



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS IN THE CZECH LANDS

What do we know about them and what do they say to us?

By Lubor Kunc

Philatelic exhibitions are important events for all collectors. Once I got an idea -- how many philatelic exhibitions have been organized in Czechoslovakia? I started to study philatelic journals, books and other sources to find as many as possible of them. It was an interesting trip, because the history of philatelic exhibitions is very much connected with the history of the philatelic movement as well as the political situation in our country. Let's start our journey in the past!

I was surprised to find that the first philatelic exhibitions come from the 19th century, when postage stamps and philately were born. Philately came to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy from Germany, where the first philatelic organizations of Central Europe were founded and the first philatelic exhibitions were held.

The first exhibition on the territory of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (to which Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia belonged) known to me was organized in Vienna by the collector's club Vindobona in 1881. Such exhibitions can be understood as prologue to the Czechoslovak ones, because Czech collectors took part in them and gained their first exhibiting experience there. Finally, in 1894 the first international philatelic exhibition was held, again in Vienna. *(Continued on Page 3)*

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HELP IN PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO BRNO 2005

We have become aware of at least two offers to consider if you are planning to go to BRNO 2005 next year (May 10-15, 2005):

-- TATRA TRAVEL of New York (800-321-2999, ask for Blanka) has quoted a price on CSA airlines for the round trip fare from JFK/New York to Prague of \$530 + about \$90 tax. They also offer discount fares from other cities to JFK/New York, e.g. \$65 + tax from Washington, DC. **HOWEVER, THE TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR!** Note that this offer is for airline connections only (although TATRA can handle the other arrangements also).

-- ROUND-THE-WORLD TOURS of Baltimore (888-638-7471) is offering package deals (beginning at \$1,525 per person/double occupancy) that include airfare (from the east coast), transportation from Prague to Brno, and hotel for the period of the Brno exhibition. They also offer additional optional tours to other cities while you are there -- contact them for all of the details.

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Philatelic Exhibitions in the Czech Lands

(Continued from Page 1)

The first "philatelic" exhibition on Czechoslovak territory was organized in 1888 in Brno. The exhibition was a general exhibition (celebrating the 40th anniversary of Emperor Franz Joseph's governance) which contained a philatelic section. It was usual at that time to incorporate a philatelic show into a general exhibition in order to promote philately among the public.

In 1887 the first Czech philatelic club on Czechoslovak territory was founded in Prague by Mr. Vincenc Jedlička (founder and first chairman, see Fig. 1), and it was called Klub Českých Filatelistů (see Fig. 2 showing a Czechoslovak special postal card of 1987 celebrating the centenary of its founding as well as headline of *Český Filatelista* journal). Members of the club (especially its chairman Mr. Sula) played an important role in issuing the first Czechoslovak Hradčany issue and in organization of a 1914 exhibition. Klub Českých Filatelistů was also the publisher of the first Czech philatelic journal called *Český Filatelista*. This club still exists, it bears the prestigious name Klub Filatelistů 00-01 showing it was the first one.

But the club was not the first philatelic club in the Monarchy. German-



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

speaking collectors founded their first club before 1887, i.e. in 1885 was founded in Prague the so-called "Deutscher Verband für Briefmarkenkunde in Prag". The surprise was that really the first philatelic clubs were founded outside of Prague -- in 1874 Mr. Veith established the club "Philatelica" in Brno.

Some collectors were members of the German philatelic club of Heidelberg "Süddeutscher Philatelistenverband". You should be aware, that originally philately in Czech lands was divided into German philately (the leading movement) and Czech philately, and in the late 20's the number of German clubs in the Czech lands was greater than the number of Czech ones. The Czech philatelic movement was not as strong -- it was not supported by the authorities, who saw in it just another form of the Czech independence movement -- e.g. the founding of the above Klub Českých Filatelistů in 1887 should be mentioned again, because in the founding meeting no representative of the Prague Police Directorate took part, so the club was an illegal organization. You see, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was no democratic state -- the government tried to control the people of the country. One of the procedures was that the police had to register and regularly check all organizations without respect to if it was a stamp or a sport club. The police also had to participate in the founding meeting of any organization. Because this rule was broken since no police officer was present at the founding meeting of Klub Českých Filatelistů, the authorities did not accept this organization as a legal one.

The collectors usually joined philatelic clubs based upon their nationality or political opinion, but because of common interests in philately the Czech and German organizations usually cooperated with the exception of a few times when the attitude between the Czech and German populations was influenced by political events (WW I, WW II, etc.).

The German philatelic clubs were more active in those days. They published the first philatelic journals on Czechoslovak territory (the first of them was the journal "Der Deutsche Briefmarkensammler" published in Ústí/Labem since 1869). You can see a list of the German journals in Mr. Janík's Bibliography on the Internet (for address see the end of the article).

The first stamp dealers in Bohemia opened their businesses in Prague. The first of them were probably the companies of Mr. D. Vlaschim and Mrs. M. Stohlová set up in 1896. It is remarkable that the first woman philatelist was a stamp dealer and the first woman collector joined the Klub Českých Filatelistů as early as 1904. This is not the only case when a woman owned a stamp house. The reason for this was usually the occupation of a male collector, who officially could not set up his own business (e.g. because he was a state employee), so the company was owned by his wife.

In 1887, Mr. Zikmund Reach, Czech collector and member of Klub Českých Filatelistů, published the first postage stamp album in the Czech language, which was very popular among collectors and attracted many of them to philately. It was published many times prior to WW I.

Czech philatelic literature usually states, the first philatelic exhibition on Czechoslovak territory was opened in 1914 in Prague. I don't agree with this statement, because as early as 1903 a small philatelic exhibition was organized in Prague to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Klub Českých Filatelistů's founding.

But it is true, that the 1914 exhibition was the most important exhibition held in the Czech lands before WW I. It was just a small exhibition with exhibits of collectors from all of Bohemia and Moravia as well as with exhibits from a few young collectors. The organization of the exhibition was so expensive that the club had to limit its activities for a short period, and its members changed the board of the club.

After the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, the first years were aimed at reconstruction of the economy of the new state as well as the setting of its borders. As a result philately played only a little role in the life of the whole society (probably with the exception of some events like the issue of the Pošta Československá 1919 or SO 1920 stamps). But in these years the future philatelic expansion began. The first Czechoslovak stamps of 1918 (the so-called Hradčany stamps issued on Dec. 18, 1918, see Fig. 3) attracted new collectors. On Dec. 18, 1918, the Prague Postal Museum was also founded -- the laws of the new state enabled the easy creation of various societies and clubs.

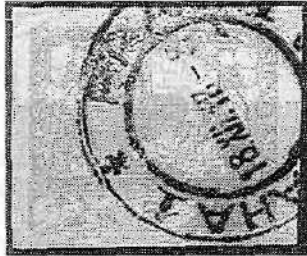


Fig. 3

Philatelic exhibitions in Bohemia and Moravia restarted in the 20's. In 1921 the Czech philatelic clubs established the Svaz Čs. Filatelistických Spolků (union of Czechoslovak philatelic clubs) as the body representing the interests of Czech and Slovak collectors. The German collectors back in the time of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy founded a similar body called Deutscher Philatelisten Verband.

The first philatelic exhibition after WW I was held in Hradec Králové in 1922,



Fig. 4

and one year later the first international philatelic exhibition was organized in Brno (Brno 1923). The first philatelic exhibition on Slovak territory was organized in 1928 in Bratislava.

The positive turn of events with now a democratic society and thus the non-involvement of public authorities into philately led to the friendly cooperation of Czech and German philatelic movements and especially to the founding of new philatelic clubs throughout the country. In 1925 the philatelic club of Jindřichův Hradec organized the first meeting of Czech philatelic clubs (called Sjezd Čs. Filatelistů) combined with a philatelic exhibition. The German collectors regularly organized similar meetings called "Briefmarkentage" using various special cancels to commemorate the events.

In 1926 Czechoslovakia became one of the founders of the International Philatelic Federation (F.I.P.) when Czechoslovak representative Mr. Řezníček signed the F.I.P. founding document (see Fig. 4 -- a postcard showing Mr. Řezníček).

In 1980 Czech collector Mr. Dvořáček was elected F.I.P.'s President. His presidency was the only case when an international organization consisting of both capitalist and communist countries was headed by a man from a communist country.

The third philatelic movement in Czechoslovakia was created by Russian philatelists. After the Communist Revolution in Russia in October 1917 many people left Russia, and Prague became one of the European centers of Russian emigrants. Among them were many stamp collectors, so in the 1920's in Prague the Russian philatelist Mr. Judenkoff founded the philatelic journal *Filateliya* written in Russian.

A big philatelic show in Slovakia was organized in Bratislava in 1937. It was the first philatelic show that was celebrated by the Postal Administration with a souvenir sheet (see Fig. 5). This stamp show was celebrated also in another way.



