



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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A.P.S. Unit 18

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Editorial Hinges

Well, we gave it a try.

But, because of the economic downturn and the changes in his work environment, George Cuhaj has had to bow out of being our next editor. He now has to travel more, has more demands on his time, and is thus out of touch much more, making it difficult for him to be responsive to our needs when they come up against his livelihood. Thank you, George, for the offer.

So, I guess you are stuck with me for now -- or at least until I can find a replacement editor. Do we have someone out there?

Meanwhile, my apologies for this issue being so very, very late. I want to assure you that you will get your full complement of 6 issues this year -- it's just that these first ones will be a little closer together than normal.

I want also to encourage you to consider joining us at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show here in Aurora, Colorado (eastern suburb of Denver), May 15-17. There is a lot to do here besides stamps, and the scenery is fabulous -- you might even still be able to get in some skiing.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

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**A GUIDE TO THE TYPES AND SUBTYPES OF THE
1923 AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE ISSUE**

by Mark Wilson

Part II: The Subtypes (cont.)

300h

As was mentioned in the previous part of this article, the 300h Type I stamp has no subtypes. However, both the 300h Type II and Type III do have subtypes.

300h Type II Subtypes

The 300h Type II subtypes have a consistent location on every pane of stamps. Subtype IIa is found in the 1st and 6th columns, Subtype IIb in the 3rd and 8th columns, Subtype IIc in the 4th and 9th columns, and Subtype IId in the 5th and 10th columns. The stamps in the 2nd and 7th columns are not subtypes, but are unadorned Type II stamps. However, because the plates were apparently repaired, sometimes plain Type II stamps appear where a subtype is expected. The identifying characteristics of the four 300h Type II subtypes are:

- Subtype IIa** -- There is a colored spot on the allegorical figure's leftmost boot (under the right edge of the book). (Fig. 54)
- Subtype IIb** -- There is a small dot on the right side of the first fold on the shirt, opposite the allegorical figure's hand. In many cases, this identification is extremely difficult to see. (Fig. 55)
- Subtype IIc** -- There is a colored spot in the white area of the allegorical figure's rightmost boot. (Fig. 56)
- Subtype IId** -- The projection under the P in POŠTA is large and square, not pointed. (Fig. 57)

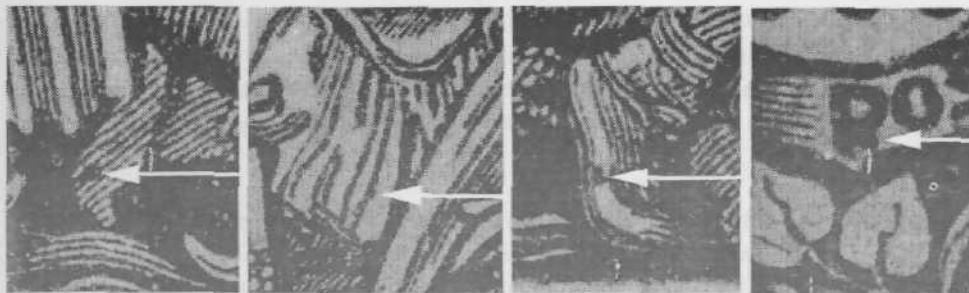


Fig. 54: IIa

Fig. 55: IIb

Fig. 56 IIc

Fig. 57: IId

300h Type III Subtypes

There are only two subtypes of the 300h Type III stamps, and they are always found in the odd rows on a pane; there are no subtypes in the even rows.

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Subtype IIIa is found in the 3rd and 8th columns of the odd rows, and Subtype IIIb is found in the 5th and 10th columns of odd rows. The identifying characteristics of the two 300h Type III subtypes are:

Subtype IIIa -- There is a colored splotch between shading lines on the sheaf above the allegorical figure's hand. Frequently this splotch is barely there and reduced to a couple of dots. (Fig. 58)

Subtype IIIb -- There is a colored splotch in the middle of the wrapping on the sword's hilt. (Fig. 59)

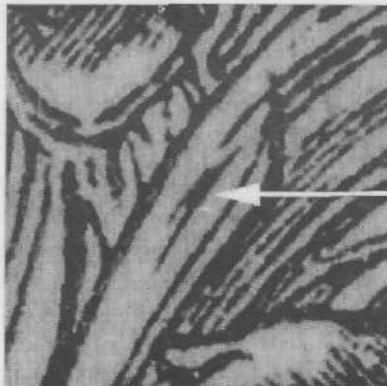


Fig. 58: IIIa



Fig. 59: IIIb

100h

Mr. Látal has not yet published his findings with respect to the 100h subtypes, nor are my own studies completed. Therefore, Žampach's 1990 findings are reported here, save that his Type IV is combined with Type III. For the 100h, Žampach reported five Type I subtypes, three Type II subtypes, and two Type III subtypes.

100h Type I Subtypes

The five subtypes for the 100h Type I stamps appear in order on all rows, that is Subtype Ia is found in the 1st and 6th columns, Subtype Ib in the 2nd and 7th columns, and so on. However, it appears that the Type I plates were subject to wear, so that some positions were replaced or their identifying marks have worn off.

Subtype Ia -- There is a blotch connecting the leftmost shading line to the sheaf's left outline, to the lower left of the allegorical figure's Hand (Fig. 60a). A colored line crosses the right most strand of wheat in the sheaf near its tip (Fig. 60b).

Subtype Ib -- The letter K in SKÁ is marred by a white spot (Fig. 61).

Subtype Ic -- There is a sideways háček [>] in the lower part of the right page (Fig. 62a). There is a thin colored line, sometimes only a spot,

on the upper right part of the sheaf, just below the end of the ribbon (Fig. 62b).

Subtype Id -- A thin white line in the edge of the ribbon below KÁ (Fig. 63a).
A horizontal white spot at the lower tip of the left white outline of the sword, just above the branch (Fig. 63b).

Subtype Ie -- There is a small colored dot on the left side of the rightmost lower shading line on the page (Fig. 64a). There is a broken white mark in the colored area between the two boots (Fig. 64b).

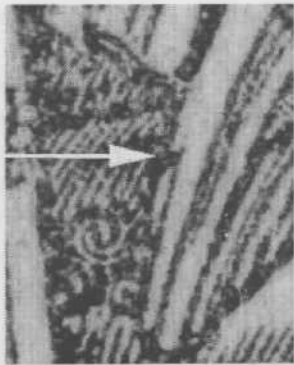


Fig. 60a: Ia

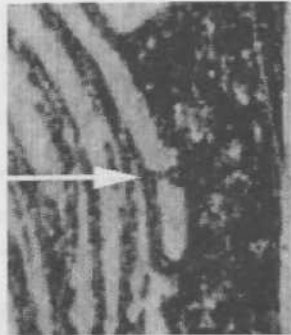


Fig. 60b: Ia



Fig. 61: Ib



Fig. 62a: Ic

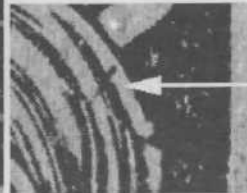


Fig. 62b: Ic



Fig. 63a: Id

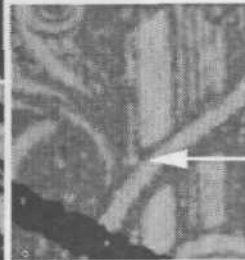


Fig. 63b: Id

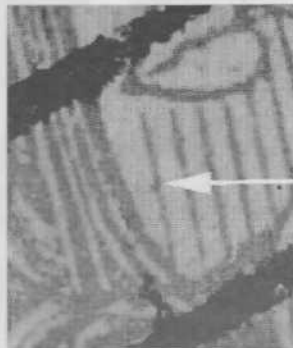


Fig. 64a: Ie

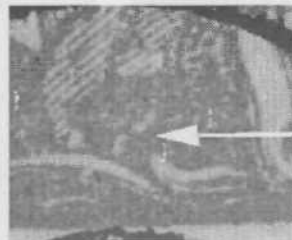


Fig. 64b: Ie

100h Type II Subtypes

Žampach reports three subtypes for the 100h Type II stamps. He asserts that for some printings Subtype IIa and Subtype IIb appear in the same rows, while for other, perhaps later printings, Subtype IIc and Subtype IIb appear. That is, Subtype IIc replaces all Subtype IIa stamps in a pane.

