



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,  
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## AUTUMN GREETINGS

Autumn leaves are falling outside as I write this, which reminds me that the time is fast approaching to renew your SCP membership. I encourage you to do this before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Full details of fees and how to renew can be found on page 3.

Inside you will also find details of a major change in the Specialist for 2021. I am excited about the change and feel that it will only improve the enjoyment of reading our journal.

With the COVID-19 virus still silently lurking within our communities, it seems likely that there will have to be some adjustments as to how we celebrate during the Thanksgiving and Christmas/ New Year period. I certainly hope that you will still be able to enjoy this year's celebrations while remaining safe and well.

Keith Hart



Malatiná, Slovakia:  
SK Pofis 192, Scott 342

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## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which SCP members in good standing are entitled.

1. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official quarterly publication of the Society. For inquiries on contributing articles, obtaining back issues, bound copies, and advertising rates, contact Keith Hart (see address/email below). Members are permitted to have one free small advertisement each year.
2. Every member is eligible to receive a CD of our interactive index. This is an indispensable source for research. There are hyperlinks to every issue of the *Specialist* from 1939-2009. Search can be by author, subject, year, and Scott/Pofis catalog numbers. Contact Lou Svoboda to receive this benefit.
3. A book sales division is run by James Buckner. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears in every *Specialist*. For further information, contact James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606, email: wellseats@hotmail.com
4. Our web site ([www.csphilately.org](http://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](mailto:mmgalitz@gmail.com).
5. 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](mailto:cjstamps72@gmail.com)).
6. A Society library is housed with Ludvik Svoboda, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: [Lousvoboda@comcast.net](mailto:Lousvoboda@comcast.net)
7. A new online sales circuit is now available. Members can sell surplus philatelic material, as well as inquiring as to whether anything they need is available from other members. Members wishing to use this service should contact Marisa Galitz at [mmgalitz@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalitz@gmail.com).

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*Articles represent the opinions of the individual authors*

*and content should not be considered as official policy of the Society or its officers.*

#### Elected Officers

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

Vice-President: James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606

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

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

## 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. It is possible that you have already paid your membership dues for 2021. To confirm this just look at the mailing label that this issue arrived in. If the upper right-hand corner says 2021, you have already paid 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 31, 2020**. You have the choice of doing this by mail, or online using PayPal at the Society website [www.cspphilately.org](http://www.cspphilately.org). When renewing online by PayPal you have the opportunity to renew your membership in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain at the same time. Just follow the link on the renewal page. If renewing by mail, remittance must be by check or money order only, made out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately, and sent, with the renewal card, to Marisa Galitz, PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

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.
- **\$75.00.** 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 2021 and 2022 in the case of the next available bound volume.
- **\$95.00.** Patron membership for addresses outside the USA.
- **\$3.00.** Youth membership for collectors under the age of 18.

Please note that our By-Laws state that any membership renewal postmarked later than December 31, 2020 would probably lead to the Winter 2021 *Czechoslovak Specialist* **only being available to that member in an online form**. Early in January 2021 we have to complete the list of members that issue is mailed to 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 AND CATALOGS** listed at the back of each issue. Most of these publications are generally only available in the USA through the Society. All Members also receive an email copy of the **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** which keeps you apprised with news in the philatelic world. Obviously to receive the newsletter we require an up to date email address. If it is changed for any reason please advise Marisa Galitz at [mmgalitz@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalitz@gmail.com). The Society has also just started its **ONLINE SALES CIRCUIT**. You can sell surplus philatelic material or check whether anything you require is available. Members also have **ACCESS TO THE SOCIETY LIBRARY AND EXPERTIZATION ADVICE**.

## CHANGES TO YOUR CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

This year there have been many discussions within the Society about reducing costs, particularly those directly related to our major expense, production of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*. The small format we currently use is non-standard, and the paper is more expensive than the regular letter size of 8 ½" x 11". At the most recent monthly Zoom meeting of our Board it was decided to change the format of the *Specialist* to the larger size beginning with the first issue next year – Winter 2021.

This will, therefore, be the final issue in this size. We have used this smaller format for the entire 82 years of our existence and it is emotionally difficult to change what has become our established size. Changes have happened before, 2014 seeing the advent of color. I can never envision returning to a black and white version, and I sincerely hope that will never happen. This change does, I believe, allow us to improve the 'look' of the *Specialist*. What are the benefits you may ask? Firstly, it will allow us to have slightly larger text and combining this with a more modern font it will be easier to read. Secondly, the images can also be slightly larger, and they can be placed more readily within the text to be adjacent to where they are being discussed.

This change will probably result in a 24 page issue which will still allow bound two-year volumes for our patron members. In the next few months we will be experimenting with different layouts and by the time the Winter 2021 journal is published you will see the results.

Keith Hart, Editor



## SALE/AUCTION OF EXCESS LIBRARY BOOKS

Our librarian, Lou Svoboda, has discovered that the Society's library had duplicate copies of several books. It has been decided to offer two for sale and another six for auction. If you are interested in any of these books, contact Lou Svoboda with your bid or question at lousvoboda@comcast.net, or 303-680-7118 /303-552-6593.

### SALE

The following two books have a set price and will be sold to the first person whose offer is received. The buyer will be responsible for packaging and mailing costs.

1) *Specializovaný KATALOG Československo 1918-1939*, POFIS 1999, by František Beneš, Praha 1999. This is a 173 page dark green covered catalog in Czech, in color, perfect bound, about 6"x 8". This is one of the earliest Beneš catalogs, exclusively on the First Republic. Excellent condition. \$25.

2) *KATALOG Československé Celiny, 1918-1992, Část I*, by Jan Starec, František Beneš, Sr., FILATELIE, Praha 1998. This is a 376 page orange colored catalog in Czech, b&w, perfect bound, about 6"x 8". This is Part I of a two part series on CzSl stationery, with this one covering postal cards, franked envelopes,

official franked envelopes, and picture postal cards. Excellent condition. \$45. [Note that Part II is not being offered.]

### AUCTION

These six books are offered with the starting bids shown. To avoid confusion, all bids or questions must be accompanied with the book number they have in this auction.

- The auction closes on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 6 p.m., Mountain standard time.

- Bid increments are \$10. You can authorize us to raise your bid by \$10, \$20, \$30, etc., if so ordered for a specific amount. Bids not conforming to the increments will be reduced to the next lower level. Tie bids will go to the earliest submitted.

- Bids made by phone call **MUST** be confirmed through an e-mail.

- Books will be sold at one advance over the second highest bid.

- The successful bidder will be responsible for packaging and mailing costs. How the book is sent will be the decision of the buyer.

- Payment can be made by check or PayPal.

1) *Speciální Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známeč* [specialized handbook for collectors of Czechoslovak stamps](stamps, plate numbers, stationery, field and carrier posts, cancels) by Ladislav Novotný, Praha 1971. This is a 708 page, hard bound, textured tan cloth covered catalog in Czech, b&w, about 6"x 9"- this catalog covers from 1918-1968, and for about 20 years was THE catalog to have on Czechoslovak philately, because of how much detail it had on stamp issues, varieties, printing errors, and how it provided information on virtually all aspects of Czechoslovak philately. Excellent condition. **Starting bid \$50.**

2) *KATALOG Československá Letecká Pošta 1918-1939*, by Petr Horka, FILATELIE TROJAN, Praha 1997. This is a 224 page blue colored catalog in Czech, b&w, perfect bound, about 6"x 9" – this is the premier (and only, that I know of) catalog on Czechoslovak airmail routes both domestic and international, first flight dates, cities transited, catalog value of a cover flown on that flight, special cancels, all postal rates for various countries, and maps showing the routes flown. Excellent condition. **Starting bid \$70.**

3) *Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeč 1918-1939* [forgeries of Czechoslovak postal stamps], by Karásek, Kvasnička, Paulíček, POFIS, Praha 1963. This is a 368 page gray colored catalog in Czech, b&w, hard bound, about 7" x 10" – this is the classic catalog for anyone who wants to check whether a stamp is genuine, and what the most common forgeries look like of stamps of the First Republic. Excellent condition. **Starting bid \$70.**

4) *Československé Poštovní Známeč a Jejich Padělky 1918-1939* [Czechoslovak postage stamps and their forgeries] by Jan Karásek, Merkur-Revue, Těšín 1998. This is a 250 page gray colored catalog in Czech/English/German, b&w, hard bound, about 9"x 12" – this is a very handsome updated version of the classic forgeries book, but in three languages. Excellent condition. **Starting bid \$120.**

5) *Vzácnosti a Zajímavosti Československých Známeč* [rare and remarkable Czechoslovak stamps] by Jan Karásek, MERKUR-REVUE, Brno 2000. This is a large (9 ½" x 12") 128 page "specialized picture exhibition catalog that summarizes

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the best known rarities and other remarkable Czechoslovak postage stamps from their origin to the present.” This is an extremely attractive book, hard bound in color, in Czech/English/German that illustrates stamps and covers – mostly by far from the First Republic, with a few from after WW II. **Starting bid \$75.**

6) *Pošta v Ghettu Terezín 1941-1945* [mail service in the Terezin ghetto] by František Beneš, Patricia Tošnerová, PROFIL, Praha 1996. This is an absolutely gorgeous, 345 page, large (9 ½” x 12”) white book in a white decorated sleeve that describes all aspects of the postal system in the Terezin ghetto – in Czech/English/German. The illustrations are b&w except for a 16 page section with colored images. **Starting bid \$150.**



## NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCP BOARD ARE NOW OPEN

As specified in the Society Bylaws, it is time to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in the 2021 election for 4 of the 12 Board of Director positions.

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

**Term ending:** Marisa Galitz, John Grabowski, Keith Hart, and Richard Palaschak.

**Remaining:** James Buckner, R.T. “Tom” Cossaboom, Alan Hanzl, Jaroslav “Jarka” Havel, Frederick P. Lawrence, Richard P. Livingston, William Slaninko, Ludvik Z. Svoboda.

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

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

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing.
2. The nominee must have given their consent to be nominated.
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board meeting location specified by the President.
4. The nominee must have an email address in order to conduct Society business.
5. The nominator should make sure that their nominee agrees to the above conditions.
6. The Secretary must receive the petition by January 15, 2021.

After filling out the enclosed petition either 1) mail it to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302, or 2) scan it and attach to an email to be sent to [KLFCCK1@aol.com](mailto:KLFCCK1@aol.com)

## ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS FOR PRINTINGS OF THE 3 HALER HRADČANY

by Robert Lauer

Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson's *The Hradčany: A Technical History*, which was reviewed by Lou Svoboda in the Fall 2018 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, is indeed a monumental piece of work and richly deserves the Large Gold it won at Italia 2018. These two beautifully illustrated volumes are an indispensable resource for any specialized collector of the first issue of Czechoslovak stamps. After bumming electronic versions of a couple of the chapters from the authors, I finally did the big thing and purchased my own copy from James Buckner at the table of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately at the APS Ameripex Stamp Show in Mesa, AZ in February 2019. Worth every penny!



Figure 1: stamp from position 99 on Plate I canceled May 5, 1919.

Shortly before heading down to Mesa that February, I spent a few mornings plating a bunch of 3h Hradčany stamps from a variety of lots that I had purchased at various points in time. In doing so, I stumbled across another couple of identifying characteristics to distinguish between printings of the 3h in addition to those mentioned in Johan and Mark's work. The stamp that got me going down this interesting rabbit hole is illustrated in Figure 1. The stamp has a scratch across the plate in the upper left corner from the "E" in "ČESKO" through the 1<sup>st</sup> leaf, through the stems of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> leaves, and then out through the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> leaf. The most obvious manifestation of this scratch is the holes that are punched through the tops of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> leaves. Looking at the stamp through a 10x loupe, it is clear that this is a deep scratch on the printing plate and not a result of some foreign matter on the cliché.

It took me an inordinately long time to figure out which position this stamp was, because I kept looking for this plate scratch. Not finding it in the Plate I Visual Index at the back of the *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 3 Haler*, I combed through the images for each position on both plates searching for this scratch without any success. Finally, I noticed the colored spots in the left dove's tail and the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> heart, which are obvious once you notice them and indicate

that the stamp is from position 99 on Plate 1. However, the image of this position in Mark's new plating guide for the 3h does not have this scratch on the plate. So, this scratch across the cliché for position 99 obviously occurred at some point between the 1<sup>st</sup> printing and May 5, 1919. In *The Hradčany: A Technical History*, Johan and Mark set out evidence to support that a 2<sup>nd</sup> printing run of this stamp occurred in February 1919 and a 3<sup>rd</sup> run took place in early April 1919<sup>1</sup>.

