



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It does not seem possible that we are at that time of the year again already. Thanksgiving is behind us and we are looking forward to the period of holiday parties and Christmas presents. Just as important is renewing your SCP membership. As a small society every one of you is extremely important to us and I urge you to renew membership before December 31st. Full details of fees and how to renew can be found on page 3.

Lou and I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a wonderful holiday. We hope to see some of our East Coast members at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in February 2020.

Keith Hart



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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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Nancy Godfrey, 253 Walnut Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.csphilately.org

Editorial Staff

Editor: Keith Hart, 6492 Silver Mesa Dr, #C, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Email: kdhart46@icloud.com Phone: 303-594-0697

Assistant Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net Phone: 303-680-7118

Elected Officers

President: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Vice-President: Vacant

Membership Secretary: Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

Corresponding Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Marisa Galitz, P O Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Appointed Officers

Book Sales: James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606

Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092

Expertizing Chairman: Chris Jackson, 458 Scenic Drive, St. George, ON, Canada N0E 1N0

Librarian: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

APS Representative: Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As already mentioned on page 1, it is time for membership renewal. A renewal card is tucked inside this issue with full instructions on how to renew your membership. You could previously have already paid your membership dues for 2020. To confirm this look at the mailing label that this issue arrived in. If the upper right-hand corner says 2020, you are already paid up for next year.

It is extremely important to us that we receive your renewal as soon as possible. We urge you to renew at the **latest by December 31st, 2019**. You can renew and pay by mail, or online using PayPal at the society website www.csphilately.org. If renewing by mail, remittance must be by check or money order only, made out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately and sent to Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

Membership levels are as follows:

- **\$25.00.** Regular Membership for USA addresses.
- **\$45.00.** Regular Membership for addresses outside the USA.
- **\$20.00.** Online Membership, with access to the online *Czechoslovak Specialist* only.
- **\$50.00.** Patron Membership, with a 2-year bound volume of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* if you have membership at the Patron Level for two consecutive years. Being a Patron member for both 2019 and 2020 in the case of the next available bound volume.
- **\$70.00.** Patron membership for addresses outside the USA.
- **\$ 3.00.** Youth membership. For collectors under the age of 18.

Please note that a recent change in our by-laws states that any membership renewal postmarked after December 31, 2019 would probably lead to the Winter 2020 *Czechoslovak Specialist* **only being available to that member in an online form**. We have to complete the list of members that issue is mailed to early in January 2020 and we cannot afford to send out individual copies of that issue later.

Being a member does have its benefits. **Besides four issues a year of the *Czechoslovak Specialist***, you also have access to the **member's rates for philatelic books** listed at the back of each issue. Most of these books are generally only available in the USA through the Society. Members also have **access to the Society Library and expertization advice**. It is also anticipated that there will be **member auctions** periodically.

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.

CZECH REPUBLIC PRESIDENTS ON STAMPS

by Keith Hart

When the new country, the Czech Republic came into being on January 1, 1993, the 9th President of Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, became the 1st President of the new nation. In the 26 years since then there have been only two other Presidents, both of whom were supporters of Havel during the period leading up to the division of their former country. All these stamps are definitive issues, with the exception of the miniature sheet which celebrated Václav Havel's 60th birthday. The new 2019 Pofis catalog *Česká Republika 1993-2019* has full details of all variations and types. The names given for each issue reflects the name given in the catalog.

VÁCLAV HAVEL



Fig. 1

Havel had said that he would not continue as President once Czechoslovakia was dissolved. He changed his mind at the last moment. His moral authority and international prestige made him a popular president who was reelected in 1998. After retiring as president in 2003 he continued to have a substantial influence on European affairs through his Forum 2000 conferences.

3.2. 1993- President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel

This 2 Kč stamp (Fig. 1) was designed and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. The head and shoulders portrait was produced by a combination of rotary recess printing and offset in printing sheets of 100; sheet perforated 11 ¼ : 11 ¼. Four plate defects are known. A major production error has significant shifting of the "2 Kč" value upwards from the bottom of the stamp.



Fig. 2

3.22.1995 - President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel

This 3.60 Kč stamp (Fig. 2) uses the same image as the previous stamp, having become necessary due to increased postal rates. It has the identical production information. Four different plate defects are known.

10.5.1996- 60th Birthday of President Václav Havel

A miniature sheet containing two 6 Kč stamps was designed by Jan Solpera and engraved by Václav Fajt. Produced by a combination of rotary recess printing and offset, the stamps are sheet perforated 11 ¼: 11 ½. The sheet also



Václav Havel

Fig. 3

contains a monochrome image of the President's Coat of Arms, together with a facsimile of Havel's signature (Fig. 3). Production errors include inaccurately cropped sheets with wider left, right, or top edges. There are also rare examples with significant shifting of the numeral "6" to the left. In addition, there are 12 different Types (A-L) found for the sheet, some with multiple differences from the norm. This would make for an interesting set on its own, possibly difficult to obtain. A First Day Cover was also issued.

1.22.1998- President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel

A new image designed by Jiří Rathouský and engraved by Miloš Ondráček was used for this 4.60 Kč stamp (Fig. 4). Once again, the production has rotary recess printing combined with offset. The stamps are sheet perforated $11 \frac{3}{4}$: $11 \frac{1}{4}$ and printed in sheets of 100. Three plate defects are noted in the catalog, together with two examples of retouched numerals. In addition, there are rare instances of stamps having a significant shift in the horizontal perforation at the top towards the value numerals. Another interesting point is that a rare form can be found with inverted frame serrations.



Fig. 4

3.1.2000- President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel



Fig. 5

This 5.40 Kč stamp (Fig. 5) was issued as a result of increased postal rates and has the same design information as the previous stamp. Three plate defects are known. There are descriptions of less significant plate defects detailed in the issue of the magazine *Filatelie* dated August 2001.

11.6.2002- President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel

Again this 6.40 Kč stamp (Fig. 6) was only issued because of increased postal rates and has the same production information as the two previous stamps.



Fig. 6

No major defects are noted in the catalog, but there are descriptions of minor plate defects in the journal *Filatelie* dated March 2004.

VÁCLAV KLAUS

Klaus worked as an economist for the Czechoslovak State Bank during the communist period. During the Velvet Revolution in 1989 he became an economic advisor to Václav Havel's Civic Forum Party. By the end of 1990 he had formed the break-away Civic Democratic Party, in opposition to Havel. Following elections in 1992 he was instrumental in the discussions that led to Czechoslovakia being dissolved. He became the first Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in a minority government, until he was forced to resign in 1997 after accusations of funding irregularities. He became President in 2003, winning a second term in 2008.

7.30.2003- President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus

This 6.40 Kč stamp (Fig. 7) was designed by Oldřich Kulháněk and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. Produced by a combination of rotary recess printing and offset



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

in printing sheets of 100. Sheet perforated $11 \frac{3}{4}$: $11 \frac{1}{4}$. Two plate defects, both double errors in the same plate position, are noted in the *Pofis* catalog. When viewed obliquely during daylight the entire surface of the stamp has a distinct luster (Type a). There is a variant (Type b) which has no luster. When both variants are viewed head-on the type 'a' stamp appears to be darker. Other less

significant plate defects are mentioned in *Filatelie* dated March 2006.

11.5.2003- President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus

This 6.50 Kč stamp (Fig. 8) uses the same image as the previous stamp and has identical production information. One plate defect and two production errors are known. Other less substantial plate defects are discussed in *Filatelie* March 2006.

2.9.2005- President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus

The 7.50 Kč stamp (Fig. 9) uses the same image as the two previous stamps and has identical production information. Four plate defects are mentioned in the *Pofis* catalog. Other less significant plate defects are reviewed in *Filatelie* March 2006.

4.2.2008- President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus

This 10 Kč stamp (Fig. 10) again uses the same image as the previous three stamps and has identical production information. There are four known plate defects which are detailed in the *Pofis* catalog. Other less substantial plate defects are mentioned in *Filatelie* December 2008.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

MILOŠ ZEMAN

During the Prague Spring in 1968 he became a member of the Communist Party but was expelled in 1970 for opposing the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. Joining the Civic Forum in 1989, he eventually became leader of the Social Democratic Party and Prime Minister in 1998. After losing the 2003 Presidential election to his archrival Václav Klaus he retired, before returning to politics, running for President again in 2012, winning and becoming the Czech Republic's third President. Despite substantial public dissent he won a second Presidential term in 2018.

4.24.2013- President of the Republic Miloš Zeman

This stamp is based on a photograph by H. Slavíka and engraved by Miloš Ondráček (Fig. 11). It has a value designated by the letter "A" (14 Kč at the date of issue).

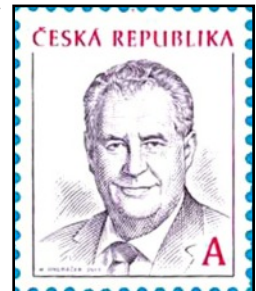


Fig. 11

Produced by a combination of rotary recess printing and photogravure in printing sheets of 100: sheet perforated $11\frac{3}{4} : 11\frac{1}{4}$. One plate defect is detailed in the *Pofis* catalog and other minor defects are mentioned in *Filatelie* June 2014.

4.18.2018- President of the Republic

The stamp uses the same image (Fig. 12) as the previous stamp and has the same production information. The value designated by the letter "A" had a price of 19 Kč at the time of issue. I am astonished to have to report that at this time there are no reported plate defects or production errors. Please advise me if you know of any.



Fig. 12

SOURCES:

Pofis catalog *Česká Republika 1993-2019 (2019 edition)*; František Beneš-Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1

Filatelie, various issues of the journal of Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1.

Czech Postal Service (Česká Pošta) website www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelie-a-postfila.

Czechoslovak Specialist 1939-2009- Interactive Index DVD: Mark Wilson-Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

IMAGES:

Figures 1-7 and 9-12 from Czech Postal Service (Česká Pošta) website www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelie-a-postfila.

Figure 8 is from author's own collection.



SLOVAK REPUBLIC PRESIDENTS ON STAMPS

by Keith Hart

When Slovakia became an independent nation on January 1, 1993 it was the first time in nearly 1000 years that Slovaks had been truly independent. Long time vassals of the Kingdom of Hungary and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, their culture and language somehow survived. Their cultural bonds were reinforced through the era of Czechoslovakia and have been further strengthened since full independence. All the stamps issued for their Presidents are single stamp issues. The 2018 Zberateľ catalog *Slovensko 1993-2017* has full details of all variations, except figure 10. The names given for each issue reflect the name given in the catalog.

