



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL by Keith Hart

It's that time of the year again. Seasonal festivities, parties, and just as important, renewing your SCP membership. As a small society every one of you is very important to us and we urge you to renew membership by December 31st.

A renewal card with instructions is tucked inside this issue. Please find it and renew as soon as you can. You can renew by mail, or online using PayPal at our website www.csphilately.org.

For **Patron Members**, please remember that you must be a Patron Member in both 2017 and upcoming 2018 in order to receive the 2017-18 bound copy of those year's *Specialists*. If you missed Patron for 2017 but want the bound copy, pay \$75 now.

Not sure if you have already paid membership for 2018? Look at the mailing label on the envelope this issue was in. If the upper right corner says 2018, you are already paid up for next year.

Lou and I send you and your families the very best wishes for a fabulous holiday season and hope that you are as excited as us about 2018. It will be the centenary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia and the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Divorce, which created the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It will be a very special year for collectors, with exceptional new stamp issues and distinctive content in your *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

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

Czech Post News **CROWN JEWELS AND THE PRAGA 2018 EXHIBITION**

by **JUDr. Ing. František Beneš**
trans. by **Lucie Harris**

Issue Name: Definitive stamp – Crown Jewels

Issue Date: January 20, 2017

Denomination: E (= 32 Kč; cat. #915)

Stamp Image Dimensions: 50 x 29 mm

Art Design: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek

Print: PTC, Prague

Printing Type: Full color offset on self-adhesive paper

Printing Form: 4 x 8 (stamp booklet)

Print Run: 60,000 booklets, printing not finished yet



Fig. 1

For the first time the planned World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2018 is being promoted on a postage stamp (Fig. 1), and immediately it is in the best company -- right along with the historic symbol of our nation, the crown jewels of the Czech kings! In the history of the creation of our stamps, Czech and Czechoslovak, this is actually the first time this has happened. The stamp on the Švensgbír miniature sheet from 1966 (Fig. 2) has on its

stamp only the Saint Wenceslas' crown, whereas the scepter and orb are shown on its margin.

The two issues are separated by a half century, but both are beautiful, dignified, and representative, although the current one is of course more modern in concept, printing technique, and execution in booklets on self-adhesive paper.

This is not however the only portrayal of this crown on our stamps. For example, in 1948 the crown is shown with Czech King Charles I who was at the same time Charles IV, the King of the Romans, (he became emperor seven years later in 1355) who founded Charles University (Fig. 3).

In contrast to Svobinsky's design, Oldřich Kulhánek did not portray Charles IV nor his sons Wenceslas and Zikmund with the crown of Saint Wenceslas, rather he showed them with different ones (Fig. 4, 5, 6).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Of course it would be interesting to determine which ones they were (perhaps previous Přemyslid crowns), but unfortunately we can not ask the author anymore.



Fig. 7

On the miniature sheet for the 150th anniversary of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk's birth (Fig. 7), we can find a strange detail. On its bottom margin below the stamp, Kulhánek placed the President's hat as an obvious republican counterpoint to the king's crown which was the symbol of the head of state until then. He then outright portrayed the Czech King Rudolf II without a crown.

Josef Leisler also put a different crown on Charles' head on a stamp from the year 2000 (Prague -- European city of culture)(Fig. 8).

Apparently the crown of Saint Wenceslas decorates the head of the lion on a memorial from 1852 dedicated to the Czech soldiers who lost their lives in Italy in 1848-49 (Fig. 9).



Fig. 8

(Meanwhile, it is very difficult to understand why this statue was selected for a stamp celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the formation of the Czech Republic. It is obviously a symbol of monarchy and also connected with a time period of suppression of efforts for the liberation and unification of Italy and with the beginning of the liquidation of the fruits of the 1848 revolution in our country).



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

The same crown is on the head of King George of Poděbrady (Jiří z Poděbrady)(in the years 1964 and 2008)(Fig.



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

10, 11). Correctly, however, it is not on John of Bohemia (Jan Lucemburský)(Fig. 12), he could not be crowned with it.

The question is, what crown is shown on a votive plate of John Očko from Vlašín (Jan Očko z Vlašín) on a stamp from 1978 (Fig. 13)? The colored stones would point to our king's crown, but the whole shape is in fact different (Charles had the crown modified several times, but its basic form did not change).

A different crown -- the funeral crown of Ottokar II of Bohemia (Přemysl Otakar II) -- appears on a stamp issued in 1979 (Fig. 14).

Meanwhile, the last (previously) depicted Saint Wenceslas' crown is on a stamp and coupon of last year's miniature sheet of Charles IV (Fig. 15a, 15b). (On a subsequent miniature sheet "The Road to Statehood," Charles IV is depicted again with a different crown.)(Fig. 16)



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

If we found more examples of the depiction of Saint Wenceslas' crown in our stamp creations, perhaps we could even make up a one frame exhibit.



Fig. 15a

Almost seven centuries have passed since the creation of this Gothic crown by Wenceslas (that is his baptismal name) -- Charles (this name he adopted later in France) -- that he had made in 1346 as Moravian Margrave (the renaissance scepter and orb are almost two hundred years younger -- 1527 and 1533). It was at the end of the life of his father, King John, when Charles was preparing to take over the throne. He dedicated it to the Czech State patron, Prince Wenceslas I, his baptismal name patron. On September 2, 1347 -- 670 years ago -- he was then, as Charles I, crowned as the Czech king. He was already the King of the Romans, the ruler of Luxembourg (Fig. 17), also became the king of Lombardy and Burgundy, and in 1355 the emperor of the Holy Roman



Fig. 15b



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

Empire with the name that we know him by today, Charles IV.

The crown is a masterpiece of Italian jewelers. They made it from a massive gold plate and decorated it with magnificent gems and pearls. From the beginning Charles had conceived of it also as a reliquary and had placed into the cross on top of the crown a fragment of thorn from Christ's crown that he received as a gift from French King John II the Good (Fig. 18). (In fact, at the last restoration of the crown, it was reportedly found that this relic was no longer there.)



