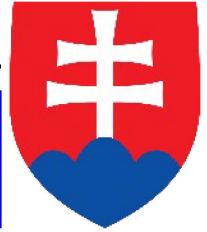




THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
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Slovak stamp newly issued to celebrate the birth centenary of Alexander Dubček, one of Czechoslovakia's most memorable politicians from the second half of the 20th century.

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Nancy Godfrey, 253 Walnut Street

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Web Site: www.csphilately.org

Editorial Staff

EDITOR: KEITH HART

4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104

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

ASSISTANT EDITOR: LUDVIK SVOBODA

4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net

Phone: 303-680-7118

Articles represent the opinions of the individual authors and content should not be considered as official policy of the Society or its officers.

Elected Officers

PRESIDENT: JAMES BUCKNER

322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606

706-255-6823

VICE-PRESIDENT: ALAN HANZL

6776 Hickory Hill Dr., Mayfield Village, OH 44143

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: TOM COSSABOOM

Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: BILL SLANINKO

1412 Poseidon, West Covina, CA 91790

TREASURER: MARISA GALITZ

P O Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117

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458 Scenic Drive, St. George, ON, Canada N0E 1N0

LIBRARIAN: LUDVIK SVOBODA

4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

APS REPRESENTATIVE: TOM COSSABOOM

Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

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THE COIL STAMPS OF THE DOVE AND LIBERATED REPUBLIC ISSUES

by Josef Chudoba – Vladimír Münzberger
translated by Lucie Harris

It is not well known that the first Czechoslovak coil stamps were produced in 1922 and were from the Dove and Liberated Republic issues. In fact, only a few of these have survived. They can be differentiated from the common sheet stamps through a lead-in strip. Another interesting thing, the rolls did not contain the normally common horizontal rows, but vertical rows, that were put together by hand. Today we will discuss the circumstances of their origin and use, show their possible connection with perfins, and mention a problem that to this day has not been solved.

Origin of Coil Stamps

The purpose for the creation of coil stamps was to simplify the handling of stamps. We can imagine they could have been inserted into stamp vending machines. We do not have much information about this use. With us, automat stamps were a similar case, but they did not meet with long term success. The more important reason to start using coil stamps was their use in franking machines that were to simplify the handling of stamps in companies with a large volume of correspondence. These machines were used even before WWI in Austria and even more in Germany.

We are talking about machines that performed several functions at once – the separating of the stamp from the roll, wetting the glue, attaching the stamp to the letter, and on top of that, tracking the number of stamps used. Some of them – even before attaching the stamp to the letter – added a company perfin to the stamp (Fig. 1). These machines were in use in Austria in the second decade of the last century. Since the Austrian Post originally only made stamps in sheets of 100 pieces, it was necessary in the beginning to prepare the rolls manually – by cutting rows from the sheets and gluing them together. This method was only used temporarily. Quite soon, in December 1913, definitive stamps in customary values and even in coil format began to be used. Gradually, they were stamps of these values: the issues of 1908/13 – 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 35 h; 1916 – 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 40, 80 h; 1917 (Karel) – 15, 20, 25, 30 h. All of these stamps had the same format. The use of franking machines with perfins is now relatively well documented. We know that about 100 machines with various perfins were being used in Austria and have recorded 24 of them in use in our land. After the founding of Czechoslovakia, these machines were not usable for the newly issued stamps (they were of a different format). So far we have not detected a significant collector interest in the stamps from machines that did not add a perfin – and also, the demonstrability of their use is relatively low.

The machines for coil stamps were used in many countries and were made by several companies. They often differed in design, but their purpose was similar. Some were simple, designed for just one roll, while others enabled the use of three or even up to seven different rolls. Significant spread of use happened in Germany, and partially also in other Western European countries. The Dutch collector Ir. Ruud J. Hammink studied their use in relation to perfins in detail and was the first one to document Austrian perfins on coil stamps.

Since the machines would cut the stamps from the rolls, you can see traces of the cutting – especially on the top and bottom perforations. In the case of incorrect alignments, shifts could occur (sometimes even significant ones), and the stamps could be cut other than at the perforations. Depending on their technical design, the machines could leave other characteristic traces on the stamps. Therefore, it is possible that on certain postally used stamps we can recognize what type of machine was used. For example, there could be a specific shape of a perfin letter, the way the stamp was separated from the roll, and so on. Another typical sign of stamps with perfins from these machines is that they could be placed in only one position in relation to the stamp image, while other perfins could be found in up to eight different positions.

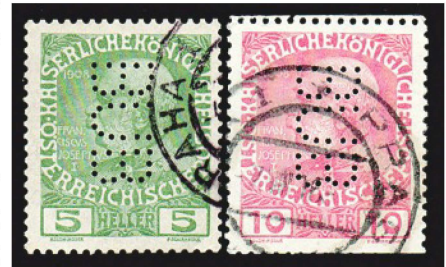


Figure 1: Austrian coil stamps with the perfin BUB: the left stamp (5 h green) was correctly cut off. You can see the cutoff on the upper and lower perforations; the stamp (10 h red) on the right was cut off incorrectly. The bottom perforation is almost missing. On the other hand, the top one contains a part of another stamp.



Figure 2: German coil stamps from a POKO machine. They can be distinguished by the fact that the machines from one manufacturer used the same type of letters, gotten from a template (the two stamps on the right). If some companies used the same monograms, then it can be difficult to distinguish them by the shape of the perfin – as a consequence, the same perfin can be found from completely different companies from different locations.

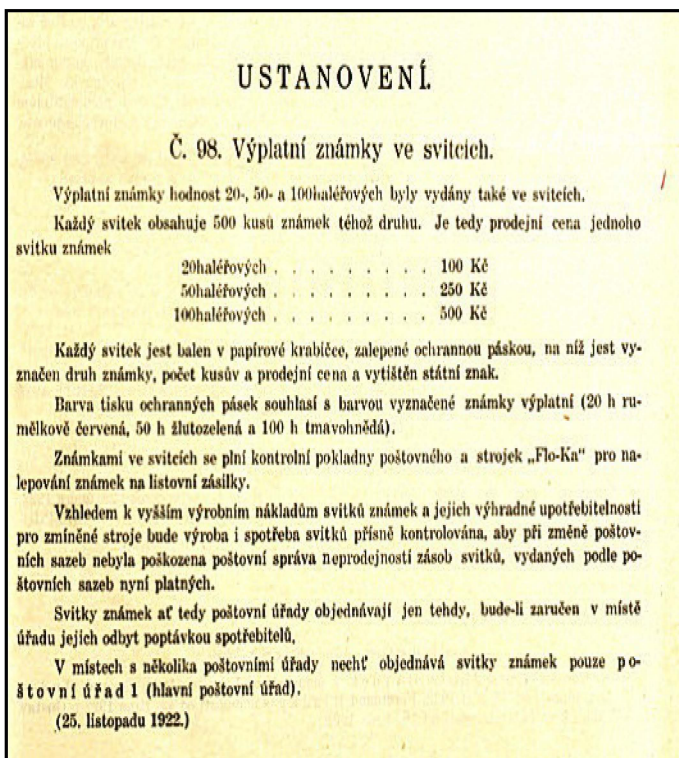


Figure 3

The sheet was then cut into 10 vertical strips, and these were manually glued together via the remaining edge into the required 500 stamp roll. The finished roll was furnished with the sealing tape with the relevant information. (Fig. 4)

It is only possible to prove which coil stamps were actually issued by way of the sealing tapes. To date, only the 10h and 20h values are known – at the same time, while the 10h was not mentioned in the *Věstník*, it does occur. On the other hand, **sealing tapes for the 50h and 100h stamps are not known**; were they ever really issued?

Figure 4: 10h coil stamps with a lead-in strip that ends with a sealing tape. The strip, made of perforated paper, wrapped around the entire roll. The length of the lead-in strip is in fact much longer than shown. In this case, it was attached by pasting the leading edge of the stamps to the trailing edge of the lead-in strip.

Coil Stamps of the Dove and Liberated Republic issues

The Czechoslovak Post also started to consider the making of coil stamps for the purpose of improving the handling of postage stamps. The sellers of franking machines in the surrounding countries were surely interested in this idea. To a certain extent, however, it holds true that what has been proven elsewhere may not always be successful in our country as well – and this was shown to be true in this case also.

In *Věstník* #86 from December 6, 1922, the Czechoslovak Post announced the issuance of 500 piece coils of 20h stamps [Dove-Pofis 148, Sc. 84] and 50 and 100h [Liberated Republic-Pofis 156, 158, Sc. 87, 88]. It states in *Ustanoven* #98 (Fig. 3):

“Each roll is packaged in a paper box and is secured with a sealing tape on which is shown the type of stamp, number of pieces and sale price, and an imprint of the national emblem Rolls of stamps fill postal cash registers and ‘Flo-Ka’ machines for sticking stamps onto letters. Due to the higher production costs of coil stamps and their exclusive suitability for the mentioned machines, the production and usage of coils will be strictly controlled.”

It further states that rolls are to be ordered by post offices only in the case of assured sales demand of consumers. It is therefore clear that the rolls were made at the instigation of the companies providing these machines, which the sellers wanted to promote on the Czechoslovak market.

The production of coils was laborious and therefore costly. The left, right, and top (or bottom) margins were separated from the 100-piece sheets.

The sheet was then cut into 10 vertical



The validity of coil stamps was the same as stamps from sheets. If they were issued, the 100h coil stamps had a very short life. At the end of 1922, counterfeits of this issue appeared in eastern Slovakia. Therefore, in the January 13, 1923 issue of *Věstník*, the validity of all definitive 100h or higher stamps was canceled, until January 31, 1923.

The 50h coil stamps were valid until January 15, 1926, and the Dove 10h and 20h even until March 15, 1932. In October 1926, new coil stamps were issued in the 20h, 30h, and 50h values with the motifs of Karlštejn, Pernštejn, and T.G.M., printed by rotary recess printing which no longer needed the coils to be produced by hand.

Franking Machines

The provision (*Ustanovení*) specifies for which franking machines the coil stamps were produced. They were on the one hand the so-called “postage control counters” – which is no more than a not very successful literal translation of the German title Porto-Kontroll-Kase or Porto-Kontroll-und Frankiermaschine, called POKO for short – and also the machines with the commercial name Flo-Ka. Both types were used in Germany. The stamp formats of the Dove and Liberated Republic stamps corresponded to the formats of German stamps that were used in these machines.

