarity is in the souvenir sheet of the Košice issue (Scott #310, Pofis A360/62) with a plate flaw in position 8 of the plate. This was first announced in *FILATELIE* no. 5 of 1988. The fault was uncovered and in due time retouched. The better known plate flaw in position 2, generally referred to as the "broken leg", was never retouched. More recently *FILATELIE* indicated that in the last two years, only three (3) have been recorded with the plate flaw in position 8, illustrated in



Figure 1: Uniquely Recorded FDC of the Košice Issue, March 26, 1945

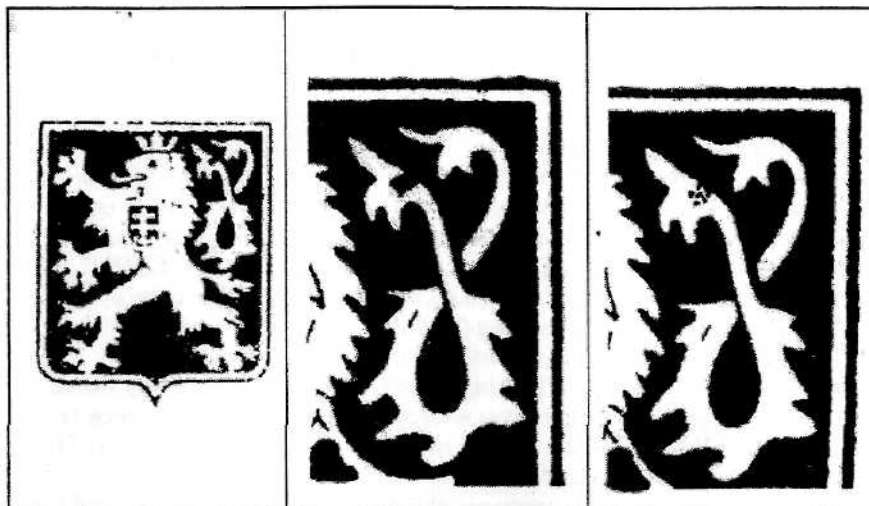


Figure 2: Plate Flaw in position 8 (center) and its retouch (right)

Figure 2. Karel Fischer's collection includes a fourth such flawed sheet, which has been in his possession for the past 40 years. Since publication of this find in a past SPECIALIST -- with a request that our readers carefully examine their Košice



Figure 3: Souvenir Sheet Signed by Dr. Eduard Beneš

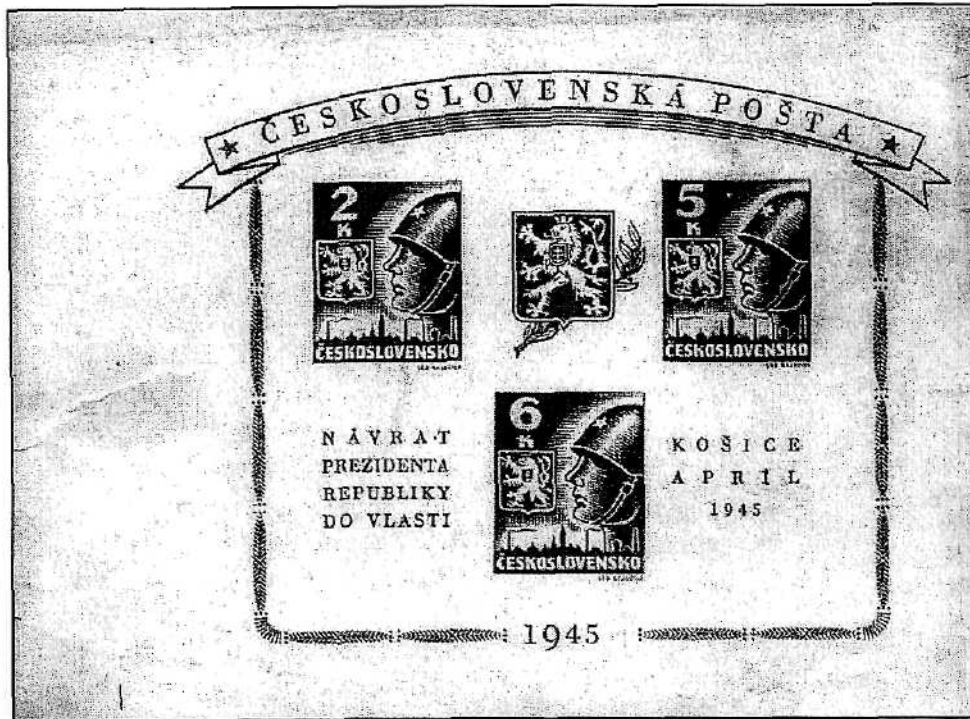


Figure 4: Unissued Košice Souvenir Sheet

souvenir sheets -- ten (10) more have been recorded.

The Košice Souvenir Sheet was issued on the day of President Eduard Beneš's return to Czechoslovakia from exile. On occasion of the first anniversary of the President's return, i.e. March 26, 1946, he signed eight (8) such sheets. At this time the presence of only one (1) genuine signed souvenir sheet is known, and that is in the Karel Fischer collection (Fig. 3). A photo-certificate -- certifying genuineness of the Beneš signature -- issued by the President and Secretary of the Club of Slovak Philatelists of Košice accompanies this (so far) unique sheet. Nothing is known of the other seven (7) signed sheets.

The final rarity is an unissued souvenir sheet with the heading "ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ POŠTA" in curved form, rather than in a straight line, and with an olive branch across the Czech Lion seal at the center. This sheet was auctioned for the first time on April 14, 2001 by the auction firm KLIM in Brno. The sheet offered was slightly damaged by a small tear. The starting bid was 248,000 Kč. It sold for 273,000 Kč which included the 5% sales fee (i.e. close to \$10,000). The unissued sheet is ungummed.

Two sound and very fine copies, plate positions 3 and 6, are in the Karel Fischer collection (Fig. 4).

MYSTERIOUS CANCELLATION

by Lubor Kunc

A few years back I found a typical postcard from the 30's franked with a common stamp (Bedřich Smetana issue, Fig. 1) sent from Prague to Ostrava. You could say that since it was such a common card and common stamp, why should we be talking about it? It is because it contains some interesting and unexpected features.



Fig. 1

Let us look at the card from a philatelic point of view. The first cancel that was applied to the card comes from the post office PRAHA 25, which is responsible for handling the mail from all of the letterboxes in Prague. This post office used the Universal canceling machine (which was produced by the American company called Universal; see the article by Mr. Small in SPECIALIST No. 5/2000). Because the addressee was not present in Ostrava, the Moravská Ostrava 3 post office (responsible for that district of the town) applied another cancellation -- using the Norwegian KRAG cancel machine -- and forwarded the card to Hostomice. This sequence of events produced the first interesting feature, that is, the card contained cancels from both of the canceling machines which producers were currently delivering to the Czechoslovak Postal Administration.

Now we can look at the cancels from the average man's point of view. The Ostrava cancel contains the text "RADIO-PRAHA" / "JE JEDINÉ PŘÍMÉ" / "RADIOVÉ SPOJENÍ" / "ČSR S AMERIKOU" (in English: Radio-Prague / is the only direct / radio connection between / Czechoslovakia and America), which is the second interesting feature of this card.

The first idea that crossed my mind when I saw the slogan was the question, what kind of organization was RADIO-PRAHA? I started my Internet browser and

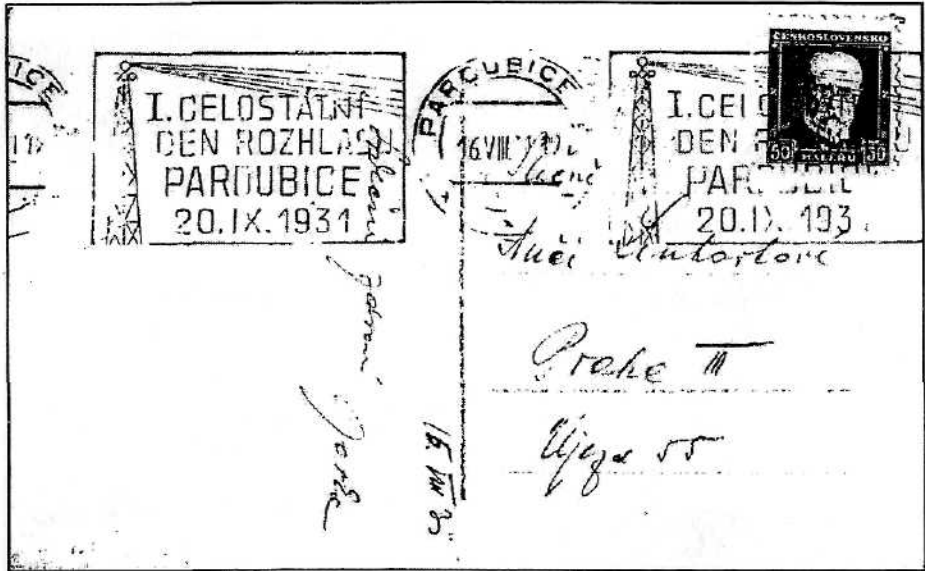


Fig. 2a

immediately found the web site, www.radio.cz, which belongs to the still existing Radio Praha! I contacted the people there and received a great deal of interesting information about the history and existence of the public radio station.

One of the first attempts to connect Czechoslovakia with countrymen living abroad was made in 1924 by the radio station Radiojournal. The first languages used during broadcasting were English and Esperanto, while the primary content of the broadcasts was music.

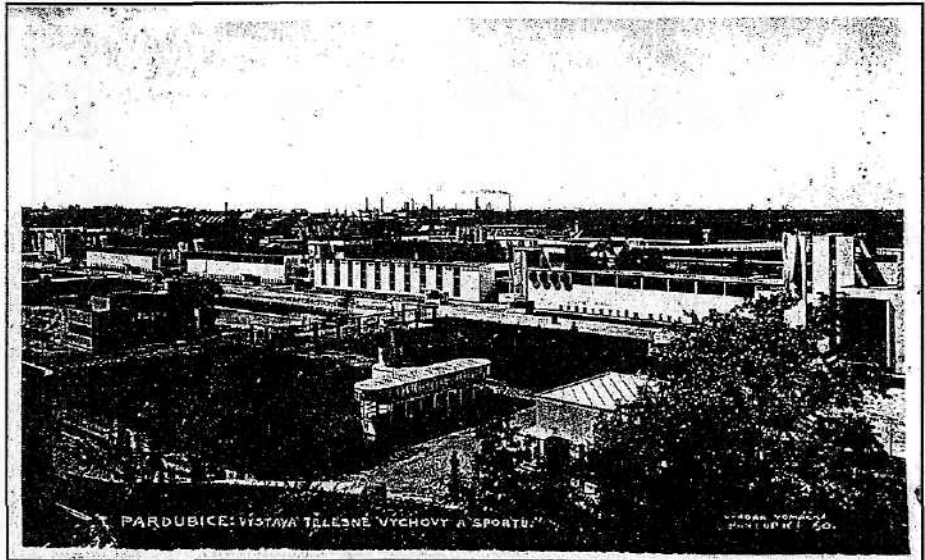


Fig. 2b

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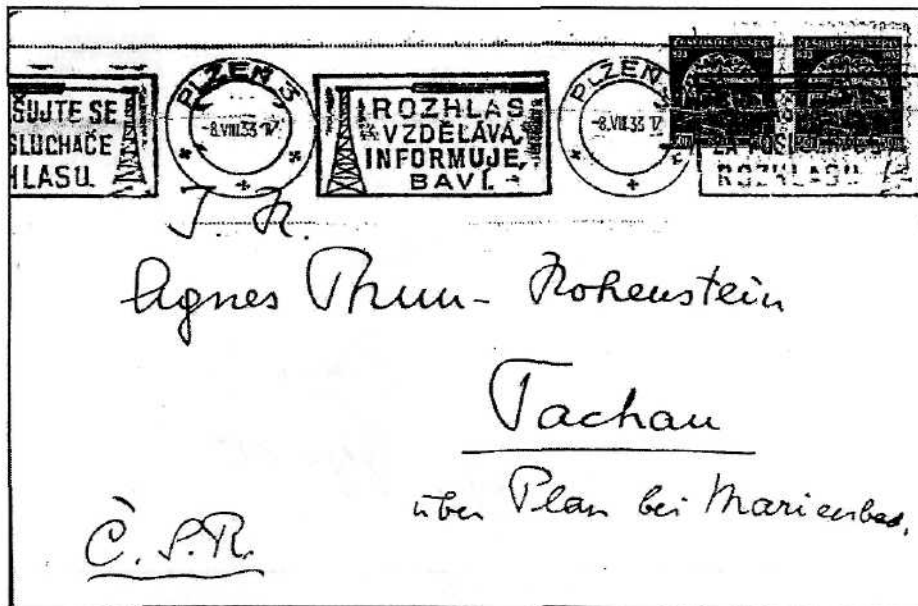


Fig. 3

In 1926 a new transmitter was built in the Strašnice district of Prague. It was one of the most powerful transmitters in all of Europe allowing for broadcasts throughout the Atlantic, but only on an irregular basis.



