



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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LAST CALL FOR PRAGA 2018

If you are still thinking about a visit to Prague for this exhibition, you need to decide soon. If the exhibits and meetings themselves are not enough to encourage you to go, then think about the other attractions available. Besides the main location at the Clarion Congress Hotel, there are other interesting venues. The Postal Museum is a wonderful place to learn about the history of postal services going back hundreds of years. The Mucha Museum is, of course, the place to see the work of the most famous Czech artist. You can also pick up a print of your favorite Mucha subject to take home. Don't forget Prague itself, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Book your flights and hotel now! The people of Prague will give you a warm welcome and memories of the trip will last a lifetime.

A buffet dinner for foreign Czechoslovak specialist stamp societies will be held at Restaurant Adria on Friday, August 17 from 7 pm until late. The cost for this will be €29 (\$35). Anyone interested in attending should contact Chris Jackson, whose email address and phone number can be found on page 2.

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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 Keith Hart (see address/email below).
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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UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL, DP-1
 No. 107 in the Series
 100th Anniversary of the 1918 Czech Scout Post

Artifacts of the Czech Scout Post- stamps, covers, telegrams, postal cards, ...- were created for Josef Roessler-Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association, and his friends, as philatelic souvenirs. When their existence became known to other stamp collectors, demand quickly exceeded the supply of original material (Pittermann category 1), which resulted in the creation of additional entires (Pittermann categories 2 & 3), and then non-genuine material (Pittermann category 4). Parts 2-5 of this commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Scout Post will report on non-genuine material.



Fig. 1

Part 2: Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles - *Padělky Forgeries A & B*

The first discussion of forged stamps and overprints appeared in *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939* (Figure 1)¹. (We will refer to this book as the *Padělky*).

Figures 2a & 2b show 10h and 20h genuine stamps (*Padělky* images on the left). The *Padělky* describes these as follows:

10h genuine

1. The cross on the crown is centered in the center.
2. There is a colored line in the mane.
3. Beneath the mane the left front leg is lengthened with a line into the body.
4. The outline of the body of the lion is made with one stroke of the burring tool.
5. The hooks on the letters S and C have a sharp shape.
6. The letter D is under the letter S. The Letter I is directly under the space between the letters U and Z.



Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

20h genuine

1. The lion's tongue is curved towards the top, beneath is a thin parallel line.
2. The second lock of the lower mane is ended with a short line.
3. The outline of the left front leg is ended with a small indentation into the body.
4. The paws have very distinct shaped claws.
5. Under the knee of the right hind leg there is found a small indentation.
6. The letters S and C in the words POSTA CESKYCH are true.
7. The B in the word SLUZBACH has top and lower curves equal in roundness.

Figures 3a & 3b show 10h and 20h *Padělky* Forgery A stamps. The *Padělky* describes these as follows:

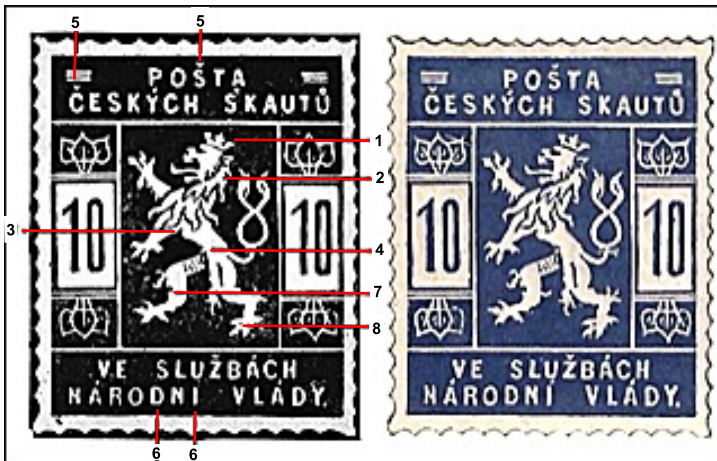


Fig. 3a

10h Forgery A

1. The middle of the crown of the lion's head has the same design as the original 20h stamp.
2. The colored line in the mane is missing.
3. The left leg of the lion has only a small line leading into the body.
4. The line of the outline of the lion's body is deformed and open in the middle.
5. The hooks over the letters S and C are smaller than on the genuine.
6. The letter D is shifted to the left and under the letter S. The letter I is to the left and under the letter U.
7. The indentation under the right knee of the hind foot is like the 20h value and is a little wider. (The genuine 10h does not have this indentation).
8. The left leg has a small colored dot between the first and second claw.



Fig. 3b

20h Forgery A

1. There is a curved beak under the tongue. In the original there is a small line.
2. Second lock of the lower mane runs out into a long line.
3. Outline of the left leg has a parallel small curve.
4. The claws are coarse and uneven.
5. The indentation is missing under the knee of the right hind leg, which is characteristic on the genuine.
6. The letter C in the word ČESKÝCH is deformed.
7. The letter S in each case is also different than the genuine in that they have smaller curves.
8. The letter B in the word SLUZBACH has the curve running into the upright stem at an angle.
9. The line above the left knee on the hind leg ends with a dot.

Figures 4a and 4b show 10h and 20h *Padělky* Forgery B stamps. The *Padělky* describes these as follows:

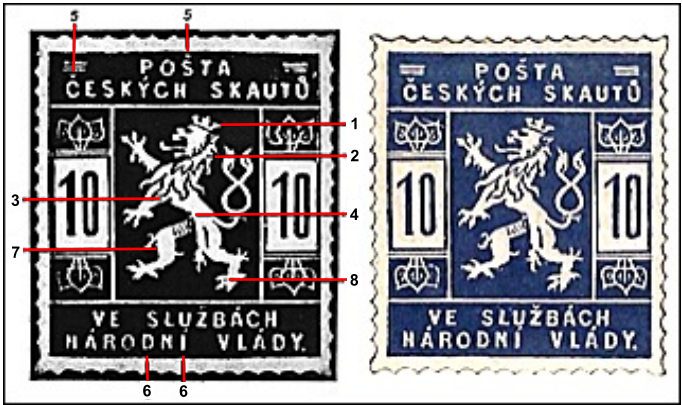


Fig. 4a

10h Forgery B

1. The middle of the crown on the lion's head is the same as in forgery A. Uneven in shape and having the cross in the middle deformed.
2. The dot in the mane is missing.
3. Left leg of the lion has a small line leading into the body.
4. The line creating the outline of the lion's body is deformed and broken in the middle.
5. The hooks over the letters S and C are smaller than the genuine.
6. The letter D is to the left and under the letter S. The letter I is to the left and under the letter U.
7. The indentation under the right knee of the hind leg is removed.
8. Left leg has a colored dot between the first and second claw.

20h Forgery B



Fig. 4b

1. The parallel lines are missing under the tongue which curves towards the top.
2. The ear is connected with the mane. In the genuine, it is independent.
3. The mane has five principal locks. The genuine has nine.
4. The distance of the left front paw from the knee of the right leg is much smaller.
5. The hooks of the letters S, C, Z have the shape of a small curve.

6. The stems of the linden leaves do not come together.
7. The three ornamental lines in the right and left upper sides are different lengths, while in the original they are the same length.

Endnote

1. Karásek, J., Kvasnička, Z., Paulíček, B. : *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939, 1st edition, 1963, pp. 352-364.*

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) Journal Mar/Apr 2018 with the permission of the author and editor].



*** BOOK AUCTION ***

We recently received a number of books from members that you may have an interest in. Many of these are out of print and difficult to find.

In order to make it fair to all of our members, we are making this an auction. The price that is indicated is a beginning price, and for our members, includes mailing. Contact our Book Sales Manager, James Buckner, at 706-255-6823, or wellseats@hotmail.com, or Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., Attention: James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606, with your best offer. The highest bid gets the book.

The sooner you contact James with your bid, the better. Tie bids will go to the earlier bid. Phone call bids will be recorded with the date and time of the call, e-mail bids will be recorded with the date and time on the e-mail, and postal bids will be recorded with the date of the cancel on the envelope (if unreadable, the date received). So bid early and bid high. All proceeds go to the Society.

All bids must be received by June 15, 2018, and must include: the book name; the paragraph number from this list; your best offer; name; and phone number or e-mail address. If this information is not included, the bid will be invalid.

Each book is in Czech (Cz), Slovak (Sl), or English (E), as marked. In the listing, Mono means a book from the Czechoslovak *Monografie* series, and CzSl means Czechoslovak. [If more information about a specific book is required, contact Lou Svoboda at 303-680-7118 Lousvoboda@comcast.net.] These are previously used books in good condition.

1. Mono #1 -- Revolutionary/Transitional Period, Hradčany 1918-1920 (Cz) -- \$75
2. Mono #2 -- Legionnaire Issue (1919) through Agriculture & Science (1923), Stationery (Cz) -- \$50
3. Mono #3 -- Postal issues 1923-1939, Stationery (Cz) -- \$50
4. Mono #4 -- Airmail, Newspaper, Postage Due, Special Delivery, Personal Delivery Stamps (1918-1939)(Cz) -- \$50
5. The previous four (Mono 1, 2, 3, and 4) -- \$200. Such a bid will take precedence, especially if one or more of the books does not have a bid on it. The decision of the Book Sales Manager is final.
6. Mono #11 -- Postal Service in the Terezín Ghetto (Cz) -- \$30

