



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization

Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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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No. 4, Whole No. 642

THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE
So Please Renew Now For Next Year!

**There is a renewal card with instructions tucked into
this issue, so watch for it.**

**We are a small society so every member is extremely
important for us. Please keep us alive and going by
renewing before December 31
or as soon thereafter as possible, please.**

President's Report

I wish to thank the Board of Directors for the faith they have placed in me by electing me to the position of President of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP). It is an honor to serve the SCP in this capacity, and I will strive to serve the SCP with the same level of commitment and leadership that our past Presidents have offered.

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

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*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.
Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.*

President's Report (continued)

In late September the SCP participated in MILCOPEX 2015 as a featured Society. The show was a great success generally and for the SCP. Our booth was regularly very busy with both local members and non-members stopping to chat and see what the SCP had to offer. Literature sales were strong, and the SCP was able to attract a few new members. Many thanks to Jerry Verner for his very insightful presentation on the mails of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia (1914-1920) and to Mark Wilson for his fascinating treatment of the early work of the Czech Graphics Union on the first typographic stamps of Czechoslovakia. On behalf of our Society, I will take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the organizing committee and all of the volunteers that made MILCOPEX 2015 such a success.

The Board of Directors held the annual Meeting of the Board at MILCOPEX 2015, during which numerous topics were discussed and actions taken to improve the functioning of the SCP, improve the services and benefits that the SCP offers its membership, and to recognize the contributions of those whom had long served the SCP.

On this rather sad note President Palaschak opened the meeting by recognizing that the SCP has recently lost two former Board Members and a very close friend of the SCP (the husband of a current Board Member) all of whom passed away this year prior to MILCOPEX 2015. Sam Horvath and Jay Carrigan were Board Members for a number of years during which they contributed regularly and faithfully to the ongoing functioning of the SCP by serving as officers or appointees in various functions. Earl Galitz -- while not himself a current member -- always attended our conventions and meetings, assisted at our convention information table, came with us to PRAGA's, and was a great friend and supporter of the SCP for the past 35 years [*His passing was announced by his wife, Marisa, in the Summer issue.*]. Each of these individuals must be commended for their dedication of time and effort to making our Society able to consistently strive to better serve our members. They will all be sadly missed.

It is also with a heavy heart that I inform our members that following MILCOPEX 2015 our Board Member Valerie Kramer passed away returning home from the show. Valerie had become very important to the functioning of the SCP over the past few years and had taken a lead role in updating the interactive index of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. Her dedication and effort are also to be commended and on behalf of the SCP I offer our gratitude and condolences to her family and friends.

The Board continued to discuss all manner of issues related to the functioning of the SCP on a day-to-day basis and with respect to medium and long-term goals. Despite a slowly declining membership the SCP is in very healthy financial shape, and this is largely due to the contribution of the Phil Melamed Trust. Board Members were very pleased to meet with John Gledhill who has

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been administering the Trust and who has committed to continuing to help the SCP in a number of endeavors. Many thanks are due to John and his family for their continued support.

Other operational items discussed included trying to alter the tax status of the SCP in order to promote donations and contributions in kind to the Society, changes to our publication sales and obtaining publications from overseas to reduce the cost to our membership [thank you James Buckner for overseeing this process], changes to the SCP literature award criteria, changes to our membership renewal process and changes to our web page. Action has been taken on each of these issues.

In the medium-term, members should be able to look forward to an improved web page with updated literature offerings, interesting new philatelic information that will be periodically updated and a list of contacts for those seeking expert opinion on their scarce and rare philatelic holdings. The SCP is also engaging with both the Slovak and Czech Philatelic Federations to formalize relations with them which should in turn offer greater benefits to members with respect to information exchange and literature acquisition.

Although the SCP has the most comprehensive library of material related to Czechoslovak philately outside of Europe, there was much discussion of its infrequent use by members. To this end the Board is researching the necessary technology to allow for accurate translation of literature originally written in the Czech and Slovak languages. This will be done with a view to providing English language companions to important works that would otherwise be overlooked by members with limited Czech or Slovak language abilities. There is much work to be done on this endeavor and legal issues to resolve. In the interim, please consider taking advantage of the library for the simple cost of mailing loaned literature back and don't forget that you can Google translate with simplicity!

The Board Meeting concluded with the election of officers. Tom Cossaboom was re-elected as Secretary, Marisa Galitz was re-elected as Treasurer, and Lou Svoboda was elected as Vice-President. Thank you all for your continued dedication to the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

As a reminder, please note that the SCP will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show as a featured society (May 13-15, 2016, in Denver, Colorado -- www.rockymountainstampshow.com) and the SCP will also have a booth at the World Stamp Show NY 2016 (May 28 - June 4, 2016 at the Javits Center in New York -- www.ny2016.org). I look forward to seeing our members at each show, and if you have the time please consider volunteering to help the SCP at either of these shows. Given the current vacancies on the Board of Directors, the SCP is also seeking members who are interested in serving on the Board. Your participation in these activities is crucial to the ongoing vitality of the SCP!

Chris Jackson, President

Letters to the Editor

1. [Ed. Note: This letter from one of our members actually went to the editor of the German Philatelic Society journal (the letter writer is a member of both societies), but it fits in so well with the problems that we are having also, that I felt it should be shared.]

Dear GPS editor --

It is with a measure of amusement as well as sorrow that I see in the new Specialist [*the German Specialist*] yet another query about how to attract new members. I have commented on this before, but there never appears to be any discussion of my comment, not even any other suggestions from other GPS members, about how to attract new members in the Specialist. How does one account for this level of inertness? In a society of nearly one thousand members everyone is clueless for suggestions? How can this be?

As I have said before, and apparently need to say again, "What does the GPS have to offer in the way of publications that introduce/explain to perspective [*sic*] new members the joys of collecting Germany and some of the topics they might find of interest. One only has to look at the Czech society's efforts in this regard. They put GPS to shame. The Czechs, with a membership of about 250 people and an annual dues rate of \$25, have produced some 40 items in terms of paper and DVD monographs on a variety of topics. The GPS, with nearly one thousand members and \$40 annual dues has produced --- what?

How can this be?

The Ukrainians have produced a nice introduction to Ukrainian Philately, and the Swiss have produced a glorious color publication as an introduction to Swiss philately. What has the GPS done?

How can this be?

Surely, the Czech collectors lead as busy lives as do GPS members, and yet they have run rings around us in terms [*o/*] outreach and educational materials.

How can this be?

I think therein lies your answer. Expecting people to just fall from the sky into GPS' ranks with no corresponding effort by the GPS to put some hard copy out there to show folks what they are missing in terms of German philately will remain an empty and pointless question.

Respectfully submitted --
Carl Barna

[If you look at the President's Report in this issue, you will see that the SCP is continuing to investigate new ways to improve our service to our members.]

2. Hi Lou:

Also have a question. I have an 80 value olive Hradčany issue that appears to be 11 3/4 HZ perf. But POFIS doesn't list that perf type in that denomination? I can't believe anyone would go to the trouble to take a 50 cent stamp and mess with it. . . . This value would be "unofficial" or "commercial" correct?

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Wasn't it you that told me I would get into the perf types and I said no. I should listen to those with greater wisdom.

Mark Corrinet

Mark:

If you look in any more recent POFIS catalog in the Hradčany section, you will see a table (mine is purple) that is headed by: NEPŘEPÁŽKOVÁ (TZV. MINISTER-SKÁ) ZOUBKOVÁNÍ = not officially issued over-the-counter perforations. In this table, wherever you see a value, that means they have seen or validated that the UNII printing operation actually perforated that value for this unofficial perforation (for many reasons), and this is a market value for the stamp with that perforation. For completeness, where there are solid, small black circles, those are the officially issued perfs for that value.

You will see that for the 80h olive, they have values for perfs 13 3/4 and 11 1/2, and then in two other columns "vz?". The vz? means that 80h stamps with that perforation "may" have been used as a VZOREC stamp. Nothing is in the 11 3/4 position, so it has not been reported. Are you sure it is 11 3/4 and not 11 1/2?

I assume you know about the VZOREC stamps = as a member of the international philatelic union in Bern, Switzerland, the Czech postal union was required to send a specified number of "examples" (which VZOREC means) to Bern of each stamp put out to share with other union members. They soon found that collectors wanted these also, and would pay for them, so they made extras for sale and for special occasions or individuals.

Now, why were these other perfs produced? They were used as tests of perforation operation, to produce gifts for visiting dignitaries, as samples for special postal exhibits/occasions, etc. Technically they were not to be used for actual postal operations (like sending a letter), but what postal worker is going to be examining the perfs on stamps?

And finally, on the facing page in my POFIS catalog, on the bottom right is a small yellow box with text headed "NEÚŘEDNÍ ZOUBKOVÁNÍ, PRŮSEKY, A PRŮPICHY" = unofficial perforations, cut-throughs, and prick-throughs. Many companies or organizations which bought large quantities of imperforate stamps for their business use, in order to make it easier for their employees to separate the stamps, would privately perforate/cut-through/prick-through their sheets of stamps. Technically this was "invalidating" the stamps, since they were not now in the official form for postal usage, but the postal service looked the other way, because these were large purchasers of stamps, so why look a gift horse in the mouth. Many companies used the 11 1/2 and 13 3/4 perfs for this purpose.

If you look carefully at your early stamps (especially the Hradčany), you may find one that has what looks like "perforations" that are made up of closely spaced very short cuts in the paper (průsek = cut-through) or what looks like someone took a sewing machine and made closely spaced pin-pricks (průpich = prick-through).

