



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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President's Corner

Your Society needs help!

As with most philatelic organizations we are experiencing difficulties in finding members who are willing to help us provide the services that our members have become accustomed to. Many of our Board Members and Officers have been performing their jobs for many years, are getting on in age, or have incurred new personal responsibilities.

To start with, you will notice that in this issue we are announcing our next round of elections, starting with nominations. We have several board members who have indicated they will probably not run again, so we need new interested members. If you would like to contribute to the Society by helping govern it, please let me know. As a Board Member -- while we encourage you to participate and help in other ways -- technically your only "duties" are to participate in discussions and subsequent votes on issues, and to once-a-year attend our annual convention and Board Meeting held somewhere in the USA at a major stamp exhibition. For the discussions and votes, we want you to have e-mail capabilities.

Second, our secretary, Phil Rhoads, who has been doing an excellent job for us for the past 6 years, finds that he needs to call it quits next year. Thus, we are searching for a member who would be willing to take on this function.

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JOINED PAIRS OF THE 1945 OFFICIAL STAMP

by Mark Wilson

I am one of those foolish collectors who delight in buying large lots of Czechoslovak material. In a recent British Society auction, I bid on, won, and received a lot that consisted of fifty-five pounds of Czechoslovak stamps in small packages and boxes. As a Stanley Gibbons number identified each package and box, the lot was likely some dealer's leftover stock.

After I had taken out all my beloved typographic stamps, I was still left with about fifty-four pounds of material that did not interest me at all. So, I began placing these items on EBay. I started by selling off all the complete panes of stamps. The Bohemia-Moravia panes created a lot of excitement and sold quickly. Then I began to work through some of the back-of-the-book Czechoslovak material and happened upon a thick package of complete panes of the 1945 official stamps (Scott O1-O7; POFIS SL1-SL7). I started scanning these panes in preparation for my next EBay auction.



Figure 1: A joined pair of Type II and Type I stamps.

Imagine my surprise when a small handwritten note fell out of the package of 50h panes (Scott O1; POFIS SL1). The note stated that ten stamps on each pane differed from their siblings. The first and sixth stamps in the pane's five even-numbered rows have a large gap at the base of the lion's right-hand tail. Figure 1 is a scan of the first two stamps from the second row. On the left, the arrow indicates a Type II stamp with a gap in the right-hand tail. On the right, the arrow indicates a Type I stamp lacking this gap.

As a side note, one might wonder why the first and sixth stamp of the ten-numbered rows in each pane had this flaw while all the other positions did not. A little careful thought reveals that the plates must have been created from a ten-stamp template. It would have looked something like Figure 2:

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Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I
Type II	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I

Figure 2: Ten stamp template with the location of the Type II stamp shown.

Ten copies of that template were used to create a 100-stamp plate. A similar construction was used for the 1923 Agriculture and Science Issue Type III stamps. Note that this construction will always place the Type II stamp in the first and sixth positions of the even numbered rows as indicated in Figure 3.

Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I
Type II	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type II	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I	Type I
Another copy of the ten-stamp template					Another copy of the ten-stamp template					
Another copy of the ten-stamp template					Another copy of the ten-stamp template					
Another copy of the ten-stamp template					Another copy of the ten-stamp template					
Another copy of the ten-stamp template					Another copy of the ten-stamp template					

Figure 3: Ten copies of the ten-stamp template form a 100-stamp plate.

Since these stamps are both plentiful and inexpensive, here is a chance to pour through your duplicates to find a nice specialized addition to your post-war Czechoslovak collection. Finding a joined pair would be a special bonus. Happy hunting!



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CONTINUATION OF “POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919” OVERPRINT FORGERIES

by Ing. Milan Kračmar,
court-appointed expert
trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

Just like an unending television serial, articles on the forgeries of the “POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919” overprint on Austrian and Hungarian postage stamps continue to occur. This concerns not only valid postage stamps, but also “trial prints”, “unissued stamps”, or even completely fanciful prints. It is sufficient to describe such items with the favorite phrase “unlisted in catalog” and an item of great interest is assured. And, in today’s article I will be concerned with one such stamp.

I was given for authentication a used stamp -- No. 49a [*Scott B19a*], dark, postmarked with the daily cancel PRAHA 1 / Č.S.R., type A overprint, narrow format (see Fig. 1 and 2). With my first glance the “POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919” overprint was not genuine, because it exhibits differences in the shapes of the hook above the letter S and the line above the A, further in the spacing of the letters and in the difference regarding the axis passing through the letter V. Additionally it is evident that the stamp -- appearing to have been postally used -- was not actually so used, because on the back it has the original gum with only the unwanted partial hinge for mounting in a collection. The daily postmark of post office PRAHA 1 does not have a visible distinguishing letter after the numeral 2., but in the date bridge the distance between the number 15. and the I. is larger than it is in the original canceler. In front and above left of the I. is a small remnant, which tells us that the canceler had a II. in the date bridge, which is a date after the validity of this stamp (i.e., until 31.1.1920). The first I in the date bridge (specifying the month) was not properly removed by the forgers. The nice centering of the daily cancel on the stamp is admittedly possible, but in fact not usual. Incidentally, after a detailed examination I have determined that the overprint “POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919” was executed onto the daily cancel. The expert mark “Richter” is not correctly positioned. The “Gilbert” mark is positioned correctly and signifies a stamp of lesser quality, but is not in fact genuine. In view of the high value of a genuine stamp, it is advisable to have these examined.



Fig. 1 and 2

Other stamps that I would like to warn about are the Hungarian postage due stamps issued during 1903-1914 with black numbers, in catalogs listed under the numbers 126 and 127 [*Scott B110 and 111*]. Also, these stamps with the 1919

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overprint have a high catalog value. The 1f stamp shows very noticeable differences in the shape of the letters and numbers. Of the noticeable ones, the O in ČESKOSLOVENSÁ [the second O] does not have the small projection on its right side, the second E does not have before it the distinctive dot and has a different shape when compared with the original. In the year 1919 the slanted line between the first 1 and 9 is not broken. The vertical distances between POŠTA and ČESKOSLOVENSÁ and also between ČESKOSLOVENSÁ and 1919 do not correspond to those of any of the overprint types. The nearest to it is Type III., but the year 1919 is shifted to the right. There are even obvious differences in the dimensions of the overprint: height of 15.2mm (correct stamp is 16.0mm), length of 23.5mm (correct stamp is 24.0mm), height of the letters is from 3.0 to 3.2mm (correct stamp has 3.0mm), inclination of the overprint is 37° (correct stamp is 36°).

The 2f stamp -- besides large differences in the shape of the letters and numbers -- has a completely different slice-off of the second 9 of 1919. The other differences correspond to those of the previous 1f stamp, the vertical distances of the inscription do not agree with any of the overprint types, in addition there is a very pronounced shift of the ČESKOSLOVENSÁ to the left. The dimensions of the overprint also differ from the original: height of 14.7mm (correct stamp is 16.0mm), length of 23.5mm (correct stamp is 24.0mm), height of the letters is 3.1mm (correct stamp is 3.0mm), inclination of the overprint is 34° (correct stamp is 36°). The stamps are shown in Figures 3 and 4.



Fig. 3 and 4

And finally, a real "rarity". A 15h [sic 15f] dark purple

Hungarian stamp picturing King Charles with the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSÁ 1919" overprint type F that was never issued [Fig. 5]. We can contemplate its possible occurrence on a stamp with the Hungarian overprint "KÖZTÁRSASÁG" (republic) and the additional overprint "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSÁ 1919". I present to you a forged stamp without the Hungarian overprint, but with the Czechoslovak one. The stamp is not shown in any catalogue, not even as a trial print. On the presented stamp are obvious noticeable differences in the overprint letters (shape, spacing) including the numbers in 1919.



Fig. 5

Only the axis extending through the letter "T" agrees with -- and the overall forgery approaches -- the overprint type III. I would like to only note that even such an unissued stamp can be found genuine, the same as 10 and 15f stamps with the overprint "KÖZTÁRSASÁG".

[Ed. Note: If you would like to personally "expertize" these POŠTA and other First Republic (1918-1939) stamps, you need to get the book "Czechoslovak Postage Stamps and Their Counterfeits 1918-1939 (Padělky)" that is advertised in the Available Publications column at the end of this issue. It is in Czech, English, and German and thoroughly illustrated. While your use of this book does not make you

an “expert”, it will allow you to personally pass judgement on perhaps 80% or more of the stamps you examine as to their being genuine or not -- before you consider buying them. If the specifications identified in this book for each stamp are not there, then it is not genuine.]

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article, which first appeared in Merkur-Revue 4/2008, with the permission of the editor and author.]



MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK

by Marie Valentová
contributed by Gerald M. van Zanten

No doubt you will recall that on May 4th, 1919, now just over 90 years ago, Milan R. Štefánik’s tragic death occurred near Bratislava. It is thus appropriate that we remember him (Fig. 1) with this article from an old Czechoslovak Life Magazine that gives a history of his life in some detail. A number of stamps have been issued to commemorate Štefánik by Czechoslovakia and the Slovak Republic, the most recent by Slovakia on May 3, 2003 as Scott Slovakia 428, shown here on a cover commemorating the 90th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1

This year, [81] years elapsed since the tragic death of a politician, astronomer, French Army General, one of the leading representatives of the Czechoslovak resistance in World War I, and associate of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and Edvard Beneš.

In the not very long life which came to a close on May 4, 1919, in an air crash, the native of Slovakia spent some time on nearly all the continents. Immediately after completion of his study of civil engineering, and

a course at the philosophical faculty in Prague in 1904 he left the country and settled in France where, the following year, he was entrusted by the great French astronomer Jules Janssen, with leadership of an expedition to Mont Blanc. Two months later he observed the eclipse of the Sun in Alcosébre in Spain, and presented his work on sun spots at an international scientific congress in Oxford.

Every year, his friends could learn from his letters and photographs, or from his personal accounts when he returned to Slovakia to rest, about his recent journeys and his fresh successes.



