



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
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Postal card from Haida to Leipzig, using two 1h Hradčany stamps to up-frank for the required postage.
See "1h Hradčany – Why?" article on page 5.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>ARTICLE</u>
3	President's Corner by James Buckner
4	Membership Renewal
5	1h Hradčany – Why? by Ludvik Svoboda
7	A Few Notes about Monografie 9 - FDC Part II by Pavel Aksamit
10	Philatelic News and Views by Keith Hart
11	BALPEX Report by Keith Hart
12	Bohumil Šneider - His Philatelic Life by Keith Hart
14	Slovakia New Issues by Keith Hart
18	Czech Republic New Issues by Keith Hart
23	Available Publications

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

1. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official quarterly publication of the Society. For inquiries on contributing articles, obtaining back issues, bound copies, and advertising rates, contact Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104 or email: kdhart46@icloud.com. Members are permitted to have one free small advertisement each year.
2. Every member is eligible to receive a CD of our interactive index. This is an indispensable source for research. There are hyperlinks to every issue of the *Specialist* from 1939-2009. Search can be by author, subject, year, and Scott/Pofis catalog numbers. Contact Lou Svoboda to receive this benefit.
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6. A Society library is housed with Ludvik Svoboda, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
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.

Visit our web page at
www.csphilately.org



BALPEX 2021 served as the location for the Society's Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting this year. At our Board Meeting, among other business, the Board undertook to hold elections of officers. After more than 20 years of membership, and 7 years as your Book Manager, the Board unanimously elected me as President. I am grateful for the leadership of our outgoing President, Lou Svoboda, as well as fellow Board Members, and look forward to working with each of them to move the Society into the future. We are fortunate as a Society to have such strong leadership in all areas. Besides electing me as President, the Board elected Alan Hanzl as Vice President, as well as re-electing Tom Cossaboom as Membership Secretary and Marisa Galitz as Treasurer. I am happy to report that Bill Slaninko agreed to take on the role as Corresponding Secretary. This means that all appointed officers agreed to remain in their present positions.

As an organization we have been fortunate to have had a solid leadership of volunteers since our founding in 1939. Board member Jarka Havel recently retired and I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that Chris Jackson has agreed to return and fill the vacant position. Retirements and elections keep us always on the lookout for future Board members. Being a member of the Board is not an onerous task. Four or five Zoom meetings a year. Also email discussions of subjects as they arise. Then traveling to the location of our annual meeting, which is a lot of fun, talking amongst ourselves and meeting visitors to our table. Anyone interested in becoming a Board member in the future can email or call me, my contact information is on the previous page.

At our Annual General meeting on Saturday at BALPEX, we were treated to **Frederick Lawrence's presentation of "2018 Commemorations of the 1918 Scout Post"**. At the show the Society had an excellent location for our table – at the bottom of the escalators by which all visitors to the show had to pass. As a result we were able to sell over \$1000 of books and sign up three new members, as well as welcoming back two

former members. We also had four members enter exhibits at the show which is recognized by the American Philatelic Society as one of its World Series of Philately locations.

The Board decided to convene next year at the **Garfield-Perry Stamp Club's 2022 March Party**, held in Strongsville, OH (on the outskirts of Cleveland) which takes place from March 18-20, 2022. Our Annual Board Meeting will therefore take place on March 17. Please consider joining us there. First details of the show are discussed later in the *Philatelic News and Views* segment of this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a word about my predecessor as President, **Lou Svoboda**. Since joining the Society, Lou's service has been unparalleled. To begin, Lou was on the Editorial Board from 1980 to 1988; he was Treasurer from 1983 to 1991, and President TWICE, first from 1991-1995 and more recently from 2018 to 2021. On top of this, Lou was Editor of *The Specialist* from 1996 to 2018, and, at times, has served as Circuit Manager and Expertizing Chairman. He is currently the Society's Librarian. It appears that Lou has served on the Board of Directors since 1980 as well. I am not sure if any member has served in as many roles as Lou Svoboda (I hope I have not missed anything!). Lou, on behalf of the Board and members past and present, I thank you for your long and devoted service to our Society. I only hope you can devote some time to yourself and to your family, as well as finding the time to undertake some of those long-delayed philatelic projects!

As your new President, I welcome the challenge to lead the Society for the next two years. But there are challenges ahead. While we are in a good position financially and membership is holding steady, we need to look for opportunities to grow and enhance Czechoslovak philately. And so, I ask for your support, your ideas, and your active participation in order to do this.

– James Buckner

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As the festive season approaches, it is time for membership renewal. A renewal card is tucked inside this issue with full instructions on how to renew your membership. It is possible that you have already paid your membership dues for 2022. To confirm this just look at the mailing label that this issue arrived in. If the upper right-hand corner says 2022, you have already paid for next year.

It is extremely important to us that we receive your renewal as soon as possible. We urge you to renew at the latest by **December 31st, 2021**. You have the choice of doing this by mail, or online using PayPal at the Society website www.csphilately.org. When renewing online by PayPal you also have the opportunity to renew your membership in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain at the same time. If renewing by mail, remittance must be by check or money order only, made out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately, and sent, with the renewal card, to Marisa Galitz, PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Membership levels are as follows:

- **\$25.00.** Regular Membership for USA addresses.
- **\$45.00.** Regular Membership for addresses outside the USA.

- **\$20.00.** Online Membership, with access to the online *Czechoslovak Specialist* only.
- **\$75.00.** Patron Membership, with a 2-year bound volume of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* if you have membership at the Patron level for two consecutive years. Being a Patron Member for both 2021 and 2022 in the case of the next available bound volume.
- **\$95.00.** Patron membership for addresses outside the USA.
- **\$3.00.** Youth membership for collectors under the age of 18.

Please note that our By-Laws state that any membership renewal postmarked later than December 31, 2021 would probably lead to the Winter 2022 *Czechoslovak Specialist* **only being available to that member in an online form**. Early in January 2022 we have to complete the list of members that issue is mailed to and we cannot afford to send out individual copies of that issue later.

Being a member does have its benefits. **Besides four issues a year of the *Czechoslovak Specialist***, you also have access to the **member's rates for philatelic books and catalogs** listed at the back of each issue. Most of these publications are generally only available in the USA through the Society. All Members also receive an email copy of the **monthly newsletter** which keeps you apprised with news in the philatelic world. Obviously to receive the newsletter we require an up to date email address. If it is changed for any reason please advise Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com. The Society has also just started its **online sales circuit**. You can sell surplus philatelic material or inquire whether anything you require is available. Please check this out every month; there is always an extremely interesting selection of items for sale.

Members also have **access to the Society Library and expertization advice**.



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.

1h HRADČANY – WHY?

by Ludvik Svoboda

It has been a question by collectors of Hradčany stamps for years – why was the 1h stamp issued? To help try to answer that, we need to look at a little bit of philatelic and political history.

The Hradčany issue of stamps took place over an extended period of time, based on the franking needs of the new Czechoslovak Republic and the changing franking rate periods. In the beginning of the issuance there were 11 of the 26 various Hradčany stamps put out on 10 different dates (18,21, and 30 December in 1918 and 8,14,17,23, and 27 January, 27 February, and 14 March in 1919, with the rest later). Of these stamps, it was not until the 14 March 1919 issuance where a 1h stamp was produced and made available. Prior to that all of the stamps had been valued at 5h or multiples of 5h.

For our purposes, here is a breakdown of the relative domestic franking rates of the first three rate periods:

Periods I-III	Letter (20g)	Post- card	Printed Matter (50g)
28 Oct 18 – 14 May 19	20h	10h	3h
15 May 19 – 14 Mar 20	25h	15h	5h
15 Mar 20 – 31 Jul 20	30h	20h	5h

As the Czechoslovak Republic was brand new, their currency had not yet been internationally established or recognized. This is why the first Hradčany stamps do not have a currency designated. It was understood that the country's financing, its "currency", and franking was still based upon the Austro-Hungarian haller and crown. It was not until the February 26 – March 9, 1919 timeframe that the new Finance Minister, Alois Rašín, established the Czechoslovak Crown as the new currency.

