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A 1909 bilingual cancellation from Kolinec/Kolinetz in Bohemia, one of many cancellations featured in the article analyzing Austro-Hungarian bilingual cancellations from the period 1867-1919.

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An Analysis Of The Bilingual Postal Cancellations In The German-Czech Provinces Of Austria-Hungary During The Period 1867-1919

Is It The Thrilling Story It Is Believed To Be?

Part 1

by Frans J.J. van Loo

1) INTRODUCTION

Inspired by a life-long fascination with the language struggles between neighboring peoples in Austria-Hungary, the author built up a collection of postal cancellations. An interesting and influential article by Edwin Müller from 1925¹ drew his attention to the provinces Bohemia, Moravia, and (Austrian) Silesia – which currently form the Republic of Czechia. Müller paints a picture of official authorities and local postmasters embroiled in a continuous language struggle between the Czech and German communities that was supposedly reflected in the (spelling of the) place names where the post offices were located and the way these places were displayed within the postal cancellations. This picture, however, does not correlate with some precise historical census data the author uncovered. In this article, the author wishes to share his findings that the names on, and their position in, the postal cancellations say a lot less about the language spoken near the postmaster's office than assumed by Müller.

The author does not speak or read the Czech language and has no access to official sources on the relevant postal history, which could very well throw more light on this topic. The author hopes to receive comments and additional data from readers to enrich – and possibly correct – his knowledge on this subject.

2) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before 1867 the Austrian or Habsburg Empire consisted of 24 provinces and was inhabited by a number of nationalities: Germans, Italians, Slovenians, Czechs, Poles, Ukrainians, Romanians, Slovaks, Croats, and Serbs, all speaking their own language (Fig. 1).

Throughout this empire, German was the only official language, and public officers of all ranks had to read and speak German. Emperor Franz Joseph in Vienna had a lot of troubles reigning over all these provinces which had different and often conflicting ambitions. During the period of the Italian unification, he first lost Lombardy in 1859 and then Venice in 1866 after a defeat in the

disastrous war against a temporary alliance of Italy and Prussia. The King of Prussia wanted to annex Bohemia but his Chancellor Bismarck opposed the idea². The Bohemians did not like that idea either and hoped to get more freedom by entering into an agreement with Vienna. The Hungarians, however, had learned lessons from their failed revolution in 1848 and used this opportunity of weakness in Vienna to make contact with Bismarck. They forced an agreement with Vienna, the so-called Ausgleich, that led to the creation of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in which Austria and Hungary were equal partners. Both countries had their own constitution and their own legislative bodies. Only the emperor and certain common institutions (the ministries of foreign affairs, war, and finance) united them. In June 1867 Franz Joseph was officially crowned King of Hungary and so a permanent



Figure 1



Figure 2

type of Ausgleich with Austria. In 1871 it came to an agreement with Franz Joseph, but the Germans in Cisleithania and the Hungarians in Transleithania very strongly opposed this idea so it was cancelled. But on one issue there was a breakthrough: the Cisleithanian government granted all nationalities (see page 2) a full equality of rights for the use of their own language. Although this concession was withdrawn soon after, the postal officials had acted immediately. Before 1871, the names of the places that had a post office were monolingual, namely German, regardless of the language of the local people. This was perceived as an insult by the Czech population and the post offices acted to address it. For Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, it meant that next to the German name the local name also appeared on the cancellations – they became bilingual. In Bohemia and Moravia, the Czech name was used. For Silesia, it was either Czech or the Polish name.

Transleithania (Hungary) never gave equal language rights to their ethnic minorities (Slovaks, Ukrainians, Romanians, Serbs, Croats). In 1919 the Czechs and Slovaks were united in the new Republic of Czechoslovakia but these fifty years of separate development probably contributed to their troublesome relationship, which ended in the Republic's split into Czechia and Slovakia in 1993.

For a deeper understanding we shall now turn to the demographic situation in the provinces Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (which currently form Czechia), and which are the focus of this article.

3) The Demographic Situation In Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia in the Year 1900

In the top-left of Figure 3 one can see in yellow, green and pink how the three provinces Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia are situated in the north-western corner of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Figure 4 shows the political and administrative division in districts, whereas Figure 5 shows the percentage of the German-speaking population in the districts (the only other ethnic group in Figure 5 are Czechs). In the eastern part of Austrian Silesia (not shown in Figure 5) one also finds significant numbers of Poles as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 5 shows that the German-speaking population is concentrated in the

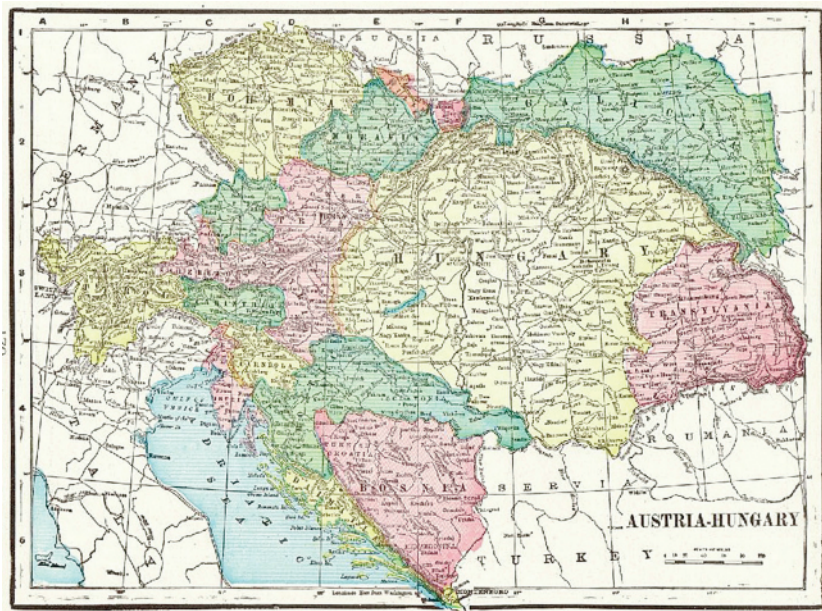


Figure 3

solution for the relationship with Hungary was reached. The original Habsburg Empire was now split up into a Western (Austrian) part called Cisleithania and an Eastern (Hungarian) part, Transleithania (colored brown and yellow, respectively, in Fig. 2). The Czech provinces of Bohemia (Böhmen), Moravia (Mähren) and Silesia (Schlesien) in the Austrian part were now separated from the linguistically related neighboring people of Slovakia in the Hungarian part.

Inspired by Hungary's success in forcing the Ausgleich arrangement, Bohemia wanted to achieve a similar



Figure 4

border areas of our region of interest. In the central parts, nearly 100% of the population is Czech-speaking and there was a very sharp demarcation between both groups (for brevity, in the rest of the text we will often use the terms “Czech” and “German” to mean “Czech-speaking” or “German-speaking”). There are only a few districts where the population is truly mixed, as Table 1 (on page 5) shows. This is especially true for the big cities as can be seen from the *Gemeindelexikon*³, which gives the results of the population census

taken in 1900 in Cisleithania.

Since this touches on the main subject of this work, the author made a lot of effort to find the details about the language situation in each place where a post office was present in 1900. Specifically, he combined the data in the *Gemeindelexikon* with the philatelic data in the *Handbuch* of Klein⁴. Klein mentions 2127 post offices being active in 1900 in the three provinces of concern and shows all cancellations found from all these offices over the period 1867 until 1900.

The richness of the data in the *Gemeindelexikon* is astonishing: from the smallest hamlet to the biggest towns, data about ethnicity, religion, number of houses, presence of post offices, churches, chapels, windmills, and so on – they are all there. All post offices mentioned by Klein are listed, and from them, the author took the relevant data, summarized in this article. This was a very time-consuming job, but the author has plenty of time, being happily retired!

In Table 1, and in the rest of the text, all places are treated equally: a hamlet with one post office and a town like Prague with 21 post offices are both counted as one place. The data in Table 1 confirms the extreme language segregation, especially in Bohemia. We can see that in 1063 out of 1365 places (78%) with a post office, 99% or more of the population belonged to the same ethnic group – Germans in the border areas and Czechs in the central parts.

