



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 66

MAY/JUNE 2004

No. 3, Whole No. 585

President's Corner

It is with a good deal of concern that I write this edition of the *President's Corner*. For some time there has been a growing problem with the forgery of philatelic material emanating from the Czech and Slovak Republics. To make the situation more difficult, there appears to have been some mistakes made with regard to the issuing of certificates of authenticity.

The problem of forgery is not new to philately. There are even some philatelist who collect forgeries. However the present situation in the Czech Republic must be of concern to all members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

In the March/April issue of *The SPECIALIST* there appeared the official statement issued by the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF). This statement makes reference to a series of articles in *Filatelie*, the publication of the SČF, concerning the purported forgery of a cover with three 20h Hradčany stamps. This led the SČF to begin an investigation.

Beginning with the November 2003 issue of *Filatelie*, František Beneš, a philatelic expert, dealer, author, and publisher of *Filatelie*, published a series of articles concerning counterfeits or forgeries, which had appeared in a recent Feldman Auction in Geneva, Switzerland.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled.

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/Sep 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@mail.com
2. A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear in every SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: canclcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Mark Wilson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, or e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.com
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: LouSvoboda@comcast.net
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: LouSvoboda@comcast.net
6. The Society has a web site (www.czechoslovakphilately.com) on the Internet where you can find Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits and much more. The site is maintained by Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817-3846, or email: sibpost@starpower.net

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Vol. 66

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No. 3, Whole No. 585

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Periodical Paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.czechoslovakphilately.com

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SOKOLS IN ITALY DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

by Piero Santangelo

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

In the Spring of 1916, tens of thousands of Austro-Hungarian prisoners were scattered among approximately 300 prisoner-of-war camps in Italy -- a large portion of the prisoners were Czechs.

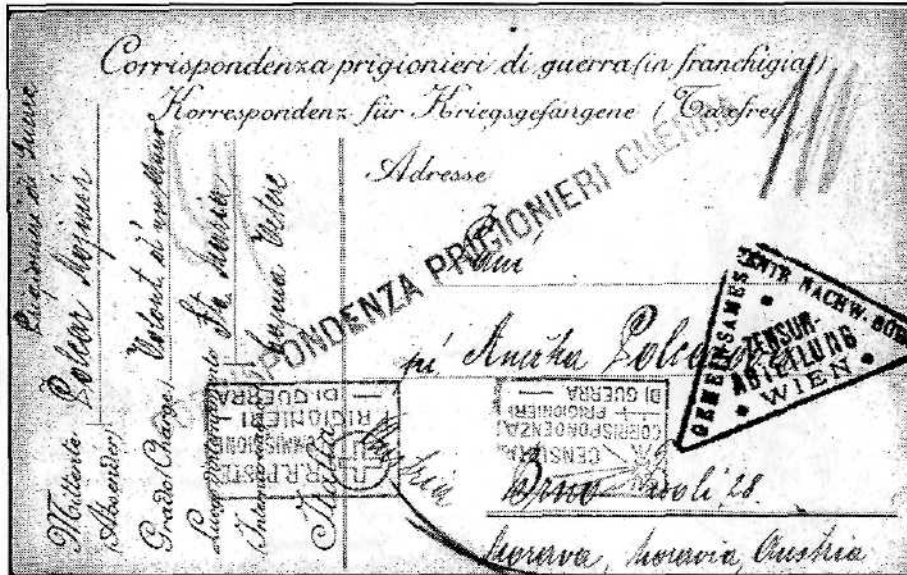


Figure 1: Postal card for prisoners of war, mailed on January 24, 1917, from the camp at Santa Maria Capua Vetere.

During this time there began an initiative by several Czech nationals who had been in Italy even before World War I started -- these people were interned as a result of being citizens of an enemy country. By means of their articles published in the most influential Italian newspapers, these Czechs -- motivated by their patriotic spirit -- began to focus attention upon the need for national freedom. Their demands for separation from Austro-Hungary were presented in such a way that by the end of 1916 even the Italian public began to take an interest in the problems of the Slavic nations.

On January 15, 1917, about 30 of the prisoners met in the little town of Santa Maria Capua Vetere (Fig. 1) -- near Naples -- where they decided to lay the foundation for a unit that would fight by all means possible for the independence of the Czechoslovak people. They called themselves "Corpo Dei Volontari CS" (Czechoslovak Volunteer Corps), and their



Figure 2

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commander was named Jan Čapek (Fig. 2), an ardent Sokol devotee. This initiative was vigorously supported by the prisoners of war, especially those who believed in the spirit and principles of the Sokol.

In one paragraph of their charter, it was required that all volunteers call each other by their Christian names, regardless of their military rank, and to use the Sokol greeting "Na zdar". In order to maintain the member's enthusiastic interest, they organized classes: physical education, sports, music, and education -- political and general.



Figure 3: Correspondence from the La Ceresa di Padula camp mailed to Bohemia.

By February 1917 they were successful in organizing a strong Sokol unit, and for Easter -- 8/9 April 1917 -- included their gymnastic exercises in the celebratory program. Several hundred of the gymnasts, arranged in rows of four, began to perform callisthenic exercises. Their reward was the applause of the 5,000 prisoners of war and of the many civilians in attendance. The same situation was repeated on May 10, 1917, when the delegate of the Czech National Council and the representative of the Italian Ministry of War visited the camp.

In June 1917 the Italian authorities decided to relocate the prisoners of war to a camp in Padua (Fig. 3). The camp was located in Padua's *kartouze* (Fig. 4), which is a monastery from the 14th century, "lost" among the mountains behind the city of Salerno (below Naples). Here they were also allowed to have organizations, music, and gymnastic exercises -- again activities in which Sokol abilities excelled. These



Figure 4

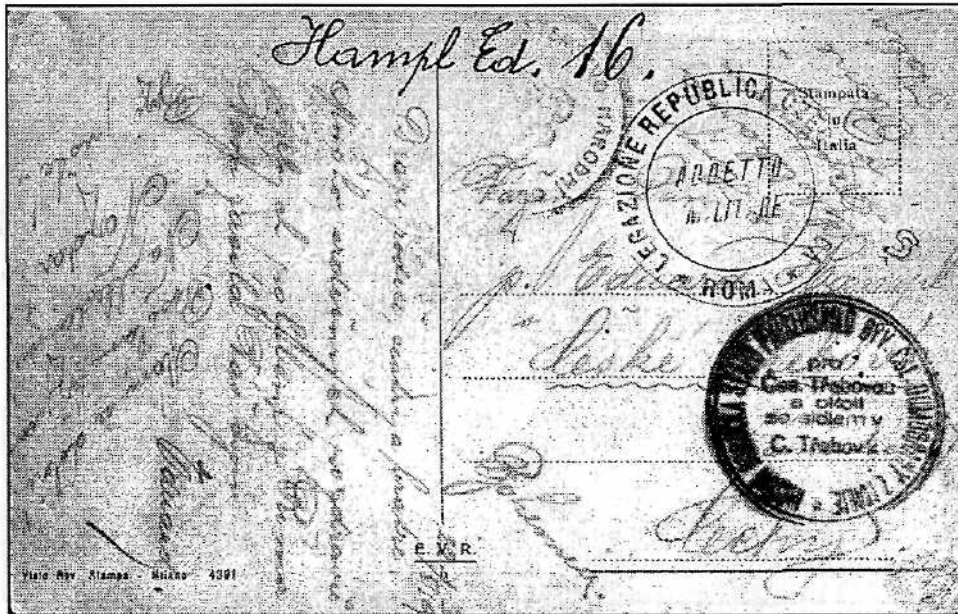


Figure 5: A postcard from Rome, dated May 22, 1919, mailed to Bohemia using the diplomatic courier. The sender is a member of the "Sokol Company" belonging to the Legation of the Czechoslovak Republic in Rome.

performances inspired the local populace, who paid 10 cents in Lira as entrance fee.

As a consequence of the incorporation of the volunteers into training camps in Central Italy and the founding of the Czechoslovak legions (they were inserted into the Italian army), these activities were discontinued.

At the end of the war there were a great number of prisoners of war on Italian territory. The responsible authorities of the Czechoslovak delegations in Rome and Paris decided to use these forces for the potential intervention in Slovakia. With the agreement of the Italian authorities, it was decided to assemble these prisoners of war and to create from them battalions of Territorial Militia. Among them was even one battalion composed of sportsmen, so called "Sokols", which was attached to the Czechoslovak delegation in Rome (Fig. 5).

The headquarters of these battalions were located in Avezzano, Foligno, Sulmona, and Gallarate.

Besides their normal military training, these soldiers -- in their free time -- devoted themselves to the gymnastic exercises that they performed at Sokol Slets [festivals]. Recognizing the great interest in these activities, the military authorities incorporated the Sokol exercises into their military review program.

An important military review was the one in Avezzano, which was conducted on March 16, 1919, in the presence of the delegates of the Czechoslovak government -- Italian government officials were also there. On this occasion 1,500 gymnasts greatly inspired the large crowd of people, consisting of not only military but also civilians. It is also necessary to remember the review on March 19th in which 800 gymnasts participated -- soldiers from the 12th Battalion, which on April 28th became

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Chouba

DOPISNICE

Jméno *Chouba*
Čejčich

Prapor *28*

Rota *4/4 četa*

Gallarate (Milano)
dne *12/3* 1919.

Yvona
řítka Bočková
ve Lhotce 81.
Posta Velušín
Jiřina Čejčí

POSTA MILITARE
6.4.19
52

MIL. TER. MOBILITA GALLARATE

Figure 6: Pre-printed card, associated with the Czechoslovak Territorial Militia (located in Gallarate), was mailed by a soldier from the 28th Battalion.

the 28th Battalion (Fig. 6). Later, in the middle of May, it became the 29th Battalion in Cardona.

In the end 250 gymnasts were selected to be sent to represent Czechoslovakia at the International Gymnastic Games in Rome from June 8-16, 1919 -- participating were gymnasts from Italy, Belgium, France, Poland and Rumania. According to the reports of the time, the Czechoslovaks eclipsed the other participants through their bravado.

* * * * *

THE OSSUARY IN SEDLEC/KUTNÁ HORA

by Savoy Horvath

About one mile from the center of Kutná Hora -- a historical city in the east central part of the Czech Republic -- is the location of the biggest bone depository in central Europe. It is in Sedlec, today a suburb of Kutná Hora, but at one time a town of its own. The charnel house was placed under a gothic church of All-Saints that was located in the middle of what is left of a large cemetery.