You can read about **Flo-Ka** machines in the *Český Svět* 24/1923 magazine from March 8, where on page 16 are several pictures of the machines with a corny humorous note “hygienically speed-lick postage stamps”. It was evidently an advertisement that was supposed to attract customers. From specialized publications, we can learn that these were machines of the Plunger type (which was likely indicating a patent), which were put out by a number of manufacturers in Europe under various brands. One of them was the Flo-Ka brand that tried to penetrate our market. Other machines were offered, for example, by the Leipzig company under the Monopol brand. These machines were designed for the use of a single roll of stamps. However, we were not able to find out whether, in addition to the above-mentioned functions, they could also punch out company perfin and, if so, whether they were also adapted for our market. The Flo-Ka machine company had demonstrations

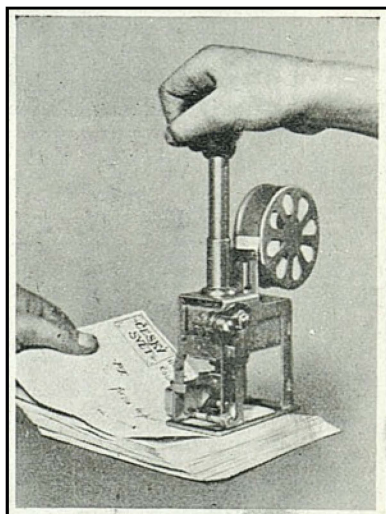


Figure 5: The Flo-Ka machine in operation (demonstrating the machine during use on shipments of the magazine *Český Svět*). According to the advertisement's text, the machine was to “attach stamps” to 2,500 – 3,000 letters or printed matter items in an hour!

at Prague sample fairs and at its premises in Karlín. In Figures 5-7 we show pictures of the machine that were taken from the magazine *Český Svět*.

POKO machines were widespread especially in Germany, and we know that they concurrently allowed for the stamp to have the perfin applied and then be attached to the item; it is of course possible that some of the machines did not have the module for perfin production. In the literature it is stated a surprising figure that there could be about 40,000 of these machines in Europe, from which about 30,000 were in Germany.

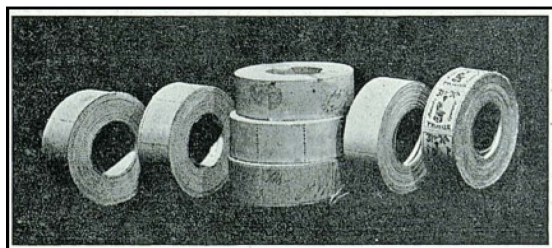


Figure 7: Rolls of advertising “stamps” prepared for the demonstrations

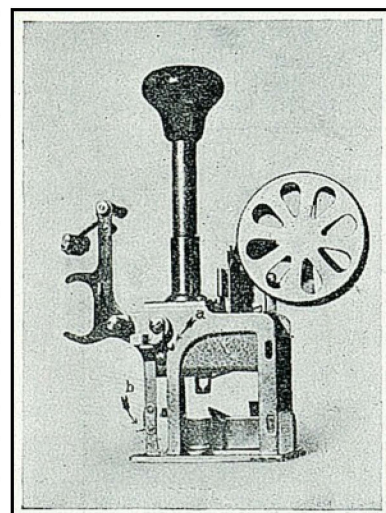


Figure 6: Flo-Ka franking machine – a view from the side of the machine which is ready for the exchange of the felt used to wet the stamp.

These machines allowed for the insertion of up to seven different coils on one axis, and the operator could move them so as to choose a desired roll. He then moved it so it would go through the device, which could then perform all of its other tasks on it. The operator started the process by twice turning the handle on the side. This moved the coil one position forward, and the stamp that was prepared for positioning on the letter was cut off, moistened, and attached. Simultaneously, the stamp that was five positions back was given a perfin. This is why the first five stamps

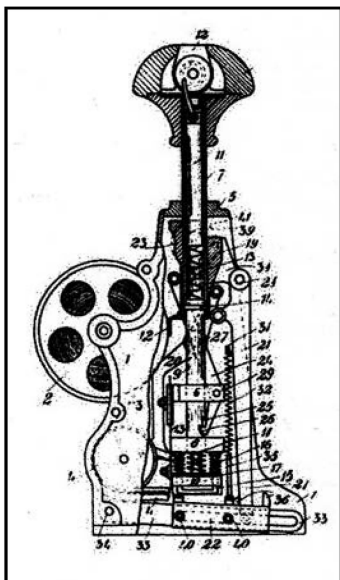
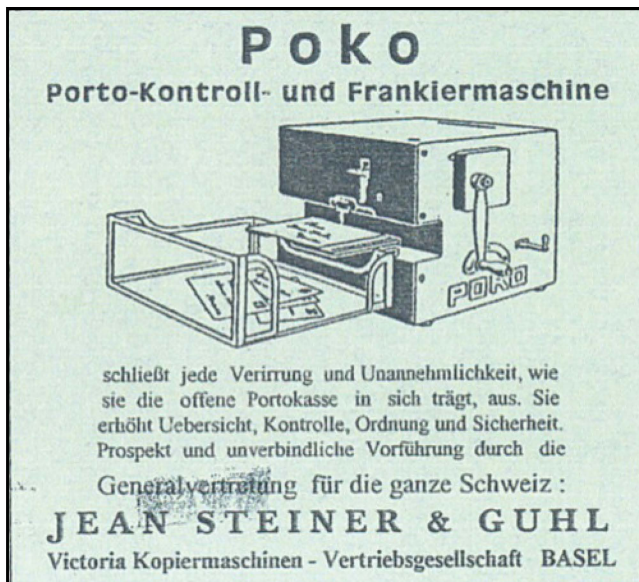


Figure 8: Diagram of another franking machine that works on a similar principle as the Flo-Ka machine (taken from a collection of papers in the periodical *Bavaria Post* from December 2012).

Figure 9: Depiction of a POKO machine on the advertising brochure of a dealer with representation in Switzerland.



of every roll do not have a perfin. A counter recorded the use of each stamp, thus the operator would know how many and which stamps had been used.

The detailed description of the POKO functions comes from the German perfin collector Horst Müller from the collection of papers in the periodical *Bavaria Post* from December 2012 (Fig. 2). Detailed photographs (Figures 11 and 12) were taken by the paper’s author in the Netherlands Postal Museum where the machine is kept.

Postal Use of the Dove and Liberated Republic Coil Stamps

As already mentioned, it can be demonstrated quite easily that stamps arranged as coil stamps were used in franking machines – when they have a perfin. The problem is, today we can no longer determine whether the coils were made by the Czechoslovak Post, or whether the coils were home-made by the users of the machines themselves. Either way, they were handmade.

We now know of **three different perfins** that occur on Czechoslovak stamps that were arranged into coils. They occur however, rarely or very rarely. One reason could be that these stamps looked damaged, often with cut off



Figure 10: Trial German “stamps” intended to test the correct functioning of the POKO machine during its installation for operations, and during repairs.

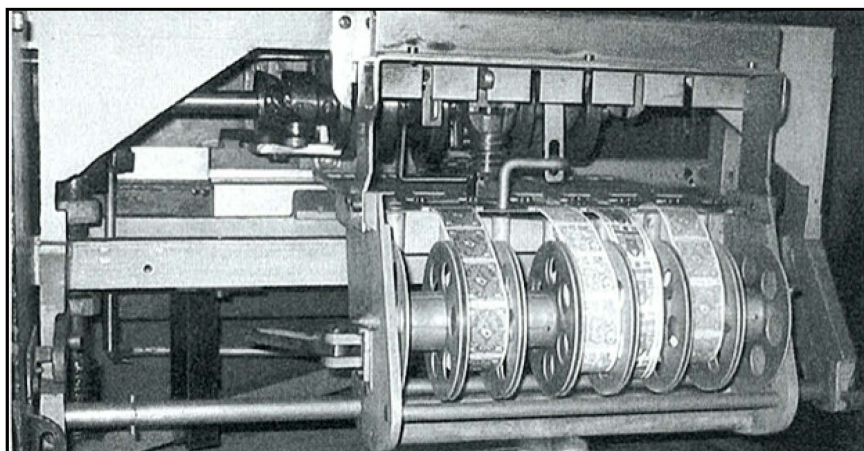


Figure 11: A picture of the inner mechanism of the rear part of the open POKO machine. In this case, four of the seven possible rolls are being used.

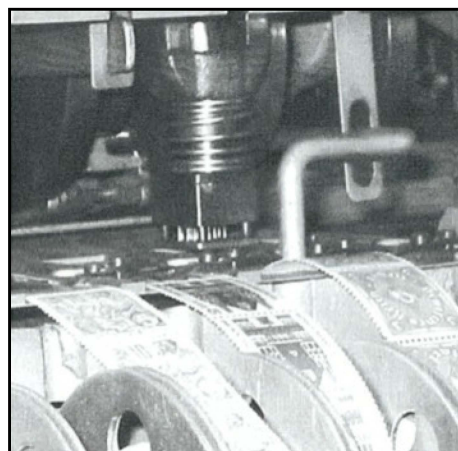


Figure 12: POKO machine – detail of the perforating device.



Figure 13



Figure 14

perforations on several sides. It is interesting that their proven postal use is limited to the years 1923-24. This means that **there are no definitive coil stamps issued in 1926 with perfins from these machines.** In contrast, we know of several dozen perfins produced by ordinary machines to produce perfins on definitive coil stamps where the rolls were not needed at all, and the companies used them like any other stamps.

Three perfins used in franking machines, likely of the POKO type:

Perfin P18 (PK) (Figure 13) occurs very rarely and was likely used for a short time in 1923 during demonstrations of the machine. It is known on the 20h Dove stamp. One can assume that the letters 'PK' somehow represent POKO. (the examples of perfins P18 and V6 are from the collection of Oldřich Špreňar.)

