



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. 71

MARCH/APRIL 2009

No. 2, Whole No. 614

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

This round of elections to the Board of Directors has been marred by a series of unfortunate circumstances.

While the nominations portion of the elections went as planned (the announcement requesting nominations was in the Nov/Dec 2008 SPECIALIST with a deadline of January 31, 2009), the actual election portion with a ballot and list of candidates should have been in the Mar/Apr 2009 issue with a deadline of April 15 for posting of ballots. As you are well aware, the Jan/Feb issue did not get out until May, and the Mar/Apr issue is just now in your hands. While there are several reasons why this occurred, suffice it to say that the current Board of Directors is taking steps to make sure it does not occur again.

In order to resolve the election delay, we will conduct the election portion with a 4 month delay. Fortunately our bylaws specify that the current board stays in place until the election results are certified by the secretary. This certification will now not take place until July. Meanwhile, we are going forward with the election in this issue. *(Continued on Page 23)*

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled.

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/June 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@mail.com
2. A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: cancelcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Bob Gibson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Bob Gibson, 7646 3rd Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21060, or e-mail: zdbob@aol.com.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/e-mail above).
6. Our web site (www.CSPhilately.org) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via e-mail, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, 1430 Brickell Bay Drive, #907, Miami, FL 33131, e-mail: MMGalitz@gmail.com.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. 71

MARCH/APRIL 2009

No. 2, Whole No. 614

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

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All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

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

by Mark Wilson

An Addendum

A three-part article in the *Specialist*, beginning with the September/October number of 2008 and ending with the January/February number of 2009, described the then known types and subtypes for all three denominations of the Agriculture and Science issue of 1923. At that time, I reported that new research on the 100h was underway.

In November of 2008, I had an opportunity to meet in Prague with Jindřich Látal, the author of studies on the 200h and 300h stamps. He reported that he expected to publish his new findings concerning the 100h denomination in the spring of 2009. He was kind enough to share the notes for his study with me. I was pleased to learn that he describes several new subtypes for the 100h denomination of the Agriculture and Science issue.

100h Type I

Before meeting with Mr. Látal, I was aware only of the five subtypes described in the previous article, subtypes Ia, Ib, Ic, Id, and Ie. His research uncovered two more subtypes, If and Ig.

Both subtypes are difficult to identify as their distinguishing features are quite small. Also, as Mr. Látal's notes did not indicate which original subtype they replaced, and as the only copies I found in my collection were single stamps, I am unable to report their exact positions.

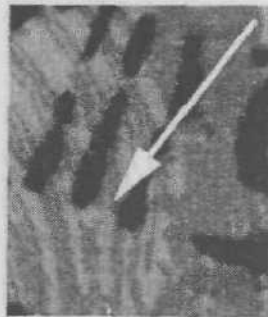


Fig. 1a: Detail



Fig. 1b: 100h Subtype If.

The 100h Type If has a small white blotch in the right-center part of the sheaf (Fig. 1a, 1b).



Fig. 2a: Detail



Fig. 2b: 100h Subtype Ig.

Subtype Ig has a small colored blotch in the right-center part of the sheaf (Fig. 2a, 2b).

100h Type II

Previously, I described three subtypes for the 100h Type II stamps: subtypes IIa, IIb, and IIc. Mr. Látal has found a fourth: subtype IId.

Type II d has a scratch, sometimes absent, on the seat of the figure's pants, and a small white projection on the leaf under the kneeling leg (Fig. 3a, 3b).



Fig. 3a: Detail



Fig. 3b: 100h Subtype II d.

The Type II 100h plates of 100 stamps were constructed from ten blocks of ten stamps each. Because of this, there are four variations for these blocks containing different arrangements of the four Type II subtypes. All four are illustrated below (Fig. 4, 5, 6, 7).

Block 1 contains only subtypes IIa and IIb. Block 2 contains only subtypes IIc and IIb. Block 3, descended from Block 1, contains subtypes IIa, IIc, and IIb. Finally, Block 4, descended from Block 2, contains subtypes IIc, IIc, and IIb.

Type II	Type IIa	Type II	Type IIb	Type II
Type II	Type IIa	Type II	Type IIb	Type II

Fig. 4: Block Variant 1

Type II	Type IIc	Type II	Type IIb	Type II
Type II	Type IIc	Type II	Type IIb	Type II

Fig. 5: Block Variant 2

Type II	Type IIa	Type IIc	Type IIb	Type II
Type II	Type IIa	Type IIc	Type IIb	Type II

Fig. 6: Block Variant 3

Type II	Type IIc	Type IIc	Type IIb	Type II
Type II	Type IIc	Type IIc	Type IIb	Type II

Fig. 7: Block Variant 4

While on the subject of 100h Type II stamps, I would like to revisit subtypes IIa and IIc. Readers may remember from the previous article that subtype IIc is actually a damaged version of subtype IIa. Mr. Látal remarked upon a feature not described earlier, and, while looking through my collection I noticed that both stamps share an additional identifying characteristic not mentioned before. Mr.

Látal says that many, but not all, subtype IIa and IIc stamps have a notch in the upper frame near the left corner. In addition, I noticed that all of these stamps have a small colored mark attached to the upper edge of the ribbon above the left arm of the T in the word POŠTA. Sometimes this mark becomes separated from the top of the ribbon and appears as a colored dot. Of course, every subtype IIa and IIc stamp has the characteristic projection from the upper end of the right arm of the T in POŠTA.



Fig. 8: Type IIa and IIc Detail.

100h Type III

According to Mr. Látal's notes, no new subtypes were reported for 100h Type III stamps.

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My hope is that this series on the 1923 Agriculture and Science issue will excite readers into exploring once more this fascinating issue. There is still much for the reader to find, for I have not described the abundant number of retouched stamps and plate flaws found in this series of stamps.

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ZDEŇKA BRAUNEROVÁ

1858 - 1934

by Ladislav Kesner

contributed by G.M. van Zanten

If you look at the New Issues section of this publication you will see that the first stamp in the Art on Stamps issue is the 23 Kč, "The Vltava River nearby Klecany, after 1885" by artist Zdeňka Braunerová. When I was looking at and preparing the material for the New Issues and saw who one of the artists was, it reminded me that I had recently seen an article about the artist. So as a complement to what is stated about the artist there, here is that article.

Czech art and especially painting has an extraordinary continuity within each generation and also between different generations of painters. Czech painter Zdeňka Braunerová, the 130th anniversary of whose birth we commemorate this



Figure 1: Old Jewish Cemetery

month, was a child when three classics of 19th-century Czech painting -- Josef Navrátil, Karel Purkyně and Josef Mánes -- were old men. She was one of the generation of artists whose works full of patriotic symbolism decorate the National Theater in Prague. Braunerová was a young girl when those who founded modern Czech painting, the so-called generation of the 1890's were born. The achievement of social, artistic and ethical emancipation of Czech spiritual life was the ethos of their efforts which permeated Zdeňka Braunerová's life and work.

She was born as the fourth and youngest child of the outstanding Czech politician, member of the Czech parliament and the Reichstag, Dr. F.A. Brauner. Her mother, an educated and very understanding woman, provided her children with excellent education, social culture and security. Her

brother, a chemist, was an associate of Mendeleev, and her elder sister the wife of French writer E. Bourges, later President of the Goncourt Academy.

Zdeňka Braunerová began to paint under the guidance of her mother, and later under that of Czech painter Soběslav Pinkas [see *Jan/Feb 08, New Issues*], and probably also Amálie Mánesová [see *Jan/Feb 08, New Issues*], the sister of famous Czech painter Josef Mánes. . . . In the second half of the 1870's she had been profoundly impressed by the artistic example of Czech painter Antonín Chitussi [see *Jan/Feb 98, New Issues*] with whom she was also tied emotionally. Until 1894, Zdeňka Braunerová lived in Paris. She acquired a profound knowledge of French painting and had a particular liking for the painters of the



Figure 2: Na Prádle Street

“Barbison school”. She maintained personal contacts with Mallarmé, France, Redon, Whistler, Rodin and Claudel. Her very interesting and vigorous personality played an important role in the shaping of Czech-French cultural relations.