To "cover" the nation's postal needs until the new currency could be established, the use of Austrian and Hungarian stamps was permitted up until 28 February 1919 (notice, this deadline date is right in the middle of the period to establish the Czechoslovak Crown), and Austrian and Hungarian stationery could be used until 14 October 1919. As a result, Austrian and Hungarian 1h, 2h and 3h stamps could be used as needed during the period 28 October 1918 through 28 February 1919. There wasn't a need for a 1h Czechoslovak stamp yet.

During this "concurrent" usage period, mixed franking was permitted. Thus you can find covers such as those in Figures 1, 2, and 3. Covers 1 and 2 are interesting because they use the 2h Special Delivery stamp to up-frank the 8h Emperor Karl I postal card, even though they were sent (31 Mar 19, 14 May 19 respectively) when the 1h Hradčany was available. Or was it "available"? The philatelic press of that time



Figure 1: Postal card; March 31, 1919; Mariaschein to München; mixed franking



Figure 2: Postal card; May 14, 1919; Warnsdorf 2 to München; mixed franking



Figure 3: Postal card; June 7, 1919; Haida to Leipzig; mixed franking



Figure 4: Envelope; July 26, 1919; Hradec Králové 1 to Wien



Figure 5: Postal card; December 18, 1919; Podmokly to Eger



Figure 6: Envelope; May 8, 1920; Praha 1 to New York

period speak a great deal of the shortage or lack of appropriate rate stamps. Many times a particular version of the Hradčany stamp was issued, but not sent out to all post offices, or not sent out until the major post offices had been supplied. In fact, the very first Hradčany stamps that were produced in December 1918 could only be purchased – for a limited time – at the main Prague post office. It should also be noted that covers 1 and 2 were franked at “small” post offices – respectively Mariaschein (Bohosudof) which is 5km north of Teplice and about 10km from the German border, and Warnsdorf 2 (Varnsdorf 2 – the railway station post office) that is directly north of Prague and on the border with Germany. It is very possible that neither of them even had the 1h Hradčany stamp for use, and the Austrian and Hungarian stamps were no longer valid, so they used the 2h Special Delivery stamp. Also note that cover 2 was mailed and franked on the very last day of rate Period I (14 May 1919) when a postcard could be sent for 10h.

So what were the 1h stamps used for? They certainly could be used for up-franking the 8h Emperor Karl I postal card, as we see in cover 3 (up-franking to the 15h rate of Period II). I am including three other covers to show how the 1h was used. Note that with covers 3 and 4, which go to Germany and Austria, the foreign rates to these countries (and a number of others) were reduced to the domestic rates for Periods I and II. Also, note that cover 6 is a printed matter cover (Tiskopis) which went to the USA. The rate for such a cover in its time frame was 10h.

So the simple answer for our question as to why was the 1h Hradčany stamp issued is – to cover a two month period (14 March 1919 – 15 May 1919) when up-franking might be necessary until the rates all went to multiples of 5h, and to cover the up-franking of Austrian and Hungarian stationery until 14 October 1919.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me – Lousvoboda@comcast.net.

References:

1. *POFIS catalog. Československo 1918-1939*. 2012. František Beneš et al, Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, Praha 1.
2. Piero Santangelo: “A Politician and an Economist”, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 70, no. 2 (March/April 2008), pp. 16-20. Trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic.
3. Frank A. Garancovsky: “Czechoslovakia’s Hradčany Issue Provides Myriad Opportunities for Stamp Collectors”, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 72, no. 2 (Spring 2010), pp 3-16.
4. Lubor Kunc: “1h Hradčany”. Personal e-mail. August 8, 2021.

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

by Pavel Aksamit

translated by Lucie Harris

FDC with Different Stamp Layout

Besides the envelopes mentioned in the Monograph, a different one has been found for 7/57 – 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Engineering Schools in Prague – with stamp layout Pofis 947, 946, 944, 945 [Sc. 810, 809, 807, 808] – with the 30h and 60h stamps interchanged.

Use of FDC envelope for Other Issue

On the FDC 1/49 for the 25th Anniversary of the Death of V.I. Lenin were placed the stamps and cancels for the IX Convention of the KSČ (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia). (Fig. 1). [Pofis 511- 513, Sc. 383- 385].

FDC with Stamps having a Plate Error

It is necessary to add to the list in the Monograph with International Year of Women with plate error 2/75 s DV 85/1 [Pofis 2126, Sc. 1995].

Envelopes Prepared for the First Day of Stamp Issuance in 1946¹

We show an envelope for the issuance of the stamp 1st Anniversary of National Uprising (St. George and the Dragon) [Pofis 433-434, Sc. B156-B157] (Fig. 2). Also an envelope for the IV National Congress of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Brno as part of the BRNO 1946 postage stamp exhibition (Fig. 3) – using stamp issues from the Cities and Airmail series [Pofis 438-439, Sc. 316-317].

Cancels

Only one cancel with a distinguishing letter “a” is used on the FDC for the Czechoslovak Two-Year Economic Plan stamp series [Pofis 447-449, Sc. 322-324]. There are two different cancels with the letter “a”. It is possible to differentiate them by the location of the letter “a” with respect to the previous line – the number 1 in the 1947 (Fig. 4).



Fig. 1. FDC cover for the 25th Anniversary of Death of V.I. Lenin, but with stamps and cancels for the IX Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (1949).



Fig. 2. FDC for 1st Anniversary of National Uprising – St. George and Dragon (1946).



Fig. 3. FDC for IV National Congress of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Brno, using stamps from the Cities and Airmail series (1946).

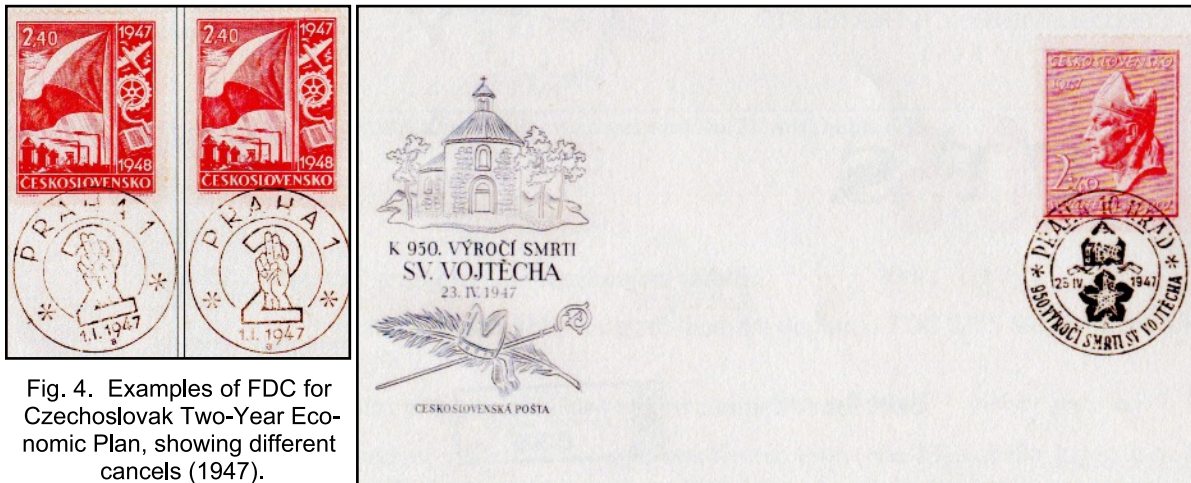


Fig. 4. Examples of FDC for Czechoslovak Two-Year Economic Plan, showing different cancels (1947).