Fig. 2

For him, there were no frontiers in the world. He travelled with a caravan in the deserts of Turkestan, flew in a balloon over the Sahara, crossed the equator and navigated on the Pacific to Tahiti where he built an observatory. He read lectures at élite American clubs to raise funds for the purchase of expensive astronomical instruments, returned to Europe and left for Brazil where, with an Argentinian and Chilean expedition, he carried out his observations in Passa Quatro. In 1912, he was granted French citizenship and one year later travelled to Ecuador via Tahiti. But that trip was more political than scientific -- he was supposed to win the local government over for French interests, and conclude an agreement on the establishment of a French naval base in the Pacific. Shortly after, he opened negotiations on the Panama canal. Štefánik's international prestige was gradually growing not only in scientific but also political circles.

When the first shells exploded on the front of World War I, he entered history as a soldier, but above all as a tireless diplomat pursuing the aim of changing the centuries-old map of Central Europe. He became an associate of Masaryk and Beneš with whom he founded the Czechoslovak National Council in Paris and carried out intensive activities undermining the Austro-Hungarian Empire and for the creation of the first common state of the Czechs and the Slovaks. He organized the Czech legions in Italy, the USA and Russia.

He arrived in the USA in July 1917 and within an unbelievably short time obtained the agreement of the US government with the recruitment of volunteers among the Czechs and Slovaks living there. He concentrated on the diplomatic, political, journalistic and financial circles of the top of the American society in Washington and New York. He won over for the idea of a Czechoslovak state also former President Theodore Roosevelt and his friends.

To enhance the impact of the Czechoslovak military programme, Štefánik decided to appear in public in front of American and French politicians, and masses of Czech and Slovak countrymen. It was one of the most important manifestations of the Czechs and Slovaks in America, held on September 16, 1917 at Carnegie Hall in New York, and attended by New York Mayor J. P. Mitchel, and French Minister Franklin Bouillon.

“The account for our freedom must be written with our own blood, so that they cannot refuse to recognize us at the green table,” Štefánik said and, addressing the French Minister, he went on: “We swear that we shall go on fighting until we achieve freedom . . . We are only defending what belongs to us, and we do not seek aggression . . . We want peace, but it has to be a glorious peace and not one established on the grave of small nations . . .”

News about the assembly was carried by leading American dailies *The Sun*, *The New York World*, *The New York Times*, and *New York Herald*. Its participants sent a telegramme to Thomas Woodrow Wilson hailing him as defender of peoples' rights.

In early November 1917, Štefánik returned to France with the first contingent of American Czechs and Slovaks who, together with other volunteers, became the core of the forming Czechoslovak army.

Prior to his departure for the USA, Štefánik had prepared the ground in Italian ruling circles for Edvard Beneš who obtained Italy's official recognition of the Czechoslovak National Council as a political organ of the Czechs and Slovaks, and agreement with the setting up of working detachments of the Czech and Slovak POWs in the rear. Štefánik, however, wanted more. He saw the necessity of the creation on the Italian front of autonomous Czechoslovak military units and therefore travelled to Italy. Long diplomatic negotiations resulted in the signing on April 21, 1918, of a military agreement on the creation of a Czechoslovak division in Italy -- it was the first international document recognizing the independent Czechoslovak state, and a brilliant diplomatic achievement of Milan Rastislav Štefánik.

Journalist Jules Sauerwein used to say, half seriously, half jokingly, that Štefánik's soldier's cap best portrayed the progress of the Czechoslovak idea. In July 1918, he had added to it the oak leaves of a French Army General.

The news about the creation of a provisional Czechoslovak government and his appointment to the post of Minister of Defence reached him in Japan where he was negotiating supplies of food and arms for the Czechoslovak legions in Siberia. As a French national he needed the consent of the French government. He obtained it from the then French Foreign Minister, Pichon: “I grant you the permission to accept the post of Czechoslovak Minister of War. France will reserve for you the place at its hearth which you have deserved.”

On May 4, 1919, Prague and Bratislava awaited him impatiently -- but in vain. The plane on board of which he was traveling crashed during the landing maneuver not far from Bratislava, and Štefánik died in the crash.

For years, this leading personality of Czechoslovakia's national history had been relegated to obscurity. The time is over, and Milan Rastislav Štefánik has been restored to the position he quite justly holds in the reviving Czechoslovak society.

A CORRECTION AND NEW DISCOVERY: THE VERY *FIRST* HRADČANY STAMP

by Mark Wilson

The Winter 2010 *Specialist* contained an article presenting my evidence that the printers used a single master die to produce the initial ten denominations of the Hradčany issue. While working on another project, I discovered that the evidence for that assertion had been presented incorrectly. In my article I said that all ten denominations exhibited the same flaw: two white spots near the upper center of the thin panel containing the decorative wavy line. The first (left hand) spot is above the crest of the center wave and just below the top of the panel; the second (right hand) spot, slightly nearer the panel top, is above the following trough.

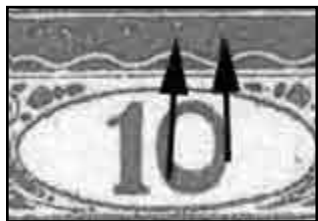


Figure 1: 10h

As it turns out, this assertion is true for nine of the ten denominations. However, the 10h red actually has only one of these spots, the one above the crest of the center wave (Fig. 1). I was misled into believing that both flaws appeared on the 10h red by the coincidental appearance of a spot in the general area of the second spot.

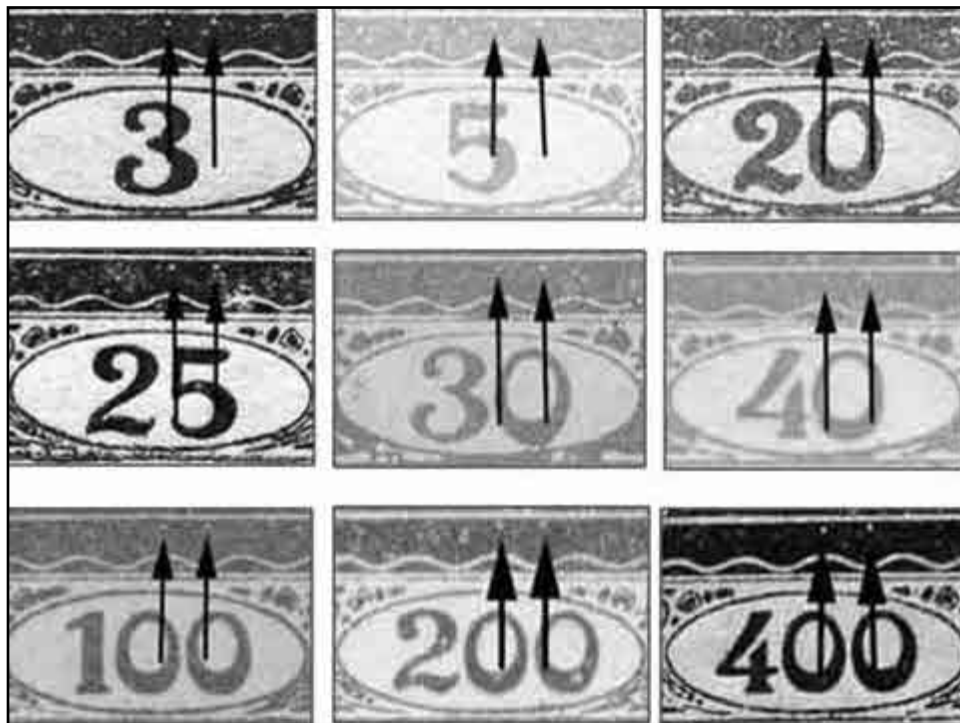


Figure 2: The other nine denominations.

Carefully compare the relative positions of the second spot on the 10h (Fig. 1) with the second spot on all the other denominations (Fig. 2). Note that in Figure 2 the second spot is closer to the upper frame than the first spot, but that in Figure 1 (the 10h) the second spot is level with or just below the first spot. The most important feature of any flaw is that it invariably appears in exactly the same position whenever it occurs. Therefore the second spot on the 10h is by definition not the same flaw as the second spot on all the other denominations. This correction actually leads us to another discovery about the Hradčany issue.

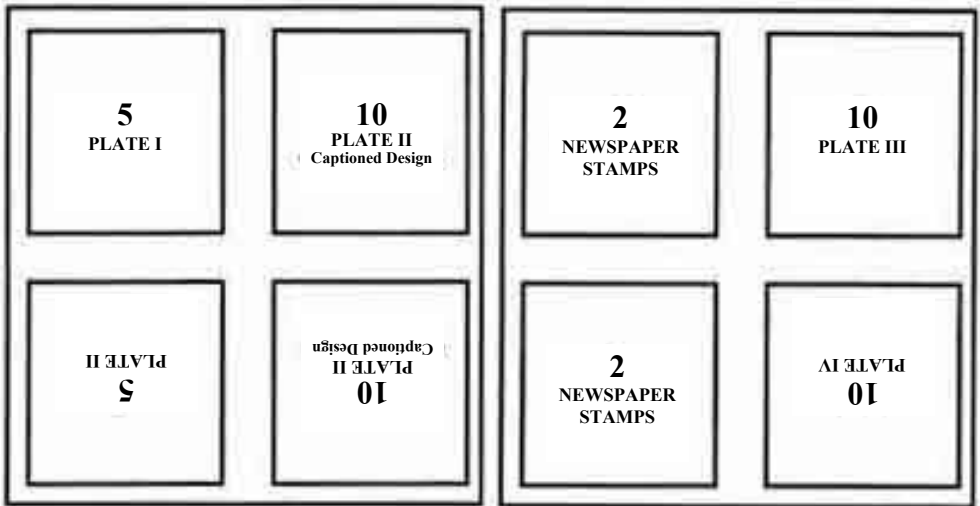


Figure 3: Initial two printing arrangements for the 10h.