From 1887, Braunerová participated in a number of exhibitions in Prague and Paris. After she returned to her homeland she opened a studio in Roztoky near Prague thus being very near to Prague's cultural life. She often travelled to Moravia and Slovakia to study folk art. She was a close associate of the Mánes group of artists as well as of the group of painters around the “Moderní revue” magazine. She was very active in the efforts to preserve the historic parts of Prague which stirred the Czech public at the end of the 19th century.

At the beginning of her painting career, Braunerová found the means for a very sensitive and original expression in oil paintings of landscapes, but later devoted herself entirely to graphics. The romantic beauty and the “genius loci” of old Prague were, in her opinion, best expressed through graphic means. She displayed several extraordinary views of old Prague streets and corners at an exhibition in the Rudolfinum hall in Prague in 1900.



Figure 3: Platněská Street

She made a remarkable contribution to the field of illustrations and the graphic lay-out of books. Her outstanding sense for this sphere of art is testified to by many beautiful books. At the beginning of this century she took an interest in glass-making and designed figures and sets decorated with elements of folk ornaments.

It is very difficult today -- a hundred years later -- to fully evaluate the life and work of a personality like Zdeňka Braunerová. She was a purposeful, independent

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and emancipated woman who opposed all sorts of conventions in life and in art. Her path was unique and risky at her time. For her all-around skills, her independence, working enthusiasm and her passionate life Zdeňka Braunerová became an outstanding figure in Czech society and culture of the turn of the century.



CARPATHO-UKRAINE
by Savoy Horvath

On February 20, 2009, Ukraine issued a cacheted stamp-imprinted envelope marking the 70th anniversary of the short-lived Carpatho-Ukraine (Fig. 1).

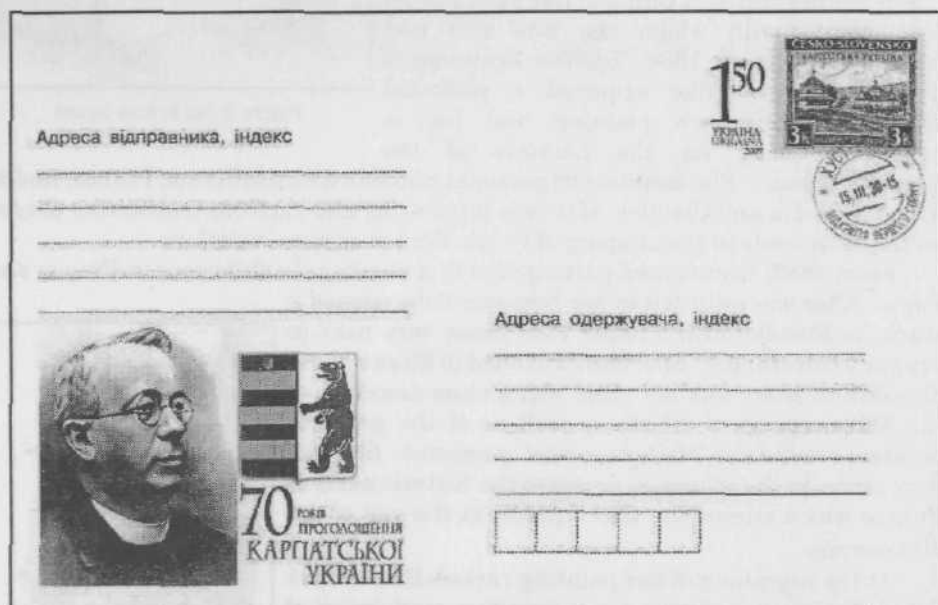


Fig. 1

They used the "ČESKO-SLOVENSKO" 1939 Karpatska Ukraina, 3 Koruna stamp (Sc. 254B/Pof. 351) issued by Czechoslovakia in commemoration of the inauguration of the Carpatho-Ukraine Diet on March 2, 1939. The stamp shows the Lemkov style Jasina church and its separate bell tower. [Also shown at Figure 2 is a post card from 1936 showing essentially the same view as the stamp. The sender states: "Heartfelt greetings from the eastern-most part of the republic. The countryside is gorgeous, but the people are very poor. We are not at-home here. We are only here a day, and then away. There are many health baths here. Every day we bath in different waters."]

The original stamp was issued in blue and on white paper, but as the Ukraine national colors are blue, white and yellow, the Ukraine post has added a yellow border to the image of the Czechoslovak postage stamp. Ukraine also added its



Fig. 2

name to the left of the stamp along with the value of 1.50 Hryven. The imprint also includes the original 1939 bilingual red cancel from Chust.

Carpatho-Ukraine was a former province of Czechoslovakia known as Ruthenia which in 1938 became an autonomous Czechoslovak state as a result of the Munich Agreement. On March 14, 1939 it was incorporated into the kingdom of Hungary.

The envelope's cachet shows Carpatho-Ukraine's first and only president Msgr. Augustyn Voloshyn, the C-Ukr coat of arms, along with the text 70 year anniversary of the Carpatho-Ukraine.

Avhustyn Yvanovich Voloshyn was born March 17, 1874 in Kelesin, Carpathian region. He studied at the Užhorod School of Theology and in a Budapest university. He became a Greek Catholic priest and from 1924 a Papal Chamberer. He was a professor of mathematics 1900-1917 at Ushered Teacher's Institute. In 1919 he became the head of the Subcarpathian National Council, which in 1919 asked Czechoslovakia to incorporate the C-Ukr into the ČSR. In 1925 he was voted as an MP into the House of Parliament in Prague. During the destruction of Czechoslovakia by Hitler's Germany, he tried to preserve C-Ukr independence and became its president for only a few days. On March 19, 1939 the ČSR Army (allied with Romania) retreated from the C-Ukr where they had been fighting Hungary, and Subcarpathia was then occupied by Hungary. Voloshyn fled to Prague where he lived in anonymity as a private person. In March 1945 the Soviet Army occupied C-Ukr and annexed it to the Soviet Ukraine.

When Soviet troops took Prague in May 1945, Augustyn Voloshyn was arrested by the Soviet KGB and taken to Moscow. He died like many others during the post-war Stalinist terror in July 1945 in Butyrka prison, most likely of 9 mm heart attack.

ST. KATHERINE'S ON THE MOUNTAINTOP by Savoy Horvath

St. Katherine's Chapel is the highest sanctuary in North-central Europe (Fig. 1). It is located on Mt. Sněžka (Snowy Mountain) or Schneekoppe (German) at 1,602 meters in the Krkonoše or Riesengebirge, the Giant Mountains (Fig. 2). It was built by the Silesian nobleman, Schaffgotsch, in thanksgiving for the return of his ancestral lands. His father had been a Valdštajn general in the resistance against the Emperor who confiscated his property and had him beheaded.

Sixty builders had to carry stone and material up the steep mountain for many kilometers and, after it was finished, Bishop Bernhardt Rosa dedicated the oratory under the title of St. Katherine on Aug. 10, 1681, the feast day of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr.

