



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

More than 21 years ago, I received a phone call from our editor of the *Specialist*, Mirko Vondra. His eyesight and hearing were going downhill, and so he was looking for someone to take over the function of editor.

Because I knew Czech (as he did), knew the Society and had held a number of other jobs within it, and received many of the Czech and Slovak publications, he felt that I would be a good candidate for the function.

I reluctantly accepted (I am a math/science guy) since I had no experience in editing a publication, nor had I taken any writing classes in college. But my friend Mirko needed help.

Well, here we are 21 years and 110 issues later (the first 13 years there were six issues a year), and the time has come for me to let someone else have all of the fun.

I am so terrifically fortunate that Keith Hart came forward and volunteered to now have some of the fun. He has been co-editor this past year and has shown himself to be highly capable. We are very lucky to have him now as editor. I know that you will give him all of the help that you gave me over the years.

I will stay on to help him with Czech/Slovak articles and such matters.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	AUTHOR	PAGE
1. Jozef Vlček- A Forgotten Stamp Designer.....	Keith Hart.....	4
2. A Stolen Rarity -- The Story Continues.....		8
3. Notes from One Hundred Years Part 1- 1943.....	Keith Hart.....	16
4. A Recent Hradčany Tête-Bêche Parcel Card Fabrication		
	Johan Sevenhuijsen & Mark Wilson	17
5. Updates to the Classics Corner	Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D.....	19
6. A Little Known Postal Map of the Carpatho-Ukraine		20
7. Czech Republic Issue Program 2018		25
8. Slovak Issue Program 2018		26
COLUMNS		
9. President's Report	Chris Jackson.....	3
10. New Issues.....	Keith Hart.....	27

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) 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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*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

Happy New Year to all of our members! As you may have already read in the *Specialist*, 2018 is a year of celebration in Czechoslovak history and in the realm of Czechoslovak philately, being the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic and the 100th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak postage stamps. 2018 also marks the 25th anniversary of the peaceful establishment of the independent Czech and Slovak republics. These historic events will take center stage at PRAGA 2018, and if you are still considering attending the show in Prague it is time to try and finalize your plans as hotels and flights are sure to be booked solid for the show. For more information on PRAGA 2018 see the official advertisement on the back cover of this issue or check the SCP website at www.csphilately.org.

It has been a tumultuous past few years for our Society in terms of its leadership due to the loss of several of our Board members. I am very pleased to announce that Jaroslav "Jarka" Havel has agreed to rejoin the SCP Board of Directors again after a family leave of absence, and we are all grateful that he will again be serving our Society in this capacity. This is the first time in the past few years that the Board of Directors has not had a vacancy.

Our Society is also moving forward with other changes, the most notable of which is that after decades of service to the SCP as the editor of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Lou Svoboda is officially stepping aside as the editor and Keith Hart will be taking on this role. Lou will still be assisting when necessary. Many thanks are owed to Keith for enthusiastically taking on this role and to Lou who has devoted an incredible amount of time and energy over the years, ensuring that the *Czechoslovak Specialist* was and is one of the top specialized philatelic journals available to collectors.

The resumption of SCP member auctions is currently one of the top priorities for the Board of Directors following the results of last year's member survey. Options are still being explored but members should expect an official announcement in the Spring or Summer issues of the *Specialist* with a format and timeline for consigning to the auction, accessing the auction and bidding in the auction. If this first attempt in many years proves to be a success, members should be able to look forward to one or two member auctions each year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish you all a happy, peaceful, healthy, and prosperous 2018.

Chris Jackson

JOZEF VLČEK- A FORGOTTEN STAMP DESIGNER

by Keith Hart

In the Slovak new issues section of this *Specialist* you will see that the honoree for Slovakia's 2017 Postage Stamp Day was Jozef Vlček. I did not recognize his name when I first saw it and decided to find out more about him. My search did not lead me to many sources at all. He was a creative stamp designer for a very short period and then he suddenly vanished, never to be heard of again during his lifetime. The reasons for this may never be fully



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

known. I can say with some confidence that post World War II Czechoslovak stamp design was cruelly deprived by his becoming a forgotten and ignored non-person, whose name was erased from history for too long.

Jozef Vlček was born 1902 in Červený Kostelec, Bohemia and from 1916-1920 studied at the Industrial Design School in Prague. He worked from 1923-1933 at the *Jozef Doležal Graphic Art Works* in his hometown. While working here and at the early age of 26, he designed his first stamps for Czechoslovakia, the 1928 Postage Due series of twelve values in red (heller values) and blue (crown values). The complex floral central pattern is elaborately placed in the overall design (Fig. 1)

which indicates the value and kind of stamp extremely clearly.

In 1933 he moved to Prague where he worked for the *Melantrich Commercial Printing Office*. His work here seems mainly to have been in the form of advertising designs. His second stamps were issued in June 1937, two values of a single design commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Battle of Zborov, which was engraved by B. Heinz. The design shows three Legionnaires on the battlefield (Fig. 2). This was followed by the closely related stamp series celebrating the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Czech Legion. These three stamps, also engraved by Heinz, had coupons detailing the battles fought by the Legionnaires (Fig. 3). By the issue date of these stamps Vlček had relocated to Bratislava and was working for *Slovenská Grafia* (Slovak Graphics) where most of his designs were in magazine advertising.



Fig. 3

After the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939 and the subsequent separation of Bohemia and



Fig. 4

Moravia from a quasi-independent Slovakia, Vlček designed some of the first Slovak stamp issues. The air mail issue from November 1939 shows a traditional design of an airplane flying over mountains (Fig. 4), followed by a modernist airplane design with a gigantic eagle paired with a streaking plane (Fig. 5). His Postage Due series of 12 stamps from 1939 show some design similarities with his earlier 1928 Czechoslovak issue, particularly with the color selection (Fig. 6). In 1940 the



Fig. 5

Delivery stamps (Fig. 7) had a more simple design but were unfortunately printed with a poor quality.



Fig. 6

His final stamp designed while he was with *Slovenská Grafia* came in May 1941 and was his first collaboration with Josef Cincík, a three value series to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the presentation of the Slovak Memorandum to Emperor Josef. The main theme of the design are the heads of Štefan Moyses and Š.M. Daxner, who are resolutely staring out of the stamp (Fig. 8).

Josef Cincík had in



Fig. 7

fact been trying for some time to recruit him for the *Neografia* printing works and succeeded in March 1942, after overcoming the political and legal obstacles that prevailed at that time. Vlček was actually now a foreigner in



Fig. 8

Slovakia and had to renew his residence permit more than once. Eventually he needed a reference to state that it was in the interests of the Slovak Republic to give him permanent permission to stay. It was Cincík who managed, through contacts, to provide the necessary documentation.

At *Neografia*, Vlček continued where he had left off at *Slovenská Grafia*, partnering with Josef Cincík in several stamp issues. It appears that the way they worked together was that Cincík provided the original idea/sketches, which were then developed into the final stamp design by Vlček. First came another Postage Due series, with a clever perspective of an envelope in front of

a postal horn (Fig. 9). This was quickly followed by a stamp issued for a Postal Congress in Vienna, showing a dove flying near St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, along with the shields of the represented states (Fig. 10).



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

In 1943 Vlček was co-designer with L. Majersky in a series of portraits of Slovak Patriots Ludovit Štúr (Fig. 11), Martin Rázus, and Andrej Hlinka. Also in 1943 the Cincík-Vlček partnership designed the Cultural Fund series (Fig. 12) which celebrated a century of the standard codification of the Slovak language.

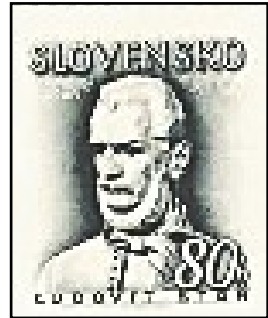


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

In March 1944 Vlček and Cincík's perhaps best known stamp series, *Kniežatá* (The Princes) was issued, which shows eight portraits of famous Slovak kings/princes (Fig. 13). These had a more modernist than classical portrait design, which was accentuated by beautiful recess printing.

In April came a Vlček only design of four Sports stamps in a related modernist design to the previous series (Fig. 14), with once again first class printing by Andreja of Bratislava. One should not forget how difficult printing was during World War II, with shortages of paper, ink and even printers themselves.

Vlček's designs during this period received good and bad quality printing, even though this probably was not the fault of the printers. In October 1944 the final Vlček-Cincík series was issued, which symbolically portrayed National Protection (Fig. 15) at a period when The Slovak National Uprising started what was the endgame for both Slovakia and World War II.



Fig. 13

As the war ended, the April 1945 Košice meeting in Slovakia set the tone for the end of the First Slovak Republic and the reincarnation of Czechoslovakia. The three Czechoslovak stamps issued for this momentous meeting were designed by L. Gajdzica, but the commemorative sheet containing these stamps was designed by Vlček (Fig. 16). This proved to be the final philatelic item designed by Vlček.