Fig. 5

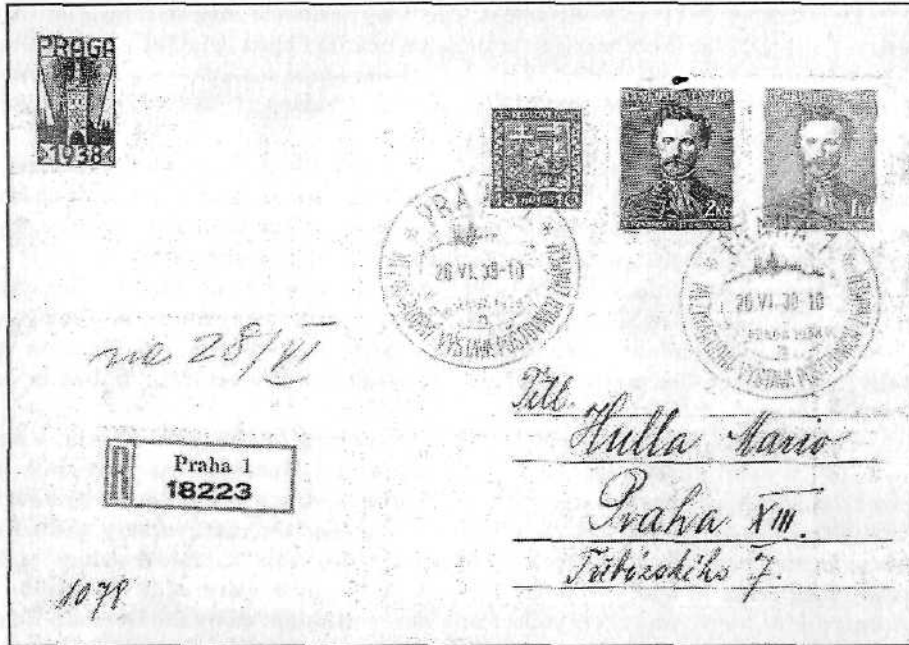


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

For VIP visitors and exhibitors the Czechoslovak Postal Administration prepared special albums of postage stamps (which had been originally issued early in the 30's) with different perforations than the original stamps -- e.g. the air mail stamps of 1930 having face value of 5 ČSK and perforation 12 (in Czech catalogs the perforation is sized as 12 1/4, Scott C15a).

The next year an international stamp show PRAGA 38 was organized in Prague. The PRAGA philatelic exhibitions are still alive as can be proved by the last one, PRAGA 98. Traditionally it is organized every 10 years in a year ending by 8 (see Fig. 6 showing a philatelic letter sent from the 1938 exhibition).

In September 1938, Czechoslovak border areas were occupied by Germany, Poland and Hungary. On March 14, 1939, Slovakia broke away from Czechoslovakia to become an independent state and on the next day Bohemia and Moravia was totally occupied by Germany (creating the so-called Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia).

Philatelic life was influenced by World War II, but in the early 40's there were still a lot of exhibitions organized in Bohemia and Moravia. At that time the German authorities were not strong in such matters, which can be shown by a series of exhibitions organized in 1940 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first postage stamp issued by the enemy Great Britain! But this "limited freedom" ended quickly and some of the philatelists emigrated, others were sent to prisons or concentration camps, and their collections were nationalized by the German Reich. This black period can be illustrated by the following articles from the philatelic journal *Tribuna Filatelistů*.

The first a notice of 1941 (*Tribuna Filatelistů* of 1941, no. 4, page 61) is information -- an order to Jewish private persons and companies to give their collections "into the protection" of banks until March 15, 1941. Later the collections were nationalized by Germany.

As early as 1939 the German authorities of the Protectorate forbade the foreign exchange of postage stamps. After the beginning of WW II, the authorities regularly issued lists of stamps of enemy countries which could not be collected, e.g. in 1939 French stamps were forbidden, but in 1940 their collection was again allowed, because France was beaten by Germany. In 1942 there was prepared a comprehensive list of forbidden stamps (*Tribuna Filatelistů* of 1942, no. 12, pages 118-119) which were prohibited to be collected, traded or exhibited. This list contains, e.g. all Canadian stamps issued since 1935 or all US stamps issued since 1938. The list also contained all of the issues of governments-in-exile.

On the other hand, the editor of *Tribuna Filatelistů* (and editors of other philatelic journals) tried to remember the existence of Czechoslovakia by various articles discussing "former" Czechoslovak stamps using for illustrations as much as possible stamps with pictures of Czechoslovak President Masaryk. This was the only possible way to write about Czechoslovakia and to receive the permission of the censors to publish a text. Because of the economic problems of Germany during WW II, e.g. with a lack of paper, the issuance of all philatelic journals in the Protectorate was stopped in 1944.

However, while the whole of the Czechoslovak territory was under strong German command, the fight against Germany continued abroad. In March 1939,



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Mr. Lowey and Mr. Stein met in New York city and founded the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America, later re-named The Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. In May 1939, the first issue of its philatelic journal *The Czechoslovak Specialist* was published.

The 1939-40 World's Fair was organized in New York. Czechoslovakia originally wanted to participate in the fair, but after the occupation of its territory in March 1939 the German authorities refused it. The representatives of the former state being in Great Britain and in the USA decided to promote Czechoslovakia by opening its pavilion. To earn money for that purpose, they overprinted Czechoslovak stamps and sold them to the visitors of the Fair. An example can be seen at Fig. 7 -- this is a Czechoslovak Bratislava 1937 souvenir sheet bearing the overprint. Of course, such issues were not valid in postal operations, they are souvenirs only. The N.Y. souvenir sheets were smuggled into the Protectorate, however their ownership there was a crime. The most used way to smuggle them in led via Denmark to Prague.

In 1942, Mr. J. Tauber living in England founded the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. The majority of members of the organization were soldiers serving in Czechoslovak forces in Great Britain. Members of the society took part in the 1943 London exhibition (see the next paragraph). In 1944 many of them left England for Normandy and fighting in Europe, so the society's activity was reduced. This was the condition until 1953 when the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain was founded.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in cooperation with collectors of Czechoslovak stamps organized a philatelic exhibition in London in 1943. They prepared a special souvenir sheet (without postal validity, Fig. 8) for the occasion.

During WW II the German Army totally destroyed the small village of Lidice and killed all of the men living there (women and children were sent to concentration camps) as part of an action aimed at Czech supporters of assassins who had killed Gen. Heydrich, the head of German authorities in Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia. The village's destruction was commemorated in Belgium at a stamp show in Brussels in 1945. At the show two special souvenir sheets (again without postal validity, but with the permission of the Belgian Postal Administration) were issued (see Fig. 9).

Both WW I and WW II helped governments to collect more money from the population of their states. Such was the situation in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy during WW I as well as in the German Third Reich during WW II. In both cases stamp collectors played important roles in contributing to the state. During WW I, the Austrian and Hungarian Postal Administrations issued a total of about 50 stamps with surcharges for the war (see Fig. 10 -- an Austrian stamp showing a military airplane with a face value of 35 Hellers and surcharge of 3 Hellers, Scott Austria B7).



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

Later the situation was more difficult. In 1938 as a result of the Munich Accord, Germany, Poland and Hungary occupied border areas of Czechoslovakia. Czech people were to leave the areas and to move to the rest of the unoccupied state. To earn funds for their re-settlement in new areas, the Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued a souvenir sheet (Scott B153) with face value of 2 Crowns and surcharge of 8 Crowns (see Fig. 11).

Similar reasons led the Postal Administration of Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia (under German occupation) to issue a total of 21 postage stamps in the years 1943-1945, of which 14 were stamps with a surcharge. The money earned would go to the German Red Cross to care for injured soldiers of the Russian campaign and to other German programs aimed at winning

the war. Typical (and a tragicomic) case is the stamp at Figure 12 -- it was issued in 1944 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and establishment of the Protectorate (Scott Bohemia/Moravia B24). This stamp had a face value of 10 Crowns and a surcharge of 20 Crowns payable to Germany as thanks for the Czech occupation! What Czech would not like to contribute to the occasion?!!!

The restoration of philatelic life occurred in 1945 after the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Allies. The prisoners returned from concentration camps and jail houses, the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists was re-founded, and Czech philatelic journals started to be published (see Fig. 13 -- an advertisement published in the



Fig. 12

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Telefon 399-22. Pošt. spoř. 82.253.

journal *Československá Filatelie*,
no. 10/1945, page 150, informed
the readers that the former
stamp dealer R. Rösenthaler
returned from an internment
camp in Germany, changed his
family name to Vyšehradský and
re-opened his business in
Prague).

(To be continued)

Fig. 13

* * * * *

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!!!

As is specified in our Bylaws, it is the time of year for our Society to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in an election of five (5) of our fifteen (15) Board of Director positions.

