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Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,

an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization

Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

 $\label{thm:color} \mbox{The Specialist is in color, sponsored by the Phil Melamed Trust in honor of Charlie Chesloe.}$

A.P.S. Unit 18

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MILCOPEX ANNUAL SOCIETY CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2015

Our annual convention this year is being held in conjunction with MILCOPEX 2015 from September 25 - 27 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport hotel, 6401 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, WI.

The special show rate is \$99 for a single or double plus 15.1% taxes. Call the Reservations Office at 414-764-5300, and mention the Group name "Milcopex, Milwaukee Philatelic Society Inc." The deadline for the show rate is August 25, 2015, or when the room block is filled, whichever is sooner. The show's website can be found at: www.henak.net/Milcopex/Milcopex.html.

The show hours are 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday and Saturday, and 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday when the show closes. Admission costs are \$2 per day, or \$5 for the three days. Parking is free.

Please come by our Society table to introduce yourself, to meet other members, and to get the latest information on where and when Society activities will take place. We are always available to answer questions about Czechoslovak philately, and there will be a number of exhibits related to Czechoslovak philately. We will also have a great selection of our books available for you to review. There will also be a youth activity area.

Then on Saturday afternoon we will have our Society general meeting followed by presentations by two of our members. We look forward to meeting you at the show.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

- 1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. However, the circuit is currently not operating because of a lack of materials from members. When this situation is remedied we will notify you in the *Specialist*.
- 2. A book sales division is run by 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).
- 5. 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. Svoboda (see address/email above).
- 6. Our web site (www.csphilately.org) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via email, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117, email: mmgalitz@gmail.com.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Web Site: www.csphilately.org

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net Phone: 303-680-7118

Assistant Editor: Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117 Foreign Editor: Sam Horvath, S8207 US Highway 61, Readstown, WI 54652

Elected Officers

President: Richard Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 20151 Vice President: Chris Jackson, 6 Sunnyside Dr, SS1, St. George, ON, Canada NOE 1NO

Secretary: Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

Treasurer: Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD $\,$ 21117

Appointed Officers

Book Sales: James Buckner,322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606 Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092 Expertizing Chairman.: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Librarian: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015 APS Representative: Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.

DISTRICT COURT REPLY CARDS

by Yvonne Wheatley



Figure 1a - Court reply card circa 1921, front

A short time ago our editor sent out a plea to friends asking for scans to demonstrate usage in his new book about the blue 5 haler Dove (since published as part of the Society's [CPSGB] on-demand publication program). I responded with a scan of the card illustrated above (Figure 1a), a reply card separated from an order sent out by a District Court. Note the rough edge indicating where the reply card was separated from the original.

The reply card has the bilingual cancel *Cukmantl ve Slezsku / Zuckmantel Schles* and is addressed to the Court in Zuckmantel. The Court clerk applied a purple boxed receipt stamp dated 13 June 1921. As an aside, Cukmantl/Zukmantel is now known as Zlaté Horv and is in Silesia.

Note that even as late as 1921 the District Court was still relying upon postal stationery printed by the Austrian government: the Court is addressed in German as *K. k. Bezirksgericht* (District Court) with the Austrian appellation [*K. k.*] crossed out. Even more interesting is the text, again in German, at the bottom of the card's verso (Figure 1b:

Zur Nachricht. Zur Antwort kann diese Karte benützt werden. Wenn sie Im Postbestellbezirke des Gerichtes aufgegeben wird, so muB sie mit einer 5-Heller-Marke versehen sein. Sonst ist sie portofrei.

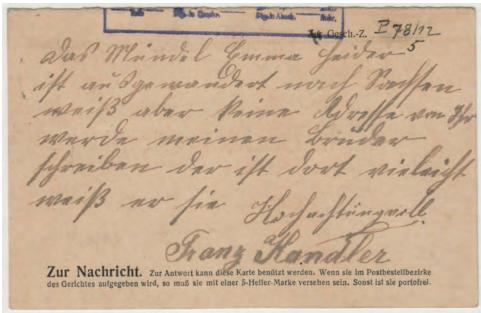


Figure 1b - Court reply card circa 1921, verso

It instructs the respondent to affix a 5 haler stamp if the card is mailed within the Court's jurisdiction or to mail the card without franking if from outside that jurisdiction. Obviously Czechoslovakia imitated Austrian rules because the postmark indicates the card was sent from within the town where the court resided and the respondent applied a blue 5 haler Dove stamp.

On the following page is second example of a court reply card franked with a violet 5 haler stamp, mailed on 15 April 1923, and addressed to the District Court in Bruntál. As the franking indicates and the bilingual $Freudenthal \mid Bruntál$ cancel confirms, the card was sent from the same location as the District Court. The card is still printed in German but has the Czech version of the town name stamped in purple, likely pre-addressed by the Court. The Austrian K. k. appellation has disappeared and the instructions at the bottom of the card's verso leave the amount of postage required blank. Clearly this second card seems to anticipate a rate change.

Does anyone have references to this odd practice of free-franking outside of a court's jurisdiction but the imposition of a postage fee if the reply were mailed within the court's jurisdiction? Did the rates change, and if so, when?

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from "Czechout" with the permission of the author and editor.]



Figure 2a - Court reply card circa 1926, front



Figure 2b - Court reply card circa 1926, verso

PHILATELIC "GIVE-AWAY"

by Ludvik Svoboda

Listed here is a group of philatelic "lots" that are for the taking by our members. All are being sold for ridiculously low prices (plus mailing costs), so that is why I say "for the taking".

All funds collected <u>will go to the Society</u> (except for the mailing costs), so gobble these up.

I do not know if you will find any treasures here, but for the price, it is certainly worth looking to see.

Also, because there is a variety of kinds of philatelic materials, you can investigate a new area of Cz/Sl collecting for very little investment that you might not otherwise try.

If you are interested in any of them, contact me at:

Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015 Lousvoboda@comcast.net 303-680-7118

This is NOT an auction, so first to contact me, first to get the lot.

