



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## CsPSGB 50th ANNIVERSARY by Richard Beith

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. To help us celebrate we have planned three anniversary events.

The first was a 38 display/84 frame exhibit at Spring Stampex in London, running from 26 February to 2 March covering all aspects of Czechoslovak philately. An added feature was the visit of Slovak stamp designer and engraver Martin Činovský. He came over to London especially for the exhibition and designed a beautiful souvenir based on one of his stamp projects [I will send you details of this in the near future]. The success of the exhibition was due to the hard work put in by Chairman Lindy Bosworth and her team drawn from London and the South East. Included in the Stampex catalog was the following article:

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## THE NÁCHOD DISCOVERY: UNIQUE HRADČANY GUTTERS MARKED FOR PROVISIONAL POSTAGE-DUE USE

Mark Wilson  
Johan Sevenhuijsen

### Introduction

One of the great pleasures of philately derives from the fact that while only true experts may judge a stamp false or genuine, any collector may undertake the basic steps required to initially eliminate gross forgeries from consideration. One must begin by assuming one has a forged stamp in hand, and then go on to ferret out supporting physical or logical evidence confirming the forgery. While failure to discover any fabrication does not authenticate an item, it does heighten the possibility of the stamp's eventual exoneration.

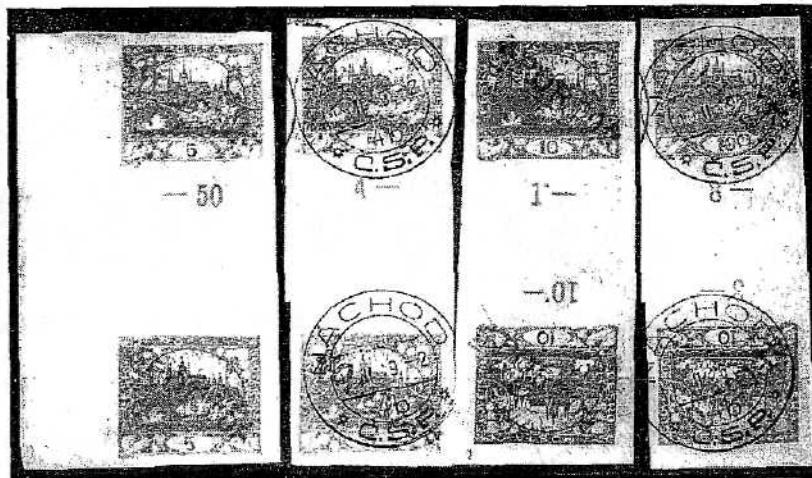


Figure 1: The Náchod gutters

Four Hradčany gutters appeared as part of an Ebay lot in September 2002; *The Czechoslovak Specialist* earlier reported the story of their discovery.<sup>1</sup> This paper records an investigation into the more interesting items from that lot, a mint and cancelled set of Hradčany 5h gutters<sup>2</sup> marked for provisional postage-due use.

<sup>1</sup>Mark Wilson, "Forgery or an Amazing Find?". *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, November/December 2002, p.3.

<sup>2</sup>Czech philately classifies gutter pairs into two types. The more common, *protisměrné meziarší* (opposite-direction gutters), are in this paper called *tête-bêche* gutters. The stamps are upside-down with respect to each other. The scarcer *stejnsměrné meziarší* (same-direction gutters) appear to have no specific English descriptive technical term, although other translators have used the terms *unidirectional* and 'pair' gutters. Their stamps are upright with respect to one another and are indicated in this paper by

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Similarly marked sets of 10h *tête-bêche* gutters and 20h ordinary pairs, as well as a small and quite common piece of printer's waste, made up the full lot (Figs. 1, 2).

An amateur dealer reportedly assembled the lot out of remainders from a deceased collector's general world collection. The dealer obviously valued the lot's "rare" piece of printer's waste far more than any of the "common" Hradčany stamps.<sup>3</sup> The auction's verbal and graphic descriptions ignored these very unusual gutters and focused almost entirely upon the worthless printer's waste. Since the 5h gutter ranks high among the great Czech rarities,<sup>4</sup> he obviously misplaced his sales-pitch.

He delivered the stamps mounted on the collector's original homemade page. An astoundingly inaccurate description, printed at the top of the page in a low-

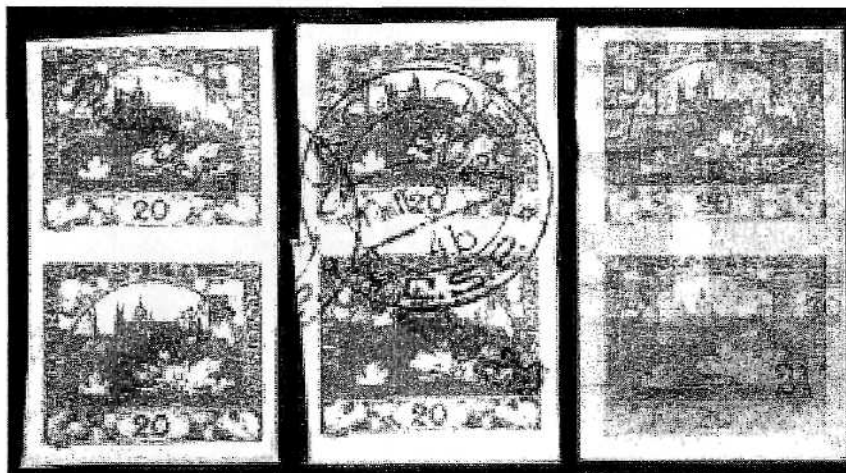


Figure 2: The ordinary pairs and waste

resolution dot-matrix font, made clear the collector believed invading Austrian troops overprinted these stamps for military field-post use.<sup>5</sup>

Apparently the initial and only gum disturbance occurred while mounting the stamps with hinges to the computer-produced page. We cannot know exactly when this happened, but the use of a low-resolution dot-matrix printer limits the time frame to around the early 1980's.

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the unadorned term *gutters*, which is, unfortunately, a term that must also be used in English as the collective for different types of gutters. Finally, pairs of stamps without gutters are simply called *ordinary pairs*.

<sup>3</sup>Ebay auctions sometimes falsely list printer's waste from the production process as though it were a genuine double-printed error of an issued stamp.

<sup>4</sup>Georg Wilhelms, J. Verner, "5h light green Hradčany 'pair' gutters". *Czechoslovak Specialist*, September/October 1994, p4-5

<sup>5</sup>The collector's description is nonsense: no part of it could be true. Austrian troops occupied no part of Czechoslovakia in 1919, the markings represent provisional postage-due not military field-post stamps, and local Czech post offices, not the Austrian Army, put such markings on their regular issue stamps because of a pressing need for postage-due stamps.

All four gutters are unfolded;<sup>6</sup> all have endured some abuse. They are slightly soiled, perhaps even a bit dirty. On the mint 3Ms,<sup>7</sup> a deep crease crosses from the top left corner of the margin to the center of the upper stamp and a small, tadpole-shaped stain discolors the lower left margin. The cancelled 3Ms and the mint 5Ms each have one curled and creased edge.

Every stamp in the set bears a provisional postage-due marking: a large, in places nearly transparent, light-black impression of the word PORTO<sup>8</sup> flanked at either end by a star. As for the postmark, one can read the year, month, and hour numerals with little difficulty, but the digits for the day -- although clearly in the teens -- lack distinction. The postage-due and cancellation ink smears in places.

An owner of a certified 3Ms provided his gutter for comparison.<sup>9</sup> The Náchod gutters' color is a darker green, but within normal shading differences, and the paper has a slightly different tone. The gum on the certified gutter seemed less shiny and somewhat smoother than that of the Náchods'.

The need to determine three issues of fact complicates investigation of the Náchod gutters: Are the gutters themselves forgeries? Are the postmarks authentic? Is the provisional postage-due marking a fabrication?

### Part I: Physical Examination

Let us start with the stamps themselves. Visual inspection reveals no evidence of constructive fabrication or tampering, such as the joining of separate selvages from two different sheets, to create the gutters. Their unfolded state simplified the determination that the paper and gum remain uncut and completely continuous.

Next we turn to the printing flaws found within each stamp. Every stamp from an Hradčany sheet may appear superficially identical, but into each individual stamp the letterpress printing technique introduced unique topographical features. More than half a century of diligent plating makes it a facile matter to verify documented flaws within any specific stamp. To employ this technique, one must first determine the plate used to print the pane, then locate the stamp's specific position on that pane. Such an investigation, available to even an amateur, may expose simple forgeries but does not in itself establish an item as genuine.

### Control Numbers

By simply examining the control numbers<sup>10</sup> one may determine for any Hradčany gutter pair its position on the parent double pane and thus exactly identify the site of the two stamps (Fig. 3). Candidates for a gutter's upper stamp

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<sup>6</sup>Unfolded gutters are quite common; in this instance, the two 5h gutters in this condition are unique.

<sup>7</sup>František Beneš, *Československo: 1918-1939*, Prague, POFIS, 2002. The numbers are from his specialized Czech catalogue. The 5h, 10h, and 20h Hradčany stamps are numbered 3, 5, and 8; the Ms means *stejnoseměrné meziarší* and Mp *protiseměrné meziarší*. See footnote 2 for translation.

<sup>8</sup>PORTO indicates a postage-due stamp.

<sup>9</sup>The owner prefers to remain anonymous.

<sup>10</sup>Numbers printed at the base of each column in a pane as an accounting aid.

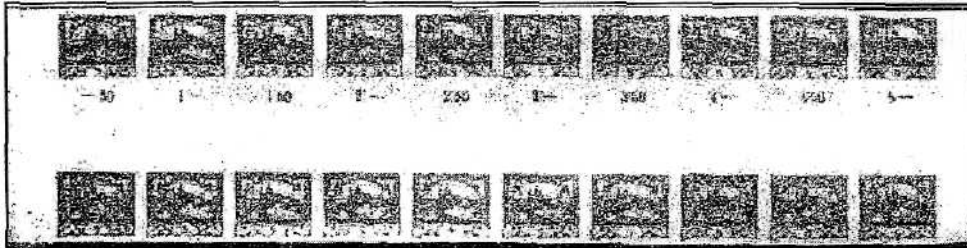


Figure 3: Exemplar source of 5h gutter pairs with control numbers. Novotný, p.35

must always derive from the last row of the upper pane [ZP 91 -- ZP 100],<sup>11</sup> while the lower stamp must always come from the first row of the lower pane [ZP 1 -- ZP 10]. Since the control numbers found in the gutter determine the source position and coupling of any specific pair within a double pane, the most casual inspection reveals that in this instance the mint pair consists of stamps from ZP 91 over ZP 1, while the cancelled pair represents ZP 98 over ZP 8.<sup>12</sup>

### Printing Form (Plate Matrix)

To determine which plates were used to produce the double pane, one must examine the plate matrices of Hradčany printing forms. At first glance, the *Monografie* seems to report that only a single printing form produced double panes bearing 3Ms gutters.<sup>13</sup> For that form, the printers arranged the plates in sequence by starting at the lower left-hand corner then proceeding clockwise around the form utilizing plates I through IV (Fig. 4).

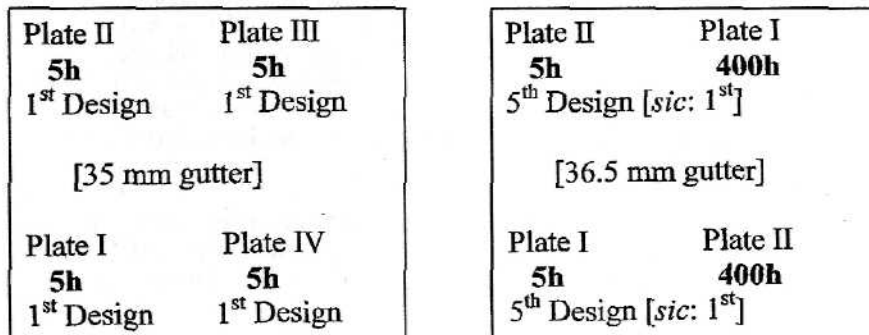


Figure 4: Printing form plate arrangement. Monografie, p.103, modified

<sup>11</sup>Czech philately uses ZP (známkové pole -- pane position) numbers assigned horizontally in rows from top to bottom to indicate specific pane positions. In a 10x10 pane, the top row starts with 1, the bottom row with 91. Control numbers are found below the bottom row.