Remember that the 5h green and the 10h red were the first denominations of the Hradčany issue released. The *Monografie Díl 1* reports that these two stamps were printed together -- using plates 1 and 2 of both denominations -- in a single printing form on the Czech Graphic Union's König No. 33 press between December 16 and December 19, 1918 (Fig. 3 left).

As an aside, the *Monografie* also reports that plates 3 and 4 of the 10h were first used on January 29, 1919, but those plates were paired (on the same König No. 33 press) with the 2h newspaper stamp (Fig. 3 right). Other printings of the 5h and 10h denominations, using the same four plates, also occurred.

I examined several hundred stamps printed from all four 10h plates and found not a single instance of the correct second spot on any stamp. All I found were spots that appeared in *almost* the correct position. Thus, since on the 10h red the second spot is not in the required position, when a second spot is found it is not the same flaw as is seen on the other denominations.

The lack of the correct second spot on all of the 10h stamps hints at the use of the master die to produce the 10h template before its use for the companion 5h template. My reasoning is this: the 5h stamp (also part of the initial release) and every other denomination in this design after the initial release has the correct two-spot flaw. Only the 10h lacks the second spot. It seems clear that the

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introduction of the second spot occurred after the template for the four 10h plates were produced but before the production of the 5h template.

Clearly the same master die was used for all ten denominations. The presence of the first spot confirms this. That bit of knowledge appears secure. However, my initial assertion has now been corrected: the second spot does not appear on the 10h red. But by correcting that error from the recent article, we appear to have added yet one more nugget of knowledge about the Hradčany to our store. The fact that the 10h red does not have the second spot strongly implies while the 5h and 10h were released together, the 10h red was the very first stamp produced for the new republic.

What is now needed is confirmation by other Society members. That is, in order to disprove the preeminence of the 10h red, readers must find some instances of a few 10h stamps that actually have the two correct spots initially reported. Remember, inking and other printing problems sometimes conceal one or both spots on specific instances of stamps, or similar spots may appear by coincidence. What is being sought is not a negative proof (the lack of a spot or spots), but the occurrence of both spots in the correct positions on a few 10h stamps.



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FOR BEGINNERS
The Philately of Czechoslovakia
(Part 2)
 by Phillips B. Freer

The Agriculture and Science Issues

During 1920-1925, stamps known as the Agriculture and Science series were issued. I find these stamps one of the most interesting of the New Republic. Their design shows a seated figure holding a sheaf of wheat with the left arm and supporting an open book with the right arm (see Figure 1). In front of the book, and extending upward from it, is a linden tree from which leaves are growing. In the upper right-hand corner is a buried sword from which leaves are sprouting.



Fig. 1

There is a difference of opinion regarding two things in connection with this stamp. First, this issue is referred to as the Agriculture and Science issue here in the United States. Some European philatelists call it the Economy and Science issue. Second is the question regarding the sex of the seated figure. Some say it is a man. Others claim it is a woman. At the moment I think it is a woman. Tomorrow I will probably contend it is a man.

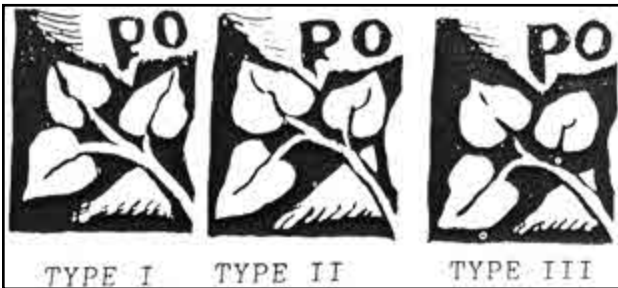


Fig. 2

The stamps of the first series were issued in 1920 and were in six values: 100h, 200h, 300h, 400h, 500h, and 600h. They are listed as Scott Nos. 76 through 81. The 1923 issues were in denominations of 100h, 200h,

and 300h but in different colors. They appear in Scott as Nos. 92, 93, and 94. They were withdrawn from use on December 31, 1925.

The overall design of these issues is common to all values, but differences in the numerals within the upper left-hand oval can be found. As for the three values which were issued in 1923, at least three types are recognized. These three types are distinguished by the characteristics of the three leaves directly below the "PO" in "POŠTA" and by the left side of the numeral oval. Figure 2 illustrates the three types as identified by the appearance of the leaves. Note how the veining differs in each of the types. As for the oval, the scalloping on the outer left side of the oval signifies the differences in the types, as seen in Figure 3. Note also that in Figure 2 the triangle beneath the leaves varies in position and in shape.

The basic perforation of all values is 14. However, several of the 1920 series are found perforated 14 x 13 1/2, and all of them exist imperforated. All three values of the 1923 series exist perforated both 14 and 14 x 13 1/2.

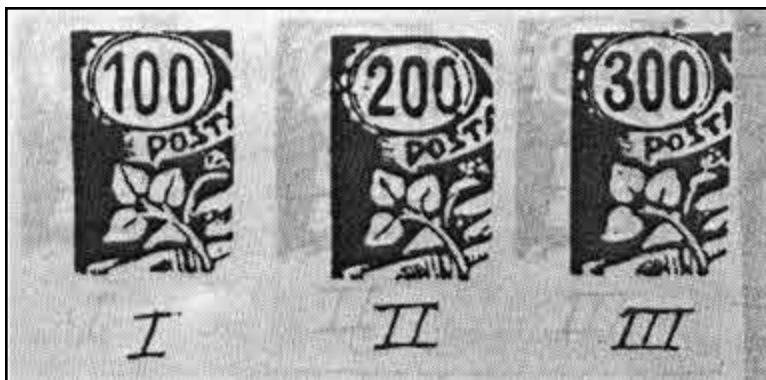


Fig. 3

In 1922 three of the 1920 series were overprinted for use as airmail stamps. In so doing, the Ministry of Posts changed the 100h by overprinting it as 50h. The 200h was overprinted 100h, and the 400h became 250h. In 1926 the 300h, 400h, 500h, and 600h of the same series were overprinted as postage due stamps, and their values were changed to 40h, 50h, and 100h respectively.

So far as is known, the Agriculture and Science issues have never been counterfeited. However, the airmail overprints have been forged. Attempts have also been made to create imperforated stamps from perforated copies. Because of this fact, collectors are advised not to accept allegedly imperforate stamps of this issue unless the margins exceed those of their perforated equivalents.

Because of the popularity of this set and the interest it has generated worldwide, there is much literature to be found for the benefit of those wishing to delve further. The *Specialist*, the official journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, has published at least five articles over the past fifty years on this subject, and members may borrow this material from the Society library. For those who can read Czech, *Monografie*, Vol. II, has an entire chapter about this set starting on page 362. This volume can also be borrowed from the Society library.

The Hussite Priest

In 1920 two stamps were issued depicting a Hussite priest. These stamps commemorated the Hussite movement which was in conflict with dogma of the Catholic Church in the 15th century. The movement gets its name from the founder, Jan Hus, who was born in the 14th century in Husinec in southern Bohemia. Hus received a Master of Arts degree in 1396 and was ordained a priest in 1400.

The conflict between Hus and the Church was brought about by Hus' belief that the laity should have the right to partake of both bread and wine at communion. Hence the chalice became the chief emblem of the Hussite movement. The Hussite Priest with Chalice seen on the two stamps is actually from the portrait of Hus himself as a young priest painted by Alfons Mucha. Hus was excommunicated by

the Pope, and in 1414 he appeared before the Council of Constance where he was condemned and was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

The story behind the issuance of these two stamps is somewhat unusual. Alfons Mucha originally designed the stamp as a single issue with a 100h denomination. The numerals appeared in the lower left and lower right corners with the following text between them: "*Droite a la Coupe*" (The Rights of the Chalice).

Some government officials argued that only the Czech language should appear on stamps of Czechoslovakia. Still others believed that the text offended those who embraced the Catholic faith. The words were therefore omitted from the final design. Furthermore, members of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications felt there were ample stamps already in circulation with the 100h denomination. Since the Hussite Priest raised a few eyebrows among religious non-reformists, the denominations of 80h and 90h were agreed upon inasmuch as the need for those values was generally small. Finally, when the two stamps were issued, one major political party objected to their issuance. This objection was circumvented by a compromise under which only a limited number



Fig. 1

of post offices throughout the country were to be supplied with the stamps, which would remain valid for postal use for only ten months. This was done despite the fact that more than four million copies of each stamp were printed. However, a large supply of the Hussite Priest in both values was retained in Prague's main post office where they could be purchased at face value through 1935. It is for that reason that, although the stamps themselves are readily available even today, covers bearing those stamps are not at all common.

Statistically, the stamps were printed by neotype in sheets of 100. The 80h is purple; the 90h, brownish black. These colors, along with the design, make them appear somewhat drab and unattractive. These stamps were line perforated 13 3/4 as well as imperforated. Issued in June 1920 and withdrawn from official use in April 1921, they are probably the least popular of the First Republic sets.

The stories behind many stamps can be as fascinating as the stamps themselves. In this case the story accompanying the issuance of the Hussite Priest stamps is even more fascinating. What a treasure lies in store for the new collector of Czechoslovak philately!

The Early Masaryks

When referring to Czechoslovakia, we think of Thomas Garrigue Masaryk as the "Father of the Country". He, above all others, led the pre-Armistice campaign to bring the Czechs and Slovaks under one banner to establish Czechoslovakia as a free nation. He was the driving force behind Woodrow Wilson's plan for a post-War Europe in 1918. His reward, as we all know, was to be the Republic's first President. It is, therefore, logical that his picture appear on some of the country's earliest stamps. The first Masaryk stamp has been previously mentioned [See

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Summer Issue, page 15], but some more information on this first Masaryk stamp may be of some interest.

The first day of issue was March 7, 1920, for the last two stamps, and August 23, 1920, for the 125h stamp. The set was withdrawn from circulation on January 31, 1923. The 500h has a slate color and was printed in a quantity of 525,000. The 1000h stamp was dark brown with 5,000,000 copies printed. The 125h had a blue color and an ample quantity of 17,590,000. The quantity in this instance should alert the newcomer to Czechoslovak philately of their relative value. It should also



Fig. 1

be borne in mind that a limited quantity of each stamp was overprinted "SO 1920". This overprint will be mentioned later on.