7. Mono #13 -- CzSl Postal Cancels from Previous Times until 1918 (A through O), Design Types (Cz) -- #40
8. Mono #14 -- CzSl Postal Cancels from Previous Times until 1918 (P through Z), Train, Railroad Station, Field Post, Official, Contract PO (Cz) -- \$40
9. The previous two (Mono 13, 14) -- \$75. [See info above in #5.]
10. Mono #17/I -- CzSl Postal Cancels 1919-1939 (A through Praha), Design Types (Cz) -- \$40
11. Mono #17/II -- CzSl Postal Cancels 1919-1939 (Prachatice through Z), Slovak Territory, Carpatho-Ukraine Territory, Train (Cz) -- \$40
12. The previous two (Mono 17/I, 17/II) -- \$75. [See info above in #5.]
13. Mono #20 -- Historical Development of the Names of Post Offices in the Czech Lands from 16th Century to the Present (Cz) -- \$35
14. Forgeries of the Hradčany by Šablatúra, b&w, 128pg, 1996 (Sl) -- \$15
15. Specialized Handbook for Collectors of CzSl Stamps by Novotný, b&w, 708pg, 1970 (Cz) -- \$25. For years this was the best specialized catalog on CzSl stamps.
16. Agriculture & Science 1923 by Žampach, b&w, 105pg, 1990 (Cz) -- \$10. Specialized handbook on this second series of this stamp with plate positions, etc.
17. Thirty Years of CzSl Postage Stamps 1918-1948 by Hirsch, b&w (with 12 page plates in color showing the stamps), 124pg, 1949 (Cz) -- \$10
18. Collection of Articles on Aerophilately by Zrubec et al, b&w, 164pg, 1983 (Sl) -- \$25. Includes CSA First Flights and their special cancels, aerograms/pigeongrams, airmail return cards, airmail surcharges for Czechoslovakia 1922-1939 and to various countries around the world 1930-1939.
19. Collection of Articles on CzSl Stamps, Vol. 1 (1987, 76pg), Vol. 3 (1989, 64pg), Vol. 4 (1990, 64pg), (Cz) -- \$25
20. Specialized Catalog of Slovak Postage Stamps and Stationery 1939-1945, 1993-1997, color, 128pf, ZSF 1997 (Sl) -- \$20
21. Fiscal Valuables in the CzSl Lands, CzSl 1918-1992, Boh&Mor 1939-1945, Slovakia 1939-1945 by Kořínek -- \$50 for set of two
-- Vol. I, Fiscal Stamps (revenue, tax, rate), b&w, 128pg, 1997 (Cz)
-- Vol. II, Fiscal Entires, b&w, 232pg, 1998 (Cz)
22. Czechoslovakia Revenues, 1st Ed. by J. Barefoot Ltd, b&w, 55pg, 2001 (E) -- \$25
23. *Czechoslovak Heritage Series*, 1984 - 1991 (E) -- Individual volume/number available at \$3 each. Additional information about this series can be found at the end of the Library Column of this issue of the *Specialist*.
-- Vol. 1 / #1 - 4
-- Vol. 2 / #1 - 4
-- Vol. 3 / #2 - 3
-- Vol. 4 / #1 - 3
-- Vol. 5 / #3 - 4
-- Vol. 6 / #1 - 4
-- Vol. 7 / #1 - 4
-- Vol. 8 / #1 - 4
24. *Prague, A Cultural History* by Burton, Interlink Books, b&w, 243pg, 2009 (E)

25. *The Making of a State, Memories and Observations 1914-1918* by T.G. Masaryk, Ishi Press Intern., b&w, 518pg, 2009 (1927) (E) -- \$15
26. *Talks with T.G. Masaryk* by Karel Čapek (trans. Heim), Catbird Press, b&w, 256pg, 1995 (E) -- \$10
27. *The Masaryks, The Making of Czechoslovakia* by Zeman, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, b&w, 230pg, 1976 (E) -- \$10
28. Bound volumes of the *Specialist*. \$5 each.
 -- 2009-2010
 -- 2013-2014
 -- 2015-2016



THE KOŠICE ISSUE

by **Karel Holoubek**
 trans. by **Robert Hill**
Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Under the Košice Issue name the majority of Czech and foreign philatelists present a series of seven stamps and one miniature sheet -- which Lehovec in his first post-war catalog of 1946 gave them this name and incorporated them under CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Subsequent authors have copied him starting with Trojan and ending with Beneš. To this day, the Košice issues are always listed as the first stamps issued by the Czechoslovak Post after the end of WW II, even though today we already know that history has proven this not to be true. However, let us look at them more thoroughly and from several viewpoints. Perhaps the authors and catalog publishers of subsequent annuals will recognize that historical truth speaks entirely differently. Several publications have come out about this series, which will be listed at the conclusion.

Before I get into a detailed description of the actions and events in Košice, I have to point out that Košice was not the first Slovak city liberated in this war -- it was the fourth. The Ukrainian Front advanced from the east through Rudohorím, and from another direction -- together with Romanian troops from the south, the Hungarian plain -- such that from these directions some border cities of Slovakia were liberated earlier -- to be exact, Rimavská Sobota already in 1944 and Rožňava in January 1945. In these cities the liberation was celebrated with the issuance of their own local postage stamps, we can find as an example the one from Chust with its overprints. Records exist that these were postally used, and the remainder of the unsold stamps ended up in the Economics Accounting Department in Košice.

Now to those Košice items

As the first thing, I will present several dates for review. The first and most important one is that on **January 19, 1945** when the Soviet units of the IVth Ukrainian Front and the 237th Rifle Division arrived at the Hungarian city of KASSA. At that time the originally named Slovak city of Košice was officially

named Kassa, in accordance with the decision of the 1st Vienna Award of **November 2, 1938**, coupled with the ceding of southern Slovak borderland sections to the Kingdom of Hungary. At that time there were about 80,000 inhabitants of varied national composition. The Czech minority came to Košice during the years of the First Republic. The occupation by Hungarians took place quickly and thoroughly. Very vigorously all Slovak officials of whatever kind were driven out and replaced with inhabitants of Hungarian nationality -- this applied to postal officials also. As a result the number of inhabitants dropped by about a third.

Immediately after liberation and the end of the fighting, bickering began over the administration of the city between the Hungarian city administrators and the former Slovak officials who had been driven out. Not until **January 21, 1945** when the soldiers of the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps came to Košice did the conflict end. Not until that day can we say that Košice was definitely liberated. On the basis of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty of December 12, 1943, they had the support of the Russian command -- to be exact, the Political Commissar of the staff Leonid Brežnev.

In Košice -- from the beginning of February -- the Czechoslovak government delegation was the authorized ministry of Germans and exiled Ukrainian separatists. But the Slovaks ignored the delegation, and the Slovak National Council (SNR) did not allow any activities stemming from its authority! The SNR had brought with them from Chust the remainder of the overprinted stamps -- consequently, truly the first Czechoslovak stamps -- and handed them over to the local postal administration. Correspondence from Košice is known to contain them.

That Czechoslovakia was re-established in the pre-war configuration was corroborated on **April 5, 1945** at negotiations in Košice between the delegations of the exiled government in London headed by Dr. Beneš, the Moscow Social Democrats led by Fierlinger, the Czechoslovak Communists led by Gottwald, all together with a delegation from the SNR, led at that time by Husák. The negotiations did not have a Czech representative present! This was corrected during the later so-called Praga negotiations. The Slovaks used their current advantageous position, but did not keep in mind that there existed a different part of the republic, where meanwhile the situation was different (it was only April 1945!). For the descendants of the Slovak State, it was important for them to immediately engage with the Czechoslovaks in fighting the Germans, because the Slovak State was still on a war footing not only with the Soviets, but also with the Western Allies, and as a loser state would have to pay reparations.

By **January 30, 1945** the SNR administration had occupied not only the cities and Košice region, but also appropriated the gradually liberated parts of Slovakia. To this end, on 7 February was named, as its executive body, the single departmental commissioner Dr. Vladimír Slávik for transportation, public works and post. The leadership of the department for posts was entrusted to Frant. M. Komzala, who published the first postal circulars. One of his first steps, through which he wrote himself into history, was that he charged the local printer **WIKO** with the task -- within 48 hours -- to ensure the printing of new stamps. But, while we do not know when this actually happened, the preparations (let alone the actual printing) must have started much earlier. Today we know how many and what steps must precede the preparation for offset printing before we get to the

commencement of the printing itself, so we can estimate the length of time needed. But this does not take into account the total number of issued stamps as reported in the catalogs. Komzala specified not only the idea the stamps were to render, but also specified what values they were to have (see below), whereby bringing confusion into the current Slovak rates. In a third decree he orders the renewal of the postal service, at first only for official use. Not until Circular 11 does he allow for private use, phases in cash payment, and censorship.

In Circular 16, issued March 23, 1945 in Košice, the commissioner writes that on **March 26, 1945** would be sent out -- by the authority of the official post office -- new stamps with values of 2, 5, and 6 K having a picture of a Soviet soldier, the State coat of arms, and at the bottom in a dark silhouette of the town the white inscription ČESKOSLOVENSKO. (Fig. 1) Obviously then on March 23, 1945 there were not sufficient



Figure 1: Stamps issued March 26, 1945 in Košice

numbers of those three first issues in the post office stock. So this is why the distribution was postponed until March 26, 1945. At the same time the commissioner specified for which postal transaction each individual value was designated (see below). These were the values which the post office needed the most. At that moment, these were the stamps suitable only for local postage in Košice and the Košice region. They could not get anywhere else, because the connections did not exist. We could maybe presume that they came from the WIKO printer, because the author of these stamps is indicated as THEIR employee Leo Gajdzica, who knew the preparation techniques and printing of such stamps very well. The stamps are known in an unusual printing sheet form of 240 stamps, arranged on the sheet in four blocks separated by blank rows -- later defined as gutter pairs [meziarší].(Fig. 2) The size of the printing sheet was driven by the specifications of the printing press, and the desire to use its maximum capacity. As a model for the printing plates of the other stamps (which had the same image of a head), they always used the four block form of the 2 K stamp, upon which they only changed the value number. And so, the stamps of the subsequent values repeated the same errors which the “mother design” had.

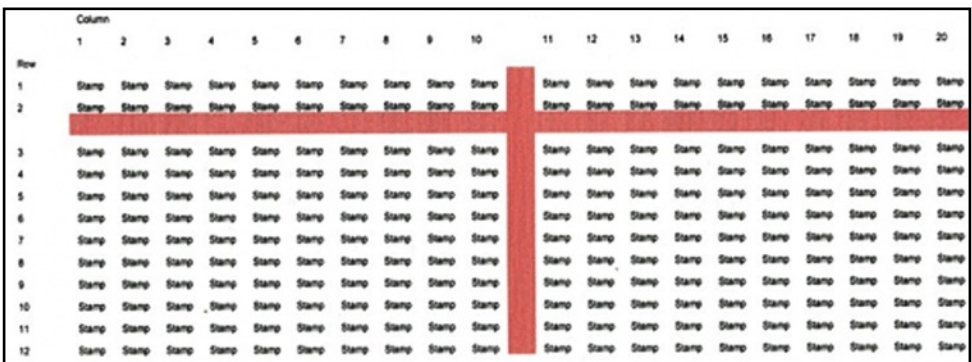


Figure 2: Sheet layout

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It was exactly this unusual arrangement of the printing plate that made possible the generation of modern rarities of Czechoslovak stamps. They are the gutter pairs, horizontal or vertical, which occur between those blocks of stamps, and the crown rarity is the complete cross of these pairs -- here, collectors differentiate between small or big (Fig. 3). These originated from entirely practical reasons during the assembly of the printing plates. Many of the gutter pairs are known and are located in collections, precisely among a group of these stamps. Many of the entire printing sheets had to be cut up for the expediency of the post offices.