Perfin V6 (VCh) (Figure 14) also occurs very rarely on Czechoslovak stamps. We have it documented on the 10h Dove and 50h Liberated Republic with a Varnsdorf cancel from 1924. More often it occurs on German stamps from Saarau (today's Polish Żarów) not far from the Czechoslovak border. In German perfin catalogs it has the designation VCH-1-01 and should have been used from 1913 to 1923 (?). At that time, the use of POKO machines was very widespread in Germany, and coil stamps were commonly supplied there. We do not yet know much about the reasons for the use of this perfin on Czechoslovak stamps. Theoretically, these could be stamps for return mail, or there could have been a company in Varnsdorf that was somehow connected with one in Saarau.

Perfin Var.3 (Figure 16), we have the most information about this perfin, which was used during 1923-24 by the company Gustav Deutsch in Dvůr Králové nad Labem. Although not a common perfin, it is more common than the previous two. So far, it has been documented on stamp values 10h and 20h Dove and 50h Liberated Republic, which are known to have been officially issued in coil form.



Figure 15: A German company's postcard from 1923 franked with three stamps from a POKO machine with the perfin VCh. The use of this perfin on German stamps is much more common. It was used by the company Vereinigte Chamottefabriken Saarau.

On the letter shown on the next page (Figures 18 and 19), there is, in fact, a used perfined purple 5h Dove stamp, which was not issued in a coil form. Undoubtedly, they had to modify it directly within the company, and it cannot be ruled out that they did the same with other values. It is interesting that the 20h stamp does not have a perfin. It could either have been attached

subsequently, or it came from the very beginning of the coil. As we already know with the POKO machine, the first five stamps from the rolls were not perfined.

In Figure 17 (and detail of Figure 19) is a stamp, where another strip of stamps has also been glued to it – apparently it has a quality glue that resisted the soaking of the stamp. Also, in the case of one of the stamps on the letter, this attaching is clearly noticeable to the touch.

* * * * *

Coil stamps did not become very popular in Czechoslovakia, despite the fact that their use was widespread in Germany. Probably also making a significant contribution to this was that the method of production of rolls of stamps printed in letter-press had to be laborious and inefficient. This could only change with the introduction of rotary



Figure 16



Figure 17: Top edge from another strip of stamps glued to the bottom – for the connecting of rolls.



Figure 18: The 20h stamp does not have a perfin, but traces of having been cut off are visible. The 5h stamp had to be modified into a roll and inserted into a machine, otherwise there would be no perfin.

Figure 18/19: Both sides of a registered letter to France (Bordeaux) sent on December 12, 1923 from Dvůr Králové nad Labem.

printing. However, we do not have much information about the use of these stamps. The fact that in many companies these coil stamps were perfined with ordinary simple machines shows that they often used them in the same way as stamps in sheets.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of this article from *Filatelie* 6/2021 with the permission of the authors and the editor.]



Figure 19: The stamps are cut off on all four sides. The left stamp has another strip of stamps glued to its bottom edge – it is obvious to the touch.

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

Notes From Your Editor

2022 is already well underway and the Society is looking forward to its **Board Meeting and Convention**, which is early this year. It is being held at the **Garfield-Perry Stamp Club's March Party**. This will take place from March 18-20 at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. Admission and parking are both free. Entrance times are 10am-6pm on Friday and Saturday, 10am-3pm on Sunday. Masks are not required at the show but are strongly recommended. Free masks are available at the entrance point.

Our **Board Meeting** will be held on March 17 commencing at 1pm in the Juniper Room of the Grand Ballroom. On March 18 a **presentation** will be made by Alan Hanzl. This will take place from 1-2pm, also in the Juniper Room. On Saturday 19th our **Convention** will take place from 1-3pm in the Juniper Room. This is open to the public and you can ask any questions of our members who are in attendance. Of course we will have our table at the show, conveniently close to the entrance, where you can also meet our members, as well as look at and hopefully buy something interesting from our extensive stock of books and catalogs.

We will have a good selection of exhibits from members to see at the show. At present James Buckner, Lou Svoboda, Rich Palaschak, and Alan Hanzl have confirmed entries and there may be a few more.

This issue includes two items about **Perfins**. This speciality within philately is fast gaining attention, not just in the Czechoslovak area of collecting, but also in other countries. The article on Coil Stamps also has mention of perfins. Our Perfin Study Group has regular Zoom meetings. If you are in any way interested in becoming a perfin collector you will find that the members of this group will be glad to give you the benefit of their expertise.

Mention of the **Coil Stamp** article reminds me to say that we are extremely pleased to be able to publish this article as it is a subject that has not received much attention in the past as far as literature is concerned. There will be two more articles about lesser known philatelic subject matter in the Spring issue of the *Specialist*. And no, I am not giving out any more information about these two articles at present, I just hoped I have piqued your interest!

We have probably all heard too much about **Supply Chain Problems** recently. I had a couple of Christmas gifts moored somewhere off the Pacific coast until early

January. Even more importantly to our Society it has severely affected our ability to bring newly published books to the US and be able to distribute them to members. It is extremely frustrating and will unfortunately continue into the near future at least. We are having to be patient about this and I hope this challenging problem can be solved soon. If any member is going to be visiting Czechia or Slovakia in the near future, and is willing to bring back even a few books from our contacts there, please contact us. We will even pay for your excess baggage fee if required.

You will see the **issue plans for the Czech and Slovak Republics** inside this issue. Like 2021 the Slovaks have their standard issue quantity of around 23 stamps, while the Czechs will have around 33. The subject matter of many issues is extremely interesting and I cannot wait to see them. Once again there are a lot of miniature sheets and sheetlets.

if you cannot visit us in Cleveland, then I hope you will be able to go to another show in 2022. Whether it is an APS show or one in your locality, you are assured of a good time. Stay safe and keep well.

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@cspphilately.org or by check to:



SCP, c/o Marisa Galitz
PO Box 646
Owing Mills, MD 21117

PERFIN CATALOG IS READY

by Vladimír Münzberger and Oldřich Špreňar
translated by Joe Coulbourne

The new edition of the *Catalog of Perfins from the Territory of Czechoslovakia* is already in print (as of October 2021). The catalog is published as part 24 of the series of Monographs of Czechoslovak stamps and is published by POFIS. It should be available around the beginning of 2022. But it is not just a catalog, but literally a guide to collecting perfins from the Czechoslovak area.

The guide includes a fairly comprehensive introduction explaining the circumstances, origin and use of perfins in our territory, including their legal foundation. It draws attention to various collecting options, including practical advice and warnings on pitfalls with which the collector will meet with in practice. A significant portion is devoted to the valuation of perfins and their patterns, including instructions on how to approach it, even with specific examples.

The largest part, a total of 194 pages, is of course occupied by the catalog itself. This follows on from the previous edition of the 1987 Catalog and respects the basic arrangement of perfins as much as possible according to this (the 1987 catalog). Collectors who have become accustomed

MONOGRAFIE ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH A ČESKÝCH ZNÁMEK A POŠTOVNÍ HISTORIE

24. DÍL

Perfiny z území Československa

Vladimír Münzberger – Oldřich Špreňar

Spolupracovali:

Vladimír Havel, Josef Chudoba a František Štraka



Dopisnice firmy Josef Veselý s propagací francouzky ALPA odeslaná doporučeně z Králova Pole do Prahy, vyplacená známkami emise Hradčany, všechny s perfinem A45 (ALPA).

Praha 2022

Vydal POFIS ve spolupráci s Českou poštou, s.p., Poštovním muzeem a SČF

	A1 A MxR: A1 Sa: A-10 (1908) 1911-1919	R 10
	Jägerndorf / (Krnov)	
	A2 AB (1929) 1931-1934 (39)	Č 7
	Praha	
	A3 A.B. MxR: A11 Sa: AB-32B (1890) 1896-1908 (16)	Rk 8 R 12
	... banka v Praze Prag / Praha	
	A3.5 A.B. MxR: --- Sa: --- 1912-1914	R 48 S
	+ Adolf Benda + Velkoobchod zbožím osadnickým, velkopražské kávy a výroba litovin Jungbunzlau / Mladá Boleslav	
	A4 A.B. MxR: --- Sa: AB-35H (1908) 1910-1911 (16)	R 30
	Königinhof a. d. Elbe / Dvůr Králové nad Labem Pozor na záměnu s MxR: A15 (Sa: AB-35C) z Kufsteinu detail B	
	A5 A.B. MxR: A13 Sa: AB-35B (1916) 1917-1931 (39)	R 10 C 2
	+ Anglo-rakouská banka, filiálka v Pízní, později Anglo-československá banka Pilsen / Pízeň Státní firma - viz (A10); A50; (A50.5); A51 Pobočky: ústí A50. Pozor na záměnu s MxR: A15 (Sa: AB-35C) z Kufsteinu. detail B	
Rozlišení perfinů A4, A5 a podobného z Kufsteinu MxR: A15 (Sa: AB-35C)		
	A4	
	A5	
	Kufstein AB-35C (zvětšeno)	

to numbering perfins according to this catalog will therefore not be forced to renumber everything as was the custom in older editions. However, we have approached cataloging critically and all previous published information has been thoroughly compared with the archived material. For most perfins we have supplemented and amplified data. In a few cases however, the previously reported data could not be verified, so we have removed it from this release, but we'll alert the reader where appropriate. It cannot be ruled out that it will reappear over time. The catalog part is also much more comprehensive and there is a quantity of completely new data. The method of dating and valuation has also changed significantly and been clarified. We also supplemented more detail for regional and thematic collectors. To make the perfin drawings as accurate as possible, we used display options provided by modern technology.

A significant change is made in valuation. According to the number reported in the survey, we value each perfin according to individual periods, and in addition, we have added surcharges to supplement perfin use on less common stamps. But an important condition is that it must always be quality specimens, both the stamps and perfins punched into them. Valuation we note with

Příloha 1 - Zařazení perfinů v katalogové části

Vyhledat perfin v katalogové části nemusí být vždy na první pohled snadné. V této příloze uvádíme perfiny, u kterých můžete mít pochybnosti, kde jsou zařazeny. Je třeba počítat i s tím, že perfin může být různě převrácen, případně je na známce pouze jeho část. Zde uvádíme složitější perfiny či jejich části, některé vyobrazujeme alternativně. Pod kresbou naleznete označení, podle kterého k uvedenému perfinu vyhledáte další informace.