- 1. This is a lot of the modern APOST Machine Franking Labels (MFL) and modern APOST Registered Machine Franking Labels (RMFL) from the 1995 2004 period on "cut squares" from envelopes. There are 20 different MFL's (plus 16 duplicates) and 38 different RMFL's (plus 4 duplicates). Among the MFL's is one where the franking field has the letters "BEZH" in it which stands for BEZHOTOVOSTNÉ [= without payment]. This means that a company has an account with the Czech postal administration for the payment of the franking. \$10 plus mailing.
- 2. This is a lot of covers containing either a modern MFL or RMFL. There are 12 MFL's (one of which is a business cover) and 18 RMFL's (all of which are business covers), and 4 of the RMFL's have the BEZH in the franking field plus a "Placeno převodem, c. 123456" rectangular handstamp [= paid by bank transfer from account 123456]. \$10 plus mailing.
- 3. Lot of 17 picture post cards showing Czech and Slovak cities, towns, castles, buildings, countrysides, flora, and fauna -- in color. \$5 plus mailing.
- 4. Lot of 10 Josef Lada picture post cards showing Christmas and Easter scenes with 5 of them being duplicates -- in color. \$5 plus mailing.
- 5. Lot of 15 Czech and Slovak picture post cards for Easter -- in color. \$5 plus mailing.
- 6. Lot of 23 Czech and Slovak picture post cards for Christmas -- in color. \$5 plus mailing.
- 7. Lot of 7 art picture post cards showing the pen-and-ink artwork of Mikuláš Aleš along with folk sayings, really detailed and beautiful. \$10 plus mailing.
- 8. Lot of 7 Czech and Slovak picture post cards showing men, women, and children in regional kroj dress -- in color. \$5 plus mailing.

- 9. Two identical groups of 5 POFIS (postage stamp collecting service) picture post cards showing beautiful Czechoslovak stamps honoring different themes (1950-1970, Prague, Moravia, Čechy, flora) -- in color. \$5 each plus mailing.
- 10. Almost 100 Czech and Slovak picture post cards showing various towns, cities, and castles -- in color. \$20 plus mailing.
- 11. Lot of 7 pre-October 1918 Czech picture post cards, with stamps and cancels. \$5 plus mailing.
- 12. Lot of 6 pre-October 1918 Czech picture post cards, without the stamp but having a cancel portion. \$5 plus mailing.
- 13. Lot of 91 1st Republic (1918-1938) Czech picture post cards, with stamps and cancels. \$20 plus mailing.
- 14. Lot of 36 1st Republic (1918-1938) Czech picture post cards, without stamps but having a cancel portion. \$15 plus mailing.
- 15. Lot of 118 1st Republic (1918-1938) Czech picture post cards, unused. \$20 plus mailing.
- 16. Lot of 3 Bohemia & Moravia era (Oct 1938 May 1945) picture post cards. Free plus mailing.
- 17. Lot of 80 2nd Republic era (1945-1954) picture post cards, with stamps and cancels. \$15 plus mailing.
- 18. Lot of 40 2nd Republic era (1945 1980) picture post cards, without stamps but having a cancel portion. \$10 plus mailing.
- 19. Lot of 44 2nd Republic era (1945 ?) picture post cards, unused. \$10 plus mailing.
- 20. Lot of 8 1st Republic (1918-1938) picture post cards from Slovak towns in Czechoslovakia, with stamps and cancels. \$5 plus mailing.
- 21. Lot of 19 2nd Republic (1945-1954) picture post cards from Slovak towns in Czechoslovakia, with stamps and cancels. \$10 plus mailing.
- 22. Lot of 11 2nd Republic (1945-?) picture post cards from Slovak towns in Czechoslovakia, without stamps but with cancels. \$5 plus mailing.
- 23. Lot of 19 1st and 2nd Republic picture post cards from Slovak towns in Czechoslovakia, unused. \$10 plus mailing.
- 24. Lot of 5 Hungarian picture post cards with Hungarian stamps and cancels going to Czechoslovak addresses. \$5 plus mailing.
- 25. Lot of 20 foreign picture post cards -- 7 without stamps but with cancels, and 13 are unused. \$5 plus mailing.
- 26. A black commemorative folder from the World Exhibition of Postage Stamps BRNO 2000 in a special commemorative envelope (showing a stylized crocodile of Brno). The folder contains a MNH Scott #3110 with label, two connected MNH Scott #3109 with labels, and a special private printing of a stamp booklet containing MNH Scott #2891 (5 x 3 Kč). Only 2,000 of these booklets were printed -- specially for BRNO 2000 -- and they were not sold separately. They are not listed in the POFIS catalogs. \$25 plus mailing.
 - 27. [Same as #26]
 - 28. [Same as #26]
- 29. A special BRNO 2000 envelope (showing the stylized crocodile of Brno) and containing a set of 8 numbered, specialized post cards in color showing Czech

Republic stamps from the 1990's. This set is not listed in the POFIS catalogs, but was officially put out by the Czech Post. \$25 plus mailing.

- 30. A miscellaneous lot of 9 commemorative post cards of various types (including an entry ticket post card to PRAGA 1968, and two stamp illustration cards from PRAGA 1978). \$5 plus mailing.
- 31. Lot of 65 airmail covers (red/blue edge stripes, Par Avion/Letecký designations) from Czechoslovakia to the USA with a great variety of Czechoslovak stamps from the 1960's/70's. \$25 plus mailing.
- 32. Lot of 6 airmail picture post cards from Czechoslovakia to the USA. \$3 plus mailing.
- 33. Lot of 15 airmail covers from Czechoslovakia to Australia from the 1960's/70's. \$10 plus mailing.
- 34. Lot of 5 airmail covers from Czechoslovakia to Lebanon (2), Gabon (2), and British West Africa (1) from the 1960's. \$3 plus mailing.
- 35. Catalog, POFIS Czechoslovakia 1945-1992, specialized 2004 catalog of 272 pages showing stamps, varieties, plate flaws, FDC's, printing sheets -- and all of these are priced. In B&W. We originally sold this for about \$25. \$5 plus mailing.
- 36. Catalog, POFIS Czech Republic 1993-2006, specialized 2007 catalog of 168 pages in color showing stamps, varieties, plate flaws, FDC's, coupons, printing sheets, postal stationery, picture postcards, specialized printing cards, specialized cards of the Postal Museum, stamp booklets, specialized envelopes, Cartes Maximum, postal memorial sheets, APOST machine franking labels -- and all of these are priced. In color. We originally sold this for \$25. \$5 plus mailing.
- 37. MINKUS 1960 illustrated album for the postage stamps of Czechoslovakia, Bohemia Moravia, Eastern Silesia, and Slovakia through 1967 -- 139 large, heavy, illustrated pages with about 30 extra blank pages for additional stamps. In a specialized MINKUS hard-cover decorative binder that allows for removal of pages. Cover has a large embossed coat-of-arms on it. \$20 plus mailing.

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

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

- 1 -- <u>Marisa Galitz</u> (member #1436) of Owings Mills, MD; current and long-time Treasurer; long-time member and Board Member.
- 2 -- <u>Richard Palaschak</u> (member #1382) of Chantilly, VA; current President; past President, Vice-president; long-time member and Board Member.
- 3 -- <u>Jaroslav Verner</u> (member #609) of Bethesda, MD; past-president; author; international exhibitor; long-time member and Board Member.

Every member in good standing is eligible to vote for any five of the candidates listed above. The order in which you list them is not important. Send your votes to our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, either by mail to: Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302 or my e-mail to: KLFCK1@aol.com. Please have your votes arrive no later than September 20.