MICHAL KOVÁČ

During the communist era he worked for the Czechoslovak State Bank. Although he was a member of the Communist Party, he did suffer persecution during the Normalization Period following the turmoil of 1968. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989 he became Finance Minister of the Slovak Republic. In 1991 he

was one of the founders of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia. As that party received the largest number of votes in the 1992 election, they elected him as the first President of Slovakia in 1993. During his term as President there were major conflicts within his own party, particularly with the Prime Minister, Vladimír Mečiar. In 1999 he failed to win the first direct Presidential election, receiving only 5,425 votes, although he had officially withdrawn from the contest prior to the voting.

3.2.1993- President of the Slovak Republic Michal Kováč

The 2 Sk (Fig. 1) stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský. The first Slovak stamps were only designated by numeral values during 1993 until economic separation from the abandoned Czechoslovakia banking system was completed. The head and shoulders portrait was rotary recess printed combined with offset in sheets of 100. It was sheet perforated 11 ¾; 11 ¼. A First Day Cover was also issued. One plate defect is noted in the Zberateľ catalog. In addition there are quite a few different combinations of production errors with color variations, differing sizes of perforations, and missing engraved hatching to the face.



Fig. 1

11.3.1993- President of the Slovak Republic Michal Kováč

This 3 Sk stamp (Fig. 2) uses the same image as the previous stamp, with identical production values. Three plate defects are noted in the catalog. Once again you can find stamps with color variants and variations in perforation size. Later printings of sheets have missing sections of intaglio printing to the face, although these are rarely found. Stamps with a substantial shifting of the rotary printing within the frame of the stamp can also be obtained.



Fig. 2

RUDOLF SCHUSTER

From 1964 until 1990 Schuster was a member of the Communist Party of Slovakia. After Slovakia became independent, he was mayor of his native Košice. In 1998 he was founder of the new center-left Party of Civic Understanding and as leader represented them in what was the first direct Presidential election in Slovak history in 1999. On becoming President he said he should be thought of as politically Independent. Despite being a popular President his political supporters had formed other alliances before the 2004 election and standing as an Independent he received only 7.4% of the vote.



Fig. 3

6.15.2000- President of the Slovak Republic Rudolf Schuster

This 5.50 Sk definitive stamp (Fig. 3) was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský, based on a photograph by Petr Kastla. It was produced by rotary recess printing in sheets of 100 and sheet perforated 11 ¾; 11 ¼. An FDC was issued as

well. Two plate defects are noted in the catalog, in addition to what they describe as a plate deviation where the smaller number '5' in the stamp value has a minute amount of cross-hatching across the top of the '5'. This is apparently a quite commonly found deviation.

2.5.2003- President of the Slovak Republic Rudolf Schuster

The 7 Sk stamp (Fig. 4) uses the same image as the previous stamp, with identical production values. Just one plate defect has been noted although this has multiple defects on one stamp. Rather unusually, as well as an FDC, a black print of the plate position was later issued on January 2, 2004.



Fig. 4

IVAN GAŠPAROVIČ

As a lawyer he worked as a public prosecutor from 1965-8. In 1968 he joined the Communist Party of Slovakia, supporting Alexander Dubček's reforms. He was expelled from the Party following the Warsaw Pact invasion. Despite this he managed to teach at the Law Faculty of Comenius University, Bratislava from 1968-1990. After the fall of the communist regime he worked as Prosecutor-General. Eventually he was heavily involved as an author of the Constitution of Slovakia during the breakup of Czechoslovakia. In 1992 he joined the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia. In 2002 he formed the Movement For Democracy Party and in 2004 ran for President against his previous ally, Vladimír Mečier, as well as the pre-election favorite, Eduard Kukan, surprising everyone by moving onto the second round of voting against Mečier, then winning with nearly 60% of the vote. His non-confrontational style of Presidency made him popular with voters, but not politicians. He was reelected in 2009, becoming the first Slovak President to serve two terms.

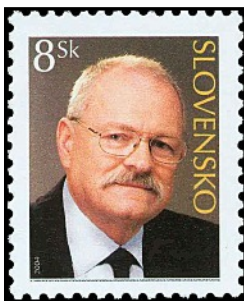


Fig. 5

6.15.2004- President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gašparovič

In a departure from the norm this definitive 8 Sk stamp is not engraved (Fig. 5). Based on a photograph by Martin Friedner, it was designed and produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. in sheets of 100, sheet perforated 13. An FDC was issued, as well as a Commemorative Sheet designed by Ivan Schurmann. Two production errors are noted for plate position 37. There are reddish-yellow spots to the left of the nose, and also on the mustache. Image shifts within the frame of the stamp can also be found.

6.15.2005- President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gašparovič

This 9 Sk stamp is based on the same photograph by Friedner as the previous stamp but in this case was engraved by Martin Činovský (Fig. 6). It was produced by rotary recess printing in sheets of 100 and sheet perforated 11 ¾: 11 ¼. A Collection Sheet, designed by Peter Čepec, was issued, as well as an FDC. No plate defects or production errors have been detected yet.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

6.15.2009- President of the Slovak Republic

To commemorate his reelection as President a miniature sheet containing one 1.00 € stamp and two coupons (Fig. 7) was issued. This was the first Presidential stamp issued since Slovakia adopted the Euro as their currency. The stamp was designed by Ivan Schurmann, the sheet designed by Radka Hanečková. It was produced by a combination of offset and gold thermoembossing; sheet perforated 11 ¾. An FDC was also issued. No production errors have been noted yet.

1.29.2010- President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gašparovič

This 0.40 € stamp has a new image of the President (Fig. 8) and was designed by Schurmann and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. It was produced by a combination of rotary recess printing and offset in printing sheets of 100; sheet perforated 11 ¾: 11 ¾. An FDC was also issued. Five plate defects are mentioned in the catalog. A production error noted is that there are examples where brown ink is missing in the sixth column of stamps in a sheet. Subsequent printings have significant variations in the luminosity of the paper compared to the original run.



Fig. 8

ANDREJ KISKA

Although he trained as an electrical engineer Kiska became famous as the founder of Triangel and Quattro, which were installment plan (hire-purchase) companies. After selling the companies to a bank he used the fortune he had earned to found the non-profit charity Good Angel, which helps families in difficult financial situations as a result of a family member’s serious illness. He ran for the Presidency in 2014 as an Independent, coming second (24%) in the first round of voting to Prime Minister Robert Fico. In the second round he decisively won with nearly 60% of the vote. In 2018 he announced he would not seek a second term even though he

was considered the frontrunner in early polls. In 2019 he founded a new political party, For The People.

6.13.2014- President of the Slovak Republic Andrej Kiska



Fig. 9

This 0.45€ stamp has a portrait based on a photograph (Fig. 9) by Tomáš Benčík, designed by Vladislav Rostoka and engraved by Martin Činovský. It is printed in a combination of rotary recess printing and flat plate in sheets of 100; sheet perforated 11 ¾: 11 ¾. An FDC and a commemorative sheet were also issued. There are two Types described. Type I does not have blue hatching through the vertical perforation on the left or right, whereas the Type II does have this blue hatching. There are multiple examples of combinations of types, perforations, and production errors, fully detailed in the catalog.

ZUZANA ČAPUTOVÁ

Less than two years ago Čaputová was a lawyer involved with environmental concerns. The assassination of investigative journalist Ján Kuciak changed that. Investigations linked major Slovak political figures to massive embezzlement of EU funds, together with their close connections within the Slovak Police and the Italian crime syndicate ‘Ndrangheta. The public outrage against the Slovak government led Čaputová to feel compelled to run for President as the candidate of the new Progressive Slovakia Party. In March 2019 she won the second round of voting with 58% of the vote. She has vowed to reform the Police Force to be independent and without political influence. The Federal Prosecutor’s office will also become a non-political institution.

6.15.2019- President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová

The T2 50g stamp is double the size of a ‘normal’ Presidential stamp and has an image based on a photograph by Peter Konečný (Fig. 10). It was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by offset in printing sheets of 50. An FDC and a commemorative collection sheet were also issued. As yet there are no reports of any production errors.



Fig. 10

SOURCES:

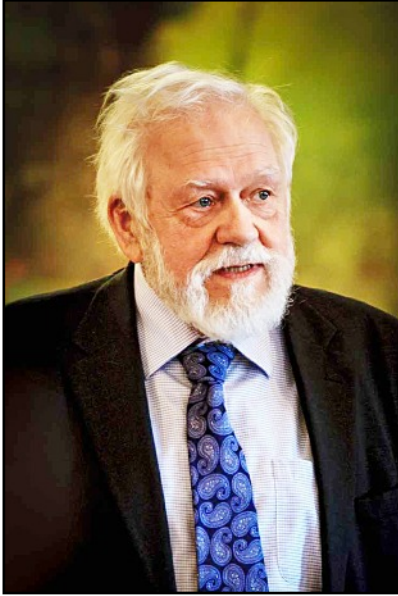
Zberateľ catalog *Slovensko 1993-2017 (2018 edition)*; Anton Kulhánek- Zberateľ, Račianske Toll 1/D, 831 02 Bratislava 3, Slovakia.

Slovak Postal Philatelic Service (Slovenská pošta, a.s.), Partizánska cesta 9, 975 99 Banská Bystrica, Slovakia.

IMAGES:

Pofis Slovakia website www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/emissions.

Closed Albums



Jaroslav (Jerry) John Verner

Jerry Verner passed away peacefully in his sleep at home in Bethesda, MD, on July 12, 2019. Jerry was born in Minneapolis, MN on June 18, 1932, son of František (Frank) and Ludmila Dolejší Verner. He grew up in St. Paul, MN, attending the University of Minnesota. This was also where he met Lois Ostrander, whom he married in 1954.

Jerry served in the US Army during the Korean War, then after returning to the USA he earned his M.A. in Russian Studies at Columbia University. He served as a tour guide at the first US Cultural Exhibit to the Soviet Union, which was held in Moscow in 1959. He then became a US Diplomat with the United States Information Agency, serving for over 35 years in Zagreb, Yugoslavia; Poznan, Poland; Zagreb again (1964-66); Moscow, USSR (1966-69); Kabul, Afghanistan (1972-76); Hamburg, West Germany (1976-80); Moscow again (1984-87); US Embassy in East Berlin, GDR (1988-90); and Tashkent, Uzbekistan (1992-93). He witnessed and participated in numerous historic events, including observing coup d'états in Afghanistan, negotiating the SALT Treaty, the Nixon/Khrushchev "Kitchen Debate", Chernobyl, and the Fall of The Berlin Wall.

Jerry was a member of our Society for almost 50 years. During that time, he served as President, while also being an extremely long-term member of the Board. His collection of early Czechoslovak stamps was recognized as one of the most complete such collections in the world. He exhibited this collection only occasionally because his first philatelic love was always the Czechoslovak Legions. The last time he did so was at WESTPEX 2003, where the exhibit received a Gold Medal, the Collector's Club of San Francisco Reserve Grand Award, the California Collector's Club Award for the Best 20th Century Exhibit, and the Mucha Medal for the Best Czechoslovak Exhibit.

