



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY,
AN INCORPORATED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WINNER OF NUMEROUS PHILATELIC LITERATURE AWARDS.
THE SPECIALIST IS IN COLOR DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF A DONATION BY LUDVIK SVOBODA. (USPS 808300)

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 86

2024-2

No. 2 Whole 676



The Alfons Mucha designed "Falcon in Flight" stamp from 1918, overprinted in 1934 for Business Printed Matter mail.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>ARTICLE</u>
2.	The Business Printed Matter Stamps of 1934 by James A. Buckner
5.	WWW.CPSLIB.ORG by Mark Wilson FRPSL
14.	Obituary for Ludvik Z. Svoboda
16.	40 Years as a Stamp Dealer and Expert by František Beneš
17.	Philatelic News and Views by Keith Hart and Nancy Godfrey
18.	Slovakia New Issues by Keith Hart
19.	Czech Republic New Issues by Keith Hart
22.	Available Publications

The Business Printed Matter Stamps of 1934

by James A. Buckner

A quick look at the indices of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* on the Society's website reveals that not a lot has been written about this issue since 1939 in our journal. In fact, almost nothing. I have always wondered why this



Figure 1



Figure 2

issue, which is indeed a special purpose stamp, was always classified along with the newspaper stamps (another special purpose stamp) of the First Republic by whatever catalog one consulted. This article will attempt to answer that question along with showing the reader what their special purpose was, the system behind it, and some examples of use.

The stamps themselves were authorized by the Ministry of Telegraphs & Posts Bulletin No. 43 on 9 November 1934, under regulation No. 51. The stamps were newspaper stamps overprinted with the initials "O.T.", for Obchodní Tiskoviny, or Business Printed Matter. This alone might cause one to believe that these were indeed newspaper stamps alone, but as we shall see, the major reason this issue is listed generally alongside newspaper stamps was something else. The newspaper stamp issues were the following three denominations: the 10 heller brown-

ish-red, the 20 heller blue, and the 30 heller brown "Sokol v letu" (Falcon in flight) stamps. The overprint was centered on the face of the stamps and was large enough to know at a quick glance what the purpose of the stamps was, which I believe was intentional. The stamps are shown in figure 1. The stamps were issued imperforate, but private perforations were often made by registered users to ease separation of the stamps. Privately perforated stamps (10h – 11 ½ ; 20h – 11 ¼ ; 30h – 11 ½) are shown in figure 2.

The System for Sending Business Printed Matter:

These stamps were used by businesses using postal services to mail mass mailings at reduced rates to customers or potential customers. Therefore, you will see these stamps being used primarily on envelopes by commercial enterprises. Users of these stamps were required to be registered at a post office, usually a local post office that was used by the registered user to dispatch their mail shipments. The O.T. stamps could only be purchased by registered users – they were not offered to the general public initially. Once registered, users were issued an account book in which was recorded the date of purchase, the amount of stamps purchased, and the denomination or type of stamps purchased. Registered users were required to purchase a minimum amount of the stamps initially, an amount of 15,000 Kčs, in whole sheets of 100 only. While this might seem like a huge amount, at a denomination of 10 heller, this amount was only 1,500 stamps (at 20 heller, this amounted to 750 stamps, and at 30 heller only 500 stamps). From the beginning of this system, November 15 1934, registered users had to send a minimum of 100,000 pieces per year. From January 1, 1938, this was reduced to 50,000 pieces per year. The reality was that registered users, at least from November 1934 through December 1937, were required to purchase quite a large amount of the O.T. stamps to meet the requirements.

There were additional requirements. If a registered user did not send out the minimum number of business printed matter items prescribed for a year (either 100,000 up to the end of 1937; thereafter 50,000), the user was required to reimburse the Postal Administration the difference between the amount actually paid and the amount due on the minimum number of envelopes required to be sent that year, up to the first weight (up to 50g). Thus, the reason for the account book became clear. It was a means for the Post Office to keep track of stamps sold and stamps used each year. This accounting system was exactly like the system used by newspaper publishers to send their shipments of newspapers, and so, this is why, I believe, most catalogs list the O.T. stamps alongside newspaper stamps. While used for sending different items, the stamps had a similar special purpose as the newspaper stamps. Another requirement was that verbiage was to be indicated on the address side of envelopes, in

the lower left corner (if possible) as follows: "The reduced rate of payment was granted by Post Office in [location] under decision no. ____". It must not have been possible very often, as I have never seen an envelope franked with an O.T. stamp have this wording on the envelope.

The rates for sending business printed matter were 10 heller per 50 grams, with a maximum of 300 grams. Thus, the maximum franking should have been 60 heller. This may not have been followed in all cases, as *Monografie IV* shows on Page 257 a picture of an envelope franked with 14 – 10 heller stamps that went through the mail.



Figure 3

What was Business Printed matter?

The short answer is advertising mostly, but some might argue that a lot of what was sent was what today we would call "junk mail". Shown here are examples of the contents of two envelopes franked with 10 heller O.T. stamps, indicating that the envelope weighed less than 50 grams. The first (figure 3) is an envelope franked with one 10 heller stamp and cancelled on November 2, 1937. The contents are somewhat interesting. The envelope contained an entry form and rules for entering a private lottery from "Stein's Fortune", a company with offices in Karlovy Vary and Prague (figures 4a & 4b). This is a perfect example of the use of the reduced rates offered by using the O.T. stamps. The company behind *Stein's Fortune* was attempting to reach many people to entice them to enter a private lottery.

Figure 4a

Figure 4b



Figure 5

A second example is shown in figure 5. The cover is franked with a single 10 heller O.T. stamp, indicating that it too weighed less than 50 grams. The contents of this cover are a bit more salacious! It included an advertisement to purchase a book with the title of Sex. The flyer pictured in figure 6 reads "Do you want to Love without Risk? Read Sex by Dr. E. Polák". I wonder how many were sold?



Figure 6



Figure 7a



Figure 7b

Not all mail sent by this system was envelopes. Also included were postcards. The commercial postcard shown in figures 7a and 7b (front and back), franked with a single 10 heller stamp, seeks to reach an audience who may be interested in buying what they are selling, in this case gas, gasless, and alcohol-fueled cookers.

The system came to an end on December 15, 1939 when all remaining Czechoslovak stamps were demonetized after the country's demise at the hands of the Nazis. According to *Monografie IV*, the largest number of stamps produced were the 10 heller stamps with 88,450,000. Only 6,230,000 20 heller stamps were produced, while the 30 heller stamps numbered only 1,670,000. Clearly covers franked with the 10 heller stamps are more numerous and can be found relatively easily. Covers franked with the 20 or 30 heller stamps are fewer in number and thus are more difficult to find. Because users of this special use stamp had to be registered at the Post Office, and a special account book was issued for each user, I believe the special purpose of these issues aligned with that of newspaper stamps and so are listed in most catalogs as such. These stamps paid for a variety of mostly (but not exclusively) marketing and sales materials during their five-year usage in the First Czechoslovak Republic.

I am interested to know if any reader has additional examples of Business Printed Matter (the contents of envelopes) that they might be willing to share. Please direct any examples, questions, comments, or corrections to me at wellseats@hotmail.com.

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

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 \$12 for digital, \$44 for printed copies by airmail or \$39 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**

WWW.CPSLIB.ORG

A Multi-Purpose Online Resource for Collectors of Czechoslovak and Czech Republic Stamps

by Mark Wilson FRPSL

Since my name appears as webmaster on several Czechoslovak related philatelic sites, I often get questions from new collectors. Chief among these is *Can you tell me when this stamp was released so I can put it in the proper place in my album?* As the saying goes, you can give a person a fish to eat today or you can teach them how to fish and enjoy a lifetime's sustenance. In that vein, I direct the person to www.cpslib.org (Fig. 1).

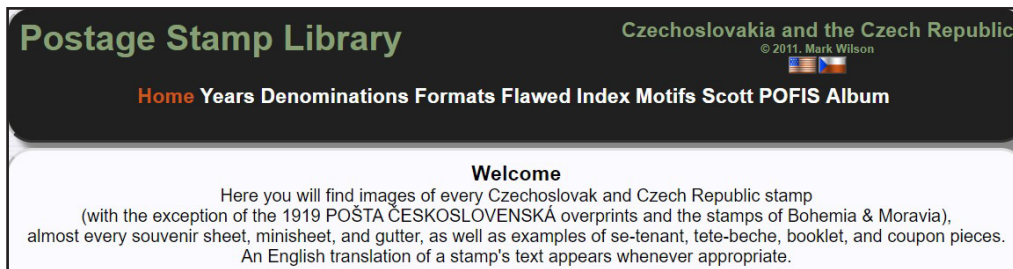


Figure 1: The Home Page.

Note that the website is bilingual. If the words are Czech, click the American flag on the upper right.



Figure 2: The Stamp in Question

For example, to determine the issue date of a specific stamp (say Fig. 2), I suggest the following. First, click on the **Denominations** button in the navigation bar (Fig. 3) to view the Denominations Page. Because the stamp in question is 1 Kč, click on the 1 Kč button. This will bring up a page (Fig. 4) that has the images of every 1 Kč stamp issued by Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic between 1918 and 2018 – 101 years.