With land at a premium in most of Europe, it was customary for a family to own a plot in a cemetery. As newer members of such a family passed away, the grave was reopened, the bones and remains of the prior family member were removed, and then deposited in a chapel ossuary that each cemetery had. For instance, my family cemetery plot in Moravia has a tiny chapel that contains a very deep, round stone walled dry well where the bones are deposited.

The town of Sedlec has an ancient history. A Cistercian monastery was

founded here in 1142 and became a cathedral of The Ascension of the Virgin Mary. One of the principal tasks of the monks was the cultivation of the grounds and lands surrounding the Cathedral including the Sedlec cemetery, at that time located on eight acres of land.

The popularity of this cemetery had grown throughout Europe after then Bohemian King Premysl Otakár II sent the Kutná Hora abbot on a diplomatic mission to Jerusalem. When leaving the Holy Land the abbot took a handful of earth with him from the Calvary (Golgotha). On his return to Sedlec he "seeded" the cemetery grounds with it. When news of this spread around the country and even Europe, everybody of means wanted to be buried there.

In 1318 the plague took thousands of lives across Europe and 30,000 people from the Kutná Hora area were also buried there. Then came the Hussite wars -- the Hussites torched the cemetery church and the Sedlec cathedral, where over 500 monks were murdered. All in all, an additional 10,000 victims of this war were interned here. The Sedlec church and cathedral were rebuilt in 1699-1707 by the renowned architect Jan Blazej Santini-Aichl.

Starting in the 1500's a decision was made by the then abbot to down-size the cemetery and to start depositing the bones in the lower part of the cemetery church. The task was given to a half-blind monk who in 1511 created six giant pyramids in the subterranean chapel.

The Sedlec church lost its church status in 1784 when Josef II sold the grounds to the wealthy Schwarzenberk family (at that time this house of aristocrats owned the whole southern part of Bohemia). The decision was made by the family to go public with the project, and they hired a renowned Bohemian sculptor František Rint to arrange the 40,000 human bones in artistic forms.

Rint first took apart two of the huge bone pyramids, disinfected and whitewashed the bones in chloride-lime, and classified all of them by size and shape. He then set about arranging them all. Next to the downward entrance steps he created two large chalices and between them on the ceiling a cross. The walls are mostly decorated with thigh bones and skulls. The main room has four large pyramids made of wood covered with bones. The middle of the ceiling has a huge bone chandelier and below are 2 meter tall bone candle holders. The largest collection of the bones is in the four corners of the chapel where Master Rint reworked the pyramids into huge bells.

Probably the most time consuming was the assembly of the Schwarzenberk coat-of-arms, depicting among other things a crow pecking an eyeball from a Turkish skull -- this commemorating the Schwarzenberk victory over the Turks during the battle of Raab (today Győr, Hungary) in 1591. One of the ossuary columns has a display case of skulls from the Hussite battles, all having parts missing and gashes from sword slashes during the eyeball to eyeball type of warring of this period in history.

One of the most beautiful churches in all of the Czech Republic is also located in Kutná Hora, i.e. the Cathedral of Sv. Barbora.

After the fall of communism, some of the property was returned to the Schwarzenberks headed today by Karel Schwarzenberk, a wealthy businessman. He has two sons and a daughter.

References: various

THE CHUST OVERPRINT

by Karel Holoubek

trans. by Peter Kleskovic

This overprint came into existence as a result of a decree by government representatives, delegated by the exile London Governmental Administration, for the liberated territory of the Czechoslovak Republic -- the Carpatho-Ukraine. The international agreement to preserve the territory of Czechoslovakia was based on the borders in existence prior to 1938 and confirmed by the inter-governmental agreement between the Czechoslovak and Soviet Governments on July 8, 1941. The administrative structure of the Carpatho-Ukraine experienced many changes, and it was often the subject of various conferences at the international level until the Treaty of Saint Germain of September 10, 1919 that definitively integrated it into Czechoslovakia. The nationalities composition of its inhabitants was heterogeneous.

Toward the end of the Second World War, in October 1944, the 4th Ukrainian Army entered the territory of the Carpatho-Ukraine and by the end of the month were already in Užhorod. To handle this situation and by an 8 May 1944 agreement with the Soviet Union, a group of experts from the London Government could depart from Moscow for the Carpatho-Ukraine to take over the civil administration of the liberated territory. As the seat of the new administration they selected Chust, which had already been designated as the capitol of the separated Carpatho-Ukraine by the Vienna Arbitration of November 2, 1938. In this town in 1939 was also convened an assembly that was to establish the new autonomous administration (Pofis 351). However, in the noon hours of that same day the Hungarian army entered and occupied Chust.



Fig. 1

The Czechoslovak Governmental delegation -- under the leadership of František Němec, pre-war Congressman and now with the title of Plenipotentiary Minister -- was composed of several other members, primarily consisting of specialists in various fields. Dr. Krudský was selected to represent the transportation and postal services. He launched a major effort to restore the communications of the surrounding five counties and especially the rebuilding of telecommunications. On November 11th this Governmental delegation issued an order to overprint the available Hungarian stamps (withdrawn from the post offices) with the initials ČSP (meaning Czecho-Slovak Post) and the year 1944 bounded on both sides with a dot

(Fig. 1). The color of the overprint is dull-black. Altogether there were 38 different values of regular Hungarian stamps and postal cards overprinted. At that time this land had been under Hungarian administration for some time.

This delegation was acting according to the instructions of the London Government, a government recognized by all of the Allies, including the Soviet Union. The delegation required its Ambassador in Moscow, Zdeněk Fierlinger, to inquire of the Soviet Government: ". . . whether it could print one Czechoslovak stamp in different colors . . . and if that would not be possible, then to use, for a temporary period, the stamps found in the liberated territories . . . appropriately overprinted." Thus, it was clearly determined what action should be taken. From this, it is clear

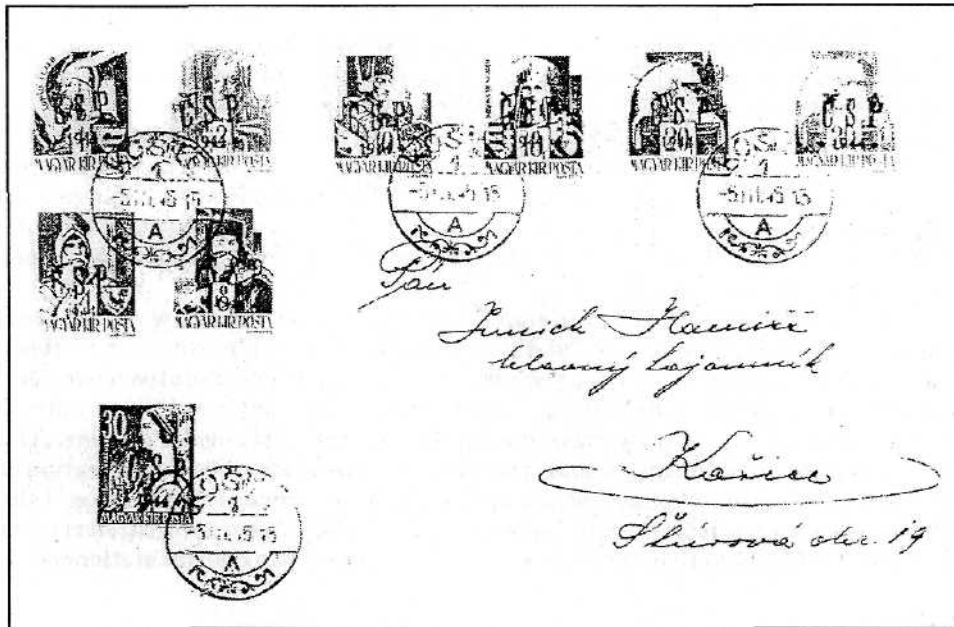


Fig. 2

that the governmental delegation, as the sole administrator for the Czechoslovak Republic, had the right to order the overprint of the stamps. Therefore, these stamps should be considered as clearly authorized and be cataloged as the first Czechoslovak stamps following the Second World War.

Just as we are remembering this year the anniversary of the overprints, so too we will be remembering the anniversary of the time when we lost this land. We can even find documentation of this in our collections. Despite the fact that the majority of the population was Ruthenian, the Ukrainian minority forced the attachment of the Carpatho-Ukraine (a land internationally recognized as part of Czechoslovakia) to the Ukraine, at that time obviously a Soviet one. Then there was initiated a conference of representatives of the "people", which on November 19, 1944 summoned the Congress of the National Committees for November 26, 1944. This Congress elected the "National Council of the Transcarpathian Ukraine" (NRZU) and accepted the "Manifesto for Uniting the Transcarpathian Ukraine with the Soviet Ukraine". Unfortunately we have to state that the organs of the Soviet Army gave greater support to this separatist movement than to the official organs of the Czechoslovak Government. It is well known that there was no clear support for this new arrangement by the populace. The proclaimed separation was later legalized by an agreement of both governments, ČSR and USSR, on April 29, 1945. On this day the Czechoslovak stamps (the Chust Overprint) were to become invalid in the Carpatho-Ukraine. At the time there already were available new overprinted stamps, obviously issued by the NRZU. This overprint in the Russian alphabet shows "Post" horizontally on the top line, "Transcarpathian" a little lower in the middle running diagonally from lower left to upper right, and under that another diagonal line with "Ukraine". As versus the situation with the Chust overprint, the

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values of these stamps were changed. In order to carry out this overprint, the stamps were withdrawn from the post offices, and this is why the overprint is also found on stamps and postal cards that had already once been overprinted.

Used stamps having the Chust overprint are known not only from the post offices in the Chust area, but also a separate chapter has resulted from their use in Košice. The governmental delegation was forced to leave Chust by the circumstances (because Užhorod became the seat of the NRZU), and in their deliberations only considered Košice. While relocating, the governmental delegation took with them the overprinted stamps and put them on sale in Košice. Thus they were commonly used there (Fig. 2).

For postal services, not only stamps but also rubber cancels were required. These were not only the regular daily cancels, but also the postmaster's rubber stamps, and from Chust and Teresva we know also of commemorative cancelers. Because all of these postal items were scarce, counterfeit stamps as well as counterfeit commemorative cancels appeared shortly after the end of the war. The first ones came from Budapest, and other ones appeared later. As the liberation of Slovakia progressed, other overprints appeared, at first under the influence of the Chust style of overprint, and then later other styles also. There are written reports on some of them, but others are known only from the existing postal stationery.

