



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards
CELEBRATING OUR DIAMOND (75TH) ANNIVERSARY

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THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY COMMEMORATES ITS 75th ANNIVERSARY

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Our Society (the SCP) will be celebrating that it is 75 years old in March of this year.

The Czechoslovak Specialist, the Society Library, the Society Circuit, and the Society Expertization Service will all be celebrating that they are 75 years old in May of this year.

The Society will be celebrating that it has had books on Czechoslovak philately offered for sale during most of its existence.

The Society will be celebrating that it has been the 18th American Philatelic Society Affiliate for 47 years (since 1967).

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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. However, the circuit is currently not operating because of a lack of materials from members. When this situation is remedied we will notify you in the Specialist.
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.csphilately.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.

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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.*

THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY COM- MEMORATES ITS 75th ANNIVERSARY

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

(Continued from Page 1)

Seventy-five years is a very, very long time for a volunteer, specialized organization devoted solely to the study and collecting of stamps, stationery, and postal history of the territory of the former Czechoslovakia to continue in existence, especially since the country(ies) of interest -- Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic -- constitute such a very small piece of the philatelic interest spectrum. There are even those who claim that we are the oldest (or among the top 2 or 3 oldest) specialized philatelic organizations in the USA.

Such longevity would make an individual believe that the birth and "life" of the Society was a "bed of roses", going smoothly, with no hangups. But it wasn't so. It makes for an interesting story.

In its telling, keep in mind that we have gone through name changes: first was Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America, then Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America (1942), then Czechoslovak Philatelic Society (1963), and finally to our current name of Society for Czechoslovak Philately (1973).

And all of this has taken place while under the guidance and efforts of volunteers.

We have a lot to be proud of, and there are many, many individuals who have contributed to our success and longevity. To honor them, over the years a number of authors have crafted partial histories of the Society, noting events, personalities, and accomplishments. Each has taken a little different approach to the telling, and not all have been Society members.

Let us start with two which were written by H. L. Lindquist, who was associated with "Philately" and later "Stamps" magazines.

In 1947 he wrote:

"About fifteen years ago [*about 1933*], several collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia tried to organize a group of collectors with like enthusiasm. They were all members of the American Philatelic Society and intended to do their work within the framework of this national society as a Czechoslovak unit, as at that time the existing units were showing gratifying results. A certain number of members had to signify their intention of forming such a unit and, thought the number necessary was very small, this minimum could not be reached.

A few years later [*1939*] J.W. Lowey of New York City, tried a similar venture, but as an independent group and not within any other existing organization. Those few who tried within the A.P.S., ridiculed the idea and tried to assure Mr. Lowey that his organization was doomed aborning. Two of them enlisted in the new society, though they were sure it was wasted money and effort. Joe refused to accept their verdict and, having contacted what he considered a sufficient number of enthusiasts, launched the society in 1939, with a well advertised "convention" in New York City, and in a true Czech atmosphere, put the society on its own.

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The first group of officers elected at this convention shows that the society was not dominated by Czechs, for the first president was George F. Smyth, the vice president was Fred Peters, the secretary was Mr. J.W. Lowey, the treasurer was Guy Greenawalt and the librarian, J. Stephen. Tod Raper was appointed first editor and his able handling of the "Czechoslovak Specialist", gave the official organ of the society a good start.

The society was born at a very inauspicious time. The perfidy of France and England at Munich, the grab of Sudetenland by the Nazis, the biting off of big chunks of the country by Poland and Hungary, the withdrawal of the Slovaks to form an independent (?) country (but wholly dominated by Hitler), all this spelled doom to an independent Czechoslovakia.

Soon after that, Czechoslovakia as such, or at least, fell into a deep sleep and in its place we have the "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia". In Czech, the word "protectorate" is written "protektorat", but the Czechs who are as witty, if not more so than the Irish, used the word "protentokrat", which means "for the time being". Even the Czech collectors gave up collecting these stamps because every penny spent on these stamps added to the coffers of the Nazis who, by now, defied the entire world and like an octopus, spread their tentacles all over the world and especially Europe.

The small group of collectors who comprised the society had faith in the eventual destruction of the hydra of Europe, and with dues higher than in any other organization devoted to a specialization of our hobby, continued their blood and plasma existence awaiting the day of liberation. This came when the Nazis finally hollered "uncle". Then many collectors in the U.S. and Canada, and indeed all over the world, flocked to the society. Though even at present its membership does not number 200, it is on the map and with its bulletin, gives information on Czech stamps, old as well as recent, that cannot be obtained from any other English language publication in the world.

The publication of the "Czechoslovak Specialist" was more or less spasmodic from the start. Under the editorship of Peter Kreischer of Chicago, it maintained a ten-issue paper in the calendar year. This schedule is retained to the present day except that the paper has an average of ten pages each issue instead of the original four or six. The society is still too poor to publish a big paper, but it is satisfied in farming out worth while articles to other philatelic publications, which it reprints later, a practice which enables the editor to spend more money for printing and giving the members more for their money. Of course, besides these reprinted articles, there are original works as well as news which can interest only the collector of Czechoslovak stamps.

Any reader of "Philately" who is interested in Czechoslovak stamps and who is willing to invest one, two or more dollars in learning more about them, is invited to contact the secretary, . . ."

---Reprinted from "Philately", with permission of the publisher.

Then in 1954 Lindquist wrote:

"Fifteen years ago the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society came into being through the efforts of the late Joseph W. Lowey of New York. Many might have thought that such a group would have a short life, considering the fact that the country had

just ceased to exist as a political entity. However, it thrived, and in May 1939 a modest club paper of four pages was issued under the editorship of a professional newspaper man, Tod Raper, of Columbus, Ohio.

The first convention of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society was held on June 17, 1939 in New York. It was rightly thought that the New York World's Fair would be a drawing card, and the first plenary session of the Society was attended by some fifty Czech enthusiasts. After a fine Czech dinner in an old Czech neighborhood of the city, the assembled members elected their officers and asked member Frank Kovarik to choose a trio of Chicago members to draw a constitution for the Society. It was at this meeting that many basic laws, governing the Society to this day, were formulated.

All went well until March 1940, when the editor resigned, and it was not until May that they were able to secure the services of Peter Kreisler of Chicago. He carried on successfully until December 1941, when, due to the war and his job, he was compelled to resign. Lolly Horechny took over with the January 1942 issue, but he too found it necessary to resign this post after only three months of service. Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, then president of the Society, asked Frank Kovarik of Chicago to carry on. Mr. Kovarik promised to help out until another editor could be found, but his "temporary" editorship has continued ever since, and he now admits that editing *The Czechoslovak Specialist* is as much his hobby as is the collecting of Czechoslovak stamps.

Up to the time of the liberation of Czechoslovakia, the membership remained more or less static. Then many returning soldiers who had participated in the war decided to collect stamps of the land made famous by two international statesmen, Thomas G. Masaryk and Eduard Benes, the first and second presidents of the republic. Then a second catastrophe struck this unhappy land, which, freed from the oppressive hand of Hitler, now came under the domination of the Soviets. The country's lawfully elected president was compelled to resign, and the brief release from oppression and fear was ended.

Despite the adversities of the Czechoslovak nation, The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society carries on. Not many collect the new issues coming from the country now, but the members continue their interest in the country's philately by studying the postal history of the land under the Hapsburgs and in its first glory as an independent stamp-issuing country. When Hitler permitted the establishment of Slovakia and forced the formulation of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, after taking for himself what he wanted of the Sudeten area and donating princely portions to his allies, the mails went on, and even this portion of postal history is interesting to members of this group.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary with a stamp exhibition and auction held in Sokol Chicago Hall, 2345 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Illinois, March 20 and 21, 1954. . . . The publisher of STAMPS is glad to devote this issue to the Society and proclaim the ancient Slavonic greeting, "Mnogaja Ljeta!" Long live the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society."

--Reprinted from the National Philatelic Magazine "Stamps" with permission of the publisher.

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Then in 1963, a man who served the Society with such distinction that a member-assistance fund (called the Reiner-Deutsch Fund) was established to honor him, wrote the following twenty-five year synopsis of Society activities:

“I am quite pleased at this occasion because I enjoy looking back to the very interesting times I had in those early days with the members of the fledgling Society. I believe this little story in combination with that of Frank Kovarik next month on the *Specialist* will cover as thoroughly as possible everything that has happened to this group of men and women interested in a specialty and a country which had the most glorious beginning after the first world war.

Joseph W. Lowey was a commercial artist, a hard worker though a sufferer from severe sinusitis. I must mention the latter because I have never met a man with a severe sinusitis so full of energy as our Mr. Lowey was. He dreamt of a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and though he had his doubts in the beginning and even more a little later, he forged ahead with great force. He began sounding out collectors of our specialty around the middle of 1938. He began a long time before Munich but went on in spite of the loss of the Sudeten area in October 1938, in the hope that this would make no difference. The hyphen in Czecho-Slovakia did not bother him. He communicated with people in Chicago, primarily Frank Kovarik, who, according to one of his letters to me “probably has the biggest Czecho collection in the Country”. Kovarik did go ahead because naturally the idea appealed to him too to have a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. In New York a Masaryk Club was organized in March 1938 with the able direction of Joseph Stein and Lowey contacted members of that club whom he had learned were stamp collectors. So he got hold of me very early in the game and I helped him with a number of suggestions. I will reprint Lowey’s circular letter to collectors because it contains much valuable information.

CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

J.W. Lowey, Secretary
201 Marcy Place, Bronx, N.Y.

March 1939

Dear Fellow Collector:

You have expressed the desire to affiliate yourself with our new organization. Thank you for the interest, and may our further relations be pleasant.

Although it was planned originally to elect officers immediately after the formation of the Society, your organizing committee believes that this would retard organization materially. As it is our wish to get the society organized completely and functioning as soon as possible, we ask that your committee be allowed to serve as officers until September 1939, when a general election by the membership can be held.

Since ours is a national organization covering the vast territory of the United States and Canada, very few members of the new Society know other members. Nominated officers would be unknown to the members and therefore their qualities would also be unknown. By September, however, new acquaintances will be made and it will be easy to ascertain who among the membership has the qualifications of officers. If your temporary committee is found to be lacking, a vote will show the will of the membership.