Subtype IIa -- The end of the right arm on the T in POŠTA has an appendage (Fig. 65a).

Subtype IIb -- For normal Type II stamps, on the allegorical figure's head the second strand of hair on the right is not attached to the two parallel white lines below it (Fig. 66a). For Subtype IIb, it is attached to both parallel lines (Fig. 66b) or to only one of them (Fig. 66c). Žampach does not distinguish between these two variations of Subtype IIb.

Subtype IIc -- The end of the right arm on the T in POŠTA has an appendage (Fig. 65a) and there is a vertical white mark below the knee on the allegorical figure's extended knee (Fig. 65b).

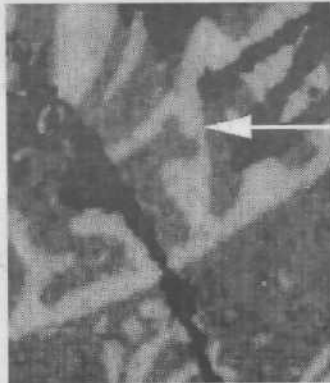


Fig. 65a: IIa and IIc

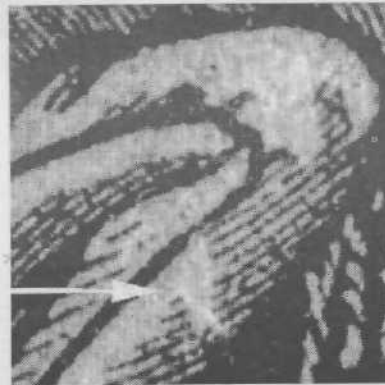


Fig. 65b: IIc



Fig. 66a: Normal



Fig. 66b: Both

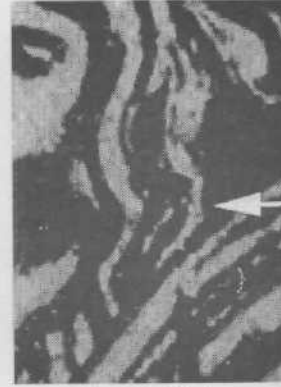


Fig. 66c: Single

100h Type III Subtypes

Žampach reports only two subtypes for Type III 100h stamps.

Subtype IIIa -- There is a short white line connecting the two sets of arched white lines (three white lines in the upper set, two in the lower set) below the tip of the boot (Fig. 67). The line does not always completely reach the lower set of two arched lines.

Subtypes IIIb - There is a white spot between the upper two laurel leaves to the right of the sword's hilt (Fig. 68). Note the position of the required white spot: other white spots in slightly different positions are common in 100h Type III stamps.



Fig. 67: IIIa

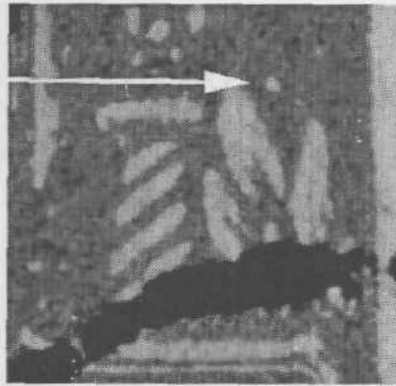


Fig. 68: IIIb

Type II and Type III Joined Together

Sometime while the 100h Type III stamps were being printed, positions 81 through position 85 must have been damaged. When the workman replaced the strip of five dies for those positions, somehow he selected a set of Type II dies. Thus, it is possible to find a Type III stamp with a Type II stamp conjoined (Fig. 69). For the specialist, there are several type and subtype pairings possible, all of which are shown in Diagram 1. As there are no subtypes shown in Figure 69, it represents either Plate Positions 71, 81, and 91 or Plate Positions 74, 84, and 94.

Diagram 1: Type and Subtype Pairings for Type II-Type III Pairs.

III	III	III	III	IIIb	III
II	IIa	II	IIb	II	III
III	III	III	III	IIIb	III



Fig. 69: III-II-III

Concluding Remarks

Much more could be written about the 1923 Agriculture and Science Series. This article has only scratched the surface of the marvelous opportunities for research presented by this uniquely varied series of stamps.

For instance, the plates appear to be made up of repeated blocks of ten dies. Apparently, for each printing, the ten blocks needed for a plate of 100 stamps were cleaned and reassembled, so that the ten blocks exchanged positions with one another. Often, the blocks themselves were repaired so that new dies replaced the old ones.

Examination of strips of stamps reveals neighboring stamps out of alignment with one another. One must wonder, can patterns be established that would

clarify shifts in position, repairs, and other alterations that occurred during the printing of these stamps?

Finally, you are invited to take a closer look at copies of these stamps in your duplicate box. Who knows what you will find?



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Mark Wilson: ***** NOTICE *****

-- In late January, Peter Hoffman of Sweden notified me that my web site, www.knihtisk.org, had been hacked, as had all of the other web sites I host, including Lubor Kunc's www.czech-stamps.org. I did some quick research and learned that in late January tens of thousands of web sites around the world had been hacked by a dangerous Trojan virus. This Trojan virus attempts to steal passwords and personal information. The virus has been removed from and security vastly increased to prevent another infection on all of the web sites I host.

Even if *Specialist* readers did not visit either Lubor's or my web site, chances are, since so many web sites world-wide were hacked, they may have been infected by visiting some other site. The Trojan ended up on my personal computer and took a full scan by my anti-virus software to remove. That is, my anti-virus failed to catch the virus when it was written from the web to my computer, but did remove it when I ran a full scan. I would advise all readers to run a full anti-virus scan of their computers because of this recent epidemic of viruses.

2. From Savoy Horvath:

-- I seem to recall that in a recent e-mail someone was asking about an explanation of the various Czechoslovak philatelic expert initials on the back of philatelic items:

Explanation of expert's initials

Bl - Bláha	Ma - Mahr	Sa - Šablatúra
Be - Beneš	Mr - Mrňák	Sb - Sbératel
Gi - Gilbert	Mo - Möbs	Sd - Stodola
Hi - Hirsch	Mu - Müller	St - Stupka
Ka - Karásek	Ny - Novotný	Sy - Synek
Kf - Kaufman	Pi - Pittermann	SF - Slovenský Filatelista
Ko - Kozák	Po - Pofis	Tr - Tribuna
Le - Lešetický	Py - Ptačovský	

-- As we know, earlier in 2008 the Czech halěr was discontinued and removed from circulation. At that time, the Czech Post eliminated all halěr rates -- the first class rate was rounded up from 9.50Kč to 10Kč. Well, not really, if you were a mass mailer, you could continue to mail for 9.50Kč (notice the postal meter from 8 December 2008 at Figure 1). However, this mass mailing rate was eliminated as of January 1, 2009. This was the only change in postal rates.

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Fig. 1

full color, 16 pages and FREE. You will be asked to become a contributor of articles. The contact person is Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer, Untergrossau 81, A-8261 Sinabelkirchen, Austria. E-mail: kb@aatc.at. The first issue, November 1, 2008, gives the group's history, pictures the founding members, numerous short articles and rather well illustrated long story on the meeting of Hungarian and Polish armed forces in March 1939 right after the Hungarian occupation of Podkarpatska Rus, and Hungary and Poland becoming neighbors. The article shows numerous postcards, photographs and covers, as well as newspaper stories from that time period.

