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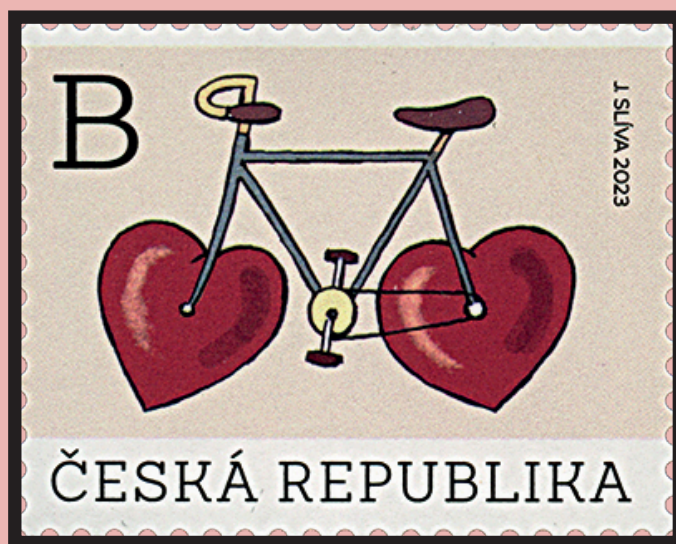
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The recently issued Czech Republic Cycling stamp, the latest in a series celebrating recreational pastimes.

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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 2

by Frans J.J. van Loo

[Ed. note: This second part of the article continues the discussion on previously published information regarding bilingual cancellers. The reader should have the first part [Winter 2023 Specialist] nearby as there are references back to maps and figures mentioned in Part 1].

5.2 The bilingual top/bottom cancellations

According to Müller¹, in April 1871 the decision was made that top/bottom bilingual cancellers had to be prepared for the *more important places*, where the Czech or Polish name was completely different from the German name. **The author believes that this statement is incorrect on both counts, certainly after November 1871.** Perhaps Müller knew this because he goes on to say that in November 1871, newly opened post offices in bilingual places were ordered to use this bilingual canceller. In all places the German name had to come first, be it on top or as the first name in a sequence (see Figs 9-11). He does not repeat the requirement that this rule is limited to important places with clearly different names in both languages.

There is a special group of 29 places that use top/bottom cancellations but from Klein's work, you cannot tell whether it is German/Czech or Czech/German! The names only differ by a háček or acute accent like an ň or í, see Fig. 25 with a German/Czech cancellation (one has to look carefully to see the difference between i and í!), and these differences are omitted in Klein's book. This is a regrettable shortcoming in this otherwise superior work. Luckily, in the *Monografie* these names are written with the correct letters and it turns out that all 29 places are Czech-speaking.

A first glance at Table 2 (on page 8 of the *Winter Specialist*) already shows that Czech-speaking places introduced far more bilingual cancellations than German-speaking places. However, these data are difficult to compare because they cover the whole timespan from 1871 until 1900. During that time many post offices were opened, others closed, long after the time when the question arose about which offices would introduce bilingual cancellations.

Müller states that most of the confusion was settled around 1884. For that reason, the author made a comparison that is much more consistent by splitting up the data into two periods, before and after 1884.

He looked up how many post offices existed before 1867 and checked whether they introduced a bilingual cancellation in the period 1867-1884 or between 1884-1900. This can be done because the period 1867-1884 happens to be the validity period for the postage stamp issue with the emperor's head of the type shown in Figs. 20 and 22



Figure 25. Krčín/Krčín
31-1-1899

Number of post offices which existed before 1867 and introduced a bilingual cancellation							
In Bohemia 451				in Moravia 188			
German majority 189=42%		Czech majority 262=58%		German majority 64=34%		Czech majority 124=66%	
Introduction Bilingual Cancellation:		Introduction Bilingual Cancellation:		Introduction Bilingual Cancellation:		Introduction Bilingual Cancellation:	
1867-1884 16=9%	1884-1900 12=6%	1867-1884 147=56%	1884-1900 99=38%	1867-1884 15=23%	1884-1890 8=12%	1867-1884 71=57%	1884-1890 48=39%
Total 28 = 15%		Total 246=94%		Total 23=35%		Total 119=96%	

(on page 9 of the *Winter Specialist*), and Klein's data gives all cancellations on this issue separately. The results can be found in Table 3.

Let us first focus in Table 3 on the situation in Bohemia. We see that 451 post offices which already existed in 1867 introduced the bilingual cancellation. Of these, 189 (42%) are in German-speaking places; nearly all are situated in Sudetenland (the colored border area in Fig. 5) with a few situated in German-language islands in Central Bohemia. The other 262 (58%) are in Czech-speaking places, nearly all situated in Central Bohemia. The Table concludes with the number of post offices that have introduced bilingual cancellations during the periods 1867-1884 and 1884-1900. So, 16 out of 189 places with a German majority (9%) introduced a bilingual cancellation before 1884; another 12 places (6%) did that between 1884 and 1900. Also, for the places with a Czech majority conclusions from studying the data are clear: compared to the German-speaking places, far more Czech-speaking places introduced bilingual cancellations. That is logical, because it was the Czechs who asked for this bilingual cancellation in the first place.

We now look in more detail at the post offices with a German majority that changed from monolingual to bilingual cancellations between 1867-1884 and 1884-1900. For Bohemia they are listed in Table 4a and Moravia in Table 4b, together with a selection of the places which did not change their monolingual cancellation. The number of inhabitants and the percentage of Czech-speaking people are given, together with labels as to whether the places are a District Capital (DC) – 37 places, or a Judicial Seat (JS) – 54 places.

The author uses the data as a criterion to recognize a place as being "important," because Müller stated that only "important" places with clearly different names in German and Czech should have introduced bilingual cancellations. We can see that until 1884 10 "important" places did indeed switch to bilingual, whereas another 9 places did the same after 1884, 13 years or more after the possibility was offered. That means that 25 DCs and

Places with German Majority in Bohemia which:								
Introduced bilingual cancellations before 1884			Introduced bilingual cancellations after 1884			Did not introduce bilingual cancellations between 1867-1900		
Name place	Inh.	%Cz	Name place	Inh.	%Cz	Name Place	Inh.	%Cz
Bergreichenstein JS	2,200	6	Böhm. Aicha JS	2,700	41	A selection from 161 offices		
Bodenbach	10,800	8	Dobrzan	5,200	42			
Eger * DC	23,500	1	Dux DC	12,000	25			
Freiheit *	1,700	0	Kaplitz DC	2,400	9	Bilin JS	8,000	6
Horosedl	655	14	Neubistritz JS	2,500	1	Brüx DC	21,500	20
Jechnitz * JS	1,342	1	Oschitz	775	1	Hohenelbe DC	4,800	10
Komotau * DC	15,900	3	Prachatitz DC	4,300	22	Kosten	3,900	19
Krumau DC	8,700	15	Rokitnitz JS	1,100	10	Lobositz JS	4,600	13
Leitmeritz DC	13,000	15	Stecken JS	1,300	11	Nieder Georgenthal	3,900	23
Liebenau	3,200	12	Wegstädtl JS	1,700	10			
Marschendorf * JS	1,265	1	Winterberg JS	4,700	10			
Reichenberg * DC	34,100	8	Wscherau	1,200	5			
Teplitz DC	20,500	7				+ 25 DCs, all less than 3% Czech		
Theresienstadt	7,000	34						
Trautenau DC	12,700	10						
Ullitz	680	16						

Places with German Majority in Moravia which:								
Introduced bilingual cancellations before 1884			Introduced bilingual cancellations after 1884			Did not introduce bilingual cancellations between 1867-1900		
Name place	Inh.	%Cz	Name place	Inh.	%Cz	Name Place	Inh.	%Cz
Auspitz DC	3,600	10	Böhm. Rudoletz	519	8	A Selection from 40 Offices		
Brünn DC	94,500	36	Brüsau	1,700	8	Bodenstadt	1,500	5
Fratting	528	1	Göding DC	10,200	44	Frain JS	1,100	5
Grussbach	2,400	8	Hosterlitz	1,300	2	Frainersdorf	641	11
Hohenstadt DC	3,000	26	Mähr. Aussee	1,800	8	Mähr. Schönberg DC	11,600	3
Iglau DC	24,400	18	Nieder Eisenberg	416	21	Mähr. Trübau DC	7,700	3
Kromau DC	2,200	40	Pohlitz	2,900	21	Nikolsburg DC	6,000	2
Mähr. Neustadt JS	5,100	2	Schildberg JS	1,900	7	Piesling	799	18
Misslitz	2,000	26				Römerstadt DC	4,800	0
Müglitz JS	4,200	4				Schattau	2,500	7
Neutitschein DC	12,000					Stannern	1,400	9
Olmütz DC	21,700	33				Sternberg DC	15,200	1
Privoz	10,900	39						
Wolframitz	539	6						
Znaim DC	16,200	12						
Legend for Tables 4a and 4b								
*	These places withdrew their bilingual canceller and reintroduced a monolingual canceller.							

43 **JS**s never introduced the bilingual canceller, some of which were actually populated with a considerable Czech minority and had sound Czech names like Brüx = Most and Hohenelbe = Vrchlabí.

