



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

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

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 70

MAY/JUNE 2008

No. 3, Whole No. 609

OUR MEMBER BEHIND NEW CZECH STAMP

by Savoy Horvath

Karel Holoubek, a long time member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and officer active in the eastern Czech branch of the SČF (Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists), was the leading proponent for one of the Czech Republic's newest postage stamps.

The 15 Kč stamp is one of a set of two stamps in the yearly Beauties of Our Country series that shows the prominent part of the regional city, Hradec Králové (translated as Queen's Castle). The set was issued on March 19, 2008 [see the *New Issues* section of this *SPECIALIST*].

The stamp illustrates part of the town's Grand Square with the Gothic twin-towered Cathedral of the Holy Ghost, the Renaissance White Tower, one of the two clock towers of the old City Hall, and, in the forefront, the column of the Virgin Mary. Figure 1 shows the FDC for this stamp of the set. Figure 2 contains a postcard from 1928 showing the same basic view of the square. (Fig. 1/2 on pg. 20/21)

Karel has been patiently petitioning the Czech stamp issuing authorities since 2005 for this stamp. Hradec Králové is Karel's home city.

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Amy Petrik of Yankton, SD, created the 2008 60th Annual Czech Days design.

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Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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No. 3, Whole No. 609

Published bi-monthly - \$25.00 per year

Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)

Periodical Paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

11¼ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.csphilately.org

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THE 1928 POSTAGE DUE ISSUE: Part II

by Mark Wilson

Introduction

Part I of this series of articles discussed and described the general facts -- such as design, perforations, production, and plate identifiers -- of the 1928 postage due issue. Part II introduces collectors to the many types found in the issue. As Part I mentioned, the printers sometimes used more than one black print for the paste-up used to create a photographic negative to transfer to a metal plate. As there sometimes were small differences between the black print images, one may find as many as three different types in some panes of stamps. For the collector, this means that a relatively mundane set of stamps has been enriched by several collecting opportunities. Those opportunities are discussed below.

There are two logical arrangements for a discussion of the various denominations. One could present each in the chronological order of their release or one could present them in denominational order. Since the latter ordering eases the use of this article as a reference tool, it has been selected.

The 5h Stamp



Fig. 1

As the parable says, the last shall be first, for the 5h (Fig. 1) was the final stamp released in the 1928 postage due series. As an artifact of that sequence, the denomination used came from the 5 Kč stamp rather than the numeral 5 used by the other haléřů denominations. Note the flat top on the 50h (Fig. 2) stamp and the curved top on the 5h (Fig. 3) and 5 Kč (Fig. 4). Some 24,550,000 5h stamps were released on July 7, 1928.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

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The two types of this stamp are easily distinguished by the condition of the tendrils below the value tablets under the letters A and Ř. For **Type I** (Fig. 5), the tips of the tendrils are well formed, but for **Type II** (Fig. 6), the left tip is broken off and the right tip is greatly attenuated or missing entirely.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

The 10h Stamp



Fig. 7

The 10h stamp (Fig. 7) was part of the first wave of stamps released. Some 9,830,000 were printed. The use of three different black prints gave rise to three different types of the 10h stamp. While Type I is easily identified, distinguishing between a Type I and a Type III stamp can be quite difficult.

One of the differences appears on the lower right edge of the upper scalloped decoration of the stylized fruit in the upper left-hand corner of each stamp. For **Type I** (Fig. 8) and **Type II** (Fig. 9), the lower right edge of the scallop is relatively smooth, but for **Type III** (Fig. 10 and 10a), there is a slight bulge in the colored indentation between the two lower scallops. Figure 10a isolates this bulge for **Type III**.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10 and 10a

A second set of details can be used to distinguish the three types. While *The Monografie* describes the distinguishing identifier for **Type II** as a damaged lower leaf in the upper right part of the stamp (Fig. 11), which is not present in **Type I** (Fig. 12) or **Type III** (Fig. 13) stamps, a pane in the author's collection with the plate identifier shows another difference: there is a dot in the center of the white circle

between the top of the left tulip and the lower part of the vine surrounding the fruit in the upper left corner of the stamp (in the bottom center-left of Figure 9).



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

The 20h Stamp



Fig. 15

This stamp (Fig. 14) was part of the second wave of releases on March 29, 1928. Some 7,130,000 stamps were printed. Like the 10h, the printers used three different black prints to make the paste-up for the negative transferred to a metal plate. Unlike the 10h, the three types of 20h stamps are quite easy to distinguish from one another.

The types differ in two details. **Type I** lacks the identifying marks of Type II and Type III stamps: the trefoil in the upper right corner is undamaged (Fig. 15) and the base of the left tulip is normal (Fig. 18). For **Type II**, the trefoil in the upper right corner is deformed (Fig. 16), but as in Type I, the base of the tulip is normal (Fig. 19). **Type III**, like type I, has a normal trefoil in the upper right corner (Fig. 17), but the inner outline of the upper petal in the left tulip extends to the base of the flower (Fig. 20).



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

The 30h Stamp



Fig. 21

Like the 20h stamp, the 30h (Fig. 21) was part of the second wave of releases on March 29, 1928. Some 30,350,000 stamps were printed. Again, three black prints were used to produce the negative, giving rise to three different types. *The Monografie* describes the differences between the three types as: **Type I** simply lacks the distinguishing characteristics of Type II and Type III. For **Type II** (Fig. 25), the upper leaf under the trefoil is damaged. Finally, *The Monografie* describes **Type III** as having a damaged center leaf in the upper left trefoil (Fig. 24).

However, in seeking out these differences on the single pane in the author's collection (33/1), *The Monografie's* descriptions appeared insufficient or incorrect. The identifying feature of Type II was not found on every Type II stamp: only a very few leaves appeared to be damaged. Thus, the following differences (at least as found on Plate 33/1) seem more consistent.

In the upper left trefoil, for **Type I**, the vein in the central leaf appears to bend downward and has ample space between it and the upper edge of the leaf. The vein may sometimes reach the tip of the leaf, but the resulting opening to the surrounding color is always quite narrow (Fig. 22). In **Type II** stamps, the same vein touches or points at the upper edge of its leaf (Fig. 23). On the other hand, the central vein in **Type III** stamps always touches the tip and forms a broad opening to the surrounding color (Fig. 24).



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 27

As for *The Monografie's* description of the upper leaf under the right trefoil for **Type II**, the only noticeable difference in **Type II** (Fig. 26) seems to be that the leaf has a broader base on its central vein than does **Type I** (Fig. 25) or **Type III** (Fig. 27).

The 40h Stamp



Fig. 28

The stamp (Fig. 28) was part of the first wave of releases on February 1, 1928. Some 54,540,000 stamps were printed. The three types of the 40h, again produced by the use of three different black prints, are quite easy to identify.

Type I (Fig. 29 and Fig. 32) lacks the identifying features of Type II and Type III. **Type II** shows a notch in the outer center of the right leg of the N in NSKÁ (Fig. 33) and lacks the dot in the upper left trefoil (Fig. 30). **Type III** has a colored dot between the vein and edge of the lower leaf in the upper right trefoil (Fig. 31) and has a normal N (Fig. 34).



Fig. 29



Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Fig. 32



Fig. 33



Fig. 34

The 50h Stamp



Fig. 35

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As another member of the first wave of releases, the 50h stamp (Fig. 35) went into circulation on February 1, 1928. Approximately 70,680,000 stamps were printed. The printers also used three black prints to produce the 50h and thus produced three different types.

Details in or near the two right hand apples may be used to distinguish the three types from one another. For **Type I**, both the upper right apple (Fig. 36) and the lower right apple (Fig. 39) are normal. While the upper right apple is normal (Fig. 37) for **Type II**, the vein in the tiny leaf on the left between the lower right-hand apple and the vine that surrounds it breaks the bottom of the leaf (Fig. 40). **Type III**, on the other hand, has a normal leaf above the lower right hand apple (Fig. 41), but the lower scallop on the upper right hand apple has a large colored projection coming in from its right side near its top (Fig. 38).



Fig. 36

Fig. 37

Fig. 38



Fig. 39



Fig. 40



Fig. 41

The 60h Stamp



Fig. 42

The stamp (Fig. 42) was another part of the first wave of releases on February 1, 1928. Many, many plates were used to print the 84,400,000 60h stamps and the issue is rich in plate flaws. Note the colored spot at the top of the numeral 6 in

Figure 42. However, since only one black print was used to construct the negative, there are no types of the 60h stamp.

The 1 Kč Stamp



Fig. 43

Just as for the 60h, the 1 Kč (Fig. 43) was part of the first wave of releases on February 1, 1928. Some 162,230,000 stamps were produced. And again, like the 60h, only one black print was used, so there are no types. However, the complex printing history of the 1 Kč stamp, which was discussed in Part I, makes it a stamp rich in collecting possibilities.

The 2 Kč Stamp



Fig. 44

The 2 Kč stamp (Fig. 44) was part of the first wave of releases on February 1, 1928. About 16,340,000 stamps were printed. For this denomination, three different black prints were used, resulting in three types.

As usual, **Type I** lacks any distinguishing characteristics. The K in KORUNY is unblemished (Fig. 45) and the joint between the two leaves above the letter N in DOPLATNĚ is smooth (Fig. 48). **Type II** also has an unblemished K in KORUNY (Fig. 46), but there is a sharp upward projection between the two leaves above the letter N in the word DOPLATNĚ (Fig. 49). For **Type III**, the lower right leg of the K in KORUNY has a thin colored line coming in at its bottom (Fig. 47), but, like Type I, the joint between the two leaves above the N in the word DOPLATNĚ is smooth (Fig. 50).



Fig. 45



Fig. 46



Fig. 47



Fig. 48



Fig. 49



Fig. 50

The 5 Kč Stamp



Fig. 51

The 5 Kč stamp (Fig. 51) was part of the second wave of releases on March 29, 1928. About 7,000,000 stamps were printed. Noteworthy is the fact that the numeral 5 in this stamp was used for the 5h stamp (Fig. 3) rather than the numeral 5 from the 50h (Fig. 2).

