



# 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

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## SCP CONVENTION at NAPEX 2017

This year's SCP annual convention will be held in conjunction with the NAPEX 2017 stamp show which is being held from June 9 -11 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner hotel in McLean, Virginia. You can find many more details about the show, hotel, map, etc., at [www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org).

We will be having our annual Board Meeting on Thursday, June 8, in a room at the hotel starting at 1 pm. Members are welcome to attend. Check at the front desk for the room number and location.

We will have a table near the entrance that will be manned during show hours. Nearby will be a three frame exhibit of art on Czechoslovak stamps (by our late member Gerald van Zanten). Stop by to talk with us about stamps, our activities, and to look over the books that we have available.

On Saturday, 1 pm, we will start with our General Membership meeting (check at our table for directions), and then have two presentations by:

- Czechoslovak Scout Post Covers by Dr. Frederick Lawrence
- SCP Library at the RMPL by Ludvik Svoboda

Make sure to leave time to view the Czechoslovak exhibits. Of particular note this year -- our member Phil Rhoads will once again be exhibiting his world renowned 10 frame thematic exhibit "Murder of Lidice". If you have not seen it before, you really missed out. He has added some new material, and this is the 75th anniversary of that tragic event.

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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 Chris Jackson. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Chris Jackson. (See address below or email cjstamps72@gmail.com).
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](http://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, P O Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117, email: mmgalitz@gmail.com.

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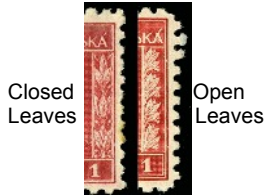
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*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.  
Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.*

## THE MASARYK LINDEN LEAF ISSUES

by Mark Wilson

Four designs featuring a portrait of T. G. Masaryk have linden leaves in their side panels. Two have a sprig with three clusters of **closed** leaves, the other two have a sprig with four **open** leaves. All were released in the years between 1923 and 1926. Save for the *Agriculture and Science* issues, perhaps no other set of First Republic stamps approaches their complexity; none but the *Hradčany* surpasses them in terms of philatelic importance.



Side panels with linden leaves

### Identifying POFIS<sup>1</sup> Types by Process of Elimination

Let's begin with those stamps that have *closed* leaves. For the moment, put aside any stamps with **dates** in their bottom panel and select only those stamps that have a **unit of currency**. Since I find the type descriptions in most English language catalogs scattered and confusing, I choose to arrange my stamps according to *POFIS*. We will first identify the eight POFIS types of the 1 Kč from 1925.

1923: Dates

1925: Unit of Currency



Horizontal lines

Grid

- Sort the **unit of currency** stamps into two groups. In the first group place all stamps with **horizontal lines** in the top and bottom panels, in the other group place stamps that have **grids**. Put the group with grids aside until Step 6 and take up the stamps with horizontal lines. This group consists of five types in two different formats.

Large Format

Small Format



Type IA  
(98)

Type IB  
(101 A)



Type II  
(102)

Type III  
(105a)

Type IV  
(105)

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2. Separate these stamps by format, large and small. Deal with the small format stamps first.



3. Set apart the small format stamps perforated 9¼ (fairly coarse) from those perforated 13¼ (much finer). Note that a perforation gauge is not required for this task as the difference is quite obvious to the naked eye. The stamps perforated 9¼ are Type IV.



4. Of the remaining small format stamps (all perforated 13¼), Type II has hatched lines on President Masaryk's shoulder, Type III does not.



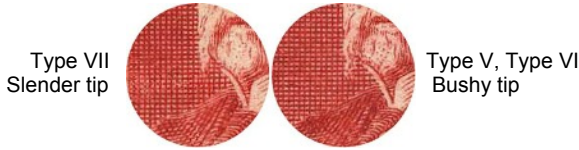
5. Next take up the large format stamps. Type IA is taller and narrower than Type IB. A millimeter rule is not needed: align the stamps to reveal how their height and width differ.



6. The previous five steps separated all the stamps with **horizontal lines** into one of five types, so that group should be depleted. Now it is time to take up the stamps with a **grid** in their top and bottom panels. There are three types in this group.



7. First, separate out the stamps where President Masaryk's mustache has a slender tip; these are Type VII.



8. Finally, group the remaining stamps according to the size of the **colored** outermost border around the denomination tablet. Type V has a **thin** colored line (which makes the **white** border look thicker) and Type VI has a *thicker* colored line (making the white border look thinner). The outermost colored line is most noticeable where either a horizontal (at the left) or vertical (at the top) **white** bar ends at the denomination tablet.



We will now turn to the POFIS types for the remaining 1925 denominations. For instance, we can distinguish the two large format 2 Kč types by using the rules for the 1 Kč format stamps. The small format stamp is Type II.



Type IA  
(99)

Type IB  
(101 B)

Type II  
(103)

The two large format 3 Kč types follow the same 1 Kč large format rules. Of the small format stamps, Type II has horizontal lines in the top and bottom panels while Type III has a grid.



Type IA  
(100)

Type IB  
(101 C)



Type II  
(104)

Type III  
(108)



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The 5 Kč has only two types, both large format. As with the other denominations, Type IA and Type IB may be identified using the 1 Kč large format rules.



Type IA  
(101)

Type IB  
(101 D)

Put aside momentarily the remaining **closed** leaf stamps with **dates** in the bottom panel and take up those that have a sprig of **open** leaves. There were two releases, an **original** design (1925) and a **modified** design (1926). The original design has colored numerals on a white background but has no types. The modified design inverts the colors of the numerals and background. Only its 50 haler has types.



(95)

(96)

(97)

Original Design



Type I (116)

Type II (116 note)

(117)

(131)

Modified Design

Type I  
Bushy tip



Type II  
Slender tip



**The 1923 Issue**

Authorities released the first of the four Masaryk linden leaf issues in 1923 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of its 1918 independence. Its design differed substantially from the 1925-1926 issues in that the bottom panel contains 1918 <sup>28</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 1923 instead of a currency name. As for its perforations, *POFIS* simply states the stamps are found line perforated between 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> through 14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> without specifying any particulars (*Scott* says 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>).



(B133)

(B134)

(B135)

(B136)

The post office twice (in 1925 and 1926) overprinted part or all the 1923 issue. Since these are overprints, the basic features of the stamps remained the same.



(B137)

(B138)

(B139)



(B140)

(B141)

(B142)

(B143)

We held the 1923 release for last because while it does lack any design types it provides a marvelous segue into gum variants. See the next section for a description of its extraordinary gum.

### Gum Variants

The application of the 1923 issue's gum has to be its most unusual and outstanding characteristic. Mint stamps show the back of the stamp screen-printed in gum with the monogram of the Czech Postal Service against a quadrille background.



As for the Masaryk series' normal gum, the printer applied a smooth coating of gum to every denomination of the 1925-1926 designs. That said, some, but not all, of the modified design's un-water-

marked 50 haler Type II and 60 haler stamps have gum with very striking vertical stripes. Of course, the stamps must be mint to identify any gum differences.

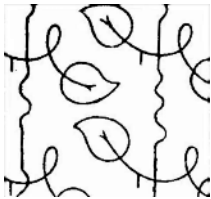


Watermarks

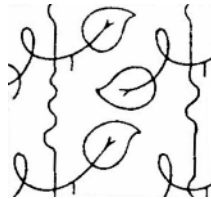
Some stamps were released without watermarks, but with the exception of Type VII and the 1 Kč open leaf, every Masaryk linden leaf stamp in all four designs was at one time or another printed on watermarked paper. While the printer used only one style of paper for these issues (*Scott* watermark 107), the orientation of the paper on the press gave rise to eight different but symmetrical watermark patterns.

