



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## THE 1920 MASARYK ISSUE

by Richard G. Palaschak

March 7, 1920, marked the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of President Masaryk. To commemorate the occasion, *The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph* commissioned Professor Max Švabinský to provide a drawing, specifically a portrait of President Masaryk, to serve as the basis for a series of stamps. The original intent was to issue three stamps with the values 50 haléřů, 500 haléřů, and 1000 haléřů, but plans for the 50 h were subsequently abandoned because of the projected rate change for a letter. This article will address only the two high value stamps. We will return to a more thorough discussion of the proposed 50 h stamp and the other stamps that were later considered for this design in the subsequent portions of this series of articles.

The artist and the printing firm, Grafie Unie (Graphic Union), agreed to use a variant form of the typographic technique for printing the stamps. Master engraver Eduard Karel engraved the template onto a steel plate. Numerous trial prints were produced using different inks and papers (Figures 1 and 2). Even attempts at using photogravure were made (Figure 3) but were abandoned

*(Continued on page 3)*

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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
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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 Groff's Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117, email: mmgalitz@gmail.com.

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

because of the poor printing quality (i.e., blurred prints). It was finally decided to print the stamps by typography on a chalky paper with a colored wash of the paper, a light blue-grey wash for the 500 h paper and a light brown wash for the 1000 h paper. Because the paper was dipped in water to apply the wash color, it lost the normal sheen of a chalky paper. A smooth brown gum was applied to the printed stamps.

The color of the 500 h stamp ranges from a grey to a dark grey (Figure 4) and that of the 1000 h ranges from a light brown to a dark brown (Figure 5). Additionally, the 1000 h stamps with the color black-dark brown are known and recognized, albeit not often seen. For comparison, a black-dark brown stamp is shown on the right of Figure 6 along with a normal color stamp.

The stamps are line perforated  $13 \frac{3}{4}$ , but imperforate copies found their way into collector's hands (Figure 7). Note that both Švabinský's and Karel's names are engraved beneath the portrait on each stamp, to the left and right respectively.



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

There were 505,000 sets of the two stamps printed; 5,000 of these were earmarked for overprinting with “S.O. 1920” and use in the plebiscite areas of Eastern Silesia (Figure 8). None of these overprinted stamps actually made it to the distribution center in Orava. As a result, none were postally used; all of the overprinted stamps were sold to collectors in Praha.



Figure 9



Figure 9a

Because of the fine engraving by Eduard Karel and the process used by the Graphic Union to electroplate the printing plates, imperfections in these two stamps are rare. There are several varieties, noted in Volume 2 of *Monografie Československých Známek*, that were caused by deterioration of the plates.

The sole variety identified for the 500 h value is at position 42 (Figure 9). A white diagonal line in the lower right corner (Figure 9a) identifies the variety. The damaged plate required retouching; examples of the retouched stamp are very difficult to identify.



Figure 10

The 1000 h value has four identified varieties in positions 81, 82, 89, and 90. The most well-known of these is the “rose in the hair” variety at position 81 (Figure 10); a black-dark brown color variety is shown on the right. The progressive deterioration of the plate for this variety is depicted in Figure 10a.



Figure 10a

Position 82 is primarily identified by the line that passes through the left eye (Figure 11), but there are also numerous identifiers in and around the “POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ” tablet at the top of the stamp (Figure 11a).



Figure 11



Figure 13



Figure 14: Star in forehead and blotches in hair.



Figure 15: Blotches in and around the hair.

Position 89 is characterized by several defects in the hair and around the left eye (Figure 12).

Position 90 has a defect over the right ear, similar to the "rose in the hair" variety, but clearly distinguishable from it (Figure 13). The defects in the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKA" tablet are also noticeably different (Figure 13a).

During the search for the varieties already identified in the philatelic literature, several stamps were found that also showed plate deterioration or, perhaps, a sloppy printing (Figures 14, 15, 16, 17, 18). Figures 14a, 15a, and 18a are included in order to show the differentiating details in the table "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKA" at the top of the stamps shown in Figures 14, 15, and 18 respectively.

You are encouraged to check your stocks of this stamp and confirm the existence of other copies of these errors.

**References:**

1. *Monografie Československých Známek*, Volume 2, pp 148 - 184, Praha, 1971.



Figure 11a



Figure 12: Illustration is from reference 1.



Figure 13a



Figure 14a: Blotches in the tablet "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKA".



Figure 15a: Blotches in the tablet "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKA".



Figure 16: Blotches in the hair.



Figure 17: Both stamps have blotches in the hair, in the suit, and in the tablet "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKA".



Figure 18: Blotches near the rose on the right and by the left eye plus a dot above the "K" in the tablet.



Figure 18a: Blotches near the rose on the right and a dot above the "K" in the tablet

2. *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, The 1920 Masaryk Issue of Czechoslovakia, translation by G. Skopecek and R. L. Spofford, December 1950, pp 126 - 130.

**Acknowledgement:**

The author acknowledges the invaluable assistance of member Mark Wilson translating relevant portions of reference 1 that sparked my renewed interest in exploring this issue.

**Addendum:**

After submission of this article to the Editor, I became aware that Mr. Reg Hounsell had published an article on this issue in the December 2014 issue of *Czechout*, the publication of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

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

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

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

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

## ONDRÁČEK'S RUBENS IS MOST BEAUTIFUL STAMP OF 2014

trans. by Lucie Harris



Figure 1: First place stamp

A masterfully engraved reproduction of a portion of Rubens's painting "The Assembly of the Olympian Gods" -- exhibited at Prague Castle -- brought triumph to Miloš Ondráček in the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Czech Post survey about the most beautiful Czech stamp of the year (Fig. 1). It is the fifth time that Ondráček has won first place in the survey (the engraver Martin Srb has the same number -- and Bedřich Housa and Václav Fajt each have one additional triumph); in comparison with last year's survey it is in fact a very tight victory -- a mere 62 votes ahead of second place and 114 ahead of third place.

The results were based upon 7,553 validly voting readers of the Saturday magazine *Práva* and the monthly *Filatelie*. There were again also foreign participants, mostly from Slovakia, but also from Germany, France, or Great Britain. They could select from 36 of last year's stamps.

The first and third places being miniatures of classical works of art is no surprise -- stamps of this kind and format dominated the survey most of the years, certainly not only because of the precedent, but also to the credit of the domestic engravers and printers (Fig. 3). (Another "picture by a master" placed 7<sup>th</sup> and a novelty in an older Works of Art on Stamps issue, the first -- black and white -- reproduction of art photography ended up 12<sup>th</sup>.)

With a view to the last few years, it is no surprise either of the very good placement of the subsequent natural history compositions of artist Knotec and engraver Srb. This year all four of the stamps from the Beskydy souvenir sheet -- region of large carnivores -- fit into the first 15 placements (Fig. 2).

Very popular also among the professional and amateur public were two dual-colored stamps from an unusual miniature sheet dedicated to the victims of WW I, created by Jan Maget [see *Summer 2014*, pg. 35]. (Also this year, collectors can be excited about another similarly focused miniature sheet by the same author.)

Considerable attention from the survey's participants was given to the first Czech circular stamp, showing Jára Cimrman -- other portrait stamps, although dedicated to remarkable charac-



Figure 2: Second place stamp



ters of our past and artistically very interestingly made, fell behind “the greatest Czech” [see *Winter 2015*, pg. 29]. The “A” denominated Cimrman stamp also became the highest placing letter-denominated stamp of 2014 -- and immediately behind it, surprisingly also in the first ten positions, placed another “A” stamp, the miniature of Lada’s Bethlehem [see *Winter 2015*, pg. 27]. Otherwise, of course, stamps of higher or high value are in the top-most rankings....

It is worth mentioning, compared to the close “verbal” differences between the stamp rankings, it is also interesting that even the last stamp received over 25 supporters; in the past years the stamps “at the tail end” got only a few votes.

All participants, who according to the rules of the survey included a self-addressed envelope, will receive from the Czech Post a philatelic souvenir -- although as usual not until the second quarter of 2015.

Presumably -- at some time sooner -- these ten participants of the survey drawn by lottery can get excited about a gift from the Czech Post (a collection of some of last year’s stamps) . . .

Those interested in purchasing Czech postage stamps (including the complete 2014 issues) can inquire at Poštovní Službu Filatelium, Nákladní 29, 362 07, Depo Karlovy Vary [CZECH REPUBLIC]. All stamps and their related information can be found at: [www.cpost.cz](http://www.cpost.cz) under the icon Filatelie.