If this plan does not meet with your approval, please forward your protest immediately. It will receive our earnest consideration, as this is the time to settle any internal differences that may arise.

Therefore, I propose that the following temporary officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America be appointed to serve until September 1, 1939:

President: George F. Smyth, 945 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Secretary: J.W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, Bronx, New York

Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 2301 Cathedral Ave., N. W., Washington, D.C.

Librarian: J. M. Stephen, 37 Queensdale Ave., Toronto, Canada

Editor: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

Remaining officials, such as vice presidents, accountants, members of the rules and expert committees and judicial board will be either named or nominated and elected in September.

I can assure you that the above temporary officers will fulfill their duties in the next six months to the best of their abilities and intentions, and will bend their every effort for the best benefits of the organization.

Enclosed find an application blank and a temporary constitution which will be in force until September. In a short time I will appoint a committee to receive suggestions for re-drafting and re-phrasing the constitution.

In closing, may I be permitted to say that the response to our publicity has surpassed all expectations. I received over 50 pledges from many states and Canada; approximately the same amount of inquiries, and since some of our publicity has come too late for February editions and therefore will appear in March editions of various stamp magazines, I expect many more applications. I therefore express my sincere opinion in saying that the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America will be a truly worthwhile philatelic organization.

Sincerely yours,

J.W. Lowey

In my first letter to Mr. Lowey before we had met, I mentioned my service as an officer in 1918-19. In his reply he said "I have been interested to hear that you served in the Czechoslovak Army. I myself 'served' but mine was the Austrian Army during the world war. Permit me to introduce myself: Joseph Lowey, Oberleutnant d. R., k.u.k. Infanterie Regiment No. 28, drafted in 1915. Never went to the front but for 3 years supervisor of a Unit in the Ammunition Plant at Woellersdorf and short time before the Armistice transferred in the same capacity to Waffenfabrik at Steyr." I must first translate some of this. He was First

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Lieutenant in the 28th Infantry Regiment Reserve. Let me remark here that he had done very well indeed because not many soldiers reached his rank who were drafted in 1915 unless they had received a field promotion. In response I told him that I also had been ordered to active duty when Charles of Habsburg attempted a comeback in Hungary. I added that I still had my traveling orders from Praha to Bratislava and my military book of reserve service. In January 1924 I left Czechoslovakia for the U.S.A. and I am the only one that I know of who requested and received release from Czechoslovak citizenship when becoming a citizen of U.S.A. I believe our members will be interested in these few personal glimpses.

On May first 1939 Lowey reported that the Society already had thirty members. The first issue of the Specialist was out already and that definitely helped with the securing of members. He asked Kovarik to formulate a Constitution which Kovarik mailed to him in October. . . . I gave the draft which was written by pen, to Smyth, asking him to read it as soon as he would get home, have it typewritten by his secretary and then to send it on to Tod by airmail. So was the first more detailed Constitution born. In this same letter Joe wrote "I would like to propose for 2nd Vice President, member Ferryman. Though he is a dealer I would like to put him up purposely He has a vast amount of customers, in fact many of our members are his customers and he told me about them before I invited him to join. I did not ask Ferryman yet whether he would accept, but will do so tomorrow and I am pretty sure that he will accept." This little story is mentioned for historical significance Joe stated that he must ask Ferryman first before putting his name up for office. I sincerely believe it is of primary importance to ask members who are not in a particular office whether they would be willing to accept a nomination Maybe this will serve as a hint to the future presidents of this society to properly instruct the Nominating Committee they appoint.

Some further quotes from a letter of Lowey, "It would take long to give you a report of my organizational work. However I have used all means to get to the Czech collectors of this hemisphere. Just because you mention the Czech paper in Pittsburgh, I must say I have a better source for rounding up members there and vicinity, member V. Losa, D.D., publisher of a catholic paper. In response to my membership drive starting in March (unfortunately coinciding with the political crisis) I received about 200 inquiries from all parts of the U.S. and Canada. I am sure that many more would have joined than did, but believing that there will be no more Czech issues, they probably decided not to join. Also yesterday member Kovarik, in cooperation with Czech leaders of the Berwyn Club, has held a meeting with 30 invited Czech specialists and I am sure that there will be results." Further he said "We now have 50 members."

I could give many more details on the beginnings of our organization but that would make it simply impossible to review twenty-five years of the society. [But] Lowey, Fred Peters, Reiner-Deutsch, Kovarik, Smyth, L. Ruzicka, Greenawalt, Kreisler, Horechny, Secky and Fritzsche, these were the early active workers of our Society.

[To be continued]

OBJECTIONABLE STAMPS

by Jiří Kašpar, Karel Holoubek
trans. by Vladimír Kralicek



Fig. 1

In stamp production it sometimes happens that either prepared or in fact wholly finished stamps or sheets in the end do not see the light of day, or are after a certain period -- sometimes even a very short one -- prematurely withdrawn from circulation.

From our own stamp production it is possible, at random, to recollect the relatively short period of usage of the 1920 Hussite stamp, the non-issue of the ready-for-distribution stamp series prepared for the 1968 KSČ XIV Vysočanský Rally, and the “game of chess” surrounding the sheet issued for the 80th birthday of President Ludvík Svoboda in 1975. The reasons were always mainly political.

With the Hussite stamps the motives are less distinct. Alfons Mucha, the author of its design, was not only a world renown artist, but also a great patriot. The original design (Fig. 1), enhanced moreover with the French inscription “Droit a la coupe” (Right of the Chalice), was a reminder not only of a glorious period in our history, but also in a wider sense expressing the right to truth, national and social justice, and the freedom of religion. Removal of the inscription could have been, but also not necessarily was, entirely politically motivated. The reason could have been more mundane -- actually disliking the additional, and what’s more, foreign language text on our stamps.

The Hussite stamps were eventually issued (on 1 and 10.6.1920) without the incriminating legend in the nominal values of 80 and 90h (Fig. 2). These impractical nominal values had a limited usefulness in the Postal tariffs, but their withdrawal after only eleven months (30.4.1921) could have even had a political undertone. It is necessary to bear in mind that from the autumn of 1920 the “Wide Coalition” began to govern us, i.e., the five-party caretaker government, in which the pro-Catholic agrarians and democrats had the strongest voice. Whether the anti-Catholic stamp motif was the real reason is possibly a speculative conclusion,



Fig. 2

but possible in view of the political composition of the times and various, behind the scene, agreements.

Much clearer and unambiguous is the situation with the unissued stamps for the Vysočanský Rally (Fig. 3). Its development and inference were absolutely



Fig. 3

unacceptable to the most conservative elements of the KSČ [Czechoslovak communist party] not only then, but also for many years afterwards.

The many twists and turns surrounding the “Presidential” souvenir sheet were frequently used publicity themes especially these days, as in *Filatelie* (9/97) so with *Merkur-Revue* (6/97 and 1/98), and it is therefore unnecessary to analyze it any further.

Not even other countries of the world have escaped similar antagonisms. Perhaps the history of the American Hiroshima stamp is not so well known here. Prepared for the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima atom bomb explosion in 1995, the stamp commemorating this event was supposed to be one of the ten on the stamp sheet dedicated to the most important events of the last year of WW II, 1945.



Fig. 4

The stamp was eventually canceled at the request of President Clinton himself. Political reasons lead to this, and officially it was stated that issuance of this particular stamp would chiefly remind of the thousands of dead and permanently health impaired Japanese people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Through the media the stamp cancellation was presented as the President's capitulation to Japanese pressure. At that time, charitable organizations seized the opportunity and produced the stamp in its original color and size, but with zero nominal value (Fig. 4). These stamps were then sold as charity issues, and the profit was used to help the health affected people of the atomic explosions.

In adjoining Germany, the withdrawal of an issued stamp happened fairly recently. On 6.11.1997 the German Postal Administration issued a special stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Heinrich Heine. This stamp with a nominal value of 1.10 DM -- due to public pressure -- had to be withdrawn from sale after less than 14 days, exactly on 18.11.1997. What was the reason for the public protest? The preferred contemporary practice of the German Post was to distribute stamps in 10-stamp counter sheets with a decorative border, having a relationship to the issued stamp. In the border of the referenced stamp sheet are written in words the dates of birth and death of Heine. Old German runes were used both for the birth and death dates. Similar symbols were used on a Protectorate stamp from 1943, issued for the first anniversary of Heydrich's assassination, to indicate his birth and death.

It was exactly these runes that caused such an outburst of protest in Germany. It is not surprising, since in contemporary Germany they have problems with an increasing Neo-Nazi movement, and some of these extreme movements are using these runes for their symbols. The protest was also strengthened by the fact that Heine was of Jewish origin. In view of the non-objection to the basic stamps, they will surely return for sale, whether with a reworked border or without a border at all.

THE 1926 PROVISIONAL ISSUE¹
A Postage Due Overprint On
Agriculture and Science Stamps
(Scott J44-J49; POFIS DL42-DL47)
trans. by Mark Wilson
Ludvik Svoboda

Stamp Development

The overprinting was carried out on every denomination of the 1920 Agriculture and Science issue, i.e., on all six of the original stamps: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600h.

The overprint design was drawn up in such a way as to make allowances for the layout of the underlying stamps. It consisted of decorative wavy lines covering the original denomination numerals, a diagonal postage due designation [DOPLATIT], and new value digits located at the lower right. The overprint's designer is not known.

Stamp Release

The stamps were released sequentially as reported in the VMPT (*Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph*). *Bulletin 31/1926* No. 16 of March 19, 1926 announced the 40/300, 50/500, 60/400, and 100/600h denominations.

Bulletin 60/1926 No. 30 of June 18, 1926 announced the two lower denominations: 30/100 and 40/200h.

Bulletin 58/1928 No. 25 on August 1, 1928 announced their withdrawal from circulation; their validity lasted until August 15, 1928.



Fig. 368

Major facts about their release.

