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# CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIAL POSTMARKS FOR THE 1928 10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE by Phil Melamed

A few years ago I was scanning the Internet looking for any special Czechoslovak stamps and/or covers to buy. (At that time both my computer and my eyes worked better.) I found a used set of the fairly common 1928 Czechoslovak Anniversary stamps as shown in Figure 1. (Fig. 1 is the exact Internet picture that I saw.) I noticed that the stamps were all cancelled with special red October 28, 1928 commemorative postmarks. These postmarks, in general, were not that unusual since large numbers of stamps were cancelled with these postmarks in 1928 [the 10th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia], and typically the postmarks didn't significantly add to the catalog value of the stamps.

I had seen several sets of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary stamps cancelled with those special postmarks before, and I already had at least one set cancelled like that on individual pieces with a PRAHA 1 cancel. Also the stamps were located in a different country, so getting them would involve extra shipping and payment costs, and generally complicate matters. So I was going to continue my searching on the Internet, when I noticed that the postmark on the 60h stamp at the far right end of the top row was not a PRAHA or BRNO postmark, but was a bilingual Cyrillic postmark. I immediately knew that this was the Užhorod, Carpatho Ukraine 1928 special postmark.

(Continued on Page 3)

Table of Contents		
ARTICLES	Author	Page
. Czechoslovak Special Postmarks for the 1928 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue	Phil Melamed	1
2. Charley's Corner COLUMNS	Charley Chesloe	2
Book Review: Rukovět pro Sběratele Hradčan, 3. Díl     (Manual for Hradčany Collectors, part 3)	Hamr, Škaloud	6
Letters to the Editor	(various)	8
5. Philatelic News and Views	(various)	10
6. New Issues	G.M. van Zanten	13

# Charley's Corner

Either in the 1950's or early 60's there were several articles, 2 or 3, relating to the issue of "SO 1920" written up by Zdeněk Kvasnička. Since then there have been no articles in the Specialist relating to this most interesting area of Czechoslovak philately.

I collect this area quite specialized regarding the whole territory which encompassed the areas, from Stampless Covers through the Austrian and Hungarian period until the final use of these stamps which was the 10th or 12th of August 1920. The beginning of their use was February 10, 1920. Overprints were applied to Czechoslovak and Polish stamps.

The lands that belonged to Czechoslovakia and Poland were to hold an election to see if the majority of the population wanted to belong to Czechoslovakia or to Poland. The voting never took place, and the boundaries were drawn along the border of the old Bohemian empire.

I hope to begin articles about this area beginning with the next issue.

Charley Chesloe

### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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# CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIAL POSTMARKS FOR THE 1928 10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

(Continued from Page 1)

Initially I became very excited, since I thought I had found the entire 1928 issue cancelled with the somewhat scarcer 1928 Užhorod, Carpatho Ukraine cancel. Then I quickly noticed that the other postmarks were not Užhorod postmarks (somewhat of a disappointment), but I was still going to try to get these stamps. THEN I noticed that each postmark on each stamp was from a different Czechoslovak Post Office. After some research it was clear that I had found an entire set of the ten 10th anniversary stamps, each stamp having a different one of the ten different special 1928 10th anniversary postmarks. This was almost as good as having the entire set all cancelled with the Užhorod postmark.

Later I did some more research and found that each postmark had a special relation to the specific stamp that it was applied to. This, in my opinion, made this set even scarcer than an entire set having the Užhorod postmark. I am very glad that my fingers were slow and that my eyes were quick that day.

So I purchased the stamps, and the price was not very much at all. I immediately airmailed my payment to the seller and waited and waited and waited. It took a long, long time (over two months) before I received these stamps in the mail, since there was a postal strike going on in the seller's country. But it was worth

the wait. Below is the modified write-up of the album page description I created for these stamps and three other cancelled stamps I added to them. All of these stamps are shown in Figure 2 [This figure repeats the ones seen in Figure 1 but larger and more spread out so they are easier to see plus adds three more.1. Note that some of the facts in the write-up below are in a March 1944 Czecho-



Fig. 1

slovak Specialist article that discusses these special 1928 postmarks. The 1944 article is available on the Czechoslovak Society Internet site, which provides scanned copies of past issues of the Czechoslovak Specialist. I obtained additional information on the postmarks from the May and June 1972 Specialist issues which start a listing on Czechoslovak Commemorative Postmarks, as well as from a 1947 Novotny Catalog entitled "Katalog Celin Československo/Čechy a Morava/ Slovensko" which, in addition to stationery, lists Czechoslovak commemorative postmarks.

While the set of ten stamps with ten special postmarks may not be a high catalog item, it certainly was a special item for me to obtain for my collection. And, it gave me a neat story to tell in the Specialist.

## 10th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE SPECIAL POSTMARKS

On October 22, 1928, the Czechoslovak Republic issued a set of 10 different stamps to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's independence.

On the actual 10th anniversary date (October 28, 1928) of Czechoslovak independence, ten major Czechoslovak post offices throughout the country used special commemorative red postmarks. These had the years "1918-1928" as part of their postmark design. [In addition, the post offices PRAHA 28 Senat N.S. (the Czechoslovak Senate) and PRAHA 29 Sněmovna Polsanecká N.S. (The Czechoslovak Chamber of Deputies) also used red ink for their standard postmarks on October 28, 1928. These two postmarks did not have the "1918-1928" inscription as part of the postmark.] The PRAHA 1 and PRAHA 10 special postmarks appear to be the most common of these special postmarks.

