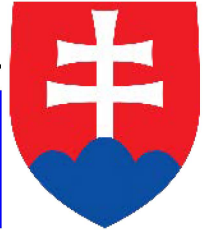




THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
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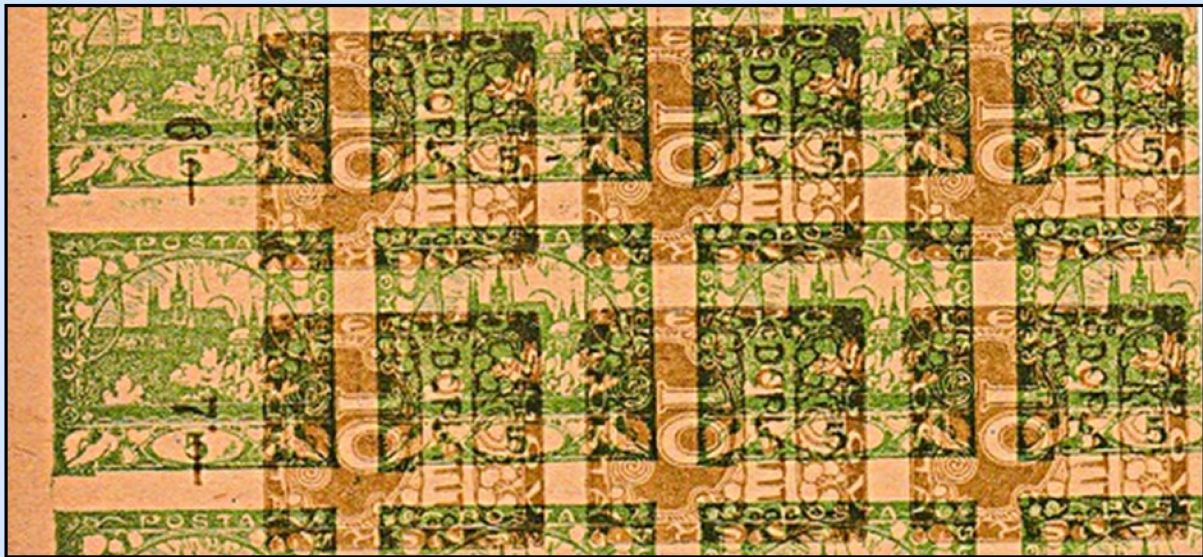
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An Example of Makulatura

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>ARTICLE</u>
2	The Endless Charm of Century Old Makulatura - Part 1 <i>by Franstišek Beneš</i>
7	The Jaroslav Verner and Jiří Majer Exhibiting Program
8	Czechoslovak Perfins - A "Wide-Open" Collecting Specialty <i>by Joe Coulbourne</i>
10	Notes From Your Editor <i>by Keith Hart</i>
11	Continuing Study of 1918 Austria Free Frank - Czech Scout Post Covers to the National Council <i>by Fredrick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL</i>
12	Philatelic News and Views
13	Czechoslovak Provisional Newspaper Stamps, 1918-1919 <i>by James A. Buckner.</i>
16	Slovakia New Issues <i>by Keith Hart</i>
18	Czech Republic New Issues <i>by Keith Hart</i>
22	Available Publications

THE ENDLESS CHARM OF CENTURY-OLD MAKULATURA - Part 1

by František Beneš

translated by Lucie Harris and Ludvik Svoboda

For more than a century the approach of Czechoslovak and now Czech and Slovak philately has been somewhat different from how stamps are collected in other countries. Philately had an unprecedented expansion in our country at the turn of the last century and also during the First Republic. However, prior to that our philately had an absence of almost seven decades of previous philatelic publishing activities within the Austro-Hungarian empire, which meant the loss of a classical period with its extensive specialization possibilities. Then too, we probably thought that we had suffered for hundreds of years, so we will not collect the stamps of Austria and Hungary, especially now that we have our own Czechoslovak stamps. All of this resulted in our special approach (especially focusing on things which are considered irrelevant elsewhere), that still persists today.

Those who went to the main post office in Prague on December 18, 1918, to buy the first postage stamps of the new state, bought for 15 heller only two stamps – the five and ten heller of the Hradčany issue. I have not found out whether they could have bought a pair of newspaper stamps – the 2h and 10h Sokol in Flight – released on the same day. But the truth is that the complete collection of Czechoslovak stamps at the end of that famous 1918 year contained only seven items. This of course seemed very small to collectors accustomed to fat albums filled with previous issues (which they now, as good patriots, had tucked away deep into their library). Even though the number of newly released stamps later increased, it was still just so ordinary. Well, what can be said? What kind of collecting is it, when you can easily buy them at the post office for a nominal value, and there isn't any specialization? This changed a year later with the issuance of the PC 1919 issues [Pošta Československá 1919], but many philatelists were not interested in them, because of the insurmountable injustice in their distribution.

In order to satisfy the desire of collectors for something interesting – and at the same time to attract new candidates to the Club of Czech Philatelists (KČF) – and who are we kidding, to line their own pockets – representatives of the KČF organized for their members the purchase of makulatura prints (Fig. 1) of our first issues, which the Czechoslovak Post Office (at least to the greatest extent) even had them specially printed. We will be back to that in a moment. My father dealt with the circumstances of the creation and sale of these makulatura in the series “*Small Stops on the Road of Philately and Czechoslovak Postal Administration*” in the pages of *Filatelie* and I even wrote about them, for example, in *Filatelie* 11/1997, or in the series “*Some Ethical and Legal Issues in Our Field*”.



Fig. 1

After the initial enthusiasm that was generated by the makulatura, the time came to sober up, and as is customary in our country, to go from one extreme to another. For example, by turning up our nose and condemning it as an artificial product (which it undoubtedly was) with which “there is no point in wasting our time”. A certain closing off of the borders (during the First Republic for strict foreign exchange and customs regulations, and understandably under the Protectorate almost completely, not to mention under the time of Socialism) caused this early 1920s disdainful approach to our makulatura not to spread abroad. Thus, some collectors there traditionally consider them as something interesting and valuable (the postal administrations of most philatelically developed countries have not done anything similar to this) and are willing to pay prices we do not even dream of at home – sometimes they use indirect valuations, like the more varied the prints the better it seems to them.

So what is the reality then? Is it “garbage”, expensive even at a few crowns, or valuable material worth a high price? As it often happens, the truth is somewhere in the middle – let's now take a closer look at our 100 year-old makulatura.

What's Going On?

First, we need to define what a **makulatura** is. General dictionaries speak of this term as “paper that has been printed on and destined for the wastebasket, as well as defective prints and worthless printed matter”. In our field, we have a more detailed definition: “All defective printing of stamps produced in whatever way. In philately, this term is used mostly in connection with the second main stage of production, i.e., the printing itself, whereas in polygraphy this term less precisely means all defective products made during all of the mail production phases.” (*Filatelie's Praga 1988 booklet*, p. 138).

Hirsch and Franěk in their monographic work on Czechoslovak stamps (published serially in the magazine *Tribune filatelistů* in 1932-1935) pay considerable attention to makulatura, both in general as well as in the Hradčany chapter.

In the introductory part they state: “A philatelist calls makulatura, for example, stamp prints with the image of Hradčany on thick colored paper, which have passed through the printing press one or more times, and therefore bear one or more images of stamps. The images can be either the same or various combinations of images of different values or types. The origin of these ‘makulatura’ was explained as being concerned with cut up sheets of paper that were passed through a machine to clean it of inappropriate color ink, or to possibly uniformly distribute the color. Since these prints – which have gotten into the hands of collectors – show that they have gone through the printing press only once, or not more than three times, it is certainly possible to describe the emergence of these prints as speculative. Shortly after the first stamps were printed, the Philatelic Federal Headquarters of Prague offered up ‘twice-run-through makulatura’ and announced a supplementary 5000 sheets (!) by the Postal Administration. From this it is clearly evident that the post office was producing large quantities, which it sold under the name of makulatura. It would be the pinnacle of the printshop's wastefulness if in such a short time they used 5000 sheets to clean machines, and likewise allowed the makulatura paper to go through the machine just once, or up to three times, even though every printer's apprentice knows that makulatura paper can serve its purpose countless times. By the way, these very circumstances – that the so-called makulatura was being sold by the postal administration and not by the print shops (that after all owned the makulatura) – indicates very clearly the fact that here at the very beginnings of our stamp history, the Postal Administration was speculating on them for purposes of philatelic purchasing. Since a postmaster who encouraged philately was then entrusted with the supervision of stamp printing, it can be deduced almost with certainty that he was an indirect inspiration for these prints. Today's worthlessness of makulatura stems precisely from the above described and commonly known intent”. (From the last sentence we can see what a steep fall makulatura experienced since it was only ten years from when the Club of Czech Philatelists offered it with great fanfare exclusively to its members. Incidentally, it was a similar principal as when half a century later only members of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists could obtain the fixed value new issues at face value. The regimes have otherwise changed, but the approach to attracting members remains the same).

