



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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JOINT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY and THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Because of the complexity and cost of moving funds between currencies and across national borders, the two societies have agreed to collect and forward membership fees from members of either society residing in the United States or the United Kingdom.

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In addition, members of both societies may now pay both membership fees in a single payment from their home country as described above. If you are not a member of both societies, why not double your fun and join both? The two societies' journals have little duplication in their articles and contents.

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Web Site: www.cspilately.org

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

E-mail: Lousvoboda@comcast.net Phone: 303-680-7118

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Foreign Editor: Sam Horvath, S8207 US Highway 61, Readstown, WI 54652

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Vice President: Chris Jackson, 6 Sunnyside Dr, SS1, St. George, ON, Canada N0E 1N0

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SMUTEK ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA
 A Philatelic Remembrance
 of the Life of
 VACLAV HAVEL

(Continued from Summer 2012 issue)

Havel Na Hrad, 1989 - 2003

November 17 is the anniversary of the Nazi closure of Czech institutions of higher education and the execution of nine students who lead the demonstration on October 28, 1939. In 1989, the government approved a student gathering and a march to the grave of K.H. Mácha in Vyšehrad Cemetery. At the grave the students were authorized to sing the Czech national anthem, light candles, and lay wreaths and flowers. They were then to disperse and go home.

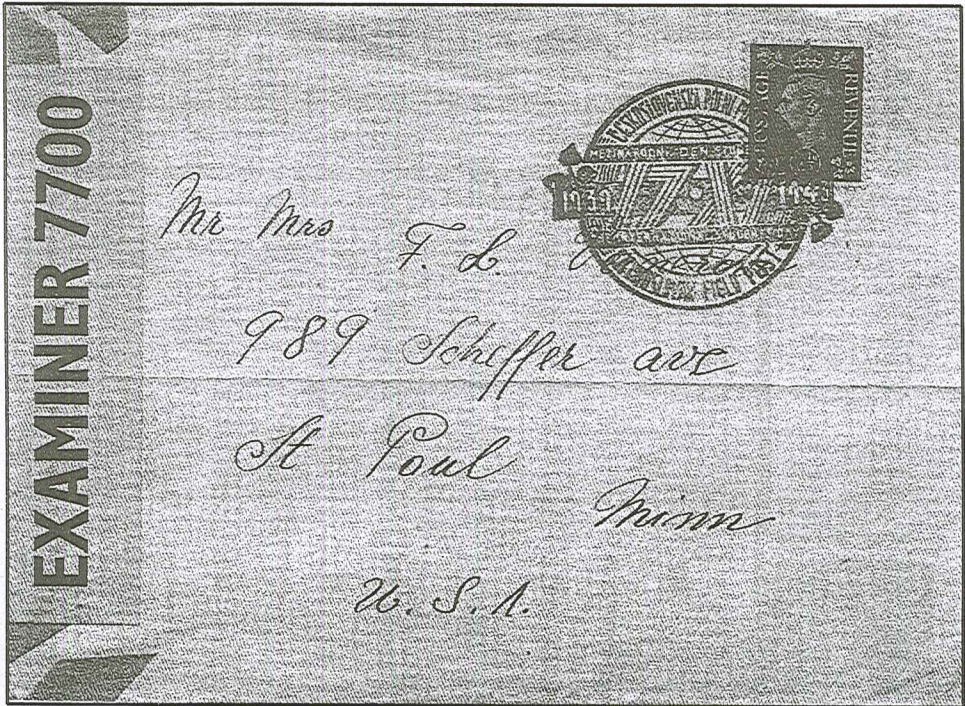


Figure 10: Commemorative cancel prepared by the Czechoslovak Armed Forces in the United Kingdom marking the 5th anniversary of November 17, 1939.

Following the ceremony at Vyšehrad Cemetery, some of the students began a march to Wenceslaus Square, something the government had specifically forbidden. The statue of St. Wenceslaus at the upper end of the square was the gathering place during times of national distress or celebration. With the events in other Warsaw Pact nations, the Czechoslovak government wanted to prevent any 'visits' to St. Wenceslaus.



Figure 11: Pofis
Czechoslovakia 2916. The
stamp honors Jan Opletal
and the 50th anniversary of
events of November 17, 1939.

Before reaching the National Theater, the student marchers were met by riot police and badly beaten. A number were arrested, including a young anarchist, John Bok. As he was being arrested he yelled to his friends "get a message to Vašek, quickly. He is at Hrádeček. Tell him what is happening." Bok repeated the message during a short telephone call he was permitted by the police, adding Vašek should return to Prague quickly, "Something has changed."

Indeed, something had changed. As the students continued to push toward Wenceslaus Square, bystanders joined the march. When the march, numbering perhaps 50,000 people, proceeded down Národní Třída (National Avenue), they were again set upon by the riot police and the special anti-terrorist force. It was the beginning of the Velvet Revolution.

Vašek, Václav Havel's nickname, received Bok's message and hurried back to Prague, arriving at his apartment about midnight. There he learned from Olga and Ivan, his brother, that something was different. In addition to the student march and the riot police response, Havel heard that at a musical performance earlier that evening the audience cheered and applauded Václav Neumann, the director, and members of the symphony orchestra who had signed a petition protesting Havel's most recent imprisonment, January to May 1989.

No one knew what the government would do next. On the night of November 19, Havel and the leaders of various dissident groups voted to form themselves into an umbrella group called Občanské Fórum (Civic Forum). Slowly Civic Forum began pushing its authority to test the governments will to resist. Within Civic Forum, Václav Havel moved to form a shadow government. On the afternoon of November 21, Havel addressed a crowd of some 200,000 from the balcony of the Melantrich building. The crowd below cheered him wildly. Within hours the Communist premier moved to establish contact with Havel. In the name of Civic Forum, Havel penned letters to Presidents Bush and Gorbachev explaining that Czechoslovakia was in deep crisis. President Bush supported the move to democracy. President Gorbachev said there would be no Soviet support for the Czechoslovak comrades. Demonstrations occurred in a number of Czech and Slovak cities as well as Prague. Demonstrators began jingling their keys to symbolize it was time for the communists to go home. They also began chanting 'Havel na Hrad' (Havel to the castle). Fears of a government crackdown began to fade.

Demonstrations, some organized by Civic Forum, continued to grow. On November 25 and 26, the demonstrations in Prague became so large that the venue had to be moved to the Letná Plain above the city. Following the demonstration on the 25th, the first secretary of the communist party, and the party politburo resigned. On December 7 the communist prime minister resigned, followed on December 10 by President Husák. That same day Marián Čalfa, one of the ministers of the last communist government, became prime minister and acting president. Also on December 10, Civic Forum nominated Havel for president. Havel appeared on television on December 16 and announced that he would accept



Figure 12: Pofis Czechoslovakia 2928. This stamp is the traditional issue showing the President of Czechoslovakia. The stamp was issued 12 days after Václav Havel's election.

the presidency, but only until free elections were held. Marián Čalfa was able to maneuver Havel's name through the communist-dominated parliament. On December 29, 1989, Václav Havel became president of Czechoslovakia.

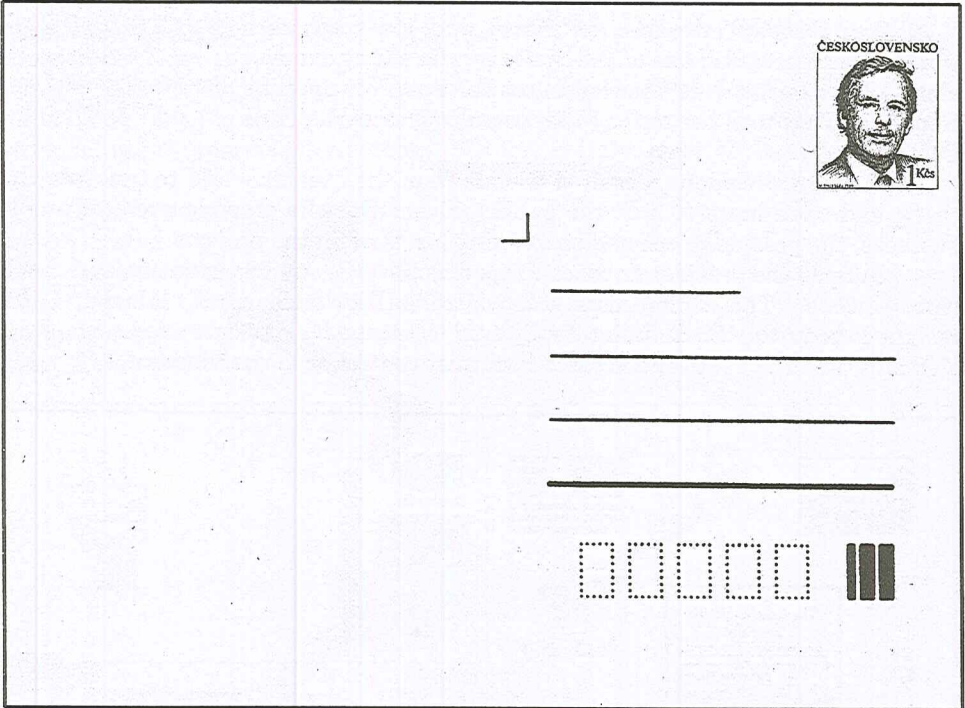


Figure 13: Pofis Czechoslovakia COB92. Envelope with indicia printed in green.

Václav Havel faced many challenges when he entered Hradčany. The position of president was mostly ceremonial. Neither Havel nor his entourage had what could be called executive experience. They had to learn on the job. The presidential offices were in poor condition and bugged. Who could they trust? In late November, John Bok recruited a group of young athletic men to serve as an escort for Havel. They moved to Hradčany with Havel to provide the president and his staff with security. To navigate the long halls of the presidential office someone got Havel a child's scooter.

Initially, protocol proved to be a challenge. Václav the bohemian playwright, whose standard dress was jeans, a sweater, and a leather jacket, was very gradually transitioned into suits to fit his new position. Olga Havlová and some of Václav's friends worked hard to convince the new president that he would have to improve his wardrobe, especially for state occasions. Even after the transformation, Havel insisted on reserving one day a week for casual dress.

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Many luminaries from the West wanted to visit the playwright -- president. Among the early visitors were Mick Jager and Rolling Stones, Frank Zappa, Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, and Joan Baez, who tried to sing in each of the rooms of the Old Royal Palace to test the acoustics of the old gothic spaces. The new president appointed Frank Zappa Special Ambassador to the West on Trade, Culture, and Tourism.



Figure 14: Pofis Czechoslovakia 2942. Issued to celebrate free elections held on June 1, 1990.

One Sunday afternoon as Havel and his staff were working on decorating one of the castle rooms, a lady came in alone. The Czechs were shocked to realize it was Jacqueline Kennedy. They took her to the Vikarka pub opposite St. Vitus Cathedral.

The new president recruited friends from the theater world to renovate the castle and open more of it to the public. Even with the growing press of public business, the president insisted on keeping his hand in the projects.

Outside the president's office the problems were equally daunting and much more serious. The communists still controlled the parliament. Marián Čalfa resigned from the Communist Party and continued as prime minister. Free elections, in June 1990, ended the communist control of the parliament.

