



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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LIDICE IN CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY by Phil Rhoadé

On June 10, 1942, the Germans surrounded the village of Lidice, executed all of the men, deported the children and women to concentration camps, and razed the village. This was in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi governor of occupied Czechoslovakia. This annihilation of Lidice was of comparable importance to Czechoslovakia as Pearl Harbor was to the United States.

During the summer of 1938, there was great fear of an impending war in Europe. Germany had annexed Austria, and Hitler had turned his eye toward Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia was the most industrially advanced of the eastern European nations that emerged from World War I. Czechoslovakia's industrial production, particularly in armaments, and its agricultural resources were coveted by Hitler for supporting his plans for European expansion.

When Czechoslovakia's borders were established following World War I, the population of those areas (the Sudetenland)[see *Winter 2012 Specialist pg 7, figure 10*] next to Germany was primarily ethnic Germans. Hitler accused Czechoslovakia of mistreating these Sudeten Germans, and there were rumblings that Germany would invade. At the end of September, 1938, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, and France held a summit meeting in Munich to discuss the crisis. Czechoslovakia was not a part of the negotiations. The result was the Munich Agreement. *(Continued on Page 20)*

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SMUTEK ČESKA REPUBLIKA
A Philatelic Remembrance
of the Life of VÁCLAV HAVEL
by Tom Cossaboom

Václav Havel, the last President of Czechoslovakia, died on December 18, 2011. He was an extraordinary man: playwright, author, philosopher, anti-communist dissident, founder of Charter 77, and one of the organizers of the Velvet Revolution. A slight man with a wispy moustache and a cowlick, Havel was unfailingly polite. He became an accidental politician. Havel became the first freely elected President of Czechoslovakia in 42 years and later the first President of the Czech Republic. Throughout his life Havel's greatest love was the theater.

This study is an attempt to celebrate the life of Václav Havel using philatelic items from Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic.

Early Years, 1936 - 1960

The oldest son of a wealthy Prague civil engineer and a real estate developer, Václav Havel was born on October 5, 1936. His paternal grandfather was an architect and real estate developer, having built the first ice rink in Prague and the Lucerna Palace, the largest entertainment center in the city. His maternal grandfather had been the Czechoslovak ambassador to Hungary and Austria during the First Republic and co-editor of "Lidové Noviny", a leading daily newspaper whose other editors included Karel Čapek. His parents and grandparents were well connected in Czech business, political, cultural, and educational circles.

A year after Václav Havel's birth, Tomáš G. Masaryk died. The first president of Czechoslovakia was to become Václav Havel's inspiration.

As a young boy, Václav Havel lived through the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1945. To escape the repressive atmosphere of Prague, the Havel family sent Václav's mother, Václav, and his younger brother, Ivan, to live at their summer home at Havlov located near Tišnov, Moravia. It was in the nearby village of Žďárec that young Václav began his formal schooling in September, 1942.

The liberation of Prague and the end of World War II in Europe in May, 1945, allowed the Havel family to begin resuming a normal life. Young Václav continued his education, first in Prague, and then in 1947 at a boarding school in Poděbrady.

The Communist coup in February, 1948, marked a major change in the Havel family fortunes. The government seized most of the family's property. Labeled a member of the privileged bourgeoisie by the Communists, Václav was forced to attend state schools in Prague.

In 1951, Václav -- disillusioned with school -- quit. Václav's mother was concerned with her son's education. She arranged with a friend of the family, Otto Wichterle, the inventor of the contact lens, to get her son a job as an apprentice in a chemical laboratory. She also arranged for Václav to receive tutoring in philosophy from a family friend who had studied under Tomáš Masaryk at Charles University. Václav Havel finally completed his secondary education and passed



Figure 1: Masaryk commemorative sheet with two regular issue stamps, Pofis 248 and 250, and the Masaryk mourning stamps, Pofis 324-325. The cancels are examples of the special Czechoslovakia mourning cancels.



Figure 2: Pofis Bohemia and Moravia 106-107. The stamps were issued for Hitler's 54th birthday. They show Hitler viewing Prague from a window in Hradčany.



Figure 3: Pofis Czechoslovakia 433-434. The stamps commemorate the first anniversary of the May uprising which liberated Prague from Nazi occupation. The stamps show St. George slaying the dragon.

his matriculation exams in night school. In 1954, Václav applied for admission to the Arts Faculty and then the Film and Drama Faculty of Charles University. He was rejected by both. He was admitted to the Czech Technical University where he studied urban transportation for a short time.

In 1957, Václav Havel was drafted into the Czechoslovak army and sent to serve in a sapper regiment in České Budějovice. Prior to being drafted, young Václav considered himself a poet. His interest in poetry was inspired by his contacts with banned poets like Jaroslav Seifert, Vladimír Holan, and Jiří Kolář. He contributed poems to *Květen*, the Communist Party journal for young writers. In early November 1956, Havel participated in a conference for young writers, making a presentation in which he asked why the banned poets were not officially recognized. What was the point of holding an expensive conference Havel asked, if the participants could not discuss important poets? This was an especially rash subject to broach as the Soviet army was suppressing the Hungarian Revolution at the same time. His presentation was the talk of the conference.

The question was an indication of Václav Havel's basic tenet that truth and love must overcome lies and hate. It would be a recurring theme in Havel's plays, books, and speeches.

Sapper units in the Soviet military were often sent into combat first. Sappers were considered cannon fodder. They dug trenches to undermine enemy positions. In the view of the Czechoslovak communists, sapper units were an ideal place

Figure 4: Pofis Czechoslovakia 500. The stamp was issued on the first anniversary of 'Victorious February', the communist coup d'etat. It shows Klement Gottwald (first Communist president) with the Czechoslovak and communist flags against the background of a cheering crowd.



Figure 5: Pofis Czechoslovakia 470-471. The stamps were issued to celebrate the 600th anniversary of Charles University. The stamps show Charles IV as King of Bohemia (1 Kčs) and St. Wenceslaus (2 Kčs).

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to assign recruits of bourgeoisie origin and other undesirables. Havel found Army life boring and absurd. However, he found opportunities to pursue theater activities with a number of like-minded draftees including the future playwright and director Karel Brynda. Havel and Brynda received permission from the regimental commander to stage a play and later to write a piece for the all-army theater-festival competition. In both efforts, Havel and Brynda tried to poke fun at the absurdities of Army life. After viewing the play, Havel's company commander closed the stage play because he felt Havel was trying to take his position! The piece written by Havel and Brynda made it to the finals of the all-army competition before it was eliminated for being subversive.



Figure 6: Pofis Czech Republic 68. The stamp honors Jan Werich.

Released from the Army in 1959, Václav Havel again tried to enter university. This time he sat for exams at the Academy of Performing Arts (AMU), but was denied admission. Through a friend of his father's, the performer and playwright Jan Werich, Václav was offered a job as a stagehand at the ABC Theater.

The Award Winning Playwright, 1960 - 1968

In his spare time Havel began writing a play, *An Evening with the Family*. Although the play was not performed, it got Václav a job at Theater on the Balustrade. It was here that Václav Havel made his name as a playwright. In 1963, *The Garden Party* was performed at the theater. It was the story of a young neer-do-well whose father arranged a job in the local Liquidation Office. The young man works his way up the bureaucracy while his personality becomes that of a careerist. Buried in the play was a lampoon of the Marxist-Leninist dialectics and communist bureaucracy. This absurdist drama was Havel's first play to reach the stage and was a critical success.

Václav Havel met Olga Šplíchalová, an aspiring actress and writer, back in 1953. Olga, from a blue-collar family in the tough working-class district of Žižkov, was three years Václav's senior. Olga's father was a butcher. Her mother was a dedicated Communist. However, Olga had no time for Communists. At sixteen Olga had lost the four fingertips of her left hand while working in a state-run Baťa shoe factory.

By the time Václav entered the army, Olga was his steady girlfriend. Following the success of *The Garden Party*, Václav accepted Olga's proposal that they get married. On July 9, 1964 they married in a secret civil ceremony at Žižkov Town Hall.

Between 1964 and 1969, Havel authored a number of very successful plays. In 1964 Klaus Junker, a West German literary agent, heard about *The Garden Party*. He visited the Theater on the Balustrade and signed Havel as a client. This spread Havel's plays around the major theater centers in the Western world which allowed Havel to earn hard currency. In 1966, Havel's first book, *Minutes*, was published.

In 1968, Havel's play, *Memo*, opens at the Public Theater in New York City. The play wins Havel his first OBIE Award. In May 1968, during the Prague Spring, Václav and Olga travel to New York to receive the OBIE. On the way to New York, they are delayed for a day in Paris by a one-day general strike, part of the 'May

Days' uprising. On their return journey, the Havels spent time in England. Communist Czechoslovakia would never again permit Václav and Olga a trip to the West.

Dissident, 1969 - 1989

By the early 1960's the economy of Communist Czechoslovakia was in serious trouble. Centralized planning and poor management had taken a toll. A year after instituting the third Five-Year Plan (1961-1965), the government had to abandon it because industrial production was declining. In an effort to revive worker productivity, the government instituted some modest economic reforms. The whiff of reform soon spread to other aspects of life in Czechoslovakia, including the Communist Party and Writer's Union. The party reforms led to the election in January 1968 of Alexander Dubček as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Dubček instituted a series of political reforms including lifting censorship and democratizing the electoral system, aimed at creating communism with a human face, the so-called Prague Spring.

When the whiff of reform reached the Writer's Union, Havel soon became involved. In 1965, Havel was selected to serve on the editorial board of the union's youth journal; Havel began pushing for greater freedom of expression. To end the discussion party officials eventually closed the journal.

From politics in the Writer's Union, Havel moved on to national politics. Not only did he support Dubček's reforms, he urged the first secretary to go further, form a second political party to contest truly free elections. The Soviet Union, alarmed by the drift toward loosening the party's hold on the Czechoslovak government, launched an invasion of Czechoslovakia on the night of August 20/21, 1968. The Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies ended the Prague Spring. Gustav Husák replaced Alexander Dubček as First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

In the year following the Soviet-lead invasion, Husák gradually introduced a policy of 'normalization' designed to reassert the Communist party's tight control. The policy was capped by a law introduced in August 1969 which, in effect, created a permanent state of emergency allowing the government to root out any hint of dissent. Supporters of the Prague Spring were removed from their positions.

Dubček was expelled from the party leadership and the party. Managers and employees of national enterprises, foreign trade organizations, cultural organizations, universities, trade union, and the Communist party were removed and reassigned to menial jobs. In January 1969, the student Jan Palach burned himself to death near the statue of St. Wenceslaus to protest the demoralization which he saw in the Czechoslovak people after the Warsaw Pact invasion. Later in 1969, Václav Havel was blacklisted and his works were banned in Czechoslovakia.

Figure 7: Pofis Czech Republic 332. The stamp honors Emil Zátopek, the only man to win the 5,000m, 10,000m, and the marathon in the same Olympics.

A colonel in the Czechoslovak Army in 1968, he supported the reforms of the Prague Spring. After the Warsaw Pact invasion, Zátopek was dismissed from the army and assigned as a garbage collector.



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Figure 8: Pofis Czechoslovakia 2982. The stamp honors Jan Palach.

Despite the ban on his works, Havel continued to write. His work was published abroad or as samizdat underground in Czechoslovakia. Samizdat, meaning 'self-published', was the literature and political tracts which dissidents copied and passed from reader to reader in the Soviet bloc. Publishing in the West allowed Václav and Olga to have an income and maintain two residences, an apartment in Prague and a cottage in the village of Hrádeček near Trutnov. In 1975, Havel feared the government would apply the 'anti-parasite' law to him. The law

allowed the government to jail anyone who did not work. Havel took a job in a brewery in Trutnov.