Since three black prints were used to produce the 5 Kč stamp, there are three types for this denomination also. **Type I** has a normal O in the word KORUN (Fig. 52) and a normal T in the word DOPLATNĚ (Fig. 55). For **Type II**, there is a small bite from the lower left side of the O in KORUN (Fig. 53), but the T in DOPLATNĚ is normal (Fig. 56). **Type III** has a normal O in KORUN (Fig. 54), but on the upper left side of the T in DOPLATNĚ, just below the left arm, the uppermost shading line has a distinctive upward hook (Fig. 57).



Fig. 52



Fig. 53



Fig. 54



Fig. 55



Fig. 56



Fig. 57

The 10 Kč Stamp



Fig. 58

The 10 Kč stamp (Fig. 58) was part of the second wave of releases on March 29, 1928. Some 74,590,000 stamps were printed. Once more, the printers used three black prints, producing three types of stamp.

All of the differences are found near or in the upper left apple. **Type I** lacks the distinguishing features of Type II and Type III (Fig. 59). **Type II** has a colored splotch near the inner bottom of the apple, but does not have a dot in the circle between the apple and the tulip below it (Fig. 60). **Type III**, like Type I, has no splotch in the apple, but there is a dot or mark in the circle between the left tulip and the apple (Fig. 61).



Fig. 59



Fig. 60



Fig. 61

The 20 Kč Stamp



Fig. 62

The 20 Kč stamp (Fig. 62) is the highest denomination. It was part of the second release and about 3,950,000 stamps were printed. Three black prints were used in the production of the plates, thus the stamp appears in three different types.

Again for this stamp, **Type I** has no distinguishing features found in the left tulip: there is no dot in the upper circle and the lower edge of the base of the tulip is smooth (Fig. 63). For **Type II**, a dot appears in the center of the white circle above the tulip, but as with Type I, the base of the tulip is smooth (Fig. 64). **Type III** has no dot in the upper circle, but if the base of the tulip below the two parallel lines that form its stem is examined closely, a small, flattened semi-circle of color can be seen intruding into the lower part of the white area (Fig. 65).



Fig. 63



Fig. 64



Fig. 65

A third installment of this article is planned in order to present the location of every type on every pane for each denomination of the 1928 Postage Due issue. In it, the use of multiple black prints for some denominations will become quite obvious.

Plea Response

At the end of the first part of my article I asked if any readers might supply images of the reversed 60h year and plate identifiers, and the 1 Kč unbroken stress bars. Virtually at the same time that my copy of the Specialist arrived, fellow member Miroslav Vrzala supplied me with scans of both items. Thanks, Miroslav, for your prompt generosity. Miroslav's scans are shown here.



- Unbroken stress bar on the 1 Kč stamp



- 60h stamps where the year and sequence numbers are reversed

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WANTED FOR STUDY: 1923 Agriculture and Science Issue, **200h** **Type+ III stamps only**, perforations and condition unimportant. Am willing to buy. Am also willing to borrow stamps temporarily, paying postage both ways.

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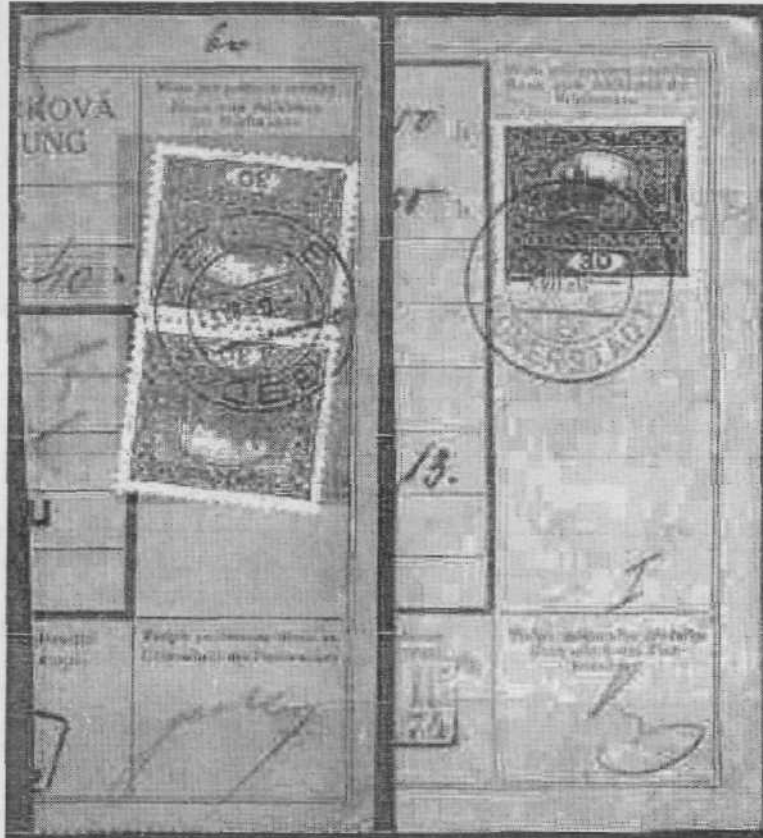
HRADČANY 30h STAMP

by Lubor Kunc

Many stamp collectors are interested in the Hradčany issue as being a classic stamp set of Czechoslovakia, but only a few of them study in detail the 30 heller (violet) stamps. What a pity, the stamp is (at least in my eyes) one of the most interesting stamps of the whole Hradčany set.

The 30h Hradčany stamp was issued on April 12, 1920 and reached a press run of 36 million stamps. It is listed as number 13 in POFIS catalogs of Czechoslovak stamps. The first unusualness of this stamp is its picture, created by stamp drawing no. 6 (marked "ea" in current Czech catalogues). The picture seems a bit raw in comparison to pictures of other Hradčany stamps -- try to compare a 30h stamp with a 75h one and the difference in the picture is clearly seen. In addition, the stamp is known in two colors -- in light and dark violet (Fig. 1).

The 30h stamp was issued during the 3rd Czechoslovak postal tariff period which lasted only from March 15 to July 31, 1920. This period belongs to the shortest tariff period of Czechoslovak history, and postal covers really sent during it are not very often to be found.



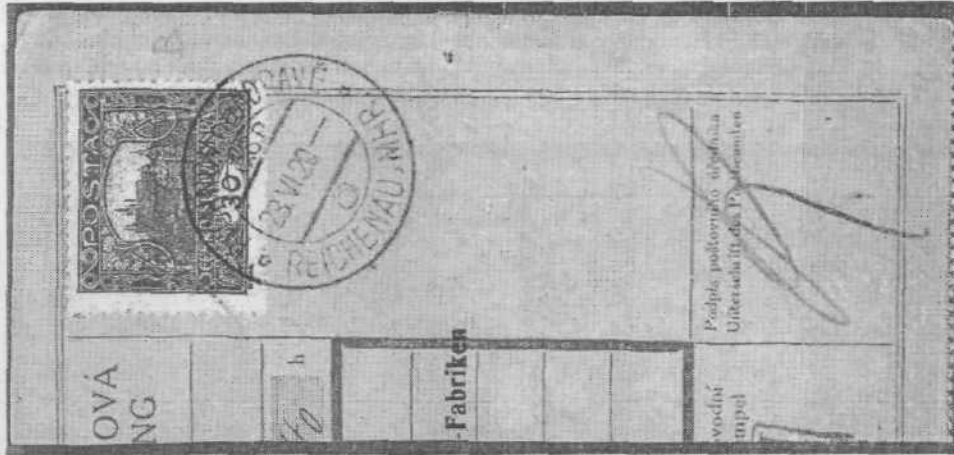


Figure 2: Money order sent from Rychnov na Moravě

The value of 30h was at that tariff period useful for:

- domestic money order up to 50 Crowns (Fig. 2)
- domestic letter up to 20 grams (Fig. 3)
- additional postage over the basic weight rate for international letters.

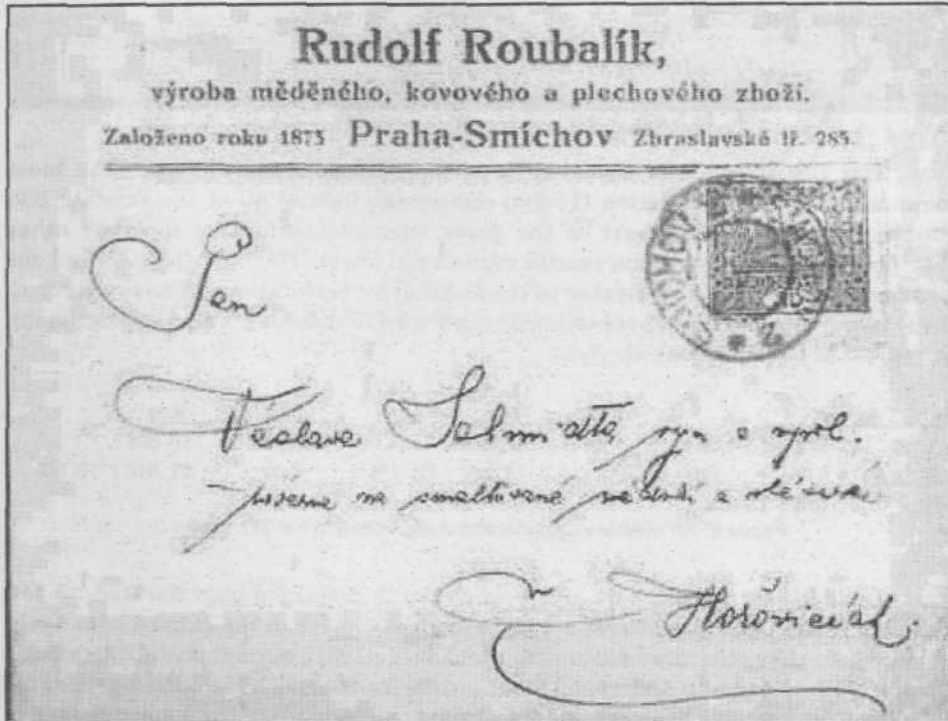


Figure 3: Domestic letter sent from Smichov (Prague) to Horovice

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After the expiration of the 3rd tariff period, the 30h stamps were used in mixed frankings with other Hradčany stamps, but also with other Czechoslovak stamp issues. A nice example is the domestic postcard rate being increased to 40h in the 4th tariff period, where the 30h stamps were often used for the new postage (Fig. 4).