Even in a few mixed districts the segregation between the various hamlets or villages was very strong. As an example we take the district of Leitmeritz in the transition zone between the German and Czech speaking areas (see Figures 4 and 5). In that district, 35,503 Germans and 8,852 Czechs were living, meaning 20% were Czech. The district consists of 114 hamlets and villages, and 2 cities - Leitmeritz and Theresienstadt. It turns out that 93 out of the 114 hamlets and villages were more than 99% German-speaking, 11 were more than 99% Czech speaking and only 10 of these hamlets were mixed in the sense that more than 1% of the minority lived there. Only the two cities were really mixed (90% and 57% German, respectively)

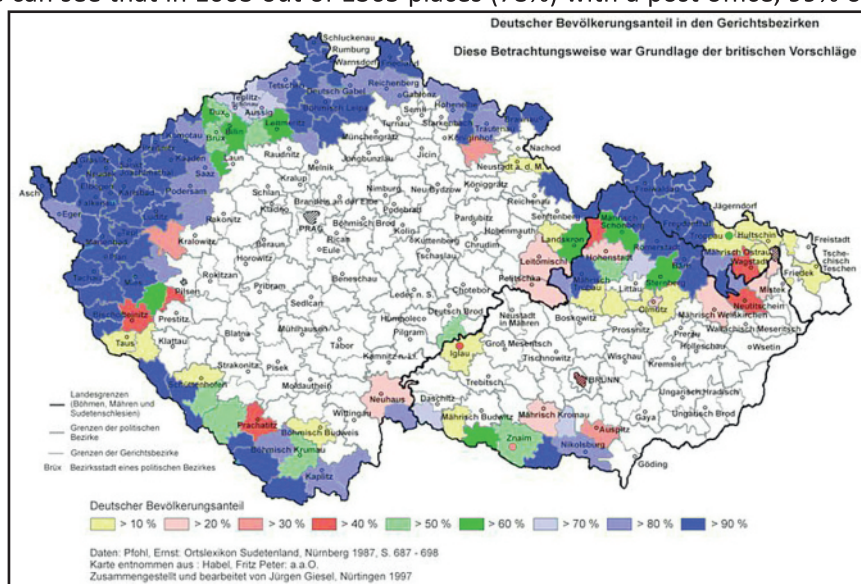


Figure 5

but it might very well be that on a neighborhood or street level this segregation was also present. In other words, profound ethnic segregation existed at the smallest level of society. This is a recipe for serious problems because everywhere German was the official language.

Later in history (and beyond the focus in this work) these problems became profound indeed. Between 1938 and 1948 Sudetenland (under which name the German-speaking region was known at that time) was the immediate cause for the outbreak of World War II and the ethnic cleansing after that. The author wants to stay clear from politics in this article but he will call, for the sake of simplification, the German-speaking region (yellow, salmon, pink and purple parts in Figure 7) Sudetenland, although strictly speaking only the yellow area bears that name, as can be seen from the names in the black rectangle in the upper right corner of Figure 7. Comparing Figure 7 with Figure 5 one can see that Sudetenland matches very closely the German-speaking parts.

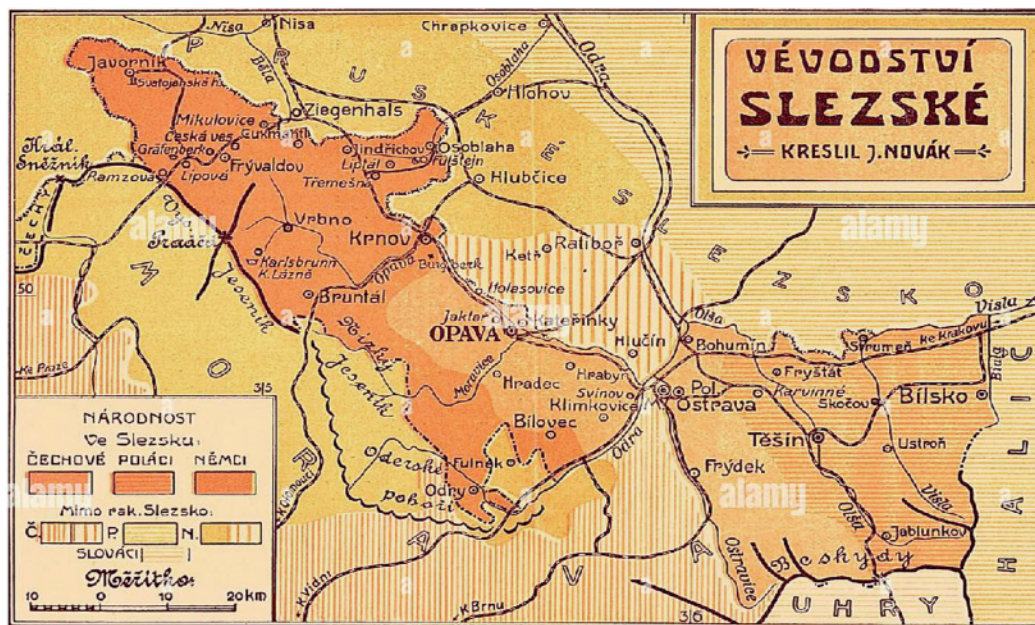


Figure 6

4) The Types of Postal Cancellations in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia According to Müller.

The interest of the author in this subject was ignited by a monograph published by Edwin Müller in 1925 with the title *Sprachenstreit und Poststempel im alten Österreich-Ungarn*¹. Müller's main conclusions can also be found in Klein⁴, (Teil 1, p. 34).

Table 1

Places with a language minority from:	Bohemia	Moravia	Silesia
0-1%	1063=78%	397=66%	91=58%
2-9%	228=17%	153=25%	38=24%
10-19%	36=3%	26=4%	12=8%
20-29%	18=1%	12=2%	6=4%
30-39%	11=1%	7=1%	6=4%
40-49%	9=1%	9=1%	5=3%
Total:	1365	604	158

Müller's work is incredibly rich in interesting details, but below we give only a brief summary. Much of this summary is regarded as historical fact (and we shall present it as such), but the author believes that certain

assumptions are *not* based in fact, and we'll highlight and analyze the areas of disagreement.

As mentioned in section 2, before 1871 German-speaking places this was, of course, not to be Germanized (except for the relatively few in Theresienstadt). That was done by transcribing. German names had to be replaced by equally sounding German names.

Telč = Teltsch
 Benešov = Beneschau
 Dačice = Datschitz
 Němčice = Niemtschitz

Very often the resulting name was neither German nor Czech (e.g. Chotovin (German Chotowin, Czech Chotoviny)

Hořic (German Hořitz, Czech Hořice) – note that in the 'German' name Czech letters were used!
 Dymokur (German Dimokur, Czech Dymokury)

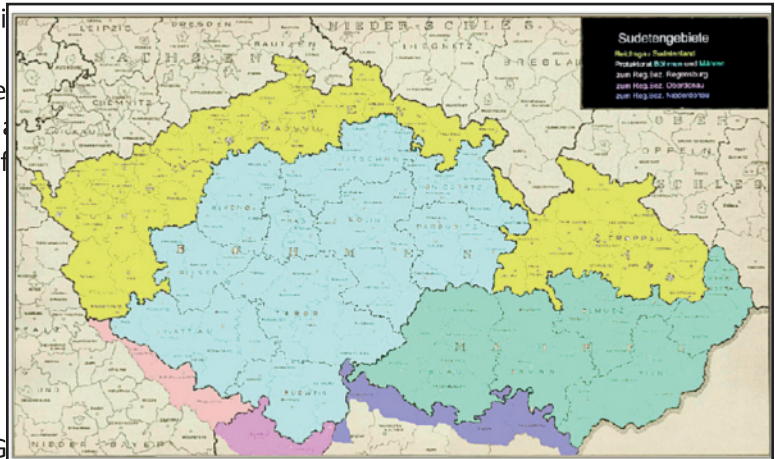


Figure 7

Müller says that in 1871 it was ordered that for important places, where the Czech name was completely different from the German name, bilingual cancellations had to be introduced and that newly opened post offices with a bilingual name had to acquire bilingual cancellers. **Note: We will argue in the next section that this statement does not reflect the postal facts.**



Figure 8 -
 Adlerkosteletz/Kostelec nad
 Orlicí, Bohemia 21-6-1880



Figure 9 - Mährisch Ostrau
 Stadt/Moravská Ostrava
 Město, Moravia 7-10-1878



Figure 10 - Postmaster
 bilingual cancellation of
 Böhmisch Brod = Český Brod



Figure 11 - Göding - Hodonin,
 13-3-1881

The same rule applied to existing post offices, which had to replace their old canceller. Müller goes on to say that for this purpose officially made 'Einkreisstempel' or 'single-circle' cancellers were delivered and the rule was that the German name had to be at the top, the Czech name at the bottom, as seen in Figures 8 and 9.

