



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,  
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization  
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

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\* \* \* EXCITING NEWS \* \* \*

## *President's Perspectives*

The Society's 74<sup>th</sup> annual convention at WESTPEX 2013 was a huge success and resulted in significant Society changes, so read on since it could save you money.

### **SCP Exhibits**

Five of our members, including one of our members from Australia, provided exhibits that illustrated the varied aspects of Czechoslovak philately:

Jaroslav J. Verner -- "Czechoslovakia - Air Mail of the First Republic". Vermeil medal; Society for Czechoslovak Philately: Alfons Mucha Medal for Best Czech Exhibit (Fig. 1); Society for Czechoslovak Philately: Society Gold Medal.

Frederick P. Lawrence -- "Scouting on Stamps 'Classics'". Vermeil medal; O'Neill Award - Best Thematic; American Topical Association - First Award.

Frank A. Garancovsky -- "Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1920". Silver medal; Society for Czechoslovak Philately: Society Silver Medal.

Ross Wood -- "Czechoslovakia Airmails 1945 to 1975". Silver medal; Society for Czechoslovak Philately: Bronze Medal; American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: Creativity Award; ROSSICA President's Award for Best Non-Gold Russian Exhibit.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ARTICLES</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1. How Stamps Are Engraved.....	Helena Hodková.....	7
2. Presidential Initials on Protectorate Stamps		
	Ervin Hirsch.....	10
3. Otto's War.....	Richard Beith.....	13
4. 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lidice.....	Phil Rhoads.....	14
5. Postcards with Liberation Overprints 1944-1945		
	Karel Holoubek.....	19
<b>COLUMNS</b>		
6. Letters to Editor and Guest Editorial.....		25
7. Editorial Hinges.....		26
8. Book Review: Monografie 20, Part 2 by Jiří Kratochvíl.....		27
9. New Issues .....	Ludvík Svoboda.....	29

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/June 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or email: h.alan.hoover@cspilately.org
2. A book sales division is run by Sam Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Sam Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: cancelcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Ludvik Svoboda, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda. (see address/email above).
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/email above).
6. Our web site ([www.cspilately.org](http://www.cspilately.org)) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via email, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, 199 East Flagler Street #1660, Miami, FL 33131, email: [mmgalitz@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalitz@gmail.com).

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*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.  
Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.*



Figure 1: The Society's Alfons Mucha award being presented to Jaroslav Verner (photo courtesy of WESTPEX).

Richard P. Livingston --  
 "Celebration of the End of Nazi Rule in Czechoslovakia. Local 'Liberation' Stamps and Covers of May 1945". Silver Medal; American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: Novice Award.

A unique feature of WESTPEX and our Society's participation were docent tours explaining the unique aspects and importance of the Society's exhibits. Tom Cossaboom and Lou Svoboda conducted tours of our members' exhibits on two days. These tours were well attended and were highlighted by the WESTPEX Show coordinat-

ing officers in both the official program and in their Show advertising (subsequently they received positive feedback on the tours).

### Election of Society Officers

The Society's Board of Directors, as always, held their annual meeting in conjunction with our convention. The Board re-elected the current Society officers to another two year term of office. You can find our names and contact info on the back of the first page of every *Specialist*. Your ideas for improvement of the Society and the services that it provides to its members are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to offer them to any of us.

### Electronic Membership

Several notable changes in the Society were approved by the Board. First, as many of you know, we have been testing an electronic printable version of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* on our website. Marisa Galitz, the Society's web site guru is placing a copy of the current issue of the *Specialist* (in color) on our web site during this year (the Winter 2013 issue is already there). Access to it is limited only to members by using an access code. Based upon the immediate success of this test, the Board decided to make this a permanent feature of our web site. Most importantly, we decided to offer our membership an electronic only membership in addition to the current standard membership. A standard membership will still receive the printed hard copy of the *Specialist* and will be able to access the electronic version. The electronic only membership (no paper version) may be particularly attractive to our overseas members because of the ever increasing costs of international postage. It is ironic that we, as a philatelic society, have taken an action that reduces the use of the mail system, but the benefits to our membership in terms of reduced member dues, reduced postage costs, and rapid access to new issues are amazingly significant. The new dues structure will take effect in 2014. Details will be provided by our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, in a later issue of the *Specialist* this year.

### *The Czechoslovak Specialist in Color*

Also, beginning in 2014 -- which happens to be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Society -- the print version of *The Specialist* will also be in color. Because of the large cost increase associated with the color printing, the Board plans to explore various options for the printing. It is unclear at this time if the Society can sustain the costs of a color printing of *The Specialist* in the future, so 2014 should be considered as a test. Once we determine actual costs, the Board will decide if we can afford to continue printing in color. Because the Society's finances are currently healthy, however, we can afford to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> with a printing in color.

### **The Interactive Index for *The Czechoslovak Specialist***

One of our members, Mark Wilson, has graciously offered to share the software that he developed for the Interactive Index of the *Specialist* with our Society. He has also offered to instruct a Society member on the use of the software in order to continue updating the Index into the future. Thank you, Mark! And thanks to one of our newest members, Robert Lauer, and his wife, Heather McLean and to our Board Member Chris Jackson for volunteering to help with this task.

### **Exhibits Coordinator**

Over the years, the Society's members gained a reputation for providing quality exhibits that are representative of our area of philately. To maintain and continue this reputation, I've decided to appoint a Society Exhibits Coordinator to both foster the development of new exhibitors from our members, but also to encourage and coordinate our Society's members' exhibiting at our annual conventions and also at their local show venues. More on this topic in the future.

### **Future Society Meeting Locations**

In 1939, our Society was founded in a coffee shop in the Bohemian Hall in New

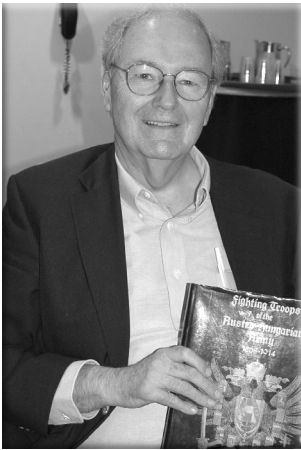


Figure 2: Tom Cossaboom making his presentation (photo courtesy of Kathy Samuels).

York City. We will celebrate our Society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year in northern New Jersey at NOJEX 2014 (about May 23-25, 2014). We are currently investigating the options open to us for activities and memorabilia to celebrate the occasion. Of course, as always, we are looking forward to renewing acquaintances as well as meeting new members. Looking to future meeting sites, we will hold our 2015 annual convention in conjunction with MILCOPEX in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Because the US International Show will be held in New York City in 2016, numerous annual shows that year are either being canceled or considering cancellation. That has complicated our decision for a location for our convention that year. We are exploring various alternatives and will advise once we decide.

### **Society Philatelic Presentation at WESTPEX**

On Saturday, Tom Cossaboom presented a talk on *The Emperor's Czechs: Philatelic Remembrances of*

*Czechs and Slovaks in the Austro-Hungarian Army, 1914-1918* (Fig. 2). Tom has concentrated his collecting interests in this area and has become a knowledgeable philatelist of his specialty. His presentation was detailed and extremely informative. We are looking forward to seeing Tom capturing the information that he presented in an article for *The Specialist* and in an exhibit.

### Society Table

As usual we manned a Society table during the entire show -- Sam Horvath was there so much that he became almost a part of the table. It was very conveniently located right where everyone entering the exhibit's/dealer's area had to pass us (Fig. 3). This location worked out very well for us. We sold over \$700 worth of books and signed up three new members. Overall our experience at WESTPEX was very positive from the very start to the end -- largely due to the excellent help of our show society liaisons, Edie and Dale Eggen, who were always stopping by to see if we needed anything -- and then seeing that we got whatever it was.

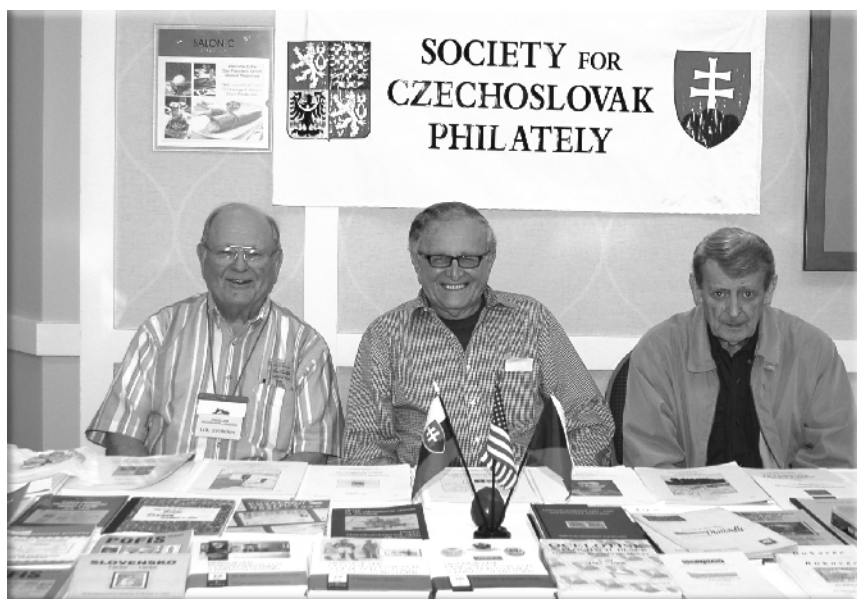


Figure 3: Lou Svoboda, Sam Horvath, and Olech Wyslotsky at our table (photo courtesy of Kathy Samuels).

### Volunteers Needed

And finally, the Society is financially healthy, and it has a core of enthusiastic and dedicated members who contribute their time, talent, and, sometimes, resources to make the Society better. But, we can always use more members who are willing to share their expertise in some manner. In particular, we currently have two openings on our Board of Directors. One member has stepped forward and is running for election this year, but we need another member to step forward also. Please give serious consideration to offering your services to our Society. We need you!