Services were held in the shrine five times annually for hundreds of pilgrims. These celebrations were called the *Koppentage*, Days of the Hill: Trinity



Figure 1: St. Katherine's Chapel

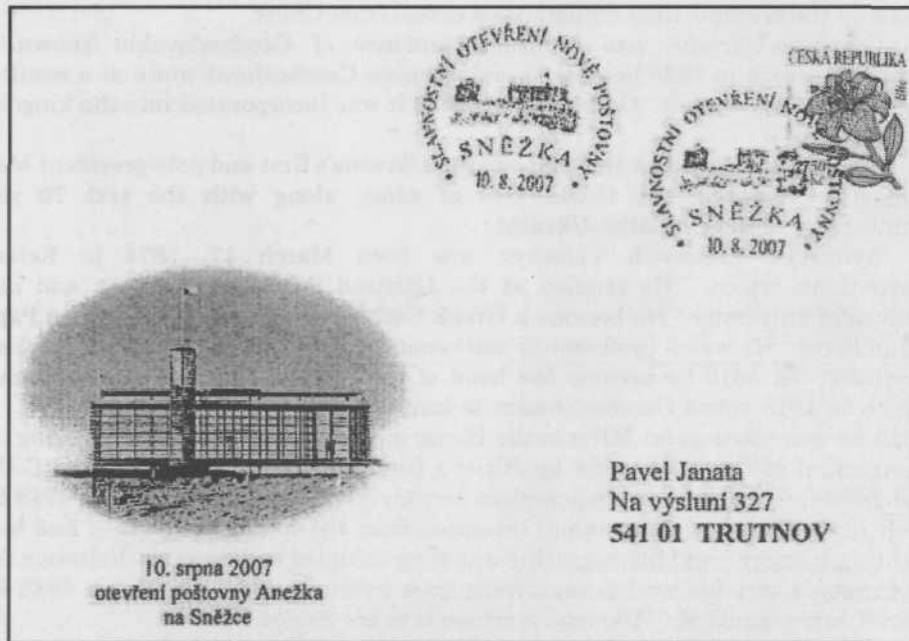


Figure 3: Post card commemorating the opening of the Postal Station Anežka on Mt. Sněžka on Aug. 10, 2007. An enlarged image of the commemorative cancel which illustrates the Chapel and Polish Observatory and states "Ceremonial opening of the new Postal Station on Mt. Sněžka" is shown at Figure 4.



Figure 2: A postcard showing the structures on Mt. Sněžka.

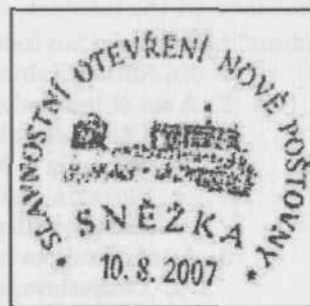


Figure 4: Enlarged cancel

served as a guesthouse for travelers. It was rededicated as the St. Katherine Chapel in 1854.

During communist rule from 1948-89, it was stripped of all religious artifacts, removing the cross from the rooftop and renamed "Czech Shack". After renovation during the 1990s, it was dedicated for the third time and pilgrimages take place in August around St. Lawrence Day (Sv. Václav in Czech).

In 2007, a modern glass and wooden restaurant with a contract postal station was built next to Count Schaffgotsch's beloved mountain chapel (Fig. 3, 4, 5).



Figure 5: Pilgrimage cachet for St. Lawrence's Cachet of the Contract Postal Station Day Aug. 10, 2005 on Sněžka's peak at 1602 m.

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint this article from *The COROS Chronicle*, February 2008, #347, with permission of the editor and author.]

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INDICES TO THE 21st CENTURY ISSUES OF *THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST*

by Mark Wilson

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately published an index to the 20th century issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* and offered it to members in 2003. A new set of indices, covering most of the 21st century are now available. The indices,

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published on the internet, may be used on-line. Note the use of the term "set of indices" rather than "an index". The 21st century indices come in several forms:

1. An Author/Subject Index.
2. A set of indices by Scott number for:
 - a. Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
 - b. Bohemia & Moravia
 - c. Slovakia and Slovenský Štát
 - d. Eastern Silesia
3. A set of indices by POFIS number for:
 - a. Československo
 - b. Protektorát Čechy a Morava
 - c. Slovenský Štát
 - d. Česká Republika
 - e. Slovenská Republika
4. A listing of the subject headings used in the first index for a total of eleven separate indices.

Why eleven indices? This is a service to support collectors who have different approaches to philatelic research. Clearly, if one has an interest in Air Mail issues in general or perhaps in the writings of Lou Svoboda, the fastest avenue for finding material is through the Author/Subject index. However, suppose one is only interested in a specific stamp and wants to know if any article discusses that stamp? In that case, one of the catalog number indices will direct the inquiry to the appropriate articles.

Your author only uses POFIS, but understands that many collectors rely upon Scott numbers to identify stamps. Therefore, indices for both cataloging systems have been made available. The indices were separated into different listings under the two cataloging systems to prevent catalog number collisions. For instance, a bare reference to a Scott #6 might refer to any of four separate stamps: Czechoslovakia #6, Bohemia & Moravia #6, Slovakia #6, or Eastern Silesia #6. The same, of course, is true for POFIS numbers.

At this writing, the indices are completed from 2000 through 2004, but by the end of the year, it is hoped that issues as recent as 2009 will also be indexed. All of the indices are available on my website www.knihtisk.org. Once at the website, simply click on the **Library** menu item at the top of the page and select -- from the left side of the new page -- the menu item **2000-2004 Specialist Index** (the name of that menu item will change as new years are added to the indices). Once on the index web page, select the index that is of interest.

The Author/Subject Index

An example subject entry from this index:

Agriculture Control Institute. Bratislava

- 2001. 50th Anniversary issue (Scott Slovakia 373; POFIS Slovenská Republika 230)

New Issues: Slovakia. G.M. van Zanten, Frank A. Garancovsky.
Nov/Dec 2001 p.29. {Comments: Letters to the Editor. G.M. van
Zanten. Mar/Apr 2002 p.29.}

The first line of the entry "Agricultural Control Institute. Bratislava" is the subject entry for this topic. In the web version, it is colored red. The first part of the second line "- 2001. 50th Anniversary issue" (also colored red) represents a subdivision of the main topic. In this instance, the 2001 release of the 50th anniversary issue for the Bratislava Agricultural Control institute. The second part of the second line and the third line (in parenthesis and colored green) provides the Scott Slovakia and the POFIS Slovenská Republika catalog numbers for this stamp. The fourth and fifth lines of the entry give the title, authors, and the issue, year, and page of the article. The fifth and sixth lines (in braces) indicate that in the Mar/Apr 2002 issue, on page 29, Mr. van Zanten commented on the article (the comment does not mean that he commented on this particular subject, only that he, in the *Letters to the Editor* column made a comment on the article as a whole; the reader must explore that reference to find out if this particular subject was mentioned).

An example author entry from this index:

Adobovs, Kivdul

Letters to the Editor. Nov/Dec 2001 p.27

Philatelic News and Views. Sep/Oct 2001 p.35; Sep/Oct 2002 p.11;
Nov/Dec 2002 p.28; Jan/Feb 2003 p.24

The first line (in bold black type) gives the author's name. The next two lines show articles he has authored (or co-authored). Note the second article shows the many dates his writings appeared in the *Philatelic News and Views* column.

There are also cross references to lead users to a narrower term:

Air Mail [see also Parachute Mail]

The first part of the entry is in red, indicating a subject while the reference (in brackets) is colored blue. Users who tried Air Mail as an entry may also be interested in Parachute Mail, a narrower term for Air Mail.

Sometimes several terms might describe the same subject. In that instance, the cross reference leads to the term used in the index as an entry point:

Allegory Issues

- Agriculture and Science Issue [see Agriculture and Science Issue]
- Hussite Priest [see Hussite Priest]

While readers may disagree with the terms chosen for subject entries, some single term had to be chosen. I have tried to put in as many cross references as I could think of, but am willing to consider others. Simply contact me with your suggestions, and I will consider them. I may be reached at mark@knihtisk.org.

