



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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President's Corner

By the time you read these words, your Society's next big show will be approaching fast. The show is WASHINGTON 2006, 27 May - 3 June, (<http://www.washington-2006.org>). Once every 10 years an international FIP show is held in the United States. This is it.

Your Society will sponsor a number of events which should be of interest to all members and includes three lectures:

- A Board of Directors meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Saturday, 27 May. Members are entitled to attend, but will not be active participants unless invited to comment on an issue.

- Our general membership meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, 28 May. This is your chance to learn about the workings of the Society and to provide inputs to the board of directors.

- The first lecture will follow the general membership meeting on Sunday and is scheduled to begin at 4:00 pm. It will be a dual presentation by Dr. Lubomir Floch (President of the Union of Slovak Philatelists) and Mr. Miroslav Langhammer (member of the Executive Committee of the Union of Czech Philatelists). They will be discussing the 1993 division of the Czechoslovak Post into the Czech Post and the Slovak Post. This is a piece of modern philatelic history, which is little understood.

(Continued on Page 23)

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3. A Society library is housed with Mark Wilson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, or e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.org
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MAILINGS OF THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC POST (2)

by A. Šmíd, V. Schödelbauer

trans. by Henry Hahn

(Continued from previous issue)

Roughly a year after the reconstruction of the PtP (from 15.12.1932), the Czechoslovak post office introduced lower rates for more effective utilization of the PtP system (see Table 3). At the same time the requirements for PtP service were

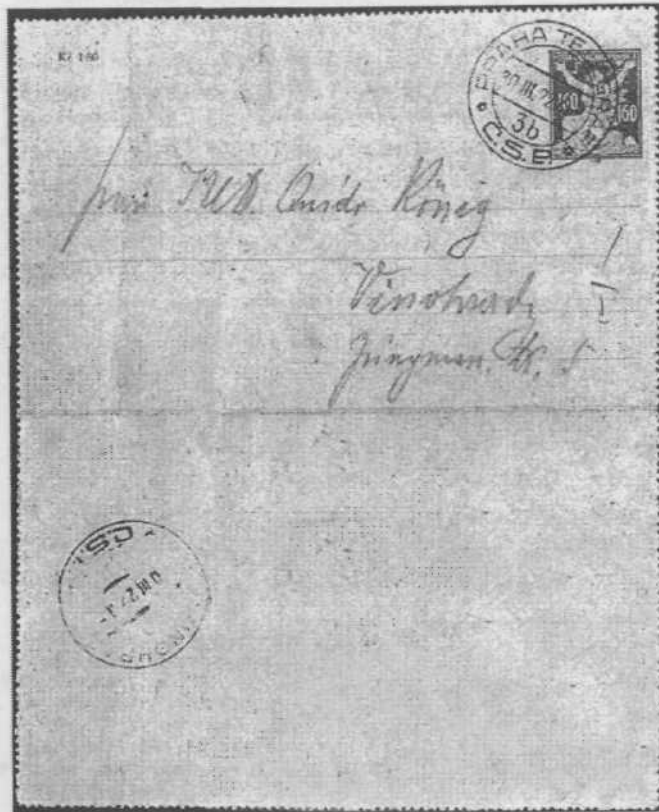


Figure 9: Prague PtP 160h lettercard sent on 20.3.1922 by pneumatic mail from Praha 1 (telegraph office, time 11 hours) to the Královské Vinohrady 1 (later Praha 31, 11 hours). Really delivered by pneumatic mail, such items appear very rarely.

also revised. In the first place a separate and uniform surcharge of 40h was established for sending an entire through the PtP. Thus from that time even printed matter (see Fig. 12), postal cards, and local letters could be mailed by pneumatic mail without special delivery surcharge. Along with the lowering of the PtP rates, even the character of this postal service changed.³

[In non-special delivery consignments sent by pneumatic mail after 15.12.1932 (surcharge only 40h), there was a basic change in the method of delivery in comparison with that used during the Austro-Hungarian period. These consignments were no longer delivered by special courier immediately after their arrival at the delivery post office (i.e., as special

delivery), but only as regular surface mail for the next delivery round (though the handling was more rapid within the post office and to the recipient, but not courier delivery to the addressee). When the consignment was placed in a pneumatic mail

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Figure 10: A special delivery postal card mailed on 2.5.1929 from Gánovce to Prague, and from the railroad station by Surface mail to the Praha 1 post office (time 10 hours). Here it was marked with a sequence numbering device (3179), the address corrected to Libeň, and then sent by surface mail to Prague 22 post office (Libeň, 14 hours). Since at that time the pneumatic mail system was under reconstruction, the card could not have been delivered by pneumatic mail.

Figure 11: Air mail letter sent 19.5.1940 from Mariánský Lázně to Prague, and then from the airport by surface mail to Prague 1 post office (cancel on the reverse, time 13 hours). From there it went by surface mail to Praha 31 post office (Vinohrady, 13 hours). In view of the fact that the PtP was at that time out of service (reconstruction), the consignment could not have been transported by pneumatic mail even though the time difference is in tolerance for transport by PtP. This is interesting proof that shows that even transport by the surface route between close post offices was very rapid.

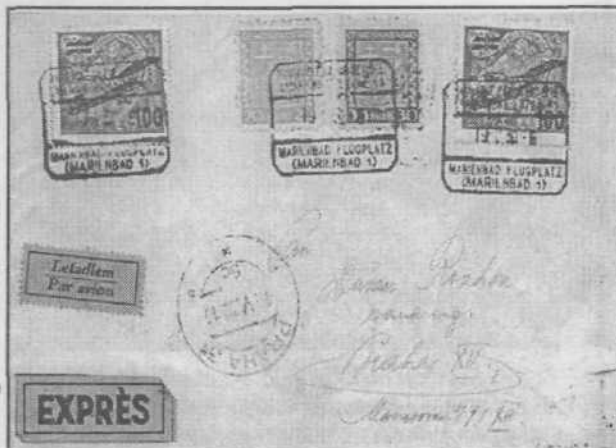


Figure 12: A partial printed matter consignment sent 14.6.1938 by pneumatic mail from Praha 9 (Malá Strana, time unspecified) through Praha 15 post office (main railway station, time 12 hours) to Králový Dvůr u Beroun. The franking of 70h (30h for the printed matter + 40h for the PtP surcharge) was met by a special occasion imprint of a machine cancel. There are three imprints from sequence numbering devices – the green number 8741 probably belongs to the central PtP at the Praha 1 post office, and the other two to the Praha 9 and Praha 15 post offices.

Figure 13: Special delivery postal card sent on 18.11.1934 from railroad mail #808 to Prague. Here, on 19.12.1934 it was first accepted at the Praha 7 post office (Masaryk Railway Station, time 15 hours) and from there was delivered by PtP to Praha 10 post office (Castle, 16 hours). On that day it was also registered as received by the Office of the President of the Republic (see the registry cancel). At Praha 7 a blue hand notation - P10 (Praha 10) - [was applied] directing the mailing to P10.

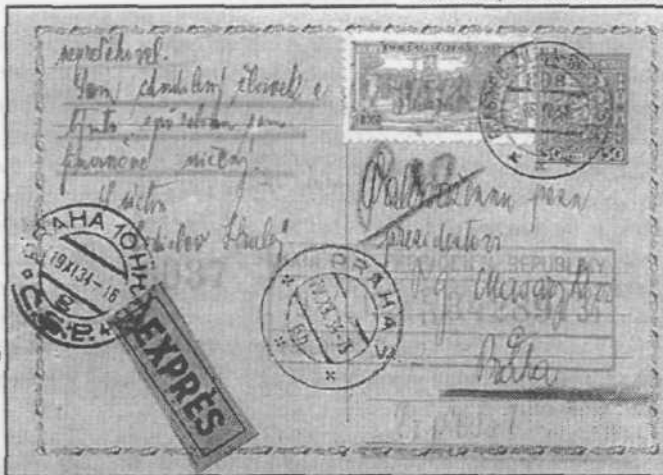
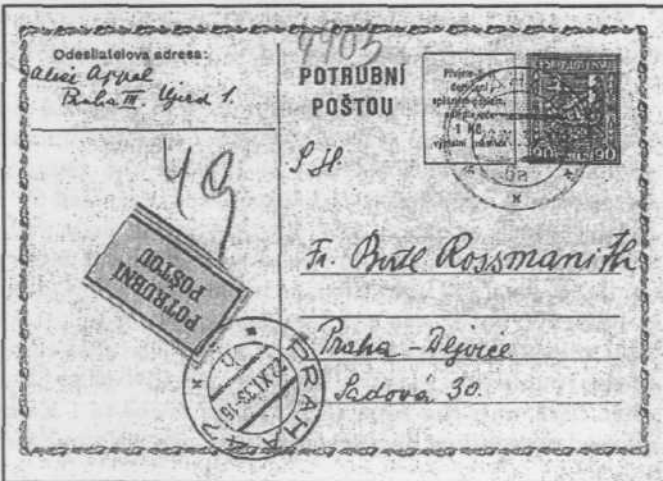


Figure 14: Air mail letter sent from Praha 11 (Hradčany) to the Hague (Netherlands). The letter was mailed from Praha 11 at 11:25 hours, as is evidenced by the hand notation (the time of mailing figure in the cancel was blocked at 14 hours) and sent by PtP to Praha 7 (Masaryk Railway Station, time 12 hours). From there it was already expedited at 13 hours to the airport (see the cancel on reverse). The greatest majority of Air Mail mailings were expedited through the Praha 7 post office.