Havel was about to become the center of the government's attention and the public face of Czechoslovak dissidence in the West. In April 1975, Havel wrote an open letter to President Husák protesting the spiritual and moral crisis in the country. Havel mailed the letter to the president. It was circulated underground, smuggled to the West and broadcast back to Czechoslovakia.

On August 1, 1975, the governments of Europe, East and West signed the Helsinki Accords, composed of ten points. President Husák signed for Czechoslovakia. Points I - VI recognized the post-World War II borders in Europe and the non-intervention in internal affairs of the signatory states, something the Soviet Union wanted to solidify their hold on Eastern Europe. Point VII called for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. The dissidents soon turned Point VII into a club to berate and embarrass the Czechoslovak government.

Three months later on November 1, 1975, a group of Havel's friends decided to put on his play, *The Beggar's Opera*. Because Havel's works were banned, the performance had to be done in secret. Against all odds, the play was performed at a hotel/pub on the edge of Prague. There were 300 invited guests in attendance.

The government was not amused. Controls on the theaters were tightened. Havel and a number of his friends were interrogated.

The government seemed reluctant to act. The Czechoslovak economy was stagnating and the government needed to borrow money in the West. The ink was hardly dry on the Helsinki Accords. Havel and his friends were let off with a warning.

In February 1976, a Czech rock band -- the Plastic People of the Universe -- organized a concert. Rock n' roll penetrated the Iron Curtain during the mid-1960's. The Plastic People, formed in late 1968, took their name from a track by Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention. The grungy look, the long hair, and rock music gave the youth and members of Havel's generation a window on the West. After the Prague Spring was crushed, playing rock music was a way to express freedom. In 1970, the government revoked the band's license to perform in public,



Figure 9: Pofis Czechoslovakia 2945. The stamp commemorates the 15th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords.

so the Plastics went underground and played gigs that they pretended were wedding parties.

One month after the concert, four members of the band were arrested for disturbing the peace. In September, the four were sentenced to six months in prison. Havel was one of the few allowed to observe the trial. The trial and its outcome inspired Havel and other intellectuals, Jan Patočka, Zdeněk Mlynář, Jiří Hájek, and Pavel Kohout, to write Charter 77.

Charter 77 criticized the government for failing to implement human rights provisions of documents it had signed, including the 1960 Constitution of Czechoslovakia, the Helsinki Accords, and the United Nations covenants on political, civil, economic, and cultural rights. The charter emphasized it was not an organization and “does not form the basis for any oppositional political activity”. The last was an effort to stay within Czechoslovak law, which made organized opposition illegal.

Once written, Charter 77 was circulated in the underground for signatures. By 6 January 1977, the charter had 242 signatures of dissidents from various occupations and political view points. The evening of January 6, Havel and two others attempted to deliver Charter 77 to the Czechoslovak government. They were intercepted by the police and arrested for interrogation. However, copies of Charter 77 had been smuggled to the West and the next day were printed in major newspapers including the New York Times and The Times of London. The document was mentioned on the Voice of America and numerous radio and television stations around the world. Clearly, Václav Havel was becoming a problem for the government of Czechoslovakia.

Havel was rearrested on January 8 and charged with serious crimes against the basic principles of the Republic. He was incarcerated without trial for four and a half months at Ružyně prison where he was kept in solitary confinement. During this time he was interrogated almost daily by the secret police. At the same time, Jan Patočka suffered a heart attack and died while under police interrogation.

Once released from prison, Havel began what was to be a joint effort with Polish dissidents. Havel drafted an essay which became *The Power of the Powerless*. The plan was for the draft to be circulated in the underground to various Czech and Polish dissidents who would comment on the draft and present their own ideas. The entire document would then be published in the underground. Before the project could be completed, Havel was arrested in May 1979. However, the initial draft was circulated in Czechoslovakia, Poland and the West.

The harsh treatment of the initial signers of Charter 77 (by the time of the Velvet Revolution approximately 1,900 people had signed) prompted the creation, in April 1977, of a support group, the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted (VONS). VONS would publicize the fate of those who signed Charter 77. The government offered Havel a chance to visit the United States. He refused, fearing he would not be allowed to return to Prague. On May 29, 1979, Havel and six other leaders of VONS were arrested and charged with subversion. At a trial in October, Havel was sentenced to four and a half years in prison. While in prison Havel was permitted to write a limited number of letters to Olga. In the letters Havel sought to describe the conditions in prison, his thoughts, and philosophy as

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well as giving practical advice. After his release he collected and published them as *Letters to Olga* as samizdat.

In February 1983, Havel, ill with pneumonia, was released from prison and transferred to a civilian hospital. After spending a month in the hospital, Havel returned to the family apartment in Prague. From March 1982 until the Velvet Revolution the police would be Havel's constant companion. His phones, apartment, and Hrádeček were bugged. Václav Havel was now the best known Czechoslovak dissident in the West.

Havel used his prison experience to write two works. The first was *Mistake*, a short play about prison. He followed this with *Largo Desolato*, a story of a dissident writer terrified of being sent back to prison. In 1985, his play *Unveiling* won an OBIE in New York. Throughout the entire period from 1982 to late 1989 Havel continued to write and circulate underground essays on politics.

The Soviet empire began to change during the 1980's. The economic conditions were bad. Foreign debt continued to grow and the economies stagnated. In Czechoslovakia the joke was 'the government pretends to pay us and we pretend to work'. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In 1986, Gorbachev announced a program of glasnost (openness), perestroika (restructuring), and democratization. He traveled to the communist states of Eastern Europe urging a similar reform platform. In Czechoslovakia his urging fell on deaf ears. In 1988 he followed up by declaring an end to the Brezhnev doctrine, allowing the communist states to freely determine their own internal affairs.

One by one communist party control of the Warsaw Pact nations of Eastern Europe began to crumble. In June 1989, Poland held free elections. Then in October 1989, Hungary passed legislation allowing free elections and ending communist control. On November 9, the Berlin Wall fell. The next day the long-time communist dictator of Bulgaria was ousted. Finally on 17 November it was Czechoslovakia's turn.

(To be continued)

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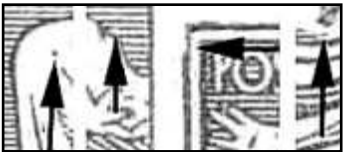
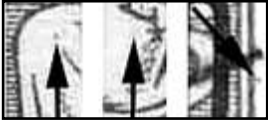


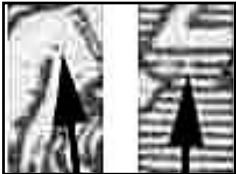
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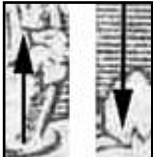
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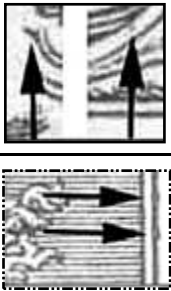

(Continued from Spring 2012 issue.)



54	Neg.	Gap in the lower outline of the left hand chain.	
	I	Gap in the background above the central decoration on the left sleeve. Tiny gap in the background under the right numeral 5. Gap in the background to the upper left of the left heel. <i>Some printings: Bump on the right frame opposite Mt. Kriváň.</i>	
	II	Gap in the background under the right numeral 2.	
55	Neg.	Dot on the right knee.	
	I	Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. Left frame thinner near the upper corner. Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.	
	II	Tiny dot on the skirt under the lower cluster of leaves. <i>Some printings: Tiny dot in the right margin opposite the numerals.</i>	
56	I	Gap in the first diagonal contour on the skirt. Gap in the outline of the skirt between the linden stem and the left foot. <i>Some printings: Dot below the sixth vertical shading line below the belt.</i>	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	
57	I	Dot near the upper edge of the right forearm.	
	II	Shorter contour line from left breast to left arm. Gap in the background below the right numeral 2.	


58	Neg.	Gap in the small line pointing from the edge of the hair toward the right eye.	
	I	No other flaws.	
	II	White bump at the inner bottom of the O in POŠTA. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň.	


59	I	Gap near the left end of the second contour below the neck. Dot in the white frame above the letter O in ČESKO. Tiny dot on the upper frame above the letter Á in ENSKÁ.	
	II	Colored circular or semi-circular line on the left elbow. (Note the variations possible with this flaw.) <i>Some printings: Curved bulge on the lower frame under Mt. Říp.</i>	

60	I	Gap in the outline of the left shoulder. <i>Some printings: Dot on the neck.</i>	
	II	Mark near (sometimes connected to) the tip of the upper leaf in the leftmost cluster. Arc between the skirt's hem and the three pointed leaf below Mt. Kriváň.	







61	Neg.	Mark at the left end of the second contour line on the chest.	
	I	Dot in the skirt's broad fold along the left leg. <i>Some printings: Two bumps on the right frame opposite the blowing hair.</i>	
	II	No other flaws.	



62	Neg.	White spot at the joint of the L in SLOV.	
	I	Gap in the chin's outline. Gap in the third contour line on the chest. Dot in the left margin opposite Mr. Řip. Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.	
	II	No other flaws.	



63	I	No distinguishing features identified	
	II	Colored splotch below the right breast.	


64	I	Dot in the white frame above the VE in SLOVEN. Mark across the base of the right hand's little finger. <i>Some printings: Nick in the underside of the sharply curved line on the skirt below the linden leaves.</i>	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	



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65	I	Colored splotch on the inner frame above the KÁ in ENSKÁ, a nick above that in the underside of the outer frame. Gap in the belt. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. <i>Some printings: Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.</i>	
	II	Gap in the upper frame above the E in ČESKO.	
66	I	Two white marks on the right numeral 5's loop and a dot further down the loop.	
	II	Gap in the inner right frame below the shackle. Cutoff B in VHB	 
67	I	White splotch between the linden leaves and the numeral 2. White marks between the OS of ČESKOSLOV.	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	







68	I	Colored horizontal mark near the center of the skirt. Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.	
	II	Colored bulge into the top of the right numeral 2's loop.	


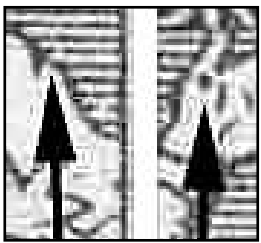
69	Neg.	Dot between the seventh and eighth vertical contour on the skirt. Gap in the background midway between the lowest leaf and the heel.	
	I	Gap in the first set of shading lines on the right leg. Gap in the background to the lower right of the right numeral 5.	
	II	White spots on the background below the left elbow.	

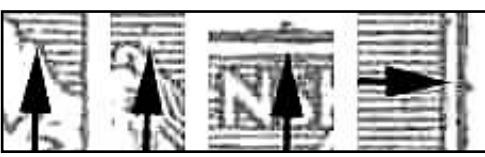
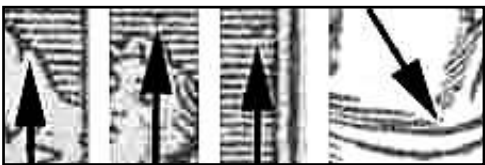
70	I	No distinguishing features identified	
	II	Arc between the skirt's hem and the three point leaf below Mt. Kriváň. <i>Not observed: Colored splotch in the white frame below Mt. Kriváň.</i>	

71	I	Colored marks on the upper ends of the first two vertical contour lines on the right knee. Dot below the left breast. Gap at the right end of the short contour line under the left foot. Gap in the background between the head and left-hand chain.	
	II	Gap in the background below the lower tip of the right numeral 5.	