While on the subject of changes and corrections, a word about how the index was created might be useful. I used several computer languages -- XML, XSLT, XSL-FO, HTML -- to input the original data, sort it, and finally to format it for PDF files and web pages. Corrections can be made frequently and quickly -- once data has been corrected, a new version can be published and posted to the web in about a minute.

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The subject index is searchable using the built-in Adobe PDF searching mechanism, but with a caveat: I used Czech spelling where needed, thus searching on **Hradcany** (English spelling) may not find **Hradčany** (Czech spelling). The trick I use, in this instance, is to search for the part of the word that is the same under both spellings -- **Hrad**.

Also, the alphabetization follows, almost, the Czech alphabet: vowels with and without diacritics are interfiled, but consonants with diacritics (Č, Ř, Š and so forth) follow the letters without diacritics (e.g. Č follows C). The one exception to Czech alphabetization is the Czech digraph **ch**. There is no way I could tell my computer how to distinguish between Church (an English word) and Chust (a Czech word). Since the digraph **ch** follows **h** in the Czech alphabet, conforming to Czech filing rules would have filed Church after House. Thus, words beginning with **ch** are all filed as though they were English words.

The Catalog Number Indices

The catalog number entries are quite simple:

32: Letters to the Editor. Mar/Apr 2001 p.41

The example entry was taken from the Scott Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic index. The initial term **32** is the Scott stamp number from that catalog, and the data after the colon describes the article about that stamp and its location. I have not written code that combines entries having identical catalog numbers, so that number may appear several times in the index, once for each article that refers to it. Also, the Scott listing starts with catalog number **0**. This occurs because Scott does not, for instance, have a number for the Automat Stamps recently released in the Czech and Slovak Republics (POFIS AT numbers). Of, if I do not have access to a Scott number (for instance, a stamp from December 2009) at the time the index is published, I may use **0** as a temporary stand-in.

While the Author/Subject index is a well-behaved Adobe PDF document, the other indices are published as HTML web pages. I just have not had time to write the XSL-FO program to turn the data into a PDF file.

Specialist readers may print a copy of the indices for personal use if they care to, as that use falls within copyright fair-use guidelines. However, since the indices will be updated as each new issue of the *Specialist* is published, printed copies may soon be dated. Also, I hope users will notice corrections and improvements I can add and make to the web version of the index. Finally, the index is very large. In covering only five years, it is already much larger than the previous index that covered 1939-1999 because of the extensive cross-referencing.

The index not described here is number four in the list above -- the headings used in the subject index. I have not yet decided if I will continue to publish it or not. Also, it is not clear to me whether or not the catalog indices are of use or not. I will be influenced by messages from users who find it helpful. So if you have any suggestions, or want the indices in question to continue to be published, let me know.

*Closed Albums***Piero Santangelo**

We regret to inform you that Piero Santangelo of Italy died on February 9, 2009.

The readers of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* know him as a regular contributor of postal history articles. Visitors of philatelic exhibitions appreciate his exhibit of Field Post of the Czechoslovak Legion in Italy as well as Olympic Games exhibits. His exhibits were displayed on many international exhibitions including the PRAGA ones. Piero's collection of Legion field post was amazing; I can not compare it with another one! Piero was not only an advanced collector, philatelic writer and exhibitor, but also a very active official managing philatelic exhibitions (like Alpen-Adria Stamp Show) or acting as national commissioner for many philatelic exhibitions.

Philately was not the only love of Piero, he liked sport, especially athletics. He served many years as a sport official, judge and sportsman.

Piero will be missed as an excellent man by all his family: wife Irena, son Roman, granddaughter Giulia and his dog Gioa as well as by all his friends. Rest in peace, Piero!

Lubor Kunc

Ahoj Ludviku. I have to notify you that on Monday evening Piero suddenly died. He went away in mid sentence, so suddenly that -- luckily -- he did not even have time to realize it. It occurred while among his philatelic friends -- he had gone to see them at 9 pm and never returned.

Irena

Today I was informed that Piero Santangelo died earlier this week. Some of you may have met him at PRAGA 2008 or certainly have read his articles in *The Specialist* on the Czech Legion in Italy during WW I. He was 62.

Jerry (Verner)

I worked with him at BRNO 2005. He was the Italian Commissioner. Saw him at PRAGA 2008 and had coffee with him.

Tom (Cossaboom)

I had the great pleasure of working with Piero and his wife Irena for quite a few years. Piero was Italian, but he was married to a Czech, Irena. Piero would write his articles in Italian, Irena would translate them into Czech, and then she would send them to me. I could always count on him for 2 or 3 articles a year on all the philatelic aspects of the Czechoslovak Legions in Italy. And I could always depend on Irena for help and a pleasant smile over coffee at the Czech exhibitions.

Upřímnoú soustrast, Ireno.

Ludvik Svoboda

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

We could call this "What's in a Name -- Czechia, Czech Republic or Czech".
Apparently for the USPS there is a whole lot of meaning when you address an

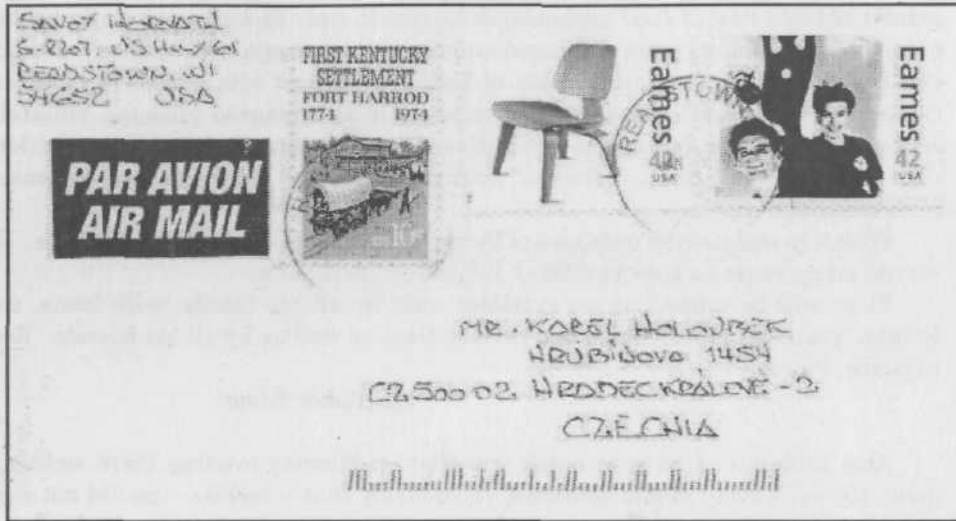


Fig. 1

envelope. My letter addressed to Czechia (Fig. 1) and mailed January 2, took two months to arrive by air mail, first being routed to Baki, Azarbaijan, where it was steamed open, resealed and forwarded. Someone even noted the date of arrival and the contents on the reverse of the envelope, 12 x .42 and 1.-, plus 10/2 (Feb. 10)(Fig. 2). The letter contained 12 U.S. 42¢ stamps and one \$1 stamp -- amazingly the

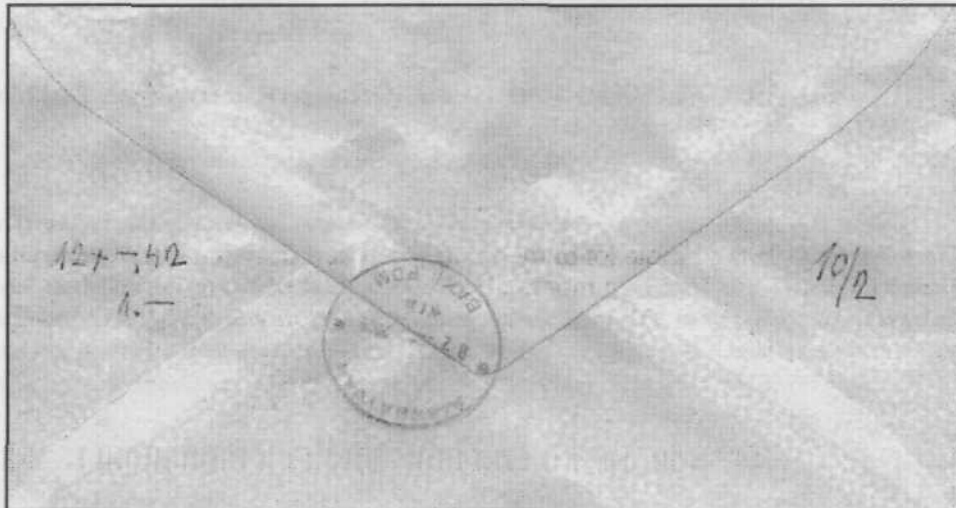


Fig. 2

stamps were not damaged. After looking inside the envelope the Azarbaijani postal inspector used too much left-over Russian glue to reseal the envelope and made the enclosed letter adhere to the envelope.