In general, larger Czechoslovak post offices often used more than one cancellation die for applying postmarks, and these were sub-numbered a, b, c, etc. as part of the postmark. More specifically, for the new special "1918-1928" postmarks, most post offices used sub-number markings of a or b, but PRAHA 1 used a, b, c, or d, and Užhorod used no sub-number marking. Two of the 10 special postmarks were bilingual.

In Figure 2 is a set of the ten different 10th anniversary stamps on paper pieces with each stamp cancelled with a different one of the ten special red postmarks at a different one of the ten major post offices. Nine of the stamps picture various landmarks in provinces throughout Czechoslovakia, and one has a picture of President Masaryk. The postmarks used on each of these stamps are from the Czechoslovak post office in the same corresponding Czechoslovak Province (not necessarily the same town) as the landmarks shown on the stamps. The Masaryk stamp has a postmark from PRAHA 10, the seat of the Czechoslovak government.

Apparently all of these stamps may have originally been on one sheet that was subsequently cut up, since edges and the cancel of the BRNO 2 postmark piece appear to exactly match the edges and cancel markings on the BRNO 1 postmark piece. This would mean that the original sheet was sent to each of the ten different Czechoslovak post offices for cancelling with instructions to cancel only a specific corresponding single stamp. (Can you imagine anyone actually doing that? And then can you imagine someone else later on cutting up this unique sheet to create ten separate pieces? Of course it is possible that the Czechoslovak government or the Czechoslovak post office might have created such a souvenir.)

Complete sets of the 10th anniversary stamps all cancelled with the same special postmark from one post office are somewhat unusual. However, a set of ten anniversary stamps with each stamp cancelled with a different one of the ten special postmarks and cancelled at the Czechoslovak province post office most closely corresponding to the landmark/picture shown on the stamp may be unique. (Note, the Masaryk stamp has a PRAHA 10 postmark, which is the seat of the

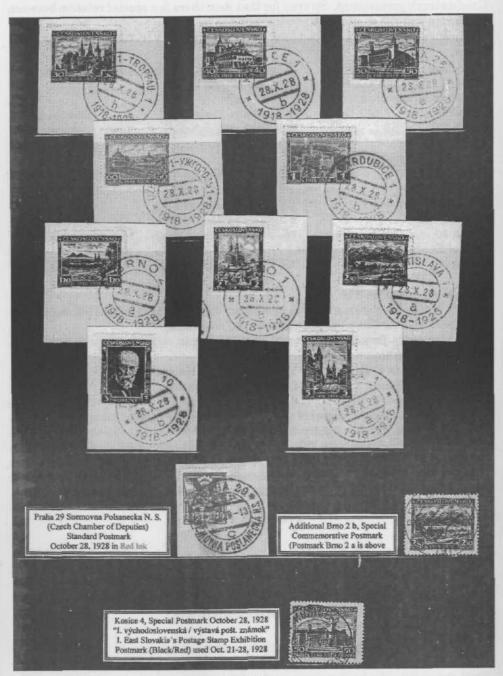


Fig. 2

Czechoslovak government. So even for that item there is a special relation between the stamp and the special postmark applied to it.)

In Figure 2 appear a complete set of the ten special 1918-1928 postmarks listed below:

Post office - submarking		Stamp and landmark shown on stamp (province)		
The state of the s	b	30h Hradec Castle	(Silesia)	
(German bilingual ca	ncel)			
Košice 1	b	40h Levoca Town Hall	(Slovakia)	
Praha 25	a	50h Praha Telephone Exchange	(Bohemia)	
Užhorod 1		60h Jasina Church	(Carpatho Ukr.)	
(Cyrillic bilingual car	ncel)			
Pardubice 1	b	1K Hluboká Castle	(Bohemia)	
Brno 2	a	1.20K Velehrad Castle	(Moravia)	
Brno 1	a	2K Brno Cathedral	(Moravia)	
Bratislava 1	a	2.50K Tatra Mountains	(Slovakia)	
Praha 10	b	3K T.G. Masaryk (pres.)	(Bohemia)	
(PO of Executive Bra	nch of G	lovt.)		
Praha 1	a	5K Old City Hall Praha	(Bohemia)	

## Also shown in Figure 2 is:

- -- a 20h Dove stamp with the standard Praha 29 Sněmovna Polsanecká N.S. (the Czechoslovak Chamber of Deputies) red postmark
- -- an extra Brno 2b special postmark (the main set has a Brno 2a cancel) on a 2.50K Tatra stamp
- -- a Košice 4, October 28, 1928 special commemorative black cancel for an East Slovakia Stamp Exhibition on a 50h Praha stamp.

[Note also, shown in Figure 2 is an illustration from the 1947 Novotny Czechoslovak catalog (mentioned above) of the Košice 4 stamp exhibition postmark that has a date bar that differs slightly from the cancel on the 50h Praha stamp. The catalog illustration has a 28.X.28 - 10 date bar, but the cancel on the 50h stamp appears to have a 28 X 1928 date bar. I have no idea why the different date bars, but the rest of the cancel text seems identical, and the dates of both cancels look like October 28, 1928. Another one of the mysteries of Czechoslovak philately?]