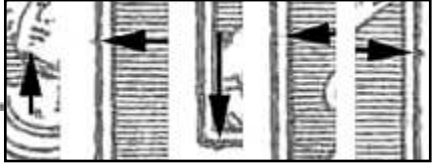
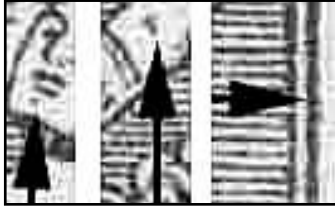
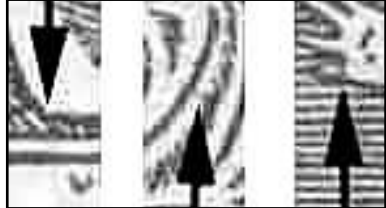

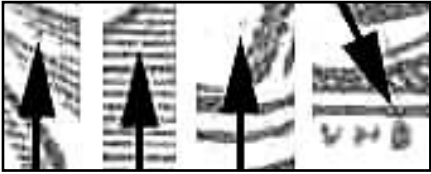

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72	I	Gap in the outermost edge of the left sleeve. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. Dot on the left index finger. <i>Some printings: Right white frame constricted opposite the left little finger.</i>	
	II	Gap at the left end of the second contour line on the upper chest.	
73	I	Dot below the two diagonal contour lines above the right knee. Bump on the right frame midway between the numerals and Mt. Kriváň. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň.	
	II	Tiny mark on the left frame opposite the P in POŠTA. Gap in the left inner frame opposite the right elbow. Cutoff B in VHB. <i>Some printings: Gap in the outline of the chin.</i>	
74	Neg.		
	I	Tiny dot on the skirt above Mt. Říp. White splotch left of the left numeral 2.	
	II	No other flaws.	

75	Neg.	Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň.	
	I	Upper frame thicker near the right corner. Dot in the left margin below the right arm.	
	II	Dot on the left thumb.	

76	Neg.	Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň.	
	I	Gap in the background line above the head. <i>Some printings: Thicker upper frame and colored marks attached to the upper frame above the NS in ENSKÁ. Colored bump on the right frame opposite the left elbow.</i>	
	II	Colored mark above the head. Colored mark near the inner frame opposite the left shackle. <i>Not observed: Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.</i>	

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

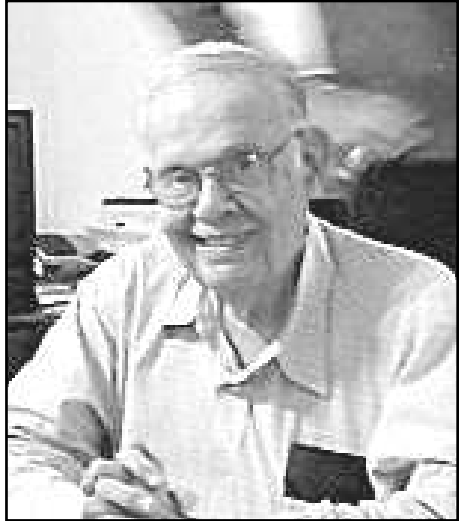
77	Neg.	Line below the mouth on the chin is a dot.	
	I	Dot in the left margin above the right knee. Bump on the lower frame by the left corner. <i>Some printings: Colored mark in the left white frame above the numeral 2. Colored spots on the right frame opposite the left wrist.</i>	
	II	Markings in the left elbow are a line above a dot. Colored spots on the right frame below the numerals	
78	I	Nick in the upper side of the skirt's lower outline above the V in VHB. Dot left of the shading lines opposite the left foot. <i>Some printings: Colored mark on the right hand's little finger.</i>	
	II	Right frame slightly thicker opposite the numerals. <i>Not observed: Colored mark on the upper frame above the KO in ČESKO.</i>	
79	I	Dot in the center of the skirt below the upper contour lines of the left leg. Gap in the background to the lower right of the right numeral 5. <i>Some printings: Dot in the large white area of the skirt below the linden leaves. The B in VHB touches (or approaches) the lower frame.</i>	
	II	Gap in the skirt's outline left of the bottom of the linden stem.	

(To be continued)

*Closed Albums***Edwin William Lehecka****SCP Member 1115****June 26, 1927 -- New York, NY****June 11, 2012 -- Westfield, NJ**

Edwin William Lehecka was the embodiment of the American dream, a self-made man. Both his parents were immigrants to the United States from Bohemia, arriving through Ellis Island. They settled in Manhattan where Ed was born. He was bilingual in English and Czech, only having learned English when he went to kindergarten.

Ed turned 18 on June 26, 1945, and was two weeks into Army basic training when WW II was over. Ed served three times in the US Army during 1945-1952, serving in the Japanese occupation after WW II and during the Korean conflict. He received a number of meritorious service medals and commendations. His last assignment was in Army intelligence, gathering information on North Korea and interrogating enemy prisoners. He was proud to have served in the defense of his country's freedom.



Edwin William Lehecka

Ed married Evelyn Buell in 1950. They only had a 3-day honeymoon before Ed had to leave for 21 months in Korea. They had almost 45 loving years of marriage before Evelyn's death in 1995.

After discharge, he took advantage of the GI Bill to go to college. But he did it the hard way, working full time at Benjamin Moore Company, while carrying a full-time course load at night. He graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting. He spent his entire career at Benjamin Moore, rising through the ranks to be a corporate financial officer and treasurer of one of Benjamin Moore's subsidiaries.

Ed's daughter, Elaine, remembers that her dad gave her the precious gift of unlimited faith in her ability to realize her dreams. Elaine -- a graduate professor at Stevens Institute of Technology -- is married to Dean Pratt. Their two sons, Eric and Neil, lit up Ed's life.

Ed had many talents and interests outside of work. He and Evelyn loved to travel and enjoyed several wonderful years of travel together both in the US and Europe, after Ed took early retirement. He was an artist and spent many hours oil painting and carving/decorating duck decoys.

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He was a life-long stamp collector and an active member of the Westfield Stamp Club, the American Philatelic Society, and member/officer of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and the Warren Stamp Club where he exhibited in a number of their shows.

For many years, Ed was an active member first of the First United Methodist Church of Westfield where he was president of the Men's Club, and then with the First Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon's Committee.

Ed lived in Westfield, NJ for over 50 years and passed away after a short illness. His family was able to be with him at the end and rejoices that he is now completely well and reunited with Evelyn for eternity in God's glory.

Elaine Lehecka Pratt

I knew and had the pleasure of working with my friend Ed for virtually all of the years that he was a member, since we joined the Society and were on the Board for practically the same time. He could always be depended on to do his share of the work, and even volunteer to do more.

Ed joined the Society for Czechoslovak Philately in February 1976. Just two years later he was elected to the Board of Directors and served there in continuous re-elections the remainder of his life -- for 36 years. He served in various elected and appointed positions during that period including Chairman of the Expertization Committee, Treasurer, Society Show Coordinator, and Auditor.

There were so many times at our annual stamp conventions that you could find Ed and Evelyn, his wife, sitting at our table "taking care of business". Evelyn was always elegant and impeccably dressed, and added so much to our image.

They are both missed.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda



by Phil Rhoads

(Continued from Page 1)

The Munich Agreement was fatal for Czechoslovakia. The Agreement provided for immediate occupation of most of the Sudetenland, with so-called plebiscites scheduled in some areas. In addition, Czechoslovakia was required to leave all military and defense equipment and installations in place, undamaged. Because the Sudetenland occupied nearly the entire Czechoslovak-German border, this left Czechoslovakia virtually defenseless. Germany occupied the remainder of Czechoslovakia, unopposed, on March 15, 1939.

The German puppet-state of Slovakia and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia were established from those provinces. Hitler appointed Baron Konstantin von Neurath as Reichsprotektor (governor) of the Protektorat. Under von Neurath's rule, there was an active resistance movement and industrial and agricultural production did not meet the German's expectations. Hitler announced von Neurath was going on "medical leave" and appointed Reinhard Heydrich as Deputy Reichsprotektor.

Reinhard Heydrich was, for practical purposes, the second most powerful man in Nazi Germany and was a possible, if not probable, successor to Hitler. Since

becoming a Nazi and joining the SS in 1932, he had his hand in most of the infamous events of Nazi power: The Night of the Long Knives, Kristallnacht, the “final solution of the Jewish problem”, etc., etc.

Heydrich assumed his Reichsprotektor position in Prague on September 27, 1941 and quickly earned nicknames like the “Butcher of Prague” and “Hangman Heydrich”. He cracked down hard on the resistance and black market, arrested/executed intellectuals and other leaders; over 425 were executed during Heydrich’s first two months in office. In addition, he implemented the same social benefit programs for workers that were enjoyed in Germany. As a result, resistance activities plummeted and production rose. From the German perspective, Heydrich was successful in accomplishing the purposes for which he had been sent to the Protektorat.

The Czechoslovak government-in-exile in London, under the leadership of President Edvard Beneš, was deeply concerned by these developments. In consultation with the British, the decision to assassinate Heydrich was made. This was not a popular decision with resistance movement leaders in the Protectorate. Knowing that, if successful, the repercussions would be horrendous, they pleaded with Beneš not to mount such an operation. But Beneš did not relent and planning for an assassination, called Operation Anthropoid, moved forward.

Significant numbers of Czechoslovak soldiers and airman had escaped when the Germans occupied the country and had made their way to Britain after fighting in Poland, France, and the Middle East. Jan Kubiš, a Czech, and Jozef Gabčík, a Slovak, were selected to train for Operation Anthropoid. In total, there were perhaps 25 soldiers trained for several missions or operations in the Protektorat, and they were parachuted into their occupied homeland at various times. Kubiš and Gabčík were dropped during the night of December 27-28, 1941.

Heydrich lived on an estate in Panenské Břežany, some distance from Prague. During his daily drive to work, his car had to slow considerably to negotiate a sharp hairpin turn in the outskirts of Prague. Kubiš and Gabčík chose this location to attack Heydrich on May 27, 1942. Because it was a tram stop, two men standing there would not arouse suspicion. Kubiš had two specially modified grenades in his briefcase, and Gabčík had a Sten gun (a small machine gun) hidden under the raincoat over his arm. As Heydrich’s car slowed, Gabčík dropped his overcoat, pulled the trigger on his Sten gun, but it jammed without firing any shots. Kubiš threw one of his grenades, which exploded just outside the car, behind the passenger door in front of the rear wheel.

The grenade blew a hole in the side of the car, and Heydrich was wounded by shrapnel and debris from the explosion, which sent padding from his seat cushion into his back. Heydrich’s driver and Gabčík had a running gun battle covering several blocks, but both Kubiš and Gabčík escaped. Heydrich’s wounds from the attack did not initially seem life threatening, but he died from blood poisoning on June 4. His body was transported to Berlin on June 8, and his funeral was on June 9. It was the most elaborate funeral ceremony conducted by the Third Reich.

A huge manhunt for the assassins ensued, including a reward of 10,000,000 crowns (then about \$235,000, equivalent to \$3.1 million today) for information leading to the apprehension of the attackers. A threat was announced that anyone who had information but failed to share it with the authorities would be killed,

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along with their entire family. The SS and Gestapo made absolutely no progress in learning the identity or whereabouts of those who attacked Heydrich.

Lidice, a small village about 20km northwest of Prague, came under some suspicion because it was known that two sons from Lidice families were serving with the Czechoslovak Air Force in Britain. A search of the village shortly after the attack on Heydrich revealed nothing incriminating, not surprising because Lidice had absolutely no connection what-so-ever with the attack on Heydrich. Continuing investigation of the attack, in a very circuitous path, led the SS and Gestapo to erroneously conclude that the assassins had hidden in Lidice.

Following Heydrich's funeral on June 9, Hitler ordered Karl Hermann Frank, the Protektorat Secretary of State, to annihilate Lidice. All of the men were to be executed, the women sent to concentration camps, the children sent to suitable establishments, and the village razed. Lidice was surrounded during the night of June 9-10, and the approximately 500 inhabitants rounded up.