Figure 4: Domestic postcard sent from Ústí nad Orlicí to Prague, Oct. 1920

The 30h stamp was issued both perforated and imperforated. The most common is the "B" perforation (11 3/4) comprising 99% of all of the existing 30h stamps. The remaining part of the press run was perforated to many other specifications (including some special ministerial ones). No one is able to find out how many stamps were perforated to the alternative perforations. The press run of these "other" stamps was never officially confirmed, but these stamps belong among the rarest of Czechoslovak stamps.

<u>Perf.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Perf.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Perf.</u>	<u>Size</u>
A	13 3/4 : 13 1/2	B	11 3/4	C	13 3/4
D	11 1/2	E	11 1/2 : 13 3/4	J	11 3/4 : 11 1/2
K	11 3/4 : 13 3/4				

Figure 5: An overview of perforations applicable to the 30h stamp

In addition, a small part of the whole issue remained imperforated. A few sheets of the imperforated stamps were delivered by error to the Jánské Lázně post office, where they were used during June and July 1920 in normal postal operations. Until now, only 4 covers and a few money orders franked with the 30h imperforated Hradčany stamp have been discovered. Here is a list of all of the known covers:

1. A letter sent on June 23, 1920 from Jánské Lázně to Mrs. V. Starostova of Liboun franked with a corner piece of the imperforated 30h Hradčany stamp (ex Pytlíček).

2. A postcard sent from Jánské Lázně on July 20, 1920 to Austria (addressed to Adda Hauschka). Authenticity checked and confirmed by Karásek.

3. A letter sent from Jánské Lázně to Prague to Mr. Reiner (pictured on page 118 of "Čs. Filatelie 1988"). Authenticity checked and confirmed by Kraus, Pittermann, and Karásek.

4. Letter sent to Karlín from Jánské Lázně, checked by Karásek (ex Klein).

An example of a money order franked with an imperforated stamp is shown in "Vzácnosti a Zajímavosti Čs. Známek" [Rare and Remarkable Czechoslovak Stamps -- see Available Publications].

Stamp collectors who were lucky enough to find these imperforated stamps sometimes provided them with postal cancels of other post offices making them "useful" for their collections of canceled stamps. For example, we know of imperforated 30h stamps with cancels of Praha 1, Praha 13, Praha -- Vsesokolsky Slet 1920, or Hermanuv Mestec post offices. Unfortunately, stamps with these cancels have lower value, because they were never really sent, but only created by collectors who were mainly interested at that time in canceled stamps.

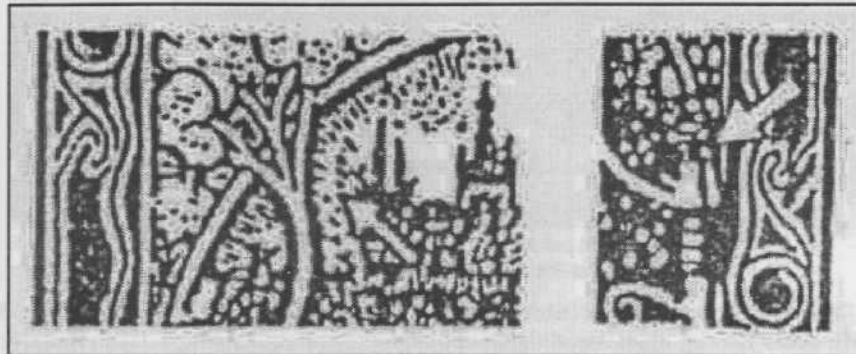


Figure 6a: Type I - white dot on right, no smudge on left.



Figure 6b: Type II - no white dot on right, smudge on the left.

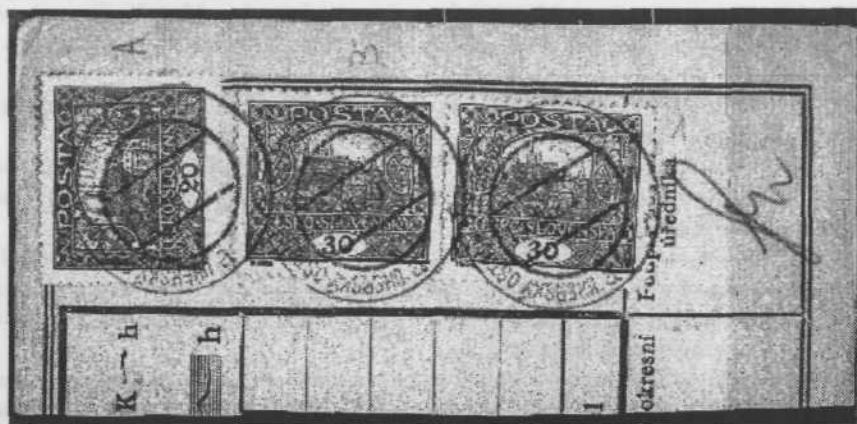


Figure 7: Money order franked with Type I of the 30h stamp.

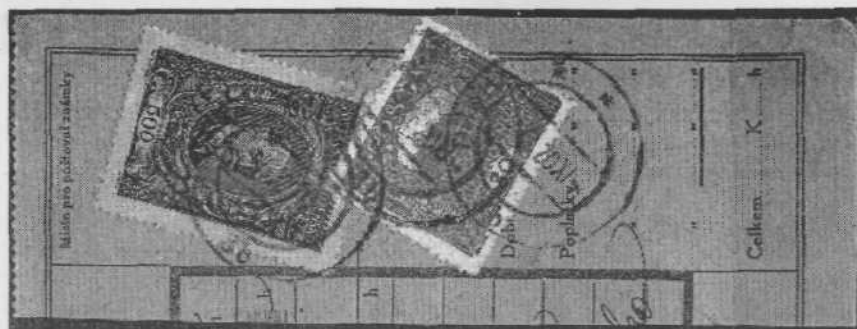


Figure 8: Parcel dispatch note franked with Type II of the 30h stamp plus the 5 K Masaryk issue of 1920.

And this is not the last interesting thing connected with this stamp! In 1994, Mr. Miroslav Křejný discovered different types of the 30h stamps. He informed us of his discovery in the journal *Filatelie*, no. 2/1994, on page 57. The first type has a white dot in the right part of the stamp and no smudge on the left side (Fig. 6a). The second type has no dot in the right side, but has a smudge on the left side (Fig. 6b). Both types of the stamp are situated on a single plate, so joined-types are known.

Very nice are joined-types used on money orders or parcel dispatch notes. I like them very much; they document genuine postal operations of the time. In addition, the types -- including the joined-types -- of the stamp are not very well known by collectors, and thus you can still now find them among "normal" postal items. One of the reasons could be that while the types are mentioned in almost every catalogue of Czechoslovak stamps, their pricing and any additional information is usually missing.

I found some copies of the joined-types for my collection, and Figures 9/10 are a few examples.

The 30th Hradčany stamp was not only used as a definitive stamp valid for all of the Czechoslovak territory, but it was also issued with the SO 1920 overprint for

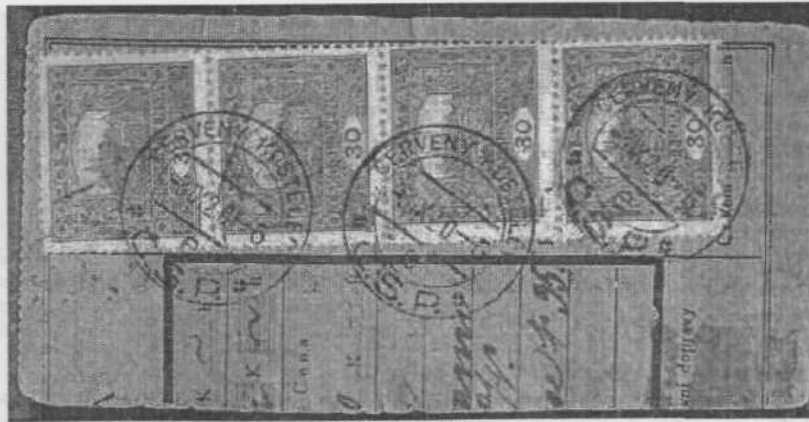


Figure 9a/b: Money order for transfer of up to 2,200 Crowns sent from Červený Kostelec on Sep. 3, 1920; 30h stamps are perforated 11 3/4 (B); individual stamps show following types - II+I+II+I (front side); II+II (back side up); II, I (back side down).

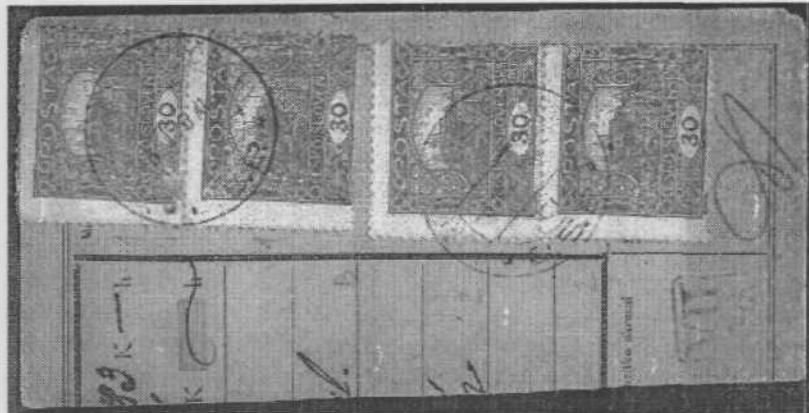


Figure 10: Joined types of 30h Hradčany stamp on a money order (transfer of up to 800 Crowns). Very shifted stamp perforation 11 3/4 (B), cancellation Dobřichovice, 6.8.1920.

