



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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CHICAGOPEX 2018

This will be the final *Specialist* published before our next convention and Board meeting, to be held at CHICAGOPEX 2018 from November 16-18. The convention center and show hotel is the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel, 400 Park Blvd., Itaska, IL 60143. The special room rate is \$125 + taxes. Reservations should be made by calling (630) 773-4000. Please mention that you are an SCP member attending CHICAGOPEX when making your booking. Our annual Board meeting will take place on November 15. Members are strongly encouraged to enter their exhibits in competition. Application forms are available at the show's website www.chicagopex.org. Applications for frame exhibits must be made on or before August 31, while for literature/article exhibits it is September 18. In addition, we look forward to seeing local members who will find our tables fully stocked with items from our available publications list.

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

The forgotten method of collecting stamps -- HRADČANY WITH CANCELLATIONS

by VR
trans. by Lucie Harris

Hradčany stamps belong among the symbols of the founding of Czechoslovakia, expressing its sovereignty, and are part of our national identity. Several generations of philatelists have already fallen in love with these our first definitive postage stamps. That is to say they provide the same joy and study opportunities to be found with the classical issues, but at considerably more favorable prices. Due to this, they are available to all those who are interested in them regardless of their economic situation.

Even after nearly a hundred years since their release, Hradčany stamps are still hiding undetected secrets and unanswered questions. Maybe we will soon find out other new discoveries, after all, the study of Hradčany stamps is still very appealing, and researchers who devote a lot of time, effort and patience are in the end richly rewarded.

Not everyone however is a researcher, most collectors are focused more generally. They like our first stamps, yet they do not dig deep while collecting them. This is not for financial reasons, because the price of most used stamps is in the neighborhood of tens of hellers or a Crown. The reason is rather the complexity and variety of this issue: 26 values, different perforations, color shades, extensive and constantly changing typology, retouching, many typical plate flaws, abundant manufacturing defects, paper types, etc. In addition to the preceding, the post-war generation of diehard "Hradčaners" in particular preferred the "proper" way of collecting and studying, with the most important part being the recreation of printing plates. By this I do not mean to disparage their work, I view recreation as a basis for deep study. Rather the complexity of such an approach may discourage new collectors -- after all, every new collector would have to attend "Hradčany University" for a few years before they would have learned it all!

Is there in fact another option in how to build up a valuable collection of Hradčany stamps, one without having to learn right away to recognize the types and subtypes, individual sheet positions, and their control signs? Of course! In life there are more roads, and so even Hradčany stamps offer us more ways to collect them. That first one, mentioned above and generally known, we can perhaps call *traditional*. Another one, that is often forgotten today, we can call *aesthetic*. -- in it let's include the collecting of cancels on our first definitive stamps.

After the end of the Great War when our Republic was being formed, many problems were being solved. Although the production of these first stamps was accompanied with a lack of everything, haste, and improvisation, they were released for sale already on December 18, 1918, that is, not even two months after the new Republic was formed. In the following weeks they were speedily distributed to post offices throughout Czechoslovakia in order to express its independence and sovereignty. A much bigger problem was the replacement of the old Austrian and Hungarian cancelers that the post offices were using at that time.



Figure 1: Nationalized Velká Losenice cancel with remainders after German inscription removed.

For many reasons, such as a lack of engravers and experience, the Czechoslovak post could not handle this problem in a short period of time. Because of this the production of Czechoslovak cancelers went slowly and their gradual exchange for the old cancelers lasted sometimes even more than two years. In 1919 most of the bilingual cancelers of

Austrian origin had the German local name removed and thus formed cancels that were *nationalized* (Fig. 1). All Austrian and Hungarian cancelers used at post offices for the day of the formation of the Czechoslovak Republic we call to this day *post-war*.

A description of the types of cancels and their cataloging is presented in detail in volumes 16 and 17 of the *Monografie* of Czechoslovak stamps. The author of these monumental volumes, Emil Votoček, spent much of his life working on them, and he left his volumes to us and our successors. Collectors of other even larger nations envy us this work. Few of them have the cancels on their first stamps that well compiled as we do. In spite of that -- over the last quarter century -- their collection has received marginal collector's interest.

The diversity of Austrian cancels and the various forms of their *nationalization*, the beauty of Hungarian cancels, and the development of new Czechoslovak cancels or atypical and provisional cancels (Fig. 2,3) -- all of these, when taken in combination with the issuance of the Hradčany stamps, creates an interesting conjunction from a historic point of view and at the same time from an aesthetic point of view. The same as with our first stamps, the cancels on them also correspond to the classic period and succeed in bringing comparable joy in the eyes of many collectors.

There are many possibilities as to how to create a nice collection of



Figure 2: Atypical Chvalkovice Okr. Olomouc cancel



Figure 3: Atypical Olomouc 3 cancel

cancel on Hradčany stamps, and each person can choose how - either only the cancels of our villages and towns and their surroundings, or wider regions (for example Olomoucko), districts, historical lands, or finally a whole republic. If we choose the last option, i.e., collecting all of the cancels used on Hradčany stamps, then we have entertainment provided for the rest of our life.

In any of the above collecting choices we should definitely not succumb to the desire to fill "empty spaces" as quickly as possible -- namely, discount prices vs. strict quality requirements -- of stamps or cancels. If the stamp is on a clipping or entire, I recommend that you include in your collection only nice specimens with a complete, clear, and legible impression of the cancel. In the case of used soaked off stamps (undamaged of course), the impression of the cancel should be as complete as possible (smaller fragments can only be tolerated on very rare cancels). Much appreciated therefore are two-stamp strips or blocks on which we often find complete cancels. Very popular are stamps with complete and nicely centered



Figure 4: Old single-circle Austrian cancels ideally located on soaked-off Hradčany stamps

cancel -- for example, the old single circle cancels which can be found with some luck quite inexpensively (Fig. 4).

I had the opportunity to look through

about half a million Hradčany stamps where I found about 15,000 specimens worthy of being included in such a "canceler's" collection. Only such a small number (approx. 3%) had almost a complete and clear imprint. Even though nicely canceled Hradčany stamps do not occur a lot, nevertheless I recommend to all collectors of First Republic stamps to inspect their collection and surpluses, to look in the stores, in auctions, and on the Internet. The time is favorable for such efforts. Compared to the time period of the 20's to the 50's, interest in the collecting of used stamps has declined dramatically in our country. Of course, those stamps did not disappear to anywhere, therefore they are easily attainable -- and for incomparably cheaper prices than before. You can easily check that by reviewing the First Republic catalogs and the advertisements in philatelic magazines where the difference in prices of mint and used stamps were incomparably lower than today. Thanks to this, it is now possible to relatively cheaply build a valuable collection of cancels from the post-war period that I consider to be the most interesting in our modern history.

This is why I would like to gradually show them to the readers of *Filatelie* -- to inspire some of them and even to get them interested in this field. I consider a series of short articles to be a good way to present this. In these, I would point out rare, typological, or otherwise notable cancels. Who knows, maybe in time thanks to cancels, some of them will become Hradčany stamp's biggest fans!

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from *Filatelie* 12/2016 with the permission of the editorial staff.]

THE CURIOUS STORY OF THE PLOWMAN'S SPRING

by Keith Hart



Figure 1



Figure 2

In 1993, the newly constituted Slovak Post Office decided to carry on with the long running series of Works of Art on Stamps, started by Czechoslovakia in the 1960s. It must have seemed logical for their first art stamp to show the work of the greatest living Slovak sculptor, Jozef Kostka. What could be more appropriate?

Well appropriate or not

there was not a lot more that could have gone awry with both the original issue and the subsequent and surprising reissue three years later.

Kostka is famous for monumental sculptures of the human body, such as *The Defenders*, his memorial to the Slovak National Uprising in Bratislava (Fig. 1). His later works were even more abstract in form and the sculpture chosen for the stamp, from this late period of the 1980s, is *Jar oráča* (Plowman's Spring) (Fig. 2), from the collection of the Slovak National Gallery. The designer and engraver of the stamp was Martin Činovský and it was printed in the normal Art series format as a miniature sheet of four stamps, with two blank labels (Fig. 3). Unfortunately the sculpture shown on the stamp is a mirror image of the actual sculpture. Despite this mistake 79,000 sheets of the stamp were issued as planned on December 31, 1993. Whether or not the sheets were later withdrawn from public sale is not yet known. Stamp dealers were able to obtain copies as I have a full sheet and



Figure 3

a single stamp in my own collection. It would appear however that there is a possibility of subsequent removal from sale by the fact that 26,834 sheets were still around in 1996, when it was decided to reissue the stamp to commemorate the life of Jozef Kostka, who had died earlier in the year.