Fig. 18

Charles had the Saint Wenceslas' crown on his head only once and that was at his coronation as the Czech king. After that it rested on the skull of Saint Wenceslas, and that is how it was supposed to be in the future. Two documents were to ensure that. The first one was a protective bull from Pope Clement VI from 1346 (Fig. 19); the second one was the Coronation Order of Czech kings, which Charles had written



Fig. 19

and which he himself was involved in. For various reasons after his death -- political and protective -- the crown was relocated, but it was always returned to Prague for coronation ceremonies. For over two hundred years now, since the time of Leopold II, the crown has been in St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle. We could philatelically document the location of its storage over the passage of time (Karlstejn, Vienna, etc.), but this would however exceed the purpose of this article.

The crown was used for coronations for almost half a millennium from 1347 (Charles I) until 1836 (Ferdinand V), and placed on the heads of 22 rulers (from which one was a woman -- Maria Theresa, who has the crown carved on her gravestone in the Capuchin crypt in Vienna).

On both stamps -- the Czechoslovakian miniature sheet from 1966 and the current Czech one (Fig. 1, 2) -- are all three parts of the Saint Wenceslas treasure shown from the front, but sometimes we can see them from different angles on picture postcards and photographs.

In 1966, teachers of the Jewelry School in Turnov made a faithful copy of the crown which was later displayed in the Czechoslovak exhibition at EXPO Montreal. Replicas of the scepter and orb were added later.

Older memories may recall that at one point a long time ago in the shop windows of a store called Klenoty were placed for sale miniature sets of the coronation jewels. They were gold-plated and in a velvet covered case; even today you can find similar ones online. The beautiful work of husband and wife Knotek allows us to enjoy the coronation jewels much cheaper -- and perhaps with them to even delight the addressee, for whom we can decorate a letter with a new stamp.

[Ed. Note: *The Specialist* is pleased to reprint this article from *Filatelie* 1/2017 with the permission of the author and editor.]

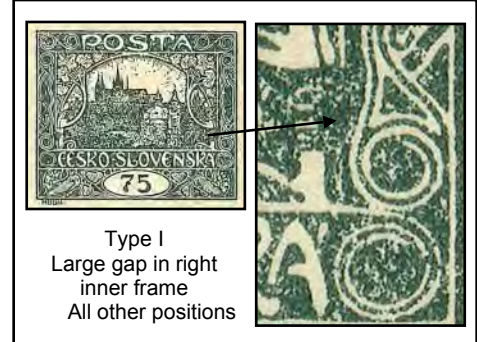
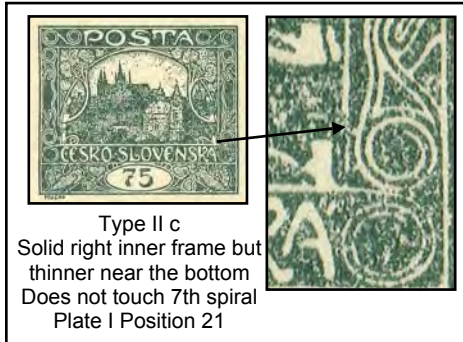
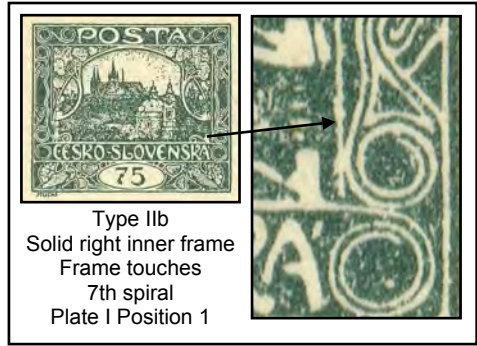
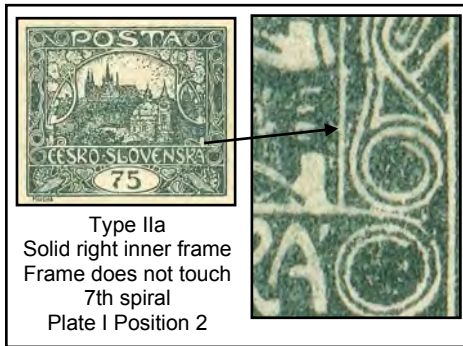
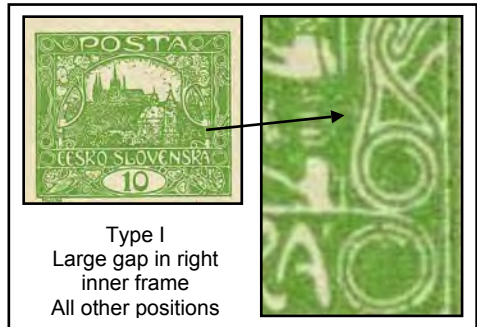
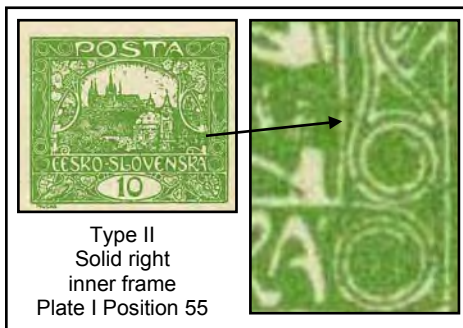
AN EXOTIC HRADČANY TYPE

by Mark Wilson

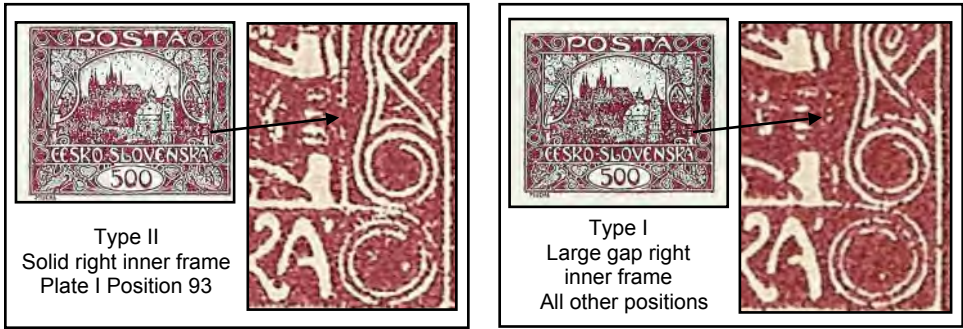
Most collectors are familiar with the Hradčany Spiral Types but few have heard of, much less attempted to collect, the Inner Right Frame Types.

