



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,  
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## The Czecho-Slovak Specialist

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May, 1939

No. 1

### Hope Is Seen For Philatelic Future

There are a number of collectors and specialists who have signified their interest in our organization. They have, upon receipt of our invitation, answered with more or less lengthy letters—commenting and adding various suggestions. In this group there is a percentage of collectors whom we know to be nationally known, owning large collections, who have received top awards at various exposition and who have also done literary work.

We do not profess to know the singular reasons which up to now have kept them away, though we believe to know some. For instance they might think, that since Czech-Slovakia has ceased to exist as an independent country new issues will not be forthcoming. This belief of course cannot be contradicted, at least for some time to come.

Another belief probably is that, as was the case with Austria, prices will soon go skywards and make collecting therefore, very difficult.

True, shortly after the Austria crisis stamps of the country gained tremendously in prices, but since then prices have fallen steadily and in the end, with a few exceptions, will not be very much above the pre-crisis level.

Another belief which was advanced after the annexation of Austria by Germany, was that soon Austrian stamps would disappear in this country, since there would be no supply and the existing stocks soon exhausted.

Here the guess was absolutely wrong as most everybody knows. very large holdings were stored in this country and a steady stream of refugees and foreign dealers coming from various parts of the world are

bringing Austrian stamps to the United States.

It can definitely be assumed that a parallel case will occur with the stamps of Czecho-Slovakia. Admittedly prices will go up during the first months (this process has already begun) and certain desirable items will disappear for some time. This situation will only be shortlived. During the transition period, however, there will be no dearth of items in the middle brackets. Though also here naturally prices will go up, this will not be to a marked extent. Speculators, dealers and collector dealers who have holdings of rarities and specialized items, seeing that there is surprisingly little clamor for their property at fantastic prices, will slowly come out with their possessions and it would not be surprising at all if within one year stamps which had been missing from the market entirely, will suddenly reappear in large quantities, being offered at fair prices.

In the meantime, however, just as in the case with Austria, supplies will trickle into this country, brought over by refugees and visitors.—J.W.L.

#### PRESIDENT'S GREETING

I would like at this time to extend a warm greeting to all collectors of Czecho-Slovak stamps. I particularly welcome those collectors who have, in the interest of their hobby, joined with us in the creation of this newly formed Society.

The Society has at the present time a small membership, but an extremely interested and active one. The great enthusiasm, moreover, which has been manifested after the little publicity which attended the the birth

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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.
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## Notes From Your Editor

Welcome to the new look Czechoslovak Specialist. I hope that you like the enlarged page size, change of typeface and a slightly different approach to layout in some areas. It was mentally difficult to discard the traditional size after 82 years of publication. The illustration on page 1 is the cover of our very first issue from 1939. When you read the text of that first page, written by J.W. Lowey, you can see that the clouds of war were gathering over Europe. Lowey's positive belief that Czechoslovakia, that had just ceased to exist, would eventually return proved to be true. We all have to be as confident today that the dark cloud that the Covid virus has hovering over us at present will soon disperse.

As work on this issue progressed, I became more and more eager to see how it looked in the new format. I would like to hear any comments you would like to make. It is after all your journal, and if improvements can be accomplished I will make them.

As you know, 2020 was an extraordinary year for all the wrong reasons. When I left Sarasota last February for the trip back across country to Colorado, little did I imagine that this would be the only journey of any kind I would make in 2020. All of us had some disruption to our daily life, and who knows if everything we hold dear will return to the "normal" we desire.

Our friends in Prague and Bratislava who provide us with our philatelic materials had a rough year as well. Some issues were canceled, others postponed until this year and even some unexpected emissions found their way into our albums. The Czech Republic commemorative stamp for artist and illustrator, Kája Saudek, was

first slated for a November 2020 issue date. This was then moved forward to September, but never happened. Now it is scheduled for September of this year. Let us hope that it is third time lucky. On the Slovak side they stored their already printed Olympic stamp and it should finally be issued on April 15.

This year does look to be a bumper year for Czech stamps as you will see from the lengthy list in the New Issue Program included inside. Slovakia has its "normal" amount of newly issued stamps (around 23 each year), but there will be more miniature sheets than usual, according to its plan.

As far as stamp shows are concerned, we currently do not have any confirmed dates for the first major show to return, although the Garfield-Perry March Party in Cleveland is still on at present. I am keeping my fingers crossed about that. I am still fairly confident about BALPEX happening in September and hope to see members there. I really miss meeting up with members, friends and dealers at these meetings.



I hope that you, your families, and friends have remained healthy. With numbers of completed vaccinations accelerating as I write this, it is hoped that I can greet some of you with a fist or elbow bump later this year.

Best regards,  
Keith Hart

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	ARTICLE
3	<b>Notes From Your Editor</b> <i>by Keith Hart</i>
4	<b>The Liberated Republic Issue- Choice of Design</b> <i>by Keith Hart</i>
5	<b>Airmail Shipments from Slovakia During 1939-1945</b> <i>by Ing. Andrej Tekel'</i>
7	<b>Romanian Army Units in Slovakia During World War II</b> <i>by Richard G. Palaschak</i>
8	<b>Closed Albums - Karel Holoubek, Colin Spong, Charles E. Kern II</b>
10	<b>Philatelic News and Views</b>
10	<b>2021 SCP Board Election</b>
11	<b>Errors and Omissions</b>
12	<b>Czech Republic New Issue Program 2021</b>
13	<b>Czech Republic New Issues</b> <i>by Keith Hart</i>
18	<b>Slovakia New Issues</b> <i>by Keith Hart</i>
22	<b>Slovakia New Issue Program 2021</b>
23	<b>Available Publications</b>

## THE LIBERATED REPUBLIC ISSUE- CHOICE OF DESIGN

by Keith Hart

On June 18, 2020 it was the centenary of the issuance of the first of the iconic Liberated Republic Stamps, a 25h brown (Fig. 1). In the following two years 11 different stamps with 10 different values (there are two different color 50h stamps) were issued in enormous quantities – well over a billion. This of course makes them easily collectible today, as the majority can be obtained without spending a fortune. There are of course others in the series that are rare. This



Fig. 2. Unrealized draft of Liberated Republic stamp, 1<sup>st</sup> competition. Vratislav Brunner,



Fig. 3. Unrealized draft of Liberated Republic stamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> competition. Vratislav Brunner, black and white drawing 1919: Czech Postal Museum, Prague.

short article will show which design was chosen, using examples of sketches drawn by the designer finally chosen to perform the task of producing the stamps, Vladislav Hugo Brunner. His allegorical design shows a woman breaking the shackles that had held the Czech, Moravian and Slovak people captive for centuries. This led to the series becoming commonly known as “The Chainbreaker”.

A competition had been held in June 1919 to decide on the design, and Brunner had won this with a design extremely similar to the later accepted design. The main difference in this initial design was that to the left of the woman’s figure was the date of Czechoslovakia’s foundation, “19<sup>18</sup>18”. In this first version the background was comprised of horizontal lines (Fig. 2). For some reason, although Brunner’s design won the competition, it was never developed as the accepted design. A second competition was held, and Brunner this time submitted a completely different design. Brunner’s preparatory sketch for this second competition, couldn’t be more different. It shows the same woman, holding laurel wreaths, facing away towards Hradčany in the distance (Fig. 3). Although the final draft has not been seen, if indeed it was further developed, this would certainly have been a less dramatic and unappealing design.

The design was rejected and a third design competition was held. Brunner’s submission for this was an amended version of his first design. The date on the left side was replaced with the stamp value, and the background became a solid color (Fig. 4). This was the design that thankfully won the third competition and the rest is history.



Fig. 1. 25h Liberated Republic postal stamp: Czechoslovak Stamp Library by Mark Wilson.



Fig. 4. Final draft of Liberated Republic stamp, 3<sup>rd</sup> competition. Vratislav Brunner, black ink and white paint drawing 1920: Czech Postal Museum, Prague.