Illustrated here are all eight patterns categorized in terms of P1<sup>2</sup> as a baseline orientation partnered with a set of 90° right rotations. This mathematically exhausts all possible permutations as any consistent leftward 90° or 180° rotation would produce the same results but in a different order.

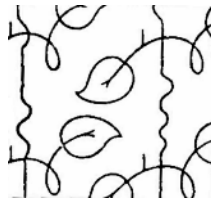
Watermarks may be revealed by using commercial watermarking fluid or Ronsonol™ brand lighter fluid. Place the fluid in a black dish or watermark detector and immerse an upright stamp with its printed side down. **WARNING:** Exposing photogravure stamps to these fluids may harm them!



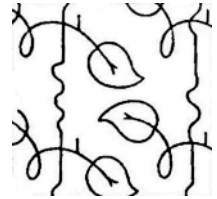
POFIS P1:  
Baseline orientation



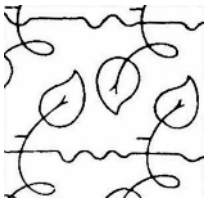
POFIS P2:  
P1 flipped horizontally



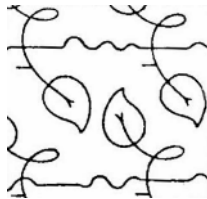
POFIS P3:  
P1 flipped vertically



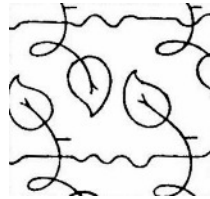
POFIS P4:  
P1 flipped horizontally and vertically



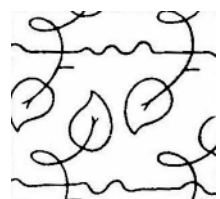
POFIS P5:  
P1 rotated right 90°



POFIS P8:  
P2 rotated right 90°



POFIS P6:  
P3 rotated right 90°



POFIS P7:  
P4 rotated right 90°

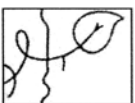
The major impediment to watermark recognition is that only a small portion of the pattern will be visible on any one stamp. This means that to identify a stamp's pattern, attention must be paid to the orientation of specific features. The key is to locate a **stem** crossing a **line** with a **spur** or **loop** nearby while ignoring the confusing assortment of humps on the lines and all of the leaves.



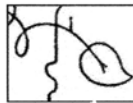
P1: Spur pointing down left of a vertical line, loop to the line's right pointing up



P3: Spur pointing up left of a vertical line, loop to the line's right pointing down

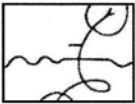


P2: Spur pointing down right of a vertical line, loop to the line's left pointing up

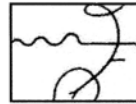


P4: Spur pointing up right of a vertical line, loop to the line's left pointing down

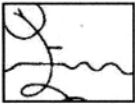




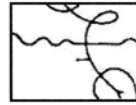
P5: Spur pointing left above a horizontal line, loop below the line pointing right



P7: Spur pointing right below a horizontal line, loop above the line pointing left



P6: Spur pointing right above a horizontal line, loop below the line pointing left



P8: Spur pointing left below a horizontal line, loop above the line pointing right

## Characteristics of the Masaryk Linden Leaf Issues

### Closed Leaves

Watermark: P1, P2, P3, P4	Type IA
Watermark: P5, P6, P7, P8	The 1923 issue, 1925 Types IB, II, III, IV, V, VI
Unwatermarked	1925 Types VI, VII ( <i>Type VI also watermarked</i> )
Line perforated: 1923 varies 13¾ to 14¾; 1925 Types IA, IB, II, and III 13¾; Types IV, V, VI, VII 9¾;	
1923 and its overprints with CPS monogrammed gum; 1925 smooth gum	

### Open Leaves

<i>Original Design</i>	
Watermark: P1, P2, P3, P4	All denominations. <b>Warning: Photogravure!!!</b>
All comb perf 13¾×13½ or line perf 13¾; smooth gum	
<i>Modified Design</i>	
Watermark: P5, P6, P7, P8	50 haler Types I, II; 60 haler
Unwatermarked	50 haler Type II, 60 haler, 1 Kč
All line perf 9¾, all with smooth gum; unwatermarked 50 h Type II, 60 h, and 1 Kč may also have stripes	

### Philatelic Importance

The Masaryk linden leaf issues' importance to Czechoslovak philately has two quite different facets. The first is technical. The Masaryk stamps were the first to be watermarked. In addition, the printer used photogravure to print the original open leaf release and engraved the other three Masaryk designs. Thus the Masaryk linden leaf issues signaled the abandonment of typographic plate production for commemorative and definitive stamps (although the nation continued to release postage due and newspaper stamps printed from typographic plates until late 1939).

The second facet is cultural. All stamps released before 1925 indicated their denomination only by implication -- no currency name was given -- and only in multiples of the haler. Because the 1925-1926 stamps introduced the names of units of currency: *Haléřů*, *Koruna*, *Koruny*, and *Korun*,<sup>3</sup> these stamps changed that practice forever; every future Czechoslovak issue followed suit by declaring its denomination in complete words or with the abbreviations *H* (haler) and *Kč* (Czechoslovak crown).

### Can You Help?

I have been unable to purchase a copy (new or used) of the book *TGM 1923* by Ivana Šárová. Prague, Top Art Studio, 2008. (ISBN 978-80-254-2134-5). Can anyone help? editor@czechout.org.

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<sup>1</sup> *POFIS Československo 1918-1939* is the pertinent Czech language catalog. For the benefit of *Scott* catalog users *POFIS* types have been associated with their Scott numbers. Note that this paper uses *POFIS* measurements.

<sup>2</sup> *P* symbolizes *Průsvitky*, the Czech word for watermarks, and each number represents one of eight specific patterns.

<sup>3</sup> *Koruna*, *Koruny*, and *Korun* differ because, unlike the simple English *Crown* and *Crowns*, these Czech words have grammatical forms that take into account the number of items represented: one, two to four, and five or more.

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from the June 2016 *Czechout* with permission of the author and editor.]



## 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. **Tom Cossaboom** (member #936) of Prescott, AZ; past- president, long-time Society secretary, European historian, studied at Charles University, Prague.
2. **Chris Jackson** (member #2050) of St. George, Ontario, Canada; president, 39 years collecting experience, Czech/Slovak heritage through mother.
3. **John Pojeta** (member # 847) of Rockville, MD; current board member, long-time collector, interested in attracting new younger members.
4. **Ludvik Svoboda** (member # 1203) of Aurora, CO; past-president, past-treasurer, long-time editor of the *Specialist*, fluent Czech speaker.

All of the above are retiring Board members and are seeking re-election.

Enclosed in the envelope with this issue is the election ballot that every member in good standing is requested to complete. Vote for any/all of the candidates listed above. The order in which you list your votes is not important. You can submit your ballot in two ways. Either attach your ballot to an email and send it to our secretary, Tom Cossaboom, at [KLFCK1@aol.com](mailto:KLFCK1@aol.com). Or mail your ballot to our member Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-3846. Make sure that your ballot is emailed/postmarked no later than May 31, 2017.