Another noteworthy Masaryk set was the one issued on October 27, 1923, in a quantity of only 140,000, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Republic's independence. It appeared in denominations of 50h, 100h, 200h, and 300h. (See Figure 1). On May 11, 1925, the first three stamps were overprinted "*Congres Olymp. Internat. -- Praha 1925*" and on June 1, 1926, the entire set was overprinted "*VIII Slet Vsesokolský - Praha 1926*".

This set led to the release of another related Masaryk issue comprising three stamps with denominations of 40h, 50h, and 60h. (See Figure 2). Apart from the denominations, see if you can distinguish the differences in design between this set and the one in Figure 1.

Just to complicate matters, the set shown in Figure 1 was reissued together with the set shown in Figure 2 but with different values (1k, 2k, 3k, and 5k) and in no less than seven different Types. These Types vary in size and, in some instances, in color and perforation.



Fig. 2

But what is most important about these last two sets is that they are the first stamps of Czechoslovakia to be produced on watermarked paper. The watermark is of linden leaves, the linden tree being the country's national tree. There are eight different positions of watermarks on these stamps, and they are shown in Figure 3.

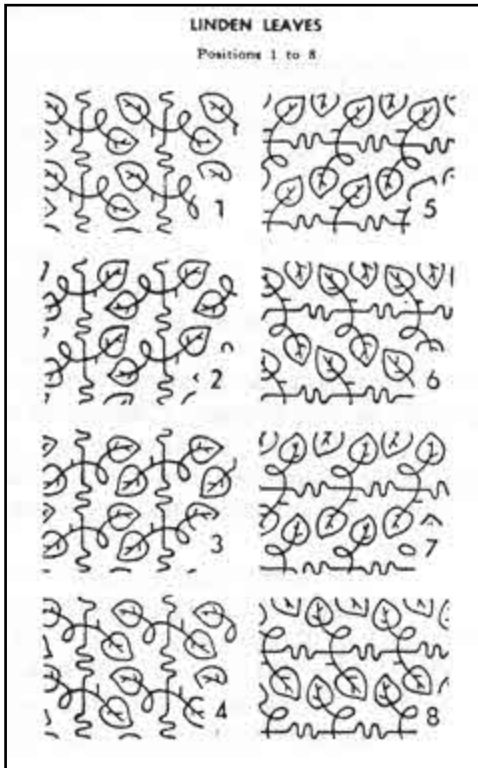


Fig. 3

Henry Hahn's publication, *Stamps with a Portrait of T.G. Masaryk*. This booklet can be purchased from the book sales manager of our Society. [*Sorry, currently out of print.*]

If you are using a Scott catalogue, these definitives are numbered 95 through 108 and B133 through B143, a total of 28 stamps. The first three of these stamps were produced by photogravure and the rest were engraved, there being four different engravings. In order to properly identify individual stamps in this series, very close attention must be given, under magnification, to the size of the stamp, perforations, watermark positions, and the distinctive marks of the different engravings.

As mentioned before, the first Masaryk stamp was first placed on sale March 7, 1925, on the 75th birthday of President Masaryk, and special postmarks in red were used on covers bearing these stamps in the cities of Praha 1, Košice 1, Opava 1, and Pardubice 1. These postmarks were used for one day only and are not to be confused with favor cancellations.

I would suggest that any collector who has a special interest in the Masaryk stamps obtain a copy of

(To Be Continued)



President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

From our Bylaws:

"The Secretary shall be in charge of all official correspondence between the Society and its members (past, present, and prospective), shall maintain a complete and current membership list, shall take minutes of all board meetings, and shall furnish a typed copy of the minutes to each board member in a timely manner. The Secretary shall edit and approve all official notices to be published in The Specialist, or other philatelic publications. The Secretary shall be charged with the collection and preservation of all general records and official documents of the Society, except as otherwise herein provided. The Secretary shall keep records of members and issue membership cards."

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In addition, the Secretary must: have Internet, e-mail, and PayPal access and knowledge; be willing and able to attend Board Meetings (held in conjunction with a major philatelic show somewhere in the USA, normally only once a year); and have a reasonable amount of filing space to hold the Society's official records, files, etc.

If you believe that you might be able to help us with these functions and have questions, please do not hesitate to call (303-680-7118) or write me (Lousvoboda@comcast.net).

Third, we are encountering difficulties in being able to get the philatelic books that we have available for you from the Czech Republic at a reasonable cost. Not only have the actual costs of the books gone up significantly, but mailing them from there has become prohibitively expensive. For a number of years now, our member, Jirí Majer, has been bringing us books every time he has come to the USA to conduct his philatelic auction business (Majer Auctions). Here we have run into trouble because of the tightening restrictions on luggage weights and fees for additional bags. Again, the costs are becoming expensive, adding potentially \$5 or more to the cost of a book, if we can get them.

Here is how you can help. If you are planning a trip to the Czech Republic anytime in the next year or so, would you be willing to include a few books in your luggage for the trip back home, and then mail them to our book sales manager at the reduced USPS book rate? We believe that we can make arrangements to get them to you while you are in Prague. If you are willing to help, please contact our book sales manager, Savoy Horvath (his contact information is on the back cover of every *Specialist*), or contact me if you would like.

And finally, I have almost given up hope of finding someone to take my place as editor (I am going into my 15th year). If I am not able to find someone pretty soon, I will just have to resign without a replacement. Without a *Specialist*, I have serious doubts whether the Society will be able to continue -- even though it has been in existence for 71 years now.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda



Letters to the Editor

1. Hi Lou:

I was quite surprised today while talking to another collector. I used the term "surcharged" and "overprinted", and he thought the two terms were synonymous. Well, both do mean the stamp has undergone a second printing process, but differ in what information that second printing process added to the stamp. A surcharge always changes the denomination of a stamp, while an overprint adds information but no new denomination. For those who would find this information useful, here are three examples. The first stamp is overprinted "O.T.", the second stamp is surcharged "200", and the third stamp is overprinted "Noviny" and surcharged "5".

Of course, there is a famous exception to this rule. When the red 20h Liberated Republic was overprinted DOPLATIT and surcharged 50h, someone



made a mistake and used a single sheet of red 50h stamps instead of the red 20h stamps. While the overprint changed the stamps into postage due stamps, the printer's error in adding a 50h surcharge to a stamp that was already 50h made them very, very valuable as a collector's item.

Regards,
Mark (Wilson)

[Ed. Note: Here are a few other interesting facts about this exception. Note that both the 20h and 50h stamps were the same color, red, and that they were the same design. Thus it was relatively easy for a sheet of the 50h stamps to get mixed in to the stack of 20h stamp sheets. Contributing to this error being overlooked was the fact that the new denominations were printed right over the previous ones. This entire sheet was sent to a suburb town of Prague (Holešovice) with a single post office (PRAHA 14 cancel) which used them for normal postage due needs. To this day only about 17 used copies are known. If you look in the current Scott catalog for J-52a, you will see that they have it listed at \$55,000.]

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Book Review

Josef Novák: My Struggle for Freedom

This English language text was published to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Free Czechoslovak Soldiers and Airmen in the United Kingdom in 1940. Josef Novák was born in 1923 in the Těšín area of Czechoslovakia, and in October 1938 his area was occupied by Polish forces. Chapter 2 of the book is thus headed “In Bondage to the Poles”. On 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland and Josef’s area came under direct German rule. In 1941 the family were placed on the “Volkstlist” meaning that Josef was liable for service in the German Army. This happened a few months later, and he saw service with a veterinary unit in France, on the Russian Front and back in France. His chance came after D Day when he was able to surrender to British forces. He was sent to the UK, trained there, and returned to France in time to join the Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade around the enclave at Dunkirk. Such was his contributions to that campaign, he received the Military Medal from King George VI. With the end of the war he returned to Czechoslovakia but was successful in escaping in 1948 and returning to the British Isles where he developed a business career.

This is a valuable volume in that it covers the Czech-Polish border problems in 1938 and in the detailed account given of fighting around Dunkirk before VE Day. It is recommended to all with an interest in modern Czechoslovak history. All profits from this publication will accrue to the ACLA.

Richard Beith

Published by Keele, Melandrium Books, 2010, on behalf of The Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Abroad (ACLA). No ISBN. Available from ACLA, 11 Highway Lane, Keele, Staffs ST5 5AN, England. Price US \$17 by surface mail, US \$20 by air mail. Please send as US dollar bills. Inquiries to: j.m.kolbert@ext.keele.ac.uk

[Ed. Note: I have included this book review for those collectors who are interested in the Eastern Silesia area and its history.]

ADVERTISEMENT

Wanted for Exhibit

Czech machine and slogan cancels and event cancels of the First Republic Period. Please send scan and price to:

sfriedenthal@shaw.ca

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!!!

As is specified in our Bylaws, it is the time of year for our Society to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in an election of five (5) of our fifteen (15) Board of Director positions.

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by two (2) members of the Society (other than themselves) whose signatures shall be affixed to a nominating petition. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue as a separate sheet. The names of the term-ending board members and of the remaining board members are as follows:

Term Ending: Tom Cossaboom, Savoy Horvath, John Pojeta, Susan Smyth-Tucker, Ludvik Svoboda
 Remaining: Marisa Galitz, H. Alan Hoover, Robert Koschalk, Frederick P. Lawrence, Edwin W. Lehecka, Richard P. Livingston, Richard Palaschak, Philip Rhoades, Jaroslav J. Verner, Olech W. Wyslowsky

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. If you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing
2. The nominee must have given his consent to be nominated
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board meeting location specified by the President
4. It is preferred that the nominee have an e-mail address on the Internet system
5. The petition originator must see to finding another member to sign the petition
6. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of January 2011.

