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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BOOK SALES MANAGER: I'm pleased to inform the Society that member James Buckner responded to my request for a member to fill the position of Book Sales Manager. You can find his contact information on page two [and the back cover of this issue of the Specialist. Thank you, James, for volunteering to provide this valuable service to the members of our Society. Mr. Buckner replaces Sam Horvath, who had to resign as the Book Sales Manager after many years of admirable service to the Society. Sam established and maintained a model for prompt response to member requests for publications that sets a standard for all future Book Sales Managers. We could always count on him to provide us with the latest books on our collecting interest areas through his excellent contacts in the Czech Republic, and of course his extensive abilities in speaking, reading, and writing Czech. We know that he will continue to support James with these activities. Thank you, Sam, for all your efforts on behalf of our members. We hope that you will enjoy this extra time with Mary Anne, the rest of your family, and your hunts for mushrooms. (Continued on Page 3.)

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

- 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 James Buckner. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the *Specialist*. For further information, contact James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606, email wellseats@hotmail.com
- 3. A Society library is housed with Ludvik Svoboda, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past *Specialist's* 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).
- THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official quarterly publication of the Society.
 For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Syoboda (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, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117, 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.

NEW SOCIETY DIRECTOR: The second member to volunteer, Mr. Jaroslav (Jerry) Havel, has agreed to serve as a Director on the Society's Board of Directors. Thank you, Jerry, for taking on this vital responsibility for the Society. As a Director, Jerry will help guide and develop the Society to the benefit of its members. Jerry will assume the remaining term of office of Mr. Alan Hoover, who recently resigned. For many years, Alan oversaw the Society's Sales Circuits that, unfortunately, have been suspended because of the lack of philatelic materials. Over the years, besides offering great philatelic items to our members, the Circuits provided financial resources to the Society at a time of need. Those results are directly attributable to Alan's diligent efforts and his willingness to devote considerable time to the endeavor. All of Alan's contributions to our Society have reflected his attention to detail to ensure a successful outcome. Thank you, Alan, for all that you did to make our Society the responsive, financially stable, and beneficial organization that it is today.

<u>SOCIETY DIRECTOR VACANCY</u>: Due to the passing of long time Society member, Mr. Olech Wyslotsky, we have another vacancy on our Board of Directors. Please give serious consideration to serving the Society as a Director. If you think that you might be interested and want detailed information regarding the responsibilities of a Director, please contact me to discuss them.

GRAPHIC ARTIST: The recent Olech Wyslotsky also provided another important service to our Society utilizing his skills as a graphic artist. The designs for the Society's awards, ribbons, and annual cachets have all been the result of his personal efforts. If you possess such graphic artist skills, please step forward and volunteer to perform this important role on behalf of the Society. We are in the midst of the 100 year anniversaries of numerous significant events leading up to the eventual founding of Czechoslovakia (1918). It would be a great loss if the Society for Czechoslovak Philately was unable to properly commemorate these events during its annual conventions in these coming years. So please step up and help us.

SOCIETY LITERATURE AWARD: Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the details of a program that the Society's Board of Directors recently approved to establish a Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) Literature Award. Our intent is to encourage our members to share their philatelic interests and expertise in order to both inform our members and also enhance their philatelic pursuits. One of the best ways for you to become more knowledgeable about an issue of particular interest to you is to perform the necessary research to write an article on that issue. Each of us has a particular issue or period of Czechoslovak philately that has a special appeal to us. If you feel that you require help (e.g., translation, references, etc.) to address a topic, please contact me, and I'll either provide the needed information or refer you to a member who can assist you.

As always, we who serve the Society are eager to hear your ideas for enhancing it and the services that it provides to its members. Please take the time to contribute your thoughts and, especially, your efforts.

Richard G. Palaschak, President

PRINTER'S WASTE

by Lubor Kunc

[Having wondered about this for years and having come across some in a recent collection which I bought, I decided to go to one of our members in the Czech Republic to try to get the correct story. So I sent the following e-mail to Lubor Kunc in Prague:

"What is known about how printer's waste (makulatory) got into circulation? Were they stolen by printery workers? One story we have heard is that they were smuggled out by string or rope up a chimney to an accomplice on the roof. Another is that philatelic organizations were given groups of them for members. Is there any agreement? Anything in the Czechoslovak philatelic press (Filatelie, etc.) about this?

Also, why would some of them have gum? Possibly done by someone (after being stolen) to make them seem more "official" or a "printing mistake"?"

Ludvik]

Ludviku,

If we speak about Hradčany and typographic printers waste, the reality is less romantic. No smuggling from the factory, no chimney, but an official deal.

You might know the name of Mr. Jaroslav Lešetický. He was one of the first Czechoslovak stamp experts and a leading spirit of Klub Českých Filatelistů. He was also one of the persons involving Alfons Mucha into drawing of the first Czechoslovak stamps. Because of his professional experience, Lešetický was soon hired by the newly born Czechoslovak Post Office to act as an adviser for the stamp area. In the current world this would be horrible breaking of Chinese walls, but consider the new country like Czechoslovakia has no experience with stamp printing, because all the stamps were printed in Vienna before 1918.

One of the ideas of Lešetický (the Collector) was that the post office should sell the "makulatura" to the stamp collectors. He checked with the members of Klub Českých Filatelistů and after receiving the positive feedback, he proposed this as Lešetický (the Postal Official) to the post office management. Because the post office was looking for every potential revenue (imagine the operational problems in 1919-1920, when the old postal world was destroyed and Czechoslovakia had no final borders accepted by the neighboring states). Surprisingly, the post office approved this transaction and Lešetický was nominated to the function of project manager. There was signed an official agreement between Klub Českých Filatelistů and the Czechoslovak Post Office specifying the volume (weight) of the makulatury to be delivered to the Klub members. The Klub distributed the makulatura to the subscribing collectors for a fixed price per kilogram.

Because the real printer's waste was not enough for the deal, and because the collectors required, e.g., makulatura showing more issues of the typographic stamps, the post office printed the large part of the makulatura for the collectors. Saying this means, the makulatura have no philatelic value -- this is just bogus items prepared by the post office for collectors. If you display makulatura in an exhibit in the ČR, your award will be reduced, because the jurymen should treat this as non-philatelic material. The only way you can present it is in a really

detailed study exhibit, where you show the development of a printing error. Of course, I have a few pieces in my collection as well, but just for my fun, not for serious exhibiting.

By the way, the recent POFIS catalogue published last week [POFIS Československo 1918-1939] evaluates the "normal" makulatura for 2 Crowns per piece (or 7 pieces of makulatura are equal to the current domestic letter postage rate -- 13 Crowns). Even after 95 years of existence!!! [Note that the current exchange rate is about 22 Crowns to one dollar, so 2 Crowns is about 9 cents per makulatura.]

A final comment: the unissued Hradčany 25 heller stamp in light blue/ultramarine has the same story. The post office sold them to the Klub Českých Filatelistů, who distributed them to the members.



EXTRAORDINARY BOOK AUCTION

from Frank Garancovsky

This is one of the best opportunities for you to get one or more of the classic great books on Czechoslovak, Czech Republic, and Slovak philately at a reasonable price.

I am no longer able to enjoy my stamp collecting interests, so I am in the process of parting with much of my holdings. Rather than offer these books on Ebay to who knows, I wanted to give my fellow Society members the opportunity to get and enjoy them.

I am including a great deal of explanatory information on the books, so that you will know and be sure of what you are bidding on. The minimum bids are significantly less that the original price of the books. All of the books are in good condition, but none of them still have any souvenir cards that may have been originally included with them.

Here are the rules for this auction:

- -- only SCP Society members can bid in this book auction
- -- all bids must be in writing (by mail or e-mail) and arrive by March 28
- -- all bids must include: Book number, book name, your full name, Society member number, address, phone number, and, if possible, e-mail address, and must be signed
- -- original phone bids will NOT be accepted. However, you can call Ludvik (Lou) at 303-680-7118 to find out if your mail/e-mail bid is currently the winning one. If you then want to update your bid, he will note it then, but it still requires a mail or e-mail submission which must arrive by March 28 to become valid.
- -- please check your bids carefully -- ambiguous bids can be refused, and clarifications will not be sought
- -- under no circumstances will details of bids be passed on to any other member of the Society
- -- it is important to bid early -- earliest receipt will rule tie bids (date and time on e-mails or the day he receives your letter)
 - -- all bids are to be sent to:

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

4766 S. Helena Way

Aurora, CO 80015

or: Lousvoboda@comcast.net

-- the winning bidder will pay for the shipping of the book/books by Media Mail (non-US winners may pay significant postage, no Media Mail there).