3. From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- Several postal publications are reporting that in 2009 an omnibus -- or multinational -- stamp series will be issued by around 40 nations to promote the protection of the polar regions and of glaciers. The idea was originated by Finland and Chile to call attention to the environmental impact of global warming. Each participating postal administration is scheduled to issue stamps between January and March 2009. While each country will select its own designs, a shared feature of the stamps and souvenir sheets will be a crystal insignia designed by Saku Heinanen of Finland. This crystal emblem is imprinted in the center of each stamp. The Czech Republic's entry in this series is scheduled to appear on February 11 as a souvenir sheet with a single 35 Kč stamp.

-- For those of you who may be interested in how the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is doing after the disastrous flood last summer, here is an update from the current issue of the "American Friends of the Czech Republic" publication.

"NCSML Recovery Making Progress: Opens Temporary Facility

The June floods in Cedar Rapids, Iowa dealt a devastating blow to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML). Yet, after four months of intensive clean-up efforts, emergency fundraising, crisis communications and the re-establishment of basic operations, the NCSML has taken an impressive step on the path to recovery. On October 24, the NCSML opened an interim space at Lindale Mall, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

'There's no place like home, but we're glad to have a physical presence in the community again,' said Gail Naughton, the President and CEO of the NCSML. The NCSML is renting a 3,200 square foot space, called 'NCSML at Lindale', containing three main sections. The first, housing the museum store, offers imported Czech ornaments, hand-crafted jewelry, hard-to-find books and other unique gifts.

... Staying true to the NCSML mission, the second section in the new space holds an original exhibition entitled, *Pack Your Bags: Journey to America*. On

display are both the ornate and ordinary belongings brought to American by Czech and Slovak immigrants.

. . . Adjacent to the exhibition space, NCSML at Lindale also has a gathering space for programs, events and meetings.

. . . For more information, visit www.NCSML.org."

I encourage readers to visit this site, and to participate in the on-line purchases that can be had from the NCSML store which will help in their recovery.

4. From Jerry Verner:

I think that a new development just announced by the postal service in Britain might be putting a crimp in the collection of used stamps. It turns out that as an anti-fraud device, they are going to begin producing their Machin series (with Queen Elizabeth's head in profile) using paper and glue that PREVENTS the stamps being removed from the paper surface they are applied to. Half of the stamp will come off, but the remainder will remain on the paper surface, thus destroying the stamp for collecting purposes. I guess this is the beginning of collecting used stamps strictly as "on piece".



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6. Send copy and payment to: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Closed Albums

This past year we lost two of our members that had not only been with us for a long time, but had also been very active in the management and governance of our Society.

Mirko Lyn Vondra

Mirko was born in New York City, the son of Rudolph and Bozena Vondra, Czechoslovakian immigrants (Fig. 1). He served on Guam with the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. He retired in the 1980's after a career in insurance litigation while working for several companies including AIG and GEICO in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He also taught insurance students at Vale Technical Institute in Blairsville, PA.



Fig. 1

He had a passion for collecting Czechoslovak stamps which lead him to become a member of our Society in February 1956 as member #537 [over the years his membership number was erroneously shown as #573]. He quickly became active in Society activities by translating articles, writing articles (which he continued throughout his membership), and exhibiting at stamp exhibitions (where he won many awards). These activities brought him to the notice of the other members who elected him to the board of directors in 1972, and that board then elected him to be president of our Society in 1972 and 1974. He was then re-elected to the board for 1980-84. Then in 1987 he took on the challenge of being the editor of this publication, which position he held for 9 years through 1996. He can be credited with starting the Specialist on the road to becoming a modern publication with its many attractive features -- not to mention virtually doubling the length of the issues.

While editor, he also imbued his wife Anne with the addiction of philately. As a result, being a librarian by profession, Anne took on the enormous task to compile the first essentially complete 20th Century Index of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. For many years, it has been the basic source for doing research in our published journal.

Mirko died in his O'Hara Township, Pittsburgh, home at the age of 86 on November 17. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Anne Gilleo Vondra, their three children, Paul E. Vondra, Joan I. Vondra, and Eric B. Vondra, and two grandchildren, Miranda and Erica Chang. A devoted family man, his loss is felt by all, and he is greatly missed by the Society.

Anna Jane Sterba

Jane was born February 20, 1924 to Frank and Anna Suchy whose families had immigrated to the USA in the 1880's from the Bohemian area of the Austro-Hungarian empire (Fig. 2). She grew up in Berwyn, IL in a Czech community, attended a school for Czech, married Joseph Sterba who knew Czech fluently, and had her grandmother living there with them for many years. This immersion in

Czech culture inevitably set her up for participation and leadership in numerous Czech cultural and fraternal organizations.

While being a long-time employee of Western Union, she found time to co-found, and be president of the Moravian Cultural Society, and be a member of -- SOKOL Stickney, the First Czechoslovak Garden Club, the Bohemian Rebekah Lodge #372, and the Chicagoland Czech Philatelic Society. She loved to travel and besides trips back to Czechoslovakia included other parts of the world. After her husband's death she was often accompanied by her close personal friend Joseph Vitek.

On top of all of this, in April 1973 she became member #993 of *The Society for Czechoslovak Philately* and remained so until her passing. During these years she translated articles, wrote articles (perhaps her most enjoyable was a series from Sep 1977 - Sep 1978 entitled "A Philatelic Tour of Prague"), was on the Board of Directors (1974-75, 1978-82), won a number of awards for exhibiting (including at PRAGA'68), was the editor of this *Specialist* (Sep 76 - Sep 78), president of our Society (Jan 78 - Dec 79), and finally secretary (1989 - 1992).



Fig. 2

Jane passed away after a long illness on March 3, 2008 at the age of 84. Interment was at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago, IL. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and long time friends living both in the United States and Europe. And among these most certainly are many, many members of *The Society for Czechoslovak Philately*.



Letters to the Editor

1. Hello Lou:

I just received my Nov/Dec 2008 *Specialist*. The images for my article are great -- congratulations. The *Specialist* just gets better and better.

However, I discovered I made two errors in writing the article, both of them on page 14 in the description of the 200h Subtype IIIe. First, detail "3" should read "upper left edge" not "upper right edge". Second, in the "Notes" under the details for Subtype IIIe, "indentation (3)" should read "indentation 4".

In another vein, I visited Prague in early November and learned from Mt. Latál that he agreed with my findings. Thus, the detail descriptions marked "[Wilson]" may be taken as authentic and reliable. Mr. Latál also gave me a pre-publication copy of his new study on the 1923 100h Agriculture and Science stamp in which he identifies two new subtypes and some new variations. Unfortunately, when I began translating my copy, I discovered parts were unreadable, so I shall have to wait for the real publication before I can update the article.

Mark Wilson

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2. A number of our members have reacted to the former editor's [and now again editor] 12-year-odyssey farewell in the last issue:

-- . . . Again, congratulations on a job well done . . . The Specialist with all those articles by Mark Wilson is a real treasure for the First Republic issues and certainly required reading for Hradcany specialists. I've learned so much from it especially under your editorship! What a ride Lou!!!!!! . . . In my opinion the Society never had a better Editor . . .

Frank [Garancovsky]

-- . . . While I don't collect Czechoslovakia, I find your publication always well-done, interesting and informative.

Gene Fricks
Editorial Board
The Collectors Club

-- Lou, . . . my congratulations for finding a replacement. You'll be a hard act to follow.

Rex Dixon
CPSGB Secretary

-- . . . keeping in mind my collecting interest is just part of its scope - I find THE SPECIALIST well written and interesting. It is a resource to open Czechoslovak history - a history that has been suppressed.