– Rich Palaschak, President

## ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

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

- 1 -- H. Alan Hoover (member #1543) of Norcross, GA; has philatelic interests in both Czech and Hungarian materials; former president of the Society for Hungarian Philately; sales circuit manager; long-time member of SCP and Board Member.
- 2 -- Chris Jackson (member #2050) of St. George, Ontario, Canada; current Vice-president; Czech collector, plus other areas; has his own philatelic business; member of many philatelic organizations.
- 3 -- Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D. (member #1180) of Gilbert, AZ; specializes in Scouts on stamps issues; Czech interests since early 80's; frequent contributor to philatelic journals; FIP and APS-accredited judge in Czechoslovak materials among others; member/officer of numerous philatelic organizations.
- 4 -- Richard Livingston (member #1989) of Vienna, VA; former Vice-president; new exhibitor; active in the Washington area Society chapter; retired from the State Department.
- 5 -- David Newton (member #2022) of Reston, VA; member of SCP since 2007; former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen; retired from State Department; then worked for Radio Free Europe in Prague.

Every member in good standing is eligible to vote for any five of the candidates listed above. The order in which you list them is not important. Send your votes to our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, either by mail to: Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302 or by e-mail to: [KLFCK1@aol.com](mailto:KLFCK1@aol.com).

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## TABOR CZECH DAYS CANCEL

The 2013 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Days cancel created by Megan Burbach of Tabor, SD will be available on Czech Days, June 21, 2013.

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) #10 size and \$1.50 for each cancellation wanted to: Tabor Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063.



## FOR SALE

I have the following K-Line pages for sale which were produced by George Kobylka:

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA -- 1<sup>st</sup> Republic, 1918-1939, 110 pages

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA -- Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1945, 37 pages

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA -- Independent Republic of Slovakia, 1939-1945, 32 pages

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic, 1945-1970, 366 pages

They are excellent heavy historical pages with information about each issue.

If you have an interest, please contact me, Bill Rosol, at: [wjrosol@ecentral.com](mailto:wjrosol@ecentral.com), or 303-755-5646

## HOW STAMPS ARE ENGRAVED

by Helena Hodková

The first Czechoslovak postage stamp is the well-known Hradčany stamp (Fig. 1) by the famous Czech painter Alfons Mucha. This rare stamp in various denominations and versions was issued on December 18, 1918. It was printed by letterpress print, the same as many other Czechoslovak stamps. Five years later another name appeared alongside that of the designer, namely that of the engravers -- Karel Wolf, Jaroslav Goldschmied, Karel Seizinger. Rotary recess print and later flat recess print markedly improved the artistic and aesthetic calibre of Czechoslovak philately. The ranks of engravers were augmented by another name in the period before the Second World War -- by that of the Czech graphic artist and draughtsman Bohumil Heinz who also excelled in this field.



Fig. 1

The tradition of stamp engraving in Czechoslovakia was upheld and continued following the end of World War II, apart from a few first issues in 1945 and in the mid-sixties, when several sets were again printed by offset. However, these are truly atypical cases in the production of Czechoslovak stamps, which have won international acclaim.

Before taking a look at an engraving shop it is necessary to point out that engraving stamps, the same as engraving banknotes, is not a mere craft. It is an exacting art requiring great talent, years of experience, and above all self discipline, precision and concentrated perseverance.

At the birth of every postage stamp is the intended purpose of the stamp and corresponding design, executed always by one of Czechoslovakia's leading painters or graphic artists. The picture prepared by the artist is six times the size of the intended stamp and incorporates his choice of colors and play of light and shade. It then goes to the engraver. However, before he can take up his graver and start

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

working on the steel plate with magnifying lens to his eye, he must first prepare a drawing, transcribe the colored picture executed by the artist into a black-and-white drawing, into a complex system of lines and dots that will serve as the basis for the engraving. The lines and dots are engraved in plates of high-quality steel, there being as many plates as there are colors in the original picture. The dimensions of the steel plate are the same as those of the stamp. The required parts of the picture are transferred by chemical means to the surface of the plate and the work of engraving begins.

If the stamp is to be printed by rotary recess print combined with two-color photogravure in blue, red and black and the ground is blue, then the blue color is printed by rotary recess print and the other two by photogravure. The engraver breaks up the stamp picture into a basic engraving for the blue color and prepares two further plates for the second and third colors. For rotary recess print it is necessary to prepare a metal cylinder consisting of as many sections as there are stamps on two stamp sheets -- but that's another story.

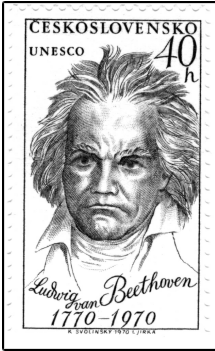
Even more exacting is the engraver's work in the case of stamps that are printed by flat recess print. This is the most exacting of all printing techniques and a stamp thus printed is a true miniature graphic sheet. If the stamp picture is painted in five colors it is necessary to prepare five separate steel plates, one for each color. The plates are clamped into the head of the printing machine one after the other, being exchanged after completing the run-through for a single color. Each stamp sheet is put into the machine by hand, the process being repeated as many times as there are colors so that the final effect is the same as that of the original picture, with the same play of light and shade.

Even more exacting is the work of the engraver when he transcribes onto the stamp format an original painting not intended for stamp depiction. The original is generally huge in comparison with the dimensions required by the stamp picture and its palette of colors poses no small problem. And yet, during the past few years Czechoslovakia has made a name for itself throughout the world with its transcription of old works of art to a stamp. Collectors of Czechoslovak "art" stamps well know how excellent they are. And they are similarly well acquainted with the names of Czechoslovakia's leading engravers: Josef Herčík, Bedřich Housa, Ladislav Jirka, Jan Mráček, Jindřich Schmidt and Jiří Švengsbír. Recently added to the list is the name of a member of the younger generation, namely Miloš Ondráček.

Some ten thousand cuts in the form of dots and lines made with various gravers are required for a single, multi-colored stamp of medium exactingness -- work for a number of weeks, for in this case it is not a question of speed but of microscopic precision and feel for and understanding of the designer's intention. Also the question of responsibility for a state paper that represents Czechoslovakia in whatever part of the world it is sent to.

The staff of the Artia Foreign Trade Corporation engaged in exporting Czechoslovak stamps to all the countries of the world can confirm how highly prized they are throughout the world. Let us list at least a few examples. The world's ten most beautiful stamps selected by juries at international competitions since 1952 include the following Czechoslovak stamps:

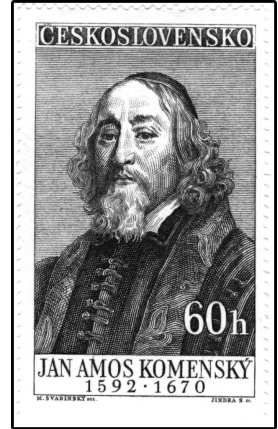




**Svolinský's**  
**"Ludvig van Beethoven"**  
 Fig. 2, Pofis 1813/Scott 1668



**Hudeček's "First Space Flight"**  
 engraved by J. Schmidt  
 Fig. 4, Pofis L55/Scott C58



**Švabinský's**  
**"Jan Amos Komenský"**  
 Fig. 3, Pofis 930/Scott 793



**Svolinský's**  
**"Mushrooms"**  
 engraved by L. Jirka  
 Fig. 5, Pofis 1018/Scott 982



The Grand Prix at the international stamp exhibition Naples 1966 went to the most beautiful stamp in Europe: Picasso's "Guernica"  
 Fig. 6, Pofis 1543/Scott 1408, engraved by J. Herčík.

[Ed. Note: Although this article first appeared in 1975, the printing techniques and their description still apply -- and correctly describe why Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps are still some of the, if not the, most beautiful stamps in the world. It appeared in the September 1975 issue of the journal "For You From Czechoslovakia".]



The Czechoslovak stamp celebrating the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Organization, designed by L. Lukavský and engraved by B. Housa Fig. 7, Pofis 1833/Scott 1691, was selected as the world's most beautiful stamp in 1971.

## PRESIDENTIAL INITIALS ON PROTECTORATE STAMPS

by Ervin Hirsch

trans. by Vladimir Kralicek

[*Ed. Note: For years there have been a number of articles in the Specialist about "secret marks" or drawings on "Bohmen und Mahren" stamps. Most of these were wishful thinking where you had to put on your "imagine" hat, put several stamps together, etc. You can read several articles, letters to the editor, letters to the editor of Linn's, and editorials -- especially in the January 1966 issue. There however, Auermuller brings up the fact that there were three letters -- D, r, and B -- that were stashed away on three different stamps, supposedly to represent "Dr. B(enes)". While Auermuller talks about it, he does not give very much evidence to back it up.*

*I was looking through some small collections which I had bought many years ago, and in the Bohemia and Moravia pages, I came across a short article cut out of a Czechoslovak newspaper. It is from Svobodné Noviny, but there is no date shown on the article. However, on the reverse side is the beginning of another article (which happens to be about the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich), and it starts out saying "Dnes dne 27. Kvetna 1945 je . . ." (saying "Today on 27 May 1945 there is . . ."). So it would seem that the subject article was from late May 1945.*

*Thus, there does seem to be some credence to this "secret marks" legend, but not of the "put-together-several-stamps" kind.*

*When you examine the stamps involved with a good magnifying glass, you can see the three letters, just as they are illustrated in the article.]*

He welcomed me with a bitter smile and talked in a husky voice, as he showed me a large picture of Karlštejn: "So this will be one of our new stamps, but don't look at the picture please, that shows our past and fortitude, I can only see the inscription 'Bohmen und Mahren' and a person can only helplessly clench his fists". And the great artist, engraver [Bohumil] Heinz, who was able to wrestle with failure and still believe in final victory, needed at this time to hear words of faith, which would silence the nagging pain. I found them and incorporated them into the symbol of one name -- Dr. Beneš. We then got into a conversation about stamp illustrations, allowing our imagination to run free, and finally decided that on the first three stamps of the so called Protectorate we would include a sign of our believe, hope and love (Fig. 1). Observe, using a magnifying glass, the 1K stamp, which was issued on 29 July 1939. In the lower right corner you will find the letter **D** (Fig. 2). On the 1.20K stamp, issued on 15 September 1939, the arrow points at the letter **r** (Fig. 3), and on the 50h, issued on 29 July 1939, you will find in the wooded slope on the left side, the letter **B** (Fig. 4). We have spread them over the three stamps, so that we would reduce the possibility of premature discovery, and our caution was shown to be correct. The philatelists began -- immediately after the stamps were issued -- to search for some distinguishing marks, and during that time we were already concerned that they will possibly find our carefully hidden monogram **Dr. B.**



Fig. 1



B. HEINZ

D

Fig. 2



r

Fig. 3



B

Fig. 4

The postage stamp tends to be a State visitation card indicating evidence of culture and artistry. For the first time in this century's history there will be three stamps with documentary evidence showing the unfaltering faith in the final victory of the subjugated nation. For the first time in the history of stamps it will speak of feelings which had to be carefully hidden from the invader and which were nevertheless expressed publicly.