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the plebiscite area of Eastern Silesia and Northern Slovakia situated on the Czechoslovak-Polish border. The Czechoslovak SO 1920 stamps were only valid in the Czechoslovak zone of the plebiscite territory.

The first stamps of the SO 1920 series were put into circulation in February 1920. The 30h violet Hradčany stamp having the SO 1920 overprint was issued on June 21, 1920, and it was valid (together with other stamps of the SO 1920 issue) only until August 10, 1920.

The press run of the stamp totaled 1,150,000 copies that were perforated type "B" (11 3/4). Despite this fact, we do not often find this stamp value on genuinely sent covers (Fig. 11).

The different types and joined-types can also be found on SO 1920 stamps created from the original 30h Hradčany issue stamps.

There are also known imperforated copies of the stamp having the SO 1920 overprint, but these stamps were never officially issued. Surprisingly, the imperforated 30h Hradčany stamp with the SO 1920 overprint is much cheaper than the same stamp without the overprint. The only explanation of this crazy situation is the philatelic background of the imperforated SO 1920 stamps.

I hope this article showed you how interesting the discussed stamp is, and that even now we can find interesting items among "normal" covers and cuttings. However, many of the stamp variants belong to the "top" items of Czechoslovak philately.



Figure 11: 30h Hradčany stamps overprinted with SO 1920 of Type I and Type II (bearing postal cancels of the Czechoslovak Prefect post office in the Polish zone of the Těšín area).

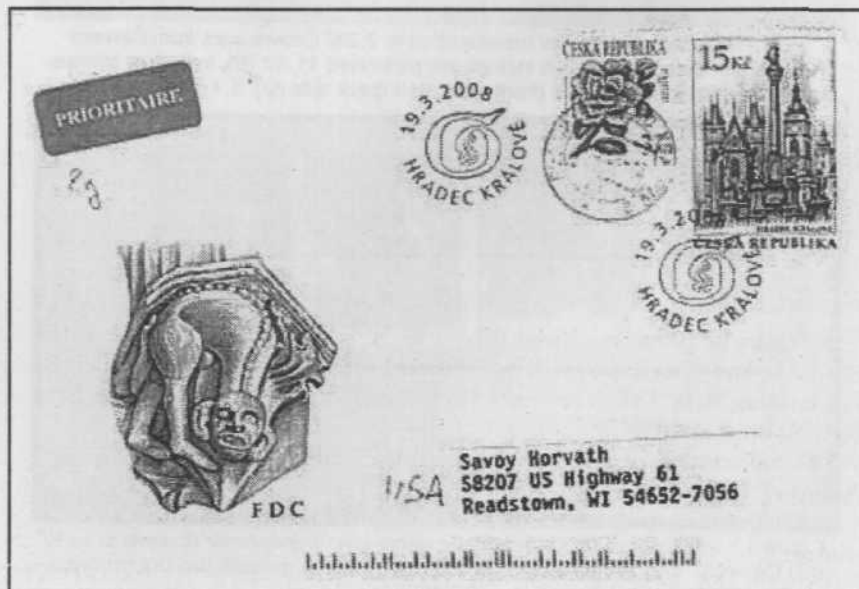


Fig. 1 from Page. 1



Fig. 2 from Page 1

* * * * *

FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ – FRANTIŠEK L. RIEGER CZECHOSLOVAK PATRIOTS

by Gerald M. van Zanten

The instigations of the 1848-49 revolutionary events in Europe take their roots from the development of manufacturing techniques and the resultant movement of the populace into cities (late 18th century), leading to the loosening of the old feudal relationships (e.g. allowing for the abolition of serfdom). The resultant inability of the Austrian power structure to deal with the subsequent worker's revolts in the early 1840's in Prague and Brno (Fig. 1, Sc3053, 150th anniversary of the revolution in Prague) and the news of revolutionary upheavals in Italy, France, and elsewhere in 1848, forced the convening of a Parliamentary Assembly on 22 July 1848 in Vienna. Its purpose was to review and revise the constitution with respect to the new prevailing demands of the people. However, the assembly had to be dissolved in October when revolution broke out in Vienna.



Fig. 1

The Emperor and his court retired from Vienna to Olomouc, and declared that the assembly would reconvene in Kroměříž on 15 November 1848 where they were to work out the new Austrian Constitution. Thus Kroměříž became a city upon which the eyes of Austria and all of Europe were focused.

The Kroměříž parliamentary hall -- having a monumental interior with rich

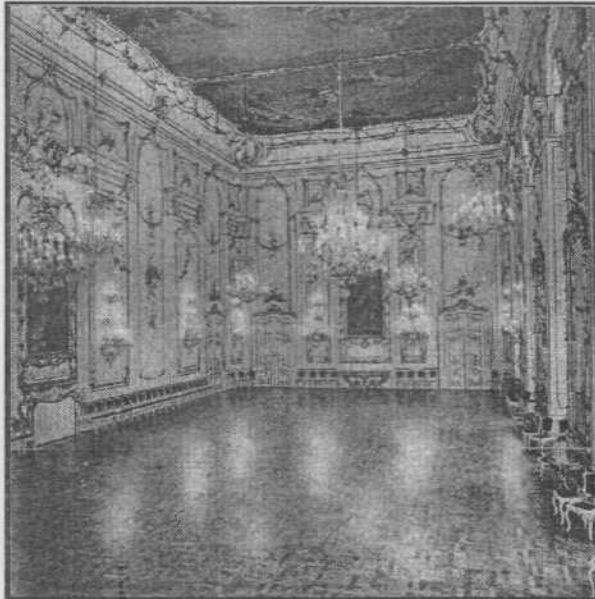


Fig. 2

stucco decoration and ceiling painting from about 1770 by Adolph Freenthal (Fig. 2) -- is memorable for the meeting of the Imperial Constituent Assembly in 1848-49. This early baroque chateau from 1686-1711 with a tower of earlier origin (Fig. 3) stands on the site of a Gothic castle and a later Renaissance residence. It has beautiful, richly decorated halls, ceiling frescos, valuable furnishings and a unique picture gallery.

The Constituent Assembly brought patriots from all of the Austrian lands into the city. Chief among these from the Czech lands were František Palacký and František Ladislav Rieger,

among others (Fig. 4, Sc355-6, 100th anniversary of the Assembly). In fact, it has been suggested that František Palacký allegedly instigated the choice of Kroměříž as the site for the re-assembly. Figure 5 shows a cachet developed for one variety of the FDC for the above issue.

**František Palacký
1798 - 1876**

Palacký was born at Hodslavice to the family of a teacher and sexton of the Protestant church (Fig. 6). The house in which he was born in the Beskyd mountains in Wallachia has been preserved in its original likeness (Fig. 7).

At the tender age of nine he went to nearby Kunvald to learn German and to study the piano. But his father being afraid that he might become Catholicized in Kunvald, sent him to the Evangelical school in Trenčín. A few years later he



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

continued his education in the Lyceum in Bratislava, a school famous all over the Hungarian lands -- this in due course decided his future development.

While there he made friends with Slovak patriots, among them P.T. Šafařík (1795-1861)(see my Kežmarok article in the Sep/Oct 2007 SPECIALIST). The main aim of these friendships was patriotism and a common interest in reviving the nation and its language.

He longed to go to Prague, but by chance he became a librarian at the museum. He now



Fig. 5

commenced studying philosophy, however his main interest was always history.

In 1823 he finally moved to Prague and ended up marrying the sister, Terezie, of the composer L. Mečhura. She was an accomplished musician, a harpist, and the Palacký salon became a distinguished center of Czech enlightened society.

In 1827/28 he founded and edited the periodical *Časopis Českého Musea*, the journal of the Czech museum. This was followed by his book *Ancient Czech Annals from 1378 to 1527*. In 1829 he completed the work *Würdigung der Alten Bömischen*



Fig. 6

hen Geschichtsschreiber (Appraisalment of the Ancient Czech Historians), which later enabled the writing of *Geschichte Von Böhmen* (the History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia), written between 1836 and 1876.

He always regarded the Hussite period as the summit of Czech history. Not only did he do his historical research, he also



Fig. 7

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took an active part in political life. In 1848 he was the leader of the liberal camp involved in the Constituent Assembly at Kroměříž. While there, his main comment was: "Either we achieve a situation where we can say with pride: I am a Slav, or we shall stop being Slavs".

In a final area of accomplishment, on 7 September 1850 the committee for the establishment of the National Theater was formed under the chairmanship of Palacký.

František Ladislav Rieger 1818 - 1903

Rieger was one of the chief spokesmen of the rising generation at the 1848 Assembly (Fig. 8). On December 21 the Assembly began debating the new constitution's first proposal of the people's basic rights, which was submitted by the Czech representative František L. Rieger and was based on Assembly deliberations. The proposal contains in its first paragraph a revolutionary element which is valid even today. It begins with these memorable words: All the State power emanates from its people and is exercised by the means provided in the constitution. The first part of these words is paraphrased on the label shown along with the stamp in Figure 4 above.



Fig. 8

After the assembly, Rieger lived in exile in France until 1851. On his return he married Palacký's daughter Marie. Rieger later published the first Czech encyclopedia (11 volumes) between 1858 and 1874.

In 1861 he founded *Národní Listy* (The National Paper), the first important Czech newspaper and won election to the Bohemian Diet and Austrian Reichsrat. After losing his seat 30 years later he retired from political life.

His daughter, Marie Červinková-Riegerová, 1854-1895, was a librettist for two of Dvořák's finest operas. She and her father were very close, and he took a pride and a virtually participatory interest in her work. Her final libretto was written for the opera *The Jacobin* and was first performed in the National Theater on February 12, 1889.

References:

- "Kroměříž", Miloslav Vlček, *SPECIALIST*, Nov/Dec 1998, p27.
- *Dejiny České Hudby*; Supraphon edition 1977.
- *Hrady a Zámky*; Olympia/Prague 1975.



Charley's Corner

If you look carefully at the cover in Figure 1, you will note that it contains a phrase between two lines which says "par Ballon monté". This identifies the cover as having been flown via balloon. But from where and when? Clues are the French stamps franking it -- a 20c and a 40c for a total of 60c, the cancel showing a date of 8 Oct. 1870, and the address indicating it is to go to Prague.