Rein Vasara

-- Thank you . . . and especially for your hard work you paid to the Specialist. I am sure that it reached a high level of quality, and occupies a prominent position not only among the Czech philatelic magazines published abroad, but also in CZ -- we can compare it without any doubt with *Filatelie* or *Merkur Review*!

Lubor Kunc

3. Postmark Help:

I used to know what this postmark is, but now I've forgotten and I can't find it in any of my references. What was it used for and what do the numbers mean? (Fig. 1)

Jay [Carrigan]

-- Savoy Horvath responds: It is an official post cancel, so called district (okresní) postmark, it was in use on postal paper only (pruvodky), and mainly on money transfers (peněžní poukázky). The number in the postmark gave one the location of mailing. It was not used as a stamp canceller, what you have was cancelled by mistake.

-- Tom Cossaboom responds: The Austrians call them 'tarnstempel'. They were a combination of



Fig. 1

Roman numeral to indicate the crownland and Arabic numeral to indicate the post office. In Hungary they were a simple Arabic numeral in a rectangle with or without a small 'tent' at the top. For Bosnia-Herzegovina they were an Arabic number in a circle. All were used for money orders and package receipts.

4. Lou:

Here are two examples -- a post card and postal stationery -- showing how the Slovaks commemorated the 90th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia this year -- note both the printed cachets and the cancels (Fig. 2 and 3). The rectangular cancel with the aircraft states "World Travels of M. R. Štefánik" and "90th Anniversary of the Founding of ČSR 1918".

Savoy Horvath



Fig. 2

5. Lou:

[Here is an] interesting cover from Slovakia for the "90th Anniversary of the First Czechoslovak Postage Stamp" -- which is a translation of the words around the top of the cancel on the stamp itself (Fig. 4). This cancel has a replica of the first design of Mucha's Hradčany issue with a value of 1. The cachet shows young Alfonz Mucha as the author of the first Czechoslovak stamp. Mucha's birthplace, Ivančice, is in Moravia, 13 miles southwest of Brno. The upper center cancel states "Magic of Christmas Below the Castle -- Trenčín". The author of both of the cancels and the cachet is Ivan Kubela who is well known in Slovakia for his postal cancels and cover artwork.

Savoy Horvath

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Fig. 3

6. Dear Ludvig [sic]:

Here is something our readers may be interested in. The illusive CDV-IX, I was able to purchase on the Internet . . . with a certificate from H. Hahn dated



Fig. 4

2.2.2006. The card is dated 23.VI.1919 and sent from PRAHA-KARLIN to Vienna -- both the front and back are pictured here (Fig. 5 and 6). Hahn's certificate states "The Austrian postcard shown above was overprinted by the Czechoslovak Republic and the denomination increased to 10h to meet rate initially effective in the ČSR. On May 15, 1919 the domestic postcard rate was increased to 15h. The domestic rate was applicable to mailings to Austria. The card is upfranked with the 5h value of the Czechoslovak Hradčany issue. I find all aspects of this card genuine and have placed my mark on the reverse."

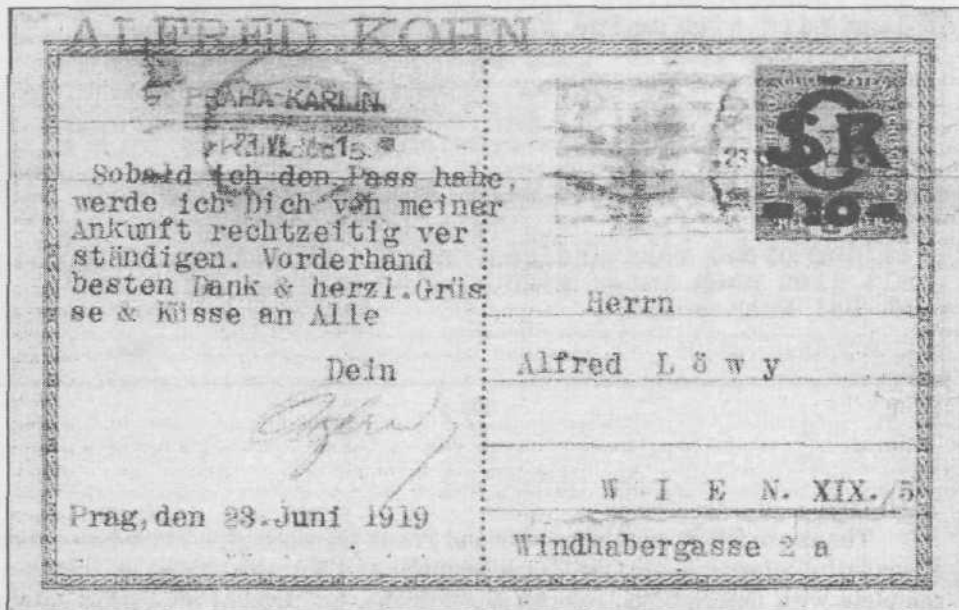


Fig. 5

Pofis and H&G [Higgins and Gage] state that maybe a small amount exist:

Mine	23 - June - 1919 (PRAHA-KARLIN) to Vienna
POFIS	10?20?30? - July - 1919 (LIBOCH) to Johannisbad (Janské Lázně)
H&G	5 - July - 1919 (city of KARLIN) to ?

Page 398 of "Příručka Pro Sběratelé Československých Známek a Celin" states that only two pieces are known and three pieces are known without the -10-value [overprint]. The latter I have never seen.

Are there any copies used during the first postal tariff between 10.18.1918 to 5.15.1919? Do any of our readers know of any other copies of this rarity?

P.S. -- Since the H&G is also mailed from PRAHA-KARLIN, is it the same person mailing these postal cards, or the same destination, or were they simply found and used in this area?

Miroslav Vrzala

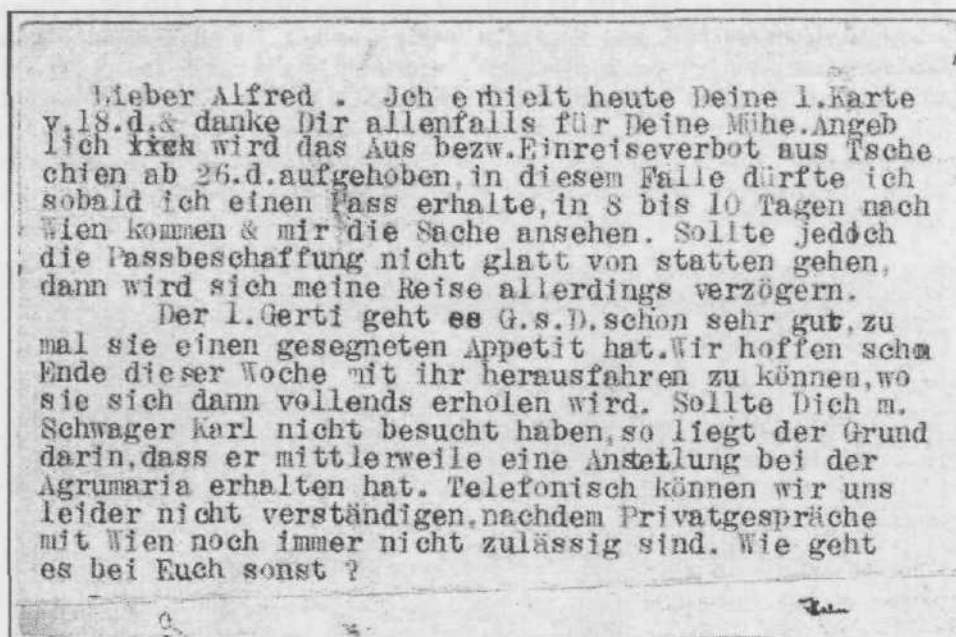


Fig. 6

7. Hi Lou:

Thanks to fellow member and friend Frank Garancovsky, I now know about a wonderful internet source for Czech Republic and Slovakia stamp information -- complete with descriptions, colored illustrations, and best of all POFIS catalog numbers. To use this resource, do the following:

-- For Czech Republic stamps: enter the address www.cpost.cz/jetspeed/ in your internet browser, then click on the small British flag at the top of the page to see the information in English. On the new page, click the menu item Philately. When that page comes up, a list of searching methods appears on the right side of the page: Year of Publication, Detailed Search, and Catalogue Number. I use a Year of Publication search to get all of the stamps for a specific year.

