



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

The Specialist is in color, sponsored by the Phil Melamed Trust in honor of Charlie Chesloe.

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 79

SUMMER 2017

No. 3, Whole No.649

President's Report

The annual convention of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately was held recently at NAPEX 2017 where the SCP was a featured society. In many respects, this show was one of the most interesting and successful for the SCP and our members. We represented Czechoslovak philately with numerous excellent exhibits and the society table was extremely busy, resulting in record literature sales and the addition of four new members. On behalf of all our members I would like to thank the NAPEX organizing committee, the President of which is our very own Richard Livingston, for their hard work in organizing and running such a fine show. Two of our members also served on the jury at NAPEX and the dedication of Tony Dewey and Frederick Lawrence is very much appreciated.

Many thanks are also owed to everyone that assisted at the society table and to those who made presentations at our well-attended general meeting. Frederick Lawrence gave a very interesting and informative presentation entitled "1918 Czechoslovak Scout Post: Covers To and From Josef Rössler-Orovsky" and Lou Svoboda gave a concise illustrative guide to the SCP Library which is held at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. It was a treat to hear our special guest Dr. Susan Smith, the Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum, discuss her exhibit on WWII Soldiers' Mail and the availability of new technology that could be used to scientifically identify colors of stamps. This should

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. However, the circuit is currently not operating because of a lack of materials from members. When this situation is remedied we will notify you in the *Specialist*.
2. A book sales division is run by James Buckner. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the *Specialist*. For further information, contact James Buckner, 322 Woodhaven Drive, Athens, GA 30606, email wellseats@hotmail.com
3. A Society library is housed with Ludvik Svoboda, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past *Specialist*'s or making book donations, contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Chris Jackson. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Chris Jackson. (See address below or email cjstamps72@gmail.com).
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official quarterly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/email above).
6. Our web site (www.csphilately.org) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via email, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, P O Box 646, Owings Mills, MD 21117, email: mmgalitz@gmail.com.

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(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. 79

Summer 2017

No. 3, Whole No. 649

Published quarterly - \$25.00 per year

Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)

Periodical paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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

President's Report

(Continued from Page 1)

be of particular interest to collectors of early Czechoslovak stamps given the numerous shades of Hradčany stamps for instance, and the multitude of ways that colors and shades have been identified over the past 99 years.

It was very refreshing to see so many of our members exhibit at NAPEX with much success. Once again Rich Palaschak conducted guided tours of the Czechoslovak exhibits with the assistance of Phil Rhoades. All of the exhibits entered by SCP members won awards at NAPEX. Phil Rhoades's two exhibits were show highlights and received numerous awards. His single-frame exhibit entitled "Bohemia & Moravia: Hidden Patriotic Messages" won a NAPEX Vermeil and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award. Phil's multi-frame exhibit entitled "The Murder of Lidice" won a NAPEX Gold, SCP Gold, The Society for Czechoslovak Philately Mucha Medal, the Professional Stamp Experts Award and the NAPEX Stephen Lister Award. NAPEX Large Silvers were awarded to Robert Henak (The Czechoslovak Judaica Issue of 1967), Richard Palaschak (The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia), and Lou Svoboda (Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918-1920). Richard also received the SCP silver and Lou received the SCP bronze. Alan Hanzl's multi-framed exhibit entitled "Czechoslovakia: 50 Years of Art on Stamps (1966-2016)" won a NAPEX Bronze and his other exhibit entitled "Czechoslovak Revolutionary Issues: Czechoslovakia's First Stamps?" won a NAPEX Silver.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held prior to NAPEX. Elected Officers of the SCP remain in the positions they had occupied prior to the meeting and three directors were voted to new terms on the Board. It is my pleasure to announce that Bill Slaninko was appointed to the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy and his willingness to serve on the Board is most appreciated, especially at a time when the SCP has recently lost several dedicated Directors. Sadly our long-serving Director, John Pojeta, has since passed and he will be missed very much. John gave many years of service to the SCP and our many thanks and condolences go out to the Pojeta family.

The board formally acknowledged the years of invaluable multi-faceted service that Jiří Majer has provided to the SCP and a motion was passed to bestow an Honorary Membership upon Jiří. Similarly the Board formally recognized more than 20 years of service of Nancy Godfrey as the printer of the Czechoslovak Specialist and her partnership with Lou Svoboda and Marisa Galitz. A further motion was passed to make our Board member and past-President Jaroslav Verner the Honorary President of the SCP for PRAGA 2018 which takes place next summer.

Numerous operational issues were discussed and some changes have been made to the manner in which the SCP will seek membership renewals. A proposal was adopted to offer speakers to rosters for philatelic exhibitions that the SCP does not formally attend as a means of promoting interest in Czechoslovak philately. This endeavor will be headed-up by our newest Board member Bill Slaninko. Options for our convention and meetings for 2020 and 2021 were also discussed and the appropriate rotation with which the SCP determines the location of our conventions.

For those of you who are Patron Members, given the volatility of mailing costs and the historical inconsistency in the payment of Patron Member dues, it has been

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decided that for those individuals wishing to be Patron Members, the member must pay membership dues for both years that coincide with the production and mailing of the bound Czechoslovak Specialist which includes all issues for a two year period.

The Board also had the opportunity to assess the many completed survey responses that were received over the past few months and it is very clear that a significant proportion of our membership would like to see the SCP hold philatelic auctions. To this end various options to hold auctions and their feasibility are currently being studied. A proposal will be presented for the consideration of the Board shortly.

In the coming year the Board will continue to work on projects that have already been started. The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence and the 100th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak postage stamps, as well as the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The PRAGA 2018 International Philatelic Exhibition will be held from August 15- 18, 2018 and is sure to be a most interesting and vibrant show that should be of particular interest to collectors of Czechoslovak philatelic material. I encourage our members to seriously consider attending PRAGA 2018 which will not only be a philatelic delight, but will also allow attendees to soak up the history and splendor of Prague. Information about PRAGA 2018 and the show hotel is available at www.praga2018.cz.

The SCP will be holding its annual convention at CHICAGOPEX 2018 which takes place from November 16-18, 2018 at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel in Itasca, Illinois. I look forward to seeing our local members there and given the success of our members and the SCP at NAPEX 2017 I hope that we can collectively carry forward the momentum gained over the past two years and I encourage our members to seriously consider exhibiting at CHICAGOPEX 2018.

Best Wishes to All,
Chris Jackson

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: www.cpsgb.org.uk, and through their new Membership Secretary, Hans van Dooremalen at membership@cpsgb.org.

Their publication *Czechout* and our *Specialist* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your CPSGB dues without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies! CPSGB dues are \$10 for digital, \$35 for printed copies by airmail or \$28 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@cspphilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

DOUBLED IMPRESSION ON THE 5 Kč STAMP OF THE 1932 CASTLES ISSUE

by Ing. Radomil Květon, PhD.
trans. by Lucie Harris

The 1932 Castles issue was the first medium format stamp issue produced by rotary recess printing. The stamps were issued under the provisions of #65/1931 VMPT #59 in January 1932 ([1]). The stamps with values of 4 Kč and 5 Kč replaced stamps of a previous issue (Praha, Tatry 1926) whose recess printing from flat plates was more expensive. The 5 Kč stamp with the picture of Český Krumlov was printed in a moss green color and in the large print run of 4.55 million pieces. The validity of the stamps of this issue ended on March 15, 1937, when they were replaced by the Landscapes, Castles, and Towns issues of 1936.

The use of rotary recess printing to print stamps of medium format required the partitioning of the printing form in a different way than it was for small format stamps (2-plate form -- 2 x 200 stamps). The new printing format consisted of two plates with 50 stamps each, 2 plates with 100 stamps each, and two un-printed stamp strips (2 x 50 + 2 x 100 stamps)(Fig. 1).

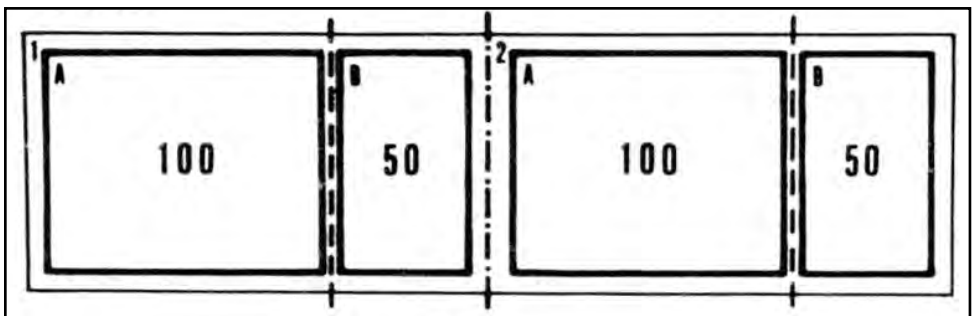


Fig. 1: New printing format TF 5.03 with 1A/2A of 100 and 1B/2B of 50.

One of the technical steps in the preparation of the printing plates is the transfer of the stamp image from a hardened steel roller-die onto a not-yet hardened steel printing plate. The roller-die apparatus (Fig. 2, [2]), when under high pressure, repeatedly impresses the image from the roller-die onto pre-set stamp positions on the printing plate.

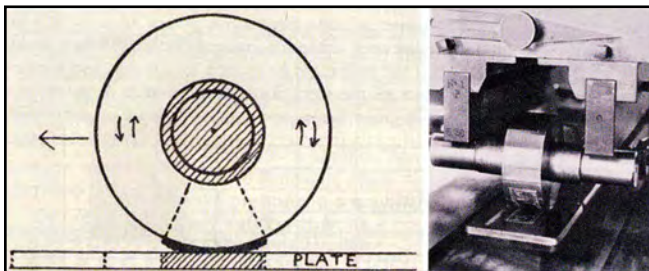


Fig. 2: Transfer of stamp image from hardened steel roller-die onto printing plate.

The movement of the roller-die apparatus is controlled according to



Fig. 3: Doubled roller-die impression of stamp sheet position 32 of the 50-piece printing plate 1A.

roller-die marks (points) that are marked on the printing plates even before the roller-die process begins. A small movement of the printing plate during this creation process causes a doubling of some part of the impressed image. In the history of stamp production during ČSR, this has only been discovered three times, of which it happened twice on the 5 Kč Č. Krumlov stamps.