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## Book Review

RUKOVĚT pro sběratele Hradčan, 3. díl (MANUAL for Hradčany Collectors, part 3) by Hamr, Škaloud

This is the third in a series by these authors on practically all aspects of the Hradčany stamp series. They were originally reviewed in the November/December 2006 Specialist. We have a new supply of this third part so are reminding you of its contents.

This volume consists of two sections. The first section describes in detail Printing Plate VII (PP VII) that was used in printing some of the 15h Hradčany stamps. Why is this significant? Because the existence of this printing plate was unknown until about 1994 (75 years after its use) when Zdeněk Ryvola announced it to the world, and thus wrote his name forever into Czechoslovak postal history. At first this printing plate was given the informal title of "the postal card plate" (more on that later), but now is simply referred to as Printing Plate VII.

All possible aspects about PP VII are discussed: plate development, stamp types (open/closed spiral, bar varieties, open/closed tail/frame varieties) and their plate locations, print run, faults, stamp colors, perforations, retouches, uses, printing errors, and a discussion of their valuations. And, there is described how the stamp printing blocks from this plate were used to develop a plate from which were printed 15h Hradčany postal cards. Thus, the stamp images on these postal cards exhibit all of the stamp types and varieties found on the basic stamps.

Of great benefit there is also provided a listing of the known post offices and dates when these stamps from PP VII were first used, a diagram comparing identifying features of stamps produced by PP VII as versus those produced from PP I and PP II (the other two plates used for 15h stamp production), a table of "keys to identification" which cross-correlates these "keys" to specific plate positions, an extensive series of illustrations showing what each of these "keys" looks like on each plate position (rays in the sky, top border with "POŠTA", lower left pigeon, lower right pigeon, denomination oval), and finally, an illustration of each of the 100 stamp plate positions with a description of the "key" identifiers.

The second section covers less routinely encountered entires: value letters, entires not requiring franking, and consignments of the postal check administration in Prague.

-- Value letters are letters that have a declared value (often containing money or other valuable papers like postal money orders, promissory notes, stocks, postal stamps, bankbooks, etc.) and have been recorded or registered. In many cases there were special preprinted envelopes for these functions that carried a small purchase price (as with most of such postal items, each carried a form number). But to use them the sender had to attach postage stamps commensurate with the value of the contents or function -- often this involved hundreds or even thousands of krouns. During the period of the Hradčany stamps' validity (18.12.1918 - 30.4.1921) this was often accomplished with Hradčany issues. The various forms are illustrated along with the form number, official state seals and supplementary date/text that identifies them. The forms shown also cover the transition period for the Czech lands (e.g., Austro-Hungarian empire, Silesia, Carpatho-Ukraine). Besides being illustrated, each is described in extensive detail in a table. Finally, there are a group of 20 illustrations showing examples of franking by Hradčany on various of these forms.

-- Entires not requiring franking involve those sent by demobilization organizations and trade employment agencies in 1918 (right after WW I when the troops were coming home and looking for work), and beginning in 1919 the reciprocal correspondence between postal administrations. Greatly adding to the number of entires not having franking during this period was the number of so-called official post cards (single and double with return) and dispatch forms put out at the start

of 1919. Besides these, many organizations themselves printed up needed forms so that they could legitimately send consignments without franking or their part of it. These could take the form of post cards, official post cards, unofficial postcards, letters, postal money orders, and even packages. Over 57 of these are illustrated as examples, many of them containing additional franking (registration, special delivery, etc.) in the form of Hradčany issues, and all are tied by descriptions in the text.

-- In the days of the First Czechoslovak Republic, the post office served as a bank for the people. Thus many goods and services were purchased or paid for with postal money orders (složenka). In using these forms, if the payee wanted a written assurance that the funds had been transferred or wanted written assurance that the funds had arrived to the payee, it required a written annotation on the back of the postal money order. Since this was the equivalent of a post card, it required franking. Thus, many složenky can be found with franking on the reverse. This section describes these uses and shows 25 examples of them. 150 pg.

The greatest drawback to this and the previous two manuals is that they are only in Czech. Nevertheless, this manual will be useful even to the non-Czech speaker because of the tables and illustrations -- plus, with the aid of the Society's "Glossary of Philatelic Terminology" the paragraph headings and item names are readable, and the text is manageable.

Look for this third Hradčany manual in the Available Publications section of this issue.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

#### . . . . . .

#### Letters to the Editor

#### 1. Lou:

Perhaps one of our readers will recognize this "stamp" that I recently found in one of my 'miscellaneous' boxes (Fig. 1). It appears to be a proposed design for a stamp. Here are a few clues:

- -- the image is of a queen standing upon a subservient 'small' king
- -- the words on the left edge translate as 'exhibition of Gothic art -- Prague 1958'
  - -- at the bottom below the stamp image is 'JINDRA S.'
- -- at the bottom right edge is a signature that appears to be Jindra Schmidt - 1958

Does anyone have any ideas as to what this might be? Gerald M. van Zanten



Fig. 2



Fig. 2

#### 2. Fellow members:

I recently purchased the attached FDC and [its enclosed] letter (Fig. 2). Condition is not great but not as bad as the scans appear. The addressee, Miss Kubena, is listed in our membership database archive as member number 110, at the address on the cover.