Friend Heinz has not survived to see this happy event, one which we were eager to see, but his courage will always remain in the memory of the philatelic world. In our albums there is not to be space for the stamps of the occupier, but these three stamps on which we have included the feelings of all loyal Czechoslovaks will always remain -- stamps of Czechoslovakia.

For your glorious birthday, accept again, Mr. President, our thanks already expressed unquestionably on a small stamp in the year 1939.

## SOCIETY SALES CIRCUIT

Do you have excess philatelic materials that you would like to sell? Or maybe you wish to buy? We are always looking for new members and materials. Why not contact our circuit sales manager, Alan Hoover, for details on how to submit material to the circuit or participate as a buyer. Just remember to price your materials reasonably for quick results. The circuit is currently going out to about 20 of our members and is experiencing great sales interest because of the variety of materials and the reasonable prices.

Alan can be reached at 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092-1383 or send him an e-mail for details at: [h.alan.hoover@cspilately.org](mailto:h.alan.hoover@cspilately.org). You can also download the rules and regulations of the sales circuit from our Society website at: [www.cspilately.org](http://www.cspilately.org) if you are an Internet user.

## OTTO'S WAR

[*This is a follow-up article by Richard Beith in tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Otto Hornung, RDP, FRPSL, 1920-2013, to the one which appeared last issue by Robert J. Hill.*]

Otto was born in Ostrava in the north of Moravia. When Hitler's troops invaded the remains of western Czechoslovakia in mid-March 1939, 18 year-old Otto's first thought was to leave the new Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to join any future fight against the invaders. His parents thought he was too young, but eventually his mother (a feisty lady by all accounts) went to the local Gestapo office in Ostrava with Otto's passport to get an exit visa. The passport was confiscated. Otto's widowed aunt had a property which was rented to a friendly postman who was in charge of the dispatch of mails to still neutral Poland. Otto was given a postman's jacket and on the night of 14 May 1939, slipping past the armed German sentry, Otto was able to enter a wagon and two minutes later the train left for Bohumin, a former Moravian town which has been annexed by the Poles in 1938 as part of the Těšín region. Otto was introduced to the Polish postal workers as the Moravian postman's apprentice. Once the door of the station building at Bohumin was unlocked, Otto could step into the square -- a free man. The local police sent him on to Kraków where a Czech consulate remained in operation. He was given temporary papers, a foolscap sheet with photograph which had to be renewed each week. He also visited the British consulate asking if he could join the Royal Navy. 'No' said the Consul, 'we don't have a Foreign Legion in Britain'. Otto noted that most teenagers in Ostrava learnt French as an extra language, but he had learnt English from an English-speaking businessman who had lived in England for some time with the aid of two books: *Three Men in a Boat* and *King Solomon's Mines*.

In August 1939 the Polish government agreed to the formation of a Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and Otto eventually found a place in that force. Such was the pace of the Polish collapse in September 1939 that the Legion was never properly equipped. The Soviet Army invaded Poland from the east on 17 September, by

which time the Czechoslovak Legion was trying to reach friendly Romania. The march by Otto's group was halted by the Red Army the next day and Otto and his colleagues were disarmed and marched east to internment in the Soviet Union. On 17 October 1939 Otto's father, Dr. Ernest Hornung, was deported from Ostrava by the Germans to occupied Poland. He managed to reach Lvov (Lemberg, Lviv) in Russian occupied Poland from where he was able to correspond with Otto. His father's letters were written in German which was an embarrassment to Otto when his comrades were around. All news from his father ceased in June 1941 after the German attack on the USSR. Dr. Hornung became a victim of the Holocaust. Otto's Mother and sister were luckier; they moved to Hungary and at the end of the war were living in Budapest, protected by documentation provided by the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg.

Otto commented that life as an internee of the Soviets was 'not bad by Soviet standards'. Some of his Czechoslovak colleagues had been released by the Soviets prior to the fall of France. Otto was not released from his quarters in Suzdal, east-north-east of Moscow, until March 1941. The group of 60 Czechoslovaks travelled by train to Moscow and on to Odessa where there was even time to visit the opera. They crossed to Istanbul by sea on the '*Svanetia*', calling at Varna on the way. Otto noted that 'the crew gave us a farewell party. They wanted us to leave with good impressions of the Soviet Union'. They then travelled by train across Turkey to the port of Mersin where another ship took them to Haifa. So another 60 allied troops had reached British-mandated Palestine from the USSR, in spite of the continuing existence of the Hitler-Stalin pact.

They, and Otto, were now members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion -- East. On 22 October 1941 the battalion was sent to help in the defence of the isolated Tobruk garrison. Later they became a Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment and then, in July 1943, all 1,322 Czechoslovak soldiers in the Middle East were sent to the United Kingdom travelling on the '*Mauretania*', arriving at Liverpool on 26 August 1943. Once in the UK they were amalgamated with the somewhat understrength Czechoslovak Brigade which had been formed here after the fall of France. From 1 September 1943 the combined unit was reborn as the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade and Otto spent his time in Northamptonshire in the Desborough area up to May 1944 when they moved to the Scottish Borders for final training. At the end of August 1944 the Brigade returned to France as a fighting unit. From early October to May 1945, the Brigade was the lead unit engaged in bottling-up the large German garrison in Dunkirk which had been bypassed in the allied race to Antwerp. Otto was wounded during this period. The main Brigade did not return to their liberated homeland until mid-May 1945 when western Bohemia was controlled by the US Third Army. A photograph exists of Lieutenant Hornung as a Liaison Officer to the US Army participating in a US National Day Parade on 4 July 1945 somewhere in Bohemia. His war was coming to an end. Of course, his final high rank was a product of the post-Velvet Revolution period, when those who had fought in the west were honoured in the name of President Havel.

- Richard Beith

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LIDICE by Phil Rhoads

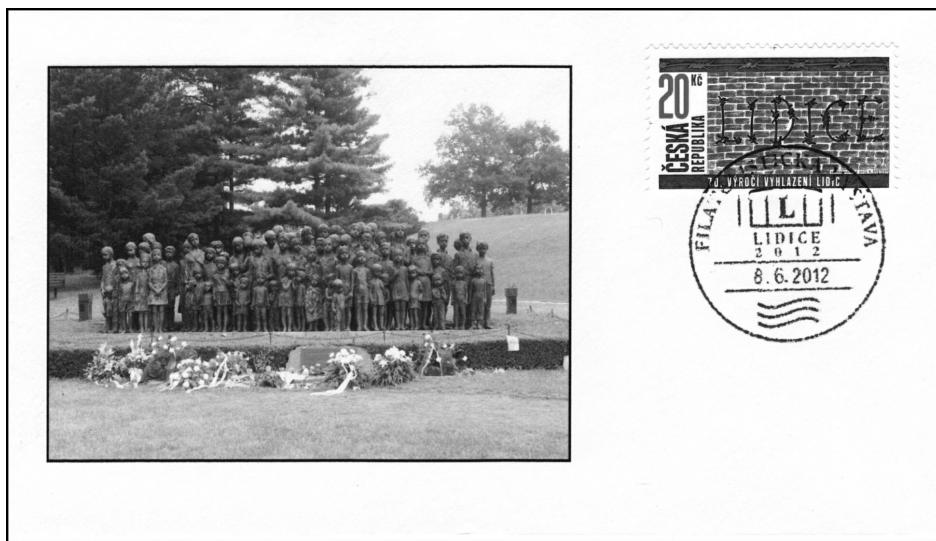


Fig. 1 Lidice Memorial on FDC

In May and June, 2012, I had the pleasure and privilege of being in Prague and Lidice during the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary remembrance events of the 1942 destruction of Lidice. Lidice, a small village 20 km northwest of Prague, was annihilated in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi governor (Reichsprotektor) of Bohemia and Moravia (i.e., occupied Czechoslovakia). There were several ceremonies, exhibits, and events taking place in Prague and Lidice in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Every year, Památník Lidice (Lidice Memorial) conducts the Lidice International Children's Art Contest. The first event I attended (May 30) was a ceremony presenting awards for the 2012 contest. The ceremony was attended by at least a couple of hundred children, along with their parents and teachers. In addition to the presentation of awards, there were a variety of games and activities for the children as well as live entertainment. It looked like everyone was having a really enjoyable morning.

From a philatelic perspective, the most important event was the issuance of a 20 Kč stamp for Lidice (as well as a 10 Kč stamp for Ležáky, another village destroyed in response to the Heydrich assassination). The stamp first day ceremony was on Wednesday, June 6 in the main office of Česká Pošta on Jindřišská, just off Wenceslas Square in central Prague. This was the first Lidice stamp issued since 1987.

Sadly, the first day ceremony was not well publicized. There were no signs at the main post office that I saw. Another American collector in Prague wanted to attend but when he asked at the information booth, they didn't know anything

about it. I saw two older men carrying beat-up briefcases ascending a circular staircase in the main lobby and I thought, "They've got to be philatelists.", so I followed them and that's how I found the ceremony. It was in a balcony hallway in front of what appeared to me no-longer-in-use philatelic sales windows.

The ceremony seemed to be quite similar, although less formal, to first day ceremonies in the U.S. I estimate perhaps 50 people attended, none of whom I knew or recognized. Everything was of course in Czech, so I just watched and enjoyed. At least one official from Česká Pošta spoke, with the designers and/or engravers of the stamps also speaking. Coupons were passed out to those attending and a couple of philatelic books were given to winners of a drawing.

