



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
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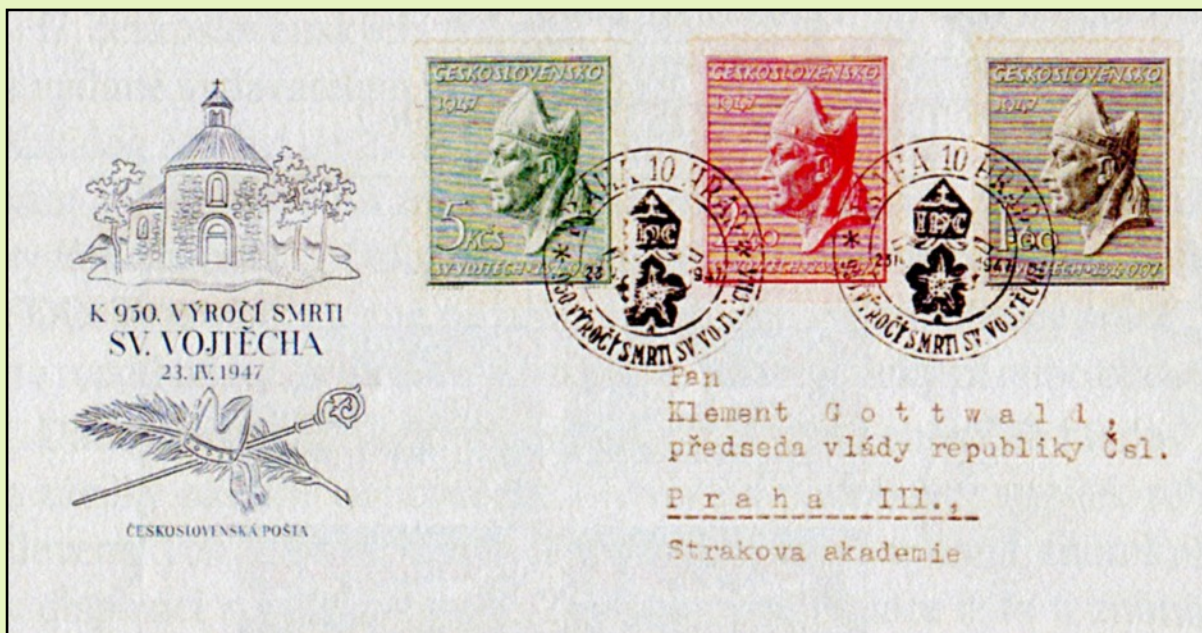
A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 83

SUMMER 2021

No. 3, Whole No. 665



A ministerial FDC from 1947, mailed to Klement Gottwald, then Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia.
Figure 2 from an article with updates for "Monografie 9" on page 5.

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(ISSN 0526-5843)

A.P.S. Unit 18

Official Journal of the

Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Vol. 83 - SUMMER 2021 No. 3, Whole No. 665

Published quarterly - \$25.00 per year

Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)

Periodical paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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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 our circuit manager Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com.

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Notes From Your Editor

First of all I would like to thank all those members who contacted me to give me your impressions of the new look *Specialist*. Almost all of the comments I received were positive, which was extremely pleasing to me. I would also like to thank Lou Svoboda and Nancy Godfrey for their tireless work in going through what seemed a multitude of different layouts and typeface styles before the final decision was agreed on.

I would like to apologize for what was a lengthy delay in getting that Winter issue to you all. After a couple of weeks had gone by after the mailing date of March 19, I admit I was getting slightly worried that the entire issue had gone missing. Then all of a sudden, a few members on the East Coast received theirs and gradually they seemed to trickle through to our remaining members. Some of you might never have received your copy. If so, please let me know and we can get another one mailed to you.

I was one of those who opened my mailbox many, many times hoping to see my copy in there, only to be disappointed. I eventually did receive it after a staggering 81 days in the mail! Lou Svoboda, who receives a large number of the additional copies we need for new members, the bi-annual bound copies, and overseas members, received these in dribs and drabs. At this time, he still has to receive the last few. What went wrong you may ask? Well I cannot really answer that question completely. After being mailed at the Shippensburg, Pennsylvania Post Office they usually went to Harrisburg, before being distributed throughout the country. This time the USPS sent them via Philadelphia and for some reason this led to the lengthy delay. One of the copies that Lou received had a postmark on the back that told him that this particular copy had travelled to him by way of a post office in South Dakota. We all know that the USPS is struggling

to get the employees it requires to provide an efficient service, but that fact alone does not explain why some seem to have been stored somewhere and are dribbling in to Lou every few days or so. It might well be a mystery we never discover the answer to.

It certainly looks as if the Spring *Specialist* did not suffer the same delay. It was beginning to be received by members within two days of it being mailed. There was, however, a delay in completing and mailing the Spring issue. This was caused by a sudden death in our printing/publishing family and this led to an understandable delay in completing the issue.

Things are slowly returning to normal for our hobby. Local stamp clubs are now able to hold meetings. Stamp shows are returning to the calendar. Cases of the Covid-19 virus are generally in decline, although variants are now becoming more common which is worrying. With a large percentage of the population being fully vaccinated it makes us all feel safer as we interact with other people. A booster shot seems likely to be required, but that should be as natural as our annual flu shot. We have to continue to be vigilant of course but it does look as if we should be able to live with this viral problem and its modifications in the future.

By the time you receive this we will have held our Convention at BALPEX 2021 in Baltimore. The next issue will have full details of the Society's annual Board Meeting, detailing the results of changes within the Elected Officers. There will also be full details of other items that were discussed, including confirmation of the venue for next year's Board Meeting and Convention. There will also be details of how our four Society members fared with their exhibits.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their continued support and sincerely hope that you, your family, and close friends remain well and are enjoying a Summer and Fall that allows us all to get outside again.

Keith Hart

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: www.cpsgb.org.uk, and through their Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at cpsgb1@gmail.com.

Their publication *Czechout* and our *Specialist* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies! CPSGB dues are \$10 for digital, \$35 for printed copies by airmail or \$28 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@csphilately.org or by check to:

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ANOTHER COVER WITH SURPRISES

by Richard G. Palaschak

The cover shown in Figure 1 is attractive but I purchased it because of the many philatelic features of the cover. Specifically, it is registered airmail to another European country, has mixed franking of Czechoslovakia and the Slovak Republic, a philatelic Cinderella, and a cautionary instruction label for the postal clerk cancelling the letter. The franking on the letter totals 28 Korunas, a combination of 3 Slovak Korunas (SK) and 25 Czechoslovak Korunas (Kčs). On the



Figure 1



Figure 2

date that the letter was posted the registration fee was 20 SK and airmail to another European country (in this case, Latvia) was 8 SK. The cautionary label in green and white “PEČLIVĚ RAZÍTKUJTE” advises the postal clerk to “carefully stamp” (i.e., cancel) the cover. Such cautionary labels are used to avoid damage to the contents of the letter, often used when philatelic material is in the envelope. The letter is postmarked in Bratislava on 17 June, 1993 and, per the receipt postmark on the back of the envelope (Figure 2), it arrived in Riga, Latvia on 25 June 1993. The eight days for the letter to get from Bratislava to Riga makes one wonder if the letter actually went by air.

The curious combination of stamps led me to look at their dates of issue. The Slovak Emblem (3K) was issued in 1993, the flower stamp in 1991, the stamp with the airplane in 1986, the two stamps of Liptov houses in 1972, and the Cinderella promoting the Praga Stamp Exhibition in 1978. There are several reasons that might account for this combination of franking. First, these may have been the only stamps on hand to meet the postal tariffs; however, a quick check on available issues of the new Slovak Republic shows that both 10K and 5K stamps were issued on 31 January, 1993. Therefore, the franking could have been easily met with the new Slovak stamps. Another reason might be to create a philatelic cover from one philatelist to another; note the printing on the back of the cover (Figure 3).

**PRESEDA
SLOVENSKEJ VOLEBNEJ KOMISIE
NÁRODNÉHO FRONTU**

Figure 3
CHAIRMAN, SLOVAK ELECTORAL
COMMISSION, NATIONAL FRONT

Did the sender of the letter appropriate an official envelope for his private use, or was the letter, in fact, an appropriate usage? We’ll never know since the contents of the letter are absent. The last reason for using these stamps might simply have been to use up Czechoslovak stamps already on hand.