Denomination	Stamp Color ²	Overprint Color	Amount Released ³	Date Released	Date Withdrawn
30/100	Dark green	Dark Violet	3,930,000	July 15, 1926	August 15, 1928
40/200	Violet		3,740,000		
40/300	Vermillion		986,000	April 1, 1926	
50/500	Deep green		8,200,000		
60/400	Brown		4,770,000		
100/600	Deep violet		8,010,000		

The Overprint

The typographic overprinting of these stamps was done by the CGU (Czech Graphics Union) of Prague print works using five individual compact copper plates for the 30, 40, 50, 60, and 100h denominations. The tally numbers at the bottom of the basic 500h stamp counter sheet were obscured by the imprint of a wide typographic bar in the same color as the overprint. On part of the print run of these stamps they used three parallel lines to cover the tally numbers. The tally numbers of the basic 600h stamp counter sheet were not overprinted.

The counter sheets of the basic 100, 200, 300, and 400h stamp -- which did not have tally numbers -- do not have their bottom edge overprinted.



Fig. 369: Comb perforated 13 ¾ x 13 ½

Types, Joined Types

As with the original issue, the 400h stamps appear in two types: Type I with the narrow zeros and Type II with somewhat wider zeros.

Because of the nature of the arrangement of the original printing plates, joined types are quite common.

Overprint Color

The overprint is executed in a dark violet color, partly glossy.

Perforations, Paper, and Gum

All of the denominations are found with the customary $13 \frac{3}{4}$ line perforation. Just as with the original issue, three denominations -- 40/300, 50/500, and 100/600h -- are also found comb perforated $13 \frac{3}{4} \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$. With the exception of the 40/300h vermillion stamp, this latter perforation is more commonly found than it was on stamps from the original issue. Used copies of the 40/300h are found relatively less often, and only a few mint copies are known.

The paper and gum are the same as for the original 1920 issue.

Production Flaws

If present, plate flaws are identical to those on the un-overprinted stamps.

In particular, partial and complete machine offsets [redundant stamp images]



Fig. 370: Missing or doubled perforations

are known, especially with the 40/200 and 40/300h denominations.

Then, there are also doubled vertical perforations on the 50/500h, and missing vertical perforations on the right edge of panes of the 60/400h.

All of these stamps may be found with large or small paper folds and paper creasing on both mint and used stamps.

Overprint Flaws



Fig. 371: Small paper folds



Fig. 372: Parts of numbers missing, broken letters



Fig. 373: Missing overprint from the edge stamp

The entire range of overprint flaws are known, such as blemishes -- dots -- in the overprint, damaged and omitted letters, and larger or smaller shifting of the overprint (mainly to the right, and to a lesser extent down or down to the right).



Fig. 375: Significantly shifted overprint

Then, there are smaller faults to the overprint due to small folds or creased paper of the original stamps (mostly found on used stamps).

Now and then, stamps may be found with incomplete overprints, such as DOPL, DOPLA -- fittingly without numerals.

As an isolated circumstance you can find 40/200h stamps where the last vertical column has the entire overprint missing. A single sheet was reportedly found in 1927 in the Trenčín post office. It is therefore possible to have two stamps joined side by side, where one stamp has the overprint and the other with the right margin tab does not; there are a maximum of 10 examples of this.

There is a unique and random vertical overprint on the 100/600h stamp. It evidently developed when a single stamp was torn off and stuck in a vertical position on top of other stamps [before overprinting].

Trial Prints

Now and then, there occurs a brown 50/400h denominated stamp, which originates from the preparation of the printing.

Postally Used

These stamps, together with other postage due stamps, were used in the domestic mail service. Mixed franking of these stamps with postage due stamps from other issues are philatelically noteworthy and interesting. Bisected stamps of this issue are even demonstrably known in use on postally transited consignments.



Fig. 374: Unissued
50/400h stamp

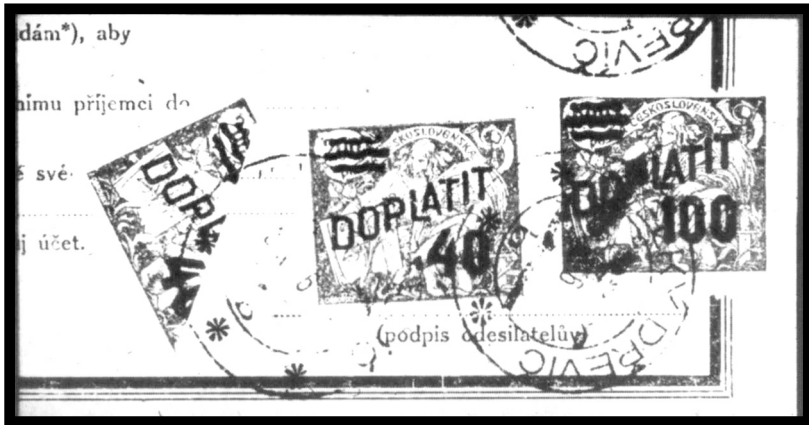


Fig. 376: Postal usage including bisected stamp

¹From the *Monografie československých známek*, Volume 4: pp. 315-320.

²Color names from *Scott*.

³Release totals from *POFIS*.

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Philatelic News and Views

1. From RMPL:

-- On behalf of the membership and Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, I wish to thank you for your recent gift(s) of \$1,800.00 for the Czech Library for the years of 2013, 2014, and 2015. We are grateful for your support and look forward to thanking you in person.

RMPL is in its 20th year, having reached a total membership of 530 in 2013. From our permanent collections of stamp and auction catalogs, bound books, periodicals, monographs, and maps to our important stamp sales program, we offer diverse resources to collectors, researchers, exhibitors and judges alike. Your gift(s) is an important part of this exciting work!

[As a reminder, the Society moved its library to the RMPL several years ago in Denver, Colorado. In exchange for the RMPL housing our library, we make a yearly contribution to them. While the library is titled the Henry Hahn Memorial Library, it is sponsored by the family of former SCP member Philip Melamed. They are the ones who have been and are continuing to make the contribution for us to the RMPL.]

NOJEX 2014

In this 75th anniversary year the Society is planning their annual convention to be held in conjunction with NOJEX 2014, May 30 - June 1, 2014, in Secaucus, NJ -- which is right across the river from our birthplace, New York City. The show is sponsored by the North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs and being held at the Crowne Plaza Meadowlands Exhibition Center, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, NJ 07094. Their website is: <http://www.nojex.org>. The show hotel is the Empire Meadowlands by Clarion, www.clarionhotel.com, phone 201-348-6900. The nearest airport is the Newark Liberty (EWR).

Watch future issues for more details on activities and events, but don't wait to make your room reservations.

Letters to the Editor

1. Hi SCP!

I just renewed my membership via PayPal [Email only subscription].

Since I'm emailing anyway, let me tell you a bit about my interests. My #1 philately interest is Cats on Stamps. Any kind of cat including domestic, wild, or even heraldic cats, from any country. I got interested in Czech philately both because of the large number of cat stamps and because I have an email pal in the Czech Republic. As a result, I also collect Czech stamps in general in addition to Czech cats on stamps. I have created album pages for Czech cats on stamps if

anyone would like a PDF copy. The file is about 31Mb and includes color scans of most of the stamps [Valerie@mydfz.com].

Most recently I have become aware of Czech Revenue Stamps, many of which have an image of the Bohemian Lion on them. I have started trying to acquire these stamps and information on them. I thought I might write an article about them for the Czech Specialist if I can learn enough to be worthwhile. It appears that few articles have been written about these stamps. . . .

Have a great 2014!

Valerie Kramer

THE IDEAL BIRTHDAY GIFT: AN S.C.P. MEMBERSHIP

We all have the problem of finding a good present for someone who has everything. All of us also have friends and loved ones with whom we exchange gifts who collect stamps or might become interested.

The solution to your gift problem: buy them a membership in the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. The cost is only \$25 (regular) or \$3 (youth -- under 18) per year. Among the many advantages of SCP membership, they will receive our outstanding journal (a fresh gift from you every three months!) which is now also available in color through our web site and which is a great source from which they can purchase their philatelic needs.

Go to the SCP website (www.csphilately.org) today, download an application, complete it, and send it in along with your check for \$25 or \$3. Or, you can write to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom for the application (his address is on page 2 of every issue). Your loved one or friend will receive a nice year-long gift as a result of your thoughtfulness.

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, and through their Membership Secretary, Yvonne Gren at 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 CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer, Marisa Galitz, 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! CPSGB Dues are US\$10 for digital, US\$40 for printed copies by airmail or US\$35 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@csphilately.org or by check to SCP, 199 East Flagler Street #1660, Miami, FL 33131 (from January to April) or Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD (from May to December).

JÁCHYMOV REDO

by Ludvik Svoboda



Confederation of Political Prisoners Chairwoman Naděžda Kavalírová, left, takes part in the ceremony May 24 at the Horní Slavkov cemetery

A number of years ago there were two articles in the *Specialist* both dealing in some way with the Czechoslovak town of Jáchymov.

Jáchymov is located in the far western Czech Republic in the Krušné Mountains, 20 km north of Karlovy Vary, and just 6 km south of the German border.

The first time we hear about it has to do with the fact that silver was found at Saint Joachim's Dale (or Joachimsthal, today Jáchymov) in the early 1500's. The owner, Count Stephen Schlik, began using the silver to produce "Joachimsthaler groschen" coins (called "thaler" for short) which soon became the European area's most popular monetary unit. Then over 450 years and numerous country's adoptions (including ours), "Sound as a Dollar" meant a disc of solid silver weighing one ounce spelled THALER -- TOLAR -- TALLERO -- DALER -- DAALDER -- DOLLAR in the four corners of the world. Thus was born our title and concept of the dollar -- beginning with Jáchymov.

This first article motivated our member Sam Horvath to provide a second article about the town entitled "The Dark Side of Jáchymov". It so happens that silver was not the only desirable ore found in the area. When most of the silver ore had been taken out, the miners discovered (about 1727) that the area was rich in another mineral, originally called pitchblende. This was the major source of the mineral in the world until the last 100 years -- and no significant source was in mainland Asia (including the Soviet Union).



Fig. 1

[At Figure 1 we see a Czechoslovak stamp commemorating Jáchymov (Sc.1413/Pof.1549), but not for its “tolar” or silver fame. Rather, it is publicizing it as the “cradle of the atomic age” since pitchblende was first discovered here, and the Soviet Union had great need of it.]