The Slovak Post Office decided to overprint the sheet with identical images in each of the blank labels. The image is a facsimile of the artist's signature and the dates of his birth and death, 1912-1996 (Fig. 4). However, the sheets were not issued with this overprint on them. For some reason it was decided to tear the stamps from the sheet and issue them as vertical pairs with a central label (Fig. 5). It was subsequently decided that the paired sheets would not be distributed



Figure 5



Figure 4

from post offices, even though there was an official issue date of November 13, 1996 (the same day as the Works of Art on

Stamps issue for that year). Copies were made available to dealers as Lou Svoboda has one (I do not!). But that's not all. The Zberatel' Slovak catalog from 2012 states that there are an unknown number of undivided overprinted sheets. The catalog gives no price for this item because of "insufficient examples or sales."

This certainly is an extremely strange story and stems from my surprise to find that the catalog number "108" is missing from the Zberatel' catalog *Slovensko 1993-2012*. Then a further surprise to find that the supposed issue of the overprinted vertical pair amounted to the extraordinarily odd number of 53,668 items! I just had to find out what this was all about. My thanks to Lou Svoboda for his translating expertise and images of the stamps in his own collection.

Sources

1. *Slovensko 1993-2012*. Zberatel' - ed. Anton Kulhánek, Bratislava 2013. pages 15 and 31.
2. Slovak National Gallery. Image of bronze sculpture - *Jar oráča*, artist Jozef Kostka 1912-1996.
3. Slovak Post. Online information regarding 1993 and 1996 issue program: pofis.sk/en/catalog.

UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

Nos. 108 & 109 in the series

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL, DP-1

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 nongenuine material (Pittermann category 4). Parts 3 (update 108) and 4 (update 109) of this commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Scout Post continues our report on nongenuine material.

Part 3: Fakes, Forgeries and Facsimiles *Padělky* Forgery C, and Modern Fakes and Facsimiles

Figure 1 shows the 10h *Padělky* Forgery C stamp (*Padělky* image on the left)¹. The *Padělky* describes this as follows:



Figure 1

10h Forgery C

1. Crown on lion's head has five ornaments. (The genuine only has three).
2. The mane is divided with a few coarse strokes and lines.
3. The three decorative lines in the right and left top corners are uneven in size.
4. The figures 10 are thicker and closer together.
5. The stems of the linden leaves are straight down. (The genuine come together.)
6. The word NARODNI is shifted to the right noticeably.

An additional characteristic of the 10h *Padělky* Forgery C stamp is that it is perforated, rather than being die-cut out ("died out") as are genuine Scout Post stamps.

Modern fakes and facsimiles are produced by offset printing – a commonly used printing technique in which an inked image is transferred (or "offset") from a plate to a rubber blanket, and then to a printing surface, such as paper² - or are electronically reproduced from genuine stamps – such as by photocopying, or by



Figure 2



Figure 3

scanning and then digital printing using ink (inkjet printers) or toner (laser printers)³. Figure 2 shows 10h and 20h offset facsimiles, and Figure 3 shows a 10h offset imperforate facsimile, none of which anyone should mistake for genuine Scout Post stamps.

Part 4: Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles “Arrival of President Masaryk” Overprints



Figure 4

The Scout Post was reactivated on December 21, 1918, the day of the arrival of President Masaryk into Prague, to provide rapid delivery by Scouts of reports between the railroad station, the city hall, the Hradčany castle, and the national senate. A small number of Scout Post stamps (about 600 pairs) were diagonally overprinted by typography with three lines “Příjezd presidenta Masaryka” (Arrival of president Masaryk), by the Knapp printing company in Karlin, using both 10h and 20h values from both the first and second printings. Black overprints on 20h stamps are dull and translucent, and because of the pressure of the printing of the overprint, the outline of each letter is sharp¹.

Figure 4 shows the *Padělký* genuine “Arrival” overprint on a 20h stamp¹. The *Padělký* describes this as follows:

Genuine “Arrival” Overprint

7. The letter “i” in the word PŘÍJEZD has a small hump on the left side in the lower portion.
8. The letter “j” in the word PŘÍJEZD has the upper right corner of the dot and letter slanted, but the lower curve is sharp.
9. The letter “t” in the word PRESIDENTA is curved toward the right in the lower section.

The lengths of the lines of the genuine overprint are (1) 12.5mm, (2) 18.5mm, and (3) 19.1mm¹.

Figure 5 shows genuine “Arrival” overprints, in red on a 10h stamp (left) and in black on a 20h stamp (right).



Figure 5



Figure 6

Figure 6 shows the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery on a 20h stamp¹. The *Padělky* describes this as follows:

“Arrival” Overprint Forgery

- 10. The letter “i” in the word PRÍJEZD is without its hump.
- 11. The letter “j” in the word PRÍJEZD has no variation in the dot and the lower part of the letter “j” is rounded.
- 12. The letter “t” in the word PRESIDENTA is shaped differently.

The lengths of the lines of the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery are (1) 12.8mm, (2) 18.8mm, and (3) 19.2mm¹. Additional characteristics of the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery are that it occurs most frequently on genuine Scout Post and Forgery C stamps. The red overprint on the 10h stamps is dull red which shows through the stamps. The black overprint on 20h stamps is glossy and evenly applied, and the letters of the overprints are coarse without sharp outlines¹.



Figure 7



Figure 8

Figure 7 shows forged “Arrival” overprints, similar to the *Padělky* “Arrival” overprint forgery on 10h Forgery A and 20h genuine stamps⁴.

Figure 8 shows a trial impression of a forged red “Arrival” overprint on a 1919 Legionnaire stamp, which was similarly produced as were the Scout Post stamps (relief-printed on pre-gummed paper, with edges die-cut out [“died out”])^{4,5}.



Figure 9

Figure 9 shows offset “Arrival” overprint facsimiles on offset Scout Post stamp facsimiles, while Figure 10 shows modern photocopy “Arrival” overprint facsimiles—none of which should be mistaken as genuine. We’ll look at forged entires of the Scout Post in Part 5: Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles-Covers.



Figure 10

ENDNOTES:

1. Karásek, J., Kvasnička, Z., Paulíček, B. : *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939, 1st edition, 1963, pp. 352-364.*
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offsetprinting>.
3. <https://www.printingforless.com/Digital-Printing-Explained.html>
4. Kvasnička, I. “The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918.” *The American Philatelist*, Vol 83, No. 1 (Jan 1969), pp27-41. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. XIX, No. 1 (Jan 1970), pp 8-9 & ff. (multiple segments).
5. Kvasnička. I. “Czech Scout Mail” *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (May/June 1996), pp. 3-13. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 5 (Sep/Oct 1996), pp. 6-14.

[Ed. note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) Journals May/Jun 2018 (update 108) and Jul/Aug 2018 (update 109), with the permission of the author and editor.]

BOARD NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

As specified in the Society Bylaws, it is time to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in the 2019 election for 4 of the 12 Board of Director positions.

The names of the term ending Board members and of the remaining Board members follows:

Term ending: James Buckner, Jaroslav “Jarka” Havel, Frederick P. Lawrence, and Richard P. Livingston.

Remaining: R.T. “Tom” Cossaboom, Marisa Galitz, Keith Hart, Chris Jackson, Richard Palaschak, William Slaninko, Ludvik Svoboda, and Jaroslav Verner.

Society members can nominate candidates (other than themselves) by writing their name on a blank petition, signing the petition, and returning it to the SCP Secretary. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue.

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. When you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing.
2. The nominee must have given their consent to be nominated.
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board Meeting location specified by the President.
4. The nominee must have an e-mail address in order to conduct Society business.
5. The nominator should make sure that their nominee agrees to these conditions.
6. The Secretary must receive the petition by October 15, 2018.

After filling out the enclosed petition either 1) mail it to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302, or 2) scan it and attach to an e-mail to be sent to KLFCK1@aol.com.

***** BOOK AUCTION redo *****

In the previous Specialist issue, we announced this book auction.

We received bids from three members, so most of the books are still available (except #10, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 which have sold).

In order to give members another opportunity, we are continuing the auction but have reduced the minimum bid to 60% of the original minimum bid. In addition, the successful bidder will have to pay the Media Mail postage to receive the book (which will not be much).

Any books which do not receive bids will then be sold via eBay to the general public, so act now.

Deadline for bids is September 15.

HOW I BECAME A STAMP COLLECTOR

by James Buckner

An international event got me started in stamp collecting. It was August 1968 and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia was occurring. My father was the son of Czech and Slovak immigrants to the US, and they spoke Czech (and I suppose Slovak as well) when they didn't want my brother or sisters and me to understand their conversations. We lived at the time in St. Petersburg, Florida among a fairly active group of Czech and Slovak ex-pats. When the "Prague Spring" emerged in the winter 1968, there was much discussion of events and their meaning at our house among these people.