Fig. 4

Important progress occurred in broadcasting in the early 30's. Some nice proof of this progress is the post card of July 1931 shown in Figures 2a/b. This card was sent from Pardubice with a special cancel celebrating the First Czechoslovak Radio Day to be held on Sept. 20, 1931. The picture side of the card shows the exhibition area in the town of Pardubice. The small structure in the lower middle belonged to a company called Radiotechna Přelouč, which was the forerunner of the subsequently established radio apparatus producer Tesla Přelouč which was a Czechoslovak "monopoly". The Tesla Přelouč Company belonged to the State until 2001, at which time it went bankrupt.

Figure 3 shows a 1933 letter addressed to the countess of Thun-Hohenstein with a special cancel commemorating the broadcasting industry and radio fee payments. The text reads ROZHLAS / VZDĚLÁVÁ / INFORMUJE / BAVÍ (the radio / teaches you / informs you / entertains you) and PŘIHLAŠUJTE SE / ZA POSLUCHAČE / ROZHLASU (subscribe to / the concession / for radio equipment) *[in those days you had to pay a monthly service charge on radio equipment, similar to fees and taxes on telephones today]*.

In the middle of the 30's the radio industry began to press the public to use the radio. One of the ways was a special Christmas contest, the winners of which could listen to the radio free for 3 - 12 months. To make the contest more popular, the radio industry prepared a special machine cancel that was used at the Prague 25 post office in December 1935 (Fig. 4). They also made information about the contest available at all Czechoslovak post offices.

There was new progress made in overseas broadcasting in 1934 through the decision to build a new transmitter in Poděbrady; it was put into service on August 31, 1936. On that date the newly founded radio station Radio Praha began its broadcasting. Beginning at that time the broadcasting content was news, music and lectures, and the languages used were Czech, Slovak, German, English, and French. In addition, the Brno and Ostrava branches of Radio Praha broadcast in Esperanto!

In 1937 broadcasting was divided into three sections -- the first was aimed at America, the second at the Orient, and the third at Europe. But while the content remained the same as in 1936, the broadcasting was made in more languages -- also in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Serbian. The broadcasting time was 4 hours every day.

In 1938 broadcasting was divided into four parts -- the American section was divided into two parts (one for North American and another for South America) and the Orient and Europe each had one part. The broadcasting time increased up to 22 hours per day -- especially in September and October 1938 when Germany occupied the Sudetenland. Thanks to the political situation in Europe the main content of broadcasting was political news.

The unrestrained broadcasting of Radio Praha ended on March 15, 1939, when Hitler occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia. Immediately after this the station staff was changed, and the Nazis started daily 3 hour broadcasts to Czechoslovaks in North America - but due to the content of the broadcasting it was not successful.

Normal broadcasting was resumed in 1945. The American section was re-established along with the Czech, Slovak, and French ones, etc. Radical changes occurred on April 28, 1948, when the state decided to control all broadcasting in Czechoslovakia. In 1952 Radio Praha was chosen as the official Czechoslovak radio station for foreign broadcasting (some of you will probably remember its philatelic broadcasting in conjunction with the world exhibition PRAGA 62). This was the situation until 1990 when the foreign language broadcasting was stopped for 5 months. Then on May 7, 1990, broadcasting in English, French, German, and



Fig. 5a

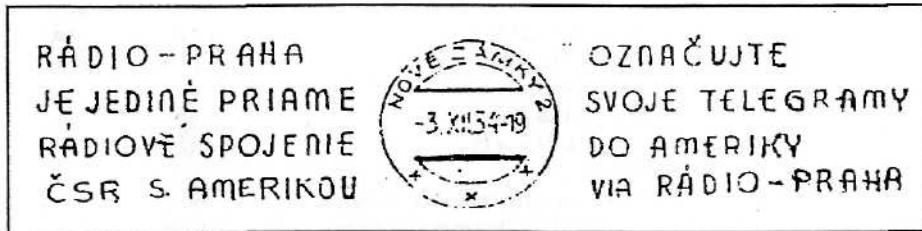


Fig. 5b

Spanish was resumed -- and it continues through today. Since 1994 the broadcasts are carried via the Internet, and since 1995 it is possible to listen to the radio station in Europe and North America via satellite.

This should be the end of this story about my finding a "normal" postcard, but it is not. When you compare the cancellation date of the card (1934) and the broadcasting start date of Radio Praha (1936), you will see that something is wrong. I continued my searching and have found a solution as to how to explain the difference.

I have found complete cancellations saying: "RADIO-PRAGUE / IS THE ONLY

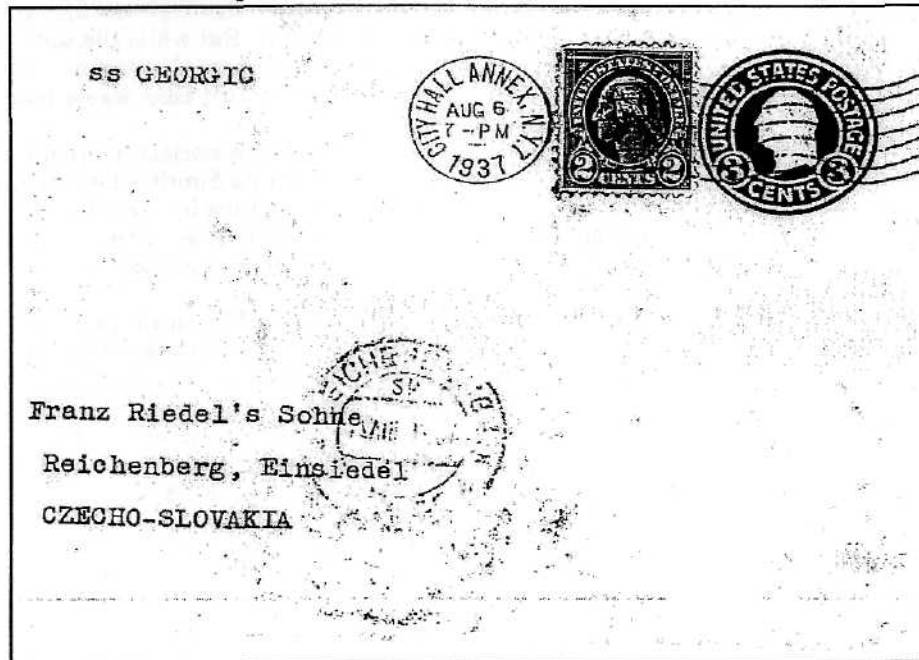


Fig. 6

DIRECT / RADIO CONNECTION BETWEEN / CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND AMERICA" plus "MARK / YOUR TELEGRAMS / TO AMERICA / VIA RADIO-PRAGUE". At Figure 5a you can see the cancel in the Czech language used at the Uherské Hradiště post office and at Figure 5b you see it in the Slovak language used at the Nové Zámky post office. This cancellation shows that the broadcasts were used for telegram messages and not for radio news! The only remaining question is -- what was Radio Prague for? This could be explained by realizing that the phrase "via Radio-Prague" was not the name of an organization but rather just notification to the postman to send all telegrams to Prague for their transmission -- the same procedure as we know, for example, from ship mail when letters sent from/to the USA were marked by a phrase like "s/s Georgic" to show the required means of transportation (Fig. 6).

And this is the real end of the article. I would like to express my thanks to all of the people of the Radio Praha radio station for providing me with excellent information about their radio station and about the beginnings of radio broadcasting in Czechoslovakia.

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

REMOVING PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE STAMPS USING NAPHTHA

by Jack H. Copeland

[Readers are cautioned to be sure to follow safety directions on the container when using chemicals to soak stamps, watermark stamps, or for any other philatelic or non-philatelic applications. JFD]

Why use water? Most, but not all pressure sensitive adhesive (psa) stamps are easily removed in a water bath followed by being pressed in a stamp drying (blotter-type) book. This is certainly the most desirable method as the psa stays on the paper wrapper and the stamps end up just as if they had actually been water-based adhesive (wba) issues.

Why soak them off in naphtha? Unfortunately, not all psa stamps soak damage-free of their psa in a water bath due to several possible factors. Perhaps the wba that was supposed to be sprayed on the back of the stamp was unevenly applied, was applied in too thin a coating or perhaps not even used.

- When you water-soak a particular psa stamp for longer than its normal release time (15-20 minutes) and you still can't easily lift a corner, stop: more than likely you will tear or delaminate the stamp's paper or simply ruin it in frustration if you proceed. When a psa stamp seems to resist a water bath removal and you really wish to save it, simply set it aside to dry (overnight) and then use a naphtha removal method later on.

- Also, there are several psa issues that are known to be easily damaged using

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a water bath removal method: the Adoption issue (Scott 3398), all psa stamps printed on what appear to be clay-coated type papers (like some of the Xmas Deer issues -- Sc. 3356-3367), and the other issues you have found difficult to remove for whatever reasons.

In my case I always use the naphtha method to remove the Nature in America, Sc. 3356-3359 and 3364-67 Christmas Deer, Adoption and similar stamps if for no other reason than they are scarce used and I don't want to risk damaging them. When you read statements like "water soaking for three to four hours works well on some difficult psa stamps", don't bother. Use a naphtha process instead, and complete the task in less than a minute.

Naphtha. There are many flammable hydrocarbon diluents and solvents being sold. Naphtha, one of them, is a short-chain hydrocarbon diluent that comes in two basic types: aromatic (coal based) and aliphatic (petroleum based). When I buy ordinary off-the-shelf naphtha, I get either a quart or (usually) a gallon can of VM&P (petroleum based) naphtha at a large paint store.

MAKE CERTAIN YOU READ AND OBSERVE THE CAUTIONS PRINTED ON THE NAPHTHA CAN. I keep my VM&P Naphtha on my desk in a 1/3 full NAPHTHA labelled small, sealed baby food jar (my 'N-jar'), which is about 3 1/2 inches high and 2 1/4 inches in diameter. Also note: Naphtha stamp removal and cleanup is a messy process.

Having said all this, what follows is not necessarily 'The Correct naphtha removal method' but simply MY '4-step Naphtha Removal Method' of separating psa stamps from their backings and then processing them for my collection.

Naphtha psa Stamp Removal:

Step 1. Closely trim the (paper) backing around the psa stamp and drop/dip it into the little 'N-jar' for about 5 seconds. Remove it with your tongs and, starting at one of the stamp's corners, carefully (slowly) peel the stamp from its backing.

Fact: Naphtha doesn't work like water. It doesn't dissolve the psa, allowing the stamp to float free. Naphtha only softens/swells the psa, allowing the stamp to be slowly removed. Why? Because the softened adhesive delaminates; one half layer of psa comes off with the stamp and the other half layer remains on the backing.

Step 2. Dip the stamp back into the 'N-jar' for 2-3 seconds, remove it and place it face down on a clean piece of white paper. You may want to use the back side of a used paper sheet, because you will discard this sheet when you are finished. Take some sort of flexible narrow plastic scraper and 'shovel' the softened adhesive off the back of the stamp.

Start at the stamp's center and scrape the adhesive outward past the perforations. At this point the stamp will appear to be free of the adhesive -- but it won't be. Note: I made my scrapers by cutting 1/2 x 2 inch strips from the flat side of an old, square soft plastic (Tupperware-type) freezer carton. Scrapers cut from a plastic coffee can cover also work but are thinner and a bit more difficult to use.

Step 3. Dip the stamp back again into the 'N-jar' for 2-3 seconds, remove it and carefully observe its back. You will see some very small 'beads' laying on its surface -- which are remaining spots of adhesive. You can again 'shovel' and then

wipe the back clean, using a small piece of naphtha-dampened facial tissue. At this point you are almost done but sometimes a bit of 'scraped-off' adhesive will migrate onto the face of the stamp.

Step 4. Dip the stamp back into the 'N-jar' a fourth time, for 1-2 seconds, remove it, and using a clean portion of the dampened facial tissue, wipe both its face (first) and its back (last).

Testing: Set the stamp(s) aside, and a few minutes later (after you have removed any adhesive from your fingers and washed and dried your hands), press a couple of clean fingers on both the front and back of each stamp. A stamp will stick to your dry fingers if you failed to remove all of the adhesive. If so, repeat Step 4.