[The enclosed letter read:

July 1943

Dear Member,

In connection with the issuance of the U.S. stamp in honor of Czechoslovakia on July 12th a limited quantity of Czechoslovak official First-Day Covers have been released, each one being numbered.

We sent out to each member of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America a First-Day Cover at the price of 25 cents -- net proceeds go to United Czechoslovak Relief. In case you are not interested, please return the cover to me; otherwise I would appreciate your remittance.

J.W. LOWEY Secretary 201 Marcy Place New York 56, New York

Just think it's an interesting Society historical item and thought others might appreciate seeing it.

Best to all, Phil [Rhoade]

P.S. I then came across this brief article from the September, 1943 Specialist regarding the cover and letter. Another interesting piece of SCP history.

## FIRST DAY COVERS SENT TO MEMBERS

Each member received a first day cover from Washington which was sponsored by Czechoslovak authorities and receipts for these are turned over to the United Czechoslovak Relief.

In the opinion of some of our members this was a mistake. While they agree the motive and purpose is worthy of each member's support yet they look upon the whole thing as just another "unsolicited approval." While Mr. Lowey was delegated by the Czechoslovak Committee to collect for these covers, we want our members to know Joe did not like the idea either, but it was too late. We trust our members pardon the committee; their desire to help the fund is the only justification for this act.

Phil

#### \*\*\*

## Philatelic News and Views

1. From Savoy Horvath:

-- Shown here are the cover (Fig. 1) and the unfolded inside of a Commemorative Folder (Fig. 2) for the national anthem stamp [see the New Issues section] that we just had a short article about in the Jul/Aug issue. The cover translates as: 'Commemorative Sheet issued on the occasion of the launching of the stamp for the

# Pamětní list

vydaný u příležilosti křiu známky k 175. výroči prvého uvedení písné "Kde domov můj?"

Osice 17. Hjna 2009

€ 152

175th anniversary of the first performance of the song "Kde domov můj?" 'Osice 17 October 2009' 'No. 152'. The inside of the folder shows some of the original score of the song along with the stamp canceled by the special commemorative cancel and including the signature of the original stamp designer/engraver Bedřich Housa. Along the bottom it reads: 'This commemorative sheet was prepared by the Hradec Králové philatelic club and the municipality of Osice, birthplace of František Škroup, according to the design of Sárka Vitulová, student of Hradec Králové University, department of artistic culture, branch of graphic creation -multimedia.' The folder sold for about \$5 and sold out in a few hours. It was Karel's [Holoubek] idea and preparation, however he did write that he miscalculated and only had 450 printed, canceled and signed; then to cover mail orders they had another 150 printed for that purpose.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

-- Here is something of interest for our readers. This is a numbered, combination every-day entry ticket to PRAGA 2008 (that took place 12-14 September of last year) (Fig. 3) that was sent to members of the Czech philatelic union, and on the reverse it is set up as a post card (Fig. 4). It was sent to me by my friend Karel Holoubek from the show on the opening day, 12 September, and was dropped into the "to be transported by balloon" mail box (see the squarish cancel across the stamp showing several balloons and saying 'přepraveno balonem', 12.9.2008). For some reason the flight was delayed, so the card was canceled 'VZLET HORKOVZDUŠNÉHO BALONU ODLOŽEN' [flight of the hot-air balloon delayed] and then again canceled on 17 September at landing at Kamenice (about 20 miles from take-off) when the flight did take place. Then it went by snail-mail and arrived at my place in Readstown on 18 October [maybe it went by balloon all the way!].

-- This cover (Fig. 5) was canceled at Hradčany castle on the day of Obama's visit and speech in the court yard at the castle on May 4, 2009.

-- An interesting story about the Czechoslovak banknote with the shortest time in circulation (Fig. 6). It was issued on October 1, 1989 and within two weeks many were circulating with either holes punched in Gottwald's head or it being colored over. Then within three weeks people in Prague held anti-Gottwald banknote demonstrations with calls of "How can I explain a murderer on our banknotes to my children?" Within three months the banknote with "the first worker's president" Klement Gottwald was withdrawn from circulation.



Fig. 3

## 2. From Charley Chesloe:

I will hold mail auctions hopefully in every Specialist. There will be 25 to 30 lots in each issue. 5% will be added to the purchase price, and I will add another

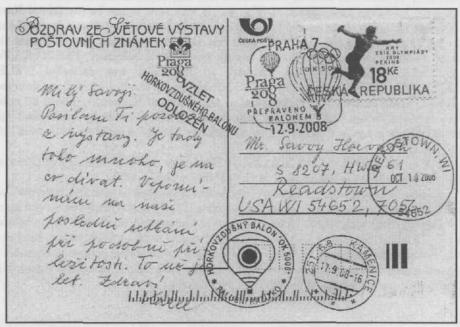


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

5%, the 10% to be donated to the *Specialist*. Just send me a note, and I will send you xerox copies of lots you are interested in.