## SPRING 2017 SCP MEMBER SPECIALS



**1943 Czechoslovak Exile Government Souvenir Sheet VF full O.G. MNH \$30**



**Slovakia 1940-41 Watermarked Postage Due Set VF full O.G. MNH \$20**



**Slovakia 1942 Postage Due Set VF MNH \$12**

**The 2Ks denomination has unevenly applied gum.**

**All prices include postage and packing to any destination.**

**The best possible centering will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Please make out checks and money orders to Chris Jackson  
(458 Scenic Drive, St. George, ON N0E 1N0, Canada).**

**Payment via Paypal to [cjstamps72@gmail.com](mailto:cjstamps72@gmail.com)**

**Feel free to contact me at this email address any time for scans or additional enquiries.**

## **HONORING A NATION OCCUPIED BY GERMANY IN WORLD WAR II**

### **THE 1943 OVERRUN NATIONS SERIES FIRST DAY COVER CACHETS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**by William Velvel Moskoff and Carol Gayle**

During World War II, the United States postal service issued a series of twelve 5 cent stamps over a five month period in 1943, to honor European countries that had been conquered by Germany and were at that time occupied.<sup>1</sup> In order of their date of issue, the countries were Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Denmark, and Austria. The idea for the overrun nations series originated with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, himself an avid stamp collector. Roosevelt even contributed ideas towards the stamps' design. The fundamental purpose of the stamps was to draw attention to the fighting in Europe and stir American interest in the European theater. While the U.S. had landed in North Africa in November 1942 to support Great Britain and weaken Hitler and Mussolini, it was not until July 1943 that the U.S. put boots on the ground in Europe proper, specifically in Mussolini's Italy.

All twelve of the stamps in the series were designed on the same template. The flag of the country being honored was framed in purple with the mythic Phoenix on the upper left, symbolic of a hoped for rise from the ashes, and a kneeling figure on the right having broken the chains of fascist bondage. Production of these stamps necessitated multicolor printing presses. Because the U.S. government's Bureau of Engraving and Printing lacked the equipment for the job, the task of producing the stamps was given to a private firm, the American Bank Note Company in New York City. The reason a 5 cent denomination was chosen was that this was the first class postal rate for foreign mail and it was hoped that the stamps would be used on mail going abroad.

This article describes and analyses the content of a number of first day cover cachets on envelopes with the stamp honoring Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak stamp was issued on July 12, 1943, nearly five years after the Munich Agreement allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland, which began the partition of Czechoslovakia. The occupation of Bohemia and Moravia and their incorporation into Greater Germany followed in March 1939. Slovakia was separated from the historic Czech lands and became a puppet state, the Slovak Republic, and an ostensible German ally. The cachets on the Czechoslovak first day covers sought to bolster the spirit of the Czechs in exile and give Americans a sense of the key aspects of Czech history.

The Nazis committed many atrocities in Europe during their occupation. One of the most horrific occurred in the Czech village of Lidice on June 10, 1942, when the Germans destroyed the village in retaliation for the assassination on May 27 of Reinhard Heydrich, the Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia. Every adult

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<sup>1</sup> A thirteenth stamp in this series was issued in late 1944 to honor Korea, then still occupied by Japan.

male was shot. All the women were sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp where many died. The children were separated for racial classification and eighty-one of them, considered racially inferior, were executed. The Nazis burned the village to the ground, erasing Lidice from the face of the planet.<sup>2</sup> The official German charge that the village's inhabitants actively participated in the assassination and had provided "shelter and assistance" to Heydrich's assassins was false. The operation was carried out by two Czech resistance fighters based in England who parachuted in to carry out the deed. After the destruction of Lidice the Germans tried to destroy any memory of Lidice. They extinguished the name of the community, removing it from signposts and maps. Official German statements issued from occupied Prague sought to minimize the scale of the massacre by claiming that the population of the village had been 483, but Czechs in exile in London announced that the correct number was closer to 1,200.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 1

Figures 1 and 2 use Lidice to symbolize the anguish of Czechoslovakia's destruction. Figure 1 presents Czechoslovakia wrapped in chains and Slovakia marked as a Nazi ally. Superimposed on the captive state is a large 'V' for victory and the torch of freedom. The text makes the word Lidice a call to arms roughly one year after the massacre, with the outcry "We Won't Forget!" Although Lidice was not at the top of the American people's consciousness, an examination of many U.S. newspapers shows that there was virtually no mention of Lidice in the press after mid-1942, the cachet maker is using Lidice as a one word slogan for Nazi cruelty and barbarity.

<sup>2</sup> Richard J. Evans, *The Third Reich at War*, New York: The Penguin Press, 2009, p.277

<sup>3</sup> *New York Times*, June 11, 1943, p.1.



Figure 2

Figure 2 is a crowded design with multiple flags symbolizing Czechoslovak resistance. In the main the personages in the picture are soldiers. But there is a muscled worker on the left carrying a hammer, suggesting broadly based national participation. The flags and banners carry multiple national symbols. The most prominent flag on the left of the cachet displays the silver double-tailed lion that was at the heart of the medieval Bohemian flag and part of the coat of arms of the first Czech Republic (1918-1938). The double cross on the smaller flag on the very left was part of the coat of arms of Slovakia and symbolizes its commitment to the Catholic faith. The big Czech flag contains the letters CSA, standing for *Československá Armáda*, the name adopted by the Czech resistance forces based in London. Two flags bear images of a chalice, symbolic of the effort of Jan Hus to reform Roman Catholicism in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century and the Czech resistance that he sparked. Hus, a Catholic priest, protested against Church practice, contending that laymen, not just the clergy, should be entitled to drink the wine from the chalice during the Catholic mass. Although he was betrayed and burned at the stake as a heretic in 1415, his followers successfully fought against a series of papal crusades and the symbols of the movement have become emblems of centuries of Czech national resistance.

Figures 3 and 4 honor the two most important figures in 20<sup>th</sup> century Czechoslovak political history- Tomas Masaryk and Edward Beneš, respectively. Masaryk, a philosopher by training and a fierce advocate of Czech independence, became the country's first president in 1918. When the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell at the end of World War I, Masaryk was recognized by the Allies as the head of the Provisional Government and was soon elected president of the newly-formed



Figure 3

in 1937, sparing him the sight of Czechoslovakia falling into German hands. The portrait of Masaryk on the cover is that of a dignified senior statesman. It was drawn on the basis of a well-known photograph of him taken in 1925 when he was 75 years old. On his right is a sketch of Prague Castle, the medieval structure that was the official residence of the country's president.

Masaryk was succeeded in office by his son-in-law, Edward Beneš, who served twice as president of the nation. The Beneš cachet (Figure 4) is remarkable for



Figure 4

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

several reasons. First, the cover offers a selective mini-history of Czechoslovakia although it makes no mention of the Munich Agreement, beginning only in 1939 with the German invasion that extinguished the Czech Republic. Second, the cover speaks of the government in exile headed by Beneš as the “new” government of Czechoslovakia and stresses that Czechoslovak forces were fighting with the Allies on both the western and eastern fronts, at the moment the stamp was issued. Third, the portrait of Beneš is a small glossy photograph glued to the envelope. His contemplative portrait is surrounded by scenes of battle, alluding to the Czech military efforts in 1942.



Figure 5

Figure 5 is a beautiful C. Stephen Anderson First Day Cover cachet, using his typical pattern of the design above and some historical text below. Here he has portrayed the so-called Small Emblem that was created in 1920, with the Slovak double-barred patriarchal cross overlaid on the Bohemian emblem of the silver double-tailed lion. It represented a united Czechoslovakia, the Czech lands plus Slovakia.

Figures 6 and 7 join the Czechoslovak with the U.S. flag. Figure 6, a black-and-white drawing, is dramatic in content. A hand wielding a sword rises out of the ground with the base of the sword shaped like an airplane. Around it is an image suggesting a thick-trunked tree growing out of the earth bringing new life to the beleaguered country. Figure 7 is much more modest, but in its own way, the most honest of all the cachet designs. It simply shows the two flags of the two countries crossed as if their futures are bound up with each other and offers a tribute to the Czechoslovakian people, who are called “heroic and courageous”. The cover’s design was executed by Winfred M. Grundy (WGM), a prolific and well-known cachet maker of the 1940s, whose theme here is that the security of America is tied to the freedom of Czechoslovakia.





