



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## MINNEAPOLIS STAMP EXPO JULY 22 - 24

We hope that many of you will be planning to come meet us and to attend our annual Society Board Meeting and general membership meeting held this year in conjunction with the Minneapolis Stamp Expo.

The show is held at the Crystal Community Center, Crystal, Minnesota, which is a suburb of Minneapolis. While much more complete and timely information will be provided in the May/June issue of the *SPECIALIST*, here are two items of a more timely nature. First, exhibit entry forms are available from: Paul Hempel, 401 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, Apt #3, Minneapolis, MN 55418, e-mail is [buzzhomes@aol.com](mailto:buzzhomes@aol.com). However, the prospectus and entry form is also available at their website in printer friendly PDF format at: [www.stampsminnesota.com](http://www.stampsminnesota.com). They are holding a number of frames for us, but must have your application by April 15 (income tax deadline day!). And, PLEASE make sure that you mark your application as one from the SCP. Second, the show arranged hotel is the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 3131 Campus Drive, Plymouth, MN 55441, tele. 1-800-333-3333. While the rate has not been verified yet, last year it was \$99 single or double -- don't forget to ask for the Stamp Expo special rate.

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2. A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: canclcek@mwt.net
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5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/e-mail above).
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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## CENTENARY OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM – “KDE DOMOV MŮJ? 1934”

by Peter Hoffmann

Sunday, December 21, 1834, at the premiere of Tyl's folklore "Fidlovačka" in the Stavovský theater, Czechs heard for the very first time the song "KDE DOMOV MŮJ?". Josef Kajetán Tyl wrote the song's lyrics and František J. Škroup composed its melody. The producers of this song could not have known that it would one day be the national anthem of a free Czechoslovakia! And even more, by a lucky coincidence, in 1918 on the song's anniversary -- December 21<sup>st</sup> -- a cheering nation saluted the first president T.G. Masaryk's return home with its music as the national anthem.

On December 17, 1934, in memory of the centenary of the writing of "KDE DOMOV MŮJ?", the Postal Authorities released a stamp and the first Czechoslovakian souvenir sheet also called "KDE DOMOV MŮJ?" (KDM). The sheets, primarily called graphics sheets, were very popular among collectors. The motif on the stamps was patterned after Josef Mánes painting "Domov" (Home).

Description of the sheet:

Type of printing: Recess printing from flat plates, printing plate 3 x 5 sheet (plate) position with ornamental margins.

Perforation: Harrow perforation 13 1/4 : 13; soft massive stiff paper, without gum.

Size of the sheet: 173.5 x 286 mm or 174.5 x 284 mm.

The KDM cover: The sheets were sold at post offices, inserted in a stiff paper cover with a beige colour bearing blue printing, at the price of 200 Kč.

Validity: Until March 15<sup>th</sup> 1937.

Released: Pofis A 283 (value 1 Kč) 12,900 sheets; A 284 (value 2 Kč) 9,600 sheets.

It is well known that the most valuable Czechoslovakian stamps are those with the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" overprint. But whenever you mention that you collect Czechoslovakian stamps, the first question you hear will be: "Do you own the 'Kde domov můj?' sheets?". We can therefore state, that although these sheets are not the most valuable or the most rare, they are the most well known. That warms a collector's heart!

Despite this, 70 years after the release of these sheets we may still find some unexplored areas. I have in mind, for instance, the size of these sheets. We know that they may be found in two different sizes: narrow or wide. We know that this division depends upon how the damp paper was put into the printing press, either along the direction of its fibers or opposing their direction. We also know that the catalogues and the *Monographie* [*sic* Monografie] state their sizes as:

Narrow size: 173.5 mm x 286 mm

Wide size: 174.5 mm x 284 mm

But we also know, quoting Ing. Pavel Pittermann:

*The sizes stated in catalogues are only representative. As far as I know, nobody has yet had at his disposal enough sheets at the same time to create representative statistics.*

Because there are some obscurities concerning the sheets' sizes, I proposed to do a study to shed light on this problem. I posted the following message on my web site:

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"Dear collectors, please help me with this study! If you own KDM sheets, please send me by mail their size. In this way, we can build up representative statistics to help future collectors."

On January 28, 2003, I got this email from the USA:

*There is always a small tolerance because of the cutting "guillotine" method in which the blade moved fractionally as it went through the pile meeting the resistance of the paper -- this is the same with the German & Austrian souvenir sheets where they indicate a 1 - 1.5 mm tolerance in most cases. Regards Mike*

In April 2003, I received some unexpected help. Philatelic expert, and editor of Czechoslovakian stamp catalogues, Dr. František Beneš, sent me this email: (Translated from Czech)

*"I saw your site on the web, and I like your idea of building up statistics as to the sizes of the "KDM? 1934" sheets. While I was preparing a new ČSR I catalogue, I collected similar statistics. I hope that I still have them. In Pofis stock, we own at least ten pairs of these sheets. I will send their measurements to you, so that you will have even more statistics."*

Some days later I got another email from him: (Translated from Czech)

*"In this mail I have added my annotations about the sizes of the "KDM? 1934" sheets. You will find there are different sizes in the impressions, as well as different sizes in the sheets and in the sizes of the stamps. I hope you can understand them. At the same time I have added a scan of KDM sheets, with a measurement method I obtained from an old German collector. Personally, I don't like his division into Types, but I still hope that it will be of use to you."*

I have redone the scan that Dr. Beneš mentioned in his email to make it easier to understand the method of measurement (Fig. 1). [Ed. Note: I am only showing the 1 Kč sheet here. The 2 Kč sheet image is the same except that the "cca" dimension on the top is 130 mm and on the right edge it is 200 mm.] Please follow its directions when measuring your sheets. For consistent statistics, it's important, that everyone use the same method.

**The most important measurement is the size of the impression in mm. The size of the sheet is not as important to separate sheets into narrow or wide sizes because one can never know if the sheet has been trimmed or not. On the other hand, the size of the impression always indicates the original size and is directly related to the size of the sheet (narrow or wide).**

Please help me to enlarge my research base! If you own KDM sheets, please send me their size by mail. All information and statistics have been and will be published on my web site: [www.phstamps.com](http://www.phstamps.com). In this way, we can build up representative statistics to assist future collectors.

Please use an exact ruler, and measure to the tenth of a mm. Follow the measurement scheme below, providing four measurements per sheet, as well as a measurement of the stamp's impression.

Please fill in this form and return it to me. [Ed. Note: It is not practical to show and use Peter Hoffmann's form here, so I am simply listing his information and questions. If you are going to provide him information, please copy the underlined descriptor and then give your information in the exact order that it is requested below. Another option is to go to Mr. Hoffman's web site where you can find a copy of the reporting form.]

Šířka aršíku / Width of the sheet

Šířka tisku / Width of the impression  
Rozměr I / Size I - cca 118 mm

Kde domov můj?

1834 Andante con moto. 1934

Výška tisku / Height of the impression  
Rozměr I / Size I, cca 203 mm

Výška aršíku / Height of the sheet

The image shows a sheet of music for the song "Kde domov můj?". The sheet is framed by a decorative border. At the top, there are two horizontal dimension lines: the outer one is labeled "Šířka aršíku / Width of the sheet" and the inner one is labeled "Šířka tisku / Width of the impression" with "Rozměr I / Size I - cca 118 mm" below it. On the right side, there are two vertical dimension lines: the inner one is labeled "Výška tisku / Height of the impression" with "Rozměr I / Size I, cca 203 mm" to its left, and the outer one is labeled "Výška aršíku / Height of the sheet". The music is written on two staves. The first staff is labeled "1834" and "Andante con moto." and the second staff is labeled "1934". The lyrics are in Czech. In the center of the page, there is a 5x3 grid of postage stamps, each featuring a different scene or figure. Below the stamps, there are four more staves of music with lyrics.

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**1 Kč**

**The size of the impression of the sheet** (width x height in mm)

(Width of the impression: from leaf to leaf)

(Height of the impression: from note to note)

Monograph: unknown

Yours: \_\_\_\_\_

**Size of the sheet (paper)** (width x height in mm)

Monograph: 173.5 x 286, 174.5 x 284

Yours: \_\_\_\_\_

**The size of the impression of the stamp** (width x height in mm)

Monograph: 30.0 x 17.2

Yours: \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Kč**

**The size of the impression of the sheet** (width x height in mm)

(Width of the impression: from leaf to leaf)

(Height of the impression: from note to note)

Monograph: unknown

Yours: \_\_\_\_\_

**Size of the sheet (paper)** (width x height in mm)

Monograph: 173.5 x 286, 174.5 x 284

Yours: \_\_\_\_\_

**The size of the impression of the stamp** (width x height in mm)

Monograph: 30.0 x 17.2

Yours: \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

My e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Best regards, Peter Hoffmann, Sparvvägen 5, 453 40 Lysekil, SWEDEN.

Questions: e-mail [phstamps@hotmail.com](mailto:phstamps@hotmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**ERRATA**

-- In the Jan/Feb 2005 issue, page 6, second paragraph from the bottom, there is a line which begins "Sunday, 31.6.1953 was the last day of validity . . ." that has the following error. The date should read "31.5.1953", thus being the last day of May instead of the last day of June. Sorry about that.



## FATHER AND SON PURKYNĚ

by G.M. van Zanten



Fig. 1

Father Jan Evangelista Purkyně and son Karel have both been honored on stamps of Czechoslovakia. Jan Evangelista (Fig. 1) was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1787. He appeared on two identical stamps of different colors (50h - blue/green, 1 Kč - carmine) on September 2, 1937, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Both stamps were issued with labels depicting the rod of Aesculapius, an olive twig and the text: JAN EVANGELISTA PURKYNĚ 1787 -- 1937, below which was a linden leaf (Fig. 2). Both stamps were issued in large numbers: 50h - 10,217,000, 1 Kč - 11,770,000. The design was by the Honored Artist Otakar Španiel (1881-1955) who was a sensitive portraitist as well

as an excellent designer of coins and medals. The engraving was by Bohumil Heinz (1894-1940).

In 1987 Jan was commemorated on September 30<sup>th</sup> for the bicentenary of his birth. That stamp depicted him and a microtome (an instrument used for cutting thin sections -- especially of biological



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

material -- for microscopical examinations)(Fig. 3). This stamp was fully described in my *New Issues* column of the February 1988 *SPECIALIST*, pages 12 and 13, which gave an outline of his life and works. A copy of that text is included here for anyone who may have missed it and may be interested as well as for the sake of completeness:

### NEW ISSUES

by G.M. van Zanten -- Courtesy ARTIA of PRAGUE

#### BICENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF J. E. PURKYNĚ

A 7 Kčs stamp was issued on September 30 for the above event. Design was by Jiří Mikula and engraving was entrusted to Josef Herčík. Rotary recess combined with multicolor photogravure was employed by the Post Printing Office in Prague to produce these 30x23mm stamps in sheets of 50 units.

This year's calendar of cultural anniversaries features the name of an important Czech personality -- Jan Evangelista Purkyně, who was born 200 years ago on October 17, 1787, and died on July 28, 1869. He was the greatest Czech 19<sup>th</sup> century naturalist, philosopher, pantheist and national

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revivalist of great influence. He worked as a professor of physiology at the Universities in Wroclaw and Prague; he also devoted himself to biology, introduced experimental methods in tuition and set up laboratories. He concerned himself with problems of eyesight and the defects of vision, and he contributed significantly to optometry and medical science. He made a number of discoveries, some of which bear his name. He studied the development of cells, embryos, etc. He was the co-founder of the Czech Medical Journal (*Časopis Lékařů Českých*) appearing under the same name to this day, and the medical society bears his name in its title; he was active in the scientific world and in culture; in addition to scientific publications, he translated Schiller's and Goethe's poems and devoted himself to Slavonic literature. Jan Evangelista Purkyně deserves great credit for the emancipation of the Czech Nation.

The stamp features his portrait on the left with a view of Charles University and a symbolic presentation of scientific experiments.



