



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## *The View from Here*

### ON THE NEW POSTAGE RATES

by Editor Jim Graue

If anyone is thinking that the latest postage increase is 2¢, think again. That 2¢ is nothing less than a smoke screen for what are surely the largest rate increases in U.S. postal history. It may not cost more than that to send the check paying your electric bill, but look out if you are mailing anything else.

What used to be a simple rate scheme is now very complex . . . and expensive. Large envelope? Package? Book? Stand by for bad news. The cost for mailing a small book went from \$1.76 to \$4.50 (\$4.65 if one wants "priority"). Sending that book to Europe? \$10.40 please.

The mailings of this *German Postal Specialist* to Europe, yesterday about \$12 to \$14 per year, now \$30.60, so considerably more than a 100 percent increase; higher yet if it's headed to Australia. This has caused us to increase our dues for foreign members to \$65 just to stay even. There is no way we can subsidize it, so we have no real choice but to pass the increase on to our members. What will this cost us in lost memberships? That is yet to be seen but it won't be zero. The timing is against us because dues were just increased \$5 to help cover increased costs for going to full color with the *Specialist*. That change is still on line for September.

*(Continued on Page 20)*

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## THE EXTENDED ARCH TYPES ON THE FIFTH DESIGN 25h HRADČANY (3)

by Ladislav Olšina  
trans. by Mark Wilson

*(Continued from the previous issue)*

### New Information

In the course of preparing this booklet I received a lot of supplementary information about occurrences of the arch types. The first was from Pavel Martinov, who alerted me to position 44 from Plate II; it contains a solitary arch subtype IIa without any of the bar types. Karel Paděra, after studying additional stamps from this plate, was able to state that it also has the appropriate specifics for the recognition of arch types and its information was thus included in Table I. It is certainly encouraging that these collectors -- on the basis of the past publications -- have begun to take interest in this new area of specialization and could thus come up with the identification of a sheet position where another arch type occurs, which was overlooked during the previous studies (Fig. 20). To supplement that information, I also introduce the printers waste specimen for the same position (Fig. 20a).

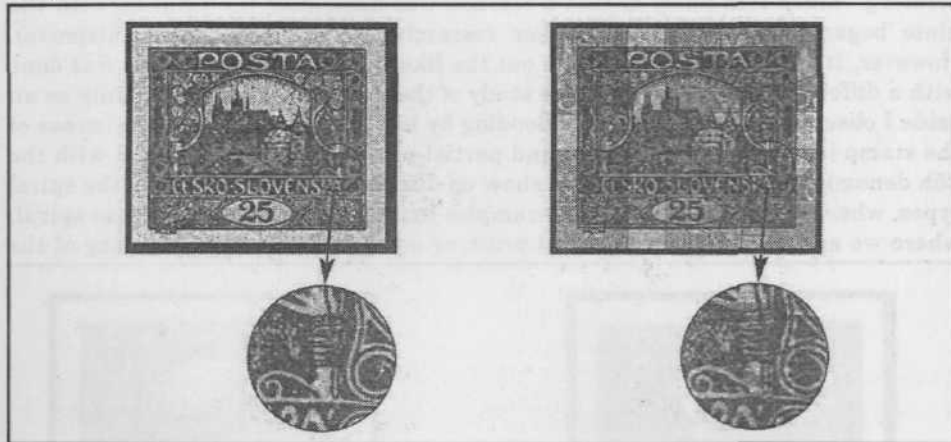


Fig. 20

Fig. 20a

Another position mentioned in Table I is position 6 on Plate II, to which I was alerted by the expert J. Maleček. In the initial study I very much believed that there was not quite enough convincing evidence for this position. However, after repeated examinations and scrutinizing other stamps I came to the conclusion that it did belong to the arch types, and this even though on some of the stamps you cannot see an appropriate white line. However, because it was confirmed that the bottom part of the arch touched the lower inner frame on more than half of the stamps examined from this plate (Fig. 21), it would not have been logical to omit this stamp position. In addition, this fact is backed up with some printers' waste where the design details of position 6 from Plate II are quite distinct (Fig. 21a).

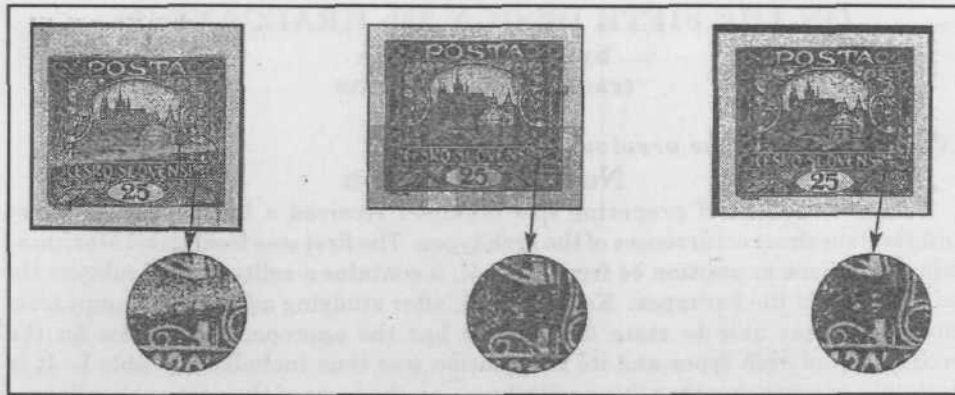


Fig. 21

Fig. 21a

Fig. 22

For those stamps from position 6 on Plate II where the arch is altogether invisible, or is only partly there (Fig. 22), we can conclude that the cause is either the clogging of the printing plate by ink or some other defect that occurred during printing. Much less likely is that a retouch was done after the printing with the plate began (something that further research may substantiate or disprove). However, it is quite possible to rule out the likelihood that the printing was done with a different plate. Further close study of these details is required. Only as an aside I observe that the accidental flooding by ink of originally unprinted areas of the stamp image, or on the other hand partial-prints, happen quite often with the 25h denomination, and for example show up during the identification of the spiral types, where we can meet up with examples having a clearly printed open spiral, where we are dealing with a partial-print, or on the other hand a flooding of the

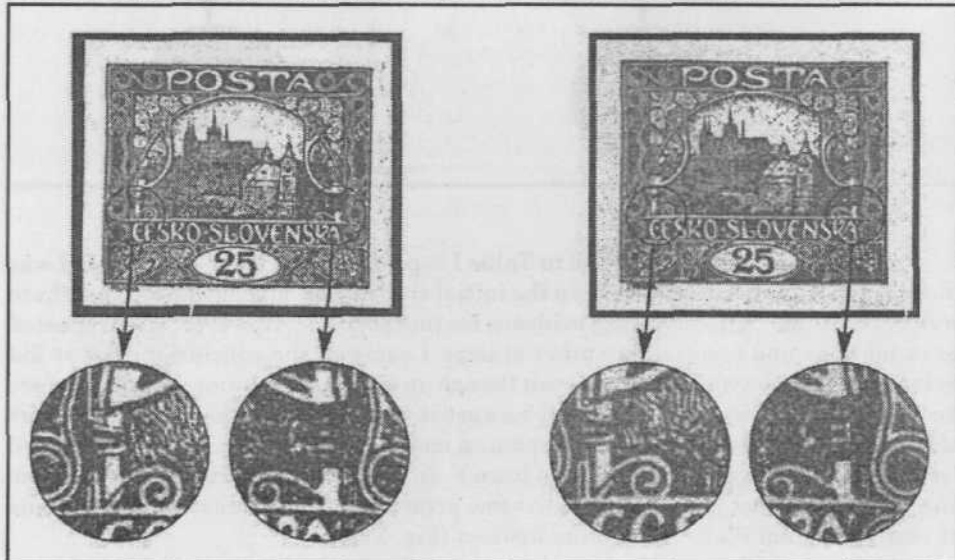


Fig. 23

Fig. 24

detail of the spiral ending on the printing plate, which would then be a type I spiral.

Likewise position 83 of Plate I suffered a similar clogging, where for some studied stamps (Fig. 23) the arch was distinctly a type II (paired with a bar type II) and for some it was not so evident (Fig. 24). This is characteristic of the same situation on position 6 of Plate II. In Figure 24 the inking is clearly saturated and has flowed together -- for instance, in the lower right corner and the dove's fan-tail, the inundated letters of MUCHA, the over-ample print of the lower frame, and the prominent print of the rays.

