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Newspaper stamps issued in the 1st Slovak Republic from 1940-1942, which are the subject of the article 'The Regular Issue Newspaper Stamps of Slovakia 1939-1942', a topic not often discussed.

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The Regular Issue Newspaper Stamps of Slovakia 1939-1942

By Chris Jackson

Following the German annexation of Bohemia and Moravia and the Slovak declaration of independence on March 14, 1939, Slovakia issued a set of provisional overprinted newspaper stamps (April 1, 1939). The overprinted stamps were valid until July 10, 1939. In the meantime the process of producing regular issue stamps had begun and the Slovak post issued two distinct series of regular issue newspaper stamps from June 1, 1939 through 1942. These stamps feature the Slovak National emblem of a double-barred cross and mountains with rays of light extending outwards. The first series of nine stamps were all issued in 1939 on unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 (10x10), imperforate and without plate numbers or control numbers. The second series was issued throughout 1940, 1941 and 1942 on watermarked paper in the same format as the unwatermarked series. All of these stamps were printed by typography and all remained valid for postal use until April 30, 1945. Standard catalog listings for these stamps do not reflect the fascinating and varied nature of these stamps which can be distinguished by paper types, shades, gum types, distinct watermark orientations and which can be found with regular and constant plate faults and other irregular printing varieties. In many cases the distinguishing features of seemingly similar stamps are important in terms of the scarcity and thus the value of a particular stamp. This article is intended to summarize the differences between these stamps to better inform the collector relative to standard catalogs. Also, hopefully, to spark a re-examination of the current holdings of collectors who may not be aware of the true nature and value of their stamps. A search of the Interactive Index of the Czechoslovak Specialist (available at www.csphilately.org) reveals that a treatment of this subject has never been printed in the Specialist and I hope that this is of some interest and value to fellow SCP members.

1. The Unwatermarked Newspaper Stamps of 1939



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the nine different denominations of the unwatermarked series in standard shades. Each denomination was printed from a single plate by the firm *Slovenská Grafia* and can be found with two distinct gum types with vertical or horizontal lines in the gum which have been variously described as gum ribbing, ruffling or raster. I prefer the term “gum raster” so as not to confuse the notion with ribbed paper or the term ruffling which is used outside of

the philatelic realm. Three denominations (5h, 50h and 1Ks) were also produced with smooth gum and the smooth gum variety of these denominations is the most common of all three gum types. Stamps with vertical gum raster are typically designated as type “y” in the existing philatelic literature. Those with horizontal raster are designated as type “x” and those with smooth gum are designated as type “z”.

1.1 Gum Raster

The orientation of the gum raster on these stamps is a very important distinguishing feature as the stamps with horizontal raster are significantly more scarce in most cases than stamps with vertical gum raster and thus stamps with horizontal gum raster are more valuable than those with vertical raster or smooth gum. In particular the 2h, 5h, 10h and 20h with horizontal raster are far scarcer than the same denominations with vertical raster or smooth gum. The 50h denomination with horizontal gum raster is extremely scarce and examples of this stamp command a value of several hundred Dollars or Euros. It is known that the 5h and 50h denominations can be found with forged horizontal gum raster and thus the ability to distinguish the genuine example from the forgery is critical. The original raster rises from the paper and is not a solid straight line but appears with intermittent breaks. A careful magnified examination under bright light can confirm these features of the original raster. Similarly, the

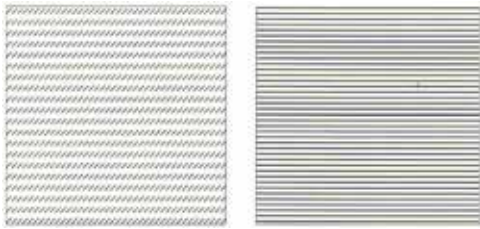


Figure 2

forged gum raster can be identified as it is pressed into the paper rather than rising from the paper and it is a solid straight line without any intermittent breaks. The difference between the genuine raster and the forged raster is illustrated in Figure 2 with the genuine raster on the left.

1.2 Shades

Four denominations were printed produced in two distinct shades. The 2h denomination was printed in yellow-brown and dark yellow-brown shades (Figure 3a). The 12h was printed in blue and dark blue (Figure 3b). The 20h was printed in dark green and black-green (Figure 3c). The 50h was printed in brown and black-brown (Figure 3d). There is little difference in the scarcity of the different shades.



Figure 3a



Figure 3b



Figure 3c



Figure 3d

1.3 Plate Faults and Irregular Varieties



Figure 4a



Figure 4b



Figure 4c



Figure 4d



Figure 4e

Each denomination from the unwatermarked newspaper stamp series can be found with at least one regular or constant recognized plate position variety. Illustrating each and every such fault is beyond the scope of this article but the following summarizes the plate positions at which one can identify such irregularities:

- 2h – position 96,
- 5h – positions 41, 62 (Figure 4a – blue spot above upper bar at the left) and 50 (likely a retouch),
- 7h – positions 22 (Figure 4b – orange spot at upper-left of the design), 29, 40 and 58,
- 9h – position 87 (Figure 4c – short lower leg of “K”),
- 10h – position 12,
- 12h – positions 10, 24 (Figure 4d – white spot in upper bar of cross), 32, 53, 69,
- 20h – position 66,
- 50h – positions 9 (retouch), 49, 70 (retouch),
- 1Ks – positions 13 and 57 (Figure 4e – irregular gray spot in first “S” of “SLOVENSKO”).



Figure 5a



Figure 5b

There are certainly more plate position varieties that have not been recognized in the specialized philatelic literature. For the last 20 years I have been carefully examining full sheets and part sheets of this issue and this has revealed several plate position varieties that have not been reported in catalogs or other philatelic literature. For example, in sheets of the 7h denomination, there are two different positions that invariably contain printing varieties or plate faults. Position 43 shows a vertical stroke to the left of the upper bar of the cross (Figure 5a) and position 89 has a short diagonal stroke to the right of the cross between the two bars (Figure 5b).

Other irregular printing varieties from the unwatermarked newspaper stamp series include stamps with significant or full offset/set-off on the reverse, stamps from sheets that shifted in the printing process, and examples of 20h double-prints.



Figure 6

Many denominations can also be found with private perforations. Many of these are rather crude, but some are surprisingly clean (Figure 6).

2. The Watermarked Newspaper Stamps of 1940-1942

Figure 7 shows the nine different denominations of the watermarked series in standard shades. Each denomination was printed by the firm *Andrej* and can be found with watermarks in four different orientations. There is some dispute in the philatelic world that some versions



Figure 7

were also printed at the firm *Grafia*, but apparently there is no concrete recorded evidence to support this claim. Just as the unwatermarked newspaper stamps of 1939, all watermarked denominations were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10). The exception to this is that the 10h denomination was also printed in sheets of 50 (10 columns x 5 rows) and genuine sheets of 50 are extremely scarce. All of

the denominations were produced with white (clear) gum. The standard 25h greenish-blue shade and the 2Ks stamps were produced with both clear gum and yellowish gum. Each of these with clear gum and sideways-facing watermarks are extremely scarce and unpriced in catalogs. It should also be noted that the 5h blue stamp with upright watermark can be found in horizontal gutter pairs or strips which are scarce and valuable.