Additional clues are found on the reverse (Fig. 2). Here we find a transit cancel of "WIEN 19.10.70" [Vienna] and an arrival cancel of "PRAG 20.10.70 -- KLEINSIETE" [Prague -- Malá Strana].



Fig. 1

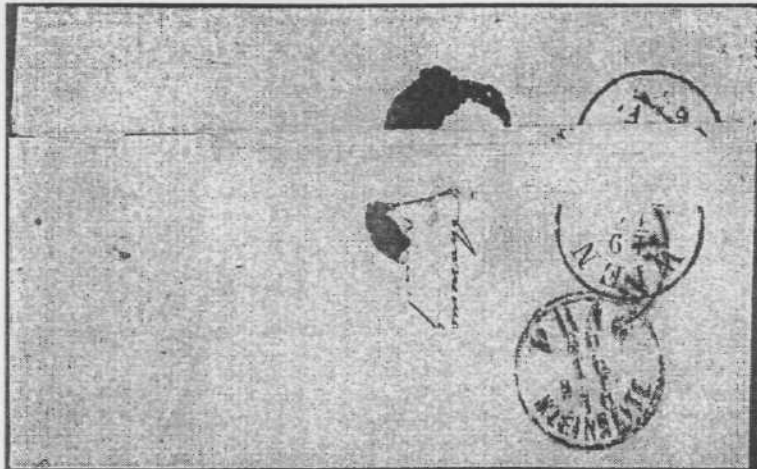


Fig. 2

Now we can look back in history for situations that fit these clues. It turns out that during the Franco-Prussian war in 1870-71, the French cities of Metz and Paris were encircled by Prussian troops. There was no way to get out or in by surface means, so mail was sent out via balloon. This was the first large use of balloon post. The franking for a letter was 60c.

In all there were transported to the outside over ten thousand pieces of mail -- most of which

went to France or Belgium. From this total there are know a few pieces that were addressed to the Czechoslovak area -- mainly Prague. The Trojan Czechoslovak airmail catalog lists 7 such covers. Their dates of posting range from September through November 1870.

The balloons were given names, and the one that carried this cover was "le Washington".

Charley Chesloe

Reference:

-- *Československá Letecká Pošta 1918-1939*; MUDr. Petr Horka, *FILATELIE TROJAN*, Praha 1997

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- In 2006, the *Specialist* contained a five-part series entitled "Mailings of the Prague Pneumatic Post" by Antonín Šmid. Last month he sent a letter (Fig. 1) that had on it two recent Czech Republic definitive stamps that were issued along with blank labels that could have additional text or images printed on them. In this case the label attached to the 7.50 Kč stamp on the right is commemorating the 120 years

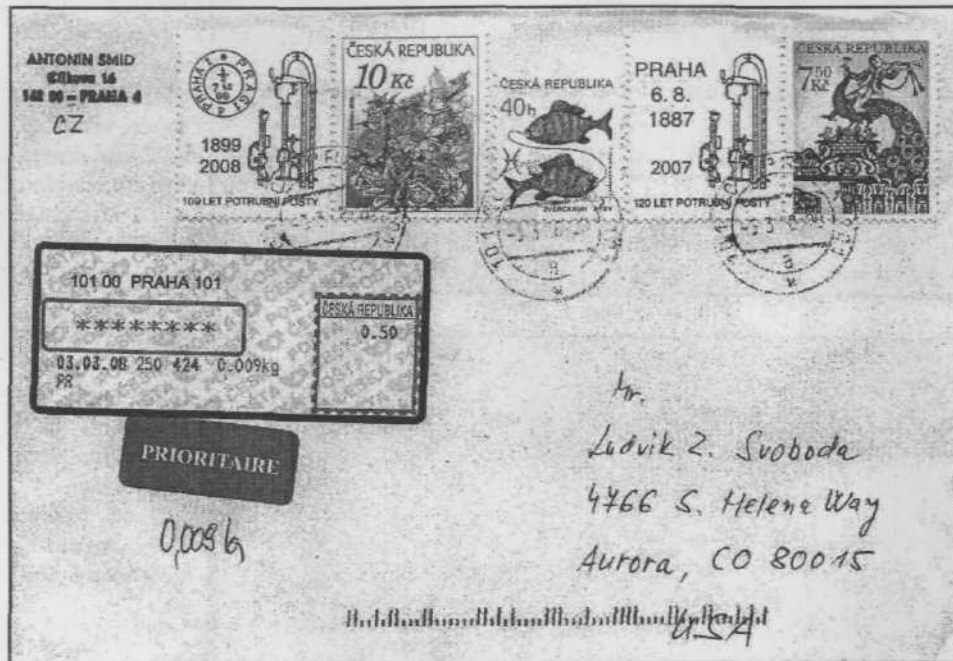


Fig.1

since the pneumatic mail system started in Prague 6.8.1887. The label attached to the 10 Kč stamp on the left is commemorating the 109 years since the pneumatic mail system was opened up to the general public (the copy of the cancel from that day shows 4.3.1899) -- prior to that date it was used exclusively for official business. Both of the labels were designed by Antonín Šmid.

-- This letter was recently sent from Slovakia, but I am not sure it was legally franked (Fig. 2). The stamp on the right has a value designation of T2 50g corresponding to a franking for a domestic second-class letter up to 50g. Because it was not sent domestically and was marked with a "1. Trieda Classe" label, was this letter franked correctly for going to the USA? Can the T2 50g stamp be used on a first class letter going out of the country? To get answers, I sent an e-mail to Slovenská Pošta -- POFIS with three questions. They are shown here along with the answers from Monika Podolska, Head of the Division of Business and Marketing.

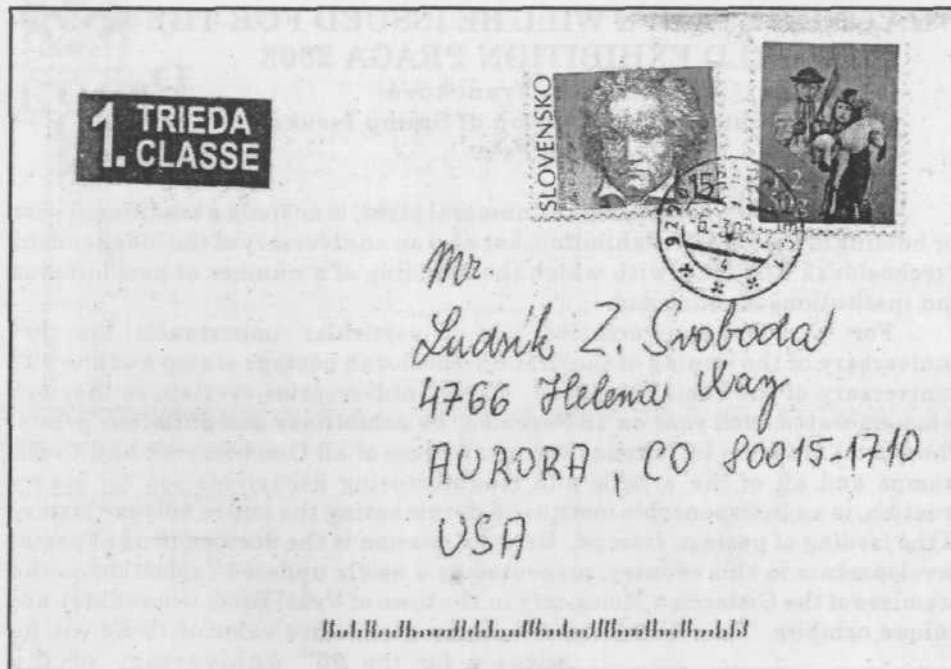


Fig. 2

1. What was the postal rate for sending this letter from Hlohovec to the USA under first class? [The postal rate for first class letter from Slovakia to USA is 25 SKK.]

2. Was it correct to put the T2 stamp on this first class mailing? [Yes, it was correct. The value of the stamp T2 50g (T - tuzemský: domestic, 2 - second class up to 50 grams) is 10 SKK. It is the postal rate for domestic letter, but it can be used for any letters. So on your letter there are two stamps -- 15 SKK and 10 SKK (T2 50g) = 25 SKK.]

3. Is the franking for this mailing correct? [Yes, it is absolutely correct.]

2. From Dennis Povondra:

-- Elsewhere in this issue is an ad for a cachet commemorating the 60th Czech Days celebration at Tabor, SD. The celebration has kept alive the heritage of the early founders of the little South Dakota community who came to Tabor from Czechoslovakia as early as 1869. What started out to be a small community celebration by a little town of 400 people and the surrounding rural community now draws as many as 10,000 people. Some of them come for the tasty Czech pastry, the koláče, of which thousands are made and consumed, others to see the Beseda dancers, over 238 of them dressed in traditional Czech costume, while others come for the colorful parade held on Friday. But whatever your reason for coming, don't forget to get your commemorative cancel.

WHAT NEW STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED FOR THE WORLD EXHIBITION PRAGA 2008

by Vítězslava Francková
Head, Dept. for Preparation of Stamp Issues
Czech Post



The year 2008, containing the numeral eight, is not only a traditional year for holding of the PRAGA exhibition, but also an anniversary of the independent Czechoslovak Republic, with which the founding of a number of new bureaus and institutions is connected.