Fig. 4

Let us now meet his son Karel, born on March 11, 1834, as mentioned before, he too appeared in Czech philately, but only as the cachet on a FDC for one of his paintings. He was born in Wroclaw (Poland). The cachet mentioned depicts him at age 34, a self portrait, a year prior to his death (Fig. 4). Karel found little understanding in his own family and little more than scorn from his contemporaries. He is now regarded as one of the key personalities of Czech art.

In 1851 he enrolled at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts, only to leave one year later. In 1854 he joined the Munich school of J.B.

Berdelle for a brief period before returning to Prague -- these moves were the outcome of serious conflicts with the family. But he had experienced the empty academic and sterile nature of these institutions and teachers. Nature and the old masters were his two great inspirations, he would copy Rubens, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch and Spanish masters and among Czech masters Škreta and Brandl.

His father was however quite proud of his anatomical research, of which I guess the subject of "Snow Owl" 1862 (Fig. 5) was one of his works in that respect. Both Figures 4 and 5 were joined on one FDC -- the natural outcome of this. The "Snow Owl" original measures 154.5 x 120.5 cm and hangs in the Prague National Gallery.

His main interests always revolved around "still-lives" and "portraits". Between 1855 and 1860 he painted about 50 works, a period of his "coming of age". After 1860 he started his classical period, resulting in a series of masterful still-lives, of which the Snow Owl is an example. Several portraits also date from this era.

Not only was he a painter but also an art critic. His reviews and comments



Fig. 5



were published in daily newspapers *Národní Listy* and *die Politik*. He was also the founding father of an important Art Society, the Umělecká Beseda (Art Discussion Group). The last years of his life were also taken up with book illustrating. He died on April 5, 1868 shortly after his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Let me finish with the 1979 Prague Castle stamp depicting his B. REITMAYEROVÁ



ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ POŠTA

Fig. 7

(Fig. 6) painted around 1858. The original of this work measures 85 x 108 cm and is situated in the Prague Castle Picture Gallery. The cachet is of additional interest as it shows, in fine detail, the scene seen through the window of this painting (Fig. 7).



Fig. 6

#### REFERENCES:

- *CONTEMPORARY ART IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA* by Miroslav Lamac, Orbis-Prague 1958
- *Czechoslovak Life* magazine, January 1987

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

### *Philatelic News and Views*

1. From Lumír Brendl, President, Union of Czech Philatelists [excerpted from his article]:

-- PETR GINZ'S DRAWING ON A CZECH POSTAGE STAMP, A tribute to Petr Ginz, Ilan Ramon and the U.S. Spaceship Columbia.

On 20 January 2005, the Jewish Museum in Prague hosted a presentation of the new Czech commemorative postage stamp in the form of a postal sheet. More than 70 journalists, radio reporters, artists and distinguished guests carefully followed speeches by the Jewish Museum Director Leo Pavlát, the Czech Post Deputy Director General Miroslav Špaček, and the Union of Czech Philatelist's President Lumír Brendl.

[see more details on this issue in the *New Issues* column of this journal -- those details have been edited out of this article here to avoid duplication]

The Czech commemorative postal sheet honoring Prague-born Petr Ginz, Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, and the crew of the spaceship Columbia STS 107, was issued as a result of the initiative of the Czech philatelist Břetislav Janík and his "Petition for a Joint Commemorative Stamp Issue -- Petr Ginz". The Petition was published shortly after the Columbia disaster on his website [www.japhila.cz](http://www.japhila.cz) and was strongly supported by the Union of Czech Philatelists. The Petition was positively accepted

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worldwide and was signed by hundreds of Czech, Slovak, Israeli, American, British, Dutch, German, Austrian and other philatelists as well as non-philatelists. The result of this activity was positive: thanks to the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic (publisher of Czech postage stamps) and of the Czech Post, Prague (distributor of Czech postage stamps), the commemorative postage stamp appeared, and we all hope that the international public will appreciate this Czech postage stamp and its spiritual message.

Not only the stamp was presented in the Jewish Museum in Prague on the first day of its issue, but also a book written by Chava Pressburger. The book is called "The Diary of My Brother" and was presented by Vladislav Zadrobník of the TRIGON Publishing House, Prague.

### 2. From Savoy Horvath:

-- The Czech Post has announced a change in postal rates. As of February 1, 2005, most Czech postal rates are going up to the rate shown and by the amounts in parenthesis:

- postcard and regular letter	7.50 Kč	(+ 1 Kč)
- letter to 20 gr.	9.00 Kč	(+ 1 Kč)
- letter to 50 gr.	12.00 Kč	(+ 2 Kč)
- registered letter to 20 gr.	19.00 Kč	(+ 2 Kč)
- registered letter to 50 gr.	22.00 Kč	(+ 2 Kč)
- valued letter to 20 gr.	19.00 Kč	(+ 2 Kč)
- parcel to 2 kg	30.00 Kč	(+ 4 Kč)
- registered parcel to 2 kg	40.00 Kč	(+ 5 Kč)
- valued parcel to 2 kg	40.00 Kč	(+ 5 Kč)

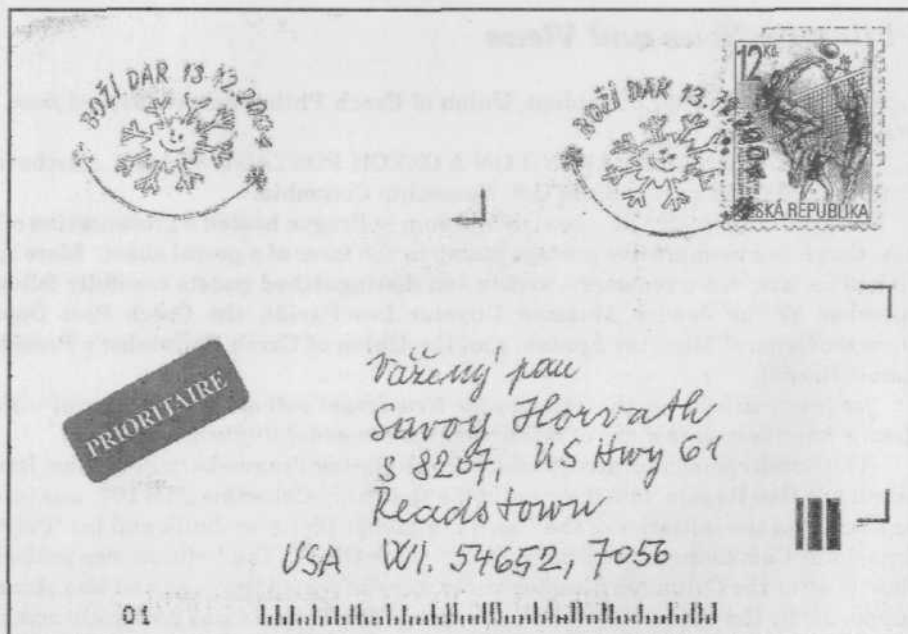


Fig. 1

Followed by six different money exchange rates, some rates are doubling.

-- For a number of years now the post office at Boží Dar (which means God's Gift) has provided a service where they will re-send your Christmas greeting with a special Christmas holiday cancel that they apply. In the past the cancel designs used included: a Christmas tree, Bethlehem, a carp, a young lamb, a candle in a nut shell, the Magi, a smiling child, and the Christ Child in a manger. So, this year's cancel is a snowflake (Fig. 1 on cover, Fig. 2 enlarged).



Fig. 2

3. From Dennis Povondra:

-- Once again the Tabor, South Dakota, Chamber of Commerce will be organizing a special commemorative cachet and stamp cancel to celebrate its 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Days, being held on Friday/Saturday, June 17/18, 2005. If you would like one of our colorful and very attractive cachet covers, please send a #10 size SASE along with \$1.50 to Tabor Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063-0021. If you would like more details about the cachet or about our celebration, e-mail us at: [czechdays@yahoo.com](mailto:czechdays@yahoo.com) or czech out our web page at: [www.byelectric.com/~tabor/](http://www.byelectric.com/~tabor/)

4. From Ludvik Svoboda:

-- As all of you must be aware of by now, the value of the U.S. Dollar has been falling relative to other foreign currencies (Euro, Pound, Yen) for some time now. While this did not affect the price of books that the Society had for sale (most of them were purchased before any significant deterioration in Dollar value), the new books that we are getting for offer to you must reflect that revised change in currency values. Therefore, you will be seeing some small adjustments in book prices (beginning in this issue) that reflect these higher prices that we have had to pay.

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## HRADČANY 50h – ITS POSTAL USE

by František Hamr

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

The stamps -- with the 50h nominal value from the Hradčany issues -- were originally issued on February 27, 1919, and then again -- in less than half a year more -- on August 19, 1919. In both cases these were not perforated stamps. The first issuance (in a blue color) was in the C design, while the second one (in a purple color) was already in the E design.

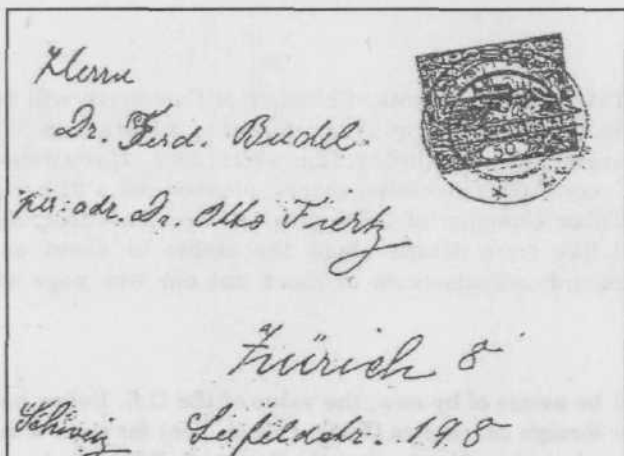


Fig. 1

As a single stamp franking, it was not possible to use the 50h value until the II postal rate period [15.05.19 - 14.03.20] to pay for the postage of a letter with the basic weight of 20g going to other countries (Fig. 1). Then, in the III postal rate period [15.03.20 - 31.07.20] it could only be used as postage on a postcard going to other countries. Additional usage could have been on a registered letter where there was a collection due upon delivery [dobírka]. An

interesting usage was the 50h as payment on an Express postcard during the II postal rate period. The basic postage for a postcard was 15h and the Express fee was 60h, thus, 75h in total. This postage was paid by a 50h stamp and another one that was cut in half (Fig. 2).

As you can see, they cut in half not only 10h stamps used on picture postcards, but also other values.

In combination with other stamps, the 50h value was used in the payment of the fees for registered letters. The additional charge for registering an item was 50h, and so only the basic letter rate was the changeable factor -- in



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

the II postal rate period it was 25h, and in the III period it became 30h. And thus, there were a number of possibilities for postage payment that accommodated the use of lower valued stamps -- an example is found in Figure 3.

From among the other issues, the most frequently used stamps came from the Dove issue. After the increase of the basic letter rate to 60h during the IV postal rate period [1.8.20 - 31.12.21], combinations could occur where the 50h Hradčany stamp was supplemented by other stamps of similar value. This was most likely the case, of course, with the heavier letters, registered letters, etc.

Certainly, these were also used on postal dispatch notes. Single usage is shown in Figure 4. This one is on a collection-due-upon-delivery item for the amount of 200 Kč during the IV postal rate period. The second example (Fig. 5) is from the same period, but for double the amount, or 400 Kč.

Stamps of 50h could be a



Fig. 4



Fig. 5





postal rate periods where the combinations were required for sending registered or Express shipments (Fig. 6), and especially for letters that were heavier (Fig. 7) or going to foreign countries. Such items are always an ornament in any collection.

\* \* \* \* \*

## POSTAL HISTORY THE CZECHOSLOVAK CURRENCY REFORM OF 1953

by Vladimír Dražan, Pavel Aksamit  
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

### Part 2

*In the last issue of Filatelie we have published part one of an article about one of the most interesting segments of philately in post war Czechoslovakia -- the currency reform of 1953. We concerned ourselves with the reform's fundamental facts, the validity of postage stamps and stationery, internal postal tariffs, the paying of postage on entires in cash, and meter machine imprints.*

*Today we address ourselves to consignments sent abroad -- which belong among the most sought after philatelic materials -- and further, to the validity and use of postage due stamps.*

### 6. Consignments Sent Abroad

All consignments sent abroad belong among those that are very much sought after, and this is due to a very simple reason. With some exceptions (e.g., when the philatelic sender requested its return), they ended up abroad and thus irretrievably lost. Often the poorly informed recipient did not even notice that the cover was involved with the currency reform period (Fig. 12).

