

(USPS 808300)

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

Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards
The Specialist is in color, sponsored by an anonymous donor.

A.P.S. Unit 18 ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 81 SPRING 2019 No. 2, Whole No. 656

MEMBERS AUCTION

The Society is pleased to announce an auction for members. This first auction will have philatelic materials gathered only from the Board. It is intended that future auctions can have resources from any member who wishes to sell surplus items. Details of the items available are included on a separate document folded inside the envelope this issue came in. Additional details of some lots will be available online at our website www.csphilately.org. This document also includes the rules on bidding and the time frame of the auction. It is hoped that members find this an excellent additional resource for your membership.

PASSING OF JIŘÍ MAJER

It is with great sorrow we learned of Jiří Majer's sudden death on April 24. A typographer by training, Jiří was an entrepreneur by instinct, and philatelist by choice. Probably best known to fellow members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately as the owner of Majer Auctions, the only auction house which deals exclusively in philatelic materials associated with Czechoslovakia. Many of us built strong collections and exhibits with the material available through these auctions. His specialized catalog Czechoslovakia 1944-1945: Sub-Carpathian Ukraine and the monograph co-authored with Jaroslav J. Verner, Mail of the Czechoslovak Armies in Russia, 1914-1920, filled important gaps in literature on these subjects. His support for our Society goes back many years. His support for our book sales program is especially noteworthy. Jiří's energy, philatelic knowledge, and friendship will be sorely missed.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which SCP 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.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. 81 SPRING 2019

No. 2, Whole No. 656

Published quarterly - \$25.00 per year

Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)

Periodical paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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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.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE ACRONYM "STS" MEANS?

by Petr Folprecht trans. by Lucie Harris

Some old-timers might say that the acronym STS could be read as Strojní Traktorová Stanice (mechanical tractor station). There are however other meanings too. For example, Space Transportation System, which is a NASA project for reusable space ships; attaching a number, it is used for the designation of a specific mission. In the field of computers and information technology, the abbreviation STS in short means the location of termination indicators. However, we are interested in what STS means in philately.

I received a postal card from Kašperské Hory, where on the spot designated for pasting the stamp are written the letters STS [partially covered by the wavy lines of the machine cancel]. The postal card has a machine cancel DEPO Klatovy 70 with ZIP Code 399 07, and an additional cancel of "Vybráno ze schránky" (collected from a postal box) and a hand written "T 15 + 19".

In this case STS means Student to Student, and it is a "way" to send a postal card or letter without a stamp. It works like this: instead of putting a stamp on the consignment you write STS on it (in English speaking countries S2S is also used) and you throw it into the postal box. Then you just wait to see if some good postal soul will send it on, or not (usually they will, because they remember that each country has their individual postal regulations for the transport of unpaid shipments). Meanwhile, of course, on the sender's part it is all about an informal effort to save the postage; having to pay such postage has no support in generally valid regulations here or abroad. It would in fact be the same as sending a consignment without a stamp and without any special notation.

I was not able to find out the origin of writing the acronym STS even though I found whole chat rooms about this topic on the internet and even a specialized Facebook page. According to them this procedure is relatively accepted with



shipments from one country to another, especially in Europe. You can even find cases on the internet of consignments being delivered from another continent to Europe without problems. Of course, you must always consider the fact there is the risk of the consignment not being delivered. Or if delivered, they may determine franking and exact postage due — e.g., the unpaid postage and the relevant "fine" (usually approximately the amount of the unpaid postage). The truth is however that many postal services have practically given up on collecting unpaid postage (or they only try to formally), because the expenses connected with it are higher than the collected amount. This is confirmed by the fact that the formerly common postage due stamps are perhaps not even issued in most countries. If there is even any effort, it is usually only a note on the consignment, and an attached postal card with information as to the postage due and instructions on how to pay it (e.g., pasting regular postage stamps in the correct amount on the postal card and throwing it into a postal box, or payment at a post office, etc).

Shown on the postal card is a hand written note with the amount of postage due "T 15 + 19", where T stand for postage due. The first number (15) is the "fee" amount (which is the correctly determined amount for an unpaid consignment requiring a 19 Kč stamp). The second number shows that the unpaid franking also has to be paid -- therefore a total of 34 Kč. I found this postal card in my mailbox without any documentation indicating evidence that payment needed to be collected.

Another interesting fact is the ZIP Code in the machine cancel -- 399 07. If we look at the ZIP Code list, we find that the correct ZIP Code for DEPO Klatovy 70 is 339 07. The ZIP Code shown on the postal card does not exist.

It is amazing how much information you can find on a seemingly ordinary postal card. That is why it is worth looking for interesting facts even on consignments from regular postal service. Similar finds will certainly bring joy to many.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of an article from Filatelie 5/2018 with the permission of the author and the editor.]

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WW II OFFICER POW CAMPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Richard G. Palaschak

Despite the fact that I've been seriously collecting Czechoslovak area philatelic items for over 35 years, I am often surprised by material that I find at local stamp shows. As an example, Figure 1 shows a Prisoner of War (POW) postcard that I recently came across at such a show, one of three similar items that I purchased there. It is from a French officer who was imprisoned in an Officer POW Camp (Offizierlager), specifically Oflag VIII-G.¹ Note that the printing in the lower left corner identifies the camp as well as its location in Weidenau (Vidnava) in East Sudetenland, now in the Czech Republic. Weidenau is north of Olomouc near the border with Poland. It appears that the cancellation with the date is from a cancelling device used in Weidenau prior to the war but with the town identifiers obliterated from the device. Specifically, the cancellation fits the markings, size, and layout of the M47 design as illustrated in *Monografie Československých Známek* 17-2, page 147, and which was in use in Weidenau during the years 1935-1938 (Fig. 2).



Figure 1: Oflag VIII-G, postcard dated 26 May, 1942



Figure 2: cancellation design M47

Loučka) and the other. Oflag VIII-H/z, was located in Eulenburg (Sovinec).2 These two towns are about 90 kilometers apart in the Czech Republic. I've been unable to determine in which of the two camps Capitaine Clemént was imprisoned

Figure 3 shows another postcard from the same officer postmarked six months later. but the camp in which he being held has changed. He apparently was moved to Oflag VIII-F, located in Mährisch-Trübau b. Zwittau (Moravská Třebová) in the Sudetenland.

When I compared the prior Czechoslovak cancellations for Mährisch-Trübau to the date cancellation on the postcard, I couldn't establish any correlations; instead, it corresponds most closely to the size, layout, and markings of the AM2 design as illustrated in *Monografie Československých Známek 17-1*, page 33. Note the different design of the censor cancellation. The reverse of this card acknowledges receipt of a package in good condition (Fig. 4).

Figure 5 shows a letter from a French officer, Capitaine Morel Clemént, from Oflag VIII-H. There were two locations that had the designation VIII-H. Oflag VIII-H/h was located in Oberlangendorf (Dlouhá



Figure 3: Oflag VIII-F. postcard dated 30 November 1942.



Figure 4: Oflag VIII-F. reverse of postcard dated 30 November 1942.



Figure 5: Oflag VIII-H. letter dated 27 November 1941.

when his letter was posted. The date cancellation on the letter does not correspond to the size, layout, or markings of either of the two cancellation device designs in use in Eulenburg during 1919-1938 Monografie Československých, Známek 17.

Volume 17 doesn't show a post office in Oberlangendorf during the twenty years prior to the war. Note the third different design for the censor cancellation.

Because the postal history of occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II is a new philatelic area for me, I decided to reach out to our sister society in Germany, the ArGe T s c h e c h o

slowakei (AGT), to resolve some questions that arose during my analysis of these three items. The questions that I posed follow:

1) The censor markings on the three covers are all different. This implies that each Oflag was free to design their own device for stamping outgoing mail. Is that conclusion correct? Are there any records detailing all the censor cancellations in use at the Oflags?

2) The postal cancellation devices used at the camps for outgoing mail appear to be older devices that have had portions of the old markings obliterated. Am I correct in that assumption? Are there any records detailing the origin of each of these postal cancellations?

Mr. Hartmut Liebermann, chairman of the AGT, soon contacted me and offered to help in my search for a better philatelic understanding of the material. He

forwarded my questions to other members of the AGT and soon I received relevant information from Mr. Liebermann and several other members of their society.

Regarding the censor markings on the three items, Mr. Wolfgang Vogt, Chairman of the ArGe Zensurpost, confirmed that each Oflag was free to design their own cancel.