This is consistent with the block of four of positions 89, 90, 99 and 100 from Plate I, favor cancelled April 24, 1919, illustrated in Figure 2. In position 99, the scratch across the leaves in the upper left corner is visible, as well as two nail marks on the right side of position 100 which are shared characteristics of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> printings of the 3h<sup>2</sup>.

Johan was good enough to go through all 25 scans of complete

sheets of 3h stamps from Plate I and confirmed that the position 99 scratch is always absent from this stamp on sheets from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing but is visible on all panes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and later printings. This scratch on the surface of the plate probably resulted from the handling of the plate between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> printings. So, the pane used to illustrate the positions on Plate I in the *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 3 Haler*, is definitely from the first printing.

Rummaging through another envelope full of unsorted 3h stamps, I found another 4 stamps from position 99 on Plate I – three from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing and another one from the 2<sup>nd</sup> or a later printing (as distinguished by the scratch through the upper left leaves). The stamps from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing are in the upper row in Figure 3 and those from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and later printings are in the lower row. From this relatively small sample, there appears to be yet a further defining difference between the two groups of stamps – all of the 1<sup>st</sup> printing stamps have, to a varying degree, a white smudge/fog in the bottom of the space to the right of the right branch. This white smudge/fog is also present in the illustration for this position in the *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 3 Haler*, which we have already concluded

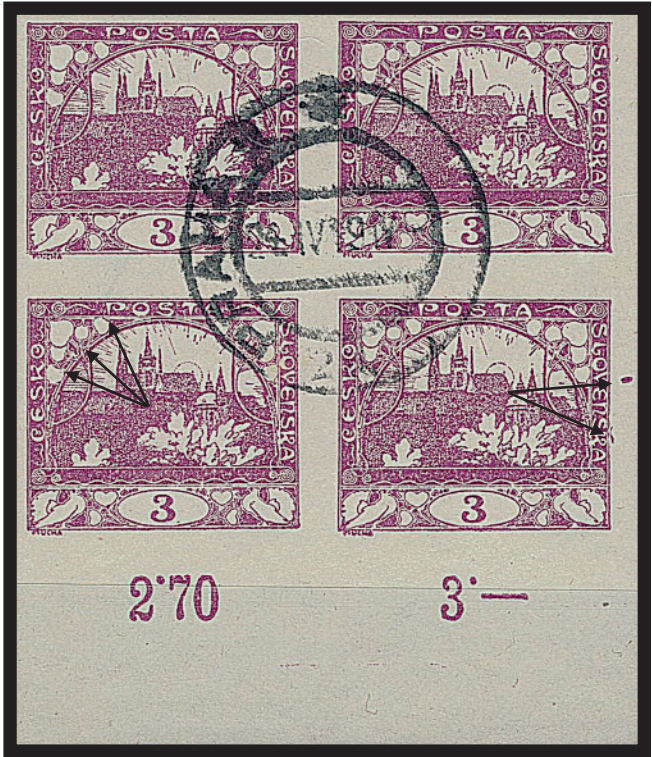


Figure 2: A block of positions 89, 90, 99, and 100 from Plate I favor cancelled April 24, 1919.



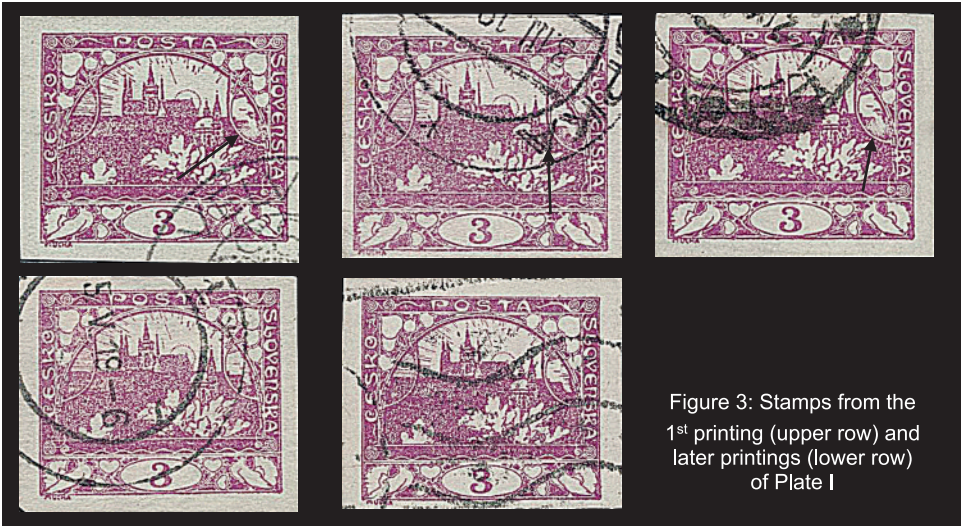


Figure 3: Stamps from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing (upper row) and later printings (lower row) of Plate I

is from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing. Both the stamps from the later printings, and the exemplar from the block illustrated above in Figure 2, do not have this white smudge/fog.

By a stroke of what can only be described as just dumb luck, I also stumbled across the stamp from position 100 that had been cut out of the same CTO sheet as the 1<sup>st</sup> position 99 stamp on the upper row of Figure 3. These two stamps are illustrated in Figure 4 below. The white smudge/fog found to the right of the right branch in position 99 appears to carry over onto the upper right portion of position 100 – the arch to the left of the right branch, the top of the right branch, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> leaves, and the panel above to the right of the “A” of “POŠTA”.

Once again, I prevailed (it wasn't actually very difficult) on Johan to check his scans of Plate I panes. Of the 15 panes from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing of Plate I for which he has scans, the white smudge/fog on positions 99 and 100 appears in a pronounced way on 6 panes. In two other panes the white smudge/fog was fairly pronounced on position 99, but

less visible on position 100 and on the remaining 7 panes the white smudge/fog was absent. None of his panes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> or later printings have the white smudge/fog on positions 99 or 100. This white smudge/fog was



Figure 4: Positions 99 and 100 from the 1<sup>st</sup> printing of Plate I

almost certainly the result of some ink-rejecting crud on these areas of the clichés during a portion of this first extended printing run. The problem was probably

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resolved either by normal wear during the printing process or by a cleaning of the plates part way through the printing run. The exemplar of Plate I that Mark used for the new *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 3 Haler* has the white smudge/fog visible on position 99, but not on position 100. So, the problem was clearly resolved on position 100 before position 99 became crud-free.

The description for position 99 on Plate I in the *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 3 Haler* indicates that this “Light spot behind the right branch” occurs on “Some printings”. I think from the above, we can render this description a little more precisely, in that the “Light spot behind the right branch” only occurs on some panes of the 1<sup>st</sup> printing.

So, here are two additional characteristics, the scratch across the leaves in the upper left corner in position 99 and the white smudge/fog behind the right branch on position 99 and on the upper right portion of position 100. These can be used, in addition to those listed in Part 2 of Johan and Mark’s *The Hradčany: A Technical History*, to distinguish between the 1<sup>st</sup> printing and subsequent printings of Plate I of the 3 haler Hradčany.

### Notes

1. *The Hradčany: A Technical History, Part 1*, pages 34-36.
2. These nail marks are listed as #5 and #6 in the characteristics shared by all three versions of Pattern 2, which comprises the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> printings of the 3h, page 167 in Part 2 of *The Hradčany: A Technical History*.

### References

- Zdeněk Ryvola (Translated, Edited and Newly Illustrated by Mark Wilson), *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 3 Haler*, Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain- Print-on-Demand, 2014.
- Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson, *The Hradčany: A Technical History, Monograph 31*; Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2018.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to print this updated version of an article first published in Czechout, with the permission of the author and editor.]

## 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](http://www.cpsgb.org.uk), and through their Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at [cpsgb1@gmail.com](mailto: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@cphilately.org](mailto:sales@cphilately.org) or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

## DISCOVERING THE STORY BEHIND A COVER

by Richard G. Palaschak

During a local stamp show years ago this commercial cover (Figure 1) attracted my attention for numerous reasons. The cancellation (dated 23.6.45) is a temporary postal cancellation used after the liberation of Czechoslovakia during World War II. It was created by deleting the German name from the cancelling device used during the German occupation and then using a locally produced hand stamp to put the Czech name of the town, Bohosudov, in red above the postal cancellation. This was common practice in Czechoslovakia in the period after the liberation of the country. Bohosudov is a town within the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia that was occupied by Germany as a result of the Munich Pact.

The addressee is the “Báňská a hutní společnost” (Mining and Metallurgical Company) in Praha. The hand stamp in purple on the brown strip of paper identifies the sender as:

Ústecký porcelánový průmysl  
Společnost s.r.o.  
Bohosudov

“Ústecký porcelánový průmysl” translates to “Ústí nad Labem porcelain industry”. Ústecký is the possessive for Ústí nad Labem, the largest nearby town, that is about 17 km (10 ½ miles) from Bohosudov. The plant owners apparently



chose to tie their company's name to a town that would be more likely recognized within the country at large. I wondered what the blacked out area above the brown strip of paper had obliterated and also wondered what the brown strip had covered. I used a strong LED light to backlight the blacked out area. It reads exactly the same as the hand stamped return address. I then used the LED light in a similar manner to read what was under the brown strip of paper. It reads:

Aussiger Porzellanindustrie  
G.m.b.H.  
Mariaschein

Aussig is the German name for Ústí nad Labem and Mariaschein is the German name for Bohosudov. Apparently, the original name of the company in the Czech language was changed into the German language when Germany annexed the Sudetenland. It then reverted back to the Czech language after liberation.

While the changes in the name of the company and town are understandable given the changing political situations, I didn't understand the absence of postage on the letter. There is no franking and no indication that any postage was paid. The violet hand stamp in the top left corner of the cover, *Závod je veden národním správcem*, is translated as "The plant is run by a National Administrator". Neither I nor any of my philatelic colleagues had ever seen this hand stamp before. Wondering if this was the reason for no postage on the letter, I sent an inquiry to Mr. Lubor Kunc, a member of the Svaz Českých Filatelistů (SČF). His response, with my minor editing, follows:

"The company administration by a national administrator was not enough to apply for a free frank. All commercial companies, without respect to whom was their administration, were obliged to pay the postage, but they might pay the postage not only with stamps, but also in cash, as credit postage, etc. Absence of stamps is, therefore, not a proof no postage was paid for the mail. At that time, there was a general shortage of postage stamps. The available stamps were usually issued in Slovakia (Košice or Bratislava) meeting the postal rates of the former Slovak State, and, therefore, were non-compliant with Czechoslovak postal tariffs. The majority of senders preferred to pay in cash instead of overfranking their mail. Considering the period (June 1945), the postage for the letter was paid in cash. This was the normal procedure; the postal clerk just wrote the postage on the cover and it was paid. Sometimes, they forgot to do so, and the covers looked like this one." \_\_\_ Mr. Lubor Kunc

Though I've been "collecting" stamps for virtually an entire lifetime, it is the last 40 years of exploring the philatelic history of Czechoslovakia that has been the most rewarding. This envelope provided hours of enjoyment as I discerned the story behind it and yet, there are still unanswered questions: Why was the plant being operated by a National Administrator? What purpose (postal or otherwise) was served by the hand stamp indicating that the plant was being run by a National Administrator? If you can provide any answers please contact me at [rjpalas@gmail.com](mailto:rjpalas@gmail.com).

# MONOGRAFIE ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH ZNÁMEK

## Monographs of Czechoslovak Stamps

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Beginning late in the 1960s the Czechoslovak Philatelic Service (POFIS), in conjunction with the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists (Svaz Československých Filatelistů), began to produce a series of books called *Monografie Československých ZnámeK* (Monographs of Czechoslovak Stamps). The authors were the leading experts on various aspects of Czechoslovak philately.

The intent was to produce a series of books which provided detailed information about all aspects of the design and production of Czechoslovak stamps. The books then also morphed into a description of all aspects of Czechoslovak philately including postal stationery, FDC's, postal cancels, postmarks, post office names/histories, postal uniforms, history of the Postal Museum, and special postal systems (Terezín, Czechoslovak Legions in Russia).