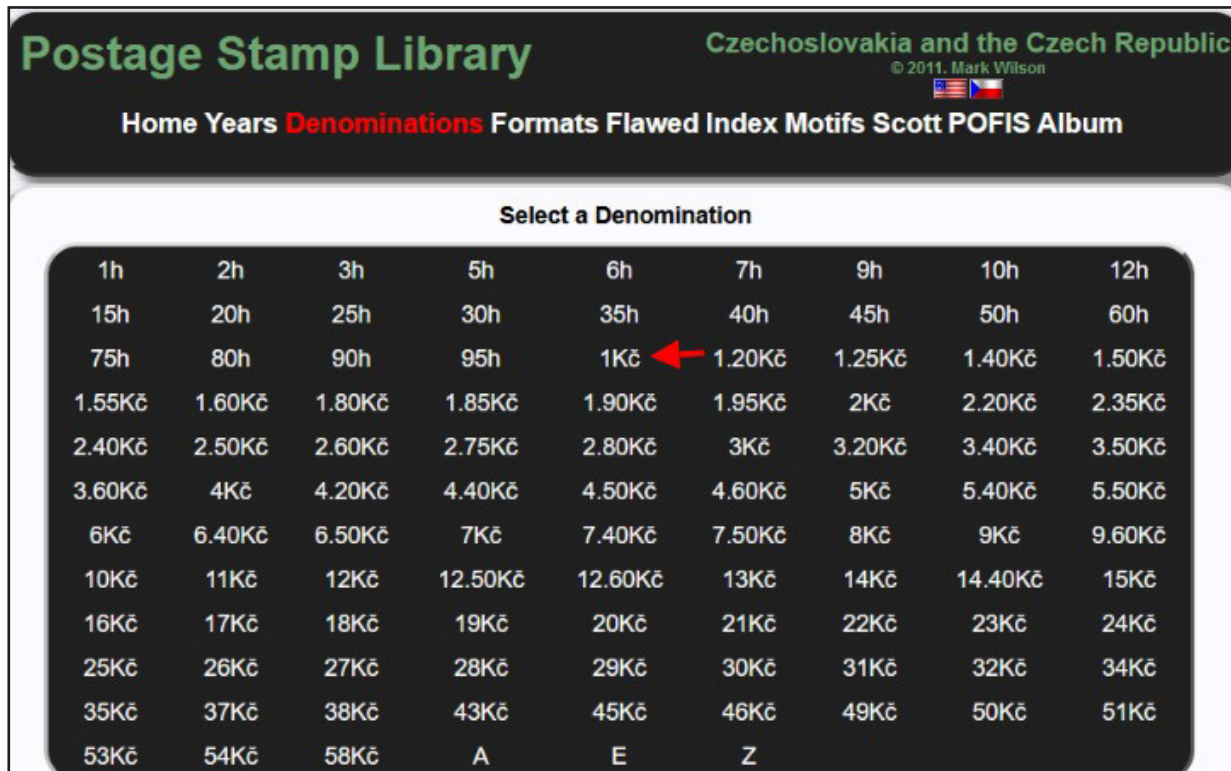


Figure 3: The Denominations Page

Once there, you will notice the images are arranged chronologically by decade. Since the stamp in question does not appear at the top of the page, scroll down until it is found. As it happens this stamp is listed at the end of the decade 1950-1959. But we can be much more precise than a mere decade.

Click on the stamp's image and a new page (Fig. 5) devoted to this stamp will open. This page gives the issue date (March 23 1959), translates any Czech text on the stamp into English (*World Peace, Human Rights Day*), and provides both the Scott (902) and POFIS (1042) catalog numbers.



Figure 4: The stamp is found by scrolling down the 1 Kč Denomination Page.



Figure 5: A page devoted to the stamp in question.

Of course, even beyond devoting a page to every single Czechoslovak or Czech Republic stamp, this website offers much more. The **Years** button displays the Years Page (Fig. 6) from which you may select a year to view images of the stamps issued, and their release date, within that year. For example, suppose the year 1933 is selected.

Postage Stamp Library
Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson

Home **Years** Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album

Select a Year

Czechoslovakia

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
1938	1939								

1945194619471948194919501951195219531954
1955195619571958195919601961196219631964
1965196619671968196919701971197219731974
1975197619771978197919801981198219831984
19851986198719881989199019911992

Czech Republic

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				

Figure 6: The Years Page.

Postage Stamp Library
Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album

193219331934

1933

Click stamp to enlarge image.

1 February

20 June

Figure 7: The 1933 Page.

As can be seen, (Fig. 7), Czechoslovakia issued only three stamps in 1933. Note that small navigation bars are placed beside **1933** under the navigation bar, **1932** and **1934**. They provide direct access to the previous and following years. As before, clicking on a stamp's image opens the page devoted to that stamp.

Answering Other Questions

It is possible that a stamp's Scott number is known but a POFIS number is required. To obtain it, click on the **Scott** button. A Scott to POFIS page appears (Fig. 8). Note the submenu below the main navigation bar and select catalog numbers for the area of interest, Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic. Along the left side of the page are brackets of Scott numbers, while at the bottom of that list are sections of the Scott numbering system that require prefixes; all may be clicked. In addition to providing the POFIS equivalent of the Scott number, clicking on the POFIS number will take one to the page devoted to that stamp. Even better, if a mouse pointer just hovers over one of the POFIS numbers (Fig. 9), an image of that stamp will suddenly appear!

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs **Scott** POFIS Album
Czechoslovakia Czech Republic

Scott → POFIS

1-99	700 → 830	719dx → 856B	745 → 882	772 → 909
100-199	701 → 831	719ex → 857B	746 → 883	773 → 910
200-299	702 → 832	720 → 852	747 → 884	774 → 911
300-399	703 → 833	721 → 858	748 → 885	775 → 912
400-499	704 → 834	722 → 859	749 → 886	776 → 913
500-599	705 → 835	723 → 860	750 → 887	777 → 914
600-699	706 → 839	724 → 861	751 → 888	778 → 915
700-799	707 → 840	725 → 862	752 → 889	779 → 916
800-899	708 → 841	726 → 863	753 → 890	781 → 917
900-999	709 → 842	727 → 864	754 → 891	782 → 918
1000-1999	710 → 843	728 → 865	755 → 892	783 → 919
2000-2876	711 → 844	729 → 866	756 → 893	784 → 920
Airmail Semipostal	712 → 845	730 → 867	757 → 894	785 → 921
Dues Newspaper	713 → 846	731 → 868	758 → 895	786 → 922
Official Personal	714 → 847	732 → 869	759 → 896	787 → 923
Express Labels	715 → 848	733 → 870	760 → 897	788 → 925
	716 → 849	734 → 871	761 → 898	789 → 924
	717 → 850	735 → 872	762 → 899	790 → 926
	718 → 851	736 → 877	763 → 900	791 → 928
	719a → 853A	737 → 878	764 → 901	792 → 929
	719b → 854A	738 → 879	765 → 902	792 → 930
	719c → 855A	739 → 880	766 → 903	793 → 931
	719d → 856A	740 → 873	767 → 904	795 → 927
	719e → 857A	741 → 874	768 → 905	796 → 932
	719ax → 853B	742 → 875	769 → 906	797 → 933

Figure 8: A Scott to POFIS Page.

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs **Scott** POFIS Album
Czechoslovakia Czech Republic

Scott → POFIS

1-99	700 → 830	719dx → 856B	745 → 882	772 → 909
100-199	701 → 831	719ex → 857B	746 → 883	773 → 910
200-299	702 → 832	720 → 852	747 → 884	774 → 911
300-399	703 → 833	721 → 858	748 → 885	775 → 912
400-499	704 → 834	722 → 859	749 → 886	776 → 913
500-599	705 → 835	723 → 860	750 → 887	777 → 914
600-699	706 → 839	724 → 861	751 → 888	778 → 915
700-799	707 → 840	725 → 862	752 → 889	779 → 916
800-899	708 → 841	726 → 863	753 → 890	781 → 917
900-999	709 → 842	727 → 864	754 → 891	782 → 918
1000-1999	710 → 843	728 → 865	755 → 892	783 → 919
2000-2876	711 → 844	729 → 866	756 → 893	784 → 920
Airmail Semipostal	712 → 845	730 → 867	757 → 894	785 → 921
Dues Newspaper	713 → 846	731 → 868	758 → 895	786 → 922
Official Personal	714 → 847	732 → 869	759 → 896	787 → 923
Express Labels	715 → 848	733 → 870	760 → 897	788 → 925
	716 → 849	734 → 871	761 → 898	789 → 924
	717 → 850	735 → 872	762 → 899	790 → 926
	718 → 851	736 → 877	763 → 900	791 → 928
	719a → 853A	737 → 878	764 → 901	792 → 929

Figure 9: Stamp image displayed when hovering over a POFIS number.

The POFIS navigation button works in exactly the same way, save it gives the Scott equivalent of a POFIS number (Fig. 10). Like the Scott display, buttons for brackets of numbers and back of the catalog areas are presented on the left, POFIS to Scott equivalents on the right.