The first case of a doubled roller-die impression (DM-32 = doubled molette 32) was discovered and published already in 1932 along with the stamp location on the subject plate -- plate position 32 of the 50-piece sheet from printing plate 1A (Fig. 3). The popularity of collecting corner blocks of 4 stamps with a plate mark resulted in a large quantity of preserved examples of this popular production error. The roller-die image doubling affected the Č. KRUMLOV

inscription (Fig. 4), part of the inscription ČESKO, and a larger portion of the left decorative edge (Fig. 3).

The value of a stamp with a doubled roller-die impression is shown in the 1937

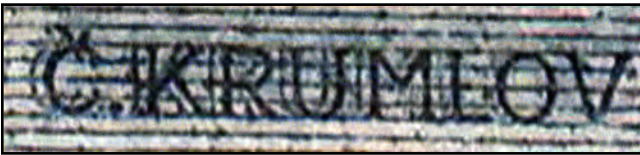


Fig. 4: Doubled roller-die impression of the inscription Č. Krumlov -- shifted straight left -- of stamp sheet position 32.

Ekstein catalog as three times higher than the normal stamp. Today, when significantly more philatelists are specializing, the ratio of listed values is already greater, namely 7 to 1.

The discovery of a second plate position with doubled roller-die impression (DM-2) came during the inspection of a greater quantity of stamp material (Fig. 5). This information was published in a monografie [1] in 1979. On the cover of *Filatelie* journal 4/1998 we find pictured stamps of a corner strip of two proving the occurrence of a doubled



Fig. 5: Doubled roller-die impression of stamp sheet position 2 of the 100-piece printing plate 1A.



Fig. 6: Corner strip of two with the right stamp being stamp position 2 of the 100-piece printing plate 1A having the doubled roller-die impression.

roller-die impression on sheet position 2 of the 100-piece sheet from printing plate 1A (Fig. 6). The roller-die image doubling affected the Č. KRUMLOV inscription (Fig. 7), a larger portion of the inscription ČESKOSLO, a part of the left decorative edge, and the bottom decorative edge (Fig. 5).

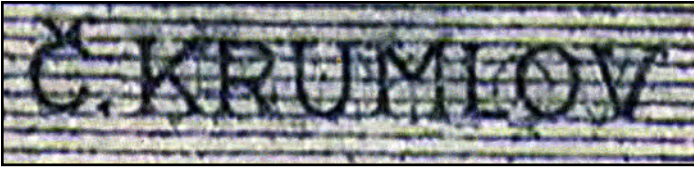


Fig. 7: Doubled roller-die impression of the inscription C. Krumlov -- shifted down to the left -- of stamp sheet position 2.

The later discovery of a stamp with a doubled roller-die impression on sheet position 2 of a printing plate brought about a value 21 times higher than the normal stamp and three times

higher than a stamp with a doubled roller-die impression from plate position 32.

A 5 Kč definitive stamp was used largely for single-stamp payment of fees for registered letters to distant foreign countries as well as for various postal forms until 1.1.1935, when the rate was lowered to 4 Kč. The medium format stamp replaced the 5 Kč value from 1929, which was printed in large format from flat plates; after more than two years, its print run of 3.41 million pieces was probably mostly used up.

The occurrence of individual stamps having doubled roller-die impression is 1 in 300. The catalog valuation of DM-2 stamps seems inadequately low especially because of the extremely low number of these stamps being offered in auctions.

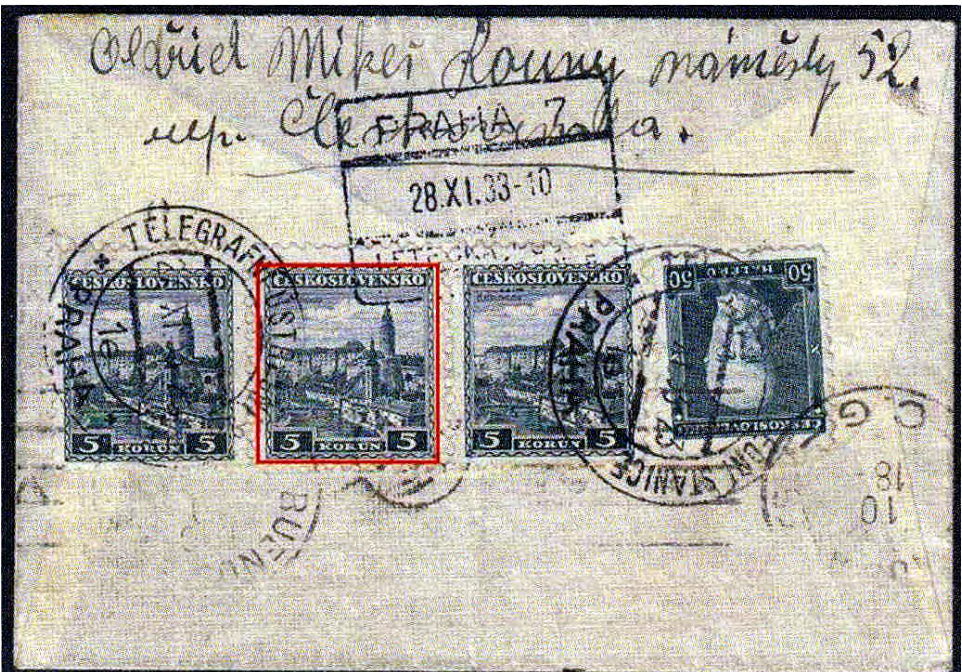


Fig. 8: Back side of an airmail cover having a stamp of stamp sheet position 2.

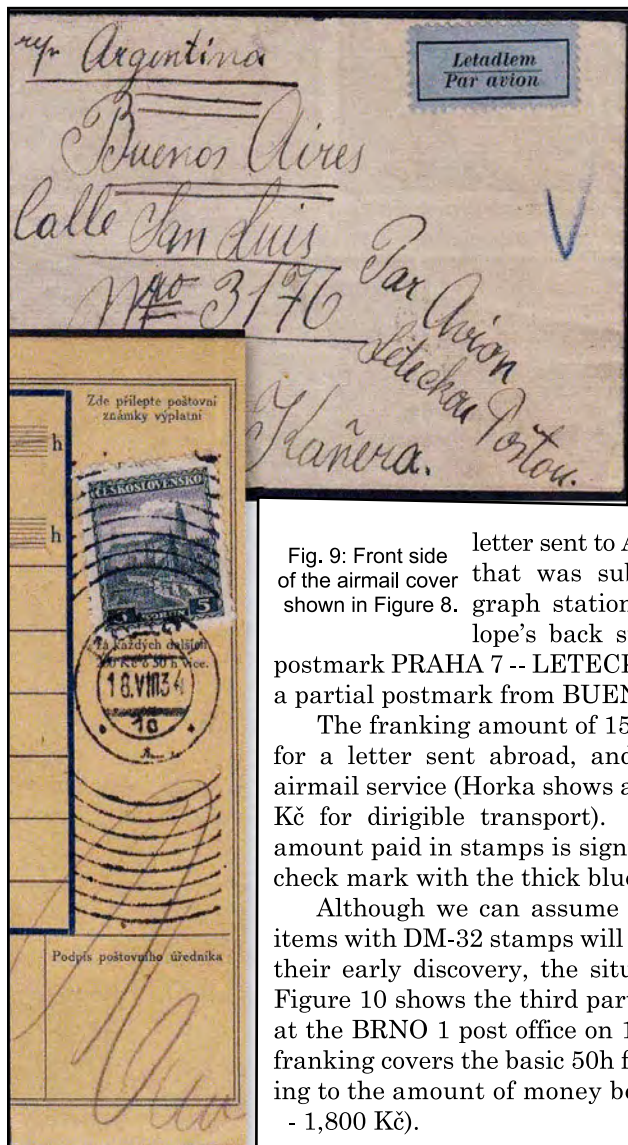


Fig. 9: Front side of the airmail cover shown in Figure 8.

letter sent to Argentina from Prague (Fig. 9) that was submitted at the central telegraph station on 27.XI.33. On the envelope's back side we also find the transit postmark PRAHA 7 -- LETECKÁ POŠTA from 28.XI.33 and a partial postmark from BUENOS AIRES.

The franking amount of 15.50 Kč includes a 2.50 Kč fee for a letter sent abroad, and 13 Kč postage for French airmail service (Horka shows an airmail postage fee of 13.50 Kč for dirigible transport). The correctness of the fee amount paid in stamps is signified on the front side via the check mark with the thick blue pencil.

Although we can assume that the frequency of postal items with DM-32 stamps will be significantly higher due to their early discovery, the situation is evidently the same. Figure 10 shows the third part of a money order submitted at the BRNO 1 post office on 18.VIII.34. The single stamp franking covers the basic 50h fee and the 4.50 Kč fee according to the amount of money being transferred (from 1,601 - 1,800 Kč).

Fig. 10: The third part of a money order with a stamp of stamp sheet position 32.

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from *Merkur-Revue* 5/2015, *Merkur-Revue* 6/2015, and *Filatelie* 4/1998 with the permission of the authors and editors.]

[1] Karásek J, Žampach F: *Monografie Československých Známek, Díl III, Vyplatní Známky 1923-1939*, vydala Poštovní Filatelistická Služba v Praze ve spolupraci z Federací Československých Filatelistů v Nakladatelství Dopravy a Spoju, Praha 1979
 [2] Easton J: *POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE MAKING*, Faber and Faber Limited, London 1948

Sources

Klím J, Schodlbauer V: *Specializovaný Katalog Známek a Celistvosti ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939*, nakladatelství Merku-Revue, Brno 2002
 Beneš F: *ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1939, Specializovaná Příručka pro Sběratele Poštovních Známek*, POFIS spol. s to, Praha 2012
 Horka P: *Katalog Československá Letecká Pošta 1918-1939*, vydal Filatelie Trojan, Praha 1997

Closed Albums

John Pojeta, Jr.



John, age 81, of Rockville, MD, passed away on July 6, 2017 at the Casey House hospice in the company of his wife, Mary Lou, after a number of years of health problems.

He was born in Manhattan in 1935, the son of John and Emilie Pojeta who had come from Moravia and Slovakia respectively. They lived in the Czechoslovak section of New York for a few years, and then moved to Long Island. He only spoke Slovak until he went to school.

He first attended Capital University from which he graduated with a BS degree in 1957. This is where he met his wife to be, Mary Lou. Shortly thereafter they attended the University of Cincinnati where he earned his MS and Ph.D in 1963. After graduation he was appointed to the U.S. Geological Survey and served as geologist, paleontologist, and eventually Branch Chief throughout a rich and distinguished career. His career focus was Ordovician and Cambrian mollusks. He will be remembered for outstanding teamwork on fossils from Kentucky, Australia, and Antarctica, is the author of numerous scientific articles, and was an officer and member of a number of scientific organizations.

