



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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SAYONARA

As most of you know, this is a somewhat sad, somewhat hopeful way of saying "goodbye". This issue begins my 10th and last year as editor of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*.

It has been an adventurous 10 years, filled with new discoveries, simple mistakes, making new friends, and going down mysterious avenues. But through it all I have been blessed with the help of generous and understanding author contributors, long-suffering translators, a flexible and skilled printer, and forgiving readers. I thank you all. I most sincerely hope that you will all continue to help and support my successor as you have done for me.

Why now? While there are many reasons, two are of greatest import. My wife has just retired after a very successful 22 year career in helping run a city of 300,000 souls, and my soon-to-be 90 year old mother (whom I moved from Phoenix to Colorado just recently) now needs my attention, since my brother died in July. He had been taking excellent care of her for the last number of years. It is time to devote attention to them.

So, we are looking for someone to step forward to take over as editor. Some attributes that will come in handy are: writing and editing skills (I had neither when I started), some knowledge of the Czech/Slovak languages, a computer with word processing software and connected to the Internet for e-mail, and general knowledge of the field of Czech/Slovak philately (you do NOT have to be an expert at all).

Questions? Call, e-mail, or write me.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

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11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

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Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015
e-mail: LouSvoboda@comcast.net Phone/FAX: 303-680-7118

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Foreign Editor: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

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Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092

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MAILINGS OF THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC POST (1)

by A. Šmíd, V. Schödelbauer

trans. by Henry Hahn

Mailings of the Prague pneumatic post (later just PtP) belong to our most interesting and to collectors most beloved postal stationery, and that includes both the Austro-Hungarian period and the First Czechoslovak Republic, as well as the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia. This is often reflected in their pricing. At first look, to those not familiar with the subject, this area concerns relatively "ordinary" mailings, whose unusualness, however, is provided precisely by the specific means of their delivery. With PtP mailings, it is therefore extremely important to unequivocally determine whether they were actually transported by pneumatic means or not. This, in many cases, presents a difficult task. It turns out that the correct determination of pneumatic delivery presents difficulties not only to collectors but also to professionals in stores and auction houses.

This unfortunate circumstance was also contributed to by a lack of sources of information. From the few published articles on PtP, they only concerned themselves with general information as to their existence, i.e. as postal stationery, but almost gave no information on evidence of pneumatic transportation. Even my attempt to better classify and describe the entire collecting area of PtP in an article in *Filatelie* (1), which included even the basic keys to evaluating such covers, was obviously not successful.

This is confirmed by an event which finally persuaded me to write this article. One of the spring auctions in 2003 included lot 1395 -- "Ex-letter sent locally, passed through the pneumatic mail, sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with postmark Praha -- Hrad 10.VI.20, franked on the address side . . ., on the reverse a modified postmark Praha TGF". When I read this offer, I was overjoyed with the notion that I would finally own a cover from the year of introduction of pneumatic mail at the Praha 10 -- Hrad post office. In a subsequent telephone conversation, I unfortunately found out that we were dealing with another improperly described express mailing, which had been mistakenly classified among mailings which had passed through the pneumatic post.¹ [*The crucial identifying sign for me at that time was the fact that the time difference between mailing and receipt of the consignment came to an entire 5 hours, which practically precluded transport by pneumatic tube post. The consignment was therefore transported by surface mail.*]

Types of mail sent by pneumatic mail and postal rates

In evaluating pneumatic mail we must first determine which types of mailings, as well as in which time periods, could even be sent via pneumatic mail and which could not. Basically these could only include letter mail (i.e., postal cards, letter cards, letters) on which the sender requested transportation by PtP and paid the appropriate postal rate, or the same type of mail sent by special delivery or later by



Figure 1: Express postcard sent on 15.2.1918 from Kolín 1 post office to Prague and then from the railroad station sent by surface mail to the Praha 1 post office (time 10 hours). Here it was numbered by hand (number 9168) and then delivered by courier directly to the addressee (it was within the Praha 1 post office delivery area). The cover was not delivered by pneumatic mail.

air mail. Thus, automatically we can eliminate recorded mail (i.e., registered mail, cards with return prepaid stationery, mail for delivery to specified hands, "collect" mail, value mail, money mail, etc.). The only exception occurred in the period 1.11.1940 to 30.11.1945 (see later for more) when postal regulations allowed for transport by PtP of even standard registered mail sent simultaneously by Special Delivery, air mail, or with PtP surcharge.

Again, I realized that what is obvious to me and a few additional specialists, need not be obvious to general collectors who do not often evaluate the items in detail, but only through partial differentiating markings. In addition, these markings have for years been incorrectly handed down among collectors, many of whom did not have the crucial knowledge to determine whether an item was actually transported by PtP or not.

One of these controversial markings of PtP is, for example, the sequence number stamped on air mail or special delivery covers. I recall that, years ago, when I started "collecting" Prague pneumatic mail, I had only a general understanding of these sequence numbers. At that time, all Special Delivery (Fig. 1) and Air



Figure 2: Air mail letter sent 27.4.1936 from Helsinki (Finland) to Prague via the Praha 82 Airport post office (28.4.1936 at 17 hours – month entered erroneously VI instead of IV), transmitted by surface mail to Praha 1 post office (time 19 hours, from cancel on reverse). The consignment was not carried by the pneumatic mail.

Mail (Fig. 2) mailings which had acquired a stamped sequence number and also had either a mailing or receiving Prague postmark were considered to have been transported by PtP. I soon found out that this was not a reliable means of determining transport by PtP.² [Sequence numbers and some other traditional PtP characteristic features have significance rather for first orientation (i.e., what needs investigation in greater detail).]



Figure 3: Prague PtP 10 kr postal stationery card transported 4.3.1899 (i.e., on the first day of operation) by pneumatic mail from Praha 10 (Malá Strana, 10:20) to Praha 1 post office (time 10:40). The processing of the consignment by a postal employee is documented by the handwritten notes, in the middle (54 = sequence number of the consignment), and on the left (1 = directing the consignment to the Praha 1 post office).

Similarly, one cannot automatically consider every air mail or special delivery mailing addressed to Prague or from Prague as having been transported by PtP -- only some of them were transported thus.

For reliable determination whether an item was actually transported by PtP, we must gradually and carefully examine and correctly interpret more of its characteristic indicators. I briefly list them below and provide greater details in succeeding chapters:



Figure 4: Prague PtP 20h postal stationery card transported on 23.3.1907 by pneumatic mail from Praha 10 (Malá Strana, 7:20 hours) to the Praha 1 post office (time 7:40). After a rate change the postal card rate for PtP transport came to 25h (upfranked by 5h). The handwritten note at center [top] (52/1) is consolidated into a fraction (sequence number of the consignment/where its headed to).

-- Type of mailing and postal rate (i.e., whether it was even possible to convey the item via PtP, and whether the item's postage corresponds to the type of mailing and the current rates)

-- Use of appropriate postal cancelers (the mailing has to carry at least two cancels of the various Prague post offices that were connected by the PtP system at that time)

-- Time taken to transport the item

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Figure 5: Prague PtP 38h postal stationery card transported by PtP 6.7.1917 from Praha 1 (telegraph station, 16 hours) to Praha 8 post office (Malá Strana, 16 hours). On 1.10.1916 the PtP postal rates were made uniform with other consignments (see Table 2). During the war the handwritten notes of postal employees, typically found on PtP consignments in the former period, are lacking.



Figure 6: Prague PtP 15h postal stationery transported 4.3.1899 (i.e., on the first day of operation) from Praha 1 (time 13:40 hours) to Pardubice. The charge for transport by pneumatic mail is covered + surcharge (5 kr) for the transport of the consignment beyond the Prague delivery area. Otherwise, the consignment was not physically transported by the PtP (the line between the Praha 1 post office and the Praha 7 one did not exist yet at that time), but was treated as if it was a pneumatic mail consignment. Within the concept of "railroad mail", it was then delivered by special delivery courier to the Praha 7 post office (Masaryk railway station, 16 hours) and from there dispatched to the addressee.

(the elapsed time for transport as indicated by the postmarks must not be excessive, because that indicates standard surface transport)

-- Other helpful indicators on mailings (notes by postal employees, sequence numbers and other helpful markings and labels -- POTRUBNÍ POŠTOU [by PtP], EXPRESS [special delivery], LETECKY [air mail], etc.)

From the standpoint of weight, until the year 1901, PtP consignments could weigh up to 15 g, after that they could weigh up to 20 g. Heavier mailings (up to 50 g) were permitted in conjunction with the general postal rate changes of 15.12.1932. Consignments that were stiff (inflexible) envelopes or had wax seals were not permitted to be transported by the PtP.

In the first years of operation of the PtP (4.3.1899 to 30.9.1916), PtP mailings had their own rates different from those for

regular postal consignments. This franking was not uniform, but was specified for each type of mailing (see Table 1). Special postal stationery was issued for PtP [2], [3] (see for example Fig. 3-7,9 or 15). The method of delivery of PtP mail in Prague

was the same as that for special delivery, i.e. that upon delivery of the consignment to the destination post office it was forwarded to the addressee by courier. At the same time it is interesting that prior to 1.10.1916 standard special delivery consignments were not transported by PtP (the normal surface routes were used for them).

Table 1: Postal Rates of the PtP -- 1899-1916

From Date	Type of Transport	Postal Card PtP	Letter Card PtP	Letter PtP	Spec. Delivery Surcharge
4.3.1899	local	10 kr	15 kr	15 kr	+15 kr *
	other	10 kr (+2 kr)	15 kr (+5 kr)	15 kr (+5 kr)	+15 kr
1.1.1900	local	20 h	30 h	30 h	+30 h *
	other	20 h (+5 h)	30 h (+10 h)	30 h (+10 h)	+30 h
16.1.1907	local	25 h	35 h	45 h **	+30 h *
	other	25 h (+5 h)	35 h (+10 h)	45 h (+10 h)	+30 h

For local mail consignments is given the full rate for PtP according to the mail type. For consignments outside of Prague is first given the rate for transport by PtP and then in parentheses the surcharge (the standard postage for domestic mail) for its further transport outside Prague.

**Special Delivery surcharge although possible, was admittedly unnecessary since transport by PtP was by the same means as special delivery.*

***The charge for mailing a letter via the Prague PtP was from 16.1.1907 paradoxically higher than by special delivery (where it was sufficient to only pay 10+30 h).*



Figure 8: Special delivery postal card mailed 26.8.1919 at 11 hours from Hradec Králové to Prague and from the railway station by surface mail to the Praha 1 post office (time 21 hours). From there it was sent by PtP mistakenly to the Praha 8 post office (Malá Strana, 21 hours). Here was determined the mistake of Praha VII for Praha III (see the blue official note Pa VII) and next day delivered by surface mail to Praha 14 (Holešovice, 11 hours).