In the Hradčany chapter they add: “Makulatura, as imprints during the cleaning of plates and distribution of ink color on various paper – white and brownish-yellow, in original as well as different colors, printed once or several times, also shifted or several different values over each other, are known for almost all values. But the most common are in fact on stamps of design types I and II, but rarer for stamps of design type IV. In comparison

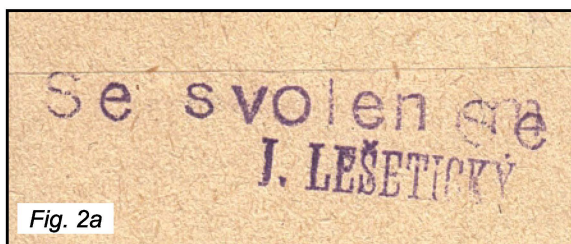


Fig. 2a

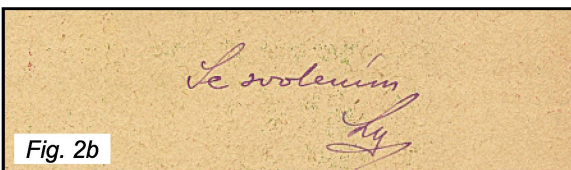


Fig. 2b

with other incomplete stamps or print shop products that have gotten to the public illegally and without authority, the makulatura left the print shop with the knowledge of the authorities – on the one hand at the request of the Club of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Prague, to which they were sold (altogether 5,000 sheets), and on the other hand with the knowledge of the printing inspection organizations, as is evidenced by the rubber stamp “With permission of J. LEŠETICKÝ” on the reverse side of individual makulatura prints.” It also occurs as a handwritten note (Fig. 2a,b).

With the growth of the knowledge of the development of similar stamp designs during their printing, we can say with

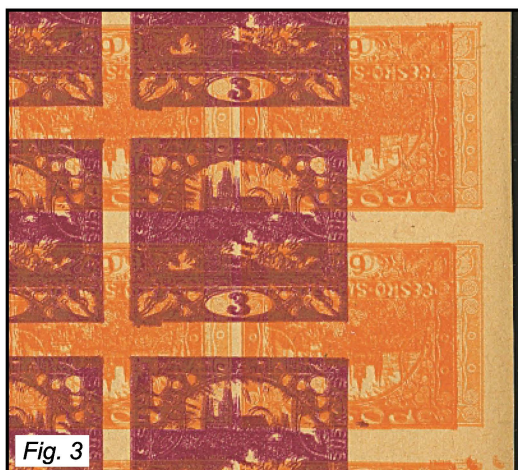


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

certainly today that the occurrence of these makulatura prints made for philatelists did not precede the actual printing of the stamps, but was carried out during its progress, namely even at various stages. The proof is the plate faults of the Hradčany issues corrected by retouching. The most famous are the “broken branch” plate fault on printing plate position 90/2 of the 3h value (Fig. 3), which occurs on makulatura as a plate fault as well as its retouch (Fig. 4), as well as the “clock” plate fault on printing plate 91 of all four plate varieties of the 10h red, which occurs on makulatura as a fault and as various forms of its retouch.

An appropriate proviso is that Hirsch and Franěk have already refuted the idea of the necessary cleaning of machines by pointing out that the actual operative makulatura passes through the printer many times, so in the end the paper is completely smeared with ink, with totally unreadable images – which is definitely not the case with the makulatura distributed by the Club of Czechoslovak Philatelists. These also cannot be trial prints made after repairing or adjusting the plate, since they would only go through once so the operator could check the appearance of the modified image (in multiple printing the image would of course be unreadable).

In our field, the term “makulatura” includes practically everything that failed during the production of stamps and that should not have left the print shop (i.e. partial prints, transfers, double-sided print, printing faults and errors, bookmarks, folds, repositionings, omitted or double perforations, doubles, double-sided, inverted or shifted overprints, etc.). In this article, however, we will focus mainly on the “makulatura” produced for the Club of Czechoslovak Philatelists, thus

the 5000 sheets mostly on colored paper. In the vast majority of cases these were double or multiple printings, mostly Hradčany issues and, to a lesser extent, other issues from that time – 1918 Newspaper and 1919 Special Delivery and Postage Due. What exactly was contained in the “allotment” of that time we do not in fact know. The leading philatelic officials involved in the action kept it to themselves for quite understandable reasons. It cannot therefore be excluded that, in addition to the ‘multiple-run’ makulatura, there were also sheets printed only once, possibly even perforated (or subsequently perforated for them in the Union). In addition to the four issues listed, also the Legionnaire 1919, TGM, Dove, Liberated Republic, Red Cross, and Airmail 1920 could have been included (or were later added) since these are found on makulatura paper also. At the same time, this was not the only source of this material. Other makulatura and prints on makulatura paper (these as well as other issues) escaped from the print shop on the sly (albeit to a lesser extent). Today, it is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish the origin of this material in most cases.

In any case, we can say that the legal origin of the 5000 sheets purchased from the post office by the Club of Czech Philatelists legitimizes in a manner of speaking the same or similar prints of others, even if it is material originally stolen. This may also be one of the reasons why the origin of the 5000 sheets was not immediately made clear – it could have been an attempt to hide another illegal supply under this legal supply. However, it is, of course, only a mere guess.

What we can encounter in practice

When you say makulatura, we usually imagine a small non-perforated piece of paper of yellow-brown or different color without glue, with a colorful imprint of several different values, sometimes different issues, where it is sometimes difficult to know what constitutes its image (Fig. 5a,b). Among



Fig. 5a

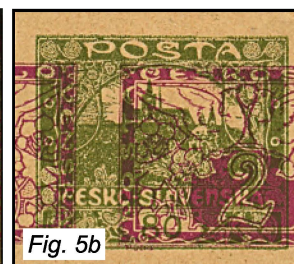


Fig. 5b

collectors, there are many such individual ‘stamps’ cut from the original sheets. Catalogs mention them with a brief note and mostly a negligible price listing (in the POFIS catalog under Hradčany it is 2 Kč per piece).

But is this the only form in which our makulatura of the early 1920s occurs? I will answer you directly – no. We are talking about a wider group of materials, which have some characteristics in common and others again different. A common element is for example the paper. We have already mentioned it is usually colored, in most cases yellowish-brown, usually rough to the touch, less often slightly greenish, red, or another color, and only rarely white – usually smoother, and in the majority of cases without gum. Only now and then do makulatura prints occur on stamp paper with gum.

Then, what is different is the way that the paper is printed – whether it is a single imprint of a single value, or it carries a double or multiple print (differently shifted from each other), or it is se-tenant of different values from the same or different issues. Also playing a role is whether it is a single stamp (many of which have been preserved) or a strip (there are fewer of these) or a block (the fewest of them).

Let’s now take a closer look at each group.

Individuals, or in larger groups

Most of us have already encountered individual “makulatura” – often at least a few pieces were included in old collections from the First Republic as a curiosity for “specialization”. It is understandable that they were found as single pieces, since the officials of the Club of Czechoslovak Philatelists cut up the vast majority of the original sheets, so that only a small number of them were preserved as a whole. The most significant subscribers could buy a quarter-sheet, the lesser subscribers bid on blocks of four, and ordinary collectors had to settle for single pieces (Fig. 6).

Because they were all multiple prints, it was up to the person holding the scissors as to which of the prints he gave precedence – only that one would be entirely on the paper piece, the other prints were only detailed in part. Today it can only be argued about – according to how the “cutters” of the time made their decisions. Today, a hundred years and a lot more knowledge later, we can sometimes only regret that a stamp for which something interesting is now known (type, plate flaw, retouch, etc.), is only partially depicted on the makulatura, while the one that is entirely there is a common value without a deeper specialization. Therefore, strips and blocks (the bigger, the better) are more popular and valuable, resulting in completely uneven increases in prices. If a single, colorfully imprinted stamp costs a few crowns, a block of 4 does not cost 4 times more, but perhaps 10 times or more, and a larger block is worth even more (of course, especially if there is something interesting on it).

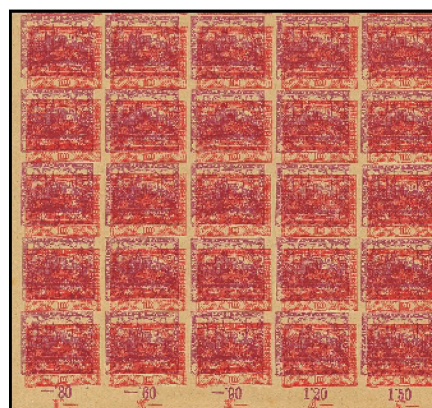


Figure 6: Lower left quarter-block with 3h and 10h stamps, with the “clock” plate fault on Plate Position 91.



Fig. 7a



Fig. 7b

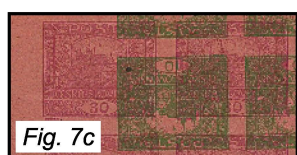


Fig. 7c



Fig. 7d

Type and color of paper

We have already said that most often it is yellowish-brown, less often bluish, pink, brownish, red, gray, and white. The white one also occurs as a soft, thick, or hard cardboard (Fig. 7a,b,c,d). Very thin paper in various colors occurs rarely (Fig. 8).