P.S.

The Chust overprint is included in catalogues of various countries; however, not there where it really belongs, as the first Czechoslovak stamp following the Second World War.

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President's Corner ***(Continued from page 1)***

In an effort to keep members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately apprised of the situation, arrangements have been made to translate some of the articles in *Filatelie* into English. These articles are very detailed and the translation process is necessarily a bit slow.

As these articles become available in English, I have asked that they be posted on the Society's web page. This will make them available to members as soon as possible. Placing the articles on the website will also make available good copies of the photographs which accompany the articles. The articles can be found in the "Fakes and Counterfeits" section under "Education".

BRNO 2005 is just around the corner. The show dates are 10-15 May 2005. This will be the second FEPA show held in Moravia's capital. The Society for Czechoslovak Philately was well represented at the BRNO 2000 show. I encourage all members who are eligible to exhibit at BRNO 2005 to do so. The United States Commissioner, your president, must receive your application to exhibit by 10 June 2004. If you wish to receive show information and an application, please write me at P.O. Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

R. Tom Cossaboom

OPEN LETTER

by Pavel Pittermann

[Ed. Note: In the last issue of the SPECIALIST (pg 21), we published an Announcement of the Executive Committee of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF) in which it was stated that Ing. Pavel Pittermann (a member of our Society) was temporarily suspended as the Chairman of the Commission of Experts of the SČF. We have received an open letter from Mr. Pittermann addressed not only to us, but also to other philatelic organizations and publications. Since he was specifically named in the mentioned announcement, we are publishing his open letter here to provide our members with the other side of the issue.]

1. The dispatch card with the 14Kč stamp of the first issue, illustrated in the FILATELIE article is furnished with my genuine expert mark. I expertized it without detailed examination of the expert markings by Mrňák and Karásek to which I added my own expert mark. This was unprofessional, I am sorry for it, and I apologize.
2. On Wednesday, December 17th I visited the House of Philately Profil and asked JUDr. Beneš to arrange a meeting with the owner of the item and me in which I intended to offer, against withdrawal of the item from circulation, to compensate the owner for the total auction price and other expenses, including the expertization fee charged by JUDr. Beneš. This arrangement was agreed to on the spot and agreement by the owner was conveyed to me by telephone the same evening. On the forenoon of Friday, i.e. December 19th, JUDr. Beneš informed me that he had changed his mind, that he would not pursue our agreement for the arrangement, and recommended that the matter be left to the proceedings of reclamation rules.
3. Since I do not know the current owner of the item I repeat my offer publicly, that I will gladly compensate the owner or the firm Feldman, or Ludvík Pytlíček who obtained my expertizing services to the full extent as stated in Par. 2 above.
4. On January 5, 2004 I announced to the Executive Committee of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF) my resignation as Chairman of the Commission of Experts, Member of its leadership, and Director of the Philatelic Testing Laboratory of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF).

Prague, January 8, 2004

Ing. Pavel Pittermann

Publishing Office FILATELIE
 Publishing Office MERKUR REVUE
 Secretariat Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF)

* * * * *

SOCIETY BYLAW CHANGES

by Tom Cossaboom

____At the Board Meeting held on February 20, 2004 at ARIPEX'04 in Mesa, Arizona, the following changes to the SCP Bylaws were approved.

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1. Bylaw IV - Elections, para 4B has the first sentence changed to read: "Candidates to the Board shall be members in good standing of the Society, and it is preferred that they have an e-mail address on the Internet system."

2. A new bylaw is added as follows:

"Bylaw XIV - E-mail Use

14A. E-mail can be used to present and discuss Society issues. Therefore, it is preferred that each Board Member of the Society will have an e-mail address that he/she checks on a regular basis for Society business (this address does not have to be exclusively for such business). When this address changes, it is the responsibility of the Board Member to see that each of the other fourteen members gets the new address.

14B. When an issue is being discussed, all e-mail is to be addressed to all of the other fourteen Board Members whether being initially submitted or just commenting on another's idea, i.e. "Reply to All".

14C. E-mail voting will be allowed on issues brought before the Board of Directors when the President feels that a timely decision is required or would be in the best interests of the Society. Only the President can initiate a vote of the Board on an issue.

14D. Any Board Member can present a formal motion for the President's consideration to submit for the Board's decision. If the President feels that sufficient discussion has taken place on the issue and that a timely decision is needed on it, then he will submit the motion to the Secretary for vote processing (no "second" of the motion is required, because the President's submission action constitutes such a "second"). This action by the President terminates the discussion phase on the issue and initiates the voting phase on the motion.

14E. The Secretary will prepare the motion and give it a Motion # and Name (the Motion # will appear in the subject line of the e-mail). The motion will be written in such a way as to only allow for a Yes or No vote reply. The Secretary will then send the numbered motion out to the other fourteen Board Members for their vote with a return receipt flag. When Board Members receive the Motion, their first action should be to acknowledge its receipt. For any Board Member that is not on the Internet (does not have an e-mail address), the Secretary will send that person a written ballot on the motion along with copies of the key e-mails that discussed the issue.

14F. There will be a fourteen (14) day time limit from the date the motion was sent out for Board Members to reply to the Secretary with their Yes or No vote.

14G. As with any Board action, it will require a quorum of 10 votes and a simple majority of the votes cast to pass a motion.

14H. Any Board Member who fails to vote on two (2) successive e-mail submitted motions may have his/her seat declared vacant by the President."

Please make these changes to your copy of the Society Bylaws, dated 30 May 2002. Change the date on the Bylaws to read 20 February 2004.

MILAN R. ŠTEFÁNIK A SLOVAK FAVORITE SON

by Frank Garancovsky



Fig. 1

to Pavol Štefánik who was the Evangelical pastor (Fig. 1) and his wife Albertina *ne* Jurenková, in the parish house in Košariská (Fig. 2). Milan was the sixth child born to the couple and followed by six other brothers and sisters. Fortunately, nine children lived to be raised to adulthood in poverty supported only by the menial salary of a poor parish priest. Poverty was the norm for all children and families of the community, so in this respect he was no different from the others, even though he was a son of the parish priest.

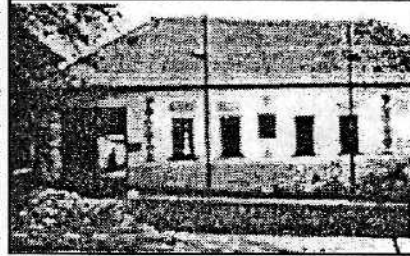


Fig. 2

His education began at home within the confines of a comprehensive library of Slovak books and various publications gathered by his cultured father Pavol, who as a spiritual leader began to influence his children's education foundation. Young Milan Rastislav was surrounded by all these Slovak books and publications and began to understand such things as nationalistic oppression and discrimination. His first three years in the local public school were under the tutelage of Martin Kostelný, a graduate of the Evangelical Junior College in Revúca. Mr. Kostelný certified that young Milan was the best student in Košariská (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

Father Pavol struggled to provide his son with the best educational facilities so that Milan could study at the middle school. This meant that Milan had to learn the Hungarian language and as a nine year old, left home to study at the seminary to prepare for entrance into the middle school. His middle school studies began at the Lyceum in Bratislava where his two older brothers Igor and Pavel were also students. Having mastered mathematics and associated studies with excellent grades, his future education was ensured. Pavel however, because of low grades, was forced to leave school. So, after three years they left together and went

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to the school at Sopron and later to Sarvas. While in Sarvas, Milan continued his studies with a grant from a Communication Scholarship. Also while residing here he met his first love, Emilia Chovancová, but even after he graduated *cum laude*, nothing ever became of this relationship. His studies in architectural engineering completed, he left for Prague in 1898.

He came to Prague and entered Charles University as a graduate student and received another scholarship to study art, mathematics, and astronomy. While in Prague he joined a student academic club *Detván*. In a short time he became the secretary and soon afterward became president of the club. This club was believed to be a hotbed for insurrectionists and perhaps the reason for a serious split with his family at Košariská in 1901 when his father banished him from home. 1901 was also the year when he first suffered stomach problems that would persist throughout his lifetime.

Following the family split he sought refuge with his friends in Prague and began to study philosophy during the winter semester, and it was not long afterward that family differences were resolved with his father. In 1902 he left Prague for Zurich, Switzerland. He continued studying philosophy during the summer semester and returned to Prague in the fall continuing philosophy, but more seriously, the study of astronomy. In 1903 he resigned from the club *Detván* and joined another international student organization, *Corda Fratres do Palerma*. Here he met with Hungarian and Slovak historians, poets and artists who were of the same mind-set engaged in a joint project to promote Slovak culture and eventual independence.

In 1904 he graduated from Charles University and received his Ph.D. in philosophy on October 12, with a thesis on "New Stars in Space and New Facts Learned About New Cassiopeia". Now, armed with a doctorate degree there were no jobs to be found in his field of study anywhere in the country. Disgusted, he left for Paris in November 1904 where prospects were no better for new professors.

Eventually through some friends, contact was made with two illustrious astronomers Flammarion and Janssen of the Meudon observatory. In April of 1905



Figure 4: 1990 printing sheet of 4 of Scott 2801 from the Bratislava Art series

professor Janssen came to Paris and interviewed Milan and invited him to the observatory on Mount Blanc. Under the influence of professor Janssen, Štefánik devoted ten years to astronomy and published twelve scientific treatises on astronomical observations. While in Paris he met a Czech woman student and the second woman in his life, Maria Neumanová. She was a faithful companion but again, Štefánik's work took precedence.

Following the retirement of professor Janssen at the age of 80, a new observatory director disliked Štefánik intensely. So in 1906 after his most productive years as an astronomer, he was dismissed. In the meantime, he was hired immediately by the Bureau des Longitudes, from where he was launched on many scientific expeditions worldwide.

In July of 1907 his health problems worsened, and he returned to the spas of Chamonix. He was undergoing treatment for two months and while there, received word of professor Janssen's death. He returned to Paris for the funeral and afterward continued with his world wide travel conducting various experiments, returning in 1912 when he received French citizenship. In April of 1913 he received word of his father's death and returned for the funeral and the last time he would ever visit his home in Košariská. While his health continued to degenerate, Štefánik had undergone two surgeries on his stomach between 1914 and 1915, but offered little or no relief from his suffering.