Somewhat more complicated was the situation of the correct postal charge for any consignments which were sent abroad. The postage was supposed to be calculated in a different way, and that was, to be based upon the rate of exchange of the Czechoslovak crown to the "golden franc", which changed (as a consequence of the currency reforms) to 6.94:1, and which later on in postal service practice became 7:1. This essentially fundamental information was probably not familiar to

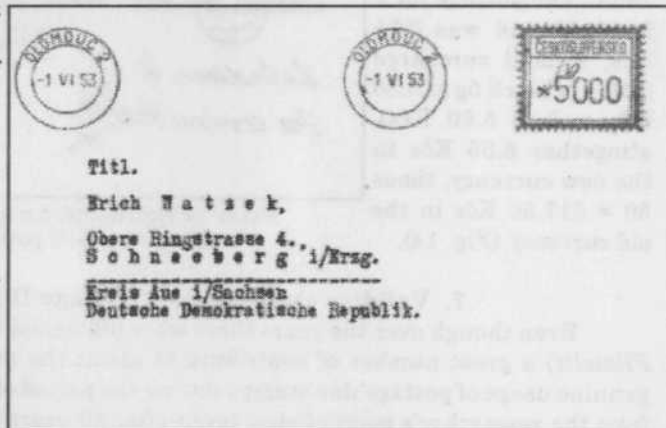


Figure 12: Letter sent abroad dated 1.6.1953, postage paid by OVS with value 50 Kčs.



Figure 13: Censored letter to Austria dated 8.6.1953, postage 50 Kčs.

the majority of postal employees or the general public. It is possible to produce evidence that on a large number of genuinely authentic and postally used consignments going abroad that the postal charges were calculated in the same ratio as for internal consignments, that is 5:1. For example, an ordinary letter up to 20g in Figures 12 or Figure 13 has 1 Kčs (= 50 Kčs in the old currency) instead of the correct 75h. Without a doubt this situation was helped by the circumstance that the above postal charges for abroad were not published in the Communications Gazette until 16.6.1953 (in No. 24/53). It is however perhaps necessary to report, that there exist entire ones whose postage was paid in accordance with the later published Gazette, but which were submitted for postal delivery before its publication date. As an example, we present a philatelically franked airmail letter to the USA of weight 33g, handed in for postal delivery on 11 June 1953. The postage for a letter abroad was 0.75 Kčs, airmail surcharge 5.60 Kčs (each 5g at 0.80 Kčs x 7 = 5.60 Kčs), altogether 6.35 Kčs in the new currency, times 50 = 317.50 Kčs in the old currency (Fig. 14).

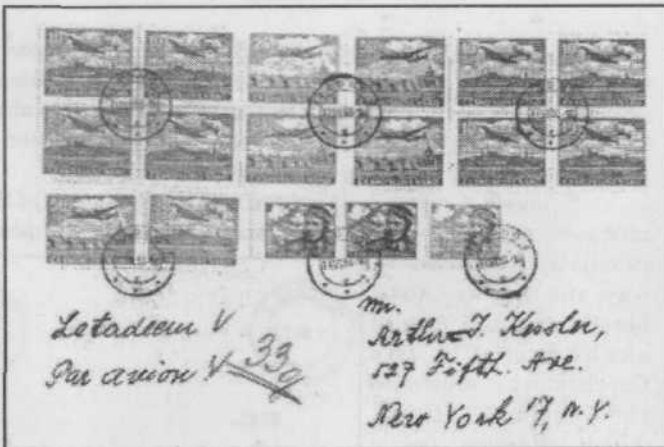


Figure 14: Philatelically franked airmail letter to USA dated 11.6.1953, postage 317.50 Kčs.

### 7. Validity and Usage of Postage Due Stamps

Even though over the years there were published (especially in the magazine *Filatelie*) a great number of contributions about the problem of the validity and genuine usage of postage due stamps during the period of the 1953 currency reform, from the researcher's point of view (even after 50 years) this issue is definitely not closed. Without a doubt the main reasons for this are the facts that the official

Gazette did not mention what the period of validity of the postage due stamps was, and further that many years of endeavor by many collectors to objectively judge and study this problem ran up against an absence of a significant number of authentically used entires upon which postage due stamps performed their function. Today it is possible to regard it as wholly proven that during the course of the currency reform the postage due stamps of 1946/1948 (Pof. D67-78) were used by all post offices during the period of 1.6 to 13.6.1953 in their original function in the 50:1 ratio, and then were withdrawn from circulation. This is demonstrated by tens of incorrectly franked or even entirely unfranked but incontrovertibly postally used entires. One of these we see in Figure 15: an unfranked picture postcard dated 12.6.1953 from Zvolen, charged 30 Kcs postage due by the Zbehy post office.

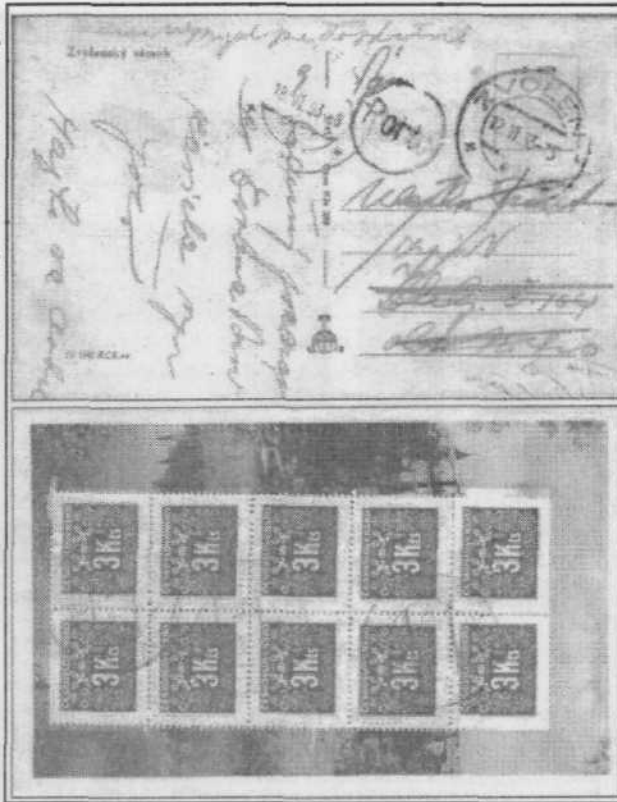


Figure 15: Both sides of an unfranked picture postcard, postage 30h, postage due x2 = 60h, i.e. 30 Kcs. Because of the postage due, the consignment was not accepted.

First, and as introduction to this problem, we consider it necessary to explain what was the correct procedure in calculating the postage due. As an example, we will use an ordinary correspondence card (Fig. 16) -- the new postal charge was 30h (15 Kcs in the old currency), of which 1.50 Kcs was prepaid (in old currency), therefore there was a shortage of 13.50 Kcs, so postage due at twice the rate = 27 Kcs. Another way to calculate it: postal charge of 30h, 1.50 Kcs prepaid in old currency (that is 3h in the new currency), thus a shortage of 27h, so postage due at twice the rate = 54h (i.e. 27 Kcs in the old currency). Evidently it sometimes caused difficulties even for postal employees, which is evident from the following examples where there are mistaken calculations and a handwritten note about the postage due amount (Fig. 17) and then in particular consignments with postage due stamps applied in incorrect amounts (Fig. 18 and 19).

In Figure 18 is shown an insufficiently franked letter with correctly calculated postage due "T 1.08" (= 54 Kcs), but on the letter were applied only 44 Kcs of postage

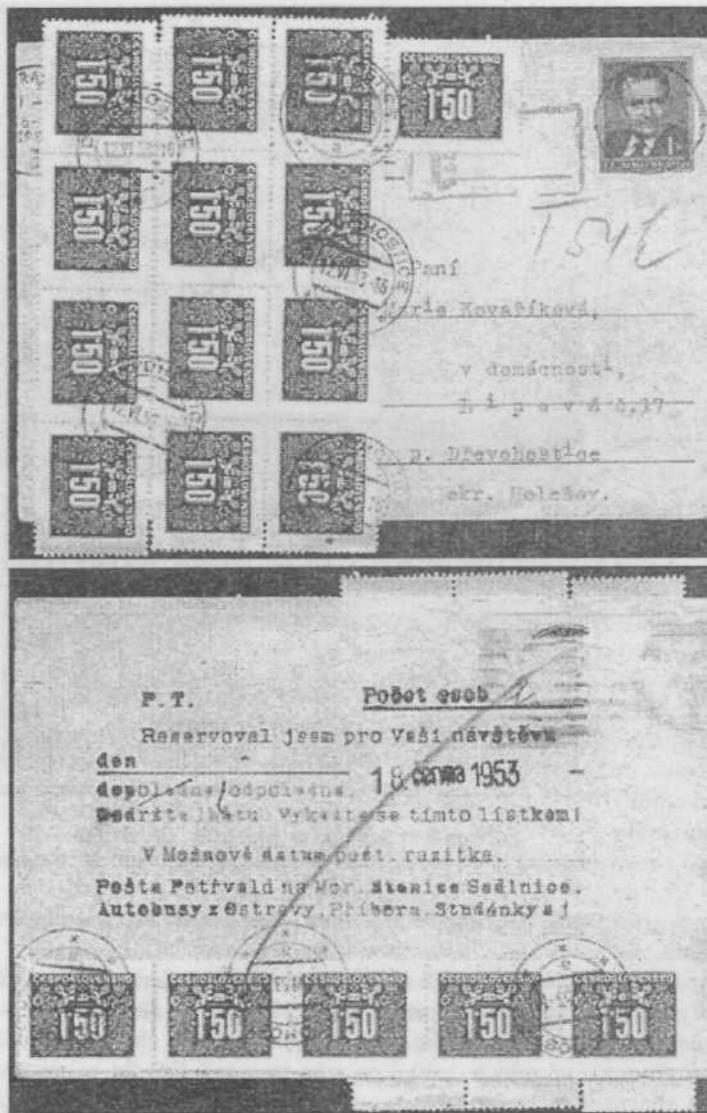


Figure 16: Both sides of an under-franked postal card charged with postage due of 54h, i.e. 27 Kčs in old currency.

due stamps. On the other hand, on the next postcard where the applied postage due stamps covered even the name of the addressee (Fig. 19), there were 28 postage due stamps placed on both sides, each of 1 Kčs value, so that the post office on 13.6.1953 collected 1 Kčs more than it should have. For an objective assessment of the situation at that time, it is necessary to add that financial dealings were far more important for the Post Office during the currency reform period, and maximum attention was given to that. Given this, it is possible to partially explain the high percentage of insufficiently franked letters, which -- especially during the first days after the currency reform

proclamation -- either escaped being noticed by postal employees or were tolerated in postal operations and delivered without the collection of postage due.

Even more complex was the calculation of postage due for unfranked or incorrectly franked consignments from abroad that were addressed to Czechoslovakia during this period (Fig. 20), because even these consignments were saddled with the fifty-times the otherwise normal postage dues. Uniform postage

due did not exist, and then too it was necessary to accurately determine the extent of any franking shortage -- from this the postage due was then calculated. This in fact was not possible without concrete knowledge of the foreign postal administration's correct postal charge amounts. Postal employees had a somewhat easier role in

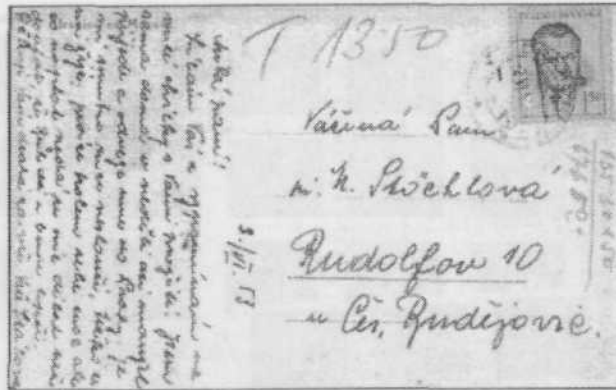


Figure 17: Under-franked picture postcard dated 2.6.1953, with incorrectly calculated postage due. Postage due stamps were not applied to the card.