For us, two anniversaries are of particular importance: the 90th anniversary of the issuing of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp and the 90th anniversary of the Postal Museum. These anniversaries overlap, so they are commemorated each year on 18 December by exhibitions and philatelic prints. The Postal Museum in Prague, having archives of all Czechoslovak and Czech stamps and all of the artistic and manufacturing documentation for stamp creation, is an indispensable institution documenting the entire 90-year history of the issuing of postage stamps. Its chief mission is the documenting of postal developments in this country, presented by a newly updated exposition on the premises of the Cistercian Monastery in the town of Vyšší Brod, where there are unique exhibits. On 5 March 2008 a stamp with a face value of 10 Kč will be



Fig. 1

released for the 90th anniversary of the Postal Museum with a motif that the stamp's designer, Otakar Karlas, drew directly from the theatrical salon in the museum. It is based on one of the murals by Josef Navrátil depicting the attractive subject of King Wenceslas IV with the Spa Servant Susanna taking him across the Vltava River in a boat. This cameo is one of 16 murals representing legends from Czech history (The Court of Libuše, the Calling of Přemysl to the Throne, Oldřich and Božena), theatrical scenes (Faust and Marguerite, William Tell) and even the artist himself -- Josef Navrátil, who painted himself in front of an easel holding a palette and brush. His portrait is used on the FDC. The stamps were engraved by Bohumil Šneider. Besides sheets, the stamps will come out in a philatelic booklet with 8 stamps and 4 coupons.

J. Navrátil (1798-1865) was Prague's most famous decorative painter, specializing in murals for bourgeois, noble and imperial residences. The lovely house at the address Nové Mlýny 2, the site of the Postal Museum, was the original residence for the mill that once stood there. In the 19th century, it belonged to Michalovic, a wealthy miller and patron of the arts, who entrusted his friend J. Navrátil with decorating the house. Besides the theatrical salon, he also decorated the former dining room, where there is a picture with a detail, Turin, Monte Superga, that is intimately familiar to philatelists.

On 28 May 2008 a block of stamps designed by Adolf Absolon will come out. The stamps will depict **Ledeburg Garden**. Built in the early 18th century,

it is one of the loveliest gardens on the southern slope below Prague Castle, and it constitutes a part of the continuous complex of palace gardens. Ledeburg Garden was later given its high Baroque appearance in 1787 by I.J. Palliardi, in the service of the Kolovrat family. The garden's steep terrain is divided into five terraces, connected by staircases and balustrades. The octagonal gazebo at the summit crowns



Fig. 2

the entire monumental work. In the lower part of the garden near the palace is the *Sala Terrena*, decorated with stucco and paintings of mythological scenes by V.V. Reiner, dated 1730. The adjacent area with a fountain with Hercules wrestling, depicted on a stamp, leads to the terraces over a twin staircase. There is a fountain in the middle of the parterre. The Ledeburg Garden was reopened in 1995 after renovations. It serves as an excellent venue for formal events including weddings. The stamp engraving is by Martin Srb. The stamp printed by die stamping combined with offset printing is issued as a miniature sheet. The stamp's face value is 51 Kč.

Prague's dominant features are more than just its ancient, historic towers, church steeples and palace roofs. Rightly counted among those features are such striking examples of contemporary or recent architecture as the **Emmaus Monastery Church** depicted on a 10 Kc [*sic 12 Kč*] stamp. The modern towers of the church were built in 1965-68 according to plans by the architect F.M. Černý. The original neo-Gothic twin towers above the church's façade and the monastery were severely damaged by an American airstrike on 14 February 1945. Today, the shape of the amazing, asymmetrical, 32-meter concrete vaults with gilded spires evokes angel wings, creating an interesting dominant feature of the area of the **New Town** below the cliffs. The stamp, created by Karel Zeman in collaboration with the engraver Jaroslav Tvrdoň, will come out on 3 September 2008 in a 50-stamp sheet set in checkerboard format with pairs alternating in opposite directions (*tete-beche*). The Dove and The Liberated Republic, from the years 1920-22, are other stamps from this country issued in that format.



Fig. 3

In 1347 Emperor Charles IV founded the *Na Slovanech* monastery for southern Slavonic Benedictine monks in an effort to strengthen the Slavonic liturgy and to suppress the disputes between the Western and Eastern churches. This was the only Slavonic monastery in the empire ruled by Charles IV where the monks used Old Church Slavonic as the liturgical language. It got the name Emmaus from the chapter of the Gospel

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that was read on the day of its consecration (describing the meeting of Jesus with disciples in Emmaus). The monastery became a center of learning and art.

The triple-nave Monastery Church of the Virgin Mary, Saint Jerome and the Slavonic Patrons is one of Prague's largest. Adjacent to it to the south is the four-winged monastery with arcades around the paradise garden. There is also a Gothic royal chapel, a capitular hall and a baroque refectory. The arcaded hallway is decorated with frescos that are among the most valuable remnants of the Gothic era. In 1990, the Benedictine order returned to the Emmaus Monastery, which is a national cultural landmark.

A joint Czech-Austrian issue commemorates the two important philatelic events -- the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 and the immediately subsequent WIPA 2008 International Stamp Exhibition, to be held from 18 to 21 September 2008 in Vienna.

The subject of the joint issue is the express postal coach on the Vienna-Brno route in 1750. On the miniature sheet, free use is made of a picture postcard published by the Union of Postal Officials in Vienna in the early 20th century and sent from Vienna to Prague on 23 December 1914. It now belongs to the collection of the Postal Museum in Prague. It bears a reproduction of a picture signed by K. Schnorpfeil, depicting a coach with a postilion and passengers drawn by a team of four horses. The landscape is even depicted in the background.

In 1750 regularly scheduled postal coaches (diligence) were running between Vienna and Brno.

The first trial run on that route was made by the originator of the project, Baron Lillien, in 1749. If needed, a traveler could pay for a special, express trip in a postal coach according to his/her own requirements. The price of a trip was based on the distance, the number of horses, transfer stations, etc., so it was very expensive and was used only in exceptional circumstances by travelers from the wealthiest classes. These coaches were usually drawn by teams of four horses, but teams of six or even eight could be used as needed. The uniform requirements for the postilion included a red doublet with blue facings, a post horn and high riding boots.

A miniature sheet with a 35 Kč stamp with engraving designed by Václav Fajt has been printed by the Prague Post Securities Printer by die stamping in combination with offset printing. It will come out on 12 September 2008, the day of the opening of the exhibition PRAGA 2008.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article courtesy of the PRAGA 2008 Bulletin I.]



Fig. 4

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou,

At the end of the first part of my article about the 1928 Postage Due issue I asked if any readers might supply scans or copies of the reversed 60h year and plate identifiers and the 1 Kč unbroken stress bars. Hardly had my copy of the *Specialist* arrived when I received from fellow member Miroslav Vrzala scans of both items. As a result of his kindness, the web pages for this issue are now complete. Readers interested in seeing these scans in color will find them at www.knihtisk.org. Thanks Miroslav for your prompt generosity.

Mark Wilson

2. To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Karl Ruzicka's article "Am I a Czech or Czechoslovak?" which appeared in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* last fall (Sept. - Oct. 2007), as I collect stamps from Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia on the theme of history. In addition, I had wondered about the apparent anomaly of the stamp honoring Father Andrej Hlinka (Sc 2836) issued by the Czechoslovak Republic.

I do have a brief clarification to make concerning the rulers and ruling dynasties of the Kingdom of Bohemia during the late medieval and early modern periods. As Mr. Ruzicka points out, the Přemyslid dynasty, which ended in 1306 with the death of Václav III, was followed in 1310 by the Luxembourg dynasty. The first Luxembourg ruler, John, was married to the sister of Václav III.

Following the end of the Luxembourg dynasty in 1457, things get complicated. The next king of Bohemia was Jiří (George) Poděbrady (Czechoslovakia Sc 854, 1232, 1232a). He, in turn, was followed in 1471 by the Polish prince Vladislav Jagiello, a member of the Jagiellonian dynasty which ruled Poland. Vladislav also became king of Hungary (such an arrangement was possible in those days). Vladislav's son Louis succeeded him to the thrones of both Bohemia and Hungary and died fighting the Turks at the Battle of Mohac in Hungary in 1526 (Hungary Sc 2432).

Enter the Habsburgs. The Austrian archduke Ferdinand, of the House of Habsburg, succeeded Louis as king of both Bohemia and Hungary. In 1558 he succeeded his brother, Charles V, as Holy Roman Emperor. Thus by 1620, Habsburgs had been kings of Bohemia for close to a century.

References:

- 1) Čornej, Petr. Fundamentals of Czech History. Translated by Todd Morath. Prague: Práh Publishers, 1992. - a pamphlet on Czech history for foreigners.
- 2) Dvornik, Francis. The Slavs in European History and Civilization. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1962. - old but still valuable.
- 3) Kann, Robert A. and Zdeněk V. David. The Peoples of the Eastern Habsburg Lands, 1526-1918. Seattle; University of Washington Press, 1984.

Sincerely yours,
Robin Gates Elliott

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3. Lou [on publications and their cost]:

Received some new publications from the Czech Republic [see the catalog book reviews and the Available Publications section elsewhere in this issue]. First thing noted was the higher purchase price from similar books just few years ago. Here I must echo Jerry Verner's message [Mar/Apr SPECIALIST, pg25] regarding Jiri Majer bringing the books over on his trips to the US. Without Jiri's help we would be adding \$10 to \$15 additional to each publication for postage from Czechia.

Savoy Horvath

Savoy is quite right that the cost of books TO US has gone up sharply, but the price of books in the Czech Republic has changed little. The difference in price is due to the plummeting dollar. The exchange today was 15.9 Kc to \$1.00! [Two years ago it was 27 Kc to \$1, and five years ago it was 32 Kc to \$1.]

Jerry Verner

* * * * *

Book Review

2007 CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2007 -- PENKAVA

December 2007 was the issue month by the Penkava philatelic firm of a new specialized Czech Republic catalog on postage stamps, postal stationery, and all other postal papers. The Czech's issue a new catalog every year, in the odd years it is the Penkava catalog, and in the even years it is the one from Pofis. This latest catalog, all in color, has 258 pages, and its listings are for all of the 2007 issues including the unannounced ones issued at the end of 2007 for the upcoming January 1st new postal rates. The catalog's item pricing is the actual selling price in the Penkava philatelic stores.