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson
United States flag Czech flag

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott **POFIS** Album
Czechoslovakia Czech Republic

POFIS → Scott

1 → 23	10 → 5	18 → 33	26 → 40
2 → 1	10A → 5	19 → 34	27 → B124
3 → 2	11 → 29	20 → 8	28 → B125
4 → 25	12 → 6	21 → 36	29 → B126
5 → 3	13 → 43	22 → 9	29A → B126
6 → 43	14 → 7	23 → 38	30 → B127
7 → 44	15 → 30	24 → 10	31 → B128
8 → 4	16 → 21	24A → 10	32 → B129
9 → 45	17 → 32	25 → 39	

1-99
100-199
200-299
300-399
400-499
500-599
600-699
700-799
800-899
900-999
1000-1999
2000-2999
3000-3029
Airmail Dues
Newspaper Comercial
Official Personal
Express Labels

Figure 10: A POFIS to Scott Page.

Another popular page (Fig. 11) is reached by clicking the **Album** button. The Album Page provides information about how I use the album pages that you may download from the website and print, all free of any charge. As with the Scott and POFIS pages, there is a submenu divided by collecting focus: First Republic, Post War Czechoslovakia, and the Czech Republic. Figure 12 is an example of an album page.

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson
United States flag Czech flag

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS **Album**
First Republic Post-War Czechoslovakia Czech Republic Album Information

Album Information

These albums when complete will cover all the stamps of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic but not the Pošta Československá 1919 series, Bohemia & Moravia, or Slovakia.

I print a page from the album on one side of acid free 110 lb ivory cardstock.
The stamps are mounted to the page using Hawid clear mounts.
I then insert two pages, back to back, into an archival quality page holder.
These I mount in a special three-ring binder that protects the edges of the page.
I house the unit in a Safe slipcover (712), available from most philatelic supply houses.

Figure 11: A Album Page.

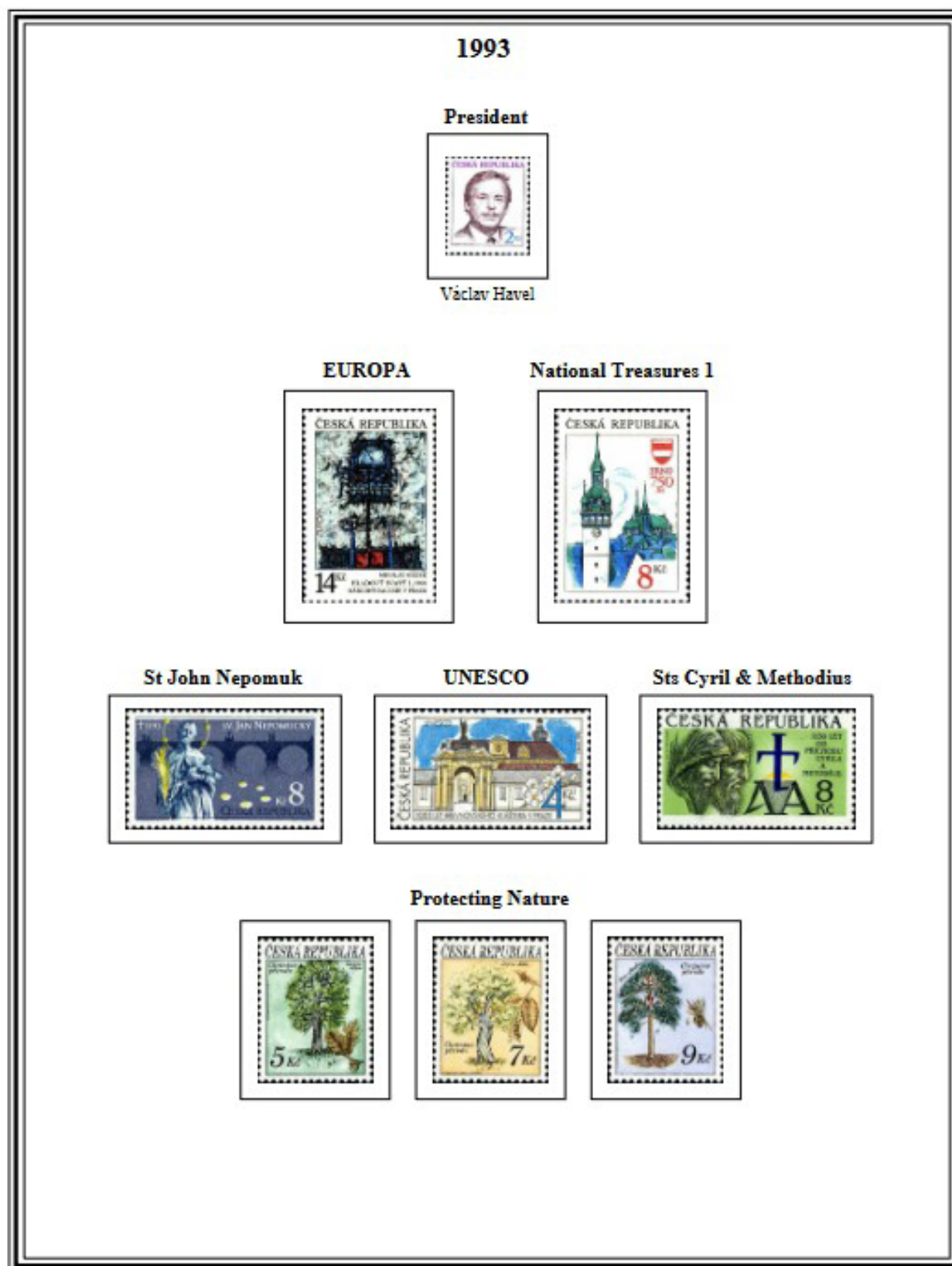


Figure 12: An example of an album page

The remaining navigation buttons are devoted to specialized collecting. For instance, collectors of minish-eets and stamp booklets might find the **Formats** button of interest (Fig. 13). The submenu indicates the formats illustrated. Please note that the illustrations are not exhaustive but were built from my own personal collection.

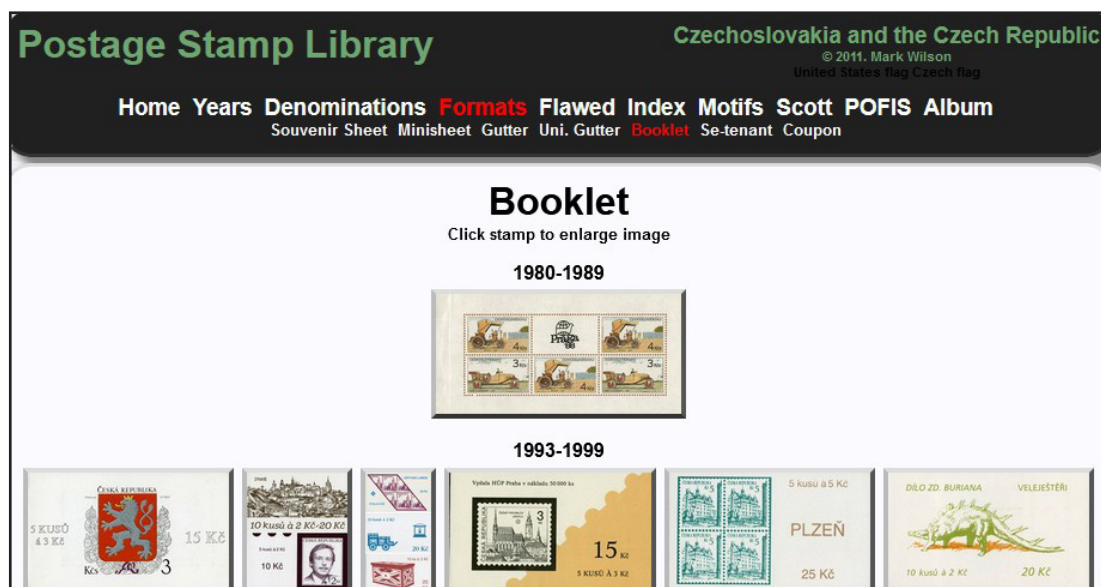


Figure 13: The stamp booklet page.

The **Motifs** button organizes images around themes (Fig. 14). These collections are based on my intuition, not formal categories. Clicking on a name in the motif list displays stamps related to that theme, for instance Humor (Fig. 15).

