



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
AN INCORPORATED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WINNER OF NUMEROUS PHILATELIC LITERATURE AWARDS.
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This year's stamp in the long running series
"Nature Protection" reminds us of the importance of bees
and their struggle to survive in the modern world.

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SCOUT STAMPS BRING EXTRAORDINARY PRICES AT GROSVENOR AUCTION IN JULY by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

On July 7, 2023 Grosvenor Auctions in London sold a collection of worldwide scout-related stamps. This was the collection of John Ineson, a collector of scout stamps since 1955, at which time fewer than 100 scout stamps had been issued. Part of his collection contained stamps and postal history related to the Czechoslovakia Scout Post issue from 1918. The prices realized for the Czechoslovak material from this auction were quite remarkable.

Our member, Randall Frank, attended the auction and said that there were two foreign agents at the auction, who bought all the Scout Post items, except one. As soon as all the Scout Post lots had been auctioned, these two agents left the room immediately. This has led to speculation that there may well be Czech collectors trying to bring Scout Post material home to the Czech Republic. Their bidding probably explained the high prices of the lots, which was well above the recent market prices at auctions in Prague.

In particular there were prices realized for three lots that were extraordinary:-

Lot 157 – two “Masaryk Arrival” overprints, MH with “some creasing” which sold for £12,500 (approximately \$15,210) with 20% buyer’s premium to add.

Lot 159 – cover with both “Masaryk Arrival” overprints which realized £12,000 (approx. \$14,600).

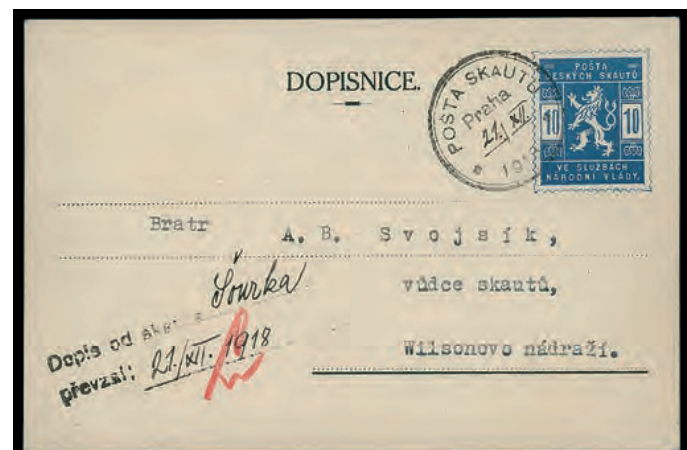
Lot 165 – post card sent to A.B. Svojsík, the Chief Scout, sold for £8,800 (approx. \$10,710). This was one of a very few post cards mailed that day, December 21, 1918, which was the day of Masaryk’s arrival in Prague. The Scout Post was reactivated for that one day, to assist the provisional government of The National Council.



- 157 -



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- 152 -



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- 153 -



- 154 -



- 149 -



- 156 -

- 160 -



- 155 -



- 158 -

- 162 -



- 163 -



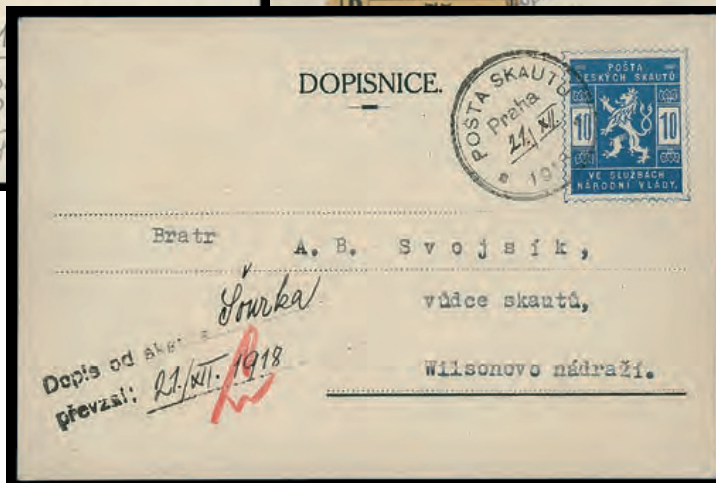
- 164 -

- 168 -



- 161 -

- 165 -



Lot #	Catalog estimate (£)	Realized price (£)	Approx. realized price (\$)
148	120-150	230	295
149	500-600	2100	2555
150	100-120	170	205
151	100-120	160	195
152	120-150	160	195
153	120-150	200	245
154	120-150	200	245
155	100-120	420	510
156	1500-2000	5000	6085
157	500-600	12500	15210
158	600-700	4800	5840
159	2000-3000	12000	14600
160	100-120	500	610
161	150-200	700	850
162	1000-1200	2600	3165
163	800-1000	2200	2675
164	1000-1200	5500	6690
165	1000-1200	8800	10710
166	200-250	380	460
167	100-120	80	95
168	150-200	420	510

The table above shows the lot numbers for the Czechoslovak items, together with the estimated price for the stamps/covers, and the actual amount realized in British pounds and US dollars. A 20% buyer's premium has to be added to these prices.

The images in this article are provided by Grosvenor Auctions PLC, and were first seen in the catalog for their July 6, 2023 auction – The John Ineson Collection of Scouting and the Mafeking Siege.

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Essential Literature for Collectors of Czechoslovak Philately by James A. Buckner

A collector in any area of philately needs information, specifically information on the stamps, covers, and ephemera of their collecting area. For those members interested in different areas of Czechoslovak philately, we have put together a list of essential literature you can utilize to make your collecting efforts more enjoyable.

The first suggestion is for those at least partially unfamiliar with the area. *The Philately of Czechoslovakia for Beginners*, by Phil Freer (Fig. 1- \$10 in our bookstore) is published by your Society. This short survey discusses all the areas of Czechoslovak philately in detail so that the uninitiated can easily make decisions on what areas to focus their efforts.

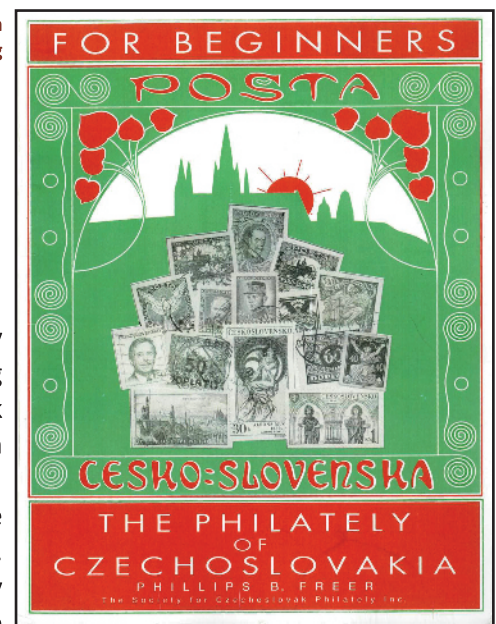


Figure 1

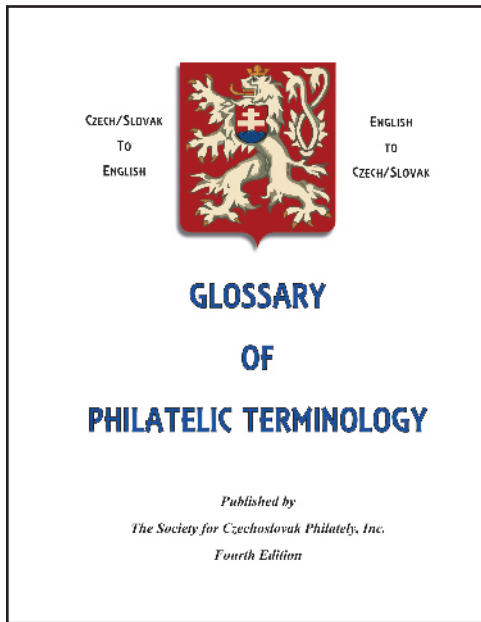


Figure 2



Figure 3

The major difficulty for English speakers while collecting stamps from a country with a language other than English is the difficulty of translating catalogs. For ease with this, our second suggestion is *Glossary of Philatelic Terminology* (Fig. 2 - \$25 from the bookstore), also from our Society. No mere dictionary, this handsome volume translates the typical terms one would find in a Czech or Slovak language catalog from Czech or Slovak to English and vice-versa.