 $\underline{\text{NOTE:}}$ Payments by PayPal will be accepted ONLY from members outside of the USA.

Our editor, Ludvik Svoboda, has been nice enough to run this auction for me. He has the final say in the running and administration of the auction.

PLEASE, DO NOT send bids to me, they must go to him. Sending your bid to me will just mean that I will ask you to send another to him and will delay the receipt date. And, when you bid, make the first bid your best bid for the book -- this will minimize your need to be making another "mailing" bid later.

Here are the books. The number of the paragraph listing the book is the book number.

The first 7 are hardbound *Monografie*, so the Czech name will not be repeated. These books are not catalogs, rather they tell the entire story of how the issues were developed and produced.

- 1. Monografie #1. Monografie Československých Známek (monograph of Czechoslovak stamps). Forerunner stamps; Revolutionary Issues (Marešuv, Horneruv, Pražské, Skalické, Šrobárov); Hradčany, 1918-20; Listing of translations of post office names taken over (German to Czech, Hungarian to Slovak). In Czech, 350 pgs. Minimum bid \$25.
- 2. Monografie #2. Stamp issues from 1919 Legionnaire stamps through the 1923 Agriculture & Science issue; postal stationery issues (1919-23). In Czech, 445 pgs. Min. bid \$20.
- 3. Monografie #3. Stamp issues from 1923 Masaryk Jubilee through 1938 Masaryk (Česko-Slovensko); postal stationery (1923-1938). In Czech, 430 pgs. Min. bid \$20.
- 4. Monografie #4. Airmail (1920-39); Newspaper (1918-37); Postage Due (1919-1928); Express (1919); Personal Delivery (1938). In Czech, 475 pgs. Min. bid \$20. 5. Monografie #16, Part II. Catalogue of 1918 1920 postmarks used in the Czech lands (alphabetic S through Z)[Part I contained the development of cancels, their types, and designations, and the listing for PO names A through S. So Part II is a continuation. This is ideal for someone who already has Part I.] PO name
- continuation. This is ideal for someone who already has Part I.] PO name translations (German to Czech); 1918-20 PO's used in Slovakia; PO name translations (Hungarian to Slovak); 1918-20 PO's used in Ruthenia; PO name translations (Hungarian to Ruthenian); 1918-20 T.P.O.'s and their postmarks in Czech lands, Slovakia, Ruthenia. In Czech (but this Part II has about a 20 page section which tells -- in English -- what the various sections of Part's I and II contain and how to use them), 412 pgs. Min. bid \$15.
- 6. Monografie #17, Part I. Territorial changes of ČSR I during 1919-39; PO postmarks 1919-39, development of cancels, types, and designations; PO names and changes 1919-38/39 in Czech lands, Slovakia, Ruthenia; Catalog of 1919-39 PO's in Czech lands (alphabetical A to Praha). In Czech, 504 pgs. Min. bid \$20.
- 7. Monografie #17, Part II. Catalog of 1919-39 PO's in Czech lands (alphabetical Prachatice through Z); , , , PO's in Slovakia; . . . PO's in Ruthenia; Czechoslovak T.P.O. PO's 1919-39; alphabetical list of PO names. In Czech (but this Part II has about a 20 page section which tells -- in English -- what the various sections of Part's I and II contain and how to use them), 614 pgs. Min. bid \$20.
- 8. The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the 1939/1940 New York World's Fair, Monography and Catalog, Eckart Dissen, 1998, hardbound w/applique jacket. In English, 101 pgs. This is the premier catalog about the New York World's Fair Czechoslovak overprinted souvenir sheets. Min. bid \$50.
- 9. Specializovaná Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známek a Celin (specialized handbook for collectors of Czechoslovak stamps and postal stationery), 1988, hardbound w/blue dust cover, large (12x9). Definitive stamps 1918-39; definitive stamps 1945-85; other types of stamps (airmail, postage due, FDC's, etc.); stationery (120 pgs); aerofilatelie. <u>In color</u>, in Czech, 558 pgs. In its day

- (1988), this was the catalog to have, because it contained so much information in one place. Min. bid \$20.
- 10. Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps, 2nd edition, 1985. Translation by Henry Hahn and Jaroslav Verner of the 1963 Czech book of this title. Spiral bound, in English, 367 pgs. Deals with the forgeries of the stamps of the first republic 1918-39. Min. bid \$15.
- 11. Československé Poštovní Známky a Jejich Padělky 1918-1939 (Czechoslovak postage stamps and their forgeries), by Karasek, hardbound, large (12x9), 1998. In Czech/English/German, 250 pgs. This is the latest forgeries book and is in great demand because of being in three languages. Min. bid \$30.
- 12. Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints 1944-45, by Juan Santaeugenia Grau, paper hardcopy bound, large (8.5 x 11.75), B&W, 1996. In Spanish, with introductions in Spanish, Czech, French, English, and German, 203 pgs. The book lists and illustrates the town revolutionary stamps and overprints alphabetically by town name; cross-references overprints to town names; revolutionary souvenir sheets; unknown overprints; B&M/German/Hungarian stamps used for overprinting with their catalog numbers; fraudulent overprints made after 1945; a short, five language philatelic dictionary in the back. Min. bid \$25.
- 13. *Hradčany* and *Hospodářství a Věda 1923* (agriculture and science), by Karasek, both together in a plastic bound hard cover. In Czech. The Society originally sold them separately for about \$18 total. Min. bid \$10.
- 14. Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, by Austin, Kobylka, Blizin, hardbound, 1958. Min. bid \$5.
- 15. Ocelotisk z Plochých Desek, Poštovní Známky a Aršíky, Part I, 1945 1953 (Měnová Reforma)[stamps and souvenir sheets produced by engraving (intaglio) from flat plates], hardbound, 2000. In Czech, 95 pages. This volume shows the production methods of the subject stamps, plate faults, plate identifiers, etc. We are currently selling Part III for \$30. Min. bid \$10.
- 16. Fiskalní Ceniny v Československu, Part I and Part II, 1997/1998, (revenue issues in Czechoslovakia) by Kořínek. In Czech (but paragraph headings plus limited explanatory is in three languages including English), softbound, 128/233 pgs respectively. Sold together (will consider separately). Min. bid \$15 (\$10 each).
- 17. Rukovět pro Sběratele Hradčan, Vol. 1,2,&3 (handbook for collectors of Hradčany), by Hamr, Škaloud, softbound. In Czech, printed 1998/2000/2005 respectively, 128/83/150 pgs. The first one deals with the Hradčany in general, the second with the SO, airmail, postage due, Red Cross overprinted, and the third with the 7th plate of the 15h Hradčany, plus special postal stationery. Sold together (will consider separately). Min. Bid \$20 (\$10 each).
- 18. Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland, by Richet, plastic bound. In English, about 200 pgs. Min. bid \$10.
- 19. *Cesko-Anglický Slovník* (Czech--English Dictionary), hardbound with jacket, large, 1986, 1133 pgs. Min. bid \$20.
- 20. Specialist's. 1946 through 2004 (but no 1948 or 1967). 30 "volumes" (most are two years/volume), in hardbound (7), spiral bound (14), and 3-ring bound (9). Min. bid \$75. [If you are only interested in certain volumes, selling them individually will be considered after the auction if no one gets the entire lot. Just indicate in your bid letter or e-mail that you are interested in single volumes.]

DEFINITIVE STAMPS WITH A 10 Kč VALUE FROM ČSR I (1922-1939)

The "Landscapes, Castles and Towns 1936" Issue – 10 Kč – Bratislava doc. Ing. Radomil Květon, Csc.

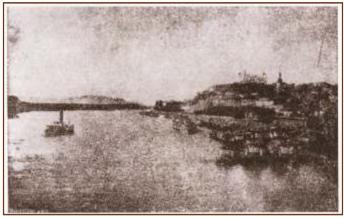


Figure 1: Photographic basis for preparing the 10 Kč stamp

A postal administration decision stipulated that they would replace the currently valid postage stamps of all values with scenes of landscapes, castles, and towns, which would then be valid until March 15, 1937. Some of the stamps (e.g., the 1.20 Kč Strahov issue with watermark) were already in use since 1926, thus 10 years. The new definitive set of stamps was to have a modern uniform layout. The stamps





Figure 2: Trail prints for the 10 Kč Bratislava, engraver's mark "S" is marked with a circle



were to promote the architectural monuments, towns and landscapes of ČSR I. The subjects were chosen from many proposals, where the selection focused on the most impressive illustrations of different Czechoslovak regions.