Apparently during the quality control phase of plate manufacture for three Hradčany denominations -- the 75 and 500 haler as well as the 10 haler green -- the inspector took it upon himself to spontaneously re-engage certain inner right frames on Plate 1 of those denominations.

One must wonder at his reasoning because only four positions out of the five hundred possibilities (200 each for the 10 and 75 haler and 100 for the single initial plate of the 500 haler) were touched up. The Inner Right Frame Type appears on no other denominations.



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Note that the small gaps seen above in the 10 and 500 haler Type II exemplars are printing artifacts; most often the frame is found solid. Because the printer manufactured Plate II of the 500 haler much later for use in the airmail service, only Plate I received this attention.

Both types appear on the overprints and surcharges for these denominations -- SO 1920, postage due, and airmail stamps.

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



Philatelic News and Views

From Ludvik Svoboda:

1. Back in the Mar/Apr 1992 issue, we reported on the disappearance of two of our member Hans Klein's great Czechoslovak stamp rarities -- a 4K, POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 overprint on "granite" paper (unissued thus -- Scott B24), and a "50h on 50h" DOPLATIT (postage due) overprint (Scott J52a) -- at PHILANIPPON 91. Each stamp was worth several thousands of dollars with the second one currently being shown in the Scott's catalog at \$55,000.

Just recently it was reported to Czech auction house personnel that it was believed that the first stamp was being prepared for auction. The stamp was then withdrawn from the auction.

Where was this stamp for the past 25+ years? It is an interesting fact that Bram Klein -- Hans Klein's son -- informed us that Czech officials told him that the Czech statute of limitations on this form of crime had just expired a short while ago.

A substantive article by Bram Klein has just appeared in the Czech philatelic publication *Filatelie* providing more details about this unusual event. We are in the process of having this article translated for us.

Please stay tuned.

2. We are pleased to report that our *The Czechoslovak Specialist* was awarded a Vermeil medal at APS StampShow held this summer in Richmond, VA. Here are some of the comments on the Evaluation Form:

-- some interesting articles but more research aspects should be published; articles do not have references.

-- need larger headers and a two column format would make pages easier to read.

-- the front cover is very bland and should be revisited as to the design.

-- the image quality is excellent!

What do our readers think?

3. Just a reminder to our members in the middle of our country to put our participation and annual convention at CHICAGOPEX 2018 (November 16-18, 2018) at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel in Itasca, Illinois on your calendars. We encourage you to show off your collecting by exhibiting and to come meet us and participate in our activities there. We will be publishing more about those events in future issues. We should hopefully also have new versions of the POFIS catalogs available which we have brought back from their publication in conjunction with PRAGA 2018 held August 15-18, 2018.

4. We have recently received notice from Johan Sevenhuijsen, the Auction Secretary of our sister Dutch society, that a large lot of high quality Czechoslovak philatelic books has come their way and is available.

We have reviewed the list of books and have made arrangements to have a select group of 27 of them sent here in a bulk shipment -- thus minimizing the shipping costs. He has made them available to us at the complimentary cost of \$1 each plus shipping.

This group consists of ten different of the Czechoslovak Monografie series and a tantalizing number of the classic catalogs and books on philately that have been much in demand over the years.

Once we have checked their quality/condition, we will run a special sale in a future issue listing what books are available at hopefully very reasonable prices.



OTHER PHILATELIC MATERIALS

PART II

by Keith Hart

On June 20, 2012 Czech Post issued three self-adhesive definitive stamps (Fig. 1 shows one of these). These were the layout models for My Own Stamps (MOS). They were the forerunners of what has become a frequent addition to Czech Post's usual official issues. There are three categories of these stamps. 1) MOS issued by Czech Post for its own purposes. 2) MOS issued by Czech Post based on orders from private customers. 3) MOS which are specimens issued and approved by the Czech Ministry of Trade and Industry.



Figure 1

The minimum volume required is 600 MOS sheets, each of which contains 25 stamps which are sized 23 x 30mm. Up to 5 different stamps can be on each sheet and they can be oriented horizontally or vertically. The value of the stamps can be either 'A' or 'E' definitives. The stamps

can also be ordered as booklets containing 8 stamps, in a volume of at least 1900 booklets.

Category 1 stamps are not assigned normal catalog numbers. This means that they are not necessarily included in catalogs issued by Pofis, Scott, etc. Each issue is allocated a reference which is VZ followed by a four digit number. Those first model stamps from 2012 did have space allocated in my Lighthouse pages for 2012. Since then several such issues have not appeared in other yearly supplements. Category 1 stamps are of very varied themes. One 2012 issue was entirely of philatelic stamps showing Pofis catalogs and stamp societies (Figs. 2 and 3).

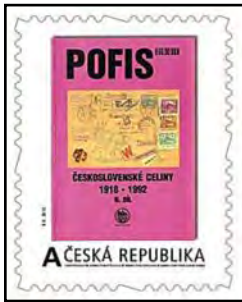


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

containing all three categories issued from 2012-2015 (Fig. 6). This catalog has 290 pages, 490 illustrations, 923 price listings, and 18 spreadsheets. It is available through NEWSPHILA's website (shop-prodej.newsphila@centrum.cz) for 499 Kč plus postage and packing. It should also be noted that on Czech Post's philately website there is a My Own Stamps section and PDF documents for issues for 2012-16. The current year's stamps are not shown on this site. Category 1 and 3 stamps/sheets/booklets are available at post offices in the Czech Republic. Category 2 stamps are only available from the company/organization that has ordered them. This means they must be considered a private issue.