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by two (2) members of the Society (other than themselves) whose signatures shall be affixed to a nominating petition. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue as a separate sheet. The names of the term-ending board members and of the remaining board members are as follows:

Term Ending: R. Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Savoy Horvath, Peter Z.
Kleskovic, Ludvik Z. Svoboda
Remaining: H. Alan Hoover, Robert Koschalk, Frederick P. Lawrence, Edwin W.
Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, Charles J. Rehman, Karl J. Ruzicka,
Bruce Sebek, Jaroslav J. Verner, Martin Wilson

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy.

If you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing.
2. The nominee must have given his/her consent to be nominated.
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board meeting location specified by the President.
4. It is preferred that the nominee have an e-mail address on the Internet system.
5. The petition originator must see to finding another member to sign the petition.
6. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of January 2005.

After filling out the enclosed petition form and getting another member's signature, mail it to our Secretary, Peter Z. Kleskovic, 27 Jay Street, Succasunna, NJ 07876. Make sure that it reaches him no later than the last day of January 2005.

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 5B: " " "
 6A: Original Padělky -- 1963 Forgery Handbook
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 9: Maxa Perfin Catalog -- 1987
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 11B: " " "
 11C: " " "
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 13: Bohemoslovenika Handbook 1966 by Jan Kostelka
 14: Hardbound Catalogs about the 1978 & 1988 International Exhibitions in Prague, 2 books from each year
 15: Hardbound SPECIALISTS -- 1965, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978-79, 1982-84. Bid on each one separately or bid on the entire lot.
 16A: Handbook on Olympic Cancels by Bura -- 1977, prepared for the 1978 International Show in Prague
 16B: " " "

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	\$20	-	\$50	=	\$2 increments
	\$50	and over		=	\$5 increments

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Remember, there is no reserve bid, successful bids will be one increment over the second highest bid.
 Lots sent by US Mail, book rate.

Send bids to: Tribuna Stamp Company
 PO Box 100
 Willow Springs, IL 60480

PNSE'04 WINNERS

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

The 2004 Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE'04) turned out for us to be a great success. Our Society member's exhibits garnered the Show Grand Award, 4 Gold medals, 2 Vermeil, 1 Silver, 1 Silver-Bronze, 1 Single-Frame Platinum, 1 Single-Frame Youth Best Junior Exhibit, and 4 Special awards!

The highlights of these stamp exhibits are:

-- Henry Hahn, *Czechoslovakia First Republic (1918-1938)*; GRAND AWARD; Gold; SCP Gold (selected by the Show Jury for the best Czechoslovak exhibit); plus the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence -- Predominately 1900-1940.

-- Phil Rhoads, *The Murder of Lidice*; Gold; American Philatelic Congress Award for Write-Up; and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award for Creativity

-- Jaroslav J. Verner, *Czechoslovakia 1918-1938*; Gold

-- Anthony F. Dewey, *First UN Issue, 1951*; Gold; plus the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence -- Predominately 1940-1980; *Czechoslovakia: The Hussite Issue of 1920*; Single-Frame Platinum

-- Charles J. Chesloe, *Eastern Silesia*; Vermeil

-- Robert F. Koschalk, *German Occupation of Czechoslovakia*; Vermeil

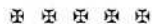
-- Mirko L. Vondra, *Canadian Postal Stationery*; Silver

-- Frank A. Garancovsky, *Czechoslovakia First Issues: 100h Hradčany Complete Plating*. Silver-Bronze

-- Stuart Hahn, *Czechoslovakia*; Single-Frame Youth Best Junior Exhibit

The show philatelic jury included: Dr. Roger G. Schnell, Chair -- Florida; Jay T. Carrigan -- North Carolina; Ronald E. Leshner, Sr. -- Maryland; Michael D. Milam -- Colorado; Toke Nørby -- Denmark.

A separate Society jury, appointed by SCP President, Tom Cossaboom, made the following presentations of the SCP awards at the Society awards breakfast: Gold -- Henry Hahn, Silver -- Phil Rhoads, Bronze -- Charles J. Chesloe.



Philatelic News and Views

From Gerald van Zanten:

-- Enclosed is a copy of the 2003 [Slovak] miniature hockey sheet (Fig. 1) . . . 185 x 140 cm. Only the stamp part was shown in the SPECIALIST of March/April 2004 [page 40, figure 6]. I received it the other day from my regular contact in Prague, I thought it may be of interest to our readers.

From Ludvik Z. Svoboda:

-- Our friend, Bretislav Janík has brought to our attention that there is a new feature on his electronic magazine (Japhila e-zine that he calls Worldwide Philatelic Portal at <http://www.japhila.cz/>). It is a full time virtual philatelic exhibit that he calls The Hall of Fame, which can be found at <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/>. As



Fig. 1

of this writing, it contained 10 philatelic exhibits, each consisting of 20-60 pages of philatelic material. Most of the exhibits were about the Czechoslovak area, and many were in English. This site is definitely worth your visit. Bretislav says that new material will be substituted periodically, so you should add it to your bookmarks.

From Savoy Horvath:

-- Purchase of postage stamps and phone cards is on a decline in the Czech Republic, so reported in the Czech press. The public is steadily buying less postage stamps and phone cards. Instead of calling from phone booths, the cell phone is the king now, and as far as letters or picture postcards from vacations, they now send SMS (Short Message Service = 25 words screen to screen on cell phones) or e-mail. Last year the Czech Post experienced a 30 million drop in first class mail. Sale of phone cards from the year 2000 dropped by a quarter. There is also a considerable decline in philately, this being the hobby of the older generation most in retirement, and here the money for a hobby is short. According to Czech Post spokesperson Ladislav Vancura, there is zero interest in stamp collecting among the younger population. The same drop in interest happened with phone card collecting, this hobby in the 90's was only second to philately. Czech Telecom issued some 60 million cards since the 90's with six thousand subjects; there are still phone cards worth tens of thousands of Koruna's, but hardly any buyers.

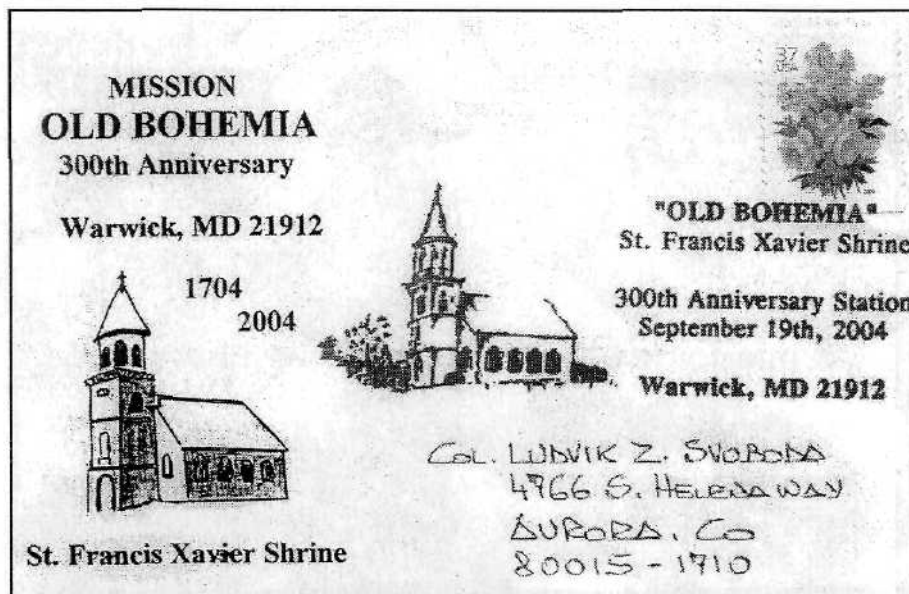


Fig. 2

-- Being involved in Bohemika collecting, I read a story last spring on the Mission of Old Bohemia in Warwick, MD (I'll report on this in the SPECIALIST). Noticing that the Mission is having its 300th anniversary this year, I have designed and submitted to the Warwick postmaster my idea for a commemorative cancel. It was accepted and put into use on September 19th, 2004 (Fig. 2). The Old Bohemia Mission is quite significant to Catholics, as it is known as the cradle of Catholicism in America. To obtain this special cancel, pre-address and pre-stamp your covers and insert into a larger envelope addressed to: 300th Anniversary Station, 77 Main Street, Warwick, MD 21912-9998.

From Charley Chesloe:

-- I was very surprised by a phone call from the Czech Republic which informed me that long-time noted stamp collector and dealer Václav Vaník died on Sunday, October 3 in the Czech Republic. He lived for many years in the United States and had a stamp store in Brookfield, Illinois. After the overthrow of communism he returned to Czechoslovakia. He is survived by his wife, Lenore, and two daughters, Lenore and Maria.