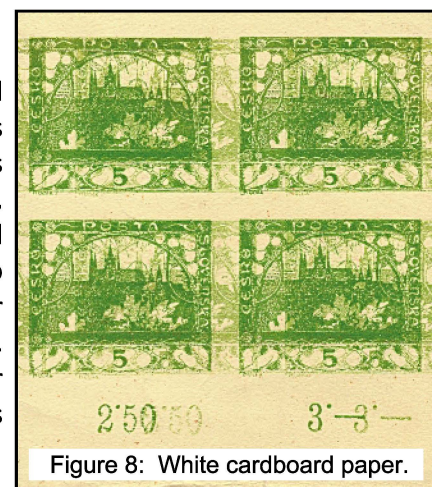


Figure 8: White cardboard paper.

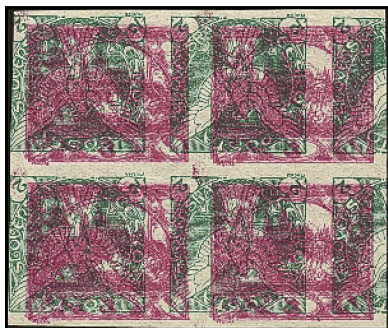


Figure 9a/b: On top is the front side with se-tenant multi-print of 3h Hradčany and upside down 2h Sokol (falcon) in flight. On the bottom is the back side with a 2h printing transfer on the gum.



Multiple “makulatura” prints on stamp paper with gum occur rarely (Fig. 9a/b).

The same prints can occur on different papers, so it would definitely be worth it if a researcher would examine the evidence, from which one could then derive the ratio of occurrence, and thus also the price of individual variants. However, it is advisable that those interested, if they have the opportunity during purchasing, to choose also according to the color of the paper, and pay attention to its less frequent variants.

Cut off and perforated

The vast majority of makulatura are non-perforated, and only a small part are furnished with perforations, namely comb perforation – $13 \frac{3}{4} : 13 \frac{1}{2}$ (A), or line perforation – $13 \frac{3}{4}$ (C), $11 \frac{1}{2}$ (D), rarely even $11 \frac{1}{2} : 13 \frac{3}{4}$ (G) and $13 \frac{3}{4} : 10 \frac{3}{4}$ (H). There are also other types and sizes of perforations (Figs. 10 and 11).

We can also find doubled, multiple, or omitted perforations, done on various perforation machines (e.g. horizontally from an unclean slat and vertically from a clean one) as is the case with real stamps (Fig. 12).

In general we can say, that perforated makulatura are significantly more valuable than the non-perforated ones, so when buying, pick them (of course, beware of perforation counterfeits!).

We have already mentioned that the “allotment” of 5000 sheets to the Club of Czechoslovak Philatelists was not the only source of makulatura at that time. They entered the market in other ways (of course to a much lesser extent), so it cannot be excluded that perforated makulatura are a real part of the preparation of production, and that it is an authentic and necessary test of perforation (but this cannot be confirmed). The fact that most perforated examples on makulatura paper have only one print indicates that this could be the case; multiple-printed makulatura occur significantly less and thus deserve attention being devoted to them.

Special caution is needed for multiple prints because it was exactly these that the infamous Prague counterfeiter “Z” provided with counterfeit perforations (and may still be furnishing them) – he has been practicing these harmful activities for at least forty years. He thus tries to

produce “valuable” stamps from ordinary cheap material, with which he then deceives collectors.

To conclude, let us mention that it cannot be ruled out that the KČF officials and people associated with them (for example, philatelic dealers) – thanks to a good relationship with the Post – subsequently allowed the Union print shop to make the perforated makulatura (or a part of it) from the purchased “allotment” or other sources.

Print execution

Now let’s see what form the makulatura actually appears in. We have already said that it is usually a double or triple print (Fig. 13) but appears less often when even more than that. These are composed of imprints of different values (the same, or different



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12: On top is doubled perforation.

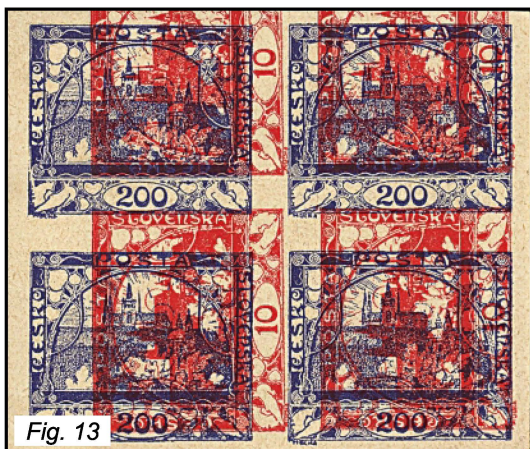


Fig. 13

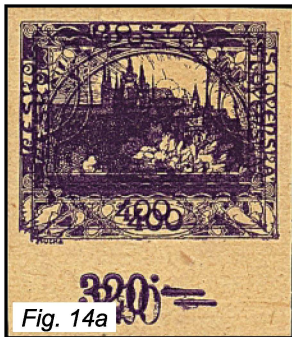


Fig. 14a

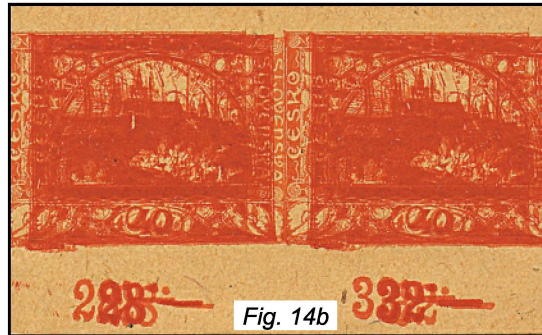


Fig. 14b



Fig. 15: Less common se-tenant single prints of 3h, 5h, 10h, and 25h Type I design.



Figure 16: A seemingly double print, but actually a triple print – the darker print “in the front” creates a double, very slightly shifted print.

issues), lying in the same direction or (Fig. 14a,b) inverted “upside down”, or rotated 90 degrees from each other, and usually significantly shifted from each other.

Less often it is printing of double, triple, or multiple prints of the same value, again done in different directions and significantly shifted (Fig. 15).

There are also prints of the same value, printed in the same direction, more or less shifted, sometimes even shifted so slightly that the result looks like a smudged or skidded print. These need to be viewed with magnification (Fig. 16). There are also single prints.

[Ed. note: In the next part of this article, which will be in the Summer issue of the Specialist, the article is going to focus on individual looks of makulatura.]



THE JAROSLAV VERNER AND JIŘÍ MAJER EXHIBITING PROGRAM

1. The Exhibiting Program is limited to exhibits related to Czechoslovakia that will be shown at the APS World Series of Philately (WSP) show at which the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) will hold its annual Board Meeting. It is further limited to one show per year. Honorariums (i.e., subsidies) are available to SCP members who are first time exhibitors and to SCP members who have previously exhibited and are offering a new exhibit.
 2. Each honorarium is limited to covering the exhibition frame fee, plus the cost of sending the exhibit to the show and returning it to the owner. It does not include the cost of acquiring material to exhibit, preparing the exhibit, purchasing shipping containers for the exhibit, or personal travel to carry the exhibit to the show. Each honorarium shall be limited to \$150.00 per exhibit.
 3. The honorarium is offered to members in good standing only. This includes members living outside the United States and honorary members.
 4. Because the honorarium is designed to encourage members to exhibit, preference shall be given to members who would be exhibiting for the first time. To encourage the maximum number of exhibitors, no member shall receive an honorarium for a second exhibit until all requests for a first exhibit have been supported. Size of an exhibit is not important except that it fits within the 20 frame maximum (see #5).
 5. A maximum of 20 frames of exhibits per show shall be supported with honorariums. Should applications for subsidies for more than 20 frames be received, the President of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately will establish a committee to select the exhibits to be supported.
 6. The Society's Treasurer shall administer the financial aspects of the subsidy program.
 7. Each year the Vice president shall establish a cutoff date for receiving applications for exhibit honorariums and ensure that information on the Program appears in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* prior to the cutoff date.
- Application forms can be found at our website www.csphilately.org.

CZECHOSLOVAK PERFINS

A “WIDE-OPEN” COLLECTING SPECIALTY

by Joe Coulbourne



As a collector of perfins, I thought I might take a moment to focus in on Czechoslovak perfins and what they mean to me. For most stamp and cover collectors, having holes punched into their stamps automatically makes them worthless and means the material is headed for the waste bin. I would offer, that this actually makes them more valuable. The philatelic perfin alongside is one such example. I bought some perfins from this individual on eBay and received them in the above cover. I dare say, Mr. Sakař will be immortalized for many years, owing to the mail pieces he created and this perfin cover will far

exceed the value of the same stamp, not perfined, used in the same period.