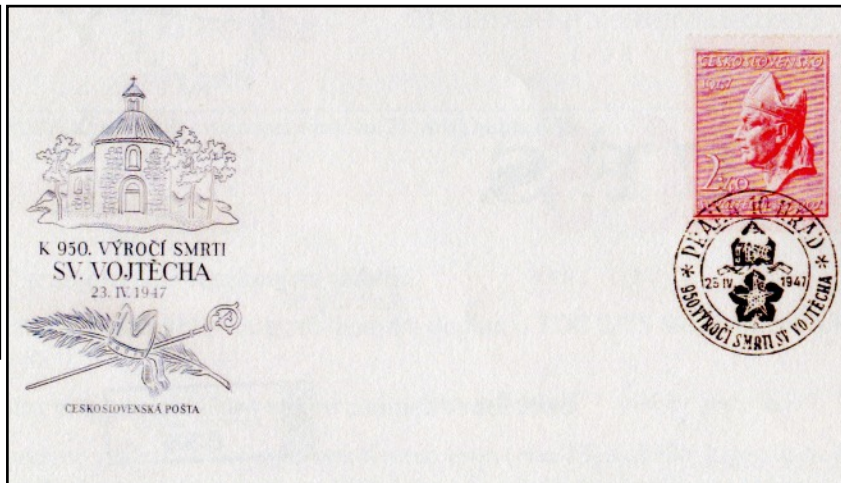


Fig. 5. FDC for 950th Anniversary of Death of St. Vojtěch, showing different positions of official cancel (1947).

In the Monograph it is mentioned that there are different locations for the cancel on FDC 1A/47, Czechoslovak Two-Year Economic Plan – on the left side of the stamp or under the stamp (Monografie 9, page 31). This is also the same with FDC 2A/47 950th Anniversary of Death of St. Vojtěch (Fig. 5). The variety with the cancel on the left side is shown in the Monograph.

Special Commemorative Envelopes for the Presidential Election

For the presidential election on June 19, 1946, two official envelopes were prepared.

On V A/46, a 175 x 126mm envelope with header –

PŘEDSEDNICTVO
ÚSTAVODÁRNÉHO NÁRODNÍHO
SHROMÁŽDĚNÍ
REPUBLICY ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ

with 60h, 1.60 Kčs, and 3 K Beneš stamps from the Portraits issue [Pofis 415, 420, 422, Sc. 294, 303, 297] and with two special cancels in red (Fig. 6). This envelope is shown in *Monografie 9* (page 252).

On V B/46, a 164 x 116mm envelope with header –

KANCELÁŘ
NÁRODNÍHO SHROMÁŽDĚNÍ
REPUBLICY ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ

With 60h, 1.60 Kčs, and 3 K Beneš stamps from the Portraits issue [Pofis 415, 420, 422, Sc. 294, 303, 297] and with two special cancels in red (Fig. 7). This envelope is not shown in the Monograph.

In addition there are unofficial (private) envelopes for this election.

For the presidential election on June 14, 1948, an official envelope (Monografie 9, V A/48) was prepared with the stamps having a total value of 3 Kčs (usually it is a stamp from the XI Sokol Gathering in Prague - Allegory issue of 3 Kčs [Pofis 468, Sc. 344], or stamps of the series XI Sokol Gathering in Prague – Portraits issue [Pofis 475, 477, Sc. 351, 353]. Most envelopes are signed by Postal Minister Neumann.

We do not know of any other envelopes for subsequent presidential elections. All of the currently known envelopes are shown in the Monograph.



Fig. 6. FDC for Presidential Election in 1946, from the Office of Presidency of Constituent National Assembly, with stamps from the Portraits series, with special cancels (1946).



Fig. 7. FDC for Presidential Election in 1946, from the Office of The National Assembly, with stamps from the Portraits series, with special cancels (1946).

the Monograph with the date of March 9, 1953. The envelope also exists with a cancel having the date March 7, 1953. We do not know the reason why two different cancel dates are used.

Envelopes for the Most Beautiful Cancel Survey²

Here we show an envelope R-73 (Fig. 8) and present information that we were formerly unaware of. *R-73 Filatelie's 1st Annual Reader's Poll of the Most Beautiful Commemorative Cancel*, [Pofis 2048, Sc. 1902 – sic Pofis 2049, Sc. 1903]; Kroměříž September 17, 1973. The cancellation chosen was for a Max Švabinský stamp "August Noon".

FDC and Commemorative Envelope Prices

It is necessary to realize that the prices stated in the Monograph capture the situation 12 years ago. Also, the prices of the standard FDC were consistent with the prices in the ČSR II catalog, where the FDC were presented. The prices of the majority of the FDC from that time slightly decreased – on the market FDC are not that popular. The prices for some popular FDC (e.g. butterflies, offset series from the 60s) increased a little. The exception in prices is modeled by FDCs from 1947 bearing a complete stamp series, which are highly sought after, and you can usually only find them in auctions where they reach much higher prices than those shown in the Monograph.

There is a different situation with FDC that are interesting to collectors (envelopes with stamp types or plate errors, or with non-standard application of stamps). These envelopes – if they can be found on the market – reach high prices. In some cases, like with the non-standard stamps, they reach even multiple times the prices in the Monograph. The prices of the so-called Ministerial FDC are also higher than those shown in the Monograph, especially with the FDC that have the numbers only (i.e. Red Cross 1949, Children 1949). With most of the commemorative envelopes, the Monograph prices are essentially accurate. The exceptions are the prices for envelopes for surveys of commemorative cancels where the prices are at least double what the Monograph shows. FDC that are interesting for collectors are rarely found on the market, they are mainly in auctions.

Special Commemorative Envelopes – Gifts

I receive questions as to why some of these envelopes are not categorized as Ministerial FDC (e.g. envelopes for the XIV and XVII Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Congress) when similar envelopes for the XV and XVI Congress (M 5/76 and M 6/81) are categorized as Ministerial FDC? The reason is that the accompanying colorful cancels that are on the envelopes for the XV and XVI Conventions have the date of the stamp's issuance, while the envelopes for the XIV and XVII Congresses have differing dates, so these envelopes cannot be considered as FDC.

Special Commemorative Envelopes – For Sale

Envelope P A/53 was prepared to commemorate J.V. Stalin's death and is shown in

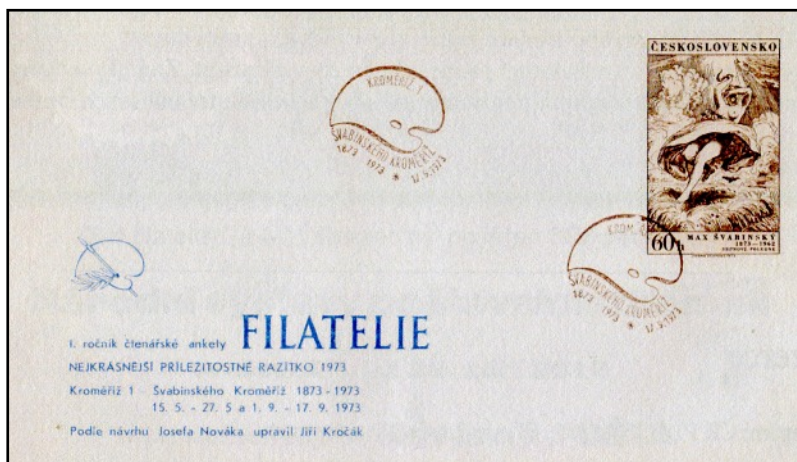


Fig. 8. FDC for Most Beautiful Commemorative Cancel survey, with stamp and cancel using the stamp "August Noon" from Max Švabinský series (1973).

Last Remarks

Recently I was surprised by a question from a collector – whether FDC with a stamp type can occur with all the cancels known to be used with standard FDC? I have to admit that I never considered this question. But logically it seems that there is no reason why varieties of cancels (differentiating letters) should not occur. The stamps were applied to the FDC at a time (before the stamps issuance) when the different cancel types were not yet known.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

1. For Pofis the first official FDCs were issued on January 1, 1947. However, during 1946 they issued several prototypes or preliminary covers, probably to evaluate the process of these special issues. *Monografie 9* does have a section (page 249) devoted to these issues from 1946.
2. In the years 1973-1978 a poll was organized to vote for “The Most Beautiful Commemorative Cancel of the Year”. Participants in the poll received a special cover from the Federal Ministry of Communications.

[Ed. note: The Czechoslovak Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of this article from *Zpravodaj* 2/2019 with the permission of the author and editor.]