According to Wikipedia, pitchblende, also called uraninite, is a radioactive mineral comprised mainly of oxides of the element uranium, UO_2 and UO_3 . It is our primary source of uranium. The mineral is black in color, like ‘pitch’. The term ‘blende’ came from the German miners who believed it contained many different metals all blended together. Pitch-

blende contains many other radioactive elements that can be traced back to the decay of uranium, such as radium, lead, and helium (Marie and Pierre Curie discovered the element radium while working with pitchblende in 1898).

Drastic changes came about in Jáchymov with the communist take-over of Czechoslovakia and the start of totalitarian rule. The Soviet Union needed uranium, and the communists needed a cheap labor force, so mass arrests began. Between 1948 and 1967, over 1,120,380 people were arrested and sent to hundreds of newly created forced labor camps -- the absolute worst of them being in the Jáchymov uranium mines. According to Czech ministry of justice reports published in 1993, a total of 15,726 prisoners perished in these work camps, and most of these happened in the Jáchymov region.

But the purpose of Horvath’s article was to describe the postal arrangements for mail going into and out of these camps, and the special money that was produced and used within them.

So now we come to this third article which talks about some of the aftermath of the Jáchymov experience.

Former Prisoners Revisit Labor Sites

A look at ‘Jáchymov Hell’ through the eyes of two of its survivors by Markéta Hulpachova

Karel Král leads a quiet life. At 79, he and his wife Eva Králová seldom venture outside of their third-story apartment on a residential street in Prague 7. So, when an unannounced visitor knocks on their door and inquires about their experiences as prisoners in forced labor camps in the 1950s, they are understandably startled.

Imprisoned during the political processes that took place in communist Czechoslovakia from 1948 to 1956, the Králs belong to a group of around 60,000 prisoners who were sentenced to forced labor in the uranium mines near the town of Jáchymov, west Bohemia.

On May 24, hundreds of these former prisoners clustered at the former campsites for an annual remembrance ceremony they call Jáchymov Hell.

Walking through the camps, the aging crowd laid wreaths at various memorials and gave speeches criticizing Czech society’s failure to come to terms with its communist past.



Former prisoners attend the Tower of Death Memorial, where people were forced into the dangerous job of separating uranium ore.

“It’s a holiday for us. We’re all old guys now, canes and crutches everywhere, leaning on each other to get there,” said Stanislav Stránský, chairman of the Association of Former Political Prisoners (SBPV). “There’s a quiet understanding that you come to Jáchymov Hell no matter what.”

While statistics differ, experts estimate a total of 100,000 prisoners were sent to forced labor camps in Czechoslovakia in the 1950s, many of them serving harsh sentences for what the communist state classified as political crimes.

Král’s crime was the distribution of hundreds of typewritten posters urging citizens to resist the communist government.

In 1951, he was sentenced to 12 years’ imprisonment and eventually transported to the Rovnost, or “Equality” labor camp in the Jáchymov uranium mines.

Here he spent six years toiling in the mine, laying tracks and loading carts with uranium ore for the development of Russian nuclear warheads.

“Every morning, we would descend into the shaft,” Král recalls. “We were chained together in groups of five and guarded by policemen with machine guns.”

With the camp devoid of safety regulations and overseen by “barbaric” guards, deaths and injuries were not uncommon, he said.

Perhaps the most notorious guard was Albín Dvořák, whom the prisoners nicknamed the equivalent of “Tom Thumb” for his short stature. Formerly a low-ranking officer, Dvořák catapulted to the status of commander after he killed a prisoner who tried to escape.

“Tom Thumb was an egoist. He had a complex because he was short,” said Král. “We had some tough times with him.”

He recalled a particularly brutal incident in which a prisoner was castigated for making a derogatory comment about Soviet dictator Stalin and communist Czechoslovak President Klement Gottwald.

It was the middle of winter. They took him to interrogation and let him stand outside all night wearing nothing but light rags,” Král said. “He was dead in the morning.”

Despite the psychological terror, the sufferings Stránsky and Král remember the most are hunger and cold. Sustained on a diet of dry, moldy bread, margarine and occasional potatoes, the laboring prisoners learned to be resourceful when it came to dining. “I didn’t mind the mold that much,” Stránsky recalls. “I used to wrap it in a foot-rag and crush it up after scraping off some of the fungus. I only got sick once.”

Coping with the past

While rummaging for her prison release papers in the cupboard, Králová discovers a miniature rag doll clothed in rough fabrics. “This is what we used to wear,” she said, running her thumb over the doll’s ruglike skirt. The doll, she explained, was an effigy of a female prisoner. “We used to make little things like this all the time.”

Králová and her parents were arrested in 1952 for failing to report an acquaintance who was living in hiding after returning from illegal emigration. “He couldn’t handle it abroad, so he came back,” she said. “My parents and I were sentenced to more than three years, just because we knew about it.”

For Králová, the most trying aspect of being a political prisoner was not the imprisonment itself, but the social exclusion that followed. “They took away our apartment, and I could only find low-paying, menial jobs,” she said. “Everyone looked at us like we were trash.”

Like most of the living Jáchymov survivors and other political prisoners, the Králs received generous government compensation for their ordeals due to the lobbying efforts of the Confederation of Political Prisoners (KPV) in the 1990s. Nevertheless, their dissatisfaction with the current political situation mirrors those of their fellow political prisoners, who often criticize politicians and judges for their unwillingness to fully rehabilitate their peers.

“Most political prisoners feel that the communist regime was never fully coped with,” said Tomáš Buršík, a researcher at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. “On one hand, I agree with them, but I also think they are too reclusive. They should open themselves up to [public discussions and events] rather than complaining of society’s flawed morals.”

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from The Prague Post.]

It is not surprising that these victims of the terror, deprivations, and resultant ostracism would want to see justice for the perpetrators. But it has been slow in coming, or has not come at all. Why? Unfortunately it is 40+ years since these abuses took place, the perpetrators and victims are in their 70’s to 90’s, many have died or have faulty memories, evidence has been destroyed or disappeared, today’s populace wants to put the bad times behind them and live the “good life”, and probably most critical -- today’s justice system gives the perpetrators the benefit of the doubt, not like the victims had to suffer in their day.

CASTLES and PALACES

by Zdeněk Fritz

trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

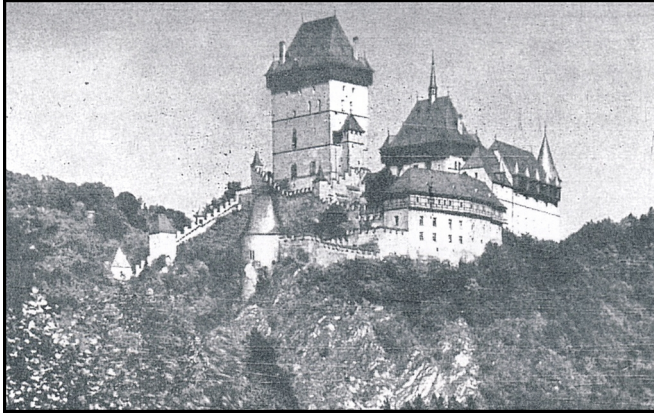


Fig. 1 Karlštejn Castle in a contemporary appearance with a view from the southwest.

Castles and palaces are an inseparable part of the national cultural riches of the territory of the former Czechoslovakia. The number of these properties is out of the ordinary, and only a very few countries in Europe have in their lands a similar wealth of these precious monuments. Only France surpasses us in their number, but in this vein also entirely extraordinary are Germany, Italy, Spain, and the lands of the British Isles.

These properties, with their largely very striking landscape settings, have become through the ages an integral part of and contribute a distinctive measure to their locale's extraordinary aesthetic value -- and that is also when the local area is of itself not especially impressive. However, the castles and palaces always bring life to the area, change it, and make it more beautiful. Simultaneously then they always bring closer their historical past and often remind us of their former glory and importance. Thus it is not surprising that these mementos are objects of admiration, parts of artistic and documentary illustrations, and an effective means of representing and promoting their appropriate territorial region. Soon therefore they also became regular picture motifs for postage stamps and thus became -- thanks to the high number of stamps printed -- one of the best means of promoting and popularizing their own significance and beauty. The producers of Czechoslovak stamps soon understood their aesthetic value, so that castles and palaces from the Czechoslovak lands soon appeared on Cz. stamps (firstly in 1926), similarly as with stamps of other countries, especially European ones. It became apparent also that the issuers in those countries were -- in the selection of picture motifs of castles and palaces for stamps -- more "generous" than we were, especially after 1945. We can easily name the countries on whose stamps these properties began to appear regularly, even systematically (especially France, but also Italy, Austria, Spain, Switzerland, and others).

The attractive theme of castles and palaces of the whole civilized world and their associated points of interest directly invites the construction of very interesting thematic collections. Meanwhile, it is strange, to say the least, that such collections -- appropriately answering to exhibition standards -- complying with accessible information, do not exist here. To this question, why that is so, clearly a deeper analytical study would help answering. In any case it is a topic that requires further contemplation.

In a series of articles -- which we will publish over a certain period in a methodical systematic manner -- our attention will focus on the majority of castle and palace properties which were regular pictorial motifs on the postage stamps issued by the postal administrations or departmental ministries of all the state sections which existed in the lands of the former Czechoslovak Republic from its foundation in 1918 until the present. These are then the stamps of ČSR I including SubCarpathian Rus (1918-1939), Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (1939-1945), Slovak State (1939-1945), ČSR II (1945-1992), and finally the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic (1993 to the present). Just to be complete, we will remind you that on the stamps of the former Austria-Hungary (until 1918) the mentioned properties were never pictured. It is interesting -- and at the same time completely understandable -- that none of the postage stamp issuers of all of the above mentioned state departments has neglected (even in a small way) to include on its issues some of the castle and palaces situated on their lands. In view of this, the visual attractiveness of these properties and also their cultural/historical meaning is confirmed -- and this without consideration of the regime or social structure which then existed in the respective time-frame in the given land.

Our reports on the properties will be arranged chronologically, just as their pictures appeared progressively on valid postage stamps, beginning with the Cz. postal issues with images of castles and palaces from 1926. For the time being we leave aside the Prague Castle, to whom we dedicate a special article at the close of the series. A detailed description of the origin, development, and circumstances of existence of each property together with their detailed architectural and artistic/historical analysis is not in fact our aim. In this respect we are limiting ourselves only to the main and basic information.