For English speakers, we recommend the two most well-known catalogs in English, those from Scott and Stanley Gibbons (Fig. 3). Either catalog will give a sound basis for further research by collectors. The Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic and Slovakia sections in the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* covers all the basics and then some. The catalog covers Czechoslovakia from its inception (1918) through to the present with all the political changes that occurred. Stanley Gibbons issues catalogs in this area that are full of information and are quite thorough and well-illustrated.

For additional detail, the catalogs published by POFIS (from Prague in the Czech Republic) are very thorough, but one faces a language barrier using these catalogs. This is where the previously mentioned *Glossary of Philatelic Terms* comes in handy.

POFIS (Fig. 4) publishes separate catalogs on the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1939), the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (1939-1945), the Second Czechoslovak Republic (1945-1992), and the Czech Republic (1993-present - \$25 in the bookstore).

Slovakia (1939-1945 and 1993 to present) is covered by two publishers in Slovak: *Slovensko 1993-2017 Specializovaný Katalog* by Zberateľ in Bratislava, 2018 (Fig. 5), and *Slovensko 1939-1945 Katalog známok a celin* by Filatelia-Numizmatika Album, in Bratislava, 2019. The Zberateľ catalog also issues a yearly update.

Also in Czech, Merkur-Revue (from Brno, Czech Republic) publishes a three-volume set that covers the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1939) thoroughly and is well-illustrated (Fig. 6 – Vols I and II \$55 and Vol III \$36).

For a truly deep dive into all phases of Czechoslovak philately, it is worth mentioning the *Monografie* series. This series is really for the specialist. Published beginning in 1971

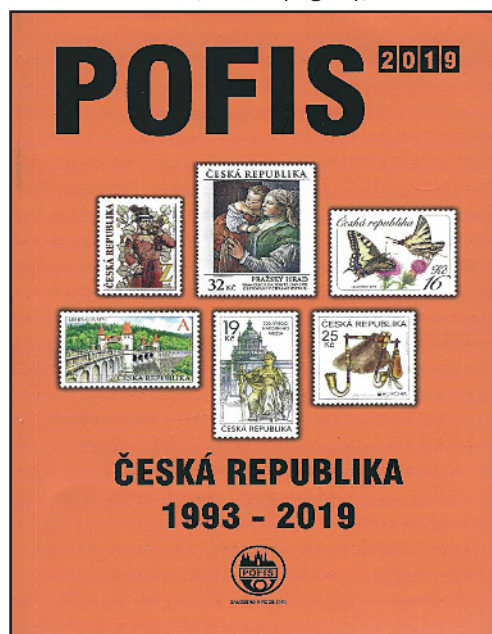


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

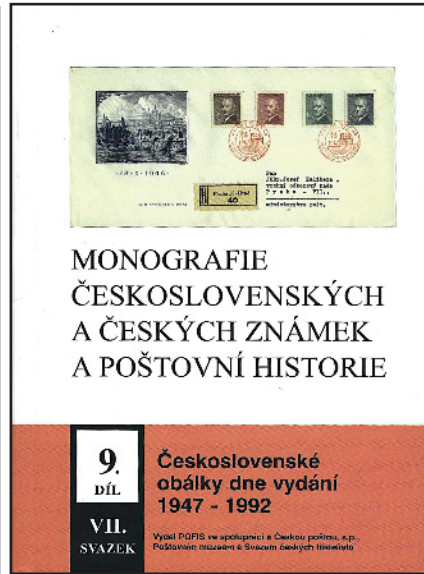


Figure 7



Figure 8

and continued to the present, this series of hardback volumes (Volumes 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 13-17, 20, 24-25, and 40 published thus far) start with the earliest issues and include all manner of topics, from the stamp issues themselves to a history of post offices, postal uniforms, production techniques, and forerunner stamps (those primarily issued by the Austro-Hungarian Empire and used in what became Czechoslovakia and later Slovakia and the Czech Republic). While the earlier issues of the *Monografie* series (Fig. 7) are no longer in print, used copies can usually be obtained by contacting the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (www.csphilately.net).

Since its founding in 1939, the SCP has continually published a journal in English, *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (Fig. 8), and membership comes with a DVD which indexes and makes available all articles from 1939-2009, an education in itself.

This is by no means a complete list of essential literature, nor is it intended to be. We merely wanted to present a starting list for collectors to use while collecting this area.

[Ed. note: this is a revised version of an article first published in the *Philatelic Literature Review*, first quarter 2023, American Philatelic Research Library, Inc.].



Karel Hujer: Postcards from the Realm of Stars by Dr. Tomáš Duchoň

By linking postal material to a historic entity, be it a place, a person or any other subject, social philately offers a uniquely personal window into the past. The virtues of the approach shine especially brightly when three conditions are met: a) the subject being of general interest, b) the subject generating a critical mass of postal material, and c) the postal material being preserved. The value inherent in the convocation of the three points is wonderfully illustrated in the persona of Karel Hujer.

Karel was born in 1902 in the small town of Železný Brod, in what was then the Habsburg monarchy. He witnessed the approach of Halley's Comet in 1910 and remained forever enchanted by the unfolding universe, destined to become an astronomer. This fascination took him from the Realschule in Turnov, where he walked barefoot in order to save his shoes, to the largest telescope in the world, at the Mount Wilson Observatory in California. Along the way, he took up menial jobs, washing dishes in a London restaurant or checking resistance coils in a Chicago factory, until his lectures became popular enough to sustain his other passion, that of traveling. And travel he did, to the farthest corners of the world and back. But what is most important for us is that in doing so, he met people. He befriended the great French astronomer Nicolas Camille Flammarion, he dined with Romain

Rolland in his cottage above Lake Geneva, he was the guest of Mahatma Gandhi in Wardha, and he had Albert Einstein write into his journal.

To keep in touch with all his connections, Karel wrote letters and postcards in droves. His scientific rigor then led him to carefully archive these. He labelled postcards with the date and place he received them and made copies of the letters he was sending. That is why many still survive today. But what Karel perhaps did not realize on his frequent trips to the post office was that he was, in essence, writing his autobiography. All the postal



material tracks his position in time and space and gives commentary on the tumultuous first half of the 20th century. And he had a lot to say, from the vantage point of a well-traveled man who saw his home country of Czechoslovakia rise out of the ashes of the Habsburg monarchy only to be crushed under the heel of the Third Reich and subsequently chained by the Soviet Union. It was the latter that barred him from ever properly returning home, and, in his absence, he was slowly forgotten.

But we believe his story is to be remembered, the way he himself wrote it. That is why we embarked on a project to catalog and archive Karel Hujer's postcards. The

collection, now spanning almost 300 postcards, chronicles the journey of the astronomer extraordinaire and presents distinctly personal historical vistas. It is accessible at historyinpostcards.com/hujer.