Figure 6



Figure 7

All the cachets were designed to describe and honor the wartime resistance of Czechoslovakia. They drew upon both the more distant history of the country, as in the resurrection of the iconic events in 15<sup>th</sup> century Bohemia and of Tomas Masaryk's memory, and recent events, most notably the horror of the massacre at Lidice. The cachets were designed to build sympathy in Americans for what was happening in Czechoslovakia and show why they should regard the people of

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Czechoslovakia as brave members of the Grand Alliance against the Nazis as the war unfolded in Europe.

[Eds. note. The SCP thanks the authors for their permission to publish this article. Professor Moscoff is retired chair of the Dept. of Economics and Business at Lake Forest College, IL. Carol Gayle is Associate Professor of History at Lake Forest College.]



## A GIFT TO THE SOCIETY

by Ludvik Svoboda

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Evan Kramer, widower of our late member and Board Member Valerie Kramer, the Society has been gifted her extensive and fabulous research on the revenue and taxation stamps of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, and Bohemia & Moravia. This includes her 430 page book, *The Revenue Stamps of Czechoslovakia*, her extensive collection of these stamps (in two volumes including stamps and documents bearing these stamps), and the excess stamps and documents.

The book and her collection will be kept at the Society's library for the benefit and use of any member doing research on this subject.

Meanwhile, you can view her book by going to our Society website, [www.csphilately.org](http://www.csphilately.org), clicking on Publications, and then Publications for Free, and finally downloading the PDF, *Revenues of [the] Czechoslovakia* by Valerie Kramer.

In addition, the Society has arranged for the scanning of her collection on a DVD. We hope to have that PDF scan on our website by this summer for your viewing.

Meanwhile, the Society has also arranged for the scanning of her excess stamps and documents – which are for sale – onto a DVD. All proceeds (except for any necessary expenses) will accrue to her husband, Evan Kramer. If you are interested in borrowing this DVD or purchasing any of the stamps/documents, please contact me.

## 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](http://www.cpsgb.org.uk), and through their new Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at [cpsgb1@gmail.com](mailto: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, \$35 for printed copies by airmail or \$28 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to [sales@csphilately.org](mailto:sales@csphilately.org) or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

## Philatelic News and Views

### 1. From Ludvik Svoboda:

In the Book Review column of the Winter 2017 issue (on page 15), the figure showing a sample of listings in the *Perfins on Hradčany Stamps* catalog was not very clear. It was a copy of a scan.

We are therefore showing it again here -- hopefully much clearer -- with a new description of what the figure is showing:

-- on the left is an exact copy of what the perfin shows. In the catalog it is an exact copy that is the exact size of the original, so you can lay the stamp right on the diagram, and they should match exactly. That is not the case in this figure.

-- next comes the "document" number, consisting of the first letter of the perfin and then a sequence number.

-- next is a print of what text the perfin consists of, and then the cities/towns where the perfin was used. Note that in the first one it is only one city, while the second one was used in 9.

-- next comes the name of the perfin user and the type of business/organization.

-- next is a line (N) listing the POFIS numbers of the imperforate Hradčany stamps that are known to have this perfin, and finally its rarity value.

-- next is a line (Z) listing the POFIS numbers of the perforated Hradčany stamps that are known to have this perfin, and finally its rarity value.

-- and finally, the POFIS number of any stationery that is known to have this perfin (the second perfin can be found on a CDV 7).

	<b>A14</b>	<b>A.D.*&amp;C<sup>o</sup></b> Liberec/Reichenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
	+ Alfred Deutsch & Co.		
	+ Mezinárodní doprava		
	<b>N</b>	2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22	<b>7</b>
	<b>Z</b>	3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17	<b>8</b>

	<b>A16</b>	<b>AEG - Praha, Teplice-Šanov, Liberec, Moravská Ostrava, Podmokly/Prag, Teplitz-Schönau, Reichenberg, Mähr. Ostrau, Bodenbach</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	+ AEG Elektrotechnická akc. spol.		
	+ Výroba elektrických přístrojů		
	<b>N</b>	3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24	<b>4</b>
	<b>Z</b>	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17	<b>4</b>

CDV 7

### 2. From Yvonne Wheatley:

The rate of exchange between the Great Britain Pound and the US Dollar is more favorable to the dollar following our decision to leave the EU. Therefore, the rate is now \$35 for printed copies of the *Czechout* by airmail and \$28 for surface delivery. The cost for digital remains at \$10.

I will credit the benefit of any previously paid membership to the member's account.

## *New Members*

We welcome three new members who have joined since the beginning of the year.

#2172 **Maski Washizu.** Ibaraki, Japan (a beginning collector).

#2173 **Robert Pinet.** Toronto, Canada. (a very experienced collector).

#2174 **T.M. Neutel.** Voorthuizen, The Netherlands.

Thank you for joining our society and we hope that you enjoy the Specialist. You are always welcome to ask any questions of our extremely knowledgeable members by emailing/writing to the editors.



## *Letters to the Editor*

Lou and Keith,

I received the Winter issue of The Specialist today. Two comments on the Czech Post WWI commemorative sheet. The battles of the Somme and Verdun were only the second and third most deadly battles of 1916. The most deadly battle of 1916 and one that had a greater effect on Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia was the so-called Brusilov Offensive, 4 June- 20 September 1916. Total casualties (dead, wounded or missing), for Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Germany, according to Wikipedia, were as many as 2,000,000. Austro-Hungarian casualties, including many Czechs and Slovaks, were between 600,000 and 975,000. The four crowns in the FDC cancel, starting from the bottom (front) and going clockwise, are the Crown of St. Wenceslas, the Crown of the Austrian Empire, ?? (can't identify), and Imperial Crown of Russia.

Tom Cossaboom

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

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

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

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

## SLOVAK STATE “Slovakotour” STAMPS

by Mgr. Miroslav Jeník  
 mjenik@centrum.cz  
 trans. by Lucie Harris

In 1940, the puppet-like fascist Slovak State issued a duty stamp for picture postcards linked to the goal to support and improve tourism in Slovakia, wherein German citizens could order or more precisely use prepaid vacations.

The “Slovakotour” stamps were issued in three stamp values in printing sheets with one hundred pieces each. The stamps were probably created in a private Bratislava printery with protective elements on the gum of the stamp (Fig. 1).

The red stamp (10h) on yellowish paper was earmarked for use within the bounds of the Slovak State (Fig. 2).

They are known with a perforation of 12 1/2, and it is possible to distinguish in fact four color variations:

- light red
- wine
- dark red
- dull wine

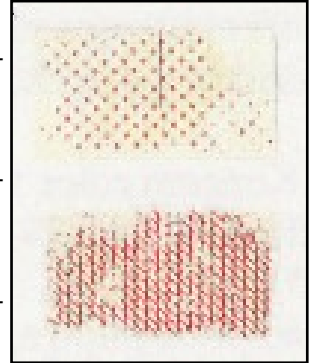


Figure 1



Figure 2

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

The blackish-brown stamp (15h) was earmarked for sendings to the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (Fig. 3, 4).

They are known with a perforation of 12 1/2 (but also 10 1/2), and it is possible to distinguish in fact four color variations:

- blackish-brown
- dull black
- bright black
- black (yellow paper)



Figure 3



Figure 4

The blue stamp (20h) then was earmarked for picture postcards to other regions of the Third Reich (Fig. 5, 6).