My research on this cover might have ended at this point except for a fortuitous incident. While examining the recent acquisition of a mineral that I had purchased because of its reported fluorescent properties, my ultraviolet light also illuminated the part of the cover with the stamps, which indicated the following information. The Liptov stamp on the left fluoresces, as does every stamp and label on the cover, except the Liptov stamp on the right. Not only does the cover reflect mixed franking but it also has two different varieties of the Liptov stamp on cover. In summary, this convinces me that the stamps on the cover were definitely used to create a philatelically attractive cover. However, whether the sender was conducting business on behalf of the Slovak Electoral Commission or not remains unknown.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT *MONOGRAFIE 9* – FDC Part I

by Pavel Aksamit
trans. by Lucie Harris

The issuance of *Monografie 9 of Czechoslovak Stamps* – devoted to the covers of Czechoslovak First Day Covers (FDCs) and special occasions – has enhanced the interest of collectors to these fields.¹ It has been more than ten years since this Monograph was published, and thus some additional information has appeared about this area of collecting, and also some mistakes were discovered in the text that will be corrected here.

First, some information about the concept of FDC.

The Term FDC

For Czechoslovak stamps we (officially) use the abbreviation FDC for envelopes prepared and issued by the issuer of stamps (The Czechoslovak Post). In fact, the term FDC generally has a wider use. The Michel catalog defines a FDC as an envelope or letter that has a stamp with a cancel having the date of the stamp's issuance. Therefore, we could call every entire having the relevant stamp with a cancel of the stamp's issuance as an FDC. This definition also satisfies the official Czechoslovak FDC. Yet, these FDC's can be used in postal service for a specified time after the issuance of the envelopes, in contrast with those prepared by different philatelic or business organizations.

Other covers fitting this FDC definition that are in particular sought by collectors are shipments sent by registered mail. In the case of Czechoslovak stamps, the creation of such shipments was often not easy, since newly issued stamps were not available on the day of issuance for use at most post offices. Particularly difficult was the situation where the stamp was issued on Sunday, for example the 150th Anniversary of the Postage Stamp [Pofis A2940, Sc. 2789 s/s], or with stamps where the issuance was not previously announced, as for the joint space flight SSSR- ČSSR [Pofis 2296-7, Sc. 2159-60].

We have to caution about the possibility that some shipments could have been additionally created with the help of cancels held by private citizens, or with the aid of postal employees. This is much less likely with shipments sent as registered mail.

It is also important to mention shipments where the stamps are used before the date of their issue. These shipments truly exist and originate mostly as mistakes of postal employees, or intentionally "to gratify" a collector. Some collectors consider such shipments as very interesting, but Judge Jiří Sedlák considers them as shipments using invalid stamps (i.e. the stamp is only valid from the issue date).

Now let us focus on *Monografie 9*.

The Primary Part of the Catalog – FDC Overview

Until now, I have not received a substantial comment or addition for this part. I was hoping that I would be successful in filling gaps in the list of designers or engravers that were missing for some FDCs, but unfortunately I was not². In a number of cases the issuer stated in summary the designers and engravers of FDCs issued for a specific stamp series, but did not state them for individual FDCs. In many cases, the designer (or more often the engraver) was not even mentioned in the announcement for the issuance of a stamp, or the designers or engravers were only listed in summary for the whole series of envelopes, without specifying who had worked on individual envelopes.

I also do not know anything new about the use of cancels on the FDCs. Some cancel varieties (differentiated through letters or numbers) apparently do not occur on FDCs.

Unannounced FDC

It is necessary to add an unannounced FDC envelope from the series for The World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1962, having the TL (printing sheet) with four copies of the 5 Kčs stamp [Pofis 1216, Sc. 1080], commonly known as “the laundry” (Fig. 1). The envelope must have evidently been sent to some people connected with organizing the PRAGA 1962 exhibition (i.e. foreign commissioners).

The Catalog designation³ is:

Envelope 18C/61 TL 4/1216. (estimated value of this cover is 2000 Kč)

Envelope 230 x 163 mm, along the left edge is the red text:

EXPOSITION MONDIALE DE TIMBRES-POSTE PRAGA 1962



Fig. 1 – Unannounced FDC 18C/61 TL4/1216. World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1962- TL (miniature sheet) [Pofis 1216, Sc. 1080].

Ministerial FDC

In the literature it is said that the Ministerial FDCs from the years 1947-48 (until envelope M 5/48 – The 100th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising) have printed on the back the inscription MINISTR POŠT and a number, and from the years 1948-49 (starting with envelope M 6/48 – The Death of Doctor E. Beneš) have printed on the back only a number. I had an opportunity to look through a collection of



Fig. 2 – M 2/47 for Prime Minister K. Gottwald. [Pofis 450-452, Sc. 326-328]

Ministerial FDCs sent to the same address where the numbered envelopes ended with M 10/49 from the series 2nd Trades Union Congress. Subsequent envelopes – including envelopes from the 1949 series Czechoslovak Red Cross and Children – were already without a number. That would explain the fact that the Ministerial envelopes with numbers from these two series, occur less frequently (according to my own experience) than other Ministerial FDCs from 1949. The mentioned collection



Fig. 3 – M 2/47 portion of back of the cover.

did not include the envelope M A/48 – The 30th Anniversary of the Abolishment of Serfdom in Czechoslovakia.

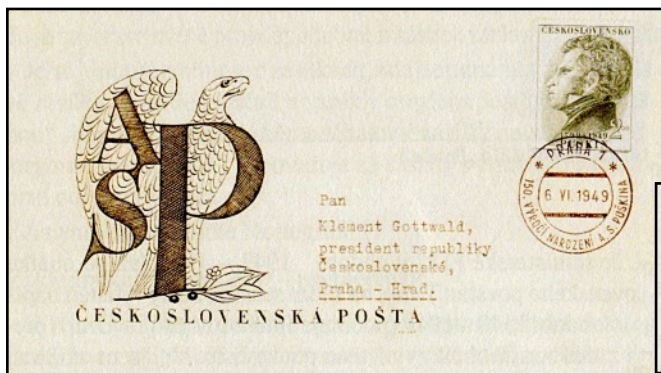


Fig. 4 – M 6/49 for President K. Gottwald. [Pofis 516, Sc. 388]

Collectors are interested in Ministerial envelopes with the number 1. There are certainly some that are addressed to President K. Gottwald, but sometimes also with the address of Postal Minister Neumann's children. I do not know of a Ministerial envelope for President E. Beneš.

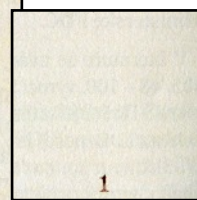


Fig. 5 – M 6/49 portion of back of the cover.

Here we show Ministerial FDC M 2/47 – 950th Anniversary of Death of St. Vojtech [Pofis 450-452, Sc. 326-328], addressed to Prime Minister



Fig. 6 – FDC 13/50 for Member of The National Assembly.
2nd Congress of Union for Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship.
[Pofis 569-570, Sc. 436-437]

Fig. 7 – FDC 19/52 for Member of The National Assembly.
Czechoslovak National Health Service
[Pofis 670-672, Sc. 537-539].

Klement Gottwald with number 3 on back (Figs. 2 and 3), and a further Ministerial FDC M 6/49 – A.S. Puškin [Pofis 516, Sc. 388], addressed to President Klement Gottwald with number 1 on back (Figs. 4 and 5). Furthermore, we show two FDCs designated for Members of The National Assembly from 1950 and 1952 (Figs. 6 and 7).



Fig. 8 – Unannounced FDC variety 1C/48.
XI Sokol Gathering (1st issue-allegory) – 1948.
[Pofis 468, Sc. 344, with left coupon]

Fig. 9 – Unannounced FDC variety 4A/54.
Physical Education and Sport – 1954.
[Pofis 790, 789, 790, Sc. 644, 643, 644].

Unannounced FDC Variations

Newly discovered FDCs with a different combination of stamps used:

XI All-Sokol Gathering in Prague (1st issue - allegory) 1949 1C/48 [Pofis 468, Sc. 344]. LK (left coupon) (Fig. 8).