President's Report

This will be my final report as President of our Society. It has been a distinct honor to have served our Society for these past four years as well as during my prior tenure as President, also for four years. The Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) has been fortunate over the years to have a small but dedicated group of individuals who devote their time, knowledge, and resources on behalf of our members.

Unfortunately, we, as other philatelic societies, are experiencing a smaller membership that increases the need for members to volunteer to share the workload. Our Board of Directors currently has three vacancies plus half of our Directors are in their 70's and 80's. Please give serious consideration to volunteering for service on our Board or, if you have some specific skills (e.g., computer, graphic arts, translation, etc.), identify those skills to one of us so we know to approach you with the specific projects that seem to frequently arise.

The Society continues to be financially strong and is investing in several efforts to increase membership and to benefit the current membership.

- -- Lou Svoboda is nearing completion of a Society audio-visual slide show that will be suitable for showing at your local stamp club. Hopefully, this will interest others in our philatelic area and, concurrently, with your encouragement, to join our Society.
- -- We've also had the book *The Philately of Czechoslovakia for Beginners* reprinted and plan to provide copies as part of our Society's contribution to the children's area at MILCOPEX.
- -- The Society has funded several translations of material from the Czech Republic and will make that information available to our members to assist them with their philatelic efforts.
- -- Chris Jackson and others have spent considerable time working on an update of the DVD *Index for The Czechoslovak Specialist* and developing the process so that future updates will be easier.
- -- Chris has also coordinated an effort to update the Society pamphlet *Comparison Survey of Catalog Numbers of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps* that was last published in 1997; the pamphlet is a handy cross reference guide among Czechoslovak catalogs from different countries.
- -- Courtesy of Mark Wilson, we will publish his study of typographic Czechoslovak stamps.

If you have ideas for other efforts or translations, please provide them to one of our Board members.

Our annual convention will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this September 24-27. Our Board will meet on Thursday afternoon, 24 September, on the day prior to the Show (more details about the Show can be found elsewhere in this issue). If you are in the area, you are welcome to attend the meeting. If you plan to attend the Show, please be sure to stop by our Society's table and meet other members. We will also have a Hospitality Room with drinks and snacks donated by Board Members for your enjoyment. You can get the directions to the Room at the Society table. Some of us will bring material for purchase so you may be able to stop by the Room and find items that you need for your collection. Hope to see you at the Show.

Richard G. Palaschak, President

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Lou Svoboda:

-- In the Spring 2015 issue, page 12, there was an announcement for the 67th Annual Czech Days in Tabor, SD, and an advertisement on how to get the special stamped Cachet Envelope. My wife and I went to the event, and I purchased five of these cacheted envelopes each bearing a heart-design Forever stamp (Fig. 1).

If any member would like one, please contact me (see page 2 of this issue). They will be \$3 each postpaid.



Fig. 1

2. From Mark Wilson:

-- *Czechout* received a Vermeil in the Literature Category at the International London 2015 Europhilex exhibition in May.

Mark Wilson won the George Pearson competition in July at the CPSGB's Residential Weekend in Gillingham, Kent in July with his *Czech Graphics Union* exhibit. Mark will present that exhibit as a display at the SCP meeting in Milwaukee in September at MILCOPEX.

3. From Mark Wilson:

-- For anyone who is interested. I finally got around to fixing some problems and redesigning/restyling my Czech Postage Stamp Library website -- www.cpslib.org. The site features an image of every Czech stamp and almost every mini-sheet going back to 1918. All the words on every stamp are translated and indexed. If you want to have fun, click on the Index or Catalog menu and drag your mouse slowly across any blue numbers or letters -- the stamp referred to will magically appear.

You can search by Scott or POFIS number (no SG), Latin, Czech, or English words, dates, formats motifs, and denominations [Can't figure out the provenance

of a 10 Kč stamp? Click on the Denominations menu and select 10 Kč -- every Czech 10 Kč stamp will be at your fingertips.] Click on any small image and a much larger image will appear.

The site is current to 2012, and I hope to add the 2013 and 2014 stamps shortly. Hope you find it useful; some 32,000 people have visited the site since it was originally mounted in 2010 -- about 8,000 visits a year. Somebody out there likes Czech stamps!

2014 SCP LITERATURE CONTEST

When we accepted the task to choose the best article published in the *Specialist* in 2014, we had no idea how difficult the decision would be. We read and re-read the articles, trying to identify the pluses and minuses of each one using the criteria which had been established, and then quantifying them to produce objective scoring.

Based on this process, our decision is as follows:

First -- Getting Started with Czech Revenue Stamps, by Valerie Jean Kramer

Second -- Hradčany Gutter Pairs, by Zdeněk Filipek

Third -- Castles and Palaces, by Zdeněk Fritz

We would really like to encourage our members to put pen to paper and try their talents at producing the next award winner.

The 2014 award will be presented at our convention at MILCOPEX in September.

SCP Literature Contest Committee

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.

Letters to the Editor

1. Hi Lou!

I think I've found a discrepancy in an article that was printed in the May 1959 issue of The Specialist. It is in the article, "Urban Import Foodstuffs Tax Stamps for the Large Cities of Czechoslovakia".

At the top of page 74, the article says, "The 2 crown value overprinted upon the 500 haléřů stamp was authorized by Directive No. 27, July 3, 1927 as follows:" then goes on to detail the issue. On page 76, however, the 2 Kč on 500h stamp is listed as the third issue and is said to have been issued on May 25, 1927 -- a bit more than a month before the directive authorizing it! [Note: I went back and looked at the original article in Czech which you had sent me a couple of months ago. It had the date of the directive as "June 3, 1927", but that is still a few days after the supposed May 25, 1927 issue date.]

In the June 1976 issue, William Ittel writes on page 90 that, "A new supply of the 1 Kč value was needed by January, and this was provided by overprinting the 500h green in the same way. However, that stamp had not yet been demonetized! Later, in July, the same stamp was overprinted to create a new supply of the 2 Kč value." This, at least, would be consistent with the date of Directive No. 27.

I do not know how to get access to these old postal directives nor to information on issue dates for such old stamps.

Can anyone help with such information or can anyone help untangle these seemingly conflicting dates?

Thank you.