Charley Chesloe



Fig. 6

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New Issues

# CZECH REPUBLIC by G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 2, 2009 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with one 43 Kč stamp showing the České Středohoří Uplands --

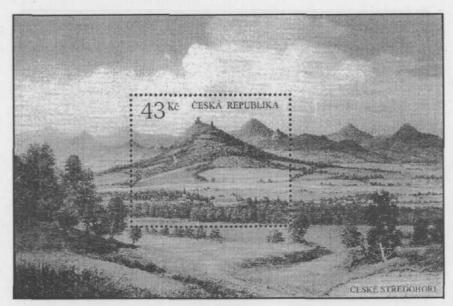


Fig. 1

tertiary volcanic region (Fig. 1). The České Středohoří Uplands (ČSU) is located in northwest Bohemia near the lower reaches of the Labe river which is divided between two geomorphological sub-units -- the Verneřické Uplands on the right bank and the Milešovské uplands on the left bank. The ČSU is the most massive sign of volcanic activity in the Czech Republic even though due to its size of 1,266 km² it belongs only to lesser orographic units. Its characteristic features are volcanic conical hills which began rising from the sandstone on approximately 23 million years ago. Passing through the region is the deep Litoměřice fault, the geological partition between the Krušné mountains and the Central Bohemian regions. Almost three-quarters of the volcanic massif of the ČSU is built of basaltic rocks, and also trachyte and andesite. From the mineralogical point of view this

area is famous for its abundance of Czech garnet in the Třebenicko and Třebivlicko regions. The variety of geological circumstances and climatic conditions allows for the occurrence of a wide range of plant and animal species reputed to be the richest botanical area in the Czech Republic. More than 160 species of animals there are under special protection. In 1976 the ČSU was declared a protected land area. The souvenir sheet features a panoramic view of the ČSU from the southern bank of the Ohře river at Brníkov village. In the foreground appears a basaltic hill with the Hazmburk ruined castle and the early Baroque



Fig. 2

chateau in Libochovice (which are depicted on the stamp). In the background along the horizon are Solanská, Hrádek, Lipská, Milešovka, Košťál, Kletečná, and Lovoš hills. This picturesque landscape enchanted the painter Emil Filla who during

1950-52 created panoramic paintings of the ČSU. The souvenir sheet was designed by RNDr. Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with colored offset. A FDC in black has a cachet showing the sandstone hill Bořeň near Bilina (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3









Fig. 7

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

2. On September 2, 2009 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing 4 stamps and 4 labels dedicated to protected species of animals and plants in the Křivoklátsko region (Fig. 3). The souvenir sheet shows the night-time life of the forest in the Křivoklátsko biosphere reserve and is dominated by the 17 Kč Křivoklát Castle stamp.

Postage stamps:

10 Kč--Eudia pavonia. A FDC in green shows Asio otus, Kohoutov (Fig. 4).

12 Kč--Aglia tau and Cervus elaphus. A FDC in brown shows Pandio haliaetus, Tyrovická skála (Fig. 5).

14 Kč--Bubo bubo, Ciconia nigra, and Lunaria rediviva. A FDC in gray-blue shows Catocala electa, Čertová skála(Fig. 6).

17 Kč--Tyto alba. A FDC in brown-violet shows Myotis myotis, Valachov\(Fig. 7).

Labels:

- 1. -- Caprimulgus europaeus
  - -- Myotis myotis
- 2. -- Smerinthus ocellatus
- 3. Muscardinus avellanarius
- 4. -- Rana dalmatina

In 1978 the Křivoklátsko region was proclaimed a protected land area of 628 km² and, due to its high natural values, was proclaimed a UNESCO biosphere reserve. Two thirds of the area is covered with leafy and mixed forests. The highest point of the Křivoklástko is Těchovín hill (616 above sea level). The lowest point is the Berounka river level at the place where it leaves the area (223 m above sea level). This river has greatly affected the formation and preserved character of the whole area. For thousands of years the river flow cut deep into the valley whose steep-sloped hillsides are covered with natural vegetation of various formation. In most of the year the temperature at the bottom of the valley is very low, which corresponds to the conditions of submountain to mountain regions. Temperature inversion, a phenomenon typical of the Křivoklástko region, is one of the main causes of the great diversity of species. The preserved species include over 1,800 species of vascular plants, at least 52 species of wood plants, more than 120 species of birds and a number of other animals, of which 20 species are critically endangered (e.g. fish hawk, fresh-water-lamprey), 37 heavily endangered (e.g. large mouse-eared bat, barn owl, black stork, nightjar, agile frog), and 44 endangered (e.g. eagle owl). The symbol of the Krivoklátsko protected land area is red deer kept in the Křivoklátsko forest enclosures from time immemorial. The souvenir

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

3. On September 23, 2009 the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series entitled Mills. The stamps were designed by Petr Melan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 10 Kč: The Windmill in Ruprechtov; colors -- black (recess print), yellow, red and blue (Fig. 8). The village of Ruprechtov near Vyškov na Moravě is the location of a unique windmill built in 1873 as a classical mill of the Dutch type, with a wind wheel of four blades and turning roof. In



Fig. 8

1884 the local miller Cyril Wágner installed the most efficient Halladay turbine better equipped to withstand heavy winds. The turbine wheel consists of a rim of adjustable blades controlled with rods and allowing to adjust the blades to fit the direction of winds. A double steering wheel was used to steer the rim in the right direction. This invention made it possible to mill up to a double amount of grain.