Figure 14

So whatever happened to Vlček? At the age of 43 he would have been at the height of his abilities. He continued working for *Neografia* for another 20 years. Yet in 1945 he was rejected by the Czechoslovak postal service as being unsuitable to continue designing stamps for them. Although there seems to be no documentary proof available

at present, it seems likely that in the eyes of the Beneš government he was probably thought of as a traitor, a Czech working for a fascist leaning Slovak government. After the Russian-backed Communist Party seized power in 1948, his position would never have improved, thought of as a worker for a Nazi puppet state. He was perhaps fortunate to have had any job at all. He quietly worked out his time at *Neografia*, illustrating books as an unnamed employee of the printing works, not as a known designer. He never returned to the Czech lands of his birth, dying in obscurity in Piešťany in 1971. The re-emergence of Slovakia in 1993 ultimately led to an exhibit in Martin in 1994, followed by a larger exhibit in 2011 at the *Satelit Gallery* in Bratislava. This has increased awareness in his name and works but one hopes, with time, that he will become recognized as a major designer of stamps (and banknotes incidentally) during the unfortunate and tragic period of the 1940s.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Acknowledgements:

I am extremely grateful for the biographical and workplace information provided by Lubomir Longauer and the *Slovak Design Center*. There is extremely little information to be found about Vlček's life and works. Longauer's notes published at the time of the 2011 exhibit provide a lonely fragment of a life that hopefully will be fully celebrated eventually.



COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: www.cpsgb.org.uk, and through their new Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at cpsgb1@gmail.com.

Their publication *Czechout* and our *Specialist* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies! CPSGB dues are \$10 for digital, \$35 for printed copies by airmail or \$28 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@csphilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

Expert's Column

A STOLEN RARITY – THE STORY CONTINUES

trans. by Lucie Harris

[In the Philatelic News and Views column of the Fall 2017 Specialist, we alerted you to the fact that this article had appeared in the 10/2017 issue of the Czech philatelic publication Filatelie. Here it is in translation. The content of this article does not reflect any official opinion of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the article lie entirely with the authors.]

More than twenty-five years ago, *Filatelie* magazine printed an article entitled “The Theft in Japan of Two of the Most Important Czechoslovak Stamps”. The author was Jan Karásek, an expert and Chairman of the Union of Czech Philatelists. He describes the shocking theft of two of the foremost Czechoslovak rarities – the 4 K PČ (Pošta Československá) 1919 on granite paper and the 50/50 h Postage Due overprint error – from the exhibit of J.L. Klein at the PHILANIPPON 1991 World Exhibition of Postage Stamps in Tokyo. Now the first of the stolen rarities has appeared on our markets, which of course has attracted great attention.

For your better understanding, we are reprinting the original article from 1992.

**The Theft in Japan of Two of the Rarest Czechoslovak Stamps
by Ing. Jan Karásek
member of the leadership commission of experts SČSF
and chairman of the Union of Czech Philatelists**

The world exhibition of postage stamps “PHILANIPPON 91” took place in Tokyo under the sponsorship of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) in the second half of November 1991.

As we learned from reliable sources, an inexplicable theft occurred at this event. From the exhibit of Mr. J.L. Klein of Holland, two of the rarest Čs. stamps were stolen: the green 4 K on granite paper with the Pošta Československá 1919 overprint and the famous error of the red 50/50 Liberated Republic with DOPLATIT overprint.

For the reader's benefit, we present that there are currently about 8 examples of the 4 K on granite paper stamp and about 14 or 15 pieces of the 50/50 overprint error. For example, the Postal Museum in Prague owns one of the 4 K stamps (and another with inverted overprint) and two stamps of the mentioned overprint error. Both of these stamps along with a third stamp -- a purple 10 K on granite paper with the PČ 1919 overprint (only 15 stamps known) belong without a doubt among the rarest and most expensive Czechoslovak stamps of all time.

With regard to the theft, according to information from individuals who were present, like the Dutch commissioner of the exhibition Mr. Crandel and the English publisher and exhibitor Mr. Otto Hornung, who

is now the chairman of the International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP), they came to these conclusions -- the theft of the first stamp might have happened during the installation of the exhibit even before the Exhibition started, while the second one was "lost" during the dismantling after the Exhibition ended.

With the well-known and well-established security measures that are indispensable in the organizing of international and world exhibitions (detectors, tv cameras, personal guards of private companies, and state police) along with the checks and observations of visitors, it is virtually impossible for such a case to occur without the perpetrator being identified. Security measures are always at a very high level, so the possibility of any kind of theft is practically eliminated.

Now let's look at this specific case of theft. The stamps that were stolen from the exhibit were part of a famous Czechoslovak exhibit, currently one of the best in the world. The owner and collector J.L. Klein from Holland is known throughout Europe, and especially here, and belongs amongst our reputable experts.

The Organizing Committee of the Japanese Exhibition actually accepted two exhibits from Mr. Klein: one entitled "Czechoslovakia" -- a sample taken from an extensive specialized collection, and the second was "The Post in the Czech Lands during the Habsburg Era". The first exhibit contains all of the known rarities of the highest order, degree of uniqueness, and collector's special interest. We can't name here all of these rarities as that is not the purpose of this article. We might just mention that in the exhibit it was possible to see not only the previously named 50/50 printing error, but also two examples of the green 4 K on granite paper (both Type I) and two examples of the purple 10 K on granite paper (Types I and II).

As was thoroughly established, all Dutch exhibits were brought in to Tokyo by plane a few days before the Exhibition by the Dutch Commissioner Mr. L.N.A. Crandel, the official representative of the Dutch Philatelic Association. After his arrival in Tokyo, he personally handed over (according to protocol) all exhibits of the Dutch exhibitors to the employees of the World Exhibition Organizing Committee. Up until then all was in order.

But right after the installation was conducted, exhibitor Otto Hornung from London noticed that a stamp was missing on an exhibition page even though there was a description and label. It was one of the two 4 K on granite paper. He immediately informed the Dutch commissioner who promptly confirmed the loss personally. He spoke to the Organizing Committee and announced the loss (theft) via protocol. The talks were reportedly very difficult because most of the Japanese workers did not speak English, so that in the beginning of the talks emerged a complicated situation. It was clearly demonstrated, after an extensive search in vaults, review of certification, and making sure the stamp had not fallen somewhere (which is practically not possible since individual pages are packed in foil), that the stamp "disappeared" before the Exhibition opened. This means that it had to happen after the receipt of the exhibit by the

Organization employees and before the opening of the Exhibition, and thus in the time of installment.

According to the rules and directives of these exhibitions, only authorized responsible personnel of the Organizing Committee, the appropriate commissioner of the country from which comes the exhibit being displayed, or the exhibit's owner can be present at the applicable exhibit's installation. Nobody else has the right or opportunity to move about the said area.

But this was not the end of the affair. There was another theft from this same exhibit. Most likely this happened during the dismantling, because after the transfer receipt of the exhibit, it was discovered that another stamp from a different page was missing. This time it was the renowned 50/50 h Postage Due overprint error. According to a witness this stamp was present during the Exhibition. The Organizing Committee was also made aware of these facts, and to this day written and telephone negotiations are going on between the Org. Committee, the exhibitor, the Commissioner, the insurance company, and also diplomatic channels. For your information, the two stamps were insured for 60,000 DM (4 K) and 50,000 DM (50/50 h).

Given the seriousness of the situation, the owner J.L. Klein took the appropriate steps with all of the foreign traders, auctioneers, philatelic associations, and famous collectors of Czechoslovak stamps. As a member of AIEP, I also notified all of the foreign experts of international associations of this theft. Currently there is talk about an international search through Interpol in Switzerland.

What to say in closing? It seems unbelievable, but it is the bare truth. They disappeared, or more precisely, two of the rarest Czechoslovak stamps were stolen. At the same time at this exhibition there were much rarer and more valuable stamps in other exhibits whose value reached tenfold, hundredfold, and even more than those stolen. These were untouched.

I want to add that despite the terrible loss both of Mr. Klein's exhibits won gold medals. At the same time, there is talk with the owner of the stolen stamps about the possibility of offering a large reward for anyone who helps to find the thief or thieves. We will inform philatelists of any further developments.

Ing. Jan Karásek

Czech Television reported on the current situation on the main news on Sunday, September 25, 2017 at 7:30pm on channel ČT1 (you can also watch it on the Internet on: www.ceskatelevize.cz/ct24/domaci/2251060-ukradene-znamky-se-objevily-po-26-letech). It reports that the stolen 4 K overprinted PČ 1919 stamp on granite paper was submitted this year to be put into the Burda auction by exhibitor Ludvík Pytlíček.