Should *The Specialist* include reviews of Category 1 and 3 stamps in the future? Your feedback and comments would be welcomed.

[Eds. note. In a reply to a letter in the Summer 2017 Specialist I indicated that the catalog containing My Own Stamp issues had been published by Pofis. As already indicated above the publisher is in fact Newsphila. I apologize for the error.]



Figure 6

1937 CZECHOSLOVAK COVER SENT TO FDR

by Paul M. Holland
 pholland@thorleaf.com

I've recently come across a cover sent to FDR from Šternberk/Sternberg on 2 March 1937. This is shown in Figure 1. The typed address to Franklin Roosevelt is in German to “dem Herrn Präsidenten der Vereinigten Staaten”, with the honorific “Sr. Hochwohlgeboren” above, which translates directly as “High Well-born”, or more loosely as “Your Excellency”, and the cover bears the Harmer auction back stamp showing it came from FDR’s personal collection.

What is interesting about this cover is the repetitive circular date stamp (CDS) machine cancellation with three straight-line dashed bars between each CDS. This is unlike those seen on my other 1932-36 Czechoslovak covers sent to FDR.¹ According to Steven Friedenthal, this cover has a Krag type machine cancel. Krag machines were invented in Norway and used in many European countries, with most Czechoslovakia advertising/slogan cancels being on these machines.² I have seen Krag type cancellations on other covers mailed to FDR. For example, four out of sixteen of my French covers sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt are of this type, three with 5 undulating lines between each CDS, with the other having two different French language slogans or advertisements.³ I also have examples of such cancellations on covers sent to FDR from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Norway, Poland, Romania and South Africa.

Regarding Šternberk/Sternberg, Steven Friedenthal reports seeing three different slogan cancels from this office in addition to a non-slogan cancel.⁴ It appears to me that the “blank” dashed bars seen in Figure 1 likely served as a placeholder



Figure 1. Cover sent to FDR from Šternberk/Sternberg on 2 March 1937.

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for a future paid advertisement or slogan. Also, the connecting dashed bars of the cancellation at the left side of the cover show pronounced curvature upwards, suggesting a misfeed during cancellation. The cover is otherwise unremarkable, being franked by Scott 110 and 212 to meet the 2.50 Kč (Kč = koruna, 1 Kč = 100 h, h = haléřů) international postal rate from Czechoslovakia to the USA for a letter under 20 grams.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge Steven Friedenthal for detailed information on Krag machine cancellations used in Šternberk/Sternberg, and to the editor Ludvik Svoboda for his helpful comments and suggestions.

References

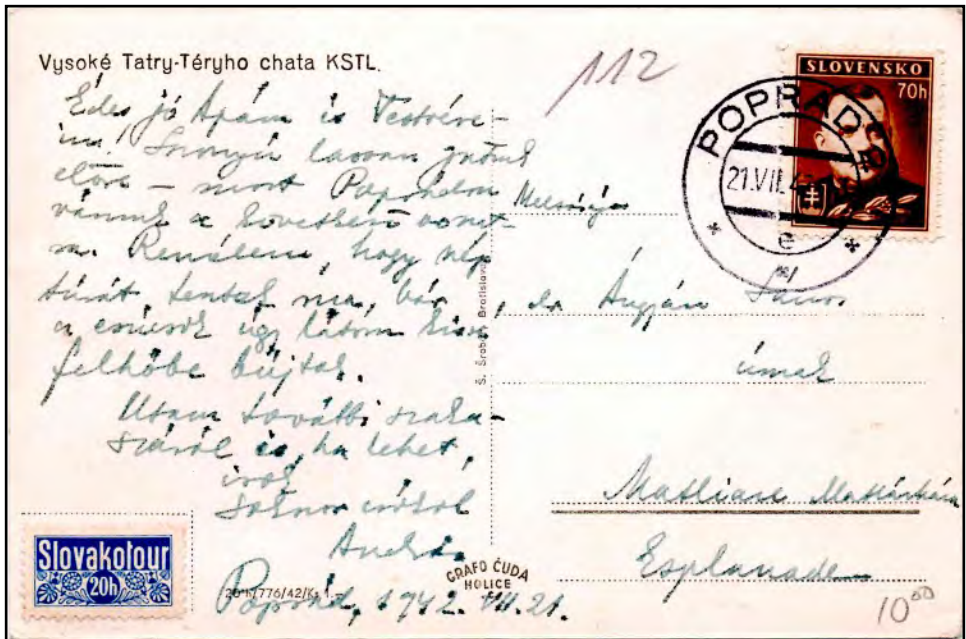
1. P.M. Holland, "Czechoslovak Covers Sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt: Postal History from the 1930s", *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Summer 2016, pages 12-22.
2. Steven Friedenthal, "Collecting Czechoslovak Machine Advertising (Slogan) Cancels 1920-1939", *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Summer 2016, pages 5-11.
3. P.M. Holland, "French Covers Sent to FDR: Postal History from 1932-1939", *The France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 72, October 2016, pages 99-105.
4. Steven Friedenthal, Private Communication.



Letters to the Editor

1) Hi Keith,

Read the article on the Slovakotour labels in the Summer issue of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* and it prompted me to look at my picture postcards with the labels affixed. The attached scan of one of the cards shows that the company that produced the postcard was sensitive to the labels and printed a dashed line outline



in the lower left corner for the label. Was the placement of the outline a company decision or was it official guidance? I suspect the company made the decision. The cancellation on the card indicates that it was mailed on 21.VII.42 from Poprad. I also have a card produced by the same company canceled on 1.VIII.40 without the outline. The company is **(GRAFO ČUDA, Holice v Č.[eskoslovensko]**. Interestingly, when I tried to establish the location of the addressee and translate the message, Google Translate said that I was dealing with the Esperanto language. I plan on showing the card to some of my Slovak speaking friends to determine if Google is correct or if they can translate the card for me. Will let you know what feedback that I receive.