In December of 1915 he meets with Thomas G. Masaryk and Edvárd Beneš, and the Czecho-Slovak National Council is born. They would work with the Czechoslovak resistance in Paris to form a future independent state. The Council also worked feverishly with the Allies to obtain their agreement for an independent state, and through the charisma of Štefánik, the doors were opened to Western political circles.

He was in Morocco when World War I broke out and immediately returned to Paris to join the army as a pilot. He was assigned to the flying school in Chartres from where he was graduated within the top ten of his class. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to various fronts where he proved to be an excellent fighter pilot. He received a decoration, the Legion of Honor, after being wounded in battle which forced him to leave the military. As a pilot he also founded the meteorological service that proved very effective in training future pilots and commanders in all services. It was in June of 1918, when Štefánik was promoted to Brigadier General.

With the war nearing the end, he was more of a diplomat when he was assigned a mission to Italy that was negotiated successfully in the fall of 1918. While in Italy he was rushed to a hospital in Rome for emergency treatment and eventual recuperation. It was here that he met the third woman of his life, Giulane Benzoni, and plans were made for their wedding in 1919. During the frequent flights to negotiations on troop repatriation between France and Italy, he planned to fly to Bratislava, thus preparing his return to his homeland that he had not visited since the death of his father in 1913.



Fig. 5

So on that fateful day of May 4, 1919, Štefánik along with three Italian mechanics on board, left France for the flight to Bratislava. The plane was approaching the airport when suddenly it developed engine failure and dove into the ground near Ivanky by the Danube River. All four were killed instantly.

Milan Rastislav Štefánik was truly a man for all seasons. He was frequently portrayed on the stamps of Czechoslovakia and Slovakia (Fig. 4). Just issued was a new commemorative stamp of 14 Sk (Fig. 5), honoring the anniversary of his birth July 21. An earlier Czechoslovak 1 Kčs stamp of 1937 pictures his tomb on the mountain of Bradlo (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6

On his tomb, Marshall Foch declared: "He was a rare heart, a noble heart, an extraordinary spirit which was devoted entirely for our cause as soon as circumstances required. He deserves recognition of all humanity. We will miss his presence, and his memory will live in the hearts of all of us."

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from The Newsletter of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley, Issue 40, August 2003, as the 6th in a Series on Stamps of Slovakia by Frank Garancovsky, with permission of the author and editor.]

*** **

HOROSCOPE STAMP FORGERY

by Savoy Horvath

At about the same time the pansy 6.40 Kč forgery had appeared, another counterfeit hit the Czech postal system. This time it is a fairly high value -- 17 Kč Blizenci (Gemini) from the Horoscope definitive set (Pofis #331).



REAL

FAKE

The gum on the forged stamp and its 11 3/4 : 11 1/4 perforation are excellent and match the original, but the paper used is whiter (Fig. 1).

To anyone that does not have the original at hand the forgery would pass, but next to the original many differences come to light. The black ink used for printing of the letters is darker and applied thicker than the original; the faces are dark blue instead of greenish blue; the hair color is darker and the

two colors violet and blue tend to run together; the forgery's value, 17, and the Gemini heraldic sign are reddish brown compared to the original's violet; finally, the micro date under the letter C, visible under a microscope clearly as 2002 on the original, is unclear and fuzzy on the counterfeit.

The original pansy (Pofis #330) and gemini (Pofis #331) were issued on September 1, 2002.

EXHIBIT -- THE MURDER OF LIDICE

by Ludvik Svoboda

In the "Philatelic News and Views" column of the July/August 2003 issue of the SPECIALIST, I first wrote about my seeing a display class exhibit entitled "The Murder of Lidice" by our new member Philip K. Rhoades from Cleveland, MN (yes, MN not OH). Being a display class exhibit it included items such as pictures, newspaper articles, and other non-philatelic items besides the obvious philatelic ones, all telling the story of how the Nazis destroyed Lidice in reprisal for the assassination of SS General Reinhard Heydrich in Prague. I said that it produced an extremely interesting -- almost hypnotic -- story. The exhibit had recently won awards ranging from Silver to Gold (depending upon how regimented or open-minded the judges were).

And now we have further evidence of its great attraction, and information on where you can see this fascinating exhibit.

I had occasion recently to give our Secretary, Peter Kleskovic, a call on Society business. During our conversation he mentioned that he had just walked in after spending all day at the Spring 2004 Postage Stamp Mega Event (Madison Square Garden, New York City, March 4-7). I asked him how the show was, and he began raving about an exhibit on Lidice that he had seen there. He said it was one of the most interesting and comprehensive that he had ever seen. One of the other attendees stated that it was so good and full of vital information that it belonged in a historical museum for all to see. I asked for the name of the exhibitor, and sure enough, it was our member Phil Rhoades.

I immediately sent Phil an e-mail to inform him of these events. He responded, and I would like to share some of his response with you.

"Lou. Thanks for the good report on my exhibit. Much appreciated.

The exhibit has had quite an adventure since you saw it at Rocky Mountain [ROMPEX'03] last year (Silver medal, 72 points)[*the judges felt that it had too much non-philatelic material and that the frames were crowded*]. In July, at the Minnesota Stamp Expo, in virtually identical layout you saw, it was Gold (94 points) and got APS Research and 1940-80 awards. At three shows since then, it's gotten all Vermeils (84 points) -- Stampshow 2003, AmeriStamp Expo 2004, and St. Louis Expo. At StampShow and St. Louis it won Best Display Division.

The consistent judges' comments have been too much collateral material and too crowded pages (too busy). The show in NY is my first attempt to do what the judges want -- most of the collateral material is gone and I've redone most of the pages to make them less bunched up. To be honest, I don't particularly like it in this format. I'm curious to see what kind of award it gets in NY. . . . I think I'm probably going to have to make a decision on how to do the exhibit -- the way it tells the story the best or the way it makes the judges happy.

I am presently planning on attending PNSE. . . . [I have the] prospectus/entry form. Depending on how the exhibit does in NY, I may try to do a couple of other shows before PNSE and I may also go to Chicago in November. . . .

Phil"

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Since I have had the pleasure of seeing the exhibit in its "crowded" and, as far as I am concerned, proper form, I am hoping that this is the form it will be in for PNSE. But whatever form it is in, this is an exhibit that you **MUST NOT** miss. Watch for it at any philatelic show that you may attend this spring or summer, and if not there then go see it at PNSE next October 1-3 in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

[Ed. Note: Subsequent to this writing I learned through the philatelic press that Phil's exhibit at NY received a Gold medal plus the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award.]

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I have an almost complete personal set of bound SPECIALISTS. However, I am missing a few loose copies so that I can bind the first three years. I need:

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- Apr 1941

If you have any of these, please contact me. Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015. (303)-680-7118 or Lousvoboda@comcast.net

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SAINT GEORGE IN CZECH PHILATELY

by G.M. van Zanten



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Further to my article on Icons in the Nov/Dec 2003 SPECIALIST, which briefly mentioned Saint George and the dragon, I found in a recently acquired book more on this subject, which may be of interest.

It appears that George was born in the third century in Cappadocia (an ancient region of East Asia Minor) famous for its horses. George served as an officer in the army of Roman Emperor Diocletian (emperor from 284-305) who instigated the last severe persecution of Christians in the year 303. George disobeyed an order of the Emperor to persecute the Christians and later became a Christian himself, dying as a martyr by the sword; many miracles are said to have taken place at his grave.

His death and his symbolic struggle with the dragon (evil, unbelief) has been the subject of many legends. (Dragon in Christianity, a manifestation of satan or an attendant devil.)

On several occasions attempts were made to remove George from the calendar of saints, but popular love of the

warrior and the inspiration he gave to the people, have prevented this, and he still is recognized as the Saint by the Orthodox Church.

Saint George first appeared on 5/5/1946 celebrating VICTORY on a two set stamp and miniature sheet, after a painting by Josef Mánes (1820-1871). Each stamp had a surcharge as well as a label attached with the large word KVĚTEN (May) 1945-1946, a linden branchlet with ribbon inscribed PRAVDA VÍTĚZÍ (Truth Prevails)(Fig. 1). The miniature sheet is shown at Figure 2.



Fig. 5

The FDC for the 2 Kčs value in the series for PRAGA 1968 which depicts the gorgeous Josefina has as its cachet the same drawing as the 1946 image by Mánes, but in green (Fig. 3). The same drawing was also shown on an entrance ticket to the Agnes



Fig. 7

Convent of the National Gallery (Fig. 4).



Fig. 6

My article in the Nov/Dec 2003 issue of the SPECIALIST referred to the 2 Kčs stamp on icons from 1970, of which Figure 5 gives an enlarged detail.

On 24/10/72 another image depicting our subject, albeit somewhat changed in appearance with a winged dragon, this time in a series "Horsemanship" ceramic on glass (Fig. 6).



Fig. 8

On 28 September 1982, Saint George and his

dragon were the subject of the 3 Kčs value in the 18th series of Prague Castle stamps (Fig. 7). This time it depicts the equestrian statue of St. George spiking the dragon. This statue is situated in the third courtyard of Prague Castle, it is actually a copy of the original cast by George and Martin of KLUJ in 1373. The original is in the National Gallery.

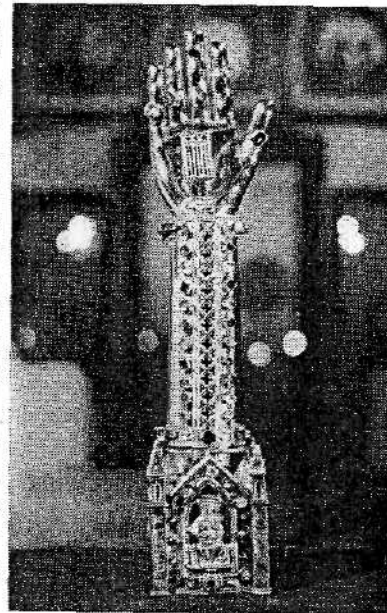


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

In the Prague Castle series of 1990 a Gothic reliquary of St. George's hand is depicted (Fig. 8) -- one of the treasures in the

St. Vitus Cathedral. The whole reliquary consists of his arm and hand as shown in Figure 9.

The largest monument to St. George is the St. George Basilica, founded by Prince Vratislav (915-921), it is the best preserved Romanesque church in Prague. It is on a 30h stamp in the 4th series for the PRAGA 1968 International Stamp Exhibition (Fig. 10) and was issued on June 26, 1968.