2.1 Watermarks and Shades

Each denomination in this series has a multiple, staggered, double-barred cross and mountains watermark. In most cases, these are relatively easy to detect with some backlight but on occasion it is rather difficult to determine the watermark orientation. There are four distinct watermark orientations that can be found on each denomination. In the Slovak philatelic literature, the watermark orientation is determined based on the orientation on the face of the stamp and not the reverse. This is obviously not an issue for upright or inverted watermarks but in practice it is often easier to identify the sideways facing watermarks by assessing the orientation from the reverse of the stamp (and then classifying them as the opposite direction).

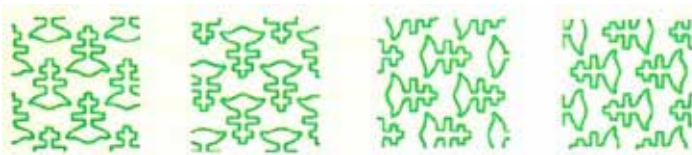


Figure 8

Figure 8 illustrates the watermark format and orientations. From left to right in Figure 8 Watermark 1 is upright on the face of the stamp, Watermark 2 is inverted on the face of the stamp, Watermark 3 faces right on the face of the stamp and Watermark 4 faces left on the face of the stamp. In general, stamps with Watermarks 3 and 4 are slightly less common than

stamps with Watermarks 1 and 2 and the stamps with Watermark 3 and 4 (sideways) are valued more than the stamps with upright and inverted watermarks.

It is impossible to discuss watermark orientations without addressing the issue of the recognized shades. There are five stamps in this series that were produced in two different shades. With the exception of the 50h denomination which was produced in both brown and dark brown shades, the other four stamps with distinct shades were only produced with certain watermark orientations coinciding with the particular shade.

With the 5h denomination the standard shade is considered blue or ultramarine and these were produced with all four watermark orientations. The sub-type shade is glossy metallic blue and this shade is only found on stamps with upright (Wmk. 1) or inverted (Wmk. 2) watermarks. Of particular note is that the 5h denomination with the shiny metallic blue shade and with the inverted watermark is rather scarce and it is by far the most valuable variety in the watermarked series.

The 10h denomination was produced in red-brown with all four watermark orientations. The sub-type is the brown-red shade which was produced only with Watermarks 1 and 2.

The 20h denomination was produced in a shiny black-green shade and this shade is only found on stamps with Watermarks 1 and 2 while the other shade, matte black-green, can only be found with Watermarks 3 and 4.

The standard shade of the 25h stamp is greenish-blue which can be found with all four watermark orientations while the sub-type is a gray-blue shade which can only be found with Watermarks 3 and 4 having only yellowish gum.

2.2 Plate Faults and Irregular Varieties



Figure 9

As with the unwatermarked series of newspaper stamps, each denomination of the watermarked series can be found with at least one recognized regular or constant plate fault, some of which are the same as the unwatermarked stamps. Stamps of the watermarked series can also be found with partial or full offset/set-off (Figure 9) on the reverse and they can also be found with private perforations. The following summarizes the plate positions at which one can identify plate faults:

5h – positions 41, 62 and 50 (just as the unwatermarked 5h),

10h – positions 2, 14 (Figure 10a – extended top of first “S” in “SLOVENSKA”), 23, 81 and 94,

15h – positions 3 and 52,

20h – position 66,

25h – positions 7, 16 (Figure 10b – large blue spot over parts of three letters), 40, 57, 58 and 84,

40h – positions 9, 27, 65 and 78,

50h – positions 9, 49, 70 and 100,

1Ks – positions 13 and 57,

2Ks – positions 9 (Wmks. 1 and 2 only) (Figure 10c – small spot on “P” and broken “O” in “POSTA”), retouch position 9 (Wmks. 3 and 4 only) and position 22.



Figure 10a



Figure 10b



Figure 10c

As noted at the outset of this article, it is intended to be a simple summary of the variations within the unwatermarked and watermarked newspaper stamp series of 1939-1942. Perhaps rates and usages can be dealt with at a later date. Hopefully this will be of some aid to collectors beyond the simple listings in standard catalogs. This is a very interesting subject within Slovak philately and a specialized collection of these stamps is within the reach of interested collectors at reasonable expense, with the exception of a few very scarce items.

Reference:

1. *Slovensko 1939-1945* p.84, by Bohumil Synek: Filatelia – Numizmatika Album (Bratislava 2015).

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President's Corner

On Volunteering, Collaborating, Participating, Writing, Promoting Czechoslovak Philately

As you can see by the subtitle of this column, I want to discuss some topics that I have been thinking about quite a bit lately. We, as a Society, have been blessed through the years with strong leadership and direction from the Board of Directors. This year marks the 85th year of existence for the SCP, an extremely long period for an all-volunteer group. I am proud to do my part and sincerely hope that I am doing the best I can for our membership. At least I hope that members would tell me if I should make a mistake or fail to do something that should be done! This, however, is not a one-person job. I need help in the form of **Volunteers, Collaborators, Participants, Writers** and **Promoters** of Czechoslovak Philately. This can take many different forms.

Currently we have openings on the Board of Directors, and we are looking for **Volunteers** to fill two seats. Being a Board Member means giving your time and thoughts as to how this Society should be run. We have two to three Zoom meetings a year, usually for an hour each time. We also meet for our Annual Meeting at the chosen show location each year. There are times when it is understandable that you might be unable to attend. But the fact remains that we need folks to step up and participate on our Board. Please contact me if you have even the vaguest thoughts or questions about being a Board Member.

In addition we need **Collaborators**. By this I mean members who want to use their talents to enhance our website as Webmaster. We have had a website for many years in essentially (but not completely) the same form and I think it is time for a revamp. Is there anyone among the membership with the computer skills and talent to become our Webmaster? I truly believe that our website can be a powerful tool to promote Czechoslovak Philately. In addition, we need a member who is also an American Philatelic Society (APS) member to become APS Affiliate Representative for the SCP. This person would be the contact between the SCP and APS. The duties are not much, but this person must be an APS member. Our long-time Representative has had to step back due to health issues.

Another form of helping our Society is **Participating** in the activities of the Society. This means making suggestions on how to accomplish things, letters to the Editor, nominating someone for office and voting in elections, or perhaps running for office yourself. Your opinion matters. It helps the Board if we know what is on the minds of our members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to a Board Member and let them know your opinion. This can also mean attending a meeting at a show location if possible and attending the Annual Meeting as an observer. It can also mean putting together an **Exhibit** at a show. In doing so you learn more about the subject matter of your collection. At our last meeting at PIPEX, we had exactly two exhibitors, the lowest number in many years. **Writing** is an excellent way to contribute to the life of the Society. We all have particular areas of philately that we love. Please share that area with others. Contact our Editor, Keith Hart, and suggest an article for *The Specialist*. It may seem daunting at first, but conceiving, researching and writing an article on a topic you want to share with others will accomplish further enjoyment in the topic you love and perhaps put you in contact with a member who can provide more information for you.