<sup>12</sup>That is, the control number --50 represents the first column, and 4--- the eighth column.

<sup>13</sup>*Monografie Československých známek, Díl I.* Prague, 1968, p.103. Obr. 140 A1.

Although the labels on the adjacent printing form in the illustration show two plates from the 5<sup>th</sup> design,<sup>14</sup> the *Monografie's* text attributes that particular form to the production of 1<sup>st</sup> design 5h stamps.<sup>15</sup> Because the illustration's caption<sup>16</sup> describes this second form as a later modification of the first form, and since the 5h plates represent the only commonality shared between the two forms, the second form in the diagram must also be considered another possible source of 3Ms gutters.<sup>17</sup>

In point of fact, mention of the 5<sup>th</sup> design 5h in this instance seems out of place since those stamps would not be printed until July 1919, some months into the future. In any event, both printing forms described in the *Monografie* arrange their common 5h plates identically. All 3Ms gutters must combine stamps from either plate II above plate I, or from plate III above plate IV.

The size of the vertical gutter was the only datum available to determine which of the two possible printing forms produced the stamps. The *Monografie* reports a vertical gutter of 35 mm for the first form and 36.5 mm for the second. The gutter of the mint pair in hand measures 34 mm, while the size of the cancelled pair's gutter seems slightly larger: perhaps 34.5 mm. Thus, neither gutter's size matched either of the specifications given in the *Monografie*.

The literature at hand provided no other direct information about vertical gutter sizes, but an M&T auction catalog displayed on its back cover a full-size reproduction of a 3Ms with a gutter that measured exactly 34 mm.<sup>18</sup> In support of this size, the certified 3Ms mentioned above also measured 34 mm. An European owner of another certified pair reports his gutter size is 34.5 mm.<sup>19</sup> This evidence contradicts the gutter sizes reported by the *Monografie* and provides some vindication of the difference in gutter size found in the mint and postmarked pairs. Although the information in the *Monografie* appears incorrect and thus insufficient to establish the source printing form, the plate combinations outlined above remain the only two possibilities.

### Plates

Hradčany panes do not use plate numbers for identification purposes. Instead, some unique characteristic on a specific control number, or a landmark found within a certain stamp, must suffice to identify any plate. Most sources agree -- almost -- on the identifying features for every 1<sup>st</sup> design 5h plate: the *Monografie*,<sup>20</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Czech philately recognizes five major and one minor Hradčany design. The subject stamps are all from the 1st design.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid. p.103; Obr. 140 A2 and p.99.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid. p.341.

<sup>17</sup>Stanislav Komberec, in *Hradčany 5 h I. Studie I. A II. Desky, Studijní Filatelistické Příručky*, 28, 1996 has what appears to be a confused representation of this same printing form.

<sup>18</sup>Majer & Thraumb, 18 *Veřejná aukce poštovních známek*. September 2001.

<sup>19</sup>Reported in personal email to the authors.

<sup>20</sup>*Monografie, Díl I*, p. 114.

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Bradford,<sup>21</sup> Hamr & Škaloud,<sup>22</sup> Komberec,<sup>23</sup> and Beneš.<sup>24</sup>

Luckily, the mint gutter pair's control number (-50) lacks a decimal point, signaling the distinguishing mark for plate II. Thus, for the mint pair, the upper stamp must be compared to ZP 91 on plate II and the lower to ZP 1 on plate I, no matter which of the two possible printing forms reported in the *Monografie* produced the pair. Since the source plates for the postmarked gutter could not be as readily identified as those for the mint pair, and as no copies of plates III or IV were at hand, that gutter could only be compared to stamps on panes produced by plates II and I. It would strain the imagination to believe that yet another double pane, also unknown and unfolded, produced the postmarked pair. In all probability no harm was done by not examining plates III and IV.

### Plating Indications for the Mint Pair

For plate II, ZP 91, the center of the O in POSTA looks somewhat like an eclipse of the sun with a small, crescent-shaped bite missing from its upper right hand side (Fig. 5). On plate I, ZP 1, a somewhat elongated dot appears just after the tail of the number 5 (Fig. 6). Investigation confirmed the presence of these landmarks on the mint pair and on the plate II sheets examined.

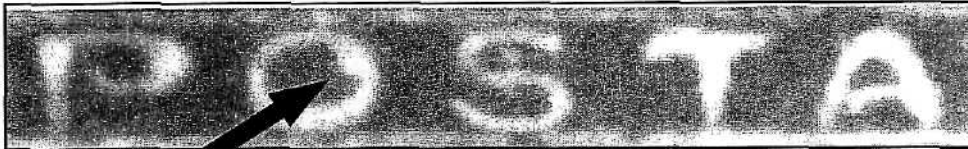


Figure 5: ZP 91/II

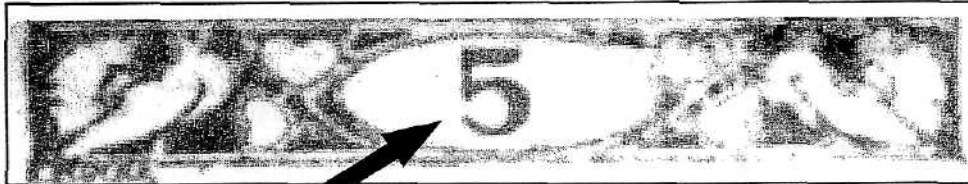


Figure 6: ZP 1/I

Komberec describes the significant marks for ZP 91/II as "A dot above the projecting upper-right corner, a dot at the lower-left corner and a small mark under the HA of MUCHA; /a break in the upper frame above the third spiral and on the right-hand edge between the O and V in SLOV; marks under the lower frame."<sup>25</sup> Komberec does not mention the misshaped O, and the break above the third spiral does not appear to be present on the upper stamp. However, the description itself

<sup>21</sup>Robert Bradford, *The Hradčany Issue: 1918-1920*. CPSGB Monograph 13, p.6.

<sup>22</sup>Hamr & Škaloud, *Rukověť pro sběratele Hradčan*, Brno, 1998, p.6.

<sup>23</sup>Komberec, p. 3.

<sup>24</sup>Beneš, p. 20.

<sup>25</sup>Komberec, p. 54.



appears problematic in that it contains irregular punctuation,<sup>26</sup> and the break mentioned appears on only one of the two sheets examined. All of the other marks are present.

Komberec describes ZP 1/I as "*Has a faint main ray; a bent line extends from the lower left corner and passes under the M in MUCHA; a dot to the left of the 5, a few dots in the lower right part of the value tablet. /There is a break in the left frame between the O in ČESKO and the third spiral, and in the right frame between the sixth spiral and the S in SLOV/.*"<sup>27</sup> All of the initial description matches the lower stamp in the mint gutter pair, but none of the description enclosed in '/' matches either that stamp or the two sheets in hand.

#### Plating Indications for the Cancelled Pair

Komberec describes ZP 98/II: "*A break in the left frame above the second spiral, /and in the upper frame in front of the P of POŠTA/, a thickened lower part on main ray, weakened or missing initial dots on sun. Lower left corner joined to base of M in MUCHA, gap in the trough between the sixth and seventh waves, /projection on lower frame under fourth heart/.*"<sup>28</sup> All of the landmarks save the projection beneath the fourth heart are present on the cancelled upper stamp and the plate II sheets examined.

He describes ZP 8/I as "*Dots in the value tablet, pointed upper and lower left corners, blotches and dashes under MUCHA, and a 'dash' under the lower frame.*" Here the dots in the value tablet offer the most positive identification as they line up completely. Both sheets resemble the cancelled lower stamp, but the 'dash' under the frame is absent from the sheets and the stamp.

The ZP 98 and ZP 1 pair's landmarks are regrettably too minute to be reproduced accurately in this paper, but all of these landmarks were matched as described above on the postmarked gutter as well as the plate II and plate I panes inspected. The same positions in plates III and IV have quite different flaws, not present on the gutter pairs.<sup>29</sup> Both 3Ms gutters were taken from plate II over plate I -- from the left side of either of the two possible printing forms.

#### Plate Alignment

Gutter pairs display another measurable anomaly: a misalignment to the right or left between the upper and lower stamps. For the mint pair, the lower stamp protruded about 1.5 mm to the left. On the cancelled pair, the lower stamp protruded a similar but smaller distance to the left, perhaps about 1 mm.

All of the illustrations and actual gutters examined display similar offsets. The M&T catalog illustration mentioned above, a gutter from the right hand side of the double pane, shows a misalignment of about 1 mm to the right. A second M&T

<sup>26</sup>Komberec seems to use '/' to mark off descriptions only pertinent to some printings. In this instance, the final '/' is missing. If this is true, it explains why ZP 91/II and ZP 1/I lack the features enclosed by '/'.

<sup>27</sup>Komberec, p. 9.

<sup>28</sup>Komberec, p. 57.

<sup>29</sup>Stanislav Komberec, *Hradčany 5h I Studie III. A IV. tiskové desky, Studijní Filatelistické Příručky*, 32, 1991, p.8 and p.53.

auction illustration of a pair positioned halfway between the left edge of the pane and the Náchod postmarked pair has a small misalignment to the left.<sup>30</sup> A *POFIS 2002* photo, reduced in size, shows the gutter from the left hand side of the double pane protruding to the left.<sup>31</sup> Finally, another picture, again reduced in size but containing all ten pairs, shows an offset to the left on the leftmost pair, and a small offset to the right on the rightmost pair.<sup>32</sup>

The misalignment of upper and lower stamps, at least for those from plates II and I, together with the drift from a larger left hand protrusion to a smaller right hand protrusion, are consistent with the physical data. The top plate -- plate II -- measures 301.5 mm while the lower plate -- plate I -- measures 304 mm. The difference in plate sizes exactly accounts for both the misalignment itself and the slow drift from left to right.

## Part II: Logical Examination

Although the above physical examination could not completely authenticate the gutters, nothing found demonstrated outright forgery. Attention must now be directed toward the gutters' other features: the cancellation and provisional postage-due marking. In doing so, the line between physical and logical investigation blurs.

### Cancellations

The cancelled Náchod stamps have five copies of a CTO postmark -- CTO because the stamps still retain their original gum -- and so are philatelic items. As such, anything beyond the raw stamp itself must be viewed with renewed suspicion.

The *Monografie* lists the Náchod postmarks in *Díl 17* and reports the post office already operational on October 28, 1918 -- the day the republic was declared. The gutters' type M.41 postmark includes the serial number 4b with the initials



Figure 7a: Type M13

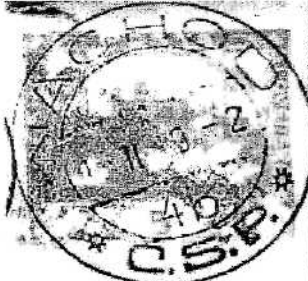


Figure 7b: The Náchod  
Type M.41



Figure 7c: Type M40

<sup>30</sup>Majer & Thraumb, March 1998.

<sup>31</sup>Beneš, p. 16.

<sup>32</sup>Ladislav Novotný, *Speciální příručka pro sběratele Československých známek, Praha, 1970*, p.35. The text leaves the source of the photo un-attributed.

Č.S.P. and has the posting time on its 8 mm wide date-bridge. Note also the extended lower serif on the P (Fig. 7b).

The Náchod office used a type M13z (similar to Fig. 7a) cancel with serial number 4b between 1918 and 1919,<sup>33</sup> and postmark similar to the postmark in hand but without a serial number, type M.40 (Fig. 7c) from 1919 to 1920. The M.41 with serial 4b cancellation began use in 1920 and ended service with the assignment of the series of Náchod post offices to Náchod I in 1925.<sup>34</sup> Of the twelve serial numbers used by Náchod post offices, the *Monografie* is vague only about the termination date for serial numbers 4b and 5b. We therefore may only guess at the last possible active service date for the serial 4b canceling device.

It would appear from the evidence that the postmark, although dated February 1919, was actually applied by a device not available until 1920. Unless the device fell into private hands, the application of the postmark had to occur sometime between 1920 and the device's retirement from service, certainly not much later than 1925. The remotest possibility exists that for some reason between January 1920 and April 1921, a clerk accidentally set the canceling device's date to the year 1919, creating an authentic but anachronistic cancellation. These two dates represent the only legitimate window of opportunity: an authentic cancellation could be performed only after the device was placed in service and before the Hradčany issues were withdrawn.