While the books are in Czech (except for a typical couple of pages in English explaining the contents), you can glean a great deal of information just from the illustrations, tables, and philatelic organization.

To help you to realize and appreciate what is contained in the various *Monografie*, here is a listing of the books and a brief description of what is found in them: (Many of these are available to be borrowed from our library.)

- #1 • Forerunner stamps
  - Postage due of Austria/Hungary [A/H]
  - A/H envelopes with mixed franking
  - Revolutionary issues (Marešův, Hornerův, Pražské, Skalické, Šrobárov)
- Hradčany (Scott 1-53, Pofis 1-26)
- Post office name translations
  - Austrian PO names on the Czech lands (German to Czech)
  - Hungarian PO names on the Slovak lands (Hungarian to Slovak)
- #1/II • Hradčany printing plates (no text just pictures of the plates)
- #2 • Legionnaire stamps (Scott B124-B129, Pofis 27-32)
  - POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 (Scott B1-B123, Pofis 33-139)
  - T.G. Masaryk (Scott 61-63, Pofis 140-142)
  - Carrier Pigeon (Scott 65-67, 82-86, Pofis 143-150)
  - Chainbreaker (Scott 68-73, 87-91, Pofis 151-161)
  - Hussite Priest (Scott 74-75, Pofis 162-163)
  - Agriculture & Science (Scott 76-81, Pofis 164-169)
  - Red Cross overprint (Scott B130-B132, Pofis 170-172)
  - Agriculture & Science (Scott 92-94, Pofis 73-75)
  - Postal Stationery
- #3 • Definitive stamps from 1923-1939
  - Postal Stationery from 1923-1938

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

- #4 • Airmail stamps 1920-1939
  - Newspaper stamps 1918-1939
  - Postage Due stamps 1919-1928
  - Special Delivery stamps 1919
  - Personal Delivery stamps 1937
- #5 • SO 1920
- #7 • Postal System of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia 1914-1920
- #9 • Czechoslovak FDC's 1947-1992
- #11 • Postal Service in the Terezín Ghetto
- #13 • Czechoslovak Postal Cancels from the beginning until 1918
  - Development of Cancels
  - Colors of Cancels
  - Types of Cancels and their Designators
  - Basic Local Cancels (German - Czech)(alphabetical A to O)
- #14 • Czechoslovak Postal Cancels from the beginning until 1918
  - Basic Local Cancels (German – Czech)(alphabetical P to Z)
  - Railroad Post Cancels
  - Fieldpost Cancels
  - Special Occasion Cancels
  - Official Cancels
  - Miscellaneous Cancels (telegraph, arrival, contract post office)
- #15 • Postmarks on the Slovak lands 1752-1918
- #16/I • 1918-1920 Postmarks of Austrian and Hungarian Origin
  - Development of Cancels
  - Types of Cancels and their Designators
  - Nationalization of 1918-1920 Postmarks of Austrian/Hungarian Origin
  - Catalog of 1918-1920 Postmarks used in the Czech Lands (A to S)
- #16/II • Catalog of 1918-1920 Postmarks used in the Czech Lands (S to Z)
  - Post Office Name Translations – German to Czech
  - Catalog of 1918-1920 Postmarks used in Slovakia
  - Post office name translations – Hungarian to Slovak
  - Catalog of 1918-1920 Postmarks used in Ruthenia
  - Post office name translations – Hungarian to Ruthenian
  - 1918-1920 T.P.O.'s and their Postmarks
  - 1918-1920 Postmarks of Austrian origin for T.P.O.'s in Czech Lands
  - 1918-1920 Postmarks of Hungarian origin for T.P.O.'s in Slovakia/Ruthenia
  - Catalog of 1918-1920 T.P.O. Postmarks used in Slovakia/Ruthenia

- #17/I • Territorial changes of the Czechoslovak Republic during 1919-1939
  - Post Office Postmarks 1919-1939
    - Development of Cancels
    - Types of Cancels and their Designators
  - Post Office Names, their origin and changes during 1919-1938/39
    - Changes in Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia
    - Changes in Slovakia
    - Changes in Ruthenia
  - Catalog of 1919-1939 Postmarks in Czech Lands (A to Praha)
- #17/II • Catalog of 1919-1939 Postmarks in Czech Lands (Prachatice to Z)
  - Catalog of 1919-1939 Postmarks in Slovakia
  - Catalog of 1919-1939 Postmarks in Ruthenia
  - Czechoslovak T.P.O. Postmarks 1919-1939
  - Catalog of 1919-1939 T.P.O. Postmarks
  - Alphabetical List of Post Office Names
- #20/I • Historical Development of the Official Designations (Names) of Post Offices on Czech Republic Lands
- #20/II • Historical Development of the Official Designations (Names) of Post Offices and Contract Post Offices on Czech Republic Lands
- #25/I • Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps and Postal History – 90 Years of the Postal Museum
- #25/II • Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps and Postal History – Postal Uniforms in the Czech Lands
- #40 • Bibliographic List of Articles Dealing with the Period of ČSR 1918 1939 (that appeared on domestic philatelic periodicals)

## SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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

## OVERVIEW OF AIRMAIL SURCHARGES FOR AIRMAIL SHIPMENTS FROM SLOVAKIA DURING 1939-1945

by Ing. Andrej Tekel'  
translated by Lucie Harris

Lately, several articles have appeared in the philatelic literature that have tried to clarify the field of postal fees in Slovakia during the years of 1939-1945. This situation is connected with the great interest of the public in collecting postal stationery. But these articles discreetly avoid the issue of airmail surcharges. That is because the cited problem is quite complicated, and it is difficult for most interested parties to obtain the official documents.



Figure 1: Airmail letter sent on August 30, 1943 from Nové Město nad Váhom to Geneva, postage 3.50 Ks. Fee for a letter of 1<sup>st</sup> weight step 2.50 Ks, airmail surcharge 1 Ks.

The fees for domestic shipments transported by means of ground transportation are shown in Table 1. The fees for regular shipments of international mail are in Table 2.

The situation gets more difficult when it comes to determining the airmail surcharge where the price varies and depends on the destination and the shipment's weight. The amount of the airmail surcharge was anywhere from 0.30Ks to 19Ks, and this surcharge

was needed as payment especially for overseas countries for every 5 grams, or part thereof.

In this next part I am showing several examples of how to calculate the fee for airmail shipments.

In Figure 1 is an airmail letter posted on August 30, 1943 in Nové Město nad Váhom to Switzerland.

Fee for a letter of the 1 <sup>st</sup> weight step (up to 20g)	.....2.50 Ks
Airmail surcharge for every 20g or part thereof	.....1.00 Ks
Total	<u>3.50 Ks</u>

In Figure 2 is a registered express airmail letter posted on March 2, 1942 at the Bratislava 1 post office to the Slovak Embassy in Hungary.

Fee for a letter of the 1 <sup>st</sup> weight step (up to 20g)	.....2.00 Ks
Registration – surcharge for abroad	.....3.50 Ks
Express – surcharge for abroad	.....5.00 Ks
Airmail surcharge for every 20g or part thereof	.....1.00 Ks
Total	<u>11.50 Ks</u>



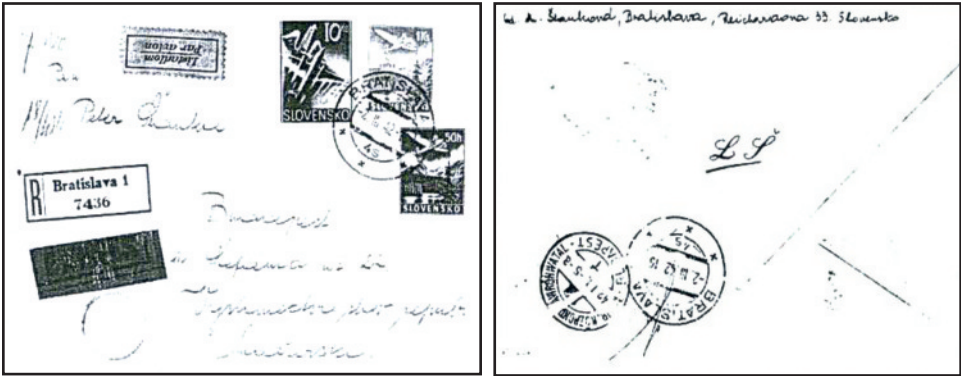


Figure 2: Airmail letter sent on March 2, 1942 from Bratislava to Budapest, postage 11.50 Ks. Fee for a letter of 1<sup>st</sup> weight step 2 Ks, registration surcharge 3.50 Ks, express surcharge 5 Ks, airmail surcharge 1 Ks.

In Figure 3 is an airmail letter posted on August 20, 1941 at the Prešov 2 post office to the city of Johnstown, USA. Of course the shipment was not delivered to the USA since it did not meet the sending requirements in the sense of #295-Mob VR-1941 (the sender was not indicated).

Fee for a letter of the 1 <sup>st</sup> weight step (up to 20g)	.....2.50 Ks
Airmail surcharge for every 5g or part thereof	.....6.00 Ks
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>8.50 Ks</u></b>

It becomes more difficult to calculate the tariff of heavier airmail shipments. We need to take into consideration two types of fees at the same time. For one thing it is the surcharge for every 20g or part thereof of the weight of the letter that is being shipped according to the tariffs shown in Tables 1 and 2. At the same time, however, we add in a multiple of the airmail surcharge (see Tables 3 through 8) for every 5g or part thereof (in other cases for every 10g or part thereof, or for European countries for every 20g or part thereof). For example, for a registered airmail letter weighing 23g that is sent from Bratislava to Cleveland, USA in 1941, you had to pay:

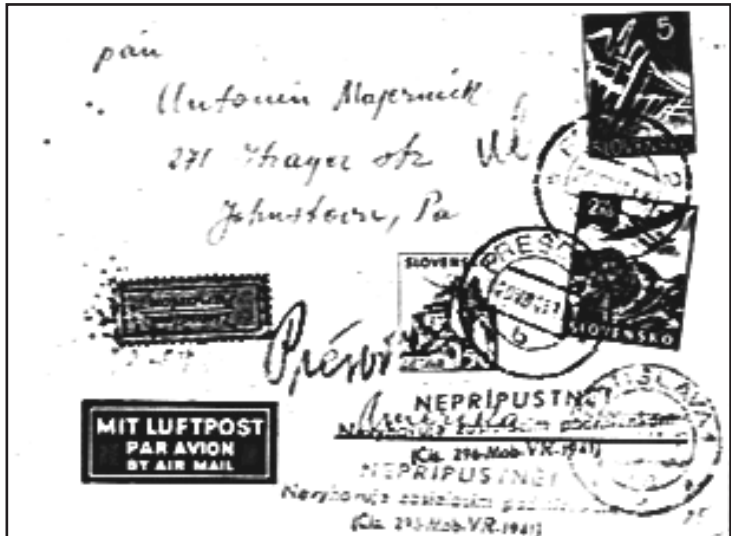


Figure 3: Airmail letter sent on August 20, 1941 from Prešov 2 to Johnstown, USA, postage 8.50 Ks.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Fee for a letter of the first weight step (up to 20g)	.....2.50 Ks
Surcharge of 1.50 Ks for another 20g or part thereof	.....1.50 Ks
Registration surcharge for abroad	.....2.50 Ks
5-times airmail surcharge of 6 Ks for every 5g or part thereof	.....30.00 Ks
Total	<u>36.50 Ks</u>

Period of Tariff Validity		to 20 g	to 100 g	letter to 250 g	to 500 g	to 1000 g	card	registered (surcharge)	express Surcharge
from 15. 3. 1939 to 31. 12. 1941	D M	1,- -,60	1,60 1,10	2,50 2,-	3,- 2,50	4,- 3,-	-50	2,-	2,-
from 1. 1. 1942 to 31. 8. 1942	D M	1,30 -,80	2,- 1,40	3,- 2,50	3,50 3,-	4,50 3,50	-70	2,50	2,-
from 1. 9. 1942 to 12. 12. 1944	D M	1,30 -,80		2,50 1,50	3,50 3,-	4,50 3,50	-70	2,50	2,-
from 13. 12. 1944 until the passage of the battle front	D M	1,50 1,-		3,- 2,-	4,- 3,-	5,- 4,-	1,-	2,50	2,-
Period of Tariff Validity		to 50 g	to 100 g	to 150 g	Printed Matter to 250 g	to 500 g	to 1000 g	to 2000 g	
from 15. 3. 1939 To 8. 12. 1940	entire partial	-,20 -,30		-,50	-,80	1,50	2,-	3,-	
from 9. 12. 1939 to 31. 8. 1942	whole	-,30		-,50	-,80	1,50	2,-	3,-	
from 1. 9. 1942 to 12. 12. 1944		-,30	-,50		1,-	1,50	2,-	3,-	
from 15. 3. 1939 until the passage of the battle front		-,50	1,-		1,50	2,-	3,-	4,-	

