



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
CELEBRATING OUR DIAMOND (75TH) ANNIVERSARY

A.P.S. Unit 18

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GETTING STARTED WITH CZECH REVENUE STAMPS

by Valerie Jean Kramer



Fig. 1: Accounting services contract with 4Kč, 3Kč, and 50h revenue stamps applied.



Fig. 2: Veterinarian's certification as to the health of animals being purchased with an embossed 12h revenue stamp.

What are Revenue Stamps?

“Revenue” stamps, also known as “Fiscal”, “Documentary”, “Duty”, or “Tax” stamps are stamps used to indicate the payment of taxes or fees on various types of documents, or products such as tobacco, sugar, playing cards, wine, flour, yeast, explosives, meat, etc. There are about three dozen categories of Czechoslovak revenue stamps.

Most revenue stamps are printed on paper with an adhesive on one side so that they may be stuck to an item or its packaging (Fig. 1). Some revenues, however, consist of a hand-stamped mark or are embossed in, or pre-printed on, some form of document or paper (Fig. 2).

Revenue stamps may be collected as individual stamps or on paper cut from the original document, but they are perhaps most interesting when collected “on piece” or as an “entirety” where the complete original document and stamp remain together. This provides much more information for the stamp scholar to learn about the history and uses of the stamp.

Collecting revenue stamps was popular prior to World War I, and they were included in stamp albums, catalogs, and show exhibits in much the same way that airmail or semi-postal stamps are treated today. Revenue stamps fell out of favor

after the war, possibly crowded out by the proliferation of regular postal issues. Many catalogs ceased to list them, or at most listed only the issues for the catalog's home country. Likewise some stamp albums ceased to include spaces for revenues. The *1953 Improved Postage Stamp Album* published by Stanley Gibbons advised, "Since Philately is the collecting of stamps that are employed in connection with the Posts, do not put in your album fiscals, telegraph stamps, tobacco-tax labels, and other such strange things as are often found in some collections."

Fortunately, better sense eventually prevailed and interest in revenue stamps began to revive in the latter part of the 20th century. Today collecting revenue stamps is considered a regular specialty interest though they are still often ignored by catalogs and album makers. As such, revenue stamps are still largely unknown to the general stamp collector, and it is often possible to acquire valuable stamps at bargain prices . . . Or get gouged if you are not careful!

Why collect revenue stamps?

Revenue stamps are worth collecting for many of the reasons as one would collect any other stamp. Stamp collecting can be an inexpensive way to travel the world vicariously. For a few dollars, one can have reproductions of great art works, see life in foreign cultures, and learn about geography, history, languages, art, science, industry, and just about any other topic imaginable. As a social activity, one can meet new people and make new friends. It is not a demanding hobby and can be enjoyed by the young or old, the rich or poor, the couch potato or the energizer bunny.

Revenue stamps offer many of these same opportunities. In addition, many revenue stamps are quality art works in themselves, printed from fine steel engravings produced by expert engravers.

Perhaps the most exciting aspects of revenue stamp collecting, particularly Czechoslovakian revenues is that it has been a largely dormant field for so long. This means that new discoveries are made frequently and anyone who is willing to devote some effort to the subject can stand a good chance of being the first to report some new variety of stamp. It is rather like the difference between exploiting Manhattan (regular stamps) versus the upper reaches of the Amazon River (revenue stamps). Manhattan may be interesting and exciting, but many people have already visited nearly every corner of it. Exploring the upper Amazon means you never know just what you will find or when you may make some historic discovery.

The first series of Czechoslovak revenue stamps

Revenue stamps have a long history in Czechoslovakia. Prior to the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 various Austrian, Hungarian, or German stamps were used. Even before the formation of the country, the Czech National League issued some semi-official stamps to raise revenue from trade and once the new country was established, the first official revenue stamps quickly followed.

The first Czechoslovakian revenue stamps were issued in December 1918 and January 1919 and were used until September 1938. The design has the initials "ČR" at the top and just underneath, the word "KOLEK" (duty/revenue stamp) in a curved banner. Below that is the stamp's numeric value surrounded by horizontal

lines and the words, “Československá Republika” in an oval with some ornamental chain link designs at the left and right edges. Another curved banner below this carries the currency unit, (1 HALÉŘ, 2 - 4 HALÉŘE, 5 or more HALÉŘU, 1 KORUNA, 2 - 4 KORUNY, or 5 or more KORUN. 1 koruna = 100 haléřů).



Figure 3: The first Czechoslovakian Revenue Stamps.

Centered below this is a double-tailed Bohemian Lion surrounded by the date “1919” and more chain link ornamentation (see Fig. 3).

Stamps in this series with values from 1h to 80h were blue-gray while those with values 1K to 50K were red. Three exceptions exist. In April 1925 a 20h yellow-green Freight Tax Supplement stamp was issued in this same design. Another 180h red stamp was also issued for this purpose with the date surrounding the lion changed from “1919” to “1925”. The final exception was a 6h overprint on the 1K stamp issued in December 1918 and recorded as a Tobacco Supplement stamp. A heavy numeral “6” was overprinted over the “1” in either black or blue and represents “6h” though the “h” is not specifically shown. This last stamp was issued as an imperforate.

Even with this simple set, there is much room for study. Over the course of the 19 years in which this design was used, there are variations in paper, colors, and burelage (a printed pattern in this case on the gummed side of the paper, see the 2h and 5K values in Figure 3). At least seven distinct variations are recorded from 1920, 1922, 1924/25, 1928, 1930, 1932, and 1935. While some values of some printings from this series may be rare, many of these stamps are relatively common and inexpensive. One can acquire a nice selection of these stamps for a modest amount of time and money.

The second major Czechoslovak revenue series

Beginning in May 1938, a new series of revenue stamps was issued. These stamps all have a rectangular box containing the stamp value near the top. Below that is the denomination (“h”, “K”, “Kčs” or which may be spelled out in various ways). About half of the stamp is then devoted to a double-tailed (or a double-queued) Bohemian Lion rampant on a shield with some text along the edges. The value is repeated in each lower corner and the date, “1938”, is centered at the bottom (see Fig. 4).



Fig. 4: Some of the 1938 series of revenue stamps.

The following years were turbulent times for the Czech lands and the stamps in this series were changed and re-issued a number of times. It is not clear from the catalogs exactly how long these stamps remained in use but it was at least until mid-1953 when currency reform ushered in a new design.

The first issue of these stamps had the word, “KOLEK” at the top and the value was given in HALÉŘŮ or Kč. Values from 2h - 80h were blue/gray while values from 1Kč - 50Kč were red/brown. There were also a 100Kč and a 200Kč value in olive/gold. An early variation of the 2h stamp has the value given in “HALÉŘE” instead of “HALÉŘŮ”.

During the war, the word “KOLEK” at the top of the stamp was replaced with the bi-lingual German/Czech “STEMPEL KOLEK” and the date at the foot of the stamp was changed to “1939” (see last stamp in Figure 4). The denomination was given as “H” or “K”. The text around the lion was changed from “REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ” to “BÖHMEN und MÄHREN - ČECHY a MORAVA”. Variations of these stamps in 1945 and 1946 were intended for use in Slovakia and used the Slovakian words “KOLOK” and “HALIEROV” instead of the Czech “KOLEK” and “HALÉŘŮ”.

One more change was made. Previously the Lion of Bohemia had the “double cross on the triplicate hill” on its breast. This represented the Slovakian coat of

arms and, together with the lion, represented the pre-war country of Czechoslovakia. The occupation stamps omitted the Slovakian arms symbol and used just the bare lion, the symbol for only Bohemia and Moravia.

In 1945, the 1939 issue for Bohemia and Moravia was overprinted “ČSR / 1945” in black to indicate the re-constituted Czechoslovakia. This was soon followed by a new set of stamps in June 1945 which were very like the original series except that the higher values were denominated in “K” instead of “Kč”. A more limited set of values were issued and the colors were altered a bit. The 10 and 50h stamps were bright blue with a carmine mesh design underprinted on the gummed side and the 1K - 200K values were in carmine with a blue mesh underprint. These latter stamps were intended for use in Bohemia and Moravia (the “Czech Lands”). In September 1945 yet another set of stamps was issued for use in Slovakia. These were similar to the June 1945 stamps but had the word “KOLOK” (Slovakian for “revenue stamp”) instead of the Czech word “KOLEK”. Values ran from 1K - 100K and all the stamps were carmine with a blue mesh design on the gummed side.