Hope this helps.

Lou

Spotlight on Books:

THE GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY by James Buckner

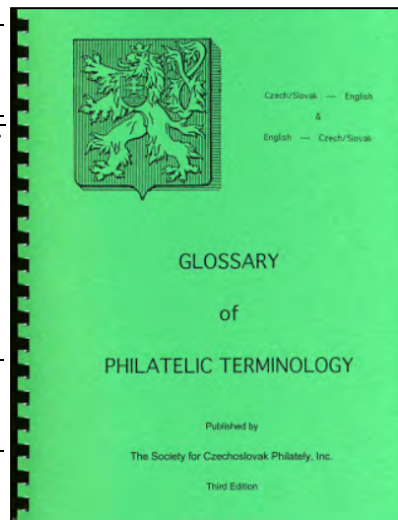
This column is a new feature in The Czechoslovak Specialist which attempts to highlight certain books for sale through the Society and their features. By pointing out the benefits of the highlighted books, I hope to aid members in their pursuit of knowledge in the area of Czechoslovak philately.

Any serious collector of Czech and Slovak philatelic material will be very familiar with various POFIS catalogs (or any other Czech/Slovak language catalog). However, if one is not a speaker or reader of the Czech or Slovak language, the detailed information published in the POFIS (or other) catalogs can be a mystery at times. Therefore, I wish to spotlight the Society's Glossary of Philatelic Terminology (Figure 1). Written by the editor of The Czechoslovak Specialist, Lou Svoboda, and compiled and edited by Jolana Machalek, the Glossary was published by the Society and is now in its third edition.

What makes the Glossary so useful to the Czech/Slovak philatelist? In the words of the author, this volume "is not a translation dictionary. It is a translated listing of those technical philatelic terms as well as everyday terms that would most probably be encountered by a philatelist in examining and attempting to classify a philatelic item". One of the best features is the side-by-side translations of the Table of Contents, and Designation and Numbering System of the 1988 Specializovaná Příručka Catalog which will be useful with most any other Czech/Slovak language catalog. The Designation and Numbering System section defines all the codes, symbols, acronyms, and abbreviations used in a typical Czech/Slovak catalog. Additionally, there is a Thematic Terms section covering those common groupings such as colors, months, days of the week, numbers, military terms, continents, and countries.

And finally, all of these Czech/Slovak terms and symbols that have been translated into English in the first half of the Glossary are then listed in the second half translated from English into Czech. So if you want to know the Czech term for a particular English philatelic word, you can look it up in that second half.

In short, this handy volume will help any collector navigate a Czech/Slovak language catalog and add to their philatelic knowledge. This book is currently in stock and available for \$20 postage paid. I urge anyone to contact me (wellseats@hotmail.com) to acquire this valuable tool to enhance their collecting knowledge and experience.



BOOK REVIEW

by Tom Cossaboom

RAILWAY MAIL IN SLOVAKIA AND RUTHENIA

by Tony Goodbody

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Monograph No. 28

For more than a century railroads were the principal means of moving the mail in Slovakia and Ruthenia. Postal mail cars with mail slots for customers to deposit mail for faster delivery were attached to almost all passenger trains from the fast express to the slow trains on branch lines. Each route was identified with an individual cancel. Philatelists have been collecting these cancels almost from the first day they appeared.

Until Tony Goodbody's monograph, reference works on the subject were limited to works in Czech, Slovak, German and Hungarian. This monograph now provides an excellent reference work in English.

The monograph is nicely illustrated in color with covers and cancels to show the different cancels. Of special interest is the pre-1918 material on Hungarian routes and cancels in Ruthenia. I believe this may be a first.

The twelve reference tables compiled by the author provide a list of the start and end point of all Slovak and Ruthenian routes numbered and un-numbered, from the first route in 1867 to the last in 2000. There are also tables listing route terminals and junctions in Hungarian with their Slovak equivalents and in Slovak with Hungarian equivalents. There is a similar chart with Hungarian, Slovak, Ukrainian, and where needed, Romanian names.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the maps which provide a visual display of the railroad routes in Slovakia and Ruthenia. The best is certainly the insert which reproduces the official map taken from the Czechoslovak State Railways timetable of 1937, illustrating the relatively dense web of rail lines in Slovakia and Ruthenia.

For any philatelist interested in Slovak and Ruthenian railway mail, this monograph is a must.

[See the last page of this issue of the Specialist for information on how to purchase this monograph]

Philatelic News and Views

1. From Jaroslav Verner:

It is with great sadness we heard that after a long and difficult illness Pavel Pittermann had died on August 6, 2015.

Pavel was known to many of us as a sophisticated, well-educated, cultured scientist, and perhaps more importantly for readers of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, a dedicated, and active philatelist. Many collectors will remember him for the advice he gave them on exhibiting or expertizing their material. It was always a pleasure, and educational, to work with him. Pavel was dedicated to his family as well as a good and true friend.

Pavel was born in Prague on February 12, 1942. By education and profession he was a nuclear engineer, starting at the Nuclear Research Institute in Rez as an “experimenter” engineer. Later he became an inspector for the State Office for Nuclear Safety and finally served as the public spokesman for that office. His reputation for excellence in precise and exacting work served him well not only professionally, but also in his philatelic endeavors.

Philately was Pavel’s hobby and passion. Nearly all his spare time was devoted to one or another aspect of philately. Starting as a collector and exhibitor, he soon became active in organized philately, holding many offices in various philatelic societies including the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists (SČP) where he eventually became a member of its governing body. He also became a member of the SČP Expert Committee (Czechoslovakia and Bohemia and Moravia) and was elected Chairman of that committee. Pavel was accepted into A.I.E.P. (International Association of Philatelic Experts) and served on many juries of national and international philatelic exhibitions as both a jury member and expert advisor on the genuineness of material exhibited. He was very active in the international effort to combat counterfeiting of philatelic material and eventually became vice-chair of the Federation of International Philately’s (F.I.P.) Commission Against Counterfeiting Activity. Pavel wrote frequently on philatelic subjects, both books and articles, was a long time contributor to the philatelic journal *Merkur Revue* and from time to time did translations.

Pavel Pittermann will be greatly missed.



2. *From Ludvik Svoboda:*

Our new president, Chris Jackson, provided you with some of the details about our activities at MILCOPEX. I wanted to add a few others.

As a trial, and to make sure our members did not forget or miss our being at MILCOPEX, we had sent out about 35-40 postcards to our members in a 6 state area around Wisconsin, to alert them that we would be at MILCOPEX, and asking you to stop and see us there. Well, I am disappointed to report that we only had one member who received the card show up to spend some time with us and to discuss their collecting interests. Lost opportunity. We make a conscious effort to move our annual meeting around the country so that we get a chance to meet and talk with our members. Please come see us when we are in your "neighborhood".

A number of our members exhibited and won these awards in the open competition:

Gold Medal

Jaroslav J. Verner: Mail of the Czechoslovak Legion and Organizations in Russia 1914-1920

Alfred F. Kugel: The Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925

Vermeil Medal

Ludvik Z. Svoboda: Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1920

Silver Medal

Richard G. Palaschak: The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia

Single Frame Awards – Gold Medal

Alfred F. Kugel: The AEF Booklet Pane Stamps of 1917

The following national awards were earned by our members:

Mucha Award -- Jaroslav J. Verner

Society for Czechoslovak Philately award for the best Czechoslovak exhibit

APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence -- Jaroslav J. Verner

Best period exhibit

Military Postal History Society Award -- Jaroslav J. Verner

Best military exhibit

Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award -- Richard G. Palaschak

Women Exhibitors Society award to serve as encouragement to a promising exhibit that shows merit in philatelic knowledge, material, or treatment

3. *From Tom Cossaboom:*

If you have an interest in the Subcarpathian aspect of Czechoslovak philately, you might want to look into the following:

-- the SCP library now has a CD of the first 35 issues of *The Subcarpathian Messenger*, the periodic publication of a group of collectors interested in this field. The publication is edited by Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer who can be contacted by e-mail at kb@aatc.at.

-- the 34th issue can be downloaded to get an idea of the material through:
<http://www.slideshare.net/subcarpathian>.

Closed Albums

Unfortunately we have a number of losses to our membership to report. They will all be greatly missed since they contributed so much to our success and pleasure.

Savoy (Sam) Horvath



Savoy, age 82, of Readstown passed away on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at a hospice in Viroqua, Wisconsin. While he was having some medical problems for the last 2 years, his passing came quite quickly and painlessly.

He was born on January 7, 1933 in Brno, Moravia, Czechoslovakia to Emil and Vlasta (Caha) Horvath. He attended school in Czechoslovakia, and later the family moved to a town near the German border. When the Communists took over the government in 1948 the border with West Germany was sealed and thus leaving without an exit permit became illegal. This is when his father got involved in smuggling people over the border to Germany, and Savoy soon got to learn how to do this too since he knew the border area very well. He said, "One of my friends turned me in. I was 15 then, and a couple of my friends said, 'The secret police is waiting for you. You better not go to school.' I left a note telling my parents that I'm leaving, that I have to leave."

He lived in a displaced persons camp in West Germany where he met his future wife Nadia. To get out he joined the French Foreign Legion where he served briefly in Africa and Indochina. He then got to the United States where he reconnected with Nadia, whom he then married. He worked for the Ford Motor Company for 37 years. He and Nadia moved to Wisconsin where he built them a unique "figure 8" home. Nadia passed away in 2010. He later married nurse Mary Ann Potrykus who took care of him lovingly in his final years.