We will emphasize instead the appearance of the exterior of these properties (in special outstanding cases also the interior) and compare their images on stamps with their actual condition in the present day (sometimes also in the past). An accompanying ground plan of the property will help us to clarify for the reader the structure of the property and its material make-up with respect to its former function. It stands to reason that we will not avoid extensive mentions of some extraordinary historical circumstances and functions of the illustrated property.

It is symbolic that the first castle gracing our Czechoslovak stamps became the lasting "king of Czech castles", the universally known and admired castle of the Bohemian King, Roman King, and Emperor of the "Holy Roman Empire" Charles IV -- Karlštejn. It will therefore also be the first one on our pages. Its present day likeness is as seen at Figure 1. Also shown is the ground plan of the castle based on the historical measurements from 1867 (Fig. 2). It is cited among other places in the work of PhDr. V. Dvořák and Ing. Arch. D. Menclová, "Karlštejn", (SNKLU Praha, 1965). On it, we have marked with numbers the most important castle features, about which we will make more detailed comments in the following text.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

LEGENDA:

1. První brána hradu po první přestavbě.
2. Věž Voršilka - původní gotická první brána.
3. Druhá brána. 4. První nádvoří.
5. Nejstaší část budovy purkrabství.
6. Spojovací koridor. 7. Studniční věž.
8. Purkrabský palác. 9. Třetí brána.
10. Druhé nádvoří. 11. Královský palác.
12. Půlválcová věž paláce. 13. Menší věž s mariánským kostelem. 14. Kaple sv. Kateřiny. 15. Velká věž (donjon) s kaplí sv. Kříže. 16. Schodišťová přístavba.
17. Menší bašta (horní). 18. Větší bašta (dolní).
19. Parkánový prostor. 20. Torza zdí, přepazujících Studený a Hluboký důl.

STAVEBNÍ FÁZE:

- 14. století (1355-1357)
- Pozdně gotická přestavba v pol. 15. stol.
- Přelom 15. a 16. století
- Velká renesanční přestavba na přelomu 16. a 17. století

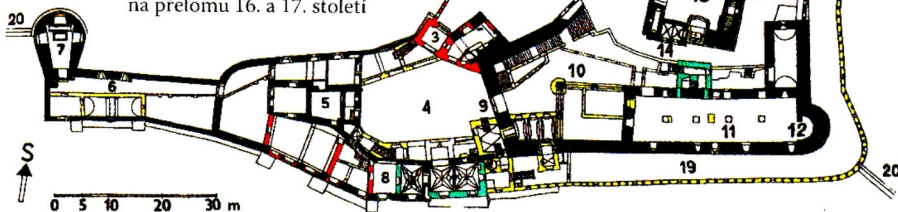


Figure 2: Ground plan of the castle from measurements taken in 1867.

LEGEND:

1. First gate of the castle after the first reconstruction.
2. Voršilka Tower -- the original Gothic first gate.
3. Second gate.
4. First courtyard.
5. Oldest part of the Burgrave's building.
6. Connecting corridor.
7. Waterwell tower.
8. Burgrave's palace.
9. Third gate.
10. Second courtyard.
11. Royal palace.
12. Semicircular palace tower.
13. Smaller tower with the Church of the Virgin Mary.
14. Chapel of St. Catherine.
15. Large tower (donjon) with the Chapel of the Holy Cross.
16. Staircase extension.
17. Smaller bastion (upper).
18. Larger bastion (lower).
19. Garden space.
20. Wall remains, separating the Studená and Hluboká valleys.

BUILDING PHASES:14th century (1355-1357)Late Gothic reconstruction in the middle 15th centuryTurn of 15th/16th centuryGreat renaissance reconstruction at turn of 16th/17th century

The construction periods of the castle from the 14th to the 17th century are marked in color.

Karlštejn National Castle

This monumental castle was first portrayed on four Čs. postage stamps issued



Figure 3,4,5,6: Postage stamps from 1926 with view of castle from southwest.

in 1926, namely the 20h, 1.20 Kč, 1.50 Kč, and 2.50 Kč. For our purposes it is not too important that they were issued on paper with watermark “linden tree leaves” (Pof. 209A -- coil, 212B, 214B, and 215B)[Sc. 123, 109, 110, 111] and without watermark (Pof. 216A - coil, 220B, and 222B)[Sc. 141, 133, 135]. They were printed using the rotary recess printing method (Stickney) from a K. Seizinger engraving (from a photo draft). For the stamp image was chosen the most classical view of the castle from the southwest side, that is, from the river Berounka direction -- such as would be approximately seen by a visitor approaching the castle from the Karlštejn railway station, possibly after a speedy trip by train on the route Prague - Beroun - Plzeň (Fig. 3 - 6). It seems that this view in comparison with the various views from other sides and angles really best characterizes the sublime beauty of the castle, and its flawless architectural composition and effective blending into the surrounding countryside (even if an implausible Mockera purist reconstruction). The same image in the four above stamps brings to us all of the most important features of the castle, as we can find them on the ground plan: on the highest point is the great tower (donjon) with the chapel of the Holy Cross; to the right of it a lower tower feature, very similarly roofed, and harboring within itself the chapel of the Virgin Mary and the small chapel of St. Catherine; entirely to the right from this feature is the Royal Palace with a small semicircular tower on its eastern end (only a tip sticks out); in front of the palace is the lower, so called burgrave palace; still further in the foreground below is a narrow connecting space and to the left of it is the water well tower; entirely to the left and in the background at the edge of the picture is the entrance portion of the castle with today's first gate -- lower (the original gate into the castle from the mid-14th century) and small tower “Voršilkou” above it.



Figure 7: 50h Protectorate B+M stamp with view of castle from southwest.



Figure 8: 1948 stamp with Charles IV portrait as founder of Prague Universitas Karolina.



Figure 9: Stamp from the "Prague Castle 1978" issue for the 600th anniversary Charles IV death with his portrait on votive panel image by Jan Očka from Vlašimu Designed and engraved by J.A. Švensgbir

Owing to the beauty of this view, it is not surprising that two additional stamps having this castle image, issued much late, make use of this scenery. To begin with, it is one of the first postage stamps of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in the value of 50h, green (Pof. 29 [Sc. 28], issued 1939) in a flawless engraving executed by Bohumil Heinz (Fig. 7). While this exquisite stamp could not be Czechoslovak, it was allegedly linked by Heinz himself (who died soon after) such that the outline of the bountiful clouds above the castle and the forest hillside under it created a continuous shape reminiscent of the outline of the Czech Lands (although, of course, inexactly for the purpose of secrecy). This was in the time of the beginning

of the Nazi occupation and it awakened pride in every loyal Czech in the famous history of the Bohemian Kingdom -- the central territory of the powerful state system founded by the "most celebrated Czech" (as once determined by a national opinion poll), Emperor and King, Charles IV (Fig. 8 and 9).

The same view of this castle was chosen by the academic painter and graphic artist Jaroslav Šváb on a 60h stamp, red (Pof. 1106 [Sc. 975], issued 1960, engraved by Jan Mráček), which is part of a famous issue of postage stamps with pictures of castles (from among them he created -- including the later issued Křivoklat -- altogether 6 values, the remaining 3 values with Slovak castle motifs were added in similar graphic style by the Slovak artist A. Hollý). The images of the castles are conceived in the "negative" orientation, i.e., as a nighttime view of an illuminated object. Primarily because of this (and also the flawless graphic execution) is this issue entirely original and deserving to be designated as one of the best, if not generally the best issue of post-



Figure 10: 60h postage stamp by J. Šváb with picture of Karlštejn from the southwest.

age stamps in our stamp production. J. Šváb freed “his” Karlštejn from all real background -- you will not find here any landscape scenery like, for example, with B. Heinz, even missing in the left part of the stamp down below the large tower is part of the fortifications and two towered gates. In fact, the simplification and specific styling of the castle are not harmful, for they contribute to the emphasis of its material beauty (Fig. 10).

In 1957, for the 600th anniversary of the founding of the castle there was issued a commemorative stamp of 60h, green (Pof. 925 [Sc. 788]) created by the outstanding graphic artist J. C. Vondrouš and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied by facsimile. With his inimitable handwork Vondrouš depicted the castle in a fundamen-

tally different view from the southeast side, which is today also well known. The castle is almost drowning in a flood of forest and greenery (Fig. 11)[* - see footnote at end]. Here we see to the left and down only the roof of the waterwell tower, higher to the right the burgrave palace, and still higher up the king's palace with the semicircular tower, which is here very obvious. Above it is the small tower of the Marian Church with the sanctum, and to the right of it is a large tower with an addition in which begins a staircase (in the thickness of the tower western wall) to the tower and the Chapel of the Holy Cross.

The building of the castle, according to Charles' design, began on 10 June 1348, about 660 years ago. It was a lucky project, as a consequence of which arose a magnificent national monument, a castle designated to the safekeeping of the Czech crown jewels -- the symbol of Czech State Sovereignty. The castle was never militarily defeated, and to this day proudly towers above its rocky mound between valleys and forests, disturbed only by a couple of remodelings. Construction was largely finished by the autumn of 1355, but officially was not finished until the consecrations of both of the main castle chapels on 27 March 1357, which is the formal date of its completion (see the description of the 60h stamp from 1957). The construction therefore lasted not quite 9 years. The builder of the castle is not actually known, but it is certainly possible that we are talking about a very capable builder of domestic origin; perhaps Matyáš of Arras (the first builder of St. Vitus Cathedral) also partly participated in the building. The Gothic image of the castle (Fig. 12) is markedly different from the image of today, which is the result of



Figure 11: Occasional 60h stamp, designer J.C. Vondrouš, view of castle from southeast.