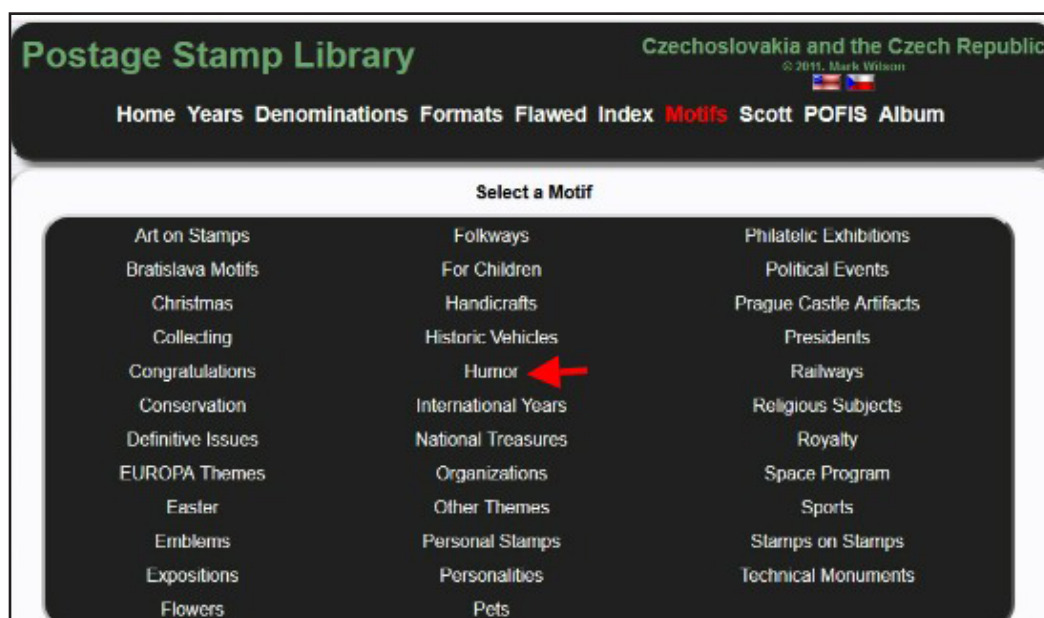


Figure 14: The Motifs page.



Figure 15: Humor Page.

The **Index** pages (Fig. 16) are an alphabetical listing of the text found on Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps. English translations, the original Czech and Slovak texts, and Latin are indexed. Select the language from the submenu, then the initial letter of interest from the alphabet listing at the upper left (Here the letter 'M' has been selected). Like the Scott and POFIS pages, clicking on a blue link will take you to the page devoted to that stamp. A mouse pointer hovering over a blue link will cause an image of the stamp to appear.

Figure 16: An index page.

The remaining navigation button, **Flawed**, exposes the highly specialized work of Danish collector, Mogens Norbjerg (Fig. 17). He has collected images of flaws found on Second Republic stamps. Select a year and you will be taken to a page presenting all of the flawed stamps from that year. I selected 1949 and a page with all the flawed stamps from that year are shown (Fig. 18). Clicking on an image takes you to a display of all that stamp's flaws (Fig. 19). Although not of interest to everyone, there is a tight-knit group of flaw specialists around the globe who find these pages absolutely absorbing.

Figure 17: The Flawed stamps page.

Postage Stamp Library
Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album
1948 **1949** 1950

Flaws: 1949

Click stamp to enlarge image.
Put cursor on image to reveal POFIS number.

Figure 18: Flawed Stamps from 1949.

Postage Stamp Library
Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011. Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album
1949 2Kč Personalities
Stamp Flaws: 1949
POFIS: 505

Place cursor on image to see flaw information
From an unknown position/plate

Figure 19: POFIS 505's flaws.

I hope readers will find www.cpslib.org useful. Feel free to click on the webmaster link on the **Home** page to tell me how you are using the website, or what you like best (or least) about it, or if you have questions the website could not answer. I try to address every communication as quickly as I can.

Obituary

Ludvik Z. Svoboda (1940-2024)

by James Buckner and Keith Hart

It is with great sadness and a huge sense of loss that we report the passing of a giant of Czechoslovak philately and our Society, Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Ludvik, or 'Lou' as he was known to friends and family, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on April 30 in Arvada, CO.



Lou's story is the quintessential American success story. He was born in Belcamp, Maryland on February 6, 1940. But the true starting point of his story really begins in Moravia. His father, Josef Svoboda, was born in Knínice and his mother Františka in Hulín. In 1928, Josef was chosen by Tomáš Baťa for a young executive training program at Baťa's shoe company in Zlín, learning all aspects of the shoe-making business. It was a vigorous program, starting with 30 minutes of physical exercise at 5.30am, training at the factory all day, and then attending a business college in the evening. Most participants chose to learn German as a second language, but Josef chose to learn English. It turned out to be an extremely fortuitous choice.

Josef graduated and worked in various departments of the factory until called-up for his two-year military commitment, serving in the Czechoslovak army in Komarno in Slovakia, near the border with Hungary. Meanwhile, his mother had begun working at the Baťa factory in Zlín and shared a room with Josef's sister, Anna who played her part in introducing the two of them. When Josef returned from military duty, he worked in the accounting department, mostly on shoe lines that were sold to American companies like Sears, J.C. Penney and Montgomery Ward. Because of his expertise (he was by then a CPA) and knowledge of English, Josef travelled to the U.S. in 1937 as part of a team choosing a new factory location. When he returned he married Františka, and an eldest son, George, was born a year later.

Conditions in Europe deteriorated quickly with the rise of Fascism and in the fall of 1938 Nazi Germany seized the Sudetenland and by March 1939 had completed their conquest of Czechoslovakia. Baťa moved the company headquarters to Canada, and a contingent of people, including Lou's parents were sent to the U.S to build the new shoe factory in Maryland. Just a month before the outbreak of World War II and after a difficult journey to the coast, they set sail on the passenger liner *Bremen*, and this turned out to be the last German ship to leave Europe before the war started. Arriving in New York on August 11 it had been a difficult journey for Františka, who was pregnant. Lou always liked to say he was "Made in Czechoslovakia" but "Born in America".

Growing up in Belcamp, Maryland was somewhat stark, because the staff and families of Baťa lived in a small town surrounding the factory, where family and social life was conducted in Czech or Slovak. Lou himself mentioned that he really only began to learn English when he started school in 1946. Growing up was actually idyllic for Lou as the factory and facilities had been built on farmland and he was surrounded by forests, creeks and rivers which he loved to explore. Lou, his brother, and friends spent a lot of time outside, riding bikes, fishing and swimming in the nearby Bush River. By the age of 14 Lou began work at the factory part-time during the summer vacation for \$0.25/hour. At 16, he and his brother were working in the stock room, a hot and dirty job. Their father had wanted them to work in the office and learn the business but the brothers had other ideas and their work kept them in good shape for football.

Among his childhood activities was stamp collecting. The factory received mail from other Baťa factories around the world and his father brought stamps and covers home to give to Lou, who used them to learn about world geography. However, as in the case of a lot of young collectors, around the age of 13 he discovered girls and football, and the stamps were put away. At school he was labeled a 'nerd' because of his scholarly success, but because he was good at football, playing on both offense and defense he was known as a 'football-playing nerd'. He graduated as valedictorian of his high school class and then attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His mother had visited Czechoslovakia several times after the war, coming back with stories of the terrible conditions there under the communists and Lou decided to join the U.S. Air Force in 1963 to help defeat the communists. He flew as a navigator for 12 years in C-130 and C-133 aircraft, making numerous trips across the Pacific on the route Fairfield, CA – Wake Island – Asia, accumulating about 7,000 hours flight time. Flying to Okinawa and then Saigon he told of many 'near-disasters' of flying these unpredictable planes. Eventually the Air Force sent him as a graduate student to the University of Virginia where he attained a Master's degree in Information Technology, which he used to design and implement large computer systems in the Pentagon. He retired in 1989 saying "I retired as a Colonel after 26 years of service and the communists no longer ruled Czechoslovakia".

While on service in California he had a brief marriage before divorcing. Later he married Katherine and they had an extraordinary marriage of 50 years before Katherine died in 2022 after a lengthy battle against cancer. They had one son, Matthew, of whom they were immensely proud. The 2020s turned out to be a tragic time for the family, with Matt's wife Brandi also succumbing to cancer in 2021. Almost as soon as Katherine died Lou started his own valiant fight against cancer, which finally failed, leaving Matt with two teenage children on which he doted.

It was Katherine who had brought him back into stamp collecting when Lou was 35, when she gave him a Czechoslovak album to fill as a gift. He was a general collector until about 1980, when he decided to concentrate on 1st Republic issues and specifically the many stamps of the Hradčany issue. At PRAHA 2018 he was extremely proud to receive the SCF Citation for Philatelic Advancement. His exhibit, "*Trials and Tribulations of the Hradčany Issues*" was almost certainly the best of its kind, being often shown at WSP and FIP shows and winning many awards. After its final showing at NAEPEX in 2023 he put the exhibit up for auction, donating the proceeds to our Society. This was in line with his huge sense of generosity and giving to others. He and Katherine were major donors to charities and causes, both local and national. He often said that they felt so fortunate to be able to do such giving. Lou was extremely giving of his immense knowledge about Czechoslovak philately, writing many articles for *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. If he did not have an answer to a question, he knew someone who did. He left a collection with multiple copies (sometimes a really extensive number of copies) of every Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak stamp issue. Members looking to fill a hole in their collection approached Lou to discover that he nearly always had a copy (often five or more!) for sale.

Lou was a relatively late member to our Society but once he joined, his service to the SCP was unparalleled. He joined the Board of Directors in 1980 and served on the Editorial Board, as Treasurer, Circuit Manager and Expertizing Chairman. He became President twice, from 1991-1995 and 2018-2021. He was Editor of the *Specialist* from 1993 to 2018 and was the Society's Librarian at the time of his passing.

Ludvik Svoboda knew absolutely everyone connected with Czechoslovak philately on both sides of the Atlantic. He was a member of numerous societies in North America and Europe. He generously gave his time, knowledge and money to our Society and others. It is the loss of that knowledge, however, and the kind manner in which he imparted it to anyone seeking it, that will be most acutely and sorely missed. In remembering Lou, we remember his kindness, enthusiasm, knowledge, generosity and friendship most of all. Fare thee well our great friend, Ludvik Z. Svoboda!