The other values of 9, 13, and 20 K do not have any practical use, they were issued on **April 2, 1945** (Fig. 4). For them a different design was used -- hands shaking, -- just as it is for the 1.50 K value which was not issued until May 9 (Fig. 5). With it the commissioner is returning to the original Slovak postal rate.



Figure 4: Stamps issued April 2, 1945 in Košice

again to suppose that the preparation of the printing proceeded from WIKO. Today, according to the recollections of Jiří Gregor, at that time an employee of WIKO, and spokesman Dr. Pastuszek, we know that for the printing of the stamps in Košice an additional printer, ATHENEUM, was used due to the requirement of the requested very short deadline. This printer also had equipment admittedly for the same kind of printing (offset), but had a printing surface of a different size and that was from a different manufacturer,

and just then did not have an automatic loader of fresh paper. In order to make use of the entire printing surface, it required a sheet with an analogous set up of stamps having two blocks with 100 + 20 stamps, once again divided by a gutter measuring 19 mm -- already used before. Philatelists have known from the beginning that there existed two sizes of printing sheets, and this is the subject of



Figure 3: Example of meziarší from 2 K sheet

With it the commissioner is returning to the original Slovak postal rate. The second stamp series was designed by Ján Gajzar, a post office employee, who prepared it for printing, and on the printing plate he overwrote the name Leo Gajdzica. The "mother design" for the values of this stamp was the drawing of the 20 K stamp -- only the value labels had to be changed for the others. The size of the image on the stamps is the same, except that one image is vertical and the other is horizontal -- even the gutters are the same size. This leads us



Figure 5: Stamp issued May 9, 1945

guesses as to why this was so. In either case, only one printing plate existed for the printing of each value. Neither of the named companies had any experience with printing stamps, and neither had perforation equipment, only laths for row rouletting.

V. Štajner in his article writes something different. According to him, the “map” [clasping hands] printing sheet had the same dimensions but included two counter sheets of *ten lines of twelve stamps*, which at the printers were immediately separated. There is still no agreement about the size and layout of the printing sheets. There was only an opinion formed that they were developed together with the WIKO printer. Today, the existence of the two kinds of gutters is exactly the fact that helps us to identify the two sheets.

During the printing there also appeared a problem with the supply of all of the materials, gummed paper, and colors of ink. The printer’s supplies were exhausted, so they printed on and with what they had. As a result, specialists today distinguish not only different paper color, content, and structure, also gum color, and especially color shades. How many and which of these occurred depended only on how many were laid on the platen. Here they got help from auto transport of the Czechoslovak Army, which brought in paper from the paper mills in Slavošovice and even Rimavská Sobota.

The values of the stamps were precisely as the postal representative specified, though not answering to any postal rate of the time in Slovakia, let alone Hungary.

He specified that:

- the 2 K value was for a letter up to 20g
- the 5 K value was for express delivery
- the 6 K value was for a registered letter
- the 9 K value was for a registered letter sent for express delivery

and with the other values 13 K and 20 K, it was not clear for what use they were specified, probably for packages. The contemporary Slovak table for letter consignments begins with a weight of 20g, distinguishes for us unknown local and distant places and was 1.50 K for both kinds, and there were no differences until additional weight steps were added.

If postal connections existed, they were restricted by combat conditions, but despite this there was great interest in the post. At first the postal representative permitted official consignments and then later private ones, which were paid in cash according to the old Slovak postal rate of 1.50 K. Thus emerged the need for that seventh stamp. Which design was the most appropriate for the inclusion of such a long value – as well as the designation of currency? It’s the second design (hands), only the values in the corners needed to be changed!

Currency

In the Kassa of those days (1938), the currency in circulation was Hungarian, exactly as on Hungarian stamps, and also exactly like in other Hungarian occupied Slovak areas. With the arrival of the liberators came also Russian rubles. In western Slovakia, German marks could also appear. It does not seem likely that those few Slovaks who were driven out, or those who did not leave after the occupation of Košice in 1938, were hiding Slovak crowns. But in other parts of Slovakia the inhabitants possessed and used those Slovak ones simultaneously. So which currency did the commissioner call for or expect? When did he allow the letter K to be drawn into the design of the stamp???

On September 20, 1945 in Postal Gazette #21, the Prague Ministry of Posts announced that on September 25 in the Czech and Moravian-Silesian lands they would put into circulation the stamps which the SNR representatives issued -- only six values, and that on May 9 they had already put out the supplementing 1.50 K value -- that seventh one. So that in the Czech lands it was backwards, here the 1.50 K value was introduced earlier than the other values of this series! The fact that these stamps were already valid in Slovakia is not mentioned! However, it did say that since May 1945 several values of the Linden Leaf stamps issued by the Prague Ministry were already in service.

Thus, here we have confirmation that the Košice stamps did not have national validity until this time, and therefore they were not ČESKOSLOVENSKO stamps! They were valid progressively only in the already liberated parts of eastern Slovakia. Nowhere else!

But not until the so-called Prague Agreement of December 18, 1945 -- not effective until January 1, 1946 -- was it agreed that the central administration of the Czechoslovak post was in the Prague Ministry.

Additional Information

As soon as the Košice issue got into world catalogs, German collectors announced the resemblance between a poster and the stamps. The poster was issued for the war in 1941 by the German Reich to aid in the sale of the *Winterhilfe* charitable semi-postal stamps (MiNr 751/59) issued in 1940. (Fig. 6) The designer of the poster was J. Wüst, and it was used in Germany in 1941.



Figure 6: Poster from 1941

It is very unlikely that at that time in eastern Slovakia the German post was selling these stamps and was offering this poster. Today we can see that there are too many details that are the same. It is a sad coincidence. Let's not take away from Leo Gajdzica's authorship.

Promised list of literature

1. Příručka, Pošta na Slovensku po Osvobození, 1958, Dr. V. Palkosky, V. Bartoně
2. Filatelistická Příručka, c. 3, POFIS, 1959, Miloš Muller, Ing. Klement Ptačovský
3. Zakarpatská Ukrajina, společně studdii, Pardubice and Brno philatelic clubs, 1968, Františka Táborského
4. Speciální Příručku pro Sběratele, Nakladatelství Ministerstva Opravy a Spojů, 1970, Ladislav Novotný
5. Tiskové listy Košických známek, article, Filatelie #11, 1971, Kuldy and Pešák
6. History of the city of Kassa, study, 1972, Štefan Kassay, Belo Pászor
7. Příručka k 20th výročí založení SČF, 1988, collective of authors
8. Zakarpatsko, 20th Příručku, 1989, SČF, Miroslav Bláha

I should not forget to name the newest articles:

9. 70 Rokov od Vydania Košických Znáмок, 2017, Jàn Marenčík. And lecture by Dr. František Pastuszek: Vzpomínky Jiřího Gregora
10. Košické známky -- sedmdesátileté, article, Filatelie #5, pg16/17, 2015, Václav Štajner, in which he mentions other articles of Jaroslav Paulov
11. The works of the Vychronov father and son which no one knows about because they only exist in an electronic form.

Reports and Responses

STOLEN RARITY -- THE STORY CONTINUES (2)

trans. by Lucie Harris

In this year's October issue, we published information about the surprising appearance of the 4 K Pošta Československá (PČ) 1919 stamp on granite paper -- it is an item repeatedly published as stolen in 1991 from the exhibit of Dutch exhibitor J.L. Klein at the World Exhibition of Postage Stamps PHILANIPPON in Tokyo. There were many responses to the article. We will now get familiar with some of them.

We will start with a request by L. Pytliček's lawyer to print his answer:

"The 4 K stamp on granite paper overprinted PČ 1919 mentioned in an article in the magazine *Filatelie* 10/2017 was submitted into a Burda auction last year and was purchased from Mr. J.L. Klein of Holland on April 11, 1991 -- that is, before the exhibition PHILANIPPON 91 was held. The purchase took place on April 11, 1991 when I met with Mr. Klein in Rotterdam. The stamp is in my possession from that date, and therefore, it could not have been exhibited or more precisely stolen from the exhibition in Tokyo. The meeting on April 11, 1991 was preceded by lengthy mutual written correspondence with Mr Klein in the time period of April 1990 - April 1991. Among other things, the correspondence shows that Mr. Klein was at the time of the sale the owner of two 4 K overprinted PČ 1919 stamps. When I purchased the stamp in Rotterdam, Mr. Klein gave me not only the stamp, but also certificates of authenticity that I still have to this day along with the stamp at my disposal. They are the following certificates: an original Hefr BPP, a Karásek AIJP, a Mrňák copy, an examination of genuineness by Mrňák, Karásek, Hefr, and Kesler. It follows from this that my stamp is not the one stolen in Tokyo, because I would not have these certificates received directly from Mr. Klein in my disposition. Lubomír [sic Ludvík] Pytlicek, Semily"

The author of the letters in the October issue, B. Klein, has told us he insists on his claims and has nothing to change in them.

We asked lawyer JUDr. Petr Folprecht -- who is also a philatelic expert -- for his legal opinion of the matter. He wrote to us:

"As requested by *Filatelie* magazine, I familiarized myself with the request of L. Pytliček's legal representative to publish his answer in *Filatelie* magazine as a reaction to the article 'Stolen Rarity -- The Story Continues' published in *Filatelie* 10/2017. The article is about the theft of two of the rarest Czechoslovak stamps -- the 4 K PČ 1919 on granite paper and the 50/50 Postage Due overprint error from J.L. Klein's exhibit at the World Exhibition of Postage Stamps PHILANIPPON 1991 in Tokyo in 1991. After careful study of the stated material, I would like to say the following.

On the one side there is the claim of J.L. Klein's son, B. Klein, published in *Filatelie* 10/2017 that L. Pytliček is absolutely lying about buying the 4 K PČ 1919 on granite paper stamp from his father.

On the other side there is L. Pytliček's claim that he bought the above-mentioned 4 K PČ 1919 stamp on granite paper from J.L. Klein on April 11, 1991 in Rotterdam, and since then it is a stamp in his possession.

On the main CT1 television program broadcast on Sunday, September 25, 2017 at 7:30 pm, L. Pytliček said: "... I purchased the stamp -- in fact, I exchanged it -- plus I paid him some money ...". In his answer, which he asks to be published, he only says he purchased the stamp.