This kind of single-circle canceller was already used in four cities before 1867^{1,5}, but they were designed by the local postmaster. An example is shown in Figure 10 for Böhm(isch) Brod = Český Brod. The cancellation does not include the year, as was usual before 1867. This specific post stamp is cancelled somewhere between 1864 and 1867, the cancellation itself was used until about 1885 as can be seen from the data⁴.

Sometimes the names were put sequentially separated by a hyphen but also in that case, the German name had to come in front (Figure 11).

In a few cases the postmaster designed his own cancellers, sometimes according to the rule that the German name be on top, but often not, as in Figures 12 and 13 where the Czech name is on top: Mnichovo Hradiště/Müchengrätz and Beroun/Beraun.

It was not only local postmasters that made, deliberately or not, cancellers which did not obey the rules. Also centrally issued cancellers sometimes had the Czech name on top, like image in Figure 14 (Ždírec). Figure 14 is an example of a rather poor and incomplete cancellation but the author deliberately shows it here because from incomplete cancellations one can also come to sound conclusions.



Figure 12 - Mníchovo
Hradiště/Münchengrätz



Figure 13 - Beroun/Beraun



Figure 14 - Ždírec/Zdíretz
11-2-1881



Figure 15 - Klobuk in
Bohemia/Klobuky v Čechách,
Bohemia 22-8-1893

The higher officials were not very happy with this mess and ordered that locally issued postmaster cancellers were not allowed anymore and that in the three “Czech” provinces bilingual cancellers could only be acquired after approval by the ministry. At this point, it is worthwhile to remember that in Cisleithania all nationalities (except for the Ukrainians in Galicia and Bukovina, see Figure 1) already had bilingual cancellations of the same type as those shown in Figures 8 and 9. The rules were different for the various provinces as seen below. The top/bottom cancellation was for a mixed population of:

Germans and Slovenians in current Slovenia:	German/Slovenian, 190 places
Italians and Slovenians in current Slovenia:	Italian/Slovenian, 24 places
Italians and Croats in current Croatia (Istria):	Italian/Croatian, 21 places
Italians and Croats in current Croatia (Dalmatia):	Croatian/Italian, 103 places
Germans and Poles in Galicia:	German/Polish, 6 places

(Note: the number of places has been added by the author)

All these provinces followed the top/bottom rules, unlike the three provinces of our concern.

In the beginning of the 1890s, a new type of top/bottom canceller was introduced for the whole of Cisleithania, also for the monolingual provinces: a ‘Zweikreisstempel’ or double-circle cancellation as in Figure 15. The Czechs were not satisfied with this new type of the old-felt insult. Why should the German name be on top and not the Czech?

That was the reason that around 1895 only for Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia a completely new position of the names in the double-circle canceller appeared where no language would be privileged, a left/right instead of a top/bottom canceller. Müller states that at the left-hand side the place name had to appear in the language of the majority, see Figures 16 and 17 showing a cancellation of Winterberg = Vimberk, (90% German), Kolinec = Kolinetz, (100% Czech). **(Note: The author has serious doubts about this statement, as will be discussed in Section 5).**

The authorities thought that equality of language rights was achieved but they did not realize that it was still up to the postmaster which name appeared at the left-hand side. He only had to turn the date in the inner circle by 180 degrees if he wanted to reverse the left/right position! Müller claims to have seen examples of this action and suggests that the postmasters are making a deliberate political statement.

According to Müller, such abuse was impossible to prevent **(Note: the author does not agree with this statement)** and the problem only disappeared with the introduction of the ‘Ringsteg’ canceller around 1904



Figure 16 - Winterberg*Vimberk*
14-8-1903



Figure 17 - Kolinec*Kolinetz*
5-5-1909



Figure 18 - Ringsteg
Budweis/Budějovice,
Bohemia, 2-7-1915

in the whole of Cisleithania which made it impossible to cheat, since the inner circle with the date could no longer be turned against the outer circle because then the serial number or letter at the bottom will appear upside-down at the top, see Figures 18 and 19. According to Müller, this move finally achieved the equality of language rights.

One can imagine that this thrilling story brings you to investigate your own postage stamp collection in search of interesting examples of cancellations which fit (or don't fit) with Müller's hypotheses, and that is exactly what the author did.

What he found is described in the next sections.



Figure 19 - Ringsterg
Nížkov/Nischkau,
Bohemia, 7-7-1908

5) Analysis of the data in Klein's Handbook

By combining all cancellations given by Klein⁴ of the Austro-Hungarian provinces that currently form Czechia, with the demographic data from the Gemeindelexicon of 1900³, the author investigated Müller's monograph¹. We will first analyze the cancellations in their historical sequence in the period between 1867 and 1900 (where Klein's Handbook ends and the population census was held). The developments of the postal cancellations in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia will be discussed after each type of cancellation. The bilingual left/right cancellations are not mentioned in Table 2 for reasons which will be explained in Chapter 6.

First we show in Table 2 a list of the relevant cancellation types. We will explain how Table 2 should be read by taking Bohemia as an example. In Bohemia, 1365 post offices were active in the year 1900. The light gray and white horizontal rows represent the 9 types of cancellations that existed, 5 of which were used in Bohemia (Polish names did not exist there). Of these 1365 offices, 575 used (during their activity between 1867 and 1900) only monolingual cancellations. In 523 of them a German majority was present, in 52 a Czech majority. This does not necessarily mean that the place names in the cancellation were German or Czech, respectively. We will see that in two places with a Czech majority the place name was German although a Czech name existed.

For the 731 bilingual top/bottom cancellers with the German name on top, which were introduced after 1871, the table data says that in 67 places a German majority existed, in 664 places a Czech majority existed and so on. We should also remark that a post office could have various types of cancellations during the period 1867 and 1900, except the ones in the first three rows that only used a monolingual type.

Before proceeding with the analysis of Klein's data the author wants to make clear which points he will highlight because he disagrees with some statements of Müller¹.

1) Müller states that it is necessary that in order to use a bilingual canceller the place should be "important" with clearly different names in German and Czech. **The author**

wants to show that using a bilingual canceller was actually an option for all places (i.e. no condition applied).

2) Müller states that in the top/bottom bilingual cancellation the German name should be on top, which is often not the case and which he attributes (at least partially) to a nationalistic motivation on the part of the postmaster. **The author wants to show that a simpler explanation is possible.**

3) Müller states that in the left/right cancellers the name of the place in the majority language had to appear at the left-hand side. **The author wants to show that this is not the case.**

Table 2

Places with:	Bohemia, 1365 places	Moravia, 604 places	Silesia, 158 places
Only Monolingual cancellations	575	148	108
German majority	523	123	91
Czech majority	52	25	6
Polish majority	0	0	11
Bilingual top/bottom German/Czech, Polish	731	418	44
German majority	67	48	3
Czech majority	664	370	21
Polish majority	0	0	20
Bilingual top/bottom Czech/German	63 incl. 32 PM ¹	4 incl. 3 PM ¹	0
German majority	0	0	0
Czech majority	63	4	0
Polish majority	0	0	0

Footnote 1: PM = Postmaster Cancellation

With this in mind we start our discussion of Klein's data.

5.1 The monolingual cancellations

Let us first look at the situation in Bohemia. We will start by showing some examples of the monolingual cancellations.

In Fig. 20 one can see the oldest, date-less type. Fig. 21 is an example of a single-circle dated type. Fig. 22 is a "Fingerhut" (thimble) cancellation and Fig. 23 shows an example of the "Schraffen" (hatched) cancellation.

As already said, 575 out of 1365 places in Bohemia were found with only monolingual cancellations, from which 523 had a German and 52 a Czech majority. From the 523 German-speaking places 522 are found in Sudetenland. The only place situated in the central part of Bohemia, is Schlappenz near Deutschbrod in the green-colored area in Fig. 5 at the border between Bohemia and Moravia, which can be considered as a German language island in a Czech region.

From the 52 Czech-speaking places 50 are situated in Central Bohemia. Two places are found in Sudetenland, namely Maltheuern in the district of Leitmeritz (3093 inhabitants, 64% Czech) and Ploschkowitz in the district of Brüx (457 inhabitants, 61% Czech). These are 2 out of the only 20 Bohemian places (with a post office) which had such a mixed population, see Table 1. Both districts are indicated with a green color in Fig. 5 in the Northwest corner of Sudetenland, meaning that these are mixed-language districts. One sees German names on the cancellation instead of the Czech names given by the Gemeindelexicon (Maltheyr and Ploškovice respectively).