1) For business forms the fee was 0.10 Ks for every 50g of weight. This type of shipment was canceled on November 30, 1940.  
2) On December 9, 1940, the differentiation of partial and whole forms was canceled.  
M = local transport (delivery within the delivery area or its groups, e.g. in a city) D = further transport (beyond local transport)

Period		letter to 20 g	letter additional 20 g	card	registered (surcharge)	express surcharge		
from 15. 3. 1939 to 31. 12. 1941	1)	2,50 (2,-)	1,50 (1,20)	-1,50 (1,20)	2,50 (2,-)	5,-		
from 1. 1. 1942 until the passage of the battle front	1)	2,50 (2,-)	-1,50 (1,20)	-1,50 (1,20)	3,50 (2,-)	5,-		
Countries of the European Post & Telecommunications Union		to 20 g	to 200 g	to 500 g	to 1000 g	to 1020 g	for every additional 20 g to 2000 g	card
From 1. 4. 1943	3)	2,-	3,-	450	7,-		+ 1,50	1,-

1) Lowered fees shown in parenthesis were valid for correspondence with Yugoslavia, Hungary, Germany, and Bohemia & Moravia. From July 1, 1940, the fee was raised to 1.50 Ks for each additional 20g to Yugoslavia, Hungary, Germany, and Bohemia & Moravia.  
2) For postal correspondence to Bohemia & Moravia the fees for domestic postal correspondence were used until March 31, 1939. After that date the same fees as for shipments to Germany were used.  
3) From April 1, 1943, the following fees for letters and cards going to the countries of the European Postal and Telecommunications Union (Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Norway, Romania, San Marino, Italy) were used.  
4) The lower registration fee was valid for Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Turkey. The lower fee was canceled for Romania on July 15, 1939, and for Greece and Turkey on July 1, 1940.

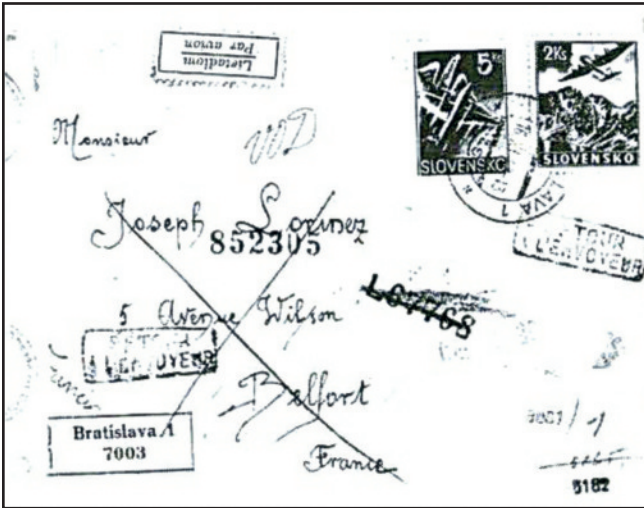


Figure 4: Airmail letter sent on November 16, 1942 from Bratislava to Belfort, France, postage 7 Ks.

Fee for a letter of 1<sup>st</sup> weight step 2.50 Ks, registration surcharge 3.50 Ks, airmail surcharge 1 Ks.

Most of the airmail surcharges were the same for postcards and for letters of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step or for other shipments (i.e., printed forms, business papers, samples of goods). Therefore in the tables are usually only shown summaries of individual surcharges along with information about the size of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step (5g, 10g, 20g and so on).

In cases where the surcharge of an individual shipment shows a variance, see the notes under the table. In 1940 most airmail surcharges changed dramatically.

The surcharges shown in Tables 3 through 8 for the year 1940 were valid beginning May 6, 1940. Before this date the surcharges shown for the year 1939 were used.



Figure 5: Airmail letter sent on February 19, 1944 from Čadca to Chemnitz, postage 3 Ks.

Fee for a letter of 1<sup>st</sup> weight step 2 Ks, airmail surcharge 1 Ks.

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

**Table 3: Airmail Surcharges for Shipments of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step – Europe 1939-1941\***  
(unless otherwise noted, the same tariffs apply for card, letter, and other shipments of basic weight)

	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944	
	g	Ks	g	Ks	g	Ks	g	Ks	g	Ks	g	Ks
Albáncia	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Andorra	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baleary ostrov	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Belgicko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Bulharsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Cyprus	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dánsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Estonsko	10	-50	20	1,-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fínsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Francúzsko	10	-50	-	-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Gdansk	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grécko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Holandsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Írsko	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Juhoslávia	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	-	-
Korzika	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kréta	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lichtenštejn	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Litva	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lotyšsko	10	-50	20	1,-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembursko	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maďarsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Malta	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monako	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nemecko	10	-30	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Nórsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Poľsko	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugalsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Protektorát Čechy a Morava	10	-30	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Rumunsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Sanmarinská rep.	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sardinia	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovensko	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-30	20	-30
Španielsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Švajciarsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Švédsko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Taliansko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Turecko	10	-50	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-	20	1,-
Vatíkán	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Veľká Británia	10	-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ZSSR	-	-	20	1,-	20	1,-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Airmail surcharges were not established for 1945, and Slovak airmail was not in operation.

**Table 5: Airmail surcharges for shipments of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step – North and Central America 1939-1941**  
(unless otherwise noted, the same tariffs apply for card, letter, and other shipments of basic weight)

	1939		1940 a 41			1939		1940 a 41	
	g	Ks	g	Ks		g	Ks	g	Ks
Aljaška	10	2,50	5	7,50	Honduras republika	5	2,-	-	-
Bahamské ostrov	5	2,-	-	-	Jamaika ostrov	5	2,-	-	-
Guam ostrov	5	6,50	5	11,-	Kuba	5	2,-	5	6,-
Havajské ostrov	5	3,50	5	8,-	Martinik	5	2,50	-	-
Honduras brit.	5	3,50	5	6,50	Montserrat ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Kanada	10	3,-	-	-	Nevis ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Mexiko	5	2,-	5	6,-	Nikaragua	5	2,50	5	6,50
Bermudy ostrov	5	2,-	-	-	Panama rep.	5	2,50	5	7,-
USA: a) New York	10	2,50	5	4,50	Pásmo v panamskom prieplyve	5	2,50	5	7,-
b) other areas	10	2,50	5	6,-	Porto-Rico	5	2,-	5	6,-
a) transport through New York	-	-	-	-	Redonda	5	2,50	-	-
Anguilla ostrov	5	2,50	-	-	Saba ostrov	5	2,-	5	6,-
Antigua ostrov	5	2,50	-	-	Salvador	5	2,-	5	6,50
Arouba	5	5,-	5	9,50	St. Eustache ostrov	5	2,-	5	6,-
Barbados ostrov	5	2,50	-	-	St. Christophe ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Barbuda	5	2,50	-	-	St. Lucia ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Bonaire ostrov	5	5,-	5	9,50	S. Martin ostrov	5	2,-	-	-
Costa-Rica	5	2,50	5	7,-	S. Vincent ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Curacao ostrov	5	5,-	5	9,50	Tobago ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Dominik ostrov	5	2,50	-	-	Trinidad ostrov	5	2,50	-	-
Dominikánska republika	5	2,-	5	6,-	Viržinské ostrov	5	2,-	-	-
Grenada ostrov	5	2,50	-	-	b) transport through France	5	17,50	-	-
Grenadiny ostrov	5	2,50	-	-	c) transport through Germany	5	17,50	-	-
Guadeloupe a závislé územie	5	2,50	-	-					
Guatemala	5	2,-	5	6,50					
Haiti republika	5	2,-	5	6,-					

1) valid for all of the countries cited in the table segment  
"a) transport through New York"

**Table 4: Airmail surcharges for shipments of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step – Africa 1939-1941**  
(unless otherwise noted, the same tariffs apply for card, letter, and other shipments of basic weight)

	1939		1940 a 41			1939		1940 a 41	
	g	Ks	g	Ks		g	Ks	g	Ks
Afrika východná tal.	5	3,50	5	4,- <sup>1)</sup>	Nyassaland	5	3,50	-	-
Alžírsko	10	1,50 <sup>2)</sup>	-	-	Oubangui-Chari	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-
Angola	5	4,- <sup>3)</sup>	-	-	Perim	10	1,50	-	-
Anjouan	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-	Pobrežie Slonoviny	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-
Bečuánsko	5	3,-	-	-	Reunion	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-
Dahomey	5	2,50	-	-	Rodézia Južná	5	3,-	-	-
Egypt	10	1,50	-	-	Rodézia Severná	5	3,-	-	-
Erytrea	-	-	-	-	Ruanda	10	3,-	-	-
Etiópia	-	-	-	-	Senegal	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-
Gabun	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-	Sierra Leona	5	4,50 <sup>10)</sup>	-	-
Gambia	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-	Somálsko brit.	5	3,50	-	-
Gorée ostrov	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-	Somálsko franc.	5	3,50	-	-
Guinea franc.	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-	Somálsko tal.	-	-	-	-
Guinea port.	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-	Sudan egyptský	10	3,-	-	-
Horná Volta	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-	Sudan franc.	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-
Juhozápadná Únia	5	3,50	-	-	Tanganyika	5	2,50	-	-
Juhozápadná Afrika	5	3,50	-	-	Tchad	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-
Kamerun	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-	Togo	5	2,50 <sup>11)</sup>	-	-
Kanárske ostrovy	5	1,50 <sup>7)</sup>	5	1,30	Tripolis a Kyreneika	-	-	-	-
Kapverdské ostr.	10	1,50	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	Tunis	10	1,50 <sup>2)</sup>	-	-
Kenya	5	2,50	-	-	Uganda	5	2,50	-	-
Komorské ostrovy	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-	Urundi	5	2,50	-	-
Kongo belgické:					Veľrybí záliv	5	3,50	-	-
a) východná časť	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	5	4,60 <sup>8)</sup>	Zanzibar	5	2,50	-	-
b) ostatné územie	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	5	4,60 <sup>8)</sup>	Zlatonosné pobrežie	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	5	2,- <sup>12)</sup>
Kongo stredné	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-	Azory ostrovy	-	-	5	2,30
Libya	10	1,50	5	1,-					
Libéria	5	3,50 <sup>5)</sup>	-	-					
Los ostrov	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-					
Madagaskar	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-					
Maroko	10	1,50 <sup>2)</sup>	-	-					
Maroko, pásmo špan.	10	1,50 <sup>2)</sup>	5	1,-					
Mauritánia	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-					
Mauritius	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-					
Mayotte	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-					
Mohéli	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-					
Mozambik									
a) severná časť	5	4,- <sup>9)</sup>	-	-					
b) ostatná časť	5	3,-	-	-					
Niger	5	3,- <sup>6)</sup>	-	-					
Nigéria	5	2,50	-	-					
Nossi Bé ostrov	5	5,- <sup>4)</sup>	-	-					

- 1) card 4 Ks, letter 4 Ks for 5g, other shipments 6 Ks to 25g
- 2) card 1.50 Ks, letter 1.50 Ks for 10g, other shipments 1.50 Ks for 25g
- 3) card 4 Ks, letter 4 Ks for 5g, other shipments 3 Ks for 10g
- 4) card 5 Ks, letter 5 Ks for 5g, other shipments 5.50 Ks for 25g
- 5) card 3.50 Ks, letter 3.50 Ks for 5g, other shipments 3.50 Ks for 25g
- 6) card 3 Ks, letter 3 Ks for 5g, other shipments 3 Ks for 25g
- 7) card 1.50 Ks, letter 1.50 Ks for 5g, other shipments 1.50 Ks for 25g
- 8) card 4.60 Ks, letter 4.60 Ks for 5g, other shipments 4.60 Ks for 25g
- 9) card 4 Ks, letter 4 Ks for 5g, other shipments 5 Ks for 25g
- 10) card 4.50 Ks, letter 4.50 Ks for 5g, other shipments 3 Ks for 10g
- 11) card 2.50 Ks, letter 2.50 Ks for 5g, other shipments 2.50 Ks for 25g
- 12) card 2 Ks, letter 2 Ks for 5g, other shipments 2 Ks for 25g