If L. Pytliček claims he purchased the stamp from J.L. Klein, then in this situation it would be desirable to show authentic documents of the purchase of this stamp, especially the purchase contract, confirmation of money paid, and so forth. If L. Pytliček claims he also has **certificates** of authenticity that J.L. Klein gave him that are connected with the stamp, then he should also **produce the originals**. He should provide the extensive mutual written correspondence between himself and J.L. Klein for the time period from April 1990 to April 1991 that he mentions in his statement.

Besides B. Klein's statement in *Filatelie 10/2017* is printed Ing. Jan Karásek's article that was published in *Filatelie 4/1992* that describes the circumstances of the theft of both of the above mentioned stamps. Besides this article there were pictures of advertisements shown that were published in the magazines *Merkur-Revue 3/1996* and *Czechout* from 2011. In these advertisements are shown both stamps (4 K PČ and 50/50 Postage Due overprint error) with the information that they were stolen at the World Exhibition in Tokyo and had not yet been found. Why then didn't L. Pytliček at that time **speak up** to say he **purchased** the 4 K PČ 1919 from J.L. Klein?

Then the question arises of why L. Pytliček **did not show** the 4 K PČ 1919 stamp in his book from 2008, *The Rarest Czechoslovak Postage Stamps in the Collection of L. Pytliček*?

In conclusion it is necessary to say that documents and an explanation of unclear facts mentioned above should be produced by L. Pytliček in his own interest to support his claims."

P. Kryl from Blansko sent us his observation on the subject stamp: "In J. Karásek's book, *Czechoslovak Postage Stamps and their Forgeries*, from 1998 on pages 11 and 15 are shown both stamps (4 K PČ 1919 on granite paper and 50/50 Postage Due), and it clearly states they are from J.L. Klein's collection. When I compared them with those published in *Filatelie*, the overprints don't match with the sought after ones. Either the pictures in the book are just illustrative or Mr. Klein owned more than one. Or?" The answer is simple, he owned more than one. Those are stamps J.L. Klein purchased in 1991 to compensate for the two he lost. Karásek's book was published seven years later.

We also received a reaction from **Jaroslav J. Verner** fellow countrymen and long-time philatelic functionary in the USA, who -- via intermediary Jiří Majer -- alerted us to his statement published back on page 36 of the April 2004 issue of *Filatelie*: "The management board of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) in the USA in their meeting on November 12, 1998 expelled Ludvík Pytliček from our Society for unethical behavior to other members of the SCP that he sold forgeries to. When it was discovered, he refused to return the money. It was a large-scale loss -- forged Czechoslovak airmail letters with airmail stamps from the

first issue, forged postal stationery bearing stamps with the overprint “Arrival of President Masaryk”, and many others.”

B. Klein alerted foreign collectors of Czechoslovak stamps about this whole matter. Many of them knew his father very well. He also warned philatelic merchants and auction houses, as well as the Club Monte Carlo. Some of them reacted with the information that L. Pytlíček had sold forgeries to them also. One of them was, for example, a representative of the renowned Swiss Feldman auction house, but also individual collectors and investors. A collector and investor even came directly to the *Filatelie* office. In years past, L. Pytlíček had sold her a partially forged American Columbus series (forged gum and re-perforation of some high values) for many hundreds of thousands of Crowns. It was based on his own false expert opinion that he issued as a court appointed expert, even though he was never named as having the profession of authenticating or grading philatelic items. She brought all of the documents and stamps with her.

Based on this collection of information, B. Klein called the Club Monte Carlo that they should consider carefully the membership of Pytlíček at their upcoming meeting during the MONACOPHIL exhibition. At the end of November, he then forwarded to us the Club Monte Carlo's chairman Masalise's notification that L. Pytlíček has resigned his membership in this renowned club . . .

Selections from articles on pages 34-37 of *Filatelie* 4/2004 dealing with the activities of L.P.

L. P. Acting Like an Expert in Stamp Authenticity

In *Filatelie* 1/04 we pointed out among other things that the seller of the mentioned forgeries, L. Pytlíček, is not only a known exhibitor, “but in the Czech Republic and abroad professed in public to be also an expert in the authenticity of postage stamps”. The well-known **MUDr. Bedřich Helm from Klatovy**, a member of the board of SČF reacted with the statement: I am sending you a copy of a photo-certificate of authenticity, issued by L. Pytlíček as a court appointed expert on March 5, 1991 (Fig. 1). The certificate establishes that L. Pytlíček without justification professes himself to be an expert in the authenticity of stamps for at least 13(!) years even though he is neither a philatelic union nor judicial expert in this field. This is evident from a reply to my inquiry to the Regional Court in Hradec Králové regarding the expertization activities of Mr. Pytlíček that I am attaching (Fig. 2). At the same time, he is mentioned as an expert in the auction catalog of the Klim company (‘zk. Pytlíček’ or ‘certificate Pytlíček’) from April 2003 more than 20 times. He presents himself as an expert also in the Feldman auction catalog from Switzerland, the Deider from Munich, and many others. Of course, in this way his behavior misleads the collecting public, which is totally unacceptable to the SČF board members. Equally unacceptable is that he is dealing in the sale of forgeries -- and on a large scale -- as is evident from the articles published lately in the philatelic press.

Forged Certificates of Expert R. Gilbert

In 2001 in auctions here and abroad appeared rare, real and forged certificates of R. Gilbert. It was discovered that at least some of them were put up for auction by Mr. L. Pytlíček from Semily. *Filatelie* 7/2001 informed about the occurrence of



Fig. 1

these forged certificates. After the article was published, it was shown that a large quantity of forged certificates had occurred.

From an open letter from L. Pytlíček of June 5, 2001 (therefore even before the article was published in *Filatelie*) addressed to experts J. Karásek and P. Pittermann, it is evident that Mr. Pytlíček truly made these certificates himself namely in a large quantity -- literally he says here that he made over 100 pieces personally!

L. Pytlíček's claim that expert Gilbert charged him to do so is blatantly false. On the one hand, it completely contradicts the decades long (and commonly known) practice of this expert, and on the other especially because these certificates were obviously made after R. Gilbert's death. At the same time, forgeries for hundreds of thousands [in sales] were sold with these forged certificates. For example, the so-called

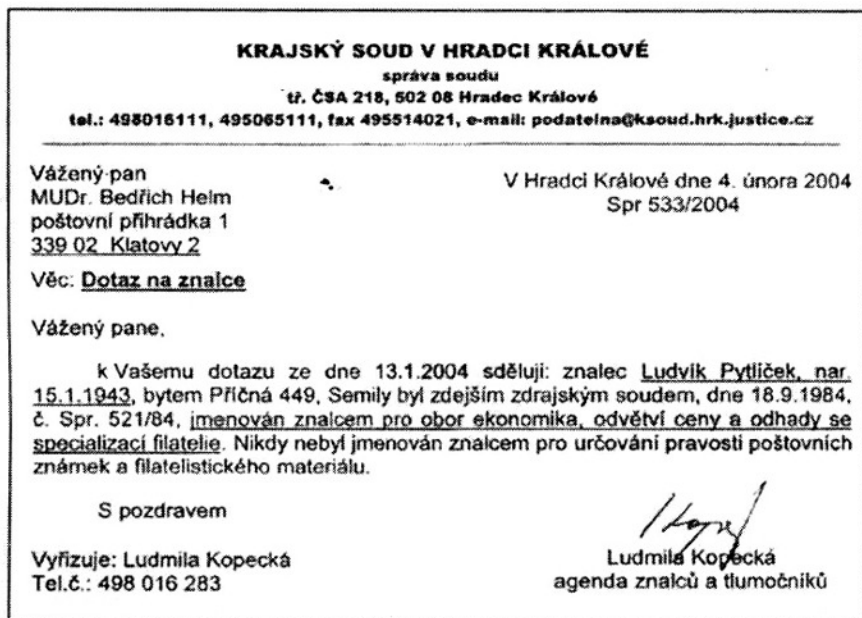


Fig. 2

postmarked Heydrich miniature sheet in reality was an unused miniature sheet without gum with a subsequently applied postmark that was offered in a Feldman auction in 2001 for CZK 450,000 (after conversion).

An Excerpt from a Letter of L. Pytlíček

But let's return to Gilbert's certificates. The largest number of them I have are written by him and with his typewriter. But I wanted all of them to have certificates. The professor offered me the opportunity -- since he did not have a secretary for writing certificates, and that his hand hurts from expertization, etc. -- to write my own certificates according to the attached sample myself (of course only for the stamps that had his Gilbert mark). He put certificates written in this way along with the original stamp into an envelope together with an attached photo of the certificate and brought it by the following Sunday to me at the Novak family. I have done about 100 certificates this way, of course for significantly lower expenses since a philatelist never has enough for this. I typed the certificates on a typewriter *konsul* thinking that this would never ever be suspicious in the future.

[*Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Filatelie 12/2017 with the permission of the editor and author. The content of this article does not reflect any official opinions of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the article lie entirely with the authors.*]



Book Review

CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1940

by **Richard Beith**
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
Monograph 30

With the publication of this Monograph, Richard Beith has completed his trilogy of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in France and Britain during World War II. Monograph 26, *Free Czechoslovak Forces in France 1939-40* covered the period immediately before this study, while Monograph 27, *The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in France and their return home* follows them to the end of the war.

The book is in two separate parts, the first being *The Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile in the United Kingdom*, while the second is *Czechoslovaks in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve*. The first part commences with a detailed historical background as to how the Czechoslovaks came to be in Britain. It thoroughly explains the uncomfortable position both sides must have felt when they found themselves side by side, with the Czechoslovaks essentially fighting to help save Britain, the very country that had helped stab them in the back and brought about the temporary dismemberment of Czechoslovakia only a few years earlier.

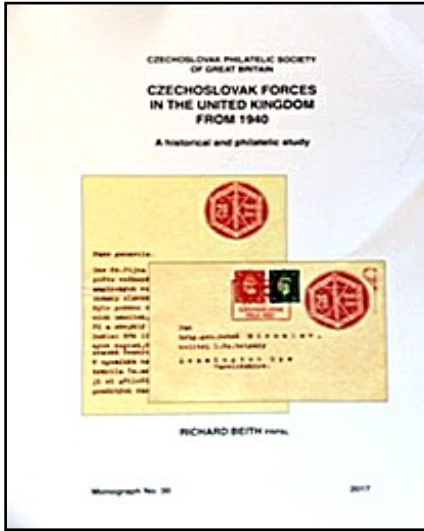


Fig. 1

Following this extremely interesting historical discussion we come to the majority of the book, which has incredibly detailed coverage of all aspects of postal activities while the Czechoslovaks were based in Britain. The illustrations are particularly well chosen and are exceptional in quality. Postmarks, covers, cards, and censorship issues have comprehensive coverage. Particularly interesting were sections on rarely discussed subjects such as mail from “the Spaniards,” who were actually Czechs who had fought in the Spanish Civil War and were interned in Britain at the request of Dr. Beneš. The appendixes and bibliography sections are wonderfully detailed and can quite easily lead you to other avenues of research, both philatelic and historical.