When the invasion to suppress the Prague Spring movement occurred, my grandparents, parents, and their friends gathered at our house to watch news coverage on the television and to discuss what was happening. I was six years old at the time and was curious as to what was agitating "the grownups" so much. So, naturally I asked them a lot of questions. I guess this was annoying, especially to my grandfather and father, who were worried about relatives and friends back in the old country. One evening during all this, my grandfather brought over a stamp album (the New Frontier album from Scott - I still have it), a packet of used US stamps, hinges, and tongs. My father brought out his old stamp album (a Scott Modern Age Album) from the attic. They set me up on the kitchen table sorting stamps and putting them in the album. I was fascinated by the little pieces of paper, where they came from, what they were used for, and what they said about the countries they came from. Needless to say, I was hooked, and it had the added bonus, for the grown-ups, of keeping me out of their hair!

A year later, my father accepted a new job, and we moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where there were really very few Czechs or Slovaks at all. In the neighborhood where we lived, however, another boy collected stamps and we began to trade. He told me about a stamp shop in downtown Atlanta, which happened to be close to where my father worked. I began to pester Dad to buy stamps and stamp supplies for me there. My collection grew bit by bit, and I guess my father got the bug again because one day he came home with a fancy US stamp album from Scott with hinge-less mounts, and we began to fill it together. It must have cost quite a bit because he cautioned me "not to tell Mom" about it!

The years passed, and my father and I collected together. It was time well spent with him. About the time I entered high school, the United States celebrated its bicentennial, and we enjoyed the stamp issues celebrating our country's 200th anniversary. But at the same time, I was always conscious of my family's roots in Czechoslovakia. One day I asked Dad if we could begin to collect Czechoslovak stamps. Could he ask at the stamp shop about a suitable album? I had accumulated a fair number of Czech stamps over the years from letters from relatives and family friends from the old country. However, he came home and told me the album pages were too expensive, so I let it go for then.

High School sports, girls, and social activities (the usual story) began to take me away from collecting. Then came college and graduate school. My parents

eventually sold the house they raised our family in, and I was told to come and get my things, or they would be tossed out. I retrieved my stamps and accumulated paraphernalia, but had little time or money to pay attention to the collection as I was occupied with my studies and finally obtaining a job to support myself after grad school.

It was during the period after graduate school where I found myself with disposable income and out came the stamp collection. I was interested in starting a Czech collection and eventually found the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and became a member. When my grandfather passed in 1994, his stamps came to me, which added to the collecting possibilities (he had Hungarian and Slovak stamps and covers, as he was born in Slovakia when it was a province of Hungary). Joining the SCP (and later the APS) was the moment I began to be a philatelist and not simply a collector. The members of the SCP were friendly and open, helping me to focus on areas of Czechoslovak philately I had not thought about. I have learned a lot from these people and consider a couple (whether they know it or not!) to be mentors in my collecting efforts. Desiring to be more involved in the Society, I volunteered to become the Book Manager after Savoy Horvath. Eventually I became a Board Member of the organization in 2016 and really enjoy the annual meetings, where my knowledge and collecting efforts continue to grow. I have learnt a bit of a once undecipherable language (Czech) to learn about the culture where my grandparents came from. Because of stamps, I have friends and colleagues in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Canada, and various places in the United States. I am fortunate.

And it all began fifty years ago with an invasion.....

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.

NOTES FROM 100 YEARS PART 3- 1993

by Keith Hart

Following the fall of the communist regime in 1989, Czechoslovakia had entered an intense period of discussion as to how democracy should proceed within the country. While the Czechs and Moravians seemed generally happy for Czechoslovakia to remain a united country, it quickly became apparent that Slovaks were looking for complete independence, as they felt overlooked within the current system. In particular they were unhappy with the lack of influence they had in economic matters. After lengthy discussions it was agreed that Czechoslovakia



Figure 1

would be dissolved into the Czech and Slovak Republics as of January 1, 1993. The final Czechoslovak stamp, issued on December 8, 1992, celebrated Stamp Day, and pleasantly featured the great engraver Jindra Schmidt (Fig. 1).

Among the many problems that had to be resolved was

separation of the postal service into two entities, and how and when this would happen. It was agreed that the stamps of Czechoslovakia could be used by both countries until September 3, 1993. Slovakia managed to have their very first stamp issued on the first day of its existence. The stamp had in fact been printed (ironically in Prague) months earlier to ensure it would be ready. Their first stamps were designated only with numbers - "3," "2" and "8," allowing them to omit the "Kčs" from Czechoslovak stamps. The National Coat of Arms shown on that first stamp has the silver Slovak two-barred cross over the symbolic tops of the Fatra, Matra, and Tatra mountains (Fig. 2). Slovak stamps continued with an undesignated value throughout 1993, even though the first Slovak Crowns (Sk) were issued on February 8.



Figure 2

The Czech Republic's first stamp appeared on January 20. It showed the Small State Emblem, a Czech lion in a shield surrounded by linden leaves (Fig. 3). This still had a value shown in Czechoslovak Kčs. In this initial period of minor confusions and ironies, the second Czech stamp, issued on February 17, still had a 2 Kčs value, despite the new Czech Crowns having been in circulation for 10 days. On March 3, a 2 Kč stamp of President



Figure 3



Figure 4

Václav Havel (Fig. 4) finally had the 'Kč' value we still know today.

Definitive stamps for the new countries were required as well. It seems that the two post offices probably collaborated on the design of the first series as they are comparable in nature and size. The Czech Republic's initial definitive issue was a town view of České Budějovice (Fig. 5) and Slovakia's equivalent showed a similar design of Ružomberok (Fig. 6).



Figure 5

The *Czechoslovak Specialists* of 1993 of course had many articles detailing the separation of the two countries and what that meant for philatelists. In particular there were discussions about the unique opportunities afforded to collectors by the use of stamps from two different countries at the same time. Interesting covers originated in those first eight months or so of 1993, when a mixture of Czechoslovak and either Czech or Slovak stamps could be found on the same cover. (Fig. 7).



Figure 6

The new countries commenced their re-entry into the organizations of Europe which took several years. After 50 years of Fascist and Communist control it must have seemed very similar to 75 years previously when they had first tasted independence.

In certain respects, there was still a close relationship between the two countries, one that has grown a little looser as time has gone by.



Figure 7



Philatelic News and Views

From: Lou Svoboda

1. I recently had a chance to review the Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic/Bohemia & Moravia listings of the new 2019 Scott's Volume 2B.

I was shocked to discover that a large percentage of the catalog values had been lowered by 15 - 30%.

Thanks to some help from Frederick Lawrence, I was able to contact the Senior Value Analyst of AMOS MEDIA (publishers of the Scott catalogs). It was explained that there were several factors motivating this action:

-- there was a downside trend in the market, not only with Czechoslovakia, but with other countries, especially with respect to the more common items

-- dealers are looking more at values shown in European catalogs, and they were lower

-- and finally, a problem with a "common" country like Czechoslovakia is there are few new collectors to buy these stamps, as they are not rare, and everyone who would have wanted one, already has one.

It was claimed that today's market in these "common" countries is really in very rare varieties, very high grade items or multiples, and covers/postal history.

My comments back indicated that while I could understand the first and third factors, the second one was counter-intuitive to me. The market for Czechoslovak stamps in Europe should be much richer because of the close proximity of the "mother" country. A given Czechoslovak stamp should be more abundant there and thus less expensive than here where there should be fewer of them. Then why base the catalog value of a Czechoslovak stamp in a Scott catalog on its catalog value in Europe? I have not received a response.

A final fact to pass on. Since this awakening, I have gone back and reviewed the past and current reviews of the new Scott catalogs. Almost without exception, they tell the same or similar story about the regular stamps of many other countries -- the catalog values have been reduced.

I guess this is the reality of fewer and fewer stamp collectors.

From Keith Hart

2. By the time you receive this issue it will only be around six months before our 2019 convention and Board meeting which will be at ARIPEX 2019, held at the Mesa Convention Center (Building C), 263 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ 85201 from February 15-17, 2019. Our Board meeting will be held on February 14th (roses will be available for any wives/significant others attending, who are already a little ticked off at the thought of us arranging a meeting on such a day!). The show hotel is the Phoenix Marriott Hotel Mesa, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ85201, where rooms are at a special rate of \$159 + taxes. Available rooms are limited as this is not a large hotel. If you are planning on visiting ARIPEX you are advised to reserve rooms quickly. The hotel reservation number is (480) 898-8300 and you should mention being a member of SCP to receive the reduced rate. Hours for the show are 10am-6pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10am-3pm on Sunday. Further details are available at the ARIPEX website www.aripex.org.

3. Unfortunately I must advise you of a correction to an error in the Spring 2018 *Specialist*. On page 18 the text for Figure 6 indicates that the engraver was Jindra Schmidt, instead of correctly identifying him as Jiří Švengsbír. To get two of my favorite engraver/designers mixed up is extremely embarrassing, and I will continue to scold myself for a considerable period of time.