Savoy was an avid stamp collector (since his boyhood years) and a long time member of our Society -- his membership number was 795. His specialty was the Liberation Overprints of the 1945 period. He was our book sales manager for about 20 years. Through his knowledge of the Czech language, he would constantly make sure that we always knew about the new books that would be of benefit to our members, and how to get hold of them for resale at economical prices. In addition, his welcome, smiling face would always meet you at our Society table at our conventions.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, three daughters Lucy, Vivi, and Merrily, 4 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

Closed Albums (continued...)

Jay Thomas Carrigan

Jay, age 76, of Hendersonville passed away Saturday, August 22, 2015 at the Elizabeth House hospice. Jay had been battling Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis for the last few years, and his health declined rapidly this past summer. He had been under hospice care since July, but the disease was taking a toll on his heart, and he suffered a heart attack on August 21st.



Jay was born April 7, 1939 in Bedford, Ohio to Thomas J. And Kathleen Skillicorn Carrigan. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University and during his career he served as a computer systems analyst. He served his country in the US Army from 1963-65. He enjoyed driving his convertible, and playing basketball and softball. He was an excellent trumpet player, a member of several community bands, and soloed at the Kennedy Center.

He was an avid stamp collector and a member of many philatelic organizations -- American Philatelic Society, Germany Philatelic Society, Society for Czechoslovak Philately, etc. Judy, his wife of 55 years, says, "Jay

liked to say that he collected chaos. He collected Europe immediately following WW II when the postal systems of many countries were in disarray." To get a feel for the extent of his philatelic interests, take a look at his web site: www.jaypex.com.

His interests in our areas included Carpatho-Ukraine and the Liberation issues/covers of 1945. When Ingerter Kuzych wrote "Introductory Handbook of Ukrainian Philately", Jay contributed research and information to the section on Carpatho-Ukraine. The Scott publishing company has agreed to add a section on Carpatho-Ukraine to their catalogs, and Judy has given her permission for them to use Jay's research. Jay added to his philatelic career by becoming an APS judge for a number of years and always devoted the necessary research to perform that function with diligence. He and Judy always participated at our annual conventions, and Jay was always ready to provide advice to new exhibitors. At our 2014 annual convention at NOJEX, Jay's exhibit *Carpatho-Ukraine* was awarded a Gold medal, and he also was awarded the SCP's Mucha Award for the Best Czechoslovak Exhibit.

He is survived by wife, Judy, son Sean and daughter-in-law Carla, daughter Rebecca, and two grandchildren.

Closed Albums (continued...)

Valerie Kramer



Valerie Kramer, age 65, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, October 2, 2015 in Mountain Home, Idaho while returning home from a vacation trip to the Society's convention at MILCOPEX.

Valerie was born December 3, 1949 in Cleveland, Ohio to George and Ruby Charnock. She graduated from both Michigan State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Valerie and Evan, her husband of over 33 years, were married in Las Vegas where they often returned at her urging. She and Evan moved to Port Orford, Oregon from Los Angeles in 1990 and started the *Port Orford Today* and soon thereafter started the Downtown Fun Zone. The Fun Zone included videos, computer supplies, stationery, UPS, fax, business cards, printing, magic cards, and was the local ticket agency. They closed the Fun Zone in April of 2012, and Valerie happily retired.

Valerie was widely known in the community as someone you could go to for computer help. She was responsible for the look and feel of the *Port Orford Today* with both her type setting skills and her sharp eye for editing the material as well as for her occasional articles and pithy comments. Valerie was elected to the Port Orford/Langlois 2CJ school board in the 1990's, appeared in local theater productions, and loved to debate. She had a great sense of humor and kind smile for everyone.

She was a cat person and always had one or two at any one time, but her favorites were her Maine Coon cats, Margaret and Katherine, as they were the perfect lap cats.

Valerie was an avid stamp collector, having started with the topical area of cats-on-stamps, which she developed into an exhibit. While attending WESTPEX in April of 2013, she joined the Society for Czechoslovak Philately because of her discovery that part of the Czech national emblem was the Bohemian lion -- which is obviously a cat! One area of that philately that was replete with Bohemian lions was Czechoslovak revenue stamps. In the very short time of 2 years she learned the Czech language sufficiently to allow her to research this area of revenue stamps so thoroughly that she put together a 430 page color handbook on all aspects and types of Czechoslovak revenue stamps. It will undoubtedly become the standard in this area for English speaking stamp collectors.

She also became a Board Member to help govern the SCP, and became one of the two members who were working on developing the 2010-2014 update to the Specialist Index DVD to make it cover the full 1939-2014 period.

She is survived by her husband Evan and her son and his wife Thomas and Yanipza Baker of Tampa, Florida.

**A PHILATELIC REMEMBRANCE
of EMMA DESTINOVA
by Lubor Kunc**



**Figure 1: Portrait of Emma Destinova
(about 1908).**

Emma Destinova was the Czech opera star of the early 20th century (Fig. 1). She was adored not only in the Czech Lands, but worldwide -- she was one of the first celebrities of the global entertainment industry with a similar position to the current top singers or actors.

Emma was born in Prague, where she studied singing. Her breaking into the opera world occurred in Dresden in 1897. This start was very successful, she continued by singing in Berlin (1898), Prague (1900), Bayreuth (Richard Wagner Festival, 1901). Since 1905, she sang in London. In the meantime, she captivated the audiences in Paris and Vienna. Finally, Destinova got an invitation for the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1908. This engagement changed her life -- Destinova decided to move from Europe to America (Fig. 2, 3), where she experienced many successful years singing in many operas like *Prodaná Nevěsta* (Bartered Bride by B. Smetana). Her regular singing partner was Enrico Caruso, being also known as a serious stamp collector.

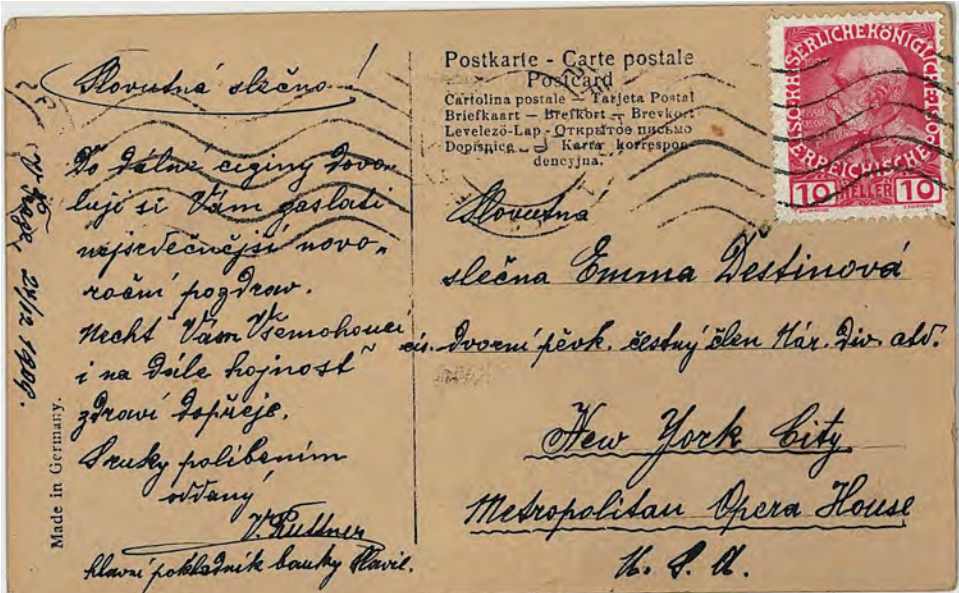


Figure 2: Postcard addressed to Emma Destinova in 1909; the sender was a Prague fan sending his sincere greetings and words of appreciation to her.

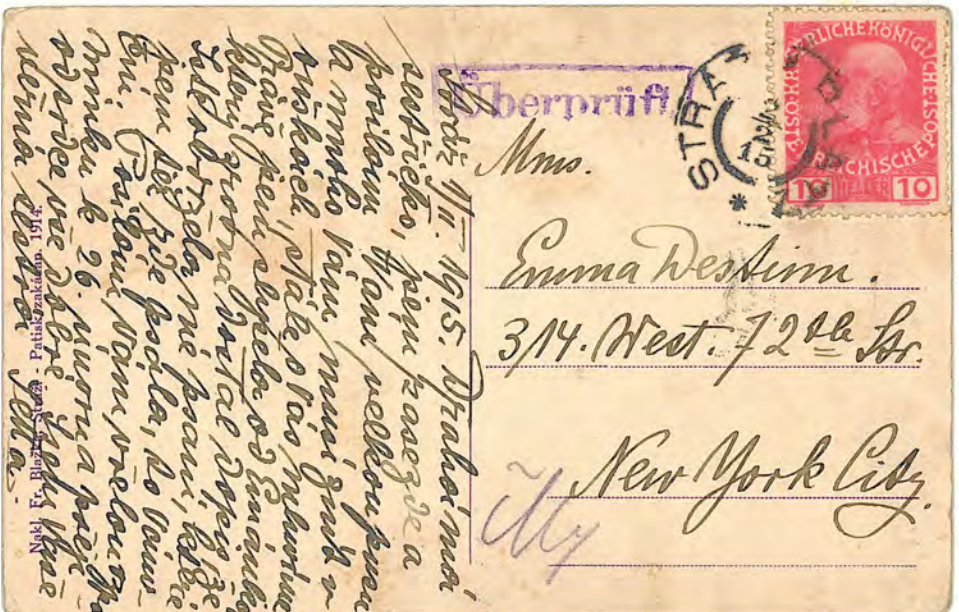


Figure 3: Postcard sent to Destinova by her sister Setta in 1915 to her private apartment at 314 West 72nd Street (next to Broadway at Manhattan); postmark of Austrian censorship of Vienna ("Überprüft" = censored).