Regarding the postal cancellations on the three items, Mr. Liebermann explained that during WW II the German Post (Deutsche Reichspost) used cancellers without town names for mail from military origin. The reason was to camouflage the location of the sender, mainly of soldiers who sent their letters by field post. The German term for these postmarks is "Tamstempel". For the construction of such "Tamstempel", cancellers of different origin were used by obliterating the town identifiers. In occupied countries, cancellers from these countries were often used for this purpose. Mr. Liebermann confirmed that the dumb postmark in Figure 1 was made by obliterating the names from a cancellation device such as you find in Votoček's Monografie Československých Známek 17-2, page 147. The dumb postmarks in Figures 3 and 5 are of different origin. The German normalized postmarks that were introduced in the Sudetenland areas from the end of 1938 through the beginning of 1939 had a diameter of 28.5mm. That is the exact diameter of the cancellations in Figures 3 and 5. So the origin of the three dumb postmarks seems to be obvious, one was made from a former Czechoslovak and two from former German normalized cancellation devices. What is unknown for sure is - What were the original inscriptions, and thus the original places from where the cancels came? They might be from any postal office which had an original Czechoslovak, or a normalized cancellation device at its disposal. It is also curious that two of the items use dumb postmarks but identify the location of the Oflags

Mr. Verner Nielsen from Denmark noted that there was a book, *Deutsche Kriegsgefangenen und Internierteneinrichtungen (1939-45)*, Koblenz/Milano, 1986/1987, by G. Mattiello and W. Vogt. The book has two parts:

Part 1: Stammlager (Stalag), 1986

Part 2: Oflag BAB, Dulag, etc. 1987

In the second part there are descriptions and pictures of the different Oflag postmarks, at least as far as they were known to the authors at the time of the publication more than 30 years ago. For those who have an interest in this philatelic area, this book is still available from AGT by going to their website: www.arge-zensurpost.de – Literaturecke.

My sincere appreciation and thanks are extended to the members of AGT who assisted in improving my understanding of the philately relating to these three items. I especially recognize the efforts of Mt. Hartmut Liebermann who was so responsive to my inquiry.

Going to a local stamp show has, once again, provided new insights and new research challenges.

NOTES:

1. At the start of World War II, the German Army was divided into 17 military districts, that were each assigned a Roman numeral. The prisoner of war camps within a military district were identified with that district's Roman numeral; a letter behind the Roman numeral designated the individual camps in a military district. Source: *Wikipedia*.

2. Main camps (Hauptlager) were designated by adding the suffix "h" to the camp identification. Sub-camps (Zweiglager) were designated by adding the suffix "z" to the camp identifier. Source: Wikipedia.

MACHINE CANCELS WITH ADVERTISING PRINT BLOCKS

CZECHOSLOVAK TOURING CANCELS

by Miroslav Rulec, Josef Chudoba trans. by Lucie Harris

Machine cancels lay rather on the border of interest of most collectors, and covers having them belong literally as Cinderella's of our field of study. At the same time it is a shame, because some of them -- specifically for example those with publicity insertions which are called for the most part "touring" ones (Fig. 1) provide not an



Fig. 1

insignificant opportunity for specialized collecting, during which with negligible costs we can create a valuable collection, and maybe even an exhibit. After ten years of "calm waters", there was stirred up a new Protectorate catalog in which touring cancels are newly incorporated and priced -- for many of the readers unbelievably high! It is clear that you cannot compare the Protectorate -- having a huge interest of German philatelists -- with our First Republic period. The principle however is still the same -- even though there was great variation in their use and a small number of covers were preserved, you can still develop philatelic products having Czechoslovak touring cancels whose costs are no longer great. Of course, everything depends solely on -- if enough interested people can be found who will begin to investigate them.

In the last thirty years, there were several monograph works and articles published dealing with certain types of cancels. This pertains in particular to forerunner and Czechoslovak cancels [1]. [2], those for trains [1], [2], those for special occasions [4], [5], [6], those for butterflies [7], and for contract post offices [8]. To

the group of cancels that have not yet been examined belong machine, special occasion machine, and above all touring cancels (i.e., traveling). In the last 70 years, these last ones have been dealt with in literature [9], [10], [11] and now our article is also dedicated to them.

We are talking about a machine cancel with publicity content which is placed in a removable cartridge. It was used in a specified post office for a limited time only (i.e., a session lasted usually one or two weeks), and then was transferred (traveled) to the next post office.

Up until now it has not been possible to discover any documentation describing the sequence of post offices that used individual publicity cartridge inserts. At the time of the implementation of these cancels (1933-36), several articles on them came from the pen of J. Lešetický [12] describing the time of their use at individual post offices. They did not however raise any great interest among collectors nor preserve their responses as to whether the published data corresponded to reality. After nearly eight decades, we have therefore decided to check up on the available evidence. It turned out that the mentioned source was put together without any significant errors. Unfortunately the author died in 1936, and his work has not found successors. A follow-on source [9] from 1972 shows only a list of post offices that used touring cancels but not a time sequence. Therefore we have also reviewed this data for correspondence with available records. The results of this effort we will now present to you.

A brief history and interesting facts about touring cancels

Touring cancels were put into use in the postal service in the Czech lands in the second half of 1933 and in Slovakia a year later. Altogether we are talking about 14 types of cancels in two language versions -- Czech and Slovak. A listing of the post offices that used them -- and the times when they used them -- is being brought to you in this article.

Beginning in 1935 there were introduced additional promotional inserts into the machine cartridges, focused on short term campaigns, and therefore used for shorter periods than the previous inserts. These we are going to be dealing with in the next part of our study.

It is not without curiosity that promotional inserts survived the pre-war extinction of Czechoslovakia, and that some of them were even used during the times of the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate and the Slovak State -- and one even in the ČSR in 1970!! (We are talking here about one of the last First Republic cancels to be used).

The use of machine cancels was accompanied with various operational errors and mistakes, such as the wrong date being placed in the date stamp, or the promotional cancel being placed upside down in the cartridge. The text used in the promotional cartridge in the following areas was in the Czech lands always in Czech (as well as in the cancels of the Czech-German designated post offices), in Slovakia always in Slovak, in Carpatho-Ukraine also Slovak, even when the designation of the post office was Czech-Rusyn. Some of the promotional inserts were successively used twice in certain post offices, even three times.

For the time being there are only a limited number of collectors interested in touring cancels, and therefore they can be often obtained at reasonable prices. However, informed collectors can successfully find among themselves even rarely

occurring specimens, even from the point of view of being used at a certain post office perhaps uniquely. Rare are certain cancels from Carpatho-Ukraine, both for their short period of use, as for the limited postal intercourse there.

The method to search the listing

In this article we present a listing of 14 Czech and 14 Slovak machine cancels which were in service from 1933. Each is illustrated, and this we deem to be the best way for our readers to identify them. In practice almost all of the known touring cancels are printed in black.

With each of the cancels there is attached a listing of the post offices at which the cancel was used, with chronologically arranged periods of their observed use. The dates of usage are presented in parenthesis, taken from the literature cited in italics. For the entry of the data we have chosen the unusual method of separating the month (from the days) with a slash [/], which is in fact clearer than perhaps to use a period. If we only know the month of usage (without any definite days), then we designate the month with a Roman numeral. If on one of the surviving cancels there is an unreadable figure (e.g., the post office number or a date figure), we have placed a question mark in place of it. In case the period of usage is not known, then only the name of the post office is given, namely from the listing as written in [12]. With Czech-German named post offices we only list the Czech name. In order to conserve space, the names of post offices are listed in their commonly abbreviated form. Operational errors and mistakes are indicated in the footnotes to the text [These are not shown in this article, but can be seen in the full article found on the Society web site].

A chronological listing has two advantages over an alphabetic one: it is possible to distinguish multiple uses of the same cartridge at a particular post office, and it is possible to trace the path of a promotional cartridge, whose path is invariably that of other cartridges, and thus project the unknown place of its origin. Of course, it would be possible to publish this in another manner, e.g., to arrange the post offices in alphabetical order and to attach to each the known uses of cancels. It is not ruled out that after receiving reports from other collectors we will also use this form.

The authors welcome any additions, suggestions, or comments of cooperation which you might send to either the editors of Filatelie or e-mail address: josef.chudoba@tul.cz.

Literature:

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[Below is an example of the listing of touring cancels. To see the entire listing, go to the SCP web site www.csphilately.org.]

Listing of touring cancels (arranged chronologically)



Fig. 2

1933 -- Praha 2 (2-16/6); Praha 5 (17-29/6); Praha 6 (30/6-15/7); Praha 8 (16-31/7); Praha 11 (1-15/8); Praha 14 (22/8-1/9); Praha 15 (23/9); Praha 27; Praha 36; Praha 40 (2-4/11); Praha 47 (15/11); Praha 59 (4/12); Praha 65.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of an article from Filatelie 11/2012 and 12/2012 with the permission of the author and the editor.]

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New Members

The following new members have joined the Society recently.

#2193. Dan Coviello, Bluemont, VA

#2194. Peter Gargett, Leeds, Yorkshire, England

#2195. Jon Rudin, San Diego, CA

#2196. Susan Simon, Garland, TX

Welcome to our Society. If you have questions about any aspect of collecting philatelic materials from the Czech and Slovaks lands, we probably have somebody who can answer them. You could also let us know your field(s) of interest. Finally here's an offer I hope you cannot refuse- your photo in the *Specialist!* Just send me an article about "How I Became A Collector", along with a photo of yourself, and I can guarantee that will appear in the *Specialist.* You can connect to anyone through the editor whose contact information is on page 2 of this issue.

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: <u>www.cpsgb.org.uk</u>, and through their 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.

Book Review

100 YEARS, 534 AUTHORS, 100 YEARS OF THE POSTAL MUSEUM

by Martin Říha and Jan Kramář

It was a completely unexpected delight to discover this book while at ARIPEX. To celebrate both the centenary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia, as well as the Czech Postal Museum's own 100 years, this book leads you to find a completely new interest in Czechoslovak/Czech stamps- the unfulfilled, and/or rejected designs for a hundred years of stamps. A huge bonus is that it is written in English as well as Czech.