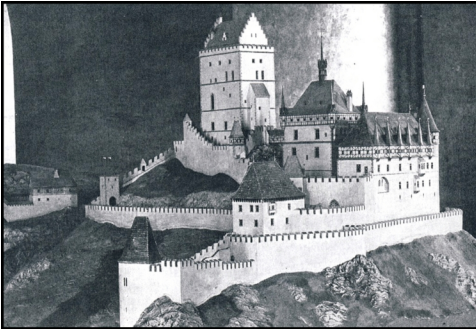


Figure 12: Reconstruction of the castle's Gothic appearance as at the end of its construction in 1357

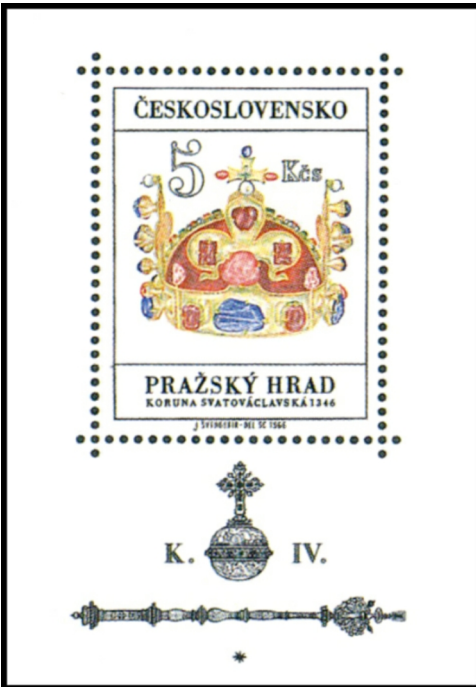


Figure 13: Saint Wenceslaus crown (1346) on a 5 Kčs stamp from "Prague Castle 1966" souvenir sheet (Pof. 1523) [Sc. 1390]. Designer and engraver J.A. Švensgír

Holy Cross chapel (Fig. 14) -- which were without parallel in that era. The five-storied massive tower (rectangular ground plan of 17 x 25.8 m and height up to 46 m from the base up to the ridged roofing, at the time of the castle's construction) is in the Czech castle building phenomena entirely extraordinary. The

Renaissance and especially modern purist reconstructions.

The castle was set up on a rocky outcropping of an unusual shape, similar to the letter "J", slanting to the south and lying between two deep valleys -- Hluboká and Studená valleys. To make the entry to the castle more difficult, there were originally strong partitioned walls descending from the eastern and western ends of the castle fortifications. The location of the castle, somewhat dipping into space between higher hills in the vicinity, did not limit its chances of all-around defense and safety. From the northern side, from which came the approach route and where stood the first gate, the castle was separated from the heights of the Kněží mountains by a deep moat carved out of the rock. Behind it on the highest point of the outcropping was built the most important part of the castle -- a large residential tower (donjon), not only like a main defensive point (forming a shield for all of the additional important points lined up on the sloping terrain behind the tower) but also like an almost divinely decorated hiding place for the Czech Royal St. Wenceslaus crown (Fig. 13), the crown jewels, and the remainder of the holy items in the premises of the



Fig 14: Chapel of the Holy Cross. View into the presbytery on the north side of the second story of the large tower.

tower has extremely strong circumferential walls: the monolithic north wall without a single opening is at the level of the first story almost 7 m thick (!), it is therefore a perfect shield; the other three walls have a thickness of almost 4 m. The lower standing “Marian” tower has a height of more than 1/3 less and wall thickness of 3.2 m. The king’s palace -- just as the burgrave’s -- stands on the southern edge of the rocky bluff. These two palaces have -- at variance with both towers which have space of a solemn religious character -- a markedly residential character. Their architecture is simple, and they are not as well decorated as the interiors of both towers.

The décor of the chapels of both towers is extraordinary -- used are paintings, paintings on wooden panels, carved slat paneling with semi-precious stones, and in the Chapel of the Holy Cross also gilded ornamental plastering. Also involved with the painting décor were renowned Masters of that time -- Mikuláš Wurmser of Strasbourg (in particular the Church of Holy Mary and the Chapel of Saint Catherine in the smaller tower), a Master whose name was not known, called Master Rodokmene (worked in the same places), Master Theodorik (Chapel of the Holy Cross), and an unknown Master from his workshop. A detailed description or analysis of the artistic value of these Master’s works is not possible to be discussed here. We will only say that one of the panel pictures from a group of 127 works of Theodorik and his workshop, rendered in tempura on wood, is pictured on an “Umění” [art] stamp valued 2.20 Kčs from 1969 (Pof. 1802)[Sc. 1662]. It is a picture of St. Jeronym (sometimes also called “Prorok”, Fig. 15). It is worth noting that the multicolored engraving of this stamp is the first work carried out by the still young engraver Miloš Ondráček (Fig. 16).

Figure 15: Panel picture of St. Jeronym (also “Prorok”) by Master Theodorik.



Figure 16: St. Jeronym on a 2.20 Kčs stamp from the “Umění 1969” [Art] issue in graphical arrangement and multicolored engraving by M. Ondráček.

The construction history of the castle over the ages was of course complicated, and under the influence of larger and smaller improvements it progressively changed its original gothic look. Big reconstructions came largely in the late gothic period towards the end of the 15th century and especially at

the turn of the 16th to the 17th centuries with the large renaissance reconstruction of the exterior and interior, which left on the appearance of the castle distinctive not-to-be-overlooked marks (e.g., graffiti, “atiky” by the roofs of the big tower and palace, improvements to the internal communications, partially the defenses, etc.). In fact, the castle is obliged to these reconstructions for not becoming dilapidated and ruinous, as did happen with many other castles, including the historic ones.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

In spite of this, the castle was losing its renaissance elegance and in the 19th century it was again extensively damaged. Its likeness of that time can be seen on the well-known period photograph before the last great restoration (Fig. 17).

The reconstruction commencement became possible in the spring of 1887 thanks to an agreement with the Provincial Assembly on 9.II.1886. The limit of



Figure 17: Castle Karlštejn from the southwest before the great reconstruction by J. Mocker. Period photo from before 1887.

approved expenditures was 150,000 florin for 10 years. The reconstruction project was developed by Prof. Arch. Fridrich Schmidt, however, the construction was carried out by Arch. Josef Mocker, later mainly known for the completion of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague Castle. Mocker changed the project several times as a result of several discoveries during the construction. Frequently he was unlucky, from which resulted many unsuitable interventions to the appearance of the castle. It, for example, never had wooden attic galleries at both of the towers nor the southern side of the King's Palace, which were also the result of the totally newer, larger roofing of these structures. But that is another story. The reconstruction was officially finished in 1910, and the castle was handed over to the public.

It is necessary to state concisely that today's view of the castle (Fig. 1), which we know so well and often admire, is **incorrect**. The castle in its real historical likeness **never looked like this**. Even so, it remains an extraordinary monument of our history and is one of the greatest cultural values of all of Europe. Let us keep it in our memory, as we look at all the successful Czechoslovak stamps with a picture of this castle. *(Continuation -- next Pernštejn and Orava)*

* - Footnote: The pictured stamp-doublet is also very interesting from purely the philatelic point of view: on the upper of the two stamps it is quite easy to see a distinctive production fault -- a bunch of seven strong diagonal lines, traversing left to right diagonally down on the burgrave's palace structure (the left part of the castle picture above the letters "SKOS").

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from *Merkur-Revue* 5/2008 with the permission of the author and editor.]

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by Ludvik Svoboda

**2014 ISSUE PLAN
FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Design -- Ladislav Jirka (1914-1986)	1	13
Jan 20	Definitive Stamp w/ Coupon for Overprinting -- For Happiness	1	A
Feb 5	Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014	1	25
Feb 5	Winter Paralympics in Sochi 2014	1	13
Mar 5	Historical Means of Transportation -- Airplane of Eugene Čihák: Rapid 1912 - Prototype 1: Prague Metro Cars	2	13 13
Mar 5	150 Years of the Prague Fire Brigade	1	13
Mar 26	Personalities: - Bohumil Hrabal (1914-1997) - Prof. RNDr. Zdeněk Kopal (1914-1993)	1 1	17 21
Mar 26	Beauties of Our Country -- Červená Lhota Castle	1	17
Apr 30	EUROPA -- National Musical Instruments -- Bagpipes	1	25
Apr 30	200 Years of Museology: Opava 1814	1	13
May 14	Technical Monuments: Hand Papermill in Velká Losina	1	13
May 14	Prague Castle -- Gathering of Olympic Gods -- Peter Paul Rubens	1	37
May 28	VZS: For Children	1	A
Jun 11	Historical Means of Transportation -- Automobile Z4 (Zbrojovka Brno) -- Chain-powered Cargo Steamer on the Labe	2	25 25
Jun 25	Wartime Casualties in WW I	2	29,29
Sep 3	Nature Preservation -- Beskydy	4 s/s	13, 17 21, 25
Sep 3	Personalities: Karel Senior from Zerotin (1564-1636)	1	29
Sep 3	VZS: Václav Zapadlík -- Czech Cars -- Škoda II	2	A
Oct 15	St. Vitus Cathedral	1	58
Nov 5	Personalities: Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)	1	25
Nov 5	Work of Art on Stamps -- Jakub Schikaneder (1855-1924) -- Jaromír Funke (1896-1945) -- Salvador Dalí (1904-1989)	3	25 29 37
Nov 5	Definitive Stamp: Christmas -- Lada	1	A



Fig. 1

1. On January 20, 2014, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Design series honoring the stamp engraver -- Ladislav Jirka (Fig. 1). The stamp shows a portrait of Ladislav Jirka, accompanied in the background with three of his stamps that he valued the most: Bridesmaid -- Art 2009 (K. Svolinský), Leccinum

Versipelle, 1958 (K. Svolinský), and a detail from The Feast of the Rosary -- Art 1971 (A. Dürer). Ladislav Jirka (1914-1986) was born in Třemošná near Plzeň. In 1936, he joined the engraving department of the Military Geographical Institute, and in 1939 began working as a bank note engraver at the State Printing Works of Securities. As a result of his 1948 portrait of Ludovít Štúr, designed by Karel Svolinský, he joined the ranks of stamp engravers -- this began a long-term cooperation with Karel Svolinský. As a result, Jirka engraved many of Svolinský's stamps with folk and mainly nature motifs. He also used designs by other major artists; the best remembered was his cooperation with Mirko Hanák, Cyril Bouda, and Josef Liesler. At the same time, he used classical works of art as a basis for engravings. He received several awards for stamp design and works of art. The stamp was designed by Libuše Knotková (the daughter of Ladislav Jirka), engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and Produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset with line drawing in printing sheets of 30 pieces, and also philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels. Two of the labels feature a line drawing of the stamp "Plzeň" from the issue World Exhibition Praha 1962. The two other labels show a line drawing of the stamp "80 Years of the National Theater" from the year 1963. A FDC in black-brown shows Ladislav Jirka while working.