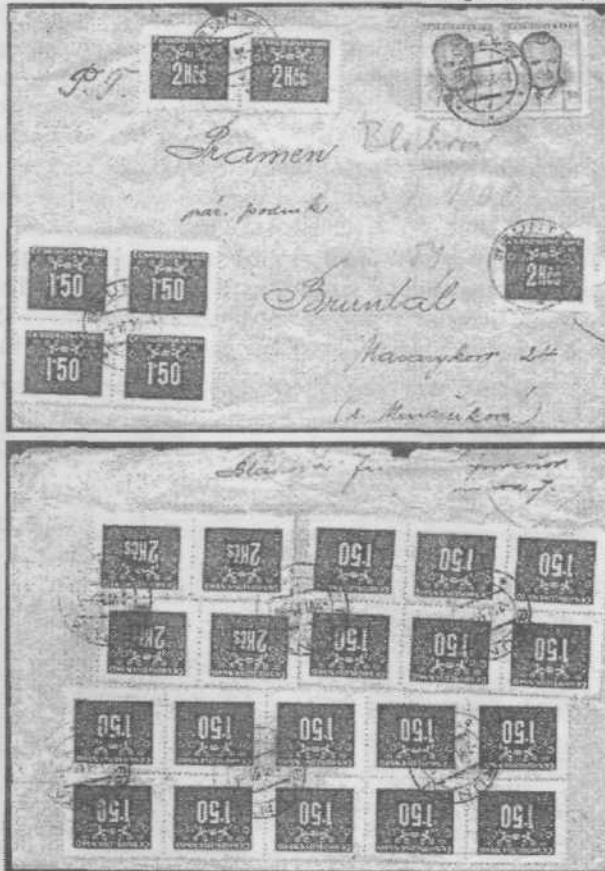


Figure 18: Under-franked letter (both sides) sent 1.6.1953 from Rýmařova, with advisory that postage due is 1.08 Kcs (= 54 Kcs); at the Bruntál post office only 44 Kcs of postage due stamps were applied (7 x 2 Kcs + 20 x 1.50 Kcs).

those cases where an under-franked consignment bore an advisory from the originating foreign post office as to how much postage due was required (Fig. 21). As a consequence of that time's individuality of postage due calculations, differing amounts of postage due were levied against almost every under-franked consignment from abroad, which makes possible for us a challenging specialization in the world of postage due usage. In the end it even happened that the postage due came to several hundred crowns, and there was not enough space on the consignment to apply all of the stamps. There are known to exist consignments where entire printing sheets of postage due stamps were attached with paper clips or staples.

As we have already mentioned above, postage



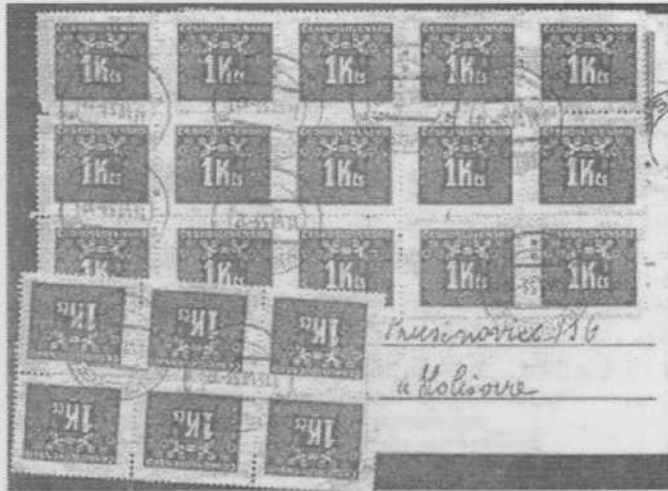


Figure 19: Under-franked postal card charged on 13.6.1953 at the Prusinovice post office with incorrectly determined postage due of 28 Kčs (7 x 1 Kcs postage due stamps are on the back of the card).

due stamps were withdrawn from circulation at the latest on 13 June 1953 so that beginning Sunday, June 14, there were no postage due stamps available for post office usage. On the underfranked letter consignments from the last days of the currency reform, it is possible to find various types of "T" handstamps or handwritten notes for the amount of postage due; they, in fact, do not show any indication whether the post office

actually collected the postage due charges. One of many examples we show at Figure 22. We do not know of a single genuinely used consignment with postage due stamps from the period of 14.6 - 18.6 1953.

In the given situation an emergency solution was proposed to use postage or special stamps to function as postage due stamps (naturally in the 50:1 ratio). This was in fact shown to be unrealistic, because at a great number of post offices the postage and special stamps were already quite used up and posted consignments had been paid in cash, so for operationally technical reasons it was not possible to accede to this theoretical variation. Up to now letter consignments making use of postage or special stamps in place of postage due stamps have not been produced. Even so, a number of entires of this type do exist. Already in the 1950's the post office provided the public with some services by reimbursement; the charges for the service were settled by applying postage due stamps.

-- One of these was the

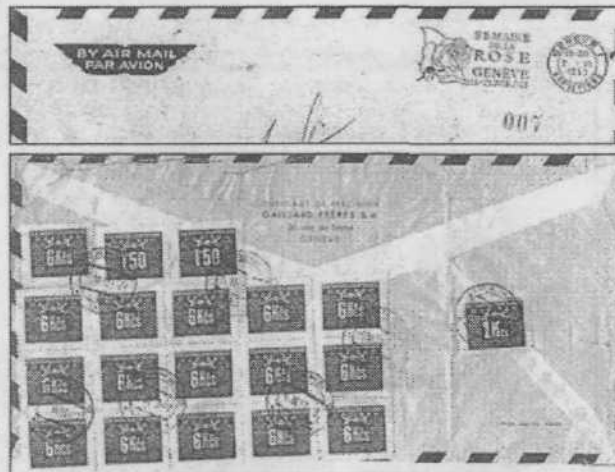


Figure 20: Unfranked airmail letter of a high value category, sent from Switzerland, 2.6.1953, charged with postage due of 100 Kčs.



situation of a confirmation of whether a citizen receives a pension, and if so, what kind of pension. The charge for this notification was 2 Kčs before the currency reform, and from 1 June 1953 it was 40h. On 17.6.1953 the Třinec post office made out a confirmation of receipt of a pension for an invalid. Instead of postage due stamps, there are applied to this postal document altogether 10 special stamps, Pofis 720 and 728, i.e. corresponding to about 20 Kčs in the old currency (see Figure 23). The stamps are canceled with a Třinec/17.6.1953 postmark; in addition on the front side there is also a single line postmark of the Třinec post office with date -- both are in a different color than the daily cancel.

-- As evidence of the use of postage stamps instead of postage due stamps we present a postal form "Oznámení" [Advisement] (No. 418/IV - 1946) about the results of an inquiry into a

registered consignment sent COD in September 1952. The charge for this service was 1.20 Kčs, and post office PRAHA 123 confirmed reimbursement on 17.6.1953 by applying twelve postage stamps, Pof. 488, on the reverse side (in the 50:1 ratio), i.e. 60 Kčs in the old currency (Fig. 24).

It is probably not necessary to emphasize here that the occurrence of similar consignments -- which used as an emergency solution postage or special stamps functioning as postage due stamps -- is absolutely unique and that consignments of this type belong among the scarcest documents of this period.

The whole problem of the context between the validity and usage of postage due stamps during the 1953 currency reform period is an intricate and very difficult aspect of them. Moreover, entire with postage due stamps are already for many years "in solid hands" and are practically never seen in our philatelic markets. One

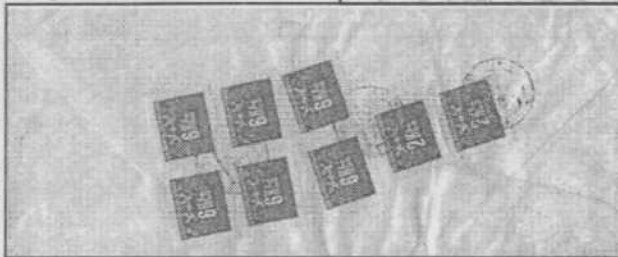
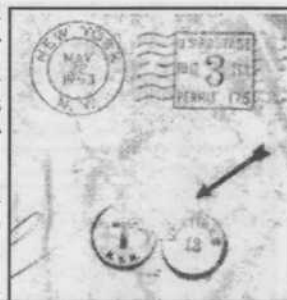


Figure 21: Under-franked company letter from USA ( 3¢), with advisory of 12¢ postage due, on 6.6.1953 the PRAHA 2 post office collected postage due of 40 Kčs.

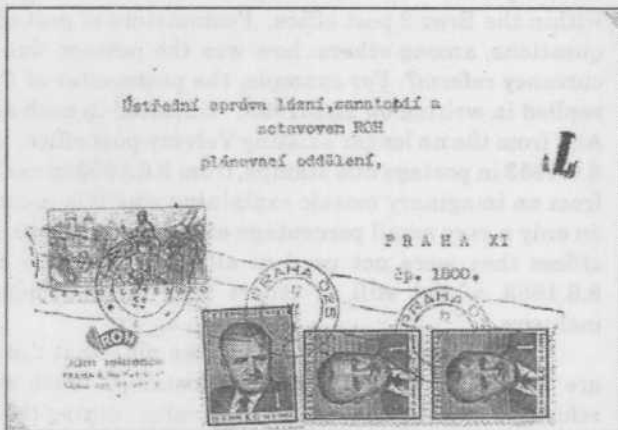


Figure 22: Under-franked local letter dated 12.6.1953, postage 5.50 Kčs. Postage due is indicated, probably in fact not collected.



Figure 23: Confirmation of pension from 17.6.1953. Instead of postage due stamps there are special stamps applied in the amount of 20 Kčs.

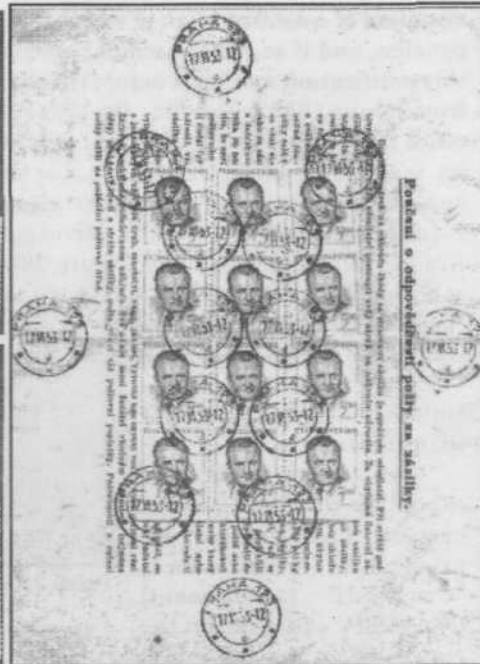


Figure 24: Reverse side of the postal form "Oznámení" dated 17.6.1953. Instead of postage due stamps, postage stamps to a total amount of 60 Kčs were applied.

of the many reasons why this is so, emerged as a result of a questionnaire which was carried out during the middle of June 1953(!) -- that is, still during the currency reform period -- by the then philatelic union of Spojklubu Brno, which was active within the Brno 2 post office. Postmasters of post offices were supposed to answer questions, among others: how was the postage due collected during the period of currency reform? For example, the postmaster of the Velkých Pavlovic post office replied in writing on 23.6.1953: "Collected in cash and entered in the cash ledger". And from the no longer existing Velvěty post office, the postmaster reported: "Up to 8.6.1953 in postage due stamps, from 9.6.1953 in cash". These are two more pebbles from an imaginary mosaic explaining why it is possible to find postage due stamps on only a very small percentage of incorrectly franked consignments. At some post offices they were not used at all, at others only during the period from 1.6. to 8.6.1953, whilst still at others they were demonstrably used up to 13.6.1953 inclusive.