**Table 7: Airmail surcharges for shipments of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step – Asia 1939-1941**  
(unless otherwise noted, the same tariffs apply for card, letter, and other shipments of basic weight)

	1939		1940 a 41			1939		1940 a 41	
	g	Ks	g	Ks		g	Ks	g	Ks
Aden	5	3,50	-	-	India holandská východ.	5	3,50	5	4,-
Afganistan	5	2,50	5	2,30	Indočína	5	4,-	-	-
Andamany ostrovy	5	2,50	-	-	Irak	10	2,-	5	2,30
Arábia Saudská	10	1,50	5	3,30 <sup>1)</sup>	Irán (Perzia)	10	2,50	5	3,-
Bahrain	10	4,-	-	-	Japonsko	5	6,-	-	-
Beludžistan	5	2,50	-	-	Kórea	5	6,-	-	-
Birma	5	2,50	-	-	Kuwait	10	3,-	-	-
Borneo brit.	5	3,-	-	-	Malajské štáty	5	3,-	-	-
Brunei	5	3,-	-	-	Nová Guinea hol.	5	3,50	-	-
Castelrosso ostrov	10	1,-	-	-	Palestína	10	1,50	-	-
Ceylon	5	3,-	-	-	Rodos ostrov	10	1,50	-	-
Čína	5	6,-	5	5,50	Siam (Thailand)	5	2,50	5	3,-
Filipíny ostrovy	5	5,-	5	4,50	Straits Settlements	5	3,-	-	-
Formosa	5	6,-	-	-	Štáty Levanty	-	-	-	-
Hong-Kong	5	4,-	-	-	(Sýria a Libanon)	10	2,-	-	-
India brit.	5	2,50	-	-	Transjordánsko	10	1,50	-	-
India franc. a port.	5	2,50	-	-					

- 1) card 3.30 Ks, letter 3.30 Ks for 5g, other shipments 5.50 Ks for 25g

**Table 6: Airmail surcharges for shipments of the**

**1<sup>st</sup> weight step – South America 1939-1941**

\*valid for all of the countries cited in the table segment

"a) transport through New York"

	1939		1940 a 41	
	g	Ks	g	Ks
Argentína	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>	5	19,- <sup>2)</sup>
Bolívia	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>	5	19,- <sup>2)</sup>
Brazília	5	12,50 <sup>3)</sup>	5	16,- <sup>4)</sup>
Falklandské ostrovy	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>		-
Chile	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>	5	19,-
Paraguay	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>	5	19,- <sup>2)</sup>
Peru	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>	5	19,- <sup>2)</sup>
Uruguay	5	15,- <sup>1)</sup>	5	19,- <sup>2)</sup>
<i>a) transport through New York</i>				
Ecuador	5	5,-	5	19,-
Guyana brit.	5	5,-		-
Guyana franc.	5	5,-		-
Guyana hol. (Surinam)	5	5,-	5	19,-
Kolumbia	5	5,-	5	19,-
Venezuela	5	4,-	5	19,-
<i>b) transport through France</i>				
	5	17,50		-
<i>c) transport through Germany</i>				
	5	17,50		-
1) card 15 Ks, letter 15 Ks for 5g, other shipments 15 Ks for 25g				
2) card 19 Ks, letter 19 Ks for 5g, other shipments 19 Ks for 25g				
3) card 12.50 Ks, letter 12.50 Ks for 5g, other shipments 12.50 Ks for 25g				
4) card 16 Ks, letter 16 Ks for 5g, other shipments 16 Ks for 25g				
5) card 19 Ks, letter 19 Ks for 5g, other shipments 25 Ks for 25g				
6) card 16 Ks, letter 16 Ks for 5g, other shipments 21.50 Ks for 25g				

**Table 8: Airmail surcharges for shipments of the**

**1<sup>st</sup> weight step – Australia and Oceania 1939-1941**

\*valid for all of the countries cited in the table segment

"a) transport through New York"

	1939		1940 a 41	
	g	Ks	g	Ks
Austrálska Únia	5	5,-		-
Bankové ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Bismarkovo súostrovie	5	5,-		-
Cookove ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Ellice ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Fanningy ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Fidžiské ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Gambieri ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Gilbertove ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Lord Howe ostrov	5	5,-		-
Markýzy ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Nauru ostrov	5	5,-		-
Niue ostrov	5	5,-		-
Norfolk ostrov	5	5,-		-
Nová Guinea	5	5,-		-
Nová Kaledónia	5	5,-		-
Nové Hebridy ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Nový Zéland	5	5,-		-
Palmerston ostrov	5	5,-		-
Papua	5	5,-		-
Penrhyn ostrov	5	5,-		-
Samojské ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Sarawak	5	3,-		-
Spoločenské ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Suvarové ostrovy	5	5,-		-
St. Cruz ostrov	5	5,-		-
Šalamúnove ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Tahiti ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Tasmánia ostrov	5	5,-		-
Tokelau ostrov	5	5,-		-
Tonga ostrovy	5	5,-		-
Tuamotu ostrov	5	5,-		-
Tubuai-Rai-Vavae	5	5,-		-

[Ed. note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of the first part of a pull-out section of *Letecká Pošta na Slovensku 1939-1945* by Ing. Andrej Tekel' from *Filatelie* 1997/8 with the permission of the author and the editor. The second part of the pull-out, *Doprava Leteckých Zásielok do Južnej Ameriky 1939-1941* (Transport of Airmail Shipments to South America 1939-1941), as well as the very extensive literature reference list, will be published later.]

## NEED CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS or PHILATELIC ITEMS??

(This offer for members only)

I have been collecting Czechoslovak stamps and philatelic items for more than 55 years now, and in that time have accumulated a great number of duplicates and other interesting items (see some of them listed below).

I am almost 80, and it is time for me to begin sharing them with others.

If you are interested, I am offering them to members at the prices below (based upon Scott's catalog, or for non-Scott items at proportional Czechoslovak POFIS catalog values):

Used	40% (except .05 for Used .25 catalog items)
Mint	66%
MNH	85%

To these prices will be added the cost of postage, insurance, and if needed, mailing materials.

I have lots and lots of used stamps even up to the modern times -- like this year."

Among the kinds of items being offered are:

- the full range of CzSI, B&M, Cz, SI, ES stamps
- varieties, imperfs, plate faults -- e.g., 831 II, 1435 tear, 1878a, 1908a, 2226 II, and POFIS identified
- coupons, tabs, perfins, plate #'s
- printing sheets of 4, 6, 8, 10 (e.g., art stamps)
- POŠTA semipostals & overprint varieties
- postal stationery
- CzSI commemorative/souvenir cards
- FDC's, parcel card clippings
- sports / SOKOL covers, cards, memorabilia
- stamp booklets, Cinderella's
- SCP convention commemorative envelopes/cards
- 1000's of interesting covers/cards --- ask

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

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4766 S. Helena Way  
Aurora, CO 80015

## PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

### From Keith Hart

1) As you read this it will still be about 9-10 months until we convene at **BALPEX 2021** for our next Board Meeting. Here is some preliminary information about this *World Series of Philately* show. It will be the 83<sup>rd</sup> such stamp exhibition and bourse arranged by The Baltimore Philatelic Society. To be held at the convention center of the Delta Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031. Dates are September 3-5, 2021 with Friday and Saturday hours of 10am-6pm, and Sunday from 10am-3pm (note that Monday 6<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day). Entrance and parking are free. Entry forms and prospectus for exhibits will be available from February 2021 at their website [www.balpex.org](http://www.balpex.org).

2) On July 21<sup>st</sup> the Slovak Postal Service finally issued a black proof which was originally slated to have been issued on May 3, 2019 along with the miniature sheet commemorating the centenary of M. R. Štefánik's death. For unknown reasons this did not occur. Luckily there was another suitable anniversary for Štefánik just a year away. No doubt the text at the top of the sheet had to be amended by the engraver František Horniak to show that it now celebrated the **140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Štefánik's birth** [Pofis 070 PT 685/20]. 2000 copies were issued and were available for 3.72 €.

3) **Where did stamp sets go?** Do you remember the times when we used to await the next set of stamps to be issued by Czechoslovakia? Usually four or five stamps came in each emission and one of them might be difficult to obtain as it was issued in a much smaller quantity than the others. There are still the continuing series that come out once a year, like the Art series from both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Yet generally now, there are no sets that appear throughout each year. Taking a year at random – 1970 – and thinking of any issue of more than two stamps, there were in fact ten different sets issued that year: World Ski Championships in the High Tatras, UNESCO Personalities, EXPO 70-Osaka, the Artist Josef Lada, Historic Firearms, House Signs and Portals, Soccer (Football) World Cup in Mexico, Art, INTERCOSMOS Space Travel, and Slovak Icons. Now we usually have none. That is until this year's set of six Song Birds in Our Neighborhood from the Czech Republic. I know they were issued on three different dates, but yes this was definitely a set. Beautifully designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, this was a feast for the eyes. Do we want more like this? Well, I do. Of course, it would be extremely difficult for either country to do this anymore. When only about 25 stamps are issued each year, even a set of four would be difficult to fit in. The Czech Republic did manage it this year. How long will it be before it happens again?

4) A quick update on the new **Perfins Study Group**. They are currently formulating the areas of study that they will initially be undertaking. Also strengthening their ties to other perfin groups. In the Winter 2021 *Specialist* there should be an announcement with further information about progress in this respect. Join this group now and be a part of the fun. Contact information is Jerry Hejduk at [flprepers@gmail.com](mailto:flprepers@gmail.com).



## 1918 AUSTRIA FREE FRANK - CZECH SCOUT POST COVERS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

The Czechoslovak National Council in Prague served as the Czechoslovak provisional government from October 28, 1918, when independence was declared, until the formal establishment of the First Republic of Czechoslovakia. During the period of the provisional government, mail was carried and delivered by the Austria post office until their operations were taken over by Czechoslovakia. Under the “old rules” of the Austria Postal Directorship, originally based on an Austro-Hungarian Empire imperial order of October 2, 1865, the franking privilege (official-free frank mail) was authorized for central government authorities, government ministries, regional and local government authorities, the military, and church organizations<sup>1</sup>. Official mail to the National Council traveled under the franking privilege and was marked with the instruction “Věc úřední poštovního prostá” (“Official Mail Free of Postage”) or a variant, either printed, handstamped, or handwritten on the mail piece. Free frank mail was not exempt from registry or special delivery fees, which had to be paid by addition of regular postage stamps; however, some smaller post offices, either because of ignorance or for comfort, did not enforce this requirement and accepted registered and special delivery items without the required additional postage<sup>1</sup>.

Among Pittermann Category 1 entires of the 1918 Czech Scout Post (genuine and authentic)<sup>2</sup>, those with Austria or Hungary frankings are highly prized by both Czech and Scouts collectors. Since official mail to the National Council offices in Prague from government ministries, regional and local government authorities, and the military traveled under the franking privilege, we might expect to see a considerable number of Austria free frank – Czech Scout Post covers in collections and exhibits. To test this hypothesis, I reviewed Austria-Czech Scout Post covers in my collection. Although this is not a statistical sample, I record three free frank covers among 10 Austria-Czech Scout Post covers, for a 30% occurrence rate. To my surprise and delight, there is one each of the three markings of the free frank instruction – printed, handstamped, and handwritten.

On November 10, 1918 the District Political Administration in Kolín (German: Kolin) mailed correspondence to the National Council offices in Prague, with an envelope with a printed free frank instruction “Věc úřední poštovního prostá” (Figure 1). The Prague post office delivered it to the National Council offices, then in the Cadet Academy (November 10-12)<sup>3</sup>. It was opened there and based



Figure 1: Czech Scout Post cover with printed frank free instruction.

on the contents, redirected to Josef Rössler-Ořovský, the President of the Czech Scout Association and a member of the Parliament, carried to him by Scout Böhm, and signed for by him [Rössler-Ořovský\_(Ry)] on November 12. The 20h letter rate Scout Post stamp, and the POŠTA SKAUTŮ, NV, and “Dopis od skauta ... převzal: ...” handstamps were applied at the Scout Post operations center which was co-located with the National Council offices.