Fig. 15: Pneumatic mail postal stationery (franking 50+40h) sent by PtP on 22.11.1933 from the Praha 55 post office (Smíchov, 13 hours) to the Praha 47 post office (Dejvice, 15 hours). Besides the label POTRUBNÍ POŠTOU, [there are] even two hand notations -- the first is the number 4903 (serial number rather than stamped sequence number), and the second is the number 49 marked by the sorting clerk at the Praha 47 arrival post office. We are apparently dealing with an internal division of consignments for the postmen, in this case into Dejvice (probably in the neighborhood of the feeder post office, Praha 49) where the addressee lived.



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letter box or at the post office counter before 12 noon, the post office guaranteed delivery to the addressee on the same day. But if the sender wanted to secure delivery most rapidly (i.e., by special courier), he had to add the regular special delivery surcharge (1 Kč in rate period V. and 2 Kč during rate period VI.). Hence, mailing a consignment by Ptp special delivery courier became more expensive. For rapid delivery within Prague (including PtP transport) it was thus logically sufficient to send it by special delivery. But the general Prague public often did not realize it nor was sufficiently informed of it, and in addition were confused by the design of the pneumatic mail postal stationery (Fig. 15) where next to the 90h imprinted stamp was an empty framed space for adding the special delivery franking of 1 Kč.] At the same time the rule that special delivery mailings would be automatically delivered by pneumatic mail was preserved (Fig. 13) -- to which were further added even air mail consignments (Fig. 14).

Table 3: Postal Rates of the PtP in the Years 1932-1945

From Date	Type of Transport	Postal Card	Ltr. Card or <20g Ltr.	Letter max 50g	PtP Surch.	Spec. Del. Surch.
15.12.1932	local	50h	60h	+30h	+40h	+1 Kč
(Vb. period)	other	50h	1 Kč	(za+20g)	+40h	+1 Kč
1.3.1937	local	50h	60h	60h	+40h	+2 Kč
(V. Period) *	other	50h	1 Kč	1 Kč	+40h	+2 Kč
1.6.1939 **	local	50h	60h	60h	-	+2 Kč
	other	50h	1 Kč	1 Kč	-	+2 Kč
1.6.1940 **	local	50h	80h	80h	-	+2 K
	other	60h	1.20 K	1.20 K	-	+2 K
1.10.1940 **	local	50h	80h	80h	-	+4 K
	other	60h	1.20 K	1.20 K	-	+4 K
1.11.1940	local	50h	80h	80h	+1 K	+4 K
	other	60h	1.20 K	1.20 K	+1 K	+4 K

*After the establishment of the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia on 15.3.1939, the Protectorate Post Office took over the pneumatic mail as well as the postal rates.

**From 1.6.1939 to 31.10.1940 the surcharge for pneumatic mail was discontinued, and the entire system was used only for internal purposes.

After the establishment of the Protectorate and up to 31.5.1939 the operation of the pneumatic mail system originally remained unchanged (surcharge of 40h per mailing). From 1.6.1939 to 31.10.1940 the pneumatic mail surcharge was discontinued, and the entire network was only used for internal services (Fig. 16). From a practical sense this meant that air mail and special delivery mailings without pneumatic mail surcharge were admittedly sent by pneumatic mail by similar means and quantities as in previous years (as can be determined by their postmarks), but it was not possible to send ordinary consignments by pneumatic mail unless you added the 40h surcharge. The availability of pneumatic mail to the general public was re-established on 1.11.1940 (Fig. 17) under similar conditions as after 1932, only the surcharge was increased to 1 K and a new postal regulation allowed the mailing by pneumatic mail of even standard registered letter

Fig. 16: Special delivery letter sent 1.10.1940 from Prague to Horní Bradlo. From Praha 47 post office (Dejvice, time 8 hours) it was delivered by pneumatic mail to the Praha 7 post office (Masaryk Railway Station, 9 hours) and from there expedited further. We are dealing here with a consignment from the period when the pneumatic mail system only served the internal needs of the post office. At the same time this consignment represents the first day of the increase in special delivery rates from 2 K to 4 K (1.20 K for the letter + 4 K special delivery surcharge = 5.20 K).



Fig. 19: Postcard sent by PtP on 23.5.1945 from the Praha 13 post office (Nové Město, 10 hours) to the Praha 8 post office (Malá Strana) – arrival postmark is unfortunately missing. Confirmation of postage payment (postage for pneumatic mail was 50h + 1 Kč) in cash was indicated on the consignment by a provisional postmark with rate indicated in handwriting. [Applied was a] two language label POTRUBNÍ POŠTOU with the German crossed out. From this period are known practically only philatelic consignments, and other documents are found only rarely.

Fig. 20: Official business postcard sent 15.4.1947 (pneumatic mail service available only for internal use) from Praha 30 post office (Ministry of Posts in Smíchov) to Praha 1. PtP consignments of this period usually lack the postmark of the dispatching post office, making identification difficult. Here the transport of the consignment by PtP is documented by the auxiliary rubber stamp POTRUBNÍ POŠTOU. Furthermore, this means of delivery of official business mail from the Ministry of Posts is logical and technically natural (the Ministry had a PtP mailing station in its building).





Fig. 17: Letter mailed at the Praha 1 post office (15 hours) sent by PtP 1.11.1940 (i.e., on the day of the reopening of the system to the public) to Praha 36 (Žižkov, 16 hours – cancel on reverse). On that same day also the surcharge for use of pneumatic mail was increased to 1 K.

Fig. 18: Up to 31.10.1940 registered letters could not be delivered by pneumatic mail. From 1.11.1940 the post office allowed standard registered mail to be sent by PtP if it were also sent special delivery, air mail, or surcharged for pneumatic mail delivery. [This figure is a] registered letter sent by pneumatic mail on 25.3.1941 (the postmark is erroneously dated 1940) from the Praha 35 post office (Vinohrady, time 9 hours) to the Praha 31 post office (Vinohrady, time 10 hours – cancel on the reverse). The postage of 4.80 K consists of 80h for local surface mail + 1 K for pneumatic mail delivery, and 3 K for registered delivery.



consignments sent at the same time by special delivery, air mail or with the PtP surcharge (Fig. 18).

After liberation the PtP operations and rates continued under practically the same conditions and rates as during the Protectorate, and it remained thus until 30.11.1945 (Fig. 19). From 12.1.1945, as part of new postal regulations, the PtP surcharge was finally abolished, and henceforth the PtP system served only internal postal transport needs (e.g. telegrams, special delivery) as well as selected clients (e.g. banks, publishing houses, etc.). It remained thus until the 90's of the previous century (Fig. 20 and 21). Definitive identification of such consignments remains in

fact difficult, because postmarks documenting PtP usage or other supporting evidence of such delivery are largely lacking.

At present the entire network and technical facilities are the property of ČESKÝ TELECOM, a.s., which is considering transfer of the entire system as an exhibit to the Technical Museum.

Use of identifying postmarks on pneumatic mail

In the previous chapter we bounded the scope of consignments which could have been (but need not have been) transported by pneumatic mail. In this chapter collectors should find the key through which they will be able to distinguish between the postal stations through which the mail was transported, and whether these were postal stations which were actually connected to the pneumatic post network. On the basis

of personal study I arrived at the conclusion that the single most common and definitely most important distinguishing evidence for all consignments that had demonstrably passed through the pneumatic mail was two Prague postmarks:

- the first of them presents evidence of entry of the consignment into the pneumatic post network.
- the second one confirms the exit of the consignment from the pneumatic post network.⁴



Figure 21: Air mail letter sent 29.9.1948 (i.e., at the time when pneumatic mail service was available only for internal use) from Praha 55 or 56 post office (Smíchov, time 17 hours) through Praha 022 post office (formerly Praha 7 – Masaryk Railway Station, time 18 hours) to Göteborg (Sweden). On the reverse is a note that reads "Arrived damaged by pneumatic mail", and the torn envelope was closed with postmark seals of the Praha 15 post office.

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[*The lone presence of two postmarks is not proof of delivery by pneumatic mail, though their absence indicates the likelihood of other than pneumatic mail delivery. It could happen that mailings were not postmarked at departure or receipt (due to mishandling by postal employees) and yet traveled by pneumatic mail. Since this fact can generally not be proved, it is advisable not to include such mail in collections (see later discussion).*]



Figure 22: Special delivery postal card posted on 9.6.1938 from post office Praha 7 (time 10 hours) by pneumatic mail to post office Praha 37 (time 11 hours). The CDV 50h card was upfranked with a 40h stamp (pneumatic mail surcharge) and 2 Kčs (special delivery surcharge). Corresponding postal labels are included. An optimal example of a pneumatic post consignment - correct postage, postmarks, and labels.