Editorial Staff

The rankings of Czech stamps of 2014 with the amount of votes (in brackets is the serial number, stamp nominal value, creator(s))

1. P.P. Rubens -- The Assembly of the Olympic Gods (808; 37 Kč; M. Ondráček) 1181
2. Wolf and Nutcracker (817; 25 Kč; L. and J. Knotek/M. Srb) 1119
3. J. Schikaneder -- Street in Winter (824; 25 Kč; V. Fajt) 1067
4. Brown Bear (816; 21 Kč; L. and J. Knotek/M. Srb) 679
5. Arnost from Pardubice -- St. Vitus Cathedral (821; 58 Kč; J. Kavan/M. Ondráček) 460
6. WW I Victims/Soldier and Mother with Child (812; 29 Kč; J. Maget) 378
7. S. Dali -- Leda Atomica (826; 37 Kč; M. Srb) 319
8. Jára Cimrman (829; “A”; J. Weigel/M. Weigel) 234
9. Christmas -- Nativity Scene (828; “A”; J. Lada/I. Havránková) 223
10. WW I Victims/Fallen and Died (813; 29 Kč; J. Maget) 140

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from the 1/2015 issue of ZPRAVODAJ with the permission of the author and editor.]



Figure 3: Third place stamp

## Philatelic News and Views

### 1. *From Marisa Galitz:*

It is my sad duty to report that my husband, Earl Galitz, passed away February 22, 2015 at age 68. I guess his warranty ran out. At least he went very peacefully.

Thirty years ago, Earl insisted that I collect Czechoslovakia giving me his old collection, buying me some Hradcany stamps, and making me join SCP so that he could attend all the activities.

We met Henry Hahn in Toronto in 1987. Henry regaled Earl with stories of wonderful goose dinners to be had in the “old country” and drafted Earl into being an assistant commissioner for PRAGA 88. Although there was no culinary goose available that year, Earl did enjoy Czechoslovakia enough to return many times.

Henry always had a plot to get us more deeply involved with SCP. He even mentored Earl into becoming a philatelic judge. It is a shame that Henry predeceased Earl but I can imagine Henry (along with several other old stamp buddies) waiting on the other side for Earl so that they could all catch up on the latest philatelic gossip. Hopefully, they are all sitting around having a good time talking stamps and drinking slivovitz.

Folks remember Earl as a smart, accomplished philatelist (his specialty was Bulgaria) who was always willing to help -- especially when it came time to deciding where to go eat the next meal. He often sat at the Society table entertaining members and visitors with his dry humor and universal knowledge, especially if the topic involved central Europe.

This summer’s MILCOPEX will not be the same without him. I have setup a Facebook Memorial page at <http://www.facebook.com/EarlGalitzMemorial>. One does not need to be a member of facebook to view this page.



### 2. *From Hans van Dooremalen, Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain:*

Two interesting news items this time. We hope that you enjoy reading them.

A. New Website -- There is a new website devoted to meter imprints. So far three countries have been catalogued: Italy, Switzerland, and Czechoslovakia. The address is: [www.robidic.webs.com](http://www.robidic.webs.com). If you are interested in these meter imprints, I advise you to download the contents to your computer as websites very often have a tendency to “disappear”.

B. New Publication -- We received the following offer from Joyce Boyer of the Austrian Philatelic Society. You can reach her at: [joyceb@d-lweb.net](mailto:joyceb@d-lweb.net).

“I am attaching a scan from this month’s “*Die Briefmarke*” with details of a new book on Registration Labels from Bohemia [*unfortunately it is not all in focus*]. A review of a number of these books from other areas was given in [I think] the last edition of *Austria*. I will be collecting some books when I visit Austria in the summer and delivering them at Bradford to save on postage. Would any members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society be interested in a copy? Order by the end of February, payment on delivery.”

## REKOZETTEL BÖHMEN UND DALMATIEN

Fortsetzung des Kataloges der Rekozettel und Einschreibebelege ehemaliger österreichischer Kronländer – Band 8 Böhmen und Band 10 Dalmatien

Im Eigenverlag des Verfassers Hermann Sanbach erschienen in der Schriftenreihe „Rekommandator“ die oben genannten Bände, seit Einführung der Rekozettel in diesen Ländern 1886 bis zum Ende der Monarchie 1918.

1. Böhmen; 1.848 Postamtangaben sind aufgelistet und etwa 4.450 der bislang bekannten gewordenen R-Zettel auf ca. 500 Seiten farbig abgebildet. Preis € 75,00 zzgl. Versandkosten (Österreich € 5,00, Europa € 15,00).
2. Dalmatien; 214 Postamtangaben, etwa 310 R-Zettel, 86 Seiten. Preis € 20,00 zzgl. Versandkosten (Österreich € 4,00, Europa € 8,00).

Bei Kauf beider Kataloge kommen die Versandkosten nur einmal zur Anrechnung (€ 5,00 bzw. € 15,00).

Jeder Katalog enthält geschichtliche, geographische und statistische Daten des jeweiligen Kronlandes oder Gebietes sowie die Bestandsdaten der Postämter mit der Zugehörigkeit zur jeweiligen Bezirkshauptmannschaft und der heutigen Bezeichnung mit Postleitzahl. Weiters sind in jedem Band beispielhaft Abbildungen von attraktiven Einschreibebelagen wiedergegeben.

Die beiden Bände bieten eine hervorragende Ergänzung zu den grundlegenden Werken Mag. Wolfgang Schuberts über die Rekommandation in Österreich, die ja bekanntlich das heutige österreichische Staatsgebiet behandeln.

Die Schriftenreihe ist im DIN A4-Format hergestellt und jeder Band in einer Thermobindemappe geteilt; erhältlich beim Verfasser Hermann Sanbach, Moarfeld 44, 9900 Litz, ☎ 0360 / 216 49 17, (E-Mail: hermann\_s@gmx.at).

Die beiden Bände liegen auch in der Verbandsbibliothek zur Einsichtnahme auf.

WW



“Die Briefmarke” with details of a new book on Registration Labels from Bohemia

### 3. From CESKA POSTA:

#### Printing Technologies Used to Produce Czech Postage Stamps

**WAITE** -- Printing using recessed areas -- recess printing from flat steel plates.

Print dots and lines are engraved or pressed into a mollette (steel transfer roller) which is then smeared with a very thick ink and wiped clean with a wiping material on which the excess ink remains; the ink left in the recesses is then pressed onto a sheet of paper to make the print. [Note: this process must be performed with EACH color of the stamp]

**WIFAG** -- Printing using recessed areas -- rotary recess printing.

Rotary printing from steel plates: - print dots and lines are engraved or etched or pressed into a mollette (steel transfer roller) which is then smeared with a very thick ink and wiped clean with a wiping material on which the excess ink remains; the ink left in the recesses is then pressed onto a sheet of paper to make the print.

Intaglio: - print dots are etched or engraved into a print roller which is then smeared with a very thin ink and wiped clean with a doctor blade; the excess ink flows back into the ink fountain. The ink left in the recesses is then pressed onto a sheet of paper to make the print. [Note: this process must be performed with EACH color of the stamp]

**HEIDELBERG SPEEDMASTER** -- Planographic printing - offset.

The printing elements are at the same level as the non-printing elements, the only difference being the physical and chemical properties of the surface. Offset printing is based on the principle that a greasy ink can be deposited on grease-treated (oleophillic) printing areas of the plate, which hold the ink and reject water, while non-printing (hydrophillic) areas, which hold water, reject the ink.

**KOMB** -- A technology which combines printing from recessed areas (WAITE) with planographic printing (HEIDELBERG SPEEDMASTER).

*Philatelic News and Views (continued)*

**4. From Ludvik Svoboda:**

The Extraordinary Book Auction that ran in the Winter *Specialist* issue was very, very successful. Almost 3/4 of the books offered sold for at least the minimum bid. I hope the winners will get a great deal of pleasure from their purchases.

**5. From Mark Wilson:**

The CPSGB will hold its Residential Weekend in Gillingham, England, 10-12 July 2015. CPSGB members living abroad who do not plan to attend are reminded they may submit by mail scanned printed versions of entries for the George Pearson and Francis Pettit Competitions.

The George Pearson Competition was established in 1982 to honor the memory of the late George Pearson, the Society's founder in 1953 and the Society's first Hon. Life President. Entries shall consist of 16 standard sheets (or their equivalent) and shall consist of any philatelic material from 1918 up to March 15th, 1939. The Francis Pettit Salver was donated by his widow, Florence, in 1981 in his memory. It is a 12-sheet competition for material issued since May 1945.

Both competitions will be judged by the members present. Details and rules are available from Chairman Rex Dixon ([rex Dixon@btinternet.com](mailto:rex Dixon@btinternet.com)).