His greatest contribution to Czechoslovak philately comes from his intense interest in the history of the Czechoslovak Legions in Russia during and just after World War I. His collection of covers from this period was among the two or three most extensive known to exist. His exhibits from this collection won numerous awards throughout the world. His all-embracing knowledge of the Czechoslovak Legions culminated in the 2017 publication of *Monografie 7: Pošta Československých Vojsk v Rusku, 1914-1920* (Mails of the Czechoslovak Army in Russia, 1914-1920) which he coauthored with his longtime friend, Jiří Majer.

This Monograph is recognized as the most complete record of the mails of the Legion in Russia. No less important is his *Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France*, published by our Society in 2002. This was written in both English and Czech in order to appeal to the widest possible philatelic community. It is the seminal record of the Legion mails from this period in France.

Because he was fluent in both English and Czech, he translated numerous articles from Czechoslovak publications for publication in the *Czechoslovak Specialist*. Together with a longtime philatelic colleague, Henry Hahn, he translated a key publication on First Republic stamps, *Československé Poštovní Známký a Jejich Padělky 1918-1939* (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Stamps 1918-1939), which remains the most invaluable reference book in English for this period. His own original articles for the *Czechoslovak Specialist* are too many to mention. More details can be found on the CD indexing the issues of the *Specialist*.

Jerry was one of the foremost collectors in the history of Czechoslovak philately. His written record has left us with a legacy of knowledge for philatelists who become interested in Czechoslovak philately in the future. He will be sadly missed as a friend, mentor, and colleague by all who had the good fortune to know him.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife, Lois, and his daughters Lída Verner and Laura Browning; his son-in-law Dave Browning, together with his grandsons Adam Jaroslav and Michael Paul Browning; his sister Vera Hawkinson, and sister-in-law Nancy Ostrander Ahlberg.

Jerry was a life-long member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Donations in his memory can be made to their Legacy Fund who can be contacted through Glynis Grostephen, at 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Keith Hart

(Ed. note: I would like to thank Jerry's daughter, Lída Verner, and also Rich Palaschak, for much of the background information included above).

REMEMBRANCES OF JERRY VERNER

The following are emails sent within the Board Member group immediately following Jerry's death.

I mourn the loss of a friend. At NAPEX two years ago, Jerry invited me to his house for dinner on Friday night – Jiří Majer was staying with him. After dinner, the three of us talked about philately, collecting, how and what we collect, and all aspects of our hobby until one in the morning. I shall never forget the friendship and advice the two gave me. I felt honored that he took the time to sit me down (a mere novice at this) and impart priceless knowledge to me. I am better for it and that, for me, is Jerry's legacy.

James Buckner

* * * * *

It is quite a shock to hear of Jerry's passing. I knew him primarily as the auction connection with Jiří's auctions, but at least had a chance to converse with him at some length during the past two years at our show meetings. His philatelic knowledge, promotion and interest will be sorely missed.

Alan Hanzl

* * * * *

He was our rock, not only on stamp matters but also on the swirl of views that were being discussed. He would quickly cut to the core issue and identify the facts. He was our sounding board. But more than anything, he was my friend that was always there when I needed help. I will miss him greatly. The Society has lost its greatest soul.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

JIŘÍ MAJER'S FINAL SHOW

by Keith Hart

When most of us think of Jiří Majer, we remember him as a friend and colleague, as well as the owner of a successful auction house, and expert/author on the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia. Of course while he was developing his interest in Legionnaire's Mail he had become a collector of the postal history left by their mail. At the end of 2018, as one of the celebrations to mark both the centenary of Czechoslovakia and the 25th anniversary of the Slovak Republic, an invitation only exhibit at Bratislava Castle was arranged by the Slovak Post Office to show the enduring quality of Slovak and Czech stamp design, as well as the history associated with it. Jiří was one of those invited to participate. Naturally his contribution was

Československá Pošta v Rusku 1918-1920 (*Czechoslovak Field Post in Russia 1918-1920*). The cover shown here was part of that exhibit. It is understood that this was the final time that anything from his personal collection was exhibited prior to his tragic early death.

The Japanese produced postal card was addressed to Rosario, Argentina, sent by a Legionnaire in Chelyabinsk, a city just east of the Ural Mountains, on the border of Europe and Asia. Affixed with the round stamp of Field Post no. 1, it was transported by train to Vladivostok, where it was forwarded to the US Field Post Unit, which censored the contents, before sending it on its way. The fact that it did eventually find its way to the intended



recipient shows the efficiency of Field Post mail, even in the most difficult of times. and to the most distant of continents.

SOURCE: Catalog of the Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition, C-S SALON 2018; Miroslav Bachratý, Martin Vančo; Slovenská pošta, a.s., Banská Bystrica, Slovakia 2018; ISBN: 978-80-972322-4-8.



President's Report

Well, it has been eight years (Spring of 2011) since I have written to you as President. I will try to make this to the point since I am sure listening to me is not why you are reading this Specialist.

As you already read in previous Specialists, our former President, Chris Jackson, resigned as President and from our Board of Directors. As Vice-President, I stepped forward to finish out his term of office. But these events have also resulted in a vacancy in our Board of Directors and in the position of Vice-president.

So the first order of business is to find a new member who is willing to join our Board of Directors, and then a new Vice-president. If there is a member who would like to help us govern our Society and find out any responsibilities thereto, please contact me about being a Director (my contact information is on page 2.)

I have good news with respect to new books. We have just received a group that were brought here by a relative. They include the Merkur-Revue Československo 1918-1939 Part I, Part II, and the new Part III - these are the hard-bound books that are orange. Also the new POFIS Czech Republic 1993-2019 catalog. Order early, because quantities are limited.

This same relative has informed me that he has a friend who travels from the Czech Republic to Florida every month, and is willing to bring us books when they are available and needed by us. If this works out, we may have found a regular conduit for our book needs.

Don't forget that our next annual stamp convention will be held in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exposition on February 7-9, 2020. Please come visit us there. Further details were published in the Summer Specialist. And finally, remember that Disney World is only a couple of hours up the road by Interstate in Orlando. Why not couple visiting us with a family visit to Florida in the wintertime?

We are also thinking about having a second "event" in 2020 (not a formal SCP convention) where: we will show some of our member's exhibits, be able to talk with our members about our collecting interests, have an opportunity to review some of our books first-hand, and be able to look over stamps / philatelic material that members have brought for sale. We would hold this in conjunction with the BALPEX stamp exhibition outside Baltimore in September 2020. More about this possibility later.

Talking about future conventions, it is time to have one in the mid/far West in 2021. We are thinking about having it in the suburbs of Denver in May 2021.

Finally, we could use some help in the form of your feedback. Every year, Scott Publishing company asks us if we have any comments on their listings of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Bohemia/Moravia. Please review your copy and provide me with your comments by January.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

THE SHANGHAI COVER

by Keith Hart

Mailed on June 26, 1938, this was the first day of issue for the Praga 1938 souvenir miniature sheet which is adhered within a printed box on the cover (Fig. 1). The sheet contains a 50h stamp showing the cliffs near Vyšehrad (*Pofis 342, Scott 251a*), as well as a 1Kč stamp that contains two of Prague's most famous landmarks, Hradčany, and the first philatelic view of Charles Bridge (*Pofis 343, Scott 251b*). In addition the "official stamp" for the exhibition, which has no mail



Fig. 1

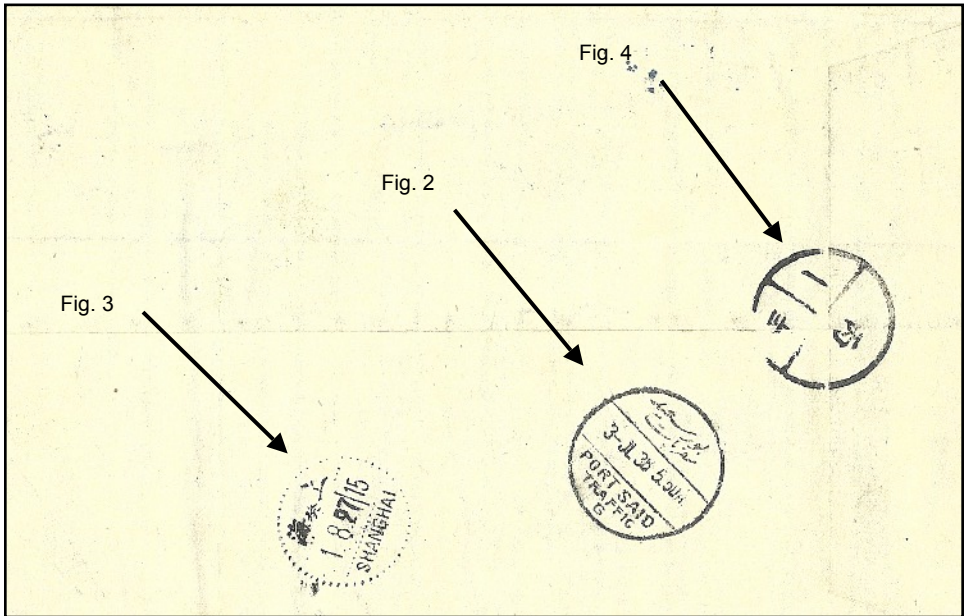
value, has been placed in the top right hand corner of the sheet. This stamp portrays the National House in Prague 12 which was the venue for the exhibition, as well as the logo for the exhibition and a post horn. The logo also appears in the top left corner of the printed envelope.

As it was being mailed to an international destination, it required an additional 2.50 Kč in postage which was provided by 1) two 1 Kč stamps with Jindřich Fügner (*Pofis 340, Scott 247*) that had been issued 8 days before use, and 2) a 50h stamp showing the smokestacks of Plzeň (*Pofis 344, Scott 249*) that had been issued only two days before its use. The green circular first day cancellation is interesting, containing an outline view of Hradčany in the top section of the inner circle, "Praga 1938" in the bottom half of the inner circle, and "Mezinárodní Výstava Poštovních Známeč" (*International Exhibition of Postage Stamps*) in the lower part of the outer circle. It originated from the Praha 1 post office with a 26.VI.38-10 date and time. The cancellation appears six times on the cover.

The cover is addressed in ink to B. Maklaevsky, P.O. Box 158, Shanghai, (China), (via Suez). Interesting that the unknown sender has explicitly stated that it should be sent via Suez. Did the sender really have the choice as to what route it should take? As it has the correct 4 Kč postage for an international letter affixed, would it not be the Post Office themselves who decided the route? To travel through

the Suez Canal to China would probably entail an overland journey from Prague to a port in the Northern Mediterranean. It would then be loaded onto a ship for the remainder of its journey. What could be the alternative? Perhaps overland to Moscow, then the Trans-Siberian Express to Vladivostok, followed by another rail journey down to Shanghai. Normally this might well have been quicker, but there may have been the possibility of delay or loss due to China's war with Japan in Manchuria.