Finally, **Promoting** Czechoslovak Philately. Take it upon yourself to recruit a new member to the SCP. This is an excellent chance to show others the collecting area(s) you love and the fascinating world, culture and history that is Czechoslovak philately. This is a simple thing and a labor of love for the hobby you have passion for.

So, **Volunteering, Collaborating, Participating, Writing and Promoting** Czechoslovak Philately. I hope that you will take these words to heart and take action of some sort. I look forward to hearing from you. And since this is the final *Specialist* for 2024, please take time to renew your membership for 2025. As I write this, the weather has just begun to cool from hot summer temperatures here where I live and is a reminder that the holiday season is upon us. By the time you read this, it will be December. I wish you and your family the happiest of holidays and all the best for the New Year!

James A. Buckner

The Lidová architektura issues of 1971-1972

by James A. Buckner

The thirteen issues of the “Lidová architektura” (Folk Architecture”) series were launched on 25 February 1971 with the first three issues: the 1.60Kčs, 2Kčs, and 3.60Kčs denominations. Other denominations followed in March, April, and June of 1971 with four more denominations appearing in August of 1972. The stamps of this set first came to my attention when I was growing up in the 1970s and 1980s because letters from relatives in Czechoslovakia would arrive periodically, and they almost always had one (or more) of the stamps from this issue on the envelope.

Upon first examination, these thirteen issues seem to be nothing more than just another Second Czechoslovak Republic stamp issue destined to be purchased and put quickly away in a stamp album and forgotten. But there really is a lot going on with these stamps! Designed by J. Lukavský, and engraved by six different engravers, they were printed on different types of paper, they had color variations, recurring plate variations, different types, printed on three different printing presses, and, on top of all of this, they were valid in three countries with a length of use of over 22 years, only ending on 30 September 1993, the day that Czechoslovak stamps ceased to be valid in the two separate countries. There was a denomination for almost every conceivable postal use.

A summary of the basic data for the issues is provided in the table below:

Denomination	Date of Issue	Engraver	Paper Types*	Color Variations	Plate Variations	No. Issued
1Kčs	22.6.1971	Mráček	3		Yes	318,400,000
1.60Kčs	25.2.1971	Schmidt	2	Yes		44,430,000
2Kčs	25.2.1971	Schmidt	3	Yes		230,950,000
2.40Kčs	22.6.1971	Mráček	1			16,420,000
3Kčs	28.8.1972	Housa	3	Yes	Yes	155,210,000
3.60Kčs	25.2.1971	Goldschmied	3	Yes		38,130,000
5Kčs	28.8.1972	Goldschmied	3			66,330,000
5.40Kčs	22.6.1971	Mráček	1			19,330,000
6Kčs	26.4.1971	Jirka	2			31,330,000
9Kčs	25.3.1971	Ondráček	1			34,645,000
10Kčs	28.8.1972	Schmidt	3			18,120,000
14Kčs	22.6.1971	Jirka	1			8,665,000
20Kčs	28.8.1972	Goldschmied	1			12,970,000

*The 3 types are 1) normal paper, defined as paper without the intentional addition of an optically brightening substance, 2) brightened paper (paper with an optically brightening substance), and 3) fluorescent paper (which glows a color under UV light).

These issues are referred to as “Folk Architecture” issues because they depict various traditional building styles and structures throughout Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia, and are quite colorful and beautiful. To understand how these issues were regarded by the Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs, one only needs to look at the numbers issued. The 1Kčs, 2Kčs, and the 3Kčs issues numbered over 318 million, 230 million, and 155 million respectively. The 14Kčs issue had the fewest numbers at over 8.6 million. All other issues were issued in higher numbers than the 14Kčs issue but less than the 1Kčs, 2Kčs or the 3Kčs issues. When one compares these issue numbers to any other stamp issue from 1971 or 1972 where most issues were produced in numbers no greater than 8 or 9 million and usually much less, you’ll understand that these issues really were meant to pay for a lot of postal uses. Of course, the Folk Architecture issues were definitive stamps and were produced over a 22-year period; this explains their higher numbers compared to commemorative stamp production numbers, and it illustrates how many postal uses this series fulfilled.

The issues were printed using three presses, designated as WIFAG I, WIFAG II, and WIFAG III. The printer used to produce a certain sheet of this issue can be distinguished if one has margin copies of the given issue showing the full margin. On the margin, generally in the middle of the sheet, was printed the plate number. The date of production was printed in the margin either to the right of the plate number (WIFAG I), left of the plate number

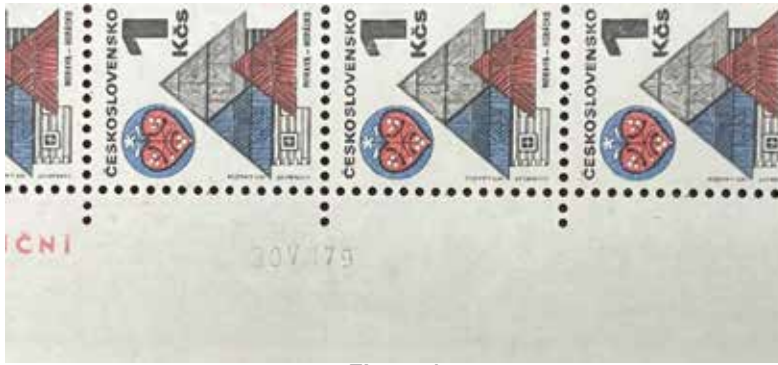


Figure 1a

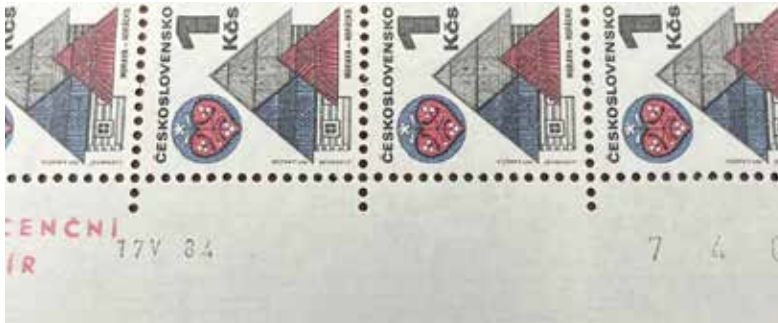


Figure 1b

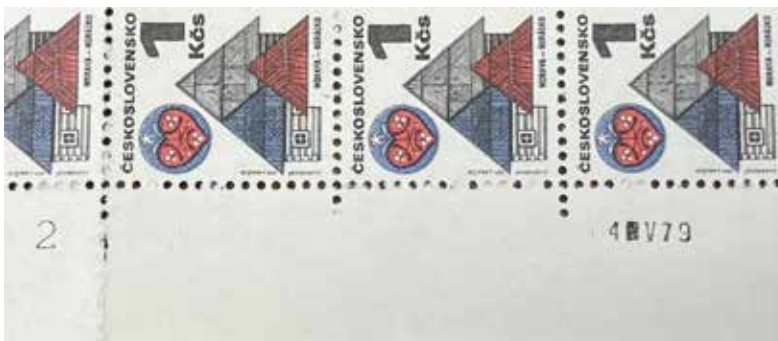


Figure 1c

kia. This issue had three paper types: it was initially produced on normal paper, later on paper with a brightener added, and finally on fluorescent paper. Under a UV light, the brightened paper will show a yellow color or sometimes an orange or purple-blue color. This issue also had a color variation, which can be seen under normal light. The structure which appears on the stamp is printed with two main colors: half in tan and half in blue (there are also other less prevalent colors such as white and black). The blue color can appear as dark blue or violet. The earliest production date that I have seen is 13 December 1972 while the latest I have seen is 22 August 1980. The postal uses ranged from airmail (three 2Kčs stamps for 6Kčs total, for example, paid the airmail rate to most of the world for envelopes up to 20 grams in the 1970s and 1980s) to domestic mail for a single stamp usage.