He was a career-long member and enthusiastic supporter of the Paleontological Society. His and Mary Lou's contributions are celebrated through the Pojeta Award which celebrates their splendid service to the Society over several decades. After his retirement in 1994, he remained active as Scientist Emeritus with the U.S.G.S. and as a Research Associate of the Department of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

The June 1966 *Specialist* announced that John Pojeta had joined The Society for Czechoslovak Philately as member number 847. He was a continuous member since then with the last 20 years or more as a Patron Member, and the last 11 years as a Board Member. He and Mary Lou were constant and active attendees at the yearly Society stamp conventions, which even included their appearance at our very latest at NAPEX in June of this year. It turned out to be a very fortuitous opportunity to see John and speak with him and Mary Lou.

John's philatelic interests were heavily wrapped around his consuming interest in the history of Czechoslovakia. As a result he collected and was an expert in the areas of the founding years (1918-20), the First Republic (1918-1939), Upper and Eastern Silesia, and WW II Slovakia. He was always willing to share information about these areas and often went out of his way to do so. Another form of his sharing with others was his many years of participation in the Society circuit wherein he would "share" his duplicates with other members.

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As a Board Member, we remember him for his steady and calming participation at our meetings -- which could get raucous. We could always count on him to keep us "on course".

We have lost another outstanding friend and philatelist, even if his head was actually "full of rocks."

John is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Lou, his daughter Kim and son John, brother Martin, niece Lee Ann, plus six grand-children, and two great-grand-children.



Errata

1. In the Spring 2017 article "Honoring a Nation Occupied by Germany in World War II" two lines of the text were unfortunately omitted at the change from page 14 to 15. The missing text is "...Czechoslovakian republic. Masaryk, one of the earliest in Europe to recognize the danger of Hitler's rise to power, resigned in 1935 due to ill health and passed away..." Our apologies to the authors and our readers for this unfortunate error. We do our best in proof reading, but obviously can considerably improve our efforts in the future. Thank you to Tom Cossaboom for pointing out the error to us.

2. In the Spring 2017 issue of the Specialist, the figure shown in numbered paragraph 8 on page 6, should be replaced with this illustration. While the previous illustration generally shows the border widths that are being talked about, the pair are not the correct ones intended by the author, and the right one has horizontal lines which should be grid lines.



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FDC VALIDITY

by J. Krátký
trans. by Lucie Harris

In Monografie 9, Volume VII (Czechoslovak First Day Envelopes Issued 1947-1992) we can read on page 9 that it is possible for an issued FDC to be submitted for postal use up to 15 days after the date on the commemorative cancel on the stamp. [See the "První Den Vydání or First Day Cover" article on page 21 of the Spring 2016 Specialist for a more detailed description of this capability and its limitations.]

It would be unusual if after such a long time period there would be no exception to this rule. I discovered such an exception by mistake in a pile of various and not very interesting documents. On an inconspicuous periodic notice from the POFIS manager dated December 18, 1961 concerning the popular PRAHA 1962 issue, it states that POFIS does not currently have available a sufficient number of the 5 Kčs stamps (Pofis 1216, *Scott 1080*), and they will be therefore distributed until the end of January 1962. An important appendix notes "the validity of the first day cover of this issue is extended for 7 days, i.e., until January 8, 1962 inclusive."

The stamps of this issue were put out incrementally -- most values were issued on October 23, but POFIS stamps 1210, 1212-13, and 1216 (*Scott 1074, 1076-77, and 1080*) on December 18, 1961.



Caption: A FDC of stamp 1216 [1080] sent to Austria 2.1.1962.

[Who knows how many collectors read or were even aware of this exception back then when it was issued? The trick now is for you to find a FDC of this issue that was allowed to be used to frank the FDC through the post, and that it has a postal cancel – hopefully on the back – with a date of January 2 - 8.]

[Ed. Note: The Specialist is pleased to reprint this article from *FILATELIE* 12/2012 with the permission of the author and editor.]

Letters to the Editors

1) Hello Lou,

Thanks for the kind words about Valerie and myself in the newest edition of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. I'm more than happy to have shared Valerie's book and her Czech revenue stamp collection with your club. She would have approved whole heartedly. She really enjoyed collecting this material and what she did with it is beyond incredible, but that's the way she did things. I hope many of your members and others in the public can enjoy what she accomplished.

Thanks again,
Evan Kramer

2) Dear Keith,

In the Fall 2016 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* you list a booklet of eight stamps from the Czech Republic issued a year ago- June 8, 2016. My philatelic friend in Slovakia knows nothing of this issue. Furthermore Scott still has not listed this issue. Can you provide details for me? Also I am disappointed that our fine publication doesn't have any Czechoslovakia/Slovakia stamp dealers who handle stamps from these countries. Anyway, maybe you can untangle the mystery for me on above.

Best,
Ralph Swap

Ralph,

Thank you for your query. The item you mention is one of what The Czech Postal Service call their "own issues." This means, the stamps, while having the same value of one bought in a post office, were not published by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Postal Service issued them directly. But issued them to who is the big question here. The costs of design/production for these stamps appear to have been at least partially funded by commercial companies. Since the issue you mention, which was about branches of the Police Service (not a commercial entity), there have been other issues about all kinds of commercial interests. It would therefore seem that these could be called Private Issues.

The most recent issue has stamps showing beer related jewelry! As the stamps do not seem to be available at post offices, we have to ask ourselves whether this is a bona fide stamp issue, or a commercial advertising campaign where the stamps are provided by companies to their own customers. Will they ever be seen in a Pofis or Scott catalog? We will have to wait and see, but Pofis have already issued their first separate catalog just for their own issues.

As it happens I am preparing an article for the Fall 2017 Specialist which will go into this matter in further detail and hopefully start a dialog about these stamps. We have seen commercialized cancellations for some time, now this seems to have spread to the stamps themselves.

*Thanks,
Keith*

Philatelic News and Views

From Keith Hart

1. I have recently been filling in a few gaps in my Slovak collection and surprisingly found it very easy to order items online at Slovakia Pofis's website. They have excellent English web pages, making it very easy to find anything in their catalog. Once you have found something you are interested in you can immediately discover whether the item is in stock and how much it is. It is extremely easy to check out with a regular credit card and the items have been dispatched to my address very quickly in a well protected package. If your order is more than \$75 mailing costs are free. The website address is www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products. Give them a try. I would welcome feedback from anyone who does buy from this source – both positive and negative reviews.

2. Due to the excellent publication sales at NAPEX we have more revisions to the Publications list than usual. In particular, we sold most of our stock of Pofis catalogs. The list now also has added information that shows whether only 1 or 2 copies are available at this time. It is unlikely that any of the current Czech or Slovak catalogs will be available until mid-2018, as new issues will probably coincide with PRAGA 2018. It would help the Society considerably if we knew how many members would purchase the new catalogs from us when they are available. If you are likely to require the newest catalogs from either or both countries, which would cover the period 1993-2016 or 2017, please email our book sales manager, James Buckner, at wellseats@hotmail.com. This would not be considered an official order, or obligation on your part. You will be contacted again when the catalogs are available, to confirm that you would still like us to purchase one (or both) on your behalf.



New Members

Welcome to four new members who joined while we were at NAPEX 2017.

- #2175 **Jeff Morowitz.** Allendale, New Jersey.
 #2176 **Georgene Chastain.** Annandale, Virginia.
 #2177 **Ryan Trainer.** Vienna, Virginia.
 #2178 **Vince Guinee.** Reston, Virginia.

Welcome to the Society. We hope that you enjoy the *Specialist*. Remember that you can write/email the editors about any aspect of collecting. If we cannot answer your query ourselves, we can forward questions on to members we know would have the answer.

From the History of the Pneumatic Tube Mail Service

DEFECT and SERVICE INTERRUPTION OF PRAGUE PNEUMATIC TUBE NETWORK

by Antonín Šmíd
trans. by Lucie Harris

As a collector of postal documents from the Prague pneumatic tube mail, I was wondering whether through surviving covers we could recognize defects and possibly interruptions in pneumatic tube service. The postal card from the Protectorate period shown in Figure 1 suggests such a situation, but it is not 100% proof.

While the time interval of transit between post offices amounts to an extraordinary 4 hours, all other pertinent and supplemental signs however point to pneumatic tube transport. Today we can only guess why it took so long -- whether it was a defect in a pneumatic tube and brief interruption of service, or the

failure of postal workers at the Prague 10 post office -- incidentally, the pneumatic tube mail headquarters. The greatest likelihood is that this postal card was mislaid (or fell somewhere) and was discovered after about 3 hours and then sent through the pneumatic tube mail.

The sender made the mistake of not sending it as an express shipment. The fee for pneumatic tube service was in this case pointless even if it was not delayed in delivery -- since it had come after the last afternoon delivery time so it could not have been delivered the same

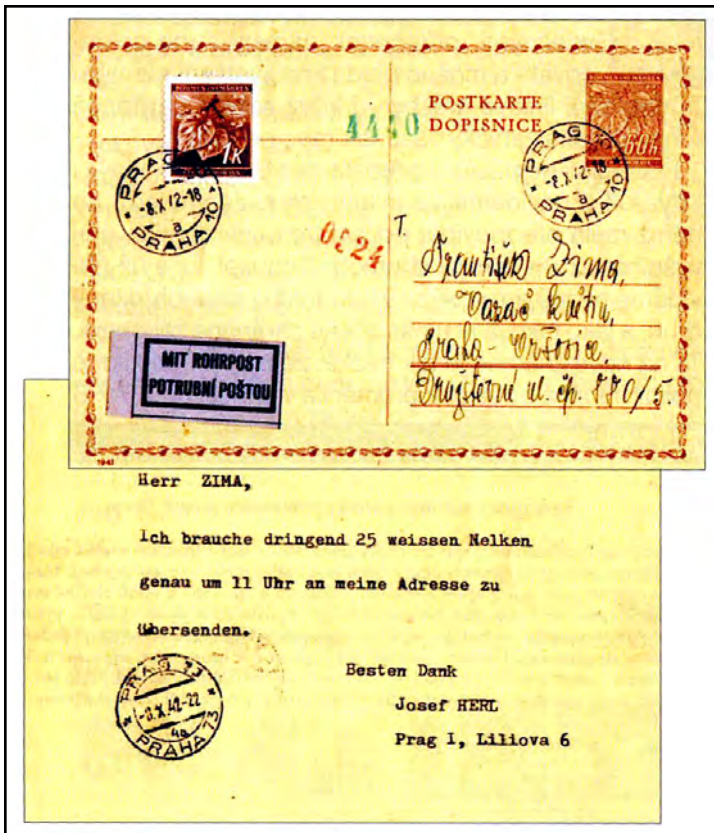


Fig. 1: Postal card: Prague 10 / 8.10.42 time 18:00
» central pneumatic tube post office "4440" »
Prague 73 / 8.10.42 time 22:00



Fig. 2: Postal card -- response part 2: Prague 10 / 8.3.09 time 4:20 (16:20), by pencil "91/1."

day. It was delivered the next day during the first morning round like regular mail. The sender's request ("I urgently need 25 white carnations to be sent to my address at exactly 11 am.") was then likely not fulfilled on time.