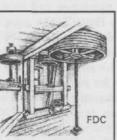


Fig. 9

After a complete reconstruction in 1998 the mill was reopened as a technical monument. The milling mechanism has not been preserved, the visitors can see only some fragments of it. The turbine, which has a 10 m diameter and weighs approximately 2 tons, today turns at the height of 16 m above the ground. The Halladay turbine is unique not

only in the Czech Republic but also in Europe. A FDC in brown shows some of the internal equipment in the mill room (Fig. 9).

-- 12 Kč: The Watermill in

Hoslovice; colors -- black (recess print), yellow, pink and blue (Fig. 10). The village of Hoslovice near Strakonice is the location of the oldest and uniquely preserved watermill in Bohemia. Hoslovice was first mentioned in writing in 1352. The first written evidence of the mill

comes from 1654 and refers to "a mill of one wheel and 16 strikes of field". A dendrochronological survey confirmed this dating. The trees used to build the ceiling of the barn were cut in 1568-69. The last owners were the Harant brothers who maintained the traditional way of village life without electricity and sanitary facilities. The mill consists of the original milling room with residential rooms and all necessary equipment, cattle sheds and barn, made either of timber or bricks, all with thatch roofing. It also includes the mill pond and race, orchard and meadows. The mill—which is on the list of natural cultural heritage—is open to



Fig. 10

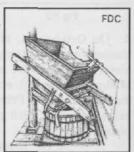


Fig. 11

the public. A FDC in black-gray shows some of the internal equipment in the mill room (Fig. 11).

4. On October 14, 2009 the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the song "Where is My Home?" [Kde Domov Můj] -- the Czech National Anthem (Fig. 12). The song Where is My Home?" sounded for the first time among other songs at the Estates Theater in Prague on December 21, 1834 in the play 'Fidlovačka aneb žádný hněv a žádná rvačka' [Fidlovačka, or No Anger and No Brawl] written by Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808-1856) -- which is a musical comedy featuring a party of Prague shoe-makers. The song, the music of which was composed by the composer and conductor František Škroup (1801-1892), became so popular that its first strophe later became a part of the Czechoslovak



Fig. 12

anthem and, since 1993, the Czech national anthem. In 1831-42 the writer and playwright J.K. Tyl worked as a clerk in the 28th infantry regiment's office in Prague. It is here he wrote the song, edited the magazine Květy, and prepared repertory for the Kajetán Theater established by him. The composer of the music for the song, F. Škroup, was an excellent conductor at the Estates Theater, conducted numerous classic operas, composed a number of overtures and scenic music for several plays. The first interpreter of 'Where is My Home?' (the song of the blind beggar Mareš) was the famous basso singer Karel Strakaty (1804-1868).



Fig. 13

Although he was offered jobs by leading European opera houses (Berlin, Dresden, Vienna), he remained loyal to his beloved Prague, where he sang for more than thirty years at 3,230 performances. The stamp shows symbols of Czech statehood -- the Czech lion and a linden twig, and the stave with the first beats of the song. The stamp was designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in gray with iriodin, light yellow, red and blue in printing sheets

of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows a facsimile of the part of the musical notation of the song by F. Škroup (Fig. 13).

5. On October 14, 2009 the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Arts and Crafts series on historical glazed-tile stoves. The stamps were designed by Michal Vitanovský, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 10 Kč: Empire style (around 1810) -- the chateau in Litomyšl; colors -- black (recess print), ocher, gray, blue,



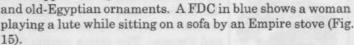
Fig. 14

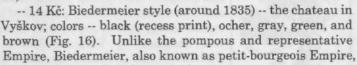
and brown (Fig. 14). Empire stoves of the early 19th century were based on the morphology of Classicism. Their authors drew a deeper inspiration from ancient Greece and Rome and gradually simplified the outline as well as individual segments of stove body. The basic geometric shapes were cylinder, prism and pyramid. Unlike the white glazing prevalent in the previous era, the tiles of Empire stoves were more colorful. The broken shades of the background, added to the white and ivory-white of the previous era, made the raised decorations more distinguishable. A raised decoration used frequently was anticising vases. Raised



Fig. 15

figures from ancient Greece and Rome appeared together with ancient





was more factual and practical. Biedermeier stoves are based on austere rectangular structure of support and head pieces whose apertures facilitated the best possible heating. The modest raised decorations on large smooth surfaces are present mostly in the least



Fig. 17

possible number. New themes taken from nature and everyday life appear in addition to the ancient themes of the Empire style. A FDC in green shows a woman harpist at a tiled stove of the Biedermeier style (Fig. 17).

Fig. 16

6. On October 14, 2009 the Ministry issued an 18 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the traveler Barbora Markéta Eliášová (Fig. 18). B.M. Eliášová (1874-1957) was the first Czech female traveler who went around the world. An

orphan since four years of age, she was brought up at community cost in her native Jiříkovice near Brno. The local teacher Jan Hudeček who paid a great deal of attention to the talented Eliášová had an essential effect on her life. From the age of fourteen she worked as a charwoman. As a graduate from a private language school in Prague she taught mainly English and German at girls' schools. In July 1912 she took a year's holiday, went to



Fig. 18

Vladivostok by train from where she voyaged to Japan. She first lived in the family of the English university teacher Lawrence, later in a hotel at the outskirts of Tokyo occupied solely by the Japanese. She again worked as language teacher.

