



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization. Winner of
Numerous International and National Literature Awards

A. P. S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 56

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 1994

No. 1, Whole No. 523

A SUCCESSFUL FLOREX 93

Where were you when we were enjoying 60's weather in Orlando?

I am pleased to say that many members did join us for FLOREX '93, and that it turned out to be a very pleasant success.

Starting with the exhibits, our members Dick Major, Mirko Vondra, Fred Lawrence, Jiří Stupka, Phil Freer, Bob Koschalk, Mike Jolly, John Grabowski, and Charley Chesloe provided 60 frames of material (this was 25% of all the frames). In addition, Jane Sterba and Phil Freer each provided a non-competitive frame illustrating the variety and beauty of Czechoslovak stamps. These two frames were places right next to our Society table and attracted many passing visitors. (see photos on page 27).

When the judging was completed, Fred Lawrence's "Scouting on Stamps" was awarded a gold medal; Mirko Vondra's "Hradčany" and Jiri Stupka's "Pigeon and Liberated Republic Issue" won vermeil; Bob Koschalk's "German Occupation" and Mike Jolly's "Postmarks of Bohemia" received silver; Richard Major's "From S.S.R. to Independence" and John Grabowski's "Postal Uses of Czechoslovakia's Hradčany Issue" garnered silver-bronze; and Phil Freer's "Czech Stamps Honoring Masaryk" earned a bronze.

At the Society Awards Breakfast the award for the Best Society Exhibit was presented to Jiri Stupka-who came all the way from Železna Ruda, Czechoslovakia. The close runner-up was Mirko Vondra. Jiří received his choice between two handsomely framed prints of turn-of-the-century Prague. Mirko Received the other. The special additional prize (a new copy

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

of the PRAGA '78 catalog with philatelic dictionary) awarded for the best first time exhibit by a Society member was presented to John Grabowski. The SPECIALIST article writing contest was won by Frank Garancovsky. Watch for his article in the near future. He receives a free one year membership to the Society.

Finally-but by far most importantly-Jane Sterba was honored by the Board with the designation of Honorary Member of the Society. This honoraria was awarded to Jane to show the Society's appreciation for the many, many years of service as President, Editor of the SPECIALIST, Secretary, and hard working member. When anything needed to be done, Jane was always available.

From a financial perspective, the convention results were also good. Three new members were signed up. About \$250 worth of books and other publications were sold. Over \$600 worth of philatelic items were selected by members from the circuit books available for review.

Speaking of the circuit, all of the board members present were very favorably impressed with the organization, management, and re-birth of the circuit by its new manager, Alan Hoover.

Thanks to all the hard work of the participants, our adventure in Florida can definitely be chalked up as a success.

- Pres. Ludvik Z. Svoboda

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VOL. 56

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 1994

NO. 1, WHOLE NO. 523

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lancaster, PA 17604

PUBLISHED BY: THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

1511 CLEARVIEW AVENUE, LANCASTER, PA 17601-4305

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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Printed at Ephrata, PA by Shelley Printing, Lee Weit, President (717) 738-1141

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HRADČANY ON POSTAL WAYBILLS

by Ing J. Petrášek

Translated by Jaroslav Verner

Postal traffic was not interrupted with the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. But since new Czechoslovak postal paper was not available at first, post offices continued using Austrian postal stationery and forms with texts in German or German-Czech in the Czech Lands. In Slovakia the stationery and forms were Hungarian with an imprinted revenue stamp. In this article we will be concerned exclusively with postal waybills.

Basically there exist two kinds of postal waybills: for regular parcels and the "collect on delivery" ones. They are used for both internal and international mail. The simple postal waybill is the document used when posting the package and on which the recipient certifies its receipt. If a package is sent collect, it is necessary to use a "collect waybill," which has two detachable parts. In addition to being the postal waybill, it also serves as a postal receipt that accompanies the money collected and sent back to the sender of the package.

Postal Waybills issued in Czechoslovakia during the period 1919-1922 were printed with an imprinted stamp. Therefore we consider these waybills as postal stationery even though the imprinted stamp actually had the function of a revenue stamp. For this reason, after 1925, Czechoslovak postal waybills had revenue rather than postal stamps imprinted on them. Later only the state seal was imprinted on the waybill form. Now it consists of a simple postal form.

In addition to the imprinted Hradčany stamps, which we will address shortly, one also finds the "Dove" stamp designed by Jaroslav Benda. We will begin, however, with a description of the forerunners of the postal waybills. In our example (Fig. 1) we see a receipt section of an Austrian postal waybill with a German-Czech text and an imprinted revenue stamp which was used at Praha 1 on January 1, 1919.

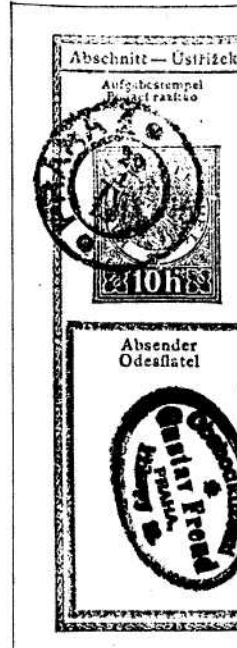


Fig. 1

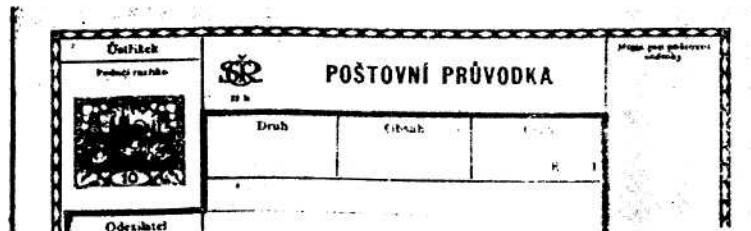


Fig. 2

The situation in the printing industry of the new Republic was certainly not rosy so the first issue with Hradčany stamps was printed in Vienna, as were the postcards. The Vienna printed waybills apparently arrived at post offices in March 1919. The regular postal waybills were issued in three language versions: Czech with the text POŠTOVNÍ PRŮVODKA; Czech-German with the text POŠTOVNÍ PRŮVODKA/POSTBEGLEIT ADRESSE; and with the Slovak text POŠTOVA ADRESA SPRIEVODNA (Fig. 3). The main text was printed in "grotesque," with the rest of the text in "antique." The frame is a wide, tick line with diamonds inside and the sale price of 12 heller appears under the ČSR monogram.

The Czech version is documented here with two postally used examples. The first example (Fig. 4) was used on 5/20/1919 at the Červený Kostelec post office to send a package weighing 3.3 kg. and with a value of 600 Kčs. The package was addressed to Dětvý which docu-