But there are still many threads of his story to be woven. Perhaps your collection includes a piece of the puzzle? In such case, please send a scan of your philatelic item to me via my email duchon@historyinpostcards.com. Thank you in advance!



BOOKSTORE SALE

The bookstore has received donations of various titles from late members' estates that we offer for sale. This is a great chance to enhance your philatelic library with some classics! The following volumes are offered used at highly discounted prices. As such, they may be annotated or show wear, some may have dust covers, some not. **Purchases are made on a first-come, first-served basis with the buyer paying shipping costs of their choice.** Please contact the Book Sales Manager, James Buckner, at wellseats@hotmail.com with any questions.

FOR SALE:

Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeč (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps) by Karásek, Kvasnička, and Paulíček. In Czech. The 1963 classic which covers all manner of forgeries, 369 pages with b/w illustrations. Anyone who collects the Pošta Československo 1919 will want and require this indispensable book. Seldom seen. \$30 plus shipping.

Monografie 1 – Covers Forerunner stamps, Postage due stamps of Austria-Hungary, Revolutionary issues (Marešův, Hornerův, Pražské, Skalické, Šrobárov), Hradčany, and post office name translations (Austrian PO names on the Czech lands and Hungarian PO names on the Slovak lands. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 2 – Covers the Legionnaire, Pošta Československá 1919, Masaryk, Carrier Pigeon, Chainbreaker, Hussite Priest, Agriculture & Science, Red Cross overprint issues, as well as Postal Stationery. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 3 – Covers the definitive stamps and Postal Stationery from 1923-1939. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 4 – Covers the Airmail, Newspaper, Postage Due, Special Delivery, and Personal Delivery stamps from 1918-1939. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 11 – Covers Postal Service in the Terezín Ghetto. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 13 – Covers Czechoslovak Postal Cancels from the Austro-Hungarian period until 1918 including Basic Local Cancels (German – Czech alphabetical A to O), the Development of Cancels, Colors of Cancels, and the Types of Cancels and their Designators. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 14 – Covers Czechoslovak Postal Cancels from the Austro-Hungarian period until 1918 including Basic Local Cancels (German – Czech alphabetical P to Z), Railroad Post Cancels, Fieldpost Cancels, Special Occasion Cancels, and Official Cancels. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 15 – Covers Postmarks on the Slovak Lands 1752 to 1918. \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 16, Vol. I – Covers 1918-1920 Postmarks of Austrian and Hungarian Origin with a Catalog of 1918-1920 Postmarks used in the Czech Lands (alphabetical A to S). \$20 plus shipping.

Monografie 17, Vol II – A Catalog of the 1919-1939 Postmarks in Czech lands (Prachatice to Z), a catalog of 1919-1939 Postmarks in Slovakia, Ruthenia, and T.P.O. Postmarks, along with an Alphabetical List of Post Office Names. \$20 plus shipping.

Speciální Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známek (Specialized Handbook for Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps) by Ladislav Novotný. A classic catalog from one of the giants of Czechoslovak philately. \$10 plus shipping.

Specializovaná Příručka pro Sběratel Československých Poštovních Známek a Celin (Specialized Handbook for Collectors of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps and Stationery). The 1988 hardcover with 553 pages in color. Packed with tons of information on all aspects of Czechoslovak philately. \$25 plus shipping.

Pošta v Ghettu Terezín 1941-1945 (Mail Service in the Terezín Ghetto 1941-1945). Czech/English/German. A beautiful 345 page book which describes all aspects of the postal system in the Terezín Ghetto. B/W except for a 16 page color section. \$75 plus shipping.

Please don't miss this opportunity to add to your philatelic library at bargain prices !!!



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

-- NOTICE --

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Keith D. Hart, Managing Editor 11 Sept., 2023

President's Corner

In early June the SCP met and participated in NAPEX 2023 in McLean, VA. I want to thank the organizing committee of NAPEX, and especially our own member, **Richard Livingston**, for putting on an excellent and well-organized exhibition and show! The SCP had a table in a prominent position where we welcomed visitors, sold literature, and signed up at least three new members. The SCP was also represented by three members who exhibited at the show. Congratulations to **Alan Hanzl**, who won a **Gold Medal** for his exhibit **The Partitioning of Czechoslovakia (1938-1939)**, as well as the Society's **Alfons Mucha Award** for the best Czech-related exhibit; **James A. Buckner** was awarded a **Large Vermeil** for **Czechoslovakia's Newspaper Stamps 1918-1919** (Ed. note: I had to sneak this in as James did not want this mentioned!); **Lou Svoboda** also received a **Large Vermeil** for **Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1919**.

Your Board of Directors met on the Thursday prior to the show opening, where we discussed how to approach **digitizing our philatelic library**. A decision was reached to form a committee to further study the issue. Any member who may have experience and knowledge in this area are welcome to contact me to share their thoughts. The Board also discussed our participation in the **Great American Stamp Show** in Cleveland in August and also **Boston 2026**. The meeting ended with the election of officers for the next term. I am pleased to report that all the current officers were re-elected, so I will continue as President, **Alan Hanzl** as Vice-President, **Marisa Galitz** as Treasurer/Membership Secretary, and **Bill Slaninko** as Corresponding Secretary. I thank these members for continuing to give your time and efforts to the Society.

On the Saturday afternoon during NAPEX, the Society held its annual **General Membership Meeting** in the auditorium at the show hotel, where I reported that the Society is in solid financial shape. We continue to struggle to attract new members, however, and that is a concern. We all need to do our best to recruit new members to our club! During the meeting, we were treated to two presentations by members: Joe Coulbourne gave a fascinating talk on Perfins, while I spoke on Provisional Newspaper of 1918-1919. On Friday, we were fortunate to also have member Alan Hanzl present a talk on the Partitioning of Czechoslovakia 1938-1939. Thank you to Joe and Alan for taking the time to share your knowledge on your areas of interest. If anyone has a topic and wants to share their knowledge with the members at a future meeting, please let me know, and we will assist you. I should also note that **Joe Coulbourne** also agreed to fill an open Director's position after long-time Board member **Tom Cossaboom** had to resign from the Board due to health issues. Thank you Joe! And thank you Tom, for your many, many years of service to the SCP on the Board as well as serving as President and Secretary over the years.

As a society, our next meeting will be at **PIPEX** in Portland, OR which takes place on May 3-5, 2024. I am looking forward to seeing our members from the Pacific Northwest and West Coasts at the meeting! Show details will be forthcoming in future Specialists and the newsletter via email.

I would like to finish this column up with a few thoughts on running the Society. As a club, we are 84 years old and completely run by volunteers. Many of those who are on the Board currently or who undertake significant tasks for the SCP are facing age-related health issues that may curtail their participation in the future. Faced with those facts, I appeal to members to step forward to volunteer their time for the good of the Society. Since this is a hobby and should be fun, please consider what talents and interests you have and contact me. I trace my beginnings as a philatelist (and not a collector) to the time I volunteered to be the Society's Book Sales Manager, for I met many experienced and friendly people, and was exposed to so many more rewarding experiences once I got involved. I have not regretted one minute of my decision to volunteer. And I doubt you would either. Let me hear from you!

—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@csphilately.org or by check to:

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



“HAIL TO YOU BLESSED SOURCE OF HEALTH” THE STORY BEHIND A SLOVAK STAMP

by Keith Hart

The Thermia Palace Hotel and Spa is situated on an island in the River Vah, near Piešťany in Northwest Slovakia. When the hotel opened in 1919 it was the first 5-star hotel in the Slovak lands. A sizable geothermal pool is located within a domed addition to the hotel. The hotel quickly became famous for treatment of musculoskeletal disorders using the medicinal properties of the pool’s sulfuric water.