Afterwards, as at first day ceremonies here, those involved in the ceremony were available to autograph FDCs (there was no printed program). FDCs were not presented to those attending. I believe those getting autographs purchased them at the philatelic window downstairs. Although I didn't understand any of the presentations, I'm really glad I was able to attend the ceremony. Quite special.

On Friday, June 8, there was a ceremony for the stamp in Lidice. The Lidice post office had a special postmark and was doing a brisk business (Fig. 1). There was only one lady working and she was quite busy during the time I was there. I was able to get several items canceled with this postmark. I was also able to get a FDC autographed by the Lidice stamp engraver.

One of my favorite places in central Prague is the Wallenstein Garden and there were two static displays in the Garden. These were bilingual (Czech and English). In the central part of the Garden was a series of billboards specifically telling about the Heydrich assassination and the destruction of Lidice. Around the perimeter of the Garden was a series of numerous smaller graphics telling the broader story of the effects of the Nazi occupation on the Czech people and the activities of those involved in the Resistance movement.

Perhaps the most poignant of the Prague events was a mini-concentration camp replica built in Charles Square (Fig. 2). Charles Square is only about 100 meters from the church in which the paratroopers who attacked Heydrich perished in a battle with the SS and Gestapo. Visitors entered the camp through an infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" arch and barbed-wire maze leading to and through small barracks-like buildings. Since this was the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the organizers selected 70 Czechs whose lives were significantly impacted by the Nazi occupation and displayed large pictures, with detailed captions, of these individuals as you wound your way through the camp buildings.

Everything was in Czech; there was not anything available in English. Fortunately, one of the times I went through the camp (it was free), I was with Miloš Čurík, my great friend and tour guide in Prague. I recognized several of the people in the display as having been related to Lidice and Heydrich but certainly appreciated learning the stories of others from Miloš. It appeared this exhibition was very important and was well attended. There was often a line of people waiting to enter. I saw several school groups through the exhibit with their teachers.

As part of this exhibit, several afternoon lectures and discussions were scheduled. The day Miloš and I were there, the speaker was Col. Eduard Štěhlík, a Czech Army historian. He has written several books on Lidice and Heydrich



**Fig. 2 Replica of mini concentration camp**

(available in English) and is one of the foremost historians on this subject. I met Col. Štěhlík in 2007, when we both gave presentations in Lidice during the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremonies. Miloš and I had a chance to talk with Col. Štěhlík for 15-20 minutes before his lecture (he speaks English well). He has some new, revised ideas on the specific details of the actual attack on Heydrich. It will be interesting to see if additional research supports or refutes his new explanation of the attack specifics.

The major event of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary was, of course, the ceremony in Lidice on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, the actual anniversary date. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative, it being cool with a nearly constant drizzle.

The ceremonies officially opened at 10:00AM with a presentation of wreaths at the mass grave of the Lidice men (Fig. 3). Wreaths were presented from nations, government agencies, other towns and villages, organizations, etc. This procession lasted nearly an hour, with each wreath laying being accompanied by a representative of the presenting group and by a military honor guard. A Czech military band played during this entire presentation. A wreath from the American people was presented from the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

Several speeches by dignitaries and officials followed the presentation of wreaths. Throughout the rest of the day, entertainment was provided in several locations and the Lidice Museum was open without charge. I don't know how many people were there, but I thought the attendance was outstanding, especially considering the weather conditions. I noted several large groups of youth in attendance.





**Fig. 3 Mass grave ceremony**

On June 12, my last full day in Prague, Miloš and I went to Lidice to visit with Anna Pragrová. When Miloš took me to Lidice on my first visit in 2002, Anna was the docent on duty in the Lidice Museum. Anna is the daughter of one of the Lidice women who survived the concentration camps. She has become a great friend and has opened many doors for me, contributing significantly to my Lidice exhibit and my knowledge and appreciation of Lidice history. Anna speaks no English and I speak no Czech, so we depend on Miloš for translating.

While Anna, Miloš, and I were wandering around Lidice talking, we came to “In Memoriam”, a small exhibition room overlooking old Lidice and which displays interesting temporary exhibits. I was surprised to see JUDr. Milouš Červenci, Director, and others from Památník Lidice there. In probably the greatest shock of my life, Dr. Červenci presented me with the Lidice Memorial Silver Medal (there is also a Bronze Medal) (Fig. 4). The Silver Medal is presented to people who have contributed to the advancement of the Lidice story for more than five years.

I was supposed to have received the medal with other recipients as part of the ceremonies on June 10. But I didn't know that because the letter inviting me was sent to my old Minnesota address rather than my current address in Indiana. (The letter was returned to Památník Lidice and is now part of my collection!) I am actually quite pleased the medal was presented in this manner because Anna and Miloš were present, which they would not have been on June 10. Without their encouragement, support, and friendship over 10+ years, I would not have been in



Fig. 4 Dr. Červenci presenting Phil Rhoads the Lidice Memorial Silver Medal

a position to receive this award. Of the many awards and recognitions my Lidice exhibit has received, this is certainly the most precious.

The destruction of Lidice and its inhabitants is probably the most significant single event from World War II in the Czech Republic. It was a great privilege to have been in Prague and Lidice for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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## COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: [www.cpsgb.org.uk](http://www.cpsgb.org.uk), and through their Membership Secretary, Yvonne Gren at [mail@dygren.plus.com](mailto:mail@dygren.plus.com).

Their publication *Czechout* and our *Specialist* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your \$30.00 CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer, Marisa Galitz, 199 East Flagler Street #1660, Miami, FL 33131 without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies!

## Postcards with Liberation Overprints 1944 – 1945 (Dopisnice s Revolučními Přetisky 1944 – 1945)

Written by Karel Holoubek, translated by Robert J Hill  
© Karel Holoubek 2012

An overview of postcards that have had liberation overprints added.

1 <sup>st</sup> edition in Czech	November 2007
2 <sup>nd</sup> edition in Czech	2011
1 <sup>st</sup> English edition	2012

### Introduction

This work is based on the archive and collection of Karel Holoubek of Hradec Králové. It follows on from his *magnum opus* on the liberation overprints that appeared on stamps for which written records exist. Knowledge of that work is assumed for the reader to understand the background as to why these overprints were prepared.

Place names to which overprints are attributed have been checked with the records of Messrs. Osthues and Sobotka to whom the author is indebted.

The title of this document states the year 1944. Today, when we speak of Czechoslovakia & Slovakia the author remembers that at the time of liberation the Supreme Administrative power (USSR), the Government in Exile and the Local National Councils (Narodní výbor = NV) still acknowledged the presence of Carpathian-Ukraine. So in 1944 there were produced the first Czechoslovak overprints in Chust, which rarely get a mention in Czechoslovak catalogues. Hungarian postcards were still available as they were months later in other occupied Slovak area locations. In these locations the only stamps and postal stationery in circulation was Hungarian in origin.

Parts of the perimeter of the Czechoslovak Republic were, in 1938 following the Munich agreement transferred to the German Reich and were therefore, within the jurisdiction of the German post office. In these local post offices were available only the stamps and postal stationery of the German Reich. The stamps and impressions available were mainly those of Hitler's head, there were very few items that signified the Sudetenland.

After the end of World War II, exiled Czechs wanted to return immediately to their former Sudetenland homes. This return, and the desire to restore the integrity of the Republic was shown in many ways including overprinting both stamps and postal stationery.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

### 1. Locations that were in Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia during World War II

Location	Overprinted postcard	Overprinted Letter Card	Notes
Bechyně	Yes		
Bílá Lhota	Yes	Yes	
Brumov	Yes		
Bystřice nad Olzou	Yes		
Dašice v Čechách	Yes		
Dolany u Olomouce	Yes		
Frýdek	Yes	Yes	
Hluboká nad Vltavou	Yes		
Horáždovice	Yes		
Horní Bříza	Yes		
Hradec Králové	Yes	Yes	
Hranice	Yes		
Kněžmost	Yes		
Kolín	Yes		
Kolinec	Yes		
Krásno nad Bečvou	Yes	Yes	
Libčice nad Vltavou	Yes	Yes	
Lipník nad Bečvou	Yes	Yes	
Lochovice	Yes	Yes	Also on Sudetenland postal stationery
Loštice	Yes	Yes	
Louny	Yes	Yes	
Lysice	Yes	Yes	
Milevsko	Yes		
Mirošov	Yes		
Mnichovo Hradiště	Yes		
Moravská Ostrava	Yes		
Motyčín	Yes		
Netolice	Yes		
Nýřany	Yes		
Opava	Yes		
Osek nad Bečvou	Yes		
Pardubice - Kalman	Yes		
Pardubice – Franc	Yes		
Písek	Yes	Yes	
Plzeň	Yes		

Location	Overprinted postcard	Overprinted Letter Card	Notes
Praha	Yes		
Praha 10	Yes		
Praha Letná	Yes		
Praha Nusle	Yes	Yes	
Praha Smíchov	Yes		
Praha Strašnice	Yes		
Praha Vršovice	Yes	Yes	
Praha Žižkov	Yes	Yes	
Praha 6	Yes		
Praha 47	Yes	Yes	
Praha 65	Yes		
Přerov	Yes	Yes	
Pustiměř	Yes		
Rakovník	Yes		
Říčany u Prahy	Yes		
Sebranice	Yes		
Slabce	Yes	Yes	
Slaný		Yes	
Staňkov	Yes		
Staré Ždánice	Yes		
Střítež nad Ludinou	Yes	Yes	
Uhřetěves	Yes		
Valašské Meziříčí	Yes	Yes	
Zámorsk	Yes	Yes	
Zliv	Yes		
Žamberk	Yes		

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Location	Overprinted Postcard
Bidovce	Yes
Chust	Yes
Krásnohorské Podhradí	Yes
Kunova Teplice	Yes
Rimavská Sobota	Yes
Streda nad Bodrogem	Yes

### 2. Locations that were in Hungary during World War II

Location	Overprinted Postcard
Javorina	Yes
Muráň	Yes

### 3. Locations that were in Slovakia during World War II

Location	Overprinted Postcard	Overprinted Letter Card	Notes
Holýšov	Yes		
Jánské Lázně	Yes		
Jevíčko	Yes		
Kamenický Šenov	Yes		
Krnov	Yes		
Rumburk	Yes		
Schönwald	Yes	Yes	Letter-card - BūM postal stationery
Teplice Šanov	Yes		
Ústí nad Labem	Yes		
Zábřeh na Moravě	Yes		