As the title tells you there have been 534 different stamp designers, graphic artists, and engravers used in the production of stamps in the past century. Some designers have only one example to their name. In the most part their names are familiar as they have been involved in dozens of issues. Then there are the giants of stamp design, some of whom have over 100 designs to their name. The idea behind the book is to advertise a little-known part of the museum's vast holdings, The Stamp Designs Collection. In a purely chronological order, starting with Mucha's designs and drafts for the Hradčany issue and ending with the miniature sheet issued to celebrate the museum's centenary, we can find wonderful designs that were unrealized because even better ones were available. There are also a few examples where we can say "Nice drawing, but what were they thinking. Thank goodness this never came to fruition." The large format of the book allows us to see scaled-up sketches, revisions and drafts. It also shows us what the continued encouragement of the Czechoslovak and Czech Postal Services has given us, a century of remarkable stamp design that remains as the world's highest standard. This is really a 'coffee table' book. A volume that you will continually pick up to look through yourself. Also, something that any visitor will find very difficult to ignore, whether they are philatelists or not.

This book is available from James Buckner, our book sales manager, whose contact information can be found on the back page of this issue. For orders with addresses outside the USA, also non-member orders, please contact James to ascertain the correct cost to you.

312 pages. 12"x 9 ¾", introduction in b/w, otherwise in full color; hard cover; POFIS, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic. \$30.00.

Keith Hart

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

If you are a collector/enthusiast of that period when Czechoslovak and Hungarian philately overlaps, as well as the earlier shared postal history, you should consider joining the **Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)**. Annual membership includes four issues of The News of Hungarian Philately, access to member's sections of their website, and participation in their quarterly auction. Annual dues are \$25 for N. America, \$30 Worldwide, or \$20 for online access only. You can join by following the link on the home page of their website, www.hungarianphilately.org, using PayPal (adding \$1 to whichever level you require), or direct to the treasurer, Wes Learned, P.O. Box 802, Powell, WY 82435-0802.

AMERISTAMP EXPO/ARIPEX 2019

Our annual meeting for 2019 was held at AmeriStamp Expo/ARIPEX in Mesa, AZ. The setting was perfect with the show hotel right next to the Mesa Convention Center. The venue was quite spread out, but our table was in the main bourse area where we spent most of our time.

On February 14 we held our Annual Board Meeting and had a lot to discuss, particularly the changes in the Society's bylaws. The Board had earlier been given a series of multiple choice suggested changes which were then voted on. A summation of the results appears later in this issue. Members are reminded that the complete bylaws can be viewed online at our website www.csphilately.org



Fig. 1 - James Buckner, Tom Cossaboom, and Marisa Galitz awaiting the opening bell on the first day of ARIPEX.

The results of the Board election recent were announced. officers were elected. The only other major discussion regarded the job of Secretary, which was divided into two separate positions. Membership Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. The Membership Secretary, with Tom Cossaboom continuing in this position, will keep an upto-date list of members

and vital membership information, receive annual dues paid by check, compile both online membership and mailed renewals, and process new members. The Corresponding Secretary shall oversee all official correspondence between the Society and its members; take and distribute minutes of all Board meetings; edit and approve all official notices to be published in *The Specialist*, or other publication; collect and preserve the general records and official documents of the Society.

It was also decided that members who had not renewed their membership by January 1st, risked only receiving the Winter Specialist download online. This is due to the cost of mailing single copies of the Specialist after main bulk the mailing becoming both expensive and time-consuming. Other discussions were about venues for future meetings, and the effort to develop a list of members



Fig. 2 - Awaiting dinner at the Hungarian Reform Church.

willing to make presentations at philatelic shows, perhaps remotely, using podcasts or YouTube.

The following day the stamp show opened (Fig. 1), and we found ourselves in a busy corner surrounded by other stamp societies. For three days there was constant traffic past our table, plenty of people stopping by to chat and a healthy sale of books. The nearness of other societies enabled us to have fruitful discussions with them, particularly The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP), The International Cuban Philatelic Society, and The American First Day Cover Society. We were most fortunate to have been invited to the dinner arranged for the SHP, which was held at the Hungarian Reform Church in Phoenix (Fig. 2). The delicious, traditional Hungarian meal had been prepared by members of the church's congregation and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks, in particular to Alan Bauer of the SHP and our Frederick Lawrence, for coordinating this treat and allowing us to commence many friendships with their members.

ARIPEX was extremely well organized and we enjoyed our time there. The three days flew by and all too soon we found ourselves travelling back to other, generally colder parts of North America.

* * * * *

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

At our meeting in Mesa, Tom Cossaboom announced the results of the Board elections, to fill the four positions whose terms expired this year. Fifty-eight ballots were received, although two were declared invalid as they arrived after the closing date. It was declared that James Buckner, "Jarka" Havel, Frederick Lawrence, and Richard Livingston are duly elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Thank you to all those who voted. The Board appreciates it.

* * * * *

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Also, at our Board meeting, it was required of the Board to elect Officers for the SCP. Frederick Lawrence nominated Chris Jackson for President, Ludvik "Lou" Svoboda for Vice-President, Marisa Galitz for Treasurer, and Tom Cossaboom for Membership Secretary. James Buckner seconded the nominations and all were elected unanimously.

SELL - SWAP - WANT

WANT: Monografie 9 - Czechoslovak First Day Covers 1947-1992.

Any copy in reasonable condition.

Keith Hart - kdhart46@icloud.com: (303) 594-0697

[Every member is entitled to one FREE 15-word ad each calendar year, which will run in the column headed like this one. Your name, address and other contact information does not count towards the 15 words. Send your ad (Please type or print it so there can be no misunderstandings.) to the editor at the address or email address found on page 2 of every issue].

PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

From Keith Hart

- 1) On May 17, 1969 a National Congress of Slovak Philatelists took place in Sliač, Czechoslovakia where they established the **Union of Slovak Philatelists** (**ZSF**). Today there are 59 philatelic clubs in Slovakia, with 947 members. Also 12 young philatelist clubs with 129 members. Throughout the 50 years of their existence, members of ZSF have organized hundreds of competitive exhibitions, as well as entering philatelic exhibits in international shows throughout the world. We congratulate our sister society on its 50th anniversary and hope for continued collaboration with them on our shared philately in the future. Their website (in Slovak) is www.slovenskafilatelia.sk where copies of their journal Spravodajca can be viewed. They also contribute to the website www.postoveznamky.sk which can be translated into English and has extensive information about all forms of philately.
- 2) Our member **Mark Wilson** recently had two honors bestowed upon him. The Collectors of Czechoslovak Typographic Stamps Society gave him honorary lifetime membership. He was also given an Award of Merit by The Association of British Philatelic Societies for his contributions to British philately. Congratulations, Mark. These are well deserved awards for many years of service to numerous philatelic endeavors.
- 3) My personal apologies to our Book Sales Manager, James Buckner for listing him as "?" in the caption to the photo on page 20 of the Winter *Specialist*. James, you will be pleased to learn that the corrected lenses for my glasses are on order right now.
- 4) It seems as if we have only just returned from our meeting at ARIPEX in Mesa, AZ. However, it is already time to inform you of our next meeting, which will be at the **Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition**, which will be held from February 7-9, 2020 at the Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. A prospectus and exhibit entry forms are available on the show website www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html. Members wanting to exhibit should note that their applications have to be received by July 31, 2019. Applications received after this date are not guaranteed to be accepted. Further information will be given in the next *Specialist*, which I am sure will have you scrambling to make reservations at the thought of a break from the wintery conditions further north.
- President, **Chris Jackson**. Temporary personal circumstances prevent Chris from being able to set aside enough time to spend on the duties that the President has, as well as being a Board member, from which he has also resigned. On behalf of the Society, *The Specialist* thanks Chris for his time as President, during which he has brought forward many ideas to update the way the Society adapts to our current circumstances. It is certainly hoped that eventually Chris will be able to rejoin the Board. At present our Vice-President, Lou Svoboda, has taken over the responsibilities of the President. *The Specialist* will continue to keep you informed as to a permanent replacement, as well as filling the available Board position. If any member is interested in becoming a Board member they should communicate with Lou Svoboda, whose contact information is on page 2 of this issue.

UPDATES TO THE CLASSICS CORNER

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL, DP-1 No. 112 in the Series Official Regulations Document of the 1918 Czech Scout Post

Last year (2018) was the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Czech Scout Post. Following up on our six-part commemoration of the anniversary, we now report on the most important artifact of the Scout Post, the Official Regulations document.

Of the remaining artifacts of the 1918 Czech Scout Post – stamps, covers, postcards, telegrams, documents, and ephemera – by far the most important is the November 7, 1918 Official Regulations No. 324R document, or charter document (Fig. 1). At the top of the document are the "Official Regulations for Czech Scouts

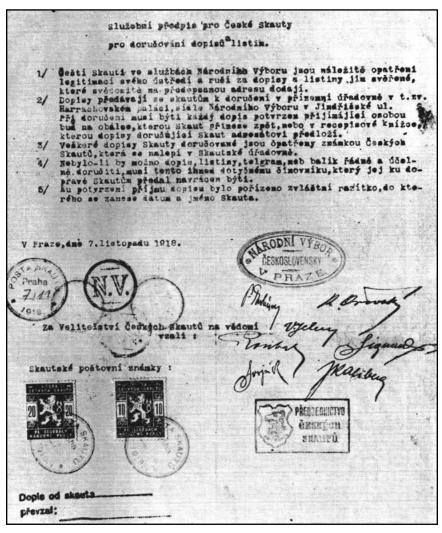
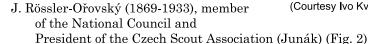


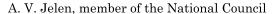
Figure 1. Official Regulations document of the 1918 Scout Post (courtesy Burda Auction Co.)