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2. *The Liberated Republic* by Vladimír Králíček: *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, October 1989, p.7. This is a translation of *Monografie II*, page 267.
3. *100 let 534 autori* by Martin Říha and Jan Kramář: Czech Postal Museum, 2018.

## AIRMAIL SHIPMENTS FROM SLOVAKIA DURING 1939-1945

by Ing. Andrej Tekel  
trans. by Lucie Harris  
(continued)

### The Transportation of Airmail Shipments to South America 1939-1941

The airmail shipments from Slovakia to South America were in the above mentioned period done by:

- 1) German airlines LUFTHANSA (catapult flights)
- 2) French airlines AIR FRANCE planes
- 3) Italian airlines Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane (LATI) planes

### The transportation by the German airlines LUFTHANSA (catapult flights)

In the 1930s the German airline Lufthansa did not have any airplanes capable of flying across the South Atlantic without the risk of disaster. This is why on this route they started to use seaplanes that would land in the middle of the ocean beside a seaplane tender. There they would refuel and be catapulted into the air for the second phase of the flight.

### Methods of transportation

Shipments to South America were transported by airplane from Germany to Bathurst in British Gambia, Africa. A seaplane then transported the shipments from Bathurst to Natal in Brazil. It would land at the seaplane tender *Westfalen* – which was replaced on August 17, 1934 by the ship *Schwabenland* and in May of 1936 by the *Ostmark*. From Natal, the shipments were transported by seaplanes of the Syndicat Condor

company. The first seaplane flight from Bathurst to Natal was on June 6, 1933.

Transportation of shipments by seaplane to South America was regular until August 31, 1939, when it was interrupted by the repercussions of World War II. Over the six years there were altogether 241 flights completed to South America. I show the flight route in table 9a.

### Rubber cancels

Shipments to South America do not have a rubber cancel confirming the use of catapulting. They only have a red circular cancel with the text DEUTSCHE LUFTPOST EUROPA-SUDAMERIKA with various differential letters or, as the case may be, a star. The rubber cancel with the letter “a” was used by the post office Berlin C2, the letters “b” and “c” by the post office Friedrichshafen, the letter “d” was used on board the airship Graf Zeppelin, the letter “e” was used by the post office Köln, and the rubber cancel with the “star” was used by the post office Stuttgart 9.

Transportation of airmail shipments from Czechoslovakia to South America in the time period between the wars was also provided by the German dirigible Graf Zeppelin LZ 127, and later by the Hindenburg LZ 129. The dirigible Hindenburg LZ 129 crashed while maneuvering for landing at Lakehurst, USA on May 6, 1937. Further flights by the dirigibles Hindenburg and Graf Zeppelin to South America were



Fig. 6 - Airmail post card sent 16.12.1939 from Bratislava to Montevideo, franking is 19 Ks. Charge of the post card is 1.50 Ks, the registry surcharge is 2.50 Ks, and the airmail surcharge is 15 Ks. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> LATI flight on the Rome – Rio de Janeiro route, 21.12.1939.

stopped (Czechoslovak Postal Bulletin VMPT c. 26/37), therefore shipments to South America transported by dirigible cannot exist after that date.

**Table 9a: Germany — South America, air route 191 DLH**

Wednesday	dep. Berlin	arr. Sunday
Thursday	dep. Frankfurt on Main	arr. Sunday
Thursday	dep. Marseille	arr. Sunday
Thursday	dep. Lisbon	arr. Sunday
Thursday	arr. Las Palmas	dep. Saturday
Friday	arr. Bathurst	dep. Saturday
Friday	arr. Natal	dep. Friday
Friday	arr. Pernambuco	dep. Friday
Saturday	arr. Bahia	dep. Friday
Saturday	arr. Rio de Janeiro	dep. Thursday
Sunday	arr. Santos	dep. Thursday
Sunday	arr. Florianopolis	dep. Thursday
Sunday	arr. Porto Alegre	dep. Thursday
Sunday	arr. Montevideo	dep. Thursday
Sunday	arr. Buenos Aires	dep. Thursday
Monday	arr. Mendoza	dep. Wednesday
Monday	arr. Santiago de Chile	dep. Wednesday

#### The transportation by the planes of the French airline AIR FRANCE

The first flight from Saint Louis, in today's Senegal, to Natal in Brazil took place on May 12, 1930 by French pilot Jean Mermoz. AIR FRANCE started regular airmail flights between both continents in the second half of the 1930s. In 1934 irregular postal flights occurred, from 1935 the mail was transported both by airplane and fast mail ships, and from 1936 there were regular flights.

#### Methods of transportation

French planes could traverse the South Atlantic ocean without a refueling stop. The flight route used was slightly different from that taken by the German airline LUFTHANSA. For comparison, I am showing the flight routes used by the French airline AIR FRANCE and the German airline LUFTHANSA as it is shown in the Overview of Airmail Transportation in 1938 (see Table 9b).

#### Rubber cancels

The French airline – except with rare exception – did not use any specific rubber cancel for the transportation of airmail shipments to South America. In fact the airline's airmail envelopes with promotional text were mostly used for this transportation.

Transportation of airmail shipments to South America by the airplanes of the French airline AIR FRANCE stopped once France surrendered to Nazi Germany in June of 1940.

**Table 9b: France — South America,  
air route 492 AIR FRANCE**

Sunday	dep. Paris	arr. Wednesday
Sunday	dep. Marseille	arr. Wednesday
Sunday	dep. Toulouse	arr. Wednesday
Sunday	arr. Barcelona	dep. Wednesday
Sunday	arr. Casablanca	dep. Wednesday
Monday	arr. Dakar	dep. Tuesday
Monday	arr. Natal	dep. Monday
Tuesday	arr. Pernambuco	dep. Monday
Tuesday	arr. Bahia	dep. Sunday
Tuesday	arr. Caravelas	dep. Sunday
Tuesday	arr. Rio de Janeiro	dep. Sunday
Wednesday	arr. Florianopolis	dep. Sunday
Wednesday	arr. Porto Alegre	dep. Sunday
Wednesday	arr. Buenos Aires	dep. Sunday
Wednesday	arr. Montevideo	dep. Sunday
Thursday	arr. Mendoza	dep. Saturday
Thursday	arr. Santiago de Chile	dep. Saturday
Thursday	arr. Lima	dep. Saturday

#### The transportation by the planes of the Italian airline LATI

The first flight by the Italian airline Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane LATI took place on the route: Rome – Rio de Janeiro on December 21, 1939. The route was as follows: Rome – Sevilla – Villa Cisneros (Spanish Sahara, nowadays Ad Dakhla) – Sal (Cape Verde) – Natal – Recife – Rio de Janeiro.

As a result of the wartime situation, airmail shipments to South America were stopped in December 1941.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all who were willing to let me look through the airmail postal stationery from their collections and allowed me to take photocopies of interesting documents, namely M. Bachratý of Bratislava, Dr. D. Kunc from Bratislava, and P.H. Jensen from Norway.

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[Ed. note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of the second part of a pull-out section of *Letecká Pošta na Slovensku 1939-1945* by Ing. Andrej Tekeľ from Filatelie 8/1997 with permission of the author and editor.]



## ROMANIAN ARMY UNITS IN SLOVAKIA DURING WORLD WAR II

by Richard G. Palaschak

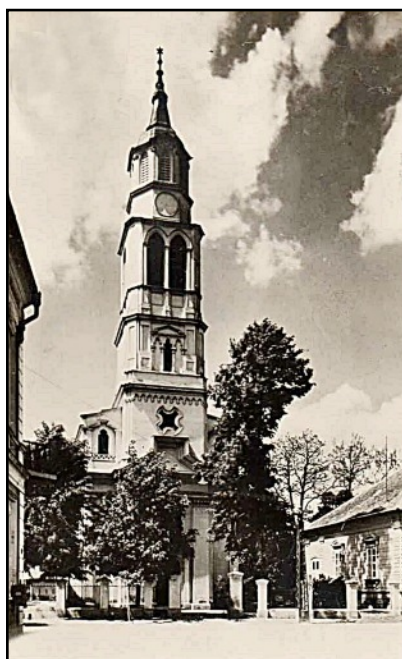


Fig. 1

The photo postal card at Figure 1 shows the Evangelical church in Rimaszombat (Rimavská Sobota in today's Slovakia). The area around Rimaszombat had been ceded to Hungary in 1939 as part of the First Vienna Award, hence the Hungarian name of the town was in use during World War II.