Before finishing this booklet, I acquired some material that documented the occurrence of an arch subtype IIa in position 9 from Plate II. With respect to this position I had held a "suspicion" for a long time, but did not have available a sufficient amount of comparative material for an unambiguous determination. But now I am presenting three corner blocks of positions 9, 10, 19, and 20 from Plate II -- a trial print, some printers' waste, and the released issue -- which each have in position 9 the arch subtype IIa by itself and a type I spiral in position 10. There are only three positions on Plate II that have just the arch subtype IIa by itself (the

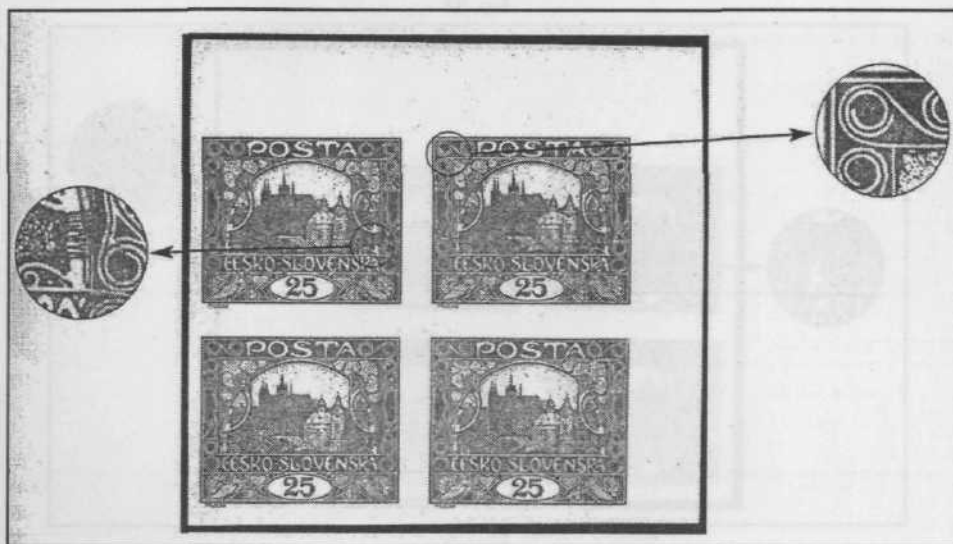


Fig. 31

other positions are 44 and 48). The only thing more exciting would have been the finding of an example on a piece that had passed through the mail.

In Figure 31 is the corner block of a trial print in a blue color on chalk paper which has the joined spiral types and here also with the arch subtype IIa -- it is found in this form only rarely. The subtype is clearly present in this example.

The second block of four (Fig. 32) was taken from printers' waste, and its plate positions are likewise sufficiently conclusive.

Finally, the third block of four (Fig. 33) comes from a pane released as normal postage, and on its plate positions are found all of the evidence cited above.

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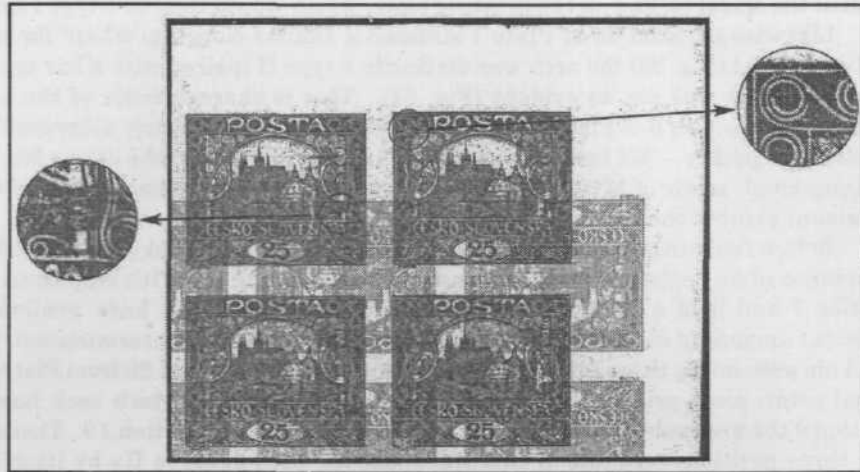


Fig. 32

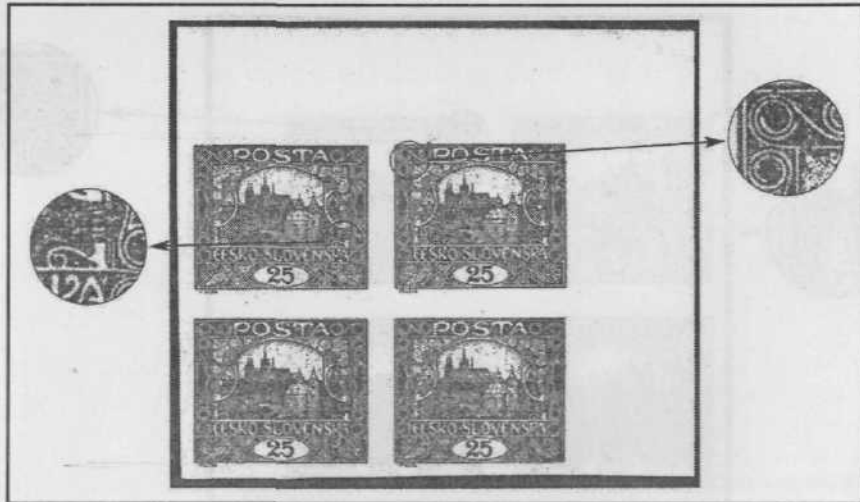


Fig. 33

As I have already said, with the 25h denomination there often occur accidental partial-prints or places of over-inking which complicate the identification of the above-mentioned types. In the same way, sometimes these accidents prevent identification of an arch type, such that its characteristics cannot be seen even when its pane position has been proven. In such a case it should be perhaps stated that even though the pane position is known, the indication of the type (in our case the arch type) is not entirely clear (which -- to a collector -- could lower the attractiveness of such an example to a minimum). Certainly, it is not possible to consider such accidental printings of arch types as valuable examples.

None of the information in this section of the paper was in my published articles [see references 8, 9, 10, 13, 14], nor could it have been, because I did not have available all of the comparative material. Interest among collectors about the proposed arch types increased after the publication of the above mentioned articles, and that is why the description of some of the plate positions may undergo changes. That is growth, and as such is good. I hope that all collectors of Hradčany could appropriately enhance Table I with their studies and new discoveries -- their publication will help other collectors to expand their collections.

To close out this paper, I will describe several items, which while interesting, are really not related to the arch types; yet in spite of that, I do think they will be of interest to Hradčany collectors.

Figure 25 shows a parcel clipping with a purple 25h denomination stamp on which appears a type I spiral and a bar subtype IIa. Figure 26 shows a different stamp, again with a type I spiral and a bar subtype IIa; it has been identified by Karel Paděra as position 50 from Plate III. As I once more reread the work on the reconstruction of Plates III and IV [see reference 5], where they write about dove's tails, spirals, and flaws on various plate positions, they also have a detailed write-up of the plate positions for their identification, but missing is any notation as to the possible occurrences of bar subtypes. Perhaps it would not hurt to once again inspect the study of Plates III and IV [reference 5] and establish if it has details about randomness, retouches, and printing flaws or with circumstances as in Plates I and II, and then appropriately update the study. The original study authors had a great deal of experience and comparative material, so that they could be confident about the correctness of their observations and the conclusions that they will provide to collectors.