Additional short series were issued, each with its own variations, in November 1945, January 1946, and February 1946.

In June 1947 yet another series of stamps were issued for use in all territories. The original 1938 design (and date) were re-used but the top of the stamp had the words, “KOLKOVÁ ZNÁMKA” (see the fourth stamp in Figure 4). Values were given in “H” or “Kčs”. The 10h and 50h stamps were green while the values from 1Kčs to 200 Kčs were vermilion making these stamps easy to identify.

The J. Barefoot catalog lists one more set of these stamps and gives a tentative issue date of 1947. They are the initial pre-war stamps overprinted “B.u.M / §” in black. Apparently these stamps were intended for use in Bohemia and Moravia but it is clear that more research needs to be done on them.

Like the first series, some specific stamps may be rare, but many of these stamps are readily available and inexpensive. Indeed, I was recently lucky enough to win an eBay auction of about 265 of these stamps for little more than \$10.00 though such luck is more the exception than the rule.

For further research

There are dozens of other revenue stamps and series of such stamps and I’ve just barely scratched the surface of this exciting topic. As with any stamp collection, it is important to have some sort of catalog so you can know what you have or what you are buying. I would recommend that anyone interested in Czechoslovakian revenue stamps begin with the J. Barefoot catalog as it is readily available for a modest cost. Here are a few words about it and various other resources that may help in your exploration of Czech revenue stamps.

Czechoslovakian Revenues, J. Barefoot Ltd., 55-page paperback. This is the most recent catalog covering these stamps. It is written in English and was published in 2001. It is available from www.jbarefoot.co.uk for £7.00 (about \$11.76 as I write this) plus shipping and any currency exchange fees. Copies are also listed on eBay typically starting at about \$21.00 possibly plus shipping. (I have one extra copy in mint condition if anyone is interested. Email me at Valerie@mydfz.com for price and availability.)

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

ČSR Revenue and Railway Stamps, by Rev. Severin Gottsmich, reworked, augmented and edited by M. Erler, 210 pages hardback. This catalog was copyrighted in 1976 and is out of print though it may be available by loan from various stamp societies or libraries. It is in English and German so is quite usable by English speaking scholars. This book has a good deal of information not found in the Barefoot catalog (and vice versa!) though its pricing information is now out of date.

The General Revenue Stamps of Czechoslovakia, by Josef Burianek & William Ittel, 1971. The copy I have is a mere 11 pages though I understand other editions of different lengths may exist. The preface gives credit to a manuscript listing by Father Severin Gottsmich, presumably the same author as the preceding book.

Higgins Gage World Postal Stationery Catalog, about 40 pages on Czechoslovakia. This catalog was published between 1964 and 1986 and consists of 19 alphabetical volumes with supplements. Volume 3 is "Cameroons to Czechoslovakia". 300dpi scans of specific countries can be purchased on eBay. The section on Czechoslovakia costs \$10.00 (or you can pay \$100 for the entire catalog of 2,596 pages). Other offers abound on eBay. The Czechoslovakia section appears to have little, if any, information about revenue stamps but it is a worthwhile source of interest for anyone interested in Czech postal stationery.

Fiskální Ceniny na území Československa / I Část / Fiskální známky / (kolkové, danové a dávkové známky) by Jiří Kořínek, 1997. Translation: *Fiscal Valuables in the territory of Czechoslovakia / part 1 / Fiscal stamps / (revenue, tax and benefit stamps)*. 127 pages, paperback, out of print. This is a wonderful resource on Czech revenue stamps, unfortunately it is mostly in the Czech language with some very small bits translated into English and German.

Fiskální Ceniny na území Československá / II Část / Fiskální celiny by Jiří Kořínek, 1998. Translation: *Fiscal Valuables in the territory of Czechoslovakia / Part II / Fiscal stationery*, 231 pages, paperback. Out of print. As the title says, this book is primarily concerned not with revenue stamps but with various pre-printed fiscal stationery.

Catalogue de Timbres-Fiscaux par A. Forbin, 3rd edition, 1915. This book, in French, is said to be the last whole world revenue stamp catalog. It has been scanned and is marked copyright 2011 by James Paul Marston, published by J&H Books. Access to an online version is available for \$9.95 from www.revenue-collector.com/forbin.shtml. PDF copies on CD may be purchased from various vendors on eBay for about \$20. Note that as this work was published in 1915, it pre-dates the formation of Czechoslovakia by several years. However, it may be of interest to those who are studying the Austrian, Hungarian, or German stamps that were used prior to the formation of Czechoslovakia.

In addition to the various catalogs, there are a number of stamp societies that may be helpful to the Czechoslovak revenue collector. These are probably the most useful:

- American Revenue Association - <http://www.revenuer.org/>
- Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain - <http://www.cpsgb.org.uk>
- International Society for Collectors of Revenue Stamps and Documents - <http://www.revenuesociety.org.uk/>
- Society for Czechoslovak Philately - <http://www.csphilately.net>

Here are a few examples of revenue stamps to whet your appetite...



March 1919,
Czechoslovakia
Banknote Control,
10h



March 1919,
Czechoslovakia
Banknote Control,
20h



March 1919,
Czechoslovakia
Banknote Control,
50h



March 1919,
Czechoslovakia
Banknote Control,
1K



April 1919, Czechoslovakia Match Tax,
2h & 10h values



June 1925, Czechoslovakia Revenues,
100K & 200K values



1930 Czechoslovakia Food Tax, 1Kč



1940 Bohemia and Moravia
Consumption Tax, 1K



1923
Czechoslovakia
Red Cross



Czechoslovakia
Telegraph Stamp?



May 1939,
Slovakia
Revenue
Stamp,
20h



1933?,
Czechoslovakia
Flour Tax
(Rye meal),
50kg



May 1949,
Czechoslovakia
Dávková (Rates),
1/2 of a double stamp



1905 Czech
National League
semi-official
invoice tax
stamp, 2h



October 1961, Czechoslovakia
Postwar Revenues (without tabs)



Fig. 6: Revenue stamps currently available from Czech post offices

If you happen to be in the Czech Republic, the current revenue stamps can be purchased at any post office (see Fig. 6). Good hunting!

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

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Philatelic News and Views

1. From Tom Cossaboom:

- I took this card to the CR and added the 75th anniversary stamp before mailing it on 28 May, thus making it a true 75th anniversary cancel.. The



cancel date is on the security strip. It doesn't show on the scan, but can be read with the naked eye. Unfortunately, the card suffered scuff on the lower left.

2. From Lou Svoboda:

-- We are sending out a tremendous thank you to Sam Horvath for his 12 years of being our Book Sales Manager. He has had to pass on this task to someone else.

Whenever you needed the latest Czechoslovak, Czech, or Slovak philatelic book, catalog, or publication, Sam was always there to fulfill your need quickly, inexpensively, and efficiently. Through his contacts in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, he was always on top of what were the latest publications that our members should have available in order to fully appreciate their hobby.

For now, Sam will continue to be listed in the back of the Specialist as the book sales manager, and when you need a book, continue to send your requests to him. However, all of the books have been sent to our president, Richard Palaschak, who will be sending them out.

When a new Book Sales Manager is found, that individual will be listed and will take over all of the functions.

3. From Lou Svoboda:

-- Well, the Phil Melamed trust and family have done it again. Just to remind you, Phil was a long-time member of ours who passed away a few years ago. Because he had received so much pleasure from his collecting of Czechoslovak stamps, his wife wanted to show her appreciation to the Society. As a result, the Melamed Trust not only paid for our library being moved from Virginia to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library here in Denver, but they also committed to paying a "donation" of \$600 per year to the RMPL for housing our library. That donation is now paid through 2015. For the future, in order to make sure that this amount is automatically contributed to the RMPL, the Melamed Trust is establishing an endowment at the RMPL that will automatically pay this donation each year.

As if that were not enough, they are going to set up another endowment. This one is going to help us pay for the additional expense involved in printing the Specialist in color. That expense is on the order of about \$600 per issue, or \$2,400 a year. This endowment is in appreciation for assistance that the Melamed family received from several of our members, but especially from Charley Chesloe. Like often happens to families of stamp collectors, after the hobbyist passes away, the family is lost as to what to do with the collection. This is where Charley provided invaluable help. He spent quite a bit of time reviewing Phil's collection and making recommendations as to how to properly, efficiently, and beneficially dispose of it. He even helped pack some of it up properly for its shipment to the Jiri Majer auction in the Czech Republic. So thank you Charley, and thank you to the Melamed family.