Figure 2: Czech Scout Post cover with hand-stamped free frank instruction

...” handstamps were applied at the Scout Post operations center which was co-located with the National Council offices. The Scout Post stamp is expertized by Gilbert (1896-1984) and Karásek (1927-2010), and the cover as an entire is expertized by Karásek.

On November 11, 1918 the District Political Administration in Olomouc (German: Olmütz) forwarded correspondence to the National Council offices in Prague by registered mail, with an envelope with a handstamped free frank instruction, “Věc úřední porta prosta”, but without a stamp(s) to pay the 25h registry fee (Figure 2). The registry fee may not have been collected by the Olomouc post office because the clerk was not familiar with the requirements for free frank mail, especially if he had just returned from military service during World War I, or as an accommodation to the National Council provisional government.

The Prague post office marked it for delivery to the Cadet Academy (Kadetka); however the National Council offices moved to the Parliament on November 13<sup>2</sup>. It was opened there and based on the contents, redirected to a National Council office, carried there by Scout Stretti, and signed-for by the recipient in the Scout’s receipt notebook on November 13.

The two 10h Scout Post stamps (blue and ultramarine), paying the 20h letter rate, and the POŠTA SKAUTŮ, NV, and “Dopis od skauta ... převzal: ...” handstamps were applied in the Scout Post operations center. The Scout Post stamps are expertized by Stupka (1949-)<sup>4</sup>.

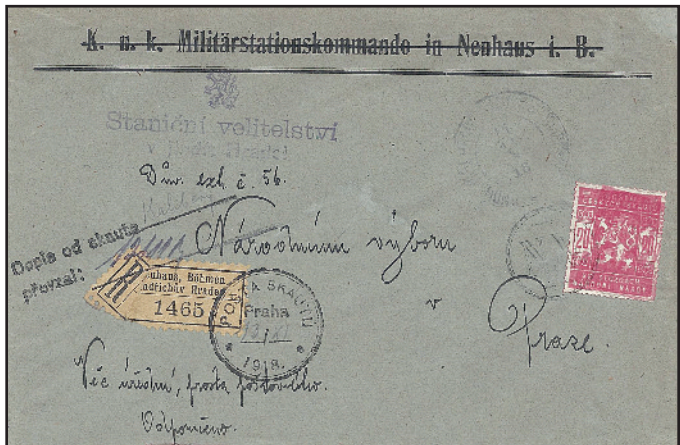


Figure 3: Czech Scout Post cover with handwritten free frank instruction

On November 11, 1918 the Station Directorate in Jindřichův Hradec (German: Neuhaus in Böhmen) forwarded correspondence to the National Council offices in Prague by registered mail, with an envelope with a handwritten free frank instruction, “Věc úřední, prosta poštovného. Doporučeno”, but without a stamp(s) to pay the 25h registry fee (Figure 3). It was opened there and based on the contents, redirected to Josef Rössler-Ořovský, carried to him by Scout Kalibera, and signed for by him on November 13. The double impression 20h letter rate Scout Post stamp, and the POŠTA SKAUTŮ, NV, and “Dopis od skauta ... převzal: ...” handstamps were applied in the Scout Post operations center. This cover is believed to be the only entire which is franked with a double impression Scout Post stamp; when last sold at auction, it was described as “Unique cover from the collection of a well known Prague collector”<sup>5</sup>.

Readers who have additional examples of 1918 Austria free frank – Czech Scout Post covers to the National Council are requested to kindly forward scanned images to the author for authentication and possible inclusion in future issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. He can be contacted at [ieconsulting@cox.net](mailto:ieconsulting@cox.net).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I wish to thank Lubor Kunc for information about official, free frank mail during the period of the 1918 Czechoslovak provisional government, and the late Jaroslav J. Verner and Ludvik Z. Svoboda for translations between Czech and English.

#### ENDNOTES:

1. Petrasek, Ing. J.; “Postal Stationery for Frank Free Usage” *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, vol. XLVI, no. 9 (November 1984), pp. 1, 3. Translated by Henry Hahn.
2. Pittermann, Ing. Pavel; “Genuineness of Entires with Stamps of the Delivery Service of Czech Scouts”. *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, vol. 54, no. 1 (Jan-Feb 1992), pp. 4-11. Translated by Henry Hahn.
3. Kvasnička, Ivo.; “Czech Scout Mail”. *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, vol. 58, no. 3 (May-June 1996), pp. 3-13. Translated by Jaroslav J. Verner.
4. <https://www.filatelie.fi/experts/names.html> [Stupka, Jiří]; <https://www.phstamps.com/contents.htm> [Stupka Jiří]
5. Majer, J.; *Podzimní Aukce Poštovních Známek Celistvosti, Sbírký a Partie*, Sobota 13.9.2008; catalog, lot no. 924.



## CANCELED OLYMPICS - 1984 VERSION

by Keith Hart

It was of course extremely disappointing to hear that the Olympic Games had to be postponed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has carried over to the philatelic world where I am sure that many countries had to scrap or postpone issuance of already designed stamps. In the case of Slovakia the stamps were already printed. They have been stored for a year and hopefully will be issued next year unless the Tokyo Games cannot take place.

At least this year the Games had to be postponed due to global health concerns. In the 1980s some athletes were deprived of competing in two Olympic Games because of political boycotts. In 1984 this led to a Czechoslovak stamp issue being

amended at the last moment. To find out the reasoning behind this we have to go back four years to 1980 when the Olympic Games were held in Moscow. The USA boycotted these games in retaliation to the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The 1984 Games were held in Los Angeles and in May of that year the Soviet Union announced that they would not attend the Games “Due to security concerns and chauvinistic sentiments driving anti-Soviet hysteria being whipped up in the United States”. The Soviet withdrawal led to pressure on other communist states in Eastern Europe to withdraw as well, which of course included Czechoslovakia.

Figure 1:  
Original sketch by  
Radomír  
Kolář  
for 2 Kčs  
stamp



Figure 2:  
2 Kčs  
stamp as  
issued

Czechoslovakia had already designed and printed a four stamp miniature sheet which was scheduled for issue on July 2. These were amended by deleting the inscription “HRY XXIII OLYMPIÁDY, LOS ANGELES 1984” (Figure 1). The result can be seen on the 2 Kčs stamp, where the bicycle wheel is missing nearly a quarter of its spokes (Figure 2). The 1 and 3 Kčs stamps had inscriptions that did not encroach across the images and deletion was not a problem. The 5 Kčs stamp, featuring a weightlifter, does not seem to have any room for deleted lettering anyway, and there are no signs on the issued stamp that any alterations were carried out. Was this stamp redesigned and engraved? There is probably no way of knowing now. The same lettering might also have originally appeared above the Olympic rings on the miniature sheet. The “corrected” miniature sheet (Figure 3)

was eventually issued on September 9.

There is however a mystery about the entire thought process behind the amended sheet and stamps. From the point of view of the communist nations within the Soviet Bloc, the Los Angeles Olympics never happened. I was in Czechoslovakia during July 1984 and all the media talk was about the Soviet Union’s hastily arranged alternative, the “Friendship Games”. There was never any mention at all about the Los Angeles Olympics while I was there. In which case, why was the



Figure 3: Miniature sheet as issued



Figure 4: FDC with cachet showing runners with Olympic torch



Figure 5: FDC with cachet showing lighting of Olympic cauldron

inscription on the stamps deleted, but not the Olympic rings? You would have thought that they would have had to be deleted as well. They were retained though, and this leads us to another mystery. If it were the intention of the Czechoslovaks to acknowledge an Olympic Games in which they did not even take part, they could have merely deleted “LOS ANGELES, 1984” from the inscription, and retained “HRY XXIII OLYMPIÁDY”. This would have been a simpler fix. The two FDCs that were issued also had cachets with a distinctly Olympic feel about them, showing runners carrying the Olympic torch, and another athlete lighting the Olympic cauldron (Figures 4 and 5). We are thus left with a sheet and stamps that have Olympic rings but no mention of where these games were located. Who knows why this happened?

The result, however, has left us with some of the rarer stamps from the communist era. Some of the original unaltered 1 and 2 Kč stamps survived and have found their way into collections. For that we should be grateful.

**SOURCES:**

1. *Washington Post*, May 5, 1984- Soviets withdraw from Los Angeles Olympics
2. *Czechoslovak Stamp Library*; [www.cpslib.org](http://www.cpslib.org) - Figures 2 and 3.
3. Collections of the Czech Postal Museum, Prague – Figure 1.



## THE 1942 SLOVENSKÝ ŠTÁT POSTAL CONGRESS STAMPS: SOLVING THE PROBLEMS

by Alan Soble

I wish to preface my update on these Slovensko stamps by emphasizing and gratefully acknowledging the enormous help provided by my colleagues. Bob Hill provoked me to revisit the topic and generously gave me

a copy of the beautiful Morgana edition of *Europäischer Postkongress. Berichte und Vereinbarungen (EPBV)*. By email, Reg Dixon and I discussed the details of the Congress and its stamps, especially the several German emissions. Editor Keith Hart also made a number of substantial contributions. Figure 1 is reprinted with the permission of Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner, auction 39 catalogue (Feb. 2018), p. 171.

In my article “The 1942 Slovenský Štát Postal Congress Stamps,” which appeared in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, No. 659 (82:1, Winter 2020, pp. 7-9), I raised questions and offered speculation about the three Slovensko stamps issued October 12, 1942 (Scott 74-76, Pofis 72-74. SG 86-88) announcing the European Postal Congress held in Vienna. The article did not resolve three matters it discussed. All three are dealt with here.

(1) One lingering matter is the difference observed on the various Postal Congress stamps between the inscribed or overprinted dates “October 12” (Slovakia, Norway) and “October 19” (Germany, Netherlands). Germany first issued its three stamps without any date and reissued them overprinted “19 Okt. 1942.” It turns out that the Congress began on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the Articles of the postal agreement were ratified on the 19<sup>th</sup> (EPBV, p.94). Another agreement on telegraph service was reached on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Congress closed on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The provisions went into effect April 1, 1943 (EPBV, p.96).



Figure 1: Olive branch carried by a dove, on Scott B168-B169, Pofis 527-528, SG 572-573 (Dec. 18, 1949).

I wonder whether the peace theme in these Red Cross charity stamps was a reaction to the formation of NATO on April 4, 1949.

(2) Is the bird on the Slovensko stamps a dove, hence a symbol of peace, or a messenger pigeon, hence a symbol of (postal) communication? My speculation was that Jozef Vlček’s design was ambiguous. However, the plant carried

in the bird’s beak is clearly not an olive twig but a linden leaf. (Contrast Fig. 1 and Fig. 3.) This fact, unfortunately, may not resolve the problem of the intended or received meaning of the symbols, because the linden (in Czech, Slovak, Romanian, etc., cultures) also stands for peace as well as perseverance, brotherhood, friendship, justice, love, altruism, and so forth. No one claims that hermeneutics or semiotics is definitive.

(3) Erich Meerwald’s essay for one of the German Postal Congress stamps (Fig. 2) depicts 18 flags of the nations provisionally presumed to attend the Congress. This design was ambitious, because the invitation sent to 18 European nations is dated August 10, 1942 (EPBV, p. 6), only two months before the Congress commenced. Some flags on the essay belong to countries which were not invited (in a few cases, no longer existed), and some nations which did attend are not represented



Figure 2: Meerwald’s essay for a 12pf value in the Germany set.

by flags on the essay (EPBV, p. 10). The 3+7pf stamp which was eventually released, instead of the inchoate 12pf, replaced the flags with a map of Europe (see Fig. 3 in my original article). The essay provides a clue about the third topic I discussed and left unresolved: Why a string of empty coats of arms in the design of the Slovensko stamps? (See Fig. 3, below.) One answer is that it was not known by



Figure 3: The blue 2 Ks  
in the Slovensko set of three.

the designer or the Slovakian postal administration which nations beyond the four depicted would be attending the Congress, as Meerwald did not know but guessed. The four depicted are Slovakia, Germany, Italy, and, in some ways surprising, Croatia, which became independent only on April 10, 1941, included instead of other entrenched European nations. I believe that the “not known” answer is inadequate. Those responsible for the stamps surely knew that Hungary from among the remaining European nations would send delegates. Eventually 17 European nations attended, 13 of which had voting and signing privileges (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia); the others (Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the Vatican) were “observers” (EPBV, pp. 10, 50, and 98; Japan sneaks in as a non-European observer, p. 54). Another answer to the “empty coats of arms” problem is that there was not enough space in the Slovensko design to include additional, sufficiently complete coats of arms; better to leave the shields blank than squeeze in unrecognizable marks. I do not accept this answer. See Fig. 3: Between the bird, the shields, and Stephansdom there is a patch of dead space that could have been utilized for larger shields. The Congress was held at Palais der Deutschen Reichpost, not Stephansdom.) Extra space was available also by slightly reducing the height of the letters in “Slovensko” and moving the bird upwards after shrinking its top wing. Meerwald’s essay proposed a stamp representing 18 countries. Slovakia could do no better than four? Something smells. Even if there was not enough room for the comfortable addition of a few more detailed shields, there was surely enough room for a recognizable fifth, or there could have been room had it been desired. Merely delete two tiny empty shields in the rear of the series. Which country would it then have been possible to reward with an honored position?