2007 SLOVENSKO 1939-1945 -- ALBUM

This specialized catalog covers the postage stamps and postal stationery of the Slovak Republic during World War II. It is published by the Album printing company and authored by RNDr. Ondrej Földes who also published their last catalog in 2000. This catalog is 128 pages long, in color, and formatted 16 x 23.5 cm compared to Pofis catalogs. It has a trilingual introduction in Slovak, English, and German, and also a trilingual explanation of abbreviations and pictorial symbols. Pricing is on the level of today's market. One concept utilized that brings this catalog almost to the level of a Monograph is the illustrating of each issue postally used on a cover with explanation of the dated postal rate. All the different postal rates for the years 1939-1945 are included on the last two pages. Many postal stationery items are also shown postally used. To date, this catalog has the best plate number and plate printing error descriptions that we have seen.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On March 19, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the 350th anniversary of the issue of J.A. Komenský's work *Orbis Pictus* (Fig. 1). The stamp shows a globe decorated with small letters and pictures. Jan Amos Komenský (1592-1670) is a world-famous Czech thinker, theologian, writer and founder of modern education. *Orbis Pictus* (*World in Pictures*) is the culmination of practical application of the author's education principles and is the first picture dictionary and encyclopaedia for children in the world. It was published in 1658 in Nürnberg in Latin and German, and quickly spread to further countries. The version including a Czech text was published no sooner than 1685 in Levoča, as a four-language (Czech, Latin, German, Hungarian) edition. The work consists of one hundred and fifty chapters with a



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

systemic education procedure; the non-living nature is followed by botany, zoology, religion, and finally human beings and activities. In Komenský's view the work was not only a textbook; it was also an important tool in teaching the mother tongue. *Orbis Pictus* was used at schools for 200 years; even today it can be useful as an aid at Latin courses. The postage stamp is issued to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the book's publication, and its theme relates to the last year's issue of the postage stamp commemorating the publication of *Opera Didactica Omnia*. The stamp was designed by Petr Melan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in fulvous, griseous, and dark-blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows a boy reading a book that is irradiated by rays of light as a symbol of cognition (Fig. 2).

2. On March 19, 2008, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Country series. The stamps were designed by Pavel Dvorský, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

-- 12 Kč: TV broadcasting tower and hotel Ještěd; dark brown, yellow, red, and blue (Fig. 3). The 1,012 m high Ještěd Mountain is a significant dominating point of Northern Bohemia. It is an attractive tourist destination and a famous winter sport center with several downhill ski courses and ski



Fig. 3

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jumps. According to the chronicler J.C. Rohn, the first building on the Ještěd hilltop was a stone cross of 1737. The growing interest of tourists motivated the Haslers to erect in 1850 a hilltop lodge offering meals and accommodations. After its dismantling in 1868 it was replaced with a new building, the so-called Rohan's Lodge, made partially of stone. In 1907 a new hotel, designed by Schäfer, was



Fig. 4

completed (it burnt down in 1963). Today's vista point of Ještěd was opened in 1973. Its architect, K. Hubáček, designed it as a TV broadcasting tower and hotel in the shape of a rotational hyperboloid 94 m high (including the antenna). The two lowest floors are used for technical equipment and services. Next is the view terrace and hotel floor. The top floor is used for communication technology, the top is a tube extension with a 17 m high antenna. This extraordinary building by architect Hubáček won the prestigious Perret prize in 1969. The Ještěd television tower and hotel is a national cultural heritage. A FDC in brown contains a drawing of a wooden view-tower placed on the top of the hill during the years 1889-1903 (Fig. 4).

-- 15 Kč: Hradec Králové; dark brown, yellow, red, green, and blue (Fig. 5). Hradec Králové is one of the oldest Czech towns located in Eastern Bohemia at the Labe and Orlice river junction. A free royal township from 1225, it was appointed an endowment town of Bohemian queens by King Wenceslas II in 1306. The prestige of Hradec Králové grew; in the 14th century its significance, size and population made it the second leading town after Prague. Today it is still an extraordinary cultural and industrial center and its historical center is a preserved town area. The postage stamp features the Grand Square with a remarkable group of towers from different historical eras, i.e. the two 40 m high towers of the cathedral church of the Holy Spirit,



Fig. 5

Gothic brick buildings from the early 14th century. The neighboring Renaissance White Tower is a 72 m high bell tower. The panorama is completed with the two clock towers of the old town hall, a Baroque building in the classicistic style, and the plague column. Starting with the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the modern architecture built according to a systematic urban plan, has further developed the town history. The urban building development was successfully designed by leading Czech architects J. Kotěra, O. Liška, V. Rejchl, and mainly J. Gocár who assumed in 1924 regulation of Hradec Králové and created the present urban image of the town. A FDC in black-brown is a plastic copy of a demon placed in the hall of the Holy Spirit Cathedral (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6

3. On March 19, 2008, the Ministry issued a 3 Kč definitive stamp in The Beauty of



Fig. 7

Flowers series entitled The Azalea (Fig. 7). The stamp bears a flower with a bud. It 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 brown, green and pink in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The drawing of the stamp is underprinted by iridescent color with tilting effect.

4. On April 2, 2008, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč definitive stamp with a portrait of the president of the Czech Republic, Václav Klaus, similar to the 7.50 Kč one issued on February 9, 2005 but in different colors (Fig. 8). The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulháněk, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in dark-blue combined with photogravure in red and blue in printing sheets of 100 pieces.



Fig. 8

5. On April 16, 2008, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Technical Museum. The National Technical Museum in Prague was originated in 1908 when on the 5th of July the Association of the Technical Museum of the Czech Kingdom was founded. Its first expositions at the Schwarzenberg Palace opened to the public in 1910. The present building at Letná, designed by architect M. Babuška and erected in 1938-41 in the neo-functional style, is one of the best museum buildings in the Czech Republic. The National Technical Museum has the status of a scientific workplace with the documentation, presentation, methodical and informational function. Its activity is based on collections created by the museum as a memory of the society. For instance, it keeps the 16th century astronomic instruments used by Tycho Brahe, the first Czechoslovak car, as well as a number of other technical rarities from the area of exact sciences, geodesy, chemistry and biotechnology, mining and metallurgical industries, mechanical engineering, consumer and printing industries, electrical engineering, information science and acoustics, transportation, photograph and film technology, architecture/building and industrial design. A number of exhibits of the National Technical Museum were already featured on



Fig. 9

postage stamps in the past. This year's three-stamp issue commemorates the 100 years of activities of this significant institution which is re-opened by the public after a demanding reconstruction. In addition to the re-arranged existing expositions the visitors can view new permanent expositions -- Communications, Technology in Everyday Life, Polygraphy, Astronomy, Architecture, Building Industry and Industrial Design. The stamps were designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with color photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 10 Kč: Astronomic theodolite made by Reichenbach

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Fig. 10



Fig. 11

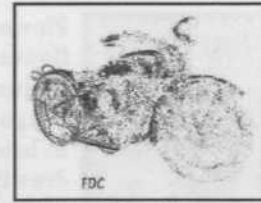


Fig. 12



Fig. 13

Ertel around 1830; black, brown, yellow, red, and dark-red (Fig. 9). A FDC in black shows the microscope made by J. Goerner in 1776 (Fig. 10).

-- 14 Kč: Sport car JAWA 750 designed for the Czechoslovak 1000 Miles Competition in 1935; black, gray-blue, red, blue, and brown (Fig. 11). A FDC in black shows the motorcycle Premier made by the firm JAWA in 1931 (Fig. 12).

-- 18 Kč: Petrol combustion engine of the Siegfried Marcus system made by the Märky, Bromovský-Schulz machine works in Adamov around 1889; black, green, blue, brown and yellow (Fig. 13). A FDC in black shows the benzol mine engine Ruhrtal from 1912 (Fig. 14).

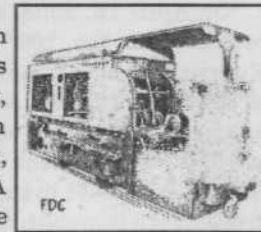


Fig. 14

6. On April 16, 2008, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Czech Ice Hockey (Fig. 15). Ice hockey originated in the



Fig. 15

1860-70's in Canada. A game similar to bandy hockey, i.e. hockey with a ball, was played in Bohemia already in 1889-1891. The Canadian-style hockey appeared in the 1908 winter season. The Czech Hockey Association was already established on 8.11.1908. It was one of the founding members of the International Ice-Hockey League (IIHF). At that time hockey was played by twelve clubs. The division of hockey between ice and land hockey in 1921 was followed by the establishment of the Czechoslovak Ice Hockey Association. In 1911 the Czechoslovak team attended for the first time the European championship in Berlin. The 1925 European Championship was held at Strbské Pleso. The first winter stadium was opened in Prague in 1931. At the end of 1984 there were 102 outdoor and 79 indoor stadiums in the Czech Republic. In the long history of ice hockey the Czech representation belongs to the best of the world. Czechoslovak representatives won the world championships in 1947, 1949, 1972, 1976, 1977, 1985, and fifteen times

became European champions. Representatives of the Czech Republic became the 1996 and 1999 world champions, and in 1998 they won the Olympic gold medal at the "Tournament of the Century" at the Nagano Olympic Games. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in dark-blue, red, and brown in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown shows a hockey player in the outfit from the beginning of ice hockey (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. Van Zanten

7. On April 3, 2008, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 25 Sk commemorative stamp dedicated to the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic 1993-2008 (Fig. 17). The year 2008, with its intrinsic symbolic meaning, marks several anniversaries of key events in modern Slovak history. The 15th anniversary of the creation of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic is one such event. Seated in the historicizing-style building of a former garrison of Jan Jiskra in Košice, the Court is the guarantor of constitutionality in Slovakia. It was established by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic on 1 September 1992, and the legal prerequisites to its formation were laid down by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 38/1993. The Court became operational on 17 March 1993. Today it represents one of the key constitutional pillars of Slovak statehood as well as the legal and democratic status of the Slovak Republic. The stamp portrays the Roman Goddess of Justice -- a symbol commonly used by courts across Europe since the Renaissance. The motif is taken from a Baroque-



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

style decoration of the Courtroom at the Old Town Hall in Bratislava. The decoration was created based on earlier Renaissance models by Johann Jonas Drentwett, a 17th century Augsburg-born painter. The stamp was designed by Štefan Kubovič and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows the architecture of the Constitutional Court building, portrayed with Archangel Michael holding a sword and a pair of scales -- a scene reinterpreting antique motifs from a Christian perspective and taken from a wall painting in the church in Kraskov (Fig. 18). Classical attributes of the rule of law were used: the scales -- a means of judging the guilty or not guilty, and the sword -- a symbol of the execution of justice and judgements. These virtually timeless features are

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complemented by a buttress facade of today's seat of the Constitutional Court.