From Frederick Lawrence:

-- . . . our member Randall Frank won his first national-level gold for his "1933 Boy Scout World Jamboree" exhibit, which he expanded to 7 frames from its previous 5 frames which won several vermeils in the early 1990s. This exhibit had not been seen for 10 years prior to SESCAL 2004!

LET'S VISIT ČIČMANY

by Gerald M. van Zanten

The 20 Kčs stamp in the series "Folk Architecture" issued in 1972 (Fig. 1) depicts some of this small village's buildings with their attractive wooden houses, featuring galleries and wide eaves remarkable, above all, for their white painted decorations in lacework style. This style dates back to the 18th century and is unique to Slovakia.

Čičmany was first mentioned in 1272, the village became renowned for the manufacture of felt slippers. Traditionally the villagers were living off the raising of sheep as well as cattle.

The village of Čičmany is lined with some of the most famous surviving examples of Slovak folk architecture. The lower half of the village was destroyed by fire in 1921, but was lovingly restored by the Institute of Ethnography. One of these houses (Radenov Dom) is now a small and charming ethnographical museum. Figure 2 shows it with a gallery and the characteristic ornamental decoration. Here one can listen to a taped commentary (in English) about the history of this village and view examples of local crafts and folk costumes,

characterized by their very sophisticated design with a predominance of white. A sample of this is shown on a 1957 stamp depicting a young girl -- this stamp is the 1.40 Kčs value from the 2nd set of folk costumes (Fig. 3). Figure 4 shows embroidering women from Čičmany wearing beautiful local folk dress.

To get to Čičmany, follow the road south from Žilina, through Rajec to



Fig. 1

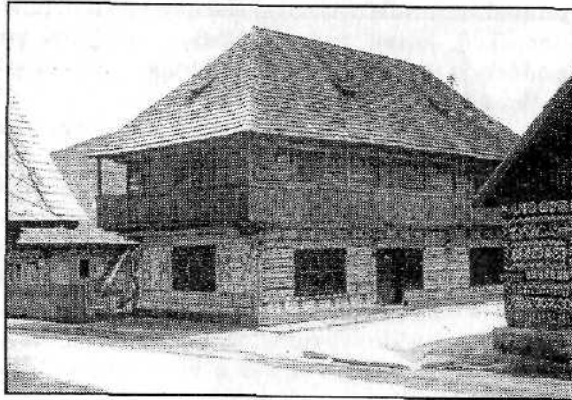


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

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Fačkov, a short distance past there turn right on a single IIIrd class road for about 8km to Čičmany.

P.S. -- this village is certainly worthy of a visit!

References: CZECHOSLOVAK "BLUE GUIDE"
ČESKO A SLOVENSKU AUTOATLAS
published by GEORDOZIE BRNO

* * * * *

The Librarian's Desk

As some of you may know, the Society Library found a new home this year. Dozens of boxes of books and magazines of interest to collectors of Czechoslovak and related materials arrived at the new location in March of this year. Many have been unpacked, sorted, and inventoried, but there are still many to sort through. My problem is that I keep finding things that are too interesting to just put on the shelf without leafing through them.

The books and magazines the Society owns amazed me. There is a wealth of material here, ready to be used by Society members for merely the cost of the postage to ship and return them. What I plan to do in forthcoming issues of the SPECIALIST is introduce many of the books in the library to the membership so that we can all take part in enjoying the storehouse of knowledge the Society owns.

The idea for *The Librarian's Desk* came out of an exchange of emails between Board members. The Library had been asked to loan a book to a non-member, which is against the library rules. However, the book the person wanted to borrow was not even about stamps -- it was a biography of a Czech who was quite influential in Colonial Maryland.

As the title and topic of the book was discussed in email after email, I received several requests to borrow the book from Board members whose interest in the book had been piqued by the on-going discussion. I was quite surprised and thought that if more members knew something about the Library's books, perhaps more members would be interested in using them. After all, books collecting dust on the shelves do not do much for themselves or others. Books have to be used to be valuable, so *The Librarian's Desk* will bring news to you of books old and new, and of magazines, and of other materials in the Society Library.

For those of you who are interested in using Library materials, you can contact the Librarian via email, scplibrary@knihtisk.org, or via traditional postage routes:

Mark Wilson
Society for Czechoslovak Philately Library
316 Devland Drive
Winchester, VA 22603

The Society website has a list of much of the material in the Library. However, we are not restricted to just the material in our own library. This past spring, the Library obtained a book via inter library-loan from another library for one of our members. I have also done some Internet searches for members preparing

exhibits who required information not in the Society Library.

If you like, tell me the kind of books you are interested in. I will do my best to write about any we have that might interest you.

Mark Wilson



EXPERTIZATION COMMITTEE

The Society operates an expertization committee under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending upon the nature or substance of the item to be evaluated, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. The instructions for use, charges involved (they are higher for non-Society members), and a down-loadable application form are found on our web site: www.czechoslovakphilately.com. Please remember NOT to send the item with your initial application, and that each item requires a separate application form. Questions and application forms should be directed to: Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or e-mail: Lousvoboda@comcast.com.

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SALE OF UNBOUND SPECIALIST'S

The Society has back copies of the SPECIALIST available for sale to members at reduced prices. Years 1981-2003 are priced at 25 cents per copy. Prior years are priced at 50 cents per copy. We do not have all years complete, and in many cases only have a few copies of an issue. Therefore, the issues will be sold on a first come first served basis. Photocopies can be made (at cost -- about 4 cents per page) to provide a limited number of copies to complete some year's issues, if specifically requested.

You may order the SPECIALIST's which you wish to purchase by submitting a request to the Society Librarian:

Mark Wilson
316 Devland Drive
Winchester, VA 22603

Please included your membership number and a deposit of \$10.00 (make the check out to Mark Wilson and not to the Society) to cover the cost of postage and packaging to mail the SPECIALIST's to you. (If you are purchasing less than five SPECIALIST's, the deposit may be reduced to \$5.00.) Unless requested otherwise, the SPECIALIST's will be mailed to you as Third Class mail. You will be billed for the SPECIALIST's which you are purchasing when they are mailed to you. Any balance from your deposit after subtracting the cost of postage and packaging will be applied to your bill (or refunded, if your total purchase cost plus postage is less than the deposit).

SPECIALIST's are available for the following years (but it varies): 1966, 1968 to 1971, and 1973 to 2003. Not all years are complete! If you only want complete year sets, please say so; otherwise I'll send those copies currently available for any year which you request.

I sometimes obtain a very limited number of loose issues from earlier years; if you are missing an issue from one of these earlier years, I may be able to help, but these will be sold to you at the cost which the owner sets.

Mark Wilson

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

ERRATA

-- In the Sep/Oct 2004 issue, page 37, para. 6, I stated "(Fig. 9 -- sheetlet shown actual size)". The referenced sheetlet was shown on the next page (38), but was not actual size. Due to a mis-communication it was enlarged by mistake. It should have been about 3/4 of the size shown. These stamps are among the smallest issued by Slovakia.

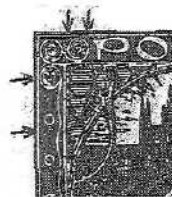
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COMPLETE PLATING OF PLATE I, HRADČANY 1H

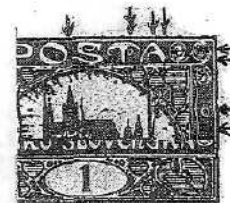
by Frank Garancovsky

(Continued from previous issue)

Position 43. There is a colored dot in the first and large linden leaf of the left group.



Position 44. There is a colored dot on bottom of the right leg of 'A' of POSTA. Another colored dot over the top of the central tower. There is a colored dot attached to the side of the first right spire and another in the right branch just above the roof level.



* There is a colored dot within a white dot under the right arm of the 'T' of POSTA.

Position 45. There is a large colored dot to the right of the second left spire and another in the large bush in line with the sun. There is a very faint colored dot in the bottom curve of the 'C' of CESKO and another in the 'O' of SLOVENSKA.



* There is a black dot in the top loop of 'P' and a break in the 'O' of POSTA at top left.

Position 46. There is a very faint black dot in the 'E' of CESKO located at the top of the inside curve. Another black dot half way down in the 'S' of CESKO.



Position 47. There is a colored dot in the bottom loop of the letter 'P' in POSTA. Another colored dot in the margin above the upper corner at right.



* There is a diagonal break in the outer frame line of the lower left corner.

Position 48. The black ornament next to the lower left curve of the value oval is joined to the oval.



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Position 49. There is a large colored dot in the center of the large bush right on the wing of a bird in flight. Another dot in line of the large bush directly under the large dot in the cupola.



Position 50. There is a colored dot over the tip of the second right spire. There is a colored dot in the left leg near the top of 'N' of SLOVENSKA.



Position 51. There is a white bump at top left on the 'P' of POSTA. There is a break on the 'O' of POSTA, a heavy dot in the sun at 17:00. There is a break in the value tablet at the upper left. There is a colored dot on the wing of the left dove.