The blank shields in the Slovensko stamps represent other nations which would be attending the Congress beyond those portrayed in the four clear coats of arms. That’s obvious. The question remains: Why exactly and only these four? Hungary, a solid member of the European community and an ally of both Germany and Italy, could be assumed to attend the Congress and seems to deserve on those grounds alone a place on the stamps. If room could have been made for a fifth shield, why was the opportunity not taken to represent Hungary? If there was no room for more than four identifiable shields, why Croatia rather than Hungary? Maybe Croatia was included as an attempt by the Slovak State to boost the status of a new nation devoted to the German cause. I think we need to go deeper.

I suggested in my article various political reasons for not portraying other specific nations. I had written, for example, “Discord, conflict, or less than perfect unity within the Axis was not worthy of publicity.” Omitting Hungary, however,

achieved precisely the implication of discord. I propose (first) that once it had been decided by Vlček or the Slovakian postal administration that Croatia would be included on the stamps with the fourth shield, Hungary had to be excluded; it could not be permitted to occupy a possible fifth slot. Croatia was still licking its wounds as an ex-portion of the Kingdom of Hungary; it was one of the post-Trianon “lost territories,” from the Hungarian perspective. The idea begins to arise that Croatia was included, and more than four shields made design-wise impossible, precisely to eliminate the mere possibility of including Hungary.

Further (second), Slovakia was also a “lost territory”; its ancestors had experienced Hungarian rule for centuries. As another source of resentment, Slovakia had its southern pieces taken by Hungary through the First Vienna Award (November 2, 1938), including the jewel of Košice (Kassa to Hungarians). From its own perspective, Slovakia was unjustifiably a victim of the “Visszatért” irredentist reconstitution of Nagymagyarország (Great Hungary). The Slovak State had good reasons to ignore Hungary on the stamps and, as an extra benefit, to honor Croatia, a sister “lost territory.”

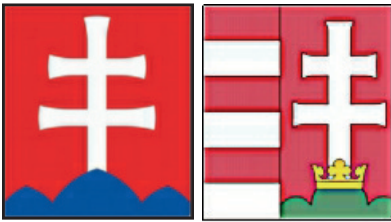


Figure 4: On the left is the Slovakia shield during the war, as shown on the Slovensko stamps. On the right is the crucial part of the shield of Hungary. Both shields have a Cross of Lorraine.

The shields are in different sizes because Hungary’s would have been placed somewhere behind Slovakia’s.

Suppose Hungary had been given either the fourth or a fifth slot in the coats of arms series. Then we would have seen on the stamps both the entire Slovak State coat of arms and part of the Hungarian coat of arms (a vision close to Fig. 4) – a genuine disaster, maybe from both the Slovak and Magyar perspectives. The three blue peaks on the Slovak State shield represent the Tatra, Matra, and Fatra mountain ranges. Hungary’s shield also displays, in green, the Tátra, Mátra, and Fáttra ranges. That difference is merely linguistic, not geographical. Pray tell, whose mountains are they? Note that the overlapping of the shields, which arrangement blocks out nearly half the Nazi

swastika, would have emphasized the mountain peaks on the *sinister* side of the Hungarian shield at the expense of the truncated *dexter* stripes. Also note that the Hungarian mountains would have been, as on the Slovakian shield, blue, on the 2Ks stamp. On the 70h stamp (see Fig. 1 in my original article, the mountains of both shields would have been green. It was already risky to choose green to color the 70h, thereby portraying the Slovakia mountains in the Hungarian manner. Perhaps the disaster is merely apparent. Associating these two shields on the same stamps may have been interpreted by observers as a display of Axis unity, a proclamation that its members can in adult, civilized fashion be reconciled as allies despite their strained historical relations. *Right.* Were Hungary to fulfill its dreams, it would capture Pozsony/Bratislava. Nyitra/Nitra, and march all the way to Zsolna/Žilina.

It emerged in my mind, finally, that the stamps were designed deliberately so that there would be no room for any countries beyond the four represented. The bet made by the Slovak State was that we would look at the stamps and think, “Hungary and the others are not represented because, simply, there wasn’t any room for them. End of story.” I’m pleased we didn’t fall into that trap.



## SLOVAKIA NEW ISSUES

by Keith Hart



Figure 1

1. On July 31, 2020 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a 1.55 € stamp to celebrate **125 Years of Public Transport in Bratislava** [Pofis SK 717]. The stamp illustrates a GANZ Eg 6 tram (Fig. 1) and was designed by Marián Komáček. It was produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. (THS) using multi-color offset and printed in sheets of 50. Mass public transportation had commenced in Bratislava (then known as Prešporok) in 1848, when the first omnibuses connected the center with other nearby neighborhoods and towns. By 1895 electric streetcar lines had become common in other major cities. On August 27, 1895 the first such line in the lands of Slovakia commenced operations on a short route that connected Štúrova Street to Štefánikova Street. The next important expansion was the Prešporok-Vienna route in 1914, which operated more like a railway line and connected the city with Vienna, just 35 miles (56 km) away. The GANZ Eg 6 tram was the vehicle used on this line. After 1918 when the city changed its name to Bratislava the area covered by services expanded rapidly and in 1927 the first buses were introduced on the M-Line. Public transport within the city now covers the newer suburbs across the Danube and continues to serve the inhabitants of the metropolitan city. The FDC cachet shows traffic in the area around central Bratislava in 1914 (Fig. 2) and the FDC cancellation shows a 1920s female figure leaning against a bus tire.



Figure 2

2. On August 21, 2020 the Ministry issued a 2.00 € stamp to illustrate the fight against the **COVID-19 Virus** [Pofis SK 718]. The stamp shows the face of a woman wearing a mask, surrounded by random images of the virus within a droplet cloud (Fig. 3) and has an ultra-violet image of a virus in the lower right corner. The stamp was designed by Karol Felix and produced by THS using multi-color offset combined with serigraphy in printing sheets of 25 self-adhesive



Figure 3

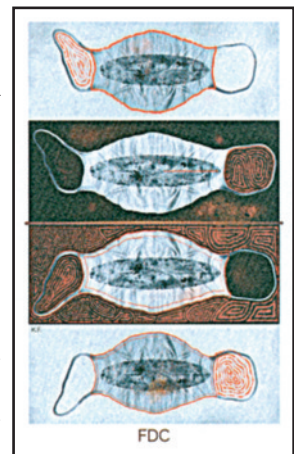


Figure 4



Figure 5

postponed until next year. 2020 also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slovak Paralympic Committee (SPV) and this issue now celebrates that. The person chosen to be the motif on the stamp is Veronika Vadovičová, who has already won three gold medals in the wheelchair shooting event and would have been in Tokyo seeking another win. The Paralympic Games have two events not included in the main Olympic program, boccia (similar to bocce) and goalball (for visually impaired players). The FDC cachet was engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and portrays a wheelchair boccia player (Fig. 6), while the FDC cancellation shows an archer. A collection sheet was issued on the same day.



Figure 6

4. On September 4, 2020 the Ministry issued a 1.00€ stamp in the series: **Splendors of Our Homeland – The Water Castle of Šimonovany** [Pofis SK 720]. The stamp shows the newly restored castle building (Fig. 7) and was designed and engraved by František Horniak. It was produced by THS using a combination of recessed printing from a flat plate and multi-color offset, in printing sheets



Figure 7



Figure 8

of eight. Once a small village, Šimonovany is now part of the town of Partizánske in Western Slovakia. Nestled in the Danubian Hills, it is located within a meandering loop of the River Nitra which provided it with the Water Castle designation. The small castle, with its impressive shield of embankments and ditches, has been a strategic guardian of an important trade route since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The current castle dates from 1426 when King Sigismund permitted the Simonyi family to rebuild an earlier bastion into a more defensive fortress. It was modified in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to give it a Romanticized Renaissance look and was used as a manor house from that time. Restoration commenced in 1985 and was completed in 2015. Today the castle is open to the

stamps. The cachet of the FDC illustrates four different masks (Fig. 4) and the cancellation represents the outline of a coronavirus cell.

3. On August 24, 2020 the Ministry issued a 1.55€ stamp to celebrate **The XVI Paralympic Games, Tokyo** [Pofis SK 719]. The stamp, designed by Igor Piačka, shows a paralympic marksman within the shape of a blossom from a Japanese Sakura Cherry tree (Fig. 5). It was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 24 self-adhesive stamps. The issue date should have been the first day of the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, now

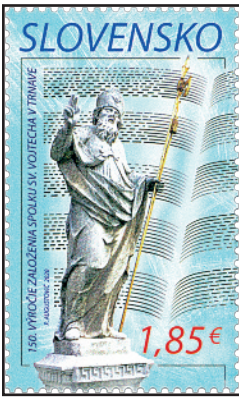


Figure 9

public and serves as a municipal museum and library. The FDC cachet illustrates the coat of arms of the Simonyi family (Fig. 8) and the FDC cancellation is a seal used by the Simonyi's. A Cartes Maximum was issued the same day.

5. On September 18, 2020 the Ministry issued a 1.55 € stamp to celebrate **The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of St. Adalbert's Society** [Pofis SK 721]. The stamp's design, by Peter Augustovič, shows a statue of the Saint which stands in front of St. Mikuláš church in Trnava, with a background of illegible text (Fig. 9), symbolizing the publishing history of the Society. It was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 10. St. Adalbert of Prague (known as St. Vojtech in Slovak culture) was born into the Slavnik family, one of the most

powerful families in 10<sup>th</sup> century Bohemia. After becoming a priest he became known for leading an austere life, despite his family's wealth. He was particularly interested in converting pagan Bohemians to the Catholic faith, a task that was largely unsuccessful. In 997 he led a mission into Prussia, again in an attempt to convert pagans there. This led to his murder by pagan forces. His body was returned to Gniezno in Poland where he was interred in the cathedral. St. Adalbert's Society came into being in Trnava, Slovakia in 1870. Its founder, Andrej Radlinský, had spent years trying to establish the society in a period where Slovak nationalism was opposed by the ruling Hungarian monarchy at a time of Magyarization, where all facets of Slovak language and culture were being eliminated. Approval for the Society was finally obtained, and its first meeting was held in September 1870. The Society suffered continual attempts to suppress its efforts to save Slovak culture and in particular in its attempts to publish books in the Slovak language. The continued persistence of the Society eventually led to Slovak textbooks being available in schools. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia it became somewhat easier to promote Slovak culture and in 1930 the Society created its own printing house. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Jozef Česla, shows a bust of Martin Kollár, an important supporter of the Society when it was first founded (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is an open book with the silhouette of a dove. A collection sheet was also issued the same day.

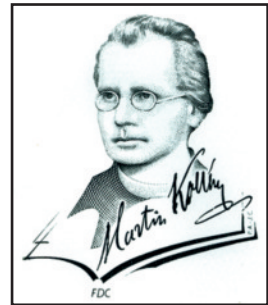


Figure 10



## CZECH REPUBLIC NEW ISSUES

by Keith Hart

1. On June 17, 2020 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative souvenir sheet celebrating the art of **Josef Liesler (1912-2005)**. The sheet [Pofis A1080], designed by Martin Srb, contains two copies of a stamp with a value



Figure 1

identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč), one copy of a stamp with a value identified by the letter “E” (39 Kč), and one copy of a stamp with a value identified by the letter “Z” (45 Kč) [Pofis 1078, 1079, 1080], all contained within a sheet accompanied by a facsimile of the artist’s signature (Fig. 1). It was produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. (THS) using multi-colored offset. Josef Liesler was a Czech painter, graphic artist and illustrator. He studied at the faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering of the Czech Technical University, Prague. Soon after graduating he joined the “Seven in October” group which, in extremely troubling and difficult times, tried to present works of art that presented the problems of society. His style was heavily influenced by the Surrealists, combining fantasy with interpretation of historical events. He became a prolific designer of Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps and postal cards, with nearly 100 designs to his name. His most celebrated

designs were two stamps for The International Hydrological Decade in 1974, which were honored by UNESCO as the Most Beautiful Stamps of the World from 1974.