Fig. 10 – Unannounced FDC variety 5A/54.
Year of Czech Music – 1954.
[Pofis 791, 791, 792, Sc. 658, 658, 659].

Fig. 11 – Unannounced FDC 15A/79 Bratislava Historical
Motifs – 1979. [Pofis 2410, 2410, Sc. 2270, 2270].

Physical Education and Sport 1954 4A/54 [Pofis 790, 789, 790, Sc. 644, 643, 644]. (Fig. 9).

Year of Czech Music 1954 5A/54 [Pofis 791, 791, 792, Sc. 658, 658, 659]. (Fig. 10).

Bratislava Historical Motifs 1979 15A/79 [Pofis 2410, 2410, Sc. 2270, 2270]. (Fig. 11). This FDC is mentioned in the *Monografie* section on variations but without an image.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

1. *Monografie 9 – Czechoslovak Covers of the Date of Issue 1947-1992*, is the only publication to date that has fully detailed descriptions and images of all official Czechoslovak FDCs, covering the entire period of their issue from January 1, 1947 – December 18, 1992.
2. One section of *Monografie 9* has an alphabetical list of designers and engravers of FDCs. As mentioned in the text it is not known who the designer/engravers are for certain covers, particularly for the cachet.
3. To clarify how each FDC in the *Monografie* is cataloged, taking Figure 1 as an example, the designation 18C/61 TL4/1216 can be explained as follows: “18C” is the 18th stamp issue of the year and “C” is the third different type of FDC cover for this particular issue. “61” is the year, in this case 1961. “TL4” tells us the stamps used were from a miniature sheet of four, and “1216” is the Pofis catalog number for this stamp.

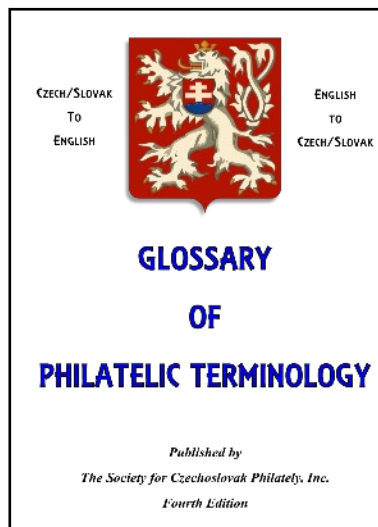
[Ed. note: *The Czechoslovak Specialist* is pleased to reprint the first English translation of this article from “Zpravodaj” 1/2019 with the permission of the author and editor.]



Book Review

Glossary of Philatelic Terminology

This glossary – a comprehensive listing which translates philatelic words, phrases and terms from Czech/Slovak to English, and English to Czech/Slovak – was last published in 2013 and has always been one of our best-selling publications. Increasingly, our membership has fewer and fewer people who are fluent in either of the languages our interests are in. This makes it even more important today than it has ever been, particularly for new members. It was decided about a year ago to completely update this publication and James Buckner, our book sales manager, heroically took on the task. Besides providing many new translations, there are an increased number of Slovak words and terms included. Where the Slovak word is extremely similar to the Czech, we only have the word in Czech. Nevertheless, there are many areas where Slovak is completely different (e.g. for color – “barvy” in Czech and “farby” in Slovak).



The glossary starts with explanation and translation of terms you find at the front of every catalog. This is followed by the main part with alphabetical listing and translations of everything we could think of. Finally, at the end, you have easily navigated sections for colors, days, countries, etc. James has finalized details and it is now printed. This book made its debut at BALPEX 2021. This Fourth Edition of *Glossary of Philatelic Terminology* is not included in the Available Publications list at the end of this issue. Nevertheless, it is available and can be obtained from James Buckner for the price of \$25.

This is an indispensable volume to always have at hand. I am sure a few of you will find a few things missing. This is inevitable as all three languages are in a state of constant flux. New terms and words seem to appear in every new issue of a journal. For the most part, however, you should find everything you require in this softbound book, which has a modern layout and typeface. This revised book can only add to your enjoyment of our shared hobby. This has to be at the top of your Christmas list for 2021.

–Keith Hart

AN UNEXPECTED TWIST

by Richard G. Palaschak



Figure 1



Figure 2

There always seems to be a research challenge involved in mail from Czechoslovakia. The cover at Figure 1 is yet another example of this phenomenon. The cover is from Zvolen in present day Slovakia; the three stamps paying the required postage (2.50 Korunas for international mail plus a 1 Koruna surcharge for air mail) were postmarked in Zvolen on 1 October 1937 at 10.00 in the morning. The beautiful Masaryk mourning cancellation indicating receipt and dispatch at the Praha airport is dated 1 October at 11.00 in the evening. The thirteen hour interval raises a question about how the letter traveled from Zvolen to Praha. Did it travel by train and not air? ... it most likely went by train. Note that the addressee (Leo Kohn) is addressed in German (i.e., Herr) as is the last line in the address, Hauptpost (Main Post Office). Thus far, I haven't been able to identify the abbreviated title before the addressee's name. The back of the cover (Figure 2) has a receipt cancellation at the Paris airport dated 2 October at 7.00 in the evening and a receipt cancellation at General Delivery (Poste Restante) in Paris dated 3 October at 7.30 in the morning.

The rectangular strike on the back of the cover "GAGNEZ DU TEMPS REPONDEZ PAR AVION" translates as "SAVE TIME, REPLY BY AIR".

Back to the front of the cover What is the purpose of the 30 Centimes Percevoir (Collect 30 cents) stamp labeled as "Chiffre Tax" ("Tax Figure")? Neither I nor any of my philatelic colleagues were certain of its purpose so I reached out to the French and Colonies Philatelic Society for help. Per Mr. Norval Rasmussen, Editor of the Society's journal, in 1920 French postal authorities created a fee of 20 centimes for letters addressed to General Delivery; in 1926 the fee for letters increased to 30 centimes, ergo the purpose of the stamp becomes known. It was cancelled at Paris General Delivery (indicating payment of the fee and receipt of the letter by the addressee) but the rest of the cancellation is too faint to discern the date.

During my email exchange with Mr. Rasmussen I had also sent scans of another letter addressed to the same addressee but this time the letter was sent from Praha to an address in Tel-Aviv, Palestine

(Figure 3). The cover is postmarked in Praha on 31 May 1939, which is a few months after Germany took control of Bohemia and Moravia but before the stamps of Czechoslovakia were overprinted with “Böhmen u. Mähren” and issued on 15 July 1939 as transition postage. As a result, the letter was franked with the stamps of Czechoslovakia on both the front and back (Figure 4) of the cover. The postage on the cover totals 8 Korunas and, using the postage rates of Czechoslovakia, is explained as follows. On the date of this letter, the postage required for international mail was 2.50 Korunas and the air mail surcharge to Palestine was 1.50 Korunas. The Registration fee was 2.50 Korunas. The Currency Control label on the back of the cover “Úředně otevřeno devisovou kontrolou” is translated as “Officially opened for foreign exchange control”. I concluded that the label indicates a thicker, heavier letter. The charge for an additional 10 grams was 1.50 Korunas. The total franking required totals 8.00 Korunas. That is the postage on the cover. At this point I felt that I philatelically understood the two covers.

After this information was shared with Mr. Rasmussen, he asked if he could use the cover to Paris in his Society’s journal, to which I agreed. But then he offered a comment that he had put the addressee’s name (Leo Kohn) into Google Search and discovered an interesting fact that put an unexpected twist to my analysis of the two covers. It turns out that an individual named Leo Kohn had a significant role in the proposed design of a Constitution for Israel.

That particular Leo Kohn was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in 1894 and settled in Jerusalem in 1925. He served as political secretary to the Jewish Agency for Palestine from 1934-1948. He was named political advisor to the Foreign Ministry when the State of Israel was established in 1948 and was chosen to develop a proposal for a Constitution for Israel, which he did. However, Israel never adopted a formal Constitution because of a “clash between a secular constitution and Jewish religious law”¹. Israel is one of six countries that function according to an uncodified constitution². Many elements of his proposal were subsequently adopted into Israeli law. His funeral services in 1961 were attended by thousands of mourners including Cabinet Ministers, members of the Knesset, and senior government officials³.