The designs of all of the stamps were developed by the graphic designer Karel Vík according to various basis and adjusted them for the miniature graphics of postage stamps. At Figure 1 is shown the basis which was used for the preparation of the 10 Kč stamp.

Despite the very flawless execution of the engravings -- all of which were carried out by engraver Karel Seizinger -- the art critics

did not accept them positively. Trial printings were made in various colors, during which the 10 Kč value was not yet completely engraved (Fig. 2). The engraver's mark "S" of Karel Seizinger is located on the castle hill (Fig. 2).

The stamps were issued August 1, 1936 under regulation No. 39/1936 VMPT of July 27, 1936 (Fig. 3). The original issue of 9 values was later supplemented with the 1.60 Kč value with a picture of the Cathedral of St. Barbara in Kutná Hora (December 4, 1936).

The 10 Kč definitive stamp with the depiction of Bratislava replaced the definitive stamp of the same value issued in 1932 with the depiction of TÚS in Prague with a print run of 720,000 pieces. When we compare this figure with the print run of 2,760,000 of the new stamp, we can state that it most likely supplemented an existing shortcoming of nominal [10 Kč] value stamps in circulation for several years to come.

The stamp was printed using a printing the stamps with a new appearance form with two printing plates that are identified with plate numbers 1 or 1A located on the last lower coupon. Each printing



Figure 3: VMPT bulletin announcing the stamps with a new appearance

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Figure 4: Compressed printing sheet of the 10 Kč stamps

plate is arranged with 7 x 16 positions, of which 100 contain stamps and 12 are blank coupons. The arrangement of the stamps and coupons is documented in the compressed image at Figure 4.

The increasing use of stamps with value 10 Kč was caused mainly in order to cover the extremely high franking for airmail to South America, and not just at small post offices that were not supplied with airmail stamps of higher nominal value. The minimum franking for an airmail letter up to 5 grams was 17.50 Kč.



Figure 5: Registered business airmail letter to Argentina, submitted to the PRAHA 7 post office August 10, 1938



Figure 6: Ordinary airmail letter to Uruguay carried by the French airmail service -- with a special airmail envelope



Figure 7: Heavy registered official letter sent from PRAHA 8, November 10, 1937 to the seaport city of Marseille

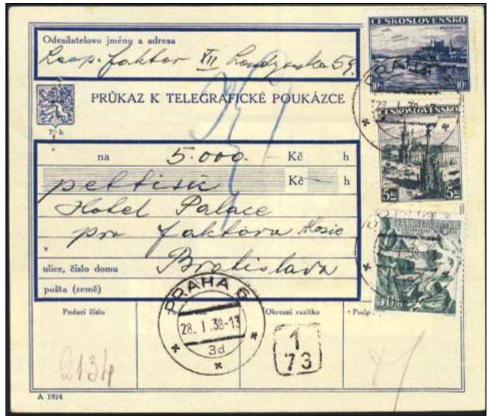


Figure 8: Postal order for a telegraph voucher for 5,000 Kč, submitted at the PRAHA 6 post office, January 28, 1938 - 13

A registered airmail letter to Buenos Aires (Fig. 5) is provided with franking totaling 126.50 Kč (2.50 Kč for a letter to a distant country + 2.50 Kč for a registry surcharge + 1.50 Kč surcharge for an increased letter weight by 20 grams + 8 x 15 Kč airmail surcharge to Argentina). The use of a block of ten of the 10 Kč value on a postal consignment is extraordinary. The letter was carried to South America by the German airmail service via Stuttgart (the infrequently seen purple rubber stamp * DEUTCHE LUFTPOST * EUROPA-SÜDAMERIKA). The delivery of the letter to Argentina is confirmed simply by the handstamp CERTIFICADOS * CENTRAL * 23 on the front side of the envelope.

In Figure 6 is an airmail letter to Montevideo (Uruguay) carried by the French airmail service with "tri-colored" franking in a special airmail envelope, which together with two sheets of special thin paper ensured the weight of the consignment up to 5 grams, therefore only the basic airmail charge. This kind of postage is relatively common for consignments which do not have the characteristics of a registered letter. Although Horka [3] does not show any airmail surcharge rates directly to Uruguay, we can then assume they were the same as for the neighboring Brazil. Transport by Prague's pneumatic tube mail is proven for one thing by the time difference between the posting cancel (PRAHA 6, 9.XI.38-20) and the transit

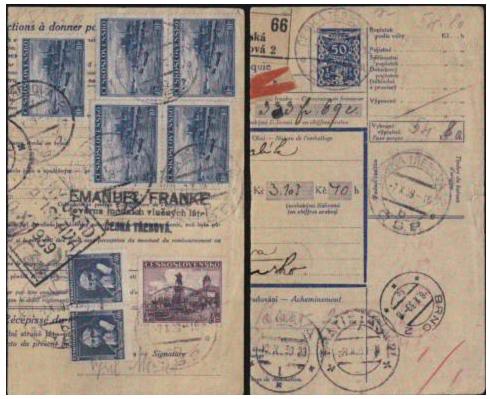


Figure 9: Both sides of the larger part of an international dispatch form for a package sent to Slovakia

cancel on the back side of the consignment (PRAHA 7, 9.XI.38-22) which is within two hours, and also by the two pagination imprints on the back side of the envelope. The arrival cancel in Montevideo with the date 16.XI.38 proves air transport of the letter took 7 days, a parameter which in many cases we do not achieve even today.

The opposite situation -- with regard to the rarity of the item -- is with a heavy registered business letter sent to the ČSR consulate in Marseille at Figure 7. Again we are dealing with "tri-colored" franking but a significantly rarer item. The total postage cost of 17 Kč consisted of fees for a registered letter to a distant foreign country (2.50 Kč + 2.50 Kč) and a surcharge for the increased weight of the consignment to 180 grams (8 x 1.50 Kč).

At Figure 8 is a postal order for a telegraph voucher (cost of the form 10h) sent from Prague 6 on January 28, 1938 to Bratislava. On the back of the postal order is stated the following information: "No money can be paid out through this postal order; payment and accounting is taken care of only through the certificate of posting (printed form 172), filled out by the post office according to the received telegram voucher and signed by the recipient". This procedure corresponds also to

the written entry of the payment deadline of January 28 on the back of the postal order, although it itself was not delivered to Bratislava until January 29, 1938 - 8.

At Figure 9 is an international dispatch form for a package submitted to the post in Moravská Třebová on October 7, 1939, so already after the split of inter-war ČSR into the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia (later referred to only as PCaM) and the Slovak State (later referred to only as SS). In the 1939 Protectorate, the use of stamps to pay for packages was reinstated. The package received clearance at the customs office in Bratislava on October 10, 1939 (the square official hand-stamp). The definitive ČSR stamps are being used as parallel usage.

The use of the 10 Kč definitive stamp in the function of a postage due stamp at the LITOVEL post office April 4, 1939 is documented at Figure 10. Again we are talking about already the period of PCaM, and the stamps are functioning as forerunners. This is a procedure used by the postal administration itself even during ČSR I, which we encounter in the case of the shortage of some values of definitive stamps (most often with the definitive 5 Kč stamp).

(To be continued)



Figure 10: Section from the payment portion of a delivery card for check vouchers, LITOVEL post office April 4, 1939

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Richard Palaschak, President:

-- We will be ordering and buying a supply of the new <u>2015 POFIS</u> <u>Československo 1918-1939</u> catalog. But we need to get an idea how many of our members would be interested in it. If you would like to buy one (expected cost is in the \$30 range), please call me or send me an e-mail: 703-968-8714, rjpalas@gmail.com, so we know how many to get.

2. From Lou Svoboda, Librarian:

-- I have not heard from anyone about wanting to borrow a book, or asking about a book on a particular topic from the Library. The Library also has many of the POFIS catalogs, the Czech Monografie that have been issued, and all of the Monographs in English from the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (most of which are offered for sale in the back of this *Specialist*) that you could borrow. Don't forget to use this valuable resource.

Letters to the Editor

Lou:

Now that I have the Glossary [Glossary of Philatelic Terminology], I thought I would give the POFIS catalogs a try . . . 2012 Czechoslovakia 1918-1939 @ \$35, 2011 Czechoslovakia 1945-1992 @ \$30 By the way, I have enjoyed reading the three copies of the 2014 Specialist sent as part of my membership. I especially enjoy the articles that give the historical background to the various stamps under discussion. The interactive DVD Specialist index is also proving to be very useful. I greatly appreciate the interest you take in assisting a new member to find the resources he needs.