4. From Sam Horvath:

-- I came across an interesting article by Adam Váchal in Metro News from the Czech Post. After the Czech Post raised its domestic rates last summer -- a letter from 10 Kč to 13 Kč, a registered one from 26 Kč to 29 Kč -- senior citizens tried to apply for a senior's postal rate discount card. Upon submitting their applications to the Czech Post, they received an unpleasant surprise. They were informed by the Czech Post that they do not qualify for the discount card because they failed to indicate their e-mail address on the application. A Czech Post spokeswoman, Marta Selicharová, stated they need the applicants e-mail address so they can notify them of the business issues associated with the discount card and to keep in touch with them. She went on to indicate that they could receive their e-mail correspondence on someone else's computer -- for example, their children's. The Metro News then asked if the applicant could pay additional so the Czech Post could send information by mail rather than by e-mail. Selicharová said in fact "That, unfortunately, is not possible."

CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Lou,

Our past Chairman Yvonne has mentioned to me that our sister society will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

So may I on behalf of the officers and members of the CPSGB send our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Society for Czechoslovak Philately for this eventful anniversary. We shall look forward to hearing of the various programmes that you will have arranged and I understand that you are going to publish the journal in colour during 2014.

The society's journal the Czechoslovak Specialist has always been a leading journal of Czech & Slovak philately in North America, under its various editors, and contributors. I have particularly valued the Compact Disc that you produced some years ago and we, over this side of the pond, have always appreciated the wealth of knowledge published by your members.

When I was editor of *Czechout* I enjoyed a good fellowship with Mirko Vondra and enjoyed meeting him in Prague.

Again many congratulations.

Yours sincerely

Colin W. Spong,
FRPSL Honorary Life President
The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

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@cspilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117

SCP COUPONED STAMPS

by Ludvik Svoboda



The Society has made arrangements with our member and article contributor from Prague, Lubor Kunc, to get special sheets of couponed stamps made for us to commemorate this our 75th anniversary.

The stamp is a previous issue from 2010 (Scott 3464, Pofis 644) showing a boy using a magnifying glass to examine a stamp. It is a letter-denominated stamp with letter E, which corresponds to the cost of sending a letter to another European country. The coupon contains the image of our Mucha Award medal that is given out at our annual convention by the show jury for the best Czechoslovak/Czech/Slovak exhibit.

If you are interested in getting one of these couponed stamps or of an entire sheetlet, please contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015. Email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net Phone: 303-680-7118.

I would anticipate that the cost of a couponed stamp (stamp + coupon showing the medal -- NOT including the right edge coupon) would be about \$2 plus postage -- probably a total of \$2.49. The cost of each of the three couponed stamps on the right edge + the edge coupon would be about \$3 plus postage or \$3.49. The cost of the entire sheetlet would be about \$20 plus postage or an estimated \$22.00.

Cut off for your request is July 31. Do not send any money until we have corresponded, but a phone number from you is a requirement.

Closed Albums

Gerald M. van Zanten

SCP Member #893

1926 - 2014



We recently lost one of the mainstays of our Society. You probably recognize the name, but most of you have never had the pleasure of meeting or knowing him. Why? Because he lived about 10,000 miles away from you -- you might say, "on the other side of the world".

My great friend and our long time SCP member, Gerald M. van Zanten, passed away peacefully at 87 after a year of declining health -- but surrounded by his wife Val and family -- on April 22, 2014 in his home town of Napier, New Zealand.

He was born on September 11, 1926, in the very small village of Oudemoelen in the province of Drenthe of The Netherlands (Holland). He attended primary school in this village, where his father was the schoolmaster of a two-room school. For high-school he had to bicycle 10km round trip each day, summer and winter. This use of a bicycle would be a constant for him on and off most of the rest of his life.

He had two brothers and a sister, but he was the adventurous and mischievous one. He snuck out on a winter's night when he should have been studying to ice skate on the frozen canals, only to fall and break his collar bone, and then could not get his outer clothing off when he got home. When war broke out there was a

German holding camp (Westerborke) nearby in the forest, and Gerald would secretly visit children who were held there, before they were transported to concentration camps in Germany -- a confusing experience for a young teenage boy. He would hide his precious bicycle from the Germans for fear that they would confiscate it.

Languages were Gerald's main interest in school where he was taught German, English, and French, which he spoke fluently. His brother was already in the Dutch army, so right after the war Gerald signed up as soon as he could, spending three years with him on Sumatra in Indonesia. Being in communications there, he never saw any "military" action -- just had to keep his rifle clean for inspections.

At the conclusion of his military service in Indonesia, he did not want to return to Holland. He was intrigued by the differences that he had seen between the bustling cities and highways of Holland with the primitive life and natural beauty of Sumatra. He heard that in New Zealand there was a better balance between the wonders of nature and the advances of civilization -- so in 1950 he caught a boat headed for adventure.

For the first year he worked on a dairy farm, but then it was off to the big city, Auckland, where he got a job with an insurance company, which transferred him to Napier -- that job lasted 30 years.

In 1956 he married his lifetime love, Val. They have two daughters, Fiona who became the chief executive of New Zealand's Blood Service, and Adele who became a school dental nurse. There are also two wonderful granddaughters -- Katie and Georgia whom Gerald loved to spend time with.

Beside his family, Gerald was a true renaissance man. He was a skilled photographer who developed and printed his own black and white photos. For exercise, he would religiously meet his friends every noon for swimming; his bicycle shows up here again, because he rode it everywhere, and he did not own a car until 1974; he and Val loved to hike and bicycle, and they walked all over both islands with Gerald taking hundreds of photos of course. He was an accomplished gardener with a large vege plot which he diligently attended every morning and night. For about 60 years he kept a daily diary where he specialized in keeping daily weather details. He was an avid reader with his real passion being history (in particular European and of course Czech history) and all forms of art.

So how did Gerald get interested in Czechoslovak stamps? Well, back in the 50's with New Zealand being so far from the rest of the world, he began listening to short-wave radio to hear voices from all over the world and was amazed that he could pick up Radio Prague's English broadcast so clearly. They requested reports on how well their reception was from around the world, he responded, and received the usual QSL card (used to report the receipt and strength of a signal). Subsequently he heard a stamp quiz, answered the three questions, and in return received a FDC with the stamps in question -- many others then followed.

After a year or so he asked Radio Prague to put an ad in a philatelic magazine for him requesting a contact there -- he had around 400 replies! A few of them he befriended. They told him of the country's history -- from Žižka to Masaryk, from White Mountain to Lidice. He learned of their literary giants, their musical and artistic heritage, and decided he had to know more of this unique country. The result was a very extensive library on Czechoslovak history and arts, and a philatelic collection which melded these two together with the country's stamps.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

About February of 1970 he joined the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and has been a very active participant since -- for 44 years. His greatest contribution without question has been his ability to write articles about the history and art behind Czechoslovak stamps. Just look him up in the *Specialist* Interactive Index, and you will find him as the author of about 125 history and art articles (including three series) and over 150 contributions of the materials for the *New Issues* column -- and this is ONLY through 2009!

As if all of this was not enough, he and his family have made one more final contribution to the Society -- Gerald's philatelic "story".

Gerald was not a traditional stamp collector. He wanted the "story behind the stamp" to be told. Thus when he added a stamp to his "collection", it was not there by itself. Rather it had souvenir sheets, FDC's, postal cards, photographs, old diagrams, maps, copies of original art work, etc., anything that dealt with the stamp, right there along with it on exhibit-sized pages that he designed himself. As a result his personal "collection" is a mixture of mint and clean used stamps, but the majority of the material is the "extra" or "story-telling" items. But what a tremendous story-teller he was.

All of his "story" has now been sent to me to be kept with the Society library. I plan to "show" various parts as a display at the library or at stamp shows in non-competitive areas (of course giving Gerald the credit as the author). I am also considering having all of his "story" scanned onto a disk so that it can be enjoyed by library users as an item to be borrowed.