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

When World War I started, Destinova continued her opera career in New York. She was a very proud Czech lady who very soon established a close relationship with the Czech patriotic movement. Her interest in Czech independence was so deep, that Destinova accepted the role offered to her by Emanuel Voška to be a carrier smuggling political documents for the Czech resistance movement operating in Europe and the United States.

In 1914, Destinova acquired the Stráž/Nežárkou Castle near České Budějovice (Fig. 4). When she returned home from New York (in 1916), the Austrian authorities kept her at the Castle as a home prison for her collaboration with the Czech exile movement. This situation lasted until 1918, when she was again allowed to sing, but this temporary permit was valid for the Austro-Hungarian territory only. When later that year Czechoslovakia was established, Destinova's role was appreciated by the leading Czech politicians including President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Destinova restarted her opera career in 1919 by obtaining new contracts in London and New York opera houses. This new engagement had a lower impact on her -- Destinova decided to live in Stráž, and she just traveled to her performances from this permanent home. Destinova's opera career closed in 1928, when she performed her last public concert in London that was organized within the frame of celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence. Emma Destinova died in January 1930 in a České Budějovice hospital.

I have tried to demonstrate the enthrallment with Emma Destinova through the philatelic material being preserved until the current days. This is the best proof of her popularity, when her fans and collectors still keep the items. I would



Figure 4: The current view of Stráž/Nežárkou Castle (2015).

like to thank my friend Václav Hromadka for lending me all of the illustrations for this article and for his consent with publishing them in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

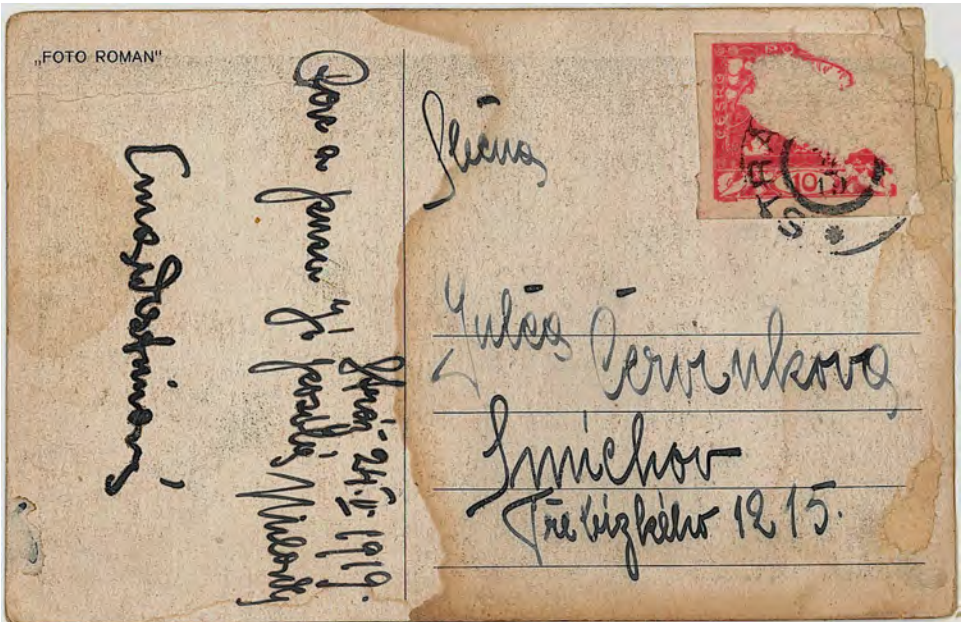


Figure 5: Postcard written by Emma Destinova at Stráž/Nežárkou Castle in Feb 1919 using a Hradčany stamp.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST

Amount of Space	One Issue	Two Issues	Four Issues
Back cover page	50	85	150
Full Page	35	55	105
Half Page	20	32	60
Quarter Page	12	20	36
Eighth Page	8	13	24

1. All amounts are total cost. Payment must accompany the ad. Make check out to "Society for Czechoslovak Philately" or "SCP". Ads will not be placed until they are paid for. Members are entitled to a 15% discount, if they ask for it.
2. The actual size of a full page advertisement is 5 inches by 8 inches.
3. The back cover page must be purchased as a whole – no partial pages.
4. Submit your advertisement copy double-spaced and typed, or legibly printed.
5. it is the advertiser's responsibility that the copy be correct since the advertisement will be printed exactly as it is received, in other words "as is".
We reserve the right to correct spelling and grammatical mistakes.
6. Send copy and payment to: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

1938 Series General Revenue Stamp Identification by Valerie Jean Kramer

In May, 1938 Czechoslovakia issued a set of general revenue stamps in a new design. This series of stamps would last until 1953 and comprise ten different issues. Several of the issues are very similar and it can be difficult for the beginner to determine the proper identification of a stamp. I hope this guide will help.

All of the stamps in this series have a very similar look. At the top of the stamp is an inscription. Below that is a value panel and underneath it, the denomination of the stamp. Under the denomination is a shield bearing a Bohemian lion (with or without the Slovakian emblem on its breast) The shield is bordered with some text, either “REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ” or “BÖHMEN UND MÄHREN-ČECHY A MORAVA”. The value is repeated in the lower left and right corners. Centered between these two values is the year, “1938”. The various series can be told apart by looking at the top inscription, the denomination, and the color of the stamps.



The ten issues were as follows:

1. May 1938 – Inscription at the top is “KOLEK”. Denominations are “HALÉŘŮ” (with one stamp labeled “HALÉŘE”) or “Kč”. Values less than 1 Kč are a grayish blue. Values from 1 Kč to 50 Kč are a brownish red. 100 Kč and 200 Kč values are an olive-gold color.
2. November, 1939 - Inscription at the top is “STEMPEL-KOLEK”. Denominations are “H” or “K”. Colors are the same as the first issue of May 1938.
3. 1945 – The issue of November 1939 was overprinted with two lines in black: “C S R” and “1945”

4. June 12, 1945 – Inscription at the top is KOLEK. Denominations are “HALĚŘŮ” or “K”. 10h and 50h stamps are bright blue. Values from 1K to 200K are carmine.
5. September 1945 - Inscription at the top is KOLOK. Denominations are in “K”. Values, from 1K to 100K, are carmine.
6. November 30, 1945 - Inscription at the top is KOLEK. Denominations are “HALĚŘŮ” or “K”. 10h and 50h stamps are carmine. Values from 1K to 200K are dull blue.
7. January 1946 - Inscription at the top is KOLEK. Denominations are in “Kčs”. Values from 1Kčs to 200Kčs are blue.
8. February 1946 - Inscription at the top is KOLOK. Denominations are in “HALI-EROV” or “Kčs”. 10h, 20h, and 50h stamps are blue. The 12 Kčs stamp is red.
9. June 1947 – Inscription at the top is “KOLKOVA ZNAMKA”. Denominations are in “h” or “Kčs”. 10h and 50h stamps are green. 1Kčs to 200Kčs stamps are vermilion.
10. 1947?- Stamps of the first, May 1938, issue were overprinted with two lines in black: “B.u.M.” and “š”

The above list may seem intimidating, but it isn't as bad as it looks. To identify a stamp, first see if it has any overprinting on it. If so, you can easily place it in issue 3 or 10 in the above list.

Next, look at the inscription. If it is “STEMPEL-KOLEK”, it is from issue 2. If it is “KOLKOVA ZNAMKA”, it is from issue 9.

If the inscription is “KOLOK” look at the color of the stamp. Blue KOLOK stamps are from issue 8. Carmine KOLOK stamps are from issue 5. There is one red stamp that is from issue 8 but it is more easily identified by its value – It is the only 12Kčs value with “KOLOK” at the top.

All the remaining stamps from issues 1, 4, 6, and 7 have “KOLEK” at the top. To identify these stamps, look at the denomination.



10h stamp from May 1938 issue 1



10h stamp from June 12, 1945 issue 4

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Ludvik Svoboda

1. On September 2, 2015, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a commemorative souvenir sheet “Nature Protection -- Owls” with 4 stamps and 4 coupons (Fig. 1). The stamps are:

-- 13 Kč: *Athene noctua* (common owl). The stamp shows the adult little owl with chicks. It is about the size of a turtle dove. It was once a common species but its current numbers are declining due to unclear causes. A FDC in dark blue depicts a horned owl (*Asio flammeus*)(Fig. 2).



Fig.2



Fig.3

-- 17 Kč: *Aegolius funereus* (feather-legged owl). The stamp depicts the boreal owl, again with chicks. This seemingly similar species is larger than the little owl; unlike the little owl that bends forward while sitting, the boreal owl always sits straight up. A FDC in black-violet shows a barn owl (*Tyto alba*)(Fig. 3).

-- 21 Kč: *Nyctea scandiaca* + *Strix aluco* (snowy owl + tawny owl). The stamp depicts in the upper part a flying snowy owl. This large tundra predator represents owls in the far north. When food, consisting mainly of lemmings or white rabbits, is scarce over the winter, it can also be found in this country. In the lower part is the tawny owl sitting in front of a castle ruin. This is the commonest Czech owl species. A FDC in dark blue shows a northern hawk owl (*Surnia ulula*)(Fig. 4).