Inks: Most stamps can be left in the 'N-jar' for several hours without any apparent damage to their inks, but a few cannot. I've had problems on some issues when leaving them in the 'N-jar' overnight. (I once had a \$2.00 Bobcat, Sc. 2482, actually change color.) As a precaution, if possible, place an unwanted duplicate of the psa issue you want to remove with naphtha in the 'N-jar' for a few minutes, remove it (still on its backing) and wipe its face with a dampened tissue to see what, if anything, happens to the inks. A 3-5 second naphtha dip rarely affects even the most sensitive ink.

Scotch-type Tapes: If the psa tape hasn't been on the stamp very long it can usually be easily removed using a 30 minute or so soak in naphtha. However, the plastic backing will come off clean and the psa will still be on the stamp so you will still have to use Steps 2-4 above to clean it up. Naphtha won't, however, remove an older, brownish-tape stain.

A real life situation: A psa stamp overlays a portion of an 'adjacent' psa or wba stamp and you wish to save the 'adjacent' stamp (or both). Whether you use a water or naphtha removal method, the adjacent stamp's covered area will still have its share of the psa on its face. Assume both are issues easily removed in a water bath. What to do? Closely trim the backing around both stamps and dip the psa stamp in the 'N-jar' for 5-10 seconds. Carefully feel off the covering psa stamp and press it face up on a small piece of white paper. Clip off the (now uncovered) backing closer to the adjacent stamp and use naphtha Steps 2 & 3 above to clean off the remaining psa on its face. Now you can soak them both off in a water bath.

When dry, a properly naphtha-processed stamp usually will not be curled, its paper will not have been noticeably affected, and the stamp will be immediately ready for your collection.

[Ed. Note: While there is currently only one Czech Republic and one Slovak Republic issue that uses pressure sensitive adhesive (they are both variable rate stamps that are issued by machines), it is quite likely that there will be more in the future. Thus, this article by our member Jack Copeland will definitely come in handy. The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from Mekeel's & Stamps MAGAZINE, May 11, 2001 with permission of the editor and the author, who is a member of our Society.]

THE SUDETENLAND RECALLED

by George E. Kuhn

When Czechoslovakia was created from parts of Austria-Hungary and Germany at the end of World War I, several million ethnic Germans and Austrians found themselves abruptly detached from their homelands. They lived in a mountainous region in the western portion of what was now a new country. This area commonly was referred to as the Sudetenland.

In March 1938, Chancellor Adolf Hitler of Germany, and leader of the Nazi Party, successfully annexed Austria into his Greater German Reich. Almost immediately he turned his attention to the alleged plight of the Sudetenlanders, whom he claimed had been under constant persecution by the Czechs since being absorbed into the new nation in 1919. Only two months after the *anschluss* of Austria, Hitler ordered the German general staff to draw up plans for military action against Czechoslovakia to begin no later than October 1.



Fig. 1

At the Nazi Party annual rally in Nuremberg early in September both Hitler and Hermann Goering, the Luftwaffe chief, made inflammatory speeches demanding numerous and immediate concessions by the Czechs regarding the Sudetenland question. As war once again seemed imminent, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flew to Germany for personal talks with Hitler. The end result was the fateful Munich Conference of September 29-30, which averted war for the moment but gave all of the Sudetenland to Germany.

Another bloodless conquest had been accomplished by Hitler, whose troops crossed the Czech border on October 1, the precise target date he had set back in May. A false euphoria flowed over Europe as "peace in our time" seemed assured. Only a few farsighted diplomats had the temerity to suggest that another war was not inevitable.

The Sudetenland post offices seemed fully prepared for this amalgamation with the Greater German Reich. Beginning that same date, a plethora of local provisional cancellations came into use in the newly "liberated" towns, some of which accompany this article. Many of them commemorated a personal visit by a triumphant Hitler, either as part of the cancel or as a separate cachet.

Of additional interest to philatelists is the appearance of several slogan cachets that, at a glance, look alike but, when examined more closely, show textual differences.

Ironically, at the time of this writing, Czechoslovakia no longer exists, although it was restored to sovereignty after World War II. Instead, it is now split into two

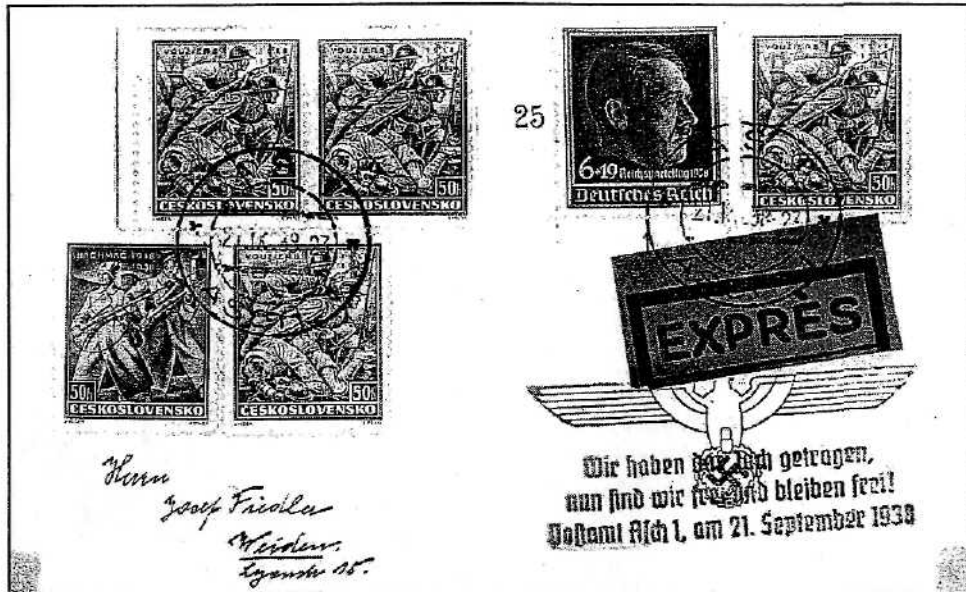


Figure 2: Asch ("Aš" in Czech) was one of the first Sudetenland towns occupied by the Nazis after the Munich Conference of September 29-30, 1938. This September 21 postmark jumps the gun, as the occupation didn't actually begin until October 1. The slogan, handstamped in red, reads: "We have borne our yoke, now we are free and will remain free!" Czech-language town names shortly would be expunged in favor of German designations.

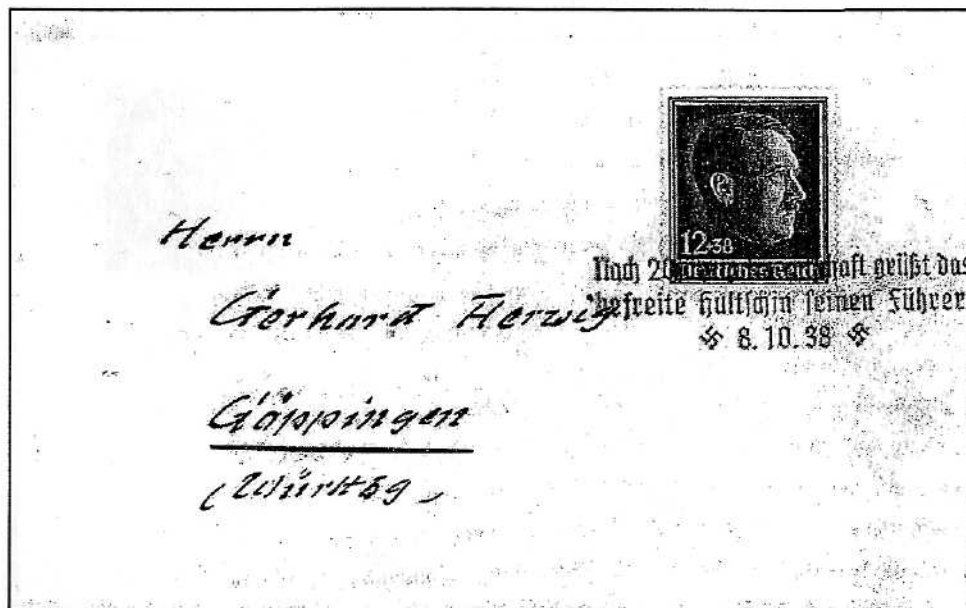


Figure 3: Hultschin, occupied October 8, used this handstamp as a canceler with its message "After 20 years of bondage, the new free Hultschin greets its Führer."



Figure 4: Jägerndorf used an updated provisional cancel and two slogan handstamps. At upper left it reads, "On the days of liberation!" At the lower right the slogan declares, "Our Führer the Healer is here!"

separate and independent countries: Slovakia, which had the status of a quasi-independent country under Hitler's benevolent protection, and the Czech Republic, which includes the Sudetenland, trigger of the Second World War.



Figure 5: Jechnitz, October 21: "We are free."

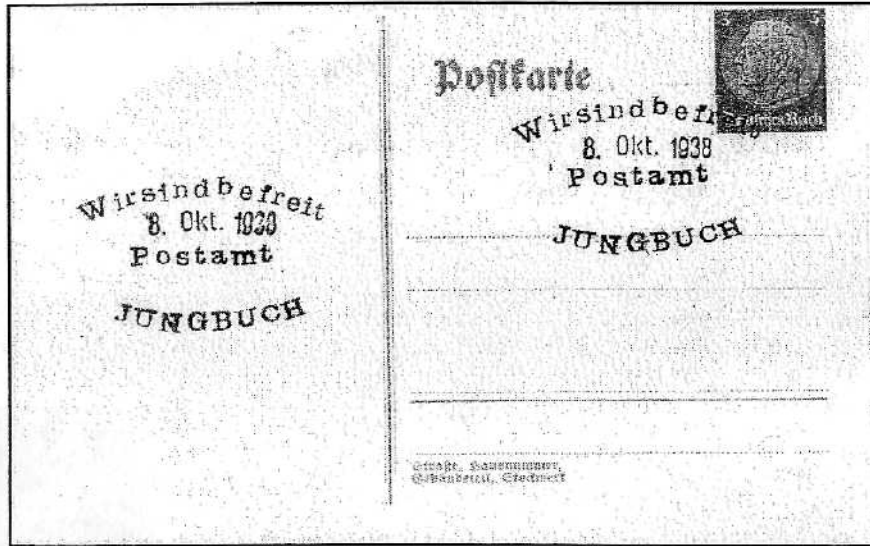


Figure 6: Jungbuch, October 8 provisional cancel: "We are liberated."

The Author - George Kuhn has specialized in the stamps and philatelic history of Germany's Third Reich for many years, and has written numerous articles for the philatelic press. He is a retired U.S. civil servant now living in central Florida.

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the preceding article from *AMERICAN PHILATELIST*, August 2002 with permission of the author and the editor.]
(To Be Continued)

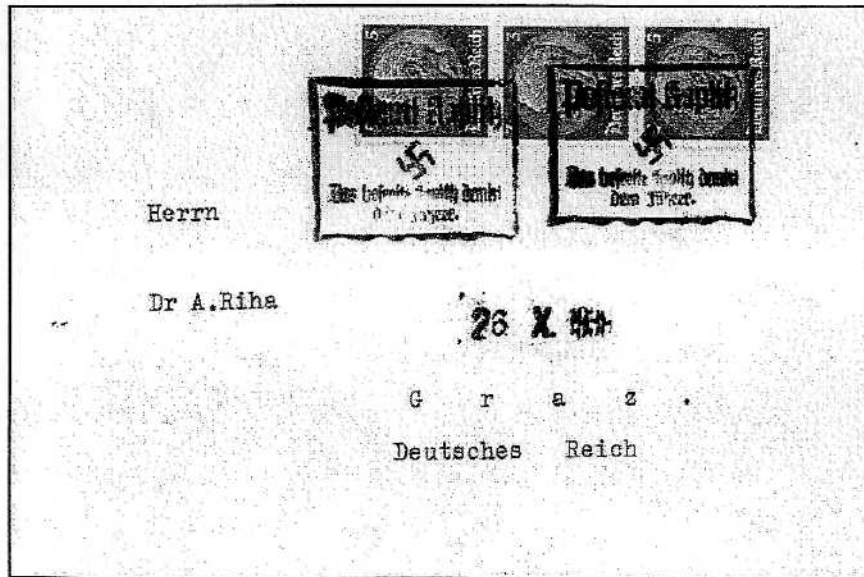


Figure 7: Koplitz on October 26 used this rectangular provisional cancel that read, "The liberated Koplitz thanks the Führer."

WARS, FIELD POST OFFICES AND CZECHOSLOVAKS - EPILOGUE 2 by Lubor Kunc

I would like to provide you with illustrations relative to the problems that Tom Cossaboom and I discussed in April and May 2002 about the Czechoslovaks and field posts. It would probably be good if Tom could look in his collection to see if he might have some documents which show these situations better than mine here.

1. The various military units of the Austro-Hungarian Army:

- Figure 1: an Austrian field post card sent by a soldier from K.k. Landwehrinfanterieregiment Troppau Nr. 16 (= 16th Rifle Regiment of Opava) in 1916. This is still the old name for the units.