The Burda auction house is an honest and thorough company that tries to find out as much information as possible about the origin of rare stamps placed in its auctions. That is why they asked researcher and member of the Expert Commission of the Union of Czech Philatelists Josef Chudoba to research whether anything was written about this granite paper four-crown stamp in the past, if it was

exhibited, and what collections it was a part of -- simply, to attempt to put together its “life story”. Josef Chudoba is the best expert for this task. As the author of *Monografie Vol. 40* during its preparation, he read and annotated thousands of expert articles in domestic philatelic periodicals dealing with the stamps of our First Republic. It is an extraordinarily extensive work, exceptional even on an international scale. Thanks to him researchers do not have to scrutinize tens of years of philatelic periodicals, but rather according to the list of articles on specific issues and values they can objectively put their hands on the specific one that interests them. For the *Monografie* author it was therefore not difficult to discover that the inquired after stamp was shown in a 1996 *Merkur-Revue* periodical in connection with the reward set for its recovery, and that Jan Karásek reported in detail about the stamp four years earlier in *Filatelie* 4/92.



Fig. 1a: The stamp stolen from the exhibit of J.L. Klein at the World Exhibition PHILANIPPON 1991 in Tokyo (Scan furnished by Bram Klein.)



Fig. 1b: The stamp which L. Pytlíček offered to the Burda auction (Scan taken from www.burda-auction.com.)

Every 4 K overprinted PC 1919 stamp on granite paper has a totally unmistakable look, given by the positioning of the perforation holes, especially in the corners, the centering of the image, and the positioning of the overprint (Fig. 1a/b). Josef Chudoba could thus easily verify that it was the same one and informed the Burda auction house about it, and Burda then immediately pulled the stamp out of the auction. At the same time Josef Chudoba also informed the family of the robbed collector J.L. Klein about his find. Unfortunately, he is not alive anymore. And so his son Bram Klein responded by immediately flying to Prague to get familiar with the newly discovered information. Then he asked us to print his statement:

“Good day, my name is Bram Klein, and I am the son of the collector and exhibitor J.L. Klein (Fig. 2). My father (1916-2014) unfortunately has




Fig. 2: Son, Bram Klein, with his father J.L. Klein

already died, and thus he did not get to see clarification of the theft which troubled him for almost a quarter of a century. But my profession is a writer, and so I will start from the beginning. My father was born during World War I in 1916 in the northern

Netherlands in the town of Groningen. He came from a middle class family, his father was an accountant in a hospital, and his mother had a textiles store. He began to collect stamps as a boy, perhaps at the age of six or seven years. He started with the Netherlands and its colonies, and then added the colonies of Great Britain. Those are very extensive topics by itself, and he was interested in them his whole adult life. As a profession he was an entrepreneur in the field of rubber technology and was quite successful. He was about 65 when in an auction he noticed an offer for “A complete collection of Czechoslovak stamps”. That is wonderful, he thought, at least I will have something completed right away, a whole country. It was not until he was looking through his new purchased collection at home that he discovered he only had the tip of the iceberg, and it would be a long road to complete the collection. He got interested in the between-wars period of Czechoslovakia so he decided to build the best collection, which he finally did. He was already known in international philatelic circles, and he had a good reputation, so he was gradually able to acquire important collections -- for example, the famous Fred Hefer collection which he bought from the expert Max Mahr. Thanks to that my father was able to create probably the best ČSR I exhibit for which he then gradually won three large gold medals at World Exhibitions. As it is known, when an exhibit wins three large gold medals, it cannot compete further at exhibitions, and it can be shown outside competition only in the Court of Honor. That was not really interesting for my father anymore so in 2000 he sold this exhibit and found a new philatelic topic that would occupy him, and even here he became successful. That he did not care about fame or fortune is shown by the new collecting topic being perfins which were not long ago looked down upon by most philatelists.

My father collected stamps for the joy and knowledge, but also for the social interaction -- he liked to meet up with other collectors and to keep in touch with them. That is why it hit him even harder when the two rarest Czechoslovak stamps -- 4 K granite paper and 50/50 h error -- were stolen from his exhibit in Tokyo in 1991. He did not just care about his loss since

CZECHOUT Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain September 2011




Stolen Rarities -Hans Klein-

■ **STAMPS STOLEN AT PHILANIPPON, TOKYO 5 YEARS AGO:**

The following stamps "disappeared":

- 4 K Pošta Československá 1919 overprint on granite paper, unused.
- 50/50 h Postage due error overprint, used.

An award of DM 5.000 — will be paid to the person who will be successful in returning these stamps to the owner.



■ **BRIEFMARKEN WELCHE IM JAHRE 1991 IN TOKYO VERSCHWANDEN:**

- Eine 4 K Pošta Československá 1919 Überdruck auf Faserpapier, ungebraucht.
- ein Exemplar des Fehldrucks 50/50 DOPLATT, gestempelt.

Wer dafür sorgen kann, dass diese zwei Marken dem Inhaber wieder zugestellt werden, wird eine Belohnung von DM 5.000— erhalten.

■ Uvedení dvě nejzvádnější čs. známky, které byly před pěti lety odčizeny z expozitu na Světové výstavě v Tokiu, nebyly dosud nalezeny. Osoba, která by uvedla stopu neznámého pachatele a známky by byly nalezeny, obdrží odměnu ve výši 5000,- DM.

Information to / Berichte an/ Informazje je třeba poslat na:
J. L. KLEIN, Steepaan 9, Apt. 1, 2243 CV WASSENAAR, Netherlands

Recently, I saw an announcement in a philatelic magazine that again, a stamp exhibition would take place in Japan.

This of course brought back to me the very unpleasant experience I had – when participating at Tokyo Philanippion 1991, two of my stamps: a 50/50 Postage Due error overprint and a 4 K granite paper Posta 1919 were stolen.

The philatelic press warned against buying these stolen stamps, but neither of these stamps ever resurfaced on the open market or appeared at auction. Experts like Pavel Pitterman, Jan Karasek, Fischmeister, Hefer, a.o. promised to be alert, but many of them are now no longer amongst us. As many of the younger collectors will never have heard about this theft, I think it will be useful, after twenty years, to warn potential buyers. . .

Enclosed is a photocopy of an advertisement in a 1996 issue of Merkur Revue. I sent the same letter to our German, Czech and Dutch stamp friends. Maybe these two treasures will once again show up. . . ?

Pan Klein pátral po ukradených známkách i po 20 letech, o čemž svědčí příspěvek v časopisu CZECHOUT z r. 2011.

Fig. 3: Mr. Klein looked for the stolen stamps even after 20 years, which is confirmed by the contributed announcement in the *Czechout* journal from 2011

the exhibit was insured, but that it was possible that such a thing could happen, and even also among philatelists. Not to mention that the theft occurred at a World Exhibition, that is an exhibition of the highest degree! Does this mean that exhibitors should be rightfully worried about their stamps that they entrusted to an organizational committee? That would in fact mean the end of exhibiting! Not to mention the damage that this theft brought to the reputation of the Japanese philatelists' union who organized the exhibition. So my father decided to solve the whole thing, and he actually searched for the stolen stamps until his death three years ago. He sent out many letters, printed advertisements, and went through many meetings (Fig. 3). Five years after the theft he offered a reward of 5,000 marks for anyone who could point out to the authorities a trail leading to the thieves (Fig. 4). Some may have been wondering why he would finance the search himself when the insurance company had already paid for the purchase of two other stamps of the same kind, that he was able to obtain. His exhibit was complete again, and he was once more winning competitions at exhibitions. But as I said, it was not about money -- he could not bear such injustice. He wanted to discover who in such a shocking way brought unease and distrust among philatelists. Then when he was old (he lived to be 98 years old, and we all hoped he would make it to be 100!), he wanted me to search for the couple of stamps

■ STAMPS STOLEN AT PHILANIPPON, TOKIO 5 YEARS AGO:
 The following stamps "disappeared":
 • 4 K Pošta Československá 1919 overprint on granite paper, unused;
 • 50/5Q h Postage due error overprint, used.
 An award of DM 5.000.— will be paid to the person who will be successful in returning these stamps to the owner.



■ BRIEFMARKEN WELCHE IM JAHRE 1991 IN TOKIO VERSCHWANDEN:
 • Eine 4 K Pošta Československá 1919 Überdruck auf Faserpapier, ungebraucht,
 • ein Exemplar des Fehldrucks 50/50 DOPLATIT, gestempelt.
 Wer dafür sorgen kann, dass diese zwei Marken dem Inhaber wieder zugestellt werden, wird eine Belohnung von DM 5.000.— erhalten.

■ Uvedené dvě nejzácnější čs. známky, které byly před pěti lety odcizeny z exponátu na Světové výstavě v Tokiu, nebyly dosud nalezeny.
 Osoba, která by uvedla stopu neznámého pachatele a známky by byly nalezeny, obdrží odměnu ve výši 5000,— DM.

Information to / Berichte an/ Informaci je třeba podat na:
 J. L. KLEIN, Stoeplan 9, Apt. 1, 2243 CV WASSENAAR, Netherlands

Fig. 4: Advertisement which appeared in Merkur-Revue 3/1996.

when he was gone. He was convinced they would appear one day, and the truth about the thief would come out.