Figure 4

The 3.60Kčs [figure 4] shows a wooden church and Gothic bridge in the town of Chrudim in the Pardubice region of Bohemia. Once again produced on three paper types during its production life (normal, brightened, and fluorescent), production dates ranged from 17 February 1971 (again prior to

(WIFAG II), or to the left again but in discernably smaller numbers (WIFAG III). [figures 1a, 1b, and 1c]

The Issues from 1971:

The first three issues, the 1.60Kčs, the 2Kčs, and the 3.60kčs, appeared on 25 February 1971. The 1.60Kčs [figure 2] depicts roofs of a church in the Šariš region in northeast Slovakia. It was initially printed on normal paper¹ with black, purple and darker green as its main colors. Later in 1971 it appeared with a lighter green (when compared to the initial issues). There were two paper types as well. Beginning in 1975, the stamp was reprinted using paper that had an optical brightener substance added to it. I have seen production dates as early as 9 February 1971 (prior to issue date) and as late as 4 February 1976. I am certain there are production dates later than this. A typical postal use was for domestic registered mail where 60h paid the postage for letters up to 20g and 1Kčs paid the registration fee.

The 2Kčs [figure 3] features the belltower of a wooden church in the village of Hronsek from the Banská Bystrica region of Slova-



Figure 2



Figure 3

¹ Normal paper is defined as having neither a brightener nor fluorescence added to the paper for the issues.

issue date) up to 2 February 1981. A frequent use was for the payment of the international surface transportation rate to most destinations in Europe, which was 3.60Kčs for letters up to 20g.



Figure 5

The fourth value produced, the 9Kčs issue, [figure 5] first appeared on 25 March 1971 and it depicts a traditional wooden building from the town of Turnov in the Liberec region in Northern Bohemia. This issue only appeared on normal paper. The earliest production date I have is 13 July 1971.

On 26 April 1971, the 6Kčs value [figure 6] was issued. It shows traditional wooden houses from the Orava region of Northern Slovakia, and it too was produced only on normal paper. The earliest production date seen is 23 February 1971 (well before the issue date). It is often seen as a single use on air mail envelopes under 20 grams.



Figure 6

On 22 June 1971 a group of four stamps, the 1Kčs, 2.40Kčs, 5.40Kčs, and 14Kčs values, were issued. The 1Kčs [figure 7] was issued in massive numbers (318,400,000 were produced during its validity)



Figure 7

because it was intended for a plethora of uses. It shows small farm buildings from the Horácko region in Southwestern Moravia. It was issued using three paper types, initially on normal paper and then later on brightened paper and fluorescent paper. It shows shades of blue under a UV light on the brightened and fluorescent paper types. The earliest production date I have is 1 July 1971 and the latest production date is 18 December 1981. Because the postal rate for envelopes up to 20 grams sent to "Socialist Organizations" (basically any government-approved organization or company) was 1Kčs, this issue was used primarily, but not exclusively, for domestic mail. The 1Kčs issue was also used where

additional postage was needed. Shown at right is a postcard with its 2Kčs indicum and franked with an additional 3Sk stamp (the first stamp for the new Republic of Slovakia) and a single 1Kčs "Folk Architecture" stamp for a total of 6kčs to pay the post card air mail rate to New Zealand. [figure 8].

This stamp was produced primarily on the WIFAG I and WIFAG II printing machines. This issue was also interesting because it had three recurring plate varieties or defects. The first of these was a small red vertical line which



Figure 8



Figure 9a



Figure 9b



Figure 9c

appeared above the engraver's name in position 21/1 [figure 9a]. Another one appeared as a small broken line below and to the left of the emblem in position 44/1 [figure 9b]. Finally, a small line recurs in position 41/1 below the emblem. [figure 9c] The 2.40Kčs value [figure 10], which depicts the traditional house style from the area of Jičín in Bohemia, was the only stamp from this series with two



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

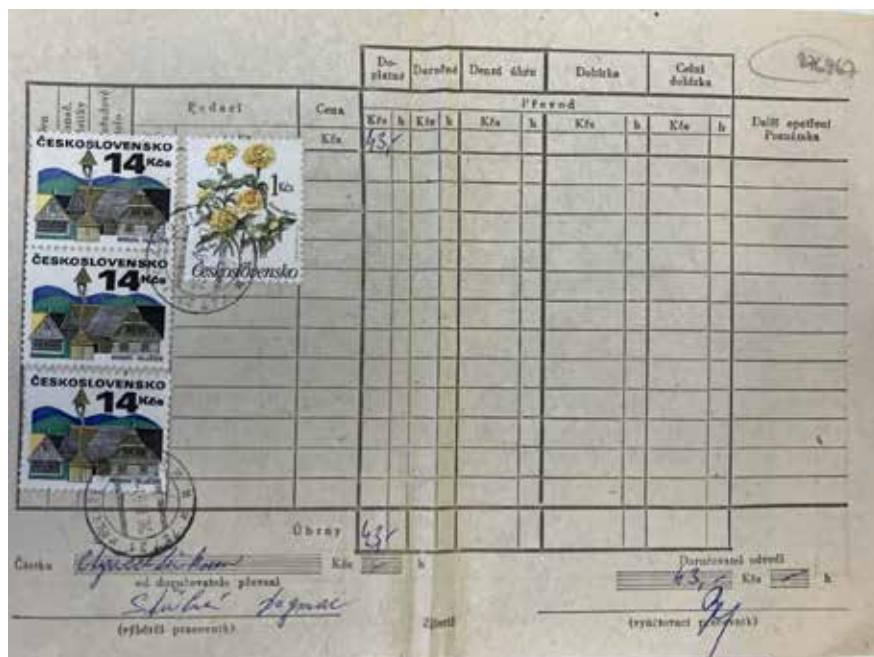


Figure 14

The 10Kčs value shows wooden houses from Liptovský Mikuláš in Central Slovakia. It was issued on normal, brightened, and fluorescent paper through its validity. It was produced primarily on the WIFAG II press, but there may exist examples of stamps produced on the other two presses as well.

The 3Kčs value was produced in huge numbers – over 155 million were printed over its life, and it appeared on three paper types (normal, brightened, and fluorescent). The stamp features traditional architecture from the town of Mělník, which lies about 17 miles north of Prague at the confluence of the Elbe and Vltava rivers. Like the 1Kčs value, it also had a recurring plate variation. In plate position 43/1 a small horizontal line

different types. Type II shows a grey-greenish gravure shading behind the “Kčs”, which does not appear in type I. [figure 11] This also does not occur in any other value in the series. It was produced only on normal paper, primarily but not exclusively, on the WIFAG II press.