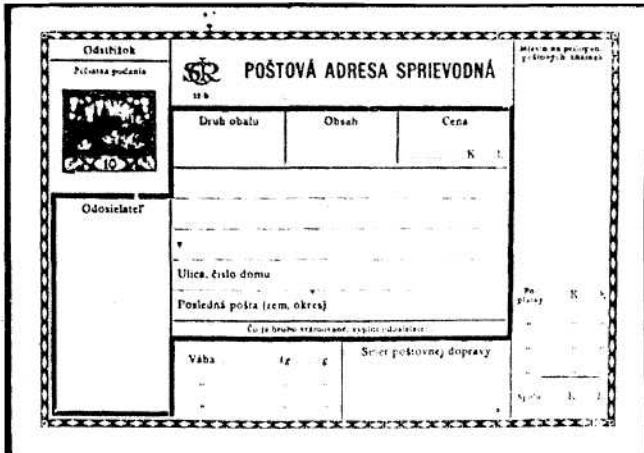


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

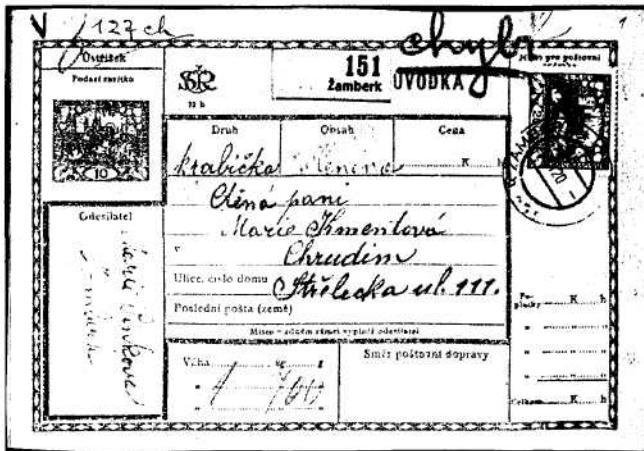


Fig. 5

mented receipt on the reverse side of the waybill with a Hungarian cancel of "Gyetva" and the arrival date of 6/21/1919. Postage was paid by 100 and 60 heller imperforated Hradčany stamps. The signature of the recipient of the package is missing and an additional hand stamp "Settlement is not possible/Postal Parcel Reception Office/ Bratislava" probably indicates the parcel could not be delivered, as evidenced by the completed use of the waybill.

The second example (Fig. 5) was used in Žamberk on 7/24/1920 to send a parcel weighing 1.7 kg to Chrudim with no value noted. Postage is paid by a Hradčany stamp, this time a 200 heller stamp with a 13 3/4:13 1/2 comb perforation. The arrival cancellation "Chrudim 1 e" is a Type I CSP and is on the reverse side of the waybill. In addition, an added hand stamp in black appears on the obverse: "Settlement not necessary/ Postage paid in Praha." Understandably here too certification of receipt is absent.

The example of the Czech-German language mutation (Fig. 6) documents the dispatch of a parcel valued at 200 Kčs from Horní Vrchlabí on 4/26/1919. The destination is Jablonec nad Nisou where it was delivered on 4/28/1919. Its weight of 1.5 Kg required postage of 110 hellers which was supplied by an imperforated 100h and a 10h stamp of the Hradčany issue. There are no notations regarding delivery or other

disposition of the parcel.

The regular postal waybill for international mail bore a simple Czech-French text with the title "POŠTOVNÍ PRUVODKA/ BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION (Fig. 7) with only the diamond outline missing. The imprint stamp appears off center at the upper right. The paper on which it was printed was rose to rose-brown in color.

The collect postal waybill was also issued in three language variations and the obverse side was like the regular postal waybill, except that on the bottom left clipping (receipt) for the recipient is the word "Dobírka" (C.O.D.) The other detachable part is titled "POŠTOVNÍ POUKÁSKA DOUBÍRKOVÁ (Postal C.O.D. Receipt). Naturally all texts were rendered in the languages of their particular versions. The possibility of separating the two parts from the waybill was indicated by rows of dots and made possible by perforations of 5 1/2, 6 1/2, and, in the Czech version, 10 1/2. The printing technology used was again typography on coarse, grey-green or yellowish paper, as was the case with regular postal waybills. No collect postal waybills for international mails were printed in Vienna.

The second issue of this postal stationery was produced in the Prague Printery "Unie." These postal waybills apparently first appeared in the post offices in February 1920. Their main characteristic marking is the change in the frame to two thin lines and all the



Fig. 6

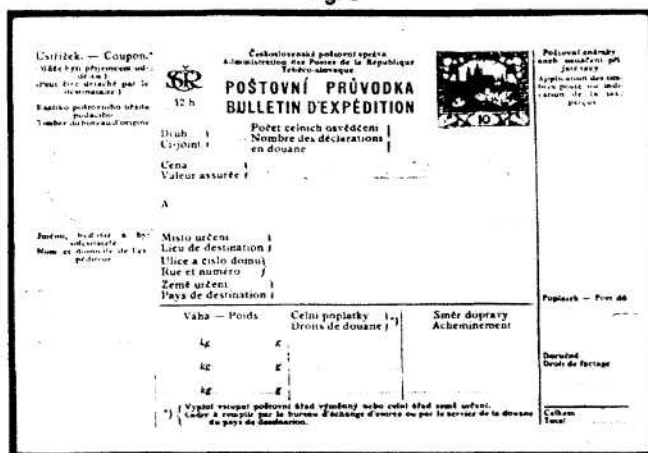


Fig. 7

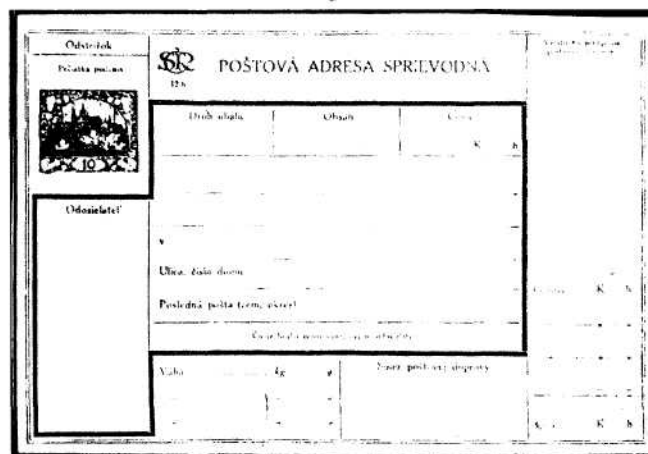


Fig. 8

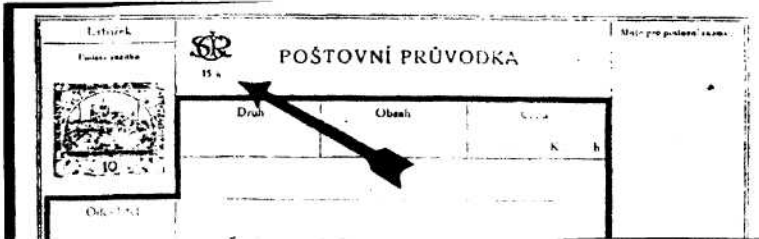


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

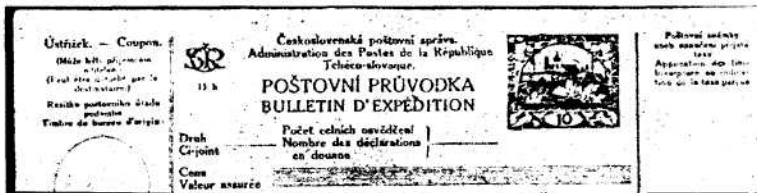


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

version is known with 11 1/2 perforations with the 15 heller price and the Czech-German with no price at all. Our example in this category is for a parcel weighing 1.6 Kg sent from Veliký Dřevíč on 1/24/1920 and valued at 650 Kčs, while the amount to be collected on delivery was to be only 258.52 Kčs. The postage was 250 hellers and was made up of two imperforated 80h, and one each of the 40h and 50h stamps of the Hradčany series. The addressee in Lhotec, serviced by the Hradčovice post office, either declined delivery of the parcel (Hradčovice arrival cancel dated 1/26/1920) or the address was wrong (notes on the

printing uses antique fonts. As with the Vienna issue, all three language versions exit on regular postal waybills for domestic use, that is Czech, Czech-German, and Slovak (Fig. 8). The cost of the waybill was again 12 heller. Subsequently a Czech language version was reissued with a price raised to 15 hellers (Fig. 9), again printed under the ČSP monogram. Our example of a sender's receipt is for a parcel sent from Praha 1 on 8/23/1919 (Fig. 10).