In Moravia, out of 148 places with a monolingual cancellation, 25 places with Czech majority are located in the Czech-speaking central part of Moravia. The other 123 places with German majority are in Sudetenland

except for Ober-Gerspitz (1303 inhabitants, 90% German) which is located in the German-language island around Brünn (see Fig. 5).

In Silesia the situation is more complicated because it is a trilingual province (German, Czech, Polish) as can be seen from Fig. 24. The red encircled areas represent the two parts of Austrian Silesia; in the most eastern part Polish is the dominating language, see also Fig. 6. Table 1 for Silesia should be read from the viewpoint of the majority, the other two languages together being the minority. For instance, a place like Oderberg (Bohumín in Czech, Bogumin in Polish) has 1888 inhabitants with 55% German, 6% Czech and 39% Polish-speaking people, and is therefore, to be found in the category 40-49% minority in Table 1.

The main part of the town of Teschen which is East of the River Olza, is not situated in current Czechia but has been known as Cieszyn, Poland since 1920.



Figure 20 -
Date-less cancellation,
Neustraschitz, Bohemia



Figure 21 -
Načeradec, Bohemia
30-8-1896



Figure 22 -
Butsch, Moravia 17-10-1872



Figure 23 - Irritz, Moravia 17-2-1905



Figure 24

An intriguing question for these places with monolingual cancellations is, why didn't they introduce bilingual cancellations after 1871? This will be discussed in the next sub-section 5.2, which, along with the remaining sections of the article, will be published in the Spring 2023 *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

Editor's Note: The author would be extremely pleased for readers to contact him with comments/suggestions, even before the second part of the article is published. His email is f.vanloo@onsnet.nu and his blogspot is <https://fransjvanloo.blogspot.com/2022/08/an-analysis-of-bilingual-postal.html>.



Philatelic News and Views

From Keith Hart

1. On behalf of the Board I offer my congratulations to our member from Prague, **Lubor Kunc**, who was recently elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. An honor greatly deserved by someone who has aided the Society in many ways.

2. James Buckner has mentioned our presence at **NAPEX 2023** elsewhere in this issue. It will only be about two months away when you read this and just a month from that deadline of April 30 to submit exhibit applications. Like James I am really looking forward to the show, which is always excellently planned and of course I am hoping to meet many members there. I hope that by the end of the show we will have also managed to persuade quite a few people to join our ranks. Final details of our meetings will be posted in a later edition of our newsletter.

3. A reminder that the **Great American Stamp Show (GASS)** will take place from August 10-13 at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland – Hall C, 300 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland OH 44113. The host hotel is the Westin Cleveland Downtown, 777 St. Clair Ave. NE, Cleveland OH 44114 and the room rate for the show is \$139 + tax. You can call their reservation line at (888) 627-8085 and mention the code AP1. This hotel is just a few blocks from the Convention Center. I should add that parking at the hotel is valet only and costs \$42/day. Applications for both the Exhibits and Literature Competitions have to be submitted by May 5. At this show our Society will be sharing a table with The Society for Hungarian Philately.

4. Just a quick update about our next year's meeting at **PIPEX 2024**. In the Fall *Specialist* I had said that the address of the Monarch Hotel/Conference Center was 712566 SE 93rd Ave. Clackamas, OR 97015. If such a street number existed you would probably have found yourself nearer Bend, OR than Portland. The correct

address is 12566 SE 93rd Ave. My apologies for that error. By the time I write this section for the Spring *Specialist* I should be able to give a few more details as this year's show will be over and I will give a report on it. One interesting thing about the show is that exhibiting will be a hybrid affair. Exhibits will be mounted virtually on the PIPEX website, and also judged on the website. Exhibitor's can also bring their exhibits to the show and mount them on the floor. It is not certain whether the 2024 show will be the same at present.

5. During the Board's Zoom meeting on January 23, 2023 it was decided that the venue for our 2025 Annual Meeting and Convention will be the **St. Louis Stamp Expo**. Dates are not yet known but it usually takes place in late March. The location is at the Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63134. There are usually about 45 dealers present.

6. The Board also discussed having a presence at the **2026 World Stamp Show** which will occur on May 23-30, 2026 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. We will have discussions with the organizers at GASS this year regarding this. Please note that this does not necessarily mean that this will be the location for our Annual Meeting in 2026.

7. Later in this issue it is mentioned in the Czech issue program for 2023 that on March 15 the Czech Post Office will issue a stamp to honor the newly elected President of the Republic. Following the election it is now known that the new President is **Petr Pavel** and that he should take office on March 9. However, as I write this on March 6 there has been no confirmation that the stamp will be issued on March 15, it could be later.

8. Last but not least I offer my good wishes to member **Mark Wilson** who has recently retired as editor of our British sister society's journal, *Czechout*. Mark did a remarkable job as editor and *Czechout* was always

a pleasure to read during his period taking control of the reins. I was glad to hear that during his deserved 'retirement' he will still be providing us with the results of his incredible research into First Republic stamps from Czechoslovakia. I am looking forward to seeing the results of his work on the 20 and 30h Liberated

Republic issues (and more after that I hope). I also give a warm welcome to Czechout's new editor, **Tony Holdsworth**. It is good to see two Londoners as editors of the English language journals for Czechoslovak philately!



THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR MASARYK SOUVENIR SHEETS

by Jerry Starman

The release of overprinted souvenir sheets at the 1939-1940 New York's World Fair by the Government-in-Exile embodies perhaps the oddest aspect of Czechoslovak philately. The items were issued after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Nazis and were never valid for postage under any circumstances, but collectors seem to find them attractive and their prices have risen rapidly in recent years.

Even though the items were designed by a prominent stamp dealer to ensure broad sales – they exist in many variations and had errors deliberately introduced – these souvenir sheets have remained popular for decades. Eckart H. Dissen's *The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the New York World's Fair 1939-1940*¹ describes their evolution and catalogs their every variation (reviewed in *Czechout* September 1999, pp. 56-57). Because so few copies of his book were printed it is difficult to find a paper copy. Interested readers may find the on-line web version at <https://issuu.com/nywf/docs/czechoslovakia1939-1940> easier to locate. Since its images can be enlarged with a click of the mouse, the web version is easy to use (the CPSGB library has a copy).

One of my favorites is the overprinted Masaryk souvenir sheet from 1938 (SG MS381a; Pofis A335) released for the 1939 Canadian National Exhibition and the New York's World Fair. Its variations are striking. The top of the original was overprinted with an ornate emblem in one of six colors (black, blue, green, red, gold, or silver). The emblem consists of the Czechoslovak coat of arms embraced by two Bohemian lions with the slogan PRAVDA VITEZI. While a Gothic font was used for the 1939 printing, the 1940 had italic text. As with the emblem, the text on both releases appears in different colors, but only four: black, blue, green, or red.

It only takes a small bit of computation to reveal that there are four sets each of the 1939 and 1940 issues, each with a different text color, and that each set is made up of six members, each with a different emblem color. That makes a grand total of 48 variations – not counting the deliberate errors.

Mr. Dissen claims as unique his set of six green-text sheets from 1940. That claim led me to look at my collection. To my surprise I found for the 1939 issue with the blue text I lacked only the silver and black emblems. The 1940 issue with red text lacked only one item – the blue emblem. Further, for the 1940 black-text set I need only the silver emblem, and for the blue-text set the green and blue emblems. Six sheets would make my collection of sets complete.



Figure 1

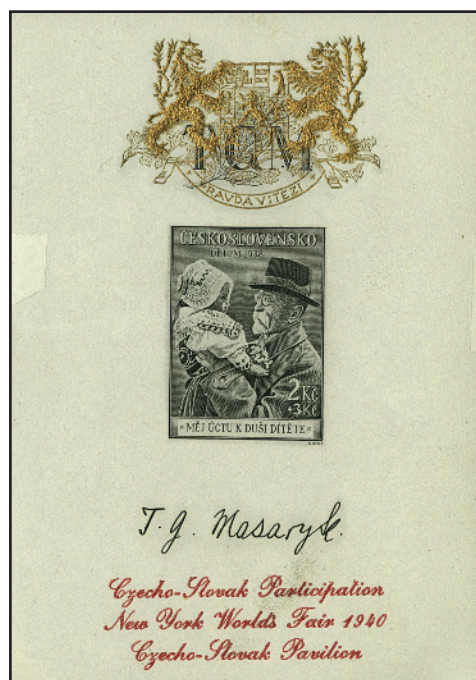


Figure 2

I expect full sets of six are rather rare and would be delighted to learn if readers have managed to collect full sets or perhaps have items they might part with to complete my sets? I may be reached by email at jerry@starmanmail.com.