To make things a bit clearer, again we are talking about position 50, but this

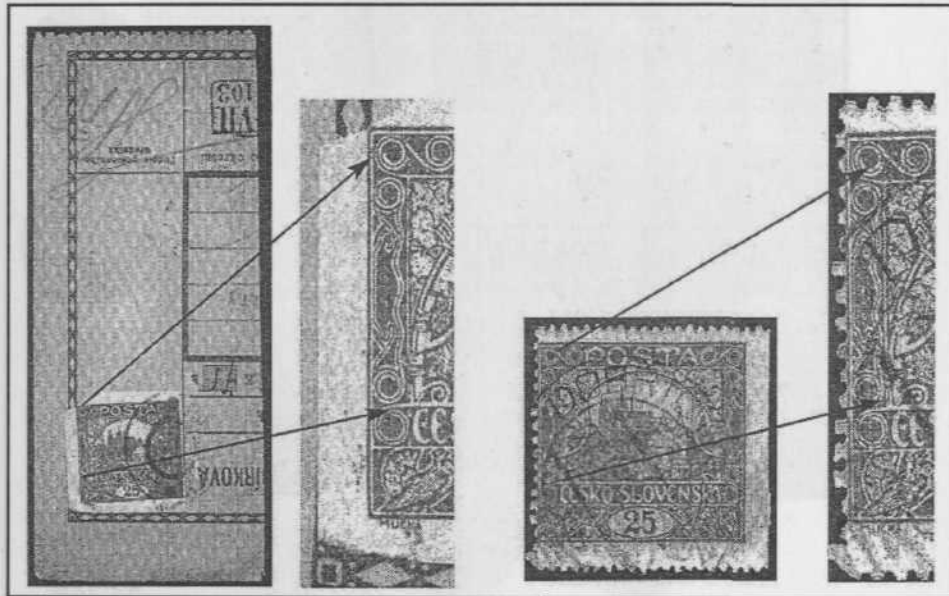


Fig. 25

Fig. 26

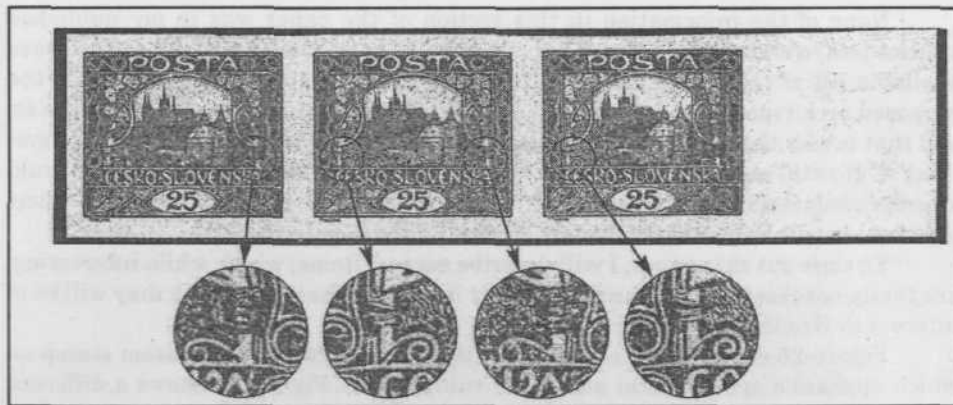


Fig. 27

time from Plate II. My son Ladislav presented me with a mint block of nine stamps containing positions 48-50, 58-60, and 68-70. In its upper row, position 48 contained an arch subtype IIa by itself, position 49 contained an arch type II along with a bar type II, but in position 50 there is a bar subtype IIa, and it is quite evident that it is only slightly different from a type II (Fig. 27 illustrates the top row of three of this block of nine). However, this position is nowhere identified as a bar subtype location, yet it bears the expert mark of Jan Karásek indicating that it is a bar type. It could be that Jan Karásek had available printers' waste for this position from

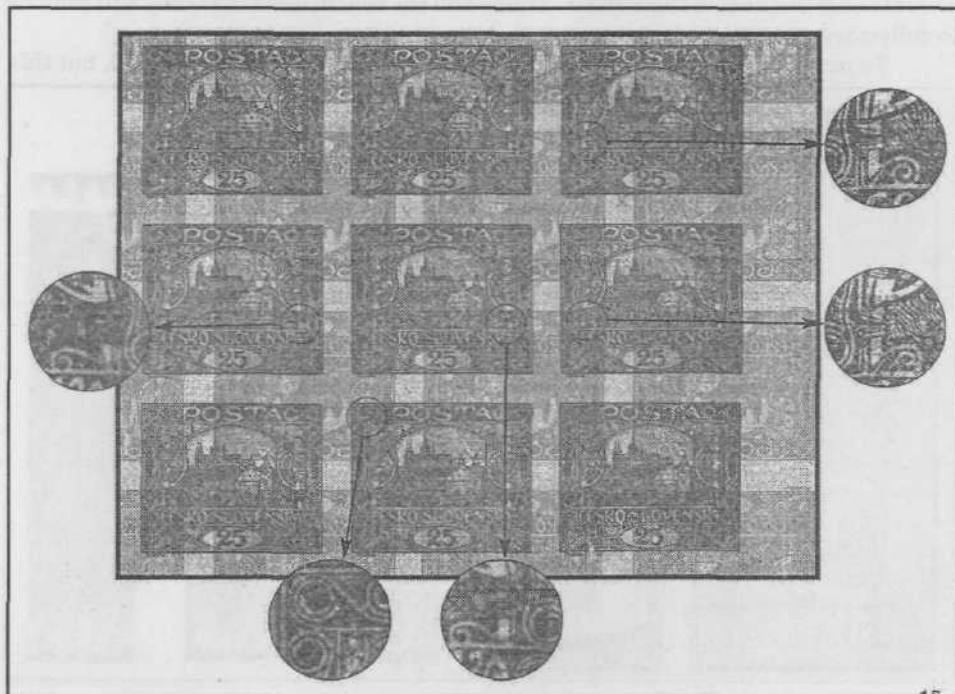


Fig. 29



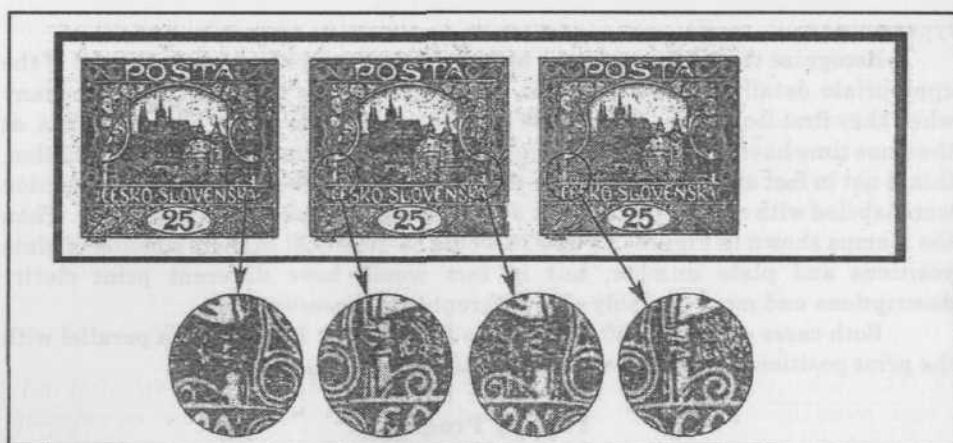


Fig. 28

Plate II on which was clearly the bar subtype, and thus he marked the block of nine properly. In references 6 and 7 the bar subtype IIa at position 50 of Plate II is not presented, and this is why it would be good if their authors would mention this fact. Besides details from the issued stamp in Figure 27, I present also a printers' waste block of nine in Figure 29. This printers' waste block of nine from Plate II is comprised of positions 38-40, 48-50, and 58-60, where on position 40 appears a type II bar, on position 48 is an arch subtype IIa by itself, on position 49 is an arch type II together with a bar type II, on position 50 is judged to be a bar subtype IIa, and on position 59 is a type I spiral. All of the described plate positions are clearly shown on the original printers' waste, and it is available from the author for examination.

On a different strip of three which is from another pane from Plate II, there are positions 48, 49, and 50 (Fig. 28). In that illustration, however, the bar subtype IIa in position 50, although not very distinct -- as is the arch type II in position 49, nevertheless under magnification they can be seen. Perhaps, in other instances when it is not possible to definitely identify the bar type, we can explain it away as some sort of printing imperfection or other irrelevant flaw or irregularity, but if we are dealing with a bar subtype IIa that is clearly visible, then such explanations do not seem satisfactory to me.

In an aside, I remark that should incidental irregularities occur in the image of the stamp making the types and subtypes difficult to identify, this should be taken into consideration -- stamps with conclusive types and subtypes could be valued higher than those with the main indicators being less conclusive or inconclusive (for example, inundated spiral, incomplete inner bar, etc., even though otherwise it is clearly from the appropriate plate position). (A similar situation could be of course in the case where a critical part of the image is covered, for example with a cancel.) I propose for consideration to think about whether the differentiation of print -- clear or unclear, conclusive or inconclusive -- would not be possible, as I referenced in the above paragraphs. The truth is, I believe, that "Hradčany collectors" will confirm that the first place they look on a stamp is where spirals, bars, and now also arch

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types appear.