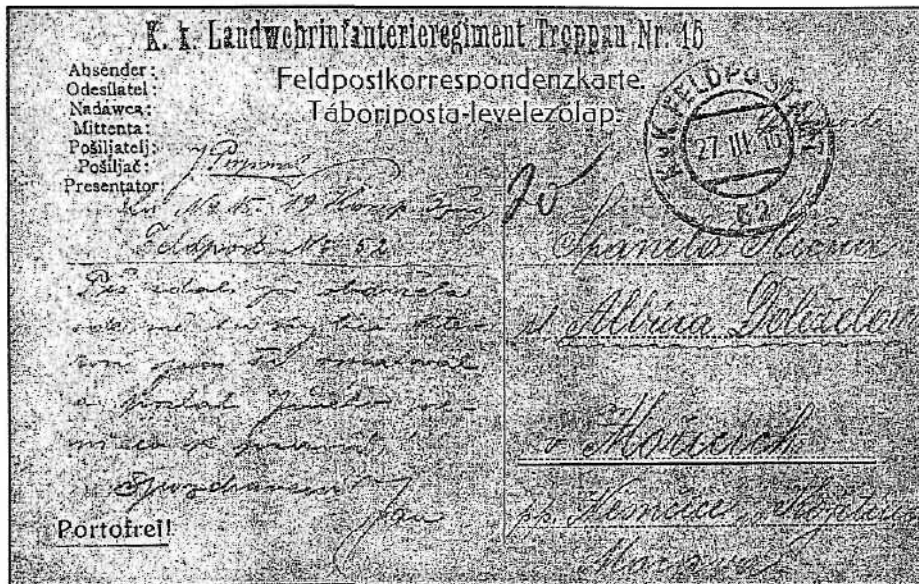


Fig. 1

- Figure 2: a card sent by a soldier from K.k. Schützenregiment Nr. 30, 7 Feldkompagnie (30th Rifle Regiment, 7th Field Company) in 1918. Notice also that it is a propaganda field post card asking for contributions to a war loan (Upište 8. Válečnou Půjčku! = subscribe to the 8th war loan!). It bears the 1917 newly introduced name for units. Both this one and the previous one are K.k.

2. The differences between National and Federal military units or organizations:

National - K.k.

- Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Federal - K.u.K.

- Figure 3: a Hungarian field post card sent by a soldier from Feldjägerbattalion Nr. 6 (of Pilsen) in 1915. Showing that the unit was part of a "common army", it has K.u.K.



Fig. 2

- Figure 4: a card sent by a sailor serving on the Austrian ship "S.M.S. Custoza" in 1918. It also shows that the Navy was part of the common "army" and thus was using the K.u.K. abbreviation (see the censorship rectangular cancel). It also shows the cancel of the only existing Austro-Hungarian Navy Field Post Office (K.u.K. Marinefeldpostamt Pola). I can also illustrate the K.u.K. status of the Austrian Air Force.



Fig. 3

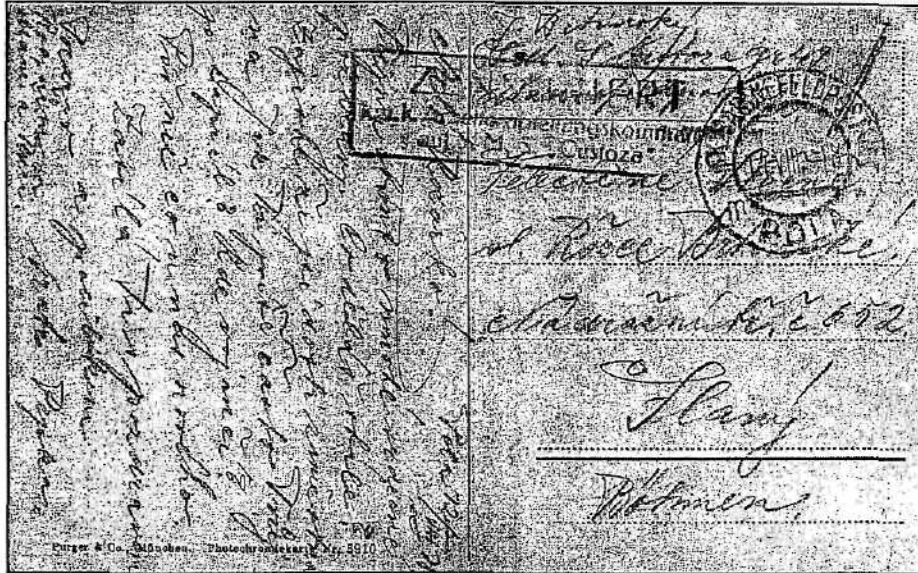


Fig. 4

- Figure 5: a card sent by a soldier from K.u.K. Infanterieregiment Nr. 102 [= Infantry Regiment no. 102 (of Benešov)] in October 1914. While it shows the regiment was K.u.K., it also shows the Austrian field post was K.u.K. (= federal) also.

- Figure 6: a civilian picture post card sent by a Czech visitor from the Bosnian

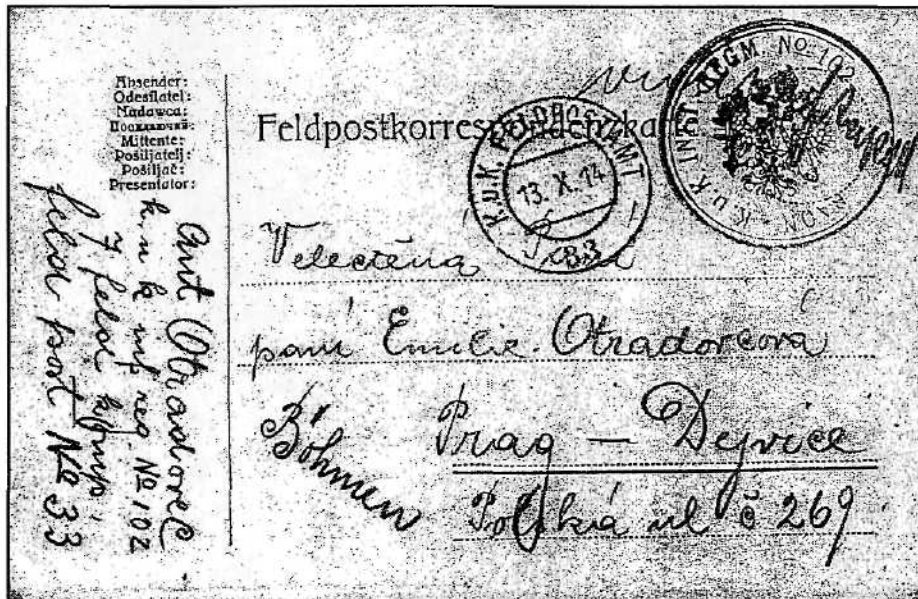


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

capital, Sarajevo, on July 25, 1914, just one month after the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince Ferdinand in the town. This card shows that the military post offices in Bosnia/Herzegovina were K.u.K. Notice the machine cancel, as well as the affixed stamp that was issued by the Military Authority for Bosnia -- both are K.u.K.

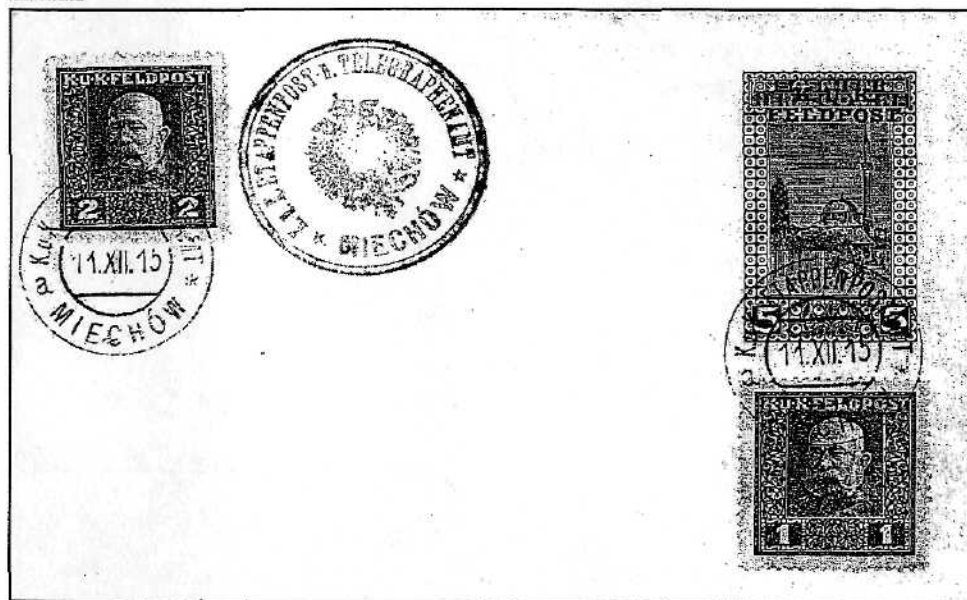


Fig. 7

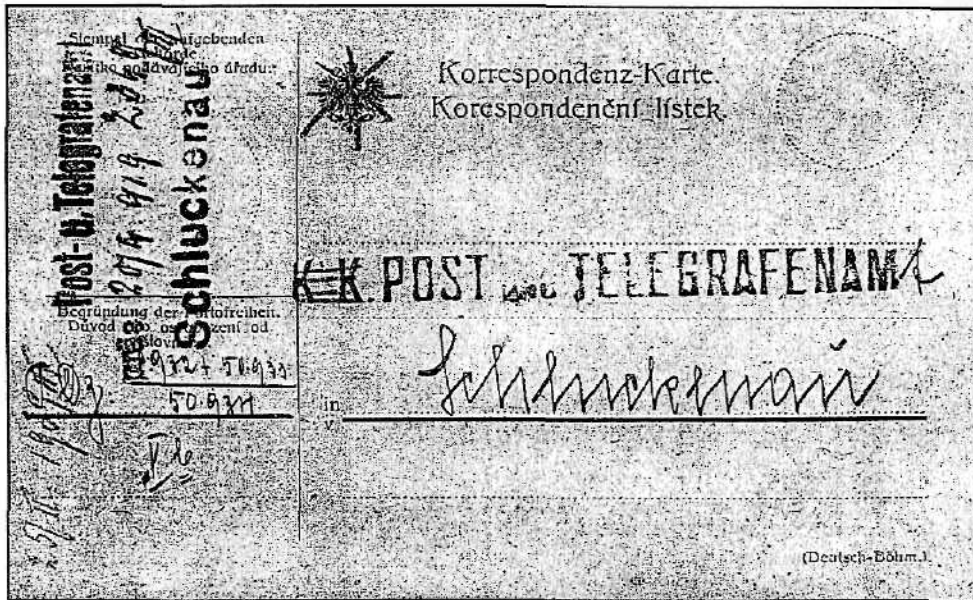


Fig. 8

- Figure 7: a souvenir postal card from the Austrian occupation/rear area post office of Miechów in today's Poland. The card was originally issued by the K.u.K. Military Authority for Bosnia/Herzegovina (see the mosque on its imprinted stamp). However, in 1915 it was overprinted by the K.u.K. Austro-Hungarian Field Post



Fig. 9

(K.u.K. Feldpost) for stationery use by Field/Rear Area post offices. The affixed stamps are Austrian field post stamps. In addition, an official non-postal cancel of the rear area post office Miechów was applied to the card. All of the stamps and cancels show that the Field/Rear Area post office network was federal = K.u.K.

- Figure 8: an official business card sent to the civil post office in Sluknov (Schluckenau) in Northern Bohemia. However, it was sent in 1919 after the Czechoslovak independence (see the crossed out Austrian Eagle and abbreviation K.K. in the post office's name). It illustrates the situation in the old Monarchy where the civil post office system in all of Austria-Hungary was national = K.K. Additional proof can be seen on page 9 of the Jan/Feb 2002 SPECIALIST (see Fig. 24 & 27 -- K.K. Österreichische Post on special delivery stamps).

3. The Rifle Regiments -- Chasseurs:

- Figure 9: a picture post card sent by a Czech legionnaire from Prague after his return in January 1919. It bears the postal cancel 21^e Rég^t de Chasseurs Tc(XXXX)Aques -- 21^e Československý Střelecký Pluk (= 21st Czechoslovak Rifle Regiment), where the French "Chasseurs" is in Czech "střelecký" = rifle. Thus, I believe that all Czechoslovak regiments in France were designated "rifle" and not "infantry".