SPECIAL SALE!

For sale: Complete set of bound copies of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (1939-2022),
in excellent condition. \$225 + shipping as specified by buyer.
Contact Keith Hart at (303) 594-0697 or kdhart46@icloud.com.

40 Years as a Stamp Dealer and Expert

by František Beneš

On the first of February this year, it was exactly forty years since the day when I first set foot as an employee into the corner building in Prague 1, Na příkopě 13, where the Postal Philatelic Service, better known by the abbreviation POFIS, was located. It wasn't my first working relationship with the post office, ten years earlier I had been earning extra money as a mail carrier at the district post office in Kafkova Street, Prague 6. I have remained loyal to the post office most of the time, even after my studies were completed, with POFIS, then the Federal Ministry of Communications, and then again at POFIS, where I still work "with one foot" in the doors of Profil and the *Filatelie* magazine, becoming part of the House of Philately.

I first noticed the postal philatelic service as a boy, then a young philatelist, when I always found a moment after school to go to the nearby PNS stand, on the corner of Svoboda Square and the then A.A. Ždanova Street in Prague's Dejvice. Behind the window, they had a stand with sets of thematic stamps, supplied by POFIS and I wondered whether there was anything new among them. How could I have imagined that 20 years later I would become an employee of this company! And you see, it happened. I described the circumstances of this happy coincidence in a *Filatelie* 6/2023 article on the 90th birthday of my mother, who had a great deal to do with my starting this job.

Since it is a jubilee, I thought that I should write this short article about POFIS. After all, it is an internationally unique company that almost every philatelist has encountered. Thanks to my working there I became a professional stamp dealer and philatelic expert. I have been able to devote almost my entire professional life to what I enjoy the most and what most other stamp lovers only get to do in the evenings or at weekends. I am grateful to POFIS for this and would therefore like to hear personal memories of a POFIS store you used, wherever it was situated. Please send these memories by letter or email (stamps@stamps.cz). You can add an interesting story you experienced, with a photo of this store and its employees if you can. Because, if we witnesses don't record it, the memories of these stores will fade away over time and be lost

Editor's note. The above is an edited and translated version of a Filatelie article published in 3/2024 and here in compliance with František's request is a short note of my own first experiences with POFIS: I first visited Prague in March 1973 and because I had already been interested in Czechoslovak stamps for 15 years I eagerly sought out a place where I could add to what, at that time, was a meagre collection with many gaps. I cannot remember who guided me in the correct direction but one day I found myself at the entrance of the Tuzex store in central Prague. To the right of the front door was a large kiosk that I entered with my eyes wide open as I could see more stamps than I had ever seen before, filling cabinets and shelves. Of course 50+ years since then has dimmed memories, meaning that now I am not sure whether this was a POFIS location or a dealer, but the fact that I could only shop with my British Pounds and not Czech Crowns suggests it was an official location. Paying this way gave you an immense increase over the official exchange rate and made philatelic material available at what seemed incredibly low prices. It is a shame that I never knew the name of the lady who helped me that day and for several years to come and for two people who did not know each other's language we soon worked out what I was after. Just as I said I had everything I needed, she pulled out some First Day Covers and asked if I was interested, which I certainly was. I admired the special cachets and walked out with my very first copies, about ten in all. This led me to a lifetime interest in these small works of art and my thanks to this unnamed lady are as strong today as when I first walked out with my first purchases.

- NOTICE -

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation. 1. **Publication Title:** The Czechoslovak Specialist. 2. **Publication No.:** 0526-5843. 3. **Filing Date:** July 10, 2024. 4. **Issue Frequency:** Quarterly. 5. **No. of Issues Published Annually:** 4. 6. **Annual Subscription Price:** \$25.00. 7. **Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:** 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104-2180. 8. **Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters:** 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104-2180. 9. **Names and Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor:** Publisher: Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104-2180. Editor: Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104-2180. Managing Editor: (same as above). 10. **Owner:** Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., 4336 Las Lunas Ct., CO 80104-2180. 11. **Known Bondholders:** None. 12. **The Purpose, Function, and Non-Profit Status of This Organization and The Except Status for Federal Income Tax Purposes:** Has not changed during preceding 12 months. 13. **Publication Name:** The Czechoslovak Specialist. 14. **Issue Date For Circulation Data Below:** August 10, 2024. 15. **Extent and Nature of Circulation:** a. **Total Number of Copies (net press run):** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 201; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 200. b. **Paid Circulation (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on Form 3526 – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 106; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 103; (2) Mailed In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 10; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 10; c. **Total Paid Distribution:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 116; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 113; d. **Free or Nominal Rate Distribution:** (1) Outside County as Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 13; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 13; (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541 – Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months: 1; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS – Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0; (4) **Free Distribution Outside the Mail:** 0; No. Copies Published Preceding 12 Months: 0; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. e. **Total Free Distribution:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 14; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 13. f. **Total Distribution:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 129; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 126; g. **Copies Not Distributed:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 72; No. Copies Published nearest to Filing Date: 75; h. **Total:** Average No. Copies Previous 12 Months: 201; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 200; i. **Percent Paid:** Average No. Copies Preceding 12 Months: 90%; No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: 90%; 16. a. **Paid Electronic Copies:** Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 21; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 23; b. **Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies:** Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 137; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 136; c. **Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies:** Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 150; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 149; d. **Percent Paid:** No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 91%; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 91%. I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a normal price. 17. **Publication of Statement of Ownership:** Will be Printed in 2024-2 issue of This Publication. I certify that all information furnished on this Form is true/complete.**

Keith D. Hart, Managing Editor July 10, 2024

Philatelic News and Views

by Keith Hart

1. First I have to correct an error in this section of the previous issue (2024/1). Talking about next year's meeting in St. Louis I mentioned that the show hotel was immediately adjacent to I-80. Nothing could be further from the truth. The hotel is actually next to I-70 which is about 250 miles south of I-80. Sorry for this mistake.

2. For the past few months, while transitioning printers, I have been having many recollections of working with our previous printer, Nancy Godfrey. Since I commenced working with Nancy and Lou Svoboda nearly eight years ago, it had always (well nearly always) been a joyful experience working with them both. In particular, the period where we changed the page size, as well as the layout and typeface, could have been fraught with problems, but it turned out to be a lot more fun than expected and that was really down to Nancy, who was always calm and collected while sometimes I was tearing my hair out looking at 10 different layouts strewn on my office floor and wondering how I could possibly decide which one to choose. Nancy calmly told me what to look for and how to discard them one by one. Then of course, besides the business side, we became friends as well, sharing happy memories as well as those of incredible grief. It was always pleasant to hear about Nancy's many cruises as well. I certainly hope that she can continue to cruise for many years to come and that I keep on hearing about them. Nancy recently shared some of her own memories of working on the *Czechoslovak Specialist* and below is an edited version of her thoughts.

by Nancy Godfrey

It all started in 1992 when Mirko Vondra, the editor of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*, walked into my shop and wanted me to give him a quote for printing the magazine. After examining the copy that he gave me I asked him "Do you guys ever run out of things to write about?" He chuckled and said, "We don't have enough room in the magazine for all the things we need to put in there". That first issue was 28 pages in a 6" x 9" format. Over the years it expanded to 32, then 36, and eventually 40 pages.

At that time I knew nothing about stamps, stamp collecting and even how to pronounce philately. Now, 30+ years later, I would be able to hold a half decent conversation with a collector at a stamp show.

In 2020 my husband and I took a trip out west and stopped to visit Lou to discuss some business about the *Specialist*. That was when I told Lou that I was thinking about retiring and suspending my printing business. Lou looked at me with a very sad face and said, "But what about us?" I answered him that I planned to continue to work on the *Specialist* as long as the Society wanted me. I guess that day has now come. I eventually decided to keep my shop open only because of the *Specialist*. I love the challenge of working on the magazine. I love taking all the various elements – the articles, the photos, the stamps, etc. – and watch them fall into place. But things happen in seasons and this season of 31+ years, has passed.

I do love to cruise and I cannot remember how many times on a cruise my husband would find a hot tub to soak in while I found a quiet place to work on the *Specialist*. It appears that I will no longer need to take the *Specialist* with me on cruises anymore.

While working with the three editors – Mirko, Lou and Keith, I was introduced to a region of the world I knew very little about – Slovakia and the Czech Republic. As a result, a couple years ago I was able to visit both countries and see some of the places I read about and some of the sights I was only familiar with from the images on the stamps. What a thrill!!

I wish the Board and members of the Society the best and I hope its new printer enjoys working with them as much as I have. Thank you for so many wonderful memories!

New Issues

SLOVAKIA 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 postal service.