Regards,
Rich Palaschak

Rich,

Thank you for the message. I tried to translate on Google Translate as well. It did say that it thought it was written in Esperanto. However, if this is so, why did it not translate it into English, because Esperanto is one of the languages they say can be translated? Anyway, as I recently followed up with you and you say that nobody has managed to translate it successfully, let's throw this out to our members to see if anyone else has a similar card, or whether they have managed to translate this.

*Thanks,
Keith*

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

HELP your society to grow! Enlist a fellow collector of Czechoslovak stamps for membership. Talk up the Society at your local stamp club or exhibition. Membership benefits are listed periodically on page two of issues.

Application forms and Society information are available from our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302, or from our web site:

www.csphilately.org

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@csphilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.

The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019.
For this occasion an international exhibition will be held in Stockholm.
H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be the Patron.



STOCKHOLMIA 2019

29 MAY - 2 JUNE

THE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

The exhibition will comprise philatelic dealers and auction houses from all over the world.
The exhibition will have an extensive philatelic and social program.
Only Fellows and Members of the RPSL will be allowed to exhibit.
The competitive classes will be judged by an international jury appointed by the Council of The RPSL.



STOCKHOLMIA 2019

will be organised at
"Waterfront Congress Centre",
Nils Ericsons Plan 4.
It is Sweden's newest and most
versatile venue for large-scale
meetings and events.



For more information: visit the website stockholmia2019.se or contact Jonas Hällström: jonas@stockholmia2019.se

RESULTS OF MEMBER SURVEY

by James Buckner

Earlier this year, The Board of Directors for the Society for Czechoslovak Philately conducted a member survey with the aim of learning how the SCP can improve services and better meet the needs of our members. We wanted to let members know what other members are thinking about the SCP. From about 189 members, 35 surveys were returned, representing the views and opinions of 19% of membership. You may recall that the survey had five questions (out of nine, with one optional question for comments) that listed choices for respondents from which to choose. We will address these responses first.

Question one asked what existing services/resources interest the 35 respondents the most:

- 33 liked the Specialist
- 15 liked the literature available for purchase
- 12 liked the SCP borrowing library
- 10 liked the Interactive Index DVD
- 9 liked the SCP website
- 3 liked the expertizing assistance.

Question three asked what the 35 respondents collected:

- 28 collect the 1st Republic
- 26 collect the 2nd Republic
- 25 collect Bohemia & Moravia
- 20 collect Slovakia
- 17 collect Airmail, Eastern Silesia
- 16 collect Back of the Book
- 12 collect Postal History
- 11 collect New Issues, Literature
- 9 collect Post Cards, CzSl Legions Mail
- 8 collect Postal Canceled, WWI/WWII Soldier Mail
- 7 collect Revenues
- 5 collect FDC's, Field Post Mail, Pneumatic Tube Mail
- 3 collect Topicals
- 1 collects Perfins.

Question four asked about features most liked in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. The answers were uniform across all choices:

- 24 liked Historical Articles
- 20 liked New Issues, General articles
- all other choices received 10 votes.

Question six asked what would respondents be most interested in seeing introduced or revived. Most every returned questionnaire would like to see the Sales Circuit revived and Member Auctions introduced. Fifteen members would like to see an English Synopsis of Key Czech/Slovak Literature while six would like E-mail Notifications of New Literature.

Finally, question eight asked about computer use. By and large, most every respondent uses a computer in conjunction with collecting, bidding/buying in on-line stamp auctions, and ordering stamps or philatelic materials. Only 3 respondents reported having no computer.

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The remaining questions invited respondents' opinions on how the SCP can improve services, what *The Czechoslovak Specialist* is lacking, what was liked and disliked about annual conventions, and additional comments/concerns. Members would like more articles about specific issues, new issues, and more information about what is available in the SCP Borrowing Library, as well as more articles on Bohemia & Moravia. Other themes prevalent in the responses are that some would like to see articles on specific members and their collecting interests and original research, lists of reputable dealers, an article or articles on communist era personalities on stamps, more on plating errors, more articles on Revenue stamps and Perfins, and articles on Postage Rates.

What can be made of all this? From all this data, it is clear that we as an organization have a gem in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* that is well utilized and keeps members engaged and connected to activities in Czechoslovak philately. It is hoped that the Editors of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* will be able to address member desires for articles on topics mentioned above. In addition, the Board is currently examining how to conduct Member Auctions, so stay tuned.

We would like to thank those members who took the time to complete and return the survey. Without member participation, our Society would not be as vibrant and a source of information for collectors of Czechoslovak philately.



New Members

We welcome three new members who have joined in the last quarter.

- #2179 **Lori Williams.** Harriman, TN
- #2180 **Seth Agata.** Kinderhook, NY
- #2181 **Ulf Widen.** Hallstahammar, Sweden

Welcome to the Society. We hope that you enjoy the *Czechoslovak Specialist*. You are encouraged to write/email the editors about any aspect of philately. Our members are highly knowledgeable in every aspect of collecting. If you have any queries, feel free to ask us and if we cannot answer ourselves then we can forward your question to members who probably will have the answer.

THE IDEAL GIFT: AN S.C.P. MEMBERSHIP

We all have the problem of finding a good present for someone who has everything. All of us also have friends and loved ones with whom we exchange gifts who collect stamps or might become interested.

The solution to your gift problem: buy them a membership in the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. The cost is only \$25 (regular), \$20 (electronic) or \$3 (youth -- under 18) per year. Among the many advantages of SCP membership, they will receive our outstanding full color journal (a fresh gift from you every three months!), which is a great resource for their philatelic needs.