4. The structure of the Austro-Hungarian armies at the beginning of the war -- in the book *Češi, České Země a Velká Válka 1914-1918* [Czechs, Czech Lands and the Great War 1914-1918] by I. Šedivý (published by Nakladatelství Lidové Noviny, Prague 2001), the author provides us with the basic structure of the armies on pages 63-64 and 68. It was as follows (all data are valid as of the beginning of WWI, but they were changed during it):

A. The federal Austro-Hungarian Army (K.u.K. Österreichisch-Ungarische Armee) consisted of:

- 102 infantry regiments (thus the 102nd Regiment of Benešov -- see Fig. 5 -- had the highest numeric designation at the start of the war)
- 4 regiments of K.u.K. Tiroler Jäger
- 4 regiments of Bosnia/Herzegovina
- 32 battalions of Feldjäger (see Fig. 3)
- 1 battalion of Feldjäger from Bosnia/Herzegovina
- + cavalry, artillery, navy, air force, etc.

B. The national Austro-Hungarian Armies consisting of:

- Austrian Landwehr -- 37 infantry regiments + 3 rifle regiments + special rifle units of Tiroler and Dalmatiner + cavalry
- Hungarian Honved -- 32 infantry regiments + 10 cavalry regiments
- Austrian Home Guard + Territorial Army (for men between 32-42) - 40 infantry regiments
- Hungarian Home Guard + Territorial Army (for men between 32-42) - 32 infantry regiments

C. Then on page 68 he constructed a table showing how many regiments of each of the armies were available at the beginning of the war in 1914, and how many in 1918.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

The above information shows that Tom was right when he claimed that the Landwehrinfanterie/Kaiserschützen units (Austrian Landwehr mentioned under B above) were not rifle regiments but rather infantry ones. Despite Pichlík calling them rifle regiments, the above information indicates that only a few regiments were the rifle variety and that a majority were infantry. This appears to be my biggest mistake in the series of articles (I hope so!).

One final small matter. In Figure 4 of the Jan/Feb 2002 SPECIALIST, p4, the Sudejov cancel is not just a civilian post office cancel, but actually a typical contract post office (CPO) cancel.

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ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

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

1 -- Edwin W. Lehecka (member #1115) of Westfield, NJ; collects used general Czechoslovakia and specializes in the Chainbreaker issue; also western Europe and the USA; has been a member since 1976; board member, Book Sales Manager, and Treasurer (ten years); currently is a board member and Treasurer.

2 -- Richard Palaschak (member #1382) of Chantilly, VA; collects general Czechoslovakia and specializes in pre-stamp mail, 1920 Masaryk issue; has been a member since 1981; board member, President, and Librarian; currently is President and a board member.

3 -- Karl Ruzicka (member #1770) of San Dimas, CA; has been a member since 1996; collects all aspects from 1918 through the present; also collects USA; was appointed a director in 2001 to fill out a term; reads/writes Czech, is a history buff, and is currently organizing a joint USA-Czech issue on Dvořák.

4 -- Jaroslav J. Verner (member #0609) of Bethesda, MD; collects all aspects of Czechoslovak philately, but concentrates on Czechoslovakia 1918-1938, Postal History of the Czechoslovak Legions, and Provisionals; active member since 1958; past president and board member at various times over the last 30 years; board member and responsible for the Society web site; reads/writes Czech, translated articles for the SPECIALIST as well as the original Padělky book (with others), organized Society conventions; U.S. Commissioner to PRAGA 1998 and BRNO 2000, author of "Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France".

5 -- [at press time we were still awaiting a fifth nominee; interested individuals should contact President, Richard Palaschak]

Of the above, Edwin Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, Karl Ruzicka, and Jaroslav Verner are currently on the Board and are seeking re-election.

Enclosed in the envelope with this issue is the election ballot that every member in good standing is asked to complete. Vote for any 5 of the candidates listed above. The order in which you list them is not important. Mail your ballot to our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, at the address given on the ballot. Make sure that your ballot is postmarked no later than May 15th.

BAPTISM OF A STAMP

by Karel Holoubek
trans. by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

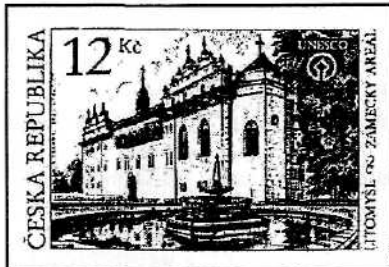


Fig. 1

On 15 September, 2002 the baptism of the new 12 Kč Czech Republic stamp (from the Beauties of Our Country series) occurred in the assembly hall of the Litomyšl chateau. The stamp depicts a view of the front of this beautiful Renaissance chateau by the academic painter-graficist Antonín Odehnal and engraved transcription by Václav Fajt (Fig. 1). This Litomyšl chateau is included on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage list.

The baptism was arranged by the leadership of the city of Litomyšl in conjunction with philatelists and the Czech Post. The ceremony was conducted by the Mayor Jan Janeček and his predecessor Ing. Brýdl -- of course champagne was served. During the activities the Czech Post opened a special counter in the chateau arcades where interested parties could buy the stamp. Also for sale there was a souvenir sheet containing the stamp and having a special cancellation with that day's date (Fig. 2). On the sheet was the signature of the stamp's artist. It was an auspicious opening to the event, and there was a great deal of interest for the stamp and the souvenir sheet with its cancel and autograph. It was a beautiful celebration which was participated in by several honorary guests, as well as by many residents of Litomyšl and many philatelists from near and far. They could acquire a nice addition for their collection.

[Ed. Note: If you look carefully you will note that the name of the artist, Antonín Odehnal, is misspelled as "Vodehnal" on the souvenir sheet.]

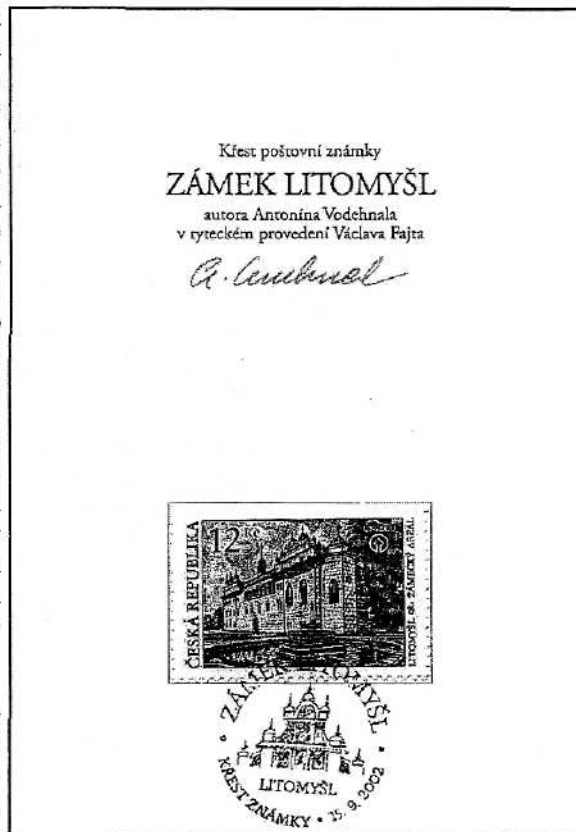


Fig. 2

Book Review

**FILATELISTICKÝ DIÁŘ 2003
(PHILATELIC DIARY 2003)
by Vladimír Schödelbauer
Merkur-Revue Publishing House**

This 4 1/4 x 6, 192 page booklet is much, much more than its title would seem to indicate (it is in Czech, however see the listing for p139-148 below):

- inside the front cover are listed the Czech Republic national and international postal rates for 2002

- p3-12 -- alphabetical space for names/addresses/phone numbers/e-mail addresses

- p13-15 -- calendars for 2002, 2003, 2004

- p16 -- tables and an algorithm for determining what day of the week any date was or will be from 1801 through 2008

- p17-18 -- alphabetical list of name-day holidays

- p19-84 -- diary (one week per page) beginning 28 October 2002 through 1 February 2004 that includes significant holidays and historical philatelic events

- p87-107 -- Svaz Českých Filatelistů (Union of Czech Philatelists) -- gives the purpose, benefits, history, officers names/addresses, committee chairman names/addresses (3 pages); names/addresses of members by regions of the country (13 pages); names/addresses of points of contact of 28 sub-societies of the Svaz (one page); names/addresses of 28 experts in various specialty areas by country periods (2 pages); names/addresses of Svaz juryman and their specialty area (one page); names/dates/locations of selected national and European international philatelic exhibitions for 2003 - 2005 (1 page)

- p109-111 -- stamp bourses and exchange meetings by day of the week/city/address

- p113-117 -- address/web site/e-mail address of stamp issuing authorities for 54 European countries and 21 other world countries

- 118-119 -- names/addresses of 67 post offices that have philatelic counters in the CR

- p120 -- names/addresses of 20 places/people that sell Czech stamps in 13 foreign countries

- p121-122 -- Czech stamp issue plans for 2002 and 2003

- p123-131 -- Czech and Slovak stamp dealers of the major cities and regions giving all the possible details about them, what they sell, their services, hours, etc.

- p132-133 -- the 12 major auctions of philatelic material giving all the details about them

- p135-138 -- listing and details of the 6 major Czech and Slovak philatelic publications plus 3 foreign ones (Czechout, The Czechoslovak Specialist, and the ArGe publication)

- p139-148 -- translation dictionary of 400 Czech philatelic terms into German, English, and French

- p149-155 -- 113 selected Czech philatelic terms defined (in Czech)

- p157-163 -- postal rates for the following periods - Austro-Hungary 1850-1918, Czechoslovakia 1918-1939, Protectorate 1939-1945, Czechoslovakia 1945-1992, Czech Republic 1993-2002

- p165-168 -- periods of validity (date of original issue and end date of validity) of individual stamps used on Czechoslovak territory from Austria 1850/Hungary 1867 through Czech Republic 2002

- p169-171 -- philatelically significant historical dates

- p173 -- perforation and metric gauges

- p174-188 -- aids for collectors - including, illustrations of the 8 possible perforated Hradčany stamps and their category uses; illustration of the minimum border requirements for an imperforate Hradčany stamp; illustrations of how to identify the difference between row, comb, and border perforations; category uses and perforation varieties of the early issues (through 1928); illustrations of the Czechoslovak, Austrian and Hungarian watermarks and the stamps that they can be found on; illustrations of the various spiral, bar, and border types of the Hradčany stamps and the possible joined types; illustrations and table of the various 1925 T.G. Masaryk stamp types; illustrations of the various types of the 1st Republic stamps

As you can see, this little booklet is just crammed with a wealth of information.

Although the initial allotment of booklets has already sold out, watch for this valuable aid in future Available Publications listings in the back of the SPECIALIST. The original allotment sold for \$8 and included a blackprint. We will have to wait and see if this price and the blackprint are the same for any future allotments that we can get.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

NEW MEMBERS

COLORADO

1932 Christina Virgil

MASSACHUSETTS

1937 Alfred Paul Arruda
Heydt

NEW JERSEY

1930 Jaroslav Havel

OREGON

1933 George W. Holland

WISCONSIN

1928 Jeff R. Javorek

CZECH REPUBLIC

1929 Milan Černík

ILLINOIS

1940 Alfred F. Kugel

MISSOURI

1934 Vernon W. Von Der

NEW YORK

1936 Vadim Dementev
1935 John T. Lechtanski

VIRGINIA

1941 James Fletcher
1938 Robert Journell
1939 Richard P. Livingston

NETHERLANDS

1931 E. F. Muller

Honours

**MEDAL FOR RESEARCH
to Mr. JAN KARÁSEK, CZECH REPUBLIC**

President Knud Mohr asked Mr. Ladislav Dvořáček, Honorary President, of FIP to receive the medal on behalf of Mr. Jan Karásek and gave the floor to Director Charles Peterson to read the citation:

"The FIP Medal for Research is awarded to Mr. Jan Karásek for exceptional research and scholarship in the field of Czech philately. His research and authorship is distinguished by a wide scope which encompasses the whole range of Czech postal issues, and a thorough attention to the production characteristics of those issues. Thus, his 1982 handbook on the complex Hradčany issues remains a definitive study of lasting value, as does his 1985 handbook on the definitive issues of Czechoslovakia (1918-1939). He has been a major contributor to the multi-volume *Monograph of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps*, in particular to Volume III of that series. Mr. Karásek has also made a long and valuable contribution to Czech philately in his role as an expertizer, where his scholarship and judgement have been at the service of several generations of collectors; his publications on forgeries of Czech postage stamps (1963 handbook, with a revised edition in 1998) are superlative reference works. These and still other outstanding contributions to the study of Czech philately are in the best tradition of philatelic scholarship, and fully testify to Jan Karásek's qualification as a recipient of the FIP Medal for Research."