With the postal card in Figure 2, it is not a case of the failure of the workers at the telegraph station. Prague's main telegraph station (1849-1910) was intended only for telegrams (submitting and sending, receiving and delivering) and from March 4, 1899 also for pneumatic tube mail. Concurrently, red mail boxes for the pneumatic tube mail were placed around the perimeter of the telegraph station; they were checked often. In the event that regular postal consignments were mistakenly dropped into one of these mail boxes, they were delivered by ground transportation to the Prague 8 post office.

This consignment is properly processed for transport by the pneumatic tube system to the Prague 1 post office. At its submission to the pneumatic tube system, it was determined there was a defect and an interruption of service between the stations Little Quarter (Prague 10) and Prague Central (Prague 2 and the main post office Prague 1). Therefore the consignment was delivered by a ground route (approx. 2 [sic 20] minutes) to the Post Office: Prague 8 / 8.3.09 time 5:00 (17:00) and from here immediately sent on by ground express messenger. We can't say whether it was delivered directly to the addressee or to the Prague 1 post office first (there is no postal receiving cancel on the back) -- but surely it was received by the addressee on the same day.

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from *Filatelie* 9/2016 with the permission of the author and editor.]

**OTHER PHILATELIC
MATERIALS
PART I**
by Keith Hart



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Your own society is not the only one concerned about an aging membership and declining usage of stamps. Both Czech Post and Pofis Slovakia are trying to interest collectors in items other than stamps or first day covers.

Every Czech stamp issued in 2017 (except definitives) will also have a collection sheet (nálepný list, or NL in catalogs) issued on the first day. Confusingly Czech Post's website page for these items also calls them souvenir sheets. The website information for these items is limited and their Pofis reference number (e.g. 2017/16) lacks the normal lettered prefix used to identify philatelic products. Two recent examples are the issues for The Moravian Museum, Brno, and The Church of the Ascension of Our Lady, Most (Figs. 1 and 2). Information under the stamp gives you the names of the stamp designer and/or engraver. The method of printing is also given. The cancellation is the same as the FDC. At present the cost of these items is the value of the stamp plus 2 Kč. These are available to buy online, or through major post offices or dealers.

The Slovak equivalent of a collection sheet is quite different. They are not available for every stamp issued. Only two have been issued this year. Also designated as nálepný list (NL) by Slovak Pofis, it is translated as a first day sheet in Zberateľ's Slovak catalog. They

show an image closely related to the stamp or the FDC (for International Physics Olympiad issue (Fig. 3)), with an adhered stamp and the same cancellation as the FDC. The sheet is a 6" x 8 ¼" stiff card and at present is sold for 0.91€, again easily obtainable through Pofis or dealers.

Very similar to the Slovaks collection sheet is their commemorative sheet (pamätný list (PaL)) which is on the same size stiff card (for Victims of the Holocaust issue Fig. 4). Once again these are not available for every issue. The difference is that they are usually issued a few days after the first day and also have a special cancellation (Fig. 5), different from the FDC. These sheets are sold for 1.61€ and can be bought direct from Pofis or dealers.

This brings us to the Czech version of the commemorative sheet (pamätní

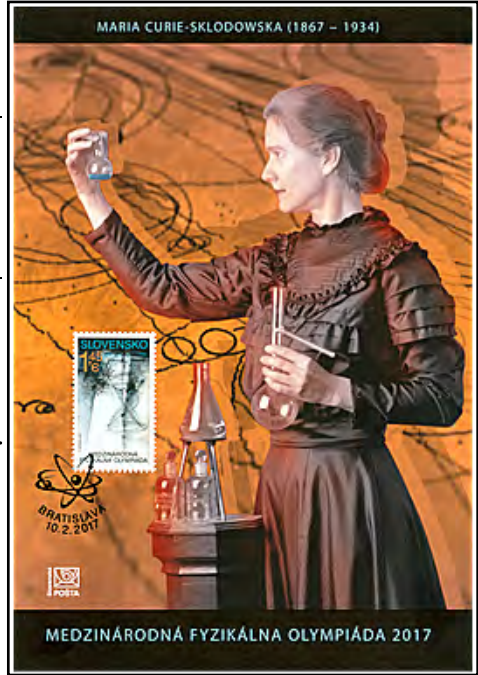


Fig. 3

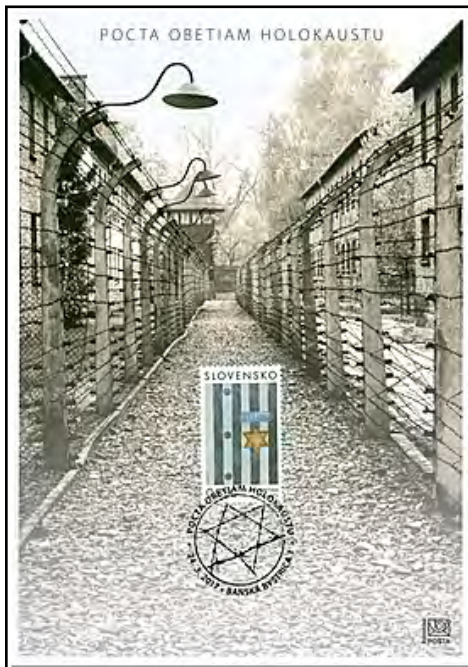


Fig. 4

list (PAL)). These are not linked to any new stamp issue. They celebrate an anniversary or a world event and reuse a stamp that could have been originally issued several years before. Only a few are issued each year and are in a limited numbered edition. Two recent examples are reviewed here. On



Fig. 5

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March 8, 2017 a commemorative sheet was issued to celebrate the 70th birthday of the graphic designer Jan Kavan. The stamp used was originally published on October 3, 2010 as part of a miniature sheet to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Karel Hynek Mácha's birth (Fig. 6). The special cancellation was designed by Martin Srb and shows a hand holding a pen drawing the letter K and the number 70, together with the text JAN KAVAN 8.3.2017 and PRAHA 1. It was issued as a limited edition of 1700 commencing with the number 00151001 and was sold for 40 Kč. The second example was issued on April 27, 2017 and commemorates World Graphics Day.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Author” by Bohuslav Reynek (Fig. 7) and was originally issued on November 27, 2013. The special cancellation shows a pencil in the shape of the letter G, with the text SVĚTOVÝ DEN GRAFIKY, 27.4.2017 PRAHA 1. It was issued as a limited edition of 1600 commencing with the number 00154401 and was priced at 30 Kč. These commemorative sheets do not appear to be widely advertised or available in most post offices. A dealer may be able to obtain them and they are also sold at the Postal Museum.

Part two will be in the next issue of *The Specialist* and the Czech Republic's self-named 'own issue' stamps will be described and discussed.

PRINTING TECHNOLOGIES USED TO PRODUCE POSTAGE STAMPS

by Keith Hart

Starting with this issue of the *Specialist* the capitalized abbreviations for the four types of printing will be used in the new issues section. In future issues only these abbreviations will be mentioned. If another form of printing is used for any stamp it will be mentioned in full.

The technologies used to print stamps are very sophisticated, as are the standards observed in the production of single color and multicolored postage stamps. The four different technologies mentioned below are the most commonly used for postage stamps by The Postal Printing House of Securities in Prague who produce most of the postage stamps issued by the Czech Republic and Slovakia. However we know that however hard they try, the occasional slip is made and the variations in the stamps produced are highly sought after by collectors.

Printing from recess areas- from flat steel plates (WAITE)

Dots and lines are engraved or pressed into a mollette (steel transfer roller) which is smeared with an extremely thick ink. Then wiped clean with a material on which the excess ink remains. The ink left in the recesses is then pressed onto a sheet of paper to make the print.

Printing from recess areas- rotary recess printing (WIFAG)

1) Rotary printing from steel plates: Dots and lines are engraved, etched, or pressed into a mollette which is smeared with a very thick ink. Then wiped clean with a material on which the excess ink remains. The ink left in the recesses is then pressed onto a sheet of paper to make the print.

2) Intaglio: Dots are etched or engraved into a print roller which is smeared with a very thin ink, then wiped clean with a doctor blade. The excess ink flows back into the ink fountain. The ink left in the recesses is then pressed onto a sheet of paper to make the print.

Planographic offset printing- Heidelberg Speedmaster (OFFSET)

The printing elements are at the same level as the non-printing elements. The only difference being the physical and chemical properties of the surface. Offset printing is based on the principal that a greasy ink can be deposited on oleophilic (grease-treated) printing areas of the plate, which hold the ink and reject water, while hydrophilic (non-printing) areas, which hold water, reject the ink.

Combined printing (KOMB)

A technology combining printing from recess areas (WAITE) with planographic printing (OFFSET).