This is an absolutely essential volume to possess if you have interests in this area of Czechoslovak philately and together with the other two volumes of the trilogy give you a complete view of postal arrangements with the Czechoslovak forces throughout World War II.

This publication, along with the other two related Monographs, are available from James Buckner, our book sales manager, whose contact information is to be found at the bottom of page 43 of this journal.

160 pages, 8”x 11”, period photographs b/w, illustrations in color, soft cover. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2017. ISBN 978-0-9553682-9-5. (\$32.00)

**STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE
CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA,
(INCLUDING CZECHOSLOVAKIA)
1ST EDITION**

A brief review of the only other major catalog in English besides Scott. This volume is special as it is the first time that Stanley Gibbons have separated Czech and Slovak stamps from Poland. It is better than Scott in many ways, particularly with the standard of presentation. It’s a real book with excellent quality paper, and a design style that makes it a lot less cramped and more readable. A major disadvantage is that the prices given are in British pounds. Another key shortcoming (to me) is that lengthy series, such as definitives, that are sometimes issued years apart are all shown together with the first one issued, rather than listed and numbered chronologically by date of issue. Scott does the same of course. If you want a quality catalog in English this is for you. If you require even more information and detail then, even if your Czech or Slovak is poor, the POFIS catalogs are far superior.

202 pages, 6 ½” x 9 ½”, illustrations in color, soft cover. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London and Ringwood, England, ISBN 978-0-85259-999-0. £27.95 (approx. \$40).

Keith Hart

Library – Shhhhhhhhh!

DVD's -- There are a number of DVD's available for you to borrow free from the Library. You can keep them for up to 10 weeks, and the only cost is for you to pay for their mailing to you and back to the Library.

Here is what is currently available:

-- A narrative and pictorial description of all the aspects of Czechoslovak stamp collecting in three varieties -- a Power Point presentation which runs itself with narrative included, a variety where you change the images that have the narrative presented on each image, and a variety where you change the images while reading the narrative to the audience.

-- Valerie Kramer's Revenue Stamp Collection -- Czechoslovak, Slovak, Bohemia & Moravia

-- Valerie Kramer's Czechoslovak Documents Bearing Revenue Stamps Collection

-- A DVD showing an accumulation of Czechoslovak revenue and tax stamps that are for sale.

But soon there will also be a new one which contains the over 200 exhibit page display of art that was produced by Czechoslovak and world artists or is on display on locations in the Czech and Slovak Republics, and that can be found on Czechoslovak, Czech, and Slovak stamps. Each is described as to its development and history. The display was produced by our former member and extensive contributor of articles on art, Gerald van Zanten, who passed away a few years ago.

But I have a question. Many of the newer computers no longer come with the capability to play DVD's. But almost all of them have a port where you can plug in a thumb drive. So would it be better to produce these products on thumb drives rather than DVD's? Please let us know.

Czechoslovak Heritage series -- Our older members may remember this series put out by the Chicagoland Philatelic Society in the 1984-1991 time frame. There were 4 issues a year for a total of 32 issues (a couple were joint). The issues are about the same size as the Specialist.

The first one states on its cover:

“RESOLUTION -- WHEREAS, the Chicagoland Philatelic Society is incorporated for the purpose of promoting Czechoslovak philately, history, culture and pride in Czechoslovak heritage, and WHEREAS, there is no current philatelic publication that fulfills these aims, the Board of Directors of the Chicagoland Philatelic Society has resolved to fill this void by publishing a journal which promotes Czechoslovak culture, especially as it correlates with Czechoslovak philately.”

It is an amazing source of information on history, culture, castles, stamps, etc., of the Czechoslovak region. It is also the source of the series of articles that ran in the Specialist by Jane Sterba entitled “A Philatelic Tour of Prague”. The authors were all members of our SCP -- George Kobyłka, Jane Sterba, and Charlie Chesloe.

The Library has a complete set of the series which can be borrowed. We have also come into the possession of a number of extra copies of issues which are available for purchase in case any of our members have issues missing. Contact the Librarian if you are interested.

Ludvik Svoboda

NOTES FROM ONE HUNDRED YEARS PART 2- 1968

by Keith Hart

On January 5, 1968 it suddenly seemed possible that better times were just around the corner for Communist controlled Czechoslovakia. On that day the reformist Alexander Dubček was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. This ushered in a far too brief period of political liberalization. The promised freedoms of Socialism with a Human Face, together with the decentralization of the economy were welcomed by the populace. However, these changes were never well received by the Soviet Union. Despite this, there was a renaissance, particularly in the arts. Names such as Vaclav Havel and Milan Kundera became well known for the first time throughout the world.

Tragically, the Soviet Union, after offering “negotiations” that insisted on all reforms being reversed, chose to crush the nascent attempts at democracy by invading the country on August 21. Dubček appealed for a passive resistance to the occupiers and this was largely upheld, avoiding a bloodbath. Nearly every reform was indeed overturned. The one that remained was the separation of the Czech and Slovak parts of the country into the Federal Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. Slovaks and Czechs had to wait another 21 years before the Soviet Union collapsed, allowing the Velvet Divorce to steer the two successor countries to take their places in the free world.

Incredibly the PRAGA 1968 exhibition took place amid all the upheaval and at a time when Dubček’s government was being increasingly threatened by the Soviet Union. The event took place from June 22- July 7. Yes, a 16-day event that was experienced by 306,002 paying customers (another 40,000 gained free admission). Nearly 10,000 frames of exhibits filled the hall in Julius Fučík Park, awaiting judgment from 44 jurors from 34 countries. Among those that received a small gold was a certain J.J. Verner, one of 46 Americans who exhibited.

The *Czechoslovak Specialists* of 1968 were edited by Dr. William Reiner-DDeutsch, along with an editorial board of five (J.J. Verner was one of these as well!). Many articles throughout the year had references to PRAGA 1968. Other series of articles covered Postal Cards of the 1st Czechoslovak Republic, and German Official Mail in Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945. Another interesting series was the Official List of Town Equivalents, indicating what Czech and Slovak cities/towns were known as in German and Hungarian. We need to reference such a list quite often now, as whoever would have known that Dolný Smokovec was originally Alsótátrafüred?

December’s issue (the 12th of the year) brought a review of the new POFIS catalog, which came only two years after the previous one (those were the



Fig. 1

days). They were rather gleeful at what they called “a glaring boo-boo” in the catalog. A 1.60 Kčs air mail stamp depicting an aerial view of Washington, D.C. labeled the building shown as The White House, instead of the correct US Capitol (Fig.1).

1968 was a banner year for Czechoslovak stamps. 53 stamps were issued, as besides the many special issues for PRAGA 1968 and the 50th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia, it was also an Olympic Games year, the winter games being in Grenoble and summer in Mexico City. It could even have been more. Two stamps had been prepared for the 14th Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress in August but were not issued after the Soviet invasion. Despite this, some of the unissued stamps have managed to find their way into the albums of fortunate collectors.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

February had two stamps issued for what the communists proclaimed as

the 20th anniversary of Victorious February, the coup d'état that brought them to power in 1948. One of the stamps, designed in the accepted communist style of social realism, shows workers marching beneath a red banner (Fig. 2), common imagery for this period. It was however the beginning of the end for this strident form of design, at least in Czechoslovakia. Non-conformist art was making a comeback in the Soviet Union, particularly in printed designs. This can be seen from the design for the 20th Anniversary of the World Health Organization, a slice through a head that is reminiscent of an early CT-scan (Fig. 3).

Czechoslovak stamp design at this time somehow generally transcended political ideology. The beauty of classic design can be seen in many stamps from 1968. From a Prague Castle series the miniature sheet showing a detail from a 14th century mosaic (Fig. 4) is a fine example of detail at an extremely small scale. This can also be observed in the miniature sheet issued for the 50th Anniversary of the Republic (Fig. 5). Finally, all five of the Art series of this year were examples of exemplary engraving, including Alfons Mucha's *Princess Hyacinth* (Fig. 6), another masterpiece by Jindra Schmidt.



Fig. 6

1968 might not have ended up as a great year for the Czechoslovak people, but it certainly was for Czechoslovak philately.

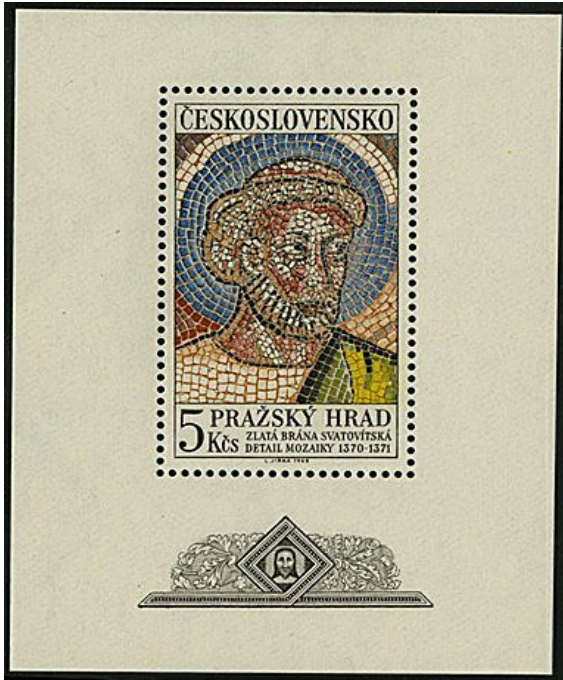


Fig. 4

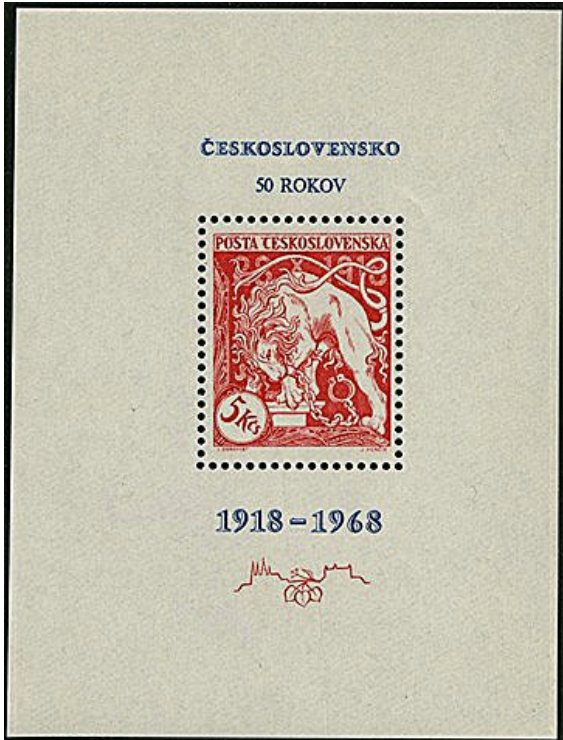


Fig. 5

Editorial

I am still waking up some mornings and wondering whether it was a dream. Am I really the editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*? Being co-editor with Lou Svoboda for just over a year has been a fast-track learning experience and it will be ongoing. I am certainly glad that Lou has decided to stay on as assistant editor because I certainly could not have a more experienced assistant available to talk over problems and content. Lou's dedication to 21 years in this job has been fantastic. The improvement in the journal is manifest by just comparing a 1996 issue to the Fall 2017 copy. There is more original content, which is always of a very high quality. The biggest visual change of course is the addition of color. I cannot imagine returning to black and white. All our thanks for this are due to the Phil Melamed Trust in honor of former member Charlie Chesloe.