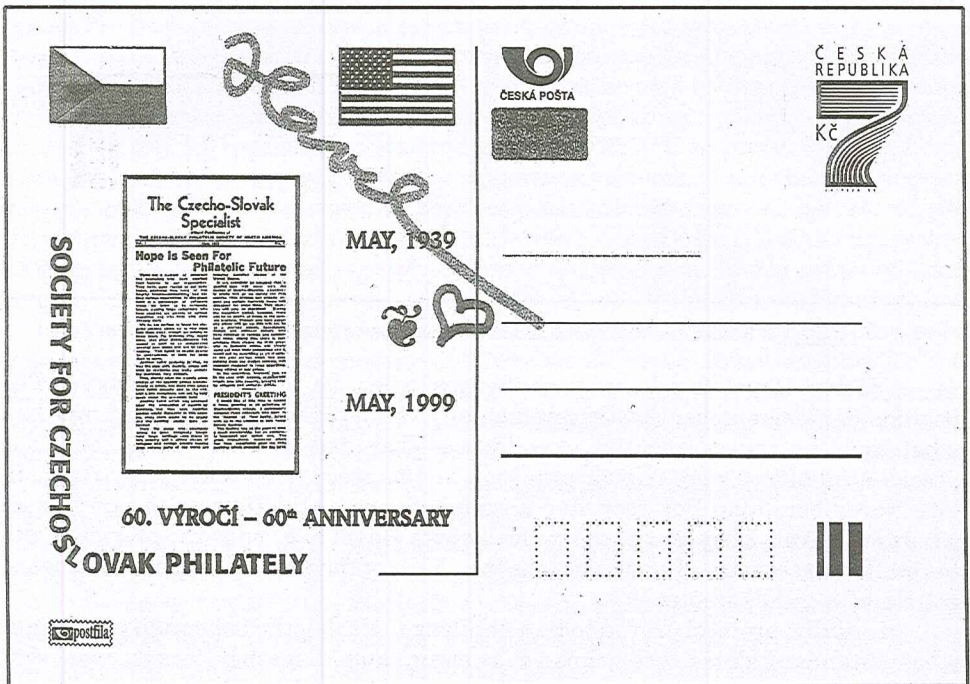


Figure 15: Pofis Czech Republic CDV 41, P45. Postal card issued by the Czech Post in 1999 to honor the 60th anniversary of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. At the request of the author, the card was signed by President Václav Havel in October 2000.

Other problems were much more difficult to resolve. Among these were the future of Czechoslovakia and the economy. In each case, Havel strove to apply his long-held philosophy that truth and love would overcome lies and hate: "Of course in politics, just as anywhere else in life, it is impossible and it would not be sensible always to say everything bluntly. Yet that does not mean one has to lie. What are needed here are tact, instinct and good taste."

Soon after Havel was elected president, friction between Czech and Slovak politicians began. The center of the disagreement was what form the federal state should take. The Slovaks wanted a loose federation while the Czechs argued for a more centralized government. To Slovak politicians the federal government in Prague seemed too 'Czech'. Without consulting the Slovaks, President Havel announced that Czechoslovakia would cease producing weapons for many of the world's armies, guerrillas and gangs. Unfortunately, most of the arms factories were located in Slovakia.

Polls consistently showed that people in both the Czech and Slovak parts of the federated republic supported continuation of the country of Czechoslovakia. However a vocal minority of Slovak nationalists, many members of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) led by the Slovak Premier Vladimír Mečiar, missed no opportunity to push for division of Czechoslovakia. By the spring of 1992, some Czech politicians began to express the feeling that they would be well rid of

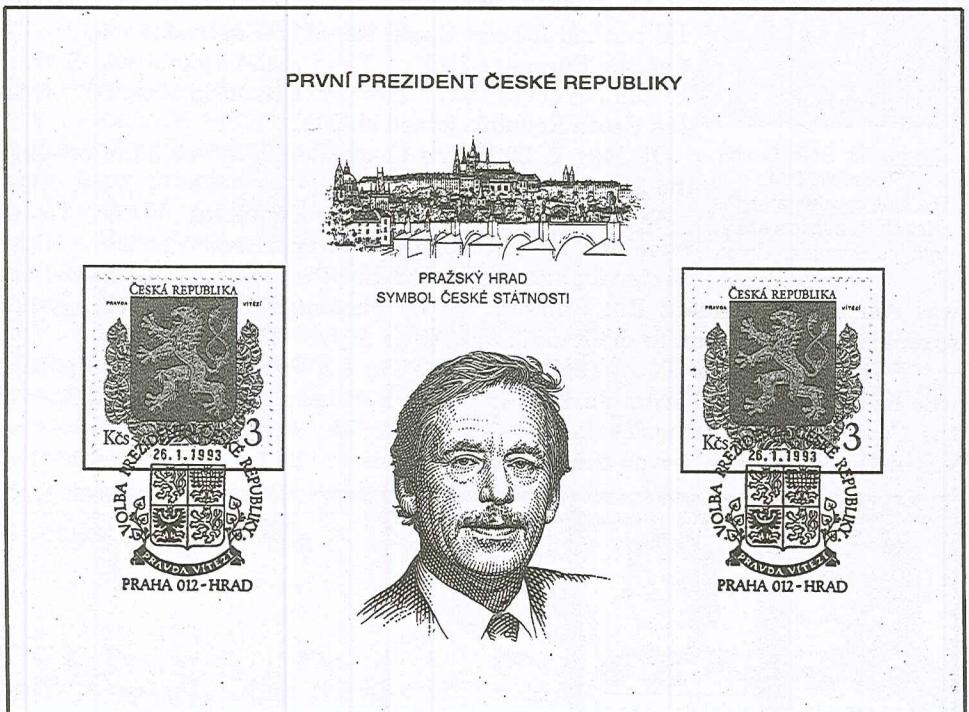


Figure 16: Pofis Czech Republic PAL1. Postal commemorative sheet issued on the day Václav Havel was elected President of the Czech Republic. The stamps, Pofis Czech Republic 1, show the small national coat-of-arms.

the troublesome Slovaks, who in any case were an economic drag on the Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia).

President Havel was opposed to the division of Czechoslovakia. However, some of his actions, such as his call for ceasing weapons production, provided ammunition to the Slovak separatists.



Figure 17: Pofis Czech Republic 213. The stamp celebrates the Czech Republic's entry into NATO. It shows the NATO emblem.

Havel's term as federal president was to expire in October 1992. On July 3, the HZDS members of the federal parliament blocked Havel's re-election. Havel, who continued to oppose the split of Czechoslovakia, resigned as president of the federal republic on July 20, 1992. At the same time, the prime minister of the Czech government, Petr Pithart, another former dissident, resigned.

Havel's re-election defeat and resignation opened the way for the split of Czechoslovakia. On January 1, 1993, as a result of the so-called Velvet Divorce, the Czech Republic and Slovakia became independent nations.



Figure 18: Pofis Czech Republic 394. The stamp celebrates the Czech Republic's entry into the European Union.

On January 26, 1993, the parliament of the Czech Republic elected Václav Havel president. As president, Havel worked to anchor the Czech Republic to the West. He pushed for the Czech Republic's entrance into NATO and the European Union. The Czech Republic was invited to join NATO in 1997. Two years later on March 12, 1999, the Czech Republic joined NATO.

On May 1, 2004, the Czech Republic was admitted into the European Union.

As President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel remained a well-respected international leader. Many foreign dignitaries visited the president. Among the visitors was American President Bill Clinton. Havel presented Clinton with a tenor saxophone and took him to the Raduta Jazz Club to play the sax.

The resignations of July 1992 opened the way for Václav Klaus, an economist who had joined Civic Forum during the Velvet Revolution. As prime minister of the Czech half of Czechoslovakia, he worked for the country's split. After the Velvet Divorce, Klaus served first as finance minister and later prime minister of



Figure 19: Pofis Czech Republic 3, 72, 168, 248, and 335. The stamps are the regular issues showing the President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel. The stamps paid the first-class domestic rate. Each stamp was issued as a result of a change in the postal rate.

the Czech Republic. Klaus wanted to convert the Czech economy to an unrestrained capitalism as quickly as possible. His plan, which Havel characterized as 'gangster capitalism', resulted in many of the country's best enterprises in the hands of a few owners, some with very shady backgrounds. On this and a number of other policies, Klaus and Havel clashed.

As president, Havel felt it was important for the Czechs to develop a civil society in which the citizens actively participated. He criticized those, including Klaus, who seemed to prefer that the citizens limit their participation in politics to voting every four years. Havel believed that after 40 years of communist rule, the population had become passive. He felt it was the president's responsibility to encourage the citizens to participate in a civil society. Some Czechs became tired of the president's lectures in the press and on his regular 'Talks from Lany' program. He came to be viewed as the national scold and his popularity declined.

Olga Havlová had worked along side her husband as a dissident. She had edited and distributed samizdat literature and served as her husband's spokesperson while he was in jail. After the Velvet Revolution, however, she opposed her husband's run for the presidency. The working-class wife from Žižkov had little patience for the life of a first lady. She had even less patience with some of the people who surrounded her husband and was not afraid to tell them to their face, just as she had told more than one secret policeman what she thought of their work. In 1990, Olga Havlová set up the Committee of Good Will to help victims of Communism live in dignity. It was another part of the effort to create a civil society. The first step was to re-equip and humanize institutions for children and the disabled. The project grew with contributions from Czechoslovak emigrants, Czech and Slovak



Figure 20: Pofis Czech Republic 124 souvenir sheet.

The sheetlet of two stamps celebrates Havel's 60th birthday.

Figure 21: Pofis Czech Republic 338. The stamp was issued to mark the NATO summit meeting held in Prague, November 21-22, 2002.



businesses and older citizens. It was renamed the Olga Havlová Foundation. Olga Havlová died of cancer on January 27, 1996.

On October 6, 1996, Václav Havel celebrated his 60th birthday.

Not quite a year after Olga's death, Václav Havel underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumor and half of his right lung. He returned home from the hospital after Christmas 1996. On January 4, 1997, he married Dagmar Veškrnová, an actress 17 years his junior. Many Czechs thought his remarriage was a bit quick. Czechs compared the new wife to the popular Olga. The new wife came off second best.

The numerous lectures on civic responsibilities and politics, the clashes with Václav Klaus and the marriage to Dagmar Veškrnová all contributed to a decline in the popularity of the president. In 1998, the parliament re-elected Václav Havel President of the Czech Republic by one vote.

During his second term as President of the Czech Republic, Havel suffered further health problems. In 1998 he barely survived a perforated intestine while on vacation in the Austrian Alps. A further round of operations to repair other abdominal problems contributed to his declining health.

In November 2002, the Czech Republic played host to the first NATO summit held in a former Warsaw Pact nation. This was to be Havel's last hurrah as president. On February 2, 2003, Havel left office. Unlike his arrival at Hradčany, Havel departed with little fanfare and few public displays of affection.

Denouement, 2003 - 2011

After leaving Hradčany, Václav Havel hoped to return to the life of a playwright. However, his international fame meant he was in demand as a lecturer. He continued to comment on domestic and European politics. In 2009 the Czech government proposed a plan to pay drivers to junk their old cars in an effort to preserve jobs in the Czech auto industry. Havel compared the plan to defending concentration camps in order to preserve the jailers' jobs.