F4 FA	B6,5 BAK	A23 AG	A31 AHC	A33 AJ
J4 JAR	A65 AR.s	M14 M.E./B.	M15 M.E./B.	B8 BANA/NAS
C8 CBS	K19 KBD	B31 BE	E4 EB	M19 MG
B73 BS	B74 BS	E7,5 EC	G7 G/AFS	C21 CHH
C22 CHH	C23 CHH	F15 FČ	R14 R.B./Č.R.	J101 J.S.D.
A11,5 AD	E7,5 EC	E55 E.W.	E27 E.K./Cq	E30 ELS

* - je část jiného perfinu; x - vyobrazení v převrácené poloze; M - multiperfin

points, with the value of one point at the time of issuance of this monograph set at 2.50 Kč., which corresponds to approximately 0.1 € (10 cents), and at the same time it correlates to the price for the cheapest variant of the stamps and perfin. This allows better understanding of valuation for collectors from neighboring countries, and if we switch to the Euro in our country as well (to which the Czech Republic has committed), the catalog would not be affected too much. Even so, the value of perfin in individual periods should be understood mainly as an expression of the frequency of their occurrence than as a strictly conceived price.

The third part of the guide consists of a number of supplements that collectors should have from various areas to facilitate an understanding both in the catalog itself and use of perfin in their area of interest. So they will find a fairly comprehensive guide to where to look for some “more complicated” perfin, or those in which there is quite often only a partial perfin and at first glance it is not clear where they can be found in the catalog. Regional collectors will find overviews of perfin by place of use, while thematic collectors will find overviews by various fields of activity. There are also overviews of occurrence on postal stationery, stamps, emergency currency, and many others.

We believe that the new Monograph – guide and catalog – will become an important and useful tool for all collectors of our perfin and that they will find enough information in it.

[Ed. note: This translated article was originally published in the magazine *Perfiny*, issue 3/2021 (217). The Table of Contents and a Section 7 that describes how to “read” the catalog entries are also presented in English so that you can use the Monograph even if you cannot read Czech.]

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

PERFIN STUDY GROUP UPDATE

by Vera Devlin & Richard G. Palaschak

The Society's Perfin Study Group has been meeting each month via Zoom video conferencing since we established our Group at the Sarasota Show in February 2020. Several projects have been initiated by our members, one of which is the development of an area on our SCP website devoted to the subject of perfins on stamps of the territories that became Czechoslovakia in 1918.

The Table of Contents includes five sections. Listed below are their titles and a brief synopsis of what each will contain. This is a work in progress so the information in each section may be altered going forward.

I. Articles on perfin collecting:

This will include general information such as the ways to collect perfins and their history (i.e. their manufacture, design, and use). There will also be articles that specifically address the countries (past and present) and their stamps that are included in this history (i.e. the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, etc.).

II. Articles on specific stamp series:

The Study Group has been concentrating on the first issues of the Czechoslovak Republic so, initially, there

will be articles here about the Hradčany issues of 1918-1920. Should there be specific articles found that address the later stamp issues, they will be included.

III. Perfin Catalogs in the SCP Library:

At this time, eight perfin catalogs are available to SCP members from the Society's Library. A ninth will be added in 2022.

IV. Articles on catalog information:

This section will include new perfin discoveries, corrections, and changes to past information. There will also be English translations of specific Czech and Slovak text from some of the available catalogs, sufficient for English speakers to utilize the catalogs.

V. Data review and assessment:

Known stamp/perfin types, their scarcity, suggested value, etc. for the Hradčany issue will be included here as the Perfin Study Group completes its research on this issue.

The Perfins Tab is expected to be added to the SCP Website and functioning in early 2022. Our Group would welcome additional SCP members to join us as we continue to explore this area of Czechoslovak philately. If you are interested in joining our Group, please contact Jerry Hejduk, at flprepers@gmail.com.



HOW I BECAME A MEMBER OF THE SCP

by Timothy G. Shea, Ph.D.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) and I joined company in 1994 when my ear doctor learned of my interest in Czechoslovak postal materials. He mentioned that he had a patient named Dr. Henry Hahn with a similar interest. At that time I was working from an office in London with frequent visits to the Central European countries of the Czech and Slovak Republics and Poland, seeking environmental engineering projects in my chosen field of wastewater treatment facility planning and design. This entailed traveling between Northern Virginia and London. I contacted Dr. Hahn and quickly discovered what an outstanding person he was in many ways, including of course philately as well as socially. He quickly recruited me to the SCP and afforded me the opportunity to meet local SCP members, including Jaroslav Verner and Richard Palaschak. More on this marvelous journey below, but first why my interest in Czechoslovak collecting?

My family origins were Irish and Croatian, but with a maternal grandfather surnamed Novak. My maternal grandparents immigrated to Chicago around 1900 from Zagreb, Croatia. Through this background I first visited my relatives in Zagreb as a graduate engineering student at UC Berkeley in 1964. Then came my first connection to Czechoslovakia, when in 1967, as a young engineer, I was invited by my major professor, then the President of the International Association on Water Pollution Control, to be his secretary for his role in organization of an international conference on this topic, to be held in September 1968 in Prague. My first visit to Prague, in mid-1967, took place during the socialist era, but the technical people I met were doing world class work and many were fluent in four or five languages. It was at this time that I first came to appreciate the amazing history of Bohemia

as the industrial might of the Austro-Hungarian empire, as well as its cultural and artistic accomplishments, including some of the most beautiful stamps in the world.

My wife and I returned to Europe in the summer of 1968 to visit Croatia and then attend the conference in Prague. We were in Vienna for a few days before travelling to Prague when the Russians invaded Czechoslovakia, causing incredible disruption during a summer when many Czechoslovaks had vacationed abroad for the first time in years. Vienna, only 30 miles by car from Bratislava, was full of Czechoslovaks struggling with the decision to seek asylum or return home. Many ultimately returned home to a socialist form of government that lasted for another 21 years.

The international conference was rescheduled and convened in Prague in February 1969. As a tribute to the Czechoslovak national organizing committee practically every international registrant returned to Prague again in solidarity with the hosts under difficult circumstances. For those familiar with Prague, the conference was held in the conference hall of the Municipal House (Obecní Dům), an art deco wonder from 1905 that has been fully restored to its original splendor.

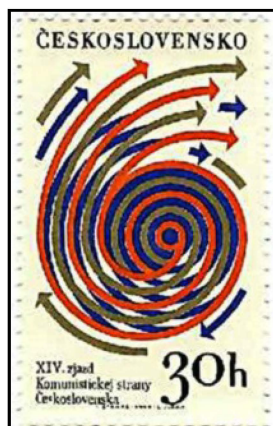
In 1991 I accepted an assignment to move to London with my company, which at that time was a chemical engineering firm working with the oil and gas industry in Britain and Europe. My assignment was to develop an environmental engineering practice, and to include the Central European countries. The assignment gave me the opportunity to renew old professional friendships with my Central European acquaintances from the 1969 international conference. At this time I was able to begin in earnest collecting the philatelic output of Czechoslovakia and its predecessor and successor entities.

Through the auspices of my ear doctor in Fall Church, VA, himself a serious stamp collector, I learned of Dr. Hahn, met him, joined the SCP, and soon came to realize the true breadth and depth of collecting opportunities through the SCP. It was through the SCP that I was able to focus my collecting efforts, and to take advantage of the stamp buying opportunities that arose from my frequent trips to Prague and Bratislava. I owe a debt of gratitude to the SCP and its members for the hospitality and counsel provided to me in those years, and the knowledgeable and friendly SCP members that I met along the way.

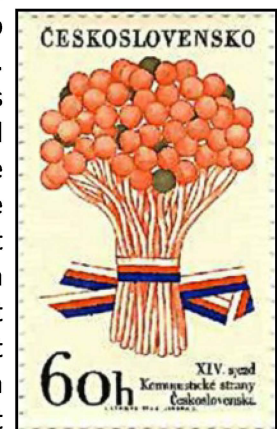
In closing, I came to realize that Czechoslovakia and today's Czech and Slovak Republics, have had historical highs and lows that in my judgment have exceeded anything we in America have ever experienced. Dr. Hahn's family had deep roots in Bohemia but had to depart the country in 1940 under circumstances that we will hopefully never have to experience. I came to admire the resilience of the people there and in my ancestral home of Croatia in a different way. I attribute my limited knowledge of the people of the Czech and Slovak nations today to the chance introduction that I had to the SCP through Dr. Hahn in 1994.

* * * * *

One of my favorite stamp issues is one that never actually materialized. The two stamps shown here were to be issued on September 2, 1968. Their numbers would have followed Pofis 1694 and Scott 1563 in catalogs. They were to honor the 14th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist



Party. The stamps were designed by Ivan Strnad with the 30h stamp engraved by Ladislav Jirka and the 60h stamp by Jindra Schmidt. Ivan Strnad describes the symbolic design of the 30h stamp as "being like the spring of a watch that drives a number of small wheels forward, but never back. There are arrows at the tips of the springs to show they move by their own power and will not leave their tracks". Recall that Alexander Dubček had been named First Secretary of the Communist Party in January 1968, but with increasing tensions with the Soviet Union, it led to the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia on the night of August 20-21, 1968. At first the issue was delayed one week, but the Soviet intervention in the government of the country meant that the stamps were not issued at all. The stamps were deposited with the state enterprise



POFIS in Prague and Bratislava, and were forgotten until POFIS was privatized in September 1992. It was ultimately through an inventory taken by the private owners that the existence of these stamps came to light.

In an auction sale held in 1994, described in the May/June 1995 issue of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*, pages 3-5, sets of the single stamps were offered at a starting price of 3,500 Kč and sold for 4,200 Kč (about \$160). Similar prices were realized for a set of the single stamps in a second auction late in 1994, and prices of 35,000 Kč (\$1,350) were realized for a set of the mini sheets of 10 of each stamp. I was able to acquire the two stamps here in October 1995 from a dealer in Bratislava, at a cost of 6,170 Kč (about \$240), with the help of Martin Hronec, a Slovak friend.