-- 25 Kč: *Bubo bubo* (large eagle owl). The stamp shows the eagle owl. With a size of 70 cm, weight up to 4.5 kg, and a wingspan of almost 2 m make it the largest



Fig.1



Fig.4



Fig.5

European owl and the largest owl in the world. In a documented case, it caught a fawn weighing 13 kg. It also hunts predators, such as buzzards, hawks, feral cats, and foxes. A FDC in dark green shows an eagle owl (Fig. 5).

Other species are depicted in the four corners and in the margins of the sheet. They include species such as the Eurasian scops owl, which is Europe's rarest owl, or our smallest pygmy owl barely reaching the size of a sparrow. Owls have always belonged to the most interesting group in the bird kingdom. Their attractiveness and interest in them are likely due to a hidden, mostly nocturnal way of life. Previously they ranked among nocturnal birds of prey. Later they were classified as a separate order based on the anatomical structure of their body. The designation of "nocturnal birds of prey" was not exact, either, because a number of owls belong to daytime birds. There are 13 original owl species in Europe, all of which are depicted on the miniature sheet. Of those, only one, the tawny owl, never appears in this country, while ten belong to the local breeding species. The issue was designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset combined with black engraving.



Fig. 6

2. On September 2, 2015, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp to honor Sir Nicholas George Winton (Fig. 6). The stamp bears a portrait of Sir Nicholas with children in the background. Sir Nicholas George Winton

(1909, London - 2015, Slough) was a British stockbroker and humanitarian worker who saved 669 children, most of them Jewish, from the occupied Czechoslovak territory from transportation into concentration camps by arranging for their departure by train to the United Kingdom. Nicholas Winton was born into the family of German-Jewish bank manager Wertheimer. The family moved to England in 1907 and changed its name to Winton. His parents converted to Christianity, and Nicholas was baptized. After schooling in England he went to his relatives in Germany where he worked for various banks, then in France, and finally returned to England in the 1930's and worked for banks. During a winter holiday in 1938 he started to organize the rescue of Jewish children from Czechoslovakia by arranging for their safe passage to England. His organization continued to work until the outbreak of the war. During the war, he served in the RAF as an administrative worker due to weakened eyesight (although he qualified as a pilot before the war). After the war, he quietly worked for banks in England. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil,

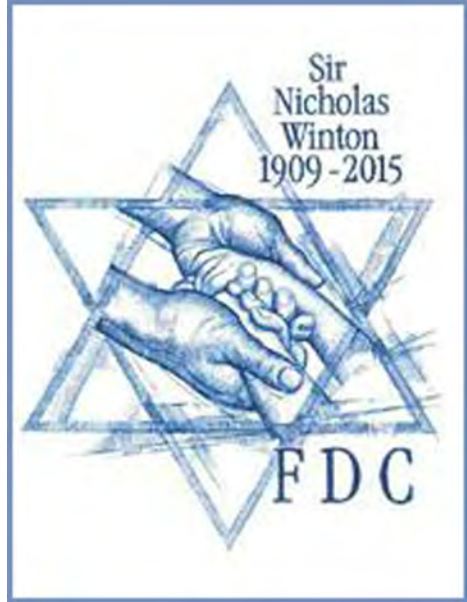


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark blue shows hands joined in the Jewish star and the text Sir Nicholas Winton, 1909-2015 (Fig. 7).

3. On September 2, 2015, the Ministry issued two self-adhesive definitive stamps in a stamp booklet of 8 stamps (4 of each) with imprinted letter “A” denomination in the issue Václav Zapadlík -- Czech Cars -- Škoda III (Fig. 8). On the two different self-adhesive stamps are depicted these cars: Škoda 1201, vintage 1955, and Škoda Rapid 1500, vintage 1947. Václav Zapadlík of Prague has become famous in the painted art world through the Blackhawk Automotive Museum and galleries in San Francisco and Pebble Beach. Since 2010 he has created for the Czech Post about twenty postage stamps and postal products such as his recent stamp booklets “World Cars”, “Czech Cars -- Škoda I and II”, and historic military vehicles “They Brought Freedom”. This is the third booklet dedicated to Škoda cars, and more are planned. The booklet was designed by Václav Zapadlík and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. The front page of the booklet depicts four cars: Škoda Rapid 1947, Škoda Superb 1942, Škoda 1200, vintage 1952, and Škoda Superb 1949. There will be two blue-violet FDC’s depicting the same car as on the accompanying stamp.



Fig.9

4. On September 2, 2015, the Ministry issued a self-adhesive definitive stamp with imprinted letter “E” for “Postcrossing”(Fig. 9). The stamp depicts the Postcrossing process -- an international project in which people from around the world send each other postcards. The design shows three basic steps involved in Postcrossing: writing, sending, and receiving postcards. The Czech Republic is the eighth postal administration to issue a stamp promoting Postcrossing. The project aims to help people receive postcards from all over the world almost free. The main principle is that if you send a postcard, you’ll get at least one in return from a random postcrosser anywhere in the world. Why? Because people love getting real mail. The fact that you can get

postcards from different parts of the world (which you may not even have heard of) can turn your letter box into a box full of surprises -- and who would not like that? The first step is to request the address of another postcrosser to whom you must send a postcard. You will receive an e-mail with the postcrosser’s address and a postcard ID (e.g., CZ-010101). The postcard ID uniquely identifies that postcard in the system. The addressee receives the postcard and registers it using the postcard ID. At this point, you are eligible to receive a postcard from a different postcrosser. Initially you can have up to 5 postcards travelling at any single time.

Every time one of the sent postcards is registered, you can request another address so that the number of postcards allowed to travel at any single time goes up. The stamp was designed by Maria Noguiera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 40 pieces.



Fig. 10

5. On September 23, 2015, the Ministry issued a set of two 25 Kč commemorative stamps in the Historical Vehicles series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using multicolored offset in a printing sheet of 50 pieces which has a checkerboard combination of 25 pieces of each stamp.

-- The Tatra T3 Tram (Fig. 10). The Tatra T3 is a Czechoslovak tram model manufactured between the 1960's and the 1990's by ČKD Praha's factory Tatra Smichov. This model was developed mainly because of the huge weight of the predecessor model Tatra T2, which was not ideal for smaller operators with poor-quality tracks. Thanks to its timeless design and high-quality construction, the new model became a synonym for the word "tram". With over 14,000 cars produced, the T3 is the record holder in the number of manufactured units of the same model and is entered in the Guinness Book of Records as the most numerous type of trams in the world. At the time of its origin, it was one of the most modern vehicles using new materials, such as plastics and fiberglass. In Czechoslovakia the trams went mostly to Prague, but also to Brno and Košice. They also were sold abroad, going to Chemnitz and Schwerin (East Germany), Osijek (Croatia), and Sarajevo (then Yugoslavia). But, the biggest customer was undoubtedly the Soviet Union where a staggering 11,353 cars were delivered to 34 cities between 1963-1987. Although Czech cities began the process of decommissioning of the T3 in the 1990's, its upgraded version will continue to be used in Prague for decades. The stamp was designed by Petr Ptáček. A FDC in dark brown shows the T3 prototype from 1960 next to a traffic island (Fig. 11).

-- Paddle Steamer Primátor Dittrich (Fig. 12). This legendary pad-

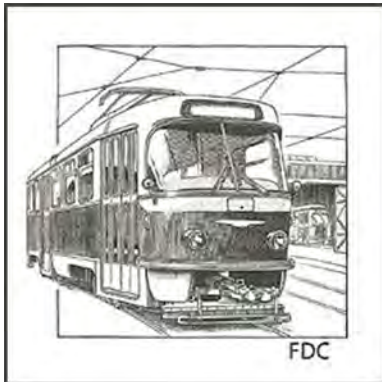


Fig. 11

Fig. 12



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

dle steamer was named after the founder of the Prague Steamboat Company (1865), Prague's mayor (in Czech "primátor") František Dittrich. He was born into a rafter's family in Podskalí in Prague. He became one of the wealthier citizens of Podskalí by becoming a log dealer. He pursued many activities including a contribution to the building of the National Theater. As an enthusiastic Czech patriot, he helped establish the Městanská Beseda club of Czech patriots in Prague in 1845 and three years later, in the turbulent year of 1848, he was a member of the Prague deputation that visited the Emperor in Vienna in 1848 with a petition for recognition of Czech national rights. His political career culminated in 1870-1873 when he served as Prague's mayor. The stamp was designed by Jindřich Záček. A FDC in dark brown shows a portrait of František Dittrich with his name (Fig. 13).



Fig. 14

6. On 14 October, 2015, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Personality series for Jakub Jan Ryba (Fig. 14). The stamp shows the original 1750 organ of the parish church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Starý Rozmitál played by Ryba, which was probably used by him for the first performance of his famous Czech Christmas Mass. Jakub Jan Ryba (1765-1815) was a Czech music composer of late classicism and romanticism who collected folk songs and wrote Czech song books. His most famous and still performed composition is the Czech Christmas Mass from 1796. Already at the age of eight he played the piano well and learned the violin and organ. He went to Prague for his education, knew Czech and German, and was able to read French, Italian, Latin, and Greek. He studied philosophy and was a supporter of the Enlightenment. He then became a teacher for the rest of his life. He was the author of around 1,300 compositions of different scope and form, mostly



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

spiritual music. The stamp was designed by Eva Hašková, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black-blue combined with photogravure in yellow, blue, and gray-blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows the parish church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Starý Rozmitál (Fig. 15).