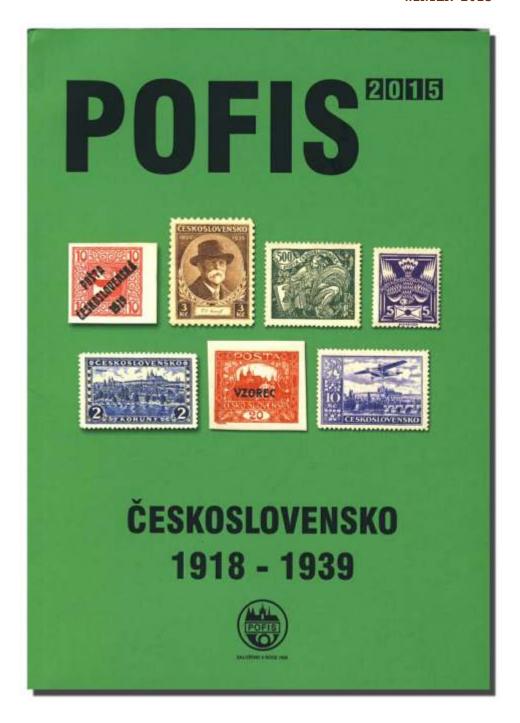
A fellow member of a local stamp club made the claim that one moves from being a stamp collector to a philatelist by reading the literature. *The Czechoslovak Specialist* enables me to go beyond filling spaces in my album; it's much more enjoyable learning about the stories behind the stamps and the country that issued them.

Dennis Buss

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 new Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at cpsgb1@gmail.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 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 \$10 for digital, \$45 for printed copies by airmail or \$39 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@csphilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.



SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY LITERATURE AWARD PROGRAM

by Chairman Valerie Kramer

By way of this article, I announced the formation of the program of an annual SCP Literature Award.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately establishes an annual literature award which shall be given to the author of the best article in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (or separately published by the Society) during the previous calendar year. The award will be determined by a committee consisting of the Editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* and two additional members of the Society appointed by the Society President. The award will consist of a certificate and a year's membership in the Society. The winner of the award will be announced and presented at the annual Society awards breakfast or other appropriate Society function in the following year.

All articles appearing in *The Specialist* (or otherwise published by the Society) in a given calendar year are eligible for the Literature Award of that year.

The article (publication) must address some aspect of Czechoslovak philately, postal history, or related topics.

If the article is a revised or expanded version of an earlier article, it must have at least 20% new material to be considered.

Articles published serially will be considered a single article.

The Committee will give special consideration to articles based on original research and articles which are first published in *The Specialist*.

Consideration will also be given to articles translated into English. In the case of a translated article the award will be given to both the author and translator.

In any year, if no article or publication is considered worthy of recognition, then the Society's literature award will not be given.

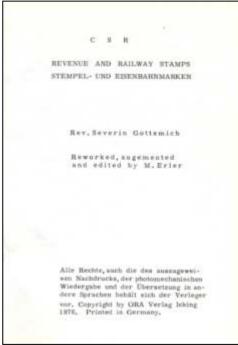
In order to assist and guide the committee in their selection process, a number of evaluation criteria have been established:

- -- <u>Significance</u>. Is the information of such a nature that readers will come back to cite this article as a reference in the future?
- -- <u>Treatment, development, organization</u>. Is the subject thoroughly covered? Is it done in a logical and clear manner that makes it a pleasure to read?
- -- <u>Documentation</u>. Does the article cite the sources of the information, are they reliable, and are there more than one?
- -- <u>Well illustrated</u>. Are there enough clear, sharp, and relevant illustrations that support the text?

- -- <u>Percentage of readership likely to be interested</u>. Does the author make the material accessible and interesting to the average *Specialist* reader?
- -- <u>Original research</u>. Is this article based on new information that has not previously been published in books or magazines?
- -- <u>Translated into English</u>? Was the article translated into English for publication in *The Specialist*?
 - -- Specialist first. Was the article first published in The Specialist?

The Society is hoping that this program will encourage our members to write and submit articles for *The Specialist*. We are especially interested in your personal stories as to how and why you began to collect Czechoslovak/Czech/Slovak stamps.

ČSR REVENUE and RAILWAY STAMPS by Valerie Kramer



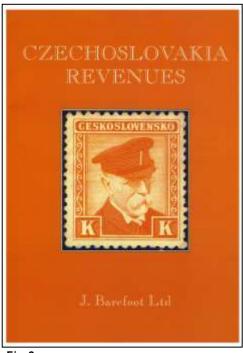


Fig. 1 Fig 2.

The *ČSR Revenue and Railway Stamps* catalog (Fig. 1) is now freely available online. A link to it has been added to the Society for Czechoslovak Philately's web page of links at http://www.csphilately.net/links/.

This 210-page catalog is based on the work of Reverend Severin Gottsmich as reworked, augmented, and edited by Martin Erler. The catalog was first published in 1976 and has long been out of print. It was the first major catalog covering Czechoslovak revenue stamps, and it is still a very important resource.

Two other catalogs have been issued since then and both rely heavily on material from *ČSR Revenue and Railway Stamps*. "*Czechoslovak Revenues*" (Fig. 2) is a 56 page catalog that was published in English in 2001 by J. Barefoot, Ltd. and is still in print. The two-volume (128 and 232 pages) "*Fiskální Ceniny*" by Jiří Kořínek was published in Czech in 1997-98 and copies of it are very hard to find though they can be borrowed from the Society's library. [*They are in this issue's book auction*]

ČSR Revenue and Railway Stamps contains black and white images of many of the stamps listed along with descriptions, prices and/or indications of their rarity, and other typical catalog information about the stamps. It includes information on many kinds of revenue stamps beginning with some forerunner stamps and essays, on up into the post-war Communist era stamps. The index lists some 34 categories of revenue stamps such as Banknote Control Tax, Flour Tax, Fishing Permit, Red Cross, Veterinary Fees, Wine Tax, etc. In addition, it includes a significant section on municipal issues. This catalog also includes information on stamps relating to railways with nine sections covering things like Fare Exemptions, Writing Fees, and Insurance Stamps. Finally, it has a section on the "National Tax" stamps.

The printed book is available through the Society's lending library, and it is great that it can now be accessed by anyone with an internet connection. If you have any interest in Czechoslovak revenue stamps, you'll surely want to bookmark this page!

HOW I CAME TO COLLECT CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS by Jaroslav (Jerry) Havel

As most stamp collectors of my generation, I collected stamps from an early age, likely 8 or 9. My mother and father had to leave Czechoslovakia very suddenly after the Communist coup, and so, as a not quite 4 year old I was taken by the hand by my mother, and we snuck across the south-western border between Czechoslovakia and Germany in 1949, first winding up in Passau.

Our escape was made much easier because my father, who had fled in 1948, had been a border patrol guard in southern Bohemia, and thus knew the territory very well, had arranged our escape, and met us at the border at an appointed time.

As far as how we wound up in America, when my father had escaped, he somehow managed to meet up with the American Armed Forces in Germany, and wound up involved with the OSS. His knowledge of the borders was considered pretty important, and I greatly regret now not asking him more about what he did for the OSS in the days between the time he escaped and we left for America. We actually got preferential treatment, and did not have to wait the necessary time before coming to the US, spending only a little over 2 years in Germany.

Directly after our escape, my parents were both afraid to communicate with the remaining family members in our home town of Volyne, because of a fear of somehow condemning them to politically motivated accusations, likely arrests, and other resulting troubles. It wasn't until a year or two after we came to America that both of my parents started writing regularly to family in Volyne.

We arrived in New York City on Labor Day in 1951, as a result we spent an additional day on board the ship, an old US troop carrier, and then stayed in New York city with people we knew for 2 weeks. After seeing a bit of the city, my mother refused to live in New York, and so we left for New Jersey. We wound up in an apartment in Newark with two other people whom we had met when we were in the displaced persons camp run by the US Army in Murnau, a small town outside of Munich. That is where we stayed for a short while after escaping, an old German Army Panzerkasserne.

Then in 1952/53, we were still quite new to America, and we certainly did not get much American mail. But, I noticed early on that we were getting letters from Czechoslovakia regularly, usually 2 or 3 a month, and these letters had some very interesting stamps on them. I took an interest in them, and started to cut them off of the envelopes, simply putting them in a box.