At this point I must mention that from the beginning my father suspected exhibitor Ludvík Pytlíček from Semily. He was my father's competitor at exhibitions with his own ČSR I exhibit, and he was present at the Tokyo exhibition. My father's friends, leading collectors from different countries, had the same opinion, and he talked about it with them many times. Yet in this direction he did not undertake any actions because he was meticulously correct and had no direct proof for his suspicions.

Now the situation has changed -- Ludvík Pytlíček publicly put the stolen stamp up for sale. In different circumstances I would have informed the insurance company of the facts since in my opinion they are the stamp's owner, and I would have then considered this to be a finished matter. After I watched the story on Czech television however (they are interested in this stamp), even I have to express my opinion. In the story Ludvík Pytlíček made several unbelievable statements. First and foremost that he bought the stamp from my father, which is a complete lie! And mainly, that my father committed insurance fraud, when he sold the stamp and then claimed it was stolen. That already is not just a mere lie, but an audacious lie which I must defend against. My father was a decent man his whole life with an impeccable reputation. Now a man spits in his face, a man whose ways are perhaps best characterized by the magazine *Týden* when in an article about him a few years ago wrote: "Ludvík Pytlíček built his collection with money that he gained from selling forgeries." There are many cases where he cheated other philatelists. In 1988 some foreign exhibitors even threatened that they would not send their

exhibits to PRAGA '88 if Pytlíček would also be exhibiting there, since he had sold them forged covers of the first Czechoslovak airmail issues. The exhibition's organizational committee looked into it, and actually denied Pytlíček's application. Since then he has not been permitted to exhibit at any PRAGA world exhibition (the exhibition in 1998 was not a world, but only an international). Despite this, he continued to hurt collectors which finally led to his expulsion from the Union of Czech Philatelists last year. In his promotional materials he brags about his membership in the Club Monte Carlo alongside Queen Elizabeth. I think even there they should contemplate what kind of person they have in their midst (I will send them a copy of this letter).

As I mentioned, in the case of the two stolen stamps (one of them has now been found), I am not interested in the money -- anyway the stamp belongs to the insurance company. But I must protect my dead father's honor since he cannot do that himself anymore. Therefore, I filed a criminal complaint against Ludvík Pytlíček for slander. I also notified the public prosecutor in Prague of the entire affair, because even though it has been a quarter century since the theft, the statute of limitations might not have expired yet -- if the culprit would be convicted and at the same time it would be shown that he has committed another equally serious crime, the statute of limitations would be interrupted. The next steps will surely be taken by the insurance company which is the damaged party in all of this. As for the ownership of the stolen stamp, of course Mr. Pytlíček is not the owner. Because he could not in good faith be its owner, under Czech law he could not therefore pass on the ownership right. The same would go for the one to whom he sold it to.

In this context, I would like to address readers of *Filatelie* magazine. If you have any information about this case, please e-mail me at misha@euronet.nl. Thank you, and I sincerely greet you from Rotterdam.

Bram Klein

PS: Because I am a writer by profession, I intend to write a book about this case (that attracted so much attention among philatelists around the world 25 years ago and now awakens them again). If I do, I will be happy to share a portion of it into your *Filatelie* periodical."

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from *Filatelie* 10/2017 with the permission of the editor and author.]



Editor's Note

For anybody attending PRAGA 2018 (or even if you are not) periodic updates on programing are available on their website www.praga2018.cz/en. Bulletin #1 is already available at <https://www.praga2018.cz/en/praga-2018-bulletin-1-was-just-published/>.

NOTES FROM ONE HUNDRED YEARS PART 1- 1943

by Keith Hart

This entire year will be filled with remembrances of the centenary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia. Czechs and Slovaks freedom was a long time coming. It took a horrendous World War to cause the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which provided the foundations of the new country. Once free it might have been expected that everyone would live happily ever after, but this was definitely not the case. This is the first of four short articles in the 2018 *Specialists* which will document the trials of nationhood at 25 year periods of Czechoslovakia/Czech and Slovak Republic existence, finishing with a final article which will hopefully tell of the experiences of our members who attended PRAGA 2018. A country's philatelic content is directly influenced by the politics and beliefs of the governing power. Each article will briefly state the politics of its era and then get down to the main themes. First we will look back at the *Specialists* of that year to see what our members were reading at that time. We will then look at the stamps issued that year and how they reflected the life and times of the nation(s).

Of course there was no Czechoslovakia in 1943. The horrors of World War II commenced with the Nazi annexation of Sudetenland, which led to the Czech and Moravian lands becoming the German Protectorate we know through stamps as *Böhmen und Mähren* (Bohemia and Moravia). The dismemberment of the country left Slovakia as an independent country in name only, as it was extremely dependent on Germany and its allies. 1943 saw the Czech Resistance constantly hounded by the ruthless Gestapo, while in Slovakia the leadership were finally beginning to realize how deep the hole was they had dug for themselves, their countrymen and women. The Jewish and Romani populations were being exterminated, the Romani so successfully that the Bohemian-Romani language became totally extinct.



Fig. 1

The 1943 *Specialists* strangely had little direct mention of the war. There were adverts for War and Savings Bonds. There were change of address notices for members who the war had removed from their homes to military bases sometimes 1000s of miles away. There were no lists of the 1943 issue programs for the two countries as it would have been impossible to even know what stamps were being issued. Even if members could have found out, would they have even cared? Not many people at that time would have wanted to collect stamps with a portrait of Hitler on them. I found it difficult myself much later on. Articles were mostly about issues from 1919-1925 and were well researched and exquisitely written. Membership fees were \$0.50 for junior members, \$1 for regular members, \$2 for Associates, and \$5 for Patrons. Advertising rates were \$3 a page, down to \$0.50 for 1/16 page.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

showing Hitler at Prague Castle looking out at the conquered city. A series celebrating composer Richard Wagner was followed by a stamp issued on the 1st anniversary of the assassination of Heydrich. Even the final stamp issued that year made no doubt that it was for the German Red Cross by displaying the kind of eagle closely related to Nazi imagery (Fig. 4).

The stamps of 1943 were therefore sad reminders that a nation's life suffered extremely bad times as well as the good they had looked forward to in 1918.



Fig. 4



A RECENT HRADČANY Tête-Bêche PARCEL CARD FABRICATION

by Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson

In November 2017 Jan Bisschops, having read our recent article about tête-bêche stamps in his Dutch Society journal, pointed out to us the image of a mint two-stamp strip appearing on page 10 of the 2010 David Feldman auction catalog featuring items from the estate of the well-known American expert Dr. Ladislav Fischmeister (http://issuu.com/davidfeldman/docs/czechoslovakia_web). The strip seems at this remove quite genuine (Fig. 1). Two years later the March 2012 Majer auction catalog offered in Lot 52 a canceled tête-bêche pair attached to a parcel card with a 25,000 Kč reserve – also and most significantly – attributed to the L. Fischmeister collection (Fig. 2).

The canceled stamps affixed to that parcel card appear to us to be physically identical to the free-standing mint pair from the Feldman 2010 catalog. They are from the same two plate positions, have similar edges (one edge of the affixed strip has been pared down slightly), and bear identical superfluous markings (some of which cannot be seen in the image as printed here).

We offer two more points in further support of our argument. First, we believe that every Hradčany 200 haler tête-bêche strip was taken from a single clandestinely printed pane and is thus unique. Even were this theory proven false, it

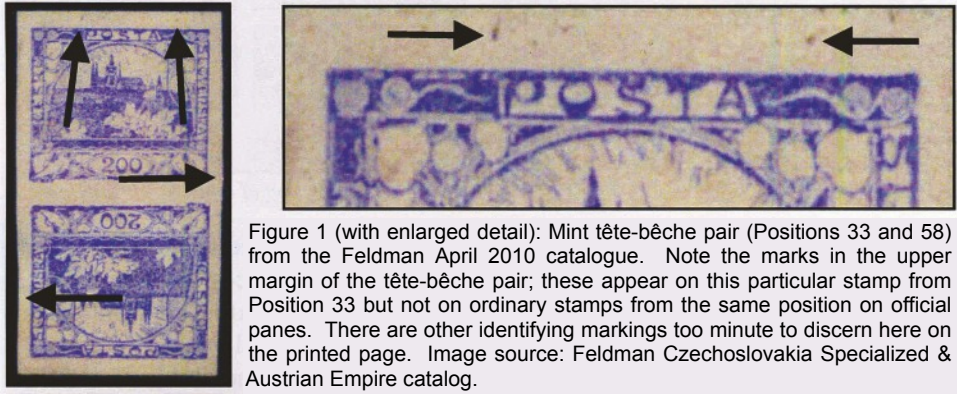


Figure 1 (with enlarged detail): Mint tête-bêche pair (Positions 33 and 58) from the Feldman April 2010 catalogue. Note the marks in the upper margin of the tête-bêche pair; these appear on this particular stamp from Position 33 but not on ordinary stamps from the same position on official panes. There are other identifying markings too minute to discern here on the printed page. Image source: Feldman Czechoslovakia Specialized & Austrian Empire catalog.