The one and only recent country that used the term Republic was the Democratic Republic of Germany (DDR). French postage stamps show the country name as Republique Francaise, but all I've ever seen on covers addressed to there is "France".

If one looks at a Czech import for a label of origin, in the majority of cases one will find "Made in Czech". I guess that sounds as good as seeing something saying "Made in America". Only babies are made in a Czech.

Therefore, if you don't want your mail going to Czechia to go on a trip around the world, address it to "CZECH REPUBLIC".

Savoy Horvath

2. Lou:

In the Jan/Feb 2009 *Specialist*, Miroslav Vrzala asked for any additional information about the ČSR overprint on Franz Joseph 8-heller Austrian stationery, rather than the ČSR overprint on the standard Karel 8-heller Austrian stationery. . . . My copy of a 1970 Ladislav Novotný Czech catalog (Specialní Příručka Pro Sběratelé Československých ZnámeK) for stamps and stationery, on page 571 [sic 531] mentions and illustrates a top portion of what appears to be the H&G card (H&G just mentions the card as being mailed on July 5, 1919 from Karlín but does not illustrate the card). The Novotný catalog also appears to mention the same



Fig. 3

information found in the 1988 Příručka. Attached (Fig. 3) is a high resolution JPEG scan of p 571 [sic 531] of the Novotný catalog. The Novotný card is post-marked with a nationalized Czech Karlín postmark dated July 5, 1919. The Novotný card is also from the same Karlín sender (Alfred Kohn) as Miroslav's card. There is no further information about this card in the Novotný catalog except what is on page 571 [sic 531]. So review the attached scan for any additional information. Hopefully this information will be useful to Miroslav.

[Follow-on e-mail]

The POFIS Catalog card mentioned by Miroslav is shown on p11 of the Katalog POFIS Československé Celiny 1918-1992, 1. Díl [volume 1](Fig. 4). Miroslav describes the POFIS card as from Liboch, and the rest of the cancel is hard to read. But assuming that is the town name, my Váček catalog of Czech Postmarks



Fig. 4

indicates the Czech language town name is Liběchov. It just happens that the last 2 letters of the Czech portion of the postmark on the POFIS card, which are readable, are "OV". I don't know if that town is close to Karlin. [*Liběchov is about 45 k directly north of Prague, and Karlin is a district in northeast Prague.*]

[Follow-on e-mail]

I accidentally found an old issue (April 1950, p53) of the *Specialist* which mentions a ČSR overprinted Franz Joseph card. I found it by Google searching the Internet for ["Franz Josef" ČSR overprint]. Here is a direct Internet link to the *Specialist* pdf article:

http://www.czechoslovakphilately.org/pdf/1950_04_Apr.pdf

The 1950 article seems to mention, but not picture, another(?) dated card. The article also mentions that the original ČSR overprinting decree did not specify which prior Austrian 8 heller cards were to be overprinted, so that may explain why a Franz Joseph card was overprinted. It goes on to say [in 1950] that only 1 such commercial card is known, dated Prague, May 7, 1919. This may be the same card as the H&G and Novotny Catalog cards. Here is why this may be the same card.

The actual 1974 H&G note says the Franz Joseph card postmark date is 7/5/19, the card is from Karlin, and that only 1 such card exists. The 1970 Novotný Catalog shows only a top portion of a Franz Joseph ČSR overprinted card with a vague underlined number at the top of the postmark (possibly the hour of the postmark), and below it are stacked the numbers 7, 5, and 19. The sender's address

on the Novotný card is Alfred Kohn of Praha-Karlin. (This is the same sender's address for Miroslav's card.)

Best wishes,
Phil Melamed

3. Lou:

I read Jay Carrigan's question (in the Jan-Feb, 2009 *Specialist*) about the rounded boxed cancels on stamps of Bohemia and Moravia. I also read the answers provided by Savoy Horvath and Tom Cossaboom. While their answers are correct, they are somewhat incomplete, so here is my answer to Jay's question. (Some of this I may have written to you about five years ago -- see the Jul/Aug 2003 SPECIALIST.)



Fig. 5

The cancels (Fig. 5) are official post office cancels used in Czechoslovakia prior to WW II. This type of cancel apparently was used on Czech money order and parcel forms prior to 1939, but I have never seen it ON any Czech stamps. Czech Postal Form clippings (Fig. 6) show the 2-numbered rounded square cancels at the bottom of the card, and Czech stamps at the top right canceled by normal Czech postmarks. [Ed. Note: the area on the clipping where the cancel appears is tagged with "Okresní razítka" = district cancel.] However, this cancel also appears ON a moderate number of Bohemia & Moravia stamps.



Fig. 6

The top number of this postmark indicates the originating Czech Postal District, and the bottom number indicates the specific post office within the district. Prior to WW II there were seven Czechoslovak Postal Districts: #1 - Prague, #2 - Pardubice, #3 - Brno, #4 - Opava, #5 - Bratislava, #6 - Košice, #7 - Berehovo. The District 7 postmarks were used in Carpatho-Ukraine.

Since I know Jay has an interest in Carpatho-Ukraine material and has posted many articles on the Internet, here is my incomplete list of Carpatho-Ukraine District 7 cancels with associated towns that I have seen on the Internet. A complete list of these cancels may exist somewhere, but I don't know where.

The Berehovo District 7 postmarks were used for the following Carpatho-Ukraine towns:

7 - 1	Berehovo	7 - 20	Hornicovo	7 - 48	Poroskov
7 - 2	Mukačevo	7 - 21	Tarnov	7 - 49	Rachov
7 - 4	Slatinské Doly	7 - 22	Chust	7 - 53	Sevelus
7 - 6	Batovo	7 - 28	Kalnik	7 - 59	Svalava
7 - 7	Bilky	7 - 37	Lipca	7 - 63	Teresva
7 - 9	Bohdan	7 - 38	Ljuta	7 - 65	Tacovo

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7 - 10	Bustino	7 - 41	Veresnice	7 - 74	Velikij Began
7 - 15	Drahovo		(Neresnice)	7 - 84	Vylok
7 - 16	Dubove	7 - 42	Nižní Veredky	7 - 86	Zahati
7 - 17	Dubrinice	7 - 43	Vulchovce		

Postmarks for Districts 1, 2, and 3 continued to be used in Bohemia & Moravia in 1939 and the early 1940's, and sometimes these B&M District cancels appear ON some Bohemia & Moravia stamps.