As luck would have it, there was a stamp dealer nearby where we had moved to, and I started going there, nosed around, saved my allowance, and bought a book about stamp collecting. Soon I was soaking my stamps, drying them between pages of the daily newspaper (often with limited success . . .), and keeping them on stock pages. By the time I was about 12 or 13, I had saved enough money to buy a Minkus album for Czechoslovakia, and started to put my stamps in that album. Along with that, my uncle, who had learned of my collection, started using as many different stamps as possible on the letters he sent us, and this not only piqued my interest further, but also filled in many of the open spaces in my collection. He continued to send me stamps until he died.

We moved to a garden apartment in East Orange, New Jersey, and we lived there until 1965, when my parents bought a small house in Cedar Grove, another town in New Jersey. I seemed to have an aptitude for math and science as a youngster, so I wound up going to Stevens Institute of Technology for a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. I still remember my guidance counselor in grammar school asking me what I wanted to study in college, at the ripe age of 13. I had no idea what he was talking about, all I knew was that I was late for a PAL baseball game. So, when he said that the Russians had recently launched Sputnik, and we would need engineers, I said okay, and ran off to play ball. Such are the building blocks of careers.

Meanwhile my cousins and other relatives continued to use many different stamps on any correspondence. As a result, I had a sub-set of Czechoslovak stamps in my collection, those postmarked in Volyne. These I display prominently.

I started work in 1969, for Curtiss-Wright Corporation, working on US Navy nuclear propulsion systems. That kept me out of the Army during the latter parts of the Vietnam War, and after bouncing around in a number of engineering fields, including development work on Wankel engines for the US Marine Corps, I went to work for Exxon, in their internationally flagged tanker company. From there I went to the American Bureau of Shipping, and after working a few months pass 45 years, I finally retired the beginning of this year.

With my stamp collecting, about 12 to 15 years ago I switched to Scott albums for Czechoslovakia, and that has now grown to four different Scott albums, as I keep up with all of the annual page releases, and have separated out air mails, and all the other "back of the book" stuff. And that is the story of how I came to collect Czechoslovak stamps, something I continue to do today with the same enthusiasm that I had as a young boy.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

As is specified in our Bylaws, it is the time of year for our Society to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in an election of five (5) of our fifteen (15) Board of Director positions.

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by a member of the Society (other than themselves) whose signature shall be affixed to a nominating petition. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue. The names of the term-ending board members and of the remaining board members are as follows:

<u>Term Ending</u>: Marisa Galitz, Gregory Gessell (resigned), Richard Palaschak, Jaroslav Verner, Olech Wyslotsky (deceased)

Remaining: R. Tom Cossaboom, Jaroslav Havel, Sam Horvath, Chris Jackson, Valerie Kramer, Frederick Lawrence, Richard Livingston, David Newton, John Pojeta, Ludvik Svoboda

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. If you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

- 1. The nominee must be a member in good standing.
- 2. The nominee must have given their consent to be nominated.
- 3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board Meeting location specified by the President.
- 4. The nominee must have an e-mail address on the Internet system in order to conduct Society business.
- The nominator should make sure that his nominee agrees to these conditions.
- 6. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of March 2015.

After filling out the enclosed petition form, mail it to our Secretary,

Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott. AZ 86302.

Because of the loss of two of the board members from this election cycle (Gessell, Wyslotsky), your Society definitely needs two new Board Members. Please consider carefully whether you would be willing to participate in the operation of the Society.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Ludvik Svoboda

2015 ISSUE PLAN FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of		Number	Value
Issue	Name of Issue	in set	$\underline{\text{K}\check{\text{c}}}$
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Design		
	Oldřich Kulhánek, graphic	1	13
	artist and designer, (1940-2013)		
Jan 20	Personalities: Vitězslava Kaprálová (1915-1940)	1	17
Feb 18	Plzeň Europe's City of Culture	1	25
Feb 18	Historical Means of Transportation	2	
	Automobile Walter 6B		13
	Airplane Metoděje Vlacha		13
Mar 18	Beauties of Our Country		
	largest castle ruin in CR Rabí	1	17
Mar 18	EXPO 2015 Milano	A1	25
Apr 15	2015 World Ice Hockey Championship	1	40
Apr 15	Chomutov VI. Czech/German Stamp Exhibition	1	30
May 6	EUROPA Toys construction set Merkur	1	25
May 6	Technical Monuments:		
	130 years, Moldova-Saxony railway	1	13
May 14	Prague Castle Hans von Aachen		
	Head of a Woman	1	29
Jun 6	Personalities: Master Jan Hus	1	13
Sep 2	Nature Protection: Owls	4 s/s	13,17
			21,25
Sep 23	Historical Means of Transportation	2	
	The T3 Tram		25
	Paddle Steamer Primátor Dittrich		25
Oct 15	Personalities: Jakub Jan Ryba	1	13
Oct 15	Dalimil's Chronicle	1	21
Oct 15	Czech Statehood	1	29
Nov 11	Personalities: Jan Opletal	1	13
Nov 11	Work of Art on Stamps	3	
	Antonín Štrnadel		27
	Bohumír Matal		29
	Karel Nepras		30

1. On November 5, 2014, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp in the Personalities series honoring Andreas Vesalius (Fig. 1). Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) was born in Brussels and died in Greek Zakynthos. He was an anatomist, physician, and the author of a brilliant book primarily about human anatomy. *De humani corporis fabrica* (Construction

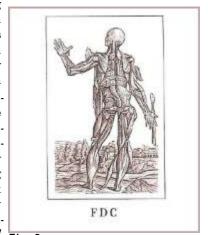


further development of the field. Vesalius is often mentioned as the founder of modern anatomy. In 1537 Andreas Vesalilus became a professor of anatomy at Padua, at the University made famous for its high levels, especially in the medical field. He was devoted to dissections and in 1538 he published a Latin work of anatomical tables. The first book describes bones and cartilages, the second book muscles and ligaments, the third book blood vessels, the fourth nerves, the fifth the digestive system and the genitourinary tract, the sixth the respiratory tract, and the seventh the brain and sensory organs. It is the first modern textbook of anatomy, formed on the basis of observations and dissections. Vesalius also created an autopsy procedure which is still used today. In 1559

of the Human Body), which had a significant impact on the

Fig. 1

the work of Vesalius's pupil Cornaro, describing the circulation of the small vascular system (heart-lung) and the anatomy of the eye, was published in Venice. From 1577 to 1582, Adam Huba lectured in Prague on anatomy, already using Vesalius. The work of Vesalius has been translated into many languages, int he 17th century even into Russian by Slavinský under the title Medical Anatomy (1658). The stamp containing a portrait of Andreas Vesalius was designed by Prof. Zdeněk Ziegler, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in red and yellow in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in redbrown depicts a sheet from his book Anatomical Fig. 2 Tables (Fig. 2).



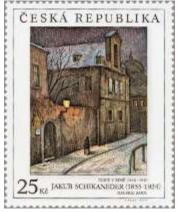


Fig. 3

- 2. On November 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Port Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 pieces.
- -- 25 Kč: Jakub Schikaneder (1855-1924), "Street in Winter 1900-1910" (Fig. 3), in the Kodl Gallery, engraved by Václav Fajt; in yellow, light brown, red, blue, and black. Jakub Schikaneder was born and died in Prague. He grew up in an artistic environment, where his aunt, cousin, and older brother Charles worked as actors and singers. Success and fame, however, often alternated with decline and poverty. Here we find the beginnings of a strong

social ethos, which appears in Schikaneder's paintings. After graduating from the Prague Academy, he traveled around Europe, which greatly influenced his future work. He received important recognition in 1882 with his painting "Přísaha Lollardů" (the Lollard's Oath). Even the leading art critic Miroslav Tyrš described the painting as an extraordinary work of art. From the 1880's, his paintings are full of social comprehension, which can be seen in the paintings "Dozvuky Zimy" (Aftermath of Winter), "Plečka" (The Weeder), "Výměnkářka" (The Retired Peasant Woman), and results in his final masterpiece "Vražda v Domě" (A Murder in the House). In 1885 he was appointed as an assistant at the School of Applied Arts in Prague, where in 1886 he took over the studio of decorative painting. The position of professor allowed him to take several study trips in Europe in the 1890's. He Fig. 4 repeatedly visited Paris, but he also went as far



Sicily, England, and Scotland. He also worked on the decoration of the College of Applied Arts at the World Exhibitions in Paris in 1900 and four years later in St. Louis. In his later life he withdrew from public life but continued to teach at the School of Decorative Arts, even during WW I. A FDC in brown-black depicts Schikaneder's painting "Seated Woman in a White Bonnet" (1885) (Fig. 4).

