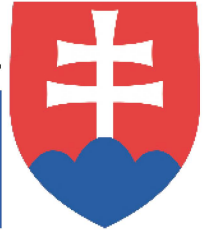




THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
AN INCORPORATED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WINNER OF NUMEROUS PHILATELIC LITERATURE AWARDS.
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This recent stamp from the Nature Protection series is another beautiful design from Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, who have provided us with outstanding stamps depicting flora and fauna since 1996.

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Vojtěch Maxa

An International Philatelist from Prague

Who Created the First Czechoslovak Perfin Catalogs

by Gerald Hejduk

Mr. Maxa was already well known in 1971 to members of the U. S. Perfins Club for his outstanding research work on the Perfins of Czechoslovakia. He recently had exhibited his Perfins in Jihlava, Czechoslovakia and won the first philatelic award ever given for Perfins in Czechoslovakia.¹ Since he was a journalist, we will let Maxa tell you about himself in his own words.

"I was born in 1921 in Warsaw. I am a journalist by profession and I've spent nearly half of my life abroad: in Poland, Bulgaria, France, England, Ghana, and Nigeria. I've collected stamps since boyhood. During World War II, which I spent in the Czechoslovak Army in the United Kingdom, I became seriously interested in United States and British stamps. Later I chose to concentrate on Polish stamps of 1919 to 1939, mainly on a single set of two values only: the 1928 50-groszy Pilsudski and the 1-zloty Mościcki set (Scott 253-55). I built a research collection of some 2000 stamps on 150 pages. I am a member of the Prague Collectors Club and of the United States' Polonus Club.

"During my studies of Polish Stamps, I found an article on Polish Perfins in a Polish stamp magazine. I wrote to the author, Mr. A. Sekowski, and we began a close correspondence. In January 1969 I visited Mr. Sekowski in Warsaw and saw his marvelous collection of over 60 Polish Perfins.

"Mr. Sekowski gave me an envelope with about 30 Czech Perfins in it and suggested I find out something about the Perfins of my own country. I was lost! I met Mr. Žampach, a Czech collector specializing in Perfins on Czech Newspaper stamps. Then I began corresponding with John Nelson of England. And, early in 1970, through Linns' Stamp News, I found out about the Perfins Club and became member #933. Many members of the Club have contributed to my knowledge of Czech Perfins: Jan Prins, Paul Gault, Dick Mewhinney, Jack Brandt and E. J. Enschede, particularly.

"On July 14, 1970, I published my first article on Czech Perfins in the Czech magazine Filatelie.² In the six months that followed, I received letters from nearly 50 philatelists who sent along hundreds of Perfins. Since that time I've written six articles on Perfins for Filatelie.^{3,4,5}

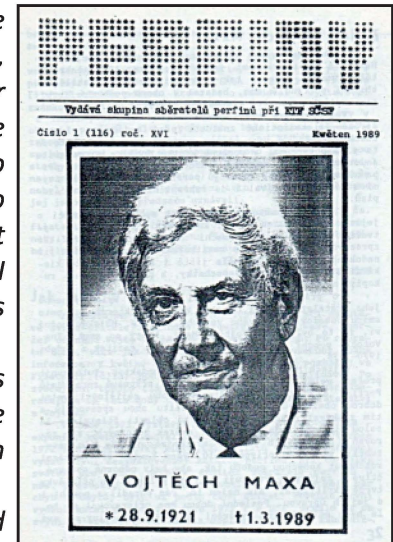
"So far, I've been able to record 735 Czech Perfins and I am slowly producing an illustrated catalog of them. About 30 percent of the Perfins have been identified and confirmed as to identity.

"As a sideline, I collect Perfins of all Balkan countries and of Hungary. Alan Horowitz (#632) and I hope to produce a listing of them. I have assembled some 220 Hungarian Perfins; 60 from Rumania; 15 from Yugoslavia; 6 from Bosnia; 5 from Bulgaria; 2 from Greece; and 1 from Turkey. So far, I've found none from Albania! If King Richard could offer his kingdom for a horse, I can offer 25 Czech Perfins for a single Perfin from Albania!

"I wish to close this longish Thumbnail Sketch by expressing my sincere thanks to all the members of the Club who have helped me with my work. I think it is this willingness to provide mutual help that is the keynote of the Club and the main reason for its growing success."⁶

--Vojtěch Maxa, Antonínská 8, Praha 7, Czechoslovakia

Perhaps the most significant entry in Mr. Maxa's Philatelic Biography is that by June of 1972, Mr. Maxa had compiled some 750 dies for the Perfins Club to use in publishing his first Illustrated Catalog of Czechoslovak Perfins: **PERFINS from the Territory of CZECHOSLOVAKIA** in which the author provides an elaborate Introduction to the Catalog explaining the special problems concerning the collecting of Czechoslovak Perfins.⁷



Vojtech Maxa took top honors at ELPEX-73 with his exhibit of **Perfins on the Stamps of Czechoslovakia**. Maxa won a first ribbon, a Best-in-Class gold medal and a President's Award for best exhibit by a Perfins Club Member. Maxa was one of 15 exhibitors in what has been called the largest perfins exhibit ever held in the U. S. Fifty-three frames of perfins were on show during the ELPEX event July 15-17 in El Paso, Texas.⁸

Following the publication of the first Czechoslovak Perfins Catalog, Maxa investigated neighboring countries to the East and Southeast of Czechoslovakia looking for perfin collecting activity. He recorded his findings in two published articles, *The Perfins of Russia*⁹ and *The Perfins of Hungary*.¹⁰

The second edition of Maxa's **Perfin Catalog of the Czechoslovak Territory** was published by VYDAL KF 00-65 Prague in 1976. In the Preface to the catalog the author notes that it was necessary to prepare a second edition not only because the earlier edition of 450 copies had already been sold out and many newcomers to Czechoslovak perfins were missing this catalog, but also because in the past five years knowledge of Czechoslovak perfins had expanded considerably: 200 new patterns were added and over 150 more perfin users had been identified.

There is a cautionary note, however, in the instructions for catalog users. The numbering of perfins in the catalog is not the same as in the first edition. Newly discovered perfins were assigned new numbers ordered progressively; therefore, the numbers are not straightforward. Conversely, some numbers were dropped because the perfin was identified as Austrian. The alphabetical sequencing of perfins was adhered to although some exceptions arose during the presentation of the designs for the catalog as new types of perfins were discovered.¹¹

The attention focused on Czech Perfins since the publishing of his catalogs had allowed Maxa to study the relative scarcity of the different patterns. As a result of many months of study and many evaluations of data, he was able to prepare a list of the perfins in his catalog along with a relative scarcity rating for each. The approach is similar to that taken by Claude W. Cain in his list of Relative Ratings of United States Perfins—with one very important difference: in the Maxa List, the letter ratings are the opposite of those in the Cain List. In other words, the rarest of Czech Perfins receive an F rating, while the most common are given an A rating.¹²

The next, and final **Perfin Catalog from the Territory of Czechoslovakia** to be authored by Maxa in 1987 featured the use of the Relative Scarcity Ratings. Thanks to new research and discoveries the Catalog contains 1029 different perfins of which 617 (i.e. 60%) are positively identified; furthermore 242 perfins (i.e. 23.5%) were identified indirectly. Altogether 859 (i.e. 83.5%) names of their users were added and only 170 perfins remain unidentified (i.e. 16.5%). The catalog lists all perfins used by the firms and companies operating on the territory of present Czechoslovakia from the time of their introduction in 1877 until approximately 1950 when the use of perfins was practically discontinued. Those perfins can be found on Austrian, Polish, German, Bohemia & Moravia, Slovakia and Czechoslovak stamps.¹³

In 1989, two years after he published his most definitive catalog, Maxa died. His written word on Czechoslovak perfins had been on the cutting edge for thirty-five years, until it was replaced this year by **Monograph 24**, absent Maxa's scarcity ratings. For years to come, among philatelic scholars, his name at least, will be in the conversations that define greatness in our hobby.

Footnotes:

¹ *Perfins Come of Age in Czechoslovakia*, *Perfins Bulletin*, Oct. '71, 1.

² *Of No Value and Interest at all?* *Filatelie*, July 14, '70, 396.

³ *Perfins in a New Light*, *Filatelie*, April 10, '71, 212-218.

⁴ *G. St. Perfin on Hungarian Stamps*, *Filatelie* June 6, '71, 336.

⁵ *Hitherto Unknown Russian Perfins*, *Filatelie*, Dec. 11, '72, 726.

⁶ *Thumbnail Sketch #114: Vojtech Maxa (#933)*, *Perfins Bulletin*, Nov. '71, 3.