Lou's amazing service for the SCP actually goes back way further than his time as editor, as he has also served time as President and Treasurer, which takes his total time in the service of SCP to over 35 years. Lou of course remains our Vice-President and a Board Member. I had a few concerns even becoming a co-editor, but Lou's ability to teach me exactly what I needed to know has been both insightful and scholarly. His amazing knowledge of Czechoslovak stamps and history has led me to learn something new every time I meet or speak to him. There will not be any major changes to *The Specialist*. You may have noticed a few minor ones in the past year and there will be continuing tinkering for sure. I am always open to any suggestions for improvement. I also need your help. Lou has a lot of projects to work up into articles and has the time to spend on these now. However, I will always require new articles and if any of you have interesting subject matter please write it up and submit it to me. Whether it takes up one page or ten, I will be very grateful to receive them. You can also submit personal items, not only the *How I Became a Collector* stories, but perhaps also something in the vein of *How I Became Involved with this Particular Specialization*.

The Society does face problems with a declining/aging membership. However I hope that *The Specialist* can inspire a younger generation to collect Czech/Slovak stamps and become new members. The respective post offices for the two countries have let standards slip a little, which is understandable with the continuing decrease in mailed items, allowing less revenue available for production. In this 'special' year for the two countries I do have to say that I was extremely disappointed by the 'A' value Mucha stamp just issued by the Czech Republic. The Hradčany stamps are so famous in the philatelic world that to see a version of it in a form where it is printed by offset seems a little sacrilegious to me. Then there is the other side of the stamp so to speak. The miniature sheet that Czech Post are going to issue in June to celebrate 100 years of Czechoslovak Stamps will remind you of the Golden Age of stamp design, even though this is ironically printed by offset as well. Hopefully the continuing reduction in the issue of engraved stamps will end and we can continue to enjoy these small works of art far into the future.

I cannot promise to be Editor for 21 years. However it is such an honor to be editor that I will carry on for as long as I can (or for as long as you want me to!). I really enjoy doing this for the SCP and trust that you will continue to enjoy reading *The Specialist* four times a year.

Keith Hart

OUR SISTER SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN WINS EUROPEAN AWARD

The *Specialist* is extremely pleased to announce that the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB) has been recognized for its Outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately in Europe. Each year the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) awards certificates to societies which have given a significant service or support to European philately. Four awards were made for the year 2017 and the CPSGB is one of them.

They had to be nominated initially by the Association of British Philatelic Societies, for which they had to supply a profile giving its reasons for nomination. This included details of their journal, *Czechout* their Monograph publications, and also print-on-demand titles. They also had to state the major exhibitions they had organized, awards obtained by the Society, and the impact the Society has had on the British community. The Society is the first in Great Britain to receive the award, following several societies in the Czech Republic who have been recognized in the past.

Such an award shows the dedication of several generations of members, not just to collect postage stamps and stationery, postal history, revenue stamps, cinderella stamps, and associated specialist fields. It also shows the willingness of those members to pass on the knowledge acquired by these activities in a scholarly way, both through exhibiting and publications. Congratulations to both current members and also past members of the CPSGB who have spent many hours of their lives promoting the delights of Czech and Slovak philately.

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@cspphilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

CZECHOSLOVAK PAQUEBOAT COVER

by Richard G. Palaschak

Several years ago, while perusing a dealer's stock of Czechoslovak stationery, an attractive cover (Fig. 1) caught my eye. Having no idea at the time how a letter franked with Czechoslovak stamps ended up with a Chinese postal cancellation, it was a research challenge that I couldn't pass up, so I purchased it.



Fig. 1

My first goal was to learn some information about the “M/S Karlovy Vary” cancellation. The motor ship *Karlovy Vary* is a bulk carrier built in 1974 in Japan by Ishikawajima-Harima and was assigned an IMO (International Maritime Organization) number of 7379022. That IMO number follows the ship despite any ownership and name changes throughout its lifetime. For this ship, that was particularly relevant as name and ownership changes occurred numerous times. The ship was originally named the *Everray* and later the *Oromonte* (in 1980), the *Terpsichore* (1985), and from 1986 to 1996 it was registered and sailed under the Czechoslovak flag as the *Karlovy Vary* (Fig. 2). It was sold again in 1996 and renamed the *Kiriaki*. There is no current record of the ship so it is likely that it was sent to a salvage yard.

The next question to be answered was to determine the significance of the “Paqueboat” cancellation. The word Paqueboat is borrowed from the French ‘paquebot’ which can be translated as mail boat. In 1892 the term was adopted for

general use by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in an international agreement about Ship Mail, French being the world's official postal language. Simply put, the UPU decided that if you are on the high seas and outside territorial waters, the deck you are standing on is the sovereign territory of the country under which flag the ship sails. That also means that when a ship enters a harbor, the mail should be able to be handed over to the local post office at that harbor, in whatever country, and the mail should be delivered without additional charge. Therefore, mail franked with one country's stamps may have the postal cancellation of another country... and so, the Chinese cancellation on the Czechoslovak stamps on this cover. The four 1 Kčs Czechoslovak stamps pay the correct postage for an international letter in 1989.



Fig. 2

There was a note inside the envelope written in Czech. SCP Board members, Jaroslav Verner and Jaroslav Havel, translated the note inside as follows:

“Wampoa 27.1.89

Greetings from China,

We are in Wampoa-Huang-Po harbor. It is 20km from Canton. I'm sending a total of two envelopes. Two remain. I'll send those from a future stop.

*Greetings,
Lada”*

Clearly, the sailor, Lada, was aware that the combination of Czechoslovak stamps and the Chinese postal cancellation was philately desirable since he advised the addressee of four such envelopes (i.e. the two he was mailing from Wampoa and the two from a future stop). He constructed the envelope to be an attractive philatelic cover and he certainly succeeded....I purchased it! Nonetheless, the cover captures an interesting international postal agreement at an exciting political period in Czechoslovakia.

Acknowledgements:

1. The ship's photograph was taken in the port of Pasajes, Spain by photographer Fernando Casañez, date unknown.
2. Information on the ship's history was obtained a) from vessel tracing website www.vesseltracking.com, b) from ship identifying website www.shipspotting.com.
3. Information regarding UPU regulations for vessels at sea from the TPO & Seapost Society's website www.tpo-seapost.org.uk.
4. International postal rates. *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Mar/Apr 1993, p.22.

Philatelic News and Views

1. from Lou Svoboda:

Our member from Wisconsin, Robert Henak, has advised us that he is inviting members to participate and attend MILCOPEX 2018, Wisconsin's national level stamp exhibition, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 South 13th St., Milwaukee, WI on September 14-16, 2018.

This year, the United States Stamp Society will be holding their annual convention at MILCOPEX.

He welcomes all classes and levels of philatelic exhibits through the most advanced, championship-level displays, and from the mainstream to the esoteric. MILCOPEX is an APS World Series of Philately show. They accept mailed exhibits and those delivered by agents.

Check out their website at www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org for a prospectus, application, and a link to the show hotel.

If you have any questions introduce yourself to Robert R. Henak, Exhibits Chairman, henak8010@sbcglobal.net Tel: (414) 331-9301.

[Ed. Note: If you are interested, we encourage you to participate. Keep in mind that the annual SCP convention will be just two months later at CHICAGOPEX 2018 this year in November.]

2. from Keith Hart:

Following on from the item above, here is the first notification of this year's SCP convention and board meeting. CHICAGOPEX 2018 is being held at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel, 400 Park Blvd., Itaska, IL 60143. The special room rate is \$125.00 + taxes. Reservations can be made at (630) 773-4000. Please say that you are a member of SCP when placing your reservation. It takes place from November 16-18 (Friday-Sunday) with hours of 10 am - 6 pm Friday-Saturday, and 10 am - 4 pm Sunday. It is expected that our Board meeting will be on November 15. The Board hopes to see as many members as possible during the exhibition, which will have of course many exhibits and the usual bourse. Members are encouraged to enter their exhibits in competition. The cutoff date for frame exhibit entries is August 31 and for literature exhibits it is September 18 (the *Czechoslovak Specialist* will be entered). Our table will be fully manned (and I am sure occasionally womanned) and have stock from our publications list on sale. Updates on the exhibit will be available at the show's website www.chicagopex.org. I am looking forward to seeing many members there.

It is not too early to mention that our 2019 convention will be at ARIPEX 2019, held at the Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa, Arizona 85201 from February 15-17, 2019. More information regarding this event will be given in the following two *Specialists*.

3. from Keith Hart:

Driving to CHICAGOPEX 2018? On your way there, or way back, how about paying a visit to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is always extremely interesting to visit the museum anyway and this year, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of

Czechoslovakia, they have a special exhibit that will be of great interest to all of you who are enthusiasts about the Czech Legions. The exhibit is called "Guts and Glory: The War Train That Shaped a Nation." It is a multimedia exhibit which tells the story of Czech and Slovak Legions and the amazing account of their trek via railway across Siberia during World War I. The NCSML has partnered with local high school students to create both a virtual reality bakery train car and a physical replica of another train car. This exhibit can be seen from April 7 through December 31.

4. from Keith Hart:

Here is a note about three Czech-Slovak festivals in the US.