Putting that possibility aside, two reasons for backdating the postmark come to mind. Either the cancel was deliberately set to an era of probable provisional postage-due usage, or someone applied the cancel after the withdrawal of Hradčany stamps in April 1921, after which any cancel would have been illegitimate. Of course, the possibility exists that the cancel attempts to accomplish both ends, or that the postmark itself is a poorly conceived forgery.

Whatever the circumstances behind setting its date, the postmark presents a great difficulty because it twice contradicts *Monografie* documentation. First, because the *Monografie* indicates the postmark is anachronistic, and second, because the *Monografie* reports the first printing of 5h gutters took place on May 10, 1919,<sup>35</sup> three months after the February 1919 date in the cancel. The *Monografie* is likely correct in both of these assertions. If the cancels are authentic but inaccurate, they may well represent a backdating favor done for a privileged collector or dealer.

In a yet more provocative vein, the double postmark on the upper stamp implies the canceling of an adjacent stamp to its left, indicating the postal worker may have had access to other uncut stamps on the upper sheet. The slight drift to the right in the cancel on the lower stamp lends the same impression but in the other direction. This could mean that whoever postmarked these stamps had even more gutters available at the time the stamps were cancelled, or that he wished to create such an impression.

<sup>33</sup>*Monografie, Díl 16 První svazek*, p.345. The z indicates, unlike the illustration, removal of the German form of the name.

<sup>34</sup>*Monografie, Díl 17 První svazek*, p.394. Some doubt as to the ending date exists.

<sup>35</sup>*Monografie, Díl I*, p. 341.

### Provisional Marks

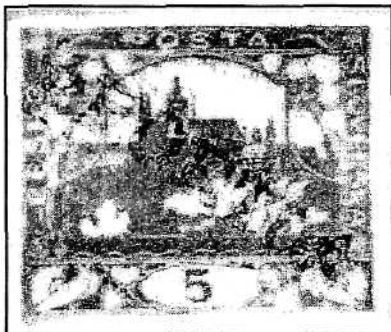


Figure 8: The Náchod marking

The stamps' most arresting characteristic is the strange provisional postage-due mark, the word **PORTO** in large, almost transparent light black letters flanked at either end by a star resembling those framing the letters **Č.S.P.** in the cancels. Novotný reports that 5h provisional postage-due stamps were produced with black markings in Náchod during February 1919, the date implied by the cancel, but describes the mark as a large black **T**.<sup>36</sup>

The application of the postage-due marks in different patterns on all of the stamps found together implies a focus upon variation more in line with a collector's interest than what might casually result during postal clerk's normal work flow. The 20h stamps especially seem to have been marked to excite a collector. The one detail that makes the provisional marking at least tentatively believable is the fact that the three values so marked were values commonly marked for provisional postage-due purposes.

Finding the inks in the postmark and provisional marking the same would be the only possibility that could link the gutters to a post office. If the ink used for the provisional postage-due marking is the same as the ink as used for the postmark, and the postmark is found to be backdated but still authentic, then it may be that a postal clerk actually applied the provisional postage-due markings. This theory of innocence must be considered, just as we must consider the possibility that the cancel was accidentally backdated, but both theories are tenuous at best.

There is no evidence at hand that the very distinctive markings on these stamps ever saw provisional use in Náchod. Similar provisional postage-due markings with stars are of unknown provenance and come nowhere near being a close match (Figs. 8, 9).<sup>37</sup> Note the difference in the points on the stars, for instance. Aid in locating examples identical to the Náchod **PORTO** markings among the readers' collections or citations in the literature would be most helpful, but for the moment it is very doubtful that they represent authentic provisional postage-due usage.

### The Other Náchod Stamps

Four other pairs were acquired with the 3Ms pairs. Of specific interest is the set of red 10h *tête-bêche* 5Mp gutters. These stamps apparently come from positions identical to those of the 5h pairs: ZP 91 for the mint pair and ZP 98 for the cancelled pair.

Of course, with *tête-bêche* gutters, position is all a matter of orientation. The fact that the upper and lower stamps in *tête-bêche* gutters must come from the last row in both panes [ZP 91 -- ZP 100] means that such a coincidence is twice as likely

<sup>36</sup>Novotný, p. 451.

<sup>37</sup>Scans of Figure 9 provided by Tom Morovics of Prague.

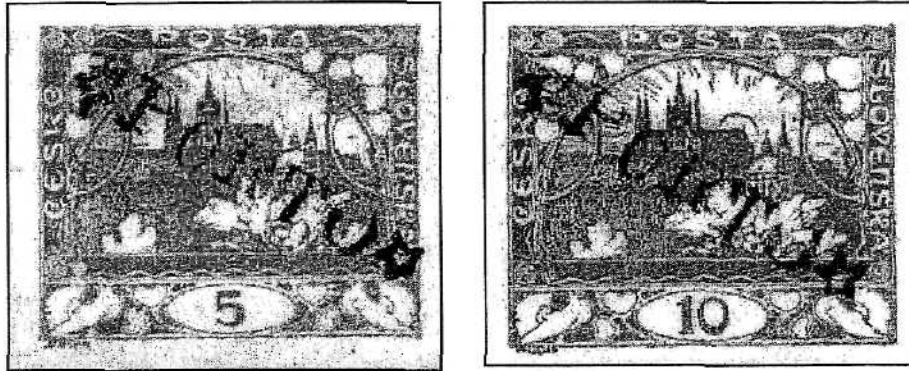


Figure 9: Other "starry" provisional postage-due markings

to occur with them as for normal gutter pairs. But that the mint and used sets from both values would match up as they do, perfectly and only by accident, seems very unlikely: the collector seems to have selected all four gutters carefully. Just as the upper cancelled 5h stamp hints at the presence of a left-hand neighbor, so does the upper stamp of the cancelled 10h pair.

There is one final shared commonality. Both cancelled gutter pairs display the same trimming fault: a shallow indentation cut from the bottom left to just above the lower stamp. When placed one over the other, the 5h and 10h trimming faults nearly align.

The curious pattern of its postage-due markings represents the only remarkable aspect of the 20h pairs. The bit of printer's waste, although the centerpiece of the auction, is on no interest whatsoever.

#### Evidence for an Unreported Double Pane

Rumor has it that only one double pane of these rarities ever left the printing plant intact, perhaps -- to put it kindly -- by private treaty. The literature reports control numbers for five of the six known gutters out of the possible ten from that double pane: .50, 1.50, 4, 4.50, and 5.<sup>38</sup> The sixth, and final control number for that set, 2, is illustrated in an M&T auction catalog.<sup>39</sup> As an aside, the missing numbers are 1, 2.50, 3, and 3.50. All but the first missing number is in sequence.

Several pieces of evidence point to a second double pane as the source of the Náchod gutters. First, all of the known gutters are folded; the Náchod gutters are unfolded. Next, in addition to their sharing control numbers identified in the list above, illustrations in the examined literature show examples of stamps occupying exactly the same positions on the double pane as those in hand. The *POFIS 2002* catalog picture represents the same position as the Náchod mint pair,<sup>40</sup> while a

<sup>38</sup>Wilhelms, p.5.

<sup>39</sup>Majer & Thraumb, March 1998.

<sup>40</sup>Beneš, p.16.

photograph in a Karásek book matches the Náchod postmarked pair.<sup>41</sup> The Novotný book shows ten uncut gutters -- another duplication of the Náchod positions -- but the illustration is too small to determine which plates it represents. This illustration does suggest a missing decimal point in the -50 control number under the top left stamp, implying the gutters came from plates II and I. The noticeable horizontal shift between the top and bottom rows supports this assertion.

Finally, the known gutters are described as light green; the Náchod gutters are green. Two shades of ink could not occur on the same vertical double pane.<sup>42</sup> Despite the fact that tradition, Wilhelms, and the M&T catalog assert the circulation of only a single double pane,<sup>43</sup> the evidence presented here indicates that more than one double pane reached the hands of collectors.

### Part III: Conclusions

Post offices supposedly never distributed the 5h gutter pairs; catalogs list them as un-issued types. The discovery of the Náchod stamps, which have the hallmarks of having at least visited a post office, puts this un-issued status into question.

Unfortunately, the indications of postal use appear deliberately fabricated. No one reports any other instance of these unusual provisional postage-due markings and the postmark predates both the reputed first printing of the 3Ms and the first use of the canceling device.

Although the dubious cancel might be shrugged off, since by definition mint stamps bear no postmark, two very hard problems remain. First, there is the improbability that such an unusual provisional postage-due marking could remain unreported for more than eighty years. Second, the fact that the gutters clearly derive from an unfolded double pane all but refutes any notion of actual provisional postage-due use. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, no rational person could believe that a double pane reached Náchod through official channels, was somehow selected for provisional postage-due use, and never in all that time underwent folding. That the unfolded nature of the gutters can be used in evidence against them is the most ironic aspect of this investigation.

The more probable story is that an influential collector or dealer obtained an unfolded double pane from the printer, applied the provisional postage-due markings himself, then took the stamps to the Náchod post office for favor cancellations. In hindsight, one is hard-pressed to imagine why anyone in possession of several rare Hradcany gutter pairs would want to deface them with odd postage-due markings and disputable cancels. The one plausible explanation is that the stamps represent a deliberate if ill-advised attempt to forge indications of official use.

If so, that attempt has to be one of the clumsiest in history. It is so at odds with its goal that one is inclined to believe that these unfolded, oddly marked and

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<sup>41</sup>Jan Karásek, *Vzácnosti a zajímavosti Československých známek*. Brno 2000, p.20.

<sup>42</sup>Mark Wilson, "A naïve translation of Tisková Forma". *Czechoslovak Specialist*, July/August 2002, p.8. Ink was applied to each half of the printing sheet by its own roller; only one shade of color could be applied to the stamps on any specific vertical double pane.

<sup>43</sup>Majer & Thraumb, September 2001; Wilhelms, p.5.

inappropriately cancelled gutters should somehow be exonerated. One wants to believe that anyone clever enough to obtain two of these rarities would not abuse them so harshly, that some dull postal clerk must have performed this outrage upon them, and that they represent a real if farfetched usage. Unfortunately, no amount of rationalization can support such a thesis without far better supporting evidence.

#### Unanswered Questions

The *Monografie's* gutter measurements appear incorrect; can the correct sizes be ascertained to identify the source printing form? Or is the *Monografie* correct and were other unmentioned printing forms used to produce 3Ms gutters?

Who was influential enough to obtain at least two, perhaps even more, 3Ms gutters? Who placed the markings on these stamps? Why do they so patently appear a fabrication? How and when did these stamps reach North America?

Which double pane does the Novotný illustration represent? Is it the source of the six previously known gutters, the source of the Náchod pairs, or does it represent yet a third 3Ms double pane? Are there more unfolded 3Ms gutters awaiting discovery?

Is it possible to examine impressions of the Náchod 4b canceling device made over its entire service period (1920-1925?) to determine if any identifying nicks or other visible damage occurred, and thus more precisely determine the actual cancellation date?

#### Postscript

This paper started with the premise that a collector with limited resources and minimal skills could successfully begin an authentication examination. The report above demonstrates that the superficial physical evidence -- at least from a novice's point of view -- did not support an assumption of forgery, but that the historical and logical facts appear to dispute any possible official postal use. Although the investigation did not prove the stamps false, neither can they be further authenticated at this level. If the stamps prove genuine, then a determination must be made as to whether the cancellations represent an accidental error or deliberate backdating, and whether the provisional postage-due markings are real or fanciful.

From this point forward, the investigation must rely upon the special skills and tools of the professional examiner. In late November 2002, the Náchod gutters were taken to the Czech Republic to undergo expert examination. Here are the results of that investigation:

*"The Nachod gutters come from different double sheets, one known and one previously unknown. While the gutters themselves are genuine, the provisional postage-due overprint appears completely spurious. The cancellations require further examination as they appear to have been applied at different times. Altogether, much more investigation is required to solve all of the problems related to the Nachod gutters."*

*Ing. Pavel Pittermann,  
Ing. Jiř Škaloud*

Correspondence from interested parties is invited. [Hradcanv@adelphia.net](mailto:Hradcanv@adelphia.net),

[note the use of the English spelling of Hradcany in the email address] for email or by post to: Dr. Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22603 USA.



**CsPSGB 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY (Continued from Page 1)**  
**CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
**A SHORT HISTORY**

The CPSGB celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Although there was an exchange club before World War II, it was in 1953 that the Society came to be in its present form. The Society now has around 200 members worldwide, their collecting interests covering all aspects of the philately of the Czech and Slovak lands.