⁷ **Introduction to the 1972 Catalog of PERFINS from the Territory of CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1.**

⁸ *ELPEX Gold Medal to Maxa*, *Perfins Bulletin*, July '73, 1.

⁹ *The Perfins of Russia*, *Perfins Bulletin*, June '73, 5-8.

¹⁰ *The Perfins of Hungary*, *Perfins Bulletin*, Nov. '73, 5-8.

¹¹ *Preface to the 1976 Perfin Catalog of the Czechoslovak Territory, 3-7.*

¹² *Relative Ratings for Czechoslovak Perfins*, *Perfins Bulletin*, Feb. '77, 5-8.

¹³ **Introduction to the 1987 Perfin Catalog from the Territory of Czechoslovakia, I-IV.**

Websites with complementary information:

1. *Society of Czechoslovak Philately* www.csphilately.org/perfins

2. *The Perfins Club* www.perfins.org/bulletin/backissues

3. *Philatelists for Other Philatelists* www.filasco.cz/knihovna-digitalizace.php

EXPERT PATROL - FORGED MASARYK ARRIVAL OVERPRINT

by František Beneš

In this column we usually deal with more serious issues of authenticity, especially newly discovered forgeries and interesting variations on genuine stamps. Today we will get acquainted with a counterfeit that is not very dangerous, but which could still confuse the less experienced collector. It is a stamp of the so-called Scout Post from 1918, value 20h, with an overprint of "Příjezd presidenta Masaryka." (Arrival of President Masaryk.), which bears the imprint of Rudolf Gilbert's expert mark on the back.

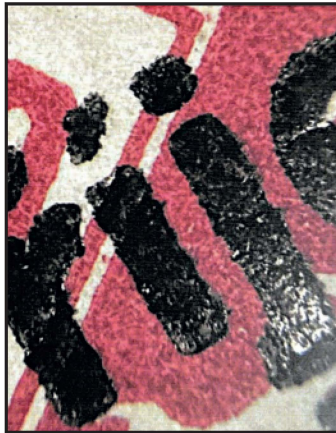


Forged stamp with faulty overprint and incorrectly placed mark on back.



Genuine overprinted stamp showing correctly placed mark on back.

This mark is genuine and is made with the black oil paint for metal stamps that Gilbert used. However the overprint itself is undoubtedly bogus to the detriment of collectors, and that is a relatively low risk. But how could such an experienced connoisseur verify such a forgery? – wondered the collector who showed me the stamp for inspection.



Part of forged overprint

The answer is simple – he didn't. He verified a stamp without an overprint (which is undoubtedly genuine), as can be easily determined by the position of his mark on the back – it leads from top to bottom, while for a genuine stamp with an additional print the direction would be from bottom to top. A genuine stamp without an overprint has a market price of some 250 Kč, with an additional print it would be 100 times higher (25,000 Kč) – which is why this counterfeit was created subsequent to its original authentication by Gilbert. It was a good thing that the cautious collector presented it to me for inspection before payment. But this does not mean that it will not appear on the market again, this time at a lower price and with the legend "I do not understand it, I got it from my grandfather." Readers of our section already know about such cases and will not let themselves be caught out!

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FORGED OVERPRINTING AND A GENUINE VERSION

1. Square period at end of overprint is not a 'sharp' square.
2. Accent above 'ř' is not "sharp."
3. Accent above 'i' is not a "sharp" wedge.
4. Square dot above 'j' is not a sharp square.
5. Tops of 'i' and 'j' are not squared off, not "sharp."

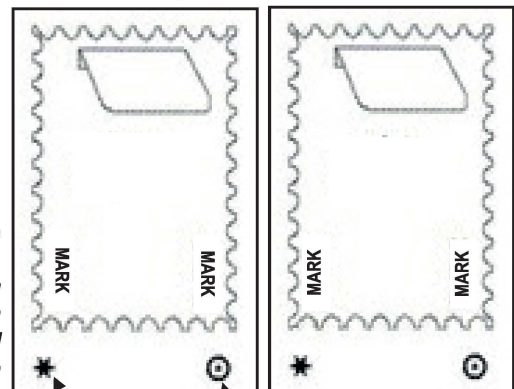
SOURCE:

Pofis catalog Československo 1918-1939: František Beneš – explanation of the placement of expert's marks inside the front cover.

[Ed. note: This is the first English translation of an article which appeared in *Filatelie 2/22* and is published with the permission of the author and editor. With the valued assistance of Frederick P. Lawrence and Lou Svoboda, additional images and text have been added in order to clarify the differences between a genuine and counterfeit version of this stamp and overprint].

Position of Expert marks on stamps without overprint

Position of Expert marks on stamps with overprint



Mint/MNH Used/Cancelled

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCP BOARD ARE NOW OPEN

As specified in the Society Bylaws, it is time to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in the 2023 election for 4 of the 12 Board of Director positions.

The names of the term ending Board members and of the remaining Board members follows:

Term ending: R.T. "Tom" Cossaboom, Alan Hanzl, William Slaninko, and Ludvik Z. Svoboda.

Remaining: James Buckner, Marisa Galitz, John Grabowski, Keith Hart, Chris Jackson, Frederick P. Lawrence, Richard P. Livingston, and Richard Palaschak.



Society members can nominate candidates (other than themselves) by writing their name on a blank petition, signing the petition, and returning it to the SCP Secretary. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue.

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. When you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing.
2. The nominee must have given their consent to be nominated.
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board Meeting location that has been specified by the President. The 2023 location will be at our meeting to be held at NAPEX 2023 in McLean, VA (June 2-4), and the 2024 location will be at PIPEX 2024 in Portland, OR (May 3-5).
4. The nominee must have an email address in order to conduct Society business, as well as being able to attend several "Zoom" meetings, on dates designated by the President. These meetings usually take place during the week at 3pm Eastern time.
5. The nominator should make sure that their nominee agrees to the above conditions.
6. The Secretary must receive the petition by January 20, 2023.

After filling out the petition either 1) mail it to our Secretary, Marisa Galitz, PO Box 646, Ownings Mills, MD 21117, or 2) scan it and attach to an email to be sent to mmgalitz@gmail.com. Digital subscribers can fill in the form they receive with this issue and return it to the same address.

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

The continuing war in the Ukraine has even had repercussions in our cloistered philatelic world. Slovakia issued a stamp on September 23 which marked the **50th Anniversary of the International System for the Transmission of Gas Through Slovakia**. Even at the beginning of this year this probably seemed an excellent idea for a stamp. However, the war has made this seem slightly embarrassing even though there is no doubt that the pipeline is extremely important to Slovakia. Too important perhaps. They heavily rely on this natural gas for domestic use. The distribution network from the pipeline supplies 80% of the area of Slovakia and 95% of the population. Slovakia's own natural gas supplies are severely depleted. In 2009 the flow was temporarily suspended due to a pricing dispute, which caused consternation within the country. This year there are many worries that the flow of gas might be cut off completely during this winter which would of course be catastrophic. The flow through the pipeline is enormous, but much of it continues flowing beyond Slovakia's borders into Hungary, Austria and Poland, who would be equally affected by a pipeline shutdown. There was some good news in August however. A new pipeline which will eventually link the Baltic Sea and the Adriatic was opened. At present it only connects Poland with Slovakia. This pipeline flowing through Slovakia can bring gas from Norway and Britain into the distribution system from one end and eventually will bring Middle Eastern gas from the other end. Nevertheless the stamp only draws attention to the fact that Slovakia is currently heavily dependent on natural gas that comes from Russia (as well as Ukraine). In fact it might easily win the "Most Embarrassing Stamp of 2022 Award" should such a horrible 'prize' exist. The Slovaks tried to assuage this by hurriedly putting together an issue for **Solidarity With Ukraine** which was issued one week earlier. We must cross our fingers, or even hold our thumbs, to sincerely hope that our friends, relatives and fellow philatelists in Slovakia, Czech Republic and their European neighbors will not have problems with their gas supplies this winter.

I am writing this in September but have already been reminded that 2022 is rapidly coming to its conclusion by the fact that I have just received **Slovakia's Postage Stamp Issue Program for 2023**. We still have a few months to go and I will be spending some time in December writing about Christmas stamps from both Slovakia and the Czech Republic. I always look

forward to seeing the Slovak stamp that is designed by a child who won the yearly contest. I wonder how the Czechs can follow-up last year's unique scratch-to-smell stamp. In some ways 2022 was a getting back to normal year after recovering from the COVID-19 epidemic. Stamp shows thankfully returned and we were able to travel around more freely, particularly overseas. Who knows what 2023 will turn out to be. This time last year we had no idea that there would be a terrible war in Europe. Nor did we realize that such a war could have an enormous effect on every single person in the world. Soaring fuel prices, horrific grain shortages and raging inflation have shown us just how inter-connected we all are. To paraphrase Chaos Theory's most common quote we can think that a missile destroying a building in Kyiv leads to the desperately poor starving to death in the Horn of Africa. The sad thing is that there is little that we can do individually to alleviate this.