What is there to show or see? Besides his collection, there are "exhibits" on Prague, Bratislava, Mucha, Masaryk, SOKOL, and Icons. But the most impressive "exhibit" is an approximately 500 page group showing the art that has appeared on Czechoslovak stamps, arranged chronologically based upon when the art was produced. Thus this "exhibit" begins with the Venus of Moravany (Paleolithic period) to modern, e.g., Andy Warhol.

Thus, even now Gerald is continuing to educate and entertain us. As one member aptly put it, "give us ten van Zantens, and our Society could supply the entire philatelic world with articles and special projects for the next decade".

Ludvik Z. Svoboda



**Gerald and his wife, Val, "in costume",
for the Art Deco party
they sponsored for their town.**

[Ed. Note: I would like to thank his daughter, Fiona Ritsma, and our former editor, Mirko Vondra, for much of this background material on Gerald.]

CZECH POSTAGE STAMPS SCORE IN THE WORLD

trans. by Lucie Harris



Fig. 1: First Place in 2010.
“Postal Museum in Prague”
 by Dušan Kállay
 and engraver Miloš Ondráček.



Fig. 2: Second Place in 2011.
“Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart”
 by Marina Richterová
 and engraver Martin Srb.

‘The most beautiful stamp in the world’ and ‘the second most beautiful stamp in the world’ – awards at the most respected international competition Gran Prix de l’exposition WIPA in Vienna confirm that the direction of Czech stamp production is going in the right direction.

The stamp “Postal Museum” (Fig. 1) won the Grand Prix de l’exposition WIPA in 2012, and a year earlier “Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart” (Fig. 2) was announced by the judges as the second most beautiful stamp in the world in 2011. [Third place was won in 2009 by the souvenir sheet “Křivoklátsko” (Fig. 3).]

As always, postal administrations can sign up at the most only one entry in the prestigious competition connected with the world exposition WIPA in Vienna. The Czech Post chose the letter-denominated stamp “Postal Museum” from the Slovakian artist Dušan Kállay, which was engraved by Miloš Ondráček. With 122 points, this stamp scored first place ahead of the second place Liechtenstein stamp (115 points) and the third place Slovak stamp (99 points). In the top ten, the next places were from the

postal administrations of Sweden, The Vatican, Ukraine, Croatia, Russia, Germany, and Iceland.

The victory in Vienna was not the first award for the postage stamp “Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart” -- created by the artist Marina Richterová and linearly sketched by Martin Srb -- (by the way, her stamp “Franz Kafka” will be unveiled at this year’s Sběratel fair). Last year it was already successful by placing third in prestigious competition with 250 stamps from around the world held by the Music Thematic Group during a conference of German and American philatelists.

[Ed. Note: The *Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from *Sběratel*.]



Fig. 3: Third Place in 2009. "Křivoklátsko" by husband and wife Jaromír and Libuše Knotkov and engraver Martin Srb.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

1. In the previous issue, we omitted including several figures that went along with 3 of the first 4 issues of the year. Fig.1 shows the two labels that can be found in the booklet for the 13 Kč stamp “Tradition of Czech Stamp Design -- Ladislav Jirka”. Fig. 2 is the illustration on the FDC for that issue. Fig. 3 is the illustration on the FDC for the 25 Kč stamp “Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014”. And, Fig. 4 is the illustration on the FDC for the 13 Kč stamp “Winter Paralympics in Sochi 2014”.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

2. On March 5, 2014, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Historical Vehicles series: Aircraft of Eugen Čihák -- Rapid, 1912 (Fig. 5). The stamp depicts the aircraft of Eugen Čihák: Rapid, 1912. Eugen Čihák was born on May 31, 1885 in Croatia, but the family moved to Pardubice where Čihák graduated from business school. He then worked at the Laurin & Klement factory in Mladá Boleslav. Čihák and his cousin Jan Kašpar, the first Czech aviator, began work on the development and production of their first airplane. In 1913 Jan Kašpar left his aviation career because of the lack of an international aviation diploma and a functioning machine, and Eugen Čihák was thus thrust to the forefront of the media attention. Čihák made his first flight on July 16, 1911, but due to technical problems had to land prematurely. During 1911 - 1914, Čihák completed 33 flights. On May 7, 1913 Čihák earned an international pilot diploma FAI with the serial number 51. However, his aviation career was not renewed after WW I. He held several jobs including as an aircraft

mechanic and later as the manager of the airport in Kbely a Ruzyne. He died on May 8, 1958 in Prague. In his lifetime Eugen Čihák constructed 16 aircraft. His most successful model was the Rapid at the end of 1912, which at that time reached the remarkable speed of 130 km/h. The stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces (in a combination of 25 pieces showing the aircraft of Eugen Čihák: Rapid, 1912 and 25 pieces showing the prototype of the first Czechoslovak vehicle for the Prague Metro). A FDC in sky-blue shows a technical drawing of the aircraft (Fig. 6).

3. On March 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Historical Vehicles series: Prototype of the First Czechoslovak Vehicle for the Prague Metro (Fig. 7). The stamp depicts the prototype of the first Czechoslovak vehicle for the Prague Metro. The R1 train was originally developed by the CKD company for the Prague Metro, but they never got to use it. Development of the train started in 1968 and had to be finished in 1971. A major limitation on the design was related to the weight, because the Nuselský (at that time called Gottwald) bridge was not built for very heavy loads. The vehicle was made from light aluminum alloys and fiberglass, and it was very fashionably designed. Unfortunately, the two prototypes that were produced (although they made it through all of the operating and loading tests on the test tracks) never experienced any passenger trials. By coincidence, due to someone releasing the brakes (never



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

explained), one of the trains crashed into the other and both trains were destroyed. Only two undamaged cars from both of the trains were transported to the Technical Museum in Brno. Thus, for years afterward, the Prague Metro was supplied by vehicles of the old-fashioned EČS construction company and then the Russian firm Mitišči. Due to the heavy Soviet trains the railway grade of the Nuselský bridge had to be strengthened. The stamp was designed by Jiří Dufek, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces (in a combination of 25 pieces showing the aircraft of Eugen Čihák: Rapid, 1912 and 25 pieces showing the prototype of the first Czechoslovak vehicle for the Prague Metro). A FDC in black showing a stylized drawing of the technical drawing of the springing of the axle's wheel of the R1 train (Fig. 8).

4. On March 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp for 150 Years of Czech Fire Fighting (Fig. 9). On the stamp is depicted a historic fire truck and a fire fighter extinguishing a house fire. The struggle of man against fire is a story which covers the whole of human history. More specifically it is the effort to control fire. That is on account of the fact that fire has had great significance in the development of society and has become one of the elements of civilization. The early days of fire fighting date back to the 10th century BC, when the builder Vitruvius describes that 200 years before the learned Ktesibius of Alexandria made a fire pump. These fire fighting devices were basically used in Egypt, Rome and the Roman occupied territories -- basically with various improvements until the 18th century. Large fires in medieval towns led the rulers and leaders of cities to publish guidelines on how to prevent fires and extinguish them. Here the guilds played a great role -- they were assigned the task of coming up with the means and method of assisting in extinguishing fires (for example, the "About Fires" statute of the City of Prague from the 14th century). In the subsequent centuries, feudal estates followed similar guidance, where fire instructions were essentially the same, only more detailed. The efforts of Empress Marie Therese to create a strong, centralized state governance, was also echoed in fire protection when in 1751 fire extinguishing rules were issued. An important change was brought about by the invention of the steam engine, which greatly influenced the development of fire fighting equipment -- steam fire engines were more powerful and allowed water to be transported over long distances. But they were expensive and required professional service, which resulted in large cities and factories setting up groups of professional staff which were in charge of extinguishing fires. The revolutionary year of 1848 brought about a certain loosening up in



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Austria, including the right of association and the right of assembly. In smaller towns, which had no money to outfit paid fire departments, the formation of volunteer fire departments gradually occurred. The first Czech fire brigade in Bohemia was founded in 1864 in Velvary. Of great importance for the further development of voluntary firemen in the Czech Republic was the aid of the members of the Prague congregation of paid fire fighters who were allowed to conduct training outside Prague fire brigades. At that time physical training/fire units arose in many places, which later split into Sokol and volunteer fire fighters. The stamp was designed by Adolf Born, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows a caricature of a former fire fighter with water coming out of his handlebar mustache to put out two house fires (Fig. 10).

