



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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THE PRESIDENTIAL STAMP ISSUES

It did not start out as this. It came together through a combination of circumstances:

- A short article that didn't get into the Spring *Specialist*.
- Knowledge that a member was working on a Masaryk exhibit.
- A few pages of notes for a future article about President Ludvík Svoboda (the other lesser known one, not our Society's President).
- A new stamp from Slovakia.

Suddenly, there was the spark of an idea! Do a summary of all the stamps that show a President of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, or the Czech Republic. Beginning shortly after the foundation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, it has been a custom that living Presidents have their own stamp(s) issued to celebrate them. There is one exception to this rule and that is the short article. We saw nine Czechoslovak Presidents, and since the separation, three Czech Presidents and five Slovak Presidents. All have been male until the recently installed, surprise candidate and subsequent winner of the Slovak Presidency. This would certainly be a fine topical collection to have. There are plenty of plate errors, printing mistakes, and sadly, forgeries. The articles will not go into great detail about each issue. Rather, they will lead you to specialized articles, books, or catalogs that should enable you to find more information on the individual issues. I hope you enjoy this issue, I certainly enjoyed the research and writing about it.

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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.

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PRESIDENT TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK HIS CZECHOSLOVAK AND CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

by Keith Hart

If I am correct, there appears to be 24 different issues of stamps featuring the portrait of Czechoslovakia's first president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Significant enough to encompass 62 stamps, one coupon, and one appearance in the margins of a miniature sheet. Even a brief discussion seems daunting, yet the opportunities for collectors are many and extremely interesting. For each issue only one stamp value has been illustrated. There has been much written about most of these stamps, particularly those from the era of the First Republic. I have used three main sources for this article. Firstly, the Pofis catalogs for Czechoslovakia, *Československo 1918-1939*, also the same catalog for the 1945-1992 years. Secondly the venerable book on forgeries, *Československé Poštovní Známký a Jejich Padělky, 1918-1939*. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, *Stamps With a Portrait of T.G. Masaryk* by Henry Hahn. This booklet is available from our book sales manager, James Buckner, for the bargain price of \$ 6.00. It may only have 30 pages, yet the amount of information it contains is truly remarkable.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Fig. 1

1920, 70th Birthday of President Masaryk

The three stamps in this issue are for values 125h, 500h, and 1000h. Based on the official portrait of Masaryk by Max Švabinský and engraved by Eduard Karel, the 500h (Fig. 1) and 1000h stamps were printed line perforated 13%. You can also find unissued imperforates, overprints for Eastern Silesia, and trials for other values (50h, 1200h, and 2000h) which were never issued. The 125h stamp (Fig. 2) used the same portrait but was printed by typography and there are two Types and numerous plate varieties. An excellent introduction to the varieties of this issue can be found in Henry Hahn's article in the March 1977 *Czechoslovak Specialist*, pages 27-30. The 125h stamp was printed in a dark blue and there are many color variations including the highly collected ultramarine. Again, there are unissued imperforate and trial versions to be found. Forgery of all three values is a problem. Perforations have been trimmed off valid stamps, the 125h stamp has been chemically recolored to approximate the more valued ultramarine type, and versions backed with counterfeit gum can also be found.



Fig. 2

1920, Red Cross Issue

The 125h of the previous issue was later reissued with a red overprint to raise funds for the Red Cross (Fig. 3). As the same printing plates were used the identical plate variations can be found with this issue. Forged overprints are also quite common.



Fig. 3

1923, Jubilee 5th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia

The new head and shoulders portrait was again designed by Max Švabinský, and printed with values of 50h, 100h (Fig. 4), 200h, and 300h. It was produced with recess printing on watermarked paper and depending on the way the paper was inserted into the press (both side and direction) four watermark positions can be collected. This issue and subsequent overprints are the only Czech stamps to have a CSP monogram embossed in the gum. Line perforated with varied examples from 13¾ up to 14¾.



Fig. 4

There are also varieties in the type and quality of paper used. Counterfeit examples are plentiful. There are discrepancies of the design size, line-shading within the design, deformed eyeglass rims, counterfeit watermarking, and counterfeit gum.

1925, 75th Birthday of President Masaryk

This issue had 40h, 50h, and 60h (Fig. 5) values printed by gravure process, and another four engraved stamps, 1 Kč, 2 Kč, 3 Kč, and 5 Kč. The first gravure stamps were line perforated 13¾, while later printings were comb perforated 13¾: 13½. Two different comb perforators were in use. The earliest printing had no plate numbers. The stamps were re-engraved several times, resulting in the 1 Kč value having all seven types (I-VII). The type IV issue is significant as it is the first Czechoslovak stamp printed on a rotary printer. The 2 Kč stamps have only types I and II, the 3 Kč stamps are found in types I, II, and III. The 5 Kč stamp was only printed as a type I. There are differing watermark positions. Varieties and errors mainly consist of perforation errors and offsets, as well as differing shading on the engraved values. Counterfeiting is a lot less prevalent for this issue. The different plate types combined with the varying number of plates used give the collector numerous possibilities for an outstanding collection just from this issue. Suffice to say that the Pofis catalog has nine pages just covering this issue.



Fig. 5

1925, International Olympic Congress Overprint

The 50h, 100h (Fig. 6) and 200h values of the previous issue were overprinted to commemorate the International Olympic Committee meeting in Prague. The overprinting was blue for the 50h and 100h values and red for the 200h. Counterfeited overprinting can be found. This can be detected using the guide in the *Padělky* book.



Fig. 6

1926, VIII Sokol Congress

All four values of the 1923 Jubilee stamps were overprinted for this issue. "VIII. SLET VŠESOKOLSKÝ" overprinting was blue for the 50h and 100h values and red for the 200h (Fig. 7) and 300h. Once again counterfeit overprinting can be found.



Fig. 7

1926, Engraved versions of the gravure 1925 issue

The 50h and 60h stamps from the 75th birthday issue were the definitive stamps of their day and the high usage led to an

engraved version being issued. Using a rotary press and watermarked paper for plates 1 and 1A the 50h (Fig. 8) value was printed first. Three months later a coil format printing was carried out with plates 2 and 2A, followed by a slightly amended design with the shorter mustache from plates 3 and 3A. The 60h stamp was printed with plates 1 and 1A and only the version with the shorter mustache. Numerous varieties of this issue can be found, with misperforations, offsets, color shading, and tinted paper. Line perforated 9%. By 1927 sheets were being printed on unwatermarked paper and a 1 Kč stamp was added as well. Extremely poor quality control often led to grossly shifted perforations, ink spots and stains, badly worn plates, and other defects.



Fig. 8

As Henry Hahn stated, “Thus ended the use of the Švabinský portrait of T.G. Masaryk, and with it a period in Czechoslovak stamp production affording extensive and challenging specialization”.

1928, 10th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence

This 3 Kč stamp (Fig. 9) was one of a set of ten stamps issued for this anniversary, the other stamps being studies of famous buildings, or landscapes. Based on a photograph, the engraving was by Karel Seizinger and flat plate printed in sheets of 100. Printed on unwatermarked paper and line perforated 13%. Varieties and errors are scarce. Only one plate was used.

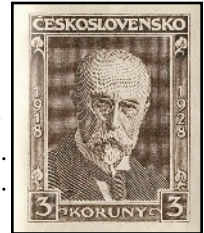


Fig. 9

1930/1931, Definitive issue

Seizinger used the same image for this set of 50h, 60h, and 1 Kč (Fig. 10) values. Printed on unwatermarked paper and line perforated 9%. For the 50h value after the initial rotary printing on plates 1 and 1A, the engraving was altered to extend shading on Masaryk's portrait towards the bottom. Plates 2, 2A to 6, 6A were used for the remainder of printing runs. The 60h and 1 Kč values did not have this additional shading. The 60h stamp printing used plates 1, 1A to 2, 2A. The 1 Kč stamp used all six sets of the dual plates. Plates 2 and 2A were used for coil stamps. This series has plenty of color varieties, different gums, and paper types.



Fig. 10

1930, 80th Birthday of T.G. Masaryk

A new photographic portrait was used for this set of four values, 2 Kč (Fig. 11), 3 Kč, 5 Kč, and 10 Kč. All values were flat plate printed in sheets of 100, with only one plate being used for each value. Line perforated 13%. The top and bottom selvage was printed with a decoration showing the years 1850 and 1930, providing a narrow coupon. Examples of the 3 Kč stamp can be found with a dash over the “U” in “KORUNY”. Other 3 Kč sheets had a double perforation at the bottom. Postally used examples of the 10 Kč are rare and those found with a red commemorative cancellation are even scarcer.

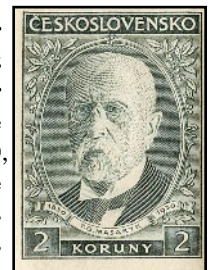


Fig. 11

1935, 85th Birthday of T.G. Masaryk

This issue came with four values using two new photographs. The 50h (Fig. 12) and 1 Kč values show Masaryk in the uniform of the Commander in Chief of the armed forces. The 2 Kč (Fig. 13) and 3 Kč values show the patrician Masaryk wearing a hat. Both designs were printed by rotary press, on unwatermarked paper, and line perforated 9¼. Only one set of plates was used for each value. The two lower values were printed by plates with a block



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

of 50 stamps separated from a block of 100 stamps by a gutter. The plate number appears beneath the 91st stamp of the 100 stamp block. The high value plates have one row of 16 stamps and six rows of 14. Each sheet contains 12 coupons, of which the bottom right and bottom left coupons are inscribed with the plate number. Some sheets of the 3 Kč stamp were printed without with the "1" or the plate number is completely omitted. As large numbers of the stamps received the commemorative cancellation (generally in red or gold) these are more common than other postally used or mint stamps. There are

many stamps that have poor definition with thin lines, ink blots, and staining in margin areas.

1935, Definitive issue

This 1 Kč stamp (Fig. 14), was part of a four value definitive set, with the other stamps having portraits of Komenský, Beneš, and Štefánik. The stamps were rotary printed with three sets of plates in sheets of 200 and line perforated 12½. About ½ billion of these stamps were printed, as they remained valid through December 15, 1939. The stamps were thus used after the annexation of the Sudetenland by Nazi Germany which resulted in numerous overprints, many of which are considered highly questionable as to being official or not. After the breakup of Czechoslovakia overprints bearing the words "BÖHMEN u. MÄHREN and ČECHY a MORAVA" were issued, as well as others with "Slovenský štát 1939" in Slovakia.



Fig. 14

1937, The Mourning issue



Fig. 15

T.G. Masaryk died on September 14, 1937 and five days later two black stamps were issued to commemorate this. The 50h value used plates 6 and 6A of the 1930/1931 issue, while the 2 Kč (Fig. 15) value had a slightly altered engraving of the 1935 85th birthday issue where "14.IX.1937" replaced the "1850 1935" of the original issue. A coupon with "T.G. MASARYK, ZASLOUŽIL SE O STÁT" was also added. Many of the stamps can be found cancelled by a commemorative black postmark, which was available from select post offices around the country. The 2 Kč stamp can be found printed in various shades of gray, though other printing varieties are scarce. After the occupation

of the Sudetenland, examples can be found that are defaced with swastikas and heavy city overprints.

1938, Children's Charity issue

On what would have been Masaryk's 88th birthday two semi-postal stamps were issued. The design, from a photograph, shows Masaryk holding a young girl in his arms. The 50h +50h stamp was green (Fig. 16) and the 1 Kč + 50h stamp was printed in red. The stamps were rotary printed on unwatermarked paper and line perforated 12½. There was also a 2 Kč + 3 Kč miniature souvenir sheet, printed by a flat plate with the stamp (Fig. 17) being imperforate. Both the stamps and the souvenir sheet were later overprinted with swastikas and Sudetenland city names.



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

1939, Post-occupation issue

This 1 K stamp (Fig. 18) was an altered version of the 1935 definitive issue stamp. The alterations are the hyphenation of the country as "ČESKO-SLOVENSKO" and the value 1 K having the "č" omitted. The rotary printing used only one set of dual plates and had line perforation 12½. The same overprinting as on the 1935 definitive issue was carried out, but only when issued in Bohemia and Moravia.



Fig. 18

1943, London Exhibition souvenir sheet



Fig. 19

This engraved souvenir sheet was authorized by the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, although it had no postal validity whatsoever. One of five stamps on the sheet is a perforated 10 Kč stamp which has portraits of Beneš and Štefánik as well as Masaryk (Fig. 19). Besides mint versions a cancelled version with a special green cancel commemorating the 25th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak Field Posts can also be obtained.

1945/1946, The Moscow issue

Printed in Moscow just prior to liberation this six stamp set has values of 5h (Fig. 20), 10h, 20h, 50h, 1 K, and 2 K. It was recess printed on a white or gray unwatermarked paper and line perforated 12¼. Printing quality was poor, leading to numerous varieties, as well as missing perforations, double perforations, and especially abundant color shades.