- Valerie Kramer

2. Dear Lou:

Two messages from our sister societies in Germany and The Netherlands:

- -- Our German sister society would like to draw your attention on the new sheetlet which has been issued by the Czech Post on the occasion of the AGM of the ArGe Tschechoslowakei in Aichach in May 2015 (Fig. 1). This personalized sheetlet is based on the stamp "Winebottle as flower vase", letter "A" (postage for domestic letters). The personalized coupons show the logo of the ArGe (9 coupons), the coat of arms of Aichach (1 coupon), and the so-called "Aichach-Provisorium", an unissued postage due stamp from 1895 (1 coupon). The price for one sheetlet is 15 Euro + postage & packing (members of the ArGe pay 10 Euro). Rex Dixon has kindly offered to assist with payments, so that you will not have to pay bank charges. Orders can be made (in English) by eMail at: hartmut.liebermann@t-online.de.
- -- Our Dutch sister society has issued a postally valid sheetlet with the new logo of their magazine (Fig. 2). The price for a sheetlet is 10 Euro + postage & packing. Arrangements for payments without bank charges will be made. Orders can be delivered in person at the Gillingham and London meetings. Orders can be placed at: csfilatelie@gmail.com.

- Hans von Dooremalen



Fig. 1

Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie 2015



61A7097

Fig. 2

Letters to the Editor (continued)

3. Hi Lou!

I goofed last year, and just got the email membership [rather than the regular membership]. [So] I missed getting a copy of my own article. After I took advantage of your recent sale [of bound volumes] and I saw how nice the bound volumes were, I signed up for a patron membership this year.

- Valerie [Kramer]

[Ed. Note: One of the benefits of a Patron membership is that you get a bound volume of the year's issues.]







Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

4. Rich:

After reading your article "The 1920 Masaryk Issue" in the Spring 2015 issue, I reviewed the 1000h TGM stamps that I have, and here are three that you should find interesting.

In Figure 1 you can see a stamp that has all of the imperfections of that in your Figure 12, which is Position 89 of the printing plate. It will be on its way to you soon.

Figure 2 is your Figure 14 and 14a, BUT it does not have the star on the forehead, even though it has all of the other imperfections -- blotches in the hair, disfigured top tablet. HOWEVER, it also has one other distinguishing imperfection, it has a "wart" on the right side of its chin (your left side). Could this "wart" be the "star" that has moved down? Does the "wart" identify a new plate flaw?

Finally, in Figure 3, if you look very carefully, note that it has a distinctive round dot just off to the left of the "flag" top of the 1 in the 1000. The flag points to the dot. I have looked carefully under high magnification, and this dot is a different color and quality than the cancel -- and is the same color and quality as the "1000". Does this identify a plate flaw?

Perhaps our Society members could look through their collections and see if they have any other "imperfections" on these stamps.

- Ludvik Svoboda

ADVERTISEMENT

COLLECTOR LOOKING TO BUY

If you have any of these items that you wish to sell, please contact Mark at CorrinetLaw@aol.com or (541) 563-5028. Many of the stamps I am seeking are not particularly valuable, but I have had no luck obtaining them and the Czech Republic auctions houses don't sell them. I will pay you more than you get from any dealer and most collectors.

All stamps must be VF to XF MNH unless indicated. All stamps are Czechoslovakia. (Scott indicated as S#... and POFIS as P#...).

Scott 1, 7 and 33 as a Black Proof

Scott 61 to 81 and 71(b) and (c), and 73(b)

Scott 82 to 91 and all (b) and (c) subtypes

Scott 92 (a-e), 93 (a to c) and 94 (a to d)

Scott 86 as a Black Proof

Scott J1 to J14

Scott J15 to J19

Scott J20 to J31

Scott J32 to J34

Scott J35 to J43

Scott J44 to J49 and J46(a), J47(a) and J49(a)

Scott J50 and J50(a)

Scott J51 TO J56 and J52(a) and J53(a)

Scott P9 to P10

I am also looking for gutter pairs, proofs, and other rare items up to 1926 from Czechoslovakia.

Member: APS Life, ATA Life, Czechoslovakia Society of Great Britain and our Society of Czechoslovak Philately.

Specialization on Hradčany Stamps

THE POSTAL USE OF 60h HRADČANY STAMPS WITH HZ 13 3/4: 13 1/2 PERFORATIONS

by Vašek Káňa trans. by Jaroslav Prochazka

Today, I would like to share with you my knowledge of this inconspicuous -- but with this perforation -- interesting stamp which catalogs possibly undervalue.

I have already been interested in the specialized collecting of Hradčany stamps for more than twenty years. While assembling the reconstruction of the printing plates of the individual denominations, I have over the years examined a significant number of stamps of this issue (on the order of hundreds of thousands), but canceled 60h stamps with this perforation -- I have only found about 50.

In comparison -- in about half of that time period (10 years) -- I have accumulated about 200 used 15h stamps from the 7th printing plate (without considering perforations or color shades). I am not claiming that 60h stamps with Perforation A should be more expensive then the "15h stamps of the 7th plate", rather I want to point out their scarcity. In particular, they were used rarely on entires, and very few of them actually survived -- on the order of tens of pieces. This can be seen in the auctions where they reach prices on the order of thousands, which corresponds to their seldom appearing in the market.

Another interesting fact is that all of my examined and registered used examples were postally used in a short time period, and that was in the second half of 1920. The color shades are mainly reddish-orange, rarely yellow-orange, and singularly yellow. As examples, I am showing several samples with readable cancels from post offices (Fig. 1).

Do you have in your collection others that have been postally used? In particular, any entires deserve to be published. Send your findings to the editor, or to me personally at -- venak69@seznam.cz -- and thus enrich the knowledge of all of us.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from the 6/2015 issue of FILATELIE with the permission of the author and editor.]



Figure 1: Illustrated is a group of canceled 60h Hradčany stamps from 1918/20 with comb perforations 13 3/4: 13 1/2 which I have been collecting for the past 20 years. I suppose also that there exist used ones from other post offices. It would be surely useful to collect through joint efforts the necessary facts to be able to publish the most complete list of them.

GENUINE or PHILATELIC ???

by Ludvik Syoboda/Lubor Kunc

Here is a very interesting cover that I got some years ago, but never really looked at until just recently.

It is interesting for several reasons. It has a red PRAHA 1 machine cancel for the JUBI-LEE EXHIBITION of Postage Stamps K.Č.F. in Prague 1887-1927 dated 28 9 27 with a 50h franking. In addition there is a special circular handstamp for the same event showing PRAHA / JUB. EXHIBITION of POST. STAMPS K.Č.F., dated 28 IX 1927. The cover has an address



with no street address, but the words "Poste Restante" [to be called for] at post office Prague 1.

The cover arrived at PRAHA 1 where it was discovered that it was 10h short in franking -- the rate for a local letter 20gr and under was 60h at that time. At PRAHA 1, they should have applied a postage due requirement of 10h x 2 = 20h.

However, instead the postal clerk applied the 500h postage due [DOPLATIT] stamp having a 200h surcharge (Sc. J57/Pof. DL41) -- ten times what seemed to be required. The stamp is canceled with a PRAHA 1 cancel dated 29.9.27 - 8 [8 AM] the very next morning.