The 5.40Kčs issue [figure 12] shows a small church from the town of Černá v Pošumaví in the Bohemian region of Český Krumlov and was also only issued on normal paper. It was printed primarily on the WIFAG II press, but there may be examples showing production from the WIFAG I and WIFAG III presses.

The 14Kčs value [figure 13] depicts a wooden belltower and other structures from the Wallachian (Valašsko) Open Air Museum in Eastern Moravia. It was produced in the smallest numbers at 8,665,000 over its validity. A typical (but not exclusive) use was on postal forms where a postman was required to collect cash. Shown nearby is a postal form affixed with three 14Kčs “lidová architektura” stamps along with a single 1Kčs stamp for a total of 43Kčs which the postmen had to account for after his route. [figure 14]

The Issues from 1972:

On 28 August 1972 four new values of this series appeared: the 5Kčs, the 10Kčs, the 3Kčs, and the 20Kčs values. [figure 15] The 5kčs appeared on 3 types of paper (normal, brightened, and fluorescent) and features the belltower of All Saints Church in the Náchod district of Hradec Králové in Northern Bohemia. A typical use on letters occurred where additional services such as express mail or registered mail was purchased along with postage.



Figure 15



Figure 16

appears between the emblem and the roof depicted on the stamp. [figure 16] In addition, there were color variations where issues appeared with green and dark red ink, dark green and light red ink, or dark green and dark red ink.

The final issue in the series, the 20Kčs value shows houses in the Living Folk Architecture Museum in the village of Čičmany in Slovakia, decorated in the local folk style using white chalk geometric patterns. It was printed only on normal paper. Later production runs may have occurred on the WIFAG III machine. I think it is the most beautiful of the thirteen stamps in the series. Uses include examples on evidence parcel labels where large payment was required. Shown nearby is a parcel label franked with a single 20Kčs stamp with express/special delivery service (the Pilné/Súrne label indicates this) with the package being large or of atypical size (the ENC-NSK label indicates this). [figure 17]

Later uses occurred when postage rates increased during the early days of the new Czech Republic on envelopes to domestic and international destinations.

The validity of the thirteen issues of the "Lidová architektura" stamp series ended on 30 September 1993, nine months after the "velvet divorce" in which Czechoslovakia split into the Republic of Slovakia and the Czech Republic. This is why it is possible to say that these stamps, first issued during the Second Czechoslovak Republic during the 1970s, were used in three countries. As we have seen, there are many facets to this series of stamps: different paper types, color variations, and plate variations are among these characteristics. They were printed on three printing machines, the WIFAG I, WIFAG II, and WIFAG III presses (later in the decade of the 1980s it appears that the WIFAG III machine was primarily used for production of many of the values). It may be possible to collect these issues by production date, although a complete list of production dates by issue has yet to be compiled. The stamps are skillfully engraved and are simply beautiful. There are many things to admire about this series of stamps.

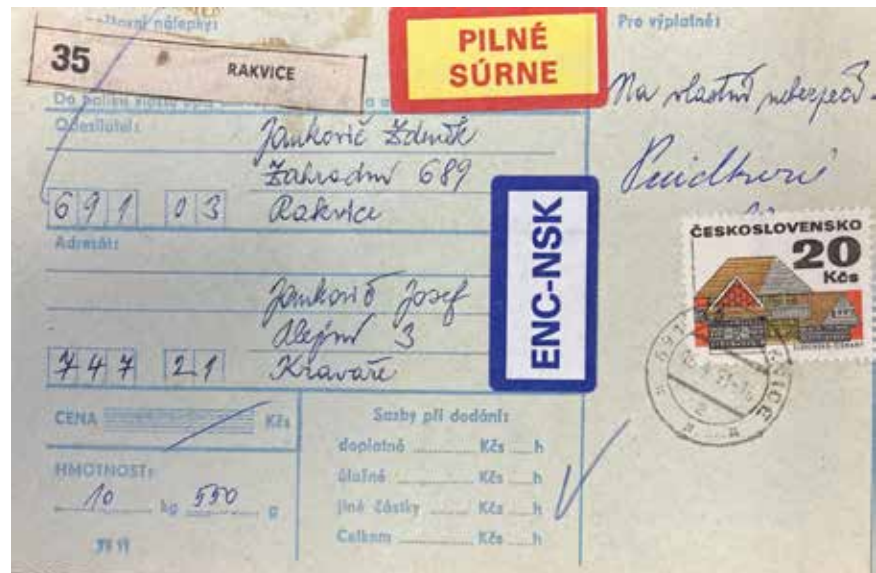


Figure 17

Much of the information for this article was taken from the 2015 *POFIS Československo 1945-1992* catalog and the *Specializovaná Příručka Pro Sběratele Československých Poštovních Známeček a Celin* (1988) as there is not much written on these issues, in either Czech, Slovak, or English. Other information was learned in discussions with Vladimír Münzberger, the Editor of *Filatelie* magazine in Prague. I want to thank Vladimír for taking the time to discuss this fascinating issue with me. If readers have comments or have additional information on these stamps, I invite them to email me at wellseats@hotmail.com.

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New Issues

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 both postal authorities. Some information used for stamp descriptions has also been provided by Pofis and PostFila]

SLOVAKIA



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

addition the Slovaks suffered the loss of at least 17,000 partisans. Nevertheless the uprising was one of the greatest anti-Nazi revolts in Europe during World War II. The FDC cachet of the left-hand stamp shows the SNP memorial in Nemecká (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a depiction of Štefánik's armored car. The cachet for the right-hand stamp is the Battle of Dukla Pass Memorial (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is an aircraft flown during the battle.

2. On September 6, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative sheet in the series: **Beauties of Our Homeland - Hričov Castle** [Pofis 827]. The T1 50g (€ 1.50) stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský and produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. The stamp depicts the ruins of the castle and was printed in a sheet of four with a central panel showing another view of the castle (Fig. 4).

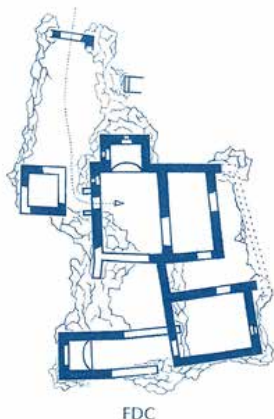


Figure 5



Figure 4

The castle was first constructed in the mid-13th century, then underwent reconstruction in the 15th and 16th centuries. In the 17th century the castle was bought by the Esterházy family. However they never lived in it and left it abandoned to rot away slowly over time. In 2010 the Association of Friends of Hričov Castle was established and they began the rescue of the ruins. Long-term planning has been put into place for comprehensive archaeological research into the castle's history, to be followed by gentle conservation that will preserve its authenticity. In the future a nearby tollhouse and school will display finds from the castle. The FDC cachet shows a plan of the castle (Fig. 5) and the cancellation is an ancient coin found during excavations. A Cartes Maximum was also issued.