Delivering Letters and Documents," numbered (1) through (5). Ivo Kvasnička illustrated the document and listed the regulations in his 1968 article on the Scout Post¹, and again illustrated the document in his 1996 follow-on article². Ing. Pavel Pittermann also illustrated the document in his 1991 article on genuineness of entires with stamps of the Scout Post³.

In the center of the document, on the left are one strike of the double circle POŠTA SKAUTŮ handstamp without notches in the outer ring and four strikes of the National Council's double circle NV (Národní Výbor) handstamp – all in black ink; on the right is a strike of the National Council's double oval NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR handstamp – in violet ink – below which are seven signatures (left to right, from top down):

Dr. F. Pavlásek, member of the National Council





V. Roubal, deputy of the Chief Scout



Figure 3. Dr. Antonín Benjamin Svojsík, founder of the Czech Scout Association (Junák) and Chief Scout (Courtesy google.com).



Figure 2. Josef Rössler- Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association (Junák) (Courtesy Ivo Kvasnička).

- ? Sigmund, representative of the Directorate of the Czech Scouts of the National Council
- A. B. Svojsík (1876-1938), founder of the Czech Scout Association (Junák) and Chief Scout (Fig. 3)
- J. Kalibera, representative of the Directorate of the Czech Scouts of the National Council

At the bottom of the document, on the left are 20h red and 10h blue Scout Post stamps, tied by strikes of the double circle POŠTA SKAUTŮ handstamp with two notches in the outer ring, under which is a strike of the "Dopis od skauta ... převzal ..." handstamp – all in black ink; on the right is a strike of the rectangular handstamp of the Presidium of the Czech Scout Association (Junák) – in red ink.

The early history of the Official Regulations document is not clear. Artifacts of the Scout Post including the handstamps, along with all other material concerning the Nation-

al Council, were deposited in the archives of the National Council about the year 1930, and were subsequently destroyed either during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia or the fire in the Old Town Hall during the Prague Revolt of May 1945^{1,2}. That the document is today undamaged, except for some file folds, strongly suggests that it went into private hands shortly after the end of the Scout Post. In the 1980s, the document appeared in the international large gold medal collection of Czechoslovakia formed by Ludvík Pytlíček of Semily, today in the Czech Republic, and is illustrated in his 2008 book, *The Rarest Czechoslovak Postage Stamps in the Collection of Ludvík Pytlíček*. In four sales during 2017-2018, the Burda Auction Co. in Prague sold the Pytlíček collection, including the document, which was bought by a Scouts collector outside the Czech Republic. Owing to VAT considerations, the auction house was unable to obtain an export permit for the document, and the buyer had to take physical possession of it in the Czech Republic.

Because records of the operations of the Scout Post were lost after they were deposited in the archives of the National Council, the numbers of the two handstamps specially prepared for the Scout Post – the POSTA SKAUTU and "Dopis od skauta ... převzal ..." handstamps – are not known. The first Scout Post operations center was opened in the Harrachov Palace on the evening of October 28, 1918, was relocated to the Cadet Academy on November 10, and was then relocated to the Parliament on November 13, where it remained until the Scout Post was closed on the evening of November 25; a second Scout Post operations center was opened in the Ministry of the Interior, located in the former governor's palace in the Hradčany Castle, on November 16 1,2. Additional handstamps may have been prepared for the use in the second Scout Post operations center. However, Ivo Kvasnička is of the opinion, both POŠTA SKAUTŮ handstamps which appear on the Official Regulations document were used in the first Scout Post operations center, then the POSTA SKAUTU handstamp without notches was relocated and used in the second Scout Post operations center, and there were no additional POŠTA SKAUTŮ handstamps prepared 1,2. If he is correct, then all strikes of POŠTA SKAUTŮ handstamps on Scout Post entires – covers, post cards, telegrams, and documents - must match exactly the exemplars on the Official Regulations document for the entires to be Pittermann Category 1 (genuine and authentic) or Category 2 (genuine, but not necessarily authentic) 3.

FNDNOTES:

- 1. Kvasnička, I. "The Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service of 1918." *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 83, No. 1 (Jan 1969), pp. 27-41. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. XIX, No. 1 (Jan 1970), pp. 8-9 & ff. (multiple segments).
- 2. Kvasnička, I. "Czech Scout Mail." *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.
- 3. Pittermann, Ing. P. "Genuineness of Entires with Stamps." *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Jan-Feb 1992), pp. 4-11. Reprinted in the *SOSSI Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 2 (Jan 1993), pp. 1, 8-9 & ff. (two segments).

[Ed. note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) Journal, January/February 2019, with the permission of the author and editor.]

MEMORIES OF MAX ŠVABINSKÝ (conťd)

by Jindra Schmidt trans. by Lucie Harris and Lou Svoboda

At the Postal Ministry there operated an Art Commission proposed by the Union of Creative Arts which approved postage stamp designs. The Commission was to be changed every three years. That, in fact, did not happen, so some assembled

LANSTURSA-1880-1025

As y been y !

Key dapadne das melskad
M Svabinsys

25. 244no 1955

"Excellent! Hopefully the issue will look like this. 27 April 1955"

Commissions operated a number of years longer, according to the whims of the head official of stamp production at the Ministry.

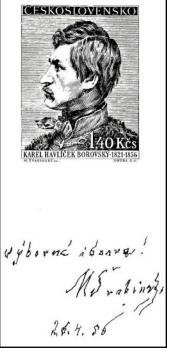
Once, when a new Commission had been established, Švabinský expressed an interest during one of my visits, as to who the new members were. The Chairman at that time was Professor V.V. Štech, of whom Švabinský commented: "He is excellent, he is a living dictionary, he knows everything, he knows what is occurring in the world, and he also knows where to find good food and good Pilsner."

When we talked about Professor Karel Štika, I remarked about him that he was a happy and funny person. Švabinský knew Štika very well since Karel had been his student. He could imitate Karel's voice

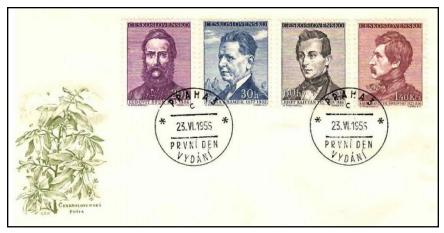
very well. He said: "But no, he is not really that funny, he is more of a satirist."

In 1948, when action was taken to issue a stamp with a

portrait of the first working-class President, Klement Gottwald, the work was assigned to Švabinský. The President would travel to the Academy of Fine Arts in Letná, where the professor would work on the portrait. After about three visits, Švabinský came down with a raging illness. There then arose concerns at the Ministry as to whether the stamp could even be finished on schedule. That is why I was invited to complete the draft of the President's portrait. I chose to use for this effort a photograph by Karel Hájek that I regarded as one of the most accomplished. Švabinský also finished his own work on time, so a decision had to be made to choose one of the designs for use. Wherever the decision was discussed, my design was recommended, but nobody wanted to make a final decision. Therefore, both drawings were sent to the Parliament where it was recommended that the President himself should look at them both and choose the one to be used for a stamp.



"Excellent and the shading also. 26 April 1956"



"FDC for Writers and Poets (1) issue 23 June 1956"

That is what happened. When I later found out the President had picked my design, I was very happy, but also nervous about Švabinský being offended. On my way to see him the next time, I was on tenterhooks about his reaction. In fact, Švabinský welcomed me with respect and congratulated me on my success. I was surprised and admired his generous character. Even though he himself did not succeed on this occasion, he recognized my accomplishment with great acknowledgement.

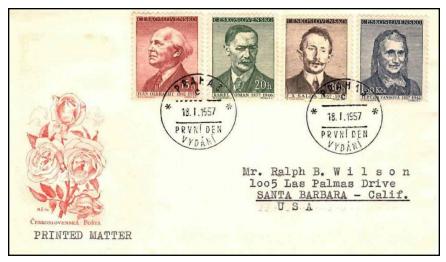
Švabinský had been in a candid and friendly relationship with the sculptor, Jan Štursa, while he was alive. He gladly reminisced about the time they spent in Italy. That is where the beginnings of Švabinský's work "Poet and Muse" was born. Before I started work on an engraving of a portrait of Štursa, we talked for a long time about the design. Švabinský explained to me how he imagined drawing the lines by partially indicating them on the design, and what the statue's portrait meant.



"Excellent engraving and color, Schmidt.

When the "Goddess of Abundance" came up he suggested how lines would in the best way capture the body of the goddess and said: "You know, a woman's bottom isn't round, it is angular. Some painters paint it like a melon, but it is angular. It is not so angular that somebody can get poked by it, but it is angular." He emphasized these last words with a stronger voice and with hand gestures, so I had to try and make the bottom angular.

One spring the weather was especially unsettled, especially April's weather. When I visited Professor Švabinský his housekeeper, while opening the door, told me I would have to wait a bit, as the professor was just being visited by a doctor. The door to his room was open and when Švabinský heard it was me, he called me to come in. He then introduced me to Dr. Tesař who was attending to the leg that he had hurt in the winter when he fell on a frozen metal mat



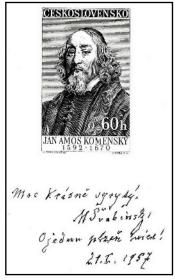
"FDC for Writers and Poets (2) issue 18 January 1957"

in front of the entrance to the Academy. Švabinský's wound was not healing well so the treatment was taking longer.