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

Local Chapter News

MEET THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLECTORS

by Frank Vogel

The first meeting of the group took place at the Wildflower Restaurant in Santa Ana, California, on February 3, 1996. Present were John Andrew, Bretislav Chlup, Dick Cirka, Lou Cizek, J.E. Ted Meredith, Richard Miller, and Frank Vogel.

Ever since then, the group has met every other month except July and August. Currently, meetings are held in the City of Orange. To cover mailing expenses of invitations, members contribute \$3 per year.

Collectors from southern California are cordially invited to come to our meetings!!!

The group coordinator Frank Vogel will gladly give more information to any interested collector. Frank may be reached at (714) 785-8821 or FJVogel@hotmail.com.



Standing l. to r.: Dick Cirka, Frank Vogel, Voit Smekal, Lou Cizek, and Victor Turecek.
Seated l. to r.: Karl Ruzicka and Wally Craig.
Not shown: Ben Rainesh, Doug Valitchka, and Frank Zelarney. Photo by Mrs. Karl Ruzicka.

Society for Czechoslovak Philately

**SALES CIRCUIT
MARCH 2004**

Reprinted and updated from the Aug/Sep 1989 Article

by H. Alan Hoover

Circuit Manager

At a meeting held in the back room of a coffee shop on First Avenue in New York City on an autumn day in 1940, the Society's membership decided to initiate a Sales and Exchange Department and appointed Wolfgang Fritzsche to get it organized. The first announcement of this service appeared in the September 1940 issue of the Specialist. The second announcement came with the November 1940 issue and contained the Rules and Regulations as formulated by Circuit Manager Fritzsche. After notices were sent out and sales books solicited, the first circuit went on its way on January 7, 1941. It contained nine books with materials submitted by members Secky, Horechny and Fritzsche. After that, each month more members sent in their sales books for circulation. That included Lowey, Pearce, Michelson, Velek, Bryant, Kempe, Krivohlavy, Stach, C.E. Brown, Klemm and Slocum in chronological order. With that kind of beginning response, twelve circuits were circulated in 1941 comprising 119 books at a total gross value of \$901.61. At today's philatelic rate of inflation, that would amount to well over \$2000.00. The sales from those books came to \$392.76 or 43.3%. Three books sold out completely though three others realized no sales at all. Since then, the Department has placed into circulation over 850 circuits. In 1993 circuits, we had 140 books with a total gross value of \$38,361.95. Sales from only 25% of the routings has resulted in \$6,835.77 or 17.2%. Even during the war years there was no interruption of service.

In the first few years, books containing stamps of Czechoslovakia were sent out along with books containing stamps of other countries because there was not enough Czech material to make it worth while. Since most members also collected other countries like Austria, Hungary and Germany, they were included in the circuits. Presently only philatelic material of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Eastern Silesia, Silesia, Carpatho-Ukraine and Bohemia-Moravia is accepted. Since early Czechoslovakian postal history includes combined frankings and different town cancels, this material is also permitted.

Over the 50 years of the Department's existence, only 16 circuits were lost in the mail. The first loss did not happen until 1948 when one circuit was lost. The following year another was lost. Not a single loss occurred during the 50s and 60s. Suddenly nine losses took place in the 70s, three more in the 80s, and two in the 90s. In the beginning, there was adequate postal insurance. As time went on and US postal authorities did not see fit to raise the insurable limits even though stamp values rose sharply, the Society found it necessary to add compensation from its own insurance fund. Realizing that this placed the Society at a certain risk, the Board of Directors voted in 1986 to obtain additional insurance through the American Philatelic Society.

Each time a member forwards a circuit via the mail, the member pays the

postal service for a CERTIFIED fee. The additional insurance for that circuit is covered by an independent insurance policy and costs \$2.25. Each time a circuit moves from one member to another costs us \$3.00 -- \$2.25 of this expense is paid by each member on the routing and \$0.75 is paid by the Society. Your payment of \$2.25 is forwarded to the Circuit Manager, and he in turn submits it to the insurance carrier.

There is nothing mysterious or complicated about the Society's Sales Circuit. Originally a sales and exchange, it is now only a sales circuit. It accepts stamps, miniature sheets, covers, postal history and stampless covers from the above mentioned areas. Any of these may contain special cancellations, plate numbers, errors and varieties as listed in specialized catalogs. With the exception of covers and postal stationery, all material submitted must be mounted in the Society's approval books each of which has ten pages of 5 x 8 inches in size and holds 120 stamps. They are available from the Circuit Manager at \$1.00 each. Covers and postal stationery may be submitted unmounted, but each cover or card must have the sales price written in pencil in the lower right-hand corner. A list must be generated by the owner, identifying each cover in some small way, and then including this typed list with the lot when it is sent out to the sales circuit. A suggested format would be something like:

Item No.	Cost	Description	Taken by: (name)
1.	\$10	Austrian field post card, 8 Jul 17	
2.	\$ 5	Slovak cover, 14 Aug 42 Nitra	
3.	\$ 5	Czech cover, 9 Mar 47 Brno	

The manager then batches them and inserts them into a pouch with a similar front and rear cover information. This lot is then combined with other philatelic material for sale in a circuit.

When a "seller" or "owner" applies for and receives his approval books, he fills them with his stamps, prices each item in the spaces provided, totals the value of each book's contents at the end and returns the books to the manager. The manager then sorts the newly received books into groups of not less than six and not more than ten and begins circulating them among those members who have applied for the service. They are the "buyers" or "purchasers". Thus a so-called "Circuit" may be defined as a grouping of six to ten circuit approval books submitted by owners which travel by mail from buyer to buyer according to a route sheet accompanying each grouping. Only Society members in good standing may participate in our sales circuit and only if they apply as a purchaser or owner or both. Those who apply as purchasers and wish to receive groups of approval books are placed on a mailing list by the manager and have a different spot on each routing. This is done to prevent the same members from having the worst selection by being on the bottom. Purchasers are required to pay \$2.25 into the insurance fund for each circuit they receive, whether they bought anything or not. This supplements the insurance purchased through the carrier and assures full coverage.

After a circuit is retired, the manager totals the sales and returns the books to the owners. They receive a check for their sales less 15% commission

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if the owner is a member (20% if a non-member) and 1% of the gross value of the book for insurance. The cost of return postage is also subtracted from the proceeds. Checks payable to the Circuit Manager for purchases made are sent to the manager by the buyers as soon as each buyer mails the books they received to the next buyer on the routing sheet. In the past, the department handled on the average of twenty circuits a year or approximately one every 18 days. These circuits help form the life-line of our Society.

Since the revolution of the Internet, many buyers are now doing their buying and selling on-line. Although this opens the door to many other suppliers, broader materials and other advantages, disadvantages also exist in Internet buying not the least of which is not knowing the seller. On the other hand, the SCP sales circuit:

- allows you to physically examine the material before you buy
- presents you the opportunity to examine other areas that may not be in your immediate collecting interest, but educate and inform you of them
- presents a variety of materials at a very reasonable cost without having to compete against others
- offers materials that are almost exclusively from fellow Society/Sales Circuit members.

Ever since its inception in 1941, the Department has been a constant supplier of funds and has aided immeasurably in maintaining the solvency of our Society's treasury. By making purchases from these circuit books, members not only serve their own philatelic needs, but also give financial support to their Society.

The following are the rules and regulations governing the use of the Circuit:

1. Stamps must be mounted in the Society's sales books which can be obtained from the Circuit Manager for \$1.00 each. Only good peelable hinges or non-destructive mounts are to be used. Unused spaces are to be blocked out to prevent mistaken blank spaces. Covers may be supplied in a 6 1/2" x 9 1/2" clasp envelope but each item must have the sales price marked in pencil on the front lower right corner.
2. All owner's of material must be identified. No anonymous owners are permitted.
3. The Society takes no responsibility for the quality or genuineness of the stamps and materials offered. Obvious fakes should be identified as such to potential buyers and be priced accordingly.
4. Scott's current catalog numbers are to be used. If you use any other specialized catalog, you must identify it, and the item must be in the current year catalog. Enter in the proper spaces the catalog number, catalog value, and the NET price at which you want to sell.
5. All books must remain in the Sales Department for at least one circuit routing.
6. After the books are retired from the circuit, they will be checked and the proceeds (less charges) will be paid to the owners. Charges include 15% for the service for members -- 20% for non-members, return postage on the books, money order fee for payment of proceeds (if any), and 1% of the total original value of each book for the insurance fund (\$2.25 minimum).

7. Upon obtaining a mailing of circuit books, a buyer must first check the number of books received. If one finds any empty unmarked spaces, they must notify the sender of the circuit as well as the Circuit Manager. In each such space, the buyer should write "Found Empty" and include your name and membership number. The prices of those stamps will then be charged to the member who had the books before them. Do not hold up the circuit.
8. A buyer must sign (use a felt-tip pen or a rubber stamp so not to "emboss" the stamps on the next page) every space from which he or she removes a stamp and place their membership number there. The buyer must mark the report sheets and the back of the book with the total amount removed from that book.
9. **DO NOT HOLD BOOKS FOR MORE THAN 14 DAYS.** A fee of 50 cents per day will be assessed for the holding of a circuit beyond the 14 days. After removing what material you want, send the books by **CERTIFIED: FIRST CLASS** (no insurance is required) to the next member whose name appears on the routing list accompanying each circuit. Try to use postage stamps when forwarding the circuit, the next member appreciates receiving used US stamps also. At the same time, send the filled-out report sheet and the amount due (there will always be an amount due) to the Circuit Manager.
10. Switching of stamps or substituting poor copies for better ones is stealing and will be dealt with as the offense warrants.
11. Each member is responsible for the full amount of the circuit as long as it is in their possession and until they receive the certified receipt from their post office or, if delivered personally, until they receive a receipt from the next member. Members should save all postal receipts for at least six months in case of a loss in the US Postal System. The \$2.25 insurance fee on the report sheet must still be paid even if the circuit is properly hand delivered to the next mailing list recipient.
12. Minimum value per Circuit booklet accepted is \$40.00.
13. Checks or money orders must be made payable and sent to: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092-1383.