At this time there is no definite proof that the addressee on these two covers is the same Leo Kohn who drafted a proposed Constitution for Israel, but I’ll continue to search for information that may answer the remaining questions surrounding these covers:



Figure 3

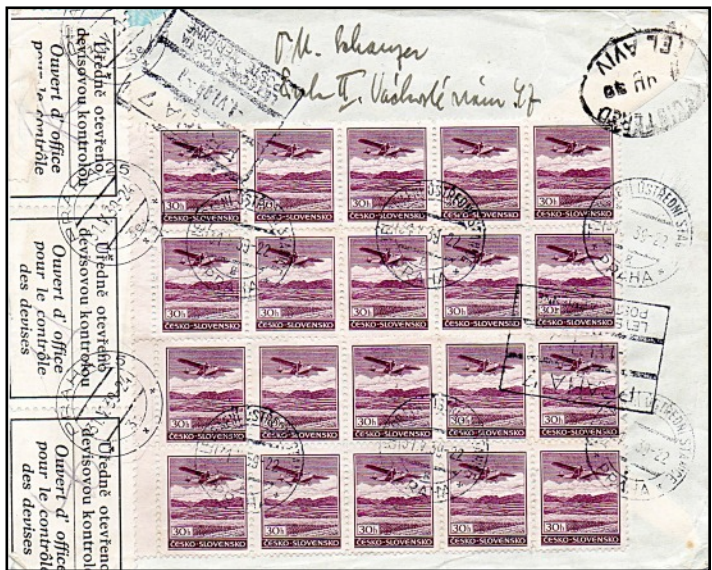


Figure 4

1) Regarding the cover to Paris: What is the abbreviated title before “Leo Kohn” in the address? Was Mr. Kohn in Paris on official duty associated with his role in the Jewish Agency for Palestine?

2) Regarding the cover to Palestine: Who is “Krinifi” (Lily)? Was there an organization at “Allenby 30” or was it a private residence? ... if so, whose?

There may never be a complete story on these covers, but as with other covers that I’ve researched, they, once again, provided hours of enjoyment as I unraveled some of the questions that surfaced.

[NOTE: I reached out to the Jewish Agency for Israel in an attempt to answer some of my remaining questions, but never received a response.]

REFERENCES:

1. Jewish Virtual Library: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.
2. Wikipedia: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_Laws_of_Israel.
3. Archiv, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 6 June 1961



Focus on Covers

T.G. Masaryk Holding a Young Moravian Girl

by Keith Hart

This cover (Figure 1) contains two 1938 semi-postal stamps from one of the most celebrated issues from the First Republic. President Masaryk holds a girl dressed in a folk costume from the Kyjov region. The 50h + 50h and 1 Kč + 50h stamps [Pofis 333-334, Scott B150-B151] were sold with the surcharge benefiting the Child Relief Program, a charity founded by the writer Karel Čapek. The text at the bottom of the stamps translates as “Have Respect for the Soul of a Child”.

The cover has a copy of each stamp, with a Praha 25 – 7.III.1938 cancellation, making this a first day cover. The sepia colored cachet depicts a woman holding a baby and has text in English at top and bottom.



Figure 1

There is an interesting history about the image on the stamp.

After its issue in 1938, people wanted to know who the cute young girl was and why she is getting so much attention from the President. It was discovered that Bohumil Heinz’s design was based on a photograph by press photographer Jano Šrámek (Figure 2) taken 10 years earlier in 1928. During the summer of that year Masaryk undertook a tour of Moravia, visiting even the smallest towns and villages. On June 21st he visited Žďár nad Sazavou to lay the foundation stone for a Sokol building. He was received by villagers wearing folklore costumes based on the kroj cultural tradition. Two of these were Antonia Neugebauer and her three year old daughter Evička (Eva). Masaryk took the politician’s opportunistic chance for a



Figure 2



Figure 3

photograph with Eva, resulting in the famous photo. By the time the stamp was issued Eva was now 13 years old and quickly became the attention of the press and public, wanting interviews and autographs. Eva ended up having an adventurous life. After marrying Ladislav Haňka they fled communist Czechoslovakia in 1950, eventually arriving in the US at the end of 1951. After first settling near Cedar Rapids, IA, by 1958 they were in Kalamazoo, MI where they brought up their family. Eva Hanka (Figure 3) still lives there today at the age of 95.

The image, 62 years later, was used again for a Czech Republic postage stamp in the series *Traditions of Czech Stamp Design*. Designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa, it is printed in a gray color [Pofis 243, Scott 3109].

Observing the detail of the cover it raises three questions for me –

1) Is the child shown on the cachet the same as the one shown on the stamp? A *Czechoslovak Specialist* article in the January/February 2001 issue has a photograph of Eva and her mother. Comparing it to the image on the cachet it does look almost certain as if they are the same. In particular, Antonia Neugebauer does look to have identical facial features in both images. To a lesser extent the young girl also seems to be the same, although the smaller size of her face on the cover and photograph make it a possible rather than a probable match. I will try to contact Eva Hanka in Kalamazoo to see if this can be made a definite match.

2) Why is the text on the cachet in English? It does seem strange that this is in English rather than Czech. A secondary question is why “Cechoslovakia” is spelled incorrectly, either in Czech or English.

3) Are there any first day covers using the miniature sheet [Pofis A335, Scott B152] issued on the same day as the stamps? This miniature sheet has an imperforate 2 Kč+ 3 Kč stamp within a sheet size 2.8” x 3.58” (71mm x 91mm). The sheet’s height is almost exactly the size of the envelope so it is possible to have such a cover. I have seen quite a few covers similar to mine but never one using a miniature sheet.

Anybody out there with answers, especially for questions 2 and 3?

SOURCES:

1. The Czechoslovak Specialist January/February 2001 pp. 3-12. *Who is the Little Girl from the Postage Stamp?* By Karel Černý, translated by Peter Kleskovic.
2. *V Masarykových rukou* (2014). A documentary about the life of Eva Hanka (nee Neugebauer). Directed by Jan Rousek, synopsis written by Janet Hanka McLemore.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST

1. All amounts are total cost. Payment must accompany the ad. Make check out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately or “SCP.” Ads will not be placed until they are paid for. Members are entitled to a 15% discount, if they ask for it.
2. The actual size of a full page advertisement is 7 inches by 9.25 inches.
3. The back cover page must be purchased as a whole -- no partial pages.
4. Submit your advertisement copy double-spaced and typed, or legibly printed.
5. It is the advertiser’s responsibility that the copy be correct since the advertisement will be printed exactly as it is received, in other words, as is. We reserve the right to correct spelling and grammatical mistakes.
6. Send copy and payment to:

Ludvik Svoboda
4766 S. Helena Way
Aurora, CO 80015

Amount of Space	One Issue	Two Issues	Four Issues
Back cover page	\$50.00	\$85.00	\$150.00
Full Page	\$35.00	\$55.00	\$105.00
Half Page	\$20.00	\$32.00	\$60.00
Quarter Page	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$36.00
Eighth Page	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$24.00

PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

From Keith Hart

1. A reminder that all **members can have one free personal advertisement each year**. Because of the change in format we can say that such an advert can be up to 40 words, which equates to around three lines.

2. For anyone who collects **philatelic material of the Carpatho-Ukraine**, I would like to tell you of a major change for that area which will be in the 2022 Scott catalog. They will now have a new section specifically related to this autonomous area which was established in December 1938 within the Second Czechoslovak Republic and proclaimed itself an independent republic in March 1939. Towards the end of World War II the Czechoslovak Republic-in-exile established itself in Chust (now Khust in the Ukraine) and by February 1945 began issuing overprinted and surcharged stamps of Hungary. This was a short-lived period before the area was ceded to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1946. Scott will have 110 numbers assigned to this section which also includes stamps issued by the Soviet National Council of Carpatho-Ukraine.