Further details are, unfortunately, not identifiable. Regular postal waybills for international mail issued in Prague have some decorative changes in the design and also exist in the 12 and 15 heller price variations (Fig. 11).

The collect postal waybills designed for internal mail of the Praha issue again exist in the three language versions, the Czech version with 10 1/2, 11 1/2, and 13 1/2 perforations; Czech-German (Fig. 12) and Slovak ones are perforated 11 1/2. The Czech

waybill mention "at Žel. Brod" and "Morava"). In any case, the parcel was returned to Velký Dřevíč. However, there only the waybill was received. The parcel apparently was lost enroute. This is attested to by two arrival cancels of Velký Dřevíč dated 3/6/1920 and 4/21/1920 along with a hand written note "Didn't arrive. Šára."

For the first and final time with this issue, collect waybills were issued for international mail. Two types can be identified. The first with 10 1/2 perforations (Fig. 13) and with a 12 heller price, while the second type has a 15 heller price and is perforated 11 1/2. Both types were printed on orange paper.

All of the stationery types discussed above have an imprinted 10 heller Hradčany stamp, design "a". The country name ČESKOSLOVENSKO is placed perpendicularly on either of the side of the stamp design. The next issue of waybills was the third and last of postal waybills with the 10 heller Hradčany stamp, but this one was of the "e" design, that is with ČESKOSLOVENSKO placed horizontally under the drawing of the Hradčany. Other features that distinguish this issue from the preceding two is the use of the small state seal with either heavy or light shading lines instead of the CSP monogram and designator letters which distinguish the language version and appear at the bottom left corner of the waybill. The Slovak version has the new heading "POŠTOVA SPRIEVODKA." The date of issue of this third postal waybill has to be fixed at the transition of 1920 and 1921.

The regular domestic postal waybills with heavy shading in the state seal exist in two language version: the Czech is marked with the designator letter A in the lower left corner (Fig. 14), the Czech-German version with a B. This Czech-German version also exists without a price indicator. Our example of this postal waybill originated with a parcel sent from Kunratice U Prahy, but the date is, unfortunately, illegible. Regular postal waybills for international mail were issued with designator letter D. They were progressively issued with the price of 30 hellers, then without a price (Fig. 15), and finally on October 22, 1922 with a new sale price of 20 heller (Fig. 16). This last variant exists with two different shadings of the state shield, heavy shading with 39 lines and light shading with 19 lines. The paper on which they were printed was either rose or brown.

Collect postal waybills of the third issue exist only for domestic mails and the imprinted stamp is printed somewhat lower on the waybill than it was in the earlier issues. The Czech version was issued first without a letter designator and with the sale price of 15 hellers. This was followed by a Czech version with the designator letter A (Fig. 17) and the Czech-German version with the designator letter B, both with perforations either 11 1/2 or 13 1/2. Our example of this type of postal waybill is a sender's receipt for a parcel sent from Chroustovice on

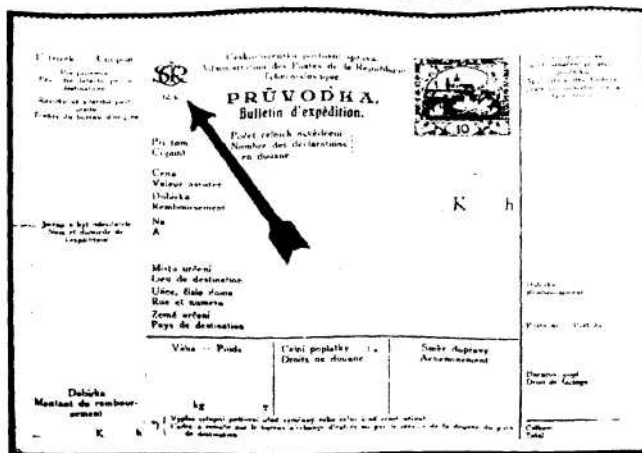


Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

11/29/1920 with a request for a collection of 322 Kčs. A Slovak language version was also issued at this time with the designator letter C, but only with the 11 1/2 perfora-

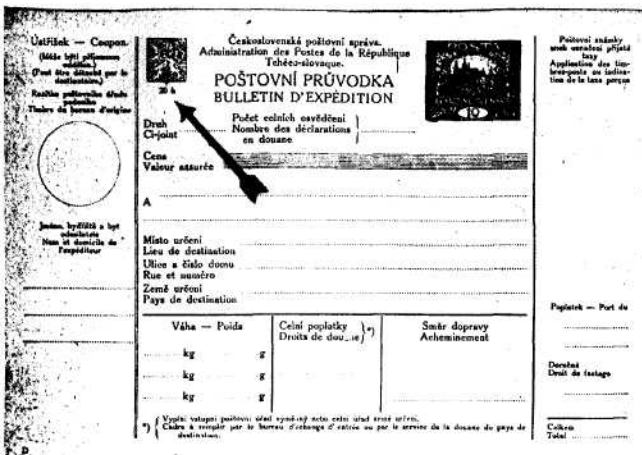


Fig. 16



Fig. 18

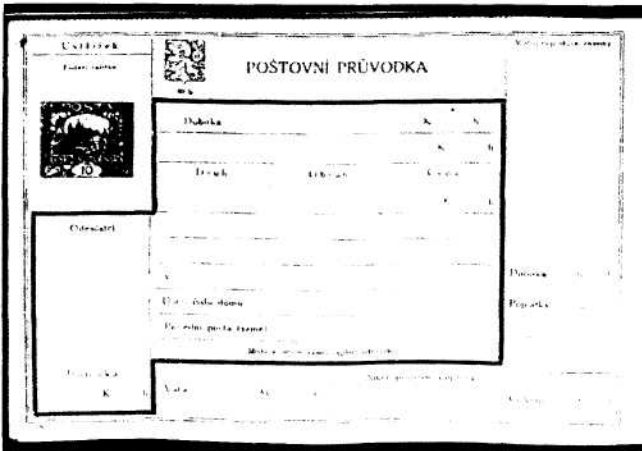


Fig. 17

tion. This exhausts the varieties of postal waybills with the imprinted Hradčany stamps even though other varieties are suggested in later literature. The existence of those varieties not listed here, however, have not been found by collectors. In closing, we should

add that from 5/8/1925 the stamp payment for the waybills went from 10 heller to 50 heller. This rate was met by pasting stamps onto the waybills in the amount of 40 heller. Trial printings also exist of these postal waybills, mostly in black, but also in color combinations. The validity of all these postal waybills ended on 8/15/1928.

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MARKING THE END OF POSTAL VALIDITY

by Henry Hahn

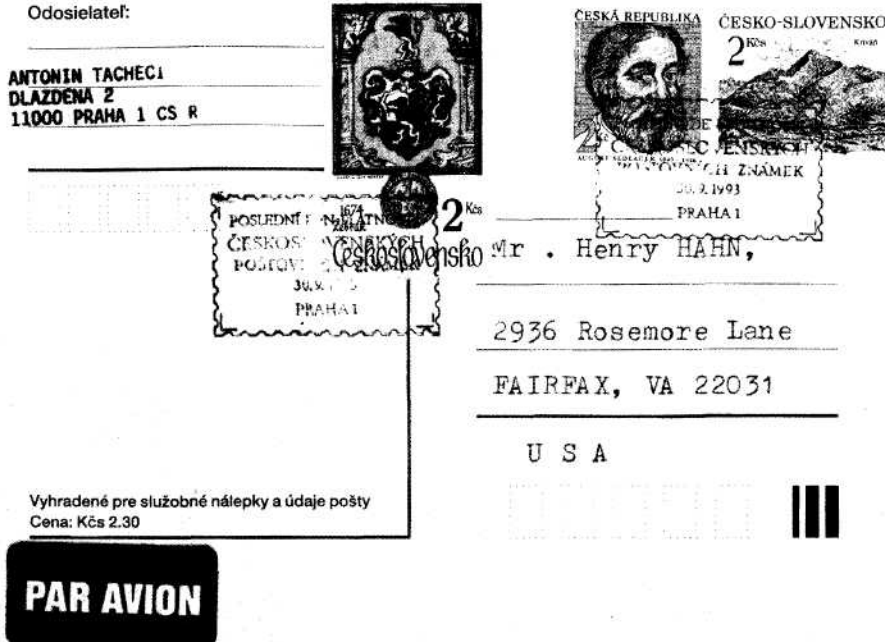


Fig. 1

We have witnessed the separation of Czechoslovakia into two sovereign states: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic (or Slovakia), both of which are now issuing their own stamps.