* There is a small colored dot at the top of the 'C' of CESKO.



Position 52. The frame line over the 'TA' in POSTA is broken and irregular. There is a very short diagonal line and a colored dot above the 'O' of SLOVENSKA. There is a colored dot in the second linden leaf of the right group.

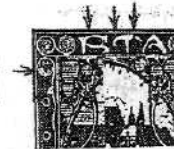
* There are several colored dots on the base of the value oval and one left of the foot of the numeral 1.



Position 53. There is a colored dot in the center of the large linden leaf of the left group. There is a colored dot in the 'K' of CESKO and another in the 'E' of SLOVENSKA on the low cross bar.



Position 54. There is a colored dot on the 'T' of POSTA and another on fourth leaf of the left group. There are two colored dots in the sun.



Position 55. There is a white dot in the corner of the second right scroll. There is a colored dot on top of the second right spire. There are very small dots on each side of the second right tower.



Position 56. There is a large colored dot over the roof of the castle left of the sun. There is a colored dot on the right foot of the figure 1 in the value tablet. There is a colored dot in the 'O' of SLOVENSKA at lower left.



Position 57. There is a break in the outer frame line over the 'T' of POSTA.



Position 58. There is a colored dot in the 'K' of SLOVENSKA and a large color dot in the wing of the left dove.



Position 59. The white frame line is joined to the 'O' of POSTA. There is small colored dot between the central tower and the fourth tower.



Position 60. There is a break in the sun line at 13:00. There is a heavy colored dot above the first right spire and another on the 'K' of GESKO at the upper left leg.



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Position 61. There are colored dots in the 'P, T, and A' of POSTA and another at the top left of the central tower spire. There are color dots in the sun and the 'E and S' of CESKO. There is a color dot in the 'V' of SLOVENSKA and two colored dots in the 'E' of SLOVENSKA.



Position 62. There are colored dots in the 'A' of POSTA and in the second linden leaf of the right group. There is a colored dot in the 'C' of CESKO and another in the 'V' of SLOVENSKA.

* There is a large colored dot in the top of the large tail fan of the left dove.



Position 63. There is a large colored dot at the center base of the large group. There is a small colored dot on the 'A' of SLOVENSKA.



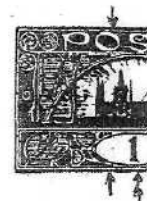
Position 64. There is a small colored dot in the sun. There is a colored dot over the second right spire and another on the white frame line over the 'N' of SLOVENSKA.



Position 65. The dots on the right side of the sun are doubled. There is a tiny break in the value tablet above the figure 1 serif.



Position 66. There is a colored dot to the right of the figure 1 of the value. There is a white dot or a chip out on the figure 1 at right near the top. There is a tiny colored dot to the left of the central tower.



Position 67. There is a large break in the sun line to the left. There is a colored dot on the 'O' of CESKO at the top right.



Position 68. There is a white dot on the 'E' of CESKO located on the inside near the top. There is a tiny break in the SW oval of the value tablet.



Position 69. There is a colored dot near the base of the fourth tower on the right side.
* There is a large break in the sun line at the 10:00 position.



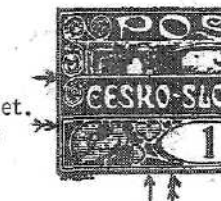
Position 70. There is a white scratch in the large tail fan of the right dove. There is a tiny break in the value tablet just right of the figure 1 numeral.



Position 71. There are color dots on the right side of the second left spire; to the left of the top of the central tower; to the right side of the fourth tower; on the 'O and S' of POSTA; and on the 'O' of SLOVENSKA. The top point of the numeral 1 is joined to the value tablet oval.



Position 72. There is a colored dot on the white frame line above the 'K' of CESKO. The ornament just right of the upper left heart is joined to the colored line of the value tablet. Inside the value tablet there is a small triangle or dot that is joined to the value oval.



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Position 73. There is a white scratch at the top right tip of 'S' in POSTA. There is a white spot on the fourth linden leaf of the right group. There is a colored dot to the right of the second right spire.

* There is a large colored dot on the lower right outside frame.



Position 74. There is a large colored dot to the left of the central tower and a colored dot on the 'L' of SLOVENSKA.

* There is a faint colored dot at the top of the 'C' of CESKO.



Position 75. There is a small colored dot on the 'P' of POSTA where the lower loop joins the long leg. The third left spiral has a break at the SW outer arc joining the white frame line.



Position 76. There is a nick in the outer frame line of the first right spiral following the 'A' of POSTA. There is a small colored dot in the nose of the large bush.

* There is a faint dot in the loop of the 'P' of POSTA.



Position 77. There is a colored dot to the left of the central tower. The 'K' of SLOVENSKA is doubled vertically.



Position 78. There is a colored dot at the bottom of the 'O' of POSTA plus a white dot or break at the top joining the white frame line above. There is a comma above the sun line.

* There is a small colored dot right of the second left tower near the top.



Position 79. There is a white scratch through the top of the lower right scroll following SLOVENSKA. There is a colored dot between the first and second right spires.



Position 80. There are two colored dots over the sun. There is a colored dot on the lower tip of the first 'S' of SLOVENSKA.



* There is a small colored dot on the left of the large linden leaf in the right group.

Position 81. There is a white dash between the 'O' and 'S' of POSTA, a comma at the top of the 'C' of CESKO. There are two colored dots in the 'E' of CESKO. There are colored dots in the value tablet on figure 1 of the value; and on the wing of the left dove.



Position 82. There are colored dots on the 'A' of POSTA; on the 'E' of CESKO; and on the 'O' and 'K' of SLOVENSKA. The serif of figure 1 of the value is broken off.



Position 83. There are three distinct breaks in the sun lines. There is a colored dot on the 'K' of CESKO.



* There is a colored dot at the top of the loop of 'P' of POSTA.

Position 84. There is a break in the white frame line before and above the second right scroll in the right corner. There is a white dot before the 'S' and above the dash of SLOVENSKA.



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Position 85. The outer frame line above the 'OS' of POSTA is thinned and irregular. There is a white dot in the 'O' of SLOVENSKA.

* There is a color dot on the inside line of the upper left arc of the value tablet.



Position 86. There is a small break in the value tablet at right center. There is a break in the outer-right scroll.

* There is a break in the wing of the 'bird in flight' in the center of the large bush.



Position 87. There is a colored dot to the right of the second left tower. There is a colored dot at the top of the 'C' of CESKO.



Position 88. There is an extra colored dot on the cupola under the first right tower. There is a colored dot on the figure 1 of the value right at the base of the foot.



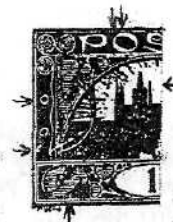
Position 89. The original studies state that there are no discernable differentials on any of 50 sheets imperforate nor any of the 50 perforated sheets examined. The following two flaws are present on a couple positions previously described and are not likely printing varieties.

* The white frame line is joined to the 'O' of POSTA.
 * The white frame line is joined to the right corner spiral.



Position 90. There is a 6mm diagonal scratch from the wavy vertical line at left to the left bough.

* There are colored dots left of the first left tower and at the right tip of the second left tower.



Position 91. There are colored dots in the 'P,O,T' of POSTA. There is a colored dot in the large linden leaf of the left group and one to the left of the central tower. There is a break in the white frame line over the 'A' of SLOVENSKA. There are two colored dots on the figure 1 of the value, one at top left and the other at the foot at right.



* The right leg of the 'V' in SLOVENSKA is broken near the top.

Position 92. There is a colored dot attached to the second left tower, and another between the first and second right tower. There is a white scratch on the scroll before the 'C' of CESKO. There are colored dots on the 'E' and 'N' of SLOVENSKA.



Position 93. There is a very small colored dot on 'O' of POSTA and another very small colored dot on the 'C' of CESKO.



Position 94. There is a colored dot on the 'O' of POSTA. There is a break in the white frame line over the left arm of the 'T' of POSTA. There is a slanted (NW to SE) white scratch beginning in the large linden leaf of the right group and down to the inner right border above the top 'O' of the design. There is a colored dot at the top of the 'V' of SLOVENSKA.



Position 95. There is a colored dot on the 'O' of POSTA. There is a colored dot on the side of the fourth tower at right. THERE IS A CROSS AT THE TOP OF THE FIRST RIGHT TOWER.



Position 96. There is a large colored dot at the top right of the central tower. The sun line is noticeably flat at the lower right side. There is a colored dot on the inside left leg of the 'V' of SLOVENSKA.



Position 97. There is a heavy colored dot in the left tip of the large bush. There are two colored dots in the 'A' of POSTA



Position 98. There is a heavy colored dot in the center left of the large bush. There is a colored dot in the second 'S' of SLOVENSKA at midpoint.