ADVERTISEMENT



**SPECIAL CZECH DAYS STAMP CANCELLATION**

The 67th Annual Czech Days design for 2015 created by Breeanna Souhrada of Tabor, SD which will appear on a special stamped Cachet Envelope designed by Sandy Sykora, may be purchased from the Post Office by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) #10 size and \$2.00 for each cancellation wanted to: Tabor Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21, Tabor, South Dakota 57063 USA. Make checks out to Tabor Chamber.

Visit Czech Days web site at: [www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com) or visit the Face book page at: [www.facebook.com/TaborCzechDays](http://www.facebook.com/TaborCzechDays) .

**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.  
trans. by Lucie Harris**

*(Continued from the Winter 2015 Specialist issue)*



**Figure 11: Overprinted stamps of the original first stamp issue,  
and stamps from the 1939 reprint**

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Slovak parliament (18 January 1939), a 300h commemorative stamp was issued (the last time hellers were used to display crown values was in 1923). Due to the pressure of time constraints, they used a simple overprint on the 10 Kč Bratislava stamp. The high volume of stamps needed (790,000) required the reprinting of the stamps from the original printing plates. Part of the original 10 Kč stamp supply in the steel blue color was used during the overprinting of the second type of stamp. The stamps of the second print run had poorer quality printing, a different blue color, and inferior wiping of the ink color from the roller during the printing (Fig. 11). The overprint was designed by painter Miloš Bazovský and executed in an orange color. The stamps were only valid until January 31, 1939, and that only in Slovakia.

The stamps had a very short period of validity -- only 14 days. In this perspective they were only surpassed by the charitable stamp issue, the so-called Legionnaires 1919, which was valid only 7 days. History was again repeating itself through a pointlessly high volume of stamps that were of limited validity on an area smaller than 1/2 the size of prewar ČSR. The stamps were mainly used on philatelic items. An example of the invalid franking use of this overprinted stamp can be seen at Figure 12. The use of the stamp on a letter from Prague on February 9, 1939 after the period of validity was marked as invalid by blue pencil, and the letter was tasked with postage due (T40 cts). On the back of the letter is only the



Figure 12: Invalid franking on a letter to France, PRAHA post office 9.II.39



Figure 13: Registered heavy letter up to 40 grams sent from Bratislava to Poland



Figure 14: Embossed imprint on upper stamp coupon



Figure 15: Overprint *Slovenský štát 1939* on the 10 Kč value

receiving cancel PERPIGNEN 11.II.39 - 13.45, and the shipment has no marks indicating air-mail transport.

On the opening day of the Slovak parliament on 18 January 1939, there was used the specialized postmark of the autopost BRATISLAVA -- AUTOPOŠTA. The franking value of the 300h stamps precisely predetermined their use on registered domestic shipments. The postal multiple use of commemorative stamps as well as their use on consignments to foreign countries is scarce (Figure 13, a letter to a neighboring foreign country 2 Kč + surcharge for increased weight to a foreign country 1.50 Kč + surcharge for registered mail to a foreign country 2.50 Kč = 6 Kč).

An interesting use of this stamp is the unofficial embossing of the great state seal on the coupon of the stamp (Fig. 14). Obviously we are dealing with a souvenir from a philatelic operation that I am so far not familiar with. Certainly a document of the postal use of this stamp would help.

Very soon after the break up of ČSR I., the postal service of the SŠ [Slovakian State] proceeded to release stamps with the overprint "*Slovenský štát 1939*" (Fig. 15). This 10 Kč overprinted stamp with the Bratislava motif was issued on March 29, 1939, and as with the other overprinted stamps issued by the SŠ, it had a very short validity period -- only until April 17, 1939.

The blue color of the underlying stamp (used for the overprinting) instead of the original steel blue color points out the fact that apparently we are dealing with a further print run of the 10 Kč definitive postage stamp performed at

the beginning of 1939 even before the break up of the republic.

Unlike the SŠ, the postal administration of PČaM [Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia] got on board with the overprinting of ČSR stamps much slower and did not issue overprinted stamps until July 15, 1939. This was probably due to an insufficiency of some values of the basic definitive stamps which they required to have overprinted. In this situation they added to the basic printing plates so-called puncture marks to facilitate the centering of the overprint on the underlying stamps.

To the basic BÖHMEN u. MÄHREN / ČECHY a MORAVA overprint in black was added a 3-lined coverage of the text ČESKOSLOVENSKO in the upper frame



Figure 16: The right lower corner block-of-4 with pairs of blank coupons and plate mark 1

of the stamp image (Fig. 16). The validity of the overprinted issues ended on December 15, 1939, just as with the concurrently used ČSR stamps.

From 1939 the PČaM postal administration returned to the use of definitive stamps for the franking of registered packages. At Figure 17 is 1/3 of a parcel dispatch clipping for a package sent from the PARDUBICE 3 post office on October 26, 1939 to Plzeň. Apparently this was a package without a stated value.

The package dispatch form is bi-lingual (Czech - German) and originates yet from the ČSR (Kolek 50 Haléřů -- REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ).

Immediately after the formation of the PČaM, all airmail was stopped. International airmail service was partially restored in the summer of 1939. Documentation of the newly restored airmail service is the registered Express airmail cover from the PRAHA 1 post office dated 23.8.39 -- 12 to Saarbrücken (Deutschland). A transit airmail post office cancel of PRAHA 7 dated 23.VIII.39 -- 16 and an arrival cancel of SAARBRÜCKEN 2 on 24.8.39 -- 4 on the reverse of the cover proves its airmail transport. The R-sticker, Express sticker and also the sticker to signify airmail service are still from ČSR I.





Figure 17: Mixed franking of ČSR and PČaM stamps

To determine the correctness of the franking fee for the cover in Figure 18 is more complicated.

1. Fee for a letter to the German Reich (DR) from 1.4.39 1.20 K
  2. Fee for Express delivery to the DR from 17.7.39 4.00 K
  3. Fee for a foreign registered shipment 2.50 K
  4. Airmail service surcharge ?
- Total 7.70 K + ?

The amount of the airmail service surcharge could therefore be from 1 K (letter to 20g) up to 3 K (letter 41-60g). Although the cover has the "flavor" of a philatelic item, it still belongs among the interesting documents of that period, which we rarely encounter in such quality.

The existence of 3 overprinted issue versions of the 10 Kč Bratislava 1936 stamp can only compare with the 1000h Hradčany stamp (SO 1920, I. airmail provisional, postage due -- provisional issues to use up previous stamps).



Figure 18: Airmail registered Express letter franked with PČaM overprinted stamps

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*[Editor's Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from the 3/2014 issue of MERKUR REVUE with the permission of the author and editor.]*

*[Editor's Note: To disprove the idea that all is known about stamps that were issued 75-85 years ago, and therefore, no new information can be brought to light, so why bother – here is a follow-on "article" about the information which was presented in the above article in contrast to what was said in another.]*

*Correspondence Column - Question about Article*

**"LANDSCAPE, CASTLES AND TOWNS" ISSUE -  
10 Kč - BRATISLAVA  
trans. by Lucie Harris**

The editorial staff of the magazine is always pleased with reader's reaction to published specialized articles. Before our reaction, here is the full context of the letter from our reader Mr. Karel Šach.

*"Příbram, July 15, 2014*

*A question for "Filatelie" and "Merkur". By coincidence at the same time an article about the 10 Kč Bratislava stamp catalog no. 313 [Sc. 226] and overprinted no. 350 [Sc. 254A] came out. In them there is a difference between the original and re-print colors. I will quote freely. What is then correct?*

***Filatelie 7/2014 pg. 12:***

*The original stamp issue has a blue color, which smeared more. The re-print has a shading towards gray and the color has not run (blue-gray).*

**Merkur 3/2014 pg. 3:**

*The original supply of stamps in steel blue color / for the type II re-print. The new print run [had] worse quality, worse wiping color, different blue color.*

*In my collection I have the original stamp no. 313 always in steel blue (blue-gray) color [with] un-smearred print. The re-print for ČaM (even without the overprint -- marks in the corner of PA) also in blue-gray color -- slightly different shade.*

*So far I have the overprinted no. 350 stamp type I always on blue color - smearred, type II on blue-gray - un-smearred color.*



**Figure 1: Comparison of the shades of the 10 Kč stamp -- steel-blue, ditto but a lighter shade, blue**

*According to this it seems there is more truth to the article in MERKUR. Is it possible to explain this?*

*Sincerely, Karel Šach, nám. Fr. Kučery, 356 Příbram VII, 261 02”*

This seemingly simple question requires a more complex response. After my first study of the specialized literature, catalogs, and special manuals from erudite philatelic specialists from that period, I felt like being in a jungle. This stamp design from the end of ČSR I was not historically very popular among collectors, and only a few philatelists pursued a detailed study of it. That created a margin for inaccuracies with respect to determining color deviations of each issue of the same stamp.