Fig. 2

2. On January 20, 2014, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp "Good Luck Charm" with labels for additional printing and with imprinted letter "A" -- ordinary domestic letter rate (Fig. 2). The stamp features a sitting dog chewing a four-leaf clover. The stamp was designed by Jiří Slíva and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The 9 main labels published on the date of issue portray a picture

of a dog on a leash tied to a lamp and sitting next to an open book. The side labels on the right-hand side of the sheet include four-leaf clovers in a vase in the top label and a four-leaf clover in the middle and bottom labels. A part of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. A FDC in multicolored offset shows a dog sitting on a painter's pallet.



Fig. 3

3. On February 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp in honor of the Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014 (Fig. 3). On the stamp is depicted a snowboarder. The XXII Olympic Winter Games will be held from the 7 - 23 February 2014 in Sochi, Russia. That was decided by the voting members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Guatemala on July 5, 2007. The games will be organized in two locations, in the coastal city of Sochi and the mountain resort of Krasnaya Polyana. Sochi won out over Salzburg (Austria), Jaca (Spain), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Pyeongchang (South Korea), Sofia (Bulgaria), and Borjomi (Georgia). The stamp was designed by Pavel Hrach, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue depicts a snowboarder.



Fig. 4

4. On February 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in honor of the Winter Paralympics in Sochi 2014 (Fig. 4). On the stamp is depicted a sledge ice-hockey player. The origins of the Paralympic Games are credited to Professor Ludwig Guttmann, a neurologist and neurosurgeon. A new perspective on the issue of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities was influenced by World War II. In 1944, Professor Guttmann founded a medical center in Stoke-Mandeville Hospital (UK) for the treatment of people with spinal cord disabilities. He later became the founder of the International Stoke-Mandeville games for people with disabilities of the musculoskeletal system. These games were the model for the Paralympic Games. The first Paralympic Winter Games took place in 1976 in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden. In the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games, competitors will compete in five different sports: alpine skiing, biathlon, cross country skiing, sledge ice hockey, and curling. The stamp was designed by Krystof Krejca, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue depicts a sledge ice-hockey player.

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SLOVAKIA

by Ludvik Svoboda

2014 ISSUE PLAN FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of <u>Issue</u>	<u>Name of Issue</u>	Number <u>in set</u>	Value <u>€</u>
Jan 2	Cultural Heritage of Slovakia: Synagogue in Levice	1	0.65
Jan 15	XXII Winter Olympic Games 2014 in Sochi	1	0.90
Jan 15	XI Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi	1	0.90
Feb 14	International Year of Crystallography	1	1.00
Mar 10	Velka Noc (Easter) 2014: Crucifixion -- Stained Glass Windows of the 19 th Century Romanticism	1	0.45
Mar 31	Personalities: Štefan Osuský (1889-1973)	1	0.80
Apr 17	Technical Monuments: Historical motorcycles -- Historic Motorcycles: Manet M90 -- Historic Motorcycles: Jawa 50/550 Pioneer	2	1.10 1.25
May 5	EUROPA 2014: National Musical Instruments	1	0.90
May 23	Personalities: Pavol Horov (1914-1975)	1	0.45
Jun 2	Historical Anniversaries: Honor in Memory of the Fallen Soldiers of World War I	1	0.65
Jun 6	Postage Stamp with a Personalized Coupon -- Medicinal Plants	1	0.45
Aug 28	Slovak National Uprising	1	0.65
Sep 19	Beauties of Our Country: The Wedding Palace in Bytča	1	1.30
Sep 26	Personalities: Andrej Hlinka (1864-1938)	1	0.80
Oct 5	90 th Anniversary of the International Peace Marathon in Košice	1	0.45
Oct 10	Nature Protection: Sitno National Nature Reserve -- Lucanus Cervus -- European Rhinoceros Beetle	2	0.80 0.80
Nov 6	History of Customs	1	1.50
Nov 14	Christmas 2014: Nativity -- Stained Glass Windows of the 19 th Century Romanticism	1	0.45
Nov 25	Art on Stamps: -- Alojz Stróbl (1856-1926) -- Peter Michal Bohúň (1822-1879)	2	1.25 1.25
Dec 5	Postage Stamp Day: Severín Zrubec (1921-2011)	1	0.60

5. On November 29, 2013, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague, using recess printing with offset in sheets of four.

-- 1.25€: Ján Jakub Stunder (1759-1811), "Grof Ján Hadik Sketches Stunder's Portrait", Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 5). The Danish painter, Jean Jacques Stunder, representative of European enlightenment and classicism, found Slovakia to be his second homeland. He studied at the Copenhagen Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. He came to the Kingdom of Hungary at Ferenc Kazinczy's invitation in 1793, who wanted to establish an academy of arts in order to edify the culture of his country. Stunder settled in Levoča and married Elisabeth (1797), daughter of Samuel Adami. He painted altar pictures and portraits. He depicted Count Jan Joseph Hadik de Futak (1755-1833) twice -- as he is painting his portrait [above] and also on another picture where he is painting a portrait of his wife. The assumption that these pictures resulted from friendship rather than a "commercial" order is surprising and brings them great credit. Count Hadik's depiction follows the spirit of classicistic portraits with simple compositions, neutral backgrounds, hushed light and intimate atmosphere -- note his natural clothes, no wig, white shirt, fur cap. The stamp was engraved by František Horniak. A FDC shows Studner's work of art "Imrich Zay" from the Slovak National Museum -- Bojnice Museum.

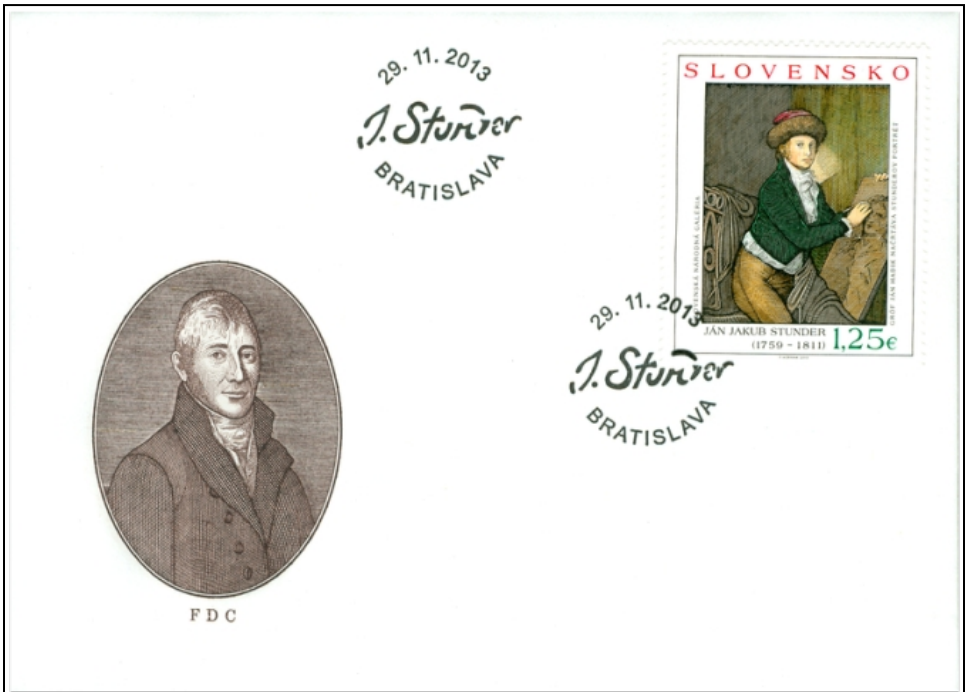


Fig. 5

-- 1.25€: Martin Martinček (1913-2004), "Po Dojení - 1964"[After Milking], Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 6). Martin Martinček belongs among the most significant personalities of Slovak photography of the 20th century. He was born January 30, 1913 in Liptovský Peter, graduated from legal studies at Comenius University in Bratislava (1937) and then worked as an advocate and later as a judge. After the war he worked in several Slovak governmental organizations.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

After February 1948, he faced unjust accusations, was imprisoned for a short time, and in 1951 forcibly evicted from Bratislava. He settled in his native Liptov region where he began taking pictures and soon gained recognition as a freelance photographer. He took pictures within a quite restricted area, not leaving the Liptov region. He depicted the country and its inhabitants universally, on various visual levels. In his photographs he gave life to inanimate nature -- he found magic in the details of sawn wood, flowing water, mud and also in ice. In numerous shots he captured human work, wooden dwellings, working instruments, and especially people who did not resemble "builders of socialism" -- quite the other way, they embodied fundamental humanism and also spiritual and Christian values which were endangered at that time. He was the first Slovak photographer to be awarded the state professional award -- the Meritorious Artist title. The stamp was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. A FDC was issued.

6. On December 6, 2013, the Ministry issued a 0.65€ commemorative stamp with coupon in the Postage Stamp Day series honoring Igor Rumanský (Fig. 7). Igor Rumanský (1946-2006) was a respected artist, painter, graphic artist, illustrator, and long-time university professor who greatly influenced Czechoslovak artistic development in the 1970's. He created the first stamp graphics for Czechoslovakian stamp production with the issue Ice Hockey World and European Championships 1978. While originally focusing on sports themes, he then expanded his creativity through the Slovak stamp Peace and Freedom from the international EUROPA series as well as the World Year of Slovaks issue. He cooperated on many of these issues with the famous engraver Rudolf Cigánik. The stamp Peace and Freedom was awarded the Top Prize of the Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic. This Rumanský commemorative stamp displays a graphic representation of a maiden with a floral headdress and Christ on the Cross, while the coupon shows a self-portrait. It was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing in printing sheets of 30 stamps. A FDC was issued.