Philatelic News and Views

From Keith Hart

1. This is the first notice of details for next year’s Society Board Meeting and Convention. It is at the 132nd annual show for the **Garfield-Perry Stamp Club**. Their **2022 March Party and Exhibition** will take place at the Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. Our Board meeting will be on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 2022, with the show immediately following on March 18-20. The special show rate for the hotel is \$114/night. Reservations can be made at (440) 238 8800. The venue is extremely well situated, close to I-80 and I-71 (exit 231A). The hotel will offer a complimentary shuttle on request to and from the nearby Cleveland Hopkins Airport. Entry forms for exhibits must be received by January 15, 2022. The prospectus can be found at the club website www.garfieldperry.org.

2. The other major show next year, **The Great American Stamp Show (GASS)**, will be held at SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. It will take place from August 25-28. Further details will be given in later issues of this journal.

3. References to stamp shows remind me to mention what has happened to our originally projected venue for this year, **The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show** in Denver. Its new location at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds is, to say the least, way out on the prairie East of Denver. Lou Svoboda and I had hoped to check out the location, first in 2020 and earlier this year. Both shows were unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. Hopefully we will be able to get to the 2022 show and

check out its suitability. Our concerns are that the designated hotel is some distance from the venue, which, together with doubts about the frequency of shuttles to/from the site, need to be resolved. There is also the problem about facilities in the area – no restaurants, hotels or stores. A substantial amount of development has just commenced in the area. Our hope is that by 2025, the earliest date that we could now have our annual Convention there, there will be several nearer hotels and lots of choice for eating around it. Updates will be given when available.

4. I would like to congratulate our member **Mark Wilson**, on his merited success in winning the literature class award at Praga Piccola 2020. The following note, from Josef Chudoba, was published in the 11/2020 issue of *Filatelia* magazine. “I can’t help but mention the literature class. This was won by the American collector Mark Wilson, an enthusiastic promoter of Czechoslovak stamps. Although he does not speak Czech, he tries (and the results are very professional) to translate interesting literature about Czechoslovak stamps into English and brings it closer to foreign collectors by publishing it through Monographs of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. For his Monograph *Czechoslovak Letter Mail 1918-39, Single and Multiple Stamp Franking* he received a well-deserved 80 points. The book is based on a series of articles “Czechoslovak literature letter items in the years 1918-39”, which appeared in *Filatelia* in the years 2000-02.”

5. **We are still experiencing problems with obtaining the books, catalogs, etc.** which we obtain from the Czech and Slovak Republics. We have just received a few copies of a new Pofis catalog. This the first item in the “Catalog” section in Available Publications on page 23.

BALPEX REPORT

by Keith Hart

It was wonderful to be at a stamp show again after more than 18 months. The venue for the show, the Convention Center of the Delta Hotel Baltimore Hunt Valley was excellent. As James Buckner told you on page 3, the location of our table could not have really been any better. Every visitor had to pass by it. Aside from what appears to be our perennial problem with electrical outlets, we had no complaints, including plenty of counter space to display virtually our entire stock of books and catalogs.



The single exhibit frame adjacent to our table.

We met a lot of new friends and reconnected with old ones. The exhibit area and bourse was extremely well organized, with a lot more room than usual. There was no jostling for space at dealer's tables, and plenty of room between the rows of exhibits to relax and be able to take in the details of everything. Our thanks to the Baltimore Philatelic Society for their hospitality.

At our Annual Board Meeting, the day before the show opened, the main item of business was the election of Society Officers, which has already been mentioned by James Buckner. We also discussed locations for future Board Meetings and Conventions. **2022 will be at the Garfield-Perry March Party in Cleveland** (first details are mentioned in News and Views). 2023 will be on June 2-4 at NAPEX in McLean, VA. In 2024 our meeting will be at a West Coast location, as yet undecided. Other discussions focused on the Society's financial condition (satisfactory at present), costs of mailing *The Specialist* (slightly increased), our Speaker's Program, work being carried out by The Perfins Group, and agreement on qualifying standards for entries for the Verner-Majer Memorial Award.

At our open Convention on Saturday officers gave reports on all aspects of managing the Society. The Presidency was officially handed over from Lou Svoboda to James Buckner. A fascinating presentation was made by Frederick P. Lawrence regarding *2018 Philatelic Commemorations of the 1918 Czech Scout Post*. Prior to our meeting, member Dave Ripley had given an excellent account of the Sudetenland crisis in an adjacent room.

At the APS recognized World Series of Philately Exhibits, submissions from four Board Members did us proud. **Frederick P. Lawrence** Ph.D. FRPSL, DP-1, deservedly had his entry, *1918 Czechoslovakia Scout Post*, receive a **Gold** award. In addition it received the **APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence**, the Society's **Alfons Mucha Award for Best Czechoslovak Exhibit**, and the **Gold Medal** awarded by the SCP.

Ludvik V. Svoboda's *Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1920*, received a **Large Vermeil**, and the **Silver Medal** awarded by SCP.

Alan Hanzl's *Slovakia's First Republic 1939-1945* received a **Vermeil**, and the **Bronze Medal** awarded by SCP.

James Buckner's *Philatelic Expressions of Grief: The Development and Use of Masaryk Mourning Stamps, Cancels and Covers from Czechoslovakia* received a **Vermeil**.

In addition **Dave Ripley** (masquerading as Edvard Beneš!) and **William Slaninko** had exhibits in the My Favorites – One Page Informal Exhibit Class.



Our table with, from left to right, Richard Livingston, Lou Svoboda, Alan Hanzl, James Buckner and Frederick Lawrence.

BOHUMIL ŠNEIDER – HIS PHILATELIC LIFE

by Keith Hart

Bohumil Šneider came late to a vocation in stamp engraving. His first Czechoslovak work came in 1989, when he was 53-years old. However, he became a prolific engraver of both stamps and FDC cachets after that, completing work on 107 stamps in the next 30 years. Here is a short tribute to Šneider, hopefully enjoying retirement, having celebrated his 85th birthday earlier this year. It illustrates the breadth of his work, by selecting a stamp from every 5 years of his philatelic career.



Fig. 1: 1989 – Czechoslovakia: Nature Protection: Amphibians. 4 Kčs – Newts [Pofis 2900, Sc. 2750]

His first engraved stamp was from a design by R. Hamsíková. In a set of four stamps from the series: *Nature Protection – Amphibians*, Šneider's 4 Kčs shows two newts in their normal environment which alternates between terrestrial and watery habitats (Figure 1).

By 1994 Czechoslovakia had split into the two countries we know nowadays. Šneider worked for both countries. His second stamp for Slovakia (the first had come earlier that year) was from the long-running series portraying art which had started in the Czechoslovak period and still continues today in both countries. Based on a graphic design by Martin Činovský *Art: Janko Alexy – Dievčatá*, a watercolor painting from 1932, this engraving delicately depicts the subtle coloring of the two young girls, withstanding the cold winter weather (Figure 2).



Fig. 2: 1994 – Slovakia: Art. 7 Sk – Girls [Pofis 50, Sc. 199]



Fig. 3: 1999 – Slovakia: 19th World Winter Academic Games and 4th EYOD: 12 Sk [Pofis 169, Sc. 319]

In 1999 Šneider engraved another Slovak stamp based on designs by I. Schurmann. Issued to celebrate both the 19th *World Winter Academic Games* and the 4th *European Youth Olympic Festival*, which were held in Poprad, the stamp, featuring two snowboarders, was printed in se-tenant fashion and is flanked by coupons with the logos of each event (Figure 3).

By 2004 Šneider was by now only working for the Czech Post and engraved a stamp, designed by Ján Kavan, which celebrated *The Introduction of Compulsory Schooling in Our Country*. The silhouette figures of a teacher and schoolchild in period dress from 1774 (Figure 4) give us a unique impression which has left us with an instantly recognizable stamp whenever we see it.

Engravings for a 2009 two stamp set celebrating *Arts and Crafts – Historic Stoves* were based on a design by M. Vitanovský. The 14 Kč stamp illustrates an 1835 stove from Vyškov Chateau in the Biedermaier style (Figure 5).