They are known with a perforation of 12 1/2 (but also 10 1/2), and it is possible to distinguish in fact two color variations:

- light blue
- dark blue
- dark blue (yellow paper)

These stamps were not always postally devalued (by postal cancel) nor always were they applied to picture postcards (although they should have been). It was the responsibility of the postcard vendor (souvenir sales store, etc.) to put the proper stamp on the postcard before completing the sale. Considering that when the picture postcard was being purchased, it was not always possible to know where the postcard was to be sent, a practice was put into use to buy picture



Figure 5

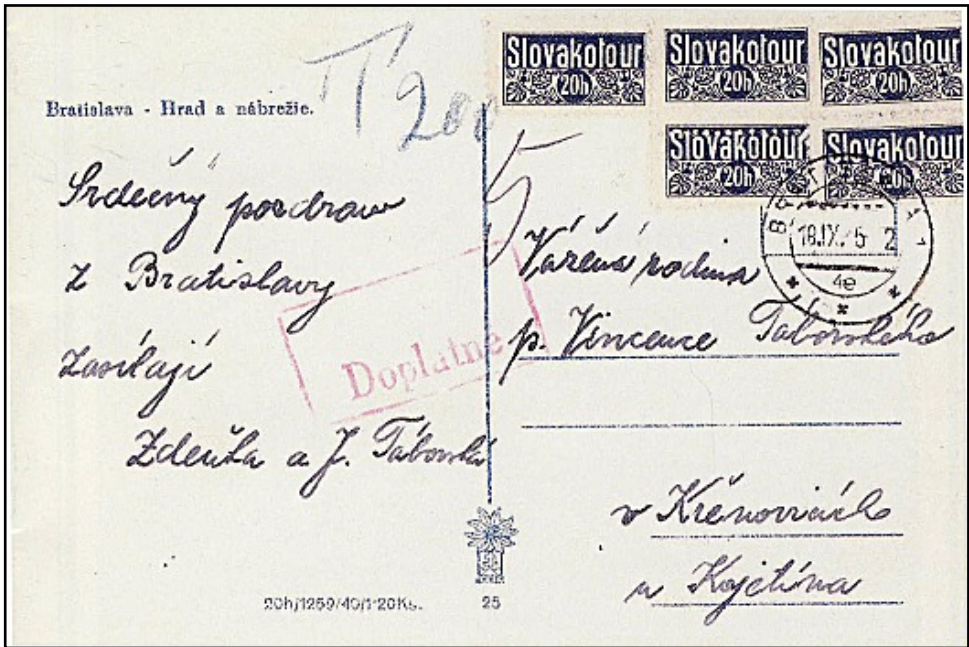


Figure 6: Picture postcard sent from Bratislava to Křenovicích u Kojetína in Moravia on 18.IX. 5 by trying to use 5 of the 20h Slovakotour stamps. Postage due of 200h ordered (T200, and framed Doplatné).

postcards and Slovakotour stamps separately. For this reason, it is possible from time to time to find picture postcards with Slovakotour stamps that do not answer to the correct value.

Probably after 1944 the use of these stamps was abandoned.

We can also find a Slovakotour stamp in another format showing the Tatra mountains -- I only know this stamp with a 10 Ks value (year 1944)(Fig. 7).



Figure 7

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Bulletin Společnosti Sběratelů Fiskální Filatelie & Jiných Známek 2/2014 with the permission of the author and editor.]

After the publication of this article, the Bulletin editors received a Letter to the Editor on this subject from Ing. Martin Černý, which we are presenting here.

To the article about Slovakotour stamps, we received several notes and additions from Ing. Černý. From his letter, we quote:

“ . . . on the whole, the Slovakotour stamps were used freely. The value of the stamps used on picture postcards should have been determined by to where the postcard was addressed. Nevertheless, it is quite common that the value of the stamp used did not correspond to where the picture postcard was finally addressed.

. . . the use of these stamps -- can be verified -- on picture postcards at least until 1948. A certain number of the stamps -- while they were still valid -- could have been applied to picture postcards before the cards were sold in order to deal with them easier. It is a mystery however how vendors could

guess ahead of time which stamp value would be the correct one.

The usage of the stamps four years after the end of their validity (in the year 1944) seems however to be very interesting. Especially because there is no obvious reason why to continue applying these stamps to picture postcards. It would only make sense if the stamp should conceal something that in the changed circumstances was no longer appropriate to present, like among the Slovak state emblem. But it is not so in these cases. Even after the war, however, there must have been a sufficient amount of stamps . . . Besides the illustrations in the previous article, wherein is illustrated a picture postcard sent from Slovakia in 1948, I document scans of other picture postcards, again sent to the Czech Republic. The top image (Fig. 8) is a picture postcard sent from Bratislava in June 1948, while the lower picture postcard (Fig. 9) is from the Tatras, sent in July. The year on the cancel is not readily visible, but according . . . to the date of issuance of the postage stamp on the item, the picture postcard was sent no earlier than 1946.

In addition, in comparing all of the photos, it seems that there were no specific valid rules for where to place the stamp on the picture postcard. We find stamps applied at the top or bottom, on the left or the right, and on top of that some stamps are even applied reversed -- upside down.





Figure 8



Figure 9

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Bulletin Společnosti Sběratelů Fiskální Filatelie & Jiných Známeč 1/2015 with the permission of the author and editor.]

*New Issues*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

by Keith Hart

1. On February 15, 2017 The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a set of two 16 Kč commemorative stamps in the Historic Vehicles series. The stamps were produced by PTC using multicolored offset in a printing sheet of 50 pieces, which has a checkerboard combination of 25 pieces for each stamp.



Figure 1

based on the Škoda 606. This was a utility vehicle which included the classic platform truck (DN) and a bus (DND). They were produced from 1930 to 1941. The stamp was designed by Petr Ptáček. The FDC, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, has a cachet showing a post bus modified for exhibition purposes, including a period exhibition banner (Fig. 2). The commemorative cancellation shows a side view of the bus with the text PRAHA- AUTOPOSTA 15.2.2017.

-- Post bus (Fig. 1). Post buses have a justified place in the history of postal services. The first buses used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century interwar period were created by the simple modification of trucks- adding a cover and benches. They were later replaced by more specialized buses from Czechoslovak and foreign sources. Out of the rich history of these buses, this stamp portrays a bus

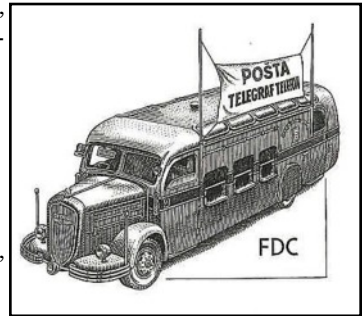


Figure 2



Figure 3

and circulation steam heating. The underframe was made of rolled sectional bars and the wooden structure of the body was plated on the outside. Cars in this series were made until 1933 and differentials exist based on the year of manufacture and manufacturer. This stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko. The FDC, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, has a cachet depicting the interior of another vintage car from the longer F-series (Fig. 4). The commemorative cancellation portrays the Czecho-

-- Railroad mail car (Fig. 3). The stamp shows a vintage Fk 5-1401 car. The Fk series railcar dates from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its design originally allowed for gas lighting, with electric lighting introduced in the mid-1920s. The Fk-series car was a two-axle car of an obsolete design with a wooden body structure, designed for use on trains traveling on secondary and local routes with a running speed of slightly less than 40mph. The car had axles with friction bearings, a compressed-air brake,

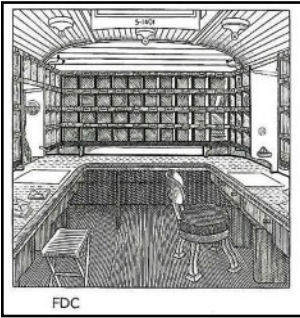


Figure 4

slovak National Emblem and a post horn hung on a ribbon, with the text PRAHA 15.2.2017. (*Eds. note. Compare the cachet on this FDC and see some similarity with the printed section of the postal card issued on March 28, 2001, which commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of rail post to Prague (page 42 of May/June 2001 Specialist).*) A Carte maximum (15 Kč) and a souvenir sheet (18 Kč) were also issued for each stamp on the first day of issue.