Inside the Art Deco hotel itself, the Grand Restaurant is home to a little known late masterpiece of the Czech artist, Alfons Mucha. *Hail to You Blessed Source of Health* hangs rather incongruously over a doorway between two dining rooms (Figure 1). It has become slightly better known since 2015 when Slovakia issued a miniature sheet featuring a stamp bearing the major



Figure 1. Mucha’s painting above a doorway in the Grand Restaurant.



Figure 2. The miniature sheet featuring a proof issued as part of an exhibit celebrating the work of František Horniak in 2016.

image from the painting [Pofis SK 602, Scott 729]. The miniature sheet shows the entire painting at the top, while four 1.20 € stamps fill the lower half (Figure 2). The stamp, elegantly designed and engraved by František Horniak, depicts a pale young woman in a rocking chair. She is the leftmost of three women who fill the canvas with grace and pleasantness.

Why did Alfons Mucha produce a painting for such an unlikely location? The answer is the figure in the rocking chair (Figure 3). She is Mucha’s daughter Jaroslava. She had intended to become a ballet dancer and it is thought that this ambition was threatened by a muscular ailment in her legs. Mucha and his wife had heard stories of the hotel’s healing spring and they visited it several times between 1929 and 1931, along with Jaroslava, who received treatment for her condition. The other two figures in the painting are dressed in traditional costume of the Piešťany area. One kneels dutifully against the legs of Jaroslava, her hair garlanded with the translucent disc-shaped seed pods of the *Lunaria* plant (Figure 4). The circular motif of the garland is carried over to a pattern on her lace shawl. The other young woman, in a similar costume, is bringing gifts for Jaroslava, a rose in one hand and a basket of fruit in the crook of her other arm.

Jaroslava was treated on a number of occasions by the staff of the hotel and spa. It is thought that Mucha agreed to create the painting to thank the owners and staff of the spa for their devotion and attentiveness towards his daughter. It was painted while Mucha had a studio in Nice and is officially known by the Latin name *Salutis Fons* (*Hail to You Blessed Source of Health*).

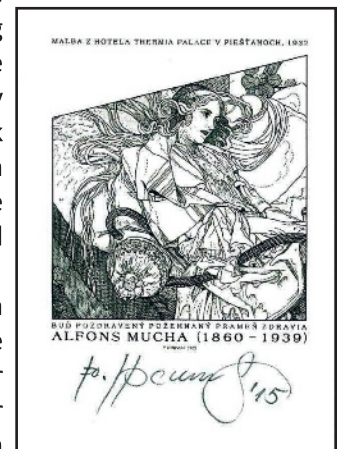


Figure 3. Black proof of the stamp, signed by František Horniak.



Figure 4. Cachet of the FDC, signed by František Horniak

Despite successive courses of treatment, they appear to have been unsuccessful, as Jaroslava became a painter, often assisting her father in the production of his famous masterpiece, the colossal canvasses of *The Slav Epic*. It is known that she mixed color palettes for him, as well as tracing the outlines on figures within the huge paintings. After World War II she worked on the restoration of *The Slav Epic* which had suffered damage while being hidden from the Nazi occupiers.

The painting remains in the beautifully restored hotel and restaurant. Its presence there has not been without incident. In 2000 the painting was removed by thieves, brutally cut from its frame and tightly rolled up. It remained unheard of for four years, at which time it was recovered by officers of Interpol. The painting had been badly damaged, in many areas the paint had cracked and fallen off, leaving only the canvas primer. After extensive restoration the painting was returned to its rightful place during the Christmas period of 2006. It remains today as a delightful distraction for diners in the restaurant.

SOURCES:

1. Czech Radio- *Damaged Alfons Mucha painting restored in Slovakia*; Emilie White; September 2, 2007.
2. Hotel Thermia Palace and Spa, Kúpeľný Ostrov, 921 29 Piešťany, Slovakia
3. Piešťany Tourist Information Center, Pribinova 2, 921 01 Piešťany, Slovakia
4. *Horniak, the 60 Best Engravings*; editor Martin Vančo- Slovenská pošta, a.s., Postové múzeum, Banská Bystrica- 2016



JOSEF HERČÍK AND PABLO PICASSO

by Keith Hart

Josef Herčík (1922-1999) was one of Czechoslovakia's foremost postage stamp designer/engravers. His career spanned over 35 years, from his first stamp in 1962, continuing on into the new era of the Czech Republic where he was the creator of their first postage stamp. In all he was responsible for over 460 engraved stamps and was the graphic designer of more than 100 of those.

Of all the postage stamps he worked on, some of the most memorable are the three stamps based on paintings by Pablo Picasso. In 1966 he engraved a stamp for an issue known as *30th Anniversary of the International Brigades in Spain*, the transnational group organized by the Soviet controlled Comintern that advocated and fought for communism worldwide. The brigades fought during the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939.



Figure 1. FDC of *Guernica* painting issued 5 July 1966 [Pofis 1543, Scott 1408].



Figure 2. FDC of *Guernica* painting issued 2 July 1981 [Pofis 2496, Scott 2374]

Picasso's painting, however, was a protest over an atrocity that occurred in 1937 when airplanes of Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe bombed the small Basque town of Guernica during market day. Over 70% of the town was destroyed and approximately 300 people out of a population of 5000 were killed. Picasso's famous painting was an impassioned protest to this evil slaughter of innocent civilians. The massive monochromatic canvas was a turning point in the acceptance of Cubism as a humanist art movement, rather than a cold and mechanical analysis of form. The figures within the painting are solid symbols of humanity expressing profound feelings of mourning, despair and anguish. Herčík's personal predicament was to produce an engraving with a size of approximately 2 ½" x 1 ¼" (6.3 x 3cm) to represent a painting that was 25'6" x 11'5" (7.76 x 3.49m). The resulting 60h stamp (Figure 1) was a triumph of detail in a miniature form. As Herčík himself said:

I have a very deep relationship to many of the stamps that I have made. One of them is Picasso's Guernica. The engraved version took almost half a year to make. It consisted of about 30,000 cuts and its size was a hundred times smaller than the original. Like the painting itself, the stamp was not welcomed by everybody. In Spain and Switzerland, postmen refused to deliver letters bearing

the stamp. It was a strange paradox that once the *Guernica* stamp was released in this country, miners from the Ostrava region began sending protest letters to the Communist Party leaders demanding its immediate withdrawal. They claimed it spread 'unintelligible foreign art'. Anyway, it was Picasso himself who gave permission for this unique turn-a-painting-into-a-stamp experiment.

The FDC cachet relating to this stamp was also a small element from a Picasso work. One of nine images from a work titled *The Dream and Lie of Franco* it represents a woman shot with an arrow. Fifteen years later Herčík's design was reworked as a 10 Kčs stamp to celebrate the centenary of Picasso's birth. Rather strangely, this time it was printed with blue and pink tinting to the image. The FDC cachet had an outstanding Herčík engraving of a Picasso sketch (Figure 2).



Figure 3. Black proof of Picasso *Self-portrait* issued 27 November 1972 [Pofis 1997, Scott 1851]

In 1972 Herčík produced another exceptional engraving of a Picasso painting, part of that year's Art stamp series. The subject this time was Picasso himself, a self-portrait dating from 1907 which is in the National Gallery in Prague. In his engraving for the 2.40 Kčs stamp (Figure 3) Herčík has managed to expertly reproduce the individual planes that are bordered by sharp black outlines, which help create the shape of the painting, just as much as Picasso's thick paint applied in varying layers and strokes. Herčík explained his approach to the design.