REFERENCE: 1. Published by *E=mc² Publishers*, Amsterdam/Haarlem 1998, 2012, 2013.

[Ed. note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article originally published in the June 2022 Czechout, with the approval of the author and editor.]

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

A Mystery Finally Solved by Mark Wilson

In the summer 2020 issue of *The Specialist* (pages 3-6) I wrote about mysterious holes punched in overprinted stamps in the earliest decade of the First Republic. I guessed that the holes somehow held the pane in place while the overprint was applied. Even then I thought this idea strange, and mentioned this in the article, because it implied that a single pane was laboriously mounted on spikes to be overprinted. As it turns out, that idea was completely wrong.

The early panes of Czechoslovak stamps – those that were to be overprinted – had outer margins that were quite different in terms of width. Had the printer simply loaded the panes onto the printing press's paper feeder to be overprinted, the overprint would have fallen in many different places on the face of the stamps because of the random shifting the different sized margins would have caused.

To remedy this, the printer mounted the panes, one after the other, on a special frame that had two spikes. As each was mounted, he positioned the pane so that the spikes penetrated the paper at precise points – alongside certain stamps or tally numbers. Once the panes were firmly mounted on this device, he trimmed all of the irregular edges to the same width. He could then place the panes in the paper feeder of the printing press and be assured they were all the same size and the stamps would be aligned under the overprint plate.

For this information, I have to thank Josef Chudoba for his recent article in *Zpravodaj společnosti sběratelů československých knihtoskových známek*, No. 98, February 2023: *Nápichové body u přetiskových známek* (Puncture Points in Overprinted Stamps). He goes into great detail and describes the location of these puncture points for a number of issues and denominations. Mystery solved!

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

2023 SCP BOARD ELECTION

At a Zoom meeting of the Board held on January 23, 2023 our Membership Secretary, Marisa Galitz, announced that only four nominations for the four vacant positions had been received.

The nominated candidates were the four Board members whose term was ending – R.T. “Tom” Cossaboom, Alan Hanzl, William Slaninko, and Ludvik Svoboda. All four have consented that they are prepared to serve another term.

The Board voted on a proposal to accept these nominees and it was passed unanimously. President Buckner agreed that the vote certified that the four candidates were accepted for another six year term as members of the Board of Directors of the SCP.



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



It is late December and cold and wet outside as I write this, although you will read this much later in the winter. I hope that all of you had joyful holidays with family and friends, and that the New Year has begun in a positive way for you. Winter is traditionally a time where most of us spend time with our collections, examining new purchases, putting those new items into an album or stock book, or perhaps planning and researching a new collecting topic or exhibit. Maybe you spend time reading about an area of Czechoslovak philately that you don't know much about but want to explore. When I do that, my thoughts turn to the Society's Library.

Did you know that we have a borrowing library full of books and journals that members may utilize? We do. Our library is in Denver, CO at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, and is administered by our long-time member, Lou Svoboda. A complete catalog listing of holdings is available on the Society's website (www.czphilately.net) under the library tab at the top. Simply go to the listing and review to see if there is anything that might help you in your research. Then contact Lou at lousvoboda@comcast.net and he will go to the library, retrieve the item, and send it to you. Once you receive it, you may keep it for up to ten weeks (unless another member requests the same item, then up to five weeks). If you need it longer, simply contact Lou to see if that is possible. Once done, the borrower then returns the book to Lou – the cost of receiving and returning is paid by the borrower; items are sent via USPS Media Mail (lower cost and comes with a tracking number). It is really simple.

But writing about the library also makes me think of the future of it. What will happen if the current location in Colorado is no longer available to us? Who will agree to step up and be the Librarian when our current Librarian can no longer do or no longer wants the job? What then? My opinion is that, eventually, there will be a need to digitize our library. The APS is already doing this to their library in Bellefonte, PA. Digitizing will enable members to use the library wherever they may be without the delay and costs of mailing. It will also preserve some of our holdings forever, some of which being close to a hundred years old now. There will of course be a cost to digitizing and

at this time I do not know what that might be. What I am asking from members is feedback on this topic. As President, I want to know what you think. Do we need to digitize the library? If so, how do we pay for it? Do we organize a donation campaign? Or do we find another method to pay for it? Where do we actually do the digitizing? There are many questions here and I am looking for input from members to know what you think and whether you have any suggestions yourselves. Please feel free to email me at wellseats@hotmail.com with your thoughts.

Changing topics, we will be meeting in 2023 at NAPEX next June 2 through June 4 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, VA (outside Washington DC). I know of at least two members who will be exhibiting there – I hope there will be more! We will have our Annual General Meeting of the membership on Saturday, June 3 at a location within the show hotel to be announced closer to the date. Also, we will most likely be sharing a table with the Society for Hungarian Philately at the Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland, OH next August 10-13. I hope that members will be able to attend at least one of these shows.

One of the great things about attending a show is meeting fellow members, getting to know them, and sharing knowledge about our collections. Please consider attending one or both of these shows while making your plans for 2023! In the meantime, happy collecting.

–James A. Buckner

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 \$9 for digital, \$37 for printed copies by airmail or \$31 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@cphilately.org or by check to:

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

CZECH REPUBLIC NEW ISSUE PROGRAM 2023

Postage Stamps and Stationery

Date	Title of Issue	Layout	Value Kč	Other items
1/20/2023	Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Vladimír Suchánek	TL	B	ZZ, 2x2k
2/15/2023	Personalities: Mikuláš Koperník	TL	B	
2/15/2023	Zdeněk Podskalský	TL	B	
2/15/2023	Beauties of Our Country: Forest Castle Kozel	HA	E	
2/15/2023	Self-adhesive definitive stamp: Easter	TL	B	
3/15/2023	Personalities: Jan Janský	TL	21	
3/15/2023	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: František Drtikol	UTL	36	
3/15/2023	Beauties of Our Country: Český Šternberk Castle	HA	A	
3/15/2023	Definitive stamp with coupon private printing capability: Biking	HA	B	
3/15/2023	Definitive stamp: President of the Republic (unknown subject until election)	TL	B	
4/5/2023	Giovanni Santini and his buildings	UTL	25,29,35	
4/5/2023	Dendrological Garden in Průhonice	UTL	28,29,35	
5/9/2023	EUROPA: Peace – The Supreme Human Value	UTL	E	
5/9/2023	Beginning of Regular Broadcasting of Czechoslovak Radio	TL	28	
5/17/2023	Baroque Murals	UTL	36,42	
5/17/2023	Czech Design: Jaroslav Ježek	TL	B	ZZ, 8k
5/25/2023	Postcard: Essen 2023	CDV	E	
6/14/2023	Czech Actors: Libuše Šafářková and Josef Abrhám	HA	32,32	
6/14/2023	Personalities: Josef Jungmann	TL	B	
6/14/2023	Personalities: Blaise Pascal	TL	25	
6/14/2023	Sport: Jan Veselý	TL	21	
9/6/2023	Nature Protection: Podyjí National Park	HA	25,28,29,32	CMx4
9/6/2023	Poppy Doll and Butterfly Emanuel		B	ZZ
9/6/2023	Františkovy Lázně	TL	B	ZZ, 8k
9/6/2023	Shakespeare's Plays	HA	28,32,36,42	
9/6/2023	Definitive stamp with coupon private printing capability: Discobolos	HA	B	
9/6/2023	Dancing House + Motifs of Postal Museum	HA	E	
9/6/2023	Postcard: Praga Piccola 2023	CDV	B	
9/6/2023	Postcard: Collector 2023 – Legends	CDV	B	
10/2/2023	Joint issue with Slovakia: 30 Years of Czech and Slovak Post	UTL	58	2k
10/18/2023	František Běhounek	UTL	60	
10/18/2023	Palacký University in Olomouc	TL	B	
10/26/2023	Postcard: Ulm 2023	CDV	E	
11/8/2023	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: František Drtikol	UTL	36	
11/8/2023	Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Toyen	UTL	45	

LEGEND: CDV – prepaid postal card with overprint; CM – Cartes Maximum; HA – miniature sheet; k – coupon; TL – sheet; UTL – sheetlet; ZZ – stamp booklet

NEW ISSUES

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

Ed. note: Unless otherwise stated all issues from both countries are produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o, using multi-color offset. Images are taken from the respective websites of the two countries.]