[*Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from FLASH Nr. 81 - 2002 with permission from Mme Marie-Louise Heiri. FLASH is the official journal of FIP.*]

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Book Review

**MONOGRAFIE 20:
HISTORICKÝ VÝVOJ NÁZVŮ POŠT V
ČESKÝCH ZEMÍCH
(Historical Development of the Names of Czech
Post Offices)
by Jiří Kratochvíl**

Published by POFIS in collaboration with the Czech Post, the Czech Postal Museum, and the Union of Czech Philatelists; Praha 2002; ISBN 80-86405-07-9

This 212 page publication (having the same dimensions and binding style of the other books in the series) provides a listing of the historical development of the official designations of the post offices on the present territory of the Czech Republic from the oldest times to the end of March 2001. The term "official designation" refers to the names of post offices as they were/are listed in official postal bulletins and post office directories. Beginning with January 1, 1973 the postal code became

a part of the official designation. The names of the oldest post offices were also taken from other sources such as postmarks. The names are listed alphabetically per the Czech alphabet with the addition of the Austrian letters ä, ö in appropriate places (between á/b and ó/p) and the character "ß" replaced with "ss".

The book is divided into two parts and three appendices:

Part I (Directory of the Post Offices)(p11-148). The names of the post offices are listed in alphabetical order by their present designation or by that which was valid on the day of their closing. All of the entries under each letter are numbered based upon their position within that letter's group (the Praha post offices are listed within a separate letter group of Pr which appears at the very end after the Z group). Each entry begins with its group position number, the current (or last) official name designation, the abbreviation of its district (in parentheses -- the abbreviations are described in the introduction), the date and name of the first official designation for that post office, followed by all the dates and names of subsequent official designations for that post office. Many times the exact dates of name changes are indicated rather than just the year. In addition, when the status of the post office changed, this was indicated by the use of standard terms -- *pod Polským vlivem* (under Polish influence), *poštovna* (contract post office), *provoz neobnoven* (not reactivated), *přepážka* (branch counter), *přestěhována* (relocated), *převzata pod správu ČSR* (taken over by the Czechoslovak postal administration), *uzavřena* (discontinued), *v Německém záboru* (under German occupation), *v Německém záboru zřízena okupační správou* (opened under German occupation), *v Polském záboru* (under Polish occupation), *zrušena* (closed). As an example, the 89th entry under the T group reads: 89 - Trutnov 3 (TU) 18.9.1871 Parschnitz > 19.3.1872 zrušena > 19.10.1896 Parschnitz > 1918 Poříčí u Trutnova - Parschnitz > 1938 Parschnitz (b Trautenau)(v Německém záboru) > 1945 Poříčí u Trutnova > 1.4.1948 Trutnov 3 > 1.1.1973 541 03 Trutnov 3. This tells us that Trutnov 3 is in the Trutnov district and started as Parschnitz (probably a hamlet just outside of Trutnov) on 18.9.1871, was closed on 19.3.1872, re-opened on 19.10.1896, picked up a dual-language (Czech-German) cancel in 1918, reverted to a German cancel in 1938 (when it came under German occupation), back to the Czech name in 1945, then came under Trutnov on 1.4.1948 as Trutnov 3, and finally got its postal code of 541 03 on 1.1.1973.

Part II (Index)(p149-201). This index lists all versions and varieties of the official designations that appear anywhere in Part I grouped alphabetically. As an example, we will use the case discussed above in the Part I discussion. If you had a cover with a cancel reading Parschnitz or Parschnitz (b Trautenau), you would not find it listed as a numbered letter group in Part I. But by looking it up in Part II, you would find "Parschnitz T-89" or "Parschnitz (b Trautenau) T-89", indicating that you can find it in Part I under the 89th listing in the T group.

Appendix 1 (Special Post Offices)(p204-206). This appendix lists the official designations (in the form used in Part I) of post offices dealing with special needs or providing special services: Contract post offices, Special post offices, Temporary post offices, Seasonal post offices, Special function post offices, Mail processing offices, Parcel delivery post offices, Customs post offices, Appraisal and exchange post offices, Money order processing offices, Official parcels processing offices.

Appendix 2 (District Changes)(p206-207). This appendix lists those offices which experienced some action affecting their district designation: Relocation of a post office into another district, Change of district, Designations referring to another district, Designations referring to Moravia.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Appendix 3 (Places having several post offices)(p208). This appendix lists any post offices that have a following numeric differentiation and that are currently operating (in the listing a "*" indicates a currently inactive post office). Thus, the listing of "Děčín - 1,2,3,*5,6,*8,9" means that at one time or another there were 9 different post offices operating in Děčín, but that Děčín 4, Děčín 7, and Děčín 8 are not currently active.

On page 209 is a brief summary of the purpose and contents of the Monografie in German and English. Some of the description above is taken from there. Also listed there are the Czech paragraph heading equivalents of the special breakdowns listed in the Appendices' descriptions above -- they list the English term followed by the Czech term in parentheses.

This publication would obviously be especially helpful for any collector interested in postal history or to track the provenience of a piece of mail.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Philatelic News and Views

From Edwin Lehecka:

-- For many of our national exhibitions the Society has special cachets printed up to commemorate our participation. Such was the case for BALPEX'90, September 1-3, 1990 when we had the cacheted cover shown in Figure 1 printed up. It shows an image of first president Tomas G. Masaryk along with an inscription "CELEBRATING THE RESURGENCE OF FREEDOM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" -- keeping in mind that the communists were thrown out just a number of months

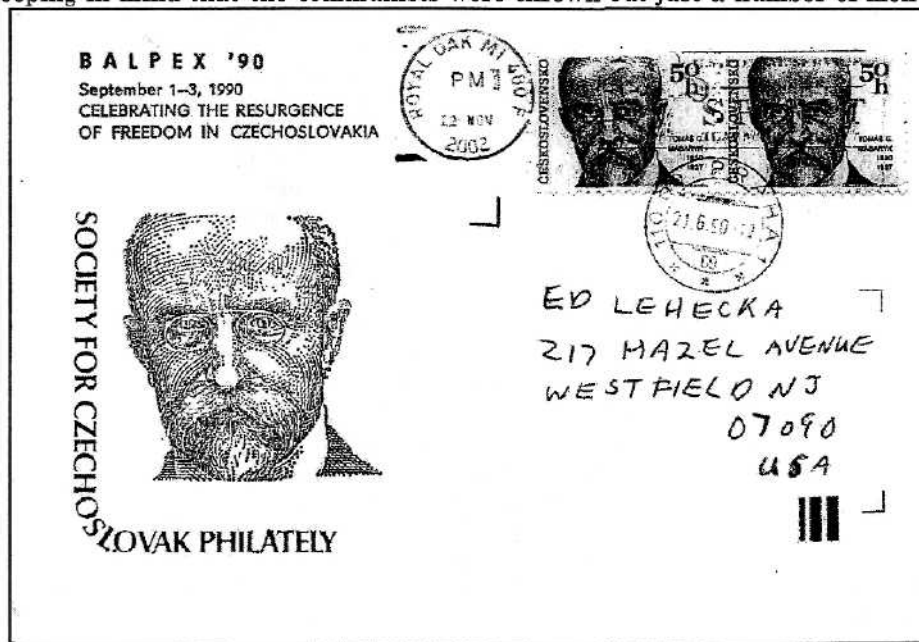


Fig. 1

before. The Society took a number of these covers to Czechoslovakia to have the latest Masaryk stamp affixed (note the 21.6.90 PRAHA 1 cancel on the stamps). These covers were then sold at BALPEX and subsequent exhibitions. But not all were sold. Thus, during this latest round of dues billing, I sent out a cachet (not all were the same) along with each bill. One of our members -- seeing that there were stamps on the envelope -- must have assumed that it was a pre-franked envelope for him to use to send his dues back, so he did. You can see the 12 Nov 2002 Royal Oak MI 480 machine cancel to the left of the stamps. But there are no United States stamps on the cover anywhere!

From Dr. Walter Rauch:

-- Important offer of 14 large CSR-collections (Postal development, Military documents, Securing of frontiers in the Bohemian Kingdom and Upper Hungary from 1520 up to 1947/CSR II). One of the most successful collectors will sell his collections (all together 1,600 ready exposition-sheets). All of them received high Internat./FEPA-/FIP- distinctions (Large Vermeil+ PH / Gold). The collections will be offered as a whole or as single parts but not loosed. Their deeply arranged, in decades under postal-historic views inquired contents must not be destroyed. Honestly interested collectors may ask for the plentiful illustrated catalogue in the beginning of March at Edgar Mohrmann auctions, Bärenallee 43, 22041 Hamburg, GERMANY; T. 040/6894700.

From Tom Cossaboom:

-- On 25 October 2002, Stanley Gibbons issued the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue: Part 5, Czechoslovakia and Poland, 6th edition. It covers Bohemia & Moravia, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, as well as Czechoslovakia and Poland. The cost is £24.95.

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Member of SCP

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Karel Holoubek's article about the apparent Czechoslovak overprint on French stamps towards the end of WWII was most interesting [SPECIALIST, Nov/Dec 2002, p9]. I support the view expressed in Roy Reader's Monograph no. 5

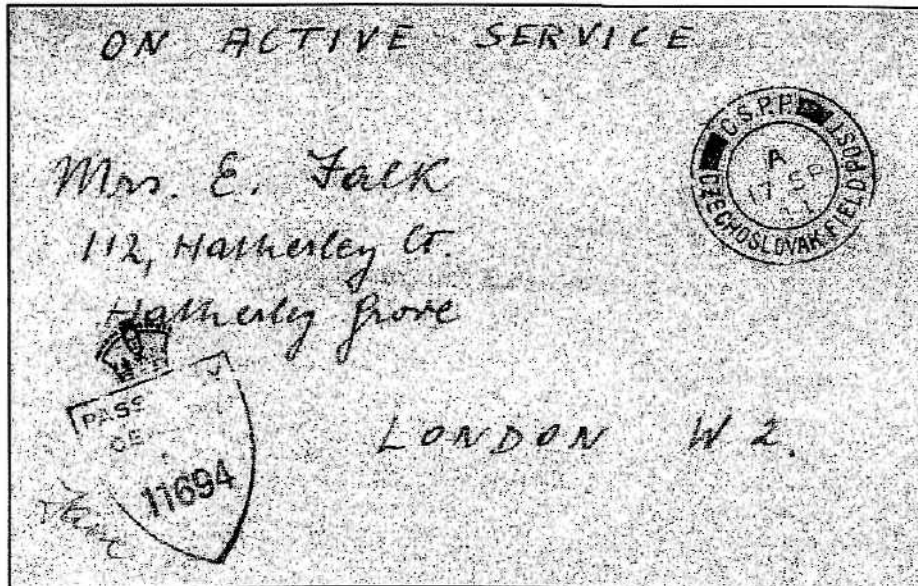


Fig. 1

(CsPSGB, 1987) that these are philatelic inventions. I have no further knowledge about these overprints, but can comment on the Independent Czechoslovak Brigade's need for postage stamps.