Consignments sent by PtP outside of Prague (so called "railroad correspondence", see Fig. 6) were immediately sent by special delivery courier to specified train stations (post offices Praha 6, 7 and 15) and then further sent to their determined place as ordinary letter mail. In such cases, of course, full franking for transport outside of Prague had to be included (shown in Table 1 in parenthesis). Such consignments could also be sent by special delivery; this method, however, was only employed if the



Figure 7: Prague Ptp 35h letter card sent on 23.3.1907 by special delivery from Praha 10 post office (telegraph office on Malá Strana) to Hradec Králové. The franking represents both pneumatic mail delivery (35h), and surcharge for the transport of the consignment beyond the Prague delivery area (+ 10h), as well as a special delivery surcharge (+ 30h) = total of 75h. The consignment was first transported by PtP from the Praha 10 post office (time 11:40 hours) to the Praha 1 post office (time 12:20 hours), and from there within the scope of "railroad mail" delivered by special delivery courier to the Praha 6 post office (Denis railway station, only the hourly figure of 12 hours), and from there dispatched to the addressee, where was also stamped the current date (postal cancel = Hradec Králové, 23.3.1907, 18 hours).

mailing was addressed outside of Prague and requested to be delivered at destination by special delivery (these are however very scarce -- see Fig. 7).

In 1.10.1916 the rates were made uniform for postal consignments sent by PtP, in that, to the standard rate for postal cards, letter cards, and letters was added a uniform surcharge in the amount of the special delivery surcharge (see Table 2). Also, the routine for delivery of PtP consignments and normal special delivery consignments became practically the same. Thus, even all special delivery consignments began to be automatically transported by PtP without additional surcharge, as long as -- of course -- they met the route of delivery and weight

requirements. This also applied to special delivery mail addressed to Prague (see Fig. 8). Based on this, also the "railroad correspondence" was discontinued.

Table 2: Postal Rates of the PtP in the Years 1916 - 1932

From Date	Tariff Period	Type of Transport	Postal Card	Letter Card	Letter to 20g	Ptp Surch.	Spec. Del. Surch.
1.10.1916		local & other	8h	15h	15h	+30h	+30h
1.9.1918*	I.	local & other	10h	20h	20h	+60h	+60h
15.5.1919	II.	local & other	15h	25h	25h	+60h	+60h
15.3.1920	III.	local & other	20h	30h	30h	+60h	+60h
1.8.1920	IV.	local & other	40h	60h	60h	+1 Kč	+1 Kč
1.1.1922	Va.	local	50h	60h	60h	+1 Kč	+1 Kč
		other	50h	1 Kč	1 Kč	+1 Kč	+1 Kč

**After the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic, the Czechoslovak post office took over operation of the pneumatic post including rates. In the beginning in fact it was clearly little used, for only a minimum number of PtP entires have been preserved. In the years 1929 (January?) to 1931 (October), the PtP was inoperative due to reconstruction. (Fig. 10 and 11). After the reopening the Tariff Period Va rates remained valid until 14.12.1932.*

[To be continued]



PHILATELIC ESTATE W. A. (Bill) Dawson 1916-2005

Bill was the Life President of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and a member of the American Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

I have been asked by his wife, Audrey, to dispose of his philatelic estate which comprises over 170 albums and more than 120 books. Bill was a true collector and has amassed a great deal of items over the years although he once told me that his serious collecting had finished by the late 1960's.

The material covers all periods from Austro Hungary up to 2003 for the Czech, Slovak, Bohemian, Silesian, Moravian and Carpatho Ukraine.

I want to hear from anyone interested in buying parts of the collection. It is to be sold direct in sections, examples are: Air Mail; Hradčany; Currency Reform; Border Changes; 2nd Republic; Sudetenland; etc.

If you are interested, e-mail me with the header line "W A Dawson", and I will send you a list of your specific interest.

This is a really comprehensive collection with many albums on just one topic, I doubt if a finer collection of Sudetenland exists with many smaller locations alphabetically filed by the German name of the location in many albums as well as overprints of "Wir sind frei!" both on stamps and cover.

The proceeds from every sale will go direct to the family with no money going through my hands. A small percentage (2%) will go to the main Czechoslovak philatelic society to which the buyer is a member.

Robert J. Hill -- rjeltd@msn.com

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The Librarian's Desk

On November 12, 2005, the Washington DC centered group of SCP members held a meeting at the Wilson residence in Winchester, Virginia. While there, Board members Henry Hahn and Jaroslav Verner, along with member Jim Simon, toured the recently completed Society Library (Fig. 1). They saw that the Library houses, along with books and periodicals of philatelic interest to Czechoslovak collectors, all of the Society's back issues of *The Specialist* (Fig. 2). Any member traveling Interstate 81 through Virginia is invited to visit the Society Library, but please make arrangements ahead of time. The Librarian's address is listed on the back of the first page of every issue of *The Specialist*.

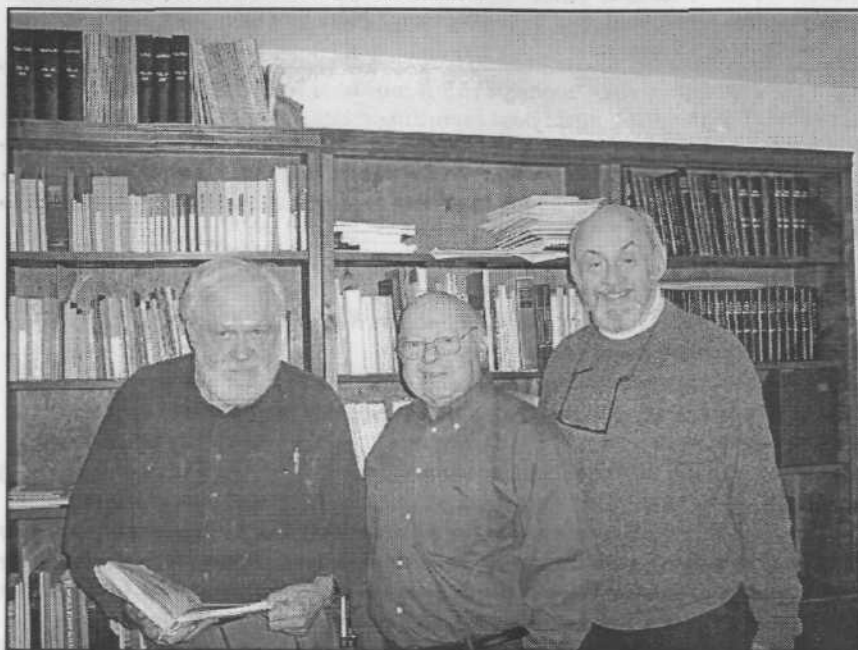


Fig. 1

Much new material has been received during the past year. One gift book may especially interest the old-timers in the Society who will remember that *The Specialist* was published by the same printer from its beginnings in May 1939 until December 1979. For those 41 years Harlan W. Miller -- who was made an Honorary member of the Society in the 1970's -- set the type and published *The Specialist* from his print shop in Lawrence, Kansas. Of course, Mr. Miller published many other philatelic and hobby journals during his long career.

His son, Harlan L. Miller, presented the Society Library with his biography of his father, *Harlan W. Miller: Philatelic Printer*. I suspect many Society members would enjoy reading this account of someone so intimately tied to the history of the Society. We thank Mr. Miller for his contribution to the Library and to the history of the Society.

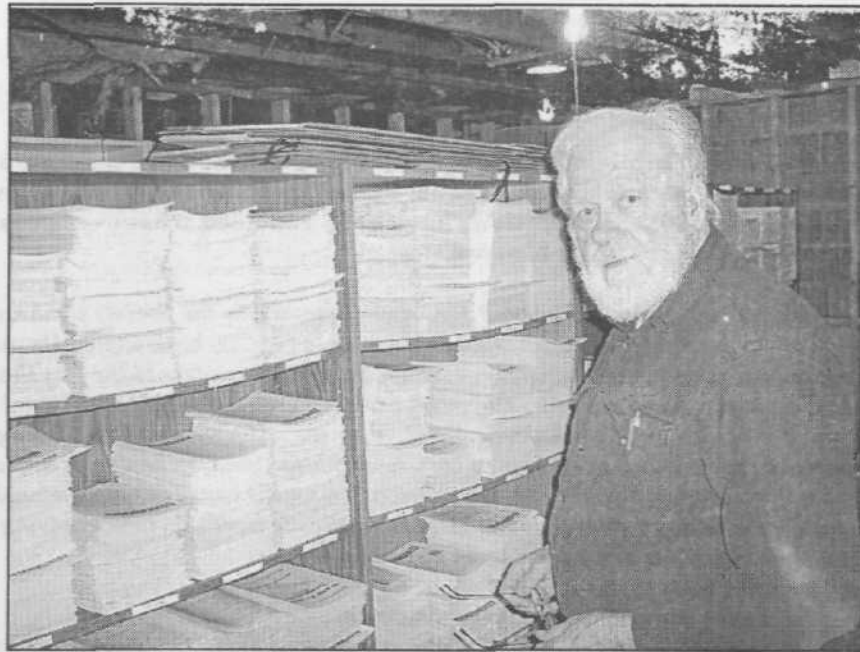


Fig. 2

Speaking of *The Specialist*, all back issues of *The Specialist* have now been scanned and stored in Adobe PDF format on a single DVD. This means that no matter what, a full set of *The Specialist* has been preserved. An ad hoc committee established by the Society's Board of Directors is now considering how best to deal with the scanned images of *The Specialist*.

The Library also received a number of other new items. The POFIS 2005 Československo 1918-1939 and the POFIS 2006 Československo 1945-1992 are available for lending, as is the POFIS 2005 Československo, Česká Republika, Protektorát Čechy a Morava, Slovenská Republika, Slovenský Štát catalog and the POFIS 2005 Česká Republika: Čenné Nálepky Apost 1994-2005. A new Czechoslovakian Philatelic Society of Great Britain monograph, *Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945* was added to the library, as was Gebauer and Tekel's *České a Slovenské Poštovny*, published by the *Merkur Review* in 2005. All of these new catalogs and the Harlan biography will need to be reviewed; contact the Librarian if you would like to borrow a copy to write a review.

Most of your Librarian's effort last year was directed at sorting and organizing the library's books, periodicals, and back issues of *The Specialist*. That task has been completed and work goes forward very slowly (your Librarian still has a full-time day job) on the subject listing of all the Library's books. The job is about one-third completed and hopefully will be finished by the end of this year.

Mark Wilson
SCP Librarian

JUBILEE AND CHARITY ISSUE OF 1919

by Zdeněk Moliš

trans. by Mark Wilson

Translated from "Jubilejí a Dobročinné 1919" published in *Sborník článků o Československých známkách*. Praha, Společnost Sběratelu Československých Známeč, 1993. Illustrations have been replaced whenever possible as the originals were quite blurred.

Mark Wilson is a member of the SCP Board of Directors, is the Society's Librarian, and has a very keen interest in the typographic stamps of Czechoslovakia. He taught himself to read Czech only recently and wishes to alert all readers to the fact that the translated material may contain inadvertent misrepresentations of the original text. He believes, as did the late Zdeněk Moliš, that our fifty years of neglecting the Legionářské represents a great loss of core research for the Czechoslovak collecting community. He hopes that this article will spark a new interest in Czechoslovakia's first commemorative and semi-postal issues. At the moment, Mark is studying and plating the Lion stamps from this issue in his spare time.