Recognize that if, for example, we have a bar type with an unclear print of the appropriate details of the design (i.e. inconclusive), this is troublesome for many when they first look at it -- they would have to concentrate on the minute details, at the same time having at hand comparative material. During a routine examination, this is not in fact always possible. In that case it would be good if the plate position were labeled with an additional mark as some experts incidentally already do. Then the stamps shown in Figures 27 and 28 would be identical in their labeling of plate positions and plate number, but in fact would have different print clarity descriptions and most probably also different price assessments.

Both cases -- position 50 from Plates II and Plate III -- create a parallel with the print position 6 from Plate II and position 83 from Plate I.

### Pricing Program

This section presents immense difficulties because it is problematic to price each of the newly described variations of the 25h stamps from Plates I and II. In comparison with the existing knowledge about this denomination -- especially the spirals, bars, and joined types which are already catalogued and through natural means have established their market value -- a similar process has yet to be done for the proposed extended arch types. Observing the prices offered for the known types and comparing the frequency of their occurrence with that of the newer arch types, seems the most natural pricing method to start from. Meanwhile, from the current information it is evident that the occurrence of arch types on a given plate happens less often than that of spiral types and especially bar types, which would indicate something of their greater scarcity. At the same time, however, the fact that specialized collectors have not yet developed as much of an interest in these new items as in the former two, might result in a somewhat constrained demand.

A separate matter are stamps which contain both the bar and arch types and, of course, joined types (here there is a great diversity of variations).

Table II shows the frequency of these types for each of the two plates. Occurrences are single except for column five which is arch and bar types on one.

Plate #	Arch Type II	Arch Type IIa	Spiral Type I	Arch with Bar Types	Bar Type II	Bar Type IIa
I	1	--	3	4	8	2
II	3	3	4	7	9	1

Table II -- Table of Occurrences

So that we might have a comparative idea of suggested prices for arch types and subtypes, I start out with the values from the POFIS 2005 catalog (with other publishers the values could vary), where are values for spiral and bar types as well as for joined types already established and registered by the philatelic public. Admittedly it is possible at auctions to record certain prices at variance to these, but the pricing program is set properly, while determining catalog values of the arch types is complicated because they are new. In fact, we have to begin sometime with a first recommendation for a price evaluation of arch types and subtypes and thus

also with their introduction to the world, and therefore I will try to bring my views of their prices to be in line with already set priorities.

Consequently, as a preliminary gauge for fixing the prices of arch types and subtypes, we might take the existing prices of spiral and bar types and their joined types from the issued POFIS 2005 catalog.

It is true that plate positions with arch types -- predominantly with a lone arch type II -- occur on plates much less often than perhaps the spiral types. For example, on Plate I there are three positions (3, 12, 13) with spiral types, but only one position (88) has an arch type II by itself. On Plate II there are four positions (10, 27, 31, 59) with spiral types, but only three positions (22, 23, 76) have an arch type II by itself. If we were to take this listing of positions as their relative ratio, then it follows that an ordinary variety of plate position with a lone arch type II would be 2 to 3 times more expensive than a spiral type. However, at the same time it must be perhaps stressed that this is only a theoretical assumption and that actual practice might significantly deviate from it.

Thus, the ratio of lone arch type II stamps to type I spiral stamps on Plate I is 3:1; therefore also this suggests the new value listing for the lone arch type II on Plate I should be 3x higher than the value listing for the spiral types. On Plate II, their ratio is almost equal, therefore suggesting the lone arch type II should be only slightly higher versus the type I spiral. I remark that the value listings are always analyzed within appropriate categories (perforations, imperforate, used, mint, on cover, parcel clipping, etc.).

A value estimate of a lone arch subtype IIa, which occurs only three times, and that only on Plate II (positions 9, 44, 48), I propose to be at a minimum three times the price of a bar type II. Because of the popularity of the lone subtypes, collectors will certainly determine their value themselves.

So far in the catalogs [see references 11, 12] are valuations for varieties of stamps that are imperforate and perforated (with coverage for all their so far known perforation measures), according to spiral and bar types, and subsequently also their joined types. However, with the emergence of the arch types on the 25h of Plates I and II, plate positions that simultaneously have arch type II and bar type II have newly occurred. It is necessary to record these changes in catalogs such that they reflect the situation, because suddenly we see that arch types at positions 81 and 83 of Plate I and positions 6, 8, 11, 12, 21, and 49 of Plate II simultaneously have an arch type II and a bar type II. The arrival of this situation shows that the lone bar type II is found on Plate I four times more than mixed types and therefore we should value plate positions with mixed arch type II and bars on Plate I at least 2x higher than positions with lone bar type II. On Plate II there are approximately the same number of mixed arch type II and bar types, and therefore we will not do cost differences, or only if they have a moderate gain in their listing.

And precisely all of these newly written up stamp positions are topics of deliberations of new collector's interest inclusive of their valuation, because as a matter of fact these stamps occur not only mint, but also used, on covers, on parcel clippings, and on other documents of postal transit. Therefore there also exist new joined types of all of these (e.g. on Fig. 3, 4, and 10), where besides joined arch types (STo) there occur also joined types combinations (STk), joined spiral types (STs), and

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joined bar types (STp). We should newly assess all of these varieties, according to new criteria, i.e. with the growth of values minimally 2 - 3x as against the existing value listings for appropriate categories, including taking account of the new plate positions and their priority, particularly joined types of such plate positions, which are not that often available according to the table of occurrences.

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Rarely there can be found on the philatelic market the blackish-violet 25h, Pofis 11a; and thus much more rarely its joined types. At Figure 30 is presented a

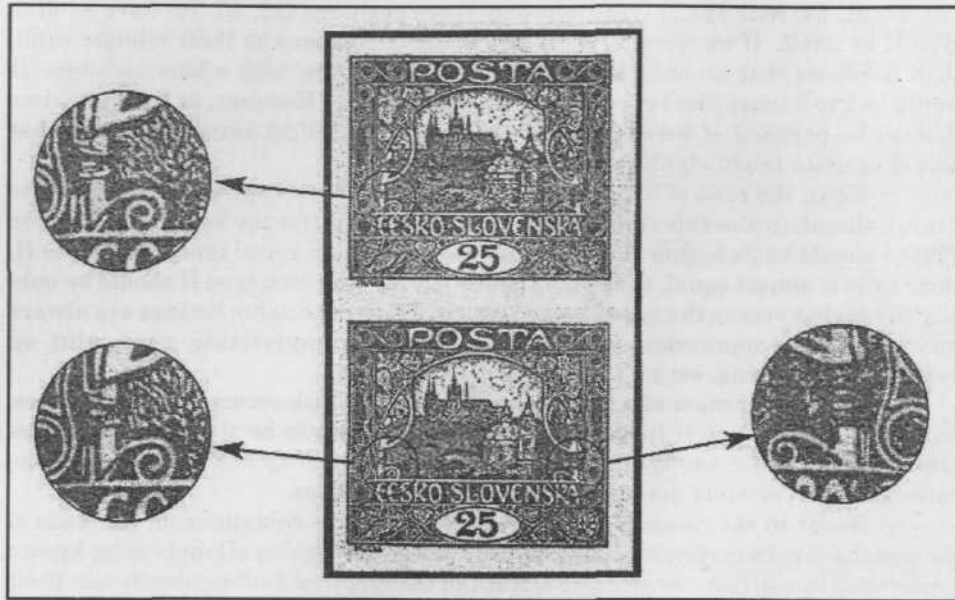


Fig. 30

vertical pair of such a joined type that involves positions 68 and 78 of Plate I, where position 68 has a bar type II and position 78 has an arch type II combined with a bar subtype IIa. This interesting combination of STo and STp is the only one on the entire counter pane from Plate I. These joined types are provided with a certificate from expert J. Karásek. For the comparison of costs, I mention that in April 1999 they were in the Profil auction and were auctioned off for 26,000 Kč, and this occurred at a time when the information on arch types was not even published.

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*[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to re-print this translation of the booklet, "OBLOUKOVÉ TYPY, 25h Hradčany, V. Kresba", published by KLUBU FILATELIE in Prague with the permission of the author -- Ladislav Olšina, the editor of FILATELIE -- J. Pitra, and the translator -- Mark Wilson.]*

**KAREL JOSEF RUZICKA****1928 - 2007**

Karl was born in Bern, Switzerland in 1928. His family returned to Vsetin with his brother when he was very young. He had many wonderful boyhood memories until WWII when he became involved in the Czech underground. He attended the Commercial Academy in Olomouc until he had to leave the country, when he escaped across the border with his best friend. He spent some years in a displaced persons camp where he acted as a translator. Karl could converse in 7 languages which became very useful in his later years. He came to America in 1950 and settled in Toledo, Ohio where



he married and started to raise a family of five children. He worked in International Marketing and was able to pursue his passion for traveling. He eventually moved his family to Pomona, CA, where his wife Mildred passed away at the age of 33 in 1967, leaving Karl to raise the five children.