CZECH REPUBLIC NEW ISSUE PROGRAM 2022

Postage stamps

Date	Item	Layout	Value Kc	Other Items
1/20/2022	Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Recess printing from flat plates	MS	B	ZZ, 8k
1/20/2022	Molière	TL	23	
2/16/2022	Personalities – Miloš Forman	TL	19	
2/16/2022	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Czech Gothic Murals	UTL	34, 40	
3/8/2022	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Emil Filla	UTL	39	
3/8/2022	Definitive stamp for additional printing: Emil Filla	UTL	B	
3/18/2022	Joint issue with Slovakia, 150 th Anniversary Košice-Bohumín Railroad	UTL	E	2k
4/6/2022	Technical Monuments: Schwarzenberk Navigation Channel	TL	B	ZZ, 8k
4/6/2022	EUROPA: Stories and Myths	MS	E	
4/6/2022	Czech Actors: Stella Zázvorková and Jan Werich	MS	30, 34	
5/18/2022	50 th Anniversary of Youth Philatelic Olympiad	TL	B	ZZ, 8k
5/18/2022	150 th Anniversary of Czech Association of Beekeepers	MS	23	
6/9/2022	Czech Republic Chairmanship of EU	TL	B	
6/9/2022	Conference of International Council of Museums in Prague	TL	E	
6/9/2022	Young Animals: Kittens	TL	B	
6/9/2022	Definitive: Hexagonal stamp	UTL	B	
9/7/2022	Nature Protection: Mácha's Area (4 different stamps)	MS	23, 26, 27, 30	CM
9/7/2022	Emil Zátopek and Dana Zátopková	UTL	27, 33	
9/7/2022	Personalities: Jindřich Fügner	TL	27	
9/7/2022	Nature Protection: Chudobín Pine	TL	B	
9/7/2022	Definitive stamp: Wedding	MS	B	
9/21/2022	St. Wenceslas Rotunda in Prague	TL	B	
10/12/2022	LIBEREC 2022 Stamp Exhibition	TL	E	
10/12/2022	Breeding/training ceremonial horses in Kladruby n. Labem	UTL	39, 45	
11/9/2022	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Jaroslav Panuška	UTL	59	

LEGEND: CM – Cartes Maximum; k – coupon; MS – Miniature sheet; TL – sheet; UTL – sheetlet; ZZ – self adhesive stamp booklet



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 October 6, 2021 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series: **Czech Actors and Actresses – Jiřina Šejbalová and Bohumil Záhorský** [Pofis 1135-1136]. The sheet contains two copies each of a 27 Kč and a 33 Kč stamp with a central coupon featuring a depiction of the figure *Genius* from the

curtains of the National Theater (Fig. 1). The sheet was designed by Jan Maget. The 27 Kč stamp shows **Bohumil Záhorský** (1906-1980), with three facial views showing him at different stages of his career. Studying at the Prague Conservatory in the 1920s led him to commence his acting career in many avant-garde companies. By 1946 he had joined the National Theater and worked with them until 1977. Besides the theater he was well known for his roles in both Film and Television. He played key roles in many films, being able to perform in both dramatic and comedic roles. His first significant appearance came in the 1931 *Powder and Gasoline* and he continued to be seen in significant movie appearances until *Our Old Man Josef* in 1976. On television his first major role



Figure 1

was as Blount in 1956's *Trapped*, with his final role being Matějček in the series *Woman Behind the Counter* in 1977. The FDC cachet shows him in conversation with a woman (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a line drawing of his head. The 33 Kč stamp shows **Jiřina Šejbalová** (1905-1981). It depicts her at three stages of her career. As a sixteen-year-old she was at the Prague Conservatory studying opera and until 1928 she continued in roles as a singer. She then joined the National Theater and was a member of their company until retiring in 1971. In the 1960s she

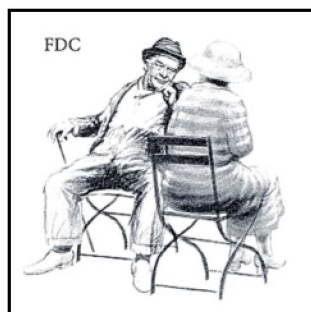


Figure 2



Figure 3

taught stage speech and acting at The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She was also active in both film and television, as well as finding time to write a successful cookbook. She had an unmistakable deep voice which also earned her many roles on radio. The FDC cachet shows her in conversation with a man (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is a line drawing of her head.

During their lives Šejbalová and Záhorský were friends and shared major roles in three films, *Citizen Brych* in 1958, *August Sunday* in 1960, and *Golden Wedding* in 1972. The cachets of the two FDCs show the actors sitting talking to

each other. The diagrammatically opposite views of the two images cleverly form a close link between the two actors and the two separate FDCs.

2. On October 6, 2021 the Ministry issued a definitive postage stamp **Wikov 7/28** [Pofis 1137] with a value identified by the letter "B" (19 Kč). The stamp, showing a Wikov 7/28 Sport Roadster (Fig. 4), was designed by Jiří Rameš and printed in sheets of 40 self-adhesive stamps. The Wichterle & Kovářik agricultural machinery company in Prostějov decided in the early 1920s to produce automobiles in small quantities. The company excelled in the latest technology for car design, using aluminum alloys extensively to reduce weight. This enabled the 1½ liter engine to achieve speeds up to 90 mph (140 Km/hr). The body was also designed to give the appearance of refined beauty. Production of the Wikov 7/28 started in 1925 and amounted to only 280 cars. It is best known as Czechoslovakia's first racing car, initially seen in 1932 in the 500 Km race at Brno's 17.5 mile (29 Km) street circuit on public roads.



Figure 4

3. On October 6, 2021 the Ministry released the 9th official issue of **My Own Stamp: Czech Tennis, 2021** [Pofis VZ TL 0124]. The sheet was designed by Tomáš Říha and contains 25 different "B" value stamps featuring famous Czech tennis players (Fig. 5). It celebrates the 100th occasion of Czech competition in the men's Davis Cup by Rakuten (originally the Davis Cup) and also the 58th

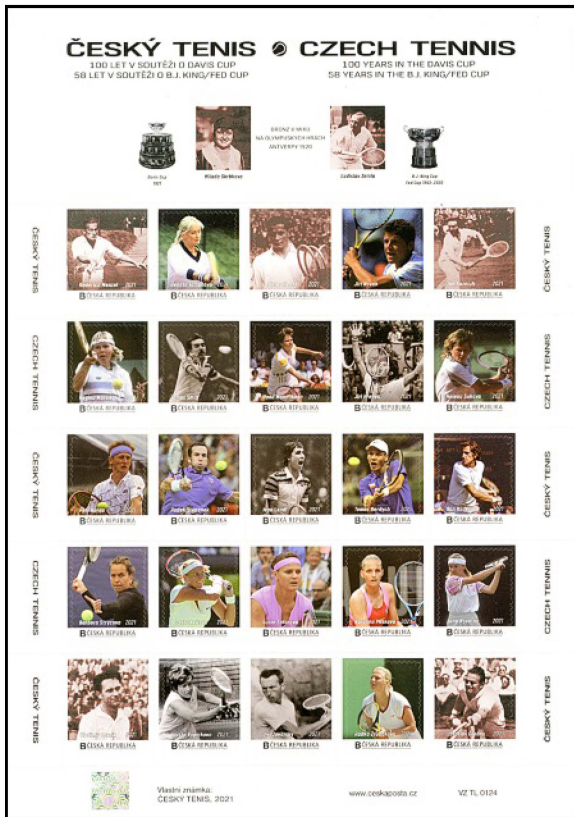


Figure 5

anniversary of the women’s Billie Jean King Cup (originally the Federation Cup). At the top of the sheet are images of pioneering Czech tennis players Milada Skrbková and her husband Ladislav Žemla, who were bronze medalists in the Mixed Doubles at the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games. The stamps depict players from the 1950s such as Jaroslav Drobný (first Czech Wimbledon Men’s Singles winner in 1954) and Vladimír Černík, then players from later in the 20th century such as Ivan Lendl, Jan Kodeš, Jana Novotná, and Hana Mandlíková. Current players Petra Kvitová and Karolina Plíšková are also featured.

4. On October 20, 2021 the Ministry issued a 33 Kč stamp in the series **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: František Ronovský** [Pofis 1138]. The stamp, designed by Kamil Knotek, illustrates *Male Nude*, a painting completed before 1962, which is in a private collection (Fig. 6). It is printed in a miniature sheet of four with a blank central coupon.

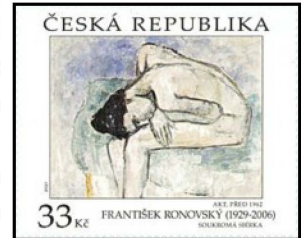


Figure 6

František Ronovský (1929-2006) developed an interest in painting while he was at grammar school. After studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague his initial work was in the form of female nudes, as well as paintings with religious motifs. He traveled widely in Europe and was heavily influenced by the artistic culture in many cities, but he always followed a distinct style of his own. His painting technique started out being heavily influenced by abstract artists. Later in life he turned to a more renaissance style of subject matter with many artworks featuring portraits or groups of people. The FDC cachet, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, is part of the work *Memories of Amsterdam* (Fig. 7) and the cancellation is a head from another artwork.