He did author a number of essays and a presidential memoir, *To the Castle and Back*. In November 2007, his play, *Leaving*, had its premier. Havel later directed a film version of this play. Among his last works was a short sketch *Pět Tet* and *The Pig* or *Václav Havel's Hunt for a Pig*.

Havel continued to experience health problems, especially respiratory. These were attributed to his long years of smoking (he quit in 1996) and his years in cold damp communist jails. He had a number of bouts of pneumonia which required hospital stays.

One of Václav Havel's last public appearances was on October 5, 2011, for the dedication of a statue honoring Woodrow Wilson in front of the main railroad station in Prague. The station is named for the American President.

Václav Havel died Sunday morning, December 18, 2011, at his country home Hrádeček. As word spread, Czechs began gathering in public places to pay their respects and talk about what they had lost with his passing. In villages and small towns



Figure 22: Pofis Czech Republic 122. The stamp shows a black Kladruby horse.

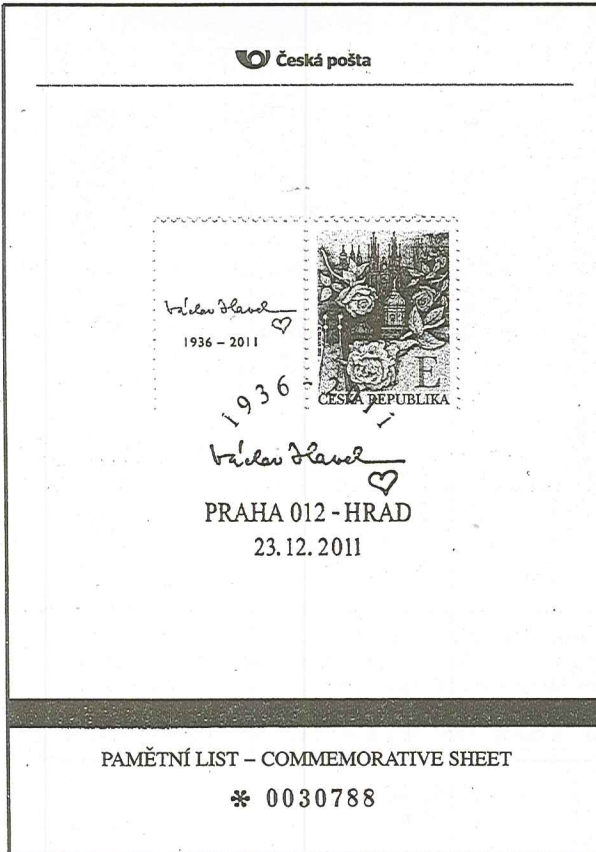


Figure 23: Pofis Czech Republic PLZ 13.

A numbered postal commemorative sheet. The stamp is Pofis Czech Republic 703 with the tab personalized to honor Václav Havel. The cancel is the special one used on the day of the funeral at Prague Castle. It uses Havel's signature with the heart which he always included to show love.

the local church was often the gathering place. In larger towns the gatherings were in the main square. In Prague, Czechs gathered in locales associated with Havel: the plaque on Národní Třída honoring the demonstrators of November 17, 1989, the Havel villa, Havel's office, and most of all the Statue of St. Wenceslaus on Wenceslaus Square. By Sunday evening, the area around the statue was a sea of candles, flowers, Czech flags and hand-written thank you notes. The crowds sang the Czech national anthem

while a large flag was carried over their heads.

The next day Havel's plain wooden casket was placed in the Prague Crossroads, a church in Prague's Old Town which the Havels had renovated for use as a performing and exhibition site. For two days the bare coffin lay in the Crossroads watched over by old friends from dissident days and members of the volunteer bodyguards from the days of the Velvet Revolution, the "pistoleters". Thousands of ordinary people filed past to pay their final respects. On Wednesday, December 21, the first of three days of official mourning, Havel's casket was loaded in a hearse and driven through Old Town, over Charles Bridge, and up to the Castle. Dagmar Havlová, her daughter, and Havel's brother Ivan with his wife followed the hearse on foot. Behind them came a silent crowd of more than ten thousand. At the barracks of the Castle Guards, the casket was transferred to a gun carriage, the same one used for the funeral of T.G. Masaryk in 1937, and covered with a Czech flag. The gun carriage was pulled into Prague Castle by a team of six jet-black horses from the military stud farm at Kladruby.

There the casket was placed on a catafalque in the Vladislav Hall with a uniformed honor guard. After laying in state for two days, the casket was moved to St. Vitus Cathedral for a state funeral attended by various heads of state and



Figure 24: Pofis Czech Republic 702. The stamp has a tab personalized to honor Václav Havel. The tab shows the flag of the president of the Czech Republic. The cancel is the special one used on the day of the funeral at Prague Castle. It uses Havel's signature with the heart which he always included to show love. The phrase printed at the bottom of the cache is a quote from Havel. It reads "Truth and love must overcome lies and hate."

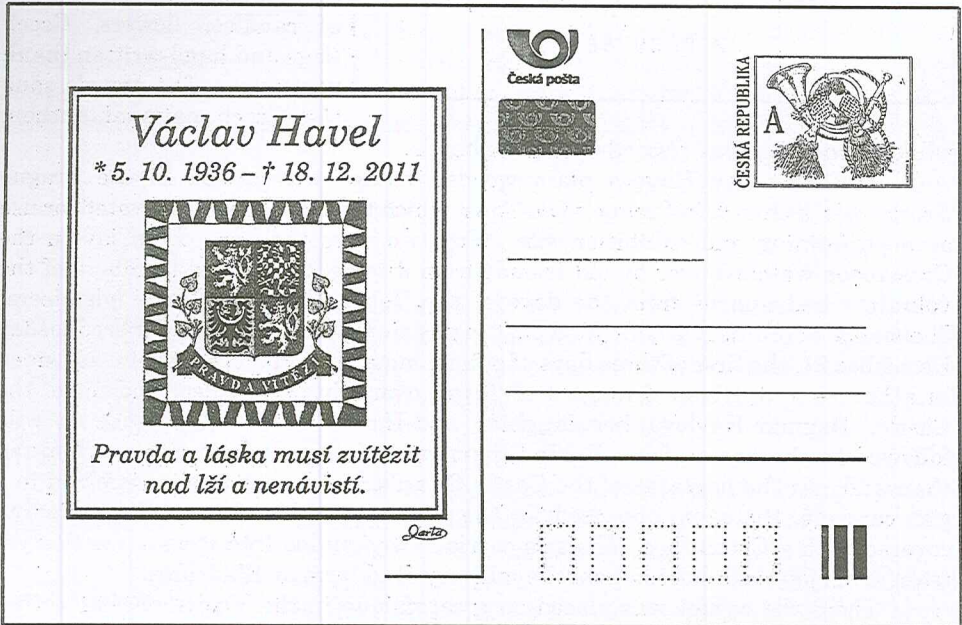


Figure 25: Pofis Czech Republic CDV 133 with cachet honoring Václav Havel. The cachet shows the flag of the President of the Czech Republic with his phrase on the bottom [see previous Figure].



Figure 26: Pofis Czech Republic 702, a complete sheet with the tab personalized to honor Václav Havel. The flag is that of the President of the Czech Republic.

international dignitaries. Among the attendees were the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. There were three orations -- all in Czech -- including one by former Secretary Albright, who was born in Prague.

Following the Mass, the president's body was cremated. The urn containing his ashes was placed in the family plot in Prague's Olšany Cemetery. That evening friends of Václav Havel organized a jazz and rock concert at the Lučerna Palace. It was a fitting send off for a dissident playwright and lover of jazz and rock n' roll.

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Various Internet sites.

International Herald Tribune.

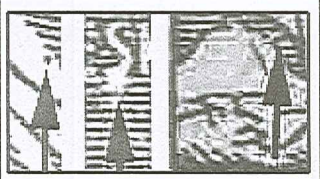
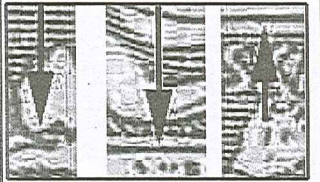
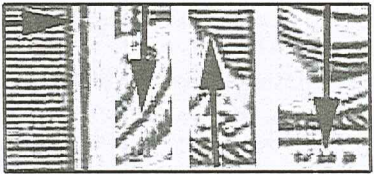
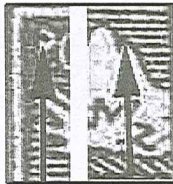
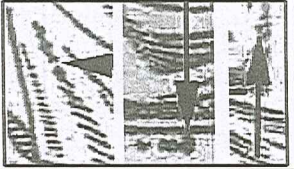

I also wish to thank Lois and Jerry Verner and my wife, Marcia, for their insightful comments which greatly improved this article. I would also like to thank Jerry for providing me with Figure 10.

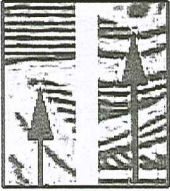
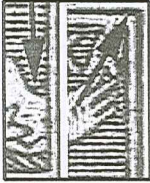
THE 25h CHAINBREAKER

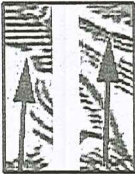

Part IV – Individual Position Descriptions

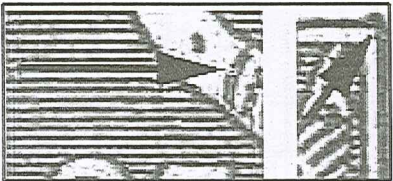

by Mark Wilson

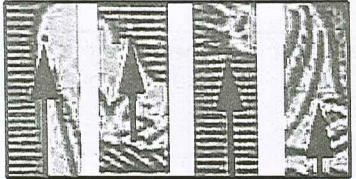
(Continued from Summer 2012 issue)

80	I	Dot below the shading lines to the right of the right knee. <i>Some printings: White spot under the S in ČESKO. White spot connects the skirt to Mt. Říp.</i>	
	II	Arc between the skirt's hem and the three pointed leaf below Mt. Kriváň. Lower frame thinner above VHB. <i>Uncertain observation: Thicker upper frame above the K in SKÁ.</i>	
81	I	Gap in the right frame opposite the left elbow. Nick in the upper side of the center contour line on the lower left leg. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. Cutoff VHB.	
	II	Red mark on the P in POŠTA. <i>Some printings: Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň.</i>	
82	Neg.	Gap in the second oblique shading column on the right leg.	
	I	Dot on the left side of the center vertical shading on the skirt. <i>Some printings: B in VHB touches frame.</i>	
	II	No other flaws.	

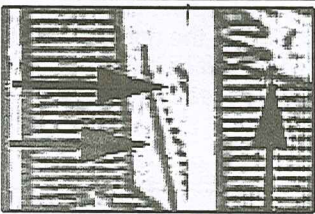
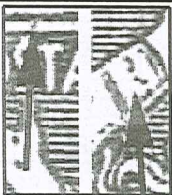




83	I	Gap in the top horizontal shading line on the right knee. <i>Some printings: Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.</i>	
	II	Colored mark to the right of Mt. Kriváň. <i>Uncertain observation: Thicker upper frame near the right corner.</i>	

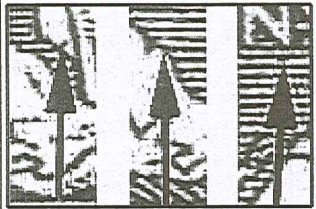

84	Neg. Gap in the top of the right shoulder.		
	I	Tiny nick from the contour line in the lower center of the skirt.	
	II	No other flaws	


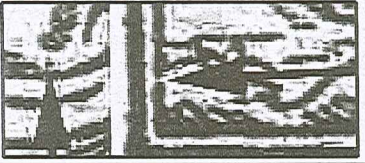
85	I	Tiny nick in the outermost outline of the right sleeve. Thicker upper right corner.	
	II	Gap in the background below the left elbow.	