3. Early **First Republic Postage Due stamps** get very little attention compared with the Hradčany issues. The *Monografie 4* does have detailed information about them and this has pretty much been accepted as being correct until now. **Johan Sevenhuijsen** has recently carried out his own studies into this issue and has found that some information is incomplete, and others faulty. The results of his investigations can be found online at www.czechout.org/pages/library.htm. I should point out at this point that we are talking about the 1919 Decorative Flowers issue and not the later 1920 overprinted Hradčany Postage Due stamps. Furthermore, as plating studies of these stamps are only at present available in Czech (by Jaroslav Moravec), Johan, together with Mark Wilson, has received permission from Mr. Moravec to translate and update the information. We certainly look

forward to seeing the results published in the future.

4. I am **always looking for articles** to publish in the *Specialist*. Last year I was extremely lucky to have many articles submitted, possibly because of Covid isolation at home. Now I am looking one or two issues ahead and cannot see much at all on the horizon. I really do not like to see my own name on too many articles in each issue, as seems to be the case this time. I do always attempt to have some brief articles up my sleeve in case they are required but I am running short of these as well. It doesn't matter whether this would be a short one page article on a cover or stamp that you admire, or a 10 page treatise on a particular subject that is worthy of publication. I would be pleased to receive any articles, assist in editing and polishing it, to help see your article (and of course your name) in our journal.

5. The **Perfin Study Group** has been hard at work since their formation just over a year ago. Next year it will be the 50th anniversary of the publication of the first Czechoslovak perfins catalog – “Perfins From the Territory of Czechoslovakia” by Vojtech Maxa. Since that time there has been a steady accumulation of literature regarding this specialized area of collecting. Members of the group have been preparing a summary of this literature and it will eventually be published on the SCP website in a dedicated perfins section. The idea is that the information to be included would be noteworthy enough to encourage other philatelists to become members of their group. I anticipate that by the time I am writing the Fall edition of Philatelic News and Views, there will be much more information to give you regarding the Study Group's activities.

6. The Society wishes to offer our sincere thanks to **Mary-Lou Pojeta**, widow of our former Board member John Pojeta. She has kindly donated many of John's philatelic books which include numerous copies of different *Monografie* volumes, as well as Pofis catalogs and other rarely found catalogs. Thanks also to **Rich Palaschak** who has offered to take them to BALPEX where they will be available

at our table. We will have items which remain unsold listed in the Fall issue of the *Specialist*.

From Lubor Kunc

7. Czech and Slovak philately has recently received multiple awards from the Federation of European Philatelic Unions (FEPA) which made 2020 into a year of exceptional success for all collectors of Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak stamps. The first award was granted to the **Czech Postal History Society** (*Českomoravská společnost pro poštovní historii*) who received the **FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities in Promoting Philately 2020**. This award was given for 35 years of service to the philatelic and non-philatelic public, including the regular publication of its magazine *Postilión*, active participation of its members in organizing philatelic events in both national and international stamp exhibitions, most recently for PRAGA 2018 Specialized World Stamp Exhibition, LIBEREC 2019 National Stamp Exhibition, the Prestige Philately Club Prague Biennale 2020, as well as the upcoming LIBEREC 2022 European Stamp Exhibition. Members also supported the EXPONET virtual stamp exhibition from its early stages, as well as giving presentations for TV and Radio broadcasts. *Postilión* magazine has recently achieved its 141st issue.

A few weeks later FEPA announced the award of the **FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research 2020** to **Miroslav Bachratý** for his monograph of **Slovak Postal History 1938-1945** (*Slovensko 1938-1945 Poštová história*). The book (2 volumes with 773 pages!) deals with all aspects of postal history, including postmarks, field post, air mail, contractor post offices, meter stamps, and

many other topics. The breadth and depth of the author's research convinced the FEPA Board of Directors to honor this important book.

The final award, the **Francis Kiddle Medal for the Best Philatelic Website 2021**, was received by the **EXPONET virtual stamp exhibition**. This is the initial award for the Francis Kiddle Medal. Since its creation in 2004, EXPONET's contents now total more than 1100 exhibits, consisting of more than 83000 pages, which exceeds the capacity of any other world stamp exhibition in history. The exhibits have been provided by individual collectors, as well as auction houses, postal museums, and postal administrations. Several philatelic unions use the website for training jurors. Some exhibits were used as displays by collectors before their sale at auction. The website preserves collections and exhibits and will keep the author remembered perpetually. The website also has the important function of warning dealers/collectors of stolen material, to prevent their sale in the philatelic community.

Every collector might display their exhibit at www.expo.info. You just need to send good quality scans of the exhibit to the website administrators.

We thank FEPA for their appreciation of Czechoslovak philatelic projects and motivating collectors to provide material for exhibits and publications. Our thanks shall also be sent to all the exhibitors for converting their ideas into reality. I am sure the awards will motivate other collectors to participate in and/or launch new projects supporting the collectors' community and promoting stamp collecting among the non-philatelic public. "



SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

*If you are a collector/enthusiast of that period when Czechoslovak and Hungarian philately overlaps, as well as the earlier shared postal history, you should consider joining the **Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)**. Annual membership includes four issues of *The News of Hungarian Philately*, access to member's sections of their website, and participation in their quarterly auction.*

Annual dues are \$25 for N. America, \$30 Worldwide, or \$20 for online access only. You can join by following the link on the home page of their website, www.hungarianphilately.org, using PayPal (adding \$1 to whichever level you require), or direct to the treasurer:

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

RIDE 'EM COWBOY THE PONY EXPRESS RIDERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart

Who knew that the famed Pony Express had connections with a land far, far away from the USA? The legendary but short-lived mail service linked St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California. Riders traversed the largely unsettled areas of the Old West frontier. They averaged about 180 miles a day, using relay stations to change horses, eat and sleep, as well as handing over mail to the next rider. This shortened the time to deliver mail to the rapidly expanding cities of California to about 10 days. Until then it had taken about a month by ship, or three weeks using the Butterfield Express stagecoach route.

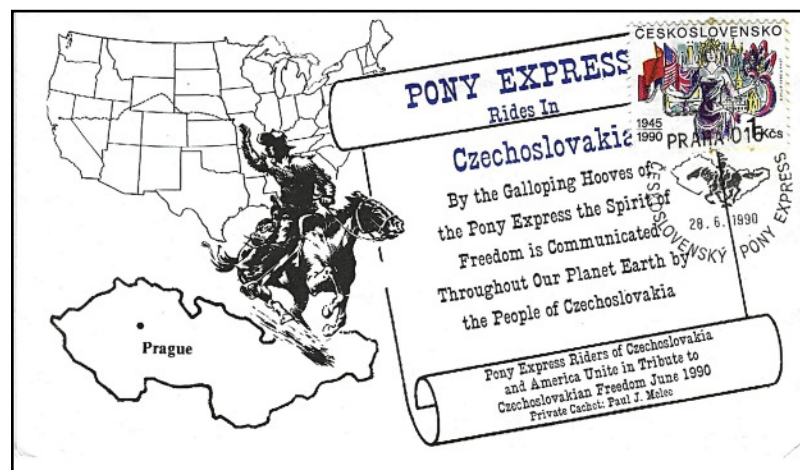


Figure 1

The service only lasted about 18 months (April 1860 – October 1861) until the transcontinental telegraph line was completed and the service, which had been largely unprofitable, ceased to exist. 160 years later the legend lives on, even in a country thousands of miles away.

This cover (Fig. 1) has the 1 Kč stamp which celebrated the 45th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation at the end of World War II (Pofis 2939, Scott 2788). The cancellation, from the Prague 1 post office, has a Pony Express rider superimposed on an outline map of Czechoslovakia. It is dated 28 June, 1990, the start of the Czechoslovak Pony Express ride that year. The private cachet, designed by Paul J. Melee, has another rider gesturing towards a map of the USA, which shows the route of the mail service. Another outline map of Czechoslovakia is also illustrated. A large scroll announcing the ride takes up much of the remaining space, sadly precluding a postally used cover to all but the most dedicated philatelist. The back of the cover has an overprint from Berlin's Pony Express Rider's Association (Fig. 2). Within the envelope are two printed information pages. The first gives details of the 1990 ride which took place from June 28-30. That year's ride celebrated not only the Pony Express, but also the freedom of Czechoslovakia following the collapse of communism. A map shows routes from places in Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany, all converging on Prague. The second page is a detailed history of the Pony Express.