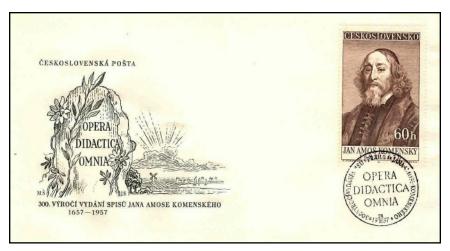
When I entered the room the weather was beautiful, the sun was shining, but the next moment a heavy downpour started. Dr. Tesař commented in surprise on the strange weather: "Listen, Max, you are in fact old enough, do you ever remember such weather?" Švabinský, after a short pause, just shook his head: "No, I do not, but maybe Kuba might remember, he is 92." The painter Ludvík Kuba was at that time exactly ten years older than Švabinský. We laughed heartily at the professor's effort to make it sound as if he was too young to be someone who could remember such weather.

Professor Švabinský handed over many designs directly to me, and I brought them to the Ministry to be approved and endorsed for engraving. During one of the hand overs of a design, Švabinský emphasized that I should accentuate the bones on the portrait's head even more. "At that very moment his housekeeper was coming into the room. She heard him and confirmed that the professor really did like bones, and that he always ate them all. To this Švabinský replied "Oh be quiet, we are talking about different bones." He laughed out loud and explained, "You know, I really like to chew cartilage."

Once at Švabinský's I found two men, who he introduced with the words, "This is Saint Mikuláš, Mr. Mikolášek, and that is his assistant." I immediately knew who it was, because I knew Mr. Mikolášek well from stories. At my next visit I asked if he was also taking Mikolášek's advice about his health¹. "Oh no, I do drink some herbs, but he was mainly here to ask me to do his portrait. But can I? What would my doctors say?"



"Very beautifully engraved. Have one more pilsner! 21 January 1957"



"FDC for J.A. Komenský stamp 28 March 1957"

During one of our visits, I found Professor Švabinský sitting at a table. The table was dominated by a bottle that had a butterfly pinned to the cork, and next to it was a little vase holding an orchid. Švabinský was drawing the butterfly as if it sat on the exotic flower. "Do you know this butterfly?", he asked since he knew I took an interest in butterflies, and that I was the owner of a decent butterfly collection. I declared that it was a *Parnassius Apollo* (Mountain Apollo). "Yes, but this one is Indian since it has blue spots, ours has red spots. Just look at that beauty. And this orchid, look, that splendor, the cluster of flower petals, that stigma, and those anthers, that is beauty! Look, it is after all like a woman's most sensual parts."

Švabinský often encouraged me to make some kind of a large engraving like a freestyle graphic design. When I asked him what he had in mind, he answered, "Well, how about a nude woman or maybe just a beautiful woman's breasts? It would be enough." This task, due to lack of time, was never accomplished. The work on postage stamps was constantly increasing, so that when I eventually received the assignment for a series of colored butterflies, I had to stop working on banknotes.

Max Svabinský's diligence was something to admire. Whether I visited him in the morning or afternoon, he was always sitting at a table working hard. When I was engraving stamps of our composers and musicians, the deadline for their completion was so short that Švabinský had to work on the portraits non-stop and his work went almost from hand to hand. One Friday I came to pick up a design, so that I could work on it over Sunday to make up some of the short time I had to complete the engravings. Professor Švabinský gave me a design and promised he would do another on Sunday, so I could pick it up on Monday. When I mentioned he should rest on Sunday, Švabinský just said "No. I do not go fishing. And then, have you ever seen a rooster that would not crow every day? So Švabinský must draw even on Sunday. Just come on Monday and it certainly will be done." And it was.

While making a stamp about Jan Amos Komenský, we talked about the stamp's format and about the date when the stamp could be finished. At that time, I was working on several other stamps. Therefore, the supervisor of stamp production

recommended a different engraver to Švabinský. Švabinský did not want to hear anything like this, he asked for me on the phone, and I had to promise I would

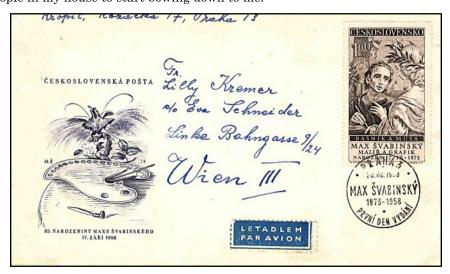


"Excellent engraving and color. 16 July 1958"

engrave the stamp. While shrinking Švabinský's drawing to the size of the stamp, it did not fit since I had received the wrong stamp dimensions. Therefore, I was forced during my re-drawing to add 2 ½ cm (1 inch) to the bottom part of Komenský's coat in my six-layered line drawing. Later when I went to show the design to Švabinský I did not immediately tell him what I had done, and I waited to see if he would realize it. After very careful examination of the drawing. he was satisfied with it, so I dared to admit what I had done. Švabinský looked at it again and said "You know, Schmidtky, you are a monkey, but you did it well. It adds to Komenský's majesty." After I brought him the draft print of the engraving, Švabinský was very happy and wondered how I had captured Komenský's reddish hair through the strength of toning.

For the stamp to be issued to commemorate his 85th birthday, Švabinský worked on a draft for a stamp sized 23 x 31mm (1" x 1 ¼"), featur-

ing a motif of his famous woodcut "Poet and Muse". While assessing his draft with the Arts Commission I could see that the image would look tiny on that size stamp. I proposed that we use the same size stamp as for the Komenský stamp. The entire Commission, including the Ministry official agreed. I worked on the graphic design for the larger size and brought it to Švabinský for approval. He was happy with the enlarged size but said "Please make sure my name isn't too large, I don't want people in my house to start bowing down to me."



FDC for Svabinsky's 85th birthday- Poet and Muse



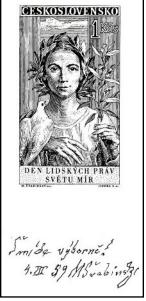
"Excellent! 17 March 1959"

I received a State honor for my 60th birthday in 1957 and Švabinský was extremely interested in what I had actually received from the Ministry of Finance. I told him, that besides other things, I received a copy of his book "Portrait Art". He invited me to bring it in for his autograph. When he was signing it, he browsed through the book and commented on the people he had portrayed. After he closed the book, he looked at me and said "You know, I knew how to choose. I didn't paint everyone".

Švabinský was chosen for a draft of a stamp with Frederic Joliot Curie. A requirement was that the stamp must include the symbol of The World Peace Movement, which was a Picasso designed dove. Švabinský wasn't too happy about this because he wanted to draw his own dove. This was not allowed, and it was pointed out to him that Picasso's dove was the symbol of the organization. Once when I was visiting him, Švabinský talked about the situation and how sorry he was that he could not design his own dove. Then he talked to the rector of Charles University on the phone and also complained to him. I could hear that they agreed on the issue, and an annoyed Švabinský said "That is no dove, it is a sloppy

hen. Don't you agree, Your Magnificence?" In the end nothing helped and Picasso's dove appeared on the stamp as had been originally determined.

Švabinský's diligence, honesty and thoroughness in his work was well known to everybody. He studied every little detail for each of his tasks, and he made sketches using models before making a definite rendering of the subject matter. This was the case for the stamp "Day of Human Rights-Peace to the World." He studied the figure, the laurel wreath, and also the dove. He had requested a live model for the dove, and I was at his apartment when two men brought a covered cage with a strange bird inside. Švabinský showed total surprise when he uncovered the cage and said, "But this isn't a dove, that's some exotic bird." The owner noted that it had received first prize at an exhibition. Švabinský wasn't going to be persuaded and repeated "Yes, I believe you, but I want a plain dove, not this exotic one. It has a tuft on its head and what is it on the feet? It looks like it is wearing slippers! I definitely don't want this." The owner covered the cage back up and promised he would



"Schmidt, excellent! 4 March 1959"

bring a regular dove the next day. He did, and Švabinský was satisfied.

In 1958 I had been invited by the Philatelist Union to make an engraved portrait of Alfons Mucha, for the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our first



"FDC for 10th Anniversary of Declaration of Human Rights.

March 23, 1959"



"Excellent. I'm looking forward to the cachet. June 15, 1960"

postage stamp. I looked for a suitable portrait photograph to use, couldn't find one, and in the end used an amateur's picture, which wasn't too clear. I did however manage to compose my drawing using it. Two years later Švabinský was asked to make a draft for Postage Stamp Day in 1960. He found it difficult to find a suitable photograph to base it on as well. He finally admitted that he was using my engraving as the basis for his draft. He said it was the best. I was

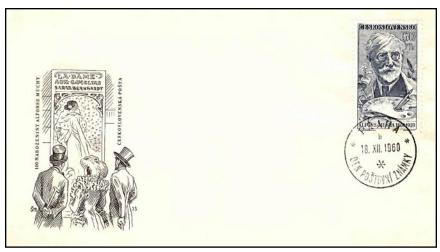
overjoyed and happy to receive such recognition from a great portrait artist such as Švabinský.