The card was cancelled on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1945 with a Romanian military field post cancellation, and was received in Bucharest on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1945 (Figure 2).

The sender of the card was from the 15<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division (Infantry), 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps, 4<sup>th</sup> Romanian Army. These units were part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Front of the Soviet Army that was attacking through the southeastern part of present day Slovakia.

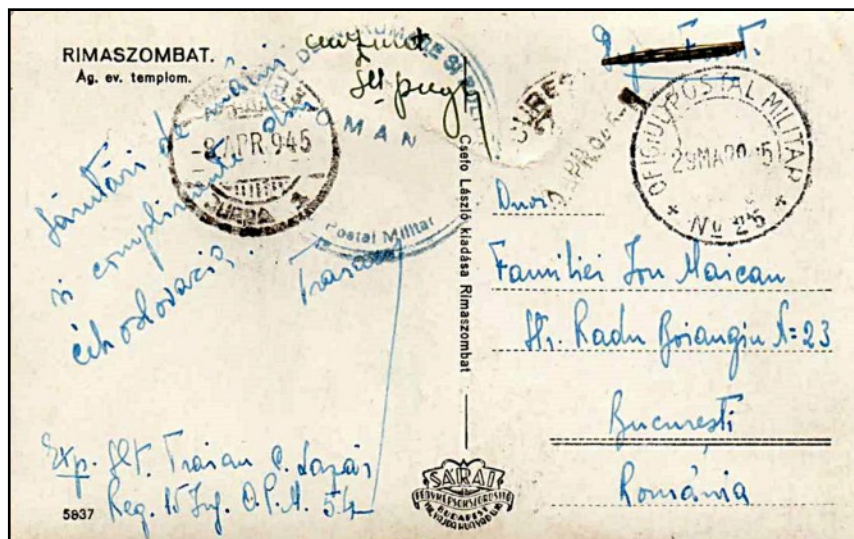


Fig. 2

How did Romanian Army units end up fighting in Slovakia alongside the Soviet military? Early in World War II the Romanian Land Forces had fought as part of German Army Group B in the Ukraine, Crimea, and the Caucasus.

In late 1944 Romania changed sides and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1944

Romania signed an Armistice Agreement with the Soviet Union in Moscow. Subsequently, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Romanian Armies, comprised of 12 Infantry and 3 Cavalry Divisions, fought alongside Soviet units<sup>1</sup>. This sequence of historical events led to the interesting postal history reflected in the postal card in Figures 1 and 2.

### Reference:

1. Wikipedia:- [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth\\_Army\\_\(Romania\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Army_(Romania)).

## CLOSED ALBUMS

### Karel Holoubek

6 June 1926 — 4 November 2020

Karel passed away in his sleep surrounded by his family, 4 November 2020, at the age of 94.

Karel was born in Nový Bydžov, East Bohemia, where his father worked as an accountant in a textile factory. They had a house on the town square where they opened a haberdashery and textiles shop. During WW II, Karel was trained in the family shop, and later he attended a school for window dressers in Prague. He was a member of the boy scouts, an amateur theater group, and a folk dance group.

After WW II when the communists seized power, the family was forced to close the shop. Karel then worked for a state owned textile chain as a window dresser and travelled to various shops. Then for a few years he had to work in a sugar refinery and on a suction dredger ship to “improve” his political background. Returning to being a traveling window dresser, he met Miroslava, a pharmacy lab assistant, whom he married in 1956. They had two sons — Karel Jr. and Ivan. They moved to Hradec Králové in 1972 where Karel worked for a grocery store chain “Prámen” until retirement in 1988 as the head of the advertising department. Retirement gave him time for his hobbies — philately and gardening. Like many families of their era, they had a garden patch near the house where they planted vegetables and bred rabbits.

After Miroslava died in 2008, he became a “full time” philatelist. He wrote and had published many philatelic articles on various subjects both in the Czech Republic and the US. If you check the Interactive Index of our Specialist journal, you will find about 33 articles of his that were translated and published here that ranged over a variety of subjects. If I had to recommend one of these to you, it would be “The Defacing Overprints of May 1945” in the Sep/Oct 1999 issue. It gives an excellent overview of the revolutionary overprints of 1944-45. From a philatelic point of view his biggest passion was these revolutionary overprints. He published a large monograph on this subject, which was translated and revised later by Bob Hill of the CPSGB (Monograph #25, Compendium of 1944-1945 Liberation Overprints). This is an amazing 305 page monograph that pictures and provides information on all of the known liberation overprints. He contacted all of the people still alive who were involved in the conception, design, and production of each of these overprints, what they were made of, and how they were produced with emotional and patriotic intent. Many of them provided intimate and personal details about the difficulties and dangers they faced in producing these devices to deface the image of Hitler on mail shipments and to announce to everyone that they were to be free again.

He was a member of the Society of Postal History, editor of a specialized philatelic magazine — which he prepared at home — and a member of many executive boards of the Czech philatelic association SČF. He also had a collection of the Hradčany. He collaborated a great deal with Vladimír Markus, a Vienna-based Czech and our late member Sam Horvath, a Wisconsin-based Czech.

I was very fortunate to correspond with Karel over the years, to meet and speak with him during stamp exhibitions in the Czech Republic, and to actually have several home visits with him in Hradec Králové. He was a true gentleman and always very helpful. The philatelic world has lost one of its true champions. He is survived by three grandchildren — Jan, Kamila, and Martin, and great-grandson Jiří. — *Ludvik Z. Svoboda*

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### Colin Spong

Colin, age 90, died peacefully at his home in Worthing, Sussex on January 2, 2021. He is survived by Pat, his wife of more than 60 years. Colin joined the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain in 1974. He was honorary editor of their journal *Czechout* for 16 years and also joint editor for four years. He was chairman of the Society for three years and Life President for the last 10 years of his life. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Known for his exhibits of Slovak philately, he will be remembered for the help and encouragement he always readily gave. — *CPSGB Newsletter, 3 January 2021*



## Charles E. Kern II

### 8 March 1934 – 23 August 2020

Charles Everett Kern II passed away peacefully on August 23, 2020 at the age of 86, at home in hospice care surrounded by his wife of 57 years, Montague Levering Kern, and his loving family.

He was born in the District on March 8, 1934 and spent his entire life there. He attended Princeton University, class of 1956, and Yale University Law School, class of 1961. Between 1956 and 1958, he served in the US Army in Frankfurt, Germany. He chose a career in public service “going up to the hill” in 1971 to work as a staff attorney in Congress, first on the Senate side and then in the US House of Representatives. He specialized in antitrust law and was proud of his role in helping to break up the AT&T monopoly on telecommunications.

Charles Kern was many things: a brilliant mind and generous heart, a champion of economic justice, and always “fighting for the little guy”. He was active in many organizations – the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of DC, the Washington Numismatic Society, and the National Press Club. Famously, he was fascinated by all things Czech and Slovak, and while he was not Czech, he was active in the Embassy community and had perhaps the largest collection of Czech literature in English translation this side of Prague. This library will be donated to the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as the Charles Everett Kern II Collection.

Our member Richard Palaschak writes – Charlie was not of Czechoslovak heritage. Somehow, through the influence of his friends and colleagues, Charlie became a member of our Society [in August 1992 as member #1614] and participated in the local gatherings of our Society’s members. He was an avid conversationalist at those meetings and an equally avid consumer of Czech and Slovak desserts at those gatherings, some of which occurred at (my) home. He was a most gracious and generous individual. His extensive collection of maps, combined with his generous spirit, provided key assistance to me personally as I researched details surrounding the Czechoslovak government in exile and the associated Czechoslovak military forces during WWII. When he and Montague hosted one particular meeting at their home, he proudly provided a tour of his very extensive basement collection of books and maps. When I asked him if he had read all of them, he, without a hint of hubris, replied “most of them”. Sadly, most of the local Society members who actively participated in those gatherings (Dick Major, Jay Carrigan, Henry Hahn, Jerry Verner, John Pojeta) have passed away. I’m sure that they will all be waiting to greet him.