-- For Slovakia stamps: enter the address www.pofis.sk/ in your internet browser. Click on the word English on the upper right side of the page to see the information in English. On the new page, click on Postage Stamps in the center menu. This brings up a menu on the left side of the page. Click on 'Chronological List' to bring up a search dialog. The search mechanism appears at the top of the new page and permits you to search by Year and Theme.

Does anyone know of a similar source for Scott catalog numbers, especially for those that do not yet appear in the published paper catalogs?

Have fun,
Wilson

NEW SPECIALIST INDEX by Mark Wilson

Now, anyone with access to the Internet has an index to almost all of the latest Specialist issues.

I have mounted my personal index of the 21st century Czechoslovak Specialists to my website. Specialist readers can use these two indices -- an author index and a subject index -- by going to my website, www.knihtisk.org, and clicking on the LIBRARY link at the top of the page, then clicking on the 2000-2007 SPECIALIST INDEX link on the left side of the page that comes up. Right now, the index covers only the years 2000-2007, but I hope to add to it soon, and to keep adding as issues come out (I am hoping that the new editor can supply me with electronic versions of the new issues, which then are much easier to integrate into the Index).

A few caveats: the indices are computer generated, using software I wrote. Note that words which are all capital letters will file in front of normal words, and the words which start with a diacritical over the initial letter will file at the end of all the other words -- I just don't think the game is worth the candle to write software to fix those issues. Also, some of the subject headings I have chosen may not be to the liking of all, and I have not indexed (despite the gems of information found in them) the "generic columns" like "Letters to the Editor".

Now here is an offer to Specialist readers who want more or a better index. If someone wants to add to or edit this index (and let me publish their changes and additions), is willing to buy a \$48 piece of software (if they do not have it), and is willing to learn to use that software to create and edit entries, I will happily accept help from them. I can talk a computer-experienced person through the process and supply files that will help speed learning along. The software can be downloaded for a free trial from <http://www.oxygenxml.com/>. It is an XML editor and some understanding of XML is necessary to use it.

I hope that readers enjoy using the new indices.



ROTUNDA OF THE HOLY CROSS IN PRAGUE by Gerald van Zanten

For the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1955 (also known as PRAGA '55), a miniature sheet in perforate and imperforate variety was issued. On it are shown five stamps of different denominations in a horseshoe arrangement around Prague's Coat of Arms (Fig. 1 shows the imperforate variety). The issue came out on September 10, 1955, when 199,000 perforated and 143,000 imperforated sheets were issued. The perforated stamps, cut out imperforated ones, as well as entire sheets can be found on postally used covers and parcels.

Of the five stamps on the sheet the one at the upper left is valued 30h. It was designed by Viktor Stretti and engraved by Jirí Svengšbír. It shows the



Fig. 1

Románská Rotunda Kaple Svatého Kříže (or Romanesque Rotunda of the Chapel of the Holy Cross)(Fig. 2) the oldest Romanesque rotunda in Prague. It is only one of three round chapels which has survived in Prague. This particular one is situated on the corner of Karoliny Světlé street and Konviktská street, Staré Město, Praha 1.

The rotunda was originally built as a chapel about the year 1100 on an important route spanning Vyšehrad with the fords of the Vltava river. A proposal to tear down the rotunda during the 19th century in order to build a new house there was fortunately frustrated by opposition in the Czech Artist's Union. Instead of being demolished, the exterior was renovated by V.I. Ullmann between 1864 and 1876. At the same time, the interior was decorated by the painter B. Wachsmann, including a new altar with paintings by J. Popelik. In the apse is a painting of St. Saviour by P. Maixner (1870). Reminders of Gothic paintings from the 14th century have been preserved on the nave. The most valuable Gothic fresco is the "Three Magi Veneration". The neo-Romanesque grille surrounding this small chapel was cast after a design by Josef Mánes (1865). During 1975 to 1980, the rotunda underwent general repairs and now serves the Old Catholic Church.

There are various stories, legends and additional history related to the rotunda.

The story about the origin of the rotunda says, that there used to be a lake at the place originally. A crucified girl, punished for her Christian belief, was thrown into it with her cross. The cross reared up during a storm, which was regarded as God's sign. A large cross was really found in the foundations of the rotunda, when it was restored.

The first mention of the Rotunda of the Holy Cross is from 1365, but it was probably already built at the end of the 11th century. It is a small, simple building with a rounded nave and an apse. A lantern at the cupola has gilt cross, a crescent moon, and an eight-pointed star at the top.

The Rotunda was probably originally a private chapel belonging to some of the mansions in Prague Old Town. There used to be a parsonage nearby and a cemetery around it. There are some remains of tombstones from the 13th century.

The Dominicans took possession of it in 1625. Then Emperor Joseph II abolished it as a chapel in 1784, as well as many other churches -- it then became private storage.

A legend says, that there is a basement with a huge treasure underneath the Rotunda. And one more story is related to the place -- a strange monster allegedly used to walk around the place in the night and assault people. He is believed to punish people who are living immoral lives near the Rotunda.

This is all a lot for just a small structure. But, if you are 900 years old, a lot can occur -- both true and fanciful.



Fig. 2



ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW (RMSS)

Here we are again, preparing for the annual gathering of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, which is only a very few months away. I have to start off by apologizing that you are reading this so late, but there have been some unexpected events that have forced this issue to be very late. That is entirely my responsibility.

Nevertheless, this year we will be meeting in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS), May 15-17, 2009, that is being held in Aurora, Colorado (although they advertise it as being in Denver because people recognize that city; Aurora is immediately adjacent to Denver to the east). The location is the Crowne Plaza hotel (formerly Holiday Inn), Denver International Airport Convention Center, 40th Avenue and Chambers Road. You can reach them at 303-371-9494, and ask for their stamp show rate (which I am told should be \$94

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single/double while they last). On the Internet you can find the hotel at www.cpdenverairport.com. It is about 10 miles down the major road from Denver International Airport and 14 miles from downtown Denver. If you arrive at the airport, you can call the hotel at the phone number above for their courtesy van to pick you up (but be advised that they will not wait for you, you have to be waiting for them at the designated pick up spot they tell you).

You can find the RMSS web site at www.RockyMountainStampShow.com. From there you can download the exhibiting prospectus and entry form (click on the "Exhibits" icon right under the header, then on "Exhibiting Information"). Other societies meeting at this show are France & Colonies Philatelic Society and Cuban Philatelic Society of America. RMSS is a Champion of Champions show with over 4000 pages of stamp exhibits, a 40+ stamp dealer bourse, special youth activities, plus all of our Society's activities.

Our Society's activities will begin with the annual board meeting on Thursday afternoon (1 pm), 14 May. That evening we will be going to a Czech restaurant for dinner. Since the restaurant is some distance, we will need rental cars to transport everyone. On Saturday will be the General Membership meeting followed by a lecture on some aspect of Czechoslovak philately. The Society will have a table where you can meet other members of the Society and look over a selection of the latest Czech and Slovak philatelic publications to be ordered from the Society. If you attend the show, please stop at the table to say hello and to get the latest information on our activities and where they will take place, such as the Society awards breakfast on Sunday morning (place and time yet to be determined).