The men were locked up in a farmstead cellar, brought out in groups of ten, and shot. The women and children were bused to a school gymnasium in nearby Kladno. Complete destruction of the village commenced. All told, 192 men were executed, 184 women sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, and 98 children were abducted or sent to the Chelmno concentration camp. Amazingly, 143 women survived the concentration camps, but only 17 children survived and were found after the war.

The SS and Gestapo had still made no progress in their investigation of the Heydrich attack. Then Karel Čurda, another British trained paratrooper, turned himself into the Gestapo on June 16, fearing for the safety of his family. He knew that Kubiš and Gabčík had conducted the attack on Heydrich, but he did not know where they were hiding. Čurda did reveal the names of resistance fighter families who had provided safe houses in Prague.

From the interrogation and torture of one of these families, the SS and Gestapo learned that the Cathedral of St. Cyril and Methodius was a possible hiding place. During the night of June 17-18, they surrounded the church. Indeed, Kubiš and Gabčík and five other paratroopers were hiding in the church. A battle of several hours extended over the morning of June 18. All seven of the paratroopers were killed or committed suicide.

During the course of their investigation, the SS and Gestapo discovered a resistance radio transmitter hidden in the small village of Ležáky, near Pardubice. Of the approximately 50 Ležáky inhabitants, only two small sisters survived; everyone else was executed. Following the war, Ležáky was not rebuilt.

On June 10, 1945, the third anniversary of the Lidice massacre and a month after the war in Europe had ended, a huge ceremony welcoming back the returning Lidice women and celebrating the end of the war was held at the site of destroyed Lidice. President Beneš announced in his speech to the over 100,000 in attendance that Lidice would be rebuilt.

Karl Hermann Frank was captured by U.S. Troops on May 9, 1945 and turned over to Czechoslovakia. He was tried for his war crimes, particularly Lidice, and executed in a public hanging on May 22, 1946. This was the last public hanging in Prague.

Lidice was rebuilt following the war, on a site near the old village. There is a wonderful museum with a poignant multimedia presentation. The mass grave of the executed Lidice men is maintained. All that remains of old Lidice are the foundations of the church and school and a part of the cellar wall where the men were confined before being shot. There is a monument with bronze statues of the 82 children who were gassed at Chelmno. This is as moving a monument as exists anywhere in the world.

The rose has become the symbol of Lidice, and Lidice's Rose Garden of Friendship and Peace is magnificent. It consists of many thousands of rose bushes donated from dozens of countries all over the world.

Starting in 1947 -- the fifth anniversary of Lidice's destruction -- Czechoslovakia issued a stamp or stamps commemorating Lidice. This was done on all of the five-year multiples through the 45th anniversary in 1987 -- except the 35th (1977). In some years, Ležáky was also honored.

1947 (5th anniversary): Three stamps (Pofis 453-5/Scott 329-31)(Fig. 1). The 1.20 Kčs (black) and 1.60 Kčs (slate black) values show a tear-stained woman's face in a shawl ("Grief"); the 2.40 Kčs value (brown-violet) shows a kneeling allegorical figure.

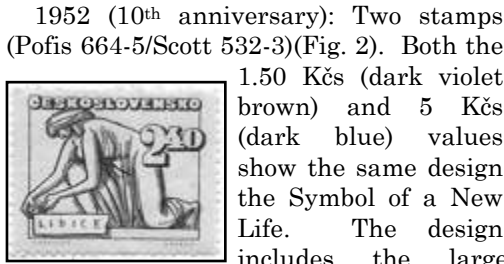


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

1952 (10th anniversary): Two stamps (Pofis 664-5/Scott 532-3)(Fig. 2). Both the 1.50 Kčs (dark violet brown) and 5 Kčs (dark blue) values show the same design, the Symbol of a New Life. The design includes the large wooden cross with wreath that stands over the mass grave of the Lidice men.

1957 (15th anniversary): Two stamps (Pofis 950-1/Scott 813-4)(Fig. 3). The 30h (black) shows a woman's face (although different from the 1947 issue, also called "Grief"); the 60h (black and rose red) shows a rose.

1962 (20th anniversary): Two stamps (Pofis 1253-4/Scott 1118-9)(Fig. 4). The 30h (black and red; for Lidice) shows a child with a rose garland and another version of "Grief"; the 60h (black and dull blue; for Ležáky) shows flowers growing from the ruins of Ležáky.

1967 (25th anniversary): One stamp (Pofis 1621/Scott 1481)(Fig. 5). A 30h value (black and bright rose) showing a rose bud.

1972 (30th anniversary): Two stamps (Pofis 1943-4/Scott 1800,1802)(Fig. 6). The 30h value (black, dull orange, and red; for Ležáky) again shows a shawled woman with ruins in the background; the 60h value (black, yellow, and red; for Lidice) shows a hand rising from ruins.



Fig. 3

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1977 (35th anniversary): Nothing issued. I have not been able to determine why there was no issue.

1982 (40th anniversary): Two stamps (Pofis 2539-40/Scott 2411-2)(Fig. 7). Both 1 Kčs values (black and red). The Lidice issue shows a rose and girl; the Ležáky issue shows hands and barbed wire.

1987 (45th anniversary): Two stamps (Pofis 2799-2800/Scott 2661-2)(Fig. 8). A 1 Kčs value (black, cerise, and violet; for Lidice) shows a grieving figure over a body and ruins; another 1 Kčs value (black, gold, pale lilac, and cerise; for Ležáky) shows a child with ruins in the background.

Czechoslovakia issued two other stamps with a Lidice connection:



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

1960: A stamp (Pofis 1098/Scott 964)(Fig. 9), the high value in a four-stamp set of ships. The 1.20 Kčs value (lilac and pale green) shows a merchant ship renamed for Lidice.

1982: a souvenir sheet (Pofis 2538/Scott 2410)(Fig. 10) of six stamps and three labels for the Lidice International Children's Art Contest. The 2 Kčs value stamps (multicolored) show a drawing from an entry in the contest.

Czechoslovakia also issued two stamps with a connection to Heydrich's assassination:

1945: Two stamps (Pofis 392 and 400/Scott 277 and 285)(Fig. 11) showing Gabčík, from a set of 16 stamps honoring eight soldiers and airmen (two identical stamps for each) who died fighting during the war. The Gabčík stamps were valued at 40h (sepia) and 4 Kčs (rose lilac).

1992: A stamp (Pofis 3008/Scott 2857)(Fig. 12) showing Kubiš and Gabčík, part of a four-stamp set commemorating Czechoslovak military actions during the war. The 1 Kčs value (multicolored) commemorates the assassination of Heydrich.

Two other countries have issued stamps specifically for Lidice:

On June 6, 2012, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary, Česká Pošta issued two stamps: the 10 Kč value for Ležáky and the 20 Kč value for Lidice [see *the New Issues in this Specialist*].



Philatelic News and Views

1. From Richard Palaschak:

-- The Prospectus and Exhibit Entry Form for WESTPEX 2013 are now available on the WESTPEX web site, www.westpex.org. We are encouraging our members to get their exhibits ready for this wonderful show in San Francisco -- our annual convention location in 2013.

2. From Sam Horvath:

-- Heads up for recently issued Czech collectibles. To commemorate former Czechoslovak and Czech President Havel's death, the Czech Post used not only a special postal cancel (see *Winter 2012 Specialist*, pg 15), but also issued -- on 23/12/2011 -- a Pamětní List (Commemorative Sheet) PLZ 13 (Fig. 1). They issued 3,000 of them, numbered from 28,201 - 31,200. They each have a Rose Over Prague "E" stamp with the special postal cancel. These were officially issued and were for sale to the public. Then, they produced 1,000 un-numbered Propagační Listy (Promotional Sheet) PRL. These were not produced or sold to the public, but rather were a memorial item for President Havel's funeral guests. They originally were planned to have the 6.40 Kč Václav Havel stamp on them, but only 460 stamps were available, so 537 of the 540 remaining sheets had the Rose Over Prague "E" stamp put on them. Those with the Havel stamp are PRL 3a's and the "E" stamp variety are PRL 3b's. These PRL's look very similar to the PLZ 13, except they have no number, but do have the inscription:

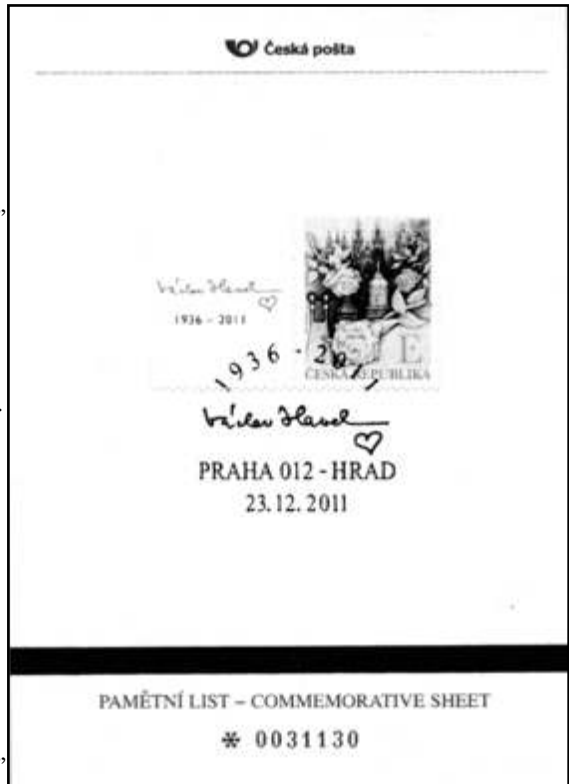


Fig. 1

VÁCLAV HAVEL

5. Října 1936 - 18. Prosince 2011

below the special postal cancel. Thus the PLZ 13 and PRL 3b look very much alike.

3. From Ludvik Svoboda:

-- The following individual contacted us about a Stamp Exchange. I am publishing the information in case one of our members is interested. HOWEVER, this individual is NOT one of our members, and the Society is not recommending nor suggesting that you participate or not participate, it is strictly up to you and your responsibility.

Dear Mrs. and Mr.

I collect US used stamps and I look for some person who would be interested in exchange of used US stamps for Czech, Czechoslovak stamps or stamps from another countries. Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Václav Šípek

kesav.kepis@gmail.com

4. From Dave Stueckemann:

-- Here is the information about obtaining Czech stamps directly from Prague free of charges.

Write to: Czech Post Philatelic Service

Postfila

Ortenovo Náměstí 542 16

Cz-170 Praha 7

CZECH REPUBLIC

Ask for information about buying the immediate past year's stamp issues. They will send back a form detailing the numbers and prices of stamps, mini-sheets, souvenir sheets, FDC's, booklets, and post cards. One fills out the form for what is wanted, writes a check in American dollars for the total, and mails it back. In two or three weeks, a large envelope of what was ordered is delivered to one's door.

5. From Ludvik Svoboda:

-- Here is a brief run-down on our activities at BALPEX 2012.

Two exhibits by our members were judged there:

-- Frank Garancovsky showed his Hradčany, received a Silver, and got our Mucha Award (best Czech or Slovak or Czechoslovak exhibit, as judged by the Show Jury)

-- Richard Palaschak showed a one-frame exhibit, The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia (1919 Legionnaire, 1920 Masaryk), received a Bronze

We had a great show at the Society table, thanks to Mary & John Pojeta, Robin Elliott, Richard Livingston, Jerry & Lois Verner, Richard Palaschak, and Marisa Galitz. They sold \$834.25 worth of books (we could have sold more, but ran out, and some people did not want to back-order, but some did). We got 5 new

members and one returning old-time member (Keith Stupell of New York)(2 Patron and 4 regular) for \$200.