Charlie is survived by his wife Montague, three sons – Christopher, Alexander, Deane, and many other beloved family members. He was first and always, a family man.

– Ludvik Z. Svoboda and Richard G. Palaschak

## 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:*

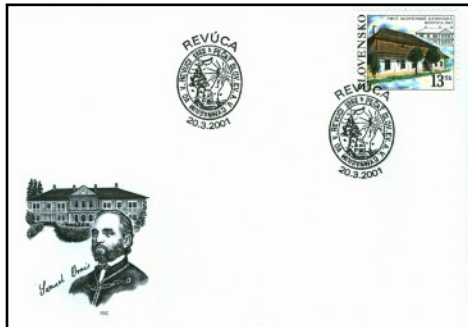
***Wes Learned***  
***P.O. Box 802***  
***Powell, WY 82435-0802.***

## PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

### From Keith Hart

1. How quickly the yearly circuit of stamp shows returns is still not known. Your Society is extremely hopeful that we will be at **BALPEX 2021** on September 3-5 for our annual convention and Board meeting. Details are still awaited and prospectus and entry forms for exhibits should be available online by the time this journal reaches you. The show's website is [www.balpex.org/prospects.html](http://www.balpex.org/prospects.html).

2. I have discovered what appears to be an undetected error on a Slovak FDC. At least not mentioned in any literature I have found, in English or Slovak. The FDC in question is part of a set of three issued in 2002 to celebrate **The First Slovak High Schools**. The 13 Sk stamp [Pofis SK 260] from this set honors the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first Slovak school (or gymnasium) of this type which is situated in Revúca. The stamp and FDC were issued on March 20, 2002, but the cancellation is clearly noted as 20.3.2001, exactly one year off. The other two FDCs from this set do have the correct date on the cancellation. Other illustrated examples of this cover found in catalogs and the Slovak Pofis website always have the incorrect date on. Six thousand covers were issued and it appears likely that all were printed with



the incorrect date. From this I would guess that the only examples worth considerably more than the 2€ mentioned in the *Zberateľ 1993-2017 Slovakia* catalog would be those with the correct date on. I somehow doubt that there are any out there but I could of course be wrong.

3. In the Czech New Issues section in this journal you will see that four of the stamps have reference to the **Prestige Philately Club Prague** on the stamp. It would seem that they sponsored these issues in some way. Perhaps they should be considered "My Own Stamps" which are available for advertising purposes. Members of the club have to be "personalities who are important for the present and future of philately, especially for its prestigious aspect, from the Czech Republic or Slovakia, but also from other countries, as well as institutions". The number of members is limited to 50 (at present there are 29). Our own sadly departed friend, Jiří Majer, was a member before his death. Clearly

your humble editor is nothing like prestigious enough to be a member. They held an exhibition – *Biennale 2020, Treasures of World Philately* – last December. You can see details of the exhibits, together with information about the club at [www.ppcp.cz/en](http://www.ppcp.cz/en).

4. Just three weeks before our planned meeting at BALPEX the **APS Great American Stamp Show** will be held in Rosemont, IL from August 12-15, 2021. More details for this show will be available in our next issue.

5. It is always interesting to learn about the history behind a stamp issue. **Sir Nicholas Winton**, on his own secret initiative, evacuated 669 Czechoslovak Jewish children to England just prior to the start of WWII. In 2015 the Czech Republic issued a stamp celebrating his life (Pofis 860, Scott 3647). The UK also issued a stamp. A documentary about this story, *Nicky's Family*, can be found on Amazon Prime, also online. Thanks to member Tim Shea for informing me about this fascinating and dramatic film, which reveals the fears of the Jewish families during this period, and Winton's incredible feat of arranging this unlikely escape to safety.

6. Jerry Hejduk from the **Perfin Study Group** informs me that after reviewing early Czech perfin documents they are now assessing which might be worthy of obtaining an English translation. Another update will be given as soon as more information is available.

7. We regret to report that our member **Edward J. Nyberg, Jr.** died on October 8, 2020. Our deepest sympathies are sent to his wife, Elaine, and his extended family.



## 2021 SCP BOARD ELECTION

At the monthly Zoom meeting of the Board held on January 18, 2021 our Membership Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, announced that only four nominations for the four vacant positions had been received.

The nominated candidates were the four Board members whose term was ending – Marisa Galitz, John Grabowski, Keith Hart, and Richard Palaschak. All four consented that they would be prepared to serve another term.

The Board voted on a proposal to accept these nominees and it was passed unanimously. President Svoboda agreed that this vote certified that the four candidates were accepted for another six year term as members of the Board of Directors for the SCP.

## Errors and Omissions

1. In the Summer 2020 *Specialist's* article on **The Hussite issue of 1920**, I wrote that Jan Hus was excommunicated by Pope John XXIII during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Clearly an error as that particular Pope was alive and well in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There was a schism within the Catholic church during the 15<sup>th</sup> century, during which time two different Popes were recognized by the separate factions. The Pope who excommunicated Jan Hus should have been correctly identified as Antipope John XXIII. Thank you Bill Slaninko for being the first (of many) to advise me of that error.

2. There were several regrettable errors in **The 1942 Slovenský Štát Postal Congress Stamps: Solving The Problems** article in the Fall 2020 *Specialist*, which itself was an update of an article in the Winter 2020 issue. First of all, in the preface to the article, instead of Rex Dixon, I described our dear British colleague as 'Reg Dixon' by mistake. I apologize to Rex for this dreadful error.

At the end of that same preface "Figure 1" should have in fact been "Figure 2". Next, on p.32 there is a parentheses that goes on and on without end. Should have been "... (see Fig. 1 in my original article) ...".

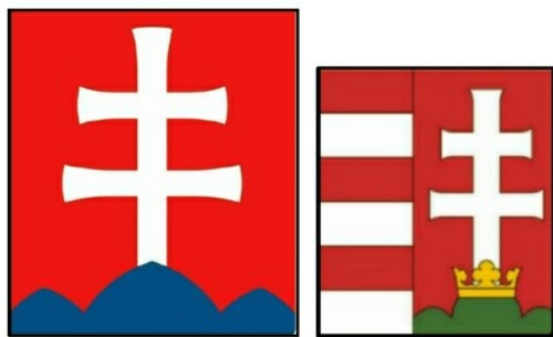


Fig. 4: On the left is the Slovakia shield and on the right the crucial part of Hungary's shield. Both shields have a Cross of Lorraine. Their different sizes reflect how Hungary's would appear placed behind Slovakia's on the stamp.

Another error occurred in Figure 4. The two shields should have shown the right hand one slightly smaller in size to show how it could have looked on the receding shields on the stamp. My apologies to author Alan Soble for these errors.

3. There are two errors in the **1918 Austria Free Frank – Czech Scout Post Covers To The National Council** article in the Fall 2020 *Specialist*. First the image

for Figure 1 was unfortunately cropped so that Karásek's expert mark on the right edge cannot be seen. As this was mentioned in the text on the next page it might have led readers to wonder where in fact this mark was on the cover. Secondly, on page 26, line 3 there is an error in the reference to Rössler-Ořovský's monogram. The intention was to show that the monogrammed initials "Ry" come from the first and last letters of his name Rössler-Ořovský." My humble apologies to Frederick Lawrence for my errors to his excellent article.

4. At the end of the **Additional Identifying Characteristics For Printings Of The 3 Haler Hradčany**, I had incorrectly attributed this article as being first published in *Czechout*, whereas it was actually an original publication for the Fall 2020 *Specialist*. Thank you to author Robert Lauer for pointing this out to me.