Fig. 23: Typical example of a consignment posted and registered within the scope of a single post office, Praha 14. The card was mailed on 23.3.1939 at Praha 14 as pneumatic mail (and correctly franked and evidenced), in reality however it was not transported by pneumatic mail, because the addressee also resided in district Prague VII, where there was only one delivery post office, and that was precisely Praha 14. And this is why here we also find just one postmark and from one post office.



As the next step it is therefore especially necessary to compare the postmarks on the consignment with a list of the post offices connected to the PtP network on the date of the consignment's transport. As long as the stations of the PtP and the postmarks of the post offices agree, the likelihood of the consignment being transported by pneumatic mail is high.

It is important in this regard to also be familiar with the various capabilities of the individual post offices. Some post offices were only dispatching facilities, i.e.,

they only accepted consignments, but lacked delivery means (they did not have their own couriers or letter carriers). In this case another post office (usually neighboring and larger) had these deliveries in its sphere of responsibility and was designated as the delivery facility -- it of course also received other consignments. At the same time this difference [of function] had a basic impact both on the size of the delivery area of an individual post office, and also on whether consignments were or were not delivered by the pneumatic mail service. It therefore made no sense to send via pneumatic mail a consignment which was posted at the selfsame post office which

was to deliver it to the addressee.

The only exception to these rules was the main post office and telegraph station Praha 1 in the year 1931. In the main post office building on Jindřišská Street the postal counters were connected directly to the central pneumatic mail station which was located on the third floor of the same building. However, this central pneumatic mail station was also connected to the central telegraph station (receiving and dispatching telegrams), which was located in

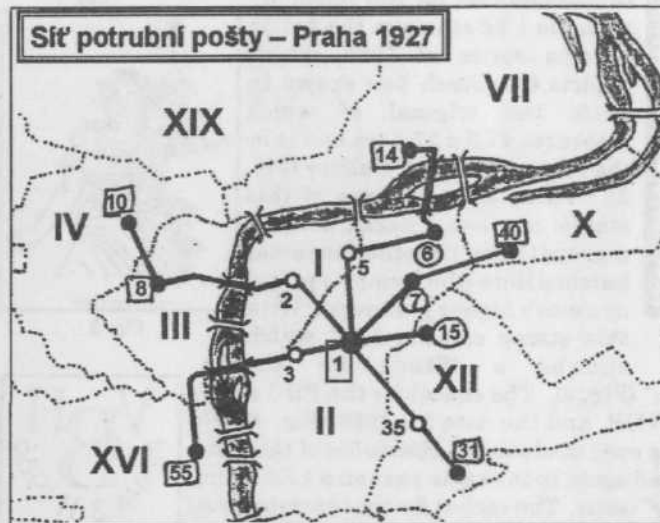


Diagram 1: Network of pneumatic mail lines in 1927 (Ref. 5). The delivery postal station numbers are boxed, while the three postal stations that dispatched consignments out of Prague are circled. From this diagram it is apparent that the majority of postal stations in the center fell within the delivery region of Praha 1.

the check agency and postal savings bank building on the corner of Wenceslas Square and Štěpánská Street. Also here there was a public counter designated for the submission of postal consignments and telegrams. Both buildings were at the same time reciprocally interconnected by the pneumatic network. However, these connections are not included among the standard PtP ones, since they merely served for internal postal purposes of the main post office (Praha 1). That is why I do not describe them here in more detail, though I would like to devote more space to them in a future chapter.

Up to 1926 the main post office, Praha 1, had an extraordinarily broad delivery area for special delivery consignments and PtP consignments sent special delivery, which they either directly delivered to the addressee or transported to other delivery post offices which were not connected to the pneumatic network. With the passage of time, the pneumatic tube network gradually expanded (see Diagram 1).

(To be continued)

THREE CZECH ARTISTS BORN IN 1886

by G. M. van Zanten

VRATISLAV HUGO BRUNNER 15 Oct 1886 - 13 July 1928

His postage stamp designs are well known since the 1920 issue of the "Chainbreaker", an allegory of the Czechoslovak Republic (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The centenary of his birth was commemorated on November 3rd with the 1 Kč stamp in the Art on Stamps series of 1986, which depicts the Czech lion drawn in 1918, the original of which measures 47.5 x 37.5 cm and is in the Prague National Gallery (Fig. 2). There are two types of this stamp, one has a background of diagonal lines, the other has cross hatched lines (the former is priced at a much higher premium). With this stamp came a FDC which showed a "Study for the



Fig. 3

Liberation of the Republic" (Fig. 3). The cancel for the FDC shows the initials of his name, VHB, and the date 3.9.1986 (Fig. 4). No mention of this stamp was ever made in the *Specialist* of the time.



Fig. 4

Brunner was honored again in the same year on a 1 Kč stamp (Fig. 5) as the "Stamp Day" issue. The cachet for that stamp shows another version of the Liberated Republic shown here enlarged at Figure 6.



Fig. 6

As a painter, caricaturist and graphic artist Brunner deserves much of the credit for the level of graphic design of Czech books, influencing this art for a quarter of a century. As many as 600 book titles bear his mark, mainly in graphic layout, illustrations, ornaments in the margins, letters, initials, book covers as well as title pages.



Fig. 5

He received the first prize and gold medal at the Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris in 1925. Regretfully he died at a very early age [42] on July 13, 1928.

JAROSLAV HOREJC 15 June 1886 - 3 Jan 1983

A leading industrial designer and sculptor, and member of the founding generation of modern Czech sculpture. He studied at the Prague School of Applied Arts, creating projects prefiguring Art Deco for the Young Decorative Artists Co-Operative known as ARTEL, a turning point in the evolution of Czech applied art.

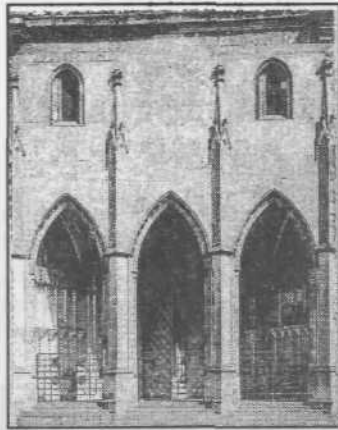


Fig. 7

In philately he is remembered only once, which is on the 3 Kčs Prague Castle stamp of 1986, which shows a detail of lattice work on the Golden Gate of St. Vitus Cathedral (Fig. 7). This work represents "Lovers", the work dating from 1955 and measuring 33 x 45cm (Fig. 8). When in Prague, I took a photo of one of the other works on the Golden Gate depicting a "Peasant Couple" (Fig. 9). All in all there are 12 of these lattice works representing the Twelve Months of the Year.



Fig. 8

Horejc enrolled in Prague's Arts and Crafts School after finishing an apprenticeship as an engraver and chiseller. His work consists of some 3000 objects, including sculptures, friezes, tombstones, cut crystal glass cups, jewelry, lattices, metal objects, ceramics, etc.



Fig. 9

His art was considerably influenced by Art Nouveau. At the international exhibition of decorative art in Paris in 1925 he won the Grand Prix. In 1937 he was awarded the Orange-Nassau order for the sculptures in the burial chapel of Jan Amos Komenský at Naarden in the Netherlands.

Works of Horejc are also to be found in art museums in New York and Stockholm. He was named Artist of Merit in Czechoslovakia. Between 1919 and 1948 he worked as a teacher. He died at the age of 97.



Fig. 10

RUDOLF KREMLIČKA June 1886 - 3 June 1932
His only philatelic claim to fame is the 2 Kčs Art on Stamps issue of 1982 depicting a "Woman Drying Herself" dated 1925 (Fig. 10). The original work measures 70 x 52.5cm and hangs in the National Gallery in Prague. The FDC is of "Washer Woman" whereas the cancel shows yet another woman, this time at rest (Fig. 11).

His subjects range from very intimate themes, such as female nudes, frequently personifying health, beauty, and love.

I'll close with a quote by Kremlička: "If people tried to be more truthful than modern, they would arrive at a modern expression sooner because a modern expression certainly lies in straight vision. We are all seeking not new truths, there are no new truths, but their new meanings because each period elucidates these truths in a different way; and that is the main reason why modern paintings have a different outward appearance . . ."



Fig. 11

JUBILEE AND CHARITY ISSUE OF 1919

by Zdeněk Moliš
trans. by Mark Wilson

(continued)

Types and Subtypes

The most interesting aspect of this issue -- the typographic part -- belongs to the types and subtypes of the 50h denomination. As was said earlier, the 15, 25, and 50h denominations were printed in the same manner -- all from two plates each⁸. In 1985, Dr. A. Šnoflák⁹ (more than 65 years after the release of these stamps) discovered in the 50h denomination the existence of two types and a later report¹⁰ discussed two subtypes.



Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Figure 8 shows the hair on the nape of the lion's neck drawn in the "normal" manner -- with a gap in the first curved line. This drawing invariably occurs on every stamp position for five of the plates -- the two plates of the 15h, the two plates of the 25h, and the first plate of the 50h. It is the exceptional rendition on the second of the 50h denomination plates, where it is found only in positions 84 and 86. This variant of the drawing is termed, logically enough, Type I.