Thus it seems that the cover actually went through the post. But why the exuberant postage due?

A final interesting consideration -- when you check your POFIS catalog for the use of this postage due stamp on cover, the value is shown as "--:-" which means "does not appear in the market" -- so a very uncommon item.

I checked with our member in Prague, Lubor Kunc, for his opinion. He commented that the "Poste Restante" requirement would require an additional charge of 30h, but that the addressee would pay that when the letter was picked up. So the only postage due should have been $20h (10h \times 2)$.

He believes that the cover is philatelic. It was prepared by a stamp collector at the stamp exhibition, and then a "friend" at PRAHA 1 applied the 200h postage due stamp to create an attractive souvenir -- and it still is exactly that today because it actually went through the post.

[A final note -- if you have one of the POFIS ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939 catalogs from the last 10 years you can do this kind of analysis of covers (checking the correct franking for a given time frame) that you might be considering to buy.]

REVENUE NEWS

by Valerie Jean Kramer

The Slovak Republic discontinued the use of traditional paper revenue stamps at the end of 2014 in favor of new "electronic stamps" known as "E-KOLOKs". The new stamps can be purchased from self-service kiosks at various locations.

The exact dates relating to the old stamps are a bit tricky to determine as the original schedules had to be delayed a couple of times. Different web sites show significantly different information as to the various dates. As far as I can determine, the old stamps could be purchased until November 30 and had to be used by the end of 2014. Unused stamps can be returned for a refund until November 30, 2015.

In the past one had to purchase paper stamps from the post office and bring them to the office where they were to be applied and payment had to be in cash. With the new system, stamps are purchased at the point of use, and payment may be made by cash or credit card. Administrative fees can also be paid by postal order or bank transfer. Currently the new stamps can only be used in the office in which they are purchased and must be used within 30 days of purchase though they can be returned unused for a refund within three years of purchase.

The following images show the existing denominations of the new stamps (Figure 1).

Along with the e-stamps, one also receives a receipt from the kiosk (Figure. 2).



Figure 1: New E-KOLOK stamps



Figure 2: Example of an E-KOLOK receipt. The text in the oval translates as: Confirmation of the payment of the proper fee / Attach to the request. The text in the purple rectangle translates as: Documents (OP, VP, CP) > Identity card > Application for issuance of OP (change, record new information) > Application for issuance of OP (change, record new information) within 30 days.



Figure 3: Discontinued paper stamps.

These illustrations (Figure 3) show some of the paper stamps that were discontinued at the end of 2014. Note that the images are not all quite the same scale. Also note that the first image was scanned from an actual stamp and shows the security features of these stamps. The other images were taken from other, lower resolution, sources and do not show the security features.

THE 1920 MASARYK ISSUE

(Part 2) by Richard G. Palaschak



Figure 1

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph planned to release a 50 halérů in the same design as the 500 h and the 1000 h stamps but in a smaller format (19.5 x 27.0 mm). The 50 h stamp was proposed to accommodate a planned increase in the postage rate for a domestic latter from 30 h to 50 h. However, because the rate was actually raised to 60 h, effective 1 August 1920, these plans were abandoned. Bulletin 25 of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph, dated 7 June 1920, specified a light blue color for the stamp.

Though the stamps were never released for postal use, the planning for this stamp led to an interesting and varied array of trial prints. A trial print in the intended light blue color is shown in Figure 1; this trial is perforated 11 1/2 and has white gum.











Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a representative selection of colors for these trials; these imperforate trials exist both ungummed and with white gum, and are more common than the perforated ones. There are numerous shades for each of these colors. An example of this shading is shown for the color red at Figure 3.











Figure 3



Figure 4

Interestingly, some of the trials were printed on waste paper from other printings (Figure 4); a copy of the reverse of these two trials is shown next to the stamp.



Figure 5

Trials with a thicker value 50 design also exist in a variety of colors (Figure 5, 6, & 7). These were printed in conjunction with trials for other designs for future issues (Figure 7). Notice that only Max Švabinský's name appears at the bottom of any of these trials as none of the printing plates for them were engraved.

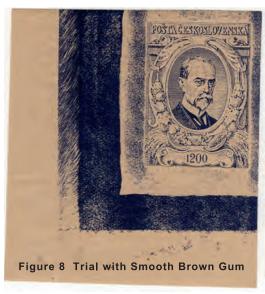


Figure 6

On 7 August 1920, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph announced that several new stamps using the same design were to be issued plus an additional issue of the 1000 haléřů in an altered color yet to be determined. The values and color proposed for the new stamps were a 125 h blue, plus a 1200 h and a 2000 h in colors to be determined. The only denomination that was actually



Figure 7





released was the 125 h. The 125 h stamp will be addressed separately in Part 3 of this series of articles.

Trial prints of the 1200 haléřů are shown in Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11. Although difficult to see without a strong magnifier, Max Švabinský's name is on the bottom left of each trial but Eduard Karel's name is not. Over the objections of Max Švabinský, the normal typographic technique was used not only for the 1200 h trials, but also for the 2000 h trials and the 125 h trials and stamps. These trials indicate that there was an ongoing exploration of colors and the appropriate gum that should be applied to the stamp. Recall that a smooth brown gum was used for the 500 and 1000 haléřů stamps.



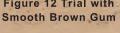
Figure 9 Trial with White Gum



Figure 10 Trial with White Gum







Similar to the 1200 haléřů trials prints, those for the 2000 haléřů version are found with varied colors and gum (Figures 12, 13, 14 & 15). It is also worth noting that these trials were printed on the normal paper used for printing stamps as well as thin and thick paper.

<u>References</u>:

- 1. Monografie Československých Známek, Volume 2, pp 148-184, Praha, 1971.
- 2. The Czechoslovak Specialist, "The 1920 Masaryk Issue of Czechoslovakia", translation by G. Skopeček and R.L. Spofford, December 1950, pp 126-130.