### 4. Locations that were in Sudetenland during World War II

CDV 1	50 h	Green	Linden leaf	1939	
CDV 2	50 + 50 h	Green	Linden leaf	1939	Reply card
CDV 3	50 + 50 h	Green	Linden leaf	1939	Reply card
CDV 4	60 h	Blue green	Linden leaf	1939	
CDV 5	60 + 60 h	Blue green	Linden leaf	1939	Reply card
CDV 6	60 h	Blue green	Linden leaf	1939	View cards (12 in series)
CDV 7	60 h	Brown violet	Linden leaf	1940	
CDV 8	60 + 60 h	Brown violet	Linden leaf	1940	Reply card
CDV 9	60 h	Violet	Linden leaf	1940	
CDV 10	60 + 60 h	Brown violet	Linden leaf	1940	Reply card
CDV 11	60 h	Violet	Linden leaf	1941	
CDV 12	1.50 k	Wine red	Linden leaf	1940	
CDV 13	1.50 + 1.50 k	Wine red	Linden leaf	1940	Reply card
CDV 14	1.50 + 1.50 k	Wine red	Linden leaf	1941	Reply card
CDV 15	50 h	Green	Hitler head	1942	
CDV 16	60 + 60 h	Violet	Hitler head	1942	Reply card
CDV 17	60 + 60 h	Violet	Hitler head	1942	Reply card
CDV 18	50 + 50 h	Green	Hitler head	1943	Reply card
CDV 19	60 + 60 h	Violet	Hitler head	1943	Reply card
CDV 20	60 + 60 h	Violet	Hitler head	1944	Reply card
CZL1	1 k	Orange red	Linden leaf	1939	Letter card
CZL2	1.20 k	Brown	Linden leaf	1940	Letter card
CZL3	1.20 k	Red	Linden leaf	1941	Letter card
CZL4	1.20 k	Red	Hitler head	1942	Letter card
CZL5	1.20 k	Red	Hitler head	1944	Letter card

5. Summary of Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia post & letter card issues

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

CDV 1	50 h	Olive	Andrej Hlinka	1939	
CDV 2	50 + 50 h	Olive green	Andrej Hlinka	1939	Reply card
CDV 3	50	Olive green	Andrej Hlinka	1939	Bradlo memorial
CDV 4	1.20 k	Brown	Andrej Hlinka	1939	View cards (36 in series)
CDV 5	1.20 + 1.20 k	Deep brown	Andrej Hlinka	1939	Reply card
CDV 6	1.50 k	Red	Andrej Hlinka	1939	
CDV 7	1.50 + 1.50 k	Red	Andrej Hlinka	1939	Reply card
CDV 8	50 h	Deep green	Josef Tiso	1939	
CDV 9	50 + 50 h	Deep green	Josef Tiso	1940	Reply card
CDV 10	50 h	Olive green	Daxner & Moyses	1941	80th anniversary of presentation of Slovak memoran- dum
CDV 11	70 h	Brown	Josef Tiso	1942	
CDV 12	70 + 70 h	Deep green	Josef Tiso	1942	Reply card
CDV 13	1 k	Green	Martin Rázus	1944	View cards (18 in series)
CDV 14	1 + 1 k	Green	Martin Rázus	1944	Reply card
CZL1	1 k	Orange	Andrej Hlinka	1939	Letter card
CZL2	1.30 k	Violet	Andrej Hlinka	1943	Letter card

6. Summary of Slovakia post & letter card issues



**Letters to Editor**

1. Hello Lou:

I have enjoyed reading the *Specialist* far into the night. The things I have learned have been beyond anything I could have imagined. What an amazing history being revealed to me through small art works.

I very much approve of the interactive searches that take me to new knowledge about artists, history, struggles, victories, people, republics and so much more.

I want to express my appreciation for all the work that you and all the others have done to track the amazing history of Czechia through stamps.

I have a new appreciation for covers that I never really looked at before. I can understand the interest in them now.

Now I see the need for a Czech/English dictionary. As I learn more about each stamp or person, I want to know more as well. Can you send me details about how to purchase the book from you?

Thanks, I am really glad to have met you and joined the club!

Dana Milner

*[Thank you Dana for your kind and very welcome compliments. Dana joined the SCP during our participation at WESTPEX. The "interactive search" comment must be referring to the use of the "Specialist Interactive Index DVD" developed by Mark Wilson. And the "Czech/English dictionary" must be referring to our "Glossary of Philatelic Terminology" which is for sale through our Available Publications column in the back of every "Specialist".]*

**Guest Editorial**



Dear Lou: Enjoyed your new feature. I recently wrote an essay for our newsletter (Holiday Village East in Mt. Laurel, NJ, a 963 unit adult community, of which I am President) which may meet your criteria for "Guest Editorial".

Although not as active with my 28 volume Czecho collection as I would like, it still brings me much pleasure. Am now, (turned 80 last b'day) and for the past three years, been heavily involved as a volunteer in my Community. And so I much appreciate what you do for our Society.

*Ed Bendik #982*

**THINGS NOSTALGIA REALITY**

During our 55 years of marriage we were fortunate to enjoy many vacations. Joyce worked in the travel industry for many years, I was self-employed and as our parents provided limitless baby-sitting, we took advantage of the many perks that came as a result of her employment. Our travels took us to all the Caribbean Islands, Europe, the Near East, Canada and across the U.S. We brought back momentous [sic] from each trip and have accumulated several breakfronts filled with Lladros, Hummels, Belique, Wedgewood, Rosenthal and the like. Combined with the numerous *treasures* inherited from our parents and grandparents, we have an extensive collection.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

It is a fact-of-life that our children and grandchildren have no interest in these and other collectibles. They live in the present and in anticipation of the future, which could come tomorrow or next week with the updated version of the latest gadget.

That "priceless" 100 year old vase from Grandma Jenny does not fetch a \$10 offer on EBAY. And what about my stamp collection, seventy years in the making. Although it has a catalog value of many thousands, the reality is that due to an ever shrinking market, as well as the costs associated with the selling and shipping process, it would most likely sell for less than the effort and aggravation involved.

And what about our precious books, LP albums, art work, and other objets d'art? We look upon them wistfully and with much sentimentality. But if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that our yearnings will end without monetary compensation.

So, what's to be done? Enjoy what you have -- enjoy the memories -- enjoy the nostalgia. Don't worry about the aftermath. Que sera, sera. What will be will be. God bless.



### *Editorial Hinges*

Here is something to make your day a little lighter.

"A woman arrived at the Gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for Saint Peter to greet her, she peeked through the gates. She saw a beautiful banquet table. Sitting all around were her parents and all the other people she had loved and who had died before her.

They saw her and began calling greetings to her. "Hello -- how are you! We've been waiting for you! Good to see you!"

When Saint Peter came by, the woman said to him, "This is such a wonderful place! How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," Saint Peter told her.

"Which word?" the woman asked.

"Love."

The woman correctly spelled 'Love', and Saint Peter welcomed her into Heaven. About a year later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the Gates of Heaven for him that day.

While the woman was guarding the Gates of Heaven, her husband arrived.

"I'm surprised to see you," the woman said. "How have you been?"

"Oh, I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband told her. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. And then I won the multi-state lottery. I sold the little house you and I lived in and bought a huge mansion. And my wife and I traveled all around the world. We were on vacation in Cancun, and I went water skiing today. I fell and hit my head, and here I am. What a bummer! How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," the woman told him.

"Which word?", her husband asked.

"Czechoslovakia . . ."

*Book Review*

**MONOGRAFIE 20 PART (2)**  
**HISTORICKÝ VÝVOJ NÁZVU POŠT a POŠTOVEN**  
**v ČESKÝCH ZEMÍCH**

**(Historical Development of the Names of Czech  
 Post Offices and Contract Post Offices in the  
 Czech Lands)**

**by Jiří Kratochvíl**

Published by POFIS in collaboration with the Czech Post and the Czech Postal Museum; Praha 2012; ISBN 80-86405-31-1

It was 10 years ago that I wrote the book review for the predecessor volume of this book. It was also titled Monografie 20 (but no part number), and contract post offices were not mentioned or included. The previous book review appeared in the March/April 2003 issue on page 28. I recommend that you look up that issue on our web site to get a more thorough understanding of how to use these books, and what other great information they contain. I do not want to repeat all of the previous information again.

However, the biggest difference with this newest volume (besides being 368 pages versus the previous 212) is that it includes all of the contract post offices. Thus, this volume contains all post offices and contract post offices and the historical development of their official designations from the oldest times to the end of December 2009 (the previous volume ended with 2001). The term “official designation” refers to the names of the post offices and contract post offices as they were/are listed in official postal bulletins and post office directories.

Other new features of this latest book not found in the first one will be marked by [NEW] in the remainder of this review.

The book is divided into five parts and has four appendices:

**Part I (Directory of Post Office Names)** (p14-157). The names of the post offices are listed in alphabetical order by their present designation or by that which was valid on the day of their closing. All of the post office names under each alphabetical letter (using the Czech alphabet) are not only listed alphabetically within that letter group but also have a number based upon their position within that letter's group. Each entry begins with its group position number, the current (or last) official name designation, the abbreviation of its district (listed in the introduction), the date and name of the first official designation for that post office, followed by all the dates and names of subsequent official designations for that post office in chronological order.

**Part II (Alphabetical Index)** (p158-213). This index lists all versions and varieties of the official designations that appear anywhere in Part I, grouped alphabetically. To help explain the relationship between these two parts -- let's look up the small post office of Parschnitz that originally was a suburb of Trutnov. If you look for it in the P's of Part I, you will not find it, because when Trutnov

expanded, it gobble-up Parschnitz. So you look up Parschnitz in Part II, where it lists "Parschnitz T-89". This tells you that Parschnitz can be found as the 89th item in the T group of Part I, where it shows that today it is Trutnov 3 (and that is why you cannot find it as Parschnitz in Part I). It then goes on to give you the full naming history of the Parschnitz/Trutnov 3 post office. Thus, you want to always start by looking up the name of the post office in Part II, then look up the new name given in Part I.