-- 29 Kč: Jaromír Funke (1896-1945), "Solitude and Spectacles, CA 1924" (Fig. 5), designed by Prof. Zdeněk Ziegler, engraved by Václav Fajt; in color CMYK. Jaromír Funke was born in Skuteč and died in Prague. He was one of the most important Czech photographers of the beginning of the 20th century and one of the world's major pioneers of avant-garde photography. He was a member of the Czechoslovak modernist movement of photography between the world wars. In 1924, along with others, he founded the Czech Photographic Society, which aimed at using purely photographic processes, breaking free from the influence of graphics. The photographic events of his time were influenced not only by his work, but



Fig. 5

also by his extensive theoretical, critical, and especially pedagogical activities. Although Funke was enchanted by modern architecture, he did not shy away from photographing older monuments. He took a series of photographs of St. Bartholomew Cathedral which were first issued in 1943. It contained at least 56 shots of the church and included both overall views of the church, as well as detailed views of the interior. He died a few months before the end of WW II as its indirect victim. A FDC in black-grey depicts Funke's photo-

graph "Plates" from 1923 (Fig. 6). The printing plate of four stamps also has a central coupon showing Funke's: "The Nude" photograph, 1927 (Fig. 7).

-- 37 Kč: Salvador Dalí (1904-1989), "Leda Atomica, 1949" (Fig. 8), in Dalí's Theater and Museum Figueres, engraved by Martin Srb; recess print in black, in color CMYK. Salvador Felip Jacint Dalí I Domènech was born and died in Figueres, Spain. He was an important Catalan painter, known for his surrealist works. Dalí Fig. 6





Fig. 7



Fig. 8

was an artist of enormous talent and imagination. As a native of Catalonia, he insisted that he had Arabian roots; he claimed that his ancestors were descendants of the Moors who invaded Spain in 711. This is what Dalí saw as the cause of his love for all that is golden and excessive, his passion for luxury, and his love of Oriental clothes. However, Dali's eccentric and theatrical behavior sometimes overshadowed his work. He did unusual things just to get attention, which sometimes tired both his admirers and his critics. On the other hand, this triggered attention led to the recognition of his work by the

general public and to increased sales of his works. Dali's works are known for a striking combination of bizarre, dreamlike images with an excellent draftsmanship and painterly expression, for which Dali found inspiration in the works of the old master of the Renaissance. His best-known work, "The Persistence of Memory", was completed in 1931. Dali created more than 1,500 paintings during his career. Besides that, he also illustrated books, designed theater sets and costumes, created dozens of sculptures, and participated in various other projects. His artistic repertoire also included film and photography. He collaborated with Walt Disney on the animated short film *Destino*, which was after its intro-

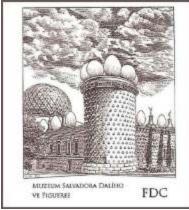


Fig. 9

duction in 2003, long after Dalí's death, nominated for the Academy Award. Among his achievements in architecture is the modern pavilion Dream of Venus at the World EXPO 1939, which contained many unusual sculptures and statues. A FDC in brown depicts a drawing of the Dalí's Museum in Figueres by Jaromír Knotek (Fig. 9).



Fig. 10

3. On November 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp in the Christmas series with imprinted denomination letter "A" (Fig. 10). The stamp features the 1942 picture "Bethlehem in Winter" by Josef Lada, used through the courtesy of the National Gallery in Prague. This motif already appeared on Czech Post's 2013 New Year envelope. In the Christian tradition, Christmas is a celebration of the birth

of Jesus Christ. Most Czech people

mistakenly consider Christmas Eve (24 December) to be the culmination of Christmas. Christmas is accompanied by a number of traditions, such as a Christmas tree, nativity scene, gifts brought by Little Jesus, and Christmas sweets. Some of the traditions date back to the pre-Christian era and are related to the celebration of solstice that takes place in the same days. The stamp was designed by Ivana Havránková and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue depicts a detail of the picture -- the Little Jesus (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11



4. On November 5, 2014, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp for Anniversary of the 17th November (Fig. 12). The stamps features symbols of statehood -- the state colors and the state emblem (the stylization is inspired by the Gothic Parler's emblem). They are accompanied by the dates 1939 and 1989, and the text "We do not forget" referring to the respective events. The 17th of November belongs among the major dates in the history of the Czech Republic. In 1939, the Nazis took a brutal action against Czech university students. Fifty years later, the Velvet Revolution started. The counter-occupation mood intensified in late 1939 culminating on the 15th of November when people decided to commemorate Jan Opletal, a student of med-

icine at Charles University, was shot dead at a demonstration held on the 21st anniversary of the creation of Czechoslovakia. During the night of 16/17 November, German policemen assisted by SS troops mercilessly carried out the order of the German Führer. All ten Czech universities were closed, nine student leaders were executed in Prague-Ruzyně, and 1,200 students were beaten and sent to concentration camps. These events led to the declaration of the 17th of November as the International Student Day in London inn 1941. This is the only internationally recognized holiday originated in the Czech Republic. On the 17th of November 1989,

one week after the fall of the Berlin wall, the Velvet Revolution started in Prague. At four o'clock in the afternoon, groups of students gathered in front of the seat of the Faculty of Medicine in Prague's Albertov to commemorate the tragic events that had happened fifty years before. The initially calm demonstration soon turned into a fight for freedom, democracy and political reforms. The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue-grey depicts policemen with shields and a rose which is a symbol of the confrontation between violence and love (Fig. 13).

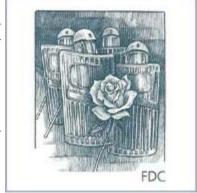


Fig. 13

5. On November 26, 2014, the Ministry issued two round definitive postage stamps, one with imprinted letter "A" (Fig. 14) and the other with imprinted letter "Z" as specimens of My Own Round Stamp (Fig. 15). Both stamps will depict one of several possible images of Jára Cimrman -- inventor of the Round Stamp. In the case of the initial issue of My Own Stamp, the printing sheet (PS) contains text with a fictitious story about "Jára Cimrman -- Inventor of the Round Stamp" and



Fig. 14 Fig. 15

25 identical round stamps of the same denomination (either "A" or "Z"), each with a different angle. In the case of customized orders, the Czech text "MY OWN STAMP -- SPECIMEN" is replaced by 8 alphanumeric characters, out of which the first two characters are the initials of the product in Czech (VZ), the other two alphanumeric characters are initials of the arrangement of the issue in Czech (TL) and the other 4 numeric characters are the serial number of the order. The round stamp has a diameter of 35 mm and contains a picture part and the so-called obligatory field with the name of the country and the denomination letter. Each stamp is divided from the sheet by a special perforation, which is accompanied circumferentially on the stamp by four unique atypical perforation modifications used as a security feature. The stamps were graphically arranged by Petr Foltera, designed by Jaroslav and Michal Weigel, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset in printing sheets of 25 pieces.



Fig. 16

6. On January 20, 2015, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Design series honoring the painter and graphic artist Oldřich Kulhánek (Fig.16). The stamp shows a portrait of Oldřich Kulhánek based on the same imaging principle as the one used by Kulhánek. This means that attention is paid also to details that do not compliment but emphasize the image of a "tired philosopher".