A collector often asks of themselves, “Why DO I collect these stamps?”. Let me tell you of the allure of collecting perfins. The single greatest moment a collector can have is when they contribute to the world of knowledge about a stamp or cover. Collecting perfins, one realizes quickly that there is much information to be learned. Who used the perfin? What kind of company or organization were they? When was it used? Where was it used? Why did they use perfins in the first place? Now imagine that you have just acquired a perfin cover. You look it up in the perfin catalog and find out the user is unknown – and you are holding a cover with the return address (corner card) of that very user. What goes through your mind next? How valuable is it? No one has found a cover with this user identified before, so this cover must be of greater value than most – that’s true. Another example that has happened to me many times over is that I have acquired an accumulation of perfins and find a perfin with a pattern that is not in the catalog at all – a new discovery! How many Czechoslovak stamp collector’s can say they have “added” something to the knowledge base for Czechoslovak philately? Ever time this happens to me, my heart races a bit, I get excited, and I am reinvigorated to continue my perfin collecting. Typically, perfins were used on business mail and you will find that most are non-philatelic and have a great variety of ancillary markings as much as was printed matter, registered mail, express, etc.

Let’s talk about perfin catalogs. A new one was released in November. This is the first update since 1987. The catalog was printed and released by POFIS as Monograph 24. I heard great things about this catalog from members of the Czechoslovak Perfins Club (<http://www.perfin.cz/>) and was extremely pleased when I saw my own copy. I am working to update my collection with the data from the new catalog and provide any updates to the authors for data from my collection that they are unaware of currently.

Pattern W24 punched into postal stationery

One of the rarer perfin items, a 2h “correspondence card” is shown here. It is perfined with the fancy monogram (W&P) of Willner and Pick of Tepitz. In the 1987 catalog, this perfin pattern is



assigned a rarity of "F" (4 or fewer copies known). It remains to be seen whether this rarity will hold up in the new catalog. Since 1987, eBay has become the stamp collector's marketplace and today, there are many other marketplaces, and perfins are much more easily acquired than ever before.



Sample page of Perfins from my collection

I collect the individual perfined stamps as well and above is a small fraction of the perfins in my collection, this group for the pictured pattern. Why this article? I wanted not only to provide some reasons for collecting perfins but also to let the readers know that a group of perfin collectors, who are also members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) have banded together to form the SCP Perfin Study Group. At present the SCP Perfin Study Group is digging into the Hradčany perfins, of which a number are shown above. Interested? The group is open to members of the SCP and we have members of all experience levels and interests. Contact Jerry Hejduk at flprepers@gmail.com for more information. We have a Zoom meeting the second Saturday of each month where we dig into various agenda topics and continue our learning of this important aspect of Czechoslovak philately. Hope to see you there!



Notes from your Editor

Our Annual convention and Board meeting recently took place at the **Garfield Perry March Party** in Cleveland. The show was extremely well organized and our table had a prime position near the entrance. It was somewhat disappointing that not a single dealer had much in the way of Czechoslovak material, but members were overjoyed on Saturday when a collector appeared with a substantial quantity, most of which was acquired by members and has yielded some interesting postal history.

Alan Hanzl gave two presentations during the show. On Friday it was *"Czech and Slovak Art on Stamps 1966-present"*, and on Saturday, at our convention, it was the turn of *"Slovakia's First Republic 1939-1945"*.

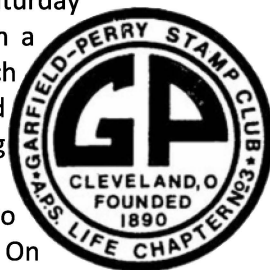
Our four member exhibits were well received and resulted in **James Buckner** being awarded a Large Vermeil for his exhibit *"Czechoslovakia's Newspaper Stamps 1918-1939"*. **Richard Palaschak** received a Large Vermeil for his *"The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia"*, which also received the Society's Alfons Mucha Medal. **Alan Hanzl's** exhibit *"Slovakia's First Republic 1939-1945"* received a Vermeil and also received the AAPE Gold Award of Honor Pin. **Ludvik Svoboda** received a Vermeil for *"Trials and Tribulations With Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1920"*.

There were around \$500 of book sales during the show and our President, **James Buckner**, had a meaningful discussion with **Scott English**, Executive Director of the APS, regarding the relationship between the two societies.

It is now only about a year before our next convention and Board meeting. This will take place at **NAPEX 2023** in McLean, Virginia from June 2-4 and will be at the usual venue hotel and conference center, the **Hilton McLean Tysons Corner**, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA 22102.

Further details will be given as soon as they are known.

In February the long-delayed London International Stamp Exhibition (**LONDON 2022**), took place over eight days in Islington, London. It was an extraordinarily



successful show for exhibits of Czechoslovak philately. Member **Yvonne Wheatley** won Gold for *"Czechoslovakia: The Masaryk 1920 and Allegory issues 1920-1923."* **Alan Soble** won Gold was for the CPSGB journal *"Czechout 2019."* **Steven Friedenthal** won a Large Vermeil for *"Czechoslovakia Machine Advertising Cancels: The First Republic Period."* **Lubor Kunc** secured a Vermeil for *"Austro-Hungarian Field Post 1914-1918"* and **Mark Wilson** also received a Vermeil for the *"Czechout Interactive Index 1975-2019."* In addition to these successes from our members, three other Golds were awarded to Czechoslovak exhibits, as well as nine Large Vermeils. It was extremely encouraging to see the success for so many collectors of Czechoslovak material.

If COVID-19 had not morphed LONDON 2020 to become LONDON 2022, the largest and most important stamp exhibition in Europe this year would have been **LIBEREC 2022**. Sponsored by the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF), FIP, and FEPA, it will take place on October 13-16. It is centered around the Expo Hall in Liberec, which will have around 1000 frames of exhibits. It is also the venue for the triannual Polar Salon which will have 200 frames of exhibits in the Congress Hall. The Court of Honor will feature a 1d Red Mauritius from 1847 and a 4 Kronen Austrian stamp with the overprint "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919". The official hotel is the **Wellness Hotel Babylon**, Nitranská 1, Liberec, where a discounted room price is available using the code "STAMP EXHIBITION" on the reservation hotline reservace@hotelbabylon.cz.



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CONTINUING STUDY OF 1918 AUSTRIA FREE FRANK – CZECH SCOUT POST COVERS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

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

In the Fall 2020 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* I introduced the topic of 1918 Austria Free Frank – Czech Scout Post Covers to the National Council¹. These covers were official mail to the National Council which traveled under the franking privilege and were marked with the instruction “Věc úřední poštovního prosta” or a variant, either printed, handstamped, or handwritten on the mail piece. The appearance of another example in a Prague postal auction in the Fall of 2021 prompted a continuation of the study of these covers.

On November 11, 1918 the Secretariat of the National Council in Kladno (German: Kladen), for the Kladno and Unhošťský districts, forwarded correspondence to the National Council offices in Prague with an envelope with a handstamped free frank instruction “Věc úřední porta prosta” (Fig. 1). The following day, the Prague post office delivered the cover to the National Council offices, then located in the Cadet Academy. It was opened there and based on the contents, redirected to the Provincial Economic Council, Coal Department, carried there by Scout Filip, and signed-for by the recipient in the Scout’s receipt notebook on November 12. The two 10h Scout Post stamps, paying the 20h letter rate, and the POŠTA SKAUTŮ, NV, and “Dopis od skauta ... převzal: ...” handstamps were applied in the Scout Post operations center.



Fig. 1 - 1918 Austria – Czech Scout Post cover
with handstamped free frank instruction

The table summarizes the four examples of these covers reported to date:

Date	Origin	Free Frank	Type	Postal Markings
November 10, 1918	District Political Administration in Kolín	Věc úřední poštovního prosta	Printed	Not registered
November 11, 1918	District Political Administration in Olomouc	Věc úřední porta prosta	Handstamped	Registered, but without a stamp(s) to pay the 25h registry fee
November 11, 1918	Secretariat of the National Council in Kladno	Věc úřední porta prosta	Handstamped	Not registered
November 11, 1918	Station Directorate in Jindřichův Hradec	Věc úřední, prosta poštovního. Doporučeno	Handwritten	Registered, but without a stamp(s) to pay the 25h registry fee

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I wish to thank Ing. Milan Černík for translations between Czech and English

ENDNOTE:

1. Lawrence, Dr. Frederick P. : *1918 Austria Free Frank – Czech Scout Post Covers to the National Council*; *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 82, No. 4 (Fall 2020), pp.25-27.

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

Philatelic News and Views

From Lou Svoboda

Our library has just received a donation of three translation dictionaries from the **Scandinavian Collectors Club**. Their library is also located, like ours, at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Thank you to Roger Cichorz for the donation. Each of these dictionaries is about 35 pages long and has thousands of words and terms associated with Czechoslovak philately.