There were two big selling points for getting the new members:

-- the books they wanted were less expensive as a member (non-members pay 25% more)

-- they could get the FREE CD of all of the 1939-2009 *Specialists* with the interactive indices.

Four of the six new members joined because of one or both of these benefits.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC by G.M. Van Zanten

1. On June 6, 2012, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 20 Kč commemorative stamp for the 70th Anniversary of the Lidice Massacre (Fig. 1). On the stamp is shown a brick wall as a symbol of the Nazi's execution location along with "Lidice" written with barbed wire. The 70th anniversary of a sad event - the Lidice massacre - is commemorated in 2012. The assassination of Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich on 27 May 1942 further escalated the terror of Nazi occupants against the Czech people. Hundreds of people had been executed, but the assassins were not found. Heydrich died as a result of injuries on 4 June 1942, and the Nazi regime decided to make up for his



Fig. 5

death by an unprecedented reprisal event; the ambitious Secretary of State for the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia Karl Hermann Frank played a major role in the planning of the massacre in Lidice. The reason for choosing this village was trifling: on June 3, Jaroslav Pála, owner of the battery plant in Slany, intercepted a suspicious love letter addressed to one of the workers, a certain Anna Marusczáková of Holousy u Brandýska. The letter read: "Dear Anna, Sorry for taking so long

to write . . . I did what I wanted to do. I slept at a place in Čabárna on that fateful day. I'm OK. See you this week, and then we will not see each other any more. Milan." Pála believed that the author of the letter might have been involved in the assassination; he informed the Czech police who handed the letter over to the Gestapo. During the interrogation, Marusczáková -- who did not know the real name of her lover -- also mentioned the fact that he asked her to give regards to the Horák family in Lidice from their son. A raid on Lidice followed and the Horák and Štříbrný families -- whose sons were known to be members of the Czechoslovak troops in Britain -- were arrested. House searches and interrogations revealed nothing suspicious. The next day Marusczáková's lover, Václav Říha, who worked

in Vrapice by Kladno, was identified. Říha, who was married, feared that his love affair with a woman from a nearby village would be found; he asked his colleagues to deliver the letter to Marusczáková as an attempt to finish the love affair by creating a romantic impression that he had been involved in the resistance movement and went into hiding in the forests in the Křivoklátsko area. The Gestapo unit in Kladno soon understood that neither Říha and Marusczáková nor the Horák family had anything to do with Heydrich's assassination, and no arsenal, radio stations, or people were found hiding in Lidice. This was also the result reported to Prague. In the meantime Karl Hermann Frank, with the hope that he would strengthen his position and help his appointment as the next Reich Protector, decided to use Lidice as an example of his "firm approach". At Heydrich's funeral in Berlin on June 9, he met Hitler and presented him with his plan; it was immediately approved. Lidice was to be burnt down and leveled entirely; adult men were to be executed, women transported to a concentration camp, and children placed in SS families for a "proper upbringing". The stamp was designed by Markéta Prachatická, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in brick-red and strawberry-red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in gray-black depicts a brick wall with windows in which are the letters making up "Lidice" (Fig. 2).

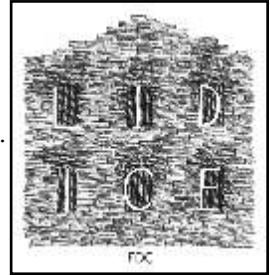


Fig. 2

2. On June 6, 2012, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp for the 70th Anniversary of the Ležáky Massacre (Fig. 3). The stamp displays a stylized picture of the greenery behind the granite monument designed by architect L. Žák, viewed through the cross cut in the monument. These monuments, installed to commemorate both families and their houses, are called house-tombs. The size of the house-tombs, as well as of the cross signs cut in them, varies. The house-tomb on the stamp is a stylized rather than an existing one. The 70th anniversary of the Ležáky massacre is another sad event commemorated in 2012. Ležáky was a settlement composed of 8 houses around a mill on the Ležák rivulet, located in the cadastral area of Miřetice and Louka in the Chrudim region. Two weeks after the Lidice massacre, on June 24, 1942, the settlement was burnt down and its population executed by the Nazis to avenge the fact that several people from Ležáky helped another group of paratroopers, called Silver A, involved in the assassination of Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich, by providing a hiding place for their radio station. Early in the afternoon, Ležáky was surrounded, all inhabitants gathered and taken away to



Fig. 3

Pardubice; late in the evening 33 adults were executed there. Eleven children were transported to an extermination camp and gassed; only two children were selected for the Aryanization program and sent to Germany (both were found and returned

after the war). Starting in 1941, groups of paratroopers were sent to the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to establish links with the resistance movement, improve connection with the exiled government in Britain, and manage diversion events against German occupants. On May 27, 1942, two paratroopers attacked Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich; the attack led to mass reprisals against the Czech population. Lidice was destroyed first (June 10) to demonstrate the determination to avenge the killing; later evidence showed that

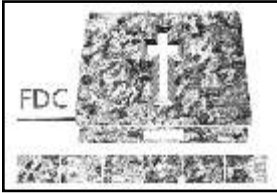


Fig. 4

the people of Lidice had nothing to do with the assassination. Paratrooper Karel Čurda, hiding separately from the rest of his group, himself contacted the Prague Gestapo on June 16 and betrayed the resistance network in the Pardubice region. On June 20, the first member of the network, manager of the Hluboká quarry located only several hundred meters from Ležáky, was arrested, followed by Ležáky miller Švanda on June 21. Both were interrogated and tortured. The settlement

was not rebuilt after the war; the site became a memorial composed of the outlines of the original houses and a monument. The stamp was designed by Milada Hartlová, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in gray shows an entire granite house-tomb with a partially displayed base which makes a part of the monument (Fig. 4).

3. On June 6, 2012, the Ministry issued a self-adhesive definitive stamp for St. Wenceslas with letter "A" denomination -- ordinary domestic letter rate (Fig. 5). On the stamp is depicted the monument of St. Wenceslas, the symbol of Czech statehood by J.V. Myslbek, with a tricolor in the background. St. Wenceslas (probably 907 - September 28, 935), a Czech prince and saint, is considered to be the main patron saint of the Czech country and a symbol of Czech statehood. Wenceslas was brought up by his grandmother, Saint Ludmila, who raised him as a Christian at Budeč castle. As the ruler of the Bohemian Duchy, he dealt with several raids led by the Saxon duke Henry the Fowler and was able to maintain



Fig. 5

the sovereignty of the duchy. He was the founder of a rotunda consecrated to St. Vitus at Prague Castle, which became the main church in the country. Wenceslas was murdered in Stará Boleslav, in the seat of his brother Boleslav who succeeded him as the Duke of Bohemia. Wenceslas was considered a martyr and a saint immediately after his death both for his piety (he grew vines and corn and made sacramental wine and bread by his own hands; gave alms to the poor; took care of slaves and prisoners; founded churches; dismantled gallows; and brought down idols) and

miracles after his death. He later became a symbol of the Czech statehood (e.g., in the late 11th century Vyšehrad Codex, on coins or Myslbek's monument). In 1929, the country celebrated St. Wenceslas millennium by opening the finally finished St. Vitus cathedral in the presence of Czechoslovak President T.G. Masaryk and

Prague Archbishop František Kordač. The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full color offset with linear drawing in printing sheets of 40 pieces. The perforations on each side of the self-adhesive stamp have discontinuities as a security measure. A FDC in green-brown depicts St Wenceslas along with Czech text stating: Let us not perish, Now nor in future.

4. On June 20, 2012, the Ministry issued a 21 Kč commemorative stamp illustrating Our Lady of Hostýn (Fig. 6) showing her with a crown of stars and holding Her Son, Jesus Christ, who has lightning bolts coming down from his scepter. The crown has tended to be perceived by all cultured



Fig. 6

civilizations as the most ostensible symbol of supreme dignity and power. As such, the crowns of emperors, kings, princes signify the supreme ruling power. Ancient cultures, especially the Greeks and Romans, used to coronate glorious victors to reward them for their great achievements, merits, and bravery. Out of the many people who received this accolade, the Virgin Mary is certainly the most worthy one. A daughter of the glorious and ancient dynasty of King David, she lived in poverty and humility, without any crown other than that of thorns she wore because of her spiritual involvement in the suffering of her Divine Son. Now she lives in heaven and wears a crown of twelve stars. From time immemorial the Virgin Mary has been venerated by people as the Mother of God, “The Queen”, and The Madonna at places of pilgrimage. The Catholic Church introduced the ceremony of coronation of Madonna paintings and statues at places of pilgrimage in 1640 on the initiative of Italian Jesuit Alexandro Sforza Pallavicini who believed that if ruling princes and kings wear crowns of gold, the Queen of Heaven and Her Son are the more worthy of this privilege. A special commission based in the Vatican was set up to approve coronations of Madonna paintings and statues at the most famous places of pilgrimage in Italy, and later also in other countries. Early in the past century the Czech people also decided to crown their real Queen at the Hostýn pilgrimage site; the statues of Our Lady of Hostýn and of Her Divine Son were adorned with golden crowns consecrated by Pope Pius X. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulhánek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in gold, red, and black combined with offset in printing sheets of 8 pieces and a single label in the middle containing the inscription: “100th anniversary of the Coronation of Our Lady of Hostýn”, a golden crown, and the dates 1912/2012. A FDC in shades of red depicts the crown that is on the head of the statue of Our Lady (Fig. 7).

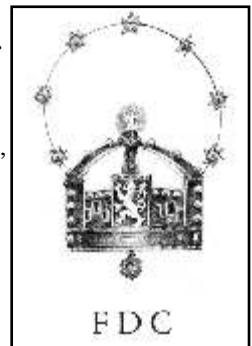


Fig. 7

5. On June 20, 2012, the Ministry issued a 20 Kč commemorative stamp along with two labels for the occasion of the London 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic

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Games (Fig. 8, 8a). On the stamp is depicted the javelin throw, included in the ancient Greek Olympic Games since the year 776 BC as one of the five events of the pentathlon competition. In the foreground is the dominant bronze sculpture of



Fig. 8



a classical javelin thrower from the 5th century BC, and in the background is his contemporary counterpart commemorating the long tradition of the Olympics and the position of athletics as the queen of sport. The logo of the London Olympics is the other dominant element in the image. The cutting-edge design of this logo -- which triggered a huge debate -- is based on the date 2012; it looks like street graffiti art. The themes of the labels are water sports -- successful Czech Olympic disciplines. On the labels, Olympic athletes are represented by a rower, while Paralympic athletes are represented by a swimmer. Both labels are accompanied by the logos of the Czech Olympic Committee and Czech Paralympic Committee. The games of the XXXth Olympiad, or London 2012 Summer Olympic Games, took place in London, England from July 26 to August 12, 2012. Around 300 sets of medals are planned to be presented in 29 sports. London will become the first city to officially host the modern Olympic Games three times, having previously done so in 1908 and in 1948. London was selected as the host city for the 2012 Olympics out of the nine cities that submitted bids. The traditional Paralympic Games are scheduled to take place in London from August 29 to September 9, after the end of the Olympic Games. The program of the Games featured 29 sports. The IOC voted

to drop baseball and softball. The sports are: athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, judo, football (soccer), gymnastics, handball, sailing, equestrian, canoeing, basketball, archery, modern pentathlon, volleyball, swimming, field hockey, diving, table tennis, shooting, synchronized swimming, fencing, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, rowing, water polo, weight lifting, wrestling. The stamp and labels were designed by Jan Ungrád, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdouň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates

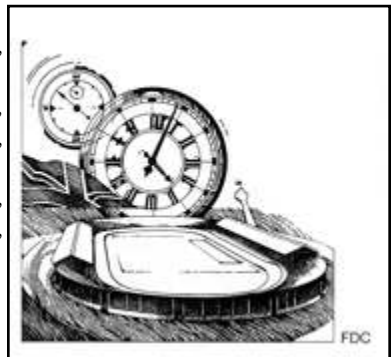


Fig. 9

in black combined with colored offset in printing sheets of 3 stamps and 2 different labels. A FDC in gray-black depicts a stop watch and the clock face of Big Ben Clock Tower above the stadium commemorating the 1908 Olympic Games in London (Fig. 9).