4. We are delighted to announce that fellow member, Al Kugel, has been awarded the prestigious United States Stamp Society Barbara Mueller Award for Best 2017 Article in *The American Philatelist*. As co-author with Ed Dubin for their review of World War I philately, Al, I am looking forward to congratulating you personally at CHICAGOPEX 2018.



PRAISE FOR THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

Filatelie Editorial Staff
trans. by Lucie Harris

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) is a philatelic society of fellow countrymen founded in New York as a reaction to the occupation of the CSR on March 15, 1939. Next year this organization will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of its founding.

PRAGA 2018 is an appropriate occasion to acknowledge the leaders of the SČP with Honors from the Union of Czech Philatelists (SCF). The Honors will be presented on August 17th at a dinner of like Czech organizations to be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

The SCP members who were approved by the Board of Directors for the SČF Citation for Philatelic Advancement are:

1. **Chris Jackson**, current president of the SCP
2. **Ludvik Svoboda**, long time official of the SCP, past president, editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* journal
3. **Jaroslav J. Verner**, long time official of the SCP, past president, co-author of the monograph on the Field Post of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, and author of the book on the Field Post of the Czechoslovak Legion in France
4. **Henry Hahn** (in memoriam), long time official of the SCP, and successful exhibitor of Czechoslovak stamps
5. **Charles Chesloe** (in memoriam), long time official of the SCP, and expert on Czechoslovak stamps
6. **Richard Palaschak**, long time official of the SCP
7. **Tom Cossaboom**, long time secretary of the SCP, and representative of the SCP to the American Philatelic Society
8. **Mirko Vondra** (in memoriam), long time official of the SCP, past president, and successful exhibitor.

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from *Filatelie* 6/2018 with the permission of the editor.]

CATAPULT POST SERVICE FLIGHTS ACROSS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

by Ing. Ilya Braunstein
trans. by Lucie Harris

[Ed. Note: This is the first of two articles discussing details from the era of the First Republic about getting mail across the south Atlantic Ocean to South America. While this one tells about the catapult mail system, the subsequent one gives a more general description of all of the methods that were employed and includes the schedules of flights, the airmail surcharges to various destinations, etc. All of these methods were used by the Czechoslovaks to send mail to South America.]

History

After World War I, many countries expanded their civil aviation. Passenger transport was then still limited and only took place on a few continental flights of medium distance. The efforts to speed up the transport of postal shipments and to battle the competition compelled some airline companies to undertake flights that were on the very edge of the technical possibilities of the planes being used.

To reach South America, one would perhaps have to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, which at that time was an overwhelming obstacle since it would have to be a 3,200 kilometer [2,000 miles] nonstop flight. The aircraft technology available at that time did not allow for such long flights without the risk of a disaster.

Nevertheless, on May 12, 1930, French pilot Jean Mermoz flew from Saint-Louis (in today's Senegal) to Natal (in Brazil). The flight using the seaplane LATE 28 took 21 hours. It was truly a pioneering feat, and it was necessary to wait more than three years before Air France airlines could organize regular postal flights between the two continents.

French successes in this realm were achieved at the price of repeated sacrifices, and we can call them -- without exaggeration -- as adventurer's records, because all of the flights were made with planes which theoretically were unable to overcome such distances.

The transport of postal shipments from Paris to Dakar through Toulouse and Marseille and then to Natal and Buenos Aires, and also other places in South America was nevertheless very regular. French aviation had no competition on this intercontinental route. Zeppelins constituted the only exception. They flew every 14 days in both directions, but only in good weather.

In 1933, France signed an agreement with the German airline Lufthansa. According to this agreement, both companies shared the transport of airmail to South America. At the same time it was agreed that Zeppelins would only carry passengers and not mail.

We have to realize that at this time German aviation was not more advanced than the French, and that their planes were not able to fly nonstop a distance of 3,000 kilometers without great risk. Since Lufthansa did not own planes with the action radius needed to fly across the south Atlantic Ocean, they came upon an emergency solution: to put seaplanes on this route. They landed in the middle of

the ocean at a stage ship -- a seaplane tender -- which supplied them with fuel and catapulted them onto the next stage of their flight.

The first German attempts to arrange a seaplane route across the southern Atlantic Ocean were launched in 1933. The seaplane tender was anchored at the half way point between Bathurst [now known as Banjul] in British Gambia and Pernambuco in Brazil.

For test flights, the cargo ship Westfalen was equipped with the needed equipment (the basic information and equipment description is in the next part of the article).

The choice of Gambia as the starting point of flights was important, because the country lies outside the territories influenced by France, and because the experiments took place during the time before the agreement with the French airline company.

The German intercontinental route ran thus: 1934 -- the airline routes of the Air France and Lufthansa companies (Fig. 1).

The single-engined transport plane Heinkel 70 carried the postal shipments from Stuttgart to Seville and Larache [in Morocco], where they were transferred to another plane, a Junkers JU-52, that delivered them to Bathurst with a layover in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

The postal shipments were transported from Bathurst to Natal by seaplanes that would land at the seaplane tender Westfalen (which was replaced by the ship Schwabenland on August 17, 1934, and in May 1936 by the ship Ostmark). In Natal on the south-American coast, the postal shipments were transferred to seaplanes of the Syndicate Condor airline, that had two routes:

- Consteira National using Junkers G-24 planes and flying once a week,
- Special route that interposed a connection with Lufthansa seaplanes.

This postal route worked with marvelous accuracy, and the time of the postal connection between Germany and Brazil was reduced to four days right from the beginning. In the first phase, flights took place twice a month. From July 21, 1934, flights were dispatched once a week, and from July 1935 -- in cooperation with Air France -- twice a week.

Equipment of the Seaplane Tenders and the Techniques of Ejection

The first seaplane tender was the cargo ship Westfalen having a displacement of 5,347 tons and built in 1906 near Bremen. The power of the ship's engine had

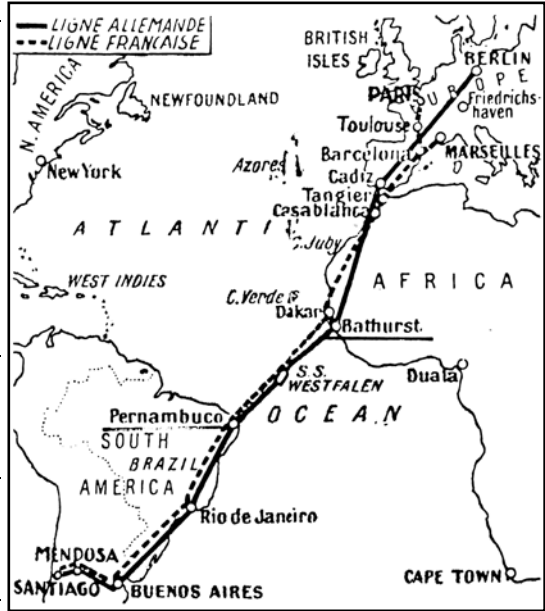


Figure 1: Air France and Lufthansa airline routes from Europe to South America

an output of 2,750 hp, and the ship could reach 11.5 knots per hour. The crew was comprised of 40 men including the catapult equipment operator.

The Westfalen was equipped with a Heinkel K-6 catapult that was able to provide the seaplane with a starting speed of 150 kilometers per hour [93 mph]. The catapult equipment weighed 58 tons and worked on compressed air supplied by a multistage compressor capable of exerting pressures of 180 atmospheres. The catapult having a total length of 42 meters [140 feet] was installed on the deck. The width of the track that the catapult undercarriage moved on was two meters.

During catapulting, the plane's undercarriage traveled 32 meters [105 feet] on the track in 1.52 seconds. The seaplane tender was also equipped with a 13 meter long boom which made it possible to lift the seaplane from the sea's surface and seat it on the ejection track. Strong searchlights allowed for night landings and take offs. A Hein-type platform was installed at the back of the ship so that the seaplane could land easily by the seaplane tender and be in the right position within the crane's reach.

The seaplanes used for the flights across the Atlantic Ocean were Dornier Wal-32 types with BMW VI motors, each having a power output of 650 hp. The plane traveled at a speed of 180 kilometers per hour [110 mph] and had a fuel supply that allowed for up to a 10 hour flight. The plane weighed eight tons and had a crew of three. The seaplane usually carried 400 kilograms [880 lbs] of postal shipments.



Figure 2: Seaplane tender Westfalen at sea

Equipped for her new service, the seaplane tender Westfalen was demonstrated on February 18, 1933 in Bremerhaven to representatives of several agencies and to foreign journalists. Tests of the equipped ship confirmed that the lifting of the seaplane from the surface of the ocean to the deck and its catapulting were completely safe. Therefore, it was decided to send the ship to its destination in the South Atlantic (Fig. 2).