This is in sharp contrast with the situation in the Czech-speaking areas in Central Bohemia. The numbers are too large to list them in a table but we can give the most important overall results. As can be seen in Table 3, 147 places became bilingual before 1884. Among these, 40 out of the 55 Czech **DC**s and 45 out of the 72 Czech **JS**'s became bilingual, most of the rest following in the period 1884-1900. Only three **DC**'s never used a bilingual cancellation for a good reason: Chotěboř, Kladno and Polička did not have an official German name according to the *Gemeindelexicon*. From the **JS**'s, five never used a bilingual cancellation. Jaroměř and Sobotka did not have a German alternative, whereas in Humpolec and Kouřim probably no one requested that the German name Humpoletz or Kauřim should be added to the cancellation. The Czechs in these four places were completely comfortable with their monolingual cancellation!

The case of the fifth place, Liban (1966 inhabitants from which 1964 were Czech) is different. There the German name is on the canceller and not the Czech name Libáň and this lasted until the introduction of the Ringsteg canceller when it became bilingual.

All this brings us to a logical explanation in understanding which places introduced bilingual cancellations. The German-speaking places had no reason to add a Czech name on their cancellers. Only complying when the Czech minority insisted on their rights. The other places left everything unchanged. This is underlined by the fact that

some places soon regretted their change: they withdrew their bilingual and reintroduced their monolingual canceller. They are marked in Table 4a with an asterisk. Müller was also surprised that “nearly entirely German cities like Eger (Cz. Cheb) and Reichenberg (Cz. Liberec) got bilingual cancellers”. It seems that Müller was not aware that Reichenberg had an 8% Czech minority. Note in Table 4b that in Moravia there were no places that regretted their choice.

On the other hand the Czech-speaking places, small or large, with clearly different names or not, 100% Czech or less, took the opportunity to add their Czech name to the canceller. The officials obviously agreed because these were official cancellers. This shows that the introduction of bilingual cancellers in Bohemia was more like an option rather than a rule, as Müller had believed.

Now we have to verify this conclusion by looking at how Moravia handled the issue of bilingual cancellers. It is clear from Tables 3 and 4b that the data is comparable to Bohemia, which means that the same conclusions we drew above hold fast. We will only give a few extra data on top of those mentioned in Table 4b. From the 21 DC's in the Czech-speaking areas 16 went over to bilingual cancellers before 1884 and 4 between 1884 and 1900. One



Figure 26. Postmaster cancellation of Horní Moštěnice/Ober Moschtenitz, 19-6-1880

DC, Mistek, did not get a bilingual canceller because there was no German name for this town. Of the 30 JS's 18 became bilingual before 1884 and the other 12 between 1884 and 1900. Only 5 of the 124 places in the Czech-speaking part did not have a bilingual canceller; 4 of them had no German name and the other one was a small village with 2% Germans and where the post office was closed in 1882.

In Silesia the issue of bilingual cancellers is more complicated because it is a trilingual province. On the other hand it is simpler, because in all cases the German name came on top. It is interesting to see that both Czechs and Poles are treated as absolutely equal minorities, so depending on whether the Czech or the Polish population was larger a G/Cz or a G/P cancellation is used.

Now we will look to the next issue of discussion: why in some cancellations is the German name not on top, thus violating the “Müller rules”? The fact that the Czech name quite often occurred on top brought Müller to the idea of possible nationalistic actions of the postmasters, although he does acknowledge that some officially delivered cancellers also violated the “Müller rules” as shown in Figs. 14 and 27.

In the third section of Table 2 one can see the number of “top/bottom” Czech/German cancellations. Bohemia had 63, Moravia had 4; Silesia did not have any such cancellations at all.

In Bohemia, the 63 places with Czech/German cancellations are all dispersed in the central part of Bohemia, but especially along the border with Sudetenland. It is certainly feasible that political/nationalistic intentions play a role, especially since 32 of them have postmaster (PM) cancellers, compared with only 8 PM cancellers out of the 734 offices with a German/Czech cancellation. These postmasters had, until 1882, a large degree of freedom in designing their cancellers. All Postmaster Cz/G cancellers were later replaced by the official single circle German/Czech cancellers, except for the two villages Načeradec and Rožďalovice. Around 1884 they replaced their PM Czech/German canceller with a monolingual Czech one. Načeradec never used another one during the period of investigation, see Fig. 21 (page 9 of the *Winter Specialist*). After 1890 Rožďalovice accommodated and used the official German/Czech cancellation.

In Moravia only 4 offices used a Czech/German cancellation and 3 of these had a postmaster canceller, namely:

1) Napajedla (Cz)/ Napagedl (G), 3769 inhabitants (98% Czech). It was used simultaneously with the G/Cz variant until around 1890.

2) Horní Moštěnice/Ober Moschtenitz, 1415 inhabitants (99% Czech), used this cancellation until around 1884, after which it was replaced by the G/Cz variant. Note that in the author's example the date is upside down (Fig. 26).

3) Město Přerov/Stadt Prerau, 16727 inhabitants (96% Czech), used the Cz/G cancellation only for a brief time and it was replaced in 1879 by a G/Cz cancellation.

Table 5

Officially delivered Cz/G cancellers (X) used on the three post stamp issues between 1867 and 1900 and their replacement by single-circle (S) or double-circle (D) G/Cz cancellers								
	Starkenbach	2,600	X		X	S		
	Tinischt	2,100	X			S		
	Wottitz ¹	2,100	X	S	X	S	X	S
Bohemia	Čestice	531	X		X		X	D
	Čischkau	482	X		X		X	S
	Holoubkau	889			X		X	S
	Hrochowteinitz	1,274	X		X		X	S
	Hostiwitz	1,356	X		X		X	D
	Jinetz ²	1338	X		X		X	L*R*
	Kratenau	867	X		X		X	D
	Mieschitz	886	X		X		X	D
	Miröschau ³	1,957	X		Mono			
	Nemčitz	298	X		X			D
	Neuschloss	727	X		X		X	D
	Okroulitz	312	X		X		X	D
	Raubowitz	1,851	X		X		X	D
	Sazau	1,789	X		X		X	S
	Swojschitz	892	X		X		X	D
	Windig Jenikau	981	X		X		X	D
	Wollenitz	620	X		X		X	D
	Wrbno	474	X		X		X	S
	Ždiretz	710	X		X			S
Zetoraz	689	X		X		X	D	
Žižkov ⁴	59,300	X	S					
Moravia	Vracov	3,594	X		X		X	D

Footnotes:

1. Wottitz used CZ/G and single-circle G/Cz cancellers simultaneously through the whole period.
2. Jinetz replaced around 1895 the top/bottom Cz/G by a left*right* (Cz*G*) canceller.
3. Miröschau withdrew the Cz/G and used a monolingual canceller (Fig. 28).
4. Žižkov opened in 1872 its new post office because of a reclassification and has thus the same

4) Vracov/Wratzow, 3594 inhabitants (100% Czech), did not use a postmaster canceller but an official Czech/German canceller. This was used until about 1895 and then replaced by the G/Cz variant (see Table 5 for its explanation).

For the official cancellers with the Czech name on top it is difficult to understand how they came to be in conflict with the official rule that the German language had to be on top. Often the G/Cz and the Cz/G cancellation were used in the same period as the next example shows. The author will give an explanation in the text after Table 5.



Figure 27. Sušice/Schüttenhofen, 1-12-1881, not mentioned in Klein, and Schüttenhofen/Sušice 16-8-1883

that already had a post office before 1867, and a group that opened a post office between the dates 1/7/1867 and 1/1/1874. Analysis of Klein's data⁴ shows that post offices opening after 1874 never used a Cz/G canceller. The surprising difference between these two periods is shown in Table 5.

Let us first explain the information included in this Table. During the period under investigation three types of postage stamps were issued: between 1/6/1867 and 31/10/1884 the emperor's head (Figs. 27 and 28a); between 15/8/1883 and 30/6/1891 the double-eagle type (Fig. 28b); between 1/9/1890 and 30/9/1900 another type of the emperor's head (Fig. 25). The value was in Kreuzer, after 1900 stamp issues had their value in Kronen.

Table 5 shows the places which used the Cz/G canceller. In the upper half one sees the places which had a post office before 1/6/1867 and in the lower part those places with offices that opened after 1/6/1867, including the Moravian village of Vracov. The cross (X) shows during which period the Cz/G canceller was used according to Klein. Also indicated is which canceller took over after the withdrawal of the Cz/G canceller. Most often that was the official G/Cz canceller of the single-circle type (S) or the double-circle type (D) as in Fig. 25, but in the case of Miröschau the monolingual tumble cancellation took over (Fig. 28b). According to the *Monografie*⁶ this monolingual canceller was introduced at the opening of the post office in 1869, was then replaced by the bilingual canceller in 1879 and again reintroduced somewhere before June 1884.

It is important that the double-circle top/bottom type of cancellation only had the German name on top which was the main objection of the Czechs when this canceller was introduced.

Very surprisingly, the characteristics between the upper and lower half differ greatly. In the lower half with post offices that opened after 1867, in most cases the non-official Cz/G canceller was used during this period until it was replaced by the official double-circle G/Cz canceller (D). In most of the places that opened before 1867 the upper half of the Cz/G canceller was withdrawn during the first or second period and always replaced by the regular single-circle canceller (S).