Oldřich Kulhánek (1940 - 2013) was a world famous artist. He studied art at the Art School in Prague, then the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design also in Prague in the class of Professor Karel Svolinský. The years spent with this teacher laid down the basic foundation for Kulhánek's career as an artist. Kulhánek mostly concentrated on graphic art and drawings. He also designed the new Czech banknotes and many Czech postage stamps. In 1971, he was arrested by Czech

secret police and charged with disparaging representations of Communist countries (a reference to the portrayal of Stalin in some of Kulhánek's graphic sheets). This led to a total ban on exhibiting his works in the 1970's. In spite of the ban, he used numerous friends in the United States, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and France to stay in touch with Europe's art scene. After 1989, the situation changed, and in 1990 he visited the United States, attending the Lithographic Workshop in Los Angeles, with several visits to follow. Eventually he chaired the Stamp Design Board of Česká Posta, s.p. The stamps was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Milos Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in red and azure-blue in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, also philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 coupons were issued. The coupon

relates to the motif of the stamp with a deformed image of Stalin, which refers to the 1968 graphic design that led to Kulhánek's persecution. The other motif comes from his sarcastic lithographic "Funny Money" series. The final part of the composition is a drawing of intertwined hands often used by Kulhánek to express various symbolic meanings. The slogan "Theatrum Mundi" (Latin for the theater or rule of the world) was used by theorist Eva Petrová to refer to Kulhánek's metaphoric description of the condition of today's world. A FDC in black depicts the motif of a hand drawing three intertwined circles containing images (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

7. On January 20, 2015, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamps in the Personalities Series honoring Vítězslava Kaprálová (Fig. 18). On the stamp is a portrait of Vítězslava Kaprálová designed as a classic painting with smooth color transitions. The geometric fields in the background refer back to the 1930's. Bindweed, used as a motif in one of them, means in the language of flowers "I will never leave you". It was chosen by the stamps designer to refer to

the marriage of Vítězslava Kaprálová and Jiří Mucha and her friendship with Bohuslav Martinů. Vítězslava Kaprálová was a Czech composer and conductor whose life was short but dramatic. She was born in 1915 (Brno) and died in 1940 (Montpellier, France). Although she had only a few years as an artist, she was able to create more than fifty compositions including orchestral music before she succumbed to her terminal illness. She was born into a family of musicians, which had a major influence on her life as an artist. Her father studied with Leos Janácek while her mother was a singer and music teacher, and she composed her first piece at the age of nine. Against her father's will, she entered the Brno

conservatory (being the first woman there to take on the studies of composition and conducting). Her graduation composition -- which she conducted herself at the age of 20 -- caused a sensation in the music world and was a triumph. Next she studied at the master school of the Prague Conservatory. After 2 years she conducted her "Military Sinfonietta" with the Czech Philharmonic at Lucerna Hall in Prague. As a result of meeting Bohuslav Martinů in 1937, she was invited to come to Paris to study with him. In 1938, she went to London to perform her Military Sinfonietta at the International Society for Contemporary Music Festival -- she conducted the world famous BBC Symphony Orchestra while only 23 years old. While Paris was

threatened by German troops, she was diagnosed with the then incurable tuberculosis and she died shortly thereafter. In 1946, she received membership in memoriam into the Czech Academy of Sciences. Her music is an expression of a unique talent displaying elements of her Moravian origin and Slavic warmth. The stamps was designed by Marina Richterová, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset with linear drawing in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark-brown depicts bindweed on a piano keyboard as a symbol of her dedication to music (Fig. 19).



Fig. 19

8. On January 20, 2015, the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with 4 different non-denominated definitive stamps with imprinted letter "A" from the issue "They brought freedom" (Fig. 20). On the 4 different stamps are depicted these military vehicles: (a) the Supermarine Spitfire LF-Mk IXE aircraft, (b) the T-34/76.2 tank, (c) the Harley-Davidson motorcycle, (d) the Jeep Ford GPW car. Pavel Sivko was born in 1948 in Prague. He studied (1963-73) at the Art School in Prague and at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague where he studied graphic art and illustration under professors Jiří Trnka and Zdeněk Sklenář. He then went on to work as art editor for the Mladá Fronta publishing house, and taught at the Václav Hollar Art School in Prague concentrating on illustrations, drawings, applied graphic arts, and stamp design. Václav Zapadlík was born in Prague in 1943. At first he was a jazz bassist, but then began painting vintage cars. After several years, his drawings attracted the attention of the whole world. He cooperated with the Blackhawk Automotive Museum, a prestigious car museum, his work is exhibited in San Francisco and in Pebble Beach. Since 2010, he has been drawing veteran cars, motorbikes, draisines for the Czech Post. The previous series of booklets "World Cars" and "Czech Cars" based on his drawings became very popular. The tank, motorcycle, and car stamps were designed by Václav Zapadlík, while the aircraft stamp and the booklet itself were designed by Pavel Sivko. The stamps were printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset and are issued in a self-adhesive stamp booklet of two pieces of each stamp. The front page of the booklet features the same military vehicles as



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

the stamps: aircraft, tank, motorcycle, and car. The booklet contains eight (2x4) stamps. The back page contains texts about the authors and their self-portraits. There are four FDC's in black, each of which depicts the same military vehicle as on the stamp of that FDC (Fig. 21).

Stationery

9. On December 17, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "E" stamp for "Chomutov 2015 -- the 6th international philatelic exhibition Euregio Egrensis" (Fig. 22) to be held 6-10 May, 2015 in Chomutov, in the premises of Špejchar Gallery. The stamp with the imprinted letter "E" has a motif of a historic postal stagecoach. The left portion of the postal card shows a drawing by Marie Svobodová with the composition of the flag of the city of Chomutov with the logos of the Czech and German Philatelic Unions. Euregio Egrensis is the Latin name of the region on both sides of the Ohře (Eger) river. In addition to the territorial designation, it also refers to a voluntary association of local municipalities for cross-border cooperation between Germany and the Czech Republic in the border regions of Bohemia, Bavaria, and Saxony. The exhibition marks the 175th anniversary of the first stamp in the world, issued in England, and pays homage to František Lněnička, the member of the Philatelic Club in Karlovy Vary and the founder of these cross-border exhibitions.



Fig. 22

SELL - SWAP - WANT

Once again I am reminding members about a feature column that used to be a staple of the SPECIALIST many years ago (in the 1970's). I am hoping that it will help members find philatelic items that they need or to sell/swap those that they have in excess -- AND, it is all free! Every member is entitled to one FREE 15 word ad each calendar year which will run in the column headed the way this one is. Your name, address, and other contact information does not count towards the 15 words. Send your ad (please type or print it so there are no misunderstandings) to me at the address or e-mail address found on page two of every issue.

EXAMPLES of ads are:

WANTED: Buy International Reply Coupons all countries. L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SELL: Hard cover bound copies of 1951-53 issues of SPECIALIST, \$15 postpaid. L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SWAP: Interested in Hradcany perf/imperf sheets, covers, freaks, anything -- especially 25h

blue. L. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

SLOVAKIA

by Ludvik Svoboda

2015 ISSUE PLAN FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of <u>Issue</u>	Name of Issue	Number <u>In set</u>	value <u>€</u>
Jan 2	Cultural Heritage of Slovakia:		
	Krásnohorské Pohradie	1	1.15
	Andrassy Mausoleum		
Jan 30	Valentine's Day Card	1	T2~50g
Feb 6	Personalities:		
	Stefan Pilářik (1615-1693), 400th Anniversary		0.60
Mar 6	Easter Motifs of Karol Ondreička (1898-1961)	1	0.45
Mar 16	Bone Marrow Transplantation Center 2015	1	1.15
Mar 31	Sport: Vladimír Džurilla (1942-1995)	1	0.80
Apr 17	Technical Monuments: 498.104 Albatross	1	0.45
Apr 17	Technical Monuments:		
	Steam Locomotive 464.001	1	0.45
May 5	EUROPA: Old Toys	1	0.90
May 8	Victory over Fascism Day	1	1.00
Jun 26	550th Anniv. of Establishing the		
	Academia Istropolitana	1	1.40
Aug 14	Birth Anniversary of Don Bosco		
	(Giovanni Melchior Bosco 1815-1888)	1	1.20
Sep 2	Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2015	1	1.20
Sep 18	Beauties of our Homeland	2	
	The Súl' ov Rocks		0.80
	Manín Rocks		0.90
Oct 9	Nature Protection		
	Protected Landscape Area Pol' ana	2	
	River Otter (Lutralutra)		0.65
	Black Stork (Ciconianigra)		0.65
Oct 23	Personalities: L udovít Štúr (1815-1856),		
	200th Anniversary	1	1.00
Nov 13	Christmas Post 2015	1	0.45
	Christmas Motifs of Karol Ondreička (1898-1961)) 1	0.45
Nov 25	Art on Stamps	2	
	Alfons Mucha		
	Painting from Hotel Thermia Palace in Piest'ar	ıy	1.20
	Dušan Samuel Jurkovič House of Culture in		1.50
Dec 4	Postage Stamp Day:		
	Bratislava 1 Post Office Building	1	0.65

10. On October 10, 2014, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Nature Protection series: Sitno National Nature Reserve. The stamps were designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in printing sheets having one of each stamp along with a label for each stamp.



Fig. 23

-- 0.80€: Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)(Fig. 23). The stag beetle is our largest and most massive beetle. It is characterized by very conspicuous sexual dimorphism. Males grow up to a length of 90 mm. They have an unusually wide head and very well developed mandibles, which constitute almost one third of the body length. The mandibles are toothed from the inside. Females have a considerably smaller head and shorter, less noticeable mandibles.