Tests began in June 1933 with two Dornier BMW-Wal seaplanes. They were named Monsun and Passat and were piloted by plane captains von Studnitz and

Joachim Blankenburg. The first test flight took place on June 2, 1933 and headed from the seaplane tender Westfalen to Bathurst on the African coast. Even though during this flight there were no official postal shipments transported, nevertheless a limited number of postcards were taken on (about 80). The ship's crew and the catapult equipment operator wanted to create a lasting memory of this historic flight, and therefore they sent postcards to their colleagues in Africa. This rare document is a German postcard with an imprinted 0.15 DM stamp (Fig. 3). It is de-valued by the round purple Luftpost u. Westfalen ship's cancel dated June 2,

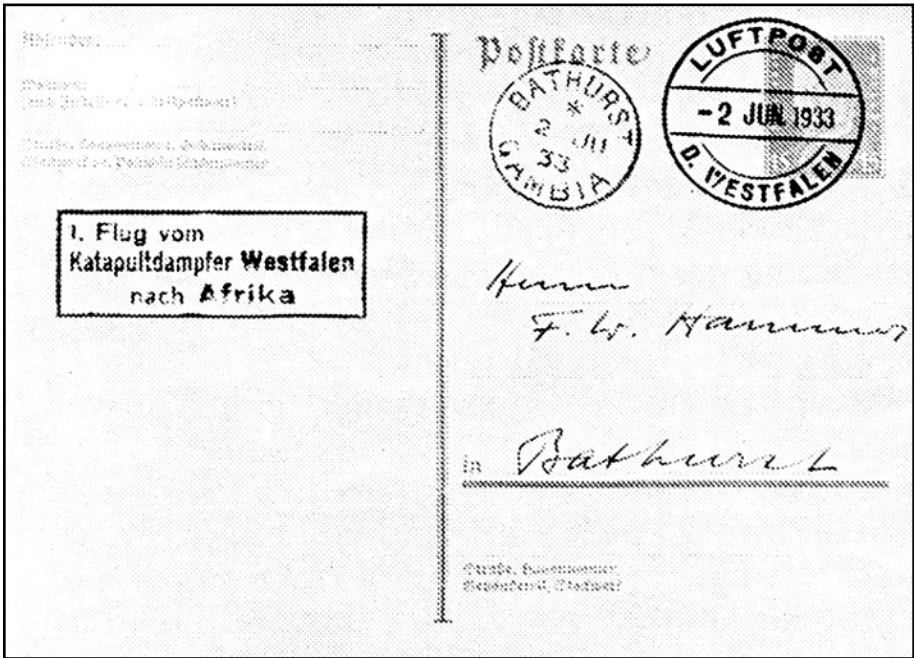


Figure 3: German postcard from seaplane tender Westfalen to Bathurst, Africa

1933. In addition there is also a rectangular cachet on the postcard containing the text 1. Flug vom Katapultdampfer Westfalen nach Afrika. In Bathurst the postcards received a round receiving cancel with the same date.

The return flight from Bathurst to Natal took place on June 6, 1933. This was the first time that postal shipments from Gambia were transported by air to South America via the seaplane tender Westfalen.

Letters were franked with Gambian stamps (a rate of 1 Shilling and 7 pence) and had a postal cancel of Bathurst with a date of June 2nd or 3rd, 1933 (Fig. 4). Altogether 50 postal consignments were transported.

In addition, about 25 postal cards were also sent from the seaplane tender Westfalen to Brazil. Again, they were German postal cards with an imprinted 0.15 DM stamp which were de-valued with the round ship's cancel. All of the other cancels and cachets are the same as those on the letter in Figure 4.

The described postal consignments that were transported during the trial flights were dispatched on the initiative of the Westfalen's crew and representatives/employees of the Lufthansa airline office in Bathurst. Nevertheless, the German post tolerated the use of the described cancels and cachets (which they had not supplied), as well as the transportation of these consignments.

Additional trials took place in June, and we know of letters sent from Brazil on June 23, 1933 having the seaplane tender Westfalen transit cancel and a Bathurst arrival cancel of June 24. During these trials the reliability of the seaplane tender Westfalen's equipment was proven. However, some adjustments to the catapult equipment were needed so the ship set off to its native port in Europe.



Figure 4: Letter from Bathurst, Africa to Natal, Brazil via the seaplane tender Westfalen

In the fall of 1933, the seaplane tender Westfalen was finally anchored in the South Atlantic Ocean and the last trials took place during which however there were no consignments transported. A third Dornier Wal type seaplane named Taifun was added to the service of the Bathurst -- Natal route. After careful preparations, regular postal service began in Germany on January 31, 1934.

The first flight left Stuttgart on Saturday, February 3, 1934. The postal consignments reached Bathurst on Friday, February 5, and on February 6 they were transported to the seaplane tender Westfalen, from which the seaplane was catapulted, and on Wednesday, February 7, it landed at Natal, where the consignments were submitted for further transportation.

It is noteworthy that the Westfalen did not have a postal cancel and that landing on this seaplane tender ship was never documented with a cancel. This intercontinental postal connection which we have detailed here, operated with remarkable regularity until August 31, 1939 when it was interrupted by WW II. In the six years of the existence of this route, 241 flights took place to South America and around the same number of flights from South America back to Africa and Europe.

In contrast with the postal consignments catapulted in the north Atlantic Ocean area, the consignments to South America did not receive a special cancel confirming that they had been catapulted. On the other hand, Zeppelin postal flights which ran along almost the same route often used the same cancels, especially the German cancel "Europa -- Südamerika" and the company cancel "Condor Brasil -- Europa".

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from *Katalog: Světová Výstava Poštovních Známeček, PRAGA 1978* with the permission of the publishers.]

POSTCROSSING

by Keith Hart

These days we are always trying to think of ways to get young people interested in philately. There are so many alternate activities available to them today. As using a computer seems to be an essential tool for their everyday use, here is a suggestion that starts with high-speed internet use and ends with mailing a postcard.

Postcrossing aims to connect people of all ages randomly throughout the world, one postcard at a time. That contact could be with somebody anywhere between 10 and 100 years old. They could be living in Austria or Zambia. The important thing is that you end up with a card that on one side has an appealing picture of a part of the world you probably know nothing about. The other side gives you a message from somebody who has taken the time to get a real stamp and adhere it above your address.

How to get started. At Postcrossing.com you have to create an account to join in the fun. This is absolutely free. While you do obviously have to provide a real name and address to receive cards, you do not use your actual name for log-in and online purposes. I have received cards from “rockhunter,” “snoopyD” and “alionsgator” for instance. Fill out a profile telling people a little about yourself and

the types of postcards you would like to receive. Be sure to say you would like “real” stamps on the card, not metered.



Sending your first card. After logging in request an address and card ID. The ID will be something like US909090909 and is individual to the card you are sending. The name and address of the recipient are clearly given. Go into their profile to see what card subject

matter they like, or don't like to receive. I have always only sent scenic cards from around the US. Nobody has objected yet. Write the ID on the card, which is very important, otherwise you will not receive one in return. Add a short greeting, lick and stick your stamp (although the US *Forever* global postcard stamp is self-adhesive) and mail it off.

Receiving your first card. After anything from 4 to 25 days your card will arrive and be registered. At that moment another person somewhere in the world requesting an address will receive your name, address and an ID for their card to you. Another 4-25 days later you will receive the card, register it and a card from somewhere will be on its way back to them.

I joined just over a year ago and have sent 1-2 postcards a month. I have sent cards to 11 countries and received from 12 different countries. My cards have traveled 114,526 miles to their destinations. As I write Postcrossing has 724,969 members in 213 countries. Everyone has been friendly, written in English and

through them I have learned about many places I had never heard of. All the cards have had attractive stamps on them. Of course I would like to send/receive cards from one of the 2229 Slovak, or 20437 Czech members and it has happened once (Czechia).



If you know any young person who is interested in being connected with people throughout the world,

perhaps with parental permission or oversight, try to get them started. With luck they could end up collecting the stamps they receive, either thematically or from a specific country. It might not be the Czech or Slovak Republics they choose, but that would be better than not collecting at all. HAPPY POSTCROSSING!



Library – Shhhhhhhhh!

1. As I promised in this column in the Spring issue, we now have CD's and thumb drives in the Library which contain Gerald van Zanten's "Art in the Czech Lands".

I was mistaken when I last said that it contained over 200 exhibit sized pages, it actually has 728 of them. It is a chronological display of art that was produced by Czechoslovak/Czech/Slovak and world artists, or is on display on locations in the Czech and Slovak Republics, AND that can be found on Czechoslovak, Czech, or Slovak stamps. Each piece of art is described as to its development, history, author, and author's history, and where it is currently located.

It is chronological by the date of the artwork's development, beginning with the Venus of Dolní Vestonice (the ceramic statuette of a nude female figure dated to about 27,000 BCE that was found in Moravia) and the Venus of Moravany (a similar figure dated to 22,800 BCE found in Slovakia), and continuing to the present."