Go to the SCP website (www.csphilately.org) today, download an application, complete it, and send it along with your check for \$25, \$20 or \$3. Or you can write to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, for the application (his address is on page 2 of every issue). Your loved one or friend will receive a nice year-long gift as a result of your thoughtfulness.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart

1. On September 6, 2017 The Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series Nature Protection: Zoological Gardens II. It features two Bohemian and two Moravian zoos. The sheet contains four stamps and four coupons (Fig. 1 on page 18). Margins of the sheet are filled with birds,

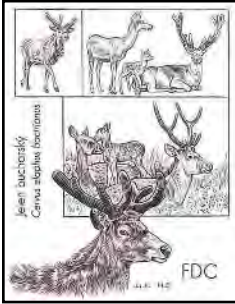


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

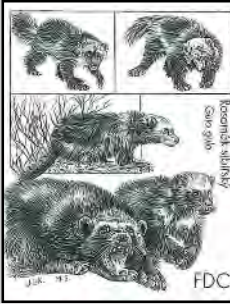


Fig. 4

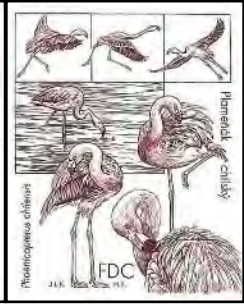


Fig. 5

mammals, fish and amphibians. It was produced by PTC using KOMB printing. Graphic designers of both the sheet and the FDCs were Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, the engraver was Martin Srb. A Carte Maximum for each stamp was also available on the day of issue.

--- 16 Kč. This stamp shows the European Bison, which is the signature animal of the Chomutov Zoo. The zoo has the largest land area of any zoo in the Czech Republic. It includes a forest park and adjoining Alum Lake, which features native European fauna. The FDC cachet features Bukhara deer (Fig. 2) which are being bred by the zoo, having been considered critically endangered since 2003.

--- 20 Kč. Hodonín Zoo celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The stamp shows both white lions and chimpanzees, popular animals in the zoo. The lions are a rare color mutation in South African lions, rather than albinos. The chimpanzees have a large enclosure in the zoo. The FDC cachet illustrates Siberian tigers (Fig. 3), which are this zoo's signature species.

--- 24 Kč. The stamp portrays the Polar Bear, to commemorate the fact that Brno Zoo successfully bred them here in 1976 and continues to have a productive breeding program. The zoo is known for its breeding programs for many mammals and birds. A wolverine is featured on the cachet of the FDC (Fig. 4).

--- 30 Kč. Plzeň zoo's greatest achievement in recent years was the successful birth of an Indian rhinoceros. These animals, almost extinct, weigh up to 8800lbs/4000kg and are the main motif of this stamp, where it is accompanied by the blue tree monitor, from the Indonesian island of Batanta. These lizards were only discovered in the wild in 2001. The FDC cachet illustrates the Chilean flamingo (Fig. 5).



Fig. 6

2. On September 6, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series Technical Monuments: 170 years of



Fig. 7

A self-adhesive booklet of 8 stamps and 4 coupons (Fig. 7) was issued on the same day. The first compulsory lighting of Prague’s streets was in 1623, when building owners were obliged to light baskets of pitch soaked wreaths in the event that the city was being attacked. By the mid-1700s these had been replaced by oil or kerosene lamps. On September 17, 1847 the first 200 gas burning lamps were lit under a contract with the Wrocław Gas Company. In 1866 Prague formed its own municipal gas company and by 1871 there were 2598 gas lanterns installed in the city. At that time the

lamps were lit nightly by a lamplighter holding an ethanol pilot light on a long pole. Eventually a small pilot light was installed within each lantern. In 1985 the last gas lamps were replaced, only for history to reverse itself in the early years of the 21st century, when gas lighting was restored to some narrow streets in the Old Town. The FDC cachet shows a 19th century lamplighter lighting a lamp, within a selection of period lamp posts (Fig. 8). The cancellation shows the lamp of a gas lantern with the text PRAHA 6.9.2017.



Fig. 8

3. On September 6, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the Three Kings anti-Nazi resistance group from World War II. The 16 Kč

stamp shows portraits of the group members, Josef Balabán, Václav Morávek, and Josef Mašín (Fig. 9). The stamp and FDC cachet were designed by Karel Zeman and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. The stamp was produced by PTC using multicolored offset technology in printing sheets of 50. Three Kings was the code name given by the Gestapo to an intelligence and sabotage group of the resistance Defense of the Nation (*Obrava Národa*). The main task of the group was collecting intelligence which they communicated by radio to František Moravec of the Gov-



Fig. 9

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ernment-in-Exile in London. They also prepared and carried out sabotage missions in Czechoslovakia and Germany. Balabán was the first of the group to be captured by the Gestapo in April 1941.

After extensive interrogation and torture he was executed on October 3, 1941 but had not betrayed his colleagues. Mašín was also arrested soon after Balabán while making a radio transmission. He also defied the Gestapo through constant torture before being executed on June 30, 1942. Morávek continued his resistance activities, maintaining contact with allies in London as well as the double-agent Paul Thümmel in Germany. Finally he was cornered when trying to rescue compatriot Václav Reháč and died during the operation on March 21, 1942. The cachet of the FDC has an arrangement of three firearms grouped together (Fig. 10) and the commemorative cancellation shows the motif of crossed swords and the text PRAHA 6.9.2017.

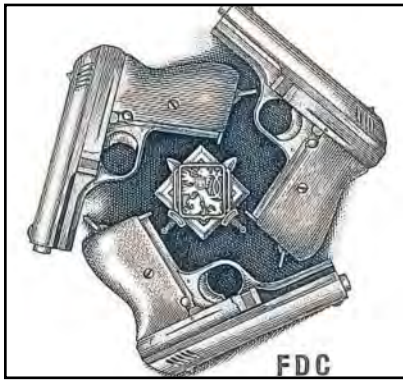


Fig. 10

4. On September 6, 2017 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp identified with the letter A (corresponds to a 16 Kč stamp at current rates). The stamp reproduces the famous Two Pence Blue stamp issued by the island of Mauritius in 1847. It is shown on a golden background (Fig. 11). Graphic design for the stamp is by Jaromír and Kamil Knotek and it was produced by PTC using offset

technology in printing sheets of 50. The stamp shows the profiled head of a young Queen Victoria of Great Britain, based on the portrait that appears on British stamps of that period.