7. On 14 October, 2015, the Ministry issued a 21 Kč commemorative stamp for Dalimil's Chronicle (Fig. 16). The stamp depicts a painting from Dalimil's Chronicle, of Oldřich on a hunt meeting Božena and then a priest celebrating their marriage. Dalimil's Chronicle is the oldest chronicle written in verse in the Czech language, and one of the key works of Czech literature. It dates back to the early 14th century, with records ending in 1314. It is also referred to as Boleslav Chronicle after its main source. It is an anonymous chronicle; the attribute



Fig. 17

“Dalimil's” first appeared in the 17th century. By analyzing the information presented by the author in the chronicle, it can be inferred that he was a highly educated man, apparently an aristocrat or a lower clergyman. The chronicle contains a total of 106 chapters. The beginning portrays the building of the Tower of Babel followed by God's punishment, confusion of tongues, and the spreading of people into different parts of the world. The following chapters contain a chronological description of Czech history starting from the settlement of Father Cech in the Czech territory, through legends of Libuše's prophecies and Přemysl Oráč, to the Girls War. The chronicle ends in 1314 during the rule of John of Luxembourg, although there are several amendments written later apparently by another author. The text clearly shows the author's resentment against foreigners, especially Germans. The chronicle is close to the thinking of the Hussite era. It celebrates the history of the Czech kingdom, the role of the Czech nobility in the kingdom after the extinction of the Přemyslid dynasty, and the accession of the Luxembourgs to the throne. For its strong patriotic tune it has always been the subject of an increased interest during every period of national oppression. The stamp was designed by Prof. Zdeněk Ziegler and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black shows a painting of Oldřich returning from the hunt and bringing Božena to his castle (Fig. 17).



Fig. 18

8. On 14 October, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing two 27 Kč stamps and 3 coupons about Czech Statehood (Fig. 18) with the stamps depicting contentious motifs. The first stamp depicts the ceremony of unveiling of the monument to Master Jan Hus marking the five-hundredth anniversary (in 1915) of his burning. Although the long-planned celebrations were banned, the unveiling became a clear demonstration of the growing national aspirations. Added to the figures of Jan Hus and God's warriors is a group of Czech exiles fleeing the country after the Battle of White Mountain, symbolizing the despair over the loss of their homeland. At that time, the development of the Czech lands, which was then at Europe's cultural peak, was actually strangled. It used

to be the only country boasting tolerance between Catholics and Protestants. Czech was the official language. The authors of the Bible of Králice -- translators from the Unity of the Brethren -- elevated it to a language able to express every emotional and legal aspect of human existence. The banner of the "Nazdar" company in the left-hand coupon marks the formation of the Czechoslovak Legions in France and their combat deployment in the area around Arras (Battle of Arras, 1915) -- where Czech representatives have been militarily engaged since the Middle Ages. In fact, there is a stone cross in the nearby fields of Crecy-en-Ponthieu commemorating the death of the blind Czech King John of Luxembourg in the Battle of Crecy in 1346. The lower stamp shows two helplessly falling Czech soldiers in the uniforms of opposing armies displaying the psychological absurdity of many of the battles. The left-hand coupon portrays M.R. Stěfánik in a flying helmet -- he quickly saw the war as a chance of obtaining independence for Slovaks, which he associated from the beginning with Czech independence. He was an aviator

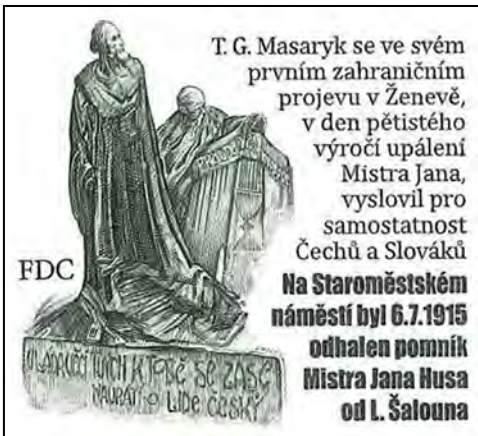


Fig. 19

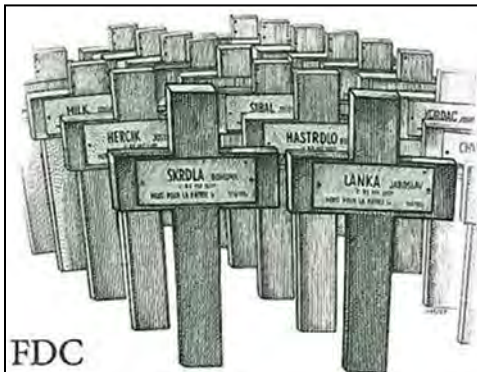


Fig. 20

for the French, tried to set up Czech-Slovak volunteer units, ended up in Paris where he associated with important politicians lobbying them for the creation of a Czecho-Slovak state. Then in 1915 at a meeting with E. Beneš, they agreed on Stěfánik's and Masaryk's concept of an independent state. Meanwhile, the war hysteria led to the intensification of sanctions against national manifestations -- Czech associations were dissolved, the use of the Czech language in official commu-

nications was prohibited, Czech history books and Czech magazines were prohibited, censorship of books, theaters and libraries began. The upper-left commemorates one of the most insidious weapons of WWI -- the use of poison gas at Ypres. The idea of using poison gases was conceived by the Germans and used by them for the first time on 22 April 1915 with devastating results. The upper-right contains a view of the sea conflict which was not a main focus of the Czechs. The lower-right depicts some main actors of the global conflict -- Russian Tsar Nicholas II, German General Hindenburg, English King George V, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Prussia, Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Japanese Emperor Taisho Yoshihito, Emperor Franz Joseph I, and First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. The right-hand side of the upper coupon portrays Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, who during the war abandoned his original opinion that Austria-Hungary could be reformed into a modern union of autonomous countries, and began to give speeches and to lobby Allied leaders to convince them that there should be an independent Czech Republic state. The flags of the participating countries flutter at the top above it all, with the first Czechoslovak flag -- the red and white bi-color -- in the upper right. The stamps and souvenir sheet were designed by Jan Maget and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. A FDC in black for the first stamp depicts Master Jan Hus (Fig. 19). A FDC in black for the second stamp depicts cemetery crosses (Fig. 20).



Fig. 21

9. On 14 October, 2015, the Ministry issued a non-denominated self-adhesive definitive stamp with imprinted denomination letter "A" for The Flag of the Czech Republic (Fig. 21). Act No. 3/1993 Coll., on the state symbols of the Czech Republic, defines the flag of the Czech Republic as a state symbol. The manner of its national and international use is regulated by Act No. 352/2001 Coll. (Use of the State Symbols of the Czech Republic). Following the declaration of the independent Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, the bi-color red and white

flag was adopted to immediately represent the new country. In 1919, university professor G. Friedrich initiated the establishment of a special committee to design a new flag. The most popular of several designs featured a blue triangle wedged between the original red and white horizontal stripes, reaching up to one third of their length. It was designed by civil servant Jaroslav Kursá. The wedge was later re-designed to reach the midpoint of the flag. The design was adopted by Parliament on 30 March, 1920 as the official Czechoslovak flag, and it remained so until 1992. The stamp was designed by Pavel Hrách and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 40 pieces.

10. On 11 November, 2015, the Ministry issued a 13 Kč commemorative stamp in the Personalities series honoring Jan Opletal (Fig. 22). The stamp in red, white,

and blue shows the portrait of Jan Opletal. Jan Opletal (1915 - 1939) became one of the symbols of the Czech resistance against the Nazi occupation in 1939. The name of this medical student at Charles University in Prague has been for many decades in the consciousness of the nation inseparably linked with the tragic events of the autumn of 1939. On 28 October 1939, anti-Nazi demonstrations and riots were held in Prague to mark the anniversary of the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state; Jan Opletal attended these demonstrations and was mortally wounded. His participation in the demonstrations was a conscious and deliberate act. He was determined to fight for freedom, against violence and oppression. He became a symbol of hard defiance and constant inspiration of the struggle for freedom. His funeral was followed by brutal Nazi actions, which led to the closure of Czech universities, executions, and imprisonment of Czech students. Jan Opletal came from very humble beginnings, but did well in school, and in 1936 enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague. He died as a result of the Nazi repression against students. In 1996,



Fig. 22



Fig. 23

he was posthumously awarded the Order of T.G. Masaryk, First Class. In 1945, Charles University granted Jan Opletal the degree of M.D. in memoriam. The stamp was designed by Renáta Fučíková, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in blue combined with photogravure in red in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue depicts a crowd of students with raised hands with Jan Opletal in the foreground and the text "SEMPER FIDELIS" (Fig. 23).