This portrait dates from a period when Pablo Picasso was influenced by Black African art. It is interesting that he never again did any other self-portrait. I tried not to do a banknote-style engraving which seems like the norm in many Czech stamps. I tried to do it differently, to turn the painting into lines reminiscent of a drawing in order to make the final result resemble the real painting. I think I managed to achieve that to a certain extent.

The final Herčík-Picasso postage stamp was issued in 1981, again to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Picasso's birth. It was also part of that year's Art series. This painting is another from the collection of the National Gallery in Prague and is known as *Standing Woman*. The 5 Kčs stamp shows a vigorous, insouciantly draped woman leaning on a ledge (Figure 4). Her appearance is similar to figures seen on Greek or Roman statuary. Rather like the *Mona Lisa* her facial expression has led to many discussions as to whether it is completely cold and emotionless, or perhaps has a slight enigmatic smile. This was possibly Picasso's intention and is aided by her gaze being slightly away from the viewer as well as the lower left side of her face being in shadow. Considering the numerous warm color shades of the painting, it must have been extraordinarily difficult to produce the stamp, as only five colors were available to print with. Only seven months after the issue of this stamp it was reused in a miniature sheet (Figure 5) to publicize the PHILEXFRANCE stamp exhibition held in Paris in 1982.



Figure 4. Black proof of Picasso *Standing Woman* issued 27 November 1981 [Pofis 2517, Scott 2390]

There are many other engraved stamps by Herčík which show his incredible skill and attention to detail. Whether his stamps showed fine art, landscapes of Prague, or his extensive series of city and town coats of arms, he always showed that he had completely mastered the skill of engraving, as can be seen in so many Czechoslovak (and a few Czech Republic) postage stamps.



Figure 5. Miniature sheet issued for PHILEXFRANCE 1982 [Pofis K2542, Scott 2390]

SOURCES

1) The sections of text by Herčík are taken from interviews that Jan Chovanec had with Herčík during 1998 and published as *The Story of Josef Herčík's Postage Stamps*, translated by Jan Chovanec, Jr. and Karlheinz Olsinger; Jaspis Press, Revoluční 1811, 688 01 Uherský Brod, Czech Republic 1998. This book was also extremely helpful in general research for the article.

Focus on Covers

THE VOYAGE OF THE PENTCHO

by Michael D. Bulmash and Keith Hart

In response to the relentless persecution and oppression of Jews in Nazi Germany, and the concomitant rise of extreme nationalism and anti-Semitism in Eastern European countries, many Jews considered immigration to Palestine, then under British mandate. However, in attempting to appease Palestinian Arabs, the British White Paper of 1939 severely restricted the immigration of Jews, adhering to unrealistic quotas at a time when Jews were desperate to escape certain death in their respective countries and had nowhere else to go, most countries having refused to accept more than a limited number of refugees. They would thus be considered "illegal aliens" but had no alternative but to attempt immigration to Palestine.



"Censored Airmail Postcard from Bratislava, Slovakia to Alfred Grunsfeld at "Concentration Camp" San Giovanni on the Island of Rhodes" (1941).

by Italian authorities and brought to the island of Rhodes - during the war under Italian control - where they lived for the next 15 months in "concentration camp" San Giovanni, a sports stadium on the island of Rhodes, guarded by Italian soldiers but aided by members of the indigenous Rhodes Jewish community who brought them food and supplies.

While at Rhodes the refugees were able to both send and receive mail. The postal card shown here was mailed by S. Grunsfeld in Bratislava to Alfred Grunsfeld at the San Giovanni Concentration Camp. Addressed as Italy as the Italians had occupied Rhodes and considered it to be part of Italy at that time. Both back and front bear the censor mark 'C 5'. The postal card is interesting as it is a pre-printed card with a 1.50 Kcs stamp featuring Andrej Hlinka (Zberatel #CDV 7/1). It also has a regular 1 Kcs stamp (Zberatel #L3X) adhered to it as payment for an airmail delivery. This was a postal card that could be mailed to somebody and had a prepaid tear-off card below it which the recipient could then send back to the original address in Bratislava".

They were eventually transferred in January 1942 to Ferramonti internment camp in southern Italy, living among other "enemy aliens," until they were liberated by the British army in 1943 after the Allies captured Italy. Most of the refugees successfully emigrated to Palestine, although a number were sent to the Fort Ontario refugee center in New York State.

The Jewish community of Rhodes were to take an entirely different journey. More than 1600 were to be herded onto three cargo vessels and wagons and transported to Auschwitz in the summer of 1944. Of the 2000 Jews living on the island before the war, only 150 survived the Holocaust.

NOTE: The cover and detailed information about the Pentcho were obtained from The Bulmash Archives at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH. This remarkable archive can be accessed at <https://digital.kenyon.edu/bulmash>.

The Pentcho, an old malfunctioning Danube paddle-steamer, left Bratislava, Slovakia on May 18, 1940 with 400 refugee Slovakian and German Jews, including some former inmates of Buchenwald, bound for Palestine, attempting to escape Nazi persecution. The voyage was organized by Betar, the right-wing Revisionist Zionists, as part of the Aliyah Bet. The Pentcho wheezed and clanked down the Danube, picking up 100 more refugee Austrian Jews along the way, and continued on to Palestine. Delays and diversions occurred, and during the arduous journey the ship's boiler exploded in Italian territory causing the Pentcho to split in two. The passengers, marooned on the deserted island of Kamilanisi, were nevertheless able to get their supplies ashore. Having been spotted by a plane, they were eventually picked up

CZECH REPUBLIC PRESIDENTS ON STAMPS (CONT'D)

by Keith Hart



Four years ago in the Fall 2019 Specialist, I completed what was then the complete list of stamps that contained images of Presidents. Now, at last, we can have an update as Petr Pavel recently became the fourth President of the Czech Republic. Pavel served in the Czechoslovak/Czech army for 44 years and thus was not a long-time political figure. In fact, he joined the Communist Party in 1985, a decision he later said was an enormous mistake. He was the Army Chief of Staff from 2012-2015 and Chair of the NATO Military Committee from 2015-2018 when he retired. In 2021 he decided to run for President in the 2023 election. Supported by an alliance of three political parties he won the second round of the election, receiving 58% of the votes.

After the election he announced that he did not want to be depicted on a postage stamp. After pressure from others, particularly a team of marketers within his office, he relented and eventually ended up having 10 different stamps of himself on a miniature sheet with 10 attached coupons. The same image is used for all the stamps but the different colors of each stamp's background relate to different parts of Czech society and culture.

The fact that the sheet contains 10 different color stamps meant that they had to be produced in a way not seen before in Czech stamp production. There are 13 different colors used in the offset process – 10 for the

background color of each stamp and 3 (2 black and 1 gray for the portrait). This meant that the stamp sheets had to pass through the offset printer three times. First, the three dark portrait colors, secondly the colors used in the left hand column of stamps, and finally, the colors in the right hand column, an extremely unusual way of acknowledging the start of a new Presidency.

Closed Album

It is with regret that we announce the death of longtime member, Vladimír J. Králíček who died June 18, 2023, aged 92. Born in Hodonin, Czechoslovakia, his father was the town librarian, which explains his lifetime love of reading. His early life was upturned by the Nazi invasion, as well as his parent's divorce during the war. At the age of 16, he left Czechoslovakia, hoping to link up with his mother's family, some of whom lived in New York. But fate led him to a different direction in his life. Stuck in Vienna for a year he worked for the US Army of Occupation, leaving in 1948 and settling in Great Britain where he remained until 1964. During that time, he met and married Ruth, a Scottish national, and they became parents of three children. During his time in Britain he had several jobs, including being a radio operator in the Merchant Navy. In January 1965, the family emigrated to New Zealand, living in Auckland.