Fig. 20

1945-1947, Portraits definitive issue

Five of a set of fifteen definitive stamps had a portrait of Masaryk which was designed and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The values are 50h, 1.20 K (dullish rose red), 1.20 (reddish lilac), 4 Kčs (Fig. 21), 5 K, and 15 Kčs. The 50h and 15 Kčs



Fig. 21

values were gravure printed in sheets of 100 and comb perforated 14. The other values were rotary printed in sheets of 200 and line perforated 12½. Many color shades of each value can be found.

1947, 10th Anniversary of death of T.G. Masaryk

Two stamps, 1.20 Kčs (Fig. 22), and 4 Kčs, were issued to observe this anniversary. Designed by Karol Svolinský and engraved by Jindra Schmidt, this issue was rotary printed,



Fig. 22

and line perforated 12½. Each sheet had 100 stamps and 12 coupons. There is a variant to the coupon. These were the first Masaryk stamps to have FDCs issued. In fact, two FDCs were issued, one with two copies of the 1.20 Kčs stamp, and the other bearing a copy of each stamp. This was to be the last issue to have Masaryk's image on for another 43 years.

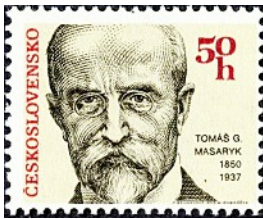


Fig. 23

1990, Personality's anniversaries

The fall of the communist government led to a revival for stamps featuring T.G. Masaryk. The 50h value stamp (Fig. 23), part of a set of six was designed by Albín Brunovský and engraved by Miroslav Ondráček, commemorates the 140th anniversary of his birth. Printed from a combination of flat plate process and offset in printing sheets of 50 with composite perforation of 11½ : 11¼.

CZECH REPUBLIC

2000, Tradition of Czechoslovak stamp design

This 5.40 Kč stamp (Fig. 24) designed by Bedřich Housa, is an homage to the Children's Charity issue from 1938. Printed by rotary recess combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 30 with composite line perforation 11¼ : 11¼. A few minor plate variations can be obtained. This issue was also available as a stamp booklet with 8 stamps and 4 coupons.



Fig. 24

2000, 150th anniversary of T.G. Masaryk

A 17 Kč stamp on a commemorative miniature sheet (Fig. 25). The portrait shows Masaryk at the end of his life and is not particularly liked due to the elongation of his head. It is recess printed from flat plates. The stamp is line perforated 11¼. There are variations in paper type for the miniature sheet.

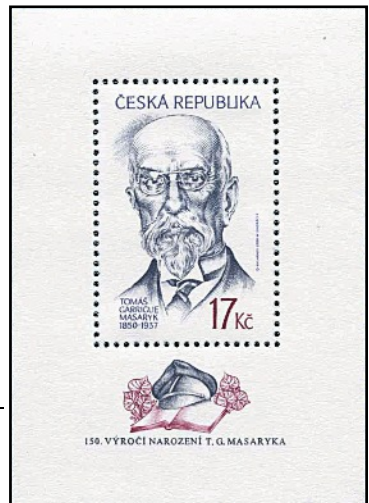


Fig. 25



Fig. 26

2015, The fight for Czech statehood

Yes, I know Masaryk is not on the actual stamp, only on the coupon. Yet it seems that it is so near that it must be included. If you have this miniature sheet, then Masaryk is on it. The 27 Kč stamp actually shows Jan Hus and the coupon above it has Masaryk (Fig. 26) amid tragic scenes from the Great War.

2016, The fight for Czech statehood

This is even less of a President on an actual stamp example. Masaryk is only shown in the lower left margin of this miniature sheet. (Fig. 27). Alongside the 27 Kč stamp of a grieving mother and child, the murky background to this part of the margin reflects the dark mood of Europe at this time.



Fig. 27

2017, The fight for Czech statehood

At last Masaryk actually appears on a stamp in this remarkable series detailing events from World War I. The 30 Kč stamp (Fig. 28) shows Masaryk, along with General Štefánik. The stamp also has Jan Syrový and his Czechoslovak legionnaires at the Battle of Zborov. The stamp was multicolor offset printed with line perforations 11%.

2018, The fight for Czech statehood

Masaryk is also shown on the final miniature sheet designed by Jan Maget illustrating events from World War I. The 33 Kč stamp shows T.G. Masaryk



Fig. 28

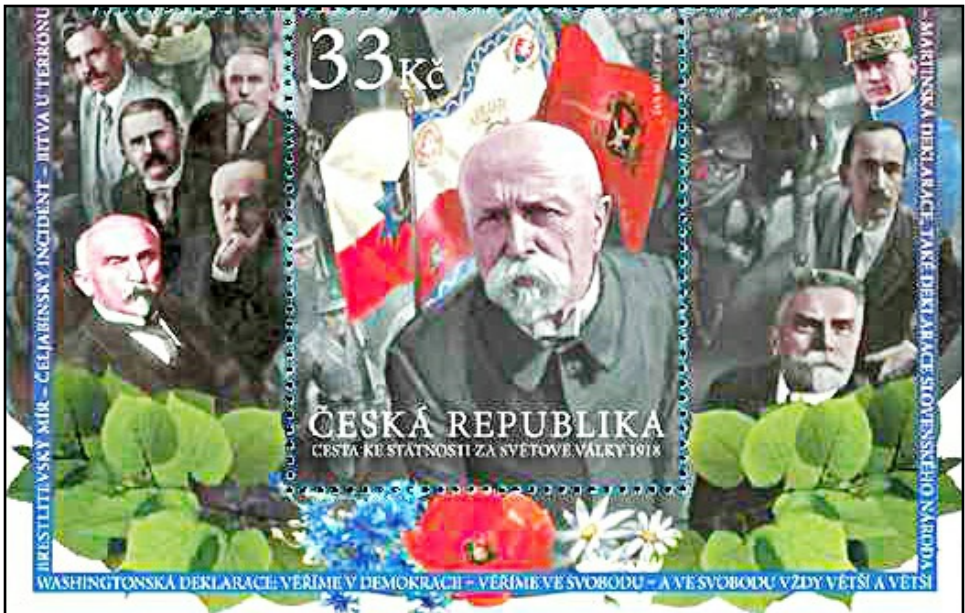


Fig. 29

with flags (Fig. 29). The stamp was printed by multicolored offset with line perforation 11 ¼.

2018, T.G. Masaryk, First President of Czechoslovakia

The “A” value stamp and miniature sheet has a portrait of an elderly Masaryk (Fig. 30) within a sheet that surrounds him with linden twigs and leaves. The text says “100 years since his first Presidential appointment”. The stamp was produced by rotary recess printing, combined with photogravure.

This completes (for now) the remarkable series of stamps of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk covering nearly a century. Amassing these many issues and all their errors and variations could well be a lifetime task for collectors.

SOURCES:

Pofis catalog *Československo 1918-1939* (2012 edition); František Beneš- Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1.

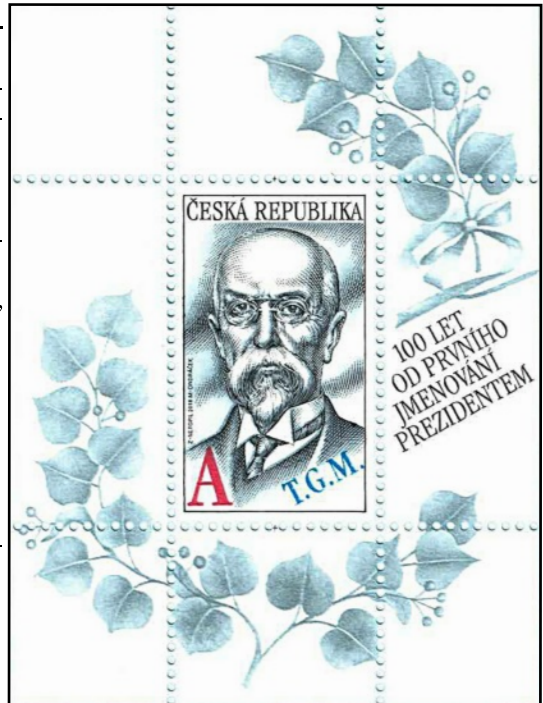


Fig. 30

Pofis catalog *Československo 1945-1992* (2015 edition); František Beneš- Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1

Pofis catalog *Česká Republika 1993-2008* (2009 edition); František Beneš- Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1

Czech Postal Service (Česka Posta) website www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelie-a-postfila. *Československé Poštovní Známký a Jejich Padělky 1918-1939*; Jan Karásek- Nakladatelství Merkur-Revue, 1998 edition.

Stamps with a portrait of T.G. Masaryk by Henry Hahn- Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. Published as a supplement to vol. XXXIX, September 1977

The Czechoslovak Specialist, vol. XXXIX March 1977; *From the President's Stock Book* by Henry Hahn, pages 27-30.

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IMAGES:

Czech Stamp Library website- Mark Wilson; www.cpslib.org. Figs. 1-18 and 20-23.

Czech Postal Service (Česka Posta) website www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelie-a-postfila/znamky/prehled-znameek. Figs. 24-30.

Czech Philatelist website. <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/vystavy/article.htm>. Fig.19.



THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT MOST WOULD PREFER TO FORGET, FINALLY GETS HIS STAMP (SORT OF)

by Keith Hart

After Hitler annexed the Sudetenland in 1938, Edvard Beneš resigned as President. Rather reluctantly, the little-known Emil Hácha became the third President of Czechoslovakia and then only for just 169 days. He was a noted jurist, as well as a translator of English literature. Mostly thought of as an academic, he had little political experience when he became President. He had the unenviable task of existing with the brutal regime that would soon occupy the entire country. His most infamous statement as President came on March 14, 1939, when, as Nazi troops gathered at the border, he proclaimed, "I have entrusted our country to the Fuehrer." Because of that he is generally thought of as a collaborator and traitor. Did he have much choice though? He had no influence whatsoever, just an office. Together with the puppet government of Prime Minister Alois Elias, they formed early contacts with the Beneš government in exile. This ended when Reinhard Heydrich became the Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia. The Nazis ruthlessly crushed any form of resistance and eventually executed Elias. Somehow Hácha survived. He was elderly and increasingly frail. By the end of the war he had become progressively senile. Sadly, he mysteriously died at the Russian-controlled hospital of Pankrac prison just six weeks after the war ended.



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

He remained the only Czechoslovak President not to appear on a postage stamp. Indeed, all the others have been blessed with a stamp while they were still alive. But wait. On November 30, 2018 his small hometown of Trhové Sviny (population 4,700) issued one of the Czech Republic's private issue "Our Own Stamps" in honor of the 80th anniversary of his appointment as President. The stamp has a portrait of a sad and reflective Hácha and has a designated value of "A". It perhaps will turn up in the mailbox of a few people, although most will probably disappear as mementos to his townspeople. Today he must be considered a tragic figure, a man who had served his country well before he simply became the wrong man at particularly the wrong time in his country's history.

[Ed. note: My thanks to George Neumann and his Newsphila blog in alerting me to this story about somebody, I admit, I had never heard of. Newsphila's website address is www.newsphila.blogspot.com. It contains news on philatelic items that are rarely seen elsewhere].



PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

From Keith Hart

1) It is with an extremely heavy heart that I have to announce the death of **Jaroslav (Jerry) J. Verner**, who died peacefully at his home in Bethesda, Maryland on July 12. He was an extremely longtime member of the Society and during that time has served as President and Board Member. His contributions to the *Czechoslovak Specialist* were extensive, going back as far as 1962. As a writer, translator, and book reviewer he allowed us to personally partake of his vast knowledge of Czechoslovak philately. He was also instrumental in developing the idea of a website for the Society. There are many of us who will deeply miss him both as a friend and mentor. A full obituary of this remarkable man will appear in the Fall 2019 *Specialist*. This will be supplemented with some personal remembrances, that hopefully will enable members to fully understand the enormous debt that the Society owes to this truly exceptional person.

2) More details are now available regarding our next meeting at the **Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition**, being held from February 7-9, 2020 at the Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. The show hotels are the Hyatt Regency and La Quinta Inn and Suites. The **Hyatt Regency Sarasota** is situated at 1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236 (tel: (941) 953 1234). The show rate is \$189/night plus \$22.88 taxes and fees (including resort fee). This rate can be claimed by mentioning 'National Stamp Show' when you book. This hotel overlooks the bay and conveniently is only a few minutes' walk from the stamp exhibition. The other hotel is **La Quinta Inn and Suites by Wyndham**, 5931 Commercial Way, Sarasota, FL 34232 (tel: (941) 342 8778. This hotel is a few miles east of the Municipal Auditorium, close to I-75. The price for this hotel is \$129/night plus taxes and fees. The show's location is about 10 miles from Sarasota/Bradenton Airport. Hours for the show are Friday Feb. 7 and Saturday

Feb. 8 – 10am until 5.30pm. On Sunday Feb. 9 the hours are 10am until 3pm. Admission and parking are free.