* * * * *

SELL - SWAP - WANT

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

SELL: CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALISTS, 1945-1947, 1949-2000. 28 bound volumes (hard, plastic comb, binder). \$450 PLUS S/H. Frank Garancovsky, 3502 Harvest Run Trail, Poland, OH 44514-5830. (330) 757-9230. E-mail: fgarancovsky@hotmail.com

This item was previously printed without the latest street address:

SWAP: Wish to trade excess Schaubek Czech Album pages 1945-1959 for missing ones of 1918-1939. Vernon W von der Heydt, 118 Fermo Ave., St. Louis, MO 63135-3251. E-mail: vdheydt@juno.com

Philatelic News and Views

From Henry Hahn:

-- Today I received the enclosed information on the Czech Scout exhibit in Prague. The 5th EUROSCOUT 2004, an International meeting of Scout collectors, will take place 15-17 October 2004 at the K C Zahrada cultural center, Malenická str. 1784, Prague 11 -- Chodov (map at www.kc-zahrada.p11.cz). Anyone needing more information can contact me [address on page 2].

From Savoy Horvath:

-- Heads up with the US dollar/Cz koruna exchange. Just one year ago one could expect 32-34 Kč = \$1, but . . . Before the 2003 holidays I noticed a cover for sale in

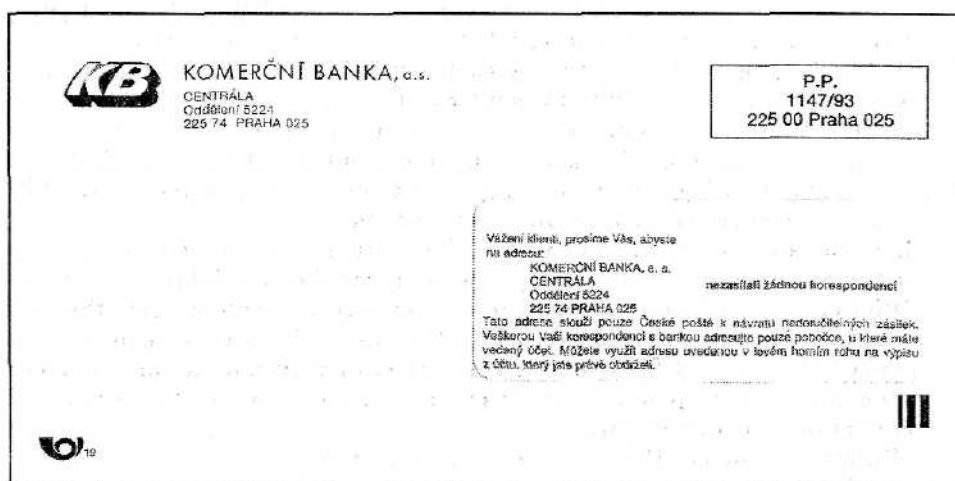


Fig. 1

Prague's philatelic publication going for 270 Kč which at the time was \$10.00 even (27/1). As this cost was postpaid, I sent \$10.00 cash. My letter was delayed in the holiday's mail, arriving in Prague on January 12th. The dollar had dropped to 24.7/1 by then. When the seller in Prague took the \$10 to his bank, he was charged about 60 Kč exchange fee. This made the exchange 18.70 Kč for \$1 with the dollar expected to drop further. One can only reminisce about the good old days of 40 Kč = \$1.

-- Something of interest -- look at your junk mail and bills/business mail envelopes, note the corner where the Postage Paid rectangle is located. A lot of them will just have P.P. The Czechs originally copied this P.P. in a rectangle (Fig. 1) from the American system, but in Czech this was Poštovné Paušalované, meaning postage paid. These letters inside of the rectangle now stand for Placené Převodem meaning transfer paid. If the envelope is from a non-profit, it also has an O.P. outside of the rectangle (Fig. 2). This stands for Obchodní Psaní = business letter [this may seem odd, but in the Czech Republic there is no such thing as non-profit mail, it is considered "business" mail].

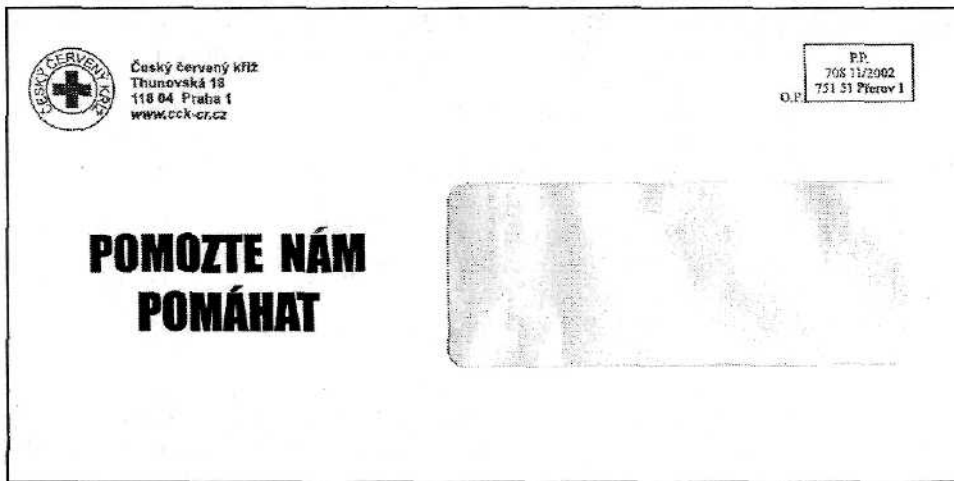


Fig. 2

-- At least five of my letters to Czechia [Czech Republic] arrived at PRAHA 120 cut open, nothing missing, were rubber stamped "DOŠLO POŠKOZENO Z CIZINY" [arrived damaged from abroad] (Fig. 3), and were inserted into a plastic cover that had "220 00 PRAHA 120" running across it periodically. As an example, I had put one of the envelopes (after canceling the postage) into a post office provided glassine

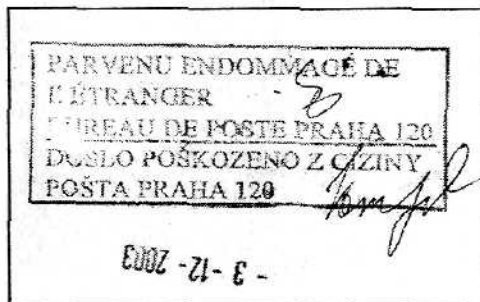


Fig. 3

envelope and taped the end -- and still the inside envelope was cut open. I believe this is a part of our anti-terrorist preparedness, done before the sending is allowed to board a plane. But there never was an indication as to who opened it.

-- The new Monografie 11, Vol. II, Postal Service in the Terezín Ghetto is now in. See the Available Publications on page 38 for more details.

From Ludvik Svoboda:

-- At ARIPEX'04 in Mesa, Arizona (20-22 February), our member Henry Hahn's exhibit, "Czechoslovak Air Mail (1920-1951)", was awarded the Society's Gold Medal for the Best Czechoslovak Exhibit. This award is selected and presented by the show's jury.

-- At AmeriStamp Expo in Norfolk, Virginia (30 January- 1 February), our member Anthony F. Dewey was awarded: Prix d'Honneur in the Single Frame Championship for his exhibit, "Service of Intellectual Aid to Prisoners of War"; Platinum in the Single Frame Open Competition for his exhibit, "Czechoslovakia: The Hussite Issue of 1920". This last exhibit was also awarded the American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 Award of Excellence.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

From Peter Z. Kleskovic:

- At SPRINGPEX 2004 the following were awarded to our members:
 - Kimber Wald won the Grand Award for his exhibit "Canada: The 1927 Historical and Confederation Anniversary Issue", which also earned a Gold and the American Philatelic Society Award. *[Ed. Note: please see the Sep/Oct 2003 issue, page 3, where Kimber has a 15 page article in which he describes how he went about putting this exhibit together.]*
 - Henry Hahn won a Gold for his exhibit "Issues of Austria and Hungary (1850-1918) Used in Territories of Future Czechoslovakia", which also won the APS Research Award.
 - Mirko Vondra won a Vermeil for his exhibit "Canadian Postal History".

From Tom Cossaboom:

- Congratulations to Henry Hahn for being the only American exhibitor accepted at the FIP show in Singapore (end of August) in the "World Stamp Championship Class". Only 13 multi-frame exhibits from 34 applicants were accepted.
- BRNO 2005 is coming up next year, 10-15 May 2005, in Brno, Czech Republic, so make plans to join us there. A few more details can be found in my President's Corner column elsewhere in this issue including how to contact me as the United States Commissioner.

LEO WIJNKAMP

Sep 8, 1917 - Dec 1, 2003

Some weeks ago we received the sad message of the passing away of our honorary member Leo Wijnkamp on December 1, 2003 at the age of 86 years. Many of our present members will have very faint memories of Leo as over the last years he had difficulties in walking and also his health made him stay at home. The last time he attended a meeting was on the occasion of the AMPHILEX exhibition in Amsterdam on September 1, 2002.

He was also an honorary member of the "Arge Tchechoslowakei" and for quite some time a well known member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately in the USA.

Leo has however been of greatest significance for our Dutch society and was one of its founding fathers. He participated in PRAGA '68 and '78 and in the London Exhibition in 1980. More in particular his postal history exhibit "Prague from the 16th Century until the 1st Republic" was highly appreciated. His extraordinary graphical presentations always gained him extra points from the jury. After he sold his collection, he started to collect the postal history of Haiti, but ultimately he could not stand the temptation of Czechoslovak philately, and only a year ago it was the postal history of Kosice that he engaged himself with.



Personally I will always remember Leo as an enthusiastic philatelist with tremendous knowledge, which he gladly shared with others. In his Skoda car he made several trips to Czechoslovakia and, with great humor, he could tell about the adventures that he experienced -- at that time -- with the formalistic communist authorities. During that period he knew most of the Czech experts personally, as well as the jurors and the most advanced collectors. He was always very straight forward when he was asked to express his opinion. Leo was also a great host during the several meetings we organized at this home in Amsterdam, always assisted by his wife Fien. He greatly missed her when she passed away in 2000.

People say you only die really, when you are no longer remembered. We will, do doubt, recall the stories he told and his name will be mentioned many times in connection with the history of our society. We wish his son Leo Jr. and his family the strength to cope with this loss.

Jan Verleg

Farewells

-- It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing on May 17, 2003, of our very long time member, Joseph Verba (member #618) of Lombard, Illinois. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his daughter, Mrs. Susan McDermott, as well as to the entire Verba family.