Up to September 30, 1993, both Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic stamps were valid throughout the Czech Republic. The validity period of stamps of Czechoslovakia which lasted from 1918 to 1992 thus came to an end. Actually only Czechoslovakia stamps issued between June 1, 1953 and December 31, 1992 became invalid after September 30, 1993. This includes the issues starting with Klement Gottwald (Scott nos. 600 to 604) and Antonin Zapotocky (Scott nos. 605-606) to the final issue, the 2 kčs. stamp dedicated to the graphic artist, Jindřich Schmidt, which was issued on December 18, 1992 (Scott no.). Note, however, that postage due stamps issued in 1954/55 and 1971/72 have been invalid for postal use for some time.

To commemorate the last day of postal validity, the postoffice at Prague used a special cancel reading "POSLEDNÍ DEN PLATNOSTI ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK - 30-9-92 - PRAHA 1" (LAST DAY OF VALIDITY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA STAMPS - 9/30/92 - PRAGUE 1).

We are thankful to Mr. Antonin Tachecí for two postcards and three covers bearing this special cancel. Fig. 1 shows the last CZECHO-SLOVAKIA issue, upfranked to meet the current airmail postcard rate of 6 kčs. with mixed franking of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. Fig. 2 shows the 2 kčs. Czech Republic postcard issue, upfranked and overfranked by 1 kč. with CZECHOSLOVAKIA issues. As far as the letters are concerned, they bear mixed franking, cancelled by the special postmark as shown in Fig. 3.

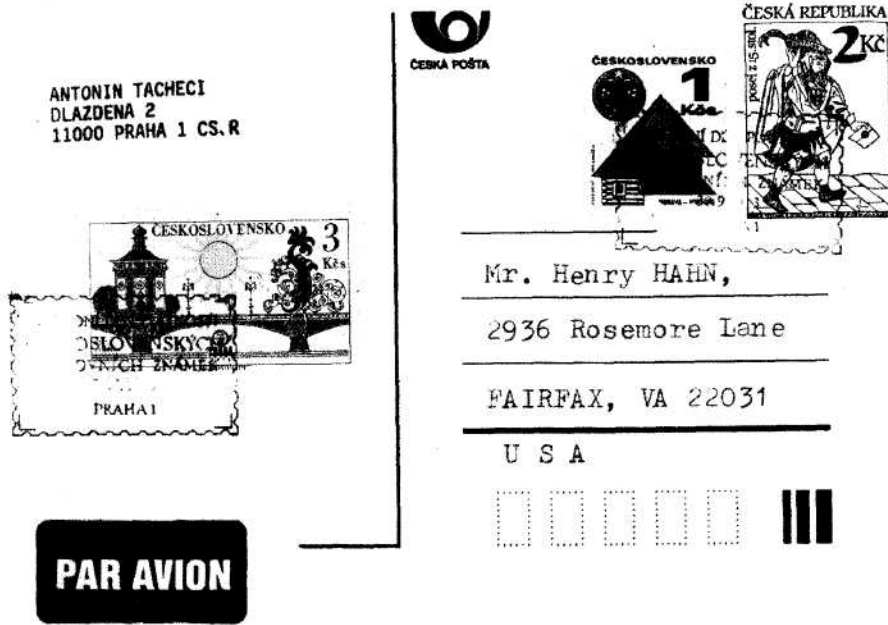


Fig. 2

Invalid Czechoslovakia stamps could be exchanged between August 1 and Nov. 30, 1993 at local postoffices for stamps of the Czech Republic. Businesses and institutions having large

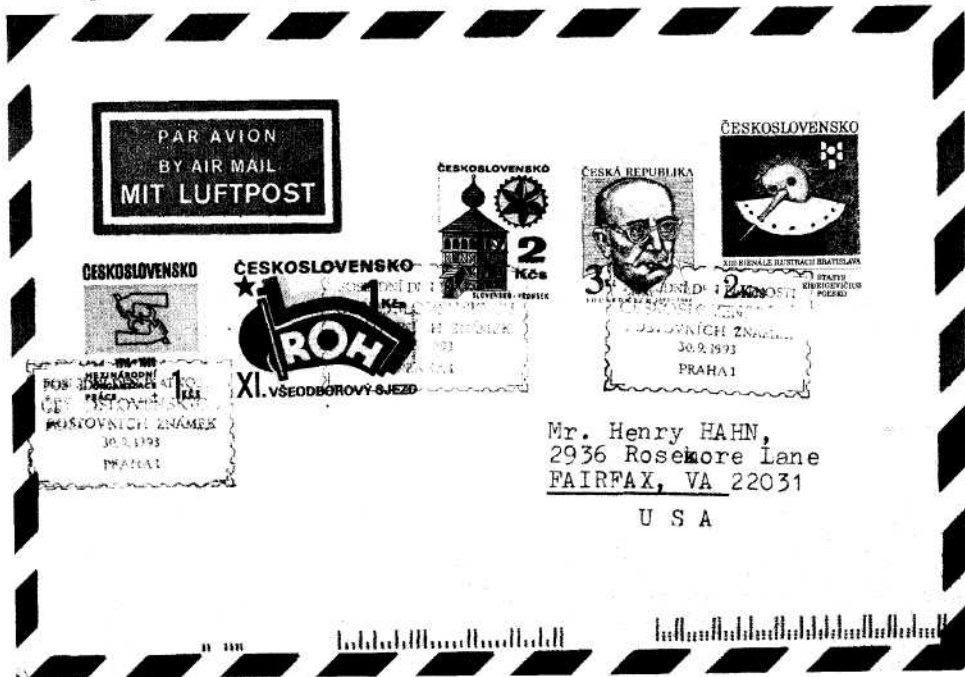


Fig. 3

quantities of stamps to exchange had to do so at the Postal Business Center in Prague/Holešovice. The postoffice then destroyed the invalid stamps.

Collectors will note that the number of new issues appearing annually is decreasing. In 1991, the decrease was about fifty percent. In 1992, the number of new issues dropped by another ten percent. Only some twenty commemoratives were issued in 1993. On the other hand, the quality is generally good, there is less disparity between the best and the worst and the subject matter is assuredly much better overall than during the Communist era.

Reference: Helena Hodková, FILATELIE 43, August 1993, page 298.

FOREVER TELČ!

by Henry Hahn

To my many friends who have ribbed me, pulled my leg and otherwise abused me since publication of my little book "POSTAL HISTORY OF TELČ AND VICINITY", over ten years ago, and who exclaimed "NO MORE TELČ!" when I wrote a few short articles since, I can now say: "MY DAY HAS TRULY COME".