8. On April 17, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the Personalities series honoring Professor Eugen Suchoň with a face value of T2 500g (responding to the postage rate of 2nd class up to 500g - domestic service)(Fig. 19). Professor Eugen Suchoň (25.9.1908 Pezinok -- 5.8.1993 Bratislava) was a Slovak composer, pedagogue, and theorist, one of the most notable members of the founding generation of the Slovak 'modernist' movement in music. He studied the piano, composition, and conducting in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. His extensive palette of work includes the solo piano compositions, e.g. Baladická Suita (Balladic Suite, 1936), but also other chamber music opuses such as Poème Macabre pre



Fig. 19

Husle a Klavír (The Macabre Poem for violin and piano, 1963). His opuses represent his most significant instrumental musical works. His approach to musical composition was influenced by his vivid and creative interest in Slovak folk songs. He devoted a great part of his musical efforts to vocal compositions, not only for solo singers accompanied by piano, but also for voice, choir and orchestra. His compositional art reached its peak in his musical dramatic opuses, the most significant being Krútnava (The Whirlpool, 1949) and Svätopluk (King Svatopluk, 1960). Both operas are -- though in a different manner -- deeply rooted in homeland Slavic tradition and musical execution. Thanks to his unique compositional style coupled with the deep moral and ethical messages encoded in his work, Eugen



Fig. 20

Suchoň can be regarded as a modern composer. He is the founder of the modern Slovak opera and the holder of several awards. In 1958 he was granted the title 'National Artist'. Suchoň's pedagogical and theoretical works cannot be overlooked. He is the co-author of the best selling The Concise Theory of Music, 1962, with several re-editions. Eugen Suchoň definitely deserves a respected place in Slovak musical history, opera, Slovak musical culture, musical pedagogy, and humanism in general. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič and produced using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a pianist's hands playing on a keyboard (Fig. 20).

9. On April 17, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the Personalities series dedicated to poet Maša Haľamová with face value of T1 100g (responding to the rate of postage of the 1st class up to 100 grams -- domestic service)(Fig. 21). Maša Haľamová was the most notable Slovak poet of the first half of the 20th century, author of books for children, and translator. She was born in a Russophile-oriented family of a haberdasher in the region of Turiec (central Slovakia). After studying at grammar schools in Martin



Fig. 21

and Bratislava, she graduated from the Business Academy in Bratislava. She also completed a French language course at the Sorbonne, Paris. While recovering from a bronchial illness in the High Tatras, she met the charismatic Czech poet J. Wolker (1900-1924) whose life and work influenced her poetry from the outset. It was in the mountains that she also met her future husband, MUDr. Pullman, whom she later married and lived with in Strbské Pleso until his death in 1956.

From her husband's death until her retirement, she worked as an editor in Martin and at the Mladé Letá publishing house in Bratislava, where she died. She was buried in the national cemetery in Martin. Her poetry abounds with gentleness, fragility, and tenderness blended with the motifs of love and balladry which drew upon the natural imagery of the High Tatras. Her collections of poetry -- *Dar* (The Gift - 1928, which takes love as its theme), *Červený Mak* (Red Poppy - 1932, which features the heart), *Smrť Tvoju Žijem* (Living Your Death - 1966, discusses struggling with widowhood), have been translated into nine languages, and several have been set to music by Slovak composers.

The stamp was designed by Katarina Slaninková and produced using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. The FDC shows a motif of a tree with a heart-shaped crown reflecting the fervent nature of this poet (Fig. 22).

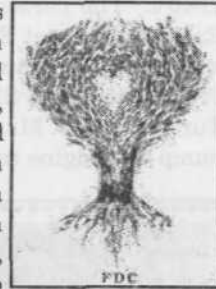


Fig. 22

10. On April 30, 2008, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series dedicated to Fire Fighting Equipment. The stamps were designed by Igor Benca, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with gravure printing in sheets of 50 pieces.

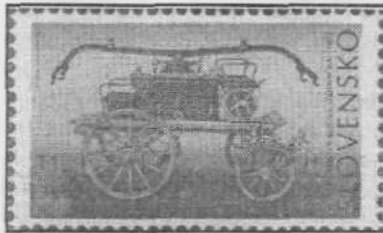


Fig. 23

-- The Four-Wheeled Hand Pumper Fire-Engine 1872 (Fig. 23) with face value of T1 500 g (responding to the rate of postage of 1st class up to 500 g - domestic service). The pumper can be used on a four-wheel cart, two-wheel cart, or as a separate portable device. According to the illustrated price-list of fire-fighting equipment, pumps, and fire-extinguishing accessories of the

factory of R.A. Smekal near Prostějov of north Moravia, it was constructed in 1872. The pumper sits on the deck of an iron frame, to which are attached holders for the tailpipes, shafts, front and rear seats, climbing bars, two-wheel hose reel, tool-box and a brake for the rear wheels. The chassis of the carts were produced both with and without suspension. The front axis with a bolt can be turned 360 degrees. The water tank is made from Steyr sheet metal and is attached to the top of the frame. The intake nozzle is located on the right and the discharge nozzle is on the left. A two-arm lever with a rod is located just above the compression chamber (air box) made from copper sheet. The pumper model was produced with cylinders of 100, 110 and 125 mm diameters. The first ever four-wheel pumper was produced in 1858. In 1881, the first Czech steam-powered pumper for the capital city, Prague, was

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produced. The family company Smekal was one of the most distinguished producers of fire-fighting equipment, tools and other fire-extinguishing accessories not only in Bohemia, but throughout the former Austria-Hungary. Technological advances enabled the company to successfully compete on the market from 1820 until the 1940's. The person behind the company's success was Raimund August Smekal (1863-1937), a good engineer with business acumen. The company operated its factories in Čechy pod Kosířem, Prague-Smíchov, Slatiňany, and sales/service outlets in Vienna, Zabreg (Croatia), Turčianský Sv. Martin, and others. A FDC shows a drawing of a two-wheeled hand pump fire engine to be pulled by hand by firemen (Fig. 24).



Fig. 24



Fig. 25

-- Fire-Fighting Device, F. Seltenhofer 1880 (Fig. 25) with face value of T2 1000 g (responding to the rate of postage of 2nd class up to 1000 g - domestic service). In addition to being manually pulled, the hose-cart was also adapted for being pulled by horses. It has an iron water tank on top of the deck, as well as a forged two-arm control lever, a nozzle system, and a tool-box. Operated by six personnel, it could discharge 140-160 liters per minute within the range of 24-26 meters. The

oldest factory for the production of this fire-fighting equipment was founded in 1816 in Sopron (Ödenburg), Hungary, by the Seltenhofer family dynasty. All four generations of this family (all of their males being named Friedrich) managed to maintain their business until the end of World War II. Their success lay in sound technical and manufacturing quality, high production volumes, low prices, and customer-friendly repayment schemes for municipalities and associations. Their products were highly competitive even globally, mainly due to their high manufacturing precision. As early as 1869 the factory was awarded with the title of 'Imperial and Royal Court Supplier'. Moreover, the emperor Franz Joseph awarded the company a 'Gold Cross of Merit with Crown and Knight's Cross'. The company's catalogue dating to the 1890's offered a broad range of products and featured 36 fire-fighting devices. Subsequently, the company founded an office in Budapest to penetrate the new territories within the former Austria-Hungary. The company constructed its own mobile pumper, had it patented, was able to take advantage of the latest technological advances and applied such advances in the construction of the cart chassis. The originally wooden material used in their construction was replaced by forged iron, while the water tanks were made from Steyr sheet metal, and the cylinders from the finest bronze. A FDC shows a fire-fighter's emblem containing various fire-fighting tools and equipment (Fig. 26).



Fig. 26

11. On May 5, 2008, the Ministry issued a 21 Sk commemorative stamp in the

EUROPA 2008 series dedicated to the Writing of Letters (Fig. 27). The theme of letter writing is a common motif of European philatelic publishers, and a motif traditionally designated by PostEurop for 2008. Letter writing, in its various forms, has a long history dating to the invention of script and writing. Over the centuries, letter writing developed in tandem with technical advances and cultural developments: from the first hieroglyphs and papyrus, to Greek and Latin literature, to medieval Europe, to the most recent patterns of modernity. Letter writing has always played an unrivalled role among means of human communication. Until recent times, the letter -- as the most popular form of written communication was a synonym for correspondence in general. Words such as post-office, envelope, and stamp, were established as the external manifestation of this prominence. Today, the traditional form of the letter has gradually lost its dominance as the only and most prevalent form of human written communication. Not only have we changed the way we speak, also the technology we use to transfer written words has changed significantly. Mobile phones, the Internet, and e-mail have eroded the post-office, the envelope, and stamps as traditional symbols of communication.



Fig. 27

On the other hand, the instantaneousness and information brevity of modern electronic messages deprives our communication of authenticity, human intimacy, and literary nature -- qualities often attributed to the letter. Do we still expect traditional letters in our mailbox? Or is it only junk-mail, bills, and official notices? Admittedly, there is good cause for an optimistic outlook for letter writing. Although technology has become an everyday part of our lives, we are still rooted in the culture of European humanity, which is both our founding and privilege. A letter with a message has an intrinsically deep human meaning and belongs to man and Europe of today. Letter writing will remain a necessity for every cultured human being. The stamp was designed by Dušan Polakovič, arranged by Lubomír Krátky, and produced using offset in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC shows a drawing of a bearded man writing letters while seated in a bottle floating in the ocean with fish and birds delivering the letters (Fig. 28).



Fig. 28

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