If you haven't already applied to exhibit at the show you are probably too late. It was expected that no further applications would be accepted after the end of July. However, if you would like to enter the Literature Exhibit, you have until December 7, 2019. This will be the second annual *Literature Exhibition of Philatelic Articles* presented in coordination with APS Writers Unit 30. This is an exhibition of printed and electronically delivered articles related to the collection and study of postage stamps and stationery, postal history, revenue stamps and stamped paper, cinderella stamps, and associated specialized fields. Entries should be no more than 8000 words long.

3) The new editor for *Czechout*, the journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, is **Alan Soble**, a member of our own society. Alan, we welcome you to the unofficial group of Czechoslovak philately editors. The June 2019 *Czechout* was outstanding.. I am looking forward to being captivated by your editing skills for years to come.

4) **New Bylaw.** Following Chris Jackson's resignation as President of the Society, it was felt that some clarification should be made to the bylaws when such an event occurs. Following discussions among Board members this amendment was proposed by Lou Svoboda, seconded by Tom Cossaboom and approved by the Board with a vote of 11-0. This wording has been added to Bylaw III- Officers, subparagraph 3B.

“In the event that the President resigns or can no longer perform the duties of that position, the Vice-President will assume the duties of that position and will become President until the next election cycle.”

5) Soon after assuming the office of President, **Lou Svoboda** appointed **Alan Hanzl** to fill the vacant spot on our Board. I am delighted to welcome Alan to the Board of Directors. Alan lives in Mayfield Village, Ohio and is an excellent exhibitor, As recently as last November in Chicago he deservedly won a gold for his highly illuminating *The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (1939-1945)*. Thank you Alan for agreeing to serve on our Board. You have already made several welcome contributions and I look forward to continued discussions with you regarding the Society.

6) **New member.** We are delighted to welcome **Mark Semerad**, of Estes Park, Colorado, as our newest member #2197. Mark, as you live in fairly close proximity to the Denver area, I would be delighted to meet you to discuss philately and your particular interests any time you are in town.

7) Following the tragic death of Jiří Majer, our book supply chain from Europe has been temporarily severed. Our book sales manager, **James Buckner**, as well as our President, **Lou Svoboda**, have been working at re-establishing the links we require to obtain the books/catalogs that you require. It is anticipated that the Fall 2019 Specialist will have more items available for our members. We are looking forward to eventually receiving the new Pofis catalog for the *Czech Republic 1993-2019*. Pofis have also issued an updated version of their *Perfins in the Czech*

Lands 1854-2019. We are obtaining additional copies of the Merkur-Revue *Czechoslovakia 1918-1939 Parts I and II* catalog. I have also recently heard that Bohumil Synek's *Slovensko 1939-1945* book, while only recently published in 2015, already has a revised edition available, which has been expanded to include additional philatelic material other than stamps and postal cards. Be patient, service will return to normal as soon as we can arrange it.

8) I have been reading quite a few articles recently that **Jerry Verner** had written for the *Specialist* and was amazed at the breadth of his knowledge. Not only that, he managed to convey his point of view with astonishing clarity. Following this introduction, I have attached an abbreviated version of the article that he wrote for the July/August 1999 *Czechoslovak Specialist*, where he was giving farewell remarks at the end of his stint as President of the Society. These remarks are just as valid to the Society's members today as they were 20 years ago.

Stamp collecting is both a solitary and a social activity. We each put together our collections in our own way. We spend many solitary hours "playing" with our stamps, pouring over auction catalogs, and studying the literature. But there is the other side. We get together to learn from each other, admire what the other collector has found, and yes, let us admit it, brag about our successes in the hope of impressing our fellows.

The high point each year for the social aspects of our hobby is our annual meeting and exhibitions. We hold them in divergent geographic locations and include a mix of philatelic and social activities in the hope that more of our members, and their spouses and friends, will become active participants in our Society. During the last several years we have met in Florida, New Jersey, Wisconsin, California, Maryland, and this year we will be in Ohio. In addition, for the first time ever, the Society held such a meeting overseas during PRAGA '98. I suspect all who participated in our activities in Prague will agree these were a high point in many of our philatelic experiences.

We need to urge our members to both exhibit and write, I see two specific benefits to exhibiting: first, it forces us to focus and hence discipline ourselves- at least in some aspects of our collecting; second, it publicizes and advertises our specialty to the larger philatelic community. The more others know about Czechoslovak philately, the more they will appreciate it. The same is true of writing, but with an added benefit – we the members, will learn much from each other.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: www.cpsgb.org.uk, and through their 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.

PERFINS

by *Filatelie* Editorial Collective
trans. by Lucie Harris

[Ed. Note: While this article is focused on Protectorate perfins, the concepts and references to the perfin catalog applies to all perfins of Czechoslovakia as well.]

The marking of stamps with little holes (i.e., perfins) -- usually arranged in the form of initials -- was created in England and officially authorized in 1868 as a measure to protect stamps from theft within companies (Fig. 1). Gradually it was expanded to postal stationery, revenue stamps, and other forms; examples with such labeling we are calling *perfins*. Although in various countries they were later also used for other purposes, our report is limited to company perfins. In Austria-Hungary the use of perfins was authorized in 1877. For the area of the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia the relevant provisions are included in Postal Orders from 1937 or 1944.



Figure 1: Front and reverse sides of a stamp with the perfin "T.S."

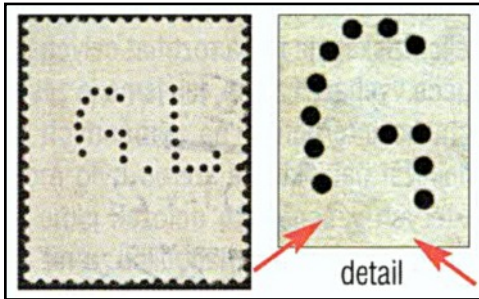


Figure 2: Reverse side of a stamp with the perfin "G.L." as portrayed in the catalog – one hole usually entirely missing, and two are merely indicated.



Figure 3: Portrayal of the perfin in the catalog.

Most of the perfins known to be on Protectorate stamps were already in use during the First Republic, some even already during Austria-Hungary. Only a few new perfins were created during the time of the Protectorate, and these were usually created by just altering an already used perforating machine (we point these out in the catalog). A considerable number of these perfins can also be briefly found on the stamps of ČSR II after 1945, but most of them stopped before 1948.

We present illustrations of the perfins in the forms that we knew them from the time of the Protectorate formation in March 1939 (in a number of cases they already had missing holes)(Fig. 2). To describe them we are using their designation according to the *Catalog perfinů z území Československa* (Catalog of Perfins of the Czechoslovak Lands)(Maxa, Fejtek, Janeček, 1987)(Fig. 3).

Perfin Positions

Perfins can be found in up to 8 different positions in relation to the image of the stamp (analogous to what is known with watermarks). The positioning of the perfin depended on

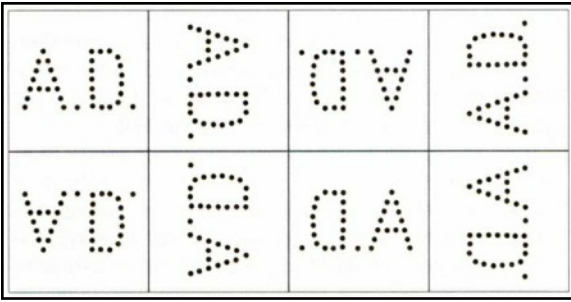


Figure 4: Eight possible positions of the perfin when placed upright in the machine.

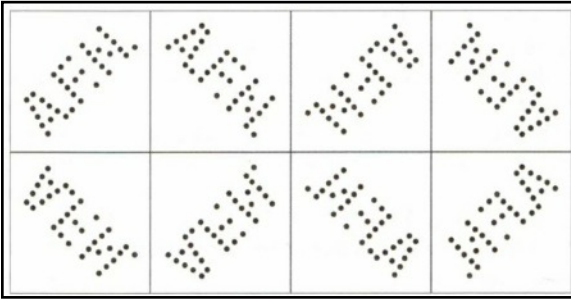


Figure 5: Eight possible positions of the perfin when placed diagonally in the machine.

the design of the perforating machine and the particular operational service. After all, the perfin positioning wasn't the purpose of the action, but rather it was to devalue the stamp to prevent misuse. Usually, several stamps were perforated on top of each other -- a row of them were mirror-folded. We present illustrations of perfins in their various basic positions (Fig. 4). Those that are shown in a diagonal position were placed in the machine that way. (Fig. 5) In terms of valuation, we consider the various positions of perfins generally to be equivalent. From the collector's perspective, perfins in the basic positions are the favorites, not because of the scarcity of occurrence, but rather because of their better presentation.

Perfin Quality

In evaluating quality, we cannot think only about the quality of the stamp or the document itself, but we have to take into account also how the perfin is executed. We regard it as ideal if it is perfectly perforated, well centered, an obviously good perfin in a basic position, and on an undamaged stamp with a highly legible cancel from which can be read the date and place of use. However, in practice, such an ideal combination is not found very often. Therefore, for the basis of evaluation, we use as examples cancelled stamps of normal quality on which is located a clear entire perfin, without regard to its positioning. If the perfin is badly executed or encroaches on the edges of the stamp, it lowers the price. Some of the perforating machines were not in fact well maintained, and thus the majority of their perfins were poorly executed -- these are specifically highlighted.

Perfin Valuations

Most often we find perfins from the Protectorate time frame on the stamp issues of the Linden Leaves (Lípové List) and Landscapes (Krajinský)(which we abbreviate **L+K**) especially in the years 1939-42 -- the occurrence on both issues is about the same. The catalog's perfin valuations apply to the common denominations of both issues. With the larger format Landscape stamps Pof.32-37 [Sc 31-36] the price is 50% higher than the basic stamp value; with the Pof 38-40 and 45-59 [Sc. 37-39, 44-48] higher by 100 %. On the definitive Hitler issues [Sc. 62 83](abbrev. **AH**), perfins occur significantly less often, price + 50%. On the commemorative and semi-postal issues (we identify them as "others" -- "ostatní"

Ost.) perfins occur rarely, price + 200%. Exceptions are perfin J94 “JRV” that occurs only on newspaper stamps, and perfin Z8 “ZP” and Variation 2 (anchor) which we only know at this time on revenue stamps -- with these the price is stated directly in the perfin catalog (and thus without any further surcharge). [*Here the J94 “JRV” and Z8 “ZP” are references to the system used in the standard perfin catalog to designate a specific perfin. The perfins are organized alphabetically. Then within each letter consecutively, again alphabetically. Under the system, J94 “JRV” means that the 94th perfin shown under the J’s contains the perforated letters JRV.*]

Perfins are found very rarely on the common values of the 1939 Czechoslovak overprinted issues [Sc. 1-19], on stamps with coupons, or on Pof. 122 [Sc. 90](the 4.20h **AH**) -- we do not evaluate these cases.

It is necessary to separately evaluate a Pof. 352 (1K TGM)[Sc. 1A] stamp having a perfin, since this occurrence is relatively rare. The standard valuation for one of these is a minimum of 40 Kč regardless of the type of perfin, although in cases where the particular perfin is evaluated higher in the catalog, then of course the price listed there applies.

On rare occasions we can find a Czechoslovak stamp with a perfin that has been used in the Protectorate (this involves forerunner or concurrent stamps). Here a requirement is that the date of the cancel be clearly readable -- the price is 40 Kč regardless of the perfin type.

Postal Stationery with Perfins and their Valuation

With postal stationery, we are usually not content merely with the fact that a stamp having a perfin is on it. We consider it essential that the stationery also shows the user corresponding to the specific perfin applied (the name, usually the address, and sometimes even the field of business or information about its products). Such stationery we classify as identified (abbrev. **IC**)(Fig. 6). Postal stationery with Protectorate perfins are rather rare, and some are even very rare, and possibly have not even been documented. Therefore, we have evaluated only the inexpensive varieties of standard quality stationery having a definitive stamp with a perfin and a readable postal cancel.