2. On March 8, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Straka's Academy. The 24 Kč stamp shows the building as seen from the garden, together with a statue from the front of the building (Fig. 5). The stamp was designed by Marina Richterová and produced by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50. It is the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Count Jan Petr Straka making provision in his will for the establishment of a foundation that could use its income to raise and educate the children of impoverished Czech nobles. After lengthy negotiations with the Austrian authorities the plan finally came to fruition more than a century later in the grounds of a former Jesuit garden. The neo-



Figure 5

baroque building, designed by Václav Roštlapil, was constructed between 1891-96 and includes a large garden designed by František Thomayer. It is situated on the left bank of the Vltava river below Letná. It opened on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1897 and served its original purpose until the start of World War I, when it was placed at the disposal of the Red Cross to serve as a makeshift hospital. In the inter-war years it was used as offices of the First Republic's institutions. During the Nazi occupation it was used by the Protectorate governors. After the war it again became offices for the government and from 1993 has been the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The FDC has a cachet featuring the conference room (Fig. 6) and the commemorative cancellation has the motif of a pendant lamp from the interior of the building and the text PRAHA 8.3.2017. An extensive exhibition covering the 240 years of history for the building will be held from June 11-September 30 2017 in the garden of the building and also at two other locations in Prague.

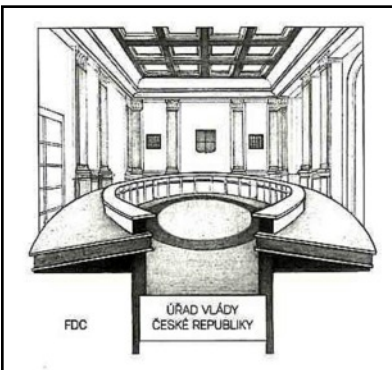


Figure 6

3. On March 8, 2017 the Ministry issued a 16 Kč stamp in the series Historic Vehicles: The paddle steamer 'Prague'. The stamp shows a



Figure 7

shareholders, journalists and prominent Prague personalities such as the mayor. It sailed between Prague and Zbraslav three times a day. The next year it was joined by another large steamer, the 'Vyšehrad' and shared service on its original route and also the service between Prague and Štěchovice. The FDC has a cachet showing a standing helmsman steering a boat (Fig. 8) and was engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The commemorative cancellation contains a motif of 4 knots, with the text PRAHA 8.3.2017. A Carte maximum was also published on the first day of issue.



Figure 9

with its vineyards on the right-hand side, is in the front of the view. The stamp designer was Adolf Absolon, with engraving by Miloš Ondráček and production was by PTC using recess printing from flat plates in sheets of 8 (no coupons). The Porta Bohemica is a canyon through which the Labe river has created a very unusual landscape with a deep valley cut in the mountains. Magnificent panoramas can be enjoyed from many places. They include the Varhošť hill with a viewing tower on the right bank of the Labe, and the viewing site Labská Vyhlička next to St. Barbara Church in Dubice on the left bank. Other highlights include the prominent gneiss rock

view of the steamship from the left stern (Fig. 7) and was designed by Pavel Sivko. It was produced by PTC using multicolored offset in sheets of 50 stamps. This stamp is the latest in the series of steamships and shows the 'Prague' as completed in August 1865. The opening ceremony on August 26, 1865 was attended by company

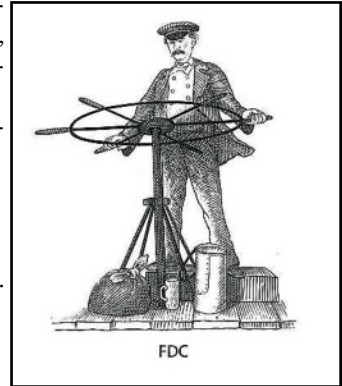


Figure 8

4. On April 5, 2017 the Ministry issued a 20 Kč stamp in the series Beauties of Our Country: The Porta Bohemica. The stamp shows a view of the valley of the Labe river entering the České Středohoří mountains (Fig. 9). On the horizon are the peaks of the tertiary volcanoes, Kletečná mountain is on the left and the Kubačka hill on the right. The village of Velké Žernoseky, hidden beneath a wooded hillside,

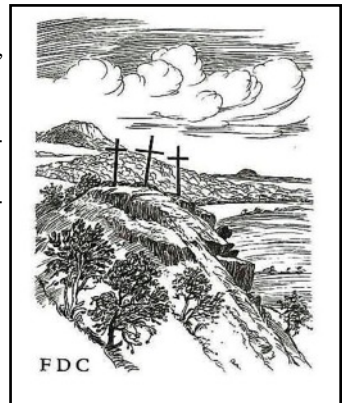


Figure 10

promontory Calvary with three crosses, a nature reserve near Velké Žernoseky on the right bank, and the village of Církovice with the baroque Church of the Assumption of Our Lady with the adjoining half-timbered belfry. Closer to Ústí nad Labem, visitors get a view of the Labe valley and Střekov Castle. On the left bank of the river is the village of Vaňov with the Vrkoč rock formation. Located in the adjoining rocks is the Vaňov waterfall, the tallest in the Ustí nad Labem area. The FDC cachet shows a view from the top of Calvary Rock (Fig. 10). On the horizon is Radobýl hill, with Říp mountain in the distance. The FDC was designed by Adolf Absolon, with engraving by Miloš Ondráček. The special cancellation depicts a bunch of grapes from a Velké Žernoseky vineyard together with the text VELKÉ ŽERNOSEKY 5.4.2017.

5. On April 5, 2017 the Ministry issued a 32 Kč stamp to commemorate 80 years of Prague Airport. The stamp shows an airport control tower, a vintage airplane landing, and the Czech Republic flag (Fig. 11). The designer was Michal Brix with engraving by Jaroslav Tvrdoň and production was by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Prague's first civil airport was at Kbely, which reached capacity in the late 1920s. The government decided to build a new airport at Ruzyně, 6 miles west of the city center and construction work started in July 1933. The site was 108 hectares (267 acres) of which 35 hectares (86 acres) was used for operational buildings, roads, and other facilities. Construction work continued for 44 months, with the airport opening on April 5, 1937. Originally called Ruzyně Airport, in 2012 its name was changed to Vaclav Havel Airport (PRG). Today it is the gateway to the Czech Republic receiving over 13 million passengers in 2016. In 2017, 66 airlines are scheduled to fly to 154 destinations. The FDC has a cachet showing airport personnel standing in front of a vintage airplane with the control tower and airport building behind (Fig. 12). The FDC was designed by Michal Brix with engraving by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. The special cancellation depicts a historic logo for Prague airport, together with the text PRAHA 5.4.2017.



Figure 11

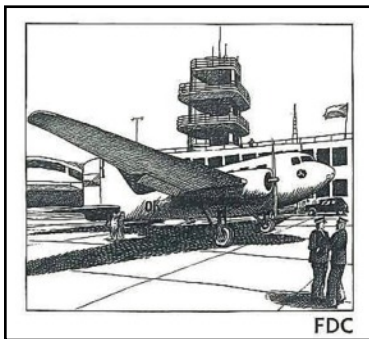


Figure 12

Construction work continued for 44 months, with the airport opening on April 5, 1937. Originally called Ruzyně Airport, in 2012 its name was changed to Vaclav Havel Airport (PRG). Today it is the gateway to the Czech Republic receiving over 13 million passengers in 2016. In 2017, 66 airlines are scheduled to fly to 154 destinations. The FDC has a cachet showing airport personnel standing in front of a vintage airplane with the control tower and airport building behind (Fig. 12). The FDC was designed by Michal Brix with engraving by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. The special cancellation depicts a historic logo for Prague airport, together with the text PRAHA 5.4.2017.