Fig. 11

This Mauritius stamp, together with its partner the One Penny Red-Brown (or Vermilion), are two of the rarest and most expensively collected stamps ever issued. Versions of both stamps, together with the famous Bombay Cover which uniquely features two One Penny stamps, will be exhibited at PRAGA 2018. The FDC was designed by Libuše Knotková and was digitally printed on a whiter envelope than previously used. The cachet shows a portrait of one of the world's most famous philatelists, Filip Ferrary, whose collection included the famous Mauritius stamps (Fig. 12). The commemorative cancellation shows the profile of Queen Victoria, on a background with an outline shape of the Czech Republic and the text 6.9.2017 OLOMOUC.



Fig. 12

The commemorative cancellation shows the profile of Queen Victoria, on a background with an outline shape of the Czech Republic and the text 6.9.2017 OLOMOUC.



Fig. 13

5. On September 6, 2017 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp identified with the letter A. The stamp shows a mail carrier carrying a red balloon (Fig. 13). It was designed by Jan Ungrád and printed by PTC using multicolored offset in printing sheets of 100. Czech Post's Partner Post Office project continued to spread further in 2017. This project offers a full-

fledged alternative to the classic Main Street Post Office. The difference is that the operator is a third party other than Czech Post. The range of postal services provided by a Partner office is identical. It provides collection and mailing of letters and packages. Sending and payment of money orders, payment of pensions, sale of postal stationery and revenue stamps are also provided. The stamp is also available as a commemorative stamp booklet, containing a linear strip of five stamps cut from a full sheet and inserted into a cardboard cover (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14

6. On September 20, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the centenary of the Hollar Association of Czech graphic artists. The 20Kč stamp shows an image of Václav Hollar holding a poster proclaiming the anniversary (Fig. 15). The stamp and FDC were designed by Jan Kavan and Pavel Sivko. Engraving was by Václav Fajt. Printing was by PTC using WIFAG technology in printing sheets of 50. The Hollar Association was founded in 1917 in order to promote the development of



Fig. 15

Czech graphic art. It adopted the name of the renowned 17th century artist/engraver, Václav Hollar. Formation of the association was initiated by T.F. Šimon, who was joined by the major Czech artists of the period, including Max Švabinský. The association was extremely active organizing exhibitions and publishing material about members. It was forced to suspend its activ-

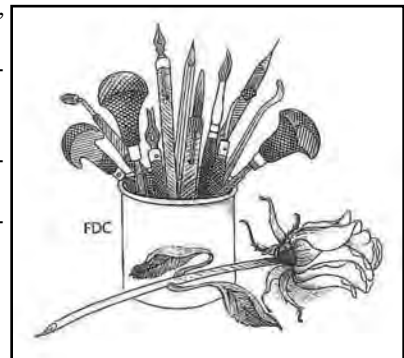


Fig. 16

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

ities by the Communist regime in 1970, resuming its undertakings in 1990. Its rich programs combine respect for tradition with understanding of new artistic styles and ideas. The FDC cachet shows a container filled with the working tools of artists, graphic designers and engravers (Fig. 16). The commemorative cancellation is a period logo of the Hollar Association and the text PRAHA 20.9.2017.

7. On October 4, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the use of letter boxes in the lands of the Czech Republic.



Fig. 17

The 16 Kč stamp shows three vintage mail collection boxes (Fig. 17). The stamp does mention PRAGA 2018 on an envelope, though not using the exhibit logo. The stamp and FDC were designed by Pavel Sivko and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. It was printed by PTC using WIFAG technology in printing sheets of 30 stamps.

The Austrian monarchy commenced the use of mail collection boxes on June 1, 1817 and the decree stipulated that at least one box was available at every post office. The decree also included the requirement that domestic addressees pay the postage fee, which meant that the sender no longer had to

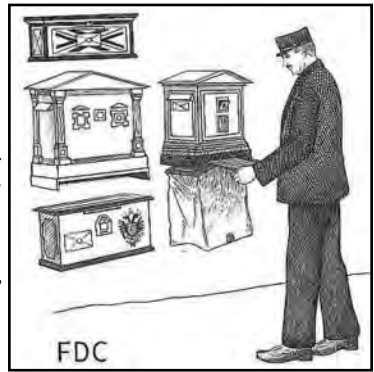


Fig. 18

hand in their mail at a post office counter. At first mail boxes were only found at post offices. After

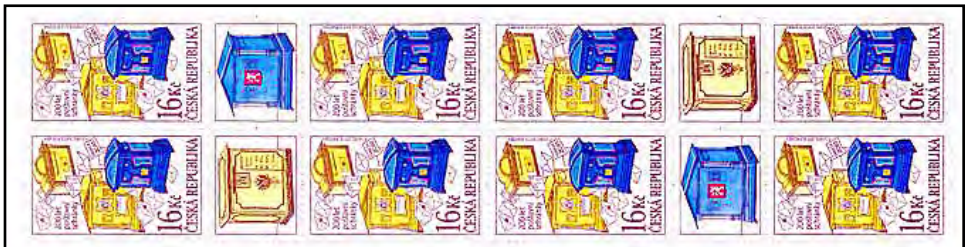
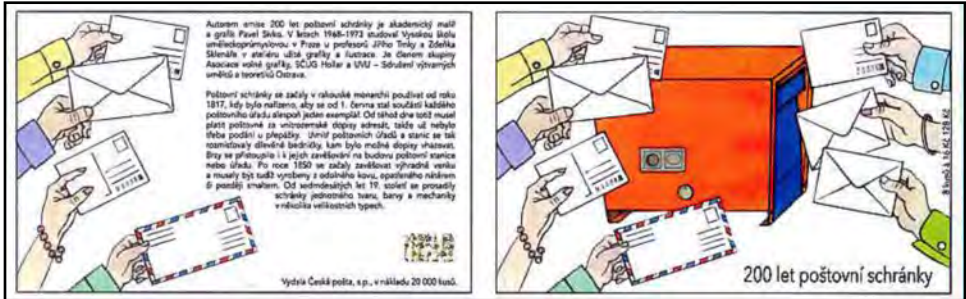


Fig. 19

the introduction of postage stamps in 1850 they were only found outside the post office and were gradually to be found further and further away from the nearest post office. The original wooden boxes were replaced by weatherproof metal boxes. From 1870 the boxes were of one standard design and available in three sizes, one for cities, another for towns, and the third size for villages. In interwar Czechoslovakia mail boxes were blue with red and white lines in the national colors. The standard orange color with the postal logo replaced these earlier boxes in 1963. The FDC cachet shows a mail worker emptying a mail box, alongside other vintage collection boxes (Fig. 18). The commemorative cancellation shows a letter being mailed with the text PRAHA 4.10.2017. The stamp was also issued as a booklet containing a special sheet of 8 stamps and 4 coupons, inserted into a cardboard cover (Fig. 19).