Stationery

11. On 2 September, 2015, the Ministry issued a special postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp announcing the 18th International Trade Fair for postage stamps, coins, postcards, minerals, and collecting SBĚRATEL -- SAMMLER -- COLLECTOR, to be held 3 - 5 September, 2015 on the PVA EXPO fair grounds, Prague - Letňany (Fig. 24). The imprinted A-stamp contains a historic post horn with tassels motif. In the left part of the postal card is a motif of Josef Vyletal's movie poster ČERNÝ TULIPÁN (Black Tulip) completed by the text

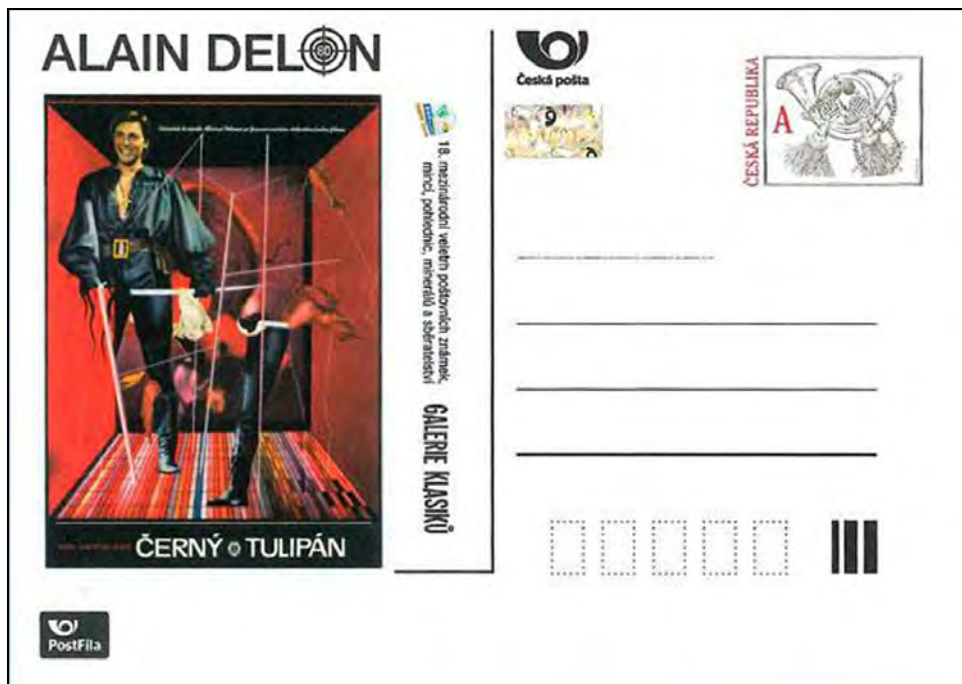


Fig. 24

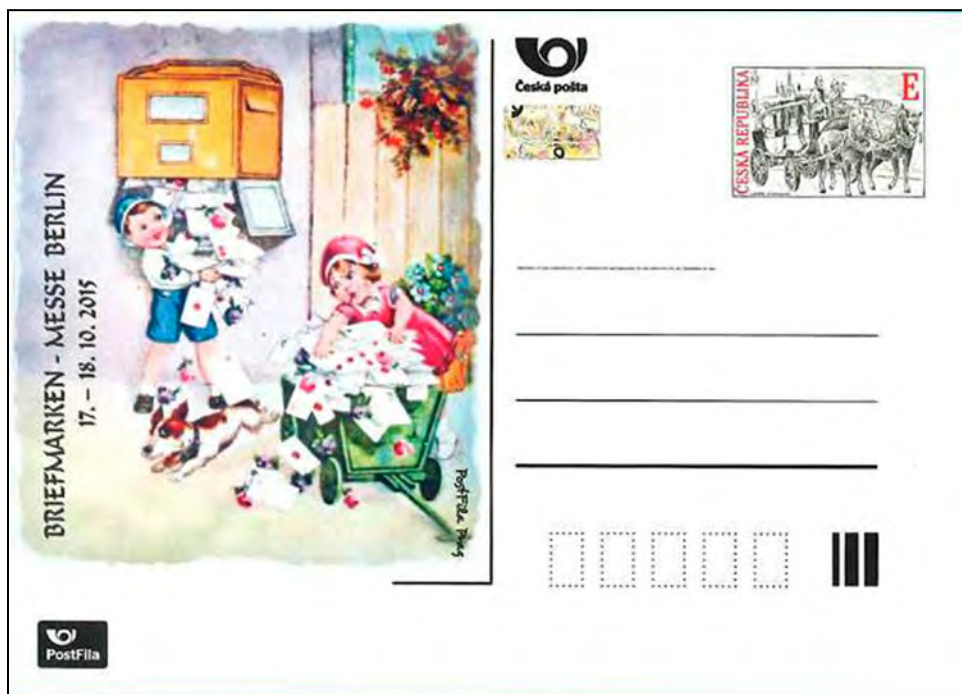


Fig. 25

“Alain Delon” and by the data for the Fair. The additional printing is made by multicolored offset.

12. On 17 October, 2015, the Ministry issued a special postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “E” stamp and an invitation to the International Stamp Exhibition Berlin 2015 to be held 17 - 18 October, 2015 in Berlin (Fig. 25). The imprinted E-stamp contains a horse-drawn passenger wagon. The left part of the postal card shows a period picture postcard motif of children playing with postal letters by the author Irena Vycítalová, and information about the Exhibition. The additional printing is made by multicolored offset.



Fig. 26

13. On 29 October, 2015, the Ministry issued a special postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “E” stamp and an invitation to the International Stamp Exhibition Sindelfingen 2015 to be held 29 - 31 October, 2015 in Sindelfingen (Fig. 26). The imprinted E-stamp contains a horse-drawn passenger wagon. The left part of the postal card shows a period picture postcard motif of a dog at a home door by Irena Vycítalová, and information about the Exhibition. The additional printing is made by multicolored offset.

14. On 11 November, 2015, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” stamp for Laurin & Klement (Fig. 27). The imprinted “A” stamp depicts the Laurin & Klement’s Voiturette A (1905) car. The



Fig. 27

left-hand side of the postal card depicts the period logo of Laurin & Klement, with the lower part shows Otto Hieronimus and Count Alexander (Sasa) Kolowrat (about 1907) who greatly contributed to the sporting achievements of the L&K brand. Otto Hieronimus also worked as the chief designer of the car company. The Czech company Laurin & Klement (L&K) was established in 1895 when book and bicycle seller Václav Klement and engine fitter Václav Laurin started to build bicycles branded as “Slavia” in Mladá Boleslav. In 1899, they launched the production of L&K motorcycles, followed by cars in 1905. In 1907, the company enlarged its production plant, but ended its motorcycle production. In 1925, L&K became a part of the Škoda company and the newly developed cars were identified as “Škoda”. The original models were identified as both “Škoda” and “Laurin & Klement”. The stamp and postal card were designed by Petr Ptáček and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.



Overheard

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?

Stick with me and we'll go places!

SLOVAKIA

by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 28

15. On August 14, 2015, the Ministry of Transport, Posts, and Telecommunications issued a 1.20€ commemorative stamp for the 200th Birth Anniversary of don Bosco (Giovanni Melchior Bosco 1815-1888) (Fig. 28). Giovanni Bosco was born in 1815 in the village of Castelnuovo d'Asti. He grew up in a poor family, his father died when he was two, so his mother raised him and two brothers by herself. When he was nine, he had a dream in which a noble lady helped him to understand his life's mission

-- in 1835 he entered the seminary. After holy orders, he dedicated his time to poor and abandoned boys, found a permanent place for them, and founded seven workshops where they learned life skills. The boys became his co-workers, and in 1868 he founded a male Salesian society for working with youths. In 1872 a female branch of the Salesian congregation was founded, and the Salesian sisters were called the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. He died in 1888 at the age of 72, he was canonized in 1934, and in 1989, Pope John Paul II awarded him the title of "Father and Teacher of Youth". Today Salesians are active in 132 countries, total 30 religious societies, and are represented by about 402,500 men and women devoted to serve youth. The stamp showing don Bosco was designed by Karol Felix, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in printing sheets of 6 pieces. A FDC shows a drawing of Mary Help of Christians (Fig. 29).



Fig. 29

16. On September 2, 2015, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp for the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) 2015 (Fig. 30). The multicolored stamp shows a lively illustration of insects on an assortment of flowers and petals. The idea of a competitive exhibition of original book illustrations for children and youth was first proposed in the early 1960's, and the first year of the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) took place in 1967. The BIB is still regarded as the greatest non-commercial event of its kind in the world. Over the forty-eight years of its existence (twenty-four exhibitions), 7,225 illustrators from



Fig. 30

109 countries have exhibited 57,434 original illustrations at BIB, and more than 9,000 books have been presented there as well. The BIB is held under the auspices of UNESCO every odd year in the autumn in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. The stamp and printing sheet were designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague by offset in a printing sheet containing 27 stamps and 8 coupons. A FDC was issued that shows the front and back of a kitten's head (Fig. 31).



Fig. 31

17. On September 18, 2015, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Homeland series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 0.80€: The Súľov Rocks (Fig. 32). The

Súľov Rocks appear to be growing out of the surrounding landscape of basins and rounded mountain ranges. The unusual shapes attract attention from a far distance. Rain, wind, and frost gradually formed a kind of rock city here. The rock



Fig. 32

formations are reminiscent of towers, windows, pinnacles, gates, and different figures, all stimulating the human imagination. Conservation of this area began in 1929 because the varied natural conditions enable the presence of various rare species of plants and animals in a small area. The calcareous character of the sub-soil coupled with varied micro-climatic conditions -- sun-exposed south-oriented rocks, niches in the cooler shady rock faces and clefts -- have allowed for the colonization of varied species. The stamp showing the Súľov massif and a cliff-dwelling flower was designed by Karol Felix and engraved by Martin Činovský. A FDC shows the massif from a different view under the moonlight (Fig. 33).