### 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 new 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

## CZECH REPUBLIC NEW ISSUE PROGRAM 2021

### Postage Stamps

Date	Item	Layout	Value Kč	Other Items
1/20/21	Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Václav Zapadlík	TL	B	ZZ, 4k
1/20/21	Definitive stamp: Census	TL	B	
1/20/21	Definitive stamp: Carnival (Masopust)	TL	B	ZZ, 4k
2/9/21	Personalities: Josef Masopust	TL	19	
2/9/21	Beauties of Our Country: Milotice by Kyjov State Chateau	MS	23	
2/15/21	Joint issue with Slovakia, Poland & Hungary: 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Visegrád Group (V4)	MS	E	
2/15/21	Definitive stamp: Orange Tip Butterfly	TL	1	
3/24/21	Technical Monuments: Negrelli Viaduct	TL	B	ZZ, 4k
3/24/21	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Bohumil Zemánek	MS	30	
3/24/21	First football derby: AC Sparta v SK Slavia	TL	2xB	ST
3/24/21	Definitive stamp with blank coupons: The Dancing House	TL	B	k
4/21/21	EUROPA 2021: Endangered Wild Cat	MS	E	
4/21/21	Rare rock formations	TL	23	
4/21/21	Definitive stamp with blank coupons: Regional Tourism	TL	B	k
5/19/21	Personalities: Gustav Brom	TL	27	
5/19/21	Ramsar Convention: Wetlands of National Importance	TL	Z	
6/9/21	Czech design: Bořek Šípek	MS	E	
6/9/21	Beauties of Our Country: Jezeří State Castle	UTL	26, 27	
6/23/21	Josef Lada's <i>Tomcat Mikeš</i>	MS	55	
6/23/21	<i>Slovácký</i> Year of Folk Traditions	TL	B	
9/8/21	Nature Protection: Milovice Nature Reserve	MS	23, 26, 27, 30	CM
9/8/21	Kája Saudek	MS	30, 34	
9/8/21	EXPO 2021 Dubai	MS	Z	
9/8/21	Definitive stamp with blank coupons: Wedding	TL	B	K
9/8/21	Definitive stamp: Young animals	ZZ	B	
10/6/21	Czech actors: Jiřina Šejbalová and Bohumil Záhorský	MS	27, 33	
10/6/21	Definitive stamp: World in Circles	ZZ	B	
10/20/21	Definitive stamp: Christmas	TL	B	
10/20/21	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: František Ronovský	MS	33	
10/20/21	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Theodor Pištěk	MS	33	
11/10/21	Karel Stýblo: vaccine against tuberculosis	TL	26	
11/10/21	Personalities: Jan Kotěra	MS	47	2k
11/10/21	Saint Ludmila	MS	54	
11/10/21	Joint issue with Israel: TGM in Israel	TL	Z	

**LEGEND:** CM – Cartes Maximum; k – coupon; MS – miniature sheet; ST – se-tenant of two different stamps; TL – sheet; UTL – sheetlet; ZZ – self-adhesive stamp booklet

## CZECH REPUBLIC NEW ISSUES

by Keith Hart

1. On September 23, 2020 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč). The stamp is from the series **Stamp on a Stamp: The Printing Error on the 50/50 Doplait Stamps** [Pofis 1089]. The stamp has a facsimile of the 1928 overprinted 50h “Chainbreaker” stamp (Fig. 1). Graphic design was by Kamil Knotek and it was produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o (THS) using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. The original *Osvobozená Republika* (*Liberated Republic* or *Chainbreaker*) stamps were issued as a definitive set of 11 stamps in 1920. In 1928 the Czechoslovak Postal Service decided to use up some surplus stamps for postage due mail and seven values of these stamps were overprinted. The red 150h stamp was one of the values chosen. As the 50h stamps were also red, one sheet was incorrectly (or possibly deliberately) overprinted as well but undetected until postally used versions were discovered by collectors. Only 17 examples of this overprint are known, all of which can be traced back to the Praha 14 post office in Hološovice.



Fig. 1

2. On September 23, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “E” (39 Kč). The stamp is from the series **Stamp on a Stamp: The Red Mercury** [Pofis 1090]. The stamp has a facsimile of the red (or scarlet) Austrian newspaper stamp (Fig. 2). Graphic design was by Kamil Knotek and it was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. Austria’s newspaper stamps, known as the *Mercury* stamps, first appeared in 1851. They were the first newspaper stamps to be issued in the Czech lands. The stamps, designed and engraved by Josef



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Axmann, were not denominated, the color indicating the value. They depict a profile of the Roman messenger god *Mercury*, framed with the text “ZEITUNGS – POST – STÄMPEL – K.K.” The stamps are found with many color shadings. This particular stamp is the rarest of the *Mercury* stamps. They were glued to tape used to frank a bundle of 10 newspapers. The tape was usually torn and discarded after delivery, which makes this stamp one of the rarest, and most expensive stamps in the world.

3. On September 23, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative sheet to celebrate **Treasures of World Philately**. The sheet [Pofis VZ TL0106] contains a stamp with a value identified by the letter “A” (26 Kč) and another stamp identified by the letter “Z” (45 Kč). Graphic designer is unknown and the sheet was produced by THS using multi-color offset with 13 copies

of the “A” value stamp and 12 copies of the “Z” stamp (Fig. 3). This sheet, together with the previous two issues, are published to mark **Biennale 2020** organized by **The Prestige Philately Club Prague** and was due to take place during November 2020 at the National Museum, but was postponed and held for 10 days in December. The “A” value stamp shows the **1919 4K yellow-green Czechoslovak Post 1919** Austrian stamp on granite paper overprinted with *POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ*. The stamp shown belongs to the Czech Postal Museum. The “Z” value stamp illustrates the famous **1d Red Mauritius** stamp, the rarity of which lies in the extreme scarcity of these stamps inscribed with *POST OFFICE* on the left side. At present only 14 specimens are known (2 mint and 12 postally used). A similar sheet to this, featuring four other early Czechoslovak stamps with an “A” value was issued at the show, either through entrance or purchase of the show catalog.

4. On October 7, 2020 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **Czech Actors: Jiří Sovák and Vlastimil Brodský** [Pofis 1091 and 1092]. The sheet celebrates the centenary of both actors’ birth and contains a 30 Kč stamp and also a 34 Kč stamp which are shown with a background of



Fig. 4

film reels of the two actors, a vignette of each actor in roles they are famous for, and the statue of an angel from the roof of the Vinohrady Theater (Fig. 4). The sheet was designed by Eva Hašková and Jan Maget, produced by THS using multi-color offset. The 30 Kč stamp shows **Jiří Sovák** (1920-2000) holding a kitten. Born into an innkeeper’s family, his first job was a barman, but his dream was to become an actor and after joining an amateur group he eventually became a professional actor with several



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

companies, leading to engagements at the National Theater. He was also a prolific actor in film, having more than 140 movie credits. His autobiography is titled *I’m Already Weird or Life With a Cat*, which perhaps explains the kitten. The FDC cachet is a strip of film with images of the actor’s face, shaped into the letter S (Fig. 5), and the cancellation is another image of his face. The 34 Kč stamp depicts **Vlastimil Brodský** (1920-2002) with his dachshund Hugo. He had an extremely long career of more than 300 roles in theater, television and film.

Perhaps his most famous roles were in the heartbreaking film about the Terezín ghetto, *Transport from Paradise* (1963), and more happily in *Capricious Summer* (1968). The cachet of the FDC shows facial portraits on a strip of film shaped into the letter B (Fig. 6), and the cancellation is another sketch of his face. **This stamp was originally printed with an error.** His date of death in the top left corner was listed as 2008, not the correct 2002. The printer solved this problem by placing a hologram in that corner,

obscuring the entire date. The mistake can be observed by looking at the stamp from behind against a light, where you can clearly see the covered “1920 2008.”