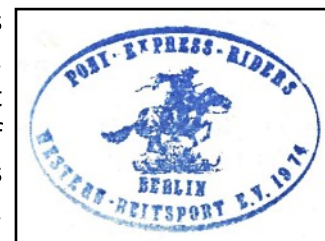


Figure 2

The Pony Express Riders of Czechoslovakia established themselves in 1985. Jindřich Bílek and a group of friends, sharing a beer or two in a pub, decided to have this first ride to commemorate the Pony Express even though they lived in communist-era Czechoslovakia. As Bílek said later, "We thought we were being heroes, breaking the rules. But today we know we didn't actually bother the communists much. Perestroika was already happening in the USSR and they wanted to show there is nothing to criticize here, we're allowing people to ride around in cowboy hats carrying Colt pistols. By the way, we didn't need gun licenses in those days"¹. Today the annual ride continues. Their association has strong links with the National Pony Express Association and also Westerners International. Members also take part in rides in the USA and other countries.

SOURCES:

1. Conversation between Jindřich Bílek and Ian Willoughby for Radio Prague, May 15, 2017.

The Brave Soldier Franz Porsche

by Lubor Kunc



Figure 1

A box of WWI military postcards contained a nicely decorated field postcard showing the Italian countryside. The postcard was mailed on 25 May 1918 at Austro-Hungarian FPO #95, which was assigned to the 11th Army fighting in the Austrian Tirol and Italy.

The sender of the card was Franz Porsche, Jr. (1877-1939) from Ruprechtice, which is today a suburb of Liberec. His father was Franz Porsche, Sen. (born 1851), and his mother Karolina Porsche (born 1849).

Everybody knows the Porsche name thanks to their famous cars. The Porsche

Company was founded in Stuttgart, Germany in 1931 by legendary car designer Ferdinand Porsche (1875-1951), who is best known for creating the Volkswagen Beetle. The vehicle was produced between 1938-2003 in the aggregated quantity of 21.5 million cars¹.

The Franz Porsche sending this postcard was Ferdinand's cousin, because his father Franz, Sen. was the brother of Anton Porsche, father of Ferdinand. Anton and Ferdinand came from Maffersdorf (now known as Vratislavice nad Nisou), a village situated just 10km (6 miles) from Ruprechtice.

When drafted for the Austro-Hungarian army, Franz Porsche, Jr. was already 37 years old and the father of Franz Josef Porsche (1901-1968). He was therefore not assigned duties at the front line. He served in 20th Landsturm Regiment of Litoměřice, who carried out guard duties in occupied Italian territory. The Landsturm troops consisted of soldiers older than 35 who were used for protection of strategic assets. They guarded prisoner of war camps, main roads and other facilities. Franz Porsche, Jr. was participating in machine-gun training at the army's HQ in Innsbruck, when the postcard was mailed.

Ferdinand Porsche constructed his very first car in 1900 and during WWI was director of an Austrian factory that produced various military vehicles and weapons. Both cousins returned from the war to Liberec in the newly born Czechoslovakia. Franz stayed there until his death, while Ferdinand obtained his Czechoslovak citizenship before moving back to Germany, where he worked for both Volkswagen and Porsche car manufacturer's until his death in 1951.

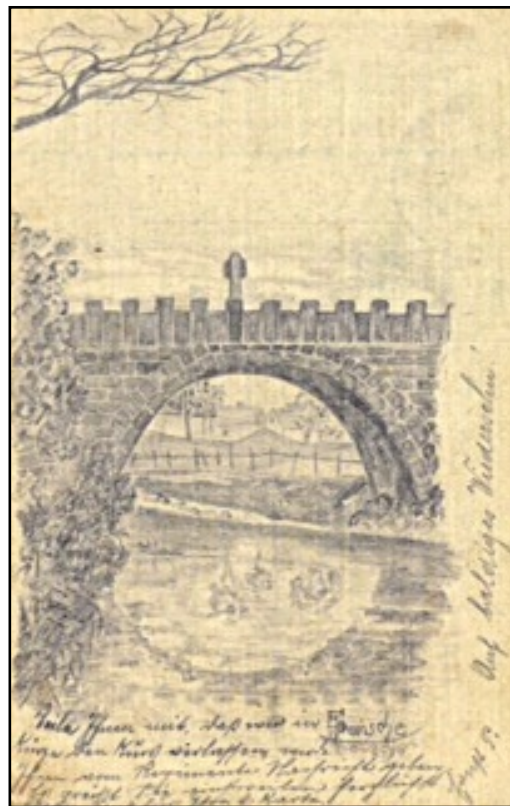


Figure 2

NOTES:

1. After 2003 Volkswagen continued manufacture of the Beetle in Mexico for the North American market until 2019.

Obituary

Lois Ostrander Verner (1933-2021)

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of Lois Verner, widow of our longtime member Jerry Verner. Born in Minneapolis, Lois met Jerry in a class at the University of Minnesota. She said that she first noticed Jerry because he was the only one who had anything intelligent to say. They married in 1954, before he was drafted by the army and sent to Korea.

In 1959 Jerry was a tour guide at the first US Cultural Exhibit to the Soviet Union and Lois accompanied him and served as a "Pepsi Girl" handing out samples, even though she never liked soda herself. This was the start of a lengthy period for them of being posted overseas when Jerry joined the Diplomatic Service. Wherever they served, from Europe to Afghanistan, Lois dove into learning the local language, culture and history.

Eventually they ended up in Bethesda, Maryland and Jerry became a major contributor to our Society of which he was a member for nearly 50 years. He served as President, as well as being a longtime member of our Board. During that time Lois enthusiastically supported Jerry's philatelic endeavors by always being a pleasant addition at our annual Society meetings. She would always cheerfully tend to our Society table during times when members had to be away at meetings or presentations. Besides that there were many occasions where she and Jerry hosted Society gatherings. She is fondly remembered as a gracious hostess who always made sure she talked to each and every guest.

My thanks to Lois' daughters Lida and Laura, also Richard G. Palaschak, who have provided much of the above information. I was extremely fortunate to meet Lois on two occasions. The first time was in Washington 2017, when we were at NAPEX. She took the time to speak at length to myself and my wife. As a new Board member she really wanted to find out all about me and what I was interested in. She really charmed me with this interest at that time. I also met her at CHICAGOPEX 2018. By that time, her health was declining, but she spent a considerable time talking to me at a meeting we had in the Society hotel room. Her mind was wandering at times but she was still extremely interesting to talk with and I will dearly remember that last meeting. - Keith Hart



New Issues

Ed. note: Unless otherwise stated all issues from both countries are printed by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. using multi-color offset.

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

1. On March 24, 2021 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a miniature sheet with a definitive stamp having a value identified by the letter "E" (39Kč). The stamp, designed by Roman Sedlák, shows a chic 1930s woman sitting on the parapet of the Jiráskův Bridge facing **The Dancing House** [Pofis 1115]. The sheet is an arrangement of seven stamps, six central coupons forming a graphic motif similar to the stamp itself, and eight blank coupons on the perimeter (Fig. 1).



Figure 1

The blank coupons (which can have custom prints ordered by customers) and the sheet margins are printed with an outline of Prague buildings and the River Vltava. Architects for the building were Vlado Milunić and Frank Gehry. Designed in a deconstructivist style, the two corner towers were conceived to celebrate Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, stars of elegant Hollywood musicals from the 1930s. One tower (Fred) is faced with undulating stone panels, while the other tower (Ginger), faced with glass, leans gracefully into the embrace of Fred. Built in 1996 this building quickly became as famous a Prague landmark as the more classical buildings known by us all. The first floor of the building is used for commercial purposes and originally the remainder was utilized as office space. Renovated in 2016, two floors are now a 21-room luxury boutique hotel. The seventh floor is the Ginger and Fred Restaurant and the eighth floor is a bar.

[Ed. note: *The Dancing House* has already appeared on a Czech stamp, the 2012 EUROPA – Visit the Czech Republic issue (Pofis 719, Scott 3532)]

2. On April 21, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **EUROPA: National Endangered Wild Animals – The European Wildcat** [Pofis 1116]. The stamp, with a value identified by the letter “E” was designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek and shows two wildcats (Fig. 2). It was printed in a miniature sheet of six stamps.