Speculation on the route is superfluous at this time as the cover did in fact travel to Shanghai through the Suez Canal, as evidenced by the Port Said cancel on the back (Fig. 2). It arrived in Egypt on July 3, 1938, having taken a week to get there from Prague. After that the length of its journey is unknown. There is a cancel when it arrived in Shanghai (Fig. 3), the date for which has not yet been deciphered. There is also another Chinese cancel (Fig. 4) which requires explaining as well. The Gregorian calendar date for the cover's departure from Prague, June 26, 1938, translates into a Chinese date of 5(month). 29.4036. This is nothing like the date of 1.8.27 that the cancel has on it. If anybody can help with the explanation of this date I would be extremely grateful. If not, copies of the cover will travel with me to Sarasota, where the China Stamp Society has a table near ours. I hope to be able to give an update eventually.



Whatever route this cover did take, by road, rail, air, or sea, it probably would not have been able to undertake such a journey within nine months. Just three months later, on September 30, 1938 the infamous Munich Agreement handed over the Sudetenland to Nazi Germany, leading to months of uncertainty in the remnants of Czechoslovakia, until the remainder of Czechoslovakia was seized on March 15, 1939 and World War II swiftly followed later in 1939.

NEED CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS or PHILATELIC ITEMS??

(This offer is for members only)

Here are some items that you might be interested in.

Numbers in parenthesis are Scott cat values.

	Price
1. C1-C3 first imperforate overprinted airmails (Pof. L1-L3), mint (\$103.50)	\$60.00
2. C4-C6 common perforated overprinted airmails (Pof. L1A, L2A, L3B), mint (\$87.50)	\$50.00
3. C4a 14 K overprinted airmail, perf. 13¼ x 13½ (Pof. L1B), mint (\$95)	\$60.00
4. C5a 24 K overprinted airmail, type II/I, perf. 13¼ x 13½ (Pof. L2B, type II/I), mint \$100	\$65.00
5. B137-139 Olympics overprinted set, P5,P7,P8 resp. (Pof. 180-182), mint (\$97)	\$60.00
6. B140-143 Sokol overprinted set, unknw wtrmrk, (Pof. 183-186), mint (\$39.85)	\$28.00
7. 176-178 Masaryk brtdy set w/upper dec. tabs, (Pof. 176KH-178KH), mint (\$65.50)	\$55
8. 176-178 Masaryk brtdy set w/lower dec. tabs, (Pof. 176KD-178KD), mint (\$65.50)	\$50.00
9. 288-292 National uprising s/s on thick card stock, stamps mint imperforate, MNH (\$20)	\$13.00
10. C22,C24-27 airmails w/se-tenant labels at top, (Pof. L16a, L20, L22-24), mint (\$30)	\$25.00
11. C22,C24-27 airmails w/se-tenant labels at bottom, (Pof. L16a, L20, L22-27), mint (\$30)	\$25.00
12. 831 Zápotocky s/s w/crease line in right berry variety, (Pof. A967 Type II), MNH	\$85.00
13. 942-948 Birds complete set, mint (\$21.25)	\$15.00
14. 1241-1246 Flowers complete set, mint (\$15)	\$13.00
15. 1435-1439 Paintings complete set, mint (\$32.80)	\$21.00

The prices listed are selling prices, not bids. Postage needs to be added. 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**

Book Reviews

POFIS CZECH REPUBLIC CATALOG 1993-2019
František Beneš

It is always a pleasure to open any new catalog from the Pofis series. This is no exception. As one has come to expect, the new catalog is of the same extremely high standards we have come to expect from Beneš and his able team of assistants. Beautifully produced, in full color, and with the all-encompassing detail for every stamp issued since the Czech Republic came into being in 1993. The detail provided for production errors and plate defects is exceptionally good and always clearly described. There are a few additional variants found for stamps that appeared in previous catalogs. Details of errors/defects is also extremely current, including information for stamps right up to April 2019. The occasional value of an issue has been changed, not very often though. What is always extremely pleasing when you quickly browse through an updated catalog are any new sections that have been added since the previous issue. No matter how small there is always something. This time it is the very limited series with a set of the five individual color proofs for an engraved stamp, together with the stamp as issued. These can be found on page 297 of this catalog. Copies of this catalog are available from our Book Sales Manager, James Buckner and can be bought for the incredible bargain price of \$20.00. Once we run out of those in stock we cannot guarantee that the next copies available to us will be at such a low price.

318 pages; 6" x 8 ¼"; in full color with soft cover; in Czech; POFIS/ Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic, 2019. \$20.00

MERKUR-REVUE
ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939, Volume III
Jan Klim, Jan Štolfa, Zdeněk Filípek

This volume completes the series of three volumes that completely document the First Republic stamps of Czechoslovakia. The majority of the book covers the stamps not reviewed in the other two volumes, starting with the 1923 Jubilee issue and concluding with the 1939 portrait of T.G. Masaryk. This still left quite a few undiscussed issues to include in this volume, such as airmail, special delivery, newspaper stamps (and wrappers), the Kestral additional surcharge issue, triangular personal delivery stamps, and postage due. To complete everything there are sections on the overprinted stamps for the Silesia plebiscite, the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia Field Post, and the Scout issue of 1918. The final section is called "Unofficial revolutionary stamps 1918-1919" but tacked on the end of this are the other unofficial stamps and sheets of the 1939-1945 period. The book does conclude with an invaluable and detailed section on postal rates from 1918-1939. The three books together form the most complete discussion of the First Republic stamps. This book, together with the other two volumes, is available in our bookstore.

368 pages; 6 ½" x 9"; in full color with hard cover; in Czech; Merkur-Revue, s.r.o., Veselá 37, 602 00 Brno 2, Czech Republic, 2019. \$35.00

Keith Hart

HRADČANY PRIVATE PERFORATIONS

by Johan Sevenhuijsen

It is well known among collectors that the first stamps that were issued in Czechoslovakia were largely imperforate. This was due to the fact that in the new country there was no printing company with any experience in producing large quantities of stamps. The Graphic Union printing company in Prague had to make do with its available facilities and it was only in the course of 1919 that perforating machines were purchased and only in 1920 was their capacity such that the issue of imperforate stamps was no longer necessary.

Based on the stamps issued, it is quite possible to reconstruct how this expansion of perforating capacity took shape step by step. This will be the subject of a later article. This article is aimed at charting what was done in those days of scarce facilities to have the convenience of easily separable stamps. After all, since 1860 in the Czech lands and also in Slovakia stamps with perforation were available. After almost 60 years people had to start using scissors again. No wonder different ways were used to get around that inconvenience.

An important part of the inconvenience was for the staff at the counter in the post offices, who were, after all, busy throughout the working day with franking of shipments. This also applied to those who worked in the mail rooms of large companies. It is therefore no wonder that post offices and large companies took the initiative to provide serration in imperforate stamps.

Three different options were used:

--- The perforation capacity at the stamp printing company, the Graphic Union itself. We can conclude that a series of post offices used stamps that were normally provided imperforate, with the line perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$ which is identical to that of the (only) perforating device that was available at the Graphic Union at the time (early 1919). Apparently, those post offices have somehow paid the printing works for perforating sheets supplied to them.

--- Other offices have apparently used equipment at other printers to have their sheets perforated or pierced. The results look professional, but does not match what we know from the Graphic Union.

--- In addition, more amateurish methods have been used to better separate the stamps. The result then looks messier, not neatly rectangular around the stamps, irregular distance between the holes. You can imagine that sewing machines and piercing wheels are used for this purpose, perhaps on the spot at post offices and companies,



Figure 1: Different private perforations: $11\frac{1}{2}$ (Praha 1); 15.3 (Tetschen a/d Elbe); machine pierced (Bystre u Poličky); hand pierced (Morvaszentjáj)

At the time (as far as I know) there was no documentation of this entire state of affairs. Everything we know comes from later analysis of stocks of stamps and postal items. In summary, the literature (see the list at the end of this article) produces the following picture:

--- Novotný provides a list of the offices where privately perforated stamps¹ are used, with an indication of the denominations found and the method of serration (pierced or perforated, with an indication of perforation number). Bayer's article has the same structure and lists a number of other offices.

--- In the "blue book" from 1988 we find a more extensive list of offices where stamps with private perforation have been used, but unfortunately not distinguished by type of perforation or by the denominations found. The book states that "it is estimated that more than a third of the country's 1,761 offices" have made use of private perforation on some scale, but that there is little further clarity.

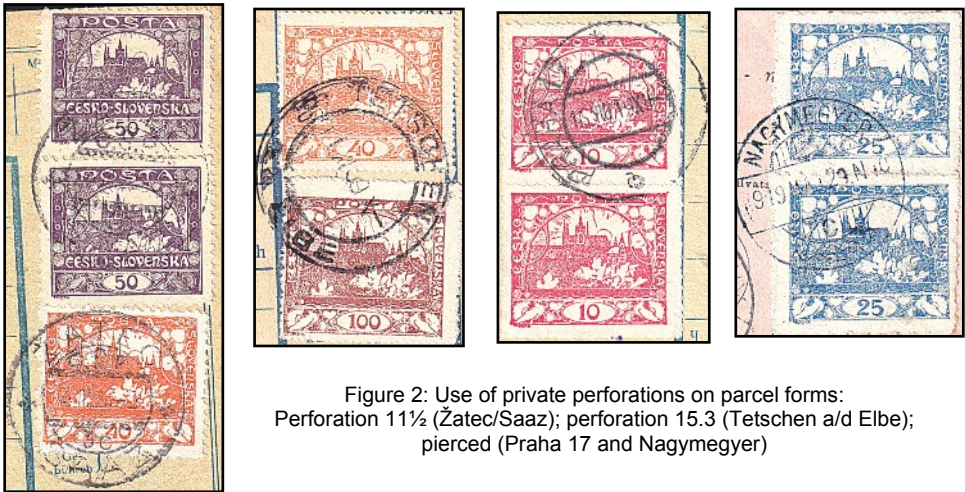


Figure 2: Use of private perforations on parcel forms:
Perforation 11½ (Žatec/Saaz); perforation 15.3 (Tetschen a/d Elbe);
pierced (Praha 17 and Nagymegyér)

In the following I will base myself on what I myself have concluded from the study of the approximately 100,000 (used) Hradčany stamps in my own stock. I have selected all the stamps with a private perforation. Altogether there are around 1,250. If I assume that I have a random sample from the total, it means that somewhat more than 1% of the issued Hradčany stamps have been privately perforated. Of the total number of Hradčany stamps issued, approximately 48% were issued with official perforation. That gives an impression of the number of privately perforated stamps that you can expect to encounter in a random accumulation. That finding also means that if private perforations were used at a third of the post offices, in most cases it must have been incidental use, not all of the imperforate stamps were perforated there.