Figure 9 introduces the drawing used on the second plate of the 50h denomination -- more precisely, on 96 of the stamp positions on that plate (Plate II --

⁸ Another author claims there were three plates for the 50h stamps -- F. J. Kovařík, "The legionnaire issue of 1919, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, March 1949 -- tr.

⁹ His "Dva typy. . .".

¹⁰ Z. Moliš. "Spojené typy a podtypy 50h Jubilejní 1919", *Filatelie* 22, 1987.

the control number under the 91st stamp has a decimal line of normal length after the numeral 5, and under the 100th stamp there are two breaks in the decimal line). On this plate, the curved shading line has been mended -- connected. The exceptions on this plate are positions 55, 57, 84, and 86, for which the first shading line remains broken. Stamps where this first line is unbroken are called Type II.

The question arises, how and why was this mending done? So far, no one can say why this mending was undertaken (and so inconsistently) such that only one of the six plates enjoys this representation. Here one might suggest a definite parallel with the corrections made to the spiral in the upper left corner of several of the Hradčany stamps, for they were also mended inconsistently. It is interesting that both of these issues were printed and corrected in roughly the same time frame. Was the inconsistent correction planned or only the result of negligence on the part of the print shop workmen?

And also, were such corrections generally done? Using the typographic technique, the imprint of the stamp came from the higher places (the un-etched areas) of the plate. This means that the corrections could only have been performed before the plate was etched.

After even a casual inspection of the corrections made to individual positions on Plate II, one realizes that they are not identical and that to be so different in each stamp position they must have been done individually. Corrections could only have been done at the print shop, and then on something that contained all 100 stamp positions on the sheet.

In this instance, the corrections might have been carried out using the auxiliary setup, or using the set's photographic negative, or finally, as a matter of fact, using the plate itself before it was etched. It is obvious that the easiest way to carry out these corrections would have been on the auxiliary setup and the most difficult upon the plate before it was etched.

The correction to the first curved line on the lion's shoulder was not done thoroughly. As a matter of fact, positions 84 and 86 were never touched, and positions 55 and 57 only partially done. Thus, we find two Type I stamps on Plate II and therefore are able to talk about joined types for the 50h denomination.

For positions 55 (Fig. 10) and 57 (Fig. 11) on Plate II, the corrections to the first curved line were not completely done -- they remain open. If the correction to the first curve for 96 positions on Plate II are definitely Type II 50h stamps, then positions 55 and 57 must definitely be subtypes of Type II. Position 55 would be Subtype II a and position 57 Subtype II b. Both subtypes have distinguishable differences in the gap in the first curved line (stamp 55 has less of a gap than does stamp 57) and the Subtype II b stamp has

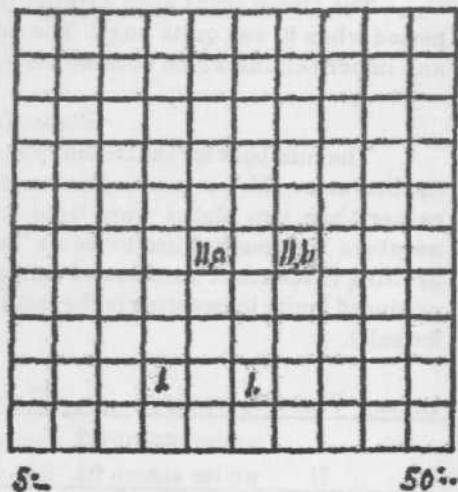


Fig. 12



Fig. 13

a distinctive plate flaw -- there are two blotches above the letters SKÁ in the word Československá. The descriptions of stamps 55 and 57 were verified on complete sheets of Plate II of the 50h.

Figure 12 shows the possible combinations of joined types from Plate II. Figure 13 shows the positioning of both Type I stamps on Plate II. We can thus claim that for the 50h denominations two types and two subtypes occur.

Plate I of the denomination consists entirely of Type I stamps, while Plate II has 96 Type II stamps, two Type I stamps (positions 84 and 86), one Subtype II a (position 55), and one Subtype II b (position 57). The first and second types are defined by differences in the first shading line on the lion's shoulder and the subtypes are stamps that have lines that are not quite mended.

Printing the Stamps

The Union print shop printed the stamps within a very brief time during a period when it was quite busy. The overload caused a number of production flaws and imperfections which became very interesting to collectors.

Plate Marks/Numbers

The numbers for individual plates of the photogravure issue are described in the literature. No particular plate mark is any scarcer than any other. Because four rather than two plates were used to produce the 75h denomination, the plate numbers 1 through 4 are twice as "scarce" as for the other denominations -- the printing of identical numbers of stamps means that only half as many sheets were produced (quite interesting is the fact that No. 1 is the rarest plate number to appear for sale).

Stamp	Plate	Location	Identification
15	I	under stamp 92	3..... Gap in middle of the decimal line
	II	under stamp 92	3..... -- Gap on the right end of the decimal line
25	I	under stamp 100	25..... is normal

		over stamp 3	nail mark above stamp 3
	II	under stamp 100	25.---- has "club" tip
		over stamp 3	no nail mark above stamp 3
50	I	under stamp 91	5.-- short decimal line
		under stamp 100	50.---- normal decimal line
	II	under stamp 91	5.---- normal decimal line
		under stamp 98	40.-- -- gap in the decimal line
		under stamp 100	50.-- -- -- two gaps in the decimal line
75	I	under stamp 91	No. 1 to the right of 7.50
	II	under stamp 91	No. 2 to the right of 7.50
	III	under stamp 91	No. 3 to the right of 7.50
	IV	under stamp 91	No. 4 to the right of 7.50
100	I	under stamp 91	No. 5 to the right of 10.---
	II	under stamp 91	No. 6 to the right of 10.---
120	I	under stamp 100	No. 7 after the last control number 120.---
	II	under stamp 100	No. 8 after the last control number 120.---

Colors

All of the old catalogs mention for each value several "colors" -- typically two or three, but sometimes more. Only for the 15, 25, and 100h denominations can one count distinctive color variations. Only those variations are now listed and priced in contemporary literature. In this context, I would like to warn collectors that the so-called "black-brown" 100h occurs in comb perforations substantially less frequently than it does in the 11 1/2 x 13 3/4 comb [sic line] perforation. Collectors are also interested in the "reversed colors" of the 100 and 120h values, which may be seen as color variations of these two values.

Paper

As with *Monografie II*, one may only describe traits in the papers: several denominations used paper that was slightly colored, it was pinkish colored for the lowest three denominations, and for the 120h it was clearly yellow; the 75 and 100h use white paper sometimes partially shaded with the stamp's color. Likewise, white paper was used for the 120h stamp, but only for imperforate stamps that were never officially issued. Perforated stamps for that denomination exist only on yellow paper.

For all denominations, the paper has normal thickness, from 0.05 mm to .008 mm. Only exceptionally does thin paper occur through which the print can be seen (under 0.05 mm) for the 15, 25, and 50h stamps (Fig. 14), and the 100h stamp may be exceptionally found on very thick paper (0.09-0.12 mm).

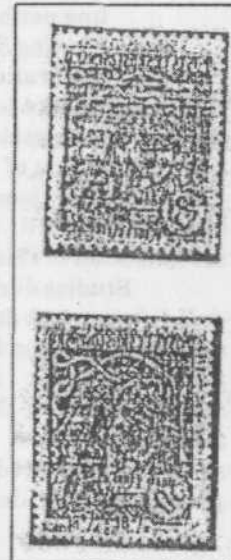


Fig. 14

Perforations¹¹

In my opinion, the problem of perforations is the most interesting open question -- perhaps never to be entirely answered -- pertaining to this issue and to Czechoslovakian stamps in general. There is no satisfactory accounting for the source of the many types of perforations on these stamps; practically from the date of their release, it has been a major problem addressed in a contradictory and disputable manner. And because our current catalogs place substantial prices on several perforation varieties, this question appropriately requires considerable attention.

Monografie II states that these stamps have one comb type, six line types and four mixed types of perforations, some indicated as common, some less common, some rare, and some very rare. The *Specialist's Handbook* mentions one line perforation less (line perforation 13 3/4), but additionally introduces line perforation 11 1/2 x 13 3/4 x 11 1/2 x 11 1/2. For this book, the scarcest stamps are those line perforated 10 1/2. And it is precisely around line perforation 10 1/2 that the most obscurity is found.

With respect to this problem, we investigated our older catalogs (foreign catalogs are not authoritative in this area) to see what they had to say about perforations:

- 1930 *Specializovaný Katalog Čs. Známek Spolku Obchodníků* does not mention line perforation 11 1/2 and 10 1/2.
- 1931 *Ordinary Katalog Čs. Známek Svazu Čs. Filatelistických Spolků* says there are only two basic perforations and expressed doubts about the descriptions of other "official" types of perforations.
- 1931 *Specializovaný Katalog Čs. Známek Spolku Obchodníků* does not mention line perforation 11 1/2 and 10 1/2.
- 1935 *Katalog Ekstein* mentions all perforations known today, including the line perforation 10 1/2.

Here I would like to warn of the fact that up to the middle of the 1930's line perforations of 11 1/2 and 10 1/2 were not mentioned -- that is an important detail for the further investigation of this problem.