Introduction

This year in October, 73 years¹ will have elapsed since the release of the six Czechoslovakian stamps that share the name *Legionářské 1919*; stamps that hold a place of significant standing in the development of our republic's stamps. However, it would take upwards of 50 years before these stamps were looked upon favorably by any of our collectors. And, I am afraid, the proposition stated at the opening of this article about these stamps may not be true, for collectors show little affection for these neglected stamps. That any interest has endured thus far is in large part thanks to articles in the specialist journals, but more than anything else is due to the work of Dr. A. Šnoflák^{2,3} who discovered in the 50h denomination two different types and who called attention to their plate flaws and differences. As has been noted in our catalogs, several of these stamps have grown increasingly more important and valuable (justly?). His work is why in the *Specialist's Handbook*⁴ the point value of the stamps in this series suddenly increased by 333.33 percent!

Clearly this information was not especially interesting for a generation of younger and middle age collectors, but for those of us who remember the historical origin of these stamps it was exciting because the publication of more current knowledge and ideas about this issue re-evoked an era of philatelic printing. The purpose of this paper is to recall the history of these stamps that served simultaneously as the first commemorative memorializing of the founding of

¹The article was written in 1993 so another decade must be added, making it 83 years last year -- tr.

²A. Šnoflák. "První Čs. Přiležitostné Znamky." *Filatelie*, 5/1977.

³A. Šnoflák. "Dva Typy Legionářské Znamky 50h." *Filatelie*, 18/1985.

⁴*Specializovaná Příručka Pro Sběratele Čs. Poštovních Známeč*. Praha, SČSF, Nakladatelství dopravy a spoju, 1998.

Czechoslovakia and also as its first semi-postals, an issue that was printed using two different techniques and which were valid for an extraordinarily short period of time during the first year after the founding of a newly independent Czechoslovakia.

Their Origins

It was said in contemporary journals that a stamp should present a single focused theme. Sheer chance led to a different outcome for these stamps, as the original intent was not to release a single issue but rather two issues -- the first a series in commemoration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, and the second a series of semi-postal charity stamps for the orphans of deceased legionnaires. A similar belief was expressed in 1977 by F. Žampach.

Consider, for instance, *Českého Filatelistu* [abbreviated ČF hereafter] from the year 1919. Now, in No. 7 (pages 90 and 91), it stated that the jury on June 18 judged designs "... on stamps for the benefit of the orphans of our Legionnaires and in remembrance of October 28, 1918", and further "... they were performing small revisions on the design of Jakub Obrovský for the Legionářské stamps in the 50h denomination." [At the time they had in mind the *Mother and Child* design -- ZM.] But immediately thereafter, in No. 8 (page 105), they wrote: "... The Legionářské stamps probably were coming out in October. For the October 28, 1919 date, it was reported, three stamps would be released bearing the design of a lion tearing off its manacles." The November ČF, No. 11 (pages 137-141) carried the circumstances of their release in an article entitled "The First Czechoslovakian Postal Commemoratives"; it reported that in addition to stamps in memory of the first anniversary, "... They were stamps concurrently released by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph whose reason for issuance, in addition to providing material support to the Legionnaires' Aid Fund", also "... had the goal of voicing in the first set of stamps a message of political freedom, and in the second set of stamps a message of charity, thus by their nature both sets were commemorative, but in part memorial, and in part charity". In the following years -- 1920 and 1921 -- almost nothing was written about these stamps until ČF No. 1 of 1922, which mentioned that "The commemorative and charity stamps (the so-called Legionářské) are not selling" [they were speaking of the philatelic sales office in the main Prague postoffice]. At this time, these stamps were termed commemoratives rather than charity stamps, which impeded their recognition as the Legionářské.

As a direct consequence of their poor reception, the six stamps were divided into two groups. The first group -- the 15, 25, and 50h denominations -- were called "The 1919 Memorial", issued on the first anniversary of the republic, and the second group -- the 75, 100, and 120h denominations were labeled "The 1919 Charity Issue", issued to benefit the legionnaires' orphans. It is interesting that the terms in the foreign catalogs for these stamps were not uniform. Zumstein, for instance, called them semi-postals while Yvert called them a special issue for the first anniversary [of independence].

Here follow the historical facts. We all know that our catalogs have, from the earliest period up until the *Specializovaná Příručka*, described all six stamps together. Therefore, I believe that calling these two issues "The Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919" more closely corresponds to the original intention and the historical facts.

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These stamps were born in May of 1919, when two sequential competitions for designing Czechoslovak stamps began. The first competition was divided into two parts. The first part ended on June 1, the second part on August 1, 1919. This first contest had well established rules -- candidate stamps had to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic and the income from the sale of the stamps was to have a charitable facet in that it would be for the benefit of the orphans of the Czechoslovak legionnaires. However, this competition (like the first competition in 1918) was unsuccessful; neither proposals nor designs were submitted for judgement. That is why the members of the advisory board for the Ministry of Schools and National Awareness recommended that the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs appeal for submissions from seven noted artists of the day: Benda, Brunner, Hynaise, Kupka, Kysel, Mucha, and Obrovský. The invitation had only limited success. The arts jury, which assessed the designs on June 18, 1919, was presented with eight designs from three of the artists -- Jaroslav Benda, Vratislav Hugo Brunner, and Jacob Obrovský. The jury awards were as follows:

First prize was won by V. H. Brunner for his design submitted under the title "1918", a symbolic representation of a statue of the liberated republic (Fig. 1), second prize went to Jaroslav Benda for a design submitted under the title "Passion of the



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Marne" (Fig. 2), a representation of a legionnaire under fire. This latter artist submitted in total four designs -- all four may be found in trial prints (Fig. 3). Jacob Obrovský earned third prize for his design submitted under the title "Postage Stamp" (Fig. 4), a representation of a mother and child.

Philatelic and public opinion was highly critical of the competition's results. For instance, ČF No. 7, 1919, said that the designs selected from the competition resembled the French style and that the woman in the winning design seemed to depict treason more than the joy of liberation. They said the design "Passion of the Marne" was obscure and "amounted emotionally to some Chinese



Fig. 4

departments: the typography department and the photogravure department, which were in competition with one another. Perhaps this situation was well known to J. Obrovský when he presented his designs. This was a major priority of his proposal. The typographic pattern for "Lion Breaking Its Chains" -- was executed as an upright rectangle about 21.1 cm by 24.2 cm; the photogravure pattern -- "Mother Republic and Child" -- was done within black colored margins (watercolor) and the center was an elaborate treatment -- in a sideways rectangle about 24 cm by 19.7 cm. Both patterns had empty value tablets.

calligraphy". Only the design "Mother and Child" was assessed favorably.

Despite the result of the competition, two of J. Obrovský's designs were chosen for implementation -- the design that won third prize and a design which did not even place in the competition -- "Lion Breaking Its Chains" (Fig. 5).

This decision was in all likelihood influenced by pragmatic considerations. As we know, in the stamp-printing shop -- Czech Union Graphics of Prague -- there existed two separate



Fig. 5

Their Release

There was no announcement about the release of these stamps in the *Bulletin* of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, rather they were mentioned only in the Board of Posts and Telegraphs' *Official Actions 1919*, No. 26, in an October 17 statement of notification that six stamps were to be released. Specifically:

List of Official Actions of the Post and Telegraph in Prague No. 26, 17 October 1919

Commemorative Stamps

Decree No. 38989-IV-19, 4 October 1919, rendered by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, that during the forthcoming stipulated period 6 kinds of commemorative postage stamps in 15,000 sheets of each kind will be released; one issue depicting a lion breaking its chains in 15, 25, and 50h, and the other issue depicting a symbolic republican mother with child in 75, 100, and 120h.

These stamps will be distributed in reasonable amounts to everyone for use as the current postal rate for first class, and will be made available for sale promptly on 28 October this year; before that day, without exception, the sale of said stamps in any amount is strictly prohibited. Everyone is to be informed that the commemorative stamps will be sold at their face value.

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However, from the quantity separately allocated to the philatelic section of Praha 1, an allotment of 2000 sheets with unique cancellation in the shape of a linden leaf will be sold at an additional charge of 10h each.

These commemorative stamps will be available within the territories of the Czechoslovak Republic and sold exclusively between 28 October and 3 November of this year. During those days, we will release consignments to be furnished to you without payment.

The usual manner of billing for commemorative stamps between those sold and those not distributed will be in effect.

Prague, 10 October 1919.

The stamps' technical specifications are detailed [below].

Denomination	Color	Size	Printing Technique	Issued	Valid
15	green	22.5 x 25.7	typography	5,000,000	27 Oct 1919
25	brown	"	"	of each	to
50	blue	"	"	denomination	3 Nov 1919
75	gray	26.5 x 21.7	photogravure	"	"
100	purple-brown	"	"	"	"
120	purple	"	"	"	"

Although the official date of release was October 28, stamps were sold and were in common use before then -- at the main Prague post office. Likewise, the date they were to be withdrawn -- November 3 -- was not thoroughly observed; this is demonstrated by many covers from all over the ČSR dated the fourth, and rarely the fifth, of November. It is not at all clear why the stamps were valid only for domestic postal use. Covers are known that were delivered abroad, but such covers were returned from abroad to the ČSR -- I have seen, for instance, postcards addressed to Dresden that were sent back from Germany.

The difference between the number of stamps one might calculate from the data in the *Official Actions* (1.5 million sets) and the actual count of issued stamps (5 million sets) may be accounted for as follows: the Postal Authorities initially planned to sell 1.5 million sets and then to transfer the remaining 3.5 million sets to the "Legionnaires' Aid Fund" as a grant-in-kind from the Ministry.

The eight-day period of validity was the shortest such period for the entire First Republic. This short period of validity was deliberately chosen because from the issue some 3.5 million sets were to be credited for purposes of charity to the "Aid Fund" (several sources refer to this as the "Aid Committee" or as the "Emergency Committee"). As was later demonstrated, this plan, whose putative value would have come to about 13.5 million Kčs, never came to fruition. Public and philatelic demand was quickly satiated due to the huge number of stamps released and their short period of validity; quite quickly, collectors, dealers, and the "Legionnaires' Aid Fund" all amassed a huge inventory of these stamps. Toward the end, the stamps were sold for less than face value and even now it is possible to purchase them at under catalog value (barring some perforation varieties).

All of this led to the issue's being of little interest to collectors of Czechoslovak stamps. Rather than having an occasional cancellation for charity, the entire sheets were overprinted with a cancellation [see details below] for which a surcharge of 10h was collected (again, supposedly for the benefit of the orphans). Such a large inventory of unsold stamps remained that for thirty years the Legionnaires' Aid Fund was able to produce "souvenir" and "memo" sheets with new commemorative cancellations. This practice was unsuccessful, however, which is why the remaining stamps were sold to dealers at a fraction of their value. As late as 1935, it was reported in ČF No. 5, 1935, that "There were remainders of the Legionářské stamps, for, after an accounting at the beginning of 1929, the entire sum of those sold numbered less than one million sets". As we will see below, this latter enterprise had a bad effect upon the popularity of the whole issue.

Their Production

The account of the production of these stamps has always been somewhat vague. Here is an attempt to bring together the known facts. The stamps were produced by Czech Union Graphics in Prague, as we already know, using two different technologies -- typography and photogravure (neotype).