The first issue of the 10 Kč stamp with the picture of Bratislava was printed in the steel blue color, the same as for the 2.50 Kč stamp with the motif of the Strečno castle ruins, whose color has changed only minimally on all of the subsequent printings.

In Figure 1 are shown three color shades of the 10 Kč stamp, to which are added at least three others in 1939.

For today’s problem therefore, in a future issue we will prepare a study “The Colors of Each Issue of the 10 Kč Bratislava Definitive Stamp from the ‘Landscape, Castles, and Towns 1936’ Issue” focusing also on the problem of the issued Slovak parliament 1939 stamps.

Editorial Staff

***[Editor’s Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from the 4/2014 issue of MERKUR REVUE with the permission of the author and editor.]***

# CZECH STAMPS -- AGAIN ON TOP IN THE WORLD

by Jiří Sedláč  
trans. by Lucie Harris



## Premios NexoFil a los Mejores Sellos del Mundo

CATEGORÍA	PREMIO	FINALISTA	FINALISTA
1 Premio al Mejor Sello del Mundo	REINO UNIDO "Santos y Santas" / "Santos y Santas"	2º Premio   CHILE "Isa de Princesa"	3er Premio   POLONIA: "45 años del Correo"
2   Sello con Mayor Diseño	LIECHTENSTEIN "Montañas"	CRIMACIA "Famoso, Famoso"	ROMANIA & HUNGARÍA "George Bruck"
3   Sello con Formato Más Original	SUDÁFRICA "Café" / "Compartir por el Agua"	RUMANÍA "Camera Goldena"	ESLOVENIA "Felicidades"
4   Sello Más Interactivo	BELGICA "Cinco años" / "Cinco años"	REPÚBLICA CHECA "Frank Kafka"	LIECHTENSTEIN "Zofia Clara"
5   Mejor Sello Caligráfico	ITALIA "Tutti" / "Tutti"	ESPAÑA "Tutti"	ITALIA "Tutti Carta"
6   Mejor Sello en Color	GUAYAN FRANCESA "Leyenda"	ESPAÑA "Año de la Cooperación por el Agua"	ECUADOR "Santos La Salle"
7   Mejor Sello en Impresión Mixta	PORTUGAL "Signos"	PERÚ "Luché contra la Desnutrición"	SEYCHELAS "Familia King"
8   Mejor Sello en Color Electrónico	FINLANDIA "Rocío"	BRASIL "Rocío"	CHILE "Recuerdo en la Misma Tera Javi"
9   Mejor Sello de Serie Básica	REINO UNIDO "Santos"	NORUEGA "Coronación"	COREA "Luz del Mundo"
10A   Mejor Hoja Bicolor	ISRAEL "Café y Agua"	REPÚBLICA CHECA "Café y Agua"	ALBANIA "Mantener la Tradición"
10B   Mejor Hoja de Color	ESPAÑA "Tutti" / "Compartir por el Agua"	ESPAÑA "Tutti" / "Compartir por el Agua"	ESLOVAQUIA "Arte, Arte Gal"

## Premios NexoNum a las Mejores Monedas del Mundo

CATEGORÍA	PREMIO	FINALISTA	FINALISTA
1 Premio a la Mejor Moneda del Mundo	BELGIUM "Santos"	2º Premio   IRLANDIA: "James Joyce"	3er Premio   ESPAÑA: "Juan Carlos I"
2   Moneda con el Mejor Diseño	ESPAÑA "Santos" / "Santos"	LITUANIA "Lithuanian Spirit"	AUSTRALIA "Queen of the World"
3   Moneda con Formato más Original	NEPAL "Café" / "Café"	BRASIL "Café" / "Café"	BRASIL "Café" / "Café"
4   Moneda más Interactiva	SEYCHELAS "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"	ARGENTINA "Santos"
5   Moneda de Color Legal	FRANCIA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"
6   Mejor Moneda Comemorativa	ESPAÑA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"
7   Mejor Moneda de Oro	ESPAÑA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"
8   Mejor Moneda de Plata	ESPAÑA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"
9   Mejor Moneda de Níquel	ESPAÑA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"	FRANCIA "Santos"
10A   Mejor Billete de Banco	ARGENTINA "Santos"	ARGENTINA "Santos"	ARGENTINA "Santos"
10B   Mejor Medalla	ARGENTINA "Santos"	ARGENTINA "Santos"	ARGENTINA "Santos"

Figure 1



SPOLEČNĚ VYDÁNÍ SE SLOVENSKOU REPUBLIKOU, Vatikánem a Bulharskou Republikou

Figure 2

We have already sort of gotten used to Czech stamps continuing the tradition of Czechoslovak stamps in gaining the top positions in world competitions. Especially in the last few years our stamps have very often occupied the top 3 positions. On October 31, 2014 -- under the patronage of the Spanish King -- a competition for the world's most beautiful stamp of 2013 took place. A commission consisting of 40 members chose the most beautiful stamps in the world in several categories. These members were the chairmen of the national philatelic organizations of Europe and America, and the leaders of stamp production works of national posts. Unfortunately no Czech or Slovak representatives were on the commission.

In the chart shown on this page (Fig. 1) you can see the complete results in all categories. All information including the composition of the commission and depictions of the winning stamps is published in the Spanish magazine EL ECO Filatelico y Numismatico, November 2014, number 1.234. The magazine will be available at the Společnosti meeting on March 6, 2015.

The world's most beautiful souvenir sheet was produced by the Czech Republic in conjunction with Slovakia, the Vatican, and Bulgaria for "The 1150th Anniversa-

ry of the Arrival of Cyril and Methodius” (Fig. 2). The author of the miniature sheet was Dušan Kállay, and its engraver was Miloš Ondráček.

The stamps had their success celebrated not only in Spain but also in Italy, where a competition for the most beautiful stamp with a religious theme takes place every year. The first place was the prestigious contest for the Archangel Gabriel Prize of the “Il Premio Internazionale Artefilatelica San Gabriele” competition, which was awarded to the Czech and Slovak post for the miniature sheet “The 1150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of Cyril and Methodius”. Besides to the Czech Post, thanks also belongs to the Postal Stamp Printery in Holešovice, that printed both miniature sheets.

Besides first place for miniature sheets, in this competition we also won the splendid second place for the most imaginative - most innovative stamp design in the world -- Franz Kafka by Marina Richterova (Fig. 3).

Both placements are a wonderful success for our stamp creators; and our philatelists get great pleasure from this, when we achieve such evaluations by the world. And for this reason also we collect the stamps -- which belong to the most beautiful in the world.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from the 1/2015 issue of ZPRAVODAJ with the permission of the author and editor.]



Figure 3

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

## SELL - SWAP - WANT

### WANTED:

**A 2011-2012 Bound Volume of the *Specialist* to purchase.**  
Bohdan Pauk, 2329 W. Thomas St, Chicago, IL 60622-3544.

### FOR SALE:

**Czech Republic -- 1993-2015 stamps, all SS, sheets of 4, 10, 12, some print errors.** Sam Horvath, S 8207, US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, [cancelcek@mwt.net](mailto:cancelcek@mwt.net).

### WANTED:

**Lighthouse Storage Books -- 15, 30, or 50 page varieties.** Lou Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015.  
[Lousvoboda@comcast.net](mailto:Lousvoboda@comcast.net). 303-680-7118

*New Issues*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 1

1. On February 18, 2015, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp honoring Plzeň -- European Capital of Culture (Fig. 1). This great cultural celebration is expressed on the postage stamp by the festive fireworks -- as the symbolic significant fireworks of ideas and actions -- and by the Cathedral of St. Bartholomew as a major landmark of Plzeň and a reminder of the centuries-old cultural traditions. The title “European Capital of Culture” is bestowed by the European Union for a period of one year to one or more European cities which have the chance to present their rich and diverse cultural life and development to all of Europe.

The 2015 holders of this title will be the Belgian town of Mons as well as the Bohemian town of Plzeň. The designation is to be considered an initiative to boost cultural development and changes in the appointed cities. Plzeň will present over 650 cultural events of many different genres, such as theater, music, exhibitions, architecture, dance, public-space installations, community events, education projects and meetings. The stamps was designed by Karel Zeman, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, 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 4 stamps and two different coupons. The coupon containing the coat of arms of the city on the wall of the old Plzeň theater building is framed by two figures of actors representing day and night. The scepters in the shape of clock hands held in their hands refer to the flow of time. The other coupon commemorates the famous puppet theater in Plzeň. A window from a Plzeň historical house became the stage for Kašpárek, the devil, and a mermaid. A FDC in black-blue features a bird’s-eye view of Plzeň, with its dominating synagogue and cathedral -- with a circle with two keys from the city coat of arms and a beer bottle opener, meaning “Open up, Plzeň” (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

2. On February 18, 2015, the Ministry issued a set of two 13 Kč commemorative stamps in the Historical Vehicles series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces (combining 25 Walter 6B Car stamps and 25 Metoděj Vlach Airplane stamps).