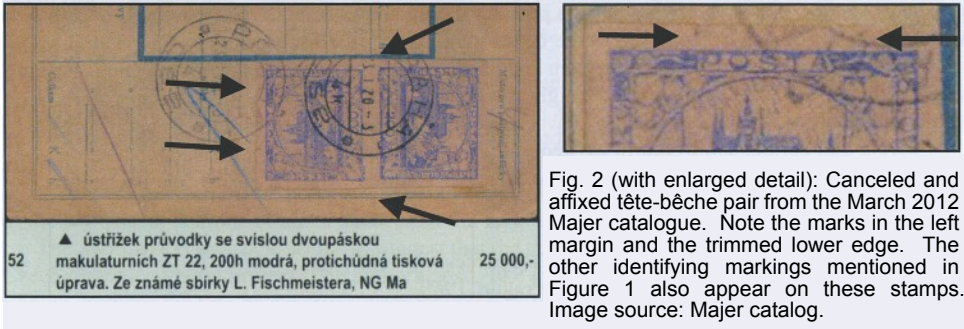


Fig. 2 (with enlarged detail): Canceled and affixed tête-bêche pair from the March 2012 Majer catalogue. Note the marks in the left margin and the trimmed lower edge. The other identifying markings mentioned in Figure 1 also appear on these stamps. Image source: Majer catalog.

staggeres the imagination to believe that Dr. Fischmeister owned two identical tête-bêche pairs from the same plate positions -- one mint and one on a canceled parcel card. Second, if against all odds he did own two such items, why was the parcel card not offered along with the mint pair in the Feldman auction?

Since the Fischmeister estate underwent dispersal in 2010 the parcel card's 2012 claim of Fischmeister collection ancestry raises serious doubts as to its actual provenance. These doubts are underscored by the card's apparent absence from pre-2010 literature.

We leave it to experts with access to the original piece to confirm or refute our theory that the mint pair and the canceled pair on the parcel card are precisely the same physical stamps. If they are, it is clear that someone constructed the parcel card clipping from the Fischmeister mint pair sometime after the April 2010 Feldman auction but before the March 2012 Majer auction.

This clipping was offered again in the September 2013 Majer catalog as Lot 43, but this time attributed to H. Klein with a reserve of 79,000 Kč. It then appeared in the September 2017 Majer catalog (here attributed simply to Klein) as Lot 114 with a reserve of 29,000 Kč. The *Mercur-Revue* in a March 2017 article mentioned it while also warning its cancellation might be a forgery.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from the December 2017 Czechout issue with the permission of the authors and editor.]

UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL, DP-1, HD
No. 106 in the Series

The Classics Corner appeared in the *SOSSI Journal* in 100 columns and an epilogue from October 1994 through November/December 2012. Since then, there has been further research into, and new discoveries about, both the “classics” and modern issues of Scouting on stamps. *Updates* will report on recent developments.

100th Anniversary of the 1918 Czech Scout Post

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Czechoslovak Scout Official Mail Delivery Service (Czech Scout Post), which operated unofficially from October 28, 1918, and officially from November 7, 1918, through November 25, 1918 – in the service of the Czechoslovak National Committee of Liberation (National Council), the provisional government in Prague following the collapse of the



Fig. 1. February 23, 1919 Czech single weight registered express lettercard at the 105h rate (courtesy J.J. Verner).

Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I— and which was reactivated for one day only on December 21, 1918 to support the arrival of President Thomas G. Masaryk. Readers should consult Kvasnička^{1,2} for background of the Czech Scout Post, Pittermann³ for classification of entires (covers, postal cards, and telegrams), and
(Continued on Page 22)



[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this from

A LITTLE KNOWN POSTAL MAP OF THE CARPATHO-UKRAINE

trans. by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Carpatho-Ukraine! For many artists a loved part of our between-war's republic, an elevated plain region of mostly poor people, of which Ivan Olbracht wrote so beautifully. It was substantially an illogical appendage awarded to us by the victors of the Great War (WW I), which president-architect Edvard Benes promised to defend with his blood and iron will, but then to twice give away without fighting for it, first to Hungary, and then to the Soviet Union. To this day we feel with her a certain fellowship and are interested in her postal history even thou already for a long time she is a part of another state and has a different name (the Carpathian Region of the Ukraine). With this, the map which we are today presenting to you, can be a good help.

The map comes from the middle of the First Republic and depicts the various types of post offices, contract post offices, and postal routes in Slovakia and the Carpatho-Ukraine, which is important especially for collectors of postal history and the proper identification of postally transported consignments.

Vysvetlivky:

poštový kurz	hranica okres. úradov	nádražný pošt. a teleg.
pošt. automobíl. kurz	hranica riaditeľstva	nádražný pošt. úrad
súkromný autob. kurz	pošt. a teleg. úrad	poštovňa na nádražie
železničná trať	poštový úrad	pošt. úrad v sídle
hranica republiky	poštovňa	okresných úradov
krajská hranica	Ľpoštovnía-stele- graf. prevozom	smluvná teleg. hovorňa s telegr. prevozom
	smluvná teleg. hovorňa s telegr. prevozom	(D) poštová služobňa sezo & výmena pošty

Legend

Postal route = thin, solid black line

Auto postal route = continuous rectangles

Train route = solid black w/rectangles

Post/telegraph office = double circle w/T

Post office = double circle

Contract post office =

single small circle



from Filatelie 12/2016 with the permission of the editors.]

UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

(Continued from Page 19)

columns in *The Classics Corner* for additional information⁴. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Scout Post, throughout this year *Updates* will report on recent research and developments.

Part 1: Registered Express Combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post Covers

Among covers of the Czech Scout Post, the most desirable are combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post covers, of which the scarcest are registered express combination covers, with only a few having been reported. Following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I, the Austrian post office maintained services in the territory which became the new country of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918⁵ until the Czechoslovak Ministry of Post and Telegraph Offices was established on November 13, 1918⁶. During the first Czech postal rate period (October 28, 1918 – May 19, 1919), the rates followed those of the Austrian rate period which began on September 1, 1918: single weight letter or lettercard (up to 20 grams) local or inland – 20 heller (h), registration – 25h, and express (special delivery) – 60h^{7,8}. Thus, the rate for a single weight registered express letter or lettercard was 105h (Fig. 1).

On November 9, 1918, Prague stationer and stamp dealer Antonín Černý sent a registered express letter to Josef Roessler-Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association and organizer of the Scout Post, at the family pharmaceutical supply business on Štěpánská Street in Prague (Fig 2a). On November 10, a 20h Scout Post stamp was applied to the cover at the Scout Post Operations Center, then at the Cadet Academy, and tied with an “N.V.” handstamp. However, Roessler-Ořovský was not at the family pharmaceutical supply business: rather, he was participating in National Council affairs at the Deymův Palace (Fig. 3). The cover was carried to the palace by Scout Salda, and signed for there by Roessler-Ořovský (“10/11 Ry”). A private poster label was applied to the back of the cover by the sender as advertising (Fig. 2b). This cover is a Pittermann Category 1 entire: genuine and authentic³.

This writer has collected, studied and researched the Scout Post since 1960, during which time we have seen only two registered express combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post covers: a cut-down (trimmed) envelope with the stamps on the back, once offered by our late SOSSI member and stamp dealer Barry Mann, and the cover discussed and illustrated here. This reflects that among covers of the Czech Scout Post, the



Fig. 3. Deymův Palace in Prague (courtesy Wikipedia ⁹).



Fig. 2a. November 9, 1918 registered express combination Austria/ Czech-Scout Post cover to Josef Rössler-Ořovský (courtesy Milan Černík).

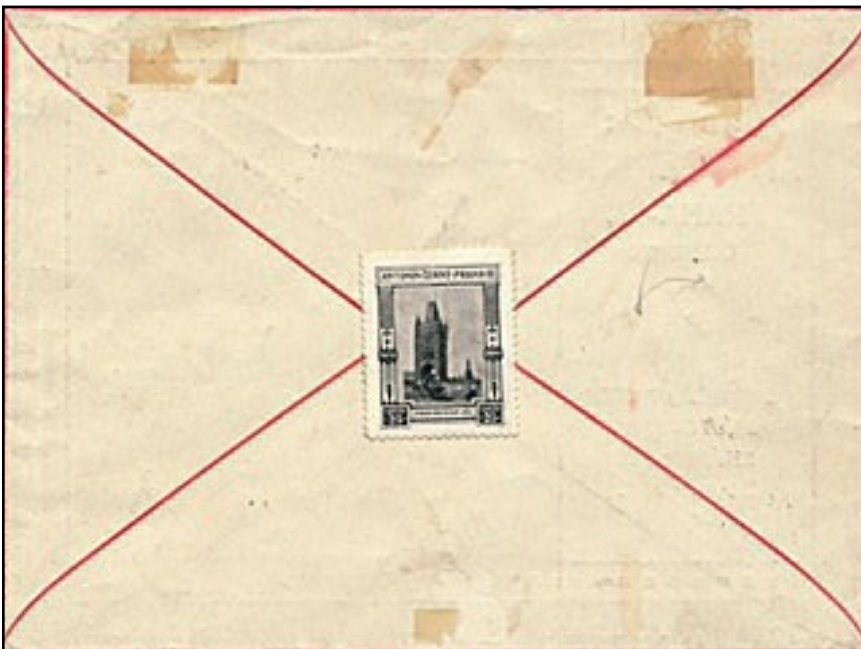


Fig. 2b. Private poster label of Prague stationer and stamp dealer Antonín Černý on back of cover (courtesy Milan Černík).

scarcest are registered express combination Austria/Czech-Scout Post covers, and helps to explain how the cover discussed and illustrated here was sold for US\$3,400 (about €2,825) in Milan Černík's 46th Postal History Auction in March 2017.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr. Jaroslav J. Verner and Mr. Ludvik Z. Svoboda of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, who are experienced and knowledgeable collectors of Czechoslovakia, for information about Austrian and Czech postal rates during the period of the National Council provisional government and operation of the Scout Post and for the image of the cover illustrated in Figure 1 (Mr. Verner), and for translation of the Czech text on the cover and private poster label illustrated in Figures 2a & 2b (Mr. Svoboda).