The first UK society dedicated to the collecting and study of Czechoslovak philately was formed in 1942 and consisted mainly of Czechoslovaks who had escaped the Nazi occupation of their homeland, many offering their services as fighting units in Great Britain. When a considerable proportion of military personnel moved to France in August 1944, the society lost many of its members. Whilst still in the UK these military units had their own Field Post Office and were given permission by the British Post Office to use their own cancellations on mail. Many of these were commemorative cancellations and members of the society at that time were permitted to receive specimens of these cancellations.

Despite the short life of the original society, one major event took place that has left its mark on the history of Czechoslovak philately. Under the patronage of the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, an exhibition of Czechoslovak postage stamps was held in London in November 1943 to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic. The exhibition was attended by many government officials and a miniature sheet was issued to mark the event.

Little was heard of the society for several years, but in 1951 an announcement appeared in *Stamp Collecting* about the possibility of forming an exchange club for Czechoslovak stamps. The proposed name for this new society was "The Linden Leaf", but it was decided that a more suitable name would be the "Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain". In addition to the exchange packets, a "Study Circle Dossier" was circulated by Vincent Jourdan in 1952, these being circulated round all members who could add their own comments before the completed dossier was re-circulated.

It is now 50 years since George Pearson FRPSL gave a display of Czechoslovakia to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 21 May 1953, and it was in the Royal's library on that day that plans to keep the society alive were discussed. At a later meeting in October 1953, elections for Officers and a Committee took place and it was decided that meetings would take place quarterly by Peach & Dow's Auction Rooms in Lambs Conduit Street, London. With a Committee and premises for displays and discussions, the CPSGB had now become the model on which today's Society is based.

From 1955 meetings were moved to the home of Robert Trager in Montague



Street W1. Thereafter the Society met first in the British Philatelic Association's office in Strand, and later at their new premises in the National Liberal Club. Today, the CPSGB is fortunate to have the use of the Czech & Slovak National Club in West Hampstead, where the informal atmosphere mingles well with the Czech beer and cuisine

### MARTIN ČINOVSÝ

Born in Levoca in 1953, Martin Činovský studied from 1971 to 1977 at the department of book design at the Academy of Fine Art in Bratislava, the fifth year of his studies being spent at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. In 1982 he gained valuable experience during post-graduate studies in postage stamp engraving at the state postal stationery printing house in Périgueux, France. With solo exhibitions in Bratislava, Hamburg, Prague, Sapporo, Auvers-sur-Oise, Mojmírovce and Kežmarok, Martin Činovský has taken part in around fifty group and international exhibitions. His prints have earned him many prizes and honourable mentions, as well as medals at the International Biennial of Small Prints in Łódź and the Ex-libris Biennial in Malbork, both in Poland. In 1985 he was awarded a prize by the Slovak Fine Art Fund.

Martin Činovský's first postage stamp engraving was in 1986, on the occasion of the tenth Women's Volleyball World Championship. He became Slovakia's first engraver of postage stamps and has been involved in the original creation of artwork, the graphic design of stamps, cancellations and covers, or as the engraver in over 160 items. Most notable was the first postage stamp for the newly formed Slovak Republic on 1 January 1993, as Činovský provided both the design and the engraving. His contribution to the creation of Slovak postage stamps lies not only in his unique talent and his ability to create beautiful works of art in miniature, but as a teacher at the Academy of Fine Art, he is able to pass on his knowledge and enthusiasm to other artists and engravers.

His artistic achievements do not stop with the graphic arts, as he is an accomplished musician and composer of music for films. He lives and works in Bratislava.

The second event was a 23 display/52 frame exhibit presented to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 20 March 2003.

The third event was a special exhibition at the Embassy of the Czech Republic. From the colored flyer announcing it:

### EXHIBITION AT THE EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC Thursday 22 May – Saturday 24 May 2003

Hosted by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic and supported by the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, an exhibition consisting of 140 frames showing the stamps and postal history of the Czech and Slovak lands will be on display at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on the above dates.

*[Ed. Note: Congratulations to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and all of its members, and best wishes to the next 50 years!!!]*

## COMPARISON SURVEY OF CATALOG NUMBERS OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS

by Savoy Horvath

This is an update to the original survey which covered the years 1918 through 1976. This update picks up where the other finished off and extends through the present -- mid 2001, which means that the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic are treated separately after 1992. [A = s/s or printing sheet, P = Perf, I = Imperf]

I want to thank Bob Koschalk, Tom Cossaboom, and Peter Kleskovic, without whom this survey could not have been completed.

Listed here by year are the POFIS, Scott, and Michel comparative stamp catalog numbers of Czechoslovak, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic stamps.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA POFIS/Scott/Michel

<u>1977</u>	<u>1977 (cont)</u>	<u>1977 (cont)</u>	<u>1978 (cont)</u>
2232/2095/2356	2259/2122/2383	2278/2141/2404	2302/2165/2431
2233/2096/2357	2260/2123/2384	2279/2142/2405	2303/2166/2432
2234/2097/2358	2261/2124/2385	2280/2143/2406	2304/2167/2433
2235/2098/2359	2262/2125/2386	2281/2144/2410	2305/2172/2435
2236/2101/2362	2263/2126/2387	2282/2145/2411	2306/2173/2436
2237/2102/2363	2264/2127/2388	2283/2146/2412	2307/2171/2434
2238/2100/2361	2265/2128/2389	2284/2147/2413	2308/2168/2437
2239/2099/2360	2266/2129/2390	2285/2148/2414	2309/2169/2438
2240/2103/2364	2267/2130/2391	2286/2149/2415	2310/2170/2439
2241/2104/2365	2268/2131/2392	2287/2150/2416	2311/2174/2440
2242/2105/2366	2269/2132/2393	2288/2151/2417	2312/2175/2441
2243/2106/2367	2270/2133/2394	2289/2152/2418	2313/2176/2442
2244/2107/2368	2271/2134/2395	2290/2153/2419	2314/2177/2443
2245/2108/2369	L86 /C89 /2396	2291/2154/2420	2315/2178/2444
2246/2109/2370	L87 /C90 /2397		2316/2179/2445
2247/2110/2371	L88 /C91 /2398	<u>1978</u>	2317/2180/2446
2248/2111/2372	L89 /C92 /2399	2292/2155/2421	2318/2181/2447
2249/2112/2373	L90 /C93 /2400	2293/2156/2422	2319/2182/2448
2250/2113/2374	2272/2135/2401	2294/2157/2423	2320/2183/2449
2251/2114/2375	2273/2136/2407	A2294a/--/Block34	2321/2184/2450
2252/2115/2376	2274/2137/2408	2295/2158/2424	2322/2185/2451
2253/2116/2377	2275/2138/2409	2296/2159/2425	2323/2186/2452
2254/2117/2378	A2273/2136a/---	2297/2160/2426	2324/2187/2453
2255/2118/2379	A2274/2136b/---	2298/2161/2427	2325/2188/2454
2256/2119/2380	A2275/2136c/---	2299/2162/2428	2326/2189/2455
2257/2120/2381	2276/2139/2402	2300/2163/2429	2327/----/2456
2258/2121/2382	2277/2140/2403	2301/2164/2430	A2327P/2190/ BL35A

<u>1978 (cont)</u>	<u>1979 (cont)</u>	<u>1979 (cont)</u>	<u>1980 (cont)</u>
A2327I/---/BL35B	A2364I/---/---	2408/2268/2537	2447/2321/2576
2328/2191/2457	2365/2227/2494	2409/2269/2538	2448/2322/2577
2329/2192/2458	2366/2228/2495	2410/2270/2539	2449/2323/2578
2330/2193/2459	2367/2229/2496	2411/2271/2540	2450/2324/2579
2331/2194/2460	2368/2230/2497	2412/2272/2541	2451/2325/2580
2332/2195/2461	2369/2231/2498		2452/2326/2581
2333/---/2462	2370/2237/2503	<u>1980</u>	2453/2327/2582
A2333/2196/BL36	2371/2236/2502	2413/2275/2542	2454/2328/2583
2334/2197a/2463	2372/2234/2500	2414/2276/2543	2455/2329/2584
2335/2197b/2464	2373/2235/2501	2415/2290/2544	2456/2330/2585
A2334-5/2197/BL37	2374/2233/2499	2416/2291/2545	2457/2331/2586
A2334-5 FIP/--/--	2375/2231/2504	2417/2292/2546	2458/2332/2587
2336/2198/2465	2376/2238/2505	2418/2293/2547	2459/2333/2588
2337/2199/2466	2377/2239/2506	2419/2294/2548	2460a/---/----
2338/2201/2467	2378/2240/2507	2420/2295/2549	2460b/---/2589
2339/2200/2468	2379/2241/2508	2421/2296/2550	A2460/2334/BL42
2340/2202/2469	2380/2242/2509	2422/2289/2551	2461/2335/2590
2341/2203/2470	2381/2243/2510	2423/2297/2555	2462/2336/2591
2342/2204/2471	2382/2244/2511	2424/2298/2554	2463/2337/2592
2343/2205/2472	2383/2245/2512	2425/2299/2553	2464/2338/2593
2344/2206/2473	2384/2246/2513	2426/2300/2552	2465/2339/2594
2345/2207/2474	2385/2247/2514	2427/2301/2556	2466/2340/2595
2346/2208/2475	2386/2248/2515	2428/2302/2557	
2347/2209/2476	2387/2249/2516	2429/2303/2558	<u>1981</u>
2348/2210/2477	2388/2250/2517	2430/2304/2559	2467/2341/2596
2349/2211/2478	2389/2251/2518	2431/2305/2560	2468/2342/2597
2350/2212/2479	2390/2252/2519	2432/2306/2561	2469/2343/2598
2351/2213/2480	2391/2253/2520	2433/2307/2562	2470/2344/2599
2352/2214/2481	2392/2254/2521	2434/---/2563	2471/2345/2600
2353/2215/2482	2393/2255/2522	2434P/2308/BL40A	2472/2346/2601
2354/2216/2483	2394/2256/2523	2434I/---/BL40B	2473/2347/2602
2355/2217/2484	2395/2257/2524	2435/2309/2564	2474/2350/2605
	2396/2258/2525	2436/2310/2565	2475/2351/2603
<u>1979</u>	2397/2259/2526	2437/2311/2566	2476/2349/2604
2356/2220/2486	2398/2273/2527	2438/2312/2567	2477/2348/2606
2357/2218/2485	2399/2274/2528	2439/2313/2568	2478/2353/2608
2358/2219/2487	2400/2260/2529	2440/2315/2569	2479/2354/2607
2359/2221/2488	2401/2261/2530	2441/2314/2570	2480/2352/2610
2360/2222/2489	2402/2262/2531	2442/---/2573	2481/2355/2609
2361/2223/2490	2403/2263/2532	A2442/2316/BL41	2482/2356a/2611
2362/2224/2491	2404/2264/2533	2443/2317/2571	A2482/2356/BL43
2363/2225/2492	2405/2265/2534	2444/2318/2572	2483/2360/2612
2364/2226/2493	2406/2266/2535	2445/2319/2574	2484/2361/2613
A2364P/2226/BL39	2407/2267/2536	2446/2320/2575	2485/2357/2614