Besides having a large collection of Masaryk postal cards, he also became interested in Czechoslovak Army FPO in 1938 and also Czech Army FPO in both Britain and France during World War II. He was well known to our Society as translator of those parts of *Monografie II* which related to the Dove and Chainbreaker stamps. These translations were published as a series in the *Czechoslovak Specialist*. On behalf of the Board and other longtime members who knew him we send our condolences to his widow, Ruth, and her family.

Keith Hart

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.

1. On May 9, 2023 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a commemorative postage stamp in the series **EUROPA 2023: PEACE - The Highest Value of Humanity** [Pofis 1202]. The 'E' value (39 Kčs) stamp has a pan-European logo designed by Linda Bos and Runa Egilsdóttir, with added graphic design by Kamil Knotek.



Figure 2

The stamp shows a Celtic knot symbol of interlocking hearts with intertwining fingers (Fig. 1) and was printed in a miniature sheet of 6. The subject matter of this year's stamp was inspired by the humanitarian support given by European nations to the people of the Ukraine. The FDC cachet shows the planet Earth in the shape of an egg in a nest, guarded by a dove, a universal symbol of peace (Fig. 2). The cancellation has a map of the Earth in the shape of an egg.



Figure 1

2. On May 9, 2023 the Ministry issued a 30 Kčs stamp to celebrate **100 Years of Czechoslovak Radio Broadcasting** [Pofis 1203]. The stamp, designed by Pavel Sivko, shows microphones used during the last 100 years (Fig. 3) and was printed in sheets of 50. Czechoslovak Radio commenced broadcasting on May 18, 1923, making it the second oldest operator in Europe after the BBC. It managed to continue operations during World War II, albeit in German under the control of the Nazi occupiers, and an illicit broadcast made on

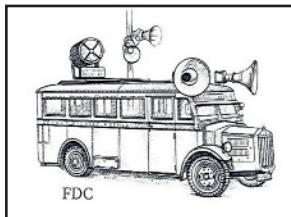


Figure 4

May 5, 1944 sparked the Prague Uprising. In 1968, on the first day of the Warsaw Pact occupation, they continued broadcasting until a brief fight between Soviet soldiers and unarmed civilian staff proved to be deadly. In 1992 the station became just Czech Radio and currently they operate 12 national stations and 14 regional stations. The FDC cachet, engraved by Václav Fajt, shows an early radio broadcasting bus (Fig. 4) and the cancellation shows a grouping of period radio speakers.



Figure 3

3. On May 17, 2023 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet celebrating **Czech and Moravian Baroque Murals** [Pofis 1204, 1205, A1204]. The sheet, designed by Pavel Hrach, contains single copies of 38 Kčs and 44 Kčs stamps which illustrate murals found in Moravia and Bohemia, with the margins of the sheet filled with part of another mural which can be found at the Sala Terrena within Vrtbovska Garden on Petřín Hill in Prague (Fig. 5). This fresco, painted by Václav Vavřinec Reiner in the 1720s, represents the story of Venus and Adonis.

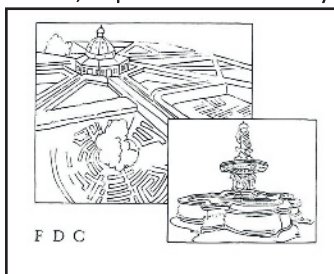


Figure 6

The 38 Kčs stamp shows part of a **ceiling mural in Kroměříž Chateau** which was carried out by Carpofofo Tencalla in the early 18th century. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, shows a view of the Baroque garden surrounding the chateau, together with a central fountain (Fig. 6) and the cancellation is Cupid with bow and arrow.



Figure 5

The 44 Kčs stamp shows part of a fresco to be found in the **entrance hall of Troja Castle**. It was painted by the Flemish artists Abraham and Isaac Godyn in the years

1688-1692. The fresco covers the walls and ceiling of the hall and depicts the defeat of Ottoman Turkish forces near Vienna in 1683. The FDC cachet, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, shows an aerial view of the castle, together with a detail of the entrance staircase (Fig. 7). The cancellation is a female figure from the fresco.

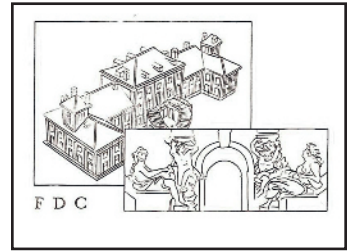


Figure 7

4. On May 17, 2023 the Ministry issued a 'B' value (23 Kčs) stamp in the series **Czech Design: Jaroslav Ježek** [Pofis 1206]. The stamp, designed by Klára Melichová, shows an "Elka" porcelain service (Fig. 8) and was printed in sheets of 50. Jaroslav Ježek, whose birth centenary falls this year, was one of the leading Czech industrial



Figure 9

designers of the 20th century. He came to prominence with his design for the "Elka" porcelain which won the Expo Grand Prix for Ceramics at the Brussels World Fair 1958. His sleek designs with Mid-Century Modern attributes of diagonal elements and pastel colors inspired other Czechoslovak designers in what became known as the Brussels Style. During his career he created over 50 sets of porcelain and more than 100 porcelain sculptures. The FDC cachet features a sculpture (Fig. 9) known as Hřebec (*Stallion*) and the cancellation is a stylized form of a leaf. A stamp booklet [Pofis ZSL72] containing eight self-adhesive stamps and four identical coupons was also issued.



Figure 8

5. On June 7, 2023 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with the value 'B'. The stamp has a portrait of Petr Pavel as **President of the Czech Republic** [Pofis 1207 – 1216, A1207] and was issued in a block of 10 with 10 coupons. An example of the stamp is shown as Fig. 10. The stamp was designed by Petr Štěpán with the portrait based on a photograph by Jana Jabůrková. It features the same image with different background color for each of the 10 self-adhesive stamps. The sheet is printed using 13 different offset colors, 10 for the background of each stamp and three for the portrait. Each background color represents a reference to a place, event or sense. [See the article related to this issue on page 15 of this issue].



Figure 10



Figure 11

6. On June 14, 2023 the Ministry issued a commemorative sheet in the series **Czech Actors and Actresses: Libuše Šafránková and Josef Abrhám** [Pofis 1217, 1218, A1217]. The sheet contains two copies each of two different 34 Kčs stamps with two blank coupons (Fig. 11). The sheet was designed by Jan Maget. The stamp for **Libuše Šafránková** (1953-2021) shows her as a young actress from the 1970s. She achieved her breakthrough role at the age of 20 when she played the title role in *Three Wishes for Cinderella*, which is known as a classic Christmas movie in Europe. This led to many leading roles in mainly comedic movies before she gradually matured into roles of strong, independent women. This led to her most famous performance in the lead female role as the cellist's girlfriend in *Kolya*, which

won the Oscar for the Best Foreign Language Film in 1996. She had many starring roles with her husband, Josef Abrhám, such as the movie *Run, Waiter, Run* and the TV production of *Honeymoon in Jiljí*. The FDC cachet has an outline head and shoulders sketch with her husband standing behind her (Fig. 12) and the cancellation is rosebuds. The stamp for **Josef Abrhám** (1939-2022) also shows him as a young actor, who was known as a leading actor both in theater as well as movie roles. His first major role was in the movie *Transport*

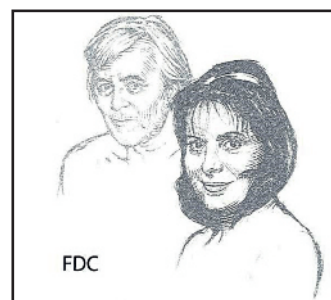


Figure 12

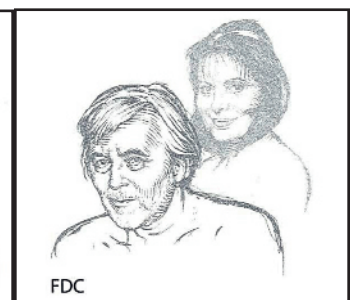


Figure 13

From *Paradise* in 1962 and this was followed by leading roles in *The Cry* and famously as the writer Jaroslav Hašek in *Velká Cesta*. On television his most famous role was as the physician Blažej in the long-running series *Hospital on the Edge of Town*. His FDC cachet shows him in front of Šafránková (Fig. 13), who was his wife for more than 45 years. As with previous stamp issues in this series the cachets reveal the close relationship between the two actors. The cancellation is an outline drawing of his head.