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www.csphilately.org

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

1. On May 3, 2017 The Ministry of Trade and Industry for the Czech Republic issued a commemorative postage stamp in the series EUROPA 2017- Castles and Palaces. The 32 Kč stamp shows the castle and chateau of Frýdlant, with the background sky stylized as a sgraffiti pattern from the chateau walls (Fig. 1). The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Václav Fajt and produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure (WIFAG) in printing sheets of 6. Frýdlant is in the very northern part of Bohemia, just north of Liberec and close to the Polish border. It ranks among the largest and most important heritage sites in Bohemia and combines two distinct architectural forms, a medieval castle and a renaissance chateau. The castle dates from the



Fig. 1

mid-13th century. The property was owned by several families during the next 700 years until it was taken over by the government in 1945. The FDC cachet was designed by Jan Kavan and engraved by Václav Fajt. It shows the staircase tower of the chateau (Fig. 2). The figures at the side are from the sgraffiti decoration of the chateau. These figures were scraped into the plaster of the castle walls while it was being converted into the chateau. As the actual sgraffiti figures are not totally intact, a certain amount of artistic license has been used for the FDC and also the special cancellation which depicts a rider on horseback, together with the text 3.5.2017 FRÝDLANT.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

has a central coupon depicting a crowned imperial eagle holding a sword and scepter (Fig. 4). Maria Theresa was the daughter of

2. On May 3, 2017 the Ministry issued a postage stamp in the series Personalities: Maria Theresa. The 32 Kč stamp shows a portrait of the Empress and Queen at the beginning of her rule (Fig. 3) and celebrates the 300th anniversary of her birth. The orange spots in the oval frame around the portrait commemorate her 16 children. The stamp was designed by Jindřich Ulrich, engraved by Miloš Ondráček and produced by PTC using five-color recessed printing from flat plates (KOMB) in a miniature sheet of four stamps, which



Fig. 4

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Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI and Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel. She was the only female ruler of the House of Habsburg and also its last ruler. She married Francis I, Duke of Lorraine and bore 11 daughters and 5 sons, two of whom became emperors- Joseph II and Leopold II. After the death of her father in 1740 it was expected that she would cede power to Francis I and/or to Leopold her eldest son. Officially they were co-rulers with her in Austria and Bohemia. However she insisted on ruling as absolute sovereign with the counsel of her advisors. She introduced many enlightened reforms- prohibiting torture, centralized administration of her lands, unified criminal laws, and required registers of land, houses and population. Her fire regulations required non-combustible materials in construction. In 1753 she gained control of education from the Jesuits. Boys and girls had to attend six years of education in a system of schools approved by the monarchy. With her death in 1780 the Habsburg line died out, to be replaced by the House of Habsburg-Lorraine. The FDC cachet shows the initials of Maria Theresa in rococo lettering (Fig. 5). The special cancellation uses a motif from a commemorative medal issued to mark her coronation as Queen of Bohemia, together with the text PRAHA 3.5.2017.



Fig. 5

3. On May 3, 2017 the Ministry issued a postage stamp in the series Personalities: Věra Čáslavská. The 16 Kč stamp shows a portrait of the gymnast (Fig. 6) and commemorates her recent death. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and produced by PTC using multi-colored Heidelberg (OFFSET) technology in sheets of 50. Věra Čáslavská was the dominant gymnast of her era. As a child she had trained as a ballet dancer and figure skater, before settling on gymnastics. After winning the Czechoslovak junior championships in 1957 she went on to the 1960 Summer Olympic Games in Rome where she won a silver medal in the team competition. By the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, she had improved to win the overall title, with further golds in the balance beam and vault. In 1968 she had signed Ludvík Vaculík's protest manifesto 'Two Thousand Words (*Dva Tisíce Slovy*)' to show her support for 'The Prague Spring'. After the Warsaw Pact's occupation of Czechoslovakia, Čáslavská had to leave Prague and complete her preparations for the Mexico City Olympics in a forest area near Šumperk. Despite this her outstanding performances were rewarded with a gold medal in the overall competition, followed by further golds for the vault, parallel bars and floor exercise. She was cruelly cheated out of a final gold medal in the uneven bars by the Soviet Union managing to manipulate preliminary scores in favor of their own gymnast, resulting in a silver medal. At the medal ceremony she showed her protest against the Soviet-led invasion of her country by turning her head away and down during the playing of the Soviet anthem. This action terminated her



Fig. 6

career and resulted in complete banishment from any gymnastic activity back in Czechoslovakia. After the Velvet Revolution she became president of the Czechoslovak (and then Czech) Olympic Committee from 1990-1996, and also served as a member of the International Olympic Committee (1995-2001). To this day she is the only female gymnast to win Olympic gold medals in every individual discipline, having in total seven gold and four silver medals. She was also World Champion four times, and European Champion 11 times. The cachet of the FDC was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and engraved by Bohumil Šneider and shows Čáslavská on the balance beam (Fig. 7). The special cancellation depicts the gymnast during one of the gymnastic elements, with the text PRAHA 3.5.2017.



Fig. 7

4. On May 17, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in remembrance of the 75th anniversary of Operation Anthropoid. The 46 Kč stamp



Fig. 8

shows the remains of Heydrich's car and a broken sub-machine gun (Fig. 8). The top three of the multiple coupons show a RAF Halifax bomber, the central right coupon depicts descending parachutes, the central left coupon illustrates shattered church glass, the lower three coupons show thorns and roses that can be found at the memorial site in Lidice. The sheet was designed by Karel Zeman, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň and produced by PTC using recessed printing from flat plates combined with multi-colored offset (KOMB). In 1942 Czechoslovak parachutists assassinated Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich in Prague. The attack by two soldiers on a major Nazi war criminal caused a wave of terror by the Nazi occupiers. Among the saddest symbols of this terror are the total destruction of Lidice and the hundreds of

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executions of patriots and their innocent families. Heydrich was the architect of The Holocaust, chairing the Wannsee Conference at which The Final Solution to murder millions of Jewish people became part of the Nazi's war plan, as well as a proposal to reduce the population of Czech and Moravian (and probably Slovak) lands by enforced starvation. The decision to attack Heydrich was taken by the Czechoslovak Government in Exile, in part to legitimize their authority. Warrant Officers Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš, together with 7 other parachutists deployed for other missions, were dropped near Prague by 138th Special Duties Squadron of the RAF on the night of December 28, 1941. On May 27, 1942 Gabčík stepped in front of Heydrich's car and attempted to shoot him with a machine gun, but it jammed. Then Kubiš threw a bomb with an impact fuse at the car. Shrapnel from the explosion shattered



Fig. 9

Heydrich's 11th rib, pierced his diaphragm and entered his spleen. On June 4 Heydrich died from complications caused by these injuries. The assassins, aided by local members of the resistance, managed to hide despite extensive investigations and barbaric reprisals by the Nazis. Gabčík, Kuniš and the other parachutists ended up sheltered by members of the Orthodox Church in the crypt of the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Prague. They were eventually betrayed by Karel Čurda, who informed the Gestapo of the general location of parachutists in Prague and elsewhere. In the early hours of June 18 the church was besieged by a battalion of the Waffen SS and after an eight hour battle the parachutists were all dead. The FDC has a cachet motif of tragedy, symbolized by a machine gun sight targeting a saluting Nazi, and a human skull (Fig.9) all engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdouň. The commemorative cancellation depicts a parachute with wings, and the text PRAHA 17.5.2017.

5. On May 17, 2017 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series Prague Castle: Paolo Veronese- 'St. Catherine with Angel'. The 32 Kč stamp was engraved by Miloš Ondráček and uniquely in a miniature sheet of four stamps includes two of a version in black and two of a multi-colored version (Fig. 10). The sheet has a central coupon with



Fig. 10

the signature of the artist. It was produced by PTC using multi-color offset (WAITE). Paolo Caliari, better known as Paolo Veronese (1528-1588), was an important Italian Renaissance painter based mainly in Venice. He studied in Verona with his sculptor father, and painter Antonio Badile. In 1548, at the invitation of Cardinal Ercole Gonzaga, he moved to Mantua where he painted frescos in the cathedral. In 1555 he settled in Venice where he drew attention to himself with his famous painting 'The Wedding at Cana' (now in the Louvre), and

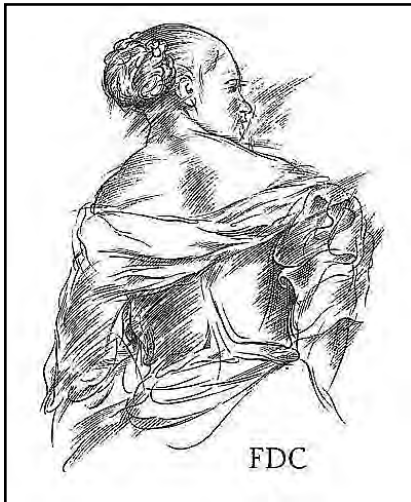


Fig. 11

also a fresco 'The Feast in the House of Levi', after completion of which he was investigated by The Inquisition. Other famous works include frescos in the Venetian Library and Church of St. Sebastian. He painted many, often large scale portraits, paintings and frescos of religious or mythological subjects, for churches, palaces and villas. His work is characterized by dramatic composition and color in the style of Venetian Modernism. The painting is exhibited at the Prague Castle Picture Gallery. The FDC cachet, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, depicts a sketch showing a lady seen from behind (Fig. 11) and the commemorative cancellation of both stamps contains a period version of the letter 'V' and the text PRAHA 17.5.2017.

(Eds. note.- This painting was already the subject of a previous Czechoslovak stamp

issued in 1988 (Pofis 2867, Scott 2718). It was issued as a miniature sheet of 6 stamps. Miloš Ondráček was the engraver of that stamp as well as the current one).

6. On June 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a 37 Kč stamp in the series: Personalities- Heliodor Píka. The stamp shows Píka in army uniform, with the edge of the battle flag of the Czechoslovak 2nd Airborne Brigade in the background (Fig. 12). It was designed by Eva Hašková, engraved by Václav Fajt and produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure (WIFAG) in printing sheets of 50. Heliodor Píka (1897-1949) was a Czechoslovak legionnaire, soldier and diplomat, who was a leader of the anti-Nazi movement who later became a victim of the Communist show-trials. In 1916 he was sent to the Galician front by the Austrians where he surrendered to the Russians in order to be able to join the Czechoslovak Legions. In early 1919 he returned to newly created Czechoslovakia and was deployed to combat the Polish Army in a dispute over the Cieszyn region. In 1941 Ludvík Svoboda's proposal to form Czechoslovak units



Fig. 12

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on Soviet soil was adopted by the Czechoslovak Government in Exile in London. Píka became the attaché and mission commander of the Czechoslovak Army in Moscow. As early as 1941 his position was protested by Czechoslovak Communist leaders Klement Gottwald and Václav Kopecký due to his connections with the democratic leadership of Edvard Beneš. In 1942 Píka started to shape an army unit from Czechoslovak soldiers held in Soviet prison camps and by September 1943 the 1st Czechoslovak Independent Brigade moved to the Eastern Front near Kiev. In 1944, after the Wehrmacht occupied Slovakia to crush The Slovak National Uprising, Píka asked Soviet commanders for the support of the Red Army, resulting in weapons being supplied to the Slovaks and commencement of the Carpathian Operation led by Marshal Konev. In May 1945 Píka returned to Prague where he was appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak Army. After the 1948 Communist coup he was arrested and charged with treason. He was tried without being able to provide any defense and was sentenced to death by hanging, which was carried out on June 21, 1949 in the courtyard of Plzeň-Bory prison. This execution was the first of many political/judicial murders in Communist Czechoslovakia. In 1968 a new trial was held and the military court overturned his conviction. However his life achievements were not made public until after 1989. In 1991 President Václav Havel awarded him the posthumous honor of the Milan Rastislav Štefánik Order, for exceptional merits in the struggle for the liberation of Czechoslovakia during World War II. He was also awarded the rank of General in 2001. The Czech Army's 53rd Regiment of Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare is named for him. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Václav Fajt, shows a plan of Plzeň-Bory prison interlinked with period symbols of the Communist regime (Fig. 13). The cancellation shows the medal of the US Legion of Merit Order- Commander, with the text PRAHA 7.6.2017.