-- 0.90€: Manín Gorge (Fig. 34). Manín Gorge is situated between the two distinct peaks of Veľký Manín (890m) and Malý Manín (812m)[i.e., *large and small*], which as one time constituted a continuous limestone ridge. After cutting through the soft calcareous clays, the Manín stream reached the bedrock and then also carved a valley into the hard and resistant limestone. Its path was made easier by fractures in the rock. The result is a narrow gorge with steep rock faces soaring 400m above the stream. Via the whirling movement of large pieces of debris in the stream trapped in the cavities of the narrowest parts of the gorge, smooth rounded hollows, or "giant pots", were formed by the abrasive action of



Fig. 33



Fig. 35

spinning rocks. The Gorge is less than one kilometer long and in some places it is only a few meters wide. At one time, the narrowest place of the gorge was too narrow for wagons to pass through. Early on, wagoners had to unload their goods, disassemble their wagon, carry everything through, and then reassemble their wagon and load. Today this

part has been widened, and the road is paved. The rock faces of Manín Gorge are among the best rock climbing terrains in Slovakia. The stamps was designed by Marián Čapka and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. A FDC shows a close-up of the “narrows” (Fig. 35).

18. On October 9, 2015, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Nature Protection series for Protected Landscape Area Poľana. The stamps were designed by Igor Piačka (river otter) and Júlia Piačková (black stork) and engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague using recess printing from flat plate combined with offset in a printing sheet that contains one of each stamp and five coupons (Fig. 36).

-- 0.65€: River Otter (*Lutra lutra*). Of Slovak mammals, the otter is best adapted to life in the water. It has a slim, but brawny body. The otter is very agile, restless, and playful. It has a striking, long body and short strong legs, a head with small ears, and a long tail. It also

has swimming membranes between the fingers of its legs, touch hairs on the sides of its mouth, and its whole body is covered with thick and delicate fur, which when greased is water repellent. The fur is so effective against water that its skin never gets wet. The overall color of the otter is brown with only the bottom part of the neck being white. Otters are active mostly at night. The life span of an otter is usually 15 years. Otters have 1 to 5 cubs that are completely helpless for the first



Fig. 34



Fig. 36

6 weeks. A newly born cub is blind and does not have any fur. Cubs learn to swim only in their 12th week, when they grow their first waterproof fur. They live off and grow solely thanks to mother's milk. The male otter does not participate in bringing up and feeding offspring. One year old otters are already fully independent. Habitat is banks of flowing and stagnant waters, and they feed on fish, crayfish, beaver-rats, frogs, rodents, and sometimes insects. An otter can stay underwater for up to 6 minutes and swim there up to 400 meters. The otter is a protected species but in great danger from pollution and destruction of habitat. A FDC shows a dual portrait of an otter -- head on and while chasing a fish (Fig. 37).

-- 0.65€: Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*). The Black Stork is a migratory bird. It lives in Europe and Asia in spring and summer, and winters in Africa. It lives in forests. The black stork is about 1 meter long and has a wing span of approximately 48 inches. Adult birds have black feathers with a green or purple metallic sheen, except the belly, and feature white triangles on the bottom parts of its wings. The bill, the area around the eye, and the legs are red. It flies with its neck stretched to the front and is easily visible gliding high in the sky. They usually sit on tall trees, but are also able to take off flying after a short run. Their large shallow nests are made of branches and twigs and are hidden in the crowns of tall trees, or are built on inaccessible rocks. They return to the same place every year and repair and rebuild their nests. Black storks are shy and usually appear individually. They

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search for food along the edges of water courses and ponds, looking for fish, frogs, newts, insects, and rodents. Chicks (2 to 5 eggs) are incubated in turns both by the male and female. The Black Stork is a protected species. A FDC shows an illustration of a mated pair at their nest (Fig. 38).

19. On October 23, 2015, the Ministry issued a 1.00€ commemorative stamp in the Personalities series for the 200th Birth Anniversary of Ludovít Štúr (1815-1856)(Fig. 39). Ludovít Štúr was a leading personality of the Slovak national revival, a politician, poet, journalist, publisher, historian, philosopher, pedagogue, linguist, and codifier of standard Slovak. He was well prepared for these roles through his education which culminated in the university in Halle. After his return to Slovakia, he lectured in linguistics, Slavic history and aesthetics. However, in 1844 he was discharged from his instructor duties because he opposed the efforts of Magyarization. During 1845-1848, he published the Slovak National Newspaper, and the linguistic papers "The Slovak Dialect and the Necessity to Write in this Dialect" (1846) and the "Study of the Slovak Language" (1846). Each of these were significantly essential in the



Fig. 39

theoretical basis of a standard Slovak language -- it was officially declared to be

the standard language in August 1944. As a Member of Parliament, he fought mostly for the improvement of people's social situation and to keep the mother tongue as the language for education. He also had a leading role in the drafting of the Demands of the Slovak Nation (1848) addressed to the Hungarian government. At the Slavic Congress in Prague (1848), he criticized the Austro-Hungarian monarchy against which he was preparing an armed uprising, together with J.M. Hurban. After the failure of the 1848/49 revolution, he lived under police supervision in Modra where he died as a result of an injury inflicted during a hunt. With his fight for the social and national rights of the Slovak



Fig. 37

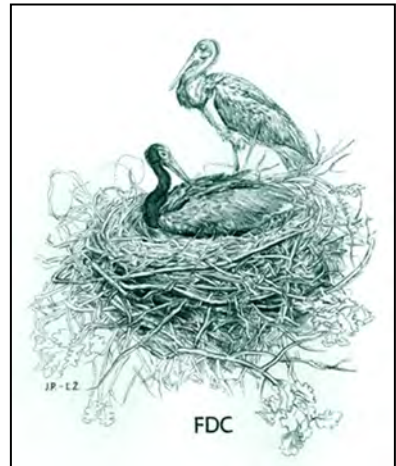


Fig. 38



Fig. 40

nation and his expert linguistic work, Ludovít Štúr significantly contributed to the formation of the Slovak nation in the national movements of the 1840's. The stamp was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC shows an illustration of a man climbing a mountain with birds above (Fig. 40).

20. On November 5, 2015, the Ministry issued a special 1.10€ commemorative stamp for the National Cancer Institute (Fig. 41). The history of the modern National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bratislava began 25 years ago. While the treatment of cancer patients in Slovakia goes back much further, the NCI is the

largest specialized hospital in Slovakia for the treatment of cancers which provides complex oncology care. It is visited yearly by thousands of patients from all over Slovakia. It has undergone many changes both from the medical and technical point of view. The stamp was designed by Robert Jančovič and produced by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava by offset in printing sheets of 25 pieces. A FDC with decorative artwork was issued (Fig.42).



Fig. 41

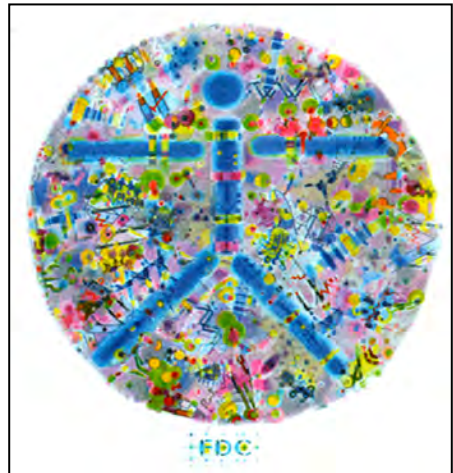


Fig. 42



Fig. 43



Fig. 44

21. On November 13, 2015, the Ministry issued a 0.45€ commemorative stamp entitled Christmas Motifs in the Work of Karol Ondreička (1898-1961) (Fig. 43). Karol Ondreička frequently devoted himself to the topic of the Madonna with Child in his works of art. There was probably no other Slovak artist who portrayed her with such a degree of varying creativity as he did. From the beginning (1928) his Madonna themes caused a stir in the Slovak cultural public since he succeeded in combining traditional Christian iconography with the typical Slovak mountain landscape where flocks of sheep graze under the supervision of shepherds, a wayside shrine can be seen here and there in the background, or we are in a forest with woodcutters. The concept of Horská Madona (Madonna from the Mountains) from 1939 (the theme of the stamp) builds on its famous predecessors. The Madonna receives a tribute from a young married couple who bring a symbolic “scapegoat”, and another sheep of the herd is shown licking the bare knees of the Child Jesus. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by the Postal Printing House of Securities, Prague using offset in printing sheet of 50 pieces. A FDC depicts a graphic ex libris, in which the Child of God opens his arms to accept his Mother or the entire world; He hovers over the snow-covered Slovak country and above a cloud that may let more snow fall (Fig. 44).

22. On November 13, 2015, the Ministry issued a T2 50g denominated commemorative stamp for Christmas Post 2015 (Fig. 45). The Christmas Mail is a unique activity of Slovenská Pošta. Children have the opportunity to write

to the Baby Jesus at his address “999 99 Ježiško” and their wishes are answered with a present as well. During the last 16 years, Baby Jesus has received more than 1.4 million letters. In 2014, more than 100,000 children, children’s groups and parents participated in the Christmas Mail, including 2,210 children from abroad (surprisingly even Taiwan and Hong Kong). As many as 1000 children and school groups joined the competition for the children’s most beautiful drawing for Baby Jesus, as announced in the previous year. For the first time, the motif of the stamp for the “Christmas Mail” issue became a drawing from a children’s group -- a drawing by children from the fine-art group of Rozmarínová Primary School in Komárno. [Ed. Note: If you look at the stamp carefully, the names of the children are hand-written around the edges of the fish.] A FDC shows the happy faces of children (Fig. 46).



Fig. 45



Fig. 46

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