-- Also with great regret we have to announce the passing on November 8, 2003, of our member, B. Matthew Krejci (member #1778) of North Olmsted, Ohio. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his wife, Grace, and the entire Krejci family.

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Letters to the Editor

1. a. Dear Savoy [cc to Lou]:

Subject: Your article "6.40Kč Pansy Forgery Revisited" -- March/April SPECIALIST

How could you? You, of all people so knowledgeable in things Czech!

You singlehandedly brought the Czech Republic back into the realm of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by your report that ten and twenty . . . HELLER coins were taken out of circulation and that only 50 HELLER coin remains.

Since 1918 the coin in the then Czechoslovakia and continued throughout till present was and is the halíf. Even under the Protectorat when pfennings [sic] circulated it stayed the halíf.

As a penance, you should write a letter to the Editor, stating in capital letters that

100 halěřů = 1 KORUNA.

With best regards,

Karl [Ruzicka]

[Ed. Note: Karl should not be angry with Savoy, I am the culprit. Savoy had used "halíf" in his original input to me, I changed it to "heller" in the belief that it would be more understandable and recognizable to our readers. I should have left it alone. Mea culpa.]

b. Dear Lou:

I got your e-mail to Karl and me saying that it was your fault. But it turns out that all of us are wrong. Actually the correct word is "halěř".

Savoy Horvath

2. Dear Lou:

Re: Christer Brunstrom's article "THERESIENSTADT PARCEL CONTROL STAMP OF 1943" (SPECIALIST March/April 2004 issue)

In his interesting article on his visit to Theresienstadt, Christer Brunstrom mentions that "When the tour ended, I rushed to the museum, where I expected to learn more about the parcel stamp and how the scheme had worked. There was indeed an exhibit explaining how food parcels helped save many prisoner's lives, but there was nothing about the stamp."

For those interested in the Theresienstadt parcel control stamp, I recommend reading the authoritative book by František Beneš and Patricia Tošnerová entitled "Pošta v Ghettu Terezin [mail service in the Terezin ghetto] 1941-1945". It was published in 1996 by PROFIL and the texts are in Czech, German and English. There are two gifts included with the purchase of the book:

-- replica of a propaganda printing sheet of the parcel control stamp in black color (Fig. 1)

-- copy of the "Pamětní List" by the Prague Postal Museum in connection with the 1996 exhibition of the Mail Service in the Terezin Ghetto (Fig. 2).

The List shows one of the three stamps "Drawings of Theresienstadt



Fig. 1

Children", issued by the Czechoslovak Postal Service in 1968 (Fig. 3).

It should be also noted that postage, in accordance with the Protectorate postal rates, must have been affixed on the parcels, in addition to the admission (control) stamp. Parcels from the Protectorate without admission stamps were not delivered. Parcels from other countries did not require the admission stamp. As an example, some consignments arriving in Terezin from the Sudeten had been sent by the citizens of the Protectorate. This was a way to circumvent the limitations imposed by the admission stamp. (The stamps were distributed -- in limited quantities to the Jews in the ghetto -- by the Lagerkommandantur Theresienstadt des Zentralamtes fuer die Regelung der Judenfrage in Boehmen und Maehren, for sending to their



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

family members.) There were reports that the stamps were also sold on the black market by German officials, including Gestapo, for sums as high as 10,000 Protectorate crowns.

In addition, it took guts to send the package, as the sender -- directly or indirectly -- may have been brought to the attention of the Gestapo for future action.

Writing of this letter brought back memories of my youth spent in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Sincerely,
Karl [Ruzicka]



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

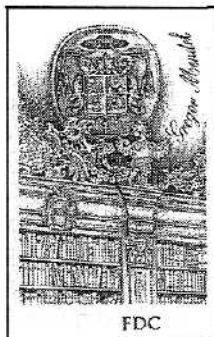


Fig. 1

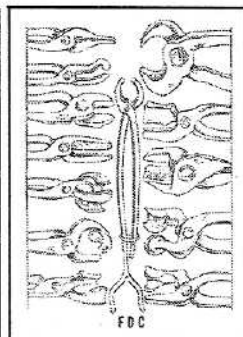


Fig. 2

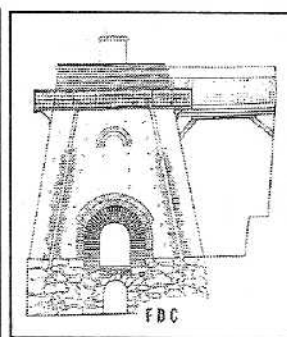


Fig. 3

1. In the Mar/Apr issue I inadvertently left out three illustrations showing the cachets on three FDCs. The first (Fig. 1) belongs to the FDC referenced at the end of paragraph 2 on

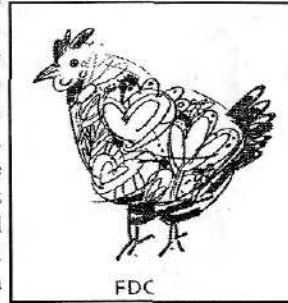
the top of page 38. The second (Fig. 2) belongs to the 6.50 Kč subparagraph of paragraph 3 on the same page. The third (Fig. 3) belongs to the 17 Kč subparagraph of paragraph 3 on that page.

2. On March 17, 2004, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 6.50 Kč stamp commemorating Easter (Fig. 4). A part of the Easter Monday traditions are the Easter eggs, both painted and decorated in



Fig. 4

different manners but also white, given as a ransom to the Easter whippers with their whips made of plaited twigs. This year's postage stamp, especially designed to decorate the Easter cards, commemorates this nice tradition. The family of Mr. Egg has set forth for a walk through the blooming spring nature which is blazing with every color. This is the first postage stamp representing the distinctive artwork of the academic painter and graphic artist Ladislav Hojný. The stamp was engraved by Pavel Kovářik and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, green, and red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black has a cachet which shows a stylized drawing of a hen (Fig. 5).



FDC

Fig. 5



Fig. 6

3. On March 17, 2004, the Ministry issued a 26 Kč commemorative stamp to promote the European postage stamp exhibition BRNO 2005 (Fig. 6). The stamp bears an engraver's transposition of the painting "Prométheus" by Antonín Procházka. A. Procházka (1882-1945), a Czech painter and illustrator, took his studies with V. Bukovac, H. Schwaiger and M. Švabinský at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He was a member of the Group of Eight, the Mánes Association of Fine Arts, the Brno Group of Artists, etc. His early works were influenced by E. Munch, V. van Gogh, H. Daumier and El Greco. Later he arrived at cubism, using an original way of developing its premises. In the 1930s he dealt with *pastoral composition* (Fig. 7, "Harvest"), *mythology* and *allegory*, and gradually developed his own version



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

of neo-classicism. He also created both monumental works and illustrations. The engraved version of the painting Prométheus brings us back to his cubistic period -- it currently hangs in the Moravian Gallery in Brno. The stamp was designed and engraved by Václav Fajt. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in yellow, orange, red, blue and dark brown in the arranged printing sheet of 4 stamps and one label. The label bears the logo of the exhibition and the texts EVROPSKÁ VÝSTAVA POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK BRNO 2005 and EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION BRNO 2005. A FDC in dark green contains a cachet showing an engraver's transposition of the drawing "Mother with her Child" by A. Procházka (Fig. 8). It is a drawing in pen and colored chaulks which originates from the 1920's.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

2004 ISSUE PLAN FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 30	Liptovský Mikuláš -- definitive	1	9
Jan 30	Valentines -- little heart	1	8
Feb 12	Flowers -- definitive, with personalizable coupons	2	8,9
Mar 10	Easter -- Easter egg	1	8
Mar 26	Beauties of Our Country -- wedding folk-costumes	2	17,21
Apr 23	Entry into EU -- joint issue with 10 countries	1	11
Apr 23	EUROPA -- Holidays	1	28
May 21	Dedko from Večerníčka, children's stamp	1	8
May 31	Summer Olympic Games/Paraolympics	1	34
Jun 17	Slovak Republic Forests -- Dobročské primateval forest	1	13
Jun 30	Technical Monuments	2	
	- Tatra autobus		14
	- Spanodolinské water supply		24
Sep 1	President, Slovak Republic -- definitive	1	8
Sep 15	Danubian Raftsman -- joint issue with Poland	1	16
Oct 15	Anniversary -- 1825 Trenčín Notice	1	26
Oct 20	Art on Stamps	2	33,35
Nov 4	Christmas	1	8
Nov 26	Day of the Postage Stamp -- history of postal delivery	1	18

[Ed. Note: We are having great difficulty getting information on Slovak new issues. In addition, all of the Slovak Republic issues are now being produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd., Great Britain.]

4. On November 28, 2003, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 12 Sk stamp to commemorate Postage Stamp Day -- Jozef Baláž (Fig. 9). This issue is published on Postage Stamp Day 2003 and depicts the drawing which Jozef Baláž created

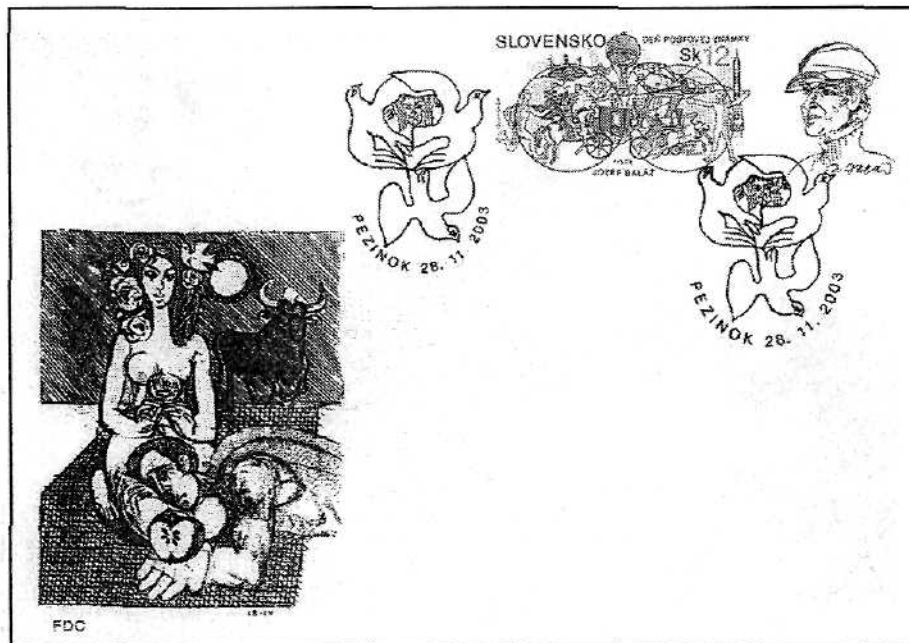


Fig. 9

for the issue of the 110th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (drawing on issue block, catalogue no. A 2652, issued on 12 June 1984). His self-portrait is on the coupon. Born on March 14, 1923 in Hlohovec, Jozef Baláž is a prominent painter in Slovakia's artistic community as well as a talented graphic artist of postage stamps. In 1957 he created the first stamp designs for the issue TANAP (Tatra National Park). Besides his own artistic works, he devoted an unbelievable 46 years to graphic lay-outs of postage stamps. Jozef Baláž's mastery of painting and illustrating is carried on through stamp art, for which he makes meticulous research. His complete knowledge of the technical stamp making parameters enables him to better create designs specifically to commemorate particular anniversaries and important social events. He created incredible designs with animal themes and figurative creations using symbolism and abstract forms. Remarkable are his portraits of great personalities where the artist has impressed his seal of exact characteristics and suitable composition. The stamp and coupon were designed by Jozef Baláž, engraved by Martin Činovsky, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC with cachet was issued (Fig. 9).