## Postal Stationery

6. On March 2, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> International Stamp Fair- Munich 2017, held on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March. The postal card has an imprinted stamp (mail coach on Charles Bridge) with the



Figure 13

letter 'E'. The additional printing shows a young girl reaching up to a mail box and is from a vintage postcard in the collection of Irena Vyčítalová, with an accompanying text indicating the exhibition dates (Fig. 13). They were on sale at the cost of 37 Kč, or 39 Kč at the exhibit to include the promotional and daily cancelations. 2200 postcards were issued.

## SLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart



Figure 14

7. On February 10, 2017, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 1.45€ stamp celebrating the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2017. The stamp's abstract motif (Fig. 14) was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and produced by PTC using offset in printing sheets of 50. IPhO is an annual competition for high school students. This year's contest will be the 48<sup>th</sup> and takes place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July. Slovakia has taken part in every Olympiad (originally as part of Czechoslovakia), during which time the number of nations participating has increased from 5 to more than 80. Each national delegation has 5 student competitors and 2 supervisors. Competing as individuals, the students take part in two 5



Figure 15

hour examinations. Gold medals are awarded to the top 8% of participants. The participant with the highest score of anyone is proclaimed the absolute winner and receives another special prize. The IPhO was first organized in Warsaw, Poland in 1967, in part to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Marie Skłodowska-Curie. This year's competition thus marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. The FDC cachet has an engraving of Madam Curie (Fig. 15) by Lubomir Žálec, within an overall design by Zdeněk Netopil and was produced by PTC using recess printing from a flat plate. The cancellation shows electrons circulating around the nucleus of an atom, with the text BRATISLAVA 10.2.2017. A collection sheet showing Madam Curie working in a laboratory (Fig. 16) was designed by Adrian Ferda and also issued on February 10, 2017.



Figure 16

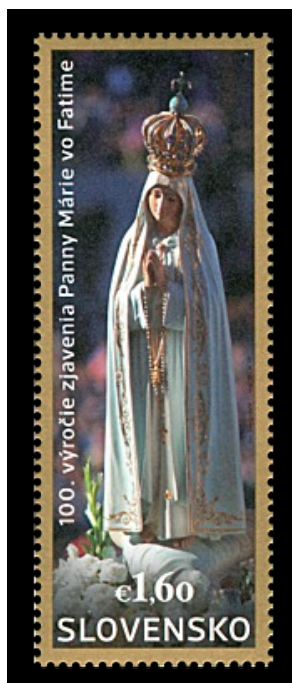


Figure 17

8. On March 13, 2017 the Ministry issued a 1.60€ stamp commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima Apparitions. This is a joint issue with Portugal, Poland and Luxembourg. The miniature sheet, showing a procession of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Fig.17), was designed by Atelier Design & Etc. and produced by PTC using offset technology. The following notes are based on text by Ján Vallo, originally in Slovak. On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1917 three young shepherds, Lucia (10 years old), Francisco (9), and Jacinto (7), reported that they had seen the Virgin Mary above an oak tree near their home in Fátima, Portugal. She told the children that she had come from Heaven and that they had to return to this place for the next six months, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month. On these subsequent visits the Virgin Mary revealed three secrets to them, one by one. The right hand side of the miniature sheet shows the logo of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations,

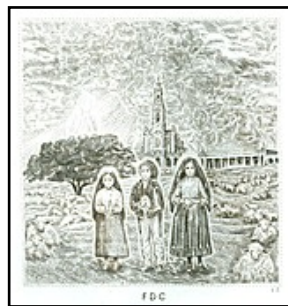


Figure 18

a depiction of the crown on the statue of the Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Rosary, and the oak tree where she appeared. The FDC cachet depicts the three young shepherds, their sheep and the oak tree in front of The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima (Fig. 18) and was engraved by Lubomír Žálec. The cancellation has the image of the top part of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, with the text 13.3.2017 BRATISLAVA. A commemorative sheet designed by Lubomír Žálec was also available on the first day of issue. It shows the frontage of The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima (Fig. 19), the stamp having a special cancellation featuring The Sanctuary and text regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A booklet containing one stamp from each of the four contributing countries (13.50€) was also issued on March 13, 2017.



Figure 19

9. On March 13, 2017 the Ministry issued a 0.50€ stamp in the series Personalities: 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Jozef Miloslav Hurban. The stamp shows a portrait of Hurban (Fig. 20) and was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, using a stylization of an 1849 lithograph by E. Kaiser. It was produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with gravure and printed in sheets of 50 pieces. Jozef Miloslav Hurban (1817-1888) was a Slovak nationalist, priest, politician, journalist, literary critic, and writer. He was one of the most important Slovak patriots during the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was among the leaders who formulated the documents and councils that ultimately led to Slovak independence from the Hungarian Kingdom 70 years later. Born into the family of a priest, he studied at the Evangelical Lyceum in Bratislava, where, under the influence of Ludovít Štúr, the founder of modern Slovak national ideology, he began an active part in the life of the Slovak nation. A distinguished organizer, writer, journalist, and sharp critic and opponent of the feudal social order, he strongly disapproved of the policy of Magyarization that was championed by the ruling classes of the Hungarian Kingdom. He participated in the memorable walk by Bratislava students to Devín Castle in 1836, where they vowed to fight for the rights of the Slovak nation and renew its ancient glory from the time of Great Moravia. In the struggle for Slovak national identity he promoted the new form of standardized Slovak language (the “Štúr Slovak”) and published the first book written in this language, the “Nitra Almanac”. In 1846 he founded the magazine Slovenské Pohľady (Slovak Perspectives), a periodical that comes out to this day, making it the oldest continuously published literary magazine in Europe. His most important literary work was the biography of Ludovít Štúr in 1859. He was a co-founder of Tatrin, the first



Figure 20

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Figure 21

all-national cultural and scientific association in 1844. In 1848-49 he was one of the principal forces behind the document “Requests of the Slovak Nation”, which was to become a fundamental document of the Slovak Revolutionary Movement. In 1848 he co-founded The Slovak National Council, the Slovaks’ highest revolutionary authority, whose goal was to achieve equality for the Slovak nation in the Habsburg Empire. He became its first chairman and a leader of the Slovak Uprising against the Hungarian government. Following the defeat of the revolution he was put under police supervision and silenced for a number of years. He became active again after 1860, but by then younger people had assumed the leading roles in the life of the Slovaks. The FDC cachet,

engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, gathers together important moments from his life, on which is superimposed the seal of the first Slovak National Council (Fig. 21). The commemorative cancellation has the signature of J.M. Hurban and a quill pen, with the text BECKOV 17.3.2017.

10. On March 23, 2017 the Ministry issued a 0.50€ stamp in the series Easter 2017: Folk painting from Vajnory. The stamp, designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová, illustrates part of a painting (Fig. 22) found in the presbytery of the church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Vajnory. It was produced using offset technology by PTC and printed in sheets of 50 pieces. It was also issued as a stamp booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps (no coupons). The decorative motifs shown in Vajnory Folk Art started as paintings on kitchen fireplaces and were found throughout the Little Carpathian region. Later they became common in other parts of the house. In Vajnory they were common in entrance halls during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nowadays they have all but disappeared in surviving buildings from that time. Vajnory’s church has the best examples of this art, but these were created in the 1960s. The motifs of birds, flowers and plants were researched and saved by Hedviga Krištofičová (1909-1999). The central feature of the stamp is a pelican attending to three chicks in the nest. In Christian symbolism the pelican represented selfless parental love, love towards fellow man, consuming food in moderation, and the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The surrounding themes of grapes, wheat and doves were also presented as symbols of sacrifice, love and virtue (the vineyards in Vajnory were once well known throughout Central Europe). As well as Krištofičová the church paintings were completed with the help of Mária Fekete, Terézia Zemanová, Mária Škvorcová, Hedviga Vrbová, and other peers. This small group of women helped save the local traditions of folk artistry, which have now spread beyond the church and are found on tee-shirts, plates, and especially the decorated eggs prepared at



Figure 22



Figure 23

the time of Easter. The FDC cachet shows the mural from which the stamp design is taken (Fig. 23) and was designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová and produced by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava using offset technology. The special cancelation shows a pelican with its nest of chicks and the text 24.3.2017 BRATISLAVA. A pictorial postal card was also issued on the first day, with the image on the fully printed side depicting a larger version of the entire mural than the stamp.