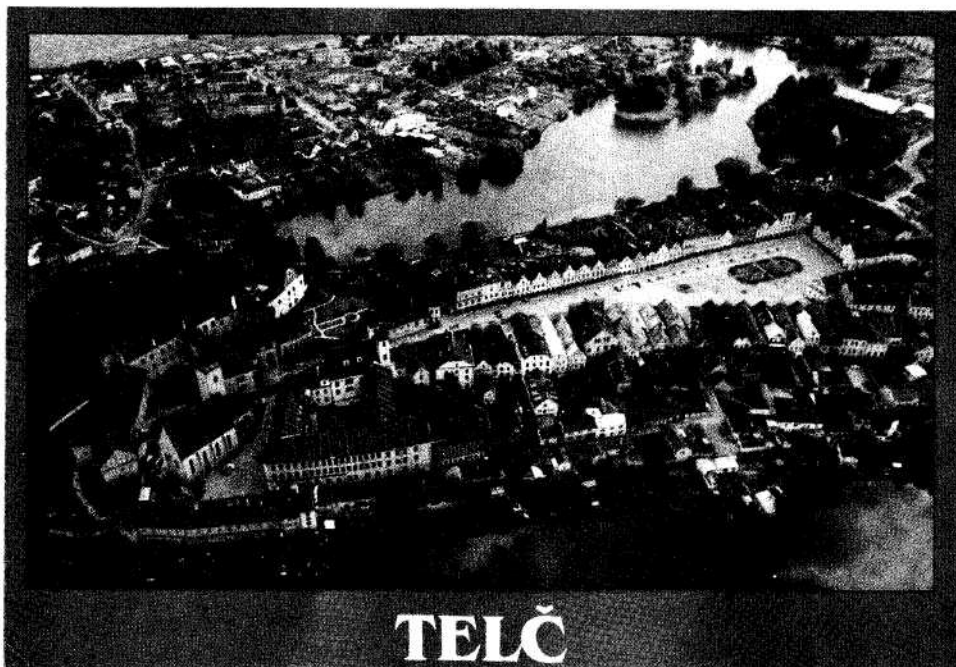


Fig. 1

No, Telč has not become the capital of the Grand Moravian (see Fig. 1) Empire. However, on May 22, 1993, the beautiful town of Telč the "Pearl of Moravia"-was entered into the OFFICIAL UNESCO ROSTER OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE. Only Prague and one other town in the Czech Republic, Český Krumlov, have been so honored. And in March of this year, Telč will be honored further by the issuance of a Telč postage stamp.

The official presentation of the Memorandum of Registry took place with pomp and ceremony at the private theater in the Telč Castle. The principal address was delivered by Premier

Václav Klaus, in the presence of national and international dignitaries, UNESCO officials, members of Parliament, diplomats including US Ambassador Adrien Basora, representatives of the church, academia, and numerous foreign visitors. My wife Marilyn, granddaughter Jessica and I savored every moment of this impressive yet exceedingly friendly ceremony. The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Castle gardens and numerous cultural presentations both at the Castle and in the town square.

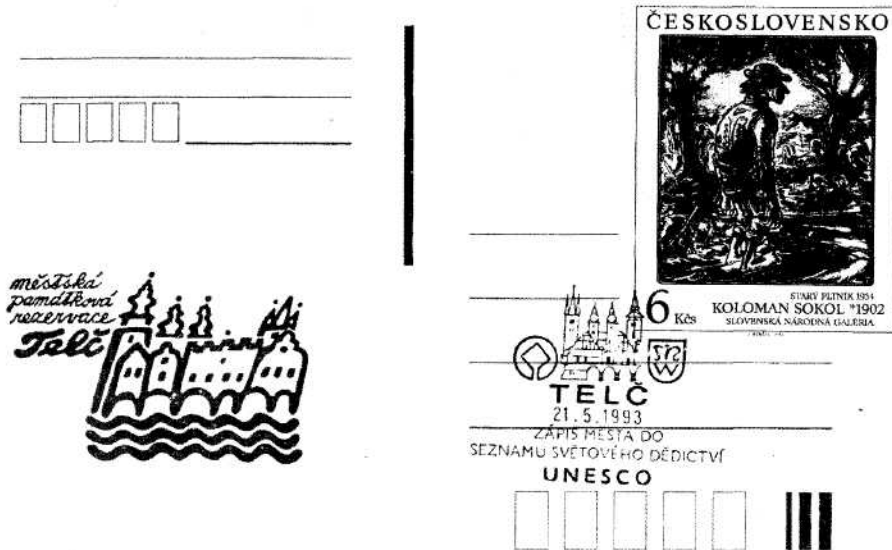


Fig. 2

A special post office was set up at the City Hall (Radnice) where a commemorative cancel was applied, dated "21.5.1993". (see Fig. 2) However, mail processed at the regular post office received this postmark as a cachet, dated "22.5.1993". Both are illustrated here. Note that the latter is franked with two 50h Telč stamps issued by Czechoslovakia in 1966.

Any more jokes about Telč?
(Ed. Note - AMEN!)

SALES CIRCUIT NEWS

by H. Alan Hoover
Circuit Manager

As the leaves fall here in the Deep South, changes for the season are in progress. The Czechoslovak Sales Circuit is changing right along with it! And the changes are all positive, I am happy to report. The circuit is alive and well and flourishing once again. We currently have 35 active members. We also want to welcome the 6 new members who joined the circuit based on our last report.

FLOREX was a great success for the circuit. Many members not currently on it got to review the materials and were impressed with the breadth of offerings. Rumor has it that our Society table was the busiest table at the show with members plowing through various cir-

circuits and new submissions. We'll try it again at NOJEX in May, 1994 so plan now to attend!

Due to presentation at FLOREX of our Sales Books, most circuits had a break for a few short weeks. But by the time you read this, we will again have over 20 circuits circulating to all participating members. Each member will see every circuit. Some may come in spurts depending on where your name appears on the list. You will sometimes receive books at the very beginning of their life; other times you might get them at the middle or end of the route.

New material from new sources is beginning to roll in from U.S. and Czech members due to our recent material drive. Remember, if you supply any material before December 31, you will receive a rebate for the cost of the booklet when the circuit is retired.

Our overseas members have some better material too and would like to offer what members want. What do you want? Perfins, POW, certain town cancels, Train cancels, Hradčany issues, postage dues, FDCs, stampless covers? Please drop me a line or include a note to me when you return a report sheet so we can try to obtain material that you desire. If you are not a current circuit member and have special wants, drop me a line anyway and we'll see if the source has what you need and I can send it to you for review as a special circuit.

I am happy to report the total sellout of three books this past cycle. Payments have been sent to the owners less the commission and insurance charge. Hopefully the next cycle will also bring some sellouts. Why not try to turn some of your duplicates and submit them to the circuit for sale? Some of our newer participating members are collectors of basic mint and used stamps and can use some of the common material too. In fact, much of the material was purchased at FLOREX at our Society table.

Again, some housekeeping reminders for all members:

- PLEASE try to use stamps, not meters when forwarding circuits to the next member. Most likely they would like some used U.S. too to add to their collection.

- A recent circuit was lost in the postal service from one member to another. It is **important** to insure each shipment for the required \$100.00 and to save the receipt from the Post Office. This is the only proof we have and is an insurance requirement for our APS coverage.

- Due to the transient nature of many of our members, address changes are quite frequent. I attempt to notify members of needed circuit routing changes via a postcard. Please hang on to the card and assist in the needed changes. Should the card arrive late, send the card back to me or forward it on to the next member if you already mailed him the booklets.

- As Circuit Manager, I attempt to be of service to all circuit members who want new and exciting offerings, as well as frequent shipments. But this can only be done if I have material. Once again, I ask everyone, not just current circuit members but all SCP members, to sort out your duplicates or unneeded material and supply them to the sales circuit on consignment. We need all categories.