During a celebration of his 89th birthday he was receiving well-wishers in his studio at the Academy. I also came but since there were so many of us, we would

come in to congratulate him in groups of four or five. Švabinský was paying attention as to who each person was. When he saw me, he was extremely happy. He hugged me and told me to sit down and immediately started to talk about work and planning everything that would be needed for future stamps. I have always admired his work enthusiasm but on that day I was truly surprised. As I was leaving with painter



"Excellent friend Schmidt. September 9, 1960"



"FDC for Postage Stamp Day 1960. December 12, 1960

Rudolf Klimovic, his former student, he mentioned my warm relationship. Klimovic predicted that Švabinský would live to be a hundred with such energy. Unfortunately this prediction didn't come true and Švabinský left us within six months.

Švabinský was apprehensive when working on drafts for the butterfly stamps. He wondered if it would be possible to reach the required color effect on the engraving and whether colors could be pressed exactly on top of each other. The printers had no experience with this type of work. Švabinský didn't want to listen to my assurances and said "I know you are promising it to me but who knows if the printers will do a good job?" We agreed that I would engrave the first butterfly as

soon as possible in order that we would have confidence for the rest. We chose Parnassius Apollo, Švabinský's favorite. When I brought him the first se-tenant of four-color engraving, he was outright excited. On the print he wrote "Excellent, I am squeezing your hand, my dear boy." Other engravings followed with no worries and Švabinský was happy with them all.

At about this time, an insidious illness was showing its first signs and a fondly anticipated series of beetles only stayed in a stage of modest sketches, that wouldn't be realized. Professor Švabinský's final work was a stamp for the 100th anniversary of the Czech Physicians Association. His draft was already quite vague. The cachet for the first day envelope was the last work of Max Švabinský, the last engraving print he signed for me. It was Thursday morning, February 8th, 1962. I was holding a pad under the print. He was sitting on the bed and held the pen with both hands. When I saw what effort it took him to sign it, I didn't dare ask him to write the date.



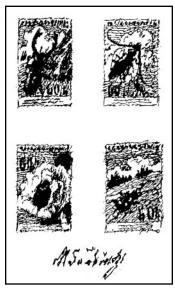
"Excellent, I am squeezing your hand, my dear boy! March 11, 1960"



One of three FDCs for Butterfly series. November 27, 1961

When leaving he gave me a message for the Ministry that as soon as he felt a little better, he would work on the beetle stamps. I left with a heavy heart because I knew from Zuzana Švabinská that the professor's days were up and his desire to work on the beetles would not be realized. When, on Saturday morning, February 10th he closed his eyes forever, everybody who knew him wept. The Czech nation had lost one of its precious sons, a great artist, a

noble-minded soul.



Unrealized sketches for Beetles series

NOTE

1. Jan Mikolášek was a controversial faith healer, who managed to continue his work during the communist period.

SOURCE

Memories of Max Švabinský, written by Jindra Schmidt, published by Klub Filatelistů 06-5, Kroměříž, 1973.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Specialist is exceptionally pleased to publish this first English translation which describes the close and enduring relationship between a great artist and his premier engraver. A partnership that gave us so many exceptional postage stamps.



Proof for FDC cachet for 100th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Physician's Association. Final signature of Švabinský. Stamp issued 16 days after his death.

ADVERTISEMENT

NEED CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS or PHILATELIC ITEMS??

(This offer is for members only)

In the Winter 2019 Specialist (page 13), I alerted you to the opportunity to get Czechoslovak stamps and philatelic items at significantly discounted prices. These are items that I have accumulated over the past 55 years.

I received about 10 responses and was able to assist 8 of them with their requirements -- 5 of which were very extensive needing 40 items or more.

So what do you have to lose? Send me an inquiry as to whether I have what you need, or even better, a list of those needs. I will quickly let you know if I can help.

A general listing of what is available was in that first ad. But here are a couple of sets that every Czechoslovak collection should have, and at discounted prices (66% of Scott for mint).



All items are guaranteed. I will give you the best item or set that I have -- so order early.

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New Issues

SLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart

1. On March 1, 2019 The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the **centenary of the birth of Michael Strank.** The 1.00€ stamp shows Strank in his Marine uniform (Fig. 1) and was designed by I. Piačka and produced by Tiskárna Hradištko s.r.o. (THS) using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. Mychal Strenk was born in the Ruthenian village of Orjabyna, now known as Jarabina in Slovak. His family emigrated to the US while he was still young. He grew up in Franklin Borough, Cambria Co., PA. Now known as Michael Strank he joined the Marine Corps in 1939 and became a Sergeant in 1942. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, he



Fig. 1

commanded a squad of Marine forces who took part in the capture of Mt. Suribachi



Fig. 2

on February 23, 1945 and he was the non-commissioned officer in charge of the second raising of the US flag. He was killed on March 1, 1945, almost certainly a victim of "friendly fire" (stamp was issued on the 74th anniversary of his death). He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He had become a US citizen in 1935 but never received official documentation. His relatives only received his certificate of naturalization in 2008. The FDC cachet, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, depicts Joe Rosenthal's iconic photograph of the flag raising (Fig. 2) and the FDC cancellation shows a view of graves in Arlington Cemetery.



Fig. 3

2. On March 15, 2019 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: **Easter 2019: Traditional Slovak Tinsmithing**. The T2 50g stamp depicts a bird (Fig. 3), formed with wire. The artist for the tin bird was L. Čertíková, graphic design of the stamp was by Vladislav Rostoka, which was produced by THS using offset technology in printing

sheets of 50. Originating as a supplementary means of income 300 years ago, tinsmithing has become

increasingly known as an artform in the past 75 years. Its use for functional objects such as ladles and coat hangers has remained. However, it has now grown into a fine art material and modern craftsmen now use tin sheet as well as wire, enhancing the artform using



Fig. 4

modern technologies by making it three-dimensional. The FDC cachet shows the same bird (Fig. 4) pecking at lettering, while the FDC cancellation is a wire sheep. The stamp was similarly issued as a booklet containing 10 adhesive stamps. A pictorial postal card illustrated with four egg-shaped tin figures was also issued on the same day.

[Ed. note: Tinsmithing was also the subject of a 1972 Czechoslovakia stamp series- Scott 1826-30, Pofis 1974-8.]

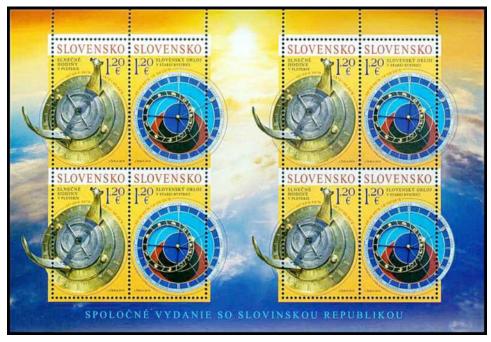


Fig. 5

On March 22, 2019 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet as a joint issue with The sheet illustrates the Astronomical Clock in Stará Bystrica, Slovakia and the Sun Clock in Pleterje, Slovenia (Fig. 5). The two 1.20€ stamps were designed by Jozef Cesla and produced by THS using offset technology in a printing sheet containing 8 stamps (4 of each stamp). The Astronomical Clock in Stará Bystrica was only completed in 2009 and is considered to be the largest wooden sculpture in Slovakia. The composition symbolizes Our Lady of Sorrows, the patron saint of Slovakia. The graphic design was made by the sculptor Viliam Loviška and the subsequent technical drawings were prepared by architect Ivan Jarina. Six bronze statues are placed in the niches of the clock. When the bell ringer strikes the hour a promenade of the statues of seven Slovak saints appears. At the heart of the clock is the astrolabe, displaying astronomical information for the Sun and the Moon. The FDC cachet shows the building containing the astronomical clock (Fig. 6) and the FDC cancellation is part of a technical drawing of the astrolabe. The bronze and silver sundial within the Sun Clock of Pleterje is in the Pleterje Charterhouse and tells the time when the sun shines into the Great Court of the monastery. Originally constructed as a private manor in 1403, the estate passed into the hands of the Carthusians in the 19th century when major





Fig. 7

reconstruction took place. The sundial was crafted in the 1870s by a priest, Antonian Berthiaud, from Péronnas in France. The FDC cachet shows the sundial within the monastery courtyard (Fig. 7) and the FDC cancellation is an angled drawing of the sundial.

Fig. 6

4. On April 4, 2019 the Ministry issued a T1 50g stamp to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The stamp illustrates a yellow biplane (Fig. 8), was designed by Marion Komáček, and printed by THS using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. The ICAO was formed to solve the



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

many overlapping problems that were occurring with the rapid expansion of civil aviation. Its creation came about at the Chicago Convention in 1944. Even though Czechoslovakia was in the wartime period of interregnum, they were a signatory member from the start of the ICAO's existence. Following the breakup of Czechoslovakia, the Slovak Republic became a member in 1993 and also joined the Central European Rotation Group (CERG) within the ICAO which is now a specialized agency of the UN. The FDC cachet shows a period airplane flying over a modern airport (Fig. 9) and the FDC cancellation is the whirling turbine of a jet engine.