5. On March 26, 2014, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp in the Personalities series: Bohumil Hrabal (1914-1997)(Fig. 11). Bohumil Hrabal (born Bohumil František Kylián in Brno) was a Czech prose writer, one of the greatest and most original writers of the second half of the 20th century -- in fact he became the most translated Czech author of that century. He was born to a single mother, Mary Kylianová, and an officer in the Austrian army Bohumil Blecha, who, however, denied his fatherhood. He received the name Bohumil Hrabal after his stepfather, whom his mother later married. After graduating from secondary school -- which he finished with difficulty, having failed several times -- he studied at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague, but also attended lectures on the history of literature, art, and philosophy. Due to the closure of universities during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia he was not able to complete his studies until 1946. He became a professional writer in 1963, and in 1965 became a member of the Union of Czechoslovak Writers. After 1970, he could not officially publish for several years and so his works were published in samizdat periodicals and exile publishing houses. In 1975, he published a short self-critical statement in the weekly *Tvorba* (Creation) on the basis of which he was partially, under the supervision of authorities, allowed to publish again. Many of his works were published by the samizdat publisher *Pražská Imaginace* (Prague Imagination) from 1985. Many of Hrabal's books were successfully adapted for screen, and the 1966 adaptation of *Ostře sledované vlaky* (Closely Watched Trains), directed by Jiří Menzel, received the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. He received numerous literary awards for his works. For example, his novel *Přilís Hlučná Samota* (Too Loud a Solitude) won an Italian, a Hungarian, and the George



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

Theiner Award; the novel *Obsluhoval Jsem Anglického Krále* (I Served the King of England) won the National Prize of the Czech Republic and a French distinction; and also the Jaroslav Seifert Prize, the Czech title of Merited Artist, and the Václav Havel Medal “For Merit”. He died in 1997 in Prague, falling to his death from a window on the fifth floor of the orthopedic clinic of the hospital where he was being treated. The stamp was designed by Marina Richterová, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in grey and light brown in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black-grey depicts a boy symbolically connected to a “word balloon” that contains words from Hrabal’s work *Skřivánci Na Niti* (Larks on a String)(Fig. 12).



Fig. 13

6. On March 26, 2014, the Ministry issued a 21 Kč commemorative stamp in the Personalities series: Prof. Zdeněk Kopal RNDr. (1914-1993)(Fig. 13). Prof. RNDr. Zdeněk Kopal, DrSc. (4 April 1914 in Litomyšl -- 23 June 1993 in Wilmslow, UK) was a Czech astronomer and astrophysicist, famous also in the fields of numerical mathematics, ballistics, and aerodynamics. His most important scientific work was related to variable

stars, especially close eclipsing binary stars, and he researched the Moon and terrestrial planets. He is considered the most significant Czech astronomer of the 20th century. When is was a small boy, his grandfather awoke his interest in the natural sciences. So it was not surprising that at the age of only fifteen, when his family moved to Prague, he joined the Czech Astronomical Society. There at the Štefánik observatory, he began his research on variable stars and, still a high school student, he published several scholarly articles in international scientific journals. In 1933 he enrolled in the study of mathematics, physics, and astronomy at the Faculty of Natural Science at Charles University. During his studies he participated in the congress of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) in



Fig. 14

Paris in 1935, where he was immediately accepted as a member on the basis of the works he had already published. In 1937 he graduated from the university and was awarded a prestigious scholarship which enabled his further studies in Cambridge, United Kingdom, with the famous astrophysicist, Sir Arthur Eddington. In 1938, he and his wife went on a scholarship-funded research trip to the Harvard Observatory in Cambridge, MA. However, during the ship voyage they received news of the Munich Agreement and decided to stay in the USA. He worked at Cambridge on the issue of light curves of binary stars, and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on problems of ballistics and aerodynamics for the US Army. He was elected an honorary member of the Czech Astronomical Society and the astronomical societies in Liverpool, Salford and Manchester. He received honorary

doctorates from several universities. The Manchester Astronomical Society has been organizing the annual Kopal lecture in his memory. In 2007, the Czech Astronomical Society followed its example and also established a Kopal lecture to honor him. In the Czech Republic he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1968 and a silver medal at Charles University in 1991. Professor Kopal died on 23 June 1993 in Manchester. He was buried in Vyšehrad alongside other greats of Czech science and the arts. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Suchánek, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark blue depicts an observatory with a night star-filled sky in the background (Fig. 14).

7. On March 26, 2014, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp in the Beauties of Our Country series: The Červená Lhota Chateau (Fig. 15). Červená Lhota is a Renaissance water-side chateau in the eastern part of South Bohemia north of the Jindřichův Hradec region. The chateau is located on a rock which became an island in the chateau pond after the damming of the valley and the increase in the water level. The chateau consists of an enclosed four-wing layout around a square courtyard. Above the entrance there is a tower. An access road leads to the chateau across a stone bridge. The stronghold was owned by the Lhotec family of Zásmyky from the second half of the 14th century. However, the first written mention dates from as late as 1465; the Land Registry shows the division of the inherited property between Václav and Petr of Zásmyky. Jan Kába of Rybnany bought it in 1530 and had the old Gothic fortress converted into a more comfortable Renaissance chateau, known afterwards as Nová Lhota. It was sold in 1597 and reconstructed in late Renaissance style and its façade painted red. This is the reason for its current name -- Červená, or "Red" Lhota. The chateau was purchased by new owners toward the end of the 1500's, but since they were Ultraquists the property was confiscated from them after the Battle of White Mountain in 1620, even though they had not participated in the uprising of Bohemian noblemen. In the 1660 time frame, new owners reconstructed it in the Baroque style which turned the aristocratic residence into a summer palace, where



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

the owner would commute from nearby Jindřichův Hradec. Over the years since then the chateau has gone through a number of owners (even German imperial princes) and reconstructions. The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in yellow, pink, green, red, and black in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC in red-brown depicts a detail of the decoration of the facade in the chateau (Fig. 16).

8. On April 30, 2014, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series: National Musical Instruments -- Chodsko Bagpipes (Fig. 17). This annual issue, the same for all countries of the PostEurop organization, has the theme -- National Musical Instruments. Chodsko bagpipes were selected for the Czech Republic. Bagpipes (also known as bock or pukl) are an ancient folk musical instrument used, in a historically known form, as far back as ancient Greece. Originally they were simple wind instruments, which probably originated more than 4000 years ago in Egypt and the Near East. From there they gradually spread with herdsmen, but also with numerous Arab-Turkish raids into Europe, where we find the most of their forms and types -- many European nations have their own names for them, as well as their own modifications of them. Bagpipes are wind instruments. The function of the instrument is based on pumping air through the blacksmith bellows located in the left armpit of the musician to the leather bellows under the right arm, where air flows through the apparatus (the so-called piskor) to the reeds in the pipes with holes. Through the vibration of the reed(s) the sound and tone are produced by uncovering one hole (so-called closed fingering) of the pipe with the fingers, just as it is the case of recorders. They are most often tuned in the key of E flat major, while bagpipes are often also used in the tune of C major (more in Moravia). Scottish bagpipes work on a somewhat different principle where



Fig. 17

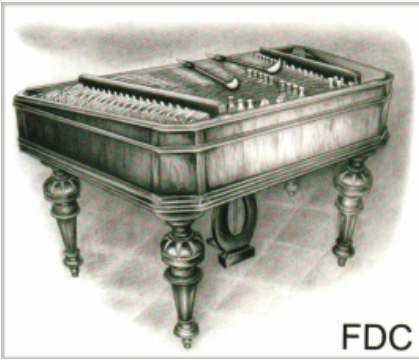


Fig. 18

the air doesn't pump into the bellows of the instruments mechanically, but is only blown in through the mouth. The sound of the bagpipes is bleating and on the front pipe (the so-called přednička) Czech bagpipes play on only eight notes, giving the sound its monotony. Another special feature is the presence of one or more rear pipes -- called huk or bordun, which continuously play a one or two octaves deeper tone, which is combined with varying tones on the front pipes. Bagpipes still have many admirers. Czech bagpipes were made most famous by bagpipers from the Chodsko and Strakonice regions.

In the Czech Republic there are several good folk ensembles and the International Bagpipe Festival is held biennially in Strakonice. The stamp was designed by Vlasta Matoušová, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in dark brown, orange, yellow, and ocher in printing sheets of 6 pieces. A FDC in brown-red depicts a musical instrument called a cimbal (Fig. 18).