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

<u>1981 (cont)</u>	<u>1982 (cont)</u>	<u>1982 (cont)</u>	<u>1983 (cont)</u>
2486/2358/2615	2527/2398/2653	2566/2435/2690	2606/2473/2728
2487/2359/2616	2528/2399/2654	2567/2436/2691	2607/2474/2729
2488/2362/2617	2529/2401/2656	2568/2437/2692	2608/2475/2730
A2489/2347a/BL44	2530/2402/2657	2569/2438/2693	2609/2476/2731
2490/2363/2618	2531/2403/2658	2570/2439/2694	2610/2477/2732
2491/2366/2619	2532/2404/2659	2571/2440/2695	2611/2478/2733
2492/2367/2620	2533/2405/2661	2572/2441/2696	2612/2479/2734
2493/2368/2621	2534/2406/2662	2573/2442/2697	A2613/2446a/BL56
2494/2364/2622	2535/2407/2663		2614/2480/2735
2495/2365/2623	2536/2408/2664	<u>1983</u>	2615/2481/2736
2496/----/2624	2537/2409/2665	2574/2443/2698	2616/2482/2737
A2496/2374/BL45	2538/2410/2660	2575/2444/2699	2617/2483/2738
2497/2373/2625	A2538/----/BL47	2576/2445/2700	2618/2484/2739
2498/2369/2626	2539/2411/2667	2577/2446/2701	2619/2485/2740
2499/2370/2627	2540/2412/2668	2578/2447/2702	2620/2486/2741
2500/2371/2628	2541/2413a/2666	2579/2448/2703	2621/2487/2742
2501/2372/2629	A2541/2413/BL48	2580/2449/2704	2622/2488/2743
2502/2375/2630	PL2542/2390a/2645	2581/2452/2707	2623/2489/2744
2503/2376/2631	2543/2419/2669	2582/2450/2705	2624/2490/2745
2504/2377/2632	2544/2414a/2670	2583/2451/2706	2625/2491/2746
2505/2378/2633	A2544/2414/BL49	2584/2453/2708	2626/2492/2747
2506/2379/2634	2545/2415/2671	2585/2454/2709	
2507/2380/2635	2546/2416/2672	2586/2455a/2710	<u>1984</u>
2508/2381/2636	2547/2417/2673	A2586/2455/BL53	2627/2493/2748
2509/2382/2637	2548/2418/2674	2587/2456/2711	2628/2494/2749
2510/2383/2638	A2545-8/2415-8a/	2588/2457/2712	2629/2495/2751
2511/2384/2639	BL50	2589/2458/2713	2630/2496/2752
2512/2385/2640	2549/2420/2675	2590/2459/2714	2631/2496/2753
2513/2386/2641	2550/2421/2676	2591/2460/2715	A2632/2496a/BL57
2514/2387/2642	2551/2424/2679	2592/2461/2716	2633/2498/2750
2515/2388/2643	2552/2425/2680	2593/2462/2717	2634/2500/2754
2516/2389/2644	A2553/2424a/BL51	2594/2463/2718	2635/2499/2755
2517/2390/2645	A2554/2425a/BL52	2595/2464/2719	2636/2502/2756
2518/2391/2646	2555/2422/2677	2596/2465/2720	2637/2501/2757
2519/2392/2647	2556/2423/2678	A2597/2465a/BL54	2638/2503/2758
A2520/2392a/BL46	2557/2426/2681	2598/2466/2721	2639/2504/2759
	2558/2427/2682	2599/2467/2722	2640/2505/2760
	2559/2428/2683	2600/2468/2723	2641/2506/2761
<u>1982</u>	2560/2429/2684	2601/2469/2724	2642/2507/2762
2521/2393/2648	2561/2430/2685	2602/2470/2725	2643/2508/2763
2522/2394/2649	2562/2431/2686	2603/2471/2726	2644/2509/2764
2523/2395/2650	2563/2432/2687	A2604/2468-71a/	2645/2510/2765
2524/2396/2655	2564/2433/2688	BL55	2646/2511/2766
2525/2397/2651	2565/2434/2689	2605/2472/2727	2647/2512/2767
2526/2400/2652			(To Be Continued)

## COROS HONORS TO CZECH REPUBLIC

by John D. Schmidt, President, COROS

The annual Founders Award of The Collectors of Religion on Stamps took a dramatic turn this month as the cherished prize for outstanding achievement in religious philately was bestowed on a nation rather than an individual for the first time. The Czech Republic was selected by the COROS Board of Directors in view of the consistent array of superlative postal issues containing religious themes emanating from the Department of Transportation and Communications in Prague since the beginnings of the Republic in 1993. The artistic quality, design and production of these issues has few contemporary peers and provides an example of old world values as we face a new millennium, according to COROS President John D. Schmidt. Among the releases are the commemoration of the Brevnov Monastery, the Infant Jesus of Prague, Jan Komensky, the art of Master Theodoric (14<sup>th</sup> cent)



Figure 1: Rev. Augustine Serafini, Editor, The COROS Chronicle; John D. Schmidt, President, COROS; Miloslav Cardinal Vlk, Archbishop of Prague

and Jan Pietr Brendl (17<sup>th</sup> cent), the Strahovska Madonna, the tribute to Beuron monastic art in 1999, the presentation of the Jewish monuments of Prague, the *Rentz Annunciation*, as well as the St. Wenceslas issue released this week. The 1997 issue featuring St. Adalbert of Prague (simultaneously released by the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Hungary and the Vatican), was highlighted by virtue of the award being accepted on behalf of the Republic by Miloslav Cardinal Vlk,

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

current Archbishop of Prague. Mr. Schmidt bestowed the award at a reception for Cardinal Vlk at the Czech Consulate General in New York on December 8, 2002, hosted by Consul General Ales Pospisil, Ambassador Extraordinary Martin Palous, and representatives of the Czech community. The COROS Board of Directors was represented by Fr. Augustine Serafini, editor of *The COROS Chronicle* for the past 17 years (Fig. 1). Cardinal Vlk had concelebrated Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral that morning with Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York, and Father Serafini.

The Founders Award was established in 2000 by the oldest topical stamp association in the United States to honor significant accomplishment in the field of religious philately. Collectors of Religion on Stamps has previously honored Verna Shackleton, COROS Secretary-Treasurer for many years, and Lee Kleinhaus, Past President and *Chronicle* editor and philatelic achiever.

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## EXCHANGE PARTNER

The following individual has contacted the Society with a request for an exchange partner. Any exchange relationships are strictly between the two individuals, because the Society is an uninvolved party.

1. Martin Pöschl            Can write English, Czech and Slovak; is 31 years old;  
    Šneky 126                offers Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic in  
exchange  
    351 35 Plesná            for USA, Canada, and Scandinavian countries  
    Czech Republic

## ADVERTISEMENT

### INVITATION TO AN AUCTION

Semiannual auction of postal stationery and postal history, held in winter and late summer of each year, each with 2,200+ items, mostly from Czechoslovak related areas. All in color with 750+ illustrations. Auction catalog available on the INTERNET, by request, and sent to regular customers.

Milan Černík, PO Box 94, CZ-14201 Praha 4, CZECH REPUBLIC

icernik@volny.cz <http://www.pac-auction.com>

Tel/FAX: +420/2/4147 0316 Mobil: 0608/539 581

Member of SCP

## NEW MEMBERS WANTED

HELP your society to grow! Enlist a fellow collector of Czechoslovak stamps for membership. Talk up the Society at your local stamp club or exhibition.

Membership benefits are listed periodically on page two of issues. If you still have it, there were two application forms tied in to the middle of the July/August 2000 issue. If not, application forms and Society information are available from our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

**Farewells**

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the recent passing of our member, Hugh M. Goldberg (member #1883), on January 18. Mr. Goldberg was the owner of the Subway Stamp Shop originally of New York and lately of Altoona, PA. He was a member of several collector societies, including life memberships in the American Philatelic Society and the American Stamp Dealers Association. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his wife Virginia and the entire Goldberg family.

**THE SUDETENLAND RECALLED**

by George E. Kuhn

*(Continued from previous issue)*

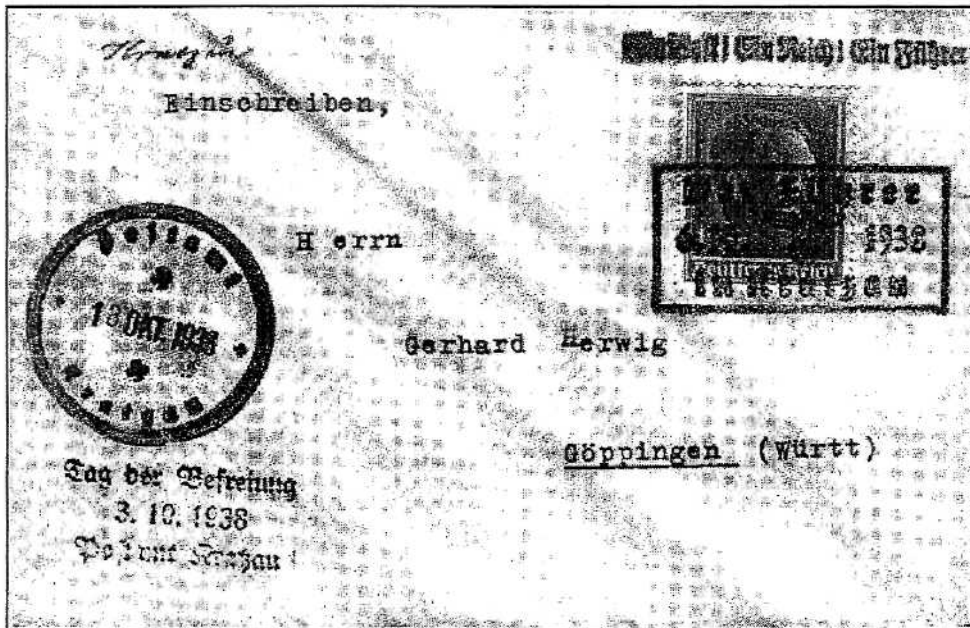


Figure 8: Kratzau, various dates. Box cancel at upper right commemorates Hitler's visit on that day. Purple circular handstamp at left is dated October 18, beneath which is a black handstamp noting October 3 as the "Day of Liberation". Horizontal line at very top of cover reads, "One People! One Nation! One Leader!"

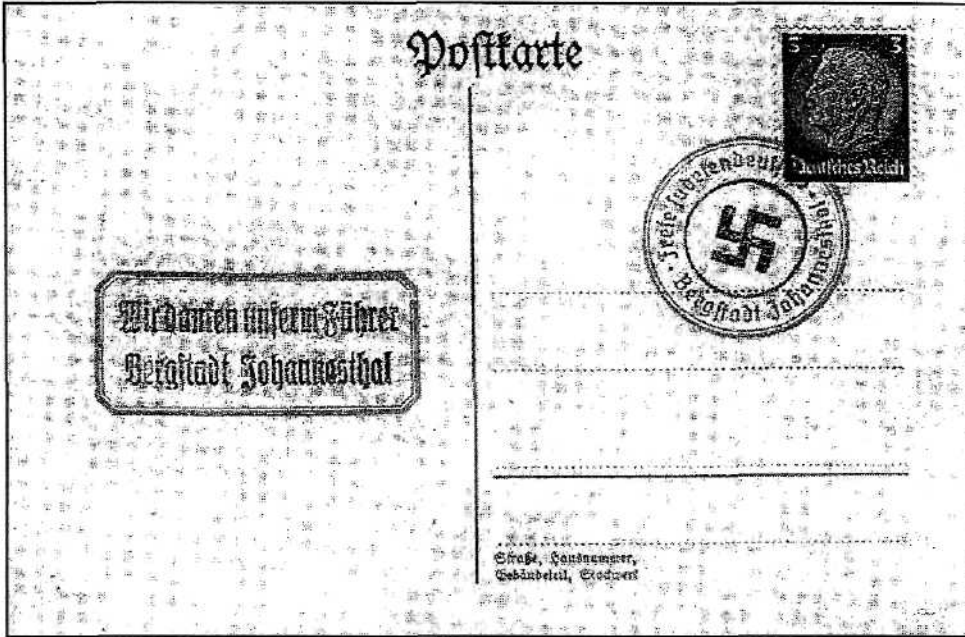


Figure 9: Johannesthal (no date). Rectangular cachet reads, "We thank our Führer / Mountain City Johannesthal". The circular handstamp notes, "Free Sudeten German Mountain City Johannesthal".



Figure 10: This provisional cancel for Beneschau is typical of many put into use immediately after the Nazi occupation.