- Pricing is your right and responsibility, but fair prices realize sales. I have received complaints of high pricing in some cases. The owners have been contacted regarding these comments. Another member supplied material for a circuit, priced it fairly, and sold it all!

- Please try to use Scott catalog number references for material posted in booklets. Arranging in ascending order helps. Secure materials in each booklet but make sure that it does not stick to the pages. Some recent recirculating booklets have been found to have damaged material in them.

- Members on your circuit look forward to receiving booklets just as you do. Please comply with the ten day maximum ruling or penalties will be enforced.

- When a circuit is returned to the sales manager, a complete audit of that cycle occurs. Report sheets received from that circuit are compared to the actual missing materials in each circuit book. Mistakes are sometimes located due to oversights for a missed stamp that a member did mark, but forgot to include payment. It is necessary that members mark their

total purchases on the back side of each booklet. Please review each page carefully, total those stamps you kept, mark each space where a purchase was made using an obvious stamp or different color ink or an APS Circuit stamp or a felt tip pen with different color ink and include the total from that booklet on the back side and also on the report form sent in the mail.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Editorial Hinges

SPECIALLY CANCELLED COVERS

The past few months have witnessed a resurgence of specially cancelled covers. Of course, to have a specially cancelled cover there must be a genuinely special occasion. There have been plenty of those and we thank our readers for submitting the ones mentioned below. We list them chronologically in the order in which they were issued.

1. May 15, 1993 - Souvenir card showing views of important buildings in Poznan where POLSKA 93 took place. The card bears an embossed stamp in upper right corner with a face value of 1500 zt. and a franked stamp of 2500 zt. The special cancel reads: "SWIATOWA WYSTAWA FILATELISTYCZNA - POLSKA 93" (WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION - POLSKA 93 - 5/15/93). Acknowledgment to Henry Hahn for the mailing. (see Fig. 1).

2. May 17, 1993 - An airmail first-day cover honoring the inaugural flight of SAAB 340B from Bratislava to Košice and bearing Slovakia's first stamp since the breakup of Czechoslovakia. Our thanks to Joseph Lacko for this contribution. (see Fig. 2).

3. May 20, 1993 - A first-day cover showing Alexander Dubček on an 8 denomination stamp specially cancelled "ALEXANDER DUBČEK 1921-1992, May 20, 1993 - BRATISLAVA." We are grateful to Joseph Lacko for submitting this cover. (see Fig. 3).

4. June 1, 1993 - A specially cancelled card bearing a 2 Kč stamp of Czechoslovakia show-



Fig. 1
15



Fig. 2

ing the Nitra Castle. The cancel reads: "NITRIANSKÁ KNIŽNICA MEDACTA (NITRA'S LIBRARY MEDACTA) - June 1, 1993". The card honors its 70th anniversary. Illustrated is



Fig. 3

70 ROKOV KNIŽNICE V NITRE
NITRIANSKY KÓDEX 11. STOR.



KF 52-51 NITRA /10-1993

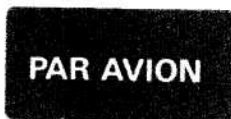


VLADIMIR MAJTENYI
U' KPE RAŠU 56
BRATISLAVA

9 6 1 0 5 III

Fig. 4

an illuminated manuscript dating back to the eleventh century housed in the Library. Once again, our thanks to Joseph Lacko for this interesting card. (see Fig. 4).



Spoločenstvo Sv. Gabriel



Nitra
19.6.-5.7.

RELIGFILA '93

Mr.
Joseph M. Lacko
1031 W. Chestnut street
Union
New Jersey .07083.
U S A

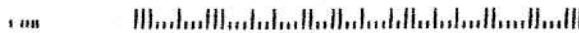


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

5. July 5, 1993 - An airmail cover franked with Slovakia's first stamp and an 8 denomination stamp honoring the 1,130th anniversary of the arrival of St. Cyril and St. Methodius in

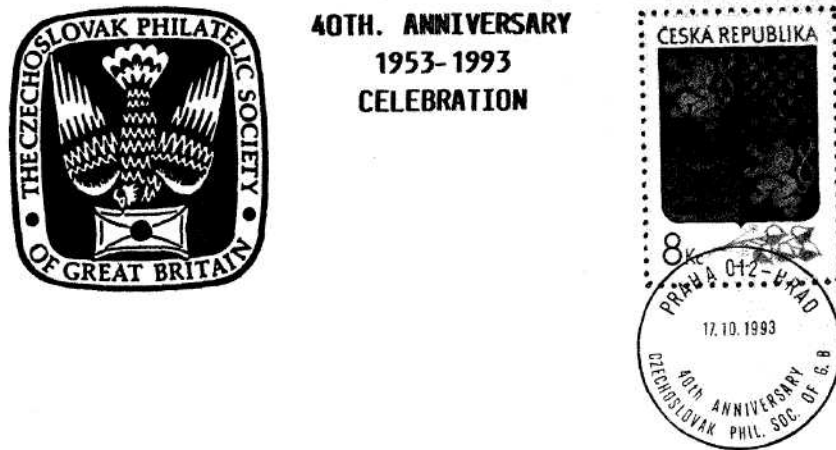


Fig. 7
18



Fig. 8

Bohemia was specially cancelled on July 5, 1993. It was further computer-cancelled as being received in New York on July 12. The two apostles, Constantine and Methodius, came to Bohemia at the request of Prince Rastislav about 862 A.D. They were Greeks who, while mingling with the Bulgars in Salonica, learned their language. They translated part of the Bible, Constantine devising a Slavonic script based on the Greek alphabet. In so doing, they brought a liturgy in their own language to the Moravians. They were bitterly opposed by the Western clergy who favored the use of Latin. Later Constantine went to Rome, retiring to a monastery and taking the name Cyril by which he is best known. About 874 A.D. Methodius baptized Prince Bořivoj of the Czechs, the grandfather of King Wenceslas. Our gratitude goes out to Joseph Lacko for this unusual cover. (see Fig. 5).

6. July 7/9, 1993 - Two stamps of the Czech Republic - 8 Kč and 1 Kč - specially cancelled: "750 LET BRNO - UDĚLENÍ MĚSTKÝCH PRIVILEGIÍ" (750th ANNIVERSARY OF GRANTING OF A CITY CHARTER TO BRNO). The precise date of granting is not clear since the cancel on right is dated July 7, 1993 while the cancel on left shows July 9, 1993 as the date. The crocodile is actually the mythical dragon of Brno that hangs suspended by wires in the lobby of Brno's City Hall. The spoked wheel symbolizes a contest of wheelwrights who supposedly raced with their tools to a distant forest, cut down a tree, fabricated the wheel and rolled it back to the starting point. Acknowledgments extended to Henry Hahn. (see Fig. 6).

7. Oct. 17, 1993 - A souvenir cover produced by POSTPHILA in Prague for the 40th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. This was a very limited issue of 150 covers designed by W. Alex Page and was on sale at the Society's 40th anniversary exhibition at the Slovak Embassy on October 22-24. Present at the awarding ceremonies were the Slovak ambassador to Great Britain as well as the Czech ambassador. The 8 Kč stamp of the Czech Republic was affixed to the cover to match perforations pre-cut in the cover itself. The stamp was cancelled at "Praha 12 - Hrad." We are grateful to Mr. Page for

this submission and detailed explanation. (see Fig. 7).