1. On February 23, 2024 the Ministry of Trade and Construction issued a T2 50g (0.90 €) stamp in the series **Easter 2024: Altars of the Basilica Minor of St. Egidia, Bardejov** [Pofis 812]. The stamp was designed by Adrian Ferda and printed in sheets of 50. It shows the central portion of the Altar of the Holy Cross (Fig. 1). Bardejov is one of Slovakia's oldest towns. Situated in the main square is the Basilica Minor of St. Egidia (St. Giles), on the site of a monastery that was mentioned as being sited there c. 1206. The church took its present form in the 14th-15th centuries and has survived many natural disasters in its history, with its last major rebuild in the 19th century. The interior of the basilica is famous for its 11 late Gothic winged altars. The Altar of the Holy Cross is exceptional because of its unusual golden background. The FDC cachet is the central part of the Altar of the Pieta of the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a scene from The Annunciation. A stamp booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps was issued the same day, as was a pictorial post card showing the lower left-hand panel of the Altar of the Pieta.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

2. On March 23, 2024 the Ministry issued a T1 50g (1.50 €) stamp to celebrate the **800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Benedictine Monastery in Skalka near Trenčín** [Pofis 813]. The stamp was designed by Marián Čapka and printed in sheets of 50. The stamp shows the ruins of the monastery situated below the steep walls of a limestone crag, above the River Váh (Fig. 3). The buildings were created as an extension to a hermit's cave. The buildings were constructed in 1224 under the control of the Archbishop of Nitra. After a period of decline into ruin the monastery was acquired by the Jesuits in 1644. However the buildings continued to deteriorate and the only part still in use today is a three-storey chapel, which is entered through the cave. The FDC cachet, engraved by František Horniak, is a Baroque drawing of a monk praying at a statue of the Theotokos in the entrance cave (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is a detail of a Gothic window in the monastery. A commemorative sheet was issued the same day.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

3. On April 5, 2024 the Ministry issued a 2.60 € stamp in the series **Personalities: Anna Jurkovičová (1824-1905)** [Pofis 814]. The stamp, which celebrates the bicentenary of her birth, depicts the actress peeking out at the audience from behind the theater curtain (Fig. 5) and was designed by Natália Ložeková and printed in sheets of 50 using offset combined with serigraphy. Anna Hurbanová (nee Jurkovičová) was the daughter of a teacher and patriot, Samuel Jurkovič, founder of the first amateur theater group in Sobotište near Nitra. She was the first woman who dared to appear as a female character in the theater, debuting in 1841. After a short career, she married the politician and writer Jozef Miroslav Hurban, having nine children, several of whom made notable contributions to Slovak cultural history. Since 1998 her birthplace has annually held a nationwide showcase for amateur theater groups. The FDC cachet is a marriage portrait of her and Hurban (Fig. 6).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

6) and the cancellation is the proscenium arch of a theater.

4. On April 26, 2024 the Ministry issued a 2.10 € stamp in the series **EUROPA 2024: The Fauna and Flora of the Tatra Mountains Lakes** [Pofis 815]. The stamp was designed by Miroslav Pomajdik and Peter Nosál and issued in a miniature sheet of eight. The mountain lakes in the Tatras have a short ice-free season and a general lack of nutrients. This has led to some unusual inhabitants such as the Alpine Bullhead fish shown on the stamp (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 11

It is threatened by overfishing, as well as increased acidification and the effects of global warming. This also applies to all the other fish and amphibians that inhabit the lakes and protection of this fragile ecosystem is a primary concern for the staff of Tatra National Park. The FDC cachet features the Narrow-Leafed Burr-Reed (Fig. 8) and the cancellation is an outline view of Skalnaté pleso above a lake. A booklet with 6 self-adhesive stamps was issued the same day, as was a collection sheet.

5. On April 30, 2024 the Ministry issued a 3.00 € stamp to celebrate the **20th Anniversary of the Slovak Republic's Entry to the EU** [Pofis 816]. The circular stamp has a similar design to the imprinted one issued on postal cards in 2014 when Slovakia was celebrating its 10th anniversary (Fig. 9). It was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and printed in sheets of 35. Slovakia initially applied for entry to the EU in 1995 but was denied as it did not meet the criteria for principles of democracy or sufficient respect for human rights. By 1999 this had been rectified and in a referendum 92.6% of voters said Yes to joining the organization, which was completed by 2004. Since then Slovakia changed its currency to the Euro and has become a net recipient of funds, allowing it to improve its infrastructure, as well as modernizing or constructing hospitals and schools. The cachet of the FDC is an allegorical depiction of the EU as a bright bouquet of geometric abstraction (Fig. 10) and the cancellation is an EU star within the outline of a house. A commemorative sheet was also issued.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Postal Stationery

6. On March 1, 2024 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with a printed T2 50g stamp showing a historic mailbox [Pofis 332 CDV 331/24]. The card commemorates the **United Nations Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) 30th Years of Service in Slovakia** (Fig. 11). The UNHCR provides shelter, water, food and medical care for people forced to flee conflict and persecution.

CZECH REPUBLIC



Fig. 1

1. On February 14, 2024 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a miniature sheet commemorating **Bedřich Smetana's Works** [Pofis 1243, 1244, 1245, A1243]. The sheet, designed by Renáta Fučíková, contains a single value of three stamps 'A' (34 Kčs), 'E' (44 Kčs) and 'Z' (50 Kčs). Each stamp features a different theme from Smetana's masterwork *Má vlast* (My Country) and the margins of the sheet depict floral embroidery from men's clothing originating from Smetana's hometown of Litomyšl (Fig. 1).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

This issue celebrates the 200th anniversary of Smetana's birth. Besides writing symphonic works, he was also the composer of the opera *Prodaná nevěsta* (The Bartered Bride). He is, however, most famous for *My Country* which portrays the landscape, legends and history of his native Bohemia. The 'A' value stamp is dedicated to **Vyšehrad**, the massive rock formation on the Vltava, just south-east of central Prague. Famous for the Vyšehrad Cemetery which contains the remains of many famous Czechs, including Smetana himself. The stamp itself shows Vyšehrad as it was when the work was written and thus is missing the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The FDC cachet, engraved by Václav Fajt, shows Smetana greeting a flock of pigeons (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a detail of Czech embroidery (as are the cancellations for the other two covers). The 'E' value

stamp celebrates Z českých luhů a hájů (**From Bohemia's Woods and Fields**) and shows the area where Smetana composed the work, Rovensko pod Troskami and Trosky Castle. The cachet of the FDC portrays Smetana walking through a Czech grove (Fig. 3). The 'Z' value stamp depicts the **Vltava** river, which in the composition grows from a small spring, growing into a raging torrent as it merges with the River Elbe. The FDC cachet shows Smetana listening to the sound of water with his hand to his ear (Fig. 4) which refers to his increasing deafness.

2. On February 14, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet for **Karel Loprais** [Pofis 1246, 1247, A1246]. The sheet was designed by Petr Ptáček and contains a single value of two stamps. The 'E' value



Fig. 5

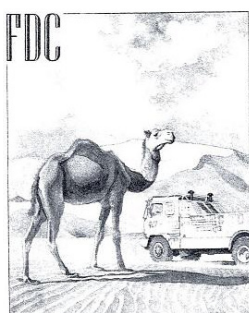


Fig. 6

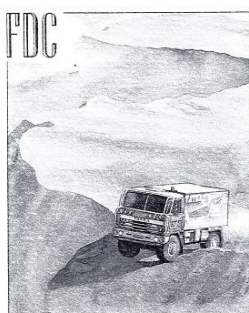


Fig. 7

the 'E' value stamp is a camel in front of a truck (Fig. 6) and the cancellation is his nickname, Monsieur Dakar. The cachet of the 'Z' value stamp is a truck crossing the desert (Fig. 7) and the cancellation refers to the winning truck in 1988.

3. On February 14, 2024 the Ministry issued a 27 Kčs stamp in the series **Personalities: Jiří Šlitr** [Pofis 1248]. The stamp, designed by Jiří Suchý, shows Šlitr playing the piano with his back turned to the audience, with a cabaret dancer leaning on the piano (Fig. 8). The stamp celebrates the centenary of Šlitr's birth (1924-1969) and was issued in sheets of 50. He was a songwriter, pianist, singer, artist, and actor. He received a doctorate of law from Charles University but never practiced as a lawyer. In 1948 he founded the Czechoslovak Dixieland Jazz Band which continued until 1957 when he met Jiří Suchý (designer of this postage stamp) and formed a lifetime duo with him, acting in the theater and later the movies. In 1968 he signed the anti-communist *2000 Words* manifesto but before he could be sidelined by the communists he mysteriously died of coal-gas poisoning in unexplained circumstances. The FDC cachet shows his distinctive stage 'uniform' of bowler hat and bow tie (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is several musical notes as composed by Šlitr.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

4. On February 14, 2024 the Ministry issued a definitive 'B' value (27 Kčs) stamp for **Valentine's Day** [Pofis 1249, TL1249]. The stamp was designed by Kristýna Šťastová and issued in a miniature sheet containing 7 stamps and 8 coupons. The center of the sheet contains a block of 6 additional coupons which are available for additional private text/images (Fig. 10). Margins of the sheet are full of different color hearts. Valentine was an early Christian martyr who was originally connected with the advent of Spring and has only comparatively recently become connected with romantic love, together with the custom of sending cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts.