In conclusion of this part, we note that the postage due stamps of 1946/48 are the only issues of Czechoslovak stamps which were valid -- before the currency reform of 1953 in their designated value, during the currency reform in the ratio of 50:1, and after the currency reform again in their designated value (from 29.6.1953 to 30.6.1953).

(To be continued)

## *The Librarian's Desk*

The Society Library is slowly coming under control. Last month the *Specialists* were sorted and gotten out of the way. This month, more boxes were opened, sorted, and put on the shelves.

At first, the books were sorted into the same order as the list on the Society web site. For a very small collection that the librarian knows quite well, that arrangement would work. But as I am just becoming acquainted with the books in the library, I found it quite difficult to locate items about the same subject.

So, this month the membership will have its first look at an attempt to organize the library's books by subject. Arranging the whole library by subject will take a long time, so I decided to focus on only one type of book -- stamp catalogs and price lists -- other kinds of books will be added to the list later. The library has a great many stamp catalogs covering stamp collecting from many viewpoints. These catalogs could have been arranged any number of ways, but it is hoped that the arrangement presented will be useful. There is one omission -- the Carpatho-Ukraine catalogs were on loan during the period this list was drawn up, so they will be added at a later date. Members may be very surprised to discover how many different types of stamp catalogs we have.

After each entry in the listing is the call number of the book in brackets like [C100.P6 1988]. Use that number to order the book from the library.

The stamp catalogs are arranged under the following topics:

### CATALOGS.

-- Zeppelins.

Austria.

Bosnia.

Czechoslovakia.

Catalogs covering more than one period

Booklets.

Perfins.

Postal Stationery.

Revenues.

Sport Stamps.

First Republic.

Air Mail.

Issues. [Individual issues by name]

Plate Marks.

Postmarks.

Sudetenland.

Čechy a Morava, Slovensky Stát.

Carpatho-Ukraine.

Post 1945.

Czech Republic.

Germany.

Hungary.

Poland.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Russia.  
Slovakia.  
Yugoslavia.

### Catalogs.

- Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia stamp catalog: 1960 edition. George A. Tlamsa editor in chief. New York, Minkus, 1959. 160p. Illus. [C10.C9 1960]  
Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Srbsko, Čierna Hora, Chorvátsko. First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 1. Bratislava, 1947. 24p. Illus. [C10.K6 1947]

### Catalogs – Zeppelins.

- Sieger, Hermann Walter. Zeppelinpost spezial-katalog. Wurttemberg, Carl Ritter, 1981. 384p. Illus. [C12.S54]

### Catalogs. Austria.

- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Rakúsko 1850-1918. Second edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 2. Bratislava, 1947. 20p. Illus. [C28.K65 1947]  
Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Rakúsko 1918-1948. Second edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 3. Bratislava, 1948. 20p. Illus. [C28.K654 1948]

### Catalogs. Bosnia.

- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Bosna: Rakúsko-Maďarské poľné pošty a Rakúska pošta v zahraničí (Levente). First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 4. Bratislava, 1946. 16p. Illus. [C36.K6 1946]

### Catalogs. Czechoslovakia.

- Billig's 1942 specialized postage stamp catalogue of Czechoslovakia, Eastern-Silesia, Siberia, Carpatho-Ukraine, Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. Compiled by Arthur I. Kessler and William Klemann. Jamaica, NY, Billings Stamp Company, 1942. 40p. Illus. [C100.B5 1942]  
Ceník Československých známek I. Ročník 1951. Praha, POFIS, 1951. 126p. Illus. [C100.P6 1951]  
Cross 1942 specialized postage stamp catalogue of Czechoslovakia, Eastern-Silesia, Siberia, Carpatho-Ukraine, Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. Compiled by Arthur I. Kessler and William Klemann. New York, Cross Stamp Company, 1942. 40p. Illus. [C100.C76 1942]  
Československo 1975, katalog poštovních známek. Praha, POFIS, 1975. 512p. Illus. [C100.P6 1975]  
Československo 1962, katalog známek. Praha, POFIS, 1962. 354p. Illus. [C100.P6 1962]  
Československo 1966, katalog známek. Praha, POFIS, 1965. 438p. Illus. [C100.P6 1966]  
Československo 1968, katalog známek. Praha, POFIS, 1967. 378p. Illus. [C100.P6 1968]  
Československo 1971, katalog známek. Praha, POFIS, 1970. 446p. Illus. [C100.P6 1971]  
Československo 1973, katalog známek. Praha, POFIS, 1972. 496p. Illus. [C100.P6 1973]  
Československo 1975, katalog poštovních známek. Praha, POFIS, 1975. 512p. Illus. [C100.P6 1975]  
Franěk--Hirst katalog ČSR a protektorátu Čechy a Morava. Praha, Tribuna, 1940. 108p. Illus. [C100.F74 1940]  
Hirsch, E. Sběratelský katalog známek Československa 1948. With J. Mriák. Praha, Orbis, 1948. 111p. Illus. [C100.H57 1948]

- Hirsch, E. Sbératelský katalog známek Československa 1949. With J. Mrňák. Praha, Orbis, 1949. 118p. Illus. [C100.H57 1949]
- Katalog Československo 1918-1992, Česká Republika 1993-1995. Praha, Trojan, 1995. 356p. Illus. [C100.T76]
- Katalog Českoslovených známek, 1918-1958. Praha, POFIS, 1959. 236p. Illus. On cover: číslo 1. [C100.P6 1959]
- Katalog POFIS 1999 Československo, Česká republika, Slovenská republika. Praha, POFIS, 1998. 203p. Illus, color. *Bound with*: Katalog POFIS 1999, Protektorát Čechy a Morava, Slovenský Stat. [C100.P6 1998]
- Katalog známek Československa, Čech a Moravy, Slovenska pro rok 1948. Praha, Drufila, 1948. 212p. Illus. [C100.D78 1948]
- Katalog známek Československa, Čech a Moravy, Slovenska 1949. Praha, Drufila, 1949. 202p. Illus. [C100.D78 1949]
- Katalog známek POFIS Československo od roku 1918, 1961. Praha, POFIS, 1961. 324p. Illus. [C100.P6 1961]
- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok ČSR: 1918-1947. Second edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 1. Bratislava, 1946. 24p. Illus. [C100.K65 1946]
- Lehovec, Jan. Katalog Československých známek 1946. Praha, J. Salivar, 1946. 112p. Illus. [C100.L45]
- Novotný, Ladislav. Speciální příručka pro sběratele Československých známek: známky, deskové značky, celeny, pošní a kurýrná pošty, razítka. Praha, Nakladatelství Dopravy a Spojů, 1970. 708p. Illus. [C100.N6 1979]
- Příručka pro sběratele Československých známek a celin. Praha, Svaz Československých Filatelistů, 1988. 553p. Illus, color. [C100.P85]
- Specialized postage stamp catalog of Czechoslovakia, Eastern-Silesia, Siberia 1945. Compiled by Arthur I. Kessler and William Klemm. New York, Kessler, 1945. 34p. Illus. [C100.S63]
- Specializovaný katalog Československých poštovních. Zpracoval kolektiv autorů. Praga, 1978. 446p. Illus. [C100.S64 1978]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia – Booklets.**
- Šilhán, Tomáš. Československé známkové sešitky 1989. Praha, POFIS, 1990. 117p. Illus. [C105.P6]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia – Perfins.**
- Maxa, Vojtěch. Katalog perfinů z území Československa, by Vojtěch Maxa, Václav Fejtek and Ladislav Janeček. Praha, 1987. 184 loose pages. Illus. [C105.M29]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia – Postal Stationery.**
- Katalog POFIS Československé Celiny 1918-1992. Praha, POFIS, 1998-2001. 2v. Illus, color. Volume I, Jan Starec, František Beneš. Volume II, František Beneš. [C110.P6 2001]
- Špaček, Jaroslav. Katalog privátních přitisků na Československých a Českých celinách, 1945-1996. Praha, Trojan, 1997. 432p. Illus. [C110.S96]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia – Revenues.**
- Burianek, Joseph. General revenue stamps of Czechoslovakia, by Josef Burianek and William Ittel. Pittsburgh, Ittel, 1971. 12p. Illus. [C120.B87 1971]
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Witts, Roger. *Czechoslovakia revenues*. Special editor Roger Witts. York, J. Barefoot, 2001. First edition. 56p. Illus. [C120.W57 2001]

#### Catalogs. Czechoslovakia – Sports Stamps.

Catalogue Sports Stamps 1918-1992. Bratislava, ERVO, 1992. 20p. Illus, color. [C115.S6C37]

#### Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. First Republic.

- Beneš, František. *Československo 1918-1939*. Praha, POFIS, 2001. 224p. Illus, color. On cover: 2002. [C200.P6 2001]
- Beneš, František. *Československo 1918-1939*. Praha, POFIS, 2004. 224p. Illus, color. On cover: 2005. [C200.P6 2004]
- Beneš, František. *Specializovaný katalog POFIS 1999: Československa 1918-1939*. Praha, POFIS, 1999. 176p. Illus, color. [C200.P6 1999]
- Ceník Československých známek od roku 1918-1939. Praha, POFIS, 1954. 48p. [C200.P6 1954]
- Ceník Československých známek. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1931. 34p. Illus. [C200.C45 1931]
- Ceník Československých známek. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1936. 38p. Illus. [C200.C45 1936]
- Cross 1937 specialized postage stamp catalogue of Czechoslovakia and Eastern Silesia. First edition. Newark, NJ, Cross Stamp Company, 1937. 28p. Illus. [C200.C76 1937]
- Československo 1918-1939, katalog Československých poštovních známek. Praha, POFIS, 1979. 128p. Illus. [C200.P6 1979]
- Ekstein-katalog tschechoslowakischer Briefmarken. 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. Praha, W. Ekstein, 1935. 121p. Illus. [C200.E58 1935a]
- Ekstein-katalog tschechoslowakischer Briefmarken. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Praha, W. Ekstein, 1937. 121p. Illus. [C200.#58 1937]
- Eksteinův katalog Československých známek. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1933. 116p. Illus. [C200.E58 1933]
- Eksteinův katalog Československých známek. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1935. 108p. Illus. [C200.E58 1935]
- Eksteinův katalog Československých známek. 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1936. 134p. Illus. [C200.E58 1936]
- Eksteinův katalog Československých známek. 13<sup>th</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1939. 179p. Illus. [C200.E58 1939]
- Fehlldrucke der Tschechoslowakischen briefmarken -- die typen und wasserzeichen der Masaryk-marken. Brun, J. Klar, 1927. 48p. Illus. [C200.F45]
- Fraňek--Hirst katalog Československých známek. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Praha, Tribuna, 1939. 104p. Illus. [C200.F74 1939]
- Fraňek--Hirst katalog der tschechoslowakischen briefmarken 1937. Vienna, Billig, 1937. 92p. Illus. [C200.F74 1937]
- Hirsch, E. 1924 Katalog známek Československých. Praha, Tribuny Filatelistů, 1924. Volume 1. 156p. Illus. [C200.H57]
- Hirsch--Fraňek handbuch des Tschechoslowakischen briefmarken 1938. Vienna, Billig, 1938. 100p. Illus. [C200.H58]
- Kaplánek, Karel. Katalog známek Československých 1930. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Praha, K. Kaplánek, 1930. 128p. Illus. [C200.K26 1930]
- Kaplánek, Karel. Katalog známek Československých 1931. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Praha, Filatelistická Revue, 1931. 70p. Illus. [C200.K26 1931]