**Part III (Post Office Name Translations)** (p214-263). [NEW] This part is a listing of all of the German or Polish names for the Czechoslovak post offices that were under German/Polish control at various times (prior to 1918, 1918 - 1939, 1939 - 1945, after 1945) and their corresponding Czechoslovak names. In the past you had to look through several *Monografie* or numerous past *Specialist* issues to see this complete listing.

**Part IV (Directory of Contract Post Office Names)** (p264-313). [NEW] This part provides the same type of information on contract post office names as Part I did for post office names.

**Part V (Alphabetical Index)**(p314-339). [NEW] This part provides the same type of information on contract post office names as Part II did for post office names.

**Part VI (Appendices)** (p340-367).

**(1) Special Post Offices.** [Some NEW] This appendix lists the official designations (in the form used in Part I) of post offices dealing with special needs or providing special services. There are 14 such special needs covered among which are: temporary post offices, seasonal post offices, customs post offices, parcel processing offices, and mobile (Autopost) post offices.

**(2) Territorial Changes.** [NEW] This appendix lists those offices which experienced a change in whose territory they were, e.g., annexed to Czechoslovakia, disputed but remained in Czechoslovakia, disputed but remained in Poland, relocated to another country, change of affiliation to another country.

**(3) Places Having Several Post Offices.** This appendix lists post offices that have a following numeric differentiation, e.g., Cheb 1, Cheb 2, etc., and which are still operating.

**(4) Contract Post Offices.** [NEW] This appendix has several listings of contract post offices which were operated under special circumstances, e.g., as collection points only, switched over to Czechoslovakia, switched from Austria, switched from Germany, switched from or stayed in Poland (1919-1920), seasonal, closed, in Bohemia and Moravia, newest, and others.

While its biggest drawback is that it is only in Czech, on page 365 is a brief summary of the purpose and contents of this *Monografie* in German and English. Nevertheless, with the description here and in the first article, it is quite easily used.

This book would obviously be especially helpful for any collector interested in postal history or to track the provenience of a piece of mail. It contains a tremendous amount of valuable information and is a significant enhancement of the previous version. I very highly recommend it.

– Ludvik Z. Svoboda

*New Issues*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 1

1. On April 3, 2013, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 14 Kč commemorative stamp in the Beauties of Our Country series for the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Zlatá Koruna Monastery (Fig. 1). The stamp depicts the Zlatá Koruna Monastery. A legend has it that the Zlatá Koruna Monastery was founded in 1263 by King Přemysl II Ottokar of Bohemia for pious purposes. He is believed to have made a pious vow that if he wins the important battle of Kressenbrunn against Béla IV, King of Hungary in 1260, he will found a monastery. He won the battle and kept his word. However, there were also political reasons for the foundation. A new monastery was to prevent

the expansionist tendencies of the Vítek family, owners of the neighboring town of Český Krumlov. The founder endowed the monastery with a large area of land that was further extended by donations from other people. These helped the monastery flourish in the course of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Its glory faded during the Hussite wars in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Hussites attacked the monastery in 1420, set it on fire and caused extensive damage. The Thirty Years' War in the 17<sup>th</sup> century that caused further suffering and looting was followed by a period of recovery during which it became one of the model monasteries. The second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was again a period of prosperity. The monks set up a school for the children of local peasants and used an advanced teaching method. Unfortunately, Joseph II abruptly stopped this promising development by his 1785 cancellation decree which meant a complete end to the monastic life there. In 1787, the buildings of the monastery were bought by the Schwarzenbergs of Český Krumlov who rented them. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the buildings underwent a reconstruction which started in 1909 and continued into WW II. The Schwarzenbergs lost the monastery during the war when it was confiscated by the Protectorate. In 1948, it became the property of the Czechoslovak government. Between 1979 and 2000, the monastery's managers were various state agencies. The Zlatá Koruna Monastery became a national cultural heritage site in 1995. The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in ocher, red, violet and black in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC in gray-green depicts a structural detail of the monastery (Fig. 2).

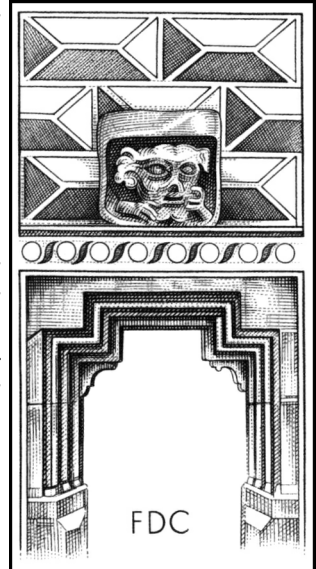


Fig. 2

2. On April 3, 2013, the Ministry issued a 26 Kč commemorative stamp in the Personalities series honoring George Orwell (1903-1950) (Fig. 3). Eric Arthur Blair, known by his pen name George Orwell, was a visionary English writer. This journalist, essayist, literary critic, and novelist was born on June 26, 1903 in India. He was brought to England by his mother when he was about one year old. He grew up in Oxfordshire; the name of the local river Orwell became his pen name. His allegorical novels "Animal Farm" and "1984", which describe the inhumane nature of totalitarian ideologies in a way that was surprisingly true and far removed from any utopia, gained popularity all around the world. The stamp features a portrait of Orwell. Pictured above his head is a large eye, presumably representing the phrase "Big Brother is watching you" from "1984", the title of which is written in figures surrounding the eye. He studied at a private grammar school and the prestigious Eton College. His parents were not able to finance his university studies; he therefore took up menial jobs and then worked as an Indian Imperial Police officer in Burma in the former British India. Here, he started to hate imperialism and lean towards left-wing politics (he described his experiences in his debut novel *Burmese Days* published in 1934). He spent some time living on the street among other members of the under-class. He reflected on his experience in the novel *Down and Out in Paris and London* published in 1933. As a man strongly affected by the political events in Europe, Orwell became a socialist, anti-fascist and critic of all undemocratic political tendencies. After 1936, he joined



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

the volunteer forces fighting in the Spanish Civil War. He described his experiences in the war, including a serious injury he suffered in 1937, in the novel *Homage to Catalonia*. His lingering tuberculosis prevented him from fighting in WW II; instead, he started working for the BBC. He wrote his visionary novel "1984" shortly before his death in 1950. The novel was also turned into a film. Although he wrote books criticizing communist dictatorships, he felt himself a socialist. His books were banned by the Czechoslovak communist government, and Czech editions came out only in exile. The stamp was designed by Oldřich Kulhánek, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in blue, dark red and light red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark blue depicts a portrait of a man's head with the top half being a hog's head, and entitled *Arrogance* (Fig. 4).

3. On April 24, 2013, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp with imprinted letter "A" depicting the President of the Czech Republic Miloš Zeman (Fig. 5). On March 8, 2013, Miloš Zeman became the third president of the independent Czech Republic. After ten years he has replaced Václav Klaus as the head of the country. In the second round of January's election, he defeated Karel Schwarzenberg to become the head of state. The stamp was designed and engraved by Miloš Ondraček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in dark violet combined with photogravure in red in printing sheets of 100 pieces.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

4. On May 2, 2013, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series for Postal Means of Transportation (Fig. 6). One of the symbols of Czechoslovak Post's history is represented by the horse-drawn parcel mail coach which is depicted on the stamp. Model IV of this coach was based on a one-horse cargo coach used by the Austrian Post. Czechoslovak Post used it for delivering parcels addressed to businesses or private recipients. Due to the slow motorization process, this postal vehicle was in use until the early 1960's. Although it was not one of the largest coaches, it was robust; it had sheet metal covering its wooden body.

Parcels were locked inside the 3 cubic meter cargo space or on the roof with its rails; the maximum gross weight was a ton. The coach had one -- and later two -- lamps, mounted on the sides of the upper part of the body behind the postilion's (driver's) seat and used during the hours of darkness. The Vyšší Brod Postal Museum displays not only an original parcel coach (model IV) from the inter-war era, but also several models of parcel coaches of the same era, meticulously made into true copies of other designs used to transport parcels in Czechoslovakia. The stamp was designed by Karel Dvořák, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 6 pieces. A FDC in black depicts the Czechoslovak Post's logo used on mail coaches from 1923 (Fig. 7). It contains the traditional postal symbol -- post horn, small Czechoslovak national emblem, and cords with tassels in the national colors -- white, red and blue. It was used until 1963 when it was replaced by the logo of the Ministry of Communications.

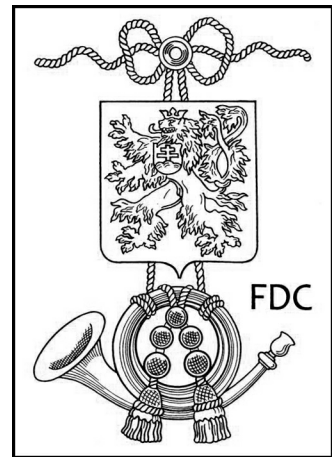


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

5. On May 15, 2013, the Ministry issued a 14 Kč commemorative stamp in the Technical Monuments series depicting the Fláje Dam (Fig. 8). The Fláje Dam is a pillar-style valley dam, unique in the Czech Republic. It is located in the Krušné Hory region bordering Germany, in the cadastre of Český Jiřetín and the former Fláje village. Its unique structure makes it a part of the Czech cultural heritage. The atypical design of the dam made of 35 pillars combines two pillars into an upstream face which contains the water. Local material from a nearby quarry was used to build the dam. The granite base of the Fláje Dam enabled the pillar design to be used. It was built between 1951 and 1963. The Moldava Cableway was set up between the quarry and the nearest railway station, 12 km away, to easily transport material to the site. The Fláje Dam played an important role during the 2002 flood where in one day there was so much precipitation that it equalled half-a-year's average rainfall. This allowed residents of the adjoining areas time to prepare, which turned a potential thousand-year flood into a fifty-year flood. The dam has several safety control systems, such as a steel-string pendulum which measures the angle between the structure and water and terrain levels, and other mechanisms, including a hydrostatic measurement system to control the tilt of individual pillars instead of the mere curvature of the structure. The original Fláje village had to be demolished to give way to the construction of the dam. Only its small wooden church was saved; it was dismantled, relocated and is still in use in the nearby Český Jiřetín. The stamp was designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in dark green in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels were issued. The labels feature various aspects of the construction of the dam -- concreting process, the wooden church, crane ways, and complex form-works (Fig. 9). A FDC in black depicts a technical drawing of the dam.