Tabor in South Dakota has its 70th annual **Czech Days** celebration on June 15-16, 2018. Free admission from 10am to 11pm on both days. This festival is synonymous with fun, music, entertainment, dancing, and traditional food. The yearly celebration keeps alive the heritage of the founders of this small community in South Dakota.

Wilson in Kansas (it is on I-70) is proud to present its **After Harvest Czech Festival** from July 27-28, 2018. There will be a host of craft and food vendors, music all day and some of the night, culminating with the Kansas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant. If that wasn't enough, just feast your eyes on the world's largest Czech Easter Egg. I have seen the egg and it is HUGE! The website www.wilsonczechfest.com will give you full details.

Wilber in Nebraska will hold its 57th annual **National Wilber Czech Festival** from August 4 through 6, 2018. From 1 pm on Friday until 7 pm on Sunday there will be a veritable feast of activities. Costume exhibits, an accordion jamboree, dancing, and the Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant are among the many fun things to do. For more information, visit www.nebraskaczechsofwilber.com. It has everything you need.

So get out on the road this summer and visit these three small towns that keep their Czech and Slovak heritage alive in a big way.



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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

1. On February 21, 2018 The Ministry of Trade and Industry for The Czech Republic issued a commemorative postage stamp in the series: Technical Monuments- The Municipal Library, Prague. The stamp is identified by the letter A (corresponds to a 19 Kč stamp at current rates) and shows the library building, with two of the statues that decorate the front (Fig. 1). Graphic design was by Jan Kavan and it was produced by PTC using multicolored offset technology in printing sheets of 50. The first public library in Prague was opened in 1891, continuing activities of libraries run by private associations. The Public Library of the Royal City of Prague was established by city council decree and was originally located in the New Town. It moved several times before finding its permanent location on the corner of Platněrská St. and Mariánské Sq. in 1903. Following the adoption of the law creating Greater Prague from

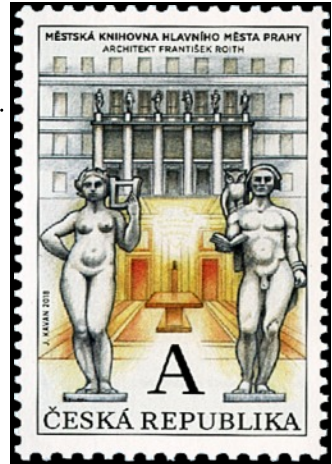


Fig. 1

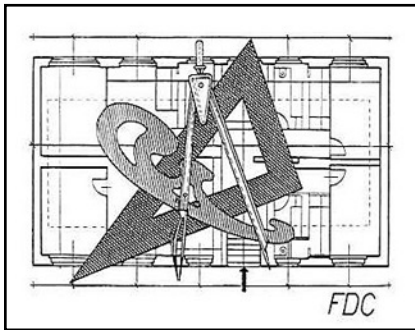


Fig. 2

39 municipalities in 1922 the council approved the merger of libraries into a single, fully centralized building. The current building, designed by František Ríth, was completed in 1928. The FDC cachet, designed by Jan Kavan and engraved by Bohumil Šneider, illustrates a ground floor blueprint of the library, covered with draftsman's tools (Fig. 2). The commemorative cancellation is a triangular design featuring an open book.

2. On February 21, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series: Personalities- Prof. František Hamza, M.D., celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth. The 20 Kč stamp shows a portrait of Hamza in front of his children's hospital (Fig. 3). The stamp and FDC were designed by Petr Minka, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň and produced by PTC using WIFAG technology in printing sheets of 50. František Hamza (1868-1930) was a doctor and writer.



Fig. 3

He graduated from the Medical Faculty of today's Charles University and worked as a town physician and later general practitioner in Luže. Because of its mountain climate the town was thought of as being favorable for the treatment of tuberculosis. In 1901 he founded a children's tuberculosis hospital and financed its activities until 1908 when it was transferred to the Czech authorities. He remained its director until 1919, assuring that children from poor families were treated for free. In the 1960s the hospital became a children's rehabilitation hospital and eventually treated adults as well. The FDC cachet has the motif of two children wearing hospital tunics from the early 20th century (Fig. 4) and the commemorative cancellation depicts two hospital beds.

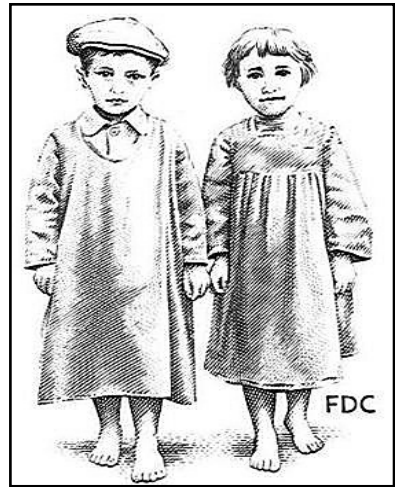


Fig. 4

3. On February 21, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative definitive stamp sheet identified by the letter A. The stamp (Fig. 5) is based on the Czechoslovakia Hradčany issue designed by Alfons Mucha as the initial production of the newly independent country. The sheet, designed by Kryštof Krejča, contains 9 stamps and 12 coupons (Fig. 6). Eight coupons show the hovering Sokol (Falcon) stamp, also designed by Mucha. Another two coupons are of the doves found in the lower corners of the Hradčany stamps. There is also a coupon with the logo of PRAGA 2018. Czech Post say that some coupon space is available for personalization ordered by customers. The sheet was produced by PTC using multicolored offset. Czechoslovakia was indeed fortunate to have such a renowned artist as Alfons Mucha design their first stamp issue. His particular style of Art Nouveau was as recognizable then as it is now. The famous lithographs from his time in Paris often depicted stunningly attractive women in diaphanous flowing dresses, within a lush surround of flowers. Their long hair swept down and into the composition as an abstract art feature. In these first stamps beautiful Hradčany has taken the place of women, while the extravagant hair like spirals of the border, the branches of linden leaves, and style of lettering give the overall composition its distinct Art Nouveau nature. Mucha, commenting on his choice of Hradčany for the first stamp, said “Ever since my boyhood I felt and saw in the architectural lines of St. Vitus Cathedral built so close to the castle, a powerful interpretation of our national symbol. I could, therefore, select no other subject for my design than Hradčany Castle and the surrounding architecture of the Middle Ages”. Czech POFIS have estimated that over one billion of the stamps were produced over the period of their issue.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

4. On February 21, 2018 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp identified by the letter 'A', to celebrate Easter. The stamp shows hands braiding a willow whip (Fig. 7), designed by Kryštof Krejča, and produced by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50. In the Czech lands there is a long tradition that on Easter Monday whips are made using either freshly sprouting or young twigs of deciduous trees, particularly willow. The whips are then used by men to whip good health into women while carols are recited or sung.



Fig. 7

5. On February 21, 2018 the Ministry issued a booklet of self-adhesive stamps representing National Symbols. The booklet, containing eight different stamps, (Fig. 8) was designed by Filip Heyduk and printed by PTC using multicolored offset. The Czech Constitution defines national symbols as official and unmistakable symbols of sovereignty. The individual symbols represented are as follows:- 1) two varieties of the Large National Emblem, which is made up of a shield divided into four fields, each representing historic Czech lands- Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, with the fourth signifying the entire Czech Republic. 2) The Small National Emblem, a red shield containing a silver two-tailed lion, ready to pounce. 3) The National Colors of white, red and blue, in this given order from top to bottom, or from left to right. 4) The National Flag, which consists of an upper white stripe and a lower red stripe, with a blue wedge between the stripes, which stretches from the flagpole towards the middle of the flag. 5) The Standard of the President, which has a large national emblem in the middle of a white field and a margin consisting of



Fig. 8

alternating white, red and blue flame-like ornamentation. The text in the red ribbon stretched between two gold linden twigs below the emblem reads *'Truth Prevails'*. 6) The National Seal which consists of the large national emblem flanked with linden twigs and the text *'Czech Republic'* in the margin. 7) The National Anthem. The lyrics are taken from the first stanza of the song *'Where is my Home'* from the Czech comedy *'Fidlovačka'* written by Josef Kajetán Tyl, with music by František Škroup.

6. On March 14, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: Historic Vehicles- Paddle Steamer *Vltava*. The stamp is identified by the letter 'A' and shows the vessel (Fig. 9) afloat on its namesake river. It was designed by Milan Bauer and produced by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50. The paddle steamer *Vltava* is the last survivor of vintage steamers who plied



Fig. 9

the river in and around Prague.

Even after a few complete refurbishments it has retained its unmistakable historic charm, making it a favorite venue for weddings and corporate events. It was launched in the Prague shipyards in 1940 as a passenger ship. By 1991 it had been rebuilt into a restaurant ship and in 2013 it was added to the list of outstanding Czech Cultural Heritage. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, shows a view of the ship seen through a porthole (Fig. 10). The commemorative cancellation depicts a ship's bell within a life buoy.

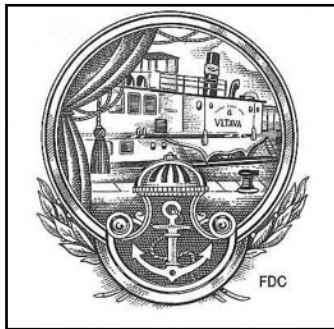


Fig. 10

7. On March 14, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: Beauties of Our Homeland- Dlouhé Stráně Hydro Power Plant. The 23 Kč stamp shows an aerial view of the plant (Fig. 11) and was designed by Adolf Absolon, with added line drawing by Martin Srb. It was produced by PTC using offset technology in printing sheets of 8. Dlouhé Stráně is in western Silesia in the NW of the Czech Republic. Located on the Desná River it has twin turbines providing 650 megawatts of electricity. Its reservoir is at an elevation of 4430ft. (1350m) and helps its main function as a pumped storage electricity plant. When there is surplus electricity in the grid (usually at night) it is used to pump water from a lower tank into the reservoir which is then used to generate electricity at times of



Fig. 11

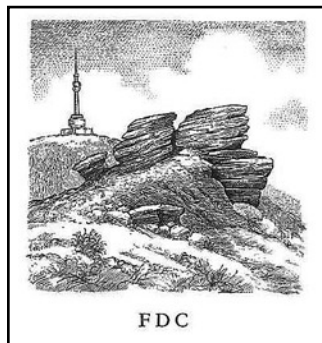


Fig. 12

peak demand. The FDC cachet was engraved by Martin Srb and shows the natural landmark of Petrovy Kameny (*Peter's Stones*), with the Praděd TV transmitter in the background (Fig. 12). The commemorative cancellation is a *Campanula Gelida*, a critically endangered flower that is a native of the area.