- * There is a small colored dot to the right of the second left tower
- * The cloud line touches the first left tower at the top and about the lower center.



Position 99. There is a colored dot on the left leg of the 'A' of SLOVENSKA. There is a colored dot in the value tablet to the right center on the line.

- * There is a break at the top of the 'O' of POSTA.
- * There is a small dot touching the right side of the second left tower.



Position 100. There is a break about midpoint at the left vertical border frame line just above the lower small 'O' in the design.

- * There is a break in each of the two right spirals in the top corner and joined to the inner white frame line.



NOTE: * Denotes additional points of reference not previously published. These are rather constant when checking duplicate stock and not likely to be considered as printing varieties.

CZECH EXHIBITS AT WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP -- SINGAPORE'04

by Henry Hahn

The FIP "World Stamp Championship" show took place in Singapore from August 28 to September 1, 2004.

Held in the most modern and certainly cleanest Asian city, the show was located on the sixth floor of a huge exhibition and shopping complex adjacent to the elegant Marina Mandarin Hotel where most participants stayed. The international

jury of about 52 included one Czech juror, Union of Czech Philatelists President Lumír Brendl, who was assigned to only judge Single Frame exhibits. The US Commissioner was Stephen Reinhard, who also served as Apprentice Juror. In addition there were four American jurors including S. Schumann (Asst. Secretary), C.J. Peterson, R. Leshner, and P.P. McCann. The Czech Commissioner was Vit Vaniček. The US garnered some 40 awards including three "Large Golds". The ranking of exhibits of Czech or partially Czech exhibits was as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Award</u>
L. Pytlíček	Czechoslovakia 1918-1939	Czech Rep.	Lg Gold
H. Hahn	Czechoslovak Republic 1918-1939	USA	Lg Gold
G. Wilhelms	Czechoslovakian Air Mail	Germany	Vermeil
F. Lawrence	Scouting on Stamps "Classics"	USA	Lg Silver
P. Trestík	History of Svitavy Post Office, 1918-1946	Czech Rep.	Lg Silver
M. Langhammer	Automation of Reg. Mail in ČSR and ČR	Czech Rep.	Silver
J. Macoun	Val. Labels "Apost" of the Czech Post	Czech Rep.	Silv/Brnz
H. Hahn	Postal History of Telč & Vicinity -- (Lit.)	USA	Silv/Brnz
J. Sedlal	Czechoslovakia 1944-1955	Czech Rep.	Bronze

The "Grand Prix d'Exposition" was won by Hugo Goeggel of Colombia for "Classics of Ecuador -- the first two issues (1865-1880)" while the World Stamp Championship award was won by Surait Gongvantana of Thailand for his showing of Siam. The second award went to Saverio Imperato of Italy for his showing of Tuscany.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Book Review

"SCOUT PHILATELY IN OUR TERRITORY"

(SKAUTSKÁ FILATELIE NA NAŠÉM ÚZEMÍ)

by Ivan Vapenka

The handbook and un-priced catalog published by PRAGOLINE in Prague in 2004 is particularly directed to non-Czech collectors of Scout issues, though unfortunately not as yet translated into English or German except for a two-page abstract at the back of the book. The major intent of the book is [to] correct existing foreign publications which have misled Scout collectors in the past.

The 70 page, soft bound book begins with a concise history of Scouting in Czech lands, from 1911 when Professor Svojsík visited the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden Powell in London, and the following year published the first handbook "Český Skaut", and organized the first Czech Scout encampment near the fortress of Lipnice. He describes the assumption of leadership in 1917/18 by Josef Rossler Orovský and the establishment of the Union of "Junak-Scouts" in June 1919 under the leadership of Svojsík for Boy Scouts and E. Milčicova for Girl Scouts. The chapter traces the history of Scout mail service in 1918 and the glorious period of Czech Scouting in the 1930-ties, when the confirmed number of Czech Scouts

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reached 65,000. The chapter then delves into the tragic period of Nazi occupation, the short period of revival after World War II, followed by stagnation of the movement, revival in 1968 and suspension by the Communist Regime up to the eventual revival following the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

The Chapter ends with the organization of collectors of Scout philately in 1990, its more recent activities, leading to the recognition of the Club of Collectors of Scout Philately in 2001 as an independent unit of the Czech Scout organization. The chapter ends with a description and illustration of early non-postal Scout markings.

In the second chapter the author discusses the specific misrepresentations found in foreign literature. He promises to continue in his efforts to correct the misinformation through future publications.

The handbook includes four basic chapters covering the periods 1918-1937, 1946-1948, 1968-1969, and 1990-1992. The items described include documents, postal stationery, trial printings, private and official overprints and their forgeries, slogan cancels, and special Scout issues. Special emphasis is placed on Scout events, including "Bohemicum" in foreign lands. Also included are Society of Czechoslovak Philately cachets issued on occasion of 75 years of World Scouting at SEPAD'82 in Philadelphia. A separate chapter is devoted to Slovakia 1993-2003.

The book ends with brief abstracts in English and German, which, in the opinion of this reviewer suggest the need for translation of the entire book.

The quality of the production of the book is excellent, the color illustrations are accurate and vivid, and the text includes sufficient detail to justify our recommendation for purchase by Czech and Scout issue collectors from our book manager for \$11.00.

Henry Hahn



Book Review

2004 PRÍRUČKA PRO SBĚRATELE POHLEDNIC

(2004 Handbook for Picture Postcard Collectors)

by František Beneš Sr.

Picture postcard collecting -- also called philcartie -- is gaining popularity worldwide, not only from its philatelic connection, but also as part of antique collecting. Also for instance, anyone of Czechoslovak descent can find his or her ancestral town or village on a hundred year old picture postcard and see for themselves the type of life their ancestors lived.

The oldest known picture postcard has a postmark from December 31, 1869 mailed from Melk on the Danube. The golden years of picture postcards were from 1869 to 1915, followed by a decline until 1945 and reviving after WW II. *[Their big advantage was that they were cheap, could be sent from any post office, and carried both a verbal and visual message. But as the costs of the very rapid telegram (from about 1870 onward) and then the telephone (about the turn of the century) came down and their availability increased, the picture postcard began to lose out.]*

The Handbook describes the picture postcard origin, history, quality, topics, and explains its printing techniques. The topics are topography -- domestic and foreign, personalities -- historical and present, military history, society, religion, technology, nature, sports, art, life, and other subjects.

Postcards of all time periods are readily available through most Czech auctions -- there is even a Czech Postal Card Society that holds extensive yearly auctions. Most cards are available from dealers in the Czech Republic for a few Koruna each. In the auctions they will cost a few dollars, except for the works of Alfonse Mucha and the Judaica series -- here one can expect the price to be in the hundreds of dollars.

The Handbook has 84 pages of color illustrations, and informative and well written text with one drawback that is associated with all Czech publications -- it is all in the Czech language. But anyone owning our glossary of philatelic terms will not have any problems understanding this well-worth-it publication -- it sold out in Prague in July.

Savoy Horvath

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Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Many thanks for my copy of this excellent Index, my sincere congratulations to Anne [Vondra] and yourself.

Colin [Spong]

2. Hi Lou:

For readers who have been following the saga of the Nachod Gutters in the *Specialist*, I have one more footnote. As you remember, articles appeared in the *Specialist* when the Gutters were found in 2002, a later article described the Gutters in detail, and in late 2003, I sadly had to report that they were stolen from the mail. They still have not been recovered.

However, at PNSE 2004, along with meeting a number of members of the Society, I had the pleasure of talking to Charley Chesloe -- someone well known to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

long-time members of the Society. Charley told me he had attempted to buy the Nachod Gutters more than ten years ago. He had seen them in the collection of Dr. Edward Mueller of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Dr. Mueller had agreed to sell them to Charley but apparently he passed away before the transaction could be completed.

The Gutters must have been separated out of Dr. Mueller's collection when it was disposed of and somehow found their way to Oregon into the collection of a person who did not know what they were. Perhaps because they were stamped for Postage Due use, someone thought they were back-of-the-book junk and simply let them go.

I want to thank Charley for this new information that helped to fill in the history of the Nachod Gutters. I still hope that someday I will be able to report their recovery, even though this month is the first anniversary of their loss.

Regards,
Mark Wilson

3. Dear Lou:

I much enjoyed reading PETR GINZ & ILAN RAMON -- THE FATE OF ONE "COSMIC" DRAWING by Bretislav Janik, translated by Ludvik Z. Svoboda. I only wish to correct the first sentence in the story, which refers to Peter Ginz being born to a "mixed Czech-Jewish family". Czech Jews were and are Czechs. It might have been better to say "mixed Christian or Catholic-Jewish family". The concept of Jews not being Czechs comes from Russia, where Jews were not considered as being Russians.

Henry [Hahn]

[Ed. Note: While I happen to completely agree with Henry's sentiment -- what I have read has indicated that Jews were a much more integral part of Czech society than in other European countries -- I was translating the author's original statement, whether I agreed with it or not.]