7. On June 14, 2023 the Ministry issued a 'B' value stamp in the series **Personalities: Josef Jungmann** [Pofis 1219]. The stamp shows a portrait of Jungmann surrounded by intertwining linden and oak leaves (Fig. 14). It was designed by Renáta Fučíková using a scratch-off drawing technique with computer-aided color correction. It was printed in sheets of 50. The stamp celebrates the 250th anniversary of Jungmann's birth (1773-1847). Brought up in a family where both Czech and German was spoken, he became a famed philologist, lexicographer, and translator who laid the foundations for the development of modern Czech by publishing a five volume 120,000 entry Czech-German dictionary. The FDC cachet shows Jungmann holding a volume of his dictionary in the robes of Rector of Charles University (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is an oak and linden leaf.



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

8. On June 14, 2023 the Ministry issued a 27 Kčs stamp in the series **Personalities: Blaise Pascal** [Pofis 1220]. The stamp shows a portrait of Pascal with his Pascaline calculator in the background (Fig. 16). It was designed by Pavel Piekár and printed in sheets of 50. The stamp celebrates the 400th anniversary of Pascal's birth (1623-1662). Pascal was a French mathematician, physicist and inventor whose early work on probability theory ultimately led to the development of modern economics and social science. As a teenager he invented a mechanical calculator which could add and subtract easily, but did not have widespread use because of its expense. He also contributed to the expansion of knowledge in the fields of fluid mechanics and pressure. He was in poor health for the last eight years of his life and tragically died just before his 40th birthday.

The FDC cachet shows internal details of the Pascaline machine (Fig. 17) and the cancellation is a line portrait of his head.

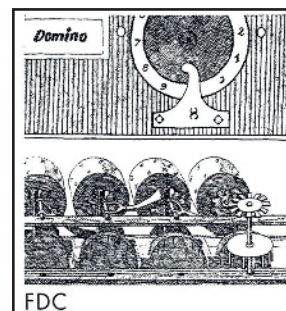


Figure 17



Figure 18

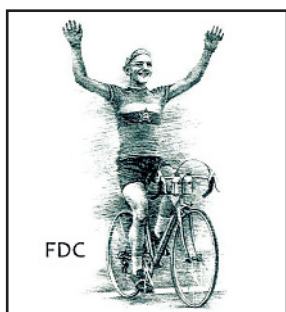


Figure 19

9. On June 14, 2023 the Ministry issued a 23 Kčs stamp in the series **Sport: Jan Veselý** [Pofis 1221]. The stamp shows a portrait of Veselý wearing the jersey of the national cycling team and holding a golden wreath, the trophy awarded the winner of The Peace Race (Fig. 18). The stamp was designed by Petr Minka and printed in sheets of 50. The stamp celebrates the centenary of his birth (1923-2003). He was a Czech pioneer in the sport of cycling and was the Peace Race winner in 1949 when the event was in its early days and consisted of just eight stages between Prague and Warsaw. By the time of his final race in this event it had developed to become the Prague-Berlin-Warsaw race and covered

13 stages. The FDC cachet depicts Veselý crossing a finishing line with hands held high above his head (Fig. 19) and the cancellation shows the cyclist at the Baker's Apprentice race in 1939, symbolically showing him with a wicker basket used to make deliveries on his back.

Postal Stationery

10. On May 25, 2023 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional print to recognize the **International Stamp Exhibition – IBRA Essen 2023** [Pofis P238]. The imprinted stamp is a historic mail coach on Charles Bridge with an 'E' value. The



Figure 20

additional print, designed by Jiří Slíva, depicts a person taking a photo of a birdcage filled with birds on postage stamps (Fig. 20). There is accompanying text with the exhibition dates (May 25-28).

11. On June 14, 2023 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional print to celebrate the **Moldava Railroad** [Pofis P239]. The imprinted stamp is a historic postal horn with an 'A' value. The image is taken from a 2015 postage stamp issue – Technical Monuments: 130 years of the Moldava-Saxony railroad. Designed by Adolf Absolon and based on an 1884 photograph, it shows a freight train with a Louny steam locomotive in Dubí (formally Ober-Eichwald) station (Fig. 21). The Moldava Railroad, also known as the Ore Mountains Railroad, or Teplice Semmering, connects Most and Moldava. It used to have a connection between Moldava and Freiburg in Saxony.

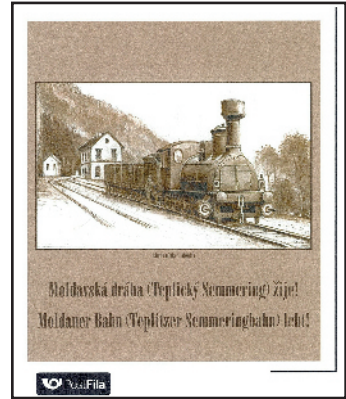


Figure 21

SLOVAKIA



Figure 1

1. On May 9, 2023 the Ministry of Trade and Construction issued a 2.10€ stamp in the series **EUROPA 2023: PEACE – The Highest Value of Humanity** [Pofis 793]. The stamp was designed by Linda Bos and Runa Egilsdóttir, with graphic design by Daniela Olejníková. The stamp shows a Celtic knot symbol of interlocking hearts with intertwined fingers (Fig. 1) and was printed in a miniature sheet of eight. The subject matter of the stamp was inspired by the humanitarian support given by European nations to the people of the Ukraine, both within their country,

and to the many refugees now displaced throughout Europe. The FDC cachet shows refugees climbing into an ark-like town which is supported by a dove holding it within its wings (Fig. 2). The cancellation is a map of the world. A stamp booklet with six self-adhesive stamps and a collection sheet were issued as well.



Figure 2



Figure 3

2. On May 19, 2023 the Ministry issued a 1.40€ stamp to celebrate the **200th Anniversary of Scheduled Express Mail Service from Bratislava to Vienna** [Pofis 794]. The stamp was designed by Marianna Žálec Varcholová and features a mail express stagecoach (Fig. 3). It was printed in sheets of 50. The speed at which the Industrial Revolution developed at the beginning of the 19th century meant that there was major development of all-weather roads between major cities to allow the movement of people, freight, and mail. Within the Habsburg Empire Max Ottenfeld, director of mail vehicle administration,

introduced the *eilpostwagen* (mail express coach) built with the latest technology and drawn by four or six horses. On October 3, 1823 the service between Bratislava (then known as Pressburg) and Vienna was inaugurated, covering the relatively short distance between the two cities in around six hours. Nevertheless, the average speed



Figure 4

of 7 ½ mph (12 kph) was thought to be extraordinary at that time. The FDC cachet, engraved by Ľubomír Žálec, shows a mail coach leaving Vienna with Bratislava Castle in the distance (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is an 19th century postal horn.