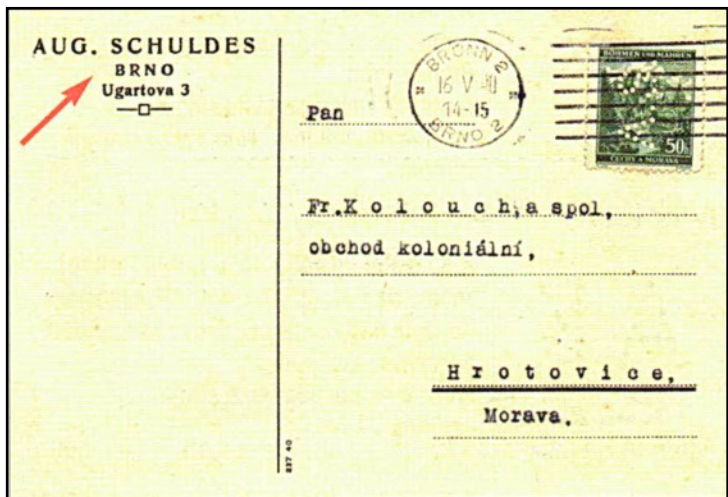


Figure 6: Postcard with a stamp having an “A.S.” Perfin and indicating the user’s name and address making this an “IC”.

Mailed postal stationery that is registered and bears a perfin has a valuation surcharge of +500Kč.

From the remainder of the stationery it is worth mentioning package dispatch clippings. The part with the sender's address was however usually cut off, although there are some exceptions. These were usually used by the perfin's authorized user, and the dispatch cancel corresponds to the company's domicile. Often they also contain several stamps having a higher nominal value. The price of a clipping -- depending on its size -- ranges from 30Kč to 50Kč + the sum of the prices of the stamps used (at least one of which should have a perfin). If the user's identification was preserved on it, the price is 100% higher.

The price of an IC stationery with a Pof. 352 (1K TGM) stamp, or possibly with a Czechoslovak forerunner or concurrent stamp, is a minimum of 500Kč.

Other postal stationery with perfins, but without identification of the authorized user, only has small value corresponding to the price of stationery without a perfin, or possibly the price of a soaked-off perfin stamp + 20%.

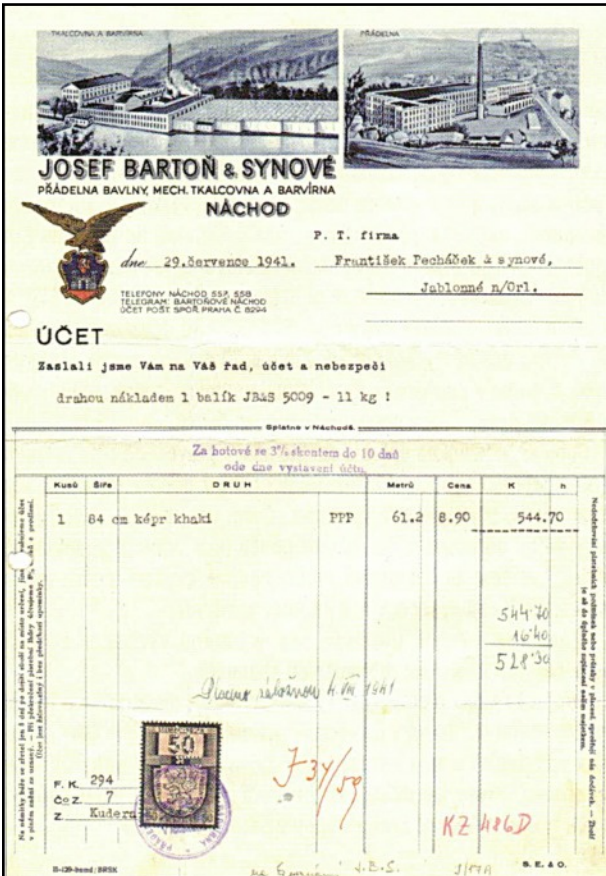


Figure 7: Document bearing a revenue stamp that has a perfin.

Perfins on Revenue Stamps

Soaked-off revenue stamps with perfins are rare. Their cost is a minimum of 100 Kč, if not otherwise specified in a catalog section. We price documents having perforated revenue stamps separately in a catalog section. Some of the documents even have interesting graphic designs, including additional information about the company (see Fig. 7).

Catalog Entry

Catalog entries show pictures of perfins at a 1:1 ratio (laying the perfin on the image, they should align). We show perfins according to

the catalog designations that are taken from *Catalog perfinů z území Československa* (Catalog of Perfins of the Czechoslovak Lands). In it the perfins are arranged in alphabetical order by the first letter of the monogram and numbered in that order (every letter has its own numerical series). The period of use of postal




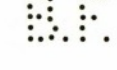
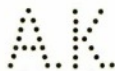



stationery with a perfin is indicated by an abbreviation behind the catalog number (P = Protectorate). The price of the same perfin used in another time period may vary significantly and often is lower.. For completeness, the entries also include a typeface copy of the monogram. In addition, it shows the proven period of time that it was used during the Protectorate, and in brackets is shown the approximate overall time the perfin was used (dates in bold are documented, dates in italics are assumed but not yet documented). Then follows a designation of the issues on which that perfin was found so far -- Pof. 352, L+K, AH, Ost., appropriate others, etc. Other lines give the names of the post offices (in Czech and German) from which the consignments with the perfin were sent, the identity of the users (as it was known in the time of the Protectorate, or perhaps immediately before), and in italics is shown the field of business. If necessary, any additional information is given in a note (in italics).

V. Munzberger contributed significantly to the preparation of this chapter.

Forgeries to the Detriment of Collectors

Like in all other collecting areas and fields, there have been recorded attempts of the counterfeiting of perfins.

Examples of Newly Cataloged Entries (enlarged by 110%)

 <p>A.D. 1939 - 1943 (- 45) [1906 - 1949] známe na Pof. (352), L+K, AH; Milotice nad Bečvou / Milotitz a.d. Betschwa; Družstvo Hospodář, spol. s r.o. / Genossenschaft „Landwirt“, (dříve A. Dadák); <i>továrna na hospodářské stroje</i></p> <p>A12-P (A.D.) 15 300</p>	 <p>BF (1939 -) 1941 - (1943) známe na L+K; Praha / Prag; <i>Pozn: perfin nově vzniklý za protektorátu, uživatel dosud není znám</i></p> <p>B39-P (BF) 40 --</p>
 <p>A.F.N. 1939 [1920 - 1939] známe jen na Pof. (352); Praha / Prag; Antonina Fleissiga nástupce; <i>továrna na motouzy, lana a provaznické výrobky</i></p> <p>A20-P (A.F.N.) 100 --</p>	 <p>B.F. 1939 - (1943) [1929 - 1943] známe na L+K; Praha / Prag; Bratři Feiglové; <i>továrna na krajky, vyšivky, tyly a jiné jemné tkaniny</i></p> <p>B41-P (B.F.) 100 --</p>
 <p>A.K. 1939 - 1943 (- 45) [1926 - 1946] známe na Pof. (352), L+K, AH, přetisku; Kunčice nad Ostravicí / Gross Kunzendorf; Agroferra, akc. spol.; <i>továrna na hospodářské stroje</i></p> <p>A38-P (A.K.) 15 300</p>	 <p>BIB 1939 - 1942 (- 43) [1938 - 1943] známe na Pof. (352), L+K; Praha / Prag; Pneu Michelin, a. s.; <i>továrna na pneumatiky</i></p> <p>B52-P (BIB) 20 500</p>
 <p>A.K. 1939 - 1944 (- 45) [1929 - 1945] známe na Pof. (352), L+K, AH; Náměst nad Oslavou / Namiest a.d. Oslawa; A. Klazar, akc. spol.; <i>továrna na koberce</i></p> <p>A53-P (A.K.) 10 250</p>	 <p>B.J. 1939 - 1945 [1906 - 1946] známe na Pof. (352), L+K, AH; Praha / Prag; Bratři Janouškové; <i>továrna na éterické oleje, trestí a lučebniny</i></p> <p>B53-P (B.J.) 10 250</p>

[This is a translation of the first entry above as a sample, so you can better understand how to “read” it.]

1. On the left is illustrated the monogram of the perfin consisting of holes in the exact size and shape of the original. The idea is that you can take the perforated stamp and lay it over this image, and they should align perfectly.
2. Line 1. A.D. = Typeface copy of the monogram. **1939-1943** = documented dates of use in the Protectorate. (-45) = undocumented date of use in the Protectorate. **[1906-1949]** = documented dates of use.
3. Line 2. “známe na Pof. (352), L+K, AH” = known on stamp Pof. 352 (the 1K TGM stamp), the Linden Leaves and Landscape stamps, the Hitler stamps.
4. Lines 3, 4, 5 = the post offices from which the consignments with the perfin were sent.
5. Line 6. “factory for agricultural machinery”

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this first English translation of an article from *Filatelie* 7/2012 with the permission of the author and the editor.]



ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

1) On page 14 of the Spring 2019 *Specialist* I had given my thanks to **Frederick Lawrence** for help in coordinating our participation in the Society for Hungarian Philately dinner at ARIPEX. As Frederick kindly reminded me, this coordination had in fact been carried out by our member **Randy Frank**. Randy, my abject apologies for leaving you out.

2) Again, from the Spring 2019 *Specialist*, this time the lower image on page 13. I should have noted that the two people facing the camera at the nearest table are **Bill Slaninko, and Antigone, wife of Frederick Lawrence**. My humble apologies to you both for this omission.

3) Yes, you have guessed it, yet another mistake in the Spring 2019 *Specialist*. On page 40 there is missing text that goes with Fig. 37. The text reads “21. On March 13, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to commemorate the awarding of prizes for **Czech stamps issued during 2018**. The imprinted stamp, featuring a detail of an Alfons Mucha painting, has a value identified by the letter “E”. The additional print, designed by Tomáš Řiha, illustrates the two stamps with details of the awards given to them (Fig. 37). 2700 cards were issued”. Thank you to everyone who pointed out this omission. Oh, I forgot, actually nobody ever did tell me of this mistake. Phew, I got away with that one!

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.*

ADVERTISEMENT

NEED CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS or PHILATELIC ITEMS??

(This offer is for members only)

Here I am again to remind you of this great opportunity to get the CzSI, B&M, Cz, SI, and ES stamps that you need at 85%, 66%, or 40% (MNH, mint, used) of catalog prices.

Five more of our members have contacted me and found success in having their needs satisfied. Many of them have said that they were surprised at the quality of the stamps. As I said in my last ad, I will give you the best item or set that I have.

My first ads (Winter 2109, pg 13, and Spring 2019, pg 28) give you some idea of what is available. But if you are like most collectors of CzSI stamps, you are persecuted by that single stamp from a set that the communist government deliberately produced in significantly smaller numbers in order to suck up good Western currency by forcing you to buy the entire set in order to get that stamp. Well, I have them.

Meanwhile, here are a couple of other items that might catch your attention:



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

Ludvik "Lou" Svoboda
Lousvoboda@comcast.net
303-680-7118

4766 S. Helena Way
Aurora, CO 80015

A SOLDIER'S LETTER

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Letter trans. by Lucie Harris

It is always fun to search through the bins at a dealer in hopes of finding some very interesting cover that not only has interesting franking, but also other signs that it might be interesting in other ways.



Fig. 1

This cover (Fig. 1, reverse Fig. 2) has a pair of 25h purple Hradčany stamps (Scott #29, design Type IV) that were joined allowing for the possibility that they included joined pairs of some type. It was an inexpensive and very clean cover that had handwriting that was clear and readable, and it was going to Bremen, Kansas, N. Amerika. Finally, it was unusually “thick”. Its only drawback was that the cancel was not readable.

Unfortunately, the stamps did not turn out to be any unusual joined pairs of different types, each was an “open spiral” with the common “příčka”. However, because of the extensive “blemishes” above the top edge of both stamps it was easy to identify them as positions 7 and 8 from plate III (using Mark Wilson’s KNIHTISK, Typographic Stamps of Czechoslovakia, Hradčany Panes).

The thickness of the envelope had to do with the fact that -- unlike probably 98% of covers that I have examined at dealers -- this one still had the letter in it! Such letters (as compared to postcards which normally only contain well wishes, etc.) can be a gold mine of information about what is happening, and what is important to these people at that time. This letter did not fail to do so.

As you read its translation, keep in mind that this is a letter from a soldier in Czechoslovakia writing on April 7, 1920 to his uncle and family in Kansas. It is not

even 18 months since WW I ended, so there is still a great deal of turmoil in international relations, governments, businesses, social systems, and shortages in food and goods supplies, etc.

After the letter translation, I have added additional comments about this item.

“Vel. Sedliště

April 7, 1920

Dear Uncle and all friends.

First I would like to thank you for your letter from March 2nd that I received today. It arrived quite late since in the meantime I went home for vacation, so it was sent from Liberec to the regiment in Slovakia, and then they sent it to me from there. I have vacation until June 30th, and I hope it will be extended until autumn so I would not even have to return to the army. In the fall, all of the troops are going home, and new recruits are replacing them. I just wish that our neighbors -- Polish and Hungarian -- would get wise and would not threaten our republic.