This is also apparent when you look at the cancels on the privately perforated stamps: you will find a large number of different post offices, but there is a relatively limited list of offices of which you will find a larger number of copies, and where apparently a larger percentage of the sheets was perforated.

When further sorting the stamps that I found, a number of things stand out:



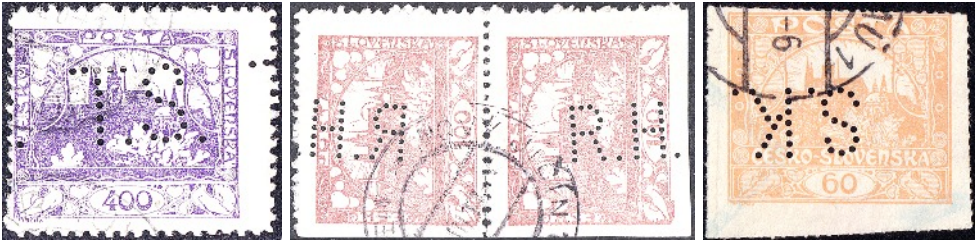
Figure 3:
Suspicious
perforations

--- A first distinction can be made between perforated stamps on the one hand and pierced stamps on the other². The first group is smaller than the last (38 and 62% in my stock).

--- With the group of perforated stamps you can initially determine which stamps have a perforation that also occurs in officially perforated stamps. You can determine this best with the guide that is on the inside cover of the POFIS catalog and on which the perforations used are exactly depicted. Roughly in 40% of the cases you will then find that the private perforation corresponds to the official $11\frac{1}{2}$ perforation and that it was therefore apparently made at the Graphic Union. A very small number of stamps has one of the other official line perforations ($13\frac{1}{4}$ or $10\frac{1}{2}$)³.

--- The rest of the group of perforated stamps is therefore apparently perforated elsewhere. That group deserves further study. First of all you have to look at which perforation number belongs to each of the sides. But in many cases (more than half of this residual group) you will notice something else: the perforation actually looks strange, for example the stamp is not torn off along the perforation (which is visible by the paper fibers showing on the teeth), but those teeth have a straight cutting edge. This may mean that the stamps are cut off along the perforation (why ??) or that the perforation holes are made with a punch along the edge of an Imperforated stamp to give it a higher value for collectors. The perforation is often very close to the stamp image on all four sides. You also see stamps where the perforation holes are so close together that no tooth remains between them; the sheet would already have fallen apart at the perforation. I call those cases "suspicious" and keep those stamps separate.

--- The group that then remains shows a particularly large variety of perforation numbers, which you can only separate with an accurate perforation gauge, such as, for example, the Stanley Gibbons perforation gauge which makes it possible to accurately determine the perforation number to 0.1 point.

Figure 4: Stamps with private perforations and perfin TS, RH, and SK⁴

--- A closer study of the pierced (or rouletted) stamps group shows that the variety in methods of piercing stamp sheets is much greater. The number of different versions is too large to describe systematically, other than that neatly rectangular piercing lines (which indicates machine processing) can be distinguished from stamps with sloping sides and irregular patterns (which indicates handicraft on a small scale).

--- Further sorting of the stamps by office of use is also enlightening. Of course it is not possible to determine that office in all cases, but with some searching in the lists with office names you can be successful in many cases.

--- In the table below I indicate from which offices I have encountered a relatively large number of stamps. Then you also see that stamps of different denominations are provided with a private perforation at those offices.

<u>Town</u>	<u>N stamps</u>	<u>N denominations</u>
<u>Perforation 11½</u>		
Liberec/Reichenberg 1	22	8
Praha 1	20	8
<u>Other perforation</u>		
Tetschen a/d Elbe (perf. 15.3)	35	11
<u>Pierced/rouletted</u>		
Praha 17	97	15
Praha 1	30	10
Liberec/Reichenberg 2	27	10
Aussig/Ustí nad Labem 1	19	8
Roudnice	17	10
Železný Brod	17	7

--- A nice find is a number of stamps with firm perforation (perfin) that also have a private perforation. They might well originate from companies that have had private perforations made for their mail room. Two companies have the 11½ perforation, which indicates that the Graphic Union also provided services for private companies and for the third, the piercing is a typical example of local domestic work with a sewing machine (or another device).

I would like to hear your experiences with private perforations: do your experiences match those of mine or do you have additions or corrections? Please let me know (johan7h@gmail.com)!

LITERATURE:

- Novotný, Ladislav, *Speciální Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známek*, Praha, 1970
- *Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známek a Celin*, Praha, 1988 (blue book)
- Bayer, Richard, *Soukromé zoubkování známek emise Hradčany*, Filatelie, 1988, p.752
- Vojtěch Maxa, Václav Fejtek, Ladislav Janeček, *Katalog perfinů z území Československa*

FOOTNOTES:

¹ Unless otherwise stated, “private perforation” means: showing not officially issued perforation or with any form of piercing/roulette.

² The difference is in the technique: with perforation, small circles are punched out of the paper, resulting in clear round holes; when piercing, only holes are pierced or lines are cut, so no paper is removed from the sheet.

³ Stamps with these perforations which were also officially used in other denominations are not fundamentally different from the so-called ‘Minister perforations’, which can be found in the catalogue and which represent stamps with those perforations which were never officially issued, but which came on the market via the Prague philatelic club. I regard unused copies as “ministerial perforations” and used copies as “privately perforated” stamps.

⁴ TS: Tuchhaus Silesia Geiringer & Reitler, Krnov/Jägerndorf; RH: Rudolf Hosch & Schleif, printers in Nový Jičín; SK: Schlenker & Kienzle, clockmakers in Chomutov/Komutau.

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1. All amounts are total cost. Payment must accompany the ad. Make check out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately or “SCP”. Ads will not be placed until they are paid for. Members are entitled to a 15% discount, if they ask for it.
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Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

From Keith Hart

1) By the time you receive this issue it will be less than two months before our meeting at the **Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition**, being held from February 7-9, 2020 at the Municipal Auditorium, N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. Parking and entrance to the exhibition is free. We would be delighted to see any members visit us at our table, which will be table #6 on the stage, adjacent to the show floor. Besides meeting Board members who will be there, you will also have the opportunity to browse, and hopefully buy, catalogs and books which will be displayed on our table. We hope that you will then go into the exhibit area and see the exhibits from our own members:-

1918 Czechoslovakia Scout Post (3 frames).

Expressions of Grief: The Development and Use of Masaryk Mourning Stamps, Cancels, and Covers from Czechoslovakia (2).

Czechoslovakia Philatelic Exhibition Souvenir Sheets of 1937 and 1938 (4).

The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia (4).

Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1920 (7).

Our Board meeting will be held from noon to 5pm on Thursday, February 6. If you have any topics you feel we should discuss at this meeting, please contact anyone of us whose email address is given on page 2 of this journal. Following this meeting we will retire to the nearby **Prague Restaurant**, 1551 Main St., Sarasota for dinner.

On Saturday February 8 we will have an **Open Meeting in the Bayfront Center** of the Exhibition Center from 1-2pm. For anyone interested in learning more about our Society there will be an opening address from our President, **Ludvik Z. Svoboda**, followed by a presentation by Board member **Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL**. Questions are welcomed during this meeting.

2) At the National Philatelic Exhibition Liberec 2019 in the Czech Republic, we congratulate member **Mark Wilson** who received a Vermeil for his literature exhibit **Monograph 32- The Dove Issue, a Handbook for Collectors of Stamps and Covers**. This Monograph is published by our sister society The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. We should have copies of this Monograph available at our table in Sarasota.

3) Following on from the previous item, Mark Wilson will also have **Monograph 33- Czechoslovak Letter Mail 1918-1939: Single and Multiple Stamp Frankings** published in early 2020. This Monograph is solely about postal history. I am sure we will have copies of this available by the time we issue the Winter 2020 issue of this journal.

4) As already noted by our President in his column, we do have copies of those three new Czech catalogs available to members. They are the first three items listed in the **catalogs section of the Available Publications on page 42**.

5) At the **APS Stampshow 2019** in Omaha, NE your journal, *The Czechoslovak Specialist* was awarded a Vermeil in the literature competition.

6) **The American Philatelic Society (APS)** has rebranded their biggest show of the year as **The Great American Stamp Show**. The 2020 show will be held at the **Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford CT** from August 20-23. It is Co-hosted by the APS, the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society. This will be the largest national stamp and postal history show during 2020.

*New Issues***SLOVAKIA**

1. On August 28, 2019 The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 1.55 € stamp to commemorate the **75th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising**. The stamp illustrates patriots manning a field gun (Fig. 1) and was designed by Peter Augustovič, based on an archive photograph by Ivan Székely. It was produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. (THS) using multicolored offset and printed in sheets of 50 stamps. The origins of this insurrection began in 1943 when President-in-Exile, Edvard Beneš contacted various dissident groups within Slovakia. Units of the Slovak Army, led by Lt. Colonel Ján Golian, joined forces with democrats and communists. They signed the Christmas Treaty and entered the preliminary phase of the uprising. By August 1944



Fig. 1

the Soviet army was advancing towards the Dukla Pass from Poland and the rebels, by now numbering over 3000, moved towards the Slovak side of the pass to prevent German units mounting a major action against the Soviets. On August 29 it was announced that German troops had completed the occupation of Slovakia. On that day at 8pm Golian sent a coded message to his units to begin the uprising immediately. Unfortunately, the Slovak Air Force flew to Poland to support the Soviets, leaving two divisions of patriots abandoned near Prešov. On October 17 the Germans moved 35,000 troops into Slovakia from Hungary and despite heroic actions from the heavily outnumbered forces the major part of this Slovak Army was quickly surrounded amid intense fighting. As guerilla warfare was continued by the remaining patriots the Germans destroyed 93 villages, killing most of the inhabitants. In Nemecká over 900 were murdered and Kremička suffered 747 dead.



Fig. 2

It was later estimated that 5304 civilians had been killed. On November 3 the Germans captured the leaders of the uprising and later tortured and executed them. Even though a failure, the Slovaks had tied up large numbers of the German Army, although at the enormous cost of about 7000 lives. The Uprising did however give the Slovak people a sense of pride and ultimately led to their pro-Nazi leaders being overthrown. By April 1945 most of the country had been liberated by the Soviet army and eventually Czechoslovakia was reestablished. The motif of the FDC is the grave of a fallen patriot (Fig. 2) and the FDC cancellation shows flames over the three sacred peaks of Slovakia. A commemorative sheet (1.61 €) was issued on the same day.