7. On January 2, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.65€ commemorative stamp in the Cultural Heritage of Slovakia series for the Synagogue in Levice (Fig. 8). The first Jews in Levice are mentioned about the beginning of the 18th century, however their earlier presence is presumed. The Jewish residents and settlement were restricted by Imperial regulation supposedly to protect the nearby mining towns from the influence of the Jewish merchants. It wasn't until about 1836 that the Jewish populace really started coming to Levice. They soon created a Jewish community that then continued in existence there. While they built their first synagogue in 1853, it was the increase in their members that resulted in the construction of a new, bigger synagogue in 1883, which still stands today. The designer and builder was Gustáv Sisák of Kalná nad Hronom. The synagogue served its purpose until 1944. In June 1944 it became a part of the ghetto during the deportations period. It was declared a Historic Landmark in 1980, and in 1991 the city took over the property. An extensive reconstruction began in 2010 with some surprising discoveries. In 2011, while working on a wall, the workers

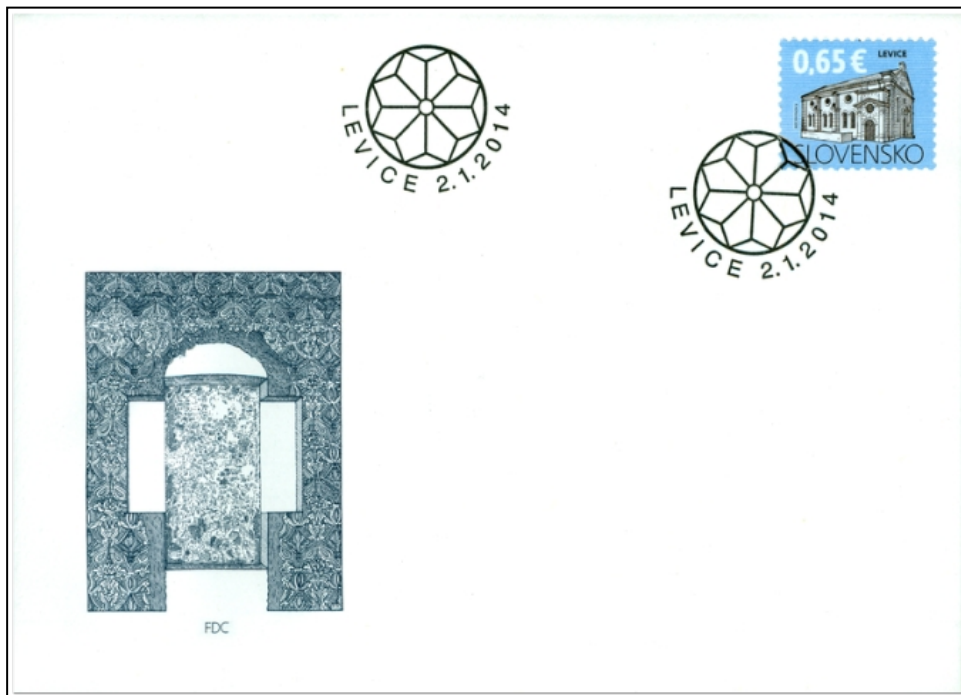


Fig. 8

discovered a valuable artifact -- the founding charter of the synagogue stored in a pharmaceutical bottle. The charter was placed there during the occasion of the foundation stone laying in 1883. During the restoration of mural paintings, the names of the painters were revealed on the arch along with the finishing date of the decoration work -- August 30, 1883. The synagogue is now open and serves as a place for various cultural events. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing in printing sheets of 100 pieces. A FDC was issued.

8. On January 15, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp for the XXII Winter Olympic Games 2014 in Sochi (Fig. 9). The stamp shows a biathlon competitor shooting at a target. The Winter Olympic Games, taking place since 1924 as a younger sibling of the Summer Olympics, have been held every four years since 1994, always two years apart from its summer counterpart. This year they are being held 7 - 23 February in the Russian city of Sochi situated near the Black Sea in the foothills of the Caucasus. What do the Winter Olympic Games 2014 mean for Slovakia and its athletes? We are keeping our fingers crossed for our most successful winter discipline -- the biathlon. But don't forget also ice hockey, downhill skiing, and crosscountry skiing. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was issued.

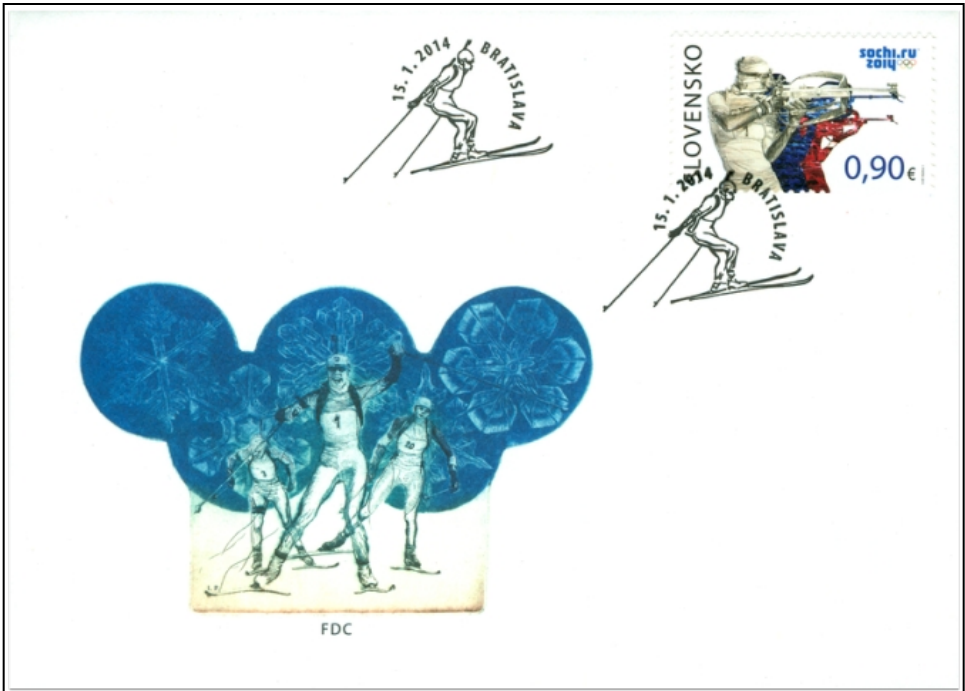


Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Engraving "Winter Olympic Games 2014 in Sochi"

9. On January 15, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp for the XI Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi (Fig. 10). It is delightful that the Winter Paralympic Games are regarded with more and more respect by the general public. Slovenská Pošta is honoring them with this stamp designed by painter Karol Felix, which depicts a couple of downhill skiers -- a navigator and a handicapped contestant, who are going through a slalom gate. As a rule, the Games take place shortly after the Olympics in the same city and in the same sports facilities. This creates a kind of bond between the healthy athletes and those who have not been so fortunate but have the heart and willpower to struggle with their fate and want to prove that they also want it and can do it. In this spirit these games are being held 7 - 16 March in the Russian city of Sochi in the foothills of the Caucasus. The Slovak Paralympic representation is quite ambitious and hopes to continue its success (4th place at Vancouver 2010) through 50 participants -- in downhill skiing, curling, cross country skiing and snowboarding. The stamp was designed by Karol Felix and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was issued.

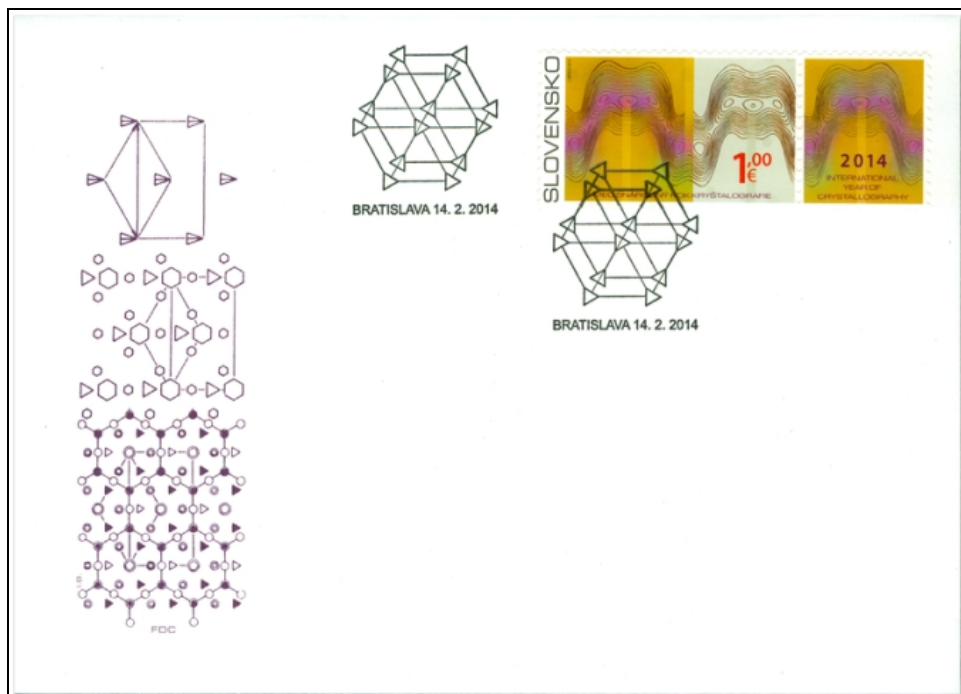


Fig. 11

10. On February 14, 2014, the Ministry issued a 1.00€ commemorative stamp for the International Year of Crystallography (Fig. 11). Crystallography is a science that examines the arrangement of atoms in solids. The word “crystallography” derives from the Greek “krystallos” meaning cold drop or originated in cold. A more current definition states that it is a science describing the atomic and molecular structure of solids and its relation to physical, chemical and biological properties. In 2014 we will celebrate 100 years since awarding the Nobel Prize to Max von Laue for the experiments that for the first time revealed the atomic (crystal) structure of solid matter via X-ray diffraction. That is why 2014 is the International Year of Crystallography. One of the basic thoughts in the search for a crystal structure is a presumption of its symmetry and of the periodic arrangement of its basic building elements -- atoms, eventually molecules. Since we live in three-dimensional space, we intuitively -- and usually correctly -- understand three-dimensionally ordered structures. However, improving experimental methods allowed us to discover that there is an important group of solids that deviate from this strict rule, while their properties are related to seemingly negligible deviations from the well-established order. With the help of electron density isolines in the Ta-Ge-Te alloy crystal the stamp shows that instead of the expected placement on the straight line, atom’s positions are modulated so that they create a crenel, which ultimately results into the change of substance’s properties. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using offset in printing sheets of 30 stamps and 30 coupons. A FDC was produced.



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