After filling out the enclosed petition form and getting another member's signature, mail it to our Secretary, Philip Rhoades, 905 E. Oakside Street, South Bend, IN 46614. Make sure that it reaches him no later than the last day of January 2011.



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Savoy Horvath:

-- The September *Scott Stamp Monthly* shows on page 40 that Austria has issued a Hradčany stamp (#2250) as well as a stamp for Czech composer Gustav Mahler (#2256).

2. From *The Prague Post*, October 6-12, 2010 issue we get the following news. "The Czech women's basketball team stunned the world and brought President Václav Klaus to tears at the Women's World Championship that ended in Karlovy Vary Oct. 3. [See the first stamp in the *New Issues* column about a stamp in honor

of the Czech's hosting this championship.] The Czechs fully capitalized on home court advantage and for the third time played in the final. Although a powerful U.S. team eventually ended the Czech gold medal hopes Oct. 3, winning 89-69, the loss could not spoil a general sense of joy with a silver medal finish. . . . The U.S. Team won their eighth World Championship title in Karlovy Vary. Meanwhile, the Czechs celebrated only their third-ever silver medal at the World Championship. The last time was when the Czechoslovak team advanced to the finals, before losing, in 1971." [*What this means is that there will inevitably be another Czech Republic stamp this year to honor the silver medal team victory.*]



ERRATA

-- In the Summer 2010 issue, page 1, Table of Contents, item 4., there should be added "(Part 1)".

-- In the Summer 2010 issue, page 12, title of the article, there should be added "**(Part 1)**".

-- In the Summer 2010 issue, page 17, there are two errors. In the first paragraph, the end of line 9, the correct stamp denomination should have been 60h rather than 100h. And, at the end of the second paragraph, there should have been a "(to be continued)".



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 1, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp for "FIBA Basketball Championship for Women -- Czech Republic 2010" (Fig. 1). On the stamp are depicted two basketball players with a ball jumping for the basket. Czechoslovakia was one of the eight founding members of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) in 1932. Prague (YMCA gym, Na Poříčí 12) was the venue of the first international tournament, attended by Czechoslovak, Italian and Palestinian representatives. After the end of WW II international basketball competitions started at the continental as well as world levels. The first championship where we won our first medal was held in Rio de Janeiro -- we won the bronze medal. This year -- the 16th FIBA Basketball Championship for Women will be held from September 23 to October 3, 2010 in the Czech Republic. In this



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

tournament will participate players from all continents of the world. The competition venue for all of the positional games including the finals will take place in Karlovy Vary in the KV Arena. The preliminary rounds will be played in Ostrava-Vítkovice ČEZ Arena and in Brno City Hall. Thus, the Czech Republic will host a world basketball championship for women after 43 years; the 1967 event (in the then Czechoslovakia) was also commemorated with a stamp. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in red, blue, yellow, and black in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown-black shows a stylistic drawing of a basketball player with a ball (Fig. 2).

2. On September 1, 2010, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet "Nature Protection: The Lower Morava -- A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve" with 4 stamps and 3 labels (Fig. 3). In 2003 the Committee of the International Coordination Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program in Paris approved the extension of the Pálava Biosphere Reserve to include the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape and the floodplain forests at the confluence of the Morava and Dyje rivers. The newly designated area, covering over 300km², was renamed the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, an area including several unique ecosystems. It encompasses a number of areas of national as well as international importance, such as the area of the European system Natura 2000, the wetlands registered under the Ramsar Treaty or a couple of natural parks: Mikulčice Floodplain and Niva-Dyje. The souvenir sheet was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset combined with black engraving.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

-- 10 Kč -- *Tichodroma muraria* (bird), *Papilio machaon* (butterfly) and *Aster amellus* (flower). A FDC in dark red shows *Anemone sylvestris* and Děvín hill (Fig. 4).

-- 12 Kč -- *Saga pedo* (grasshopper) and *Iris variegata* (flower). A FDC in blue shows *Orobancha alba* and Svatý Kopeček (Holy Hill)(Fig. 5).

-- 14 Kč -- *Lacerta viridis* (lizard) and *Pulsatilla grandis* (flower). A FDC in dark-violet shows *Iris pumila* and Kočící Skála (Kitten Cliff)(Fig. 6).



Fig. 3

-- 18 Kč -- *Upupa epops* (bird) and *Arenaria grandiflora* (flower). A FDC in olive-green shows *Orlaya grandiflora* and Šíroctí Hrádek (Fig. 7). Three labels complete the composition of the sheet. They show various flowers, butterflies, and a bird.

3. On September 1, 2010, the Ministry issued a definitive literal postage stamp “A” with labels for additional printing “Development of Philately” (Fig. 8). The stamp depicts a boy and a girl examining an album full of postage stamps. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

The right upper label depicts a sailboat with sails made of postage stamps. On the date of issue the other 11 labels will bear motifs relating to the picture on the stamp (as is shown here). A stamp with a denomination of “A” corresponds to the postal rate of the ordinary domestic letter (up to 50 g, amounting to 10 Kč). A part of the sheet will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and was produced by the Optys Printing House, Ltd. by offset in yellow, red, brown, and black. A FDC in dark-blue shows a collector’s motif -- a magnifying glass with a small pile of postage stamps (Fig. 9).



Fig. 10

4. On September 1, 2010, the Ministry issued a definitive literal postage stamp “E” with labels for additional printing “Development of Philately” (Fig. 10). The stamp depicts a young boy examining a stamp with interest using a magnifying glass. The stamp will be issued as with the previous one. The right upper label depicts a magnifying glass with postage stamps.

The other labels will bear motifs of the International Exhibition The Collector (Sběratel) (as shown). A stamp with the denomination of “E” corresponds to the postal rate for an ordinary letter (up to 20 g, amounting to 20 Kč) going to another European country. **Beginning this date the “E” rate has increased from 17 Kč to 20 Kč.** Again, a part of the sheet will have blank labels for customer use. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and was



Fig. 11

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produced by the Optys Printing House, Ltd. by offset in yellow, red, brown, and black. A FDC in four-color offset shows three children’s drawings on the theme of collecting, and the logo of the International Exhibition (Fig. 11).

5. On September 1, 2010, the Ministry issued a definitive literal postage stamp “A” with labels for additional printing “Čtyřlístek” (the four-leaf-clover)(Fig. 12). On the stamp is depicted the whole foursome of friends from the comic Čtyřlístek. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The right upper label depicts a



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

“postal submarine” with friends from Čtyřlístek, delivering a letter to an octopus. The other 11 labels will bear motifs relating to the picture on the stamp: Myšpulín with a mailbag and Fifinka with a little heart and a letter. The rate “A” corresponds to the domestic rate up to 50 g and thus 10 Kč currently. A part of the labels will be blank for customer use. The stamp was designed by Jaroslav Němeček and produced by the Optys Printing House, Ltd., by multicolored offset. A FDC in multicolored offset shows a “mail van” running on little legs bearing the whole bunch of Čtyřlístek characters with a pile of packages (Fig. 13).

6. On September 15, 2010, the Ministry issued two definitive stamps from the series “The Beauty of Flowers” (Fig. 14). The stamp with the Iris is denominated 25 Kč and the Tulip is 30 Kč. The stamps were designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 100 pieces. The iris is printed in yellow, violet, green, and black, while the tulip is in yellow, red, green, and black.



Fig. 14

7. On September 29, 2010, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the “Personalities” series. The stamps were designed by Vladimír Novák, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 10 Kč: Adolf Branald (1910-2008), prose writer, playwright and author of children’s books (Fig. 15). Colors:



Fig. 15

black (recess print), dark-blue, dark-purple, yellow. Adolf Branald was born in Prague. He was the son of Richard Branald, actor, theater director and playwright, and actress Marie Branaldová. As a child he lived in Prague, Plzeň, and accompanied his parents who were members of different theater, operetta and opera companies on their travels. After the war he worked as a press manager at



Fig. 16

the Transport Ministry, and as an editor with the publishing house Československý Spisovatel (1952 to 1959). He became a professional writer after 1960, but ten years later his books were banished by the communist regime. Together with his father he wrote several plays performed by amateur actors. As a professional writer he focused on ordinary people and realistic works. His first independent work was a novel “Stříbrná Paruka” (Silver Wig) in 1947 and the last one was his memoirs “Tichý Společník” (Silent Partner) published in 2005 when he was 95 years old. Some of his works have been made into films, for example “Dědeček Automobil” (Grandfather’s Automobile). A FDC in black shows a stylistic illustration from the book by Adolf Branald “Dědeček Automobil” (Fig. 16).

-- 12 Kč: Karel Zeman (1910-1989), film director, graphic designer, puppeteer, animator and advertising designer (Fig. 17). Colors: black (recess print), blue, red, yellow. Karel Zeman was a business school graduate, he attended a course of advertising drawing. He started his career as a film maker by shooting amateur puppet films at home. He started professional at Zlín Film Ateliers with film tricks and animations which made him famous all over the world only in 1943. A number of his films are respected in the world. They are unique through their creativity and special effects. To the most famous belong



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

“Vynález Zkázy” (The Fabulous World of Jules Verne), Cesta do Pravěku (Journey to Prehistory, in which his figures of prehistoric animals were based on scientific drawings), Baron Prášil (The Fabulous World of Jules Verne), Na Kometě (Off on the Comet), etc. His first puppet film, the poetic “Vánoční Sen (Christmas Dream), won the Best Animation Award at the International Film Festival in Cannes. A FDC in black shows fragments from the works by Karel Zeman (Fig. 18).