Figure 3

At one time the European wildcat was found throughout continental Europe. Now, except for Spain and Portugal, it is only found in small pockets in Western Europe, but is more established in the Balkan area. In Bohemia it was eradicated by the end of the 19th century and is gradually returning, albeit in extremely small numbers. The extremely reclusive wildcat is slightly larger than a domestic cat, having longer fur and a bushier tail with a black tip. It also has distinctive stripes on its body, legs and tail. The digitally printed first day cover has a cachet of a female wildcat with two kittens (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is the head of a hissing cat.



Figure 2

3. On April 21, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to recognize **Unique Rock Formations** [Pofis 1117]. The 23 Kč stamp is a view of the Dívčí Kameny rock formation in the Krkonoše Mountains (Fig. 4). It was designed by Adolf Absolon and printed in sheets of 50. The Krkonoše Mountains lie between Poland and Czech Republic in the northern part of Bohemia, near the resort town of Špindlerův Mlýn.

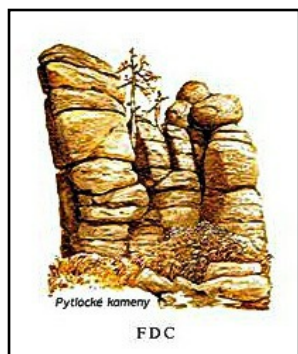


Figure 5

Eons ago this area of granite rocks broke apart due to pressure from frozen water which had inundated cracks. Since then erosion has resulted in the smooth edges seen today. This and similar rock formations can be found on the Border Trail which winds through the otherwise gentle crest of the mountains. The cachet of the digitally printed first day cover shows a view of the Pytlácké Kameny rocks (Fig. 5) and the cancellation is a line drawing of a Willow Gentian, one of the protected plants growing in the Krkonoše area.

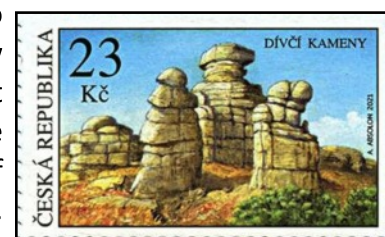


Figure 4

4. On April 21, 2021 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet with a definitive stamp having a value identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč). The stamp, designed by Mikuláš Kavan, illustrates an imaginary map that includes information on walking trails for promotion of **Tourism** [Pofis 1118]. The sheet is an arrangement of seven stamps, six central coupons forming a central motif of a town plan, and

eight perimeter coupons showing other trails in a rural setting. (Fig. 6). The perimeter coupons can have custom printing for customers. The accurate marking of hiking trails has long been a tradition in the Czech lands. The first official hiking trail was created in 1889, with route markers painted on trees, rocks and planted signs. The current network of marked routes has around 40,000 km (25,000 miles) for hikers, cross-country skiers and cyclists. The marking system for hikers consists of three horizontal lines, the color of the middle line indicates the type of trail –

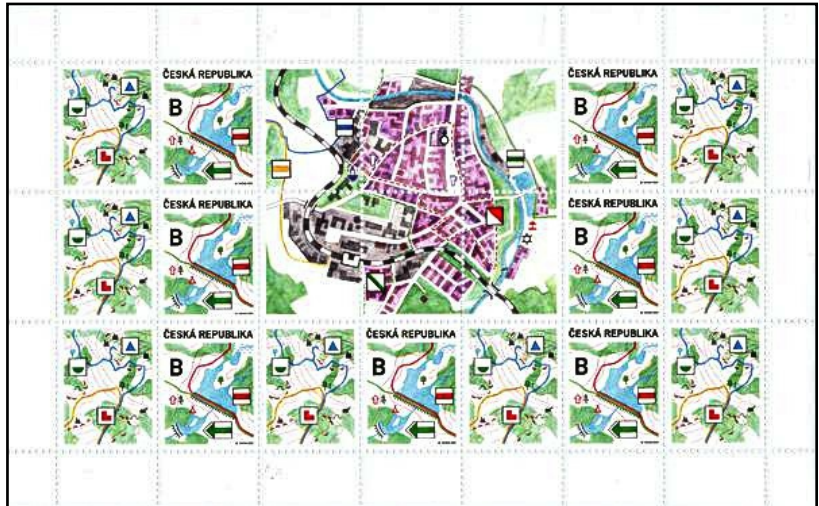


Figure 6

Red for long-distance, blue for historical trails, green for local routes, yellow for interconnecting tracks. Side trails to points of interest are indicated by arrows with the distance to that particular attraction.

5. On May 19, 2021 the Ministry issued a 27 Kč stamp in the series **Personalities: Gustav Brom** [Pofis 1119]. The stamp has a portrait of the bandleader alongside trombonists from his band (Fig. 7). It was designed by Michal Novák and printed in sheets of 50. This issue celebrates the birth centenary of Brom who had a career spanning 53 years. Born Gustav Frkal, he narrowly escaped being sent to a concentration camp in 1939.

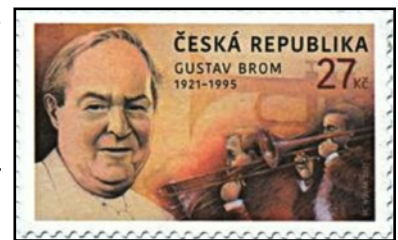


Figure 7



Figure 8

In June 1940 he changed his name, formed his first band which played in a Dixieland style (usually forbidden by the Nazi occupiers) and this led to an unprecedented 50+ years of big band jazz in which he always kept up with the most modern trends in jazz, ending his career preferring West Coast jazz, but always returning to older favorites for some concerts. As well as leading the band he was also known as a composer and singer. His band played with many of the best known jazz artists from America and Europe. He recorded more than 570 songs on almost 150 albums, some of which are still being re-released today. The cachet for the FDC shows a trumpeter (Fig. 8) and the cancellation is a facsimile of his signature.

6. On May 19, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the 50th anniversary of **The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** [Pofis 1120]. The stamp with a value identified by the letter “Z” (45 Kč) shows a Black Stork in its normal habitat of marshy wetlands (Fig. 9). It was designed by Adam Kašpar and produced in sheets of 50. The Convention on Wetlands is the oldest global intergovernmental environmental agreement. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971. Its mission is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”. The Convention uses the broadest definition of wetlands. Besides rivers, lakes, deltas and tidal areas, it also includes human-made sites such as reservoirs, rice paddies, fish ponds and salt pans. The Czech Republic has designated 14 sites of importance, with a surface area of 148,775 acres



Figure 9

(60,207 hectares). The cachet of the FDC shows a meandering river passing through a wetland (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is a line drawing of a stork.

7. On June 9, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **Czech Design: Bořek Šípek** [Pofis 1121]. The stamp, with a value identified by the letter "E" illustrates glass artwork from Prague Castle (Fig. 11) and was designed by Pavel Sivko and printed in a miniature sheet of four. Bořek Šípek (1949-2016) was an architect and designer. He escaped to West Germany



Figure 11

in 1968 in the wake of the Soviet invasion and worked initially as a cabinetmaker. Studying at university he graduated from architecture in Hamburg and philosophy in Stuttgart. Returning home in 1989 he became the principal architect for the restoration of Prague Castle which took place from 1992-2002. The modifications enabled him to incorporate many pieces of glass art which he designed. He was in fact most famous for his ceiling lamps, vases, bowls and goblets which could be obtained by the public. The motif of the FDC cachet is an illuminated fountain in Prague Castle (Fig. 12) and the cancellation is a drawing of decorative glass.