If you have questions, please contact me at Lousvoboda@comcast.net or 303-680-7118. If you are interested in possibly staying at a hotel different from the show hotel, contact me for more details (Marriott, Marriott Residence Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Hyatt Plaza are in the vicinity).

One final comment. The show hotel is not near any large shopping complexes, nor is there public transportation easily available to other activities -- although the hotel courtesy bus will take you to places in the local area. There are convenience stores, restaurants, and fast-food restaurants in easy walking distance.



ADVERTISE OUR SOCIETY!!!!

If you subscribe to LINN'S STAMP NEWS, then you have an opportunity to advertise our Society -- for FREE!! When it is time for you to renew your subscription, they will include a form to return for a free one-issue 25 word ad. Indicate that you want the ad to run in Classified Section 1965, Philatelic Societies. The suggested ad is:

Society for Czechoslovak Philately, award winning bi-monthly journal, sales circuit, expertising, translations, conventions, auctions, lending library. Write: Philip Rhoads, 905 E. Oakside St., South Bend, IN 46614

THE IDEAL BIRTHDAY GIFT: AN S.C.P. MEMBERSHIP

We all have the problem of finding a good present for someone who has everything. All of us also have friends and loved ones with whom we exchange gifts who collect stamps or might become interested.

The solution to your gift problem: buy them a membership in the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. The cost is only \$25 (regular) or \$3 (youth -- under 18) per year. Among the many advantages of SCP membership, they will receive our outstanding journal (a fresh gift from you every two months!) and a great source from which they can purchase their philatelic needs.

Go to the SCP website (www.CSPhilately.org) today, download an application, complete it, and send it in along with your check for \$25 or \$3. Or, you can write to our Secretary, Philip Rhoads for the application (his address is on page 2 of every issue). Your loved one or friend will receive a nice year-long gift as a result of your thoughtfulness.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC by G.M. van Zanten

1. On November 5, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates combined with multicolored offset -- the 23 Kč and 26 Kč stamps in printing sheets of four pieces and the 30 Kč in a souvenir sheet.

-- 23 Kč: Zdenka Braunerová (1858-1934), "The Vltava River Nearby Klecany, after 1885" (Fig. 1), West Bohemian Gallery at Plzeň, engraved by Václav Fajt; in brown, yellow, red, green and blue. Since her childhood the painter Z. Braunerová, daughter of the politician F.A. Brauner, was interested in painting. She studied



Fig. 1

with Amálie Mánesová, Pinkas, Chittussi and in Paris where she met with leading artists. Her works, influenced by impressionism and symbolism, were successfully exhibited. Braunerová belonged to the most comprehensive personalities of the Czech and European fine arts. In addition to drawing and painting she created wood engravings, etchings, ex libris and designed decorative glass inspired with Slavonic folk motifs. She greatly contributed to the restoration of Czech book design and typography. Her paintings and graphic works -- gently and with a special sensitivity for light and colors --

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Fig. 2

display the charm of nature. A leading activist for preservation of old Prague, she was mainly fascinated with the Vltava river banks. In 1906-1910 she created an extensive collection of etchings with old Prague motifs by which she tried to fight against the redevelopment of old Prague. A FDC in black shows a drawing by Z. Braunerová, "The View of the Lesser Town" (india ink on paper)(Fig. 2).

-- 26 Kč: Otakar Nejedly (1883-1957), "Autumn Road, 1918" (Fig. 3), National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Miloš Ondráček; in black, ocher, green, dark-red, and blue. The landscape painter O. Nejedly, professor at the Academy of Fine

Arts in Prague, studied at F. Engelmüller's private school as well as with A. Slavíček. During his study visit to India and Ceylon he created not only paintings but also a singular travel book "Painter's Wandering through Europe, Ceylon and India". His early creation was influenced by P. Cézanne and A. Derain; during World War I he painted expressionistic scenes of French battlefields which typed the pathetic hyperbole of his later works. His creation stabilized with dark and spectacular colors and dramatic concept of Czech landscape. Nejedly's activities as an artist covers also the long-time and successful teaching and upbringing of generations of painters. A FDC in black shows a drawing by O.

Nejedly, "The Trees by the Road" (pencil on paper)(Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

-- 30 Kč: Jan Jakub Hartmann (1658?-1736/45), "Allegory of Water, after 1700" (Fig. 5), National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Martin



Fig. 3

Srb; in brown-black (recess print), multicolored offset. J.J. Hartmann belongs to the painters who in the course of the second half of the 17th century specialized in landscape painting. Based on the Dutch landscape models mainly from the late 16th century, his concept of landscape painting was at his time rather archaic. He worked together with his sons František Antonín and Václav Jan. Their paintings are not signed and were created by cooperation of all the painters. The better and more advanced works are ascribed to the son František Antonín, the more traditional to the father Jan Jakub. The postage stamp features a cutting [portion] of the painting Allegory of Water which is the counterpart painting of the Allegory of Earth. The paintings came from the series The Four Elements. They are painted on copper plates and belong to the best of Hartmann's production. The scheme of the landscape on the painting Allegory of Water, based on a contrast between the darker rich forest and the lighted view of the river scene with an ample crowd broken into smaller groups, numerous ships,



Fig. 5

fish and sea fruit is at the same time an inconspicuous picture of the Biblical scene of Christ's miraculous fishing. The souvenir sheet which includes this postage stamp features almost the whole painting Allegory of Water. The stamp shows two groups of figures with ample amount of the sea animals and in the form of enlarged detail it is intergrated into the left part of the souvenir sheet. The counterpart painting Allegory of Earth shows, in a very similar landscape, Christ meeting with Mary and Martha. A FDC in dark brown shows a graphic by J.J. Hartmann, "Waterfall on the River Suse in Rond-Chatel in Erguel" (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6

2. On November 5, 2008, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp devoted to Christmas Traditions (Fig. 7). Christmas is likely the most popular holiday in the Czech Republic. As soon as in the 14th century people would exchange best wishes and gifts. Some of the traditions and habits are still alive today. Christmas confections are baking in the oven while the Christmas tree is decorated. After the Christmas dinner, people sing or at least listen to carols, cut apples for a star core meaning happiness and good health. Children love to float lighted candles in nutshells. The head of the household pours melted lead into water and thus tells the family's fate from the resulting shape. Unmarried girls can throw a shoe behind their head; if it falls with the toe towards the door, the girl may leave the family in the upcoming year. Many families go to church for midnight mass. The Christmas traditions on the stamp are represented by a



Fig. 7

saucer with nuts, apples cut in half, and apples with sweets decorated with spruce twigs. The stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko, engraved by Bedřich Housa, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow with iriodin, red and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown depicts a baking board with dough, excised Christmas cookies, and cookie cutter forms (Fig. 8).