Figure 5

3. On June 1, 2023 the Ministry issued a commercial stamp booklet to commemorate **Bratislavafila 2023**. The booklet contains four different value self-adhesive stamps with the logo of the stamp show. It was designed by Adrian Ferda and contains a white 'S' value stamp for use within Slovakia, a peach 'C' value stamp for mail to the Czech Republic, a blue 'E' value stamp for

mail within the European Union, and a green 'W' value stamp for worldwide mail (Fig. 5). *Bratislavafila 2023* is a four day festival celebrating 30 years of Slovak Republic stamps. A different version of the booklet with two additional 'S' value stamps was also issued. These booklets were available in an extremely restricted supply, 1000 booklets for the four stamp version and 500 booklets for the six stamp version.



Figure 6

4. On June 23, 2023 the Ministry jointly issued with the **Sovereign Military Order of Malta** a 1.20€ stamp [Pofis 795] showing a Slovak member of the order assisting a mother and two children who are Ukrainian refugees (Fig 6). The stamp was designed by Natália Studenková and printed in a miniature sheet of 10 with four coupons, two showing the coat of arms of Slovakia, and two with the coat of arms of Malta. The Order was established in 1113 as an order of the Catholic Church. Nowadays it is an entity governed by international law that maintains relationships with over 100 nations. It has permanent observer status with the UN and is neutral, impartial and apolitical. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Order having a bilateral relationship with Slovakia. The Order in Slovakia runs charitable projects through Malteser Aid Slovakia and has been prominent during the past year in providing assistance to Ukrainian refugees. Their volunteers were at the border crossing in Vyšné Nemecké on the day after the Russian invasion and have continued to provide humanitarian assistance and supplies ever since. The cachet of the FDC shows a volunteer providing temporary shelter to refugees (Fig. 7) and the cancellation is a modernized version of their coat of arms which serves as their logo.



Figure 7



Figure 8

5. On June 30, 2023 the Ministry issued a 2.70€ stamp in the series **Nature Protection: Bees** [Pofis 796]. The stamp shows honey bees taking nectar from flowers (Fig. 8) and was issued in a miniature sheet of six with two groups of three stamps separated by an illustration within the sheet that shows bees around a honey pot. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by printing from recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. Honey bees have lived on Earth for over 80 million years. Most of the economically important bees in Slovakia are from the genus Carniolan bee, originally from Slovenia. They produce valuable natural products such as honey, wax, propolis, bee venom, and royal jelly. Honey bees are the world's most widespread natural plant pollinator although diminishing in numbers in many parts of the world. The FDC cachet illustrates bees within a hive (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is a bee emerging from a hive. A Cartes Maximum was also issued.



Figure 9

6. On July 14, 2023 the Ministry issued a T2 50g (0.90€) stamp in the series **Sport: 150th Anniversary of Organized Hiking Trips in Slovakia** [Pofis 797]. The stamp, designed by Karol Felix shows a trail marker in a heavily wooded area (Fig. 10) and was produced in sheets of 50 using multi-color offset combined with serigraphy. On August 8, 1873 the Hungarian Carpathian Association was founded in Kežmarok and is recognized as the pioneers of hiking in the Slovak lands. After 1918 the Tatra Tourist Association briefly took over responsibility before The Czechoslovak Tourist Club was established in 1921. They swiftly established a network of hiking trails, hostels, maps, and guides, as well as providing education for young hikers and alpinists. World War II saw the decimation of this network, particularly the hostels and cabins which the Nazis considered possible hiding places for the Resistance. After 1947 the club was superseded by a mainly military organization. Subsequently the Slovak Tourist Club (KST) took charge in 1993 and restored the extensive system of trails to how it is today. In 2022 the extremely well maintained system of trail markers was



Figure 10

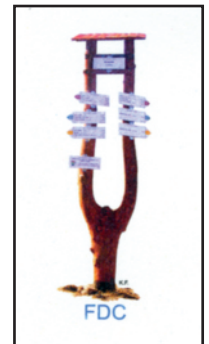


Figure 11

acknowledged to be part of the intangible cultural heritage of the country. The FDC cachet shows a point at which several trails diverge (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is a compass. A collection sheet [Pofis 145 NL 797/23] was also issued.

7. On August 8, 2023 the Ministry issued a 2.30€ stamp to celebrate the **175th Anniversary of Slovak Rail Transport** [Pofis 798]. The stamp, illustrating a Bihar steam locomotive (Fig. 12), was designed and engraved by Jozef Česla and produced in a miniature sheet of 8, using a combination of recess printing from a flat plate with multi-colored offset. The stamp sheet also recognizes the 70th Anniversary of the University of Žilina which was originally founded as a



Figure 12

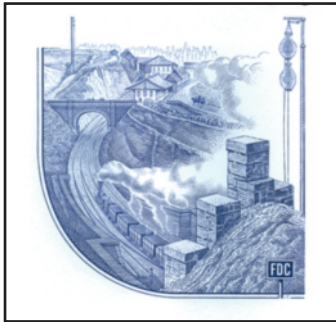


Figure 13

university concentrating on design and maintenance of railroads, their machinery and property. The first railroad in the Slovak lands was constructed by the Hungarian Central Railroad and after many discussions regarding the route one that connected Marchegg at the Austrian-Slovak border with Devínska-Lamač-Bratislava was chosen. The initial trial run came on August 9, 1848 and the first passenger service was on August 20 with a ten-car train hauled by the *Bihar* steam locomotive. The Hungarian Central Railroad was always struggling financially and only two years later it was sold to the Austrian South-Eastern State Railroad. The FDC cachet is based on a period engraving showing the arrival of the first train in Bratislava (Fig. 13) and the cancellation is a signaller. A collection sheet was also issued.

Postal stationery

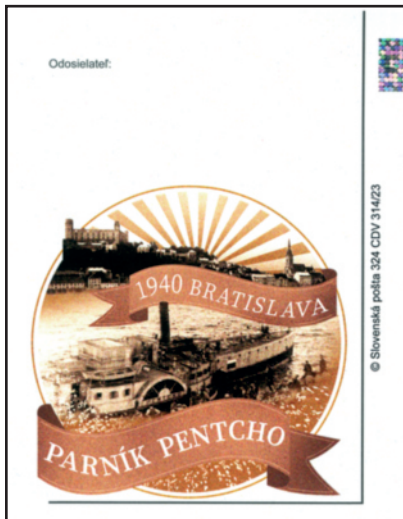


Figure 14



Figure 15

prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the **BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 Exhibition** [Pofis 325 CDV 314/23]. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the Slovak National Museum as a postage stamp, over another stamp showing Bratislava Castle and the Danube, over another stamp bearing the exhibitions logo (Fig. 15). The printed stamps are the same as the postal card above.

10. On June 2, 2023 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate **Bratislava Collectors Days 2023** [Pofis 326 CDV 314]. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a stamp-like view of Bratislava Castle, with a hand holding a magnifying glass showing the dates of the stamp show (Fig. 16). The printed stamp are the same as the postal card above.

8. On May 18, 2023 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to commemorate the **Cruise of the Tugboat *Pentcho*** [Pofis 324 CDV 314]. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows the refugee ship *Pentcho* (Fig. 14). (For more information about this ship's voyage see the Focus on Covers article on page 14). The printed stamps, totaling 0.98€, are of a historic postal scale and a printed version of a stamp from 2009 showing the Church at Čieny Brod.

9. On June 1, 2023 the Ministry issued a



Figure 16

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