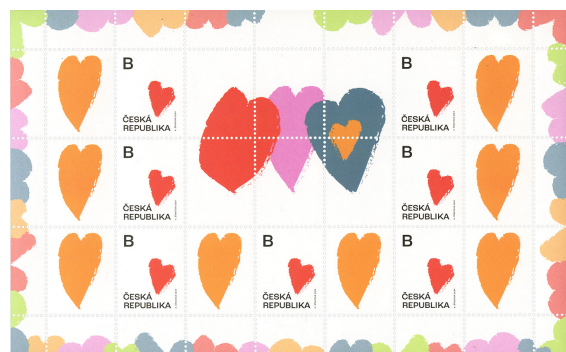


Fig. 10

5. On March 13, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative 'B' value stamp for **Mariánské Lázně** [Pofis 1250, ZSL75]. The stamp was designed by Lenka Vojtová and shows Ferdinand's Spring Colonnade (Fig. 11) and was issued in sheets of 50, as well as a booklet containing 8 self-adhesive stamps and 4 coupons. This town in western Bohemia is endowed with many buildings from the second half of the 19th century, a result of its popularity with royal families and notable people seeking the restorative carbon dioxide springs. In 2021 the town became part of the transnational World Heritage Site – Great Spa Towns of Europe. The water from Ferdinand's Spring



Fig. 11



FDC
Fig. 12

is often found bottled under the Excelsior brand. The cachet of the FDC shows part of Maxim Gorky's Colonnade (Fig. 12), which is more than 200 yards (180m) long. The cancellation is a spa cup.

6. On March 13, 2024 the Ministry issued a 27 Kčs stamp in the series: **Beauties of Our Country: Locket Castle** [Pofis 1251]. The stamp designer was Adolf Absolon with added line drawing by Martin Srb. It was printed in a miniature sheet of 8 (4x2). The stamp shows the 12th Century Gothic castle located on a massive rock (Fig. 13) and surrounded on three sides by a wide bend in the Ohře River. In the background is Weyrother's lookout, the town bridge and the outskirts of the town itself. It is one of the oldest stone castles in Czechia and over the centuries has been owned and occupied by many well-known families. Since 1993 it has been administered by the Locket Castle Foundation as a museum and national monument. The FDC cachet is a view through the entrance gate of the castle to the Margrave's House (Fig. 14) and the cancellation is an arm encased in armor.



Fig. 13

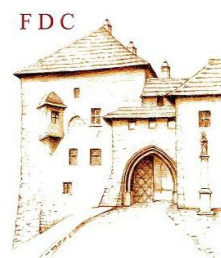


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

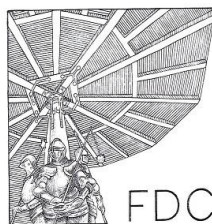


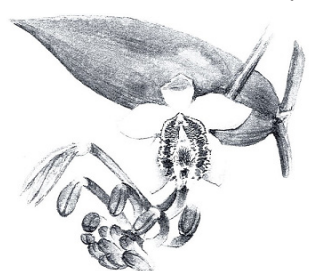
Fig. 16

7. On March 13, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative 'B' value stamp showing the **National Technical Museum: The Letná Carousel** [Pofis 1252]. The stamp was designed by Mikuláš Kavan and printed in sheets of 50. The stamp shows an iron horse in front of the carousel (Fig. 15). It is of course the most essential part of any carousel and in this case the carousel's 18 iron horses are covered with real horsehide and hair. The carousel dates from 1894 and was most recently renovated in 2022. Four of the horses retain the original saddles and bridles. At first it was manually operated but has had an electric motor since 1930. The ride is accompanied by music from an orchestrion into which coins have to be tossed to make it play. It stands in the grounds of the National Technical Museum and operates three days a week. The cachet of the FDC depicts the central column of the carousel which is encased by knights in armor (Fig. 16) and the elliptical handstamp shows one of the four small cars scattered amongst the feet of the horses.

8. On April 10, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet for **Botanical Garden Prague** [Pofis 1253, 1254, 1255, A1253]. The sheet was designed by Adam Kašpar and features three different value stamps 27 Kčs, 31 Kčs and 34 Kčs (Fig. 17). The sheet acclaims the 20th anniversary of the Fata Morgana greenhouse, which is S-shaped and has three climatic sections, with plants from Australasia, Central America and Africa.



Fig. 17



FDC
Vanilla atropogon
Fig. 18



FDC
Arisaema claviforme
Fig. 19



FDC
Meistera caudata
Fig. 20

The 27 Kčs stamp shows a **Drynaria rigidula**, an epiphytic fern producing two different kinds of fronds. It is found in S.E. Asia. The FDC cachet depicts a Vanilla Atropogon orchid blossom (Fig. 18) and the cancellation is a Monstera leaf. The 31 Kčs stamp depicts a **Dipteris Conjugata** fern which is critically endangered in its native Asia. The cachet of the FDC is an Arisaema Claviforme blossom (Fig. 19) and the cancellation is an outline drawing of a Nepenthes flower. The 34 Kčs stamp shows a **Brainea Insignis** fern, a rare species from tropical Asia that requires constantly moist soil. The FDC cachet depicts a Meistera Caudata blossom (Fig. 20) and the cancellation is an outline of a Trevesia leaf.

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

CONTACT THE BOOK STORE BEFORE ORDERING AS SOME PUBLICATIONS MIGHT BE SOLD OUT.

Prices are postpaid in USA • (E=English, Cz=Czech, Sl=Slovak, G=German, H=Hungarian)

BOUND CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST SALE

A few copies of recent bound Specialists have become available on a first come, first served basis.

They are \$5 a copy plus media mail postage.

4 copies of the 2013-14 volume are available

7 copies of the 2009-10 volume are available

CATALOGS

2021 POFIS PROTEKTORÁT ČECHY A MORAVA 1939-1945. 211 pages in full color covering all stamp issues, perfins, cancellations, covers, post cards, registration labels, etc. (Cz). - František Beneš.

\$30

CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-2019 (Cz) • Pofis, 318 pages in full color. Specialized information on all issues Updated from the previous edition.

\$25

2014 ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939, Vol. I (Cz) and 2014 ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939, Vol. II (Cz) • Merkur Revue, by Klim, Štolfa and Filipek. Volumes sold together as a set (\$55) or separately (\$30). Vol I covers all Hradčany, overprinted Hradčany, and their covers including types, varieties, errors, plus concurrent Austrian/Hungarian stamp usage. Vol II covers all issues of Legionaire, Pošta Československá 1919, Masaryk 1920 Pigeon, Chainbreaker, Husite, Agriculture & Science Masaryk 1925, and Postage Due

\$ 55/\$30

2019 ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939, Vol. III (Cz)- Merkur Revue, by Klim, Štolfa, and Filipek. This new volume covers all stamp issues not covered in volumes I and II, including types, varieties, and errors for Plebiscite 1920, Scouts, postage due, express, and newspaper stamps of the First Republic.

\$36

MONOGRAFIE 7- CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION IN RUSSIA 1914-1920 (Cz)- Jaroslav Verner, Jiří Majer. A full color, highly illustrated 344 page hard bound volume covering all aspects of the mails of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia and Siberia during and following WWI.

\$35

(NEW) KATALOG OZNAČENÍ TISKOVÝCH DESEK NOVINOVÝCH ZNÁMEK EMISE SOKOL V LETU. (Catalog of Printing Plates from the Falcon in Flight Newspaper Stamp Issues) (Cz) – by Vladimír Malovik and Michal Hauzr. 240-page hardcover in full cover that examines all of the plates from the newspaper stamps designed by Alfons Mucha, with particular attention to defects and retouches. Anyone interested in the stamps of the First Republic produced by typography, along with newspaper stamps specialists will want this book!

\$55

(NEW) 2024 POFIS ČESKOSLOVENSKO REVOLUČNÍ 1918 (Cz). By Marek Vrba. 55 pages in full color covering all aspects of the Revolutionary overprints on (mostly) Austrian stamps during the Transition Period of Independence in 1918. Includes a section on detecting forgeries.

\$15

2019 SLOVENSKO 1939-1945 (Sl) • Filatelia Numizmatika Album, by Bohumil Synek. 124 pages, color softback bound. This is by far the very best specialized catalog on the WW II stamps of Slovakia. NO post war stamps. This is an updated and extended version of the original 2015 catalog.

\$33

1ST REPUBLIC

MONOGRAPH 33- Czechoslovak Letter Mail 1918-1939: Single and Multiple Stamp Frankings (E) - by O. Tovacovsky, J. Kypast, V. Schodelbauer, M. Wilson This Monograph describes all the stamps issued during the First Republic, including Austrian and Hungarian forerunners, and tabulates the relative scarcity of their correct usage in single and multiple frankings on postal cards letters and printed matter to local, domestic and foreign destinations. It is richly illustrated with examples of both mundane and exotic usages from all six tariff periods. 173 pages in full color.

\$50

MONOGRAPH 32- THE DOVE ISSUE(E)- by J. Kašpar, Moravec, M. Kašpar, Wilson. A handbook for collectors of stamps and covers. Everything you would want to know about this issue, and more. 101 pages in full color.

\$36

MONOGRAPH 31 • THE HRADČANY, A TECHNICAL HISTORY (E) - by Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson. A monograph in two parts. 264 pages in full color. Part one is a historical and philatelic study covering technical issues, while part two is an appendix.