Figure 6



Figure 7

Czechoslovakia he concentrated on literary works, focusing on describing the poverty, illiteracy, alcoholism and domestic abuse in which many people lived their lives. His plays still form a core-part for the Slovak National Theater. The FDC cachet shows the rural setting in which he was brought up (Fig. 7) and the cancellation is his initials.



Figure 8



Figure 9

on a relatively flat route consisting of two loops mostly within the city center. Record time today is 59 minutes faster than a century ago. The FDC cachet shows a runner breaking the winning tape (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is a runner's vest.

5. On October 9, 2024 the Ministry issued a € 1.50 stamp to celebrate **The 150th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union** [Pofis 830]. The stamp, designed by Marcel Benčík, uses the point structure of the stamps' perforations to create a digital type character for the stamp (Fig. 10) and it was printed in sheets of 50 with decorative margins on both sides of the sheet. On September 15, 1874



Figure 10

the International Postal Congress met in Bern, Switzerland with the goal of standardizing the various postal systems of the world. On October 9 the Bern Treaty was signed creating the General Postal Union which four years later became the Universal Postal Union. The FDC cachet is a digitized map of the world (Fig. 11) and the cancellation is a digital grid. A commemorative sheet was also issued.

6. On October 31, 2024 the Ministry issued a € 1.00 stamp to celebrate **Christmas 2024: The Interior Altars of the Basilica Minor of St. Egidia, Bardejov** [Pofis 831]. The stamp was designed by Adrian Ferda and printed in sheets of 50. St. Egidia has already been mentioned in issue 2024-2, page 18, item 1. The subject of this stamp is a side panel of the Altar of the Holy Cross and portrays the Adoration of the Three Magi (Fig. 12). St. Egidia was declared a National Monument in 1970 and in 2000, along with the town center itself, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town has managed to retain a completely medieval central square which is lined by well-preserved Gothic and early Renaissance burghers'



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 14

houses. The FDC cachet shows the other side panel of the altar – The Nativity (Fig. 14) and the cancellation is a scene from The Annunciation. A booklet with 10 self-adhesive stamps was also issued.

7. On October 31, 2024 the Ministry issued a T2 50g (€ 1.00) stamp to celebrate **The Christmas Mail 2024** [Pofis 832]. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and features the drawing *Snowman*, created by Hana Neumannová from Komárno



Figure 15



Figure 16

(Fig. 15). It is the 25th anniversary of the Slovak Post's yearly competition for schoolchildren to provide the subject for its Christmas stamp. Nowadays entries are still largely from Slovak children, but there were also submissions from other European and Asian countries. All entrants receive a reply and a small gift. The subject of the FDC cachet is *Winter Town* by Tomáš Varmus from Bardejov (Fig. 16) and the cancellation is *Snowman With A Present* by Filip Šmehýl from Považská Bystrica.

Postal Stationery

8. On August 30, 2024 the Ministry issued a prepaid postcard with additional imprint to honor **Ján Havlík (1928-1965)** [Pofis 336 CDV 331/24]. Havlík (Fig. 16) studied and practiced theology in secret. The communists arrested him in 1951 and he was subjected to horrific treatment until his death 14 years later.

9. On September 9, 2024 the Ministry issued a prepaid postcard with additional print to celebrate **Sbĕratel 2024** [Pofis 337 CDV 331/24]. The venue was in Prague and the imprint shows Old Town Square with the Týn Cathedral in the background (Fig. 17).

10. On September 27, 2024 the Ministry issued a prepaid postcard with additional imprint to honor **Mirko Nešpor (1924-1944)** [Pofis 338 CDV 331/24]. Nešpor (Fig. 18) was murdered by the fascist Hlinka Guard for his part in the Slovak National Uprising.

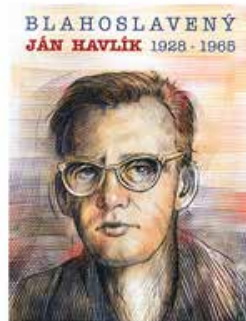


Figure 16



Figure 17

11. On October 4, 2024 the Ministry issued a prepaid postcard with additional imprint to honor **The Unveiling of the Memorial to the Victims of the 1977 Ambulance Mail Plane Crash** [Pofis 339 CDV 331/24]. The image shows mail falling to the ground from the aircraft (Fig. 19).



Figure 18



Figure 19

CZECH REPUBLIC



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

1. On September 4, 2024 the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued the commemorative souvenir sheet **Animals In Our Nature With Their Young** [Pofis 1282-1285, A1282]. The sheet was designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb and produced by recess printing from a flat combined with multi-color offset. The sheet contains four different value stamps and two coupons. Margins of the sheet are filled with animals and birds (Fig. 1). The 27 Kč stamp features the **Stoat**, which is also known as Eurasian Ermine. It is famed for its pure white winter coat, which in the past was used for capes or ceremonial robes. Its range covers a large part of the northern hemisphere and at present it is not thought to be endangered in any way. The FDC cachet features a Red Deer and a fawn (Fig. 2) and the cancellation is a seated stoat. The 31 Kč stamp portrays a **European Hare**. This herbivorous animal is known for its high-speed endurance running. This usually shy nocturnal animal changes its behavior in the spring when they can be seen chasing one another in the fields, occasionally striking each other with their paws. Their common range is from the British Isles in the west to Central Russia in the east. The FDC cachet shows a Gray Wolf with two cubs (Fig. 3) and the cancellation is a hare looking back over its shoulder. The 34 Kč stamp shows a **Gray Squirrel** whose original range was the eastern part of the United States. It has become widely distributed throughout the world, particularly in Europe where it has devastated local red squirrel populations and is considered an invasive species. They are known for temporarily storing their food in many different caches. The FDC cachet shows a European Badger (Fig. 4) and the cancellation is an outline of a squirrel. The 38 Kč stamp features a **Red Fox**, which has a long history of association with humans – thought of as a pest by farmers yet hunted for its fur. The species is found throughout the northern hemisphere and also as introduced in Australia, where it is considered a dangerous predator to native marsupials. The FDC cachet shows two Eastern Hedgehogs (Fig. 5) and the cancellation is a young kit. A Cartes Maximum for each stamp was also issued.

2. On September 4, 2024 the Ministry issued the commemorative souvenir sheet for the **Chapel of the Annunciation in Klementinum – The Mirror Chapel** [Pofis 1286, A1286]. The sheet was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Lucie Bandiková and produced by recess printing from a flat plate combined with multi-color offset. The 80 Kč stamp shows the chapel organ, surrounded by an arabesque of cornices and volutes. The stamp is set within the miniature sheet by a mirror guarded on the sides by caryatids (Fig. 6). The Klementinum is better known for housing the National Library and dates from the early 18th century. The Chapel of the Annunciation was originally a Jesuit



Figure 6



Figure 8



Figure 9

4. On September 4, 2024 the Ministry issued a definitive souvenir sheet celebrating **Gastronomy** [Pofis 1288-1289, A1288]. The sheet and stamps were designed by Jiří Slíva with two different 'B' value (27 Kč) stamps separated by a coupon showing an overflowing glass of extremely strong beer. Margins of the sheet show knives and forks (Fig. 10). One stamp shows a pig in a traditional Czech dish of knedlo, vepřo and zelo (dumplings, pork and sauerkraut) although



Figure 7

Chapel and has marbled walls and floors, gilded stucco ornamentation and a mirror-decorated ceiling. Unfortunately the Mirror Chapel is not part of the general public tour of the building. To see it you have to have a ticket for a classical music concert, and if the concert features organ music you will hear the sound of an

organ that has been played by Mozart. The FDC cachet depicts a shield-bearing angel (Fig. 7) and the cancellation is an outline of a golden shield from the building.