Five years later Šneider engraved a stamp in the series *Beauties of Our Country – Červená Lhota Chateau*. Developed from a design by Ján Kavan the engraving is a masterful exercise of intimate detailing of the chateau, combined with a shimmering reflection (Figure 6).

The year 2019 saw his final contribution to philately with the head of Rudolf Tomáš Jedlička, one of the continuing *Personalities* series. Based on a graphic design by Jan Kavan, the engraving's meticulous shading of the head harks back to the beautiful detailing of early Czechoslovak portrait stamps (Figure 7).



Fig. 4: 2004 – Czech Republic: The Introduction of Compulsory Schooling in Our Country: 6.50 Kč [Pofis 413,



Fig. 5: 2009 – Czech Republic: Arts and Crafts – Historic Stoves: Biedermaier Stove: 14 Kč [Pofis 612, Sc. 3433]



Fig. 6: 2014 – Czech Republic: Beauties of Our Country – Červená Lhota Chateau: 17 Kč [Pofis 804, Sc. 3601]

The stamps illustrated in this article show that Šneider was skilled and comfortable working with any subject matter. Earlier this year Czech Post celebrated his 85th birthday with a commemorative folder containing two sheets (Figure 8). The right-hand sheet shows two 2010 Czech stamps from the *Beauties of Our Country* series. Based on graphic designs by Jan Maget, the views of Klatovy and Štramberk are extremely detailed miniature masterpieces. Proofs for the two stamps fill the left-hand sheet.



Fig. 7: 2019 – Czech Republic: Personalities: Rudolf Tomáš Jedlička: 19 Kč [Pofis 1021]

I hope that this brief article, shows the appreciation I feel for Bohumil Šneider’s work, which puts him firmly alongside the other Czech and Slovak engravers whose work we greatly admire.

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2. Zberateľ catalog Slovensko 1993-2017 (2018): Anton Kulhánek, Zberateľ, Bratislava.
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Fig. 8: 2010 – Czech Republic: Beauties of Our Country: Klatovy (12 Kč), Štramberk (14 Kč) [Pofis 637-638, Sc. 3459-3460]

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New Issues

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

SLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart

1. On June 30, 2021 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a stamp in the series **Nature Protection: The Demänovská Cave of Liberty** [Pofis SK744]. The 2.60 € stamp also celebrates the centenary of the caves discovery, as well as 2021 being the International Year of Caves and Karst. Designed by Igor Piačka and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, the stamp shows a niphargid uniquely found in caves in the Low Tatras region. The stamp was produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with offset in a miniature sheet of four (Fig. 1). The cave is a World Heritage Site in the karst area of central Slovakia and is the most visited cave in the country. It is famous for its cave water lilies and curious sponges and corals. Stalactites and stalagmites can also be seen on cave tours where the expected temperature



Figure 1

is 42° F (7° C). Niphargids are small eyeless crustaceans, an extremely diverse form of freshwater amphipods, each species usually found in an extremely small geographic range. These swift moving, whitish creatures are difficult to observe in the subterranean waters of the cave, usually seen only as small white flashes when illuminated by a flashlight. As with most cave systems the river water serving the Demänovská caves is becoming more polluted from human use on the surface and efforts are being made to remedy this before the ecosystem is modified enough to threaten the niphargids and other unique lifeforms in the caves.



Figure 2

The cachet of the FDC depicts an arachnid *Eukoenenia spelaea* (Fig. 2) and the cancellation shows a *Pseudosinella pacti* springtail. [Ed. note: in 2019 the Demänovský Cave System was the subject of another stamp issue – *The Demänovská Ice Cave from the Beauties of our Homeland series* [Pofis 689].

2. On June 18, 2021 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet with coupons available for personalization on the occasion of **Bratislava Collector Days 2021**. The sheet, designed by Adrian Ferda, has eight T2 50g stamps and eight coupons (Fig. 3) and was available at Collector Days. It could be obtained using the coupon design shown or with the buyers own image. Only 700 of these sheets were made available.



Figure 3



Figure 4

3. On July 1, 2021 the Ministry issued a 1.70 € stamp to celebrate the **150th Anniversary of Forestry's Independence from Mining** [Pofis 745]. The stamp, designed by Peter Augustovič and printed in sheets of 30, shows a reconstructed wooden trough (Fig. 4) at the Dolný Harmanec Museum of Technology in the Rakytovo valley. These troughs transported logs with the help of water and gravity. Extracted logs were moved by horses to the upper end of the trough. They were then cut and split into sizes suitable for furnaces or fireplaces. Then they traveled down the trough to a small man-made lake at the bottom from where they were transported to towns and villages. Until 1871 there was no system in place to manage forests in Slovak lands. Mining and its accompanying metallurgic industries had devastated large parts of Slovak forests. This changed when on July 1, 1871 the Royal Hungarian Directorate of Forest and Agricultural Estates was relocated to Banská Bystrica. They immediately issued edicts for the management of forests, completely independent of mining interests. Plans allowed for the systematic recovery of forest areas that had been ravaged by mining and industry. This continues today with policies that aim to preserve and enhance forests and their ecosystems. The FDC cachet shows a Muran-Noriker horse (Fig. 5) long used to transport logs. The cancellation is a group of oak leaves.

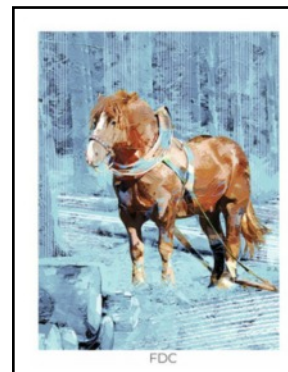


Figure 5



Figure 6

4. On August 13, 2021 the Ministry issued a 0.65 € stamp to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of The Climbing Club JAMES** [Pofis 746]. The stamp was designed by Štefan Papčo and shows the head and shoulders of his sculptural work "Bivouac" (Fig. 6), which is situated on the rock wall of Lomnický štít. It was printed in sheets of 50. The club was established in 1921 by three climbers from Spišská Nová Ves. They named it for their favorite brand of canned peaches. Eventually each letter was assigned a meaning, which after going through cultural changes is now Idealism,

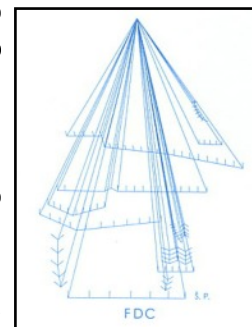


Figure 7

Alpinism, Morality, Enthusiasm, and Solidarity. The club survived the communist era by being incorporated into the SOKOL organization. In 1990 it was newly reestablished as the Slovak Mountaineering Union JAMES (SMU), which today manages four chalets in the high Tatras, as well as providing education and training for activities ranging from indoor climbing to scaling the highest peaks on the planet. The cachet of the FDC depicts the so-called "climbing score" (Fig. 7), a graphic representation of a climber's movement on a rock wall. The cancellation is a grouping of arrows. A collection sheet [Pofis 138 NL 746/21] was issued the same day. The main image on this sheet shows the entire "Bivouac" sculpture of a climber sheltering on a rock shelf.

5. On September 3, 2021 the Ministry issued a 0.65 € stamp to celebrate **The Biennale of Illustrations, Bratislava 2021** [Pofis 747]. The graphic designer was Vladislav Rostoka and it was printed in sheets of 25 stamps. The stamp depicts *The Boxer*, an illustration from Hassan Moosavi's book of the same name, which was the Grand Prix winner at the previous biennale in 2019 (Fig. 8). The book tells the story of a hero stuck in a standoff between rage and compassion. The key messages in this book, which is for children 5-years and older, are that being able to control one's anger, together with kindness and caring towards others is essential in today's world. The Biennale, of which this is the 28th edition, is considered the World's premier competition for book illustration and is held under the sponsorship



Figure 9



Figure 8

of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

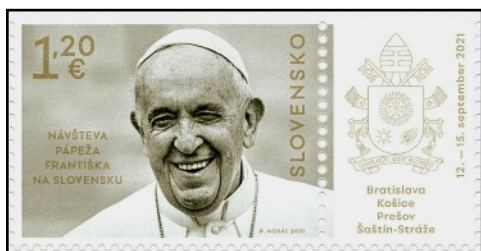


Figure 10

Pope's personal coat of arms, and lists the Slovak cities he visited (Fig. 10). Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he became Pope in 2013, following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. He is the first Pope from the Jesuit Order and also the first from the Americas. He was in Slovakia from September 12-15 and visited Bratislava, Košice, Prešov, and Šaštín-Stráže. Known for his humility and interest in the poor, he does not shy away from controversy, as shown on this journey when he visited the extremely marginalized Roma community of Luník V in Košice. The cachet for the FDC depicts the Basilica of The Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary in Šaštín-Stráže (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is an outline of the crossed keys from the Papal coat of arms.