- 1) *Švédsko-Český Slovníček* (Swedish-Czech Dictionary): SČF Praha 1987, in Czech, Swedish, English, German.
- 2) *Norsko-Český Slovníček* (Norwegian-Czech Dictionary): SČF Praha 1987, in Czech, Norwegian, English, German.
- 3) *Finsko-Český Slovníček* (Finnish-Czech Dictionary): SČF Praha 1987, in Czech, Finnish, English, German.

They can be borrowed from the SCP Library.

From Keith Hart

1) It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of **Bob Hill** in England. Bob had joined the SCP in 1994 and was member #1689. He had also been a member of CPSGB and ArGe Tschechoslowakei. Known to us mainly through two publications of CPSGB – *The Liberation of Olomouc, May 1945. Postal Arrangements, Including Local and Revolutionary Overprint Issues* (Monograph 14) and *Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945* (Monograph 18). These reflected his major point of interest, postal history at the end of World War II. Tom Cossaboom reports that he first met Bob in Prague during a stamp exhibition in the 1990s and that friendship endured to the end. The Society sends our condolences to his family.

2) **František Beneš** recently wrote about one thing that had puzzled him in connection with the recent railroad joint-issue between the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Czechia had issued 30,000 of the miniature sheets, while Slovakia had issued 50,000. You would have thought that this might have been the other way around. This led me to look at the diminishing amount of stamps printed for individual issues. I quickly looked at the website of Pofis Slovakia. Taking the *Art on Postage Stamps* series as an example, the 1993 issues had a circulation of 316,000. By 2021 this had been reduced to 50,000. Looking at the FDCs for the same stamps these had been reduced from 10,000 to 3,000 during the same period. A sad reminder of the dwindling number of collectors, a situation we must all try to reverse.

3) I regret to have to report the theft of another stamp exhibit. Michal Musil's *Austrian Newspaper Stamps 1853-1889* was stolen in the Czech Republic. A reward of 30,000 Kč has been announced for information that might lead to its discovery. More happily, I am extremely pleased to announce that the stolen exhibit about **Dr. Václav Vojtěch the Polar Explorer** has recently been recovered and returned to its owner, Jiří Kraus.

4) At the Society's Zoom Board meeting in June, it is anticipated that **venues for our Annual Convention and Board meetings for 2024 and 2025** will be chosen. The Summer edition of the *Specialist* will have full details of the decision.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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

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



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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:

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CZECHOSLOVAK PROVISIONAL NEWSPAPER STAMPS, 1918-1919

by James A. Buckner

About forty years ago, Jerry Verner and Henry Hahn wrote an essay on collecting areas in the early First Czechoslovak Republic that were ready for further research, discussion and collection¹. Among the topics they covered was the area of provisional newspaper stamps. This article will expand on their essay and introduce some of those provisional newspaper stamps issued and used by various publishers from the fall of 1918 to the end of February 1919.

The dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the fall of 1918 caused postal arrangements to be thrown into confusion. Such was the case with the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918. Austrian and Hungarian stamps continued to be used in the new country simply because there were no Czechoslovak stamps yet. The first Czechoslovak stamps appeared on December 18, 1918, and among these were the first two officially issued newspaper stamps. These newspaper stamps were issued to pay the postal tariff for the delivery of newspapers through the mails, either in bulk, or to individuals. They were directly affixed to newspapers or newspaper wrappers by the relevant newspaper publisher. However, as it took some time to produce sufficient numbers of the newly issued stamps (and to distribute them), Austrian and Hungarian newspaper stamps were authorized for continued use. These stamps, too, were in short supply.

These shortages prompted the newly created Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to issue a bulletin on November 19, 1918 (Bulletin No. 121/g-18) allowing the payment of newspaper shipments in cash. These shipments were to be marked with the text "**Franko hotově zapláceno**" (**Fee paid in cash**). Newspaper and periodical publishers complied with the bulletin by using either rubber handstamps with these words or by producing and using privately printed provisional stamps on their shipments.

Publisher/City	Number of Types	Size	Perforation
<i>Ankündigungsblatt der Forstwirtschaft des Handels und der Holzindustrie/Prachatice</i>	2	15x12 mm	Imperf.
<i>Čech/Praha</i>	2	20x20 mm	Imperf.
<i>České Slovo/Prah</i>	7	26x27.5 mm	Imperf.
<i>Český Merkur (Kurým)/Prague</i>	12	28x17 mm 28x17 mm 28x17 mm 28x17 mm 28x17 mm 28.5x21.5 mm 25x25 mm 34.5x25 mm 34.5x25 mm 33x24 mm 33x24 mm 28.5x21 mm	Perf 11 ¼ Perf 11 ¼ Perf 11 ¼ Perf 11 Perf 11 Perf 11 ¼ Perf 13 ¼ Perf 11 Perf 11 Perf 11 ¼ Perf 11 ¼ Perf 14 ¼
<i>Das Blatt der Hausfrau/Prah</i>	1	15x12 mm	Imperf.
<i>Den/Brno</i>	1	variousf	Imperf.
<i>Der Derfbote/České Budějovice</i>	1	21x21.5 mm	Perf 11 ½
<i>Deutsche Wacht a.d. Miese/Štříbro</i>	1	19x18 mm	Imperf.
<i>Deutsche Heimat/Prachatice</i>	1	15x12 mm	Imperf.
<i>Humoristické listy/Praha</i>	2	13x28 mm	Imperf.
<i>Illustrierte Tier und Garten Welt/Praha</i>	2	44x37 mm	Imperf.
<i>Komenský/Zábřeh</i>	1	26x25 mm	Perf 11 ¼
<i>Lloyd/Praha</i>	4	4x8 mm 14x8 mm 17x18.3 mm 17x18.3 mm	Imperf. Imperf. Imperf. Imperf.
<i>Mährish – schlesische Presse/Frývaldov (Jeseník)</i>	1	Various.	Imperf.
<i>Merkur/Praha</i>	1	28x28 mm	Imperf.
<i>Národné noviny/Turčanský svätý Martin</i>	2	35x20 mm	Imperf.
<i>Národní politika/Praha</i>	3	25x27 mm 26x24.7 mm	Imperf. Imperf.
<i>Našinec/Olomouc</i>	1	21.5x21.5 mm	Imperf.
<i>Pilsner Tagblatt/Pizeň</i>	2	21x23 mm	Imperf.
<i>Práce/Praha</i>	2	27x28 mm	Imperf.
<i>Rovnost/Brno</i>	2	15x11.7 mm	Imperf.
<i>Věstník katolického duchovenstva/Praha</i>	1	26x10.5 mm	Imperf.
<i>Wiener Sohn – und Montagszeitung Abstelle/Praha</i>	1	Various.	Imperf.
<i>Zeitungsvershleis G. Löenstein/Karlovy Vary</i>	1	21x20.5 mm	Imperf.

Sometimes referred to as labels, the provisional newspaper stamps came in many different sizes and colors, some with gum, some without, some with perforations and others without. It appears that 24 publishers issued 54 different provisional stamps¹. The table lists the known publishers and characteristics of their provisional stamp issues.

The variety of designs, styles, and colors shows how differently each publisher complied with the Ministry regulation. Perhaps the most widely seen provisional newspaper stamps are the ones produced and used by the Prague publication *Národní Politika* (National Policy). They are perhaps the most widely known because they



Figure 1



Figure 2

seem to have been produced in large numbers¹. There were two stamps: the first was printed by typography in brick red color in four lines: *Národní Politika* on the top line (inside its own box); *Franko* in large letters on the next line; *Hotově* on the third line; and *zapláceno* at the bottom inside a single, thick lined frame. The size of the stamp was 25x27 mm and it was issued imperforate on thin, yellowish gummed paper (Fig. 1). They were printed in sheets of 32 stamps (8 x 4). It was the policy of the publisher of *Národní politika*, going back to the Austrian Empire (pre-independence era), to send complimentary copies of the publication to soldiers in hospitals.

For this, the second, commonly seen stamp was used (Fig. 2). This was printed in red on white, gummed paper. It was issued imperforate in the size of 26x24.7 mm with three lines: top – *NÁRODNÍ*; middle line *POLITIKA*, and bottom line *GRATIS* inside a double lined frame, that also contained a red cross.

The publication *České Slovo* (Czech Word) from Prague issued seven provisional newspaper stamps, each the same design but in seven different colors: brick red (Fig. 3), dull red, dark brown, brown (Fig. 4), light green, dark green, and black.



Figure 5

These stamps were printed in size 26x27.5 mm in sheets of eight (2 x 4) on white paper with gum. It was printed by typography in a vertical rectangle and was issued imperforate.

Pilsner Tagblatt (Plzeň Daily

Journal) in Plzeň fulfilled the Ministry's regulation for marking their shipments by using German rather than Czech on their provisional stamps. This provisional was 21x23 mm in size, printed in black on red, gummed paper, and issued imperforate (Fig. 5).



Figure 3



Figure 4

The publication *Mährish – Schlesische Presse* (Moravian-Silesian Press) from Frývaldov (now Jeseník) used a simple stamp that was issued gummed and imperforate on green paper with the inscription also in German (Fig. 6). The inscription in German may be a concession to their readership.