6. On June 20, 2012, the Ministry issued three self-adhesive definitive stamps with imprinted letter “A”, “A”, and “E” (Fig. 10). These stamps serve as specimens for the “My Own Stamps” series. Stamp sheets with the images shown in Figure 10 can be purchased and used as they are, or they can be ordered personalized. The personalized stamps will not have the box-like characters (which are from a Czech



Fig. 10b

Fig. 10c

Fig. 10a

Post advertising campaign) or the words “Pořídte si Vlastní Známku” (order your own stamp), rather they will have the ordered image there, but the rest will remain (“A” or “E”, ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA, the microtext underline, and the stamp designer’s name). Traditionally the Czech Post has issued two types of stamps: commemorative stamps to honor specific events (which are of varying denominations and are identified in an annual issue plan), and definitive stamps which are issued on an as needed basis and are designed to satisfy the bulk of basic postal franking needs. Now they are adding another category of definitive stamps -- My Own Stamps. These are designed primarily for heavy postal users such as businesses and organizations (the personalized variety must have a minimum order of 600 sheets = 15,000 stamps). They can order these stamps with whatever image on the stamp that they would like, e.g., the firm’s logo, a slogan, program description, events, various images, etc. All of the stamps can be the same or all can be different or any mix in between, but all on a given sheet have to be the same denomination, either “A” or “E”. The sheets contain 25 stamps (5 x 5)(Fig. 11). The sheets are in two layers, the top one has all of the printed images which are on a self-adhesive paper, which is on top of a backing layer. There are two kinds of separation features -- rouletted perforations that run entirely across and up/down the sheet that go through both layers, and zig-zag perforations around each stamp through the self-adhesive layer only. In the middle of each of the four sides of the stamp, these zig-zag perforations have a discontinuity as a security feature. The “A” stamp sheets can be vertical or horizontal, while the “E” has to be horizontal, but all of the stamps are either 23 x 30 mm or 30 x 23 mm. The graphic arrangement of all three specimen stamp sheets was by Petr Foltera, while the picture portion of the specimen stamps was designed by Ivana Havránková, Václav

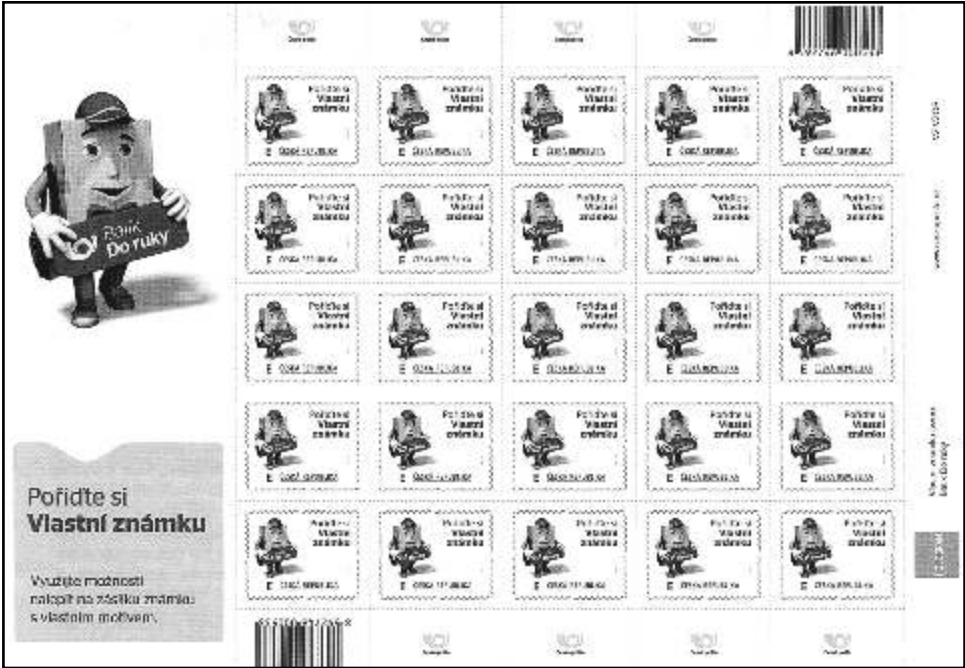


Fig. 11

Prílesky, and Josef Bajza respectively. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using full colored offset.

Stationery

7. On June 20, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” postage stamp honoring 20 years since the foundation of the Post Printing House in Prague (Fig. 12). The imprinted “A” stamp shows a roughly drawn letter “A” and also has roughly drawn perforations around it. The left-hand side of the postal card portrays imps sitting on three-legged stools creating an “A” postage stamp on the easel before them. The PTC on their back stands for “Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin” (Post Printing House). The printing house Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin Praha a.s. was formed on May 1, 1992, after the privatization of the former Czech Post’s Technical Communication Center. Its tradition goes as far back as 1952 when the Ministry of Communications set up a postal printing house for the purpose of printing postage stamps and other printed materials requiring a high level of security. Its modern approach, flexibility and unique printing technology make it famous in many countries around the world. The range of national and international awards that it has won proves that it remains one of the top companies in the industry. The postal card was designed by Jiří Sliva (who gave it a touch of his typical humor) and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

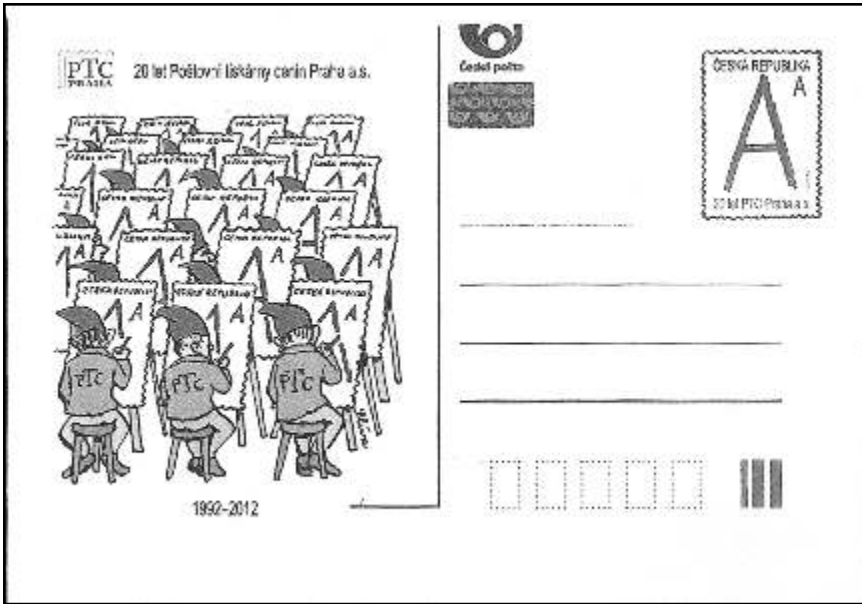


Fig. 12

8. On June 20, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” postage stamp in honor of the 750th anniversary of the founding of Vysoké Myto (Fig. 13). The “A” imprinted stamp shows the town



Fig. 13

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skyline and the municipal emblem of Vysoké Myto. The left side of the postal card portrays the silhouette of the statue of King Premysl Ottokar II (by K. Bures) and appropriate text for the 750 years since the founding of the city by him. This year the town will be celebrating the event on September 7-9, 2012. Vysoké Myto lies in the middle of the Pardubice Region on the main road linking Hradec Králové and Brno. The preserved original part of the town includes the rectangular grid of the town plan with its central square, which is the largest town square with four equal sides in Bohemia. Other highlights in downtown Vysoké Myto are the Gothic St. Lawrence Church, 16th century belfry, Choceňská Tower, and the Prague and Litomyšlská Gateways. The town ramparts with the Vodárenská and Klášterská Towers are still preserved. In its rich history, the town lived through periods of booming prosperity as well as through destruction by fire or foreign armies. From mid-19th century until 1990, Vysoké Myto hosted a military base. The last units stationed there were the Soviet occupation troops of several thousand men who arrived in 1968. The occupation troops caused extensive material and environmental damage to the town. After their departure in 1990, the shabby town gradually recovered and began to thrive again. The present day town is a beautiful and pleasant place to live and visit. The postal card was designed by Pavel Sivko and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

9. On June 13, 2012, the Ministry issued a set of 8 picture postal cards with motifs of monasteries in the Czech Republic. Each postal card is issued with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” postage stamp with Coat of Arms by Bedřich Housa. The photographs on the cards are by Roman Maleček. They were printed by multicolored offset by the Post Printing House in Prague.

-- Prague: St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle (a relic of UNESCO). St. Vitus Cathedral is the third of a series of religious buildings at the site, all dedicated to St. Vitus. The two original rotundas were dismantled after 1060 to make room for a large, three-naved basilica. The building survived until 1344 when the present day Gothic cathedral was founded. The designer was Frenchman Matthias of Arras. After his death in 1352, young architect Peter Parler took over the site management. The construction process -- continued after Parler's death by his sons until 1406 -- came to a halt during the Hussite wars in the first third of the 15th century. After the wars, the unfinished torso of the cathedral was closed by a 32-meter high wall in the western part. The final phase of construction began in the 19th century by restoration of the Gothic part (J. Kranner), followed by the laying of the foundation stone for the final section of the cathedral designed and managed by J. Mocker until his death. The construction process was completed by Mocker's successor K. Hilbert appointed in 1899. (A 201/2012)

-- Kutná Hora: monumental St. Barbara's Church (a relic of UNESCO). A national heritage site founded around 1380. Peter Parler's workshop designed the plans and carried out the construction works until the Hussite wars in the first third of the 15th century. The original three-naved design was later changed into a five-naved, cathedral-like building with a long, polygonal, closed choir lined with

an ambulatory, a circle of eight chapels, a transept, and five-naved basilica. (A 202/2012)

-- Plzeň: Gothic St. Bartholomew's Cathedral. A national heritage site. The construction started in the early 14th century. The three-part nave was arched after 1476. Sternberk chapel was added in the 16th century. The main spire, slimmer and taller than the original tower, was finished in 1837. The cathedral underwent a series of restoration efforts in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Plzeň Madonna, a Gothic statue made of arenaceous marlstone and decorating the main altar, dates back to 1930. (A 203/2012)

-- Cheb: monumental St. Nicholas Church. Built in 1220-30. The original Romanesque church underwent a Gothic and a series of later conversion efforts. Only the western portal and the lower part of both towers (up to the third-floor level) remained in place. (A 204/2012)

-- Brno: SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral (so-called Brno Dome). The Romanesque basilica, founded in the 1170's on the top of a hill known as Petrov, was dismantled in the late 13th century and rebuilt as an early Gothic basilica, converted to the late Gothic tile in 1400 and destroyed by fire in 1643. During the 1743-6 reconstruction effort designed by M. Grimm the basilica was converted to the High Baroque style and the vaulting of the naves was finished. Its present neo-Gothic form dates back to the late 19th and early 20th century. (A 205/2012)

-- Olomouc: three-naved Gothic St. Wenceslas Cathedral. The Romanesque basilica, founded in 1131, was destroyed by fire in 1266 and converted to the Gothic style. Its present neo-Gothic form dates back to 1883-92. The 100.6-meter high spire is the tallest church tower in Moravia. (A 206/2012)