Typography

The 15, 25, and 50h denominations were printed by typography in these steps:

- The series (10, 15, and 50) of denomination numerals were pasted to a photograph of the original pattern.
- A lightweight printing block was manufactured from the (negative) photographic plate.
- The printing block was used to create 100 prints on chalk paper.
- These prints were glued into rows of ten for a setup of each printing plate.
- Control numbers were pasted to the setup below the last row.
- The whole setup was photographed and reduced to the size of a sheet of stamps.
- From the photographs, two plates for each value were created; in all, six zinc plates for the three denominations.
- The six plates were then mounted into printing matrices -- four plates together in one matrix for the 15 and 25h denominations and a single two-plate matrix for the 50h (according to the *Monografie II*).

The plate arrangements within the matrices are shown in Fig. 6.⁵

The printing of these stamps went far better than did that of the Hradčany, thanks to a superior rendition of the material that did away with any special reproduction difficulties, but thanks also to the substantial experience Union Graphics had acquired in printing typographic stamps. It is not true, as *Monografie II* insists, that identifying characteristics are not to be found on these stamps. The

⁵ The arrangement of the 15 and 25h matrix is identical to that given in *Monografie II* and if correct, would indicate the plates were printed side-by-side rather than above one another. This description is very likely incorrect -- tr.

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typographic printing technique always leads to the appearance of some plate flaws and that is why this technique grew less popular for the production of stamps.

A question arises concerning the printing of the 50h stamps: was this denomination printed alone in a two-plate printing matrix or was it, like the Hradčany, used with other plates in a four-plate printing matrix (and if so, with what)?

Hirsch at one time specifically says⁶ that the 50h denomination was apparently part of a four-plate group, but at another time he writes⁷ that this denomination "perhaps was printed independently in a two-plate matrix".

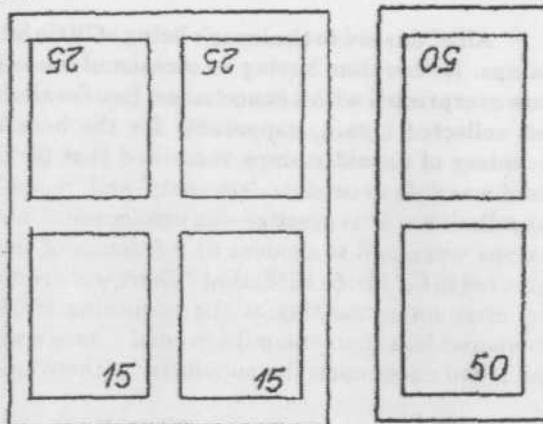


Fig. 6

Photogravure

The 75, 100, and 120h stamps were printed using photogravure (neotype) as follows:

- Photographs of the original pattern without denomination numerals were glued into a 10 x 10 full-sheet format and re-photographed [as a positive].
- Next, the value numerals were pasted on; that each of 100 numbers was pasted on separately is indicated by the various positions and forms of the numerals at specific plate positions.
- The photographed sheets were transferred onto a copper plate using pigmented transfer paper and a photogravure grid.

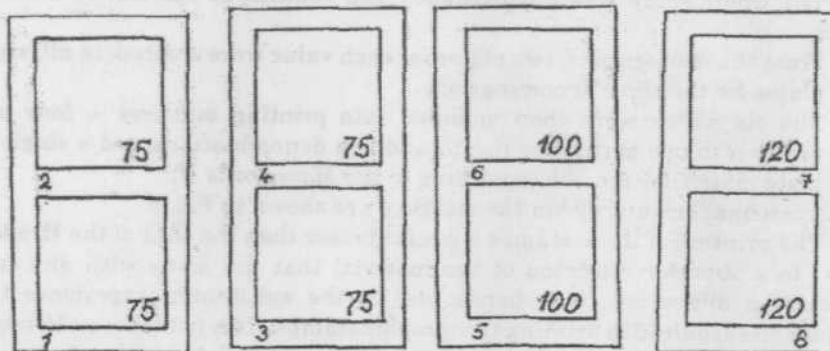


Fig. 7

⁶ E. Hirsch. "Třicet Let", *Filatelie* 19, 1949.

⁷ E. Hirsch. *Třicet Let Čs. Poštovních Známek*, Praha, Orbis, 1949.

- The copper plate was made into a printing plate by etching it with ferric chloride.
 - Printing matrices were created using the appropriate printing plates.
 - Each denomination was printed by itself, because at that time the print shop facilities would not permit the joint printing of stamps with differing colors.
- The plate arrangements within the matrices are shown in Fig. 7.

We have to answer a question about the stamps in this group: Why -- especially since we know all of the stamps were released at the same time in the same amount, and that the other stamps used only two plates -- were four plates created for the 75h? The explanation is that, at that time, the 75h stamp was the correct postage for a plain registered letter!

I have ascertained by examining individual stamp positions that one set of plate flaws and differences invariably occur together on Plates I and III and another set on Plates II and IV. This is clear evidence that the auxiliary print (photograph) used to create Plates I and III was the same, as was the auxiliary print used to create Plates II and IV; the only differences are the plate numbers. I exhibited the documentary proof for this at the Praga 88 World Exhibition. *[To be continued]*

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PRISONERS OF WAR IN ITALY DURING WORLD WAR I

by Piero Santangelo

trans. by Vladimir Kralicek

(Continued from previous issue)

At the beginning of 1917 the requests for the use of prisoners multiplied, and the Commission permitted the employment of about 80,000 prisoners. They were allocated into about 2,000 places and were working in the countryside, in the mines, factories, road construction and in public organizations and other places.

The number of working prisoners constantly increased, until it reached 130,000 persons -- allocated according to the Commission program up to 6 April 1918, as follows:

Agriculture work	60,000
National fuel - work in forests, in extraction of lignite	30,000
Work in mines	2,000
Work on roads and railways	11,300
Forest regeneration	2,300
Construction of sea berths	500
Albania - work on roads and improvements	3,000
Czechs - units departed for the front	6,400
Czechs - units prepared for departure to the front	6,400
Czechs - units preparing for departure	6,400

In the final number of 128,300 persons the Commission included also the Czech units that had departed for the front, those attached to sappers, with the qualification "Work Battalions" (Fig. 9).

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Figure 9: Card sent from Carignola directed to Bohemia, sender gives unit as "Compagnia lavoratori Cecoslovacchi".

Postal service

Postal operations for the prisoners of war was guaranteed by the Commission, set up by the Head Committee of the Red Cross, with censorship being the responsibility of the Ministry of Post.

The ordinary prisoner was allowed to write "in franchigia" one 4-page letter -- or one picture postcard -- per week, with officers having no restrictions. Later the

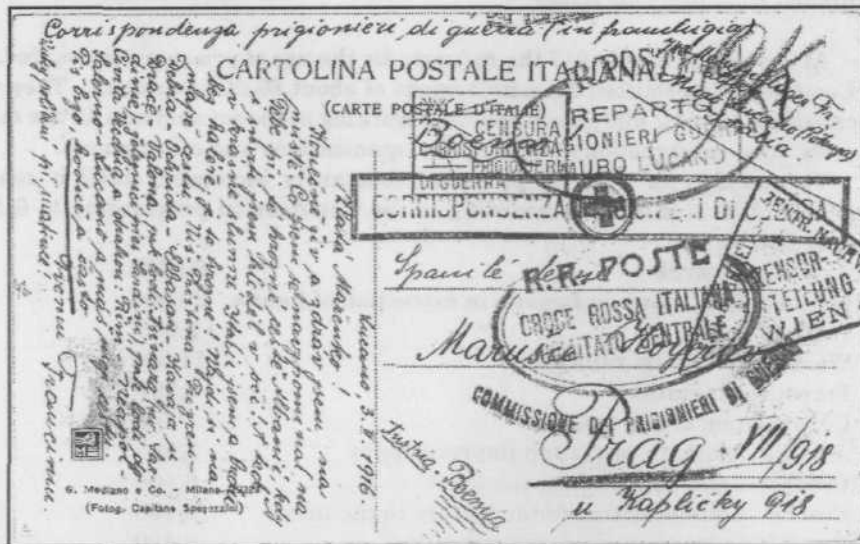
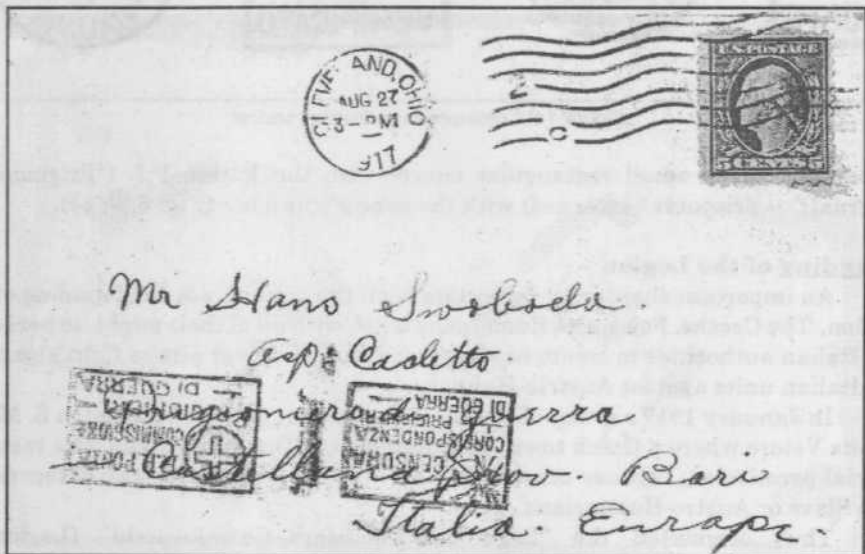


Figure 10: Card from Muro Lucano dated 3.12.1916 with the handstamps "Reparto Prigionieri Guerra Muro Lucano" (Unit of Prisoners of War Muro Lucano), "R. R. Poste Croce Rossa Italiana" [Italian Red Cross postal service], and the military censor.

Ministry issued new directives that restricted correspondence to the use of correspondence cards (8 per month for officers and 4 for soldiers). Additionally, a monetary service was permitted, it was possible to send and receive money through the postal service, similarly for parcel post service, and even telegrams were allowed to be sent, but they had to be paid for by the prisoner (Fig. 10).



Figures 11/12: Letters sent from the USA, addressed to the same camp in Castellana, using two different censor cancelers.

Censorship

All correspondence had to be visibly marked with the inscription "Prisoner of War Correspondence" whether it was a picture postcard or a letter envelope -- then

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it had to be turned over to the camp post office, where then in most cases it was marked with the camp cancel.

From the beginning of the war through the first months of 1918, whoever was responsible for censorship marked the correspondence using a hand cancel -- that was made up of two rectangular cancels, the left one being 25.5 x 18mm and the right one being 30 x 18mm. The ink used for canceling was pale blue, red, and black. There are two types of the canceler known -- in the first one the two cancels abut each other and in the second one they are separated by 13-15mm (Fig. 11 & 12 resp.). It is relatively easy to find documents with just one of these cancels, and that being the left one (Fig. 10).