Fig. 7

Apparently some time after Bohemia & Moravia issued stamps, the 2-numeral cancels in a box then appear ON B&M stamps. I have not seen any B&M card clippings similar to Figure 6 with just Bohemia & Moravia stamps with these 2 numeral cancels on the stamps. B&M box cancels on stamps from District 1 appear to be the most common (about 20 in my collection), while those from District 3 (10 in my collection) and District 2 (6 in my collection) are less common. But the existence of so many of these cancels on B&M stamps does not seem to indicate that these are just canceled by mistake (as suggested by Savoy). I have never seen a District cancel on any Czech stamps, just on B&M stamps.

Recently I have seen a few B&M postal forms showing these boxed cancels ON stamps (Fig. 7, 8).

I do not read German, but it appears that these postal forms were postal savings account forms, and that is where these boxed cancels were used in B&M when they appear on stamps. A description in German for some of these forms is provided below by the Internet person offering these items for sale:

"Item: Erlagscheinstempel
Poštovní Spořitelní

Größere Postämter hatten für Scheckeinzahlungsbelege Stempelmaschinen mit den sogenannten Erlagscheinstempeln. Diese Stempel zeichneten sich durch einen viereckigen Rahmen um den eigentlichen Stempel aus. Informationen hierzu finden sich u.a. In den Forschungsergebnissen der ArGe Böhmen und Mähren- Die Postsparkassen im Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren.

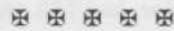
Das Betrag von 26 K. h.
Cistku
für das Scheckkonto Nr. — pro aktiver Göt. tiste
Benennung des Kontos aktiver Göt. **33163**
Erste Krankenversicherungsanstalt der freien Berufe, Kaufleute, Gewerbetreibenden, Landwirte und höheren Beamten, vng. Hilfskasse.
První nemocenská pojišťovna volaných povolání, obchodníků, živnostníků, rolníků a vyšších úředníků, zápisná pobožna pokladna
Prag II. Prag II.
vlejte
vložil
JOSEF HANUS
SI
LISTEK POSTOVNI SPD.
50h



Fig. 8

Abschnitte mit diesen Stempeln wurden seinerzeit der Kiloware beigegeben und sind meist nicht mehr erhalten geblieben. Eine Gelegenheit für den Stempelsammler.

Best wishes,
Phil Melamed



Book Review

T.G.M. 1923

Author: Ivana Šárová

[Detailed philatelic publication of 1923 T.G.M. Stamps and Olympic Congress 1925 and VIII Sokol Festival 1926 series. It compiles the currently known facts along with new discoveries particularly those describing newly found plate flaws on all four values and other actualities (percentual occurrence of individual plate numbers, watermarks, types of paper). . .]

. . . The contents of the book are directed towards the 1923 Jubilee stamp issue and its additional printing mutations on the occasion of the International Olympic Congress which took place in Prague in 1925 and the VIII Sokol Festival which was held there as well, a year later. . . The introductory chapters are concerned with conception of the stamps from their design (collectively documented by depicting available documents from private collections as well as those from the Postal Museum) to production of the stamps and their issue (unusually interesting and instructive is the passage offering information dealing with galvano-plastic methods of preparation and production of printing plates). A special chapter has been dedicated to information concerning paper, color, gum, and perforation of the stamps. The data found in various sources of literature have been compiled and arranged in order, which makes it valuable. Fundamental and new is the chapter about printing plate flaws, for the first time published in such an extent and above all compiled so methodically that the flaws which had so far been considered as accidental and described individually, just as an illustration, could be included in work procedures during production of printing plates. Thus they were given a purpose and a philatelic rank implemented in further stamp issues. The graphic and pictorial work accompanying their description is excellent and exact. Naturally, space is kept for placing further potential findings.

Proof prints are especially interesting for collectors even for those who are not dedicated to classic philately. The chapter which shows their documented overview (actually, it relates to one's own production and public presentation of stamps) is supplemented with quality reproductions. Two chapters dedicated to both reprints made on the occasion of the Olympic Congress and the Sokol Festival form another part of the book. They contain a summary of production and publishing character including interesting illustrations. In these chapters attention is given even to the existence of various types of special postmarks and their use during the above-mentioned events. Naturally, the information concerning famous counterfeits

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causing damage to collectors, presented in the last chapter is also worth your attention

The Czech text of the book is interconnected with an English as well as German translation making the book accessible to a wider international public. Taking into account its artistic and polygraphic value, it could become a welcome gift.

The book has been published by TOP ART studio, edition of 1500 books. The publication was printed in full color, has 112 pages, more than 90 illustrations and about 30 tables and graphs. . . .

Ing. Pavel Pittermann, A.I.E.P., A.I.J.P.

[I have purchased one of these books. In my opinion it is one of the best -- if not the best -- and most complete report on a Czechoslovak stamp series that I have ever seen. It has so many things going for it that it is much, much easier to mention its few deficiencies:

1. It is pricey at \$50 but well worth it. You can get it through our publications manager, Savoy Horvath.

2. While the translation is generally very, very good -- especially the narrative portions, there are a few times when it has lapses.

- Unfortunately, one of these areas is in the description (which overall is absolutely great) of the development process of the printing plates -- carried out in great detail with illustrations. I believe -- because the text is not in complete sentences here -- that the translators lost some of the sense of the meanings.

- An example of an isolated gaff deals with the watermarked paper discussion. In one of the earliest references to what kind of paper was used for the printing of the series of stamps the Czech text reads "Známky jsou zhotoveny na bílém papíru s prusvitkou (lipové lístky) . . .", which I would translate as "The stamps are produced on white paper with a watermark (linden leaves) . . .", but they translated as "The stamps with a translucent image of linden tree leaves are produced on white paper . . .". In their defense the remainder of the time that the term "prusvitka" is used it is correctly translated as "watermark" and in its proper context.

- When discussing the two layered gum on these stamps the translation states "The first layer is the same as on the rest of the stamps, the color light and yellowish." But in the original Czech what they are saying is that this first layer of gum is the same -- not as on all of the rest of the stamps of that series, which would not make much sense to say -- but the same as on all of the rest (of the Czechoslovak stamps of that era).

- When discussing the perforations, they state "Irregular line perforation is typical in this edition. During production of the T.G.M. 1923 stamps the perforation edges were constantly being altered, so that the dimensions of the perforations vary from 13 3/4 up to 14 3/4 (horizontally and vertically)." What is meant by "perforation edges"? The original Czech reads "perforační listy". A "lista" is a wooden lath or wooden strip, so it wasn't the "edges" of anything being constantly modified, but rather the strip that held the perforation pins.

So while there are a few such mistakes, the overall quality of the book is just excellent. I highly recommend it.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda]

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Savoy Horvath:

-- Post PRAGA 2008 Exhibition: The latest Prague Fire-Police Commission report states -- the 1,000,000,000 Koruna fire that last October destroyed the left wing of the renowned Industrial Exhibition Palace (where PRAGA'08 was held) was caused by a hot plate that was left on in someone's exhibiting booth kitchenette. Yes, most exhibiting booths have an attached tiny room with a hot plate, coffee pot and mini refrigerator. The investigators have determined the overheated hot plate set near-by combustibles on fire, which rapidly spread from booth to booth and reached the wooden upper structure of the hall itself. The twelve explosions that were heard were explained as exploding spray paint cans in the owner's storage area. The October fire happened during the night while a Dental Exhibit -- Pragodont was taking place there. The fire commission's first estimate was faulty wiring, but the owner proved that only one electrical line was in operation after the evening closing time and that was for mini-refrigerators. The investigation into the cause of the fire will continue until the end of March. The commission is now trying to find somebody to pin the fault on.



ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

(Continued from Page 1)

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

- 1 -- Marisa Galitz (member #1436) of Miami, FL; currently on the Board of Directors; website manager.
- 2 -- Edwin Lehecka (member #1115) of Bridgewater, NJ; treasurer and board member for many years.
- 3 -- Richard Palaschak (member #1382) of Chantilly, VA; past president, vice-president, librarian, and long-time board member.
- 4 -- Jaroslav Verner (member #609) of Bethesda, MD; past president, vice-president, website manager, and long-time board member.
- 5 -- Olech Wyslotsky (member #1718) of Verona, NJ; long-time Society member and exhibitor; graphic artist who has designed many SCP show cachets.