4. Dear Lou:

Many thanks for the July/August *Specialist*. I discovered the reference to the Spilville Dvořák cover in the magazine *České Listy* towards the end of March. That gave the contact address as:

Steven Klimesh, PO Box 127, 105 Pleasant View Drive, Spilville, Iowa 52168

I wrote to him on 3 April asking for more details (which came by return) and I also gave him your address at that time. I hadn't realized that you could send any old cover to the Spilville postmaster for service!

With regard to the report on the new 10Kč Janáček stamp, July/August page 35, the first performance of *Jenůfa (Její Pastorkyňa)* on 21 January 1904, actually took place in the 'Theatre on Vevří Street', which was the first Czech Theatre in Brno (1884-1952). At that time the 'National Theatre' was usually known as the *Stadtheater* or occasionally the *Deutsches Theatre*. Janáček first nights would not be given in the 'National Theatre', today known as the *Mahen Theatre*, until after the foundation of the First Republic in 1918. (I was at the Centenary performance of *Jenůfa* on 21.1.2004 in the Janáček Theatre!)

Richard Beith

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by. G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 8, 2004, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a set of two commemorative stamps entitled Preserved Trees in the Nature Conservation series (Fig. 1). This year's issue of Nature Protection is dedicated to preserved trees. A tree is the only living organism surviving for centuries. Marked trees are preserved under the Nature Protection Act No. 114/92 of the Collection of Laws. The central database contains 4,329 marked items, often groups (avenues) of trees; the actual number of individual trees is about 15,000. The stamps were designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 1

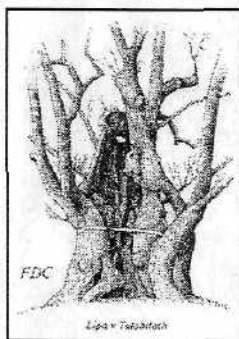


Fig. 2

-- 6 Kč: The Singing Lime Tree in Telecí u Policky in the Svitavy Region -- in ocher, blue, and brown. The girth and height of the tree measured in 1997 were 11.30 and 25 meters, respectively. According to a legend the hollow tree served as a shelter for an old farmer copying the New Testament and Psalms. He used to sing while copying, and his voice merged with the rustling sound of the leafage. Thus the tree began to be called the Singing Lime. A FDC in black-brown has a cachet showing a linden tree from Tatobity in the Semily region, the trunk of which is fastened by a steel strap (Fig. 2).

-- 8 Kč: Žižka's Oak Tree in Podhradí u Lichnice in the Chrudim Region -- in ocher, green, blue, and brown. The current girth and height of the tree are 9.20 and over 18 meters, respectively. The tree was possibly named after the famous Hussite commander Jan Žižka for its internal power to keep up and fight. The famous commander has nothing to do with the medieval love story which took place here. It is said that one of the lords of the castle found his wife and a young knight under the oak. The angry lord ordered his wife to be set alive in masonry and the knight beheaded. A FDC in black-brown has a cachet showing the St. Wenceslas Oak in Stochov in the Kladno region (Fig. 3). The trunk measures over 11 meters, the tree is 14.5 meters high, and its age is approximately 600-900 years.

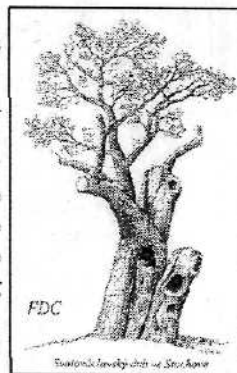


Fig. 3

2. On September 8, 2004, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet of

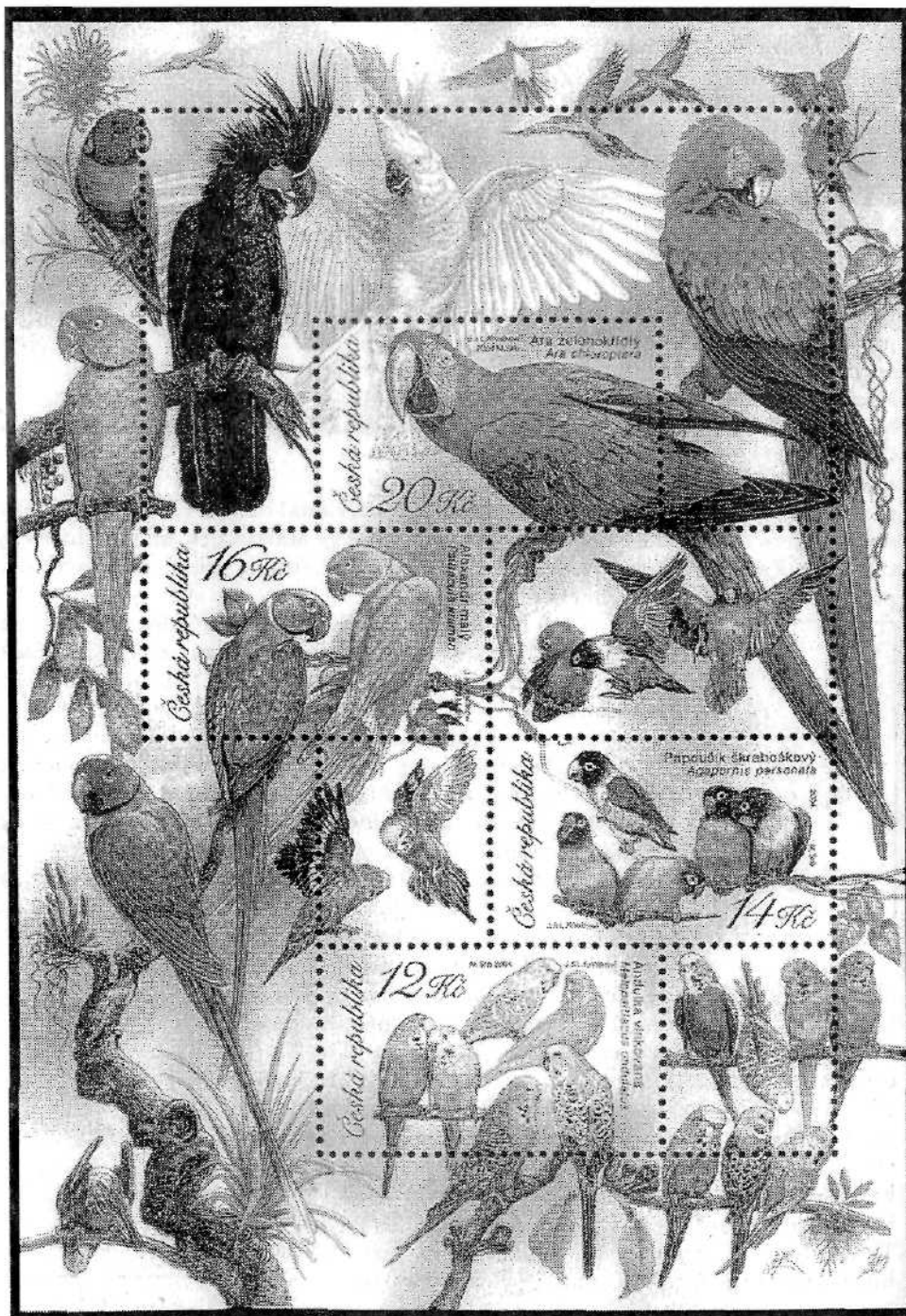


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

four commemorative postage stamps and four labels with the theme of Animal Breeding -- Parrots (Fig. 4). Out of all of the birds, parrots have the most developed brain. When bred by men from their birth they are easy to tame and be taught to reproduce sounds and words, in some cases even whole sentences. Parrots, brought by Alexander the Great from his war expedition to the East, were known already in the ancient times. The ancient Romans would pay more for a speaking parrot than for a slave. A regular breeding began no earlier than in the mid-19th century. The souvenir sheet features representatives of small and large parrots from the 4 continents of their origin. The sheet was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black and light brown combined with multicolored offset.

-- 12 Kč: *Melopsittacus undulatus* (label is to the right)-- lives in the inland Australian territories. Its rich colors (numerous cultivated color mutations) and low exigence makes it the most often home-kept parrot. The male parrots which are quicker to learn are more often demanded. A FDC in green has a cachet showing *Lorius garrulus* (Fig. 5).

-- 14 Kč: *Agapornis personata* (label is to the left) -- originates from north-eastern Tanzania and Kenya. The beautiful color of this parrot and its rich colored mutations, the less shrilling voice, and the relative ease of keeping it resulted in it being very popular. A FDC in light brown has a cachet showing a drawing of three parrots (*Agapornis*) on a corn-cob (Fig. 6).