They grow up to approximately 50 mm. Both sexes are similarly colored -- grey-black, with the wingcases being reddish brown. Fully grown adults feed on the fermenting juices flowing out of wounded trees. During mating, males fight for females using their mandibles. When larvae hatch, their development can take three to five years. It then builds a cocoon from dirt and wood in the soil near a tree. The adult emerges from the cocoon in the spring and only lives for a few weeks. different species of stag beetle can be found in Europe. Large numbers of them can be found in the oak forests of southern and eastern Slovakia. It is an endangered species, mainly because of the old oak groves deforestation and the removal of wounded trees, which are ideal for the development of the larvae. Their main natural enemies are woodpeckers. A FDC depicts two stag beetles fighting (Fig. 24).



Fig 24



Fig. 25

-- 0.80€: European Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes nasicornis*)(Fig. 25). The European Rhinoceros Beetle, which lives mainly throughout the tropics, also can be found in Slovakia. Its bizarre proportions imply a special status among our beetles. It grows up to a length of 50 mm and is very dumpy. The male's long horn-like protrusion makes this beetle unmistakable in comparison

wit other beetles. The body is walnut-brown and glazed on the surface; the underside of the body is covered with long and thick marked reddish-brown hair. The female is similar to the male, but its hornlike protrusion on the head is not developed at all. Eggs are laid in decayed oak trees, and the larvae live there for up to 4 years. The larvae pupate in the soil for up to 2 months, the adults emerge in May, and they live for a few months. The size of the adult depends a great deal on the quality and quantity of the nourishment available. They are active primarily at twilight and night, and frequently fly to a light. The species is spread throughout Europe, Eastern Asia, and Northern Africa, but its numbers have been decreasing due to the removal of old decaying trees and stumps. Most predators avoid them because of their plated



Fig 26

body. The larva's predator is the Mammoth Wasp, which lays eggs into the larvae. A FDC depicts a male and female beetle on a decaying piece of wood, with larvae in the ground below (Fig. 26).



Fig. 27

11. On November 6, 2014, the Ministry issued a 1.00€ commemorative stamp entitled the History of Customs (Fig. 27). Today the sphere of customs in our territory is regulated uniformly on the European level, i.e. by the Community Customs Code, since the Slovak Republic is a part of the European Union customs territory. Since time immemorial, our territory has been a crossroad of significant trade routes. Great

Moravia, the first state located in this area, had extensive business relations. One of the oldest customs regulations, particularly the Raffelstetten Customs Regulations (in Latin: Inquisitio de theloneis Raffelstettensis) has been preserved dating back to this period. Coming from 903-904, it was valid also within our territory and depicts import and export customs practice of the Great Moravian tradesmen. Therefore, at the occasion of the 1110th anniversary of its application, we symbolically commemorate the beginnings and history of customs in our territory itself. They inspired the postage stamp and miniature sheet, as well. The obverse and reverse of a silver half denarius of the Frankish king Charles the Simple from 898-929 and production of the mint Bledonis, situated in the French town Lons-le-Saunier, became its motif. The coin was found in 1965 within a survey of foundations of the St. Martin's Church in Nitra on Martin's Hill (Martinský vrch). It represents a rare case documenting the use of a foreign coin as a means of payment within our territory. It is undoubtedly the oldest proof of occurrence of means of payment in our territory applied to improve international business relations and gradual replacement of the barter system with means of payment. The postage



stamp coupons depict the patron of customs officers, St. Matthew, in the form of an angel taken from a carolingian ivory carving and calligraphic mark of the Frankish king Louis the Child from the Raffelstetten Customs Regulations. The miniature sheet of the postage stamp completes the depiction of the evangelist Matthew, patron of customs officers, created according to period carolingian manuscripts of the Rheims School (Fig. 28). The FDC depicts a coin showing a motif of the most significant Frankish king Charles the Great and his son Pippin (Fig. 29). The stamp was designed by Robert Jancovič, and the miniature sheet was designed by Rudolf Cigánik, and they were both produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, by recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in miniature sheets containing 3 stamps.



Fig. 29



Fig. 30

The current children's and Canada. stamp is based on a drawing by Anastázia Lakatosová from Komárnok, who sent it to Baby Jesus. The Christmas mail contest resulted in almost 1,700 drawings. Four special cancellation postmarks are to be also issued during four Advent weeks. The stamps have Christmas cake perfume. The stamp was produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC depicts a child's illustration of two snow- Fig. 31 men (Fig. 31).

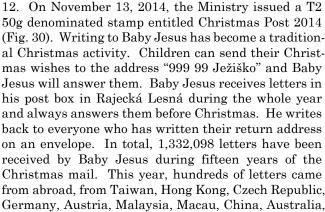






Fig. 32

13. On November 14, 2014, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp entitled Christmas 2014: Nativity -- Stained Glass Windows of Romanticism (Fig. 32). The phenomenon of historicizing glass paintings, from the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century, earned their recognition in Slovakia only lately. The glass paintings followed the Neo-Renaissance and Neo-Classical style basically from the second half of the nineteenth century until the inter-war period. represented not only examples of professional craftsmanship since their manually painted details of faces and hands exceeded the period standard and classified them to historical painting. Located in the St. Mary

Assumption Roman

Catholic Church in Chynorany, the set of eight glass windows is a complete glass painting collection whose creation was initiated by the then priest and canon, Ignác Wohland (1902-1955) in 1933. This window shows St. Ignatius of Loyola, during a Marian vision. He is kneeling in profile facing the Mother of God who is sitting on the throne and holding Baby Jesus on her lap -- an apparition which emerged on a lit cloud before The stamps was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC depicts a monochrome image of the painted glass window (Fig. 33).

14. On November 25, 2014, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, Fig. 33 using recess printing from flat plates combined

with offset.



Fig. 34

1.30€: Peter Michal Bohún (1822-1879). "Potrait of the Artist's Wife Zofia, Family Klonkay 1853", Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 34). Peter Michal Bohún is one of the most significant Slovak painters of the nineteenth century, being a member of the socalled Slovak national renaissance. Originating from a Protestant family of Veličná, he initiated his studies at the Prague academy of Fine Arts in 1843. In 1845, Bohún began to work for the Czech patriotic lithographer, František Sír and participated in the redrawing of patriots' portraits. He also studied in the Christian Ruben's atelier during 1846. He returned home and

married Zofia Klonkayová, who came from a wealthy patriotic family from the municipality of Lučivná. The portrait of Janko Prancisci as a captain of the Slovak Volunteer Corps represents a highlight of Bohún's works depicting the national trends. However, his expectations did not come true after the revolutionary years (1848), and his works were no longer inspired by the "national romanticism". Rather his works now followed the more commercial movement, especially the portraits earning hi a living were affected by this style. He also painted portraits of relatives and friends which reflected an intimate atmosphere -- and especially of his wife. In 1865, he moved to Lipnik, Poland where he died in 1879. The stamp was designed and engraved by František Horniak. A FDC depicts one of his domestic works showing a nobleman and his wife in the countryside (Fig. 35).



Fig. 35



Fig. 36

-- 1.65€: Alojz Stróbl (1856-1926). "Dying Deer 1897", Topol'cianky Palace (Fig. 36). Being the greatest Hungarian sculptor of the period around 1900 and "the last knight of Romanticism", Alojz Stróbl was born in the Liptov Region, in a hamlet near Král'ova Lehota. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna from 1876. The sculptor group Maternal Love gave him an opportunity to attend the classes of Caspar von Zumbusch, author of the well-known monuments on RingstraBe.

Earning him great fame were the statues of the greats of classical music that he had made for the opera house. In 1885, he was appointed Professor of Sculpture, and he then furnished the premises with old sculptures and replicas of famous works. Stróbl bought his native house in 1893 and turned it into the style of the period of Matthias Corvinus. The house decorations included a sculpture of his mother which had won an award at the Paris World's Fair of 1900 and the one entitled Injured Boar from 1902. Stróbl was visited by the Bulgarian Tzar and also the Emperor, who participated in the unveiling of his statues, Matthias Fountain (1904) and Sculpture of King Saint Stephen of Hungary (1906) at Buda Castle. In 1905, Count L'udovit Károlyi asked Stróbl to make the bronze sculpture Dying Deer for him. Today the statue can be found in



Fig. 37

the park of the manor house in Topol'čianky. The stamp and miniature sheet (Fig. 36) were designed by Rudolf Cigánik. A FDC depicts the sculpture Injured Boar showing a hound latched onto the ear of the boar (Fig. 37).

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