- Katalog Československých poštových známok (1918-1939). Bratislava, POFIS, 1989. 248p. Illus. [C200.P64 1989]
- Katalog Československých poštových známok 1918-1939. Praha, Trojan, 1992. 55p. Illus. [C200.T68]
- Katalog Československých známek 1938. Olomouc, IGO, 1938. 63p. Illus. [C200.K27]
- Katalog sběratelů Československých známek 1937. Praha, Filatelistické Revue, 1937. 164p. Illus. [C200.F5 1937]
- Katalog sběratelů Československých známek 1939. Praha, Filatelistické Revue, 1939. 164p. Illus. [C200.F5 1939]
- Stach, Alfons. Katalog Československých známek 1939. New York, A. Stach, 1939. 64p. Illus. [C200.S73 1939]
- Stach's 1941 specialized catalog of Czecho-slovakia, Eastern Silesia, Siberia. New York, Stach, 1941. 70p. Illus. [C200.S73 1941]
- Tschechoslowakei aus dem grossen Ganzsachen -- katalog 1928. 10p. Illus. [C200.T74 1928]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. First Republic – Air Mail.**
- Horka, Petr. Československá letecká pošta, 1918-1939. Praha, Trojan, 1997. 224p. Illus, color. [C208.H6]
- Tekeľ, Andrej. Československé letecké známky z roku 1930. Praha, Filatelie, 1995. 15p. Illus. [C208.T45]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. First Republic – Issues.**
- Lešetický, Jaroslav. Pošta Československá 1919. Prag, Druckerei Vlast, 1920. 43p. Illus. [C210.P6L27]
- Velek, John. First issue of Czechoslovakia, The Hradčany. Billig's Specialized Catalogs, v.10. Jamaica, NY, Billig. 60p. Illus. [C210.H72V4]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. First Republic – Plate Marks.**
- Ekstein katalog: deskové známky a příležitostná razítka. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1936. 102p. Illus. [C215.E58 1936]
- Ekstein katalog: deskové známky a příležitostná razítka. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1938. 115p. Illus. [C215.E58 1938]
- Specialní katalog deskových známek veškerých známek Československých 1918-1930. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1930. 103p. Illus. [C215.E58 1930]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. First Republic – Postmarks.**
- Československo 1918-1939, katalog Československých poštovních známek. Praha, POFIS, 1979. 128p. Illus. [C230.C84 1979]
- Ekstein katalog: deskové známky a příležitostná razítka. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1936. 102p. Illus. [C215.E58 1936]
- Ekstein katalog: deskové známky a příležitostná razítka. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Praha, V. Ekstein, 1938. 115p. Illus. [C215.E58 1938]
- Katalog příležitostných poštovních razítek: Československá republika 1918-1939. Plzeň, Fil Press, 2004. 356p. Illus. [C230.K27 2004]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. Sudetenland.**
- Katalog protektorát čechy a morava, slovenský Štát 1939-1945, sudety 1938. Praha, Trojan, 1995. 244p. Illus. [C300.T76]
- Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. Čechy a Morava, Slovenský Štát.**
- Beneš, František. Protektorát Čechy a Morava, 1939-1945. Praha, POFIS, 1999. 176p. Illus, color. On Cover: 2000. [C300.P6 1999]
- Bohmen und Mahren spezialkatalog. [Xerox copy]. 142p. Illus. [C300.B6]

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Katalog POFIS 1999, Protektorát Čechy a Morava, Slovenský Stát. Praha, POFIS, 1998. 13p. Illus, color. *Bound with:* Katalog POFIS 1999 Československo, Česká Republika, Slovenská Republika. [C100.P6 1998]

Katalog protektorát čechy a morava, slovenský štát 1939-1945, sudety 1938. Praha, Trojan, 1995. 244p. Illus. [C300.T76]

Katalóg Slovenských poštových známok a celín: 1939-1945. Bratislava, 1990. 128p. Illus, color. [C700.K46]

Katalóg Slovenských poštových známok a celín: 1939-1945, 1993-1997. Bratislava, Zvaz Slovenských Filatelistov, 1997. 128p. Illus, color. [C700.K47 1997]

Katalog známek a celin platných na území ČSR v letech 1939-1945. Part 1: Protectoráte: Čechy a Morava. Praha, Svaz Českých filatelistů, 1990. 56p. Illus. [C300.K32]

Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Slovensko, Čechy a Morava: 1939-1945. Kolárove katalogy známok, číslo 6. Bratislava, 1946. 16p. Illus. [C300.K65 1946]

#### Catalogs. Czechoslovakia. Post 1945.

Československo 1945-1992 specializovaný katalog 1998. Praha, POFIS, 1998. 304p. Illus. [C400.P6 1998]

Československo 1945-1989. Bratislava, POFIS Bratislava, 1989. 268p. Illus. [C400.P65 1989]

Československo 1980, dodatek katalog poštovních známek: 1979-1980. Praha, POFIS, 1980. Unpaged. Illus. [C400.P6 1981]

Československo 1980, dodatek katalog poštovních známek: 1980-1981. Praha, POFIS, 1981. 32p. Illus. [C400.P6 1981a]

Československo 1980, katalog poštovních známek: 1945-1979. Praha, POFIS, 1980. 448p. Illus. [C400.P6 1980]

Československo 1982, katalog poštovních známek: 1945-1981. Praha, POFIS, 1982. 544p. Illus. [C400.P6 1982]

Katalog Československých poštových známok (1945-1988). Bratislava, POFIS, 1989. 248p. Illus. [C400.P652 1989]

Katalog Československých poštovních známek 1945-1991. Trojan, 1991. 128p. Illus. [C400.T76]

Katalog Československých poštových známok (1970-1988). Bratislava, POFIS, 1989. 245p. Illus. [C400.P654 1989]

Katalog Československých známek, dadotek za rok 1962. Praha, POFIS, 1959. 24p. Illus. [C400.P6 1962]

Katalog Československých známek, dadotek 1978. Praha, POFIS, 1978. 80p. Illus, color. [C400.P6 1978]

Stamps of Czechoslovakia wholesale price list. Praha, Artia, 1956. 24p. Illus. [C400.A7 1956]

Stamps of Czechoslovakia wholesale price list. Praha, Artia, 1957. 24p. Illus. [C400.A7 1957]

Stamps of Czechoslovakia wholesale price list. Praha, Artia, 1959. 83p. Illus. [C400.A7 1959]

Stamps of Czechoslovakia wholesale price list. Praha, Artia, 1969. 132p. Illus. [C400.A7 1969]

Wholesale price list: postage stamps of post-war Czechoslovakia. Praha, Artia, 1955. 56p. Illus. [C400.A7 1955]

**Catalogs. Czech Republic.**

- Česká Republika, 1993-2001. Praha, POFIS, 2001. 120p. Illus, color. [C500.P6 2001]
- Česká Republika 1998. Praha, POFIS, 1998. 8p. Illus, color. [C500.P6 1998]
- Česká Republika 1999. Praha, POFIS, 1999. 8p. Illus, color. [C500.P6 1999]
- Katalog známek a celin: Česká Republika, 1993-2004. Plzeň, Fil Press, 2004. [C500.F6 2004]
- Specializovaný katalog známek a celin: Česká Republika 1993-1995. Praha, Společnost Sběratelů Československých Známek SČF, 1995. Unpaged. Illus, color. [C500.S76]
- Specializovaný katalog známek a celin: Česká Republika 1993-1999. Brno, Merkur Revue, 2000. 160p. Illus, color. [C500.M47 2000]
- Specializovaný katalog známek a celin České Republiky rok 1995. Praha, Svaz Českých Filatelistů, 1996. 84p. Illus. [C500.S94]

**Catalogs. Germany.**

- Cross specialized postage stamp catalogue of Germany and occupied territories, 1937. First edition. Newark, NJ, Cross Stamp Company, 1937. 34p. Illus. [C40.C76 1937]
- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Nemecko 1871-1938. First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 7. Bratislava, 1947. 32p. Illus. [C40.K65 1947]
- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Nemecko 1938-1945 (veľkonemecká ríša). First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 10. Bratislava, 1947. 16p. Illus. [C40.K654 1947]
- Michel Deutschland-spezial katalog, 1983/84. Munchen, Schwaneberger, 1983. 1224p. Illus. [C40.M52 1983]

**Catalogs. Hungary.**

- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Maďarsko: 1868-1946. First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 5. Bratislava, 1946. 16p. Illus. [C51.K65 1946]
- Magyar Bélyegek katalógusa 1962. Budapest, Magyar Filatelia Vállalat, 1962. 272p. Illus. [C51.M35]

**Catalogs. Poland.**

- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Poľsko 1860-1948. First Edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 11. Bratislava, 1947. 28p. Illus. [C60.K65 1947]

**Catalogs. Russia.**

- [*Katalog poshtovik marok SSSR 1918-1974*]. Moscow, 1976. 836p. Illus. [C65.K47]
- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Rusko 1857-1923. First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 12. Bratislava, 1948. 20p. Illus. [C65.K65 1948]

**Catalogs. Slovakia.**

- Katalóg Slovenských poštových známok a celín: 1939-1945, 1993-1997. Bratislava, Zväz Slovenských Filatelistov, 1997. 128p. Illus, color. [C700.K47 1997]
- Katalog známek, FDC, celin a známkových sešitků Slovenské republiky 1993-1995. Praha, Pro Členy Klubu Filatelie, 1995. 16p. Illus. [C700.K474]

**Catalogs. Yugoslavia.**

- Kolár, Hugo. Katalog známok Jugoslávija 1918-1947. First edition. Kolárovo katalogy známok, číslo 8. Bratislava, 1946. 24p. Illus. [C90.K65 1946]

Mark Wilson

## EDWARD C. LINHART

1913 - 2004



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our very long time Senior Member, Edward C. Linhart (member #167). Ed earned the designation of Senior Member as a result of being a member of the Society for more than 50 years -- he joined the Society in November 1945. He was born in Cicero, Illinois on November 3, 1913 in his family home.

Ed was a serious and astute collector of all aspects of Czechoslovak philately as well as of Israel and special aspects of US issues. His Israel collection began with the tabbed #1, and he had a superb display of the US Columbian World's Fair issues including Fair attendance tickets and numerous pictures. He did his exhibiting with the Chicagoland shows -- Chicagoland being a local chapter of the SCP.

Ed was a superb SOKOL. He was a member of that gymnastic organization for 70 years, which included his being elected as the National Director for 10 years, and District Director for 10 years. As well as being a great gymnast, Ed was also a teacher in gymnastics. I remember him as my teacher when I was 8 years old until we moved when I was 13 years old. He lived most of his life in Berwyn, Illinois, where his home base was SOKOL Tabor. Nevertheless, when it came to SOKOL gymnastics he competed all over the United States.

He died on Wednesday, December 29, 2004 in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. He is survived by his wife, Mae, and 2 grown sons, Ed Jr., and Richard. We extend our sincerest sympathies to the entire Linhart family.

Charley Chesloe

## 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.

WANT: Full sheets or accumulations of the 1919 Legionárské issues 15h, 25h, 50h. Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester VA 22603; scplibrary@knihtisk.org.

## Charley's Corner

Every once in a while, I receive Czechoslovakian stamps from dealers to expertize.

Recently I received an interesting cover with the 10 Kr Austrian issue with the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" overprint.

Upon careful examination I concluded that the overprint, the cancel, and the expert mark "Gilbert" were all forgeries. Enlarging the stamp itself, I noticed fibers on the stamp which were added to make it appear as the extremely rare 10 Kr value on granite paper! You can readily see the fibers on the enlarged copy of the stamp (Fig. 1). I reconfirmed this by rubbing the fibers along the right margin of the stamp, and some of the fibers came off.

Incidentally both the 4 Kr and the 10 Kr on granite paper are not known genuinely used.

Good hunting in 2005!

Charley Chesloe



Fig. 1

\* \* \* \* \*

## ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

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

- 1 -- Tom Cossaboom (member #936) of Prescott, AZ; president, long-time past Society secretary, European historian, studied at Charles University in Prague.
- 2 -- Henry Hahn (member #777) of Fairfax, VA; past-president, past-vice-president, past-editor, APS accredited Czech judge, APS representative, author, translator, fluent in Czech.
- 3 -- Savoy Horvath (member #1686) of Readstown, WI; book sales manager, author, fluent in Czech, translator, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1948, regular Czech Republic visitor.
- 4 -- Peter Kleskovic (member #840) of Succasunna, NJ; secretary, translator, fluent in Czech, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1948, masters degree from Seton Hall Univ., regular Czech Republic visitor.
- 5 -- Ludvik Svoboda (member #1203) of Aurora, CO; editor, past-president, past-treasurer, translator, knows Czech.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Of the above, Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Savoy Horvath, Peter Kleskovic, and Ludvik Svoboda are currently on the Board and are seeking re-election.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### *New Issues*

## CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

As is brought to our attention by Savoy Horvath in this issue's Philatelic News and Views column, the Czech Post has raised postal rates as of 1 February 2005. This will mean changes in the information that was provided in the last issue (pg 38) as to the 2005 Issue Plan for Czech Republic Stamps. Many of the stamp values will change, but also, you will note in today's New Issue listing that there are additional stamps that have been issued to handle the change in postal rates.