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. It is absolutely amazing to go through it and see the tremendous amount of research that he put into this. I simply did not realize how many art stamps the Czechs and Slovaks had put out.

Borrow it from the Library and spend an evening being amazed.

2. If you have an interest in the new philatelic area coming to the fore -- ČSR Revenue Stamps, then we have a new book for you available to be borrowed from the Library.

ČSR Revenue and Railway Stamps, by Rev. Severin Gottsmich, reworked, augmented and edited by M. Erler (1976).

It is 218 pages, in English, in color, covering every aspect of revenue/taxation and fee stamps from General Revenues through 53 other specialized issues -- one of which encompasses the Municipal Issues of 49 cities and towns."

And finally, everyone of the issues is shown with a catalog value.

OTHER PHILATELIC MATERIAL Part 3 - BLACK PROOFS

by Keith Hart



An enlarged image of the famous 500h Hradčany stamp from 1919. Merkur-Revue. *Československo 1918-1939, I. část* 2014. Print inside book when purchased.

Black proofs can also be called black prints, die prints, even printer's proofs - their original purpose. They need not necessarily be black either, recent examples have been red, blue, brown, and green. A combination of colors is also possible when checking the placement of different colors on a printing plate. The days are long gone when these proofs were solely used to check on faults in the engraved plates before moving on to the print run. Now they are issued as numbered limited edition prints, which can be in issues as low as 250 and as high as 8000.

Slovak Post issues 2-3 each year, always coinciding with a regular stamp issue. Czech Post has sporadic issues for regular stamps and special occasions. The

Czech Postal Museum, however, issues several designs each year, usually to commemorate an anniversary, or the birthday of a philatelic designer, or engraver.

This is a relatively inexpensive way of adding something unusual to an album page, or even a philatelic exhibit. There should be a few new special issues at PRAGA 2018.



The engraver Albin Brunovský (1935-1997), originally used for Slovak Post stamp 198 FDC cachet in 1999.



Art from Martin Martinček, Proof of the miniature sheet for Slovak Post stamp 553 in 2013.

450. výročie narodenia
Jána Jessenia
 (*1566 – †1621)



Spoločné vydanie
 s Českou republikou,
 Maďarskom
 a Poľskou republikou

Jan
 Jesseni
 us 450th
 birth
 Anniversary.
 Proof
 of the
 stamp
 and
 attached
 label for
 Slovak
 Post
 stamp
 619
 in 2016.



Church of
 St. James
 in Levoča.
 Proof
 of the
 miniature
 sheet for
 Slovak
 Post
 stamp
 645
 in 2017.

**MOST BEAUTIFUL
 CZECH STAMP OF 2017**

Every year the Czechs have a contest by ballot for the most beautiful stamp of the year. For 2017, the following stamps were voted as 1, 2, and 3:



Figure 1

Figure 1. PRAGA 2018: Czech Crown Jewels, issued January 20, 2017, with a letter value of E -- 1,023 votes.



Figure 2

Figure 2. Prague Castle series: Paolo Veronese -- St. Catherine with Angel, issued May 17, 2017, with a value of 32Kč -- 579 votes.



Figure 3

Figure 3. Personalities series: Maria Theresa, issued May 3, 2017, with a value of 32Kč -- 561 votes.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by **Keith Hart**

1. On April 18, 2018 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a definitive stamp with value identified by the letter A (value 19 Kč at date of issue). The stamp shows a head and shoulders portrait of President Miloš Zeman (Fig. 1) and was issued to observe the second inauguration of Zeman as President of the Republic. The stamp was engraved by Miloš Ondráček, based on a photograph, and printed by PTC using KOMB technology in printing sheets of 100. Miloš Zeman is a career economist turned politician. He was a member of the Federal Assembly from 1990-1998, becoming Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies from 1996-1998. In 1998 he was appointed Prime Minister, a post he held until 2002. He ran for President in 2003, losing to Václav Klaus. He then retired for some years until he formed the new Party of Civic Rights in 2009. In 2013 he was elected President of the Czech Republic, in the first democratic presidential election in Czech history. He was re-elected President in 2018 and inaugurated on March 8.



Figure 1

[Ed. note. This stamp is almost identical to one issued on April 24, 2013 after Zeman's first inauguration. The only difference appears to be that the year next to M. Ondráček at bottom left is changed from 2013 to 2018. The color shade of the printed stamp is also different to the original issue].



Figure 2

2. On May 2, 2018 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series: EUROPA- Bridges. The stamp, with value identified by the letter E (value 35 Kč at date of issue) illustrates a combined view of two bridges (Fig. 2) in the Podolsko district of Prague, just south of Vyšehrad. The stamp was designed by Milan Bauer and includes line drawing by Václav Fajt. It was produced by PTC with offset printing in sheets of 6. The original bridge in this location was completed in 1848 and was constructed in chain bridge style using iron and brick. It was placed on a major

trade route that linked Bavaria to Galicia. By 1942 increases in traffic volume necessitated a new reinforced concrete structure. The original bridge was dismantled in 1960 and relocated to its present position in 1975. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Václav Fajt, shows the approach to the older bridge (Fig. 3), while the commemorative cancellation has a motif with a section of the original ironwork of the bridge.

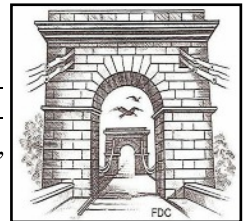


Figure 3

3. On May 2, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp with value identified by the letter Z (value 41 Kč at date of issue) to celebrate Czech jazz. The stamp portrays a Czech lion playing a saxophone while wearing headgear typical of a jazzman (Fig. 4). The



Figure 4



Figure 5

4. On May 23, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series Prague Castle: Francesco da Ponte. The 32 Kč stamp features a detail from the painter's *Sacrifice at the Temple* (Fig. 6) and was engraved by Miloš Ondráček. The stamp was produced by PTC using WIFAG printing in a miniature sheet of 4 with central blank label. Francesco da Ponte (1549-1592) was born in Bassano del Grappa, near Venice. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Jacopo Bassano, and grandfather, Francesco da Ponte il Vecchio, famous artists in their own right. He found success throughout Europe painting biblical subjects and allegorical themes. His brother, Leandro da Ponte, was also a painter and the FDC cachet uses the motif of a mason (Fig. 7) from one of his paintings. The commemorative cancellation is a sketch of a man's head.



Figure 6



Figure 7

5. On June 20, 2018 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: Inventions- Bent Furniture. The 19 Kč stamp shows four examples of bent (better known in English as bentwood) chairs (Fig. 8), was designed by Pavel Sivko and produced by PTC using offset printing in sheets of 50. Bentwood manufacturing in Czech



Figure 8

territories dates to 1861 when a bent furniture factory was founded by Michael Thonet and his sons in Bystřice pod Hostýnem. Chair number 18, one of the first models manufactured, is still a part of the company's range. During World War II the company was run by a Reich administrator. After the war the company was nationalized and changed its name to TON (an acronym for the Czech words 'Bent Furniture Factory'). In 2011 the company celebrated the 150th anniversary of its establishment. Chair No. 002, a simpler 3-component version of Chair No. 14 was unveiled at this ceremony. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, shows four different types of chairs from their catalog (Fig. 9). The commemorative cancellation depicts the upper part of a coat stand. A stamp booklet containing 8 stamps and 4 coupons was issued on the same date.

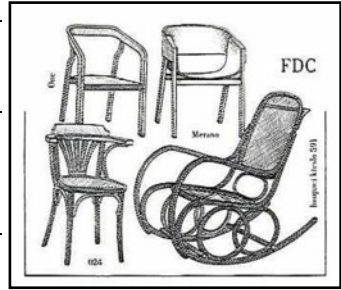


Figure 9

6. On June 20, 2018 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet to celebrate 100 years of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps. The sheet contains both a 27 Kč and 44 Kč stamp and three labels (Fig. 10). The sheet was designed by Pavel Sivko and produced by PTC using offset printing. The stamps on the sheet are arranged as a page of an album containing significant Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps from the past century. The top stamp and adjacent label contain 15 stamps from the Czechoslovak era. The central label also shows seven Czechoslovak stamps. The bottom stamp and label depicts 11 stamps from the Czech Republic. The first Czechoslovak stamps were designed by such artists as Alfons Mucha, Max Švabinský, and Jacob Obrovský. These early designs were masterfully engraved into the stamps we know so well by a group that includes Karel Seizinger, Bohumil Heinz, Jaroslav Goldschmied, and Jan Vondrouš. Subsequent stamps have been designed by leading graphic artists, painters, and engravers such as Oldřich Kulhánek, Karel Svolinský, Jiří Švengsbir, Cyril Bouda, Josef Herčík, and Bedřich Housa. This, combined with traditional printing methods, continues to make Czech stamps among the finest in the world. The cachet and cancellation for both FDCs is identical. The FDC cachet, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, reinterprets the dove (Fig. 11) from the 1920 stamp designed by Jaroslav Benda. The commemorative cancellation motif is the postman from the early newspaper stamp designed by A. Erhardt.