8. On September 29, 2010, the Ministry issued a definitive literal postage stamp “A” for “Postal Museum” (Fig. 19). On the stamp is depicted the hand-painted tin postal oval shield with the emblem of the Austrian Postal Administration (Hapsburg Eagle and the postal horn) and the Czech-German inscription C.k. postal and telegraph office (C.k. Poštovní a telegrafní úřad -- K.k. Post und Telegrafen Amt). The shield is from the reign of Emperor Franz Joseph I (FJI initials placed on the chest eagle), probably from 1870. In the background of this

drawing is a postal map and around the shield are the postal elves holding in their hands typical postal objects -- envelopes, a postmark and a postal horn. The introduction of postage stamps in the Austrian Monarchy took a long time and before it was realized in 1850 the whole range of difficulties and misunderstandings had to be overcome. Long before that date, several officials suggested the introduction of postage stamps, but their cries fell on deaf ears. On September 14, 1849, the Minister of Commerce,



Fig. 19

Industry and Public Works, Baron Karl Ludwig Bruck, super-ordinate to the postal administration, submitted to the Emperor Franz Joseph I the detailed report from the meeting of representatives of the Ministry, Postal Administration and state Printing House, and informed him of their decision to introduce postage stamps. At the same time the Ministry instructed Johann Jacob Herz (inspector of the postal administration in Lower Austria) to examine at foreign postal administrations -- who were already using postal stamps -- their function and experiences. In May 1849, Herz made a trip to England, Belgium, France, and Bavaria, and brought back a positive message -- all countries were satisfied with the introduction of stamps mainly because of administrative simplification. On September 25, Franz Joseph I signed the decree on their introduction and related changes in rates of letter post. On February 5, 1850, the director of the court and state Printing House in Vienna, the governmental administrator Alois Auer von Welsbach obtained an order to start their production. Even until now, it is impossible to definitely say who actually designed the first

Austrian postage stamp. Today, the author of the idea is considered to be Johann Jacob Herz, who created the final form of the stamp and submitted it for approval. An unknown painter or employee of the state printing house probably created sketches of the stamp in the proposed size and also in an enlarged scale. The shape of the stamp with the state emblem was framed by laurel and oak branchlets and in the field below there was a place to show the value. In order to distinguish different values, different colors were used. The stamp was designed by Prof. Dušan Kállay, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in



Fig. 20

Prague by multicolored offset with a linear drawing in black in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC in brown shows a postal carriage, a postilion in uniform pattern No. 1838, postal elves holding envelopes, and a dog running next to the postal carriage (Fig. 20).

9. On September 29, 2010, the Ministry issued a definitive 4 Kč postage stamp from the "Beauty of Flowers" series showing an Anemone (Fig. 21). The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black



Fig. 21

combined with photogravure in blue, green, violet, and yellow in printing sheets of 100 pieces.

10. On October 20, 2010, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series for Bridges. The stamps were designed by Jan Ungrád, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 22

-- 10 Kč: Cable-stayed bridge in Ústí nad Labem (Fig. 22). Colors: dark blue (recess print), light blue, blue and dark blue. The cable-stayed bridge in Ústí nad Labem, called the Mariánský Bridge, designed by the renowned architecture studio Roman Koucký, is one of the most distinctive and disputed projects built in the post-November 1989 Czech Republic. Following years of lengthy discussions about location

of the bridge, the city councilors decided to place it under the Mariánská Rock, a site best suited for the bridge's main role, i.e. combining the city's three quarters -- the city center, Krásné Březno on the left bank and Střekov on the right bank of the Labe river. The 70m high bridge was built in 1993 to 1998 and became the city's new dominant. The height is not the only feature attracting the attention of people: the impossible-to-overlook system of steel cables suspending the 170m long bridge is similarly provoking. The architect designed the number of cables, the height and shape of the pylon not only with respect to static but also to his artistic visions. For instance, the height of the pylon was to counterbalance the Mariánská Rock on the other side of the river. It also matches the height of the tower of the gothic church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary nearby. According to Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE), it is one of the ten most beautiful world buildings from the 1990's. It has also become the most expensive local project in the area of transport infrastructure since 1948, financed by a city. The city had to postpone the project of reconstruction of the Mírové Square and other projects. Last year the bridge changed owners: it has become the property of the Road and Motorway Directorate of the Czech Republic as of June 26, 2008. A FDC in dark blue shows a detail of the anchoring of one of the carrying cables of the bridge (Fig. 23).

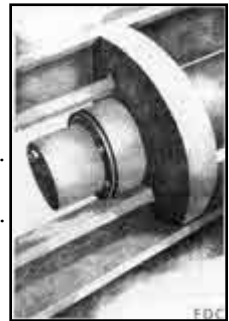


Fig. 23



Fig. 24

-- 12 Kč: Historic bridge in Písek (Fig. 24). Colors: dark green (recess print), light green, green, and dark green. The historic bridge in Písek, or the Stone Bridge (also known as the Stag Bridge) is the oldest still standing stone bridge in Bohemia. The bridge, spanning the Otava river, was the second stone bridge in Bohemia (after the already not existing Judith bridge in Prague). The exact date of its building is unknown, but the style is gothic. It was

first mentioned in writing in 1348 when Charles IV ordered the town councilors to use fines collected in the town for maintenance of the bridge. A couple of gates with towers protected the bridge as well as the present historic town center on either side. The left-hand tower was destroyed by the flood of 1768, the other one succumbed to wear and tear in 1825. The bridge is adorned by copies of the original, mostly 18th century baroque sculptures and the Cavalry. The 6.3m wide structure, slightly bulging up the river, consists of six arches spanning 111 meters, built on pillars with an upward save edge. The normal height above the water level is 5.5m. As one of the few medieval bridges, still standing and used in Central Europe, the stone bridge is a unique rarity. A FDC in gray depicts the baroque statue of St. John Nepomuk, one of the sculptures placed on the middle part of the bridge (Fig. 25).



Fig. 25

11. On October 20, 2010, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps from the Crafts issue on the theme of Historic 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.



Fig. 26

-- 10 Kč: Art Nouveau stoves (1920), the museum Troubky-Zdislavice (Fig. 26). Colors: black (recess print), gray, ocher, green, red. Art Nouveau, considered as the last comprehensive style, tried to replace the existing academic historicism with new, original ornaments. Art Nouveau gradually expanded into all areas of decorative art, glazed-tile stoves included. The architecture of Art Nouveau stoves, with its rather cold structuring in comparison with certain other historical styles, is not revolutionary. What makes it rich, however, are the gentle and noble ornaments covering the glazed tiles. The rich vegetable decorations of typical Art Nouveau stoves, including this South Moravian one, are a unique feature distinguishing them from other styles. The cast iron door whose decor often becomes a part

of the overall art design is another special feature of Art Nouveau stoves. At the same time metal doors signal an alternative material that began to gain ground in the contemporary production of stoves.

-- 20 Kč: Art Deco stoves (1939), the chateau Nové Město nad Metují (Fig. 27). Colors: black (recess print), ocher, blue, red, green. As indicated by the variety of its names, the Czech version of the Art Deco style had its special features. The names, such as rondocubism, curved or national style, show the embarrassment of theoreticians in naming this local style orientation. In any case, the common denominator was the bombastic decorativeness, occasionally inspired with folklore. Stoves had a form similar to the contemporary architecture.



Fig. 27

The predominant material, used in the already large-scale production of Art Deco stoves, was enamelled sheet iron. The occasional burnt clay stoves, intended by the author as an original piece, represent the final stage of the unbroken historical line of glazed-tile stoves' development starting in the Middle Ages. The ceramic cover of the heating body in the chateau in Nové Město nad Metují, created by Helena Johnová in 1939, is an example of the latter category.

Stoves from the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods are presented on the FDC's in analysis -- in the phase of being created -- and the human figure is in the role of a builder. The interior is characterized by typical decorative motifs. The FDC for the 10 Kč stamp shows a stove still preserved until now in an apartment house in Brno from the beginning of the 20th century (Fig. 28). From among several preserved tiled stoves in this apartment house, a green-glazed stove with a plant motif was preferred. Although the Art Deco style is younger than the Art Nouveau, it was very difficult to find a tiled Art Deco stove from this period. One of the reasons is the fact that at that time, the metal stoves began to be preferred and therefore the designer of the cachet part of the FDC for the 20 Kč stamp shows the ideal type of stove from this period (Fig. 29).



Fig. 28

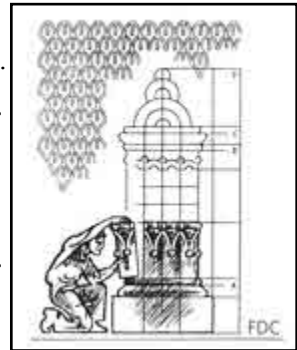


Fig. 29

12. On October 20, 2010, the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with definitive postage stamps with imprinted letter "A" from the edition of the original Czech comic book Čtyřlístek (the four-leaf-clover)(Fig. 30). The theme of this stamp booklet is "Myšpulín" (Fig. 31). On the stamp is "the tomcat-inventor" Myšpulín. He is warming a flask with a solution

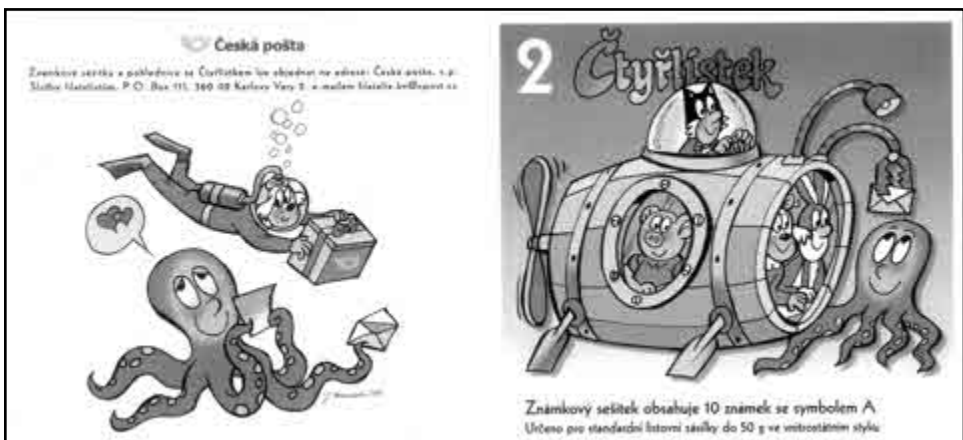


Fig. 30



Fig. 31

which by its chemical reaction creates in the ampoule a posy made from the stars of the fireworks. Myšpulín is another of the small characters to appear on stamps, and he will be followed by the other “boys” from Čtyřlístek: Bobík and Pinda. The stamp was designed by Jaroslav Němeček, who is also the creator of the cult comic book series Čtyřlístek. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in self-adhesive definitive stamp booklets of 10 pieces. A FDC in multicolored offset depicts Myšpulín sitting in a “walking armchair” which is pulling a cart of packages. In the background there is a silhouette of the castle Bezzub in Třeskopsky.