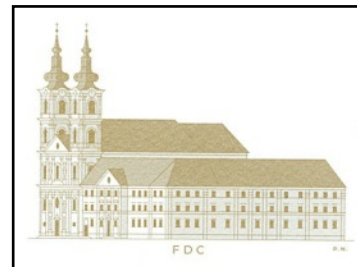


Figure 11



Figure 12

7. On September 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a 1.85 € stamp in the series: **Beauties of Our Homeland – The Calvary in Banská Štiavnica** [Pofis 749]. The stamp, designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by František Horniak, depicts the Upper Church of the Calvary, with a background of the interior frescos (Fig. 12). It was produced in a miniature sheet of 8 by recess printing from a flat plate combined with multicolor offset. This Calvary is a representation of the fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross, a complex of 3 churches and 22 chapels set on the Ostrý Vrch hill. Construction commenced on September 14, 1744 in the town then known as Schemnitz in the Kingdom of Hungary. Seven years later it was completed and became a popular place of pilgrimage, particularly

for those ending on September 14 each year. The series of buildings endured severe neglect during the communist era. Then sadly became the victim of extreme vandalism, combined with the theft of many artifacts in the period from 1989-2004. In 2008 it was added to the list of the 100 most endangered monuments in the world. This galvanized the local community into action and an intensive period of major restoration took place, ending with completion of work on the upper church in 2018. It is now, together with other nearby structures, deservedly a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The FDC cachet depicts the central part of the frescos in the dome of chapel No. 4 (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is an outline inspired by part of the same fresco. A Cartes Maximum was also issued at this time.



Figure 13



Figure 14

of UNESCO. The FDC cachet shows the figure of the boxer in a field of flowers (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is an interpretation of the Biennale's logo. A Cartes Maximum was issued at the same time.

6. On September 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a 1.20 € stamp to celebrate **The Visit of Pope Francis to Slovakia** [Pofis 748]. Graphic design was by Peter Nosál and it was printed in sheets of 15, with 15 coupons. The stamp shows a smiling Pope, while the coupon has

Postal Stationery

8. On June 18, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate **Bratislava Collector Days 2021** [Pofis 307 CDV 226/21]. The imprinted stamp, with a value of T2 50g, is

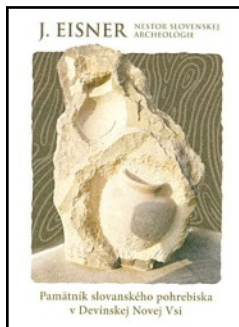


Figure 15

for the 10th anniversary of Slovak membership of the EU. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, depicts a sheet of “stamps” which illustrates views of famous Bratislava buildings, overlaid with lettering and magnifying glasses (Fig. 14). The stamp show took place from June 18-19.

9. On July 7, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid envelope, with additional printing to commemorate **Ján Eisner – Father of Slovak Archeology** [Pofis 122 COB 106/21]. The three definitive stamps, totaling 0.65 € all have archeological connections. Professor Ján Eisner (1885-1967) founded the archeological department at Comenius University in the late 1940s. He specialized in studies of Bronze Age cultures. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda (Fig. 15), shows a memorial from a Slavic burial ground near Devín. [Ed. note: It took me a while to track down the 0.40 € “stamp” on the envelope. It was only issued as the indicia on a 2010 prepaid envelope without imprint and depicts a fresco from the Church of All Saints in Lurdová. The other two stamps are from more recent stamp issues]

10. On July 12, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **700th Anniversary of The Granting of Privileges to Žilina**. The imprinted stamp, with a value of T2 50g, is for the 10th anniversary of Slovak membership of the EU. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows two coins minted in the 14th century (Fig. 16). In 1321 King Charles I of Hungary made Žilina a royal free town, which, among other privileges that were given, allowed the town to mint currency.

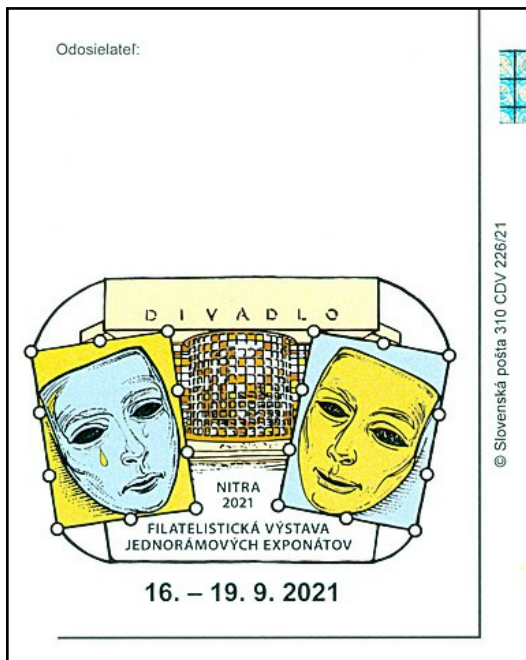


Figure 18

11. On September 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate **The Most Beautiful Postage Stamp of 2020** [Pofis 309 CDV 226/21]. The imprinted stamp, with a value of T2 50g, is for the 10th anniversary of

Slovak membership of the EU. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, depicts the “Magnolia Grandiflora” stamp (Fig. 17) issued as part of the Nature Protection series. In the public poll it received 232 first place votes. The winner of the most beautiful FDC was the Water Castle of Šimonovany from the Beauties of Our Homeland series.



Figure 16



Figure 17

12. On September 16, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **National Philatelic Exhibition NITRA 2021** [Pofis 310 CDV 226/21]. The imprinted stamp with a value of T2 50g, is for the 10th anniversary of Slovak membership of the EU. The additional print, designed by Igor Benca, shows the logo of the exhibit (Fig. 18) which took place from September 16-19.



CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

1. On June 9, 2021 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series: **Beauties of our Country – Jezeří State Chateau** [Pofis A1122]. The sheet contains 26 Kč and 27 Kč stamps and the background shows a contemporary color view of the chateau from a distance above a black and white rendering of scenes from mining operations in the area (Fig. 1). The stamps were designed by Adolf Absolon, with additional line-drawing for the 26 Kč stamp by Martin Srb. Both locations are