2. On September 3, 2019 the Ministry issued a 0.75 € stamp to celebrate the **Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava 2019**. The stamp shows a colorful lion (Fig. 3) and was designed by Vladimír Rostoka. It was produced by THS using multicolor offset in printing sheets of 35. From its founding in 1967 this has been a prestigious



Fig. 3

competition. This year, for the first time, this contest was held at Bratislava Castle. Vladislav Rostoka, the stamp's de-signer, has a long history of designing material for this competition, as he is heavily involved in book design, posters, and logos. He is also one of Slovakia's leading postage stamp designers. The FDC cachet shows a colorful fun-filled

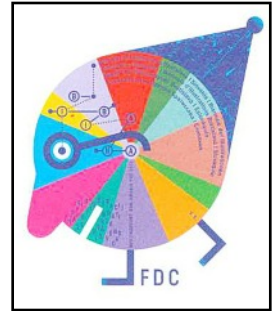


Fig. 4

figure (Fig. 4) and the FDC cancellation is an inverted bat. A collection sheet (0.91 €) was issued on the same day.



Fig. 5

3. On September 6, 2019 the Ministry issued a 1.85 € stamp to commemorate the **400th Anniversary of the Death of the Three Sainly Martyrs of Košice**. The stamp shows the torture of the martyrs (Fig. 5) and was designed by Marián Čapka and engraved by Jozef Česla. It was produced by THS using a flat plate combined with offset, in printing sheets of 50. In 1619 there was a Protestant revolt against the rule of Catholic Austrian Emperor Ferdinand II which resulted in groups joining and siding with Hungarian Lutherans. A group of these rebels arrived in Košice on September 3, 1619 and took control of the municipality. Three Catholic priests were captured by these insurgents. They were Marko Krizin,

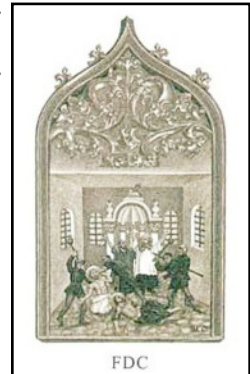


Fig. 6

originally from Križevci in Croatia, István Pongrácz from Transylvania, and Melchior Grodziecki from Cieszyn in Poland. During two days of imprisonment and interrogation they refused to renounce their Catholic faith. On the night of September 6, they were tortured to death by soldiers and their bodies thrown into a cesspool. They were beatified by Pope Pius X and canonized by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Košice in 1995. The graphics used for the postal stamp and FDC cachet were taken from the book *Ungaricae Sanctitatis Indicia* by Gabriel Hevenesi, first published in 1692, with engravings by Johann Jacob Hoffmann and Johann Sigismund Schott. The FDC cachet illustrates another engraving showing the priests martyrdom (Fig. 6) and the FDC cancellation has a feather and a cross within the outline of a church.



Fig. 7

4. On September 10, 2019 the Ministry issued a 1.70 € stamp to commemorate the **Centenary of The Treaties of Paris**. The stamp shows a letter "P" entwined by flowers and a perching dove (Fig. 7). It was designed by Vladimír Rostoka and produced by THS using offset in printing sheets of 50. Following the end of World War I on November 11, 1918, a peace

conference commenced at the Palace of Versailles in Paris on January 18, 1919. This conference continued on until 1923. Representatives of the defeated countries were not invited to take part and the conference decisions were submitted to them with no choice of negotiating amendments. The Treaties of Saint-Germain from

September 10, 1919, and the Treaty of Trianon of June 4, 1920 were of the greatest importance to Slovakia. The Minor Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye dissolved the Austro-Hungarian Empire and formed the new state of Czechoslovakia from the lands of the Bohemians, Slovaks, Moravians, and the Silesians. The Major Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye determined the revised borders of Austria. The Treaty of Trianon determined the future of Hungary where Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia were transferred and became part of Czechoslovakia. The Paris Peace Conference was never approved by the USA or Russia. It stirred up a wave of

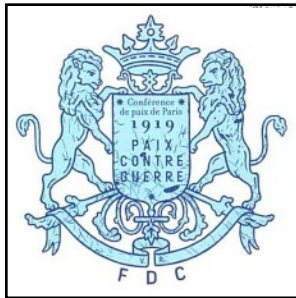


Fig. 8

nationalism and revisionism in the defeated countries and led to the accession of the Nazis in Germany. As a result of appeasement policies in the 1930s this eventually led to World War II. The FDC cachet has the coat of arms of the conference (Fig. 8) and the FDC cancellation shows a rose within an eight-pointed star.

5. On October 10, 2019 the Ministry issued a sheet containing two different stamps to celebrate the **70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between The People's Republic of China and Slovakia**. The stamps show trade goods available during the 8th century AD from the Slovak lands and China through The Silk Road. The two 1.30 € stamps were designed by Adrian Ferda and produced by THS using offset technology in a printing sheet of 50 (25 of each stamp). **The bronze phalera from the Podunajské Biskupice Archaeological Site** (Fig. 9) is one of many remarkable objects found at this site in SE Bratislava during 2017.



Fig. 9

Discovered during the construction of the ring-road freeway it contained 485 graves,



Fig. 10

most of which remained undisturbed. They come from the period known as the Avar Khaganate which existed in the Slovak lands from the 6th – 8th centuries AD. The Avars were a nomadic tribe whose wandering journeys enabled them to be traders throughout the entire length of the Silk Road. The metal belongings, jewelry and ceramic vessels discovered here have provided a good idea of life during this period. The bronze-gilded phalera depicted on the stamp was found in grave 441 where a horseman had been buried with his horse. The phalera, part of a harness, contains openwork decoration consisting of the heads of five griffins surrounded by a frieze in the form of trailing plants. The FDC cachet has the motif of a woman seated on a lion (Fig. 10) and is from a bronze-gilded belt fitting from grave 85. The FDC



Fig. 11

cancellation shows a dinar coin from the period of Emperor Charlemagne found in grave 168. **The Silver Incense Burner from the Famen Temple Museum in China** (Fig. 11) was discovered during excavations carried out in 1987 and is from the period of the Tang dynasty (618-907AD). Buddhism enjoyed a wide following in China during this dynasty and the word Famen means “a passage to the land of Buddhism”. The incense burner is closely linked with Buddhist ceremonies and rituals and this object is thought to part of a silver tea set found nearby. The burner

is decorated with engraved décor-ations of plants, flowers and birds. Inside the vessel are two concentric metal rings and one spice bowl, riveted together in the manner of a gyroscope. The FDC cachet depicts the Manjusri Bodhisattva sitting on a lion (Fig. 12) from a silver-gilded casket found at the excavations. The FDC cancellation shows a coin called the Qian Yuan Chong Bao from the period of the Tang Emperor Suzong. *(Ed. note: My thanks to Martin Vančo for his original notes in Slovak from which this is a translated and edited form).*

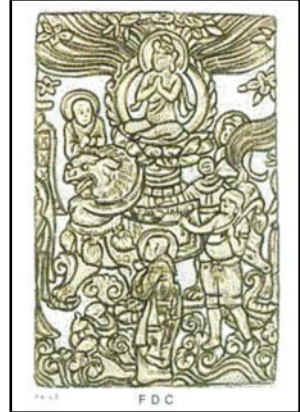


Fig. 12

6. On October 11, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series: **Nature Protection- Fruit Trees**. The sheet contains four copies of the 1.70 € stamp with a coupon showing a group of pears (Fig. 13). The stamps and sheet design was by Karol Felix, with engraving by Rudolf Cigánik. The sheet was

produced by PTC using recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Protected Landscape Area of the White Carpathians, a relatively unspoiled area comprising meadows, pastures, forest, orchards, and wetlands, together with small settlements. The stamp shows a wild pear tree of the Comice variety. Comice pears are well-known in this area, cultivated in hundreds of



Fig. 13

varieties and cultivars. Orchards offer protection to a wide range of plants, birds, animals, and insects. Rare lichens grow on the tree bark. However, this rich natural and cultural legacy is gradually disappearing from the landscape. Diversity of the trees growing today has become smaller, with some varieties only surviving on the final few old trees. The conservation of these regional rarities is one of the objectives



Fig. 14

of the Protected Landscape Area. The FDC cachet shows a branch of flowering pear blossoms (Fig. 14) while the FDC cancellation has a single pear blossom. A Cartes Maximum was issued the same day.

(Ed. note: My thanks to Sylva Mertanová for her original notes in Slovak from which this is a translated and edited version).

7. On October 18, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp in the series **Art: Ladislav Hudec (1893-1958)**. The 2.10 € stamp shows the house of D.V. Woo (*The Green House*) in Shanghai (Fig. 15). The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by PTC using

recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset, in sheets of four stamps with a central blank coupon. Hudec was born in Besztercebánya, Austro-Hungary (now Banská Bystrica) and studied architecture at the Technical University in Budapest. His first and only known work in his native country is the Chapel of Our Lady The Queen in Vyhne. At the outbreak of World War I he volunteered for the Austro-Hungarian army, was captured by the Russians and incarcerated in Siberia for the duration of the war. When released he found it impossible to return home and traveled to Shanghai, China where he found work



Fig. 15

with the American architect, R.A. Curry, completing seven years in his practice before forming his own. His 29 years in Shanghai led to a diverse collection of buildings in designs ranging from the Neo-Classical of his early period, through Art Deco and finishing in the Modernist style. His 22-storey Park Hotel, completed in 1934, was the first skyscraper built in China. His signature work is undoubtedly the Green House, so called because of the extensive use of green tiles on the façade and surrounding walls. At the time of completion in 1938 it was the largest and

most luxurious residence in China. After more than 80 years the house remains a vibrant part of the modern city. He completed more than 100 projects in Shanghai and 25 are now listed as Shanghai Excellent Historic Buildings. He left Shanghai in 1947 and after a few years in Europe, moved to Berkeley, California where he taught classes at the university. He tragically died of a heart-attack suffered during an earthquake in 1958. Shanghai declared 2008 to be the Year of Hudec, in order to commemorate his legacy of remarkable buildings. The FDC cachet depicts the Park Hotel in Shanghai (Fig. 16) and the FDC cancellation has an image of the Chapel of Our Lady the Queen.



Fig. 16

(Ed. note: My thanks to Hua Xiaohong for access to his article "Shanghai Hudec Architecture" from which this is an edited version).