Later, in view of the extremely large number of consignments, the Postal



Figure 13: Singled mechanical cancel

Censorship Commission had to introduce into operation a mechanical canceler -- two basic types exist: a single mechanical canceler on which there is a rectangle together with an oblong (Fig. 13) and one continuous canceler (endless one)(Fig. 14).

Besides these, it is possible to find on



Figure 14: Continuous mechanical cancel

correspondence a small rectangular cancel with the letters P.I. ("Prigionieri - Internati" -- prisoners - interned) with the censor's number (Fig. 8, 9, 14).

Founding of the Legion

An important chapter in connection with the prisoners is the founding of the Legion. The Czechs, Poles, and Rumanians tried, with all of their might, to persuade the Italian authorities to create battle groups with the clear aim to fight alongside the Italian units against Austria-Hungary.

In January 1917 a group of Czechs, about 5,000, were assembled in S. Maria Capua Vetere where a Czech town came into being. This came about as a result of special permission, because otherwise they were all divided into two categories -- into Slavs or Austro-Hungarians.

Thus originated the "Lega dei Volontari Cecoslovacchi" (Legion of Czechoslovak Volunteers) and was opened the enrolment for entry into the Legion. At the end of July 1917 the Czechoslovak prisoners who had signed up were transferred to Padula -- there were 3,000 volunteers (Slovak involvement was minimal, only 18 men) (Fig. 15).

Even though official recognition (by the Italian government) of these forces



Figure 15: Card from Prague dated 13.9.1916 for a prisoner in Cividale del Friuli and from there forwarded to the camp at Bibbiena in Tuscany. The recipient (addressee) of the card -- after the liberation -- was given the post of Press Attaché with the National Council of the Czech Lands.

was very slow, from October 1917 small groups of Czech speaking volunteers under the name "Squadroni di avvicinamento" (Approach Units) were already active at the front. Later, in January 1918, seven work battalions were established whose function was to build bunkers and various defensive building fortifications. The



Figure 16: Card dated 17.3.1918 from Sommacampagna, addressed to Padula from a Czech volunteer in the IInd Work Regiment in Sommacampagna.

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battalions were located at: 1st in Mantova, 2nd in Sommacampagna, 3rd in Goito, 4th in Pastrengo, 5th in Bardolino, 6th in Valeggio aul Mincio, 7th in Badia Polesine (Fig. 16).

Thanks to the constant diplomatic and political pressure by T.G. Masaryk on the Italian Government, which was also supported by a strong campaign in the Italian press, a decision was reached. This happened after the Rome Congress in April 1918 (the Congress was organized by the Committee for Nations, a minion of Austro-Hungary), whereupon the Italian Government decided to found a Czechoslovak platoon in Italy. On 11 April 1918, the War Ministry, in Circular No. 6560/G, urged agreement with the Czech National Council for the speedy establishment of a special group of selected volunteers, designated to operate on the Italian front.

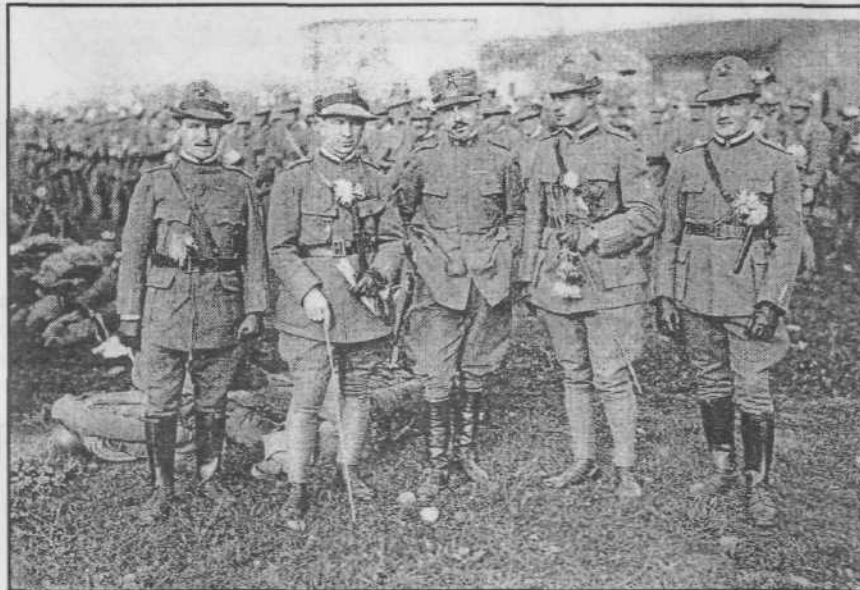


Figure 17: Soldiers of the 39th Regiment during departure on 12.11.1918 from Monpiano (Brescia) to Padova.

On 21 April 1918, an agreement was concluded between the Czechoslovak National Council -- led by T.G. Masaryk, the future President of the Czechoslovak Republic -- and the Italian Government, in which was stipulated the proper legal unit designation. With this the Czechoslovak soldiers had the same standing as the Italian ones.

At the beginning of May 1918 the Czechoslovak Corps in Italy was made up of the VI Division commanded by General Graziani. On June 2nd the Legion comprised 13,653 soldiers and 489 officers and consisted of four regiments. They were the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, and 34th, followed by the 39th Regiment Esploratori (reconnaissance)(Fig. 17). Thus the Czechs fought against their own original forces, inviting them to general desertion, and dropped from the sky thousands of leaflets (Fig. 18).

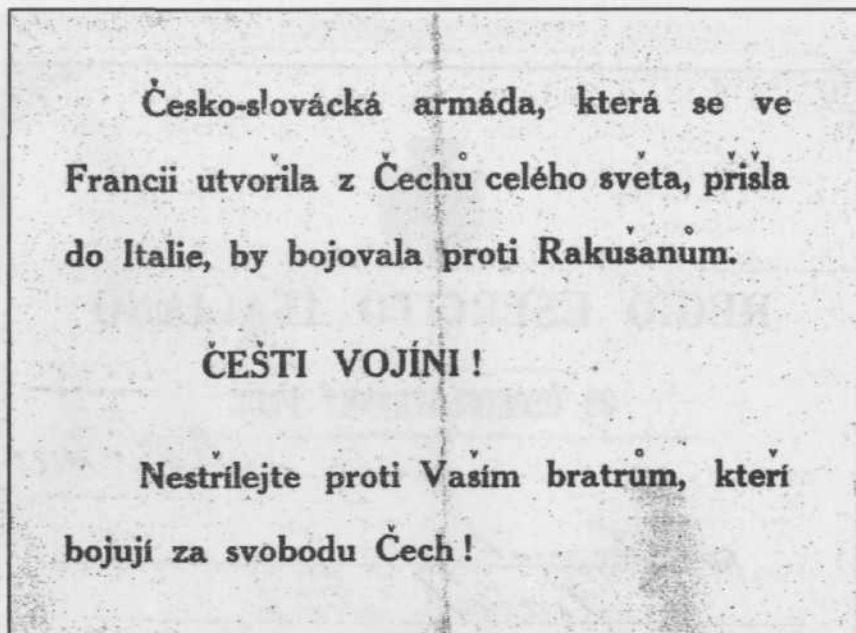


Figure 18: Text of a pamphlet dropped in July 1918 by the 38th Air Unit stationed in Padova. "The Czecho-Slovak Army, which was formed in France from Czechs of the whole world, came to Italy, to battle against the Austrians. CZECH SOLDIERS! Do not fire against your brothers, who are fighting for Czech liberty!"

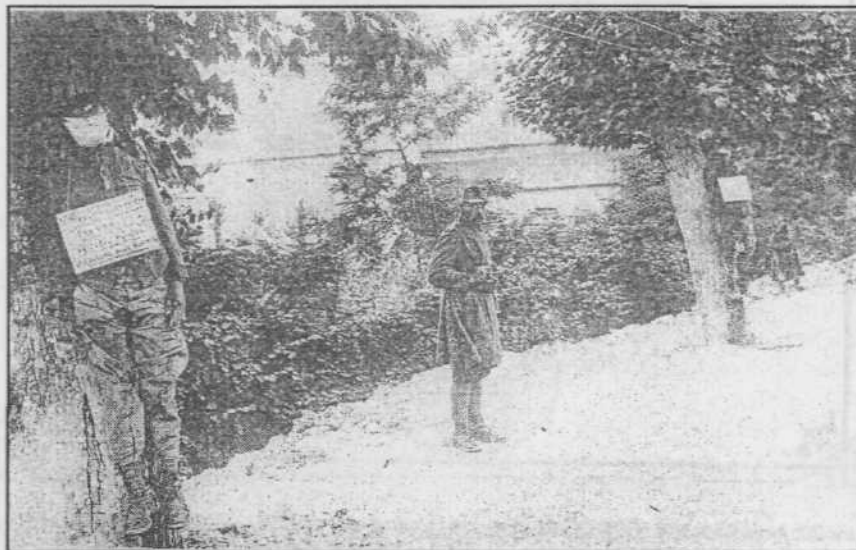


Figure 19: Card -- photograph of Legionnaires hanged in Conegliano, around their neck was placed a placard with the words: "Legionari cecoslovacchi traditori della patria" (Czechoslovak Legionnaire traitors to their native land).