11. On March 24, 2017 the Ministry issued a 0.85€ stamp as a tribute to the Victims of The Holocaust. The stamp shows part of a shirt as worn by a concentration camp prisoner, with a yellow Star of David and a patch with 25.3.1942 printed on it (Fig. 24). The stamp was designed by Katia Uváčková, based on work created by students of Josef Vydra School of Applied Arts, Bratislava, from items preserved in the Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was produced by PTC using multi-colored offset technology in printing sheets of 50. On March 25, 1942 anti-Jewish policy in the Slovak State entered the phase of forced deportation of the Jewish population. 999 Jewish women and girls from Eastern Slovakia were forced to board railcars and were dispatched from Poprad railway station. The train's destination was the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp. Until October 20, 1942 the so-called first wave of deportations continued from Slovakia. 57,628 people were deported during this period and only a few hundred survived. People marked as Jewish by the Jewish Code of 1941 were told by letter to report to a local concentration center, being informed that they were going to work for the Third Reich. 32 of the transports were bound for the camps and ghettos around the town of Lublin and another 19 for the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. These deportations were



Figure 24



Figure 25

voluntarily organized by the then Slovak Republic, which was nothing more than a client state of Nazi Germany. Slovakia paid 500 Reichmarks for each deported Jew. A second wave of deportations took place following the invasion of Slovakia by Nazi forces on September 30, 1944. This affected another 13,000 Jews and was controlled by the Nazis with participation of the Slovak authorities. It was accompanied by mass murders of detained Jewish civilians throughout Slovakia. This wave of transportations sent victims to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Terezín, Bergen-Belsen, Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen camps and only ceased on March 31, 1945 in the last few days of the Nazi's occupation. The FDC has a cachet showing a battered suitcase with a yellow Star of David on it (Fig.25).

the time of Easter. The FDC cachet shows the mural from which the stamp design is taken (Fig. 23) and was designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová and produced by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava using offset technology. The special cancelation shows a pelican with its nest of chicks and the text 24.3.2017 BRATISLAVA. A pictorial postal card was also issued on the first day, with the image on the fully printed side depicting a larger version of the entire mural than the stamp.

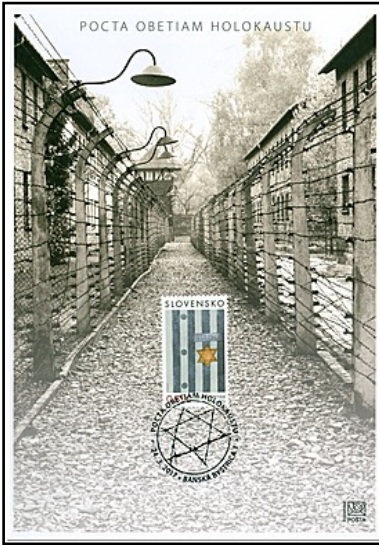


Figure 26

The cachet was designed by Sylvia Sabová and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. The commemorative cancellation, designed by Mária Blažáčková, shows a strand of barbed wire and the text 24.3.2017 POPRAD. A commemorative sheet designed by Catherine Račkovičová was also issued on March 24, 2017. It depicts a walkway in a concentration camp (Fig. 26) and the stamp has a special cancellation of a Star of David formed of barbed wire and the text 'Pocta Obetiam Holokaustu, 24.3.2017 Banská Bystrica 1'.

Slovakia and was constructed between 1941 and 1953. When completed the reservoir behind the dam became the largest lake in the Slovak lands at 13.6 sq. miles. Today the area around the dam and lake is part of the Horná Orava Protected Landscape Area. Vtáčí Island

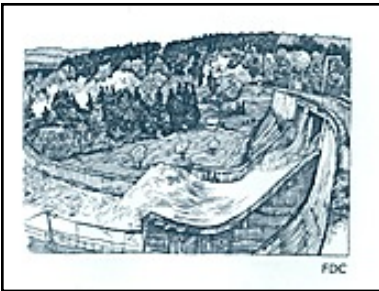


Figure 27

12. On April 21, 2017 the Ministry issued a 0.95€ stamp in the series Technical Monuments: Orava Dam. The stamp, designed by Marián Komáček, shows a view of the dam from downstream (Fig. 27) and was produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with gravure in printing sheets of 50. Orava dam is situated in the north of

is considered one of the most important ornithological sanctuaries in Europe, while the wetlands around the reservoir protect large areas of forest and help prevent erosion. The FDC has a cachet showing a view above the dam (Fig. 28) and was engraved by František Horniak. The special cancellation depicts the shape of the reservoir and the text NÁMESTOVO 21.4.2017. A Carte maximum was also issued.

### Postal Stationery

13. On March 3, 2017 the Ministry issued a pre-paid postal card with additional printing to commemorate the 'World of Stamps' exhibit at the Galéria Mlyny in Nitra. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows an historic post horn. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the logo of the exhibit (Fig. 29), which includes a depiction of the 2 Sk definitive stamp of Nitra issued on March 15, 1995 and the dates of the exhibit- March 10 to 26, 2017.



Figure 29

14. On April 27, 2017 the Ministry issued a pre-paid postal card with additional printing to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slovak Community of St. Gabriel. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows an historic post horn. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows St. Gabriel holding a flower and a plate with an angel holding the Slovak state shield (Fig. 30). 2000 cards were printed. The Community of St. Gabriel is a society of Christian philatelists in Slovakia, whose exhibits show Christian themes through stamps and other philatelic material. After being suppressed throughout the era of the Communist regime they had a ‘re-birth’ following the Velvet Revolution. Reformed in 1992 with about 45 members, they now have a thriving membership of 110 who meet twice a year and publish a quarterly newsletter. For more information see their website [www.svgabriel.sk](http://www.svgabriel.sk).

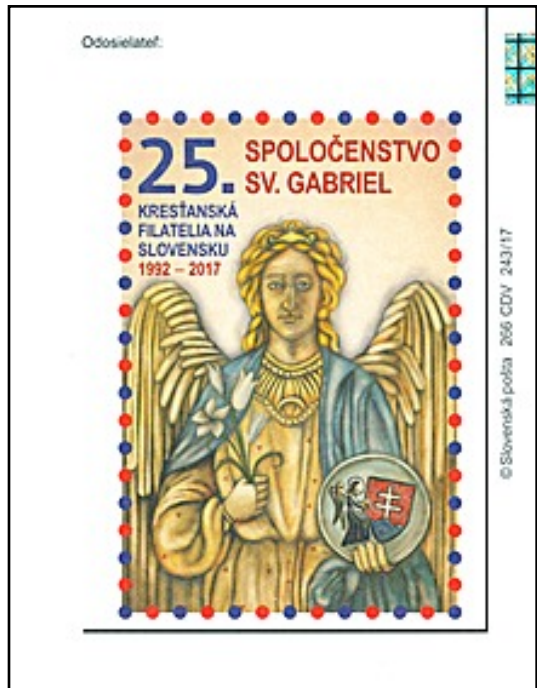


Figure 30

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