He opened his own company and continued in International Sales until he retired in December of 2004. Karl remarried in 1979 and moved to San Dimas where he was able to pursue his hobbies of reading and collecting Postage Stamps. In his retirement he was able to take a couple of month long cruises. He spent most of his days in the yard reading and enjoying his life. He belonged to both the Czech and American Philatelic societies and was a published author for both "The Czechoslovak Specialist" and the "American Philatelist". He passed away on October 3 at the age of 79.

*"Karl was an intelligent, interesting person, his own man. Above all he was a friend."*

June Ruzicka

Karl will be greatly missed. He was a level head on a sometimes contentious Board, and always brought his world-experience broad-look viewpoint to our issues. I always waited to see what his e-mail would bring to consolidate the opposing views and to weed-out the chaff. On top of this, his article contributions to the SPECIALIST will remain as a permanent memorial. It was an honor to work with him.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

## *Jiří Majer Auctions*

invites you to bid in our 2007 Winter Auction to be held on December 1 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Since we are the only auction house which deals exclusively in Czechoslovak philatelic material, we are able to offer collectors the largest selection of stamps and covers associated with Czech philately. This sale will have an especially strong selection of outstanding Hradčany lots.

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*CZECH REP.*

**DR. EMIL HOLUB**

Oct 7, 1847 - Feb 2, 1902

by Gerald van Zanten

It has been quite a few years (55 to be exact) since the Czechs have honored their most famous world explorer. The first time was February 21, 1952 when Československo issued a set of two stamps (same image -- 3 Kčs and 5 Kčs)(Fig. 1) to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Emil Holub. They have now again honored him with a stamp to commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth (see the New Issues later in this issue).

To give you more details as to why he is being honored, we are presenting two articles here that tell about two aspects of his life, as an explorer and as a philatelist.



Figure 1: Sc499/500

**FROM BOHEMIA TO THE INTERIOR OF AFRICA**

by Miluše Vrtílková

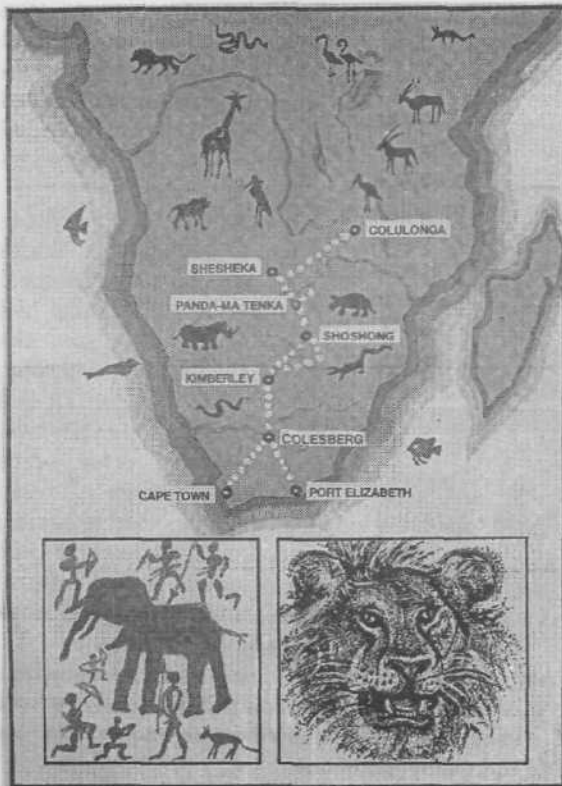


Figure 2: Dr. Emil Holub made two scientific expeditions to southern Africa; in 1872 and 1883-1887.

*"Dear Sir,  
Allow me to tell you, after reading your book, that I -- an old man -- admire from the bottom of my heart your noble scientific endeavour, all difficulties, trouble and dangers notwithstanding, to enrich and supplement our knowledge about Nature. I wish you much success and good luck. Your sincere friend and admirer, Charles Darwin."*

[From a letter sent to Czech explorer Emil Holub.]

**In Pursuit of a Dream**

Daring men whose deeds filled the age of discoveries undertook many journeys to explore Africa, which was a continent still full of secrets in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During their travels to places of which no one had ever heard before, they suffered inhuman privations and

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hardships, hardly imaginable today. Their adventurous expeditions, just as their mistakes, good fortune and bad luck, have written one of the important chapters in mankind's history.

The exploration of Africa is primarily associated with the names of two men, David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley. Less well known is the fact that also a daring young man from Bohemia was among the explorers. His name was Emil Holub, and his journey to the interior of the African continent was to be the realization of his boyhood dreams.

When in May 1872, the 25-year-old doctor set out on his journey, he was completely unknown. All he had was money for the passage, some recipes, three compasses and a thermometer. This was his equipment to explore Africa with.

He disembarked with ten shillings in his pocket. His English was poor, his Dutch non-existent. But fortunately, there were many Germans at Dutoispan in the Kimberley diamond fields who were glad that a German-speaking doctor had arrived. A grateful patient gave him an old tent; Holub lived in it, did his own

washing and cooking, and saved all his earnings for his planned trip northwards. He started in the spring of 1873.

It was not his intention to blaze any new trails. White traders had reached the Zambezi before him, Victoria Falls had also been discovered, and the whole area had been mapped, not very exactly, by British and German cartographers. His two-month trip was his "journeyman's work". He brought back interesting ethnographical collections and objects of value to the natural sciences, and discovered rock carvings by Bushmen.



Figure 4: Holub's study with souvenirs from Africa.

Also his second trip was of a preparatory character. He got as far as Shoshong in Bechuanaland (today's Botswana), and returned with numerous finds and revised maps. He then resumed his medical practice, to save more money for his explorations for which he was ready to give up all he had.



Figure 3: An aquarelle from Holub's diary.



He set out his third journey in February 1875. This time, it was a real, ambitious expedition, up the Zambezi to the area held by Portuguese colonizers, today's Angola.

He returned to the diamond fields badly emaciated and suffering from malaria but with many valuable finds. Again, he resumed his medical practice and lectured in Cape Town. He was now a recognized authority, and the Cape government wanted him to explore the region between the Zambezi and the Vaal. But Dr. Emil Holub was making preparations for his return journey.



Figure 5: Dr. Emil Holub

### A Triumphant Return

His return to Bohemia in October 1879 was a great event. After seven years, he was returning as an internationally renowned explorer. Banquets were given in his honor, poems were written about him and his travels. The public admired with awe the collections of 30,900 items which he brought to Europe. He lectured all over the country, and received invitations from Germany and Great Britain. His two-volume work, "Seven Years in Southern Africa", was published in Czech, German, English and French, and he used the royalties to finance another expedition.

He took his wife along, and she proved an invaluable helper. She learned how to catch butterflies and to skin birds, took various measurements, learned Bantu so well that she could act as an interpreter, and after the expedition crossed the Zambezi, she was in charge of provisions. She did all the work in ankle-length skirts, a ubiquitous hat on her head.

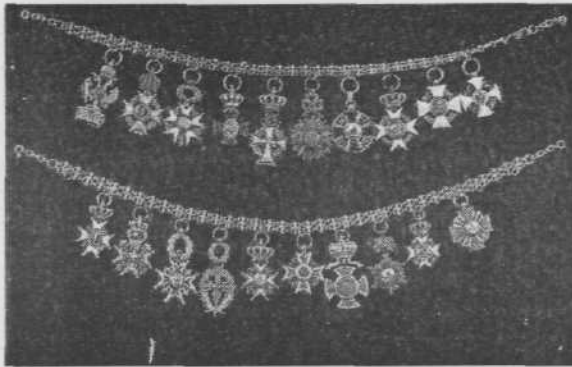


Figure 6: Holub was awarded 42 orders and other decorations in recognition of his scientific work. Some of them are on display in the Holub Museum at Holice.

The plans for the second expedition were even more ambitious than for the previous one. Holub wanted to cross Africa from the south to the north, from Cape Town across the Zambezi, the Congo and Sudan to Egypt.