5. On May 3, 2019 the Ministry issued a 1.70€ stamp in the series: **Europa-Rare Birds.** The stamp shows the European Roller (Fig. 10), was designed by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by THS using offset technology in printing sheets of eight. The European Roller (Coracias garrulus) is the only representative of its species

found in Europe. About the size of a dove, it is typically found in areas with warm, dry summers. Its main sources of food are large insects and small vertebrates. Its unmistakable blue coloring with an orange-brown back was commonly found in Slovakia until the mid-1950s. Since then the introduction of large-scale agriculture, together with the removal of many of its favored trees and hedges has led to a rapid decrease in breeding pairs. The last known pair



Fig. 10

in Slovakia hatched its chicks in 2010. A Europe-wide effort to reintroduce these birds is underway. Many birdhouses reproducing the hollows of the tress they love are finding their way across the continent. Replanting of trees is also being considered. It may take some time, but it is hoped that these noisily talkative birds will be heard again in Slovakia. The FDC cachet shows a bird devouring an insect (Fig. 11) and the FDC cancellation is a bird perched on a branch. A booklet containing six self-adhesive stamps was issued the same day, as was a collection sheet.

6. On May 3, 2019 the Ministry issued a T2 50g stamp to celebrate the **Ice Hockey World Championships 2019.** The stamp, showing an ice hockey puck on its edge (Fig. 12), was designed by Peter Uchnár and produced by THS using offset technology in printing sheets of 40, with the margins of the sheet showing the flags of the 16 competing nations. This year the World Championships are being held from May 10-26 in Košice and Bratislava. It is expected that 400,000 people will attend the games.

Worldwide television broadcasts can reach viewers in 166

countries, with some games

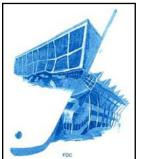


Fig. 13

7. On May 3, 2019 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of General M. R. Štefánik. The 1.90€ stamp shows a portrait of Štefánik in front of soldiers of the Russian Legion (Fig. 14). In the larger view of the miniature sheet the General is

surrounded by the Legionnaires around and on train wagons

the

from

Trans-Siberian



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

being seen by over a billion people. A bear named Macejko is the Slovakian mascot. With his shepherd's belt and hat, he is often seen advertising the coming event by singing "My home is in Slovakia, I seek to play for Slovakia." There is no doubt he would be a formidable goaltender, given the chance. The FDC cachet features a stick, puck, and two views of stadium venues (Fig. 13), while the FDC cancellation is an aerial view of an ice rink. A collection sheet was issued on the same day.



Fig. 14

Railroad. A facsimile of his signature appears on the sheet directly under the stamp. The stamp and sheet were designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by František Horniak and produced by PTC using KOMB technology. Milan Rastislav Štefánik was born in Košariská in 1880. After finishing his university studies in Prague, he moved to France to pursue a scientific career in the field of astronomy. After the outbreak of World War I he joined the French Army, where as a pioneer aviator he experienced the horrors of the war on the Western Front. On being transferred to the Serbian Front, he first saw the throngs of Slovak hostages, which led to his first proposal to the French government suggesting the formation of a Slovak Legion. His life changed dramatically in 1916 when, together with T.G. Masaryk and Edvard Beneš, he started to establish the expatriate resistance of the Czechs and Slovaks against the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This ultimately led to the establishment of the Czechoslovak National Council. His particularly valuable diplomatic and political contribution was the building of the army in exile, made up of hostages of

Austria-Hungary, known as the Czechoslovak Legion. The Russian Legion consisted of up to 60,000 soldiers, while the Italian Legion (20,000 soldiers) and French Legion (9,000 soldiers) were no less important, particularly after the Armistice was signed. The most famous period of the Legions came in Russia where they took control of virtually the entire length of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, from the Urals to Vladivostok. When Czechoslovakia came into existence, he became its first Minister of War. Tragically his life ended prematurely, when the aircraft he was on crashed near Bratislava on April 4, 1919. The FDC cachet



Fig. 15

shows a banner used by the Czechoslovak Legions (Fig. 15) and the FDC cancellation portrays one of the many medals awarded to Štefánik. An additional FDC with the



Fig. 16

entire miniature sheet on was also issued the same day. This had the same cachet, but a different cancellation depicting a shield with Slovak and Czech national symbols.

[Ed. note. A black proof was listed as being a part of this issue, but at the date of writing, just before the day of issue, no details had been published].

Postal Stationery

8. On February 22, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the achievements of skier **Petra Vlhová** at the 2019 Alpine World Ski Championships in Aare, Sweden. The imprinted stamp with the designated value T2 50g shows the logo of "Good Idea Slovakia". The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the skier holding the three medals she won at the championships (Fig. 16).

Vlhová won the gold medal in the Giant Slalom, a silver medal in the Combined, and a bronze medal in the Slalom. 1800 cards were issued.

9. On April 17, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of a **Permanent Post Office in Banská Bystrica**. The imprinted stamp with the designated value of T2 50g shows an historic postal horn. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows an official 18th century document validating the establishment of the office (Fig. 17). 1800 cards were issued.



New Issues CZECH REPUBLIC

Fig. 17

10. On February 14, 2019 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative miniature sheet to celebrate the **Century of Jiří Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund**. The sheet contains a 45 Kč stamp depicting each person. They are standing either side of their trusty car. The

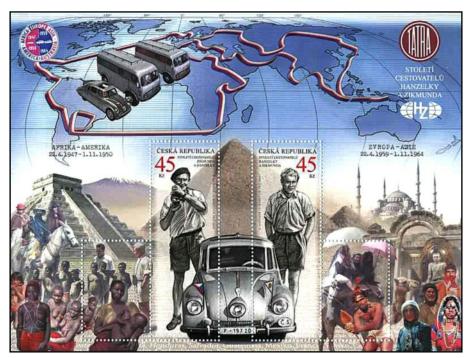


Fig. 18

background of the sheet details the route of their two expeditions, together with scenes from countries they visited (Fig. 18). Designed by Eva Hašková and Jan Maget, the sheet of two stamps and two coupons was produced by PTC using recess printing from a flat plate, combined with multicolored offset. Hanzelka and Zikmund first met at college and found they shared a desire to travel the world. They persuaded Tatra to sponsor them and in April 1947 they departed in the silver Tatra 87 that became synonymous with this journey. They traversed Africa from north to south, crossed the ocean to Argentina and continued through South America to Central America before returning home in November 1950. The 3 ½ year trip passed through 44 countries and encompassed 111,000 km (68972 miles). Throughout the journey they sent written reports back home which were then broadcast on the radio. They returned to a Czechoslovakia greatly changed in their absence by the seizure of control by the Communist regime. Although most citizens were barred from traveling abroad, the two travelers could publish books, some with photographs, others detailing the economic and political situations of the countries they visited. They planned their second trip and left for Asia in April 1959, this time in a Tatra 805 truck. This trip had extensive travel throughout the Soviet Union, as well as Japan, Oceania, and India. 4 ½ years later they returned





Fig. 19a

Fig. 19b

after visiting a total of 30 countries. Dreams of another trip to Australasia were shattered by a ban on further travel. Their reports on the journey through the Union had contained detailed reports poverty and political corruption. This led to a total ban on travel,

publications, and 21 years of menial jobs. After the 1989 Velvet Revolution they were acclaimed as great explorers and Zikmund visited Australia, sadly on his own due to Hanzelka's poor health. The stamps were issued on the date of Zikmund's $100^{\rm th}$ birthday. The FDC cachets for the two stamps have head and shoulder sketches of the two travelers (Figs. 19a and b). The FDC cancellation for Zikmund's cover is a line drawing of a Tatra 87, while the Hanzelka cover has a cancellation detailing a Tatra 805 truck. A numbered commemorative sheet was also issued the same day.



Fig. 20

11. On February 14, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series: Personalities- Rudolf Tomáš Jedlička (1869-1926). The 19 Kč stamp shows a portrait of Jedlička, with views of locations associated with him in the background (Fig. 20). Graphic design was by Jan Kavan with additional engraving by Bohumil Šneider. The stamp was produced by

PTC using offset technology with additional line drawing in printing sheets of 50. Rudolf Tomáš Jedlička was born in Lysá nad Labem, the son of a doctor. He

graduated from the Czech language Medical School of Charles University in 1892 and became an assistant physician at a surgery clinic in Prague, eventually becoming head of the clinic. In 1914 Dr. Jedlička opened the Prague Sanitorium and in 1921 Charles University appointed him as Head Physician of the 2nd Surgery Clinic. He was the Czech pioneer of X-ray imaging and radiology, promoting its use in diagnosis and treatment of cancer. He died in 1926, as a result of his continued exposure to X-rays. The FDC cachet has the motif of an early

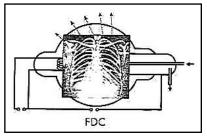


Fig. 21

X-ray scan (Fig. 21) and the FDC cancellation is a wheelchair and crutch.

12. On March 6, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp for the Les



Fig. 22

Království (Forest of the Kingdom) dam. The stamp, with value designated by the letter A (corresponding to a current value of 19 Kč), shows the intake towers along the dam wall (Fig. 22). Graphic design was by Adolf Absolon with additional engraving by Martin Srb. The

stamp was produced by PTC using multicolored offset with additional line drawing in printing sheets of 50.

Catastrophic floods in 1897 gave an impulse for the construction of dams on the upper Labe (Elbe) river. However, it was not until 1910 that construction of this dam commenced. Even then, because of World War I, the dam was not completed until 1919. A hydroelectric power station was added by 1923. From a distance the buildings on the dam



Fig. 23

look like a castle and it was declared a National Technical Monument in 1964. The FDC cachet shows the meandering

stream of the river in the dam area (Fig. 23), while the FDC cancellation is a front view of the dam from downstream. A booklet containing eight self-adhesive stamps and four coupons (2x2 images of the intake towers) was issued on the same date.