I am happy to hear you are feeling better, and I wish from my heart that with the coming spring your health would improve. I also want to mention the box you sent has not arrived. As you have written, it mostly gets delayed in Germany, because they off-load all shipments in Hamburg. Then it gets shipped terribly slowly to Czechoslovakia particularly since Germany constantly has coups and revolutionary spasms. We hope that since such shipments often take a long time to arrive, that it will still come. Soukupka, that you surely remember, is so unhappy, because she too has a box on the way from her American friends. It is taking a long time and has not arrived yet. A few days ago, we received a letter from a certain M. Sedláček from Brno -- actually it was written to Grandpa. In it he writes that he became acquainted with you through the intercession of the Red Cross. He is asking -- appealing to you -- for a certain gift from the box you sent for his family. We have not done anything about it since we have not received anything yet.

Regarding your invitation to come visit you, I would not need much encouragement, in as much of my desire to again see a part of the new world. In the army I came to enjoy traveling around the world. But I would not want to stay with you permanently, since my intentions are to stay home and take care of the farm. As an officer in the army, I had inviting prospects to some really nice places in the state as well as other service, but even then I rather would return home.

Future prospects are not too attractive in agriculture right now. We will have to change our farm very much to get by without laborers who are expensive and will be lacking, and to arrange matters so that we ourselves can do most of the work. If I would perhaps want to come to you for a short visit, this kind of trip would in fact be very expensive, so we will have to settle for this letter writing.

This year large estates are beginning to be divided up for small agricultural groups. Now they are giving a part of estate lands to the neediest people for rent only, and the next year these properties will be sold to them. The owner of Litomyšl's castle -- the Thurn and Taxis prince who was always only in Regensburg in Bavaria -- wanted to apparently come to Litomyšl and to settle at the castle. He was promising that his whole family will learn Czech, and he also requested of the

government in Prague to give him authorization to settle down in Litomyšl and to receive the estate into his realm. The castle is now under compulsory Czech administration, and there are officials appointed by the Czech government at the castle in Litomyšl. However, all the inhabitants unanimously protested the coming of the German-foreigner who had not even shown up here for years and only collected money from us. So we are hoping that Mr. Prince's plans will not be realized, and that he will permanently stay in Bavaria.

In the next few days, I will send you a book, the history of Litomyšl, that you asked for in your last letter to Grandpa. It is not the complete history of Litomyšl, only the first part from the oldest times until 1421. The other parts have not been printed yet. If they are published later, I will also send them to you. I will also add a book about the Litomyšl dialect that you will surely find interesting.

Otherwise there is not much that is new, things are still getting more and more expensive, and the shortage of everything is still great. Spring arrived early this year, and by the end of February we had already sown. In March snow covered all of this, but melted shortly, so nothing was damaged. Soon we will already have things sown, only beets and potatoes to do. The rye has almost died out this year, which will only increase the general misery.

I finish my letter with this, and I wish you good health.

The family of V. Sedláček greets you.

Your Václav Sedláček"

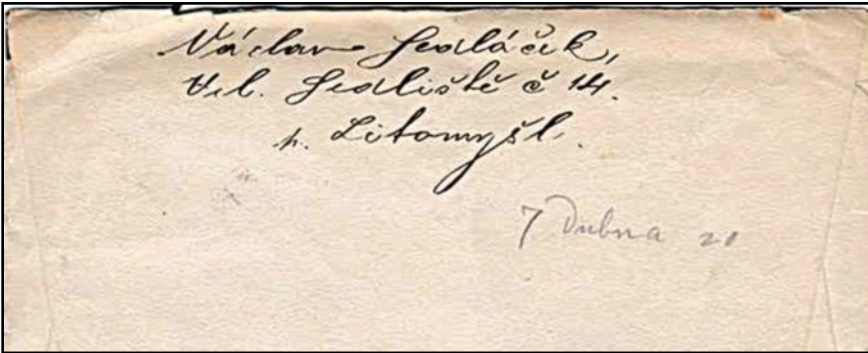


Fig. 2

The letter has a return address of Vel. Sedliště p. Litomyšl (which is Large Sedliště near or below Litomyšl). Litomyšl is a fair sized town/small city about 50 km northwest of Brno in Moravia, and Vel. Sedliště is a hamlet very near by. Bremen, Kansas is a hamlet in Kansas, and I will have more to say about it later.

Why was this soldier, who was currently on leave, stationed somewhere in Slovakia? It probably had to do with the fact that the Austro-Hungarian empire collapsed at the end of WW I, and the new country of Czechoslovakia was being born. Part of that birth was the determination of what the borders were now to be between the new country and those surrounding it. That determination is what produced problems with both Hungary and Poland.

The people of Slovakia had been under Hungarian domination for 1,000 years through November 1918. This area had often been referred to as Upper Hungary. The Slovak people saw their opportunity to now be free. When the ruling empire

collapsed, the Hungarians wanted to keep possession of as much of this area of Slovakia as they could. The result was that the Hungarians and Czechoslovaks moved troops to the areas that approximated the likely border. Fighting actually took place from about late November 1918 until February 1919 at which time a commission was set up to arbitrate the border. Thus, our soldier seems to have been part of the Czechoslovak troops who were stationed along the supposed border to ensure the Czechoslovak interests in the meantime. The commission did not reach a compromise until 4 June 1920, the Treaty of Trianon.

The problems with Poland were long standing. We are talking about a relatively small area that runs along the Czech-Polish border in the north of Moravia which the Czechs called Teschen. The area was known to be high in gas and coal that was the highest quality in Europe. Also, two major rail lines ran through the area and large steel mills were located there. The Czech claim was that this area had been part of the Bohemian Empire since the 1300's, while the Polish claim rested with the fact that the populace had become 65% Polish over the years. To safeguard their claim, the Czechs moved troops into the area in January 1919 -- the Poles followed suit and conflicts occurred for several months. Again an international council was involved, a temporary demarkation line was established, and a plebiscite was to be held (wherein the indigenous residents could vote to select who the area should go to). However, the plebiscite never took place because the final border was dictated in July, 1920. During the intervening period, both countries produced overprinted stamps for their areas. This is the origin of the stamps overprinted "SO 1920" which we designate as being for Eastern Silesia.

Now, the reference in the letter to the delay in receiving mail and shipped items coming through Germany deals with the upheavals taking place there. These were terrible times for the German people -- starvation, loss of a significant percentage of the working populace, terrible monetary inflation, war reparation demands by the Allies, etc. In fact, it was these turbulent times which gave Adolph Hitler the means to come into power in the early 1930's.

Now what about Bremen, Kansas? Well, the town was laid out in 1886 by Henry Brenneke who came from the area around Bremen, Germany, and thus the name of the town. The majority of early immigrants seem to be of German descent. It is a small hamlet (population in 1917 was 100, and it is not on the Kansas road map today) located just south of the Nebraska border and about 75 miles south of Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1890, Joseph Sedláček built a hardware store there that had a spacious hall as its second floor. In 1917, among the significant businesses is listed Sedláček & Son -- hardware, furniture, auto supplies. This was very obviously Václav Sedláček's uncle. It would seem that Václav would have had a great opportunity had he decided to come.

I plan to write to Bremen, Kansas, to see whether the Sedláček family is still there.

Quite an interesting story from a simple cover and its letter.

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2. Silesia by Jane Sterba, November/December 1976, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.
3. *Czechoslovakia: The State that Failed*, Mary Heimann; Yale University Press 2009, New Haven
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

-- NOTICE --

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BENEŠ to HAVEL - PRESIDENTS ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS AFTER MASARYK

by Keith Hart

I had thought that after Masaryk there would be considerably less stamps to review from each of the other nine Presidents who served Czechoslovakia. I was mistaken. There are 37 issues mentioned in this article. It helped that during the early communist years from 1948 to 1954, the “Cult of Personality” trait of communist leaders at that time led to Klement Gottwald having 12 different issues and 22 stamps produced during his relatively short time as President. I was also pleasantly surprised to find that even though I expected to find that there were far less types, errors and variations, this was not the case. There are plenty of varieties to be found on most of the stamps mentioned here. For more information on each stamp the Pofis catalogs covering this period have great coverage of the variables to be found and will be of immense help to collectors. Please note that the people in this series did not necessarily have to be a sitting President at the time of issue.

EDVARD BENEŠ

Beneš was the successor to Czechoslovakia’s first President, Tomáš Masaryk, who retired due to declining health in 1937. Beneš, a long-time ally of Masaryk, succeeded him as President. After the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany Beneš became leader of the government-in-exile during World War II. Beneš regained his place as President for the first three years after the war had ended.

1936, Definitive issue

This 50h stamp (Fig. 1), with a portrait designed by Bohumil Heinz, was part of a four value definitive set, with the other stamps having portraits of Komenský, Štefánik, and Masaryk. This stamp was rotary printed with one set of plates in sheets of 200 and line perforated 12½.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

1937, Portrait of Beneš

This 50h stamp (Fig. 2), with another portrait designed by Heinz, is printed using two sets of dual plates and line perforated 12½. A second Type has more shading inside the ear. Examples of this stamp were overprinted with “Slovenský Štát 1939”. Other overprints found for this stamp are “Autonomia Slovenska 6.X.1938” and “B.I.T. 1937” (International Land Office).



Fig. 3

1943, London Exhibition souvenir sheet

This engraved souvenir sheet was authorized by the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, although it has no postal validity whatsoever.

One of five stamps on the sheet is a perforated 10 Kč stamp which has portraits of Masaryk and Štefánik as well as Beneš (Fig. 3). Besides mint versions a cancelled version with a special green cancel commemorating the 25th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak Field Posts can also be obtained.



Fig. 4

1945, Portraits

This issue of sixteen stamps was designed and engraved by Jindra Schmidt and includes four value with Beneš- 60h, 1.60 Kč, 3 Kč, and 7 Kč (Fig. 4). The 1.60 Kč value is comb (harrow) perforated 14, while the remainder are line perforated 12½.

1946, Dr. Edvard Beneš

This four stamp issue is an early example of the partnership of Max Švabinský and Jindra Schmidt. 60h, 1.60 Kč (Fig. 5), 3 Kč, and 8 Kč values. Printing sheets of 200 with line perforation 12½.



Fig. 5

1948, Dr. E. Beneš

Issued just before the February coup by the Communist Party, backed by the Soviet Union. This three value set of 1.50 Kč (Fig. 6), 2 Kč, and 5 Kč was photogravure printed and comb perforated 14. Examples of the 1.50 Kč value can be found with a plate error where the “0” in the price has a deformed edge.



Fig. 6

1948, Death of Dr. E. Beneš

After being forced to resign as President in June 1948 Beneš died just three months later. This 8 Kč memorial stamp (Fig. 7) was line perforated 12½. Covers with a special mourning cancellation from his hometown of Sezimova Ústí are rare and highly sought after.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

1994, 110th Anniversary of Birth of Edvard Beneš

Beneš had to wait another 42 years for this Czech Republic stamp. The 5 Kč stamp (Fig. 8), a combination of rotary recess printing and photogravure, is sheet perforated 11¼: 11½. There is a description of a less obvious plate defect in *Filatelie*, November 2001.

Beneš also appears in the lower left margins of the Czech Republic miniature sheets from the Fight for Czech Statehood series from 2016 and 2017.

KLEMENT GOTTWALD

Following the “Victorious February” communist coup in 1948, Gottwald, First Secretary of the Communist Party, increasingly put pressure on Beneš to resign. Eventually he succeeded and Gottwald became the first communist President of Czechoslovakia.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

1948, Klement Gottwald, definitives

Gottwald's first stamp issue has four values 1 Kč, 3 Kč, 5 Kč (Fig. 9), and a slightly larger image 20 Kč. The three lower values were rotary recess printed and line perforated 12½. The 3 Kč stamp has two Types that have slightly different color shading. Type I has the two engraved lines forming the shape of the right jacket lapel not quite meeting. The Type II, which is much scarcer, has the two lines joined. The 20 Kč stamp was originally issued in sheets of 100 plus 12 coupons with a purple-gray color. In 1953 it was reissued with a more purple shade, which is uncommon. This value also has variants in the coupons, which are rare in the later printing. The 1.50 Kč and 5 Kč stamps have extremely rare imperforate examples. The 1.50 Kč and the Type II 3 Kč stamps also have very uncommon examples of perforation errors.



Fig. 11

1948, 52nd Birthday of K. Gottwald

This miniature sheet has an imperforate 30 Kč image (Fig. 10), based on the portrait in the previous issue. Incredibly, there are ten different Types of this sheet, full details of which can be found in the Pofis catalog.