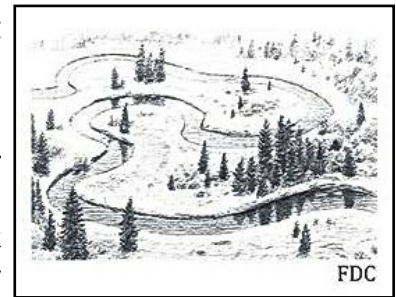


Figure 10



Figure 12

SLOVAKIA NEW ISSUES

by Keith Hart

1. On April 4, 2021 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a stamp to commemorate the **100th Anniversary of the Birth of Štefan Roman** [Pofis SK739]. The 1.00 € stamp was designed by Karol Felix and features a portrait of Roman alongside the logo of The World Congress of Slovaks (Fig. 1). It was produced in printing sheets of 30. Štefan Boleslav Roman (1921-1988) was born in Veľký Ruskov (now Nový Ruskov) in Eastern Slovakia and emigrated to Canada when he was 16. He worked in agricultural and industrial jobs as well as a brief stint in the Canadian



Figure 1



Figure 2

Army. After the finish of World War II he started trading in penny stocks which led him to control a small manufacturing company. He developed this company into Denison Mines, one of the largest companies that mine uranium in the world. He was always strongly connected to his Slovak heritage and the Slovak Greek Catholic Church. He was the founder of the World Congress of Slovaks in 1970 and remained its President until his death. He funded the construction of the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Markham, Ontario, which is modeled on his home church in Slovakia. His strong support for the church led him to be appointed a Papal Knight. The FDC cachet, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, shows the Slovak mountain Jastrabí Veže (Hawk Tower) in the High Tatras, within a maple leaf (Fig. 2). The cancellation is in the form of an icon of the head of Christ. A commemorative sheet was issued the same day.

2. On April 26, 2021 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet to celebrate the **1900th Anniversary of the Birth of Marcus Aurelius** [Pofis SK740]. The 1.55 € stamp, designed by Karol Felix and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, shows a bronze statue of the Roman Emperor which is in the Capitoline Museums in Rome. The stamp was produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset, in a sheet with four stamps

and a central coupon showing a relief from the Marcus Aurelius Column in the Piazza Colonna in Rome (Fig. 3). Marcus Aurelius (121-180) was the adopted son of the Emperor Antoninus Pius. His own reign as Emperor was marked by continuous conflict. He was directly involved in the war with the Quadi (a Germanic tribe) in the far north of the empire near the River Danube. In the Emperor's diary-like notes from this war, known as *Meditations or Notes to Myself*, he mentions that it was written "in the country of the Quadi". A direct link with the Emperor's army and Slovakia is a Latin



Figure 4

inscription found carved into the rock on which Trenčín Castle stands. It is proof that elements of the Legion II Italica were stationed in the area in 179 and this is the most significant Roman epigraphic marker to have been found north of the Danube. The FDC cachet is a marble bust of Marcus Aurelius (Fig. 4) from the collections of the Prado Museum, Madrid. The cancellation is based on another marble bust in the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung in Frankfurt am Main. A commemorative sheet was issued the same day.



Figure 3

3. On May 7, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: **EUROPA 2021 – Endangered Wildlife – The Western Capercaillie** [Pofis SK741]. The 1.70€ stamp was designed by Kamila Štanclová and shows a Capercaillie, with a chick, on its nest constructed mostly from pine needles (Fig. 5). It was produced in



Figure 5



Figure 6

printing sheets of eight. The Western Capercaillie is a timid, reclusive bird that is rarely seen by humans. It lives in forests that are well lit and provide the shelter they desire. These habitats are disappearing due to a general loss of forested areas and this has led to a 70% decline in its population in the last 40 years. In Slovakia its largest population is found in Muránska Planina National Park. Here they can rake over the undisturbed forest floor to find the needles, insects and berries it lives on. The FDC cachet, engraved by František Horniak, has a female bird

sounding her mating call (Fig. 6). The cancellation is a bird in flight. A stamp booklet containing six self-adhesive stamps [Pofis SK098 ZZ 741/21] was issued the same day, as was a collection sheet which shows chicks in their nest.

4. On May 21, 2021 the Ministry issued a 0.75 € stamp to celebrate the **150th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Observatory in Hurbanovo** [Pofis SK742]. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and shows the front of the building housing the observatory with a background of a 19th century stylized diagram of the solar system. It was produced in sheets of 40, the design of which has the top 20 stamps printed upside down and separated from the lower stamps by 10 coupons (Fig. 7). The solar system background of the stamp continues into the coupon. The observatory started out as a private observation point at the house of its founder, Miklós Konkoly-Thege. At that time the town was known as Ógyalla



Figure 7

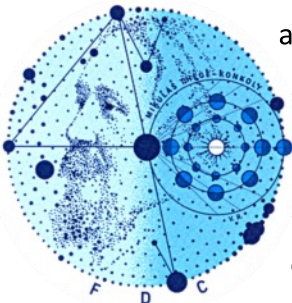


Figure 8

and was in Hungary. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 it was managed by the State Observatory as its Center of Astrophysics. It was dismantled during World War II and only reestablished itself in the 1960s. It is now the Slovak Central Observatory and remains focused on observations of our solar system. The cachet of the FDC is a portrait of Miklós Konkoly-Thege within a background of a starry sky and the planets (Fig. 8).

The cancellation is an outline of the solar system indicating the planets. A commemorative sheet was issued the same day.

5. On June 11, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **Technical Monuments: The Saltworks in Prešov**. [Pofis SK743]. The 0.95 € stamp shows the main salt warehouse building of the Solivar saltworks with a background displaying an historic map of the area (Fig. 9). The stamp was designed and engraved by Jozef Česla and printed in a miniature sheet of six using recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset. The utilization of brine to produce salt can be dated from the 13th century in the village of Solivar, now a suburb of Prešov. The brine saturated water was brought up from deep wells by means of winches often operated by teams of horses. The manufacture of salt was carried out in flat, open iron pans and eventually large boiling pans. In the 19th century electricity allowed for the brine to be pumped to the surface, where it was boiled, then dried in ovens, from where the salt crystals traveled to the



Figure 9

nearby warehouse for packaging. A sideline of the business were salt caves where people could be treated for diseases of the nose, throat and lungs. Production of salt ceased in 1970 and the extensive number of industrial artifacts were saved by the Slovak Technical Museum in Košice who took over management of the entire site. In 2001 the main saltworks building opened as a museum and other parts of the site are still being rehabilitated to be accessible to the public. The FDC cachet depicts a

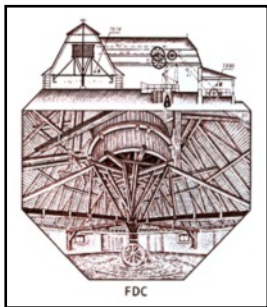


Figure 10

mechanism for salt extraction (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is based on the coat of arms of the Solivar saltworks. A Cartes Maximum was issued the same day.

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WANTED: Correspondents in Czechia and Slovakia to acquire postally used stamps on covers in exchange for US Dollars.

Need stamps from years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Myron Kavalgian - mehran32@aol.com

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2. Publication No.: 0526-5843, **3. Filing Date:** Aug. 10, 2021, **4. Issue Frequency:** Quarterly, **5. No. of Issues Published Annually:** 4, **6. Annual Subscription Price:** \$25.00, **7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:** 253 Walnut St., Shippenburg, PA 17257, Contact Person: Nancy Godfrey, Tele. 717-530-8818, **8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters:** 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, **9. Names and Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:** Publisher: Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015; Editor: Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104; Managing Editor: (same as above), **10. Owner:** Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, **11. Known Bondholders:** None. **12. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:** Has not changed during preceding 12 months, **13. Publication Name:** The Czechoslovak Specialist, **14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:** 10 Aug., 2021, **15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:** a. **Total No. of Copies (net press run):** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 months: 300; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 300; b. **Paid Circulation** (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 185 No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 184; (2) Mailed In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 32; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 30; c. **Total Paid Distribution:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 218; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 214; d. **Free or Nominal Rate Distribution:** (1) Outside County as Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 10; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 10; (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 10; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 19; (4) **Free Distribution Outside the Mail:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; e. **Total Free Distribution:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 20; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 19; f. **Total Distribution:** Average no. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 238; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 233; g. **Copies Not Distributed:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 62; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 67; h. **Total:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 300; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 300; i. **Percent Paid:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 92%; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 92%; **16. a. Paid Electronic Copies:** Ave. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 23; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 21; b. **Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies:** Ave. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 241; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 235; c. **Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies:** Ave. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 261; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 254; d. **Percent Paid:** Ave. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 92%; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 93%. **17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:** X Publication required. Will be printed in the Summer 2021 issue of this publication. **17.** I certify that all information furnished on this form is true/complete.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Asst.-Editor, 10 Aug. 2021

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