Endnotes:

1. Kvasnička, I. "The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918" *The American Philatelist*, Vol.83, No.1 (Jan 1969), pp. 27-41. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. XIX, No.1 (Jan 1970), pp.8-9 & ff. (multiple segments).
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3. Pittermann, Ing. P. "Genuineness of Entires with Stamps". *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 1992), pp. 4-11. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol.42, No. 2 (Jan 1993), pp. 1, 8-9, & ff. (two segments).
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6. <https://www.ceaskaposta.cz/sl?o-ceske-poste?historie>
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[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from SOSSI Journal Jan/Feb 2018 with the permission of the author and editor.]

SELL - SWAP - WANT

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

EXAMPLES of ads are:

WANTED: Buy International Reply Coupons all countries.

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

SELL: Hard cover bound copies of 1951-53 issues of SPECIALIST, \$15 postpaid.

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

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

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

CZECH REPUBLIC ISSUE PROGRAM 2018

Postage Stamps

Date	Title of Issue	Value Kč	Lay- out	Other items
1/3/18	25 years of Czech Republic	24	MS	
1/20/18	Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Jiří Bouda	A	TL	ZS+4k
1/20/18	Czech Winter Olympic Team 2018	37	TL	
1/20/18	Czech Winter Paralympic Team 2018	16	TL	
2/21/18	Technical Monuments: Municipal Library of Prague	A	TL	
2/21/18	Personalities: František Hamza, M.D.	20	TL	
2/21/18	Mucha: Hradčany	A	UTL	12k
2/21/18	Easter	A	TL	
2/21/18	National Symbols	A	VZS	
3/14/18	Historic Vehicles: Paddle steamer Vltava	A	TL	
3/14/18	Beauties of Our Country: Dlouhé stráně hydroelectric power plant	23	MS	
4/1/18	Inauguration of President	A	TL	
4/4/18	Czech Design: Jan Kaplický	E	TL	
4/4/18	Personalities: Eduard Štorch	19	TL	
5/2/18	EUROPA: Bridges	E	MS	
5/2/18	Czech Jazz	Z	TL	
5/23/18	Prague Castle: Francesco da Ponte	32	MS	
5/23/18	Definitive stamp	E	TL	
6/20/18	Inventions: Bentwood furniture	19	TL	ZS
6/20/18	100 years of Czechoslovak postage stamps	27,44	MS	1 k
6/20/18	World on Rails II	A	VZS	
8/8/18	The Bombay Cover	41	MS	
8/8/18	100 years of the Postal Museum	19,23, 27	MS	
9/5/18	Nature Protection: Zoological gardens III	19,23, 27,33	MS	4 k
9/5/18	Mushrooms	A	VZS	
9/19/18	100 years of the National Museum of Agriculture	19	TL	
10/10/18	The 1918 fight for Czech statehood	2x 33	MS	
10/10/18	200 years of the National Museum in Prague	19	TL	
10/24/18	100 years of independent Czechoslovakia	19,23, 27,33	MS	
10/24/18	Prague Castle Guard	19	TL	ZS
11/7/18	Personalities: Miroslav Horníček	19	TL	
11/7/18	Personalities: František Rieger	27	TL	
11/7/18	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: 1) Vladimír Komárek, 2) Stanislav Libenský, 3) Paulus Pontius	27,32,41	UTL x 3	
11/7/18	Christmas	A	TL	

Legend: **A**: equivalent to 19 Kč for 50g in country letter; **CDV**: postal card w/imprint; **E**: equivalent to 33 Kč for 50g letter to other European countries; **k**: coupon; **MS**: miniature sheet; **TL**: full sheet; **UTL**: sheetlet; **VZS**: adhesive stamp booklet; **Z**: equivalent to 37Kč for 50g international (outside Europe) letter; **ZS**: stamp booklet.

SLOVAK NEW ISSUE PROGRAM 2018

Stamps and Postal Stationery

Date	Title	Value €	Layout	Other items
1/2/18	25 th anniversary of Slovak Republic	1.60	UTL	Pal
1/5/18	Joint issue with Romania: Cemetery of Romanian Royal Army in Zvolen	1.30	UTL	
1/16/18	25 th Anniversary of Slovak Postage Stamps	-	-	CDV
1/19/18	XXIII Winter Olympics, PyeongChang	1.00	TL	NL
2/16/18	Cultural Heritage: VúB building, Bratislava	1.45	TL	
2/23/18	XII Winter Paralympics, PyeongChang	1.00	TL	NL
2/27/18	Easter 2018: Paraments- Liturgical Textiles	T2 50g	TL	
3/1/18	Personalities: Adam František Kollár	0.50	TL	
3/14/18	Personalities: Karol L. Zachar	0.70	TL	
4/16/18	100 th Anniversary of 1 st May of Mikuláš	-	-	COB
4/27/18	Beauties of our Homeland: Poprad Matejovce archaeology area	0.95	TL	CM
5/3/18	Joint issue with Vatican City: 1150 th Anniversary of Recognition of the Slovak Liturgical Language	2.80	HA	Pt
5/4/18	EUROPA 2018: Bridges- Slovak National Uprising Bridge, Bratislava	1.30	UTL	NL, ZZ
5/18/18	Technical Monuments: Historic power plant, Piešťany	0.50	TL	CM
5/21/18	Art: Ladislav Bielik- <i>Man with a Bare Chest</i>	1.80	UTL	Pt
6/1/18	Stamp with personalized coupon- Floral motif	T2 50g	UTL	8 k
6/1/18	Bratislava Collector's Days 2018	-	-	CDV
6/5/18	50 th International Chemistry Olympiad	1.25	TL	Pal
6/22/18	Bratislava Coronation Ceremonies: 400 th anniversary of coronation of Ferdinand II	1.70	UTL	Pal
6/29/18	25 th Anniversary of Slovakia membership in Council of Europe	1.80	TL	ZZ
8/15/18	PRAGA 2018	-	-	CDV
6/30/18	150 th anniversary of foundation of Bratislava City Museum	1.30	TL	
10/12/18	Nature Protection: Slovak minerals	2x1.65	UTL	CM x 2
10/18/18	Most beautiful stamp of 2017	-	-	CDV
10/19/18	Art: The Icon of Krásny Brod: The Mother of God	1.40	UTL	
10/26/18	Sindelfingen 2018	-	-	CDV
10/28/18	Centenary of establishment of Czechoslovakia	1.90	HA	2k, Pal, Pt, CDV
11/9/18	Christmas Mail	T2 50g	TL	
11/9/18	Christmas 2018: Liturgical Textiles	T2 50g	TL	CP, ZZ
12/3/18	Postage stamp day: Alfons Mucha, Hradčany	0.95	TL	NL, 30 k
12/18/18	Day of Postage Stamps and Philately	-	-	CDV

Legend: CDV- postal card with imprint; CM- Cartes maximum; COB- Postal cover with overprint; HA- miniature sheet, k- coupon; NL- collection sheet; Pal- commemorative sheet; Pt- black proof; TL- sheet; UTL- sheetlet; ZZ- booklet

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart



Fig. 1

development of astronomy in the Czech Republic through lectures and meetings, including an Astronomical Olympiad. There are many collaborative projects with other European scientific societies. The FDC cachet was engraved by Bohumil Šneider and shows motifs of the sun and the moon (Fig. 2). The commemorative cancellation depicts the open roof of an observatory with a telescope.

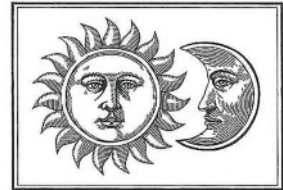


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

paintings. He had to provide for a large family and preferred smaller scale paintings as these were easier to sell. He was a member of the Lesser Town Painters' Guild in Prague and died in 1767. The cachet of the FDC shows a detail of Grund's painting 'Washerwoman' (Fig. 4) and the commemorative cancellation has a period couple going for a stroll. [Eds. note: Another Grund painting, 'Promenade in the Park' was also used in essentially the same series in 1967- Pofis 1649, Scott 1509].