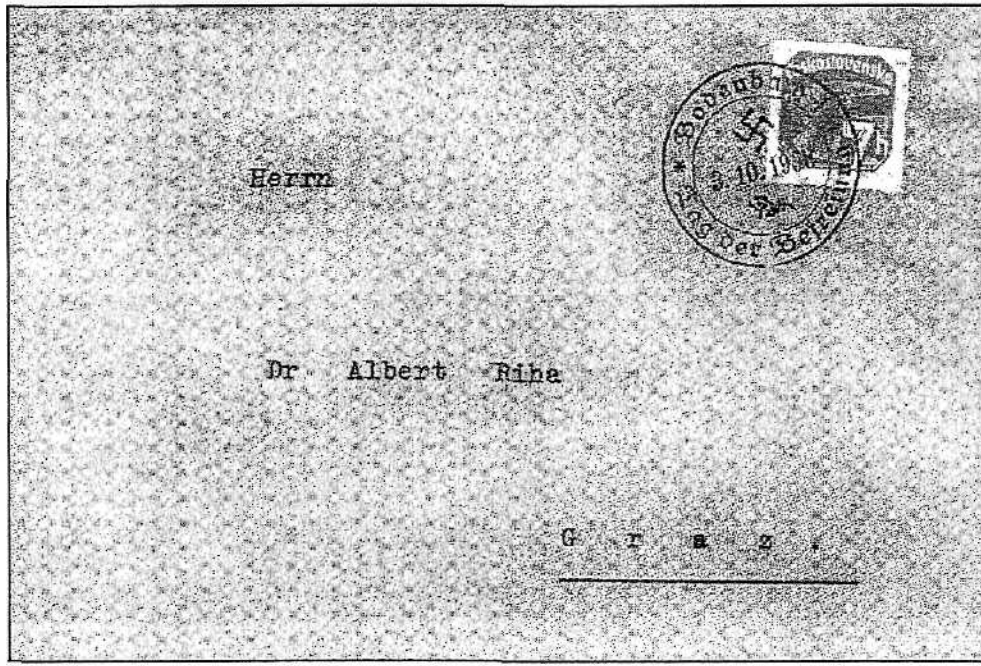


Figure 11: Bodenbach was "liberated" on October 3, 1938, as indicated by this cancel. Newspaper stamps temporarily were accepted for regular postage by the occupying German postal authorities.

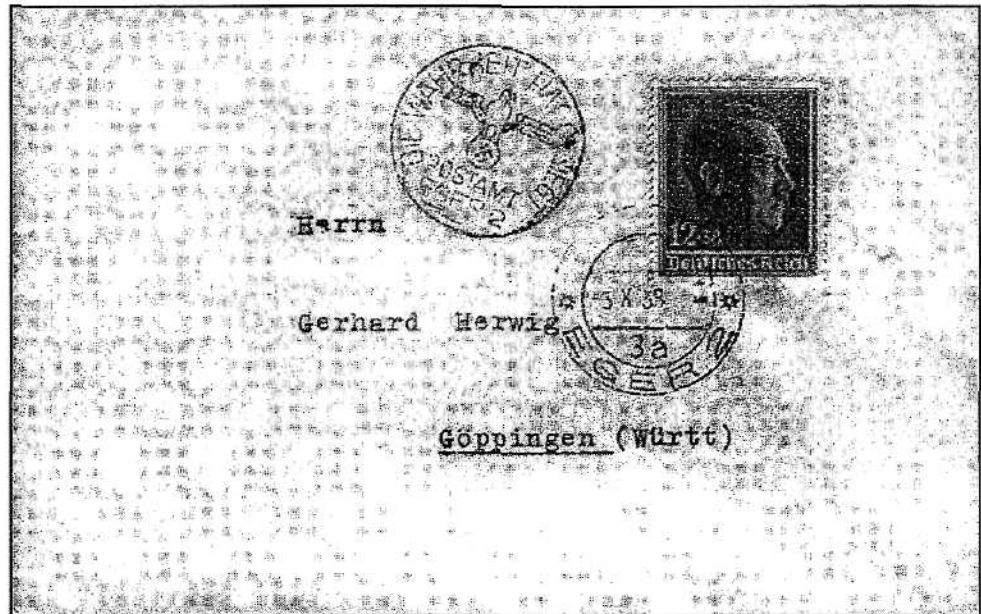


Figure 12: Eger was occupied officially on October 3 and noted the event with a special pictorial handstamp that read, "The truth has triumphed."

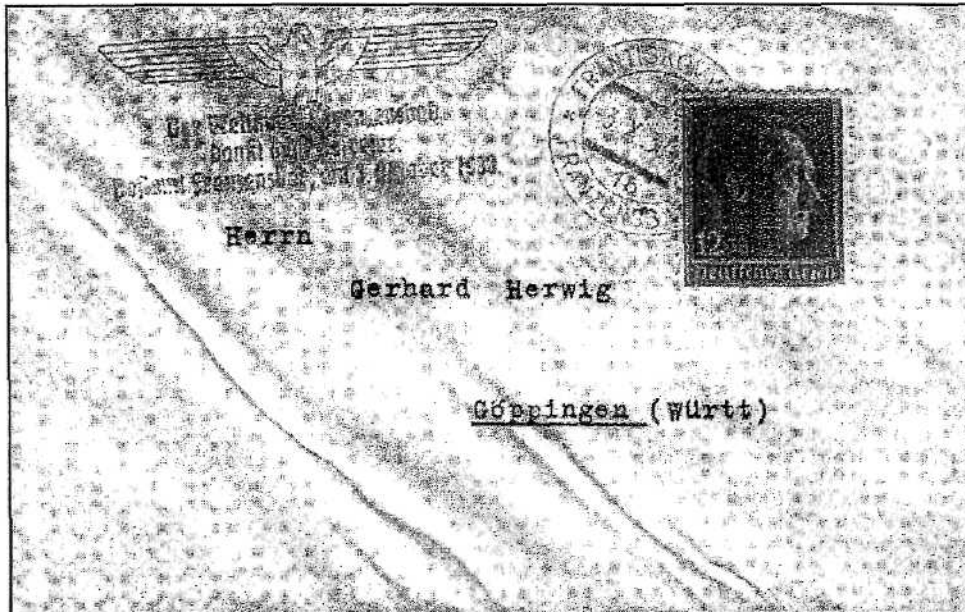


Figure 13: Franzenbad ("Frantiskovy" in Czech) came under Nazi control on October 3. The slogan in red reads, "The World War Veterans of Franzenbad thank our liberator."

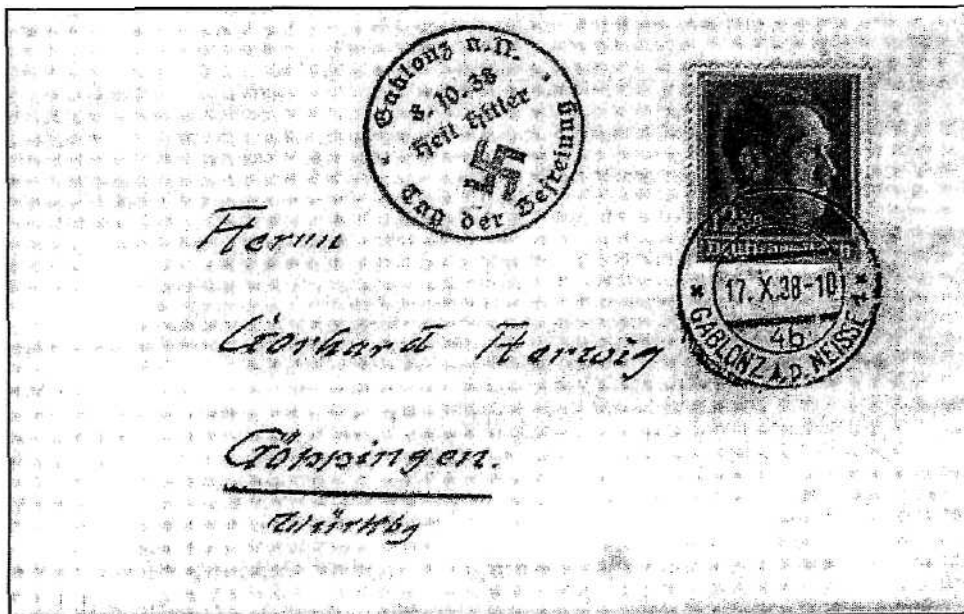


Figure 14: Gablonz, occupied October 8, used a special handstamp, along with the regular postmark, noting that date as the "Day of Liberation".



Figure 15: Mies, October 9, 1938: "The Mountain City of Mies thanks the Führer!"



Figure 16: Niklasdorf ("Mikulovice" in Czech), October 4, 1938. Large purple cachet at upper right reads, "The liberated township of Niklasdorf". Circular cachet at upper left appears to read, "The Sudeten German victims of Niklasdorf".



Figure 17: Karlsbad and most other major cities used a special cancel on December 4, 1938, to urge people to vote for official union with Germany on this plebiscite day.



Figure 18: Less than six months after the Sudetenland was given to Hitler, Nazi troops entered the remainder of Czechoslovakia in direct violation of the Munich agreements. World War II was now inevitable.

### Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

-- As of March 1<sup>st</sup> the Czech Republic has a brand new president, finally. A pragmatist, eurosceptic and a sportsman -- Václav Klaus. Whatever he is, he is scheduled to be on the very next Czech postage stamp. However, there is a question if he even wants to be on such a definitive stamp. On March 4 the Ministry of Information sent the Office of the President a request asking how he would like to be portrayed on the new stamp. To date, no answer has been received. Here is one of the stamp suggestions:

HELLO VÁCLAV



and as a farewell:



BYE, BYE VÁCLAV  
EVER DEARER HAVEL



Don't leave,  
in fact you continue  
to be dearer for us!

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

-- Received news that the Czechs will unveil their own personalizable type of stamp like the Slovaks have. This should happen at the Jihlava German/Czech OSTROPA 2003 stamp show being held at the same time as WESTPEX, April 24-27. They will print your picture, any kind of a scene or a message for about \$10 plus postage. The stamp will have a rose over Prague in a printing sheet of nine stamps with nine blank coupons, the stamps having a value of 6.40 Kč, the domestic rate.

-- Results of the 2002 "Best Czech Stamp" balloting. The tenth year of balloting for the most beautiful stamp of the Czech Republic again did not bring any surprises -- the first three top vote getters were classical art reproductions on stamps. There were 9,226 ballots cast and 33 postage stamps voted on. Somewhat surprising was that the automated postage stamp "Hrad Zvíkov" placed 16<sup>th</sup> and the first stamp from the brand new definitive series placed 15<sup>th</sup>. The top vote getter was the 17 Kč, Vlaho Bukovac's "Divan 1905" (1,610 votes), then a close second was the 12 Kč, Jaroslav Panuška's "A Forlorn Woman 1901" (1,584 votes), and then the 20 Kč, Mikoláš Aleš's "St. Wenceslas (Design of a Window) 1890" (1,516 votes). In last place was the 5.40 Kč, "Winter Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City 2002" (5 votes).

From Richard Palaschak:

-- I have received information on the BRNO 2005 exhibition from the Union of Czech Philatelists. They have asked us to participate and to appoint a commissioner.

### EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMPS EXHIBITION BRNO 2005

As decided by FEPA Congress 2002, the Union of Czech Philatelists will organize the European postage stamps exhibition BRNO 2005. It will be a general stamp exhibition with all classes open according to GREX Special Regulations.

The Exhibition is being prepared as a general philatelic exhibition containing all exhibition classes according to the FIP and FEPA Special Regulations. Organizers of the exhibition are prepared, once knowing if FEPA member unions are interested, to include an open class and a class of one-frame exhibits. The classes of literature and youth will be also included. Official exhibits of postal administrations of participating European countries will be certainly shown too. Postal administrations will be represented by stands offering both stamps and other philatelic material.

Qualification requirements for exhibiting in competitive classes of adult exhibitors will be at least a vermeil medal (80 points) at a national or higher-level exhibition between 1996-2004. Youth exhibits must win at least a silver medal at a national or higher-level exhibition. The evaluation must not be older than three years. Exhibits in OPEN CLASS and one-frame exhibits need not have any qualification. Only philatelists -- members of national philatelic associations are allowed to exhibit. This does not apply to the Philatelic Literature Class in which both organized philatelists and other persons or organizations can show their exhibits.

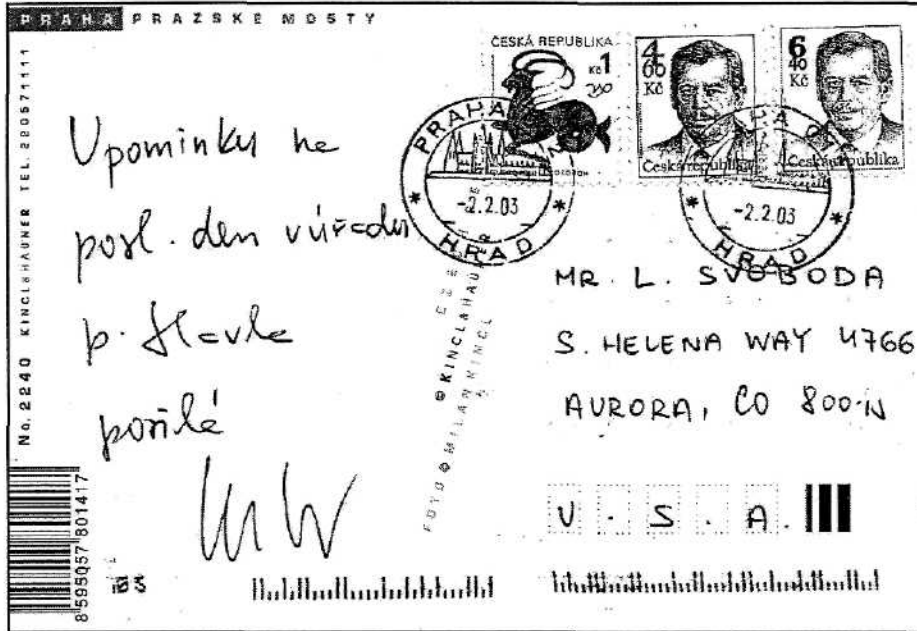


Fig. 2

From Lubor Kunc:

-- Here is a card (Fig. 2) postmarked at Praha 012 Hrad (Prague Castle 012) on the last day of President Václav Havel's presidency, February 2, 2003.