Fig. 1

1. On January 20, 2005, the Ministry of Communications issued a 6.50 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series (Fig. 1). This annual issue commemorates the significant authors of Czech postage stamps. In this case it is designer Jaroslav Šváb and engraver Jan Mráček. Their postage stamp, Karlštejn, in the face value of 60h was issued in 1960 in a series of definitive stamps entitled Chateaux and Castles, and constitutes the preponderance of this new issue. Jaroslav Šváb (1906-1999) studied at the School of Applied Arts in Prague with J. Benda and F. Kysela. In the years 1938-1949 he had his own private graphic school -- Officina Pragensis. He designed book covers, graphic arrangements and illustrations for Prague publishing companies. He used his distinctive

style above all in book graphics. He arranged entire editions, for which he received many awards. Jan Mráček (1909-1987) was a noted engraver of banknotes and postage stamps. This current stamp was designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, red, blue and golden in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides stamps in the sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels bearing the motif from the design of the stamp by J. Šváb to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNESCO (issued



FDC

Fig. 2



on April 24, 1966) completed by the text BRNO 2005 -- EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION in Czech and the logo of the exhibition. A FDC in grey-green has a cachet showing the engraver's transposition of the 30h stamp Pernštejn from the series Chateaux and Castles (Fig. 2).

.2. On January 20, 2005, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing a 31 Kč stamp entitled "The Fate of the Drawing 'Moonscape' by Petr Ginz" (Fig. 3). Petr Ginz (1928-1944) was born in Prague in a Jewish family. Even at the elementary school he showed multiple talents and wrote for the school magazine. On October 24, 1942 he was deported to the ghetto in Terezín, where he continued to write articles and to draw pictures which were preserved thanks to his friend who survived the suffering. The drawings of P. Ginz are deposited in the Yad Vashem Art Museum, Jerusalem. The stamp shows Ginz's famous drawing by pencil "Moon Landscape" -- a view of the Earth from the Moon. The tragic fate of Petr Ginz, who died in Auschwitz in autumn 1944 was echoed tragically at the accident of the shuttle Columbia STS 107. The Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon took the facsimile of the Ginz's drawing into space with him, trying to accomplish the dream of P. Ginz after 58 years. On February 1,



Fig. 3

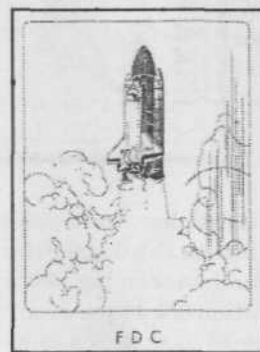


Fig. 4

2003, during the landing maneuver, a catastrophe ended the lives of all seven astronauts and the troubled fate of Ginz's drawing. Besides the drawing, the stamp bears also the portrait of P. Ginz. [Ed. Note: Additional information on the development of this issue can be found in the Philatelic News and Views column of this issue. Please also see the Jul/Aug 2004 issue, pg 17, and the Sept/Oct 2004 issue, pg 25, for more information.] The souvenir sheet with its stamp was designed by Pavel Hrach and engraved by Václav Fajt. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset. The sheet bears a graphic depiction of the shuttle Columbia in flight around the Earth. A FDC in grey-blue has a cachet showing a graphic illustration of the launch of the shuttle Columbia (Fig. 4).



Fig. 5

3. On January 20, 2005, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč definitive stamp in the Beauty of Flowers series entitled Lily (Fig. 5). The stamp bears the flower with a bud together with the Czech name for a lily. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black (recess print), combined with photogravure in yellow, pink and green in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

4. On January 26, 2005, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč definitive stamp with labels for additional printing entitled "A Gate with a Peacock" (Fig. 6). The stamp shows a decorated metal gate, on the top of which sits a peacock with a trumpeter that is riding its back. The stamp was designed by Karel Zeman and produced by Victoria Security Printing by multicolored offset. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The upper right label bears the ornamental detail of the stamp, and the other 11 labels will be provided with a fine motif relating also to the drawing of the stamp. Some of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printing in accordance with the wish of the customer.



Fig. 6

5. On February 9, 2005, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "The First Edition of 'Babička' [Granny] by Božena Němcová, 1855" (Fig. 7). B. Němcová (1820-1862)(Fig. 8), the daughter of an Austrian father and a Czech mother, was brought up in the feudal atmosphere of the ducal estate in north-east Bohemia on which her father was a coachman. A decisive influence on her education was that of



Fig. 8

her grandmother Magdalena Novotná. In Prague (1838-42), Němcová entered eagerly into the intellectual ferment of the time. Her marriage was not happy, ending in divorce. In the last 12 years of her life illness and penury combined with unhappy love affairs to disappoint all her hopes. It was at this time that she wrote her masterpiece *Babička*, an idyllic evocation of her youth on the ducal estate near Skalice. This work represents a landmark in the history of Czech prose literature; 312 Czech editions had appeared by 1962. It is not so much a novel as a series of sketches united by the figure of the kindly, simple but wise Czech peasant-



Fig. 7

woman in whose portrayal Němcová was paying tribute to her own grandmother. The character of *Babička* is a picture of a pure woman whose life experiences make her willingly advise and help others in their troubles. The first edition of *Babička* (1855) fell into a time of heavy political suppression. In *Babička* modern Czech prose style attained maturity, and it represented the language's evolution as a result of the process of national revival. In 1903 Němcová's absorbing narrative was accompanied with illustrations by the painter, graphic designer and illustrator Adolf Kašpar (1877-1934). At that time his illustrations of *Babička* meant a real turn in the development of book art. In his illustrations he was able -- with the art of composition and broad epic -- to clearly characterize and underline the main story line and give the reader a better access by way of a picture of the author's art of narration. The stamp bears Kašpar's drawing of the *babička* from the cover of the book. The stamp was designed by Otakar Karlas, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, brown-red, dark orange and green in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black has a cachet showing a Kašpar illustration of the *babička* with the children on the meadow under the Ratibořice castle (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

6. On February 9, 2005, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč definitive stamp entitled President of the Republic Václav Klaus (Fig. 10). The stamp bears a portrait of the president of the republic similar to the one of 6.50 Kč issued on November 5, 2003 but in different colors. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulhánek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in red-brown combined with photogravure in violet and red in printing sheets of 100 pieces.

### Stationery

7. On January 26, 2005, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 7.50 Kč postage stamp for current postal operations (Fig. 11). The image of the imprinted stamp shows Český Krumlov and is almost identical with the one on the postal card issued on October 22, 2003, for the event when the city was added to the UNESCO world cultural and natural heritage list, except that one was for 6.50 Kč and had the UNESCO logo. As with the previous card, this one was designed by Josef Saska and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 8.50 Kč.

8. On January 26, 2005, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 7.50 Kč stamp for commercial and promotional purposes with a free left portion for additional printing (without lines for the sender)(Fig. 12). The image of the stamp

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

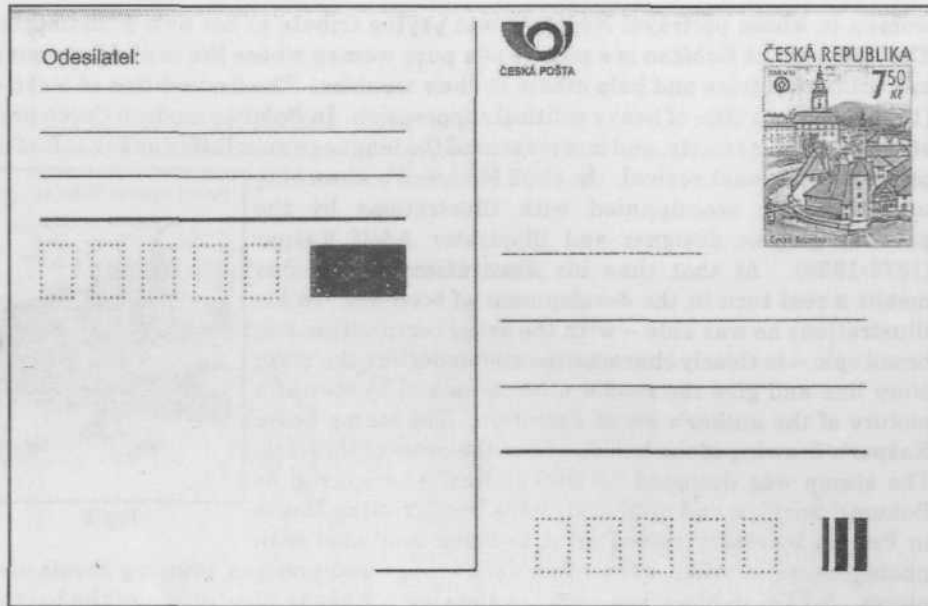


Fig. 11

additional printing (without lines for the sender)(Fig. 12). The image of the stamp is a graphical composition of the face value arranged by Jan Solpera. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 8.50 Kč.

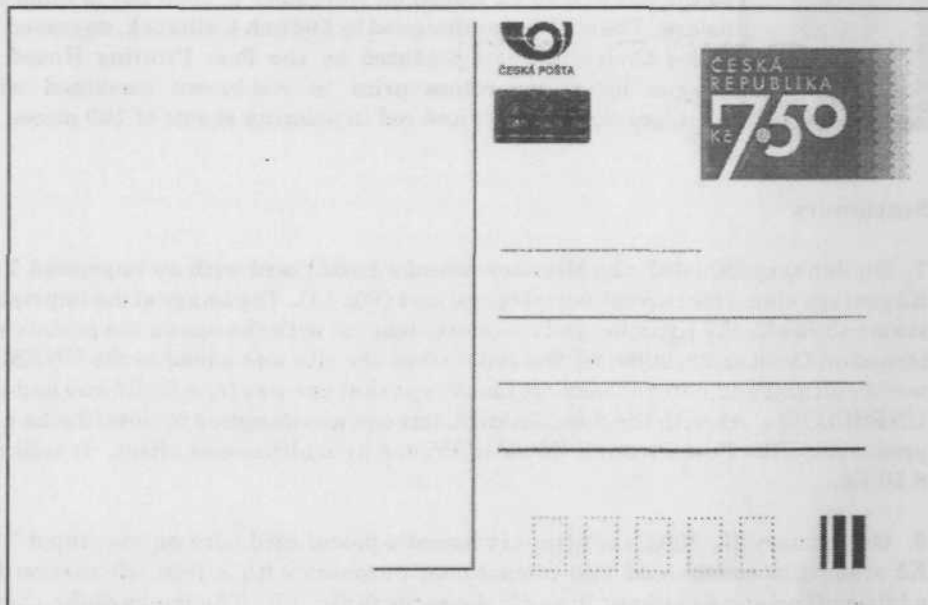


Fig. 12

**SLOVAKIA**  
by Gerald M. van Zanten

**2005 ISSUE PLAN  
FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 31	Valentines	1	9
Feb 14	Family	1	9
Feb 14	Banská Bystrica -- 750 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1	16
Mar 10	Easter -- Easter lamb	1	9
Mar 10	Zdenka Schelingová	1 s/s	34
Mar 31	Cycling	1	22
Apr 22	EUROPA -- Gastronomy	1	19
Apr 24	Peace of Bratislava	1	23
May 16	World Year of Physics	1	25
May 23	Survey from Fifika, children's stamp	1	9
May 23	Bratislava Biennale of Illustrators	1	30
Jun 30	Nature Conservation	2	29/31
Sep 14	Joint Issue	1	18
Sep 22	Technical Monuments	2	
	- Cierný Balogh		24
	- Vychylovka		33
Oct 20	Art on Stamps	2	
	- Rembrandt		28
	- Baron		35
Nov 16	Christmas -- Three Kings	1	9
Nov 25	Day of the Postage Stamp -- with coupon	1	15