9. On April 30, 2014, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp for 200 Years of Museology: Opava 1814 -- The Silesian Land Museum (Fig. 19). On the stamp is depicted in the background the façade of the Historical Exhibition Building of the Silesian Museum in Opava, with the figure of Génius in the foreground. At the beginning of the 19th century, Opava was an important administrative center housing the regional offices, courts, and estate institutions of the principality of Opava and Krnov. It was at that time that Opava particularly strengthened its position as the intellectual center of Austrian Silesia. There were several schools of different types of education, with mainly a state gymnasium located in a former Jesuit college boasting the best results. This gymnasium became the place where the oldest public museum in the territory of today's Czech Republic came into being about May, 1814. The response to the museum soon led to submitting



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

an official application for approval as the Provincial Museum for Austrian Silesia whose principal objective was the study of the nature and culture of Austrian Silesia. This museum is now not only the oldest public museum in today's Czech Republic, but also the third largest. The building on the stamp housed the former Museum of Emperor Franz Joseph for Arts and Crafts and was designed in 1893. The statue of the winged Génius by the Viennese sculptor decorates the dome of the building. The stamps was designed by Eva Hašková, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in grey-green, red, and yellow in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black depicts the church of St. Adalbert with cloistral buildings (Fig. 20).



Fig. 21

10. On May 28, 2014, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Technical Monuments series for the Handmade Paper Mill in Velké Losiny (Fig. 21). In 2002 the Paper Mill in Velké Losiny was declared a National Historic Landmark. This is one of the oldest paper-making factories in Europe. Jan the younger of Žerotín had it built in the late 16th century. The existence of the paper mill is commemorated by the oldest known watermark with the date 1596 A.D. The coat of arms of the lords of Žerotín is on it -- a lion with a crown of three hills. In 1729 the Žerotín's purchased a new technical innovation called a Hollander for the preparation of pulp from flax and cotton. Today's paper mill building dates from the turn of the 18th/19th century. It has a unique multi-storied mansard roof covered with shingles. In 1949 the paper mill became part of the national enterprise Olšanské paper mills in paper production in the Šumperk region. This complex is now one of the oldest still operating businesses of its kind in Europe. Handmade paper is still produced there from cotton and linen, using the traditional procedure. It has been used for centuries for its high quality and durability mainly in the visual arts, for significant personal and business correspondence, ceremonial purposes, and also for art and restoration practices. This handmade paper has gained a permanent place of popularity with supporters of traditional Czech handicrafts. The stamp was

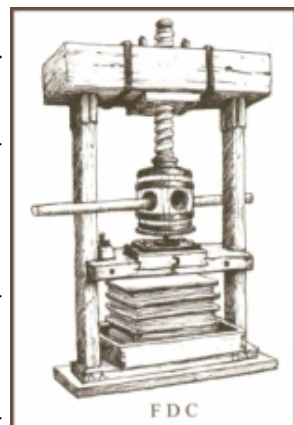


Fig. 22

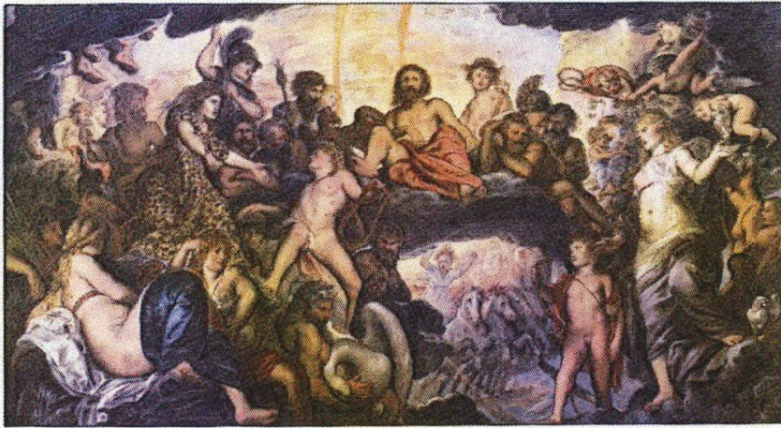
designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in brown combined with photogravure in ocher in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, also philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 2x2 different labels are issued. Two labels feature the portal and the gate to the paper mill with the date 1825. Two other labels show a raceway of the stream from the time when the paper mill worked on the water drive. A FDC in brown-black shows a hand press (Fig. 22).

11. On May 28, 2014, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with two identical stamps in the denomination of 37 Kč in the Prague Castle series for Peter Paul Rubens' painting *Assembly of Olympian Gods* (Fig. 23). The souvenir sheet displays the painting on top and the two stamps on the bottom each depicting a detail from that painting. Peter Paul Rubens (28 June 1577, Siegen -- 30 May 1640, Antwerp) was a Flemish painter, one of the world's greatest painters in history, a master of the Baroque style, and the most important Flemish painter of the 17th century. He was born to the successful family of the Protestant lawyer, Jan Rubens. The family was living in Siegen forcibly for five years because of the father's alleged infidelity with Anna of Saxony (the wife of William I of Orange). Two years after his father's death, the family moved to Antwerp where they converted to Catholicism. Religious motifs were most important in his later work. In 1600 he went to Italy, visited Venice, Rome, and Genoa, and studied classical art and learned by copying the works of Italian masters -- his style was heavily influenced by Titian. Later, he returned to Antwerp where he painted *The Elevation of the Cross* (1610) and *The Descent from the Cross* (1611-14) for the Cathedral of Our Lady which ranked him as one of the most acclaimed Flemish painters. From 1621 to 1633 he actively participated in many diplomatic meetings. The Spanish King Philip IV entrusted him with the challenge of achieving a convergence between Spain and England. To Rubens credit a peace treaty between England and Spain was actually signed. The English King Charles I knighted him for this effort. He died at age 63 and is buried in the Church of St. James in Antwerp.



Fig. 24

The picture *Assembly of Olympian Gods* belongs to Rubens' early works from the year 1602 and probably depicts a dispute between Venus and Juno. It is possible that for its great dimensions and the elongated shape it was placed on the ceiling of a room of Prague Castle, where it survived the looting of the Swedish army in 1648. The souvenir sheet with its stamps was engraved by Miloš Ondráček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black, red, brown ocher, and blue. A FDC in black-brown depicts Rubens' self-portrait (Fig. 24).



PETER PAUL RUBENS - SHROMÁŽDĚNÍ OLYMPSKÝCH BOHŮ



Fig. 23

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SLOVAKIA
by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 27

12. On March 10, 2014, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a commemorative 0.45€ stamp for Easter 2014; Crucifixion -- Stained Glass Windows of Romanticism. The stamp shows a stained glass window depicting the Crucifixion of Christ. The Monastery of the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit of Marianka, near Bratislava, has represented one of the most famous places of pilgrimage of western Slovakia, ever since the Middle Ages. The beginnings of the worshipping of the miraculous marian sculpture have been supported by reliable evidence since 1377, when a Gothic church was built there. However, according to legends, Miraculous events were dated even earlier, and the sculpture was preserved until the current day and is much older. Nonetheless, the most important buildings of the complex were constructed only after the Turkish wars at the end of the 17th century. Later on, they were quite frequently subject to various renovations. In connection with miracles, thanks to which the place became popular, the Chapel of the Holy Well holds an exceptionally important status. Its stained glass windows were a part of an area renovation phase, taking place at the turn of the 19th and 20th Century. A window scene depicting the Crucifixion embodies a simplified version of Calvary. Figures of the Virgin Mary of Sorrows and St. Evangelist are both standing on both sides of the Crucified. On the horizon, a view of the city of Jerusalem can be seen, while clouds in the background increase

a dramatic tone of the composition. From the point of view of style, it is a typical example of eclectic historicism from the end of the 19th century. While the composition and figural parts reflect a direct inspiration from a Neo-Renaissance painting (Pre-Raphaelists), rich decorations of margins, combination of a grid and cartouches represent heritage of Rococo Ornaments. There is a Latin quotation from St. John's Gospel in the top title cartouche, while a smaller bottom one includes a dedication note. 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 drawing of the same window (Fig. 27).