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### SCP SALES CIRCUIT SPECIAL OFFERING!!!!

The award-winning Hans Klein 'Stampless Cover Collection of the Kingdom of Bohemia' from the 1600's through the 1800's has been offered for sale. There are 60 pieces remaining, and interest is high.

Contact Alan Hoover, SCP Sales Circuit Manager and request an electronic copy of the listing at [h.alan.hoover@mail.com](mailto:h.alan.hoover@mail.com) or write to address found on page 2 of this issue. Recommend that you contact immediately so as not to be disappointed. The regular 5% Sales Circuit Commission will be added to your total purchase.

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### SOCIETY CIRCUIT

Do you have excess philatelic materials that you would like to sell? Why not contact our circuit sales manager, Alan Hoover, for details on how to submit them

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

for sale in our circuit. Just remember to price your materials reasonably for quick results. The circuit is currently going out to about 35 of our members and experiencing tremendous sales interest because of the great variety of materials and the reasonable prices. Alan can be reached at 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.

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### 2001 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Member Dues	\$7,226.01	SPECIALIST	\$7,870.16
Circuit Sales Fees	1,000.00	Membership Expense	238.69
Net Interest & Fees	221.30	Postage & Admin Exp	158.20
Donations	179.00	Advertising	95.21
Advertising	94.75	Education Expense	74.30
Net Book Sales	1,121.86	Miscellaneous	199.40
Miscellaneous	10.50		
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$ 9,853.42	<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	\$8,635.96
<u>NET GAIN/LOSS</u>	\$1,217.46		

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT Jan 1, 2001 – Dec 31, 2001

Membership --	January 1, 2001	337
	December 31, 2001	320
	Regular Members	243
	Patron Members	57
	Honorary Members	11
	Senior Members	5
	Complimentary Members	4

\*\*\*\*\*

### SOCIETY LIBRARY

The finest collection of Czechoslovak philatelic literature outside of the Czech and Slovak Republics is at your fingertips as a Society member. Contact our librarian, Richard Palaschak, for a Library Catalog listing of the books and periodicals that are available (or if you have an Internet connection, go to: [www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)) -- there are currently 342 of them. He will also provide



you with all of the details on borrowing items by mail. You can reach him at 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 22031.

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## New Issues

### CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On January 20, 2003, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 6.40 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series (Fig. 1). This year's "Tradition" issue highlights the original stamp, St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle of 1937, whose original nominal value was 2.50 Kč -- the designer was Jan C. Vondrouš and the engraver Karel Seizinger. The original stamp was issued to commemorate the founding of the *Petite Entente* (little pact) which was established by Beneš in 1918 to counter Hungarian revisionism and Hapsburg restoration. Member countries were Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania, with Prague being the *spiritus movens* of the group, operating on a regional level from 1921-1939. This group was symbolized on the original stamp by the three joined circles in its lower part. The alliance was based on bilateral military agreements, combined with multilateral contracts dealing with political and economic co-operation, to which in 1930 the agreement on regular meetings of the foreign ministers of the three countries was added. This pact was supported by a special agreement with France. (This subject is extensively covered in the book: *A History of the Czechoslovak Republic 1918-1948*, edited by Victor S. Mamatey and Radomír Luza, 1973, printed in the USA by Princeton University Press.) Jan C. Vondrouš (1884-1970) lived from his childhood in America, and there he studied at the Academy of Art in New York, graduating -- among other things -- from the etching school. In 1910 he visited Prague where he created a series of etchings with the topic of city architecture. Many of his inspirations were based on his journeys to Italy, France and Holland. His etchings earned him a number of medals in world exhibitions. Collections of his works are owned by the National Gallery in Prague, and also by many other foreign museums and galleries. The current multicolored stamp was both designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa. It was printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, gray, blue and red in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps being issued in the sheet arrangements, they are also produced in the form of philatelic booklets containing 8 stamps and 4 coupons. The coupon features the tower of the Brno Town Hall which was used on a stamp in 1946 in the Cities series (author J. C. Vondrouš), as well as in the miniature sheet issued for the National Exhibition of Postage Stamps which took place in Brno in 1946. A FDC in dark brown includes a cachet of a motif of the Charles Bridge from the stamp by J.C.



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Vondrouš issued in the Historical Anniversaries of Towns series of 1957 (Fig. 2).

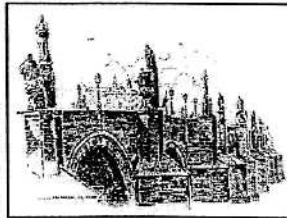


Fig. 2

2. On February 12, 2003, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Personalities series. The stamps were designed by Zdeněk Netopil and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. They were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 3

-- the 6.40 Kč stamp (in black, ocher, brown, brown-red) depicts Jaroslav Vrchlický (1853-1912) with a sheaf of manuscripts and pens (Fig. 3). This is the second time that Vrchlický is commemorated. The first time was on 28 February 1953 in a set commemorating writers and poets (Sc. 572/Pof. 708). The Czech poet, playwright, translator and literary critic Jaroslav Vrchlický (a pseudonym of Emil Frída, 1853-1912) was the main representative of the so-called Lumír school of poetry and a professor of comparative literature at Charles

University. The extensive cycle of epic poems called *Fragments of an Epic* expresses his belief in the possibility of materializing human ideals and basic values of life. He expressed his feelings of personal happiness in his love and intimate lyric poetry (*Music in the Soul*, *A Magic Garden*, *Gold Dust*). In his further collections Vrchlický highlighted his attitude to important events of national life (*Pantheon*) and to the crisis of Czech political life (*Voices in the Desert*). He also enriched the repertory of the National Theater in Prague by his historical comedies (*In Diogenes' Barrel*, *A Court of Love*, *A Night at the Karlštejn Castle*), the dramatic trilogy (*Drahomíra*, *Brothers*, *Dukes*) and dramas with ancient Greek topics (*Ulysses*, *Pelop's Courtship*, *Tantalus' Conciliation*, *The Death of Hippodamia*). He translated, especially from Roman languages, providing his translations with literary studies and essays. A

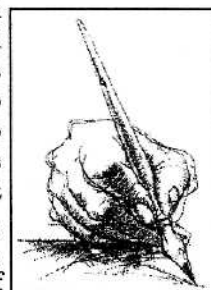


Fig. 4

FDC in brown depicts a cachet showing a hand with a pen (Fig. 4).

-- the 8 Kč stamp (in black, yellow, ocher, brown-red) depicts Josef Thomayer (1853-1927) with paraphernalia of medical scientific work (Fig. 5). Josef Thomayer, a noted Czech doctor of internal medicine, was a native of the village of Trhanov in the Chodsko region. He graduated from the grammar school in Klatovy, and from the medical faculty in Prague. His main hobby was literature; he was a friend of a number of leading Czech 19<sup>th</sup> century writers, such as Jaroslav Vrchlický, J. V. Sárdek, Zikmund Winter and Alois Jirásek, and himself wrote stories and poems under the pseudonym R.E. Jamot. Thomayer graduated in 1876. In the period 1883-1902 he was the head of the Prague policlinic, and from 1897 he was a professor of internal medicine at the



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague. In 1902 Thomayer became the chief physician of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Clinic of Internal Medicine. He was the teacher of many outstanding physicians, the founder of modern Czech internal medicine, of medical periodicals and manuals, and the author of the monumental *Pathology and Therapy of Internal Diseases* (1893). One of the leading Prague clinics in the Prague quarter of Krč is named after him. A FDC in black-brown depicts a graphic composition symbolizing medicine and science (Fig. 6).

3. On February 12, 2003, the Ministry issued a 26 Kč definitive stamp in the Signs of the Zodiac series (Fig. 7). It shows a drawing of the zodiacal sign of Aries -- the ram -- 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, light blue, yellow and brown in printing sheets of 100 stamps.



Fig. 7

4. On March 26, 2003, the Ministry issued a 6.40 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "Easter" (Fig. 8). The traditional symbols of this spring festival are featured with a great deal of humor: out of the painted egg, decorated with a large bow, a little rabbit is born, looking in surprise at the many-colored butterflies -- one with a painter's brush. Easter is the most important Christian season and is connected with the last days of Jesus Christ -- Green Thursday (the last supper of Jesus with his disciples), Good Friday (Jesus' crucifixion), Easter Eve (resurrection). From the perspective of folk customs, the most important day is Easter Monday with its whipping, festivities and giving decorated eggs to the carollers. The stamp is the design of Eva Natus-Salamounová and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, pink, blue and ocher in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in green depicts a spring motif.



Fig. 8

5. On March 26, 2003, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the "Tradition of Folk Crafts" series entitled "Laces" (Fig. 9). Laces are one of the handicrafts that use a large number of production techniques: bobbin lacemaking, crocheting, embroidery, knitting and netting. From the 19<sup>th</sup> century onward laces have also been produced by machines, especially



Fig. 9

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

using the techniques of bobbin lacemaking, embroidery and knitting. Laces were an inseparable part of some traditional festive and ritual costumes. They were used for enhancing the appearance of collars, sleeves, aprons, head scarves, and bonnets in female dress, but occasionally they also adorned male dress.



Fig. 10

Individual regions featured specific patterns, techniques, materials, and colors. The quantity and high cost of the laces, especially those used on dresses, were symbols of the economic prosperity of the region and of the individuals who wore them. The stamps depict folk laces produced at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The stamps were designed by Vladimír Suchánek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in dark blue combined with photogravure in pink, red, blue and dark blue (6.40 Kč) and red (recess print) and three shades of blue (9 Kč) in printing sheets of 20 pieces. Besides the stamps being produced in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 6 stamps and 4 labels (bearing the logo of the exhibition OSTROPA completed by the text in Czech "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Czech-Germany Postage Stamp Exhibition OSTROPA 2003 JIHLAVA" were made.



Fig. 11

-- the 6.40 Kč stamp features netted lace. A FDC in red-violet has a cachet showing a woman from Blata in Southern Bohemia in a shawl from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century enhanced by lace in combination with embroidery (Fig. 10).

-- the 9 Kč stamp features bobbin lace. A FDC in blue-violet has a cachet showing a woman from the Vamberk area in Eastern Bohemia embroidering (ca. 1900) (Fig. 11). Vamberk is a town in which the making of bobbin lace has a tradition more than 300 years long. The art came from Belgium in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The local museum has an interesting display of unique examples of folk lace including remarkable Art Nouveau lace. Vamberk is situated east of Hradec Králové.

## Stationery

6. On March 26, 2003, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted 6.40 Kč stamp for the start of regular radio broadcasting in the Czech lands (Fig. 12). The picture of the imprinted stamp is the logo of Czech Radio for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of regular broadcasting. The logo was designed by the Prague agency Men on the Moon Entertainment, spol. s.r.o. The cachet on the postal card is a graphical arrangement of four kinds of radio waves emanating from Prague and showing which waves bounce off of which layers in the atmosphere and which are line-of-sight. The postal card was designed by Jiří Rathouský and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 11.40 Kč.