Figure 13 Trial with White Gum



Figure 14 Trial with White Gum on Thin Paper







Figure 15 Ungummed Trials on Thick Paper

New Issues CZECH REPUBLIC by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 1

1. On April 29, 2015, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued two self-adhesive definitive stamps in a stamp booklet of 10 stamps (5 of each) with imprinted letter "A" denomination in the For Children series showing "Bob and Bobek" in sports (Fig 1). The first -- winter stamp -- depicts Bob and Bobek playing ice hockey, while the second -- summer stamp -- shows the two paddling a rubber boat. Bob and Bobek are two merry bunnies created by Czech

cartoonist Vladimír Jiránek. Bob and Bobek premiered in a TV series of bedtime stories for children in 1978. Today, they belong to the Czech national heritage. The two rabbits live in a magic hat. Bob is bigger, smarter, and often plays the role of an adult. Bobek is smaller, timid, albeit nimble and quick-witted, and he usually plays the role of a child in relations with Bob. Both rabbits are known for having pesky ideas, which often take them into unusual funny situations. Although the characters mostly respect good morals, the animated series are not preachy -- Bob and Bobek can also be naughty mischief-makers. Bob is clever and diligent, but he is nowhere near as nimble and resourceful as the smaller Bobek. The designer of the stamps is the continuator of Jiránek's work, Alex Dowis. The stamp is produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in booklets of 2 x 5 pieces of each stamp. There are two FDCs in multicolored offset: for the winter stamp -- shows a TV set with Bob and Bobek playing ice hockey (Fig. 2); for the summer stamp -- shows a TV set with Bob and Bobek in a swim ring with an umbrella (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

2. On May 6, 2015, the Ministry issued a 25 Kč commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series entitled Toys -- MERKUR Modeling System (Fig. 4). On the stamp is depicted a crane on tracks built of colored parts of the Merkur modeling system, with black and white outlined other parts and tools scattered around. This annual issue, the same for all countries of the PostEurop organization, this year received a single theme -- Toys. The Czech Republic selected a theme of the Merkur modeling system. The legendary metal Merkur modeling system is the best-known traditional Czech toy manufactured in the Czech Republic, which became famous throughout the world. It was created in the early 20th century in

Police nad Metuji, and its models have been successfully sold since the mid-1920's. The modeling system is based on belts and profiles of different shapes and lengths, made of painted sheet steel and containing a network of drilled holes. These parts are put together with nuts and bolts. The system contains also other parts such as

axles, gear wheels, spindles, etc. Some sets also include pulleys, bulldozer belts and even electric motors. This enables the construction of most realistic structures and different machines. The variability and unlimited use of Merkur guarantee its popularity. It helps expand children's imagination, dexterity, and creativity. stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 6 pieces. A FDC in gray-black depicts a partly open Merkur kit, with a 1925 box cover showing a proud child operating a crane, and a portrait of the inventor and manufacturer of the Merkur system, Jaroslav Vancl, in a frame made of Merkur parts (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

3. On May 6, 2015, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Technical Monuments series entitled 130 Years of the Moldava Railway (Fig. 6). The stamp depicts a construction train with the Louny engine at the railway station in Dubí (formerly Ober-Eichwald). The designer A. Absolon used an 1884 photograph as the basis for his design. The Moldava Railway -- also

known as Ore Mountains

Railway or Teplice Semmering -- is a railway connecting Most and Moldava in the Ore Mountains and eventually connecting with Frieberg in Saxony. It continues to belong to the most beautiful and historic local railways in the Czech Republic. Between individual stations the train passes through tunnels and across a valley on a viaduct. There is no shortage of attractive views on the forty-kilometers-long route. The railroad crosses a valley near the town of Hrob on two viaducts. Hrob boasts the foundations of a Protestant church dismantled in 1617 on the orders of the Prague Archbishop Jan Lohelius. The destruction of the church became one of the impulses for the uprising of the Czech nobility against the Habsburg monarchy resulting in the Thirty-Year's War. Next, Dubí prides itself in having the Church of Our Lady (an example of Venetian architecture), a porcelain factory producing the world-famous Blue Onion porcelain, and the Theresa spa. In winter, Mikulov v

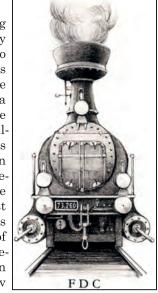


Fig. 8

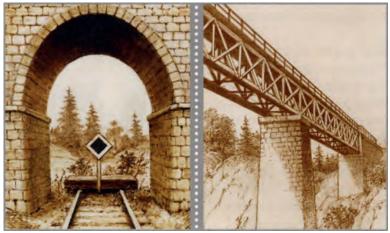


Fig. 7

Krušných horách is the final stop for skiers heading to a nearby ski resort. The railway was built by Prague-Duchcov Railway Company whose main objective was to enable coal exports to the neighboring Saxony. The cross-border connection line to Freiberg in Saxony was opened on May 18, 1885. The stamp was designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 2x2 different coupons were also issued (Fig. 7). The first coupon shows the present-day Moldava Railway ending under an arch after the Moldava station. The tracks connecting the station with the state border and Saxony were pulled out in 1945. The second coupon features the viaduct near Mikulov, an elegant steel lattice structure on 31-meterhigh brick pillars. A FDC in black/blue features a front view of an engine called helicon because of the shape of its chimney, which used to travel on the Moldava Railway from 1900 - 1967 (Fig. 8).



Fig. 9

4. On May 27, 2015, the Ministry issued a 34 Kč commemorative stamp from the Prague Castle series (Fig. 9). The stamp depicts a painting by Hans von Aachen. The Head of a Women (around 1600), displayed at the Prague Castle Picture Gallery. Hans von Aachen was a German Mannerist painter. He was born in 1552 in Cologne and died March 4, 1615 in Prague. He is buried in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague Castle. He began his painting in Cologne and developed his distinctive style, based mainly on masterly portraits, and brought it to virtuosity in Italy under the influence of Flemish artists based in Rome. Prestigious jobs, such as a portrait of Duke Francesco de Medici or Giovanni da Bologna, brought him an invitation to the Munich

court (from 1588 to 1596). For several years, Emperor Rudolf II tried to secure Hans von Aachen's services and permanent residence in Prague, the capital of the Holy Roman Empire, until finally 1597 when von Aachen moved there. He then painted several portraits of Rudolph II, Portrait of a Girl, Portrait of Emperor Matthias as well as mythological, allegorical, and religious scenes (The Victory of Justice, The Annunciation, The Liberation of Andromeda). Aachen was an excellent portrait painter able to capture more than just the physical appearance in his portraits. He served not only as a painter to Rudolf, he was also commissioned for various diplomatic and business missions including the purchase of paintings by Italian masters Tiziano, Veronese, and Tintoretto -- which still are a part of the Prague Castle collections. The stamp was designed and engraved by Miloš Ondráček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black, red, ocher, brown, and blue in printing sheets of 4 pieces. A FDC in brown shows a detail from the



Fig. 10

drawing "Minerva Introducing Apollo to the Liberal Arts" (Fig. 10).