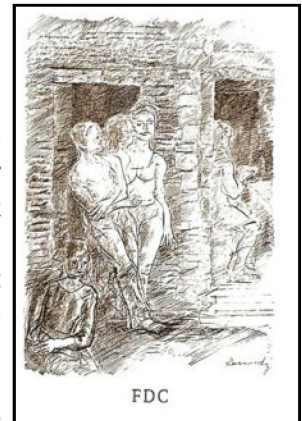


Figure 7

Academy of Fine Arts in Prague his initial work was in the form of female nudes, as well as paintings with religious motifs. He traveled widely in Europe and was heavily influenced

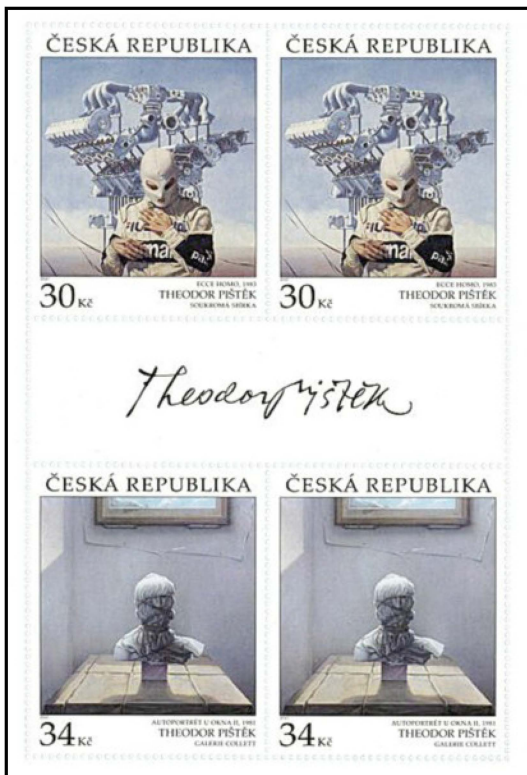


Figure 8

5. On October 20, 2021 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Theodor Pištěk** [Pofis 1139-1140]. The sheet contains two copies of a 30 Kč stamp and two copies of a 34 Kč stamp, printed with a central coupon containing a facsimile of the artist’s signature (Fig. 8). The 30 Kč stamp features the work *Ecce Homo* from 1983, which is in a private collection. The 34 Kč stamp showcases the painting *Self-Portrait by a Window II* from 1983, which is in the Galerie Collett, Prague. Theodor Pištěk (b. 1932) is a renaissance man, being a painter, sculptor, race car driver, and costume designer. Born into a theatrical family, he used their contacts to become a costume designer and scenographer in both theater and film. He won a costume design Oscar for his work on the film *Amadeus* (1984). He concentrated on painting after 1975 using a style of painting termed photorealism. He always had an intense love of cars, competing as

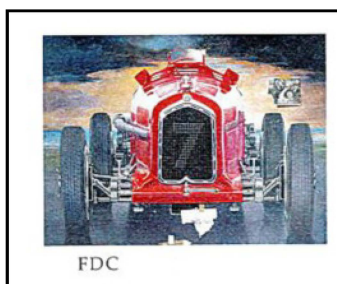


Figure 9

a racing driver in the 50s and 60s. This led to cars or parts of cars featuring in many of his paintings. The FDC cachet for the 30 Kč stamp is a digital print of the painting *Adieu Guy Moll* (Fig. 9), with a cancellation using a facsimile of his signature. The cachet for the 34 Kč FDC is *Family Portrait* (Fig. 10) with the cancellation being one of the wrapped heads from this artwork.

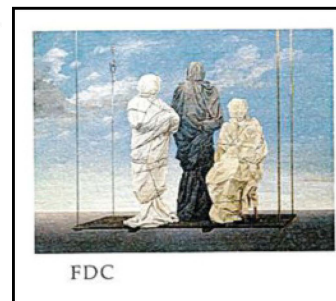


Figure 10

6. On November 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp identified with a value "B" in the series **Christmas** [Pofis 1141]. It was designed by Pavel Sivko

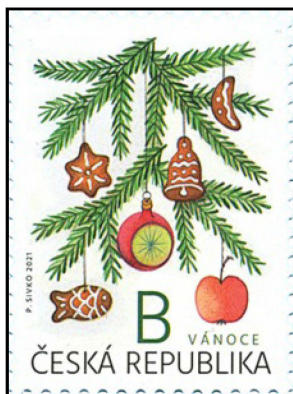


Figure 11

and shows motifs associated with a traditional Czech Christmas (Fig. 11). It was printed using offset combined with silk screen printing in sheets of 50. A mixed aroma of cinnamon, cloves, and Christmas punch was pressed into the stamp by the silk screen printing, making it the first fragrant stamp so far issued. The aroma is released by pressure from a finger. In the Czech Republic the Christmas season runs from Advent to Epiphany (or Three King's Day) and is filled with many traditions, which mostly have an adverse effect on your waistline and wallet. The week before Christmas, go out and buy your Christmas carp, and let it swim around in your bathtub for a few days. Then Christmas Eve is the day to put up your tree and design it with gingerbread cookies and apples, as well as ornaments. Then say goodbye to your carp and prepare it for dinner, where it can be accompanied by cabbage and dumplings. While recovering from your meal, a tinkling bell is heard in the family room which announces that Baby Jesus has visited your house and delivered presents. The children and adults rush in and open their presents before retiring to bed, feeling both delighted and bloated.

7. On November 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a 26 Kčs postage stamp to commemorate **Karel Stýblo (1921-1998) and Tuberculosis Control** [Pofis 1142]. The stamp, featuring a portrait of Stýblo and a petri dish containing the tuberculosis bacteria (Fig. 12), was designed by Renáta Fučíková and printed in sheets of 50. This stamp celebrates the centenary of Karel Stýblo's birth. His lifelong interest in TB commenced when he contracted the disease while interned



Figure 12

in Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp during WWII. Following the war he studied in Prague and Edinburgh before becoming the scientific director of a new TB control unit in The Hague. His work there resulted in Directly Observed Therapy – Short Course (DOTS) which revolutionized the fight to control TB throughout the world. He was nominated for a Nobel Prize in 1998 but died before the winner was selected. The FDC cachet features a pair of human lungs after treatment, surrounded by a white dove to denote purity (Fig. 13). The cancellation shows drugs used to treat TB.

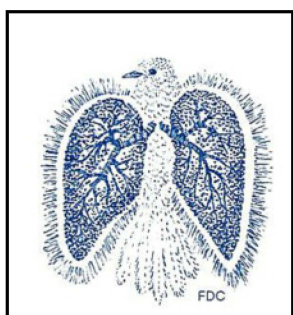


Figure 13

8. On November 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheetlet in the series **Personalities: Jan Kotěra** [Pofis A1143]. The 52 Kč stamp was designed by Jan Kavan and features the head of Kotěra with architectural details of The Faculty of Law at Charles University in the background. Two coupons show details of other architectural designs, as well as furniture designed by the architect (Fig. 14 on page 18). The margins of the sheetlet show a wallpaper decoration

from one of his buildings. Kotěra (1871-1923) studied architecture in Vienna and his first designs back in Prague were heavily influenced by the Art Nouveau movement. He quickly moved on to the early modernist style for which he is known. He also preferred to carry out the interior design of his buildings himself, and was proficient in the design of furniture, glassware, ceramics and wall coverings. His final work, the Law Faculty building on the banks of the Vltava, still looks surprisingly modern, despite being completed in the 1920s. The FDC



Figure 15



Figure 14

cachet is a stucco detail from the District House in Hradec Králové (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is the top of an Art Nouveau lamp post.

9. On November 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative sheetlet featuring a 60 Kč stamp showing **Saint Ludmila** [Pofis A1144] surrounded by elements of trees which point to her status as one of the important founders of the Přemyslid dynasty (Fig. 16). The stamp was designed by Karel Zeman, with engraving by Miloš Ondráček, and produced with recess printing from a flat plate combined with silk-screen printing.

Ludmila was born around 860, the daughter of a pagan Sorbian prince. She married Bořivoj I of Bohemia at a young age. They converted to Christianity with the help of St. Methodius and then supported the spread of Christianity throughout Bohemia. She was famous for her piety and charitable work. After Spytihněv, her eldest son, died and his brother Vratislav succeeded him as Duke of

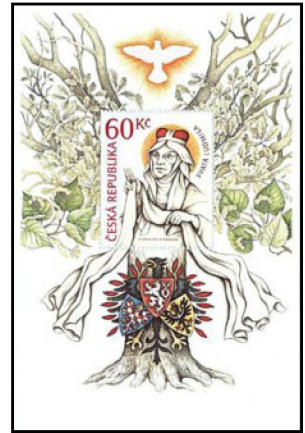


Figure 16

Bohemia, she took her grandson Wenceslaus into her care, while her daughter-in-law Drahomíra served as regent. This brought her into serious conflict with Drahomíra who, in particular, did not want Wenceslaus raised as a Christian. This led to supporters of Drahomíra attacking and killing Ludmila by strangling her with her veil. When Wenceslaus became Duke he moved his grandmother's body to St. George's Basilica, within the grounds of Prague Castle. In 1144 she was officially canonized, becoming the first Slav and Czech Saint. The cachet of the FDC, depicts the strangulation of Ludmila (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is her veil wrapped around a crown. A commemorative sheet with a black print was also issued.

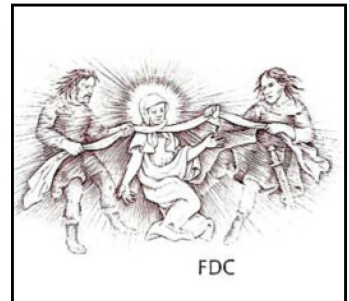


Figure 17

10. On November 10, 2021 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp identified by the letter "B" to mark the importance of **Kája Saudek's Muriel** [Pofis 1145]. Designed by Otakar Karlas the stamp depicts the comic-book character Muriel, a physician/nurse (Fig.18). It was produced in sheets of 50 stamps. Kája Saudek (1935-2015) was a Czech painter and comic-book illustrator, whose collaborations with film director Miloš Macourek were first seen in the movie *Who Wants to Kill Jessie* in 1966. This led to a major science-fiction comic-book project called *Muriel and Angels*. Saudek's dynamic, pop-art influenced style, combined with an absurd psychedelic sense of humor, was best seen in his Barbarella-inspired sexy heroine Muriel. Finished in 1968, it was published just before the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, which saw all copies of the book removed from publication. It also meant that Saudek's work became generally unseen until 1990. He became a cult artist for 15 years before nearly choking to death in 2006, after which he lay in a vegetative state before finally dying in 2015.

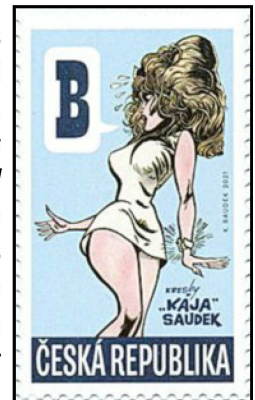


Figure 18

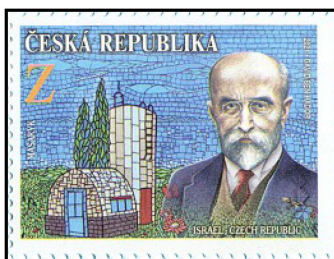


Figure 19

11. On November 30, 2021 the Ministry issued, jointly with Israel, a "Z" value (45 Kč) stamp commemorating **TGM in Israel** [Pofis 1146]. Designed by David Ben-Hador and produced in sheets of 50, the stamp

portrays a portrait of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk alongside a mosaic from the Kfar Masaryk kibbutz named for him (Fig. 19). Soon after the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 it became one of the first countries to recognize the Jewish nationality. In 1927 President Masaryk became the first head of state to visit what was then Palestine. After WWII Czech Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk was one of

Israel's strongest supporters when statehood was being debated at the United Nations. The FDC cachet, designed by Petr Foltera, shows the flags of Czechoslovakia and Israel (Fig. 20), while the cancellation is a blooming flower in the palm of a hand.