But let us think positively. The interconnection of the world's population does have its advantages. The internet allows us to research and find out what is happening in any country. We can look at an interesting stamp and then find out more about how the history and culture of that country found its way into that stamp. More importantly email, Facetime and Zoom have allowed us to feel more closely connected with fellow philatelists across the globe.

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:

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

THE ENDLESS CHARM OF CENTURY-OLD MAKULATURA – Part 3

by František Beneš

translated by Lucie Harris and Lou Svoboda

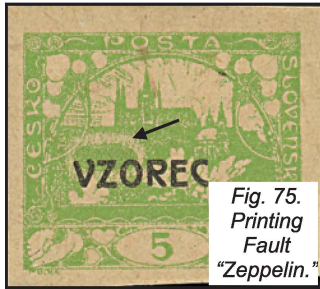


Fig. 75. Printing Fault "Zeppelin."

Sample

Makulatura also occur with the Vzorec (sample) overprint. Usually they are not perforated and are with a single print (Fig. 75). It would be rare if perforated or with a multiple print. Of course, care should be taken on the authenticity of the overprint. Valuable attractions, such as plate and printing defects, or different types can also occur on these overprinted makulatura.

Postal Stationery

Makulatura are also found on postal stationery. They are usually preserved as stamps with multiple printing that have been cut out from postal stationery (Figs. 76 & 77). They can easily be recognized by the different paper (thicker, smoother, postcard) on which they are made, as well as by the non-standard wide borders on all four sides (Fig. 78). Sometimes the cutout is larger and includes the monogram and address lines.

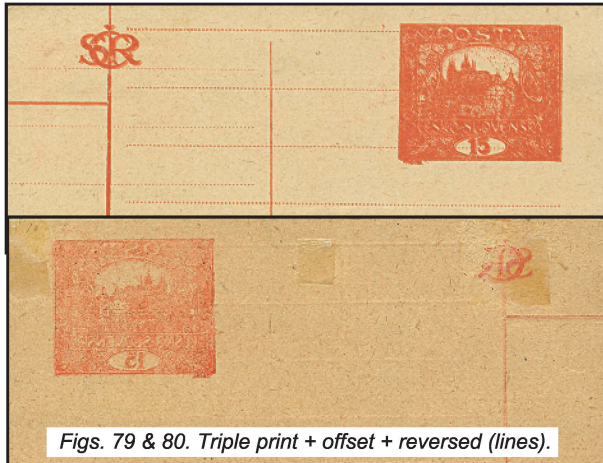
Whole "makulatura" postcards are rare.

Even on the stamps on postal stationery we can look for interesting things, from machine offsets to rarely used printing plates (Figs. 79 & 80).

In this article, I mention postal stationery and the stamps from them only briefly and for completeness, because they were probably not part of the officially supplied KČF "allotment", and they have come to collectors in other ways.



Figs. 76 & 77. Shifted double prints, 10h strongly, 15h slightly.



Figs. 79 & 80. Triple print + offset + reversed (lines).

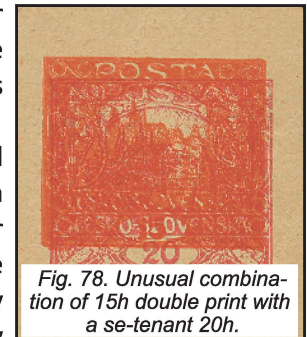


Fig. 78. Unusual combination of 15h double print with a se-tenant 20h.

Gutter pairs

Makulatura prints were made of whole printing forms composed of multiple printing plates, so they may also contain undivided gutters. They are traditionally the most popular "specialty", popular with collectors since the 1920s, especially in the case of single prints, but also in blocks with multiple prints. Particular popular are gutters – from the same or different issues – that do not normally occur in the stamp forms. Nevertheless, highly valued are

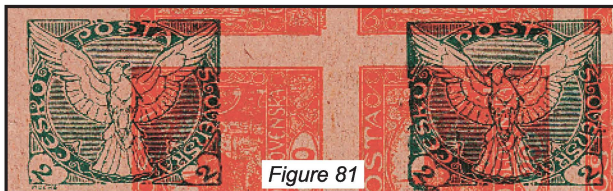


Figure 81

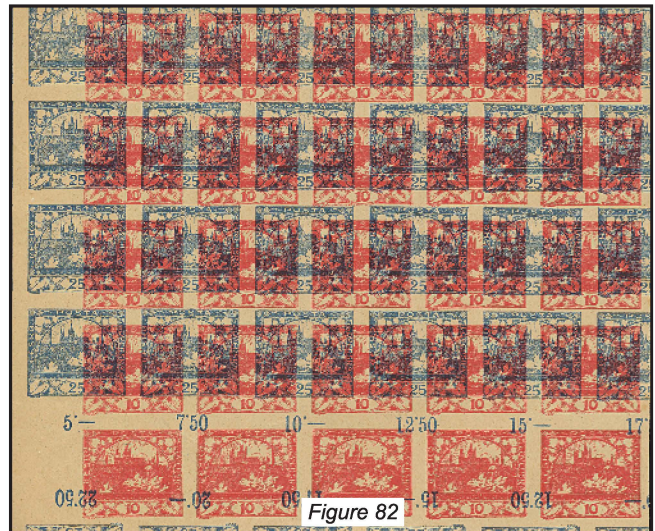


Figure 82

also gutters in the “standard” form (Fig. 81). So, there is only a little chance of us encountering any such overlooked gutter, but of course we will be on the lookout for it!

We have a better chance if we look for incomplete opposite-direction gutters, especially vertical ones, where under the stamp there are two row control numbers separated by a gap, of which the further one is in the opposite direction (Fig. 82). In the case of an incomplete same-directional gutter, the row control number is above the stamp.

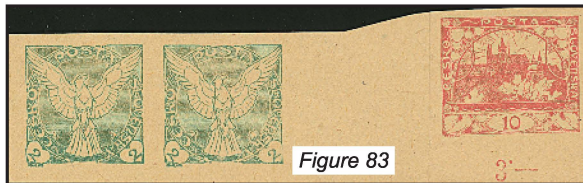


Figure 83

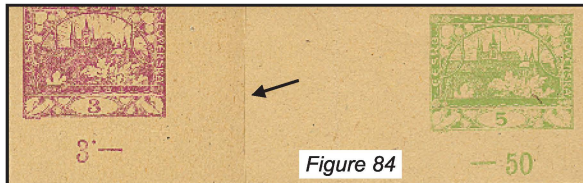


Figure 84

Also popular are apparent gutter pairs, consisting of a strip from a sheet with both-sided print, where one of the ends is folded (Fig. 83), and a pair of stamps with a wide gap is formed (Fig. 84).

Pretend gutter pairs

Also popular are apparent gutter pairs, consisting of a strip from a sheet with both-sided print, where one of the ends is folded (Fig. 83), and a pair of stamps with a wide gap is formed (Fig. 84).

Tête-bêche pairs

A separate chapter is the so-called tête-bêche pairs – that is a pair of stamps in the original color on makulatura paper, with oppositely facing prints. They have already been described during the First Republic as vertical strips of the 100h and 200h values (Figs. 85 & 86).

For a long time, it was not known how they came to be, which created a number of legends around them. Only the study of individual plate positions proved that the inverted examples do not come from the position on which they are printed, but from the inversion of a position on the plate. It was deduced that it was an artificially made product, where a certain stamp position was first covered with a piece of paper, then the sheet was rotated, the stamp position was uncovered while the rest of the sheet was covered, and in this way the stamp was printed in an inverted position into the empty place. However, there are other explanations for the origin. I have not examined any of them, and I mention the tête-bêche pairs mainly because, no matter how they came into being, collectors like them, and seek them out. And, although the possibility of finding another overlooked example is slight – but what if you are lucky?