Initially, influenced by Müller's ideas, the author had thought that during these politically troubled times young, enthusiastic postmasters in new post offices would massively support the Czech case but that proved not to be

In the author's collection is a beautiful Cz/G cancellation, Sušice/Schüttenhofen, dated 1-12-1881, not mentioned by Klein⁴ or Votoček⁶. Next to this the official G/Cz cancellation is also used, see Fig. 27. It is an important district/capital in the South of Bohemia, close to the Sudetenland border. This city was 98% Czech.

In order to get more insight into the top/bottom discussion the author split up the places with Cz/G cancellers into a group



Figure 28a. Miröschau 20-8-1874 (see Table 5)



Figure 28b. Miröschau, 29-6-1884

correct. Out of the 229 post offices that opened after 1867 in the Czech-speaking area in Bohemia only 21 used the Cz/G canceller (see Table 5), which is only 9%. From the 151 places that already had a post office before 1867 only 12 used the Cz/G canceller, just 8%. It seems that the new postmasters were not more active politically than those already functioning.

The question remains: what has the date of the opening of a post office to do with the large difference between both groups in Table 5? The author thinks that the answer is not explicitly found in the date of opening but implicitly in the number of inhabitants.

In the upper half one finds places with a large population, more than 2000 inhabitants, whereas in the lower half all but one have a very low number of inhabitants, less than 2000. The only exception is Žižkov, a place that is now situated in the cadastral district of Prague and had at that time 59300 inhabitants. The point here is that Žižkov obtained its own post office in 1872 because of a formal reclassification and has, therefore, the same characteristics as places in the upper half of the table. All the other places in the lower group were, before 1867, simply not important enough to get a post office.

The author sees only one explanation. The (very) low population would not write many letters and the canceller will not have been used very often. It would take years for that tool to get worn out and Müller mentions in his article: *“It was allowed to use up the cancellers until they were worn out but they had to obey the rules”* and then in parentheses *“That means that the German name has to be on top”*. **The author thinks that this latter assumption is not correct.** It would have been impossible for 21 places to use for 20 years a canceller that is officially not allowed. Originally there would have been a rule that the German name had to be on top, and most probably a number of places (around 8%) initially purchased for nationalistic reasons a canceller with the Czech name on top. An official body will then have asked them to withdraw this illegal canceller and replace them with the official G/Cz one. The larger places did indeed do this but the smaller ones waited until their canceller was worn out and that simply did not occur. Vienna didn't care and turned a blind eye.

5.3 The bilingual left/right cancellations

According to Müller, the introduction of this type of cancellation should have been the solution for the language struggle in postal cancellations until it became clear that this canceller was vulnerable to fraud or errors by the postmaster. Let us look at the aim of the introduction of these cancellers and the actual outcome.

Apart from the equal rights issue there was the advantage that according to Müller you could see what the dominant language was in individual places. The name used by the majority had to appear at the left-hand side of the cancellation. **This statement will be challenged by the author as will be seen in Chapter 6.**

Since the introduction of the double-circle left/right cancellers started in 1897 and for many places took place between 1900 and 1910, it is important that we find data on the cancellations during this entire period, and Klein's data only covers up to 1900. Late in this investigation the author learned about the existence of a series of catalogs in the Czech language (but luckily with a German or English summary) on cancellations in current Czechia from 1850 until 1919, entitled *Monografie Československých Známeč* by Emil Votoček⁶. Volumes 13, 14 and 16 contain the data we required. Volumes 13 and 14 deal with the data up to 1918, whereas the two parts of Volume 16 treat the data between 1918 and 1920. This enabled us to investigate the history of all bilingual left/right cancellations, double-circle as well as Ringsteg, in the following Chapter 6.

6. Analysis of the bilingual left/right cancellations during the period 1897-1919

We will initially focus on the Double-Circle bilingual left/right cancellations (Figs. 16 and 17, on page 7 in the *Winter Specialist*) in the period 1897-1919. Table 6 shows us the number of places where they were used in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

In 20 Czech-speaking places in Bohemia and 3 in Moravia the initial German-left cancellers were soon replaced by Czech-left versions and are treated as such in Table 6.

Our main question was: does the majority-language name of a place always appear at the left-hand side of the cancellation as the Müller rule claims? If we look at Bohemia, we see that from the 685 places only 3 places deviate

Table 6			
Bohemia, 685 places	German Left, 25 places		German Majority, 22 places
			Czech majority, 3 places
	Czech left, 660 places		German majority, 0 places
			Czech majority, 660 places
Moravia, 129 places	German left, 115 places		German majority, 22 places
			Czech majority, 93 places
	Czech left, 14 places		German majority, 1 place
			Czech majority, 13 places
Silesia, 12 places	German left, 12 places	Czech right, 4 places	German majority, 0 places
			Czech majority, 4 places
		Polish right, 8 places	German majority, 1 place
			Polish majority, 7 places

from this rule (indicated in red in Table 6). Kameniček - 883 inhabitants (100% Czech), Nürschau - 5602 inhabitants (62% Czech), and Trebnitz - 1722 inhabitants (67% Czech) all have the German name at the left-hand side.

When we look at Moravia, however, we see a completely different picture. From the 129 places, 94 are in conflict with Müller’s rule, from which 93 have a Czech majority and yet the German name appears at the left. Marienthal bei Olmütz is the only place with a German majority that has the Czech name on the left.

In Silesia only 12 places used this type of canceller. They all have the German name at the left-hand side, whereas only Bistrai - 587 inhabitants (54% German, 0% Czech, 46% Polish) has a German majority.

In conclusion one can state that in the three provinces the policy on this matter was completely different. In Bohemia Müller’s rule is obeyed with a few exceptions, in Moravia a strong tendency for the German name left is seen, and in Silesia only the German name shows up on the left. So it was not “Vienna” or the local postmasters that made the rules but most probably the postal authorities of the individual provinces.

A second question arose from Müller’s statement that it was impossible to prevent cheating by reversing the date plug in DC left/right cancellers. According to him it was only the introduction of the Ringsted canceller that stopped this misuse since with that type of canceller cheating was impossible. Let us look as



Figure 29. Double -Circle left/right cancellation with serial letter C. Prague/Prag 25-1-1893. Not mentioned in Klein, but mentioned in Monografie. Prague was 90% Czech-speaking.

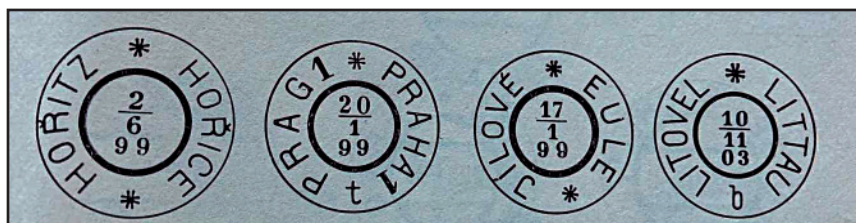


Figure 30.

DC-G*Cz*

DC-G*Cz^

DC-Cz*G*

DC-Cz*G^

to why this is so.

The Ringsted canceller (R) had, apart from a horizontal date, one star on the top and a serial number or letter at the bottom of the ring for certain postal-technical reasons, see Figs. 18 and 19 (page 8 in the Winter Specialist). If the date plug was reversed and one wants to read the date, then the serial number

is found on top but upside-down and this makes cheating impossible (see Fig. 34). But Müller didn’t mention that this serial number was also used in double-circle left/right cancellers! In Fig. 29 an example is shown, where no

	Bohemia		Moravia	
	German Maj.	Czech Maj	German Maj.	Czech Maj.
DC-G*Cz*	12 pl.	2 pl.	16 pl.	89 pl.
DC-Cz*G*	0 pl.	550 pl.	1 pl.	10 pl.
DC-G*Cz^	10 pl.	2 pl.	6 pl.	4 pl.
DC-Cz*G^	0 pl.	110 pl.	0 pl.	3 pl.
R-G*Cz^	17 pl.	0 pl.	16 pl.	7 pl.
R-Cz*G^	1 pl.	13 pl.	0 pl.	51 pl.

cheating is possible and where the Müller rule is not obeyed !!. In Table 6 all DC cancellers with and without serial numbers are mentioned.

In fact there are four main types of these DC left/right cancellers, apart from (for our purpose) non-relevant varieties like the posting time as the large number 2 appearing in Fig. 29. They are shown in Fig.30 (taken from the *Monografie*) where the sign ^ stands for the serial letter 't' and 'b' respectively. The first two have the German name on the left-hand side, the last two the Czech name. These cancellers were used between 1898 and 1919.

The point is: If it had been important to the authorities that no cheating should be possible with left or right choices they only had to replace one star by an asymmetrical marker, like a number, letter, or something else.

Therefore, it will be interesting to see whether the left/right positions in the DC types with a serial letter, and in the two Ringsted types (R-G*Cz^ and R-Cz*G^) will follow Müller's rule. From Table 7 it can be seen that this is generally true for the DC type but with 6 exceptions in the DC-G*Cz^ cancellations out of 22 (deviations from Müller's rule are indicated in red).