Mr. Holoubek asks 'to where could the members of the unit write?' The answer must be that they could write to anywhere in the free world, including countries already liberated by the Allies. Did they need stamps to do this? That all

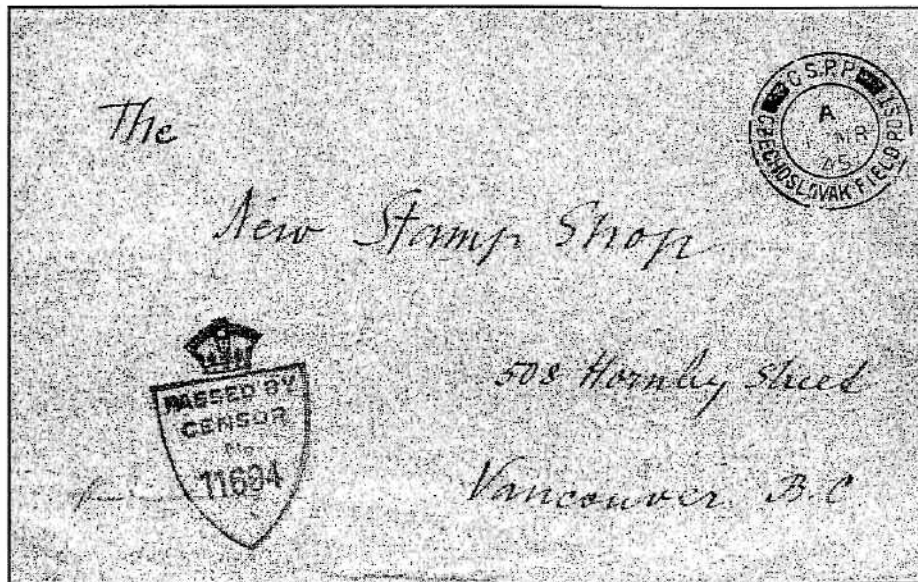


Fig. 2

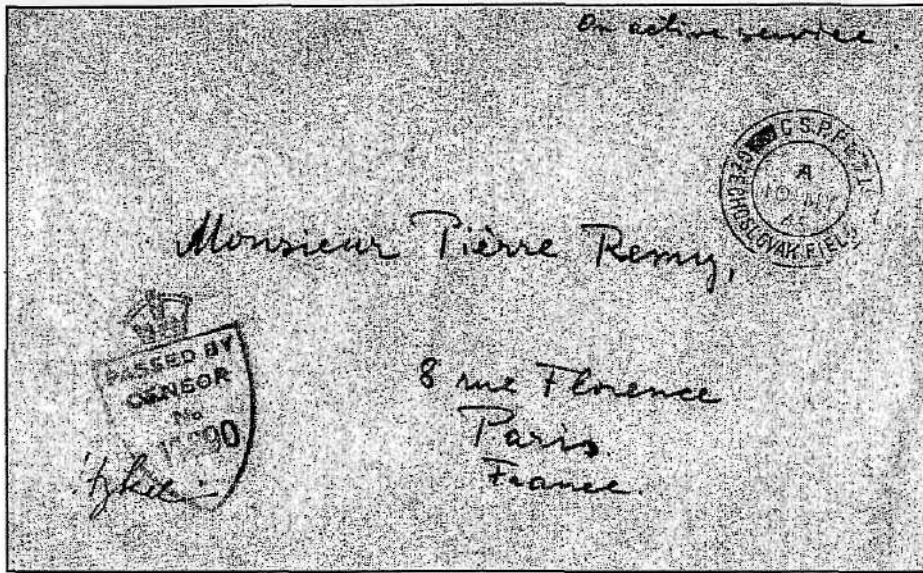


Fig. 3

depends on the destination and the service required. As fighting troops within the British Field Post Office system, surface mail sent to Great Britain or to anywhere in the British Empire would be sent free of charge. This rule was extended as the campaign progressed to include liberated France. Figures 1, 2 and 3 show unstamped mail to London, England, to a stamp shop in Vancouver, British Columbia, and to Paris, France.

For destinations outside the British Empire, the normal British postal rates applied. That is, a single weight surface letter to the USA would cost 2 1/2d (old pence), a single weight airmail letter to the USA would cost 1 shilling and 3d, see Figure 4. Again, airmail to destinations in the British Empire would be charged at

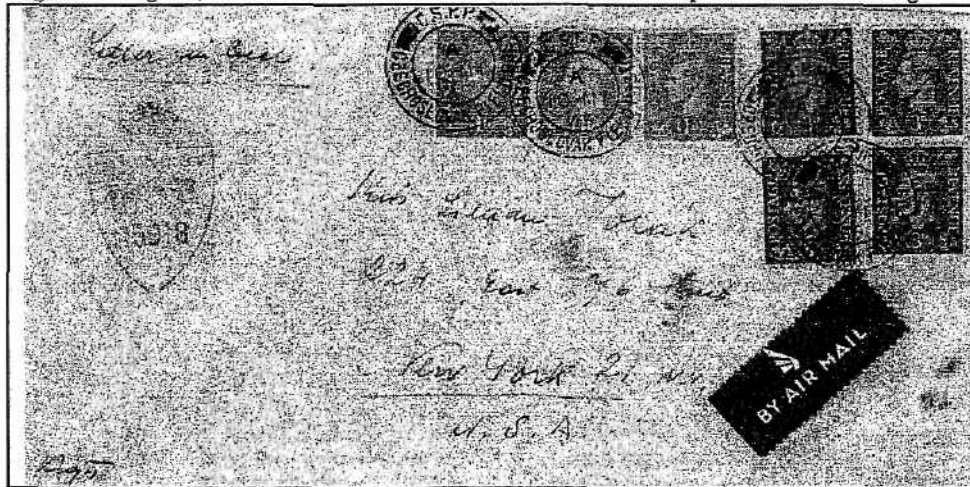


Fig. 4

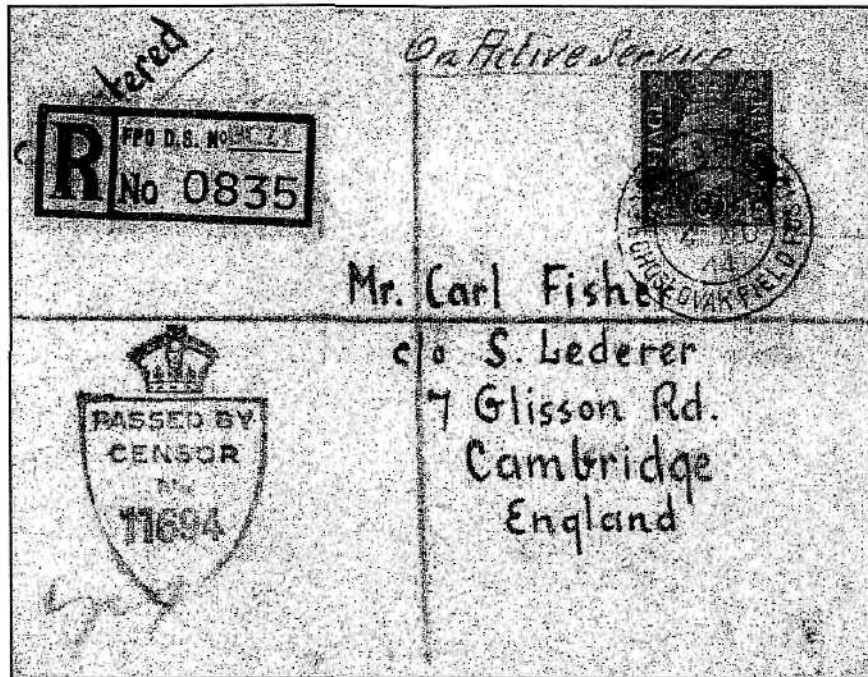


Fig. 5

the normal rate and any registration fees would have to be prepaid. Figure 5 shows an 'On active service' letter to Cambridge, England, where postage was not necessary, but the 3d registration fee still had to be paid. I have never seen any indication that there was a shortage of the necessary supply of British stamps.

I look forward to reading other comments on this topic.
Richard Beith

2. Dear Lou:

While doing background research regarding my recent 5h gutter find, I opened and went through one at a time every one of the 20 years of back issues of *The Specialist* I own. One of my more fortunate discoveries had nothing to do with my main purpose. I am referring to a series of articles published between 1987 and 1989, the marvelous translations from *Monografie II* by Vladimir J. Kralicek. Would that more had been done. By now, the whole *Monografie* could be in English!

Mark Wilson

[Ed. Note: What you have discovered has also happened to me -- many, many times before. It seems that every time that I go to look something up in past SPECIALISTS, I also end up coming across some fascinating article on a totally unrelated subject that opens my eyes and greatly improves my knowledge.]

3. Dear Lou:

Regarding the Nov/Dec issue and the new issues column, the story on the

definitive Zodiac 17 Kč gemini -- twins: if one looks closely at this stamp you will not see twins, the two girls pictured do not look alike. The Czech zodiac -- zvěrokruh, literally translated as animal circle -- does not include twins. The Czechs call gemini -- blizenci = resemblers.

Savoy

4. Dear Lou:

Enclosed is a copy of my congressman's reply regarding my request to him to help with the issuance of a joint US-Czech Dvorak stamp.

Perhaps . . . our members may be encouraged to write to their congressman and senator, asking for their help. Here is some suggested text -- any other improvisation will do:

"The U.S. Postal Service has had many joint issues with a number of countries, but NEVER one with the Czech Republic. And the 100th death anniversary of Antonin Dvorak, the composer of 'From the New World' and director of the National Conservatory in New York (1892-1895) is forthcoming -- the date is May 1, 2004.

May I ask for your help by contacting and encouraging the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670, Washington D.C. 20260-2437 to work with the Czech Republic postal authorities to produce such a first joint issue?"

Sincere thanks to any member who will write to their congressman/senator, or personally directly to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Karl [Ruzicka]

5. Dear Lou:

. . . My last comment is with reference to Jerry Verner's newly published book, "Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France". This is a really good book on the subject. Jerry's research is quite thorough and engrossing. It makes for a great read. The Czech publishers really put out a wonderfully printed work. The price was so good that I purchased one for myself and another for a collector friend. Jerry's book should easily win a gold medal if entered in a philatelic exhibition.

Sal Rizza

6. Dear Lou:

Here is one of the letters that was generated as a result of my article on the overprinted Hradčany gutter pairs [SPECIALIST, Nov/Dec 2002, p3].

"Dear Mr. Wilson,

This morning I have received the SPECIALIST and found your article . . . Hans Klein . . . phoned me [about it]. As you may know Hans Klein was one of the famous Exhibitors of the Czechoslovak philately, and he owned one of the 5h gutter pairs, 3 stamps on each side. As he knew that another one is in my Hradčany collection he asked me whether I would know anything about stamps with overprint. Really, I never heard anything about it.

Another two gutter pairs are in collections of Peter Darneitzel (Germany) and the auctioneer Klim in Brno. All four are from one complete strip of 10.

A further complete strip of 10 is reported and shown in the Novotny's catalogue from 1949, one stamp on each side only. Charley Chesloe called my attention to it after I had reported about the 5h gutter pair in the 'SPECIALIST' years ago. The distance between the two stamps is 34.5 mm.

Georg Wilhelms"
Mark Wilson

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

Here are two changes in the 2003 stamp issue plan:

(add) Apr 16 Viewing Towers 2 6.40, 6.40

and, the November 15, "Works of Art on Stamps" has a different order of the three stamps -- Bronzino, Švabinsky, and Slavíček (but with the same three values in the same order, 17/20/26 Kč).



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 2

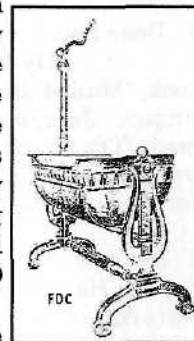


Fig. 4

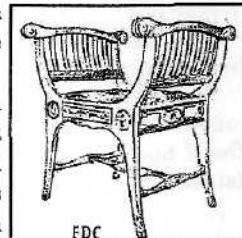


Fig. 6

1. On December 11, 2002, the Ministry of Post and Communications issued a set of four commemorative stamps in the "Collecting" series entitled "Period Furniture". The author and engraver of these stamps, Bedřich Housa, who has long been a creator of postage stamps, is known for his original ideas in the selection of themes, classically realized artistic designs, perfect detail and finely produced engravings.

The designer has conceived this issue in such a way that the stamps and first day covers capture the main styles of furniture from the end of the 17th century until the 1920's. He drew them up from the collections at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 6.40 Kč, baroque armchair from the end of the 17th century (black, light blue, red, brown, and dark red)(Fig. 1). Its FDC in blue shows a roccoco table (Venezia, from the middle of the 18th century)(Fig. 2).

-- 9 Kč, empire sewing table, ca. 1820 (black, yellow, red, blue, and green) (Fig. 3). Its FDC in light brown shows a cradle in the Biedermeier style (ca. 1830)(Fig. 4).

-- 12 Kč, dressing table with mirror, ca. 1860, from the Thonet workshop (black, yellow, red, blue, and violet)(Fig. 5). Its FDC in brown shows a 68cm high chair by Josef Fanta in wood, gilt, leather and bronze and dates



Fig. 7

from 1900 (Fig. 6). Josef Fanta, 1856-1954, was assistant professor at the Prague Institute of Advanced Technical Studies. After 1900 he became an adept of Art Nouveau. The Congress Palace (where stamp exhibitions took place) was built after plans by Fanta. He was also involved with the Hlahol Building (1903-1906). In addition, the Main Railway Station (1900-1909) was also one of his designs.

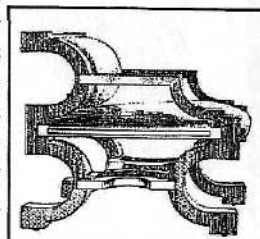


Fig. 8

-- 17 Kč, Bohemian art deco armchair, ca. 1923 (black, yellow, red, blue, and red-brown)(Fig. 7). Its FDC in dark brown shows a chair in the rondo (cubism) style from 1922 (designed by Josef Gočár)(Fig. 8).

2. On December 11, 2002, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Works of Art on Stamps series. They were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 stamps.