Stationery

13. On September 1, 2010, the Ministry issued a commemorative picture postal card with an imprinted “Fifinka” non-denominated “A” stamp (see Summer 2010 issue, pg 32, Fig. 21) honoring Pinda. On the front side of the picture postal card is a picture of Třeskopsky -- the village where the four friends live and over this landscape all of the friends are flying in their “pedal plane” (Fig. 32). In the right part of the card is a reproduction of the prepared literal stamp “A” with Pinda. Pinda is another of the small figures from the cult comic magazine Čtyřlístek issued for more than forty years. Pinda is the youngest figure from Čtyřlístek, and therefore he sometimes needs help of his older and more experienced friends. He is slim and he runs very well. He has already won several championships in running. Often he is afraid, but he always overcomes his fear thanks to the courage of his friends. On the address side of the card under the stamp there is a microline with the Czech microtext “Czech Post PTC, 2010”. The postal card was designed by Jaroslav Němeček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

14. On September 15, 2010, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted literal postage stamp “E” with the picture of the historic post-coach at the Charles Bridge (Fig. 33). The card is for commercial and promotional purposes with a free

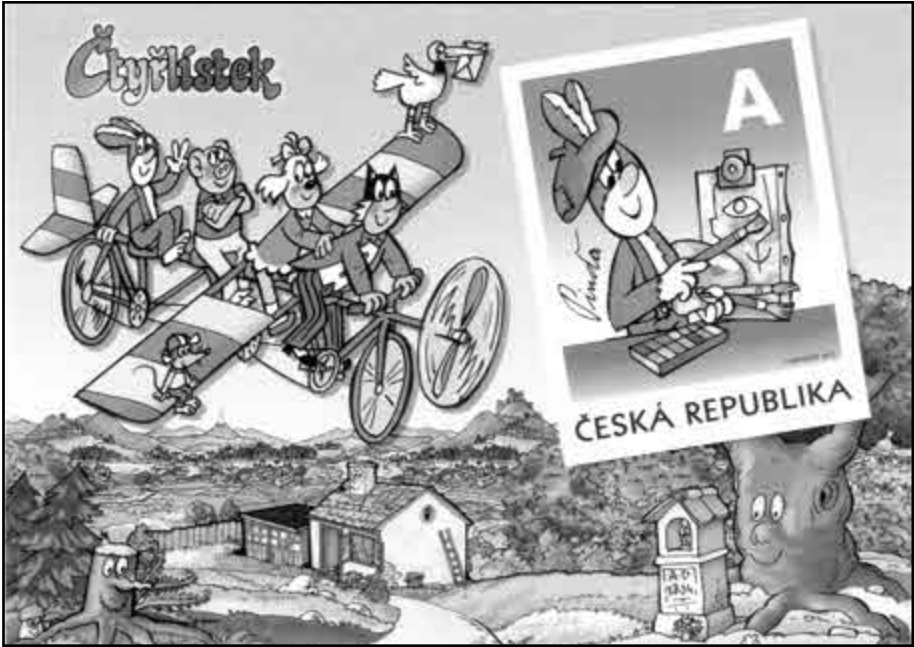


Fig. 32

left portion for additional printing. As of September 1, the “E” denomination is for an ordinary letter -- up to 20 g -- going to European countries and amounts to 20

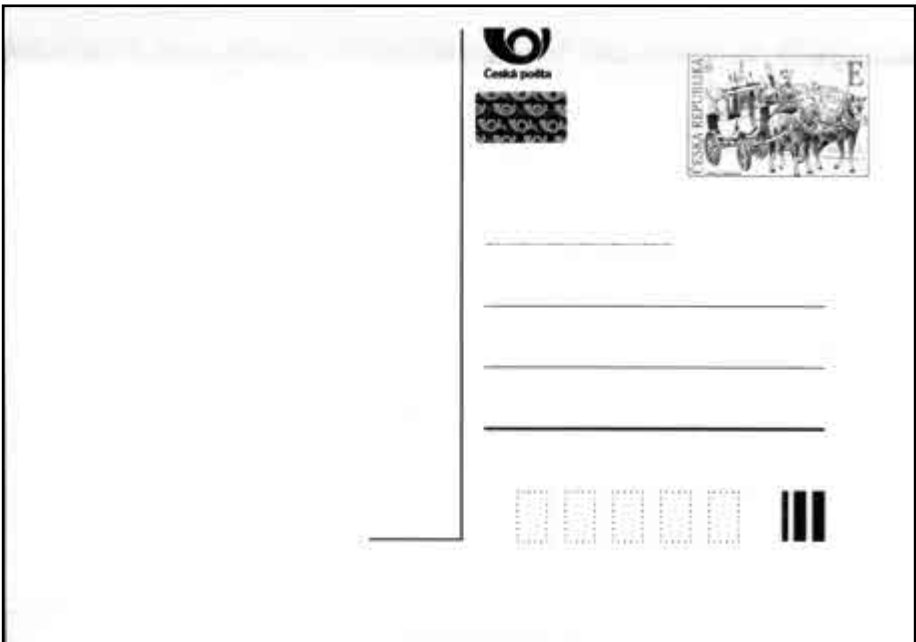


Fig. 33

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Kc (previously it corresponded to 17 Kč). The card was designed by Jaroslav Němeček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

15. On September 15, 2010, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card for correspondence with an imprinted non-denominated “A” stamp for the “International Astronautical Congress IAC 2010” (Fig. 34). From September 24 to October 1, 2010, the 61st International Astronautical Congress IAC 2010 will be held in the Prague Congress Center. The Czech Republic will organize this congress again after 33 years. This time, the congress will be organized by the Czech Space Office. About 2000 scientists and experts from all over the world are registered. The theme of the imprinted stamp is the night sky with a comet and

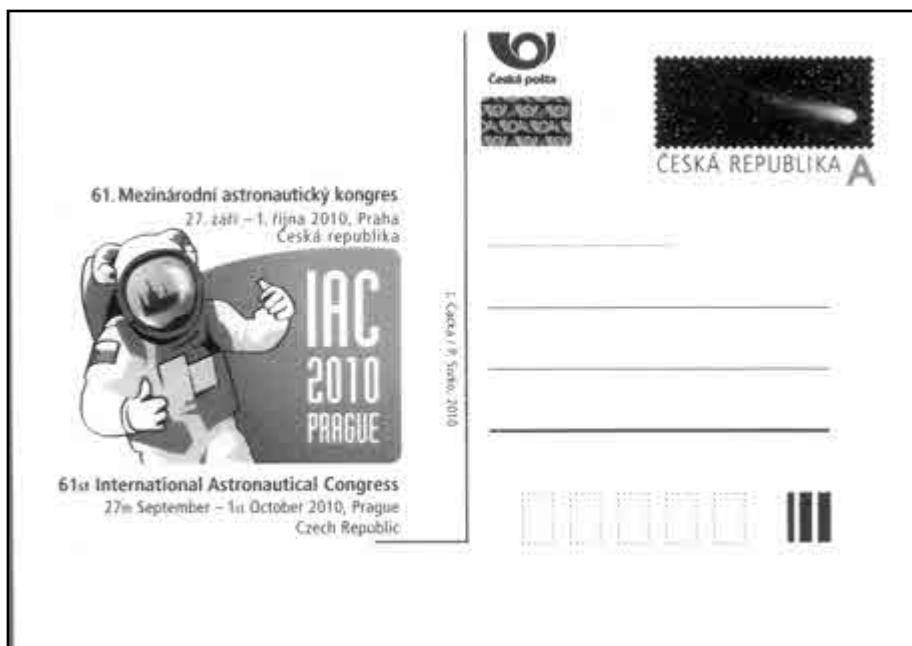


Fig. 34

stars. On the left part of the postal card is the Czech and English name of the Congress, its term and venue. Between these is a picture of an astronaut in a space suit with the Czech flag on the right arm, and the Hradčany reflected in the visor. The card was designed by J. Cacka and P. Sivko and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

16. On September 15, 2010, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card for correspondence with an imprinted non-denominated “A” stamp for the “National Philatelic Exhibition Dobříš 2010” (Fig. 35). From September 16-19, 2010, the National Philatelic Exhibition under the auspices of the Czech Philatelic Union will be held in the castle Dobříš. The participants will compete in all competition classes including youth according to the rules of the CPU. The theme of the