5. On October 7, 2020 the Ministry issued two definitive stamps depicting **Butterflies**. They were designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek and produced by THS using multi-colored offset in printing sheets of 100. The 2 Kč stamp [Pofis 1093] illustrates a male **Common Blue Butterfly** (Fig. 7) with its distinctive blue color and wings edged in black with a white fringe. The female is a brownish color, dusted with blue, and has orange spots on the wing edges. It is one of the most common butterflies in Europe, inhabiting grassy fields and open wooded areas. The 4 Kč stamp [Pofis 1094] portrays a male **Clouded Yellow Butterfly** (Fig. 8) with its gold to orange yellow color, black wing margins, and black spots on its forewings. The female has a more lemony color, its wings having multiple spots. This migratory butterfly is not commonly found in the Czech Republic, more usually found in Southern Europe in both open countryside and coastal cliffs. [Ed. note: The graphic model for these stamps harks back to a Jiří Švengsbír designed set of butterflies from 1966 [Pofis 1526-31, Scott 1391-96].



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

6. On October 21, 2020 the Ministry issued a stamp booklet containing a definitive stamp [Pofis 1095] with the value identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč). The booklet showcases **Vehicles 2020 – Specialist Racing Cars** (Fig. 9). The stamp, designed by Petr Ptáček, features an Aero 750 Sport Coupé, a classic racing car. The booklet was produced by THS using multi-color offset with 10 die-cut self-adhesive stamps separated by a serrated cut. The featured car was built in 1934 by Oldřich Uhlík in the Prague suburb of Strašnice. The aerodynamic car had a glass roof and was constructed for the Czechoslovak 1000 Miles race. Due to manufacturing delays it was delivered to driver Otto Nimshaus and his crew only three days before the start. There was little time to test it and discover any possible

deficiencies. The car proved to be insufficiently equipped and prepared for the grueling race and they had to abandon it midway through. The car could be seen at various automobile events for another two years before it disappeared, not to be seen for 45 years until the body of the car was discovered in Košice. Lovingly restored over an additional 35 years, it hit the road again in 2015 and can be spotted at veteran races.

7. On October 21, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive **Christmas 2020 – Josef Lada** stamp [Pofis 1096] identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč). The stamp’s theme is the nativity, illustrated by a painting called *The Holy Night* by Josef Lada (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10

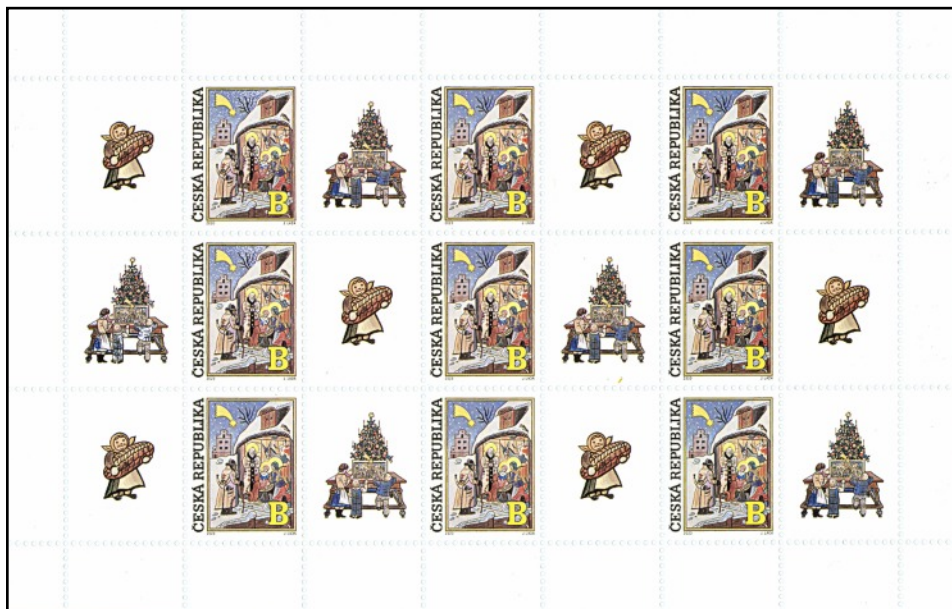


Fig. 11

Graphic design was by Pavel Hrach and it was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. Lada (1887-1957) was a cartoonist, illustrator and author. He was most famous for his illustrations for Jaroslav Hašek's World War I novel *The Good Soldier Švejk*. This book contains nearly 600 illustrations. The stamp was also issued as a special sheet [Pofis 1097] containing 9 stamps and 12 coupons (Fig. 11). The two different coupons were also designed

by Josef Lada: children around a Christmas tree, and a girl carrying an enormous Vánočka (Christmas cake). This sheet was also available for personalization of the coupons. [Ed. note: Other stamps designed by Lada are a set from 1970 [Pofis 1823-1826, Scott 1681-84], a painting in the Art series from 1987 [Pofis 2820, Scott 2681], and three illustrations from *The Good Soldier Švejk* in 1997 [Pofis 153-155, Scott 3019-21].

8. On November 11, 2020 the Ministry issued a 33 Kč stamp in the series **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Grigorij A. Musatov** [Pofis 1098]. The stamp illustrates his 1931 painting *Skok* (*Jump*), from the Moravian Gallery in Brno. It features a shadowy figure falling into a fog (Fig. 12). Graphic design was by Kamil Knotek and it was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 4 with a blank central coupon. Musatov (1889-1941) was born into an artistic family in Buzuluk, Russia. Following the Russian Revolution he traveled to Vladivostok, managed to obtain transport on a ship filled with Legionnaires, arriving in Czechoslovakia in 1920. His works were generally atmospheric landscapes and nostalgic scenes of everyday life from pre-Revolutionary Russia. His later works reflected his anxiety caused by the rapid spread of Fascism in Europe. The extreme disquiet caused by the Nazi invasion of Russia triggered the heart attack from which he died. The digitally printed FDC cachet is a self-portrait (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is a facsimile of his signature.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

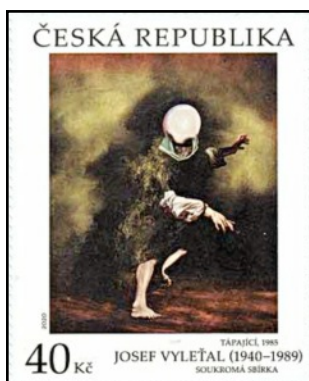


Fig. 14

9. On November 11, 2020 the Ministry issued a 40 Kč stamp in the series **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Josef Vyleťal** [Pofis 1099]. The stamp depicts his 1985 painting *Tápající* (*Groping*), from a private collection. It portrays a faceless person feeling their way into the unknown (Fig. 14). Graphic design was by Kamil Knotek and it was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 4 with a blank central coupon. Besides being an influential painter Josef Vyleťal (1940-1989) also designed and painted theater sets, created over 100 movie posters, and painted murals. His rather macabre surrealist style



is always deliberately disturbing to the viewer. During his tragically short lifetime he made friends with Salvador Dali and Václav Havel, as well as marrying the painter



Fig. 16

The top coupon shows a lion from the façade of the Old Town Bridge Tower at the entrance to Charles Bridge. The lower coupon illustrates a kingfisher within a twisted towel, again part of the decoration from the bridge tower. The view of the stamp shows Charles Bridge and part of Mala Strána leading up to Prague Castle. They are part of a UNESCO World Heritage site which covers the whole of central Prague, an ensemble of urban architecture of outstanding quality, both in terms of its individual buildings, and its townscape that is deservedly world-famous. Two identical FDCs were issued (with different stamps on). The cachet shows the Šitkovská Water Tower (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is a cockerel found on a flag flown at Prague Castle. This now defunct water tower, which is on the Vltava river near Jiráskův Bridge, is known as the least-vertical tower in Prague, leaning 3' 9" (1.15m) to the south east.



Fig. 18

c.1075 in Xanten, which borders the Lower Rhine in modern-day Germany. In the spring of 1115, after narrowly escaping death by lightning, he changed to a life of extreme penance. He became an itinerant

Olga Poláčková, whose academic style of painting could not be any further removed from her husbands. The digitally printed cachet for the FDC is a portrait titled *Krásná neznámá* (*Beautiful Unknown*) (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is a painter's palette, brushes and a facsimile of his signature.