Of the above, Marisa Galitz, Edwin Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, and Jaroslav Verner are currently on the Board and are seeking re-election.

Enclosed in the envelope with this issue is the election ballot that every member in good standing is asked to complete. Vote for any 5 of the candidates listed above. The order in which you list them is not important. Mail your ballot to our secretary, Philip Rhoads, at the address given on the ballot. Make sure that your ballot is postmarked no later than July 1st.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On January 2, 2009, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Personalities series (Fig. 1). The stamps were designed by Pavel Dvorský, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 10 Kč: Louis Braille (1809-1852); colors - black (recess print), light blue, blue, dark-blue. Louis Braille invented a reading and writing system for the blind, the so-called Braille code. He was born in France, in the township of Coupvray near Paris. At the age of three he injured his eye with a bodkin in his father's workshop; the eye became infected and after the infection affected also the other eye, he lost his sight. At the age of ten he became a student at the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris. The students learned a system of raised letters read by touch; however, they could not write. When Braille was thirteen,



Fig. 1

he invented a system of embossed (raised) dots. He was inspired by an old military system of writing at night-time allowing the soldiers to receive orders even in darkness. Braille worked out the system, based on twelve dots, by reducing it to only six dots. His first book for the blind was published in 1829. In 1837 he improved the writing system by adding signs for writing mathematical symbols and music. He was a lifetime teacher at the Royal Institute for



Fig. 2

Blind Youth. The stamp commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of this ingenious author of letters for the blind and depicts Braille's portrait along with a drawing of hands reading braille. A FDC in black-blue contains a cachet showing the portrait of Karel Emanuel Macan (1858-1925)(Fig. 2) a blind music composer, teacher and cultural worker who devoted his energy and talent to the problems of braille, rewrote Czech books for the blind, and improved music notation in braille. He established the Czech Library for the Blind and the Printing House for the Blind in Prague, published Esperanto among the blind, issued the magazines Zora in Czech (still published today) and Auroro in Esperanto for the blind, and wrote the first Czech book in braille "Jitřenka".

-- 12 Kč: Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882); colors - black (recess print), dark-blue, yellow, pink, blue. As a fresh Cambridge graduate in theology, the British naturalist and founder of evolutionary biology Charles Darwin set out for a

five-year voyage around the world. Most of the time he examined geological phenomena, fossils as well as living organisms on the coast, met aborigines and immigrants. He used a methodological way of collecting and describing huge amounts of samples, many of which were unknown to the scientific community. The stay at the Galapagos Islands turned out to be the most essential one. On his return home Darwin became a recognized, financially independent scientist who developed his evolutionary theory of natural and sexual selection. He was fully



Fig. 3

aware of the likely reaction to his theory. His book, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, outlining a transmutation of organisms from common ancestors and presenting it as a complete scientific theory of natural evolution, was published in 1859. Darwin continued his research and published a series of books on plants and animals including man (*Variations of Plants and Animals Under Domestication*, 1868, *The Descent of Man*, and *Selection in Relation to Sex*, 1871). The stamp commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Darwin and shows a portrait of Darwin, a Marine Iguana living on Galapagos only, and -- in the background -- the sailing vessel *Beagle* by which Darwin undertook his expedition. A FDC in black-brown shows a drawing of a Galapagos Giant Tortois, and -- in the background -- drawings of the heads of Galapagos finches (Fig. 3).

2. On January 20, 2009, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč stamp in the Tradition of Czech Postage Stamp Production to commemorate the painter Anna Podzemná with a "stamp on stamp" (Fig. 4). The tradition of Czech stamp design is commemorated this year by Anna Podzemná's stamp of the issue The 15th Anniversary of



Fig. 4

Czechoslovak Liberation. This issue of five postage stamps which appeared May 5, 1960 contained two stamps by A. Podzemná created in cooperation with the engraver Jiří Švengsbír. Podzemná's work is represented by the 30h stamp *A Little Girl with a Cake*. The painter Anna Podzemná-Sucharová (1909-1996) studied at the school of arts and crafts UMRPUM and the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (A. Hofbainer, M. Švabinský) and at Académie Julien in Paris. She was the author of numerous paintings and drawings of folk types in the Valašsko/Beskydy Mountains region. Her numerous stamp designs proved her quality of an outstanding portrait and figure painter. She used her sense of figurative composition mainly in designing stamps with sport themes. She is author of multi-stamp issues on Czechoslovak Spartakiads, stamps featuring a number of sport disciplines and series of stamps on several Olympic Games. Her designs are full of dynamism and sport elegance. The painter, graphic designer and engraver Jiří Švengsbír (1921-1983) graduated from the school of arts and crafts UMRPUM in Prague (A. Strnadel) and in the course of his 30 years' cooperation with the postal administration he created over 250 engravings and won a number of prizes for them. The stamp was designed and engraved by Bedřich

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Fig. 5

Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue, dark red and ocher in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels were issued. The labels bear a tiny flower motif and are printed in black (recess print) combined with photogravure in dark red and ocher. A FDC in black shows a Small Pasque Flower from the 60h stamps of the issue to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Extermination of Lidice and Ležáky issued on June 9, 1962 (Fig. 5).

3. On February 11, 2009, the Ministry issued an 18 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the Nordic World Ski Championships (Fig. 6). From February 18 until March 1, 2009, Liberec will be the host city of the Nordic world ski championships. The sport events will be ski jumping, cross country skiing and nordic combined. These three events are further classified in several disciplines. The postage stamp features a ski jumper. The place of origin of ski jumping is Norway. The first four-day course in ski jumping in the Czech lands, headed by the Norwegian Steffens, took place in 1896 in Dolní Štěpanice near Jilemnice. In 1923-33 Czechoslovakia ski jumping was already a very popular sport. With the continuing development in jumping technique, the jump lengths have grown. At the beginning the jumper used to hold his body almost erect until it reached an almost level position with the skis held side by side. Today the so-called V-style is used. World championships organizers use normal hills where the longest jumps can reach up to 110 m and large hills where the longest jumps can reach up to 130 m. In recent years the Jéštěd venue hosted several FIS Ski Jumping World Cups. Although the hills at the north of the Jéštěd Hill were built in the 70's of the last century, their profiles still comply with the current requirements. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in green-blue shows a drawing of a ski jumper in the classic V-position (Fig. 7).