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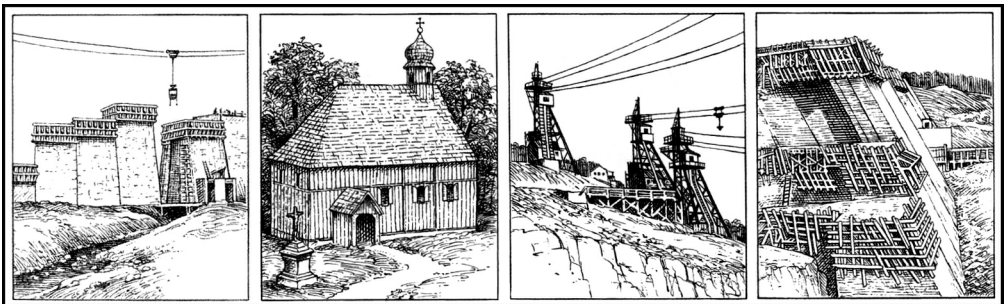


Fig. 9

6. On May 15, 2013, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp in the Prague Castle series depicting Paolo Caliari, Veronese: Portrait of Jakob König,



Goldsmith and Antiquarian Bookseller (Fig. 10). Paolo Veronese was a 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian Renaissance painter. Paolo Caliari (also Cagliari), also known as “Veronese” after this birthplace in Verona, lived between 1528 and 1588. He studied painting with the local master Antonio Badile who followed a more conservative form of Renaissance art. He remained loyal to his teacher’s traditionalism during his entire career, even after he moved to Venice in 1553. His early Venetian paintings made in 1555-65 are characterized by contrasting compositions of light and darkness. The contrast between the light and dark areas give the paintings a three-dimensional quality, the best evidence of which are ceiling paintings. The height of his career came in 1565-80 when the already well-respected Venetian painter created more moderate compositions. The portrait of the German gold-



Fig. 10

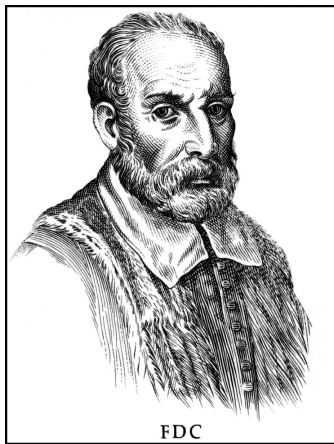


Fig. 11

smith Jakob König, who worked in Italy for the Emperor Rudolf II, also dates back to this period. It is now displayed in the Prague Castle Picture Gallery. Already during his life Veronese was considered as one of the three greatest painters of his time: Tiziano created his deeply spiritual paintings, Tintoretto laid the basis for mannerism, and Veronese was the last painter of ceremonial life in Venice. This stamp comes out as part of the resumed series “Prague Castle”. The stamp was engraved by Miloš Ondráček and produced by the post Printing House in Prague by recess print from plat plates in ocher, red, brown, blue, and black in printing sheets of 4 pieces. A FDC in brown shows Veronese’s portrait according to the period graphics from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 11).

## Stationery

7. On April 3, 2013, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “E” stamp (ordinary letter to European countries) for “Jihlava -- Ostropa” (Fig. 12). The E-stamp depicts the Ostropa exhibition logo. The left-hand side of the postal card portrays the oldest representation of Jihlava’s municipal emblem from Gelnhausen Codex from the first decade of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The source of the illumination: “Moravian Land Archive in Brno -- State District Archive Jihlava”. Ostropa 2013 is a national specialized competitive exhibition of postage stamps in the national category. The aim of the exhibition is to promote the philately and boost a deeper cooperation between Czech and German philatelists.

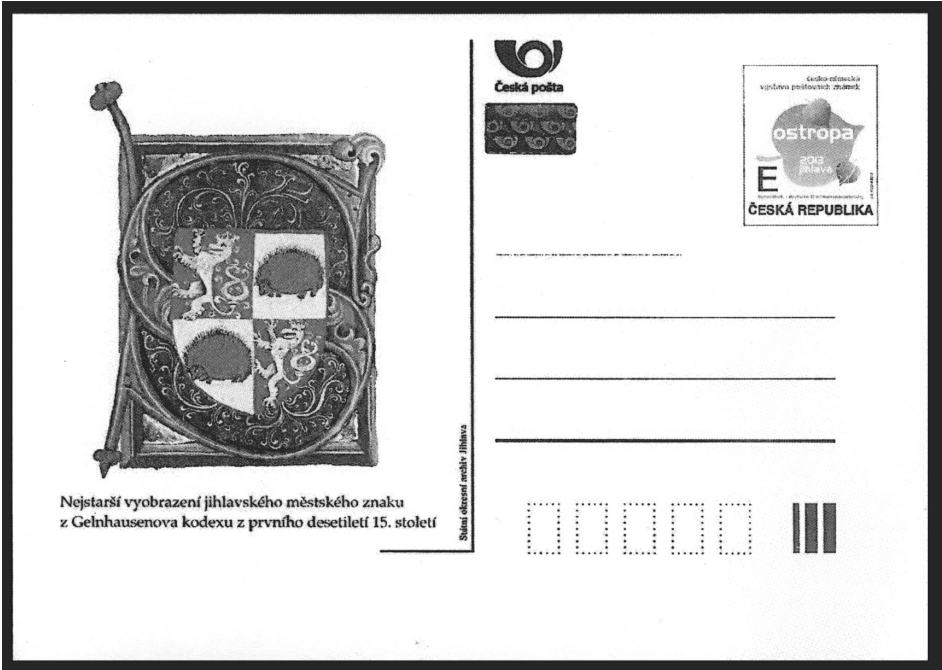


Fig. 12

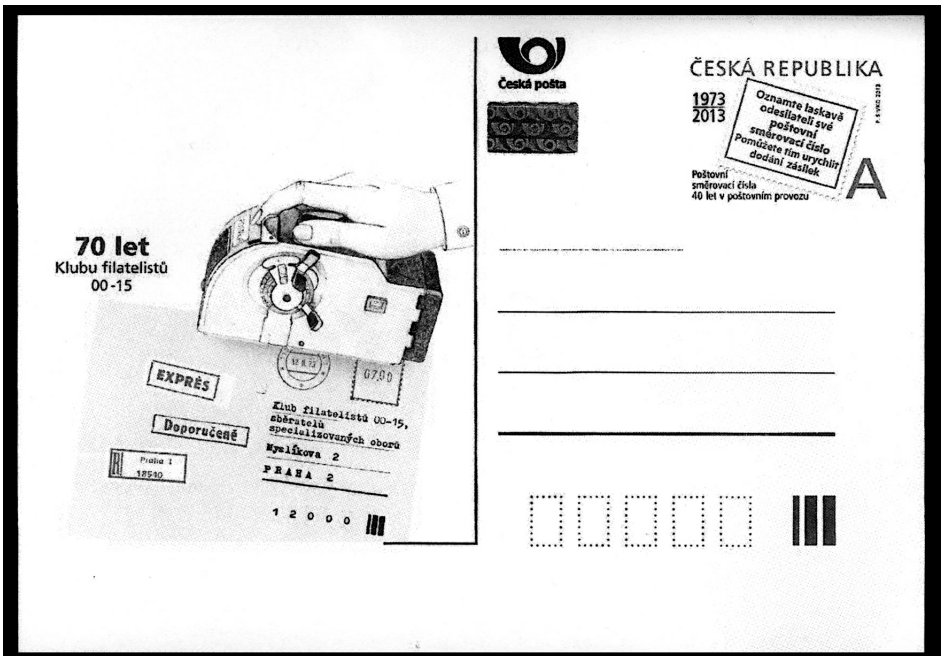


Fig. 13

The exhibition is taking place when the country will be commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Czech Philatelic Club in Jihlava, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Czech Republic, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Czech Republic postage stamp. The imprinted stamp was designed by Jiří Pýcha, the picture portion by Martin Kos, and the postal card was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

8. On April 3, 2013, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp (ordinary domestic letter) for "The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Philatelic Club 00-15 of Specialized Philatelic Areas' Collectors Prague" (Fig. 13). The definitive imprinted A-stamp depicts a famous service sticker which used to be applied by delivering post offices on consignments with a missing or incorrect postcode in their address. The stamp is dedicated to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of postcodes into Czech postal operations. The left-hand side of the postal card portrays a Postalia franking machine above a registered express letter addressed to the then venue of club meetings. The Philatelic Club 00-15 of Specialized Philatelic Areas' Collectors was set up on May 13, 1943 in Prague. During the 70 years of its activities, the club hosted numerous outstanding collectors, exhibitors, authors and organizers. The "Specialized Philatelic Areas", later renamed to "Postal History and Stationeries", motivated stamp collectors to become more interested in postal operations, their historical development, pre-stamp evidence, postal stationeries, entires (entire envelopes), all kinds of cancellation marks, postal stickers, and evidence of special types of postal vehicles. The postal card was designed by Pavel Sivko and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

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## SLOVAKIA

by Ludvik Svoboda

9. On January 1, 2013, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a non-denominated T1 50g commemorative stamp with a coupon for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic: Košice -- The European Capital of Culture 2013 (Fig. 14). The stamp shows a panorama skyline of Bratislava in national colors (with reflection) and the national coat of arms. On



Fig. 14

January 1, 1993, a sovereign, independent Slovak Republic was established by a peaceful dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The treaty of dissolution and its implementation represented not only the climax of constitutional discussions about a form of coexistence of the Slovaks

and Czechs in a new democratic situation, but also a result of the more than 150-year long effort of the Slovaks to gain an equal position of the Slovak nation in the family of European democratic nations. This effort began with the Slovak declaration of independence within the Habsburg Monarchy announced during a revolution taking place in 1848/49. Success was finally achieved with the democratic changes of the early 1990's. Meanwhile, in conjunction with this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence, Košice, the capital of Eastern Slovakia, is to become (together with the French city of Marseille) the European Capital of Culture. This tradition -- begun in 1985 -- was to contribute to the deepening of mutual understanding between European nations via culture, cultural exchange, and the promotion of cultural diversity of the Europeans while documenting their common roots. So far 40 European cities have assumed this position, and now it is the turn of Košice and the entire Slovak nation. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Jozef Česla, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, by offset in a printing sheet containing 8 stamps and 8 coupons. The coupon displays the silhouette of St. Elizabeth's Cathedral representing Košice. A FDC shows a collage of the two most significant Slovak cathedrals: St. Martin's and St. Elizabeth's.