2. On November 8, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Norbert Grund. The 38 Kč stamp and FDC was engraved by Miloš Ondráček and shows Grund's 'The Tempter' (Fig. 3) c1760, which is in The National Gallery, Prague. The stamp was produced by PTC using WAITE technology in miniature sheets of four with a blank central coupon. This year sees the 300th anniversary of Norbert Grund's birth in Bohemia. He was a painter in the late Baroque and Rococo styles who painted mainly landscape and biblical



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

3. On November 8, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Works of Art on postage stamps: Taras Kuščynskij. The 32 Kč stamp was designed by Jaroslav Tvrdoň and shows the photograph ‘Cuddled (1972)’ (Fig. 5) from a private collection. The stamp was produced by PTC using offset in miniature sheets of four stamps with a central blank coupon. Kuščynskij was born in 1932 and became a leading photographer specializing in advertising and nude portrait photography. He spent his early life in Carpathian Ruthenia where his

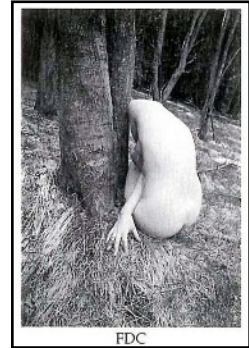


Fig. 6

parents were teachers. Graduating from the Czech Technical University in 1961 he first worked as a designer, before becoming an independent photographer. His photographs focused on women in an outdoor landscape. He shunned artificial lighting and special technical effects. He died in 1983. The cachet of the FDC shows Kuščynskij’s photograph ‘The Back’ (Fig. 6) and the commemorative cancellation has the word ‘Taras’ in a rectangle.

4. On December 13, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Works of Art on postage stamps: Jaroslava Pešicová. The 30 Kč stamp and FDC were engraved by Václav Fajt and shows Pešicová’s painting ‘Winner (2001)’ (Fig. 7) from a private collection. The stamp was produced by PTC using



Fig. 7



Figure 8

WAITE technology in miniature sheets of four with a blank central coupon. Pešicová was born in 1935 and was a painter, graphic artist and illustrator. She was the wife of sculptor František Štokr. Together they were members of the Etapa group of young Czech artists in the 1960s. During the 1970s she began working on woven reproductions of her paintings. She died in 2015. The cachet of the FDC shows her ‘Winter Fur Accessory’ (Fig. 8) and the commemorative cancellation features a motif from ‘The Rose’.

5. On December 13, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet to celebrate Czech Postal History. The sheet shows the history of postal delivery from the Habsburg era to current times (Fig. 9). The sheet was designed by Jan Maget and Eva Hašková and produced by PTC using KOMB technology. The sheet contains two different stamps with portraits of important personalities in the history of Czech postal services. The 32 Kč stamp shows Jiří Stříbrný (1880-1955). In July 1918 he became a member of the National Committee and after independence served as a member of the legislative body until 1935. In 1918-19 he



Fig. 9

was the first Minister of Post and Telegraphic Offices. Later he served as Minister of Railways and also Minister of National Defense. The 37 Kč stamp shows Maxmilián Fatka (1868-1962). His long career as a civil servant commenced in 1888 and led to him becoming the first Director General of Czechoslovak Post in 1918, a position he held until 1935.

The first organized postal service in the Czech lands was set up on the occasion of Ferdinand I's coronation as Czech king in 1526. At first only official letters and correspondence were accepted for postal transmission. The service was extended to include private correspondence by Maximilian II and Rudolf II. During the rule of Maria Theresa postal services became part of state administration. At independence in 1918 organization was transferred to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Post and Telegraphic Offices. After the interruption of World War II, the Ministry of Post Offices resumed the activities of the prewar organization. After the period as a state-owned enterprise during the Communist era the early 1990s saw the start of the consolidation of the communications sector which led to the independent state-owned enterprise as of January 1, 1993 on the formation of the



Fig. 10

Czech Republic. Two FDCs were issued. The first, featuring the 32 Kč stamp has a cachet engraved by Václav Fajt with a postilion on horseback (Fig. 10) with a special cancellation featuring the postilion's postal horn. The second FDC, featuring the 37 Kč stamp has a cachet engraved by Václav Fajt showing a postal courier from bygone times and a modern day mail carrier with her vehicle in the

background (Fig. 11). The special cancellation shows a handstamp device.

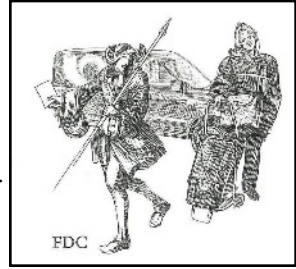


Fig. 11

6. On January 3, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Czech Republic. The sheet contains two 24 Kč stamps and a central coupon (the way the sheet is perforated it could be considered that there are four additional coupons around the edge). The stamp and coupons illustrate motifs of the large Czech national emblem, together with other elements of Czech flags and banners (Fig. 12). The sheet was designed by Jan Maget and produced by PTC using multicolored offset. The Czech Republic was created on January 1, 1993 as a country building on the traditions of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Kingdom, the Czech Principality, and Great Moravia dating back to the 9th century. The Czech Republic is an inland country formed by parts of the historical Czech lands, which have been part of the Czech Crown lands for long periods of their historical development. These lands include Bohemia and Moravia, along with Czech Austria and Czech Silesia attached to the former lands in 1920. The Czech Republic is a member of the United Nations and many other major organizations representative of the World and Europe. The Czech Republic has an area of 30,450 sq. miles, with Prague as the capital city and a population in



Fig. 12

2017 of 10.8 million. The FDC cachet shows a Czech lion in front of a ribbon with the national colors (Fig. 13). The special cancellation is in the shape of the Czech flag with the dates 1993 and 2018.

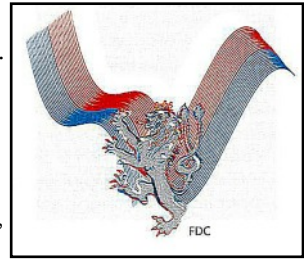


Fig. 13

7. On January 20, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series: Tradition of Czech Stamp Design- Jiří Bouda (1934-2015). The 'A' designated stamp corresponds to the price of a 50g domestic letter, which at issue amounts to 19 Kč. The stamp shows a portrait of Bouda in front of a locomotive (Fig. 14). The stamp was designed by Vladimír Suchánek, includes line drawing by Miloš Ondráček, and was produced by PTC using multicolored offset combined with line drawing and printed in sheets of 50. Jiří Bouda was born the son of Cyril Bouda, a well-known painter and illustrator. In 1959 his graduation work from the Academy of Decorative Arts was a calendar showing Prague motifs with a transportation theme. His first job was with the railroad, as a signaler in the signal box at Prague-Bubeneč. After completing military service in 1968 he became chairman of the Rail History Study and Documentation Group and also joined the Hollar Association of Czech Graphic Artists. Mass transportation and particularly railroads, became the major themes of his art which was usually in small formats. He was known for his incredibly extensive output of ex-libris. Not surprisingly his first postage stamp design from 1982 depicted both steam and electric locomotives. He went on to design many more stamps for both Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in the next 25 years. His life work firmly puts him as one of the leading Czech graphic artists and illustrators of the second half of the 20th century. The FDC cachet is the front view of a locomotive (Fig. 15) and the commemorative cancellation features the conjoined initials of the artist. The stamp was also issued as a



Fig. 14

booklet containing eight stamps and four coupons.

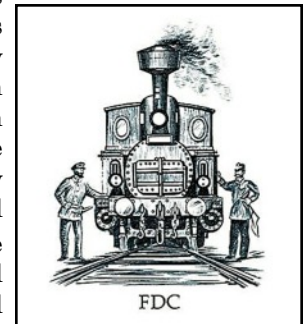


Fig. 15



Fig. 16

8. On January 20, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp from the series: Czech Olympic Team- 2018 Winter Games, PyeongChang, S. Korea. The 37 Kč stamp, designed by Zdeněk Netopíl, shows a biathlete shooting from the standing position (Fig. 16) and was produced by PTC using multicolored offset and printed in sheets of 50. The first Olympic Winter Games was held in Chamonix, France in 1924 with 258 athletes from 16 nations competing in a total of 16 events. This year's XXIII games in PyeongChang, South Korea are expected to see about 3000 athletes from 88 nations competing in a total of 102

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

events. The FDC cachet, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, shows a biathlete in motion (Fig. 17) and the commemorative cancellation depicts another image of a skiing biathlete.