\$55

MAIL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS IN FRANCE (Cz, E)-by Jaroslav J. Verner. 80 page black/white and color English/Czech publication is the first on the subject and is published by the Society. It includes political/historic content development of units and their postal arrangements illustrations of cancels, and point valuation system (reviewed in Jan/Feb 2003 Specialist).

\$12

MONOGRAPH 3- THE POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKO OVERPRINTS (E)- by Roy Dehn. 55 pages of a detailed and well-illustrated study of the 1919 overprints (1985 reprinted 2015).

\$22

MONOGRAPH 20- THE EARLY POSTAL HISTORY OF CARPATHO-UKRAINE (E)- by Otto Hornung. 34 pages in color. Has particular reference to the usage of the first postage stamps of Austria.

\$33

MONOGRAPH 22- POSTMARKS OF THE SO 1920 PLEBISCITE (E)- by Oldřich Tovačovský et al. 66 pages in color. Four articles on various aspects of the postmarks used by Czechoslovakia in 1920 in the plebiscite area of Eastern Silesia, together with the smaller areas of Tešín Orava and Spiš.

\$30

MONOGRAPH 29- WAR HOSPITALS IN BRUNN DURING THE GREAT WAR (E)- by Hans van Dooremalen 141 soft-bound A4 pages, with color illustrations. Provides insight into the mail from, cachets, and organization of the war hospitals which were located in the Moravian city of Brunn (Brno).

\$40

WORLD WAR II

MONOGRAPH ON THE POSTAL STATIONERY IN SLOVAKIA 1939-1945. (SI). by Foldes and Havlíček. 352 pages in full color. Detailed information on all postal cards and stationery issues during the period of the Slovak State. This is the first time that anything of this nature has been published.

\$55

MONOGRAPH 16- THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION IN POLAND AND RUSSIA, and CZECHOSLOVAKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST 1940-1943 (E)- by Dr. Vratoslav Palkoska and Otto Hornung RDP.

\$24

MONOGRAPH 19- BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA (E)- by John Hammonds and Rex Dixon. 81 pages, some in color. All postal rates for the era, all German Military mail. Best 36 Protectorate Monograph to date (reviewed Winter 2010) Updated in 2019 with new information and photos.

\$36

MONOGRAPH 25- COMPENDIUM OF 1944-1945 LIBERATION OVERPRINTS (E)- by Karel Holoubek translated by Robert J. Hill. 322 pages in b/w. Includes CD of the book in color. Shows overprints of towns that were about to be liberated along with extensive historical data about them reviewed Fall 2012.

\$50

MONOGRAPH 26- FREE CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN FRANCE 1939-1940 (E)- by Richard Beith. 72 pages in full color. A historical and philatelic study.

\$28

MONOGRAPH 27- CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENT ARMoured BRIGADE IN FRANCE & THEIR RETURN HOME, 1944-1945 (E)- by Richard Beith. 54 pages in full color. A historical and philatelic study intended as a companion to Monograph 26.

\$25

MONOGRAPH 30- CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1940 (E)- by Richard Beith. 160 pages in full color. A historic and philatelic study intended as a companion to Monographs 26 and 27.

\$32

THE THREE PREVIOUSLY LISTED ITEMS, MONOGRAPHS 26, 27, 30 ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SET FOR \$80.00, POSTAGE PAID.

PERFINS

Monografie 24 - Catalog of Perfins from the Lands of Czechoslovakia (CZ) - A thorough introduction explaining the circumstances, origin and use of perfins on Czech lands. The Table of Contents and Section 7 that describes how to "read" the catalog entries are presented in English so that it can be used even if not a Czech language reader.

\$35

2017 AUSTRIAN PERFINS (G) • POFIS. This catalog includes all information that a Perfin collector needs - an illustration of the hole pattern with catalog number, name of the user, the industry, period of usage, etc. Where possible there are companion lists for other third-party catalogs (Fejteck/Maxa [Cz] for example). Introduction in Czech German, and English.

\$34

2015 CATALOG OF PERFINS ON HRADČANY STAMPS- (CZ,SL) - SCF/ZSF, by Marencik and Sprenar, 80 pgs. Info on all the perfins that can be found on Hradčany stamps, plus valuations. **NOW AVAILABLE AS FREE A PDF FILE VIA EMAIL, FREE OF CHARGE.** Please email Book Sales Manager James Buckner at wellseats@hotmail.com.

FREE

GENERAL REFERENCE

GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMS. (CZ, SI, E) - 4th Edition. Translates Czech/Slovak terms into English and back. Essential for those who are not native speakers. 181 pages.

\$25

CZECH GRAPHICS UNION- TYPOGRAPHIC PLATE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY/PRACTICES AS REVEALED BY THE FIRST REPUBLIC STAMPS (E)- by Mark Wilson. How the first stamps were produced, very thoroughly illustrated. A must.

\$7

THE PHILATELY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR BEGINNERS (E)- by Phil Freer

\$10

MONOGRAFIE 25, (Vol I) (Cz)- 90 years of the Czech Postal Museum.

\$35

MONOGRAPH 7, INDEX TO ARTICLES ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA PHILATELY 1950-1979 (E) - b James Negus.

\$4

MONOGRAPH 21. CARPATHO UKRAINE, POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS 1786-2000 (E), by J. Verleg. 218 pages in color. Comprehensive, extremely detailed study of this territory, including list of post offices and postmarks.

\$35

MONOGRAPH 28-RAILWAY MAIL IN SLOVAKIA AND RUTHENIA (E)- by Dr. Anthony M. Goodbody, FRPSL. 38+ A4 pages in color. Provides a detailed and fully illustrated survey of the Travelling Post Offices and Conductor Posts in Slovak and Ruthenian territory from their inception in 1867 to modern times. The appendix includes 12 tables giving full lists of TPOs and Conductor Posts arranged by period and lists of all railway terminals and junctions in the area giving both Hungarian and Slovak names.

\$20

SPECIALIST

DVD containing 20th Century issues of the SPECIALIST (1939-1999), along with index for them. Lower price is for members in USA. Members from outside USA please add \$1 for additional postage. Higher price is for non-members in USA. Non-members from outside USA please add \$1 for additional postage.

\$10 / \$20

COMPLETE 20TH CENTURY SUBJECT INDEX, 1939-1999 (E)- Index of articles published in the SPECIALIST over 61 years

\$9

CZECH POST POSTAL CARD commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Society on May 31, 1999 (see Jul/Aug 99 pages 1-3, Sep/Oct 1999, page 38)

\$1.50

Please check by email to verify books are available before ordering.

Non-members:

Please add 25% to the price plus full postage.

Foreign orders:

Please contact for postage rate!



Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc.

Attention:
James Buckner
322 Woodhaven Drive
Athens, GA 30606
Email:
wellseats@hotmail.com

FREE SCP Commemorative Postal Card With Order over \$25.00

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843) A.P.S. Unit 18
 Official Journal of the
 Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.
 Vol. 86 2024-2 Whole No. 676

Published quarterly - \$25.00 per year
 Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)
 Periodical paid at Madrid, IA 50156
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
 THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST
 Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct.,
 Castle Rock, CO 80104
Web Site: www.csphilately.org

Editorial Staff

EDITOR: KEITH HART

4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104
 Email: kdhart46@icloud.com Phone: 303-594-0697

ASSISTANT EDITOR: CHRIS JACKSON

458 Scenic Dr., St. George ON, Canada ON NOE INO.

Articles represent the opinions of the individual authors and content should not be considered as official policy of the Society or its officers.

Elected Officers

PRESIDENT: JAMES BUCKNER

322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606
 706-255-6823

VICE-PRESIDENT: ALAN HANZL

6776 Hickory Hill Dr., Mayfield Village, OH 44143

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: MARISA GALITZ

PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: BILL SLANKO

1412 Poseidon, West Covina, CA 91790

TREASURER: MARISA GALITZ

PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Appointed Officers

BOOK SALES: JAMES BUCKNER

322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606

EXPERTIZING CHAIRMAN: CHRIS JACKSON

458 Scenic Drive, St. George, ON, Canada NOE INO

LIBRARIAN PRO-TEM: KEITH HART

4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104

APS REPRESENTATIVE: JAMES BUCKNER

322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606

All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation. Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which SCP members in good standing are entitled.

1. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official quarterly publication of the Society. For inquiries on contributing articles, obtaining back issues, bound copies, and advertising rates, contact Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104 or email: kdhart46@icloud.com. Members are permitted to have one free small advertisement each year.
2. A book sales division is run by James Buckner. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears in every Specialist. For further information, contact James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606, or email: wellseats@hotmail.com
3. Our web site (www.csphilately.org) on the internet provides Society information on membership, history, education, auctions, exhibits, book reviews, contacting other members via email, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, P O Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117, email: mmgalitz@gmail.com.
4. A Society library is housed with Keith Hart, librarian pro-tem. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Keith Hart, 4336 Las Lunas Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104 or Email: kdhart46@icloud.com
5. An online sales circuit is now available. Members can sell surplus philatelic material, as well as inquiring as to whether anything they need is available from other members. Members wishing to use this service should contact our circuit manager Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com.

**Visit our web page at
www.csphilately.org**