Figure 1

1. On October 12, 2022 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued two stamps to commemorate the **European Stamp Exhibition – Liberec 2022** [Pofis 1178-1179]. The stamps, both with a value designated by the letter “E” (39 Kč), were designed by Pavel Sivko and issued in sheets of 50 with the stamps se-tenant within the sheet (2 x 25). The show took place from October 13-16 and was held with the patronage of FEPA and the acknowledgement of FIP. The Polar Salon was also part of the show. One stamp shows a small **Colony of Penguins** carrying letters and stamps (Fig. 1). The FDC cachet shows a polar bear



Figure 2

surfing on a stamp-shaped growler (a small iceberg) (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a line drawing of a penguin and the exhibition’s logo. The second stamp shows a **Group of Birdhouses** within a tree into which birds are delivering stamps (Fig. 3), the FDC cachet is a large birdhouse full of birds (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is a line drawing of a bird with the FEPA logo.



Figure 3

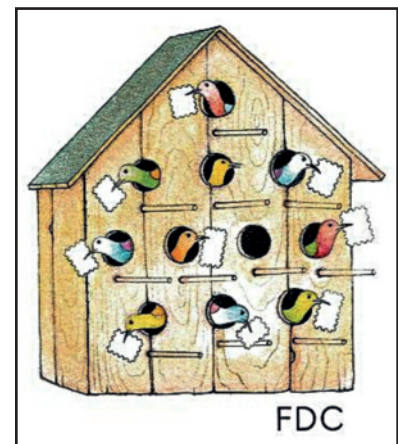


Figure 4

2. On October 12, 2022 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet showing **The Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladrubby nad Labem** [Pofis 1180-1183, A 1180]. The sheet features four stamps and two coupons (Fig. 5). Margins of the sheet show the rural landscape of the area. The sheet was designed by Jan Kavan, the FDC cachets for each stamp were engraved by Martin Srb.

Horse breeding in Kladrubby nad Labem likely dates from the 15th century. After the floodplain forests of the Elbe were cleared, the high-water table made the land unsuitable for agriculture, but perfect for grazing. The Habsburgs purchased the land in 1560 and in 1580 it was designated by Emperor Rudolf II as a stud farm that specialized in breeding ceremonial carriage horses for the Imperial Court. After 1918 it became Czechoslovakia’s State Stud Farm. White horses were bred for ceremonial purposes, but the darker, almost black, ‘crow’ color is also well-known today. Still used by the



Figure 5

Danish and Swedish royal families, the Kladruber horses are today recognized as the oldest Czech breed. They are a rare breed (about 500 horses), calm and well balanced, used commonly as police horses today, as well as in dressage and sled competitions. The stud farm and the surrounding landscape became a World Heritage Site in 2019. The pairing of the 26 Kč and 30 Kč stamps show the **Historic Stud Buildings Behind a Mare and Foals**. The FDC cachet for the 26 Kč stamp has the heads of a mare and foal (Fig. 6). The cachet for the 30 Kč stamp has the head of a Kladruber stallion (Fig. 7). The pairing of the 34 Kč and 40 Kč stamps show a **Four-in-Hand Carriage Drawn by the White Horses**. The FDC cachet for the 34 Kč stamp shows a vintage carriage (Fig. 8). The cachet for the 40 Kč stamp shows an open farm carriage (Fig. 9). All four FDC cancellations are various line drawings of horses.

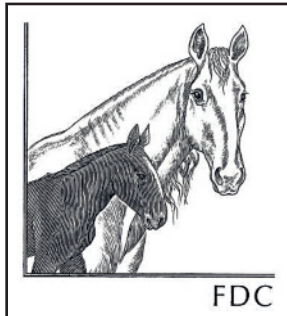


Figure 6

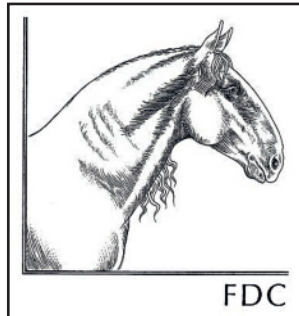


Figure 7

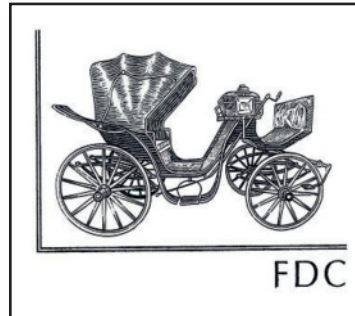


Figure 8

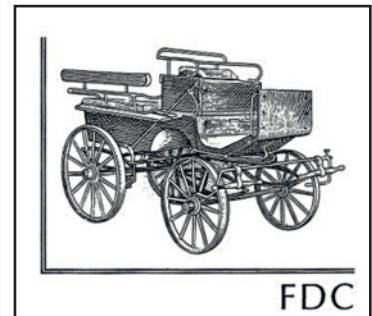


Figure 9

3. On October 12, 2022 the Ministry released an issue in the **My Own Stamp Series: 60 Years of Olympic** [Pofis VZ ČP TL0002]. The sheet was designed by Tomáš Říha and contains 25 “B” value (19 Kč) stamps (12 different motifs) featuring members of the rock band *Olympic* and their album covers (Fig. 10). This band formed in early 1963, originally under the name *Karkulka*, changing it before the release of their first album, *Želva* (Turtle), the cover for which is the top row of stamps. They experienced unexpected success throughout the communist era and have continued to draw large crowds to their concerts. Their most recent album, *Kařata*, came in 2020 (cover is the bottom row of stamps) and they have a full tour planned for 2023. Current members of the band are Petr Janda (an octogenarian original member!), Milan Broum, Pavel Březina, and Martin Vajgl, who are all featured in the middle row of stamps. Additional album covers are shown in the other two rows of stamps.



Figure 11

4. On October 26, 2022 the Ministry issued a definitive “B” value stamp to celebrate **Christmas** [Pofis 1184]. The stamp was designed by Anna Khunová and depicts a comet carrying Baby Jesus (Fig. 11). The comet’s hair forms a sheet of music, with music notation of a fragment of the best-known Czech carol

Narodil se Kristus Pán (The Lord Christ Was Born). The text of the carol was originally in Latin and dates from the late 15th century. Today’s Christian Christmas celebrations historically replaced the pagan celebrations of the winter solstice as a symbol of the rebirth of the Sun.

5. On November 9, 2022 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp sheet in the series: **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Jaroslav Panuška** [Pofis 1185, 1186]. The stamps feature partial versions of the painting *Mor* (Plague) dating from 1903, which are in the Vysočina Regional Gallery in Jihlava. The 39 and 45 Kč stamps were designed by Václav Fajt in a sheet of four, with a blank central label (Fig. 12). They were produced by a combination



Figure 10



Figure 12

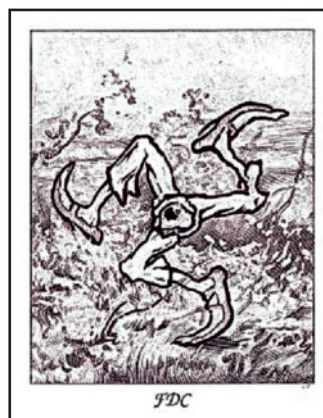


Figure 13



Figure 14

of recess printing from a flat plate and multi-color offset. The stamps celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Panuška (1872-1958) who commenced painting at a very early age, which mainly featured fantastic and spooky subjects. This was replaced in his mid-30s by an Impressionist style which he developed into an immense series of richly colored landscapes. The FDC cachet of the 39 Kč stamp depicts a single color version of the painting *Prtioko* (Uncle) (Fig. 13), while the cachet for the 45 Kč stamp shows the full-color painting (Fig 14). The cancellation for both FDCs is a line-drawing of a ghostly head running.

6. On January 20, 2023 the Ministry issued a 'B' value stamp commemorating **The Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Vladimír Suchánek** [Pofis 1187]. The stamp, designed by Eva Hašková, shows a portrait of Suchánek, complemented by his drawing of a masked harlequin. It was produced in a sheet of 50 as well as a booklet containing 8 self-adhesive stamps and 4 (2x2) coupons (Fig. 15).