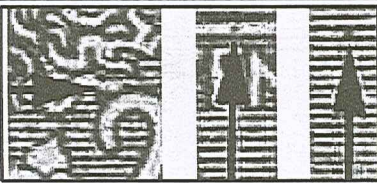
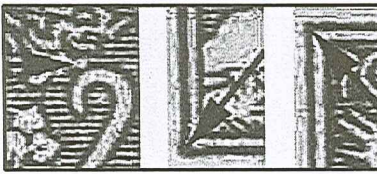
86	I	Dot on the right knee. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. Mark across the right hand's little finger. Dot on the skirt near the bottom of the left foot.	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

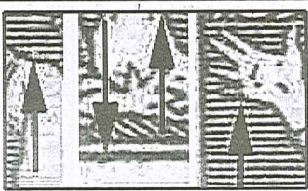
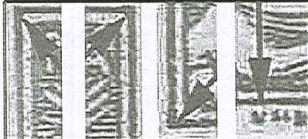
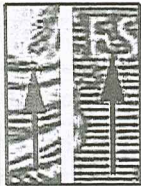
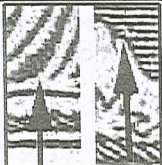
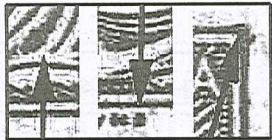


87	I	Dot between the two columns of horizontal shading lines, and another on the first contour line, on the right leg. Dot on the right hand's little finger.	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	
88	I	Dot in the white frame above the Š in POŠTA. Parts of the central decoration on the left sleeve missing.	
	II	Dot on the middle finger of the right hand.	
89	I	Colored mark below the K in ČESKO	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	
90	I	Dot between the grass and leaf below Mt. Kriváň. Some printings: Faint diagonal projection beyond the lower right corner.	
	II	Arc between the skirt's hem and the three pointed leaf below Mt. Kriváň.	

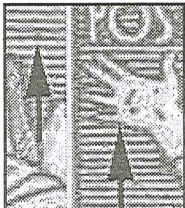
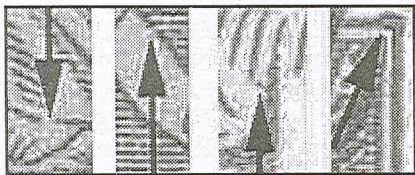
91	I	Dot in the first fold of the skirt above Mt. Říp. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. Dot under the N in ENSKÁ.	
	II	Gap in the skirt's center contour line right of the left foot.	


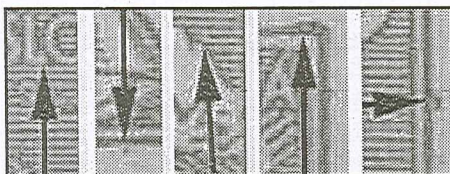
92	Neg.	Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.	
	I	Gap in the outline of the sleeve closest to the left shoulder. Colored mark near the top of Mt. Říp.	
	II	Gap in the inner left frame above the lower corner.	

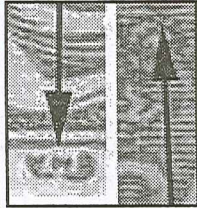
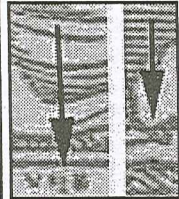
93	Neg.	White spotch between the hair and the top of the right numeral 2.	
	I	Dot in the white frame above the E in ENSKÁ. Dot under the left hand's shackle.	
	II	<i>Some printings: Colored projection from the lower left corner. Uncertain observation: Projection from the upper left corner.</i>	

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

94	I	Gap in the background line over the right shoulder. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. Bump on the lower frame under Mt. Kriváň. Colored mark on the right hand's little finger.	
	II	Tiny projection from the upper left corner. Bump on the upper right corner. Projection from the lower left corner. Thick left leg on the V in VHB.	
95	I	White mark on the middle bar of the E in ČESKO. Dot below the column of shading lines under the linden leaves.	
	II	No distinguishing features identified	
96	Neg.	Colored splotch on the skirt's horizontal shading lines left of the left foot.	
	I	Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň.	
	II	Cutoff B in VHB. <i>Some printings: Projection on the upper right corner.</i>	
97	I	Dot in the white frame above the EN in EN-SKÁ. Thickened upper right corner.	
	II	Dot on the first contour line of the skirt above Mt. Řip.	

98	I	Dot to the upper right of the left heel. Thicker lower outline on the right hand's little finger.	
	II	Gap in the outline of the skirt above the right foot. Gap in the upper outline of the right forearm. <i>Some printings: Dot to the left of the central shading on the skirt. Projecting upper right corner.</i>	

99	I	Gap in the contour line between the right shoulder and breast.	
	II	White splotch on the lower bar on the L in SLOV. Dot on the lower frame to the left of VHB. Gap in the background above the right peak of Mt. Kriváň. <i>Some printings: Upper frame thicker near the right corner. Colored mark on the right frame midway between the numerals and Mt. Kriváň.</i>	

100	I	VHB underlined. <i>Some printings: Missing curl from the upper right of the blowing hair.</i>	
	II	Mark on the right leg of the H in VHB. Arc between the skirt's hem and the three pointed leaf below Mt. Kriváň.	

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Edie and Dale Eggen [WESTPEX coordinators]:

-- We know April is quite a way off, but we did want to mention some information about reserving hotel rooms at the San Francisco Airport Marriott for WESTPEX [26-28 April 2013] that might be helpful to the members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. This same information is available on the WESTPEX web site, www.westpex.org. The San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront offers a special discounted room rate to attendees of WESTPEX. A block of rooms have been reserved. The rate is \$125 + taxes and tourism fees. Reservations by phone: 506-474-2009 or 877-622-3056. Ask for the "WESTPEX Stamp Show 2013" rate, or go to the WESTPEX website [above]. Discounted hotel room reservations need to be made by March 21, 2013. The hotel is located at 1800 Old Bayshore Highway in Burlingame immediately south of the San Francisco International Airport. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service (4:30AM - 11PM) between the hotel and the airport. You can take BART to San Francisco.



Editorial Hinges

I am happy to report that, while I have not found a replacement editor, thanks to a generous co-Board Member, Marisa Galitz (our Treasurer), the workload on me as editor will be greatly reduced due to her using desk-top publishing software to put the issues together beginning with the Winter 2013 issue. I will stay on as editor, collecting material for issues, editing it, and forwarding the articles to Marisa to put the issue together.

But this system will allow us to provide another service to our members thanks to Marisa. When you send in your membership dues for 2013 (the card asking you to do so is included in the envelope that this issue came in), you automatically become eligible to sign-up to have access to the Specialist IN COLOR via our website. When the online Specialist is ready, Marisa will send out an e-mail to all those members who have signed-up for this service in which she will give you a password. You will then go to our website, place the password into a specified site, and as a result you will get that issue of the Specialist in color available for your viewing and printing if you desire. Remember that if you decide to print the issue, the color will only be as good as your printer and system can provide -- no guarantees from us. You will still receive a paper Specialist in the mail.

So how do you sign-up? Go to our website and follow the directions. This is the only way to sign-up for this service.

Meanwhile, we are investigating the possibilities of printing the Specialist in color. But of course this will mean additional expense. We will keep you advised as to what options we have available and what the additional costs might be.

Also in this issue is an announcement about a joint service program that we have initiated between ourselves (the SCP) and our sister society in Great Britain, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB). I will not repeat the information here because you can read about it elsewhere in this issue. It is an attempt by ourselves and the CPSGB to make it easier for members of one society to also be members of the other. So check it out, and why not double your fun and access to knowledge about our philatelic specialty?

Don't forget to send in your dues renewal now!

Ludvik Z. Svoboda
Editor



Book Review

Monograph No. 25
COMPENDIUM OF
1944-1945 LIBERATION OVERPRINTS
(Seznam Revolučních Přetisků 1944-1945)
by Karel Holoubek
trans. by Robert J. Hill

Published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Bray 2012;
ISBN 978-0-9553682-3-3

This British Monograph #25 -- to date the most extensive of all UK Monographs -- is more than just a translation of Karel Holoubek's original book. Hill has added a great deal of important information for each overprint. For each one they have included a map location for the town within Czechoslovakia where the overprint originated, a description of the town's history, how the overprint was developed, and who developed it -- and in many instances documentation from the local new post-war administration (Narodní Výbor) about authorization of the overprint, where it would be used, and when use ended. Most of the overprints are shown with at least one postally used cover.

While unfortunately this 322 page book does not have the normal consecutively numbered pages, it does follow a logical pattern. Since we are talking about overprints being developed as towns are being freed, the book begins with those in the Carpatho-Ukraine (one town), then those in Slovakia (three towns), and finally in the Czech Lands (99 towns)(note that some of these towns have more than one overprint). Within each of these three areas, the towns are presented alphabetically. To assist the reader to understand this progression of liberation, two maps are included which show the advance of Russian, Ukrainian, and American troops into Czechoslovakia in general and then a second map showing the advance into Bohemia and Moravia.

And finally, the book is almost all in black and white, because printing the book all in color would have made it prohibitively expensive. However, when you purchase the book, you also get a CD containing the book in color.

Sam Horvath, Ludvik Z. Svoboda

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Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

This is regarding a quote in Phil Rhoades's story on Lidice [*Summer 2012 Specialist*]. Overall it is the best testimonial I've ever read on Lidice, but it needs a historical correction. I'll repeat [*the paragraph on*] the bottom of page 22: "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."

Public executions were commonplace in Czechoslovakia following WW II from 1945 through 1947, the majority for war crimes and collaborations with German occupiers. Then came the so-called peoples revolution in February 1948 and things went really wild. I lived through it.

The following is from the Statistics of Czechoslovakia Ministry of Justice from 1993, available on request to any Czech citizen:

Citizens tried and incarcerated mostly to labor camps for anti-government views and dissention.

-- State or federal courts 1948 - 1952	27,000
-- People courts	212,580
-- Special example, farmers who stood up to collectivization	35,000
-- Small businessmen and trade people	15,000

All told 289,580 Czech and 67,380 Slovak citizens were jailed, some in hard labor camps, or uranium and coal mines.

Hard labor camps (TNP) held 186,000. Military labor camps (PTP) held 118,683 dissident soldiers and officers.

In the years of 1948-1967, a total of 1,120,387 citizens were arrested. Of this total, 15,726 people were shot or killed while trying to escape to the West or trying to escape from labor camps.