9. On October 15, 2004, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 26 Sk stamp to commemorate the presence of Roman Legions in Trenčín over 1,800 years ago as evidenced by a Latin inscription on the rock below Trenčín castle (Fig. 13). The Latin wording of the Roman inscription states:

VICTORIAE  
AVGVSTORV(m)  
EXERCITVS QVI LAV  
GARICIONE SEDIT MIL(ites)  
... L(egionis) II DCCCLV

(Marcus Valerius) MAXIMIANVS LEG(atus)  
LEG(ionis) II AD(iutricis) CVR(avit) F(aciendum)

which translates as "To the victory of emperors and the army that resided in Laugaricio, numbering 855 soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> legion, dedicated by M.V. Maximianus, legate of the 2<sup>nd</sup> supporting legion". This remarkable Latin



Fig. 13

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inscription on the castle rock dated 179 A.D. is a unique monument of its kind on our territory. By this inscription the armies under the reign of Marcus Aurelius and his son Commodus immortalized their victory over the Germanic Quades in Laugaricio (the territory of Trenčín) during the Marcoman Wars. The settlement of Leukaristos also appeared on the World Map of the Greek geographer Ptolemaios in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. The first reliable mention of the inscription originates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century from the Hungarian historian M. Istvánffy. In 1852, it was rediscovered by L. Stárek, a priest from Trenčín. From the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present it has enjoyed the attention of many European scholars. Further verification of its authenticity and clarification of its contents was aided by the French archaeologists L. Leschi and H.G. Pflaum in the 1950's with their discovery of the tombstone of General M.V. Maximian in the ancient Roman town of Diana Veteranorum (today known as Zana in Algeria). [Ed. Note: For a much more detailed account discussing the inscription, the Roman Legions, Trenčín castle, and Czechoslovak philatelic items related to them look up G.M. van Zanten's 4-page article on this subject in the September 1983 issue of the SPECIALIST.] The stamp was designed by Marián Čapka and produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd., Great Britain, using multicolored offset. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 14

10. On October 20, 2004, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using 1-color recess printing from flat plates combined with multicolored offset.

-- 33 Sk: "Cock Fight" by Jakub Bogdan (1660-1724), circa 1706-1710, Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava (Fig. 14). J. Bogdan (1660 Prešov -- 1724 Finchley, London) was a Slovak baroque painter. Together with his parents he left Slovakia due to the Habsburg counter-

reformation. He received his artistic education in Holland. At the end of the 1680's he left for England, where he was invited along with other artists by William of Orange, the Vice-Regent of Holland, who became king of England (William III). Jakub Bogdan permanently settled in England. His very first pictures painted for the royal residence in Hampton Court earned him recognition. He later settled in Hitchin, near Cambridge, where he became a famous still-life painter. His works were commissioned by the royal family and members of the aristocracy. The works of Jakub Bogdan have been included in lexicons since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although Jakub Bogdan never returned to Slovakia, his work has become part of our cultural heritage. The painting *Cock Fight*, reproduced on this stamp, was purchased from a private owner for the Slovak National Gallery collection in 1949. J. Bogdan painted it for Admiral Churchill. It portrays a dynamic scene of cocks in a park with fountains, rich flora and birds, as observed in the natural environment. The painting is one of his masterpieces. The graphic layout of the stamp was by František Horniak. A FDC was issued.



-- 35 Sk: "Don Quixote" by Július Jakoby (1903-1985), 1963, oil, cardboard, Gallery of Eastern Slovakia, Košice (Fig. 15). J. Jakoby is one of the most important Slovak painters of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He is a significant and essentially lone figure of Slovak fine art. The artist's work grew in the avant-garde environment of 1920's Košice, and unquestionably contributed to the creation of the tradition of modern painting in Košice. The works of Július Jakoby are in the collections of the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava, National Galleries in Prague and Budapest, other Slovak galleries and museums, and in many private collections; but especially in the Gallery of Eastern Slovakia in Košice, which has presented the artist's work in a permanent exhibition since 1991. The Don Quixote work originated in the 60's when Jakoby was reaching his artistic maturity. It expressively demonstrates the characteristic values of the artist's paintings -- irony, exaggeration, explosive colors, and the sense of the grotesque. The graphic layout of the stamp was by Arnold Feke. A FDC with a cachet showing a motif based upon his "A Woman with a Yellow Dog" (1964) was issued.



Fig. 15

11. On November 5, 2004, the Ministry issued an 8 Sk commemorative stamp to celebrate Christmas (Fig. 16). Since 1999 Slovak Post has been organizing a "Christmas Letters" project comprising two parts: "Christmas Greetings" and "Letters to Santa Claus". Last year was the fifth anniversary of the project. Owing to its success with the general public, the project has now become an established Christmas tradition. In the past years the clients of Slovak Post had the opportunity to send "Christmas Greetings" marked with a special Christmas sticker and bearing a stamp from Rajecká Lesná made especially for this occasion to their dear ones. The "Letters to Santa Claus" is designed mostly for children. They can write a letter with their wishes or send a drawing to Santa Claus to the address: 999 99 Santa Claus. A reply is then received in the form of a letter from



Fig. 16

Santa Claus. During the five years the number of letters sent to Santa Claus, and consequently the number of replies sent, exceeded 500,000. Some of the letters were received from abroad: USA, Canada, Africa, and China. The most beautiful drawings from previous years were considered as designs for the Christmas 2004 postal stamp. The Execution Committee selected a drawing by Jarka Žigová and Veronika Rusnáková from a Special Primary School in Spišský Štiavnik. This drawing was used as the basic design for the Christmas 2004 stamp. The graphic layout of the stamp was by Pavol Choma, and it was produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd., Great Britain, using multicolored offset. A FDC with a cachet showing a drawing of Jarka Žigová's classmate, Ludovit Žiga was issued.

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12. On November 5, 2004, the Ministry issued a set of 6 miniature souvenir sheets each with a self-adhesive stamp in the form of a folding booklet (Fig. 17) to commemorate the Slovak athletes that won medals at the Athens Summer Olympics in 2004. Each of the stamps is a bordered rectangular portion that simply peels off of the larger photographic image because of zig-zag perforation in the white border area. The booklet unfolds lengthwise so that all six panels with their stamp are visible at once [because of this design, I have had to illustrate them stacked in Figure 17]. The six panels are lightly serrated at their joints so they can be torn apart easily. It is a very unusual and innovative display design. I have not shown

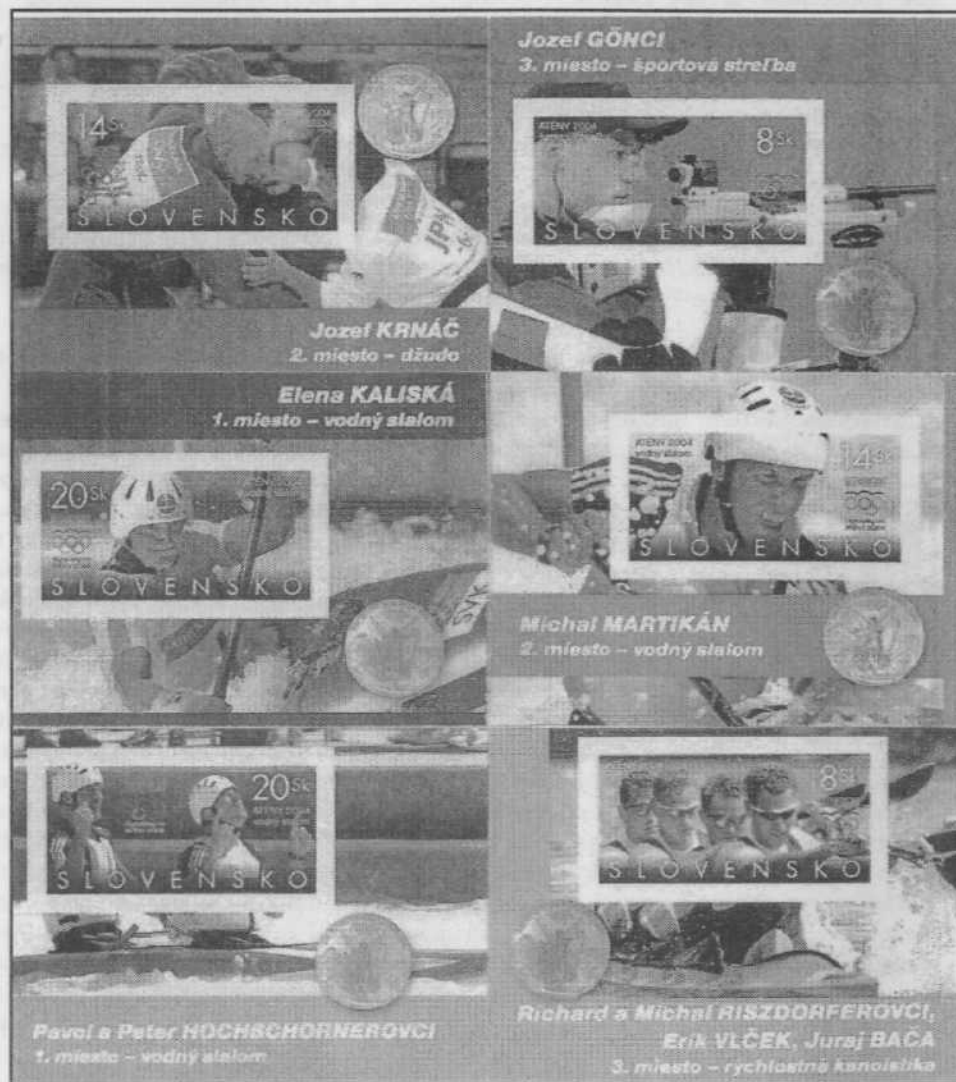


Fig. 17

the cover panel here, but it shows a view of the crowd holding up Slovak flags. The designers of this unusual arrangement were Radovan Stoklasa, Hans Klaus Techt, and Andrea Zereova of Agentura Enterprise. It was produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd., Great Britain.

- 8 Sk: Jozef Gönci - bronze medal in sports shooting.
- 8 Sk: Richard and Michal Riszdorfer, Erik Vlček, and Juraj Baca - bronze medal in speed canoeing.
- 14 Sk: Jozef Krnáč - silver medal in judo.
- 14 Sk: Michal Martikán - silver medal in slalom kayaking.
- 20 Sk: Elena Kaliská - gold medal in slalom kayaking.
- 20 Sk: Pavel and Peter Hochschorner - gold medal in slalom kayaking.

13. On December 18, 2004, the Ministry issued a 9 Sk commemorative stamp in the Day of the Postage Stamp series entitled "History of Post Transport" (Fig. 18). The transport of postal items has always represented the key activity of postal services world-wide. The importance of the prompt and reliable transport of messages was valued even by sovereigns in ancient times. For this service, they initially used foot messengers and horse riders. The Romans were the most advanced in the organization of the conveyance of messages and goods. The Roman state post "cursus publicus" used built paved roads and a dense network of post-stations and coach houses. Besides horse riders, the Roman post also utilized various types of carriages. The "rheda currens" carriages were used most frequently, as well as the carriages "carrus", "carruca", and "clabula". The Middle Ages were unable to follow the sophistication of the Roman postal system. The same was true for the means of transport. However, at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century a new type of carriage which was also used for the transport of mail, spread from Hungary. It was called "coach" after the village of Kocs in the Komárno district, where it was first manufactured. "Dilligences" introduced in the Austrian imperial lands in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (and thus also in our territory) due to the reforms adopted by Maria Theresa, significantly contributed to the improvement of postal transport. "Dilligences" usually constituted a carriage and four horses and were designed to transport passengers and heavier loads. Postal systems reacted readily to the technical progress heralded by the industrial revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the subsequent inventions and refinements in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ships, trains, cars and finally airplanes have gradually become key components in the development of postal services. The stamp depicts a postwoman and pictograms of various means of postal items transport. The graphic design of the stamp was by Igor Benca, and it was produced by WSP - CARTOR, France, using multicolored offset. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 20

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