-- Kroměříž: St. Maurice Church. One of the major church monuments in Moravia. The original Romanesque church, founded by Bishop Bruno of Schauenburg of Olomouc probably shortly before 1262, was converted to the Gothic style in the late 14th century, destroyed by fire during the Hussite wars, and completely rebuilt in the late 16th century. The Chapel of Our Lade of Sorrows was erected around 1730. It is decorated with the amazing fresco painting by J.J. Etgens and A.J. Stern and the Gothic statue of Pieta on the Altar. (A 207/2012)

-- Dub nad Moravou: Baroque pilgrimage church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Built in 1736-56. The church has a two-story vaulted arcade with an open lower part. The upper floor is turned into a closed corridor with the Stations of the Cross. Other paintings decorating the church interior include e.g., a series of J.I. Mildorfer's paintings of 1756. The organ in the organ loft is a precious 18th-century piece. (A 208/2012)

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

10. On May 25, 2012, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.40€ commemorative stamp in honor of Slovakia winning 2nd Place at the World Ice Hockey Championship (Fig. 14). Slovakia has been waiting a long time -- nine years in fact -- for another hockey medal. Before, the Slovak national team

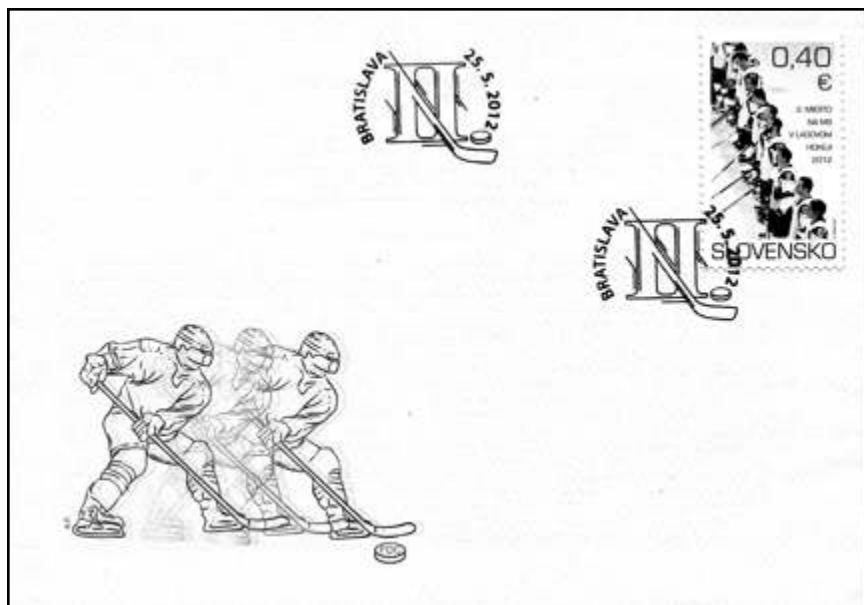


Fig. 14

managed to achieve this under the baton of František Hossa in 2003 in Helsinki. Once again they were in Helsinki, but it did not start out well. They lost their first two games to Canada (2:3) and Finland (0:1), so the medals looked like they were flying away. Then they beat the USA (4:2), who were heavily favored, and this gave them new confidence to go on; they beat the Canadians (4:3) and then their neighbors the Czech Republic (3:1) to make the final against the Russians. They lost to the self-confident Russians (2:6), but second place after so many years of misery was a great success. After the game, the players dedicated this silver medal to their last captain Pavol Demitra who had died tragically in September 2011. The stamp was designed by Adrian Ferda and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was produced (Fig. 14).

11. On June 1, 2012, the Ministry issued a T2.50g commemorative stamp with label for International Children's Day (Fig. 15). Slovenská Pošta, a.s., through its programs, supports not only young people's interest in collecting stamps, but also their participation in the preparation of art designs for postage stamps through contests. Even the stamp issue for the International Children's Day (ICD) was chosen from the national competition of students from 20 Secondary Schools of Arts plus 28 designs from other schools. The competition was initiated by the Secondary School of Arts in Ružomberok during the 27th Philately Days in Slovakia in 2010. In the category of stamp design, the winner was Radka Hudoková from the Secondary School of Arts in Levice. Her colorful illustration of the cake with burning candles symbolizes the celebrations connected with the ICD. The winner of the FDC design was Ivana Javorníková from the Private Secondary Art School of Design, Bratislava with her design based upon the composition of various

multicolored animal figures. The ICD holiday originated at a conference in Switzerland in 1925. In Slovakia, the holiday has been celebrated since 1952. The celebration date of June 1 is most likely related to the Dragon Boat Festival organized by the Chinese general consul in San Francisco for the local Chinese orphans on June 1, 1925. After WW II, it became one of the most celebrated

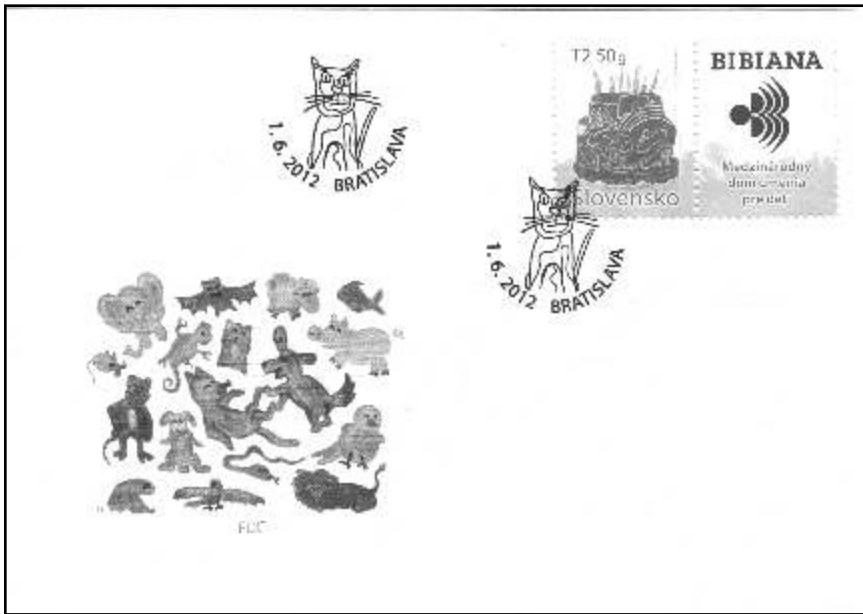


Fig. 15

holidays, mostly in the countries under the Soviet influence. However, not even this staining by the Communist regime lessened its popularity and importance. The stamp was produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague using offset in sheets of 8 stamps and 8 labels that can be personalized. A FDC was issued (Fig. 15).

12. On June 15, 2012, the Ministry issued a souvenir sheet with a 1.20€ commemorative stamp to honor the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Rozhanovce (Fig. 16). The 14th century was a Golden Age for Slovak towns. In this century, there were around one hundred towns and the Slovak region was becoming the most urbanized area of the Hungarian Kingdom. On the grounds of a village founded by some Koša, a new town called Košice grew rapidly. It was situated on the European trade route connecting the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea. The town was growing and getting richer, but a powerful aristocrat Amade from the Aba family did not like it. They robbed merchants heading for Košice, and they even plundered in the town itself. During one of the raids, citizens resisted and killed the old Amade, and his two sons with other fighters were arrested. It was unprecedented impudence, and the war was about to happen. The young king Charles Robert of Anjou stood up for the citizens of Košice and commanded the

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nobility of Eastern Slovakia to gather under the royal flags. The Amades also gained a powerful ally -- the biggest magnate in Slovakia, Matthew Czak of Trenčín and his armies. The battle between these two armies took place on the plain near the village Rozgony (today Rozhanovce) near Košice on June 15, 1312. This bloody battle caused heavy casualties among knights on both sides, but the

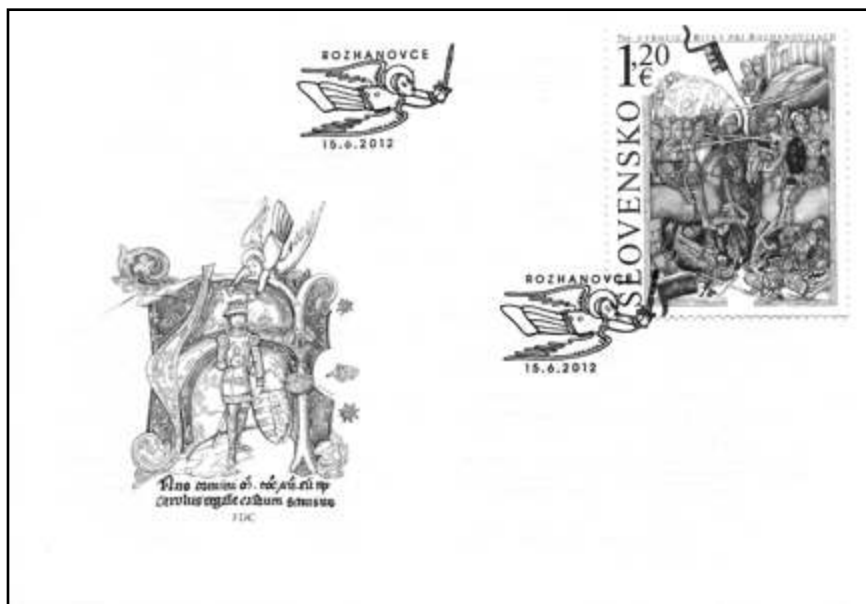


Fig. 16

royal army defeated the rebel army. In 1358, a chronicler wrote: “It was the most vicious battle since the Mongol invasion in the Hungarian Empire.” This momentous event was also painted by a painter who illustrated the Illuminated Chronicle after 1370. He depicted the defeat of Amades and armies of Matthew Czak of Trenčín by the falling of the flag with the historical symbol of Slovakia -- double cross on three hills. This picture served as a theme for the stamp. From the historical point of view, the event is noteworthy because for the first time in Slovak history, a town resisted the aristocrats. Then, Košice’s townsmen looked for independent positions in the structure of feudal society as well as other European cities. The souvenir sheet with stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin of Prague using recess printing with offset. A FDC was produced (Fig. 16).

13. On June 28, 2012, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp for the London 2012 Olympic Games (Fig. 17). London was honored back in July 2005 to be selected as the venue for the XXXth Olympic Games, thus making London to be the first city to have the Olympics for the third time. The first Olympic Games in London took place in 1908, in a multifunctional stadium in Shepherd’s Bush. There were 66,288 spectators, and, besides the athletic oval, there was also a

cycling track and a 100-meter swimming pool. Zoltan Halmaj, born in the village of Dúbrava near Vysoká při Moravě, ended his Olympic career with two silver medals in this pool. He earned two gold medals, four silver medals, and two bronze medals at three Olympic Games representing the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The second Olympic Games in London in 1948 brought the first Olympic gold medal for Slovak sports. Julius Torma won it for the Czechoslovak team. He was considered to be one of the most technical boxers of his times, and he was called “the knight of leather gloves”. Wembley Stadium, which was undamaged by bombing, became the main stadium of the post-war Olympic Games. Its size was 82,000. This legendary stadium was changed into the second largest football stadium in Europe in 2003. The Olympic Stadium had 80,000 seats and hosted the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as athletic events. The Slovak athletes will try to be successful at the Olympic Games where 10,500 athletes from 204 countries are expected. The stamps was designed by Igor Piačka and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague using offset. A FDC was produced (Fig. 17).