Czechoslovak citizens publicly executed by hanging in Pankrac jail, Prague, from 1948 - 1967 was 234, which included Milada Horáková [*A noted Czech female politician executed by the Communists on June 27, 1950 as a result of a show-trial in which she was accused of conspiracy, treason, and plotting to overthrow the Communist government.*]

Sam Horvath

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. Van Zanten

1. On September 5, 2012, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a commemorative souvenir sheet entitled "Flower Growing -- Beauty of Orchids" with 4 stamps and 4 labels (Fig. 1 [See page 24]). The souvenir sheet contains the following postage stamps:

- 10 Kč: the orchid *Dendrobium peguanum*; its FDC in violet depicts the orchid *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* (Fig. 2)
- 14 Kč: two orchids, *Stanhopea tigrina* and *Coryanthes feildingii*; FDC in brown-red depicts *Stanhopea oculata* (Fig. 3)
- 18 Kč: two orchids, *Cattleya aclandiae* and *Cattleya maxima*; FDC in blue depicts *Coelogyne cristata* (Fig. 4)
- 20 Kč: three orchids, *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*, *Paphiopedilum insigne* and *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*; FDC in green depicts *Catasetum pileatum* (Fig. 5)

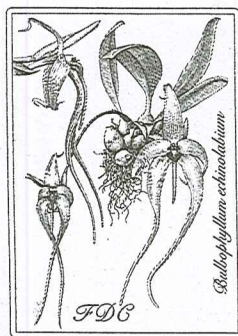


Fig. 2

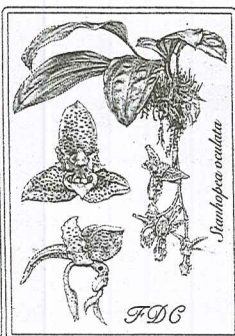


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The four labels depict other kinds of orchids. This annual issue of stamps in the *Flower Growing -- Beauty of Orchids* series features exotic orchids originating from foreign locations. It is no secret that tropical and the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset combined with black engraving.

2. On September 5, 2012, the Ministry issued a 10 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the traveler Alberto Vojtěch Frič (Fig. 6). The stamp shows the traveler's portrait with a map in the background. Alberto Vojtěch Frič (1882-1944) was a Czech ethnographer, traveler, botanist, and author. South American Indians named him Karai Pukú (or "Long Hunter" in English), in Europe he became known as the "Cactus Hunter". Frič was born into the family of lawyer and Prague's deputy mayor Vojtěch Frič. From his childhood he exhibited an exceptional talent for natural science. At 15, Frič was already considered one



Fig. 6

of the top experts in cactuses in Central Europe, receiving requests from leading European experts asking him for consultation identifying cactuses and inviting him to attend scientific conferences. From 1901-1929, he made seven trips to South America and one to North America, not only to collect cactuses but also to gather ethnographic materials on wild Indian tribes. Frič made botanical and ethnographic photographs during his travels and is considered to be the pioneer of Czech landscape and travel photography. The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in gray-green depicts cactuses, a tattooed mask, a microscope, and a piece of woven cloth (Fig. 7).

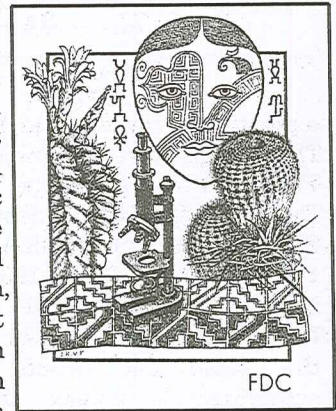


Fig. 7

3. On September 5, 2012, the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with 6 different non-denominated definitive stamps with imprinted letter "E" from the issue Václav Zapadlík -- World Cars (Fig. 8). On six different self-adhesive stamps are depicted these cars: Duesenberg SJ -- 1933; Wikov 70 -- 1931; Mercedes Benz 540 -- 1936; Rolls Royce Phantom III -- 1938; Bugatti Royale 41 -- 1934; Isotta Fraschini Tipo 8a -- 1929. Václav Zapadlík, born 23 September 1943, as a young boy helped out in his father's garage, so he knew everything about cars down to the smallest details. Being also attracted to art, his first drawing -- Vauxhall Cadet 1932 -- was shown to the public in 1971, and his drawing of a Mercedes Benz found its way into the magazines *Car* and *The World of Engines*. In the 1990's, the whole world started taking notice of his art. He cooperated with the Blackhawk Museum,

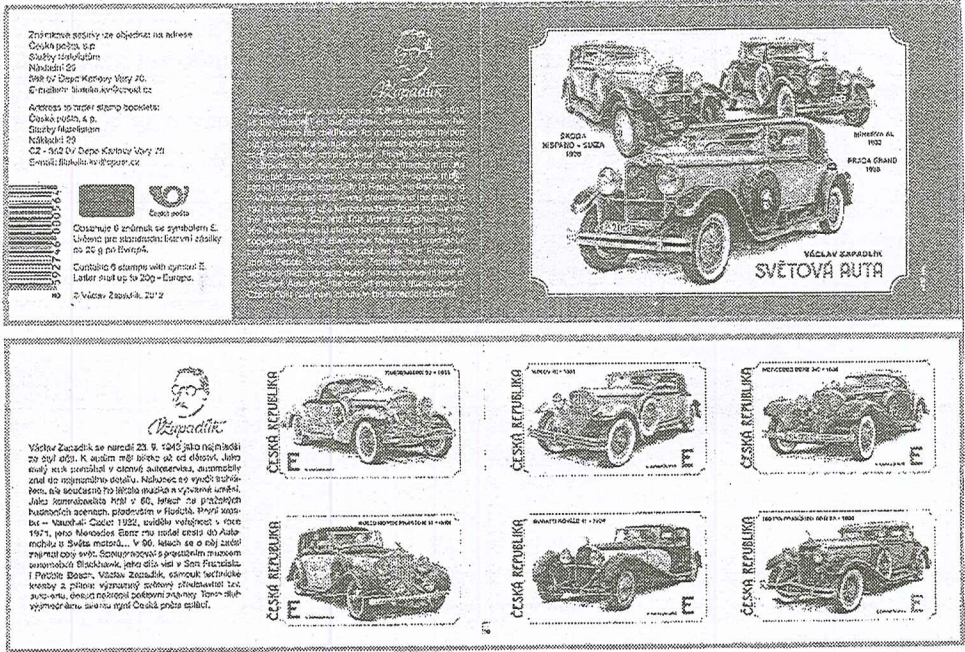


Fig. 8

a prestigious car museum, his work is exhibited in San Francisco and Pebble Beach. The stamps were designed by Václav Zapadlík and were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in a self-adhesive stamp booklet. The front of the booklet depicts three cars: Škoda Hispano-Suiza 1928, Minerva AL 1932, and Praga Grand 1930. Also shown is a self-portrait above his signature. There are six FDC's on which are shown the same car brand as on the accompanying stamp: Duesenberg in brown, Wikov in green, Mercedes Benz in red, Rolls Royce in blue, Bugatti in violet, and Isotta Fraschini in orange.

4. On September 19, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with a single 49 Kč stamp dedicated to the 800th anniversary of the Golden Bull of Sicily (Fig. 9). On the stamp is depicted the seal from the constituent decree of the Golden Bull of Sicily. The Golden Bull of Sicily is a set of three related decrees whose importance in the history of the Czech lands underwent significant

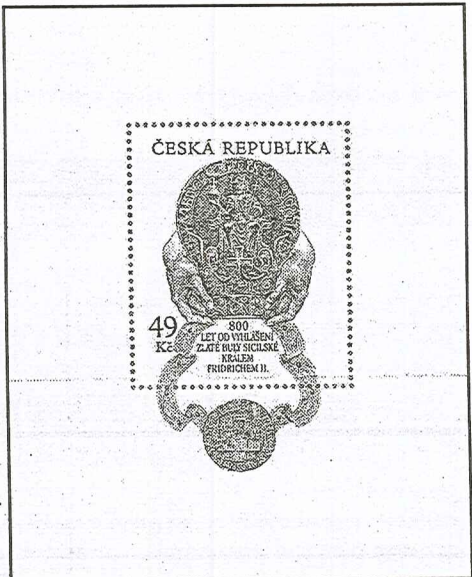


Fig. 9

transformations. Future King of the Romans Frederick II issued the bull to Přemysl Ottokar I in Basel, on 25 September 1212 to reward him for his support in the fight for the imperial royal crown. The decree(s) are named after the golden ornament representing a seal attached to the document(s). At the time of issue, Frederick II as the King of Sicily was able to use only the seal of the Kingdom of Sicily. One of the titles used by the king in the Basel privilege presents itself to be an interpretation problem because Frederick II introduced himself at first as "Imperator Electus". The traditional translation of the title as "Emperor Elect" seems to be incorrect because Frederick II had not yet been elected as emperor. In fact the title was used by the Roman Curia to designate their candidate to the imperial throne; as such, it should rather be translated as "Chosen (future) Roman Emperor". The King of Sicily confirmed the royal title obtained by Přemysl Ottokar I. What's often seen as the unique nature of the Golden Bull of Sicily is the fact that it was the first time that the royal title was confirmed for both the king and his heirs. But it was not so. A text on heirs to the royal title had already been contained in a privilege granted to Prince Vladislav II as early as 1158. But Přemysl Ottokar I still had had to fight hard for the hereditary title to his kingdom. Frederick II also confirmed that whoever is elected in Bohemia will be granted royal insignia. This preserved the right of Czech estates to elect their king. The souvenir sheet 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 blue, brown, and red. A FDC in blue depicts the letter F -- the first letter of the Golden Bull of Sicily.

5. On October 3, 2012, the Ministry issued a 26 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to World Post Day -- Postal Museum Vyšší Brod (Fig. 10). On the stamp is depicted an 1891 Ericsson desk telephone with postal dwarfs examining it. The Postal Museum Vyšší Brod is a Prague Postal Museum branch location in Vyšší Brod, a lovely small town in South Bohemia close to the Austrian border. The museum's displays extend over the

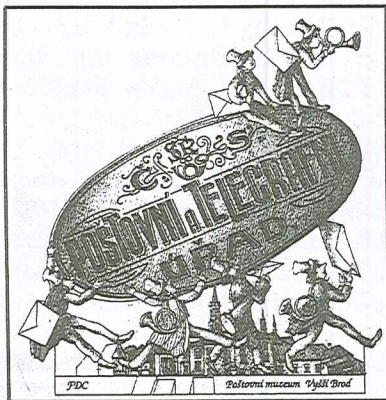


Fig. 11



Fig. 10

vast area of the former Cistercian monastery. Visitors can enjoy a large exposition of postal history from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, starting from 1526 until now, with the largest collection of 19th century carriages and coaches in the Czech Republic, vintage postal uniforms, post office signs, mail and letter boxes, maps, samples of correspondence, old writing utensils, franking and canceling machines, reconstructions of 18th and 20th century post offices, telegraph, teleprinter, and telephone machines. Further information about the

exposition in Vyšší Brod is available on the Postal Museum's new website -- <http://www.postovnimuzeum.cz>. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset with the linear drawing in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC in warm-black depicts postal dwarfs holding a sign "Post and Telegraph Office" (Fig. 11).