Studies during that period as well as later work do not convincingly explain the reason for so many types of perforations for this issue. Sources, such as the *Monografie II*, typically say that the Union print shop was pressured into using every perforating machine at its disposal.



Plate I

¹¹ The discussion about perforations was quite difficult for me to translate; I believe I have understood the theme correctly, but may have muddled some of the details -- tr.

According to *Monografie I*, they had at that time two comb and four line perforating machines but used only one of the comb and three of the line machines -- thus, not all of them.

In this connection the most significant evidence related to this subject would be the "discovery" of a line 10 1/2 perforator at the Union print shop and evidence of its use.

Čs. *Známky*¹², in its list of official line perforations for the Hradčany, does not mention line perforation 10 1/2; it is on page 142 in fact where mention is made of private perforations of Hradčany stamps that line perforation 10 1/2 is also written about. More is said there: "Seeing that it is impossible to distinguish the line perforations done by Union Graphics from perforations applied elsewhere and at other times [emphasis mine], for stamps that were released imperforate we must regard as perforation forgeries all stamps with perforations not listed in this table". Regarding the Legionářské -- several pages later (page 156) -- the authors write: "Since every denomination of the Legionářské stamps was released only in perforated form, we must consider the imperforate stamps that were obtained by dealers as unissued stamps. Because these imperforate stamps were in fact relatively scarce, with this issue you do not find private nor fake perforations, and it is necessary to consider any variety of perforation as issued." [If only the authors were right!] They then mention the use of line perforations 10 1/2, 11 1/2, and 13 3/4, but only for these denominations:

10 1/2	-- 15, 25, 50, 75h
11 1/2	-- 15, 25h
13 3/4	-- 120h

In his *Thirty Years of Czechoslovakian Stamps*, E. Hirsch on the Legionářské only states "... there has come to light a line perforation device of measurement 10 1/2". In an article of the same name, the same author writes "It is perforating which shows considerable variety, but possesses also even a touch of deliberateness. In any event, it is possible to rightly classify the differing perforations of the Legionářské as a most genuine grouping, to which rigorous specialists will one day remorsefully return." In the same article

the author warns that it is very difficult to reliably determine the frequency with which the various perforating machines were used.

K. Rossy, in an essay about the problems with ministerial and private perforations, says (without mentioning his source) that the use of such perforations for ministerial needs only began in



Plate II

¹² E. Hirsch, J. Franěk. Čs. *Známky*. Praha, F. Borovy, 1935.



Plate I: Nail mark over the TA of the 3rd stamp. Plate II lacks this mark.

May 1919 and that line perforation 10 1/2 was also used for those purposes. Then again, there was no mention concerning Union Graphics acquiring such a perforation machine.¹³

Neither volumes of the *Monografie* satisfactorily solve the problem of perforations for this issue! *Monografie I* mentions information about Union Graphics' acquiring perforation machines and their uses, but makes no mention of a line 10 1/2 perforation machine. On page 164, it says:

"It is known that in the print shop were provided stamps with certain denominations, for private needs, that had dimensions the officially issued stamps did not have, and even that stamps with certain denominations were perforated even though they were only officially issued imperforate. For example, the then Minister of Posts had sheets of the 3h denomination perforated for his private New Year's greetings. Also, the Czech Philatelic Club, which complained that collectors did not have a chance to obtain these stamps with perforation variations since these stamps were neither officially announced nor allocated, reached an agreement whereby sheets of stamps were subsequently perforated for the club to present to its members. Perhaps during the



Plate I - Left



Plate I - Right

¹³ K. Rossy, "Problematika ministerského a soukromého zoubkování u emise Hradčany 1918-1920. Zpravodaj Komise Čs. známky, No. 34, 1988.

perforation of these sheets there was no oversight at all; in the postal administration's view it could not then be found at fault. At that time came into being the 25h denomination line perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$, which subsequently -- even though it was never officially issued -- was listed in catalogs until 1942."

And that is the first and last mention of line perforation $10\frac{1}{2}$ in *Monografie I*.

Monografie II only says that the most sought-after stamps are those with line perforations of $10\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$, and $13\frac{3}{4}$; and once again without any further explanation. J. Karásek¹⁴ says of the line perforation $10\frac{1}{2}$ in his work about perforations used on Czechoslovakian stamps:

"As is generally known from the literature, $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforation was used only for the

Legionářské 1919 stamps, and that on all six denominations. It is possible with them being single-dimensional perforated to regard them as rare; the 15 and 25h are not often found and the other four stamps of this issue occur thus only uniquely. From this it is obvious that only a small number of sheets were produced with this perforation. The $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforation was used a lot more in combination with other line perforations.

The $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforation machinery was also used with some denominations of the Hradčany issues, but only for the private purposes of large firms. In this case we are talking about officially unissued or privately done perforating."

Thus, even this up-to-date expert work gives no satisfactory answer to the problem of the source of the line $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforated stamps of this issue.

Consequently, the above are the known and available facts from our expert literature. This fact and my longtime interest in this issue permit me to state these conclusions:

1. During the period when these stamps emerged, the producers of them had very little interest as to what perforation they had -- see *Monografie I*, this is why it was said these stamps were perforated "elsewhere and at other times".



Plate II -- Left



Plate II -- Right

¹⁴ J. Karásek, Zoubkování Čs. Poštovních známek (1918-1939), Brno, 1984.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Plate III

2. The perforation machines of that period perforated 5 sheets simultaneously (some say 7); that is, for every line perforated 10 1/2 denomination, there were perforated at least 1000-1400 pieces (because of the two-plate matrix!); this data does not match-up to the then availability of stamps with "scarce" perforations among collectors. That is why their prices are so excessively high.

3. In general, covers franked with the regular issues having 10 1/2 line perforation never occur at all in collections and exhibitions of Czechoslovakian stamps; this leads to the conclusion that, during the period that they were valid, stamps with "scarce" perforations were not used in the posts.

4. In the early 1930's there was a real attempt for the [Legionnaires] Foundation to sell off the stock of these stamps. The affair was a failure, and that is why the remaining stamps were sold (well under face value) to dealers. Among these sold stamps were supposedly many sheets of imperforate stamps. How loaded down were the dealers with these stamps?

5. During the production of these stamps there were many imperfections -- very frequently they lacked perforations. This fact explains the present day high prices for these production flaws and the frequent occurrence of "partial forgery" perforations -- one/two sides of a stamp "perforation-completed" [or perforated-to-order].

The reader should arrive at his own conclusions about the perforations of this issue. It is possible in fact to venture a conjecture that the so-called scarce perforations originated either "unofficially" in 1919 or, as is more likely, even deliberately at the beginning of the 1930's. A known collector and expert on Czechoslovakian stamps, Z. Kvasnička, holds a similar view. The result of all of this, however, is that the current high valuation of the so-called scarce perforations does not have to correspond to reality. A drop in the catalog value of some of the stamps of this issue would not be agreeable to all "collectors", but it can only benefit the popularity of these stamps. *(To be continued)*

*** **

The Librarian's Desk

The nice thing about March and April, at least in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where I live, is that Spring is in the air everywhere and the dark, gloomy days of Winter are gone for another year. Like Spring flowers, new books keep appearing in the Society Library.

For those members interested in the postal history of specific places, Jiří Kratochvíl's study of Prague, *Z Historie Pražských Pošt*, the first volume in the series *Poštovny Historické Práce* will be of considerable interest. This paperback book is 105 pages long and was published in 1989.

Mr. Kratochvíl also authored another of the library's new books, *České, Moravské a Slezské Pošty 1938-1945*. Here he treats the highly specialized area of registered mail for the Protectorate. This 116 page book published in 1991 is well

illustrated with registered mail labels and contains a summary in German.

Slovakia collectors will be pleased to know that the Ervín Smažák's 2005 ERVO *Katalóg poštových známok, celín a filatelistických materiálov* covering the periods 1939-1945 and 1993-2005 had been added to the library. This richly illustrated 239 page color catalog was published in Bratislava in 2005 and brings collectors up to date in several fields of Slovak philately. [Ed. Note: See the book review of this publication elsewhere in this issue of the *SPECIALIST*.]

Your librarian must ask Society members for a bit of help. While I was away from the library during an illness this past summer, some of the library's records were inadvertently destroyed. I sent the library's only copy of the Carpatho-Ukraine catalog to a member just before I entered the hospital. When I returned to the library, all of the records for loans made during the early part of the summer had disappeared. If you borrowed any material at all from the library last summer, please search your shelves to make sure you do not have this or any other books borrowed from the library. I feel badly about this loss and would be greatly relieved to know where the unreturned books lent last summer are.

Mark Wilson
Society Librarian

* * * * *

The President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

- Immediately following the above lecture, Dr. Floch will continue on his own with another presentation, this time on Slovak Postal History. If you have an interest in Slovak philately, this is your chance to listen to, meet, and ask questions of an expert in this area.

- On Tuesday evening, 30 May, at 7:00 pm, the Society will host a dinner, open to all members and their guests, at Ristorante Luigino. The restaurant is located on New York Avenue near the intersection of 12th and H Streets. If you plan to attend, please contact Rich Palaschak (rschak@erols.com) as soon as possible, as we must provide the restaurant with a head count.