Fig. 12

7. On March 26, 2003, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 6.40 Kč stamp (Fig. 13). The card commemorates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Czech-German postage stamp exhibition OSTROPA 2003 taking place 24-27 April, 2003 as a reciprocal activity to the exhibition OSTROPA 2000 which had occurred in Münchberg in Germany. The design of the imprinted stamp was created by Marie Svobodová from the logo of the exhibition. The left portion of the postal card shows a reproduction of the painting



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

"Jihlava, 1885-6" by Antonín Chittussi which hangs in the District Gallery of Vysocina in Jihlava. Jihlava, a town famous in the Middle Ages for its rich deposits of silver -- originally a miner's village on the trade route from Bohemia to Moravia, received the privileges of a royal mining town as early as 1240 by King Wenceslas I. Jihlava was also the subject of a 30h stamp in the International Tourist Year set of 1967 (Sc. 1443/Pof. 1583)(Fig. 14). Chittussi was of Italian descent, his

grandfather came from Ferrara, but Antonín regarded himself as a native Czech. He was a pupil at the Prague Academy of Arts. His career was greatly influenced by his stay in France, where landscape painting became his love for the rest of his life. It is also the second time we have a painting by Chittussi. The first one was in the Art on Stamps series of 1997, that particular stamp showed a "Landscape with Chantilly Chateau, c.1883" (Sc. 3028/Pof. 162)(Fig. 15). Chantilly is situated just north of Paris. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 11.40 Kč.



Fig. 15

**SLOVAKIA**  
by Gerald M. van Zanten

**2003 ISSUE PLAN  
FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 1	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Slovak Republic	1	20
Jan 15	Rudolf Schuster, President of the Slovak Republic	1	7
Jan 15	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovak Church	2	17,22
Feb 14	Personalities	2	
	- František Hrušovský		18
	- Ludwig van Beethoven		15
Feb 14	Congratulations	1	7
Mar 10	Easter -- National Customs	1	7
Mar ?	Kremnica -- definitive	1	
May 3	Milan Rastislav Štefánik - joint French-Slovak issue	1	14
May 9	Art on Stamps -- L. Medňanský	1	18
May 9	EUROPA -- advertising poster	1	14
May 16	Saint Svorad, Saint Benedict	1	10
May 16	Museum Jewelry -- from "Road of History" exhibit	1	18

Jun 1	Matko and Kubko -- fairytale characters	1	7
Jun 25	Nature Protection	4	10,14 16,17
Jul 15	Beauties of Our Country -- Banská Stiavnica mysteries	2	9,12
Aug 15	Biennial of Children's Book Illustration	1	10
Sept ?	Current sport event	1	13
Sept ?	Pezinok -- definitive	1	100
Sept 17	J. B. Magin -- Trenč. Stalice	1	7
Oct 15	Art on Stamps	3	
	- Simon Vouet		14
	- Rudolf Krivoš		15
	- Saint Gabriel (Icon)		20
Oct 30	Christmas Stamp	1	7
Nov 17	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wright Brothers Flight	1	18
Dec 18	Day of the Postage Stamp - Jozef Baláž	1	10

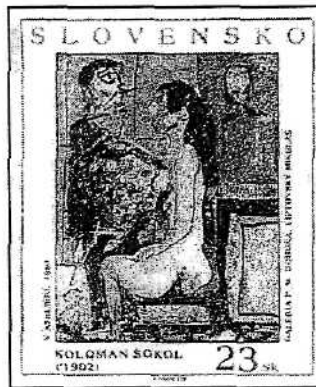


Fig. 16

8. On December 12, 2002, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 23 Sk commemorative stamp in the Art on Stamps series which depicts the painting "In the Atelier, 1991" by Koloman Sokol which now hangs in the gallery of P. M. Bohún in Liptovský Mikuláš (Fig. 16). Koloman Sokol is a painter and graphic artist. He was born in Liptovský Mikuláš on December 12, 1902. He attended the private graphics schools of Eugen Krón in Košice (from 1921 to 1924), Gustáv Mally in Bratislava and the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, where he studied under Max Švabinský and T. F. Simon (from 1924 to 1932). In the years 1932 - 1933 he studied in Paris. In 1937 he went to Mexico City, where he established a department of graphic art.

Sokol left for the United States in 1942 and in the years 1946-1947 he taught at the department of drawing and painting at the Slovak Technical College in Bratislava. Koloman Sokol's works are characterized by dynamism and expressive use of graphic techniques and are infused by social criticism and philosophical meditation. The point of his work was expressionistic graphic art, notably wood engraving. As a leading artist he brought to Slovak modern art an urban genre with social interactions. Sokol is one of Slovakia's leading 20<sup>th</sup> century exponents of graphic art. Since 1948 he has lived and created in Arizona, USA. The stamp was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using five-colored recess printing from flat plates. A FDC has a cachet showing a drawing by Koloman Sokol, "On the Horses", 1979, which hangs in the gallery of P. M. Bohún in Liptovský Mikuláš.

9. On December 18, 2002, the Ministry issued a 20 Sk commemorative stamp in the Art on Stamps series which depicts the relief "The Decollation of St.

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James, the Older" by Master Paul from Levoča (about 1470 - 1542) which is above the main altar in the St. James's church in Levoča (Fig. 17). Master Paul from Levoča was a carver and one of the greatest medieval artists in Slovakia. He lived in Levoča, where he lead carving and painting workshops. Some researchers consider him to have been a student of V. Stoss from Cracovia. The main altar in the St. James's church in Levoča is Master Paul's most famous work. It is one of the highest altars of the late gothic period (18.5 meters high, 6 meters wide). The panel paintings, statues and reliefs were created before the year 1515. Three statues take up the altar's center -- Madonna with Child, St. John the Evangelist, and underneath there is a sculpture of The Last Supper. Master Paul created the art works with classical harmony. On the inner side of the main altar's movable wings are fitted four reliefs: Dispersal of the Apostles, Decollation of St. James (lower on the left), St. John the Evangelist at Pathmost Island, and Torture of St. John to Death. Reliefs and paintings on the altar's wings are created according to graphical templates. Some other authors helped to decorate the altar as well. The art work of Master Paul from Levoča inspired other artists from Spiš, Saris, Rožnava, Banská Bystrica and Liptov. The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using five-colored recess printing from flat plates. A FDC has a cachet showing a detail of the Virgin Mary statue from the altar of the Nativity by Master Paul.



Fig. 17

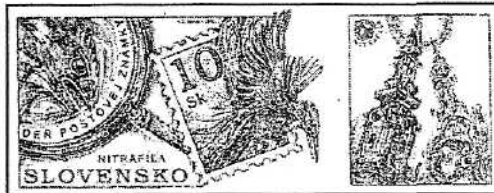


Fig. 18

10. On December 18, 2002, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk commemorative stamp in the Day of the Postage Stamp series entitled NITRAFILA with a coupon (Fig. 18). The international philatelic exhibition NITRAFILA 2003 is organized on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the Slovak Republic and the creation of Slovak postage stamps. The exhibition will be held in Nitra, June 11-15, 2003. Various philatelic meetings will take place during the exhibition, such as meetings of the philatelic unions of V-4, the International Union of Technical Museums, and the International Congress of Young Philatelists of V-4, and presentations on pigeon, balloon, coach, and field posts. As a result of public balloting, the show will decide the most beautiful Slovak postage stamp of the year for 2002. The Postal Museum of the Slovak Post, the Technical Museum of Košice, and the postal departments of V-4 will have exhibits. The exhibition is being held under the patronage of the Union of Slovak Philatelists, the Slovak Post, and the city of Nitra. The stamp was designed and 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.



## *Letters to the Editor*

### 1. Dear Lou:

In my review of Monograph 15 in the January issue of the *SPECIALIST*, I have left out one important fact. In one of the closing paragraphs, I unfortunately left out the name of the author of the PREFACE, Mr. Richard Beith from Guilden Sutton, the author of the Monograph 15. I would appreciate if you would publish this correction as well as my apology of Mr. Beith. I have received a very nice letter from him. He indicated that he lives about a 30-minute drive from Cholmondeley and that he is able to attend the annual commemorations held each July at the Czechoslovak Memorial. He wrote that "since the remaining veterans are now 80+ in age, I think the 2000 celebration was the last big event." This is an unfortunate reality. We have to be thankful to these veterans for their sacrifices during the WWII as well as for keeping their commemoration of these events for almost another 60 years.

Peter Z. Kleskovic

### 2. Dear Lou:

After reading Karl Ruzicka's two letters on Czech coupons in the Jan-Feb 2003 *SPECIALIST*, and your comments on them, I feel that I should point out some things.

Value of Coupon Stamps. As to determining the value of Czech stamps with coupons based on a multiplication factor as Karl suggests, I think that it is very misleading to use a multiplication factor derived from one catalog as a multiplier for the base catalog value of those stamps as stated in another catalog. This is especially misleading if the base stamp price in either catalog is close to the minimum stamp price which the catalog uses.

Just use Karl's own example of Scott Czech stamps 305-306 (apparently Trojan Catalog numbers 431-432). Karl points out that the Trojan Catalog prices the set of non-coupon stamps at 1.50 Kčs and the set of coupon stamps at 40 Kčs, so this gives him a multiplication factor of 27. Then he uses the 27 multiplier and the Scott Catalog base set price of .40 USD to determine a calculated Scott related coupon stamp set price of \$10.70. That just isn't proper.

Consider that the Trojan stamp set values, using a .03 USD per Czech Kč conversion rate, gives a USD set price of .045 USD (less than a nickel) for non-coupon stamps and a USD set price for coupon stamps of \$1.20 USD. (To me the .045 price for non-coupon stamps seems somewhat too low -- I would value these at .20 to .30 USD -- while the \$1.20 price for coupon stamps seems just slightly too high -- I would value them at about .80 to 1.00 USD.) This compares with Karl's value of .40 USD for non-coupon stamps and his "calculated" value of \$10.70 USD for coupon stamps. This shows that you can't use a multiplier derived from one catalog to multiply the catalog values of another catalog; especially if the base catalog value is small (less than \$1.00 USD).

As to using other catalog multiplication factors for these same stamps, my Michel 1965 Catalog lists the 2 non-coupon stamp set at 2.25 Marks and the coupon

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stamp set at 12 Marks; this gives a multiplication factor of 5.3, not 27. Using a generous conversion rate, Michel prices these stamps at .45 USD and 3.00 USD respectively. Using the 1988 Specialized Příručka you get a multiplication factor of 25. Using the 1978 Novotný Catalog you get a multiplication factor of 14.2, and 1973 POFIS gives you 14.8 for a multiplication factor.

Here is my explanation. The Czech catalogs have very low base prices for basic non-coupon stamps apparently because common non-specialized Czech stamps are readily available in Czechoslovakia. So Czech catalog multiplication factors for coupon stamps are high: 27, 25, 14.8, and 14.2. Non-Czech catalogs have higher prices for the basic non-coupon stamps, so their multiplication factors are much lower: 5.3 and 2.

So what is a coupon stamp worth? My suggestion is, take the catalog value stated in any relatively current catalog that lists the coupon variety, and convert that value to your own local currency. That should give you a good idea of what the couponed stamp is generally worth.

Or finally, it's worth whatever you can get someone to pay you for it if you are the seller, or just how much you want it if you are a buyer.

Phil Melamed

### 3. Hello Lou:

-- In reply to the #5 letter from Karl Ruzicka in the Jan/Feb SPECIALIST, the Cultus Pacis of King Jiří z Poděbrad sheet of four is listed in Scott's at 1232a under the year 1964.

-- Now to the letter from Brian Day, reference the Bratislava sheet article in the Sept/Oct 2002 issue. I appreciate Brian's comments and the referenced articles in the *Merkur Review*. The illustrations provided by Brian with the white dots, NOTE that all three are ABOVE the inscription line of Československo and two of them are well above. The moving fault theory is well supported. Now compare these illustrations with those supplied with my article. The white dot is WITHIN the inscription in all instances. This then, along with the translated inscription of the advertisement states "\*\*\* the s/s Bratislava 1937, Pof. c. 329/330, with a very expressive (definitive) plate fault -- with a large white stain within the inscription of the 50h stamp. Expertized for Pofis by Pauliček. The floating or 'moving fault' copies are probably not expertized and just another collectable variety, and the dot in the plate flaws is noticeably larger than the floating white dot. In defense of the article combined with a certified expertization, it will no doubt be listed as a plate flaw in a future version of the Pofis varieties catalog, possibly even late this year. The last such catalog was published in 1998. Many thanks for your input Brian.

-- As an addendum to my letter to the editor, please add the following: My article did state that there were only 70 sheets known of this new plate flaw. Each other variety on any piece described has the expert mark. "The floating white dot" to my knowledge does not have any expert markings, indicating that these are just an anomaly. The retouched variety has been certified as having only 50 copies, and these are quite visible on the actual souvenir sheet.

Frank (Garancovsky)

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