Figure 85

Figure 86



Figure 87



Figure 88

Other popular curiosities

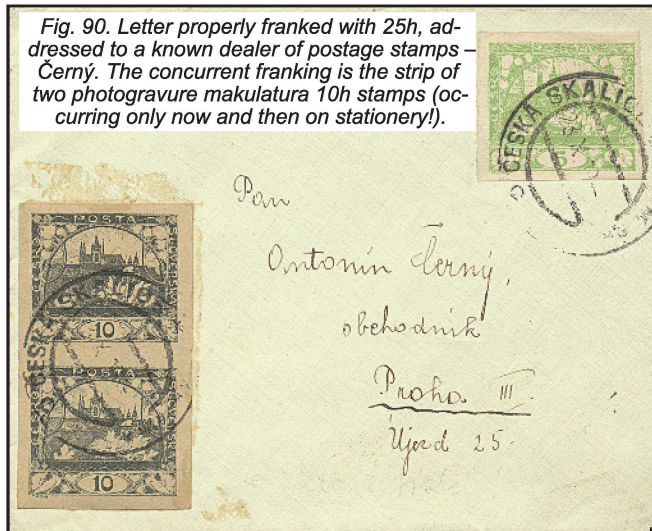
With the Hradčany issues, makulatura collectors look especially for the aforementioned gutter pairs and different color prints, as well as popular plate flaws, retouches, different types, plate marks, incomplete prints, production defects, etc., simply as is the case with normal stamps. Some less frequently occurring denominations are also highly valued, for example, a 1000h Hradčany in single or multiple prints (Figs. 87 & 88).

“Full covers”

Even though makulatura of course, did not have payment capability, philatelists produced a number of “full covers” with them, especially letter, but also postcards, and also “concurrently franked” postal stationery letters with them. In the vast majority of cases, these products were not transported by the post (they were too strict for this), and therefore bear only postmarks as the result of the willingness of the sending and even “receiving” post office personnel (philatelists were also among the postmen who cooperated avidly in

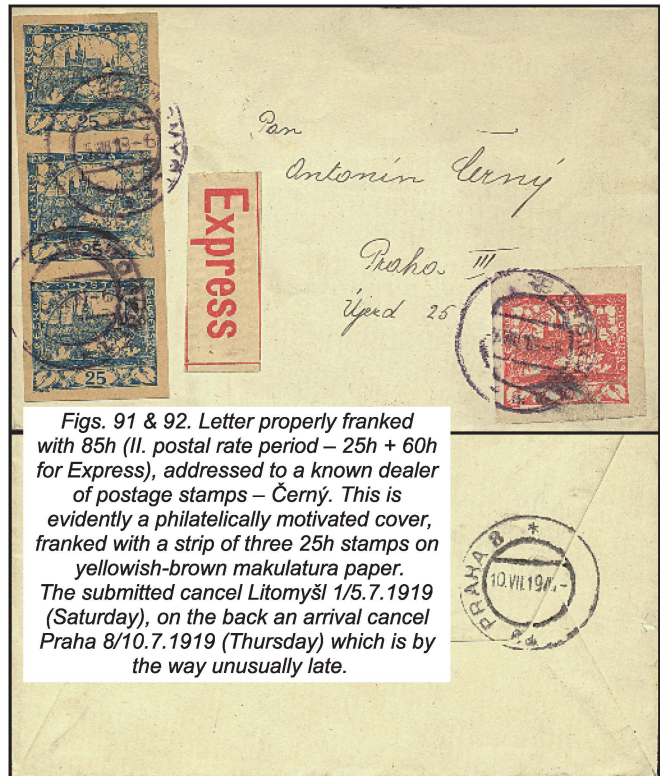


Fig. 89. An insufficiently franked letter (for proper franking 5h is missing), submitting cancel Praha 1/25.X.19, with a 10h postage due applied (twice the missing franking), with arrival cancel Praha 13, 27.X.19. The concurrent franking is the 5h makulatura stamp).



this regard, or at least were friends with a collector) (Figs. 89 & 90). Of course, we are not talking about a rarity, but a so-called mache, which does not hurt a collection, but should not be included in an exhibit as postal stationery.

There are, in fact, also “full covers” with makulatura that were actually transported by the post (Figs. 91 & 92), but in all cases known to me they are philatelically motivated franking (Figs. 93 & 94).



Prices

Individual multiple (especially varied) printed stamps of common issues, without obvious “specialties”, have difficulty finding interested buyers on the market and can often be bought literally for a few crowns each – if they find someone to buy them at all. (Abroad, some collectors are more interested in them, especially larger collections, but it is not easy to find a regular customer).

It is different with “better” items, as we can see in the following examples. The stated – often surprisingly high – prices are based on or derived from current prices actually achieved on the market, especially in auctions and established brick-and-mortar or online stores. It is possible that in some cases, for example, an auction would achieve an even higher price.

At the same time, however, it should not be forgotten that we are now in a period of increased interest in the stamps of our First Republic. That may not last forever, so the prices may change in the future in the more marginal areas to which makulatura prints undoubtedly belong. These can take place in both directions, because it is not possible to rule out the possibility that even more collectors will become interested in makulatura.

Some examples of makulatura – with market prices



Fig. 95. Corner block of 4 of 400h with plate sign – 500 Kč.



Fig. 96. Block of 4 of 1000h with Comb perf A – 2,000 Kč.

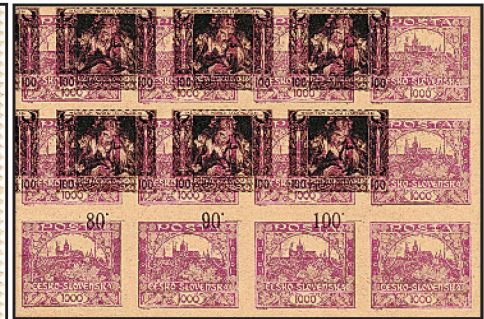


Fig. 97. Block of 12 of 1000h + 100h Legionnaire – 2,000 Kč



Fig. 98. Block of 4 of 500h + 25h, 500h frame types – 2,000 Kč



Fig. 99. 200h, two rowed gutter pairs – 30,000 Kč

Fig. 100. 200h, vertical strip of 5 with opposing double – 100,000 Kč

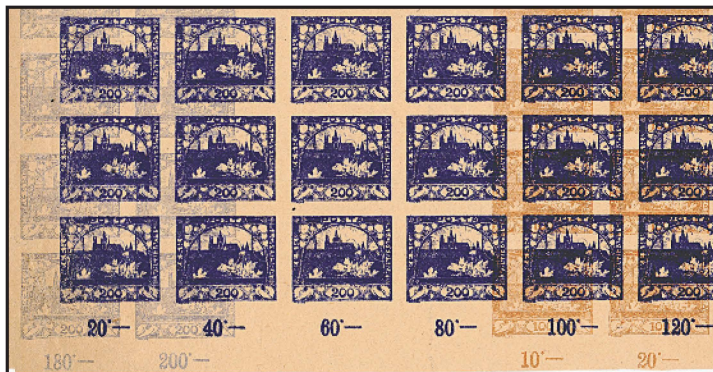


Fig. 101. 200h + 100h, 3 times gutter pairs – 15,000 Kč

Fig. 104. 20h + 10h Type V., two strip gutter pairs – 40,000 Kč

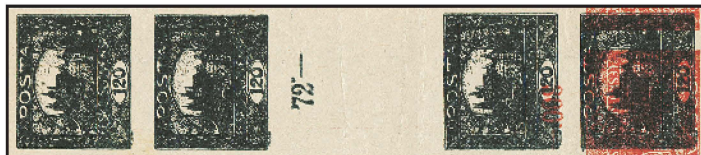
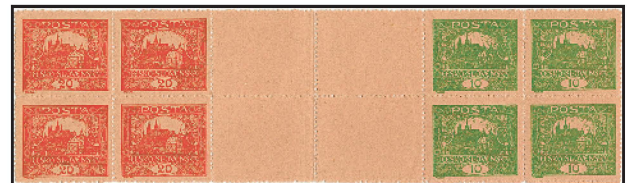


Fig. 102. 120h, gutter pairs – 15,000 Kč

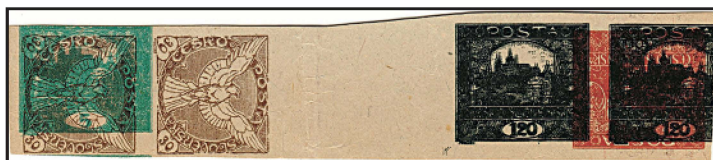


Fig. 103. Concurrent print of two various gutter pairs across each other – 10,000 Kč