8. Oct. 28, 1993 - A souvenir cover of standard Czech-cover dimensions including linear address format and bar code was issued by our Society's branch, Chicagoland.Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, to honor the 75th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia. The cover was favor-cancelled at the CZECHOPEX Station in Berwyn, Illinois, and in Pilsen in the Czech Republic. Both cancels bear the date "Oct. 28, 1993" and mixed franking has been utilized. Our thanks and appreciation to Charles Chesloe for this interesting philatelic item. (see Fig. 8).

ON HIS WAY TO RECOVERY

After suffering a heart attack shortly before FLOREX which he expected to visit, member Joseph Lacko underwent bypass surgery at a North Jersey hospital and spent several days on the critical list in the intensive care unit. But those who are acquainted with him, know him as an energetic figure and a determined fighter. Our latest report has it that he is off the danger list and is expected to make a satisfactory recovery.

Keep plugging, Joe! We all wish you a speedy and complete recovery and look forward to welcoming you back into our midst at our next participating stamp show.

THANKS TO A HEART OF GOLD

George Yaremkevych is a former member (no. 907) who recently resigned from our Society. He is 92 years of age, his wife and son have passed away, his eyes are failing him so that he cannot read our SPECIALIST. At a Harmer's auction a few years ago, he disposed of the bulk of his stamp collection. The unsold balance he donated to our Society.

George has never been elected to the Board, has not served on our editorial staff or on any committees or been active in any way whatsoever. He enjoyed reading our publication and because he has a heart of gold, he decided to donate his remaining stock of Czechoslovakia material to be sold in circuit books for the benefit of our Society. For this gesture, the Society Board gave him a vote of thanks and a modest reward for his kindness.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST

Amount of Space	One Issue	Three Issues	Six Issues	Ten Issues
Full Page	\$35.00	\$90.00	\$160.00	\$250.00
Half Page	20.00	50.00	90.00	140.00
Quarter Page	12.00	30.00	50.00	80.00
Eighth Page	8.00	20.00	35.00	55.00

1. All amounts are total cost.
2. Discount of 15% to members only, if they so desire.
3. Submit your ad double spaced and typed or legibly printed.
4. It is the advertiser's responsibility that his or her copy is correct (proper spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, etc.) since the ad will be printed exactly as it is received-in other words "as is".
5. Make your check payable to: "Society for Czechoslovak Philately."
6. Send your copy and payment to: Mirko Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

SPECIALIST KEEPS ON WINNING

1993 has been an active year in the area of literary competition for the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST. These include a Vermeil at APS's STAMPSHOW 93 in Houston, Texas; a Vermeil at WAPEX 93 (The Philatelic Society of Western Australia) and a silver at CHICAGOPEX 93.

To achieve a Gold this year, we need some outstanding articles. Our staff is grateful to those who have contributed such fine publishable material in the past. But more material is needed, especially articles exhibiting an in-depth knowledge of fully researched areas in Czechoslovak philately.

While on that subject, it should be of interest to our readers that the winner of our article-writing contest is a young member (now retired) from Youngstown, Ohio named Frank Garenchovsky. His winning essay is on the subject of stamp booklets of Czechoslovakia and will be published in our next issue.

What is especially rewarding is that the SPECIALIST is now gaining a certain amount of international notoriety. First, the Czech publication FILATELIE, Aug. 93, vol. 43, page 323, praises Gerald van Zanten's article "Damažlice - the Chods and Kozina" appearing in our Mar/Apr 93 issue, Paul Jensen's Commentary on Rate Marking and the Schedule of Postal Rates - all in the same issue. Next, the Slovak publication NITRAFILE, Sept. 93, no. 3, page 8, reprinted portions of Joseph Lacko's article in our July/ Aug. 93 issue.

It is indeed a pleasure to see our publication read and quoted both here and abroad.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On August 18, 1993, the Ministry of Economy issued a stamp honoring the World Championship in Rowing at Račice. The stamp was designed by academic painter and graphic artist Ivan Strnad; the engraving was done by Miloš Ondráček. The picture shows a young woman rowing and the text reads: "MISTROVSTVÍ SVĚTA VE VESLOVÁNÍ - RAČICE 1993". Having a face value of 3 Kč, the stamp is 30x23mm. in size and was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black color combined with four-colored photogravure in ochre, red, blue and green and in sheets of fifty. Accompanying the stamp is a first-day cover with commemorative cancellation printed by recess print from flat plates. The cachet shows a girl's head with paddles in her coiffure drawn in red. (see Fig. 1)



Fig. 1

2. On August 26, 1993, the Ministry released two postage stamps bearing portraits of famous Czechs as follows: A 2 Kč stamp of August Sedláček (1843-1920) in blue-grey, ochre and green; a 3 Kč stamp of Edward Čech (1893-1906) in blue, ochre and violet. The stamps were designed by academic painter and graphic artist Josef Baláž; the engravings were done by academic painter and graphic artist Martin Činovský. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure, the stamps are 19x23 mm. in size and come in sheets of 100. There is a first-day cover for each of the two stamps. Sedláček was a historian who wrote a monumental work of 15 volumes on Castles and Fortresses in the Bohemian Kingdom. The cachet on his cover has a drawing of the castle Šelmbek in black and brown



Fig. 2

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according to an illustration by K. Liebscher appearing in vol. 2 of his work. Čech was an academic mathematician (topology and geometry) and the cachet on his cover is a drawing in black and yellow of a surface with the saddle point in composition with a flower. (see Fig. 2).

3. On October 26, 1993, the Ministry issued a set of three stamps on the subject of preserving trees. (The stamps are of identical design to the 3, 4 and 10 denomination of Slovakia's



Fig. 3

stamps issued on May 14, 1993). Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Katarina Ševellová-Šuteková and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamps are of 5 Kč, 7 Kč and 9 Kč face value and contain text in Czech: "CHRÁNÍME PŘÍRODU" (Protect the Environment). Printed in

Prague by the Post Printery by rotary recess print combined with four-colored photogravure in sheets of 50, the stamps come in sizes of 23 x 30. Accompanying the stamps are two first-day covers. For the 5 Kč and 7 Kč, the cover has a drawing composition of a girl's face surrounded by leaves in red and grey symbolizing living nature. For the 9 Kč stamp, the drawing represents the closeness of mankind and nature and is shown in grey and orange. (see Fig. 3).

4. On November 8, 1993, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps continuing the series "Art on Stamps". They commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Gallery in Prague. The



Fig. 4A



Fig. 4B

first of

these is called "Composition 1933" and is a reproduction of a painting by Joan Miro (1893-1983). It is engraved by Bohumil Šneider and appears in yellow, red, brown-red, blue and black colors. Accompanying it is a first-day cover printed by recess print from flat plates on which B. Šneider engraved his version of Miro's "Equation" as seen in the National Gallery from the album "Derriere le Miroir". The second is a 14 Kč stamp called "Green Rye" by Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890). It is engraved by Miloš Ondráček and appears in yellow, green, blue and black colors. Accompanying it is first-day cover printed by recess print from flat plates showing M. Ondráček's version of van Gogh's self-portrait. Both pictures on the stamps are 50 x 40 mm. in size and were printed at the Post Printery in Prague by recess print from flat plates in sheetlets of 4. (see fig. 4A and 4B).

5. On November 8, 1993, the Ministry issued a Christmas stamp with face value of 2 Kč showing an animated drawing of a stag with ornate antlers pulling a sled filled with presents

along with a cherub and driven by a huntsman with a pipe. The picture was designed by academic painter and graphic artist Adolf Born; engraving by Martin Srb. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in combination with four-colored photogravure in black, blue, green, brown and red, the stamp is 23 x 19 mm in size and comes in sheets of 100. Accompanying it is a first-day cover with special cancellation printed by recess print from flat plates in black, blue and orange. The cachet picture shows a drawing of a crow in skiis carrying a letter in its bill. (see fig. 5).