13. On March 31, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp in the Personalities series: Štefan Osusky (1889 - 1973). Štefan Osusky, a native from Brezová pod Bradlom and co-founder of the Czechoslovak Republic, was the most significant Slovak diplomat of this time. His Slovak patriotism brought him into several conflicts with the Hungarization process. This resulted in his expulsion from all schools throughout the Kingdom of Hungary. Having moved to his relatives in the USA, he achieved a doctorate in law and became involved with the Slovak League, the most significant patriot organization. As its chairman, Osusky participated in the coordination of the start of the Czechoslovak resistance during WW I. Working in close cooperation with T.G. Masaryk, M.R. Štefánik, and E. Beneš of the Czechoslovak National Council, he made a significant contribution to the formation of the Czechoslovak Republic. As the Secretary General of the Czechoslovak delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, he signed the Treaty of



Fig. 28

Trianon with Hungary in 1920. He then became the ambassador in France for almost two decades. At the same time he was a representative of the Czechoslovak Republic in the League of Nations, where he held key functions. In 1939, he refused to give up the embassy to German diplomats and began to organize the resistance. After the surrender of France, he became the Minister of the exiled government in London; however, due to disputes with President Beneš, he was dismissed from the position. They did not agree on the issue of an adequate position of emancipating Slovakia in the post-war republic. After the end of the war, he returned to the USA, where he lectured at a university, and after the formation of the Communist totality, he was engaged in the exile Council of Free Czechoslovakia. He principally refused fascism and communism, and was actively struggling for the renewal of democracy in the countries subjugated by the Communist totality. He was awarded the Order of T.G. Masaryk of Class I in memoriam in 1992, and the Order of the White Double Cross of Class II in 2001. His life and work were recorded by historian Slavomír Michálek in his book, "Diplomat Štefan Osuský". The stamp was designed by Dušan Nagel, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC shows a drawing of a columnar building with a fashion pen in the foreground (Fig. 28).

14. On April 17, 2014, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series for Historic Motorcycles. The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing in a printing sheets containing 50 stamps -- 25 of each.

-- 1.10€: MANET M90. After canceling automobile production (1936), Zbrojovka (Brno) was looking for a supplementary civil program. "Motorwheel", a small motorcycle following the tradition of bicycle production, was considered. Ing. Josef Ullman came up with the design. He finished the first prototype "Z 2" in 1939. However, it was actually a small motorcycle with a 98 cm³ engine. Further work was interrupted by the Nazi occupation; however Ing. Ullman secretly carried on with the project. Production of this version was ready by 1945. In 1946, prototypes successfully passed their tests. Mass production of this motorcycle named MANET 90 (named after a hill called Manín) was initiated in 1947. It was the first Czechoslovakian post-war motorcycle, as well as the first mass produced motor vehicle in Slovakia. The motorcycle had a simple and attractive design and was equipped with a double-pistoned engine that was based on the arrangement of two vertical working cylinders in a row, along with a shared combustion area (Garelli patent). It had a three-stage gearbox and a multi-disc clutch working in an oil sump. Riding comfort was assured by the front-wheel telescopic fork and suspended driver's seat. Maximum speed was 65 km/h. The Manet 90 was greatly enjoyed from its beginnings, and it significantly contributed to motoring in post-war Slovakia. Total production was 37,630 through its completion in 1951. Nevertheless, very few of them remain today, which is why it is valued and sought-after by motorcycle veterans. The stamp was designed by Marián Komáček and engraved by Lubomír Žálec. A FDC shows an overhead drawing of the front of the motorcycle showing the range of its turning ability (Fig. 29).

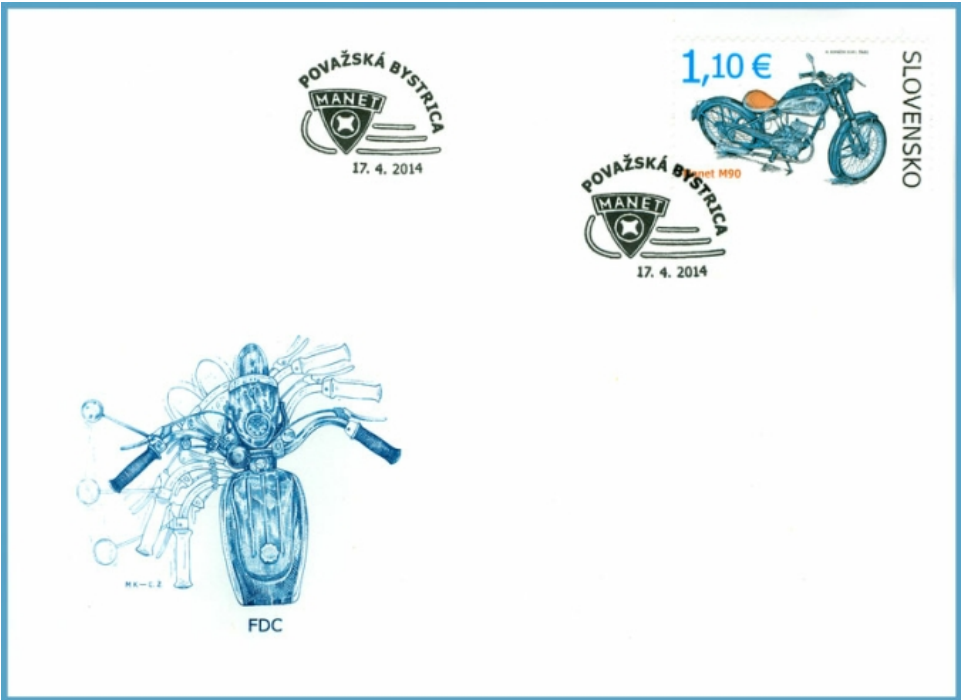


Fig. 29

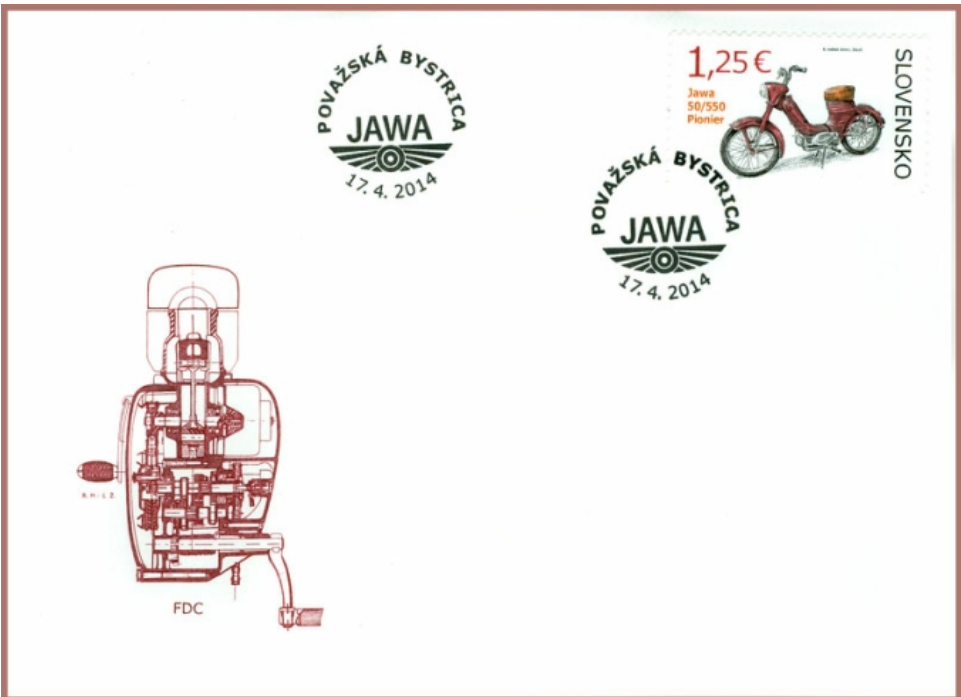


Fig. 30

-- 1.25€: JAWA 50/550 Pionier. Three men from the JAWA company, Dr. Frei (technical director), Josef Joziff (design engineer), and Jan Křivka (motorcycle rider) participated in the creation of the legendary small motorcycle produced by this world-renowned company. While the original project began in 1947, the first prototype of “the fifty”, named 359, was not created until 1954. Production began in April 1955 in the Považské Strojárne in Považská Bystrica, where the MANET 90 had been produced before. It was here that it got its “public” name Pionier as well as its type name of 50/550. It was powered by a two-stroke air cooled flat engine that could propel it to 45 km/h. Torque was transmitted by a multi-plate clutch with a three-stage gearbox in an oil sump. The frame was open in order to enable for comfort in getting on and for riding especially for female passengers in skirts. It became a favorite means of transportation for a broad range of motorcycle riders, particularly the youth. In 1958 it went through a modernization (type 555), which included enhanced performance parameters and even more enjoyable appearance. The key Pionier concepts were used in its followers -- JAWA 05 (1962), JAWA 20 and 21 sport (1967), and finally the sports type JAWA 23 Mustang (1968). They were produced until the 1980’s, when only Babeta mopeds were being produced in Považské Strojárne. The stamp was designed by Robert Makar and engraved by Lubomír Žálec. A FDC shows an “internal” drawing of the gear-box of the motorcycle (Fig. 30).