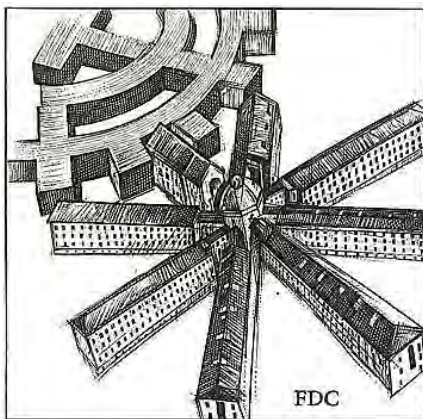


Fig. 13



Fig. 14

7. On June 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative postal stamp in the series: Personalities- Josef Kainar. The 16 Kč stamp shows a portrait of Josef Kainar (Fig. 14) and was designed by Pavel Dvorský and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. The stamp was produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure (WIFAG) in printing sheets of 50. Josef Kainar (1917-1971) was a poet, playwright, musician, artist, journalist, and translator. He belonged to the artist's group Skupina



Fig. 15

42 and literary group Ohnice. In the 1930s he studied music and played in jazz bands. His intention was to study Czech and French but the closure of universities after the Nazi occupation forced him to take editorial jobs as an editor and also at the Divadlo Theater. After the war he concentrated on writing which was heavily influenced by existentialism, irony and melody. His ability to combine text with music was typical of his work. He is best known for his collections of poems *Nové Mýty*, *Osudy*, *Veliká láska*, *Člověka hořce*, and *Cirkus plechový*. The cachet of the FDC, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdouň, has the motif of a child's barber's chair with a horse's head, inspired by Kainar's most famous poem "*Stríhali dohola malého chlapečka*" (*They gave the little boy a crewcut*) (Fig. 15). The commemorative cancellation contains a simple outline of Kainar's face and the text PRAHA 7.6.2017.

8. On June 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet in the series: Personalities-Jože Plečnik. The sheet has two identical 32 Kč stamps with a facial portrait of Plečnik, showing fragments of plans from Prague Castle's grounds in the background. The stamps are separated vertically by a coupon which shows a lamp and a pillar from the Little Belvedere on the right hand side, and an elevation of the Church of the Sacred Heart on the left hand side (Fig. 16). This church is situated on Náměstí Jiřího, in Poděbrad, Prague. The sheet and FDC was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Miloš Ondráček and produced by PTC using full colored offset combined with recess printing from flat plates (KOMB). Jože Plečnik (1872-1957) was a Slovene architect and city planner whose work for the Czechoslovak



Fig. 16

Presidential Office in the 1920s and 1930s significantly contributed to the contemporary look of Prague Castle and its grounds. Among the areas he worked on are the first and third courtyards, the extensive gardens, and installation of

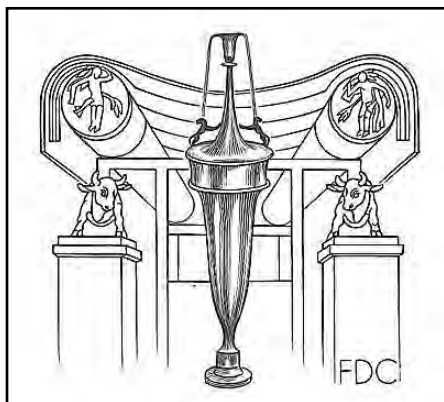


Figure 17

artifacts in the castle interior. The FDC cachet shows a bronze amphora from the Vase Staircase, below a canopy supported by bulls, referring to the Bull Staircase leading to the southern gardens (Fig. 17). The commemorative cancellation depicts a stylized drawing of an eagle sculpture, his signature and the text PRAHA 7.6.2017.

9. On June 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with two different definitive stamps, in the series The World on Rails I: The steam locomotive and the cog locomotive (Fig.18). The booklet, designed by Petr Ptáček, contains four copies of each stamp, designated ‘A’, which corresponds to the price of an ordinary domestic letter, which at present amounts to 16 Kč. The booklet was produced by PTC using multi-colored offset (OFFSET) technology.

— Steam locomotive ‘The Seven’. The first locomotive of the 354.7152 series, designated as kkStB 429.1996, left the Czech and Moravian Machine Factory in Prague in 1917. The series was designed by Karl Gölsdorf and between 1909 and 1917, 380 locomotives, in three series, were built. The first two series used a combined steam engine, while the final series had a twin steam engine and piston slides. In 1918, the newly established Czechoslovak Railways acquired 152 locomotives of all three series and designated them as 354.7, nicknamed ‘The

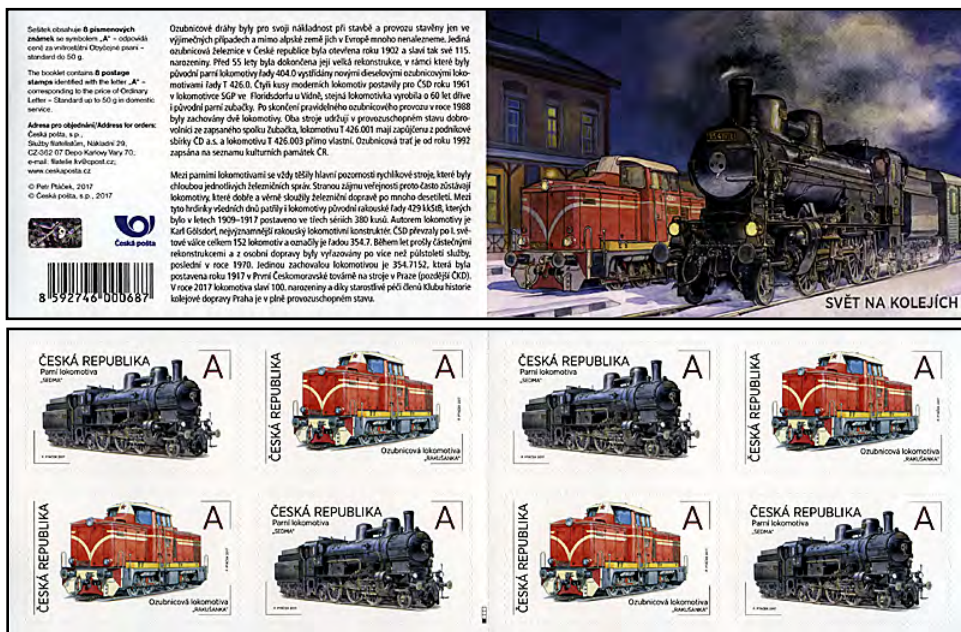


Fig. 18

Seven'. During a gradual overhaul starting in 1926, a twin steam engine was installed in each. This resulted in a 10% power increase to 1,220hp. The locomotives were reliable as passenger transports and found their way into many Bohemian and Moravian depots. The FDC cachet, designed by Petr Ptáček and engraved by Václav Fajt, shows a railyard scene with a water pump (Fig. 19). The special cancellation depicts a stylized locomotive at speed, together with the text KOŘENOV 7.6.2017.

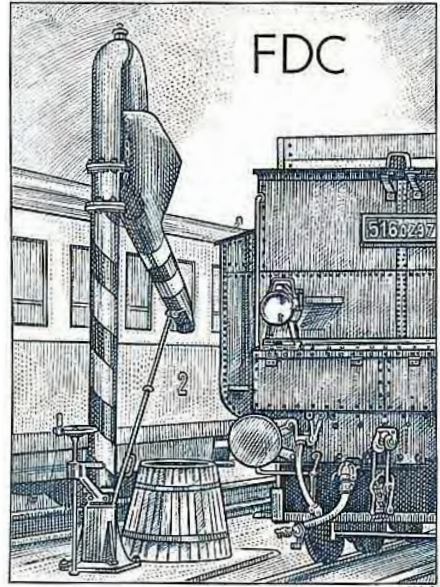


Fig. 19

---- Cog locomotive 'The Austrian', was built specifically for the Tanvald-Harrachov Cog Railway in the Jizerské Mountains. The railroad had to overcome an elevation gain of 770 feet in a considerably short distance. This resulted in the requirement of a cog track with a two-set ABt rack system. Three special steam cog locomotives of 'Austrian' series 169 (series 404 in Czechoslovakia) were manufactured at Florisdorf, Austria for this track in time for

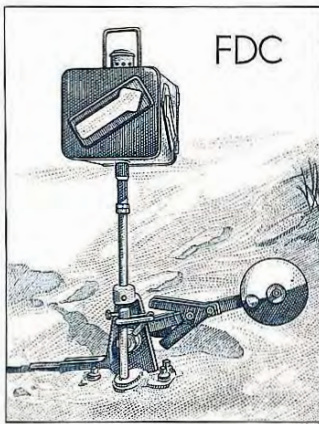


Fig. 20

its opening in 1902. By 1960 Czechoslovak Railways had to plan for replacement locomotives at Tanvald-Harrachov and also for their other cog railway at Tisovec-Pohlrnská Polhora in Slovakia. The last locomotive in use, 404.003, was sent to the National Technical Museum. Replacements came from the same factory in Austria as the originals. They are diesel locomotives with hydrodynamic power transmission, designated as T426.0. Because of their origin they are also nicknamed 'The Austrian'. Each locomotive has a four-stroke water cooled twelve-cylinder engine with an output of 1,100 hp. The FDC cachet, designed by Petr Ptáček and engraved by Václav Fajt, shows a switching point (Fig. 20). The special cancellation depicts a locomotive coming out of a tunnel, with the text KOŘENOV 7.6.2017.