The trip started badly. It took Holub six months to clear the matter of duties with the Cape authorities, and so the expedition arrived in areas quite passable in the dry season much later, after the rains came and when mosquitoes were

spreading the deadly malaria. Two members of the eight-man expedition died, and the third, seriously ill with malaria, had to be sent home. King Mo-Panza, favorably inclined towards Europeans, tried to dissuade Holub from entering the territory of the neighboring tribe, the Mashukulumbwe. Not even Livingstone had got that far.

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Holub chose to ignore this advice, started northwards in May 1886, crossed the Zambezi in early June, and entered the territory of the Mashukulumbwe. The encounter with the tribe had tragic consequences. The expedition had to flee to save their lives.

### Disappointment

Holub returned home in 1887, disconsolate over the failure of the expedition but determined enough to plan another. He wrote another book, *The Journey to Southern Africa*, and made a lecture tour in the United States. For four years, he prepared patiently and carefully an exhibition which was to be a display of his achievements. The exhibition, installed in Vienna in 1891 and in Prague in 1892, was a big success. It was an attraction for the whole of Europe, and drew superlative reviews for its extremely valuable collections of ethnographic materials and a cross-section of African nature, from insects to giant trees, herds of antelopes, animal skulls, anatomical specimens, 2,000 birds with their nests, some 3,000 reptiles, plants, seeds, rocks, petrified objects, native medicines, dishes and utensils, tools, weapons, musical instruments, etc.

Encouraged by the sensational success of the exhibition, Holub made a grand gesture: he offered the entire collection as a gift to the National Museum, then called Museum of the Kingdom of Bohemia. What happened then was something he could not have expected, something unheard of in the entire world: for personal, trivial reasons, the director of the museum rejected the offer. In mid-October 1892, when the exhibition closed, Holub refused to sell his collections abroad, and decided to distribute them among some 200 schools in Bohemia, Moravia and Austria where he lectured. Many of the items were unique, valuable only

for scientific institutions but of no value to rural schools and of no interest to schoolchildren. Holub also made presents to 37 museums in Europe and the United States, and to 411 various institutions. Items from his collections are today in 586 places all over the world, from the Americas to the Soviet Union.

Emil Holub died on February 21, 1902, at the age of 55.



Figure 7: The desk at which Holub wrote his books. Some of the first editions are in the picture.

**DR. EMIL HOLUB -- TRAVELLER AND PHILATELIST**  
trans. by Vladimir Kralicek

Emil Holub travelled through Africa at a time when all who returned back in good health became heroes. In spite of honors, orders and celebrations he ended his life in poverty. Very few people are aware that this famous traveler's life love was philately. In his correspondence are preserved hundreds of letters from Griqualand and Transvaal and also whilst living in the USA he obtained, through exchange for African native art, many stamps, and he also bought two large collections.

He used the Senfcatalog and owned fourteen albums, with six of them devoted to entires. In his collection of Austria he missed only one stamp and that was the vermillion Merkur. Holub was interested in color shades and collected each stamp used and unused. Foreign friends considered it to be an honor to enrich his collection and had been sending him blocks of old stamps, which were already very valuable for that time.

Holub was very knowledgeable in the philatelic sphere, and his advice was sought after even by expert dealers. During his travels in the Czech countryside, he asked his listeners to search their attics and chambers for old correspondence, in which way he obtained additions to his collection. In 1902 one of the Prague dealers offered him 40,000 guidens for his collection. It was an unheard of amount of money for that time, but Holub refused it. Later on his collections were sold, in part, by his wife.

*[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the above articles.]*

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**120<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
ORGANIZED CZECH PHILATELY**

by Karel Holoubek  
trans. by Savoy Horvath

All in all and without any notice or celebration, a memorable anniversary of organized Czech philately came and went. It was 120 years ago that a group of Czech stamp collectors organized into a philatelic society. In that time period, every Czech club or association was under the suspicion of the Austrian authorities. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, emancipation endeavor's ran high in Czech thinking people in cities and in the country. It was the time of aspirations for national freedom.

The German stamp collectors already had their philatelic union as of 1885. The Austro-Hungarian Empire had the first philatelic publication in the year 1869.

The Empire was highly suspicious of any Czech written publication. The preparatory committee issued proposed regulations that were accepted on April 28, 1887. The launch was supported by patriots like, Vojta Náprstek, Karel Frič, explorer Emil Holub, and exactly like all Czechs of true colors. Therefore this is the

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date we can regard as the beginning of the Union of Czech Philately in Prague, even though Prague's police commission did not officially recognize it, since a police officer was not in attendance during the first meeting. A new meeting was called to order on September 8, 1887. Eleven new members attended, plus an overseeing policeman. An election was held and Vincenc Jedlička became the first president. It took ten years for the union to dare to issue its first publication, "Český Filatelista". The first issue came out on February 25, 1896. The Czech Philatelic Union's membership meetings were conducted once a week, members had access to a richly stocked philatelic library, an exchange circuit, a philatelic lottery, and once per year, a free ad in "Český Filatelista".

The first Czech stamp exhibit was held in Prague on Wenceslas Square at The Golden Goose restaurant -- May 31 - June 2, 1914. At that time the original membership of eleven collectors had grown to 146. Even today one can identify the names of memorable collectors and philatelic specialists from their ranks -- namely, Ing. Jaroslav Šula, Jaroslav Lešetický, JUDr. Karel Rix, and probably best known to American philatelists, Zikmund Reach, who was a book dealer. By 1920 the Union had 700 members, branching out of Prague to other (by then) Czechoslovak cities -- Písek, Skuteč, Rakovník and Hranice. Hradec Králové organized a branch in 1922, and this year not only celebrated the Czech Philatelic Union's anniversary of its first stamp show, but also their own beginning by having the National Stamp Show in their town.

Czech organized philately survived the German occupation, communist totalitarian rule and the reestablishment of democracy. The stamp clubs live on, just Prague alone has today more than twenty philatelic clubs. All of the 500 plus clubs are members of the national union with a total membership of 40,000.



## ON THE NEW POSTAGE RATES

*(Continued from Page 1)*

[These increases apply only to the GPS, not the SCP.]

Where did USPS get the idea for this money-raking rate scheme? Probably in Europe, where rates have been notably higher than ours for a long time. What was the commission that sets our rates doing? Playing politics, without a doubt. After all, for the great majority the direct rate increase was 2¢. The cost of magazine subscriptions will rise, but the underlaying cause will remain invisible to most and the blame will fall on the "greedy publishers." So long as the majority is happy, all is well.

International shipments of any kind, large or small, heavy or light, all must now pay airmail rates. Even an M-bag must go by air! No small part of the international surface mail was being sent by air on a "space available" basis so now the surface rates have been scuttled and it's airmail for everything. Not in a rush and don't care about four months in transit for that 50-pound box of books? Tough luck, you are paying for airmail, as there is no longer any other option. Dish out the money! Ah, but there is one break, believe it or not. The Priority Mail Flat Rate box

has been extended to international! The international rate is \$37 to most countries, regardless of weight, no real bargain but a major break from standard rates if there is some heft to it. For 5.5 pounds, the "savings" is almost \$40, so it is definitely an alternative. It won't work for everything, of course, but when it does it sure beats the regular rate.

Don't think for a minute that publications are the only thing that will carry higher prices. Everybody will pay for this, directly or indirectly. Better look now to see what will give, as most people will have to make a cut somewhere to stay even. We just killed off a couple of marginal magazines. Solicitations for new publications get a blind eye. Philatelic publications are a high priority so they remain. Our hope is that they remain with you also, especially the Specialist!

*[Ed. Note: We want to thank Jim Graue, editor of the German Postal Specialist, for allowing us to publish this column that he wrote and ran in the September issue of his publication. You should be aware that the specific cost increases discussed in it DO NOT apply to our members, they apply to GPS members. However, whatever effects the described postal rate increases will have on the dues and mailing costs of The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST are to be determined -- probably right about the time you are reading this -- at the Board Meeting being held by our Society at CHICAGOPEX'07. Unfortunately, there will almost assuredly be some kind of increases, we just don't know yet where and how much. As I mentioned in a previous issue, the majority of the effect should appear in foreign mailings, but U.S. mailings may be affected to some extent. Your first glimpse at these will be when you get your bill for your renewal about the end of November. Please try to remember that we have done everything we can to minimize the effects.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## SELL - SWAP - WANT

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

**SELL:** "GRANDFATHER'S COLLECTION", nice older Czech. Covers/postal history. 30 covers \$115. Also, Czech stamp collection available. Victor Schwez, 10519 Casanes Ave, Downey, CA 90241. (562) 861-5958.