15. On May 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series: National Musical Instruments -- Three Drones Bagpipes (Fig. 35). Bagpipes are a folk musical instrument of a very ancient Near Eastern origin. They were known by the Ancient Greeks, Romans, and Nordic nationalities. The Slavs in the Pannonian basin knew them in the 8th century, and there is evidence of the bagpipes being in Slovakia in the 14th century. In the 18th century the bagpipes were a fashionable instrument in France where their pastoral sound characterized well the fashionable interest in imitation of the village life. Today the bagpipes are mainly used in Scotland (the bagpipe choirs being apart of military bands), on Sicily, in Romania, in the Czech Republic (mainly in the Domažlice and Strakonice regions), and in Slovakia, where the bagpipes are the typical musical instrument of the shepherd culture. They are most popular in the Orava, Pohronie, and Gemer regions. There are many types of bagpipe construction. The melody is created in the so-called chanter with a tonal range from six to eight tones. In the case of a more complex instrument, bagpipes can have more pipes. In the 14th century, bagpipes started to be equipped with one to three so-called bourdon pipes (drones), with the help of which the instrument could sound uninterrupted intervals of the base note (alternatively a fifth, etc.) using the bourdon concept. The bleat sound and diatonic melody of the bagpipes accompanied by a constant bourdon base tone are often ornamented by sharp thirds, etc. Bagpipes can be tuned in different ways, since the length of the individual pipes also varies. The air supply to all of the pipes is guaranteed by an air bag made of animal skin. A musician can regulate the air supply by applying elbow pressure to the bag, which is tied to the upper arm by a leather string and released or pressured by shoulder movement. Incoming air causes the vibration of a delicate tongue, wrapped around by a string and attached to a hollow tube with one end



Fig. 31

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sealed (similar to that of a clarinet). Throughout Slovakia the bagpipes with three drones are the most popular, while in Central Slovakia bagpipes with four or five drones are also known, and in the Orava region the Goral bagpipes with only two drones can be found. The stamp showing a three-drone bagpipe was designed by Kamila Štanclová and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC shows a sketch of an artisan carving a pipe (drone)(Fig. 31).

16. On May 23, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp in the Personalities series for Pavol Horov (1914-1975). As a poet, Pavol Horov followed in the tradition of modern Slovak poetry. His poems were inspired by symbolism and surrealism. He tended to create his own individual style. He is often considered to be a “poet of home”, since the key motif of his poems are his homeland around Zemplín and the plains of Eastern Slovakia, and because his poetic language and elements contain many words from local Eastern Slovak dialects. His poetry can be divided into three periods: the first occurred during the 1940’s, when he was reacting to the horrors of the war and human suffering; the second came about after the war and could be called his “sunny” collection of poems; while the third period included both poems and books that were inspired by his impressions from a journey to Italy, and from elements of self-reflection and evaluation of his life. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC shows a drawing of a stylized bird attacking on the ground (Fig. 32).



Fig. 32

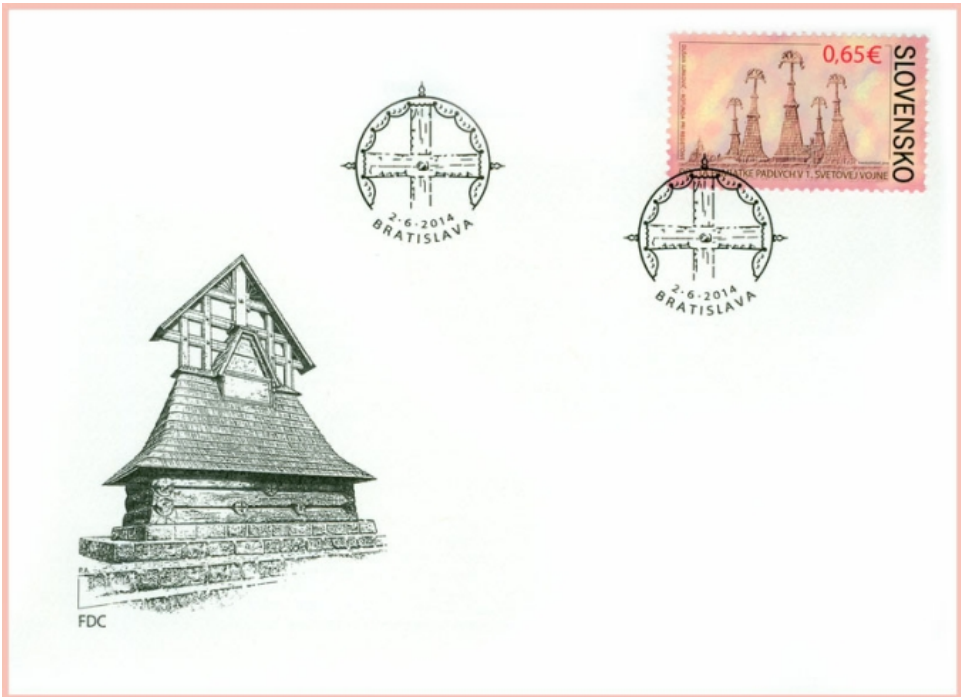


Fig. 33

17. On June 2, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.65€ commemorative stamp in the Historical Anniversary series to Honor the Memory of Fallen Soldiers of World War I. The assassination of the Austro-Hungarian successor to the throne, Franz Ferdinand d'Este, in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914 released the accumulated animosities between individual European powers grouped into the two enemy camps of the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance. In just a month, on July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, which was accused of plotting the assassination. In order to protect Serbia, Russia reacted against Austria-Hungary, which was immediately followed by a declaration of war on Russia by Germany. The war took place on three continents, in the Mediterranean, and on the oceans. WW I represented the first great war of the industrial age; however, the tactical maturity of the armies did not correspond to this. That is why it quickly turned into a long trench war in which soldiers were dying in the thousands without a noticeable sense of military success. The consequences of the war were not only felt by the soldiers on the front, but also by the civilian population in the rear -- food and resource shortages, plus the advent of long-range artillery and aircraft bombing damage and destruction. The war ended with the signing of an armistice on November 11, 1918. By the end of the war, the political systems of Europe were in disarray. The four Empires (Russian, German, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman) ceased to exist, and new national states were formed. Approximately ten million soldiers and seven million civilians died in WW I. From the lands of Slovakia, about 400,000 soldiers, of which almost 70,000 were killed, were in uniform.

Already during the war, the Austro-Hungarian authorities had several memorials designed for the fallen soldiers of the WW I battlefields. The Art Nouveau architect Dušan Jurkovič was one of those chosen to design them. Jurkovič constructed several of these memorials which inspired not only the image on the postage stamp (Regietów), but also the one shown on the FDC (Przełęcz Małastowska). Through the postage stamp issuance, Slovenská Pošta, a.s., memorializes the senseless victims of the war to remember and warn for the future. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in sheets of 10 pieces. A FDC was issued (Fig. 33).

18. On June 6, 2014, the Ministry issued a T2 50g denominated stamp with a coupon for personalization entitled Medicinal Plants. The coupon can be personalized by an individual or by a business for advertizing. The first stamp with a coupon for personalizing was issued by the Australian postal service on the occasion of the international exhibition of postal stamps in Melbourne in 1999. The first such stamp issued in Slovakia on July 4, 2002, and was entitled “Congratulations”. Production of such a postage stamp with a personalized coupon can be easily and quickly ordered by a customer through an application on www.mojznamka.sk. This stamp was designed by Katarína Macurová and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using offset in printing sheets of 8 stamps and coupons (Fig. 34).



Fig. 34

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