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

4. On February 11, 2009, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with one 35 Kč stamp drawing attention to the protection of polar regions and glaciers (Fig. 8). The image on the souvenir sheet shows the collapsing of icebergs and glaciers, while a fishing boat in the background represents the participation of human activity in this process. The stamp shows a group of Emperor Penguins on a chipped ice floe. The issue of stamps on this theme is a joint project of forty countries set up at the initiative of Finland and Chile. The common symbol on all

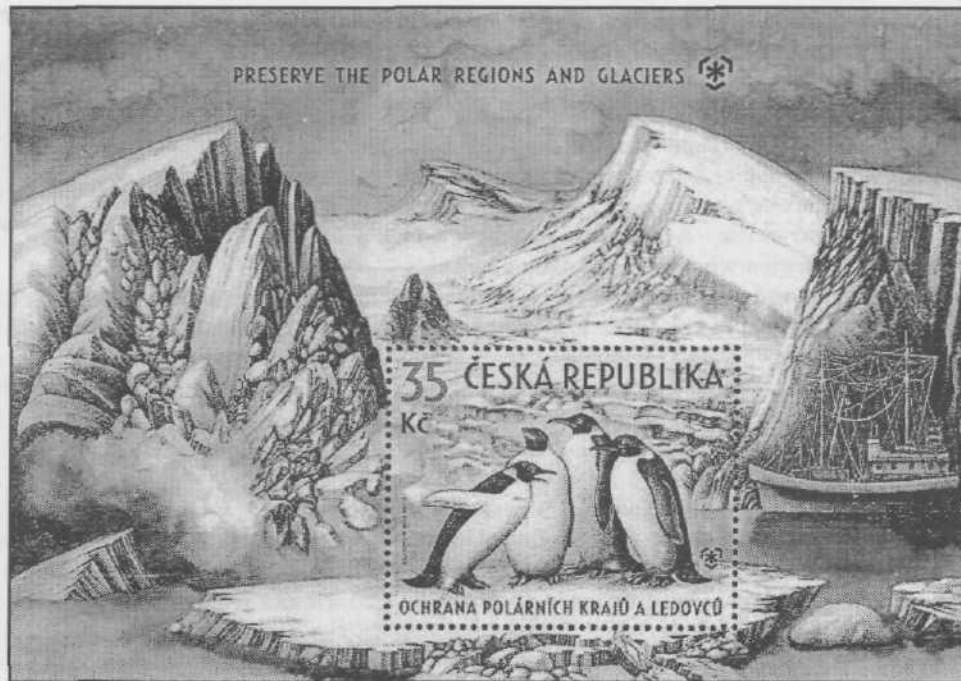


Fig. 8

issues is a crystal designed by the Finnish graphic designer Saku Heinänen. This project is unique mainly because the initiative of the two countries found response in dozens of postal administrations in different parts of the globe who aimed to address both the peoples and governments all around the world. In the past decades global warming was most evident in polar regions where it has been the cause of thawing of continental glaciers as well as floating icebergs. This situation may soon lead not only to the rise of the sea level but also to global climate changes. Warming causes not only changes of sea currents but also growing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the air (which are created by human activities) which are often careless of nature. The highest rise in temperature in this century by 2 to



Fig. 9

6 C is expected to occur in the arctic region. Temperatures have been rising also in the Southern polar regions. Antarctic ice has been disappearing as coastal glaciers split apart from the ice shelves. In March 2008 a cake of ice of a size larger than Prague separated from the collapsing Wilkinson ice shelf. Ice melting endangers also animal and plant species occurring in polar regions. Water resources, agriculture and forest industry, energy production and human health are most affected by the global changes. The issue was designed by Josef Dudek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset. A FDC in blue shows a pile of human refuse

and refers to the infiltration of ruthless human activities into the nature of polar countries (Fig. 9).

5. On March 18, 2009, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč stamp to commemorate Easter traditions (Fig. 10). The stamp displays symbols of Easter in a Czech countryside setting: a hare, a caroler's switch, and painted Easter eggs with a just hatched chick.



Fig. 10

A hare is present in many religions and mythologies where it symbolizes happiness, the passing of time, and the life cycle. In Byzantine animal symbolism, the hare was the symbol of Christ; in the Bible it is the attribute of resurrection. The reason is that in the popular version the hare never sleeps; being lidless, it seems to turn its eyes up even when asleep. The hare is the symbol of the poor, modest and humble. But also of debauchery. Although it is a small animal, it is considered as very wise. In the old times there used to be a habit of putting an egg into a baked loaf of bread shaped as a hare, thus combining both of the Easter symbols.



Fig. 11

This led to the present idea of a hare bringing Easter eggs, today mostly chocolate ones. Another old habit was the hunting of an Easter hare, i.e. seeking eggs hidden in the field. Children used to get eggs and sweets from a hare as well as from other little animals. In the Olomouc region from little chicks, in Western Bohemia a cock, in Central Bohemia a fox, and in Silesia even from a skylark. The switch is explained by the following tradition: Easter Monday sees the men and boys going from house to house giving the women and girls a symbolic whipping with a so-called 'pomlázka' (green willow branches woven into a switch) while chanting a special poem, in order to keep them looking young. For this they get a ribbon to tie on the 'pomlázka' and an Easter egg. The stamp was designed by Adolf Born, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black also shows Easter traditions: the whipping with a switch and getting a "baptism" of water in return (Fig. 11).

6. On March 18, 2009, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative Asian Art stamps with the theme of illustrations of Chinese and Indonesian art. The stamps were designed and engraved by Martin Srb and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset in printing sheets of 4 pieces.



Fig. 12

6. On March 18, 2009, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative Asian Art stamps with the theme of illustrations of Chinese and Indonesian art. The stamps were designed and engraved by Martin Srb and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with multicolored offset in printing sheets of 4 pieces.

-- 18 Kč: The Immortal Lü Tung-Pin, Chinese painter (14th-15th cent.), National Gallery in Prague; colors: black (recess print), multicolored offset (Fig. 12). Chinese culture draws on three

philosophical systems -- Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism. The Taoist tradition abounds in numerous legendary figures gifted with miraculous abilities, and tales of their doings occur in many chronicles and legends, folk tales as well as literary works, but also in paintings. The so-called Eight Immortals (Pa Sien), established as early as in the era of the Jüan dynasty (1279-1368), have been so frequent in the Chinese literary and art tradition that they have become a part of the Chinese folklore. The most recognizable of these Eight Immortals is Lü Tung Pin; he is usually painted as a large stately figure with a sharp, wise, complacent and gracious expression of his long-bearded face, wearing luxurious clothes -- something of the sort of a Chinese mandarin. His attribute is the miraculous flaming Blue Sword. There are several paintings of this holy wizard kept in the collections of the National Gallery in Prague. The painting in radiant colors of the taoist in red clothes with embroidered dragons under a fir tree, still painted by the detailed technique of colored China ink painting on silk, the so-called Kung Pi (or laborious brush), belongs to the oldest period of court painting which was as a rule anonymous. The same technique was used by entire painter's guilds working on portraits of ancestors as part of the Confucian tradition of respecting old men and dead family members. In his book *Figural Painting of East Asia* the founder of the Collection of Oriental Arts of the National Gallery in



Fig. 13

Prague, Lubor Hájek (1921-2000), dated this large roll painting back to the 14th-15th century; however, given the excellent condition of the work it is more likely that it was created in the era of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). A FDC in black shows a Standing Ferghana Horse with Bowed Head, three-colored glazed ceramics from the beginning of the 8th century from the era of the Tchang dynasty (Fig. 13).

-- 24 Kč: A Mythological Scene, Indonesia, Bali (1920's), The National - Náprstek Museum; colors: black (recess print), multicolored offset (Fig. 14). The art of painting has had a long tradition in Bali where it has always played an important role in religious rites and life at the court. Traditional schools painted mainly scenes from eposes, using the same style to produce individual figures as in the traditional theater wayang. The postage stamp features a detail of a painting of a scene from the Hindu epic Ramayana. This classic work of Indian literature was brought to Indonesia where it became a part of its classic culture. The epic presents the heroic events of the king Rama and his loyal wife Sita who were forced to emigrate. Sita was kidnapped by the demon king Ravana who carried her off to the island of Lanka. She was rescued by the ape king Hanuman. The bright colors with gilt ornaments give the



Fig. 14

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

whole of the painting a tint of pompous luxury. The work of a painter includes preparation of the surface of the canvas, drawing an outline of the future painting, and coloring. The canvas is first boiled in rice paste to become impregnated. The painter then uses shells to carefully smooth the dried surface. The next and most important step is drawing the outline in ink. When each of the colors is put on one after another, the painter finishes the painting by painting the details. A FDC in black-violet shows a female dancer or semi-divine being touching a tree (Fig. 15). It is a polychromatic woodcut the origination of which is estimated to the first half of the 20th century.



Fig. 15

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