In Bohemia these exceptions are Trebnitz – (1722 inhabitants, 67% Czech) and one cancellation from Prague

	DC-left/right together with R-left/right from 1900-1919	DC-left/right without R-left/right from 1900-1919	DC-left/right Stopped between 1900-1919
Bohemia	208	326	135
Moravia	25	57	54
Silesia	3	5	1

as already shown in Fig. 29, which is not mentioned in Table 6 since all other cancellations from this large city have the Czech name at the left-hand side. In Moravia 4 Czech places have the German name at the left-hand side, viz. Přerau – 17000 inhabitants (96% Czech), Třebitsch - 11000 inhabitants (93% Czech), Ung. Hradisch - 5000 inhabitants (82% Czech) and Mähr. Ostrau - 30000 inhabitants (56% Czech). This is a characteristic for Moravia: these are large cities with a Czech-speaking majority and they show a preference for the German name at the left-hand side, as shown in Tables 6 and 7. This is also the case for the Ringsted cancellations. In Moravia 7 Czech-speaking places are found with the German name at the left-hand side. The one German-speaking Bohemian town with the Czech name at the left-hand side, Prachatitz, will be discussed after Table 8.

When reading Müller's article, one gets the impression that the Ringsted substitutes for the double-circle canceller because of its ability to prevent cheating. However, it turns out that actually by far the most DC cancellers have been used until 1919 as shown in Table 8. That could be done simultaneously with a Ringsted canceller or not.



Figure 31a. DC-Welehrad* Velehrad* 13-4-1920. The "W" had been transformed in "V".



Figure 31b. R-Včelákov* Wčelakow^ 19-3-1919. Two letters "W" transformed in "V".



Figure 32a. DC-Manětín*Manetin* 27-1-1920. The "e" and "i" were transformed at the right-hand side into "ě" and "í".



Figure 32b. The German name has been removed.

some other images are taken from Jacques Hermann's *Czech Cancellations*⁷, a very nice website with a lot of information about cancellations between 1918 and 1939.

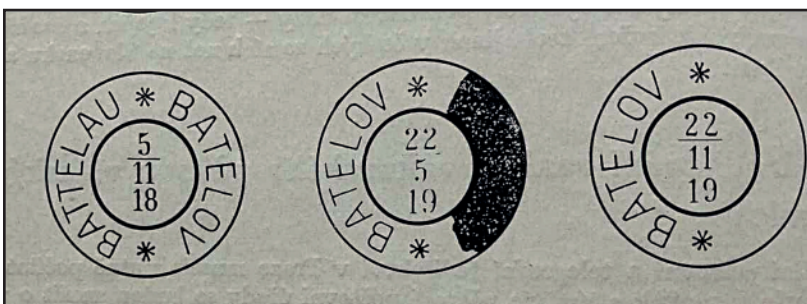


Figure 33. This happened with the Battelau canceller in 1918 and 1919⁶. In Manětín (Fig. 32a), they first tried to make the names identical by putting an accent on the 'i' in the German name at the right-hand side, but then they also had to change the German 'e' into the Czech 'ě' and that was not very successful. Perhaps for that reason two months later the German name was completely removed (Fig. 32b). That became the most popular way to solve the problem.

For us, the most relevant changes can be seen in Fig. 33. Before the end of World War I in November 1918, the Czech-speaking town of Battelau in Moravia had a DC-Battelau*Batelov* canceller with the Czech name on the right-hand side, see Fig. 33 at the left.

Immediately after the end of World War I the sequence of names was changed by reversing the date plug. The author didn't find an example of that cancellation, unfortunately. Six months later one sees the German name made illegible by blackening and another six months later the German name had been completely removed. So this ended with only the Czech name at the left-hand side.

In one case the left/right situation is different between the DC and the R canceller, while being used simultaneously: Prachatitz in Bohemian Sudetenland - 4300 inhabitants (22% Czech) appears as DC-Prachatitz*Prachatice^, and also as R-Prachatice*Prachatitz^ (see also Table 7)!

To close Chapter 6 we will now concentrate on an issue that seemingly has nothing to do with the Austro-Hungarian cancellations. We will look into the two parts of *Monografie 16*, which treat the period between 1918 and 1920, the time in which Czechoslovakia became an independent state. The new country issued their first postage stamps in December 1918 but also had to design their own cancellations. That took time and in the interim they started with a procedure that was called "Nationalization of Cancellations of Austrian Origin". That meant that all German names and words had to disappear from the canceller used until then, in one way or another.

An easy way to do this was changing the German name with a small correction into the Czech name. In that way two "identical" names appeared in the cancellation. An example was changing the German letter "W" to the Czech equivalent "V" as shown in Fig. 31. This and

It is clear that one took away half of the letter W, leaving a narrow letter V (arrow in Fig. 31b). In Fig 31a one can see the remnant of the W, indicated by an arrow. In Fig. 31b by changing the W twice with a V the names are still not identical because the accent on the letter Á does not appear on the right-hand side!

In Manětín (Fig. 32a), they first tried to

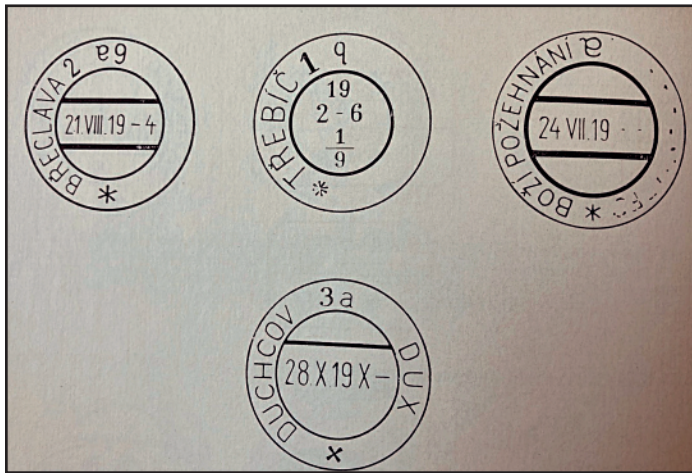


Figure 34. Some examples of the reversal of the date plugs in cancellers with a serial letter. Only in the case of Dux this serial number was re-engraved to put it in the readable position.

language”.

A very interesting case is the city of Znojmo. This important German-speaking city was very much in favor of using the German language and their reaction can be seen in Fig. 36. They removed the Czech name!! The authorities of the new Czechoslovakia were not very amused and according to Votoček they forced the postmaster to replace, probably at his own expense, the Czech text! (*Monografie* vol. 16, part 2, p. 394).

From these references some important conclusions can be drawn. Votoček speaks about the dominating position of the left-hand side and describes them by German-Czech. Obviously he reads the left/right text in this way, with the left-hand side always felt as being the dominant position (see Fig. 11, page 6 in the *Winter Specialist*) and which was even the main reason that the Czechs wanted to get rid of the cancellers where the German language took by definition the dominating position. Now they could do the same with their own language if they liked by taking the left-hand side of the left/right cancellers.

This idea will have grown gradually because it was not the original intention to have whatever dominant position in the left*right* cancellers. This explains the slowly growing numbers of cancellers with the Czech name at the left-hand side which manifests itself especially in the Ringsted cancellers.

If this is true then it is not necessarily the percentage of Czech inhabitants which is decisive but the influence and power of the ethnic group. This being so, a place with a majority of Czech inhabitants could be dominated by a smaller group of influential Germans, leading to the German name being at the left-hand side. However, this cannot explain the systematical differences between the three provinces. So, a guiding role of the provincial authorities must also have been present.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The author would like to start by stating that he experienced his investigation into the Austro-Hungarian postal cancellations in current Czechia as both extremely interesting and surprising. Although the continuous and

This even happened with cancellers with a serial letter. In the chaos of the time they initially didn't take care of the fact that this letter ended on top of the ring in an upside-down position. In Dux, however, they took the effort to re-engrave the serial letter, see Fig. 34!

What is the logic here? Let us see what Votoček⁶ says about this subject. He shows in Fig. 35 three examples of DC-G*Cz* cancellations where reversal took place and he writes:

“The reversal of the date plugs on the original German-Czech cancellers of the above mentioned type cannot be regarded as typical for the post-Independence Day period. Similar adaptations of cancellers is known from the years preceding 1918. Then this was the easiest, and at the same time, the less conspicuous method as to how to secure the dominating position on the postmarks for the Czech

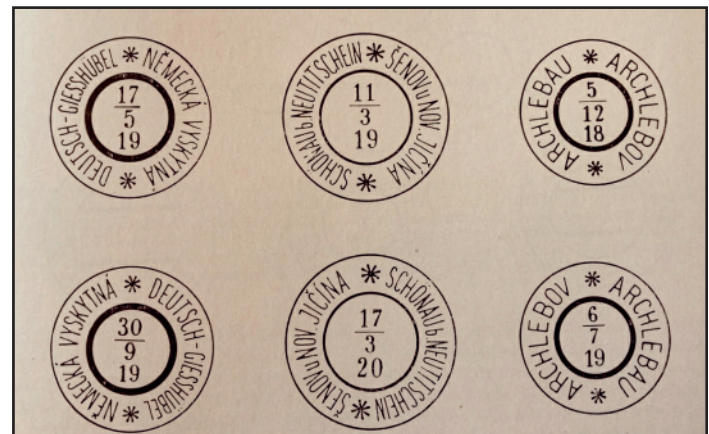


Figure 35. “In 1919, the originally German-Czech cancellers were changed into Czech-German ones by reversal of the date plugs.”⁶

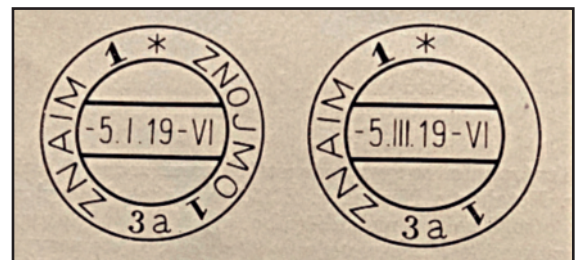


Figure 36. “The original German-Czech postmark from Znojmo and its Germanized form.”⁶

politically motivated language struggle between postmasters and post officials as suggested by Müller was certainly exaggerated as has been shown, there are still items where the author got excited when exploring this subject.