9. On January 20, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp from the series: Czech Paralympic Team 2018- 2018 Winter Games, PyeongChang, S. Korea. The 16 Kč stamp, designed by Zdeněk Netopíl, shows a paralympic athlete racing downhill in the mono ski category (Fig. 18) and was produced by PTC using multicolored offset and printed in sheets of 50. The first sports competition for people with disabilities was for veterans with spinal cord injuries and was organized by Sir Ludwig Guttmann at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in England, coinciding with the opening day of the 1948 Olympic Games in London. From these humble beginnings came the first Summer Paralympic Games in Rome 1960. The very first Winter Paralympic Games were held in



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

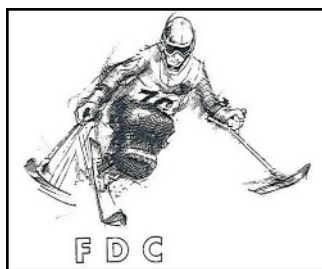


Fig. 19

Örnsköldsvik, Sweden in 1976 and by 1992 in Albertville, France were held at the same facilities used by athletes at the Winter Olympics. Athletes compete at eight different levels of physical impairment, with further categories of visual and intellectual impairments. Over 600 athletes from 42 nations are expected to compete in 80 different events at PyeongChang. The FDC cachet, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, shows a mono skier in downhill action (Fig. 19) and the commemorative cancellation has another image of a mono skier on the course.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart



Fig. 20

10. On November 10, 2017 the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications for the Slovak Republic issued a stamp in the series: The Christmas Mail. The T2 50g postage stamp shows the head of a jolly snowman with his scarf blowing in a blizzard (Fig. 20). The stamp was produced by Rempo, s.r.o./Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. This year the Slovak Post has once again created a seasonal stamp with a winter design that features drawings selected from those received in last year's Christmas Mail at Rajecká Lesná. Children



Fig. 21

from all over the world send their messages to the mailbox of Baby Jesus. Those who give return addresses receive a message and a small gift. This year the design for the stamp is by Barbora Ďuriková. The design of the FDC is a house with a snowman and a tree (Fig. 21), designed by Sofia Tadanaiová. The commemorative cancellation is a flying angel designed by Viktória Csábiová. All three girls attend Rozmarínová Street Primary School in Komárno. In addition, four different Christmas cancellations featuring the famous mail pigeon, Oplaško, were available each week of December at the Post Office in Rajecká Lesná.



Fig. 22

11. On November 16, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: Christmas 2017. The 0.50€ stamp shows a detail of a folk art mural from the Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Vajnory (Fig. 22). The stamp follows a recent tradition in having the Christmas stamp based on the same sources as the Easter stamp. The stamp was produced by Rempo, s.r.o./Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. The stamp and FDC's graphic design was by Marianna Žálec Varcholová, based on a painting by Hedviga



Fig. 23

Krištofičová. The folk art motifs used at Vajnory include vines, wheat ears, fruit, flowers, birds, and bees. The cachet of the FDC shows a larger version of the painting on which the stamp is based (Fig. 23). The commemorative cancellation depicts two birds facing each other. A pictorial postal card was also issued on the same day.

12. On November 24, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp to recognize the Decade of Action on Road Safety. The 0.50€ stamp shows a person walking across a road (Fig. 24). It was designed by Robert Jančovič and produced by Rempo, s.r.o./ Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. using offset technology in printing sheets of 10. Along with the other members of the European Union, Slovakia has undertaken to reduce the number of people killed in road accidents by half during the current decade. The Department of Road Traffic Safety (BECEP) is helping to fulfill this goal with a comprehensive program of improving and maintaining roads, together with educating the population in all aspects of road safety, be they pedestrians, cyclists,



Fig. 25



Fig. 24

motorcyclists or vehicle drivers. The FDC cachet depicts a triangular sign filled with traffic symbols (Fig. 25) and printed in blue by PTC. The commemorative cancellation shows a road disappearing into the distance.

13. On December 4, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Postage Stamp Day: Jozef Vlček (1902-1971). The 0.95€ stamp shows a portrait of Vlček in front of the Slovenská Grafia building and the coupon depicts his red and blue triangular personal delivery stamps from 1940 (Fig. 26). It was



Fig. 26

designed by Peter Augustovič and produced by Rempo s.r.o. / Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. using offset technology in printing sheets of 30 stamps with 30 coupons. Jozef Vlček was born in Červený Kostelec, Bohemia and studied at the Art-Industrial School in Prague. In the 1920s and 30s he created promotional posters of outstanding technical quality, as well as designing his first Czechoslovak stamps in 1928. In 1937 he moved to Bratislava to work for Slovenská Grafia and later Neografia, designing stamps for the Slovak State throughout World War II, culminating in the Kniežatá (Princes) series in 1944. Following the war's end he designed the miniature sheet celebrating the Army and Košice conference in 1945. This was his final stamp design for Czechoslovakia, although he continued working for Neografia until his retirement. The FDC cachet, engraved by František Horniak, shows a compilation of transportation systems from the 1930s (Fig. 27) based on Vlček's designs. The commemorative cancellation depicts the front of a propeller-engined airplane. A collection sheet was also issued on the same day.



Fig. 27

14. On January 2, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic. The 1.60€ stamp depicts a view of Bratislava Castle, the Slovak National Emblem, and the flags of Slovakia and The European Union (Fig. 28). The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský, produced by Rempo s.r.o./PTC Prague using KOMB technology in printing sheets of 10. Although it is recognized that the Slovak people formed a distinct ethnical part of Great Moravia in the 10th century, from the beginning of the 11th century until 1918 the Slovaks were subjects of the Hungarian Kingdom and later the Habsburg Monarchy. The idea of a modern, independent Slovakia was ignited by the French Revolution in 1789 and the



Fig. 28

19th century saw constant progress to enlighten the Slovak people about their culture, despite brutal attempts to suppress their values and beliefs. World War I solidified their resistance and they united with the Czechs to form the new state of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Ultimately the Slovaks realized that Czechoslovakia did not provide them with real national identity and equality. Following the difficulties caused by Slovaks siding with Nazi Germany during World War II, the revived democratic Czechoslovakia of 1945 was soon overcome by the communist regime which lasted until 1989. This led to new possibilities to fulfill Slovak desires for national freedom and following failed negotiations on constitutional reform during the summer of 1992 the political leaders agreed on a peaceful dissolution of the state which led to an independent Slovak Republic being established on January 1, 1993. The new republic has since become a fully-fledged member of the European Union and a participant in the Eurozone. It is also a member of many other European and Global organizations. The FDC cachet bears the motif of the Slovak Parliament building and the State Seal (Fig. 29). The commemorative cancellation takes the form of a semi-circular portion of musical score which shows the first bars of the State Anthem of the Slovak Republic. A commemorative sheet was also issued on the FDI.



Fig. 29

15. On January 5, 2018 the Ministry delivered a joint issue stamp with Romania commemorating the cemetery of the Romanian Royal Army in Zvolen, Slovakia. The 1.30€ stamp shows the white travertine central monument of the military



Fig. 30

cemetery (Fig. 30) and was designed by Mikhail Vămășescu. The stamp was produced by Rempo s.r.o./Tiskárna Hradištko s.r.o using offset technology and issued in sheets of 8 stamps. About 240,000 soldiers of the Romanian Royal Army participated in battles for the liberation of Slovakia from Nazi Germany

starting in December 1944 until the final battles of World War II in May 1945. The army suffered losses of around 65,000 men, of which over 11,000 were killed. 10,382 soldiers are buried at this Central Military Cemetery in Zvolen. The cachet of the FDC was designed by Peter Augustovič and shows the long approach up to the central monument to the Romanian Royal Army (Fig. 31) and the special cancellation is a circular floral motif.



Fig. 31



Fig. 32

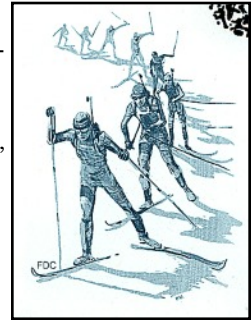


Fig. 33

16. On January 19, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the XXIII Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. The 1.00€ stamp shows a downhill skier (Fig. 32) and was designed by Peter Uchnár. The stamp was

produced by Rempo s.r.o./Tiskárna Hradištko s.r.o. using offset technology and issued in sheets of 50 stamps. This winter games took place from February 9-25, 2018. The Slovak Olympic Committee expected that nearly 100 of their

athletes would compete in hockey, biathlon, skiing, figure skating, freestyle skiing, snowboarding, luge and bobsled. The FDC cachet shows a line of biathletes skiing cross-country (Fig. 33) and the special cancellation depicts outlines of various Winter Olympic competitors in a swirled design. A commemorative sheet was issued on the same day.



Fig. 34



Fig. 35

Postal Stationary

17. On December 18, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card to commemorate The Day of Postage Stamps and Philately, 2017. The imprinted T2 50g (0.50€) stamp shows an historic postal horn. The additional print designed by Adrian Ferda, shows reproductions of Slovak stamps from 1939 (Fig. 34), which were designed by Jozef Vlček. 1800 cards were issued.

18. On January 16, 2018 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card to commemorate an exhibition celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Slovak Postage Stamps, which took place from January 16-31, 2018 at the Galéria Mlyny in Nitra. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows the 'Good Idea Slovakia' logo. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda depicts the logo of the exhibit framed as a stamp (Fig. 35). 1800 cards were issued.

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