10. On June 21, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp: The Moravian Museum in Brno. The 20 Kč stamp shows part of the museum building, with the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in the background. On the right-hand side is the motif of the Venus of Dolní Věstonice, an anthropomorphic sculpture from the Paleolithic period (Fig. 21). The stamp was designed by Antonín Odehnal, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, and produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure (WIFAG) in printing sheets of 50 stamps. The

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

original idea of establishing a Moravian museum dates back to 1803, but it was not realized until 200 years ago when Emperor Franz I of Austria gave his blessing for its establishment in 1817. However it was not until 1900 that the administration of the museum was transferred to the provincial government. It is now the second largest museum in the Czech Republic, with over 6 million artifacts. Among its most significant artifacts are those found at archeological sites in or near Dolní Věstonice. The clay figures discovered here in a layer of ash are the oldest known ceramic artifacts in the world, dating back to 29000-25000 BC. The FDC cachet, designed by Antonín Odehnal and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň, uses a motif of clay anthropomorphic figures dating from the earliest Paleolithic settlers in the Moravian region (Fig. 22). The commemorative cancellation depicts the inside of a nobleman's metal belt buckle detailing a praying high priest with a large cross on his chest and the text BRNO 21.6.2017.



Fig. 21

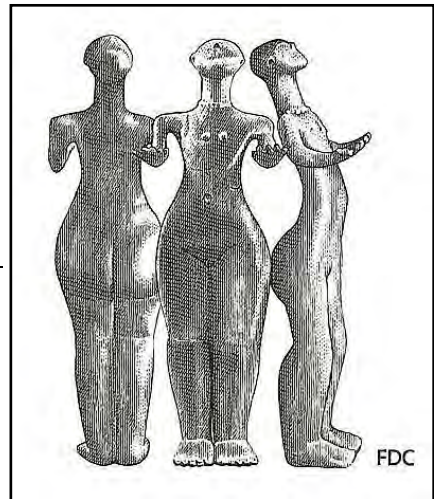


Fig. 22

11. On June 21, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp: The Church of the Ascension of Our Lady in Most. The 16 Kč stamp shows the monumental grandeur of the star vaulting in the middle nave, with the lower part of the stamp depicting an external elevation of the building (Fig. 23). The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by PTC using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure (WIFAG) in printing sheets of 50 stamps. The church, designed by Jakub Heilmann, was built after a 1515 fire destroyed an earlier church, of which only the crypt survived. The construction of the new church began 500 years ago when the cornerstone was laid on August 20, 1517, continuing until the early 17th century. 18th Century remodeling introduced the monumental main altar, with large statues by Bartolomeo Eder and painting by Josef Kramolín, which visually interconnect with earlier sculptures of Christ and The Apostles, by J.A. Dietz. Between 1960 and the early 1990s Most's historic old town was completely destroyed to allow for opencast lignite mining. The



Fig. 23

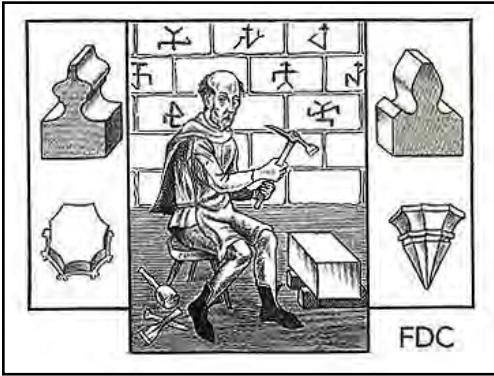


Fig. 24

The church survives today only because of the decision to move the entire structure 841 meters (920 yards). After preparation work lasting seven years, until 1975, the structure was moved on four tracks, being pushed from behind and slowed from the front by hydraulic cylinders. After four weeks the church had been moved to its new location at a rate of 21.6mm (about 3/4”) per minute. Restoration of the church lasted until 1988. It remains the heaviest building ever removed to a new location by wheels. The FDC cachet, designed by Jan Kavan and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, portrays a medieval stonemason at work, the wall behind him built of dressed stone with stonemason’s working marks. Both sides of the cachet show final products of a stonemason’s workshop (Fig. 24). The commemorative cancellation depicts a selection of stonemason tools, together with the text MOST 21.6.2017.



Fig. 25

12. On June 21, 2017 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp, identified with the letter ‘A’. The stamp has the motif of postal elves working at a pneumatic post station (Fig. 25) and was adapted from a drawing by Dušan Kállay, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by PTC using multicolored offset (OFFSET) in printing sheets of 35 stamps. Prague’s pneumatic postal system was opened on March 4, 1899, although its initial route was built in 1887. That was only used to send telegrams from the Lesser Town’s telegraph station, Prague 10, to the main post office on Jindřická Street in Prague 1. In 1899 the system was extended to include an Old Town post office.

The main purpose of the system was transportation of telegrams. A link to Prague Castle was built in 1920. By the 1990s the system was still used to transport about 9000 containers a month, but traffic gradually decreased and the flooding in 2002 resulted in a shutdown. The FDC cachet was designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and depicts postal elves taking mail to and from the pneumatic tubes (Fig. 26). The commemorative cancellation shows a postal elf riding through the system, with the text PRAHA 21.6.2017.



Fig. 26

Postal Stationery

13. On May 11, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing commemorating the 17th International Stamp Exhibition in Essen, Germany, which was held this year from May 11-13. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp (historic postal coach on Charles' Bridge) with the letter 'E'. This letter corresponds to the price of an ordinary letter up to 50g, used for international priority service to European countries, at present amounting to 32 Kč. The additional print is a collage designed by Irena Vyčítalová showing tracks with an approaching train and baggage in the foreground (Fig. 27). The accompanying text mentions the dates of the exhibition. 2200 postcards were printed and were available for purchase for 37 Kč, or 38 Kč to include the promotional and daily cancellations at the PostFila stand at the exhibition.



Fig. 27

14. On June 2, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing for the International Collector's Fair-Bratislava Collector's Days 2017, held from June 2-3 at Incheba Expo in Bratislava. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp (historic postal coach on Charles' Bridge) with the letter 'E'. The additional print shows a drawing, based on a photograph of Bratislava Castle (Fig. 28), by Irene Vyčítalová, with text indicating the exhibition dates. The card was available at the Czech Post's exhibition stand, the PostFila shop, major post offices and contractual dealers. 2200 postal cards were available for purchase for 37 Kč, or 39 Kč to include the promotional and daily cancellations.



Fig. 28

15. On June 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing commemorating EXPO 2017 ASTANA, held this year in Astana, Kazakhstan, with

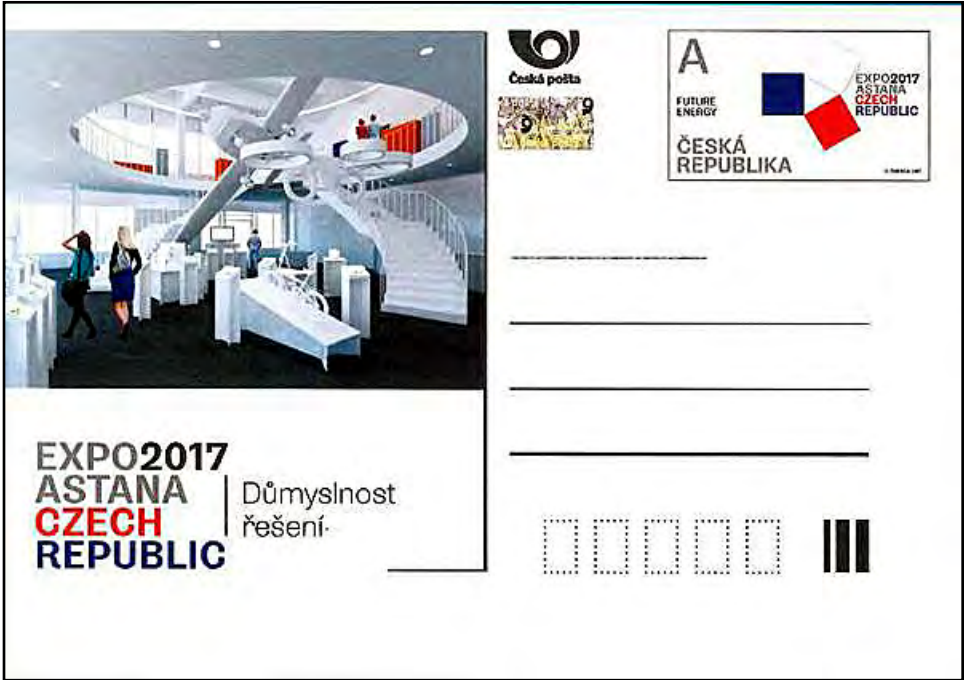


Fig. 29

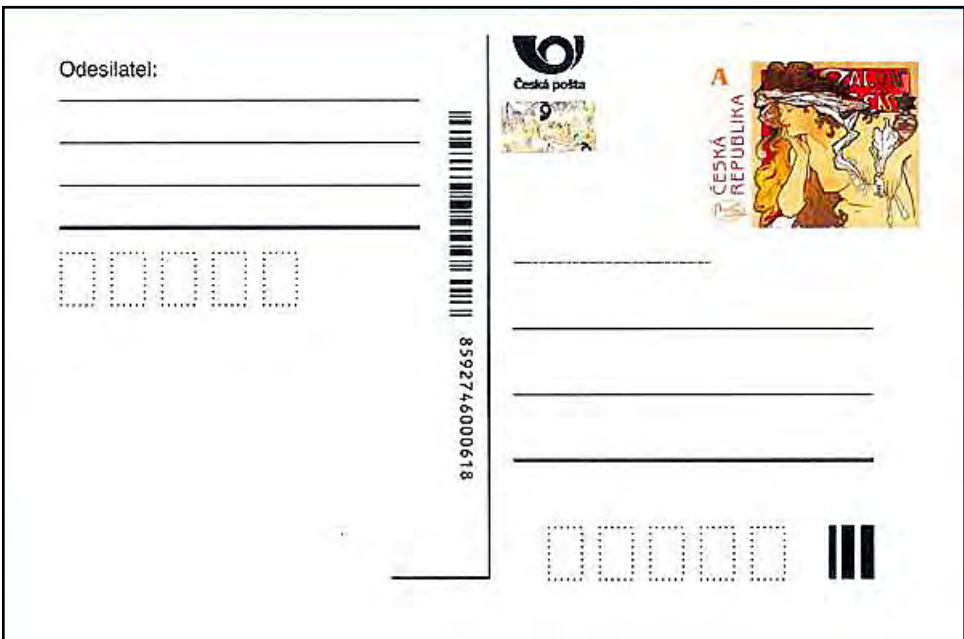


Fig. 30

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an emphasis on sustainable energy solutions and innovative technologies. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp with the letter 'A' (corresponding to price of a 50g domestic letter) which shows the expo logo (Fig. 29). The additional print, designed by Ondřej Šmerda, depicts the interior of the Czech Republic's pavilion at the EXPO. 3000 postcards were printed and were available for 21 Kč at main post offices and PostFila store.