6. On October 3, 2012, the Ministry issued an 18 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the Legend of the Masaryk Circuit in Brno -- František Štastný (1927-2000)(Fig. 12). On the stamp is depicted František Štastný riding a motorbike. František Štastný was a Czech motorcycle road racer who became a legend in this own lifetime. He was born in Kochánky nad Jizerou. Aged 15, Štastný started his career as bicycle racer, in 1948 he even competed with such a bicycle racing star as the "Czechoslovak" Jan Veselý in the 1st annual Peace Race. He competed in his first motorcycle race in the spring of 1947 on



Fig. 12

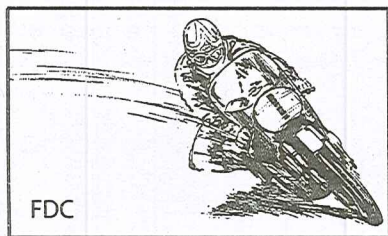


Fig. 13

a DKW motorcycle, and in 1952 he competed in the Czechoslovak Grand Prix Brno, with an outstanding seventh place finish. In 1953 he became a racing and testing member of the Jawa factory racing team, remaining loyal to the brand for the rest of his racing career. He competed on Jawa 500cc DOHC, Jawa 350cc DOHC, and Jawa 250cc. On a Jawa motorcycle, he won the Czechoslovak Grand Prix five times: 1956, in the category of 500cc; 1958, 350cc; 1959, 350cc; 1960, 250cc; 1965, 350cc. After the end of his active motorcycle racing career he worked as a sportscaster for the motorist news team of Czechoslovak Television. The stamp was designed by Ladislav Kuklík, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in light blue, gray, dark blue, and red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black depicts František Štastný riding a motorbike (Fig. 13).

7. On October 3, 2012, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to the Legend of the Masaryk Circuit in Brno -- Louis Chiron (1899-1979)(Fig. 14). On the stamp is depicted Louis Chiron driving a car. Louis Chiron (born in Monte Carlo, Monaco) was a Monaco Formula One driver. He was one of the best prewar racers. He competed in many top races and represented the most famous brands, such as Bugatti, Mercedes, Delage, Alfa Romeo. He won the 1931-33 Czechoslovak Grand Prix on the Masaryk Circuit in a Bugatti (1931, 1932) and an Alfa Romeo (1933). At the 1949 Grand Prix (from 1947 Formula A, before the official beginning of the Formula One World Championship in 1950) the failure of his Maserati cost him first place. His unforgettable driving style led to the

creation of a popular Czech saying “He’s driving like Chiron!”, used currently when referring to risky driving motorists. Louis Chiron had an exceptionally long sports career. Aged 56, he still competed at the 1955 Monaco Gran Prix finishing 6th. The stamp was designed by Ladislav Kuklík, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with



Fig. 14

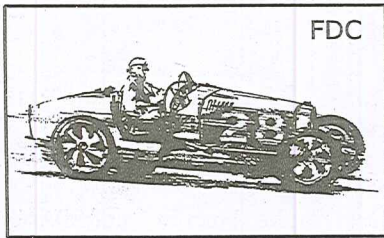


Fig. 15

photogravure in ocher, gray, blue, and red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black depicts Louis Chiron driving a car (Fig. 15).

8. On October 3, 2012, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp “Greeting-Stamp Motif Orchids” with labels for additional printing and with imprinted letter “A” -- ordinary

domestic letter rate (Fig. 16). The greeting stamp depicts the *Paphiopedilum venustum* orchid. The stamp will be issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The right margin of the sheet has three labels with motifs of orchids: *Dracula bella*, *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*, and *Dendrobium tobaense*. The other labels on date of issue show the *Cattleya leopoldii* orchid. Part of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The stamp was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. A multicolored FDC depicts the *Odontoglossum harrayanum* orchid and three birds.



Fig. 16

9. On November 7, 2012, the Ministry issued a set of four commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 pieces and in combination with offset in a souvenir sheet.

-- 26 Kč: Kamil Lhoták (1912-1990), “A Long-haired Girl 1951” (Fig. 17), East Bohemian Gallery in Pardubice, engraved by Miloš Ondráček; in ocher, blue, red, brown, and black. Kamil Lhoták, born in Prague, was a painter, graphic artist, and illustrator. He studied at Jirásek Gymnasium high school where he had his first encounters with modern art, letting his imagination run wild while helping publish the school magazine. After graduation, he followed family wishes and studied law, but kept up his interest in art. During the pre-war period he diligently painted and absorbed the new ideas of avant garde artists. His first exhibition took place in 1939 in the Beaufort Gallery in Prague. He created hundreds of works during the war. After the war, he summed up his longtime love for all that has wheels or a

screw propeller into illustrations for the book "Dědeček automobil" [grandpa's car] (later filmed under the name Vintage Car). Kamil Lhoták remained an active artist in the last years of his life. His last painting, "Meteor padá do moře" (A Meteorite Falling into the Sea), was created in 1990. A FDC in black depicts a Lhoták drawing showing a poster column with bicycles (Fig. 18).



Fig. 17

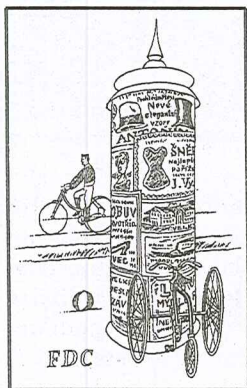


Fig. 18

-- 30 Kč x 2: František Kupka (1871-1957), "Life's Pleasures (1901-1902)" a souvenir sheet (Fig. 19), National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Václav Fajt; in yellow, azure, purple, recess print -- black-brown. František Kupka (born in Opočno) was a Czech painter and graphic artist of world significance, one of the founders of modern abstract painting. Kupka spent most of his life in France. He was not only a painter but also a graphic artist producing illustrations. His work made an indelible mark on the history of Czech and world art. František, the eldest-born of a five-child family of a notary clerk in Opočno, became a qualified saddler, but his great



Fig. 19

artistic talent helped him quit the saddler's trade and take a course of studies at the Academy in Prague (1887) where he studied art followed by further work at the

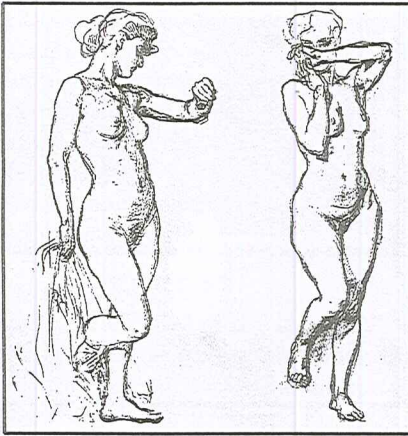


Fig. 20

Viennese art academy. Moving to Paris, he became internationally known in 1903 through his satirical drawings in the Paris-based illustrated magazine *L'Assiette au beure* alone creating three of its editions. In 1914 he volunteered for military service, fought on the Aisne where he was wounded, and was then decorated with the French Legion of Honor and promoted to captain for his military merits. On his return to Paris, he helped organize the Czechoslovak legions in France and founded the so-called Czech Colony. In 1920 he became a professor at the Academy in Prague going there to lecture. Kupka held numerous exhibitions and received many awards for his lifetime work. He died in a suburb of Paris, Puteaux. There is a FDC in dark-brown for each stamp showing a female nude from the painting "A Study on the Song of Songs" (Fig. 20).

-- 32 Kč: Jan Kupecký (1667-1740), "Self-portrait with Family (1719)" (Fig. 21), Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, engraved by Martin Srb; in ocher, brown, red,



Fig. 21

blue, and black. Jan Kupecký was a Slovak Baroque painter, author of a number of portraits. Like many of his contemporaries, Kupecký was born into a Czech Protestant (Moravian Church) family who fled to Slovakia to avoid religious persecution. He was born in Pezinok, a town nearby Bratislava. Aged 20 Kupecký went to Italy to study art. Aleksander Benedykt Sobieski, son of Polish King John III Sobieski, based in Rome helped him become famous. He was the author of a number of portraits of members of the royal dynasty (Prince Eugene of Savoy) and other aristocrats. He also painted Russian Czar Peter I during his stay in Karlovy



Fig. 22

Vary. The rich series includes portraits of his family, friends, or unknown people, as well as his own portraits. In 1733 he and his family moved to Nuremberg where he actively worked until his death in 1740. A FDC in black shows a picture by Jan Kupecký "The Self-portrait" (Fig. 22).

10. On November 7, 2012, the Ministry issued a definitive non-denominated postage stamp with labels for additional printing and with imprinted letter "A"

four Čtyřlístek friends flying on Griffin. On the second stamp is depicted Myšpulín the Cat taking a photo of Bobík the Pig, Fifinka the Missy Dog, Pinda the Rabbit, Lion, and the King. The issue was designed by Jaroslav Němeček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in self-adhesive definitive stamp booklets of 2 x 5 pieces of each stamp. The cover of the booklet shows an enlarged version of the second stamp along with the name of the issue, while the back shows 11 of the characters from the film along with their names. There are two FDC's in multicolored offset. The first cover depicts all of the characters of the film driving a car with Fifinka the Missy Dog holding a luminous treasurer. While the second cover depicts all of the Čtyřlístek characters in an alchemy workshop, shot on celluloid.

Stationery

12. On September 5, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" postage stamp honoring the "Harley-Davidson Club Prague" (Fig. 25). The imprinted definitive "A" stamp features a historical "Streamline" Harley-Davidson motorcycle from 1926, with the Harley-

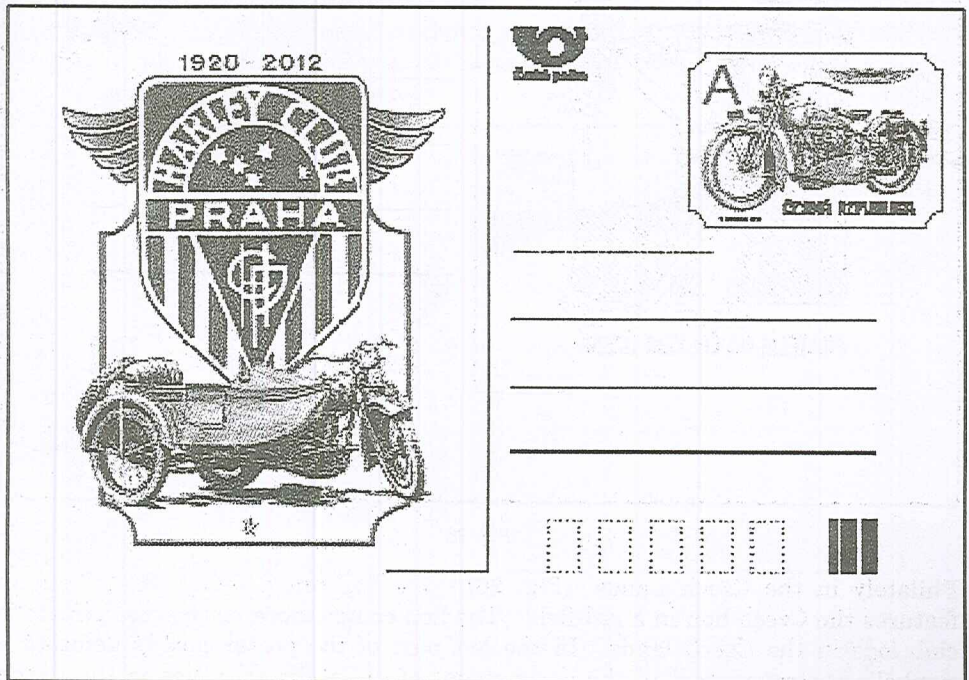


Fig. 25

Davidson emblem above it. In the left part of the postal card is depicted a Harley-Davidson with a sidecar and the club's logo. The Harley-Davidson Club Prague is the oldest existing Harley-Davidson club in the world. The idea of setting up this club originated in 1927, at the wedding of the famous motorcycle