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#### **"Preserving Stamps and Covers"**

is a preservation guide for the serious philatelist. Send \$5.75 for US addresses, US\$6.50 to Canada/Mexico, and US\$7.75 to foreign addresses. O'seas buyers can remit the equivalent amount in the form of large format, mint, never hinged commemoratives. G. Saqqal, 9728 Third Avenue, Suite 556, Brooklyn, NY 11209.

**Book Review**

**2007 ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939 -- POFIS**  
**2007 CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2006 -- POFIS**

The Czech catalog firm POFIS has recently issued two new catalogs, both are in full color and both are highly specialized.

The first is the Československo 1918-1939 catalog with 232 pages of specialized information including all plate numbers and sheet layouts, postal rates for each time period, commemorative post cancels, souvenir sheets created or overprinted in exile, the Legion Post in Siberia, and all other related material. To date this is one of POFIS's best catalogs.

The second is the Czech Republic 1993-2006 catalog consisting of 168 pages of postage stamp information and all other material issued by the Czech Post system from 1993 through 2006. It includes printing errors, forgeries to defraud the Czech post, postal stationery, booklets, postal cards, revenue stamps, black prints, commemorative prints, automat stamps, A-post labels, listings for postal rates, and many other collectibles from the Czech Republic.

For more information, please turn to the Available Publications in the back.  
Savoy Horvath

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**New Issues**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 5, 2007, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 12 Kč stamp to commemorate J.A. Komenský's Work: Opera Didactica Omnia -- 350 Years Since Its Issue (Fig. 1). One of the major teachers of all-time in Europe, philosopher, church minister, social and religious thinker, the Czech scholar Jan Amos Komenský (1592-1670) had in 1628 to leave his country forever for the sake of his beliefs. In Leszno, Poland he started writing his essential



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

didactic writings including, inter alia, also his Great Didactics. This work contained a consistent education system and principles of modern teaching. Komenský's textbooks and didactic writings brought him an international renown. His monumental didactic work Opera Didactica Omnia was published in 1657 in Amsterdam, and it was dedicated to this town and "its wise town council". It includes 43 writings classified by Komenský into 4 volumes, each of which has an introduction. In the epilogue he explained his lifetime effort as an improvement of schools. The Opera Didactica Omnia is the first systematic set of didactic writings in

Europe, and at the same time the first complete works in Czech literature. The stamp commemorates the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their publication and shows a teacher with his pupil. The stamp was designed by Petr Melan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in gold and red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown shows a still life with globe, book, candle, and writing/drawing tools (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3

2. On September 5, 2007, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč stamp to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the First Cinema by Viktor Ponrepo (Fig. 3). The first full-time cinema in Prague was opened on 15.9.1907 in the Blue Pike House in Karlova Street in Old Town. It was open daily except Fridays, had 56 seats, and the visitors were shown to their seats, in person, by the owner and operator Viktor Ponrepo (1858-1926) -- or Dismas Ferdinand

Šlambor by his proper name. The qualified gilder by his father's wish was much more attracted with magic and juggling productions. Under the cover name Viktor Ponrepo he and his magic theater made tours of towns and the countryside. After the invention of cinematography he started showing short movies and again resumed his countryside tours with his Live Photograph Theater. In 1904 he screened movies in the suburbs of Prague, and a year later he established the first summer cinema at Na Klamovce in Košife. It took a further two years to get a cinema license for Prague. Each week Ponrepo presented a new program of images of the world, life, nature as well as acted theater scenes. Silent movies used to be commented mainly by himself using both words and sounds in the spirit of a broadside ballad seller. The Ponrepo's Blue Pike Cinema was in operation until 1945. The drawing on the stamp presents this cinema showing bullfights. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Ziegler, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, red and violet in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black-violet shows a portrait of Viktor Ponrepo in front of an eye-catcher for his Live Photograph Theater (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

3. On September 5, 2007, the Ministry issued a souvenir sheet with 4 stamps and 4 labels in the Nature Protection series entitled White Carpathian Mountains -- Orchid Meadows (Fig. 5). The White Carpathian Mountains having an area of 715 km<sup>2</sup> were declared a protected landscape area in 1980, and in 1996 they became also a biosphere reservation of UNESCO. They are the highest mountains in the southwest margin of the whole Carpathian system (175-970 m above s.l.). The whole area, and more particularly its southern part, has for centuries been cultivated by men. Typical of the local farms are the stylish buildings encircled with little fields and



Fig. 5

meadows. It may be the human activity, the regular cutting of the extensive meadow areas, that preserved the extraordinarily precious natural values. These include mainly the orchid meadows with orchid and other precious and endangered species of plants. They belong to the meadows which are richest in types in Central Europe. The miniature sheet of 4 stamps and 4 coupons tries to detail the variability of the plant and animal species growing or living in the White Carpathian

Mountains. The stamps show:

-- 9 Kč - *Ophrys holosericea*. A FDC in dark-red shows *Orchis militaris* (Fig. 6).

-- 10 Kč - *Colias myrmidone*  
- *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. A FDC in red-violet shows *Cephalanthera rubra* (Fig. 7).

-- 11 Kč - *Ophrys apifera*. A FDC in violet shows *Himantoglossum adriaticum* (Fig. 8).

-- 12 Kč - *Coracias garrulus*  
- *Gymnadenia densiflora*. A FDC in green shows *Epipactis palustris* (Fig. 9).  
and the labels show:

1. - *Zerynthia polyxena*
- *Cypripedium calceolus*
2. - *Oriolus oriolus*
- *Sylvia nisoria*



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

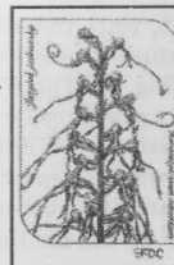


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



- *Juniperus communis*
- *Cephalanthera rubra*
- 3. - *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*
- *Dactylorhiza sambucina*
- 4. - *Crex crex*
- *Mantis religiosa*
- *Orchis tridentata*

The souvenir sheet with stamps and labels was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess print from flat plates in black combined with colored offset.

4. On September 5, 2007, the Ministry issued a 15 Kč definitive stamp in The Beauty of Flowers series entitled Indian Cress (Fig. 10). The stamp bears a flower with a bud and leaf. 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 combined with photogravure in yellow, red and green in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.



Fig. 10

5. On October 3, 2007, the Ministry issued an 11 Kč stamp commemorating the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of the Explorer Emil Holub (Fig. 11). The explorer Dr. Emil Holub (1847-1902) was the Czech pioneer in the exploration of Africa who visited places never trodden by any of the contemporary Europeans. He was born in Holice u Pardubic, studied medicine but dealt also with natural science, geography and land surveying. After his graduation in 1872 he travelled to South



Fig. 11

Africa where he began practicing medicine. As soon as in March 1873 he started on his first two-month expedition to test his equipment and investigate the ancient rock engravings made by the Bushmen. He sent his collection of the aboriginal things to V. Náprstek in Prague who organized an exhibition and presented Holub's activity to the Czech population. Holub stayed in Africa for more than seven years. He organized three expeditions to the territory of Transvaal and the Cape Land, along the river Zambezi, described Victoria Falls, made weather measurements, collected natural things and ethnographic materials on different African tribes. On his return home he gave lectures throughout the entire Austria-Hungary, wrote his first traveller's book "Seven Years in South Africa" and married his wife. Four years later he and his wife went back to Africa. The expedition was intended to cross the continent from Capetown up to Egypt. After the battle with the Mashaculumba tribe it had to be ended before time. On his return Holub again gave lectures,



Fig. 12

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wrote and made exhibitions. He offered his rich collections to the National Museum in Prague, however they were refused. He therefore gave them away to other museums and schools. Disappointed, he left for Vienna where he also died. The postage stamp features a portrait of Emil Holub and his own drawing -- a scene from his traveller's notebook. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulhánek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in dark-green combined with photogravure in dark-red and gray-green in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark-brown shows a portrait of a little black girl (Fig. 12).