16. On June 21, 2017 the Ministry reissued a postal card using an imprinted stamp with the letter 'A' showing a poster by Alphons Mucha (Fig. 30), which was originally issued in 2010 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth. The poster was used to advertise the Salon des Cent: 20th Exhibition. Graphic design of the stamp is by Zdeněk Ziegler and it is available for 17 Kč at any postal outlet within the Czech Republic.

17. On June 21, 2017 the Ministry issued the 24th set of eight picture postal cards of historic postal buildings in the Czech Republic. Each card is issued with an imprinted stamp with the letter 'A' (Coat of Arms of the Republic). The cards are only available as a set, which are sold with or without a cachet showing a vintage car at the bottom left corner. Only the cards with a cachet are used as illustrations. The photographs are from the collection of The Postal Museum and show the following buildings:- DOMAŽLICE, Msgre. B. Staška 71 (Fig. 31), CHEB, Nám. Dr.



Fig. 31



**HISTORICKÉ POŠTOVNÍ BUDOVY
CHEB, NÁM. DR. MILADY HORÁKOVÉ**

Budova pošty Cheb 2 byla postavena v souvislosti se zřízením nádražního poštovního a telegrafního úřadu roku 1866. Do dnešních dnů se nedochovala, protože během náletů 25. března a 8. dubna 1945 došlo k jejímu úplnému zničení. Úřad pak musel až do dokončení nové budovy v roce 1971 fungovat v provizorních podmínkách. Foto 20. léta 20. století. Sběrka Poštovního muzea, Praha.

Fig. 32



**HISTORICKÉ POŠTOVNÍ BUDOVY
NOVÝ BOR, NÁM. MÍRU 55**

Exteriér secesní budovy poštovního a telegrafního úřadu, v níž se do konce 20. let 20. století nacházela též spojitelná, navrhl českolipský architekt Emil F. Rucktr, zatímco interiér je dílem novoborského stavitele Maximiliana Dittricha. Její stavba probíhala v letech 1903–04 a dnes se počítá k významným secesním památkám severních Čech. Pohlednice z roku 1905. Sběrka Poštovního muzea, Praha.

Fig. 33



**HISTORICKÉ POŠTOVNÍ BUDOVY
OLOMOUC, NÁM. REPUBLIKY 2**

Budova poštovního a telegrafního úřadu postavená v letech 1884–85 podle projektu předního rakouského architekta poštovních staveb Friedricha Setze. Její podobu sice výrazně změnila nástavba třetího patra z roku 1922, zachovávala však dvojici výrazných soch na příčeli, představujících alegorie Poštovníctví a Telegrafie. Foto asi z roku 1924. Sběrka Poštovního muzea, Praha.

Fig. 34



**HISTORICKÉ POŠTOVNÍ BUDOVY
OPAVA, MASARYKOVA TRÍDA 335/22**

Novorenesanční budova poštovního a telegrafního úřadu podle projektu vídeňského architekta Friedricha Setze byla otevřena roku 1886. Ve 20. letech 20. století byla kvůli nevyhovujícím prostorům přestavěna a naryšena o jedno patro. Foto z 20. května 1927. Sběrka Poštovního muzea, Praha.

Fig. 35

Milady Horákové (Fig. 32), NOVÝ BOR, Nám. Míru 55 (Fig. 33), OLOMOUC, Nám. Republiky 2 (Fig. 34), OPAVA, Masarykova Trída 335/22 (Fig. 35), PŘIBRAM, Gen. R. Tesaříka 179 (Fig. 36), RUMBURK, Františka Nohy 1096 (Fig. 37), and USTÍ NAD LABEM, Revoluční Ulice (Fig. 38). Sets without a cachet are available for 168 Kč. Sets with cachet are available for 176 Kč. 3000 sets without cachet were issued. 1250 sets with the cachet were issued.



Fig. 36



Fig. 37

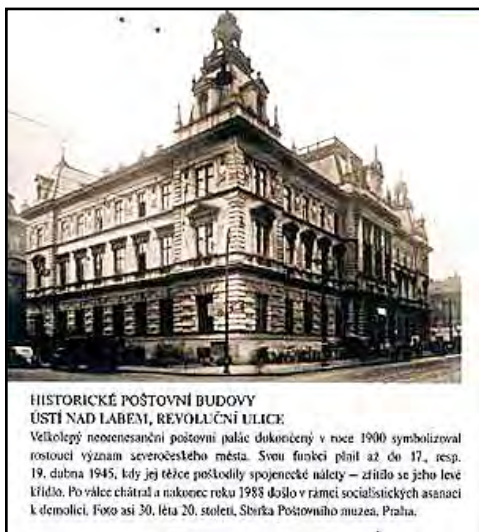


Fig. 38

is the third largest in Slovakia and has existed at least since the 13th century, when this area was near the edge of the Kingdom of Hungary. Since then it has been possessed, altered and added to by many families. By the end of the 17th century, the castle and its lands had been divided by contested inheritance disputes. The castle fell into disrepair and its condition deteriorated

SLOVAKIA by Keith Hart

18. On May 5, 2017 The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 0.90€ stamp in the series EUROPA 2017: Castles and Palaces-Lietava Castle. The stamp shows a view of the castle from below (Fig. 39) and was designed by Marián Čapka and produced by PTC using offset technology (OFFSET) in a miniature printing sheet of eight. It was also issued as a stamp booklet containing six self-adhesive stamps. Lietava Castle is situated just south of Žilina in the northern part of Slovakia, close to the border with both Poland and the Czech Republic. The castle



Fig. 39

over the next 300 years before being taken over by a local civic group in 2008. They have concentrated on conserving what remains and restoring the best preserved parts. The FDC, designed by Marián Čapka, features a cachet showing a view of the castle, that also includes a stone coat of arms of the Ziniži family and a cannon key loophole (Fig. 40). The FDC was produced by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava using offset printing. The special cancellation depicts the remains of Gothic era tapered stone ribs and the text LIETAVA 5.5.2017. A collection sheet was also issued on the first day.



Fig. 40

19. On June 2, 2017 the Ministry issued a T2 50g (0.50€) stamp with a personalized coupon featuring a motif of the State. The stamp, designed by Adrian Freda, shows a graphic stylization of the Slovak coat of arms, within which are views of Bratislava and Košice (Fig. 41). The stamp was produced by PTC using offset printing (OFFSET) in sheets of 8, with 8 coupons. The 'official' coupon celebrates the 25th anniversary of Art Film Fest in Košice



Fig. 41

which took place from June 16-25 in five venues around the city and also in The Amphitheatre, which has a capacity of 12,000. Becoming more popular every year, films in the official competitions compete for coveted Blue Angel awards. Many other new and classic films are shown throughout the period of the festival. It is also possible to create your own coupons using an application at www.mojaznamka.sk. The FDC cachet shows an architectural view of Bratislava (Fig.

42) designed by Adrian Ferda and was printed by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava using offset technology. The special cancellation shows a stylized turret of the Maiden Tower of Devin Castle with the text 2.6.2017 BRATISLAVA.

Two other versions of the coupons on the sheet were issued the same day. One contained four copies of two different coupons, showing architectural monuments in Bratislava and commemorated Bratislava Collector Days (Fig. 43). The coupons were designed by Adrian Ferda and the sheet was sold for 7.98€. The second sheet contained four copies of two different coupons, one of which depicts the head of a statue of St. Ján Nepomucký. The other coupon shows the flags of six nations associated with the international restoration of the statue (Fig. 44). Both coupons have five gold stars which represent the five



Fig. 42

stars reputed to have hovered over the river Vltava on the night of his murder in 1383. The coupons were designed by Marek Sobola and 1000 numbered sheets were issued. [See paragraph 22 below for an associated item].



Fig. 43

20. On July 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series: Personalities- Andrej Radlinský. The 1.30€ stamp shows a portrait based on a drawing by Jan Vilímek and reproduced in 'Slovenské pohľady (Slovak Scenes)' magazine issued between 1886-1888. It was designed by Robert Brun, engraved by Lubomír Žálec, and produced by PTC using recessed printing from flat plates combined with offset (KOMB), in miniature sheets of eight stamps, with a central imperforate coupon (Fig. 45). Andrej Ludovít Radlinský (1817-1879) was a Catholic priest,



Fig. 44

linguist, writer, publisher, and one of the leaders of the cultural awakening that took place in Slovakia at this time. He was determined to improve and raise the importance of the Slovak language and nationalism throughout his life. An exceptional organizational ability, foresight and strong-mindedness were his greatest abilities. He tirelessly pursued the establish-



Fig. 45

ment of Slovak as the language of instruction in schools. Thanks to his diplomatic talents he was able to help in unifying and promoting the foundation of several significant cultural institutions such as "Matica Slovenská (Slovak Culture)". He

also founded the St. Adalbert Association in Trnava in 1870, which still flourishes today with 92,000 members. It began by publishing inexpensive books for the masses, such as textbooks to improve literacy. Despite his exceptional talent and the numerous projects he was involved with, he was not much appreciated during his life. In fact he was the target of many attacks and a lack of gratitude from his closest colleagues. His greatness only became clear when he retired from public life and dedicated his time to writing, including his most important publication, *'Nábožné Výlevy (Devout Expressions)'*. The FDC cachet, designed by Robert Brun and engraved by Lubomír Žálec, shows St. Adalbert blessing a devout follower (Fig. 46) and was printed by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava. The commemorative cancellation depicts a stylized cross with the text 7.7.2017 TRNAVA.



Fig. 46

Postal Stationery

21. On June 2, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card to commemorate Bratislava Collector Days 2017. The imprinted T2 50g (0.50€) stamp shows a logo which presents the slogan 'Dobrý Napad Slovensko' (Good Idea Slovakia). The additional print (Fig. 47), designed by Adrian Ferda shows views of Bratislava within a circle, a hand holding an entrance ticket for BZD 2017, together with the text BRATISLAVSKÉ ZBERATELSKÉ DNI 2.-3.6.2017.



Fig. 47



Fig. 48

22. On June 2, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid envelope to commemorate the re-dedication of the restored statue of St. Ján Nepomucký at Devin (Fig. 48). The featured stamps are definitives for 0.10€ and 0.40€. The imprinted cachet shows the head of the Saint and was designed by Marek Sobola. The same design was used for the coupons on the stamp sheet mentioned above. 2100 envelopes were issued.

23. On June 16, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Maria Theresa, Queen of Bohemia and Empress of The House of Habsburg. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows a historic post horn. The additional print (Fig. 49), designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a portrait of The Queen painted in 1750 by Franz Anton Palko, now in the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava. 1800 cards were issued.



Fig. 49

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