Fig. 15

10. On November 25, 2020 the Ministry issued the commemorative miniature sheet **Prague Motifs** [Pofis 1100 & 1101]. The sheet contains two versions of the same design which features a view of Prague Castle from across the Vltava (Fig. 16). One stamp has a value designated by the letter "E" (39 Kč) and the other a value designated by the letter "Z" (45 Kč). The sheet was designed by Martin Srb, with the "E" value stamp resembling a print from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the "Z" value has the look of a 19<sup>th</sup> century sepia photograph. The sheet was produced by THS using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-colored offset. Within the sheet the "E" value stamp is a combination of recess printing and offset, while the "Z" value stamp is offset printed only. The sheet has one copy of each stamp, two coupons, and a bottom margin printed with a motif of decorative ironwork.

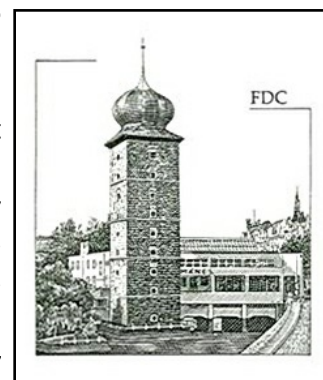


Fig. 17

It is within sight of the famous Dancing House, which was deliberately designed to have very few vertical planes on its outer walls.

11. On November 25, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp celebrating the **900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Premonstratensian Order** [Pofis 1102]. The stamp, with a value identified by the letter "B" shows the head of St. Norbert with a monstrance in the background (Fig. 18). It was designed by Eva Hašková and produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. Norbert Gennup was born



Fig. 19

preacher throughout the Holy Roman Empire and eventually Pope Calixtus II requested that he found a religious order. On Christmas Day 1120 the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré (Premonstratensians) was founded in Laon, France. In Bohemia, a monastery following this order was founded in 1140, situated in the village of Strahov, now part of Prague. The first abbey was attacked and plundered by followers of Jan Hus in 1420 and it was not until the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century that the monastery began to flourish again, eventually leading to the collection of wonderful Baroque buildings that can be seen today. Norbert was elevated to a saint in 1582 and in 1627 his body was moved from Magdeburg to Prague where it remains in a glass-fronted tomb. A statue of the saint can also be seen on Charles Bridge. After surviving suppression during the communist era, the monastery was returned to the Premonstratensians in 1990 and visitors can now enjoy seeing the magnificent libraries in the Theological and Philosophical Halls. Visitors can also briefly enjoy the meditative life while enjoying a beer and meal from the monastery brewery in the monastic gardens. The FDC cachet shows a front view of the Basilica of Assumption of our Lady (Fig. 19) and the cancellation is the entrance gate to the monastery.

12. On November 25, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive 23 Kč postage stamp showing the **Peacock Butterfly** [Pofis 1103]. The stamp was designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek (Fig. 20) and produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 100. This butterfly gets its common name because the distinctive markings on its wings resemble the eyes of a peacock. They are commonly seen throughout the year as they have two breeding cycles, spring and autumn.



Fig. 20

### Postal Stationery

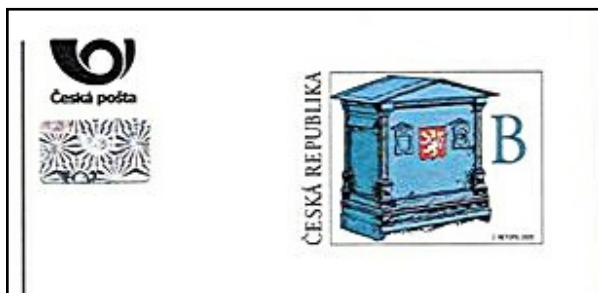


Fig. 21

13. On November 25, 2020 the Ministry issued a postal card [Pofis CDV194A] with a value designated by the letter "B" (19 Kč). It was designed by Zdeněk Netopil. The motif of the imprinted stamp is a Mail Box (Fig. 21). These blue mail boxes were commonly used during the 1<sup>st</sup> Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1939), but could still be occasionally found up until the 1960s. This postal card is designed for commercial and promotional purposes, where the left-hand side can be used for additional printed content.



Fig. 1

## SLOVAKIA NEW ISSUES

*by Keith Hart*

1. On October 2, 2020 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a 0.65 € stamp for a **Joint Issue with Mongolia: Falconry** [Pofis SK722]. The stamp, issued on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Slovakia and Mongolia, depicts archaeological findings from the 8<sup>th</sup> century relating to falconry. It was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. (THS) using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 10 with two central coupons (Fig. 1). The left hand image on the stamp is from an 8<sup>th</sup> century stone monument

discovered in 1891 at a burial site belonging to a Turkic tribe in the northern part of present day Mongolia. The right hand stamp image shows a very similar image of a falconer from the reverse of a belt buckle, also from an 8<sup>th</sup> century archaeological location, this time from a site in Moravský svätý Ján, close to the borders of both the Czech Republic and Austria. This area was in the westernmost part of the Avar Khaganate, a nomadic Turko-Mongal tribe that inhabited the area from the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Falconry is the national sport of Mongolia, where it has been listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. Falconry is also extremely popular in Slovakia, who have been very successful in international falconry competitions, which are usually dominated by countries from Eastern Asia. The cachet of the FDC is an image of a large silver plaque with a mounted falconer motif (Fig. 2) found near the banks of the Danube in Bratislava, while the FDC cancellation is a button discovered at the Pohansko hill fort near Břeclav.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

2. On October 20, 2020 the Ministry issued a 2.10 € stamp in the series **Art: Ferdinand Katona (1864-1932)** [Pofis SK723]. The motif is the panoramic landscape *Early Spring in the Belanské Tatras* (Fig. 3) from the Tatranská Galéria, Poprad. Graphic design was by Vladislav Rostoka, engraving by František Horniak and production by THS using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset, in a miniature sheet of four with a blank central label. Katona was born in Spišská Stará Ves, spent his childhood in Kežmarok and studied art in Budapest and Paris. Throughout his life he kept returning to the harsh but beautiful countryside of the High Tatras around Spiš to paint the melancholy and gloomy landscapes for which he is best known. The FDC cachet is Katona's painting *Tatra Motif* (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is from the artist's pencil sketch of Spišská Belú. A black proof of the stamp [Pofis SK071 PT 723/20] was issued the same day, specifically to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of POFIS.

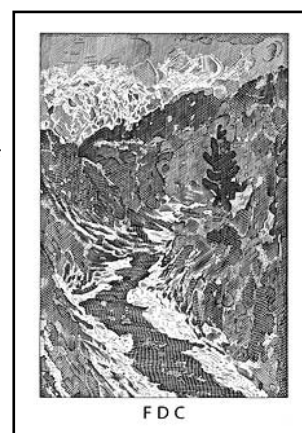


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

3. On October 20, 2020 the Ministry issued a 2.20 € stamp in the series **Art: Ladislav Vychodil (1920-2005)** [Pofis SK724]. The stamp celebrates the centenary of Vychodil's birth and the theme is a stage set from Leoš Janáček's opera *The Makropulos Case* (Fig. 5). Graphic design was by Vladislav Rostoka, engraving by Rudolf Cigánik and production by THS using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset in a miniature sheet of four with a blank central label. Vychodil is considered the founder of professional stage design in Slovakia. His determination and flair led him to becoming chief stage designer at the Slovak National Theater at the age of 25. He went on to create more than 500 stage designs and became one of the world's premier scenographers. He always strived to create designs that reflected current events and often produced sets that used optical illusions and mirrored the latest trends in fine art, as in the design shown on the stamp. The cachet of the FDC shows a design for the opera *Orpheus and Eurydice* from 1966 (Fig. 6) and the cancellation is a ship from the play *Shakespeare: Whatever You Want*. [Ed. note: My thanks to Dr. Zuzana Koblišková for her original notes in Slovak, from which this is a translated and edited form].