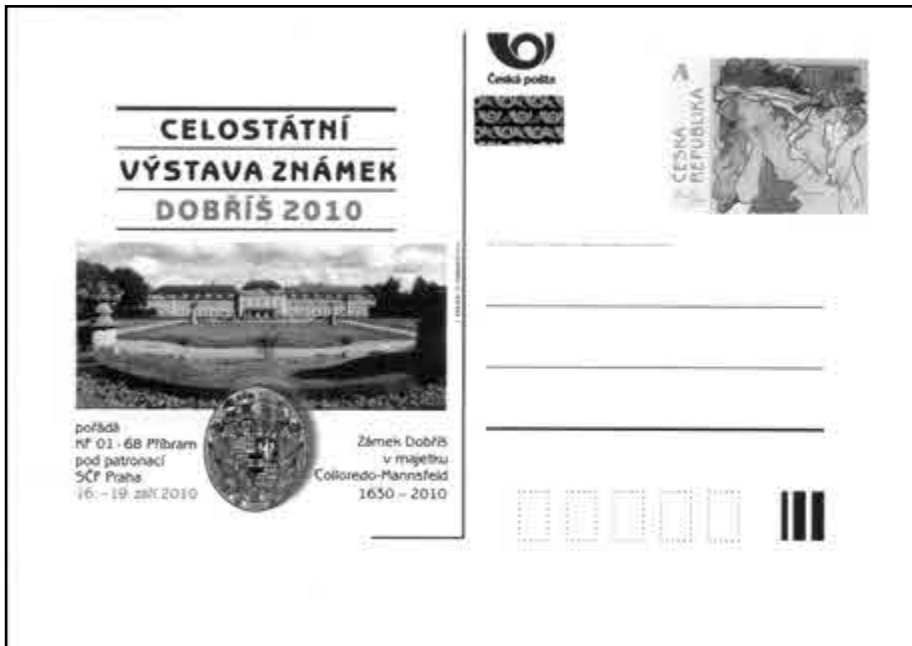


Fig. 35

imprinted stamp is a motif from the poster by Alfons Mucha, Salon des Cent: 20th Exhibition. In the left part of the postal card is a picture of the castle Dobříš where the exhibition will be held. This castle has been in possession of the house Colloredo-Mannsfeld, 1630-2010, whose coat-of-arms is shown under the image of the castle. This important rococo chateau, designed by the French architect Jules Robert de Cotte in 1745, completed in 1765, is located in the industrial town of Dobříš. The chateau once had a large English garden attached to the house, but it is now a public park. But the house itself, together with its surrounding French Garden (containing statuary by I.F. Platzer)(Fig. 36) is reserved for members of the Czech Union of Writers and cannot be visited. It was at a meeting of young writers held in Dobříš in the autumn of 1956 that the future playwright and Czech president Václav Havel first drew attention to himself, making a controversial speech on the ambiguous relationship between official and suppressed literature. One of the most famous of all Czech writers this century, Karel Čapek (1890-1938), acquired in 1935 a country cottage 3km SE of Dobříš at Strž. He and his wife (whom he had married that year following a long friendship dating back to the early 1920's) devoted an enormous amount of energy to improving and looking after the land which came with the house. However, he was to die only three years later, literally heartbroken by Chamberlain's betrayal of Czechoslovakia (September 1938). The postal card was designed by L. Krejčík and O. Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

17. On October 20, 2010, the Ministry issued a commemorative picture postal card with an imprinted "Fifinka" non-denominated "A" stamp (see Summer 2010 issue, pg 32, Fig. 21) honoring Myšpulín. On the front side of the picture postal card is a

picture of the snow-covered Třeskopský -- the village where the four friends live and over this landscape all of the friends are flying in a red "play-car" (Fig. 37). In the right part of the card is a reproduction of the prepared literal stamp "A" with Myšpulín. Myšpulín is the last small figure from the cult comic magazine Čtyřlístek, who terminates the series of picture postal cards issued for this theme. Myšpulín is a professor, a steadfast inventor with an infinite fantasy, but also a polymath and a follower of medieval alchemists. Therefore, it is not any surprise that his passion for literature is the essence of his personality -- of course it is almost exclusively the professional, respectively



Fig. 36

scientific one. Like any similar type of person Myšpulín is a little unpractical, scatterbrained and untidy. He is not able to arrange his books appropriately, on



Fig. 37

the contrary, his books are placed sloppily and when he needs some of them he searches it furiously, sometimes with the help of the three remaining inhabitants of the home in Třeskoprsky. The postal card was designed by Jaroslav Němeček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

18. On September 17, 2010, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.40 € commemorative stamp with a personalized coupon for the “Castle of Topolčany” (Fig. 38). The castle ruins in Topolčany do not belong to the most well-known monuments of medieval architecture. One of the reasons could be the fact that besides the building materials, almost no specific architectural segments have been preserved. Nevertheless, the ruins were an extremely important example of castle defense works practically from the end of the 13th century until the 17th century. The ruins of Topolčany castle, which are situated on the rock above the village of Podhradie [*which literally means ‘under-the-castle’*], consist of a high residential tower surrounded by a semicircular wall with well-preserved hoarding [*temporary wooden fence*]. A couple of years later this wall was enclosed by an outer ward with arrow slits. The oldest construction works -- the tower and the semicircular wall -- are dated back to the turn of the 13th and 14th



Fig. 38



Fig. 39

centuries. In the most recent literature (M. Bóna), they are associated with the family of Mathias Czak. The residential palace in the northeastern part of the courtyards of which only foundations are more or less preserved, is dated to the 15th century. One of its eastern walls was directly above the single entrance to the castle courtyards in that time. To defend the castle, its natural terrain options were used, for example the entrance to the courtyards was secured by a bridge over the moat. The more complex system of the so-called “defensive wall” with fortified gateways is dated back no earlier than the 16th century. Its look is relatively conservative, and yet its star fort matches with medieval conventions in order to defend against Turkish attacks. In the 17th century the Habsburg supporter, Zsigmond Forgach, had substantial defensive adjustments made to strengthen the castle through new watch houses erected in the defensive wall. The stamp was designed by Doc. Igor Benca and produced by the Poštovní Tiskarna Cenin Praha, a.s., using offset printing in sheetlets of 8. A FDC shows an aerial view of the castle (Fig. 39).

19. On October 8, 2010, the Ministry issued a 1.00 € commemorative stamp that was a joint issue with the Arab Republic of Egypt (Fig. 40). The stamp shows an alabaster canopic jar from the Archaeological Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava. Canopic jars represent a special type of vessel used in Ancient Egypt to store the internal organs during the process of mummification. Their present name was established by the early Egyptologists who followed the antique tradition. Canopic jars were used in Ancient Egypt from the period of the 4th Dynasty (c. 2543 - 2436 BC). Materials used for their production could be alabaster, limestone, pottery, faience, and later also bronze. In the process of human body mummification, the viscera, lungs, intestines, liver, and stomach in particular were placed into four canopic jars. The lids of canopic jars had flat or domed shapes at the beginning. They were later modeled into the human head form, and from the period of the New Kingdom (c. 1539 - 1077 BC), they added the appearance of heads of four sons of the god Horus -- Imsety, Hapy, Duamutef, and Qebehseuef. Imsety was portrayed with a human head (protecting the liver), Hapy with the head of a baboon (protecting the lungs), Duamutef with the head of a jackal (protecting the stomach), and Qebehseuef with the head of a falcon (protecting the intestines). Canopic jar usage in the funerary context of mummification could only be afforded by higher society. The Archaeological Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava includes a complete set of four alabaster canopic jars. These canopic jars were a part of Dr. Daniel Schimko’s private collection in the 19th century donated to the Protestant Lyceum in Bratislava. Hieroglyphic text on the outer side of the jars implies that their original owner was a man named Kenamon, and he was a King’s scribe. The jars are dated approximately to the period of the New Kingdom (publications state the 18th or the 19th Dynasty BC). The stamp was designed by Karol Felix, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the



Fig. 40



Fig. 41



Fig. 42

Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with

offset in miniature sheets containing 8 stamps and a central Pharoic image (Fig. 41). A FDC was issued showing an Egyptian figure on a tapestry (Fig. 42).

20. On October 15, 2010, the Ministry issued a set of two 0.80 € commemorative stamps in the Nature Protection series for Muránska Plain in a miniature sheet format (Fig. 43). The stamps and miniature sheet were designed by Igor Piačka, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin, Praha, a.s., by recess printing from flat plates combined with offset.



Fig. 43

-- Daphne Arbuscula (Fig. 44): the genus Daphne includes around 50 species which are located in Europe, northern Africa and the subtropical zone of Asia. In the 16th century Leonard Fuchs established the first professional term

for this genus Daphne, originating from the Greek, meaning Daphne Laureola because the Daphne leaves remind one of the shape of Spurge-laurel. There are three species of this genus in Slovakia with this one being the most popular. This



Fig. 44

species is native to the mountain range of Muránska Plain in the Western Carpathians, and it may not be found anywhere else in the world. The area of occurrence is less than 200 km², and there are only about 30 known locations. Due to its popularity and rarity, the plant has become a symbol of the National Park Muránska Plain. This is why it is the motif for this stamp. The plant is a 10-30 cm high vine/bush growing in clumps with intensively smelling pink (sometimes white)

flowers. The seeds are dispersed by ants (myrmecochory) or moving water. Because of its high decorative value, the plant is a favorite with alpine plant growers, and it is thus endangered from being dug up or trampled by tourists. Today it would be difficult to determine the origin of this species prior to the ice ages, and therefore we have to protect at least the small area where it does occur. The species is protected by law in the endangered species list for Slovakia. A FDC was issued showing the overall plant (Fig. 45).



Fig. 45

-- Primerose (*Primula Auricula*) (Fig. 46): there are around 400 types in the *Primula* genus blooming in spring, which is also reflected in the scientific genus name -- *Primula*, which in Latin means early, or the first. This name for the genus was used for the first time in botanical scripts as early

as the 14th century. *Primula* can be found next to swamps and wetlands as well as in alpine areas. Members of the genus are found mainly in the northern hemisphere with half of the species originating in the Himalayas -- seven of them



Fig. 46

are in Slovakia. They are located in numerous limestone mountains growing in rocks, rock slits and on the talus. They can also be frequently found on the cliffs of Muránska Plain, thus it is one of the motifs for the issued stamps. Early in spring (April to June) it beautifies the rocks with its bright yellow fragrant flowers. It blooms so early because floral buds start already in the autumn, and they over-winter covered in leaves. The flowers

are pollinated by various types of insects. Later, small seeds are created which are distributed by wind (anemochory). During the ice ages these plant species descended from the alpine level to the lower mountains where they have stayed even during unfavorable conditions. Besides its decorative use, it is also used as a medicinal plant, which is referred to by numerous folk names (e.g., kaška, bear's ear, etc.). Due to its rarity this species in Slovakia is among the legally protected plants and endangered species. A FDC was issued showing the overall plant (Fig. 47).



Fig. 47

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