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racer Bohumil Turek. Turek was the general manager of Tesárek, a company importing Harley-Davidson motorcycles into Czechoslovakia. Sixty riders on Harley-Davidson motorcycles appeared at his wedding. The club was soon set up and its members met regularly and organized rides. Since the beginning, HCP's main focus was on motorcycling competitions, travelling, training in riding techniques, publishing a club magazine, collaboration with other clubs, including rides with them. Motorcycling tournaments featuring motorcycle acrobatics became the highlight of their activities. The postal card was designed by Václav Zapadlík and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

13. On November 7, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" postage stamp honoring "125 Years of

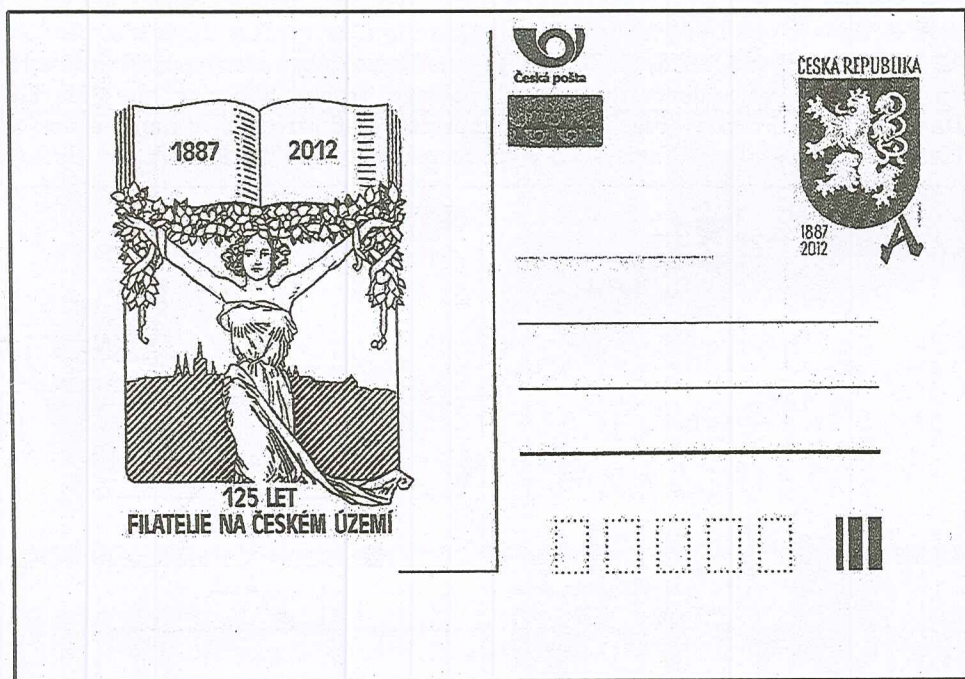


Fig. 26

Philately in the Czech Lands" (Fig. 26). The imprinted definitive "A" stamp features the Czech lion in a red field. The lion commemorates the first philatelic club logo in the Czech lands. In the left part of the postal card is depicted a symbolic portrayal used in the early stages of philatelic activities in the Czech lands. The fall of so-called Bach absolutism and the establishment of Austria-Hungary in 1867 opened the way for a struggle for political, national, and cultural autonomy in the Bohemian, Moravian, and Silesian lands. This nationalist tendency was further stimulated by the opening of the National Theater in Prague in 1883. At that time, a small company of stamp collectors regularly met at the U

Choděřů restaurant. These regular guests decided to set up a Czech philatelic club to counterbalance the already established German club “Deutscher Verband für Briefmarkenkunde in Prag”. The Czech Philatelic Club met at its first ordinary meeting on April 28, 1887. However, as there was no police commissioner (required to oversee any activity within the growing nationalist movement) present at the meeting, the club had to convene again on August 8, and the history of Czech organized philately started to be written. Vincenc Jedlička, treasurer of the then world-famous The Singer & Co, was elected president. He spoke German and French and had a command of Spanish and Italian. The club can justly be counted among the oldest in Europe. It included members from inside as well as outside Prague. The first non-Prague member was grammar school teacher Jan Čermák from Olomouc. The First Czech Postage Stamp Album was published by bookseller Zikmund Reach, one of the Czech Philatelic Club founding members in 1887. The postal card was designed by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

14. On November 7, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” postage stamp honoring “155 Years of Prague Rescue Service” (Fig. 27). The imprinted definitive “A” stamp depicts all kinds of emergency vehicles including a helicopter and the logos of the rescue services and the City of Prague. In the left part of the postal card is depicted the rescue service emblem with new rescue technology, with a period photograph of an old type of

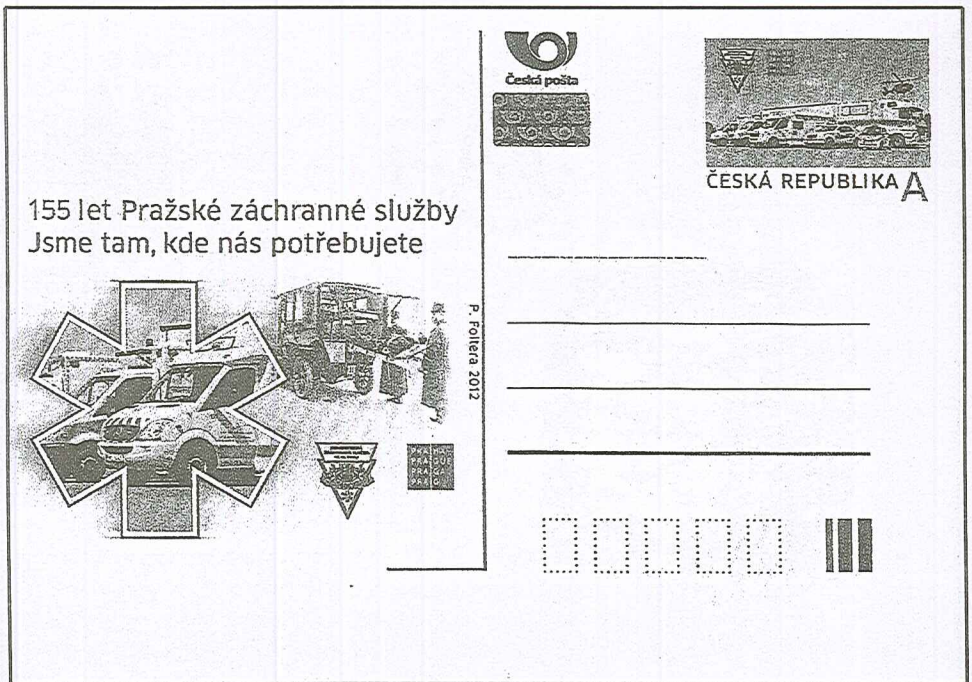


Fig. 27

ambulance and the logos of the rescue services and the City of Prague in the background. This year, the Rescue Services of the City of Prague -- Territorial Rescue Service Center ("Prague Rescue Service") will celebrate 155 years of its existence. In 1857, 36 volunteers of different professions applied for the post of member of the "Prague Voluntary Protection Service". Its purpose was: "To protect what deserves protection; in any kind of danger, to rescue both human lives and the property of fellow citizens; to do so on a voluntary basis, without fear and without any financial profit". Policemen were directed to support members of the organization in all their doings. For identification purposes, members of the organization wore a red and white ribbon on their left arm and later an emblem of the organization. The postal card was designed by Petr Foltera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

SLOVAKIA
by George Srb

15. On September 14, 2012, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.40€ commemorative stamp in the Beauties of Our Country series for the Basilica of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows in Šaštín (Fig. 28). A wooden statue of Pieta was the gift donated by countess Czobor in 1564, and this

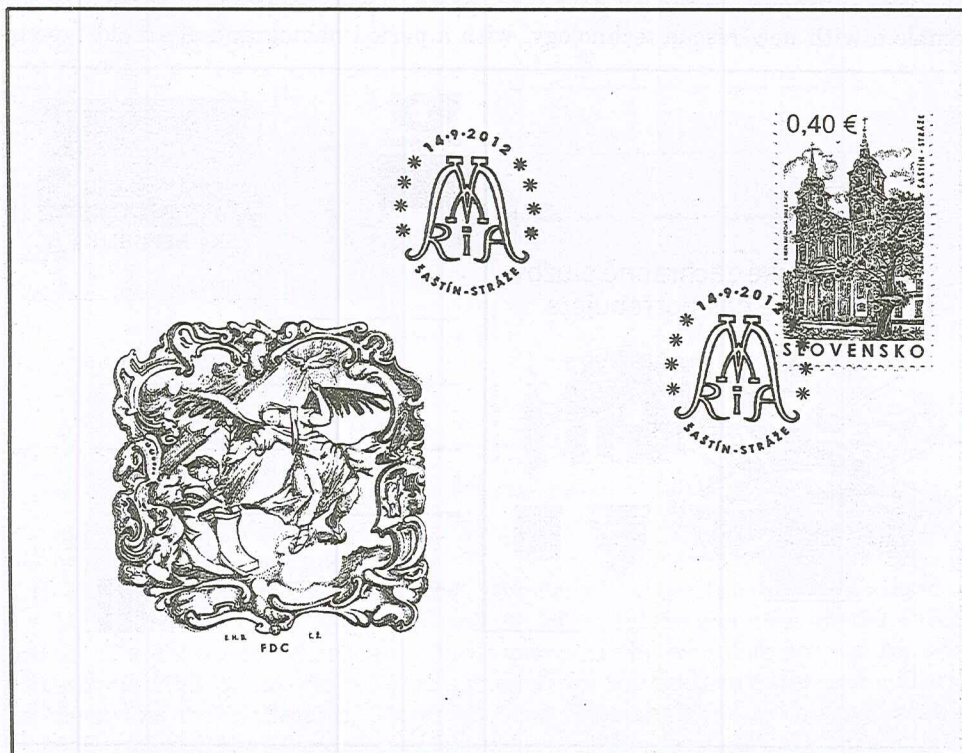


Fig. 28

statue became an object of folk devotion. In 1732 the Šaštín Pieta was accepted as merciful and its public adoration was approved. The Pauline order was asked to take care of the modest chapel with the statue, and later they built a monumental cathedral in the Late Baroque style and adjoining monastery. The sculptural group of the Šaštín Pieta was festively moved onto the marble main altar in 1762 -- Empress Maria Theresa had this altar built at her expense. The tradition of the pilgrimage lasted even after the cancellation of the Pauline order in 1786. The importance of Šaštín as a pilgrim site was enhanced when the Virgin Mary of Seven Grievances was proclaimed the Patron of Slovakia by decree of the Holy See on April 22, 1927. Besides the ecclesiastic, religious, and cultural importance of Šaštín as a pilgrim site, the monastery and monumental cathedral is also a complex with historical monuments that belong to the most valuable masterpieces of the Late Baroque architecture and art with Central European significance. The stamp was designed by Edita Hertl Balážová, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague using rotary recess printing. A FDC was produced (Fig. 28).