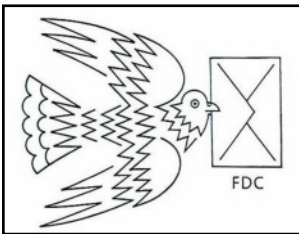


Figure 11

7. On June 20, 2018 the Ministry issued two definitive postage stamps with value identified by the letter "A" (19 Kč). The two stamps represent edible mushrooms and were issued in the form of a stamp booklet with 10 (5 x 2) die-cut self-adhesive stamps (Fig. 12). The stamps were designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and the booklet printed by PTC using multicolored offset. The Orange Birch Boletus is found from May to October in deciduous and mixed forests, as well as around shrubs and alongside paths. It is only found beneath birch trees. The European Blusher grows abundantly from June to November in deciduous, mixed and conif-



Fig. 10



Figure 12

erous forests, in parks and alleyways, from lowlands to high mountains. The uncooked mushroom is poisonous as it contains hemolysin that decomposes red blood cells. Hemolysin is destroyed by the heat of cooking.



Figure 13

8. On June 20, 2018 the Ministry issued a definitive 1 Kč stamp showing the flowers and leaves of a Lily of the Valley (Fig. 13). The designer was Anna Khunová and the stamp was produced by PTC using multicolor offset in printing sheets of 100. Lily of the Valley is a perennial plant growing to between 4"-10" tall. The most striking part are its flowers of a distinct snow-white color which are 2"-3" long, bell-shaped, curled down but with the edges turned upwards. They are extremely sweetly scented. All parts of Lily of the Valley are highly poisonous, as it contains glycoside convallotoxin which also dissolves in the water that cut flowers are kept in. The plant is extensively used in medicine and the perfume industry.

Postal Stationery

9. On May 3, 2018 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing for the International Stamp Exhibition in Essen, Germany which was held this year from May 3-5. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp (historic postal



Figure 14

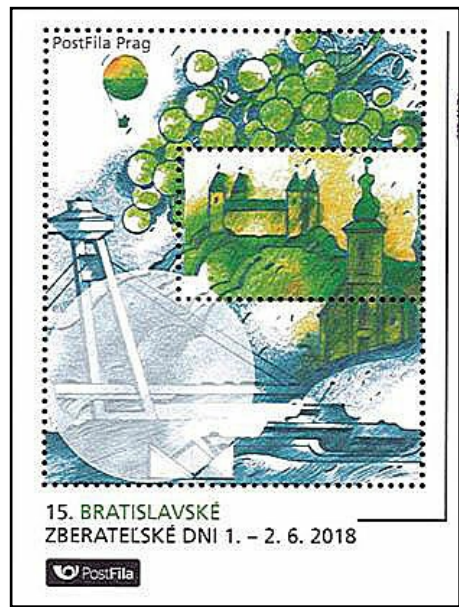


Figure 15

coach on Charles' Bridge) with the letter 'E' (32 Kč). The additional print, designed by Jan Ungrád, is a composition mixing Essen area architectural motifs and cultural objects (Fig. 14). 2100 cards were issued.

10. On June 1, 2018 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing for Bratislava Collector's Days 2018, held this year from June 1-2. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp (historic postal coach on Charles' Bridge) with the letter 'E' (32 Kč). The additional print, designed by Jan Ungrád, is a composition mixing Bratislava area architectural motifs and cultural objects (Fig. 15). 2100 cards were issued.

SLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart

11. On April 24, 2018 the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 0.95€ stamp in the series: Beauties of Our Homeland- The Poprad-Matejovce Archæological Area. The stamp, which shows a detail from a bed frame discovered at the site (Fig. 16), was designed by Igor Benca, and produced by Rempo/Tisk. using offset printing in sheets of 50. In 2005 archaeologists working in the town of Poprad-Matejovce discovered a 4th century tomb. Working under the direction of Dr. Karol Pieta, excavations 5m (16ft.) deep revealed metal, wood, leather, and textile artifacts that were well preserved due to



Figure 16

favorable conditions. The method of burial, the structure of the tomb, together with its inventory, show close connections to societies in the area north of the Mediterranean during the Migration Period of European history. The log structure enclosed a wooden sarcophagus containing the body of a Germanic prince. The 10 tonne artifact was taken for preservation treatment to a specialized laboratory in Schleswig, Germany. The Archæological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences is discussing with Poprad area groups the best way that this important find can be made available for public access. When research is complete it will be possible to learn the story of the thirtyish well-fed member of the social elite who probably came from an area between the

High Tatras and the Mediterranean. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Jozef Česla, depicts two views of the excavations containing the tomb (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is another artifact from the sarcophagus.

12. On May 3, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet as a joint issue with the Vatican City State to celebrate the 1150th Anniversary of the Recognition of the Slavic Liturgical Language. The 2.80€ stamp shows elements from mosaics and texts of that period (Fig. 18). It is set in a miniature sheet which contains scenes from the lives of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The sheet was designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by

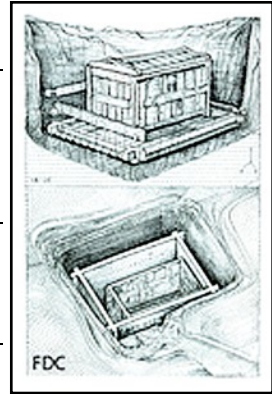


Figure 17



Figure 18

Rempo/Tisk. by KOMB process. The year 868 saw the end of Saints Cyril and Methodius' 40 month long mission to the Slavs in Great Moravia. For this mission they had devised the Glagolitic alphabet, the first to be used for Slavonic manuscripts. Its descendant script, the Cyrillic, is still in use by many languages today. They wrote the first Slavic Civil Code for Great Moravia. The language, known as Church Slavonic, is still used in liturgy by several Orthodox Churches and also some Eastern Catholic Churches. The two saints were invited to Rome in 867 by Pope Nicholas I and traveled there with the relics of St. Clement. By the time of their arrival Nicholas had died and been succeeded by Pope Adrian II, who warmly received them and their acolytess. While in Rome they officiated in their own language at some of the prominent churches. Old Slavonic became accepted as the fourth liturgical language, alongside Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. The text on the stamp is a transcript of the first four verses of Chapter I of the Gospel According to Mark. On July 4, 2018 a special cover (3.96€) was belatedly issued. The cachet shows a group of early Christians, similar in nature to the scenes from the lives of the Saints on the miniature sheet. The entire miniature sheet is used on the oversized envelope. 1500 of these covers were issued.

13. On May 4, 2018 the Ministry issued a 1.10€ stamp in the series: EUROPA- Bridges: The Slovak National Uprising Bridge, Bratislava. The stamp shows the bridge, viewed from a vehicle traveling across it (Fig. 19) and was designed by Lubica Segečová and produced by Rempo/Tisk., offset printed in sheets of 8. In the 1960s it was decided that the city center of Bratislava was to be directly linked to the newly enlarged suburb of Petržalka by a new bridge over the River Danube. A competition for the design was held and despite only being given fourth place by the jury, the chosen design was awarded to architect/engineers Lacko, Kušnír and Slameň, together with Arpád Tesár, for their bold asymmetric cable-stayed suspension bridge. The pylon on the Petržalka bank is famous for the UFO restaurant and observation deck on top. 431 meters (1413 feet) long, it contains four lanes of roadway and a lower level for cyclists and pedestrians. It



Figure 19

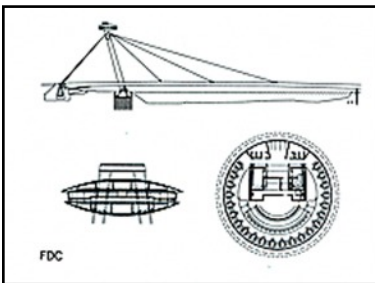


Figure 20

was opened on August 26, 1972 by Gustav Husák. Today it links quickly with the European freeway system, providing easy access towards nearby Vienna to the west, southwards to the border with Hungary, with Brno and Prague to the north. The cachet of the FDC shows original drawings of the bridge (Fig. 20). The cancellation has details of the original construction. A collection sheet (0.91€) was issued on the same date, as was a stamp booklet containing 12 self-adhesive stamps (6.60€).