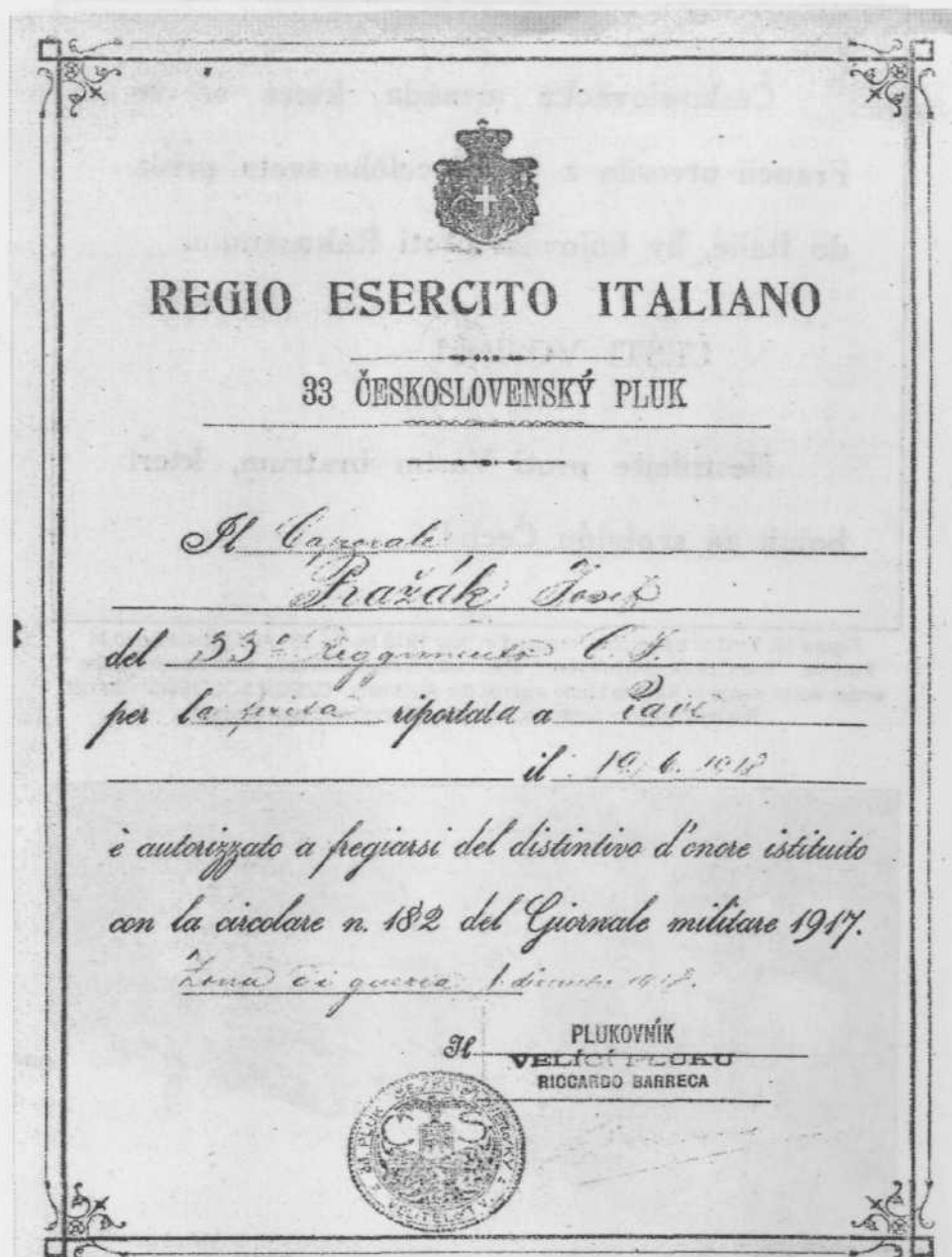


Figure 20: Award citation reading: "ROYAL ITALIAN ARMY / 33rd Czechoslovak Regiment / Corporal Prazak, Josef of the 33rd Regiment C.L. for the wound received at the Plave [river] on 19 June 1918 is authorized to be decorated with the Badge of Honor, authorized by Circular No. 182 of the Military Journal dated 1917. War Zone, 1 December 1918. [Signed] Colonel, Regimental Commander, Riccardo Barreca." [regimental crest on a handstamp]

Many volunteers enrolled in the Legion, despite the fact that they knew there was danger to which they were exposing themselves in case the Austrians captured them. In the eyes of the Austrians they were traitors to their native country, and they were publicly hanged as a deterrent to others (Fig. 19).

In various war Circulars issued by the Highest Italian Command, Czechoslovak units were mentioned with appreciation many times (Fig. 20); notable is the appreciation of the 34th Regiment after the heroic defense of the positions at Dosso Alto and Passo Sega.

Within the various regulations of the post offices servicing the prisoners of war there was also one prohibiting correspondence between the prisoners and interned persons from one camp to another. For the Czech volunteers, even though the Legion was as yet not officially acknowledged, this regulation did not apply.

Other prisoners from Austria-Hungary who achieved the possibility of forming their own Legions were the Poles and Rumanians.

On 25 February 1918 the Ministry of War gave the Commission for Prisoners of War permission regarding the formation of the Polish Legion, after the Czechoslovak model, but at variance with it the Polish Legion was never involved in battle at the front.



Figure 21: Card from Ca Briani dated 19.9.1918 addressed to Arezzo, cancel of the Rumanian prisoner's 57th Corp.

The final one was the Rumanian Legion. On 17 February 1918 the Ministry of War gave permission to form a unit named "Compagnia volontari Romeni" (Company of Rumanian Volunteers) which was incorporated into the 8th Army and used on 27-28 October 1918 in the battle on the Piave river (Fig. 21).

The Legionnaires were the first to return home. The Czechoslovak Legion's return home (prisoners of war were entering it even after the end of the war) began

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on 14 December 1918, and already by 1 June 1919, 50,111 soldiers had returned home. The Polish Legionnaires, even though they were not directly involved in the war activities, were given priority, and already by 1 June 1919, 24,283 Poles had returned home.

The return of the Rumanian Legionnaires was more gradual, and during the first half of 1919, 11,356 of them had returned and the remainder -- 10,167 -- by the end of the year.

During careful research, which preceded the writing of this article, I tried to emphasize the most interesting parts from the postal historic point of view, quoting the above dates and locations. I have left out much additional compelling and important information which affected the fate of thousands of people.

Sources:

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K. Pichlik -- "I Legionari Cecoslovacchi", ed. Trento, Museo Storico, 1997
Cecchi-Cadioli -- "I Servizi Postali Dell Esercito Italiano", ed. Sirotti, 1979
P. Santangelo -- "La Censura", ed. Assoc. Filatelica Veneta N. 26, 1994
P. Santangelo -- "La Legione CS. In Italia Nella I. Guerra Mondiale", ed. AICPM N. 68, 1994

All illustrated documents belong to the author.

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Philatelic News and Views

From Henry Hahn:

-- Breta Janík now has about 50 outstanding exhibits on his EXPONET site: Visit a Superb Exhibit in Your Pajamas and Slippers and Sit in Comfort! Turn Your PC to EXPONET at <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/> and See the World's Best Exhibits at No Cost and at Any Time. You May Also Present Your Own Exhibit by Providing It on a Disc to EXPONET's Publishers. For Further Information Contact Them at Janik@japhila.com.

-- As reported to me by Jiří Sedlák, the recent elections for the leadership of the Union of Czech Philatelists on December 3, 2005, elected:

Chairman	Lumír Brendl
Vice-chairmen	Walter Müller, Vít Vaníček
Secretary	Jaroslav Maleček
Executive Comm.	Langhammer, Okáč, Sedlák, Beneš, Hanzlová

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 21, 2005, the Ministry of Communications issued a set of three commemorative stamps entitled Historical Tractors (Fig. 1). The National Agricultural Museum -- the Agricultural Technology Museum in Čáslav displays one of the largest European collections of tractors and motor ploughs. In the collections, from which the author of the issues drew the themes, are most of the world brands



Fig. 1

used in the Czech Republic since the beginning of the 20th century. The "Automobile Plough" made by Deutz, Germany in 1907 was the first practically usable plowing structure in Europe. The first European series of tractors was first marketed in 1912 by another German company, Hanomag, a year later followed by Lanz's Landbaumotor. In the 20's, series fabrication started also in Czechoslovakia. In 1926 the first tractors HT 30 left the gate of the Škoda Works in Plzeň. Practically at the same time the Prague engineering works Breitfeld-Daněk began marketing the BD tractors, in 1929 the fabrication of tractors started also in Prostějov in the Wichterle-Kovařík Works. The stamps were designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with color photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 7.50 Kč -- John Deere, 1923 -- in black, yellow, red, green, and gray. It depicts the tractor John Deere 15/27, made in 1923. The motor with a capacity of 37 HP at 800 rpm is a four-stroke spark-ignition water-cooled twin engine. It is fueled with petrol and kerosene. The tractor has 2 forward and 1 backward speeds. The FDC in red shows the Lanz Bulldog tractor from 1926 (Fig. 2).

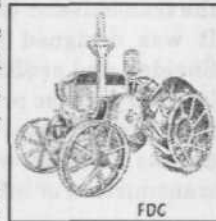


Fig. 2

-- 9 Kč -- Lanz Bulldog, 1921 -- in black, lightbrown, darkbrown, green, and gray. It depicts the Lanz Bulldog HL-12 tractor made in 1921. The motor is a two-stroke compression-ignition hot-tube single engine with a capacity of 12 HP. The tractor has 1 forward and 1 backward speeds. A FDC in brown shows the Svoboda tractor made in 1934 (Fig. 3).

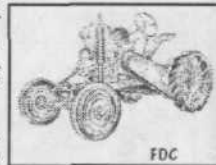


Fig. 3

-- 18 Kč -- Škoda, 1937 -- in black, green, blue, and orange. It depicts the Škoda HT 40 tractor made in 1937. The motor with a capacity of 44 HP at 1150 rpm is a four-stroke spark-ignition water-cooled twin engine. It is fueled with petrol and

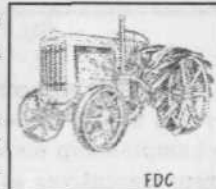


Fig. 4

kerosene. The tractor has 3 forward and 1 backward speeds. A FDC in blue depicts the Wikov tractor from 1930 (Fig. 4).



Fig. 5

2. On September 21, 2005, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp for the World Summit on Information Society (Fig. 5). Communication is an essential social process, a basic human need and a basis of the organization of society. The umbrella organizer of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) is the United Nations Organization. Stage I of the WSIS took place already on December 10, 2003 in Geneva; the Czech Republic was represented by a large delegation. Stage II is to be held on November 16-18, 2005 in Tunisia. The aim of the WSIS is to use information and communication technologies to connect

all communities and rural centers, universities, colleges, secondary and primary schools, scientific and research centers, libraries, cultural centers, museums, post offices and archives, central and local government authorities, health care centers, and hospitals, etc. Information society is understood as a society using tools of information and communication technology and services based on them. These services and technology become the key factor of economic development. Broadly used digital processing, information storage and transmission can be considered as the essence. Information society continues to be considerably overlapped with knowledge society. The stamp is created by a graphical structure composed of many points symbolizing the transmission of information along with the logo of WSIS. It was designed by Jan Solpera, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in violet combined with photogravure in orange in printing sheets of 35 pieces. A FDC in gray depicts a cachet which symbolizes, like on the stamp, the transmission of information (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

3. On October 12, 2005, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to curling (Fig. 7). This game was first mentioned in Scotland in the 16th century. The Royal Scottish Curling Club was set up in Edinburgh in 1838. The audience at the Olympic Games saw this game already in 1924 and 1928, and again no earlier than in Nagano, Japan in 1998. Curling is not a well known game in the Czech Republic. The Czech Curling Association was established in

1990 as an unincorporated association of several Prague clubs. It took further six years before the establishment of other clubs outside Prague began. The Czech championship matches were first organized in 1991 in three categories, the Czech representatives attend the World Cup tournaments as well as the World and

European Championships. Recently a special, completely barrierless curling hall was completed at Prague 4 which meets the demanding and specific criteria of this game and belongs to the best in the world. The stamp shows a lying curler watching the thrown stone. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black with photogravure in yellow, light blue, red and darkblue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in violet shows two players clearing the path for the stone while in the background there is the skip directing his team-mates (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8

4. On November 9, 2005, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Works of Art on Stamps series (Fig. 9). The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates, in printing sheets of 4 pieces.



Fig. 9

-- 22 Kč: "Summer Landscape (detail), 1859" by Adolf Kosárek (1830-1859) -- in yellow, red, green, blue, and brown -- engraved by Václav Fajt, located in the Prague Castle Collections. The outstanding Czech painter of landscapes A. Kosárek attended the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague as a student of M. Haushofer. At the beginning he tried to express the contemporary type of an ideal romantic landscape but he gradually moved to realism based on a penetrating study of nature. Well known are his versions of the Landscape with a Bridge, but he was attracted also with lonely and solitary lands. At the close of his short life he painted balladic pictures of the Czech landscape while arriving at a synthetic monumental form. The painting "Summer Landscape", whose detail is featured on the postage stamp, is an apposite



Fig. 10

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expression of the summer atmosphere and life of the period. A FDC in darkbrown depicts the drawing "A Trunk of an Old Tree" (pen, paper)(Fig. 10).