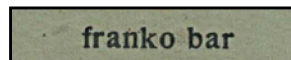


Figure 6

In Turčianský svätý Martin in Slovakia, the publication *Národné Noviny* (National News) utilized a large (35x20 mm) provisional stamp printed by typography on light brownish un-gummed paper. It was printed in three lines in black with no frame and issued imperforate. The top line read *Národné Noviny* underlined; the center line: a large *Franco*; the bottom line: *zaplacené* (Fig. 7). Of all the provisional newspaper stamps produced, this was the only one known with a watermarked paper³. The stamp was printed in sheets of ten (2 x 5).

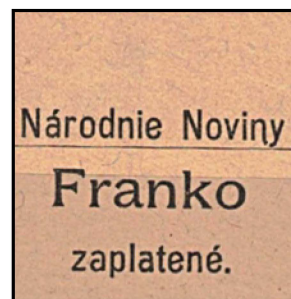


Figure 7

Another commonly seen provisional stamp is from the publication *Našinec* (Our Daily) from Olomouc. Figure 8 on page 15 shows two of the provisional stamps on a newspaper cutting. It was printed in negative red on white paper (red ink applied to white paper to form white lettering and design, with a red background) in size 21.5x21.5 mm.



Figure 8

A prolific producer of provisional newspaper stamps was the publication *Český Merkur* (Czech Mercury) from Prague. This publisher was known to have used at least 12 provisional stamps of various sizes, perforations, and designs. Two are shown here. Figure 9 shows one of the designs. It is printed in black with the three-line description: *Poštovné* (first line), *hotově* (second line), *zapláceno* (third line), framed by a double blue line, and perforated 11. It is

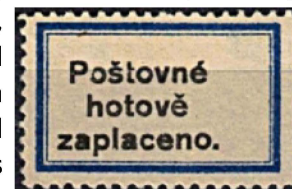


Figure 9

28x17 mm in size in a horizontal rectangle. Figure 10 shows a different provisional stamp used by the publisher. It, too, is printed in black with the same three-line inscription (*Poštovné hotově zapláceno*) as the previous example. However, it is larger (33x24 mm), is perforated 11 ¼, and has a thick blue frame with circle designs in it. This publication was also known as *Kurým*. This is not well known because another former daily paper, *III Kurier*, is often mistaken for it⁴. The publication *Čech* (Czech) from Prague used an imperforate 20x20 mm stamp printed in black on pink or green paper. The pink version is shown in figure 11.



Figure 10

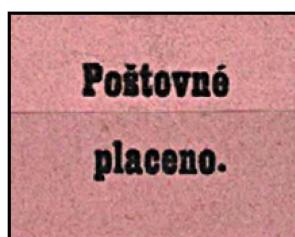


Figure 11

A final example is the publication *Práce* (Work) from Praha.

It issued and utilized a provisional stamp similar to that of *Národní politika*. Also printed by typography, the size of the stamp was 27x28 mm and was issued imperforate on gummed yellowish to gray paper (rarer), or white paper with gum (Fig. 12).



Figure 12

The provisional stamps described above only represent about 20% of the known provisional newspaper stamps. It should be noted that the provisional newspaper stamps were officially authorized by the Ministry of Post and Telegraphs but were *not* officially issued by the Ministry. As stated earlier, there are at least 54 different known provisional newspaper stamps used from November 1918 to the end of February 1919. These stamps were produced in a variety of sizes, designs, perforations, and colors. They were used for a little over three months. They are as different as each publisher's newspaper or periodical. The use of provisional newspaper stamps by publishers ended by the end of February 1919 because newspaper stamps officially issued by the Ministry were now available and widely distributed. Because the provisional stamps were officially

authorized, a collection of provisional newspaper stamps can be rightfully included in a collection of Czechoslovak stamps. It is this variety that makes this collecting area interesting and ready for further study and research.

Further areas of study should include research in the archives of the Czech Postal Museum in Prague for records (if they exist) pertaining to the issuance of the provisional stamps. The secondary sources consulted for this article reveal little on this subject. There are a number of questions still to be answered: why, for example, if the regulation issued by the Ministry specified the phrase "*Franko hotově zapláceno*", were some publishers allowed to use German (*franko bar* or *bar bezahlt*)? Was this indeed a concession to their readership as I suggested earlier, or was it merely a sign of the multi-cultural society created when the Republic was established? Did all the publishers produce the provisional stamps themselves or did they have them produced elsewhere (outsourced in the modern parlance)? Are there any records as to the number of provisional stamps produced by each publisher? Further, was there a regulation issued by the Ministry specifically ending their use? These and other questions remain to be answered. It is hoped that this article will serve as the basis for further study going forward. If anyone has answers to these questions, or has additional information or comments, please contact me at wellseats@hotmail.com.

SOURCES:

1. Henry Hahn and Jaroslav J. Verner: *Czechoslovakia 1918-1920 Philatelic Elements of the Transition Period*; Society for Czechoslovak Philately.
2. Klim, Jan, Jan Štofka, Zdeněk Filípek: *Československo 1918-1939 III. Část Specializovaný katalog Známek a celistvostí*; Merkur Revue, 2019, pp 242-245.
3. Dr. Otto Gáta: *Provisional Newsprint Postage Paid Labels*; The Czechoslovak Specialist – February 1983, page 9.
4. Joseph A. Jiranek: *Provisional Newspaper Labels and Handstamps*; The Czechoslovak Specialist – January 1962, pp 4-7.

FOOTNOTE:

1. While the author has not seen any published numbers on how many stamps of each issue were produced, these two issues were produced in large numbers and are simply more readily available on the philatelic market.

**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 January 19, 2022 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued two stamps to celebrate the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing. A 0.75 € stamp represents the **XXIV Olympic Winter Games** and is issued se-tenant with another 0.75 € stamp representing the **XIII Paralympic Games** [Pofis 757 & 758]. The stamps were designed by Marián Komáček (Olympics) and Igor Piačka (Paralympics) and printed in sheets of 40. One of the stamps depicts a competitor in the women's monobob, an event making its Olympic debut. The other stamp shows a para ice hockey player. The stamps are joined by the image of a tiger (Fig. 1)



Figure 1

indicating that these Winter Games occurred at the start of the Chinese Year of the Tiger.



Figure 2

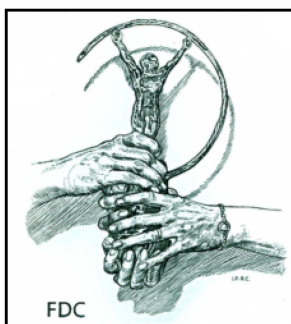


Figure 3

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games took place from February 4-20. There were a total of 109 medal events spread over seven sports and fifteen disciplines. To improve gender equality several mixed team competitions have been added. The FDC cachet, engraved by František Horniak, shows an ice hockey goaltender (Fig. 2) and the cancellation depicts a downhill skier.

The 2022 Paralympic Winter Games took place from

March 4-13. 83 medal events were spread over six sports – alpine skiing, snowboarding, cross-country, biathlon, ice hockey, and wheelchair curling. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by František Horniak, shows a person clasping a winning trophy (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is of a curler, releasing the stone towards the 'button' in the center of the house. Collection sheets for both stamps were also issued.

2. On January 21, 2022 the Ministry issued a 2.10 € stamp to celebrate **World Exhibition EXPO 2020 Dubai** [Pofis 759]. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and issued as a miniature sheet of four with a central coupon (Fig. 4). This international EXPO was delayed from 2020, opening on October 1st last year



Figure 4

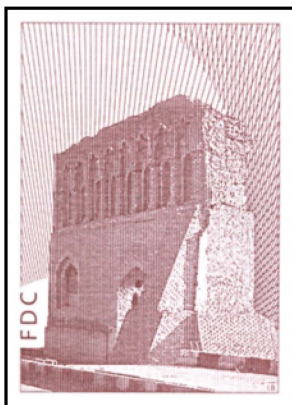


Figure 5

and running until March 31st this year. The stamp has a depiction of the reverse of an Arabic coin found in 1992 during an archaeological survey of the hill below Bratislava Castle. The copper coin was produced in 797 AD, by a mint in the Baghdad Caliphate. It shows that local traders from that period were in contact with merchants from Middle Eastern lands. The coin was minted during the Caliphate of Harun al-Rashid and the FDC cachet shows a relic from his palace in Raqqa, Syria (Fig. 5) while the cancellation is a drachma coin bearing his image.

[Ed. note: This stamp was originally going to be issued on October 1st last year and during the delay its value was increased from 1.30 € to 2.10 €. The image of the coin is vastly improved in the amended stamp].