3. On November 5, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing a 30 Kč stamp entitled Třebechovice Bethlehem (Fig. 9). The collections of the Třebechovice Museum of Bethlehems include more than 400 bethlehems made of different materials and coming from different areas of the Czech Republic. Visitors can see very old as well as contemporary bethlehems. The most precious and admired one is the world-famous Probošt's bethlehem, also known as Třebechovice Bethlehem. It is a 7m long, 3.2m wide and 1.8m high work of more than 2,000 cut pieces. Many figures have the appearance of Probošt's neighbors. They are 10 to 15cm high and display well-known Biblical scenes in the environment of a Bohemian town of the late 19th century. Of the figures, 51 move



Fig. 8

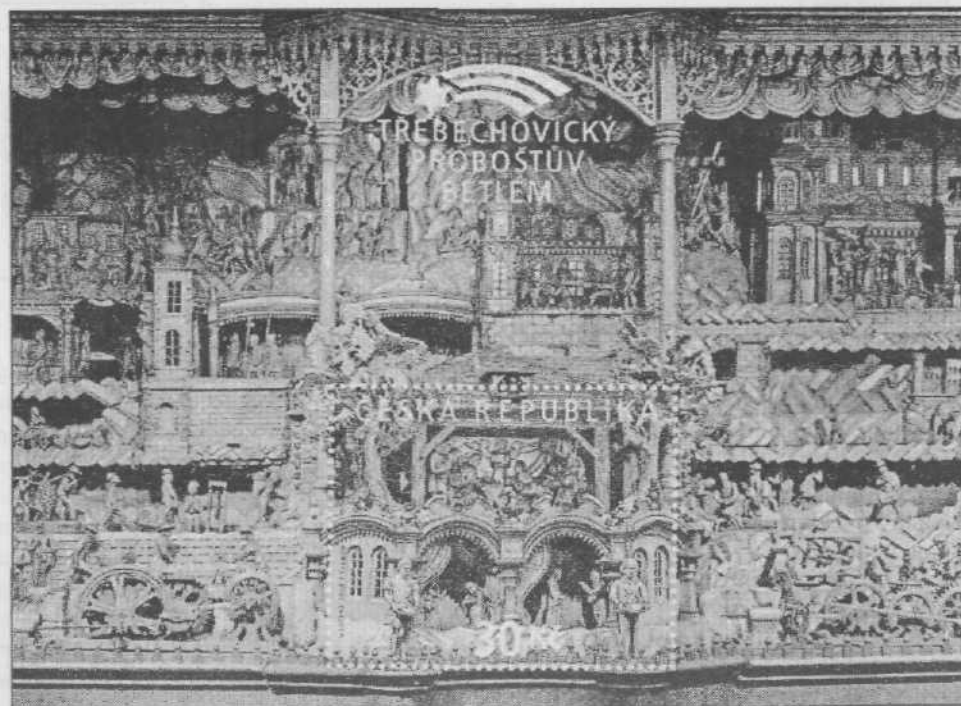


Fig. 9

at work, 120 move on belts, 180 are motionless, and the other 1,500 are animals, trees, buildings, etc. The natural middle point of the bethlehem is the crib. Action develops on the seven terraces on both sides of the crib. The bethlehem is an untypical one: it displays not only the birth of Christ, but also further stages of his life until the Resurrection. The motion mechanism of the bethlehem was assembled by the carpenter Josef Friml; it contains more than 150 wheels and pinions, levers, chains and belt pulleys. In 1935 the original crank drive was replaced with an electrical drive. This unique bethlehem was created for over 40 years starting from 1885 by Josef Probošt (1849-1926), assisted by the wood carver Josef Kapucián. Probošt gradually lost interest in farming and left all the work to be done by his wife and daughter. He intended to show the bethlehem at fairs and exhibitions believing that this would be a way of returning the invested money to the family. Despite the high appreciation of the bethlehem at the 1906 exhibition of the Land Association of Craftsmen, it was not profitable. World War I also made traveling of the bethlehem impossible. The once genial Probošt became an



Fig. 10

acrimonious and unfriendly solitary. For the rest of the family the bethlehem became a symbol of failure and debts with respect to Probošt's estate. Probošt's Bethlehem is a completely unique work in terms of art and technique; in 1999 it was designated a national cultural heritage. The souvenir sheet and stamp were designed by Václav Kučera, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in brown combined with multicolored offset. A FDC in brown shows a detail from the middle part of the Bethlehem -- Adoration of a shepherd at the crib as St. Joseph cradles the Christ Child (Fig. 10).

4. On November 5, 2008, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč definitive stamp with labels for additional printing (Fig. 11). The stamp bears a drawing by Josef Lada from 1955 called "Children in Winter". The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The upper right label depicts children building a snowman. On the date of issue the right lower label will depict a boy with a small snowman on a sledge and the other 10 labels will be cancelled with a round postmark with the



Fig. 11

text "The Post commemorates its 90th Anniversary -- 1918-2008" in Czech. A part of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The stamp was designed by Václav Kučera and produced by Victoria Security Printings, a.s. by multicolored offset.

5. On November 25, 2008, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "The Czech Republic's Presidency of the EU Council" (Fig. 12). The

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Council of the European Union is -- besides the European Commission and the European Parliament -- one of the leading participants in the European decision process. Together with the European Parliament, the Council of the EU approves legal regulations of the EU and other decisions. The EU Council consists of national ministers representing the individual member countries. Ministers of the member countries meet in the EU Council depending on the transacted agenda -- e.g. ministers of the environment in the Council for the environment, etc. The General Secretariat of the EU Council, residing in Brussels, is responsible for the process flow of negotiations. The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is held for a 6 month term always by one of the member countries, in a set order. The Czech Republic will hold this office from January to June 2009. During the presidency, the Czech Republic will speak for all twenty-seven member countries of EU. Its task will be to prepare and lead negotiations of the EU Council, to represent it in negotiations with other EU institutions and, not least, to represent the European Union outwards, e.g. in international establishments and by negotiations with other countries. During the presidency of the Czech Republic



Fig. 12

about three thousand negotiations will be effectuated in Brussels, in the Czech Republic, and all over the world. The motto of the Czech presidency, approved by the Czech government in February 2007, is "Europe without barriers". Herewith the Czech Republic expresses

its will to remove the remaining obstructions among the member countries of the EU, particularly in the sphere of the internal market -- in the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital, including the complicated legal regulations of EU and member countries, which don't allow to use completely the potential of each country and of the integral European Union. The stamp displays the logo of the Czech presidency in the EU Council with Czech text stating "Czech Presidency in the European Union". The stamp was designed by Tomáš Pakosta and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 30 stamps and 30 labels. A FDC in multicolored offset shows a map of the European Union constructed of the two-letter codes of the member countries of the EU.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

**2009 ISSUE PLAN
FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value €
Jan 1	First Commemorative EURO Stamp	1	1.00
Jan 2	Slovak Cultural Heritage Series	12	

	- Chapel of St. Margita near Kopčany		0.01
	- Church of Mary Mother of God in Boldog		0.02
	- Rotunda of St. Margita in Šivetice		0.05
	- Church of St. J. Krstiteľ in Sedmerov-Pominovce		0.10
	- Church in Svätušie		0.20
	- Church of St. Martin in Spišská Kapitula		0.50
	- Premonstrantian Monastery of the Virgin Mary in Bína		1.00
	- Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Dražovce		2.00
	- Church in Čierný Brod (10Sk)		0.33
	- Church of St. Egídia in Ilija (20Sk)		0.66
	- Church of St. Stephen, King in Zilina-Závodíc (25Sk)		0.83
	- Church of the Holy Cross in Hamuliakovo (40Sk)		1.33
Feb 27	Easter 2009 -- Easter Egg	1	0.33
Mar 13	Sport -- Fighting Skills	1	0.66
Apr 17	Personalities -- Aurel Stodola (1859-1942)	1	0.73
May 7	40 th Anniversary, Supreme Slovak Republic Control Activity	1	0.76
May 11	40 th Anniversary, Founding of ZSF (ZPK)	1	0.33
May 28	EUROPA 2009 -- Astronomy	1	0.80
Jun 2	Personalities -- Žofia Bosniaková	1	0.70
Aug 14	BIB -- Biennial of Illustration Bratislava 2009	1	0.33
Sep 11	Joint Issue with Austria	2	
	-- Limes Romanus -- Carnuntum		1.33
	-- Limes Romanus -- Gerulata		1.33
Oct 23	Nature Conservation	2	
	-- Swamp Turtle		0.93
	-- Spotted Salamander		0.93
Nov 11	Christmas 2009 -- Winter Motif	1	0.33
Nov 27	Art	2	
	-- Ján Mudroch (1909-1968)		1.13
	-- Cyprián Majerník (1809-1852)		1.13
Dec 18	Stamp Day -- Louis Braille (1809-1852)	1	1.00

6. On October 23, 2008, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Nature Conservation series featuring orchids. The stamps were designed by Vladimír Machaj, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha, a.s., by rotary recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 pieces.