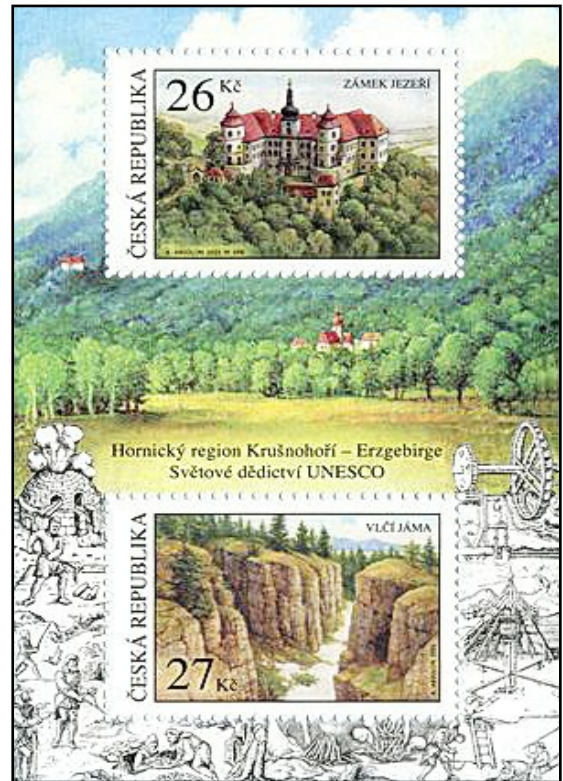


Figure 1

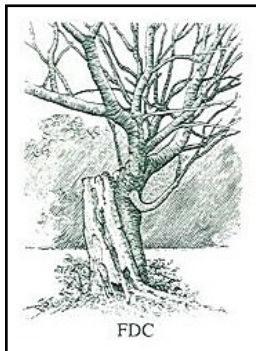


Figure 2

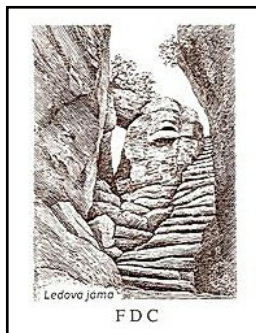


Figure 3

part of the Ore Mountains World Heritage area. The **26 Kč stamp** [Pofis 1122] offers a view of the west side of **Jezeří Chateau**,

which is situated in the Ore Mountains, near Most in NW Czechia. A castle has been here since 1355. It went through many reconstructions until the present buildings were built in Baroque style in the early 18th century. Its cultural heyday was in the early 19th century when the Lobkowitz family owned it. During World War II it was used as a prison camp for senior Allied officers. After the war the chateau deteriorated rapidly and four villages beneath it disappeared because of iron ore mining. In the 1980s it was slated to be demolished but survived, although only essential repairs were carried out. In 1990 extensive restoration began and this is still proceeding under the care of the National Heritage Institute. Some parts are now open to visitors but in 2020 it was listed as one of the most endangered monuments in Europe. The FDC cachet, engraved by Martin Srb, illustrates the trunk of an ancient maple tree found in the gardens (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is part of an original Renaissance period detail from the Chateau. The **27 Kč stamp** [Pofis 1123] shows the **Vlčí Jáma (Wolf Pit) ravine**, which is in the Ore Mountains, directly north of Karlovy Vary. This Natural Monument contains the remnants of mining activity for tin ore in the Wolfgang mine. The mine shafts collapsed and a huge sinkhole created the 20m (65ft.) deep ravine. Entry to the ravine is prohibited due to continuous falls of rock. Nearby are the remains of the St. Peter mine and its famous **Ledová Jáma (Ice Pit)**. The picturesque steps down into the pit were shaped in the early 20th century and are the subject of the FDC cachet (Fig. 3). The cancellation shows an ancient ore sieve.

2. On June 23, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet to celebrate the fictional character **Tomcat Mikeš** [Pofis A1124]. The graphic design is by Pavel Hrach, based on original artwork by Josef Lada, with engraving by Václav Fajt. The 55 Kč stamp shows Mikeš setting out on one of his many walks through the countryside and is surrounded on the sheet by four other illustrations from the book (Fig. 4). The sheet was produced using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multicolored offset. Josef Lada's children's book *Mikeš* (translated as Nico in English books) is a celebration of life in the countryside during the early part of the

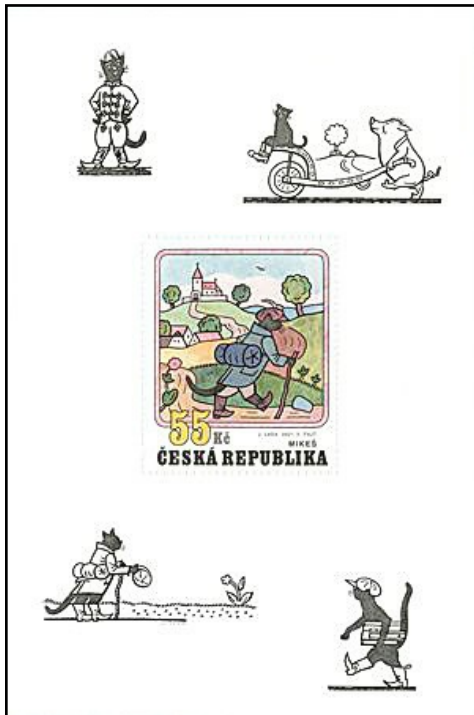


Figure 4

20th century. It was inspired by Lada’s own childhood in Hrusice and documents how rural people were learning to cope with the onset of industrialization. The hero of the book is Pepík Ševců and details his adventures with animal friends. The black cat Mikeš attended school, learned to speak to humans and can also walk on two legs, wearing boots made by Pepík’s shoemaker father. The FDC cachet shows Mikeš reading a book (Fig. 5), although how much he can understand when it is upside down is hard to tell. The cancellation is another illustration of Mikeš walking to school.

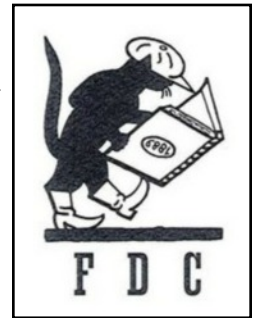


Figure 5

3. On June 23, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate **100 Years of the Kyjov Folk Festival** [Pofis 1125]. The stamp, with a value identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč), shows The Ride of Kings (Fig. 6), was designed by Anna Khunová and printed in sheets of 50. The Slovácký Rok



Figure 6

(Slovak Year) festival in Kyjov, Moravia is the oldest ethnographic festival in the Czech Lands. It was first organized by the local Sokol group in 1921 and was held to help preserve the local folk culture, understood as being a unique legacy of their ancestors. It was so successful that it soon led to other towns in the region having their own festivals, but Kyjov has emerged as the most important of these festivals and is now recognized by UNESCO as being a unique cultural heritage event. This year it was held from August 13-15 and was glad to welcome many visitors despite the lingering worries about COVID-19. On the Saturday of the festival there was a procession with more than 3000 women, men and children, all wearing the colorful traditional costumes of the area. They were accompanied by ensembles of folk singers and dancers, along with the traditional dulcimer and wind instrument groups. On Sunday the Festival’s climax is the Ride of Kings. 150 costumed horsemen, led



Figure 7

by a king who is dressed as a girl with a rose in his mouth, ride from nearby Skoronice Square to the Kyjov Town Square. This retells an ancient legend where the Hungarian king Matthaïs Corvinus flees from the pursuing army of Czech King George of Poděbrady after being defeated in battle. The cachet of the FDC shows a girl in traditional Kyjov costume, holding locally grown bunches of grapes (Fig. 7) and the cancellation is a wine jug.



Figure 8

4. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **Nature Protection: Milovice Nature Reserve** [Pofis 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, and A1126]. The sheet (Fig. 8) contains

four different value stamps (23, 26, 27, and 30 Kč) and two coupons. The four stamps and the coupons form a solid rectangular perforated center to the sheet. Margins of the sheet are filled with animals, birds, flowers, butterflies, and other insects that inhabit this area of open steppes. Graphic designers for both the sheet and FDCs were Jaromír and Libuše Knotek, with engraving by Martin Srb. It was produced by a combination of printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. This area was left severely damaged after being used by the military for some time. Established in 2015, the managers of this area in Central Bohemia found that the first steps towards conservation were difficult as the landscape continued to be overtaken by invasive grasses and its bio-diversity kept diminishing. The scientific managers from several universities came up with a unique solution. Reintroduce the species that would historically have grazed here. Putting this into practice was difficult as European bison, aurochs and wild horses no longer inhabited the area or were extinct. They decided to breed their own herds of



Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

Figure 12

suitable ungulates, which would in turn lead to critically endangered flora and insects being able to thrive and increase in numbers. **The 23 Kč stamp shows Alcon Large Blue “Rebel” butterflies** fluttering around their host plant the **Blue Gentian “Rebel”**. Both butterfly and plant are critically endangered, particularly in this area of Europe. This butterfly is of an unusual type, its larvae being taken into the nests of ants where it is raised by them. In this respect it is considered cuckoo-like. The FDC cachet depicts the butterflies on it’s host plant (Fig. 9) and the cancellation shows a butterfly atop the gentian. **The 26 Kč stamp depicts grazing European Bison**. There are no wild bison in Czechia at present. The bison in Milovice are a lowland type of bison and were brought from three different Polish reserves. At present they are kept in an acclimation pen. The cachet of the FDC portrays a bison with her calf (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is a line drawing profile of a bison’s head. **The 27 Kč stamp illustrates three Aurochs**. As the original European Aurochs have been extinct since 1627, these Dutch Tauros cattle are considered the closest breed resembling the Auroch as far as appearance, size and grazing ability is concerned. The original group of six cattle is now a herd of 13. The FDC cachet shows a cow with its calf (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is a profile of the head of a Tauros, featuring its spectacular horns. **The 30 Kč stamp features three Exmoor Ponies**. These are considered the closest relatives to the extinct Central and West European wild horses. The first herd of 14 ponies arrived from England in 2015. Breeding has been so successful that young stallions have already been loaned to two other protected areas in Czechia. Every pony has a name, international passport, and have their family tree entered in the breeding record book. The FDC cachet shows a mother and foal (Fig. 12) and the cancellation is a profile of a pony’s head.

5. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet to commemorate **Dante Alighieri**



Figure 13

[Pofis 1130, 1131, and A1130]. The sheet (Fig. 13), designed by Marina Richterová contains two copies each of two different value stamps (“B” and “E”) and three coupons. The two central “B” value stamps and the three coupons form a vertical strip in the middle of the sheet. The margins of the sheet contain a graphic view of Dante’s fictional journey through the universe in his masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*. This issue commemorates the 700th anniversary of Dante Alighieri’s death. Dante was born in Florence c. 1265 and became the most influential poet,

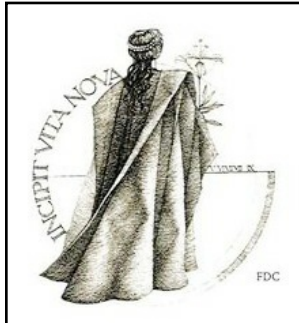


Figure 14

writer and philosopher of his age. He was the first great Italian writer to publish works in Italian rather than Latin. *The Divine Comedy* is an epic journey in which, guided by the Roman poet Virgil and later by his muse Beatrice, he travelled through Hell (*Inferno*), Purgatory (*Purgatorio*), and Paradise (*Paradiso*). His commitment to politics led him being exiled from his beloved Florence, first to Rome, and later to Ravenna where he died. The “B” value stamp shows the **head of Dante**, as it is normally depicted on his portraits, crowned by a wreath of laurel leaves. The digitally printed FDC cachet has a drawing of Beatrice holding a lily, with a sign that



Figure 15

translates as “New Life” (Fig.14). The commemorative cancellation is a line drawing of the letter “D” within a rose motif. The “E” value stamp has a full-length monochromatic **figure of Dante in a Tuscan landscape**. The digitally printed cachet of the FDC portrays the spires of medieval Florence and a sign translated as “Forever Blessed” (Fig. 15). The commemorative cancellation is a line drawing of the letter “D” within a lily motif.

6. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet to observe **EXPO 2021 DUBAI**. [Pofis 1132]. The stamp, with a value designated by the letter “Z” (45 Kč) was designed by Jan Jiskra and shows a view of the Czech Republic pavilion. It is within a sheet whose margins continue the visualization of the pavilion beyond the edges of the stamp (Fig. 16). The sheet was produced using a combination of multicolor offset combined with silk screen printing. Originally planned for 2020 and postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic the EXPO will now run from October 1, 2021 until March 31, 2022. It will feature pavilions from 191 countries, divided into four districts – Sustainability, Mobility, People and the Planet, and Opportunity. The United Arab Emirates hope that the innovations and ideas to be featured at the show will translate into building a better tomorrow for all of humanity. The Czech pavilion was designed by the Formosa AA s.r.o. architectural group and they have created a fertile land in the barren conditions of the Sweihan Desert by extracting water vapor from the air using only solar energy. When entering the pavilion you see a cloud of small fiberglass pipes, which form the basis of the extraction technology, which is a joint effort between the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic and Czech Technical University, Prague. The FDC cachet



Figure 16

is a smaller segment of the stamp itself (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is the skyline of the city of Dubai.



Figure 17

[Ed. Note: It is worth a remark that Jan Jiskra’s previous design for a stamp was in 1980!]



Figure 18

7. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp booklet in the series: **Young Animals – Czech Mountain Dog Puppies** [Pofis 1133]. The booklet contains 5 copies each of 2 self-adhesive stamps with a value designated by the letter “B”. One stamp has the head of a puppy, and the other shows

two puppies (Fig. 18). The stamp and booklet were designed by Jitka Mašínová and it was produced using multicolor offset with 10 die-cut self-adhesive stamps separated by a serrated cut. The Czech Mountain Dog is the most recently recognized Czech breed, with a long, thick white coat and irregular brown or black markings. These dogs have a friendly disposition and are highly intelligent. The dog is frequently used as a rescue, draft, and shepherd dog. They are also extremely suitable as family dogs as long as active members of the family give them plenty of the exercise that they require.

8. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a numbered commemorative sheet to celebrate **Butterflies** [Pofis PLO 2021/3], four stamps of which have been issued during the previous year. The sheet contains copies of all four stamps, which were designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek, within a sheet that contains other representations of the butterflies above a field of flowers (Fig. 19). The stamps are cancelled with an outline of a butterfly.

Postal Stationery

9. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with additional printing to celebrate **Praga Piccola 2021** [Pofis CDV194]. The imprinted stamp, the logo of the Sběratel Collector Fair has a value identified by the letter “B”. The motif of the additional print is to mark the 45th anniversary of a spaceflight manned by Czechoslovak astronauts Vladimír Remek and Oldřich Peřčák (Fig. 20). This year’s fair at the PVA Expo Center in Letňany, Prague was held from September 10-11. 2800 cards were issued.

10. On September 8, 2021 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to commemorate the career of **Legends: Jan Kodeš**

[Pofis P236]. The imprinted stamp, an historic mailbox has a value identified by the letter “B”. The additional print has a photo of Jan Kodeš, one of Czechoslovakia’s leading tennis players during the 1960s and 70s (Fig. 21). It was issued at the Sběratel-Sampler Collector Fair, which was held at the same venue and time as Praga Piccola. 2800 cards were issued.

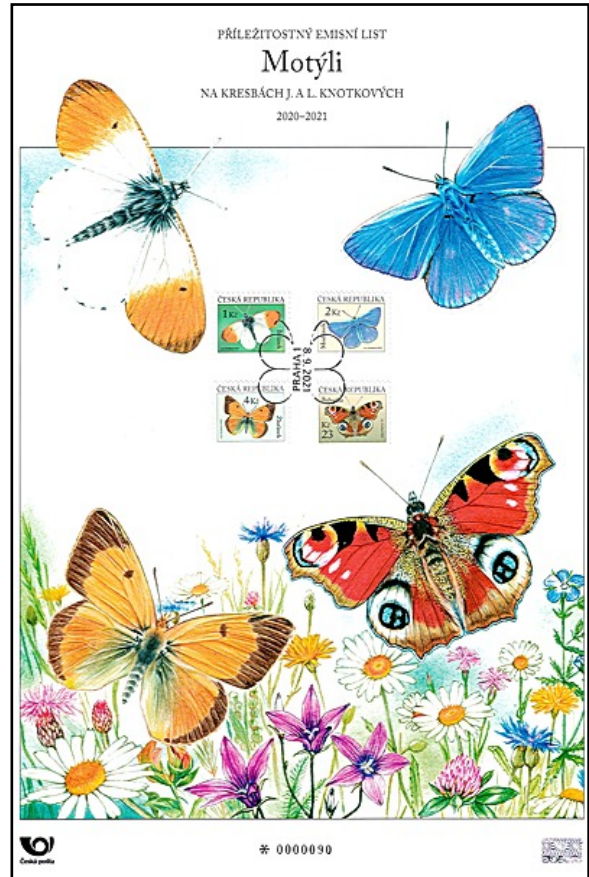


Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21

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