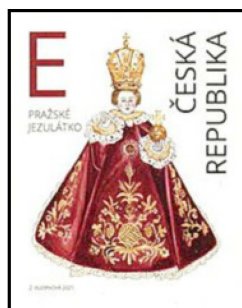


Figure 21

12. On November 30, 2021 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with the designated value "E" (39 Kč) depicting **The Infant Jesus of Prague** [Pofis 1147]. The stamp, designed by Zdeňka Kudrnová, shows the famous statuette dressed in a red vestment (Fig. 21). It was produced in sheets of 40 self-adhesive stamps. This statue is made of wood covered with wax. The 19"

(48cm) high statue has been at the Church of Our Lady Victorious, in Malá Strana since 1628. It was probably carved in Spain during the 14th century. The crown is set just above the head rather than on it. The figure has an extensive wardrobe, changed according to different periods of the church year. The red vestment is used for both Christmas and Easter periods.



Figure 20



SLOVAKIA ISSUE PROGRAM 2022

Postage stamps and stationery

Date	Item	Layout	Value €	Other Items
1/19/2022	XXIV Olympic Winter Games, Beijing 2022 (issued se-tenant with other Olympic stamp)	TL	0.75	NL
1/19/2022	XIII Paralympic Winter Games, Beijing 2022 (as above)	TL	0.75	NL
1/21/2022	EXPO 2020 Dubai	UTL	2.10	
3/4/2022	Easter 2022: Religious Motifs by P.M. Bohúň	TL	T2 50g	CP, ZZ
3/18/2022	Joint issue with Czech Republic: 150 th Anniversary of Košice-Bohumín Railroad	HA	1.85	PaI
4/8/2022	Personalities: Ľudmila Podjavorinská (150 th birth anniversary)	TL	1.00	
4/22/2022	200 th Anniversary of Birth of Ján Pálarik			CDV
4/28/2022	Personalities: Klara Jarunková (100 th birth anniversary)	TL	0.65	
5/2/2022	EUROPA 2022: Tales and Myths – <i>Lomidrevo</i>	UTL	1.70	NL, ZZ
5/27/2022	150 Years of Scientific Observations of the Earth	UTL	1.20	
6/3/2022	History of Post			CDV
6/3/2022	Bratislava Collectors Days 2022			CDV
6/3/2022	Most Beautiful Stamp of 2021			CDV
6/10/2022	Beauties of Our Homeland: Manor House of Maria Theresa at Holič	UTL	1.70	CM
7/1/2022	200 th Anniversary of Important Figures of the Štúr Generation	HA	2.80	PaI, PT
7/1/2022	Roman "kadlub" from Gerulata			COB
7/23/2022	Sport: European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF)	TL	0.65	
8/5/2022	100 th Anniversary of Slovak National Firefighters Union	UTL	2.00	
9/9/2022	Nature Protection: Important Fossils (two different stamps)	HA	1.90	CMx2
9/9/2022	The Collector 2022			CDV
9/14/2022	100 th Anniversary of First Slovak Gymnasium in Michalovce			CDV
9/23/2022	50 th Anniversary of Opening of International Natural Gas Pipeline Through Slovakia	TL	1.55	
10/21/2022	ART: Ján Rombauer (1782-1849)	UTL	2.60	
10/21/2022	ART: Aleš Votava (1962-2001)	UTL	2.00	
10/27/2022	150 th Anniversary of Foundation of East Slovak Museum in Košice	TL	0.65	
11/11/2022	Christmas Mail 2022	TL	T2 50g	
11/11/2022	Christmas 2022: Religious Motifs by P.M. Bohúň	TL	T2 50g	CP, ZZ
11/24/2022	50 th Anniversary of Apollo 17 Moon Landing: Eugene Andrew Cernan	UTL	2.10	PaI
12/2/2022	Postage Stamp Day: Historic Mail Stagecoach	TL	0.80	NL
12/16/2022	Day of Postage Stamps and Philately			CDV

LEGEND: CDV- prepaid postcard with overprint; CM-Cartes Maximum; COB- postal envelope with overprint; CP- pictorial postcard; HA- miniature sheet; k-coupon; NL- collection sheet; PaI- commemorative sheet; PT- black proof; TL-sheet; UTL- sheetlet; ZZ- stamp booklet.

SLOVAKIA NEW ISSUES

by Keith Hart

1. On October 18, 2021 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a miniature sheet in the series **Art: Matthäus Merian (1593-1650)** [Pofis 750]. The sheet has a single copy of a 2.20 € stamp within a scene based on a copperplate print which shows a View of Bratislava (or Pressburg as it was then known) taken from the North (Fig. 1). Besides the Castle, the principal features on the stamp are St. Martin's Cathedral and the River Danube. The designer and engraver of the miniature sheet was Rudolf Cigánik and it was produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with multicolor offset. Matthäus Merian the Elder was a Swiss-born engraver and publisher who worked in Frankfurt for most of his life. He originally worked with Johann Ludwig Gottfried on

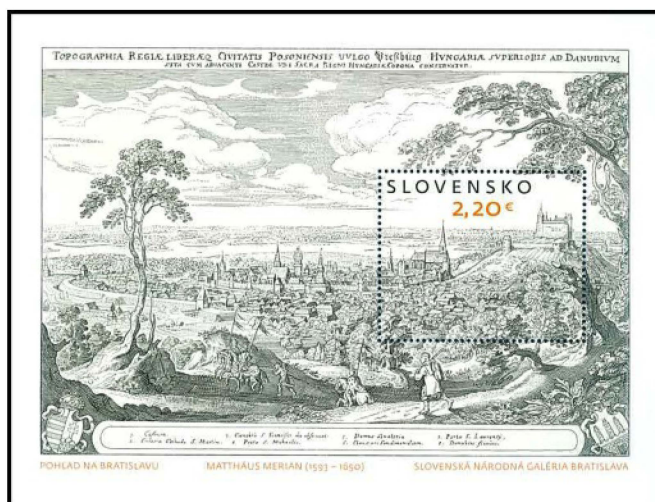


Figure 1

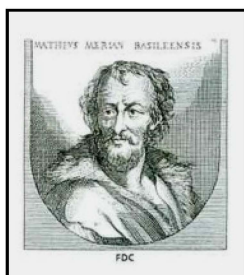


Figure 2

his book *Archontologia cosmica*, during which time he carried out the sketches c1638 for this view of Bratislava which became a copperplate print in the book which was published in 1649. Merian had carried out many sketches and mapping of cities in the Germanic lands and eventually published the colossal *Topographia Germaniae*, a comprehensive treatise which eventually encompassed 30 volumes containing over 2000 engravings. These drawings are often the only surviving examples of views for cities and towns that were destroyed in the Thirty Years War. Martin Zeiller, a well-known geographer, was employed for the explanatory texts attached to the prints and in this case makes mention of Bratislava being the coronation city for Hungarian royalty, as also shown with the Hungarian coat of arms in the bottom left corner, with the arms of Bratislava in the bottom right corner. The FDC cachet is a portrait of Merian from an engraving by Joachim von Sandrart (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a depiction of the strolling man from the foreground of the print.

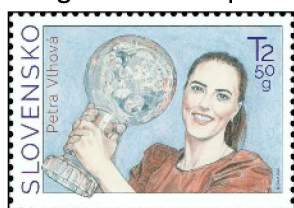


Figure 3

2. On November 2, 2021 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate **Petra Vlhová – World Cup Winner in Alpine Skiing 2020/21** [Pofis 751]. The T2 50g (0.75 €) stamp was designed by Karol Felix and printed in sheets of 50. It shows the skier holding the Great Crystal Globe awarded to the winner of the winter-long event (Fig. 3). Born in 1995 in Liptovský Mikuláš she grew up skiing the slopes of Chopak mountain in Jasná. In 2012 she won the slalom at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck. After winning her first World Cup slalom in 2015 she quickly joined the ranks of elite skiers, triumphing early in 2021 as the overall winner. In February she was in Beijing, winning the gold medal in the slalom at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. The FDC cachet shows her as a blur on the slopes of a slalom course (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is ski goggles, reflecting a view of mountains.

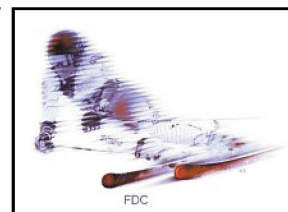


Figure 4



Figure 5

3. On November 12, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **The Christmas Mail – 2021** [Pofis 752]. The T2 50g stamp was designed by Boris Meluš using a picture created by Kristína Gubienová from Komárno and issued in sheets of 50. The picture depicts two children looking at the Christmas Star (Fig. 5). The design was chosen by the Slovak Postage Stamp Design Commission from entries sent by children to their Baby Jesus project during the previous Christmas period. All entrants receive a reply which includes a small surprise in the envelope. The cachet for the FDC is based on a drawing by Radka Ptátová from Turany and has the motif of a smiling snowman (Fig. 6) while the cancellation is a happy angel submitted by Nela Šoučiková from Banská Štiavnica.

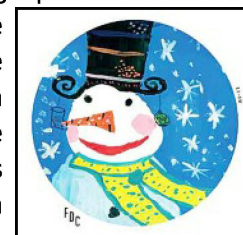


Figure 6



Figure 7

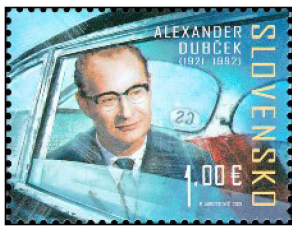


Figure 9

4. On November 12, 2021 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **Christmas 2021 : Folk Faience** [Pofis 753]. The T2 50g stamp was designed by Adrian Ferda, based on a faience-style ceramic relief by Ignác Bizmayer (1922-2019), one of the most prominent Slovak ceramic sculptors of the 20th century. This relief, showing the *Madonna and Child with a Dove* (Fig. 7), was sculpted in 1986 and is from the collections of the Ľudovít Štúr Museum in Modra. The stamp was produced in printing sheets of 50 and was also available in a stamp booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps. The FDC cachet depicts the ceramic sculpture *Women from Liptovská Lužná*, who are dressed in their traditional regional costume (Fig. 8) and the cancellation is an angel in flight. A pictorial postal card

was issued the same day.