- The final lecture will take place on Friday, 2 June, at 12:00 pm. It will feature Phil Rhoads talking about and showing images from his exhibit on Lidice -- the history of the massacre and its philatelic footprints.

Any changes to this schedule will be posted on the Society's website (www.czechoslovakphilately.com) and will also be available at our booth.

Speaking of the booth, as part of the effort to provide information on Czechoslovak philately to all who are interested, the Society will once again have a booth throughout the times that the exhibition is open. At the booth, we will have publications on Czechoslovak philately for you to review and order. BUT, the Society could use your help in manning our booth. You DO NOT have to be an expert to help us in this way, just someone who is willing to listen and talk about Czechoslovak philately, and to be able to take names/addresses for expert responses later. If you have as little as an hour to spare and would like to help, please contact our secretary, Phil Rhoads (philip.rhoads@mnsu.edu).

I look forward to seeing many of you. If you attend the show, please definitely stop by the Society's booth, and also join us for our dinner.

Tom Cessaboom

Book Review

**ERVO 2005 Catalog
SLOVAKIA 1939/1945 -- 1993/2005**

I have stated in the last issue of the SPECIALIST about production problems with a new catalog of Slovakia being prepared by the Slovak Philatelic Union and *Zpravodaj*. They are still in limbo with producing a new catalog. But Ervín Smažák, ERVO publisher, and the Slovák Post have filled the void with their second joint edition of a superb catalog featuring Slovak postage stamps, stationery and everything philatelic the Slovák Post had ever issued in an all color 240 page catalog.

The catalog is divided into three parts, first of which is devoted to stamps and stationeries of the 1939-1945 period, second to the issues of independent Slovakia since 1993, and third to the thematic Olympic and Sport philatelic materials. The catalog has a seven page philatelic dictionary (Slovak - English - German), also a five page three language explanation of picture symbols and abbreviations, and the catalog's introduction is also trilingual. The numbering system is rather unique -- the first number is assigned to each item by the Slovák Post, which is followed by the Michel and then the Scott catalog numbers. We sell this catalog for \$25.00.

**ČESKÉ, MORAVSKÉ a SLEZSKÉ POŠTY 1938-1945
(Czech, Moravian and Silesian postal services during 1938-1945)**

A must for collectors of the Protektorat, 116 pages, basically the book is about Postal Labels (in this case Registration Labels), but this is actually a small part of the overall. It has detailed maps from 1938 and 1939, lists of all former Czechoslovak post offices in the Sudetenland and their new German names. Also an index of every post office in the Protektorat Čechy a Morava including German translations; an index of post offices lost to Poland near Těšín; description of German field post offices in the Protektorat B+M. This book is entirely in Czech and has a three page postscript in German.

**Z HISTORIE PRAŽSKÝCH POŠT
(From Prague's postal history)**

A 108 page, richly written historical study of Prague's postal service dating to October 15, 1526 -- just one year later Ferdinand I appointed Prague's first Postmaster. The book has excellent illustrations of most of the historical post office buildings, listings of all of Prague's post offices, and their changing numbering system from its start in the 1800's to today's modern coding.

Savoy Horvath

KLAUS – FOR THE THIRD TIME

by Karel Holoubek

trans. by Peter Kleskovic

As we read in the February issue of *Filatelie*, the Czech Republic is preparing to issue a regular postage stamp with the portrait of our current president professor Eng. Václav Klaus. The first issue with his portrait by a well-known artist, O. Kulhánek, came out in 2003 after a lengthy process involving the approval of the President's portrait. This first issue had the value of 6.40 Kč based upon the current tariffs valid from January 1, 2001. However, this rate was promptly changed to 6.50 Kč, and accordingly a second stamp was issued, in a different shade, with the 6.50 Kč value. At this time, in fact, the rate increased by a full 1 Kč to 7.50 Kč. With respect to the change in the postal rates, that occurred on February 1st of this year, and generated the requirement for a new issue. Maybe we should be talking about a world record, when a stamp with the portrait of a president is issued three times in the period of a few months (Fig. 1).

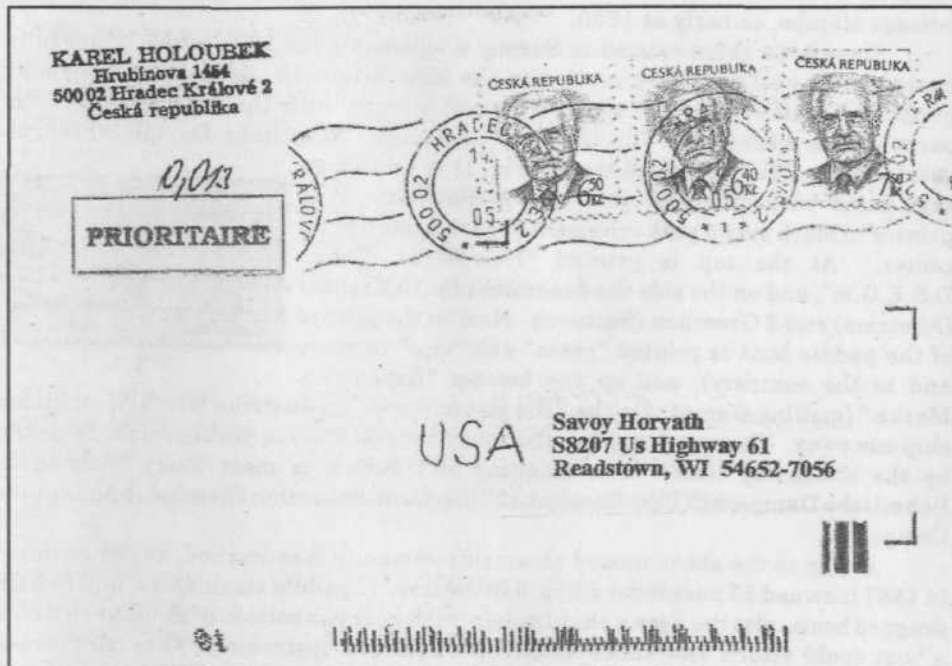


Figure 1: A postally used cover (postmarked 14.2.05) bearing all three of these stamps.

If you follow the production of definitive stamps in the world, you will realize that the practice differs in various countries. In some of them, the definitive stamps of the same design are published for years. For example, the Norwegian trumpets have been issued since 1871. Their design does not change, or just barely; the English queen, sitting or standing, looking left or right, but she is still the queen. Elsewhere the theme is thematically related -- distinguished women, historic things,

means of transportation. Also here, we had similar sets of intellectually connected issues -- historic building styles, zodiac symbols, cities. However, these sets were limited, even when they were duplicated several times, and they only covered the basic postal rates. And that is the truth about their limited service life. Here, our longest definitive stamp set was probably on Czechoslovak professions. In the world these are sets issued in the long term for several decades.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

SAXON-CZECH STEAM BOAT TRAFFIC

by Miroslav Vostatek

trans. by Henry Hahn

Saxony was part of the original German states and borders on the Czech Republic. Historically, it was a kingdom since 1806, and after 1871 it was part of Imperial Germany. Saxony was among the first of the German States to issue postage stamps, as early as 1850.

Since 1836 there existed in Saxony a steamship company which engaged in passenger as well as freight service on the Elbe River. In addition, this company performed mail service for which it issued stamps with the title "Sasko-Česká paroplavební společnost" -- in German "Sachsisch - Bohmische Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft". The illustrated stamp (Fig. 1) is printed on thin paper with gum and primitive perforation. It is printed in black over a pink ornamented background at its center. At the top is printed "Ne. Sachs. Bohm. D.S.E.G.m", and on the side the denomination 10 Kreuzer (Austrian) and 2 Groschen (Sachsen). Next to the picture of the paddle boat is printed "versa" and "vice" (reverse and to the contrary), and on the bottom "Exped. Ab. Marke." (mailing stamp). On the Elbe also operated an Austrian North-West steamship company. There appeared in Germany several private postage stamps issued by the steamship lines. The meaning of D.S.E.G. is most likely "Sachsisch-Bohmische Dampfschiff Elbe Gesellschaft" (Sachsen-Bohemian Steamship on Danube Company).



Fig. 1

As far as the above named steamship company is concerned, so, for example in 1887 it owned 25 passenger ships, 5 freighters, 12 paddle steamships, and 8 chain dragged boats. (At the time a chain was located near the bottom of the Elbe to which a boat could attach and under its own power move upstream.) They also owned barges and sail boats of which there were 500, for a total of 2.7 million metric tons. They transported 2 million passengers annually. It was certainly no minor operation. Mail service which was included in the operation was particularly useful to northern Bohemia.

It is possible that one of our readers may have more detailed information. I have obtained my information from the well known Mayer's Lexicon, published during the break of the 19th and 20th century. Thus, we have at least a little information on this elusive subject.