-- 25 Kč: "Deinotherium, 1940" by Zdeněk Burian (1905-1981) -- in black ocher, blue, red, and green -- engraved by Martin Srb, located at Charles University in Prague. At the age of 14 years, Zdeněk Burian, Czech painter and illustrator of books for young people, became a student of the second class at the Academy in Prague where he was taught by M. Švabinský, J. Obrovský and V. Bukovac. Two years later the first book with his illustrations was published and from 1923 he was a painter for the Graphic Union of geographical and ethnographical paintings which became a part of school education. His vivid distinctive drawings full of dynamism and suspense enriched numerous books of adventure (by London, May, Defoe, Storch, etc.) and magazines. In 1935 he met J. Augusta, professor of paleontology at Charles University, which was the beginning of a remarkable cooperation of a scientist and an artist in the creation of scientific reconstructions of primeval life. Despite its inadequacies in some respects due to new excavations and research studies this work is still an unsurpassed highlight of artistic reconstructions of the primeval age. Z. Burian is one of the hardest working Czech painters at all. The postage stamp features the family of deinotherium, a separate blind line of proboscideans living in Europe at the end of the tertiary period. A FDC in black-brown shows an Neanderthal man (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11

-- 26 Kč: "Poplars Near Velké Němčice, 1897" by Alois Kalvoda (1875-1934) -- in yellow, blue, green, darkgreen, and black -- engraved by Miloš Ondráček, located in the Moravian Gallery in Brno. The Czech painter, graphic designer, illustrator, editor of the *Dílo* magazine, A. Kalvoda attended the Academy in Prague as a student of J. Mařák. However he soon began to deviate from his school of melancholic landscapes and moved to an emotional, impressionistic landscape of decorative character both in motif and color. He painted simple motifs of the Czech land in broad brush-strokes and clear merry color covering the momentary mood with a subtle feeling. His outstanding works are from the country round about Rohatec, Strážnice, Břeclav. In 1932 he published his own edition of his book called "Memories". The postage stamp features an engraving of one of Kalvoda's first works, "Aspens Nearby Velké Němčice". A FDC in brown-black shows Kalvoda's design of the scenery to the *Bartered Bride* from 1915 (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12

5. On November 9, 2005, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps for Christmas (Fig. 13). The author of this year's postage stamps for Christmas correspondence, painter and illustrator K. Franta belongs to the leading Czech artists. His works are greatly appreciated also abroad. He is one of the few winners



Fig. 13

of the prize Grand Prix UNICEF and his name can be found also on the Czech list of the IBBY -- International Board on Books for Young People. The postage stamps for local correspondence, 7.50 Kč, features a poetic picture of the crib with the Holy Family and animals. The other stamp, 9 Kč, priced for European correspondence, is an artistic exaggeration of the Three Magi. Three little boys, dressed as the magi Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, fly on the tail of a comet. The Bethlehem star is common to both stamps. According to ancient astrologists the appearance of a comet or a new star announced an important event. The three wise men from the East saw an unknown star coming

out at the time when Jesus was born. They followed it until their arrival at Bethlehem. The stamps were designed by Karel Franta, engraved by Bedřich Housa, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in black, yellow, red, blue-green and blue (7.50 Kč), and black, rose, yellow, red, and gray (9 Kč), in printing sheets of 50 pieces. There were two FDC's issued in brown: 7.50 Kč -- a drawing of three Czech musicians following the star of Bethlehem (Fig. 14); 9 Kč -- a drawing of the Three Magi (Fig. 15).



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

Stationery

6. On December 1, 2005, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 7.50 Kč stamp (face value of 12 Kč) from the commemorative souvenir sheet Protected Flora and Fauna of the Krkonoše Mountains which was issued on June 22, 2005 (Fig. 16). The stamp shows two protected plants of Krkonoše -- *Viola lutea sudetica* and *Hedysarum hedysaroides*. The card was designed by Libuše and

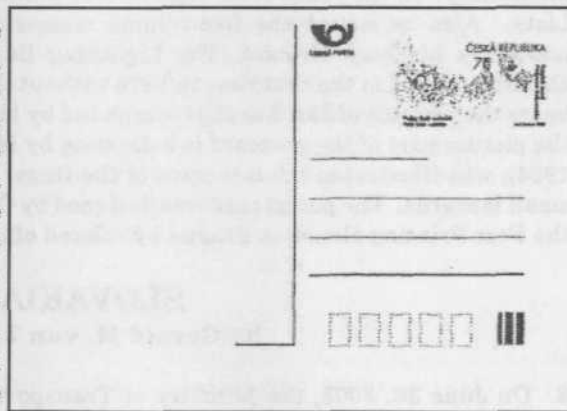


Fig. 16

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Jaromír Knotek and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. On the same date the Ministry will issue the same postal card having on its reverse the arranged design for the commemorative souvenir sheet Protected Flora and Fauna of the Krkonoše Mountains previously issued as stated above.

7. On December 14, 2005, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 7.50 Kč stamp to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the issue of the book "Lightning Bugs" by Jan Karafiát (Fig. 17). Jan Karafiát (1846-1929) studied at the grammar school in Gütersloh, theology in Berlin, Bonn and Vienna. In 1875 he became parish



Fig. 17

priest in Hrubá Lhota (nowadays Velká Lhota). In June, 1895 he gave up his post owing to discords with his superiors and went to Prague, where he worked as a missionary. In the years 1896-1905 he was publishing the magazine Reformované Listy. Also he issued the five-volume memories, but his most known work is nowadays his book Broučci (The Lightning Bugs), a story for small and great children, issued at the first time in 1876 without the name of the author. The stamp bears the portrait of Jan Karafiát completed by his name and biographical data. In the picture part of the postcard is a drawing by Marie Fischerová-Kvěčková (1892-1984), who illustrated the late issue of the Bugs. It shows two lightning bugs with small lanterns. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. It sells for 12.50 Kč.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

8. On June 30, 2005, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a souvenir sheet containing two stamps in the Nature Conservation series

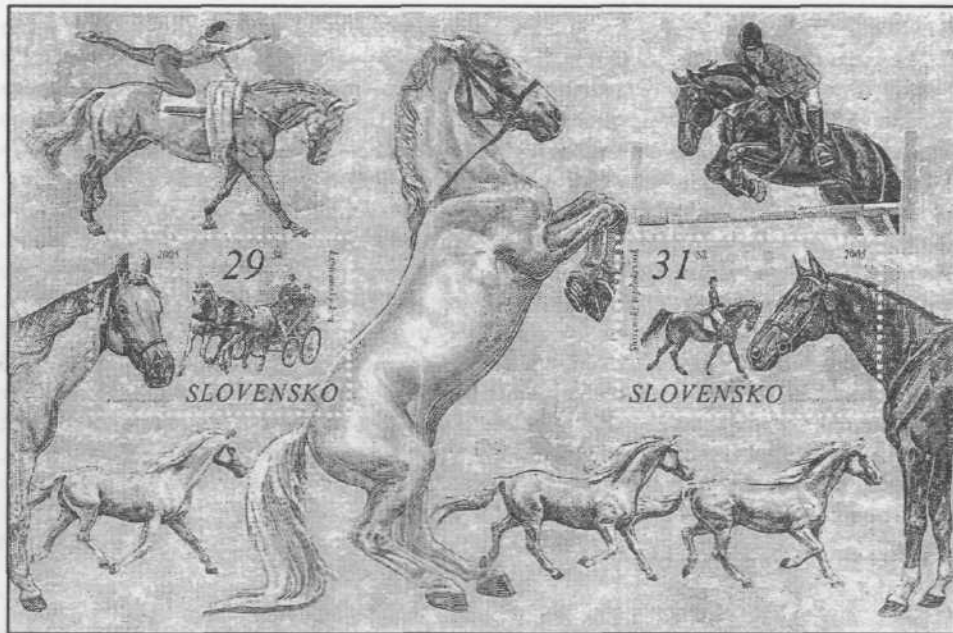


Fig. 18

commemorating horses (Fig. 18). The 29 Sk stamp shows Lipizzaner horses -- the head of one and two others pulling a carriage. The 31 Sk stamp shows Slovakian Warm-Blood horses -- the head of one and another with rider during a dressage performance. The stamps were designed by Igor Piacka, engraved by Rudolf Ciganik, and produced using intaglio and offset printing.

9. On September 22, 2005, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps in the Technical Monuments series commemorating trains. The stamps were designed by Marián Čapka, engraved by František Horniak/Arnold Feke, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using recess printing from flat plates combined with offset in sheets of eight stamps. Each had a FDC issued.



Fig. 19

-- 24 Sk: Čierný Balog (Fig. 19). At the end of the 19th century, the rich forest resources around Čierný Hron and the related exploitation and processing of wood caused problems with the transportation of felled wood to where it was processed. At that time, however, the capacity as well as the quality of wood transportation via waterways did not meet the needs of the expanding industry in the country. Quality and continuous transportation

had to be ensured year-round. The construction of the Čierný Hron forest railway, with a gauge of 760 mm, began in 1908, whilst its first 11 km long section was completed in the same year. Other forest railway branch lines were also gradually

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built with the help of WW I prisoners, opening up the majority of valleys around the Čierný Hron basin. The total length of the railway was 132 km, whilst some of its branch lines reached the mysterious Dobročský primeval forest below the massive Klenovsk Vepor. A transshipping center from the Čierný Hron forest railway to the state railway system was established at the Hronec station. Steam-driven saw-mills supplied by the forest railway operated in Čierný Balog and Štiavnička. At the time of the greatest removal of wood, during disasters in 1927-1929, about 260,000 m³ of wood was transported yearly, and during 1953-1955 as much as 300,000 m³ of wood. As many as seven steam engines of various constructions were running daily on the railway. These were later joined by 3 RÁBA diesel-hydraulic engines from Hungary. Apart from freight transport, the railway also ensured the transportation of passengers, whilst its fleet included timber, decking, service, personnel, and special carriages. The railway was operated by about 115 employees, and the daily number of passengers was about 200-250 persons. In the second half of the last century, the growth of automobile transport resulted in the gradual decline of the forest railways. In 1982, the operation was closed on the remaining 36 km of railway track, which was the last operating forest railway at that time in Slovakia. In the same year, this

forest railway joined the Central State List of Cultural Monuments.