1949, 1st Anniversary of Victorious February

This two value issue has a 3 Kč stamp featuring Gottwald addressing a crowd (Fig. 11). This was photogravure printed in sheets of 100 with comb perforations 14. The 10 Kč value was again from the portrait used for the 1948



Fig. 12

definitive, with added lettering in the bottom left corner (Fig. 12). This stamp also has a coupon with his initials and a sprig of linden leaves. This was rotary recess printed in sheets of 100 with 12 coupons and line perforated 12½. There are variations in the margin widths of the coupons. Perforation defects can also be found.



Fig. 13

1951, 30th Anniversary of Founding of Czechoslovak Communist Party

The five value set includes two values, 1.50 Kč (Fig. 13) and 5 Kč, which has portraits of both Gottwald and Stalin together. The stamp were rotary recess printed in sheets of 50 and line perforated 12½.

1951, Day of the Czechoslovak Army

This five value issue has a 1.50 Kč stamp with a portrait of Gottwald in army uniform (Fig. 14). The stamp was rotary recess



Fig. 14

printed in sheets of 100 and line perforated 12½. There are extremely rare examples with a significant gap between the image and the top perforation.



Fig. 16

1951, Month of Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship

The three value issue has two values, 1.50 Kč (Fig. 15) and 4 Kč with portraits of Gottwald standing shoulder to shoulder with Stalin. Rotary recess printed in sheets of 100 and line perforated 12½.



Fig. 15



Fig. 17

1952, Klement Gottwald, definitive

Using the same image and printing process for the 1948 definitive issue, this is a new 1 Kč value (Fig. 16).

1953, 5th Anniversary of Victorious February

Two of the three stamps in this set contain images of Gottwald. The 3 Kč stamp shows Gottwald addressing a meeting (Fig. 17) and the 8 Kč stamp illustrates a meeting in Wenceslas Square that includes small portraits of Gottwald and Stalin (Fig. 18). Offset printed in sheets of 100. Comb perforated 14.



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

1953, Death of K. Gottwald

Issued five days after his death, this issue features 1.50 Kč and 3 Kč (Fig. 19) stamps printed in black. They were rotary recess printed in sheets of 50, comb perforated 11¼: 11½. A memorial miniature sheet was also issued featuring an imperforate 5 Kč stamp (Fig. 20). It was recess printed on a flat plate. This sheet is found in six different Types, with plate defects producing sub-Types IIIa, IIIb, and VIa.



Fig. 21

1953, Klement Gottwald

Even after his death a further 3 Kč definitive (Fig. 21) stamp was issued using the same image as the 1948

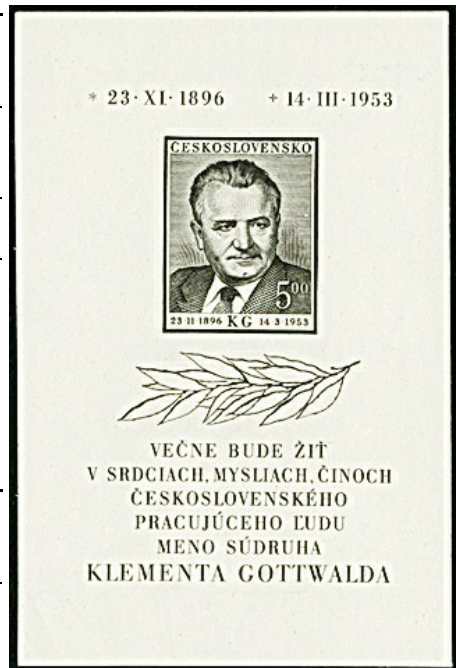


Fig. 20

definitive issue. Comb perforated $11\frac{3}{4}$: $11\frac{1}{4}$. This stamp, printed in a violet-red, replaced the 1948 carmine-red original.



Fig. 23

1954, 25th Anniversary of Klement Gottwald becoming leader of the Communist Party

As part of a two stamp issue, this 60h stamp shows Gottwald addressing a crowd (Fig. 22). The stamp was rotary recess



Fig. 22

printed in sheets of 50 and comb perforated $11\frac{1}{4}$: $11\frac{1}{2}$. There are versions with plate defects in position 43 that have additional marks just inside the left vertical frame.

1954, 1st Anniversary of deaths of J.V. Stalin and K. Gottwald

This three stamp issue includes a 60h value with portraits of Gottwald and Stalin facing each other (Fig. 23). These are rotary recess printed in sheets of 50 and sheet perforated $11\frac{3}{4}$: $11\frac{1}{4}$. There are examples of a plate defect in position 1 which has heavier shading adjacent to Gottwald's forehead. Another extremely rare defect has rough printing in the left hand selvage of the sheet.



Fig. 24

1988, 40th anniversary of Victorious February and The National Front

This two stamp issue includes a 50h stamp with a statue of Gottwald (Fig. 24). The stamp was produced by a combination of rotary recess printing and offset, in printing sheets of 50 and sheet perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$: $11\frac{1}{4}$.

1988, 40th Anniversary of Victorious February

This two stamp miniature sheet includes the 50h value stamp of a statue of Gottwald which was figure 22 and also the 60h stamp of Gottwald which was figure 20. Together they combine to provide both a completely imperforate miniature sheet and another sheet with the 50h value perforated (Fig. 25).

ANTONÍN ZÁPOTOCKÝ

Zápotocký was Prime Minister during the Presidency of Gottwald and succeeded him on his death. He favored a slightly more humane way of governing but was constantly outflanked by the First Secretary of the Communist Party, Antonín Novotný. Eventually the Soviet



Fig. 25

leadership forced him to adhere to a “collective leadership,” which effectively gave Novotný all the power within the Czechoslovak Politburo.

1953, Antonín Zápotocký, definitives

On the same day (June 19, 1953) as the final issue of definitives of Gottwald, the first two definitives featuring Zápotocký were also issued. The 30h and 60h (Fig. 26) stamps were gravure printed in sheets of 100 and frame perforated 14. Variations can be obtained with perforation defects.



Fig. 26

1953, Antonín Zápotocký, definitives

Zápotocký apparently hated the previous issue and less than a month later new stamps with the same value were issued. This time the 30h (Fig. 27) and 60h stamps were rotary recess printed. Initially Type A of the 30h stamp was printed in sheets of 100 with comb perforation 11¼: 11¼. The general color was blue, but examples can be found printed in an ultramarine shade. The 60h stamp was printed in sheets of 100 with line perforation 12 ½.



Fig. 27

The official color for the 60h stamp is carmine. Examples can also be found in a crimson red color. Eventually the 30h stamp was reissued in a printing/perforated format matching the 60h. This Type B stamp was a green-blue color. It can also be collected in shades of a lighter blue-green, gray-blue, dark blue, and purple-blue. There are two known rare plate defects for the 60h value. Perforation errors can be found both in the Type B 30h, and the 60h.



Fig. 28

1954, 70th Birthday of A. Zápotocký

A new portrait of Zápotocký was used for this issue with two values, 30h and 60h (Fig. 28). Rotary printed in sheets of 50 with comb perforations 11¼: 11½. A miniature sheet with an imperforate 2 Kč stamp was also issued. Two types of this sheet are known, with differences in the upper left corner of the coat of arms.

1957, Death of Antonín Zápotocký

The images for this issue use the same portrait as the previous issue. Both the 30h and 60h (Fig. 29) stamps are printed in black, although the 60h value is considerably darker. Rotary recess printed in sheets of 50 and comb perforated 11¼: 11½. There is also a miniature sheet with a 2 Kč imperforate stamp. This sheet has two types, with the rare Type II having a line inside the right hand berry on the cachet.

1984, 100th Anniversary of Birth of Antonín Zápotocký

This 50h stamp (Fig. 30) was printed by a combination of rotary recessed plate and offset, in printing sheets of 100 and sheet perforated 11¼: 11½.



Fig. 29



Fig. 30

ANTONÍN NOVOTNÝ

This President took an outdated neo-Stalinist line on governing but had the complete support of the Soviet government in Moscow. In 1960 his new constitution had changed the name of the country to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Eventually he came under extreme pressure to liberalize policies. During the Prague Spring of 1968 he was forced to resign.

1958, Antonín Novotný

His initial Presidential issue had 30h and 60h (Fig. 31) values. Originally printed in sheets of 100 and sheet perforated 11¼: 11¼ (Type A), they were later reissued in sheets of 100 and 50, line perforated 12½ (Type B). The 60h value was red in the first printing, which became a carmine red in the later issue. The 30h stamp remained blue in the second issue but came with different shades. Stamps with perforation defects can be found in the Type B.



Fig. 31

1959, Antonín Novotný

This single issue with a 30h stamp (Fig. 32) uses the same image and printing process as the previous issue but is printed in a purple color. There is a rare Type X which has differences in paper type, color shading, and gum. Perforation defects can be collected in both Types.



Fig. 32



Fig. 33

1967, President Antonín Novotný

A new portrait was used for this issue with 2 Kč (Fig. 33) and 3 Kč stamps. Rotary recess printed in sheets of 50 with sheet perforation 11¼: 11½. Six variants with plate defects can be found for the 2 Kč stamp, and there is one known plate defect in the 3 Kč value.



Fig. 34

1968, 50th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia

For collectors looking for an extreme rarity there is an unreleased miniature sheet with a new portrait on a 5 Kč perforated stamp (Fig. 34). So rare that the Pofis catalog gives no value for it as not enough examples have been available for sale.

LUDVÍK SVOBODA

General Svoboda, a hero from both World Wars, became President in March 1968, following the upheaval of the Prague Spring. Within months the Soviets had led the Warsaw Pact invasion of the country. Along with other government members he was taken to Moscow where they were forced to sign the Moscow Protocol which led to the "Normalization Period" where virtually all the liber-

al ideas were extinguished. In 1975 he was forced from office when his ill health was deemed to prevent him from carrying out his duties as President.

1968, President Ludvík Svoboda

These 30h (Fig. 35) and 60h stamps are rotary recess printed in sheets of 100 and sheet perforated 11¼: 11¼. The blue 30h value is sometimes found in a gray-blue shade. The reddish-brown 60h stamp has a rarity with different gum. Both values have extremely rare occurrences of imperforate stamps.



Fig. 35

1969, 25th Anniversary of Battle of Dukla Pass



Fig. 36

This 30h stamp (Fig. 36) shows General Svoboda and his Czechoslovak 1st Army Corps, who were part of the large Soviet force who faced the joint German/Hungarian forces. A jointly issued stamp commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising. Rotary recess printing was combined with offset in sheets of 35, with sheet perforation 11¼.

1970, President Ludvík Svoboda

A two value 50h and 1 Kč (Fig. 37) set was based on the same image of the first President Svoboda stamps. The violet-red 1 Kč value can also be found in carmine, also a redder-violet version. A red variety is extremely rare. Rotary recess printed in sheets of 100 with sheet perforation 11¼: 11¼. The 50h stamp can be found with three plate defects and one printing error. The 1 Kč stamp has one plate defect and two known printing errors.



Fig. 37

1975, 80th Birthday of General L. Svoboda

Issued just after his resignation this 10 Kč stamp within a miniature sheet (Fig. 38) was issued in both perforated and imperforate forms, the imperforate being rarer. There are also two Types of the stamp, with differing shading near Svoboda's right eye. There are also sub-Types of both Types. Rotary recess printing, with the perforated version having sheet perforation 11¼. There is also an extreme variety of an unissued miniature sheet with a different image. Trial proofs can also be found for this tentative issue.



Fig. 38

GUSTÁV HUSÁK

After helping crush democratic dissent in his native Slovakia in the late 1940s, he fell victim to a Stalinist purge in 1950. By 1967 he was completely rehabilitated and in 1968 was part of the Prague Spring movement. After the Soviet intervention he changed tracks to promote overturning the recent reforms. Becoming President in 1975 he was one of the Soviets staunchest allies. At the end of 1989 he resigned his post in the wake of the Velvet Revolution.



Fig. 39

1975, President Gustáv Husák

The Presidents first stamps were 30h and 60h (Fig. 39) values. Rotary printed in sheets of 100, sheet perforated 11¼: 11¼. Both values can be obtained in differing paper type. There are also some quirky variants to be found.

1983, Gustáv Husák

A 50h (Fig. 40) definitive with a new portrait was issued on his 70th birthday. Rotary recess printed combined with offset, in sheets of 100, sheet perforated 11¼: 11¼. There are five examples of manufacturing defects, including an extremely rare imperforate example. Other versions can be obtained without the creamy background to the stamp.



Fig. 40

1988, 75th Birthday of G. Husák

This 1 Kč stamp (Fig. 41) uses the same image as the previous issue and was printed in the same format including the same creamy background. As with the previous issue examples are available without this creamy background.