The “B” value stamp portrays his graphic work *Jak se Vám líbím, když se šklebím* (How Do You Like Me, When I’m Grimacing) from 1985 and part of a private collection, which contains 17 self-portraits. The cachet of the FDC has the motif of part of Liesler’s work *Variace na staromistrovské téma I* (Variations on an Old Master theme I) (Fig. 2) and the FDC cancellation is a motif of one of the 17 self-portraits from the stamp itself.

The “E” value stamp depicts *Variace na staromistrovské téma I*, painted in 1977 and from the collections of the Prague City Gallery. The FDC cachet shows the central figure from the painting (Fig. 3) and the FDC cancellation is based on another one of the self-portraits shown on the “B” value stamp.

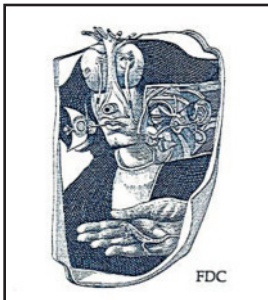


Figure 2

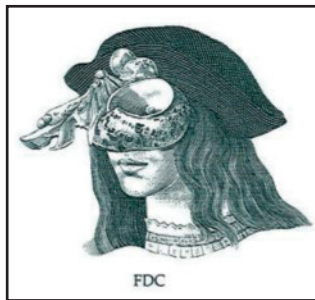


Figure 3

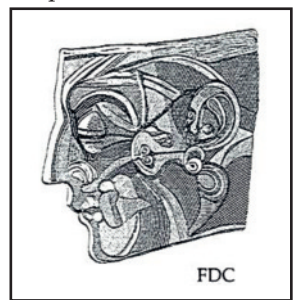


Figure 4

The “Z” value stamp portrays *Variace na staromistrovské téma II*, painted in 1978 and also from the collections of the Prague City Gallery. The cachet of the FDC has the motif of another face taken from the “E” value painting (Fig. 4) and the cancellation of the FDC is another face taken from the “B” value painting.

[Ed. note: For more detailed information about Josef Liesler’s work as a stamp designer refer to Ludvik Svoboda’s article in the *Czechoslovak Specialist*, May/June 2005, pages 29-33.]

2. On June 24, 2020 the Ministry issued two definitive stamps with a value identified by the letter “B” which offered appreciation and a **Thank You to the Frontline Workers** at the center of the fight against the COVID-19 virus [Pofis 1081, 1082]. The two stamps were designed by Filip Heyduk and produced by THS using multi-color offset and printed in a se-tenant fashion (Fig. 5), in sheets of 50. The groups are represented by facemasks decorated with images symbolizing their occupations and professions. The top left mask has a red cross to represent the medical professionals. The bottom left mask has the symbol of the Czech postal service, to honor all members of the postal services who transported and delivered essential supplies during the height of the crisis. The upper center mask (half of which is on each stamp) exemplifies the members of the armed forces and their reserves who were called upon to provide a vital backup role to the overstretched civilian services.

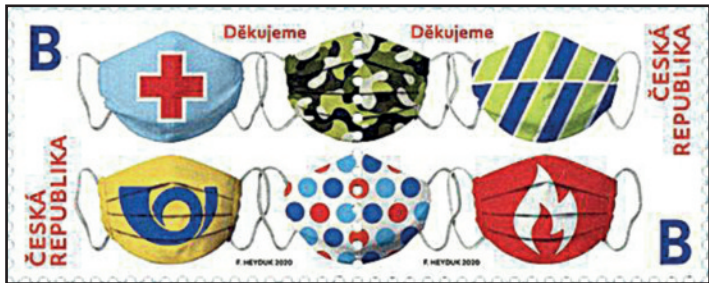


Figure 5

The polka dotted lower center mask (half of which is also on each stamp) represents workers in care homes, hospital orderlies, and hospital volunteers. The top right mask represents the various branches of the police forces, and the bottom right mask embodies the members of the paramedical and firefighter professions. Masks have become a symbol of our struggle against the invisible and easily transmitted virus. Also, ostensibly, a barrier separating us from the ‘normal’ life which we yearn for, but which may not return for some time.

3. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued two commemorative stamps to celebrate **Songbirds In Our Neighborhood** [Pofis 1083 and 1084]. Both stamps have a value identified by the letter “E”. They were designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek and produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50, containing 25 copies of each stamp. A Cartes Maximum for each stamp was issued the same day.

The first stamp has four depictions of members of the **Bunting** family (Fig. 6). The Corn Bunting, shown at the top of the stamp, is a bird that mainly inhabits the trees of



Figure 6



Figure 7

farmland. It is declining in numbers because modern farming practices have deprived it of its main food supply of seeds and insects. Its nests are built on the ground, another hazard to its continued existence. The left central figure is the Common Reed Bunting. Its habitat is usually wetland reedbeds and rushes, although it is also found in open moorland. Its olive-gray eggs take 12-15 days to incubate and usually 4-5 chicks are hatched. The right center bird is a Yellowhammer, the male easily recognized by its bright yellow head and underside. It inhabits semi-open areas with trees and shrubs. It has a cheerful song whose rhythm has in folklore been translated as “a little bit of bread and no cheese”. The lower figure is an Ortolan, a bunting whose range extends from the far north of Scandinavia to the southern edge of the Sahara desert. Although not thought of as endangered it has suffered a serious decline in France, because of its use as a specialty in French cuisine. This led to France imposing severe restrictions on trapping them. The digitally printed cachet of the FDC shows two nuthatches in a tree (Fig. 7) and the FDC cancellation depicts a flying bunting.

The second stamp has three examples of the Sparrow and Bushtit family (Fig. 8). The upper figure is a Long-Tailed Tit, a small timid bird, leading it to conceal itself in woodland, scrub and heathland areas. Its main source of food are the eggs and larvae of butterflies and moths. It is said that the lining of its nest contains over 2000 of its downy feathers. The central figure is the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, which has an extraordinarily large range, from the western edges of the British Isles to the westerly islands of Indonesia. Although its main habitat are wetlands, it is also frequently found on coastal cliffs and even abandoned buildings. The lower figure is the House Sparrow, one of the world’s most common birds. It can be found in urban areas throughout the world, having adapted well to living close to humans. Its nests can be in tree hollows, or the eaves of buildings. The 4-5 eggs hatch in 11-14 days and hatchlings can leave the nest in about two weeks, after which they immediately establish their own territory. The digitally printed FDC cachet depicts two wrens (Fig. 9) while the FDC cachet has two images of a long-tailed tit.



Figure 8

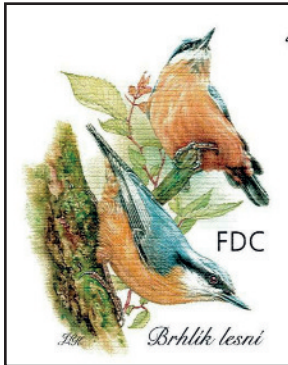


Figure 9

4. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet detailing **Ondřej Doule’s Space Architecture** [Pofis A1085]. The 54 Kč stamp, shows an Ondřej Doule drawing of a vehicle suitable for landing in a Martian environment (Mars Base 10), within a sheet designed by Otakar Karlas (Fig. 10). The sheet was produced by THS using multi-color offset and contains a single stamp. Ondřej Doule

(born 1978) graduated from the Architecture Faculty of the Czech Technical University and earned an M.Sc. in Space Management from the International Space University, Strasbourg, France, followed by a Ph.D. for Human-Centered Design at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). He is currently an Assistant Professor in Computer Engineering and Sciences at FIT where he founded and is director of their Human



Figure 10

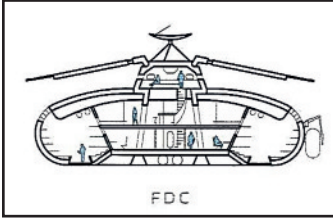


Fig. 11

Spaceflight Laboratory, which is home to an adaptive spaceship cockpit simulator. Through his own virtual studio, Space Innovations, he has become a noted expert in the architecture of space habitats for future planetary exploration. The digitally printed cachet for the FDC depicts a cross section of the Mars Base 10 (Fig. 11) and the FDC cancellation shows the base from above emphasizing its large solar panels.

5. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B”. The stamp celebrates **50 Years of the Banjo Band of Ivan Mládek** [Pofis 1086]. It shows Mládek’s painting *Jožin z bažin žere Pražáka* (Joey from the Swamp Eats Prague). It was designed by Jan Kavan and printed by THS using multi-color offset in a booklet containing 8 die-cut self-adhesive stamps (Fig. 12). The front of the booklet contains another Mládek artwork and the back has a Mládek self-portrait. During the 1970 Folk and Country Music Festival at Prague’s Lucerna Hall a group of musicians decided to get together and form a spontaneous band. To their surprise they were received enthusiastically, and this



Figure 12

led to further concerts, recording contracts, and television appearances. After a futile search for suitable composers, lyricists, and singers, Mládek ended up mostly doing everything himself, providing country-style songs with traces of Dixie, nearly always containing humorous lines and puns. The time this took thwarted his ambition to become the best banjo player in the world, as well as a painter of note. He settled for being a mere songwriter, singer, and entertainer.



Figure 13

adapted to be a light ground-attack aircraft. It was a cost-effective airplane with relatively simple avionics, which avoided high levels of maintenance. Its easiness to fly made it ideal to train inexperienced pilots. After the collapse of communism it quickly gained export markets throughout the world and attained sales of about 200 planes a year, before sales gradually declined. In 1996 production was halted after more than 2900 planes had been built. It lives on today as an aerobatic airplane frequently spotted at many airshows.

7. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B”. The stamp illustrates a facsimile of **Alfons Mucha’s Hradčany** series. It is produced as a miniature sheet [Pofis 1088], the design of which is the same as a sheet issued in 2018 to celebrate both the centenary of the founding of Czechoslovakia and PRAHA 2018. That sheet [Pofis 963] was designed by Kryštof Krejča. That design has now been reimagined by Jan Augusta (Fig. 14). The sheet has been produced by THS using multi-color offset in a printing sheet containing 9 stamps and 12 coupons. The coupons are also available to be filled with customer’s own content.

6. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B”. The stamp shows an **Aero L-39 Albatros** [Pofis 1087]. It was designed by Petr Ptáček (Fig. 13) and produced by THS using multi-color offset in sheets containing 40 self-adhesive stamps. The airplane is a high-performance subsonic jet trainer produced by a team led by Jan Vlček for Aero Vodochody. Its maiden flight was in 1969 and it quickly became the trainer of choice for the air forces of Warsaw Pact countries. It was also



Figure 14





Figure 15

**Postal Stationery**

8. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to commemorate **Trabant Across the Continents** [Pofis CDV192]. The imprinted stamp, the logo of the Sběratel Collector Fair, has a value identified by the letter “B”. The motif of the additional print, designed by Karel Cettl, shows several Trabants shakily traversing a bumpy road (Fig. 15). A yellow Trabant like this was the subject of a documentary series about the *Trabant Across the Continents* expedition. It was to be issued for the Spring Sběratel Collector’s Fair which was cancelled (as mentioned in item 4 of *Philatelic News and Views* in the Spring 2020 *Czechoslovak Specialist*). It has survived as a slightly amended

postal card which has mention of the postponement of its issue. The Sběratel Collectors Fair took place on September 11-12 this year. 3000 cards were issued.

9. On September 9, 2020 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to commemorate **Praga Piccola 2020** [Pofis CDV193]. The imprinted stamp, the logo of the Sběratel Collector Fair has a value identified by the letter “B”. The motif of the additional print is the logo of this year’s fair (Fig. 16), which was held at the PVA EXPO CENTER in Letňany, Prague on September 11-12, 2020. Praga Piccola is a section of the larger Czech-German Sběratel Collector Fair with a program designed to inspire younger members of the general public to become collectors, with displays of philatelic exhibits, as well as coins, banknotes, and medals. 3500 cards were issued.



Figure 16

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