Fig. 105. 10h + 15h Type V., both with counter numbers on top – 1,500 Kč

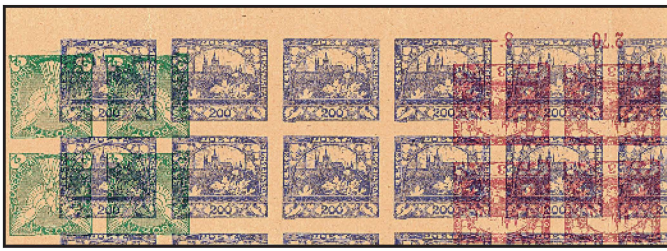


Fig. 106. 3h + 2h Newspaper, 2 times gutter pairs – 6,000 Kč



Fig. 107. 10h + 1h, gutter pairs – 4,000 Kč



Fig. 108. 15h, block from Printing Plate 1 with rows of joined types – 7,000 Kč



Fig. 109. Block of 4 of 15h + 120h silvery gray – 3,000 Kč



Fig. 110. Block of 4 of 20h Type V. (+ 2h Newspaper), joined spiral types – 7,000 Kč



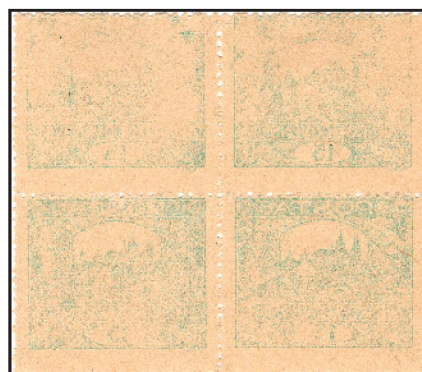
Fig. 114. Legionnaire, 2 times gutter pairs 75h – 5,000 Kč



Fig. 111. Block of 4 of 15h in bluish-green – 7,000 Kč



Fig. 115. Legionnaire, 2 times gutter pairs 120h – 5,000 Kč



Figs. 112 & 113. Block of 4 of 15h with Comb perf A, green sheet offset – 1,500 Kč



Fig. 116. Dove 5h, 2 times gutter pairs – 5,000 Kč



Fig. 117. Dove 15h, 2 times gutter pairs – 5,000 Kč



Fig. 121. Newspaper 2h, vertical gutter pair – 2,000 Kč



Fig. 122. Newspaper 2h, horizontal gutter pair – 4,000 Kč



Fig. 118. Liberated Republic 40h and Postage Due 25h, 2 times gutter pairs both values – 5,000 Kč



Fig. 119. Liberated Republic 50h and 100h, gutter pairs both values + egg – 8,000 Kč



Fig. 120. Liberated Republic 100h and 250h, 2 times gutter pairs of both values – 6,000 Kč



Fig. 123. Block of 4 of 125h TG Masaryk – 500 Kč



Fig. 124. 125h TG Masaryk, short cross bar – 2,000 Kč



Fig. 125. 125h TG Masaryk, 2 times gutter pairs – 40,000 Kč



Fig. 126. Block of 6 of 500h + 1000h TG Masaryk – 1,500 Kč



Fig. 127. Agriculture & Science 1920, 500h, gutter pair (and 600h with incomplete numbers on top) – 5,000 Kč



Fig. 129. 200h Agriculture & Science 1923, retouch of the corner of the book – 2,000 Kč



Fig. 128. Liberated Republic 60h and Agriculture & Science 600h, 2 times gutter pairs of both values – 7,000 Kč

Finally

We took a brief look at an area that has undergone development in our philatelic history like perhaps no other – from the initial enthusiasm to the later condemnation that persists in a significant amount of our collectors until now (as we said in the introduction, abroad it is rather the opposite). But this gives all attentive philatelists a great opportunity to try to get an interesting addition to their collection, with a little luck even for an inexpensive amount. Just like the issue Coats of Arms 1929, which we wrote about in the June issue – here we can get a lot of music for little money.



Fig. 130. Agriculture & Science 1923, 100h, perforated gutter pair with two coupons – 50,000 Kč

Thanks

I thank my colleagues from the Experts Commission of the SČF, Petr Folprecht, Václav Káňa, Jaroslav Malečkov, and Marek Vrba, who provided me with some illustrations from their collections for this article.

[Ed. note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this first English translation of an article from Filatelie 9/21 with the permission of the author and editor.]

PHILATELIC

News & Views

From Keith Hart

1. Here is a little more detail about the Society's next convention and Board meeting at **NAPEX 2023**. The show hotel is the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22102. The room rate for the show is \$115 and is available for the dates of the show – Friday June 2 until Sunday June 4. You can book online through their website www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mclmhhh-hilton-mclean-tysons-corner, or by phoning the reception (707) 847-5000 and mentioning the code NAPX23. Although the special rate would usually just be available for the nights of June 1-4, I did manage to get the show rate for May 31 as well. Parking and admission to the show is free and the hotel runs a free shuttle to the nearby Tysons Galleria as well as to the local Metro Silver Line station that can take you into the center of DC. Is it too early to mention that applications for exhibits have to be submitted by April 30, 2023? Of course not, as time really does fly. Application forms can be found online at https://napex.org/exhibits_old.html.

2. While we are talking about 2023 stamp shows, just a quick mention that the **APS Great American Stamp Show (GASS)** will be held next year in Cleveland, OH from August 10-13.

3. I now have confirmed information about our 2024 Board Meeting and Convention at **PIPEX 2024**. The venue is the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center, 712566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas OR 97015. The dates are May 3-5, 2024. More details will be given in the Winter 2023 issue.

4. Earlier this year the Board had some discussions about a possible joint-stamp issue between the Czech Republic and Slovakia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 17's flight to the moon. One of the astronauts, Eugene Cernan, had both Czech and Slovak roots. It turned out that it was too late to arrange for a joint issue, but Slovakia will issue a 2.30 € stamp on November 24, commemorating the **50th Anniversary of the Apollo 17 Moon Landing: Eugene Andrew Cernan**. Which leads me to the main topic of this note which is the lengthy gestation time for stamp issues. My

contacts in Slovakia found out that for any stamp to be issued in 2022, this was finalized at a meeting in February 2020. A short list of possible subjects had been completed about six months earlier in the Fall of 2019. You can see that the Apollo 17 stamp took over three years from its first discussion to actually being issued. This year, when I was voting for Slovakia's Most Beautiful Stamp of 2021, my voting slip also had the question of "Can you suggest the subject matter for a stamp to be issued in the future (probably 2026?)." I'll only tell you what I suggested if it is chosen! Obviously there have to be occasions when a stamp issue is decided much later than this – take Slovakia's recently issued **Solidarity With Ukraine** stamp for an example of this. But that is the exception to the rule, generally the subjects of stamps are chosen well in advance of their actual issue date.

5. A slightly related concern to the previous note is that I was extremely surprised that there was no issue this year to commemorate the **80th anniversary of the massacre and destruction at Lidice** by the Nazi occupiers. Beginning in 1947, when there was a stamp issue to mark the 5th anniversary, Czechoslovakia (and subsequently Czechia) have been pretty good at remembering this horrific slaughter, with stamp issues every five years. There have been some gaps, but not many. So I am already putting out right now my suggestion to the Czech Stamp Selection Committee, for a stamp to commemorate the 85th anniversary in 2027. If we forget such horrors as this, even as a stamp issue, humanity only risks them happening again.

6. I regret that there was an error in the Summer 2022 issue. On page 10 the contact information for sending in a check for membership to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain was omitted from the end. Checks for this should be made out to SCP and mailed to Marisa Galitz, PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Keith Hart

As this issue was being finalized, we learned that Lou Svoboda's wife, Katherine, has died. We will always remember her for her sharp wit, sweet smile, and incredible intelligence. Our heartfelt sympathies are sent to Lou and his family. A full obituary will appear in the Winter 2023 Specialist.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's nearly Winter already which means that it is time for Membership Renewal. A renewal card is tucked inside this issue with full instructions on how to renew your membership. It is possible that you have already paid your membership dues for 2023. To confirm this just look at the mailing label that this issue arrived in. If the upper right-hand corner says 2023, you have already paid for next year.

It is extremely important to us that we receive your renewal as soon as possible. We urge you to renew **at the latest by December 31st, 2022**. You have the choice of doing this by mail, or online using PayPal at the Society website www.cspilately.org. When renewing online by PayPal you also have the opportunity to renew your membership in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain at the same time. If renewing by mail, remittance must be by check or money order only, made out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately, and sent, with a completed copy of the renewal card, to Marisa Galitz, PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Membership levels are as follows:

- **\$25.00.** Regular Membership for USA addresses.
- **\$45.00.** Regular Membership for addresses outside the USA.
- **\$20.00.** Online Membership, with access to the online *Czechoslovak Specialist* only.
- **\$75.00.** Patron Membership, with a 2-year bound volume of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* if you have membership at the Patron level for two consecutive years. Being a Patron Member for both 2023 and 2024 in the case of the next available bound volume, as this is the last issue to be bound into the 2021-2022 volume.
- **\$95.00.** Patron membership for addresses outside the USA.
- **\$3.00.** Youth membership for collectors under the age of 18.