Fig. 24

13. On March 6, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp for **The Sovereign Military Order of Malta**. The 45 Kč stamp has a view of the Church of Our Lady Beneath the Chain in Prague (Fig. 24). The stamp was designed by Karel Zeman and produced by PTC using multicolored offset



Fig. 25

in printing sheets of 50. This religious and military order is one of the oldest Catholic organizations, founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century. Its unique sovereignty guarantees an exceptional diplomatic position when dealing with international conflicts. The order has been active in the Czech lands since the 12th century. Its current focus is on supporting and helping elderly or disabled people. The Grand Priory of Bohemia is one of only six territorial priories. The Order's Czech headquarters is centered around the Church, at the Lesser Town end of Charles Bridge. The church was founded in the 13th century. It has gone through many renovations and the distinctive

steeples have their gothic

windows walled up. The FDC cachet, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, has motifs of the church's door and the medal and ribbon of one of the order's honors (Fig. 25). cancellation is a stylized version of the Order's famous symbol, a Maltese Cross.

On March 6, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative

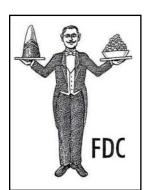


Fig. 27

in the series: stamp Inventions - The Sugar Cube. The 19 Kč stamp shows a hand about to drop a sugar cube into a cup of tea or coffee (Fig. 26). The stamp was designed by Jiří Slíva and produced by PTC using multicolor offset technology in printing sheets of 50. The sugar cube was invented in 1841



Fig. 26

by Jakub Kryštof Rad, the refinery director of the sugar factory in Dačice. Common shapes of sugar products of that period were impractical. Cone-shaped sugar was difficult to pack and easy to break. Rad, together with his wife Juliana, came up with the idea of cubed sugar and within years patents for the process had been obtained throughout

Europe. An updated version of Rad's invention is still used by sugar refineries all around the world. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Sneider, shows a waiter

carrying trays of both sugar cubes and a conical sugarloaf (Fig. 27). The FDC cancellation has a cup with three sugar cubes in it.

15. On April 3, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to mark the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovak currency. The 23 Kč stamp shows a portrait of Alois Rašín, the first finance minister of the Czechoslovak



Fig. 28

Republic, with a background simulating the line patterns of a banknote (Fig. 28). The stamp was designed by Eva Hašková and produced by PTC using multicolor

offset technology in printing sheets of 50. Alois Rašín (1867-1923) was a Czech economist and politician. As the first finance minister of the new republic his main aims were to keep the new currency stable amid the high inflation rates of surrounding countries. He achieved his aims despite a considerable amount of opposition. His policy of deflation in a period of high unemployment eventually led to a campaign to overthrow his policies. In January 1923 Rašín was assassinated, shot in the back by an anarchist as he left home. From the very first issued banknotes of the new Czechoslovak crown, the government was determined to print currency with the latest anti-forgery technique. The background of the



Fig. 29



stamp mimics the method of guilloche, very precise decorative engraved line patterns, commonly found on securities and revenue stamps, as well as currency. The motif of the FDC cachet (engraved by Miloš Ondráček) shows Prague Castle emerging from a guilloche pattern (Fig. 29), while the FDC cancellation is a facsimile of Alois Rašín's signature.

16. On April 24, 2019 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: **EUROPA-** The Common Kingfisher. The

stamp, with value identified by the letter E (35 Kč) captures a view of a winter landscape with two Common Kingfishers (Fig. 30). The stamp was designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek and produced by PTC using offset technology in printing sheets of 6. The Common Kingfisher is the National Bird of the Czech Republic. The brightly colored birds are about 6" tall, with a

wingspan of 10". They are nearly always found close to



Fig. 31

water and their main food source - fish. It eats its own weight in fish every day. Like seabirds they dive perpendicularly into the water when fishing. The FDC cachet highlights the blue, rusty brown, and white coloring of their feathers (Fig. 31) and the FDC cancellation outlines a kingfisher in flight.

17. On May 22, 2019 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet showing **Prague Castle in the Seasons of the Year.** The stamps show a less common view of the castle, looking from the East, with one stamp portraying the view in the summer and the other in the winter (Fig. 32). There are two copies of each stamp, with value designated by the letter E on each sheet, which also has a coupon with details of fine ironwork found within the castle. The stamps were designed by Adolf Absolon, with engraving by Martin Srb. Production was by PTC using KOMB technology in printing sheets of four stamps. Prague Castle, the ancient symbol of the Czech



lands is believed to have been founded around 880 by Prince Bořivoj of the Přemyslid dynasty. The earliest building was the Church of the Virgin Mary, now only known by beneath ruins other buildings. The best known and most prominent building nowadays is the Basilica of Sts. Vitus. Wenceslaus, and Voitech. although generally still referred to by its pre-1997 name of St. Vitus Cathedral. It now occupies an area of almost 750,000 sq. ft.



Fig. 32 Fig. 33



square buildings between rectangular buildings of many periods (Fig. 33). The FDC cancel is an image of a coat of arms chiseled into the tombs of Kings Přemysl I Ottokar and Přemysl II Ottokar, found in the Saxon Chapel of the cathedral.

(70,000 sq. m.) and is 1,870ft (570m) in length. The FDC cachet shows the varied archi-tecture of the castle, with circular and

Postal Stationery

18. On February 28, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the **International Stamp Exhibition in Munich** which took place from February 28 – March 2, 2019. The imprinted stamp, a postal coach on

Charles Bridge, has a value identified by the letter "E". The additional print is a portion of a cover depicting two stamps of a young boy and girl (Fig. 34). The accompanying text has the exhibition dates. 2000 cards were issued.

19. On March 13, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the 1st Spring Sběratel Collector Fair in 2019. imprinted stamp, a postal horn, has a value identified by the letter "A". The additional print designed by Milan Cais, is illustration from the album NANOBOOK which celebrates $_{
m the}$ 35) anniversary of its publication, also the 30th anniversary of the formation of the TATA BOJS group. The fair was held at the Olympik Congress Hotel, Prague on March 15-16. 3100 cards were issued.



Fig. 35

20. On March 13, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to advertise the "I Know Postage Stamps" Project, aimed to make the collecting of stamps more attractive to children. The imprinted stamp is the logo of the Sběratel Fair, with a value identified by the letter "A". [Note that the background color of the imprinted stamp is a wine-red, different from the color used for the imprinted stamp used for the well-established Autumn version of this collector fair]. The additional print, designed by Beata Šafková, combines a small car drawn by a child with the project logo (Fig. 36). 3100 cards were issued.





Fig. 36 Fig. 37

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following is a summary of the amendments made to the bylaws at the Society for Czechoslovak Philately's annual Board meeting held on February 14, 2019 at Mesa, Arizona.

A full version of the revised bylaws is available on the Society's website www.csphilately.org.

There were two minor revisions to the printed bylaws to ensure that 1) "**Board**" will be used when referring to the SCP Board and "**board**" when talking about a board in the general sense, and 2) when a number is mentioned it will be **written out**, not a numeral.

Bylaw 1A. The word "qualified" has been removed from the first sentence.

Bylaw 2A. The end of the first sentence was changed to read "... consisting of twelve members, none of which can be youth members."

Bylaw 2B. Mention of By-Law 4 has been changed to Bylaw IV.

Bylaw 2D. This by-law was removed, resulting in previous bylaws 2E and 2F, now becoming Bylaws 2D and 2E.

Bylaw 2E. First sentence now reads "All Board members must have access to the internet, be able to receive and send e-mails, and to regularly and frequently view their SCP internet communications as specified in Bylaw XIII- E-mail Use."

Bylaw 4A. Now commences "In the election year...". In addition, the last two sentences of Bylaw 4B- "Each candidate shall be nominated in writing by one member of the Society (other than themselves). They may be reelected to the Board without limitation as further specified in Bylaw XIII- E-mail use.", have been moved to this bylaw.

Bylaw 4B. Amended to read "Candidates to the Board shall be members in good standing of the Society. They must have an e-mail address on the internet system and to regularly and frequently check internet communications."

Bylaw 4C. The last sentence, specifying a closing date for nominations, has been removed.

Bylaw 4D. The first sentence was changed to end "...published and sent to all members in the next scheduled *Specialist*." The second sentence was changed to end "... to the election committee postmarked by the date specified in that next scheduled *Specialist*". The final sentence now reads "The winners shall be announced in *The Specialist* published following the ballot count.".

Bylaw 4E. The final sentence has been amended to read "The President and/or Vice-president can only serve two consecutive terms unless they are willing to serve longer. In that case the Board of Directors may waive the 2-term limitation, if they desire, with a simple majority vote.".

Bylaw 7B. The second sentence was amended to read "Patron members will receive a bound copy of two years of *The Specialist* if they have paid Patron dues for both years.".

Bylaw 10B. The second sentence, specifying a late fee, was deleted.

Bylaw 12A. The end of the second sentence was amended to read "...the Board shall be announced in *The Specialist* within four months of adoption.".

Bylaw 13G. Changed to end "...will require a minimum of seven Yes votes to pass a motion."

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