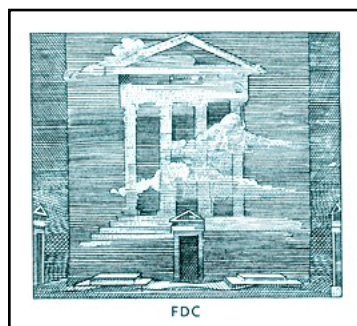


Fig. 6

4. On October 24, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative sheet as a **Joint Issue with Malta: Viticulture** [Pofis SK725 & 726]. The sheet, celebrating the International Year of Plant Health 2020, was designed by Adrian Ferda and M. Farrugia. It features five copies of two different 1.65 € stamps (Fig. 7) and was



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

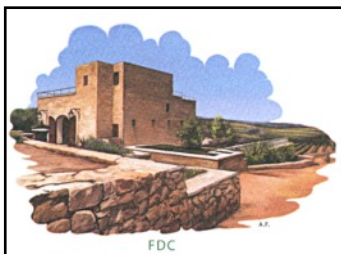


Fig. 9

produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 10 with two coupons and printed top and bottom margins. The stamp devoted to **Slovak wine production** shows the vineyards around Vintoperk Hill in Skalica where vines have been grown since the time of the Great Moravian Empire in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The wines produced in this area, known as Skalický rubín, have a protected designation of origin based on EU regulations. The bottle shown is made by the Tureček Winery from grapes of the Vysoké Pole vineyards. The FDC cachet depicts one of the many vineyard huts typical in this area, with stone pressing rooms on the lower floor and wooden bottling room on the upper level (Fig. 8). The cancellation is a bunch of grapes. The stamp devoted to **Maltese wine production** illustrates the Ta'Betta vineyard and winery in Girdgħenti. The

island of Malta has the perfect Mediterranean climate for the growth of vines and wine has been produced here for over 2000 years, having been introduced by the Phoenicians. Five different grape varieties are grown on this estate, producing three different wines. The cachet of the FDC shows the stone architecture of the Ta'Betta winery (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is a bunch of grapes.

5. On November 13, 2020 the Ministry issued a T2 50g stamp celebrating the **Christmas Mail 2020** [Pofis SK727]. Graphic design was by Vladislav Rostoka, based on the drawing *A Bell Full of Love* created by Soňa Drbúlová from Žilina, combined with background details from the painting *The Christmas Countryside* by Alexandra Patakyová from Komárno (Fig. 10). The stamp was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. This is the latest stamp in this Christmas series where schoolchildren are asked to write a letter to Baby Jesus and illustrate it with their own artwork. The winning designs are chosen by the Postage Stamp Design Commission. The FDC cachet has the motif of the painting *Winter Countryside* by Alexandra Potůčková from Stará Turá (Fig. 11) and the cancellation depicts a Christmas tree from a drawing by Martin Gallo from Dubnica nad Váhom.



Fig. 10



Fig. 12

6. On November 13, 2020 the Ministry issued a T2 50g stamp in the series: **Christmas 2020: Traditional Slovak blueprint** [Pofis SK728]. The stamp represents an indigo blueprint cloth with Christmas star motifs (Fig. 12). It was designed by Adrian Ferda and produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century local handmade blueprint garments began to be replaced by mass produced clothing from textile factories. Nevertheless, in 1950 about 20 rural blueprint workshops still remained. Production gradually diminished before it made a comeback in the 1970s when



Fig. 11



Fig. 13

contemporary artists brought forward new ideas in pattern design, sponsored by the Center for Folk Art Production in Bratislava. Additional impetus to production was given after Slovakia became an independent nation in 1993 and by 2018 the Slovak blueprint was recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia. The FDC cachet shows a blueprint apron (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is a flower. The stamp was also issued as a booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps [Pofis SK096 ZZ 728/20]. A pictorial postcard with images of deer was also released the same day [Pofis SK030 CP 728/20].

7. On December 4, 2020 the Ministry issued a 0.80 € stamp in the series: **Postage Stamp Day – Vladimír Machaj (1929-2016)** [Pofis SK729]. The stamp has an image of Machaj on the right hand side and a collage of his postage stamp designs to the left. A se-tenant label shows European Wildcat kittens (Fig. 14). The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 30 plus 30 labels. Machaj was primarily an illustrator and graphic designer. His work as a book illustrator covered the full spectrum



Fig. 15

from books for young children, fairy tales, fables, myths, and cult

books for adults. While in his 60s, he started designing stamps for Slovakia which showed his interest in nature conservation, as well as the celebration of Easter and Christmas. The cachet of the FDC has the motif of a book illustration from *Daedalus and Icarus* (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is a small bird. A collection sheet [Pofis 135 NL 729/20] was issued the same day.



Fig. 14



Fig. 16

### Postal Stationery

8. On December 18, 2020 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate **The Day of Postage Stamps and Philately 2020** [Pofis SK305 CDV 226/20]. The imprinted stamp (a new one), with a value of T2 50g, celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Slovakia joining the European Union. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, appears to show the sun struggling to rise above a sea of the COVID-19 virus (Fig. 16), extremely symbolic of the year we have all just experienced. 1700 cards were issued.

## SLOVAKIA ISSUE PROGRAM 2021

### Postage stamps and Postal Stationery

Date	Item	Layout	Value €	Other Items
1/4/21	Slovak Applied Arts: Roman Glass	TL	0.05	
1/4/21	Slovak Applied Arts: Gothic Goblet	TL	0.10	
1/4/21	Slovak Applied Arts: Zlatno Glass Factory	TL	0.20	
1/29/21	Personalities: Ladislav Grosman (1921-1981)	TL	1.00	
2/12/21	100 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of Ordination of First Slovak Bishops	TL	0.65	PaL
2/15/21	Joint issue with Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. 30 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of the Visegrád Group (V4)	UTL	1.70	PaL
3/5/21	Easter 2021: Folk Faience	TL	T2 50g	CP, ZZ
3/13/21	100 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of Slovak Teachers' Choir	TL	0.65	
4/14/21	XXXII Summer Olympic Games, Tokyo	TL	1.55	NL
4/16/21	100 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of birth of Štefan Roman	TL	1.00	PaL
4/26/21	1900 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of birth of Marcus Aurelius	UTL	1.55	PaL
5/7/21	EUROPA 2021: Endangered Western Capercaillie	UTL	1.70	ZZ, NL
5/21/21	150 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of Observatory in Hurbanovo	TL	0.75	PaL
6/4/21	Bratislava Collector Days 2021	–	–	CDV
6/4/21	Most Beautiful Stamp of 2020	–	–	CDV
6/11/21	Technical Monuments: Saltworks in Prešov	UTL	0.95	CM
6/30/21	Nature Protection: Demänovská Cave of Liberty	UTL	2.60	CM, Pt
7/1/21	150 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of Forestry's Independence from Mining	TL	1.70	
8/13/21	Sport: 100 <sup>th</sup> anniv. of Climbing Club JAMES	TL	0.65	NL
9/3/21	Biennale of Illustrations, Bratislava 2021	TL	0.65	CM
9/10/21	Sberatel 2021	–	–	CDV
9/14/21	Splendors of our Homeland: Banská Štiavnica Calvary	UTL	1.85	CM
10/18/21	Art: Matthäus Merian (1593-1650)	HA	3.00	Pt
10/21/21	Definitive stamp: World in Circles	HA	2.10	
11/12/21	The Christmas Mail 2021	TL	T2 50g	CP
11/12/21	Christmas 2021: Folk Faience	TL	T2 50g	ZZ
11/26/21	Personalities: Alexander Dubček (1921-1992)	TL	2.00	
12/3/21	Postage Stamp Day: Mikuláš Klimčák (1921-2016)	TL	0.80	30k, NL
12/18/21	Day of Postage Stamps and Philately	–	–	CDV

**LEGEND:** CDV-postcard with overprint; CM-Cartes Maximum; CP- postal card; HA – miniature sheet; k – coupon; NL- collection sheet; PaL- commemorative sheet; Pt- black proof; TL – sheet; UTL – sheetlet; ZZ – self-adhesive stamp booklet

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