Fig. 5

6. On December 15, 1993, the Ministry issued a single stamp adding one more to the series "Art on Stamps". Bearing a face value of 9 Kč, the stamp shows a portrait of "Our Lady of Strahov (Strahovská Madona)" painted by a Czech Master around the year 1350. The stamp was engraved by Bedřich Housa and printed at the Post Printery in Prague by recess print from flat plates in sheetlets of 4. The picture is 40 x 50 mm in size and is in gold, red, ochre, blue and black colors. Accompanying it is a first-day cover with special cancellation printed by recess print from flat plates. The cachet shows B. Housa's version of a painting by Jan Šticha showing a view of Strahov's Church as part of the music score for a Mass with Latin text. (see fig. 6).



Fig. 6

All of the above stamps are postally valid for domestic as well as international postage from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

Book Review

CENSORSHIP - WORLD WAR II

A recent book has been published in Canada which covers an important aspect of the Postal History of World War II, "Civil and Military Censorship during World War II, Postal History" by Dr. H.F. Stich, W. Stich and J. Specht. The book covers the subject on a global basis and for anyone who collects or deals in WW II material its 275 pages are crammed with information. The worldwide coverage is invaluable, even to the one-country collector when researching an item of mail, often with cross frontier and/or multi-censoring.

Profusely illustrated with over 1000 censor marks and resealing labels, together with maps and tables, the text covers all the main aspects of censorship, country by country. References to detained and released mail and under-cover addresses provides a very useful compendium to a vast area of study. The overall compilation has been put together in a concise form with footnote references linking to the penultimate chapter "References" which is in effect a bibliography of 265 entries to point the reader to further and more detailed study of particular aspects/ countries/ areas.

The book is available from the authors: Dr. H.F. Stich, 4593 Langara Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6R 1C9. Price US \$25 postpaid USA/Canada. Overseas add US \$3.

(Format 6 x 8 1/2 inches - 275 pages - paper-back. ISBN0-0-9693788-2-3)

-W.A. Page

**PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR ISSUANCE OF STAMPS IN CZECH REPUBLIC
DURING 1994**

This Schedule is tentative and is subject to further change.

<u>Month & Day</u>		<u>Number of Stamps</u>	<u>Face Value</u>	<u>Number of FDC's</u>
19/1	Tradition of Czech Music (Jan Kubelik)	1	3,-	1
19/1	International Year of The Family	1	2,-	1
2/2	Anniversaries of Personalities- Voltaire - UNESCO	2	2,-	2
	Agricola - UNESCO		6,-	
2/2	Winter Olympic Games in Norway (12th-27th February, 1994)	1	5,-	1
16/3	Beauties of Our Country	2		2
	-Telč (UNESCO)		8,-	
	-Cubistic architecture in Prague (UNESCO)		9,-	
4/5	EUROPE (Discoveries) - 740th anniversary of Birth of M. Polo (2x2 stamps in a block of 4)	2	14,- 14,-	2
1/6	For Children (on the occasion of the International Day of Children)	1	2,-	1
1/6	World Football Championship in USA (17/6-17/7)	1	8,-	1
15/6	100th Anniversary of the International Olympic Committee	1	7,-	1
15/6	Sokol Congress	1	2,-	1
3/8	120th Anniversary of the World Postal Union (on the gutter there will be a surcharge of the World Stamp Exhibition PHILAKOREA)	1	11,-	1
24/8	Protecting Nature - Song-Birds	3	3,- 5,- 14,-	3
5/10	Czech Historical and Racing Cars	3	2,- 3,- 9,-	3
9/11	Christmas	1	2,-	1
9/11	Art on Stamps	3		3
	-Leyden		7,-	
	-Toulouse Lautrec		10,-	
	-St. Vitus' Madonna 650th Anniversary of the construction of St. Vitus' Cathedral		14,-	
Total		23		23

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Mr. Vondra:

I have recently discovered an error in perforation on a 1.40 kčs stamp of Czechoslovakia from the year 1967. It is the last of a seven-stamp set of botanical flowers (Scott no. 1496, Pofis no. 1636) and the error I believe is not yet known.

Three of the four sides are unperforated with only the bottom side perforated. I have included a copy of this stamp plus a copy of a letter from Ostrov nad Ohří (14.1 x .67) which carries such a stamp. More examples of this type of error probably exist and collectors should be on the alert and check their material. (see illustration).



Sincerely,
Marko V. Belej, MD.



2. Dear Mr. Vondra:

I refer to page 14 of your Sept/Oct 93 issue in which your Czech member Lubor Kunc claims that a cover from Slovakia carrying the country's new 3 kčs stamp with dateline 1-1-93 is a forgery. He is entitled to his opinion, of course, but could I please be permitted to make my personal thought known here?

You will have noticed in CZECHOUT 1/93 (March edition) that I had received a similar cover from Košice P.O. 1. This too was dated 1-1-93. This was a postcard with a printed postage impression of 2 kčs (Kriván Mountain bearing a new 3 kčs Slovak Arms stamp.) To

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

me this was clearly a very doubtful forgery. It has all the hallmarks of Košice P.O. 1 having jumped the gun a bit. Remember the recently historical connections of this town with Slovakia's "fight for independence".....going back to the Slovak National Uprising during the latter part of WW II.

I wonder whether the Slovak postal authority has made any public comment on this matter? Surely they must have made some query known to Košice P.O. 1. It would be interesting to ascertain the answer to such an official query at some time.

With best wishes,

Alan Knight

(Ed. Note: Your Editor invites comments from our readers to letters such as the above .)

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

We have entered into a publications exchange with The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and now have available a number of their very interesting publications.

FUNDAMENTAL PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY \$2.50 Postpaid

A philatelic dictionary has been among the leading requests from our members. This pamphlet lists philatelic terms in Czech/German/English and should prove invaluable to those of us who have to struggle with the Czech language.

The British Society has published in recent years a Monograph Series covering some of the lesser aspects of Czech philately that are fascinating from a postal and military history viewpoint and should prove extremely useful to specialists in these areas. All are in English.

- Monograph 3. The "POSTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ" OVERPRINTS
by Roy A. Dehn 1985 \$9.00 Postpaid
- Monograph 4. CARPATHO-UKRAINE POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE YEARS 1938-45
by Juan E. Page \$13.50 Postpaid
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In two volumes. By Roy E. Reader 1985 \$18.00 Postpaid
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Compiled by W.A. Page \$13.50 Postpaid

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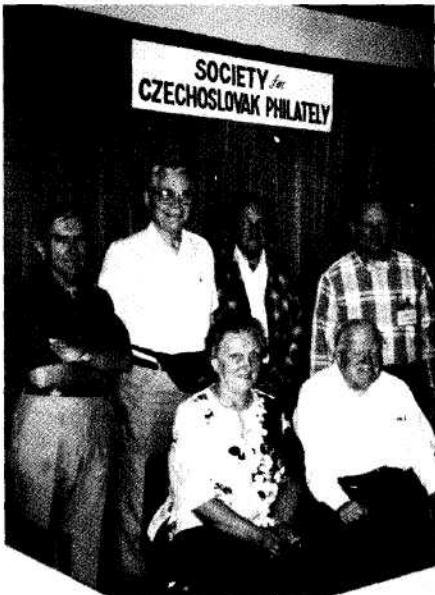
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SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

Attention: Edwin W. Lehecka

217 Hazel Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090



At the lounge table, left to right: Standing - Mirko Vondra, Frank Garanchovsky, Phil Freer, Lou Svoboda. Seated - Jane Sterba, Richard Major



Editor Mirko Vondra with wife, Anne, who is compiling a 55-year **SPECIALIST** Index.

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