-- 13 Kč: Walter 6B Car (Fig. 3). The stamp depicts the Walter 6B car from the no longer existing unique body workshop of J. Sodomka in Vysoké Mýto. Josef Walter was one of the pioneers of the Czech car industry. In 1898, at age 24, he



Fig. 3

started his successful career as a trained engine fitter. In a small workshop at Smíchov in Prague he began to build bicycles followed by motorcycles (1902) and three-wheelers (1908). In 1913, he built his first passenger car in the new factory at Jinonice in Prague. By WW I, his cars won a number of prizes in motor racing. The customers were convinced by the reliability, speed

and driving stability of Walter's cars. He exported them throughout Europe and Russia. In the 1920's, Walter ranked among the leading manufacturers of aircraft engines with a great reputation. They were ordered by European and overseas countries, and a license was purchased even by Rolls Royce. Although the manufacturing of aircraft engines limited the manufacturing of cars, it helped improve their design and assembly. The 6 or 6B models with open or closed bodywork whose production started in 1928 are considered to be the most mature design of the Walter car make. The Walter Regent model was the last original Czech designed Walter -- it was the last and most luxurious of the six-cylinder Walter models. The Walter 6B Super confirmed its reliability in the "10,000 km across Europe" competition, where in 13 days it traveled an average of 700 km per day with a consumption of 14 liters. The Walter team won the best make award. The stamp was designed by Václav Zapadlík and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. A FDC in black shows the Walter 6B car along with its hood ornament (Fig. 4).

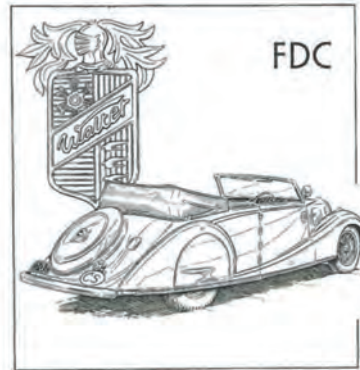


Fig. 4

-- 13 Kč: Metoděj Vlach's Airplane (Fig. 5).

The stamp depicts the completely wooden monoplane of Metoděj Vlach used by him to make his first successful public flight. Metoděj Vlach has a significant place in the history of Czech aviation. He was the first Czech builder of a functioning airplane of his own design, built from local materials and driven by a Czech engine. This neglected pioneer of Czech aviation was born on July 6, 1887 in Říkovice by Přerov and died February 8, 1952 in Sezimovo Ústí. In 1908-1922, he worked with the car makers Laurin & Klement in Mladá Boleslav. Prior to WW I, he designed and built his own airplanes as a hobby. The first one, a biplane on skis, was made in 1908, but it remained unfinished because he could not manage to find a suitable engine. He financed all of his projects from his salary as a mechanic. The second



Fig. 5

The first public flight took place on November 8, 1912. After a seventy-meter-long start, the airplane took off, and Vlach made his first flight at a height of twenty meters; he repeated it five more times on the same day. Each time, the airplane traveled 300 - 500 meters at a maximum speed of 100 km per hour. The sixth attempt ended with a crash, and Vlach suffered a mild injury. The problem was not the stability of the airplane, but the lack of experience of the designer as a pilot. WW I ended Vlach's attempts. Metoděj Vlach was not only an airplane designer, builder, and pilot, but he also contributed to the improvement of racing cars as a mechanic working for several successful racing drivers. The stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. A FDC in brown-red shows a drawing of the front of the airplane standing on a meadow (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6

3. On February 18, 2015, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp with imprinted denomination letter "A" for the Bedtime Story (Večerníček)(Fig. 7). On the stamp is depicted the character of Večerníček handing out newspapers. In 2015, the legendary cartoon character of



Fig. 7

Večerníček will celebrate the unbelievable 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous presence on television. This little boy wearing a paper hat has been tirelessly opening and closing a bedtime story animation and spreading powerful positive emotions among the audience every day for a half century. He as well as the theme song became the symbol of the animated program named after him. The author of the Večerníček character was the academic painter Radek Pilar. The tradition of bedtime story animation on televi-



sion started in 1963 with the Small Silver Mirror program aired every Sunday evening. Then on January 2, 1965, the program was replaced with *Večerníček* bedtime stories regularly broadcast every Sunday with a little boy opening and closing each bedtime story. The founding author and first script editor of the *Večerníček* program was the graphic artist Milan Nápravník. The *Večerníček* theme song is the oldest television theme song in the Czech Republic. In 1973, the program started to be broadcast in color every day. The best known *Večerníček* series include stories about the Little Mole, Rumcajs the Robber, Fairy Amálka, Pat and Mat, and Bob and Bobek. *Večerníček* is now broadcast on several Czech Television channels. The stamp was designed by Otakar Karlas and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 40 pieces. A FDC shows a drawing of *Večerníček* in a car (Fig. 8).

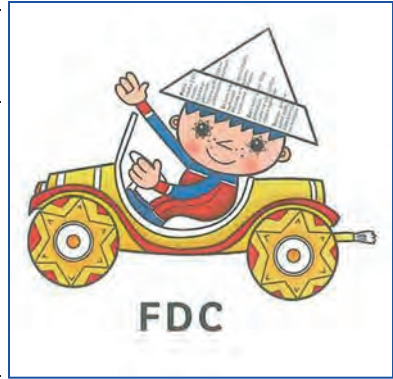


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

4. On March 4, 2015, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp with imprinted denomination letter “A” for Easter (Fig. 9). On the stamp is depicted a cartoon hare wearing a green suit and a red bow tie while balancing a basket of dyed eggs in one hand and carrying a braided whip in the other. The whip -- known as a pomlažka -- is made of young, supple pussy willow branchlets. An article by Megan Stewart published in the April 9, 2009, *Prague Daily Monitor*, explains the tradition: “Easter Monday, sometimes called Whipping Monday, is when the real fun and celebration takes place. Boys and men approach girls and women singing Easter carols and either whipping them with pomlažkas or dousing them in icy water. In doing so, people historically believed that women would be ensured with another year of health,

youth, and beauty. Women in return would tie a ribbon around the pomlažka and present the men with a beautifully embellished kraslice [painted egg], candy, a shot of plum brandy [slivovice], or money.” Easter belongs to the most popular holidays in a large part of the world. It celebrates spring with the awakening of nature, its fertility, hope and love -- and of course with the Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Different villages boasted different Easter customs and traditions



Fig. 10

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

whose aim was to get rid of everything old, to clean the house, and cure the body to make them ready for the rebirth of nature. Easter is a moveable celebration that falls on a different Sunday every year between March 23 and April 26. The stamp was designed by Jiří Slíva and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in multicolored offset depicts a chick hatching from its egg and painting another Easter egg [kraslice](Fig. 10).



Fig. 11

The side labels in the right-hand section of the arranged printing sheet contain the following motifs: a dwarf with young animals in the upper one; dwarves on a handstamp in the middle one; and a dwarf in a postal bag in the lower one. Five other pictures of dwarves are located in the margins of the printing sheet. A part of the sheets will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels. A FDC in multicolored offset depicts an envelope with dwarves (Fig. 12).

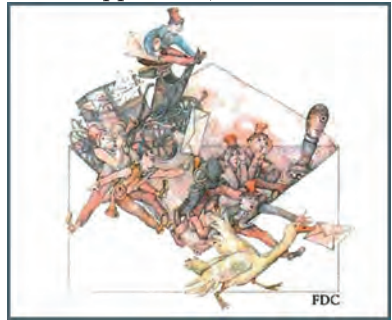


Fig. 12

5. On March 4, 2015, the Ministry issued a non-denominated definitive stamp with labels for additional printing and with imprinted letter “A” called “The Flying Post Office” that depicts postal dwarves flying over Charles Bridge (Fig. 11). The stamp is issued in arranged printing sheets with 9 stamps and 12 labels. The nine main labels portray a scale with a parcel containing goslings and postal dwarves.