14. On June 28, 2012, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp for the London 2012 Paralympic Games (Fig. 18). The first Paralympic Games for physically handicapped sportsmen, mostly British soldiers -- disabled people from WW II, were held on July 29, 1948. They took place on the same day as the Opening Ceremony of the XIV Olympic Games. Neurologist Dr. Ludwig Guttmann (1899-1980) from Stoke Mandeville hospital in Aylesbury organized a wheelchair archery contest for soldiers with spinal cord injuries. He was convinced that sport is a form of therapy. The first, still British, recurrence took place in 1952 in the same

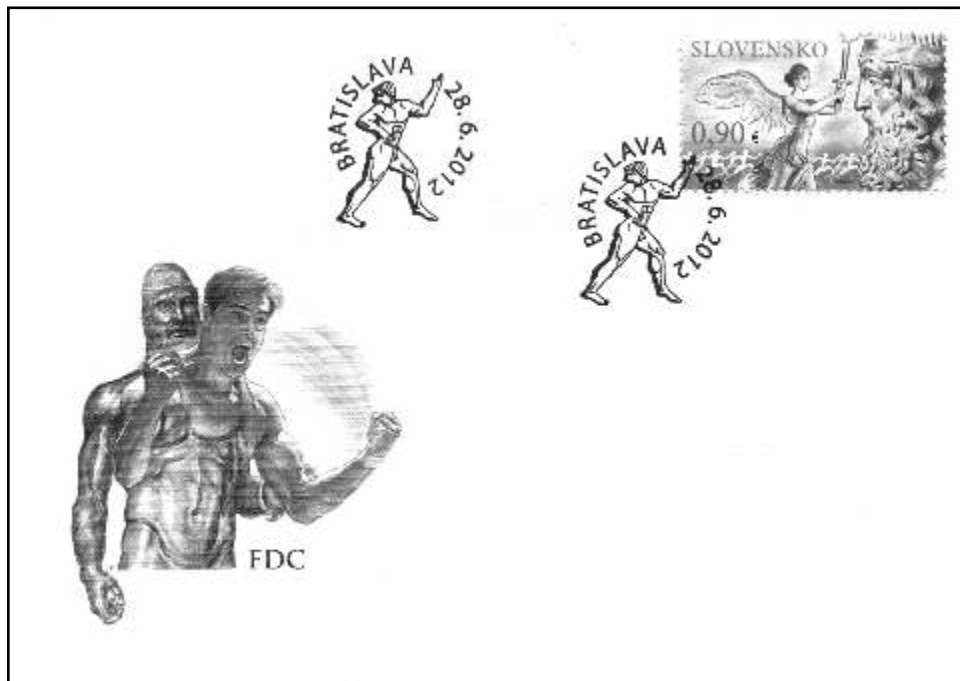


Fig. 17



Fig. 18

location, and athletes from Holland joined in. These games were recognized by the International Olympic Committee in 1956. In 1966, Guttman was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. In 1960, the games took place in Rome during the Olympic Games, with the following games being held in Tokyo, Tel-Aviv and Heidelberg. In Toronto in 1976 not only athletes in wheelchairs took part, but also athletes with a wide range of disabilities. The Paralympic Games are coming back to its cradle with a wide-ranging schedule for more than 4,000 contestants from 166 countries who will participate in 21 disciplines. Besides the traditional Olympic disciplines (light athletics, swimming, weight lifting, fencing, equestrian, cycling, rowing, yachting) or games (football, volleyball, basketball, rugby, tennis, table tennis) we will see also an extremely popular game of boccia or goalball. It was devised after WW II as a ball game for visually impaired soldiers. It is played in silence and players try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponent's goal. The players do not see the ball; they only hear it. But after the goal, the applause is a legitimate sign. At the last Paralympic Games, the Slovak athletes earned two gold medals, three silver medals, and one bronze medal in table tennis, shooting, and cycling. The stamp was designed by Peter Uchnár and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague using offset. A FDC was produced (Fig. 18).

15. On July 13, 2012, the Ministry issued a 0.40€ commemorative stamp in the Beauties of Our Country series for Skalka při Trenčíne (Fig. 19). This pilgrimage site was founded on the rock on the right bank of the Váh river. It is situated north east of Trenčín. According to Maurus' legend, St. Svorad-Andrew and afterwards his student and follower St. Benedict worked here, and St. Benedict also died here

by martyr's death. The regional cult of these hermits was officially declared in 1083 when Ss. Svorad and Benedict were canonized among the first Hungarian saints. At the end of the 12th century there was a church built in the Romanesque style consecrated to St. Benedict and All Saints on Velká Skalka. The bishop of Nitra, Jacob I founded the Benedictine Abbey here in 1224, and it became the religious center of this part of Považie (the territory around the Váh river). This medieval fortified monastery was plundered and destroyed many times, and then in 1528 it ceased to exist completely. The second period of development started in 1644 when the Jesuits began to administer the monastery. They gradually renovated and rebuilt it. In 1745 they built a two-tower pilgrimage church in the Baroque style on Malá Skalka. It was located one kilometer south of the previous monastery location on the raised plateau of limestone rock jutting out into the river. According to legend, it was on the place where robbers cast St. Benedict's dead body into the Váh river. After the cancellation of the Jesuit order, all property passed to the State and the whole area along with the monastery was allocated to the parish of Skalka nad Váhom. The last major reconstruction was carried out in the mid-19th century, and by the 20th century the area was abandoned and desolate. Then, some basic preserving works were performed on the fortifications and three of the major undamaged buildings, including the three-storied chapel which was connected to the hermit's cave -- which is now the only building in the area with practical purpose. An annual pilgrimage takes place to the chapel. The stamp was designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague using rotary recess printing. A FDC was produced (Fig. 19).

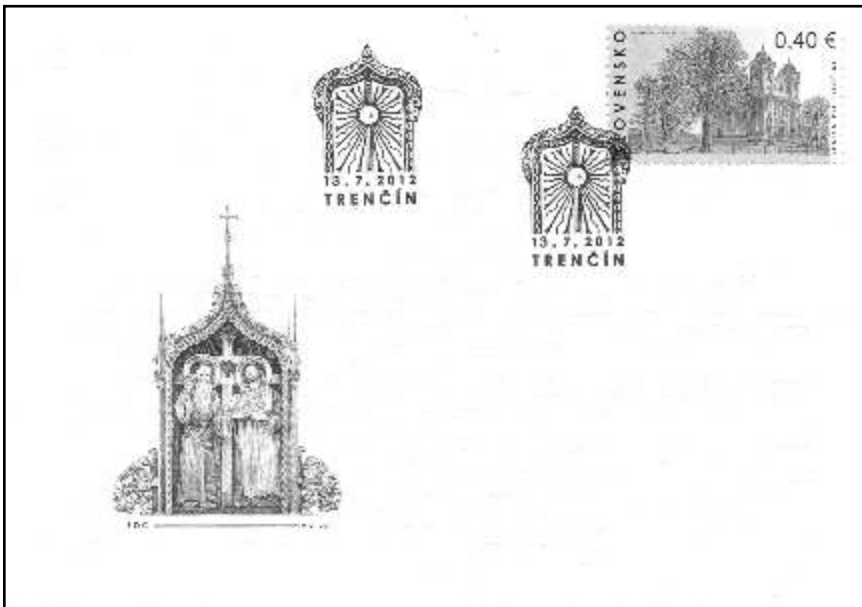


Fig. 19

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

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**Prices are postpaid in USA
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<u>[NEW]</u>	HRADČANY 25H VIOLET (Cz) -- Merkur-Revue, 71 page study of every possible variety of combinations of the spirals, partitions, and arch types on the 1 st and 2 nd printing plates of the 25h value.	\$19.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	WEIPERT FALZUM -- FORGERIES FROM VEJPRTY (Cz,G,E) -- Merkur-Revue, color documentary of the forged Hradčany issues. The forgeries were created in 1919 Germany, delivered to the Czech border town of Vejprty north of Karlovy Vary, and widely used on package receipts to defraud the new Czech Post.	\$19.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINTS 1944-45 (Cz) -- by Karel Holoubek, contains all of the legal overprints issued in postwar Czechoslovakia in May 1945 with detailed descriptions on how and why they were created. The book -- written in a Monograph style -- starts with the 1944 issues of Chust, Rimavská Sobota, Rožňava and the Skalice local issue, then covers all of the legally approved issues. [Reviewed Summer 2011]	\$35.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	2012 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-1939 (Cz) -- POFIS, in color, specialized in department information	\$35.00
	2002 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-1939 (Cz) -- POFIS, color, specialized.	\$20.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	2011 CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2011 (Cz) -- POFIS, in color, specialized, including every product issued by the Czech post. (Reviewed Spring 11)	\$35.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	1963 PADĚLKY ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK 1918-1939 (Cz) -- POFIS, Karásek, Kvasnička, Pauliček, 368 pp, b+w, bound. The original, best forgeries monograph on First Republic stamps. Seldom seen for sale.	\$45.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	2007 ALBUM SLOVENSKO 1939-1945 (Sl) -- specialized, all color, 128 pages, includes a special print S/S.	\$33.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	2009 ZBĚRATEL SLOVENSKO 1993-2008 (Sl) -- specialized, has everything Slovak Post issued, color, 225 pages.	\$33.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	2011 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1945-1992 (Cz) -- POFIS, 304 pages of color, specialized in department information, with many upward price changes.	\$30.00
<u>[NEW]</u>	2010 PROTECTORATE BOHEMIA & MORAVIA 1939-1945 (Cz) -- POFIS mini catalog, 34 pages, full color, shows all stamps and postal stationery issued, lists plate number positions and labels layout.	\$ 9.00
	STAMPS WITH A PORTRAIT OF T.G. MASARYK (E) -- by Henry Hahn, 30 pages, a supplement to the Sept. 1977 Specialist.	\$ 6.00
	The CHAINBREAKER (Liberated Republic)(E) -- by Chvalovský/Kašpar. Handbook on these stamps with specialized info -- trans. by Mark Wilson.	\$16.00

RARE and REMARKABLE CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS (E,Cz,G) -- A large and attractive volume depicting rarities, by Karásek.	\$32.00
ČESKOSLOVENSKO I and II, ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA, PROTEKTORAT B&M, SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA, and SLOVENSKÝ ŠTÁT (Cz) -- POFIS 2000 FORERUNNERS and CONTEMPORARY STAMPS & STATIONERY OF 1918-1919 CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Cz) by Pavel Hirš. Specialized catalog, hard-bound, 140 pgs. Post offices listed in Slovak/Hungarian for Slovakia and Czech/German for Bohemia/Moravia/Silesia. In color.	\$28.00
2009 CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2008 (Cz) -- POFIS, color, specialized, every product issued by the Czech post.	\$26.00
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CZECHOSLOVAK STATIONERY & POSTCARD CATALOG 1918-1992(Cz) Vol. II, by Starec and Beneš.	\$27.00
SCOUT PHILATELY IN OUR COUNTRY (ČSR, ČR, SL)(Cz) -- by Vapenka. In color, describes all scout stamps, covers, postmarks, overprints, cancels.	\$34.00
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GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY -- Second Edition (E) -- Translate Czech terms into English and back; 130 pgs. (Reviewed: Mar/Apr 97)	\$10.00
MAIL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS IN FRANCE (Cz,E) -- by Jaroslav J. Verner. This 80 page, English/Czech publication is the first on this subject and is being published by the Society. It includes political/	\$9/6+p \$2/3

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historic context, development of units and their postal arrangements, illustrations of cancels, point valuation system, and B/W and color illustrations. (Reviewed: Jan/Feb 03)	
POSTAL HISTORY OF TELČ AND ITS REGION (Cz) -- by Henry Hahn.	\$ 7.00
This well illustrated 48 page booklet covers all aspects of the development and growth of the postal service of the Telč region. (Reviewed: Sep/Oct 03)	
SPECIALIZED CATALOG, SPORTS STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1918-1992 (SI) -- by Ervín Smažák. Excellent production, 20 pages, all in color on glossy paper, including pricing of all stamps (in Slovak crowns).	\$ 5.00
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