Figure 21

14. On May 18, 2018 the Ministry issued a 0.50€ stamp in the series Technical Monuments: The Historic Power Plant in Piešťany. The stamp shows the new and old sections of the building, illuminated at night (Fig. 21). It was designed by Marián Komáček and produced by Tisk./PTC, offset printed in sheets of 50. Originally built in 1906 the power plant remained in operation until 1945. In 1995 it was declared an immovable cultural building and

added to the Central List of Cultural Monuments. It was only in 2008 that it was decided to modernize the building itself. A design competition was won by students Michal Ganobjak and Vladimír Hain, later implemented by architects ADOM.M Studio. The alterations and modernization were completed in 2012. The building currently offers interactive exhibitions and workshops in the fields of energy, ecology, and natural sciences for students of all ages. Additionally, programs promoting science are offered to the public, as well as concerts, art exhibits and guided tours. The cachet of the FDC was engraved by Jozef Česla and shows a head filled with artifacts (Fig. 22) that would have been found inside the working power plant. The cancellation illustrates items used in electrical generation. A carte maximum (0.96€) was also issued the same day.

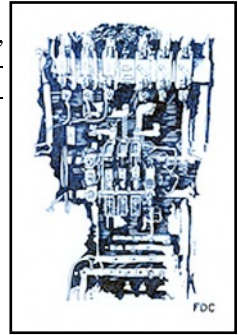


Figure 22

15. On June 1, 2018 the Ministry issued a T2 50g (0.50€) floral motif stamp with labels available for personalization. The stamp, designed by Adrian Ferda, displays a bouquet of peonies and clematis, with sprigs of vitis (Fig. 23). The adjacent labels were designed by Marek Sobola. It was produced by Rempo/Tisk. and offset printed in sheets of 8, with 8 labels. The standard labels illustrate the coat of arms of the town of Turzovka which gained its official status as a town 50 years ago, although it was established in 1598. Peonies were used long ago in eastern Asia as a treatment for diabetes and digestive problems.



Figure 23

Asians still use it as a flavoring for food. It has been grown in Slovakia since the 19th century and is considered to become more beautiful as it matures. The cachet of the FDC, printed by B.B. Print s.r.o., shows a larger bouquet of flowers (Fig. 24), while the cancellation displays a ring of tulips. A pictorial postal card (0.90€) was also issued on the same date.



Figure 24



Figure 25

16. On June 15, 2018 the Ministry issued a 1.25€ stamp to celebrate the 50th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). The stamp, designed by Robert Jančovič, illustrates the logo of this year's competition (Fig. 25). It was off-set printed by Tisk./PTC in sheets of 50. The IChO is a worldwide competition for high-school students, where teams of four test their chemistry knowledge and skills by solving problems, both practical and theoretical. The first such competition was held in Prague in 1968 with only three countries competing. In 2017 the competition had grown to 76 countries. In 2018 the Olympiad is being jointly organized by Comenius University in Bratislava and the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague. The contest, taking place from July 19-29, will encompass several days of laboratory experiments, followed by written examinations. The cachet of the FDC has an artistic version of a molecular structure (Fig. 26) with a simpler hexagonal structure serving as the cancellation.

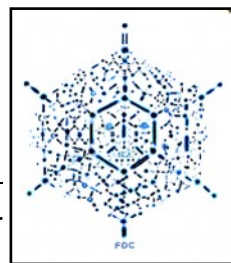


Figure 26

17. On June 22, 2018 the Ministry issued a commemorative sheet in the series Bratislava Coronation Ceremonies: The 400th Anniversary of the Coronation of Ferdinand II. The 1.70€ stamp shows a historical portrait of Ferdinand II, within a sheet illustrating a scene from the Coronation (Fig. 27). The sheet was designed by Marianna Žálec Varholová, engraved by Jozef Česla, and produced by Tisk./PTC using KOMB technology in sheets containing four stamps. Ferdinand II (1578-1637) was the son of Archduke Charles II of Inner Austria and Maria of Bohemia.



Figure 27

Ferdinand was sent to study at a Jesuit college to insulate him from the Lutheran dogma spreading across the Habsburg empire. He became King of Bohemia in 1617, introducing strict counter-Reformation measures, expelling Protestant priests and teachers. This brought him into conflict with the Diets of Bohemia and



Figure 28

Hungary. Despite promising to respect the rights of Bohemian Protestants, a difference of interpretation of this agreement led to the infamous Second Defenestration of Prague in May 1618. In July 1618 he was crowned King of Hungary in Bratislava and a year later became Holy Roman Emperor. The Thirty Years' War had begun in 1618 and Ferdinand's acts against Protestantism caused it to engulf and devastate the entire empire. When Ferdinand died in 1637 he left an empire with its major cities in ruins and a wrecked economy that took over a century to recover. The FDC cachet features a period portrayal of Ferdinand (Fig. 28), while the cancellation shows a head and shoulders likeness of the Emperor. A commemorative sheet (1.61€) was also issued the same day.

18. On June 27, 2018 the Ministry issued a 1.25€ stamp to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Slovakia's membership of the Council of Europe. The self-adhesive stamp has a cube decorated on two sides with the 12-star European flag, artistically shown in the shape of a heart (Fig. 29). The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced by Rempo/Tisk. using offset process in printing sheets of 24. The Council of Europe was founded on May 5, 1949 by 10 western and northern European states. It currently has 47 members. Article 4 of its statutes specifies that membership is available to any European country, provided they meet specific democratic and human rights standards. The Council of Europe is constantly adjusting to the changing political landscape of Europe. At the same time, it has been and will continue to play a vital role in Europe's mutually interconnected system of international organizations. The cachet for the FDC depicts golden stars from the Council of Europe's flag (Fig. 30) and the cancellation has cascading stars within a circle.



Figure 29

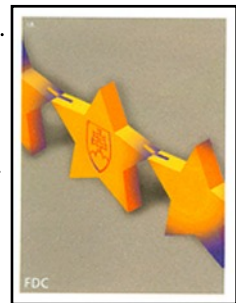


Figure 30

19. On June 30, 2018 the Ministry issued a 1.30€ stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Establishment of the Bratislava City Museum. The stamp shows a view of the museum's original location, the Old Town Hall (Fig. 31). The stamp was designed by Dušan Nágel and produced by Tisk./PTC using offset printing in sheets of 50. The museum was founded by Okrášľovaci Spolok (Beautification Association of Bratislava) to inform town people of the history of the city. After 1990 the focus shifted to documentation of the political and social life of the city. Today, funded



Figure 31

by the Bratislava City Council, it has 10 specialized exhibits, placed in historic buildings such as the Apponyi Palace, Michael's Gate, Red Crayfish Pharmacy, and the House of the Good Shepherd, as well as the Old Town Hall. Other nearby sites they oversee are the Roman fort at Gerulata, and Devín Castle. The Museum contributes to the cultural life of Bratislava by publishing research findings, organizing conferences, and offering cultural and educational programs. The FDC cachet is a coat of arms (Fig. 32), designed by Dušan Nágel and engraved by František Horniak. The cancellation depicts an ancient key.

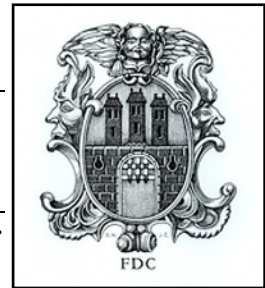


Figure 32

Postal Stationery

20. On April 27, 2018 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the achievements of Anastasia Kusminová at the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. The imprinted T2 50g stamp (0.50€) shows five scenes of sportspeople. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, has a photographic image of Kusminová, holding the three medals she won in Korea (Fig. 33). She won silver medals in the pursuit and individual biathlon competitions, and gold in the mass start biathlon. She has now won gold medals in three consecutive Winter Olympic Games. 2000 cards were issued.



Figure 33



Figure 34

21. On June 1, 2018 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing for Bratislava Collectors Day 2018, held this year from June 1-2. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows the logo ‘Dobry Napad Slovensko’ (Good Idea Slovakia). The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows views of Bratislava and text with the dates of the exhibition (Fig. 34). 1800 cards were issued.



Figure 35



Figure 36

22. On July 4, 2018 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing for the stamp exhibition NITRAFILOVA 2018, taking place from July 4-7. The imprinted T2 50g stamp is a circular design first used to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Slovakia’s entry into the European Union. The additional print, designed by Igor Benca, shows a statue holding up the state symbols of both the Slovak and Czech Republics (Fig. 35). 1600 cards were issued.

23. On July 4, 2018 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the winner of a vote for “The Most Beautiful Stamp of 2017”. The winner was the stamp issued in the Art series, showing the Madonna and Child (Fig. 36), part of the wooden altar in St. James The Apostle Basilica in Levoča. The 500-year-old sculpture was the work of Master Pavel of Levoča. The imprinted T2 50g stamp has the “Good Idea Slovakia” logo. The additional print was designed by Adrian Ferda. 2900 cards were issued. In addition, a special cover was also issued on July 4th (4.02€). The complete miniature sheet containing the stamp is used on the cover. The cachet, engraved by František Horniak, shows the entire central section of the altarpiece, and there is a small circular cancellation on the cover. Only 300 of these covers were issued.

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