PEACE SQUARE (NÁMĚSTÍ MÍRU)

by Piero Santangelo
trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

[Comments by Irena Santangelo, wife of the author: I hope that you will like this article. Vinohrady is my home, and to this day my parents live just one tramway station from Náměstí Míru (Peace Square). I grew up in Vinohrady, went to several schools there, and in 1963 graduated from a high school (gymnazium) -- very famous in Prague -- at the corner of Peace Square and Korunní street. We went to the National Building for dancing classes, and in the Hlavovka coffeehouse my brother had his wedding reception. I am furnishing this in addition as I remember this place of my youth, and to this day -- whenever I am in Prague -- I walk daily across Peace Square. {Trans. Comments: Historically, Vinohrady was one of the best sections of Prague.}]

Peace Square -- originally Purkyně Square (Fig. 1) -- is one of the loveliest squares in Prague and is located in Vinohrady in the Prague II district.

Vinohrady, formerly called Královské Vinohrady (Royal Vineyards)(Fig. 2), was until the second half of the 19th century an extensive area with many agricultural farmsteads whose names persist to this day -- Smetanka, Zvonafka, Kravín and others. Their names remind us of the original character of this region, which since the time of Emperor Charles IV was covered with rows of grapevines, one of which still remains on the hillside of Grébovka park (Havlíček orchard)(Fig. 3).



Figure 1: Jan Evangelista Purkyně -- commemorative sheet

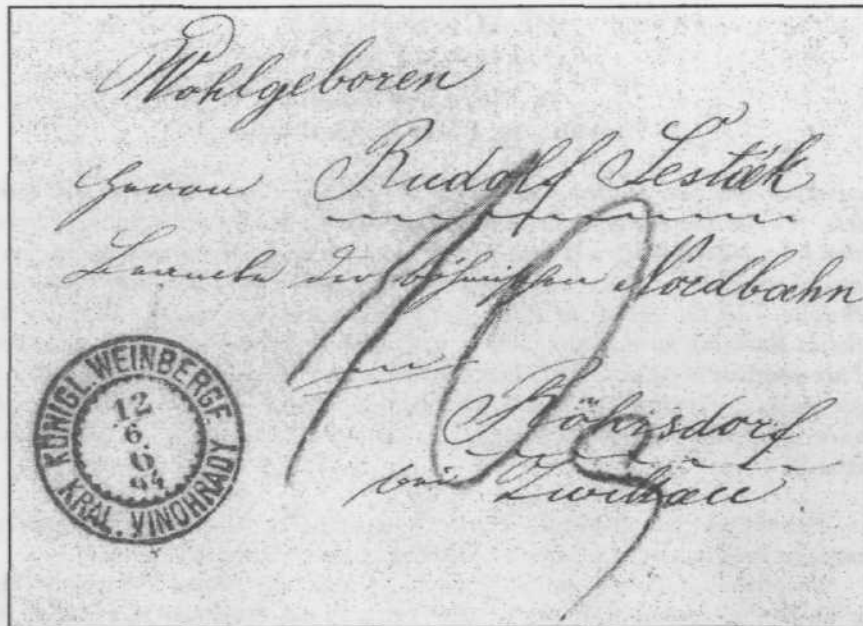


Figure 2: Letter with a dual-language cancel Král. Vinohrady.

The dominant feature of this large square is the Archdean's Cathedral of St. Ludmila. St. Ludmila -- together with St. Agnes (Sv. Anežka), St. Wenceslas (Sv. Václav), and St. Adalbert (Sv. Vojtech) -- are the patron saints of the Czech lands, and are also together on Myslbek's statue of St. Wenceslas in Wenceslas Square -- formerly called the Horse Market (Konský Trh). The Cathedral is a pseudo-Gothic basilica of brick with two towers and transept constructed in the North-German Gothic in the years 1888 - 1893 according to the design of architect J. Mocker. The main portal -- above the high staircase -- has in its tympanum a relief of Christ with St. Wenceslas and St. Ludmila which is by J.V. Myslbek.

As long as we are in the front of the main portal of St. Ludmila Cathedral, there is on the left side of the square the Vinohrady Theater (also at one time called the Army Theater [Armádní Divadlo]) -- an imposing Art Nouveau building constructed according to the design of architect A. Čenský between 1904-1907. On the columns of the facade are symbolic groupings by M. Havlíček from 1906.

The first director of the theater was F.A. Šubert. However, K.H. Hilar in the years 1914-1920 contributed to its prominence when he had the theater focus on drama. Then at this theater began to appear artists who became the top personalities of the Czech theater -- Anna Sedláčková, Jaroslav Vojta, Zdeněk Štěpánek, František Smolík and others.



Figure 3: Stamp with a motif about the work at a vineyard.



Figure 4: Portal of the house at the corner of Italian street where the Hlavovka coffeehouse was.

Again on the same side of the square, on the corner of English (Anglická) and Italian (Italská) streets, can be found one of the most ostentatious buildings in Vinohrady (Fig. 4) renowned for the fact that in the recent past the famous coffeehouse *Hlavovka* was there. It closed its doors in 1989, and now there is located here a branch bank. The closing of this coffeehouse was very negatively received by the Prague public. In the past among its visitors were for instance the painters Preisler, Uprka, Hynais, the politician Klofáč, literáti, and in the times before WW I even M.R. Štefánik [later the first Defense Minister of Czechoslovakia]. Among its many guests were also actors from the Vinohrady Theater.

The lower portion of the square also encompasses -- on the corner of Yugoslav (Jugoslávská) street -- a very well known building *Valdek*, formerly a coffeehouse and a movie theater of the same name; today it is the seat of a bank.

Behind the Cathedral of St. Ludmila, between Korunní (after a certain time W. Piecka) and Slezská streets, is located the National House (Národní Dum) at



Figure 5: Picture postcard showing part of Peace Square -- side view of the Cathedral of St. Ludmila, in the rear is the National House where the philatelic exhibition of 1938 was held, on the left is part of the Theater of Vinohrady.

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Vinohrady (after a certain time the Cultural House of Railroad Men [Kulturní Dům Železničářů]), a neo-renaissance building built between 1893-1894 by E. Terek. Right there, in the National House, was conducted -- in 1938 -- the International Stamp Exhibition, the first one of such great importance for Czechoslovakia (Fig. 5). Also in the National House in 1998 was conducted a Palmares at the end of the Exhibition PRAGA 98 -- the Exhibition itself was conducted in the Exhibition Palace in Prague 7 -- Holešovice. The place for the Palmares was selected intentionally as a reminder of the 1938 Exhibition.

Peace Square was always an oasis of calm in the busy Prague traffic; to this day the rows of benches invite passers-by to rest for a while. Eyewitnesses will not forget the unique rose-violet color of the roses which bordered the entire square. Today the roses have been replaced with other flowers, and the square also has many lilac bushes and Japanese sakuras which in the Spring change the surface of the Square into a blooming garden.

Now there is a station of the Metro Train A under the Square -- escalators transport passengers downward for more than 90 meters under the ground to a station in blue -- the color of peace.

Sources:

Emanuel Poche -- *Prahou krok za krokem* (Prague step by step), publisher *Panorama* 1985

Noviny Prahy 2 (Newspapers of Prague 2) -- May 2005

The WEB Pages of Prague Districts

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- | | |
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✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

Philatelic News and Views

From Hans van Dooremalen:

-- To all who have known him: Today I received the news of the death of my very dear friend: **Doc. Ing Vladimír Ustohal, CSc.** He died after a long and severe illness on December 27th, 2005. Although not a very avid philatelist, he

was very important to Czechoslovak Philately. He very often worked in the background and did a lot of editorial work for "MERKUR REVUE". The last part of his life (and even during his illness) he wrote and published several books dealing with the history of Brno and surroundings during WW 2 and the history of the Czechoslovak colony in Tahiti.

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Letters to the Editor

1. Hi Lou:

... Looked at the latest magazine [Jan/Feb SPECIALIST] this morning -- well done, another excellent edition. Page 39 letter from David Schwartz -- I attach a



Fig. 1
31

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

scan from the late Bill Dawson's collection of this "advertising" stamp on piece. You'll see it was used through the post as a label and this one was from Prague 14 [postmarked 1.IV.31].

Bob Hill

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

2006 ISSUE PLAN
FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production -- J. Lukavsky	1	7.50
Feb 8	XX Winter Olympic Games, Torino 2006	1	9
Feb 8	Winter Paralympic Games, Torino 2006	1	7.50
Feb 8	Art in the Times of Charles IV: Madonna of Zbraslav	1	25
Feb 22	Personalities	3	
	-- František Josef Gerstner (1756-1832)		9
	-- Jaroslav Ježek (1906-1942)		12
	-- Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)		19
Mar 22	Easter	1	7.50
Mar 22	Beauties of Our Country -- UNESCO	2	
	-- Monastery in Osek		12
	-- Lids on Kokořín		15
Apr 26	Congratulatory stamp: May -- love time	1	7.50
May 3	EUROPA: Integration -- hipotherapy and canistherapy	2	9,17
May 31	For Children -- Rumcajs, Manka and Cipísek	1	7.50
June 14	Hereditary Kings of the Přemyslid Dynasty	5 s/s	
	-- Přemysl Otakar I (1198-1230)		12
	-- Václav I (1230-1253)		14
	-- Přemysl Otakar II (1253-1278)		15
	-- Václav II (1283-1305)		22
	-- Václav III (1305-1306)		28
June 14	National Park Czech Switzerland: Kamenice gorges	1	19
June 14	Arts and Crafts: Czech precious stones, jewellery making, and essaying		2 15,18
Sep 13	Cultivation: cactuses	4	7.50(x2) 9,9
Sep 27	Ecology -- Victory emblem from competition	1	7.50
Oct 11	Folk Architecture: wooden chapel	2	7.50,19

Nov 8	Works of Art on Stamps	3	
	- Jan Davidsz de Heem (1606-1684)		22
	- Jaroslav Čermák (1830-1878)		25
	- František Kaván (1866-1941)		28
Nov 8	Christmas	1	7.50

1. On January 20, 2006, the Ministry of Communications issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series (Fig. 1). Shown on this stamp is a copy of the original 30h stamp from the series of airmail stamps The World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1968, designed by Jaroslav Lukavský and engraved by Ladislav Jirka which was previously issued in 1967 to promote the exhibition. The stamp bears an aerial view of Prague Castle from Matthias' Gate.