16. On October 3, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with a 1.10€ stamp in the Personalities series honoring the 250th birth anniversary of Anton Bernolák (Fig. 29). Anton Bernolák (1762-1813) was a prominent representative of the Slovak National Revival at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. He was a Roman Catholic priest, a linguist, and an initiator of cultural

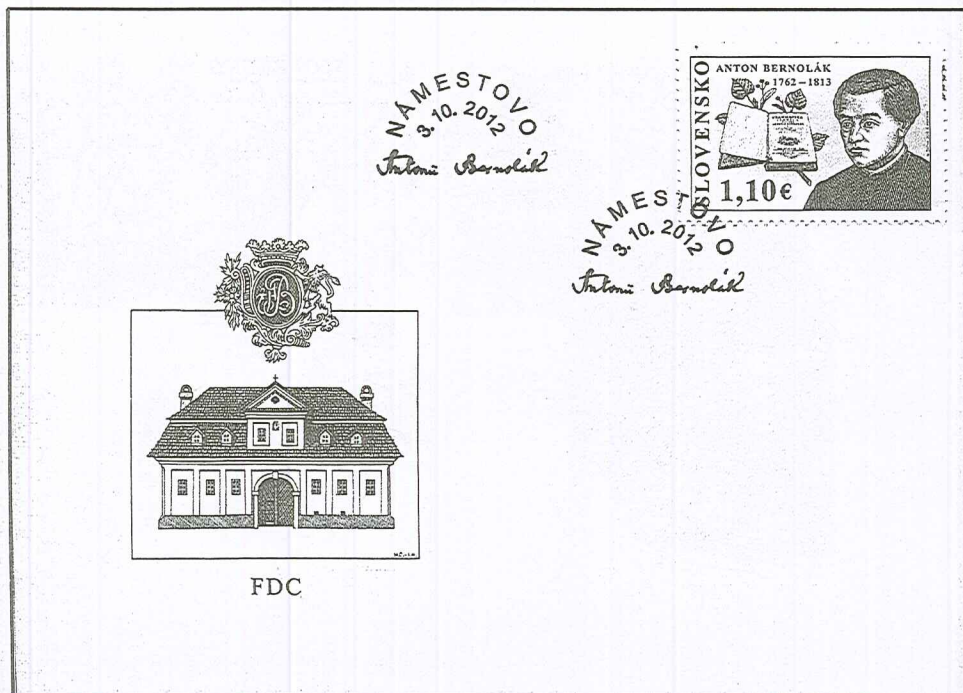


Fig. 29

and social life in Slovakia. The whole generation that accepted the Slovak language codified by Bernolák, and the idea of Slovak national individuality is named after him. He was born on October 3, 1762 in a family of landed gentry in Slanica (once a town in the Orava region). In 1787 he finished his theological studies at The General Seminary in Bratislava, which was founded by Joseph II in order to educate patriotic and enlightened priests. He was a supporter of the Theresian and Josephian reforms as shown by his codification of the Slovak literary language based on the Western Slovak dialects when he published his *Filozoficko-kritická Rozprava o Slovenských Písmenách* (Philosophical Critical Discourse on Slovak Letters) in 1787, *Slovenská Gramatika* (Slovak Grammar) in 1790, and *Etymológia Slovenských Slov* (Etymology of Slovak Words) in 1791. But his greatest and unequalled work is *Slowár Slovenskí, Česko-Latinsko-Nemecko-Uherskí* (Slovak, Czech-Latin-German-Hungarian Dictionary) published in 5 volumes after his death in 1825-27. While his codification of the Slovak literary language was only used by Catholic intellectuals and did not become the national language, key educational and literary works were written in bernolákovčina (Bernolák's language). After 1797 he served as a priest in Nové Zámky where he died on January 15, 1813. The stamp depicts the portrait of A. Bernolák with an open book as a symbol of a new beginning of the Slovak language after its

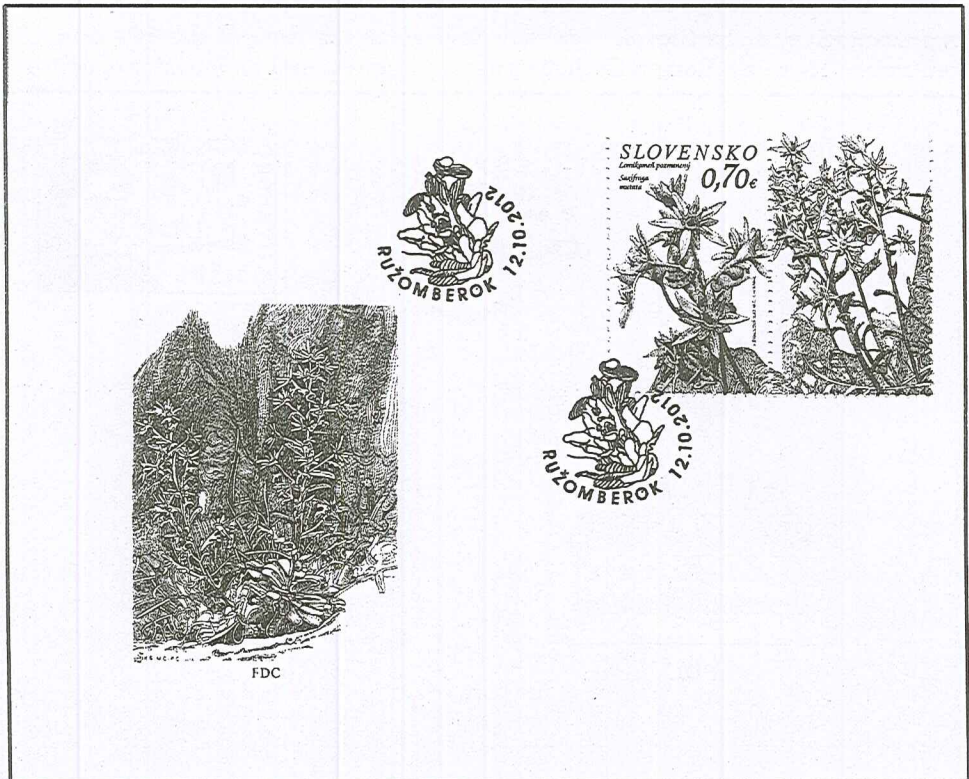


Fig. 30

codification. The souvenir sheet and stamp were designed by Marián Čapka, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague by recess print and offset. A FDC in black depicts his birthplace (Fig. 29).

17. On October 12, 2012, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with two 0.70€ stamps and three labels showing flowers in the Nature Protection series for the Low Tatra's National Park. Both stamps and labels were designed by Kamila Štanclová, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Poštovní Tiskárna Cenin in Prague by recess printing and offset. A FDC was issued for each stamp.

-- 0.70€: *Saxifraga mutata* -- Saxifrage (Lomikameň pozmeněný)(Fig. 30). The *Saxifraga* genus contains about 440 species that are spread throughout the mountains of the Northern Hemisphere. The Latin word *Saxifraga* comes from the Latin words *saxum* which means "rock" and *fragus* which means "to break". The Slovak name "Lomikameň" literally means "stone-breaker". We can find the Saxifrage species in the Carpathian mountains in only one area of Slovakia -- Low Tatras National Park. This area represents the northernmost isolated appearance of this species. It is found in limestone rocks and screes. It got to the Low Tatras probably during the Ice Ages. Before producing flowers on a 40-cm-long stalk, it makes runners where daughter rosettes are created. These are able to grow independently after the mother plant dies. This species is very rare in Slovakia, and therefore it is protected by law and placed on the Red List of Endangered

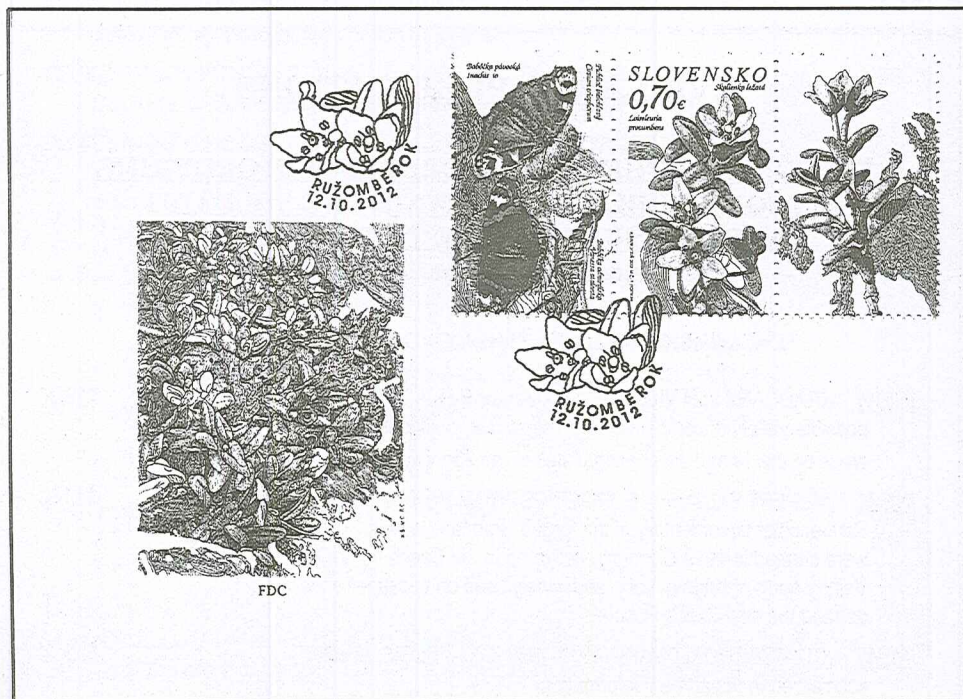


Fig. 31

Plants. Its numbers are declining because of tourist's attention. However, the biggest problem is the influence of air pollution that comes from industrial parts of Slovakia that are brought by the wind.

-- 0.70€: *Loiseleuria procumbens* -- Alpine Azalea (Skalienka ležatá)(Fig. 31). Alpine azalea is an Arctic-alpine species found in cold parts of North America, northern Asia and Europe, and it got to the southern part of Europe (Pyrenees, Alps, Carpathians, the north part of the Balkan Peninsula) in the Ice Age. In these places it was able to find the proper conditions and to survive until now. This plant is found only in three locations in Slovakia nowadays. Two of these locations are in the Low Tatras National Park and thus became the subject of a stamp issue connected with this area. These plants prefer rocky acidic soils, hillwashes or rocks. It is a low evergreen procumbent shrub that creates carpet cover. The 1-cm-long, opposite leaves are tough and leathery which enables this plant to survive in extreme conditions -- frost-resistant, wind-resistant, and able to survive -30°C in winter. New growth buds are created in autumn, and when it is warm they start to bloom. The flowers grow at the end of the twig in 2-5 pieces. It is in bloom from June to July, and while normally pollinated by insects, in difficult conditions the plant is able to pollinate itself. Seeds hibernate closed in capsules and next spring they are spread by the wind. It can conduct vegetative reproduction by rooting of end outgrowths. It is very long lived with individuals in the Alps being 75 years old. Alpine azalea is very rare, and its appearance is very isolated in Slovakia. The species is protected by law and included in the Red List of Endangered Plants.

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