-- Lady's Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus* L.): denominated T2 100g (second class up to 100 g -- domestic service)(Fig. 13). Within the territory of Slovakia, this genus is represented by only one species -- it is the only representative of the *Cypripedioideae* subfamily in Slovak flora. The great majority of this genus is to be found in Asia and North America. The plant measures up to 60 cm with a creeping rootstalk, from which a stem sprouts with 3-5 alternate and 4-7 cm wide lanceolate leaves, and typically only one flower which usually opens from the end of May until June. It is one of our most



Fig. 13

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bizarre wild plants in terms of shape. Apart from the unusual flower shape, pollination used by this flower is also very interesting. The insect is enticed into the flower by the yellow color of the labellum. At its visit, the insect falls inside, and since the surface of the surrounding walls is slippery and the edge folded inside, it gets imprisoned inside the flower. The only way out is the opening at the back of the slipper, whereby the pollen gets glued onto the body of the insect. Since the flower does not offer any nectar and the insect has practically no use for it, the flower is also called a deceptive orchid. The species can usually be found on the foothills or mountains of Northern Slovakia in limy soils with deciduous forests, especially oak and beech. It is susceptible to flower-picking by tourists and digging by gardeners. This has already led to the extinction of this species in several locations. Therefore, it is protected by law, listed in the Slovak Red List of Plants and Animals, and subject to conservation based on the CITES convention.



Fig. 14

A FDC with cachet shows the flowers/plants in their natural environment (Fig. 14).

-- Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera* Huds.): denominated T2 500g (second class up to 500 g - domestic service)(Fig. 15). The *Ophrys* genus includes about 70 species occurring mainly in the Mediterranean area, but also in South-East Asia. In Slovakia, this genus is represented by five species, which are amongst the scarcest



Fig. 15

species of orchids. The plant has ovoid tubers with a rose-like bundle of grey-green lanceolate-shaped leaves sprouting from the stem just above the ground which also survive winters. Distinctive flowers -- numbering from three to ten -- usually come out in June or July and sprout at the apex. Once the flower opens, it turns upside-down to the normal position. The labellum is distinct and may take on various shapes and colors depending on the

species. It is in fact the color of the labellum that resembles an insect and forms the basis for naming of the species. The variability of labella imitates females and attracts various insect males. Deceived male insects collect pollen on their heads or abdomens when trying to copulate and land on another flower, thereby effecting pollination. Nevertheless, this is the only representative of this genus capable of self-pollination -- thus, it does not need to attract insects. The occurrence of this decorative species in Slovakia is rare as these locations represent the flower's most northern habitats -- it usually grows in the warmer parts of Western Slovakia, in meadows and shrubby slopes. The species has already gone extinct in many of these locations due to the destruction of habitat. The species is also protected by law and listed in the Red List of Endangered and Scarce Plants of Slovakia as well as the Slovak Red List of Plants and Animals. A FDC with cachet shows the flower/plants in their natural environment (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16

7. On November 13, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp honoring Christmas 2008 with a face value of T2 50g (second class up to 50 g)(Fig. 17). During Christmas, the feast of the Nativity, the Slovak Post introduced a stamp that depicts an interesting Flemish painting from the collection of the Slovak National Gallery (SNG), dating from the mid-16th century with a motif of the Holy Family. The 16th century Dutch and Flemish paintings displayed in the Slovak museums and galleries were previously owned by local nobility and affluent entrepreneurs. This artwork was painted in tempera on an oak panel by an Antwerp painter of the mid-16th century. The painting is associated with the work of an anonymous Antwerp painter, usually referred



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

to by scholars under his pseudonym, Master of the Mansi Magdalene. The Italian motif of the Virgin Mary's kiss, the typology of the face of St. Joseph, and the perforated sleeves of Mary's clothes are typical of this unknown painter's style. The stamp was designed by Radmila Hanečková and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha, a.s., using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. The FDC depicts another painting from the collection of the SNG dating to the 16th century Antwerp (Fig. 18). It is the central part of the 'Triptych of the Adoration of the Magi', which probably came from the studio of Jan Mertens the Younger (1454/7 - 1527 Antwerp). This altar painting served for private Mass purposes. Its side wings depict the Nativity of Christ and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

8. On November 27, 2008, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were designed and engraved by František Horniak and produced by PTC in Prague using multicolored recess printing from flat plates in printing sheets of four pieces.

-- T2 1000g: Josef Baláž, "Illustration from the Book, Seven-Colored Flower, 1975" (Fig. 19). Josef Baláž (1923-2006) was an academic painter, graphic artist, illustrator, stamp designer, and a significant personality of Slovak art and culture. He grew up surrounded by artistically significant Slovak painters, and was a student of Professor Ilja Beškov, graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia in 1954. His works comprise, for the most part, free style graphics and illustrations in books, magazines, and stamps, and his distinctive illustrations can be found everywhere. He is renowned as the most significant Slovak stamp graphic artist and began designing stamps in 1957. His debut



Fig. 19

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 20

entitled "Tekovská Svadba" (The Tekov Wedding)(Fig. 20).

-- the Tatra National Park issue -- represents a significant milestone in the history of Slovak stamps. It marked a shift from occasional experimenting by Slovak artists in stamp design to a continuous creative approach. His accomplishments in stamp graphic art comprise almost 150 issued postal stamps. He has been presented with numerous awards for stamp design. The reproduction of his lithograph entitled 'Pre Štastie' (For Luck), which appeared on a Czechoslovak stamp in 1973, should be viewed as a tribute to the artist's distinctive style which has shaped the development of the stamp as an artistic medium. A FDC features another of his book illustrations showing a section from a tapestry

-- T1 1000g: Zoltán Palugyay, "A Girl in White with Factory Chimneys and Flowers, 1932" (Fig. 21). Zoltán Palugyay (1898-1935) is one of the most noted proponents of Slovak Modernism in painting. Initially he was a private student, but then attended several colleges such as the University of Fine Arts in Budapest and the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. A stay in Munich provided him with the most modern education including associating with and helping other artists develop modern painting programs. He was also active as a writer focusing on modern painting contributions being published in magazines. He preferred to work with pastel and aquarelle probably as these materials allowed him to find the most profound expression of the emotional nature and moodiness of his motifs. His



Fig. 21

earlier works were rooted in post-impressionist realism invigorated by expressionism. A FDC shows his expressionism shifting towards exaggeration of shape in the painting "Krajina s Kvetmi" (Country with Flowers)(1930)(Fig. 22).



Fig. 22

9. On November 27, 2008, the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp honoring Postage Stamp Day and entitled "1st Post Route, Bratislava - Ružomberok - Košice"(Fig. 23) with a face value of T1 50g. Under the threat of the Turks and prior to their invasion of Hungary, the monarch's court issued an edict to build strategic postal lines. The postal line linking Vienna with Bratislava was developed by Matej Taxis in 1530 based on the court's instruction. At that time, the Bratislava postmaster was Peter Paár. He later became the Postmaster General in charge of the greater part of Slovakia. Meanwhile, it was ordered due to exigent strategic reasons to extend the postal line



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

between Vienna - Bratislava further to the East towards Transylvania. The line ran across the Váh river region (považie) and continued further across the foothills of the Carpatian mountain range to Levoča, Prešov, and Košice. In the period 1553-1555 the line was finally extended from Košice to

Transylvania. This postal road was used by the army during 1552-1558, and subsequently by the Turks. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and produced by PTC in Prague using offset in sheets of 30 pieces with labels. The label shows an early era postal letter, a postal horn, and pistol for defense of the rider. A FDC depicts a heraldic shield from this early era (Fig. 24).

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