A number of questions were solved, but others need detailed research into the Austro-Hungarian postal archives, or the help of collectors and specialists in this field, for which the author would be very grateful.

The aim of the author was to find answers to three main questions after reading Müller's article:

1. What conditions were required for a post office to introduce a bilingual top/bottom cancellation in 1871? Müller states that it was necessary that it should be an "important place" with two clearly different names in German and Czech. The author argues that for this to happen there were actually no special requirements for a post office.
2. Is it a requirement that in top/bottom cancellations the German name has to be on top and, if so, why are there so many exceptions? According to Müller it was a requirement but some postmasters, driven by nationalistic intentions, did not obey this rule, much to the frustration of official bodies who asked the postmasters to follow the rules. The author agrees with Müller, but makes it clear that the important cities indeed obeyed the rule upon request by the authorities. However, some places turned a blind eye where there were only a relatively small number of inhabitants (less than 2000) and the post office opened after 1867. These offices could use their "illegal" cancellations with the Czech name at the top until the canceller was worn out and that was often after 1890.
3. Müller states that the left/right canceller was introduced in 1897 to satisfy the Czech wishes for replacement of the bilingual top/bottom canceller. The Czechs felt it as an abuse that the German name had to be at the dominating position at the top of the bilingual cancellation and the authorities met their concern by introducing the left/right canceller where no preferred position of names existed. But then Müller adds another condition: the language of the majority of the people in the place of the post office had to appear at the left-hand side. However, because of the structure of the canceller, it was possible for the postmaster, by reversing the date plug, to put the language he preferred at the left-hand side and this led, according to Müller, to nationalistic issues which the authorities wanted to prevent.

The author argues that the left/right canceller was indeed meant to satisfy Czech desires, but he does not agree that there was a general rule for the majority-language to be at the left-hand side. For example, in 80% of the cancellers in Moravia before 1800 the erroneous (German) name appears at the left-hand side and it is impossible to assume that 80% of the Moravian postmasters were either too stupid to understand rules or were politically corrupt.

If the position of the name had been important then the authorities would have taken care that the left/right canceller was made fraud-proof. As an example: one could have put whatever asymmetrical sign instead of one of the stars in the canceller, which makes cheating by reversing the date impossible.

In the opinion of the author, the left/right canceller was initially not meant for indicating which language was dominant. It is clear that the policy in this respect was completely different in the three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. On the other hand, it is also clear that gradually the idea grew that the left-hand side in the canceller was the most dominant place, which explains the growing number having the Czech name at that side.

[Ed. note: *The Czechoslovak Specialist* is extremely pleased to publish this translation in English of an article originally written in Dutch].

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to thank our son, Marc van Loo, for critically reading the manuscript. He has done that from the viewpoint of a reader with historical interest, with little or no knowledge about philately. Further, I thank our grandsons, Igor and Kilan van Loo, for making the manuscript computer-ready; in this way they saw postage stamps and cancellations for the first time. I especially thank my wife, Mieke, for her patience and continuous support during the many hours that I spent on this investigation.

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Philatelic News and Views

From Keith Hart

1. I would like to apologize to all members for the delay in receiving the Winter Specialist. This was caused by circumstances that were totally outside our control. This also resulted in the unfortunate error on page 6 where the image for figure 7 intruded on the text around it. An amended page 6 is included with this issue and I hope that you can either put it loose inside your copy, or perhaps even paste it over the incorrect page. I am truly sorry that this happened and as editor accept full responsibility, the buck really does stop here on my desk. I have also reached out to Frans van Loo to share my regrets on this error, spoiling what readers have already told me is an extremely interesting article, with information about a period that is rarely mentioned in the literature.

2. These same unfortunate circumstances have also led to this issue being rather unusual, in that it only has a single article together with the new issues for both countries. I sincerely hope that by the time you receive the Summer Specialist that normal service will have been resumed.

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@csphilately.org or by check to:

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The Story of a Stolen Stamp

About five years ago there appeared sensational news about the discovery of one of the rarest Czechoslovak stamps, four-crown with overprint Czechoslovak Post 1919 on engrained paper. This stamp was stolen in 1991 at the World Stamp exhibition PHILLANIPPON 91 in Tokyo and it hasn't been seen since. A detailed article about it was published in *Filatelie* issue of October 2017. Part of it was a comment from the son of the late noted exhibitor Johann Klein, from whose exhibit the stamp was stolen.

J. Klein searched for it for years, considering the perpetrator of the theft to be another exhibitor, Ludvík Pytlíček, who was present at the exhibition. After Klein's death his son Abraham (Bram) continued the search. His father told him: "My stamp was stolen by Ludvík Pytlíček who is waiting for me to die and then he will try to sell it". And that is what happened. Five years ago, not long after J. Klein's death, L. Pytlíček offered up the stamp in auction. Expert Josef Chudoba recognized it by the image in the auction catalog, and alerted the family of the original owner. The stamp was then withdrawn from the auction and, based on the report filed by Klein's son, it was detained by the police, who opened an investigation into the theft. L. Pytlíček first claimed that it was a different stamp and then that he bought the stamp from J. Klein and that this Dutch collector therefore committed insurance fraud.

In 2018 a book called *Stolen Stamp* was published here in Czech Republic and at the same time in Netherlands in which A. Klein describes the whole story. He points out his father searched for the stamp for many years using advertisements in domestic and international philatelic journals, in which he offered a high reward for finding it. The stamp was depicted in these advertisements so according to its centering, the shape of serrations, the engrained paper, and the position of the overprint, it can clearly be determined that the seized stamp is indeed the stamp stolen in 1991 at the Tokyo exhibition.

Klein therefore filed a lawsuit to determine ownership of the stamp. The proceedings are pending in the District Court in Semily. The parties of the dispute are him as the representative of the heirs of Mr. Klein Sr., then the heirs

of L. Pytlíček, who also died in the meantime, and then the party claiming to represent the insurance company that 30 years ago paid J. Klein an insurance benefit for a lost stamp.

In mid-February of this year another court date in the dispute took place. So, who does the stamp belong to? The heirs of J. Klein demand its release, the heirs of L. Pytlíček claim the stamp belongs to them and will want to prove that L. Pytlíček got it before the exhibition in Tokyo, so it could not have been stolen. Representatives of foreign insurance company should present proof that they concluded the insurance contract and paid compensation for the stamp after the theft (even then according to certain legal opinion they would not be its owners, they would only be entitled the return of the compensation paid).

It's an unusual dispute that spills over abroad, which is also followed by the leading media, a detailed report on the February court situation was shown on Czech Television. Its outcome cannot be predicted. When we learn something new, we will inform our readers.

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

NEW ISSUES

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



Figure 1

SLOVAKIA by Keith Hart

1. On January 27, 2023 the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic issued a 1.00€ stamp in the series **Personalities: Krista Bendová** [Pofis 785]. The stamp celebrates the birth centenary of the author and was designed by Natália Ložeková, based on a photograph by Magda Borodáčová. It shows the writer's head, sketched as if it was drawn on a classroom chalkboard (Fig. 1). It was produced in sheets of 50. Bendová (1923-1988) started her working career as a journalist, but soon realized that she

wanted to be an author. She became a much-loved writer of books for school-age children, mainly through collections of humorous poetry, which are still widely read today. She also wrote a series of fairy tales about a character called Osmijanko. The cachet of the FDC (Fig. 2), engraved by Ľubomír Žálec, illustrates a scene from the poem *O spadnutej hruške* (About a Fallen Pear) and the cancellation is a box of writing instruments and a facsimile of Bendová's signature.

2. On February 17, 2023 the Ministry issued a 2.00€ stamp in the series **Personalities: Ján Gotčár** [Pofis 786]. The stamp celebrates the 200th anniversary of the patriot's birth and was produced in sheets of 50. The portrait-type figure was designed by Peter Augustovič and the image is based on an 1863 lithograph by Josef Přecechtěl (Fig. 3). Gotčár (1823-1883) began adult life as a teacher at a Catholic school. At the time of the

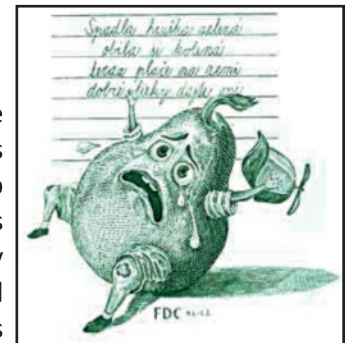


Figure 2

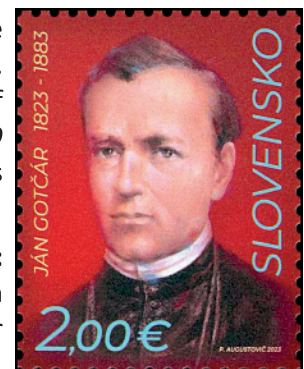


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 6

1848 uprising he became a fervent nationalist, which eventually led to his becoming a founding member of the Slovak Matica cultural organization, as well as being installed as the Abbot of Koblan. After “retiring” in 1867 he became a founder of the Svaty Vojtech (St. Adalbert) Association and was later the main instigator of the establishment of a Catholic Grammar School in Kláštor pod Znievom, which was later forcibly closed due to the Magyarization policy of the Hungarian rulers. The FDC cachet has a view of the school building with a background of Gotčár’s personal correspondence (Fig. 4). The cancellation is a facsimile of his signature.