Fig. 9

-- the 12 Kč stamp (in dark blue recess print and multicolored offset) depicts the painting "A Forlorn Woman 1901" by Jaroslav Panuška (1872-1958) which now hangs in the Gallery of Modern Art in Hradec Králové (Fig. 9). The stamp bears the engraver's (Martin Srb) transcription of this painting from the artist's early period. The Czech painter and illustrator J. Panuška studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague under M. Pirner and later J. Mařák. He was

an artist of the romantic kind, from the 1890's generation, a member of the Mánes artist's society, and the artist's association "Jednota umělců výtvarných". From a realistic genre, he moved on via symbolist works to impressionist landscape painting. In particular he loved the landscape near Světlá nad Sázavou. He also worked on drawings for magazines and illustrations for books, and on fairy tales, in which he took pleasure in depicting ghosts, water sprites and other supernatural characters. His imagination even led him to paint prehistoric themes. A FDC in black depicts Panuška's drawing "Merman", crayon on paper, from before 1900 (Fig. 10).

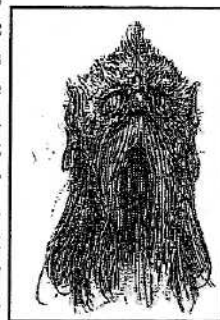


Fig. 10

-- the 20 Kč stamp (in blue recess print, black, gray, yellow, and red) depicts the painting "St. Wenceslas (Design of a Window) 1890" by Mikoláš Aleš (1852-1913) which now hangs in the National Gallery in Prague (Fig. 11). The stamp bears the engraver's (Miloš Ondráček) transcription of the design for a window. The most



Fig. 11

significant personality of the National Theater generation was the artist Mikoláš Aleš, who worked on paintings, drawings and illustrations. He studied at the Prague Academy and was a member of the artist's forum "Umělecká beseda" and the first chairman of the Mánes association. He embodied the nationalistic endeavors of the 19th century. His original and lively drawings and paintings were filled with impassioned notions of heroic Slavonic history. He devoted special attention to the Hussite period. His works combine lyricism and an epic character. He was influenced by the legacy of J. Mánes and expressed his ideas of Czech history in cycles of paintings. He and F. Ženíšek designed the Homeland cycle for the foyer of the National Theater, but were not able to complete it. He also worked on illustrations for folk songs, fairy tales, legends, poems, and books. He applied his sense of monumentality to designs for decorations on the facades of buildings, etc. These decorative works inspired the development of Art Nouveau ornamentation. A FDC in brown depicts a Mánes' India ink drawing from 1778-79, "Warrior with a St. Wenceslas Eagle" (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

-- the 26 Kč stamp (in blue recess print, black, yellow, orange, and red) depicts the painting "Portrait of a Young Man with a Lute, 1741" by Jan Petr Molitor (1701-1757) which now hangs in the National Gallery in Prague (Fig. 13). The stamp bears the engraver's (Václav Fajt) transcription of a portrait of a man playing the lute. The German early baroque artist J. P. Molitor, known for his paintings and frescoes, settled in Prague around 1730. With his friend V.V. Reiner he studied mural painting and oil painting. His frescoes decorate, for example, the chapel in Hořín, the chateau in Dobříš and the Capitular Hall in Osek. He also became famous for his outstanding portraits, which can be seen in the National Gallery in Prague. Some of his works were formerly misattributed to J. Kupecký or V.V. Reiner. The stamp will be issued on the 300th anniversary of the artist's birth. A FDC in green-brown depicts a detail from a Figural composition by J.P. Molitor (Fig. 14).

The German early baroque artist J. P. Molitor, known for his paintings and frescoes, settled in Prague around 1730. With his friend V.V. Reiner he studied mural painting and oil painting. His frescoes



Fig. 14

3. On January 1, 2003, the Ministry issued a souvenir sheet -- containing a 25 Kč stamp -- to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Czech Republic (Fig. 15). The souvenir sheet contains the coat of arms of the Czech Republic, and the stamp depicts the statue of the Czech lion by Josef Max from 1852. It was created originally as a part of a monument in memory of the Czech soldiers who fell in Italy in 1848. The statue itself has been resited several times in Prague and now is at the corner of Chotkova street opposite "Jelení Příkop" (deer ditch). The souvenir sheet and stamp were designed by Otakar Karlas and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The issue was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, by recess print from flat plates in brown combined with bi-colored offset. A FDC in blue shows the emblem of the Czech Republic.



Fig. 15

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten
Savoy Horvath

4. On October 12, 2002, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps entitled "Ancient Castles -- Terraces in Handan and Bojnice Castle" (Fig. 16) [Ed. Note: We apologize for the quality of the stamp image, it was the best that we could get]. This joint Slovak-Chinese issue depicts ancient castle architecture. The two almost identical stamps are issued in China and Slovakia using the stamp designs of Slovak artist and engraver Rudolf Cigánik, who won the international competition. They were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 16

-- 6 Sk: the castle architecture of China portrays the complex of Terraces in Handan (province Hebei in the north of China) which was the capital city of the kingdom during the ruling of the Chou dynasty (2300 years ago) -- it is one of the 99 ancient historical and cultural towns. Several elevated terraces with pavilions at the top were built during the Chou dynasty; just one of the terraces remains today. Four hundred years ago the pavilions were reconstructed, and in following periods they were renovated several times. They represent a unique style of classical Chinese architecture of pavilions and terraces.

-- 12 Sk: the historical styles of European architecture are represented by

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Bojnice castle. The oldest document about the castle dates from 1113. Originally a gothic fortress, it was later rebuilt into a renaissance aristocratic residence. Count Ján Pálffy, the last owner, reconstructed the castle in the romantic style of the early 19th century, inspired by the castles near the Loire river in France, the renaissance palaces in Venice, and the Tyrol's gothic style. Bojnice castle is one of the most attractive cultural monuments in central Europe.

5. On October 17, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6 Sk stamp commemorating the Technical University of Košice (Fig. 17). The history of the Technical University of Košice goes back to the Mining Academy of Banská Štiavnica (established in 1762) which represents an elementary technical college education in Slovakia. As the only



Fig. 17

college in Slovakia, it still develops the mining sciences. The State Technical College named after Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik was established during 1937 in Košice. Because of the pre-war events in Europe as well as the Vienna arbitration, the college transferred to Bratislava. As the first technical college, it becomes the foundation for the Technical University of Bratislava. In 1952 the Technical College of Košice was established with its full curriculum -- it had three basic faculties: Heavy Engineering, Mining, and Metallurgy. The Electrotechnical, Civil Engineering, Manufacturing Technologies, Economics, and Applied Arts faculties were established later. The college then became a university in 1991. Presently, about 12 thousand students attend the 8 faculties of the university, and more than 35 thousand students have graduated from it during the past 50 years of its existence. The stamp was designed by Jozef Haščák, engraved by Pavel Kovářík, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess print combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

6. On November 8, 2002, the Ministry issued a 5.50 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Christmas 2002 -- Slovak Nativity Scene from Rajecká Lesná" (Fig. 18). The stamp shows a detail from the Slovak Nativity Scene that was carved from wood by artist Jozef Pekara who is from Rajecké Teplice. The village of Rajecká Lesná (before 1948 known as Frewald) is located 5 km southeast of Rajec in the valley of the Malá Fatra Mountains. A House of Nativity was built next to the parish Church of Mary's Birth in the center of this well known pilgrimage place. The Slovak Nativity Scene was open to the public in this specially built house. Nitra's H.E. Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec celebrated Holy Mass and blessed the Nativity Scene on November 26, 1995. The stamp was designed by Kamila Štanclová, engraved by Arnold Feke, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 18

7. On November 15, 2002, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the "Splendors of Our Homeland" series entitled "Romanesque Architecture". The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates. A separate FDC was issued for each stamp.

-- the 7 Sk stamp is titled "Church of St. Michael Archangel, Klížske Hradište" (Fig. 19). Velký Klíž -- the municipality at the foot of the Trábeč mountain range --

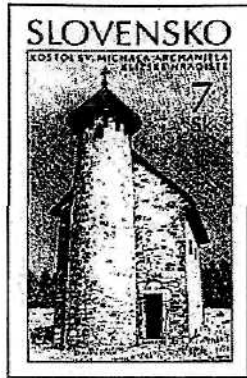


Fig. 19

belongs to the Partizánske district and is made up of two local parts -- Klíž and Klížske Hradište. The first written mention of the municipality is from 1230, even though its history is much older. The Benedictine abbey established between the years 1074-1077 had a turbulent history, but it remained in the municipality until 1562. Some other orders came here later. The most precious and the oldest well preserved historical monument is the Romanesque Church of St. Michael from the 11th century, situated in the cemetery of Klížske Hradište. The church was without a roof until recently. It consists of the semicircular apse, nave and circular tower near the western facade. Based on its small dimensions (nave 3.92 x 5.33 meters), we can assume that it was not a monastic church. The fragments of the wooden choir show that the church was manorial. The church tower has an unusual form,

and it cannot be found in any of the historical documents. This stamp was designed by Marián Čapka and engraved by Martin Srb.

-- the 14 Sk stamp is titled "Rotunda of St. George, Skalica" (Fig. 20). The Rotunda of St. George is one of the most beautiful and precious Romanesque buildings in Slovakia. It is situated on a hill near the city of Skalica on the outskirts of an ancient Slavonic fortress. This was the boundary between the Hungarian Kingdom and the Moravian County. The rotunda was built as a little church of the fortress at the beginning of the 13th century, built from sandstone ashlar. Its semicircular sanctum and circular nave still exist in their original form. Some fragments of a mural painting, representing a motif of the legend of St. George fighting the dragon, are preserved from the Gothic period when the rotunda became part of the fortification system.

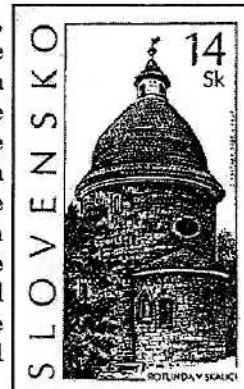


Fig. 20

During the Baroque reconstruction, a cupola with a lantern was added, the entrance was modified, and three windows were put in to give the interior more light. In 1970 the Rotunda of St. George was declared a national cultural monument. Nowadays the Museum of Záhorie has a permanent archaeological exhibition there. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and engraved by Václav Fajt.

-- the 22 Sk stamp is titled "St. Martin's Cathedral, Spišská Kapitula" (Fig. 21). Dominating the historical preserve of Spišská Kapitula is the Romanesque St. Martin's Cathedral. This three-nave basilica with two-tower facade was built from 1245 to 1275. Its urban structure developed when the high tomb chapel of the



Fig. 21

Zápoľský's family was added to the old cathedral from 1488 to 1493. Presently, the cathedral looks like it was arranged in romantic style from 1873 to 1889. The cathedral, with its unique interior decorations, is an architectural gem. The travertine plastic of the Romanesque statue of a sitting lion from the 13th century has been preserved. Also very significant are the monuments of medieval murals (e.g., Coronation of Charles Robert from Anjou as the Hungarian King). The tubular painting on the altar from the chapel showing St. Mary's Coronation is regarded as a masterpiece. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and engraved by František Horniak.

8. On December 6, 2002, the Ministry issued a 20 Sk commemorative stamp plus stamp-like coupon entitled "30th Anniversary of Apollo 17 Moonflight -- E.A. Cernan" (Fig. 22). This issue was published on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the moonflight of Apollo 17 and its Mission Commander, Eugene Andrew Cernan, an American astronaut with Slovak origin (his grandfather Štefan Černan emigrated to the USA in 1900, his grandmother Anna in 1903). The Apollo 17 mission took place from 7 to 19 December, 1972. E.A. Cernan was the Mission Commander and Lunar Model Pilot. He spent 3 days on the moon together with Harrison H. Schmitt. They gathered 115 kg of moon minerals. Cernan served on three space missions. He and Thomas P. Stafford were assigned to the Gemini 9A backup crew in 1966, where they performed a rendezvous of two spacecraft and worked in open

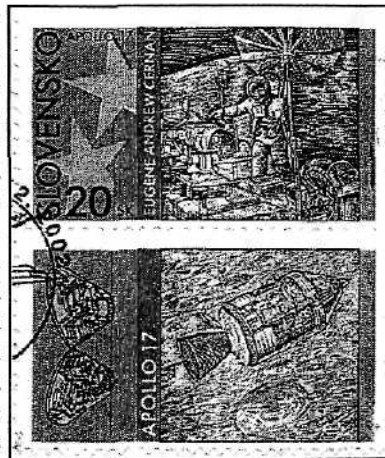


Fig. 22



Fig. 23

space. Cernan was the first astronaut who made this exploration of open space. In the following Apollo 10 mission in 1969, E.A. Cernan and T.P. Stafford flew the lunar module to within 15 kilometers of the surface of the moon in a full-scale dress rehearsal for Apollo 11, which landed on July 21, 1969. When E.A. Cernan visited Slovakia, he said: "I am glad, that I took a piece of Slovakia to the moon". The stamp and its coupon were designed by Igor Benca, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess print combined with recess printing. A FDC in black showing astronaut Cernan saluting the USA flag was issued (Fig. 23).

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