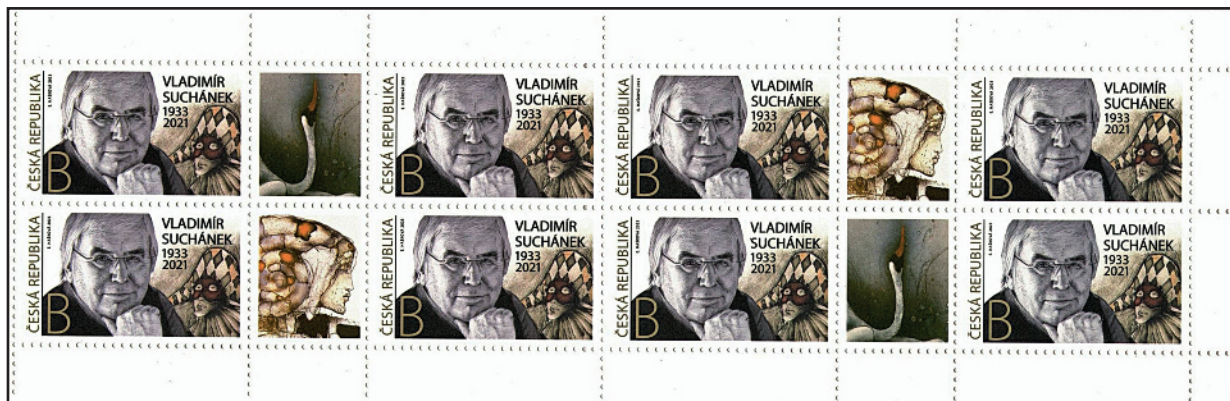


Figure 15

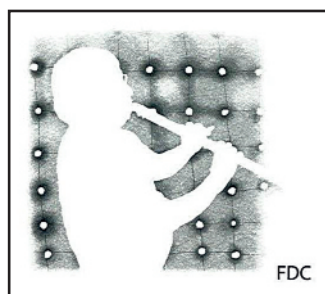


Figure 16

Suchánek (1933-2021) was an artist specializing in graphic art as well as painting. He was also known for his bookplates and book illustrations, all done in a lyrical style and using mainly pastel colors. He designed 31 postage stamps for the Czech Republic, among them many celebrating designers for this same Tradition of Czech Stamp Design series. The FDC cachet shows Suchánek playing the clarinet (Fig. 16) during a performance of the group *Grafičanka*, whose members were all graphic artists. The image is based on a personal photo taken by the designer. The cancellation has a shell motif.

SLOVAKIA ISSUE PROGRAM 2023

Postage stamps and postal stationery

Date	Item	Layout	Value €	Other Items
1/2/2023	30 th Anniversary of the Presidential Honor Guard of the Slovak Republic	UTL	T1 50g	
1/2/2023	50 th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postcodes			CDV
1/27/2023	Personalities: Krista Bendová (100 th birth anniversary)	TL	1.00	
2/2/2023	Joint issue with Armenia: St. George's Church in Nitrianska Blatnica	TL	2.30	
2/2/2023	Joint issue with Armenia: Tatev Monastery	TL	2.30	
2/17/2023	Personalities: Ján Gotčár (200 th birth anniversary)	TL	1.20	
2/24/2023	Easter 2023: Slovak Folk Woodcarving	TL	0.65	ZZ, CP
3/1/2023	20 th Anniversary of Establishment of Military Ordinariate of Slovakia	TL	2.00	
3/20/2023	Personalities: Viktor Kubal (100 th birth anniversary)	TL	T2 50g	
4/27/2023	125 th Anniversary of establishment of TRANOSCIOUS Publishing House	TL	1.85	
5/9/2023	EUROPA 2023: PEACE – The Highest Value of Mankind	UTL	2.10	ZZ, NL
5/19/2023	200 th Anniversary of Scheduled Express Stagecoach Mail Deliveries from Bratislava to Vienna	TL	1.60	
6/2/2023	Bratislava Collector's Days 2023			CDV
6/2/2023	Most Beautiful Postage Stamp of 2022			CDV
6/30/2023	Nature Protection: Bees	UTL	2.40	CM
7/14/2023	Sport: 150 th Anniversary of Organized Hiking in Slovakia	TL	T2 50g	NL
8/18/2023	175 th Anniversary of Slovak Rail Transport	UTL	2.30	NL
9/8/2023	Biennial of Book Illustrations – Bratislava 2023	TL	T2 50g	CM
9/22/2023	Beauties of Our Homeland: Renaissance House in Brodzany	HA	2.40	CM
10/2/2023	Joint issue with Azerbaijan: Music of Terchová	TL	1.00	PaL
10/2/2023	Joint issue with Azerbaijan: Kamāncha	TL	1.00	PaL
10/2/2023	Joint issue with Czech Republic: 30 th Anniversary of Establishment of the Czech and Slovak Posts	HA	3.00	PaL
10/10/2023	1400 th anniversary of the Formation of Samo's Empire	HA	3.30	PaL, PT
10/26/2023	ART: Gothic Route at Gemer – Mural at Church of the Holy Trinity in Rákoš	UTL	2.40	
10/26/2023	ART: Gothic Route at Gemer – Altar in Church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary in Chyžné	UTL	2.90	PT
11/16/2023	Christmas Mail 2023	TL	0.75	
11/16/2023	Christmas 2023: Slovak Folk Woodcarving	TL	T2 50g	ZZ, CP
12/5/2023	Postage Stamp Day: Jozef Baláž (100 th birth anniversary)	TL	1.00	NL, 10 k
12/18/23	Day of Postage Stamps and Philately 2023			CDV

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

[Ed. note: At the time of completing this list there is some confusion between different sources within the Slovak Post as to issue dates and the face value of some stamps. The list of issues itself should be accurate, although some issue dates/values might be inaccurate].

SLOVAKIA

1. On October 20, 2022 the Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a 1.00 € stamp to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Technical Standardization** [Pofis 776]. The stamp was designed by Igor Benca and features details of screws on a background of graph paper (Fig. 1). It was produced in sheets of 50. After the

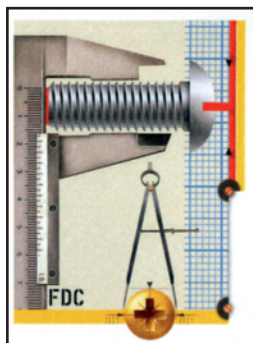


Figure 2

the founding of Czechoslovakia the new government moved quickly to form an organization to standardize technical measurement and largely through the efforts of Vladimír List, The Czechoslovak Association for General Standardization was established at the end of 1922. With the necessary changes sought by the communist's centrally planned economy this Association continued until the breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993. Technical standardization within Slovakia is now in the hands of The Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing. The FDC cachet shows tools relating to measuring engineering products (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is the head of a bolt.



Figure 1

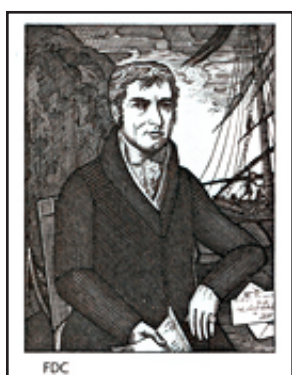


Figure 4

2. On October 21, 2022 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **ART: Ján Rombauer & Aleš Votava** [Pofis 777, 778]. The sheet contains two copies of each stamp and four labels with the name and facsimile signatures of the two engravers (Fig. 3). The 2.60 € stamp for Rombauer was engraved by František Horniak and produced using a combination of recess printing with a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. The subject of the stamp is *St. Martin on Horseback* which is in the Spišské Museum in

Levoče. Rombauer (1782-1849) is usually known for his portraits but occasionally he ventured into religious art. This painting depicts St. Martin, the Bishop of Tours, as a Roman soldier on horseback, who coming across a beggar, cut his gown and gave half to the man. According to Roman law only half his gown belonged to the soldier, so he only donated what belonged to him. There are several peculiarities in the painting – the horse is facing away from the viewer, and the saint has a moustache, unusual in religious paintings. The FDC cachet is a portrait of Ján Steinhübel (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is the head of Rombauer's wife. The 2.60 € stamp for Votava was engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced using a combination of printing with a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. Votava (1962-2001) was a stage and costume designer famed for his simple designs using neutral colors. The stamp shows sketches and costumes worn by the actor G. Ch. Gillibrand for Gluck's opera *Orfeo ed Eurudice*. The cachet for the FDC is a scene from the same opera (Fig. 5) and the cancellation is the head of Cerberus. A black proof [Pofis 043 PT 777/778/22] was issued at the same time.