3. On February 24, 2023 the Ministry issued a T2 50g (0.75€) stamp to celebrate **Easter 2023: Slovak Folk Woodcarving** [Pofis 787]. The stamp, designed by Adrian Ferda, depicts a Pieta (Fig. 5) by Stefan Siváň which is in the Ostrava Gallery. Siváň (1906-1995) was a farmer and wheelwright who turned to woodcarving as a means to boost his income. Completely untrained artistically, this led to the intuitive naïve style for which he is famous. He started by carving figures for cribs, but eventually his work enlarged to a monumental size, the subject matter



Figure 5

s o m e t i m e s moving on from his original pastoral figures to musicians and thieves. He also depicted religious themes which led to the

choice of subject for this Easter stamp (and later this year the Holy Family for the Christmas stamp). The FDC cachet is a knight on horseback (Fig. 6) and the cancellation is Christ enthroned. A stamp booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps and a pictorial postcard were also issued.

4. On February 28, 2023 the Ministry jointly issued with the Republic of Armenia a commemorative sheet to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries: **Christian Monuments from the 9th Century**. The stamp sheet contains 20 copies of two different 1.00€ stamps and 5 coupons (Fig. 7). It was designed by Peter Augustovič and produced by a combination of multi-color offset and serigraphy. The subject matter of the stamps was chosen to reflect the fact that Christianity unites the two geographically distant countries. The 1.00€ stamp with Slovak subject matter shows **St. George’s Church in Nitrianska Blatnica** [Pofis



Figure 7

788]. The church buildings date from the mid-16th century, but archaeological research, carried out since 1976, has found that the foundations of the rotunda date from the 9th century, during the time of the Great Moravian Empire. Radiocarbon dating of timber has led to the conclusion that the original church was built in the year 830 plus or minus 30 years, which makes the site the oldest preserved church in Slovakia. The FDC cachet depicts a view through a ruined church with Marhát Mountain behind (Fig. 8) and the cancellation is a plan of the original 9th century rotunda. The 1.00€ stamp with Armenian subject matter shows **Tatev Monastery** [Pofis 789] which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The main church

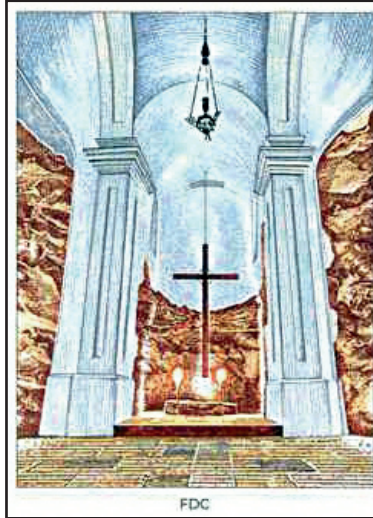


Figure 8

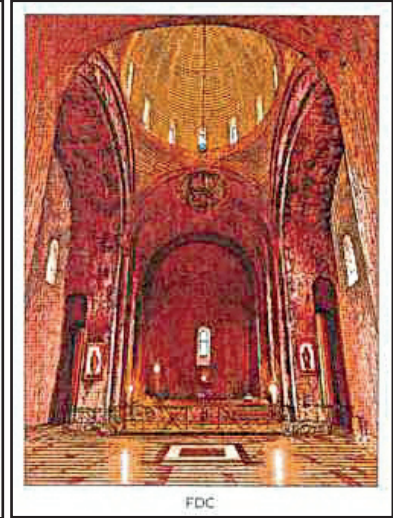


Figure 9

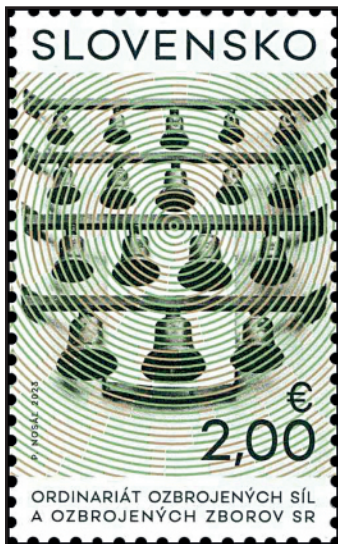


Figure 10

of the monastery is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul but has an earlier single-nave church dedicated to St. Gregory the Illuminator, Armenia's patron saint, which was originally constructed between 836 and 848. It was destroyed in an earthquake in 1138 and the appearance of the church dates from 1295. The FDC cachet features the interior of the church (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is a Khachkar, a form of cross typically found in Armenia.

5. On March 1, 2023 the Ministry issued a 2.00€ stamp to commemorate the **20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Military Ordinariate of Slovakia** [Pofis 790].

The stamp depicts the carillon of bells from St. Sebastian Cathedral in Bratislava (Fig. 10) and was designed by Peter Nosál and produced in sheets of 50. The ordinariate is a special diocese dedicated to the pastoral care of Catholic believers from the armed forces of the Slovak Republic and was established by Pope John Paul II through his Papal Bull of Spiritual Progress.

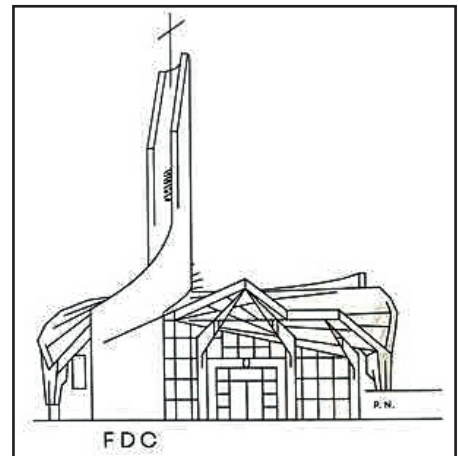


Figure 11

The FDC cachet is an outline drawing of St. Sebastian Cathedral (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is the coat of arms of the ordinariate.

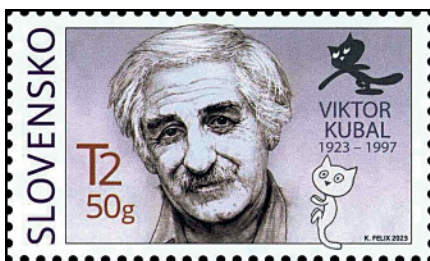


Figure 12

6. On March 20, 2023 the Ministry issued a T2 50g stamp in the series **Personalities: Viktor Kubal** [Pofis 791]. The stamp celebrates the centenary of Kubal's birth and portrays the head of the filmmaker, together with his famous kittens – Puf and Muf (Fig. 12). It was designed by Karol Felix and produced in sheets of 50 using recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. Kubal (1923-1991) was the founder of Slovak animated film, creating 214 animated shorts and features during a career spanning over 45 years. As an innovator for animated art he was often the story writer, scriptwriter, animator, director and

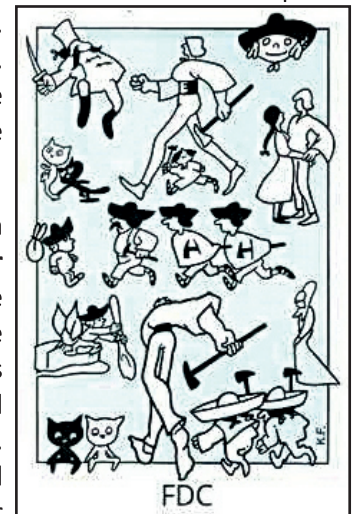


Figure 13



Figure 14

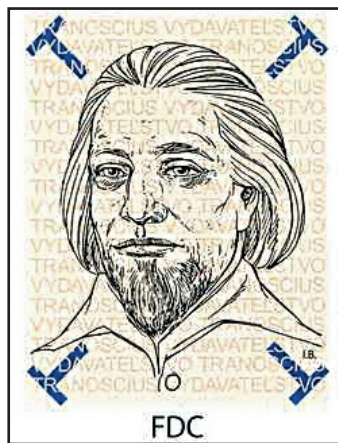


Figure 15

shows the logo of the publishing company (Fig. 14). It was designed by Igor Benca, engraved by Jozef Česla and produced in sheets of 50 using multi-color offset combined with serigraphy. Founded in 1898 and named for the 17th century Lutheran pastor and publisher, George Tranoscius (Juraj Tranovský), it started life as a publisher of religious works, particularly manuals for use within the Lutheran Evangelical Church. More recently they expanded their output to include works of fiction and poetry. A long-term activity is to reach out to Slovaks in communities across the globe, enabling them to preserve their mother language and keep in touch with their native culture. The cachet of the FDC is a contemporary portrait of Tranoscius (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is an outline of books in the shape of the letter 'T'.