Fig. 41

VÁCLAV HAVEL

Originally known as a playwright, he became famous for being a supporter of the Prague Spring and later as founder of the dissident group Charter 77. He was jailed for his views on several occasions. Having survived that he saw his Civic Forum Party become instrumental in the Velvet Revolution. He was voted President by the Federal Assembly at the end of 1989, becoming the 9th and last President of Czechoslovakia.



Fig. 42

1990, President V. Havel

The 50h stamp (Fig. 42) was printed by a combination of rotary recess printing and offset in sheets of 100, sheet perforated 11¼: 11¼. There are rare examples where the sheet perforation frame was inverted. There are two known printing defects. Brief details of an unissued stamp from this period were revealed in the May 1990 *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

This ends the stamps issued showing the Presidents of Czechoslovakia. From 1993 there are stamps showing the three Czech Republic Presidents and also the five Slovak Presidents. These will be the subject of articles in the Fall 2019 *Specialist*.

SOURCES:

Pofis catalog *Československo 1918-1939* (2012 edition); František Beneš- Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1.
 Pofis catalog *Československo 1945-1992* (2015 edition); František Beneš- Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1.
 Pofis catalog *Protektorát Čechy a Morava 1939-1945* (2010 edition); František Beneš- Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1.
Slovensko 1939-1945, 2007; Ondrej Földes- ALBUM s.r.o., Sečovská 8, 821 02 Bratislava.
Slovensko 1939-1945, 2015; Bohumil Synek- Vydala Filatelie- Numizmatika Album, Lazaretská 11, Bratislava.
Specializovaná Příručka- Pro Sběratele Československých Známek a Celin, 1988; collectively authored- Vydal Svaz Československých Filatelistů v Nakladatelství Dopravy a Spojů K.20 Výročí Založení SČSF, Praha.
Czechoslovak Specialist 1939-2009- Interactive Index DVD; Mark Wilson- Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015.

IMAGES: Czech Stamp Library website- Mark Wilson: www.cpslib.org.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

1. On May 22, 2019, The Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative stamp in the series: **Personalities – Gelasius Dobner** (1719-1790). The 27 Kč stamp shows a profile view of Dobner (Fig. 1) was designed by Renáta Fučíková and produced by PTC using multicolored offset technology in printing sheets of 50. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Dobner's birth. He graduated in philosophy and



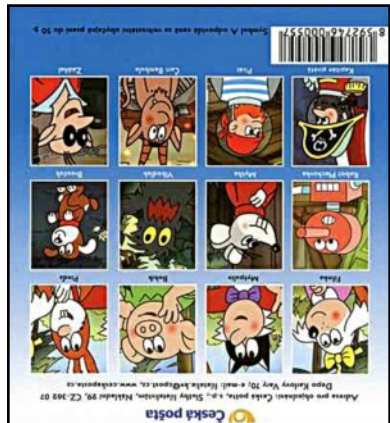
Fig. 1

then taught at the Piarist Grammar School in Prague while studying law. Under the patronage of Bishop Václav Vokoun, he studied sources of historical writing. He became the first Czech historian who verified written resources, which led to deletion of unproved stories that often accompanied historical works at that time. His critical analysis of Hájek's *Bohemian Chronicle* was a textbook example of editing



Fig. 3

the original text to omit unsubstantiated facts. His work aided future historians to avoid errors in corroboration of verbal material. The FDC cachet shows Dobner surrounded by scholars (Fig. 2) and the cancellation has the motif of the entrance gate to the Piarist school.



2. On May 22, 2019, the Ministry issued a stamp booklet to celebrate **50 years of Čtyřlístek Comics**. The booklet contains five copies each of two different die-cut self-adhesive stamps (Fig. 3), each with a value identified by the letter A (19 Kč). The stamps were designed by Jaroslav Němeček and produced by PTC using multicolored offset. Čtyřlístek (Four-Leaf Clover) remains one of the most popular comics among Czech children. Němeček has been the illustrator since the beginning and for many decades

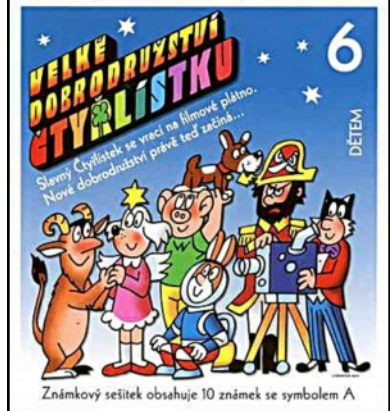


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

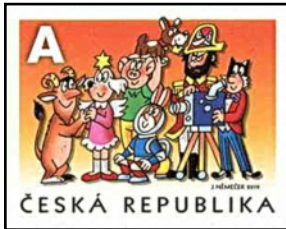


Fig. 5



Fig. 6a



Fig. 6b

most of the stories were written by Ljuba Stíplová who died in 2009. Nowadays the stories have several different authors. The four main characters are Myšpulín the Cat, Bobík the Pig, Fifinka the Missy Dog, and Pinda the Rabbit. These characters share a house in the fictional village of Třeskopský, located by Blaták pond, underneath Bezzub Castle. These locations are based on places in the vicinity of a cottage owned by Němeček. Doksy is the real Třeskopský, Blaták is an imitation of Mácha's Lake, and Bezzub Castle is a lookalike of Bezděz Castle. One stamp shows the four friends flying in a car against a blue-sky background (Fig. 4) and the other stamp has the four main characters, together with several supporting characters, as they appeared in a special animated film, shown on an orange background (Fig. 5). Two First Day Covers were issued. The cachet for the stamp with the blue-sky background shows the four

friends being transported by one of Myšpulín the Cat's many inventions (Fig. 6a) and the cachet for the stamp with the orange background shows the four friends in a gymnastic pose (Fig. 6b). The FDC cancellations are the same for both covers and contain a motif of a four-leaf clover

with the title of the comic magazine. Sadly, Czech Post used the real location, Doksy, for the official cancellation address, rather than the imaginary Třeskopský. *[Editor's note: These comic characters have appeared on Czech stamps before, all on adhesive stamps within a booklet. Fifinka (Scott 3450, Pofis 630), Myšpulín (Scott 3473, Pofis 657), Pinda (Scott 3486, Pofis 672), and Bobík (Scott 3498, Pofis 681). In addition, the four characters have appeared together on three other stamps (Scott 3462, Pofis 641), and Scott 3556-7, Pofis 750-1)].*

3. On May 22, 2019 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with value identified by the letter E (39 Kč). The stamp depicts a **Dandelion** in bloom (Fig. 7) and was designed by Anna Khunová. It was produced by PTC using multicolored offset process in printing sheets of 100. Even though its yellow flowers are attractive, the dandelion is usually thought of as a diabolical weed by most gardeners. They thrive in all types of soil and can spread rapidly through the dispersal of their spherical seed heads, which float away easily on even the slightest breeze. Although dandelions seem to be identical wherever you see them, there are



Fig. 7

in fact many different microspecies such as winged dandelions, toothless dandelions, and mysterious dandelions. The leaves, stems, flowers, and roots of the entire plant are edible and nutritious. Dandelions have been used as food, as well as for their medicinal properties, for thousands of years. The latex secreted when the stem is broken is a source of natural rubber.



Fig. 8

4. On June 12, 2019 the Ministry issued a 27 Kč stamp in the series: **Works of Art on Stamps- Zdeněk Sýkora (1920-2011)**. The stamp illustrates the painting *Line No. 56 (Humberto)*, 1988 (Fig. 8), from the collections of the Museum of Art, Olomouc. The graphic designer of the stamp was Martin Srb, which was produced by PTC using multicolored offset in a miniature sheet of four stamps, with a blank central label. Born in Louny, Bohemia, Sýkora studied art and descriptive geometry at the Czech Technical University and later Charles University. He eventually became an assistant (1947) and later a lecturer (1966-1980). He began his career as a landscape painter, gradually developing into an abstract artist. In the 1960s he was a pioneer in creating images with computer-based programs. In the 1970s he developed a new computer system based on randomness. His paintings are found in museums throughout the world. The FDC cachet is a black and white design of circles and semi-circles within a grid pattern (Fig. 9) and the digital FDC cancellation has a motif of curves.

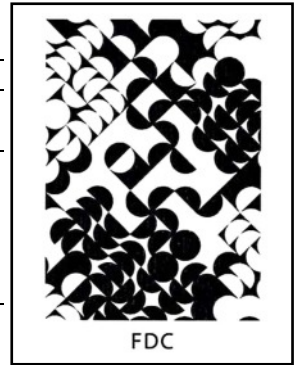


Fig. 9

5. On June 26, 2019 the Ministry issued a 45 Kč stamp in the series: **Works of Art on Stamps- Václav Radimský (1867-1946)**. The stamp illustrates a detail from the painting *Poplars, 1934* (Fig. 10), from a private collection. The design and engraving were by Václav Fajt, which was produced by PTC using recess printing from flat plates in a miniature sheet of four stamps, with a blank central label. Born in Pašinky, near Kolín in Bohemia, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He continued his studies in Vienna, before moving to France where he spent the major years of his career and was heavily influenced by Claude Monet and other Impressionists. After returning to the new nation of Czechoslovakia, he settled in his native region, which became the subject of his paintings until his death. His style of work was considered controversial in his native country and he was often lambasted by critics, particularly during the initial period of exhibiting in Prague during the early years of the 20th century. The FDC cachet has an azure colored landscape motif inspired by the artist (Fig. 11), while



Fig. 10

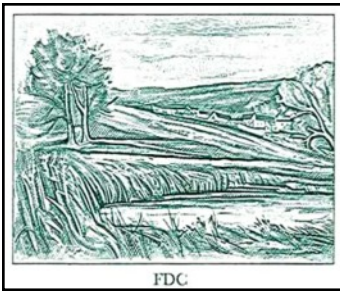


Fig. 11

the FDC cancellation is an outline landscape above a facsimile of Radimský's signature.

6. On June 26, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the lives of **Jan Palach** and **Jan Zajíc**. The stamp with a value identified by the letter A (19 Kč), shows the faces of the two martyrs (Fig. 12). It was designed by Kryštof Krejča and printed by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50. On August 21, 1968 Czechoslovakia was occupied by the armies of most Warsaw



Fig. 12

Pact countries, led by the Soviet Union. This brought an end to the period of the Prague Spring, where leaders of the Czechoslovak Communist Party had introduced major reforms to give the country "Socialism with a Human Face". The First Secretary of the Communist Party, Alexander Dubček, appealed to the populace not to violently resist the invaders. This led to an intelligent, but futile, resistance that included attempted fraternization with members of the occupying armies, defiance of imposed curfews, and removal of road signs throughout the republic. Five months of 'negotiations' between the Czechoslovak government and the Soviet Union brought no agreement whatsoever. The protests had become muted and students like Jan Palach had become extremely frustrated and demoralized with the impasse. He decided to sacrifice himself and he set himself on fire in Wenceslas Square on January 16, 1969, dying later of his severe



Fig. 13

burns. His funeral turned into a massive protest to the occupation. Just over five weeks later Jan Zajíc, another student, self-immolated himself in the same location in Wenceslas Square. Although these extreme acts of protest shocked the general public, there was no impact on the political forces that ruled at that time. In fact, just two months later, Dubček was forced from his office and Gustáv Husák's government began the period of "Normalization", during which nearly all the reforms that had occurred were overturned. It was another twenty years before the collapse of the Soviet

Union allowed the Czechs and Slovaks to become independent again. The FDC cachet shows the remains of Jan Palach's identity card with burnt edges (Fig. 13) and the FDC cancellation contains a symbolic motif of two crosses.

7. On June 26, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series: **Technical Monuments- The First Horse-Drawn Tram Line**. The stamp, with a value identified by the letter A (19 Kč) has an image of the earliest tram (Fig. 14). It was designed by Milan Bauer and produced by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50. On February 23, 1869 the City of Brno was granted a license by the Ministry of Commerce in Vienna, to construct and operate a horse-drawn railway system, including seven intersecting track sections and three depots. The



Fig. 14

a horseshoe (Fig. 15) and the FDC cancellation is a symbolic coat of arms.