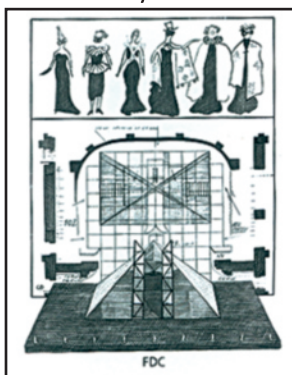


Figure 5

the same time.

(Ed. note: My thanks to Marta Herucová (Votava) and Zuzana Koblišková (Rombauer) for their original notes in Slovak from which this is a translated and edited form)



Figure 3



Figure 6

3. On October 27, 2022 the Ministry issued a 0.75 € stamp to celebrate the **150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the East Slovak Museum in Košice** [Pofis 779]. The stamp was designed by Jozef Česla and shows the facade of the museum building with a background formed of gold coins based on an exhibit for Košice's Golden Treasure (Fig. 6). Originally known as the Upper Hungarian Museum, its earliest location was in the building which originally housed the *U Zlatej Hviezdy* (The Golden Star) tavern. It moved to its current location in 1901. Its collections have grown from the original 14,016 artifacts to more than 500,000 today. The FDC cachet shows three important artifacts (Fig. 7) – a bronze age helmet from the archaeological collections, Gothic stonework from the art collections, and a Night Butterfly from the natural science collections. The FDC cancellation is a calligraphic version of the museum's logo letters "V" and "M".

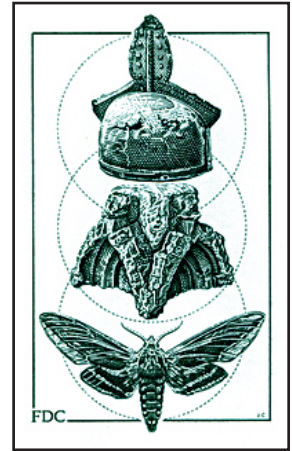


Figure 7



Figure 8

4. On November 11, 2022 the Ministry issued a 0.75 € stamp in the series **The Christmas Mail 2022** [Pofis 780]. The stamp is based on a drawing by Viktória Bubeníková and designed by Adrian Ferda. It shows three children singing Christmas carols (Fig. 8). It is now the 24th year since the Slovak Post commenced their program for children to send letters or postcards to Baby Jesus to the address 'Ježiško 999 99'. It is the 10th year that a design has been chosen from these submissions to be used as a postage stamp. It is possibly no coincidence that many of the chosen stamps have come from art class pupils of teacher Renáta Kubalová at the Rozmarínová Primary School in Komárno. She has significantly encouraged her pupils throughout each year to come up with their own designs which can be submitted to the jury of the Postage Stamp Design Commission. The postage stamp, FDC cachet and cancellation designs all come from her pupils this year. The cachet, designed by Kristína Gubienová, shows a town with its centrally located Christmas tree (Fig. 9) and the cancellation, designed by Nikolett Andrea Samai, is an angel.



Figure 9

5. On November 11, 2022 the Ministry issued a 0.65 € stamp in the series **Christmas 2022: Christological Motifs in the Works of P.M. Bohúň** [Pofis 781]. The stamp was designed by Peter Nosál and printed in sheets of 50. The theme of the stamp is the central part of Bohúň's painted altarpiece *Kráľovná Nebies* (Queen of Heaven) which is in the Slovak National Museum in Martin. Mary holds the infant Jesus in her arms and is wearing clothes typically found in this particular composition, a red dress and a blue cloak (Fig. 10). While Bohúň was more famous for his portraits, his occasional forays into religious art were usually inspired by Renaissance Old Masters. The cachet for the FDC shows the entire altarpiece (Fig. 11). The cancellation shows a comet crossing the path of the Sun. A stamp booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps, and a pictorial postal card were issued at the same time.

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Figure 10

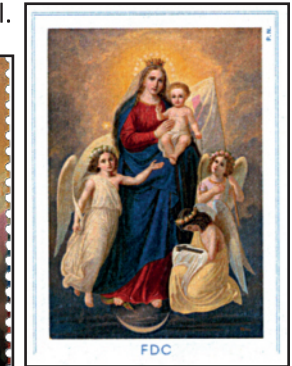


Figure 11



Figure 12

6. On November 24, 2022 the Ministry issued a 2.30 € stamp to commemorate **The 50th Anniversary of Apollo 17: Eugene Andrew Cernan** [Pofis 782]. Designed by Igor Benca the stamp shows Cernan on the surface of the Moon, saluting the USA flag. It is based on a famous NASA photo taken by fellow-astronaut Harrison Schmitt, whose own face is reflected on

Cernan's helmet (Fig. 12). Cernan (1934- 2017) was born in Chicago, the paternal grandson of immigrants from Vysoká nad Kysucou in Slovakia. His mother had Czech ancestry. Cernan travelled into space three times, twice to the Moon. In 1966 he was part of the Gemini 9A mission where he performed a spacewalk. In 1969 he was the lunar module pilot on Apollo 10, flying in lunar orbit in the final build-up to Apollo 11's landing two months later. He commanded Apollo 17, which launched from Cape Canaveral on December 7, 1972. Cernan and Schmitt spent over 22 hours on the lunar surface, travelling more than 22 miles (35km) in the lunar rover and collecting more than 254 lbs. (115 kg) of soil and rock samples. Leaving the Moon on December 14, Cernan is at present the last person to leave his presence on the surface. Cernan never overlooked his ancestral heritage and visited Slovakia in 1974, 1994, and 2004. The FDC cachet shows Apollo 17 orbiting over the landing site, and the landing craft (Fig. 13). The cancellation depicts Cernan's footprint on the moon's surface. A commemorative sheet was also issued the same day.

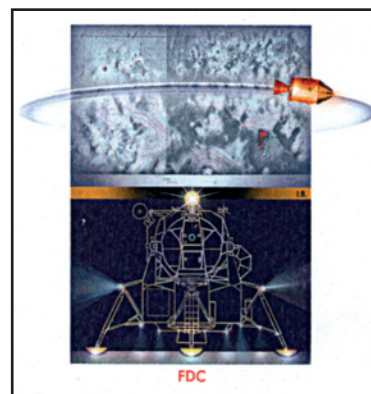


Figure 13

[Ed. note: Another stamp celebrating Cernan was issued in 2002 (Pofis 280) and was also designed by Igor Benca].

7. On December 2, 2022 the Ministry issued a 0.80 € stamp in the series **Postage Stamp Day: A Historic Mail Wagon** [Pofis 783]. Designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová, the stamp was printed in sheets of 30, with 30 coupons.



Figure 15

The wood and metal coach (Fig. 14) was drawn by one or two horses and mainly used during the inter-war period to transport parcels to individual post offices. The coupon depicts the Czechoslovak State Post's emblem during the 1st Republic. Some of these vehicles were only retired in 1960.



Figure 14

The FDC cachet, engraved by Ľubomír Žálec, depicts a horse driven mail coach on the streets of Bratislava (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is a post horn. A collection sheet was also issued the same day.



Figure 17

8. On January 2, 2023 the Ministry issued a T1 50g (1.00 €) stamp to commemorate the **30th Anniversary of the Honor Guard of the President of the Slovak Republic** [Pofis 784]. The stamp shows a member of the Honor Guard in their traditional uniform (Fig. 16) and was designed by Peter Konečný and Adrian Ferda. It was produced in sheets of 10. The Honor Guard Regiment was formed at the inception of the Slovak Republic in 1993, representing the Office of the President who is also the supreme commander of the country's armed forces. The uniform is based on one depicted in a 1968 Czechoslovak postage stamp (Pofis 1731) showing Janko Francisci, a patriot from the 1848 National Revival. The FDC cachet shows members of the Honor Guard marching out from the Presidential Palace (Fig. 17) and the cancellation features the coat of arms of the regiment.



Figure 16

Postal Stationery

The following prepaid postal cards with additional printing all have printed stamps with a value of 0.65 €. Images of the card's additional imprints can be seen on the Pofis website www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products - prepaid postal cards with imprint section.

9. On October 13, 2022 the Ministry issued a postal card to celebrate **The Most Beautiful Postage Stamp of 2021** [Pofis 319 CDV 314/22].

10. On November 8, 2022 the Ministry issued a postal card, showing **A National Cultural Monument - The House of Arts in Piešťany** [Pofis 320 CDV 314/22].

11. On December 16, 2022 the Ministry issued a postal card commemorating **The Day of Postage Stamps and Philately 2022** [Pofis 321 CDV 314/22].

12. On January 1, 2023 the Ministry issued a postal card commemorating the **50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Postcodes** [Pofis 322 CDV 315/23].

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