Postal Stationery

8. On February 9, 2023 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional imprint to celebrate the exhibition: **Peter Uchnár: Space For A Story** [Pofis 323 CDV 314/23] which is



Figure 1

taking place at the Postal Museum in Banská Bystrica. The additional print is a poster for the exhibit (Fig. 16) showing a page from a book illustrated by Uchnár, who has provided images for more than 50 books.

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On February 15, 2023 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a “B” value (23 Kčs) stamp in the series **Personalities: Nicolaus Copernicus** [Pofis 1188]. The stamp shows a portrait of the astronomer with a background of our solar system (Fig. 1). It was designed by Jindřich Ulrich and printed in sheets of 50. The stamp celebrates the 550th anniversary of Copernicus’s birth in Toruń, then in Royal

filmmaker for much of his early work. His most memorable work was for the TV series of cartoons starring the mischievous cats Puf and Muf which aired on Czech TV from 1969-1973. The FDC cachet has a selection of characters from his cartoons (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is the cartoon character Janko Hrašek. A commemorative sheet was also issued.

7. On April 27, 2023 the Ministry issued a 1.20€ stamp to commemorate the **125th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Tranoscius Publishing House** [Pofis 792]. The stamp

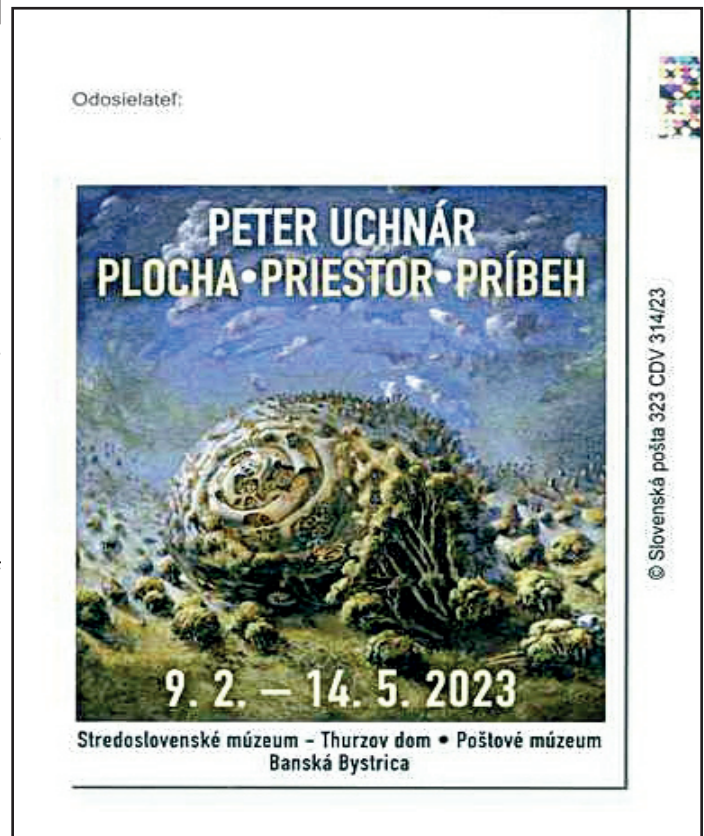


Figure 16

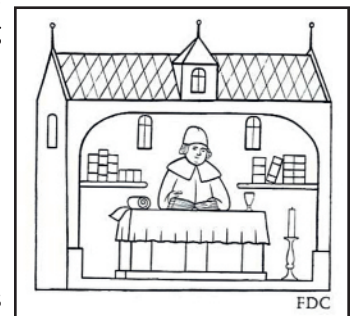


Figure 2

Prussia, today in Poland. He is famed as a Renaissance era polymath, working as a mathematician and economist as well as an astronomer. His most famous work is that in which he formulated a model of the universe with the Sun at its center rather than the Earth as had been used earlier. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, is designed to resemble a Renaissance woodcut showing a study within a monastery (Fig.

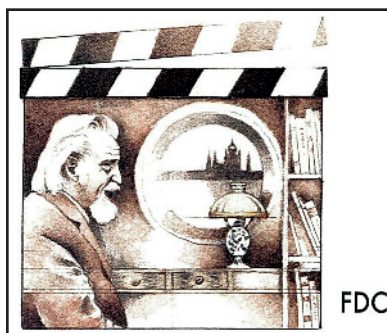


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 7

of the return of spring, seen through age-old folk traditions such as the Czech making of willow braided whips.

5. On March 15, 2023 the Ministry issued a 27 Kčs stamp in the series **Personalities: Jan Janský** [Pofis 1192]. The stamp has a portrait of Janský with a background of the lettering A, B, O, and AB (Fig. 8). It was designed by Lenka Vojtová and printed in sheets of 50. The stamp celebrates the 150th anniversary of Janský's birth. He was a noted neurologist, serologist and psychiatrist whose research was into a connection between

2) and the cancellation symbolizes a central Sun within the four phases of the Earth's orbit.

2. On February 15, 2023 the Ministry issued a "B" value stamp to commemorate the centenary of the birth of **Zdeněk Podskalský** [Pofis 1189]. The stamp, designed by Michal Novák, shows a facial portrait of the film director (Fig. 3) and was produced in sheets of 50. He directed 32 films between 1950 and 1987, which were usually of a comedic, farcical nature. His most viewed movie was the 1973 *Noc na Karlštejně* (One Night in Karlštejn), a musical dramedy featuring the Emperor Charles IV and Queen Eliška. The cachet for the FDC portrays a filmset chopper board showing Podskalský in his Lesser Town Square apartment (Fig. 4) and the cancellation contains a facsimile of his signature.

3. On February 15, 2023 the Ministry issued an "E" value (39 Kčs) commemorative stamp in the series: **Beauties of Our Country: Kozel Chateau** [Pofis 1190]. The stamp was designed by Ivana Lomová and shows a view of the hunting lodge from a nearby hill (Fig. 5). It was printed in a miniature sheet of 8, arranged in two separate groups of 4 stamps. The chateau was owned by Count Czernin and situated in Štáhlavy, south east of Plzeň. This hunting lodge was used to accommodate his guests and their retinue during hunts in the surrounding forests. The building's design is a huge rectangle enclosing a courtyard and it was completed in 1790. Nowadays the estate is open to the public and used as a starting point for hiking. The FDC cachet is from a watercolor sketch showing the entrance to the courtyard (Fig. 6) and the cancellation is the head of a goat (Kozel is goat in Czech and is the symbol used for everything connected with this chateau).

4. On February 15, 2020 the Ministry issued a "B" value definitive stamp to celebrate **Easter** [Pofis 1191]. The stamp shows a chick hatching from their egg and cleverly decorating it in a seasonal way (Fig. 7). The stamp was designed by Jiří Slíva and printed in sheets of 40. Easter is now both a major Christian holiday, as well as a celebration

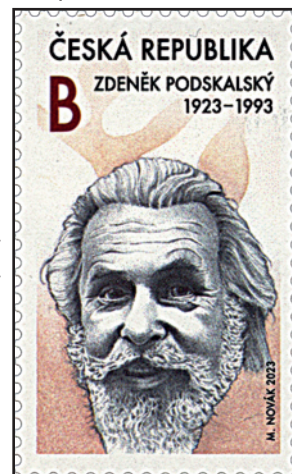


Figure 3

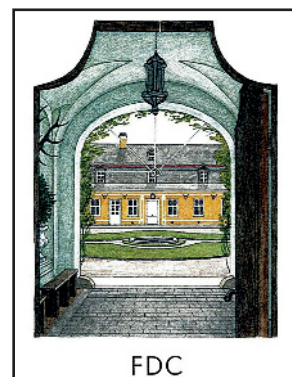


Figure 6

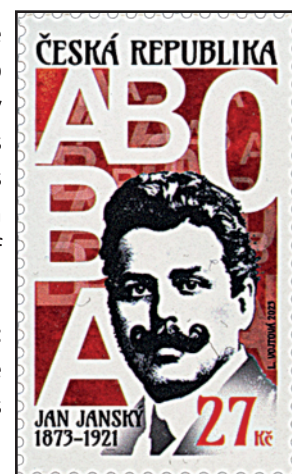


Figure 8

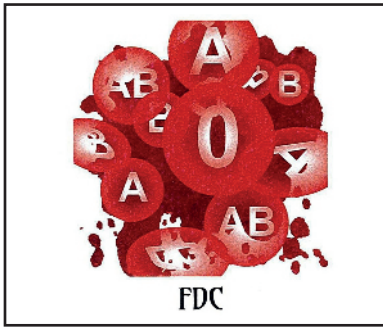


Figure 9

blood clotting and mental illness. Although he found that there was no such relationship, in 1907 he did discover that human blood can be classified into four different groups, A, B, O and the rare AB. Later after serving as a doctor during World War I this led him to be a major supporter of voluntary blood donations. The FDC cachet shows a coagulation of blood cells (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is lettering for the four blood groups.