6. On March 18, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with one 25 Kč stamp for EXPO 2015 Milano (Fig. 13). On the stamp is a combination of the EXPO Milano 2015 logo and a photograph of Leonardo da Vinci’s fresco “The Last Supper”. The World Exhibition 2015 with its theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” is focused on the key issues of sustainable development. It intends to become a global opportunity for presentation and comparison of traditional and innovative approaches to food production. The central idea is how to guarantee enough quality and harmless food and water resources for the entire world population. The World Exhibition takes place May 1 - October 31, 2015 with 130 exhibitors from around the world. The EXPO 2015 exhibition grounds will be located northwest of Milan. The Czech pavilion is based on a modular structure that is easy to dismantle and transfer and use again at the end of the exhibition --



Fig. 13

it will be used for the construction of a kindergarten. Instead of standard paper information leaflets that are thrown away, the information will be printed on bathing suits whose use will be continued after the exhibition. Also the pool structure will be used to revive the banks of the Vltava river in Prague. The effort to create a solution that will be used even after the exhibition is based on the history of the Czech pavilion for the 1958 World Exhibition in Brussels, which became a unique and rare element in the mosaic of notable modern buildings in Prague. The stamp was designed by Adam Hoffmeister, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in souvenir sheets having one stamp. A FDC in black-gray has a drawing of the Duomo di Milano (Fig. 14).

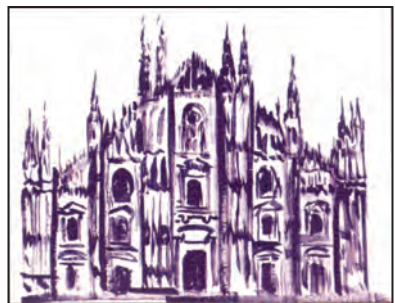


Fig. 14

7. On April 4, 2015, the Ministry issued a 30 Kč commemorative stamp for the 2015 World Ice Hockey Championships (Fig. 15). The stamp depicts 16 hockey sticks; the blade of each stick contains a drawing of the flag of a country taking part in the championships. This year's 79<sup>th</sup> World Ice Hockey Championships will be hosted by the Czech Republic. Like in the 2004 World Championships, the venues chosen by the organizers are O2 Aréna in Prague and CEZ Aréna in Ostrava. This will be the tenth world championships held in Prague (1933, 1938, 1947, 1959,



Fig. 15

two basic groups of 8. The best four teams of each group will qualify for the quarter-finals that will be played cross-over -- the first-place team in each qualification round group will play the fourth-place team from the other group. Likewise, the second-place team on one group will play the third-place team of the other group (1A - 4B, 2A - 3B, 1B - 4A, 2B - 3A). Winning teams advance to the semi-finals. The stamp was designed by Katerina Podoláková and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC contains line drawings of the back and front of a hockey glove (Fig. 16).

1972, 1978, 1985, 1992, and 2004). The tournaments will be attended by 16 teams including the best 14 teams of the previous championships plus the 2 teams advancing from the Division 1 A tournament of the previous year (Slovenia and Austria). The latter will replace the teams of Italy and Kazakhstan that attended the past championships in Minsk. The 16 teams are divided into

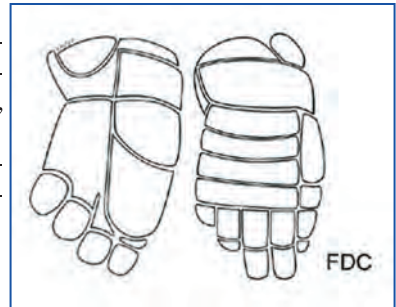


Fig. 16



Fig. 17

8. On April 15, 2015, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp for Chomutov -- The 6th Czech and German Philatelic Exhibition (Fig. 17). The stamp features two churches including the large Jesuit church of St. Ignatius by Carlo Lurago and the smaller, original older church, presently used as the building of the city gallery "Špejchar" (granary). Chomutov -- in northwestern Bohemia -- is a city with a glorious history of nearly 800 years and a rich social, cultural and sporting life. In 1992, the Chomutov historical center was declared as an urban conservation area. It has maintained its medieval ground plan typical of historical market towns. Its main landmark is the former Jesuit seminary, built in the late 16th century by Catholic aristocrat Jiří Popel of Lobkowicz on the southern side of the square. The simple building of the granary served as the first church to the seminary. Today, it hosts the municipal gallery with a large exhibition space. The stamp was designed



Fig. 18

by Marie Svobodová, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in dark-brown, light-brown, and violet in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 coupons are issued. The first coupon shows the Art Nouveau building of the Municipal Theater (Fig. 18). The other

coupon features a small secular building, sometimes referred to as “Špalíček”, attached to the monumental 13<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic building of St. Catherine’s Chapel (Fig. 19). The booklet



Fig. 19

depicts St. Ignatius Church and the city gallery “Špejchar”. A FDC in dark-brown depicts house No. 4 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May square in Chomutov (Fig. 20). It used to be called the old town hall or salt house, occasionally also the old parsonage. The town council used to meet there until 1605 when the meetings were moved to the mansion, presently the old town hall. The house was built as early as the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

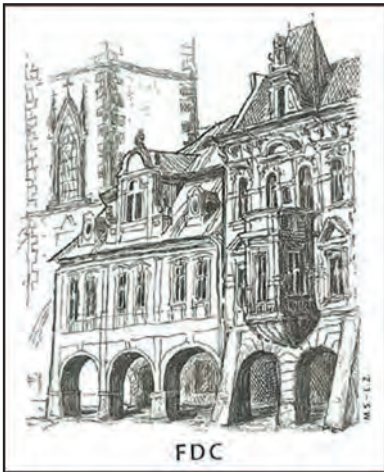


Fig. 20

## Stationery

9. On February 18, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted letter-denominated “A” for Josef Božek (1782-1835)(Fig. 21). The definitive A-stamp depicts a Božek’s steam engine powered vehicle. On the picture portion of the postal card is depicted the steam engine powered vehicle being operated by Josef Božek and a flying balloon in the background. The postal card is issued to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the first steam car in Czech territory. Josef Božek was born in Biery in Silesia into a Czech miller family. During his study at the Cieszyn grammar school, Božek allegedly designed about forty ingenious mechanisms and models. He studied mathematics and mechanics in Brno and then went on to Charles University in Prague, but due to lack of funds, had to step back to become a mechanic in the Royal Czech Polytechnic Institute. He soon gained fame by constructing a movable prosthesis for Prince Ypsilanti and Russian officer Danilevskij. He continued by way of the construction of pumps for waterworks, and

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train carriages for the first horse-drawn railway line in mainland Europe connecting České Budějovice and Linz. He also constructed a set of models of clock escapements for the most advanced systems as well as clocks for special applications (portable, interior, and tower clocks). His precise 1812 pendulum clock for the Klementinum observatory in Prague was used by the Astronomical Institute in Prague until 1984. The first steam engine was brought to Bohemia by Georg F.A. Buquoy. The engine made in England was not assembled and the components were just roughed. Božek was asked to put the engine into operation, and in Prague's Královská Obora park in September 1815, he introduced the first steam car in the Czech territory. However, in 1817, during a repeated presentation where he also showed a steamboat of his own construction on the Vltava river in Prague, someone stole the cash box with the collected money. The indebted Božek smashed the car and gave up experimenting with steam engines for good. The postal card was designed by Milan Bauer and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.



**Fig. 21**

10. On March 5, 2015, the Ministry issued a postal card with imprinted postage stamp with the letter “E” with additional printing for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Stamp Exhibition Munich 2015 to be held March 5 - 7, 2015 in Munich (Fig. 22). In the left part of the Postal card is a composition of graphic artwork (collage) made by Irena Vyčítalová based on period materials (a drawing of a birdie with envelope and flowers). The additional printing is made by multicolored offset. The postal card will be available in Munich during the Stamp Fair at the Czech Post exhibition stand, and at other locations.



Fig. 22

## SLOVAKIA by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 23

11. On December 5, 2014, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.60€ commemorative stamp with triangular coupons in the Postage Stamp Day series honoring Severin Zrubec (Fig. 23). The traditional postage stamp with a coupon issued annually at the occasion of the Postage and Philately Stamp

Day is impressively shaped as a trapezium with triangle coupons. It is dominated by his portrait and autograph. Zrubec's first gold medal awarded at the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1962 extends over the right coupon, while a section of emblem of the Society of St. Gabriel, he co-founded (1962), is depicted on the left one. JUDr. Severin Zrubec (1921-2011) lived, worked, and received his degree of Doctor in Laws at the Faculty of Law of the Slovak University (1948) in Bratislava. Zrubec worked as a lawyer in various organizations. However, the philatelic public knows him as a successful exhibitor, journalist, and a member of

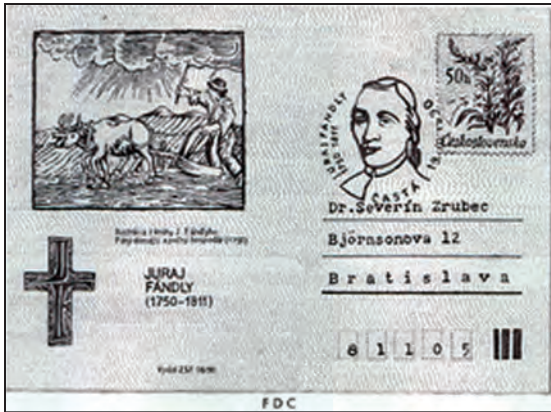


Fig. 24

ing combined with recess printing in a printing sheet of 15 couponed stamps. A FDC includes a postal card (J. Fándly, 1991 from the Museum of Book Culture) issued by the Union of Slovak Philatelists and sent to his home address (Fig. 24).

home and foreign juries assessing exhibits. He took part in organized philately for more than fifty years. He engaged in the modern view of philately as a hobby with a significant cultural and social mission. Over the years he held numerous high-level Slovak and international philatelic organization positions. The stamp was designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing in a printing sheet of 15 couponed stamps.