-- The graphic designer J. Lukavský (1924-1984) studied with Prof. V. Pukl and V. Silovský at the Prague Academy. His main focus was on wood engraving, but he also made small pieces of graphic, ex libris, book illustrations and bibliophile editions for various publishing houses. He made his entry into Czechoslovak stamp production in 1960. His clear-cut graphic works found a marked application there. He showed his graphic and conceptual discipline in a number of themes, among others also in motifs of Prague and space research.

-- The graphic designer and engraver L. Jirka (1914-1986) was trained in the workshop of F. Malínský in Plzeň. For 35 years he worked as figural engraver for the then National Czechoslovak Bank. He continued his studies in the school of the academic painter J. Šilhavý, in the Mánes Association, with Prof. Sychra, Tittelbach, Holý and Janoušek. In addition to banknotes he is the author of about 500 engravings of postage stamps, books of stamps, coupons and FDCs including those for foreign postal administrations.



Fig. 2

The present 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 light green, red and blue in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels bearing the motif from the 2.40 Kčs stamp Charles Bridge from the issue Promotion of the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1978 issued in 1976 and designed by J. Lukavský, also in the series of airmail stamps. The label is completed by the facsimile of the signature of J. Lukavský. A FDC in dark brown shows the motif of the Prague panorama from the airmail



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

stamp (value 5 Kčs) from the series World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1968 issued in 1967 (Fig. 2).

2. On February 1, 2006, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč definitive stamp with labels for additional printing (Fig. 3) that is called Congratulation Bunch. The stamp bears a drawing of a bunch of flowers. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The right upper label bears the detail of the bloom with a butterfly, the other 11 labels



Fig. 3

show fine flower motifs. A part of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The designers of the stamps and of the arranged printing sheet are Libuše and Jaromír Knotek. The stamp with the label of the same size is produced by Victoria Security Printing, a.s. by multicolored offset.



Fig. 4

3. On February 1, 2006, the Ministry issued an 11 Kč definitive stamp, Hibiscus, from the series of definitive stamps, The Beauty of Flowers (Fig. 4). The stamp bears the hibiscus flower with a bud together with the Czech name of the hibiscus. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black (recess print), combined with photogravure in red, green and yellow in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

4. On February 8, 2006, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč stamp to commemorate the XXth Winter Olympic Games, Torino 2006 (Fig. 5). The winter Olympic Games are coming back to Italy after fifty years (Cortina d'Ampezzo, 1956). The competitions will be held 10 - 26 February, 2006 in Turin, and some other surrounding centers offering the best conditions for winter sports and boasting of their unique mountain panorama. Competitions in ski running were held in Norway as early as in the 17th century. From there the sport started to spread also to the neighboring countries. It was officially recognized in the late 19th century. In 1924 it appeared for the first time at the Olympic Games. A distinction is made between the classic style when the skiers follow a prearranged track and the free style, or skating, using different ways of pushing. The



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

stamp depicts a file of female racers skiing in free style. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in light blue, orange, red and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows two female racers (Fig. 6).

5. On February 8, 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč stamp to commemorate the Winter Paralympic Games, Torino 2006 (Fig. 7). In terms of demanding preparation and top performances of the competitors the Paralympic Games equal

to the Olympic ones. The difference is in the large number of different health categories for individual competition disciplines. The Paralympic Games are therefore more demanding in terms of time coordination. The Winter Paralympic Games in Turin will be held on 10 - 19 March 2006. The competitors will compete in Alpine and classic skiing, biathlon, curling and sledge hockey. The latter was created in the early 60's in a Swedish rehabilitation center in Stockholm when several former ice-hockey



Fig. 7

players wished to continue playing despite their physical handicap. Instead of skids the special sledge has blades and the players use two sticks for pushing off; one end of the stick is pointed, the other one is a blade. In the Czech Republic sledge hockey was played for the first time in 2000 in Zlín, and it has attracted a growing interest also among players without handicap. In

1994 it became one of the Paralympic games. The stamp depicts two ice-hockey players. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black with photogravure in green, red, blue and dark blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows a drawing of some players with the referee (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8

6. On February 8, 2006, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp entitled Art in the Times of Charles IV: Madonna of Zbraslav (Fig. 9). During the reign of the Holy Roman Emperor (1355-1378) and King of Bohemia

(1346-1378) Charles IV of the House of Luxemburg, Prague became a town of imposing architecture and a center of art, commerce and culture. The Madonna of Zbraslav is the most precious and most representatively preserved painting with a half-length figure of the Madonna. The plate is made of lime wood. The



Figure 9: Sc. ?/POFIS ?
Feb. 8, 2006
25 Kč

painter used a most laborious technique to create the painting -- he used the most expensive pigment, powdered semiprecious azure stone, for the blue cloak of the Madonna, and applied gold luxuriously.



Figure 13: Sc. 1913/POFIS 2059
Nov. 27, 1973
3.60 Kčs



Figure 11: Bohemian Master around 1350
MADONNA WITH CHILD, called
Zbraslavská
Beechwood covered with canvas
89 x 59.5cm



Figure 12: Bohemian Master around 1350
MADONNA WITH CHILD, called
Vevřejská
Tempera, pine wood
covered with canvas
79.5 x 62.5cm

The background and the frame have a rich gilding, etching and stippling, gold

is also used for decoration of the Madonna's garment and baby Jesus' shirt. The numerous pearls and gems were set in the painting no earlier than in 1661. The stamp was designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with colored offset in printing sheets of 4 pieces. In the middle of the printing sheet is the Czech text saying Art in the Time of Charles IV accompanied by a fine graphic motif from the stamp. A FDC in black contains a drawing of a gothic window of a temple (Fig. 10). [It is of interest that there are two almost identical pieces of art from the same period, both of which have now appeared on Czechoslovak/Czech stamps (Fig. 9, Fig. 13). The following quote comes from NÁRODNÍ GALERIE PRAHA BOOKLET, "ČESKÉ UMĚNÍ GOTICKÉ" (Czech gothic art):

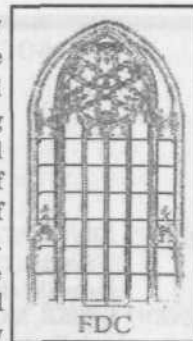


Fig. 10

"The two images of the Virgin Mary follow. Their approximity of style to that of the Master of the Vyšší Brod altar is so close that they lead one to consider his direct authorship. They are the Madonna and Child in the parish church of St. James in Zbrazlav [Fig. 11], and the so-called Veveršská Madonna from the chapel of the Moravian castle Veverří [Fig. 12]. Both of them originate from around the middle of the 14th Century."

Stationery

7. On February 1, 2006, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč postal card with imprinted postage stamp for commercial and promotional purposes with a free left portion for additional printing (without lines for the sender)(Fig. 14). The imprinted postage stamp is created as a typographical arrangement of the face value. The postal card was designed by Jan Solpera,

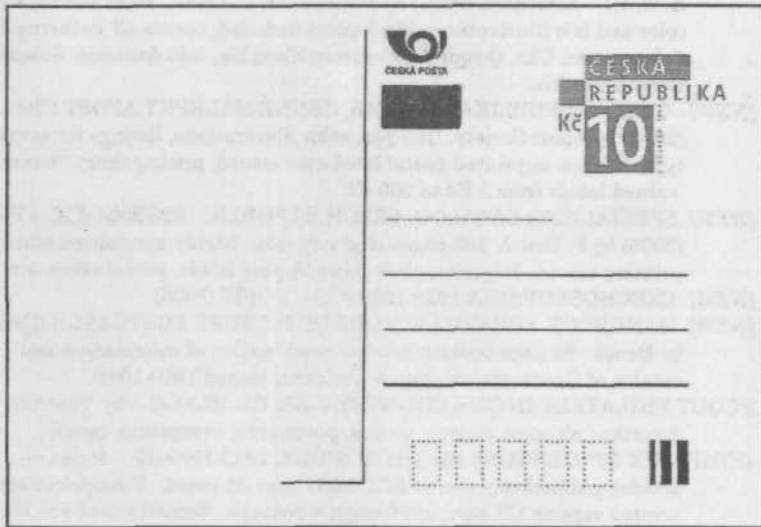


Fig. 14

produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. The selling price of the postcard is 11 Kč.

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