-- 16 Kč: *Psittacula krameri* (label is to the right) -- the largest of all parrots, is spread from West Africa to South-East China. The number of known subspecies is four. There are several color varieties cultivated by breeders. A FDC in brown has a cachet showing *Polytelis alexandrae* (Fig. 7).

-- 20 Kč: *Ara chloroptera* (label goes around the left/top/right) -- can be found from Panama to Paraguay. It is one of the largest parrots. It can be bred and cross-bred with other species of the *ara* parrots in captivity as well as in wildlife. A FDC in black has a cachet showing *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Fig. 8).

3. On September 29, 2004, the Ministry issued a 6.50 Kč postage stamp to commemorate the 330th anniversary of the introduction of compulsory school attendance in the Czech lands in 1774 (Fig. 9). Since the first World Teachers' Day declared by



Fig. 9

UNESCO in 1994, the World Teachers' Day has been celebrated every year on October 5 in more than 100 member countries. In 1774 the empress Maria Teresa



Fig. 10

introduced compulsory school attendance in the Czech lands for children aged 6 to 12 in an attempt to improve significantly the general level of literacy of the population. The General School Rules, officially published on 6 December 1774, regulated among others also the school network. The parish or trivial schools were set up in communities with a parish church; the main subjects were reading, writing and arithmetic. The main schools, teaching also practical vocational skills, were set up in regional towns. The normal schools, set up only in the major towns, offered an even broader curriculum and the primary preparation of teachers; they were also called the "model" schools. The compulsory school attendance in the Czech lands was introduced with a considerable time advance in comparison with most of the other European countries. At that time it was quite an extraordinary official act. The stamp bears a drawing of a teacher in black silhouette in a contemporary dress with a violin and his small pupil. The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan,

engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, black and brown-red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black has a cachet showing the portraits of Maria Theresa, J.B. Basedow, and J.I. Felbiger in a composition with an example of the Czech alphabet from 1767 and an extract of the introductory sentences of the General School Code by J.I. Felbiger (Fig. 10).

Stationery

4. On September 29, 2004, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted 9 Kč postage stamp to promote the European Postage Stamp Exhibition BRNO 2005 and to commemorate the 45th Annual Brno International Festival of Short Films *Brněnská Šestnáctka* (Brno Sixteenth)(Fig. 11). The image of the imprinted stamp is created by the graphical composition of the coat-of-arms of the city of Brno with the Brno dragon and a wooden wheel similar to those from the postal card issued for the first time on 10 September 2003. The International Festival of Short Films and video programs takes place every year in the second half of October. An international jury awards the main prize of the festival (a wire object, the Head Full of Film) and the gold, silver and bronze medals in individual categories. The director of the organizing Culture and Information Center awards a prize. The prize of Petr Hvižď, a young talented director is for the film by young authors. The design of the cachet of the postal card is the main festival prize *Hlava*

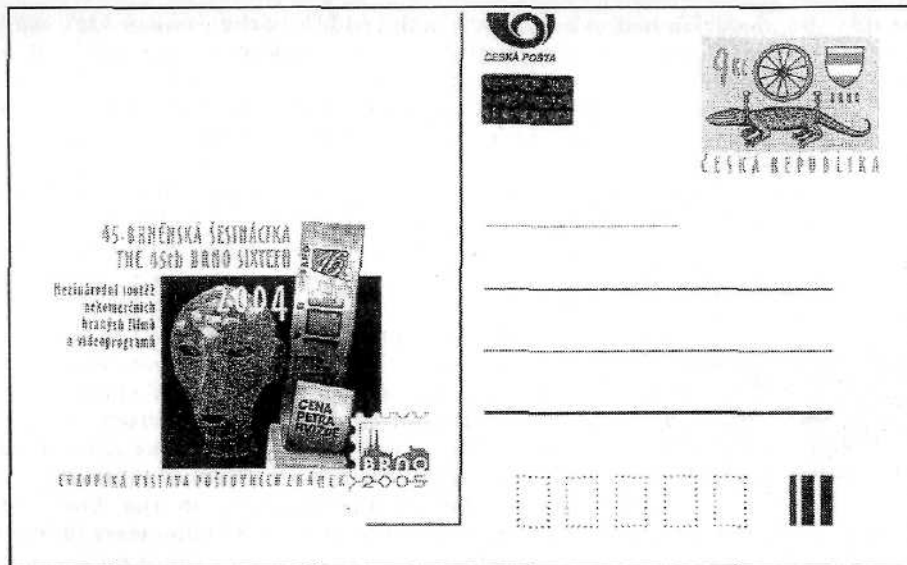


Fig. 11

Plná Filmu (the Head Full of Film) and the prize of Petr Hvižd. The postal card was designed by Karel Dvořák and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 14 Kč.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

5. On 30 June 2004, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series. The stamps were produced by the Walsall Security Printers Ltd., Great Britain, using offset print.



Fig. 12

-- 14 Sk: Tatra Omnibus -- designed by Lubomír Guman (Fig. 12). The Tatra omnibus was an electric vehicle that had been running from 1904 to 1906 between Poprad and Starý Smokovec. It was a three-axle trolley bus with 25 seats and 8 places for standing. It had binding on the front axle bigger wooden wheels that were made by August Stoll in Dresden. One of the two wagons was constructed in Poprad in the workshop of the famous entrepreneur Viliam Krieger, who obtained the concession to run the electric trolley track from Poprad to Tatry. Poprad rented him the electric central station for 30 years. Four months after the contract was signed, the trolley track was built on wooden poles with iron consoles above the dusty road. About the same time the builder delivered the ordered wagons and the testing runs of the omnibus could begin. The Tatra omnibus began to operate on August 2, 1904 (about 100 years ago) on the route from Poprad to Starý Smokovec. It operated five times a day and each journey lasted 75

minutes. Its operation had to be stopped in the middle of the summer high season in 1906 because of increasing reservations about its safety. Nevertheless, it was historically significant as the first transport vehicle of its kind not only in Slovakia, but also in all of central Europe. The stamp shows a drawing of the Tatra omnibus with passengers crowding to get on the vehicle. A FDC has a cachet that also shows a drawing of the omnibus.

-- 24 Sk: Mining Water System from the Špania Valley -- designed by Peter Augustovič (Fig. 13). The mining water system of the Špania Valley is one of the



Fig. 13

most important technical works in Slovak mining history. Surface water was transported along wooden raceways and underground channels to provide a valuable source of energy for water-driven machinery and equipment in the copper and silver mines in and around the Špania Valley. Built in stages, it was operational from the early 16th century until the 1900's. Water was collected from the springs near Donovaly, then later the catchment area was extended back as far as Prašivá, also in the Low Tatra

mountains. The main channels of the water system were 27 kilometers in length, but the whole system, including the catching and transporting channels, measured more than 42 kilometers. The stamp depicts the Prašivá massif and also a reproduction of an early engraving of the Maximilián well in Špania Valley. The Roman Catholic church with wooden, covered stairway, a dominant feature in the valley, is depicted on the gutter of the printing sheet. A FDC has a copy of a 16th century engraving showing the washing and sorting of the mined ore. On the cancellation is a drawing of a water wheel from the old mine.

6. On 3 September 2004, the Ministry issued a 21 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Raftsmen on the Dunajec River which is a joint issue with Poland (Fig. 14). The coexistence of Slovak and Polish peoples in the Pieniny region has deep-seated roots. People here shared not only common fates or a particular Goral culture, but also a natural waterway down the Dunajec River. Local raftsmen utilized the flow of the river for a long time, and from this picturesque countryside they sailed through the



Fig. 14

mouth of the Dunajec River to the Visla River and down to the Baltic Sea. Even today, the Dunajec River and raftsmen in Goral folk costumes are intrinsically intertwined and have become inseparable features of both the Slovak and Polish side of the Pieniny. The fact that the territory of the Pieniny was designated the first international Natural Park in Europe as early as 1932 is testimony that people appreciated the beauty and values of the local nature regardless of their nationality. Today, the Dunajec on its winding course through the largest natural canyon in

Central Europe constitutes a common Slovak-Polish border along a distance of approximately 20 km. Apart from its natural attractions, this countryside is also famous for the figures that lived here in the past. In particular the citizens of the old-time Červený Kláštor (Red Monastery), which was occupied first during the 14th-

16th centuries by the Carthusians, and in the 18th century by the Camaldolese, all of whom left an indelible mark on its history. The most famous, the mysterious monk Cyprian, became known not only as the author of the oldest preserved herbarium on our territory, but also as an inventor of a "flying machine" on which he flew from the highest peak on the Polish side -- Tri Koruny (the Three Crowns). The common Slovak and Polish issue of the stamp combines the three most famous views of the country around the Dunajec, namely raftsmen in Goral folk costumes sailing down the river, the national historic landmark Červený Kláštor (which symbolizes the Slovak side), and the Tri Koruny peak. The joint stamp was designed by the Polish artist, Jacek Brodowski. A FDC was issued.

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