8. On October 18, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp in the series **Art: Ernest Zmeták (1919-2004)**. The 2.20 € stamp shows *Self-Portrait With A Paper Hat (1961)*, which is in the collections of the Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava (Fig. 17). The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka, engraved by František Horniak and produced by PTC using recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset, in sheets of four stamps with a blank central coupon. Born in Nové Zámky, on the border between Slovak and Hungarian culture and language, he wanted to study painting in Prague, but after the annexation of Southern Slovakia by Hungary in 1938 he was forced to study in Budapest. Returning to Slovakia at the end of the war he became a lecturer at the newly-founded Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava but was forced to leave the school in 1952. Returning to his hometown



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

he devoted himself to his own art, as well as becoming a major collector of art from the 16th century to modern times. In 1979 he established a gallery to display his collection and the Ernest Zmeták Art Gallery remains one of the most important art museums in Slovakia. He was famous for his many self-portraits, approaching himself objectively and seemingly in an impersonal fashion, just as he would any other subject. His portrait shown on the stamp shows himself strictly from a frontal view, adding only a paper hat often used by painters when working. However, he wore it sideways, reminiscent of Napoleon's bicorn hat, giving the painting a fundamental and monumental touch, including a pinch of self-irony and parody of serious painting itself. The FDC cachet portrays a woodcut print by Zmeták (Fig. 18) and the FDC cancellation is a cockerel. *(Ed. note. My thanks to Aurel Hrabušický for his original notes in Slovak from which this is a translated and edited version).*

Postal Stationery

9. On September 6, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the **Sběratel-Sammler-Collector Fair, Prague 2019**. The imprinted stamp with the designated value T2 50g shows the logo of “Good Idea



Fig. 19

Slovakia”. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a silhouette of the city of Prague (Fig. 19) with text stating the dates of the annual collector’s fair. 1800 cards were issued.

10. On September 27, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the **Second Conference of The Union of Slovak Philatelists (ZSF)** which was held in Trenčín. The imprinted stamp with the designated value T2 50g shows the logo of “Good Idea Slovakia”. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, has a silhouette of Trenčín Castle (Fig. 20). 1800 cards were issued.

11. On October 5, 2019 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card to commemorate the



Fig. 20

Centenary of the Birth of

Vojtech Zamarovský. The imprinted stamp with the designated value of T2 50g shows the logo of “Good Idea Slovakia”. Zamarovský was a Slovak writer of historical non-fiction literature, particularly about life in ancient Mediterranean civilizations. After his death in 2006 it was discovered that he had been an agent of the Czechoslovak secret police (StB) for over 20 years. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the writer leaning against the wing of his car (Fig. 21). 1800 cards were issued.

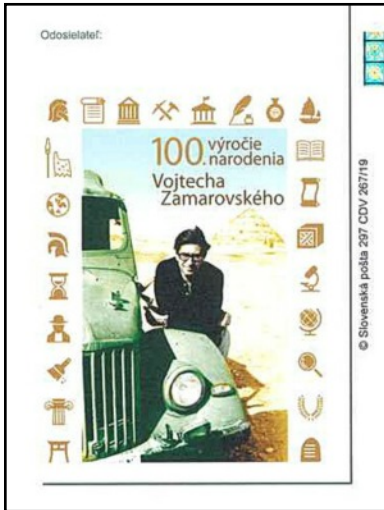


Fig. 21

postal card to commemorate the **Centenary of the Establishment of Zemplín County.** The imprinted stamp with the designated value T2 50g shows the logo of “Good Idea Slovakia”. Zemplín County was originally part of the Kingdom of Hungary. After World War I, as part of the Treaty of Trianon, part of it was ceded to Czechoslovakia and eventually became part of Slovakia in 1993. The largest city is Michalovce. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows Michalovce within an outline of the county. (Fig. 22). 1800 cards were issued.

12. On October 15, 2019 the Ministry issued a

prepaid

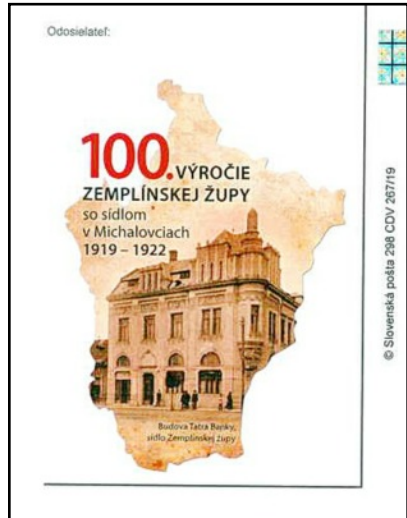


Fig. 22

CZECH REPUBLIC

13. On September 4, 2019 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series: **Nature Protection – Zoological Gardens**



Fig. 23

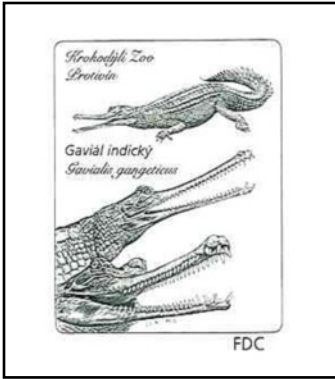


Fig. 24

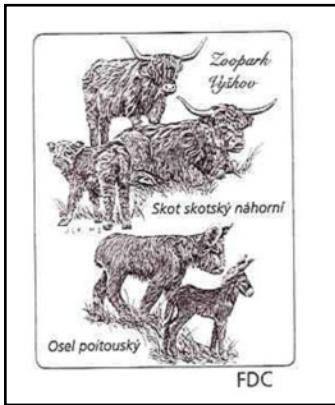


Fig. 25

collation shows a closer detail of the sheep and their unusual spiral horns. The **27 Kč stamp** features creatures from the **Hluboká nad Vltavou Zoo** and shows River Otters and the Common Spoonbill. The adjacent coupon shows Black-Crowned Night Herons. The zoo has a unique collection of ants and the FDC cachet shows two of them, the Indonesian Giant Forest ant, and the South American Atta leafcutter ants (Fig. 26). The FDC cancellation represents a River Otter. The **33 Kč stamp** celebrates the centenary of **Liberec Zoo** and illustrates the Golden Takin, an endangered form of ungulate, while the adjacent coupon shows the Somali Wild Ass, which has been eradicated in its native country by continued poaching and military conflict. The zoo has the largest herd in Europe. The FDC cachet shows the Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (Fig. 27) and the FDC cancellation has the head of a Golden Takin. A Cartes Maximum for each stamp was also released on the day of issue.

IV. The sheet contains four different value stamps (19, 23, 27, and 33 Kč) and four coupons (Fig. 23). Margins of the sheet are filled with reptiles, birds, insects and amphibians. Graphic designers for both the sheet and FDCs were Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, the engraver was Martin Srb. It was produced by PTC using multicolor offset combined with engraving. The **19Kč stamp** is dedicated to the **Protovín Crocodile Zoo** and features a Philippine crocodile, with the adjacent coupon showing a Cuban crocodile. The zoo in Protovín is committed to breeding endangered crocodiles, featuring 28 different species from throughout the world. The FDC cachet shows an Indian Gharial (Fig. 24) and the FDC cancellation features the head of a crocodile. The **23 Kč stamp** celebrates the **Vyškov Zoopark** and showcases its signature animal, the Hortobágy Racka sheep with their spiral-shaped horns. The adjacent coupon features Watusi cattle, famous for their enormous horns. The zoo has devoted itself to the breeding of primitive domestic and farm animals. The FDC cachet shows Scottish Highland cattle and Poitou donkeys (Fig. 25) and the FDC cancellation shows a closer detail of the sheep and their unusual spiral horns.

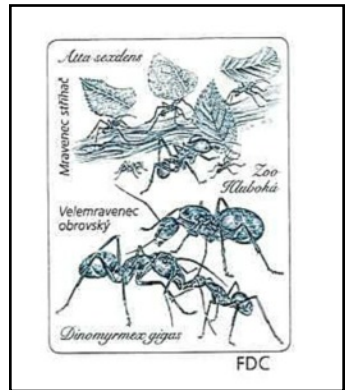


Fig. 26

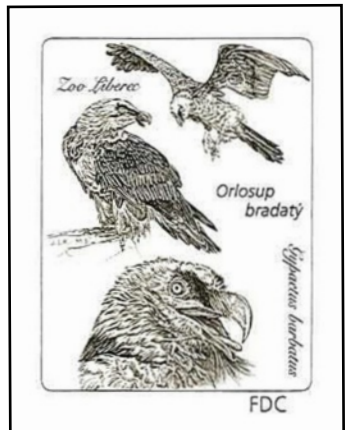


Fig. 27



Fig. 28

14. On September 4, 2019 the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with two different definitive stamps, in the series: **The World in Clouds: Airplane Electra 10A**. The booklet, designed by Petr Ptáček, contains four copies of each stamp (Fig. 28), with a value identified by the letter “E” (39 Kč). The booklet was produced by PTC using multicolored offset. The same aircraft is shown on each stamp, one showing the aircraft in flight (multicolored) and the other with the airplane being prepared for a flight (black and white). The Electra 10A was initially designed as a transport plane but due to its small size was mostly used to carry passengers. One was bought by Jan Antonín Baťa for his private use. It was later sold by Baťa’s company to the Canadian Air Force for use during World War II. After the war it saw several owners before it was acquired by Točná Airport, where the totally overhauled airplane is now on display at the Točná Aviation Museum. A Cartes Maximum for each stamp was released on the day of issue.

15. On September 4, 2019 the Ministry issued a definitive literal stamp **Karel Zeman: Winner Over Time**. The stamp, with value designated by the letter “A” (19 Kč) shows Karel Zeman’s depiction of the symbolic struggle with time (Fig. 29). The upper part depicts a horseman slaying a dragon. Time related symbols of a pendulum and clocks are portrayed in the lower part of the stamp and also in the background. The stamp was produced by PTC using multicolor offset in a sheet of 9 stamps and 12 coupons.



Fig. 29

The coupon shows a man with a monkey, riding on a pendulum. Time intervals have been measured since antiquity, becoming more accurate since the introduction of mechanical clocks in the 13th century. Nowadays the basic measurement of time, the second, is recognized worldwide through the International Committee for Weights and Measures. The stamp sheet is also available for companies and individuals to fill the coupons with photos, advertising, or company logos.



Fig. 30

16. On October 2, 2019 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp identified by the letter “A”, in the series **Czech Design: Václav Král**. The stamp illustrates a sleek red Tatra MTX V8 car (Fig. 30) and was designed by Pavel Sivko. It was produced by PTC using multicolor offset in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A stamp booklet containing 8 self-adhesive stamps and 4 coupons was also issued at the same time. Václav Král (1936-2005) was a designer,

illustrator, writer, teacher, and racing driver. His projects as a car body designer are for what he is best known for. His most famous works are the Dioss Rebel, Tatra MTX V8, and Tatra President. He was also noted as a designer of the Škoda dune buggy. His beautiful perspective sketches of many vehicles are legendary. As an industrial designer he was also well known for his packaging and laminating machines, computer shells, and industrial drills. The FDC cachet, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdouň, has sketches of cars and drawing tools (Fig. 31), while the FDC cancellation shows a facial image of the designer.