3. On September 4, 2024 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet in the series **Czech Footprints in the World: Josef Škvorecký** [Pofis 1287, A1287]. The 'Z' value (72 Kč) stamp and miniature sheet was designed by Libuše and Kamil Knotek. The stamp commemorates the centenary of Škvorecký's birth and shows a portrait of him from the 1990's, with a background of Náchod's main square, the town where he was born (Fig. 8). The surround of the miniature sheet has stacks of his published work. Škvorecký's youth was sadly interrupted by his being a slave laborer for the Nazis in a Messerschmitt factory in his hometown. His first two novels were published in the 1950's and were immediately banned by the communists. After the violent overthrow of the Prague Spring he fled to Canada and it was there that he established himself as a writer and publisher who shared the horrors of repression and totalitarianism, as well as life spent as an expatriate. The FDC cachet depicts the writer shuffling through handwritten pages of his early work (Fig. 9) and the cancellation is a tenor saxophone, showing his great love of jazz.

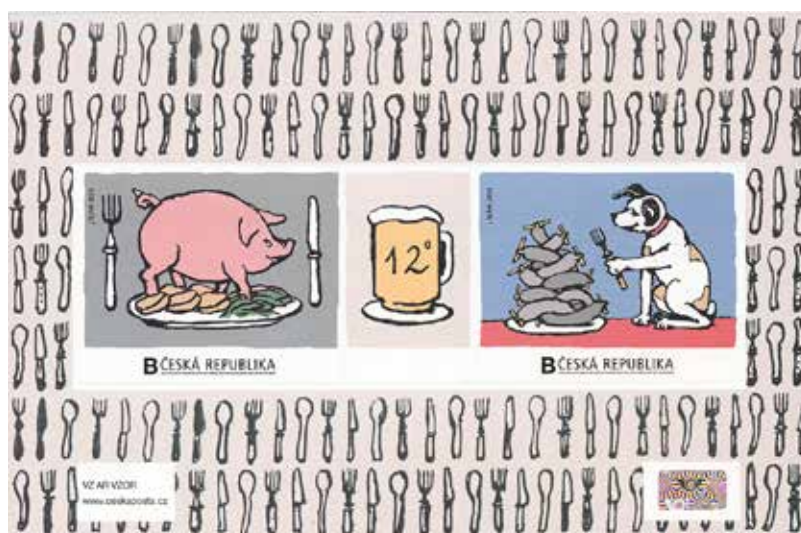


Figure 10



Figure 11

received by the press, its poor fuel consumption, combined with its expensive price meant that it was a complete failure and only 6 cars were ever built. A Cartes Maximum was also issued.

6. On October 9, 2024 the Ministry issued a 'Z' value (50 Kč) stamp to commemorate **The Foundation of the Universal Postal Union** [Pofis 1291]. The stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko and shows a globe with several hands pushing envelopes toward it (Fig. 12). It was printed in sheets of 50. It is 150 years since the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was founded in an effort to organize and improve the movement of mail throughout the world. At the time of its foundation most intercontinental mail was sent by ship, or railroads where this was possible. Nowadays most intercontinental mail travels by air. The UPU today is a specialized agency of the United Nations and has 192 member states, plus the Vatican City. Only Andorra, The Marshall Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau are not members. The FDC cachet is a jumble of letters and parcels (Fig. 13) and the cancellation portrays the globe as a mailbox into which letters are being deposited.



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15

7. On October 9, 2024 the Ministry issued a 34 Kč stamp in the series – **Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Vladimír Tesař** [Pofis 1292]. The stamp shows the artwork *Večerní Příjezd* (Evening Arrival) which is in the Městská Galerie in Vysoké Myto (Fig. 14). The graphic arrangement for the stamp and miniature sheet was by Kamil Knotek and it was printed in a sheet of four with a blank central coupon. The issue of this stamp celebrates the centenary of Tesař's birth. He was a master of many art mediums, from painting, graphic art, linocuts, film animation and movie posters. The techniques used for the artwork used for this stamp comprises gouache on wet paper with a reed pen, combined with Chinese ink drawing. He was best known by the public for his many book illustrations. The FDC cachet is an unnamed linocut print (Fig. 15) and the cancellation is a detail of the

stamp's subject matter as a line drawing.

8. On October 9, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet to celebrate **The 150th Anniversary of the Construction of the Racecourse and First Grand Pardubice Steeplechase** [Pofis 1293-1295, A1293]. The sheet was designed by Karel Zeman and contains single copies of three stamps – 27 Kč, 31 Kč and 35 Kč, plus a period detail of a race where Octavián Kinský jumps over the winner's rosette with the Irish Bank in the background (Fig. 16). The town of Pardubice had been long known as an equestrian center before the race was first run in 1874. Horses must negotiate 31 fences during the race which is traditionally run on the second Sunday in October. The length of the race is 6.9 km (34 furlongs) and generally takes between 9 and 10 minutes to complete. The 27 Kč stamp shows horses jumping the dreaded 4th fence, the Taxis Ditch, which is a combination of a hedged fence and a wide ditch. The FDC for this stamp portrays a rider preparing to hunt with hounds (Fig. 17) and the cancella-



Figure 16

FDC
Figure 17FDC
Figure 18FDC
Figure 19

The chateau interior has several large open areas – the Sala Terrana, The Hall of Ancestors and a ballroom. The chateau garden is laid out in late Renaissance style. The chateau was the headquarters for a massive estate of 3403 hectares (8409 acres). In the late 19th century the estate passed into the control of Count Rudolf of Vrbno and their ownership continued until the invasion of the Nazis, who passed it into the hands of the German Reich Railroad who used it as a school. Later, under communist control it became a vacation spot for party members. Taken over by the Republic in 1989 it required extensive restoration before being open to the public for the first time in its history. The FDC cachet portrays Johann Adam van Questenberg (Fig. 21) and the cancellation is the coat of arms of the city.

10. On October 30, 2024 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet – **Renaissance Ceiling Paintings** [Pofis 1298-1299, A 1298]. Graphic design for the two stamps and sheet was by Otakar Karlas. The two stamps and the surround of the miniature sheet show scenes from *The Story of Phaëthon* (Fig. 22) in the Schwarzenberg Palace. The palace, which is home to the National Gallery's collection of Baroque art, is easily recognized because of its Renaissance design with a black and white sgraffito façade. The ceilings in the palace are covered with canvas paintings stretched over a wooden frame. They date from about 1580 and depict scenes from Greek mythology. The 38 Kč stamp is *The Fall of Phaëthon*. Phaëthon was the son of Helios and Clymene. One day while driving a chariot he accidentally drove too close to Earth and burned up. Zeus killed him

tion is a coat of arms. The 31 Kč stamp shows horses jumping the Large Moat and the FDC cachet is horses racing between fences (Fig. 18) and the cancellation is a motif of a horseshoe. The 35 Kč stamp portrays horses racing towards the finish of the race and the FDC cachet is horses jumping a fence (Fig. 19) while the cancellation is a horse's head. Sadly this year's running of the race was marred by the failure of the photo finish camera which led to the judges having to appoint joint winners of the race.