5. On November 28, 2003, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using multicolored recess printing from flat plates.

-- 14 Sk: "Saint Catherine" by Simon Vouet (1590-1649), circa 1615-1620, oil painting in the Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava (Fig. 10). Born in Paris in 1590, Simon Vouet was one of the most significant European artists. His works are divided into two main periods: Italian (1612-1627) and French (1627-1649). He painted "Saint Catherine" in Italy shortly before he returned to France. The Italian period of his works was strongly influenced by Carravaggio, where his paintings already showed lyric and harmony in composition; these

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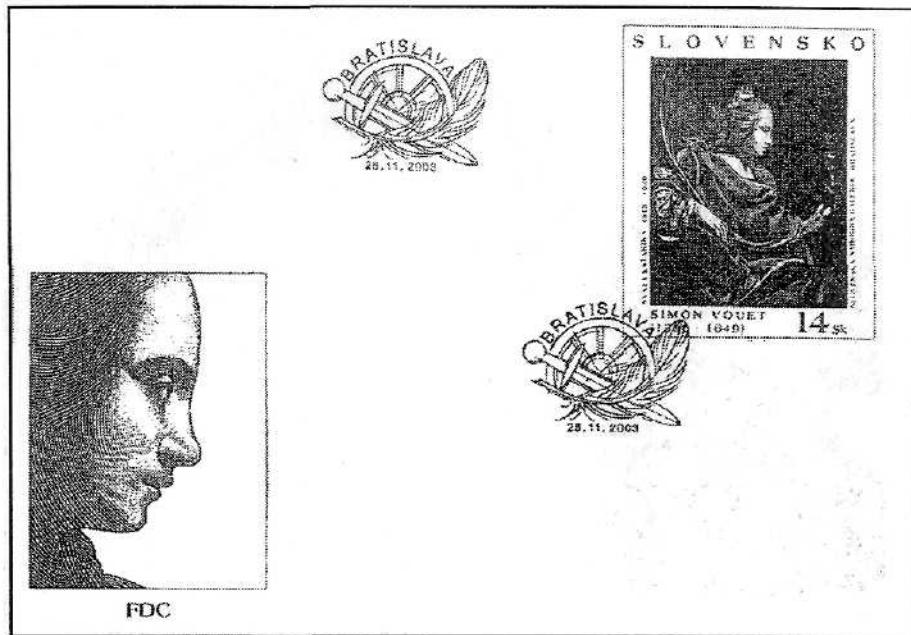


Fig. 10

were later even more remarkable in his French period of brilliant painting. The painting "Saint Catherine" is one of the great valuable works in the European art collection of the

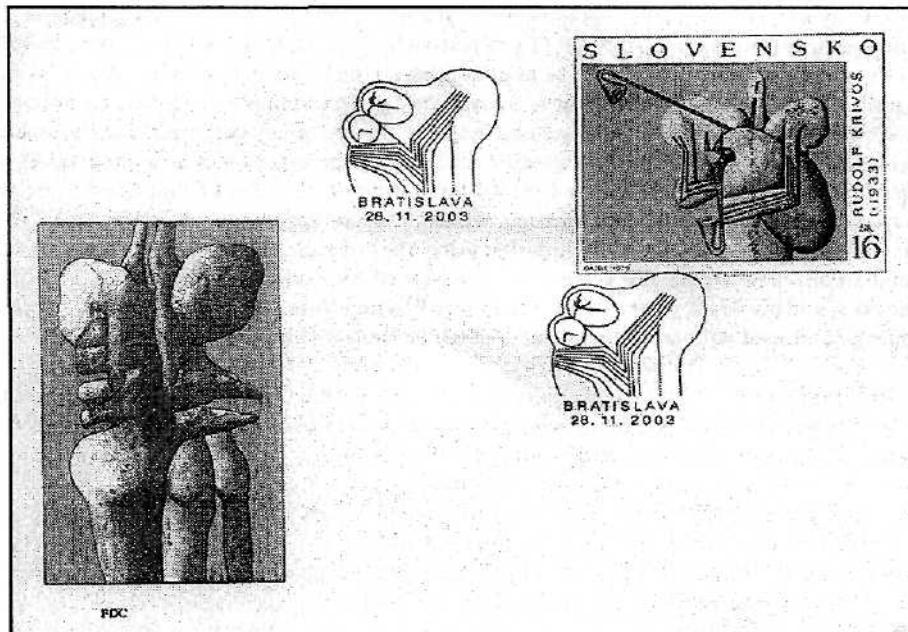


Fig. 11

Slovak National Gallery. It came from Count Ján Pálffy's collection. In 1907 the painting was thought to have been the work of an Italian painter from the 17th century. However in 1977 an expert researcher, Dr. K. Vaculík from the Slovak National Gallery, was able to show that in fact this masterpiece should have been attributed to Simon Vouet. This attribution was accepted by foreign literature. The artist died in Paris. The graphic lay-out and engraving of the stamp was by Rudolf Cigánik. The FDC shows a detail from the painting (Fig. 10).

-- 16 Sk: "Bagpipes" by Rudolf Krivoš (1933), 1979 oil painting, part of the artist's private collection (Fig. 11). Rudolf Krivoš is a figurative painter. He became fascinated with figural composition during his studies (1951-1956) at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design under Professor Ján Mudroch in the Department of Figural Painting. He constructed his figures and figural groups with an artistic temperament and expressive emphasis. Later, Krivoš started using color mass, layered in relief, in many of his paintings. One of the first to graduate from the Academy, he united with other young artists in their efforts to translate reality and to react to the schematic restrictions of art. The historic exhibition "Pictures -- Sculptures" in 1957 presenting their works was followed by the establishment of the Mikuláš Galanda Group. The group's name indicated its interest in modern artistic expression with a national essence. In this act of restoration, each artist strove to make his individual artistic statement. The graphic lay-out and engraving of the stamp was by Martin Činovský. A FDC includes a cachet showing "Biological Column IV", 1988, by Krivoš (Fig. 11).

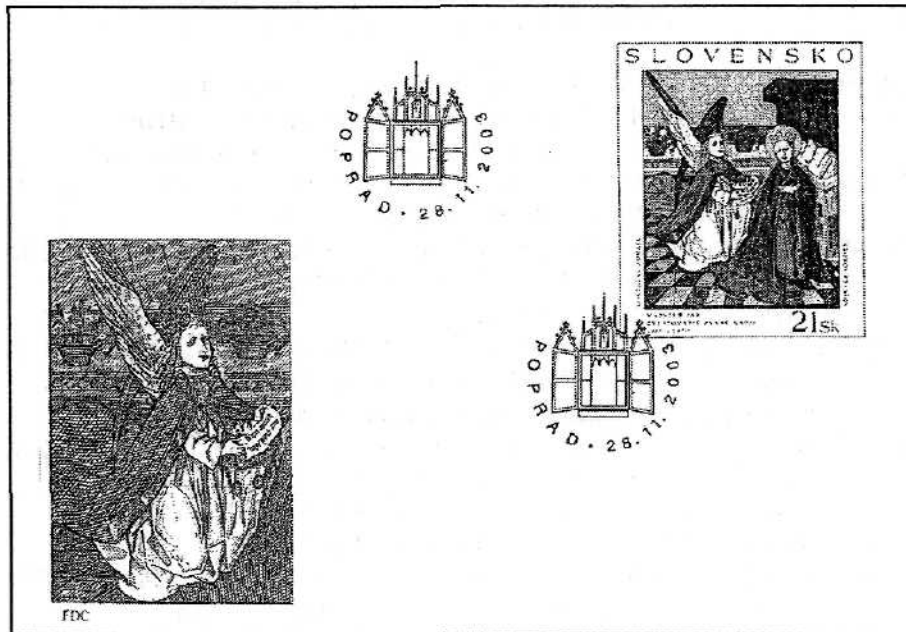


Fig. 12

-- 21 Sk: "Annunciation of Our Lady" by Master John, circa 1460-1470, painting on wood from the altar piece in the Church of St. George in Spišská Sobota (Fig. 12). The altar piece in the Church of St. George, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is one of the first completely preserved from the late gothic period in Slovakia. The altar piece, comprised of

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

a central part, painted wings and gable was created in a carving and painting workshop in Levoča between 1460-1470. The painter was Master John, whose signature is also to be found under the altar piece of St. Catherine in Levoča as well. It has therefore been assumed that the Master carver who created the altar piece for Virgin Mary in Spišská Sobota also created the altar piece for St. Catherine in Levoča. According to research, both artists worked in Levoča between 1460-1480 and delivered their works to many parts of the Spiš region. Four Marian scenes are painted on the front side of the altar piece's hinged wings. One picture the annunciation of Our Lady and is located on the bottom panel of the left wing. The Archangel Gabriel with a metal fillet on his head and dressed in a coat clasped with a buckle holds a message from heaven in his hand -- a medieval document with seal and minuscule inscription: *ave grazia plena dominus tecum* (Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you). The Virgin Mary is on her knees, with hands crossed on her chest, ready to receive him. The graphic lay-out and engraving of the stamp was by František Horniak. A FDC includes a cachet showing a detail from the stamp -- St. Gabriel with the message (Fig. 12).

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