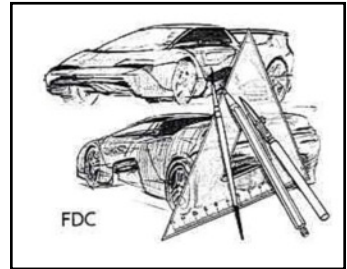


Fig. 31

17. On October 2, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet to commemorate **Czechoslovak Pilots in the RAF**. The sheet contains two different stamps with the designated value “E” (39 Kč). The design of the sheet shows scenes from airfield life during World War II and also the emblems of four Czechoslovak squadrons of the RAF (Fig. 32). Margins of the sheet expand the stamp design beyond the perforations. The sheet was designed by Eva Hašková and Jan Mačet and produced by PTC using multicolor offset. Czechoslovak aircrew serving in the RAF played a substantial part in the fight against Nazi Germany in World War II. Getting to Britain to take part in the desperate struggle against the Axis forces was no easy task. Most pilots escaped to Poland after the German invasion of the Sudetenland, only to have to flee to France after the start of the war. Then came the further transition to Britain as France fell to the Nazis. Their contribution during the war was inestimable. They successfully downed or heavily damaged 365 enemy aircraft. On the other hand, 531 personnel lost their lives during the war. The upper stamp of the sheet has the badges of the four Czechoslovak squadrons in the RAF (Fig. 33). **310 Fighter Squadron** had only been formed for one month before it took part in the Battle of Britain. They claimed 37 ½



Fig. 33



Fig. 32

victories during this frantic fight to save Britain from invasion. They flew Hawker Hurricanes at first, transitioning to Supermarine Spitfires later on. Towards the end of the war Flt. Lt. Otto Smik had the distinction of destroying three V-1 flying bombs during 32 minutes of one sortie. **311 Bomber Squadron** had the Hussite battle cry of *Na Množství Nehledte* (Never Regard Their Numbers) as their motto. For 19 months they were part of Bomber Command and their Vickers Wellington airplanes attacked targets in Europe, dropping over 2 ½ million tons of explosive and incendiary bombs. During this time, they lost 128 of their 318 personnel. In April 1942 they were transferred to Coastal Command and spent the rest of the war carrying out anti-submarine maritime patrols and attacks on blockade-busting German transport ships with their Consolidated Liberator heavy bombers. **312 Fighter Squadron** had the Latin motto *Non Multi Sed Multa* (Not Many, But Much). They were originally based in the Midlands of England to protect the Manchester and Merseyside areas. Later in the war they were based in Wales and eventually southern England to carry out convoy patrols, reconnaissance flights, and attacks on rail and road targets in occupied Europe. After D-Day they switched



Fig. 34

(Fig. 34). The FDC cancellation portrays the outline of an RAF airplane. The lower stamp on the sheet shows pilot **František Peřina** in the cockpit of his airplane (Fig. 35). Peřina had a quite remarkable and adventurous life. He joined the Czechoslovak Air Force in 1929, learning to fly in Letov biplanes. Following the German invasion of Czechoslovakia, he married Anna Klimešová, being forced to



Fig. 35

to become part of the air defense of Great Britain. **313 Fighter Squadron** was the final squadron to be formed from Czechoslovak pilots. Their motto was *Jeden Jestráb Mnoho Vran Rozhání* (One Hawk Chases Away Many Crows) and reflects their work of protecting the coastline of Britain through their daily patrols. Late in the war they were re-equipped with long-range Spitfire IX models, enabling them to escort bombers on raids deep into Germany. At the end of the war all four squadrons became part of the reformed Czechoslovak Air Force. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, has airmen running to their airplane after being scrambled for a mission

leave her two days later as he escaped to Poland, which was only a brief stop on his way to join the French Foreign Legion in Africa. Transferred to the French Air Force he saw immediate action when Germany invaded France and shot down six enemy aircraft before being badly shot up himself, barely surviving an emergency landing. After his release from hospital he managed to link up with the Free French Forces and succeeded in escaping to Casablanca, mainly by train, where he boarded a ship to Britain. In England he was assigned to 312 Fighter Squadron where he claimed 7 ½ victories, 2 probables, and 1 severely damaged. At war's end he immediately returned to Czechoslovakia to rejoin his wife who had been imprisoned for over three years. After the

communists took power he fled with his wife to West Germany, crash-landing their airplane only eight miles from the Soviet zone. While his wife recovered from her injuries, he rejoined the RAF and found himself unable to fly as he was 36 years old. They then emigrated to Canada where he found work building fiberglass fishing boats. Eventually they moved to California where he worked in the plastics division of Weber Aircraft of Burbank. He was involved in the production of lavatories and kitchens for many types of airliner, besides working on seats for the Project Gemini space capsules. Retiring to Las Vegas eventually, on the return of democracy to Czechoslovakia, he and his wife returned to Czechoslovakia where he was received as a hero and was eventually given the rank of General of the Czech Republic Air Force. He died in 2006, aged 95, only a few weeks after his wife's death.



Fig. 36

The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, depicts Peřina in front of his airplane (Fig. 36). The FDC cancellation has a circular geometric design.

18. On October 23, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp which celebrates the **60th Anniversary of the Semafor Theatre**. The stamp, with the



Fig. 37

designated value "A", has outlines of figures representing people characteristic of work seen at the theatre (Fig. 37). The stamp was designed by Jiří Suchý and produced by PTC using multicolor offset in printing sheets of 50. Semafor is a Prague-based theatre company which was established in 1959 by a group of actors, singers, artists, and musicians, who were led by Jiří Suchý and Jiří Šlitř. The name is an acronym for *SEdm MALých FORem* (Seven Small Stages) and the founders intended it to cover multiple art genres, such as comedy, music, poetry, jazz, film, graphic art, dance, and even puppet shows. They became best known for their productions of musical comedy which contained comedic sketches, songs, and witty stories. The FDC cachet, designed by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, represents a muse (Fig. 38), while the FDC cancellation is two hats which symbolize the theatre's two founders, Suchý and Šlitř.

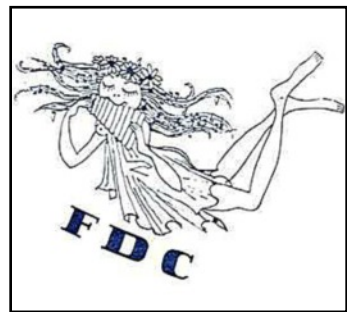


Fig. 38

19. On October 23, 2019 the Ministry issued a commemorate miniature sheet to celebrate **Czech Actresses and Actors**. The sheet has both 23 Kč and 27 Kč stamps which are shown with a backdrop of a theater seen from the stage (Fig. 39). The stamps were designed by Eva Hašková and produced by PTC using multicolor offset. The 23 Kč stamp shows **Dana Medřická** (1920-1983) who commenced professional acting in the uncertain times of World War II and moved from theaters

in Brno and Plzeň, to end the war in Prague. Throughout her career she played many diverse characters both in the theater and on television. Some of her most notable roles were as Blanche in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and as the mother in Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. She also appeared on the television series *Such a Normal Family* and *Hospital at the Edge of Town*. The



Fig. 39

FDC cachet, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, portrays Medřická in her role as *Mother Courage* (Fig. 40), while the FDC cancellation has the motif of the National Theatre. The 27 Kč stamp shows **Radovan Lukavský** (1919-2008) and celebrates the centenary of his birth. His acting education was interrupted in World War II when he was forced to work in Germany. After the war he was a founding member of the DISK Theatre and later became a leading actor with the National Theatre and became famous for his roles in



Fig. 40

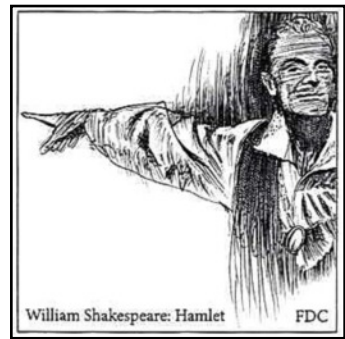


Fig. 41

Romeo and Juliet, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, and *The Wisdom of Don Quixote*. The FDC cachet shows Lukavský in his role of *Hamlet* (Fig. 41) and the FDC cancellation has the same motif of the National Theatre as the previous FDC.

Postal Stationery

20. On September 4, 2019 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **International Collector Fair- Praga Piccola 2019**. The imprinted stamp has the logo of the fair, with a value identified by the letter A. The additional print has the motif of the Fair surrounding a vintage car, with a background of stamps, coins and banknotes (Fig. 42) and text giving the dates of the Fair. 3600 cards were issued.

21. On September 4, 2019 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to commemorate the **International Trade Fair- SBĚRATEL-SAMMLER-COLLECTOR 2019**. The imprinted stamp, a postal horn, has a value identified by the letter A. The additional print, from a photograph by Stanislav Peška, celebrates the Czech soccer legend Vladimír Šmicer and lists his achievements (Fig. 43). 3400 cards were issued.

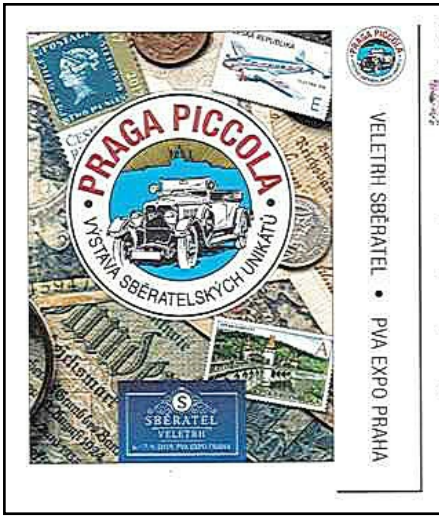


Fig. 42



Fig. 43

22. On October 1, 2019 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to commemorate **150 Years of Postal Cards in the Czech Lands**. The imprinted stamp, a detail from an Alfons Mucha poster, has a value identified by the letter E. The additional print portrays a postal card used 150 years ago with a background motif of a historic map (Fig. 44). 1800 cards were issued.

23. On October 24, 2019 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **37th International Stamp Fair in Sindelfingen** which took place from October 24-26, 2019. The imprinted stamp, a postal coach on Charles Bridge, has a value identified by the letter E. The additional print has the motif of a seagull flying out of a postage stamp to join the rest of its flock (Fig. 45). 1800 cards were issued.



Fig. 44



Fig. 45

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1st Republic

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