10. On January 25, 2013, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ definitive stamp in the Slovak Cultural Heritage series for the Empire Theater in Hlohovec (Fig. 15). The stamp shows a putto (boy cherub) with a theater mask and a tambourine. The only preserved aristocratic



Fig. 15

theater in Slovakia was built by Count Joseph Erdödy and his wife Elisabeth Mayer in 1802 for the visit of Emperor Joseph II. Count Erdödy was a great patron of the arts. Joseph Haydn composed Opus 76 for him, and Ludwig van Beethoven visited him in Hlohovec during his stay in Dolná Krupá and Piešťany. While the theater gives the impression of smallness, the empire building is situated in an English castle garden, and its dimensions are 30 x 12 meters. The unknown architect focused on its symmetry and moderation. There are coats of arms of the Erdödy family above both entrances, reliefs of flower wreaths with crossed arrows, and Latin inscriptions from the Erdödy family. Putti are the subject matter of six embossments -- the taller ones symbolize music and the shorter ones the four seasons of the year. The theater was built by local artisans. The simply designed interior which can seat 130 visitors has illusive paintings on a coffered ceiling with rosettes, enlivened by vases with bouquets, medallions with ancient portraits and putti, who frolic in heavenly dome with fanfares and red rose garlands as if during ancient celebrations dedicated to the theater. One of these is the subject of the stamp. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Postage Stationery Printing House in Prague by rotary recess combined with gravure in printing sheets of 100 pieces. A FDC has a representational view of the central portico avant-corps decorated by putti from the embossment under the coat of arms of the Erdödy family.



Fig. 16

11. On February 14, 2013, the Ministry issued a 0.65€ commemorative stamp with and without a coupon for the Major Sporting Event: Ján Popluhár (1935-2011) (Fig. 16). The stamp shows an image of the athlete against a background of a world map. Ján Popluhár, a long-time mainstay of the Slovak Bratislava soccer club (1955-1969), played for Czechoslovakia in 62 matches (1958-

1967), and was considered to be one of the best defensive players in the world. During the first European Soccer Championship (France, 1960), he was a member of the bronze Czechoslovak team. He participated in World Cups (Sweden, 1958), (Chile, 1962 -- silver medal), and was awarded the World Fair Play Award (1967). As the only Slovak, he was a member of the FIFA World Eleven team which played against the English soccer team in Wembley in 1963 on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the English Football Association foundation (his selection is commemorated on the stamp coupon). In 1965 he was the Czechoslovak soccer player of the year. In 2000, Ján Popluhár was pronounced the best Slovak soccer player of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced by the Postage Stationery Printing House in Prague by offset in sheets of 50 pieces and in

printing sheets of 8 stamps and 8 coupons. A FDC shows an image during a soccer game of Popluhár out-jumping an opponent to head the ball.

12. On March 1, 2013, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp for Vělká Noc (Easter) 2013: Folk Themes in the Artwork of Ludovit Fulla (Fig. 17). The stamp depicts a painted Easter egg on an embroidered background. Ludovit Fulla (1902-1980) belongs undoubtedly to the most distinctive figures of Slovak fine art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In his works, he combined methods inspired by avant-garde painting, folk art, childlike expression, icons and medieval art with bright emotional colorfulness in an unusual and playful manner. Folk art -- which was termed as "Fulla's mother tongue" by one art critic -- represented one of the life-giving sources of his works. He got acquainted with it at home, in Orava and Liptov. Experience and the memories of this region and its folk works (glass painting, wooden sculptures, painted Easter eggs, folk costumes, laces, chests decorated with toys, and other objects of ordinary life) accompanied him throughout his life. He utilized unrefracted colorfulness (an essential harmony between red, yellow, blue and green) and a basic playful view of primitive folk art to drive his artistic expression. The stamp was designed by Robert Jančovič and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a stylized, decorated Easter egg bunny.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

13. On March 14, 2013, the Ministry issued a 0.65€ commemorative stamp in the Personalities series for the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dominik Tatarka (1913-1989) (Fig. 18). Dominik Tatarka -- a prose writer and author of essays on fine art, culture, and society -- is one of the most significant representatives of 20<sup>th</sup> century Slovak culture. His first collection of short stories called *V úzkosti hľadania* (In Fear of Searching, 1942) is characterized by feelings of anxiety arising from tragic human fate, while his short story called

*Farská republika* (parochial republic, 1948) tells the story of an individual's fight for the preservation of humanity during the inhumanity of war. At the beginning of the 1950's, Tatarka identified with the early romantic notion of the social fellowship of the communist regime (*Družné letá*, 1954). However, shortly thereafter, he pointed out the harmfulness of this illusion in the grotesque narrative *Démon súhlasu* (1963). After 1968, he concentrated on autobiographical narratives in which he interconnected fragments of his daily experiences, moods, letters, meditations and reflexions. Dominik Tatarka remains an exceptional author of the intensity of fatal, tragic, and melancholy moments of human existence in Slovak culture. The stamp -- which shows Tatarka against a landscape background with

a racing white horse -- was designed by Dušan Grečner and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a stylized tree with human face growing out of a square block.

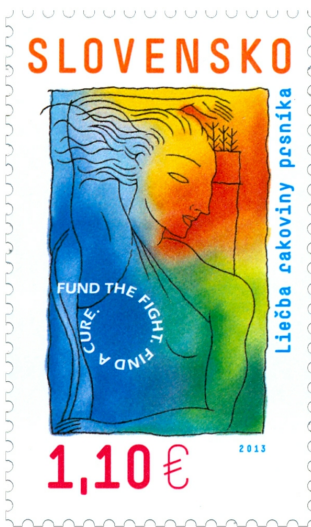


Fig. 19

14. On April 12, 2013, the Ministry issued a 1.10€ commemorative stamp for Breast Cancer Treatment (Fig. 19). Breast carcinoma is the most frequent malignant disease among women and is the most frequent cause of death in women of reproductive age. The number of newly diagnosed cases is high globally with continuously rising absolute values. In the Slovak Republic, carcinoma can be found in approximately one out of every 20 women. With malignant breast cancer -- apart from genetic mutations -- the primary cause of the origin of the disease is not known. Therefore, there is still no primary prevention in the world, and efforts to decrease new occurrences of cancer have not been successful. The issuance of this stamp is linked to the "Breast Cancer Research Stamp" International Project created to raise funds to support research and treatment of this oncological disease. The first such stamp was issued in 1998 by the US Postal Service, on the initiative of US oncologist Dr. Ernie

Bodai, and based on a drawing by US illustrator Whitney Sherman. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a stylized daffodil.

15. On April 26, 2013, the Ministry issued a non-denominated T2 50g commemorative stamp in the Technical Monuments series: Historic Mills -- Windmill in Holíč (Fig. 20). Since time immemorial humans lived in harmony with nature, which provided them with their livelihood, including cereal growing and harvesting. They learned how to use the natural forces of water and wind to process them. Wind energy was used in the Slovak territory in its flatter areas that were also not inundated, such as Záhorie and the Eastern Slovak lowlands. There were more than 5,000 mills using water energy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Slovakia and more than 20 windmills. One of such mills preserved until today is a Dutch-type windmill in Holíč. The mill was built in the 1880's and was in use until 1926. The builder of the mill's technology was a joinery master František Sláma from Jevíčko. The stone cylindrical construction, tapering slightly upwards, originally had



Fig. 20

a revolving cap, so typical of Dutch-type windmills. From it protruded the main shaft of the windmill -- a propeller on it. The rotation of the cap resulted in the propeller being in the wind's direction thus enabling the higher performance of the mill. Rotation was partly automatic, but with increased changes of wind direction and speed, the cap had to be moved by hand. Wind energy was transmitted by an oaken cog gear, consisting of segments in three layers, to a small driver wheel -- pinion, which multiplied the revolutions that were necessary for the grinding of flour. The mill's technological parts consisted of stone structures, i.e., an upper rotating stone (runner stone) and a lower still stone (bedstone) with a hole for feeding the grit to bags. The flour was separated from the bran by the horizontal vibration movement derived from a "hasáčert" sieve. The stamp was designed and engraved by Lubomír Žálec and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a watercolor portrait of the mill along with several trees.



Fig. 21

16. On May 9, 2013, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series on the theme of Postal Vehicles (Fig. 21). The prime of postal vehicle transportation in inter-war Czechoslovakia took place in the 1920's. At the beginning the fleet of the new republic also consisted of vehicles gained from the stock of the defeated Austro-Hungarian army. Already in May 1919, there were also some bus lines from the Austro-Hungarian era

which were put into operation, and new ones which met the economic and public needs of the young state were developed gradually. The number of postal vehicles increased, and the routes serviced were lengthened. In 1927, Czechoslovak postal vehicle transportation utilized 326 vehicles and serviced 2,650 km of routes, which was approximately ten times more than in 1919. This positive development was made possible largely by the reorganization of postal transportation. The motor fleet consisted almost exclusively of products of the domestic automotive industry, mainly the brands Praga and Laurin & Klement (or more precisely Škoda, because since 1925 the automobile plant had been taken over by the concern from Plzeň). The bus depicted on the postage stamp was manufactured with the Škoda 125 chassis and the four-stroke petrol water-cooled four-cylinder engine with power of 30 hp. The engine was placed behind the front axle, and the vehicle transmission consisted of four speeds; the top speed was 60 km per hour. The bus body was manufactured in the well-known Sodomka company in Vysoké Mýto. Until 1933 the company manufactured approximately 35 buses in various configurations, e.g., a fire bus or excursion bus with open roof for spa town guests. The stamp was designed by Marián Komáček and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a postman delivering the mail with the postal vehicle in the background.



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