5. On November 26, 2021 the Ministry issued a 1.00 € stamp in the series **Personalities: Alexander Dubček (1921-1992)** [Pofis 754]. The stamp, showing Dubček sitting in the back of a Tatra 603 (Fig. 9), was designed by Peter Augustovič and printed in sheets of 50. Dubček was born in Uhrovec, but grew up in the USSR, his family returning before the start of WWII. He joined the resistance and was wounded during the Slovak National Uprising. After the war he steadily rose through the ranks of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. A 1963 power struggle within the Slovak branch of the party saw him lead a faction which took control and immediately began to promote Slovak culture and language. By 1968 the Czechoslovak planned economy was in serious decline and led to Antonín Novotný's forced resignation as First Secretary. Dubček took his place and the short-lived Prague Spring commenced. After the armed intervention by the Warsaw Pact in August 1968 Dubček managed to cling to a greatly reduced amount of power until April 1969. He was expelled from the Communist Party in 1970, forced to work as a clerk for the forestry service in Slovakia. The Velvet Revolution in 1989 saw him reappear as a politician, although his staunch support of a communist solution to Czechoslovakia's many problems prevented him from having a leading role. He was elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly (the Czechoslovak Parliament), a role he continued until a car crash in 1992 led to his death two months later. The FDC cachet is a profile view (Fig. 10), the fragmented linear design suggesting his period as a shadowy non-person from 1968-1989. The cancellation is a facsimile of his signature.



Figure 8

6. On December 1, 2021 the Ministry issued a 3.00 € stamp in the series: **Art: The Adoration of the Magi from Zlaté Moravce** [Pofis 755]. The stamp motif is the central part of the Lent wing of a three-part wooden altar (Fig. 11) which is in the collections of the National Gallery, Prague. The sheetlet and FDC were designed and engraved by František Horniak and produced by recess printing with a flat plate. The altar was created in the Spiš workshop during the middle of the 15th century. It is not known how the provenance "from Zlaté Moravce" was attached to this altar. It was acquired at an art market in Vienna in 1938 and after WWII was moved to Bratislava. It was returned to Prague in 1995 as part of the agreed redistribution of artwork following the breakup of Czechoslovakia at the end of 1992. The engraved cachet of the FDC depicts *The Presentation in the Temple* (Fig. 12) from the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Zlaté Moravce and the cancellation is an artwork from the same church. A special FDC was also issued using the entire sheetlet. A service envelope [040 CSO 755/21] using the stamp image without any noted value was issued the same day.

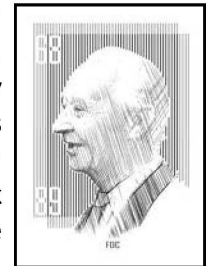


Figure 10

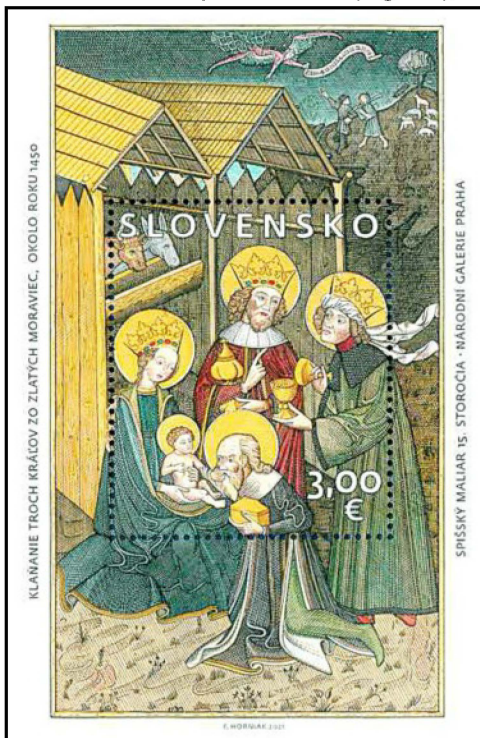


Figure 11

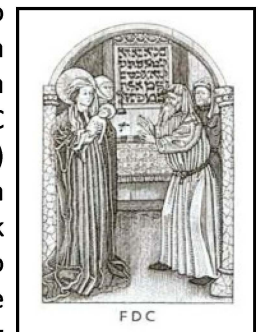


Figure 12

7. On December 3, 2021 the Ministry issued a 0.75€ stamp in the series **Postage Stamp Day: Mikuláš Klimčák (1921-2016)** [Pofis 756]. The stamp motif is from the tapestry *The Byzantine Mission in Greater Moravia* which hangs in Bratislava Castle and the coupon is the artwork *The Birth in Bethlehem* (Fig. 13). The stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and produced in sheets of 30 with 30 coupons.

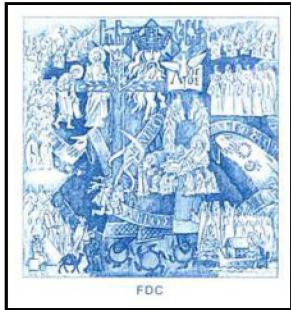


Figure 14

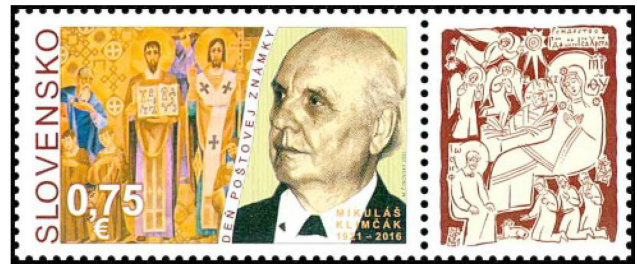


Figure 13

the centenary of Klimčák's birth, it only details a tiny amount of his life's work. As a painter, sculptor, illustrator, restorer, and creator of monumental tapestries, his versatility can be seen in cities and towns throughout Slovakia. The FDC cachet is the painting *Hospod' Boh Savaot* in the House of St. Nicholas, Ľutina (Fig. 14) and the cancellation is a bird, from an illustration in *Slovo* magazine. A collection sheet was also issued.

Postal Stationery

8. On October 16, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **150th Anniversary of the Michalany-Humenné Railroad** [Pofis 311 CDV 267/21]. The imprinted stamp, with a value of T2 50g (0.75 €), has the logo of "Good Idea Slovakia". The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a historic locomotive (Fig. 15). 1500 copies were issued.

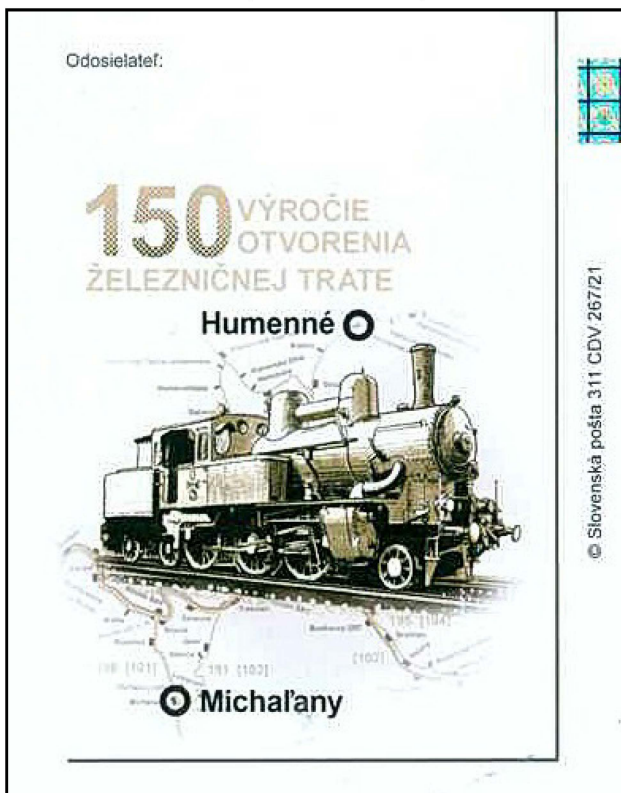


Figure 15

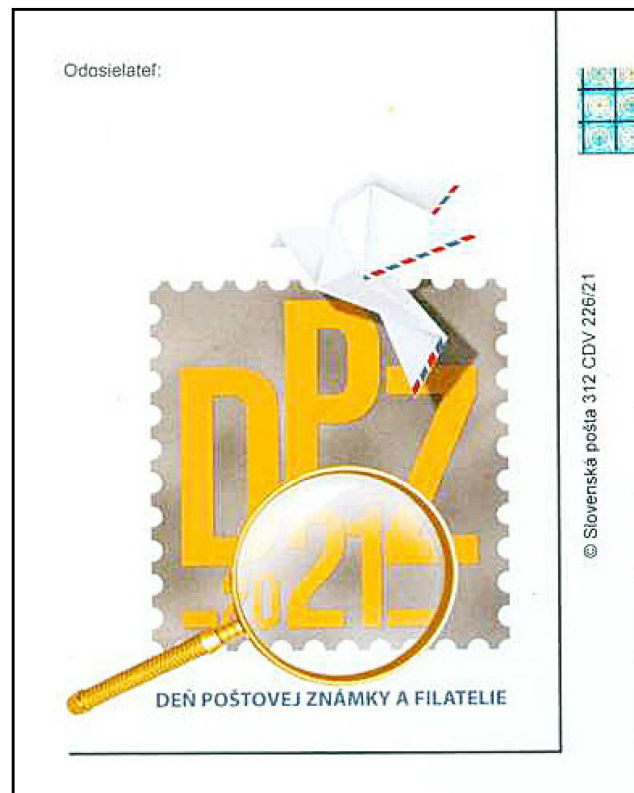


Figure 16

9. On December 17, 2021 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to commemorate **The Day of Postage Stamps and Philately 2021** [Pofis 312 CDV 267/21]. The imprinted stamp, with a value of T2 50g, is for the 10th anniversary of Slovak membership in the EU. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, depicts a stamp, dove, and a magnifying glass (Fig. 16). 1500 copies were issued.

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