3. On March 3, 2022 the Ministry issued a 0.65 € stamp in the series: **Easter 2022: Religious Motifs in the Work of P.M. Bohúň** [Pofis 760]. The stamp shows part of an 1873 painted altarpiece depicting *The Ascension of Christ* (Fig. 6), which is in the Evangelical church in Bátorvce. The hovering central figure is surrounded by a mandorla. The stamp was designed by Peter Nosál and printed in sheets of 50. Peter Michal Bohúň (1822-1879) was one of the most important Slovak painters during the mid-19th century, at a time of Slovak resurgence in terms of language and culture. He painted many portraits of Slovak patriots, their families and lifestyle. Ironically, he found that he could best maintain his lifestyle by painting portraits of wealthy families who usually had Hungarian heritage. He also painted artwork for churches, in particular altarpieces and religious matter for private chapels. The FDC cachet is the entire altarpiece from the church (Fig. 7) and the cancellation depicts a monstrance. A booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps, and a pictorial postal card were also issued.

[Ed. note: Although not mentioned as being such by Pofis, it is probably not a coincidence that this stamp is issued during the 200th anniversary of Bohúň's birth. Another painting by Bohúň [Pofis 578] was issued as a stamp in 2014, as part of the ART series.]



Figure 7

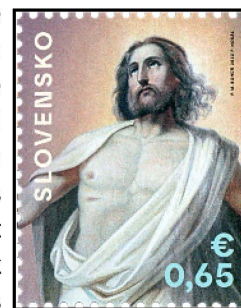


Figure 6

4. On March 18, 2022 the Ministry jointly issued with the Czech Republic a 1.85 € stamp celebrating the **150th Anniversary of the Košice-Bohumín Railroad** [Pofis 761]. Designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdon, the stamp depicts a humorous scene where railroad workers and passengers are clambering all over a series 110 locomotive. The stamp was issued in a sheetlet containing one stamp and a coupon. The coupon, with a narrow-gauge U.29.0 locomotive, is se-tenant with the stamp. Also, isolated within the sheet, is a serrated label (*zoubkovanou nálepku*) showing a type 486.0 locomotive (Fig. 8). The sheet was produced by a combination of recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. When the first railroads were being developed in the mid-19th century their routes were largely selected for economic reasons. It was essential for both the Hungarian and Austrian monarchies to be able to link the mineral-rich Silesian region with their major areas of industrial production. At the intersection of today's Slovakia, Czechia and Poland lay the small Moravian town of Bohumín which became a major transport hub. The railroad from there to Košice was the first in Upper Hungary (now Slovakia). Its route along the edge of the Carpathian Mountains also connected with the coal mining area of Teschen, which today is divided by the Olza river into the towns of Cieszyn in Poland and



Figure 8

Český Těšín in Czechia. Financed by major European banks, construction took place from 1867-1872 and one of the routes technological successes was the Jablunkov tunnel. In Slovakia the route connected through Žilina, from where it headed south into Hungary itself. The FDC cachet shows various railroad motifs with Košice and Bohumín stations in the background (Fig. 9) and the triangular cancellation is an approaching train. A commemorative sheet was also issued. [Ed. Note: In 1972 a Czechoslovak stamp was issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this railroad- Profis 1947.]

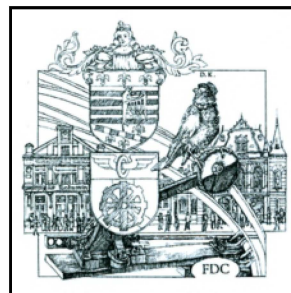


Figure 9

5. On March 31, 2022 the Ministry issued a T2 50g (0.75 €) stamp to commemorate **Sporting Achievements** [Pofis 762]. The stamp, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows gold,



Figure 10

gold medals for the combined alpine skiing event, as well as the women's downhill at the Paralympic Games. Alexandra Rexová won the gold medal for the women's Super-G at the same games, while Miroslav Haraus won bronze medals in the men's slalom and giant slalom in the visually-impaired events. The FDC cachet depicts a slalom skier in front of the Chinese symbol for the Year of the Tiger (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is a stylized snowflake.

silver and bronze medals and was printed in a miniature sheet containing eight stamps and eight se-tenant coupons (Fig. 10). The standard coupons show Petra Vlhová (winner of the gold medal in the women's slalom, the first such medal obtained by a Slovak in alpine skiing) and a member of the men's ice hockey team who won a bronze medal. The coupons were also available for personalization. It should also be noted that Henrieta Farkašová won



Figure 11

6. On April 8, 2022 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **Personalities: Ľudmila Podjavorinská (1872-1951)**



Figure 12

[Pofis 763]. The 1.00 € stamp depicts the head of the poet (Fig. 12) whose sesquicentennial is celebrated this year. It was designed by Natália Ložeková and produced in sheets of 50. The daughter of a teacher, Podjavorinská (née Riznerová) was encouraged to write from an early age. She is considered to be the earliest important female poet in the Slovak language. In her early 20s her first collection of poems were published as *Z Vesny Života* (From Life's Spring). Most of her later poetry was intended for children and is filled with humor and optimism. She also wrote novels, of which her best known is *V Otrečtve* (Enslaved) from 1905. She was a member of Živena, the first woman's organization in Slovakia. She



Figure 13

was also a regular contributor to *Dennica*, the first Slovak language magazine for women. Her adult novels and prose portray the hard lives and destinies of small-town inhabitants.

The FDC cachet, engraved by Jozef Česla, shows Podjavorinská reading to children, with the Chima sparrows from one of her books (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is a feather.



Figure 1



CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On January 20, 2022 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a postage stamp in the series: **The Traditional of Czech Stamp Design – Recess Printing from Flat Plates** [Pofis 1148]. Designed by Milan Bauer and engraved by Miloš Ondráček the stamp, with a value designated by the letter "B" (19 Kč), shows a printing press (Fig. 1). The miniature sheet was produced by recess printing with a flat plate in sheets of 10. One of the reasons Czechoslovak/Czech

stamps are collected is the extremely high quality of their stamps produced by printing from incredibly detailed engraved plates. Sadly this process is not often seen nowadays, due to a combination of financial and ecological reasons.

In 1892 Fred Waite and Jason Saville established their printing works in Otley, Yorkshire, England. The Falcon printing presses they manufactured from 1899 were produced for decades, only ceasing production in 1966. The original hand-fed machine passed the paper into lays (guides) on a fixed horizontal feed-board from whence it was taken through adjustable stop positions by grippers onto the platen, held while printed, and then passed to another set of grippers which deposited the sheet onto the delivery table. By 1913 automatic paper feeders were available, although 'serious' printers often preferred the hand-fed system for a higher degree of accuracy, albeit at a lower speed of production. The printing process is still universally known as WAITE. The FDC cachet shows paper being hand-fed into the press (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a can of intaglio printing ink with the inking spatula propped against it. A booklet containing 8 self-adhesive stamps and 2 coupons was also issued. [Pofis ZSL 68]

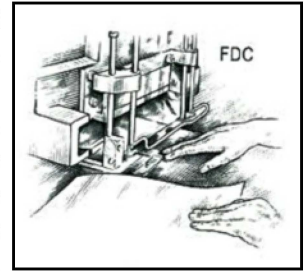


Figure 2

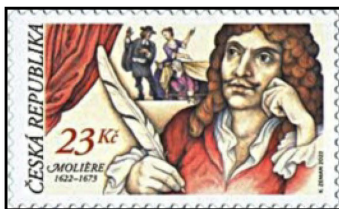


Figure 3

2. On January 20, 2022 the Ministry issued a 23 Kč stamp to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of **Molière** [Pofis 1149]. The stamp shows a thoughtful Molière, with quill pen in hand, pondering the text of his play *Tartuffe*, a scene of which is taking place in the background, where Orgon climbs out from under a table to confront the hypocritical Tartuffe (Fig. 3). The stamp was designed by Karol Zeman and produced in sheets of 50. Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622-1673) was born in Paris and by 1643 had decided to follow a career in the theater, writing and acting under the pseudonym Molière. He was famous for a low form of comedic drama, full of farce and satire. He also encouraged actors to add a certain amount of improvisation in their roles. He wrote more than 30 plays. By 1673 he was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and eventually collapsed on stage while playing Argan in *The Imaginary Invalid*. He managed to finish his performance but died later that night. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, shows a scene from that final performance (Fig. 4). The cancellation has a sun rising behind a theatrical mask, which symbolizes both the cheerful spirit of his comedies as well as a prompt towards his patron Louis XIV, known as "The Sun King."