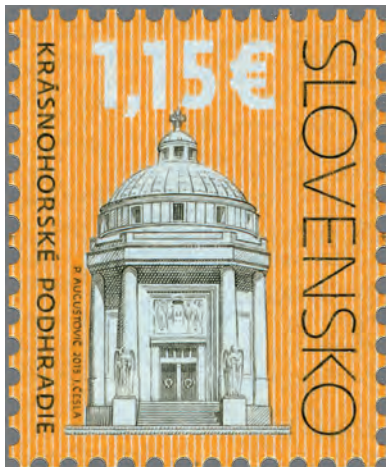


Fig. 25

buildings. Being made of white sandstone with lion knockers on the bronze door, it creates an impression of an octagon through skewed edges and a square base. The interior includes golden mosaics and colored marbles from different parts of the world. Agate-covered windows absorb transmitted light. The altar of St. Francis of Rome comprises a mosaic picture of the saint imported from Florence, decorations in gold, and bronze pictures of seraphs. The Mausoleum is unprecedented in central Europe. The stamps

12. On January 2, 2015, the Ministry issued a 1.15€ commemorative stamp in the Cultural Heritage of Slovakia series for the Krásnohorské Podhradie, Andrássy Mausoleum (Fig. 25). Dionysius Andrássy had a mausoleum built, not far from the Krásná Hôrka Castle, for his wife Františka Hablavcová, an opera singer with whom he fell in love in Vienna. Since she did not have “blue blood”, they got married secretly and lived in Döbling and Munich. His father disinherited him but changed this later before he died. After Františka’s death, he decided not to bury her in the family tomb. Rather, the building of the mausoleum commenced in 1903 and completed next year. It has both modern and classical features with an exquisite interior inspired by other 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century



Fig. 26



was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Jozef Cesla, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 100 pieces. A FDC depicts a sculpture of winged guardians on either side of a central column (Fig. 26).



Fig. 27

13. On January 30, 2015, the Ministry issued a T2 50g denominated commemorative stamp with a coupon for personalization entitled Valentine's Day Card (Fig. 27). The motif of a Valentine postage stamp was selected especially for the young teenage generation, who prefer the virtual world of electronic media. Taking into account the postage stamps was designed in the form of an illustrated QR code with a link to a video clip about love. The QR (Quick Response) code was originally developed by the Japanese company Denso-Wave in 1994 to monitor manufacturing processes in the automobile industry. As the company published code specifications without claiming patent protection, the QR code became freely available to different types of both commercial and non-commercial activities all over the world. The principle of QR code usage

is based on reading a code via a mobile device by means of freely downloadable software (QR code reader) designed to decode text information included in a code, which takes the form, for example, of a web address. However, a QR code on a postage stamp is not a novelty of the world. Two Valentine postage stamps with QR codes and individual perforations in the shape of a heart were issued by Taiwan in 2011 with the text messages 'Happy Valentine's Day' and "I Love You!". The QR code design also became inspiring for other countries, e.g. the United States, which issued several postage stamps in an illustrated QR code design with a motif of a monkey or a toy, or discography of Miles Davis and Edith Piaf in 2012. The new Slovak stamp incorporates all current achievements of QR code postage stamps. It is not only in the shape of a heart, i.e. an illustrated QR code, but can also be identified as the first music video-stamp in the world issued for Valentine's Day, as the QR code comprises a link to the video from the mega concert of the band Elán in Prague on September 20, 2003 with a sequence from the song "Čakám Ta Láska" (I am waiting for you, my love). The classical stamp has thus become not only an interactive expression of love between the two in love, but it is for all who would like to express their love in an untraditional way. The stamp was designed by Adrian Ferda and



Fig. 28

produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, using offset in printing sheets of 8 stamps and 8 coupons. A FDC depicts a QR code with a silhouette of a couple kissing (Fig. 28).



Fig. 29

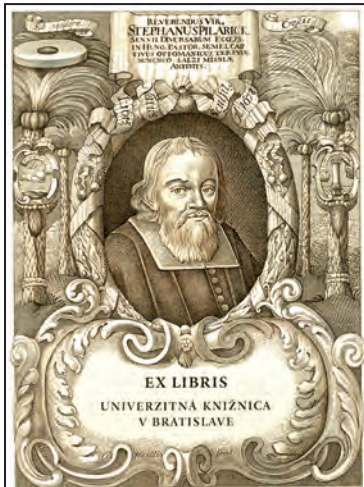


Fig. 30

larikiana -- *Osud Pilárika Stefana* ("The Fate of Pilárik Stefan"), which was published in slovakised Czech in Žilina in 1666. The author reflected on his experience from 1663, when he was subjected to two months of Ottoman imprisonment. He captured his testimony in a realistic style, providing precise facts, data and historical events. Due to its anti-Ottoman and memoir character, this work became the only preserved work of its kind in Slovak literature. He also presented his experiences from the Ottoman imprisonment in his auto-

14. On February 6, 2015, the Ministry issued a 0.60€ commemorative stamp in the Personalities series for the 400<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Stefan Pilárik (1615-1693)(Fig. 29). Stefan Pilárik was an Evangelic priest, remarkable poet and prose-writer of the Baroque period. He lived in turbulent times of confessional disputes, Ottoman attacks and anti-Habsburg moods. Contemporary social events and the dramatic fate of authors were also reflected in his works. He was born in Ocová in 1615 to the family of an Evangelic priest. He

was ordained priest in Zvolen in 1639. He zealously served in a number of places over the next 34 years until in 1673 he exiled to Germany and served as a preacher in Neusalz until his death in 1693. He started dealing with literature as a translator of German Protestant literature. The first of his own works were prayer books and hymn books for the practical needs of priests and believers: *Favus Distillans* ("Flowing Honey", Levoča 1648) and *Davidova Harfa* ("David's Harp", Trenčín 1652).

The most significant work from the literary perspective is his epic and reflective poem *Sors Pilárikiana*



Fig. 31

biographic prose *Turcico-Tartarica Crudelitas* (“Turkish-Tatar Cruelty”, Bautzen 1684). The only authentic portrait of Stefan Pilárik has been preserved in his autobiography (Fig. 30). The postage stamp and FDC (Fig. 31) include motifs from the author’s manuscript “*Favus Distillans*”, its origins being the collection of the University Library in Bratislava. The stamp was designed by Adrian Ferda, engraved by Jozef Cesla, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities in Prague using offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 32

15. On March 6, 2015, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp entitled “The Head of Christ” -- Easter Motifs in the Work of Karol Ondreička (1898-1961)(Fig. 32). Karol Ondreička is a representative of the artistic generation that sought the connection of the principles of modern art with a particular Slovak expression. He was born in Dubnica nad Váhom, and graduated from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, majoring in decorative painting. He went on to be a professor and then the Head of the Department of Folk and Art Production for the State. From 1932, Ondreička regularly illustrated books for the publishing house of Matica Slovenská, as well as the legendary children’s magazine, *Slniečko*. He then concluded his career by teaching drawing and painting at the Slovak University of Tech-

nology in Bratislava, where he died in 1961. K. Ondreička was, much like his contemporaries, inspired by the traditional way of life in the mountainous area of Slovakia. However, we find not only heroic images of hard work in a tough but beautiful landscape, or images of significant or symbolic human characters and Jánošík-like heroes in his works, but also frequent images of real people on the road, traveling for a purpose, for work, or with the results of their work, walking in groups or processions. Besides, Ondreička brought new themes to Slovak painting which had not been presented before and had rather only appeared in literature or photography -- mourning assemblies, All Souls’ Day scenes, the issue of immigration, and work on the railroads. Characters not previously depicted in Slovak painting, like poachers, tramps or climbers, appeared beside traditional loggers and outlaws. He frequently enriched his main themes not only with typical images of people in the Slovak mountains, but also with animals and fairy-tale characters. From among the more significant modern artists, Ondreička was the only one to regularly portray the Madonna and Child. He sought a modern, as well as Slovak Christian and socially based image of the Madonna as mother, while applying his illustrator interest and experience. Suffering Christ as the “male” counterpart of the Madonna also appeared in this works, however much less frequently. A remarkable Nordic-like Savior with blond hair and blue eyes appeared in his series of Christ heads from 1940. Ondreička focused on His face, which resulted in imaginary portraits of suffering Christ with a significant or even

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naturalistic crown of thorns. Besides illustrations, Ondreička occasionally dealt with graphic works. A series of wooden engravings, including the composition named *Under the Cross*, was created in the first half of the 1930's, portraying a favorite theme of contemporary fine arts and photography -- three village women with bundles and big scarves concentrated around a cross by the road in reverence. An apparently disinterested man is standing to the side, leaning on a hatchet. This frequently depicted scene thus gains a different meaning, but is portrayed on the FDC (Fig. 33). The stamps were designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities in Prague by offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces and with eucalyptus perfume.