Fig. 13

6. On October 3, 2007, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series entitled Water Towers (Fig. 13). The stamps were designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print combined with photogravure in color in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 7.50 Kč, Karviná, in black (recess print), light-blue, ocher and dark-red. The water tower in Karviná, built probably in 1928, is an interesting technical monument and a landmark dominating the town. It is a constructivist circular building of six floors, 39.4 m high and 11.4 m in diameter. The water tank above the highest floor is no longer used for its original purpose. A part of the original technical equipment inside the building has been preserved. The stamp shows the Water Tower and a sketch of a steamroller to drive the water pump. A FDC in dark-green shows a waterworks pumping system (Fig. 14).

-- 18 Kč, Pilsen, in black (recess print), orange, dark-red and blue-green. One of the architectural highlights of the town -- the listed water tower of the Pilsner Urquell brewery -- started operation in 1907. Water from springs and the local river was pumped into the two tanks and distributed throughout the brewery. A round passage with a staircase led through the tanks up to the top of the dome with a look-out platform. Although the water tower was closed in 2005, the water distribution network on the underground floor is still in use. The stamp shows the Water Tower with a sketch of water pumps with an exhauster. A FDC in dark-green shows a blowpipe from Káraný from the year 1910 (Fig. 15).

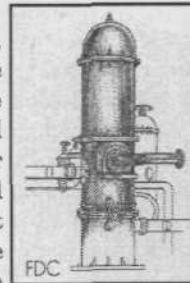


Fig. 14

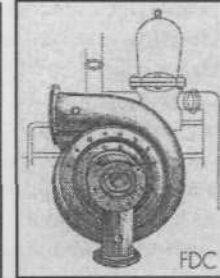


Fig. 15

## SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. Van Zanten



Fig. 16

7. On August 24, 2007, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of two 21 Sk commemorative se-tenant stamps entitled Rocks of Liberty as a joint issue with San Marino. The stamps were designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by PTC, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in sheets of eight.

-- 21 Sk: Orava Castle (Fig. 16). Castle hill with its made-of-stone promontory of the Orava region was inhabited as early as prehistoric times. Settlements with rampart fortifications were over time erected in the early Hallstatt-period, and one such settlement was built in Oravsky Podzámok on the hill -- laying the foundations of the castle.

The first reference to Orava Castle dates back to 1267, when ruler Belo IV wrested control of the castle. The present shape of the castle complex is the result of gradual extensions and the rebuilding of the defensive, dwelling, and market structures in the Upper, Middle and Lower Castle between the 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Various architectural styles are evident -- from Romanesque, via the Gothic style, Renaissance, Baroque up to Romanticism. The castle's highest point -- the citadel -- dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the oldest castle parts. Over the next six centuries various owners (Mathew Corvinus, Ján z Dubovca, and the Thurza clan) made additions and improvements to the livability and fortifications of the castle. In 1800 a devastating fire struck the castle. The castle was partially repaired between 1906-1912, and over 1953-1968 the castle was completely restored. A FDC has a cachet that depicts the castle with royalty on an outing (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17

-- 21 Sk: La Rocca o Guaita (Fig. 18). Passing through Contrada dei Magazzeni, or Contrada dei Fossi, we quickly reach an altitude of 751 m., from where we can admire a view of unlimited boundary. The fortified nucleus of the first turret's pentagonal shaped base rests directly on the rock and is considered as one of Italy's most ancient turrets (dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century). It consists of a central turret and two circles of walls; the external wall is decorated with merlons and is a remnant of the original wall of defense. Opposite the entrance door, on the small square we can admire a sculpture of B. Marabini, and the cannons donated to the Republic of San Marino by Switzerland in 1989. Pieces of artillery can be seen in the courtyard: the two cannons donated by Vittorio Emanuele III still today fire blanks on feast-days. Inside the internal wall stands the bell tower, probably from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the "Penna" turret, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the cells in the fortress were used as prisons until 1970. The small Church of St. Barbara is situated on the left. The stone pediment which lies above the entrance door, dates back to medieval



Fig. 18

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Fig. 19

times. A FDC has a cachet that depicts the castle with royalty on an outing (Fig. 19).

8. On September 1, 2007, the Ministry issued a 31 Sk stamp to commemorate the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Jozef Miloslav Hurban (Fig. 20). J.M. Hurban (Mar. 19, 1817 - Feb. 21, 1888) is one of the most important personalities of Slovak politics and literature in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was a leading official, ideologist and manager of the nationalist movement, a romantic writer, editor, and publisher. He was also interested in the history of literature and culture, and religious writing. From 1835 he was influenced by L. Štúr and as his close co-worker he got involved in the national revival, and literary and cultural activities -- head of the Štúr Czecho-Slavonic Society, advocated Slavonic solidarity (a Czecho-Slovak tribe), fought against magyarization, introduced the new literary Slovak language, organized the Slovak national liberation movement during the Slovak uprising (1848-1849), helped to found and became an official of Matica Slovenská, was imprisoned and activity-curtailed numerous times. During all of this activity he managed to found, produce, or write for numerous literary publications. The stamp is based upon a painting by Dušan Kállay, 1981, was graphically laid-out by Vladislav Rostoka, and produced by PTC, Prague, using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows an early image of Hurban with one of his famous writings and his signature (Fig. 21)



Fig. 20

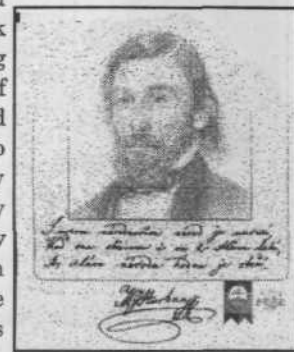


Fig. 21

9. On September 5, 2007, the Ministry issued a 29 Sk commemorative stamp in the Technical Monuments series entitled the Kráľová Bridge at Senec (Fig. 22). The



Fig. 22

bridge over the Čierna Voda river, on the road from Krmeš to Kráľová, was built in 1904. This type of bridge has a skeleton of stone, filled out with burnt bricks, and an artistic stone railing designed like a balustrade. The bridge had a stone predecessor from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. From the artistic point of view, the balustrade fully matches the fencing between the parsonage and the adjacent house. The bridge features Baroque and Art Nouveau elements, but its style is best described as Neo-Baroque. The bridge is a technical monument with artistic elements, secondarily registered with the city as a historic monument. The bridge is set on four rectangular

bearing pillars, spans the river in three ellipsoid arcs, and the bridge-body ends in approximately 100 cm high pillars. The stamp was designed by Marián Čapka, engraved by Juraj Vitek, and produced by PTC, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with gravure printing in sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC shows the Baroque stone bridge over the rivulet Sikenica in Bátovcie from 1780 (Fig. 23).



Fig. 23

10. On September 22, 2007, the Ministry issued a 15 Sk stamp to commemorate the Gospel-Book of Nitra currently at the



Fig. 24

Kletnotnica Museum (Fig. 24). Nitra's gospel-book is considered to be the oldest preserved book produced in Slovakia, dating back to pre-1083. It is a liturgical book containing extracts from gospels that were read during Sundays and the religious holidays of the church year. Of the original 54 parchment-foils measuring 285x195 mm, as many as 50 were preserved. The foils are bound and inserted into thick wooden covers, and lined in purple velvet. Deep silver and gold-plated relief was attached to the covers in the 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries -- as illustrated on the presented postage stamp. The relief illustrates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ with figures of the Madonna and St. John standing on pedestals. The lower part of the cross continues with an empty reliquary in the form of the Patriarchal cross, which is older, probably of Byzantine origin. The relief's edge is decorated with ornamentation in the corners -- there are quatrefoils with

enamelled and filigreed decoration. Further decoration is then presented with symbols of the evangelist Mathew (man), Mark (lion) and Lukas (bull), but the symbol of John (eagle) has not been preserved. The original artwork of the gospel-book probably derives from northern France (Lorraine). Its production in a Benedictine convent in Hronský Svätý Beňadik was dated to pre-1083 because its list is missing the saints Stephen, Imrich and Gerard who were canonized in 1083. The gospel-book is thought to have arrived in Nitra at the time of the Bishop Juraj Selepczéri (1648 to 1666) and was used during solemn occasions. According to the results of the most recent research conducted by Jaroslav Nemeš, the gospel-book is assumed to have been created in the 1130's in a Benedictine convent in Burtscheid (today a city part of Aachen, Germany). In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the gospel-book arrived -- most probably purchased -- at the Cistercian monastery in Piliš and then to Nitra, most probably at the time of the Bishop František Forgáč (1596-1607). The stamp was designed by Pavol Choma, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by PTC, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with gravure printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows an emblem with a dragon (Fig. 25).



Fig. 25

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