Figure 4

3. On February 16, 2022 the Ministry issued a 19 Kč Stamp in the series: **Personalities – Miloš Forman** [Pofis 1150]. The stamp was designed by Eva Hašková and shows a facial portrait of Forman based on a photograph by Gust Martin (Fig. 5). It was produced in sheets of 50. Miloš Forman (1932-2018) had a tragic early life, witnessing his mother being dragged out of their house by the Nazi SS. Both his parents were murdered in concentration camps. He was brought up by a combination of relations and friends. While studying at the Film and Television school of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) he worked as an assistant director and soon commenced his own career at the start of what was known as the Czech New Wave. His first movie, *Černý Petr* (Black Peter-1964), had sympathy for the



Figure 5



Figure 6

odd man out, portraying a character's struggle for free-expression and self-determination that was present in virtually all of his movies. *Lásky jedné plavovlásky* (Blonde in Love-1965) and *Hoři, má panenka* (The Fireman's Ball-1967) were extremely popular both in Czechoslovakia and throughout Europe. Unfortunately these were the final two films he made at home. Even in a period of moderate communism his constant harping on the failures of communism were too much for the Party leaders and even firemen themselves. Immediately after the Soviet invasion he left for the USA. He had many successful films during his career there – *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975), *Hair* (1979), *Ragtime* (1981), and *Amadeus* (1984). He won two Academy Awards for Best Director. The cachet

of the FDC shows the Statue of Liberty with a strip of film replacing the flame (Fig. 6) and the cancellation is a clapperboard.

4. On February 16, 2022 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet in the series: **Works of Art on Postage Stamps – Czech and Moravian Gothic Murals** [Pofis 1151 and 1152]. Designed by Jan Kavan the sheetlet contains a 34 Kč and a 40 Kč stamp illustrating 14th century murals, with the margins of the sheet filled with part of another mural from the former St. Anna's church in central Prague (Fig. 7) showing the *Apostles Philip and James*. It was painted in the late 14th century and is attributed to the Master of the Třeboň Altarpiece.



Figure 7

The 34 Kč stamp has a **mural from Karlštejn Castle**, situated behind the altar of the imperial oratory of Charles IV. Its subject matter is *The Crucifixion* and it was painted around 1356 by the Master of the Karlštejn Apocalypse. The FDC cachet is a silk-screen print showing a stylized outline of Karlštejn Castle and includes figures depicting Charles IV and his third wife, Anna von Schweidnitz (Fig. 8). The cancellation is part of the mural *The Woman Clothed with the Sun*, from the Chapel of the Virgin Mary in the castle.

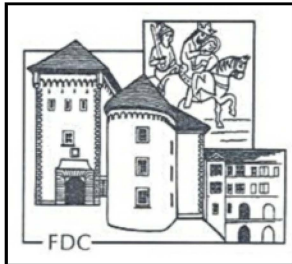


Figure 9

The 40 Kč stamp has part of a **mural at Velké Meziříčí Castle** in Moravia, that was discovered during renovations in 2010. It shows an image from part of the mural's story of the life of St. Margaret of Antioch, identified as such from text discovered above the images. The cachet of the FDC is the entrance to the castle with another image from St. Margaret's life (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is also another stylized image from the mural.

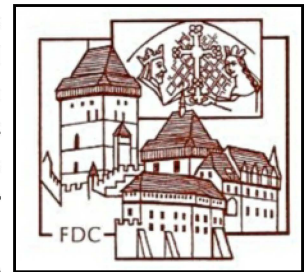


Figure 8

5. On March 8, 2022 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: **Works of Art on Postage Stamps – Emil Filla** [Pofis 1153]. The 39 Kč stamp was designed by Otakar Karlas and produced in a miniature sheet of 4 with blank central coupons. The stamp shows the 1929 painting *Girl With A Mandolin* (Fig. 10) which is in the collections of the Galerie Kodl in Prague. Filla (1882-1953) was born in Chropyné, Moravia. His initial artistic influence was Edvard Munch, but within a few years he was painting in the Cubist style he used throughout his career. During WWI he was in Holland, moving back to Prague in 1920. He created Cubist paintings, sculptures and graphic prints, eventually becoming a pariah during the Nazi Protectorate, his style pronounced "unsuitable". He spent the entire period of WWII in concentration camps. Immediately after WWII he was appointed as professor at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, but his tenure was short-lived following the February 1948 coup d'état, as the communists rejected all forms of Modernism. He spent his final years experimenting with landscape motifs in a style more related to Realism. The FDC cachet depicts Filla's work *The Head* from 1934 (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is his initials. [Ed. note: Another painting by Filla was used as part of the Art series in 1982 (Pofis 2572)]



Figure 10



Figure 11

6. On March 8, 2022 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp – **Emil Filla** [Pofis 1154], with a value indicated by the letter "B" (19 Kč). Designed by Petr Foltera, the stamp shows a detail of a fresco by Filla (Fig. 12 on page 21) which is located in the restaurant of the Manes Artist's Association. The stamp was produced in a sheet containing seven stamps, eight coupons (which are available for private content), and a central part of the sheet containing six coupons which together form another Filla fresco.

7. On March 18, 2022 the Ministry jointly issued with Slovakia a 58 Kč stamp celebrating the **150th Anniversary of the Košice-Bohumín Railroad** [Pofis 1155]. Designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, the



Figure 12

stamp depicts a humorous scene where railway workers and passengers are clambering all over a series 110 locomotive. The stamp was issued in a souvenir sheet containing one stamp and a coupon. The coupon, with a narrow-gauge U.29.0 locomotive, is se-tenant with the stamp. Also, isolated within the sheet, is a serrated label (*zoubkovanou nálepku*) showing a type 486.0 locomotive (Fig. 13). It was produced using a combination of recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. When the first railroads were being developed in the mid-19th century their routes were largely selected

for economic reasons. It was essential for both the Austrian and Hungarian monarchies to be able to link the mineral-rich Silesian region and its products with their major cities. At the intersection of today's Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland lay the small Moravian town of Bohumín which became a major transport hub. It connected Kraków with Vienna and then after the construction of this railroad provided access to Budapest and other Hungarian cities. Its route along the edge of the Carpathian Mountains took it past the mining area around Teschen, which today is divided by the Olza river into the towns of Český Těšín in Czechia and Cieszyn in Poland. Financed by major European banks, construction took place from 1867-1872. The FDC includes the stamp and the se-tenant coupon, while the cachet shows motifs of the railroad with the Bohumín station in the background (Fig. 14). The cancellation is a locomotive.

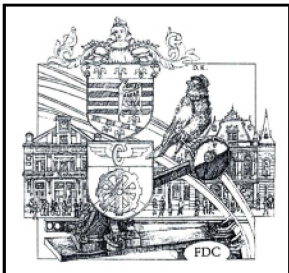


Figure 14

[Ed. note: In 1972 a Czechoslovak stamp was issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this railroad- Profis 1947.]

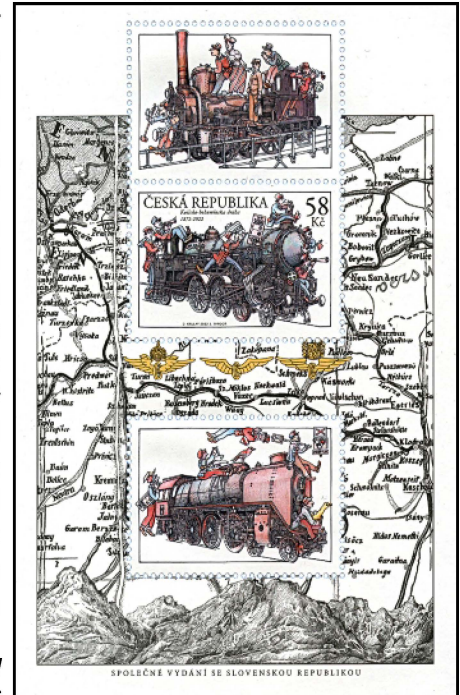


Figure 13

8. On April 6, 2022 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **Technical Monuments: Schwarzenberg Canal** [Pofis 1156]. The stamp has a value designated by the value "B" and was designed by Adolf Absolon. The stamp was produced in a sheet of 50 as well as a booklet containing eight self-adhesive stamps and four coupons [Pofis ZSL 69]. The stamp shows the upper portal of the canal's tunnel. One coupon shows the lower portal, and the other is a monument to the project manager of the canal, Josef Rosenauer (Fig. 15). The canal was built on the initiative of Prince Jan Nepomuk Schwarzenberg. Located near the southern border of Bohemia with Austria, its purpose was two-fold. First, to create a connection between a tributary of the River Vltava (which becomes the Elbe and drains into the Baltic Sea) and the River Danube via the Grosse Mühl river.

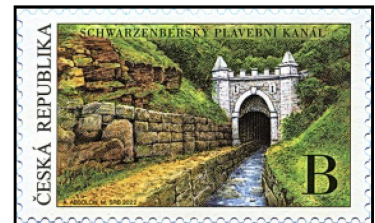


Figure 15



Figure 16

Secondly, to create a way of transporting firewood grade timber from the area in both directions, towards Vienna and Český Krumlov. Josef Rosenauer was an estate manager for the Schwarzenberg family, based in Český Krumlov. His design for the 27 mile (44 Km) canal includes a 450-yard (400m) long tunnel. The project was completed in four years and opened in 1793. The transportation of timber lasted for 100 years before it became cheaper and quicker to transport it by rail. Larger logs continued to be transported to the Vltava until 1961. The FDC cachet depicts Prince Jan Nepomuk Schwarzenberg wearing the ceremonial robes of the Order of the Golden Fleece (Fig. 16) and the cancellation is a decorative cartouche.

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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.

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