Fig. 20

-- 33 Sk: Vychylovka (Fig. 20). In the first half of the last century, narrow-gauge forest railway lines were the typical forest transport in Slovakia. These railways were built at the beginning of the 20th century with a view to replacing the obsolete transportation of wood by water, and to secure the fast and reliable transportation of wood from the

forests to places where it was further processed or to state railway stations from where the wood was transported to customers. The Kysuce-Orava forest railway was one of the most significant and largest forest railways in Slovakia. This railway, with a gauge of 760 mm, was built in 1926 by connecting two independent forest railways, the Kysuce railway, leading from Oščadnica to the Chmúra valley, and the Orava railway leading from Lokca to Erdútka (present Oravská Lesná). The original railway length of 110 km in 1927 was later reduced by the gradual shortening of its branch lines and the shutting-down of its track. The railway was steam-driven, using steam engines made by MAV, Henschel, Krauss and the CKD locomotive works. At that time, flat timber rolling-stock was mostly used for the transportation of long lumber. This forest railway is unique due to its terrain system. When crossing the Beskyd saddleback, the railway had to overcome a gradient of 218 m over about 1,500 m (in a straight line). The railway designer solved this problem by locating 3 terrain stations on the line, whilst the Chmúra station forms one of them. The highest point of the track is located on the Beskyd saddleback. This railway is the only preserved narrow-gauge railway system in Europe. For this reason, the section Chmúra - Tanečník was listed as a significant technical monument in 1972, after the railway as such was closed down. The railway is currently operated over an approximately 3.6 km long section, and is known as the Vychylovka historical narrow-gauge forest railway. This is part of the exhibition of the Kysuce Village

Museum in Čadca. The stamp shows the 1909 U 34.901 steam engine, one of the oldest narrow-gauge steam engines in Slovakia.

10. On October 20, 2005, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates combined with 2-color and 5-color multicolored offset in sheets of four.

-- 28 Sk: "Supper at Emmaus, 1654" by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669), Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 21). Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn (1606, Leyden - 1669, Amsterdam) is one of the most famous and distinguished artists of all time. Unlike some of his great contemporaries, such as Vermeer van Delft and Frans Hals, Rembrandt was the representative of chiaroscuro [= clear-obscure: the artistic distribution of light and dark masses in a picture] of the Baroque style. He mastered various media with brilliancy; he was recognized as a painter, drawer, and engraver. Apart from portraits, his collection of work includes landscapes and figure compositions, but mostly secular and historical images. He devoted much of his attention to portraying biblical motifs. Rembrandt is the author of



Fig. 21

400 paintings, over 1,000 drawings, and about 300 engravings; the latter also include the two reproduced engravings; Christ at Emmaus and Christ and the Woman of Samaria. The scene portrayed on the stamp "Christ at Emmaus" is based on a story from the New Testament (Lk 24, 28-32), when following His resurrection Jesus Christ sat together with his disciples, who only recognized him when he broke the bread at the dinner. The figure of Christ is the focal point of the scene, and the light he casts unites the overall composition and contributes to the enigmatic and mystical character of the picture. The FDC portrays the depiction of another biblical story -- Christ and the Woman of Samaria at the Well (J 4). Even though Rembrandt pictured their meeting as a genre scene, as a chance meeting of a man and a woman at a well, the overall composition, light and atmosphere add to the more grave air of the scene. Both biblical themes were very close to Rembrandt's heart, he returned to them with variations at later stages in his life. We can also recognize them in drawings and paintings (Louvre, Paris). This stamp design and engraving was done by Arnold Feke.



Fig. 22

-- 35 Sk: From the series "Magic of Still Life Paintings V -- 1972" by Karol Baron (1939-2004), pastel on paper, Slovak National Gallery (Fig. 22). Karol Baron (1939, Levoča - 2004, Paris) is one of the most significant

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Slovak painters of the second half of the 20th century. He alone of the Slovak artists focused on surrealism. He studied monumental painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava under Prof. Peter Matejka. After initially successful exhibitions in the early 1970's, his artistic expression then became unacceptable. He was part of the underground movement of Czech and Slovak surrealists. As he was not allowed to exhibit his free artistic works, he produced tapestries for various official premises. Karol Baron was allowed to publicly show his many paintings only towards the end of the 1980's. Since then, he has been the subject of much attention and organized numerous exhibitions both in Slovakia and abroad. He also taught and lectured at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra where he was awarded the title Professor. The series "Magic of Still Life Paintings" is a modern expression of the surrealist effect of living and non-living objects. The FDC pictures the reproduction of the line drawing "Swimming Muscle", and the cancellation shows the letter "A" of the series "Bizarre World of Letters and Homunculi". The stamp design and engraving was done by František Horniak.

* * * * *

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Following up on the letters in the last issue of *The Specialist*, I would like to share a couple of personal observations regarding the judging at Brno 2005. My comments are in regard to the judging of the "experimental" classes, single-frame class (C1) and open class (C2). Not counting the literature or youth classes, there were 353 exhibits judged. Of these, 75 (21.3%) were from the experimental classes (55 single-frame, 20 open). Open class exhibitors paid the same frame fee as the other classes.

As a group, it appears the 75 experimental exhibits were not given the same judging consideration as those in the other classes. I have come to this conclusion after noting the following:

1) The highest medal award in the experimental classes was a large vermeil, of which there was only 1 (in single-frame). The other experimental class awards were vermeil (31), silver (26), or bronze (17). There were no large silver or silver-bronze awards. In other classes with 20 or more exhibits, medal levels were awarded continuously between highest medal to lowest medal, with the exception of one bronze medal. *The judges apparently made less of an effort to distinguish medal levels in the experimental classes.*

2) One of the things I really liked about Brno 2005 was that the judges came to the frames to critique the exhibits. (I was told this is the usual practice in Europe.) However, the individual who came to the open class frames was not a member of the judging panel but a member of the organizing committee. He was unable to provide any worthwhile critique. I also listened in on the critique of one of the exhibits in the traditional class. There were at least three, and possible four, members of the jury conducting this critique. Again, experimental exhibits seem to have been short-changed.

3) Although not a member of the jury, the individual who came to the open class frames for the critique was a knowledgeable and experienced international philatelist, as indicated by his listed credentials in the organizing committee

information. His only specific comment to the exhibitor with the highest awarded open class exhibit (a vermeil, 86 points) was that it was "the best open class exhibit I've ever seen". It seems that it should have received an award higher than a vermeil.

My primary personal objective in exhibiting at Brno 2005 was "to learn". I was very pleased that my "The Murder of Lidice" exhibit received the second highest open class award (also vermeil, 84 points) and the third highest score of U.S. exhibits. Unfortunately, I didn't learn anything from the "critique". The only comment made about my exhibit was the Czechs were "offended" by my exhibit because it was a reminder of a difficult time in their history. This comment is totally opposite the reactions observed while the exhibit was being mounted and the reactions I have personally received in both Prague and Lidice. If I thought the exhibit was perceived as offensive, I would never have shown it. Fortunately, I did meet a couple of knowledgeable Czech exhibitors/philatelists who saw my exhibit and made a valuable suggestion or two.

I do not want to sound like Brno 2005 was a disappointment. It certainly was not; I very much enjoyed the trip and the show. It was worthwhile seeing the approach to exhibiting from a Czech/European perspective; I enjoyed the exhibits themselves. I thought the Palmares booklet was impressive; I liked that all awards received point totals; and I think there are positives to doing the critique at the frames. I was very impressed with the Czech Post Office operation. And the Czech people I met at the show were incredible, exceedingly helpful.

Phil Rhoades



Fig. 1

2. Dear Mr. Svoboda:

... You may remember that we have corresponded on a number of occasions about Czech philately, and I am a member of the Society and thoroughly enjoy receiving the Specialist on a regular basis.

I am wondering if you could take a look at the enclosed color copy of a "stamp" I received as part of a fairly large accumulation of Hradčany stamps last year (Fig. 1). I have meant to send this to you earlier, but just have not gotten around to it. What can you tell me about it? I think someone suggested that "A. Černý" is the name

of a club in Prague, but I have not a clue as to how to check this out. Why would a club use the Hradčany design this way? Maybe you or someone else in the Society can give me a definitive answer . . .

Many thanks,
David N. Schwartz

[Ed. Note: The color of the "stamp" is brownish-orange. Lubor Kunc replied to my query:

"... it seems to me, it is private label of Prague stamp dealer Antonin Černý. [He] is dead for long years, his shop was working in 1920s and 1930s. His shop was situated at ÚJEZD street of Prague. Might be, at that time it was Prague III . . . I mean, the text is just his address."

3. Dear Lou:

Lubor Kunc's articles are always interesting reading; I'm sure that as Editor

On All Fronts, Czechoslovaks in World War II, published by East European Monographs, Boulder CO, between 1991 and 2000. Specifically:

The 1944-45 Siege of Dunkirk by the First Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade by Bohuslav Šulc, Vol 1, pp193-204, and *Farewell to the Trenches around Dunkirk* by Miroslav Saba, Vol II, pp.171-180. See also Otto Hornung's "After-word" in CPSGB Monograph 18, 2005.

3. The circular "British style" Field Post cancellations (Kunc's Fig 12) were first introduced for use in Great Britain in September 1943 and were in continuous use there until the Brigade left for France. The Brigade took these marks with them, they were used throughout the Dunkirk campaign and on into liberated Czechoslovakia. They are known used in Western Bohemia from May to August/September 1945.

4. US APO cancels can be found on outgoing mail from the CIAB in Western Bohemia, with added US 5c stamps on the two covers seen by RB (Fig. 2).

In addition, it should be noted that General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USA, was Supreme Allied Commander for the Normandy landings and the liberation of Western Europe. General (not a Field Marshall at this time) Sir Bernard Montgomery was Commander-in-Chief 21st Army Group, reporting to General Eisenhower.

We hope this brings the needed clarification.

Richard Beith, Robert J. Hill, Otto Hornung RDP

4. Hi Lou,

Just received my year-end Specialist. As usual, my congratulations for the job you do. I'd like to mention the following about Lubor Kunc's article entitled "Soviet Troops in Czechoslovakia in 1945". . . .

In the first paragraph of the article, near the end, it is noted: "...but the main powers -- USA, Great Britain, France -- insisted on keeping the regimes like was agreed in the peace Treaties." The USA Senate never approved the treaties negotiated by Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Wilson and the USA never joined the League of Nations. This is noted in a number of histories of immediate post WW I. A recent book (MacMillan, 2003, "Paris 1919", Random House Trade Paperbacks, p. 492) noted: "The United State[s] later signed separate treaties with Germany, Austria, and Hungary, but never joined the League". Thus the USA could not have been one of the powers cited by Kunc as supporting the treaties negotiated in Paris in 1919. In fact, the USA returned to its previous isolationist policies.

Thanks,

John Pojeta, Jr.

[Lubor Kunc responded:]

Dear Ludviku:

Mr. Pojeta is not fully right, since the USA didn't ratify the Versailles Treaty by Senate decision, done against President Wilson's wishes. As you know, Wilson was the man who called for the Versailles Treaty and who created the whole interwar international system (his favorite causes were the League of Nations and BIT) -- so the USA was the main power building the system. The later revolt by the US Senate had no impact, because the system was created as per the American design; however, the USA officially did not sign some of the treaties. As proof of US engagement in Germany in the 1920's, they had a key role in keeping the German economy stable through the plan prepared by various US economists after 1923

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when the high inflation surge together with the French-Belgian-Italian invasion of Germany almost destroyed the country -- we know of the Dawes and Young plans + the Hoover memorandum. These plans were valid until Hitler's election in 1933. I regret, but I have to say that the USA must be included in the list of countries controlling the 1918-1939 international system and nobody can exclude your country.

Thank you
Lubor Kunc

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