Fig. 33



Fig. 34

acutely leukemia and malignant tumors which are typical of childhood) make up two thirds of all patients. As far as children with the malignant diseases are concerned, the success rate of recovery after the allogeneic transplantation is above 60%; with non-malignant diseases reaches almost 90%; whereas none of the children with such diagnoses would survive without transplantation, since the above stated diseases cannot be cured using any other medical procedures. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities in Prague by offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC with artwork was produced (Fig. 35).

16. On March 16, 2015, the Ministry issued a 1.15€ commemorative stamp for The Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of the UCHC (Fig. 34). In November 1995, a special department for the transplantation of haematogenous cells was established at the University Children's Hospital and Clinic (UCHC) in Bratislava. The Bone Marrow Transplant Unit (BMTU) of the UCHC in Bratislava is the only one of its kind in Slovakia, where the transplantation of haematogenous cells in cases of children (ranging from 0 to 18) with oncology, serious haematology and metabolic issues are conducted. During its 20-year existence, more than 320 transplantations in children with the aforementioned diseases have been conducted in this department. As in every other paediatric transplant center, the children with malignant diseases (especially with

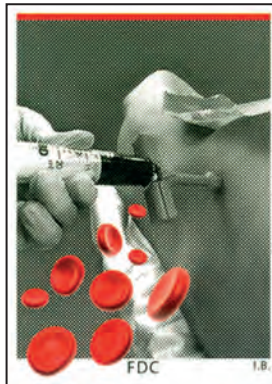


Fig. 35

17. On March 31, 2015, the Ministry issued a 0.80€ commemorative stamp in the Sport series for Vladimír Džurilla (1942-1995)(Fig. 36).



Fig. 36

Sport series for Vladimír Džurilla (1942-1995)(Fig. 36). Vladimír Džurilla (born August 2, 1942) is a legendary goalkeeper of the world in the discipline of Czechoslovak and Slovak ice hockey. He represented Czechoslovakia in 139 games. He is a three-time world champion (1972, 1976, 1977), a participant in three Winter Olympics (1964 - bronze, 1968 - silver, 1972 - bronze), and in eight world championships, winning three gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

He defended the net of the Czechoslovak national team at the memorable victory 8:0 over Canada at the 1965 World Championship in Tampere, as well as at an even more memorable victory 1:0 over the cradle of ice hockey at the first Canada Cup in 1976. In the game which is believed to be one of the greatest games in ice hockey history, he stood up to Orr, Hull and Esposito. His performance in a dramatic game at the Grenoble Winter Olympics, in which Czechoslovakia defeated the Soviet "Zbornaya" 5:4, is also memorable. He became the first Slovak hockey player to enter the Hall of Fame of the International Ice Hockey Federation in 1998. Thirty years after he became the best goalkeeper at the World Championship in Tampere, he received the award for the best player in the game with the "Družilla smile". On July 27, 1995, he changed to his last team -- to the heavenly All-Stars Team. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities in Prague by offset in printing sheets of 30 pieces and 30 labels in a tête-bêche format. A FDC with artwork was produced (Fig. 37).



Fig. 37



Fig. 38

ways (ČSD) took over the steam locomotive 498.104 from its manufacturing facility, the fourth engine from a series of fifteen. The Albatros locomotives, often referred to as the “Type 1” locomotives, are one of the heaviest, biggest and fastest steam locomotives manufactured for the Czechoslovak State Railways. They represent the top products of the Czechoslovak steam locomotive construction school. Thanks to the paint work based on a draft of the academic painter Vilém Kreibich, the Albatros locomotives, with plum-blue locomotive coating, tender without color lines, red wheels, reddish brown running gear and a white cab roof became the uncrowned kings of railways. The Albatros locomotives surpassed all expectations in operations. They were able to drag trains weighing up to 1,000 tons at almost 100 kph, and served as reliable machines in the express train service on the Praha - Žilina - Košice line. The Albatros locomotives had to yield to the developing rail electrification of the 1960’s. They continued to be used around Bratislava for some time. In 1982, Albatros 498.104 was towed to “Bratislava - východ” depot, and became a part of a museum collection. On March 15, 1994, after 42 months of hard restoration work, the locomotive was officially warmed up. Today, the 498.104 Albatros locomotive in Bratislava is the only operational locomotive of its type in the world. The stamp was designed by Robert Makar and engraved by Lubomír Žálec. A FDC

18. On April 17, 2015 the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series: Steam Locomotives. The stamps were produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 0.45€: 498.104 Albatros (Fig. 38). On December 24, 1954, representatives of the Czechoslovak State Rail-

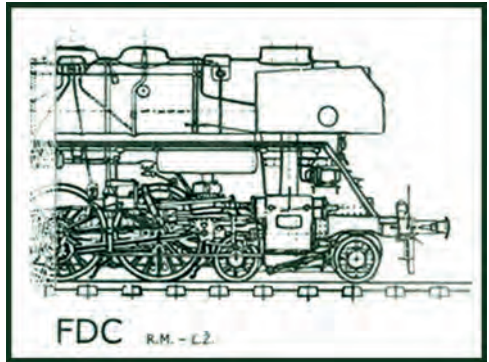


Fig. 39

with artwork was produced (Fig. 39).

-- 0.45€: Steam Locomotive 464.001 (Fig. 40). At the beginning of the 1930’s, the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD) ordered new high-performance locomotives from the Českomoravská-Kolben-Danek company (ČKD), which should have provided transportation via semi-fast trains and express trains on mountain railways. ČKD created a new design No. 464 in 1933 with a two-cylinder superheated



Fig. 40

steam express tank engine and 2'D2' axle arrangement which was inspired by the successful 456.0 series by designer Vojtech Kryspín. The maximum speed of the twin-cylinder superheated steam locomotive peaked at 90 kph. First models did not have smoke deflectors; these were installed later. Thanks to the smoke deflectors, the locomotive gained its specific look and nickname "Ušatá" ("Blinker") [big-eared]. "Blinkers" started to operate in Slovakia from the depots in Vrútky and Zvolen no sooner than 1938. One locomotive from the series also pulled the funeral train of

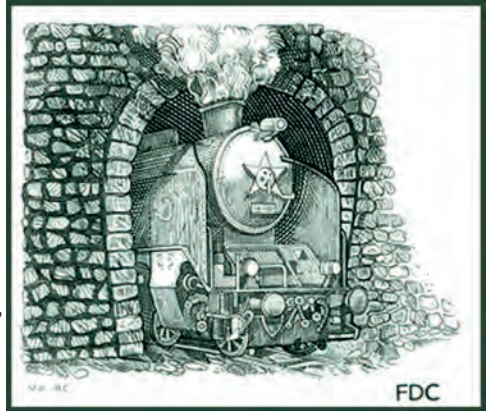


Fig. 41

the first President of Czechoslovakia, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, from Prague to Lány. The manufacturing facilities of ČKD Praha and Škoda Plzeň produced 76 steam locomotives in total. Due to their reliability and ease of use, the locomotives remained in operation until the end of steam locomotive operation in 1981. The 464.001 steam locomotive ended its service in the "Česká Lípa" depot in 1977. Thanks to its good operational condition, it was saved from being scrapped. From 1995 to 2007, a general overhaul and maintenance of the steam locomotive was conducted in order to get it to its operational state. As a technical monument of the Slovak Republic, the 464.001 "Blinker" locomotive is currently entrusted in the care of the Steam Engine Club in Prievidza. On its nostalgic railway journeys, the locomotive has carried several thousand passengers over six years. Only two locomotives of the 464 series have been preserved, the first model 464.001 and the last model 464.102 (maintained by the Czech Railways in the Lužná u Rakovníka Museum). The stamp was designed by Marián Komáček and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. A FDC with artwork was produced (Fig. 41).

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## NOMINATIONS RE-RUN

*A mistake was made in the Winter issue when we put a ballot form into the issue instead of a nomination form.*

*This issue has the correct nomination form for your use. See the Winter issue for instructions on nominating someone.*