Soon she learned Japanese and made many friends among her students and colleagues. This gave her the opportunity to learn in detail about everyday life and the famous history of Japan. Eliášová was the first European student of an ikebana course -- the traditional Japanese art of flower arrangement. In 1915, after her return back to Bohemia via the United States, she published the book "A Year of Life Among the Japanese and Around the Globe" to meet the great interest in her experiences. In 1920 she returned to Japan as an officer of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Tokyo. A fellow of the Woman University and the Waseda University, she made a series of lectures on Czechoslovakia and wrote articles for Czech and Japanese periodicals. Eliášová stayed in Japan for several times more; in 1923 she lived through the deadly Yokohama earthquake. Back at home she gave radio and



Fig. 19

public lectures on her stories and experiences from her travels through Hong-Kong, Singapore, Ceylon, China, Korea, the Soviet Union, Java, Australia, Africa. The author of several books, she spent her last years in Roztoky u Prahy and Prague. The stamp paying tribute to this remarkable and brave woman shows a portrait of the traveller in kimono on the background of Japan with mount Fujitsu. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Novák, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in gray-green, orange, and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in gray-black shows a drawing of a Japanese pine tree and a smiling Buddhist monk (Fig. 19).



Fig. 20

## Stationery

7. On September 23, 2009 the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card "The Postage Stamp Exhibition Jihlava 2009" with an imprinted 10 Kč postage stamp (Fig. 20). The stamp shows a composition of stamps, magnifying glass, tweezers, and the heading of the magazine 'Filatelie'. In previous years this stamp was used several times in different colors and face values. The cachet shows a reproduction of the picture by Antonín Chitussi "From Jihlava -- St. James from 1885" which is at the Regional Gallery of the Uplands. The designer of the postal card was Martin Srb, and it was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset.

# SLOVAKIA by Gerald M. van Zanten

dark and eerily quiet'). During

8. On August 14, 2009 the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a T2 50g commemorative stamp honoring the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2009 (Fig. 21). The Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) is an international competitive exhibition of original book illustrations for children and youth. The work as featured on the stamp was a book illustration awarded by the international jury during the 21st Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, 2007. This event was attended by 387 illustrators from 38 countries. The Grand Prix was awarded to German illustrator Einar Turkowski. The featured illustration is taken from the award

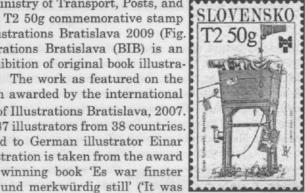


Fig. 21



Fig. 22

the last BIB event, the jury steered away from experimental techniques of any kind and avoided garish colors. Instead, its main focus was on less noticeable yet carefully elaborated black and white drawings with a touch of technically brilliant ingenuity, the ability to build on the contrast of light and shadow, and a bias towards miniature. Hidden humor, bright ideas, precision, and unobtrusive visual expression were especially praised by the jury. The stamp was designed by Lubomír Krátky, engraved by Juraj Vitek/František Horniak, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenín Praha. A FDC with cachet was issued (Fig. 22).

9. On September 11, 2009 the Ministry issued a joint commemorative issue of two stamps along with Austria for the Limes Romanus. During the Roman period, the



Fig. 23

Limes Romanus was a system of military strongholds along the Danube which protected Roman provinces against attacks of German tribes. Initially wooden camps for Roman troops, they were reconstructed during the reign of the Flavians to become wooden camps for the legions -- castrum legionis and of their auxiliary corps -- castellum. The stamps were designed by Igor Piačka, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in printing sheets of two stamps (Fig. 23).

-- 0.60 €: Carnuntum (Fig. 24). The most significant Roman stronghold in



Fig. 24

the Pannonia province was Carnuntum, situated next to the present-day village of Petronell in Austria. This Roman camp was built there by Tiberius during the war with the Marcomannis in 6 A.D. The camp was later re-built into a stone fortifica-

tion of the castrum type, and became the seat of the XIV legion Gemina. Early in the 2nd century, the emperor Trajan pro-

moted the camp into a town -- municipium, which was a military and commercial center on the Amber Road, as well as the capital of the Pannonia province. The best known Roman monument in Carnuntum is the "Heidentor" -- the "Heaven Gate" built outside the town in 4 A.D. by Roman emperor Constantinus II (337-361). Originally this gate consisted of four cross-vaulted pillars (tetrapylons), with huge columns overshadowing the emperor's statue beneath the vault. A FDC with cachet was issued (Fig. 25).



Fig. 25

-- 0.60 €: Gerulata (Fig. 26). The nearest Roman camp to the east from Carnuntum was Gerulata, in Rusovce, a part of Bratislava. This fortified castle was built in the second half of 1 A.D. under the Flavians, it became the seat of a unit of German riders Ala I milliaria Cannanefatium. In 4 A.D. the castle was re-built into a minor stone stronghold with a huge square-shaped fortification. In the fortification's foundation, numerous tomb-



Fig. 26



Fig. 27

stones of older Roman

graveyards had been used, such as the tombstone with the motive of Attis, the son of the river-god Sangarius. According to Roman mythology, after his tragic death the goddess Cybele had him re-born as the ever-green pine. Thus Attis became the symbol of immortality and eternal life. The name of the stronghold Gerulata is known from a medieval copy of a Roman map of 4 A.D. -the Tabula Peutingeriana. The map shows roads in the territory of the Roman Empire from Spain to India. In the 18th century, it was bought by the Austrian prince,

Eugene of Savoy, who gifted it to the imperial court

library in Vienna (now the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek). The map is included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage. A FDC with cachet was issued (Fig. 27).