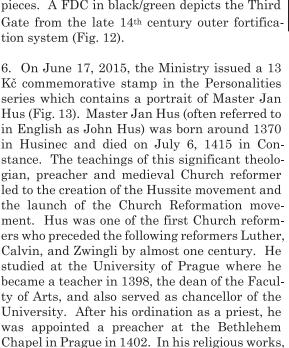


Fig. 11

5. On May 27, 2015, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp in the Beauties of Our Country series entitled the Castle Ruin Rabí (Fig. 11). The image chosen for the stamp is a view of the castle from the east -- it shows the vast castle ruin in its entire length of 170 meters. The oldest parts include the main residential tower and the Holy Trinity Church. The youngest part is the late 14th century outer fortification system with the so-called Third Gate. The Rabí castle is the largest Czech

castle ruin boasting one of the most developed fortification systems of its time in Europe. The oldest -- post 1300 -- part of the castle is a massive rectangular tower with a narrow bailey and outer enclosure. At the turn of the 15th century, further residential buildings and outbuildings and a secondary bailey to further fortify the castle were built. The final stage of construction included an extensive artillery fortification with ramparts. It belonged to the most developed defensive systems in Central Europe. While there is no written record evidence of the first owners of the castle, the first documented owner (by a 1380 court record) was the Švihovský

family of Rýzmberk. Undoubtedly one of the most significant events that took place under the Rýzmberk rule was the double siege of the Rabí castle by the Hussites in the early 15th century (in 1420) under the leadership of Jan Žižka of Trocnov, who lost his second eye there. At the end of the 15th century the castle became a town with the appropriate town privileges. Subsequently the castle went through a series of five owners, and in 1954 it became the property of the Czech state. In 1978 it was declared a national heritage site. The stamp was designed by Adolf Absolon, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in yellow, blue, red, green, and black in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC in black/green depicts the Third Gate from the late 14th century outer fortification system (Fig. 12).



he criticized the moral failings of the Catholic Church. For instance, in his "De Ecclesia", Hus

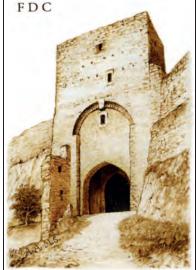


Fig. 12



tried to prove that the head of the Church is Fig. 13

Jesus Christ so that Christians do not have to obey the Pope if his orders contradict the Bible. This meant an attack against the Pope's right to act as the head of the Church. He accepted some of the ideas of English theologian John Wycliffe who is together with Hus considered as one of the first Church reformers. Both criticized crusades and called for following the Bible. Jan Hus is considered as one of the greatest Czechs. The date of his burning at the stake became a Czech public holiday. His legacy was adopted by the Hussites and later also by other denominations originating in the Czech and Protestant Reformation movements. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Suchánek, 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 black shows a fragment of a medieval woodcut of the burning of Master Jan Hus (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14

Stationery

7. On May 6, 2015, the Ministry issued a special postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp and an invitation to the 6th international philatelic exhibition Euregia Egrensis to be held 6 - 10 May, 2105 in Chomutov in the premises of the Špejchar Gallery on the May 1st Square (Fig. 15). The definitive A-stamp contains a historic post horn motif. The left part of the postal card



Fig. 15

contains the designer's, Marie Svobodová's, composition of the Jesuit church of St. Ignatius, the building of the city gallery "Špejchar", flag of the City of Chomutov, and the logos of the Czech and German Philatelic Unions. Euregia 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. The additional printing is made by multicolored offset.

8. On May 7, 2105, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "E" stamp and for the 25th international stamp exhibition Essen 2015 to be held 7 - 9 May, 2015 in Essen (Fig. 16). The definitive E-stamp contains a

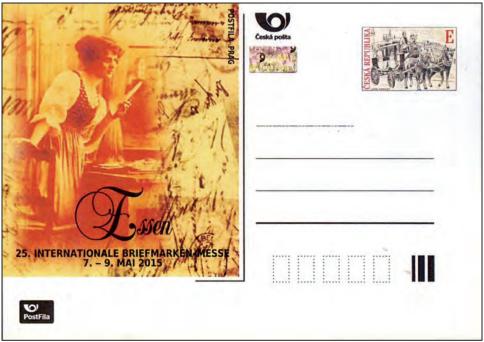


Fig. 16

horse-drawn passenger wagon. In the left part of the postal card is a composition of a graphic art work (collage) made by Irena Vyčítalová based on period materials (a period picture postcard motif of a woman with a letter and old longhand text in the background). The additional printing is made by multicolored offset.

9. On May 27, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp for "The 50th anniversary of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists in the Municipal House in Prague, 1965-2015" (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17

The definitive A-stamp depicts the logo of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists. On the left side of the postal card is depicted a detail of the window frame ornamentation on the ground floor of the Municipal House in Prague, with leaves of the Ginkgo Biloba tree. The inaugural conference of SČSF was held on May 30, 1965 in Sladkovský Hall of the Municipal House in Prague. The stamp and postal card were designed by Marie Svobodová, and it was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

- 10. On May 27, 2015, the Ministry issued the 22nd set of 8 picture postal cards with motifs of historical postal buildings in the Czech Republic. Each card is issued with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp -- Coat of Arms by Bedřich Housa. The historical postal buildings depicted with their address and card number are:
- -- SLANÝ, Masarykovo náměstí 160, A 225/2015 -- the building was built in 1687 as a seigniorial coaching inn, and it became the seat of postal operations in the late 19th century. (Fig. 18)
- -- PRAHA 1, Pařížská 24/129, A 218/2014 -- this building at the former Červená street No. 167 in Prague's Jewish Town (Josefov) was used by the Post for collection of letters in 1740-1821. (Fig. 19)



Fig. 18

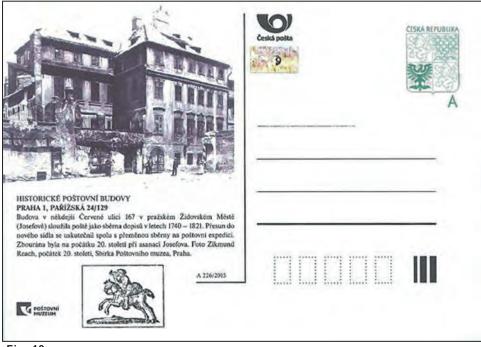


Fig. 19

-- KÁMEN U HABRÚ 30, okres Havlíčkův Brod, A 226/2015 -- this postal station in Kámen was established on December 7, 1754. (Fig. 20)





Fig. 20

Fig 21

- -- ŽELETAVA 111 A 112, okres Třebíč, A 228/2015 -- this postal station in Želetava was established on July 1, 1750. (Fig. 21)
- -- PLUMLOV, U parku 192, A 229/2015 -- this municipal post office was established on April 20, 1850. (Fig. 22)
- -- SVITAVY, T.G. Masaryka 49/19, A 230/2015 -- this local post office was built on the site of three original land plots designated as a so-called postal estate. (Fig. 23)

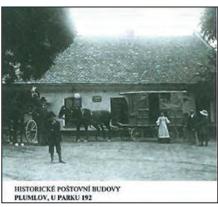


Fig. 22



Fig. 23

- -- KARLOVY VARY, Tržište 34, A 231/2015 -- the building of the old post office, built in 1756 in the Rococo style, was characterized by rich stucco decorations. It served the Post until the construction of a new building on the same site in the early 1870's. (Fig. 24)
- -- BLATNÁ, Plzeňská 310, A 232/2015 -- this postal station in Blatná was established in a farm building of the Blatná chateau on January 1, 1827. It was

used for changing horses on the route between Vodňany, Písek, Blatná, and Zelená Hora. (Fig. 25)



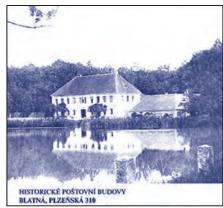


Fig. 24

Fig. 25

These postal cards were printed by the Post Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset.