Figure 10

6. On March 15, 2023 the Ministry issued a 34 Kč commemorative stamp in the series **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: František Drtikol** [Pofis 1193]. The stamp shows the 1931 photograph *Duše (Ochrana Boží)* Soul (Protection of God) (Fig. 10) which is in the Museum of Decorative Arts (UPM) in Prague. Graphic design was by Milan Jaroš and it was printed in a miniature sheet of 4 with a blank central coupon. Drtikol was a noted portrait photographer, who later concentrated on work with a style of Symbolism and Art Nouveau. After 1935 he gave up photography and became



Figure 12

a painter of philosophical and religious themes. The UPM contains more than 5000 examples of his work. The FDC cachet shows a nude standing in a shaded room (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is a contemporary version of the artist's initials.



Figure 11

7. On March 15, 2023 the Ministry issued an "A" value (30 Kč) stamp in the series **Beauties of Our Country: Český Šternberk Castle** [Pofis 1194]. The stamp shows the castle from the other side of the River Sázova (Fig. 12) and was designed by Jan Kavan, with additional line drawing by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by recess printing with a flat plate combined with multicolor offset

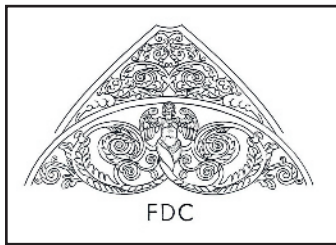


Figure 13

and printed in a miniature sheet of 8 stamps arranged in two separate groups of 4. The castle is about 35 miles (56 Km) south east of Prague and was built by Zdeslav Divišovic in the 13th century. They eventually took their name from the castle (Star Mountain). Remarkably, other from a few gaps, the castle is still in the possession of the Šternberk family, having regained it after 1992. The castle was enlarged and modernized during the 15th century in the Gothic style, with interior modernization carried out in the 1760s. After 1992 the castle was restored and refurbished by Zdeněk Šternberk who died in 2021, the castle now being occupied by his son Filip, who

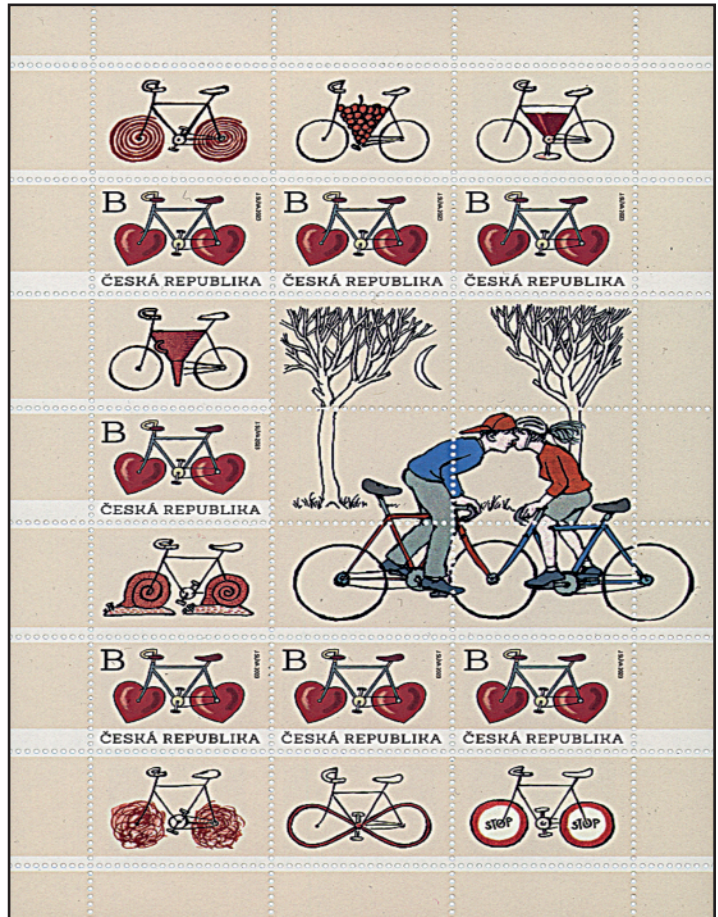


Figure 14

is the 21st generation of the Šternberk family to live there. The FDC cachet is a motif of stucco to be found in the Yellow Salon (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is a stucco cartouche from the Knight's Hall.

8. On March 15, 2023 the Ministry issued a "B" value stamp to celebrate the recreational pastime of **Cycling** [Pofis 1195]. The stamp and sheet were designed by Jiří Slíva and has 7 stamps showing a bicycle that has hearts instead of wheels (Fig. 14). Eight coupons narrate a story of a trip to a vineyard going from top left to bottom right. The first coupon is a full glass of wine which is gradually drunk, causing the bicycle to slow down and eventually come to a complete standstill. Six other connected coupons show the couple face to face on intertwined bicycles (with the back wheel of one bike protruding into the margin of the sheet). These six coupons can be used for additional private printing.

9. On April 5, 2023 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet to celebrate **Giovanni Santini and His Buildings** [Pofis 1196-1198, A1196]. The sheet was designed by Karel Zeman and contains a single copy of three different value stamps and a birds-eye plan of Rychnov nad Kněžnou Chateau (Fig. 15). Giovanni Santini (also known as Jan Santini

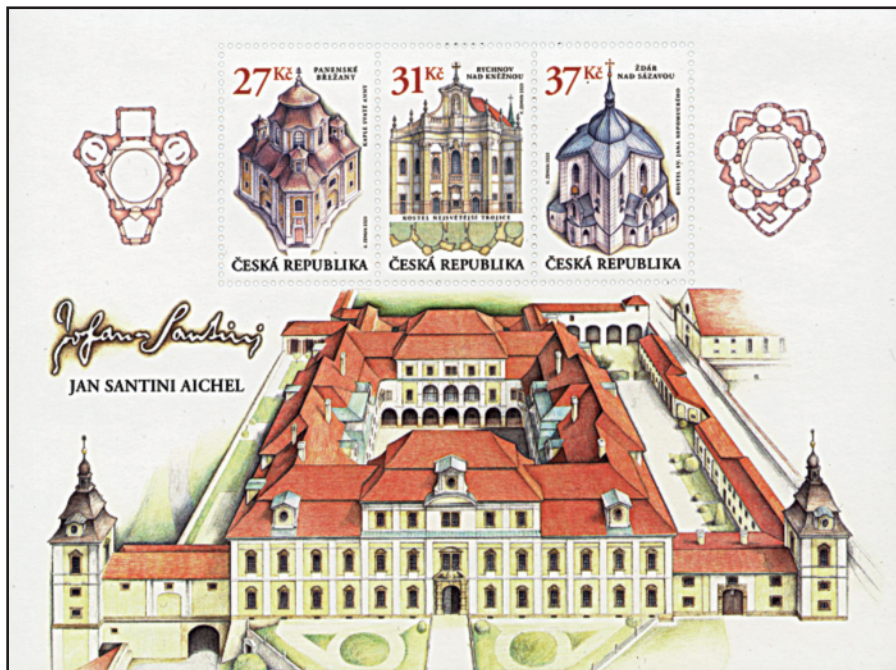


Figure 15

Aichel) was a Czech architect of Italian heritage. His major works were designed using a unique combination of the Baroque and Gothic styles. The 27 Kč stamp shows the **Chapel of St. Anne at Panenské Břežany**, which was completed in 1707, situated immediately adjacent to a Benedictine monastery, which was demolished in 1830. The FDC cachet, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, shows a second floor interior of the chapel (Fig. 16) and the cancellation shows the chapel's triangular floor plan which is shown in more detail to the left of the stamp on the sheet. The 31 Kč stamp shows the **Church of the Holy Trinity at Rychnov nad Kněžnou chateau**. The chateau was originally built in 1676 for the Kolowrat family, who expanded and redesigned it in the early 18th century under the direction of Santini. This included construction of this church which is adjacent to the chateau. The church is recognized for housing a 15432 lbs. (7000 kg) bell known as Kryštof. The FDC cachet shows a detail of the church's façade (Fig. 17) and the cancellation shows the floor plan of the church. The 37 Kč stamp shows the **Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Žďár nad Sázavou**. This was Santini's final completed work, finished in 1722 and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. The church is constructed on a five-pointed star plan, as Nepomuk is associated with a halo containing five stars. The FDC cachet shows details of the interior stonework of the church (Fig. 18) and the cancellation is a simplified plan of the church containing five stars.

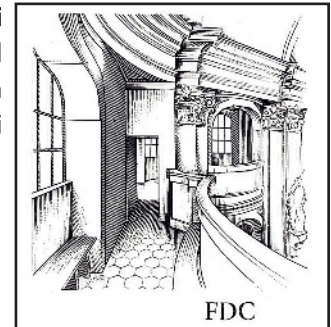


Figure 16

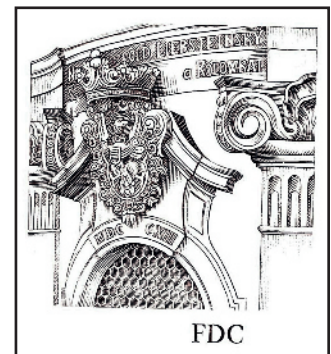


Figure 17

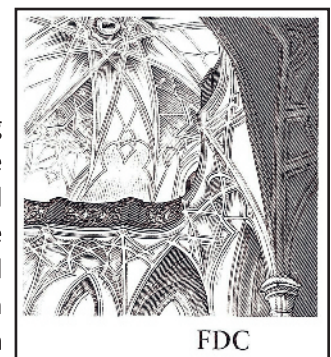


Figure 18

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