10. On October 23, 2009 the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Preservation of Nature series. The stamps were designed by Robert Jančovič, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in printing sheets containing three of each stamp (Fig. 28).

-- 1.10 €: European pond terrapin (Fig 29). The European pond turtle is the only original representative of turtles in Slovakia. Like other water turtle species, it has a slightly curved shell. The upper part of the shell (the carapace) is up to 30 centimeters long,



Fig. 28



Fig. 29





Fig. 30

and is brown-black with many small whitish or yellow spots. The lower shell (the plastron) is yellow-white to light-brown and has variably dark (usually black) markings. turtle's skin on its limbs, tail, neck and the greater part of its head is covered by scutes. It has five digits on the front feet, and four digits fused into paddles for swimming with sharp claws on its back feet.

These turtles usually occur in still water or muddy and overgrown streams in lower altitudes. Their activity begins at the end of March, depending on the climate. During the day they search for food, hide by water areas. and sun themselves on shores or on top of objects floating

in the water. The turtles can remain submerged for long periods due to their strong breathing apparatus which consists of anal gland and oral cavity mucosa that can absorb oxygen from the water. Turtles usually mate in the water in the early spring, then in late spring or early summer the females lay eggs around ponds into shallow dug holes. In warmer areas the young hatch in autumn. In Slovakia they usually hatch the following year in spring. The young mature at the age of 15 years and live for about 70 years or more. These turtles are mostly carnivorous, usually feeding on insects, fish, crustaceans, earthworms, and amphibians, sometimes also dead animals, and their diet also includes vegetation. They usually hibernate buried at the bottom of water biotopes from the end of October. European Pond Turtles are found in Southern and Central Europe, Western Asia, and North Western Africa -- they extend as far north as the Baltics. In Slovakia they only occur within a few isolated areas of the eastern and western lowlands. Throughout Europe, the European Pond Turtle is a strictly protected species. In Slovakia, it is a critically endangered animal which is subject to the

highest degree of protection. A FDC with cachet was

issued (Fig. 30).

-- 1.10 €: Fire Salamander (Fig. 31). The Fire Salamander is our biggest salamander, measuring up to 20 centimeters in Slovakia and 30 centimeters in



Fig. 31

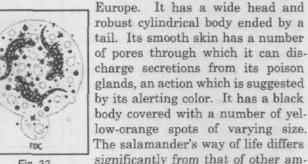


Fig. 32

phibians which live in our country. They are active at night and prefer deciduous, in particular, oak and beech forests on foothills or mountains. Rarely, they can also be found in conifer forests. In Slovakia, they occur at altitudes of up to 1000 meters above sea level. During the day salamanders like to hide in fallen leaves, under tree trunks or stones, in burrows of other mammals, and various clefts. Their daily activity only increases in the case of strong rain or during courtship. Salamanders usually mate in a dry environment over the autumn, and the following spring the females lay larvae into small brooks, lakes, springs, or wells. The larvae are carnivorous and their maturing period takes more than one year, but usually they metamorphose into young individuals by autumn of the same year. Subsequently, they leave their water habitat and follow the suit of mature individuals. Salamanders move slowly and feed on various invertebrates such as earthworms, mollusks, and other arthropods. Salamanders hibernate in deep refuges, often far away from their water habitats. Fire salamanders occur throughout Europe, except Scandinavia, the British Isles, and the Mediterranean islands. The Fire Salamander is a protected species throughout Europe, including Slovakia. A FDC with cachet was issued (Fig. 32).

11. On November 11, 2009 the Ministry issued a 0.40 € commemorative stamp for Christmas 2009 -- Winter Motif (Fig. 33). In the year of the Olympic Games and as part of the program accompanying the Philatelic Exhibition SLOVOLYMPFILA 2008 focusing on sports, the POFIS (Slovak Postal Service) organized a children's stamp design competition 'Christmas 2009 --Winter Motif with focus on winter sports. The aim of the competition was to get the children aged 7-13 actively involved in the process of stamp production in Slovakia, and to identify creative graphic designs of young talented artists. Twenty-two children took part

Bratislava,

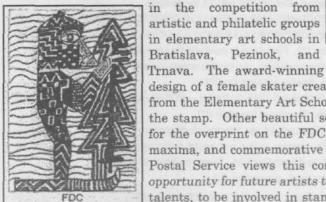


Fig. 34



Fig. 33

design of a female skater created by Kristinka Putecová from the Elementary Art School in Pezinok was used for the stamp. Other beautiful selected works will be used for the overprint on the FDC, FDC cancellation, cartes maxima, and commemorative cancellations. The Slovak Postal Service views this competition as an excellent opportunity for future artists to develop and display their talents, to be involved in stamp production, and to stay devoted to stamp collecting. A FDC with cachet was issued (Fig. 34).

in the competition from artistic and philatelic groups in elementary art schools in

Pezinok,

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