Please note that our By-Laws state that any membership renewal postmarked later than December 31, 2022 would probably lead to the Winter 2023

Czechoslovak Specialist only being available to that member in an online form. Early in January 2023 we have to complete the list of members that issue is mailed to and we cannot afford to send out individual copies of that issue later.

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

Please give your Society a Christmas present by renewing your membership as soon as possible.

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:

Keith Hart • 4336 Las Lunas Ct. • Castle Rock, CO 80104

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

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 August 5, 2022 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a 2.00 € stamp to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the National Firefighters' Union of Slovakia** [Pofis 771]. The stamp depicts a three-cylinder steam fire-engine manufactured by WM Knaust in Vienna (Fig. 1). It can be found today in the village of Veľký Uherce. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič, engraved by Jozef Česla, and produced in sheets of 10 (5x2) using recess printing with a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. The Union was founded in Trenčín and its mission was "In Praise of God and to Help our Neighbors", a motto still found on fire trucks today. Its successor organization is known as The Voluntary Fire Protection of the Slovak Republic (DPO SR) and its mission goes beyond physical fire protection and damage control. Implementation of strict fire codes for buildings, education and training of the population, and interaction with their individual communities are important parts of their presence. The basic operational unit of the Union today are the volunteer fire brigades. At present there are 2,189 brigades who have nearly 80,000 employees, grouped into eight regions. The FDC cachet depicts a vintage fireman's helmet (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a fireman's axe.



Figure 1



Figure 2

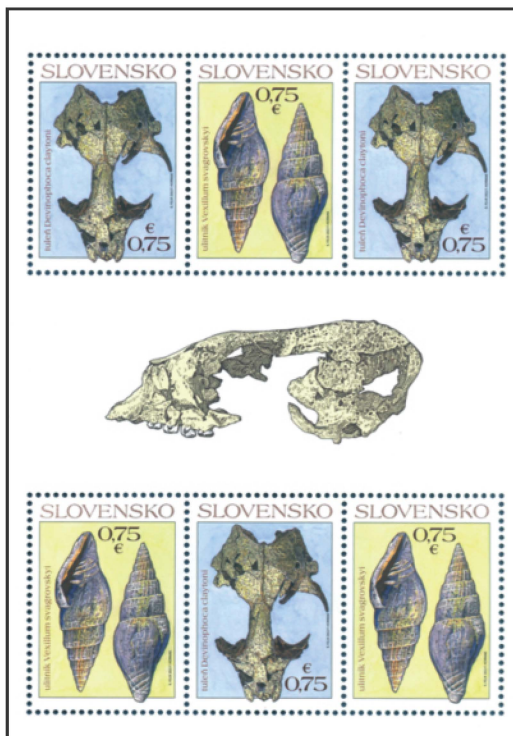


Figure 3

2. On September 9, 2022 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **Nature Protection: Important Slovak Fossils** [Pofis 772 & 773]. The stamps were designed by Karol Felix, engraved by František Horniak and produced in a sheet of 6 (3x2) (Fig. 3), using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. One 0.75 € stamp shows a fossilized skull fragment of the **Seal Devinophoca Claytoni**, found on Devínska Kobyla hill in the NW suburbs of Bratislava. 13 million years ago a sub-tropical moist habitat existed here, on the edge of a warm, shallow sea inhabited by marine fauna, such as this seal. They were part of a primitive group of seals considered the predecessors of all seals alive today. The cachet of the FDC depicts the skull of the primate Pliopithecus Vindobonensis (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is a fossil frog. The other 0.75 € stamp shows two examples of the mollusk **Gastropod Vexillum Svagrovskyi**, which were discovered in a clay extraction pit in Rohožník, about 45 miles (72 km) north of Bratislava. They lived in the shallow, muddy sea bed of the Sea of Paratethys, in an area where low oxygen levels existed. The evenly developed spiral grooves are unusual in mollusks of this period. The FDC cachet depicts a coral tuft of Plesiastreaea (Fig. 5) and the cancellation is a Foraminifer microfossil. Cartes Maximum for both of the stamps (featuring beautiful prehistoric scenes designed by Ivana Koubová) were issued the same day.

3. On September 16, 2022 the Ministry issued a 0.75 € stamp to show Slovakia's **Solidarity With Ukraine** [Pofis 774]. The stamp depicts a tearful woman refugee looking anxiously into the distance where the dark clouds of



Figure 4

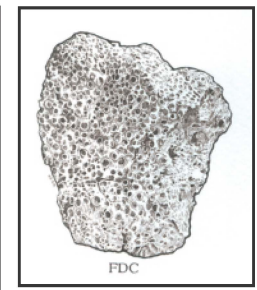


Figure 5

the same day.

war obscure the landscape of the Ukraine (Fig. 6). It was designed by Peter Konečný and produced in sheets of 50. When Russia invaded the Ukraine on February 24, 2022 it had an instant effect on the countries of the European Union, especially those (Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, and Romania) that share a border with Ukraine. It is estimated that 3.5 million people, mainly women and children, escaped into the EU in the first few weeks of the war. Slovakia's only major border crossing at the small town of Vyšné Nemecké was inundated with refugees, many of which passed through Slovakia into other EU countries. Some



Figure 6

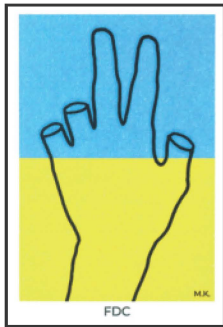


Figure 7

of the more than 90,000 people who applied for protection and assistance in Slovakia have returned home, but the remaining refugees have put an enormous strain on Slovakia's resources. It was as if its total population had increased by 1½% within weeks. The provision of accommodation, food and medical care has stretched reserves and has involved local governments, non-governmental organizations, and thousands of dedicated volunteers. Placing more than 35,000 children in schools has been a particular problem due to language difficulties. At present it is not known when refugees will feel safe to return to their own country. The cachet of the FDC, designed by Mykola Kovalenko, shows a hand with three fingers amputated over a representation of the Ukraine flag (Fig. 7), which symbolically represents the sacrifices made by the Ukraine population in defending their country. The cancellation is the outline of a ship with legs.

4. On September 23, 2022 the Ministry issued a 1.00€ stamp to mark the **50th Anniversary of the Completion of the International Gas Pipeline Through Slovakia** [Pofis 775]. The stamp shows a control valve for the pipeline, over a map of Slovakia which shows the route of the pipeline (Fig. 8). The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and produced in sheets of 50. Back in the 1970s the Soviet Union invested enormous resources in constructing the Brotherhood and Soyuz pipelines that could not only transfer Russian natural gas to all its subject states, but also took it right up to the borders of the EU, in order to be able to export it to the gas-hungry countries of Western Europe.



Figure 8

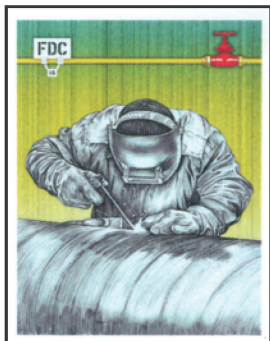


Figure 9

This gave birth to the problem that exists today, where Russia can cut off essential supplies to the EU (and Ukraine) at any time. Russia's earlier incursion into the Crimea had led to plans to circumvent this, although nothing much has happened until now. One major pipeline being completed in part this year will eventually connect supplies from the Baltic to the Adriatic. This pipeline will confirm Slovakia's position as an important supply crossroads in central Europe. As Europe rushes to make itself less dependent on Russia's oil and gas there are also plans to gradually switch these pipelines to the transmission of renewable hydrogen to supply the EU and the Ukraine. The FDC cachet depicts a worker repairing the pipeline (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is an ignited ring from a gas stove.

Postal Stationery

5. On August 16, 2022 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card, with additional printing to honor the **25th Anniversary of the Slovak Philatelic Academy (SFA)** [Pofis 315 CDV 314/22]. The 0.65 € imprinted stamp shows an envelope balanced on a vintage postal scale. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, depicts a magnifying glass with symbols and numbers (Fig. 10).