8. On March 14, 2018 the Ministry issued a sheet commemorating PRAGA 2018, the 7th official issue of Czech Post's own stamps. The sheet is dedicated to coaches from the collection of The Postal Museum. It contains five copies each of five



Fig. 13

different self-adhesive circular stamps alternating on the sheet (Fig. 13 shows just one of the five lines of stamps on the sheet). Stamps are identified by the letter 'E' and were produced by PTC using multicolored offset in sheets of 25. The coaches shown are 1) A landauer that belonged to Johann Adolf II, Prince of Schwarzenberg, 2) A passenger coach dating from the 19th century, 3) A Berlin carriage belonging to Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria, 4) A Victoria carriage that belonged to Princess Pauline Clémentine von Metternich-Sándor, and 5) a mail coach from Žamberk.

[Ed. note. Although this sheet is designated as one of Czech Post's 'own stamps' they have assured me that it is for sale at all Czech post offices, as well as the Postal Museum, and for collectors outside the Czech Republic at their online eShop www.ceskaposta.cz/en. It will also be available at the POFIS booth at PRAGA 2018].

9. On April 4, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Czech Design: Jan Kaplický. The stamp is identified by the letter 'E' and uses an original design sketch for the Czech National Library (Fig. 14). It was designed by Alan Záruba, engraved by Martin Srb and produced by PTC using WIFAG technology in printing sheets of 50. Jan Kaplický (1937-2009) was a visionary Czech Neofuturist architect who worked primarily in the United Kingdom following his relocation there in 1968. His architectural studio, Future Systems, was responsible for a continuing series of enlightened designs using modern construction technology to the limits. The most prestigious award in British Architecture, the Stirling Prize, was won for the 1994 Media Centre at Lord's Cricket Ground in London. His most recognized design is Selfridges Department Store in Birmingham, completed in 1999. His controversial design for The Czech National Library in



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

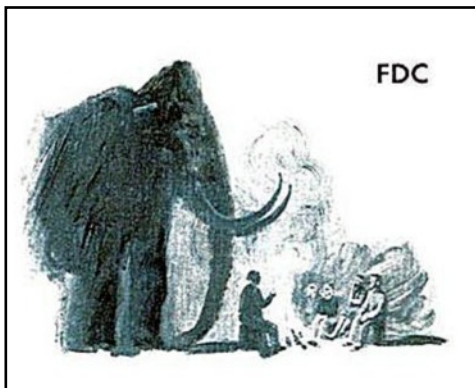


Fig. 17

Prague, affectionately known as ‘The Octopus’ or The Blob, remains unrealized at this time. The FDC cachet has the motif of a leaflet printed in support of Kaplický’s design for the Prague library (Fig. 15). The commemorative cancellation shows his initials.

10. On April 4, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Personalities: Eduard Štorch. The 19 Kč stamp portrays the face of Štorch illuminated by the light of a fire within a prehistoric cave (Fig. 16). It was designed by Zdeněk Daněk and produced by PTC using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. Eduard Štorch (1878-1959) was a teacher who liked to combine education with outside activities such as camping, swimming, and skating. He was a self-taught archaeologist who carried out archaeological surveys in Prague, and also in Lobeč. He was also a writer and journalist. The primary motif of the FDC cachet is a mammoth looming behind a group of people sitting around a fire (Fig. 17). The commemorative cancellation uses the motif of a wedge-shaped hammerstone.

Postal Stationery

11. On March 1, 2018 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to commemorate 40 years of Space Mail. The imprinted stamp designated with the letter ‘A’ shows a spacecraft circling the earth. The additional print, designed by Petr Prušek, illustrates a philatelic cover from 1978 (Fig. 18) signed by two astronauts. 3500 cards were issued.

12. On March 1, 2008 the Ministry issued a postal card to commemorate the International Stamp Exhibition-Bourse in Munich which took place from March

1-3 2018. The imprinted stamp, designated with the letter ‘E’ shows a mail coach on Charles Bridge. The additional print, designed by Jan Ungrád, is a composition mixing Bavarian architectural motifs with cultural objects such as a beer stein (Fig. 19). 2100 cards were issued.



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

New Issues

SLOVAKIA

[Eds. note: The Slovak Post Office appears to have changed printers. Most issues are now produced by a combination of Rempo, s.r.o and Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o and will be designated as Rempo/Tisk. in descriptions as seen below.]

13. On February 18, 2018 the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Communications issued a 1.45€ definitive stamp in the series: Cultural Heritage of Slovakia. The stamp shows the VÚB bank building in Mlynské nivy, Bratislava (Fig. 20) and was designed by Peter Augustovič and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. It was produced by Rempo/PTC. using KOMB technology in printing sheets of 100. In the early 1990s



Fig. 20

the Všeobecná Úverová Banka (VÚB) decided to build a new headquarters building. By 1994 they had chosen the architectural team of Ján Bahna, Lubomír Závodný, Igor Palčo and Miloš Juráni who had the project completed in 1996. The architects designed a complex containing an 88 meter (289 feet) high tower and three much lower wings occupying the corners of the site. The oval shape of the tower is accentuated at night with each floor highlighted by a narrow line of blue light. Nearly all the floors in the tower are occupied by the bank's administrative staff, including the Board of Directors. A bank branch, which is the only space open to the public, is situated in an arch-shaped wing along



Fig. 21

Patrička, with the upper floors containing the employee dining room. The smallest of the three lower wings has service premises and the entrances to the underground car park. The building received the 1997 Building of the Year award and the architects were awarded the Dušan Jurkovič Award for Architectural Design the same year. The FDC cachet illustrates a perspective view from above the whole building complex (Fig. 21) and the commemorative cancellation shows a plan view of the tower.



Fig. 22

14. On February 23, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the XII Winter Paralympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. The 1.00€ stamp depicts a visually impaired skier on the slopes with his guide, both of whom have wings (Fig. 22). The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and produced by Rempo/Tisk.

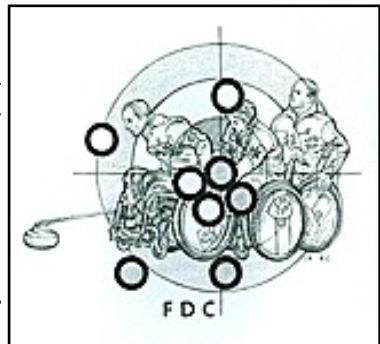


Fig. 23

using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. This year's Winter Paralympics were held from March 9th-18th and were the seventh games competed in by athletes representing the Slovak Paralympic Committee. There are great hopes that the skiers, wheelchair curling team, and hockey team will distinguish themselves, although of course it is a great honor merely to represent your country and be an Olympic athlete.

The cachet of the FDC represents wheelchair curling (Fig. 23) and the commemorative cancellation depicts a snowboard skier. A collection sheet (0.91€) designed by Igor Piačka was issued the same day with a circulation of 1500. An Ex Libris sheet (4.50€) was also issued with the same FDC cachet of curlers in their wheelchairs, the four concentric circles of the target (the house), together with eight stones. 1000 were issued in a numbered edition.



Fig. 24

15. On February 27, 2018 the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp in the series Easter: 2018: Paraments – Liturgical Textiles. The T2 50g (0.50€) stamp shows a chalice veil, featuring a pelican (Fig. 24) from the collections of the Slovak National Museum’s Museum of History. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by Rempo/Tisk.

using offset technology in printing sheets of 40. This textile artifact is a square made of white silk, featuring metallic golden threads. Its origin is unknown, although it is reminiscent of 17th century Italian and French craftsmanship. The central theme is a pelican with chicks, below a royal crown. A Christian fable dating from the 2nd century AD has the parental love of the parents feeding the young pelicans with their own blood. The cachet of the FDC is a funeral cope (Fig. 25) also from the Museum of History. It was obtained from St. Catherine’s Church in Kremnica and was made around 1830, most likely in Lyon, France. The commemorative cancellation illustrates a lamb shown on a Passion scene from a 15th century chasuble in the Spiš Museum in



Fig. 25

Levoča. A booklet containing 10 stamps was also issued the same day, as was a pictorial postal card showing the Descent from The Cross.



Fig. 26

16. On March 1, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp from the series: Personalities- Adam František Kollár (1718-1783). The 0.50€ stamp depicts a portrait of Kollár (Fig. 26) based on a painting by Jozef Hauzinger. The designer/engraver of the stamp was Jozef Česla and it was produced by Rempo/Tisk. using KOMB process in printing sheets of 8 (comprising of two groups of four stamps separated by a central coupon printed with the



Fig. 27

letter 'K'). This year marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of A.F. Kollár in Terchová. He was an important Slovak legal historian, director of the Royal Court Library in Vienna, and an Imperial Court counselor. His work in the library included a seven volume catalog. His study of oriental languages led him to be fluent in Hebrew and Turkish. His philosophy of opposing privileges of nobility, highlighting the injustices of serfdom, and divergent views on state and church powers led him to displease the Vatican who banned some of his books. The cachet of the FDC shows an image detailing the Vienna library, with a large initial hinting at his catalog work (Fig. 27). The commemorative cancellation has a detail from his personal Ex Libris.

[Eds. note. Kollár has been featured on stamps on two previous occasions. A 1952 Czechoslovak issue (Pofis 627-8, Scott 495-6) and a 1993 Slovak stamp (Pofis 12, Scott 965)].

17. On March 14, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp from the series: Personalities- Karol L. Zachar (1918-2003). The 0.70€ stamp has a head and shoulders portrait of Kollar (Fig. 28). The designer of the stamp was Marianna Žálec Varcholová and it was produced by Rempo/Tisk. using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. This year marks the centenary of Zachar's birth. He was one of the most significant and versatile Slovak theatrical personalities of the 20th century. His main work was as an actor and director, but he was also a theater set designer, costume



Fig. 28

designer and teacher. He was acting with the Slovak National Theater while still studying at The State Conservatory, Bratislava and became especially known for his portrayal of characters from Slovak and World theater classics. By 1942 he was assisting directors and after the end of the war became known primarily as a director. He continued working well into the 1980s and his productions were well known for their humanism in understanding human weaknesses in either the comic or tragic genres. He saw theater as an apolitical oasis of harmony, with a festive atmosphere and a manifestation of joy within the recklessness of the world. The FDC cachet depicts two Zachar designed costumes from theatrical productions (Fig. 29), while the commemorative cancellation shows two men in folk costume.



Fig. 29

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(E=English, Cz=Czech, Sl=Slovak, G=German, H=Hungarian)

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