9. On October 30, 2024 the Ministry issued two 'A' value (34 Kč) stamps in the series – **Beauties of Our Country: Jaroměřice and Rokytňou Chateau** [Pofis 1296-1297]. The stamps were designed by Pavel Sivko and printed se-tenant (Fig. 20) in miniature sheets of 8 (2x4). The left-hand stamp shows St. Margaret's church which was originally built in the

14th century. Today's building dates from 1727 and was constructed by Johann Adam van Questenberg, the owner of the land at that time. Built in what is largely a Renaissance style exterior and a Baroque interior which is light and airy. It has excellent acoustics for the many concerts held there. The right-hand stamp shows the chateau itself, which although attached has a slightly different architectural style even though it was constructed at the same time.



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26

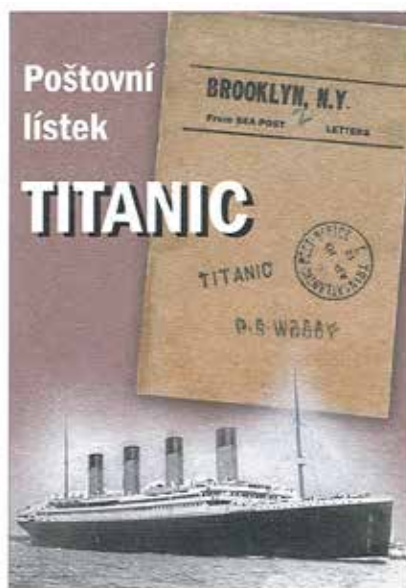


Figure 26



self-adhesive stamp to celebrate **Christmas** [Pofis 1300]. The stamp features a comet in the shape of a wrapped present (Fig. 25). It was designed by Jiří Slíva and printed in sheets of 50. A comet, The Star of Bethlehem, is a biblical premise that guided the Three Kings to Bethlehem. The comet was almost certainly an extremely close conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn which were also in conjunction with the constellation Pisces. The FDC cachet is a Christmas tree surrounded with presents (Fig. 26) and the cancellation is a Christmas ornament.

Postal Stationery.

12. On September 4, 2024 the Ministry issued a pre-printed 'B' value postcard to commemorate **Praga Piccola 2024**. The additional print shows a postcard on top of a photo of the fated steamship Titanic (Fig. 26). The ship had a contract to transport to America all mail within the Universal Postal Union that travelled through the UK. It is estimated that the ship was carrying more than 3000 bags of mail when it set sail. The post office on board was staffed by 37 people, including O.S. Woody, who perished along with all other postal workers.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

With the festive season upon us, it is time for membership renewal. Online and mailed renewals are mentioned in your copy of the December newsletter. If you did not receive this please contact either Keith Hart or Marisa Galitz so that a replacement can be emailed to you.

It is extremely important to us that we receive your renewal as soon as possible. We urge you to renew at the latest by December 31, 2024. The easiest way is to renew online using PayPal at the Society website csphilately.net/memberships-option-page/paypal/. When renewing this way you also have the opportunity to renew your membership in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain at the same time. If renewing by mail, remittance must be by check or money order only, made out to the SCP, and sent, along with a copy of the renewal form, which can be printed out at csphilately.net/memberships-option-page/scp-join-by-mail/, to Marisa Galitz, PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

If you have altered contact information to that on our files, please send updated information to Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com. Please note that Marisa will be out of town from December 28, 2024 until February 10, 2025 and that any checks mailed to her following Christmas may not be cashed until mid-February, 2025.

Membership levels are as follows:

- \$25.00. **Regular Membership** for USA addresses
- \$45.00. **Regular Membership** for addresses outside the USA
- \$20.00. **Online Membership**, with access to the online *Czechoslovak Specialist* only
- \$75.00. **Patron Membership**, with a 2-year bound volume of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* if you have membership at the Patron level for two consecutive years. Being a Patron Member for both 2025 and 2026 in the case of the next available bound volume.
- \$95.00. **Patron Membership** for addresses outside the USA.
- \$3.00. **Youth Membership** for collectors under the age of 18

Please note that the Society By-Laws state that any membership renewal received/postmarked later than January 15, 2025 would probably lead to the 2025-1 issue of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* **only being available to that member in online form**. Late in January 2025 we have to complete the list of members that issue is mailed to and we cannot afford to send out individual copies of that issue later.

Being a member does have benefits. Besides four issues a year of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*, you also have access to the **member's rates for philatelic books and catalogs** listed at the back of each issue. Most of these publications are generally only available in the USA through the Society. Members also have **access to borrow from the Society library and also expertization advice**.

All Members also receive an email copy of our **Monthly Newsletter** which keeps you apprised with news in the philatelic world. Obviously, to receive the newsletter, we require an up to date email address. If that is changed for any reason please advise Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com. If your physical address also changes you should advise Marisa as soon as possible in order to receive your next mailed copy of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

Members can also use our **Online Sales Circuit**. You can advertise and sell your own surplus philatelic material or inquire whether anything you require is available from other members. Please check this out every month, as there is always an interesting selection of items for sale.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCP BOARD ARE NOW OPEN

As specified in the Society Bylaws, it is time to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in the 2025 election for 4 of the 12 Board of Director positions.

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

Term Ending: James Buckner, Chris Jackson, Frederick Lawrence and Richard Livingston

Remaining: Joe Coulborne, Marisa Galitz, John Grabowski, Alan Hanzl, Keith Hart, Rich Palaschak, and Bill Slaninko, (one position is open).

Society members can nominate up to four candidates (other than themselves) by writing their name on a blank piece of paper, and say I (insert your name), nominate (insert names/names) for the 2025 Board of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, sign the petition, and return it to the SCP Membership Secretary, either by email at mmgalitz@hotmail.com or mailing it to SCP, PO Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Board Members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. When you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing, having appeared on the latest membership list.
2. The nominee must have given their consent to be nominated.
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board Meeting location that has been specified by the President. The 2025 location will be at **St. Louis Stamp EXPO** taking place from March 21-23 and our Board Meeting will take place on March 20. The 2026 location will be at the **Boston 2026 World EXPO**, taking place from May 23-30. Our Board meeting date at this venue has still not been set.
4. The nominee must have an email address in order to conduct Society business. Some Society propositions are voted on by email. They should also be able to attend Zoom Board meetings which usually take place during the week 3-4 times a year, starting at 3pm Eastern time.
5. The nominator should make sure that their nominees agree to the above conditions.
6. The Membership Secretary must receive the petition by January 31, 2025.

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*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*



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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, \$46 for printed copies by airmail or \$41 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
Owings Mills, MD 21117**

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

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7 copies of the 2009-10 volume are available

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\$ 55/\$30

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