6. On September 9, 2022 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card, with additional printing to mark the occurrence of the **Collectors Fair Sbĕratel 2022** [Pofis 316 CDV 226/22]. The T2 50g imprinted stamp has the logo of the 10th anniversary of Slovakia's accession to the EU. The additional print, designed by

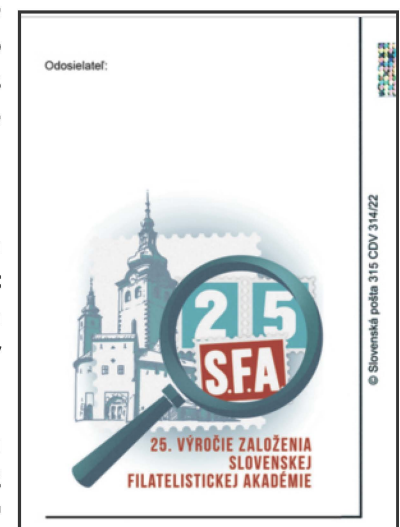


Figure 10



Figure 11

Adrian Ferda, shows famous buildings and structures in Prague (Fig. 11) where the fair took place from September 9-10.

7. On September 14, 2022 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card, with additional printing to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the First Slovak Gymnasium in Michalovce** [Pofis 317 CDV 314/22]. The 0.65 € imprinted stamp shows an envelope balanced on a vintage postal scale. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the building of the gymnasium as it was when first constructed (Fig. 12). The school is now known as the Pavol Horov Grammar School.

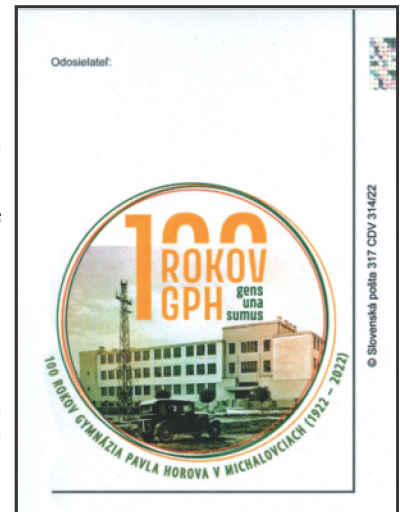


Figure 12

8. On September 29, 2022 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card, with additional printing to celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the Declaration of St. Gabriela as Patron Saint of Post and Philately** [Pofis 318 CDV 314/22]. The 0.65 € imprinted stamp shows an envelope balanced on a vintage postal scale. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the Saint within a perforated frame (Fig. 13).



Figure 13

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series **Nature Protection: Mácha's Region** [Pofis 1167-1170]. The sheet contains four different value stamps (23, 26, 27, and 30 Kč) and two coupons (Fig. 1). Margins of the sheet are filled with birds,



Figure 1

insects, amphibians, and

flora from this area. The graphic designers were Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and the cachets for each of the stamps were engraved by Martin Srb. Mácha's Region is situated in the Liberec region of northern Czechia, close to the borders with Germany and Poland. It is named for the romantic poet Karel Hynek Mácha, who was often inspired by the region. Central to the area is Mácha Lake, originally a peat bog, which was dammed and made into a lake in the late

14th century. The area around the lake has been a Protected Landscape area since 1976 and even has its own pack of wolves. Within the lake are two islands, Myšlín and Kachní, sanctuaries for wildfowl, as well as ecological preserves for critically endangered wildlife and flora. The **23 Kč** stamp shows a **Purple Emperor Butterfly** and one of its favorite plants, a **Martagon Lily**. The FDC cachet shows a **Bearded Reedling** feeding a young cuckoo (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is an outline of a reedling. The **26 Kč** stamp depicts a family of **Mute**



Figure 2

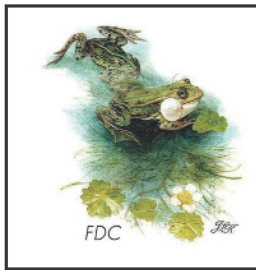


Figure 3

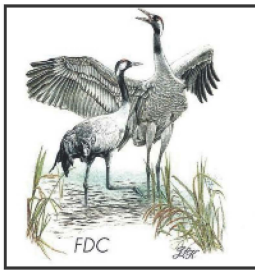


Figure 4

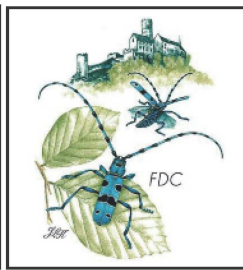


Figure 5

Swans. The cachet of the FDC shows a **Moor Frog** (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is the head of a **Great Crested Grebe**. The **27 Kč** stamp shows **Common Cranes**, which are unusual inhabitants of the area, as well as a **Siberian Iris**, whose height enables it to be a hiding place for wildlife. The FDC cachet is a pair of cranes (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is an outlined head of a crane. The **30 Kč** stamp depicts **Lake Mácha** with the

partially ruined **Bezděz Castle** on the hill behind. **Black-headed Gulls** fly over the lake which is a popular destination for vacationers. The cachet of the FDC shows the critically endangered **Alpine Longhorn Beetle**, pictured on the slopes beneath the castle (Fig. 5) and the cancellation features another beetle. A *Cartes Maximum* for each of the stamps was issued on the same day.

2. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry issued a miniature block of two stamps to celebrate the birth centenaries of **Emil Zátopek** and **Dana Zátopková** [Pofis 1171 and 1172] who were born on the same date, September 19, 1922. The sheet shows head and shoulder portraits of the two athletes with the two stamps se-tenant within the block. The edges of the block depict a running track together with a portrait of Dana holding a group of javelins, and Emil in a typical pose breaking the tape, which is a ribbon in the colors of Czechoslovakia twisting across the sheet (Fig. 6). The graphic designers were Eva Hašková and Jan Maget.



Figure 6

The **27 Kč** stamp shows **Dana Zátopková** (1922-2020). She started her career in the javelin completely by accident, when a university friend asked her for competition as she required this to pass an exam. She competed in four successive Summer Olympic games – London in 1948 (7th), Helsinki 1952 (Gold), Melbourne 1956 (4th) and Rome 1960 (Silver). The FDC cachet shows Dana clutching a javelin while wearing a Czechoslovak flag on her back (Fig. 7). The cancellation shows her running with a javelin in her hand. The **33 Kč** stamp shows **Emil Zátopek** (1922-2000). He started work at the Baťa shoe factory in Zlín when he was 16 and was introduced to athletics by the factory sports coach. He soon developed his own training program, including what were then the revolutionary concepts of interval and hypoventilation training. During this time he also gained his distinctive running style with a rolling head and agonized facial expression. At the 1948 Olympic Games in London he won gold in the 10000m and silver in the 5000m. The summer of 1952 saw his most famous achievement at the Helsinki Olympic Games, where he won gold medals in the 5000m, 10000m, and Marathon, all in the space of eight days while setting Olympic record times in each race.

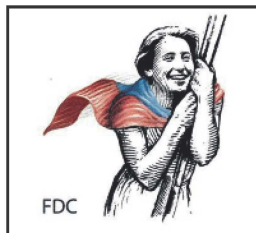


Figure 7

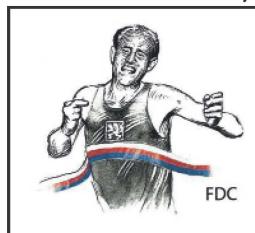


Figure 8

His participation in the Marathon, which he had never run before, was at the last minute. He is the only person to have won all three of these events at the same Games. The FDC cachet shows him breaking the tape at the end of a race (Fig. 8) and the cancellation is another similar line drawing of him running. Dana's Gold medal in Helsinki was secured while her husband Emil was still running the Marathon. He finished his race just 51 minutes after the women's javelin competition had been completed. They remain the only husband/wife team to win Gold medals on the same day of a Summer Olympics.

3. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry issued a 27 Kč stamp in the series: **Personalities – Jindřich Fügner** [Pofis 1173]. The stamp has a head and shoulders portrait of Fügner with two people exercising in the background (Fig. 9). The stamp was designed by Eva Bartošová and produced in sheets of 50. 2022 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Fügner, the inspiration and co-founder of the

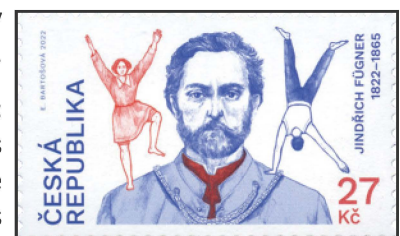


Figure 9

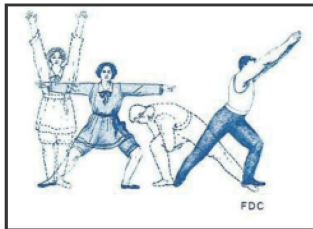


Figure 10

Sokol sports movement. His chance meeting with Miroslav Tyrš (his future son-in-law) led to their ideas about the health and social effects of group exercise. As the first President of the Sokol movement he saw it quickly gain momentum, largely due to Fügner's excellent organizing and financial support. Fügner died tragically early at the age of 43, unable to see the outstanding success of his ideas. The FDC cachet depicts two people exercising (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is an athlete performing a handstand. [Ed. note: Fügner appeared on a Czechoslovak stamp issue in 1938 – 3 stamps celebrating the X Sokol Gathering [Pofis 339-341, Sc. 246-248]. Of course there are quite a few other stamps with Sokol themes, as well as the Spartakiada's of the communist period.]

4. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry issued a "B" (19 Kč) stamp in the series **Nature Protection: The Chudobín Pine** [Pofis 1174]. The stamp was designed by Otakar Karlas and printed in sheets of 35. The stamp shows the famous pine tree during a time of high water level in the dam (Fig. 11). The village of Chudobín was abandoned and inundated due to the construction of the Vír dam in the 1950s. The 350 year-old Scots Pine is an important landmark and its survival is an impressive testimony of resistance to human impact on the landscape. Sometimes its roots are underwater and at other times the tree can be seen on the end of a tiny peninsula jutting out into the artificial lake. In 2020 the tree was voted European Tree of the Year. The FDC cachet shows a building which was submerged by the completion of the dam (Fig. 12) and the cancellation is an outline drawing showing the pine partially engulfed by the water.

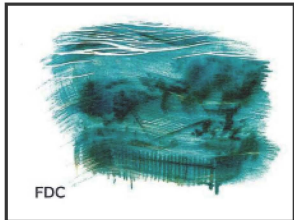


Figure 12



Figure 11

5. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry issued a "B" value definitive stamp to celebrate **Weddings** [Pofis 1175]. The stamp depicts a celebratory gate garlanded with red and blue roses, a winding road leading beyond it. It was designed by Barbora Adamusová and is in a miniature sheet of seven with eight coupons which show a bouquet of red and blue roses (Fig. 13). These coupons are available for private content. The sheet also contains a central block of six coupons which depict a bouquet of roses with a pillow bearing the wedding rings. Edges of the sheet, which is fully perforated, also show red and blue roses.



Figure 13

6. On September 21, 2022 the Ministry issued two "B" value stamps to showcase **The St. Wenceslas Rotunda in Prague** [Pofis 1176 and 1177]. Designed by Otakar Karlas, the stamps depict two terracotta floor tiles, one showing a gryphon (Fig. 14) and the other showing a lion (Fig. 15). They are printed se-tenant in a sheet of 30 (2 x 15). After Prince Václav (Wenceslas) was assassinated in Stará Boleslav c.935, his body was brought to Prague for his burial. The funeral bier stopped briefly in the Lesser Town near a prison. Legend has it that the horses pulling the wagon refused to move until unjustly imprisoned people were released from the prison. This was the first miracle attributed to Václav and contributed to his eventual beatification. The rotunda was built on the site and served as a funeral chapel for the adjacent Church of St. Mikuláš (Nicholas). By the end of the 17th century the Jesuits had demolished the chapel and constructed the St. Václav Church. The ruins of the rotunda remained hidden under the baroque building for over 300 years. In 2003, during remodeling of the buildings, construction work disturbed what were thought to be cellars, but were soon discovered to be a crypt. Painstaking excavations



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

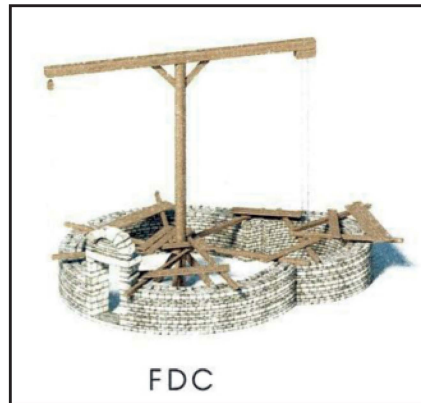


Figure 17

discovered circular masonry from the legendary rotunda. The most significant discovery were 74 Romanesque terracotta floor tiles in excellent condition. Full restoration of the ruins was completed in 2015 and it is occasionally open as part of European Heritage Days. The FDC cachet for the 'gryphon' stamp depicts a reconstructed rotunda (Fig. 16) and the cancellation is an architectural plan of the rotunda. The FDC cachet for the 'lion' stamp shows the construction technology required to construct the rotunda (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is identical to that on the other FDC.

Postal Stationery

7. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to commemorate **Praga Piccola 2022** [Pofis CDV196] which took place this year from September 9-10. The imprinted stamp with the value "B" is the normal image with the logo of the Collector Fair. The additional print shows the logo of this year's exhibition surrounded by stamps from issues of "My Own Stamps" from the previous 10 years (Fig. 18). Praga Piccola is a part of the Collector Fair that displays interesting exhibits of stamps, coins, medals and banknotes, aiming to show current trends in collecting.

8. On September 7, 2022 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **Legend: Antonín Panenka** [Pofis P 237]. The imprinted stamp with the value "B" has the image of a vintage mailbox. The additional print shows the famous footballer in the shirt of Czechoslovakia, with his signature written across it (Fig. 19). Panenka, an attacking midfielder, played for Bohemians Praha and SK Rapid Wien as well as the Czechoslovak National Team. He is famous for his championship winning shot in the penalty shoot-out at the conclusion of the UEFA Euro 1976 tournament. He stopped abruptly in his run up while clearly looking as if he was aiming for the corner of the goal, the goalkeeper dived in that direction while Panenka coolly chipped the ball into the center of the empty net. In beating Germany, this was the only major tournament that the Czechoslovak football team ever won. To this day similarly taken penalty kicks are known as "panenkas".

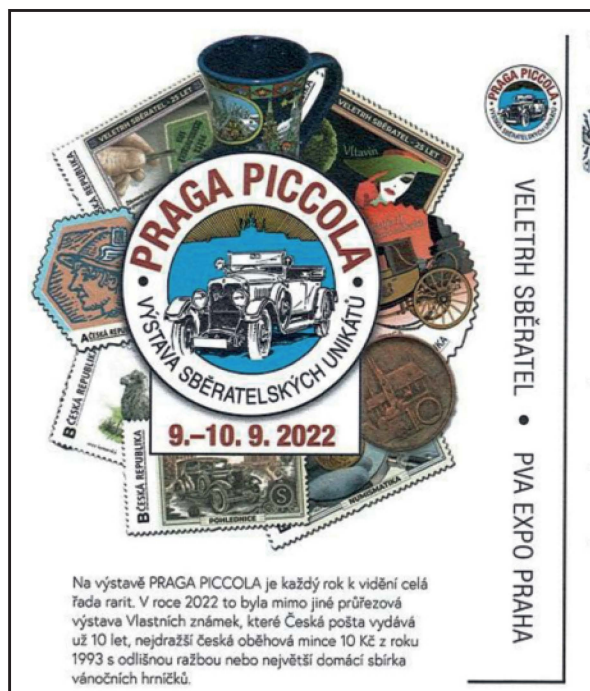


Figure 18

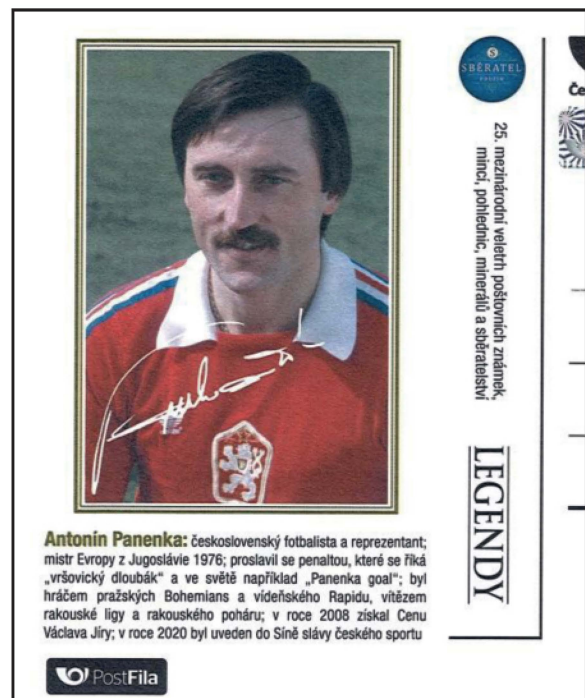


Figure 19

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