11. On June 24, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp for Praga Piccola -- Točná-Letňany Air Post, COLLECTOR 2015 (Fig. 26). The definitive A-stamp depicts the Praga E-114 Air Baby airplane. On the left side of the card is depicted another view of the



Fig. 26

airplane together with the symbol of "small exhibitions" Praga, so-called Praga Piccola -- the Praga Super Piccolo automobile. The postal card is issued to commemorate the flight of the vintage airplane Praga E-114 Air Baby carrying airmail from the Prague - Točná airport as part of the accompanying program of the Collector Fair and the Letňany Airport Days. The airplane is expected to arrive at the Letňany airport in the afternoon. The airmail will then be transported by a postal van to the Collector fairgrounds at Prague - Letňany. Philatelists can prepare their ordinary letters in advance to be sent through this process. The stamp and postal card were designed by Václav Zapadlík and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

SLOVAKIA by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 27

12. On May 5, 2015, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 0.90€ commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series entitled EUROPA 2015: Old Toys (Fig. 27). A stool-horse, also called a běžka-horse (runner-horse), used to be a favorite utility wooden folk toy. It is an improved type of rocking horse which enables the child sitting on it to move about freely by moving their feet and

pushing against the floor. The basis of the toy is formed by a little stool made of boards, the legs of which are reinforced by a connecting board. In the lower part of the legs, pivots with wheels are inserted in notches on their sides. In the middle of the seat is an opening that facilitates grasping and carrying of the horse. As with all Kyjatice toys, the stool-horse is unique for its ornamentation. On the multicolored background, traditional ornamental elements (lines, spirals, arcs, half-arcs) are created both by the typical engraving and the circular engraving techniques. The production of Kyjatice wooden toys was based on the home production of folk

furniture (cupboards, and so-called súsek coffers for storing corn and flour), well-known and widespread as early as the beginning of the 19th century. Only beech wood was used to make toys of this type, because, due to its structure, it was the most suitable for the decoration of the finished products. Folk trade production and then mass production in Kyjatice thrived until 1946, when it started to deteriorate and died at the turn of the 1970's. The last Kyjatice toys were produced for The Center for Folk Art Production. The stamp was designed by Marianna



Fig. 28

Žálec Varcholová and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague using offset in printing sheets of 8 pieces. A FDC was produced (Fig. 28).



Fig. 29

13. On May 8, 2015, the Ministry issued a 1.00€ commemorative stamp entitled "Victory over Fascism Day" (Fig. 29). On May 8, 2015, is commemorated the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. With the exception of Antarctica, this war which still remains the greatest conflict in the history of mankind to this day, affected all continents of the world. During less than the six years of its duration, it claimed dozens of millions of lives, both from soldiers and civilians who bore the heaviest burden of suffering from its horrors. World War II differed from previous wars in several aspects. The number of people and the amount of material involved in this conflict were until then unimaginable. New types of weapons were used and new ways of leading the war were developed. The causes of the outbreak of the war may be found in the form of the Versailles peace treaty, which served as the basis for

the organization of Europe after World War I. The Versailles humiliation of Germany, through great loss of its territory and the economic retribution, provided an incentive for radicalization of the mood of the people and the country, and the leader of the German Nazis, Adolf Hitler, fully availed himself of this. After initial victories, he made a number of critical mistakes, and the result was that the Nazi empire capitulated in May 1945. The defeat of Nazism is symbolized by the raising of the Soviet flag on the Reichstag building (pictured on the postage stamp). After

1945, May 8 became institutionalized as a national holiday in Slovakia, although the armies of the anti-Hitler coalition had liberated our territory before this date (Bratislava on 4 April, and the last villages, Makov and Klokocov, on 3 May). The liberation meant not only the freeing of Slovakia from the German occupational forces, but, secondly also the end of the Slovak fascist regime, that had ruled between the years 1938-1945. The stamp was designed by Robert Jančovič and was produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, in offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was produced (Fig. 30).



Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Fig. 32

On June 26, 2015, the Ministry issued a 14. miniature sheet (Fig. 31) containing a 1.40€ commemorative stamp for the 550th Anniversary of Establishing the Academia Istropolitana (Fig. 32). Credit for the existence of the Academia Istropolitana in Bratislava belongs especially to the king of Hungary, Matthias Corvinus, who together with the Archbishop of Esztergom Johann Vitéz, in 1465 asked the Pope for approval for its foundation. Vitéz became the chancellor, but it was in fact the vice-chancellor who molded the life of the institution -- Georg Peltel von Schönberg, the provost of St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava. Its academic profile was, to a great extent, influenced by the Viennese Dominicans; the University of Vienna also served as a Educational activities gradually took model.

place at its four faculties of art, law, theology, and medicine. The academy won international acclaim especially thanks to the mathematicians and astronomers Johannes Möller von Königsberg and Marcin Bylica. Despite the original ambitious plans, the academy only lasted for a short time after the death of von Schönberg. In addition, in the 1590's king Corvinus increasingly gave his support instead to the university in Vienna. Thus, the Academia Istropolitana gradually ceased to exist. To this day, we cannot with certainty determine the contents of its library. The motifs used on the stamp and the sheet come from the illuminated decoration of two contemporaneous codes originating from the Bratislava Chapter. The stamp uses an initial from an unknown Franciscan manuscript from 1494

(possibly an antiphonary) depicting a scene from a scriptorium; St. Francis accompanied by a scribe and an unknown benefactress (the engraved initial is currently in the ownership of Bratislava City Museum). The background of the sheet uses the decoration of a folio from Bratislava Notated Missal VII, which was written for the Chapter in 1489 by canon Lukáš Apáti (from the village of Opatovce). The code is especially important because of the combination of Gothic and Renaissance ornaments within a single manuscript. The Gothic ones are distinguished by the use of colorful flowers with plant tendrils on the top and bottom margins and between the columns. The stamp and miniature sheet were designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset with one stamp per miniature sheet. A FDC was produced (Fig. 33).



Fig. 33

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