8. On June 26, 1969 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of **Mahatma Gandhi** (1869-1948). The stamp, with a value designated by the letter Z (45 Kč) shows Gandhi in a typical pose (Fig. 16). It was designed by Jan Kavan and printed by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50. Gandhi was born in Porbandar, Gujarat in NW India, where his father was the chief minister in one of the many small Indian principalities of the time. When 18 he went to England to study law and eventually returned to India to begin campaigning for better living conditions for the many Indians who had no civil rights at that time. In due course he issued a manifesto requesting independence for India. In 1930 he walked more than 250 miles (400 km) in 24 days to take a pinch of sea salt, which symbolically signaled the opposition to his British salt monopoly and its exorbitant taxation. This also brought attention to the exploitation of India's natural resources. By 1942 he was one of a large group of activists pressing for India's independence. His stance was that only non-violent civil disobedience should be used to force the British into a dialog for independence. During independence negotiations it became apparent that independence could only happen by splitting the British Indian Empire into a Muslim state of Pakistan and a "non-Muslim" state of India. Gandhi was against this partition, but it occurred on August 15, 1947. Amid the religious riots that occurred during the period of separation and mass emigration, Gandhi was thought by Hindi fanatics to have favored the Muslim side too much. On January 30, 1948 the Hindi extremist, Nathuram Ghodse, shot and killed Gandhi as he walked through his garden. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, has a semi-circle of touching hands (Fig. 17) and the FDC cancellation is a representation of Gandhi's famous simple steel-rimmed glasses.

longitudinal track was manufactured from grooved iron bars, which were supported on transverse wooden sleepers. On August 17, 1869 the first section commenced operations from The Kiosk (now Moravian Square), terminating at the nearby town of Kartouzy (today the suburb of Králove Pole). The fee for one ride was 15 Kreuzer (approximately \$3) for an adult and 7 ½ Kreuzer for each child. The FDC cachet incorporates a wheel of the tram car and

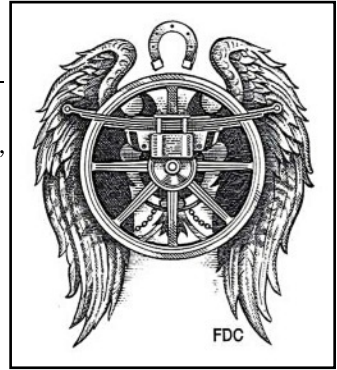


Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Postal Stationery

9. On May 9, 2019, the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the **29th Essen International Stamp Fair** which took place from May 9-11, 2019. The imprinted stamp, a postal coach on Charles Bridge, has a value identified by the letter “E” (39 Kč). The additional print, designed by Jan Ungrád, shows a postage stamp with hot-air balloons within a larger landscape (Fig. 18), with accompanying text showing the exhibit dates. 1800 cards were issued.



Fig. 17

10. On June 7, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the **16th Bratislava Collectors Days, 2019**, which took place from June 7-8, 2019. The imprinted stamp, a postal coach on Charles Bridge, has a value identified by the letter “E”. The additional print, designed by Jan Ungrád,



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

features a postage stamp with a butterfly, which is being extracted from the stamp with a pair of tongs (Fig. 19), There is additional text with the exhibition dates. 1800 cards were issued.

SLOVAKIA

11. On May 17, 2019 The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the Union of Slovak Philatelists (ZSF)**. The T1 50g (0.70€) stamp shows a young philatelist placing a stamp in an album while inspecting it through a magnifying glass (Fig. 20). The stamp has a fantasy background incorporating partial stamps from history. A coupon, with a magnified “50”, has a similar background of historical stamps. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced by Tiskárna

Hradištko s.r.o (THS) using offset process in printing sheets of 30 stamps and 30 coupons. Philately as a hobby began to spread in the Slovak lands in the late 19th century. During these times philatelists had little contact with others as there were no clubs or associations. The first society, Známkový Spolok *ALBUM* (ALBUM Stamp Society), was founded in Kremnica on March 30, 1895, courtesy of Pavol Križka, the Kremnica Municipal Archivist. It took until

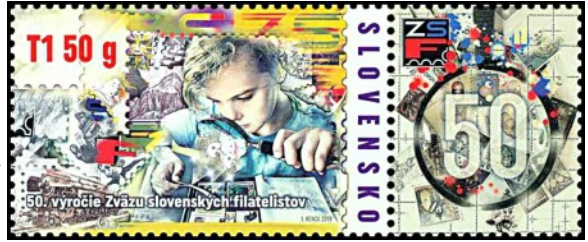


Fig. 20

the end of World War I for the foundations of organized Czechoslovak philately to be laid. The first Slovak competitive philatelic exhibition took place in Trenčín in May-June 1928. On May 19, 1969 the Slovaks finally had their own national organization when Zväz Slovenských Filatelistov (ZSF) was established. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Igor Benca, shows images of cancellations, perforations, pictures of the letter's "Z", "S", and "F", and paper airplanes made from envelopes (Fig. 21). The FDC cancellation features an envelope with the letters Z, S, and F. A commemorative sheet (1.61 €), and an Ex Libris (4.50 €) with the FDC cachet were also issued on the same day.



Fig. 21

12. On June 7, 2019 the Ministry issued a 1.25 € stamp to celebrate the **60th Anniversary of the International Mathematical Olympiad**. The stamp has a colorful depiction of a young contestant (Fig. 22) during the contest. The stamp was designed by Ingrid Zámečniková and produced by THS using offset technology in printing sheets of 50. The International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), a competition for high school students, was first held in



Fig. 22

Romania in 1959, when just 7 countries took part. The 60th competition was held in Bath, England and over 100 countries were expected to participate. Each country can have up to six members on its team. They have to undertake two separate exams lasting 4 ½ hours each day. Three difficult questions must be answered in each exam. Participants can receive and answer the questions in their native language. Once the results are tallied approximately 8% of the participants are awarded gold medals, around 17% receive silver medals and about 25% receive bronze medals. In Slovakia the National Mathematical Olympiad is organized by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Union of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists, and the Slovak Committee for the Mathematical Olympiad. The cachet for the FDC shows a group of mathematical shapes and symbols (Fig. 23) while the FDC cancellation has the logo of the

Olympiad within a coil. A collection sheet (0.91 €) was issued the same day.

13. On June 15, 2019 the Ministry issued a postage stamp to commemorate the inauguration of **Zuzana Čaputová** as the 5th President of the Slovak Republic. The T2 50g stamp has a portrait of the President, with a design by Vladislav Rostoka, based upon a photograph by Peter Konečný (Fig. 24). The stamp was produced by THS using offset process in printing sheets of 50. Zuzana Čaputová graduated from the Faculty of Law of Comenius University and originally worked in the legal department of the Municipality of her hometown of Pezinok. She became well known for her leadership of the public campaign in Pezinok against a new landfill that would have polluted the soil, air and water in the town and surrounding areas. The ten-year long campaign led to her being awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in 2016. Without any nationwide political experience, she stood as a Presidential candidate in 2018 and was unexpectedly elected, receiving a substantial majority in the final vote. She is the first female President of Slovakia, and at 45-years old also the youngest elected President. The FDC cachet has the shape of a blue tulip (Fig. 25) and the FDC cancellation is also a tulip surrounding the Slovak Coat of Arms. A commemorative collection sheet (1.61 €) was issued the same day.



Fig. 24

14. On June 21, 2019 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **Beauties of Our Homeland: Demänovská Ice Cave**. The 1.20 € stamp shows part of the cave. The stamp was designed by Rudolf Cigánik, produced by PTC using recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset, in a sheet of six with two groups of three stamps (Fig. 26). Located in the northern part of the Low Tatras, the cave was formed by the flow of the Demänovská River. The entrance, in the Bašta Cliff, is about 300 ft. above the valley floor. Steep wooden steps lead visitors down nearly 150ft. to the lower level which features stalactites, stalagmites, and ice columns. The earliest mention of the cave came in 1299, but it was not until the late 19th century that the cave was opened to the general public. Since renovations in 1952 the cave has received summer visitors who have to withstand temperatures between 30-35 degrees Fahrenheit at the lowest levels. Visitors can also see the remains of cave bears which were originally thought to be the relics of dragons. The FDC cachet shows a larger view of the cave

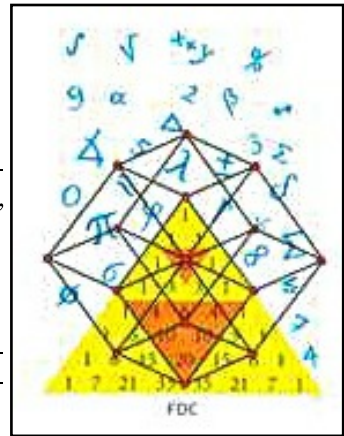


Fig. 23



Fig. 25



Fig. 26

(Fig. 27) and the FDC cancellation is also a cave view. A Cartes Maximum (0.96 €) was also issued on the same day.

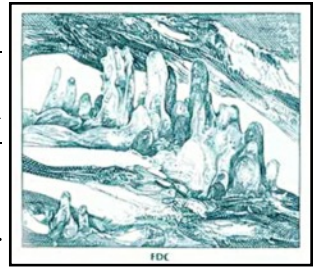


Fig. 27

15. On June 27, 2019 the Ministry issued a 1.90 € stamp to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of Comenius University**. The stamp shows a portrait of Jan Amos Comenius, together with the chancellor's staff and a view of the main entrance to the university (Fig. 28). The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and produced by PTC using recess printing from a flat sheet combined with offset, in a printing sheet of 12. When Czechoslovakia became independent in

1918 the largest university in the Slovak lands was the Hungarian language Elisabeth University. This was forcefully closed in 1919, which led to most of its faculty relocating to Budapest. The new university was named for Jan Amos Comenius, the 17th century pedagogue and philosopher, who is considered the father of modern education. The first years of the university were difficult due to the lack of Slovak speaking scholars at that time. Many professors from Charles University in Prague were temporarily imported to Bratislava, making a decisive contribution to the development of the new university. Today the university has more than 23,000 students studying at 13 faculties. It is the only Slovak university that is regularly highly graded in international rankings for the quality of universities worldwide. The FDC cachet has logos of the faculties of the university (Fig. 29) and the FDC cancellation is the head of Comenius. A commemorative sheet (0.91 €) and a commemorative certificate (6.00 €) were issued on the same date.



Fig. 28



Fig. 29

Postal Stationery

16. On May 17, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate **The Most Beautiful Postage Stamp of 2018**. The imprinted T2 50g stamp (0.50 €) has the logo “Dobrý Napad Slovensko” (Good Idea Slovakia). The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the *Icon of Krásny Brod* altarpiece in Levoča (Fig. 30). In the annual poll for this prestigious



Fig. 30

prize there were 968 votes cast, with the Levoča altarpiece winning with 522 votes. Second in the voting was Bielík's photo for *Man with a Bare Chest* (117 votes), with third place taken by the stamp with the Slovak girl wearing a folk costume (64 votes). 2600 cards were issued.

17. On May 31, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with an imprinted T2 50g stamp celebrating **Slovak sports** (Fig. 31). The imprint was designed by Adrian Ferda. 554,000 cards were issued.

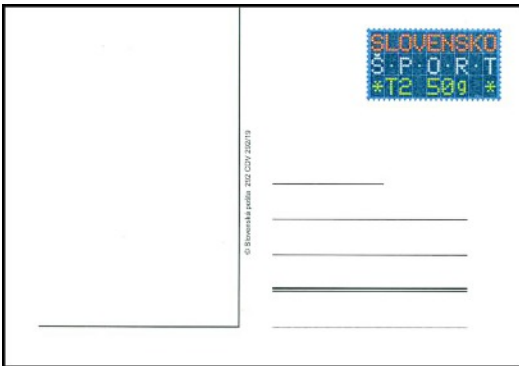


Fig. 31

18. On June 7, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing for **Bratislava Collector Days 2019**, held at the Incheba Expo on June 7-8. The imprinted T2 50g stamp has the logo of Good Idea Slovakia. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a view of Bratislava Castle, partially submerged by all the different items available for purchase at this collector's fair (Fig. 32). 1800 cards were issued.

2019, held in Trenčín from June 7-15. The imprinted T2 50g stamp has the logo of Good Idea Slovakia. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a group of young people leaping into the air (Fig. 33). 1800 cards were issued.

19. On June 7, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing for **Juniorfila**

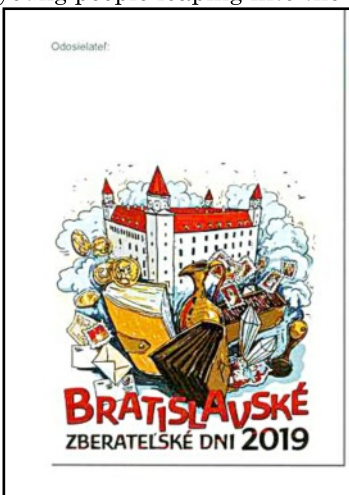


Fig. 32

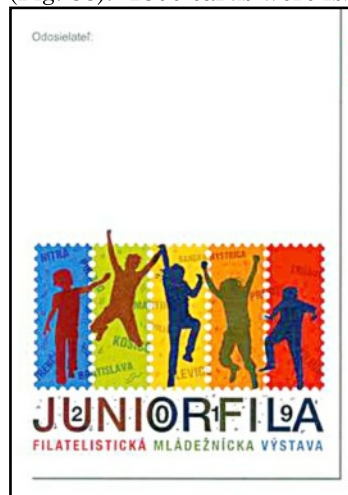


Fig. 33

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