8. On October 4, 2017 the Ministry issued a postage stamp to commemorate the family. The 16 Kč stamp shows a family of four riding a tandem bicycle (Fig. 20). The stamp and FDC were designed by Kristýna Valtrová and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The stamp was produced by PTC using WIFAG technology and printed in sheets of 50. Social scientists define a family as a group of people related by marriage, blood, or adoption. They live together and the adult members are responsible for the upbringing of children. Strangely there is no written definition of family or family members in Czech law. The Criminal Code defines crimes against families



Fig. 20

without containing text on what constitutes a family. The Civil Code effective from 2014 only stipulates that 'family, parents and married couples enjoy special legal protection' without clearly defining family, although the basic principle remains that the main purpose of marriage is to create a family community or family household. The FDC cachet shows a family having fun while camping (Fig. 21). The special cancellation shows a curled up dog holding a clover leaf and the text Praha 4.10.2017.

The stamp and FDC were designed by Kristýna Valtrová and engraved by Bohumil Šneider. The stamp was produced by PTC using WIFAG technology and printed in sheets of 50. Social scientists define a family as a group of people related by marriage, blood, or adoption. They live together and the adult members are responsible for the upbringing of children. Strangely there is no written definition of family or family members in Czech law. The Criminal Code defines crimes against families



Fig. 21

9. On October 4, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet, the fourth in the series dedicated, after a century, to the years 1914-1918. The theme of the sheet depicts events during 1917 affecting the Fight for Czech Statehood. The sheet contains two different 30 Kč stamps and three coupons (Fig. 22). The upper stamp depicts representatives of the movement striving for independence of the Czech, Slovak and Moravian peoples, General M.R. Štefánik, T.G. Masaryk, and Jan Syrový. The lower stamp shows Jaroslav Kvapil and Alois Jirásek, who initiated the Manifesto of Czech Writers published on May 17, 1917. Part of the manifesto is shown in the background. The souvenir sheet was designed by Jan Maget and printed by PTC using multicolored offset. The left hand coupon portrays the first ensign of the Czech Company, Jaroslav Hejduk. The right hand coupon is dedicated to events that followed the death of Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria and the coronation of his successor Charles I. The lowest figure in this coupon is



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

burg. The FDCs were designed by Jan Maget and engraved by Václav Fajt. The FDC cachet for the upper stamp shows soldiers advancing in battle along with their flag (Fig. 23) and the circular commemorative cancellation has a group of linden leaves and the text PRAHA 4.10.2017. The FDC for the lower stamp has a cachet depicting five hands holding down the Manifesto while another hand signs his name (Fig. 24). The commemorative cancellation has the nib of a pen decorated with linden leaves and the text PRAHA 4.10.2017.

10. On October 4, 2017 the Ministry issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet containing eight

Ottokar Czernin, who the new emperor installed as Imperial Foreign Minister of Austria-Hungary. Czernin was born to an ancient Bohemian noble family and became known as the 'peace minister', although ultimately his diplomatic efforts to disengage his country from World War I failed to prevent the dissolution of Austria-Hungary at the war's end. The top coupon has part of the line of flags of the nations involved in the war, over a crowd of soldiers. The upper margins of the sheet are a continuation of the flag/soldier motif of the upper coupon. The lower left margin has depictions of President Woodrow Wilson of the USA and Edvard Beneš. The lower right margins show leaders of European nations involved in the war, French President Raymond Poincaré, King Victor Emanuel II of Italy, Vladimir Lenin of Russia, and the German soldier/states-man Paul von Hinden-



Fig. 25

crossing while a vintage locomotive passes. The sheet was produced by PTC using multicolored offset in a sheet of 9 stamps with 12 coupons (Fig. 26). The theme of the coupons is a period view of an airport, with a composition of various small airplanes, a scooter, an airport hangar, and a mobile weather station. Czech Post says that some coupons are available to be printed with your own images.

Postal Stationery

12. On September 6, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing commemorating Praga Piccola, a section of Prague’s Sběratel-Sammler-Collector Trade Fair held this year from September 8-9, 2017 at PVA Expo in Letňany, Prague. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp with the letter A, (logo of the Fair). The additional print depicts a stamp with the motif of an old airport, a vintage airplane and car (Fig. 27). This event, the largest of its kind in Central Europe, hosts over 230 exhibitors and about 12,000 visitors each year. Praga Piccola has philatelic exhibits, also coins, medals and banknotes. These are designed to inspire members of the public to become new collectors. The selling price of the postal card without cancellation is 21 Kč. With one daily cancellation the cost is 22 Kč.

13. On September 6, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing commemorating the Sběratel-Sammler-Collector Trade Fair held this year from September 8-9, 2017 at the PVA Expo in Prague. The postal card has an imprinted postage stamp with the letter A (historic post horn). The additional print shows a poster for the movie Terminator 2, featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger on a motor bike (Fig. 28). The selling price of the postal card without cancellation is 21 Kč. With the daily cancellation the cost is 22 Kč.

14. On September 20, 2017 the ministry issued a postal card with additional printing commemorating the inaugural Laver Cup Competition. The postal card



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

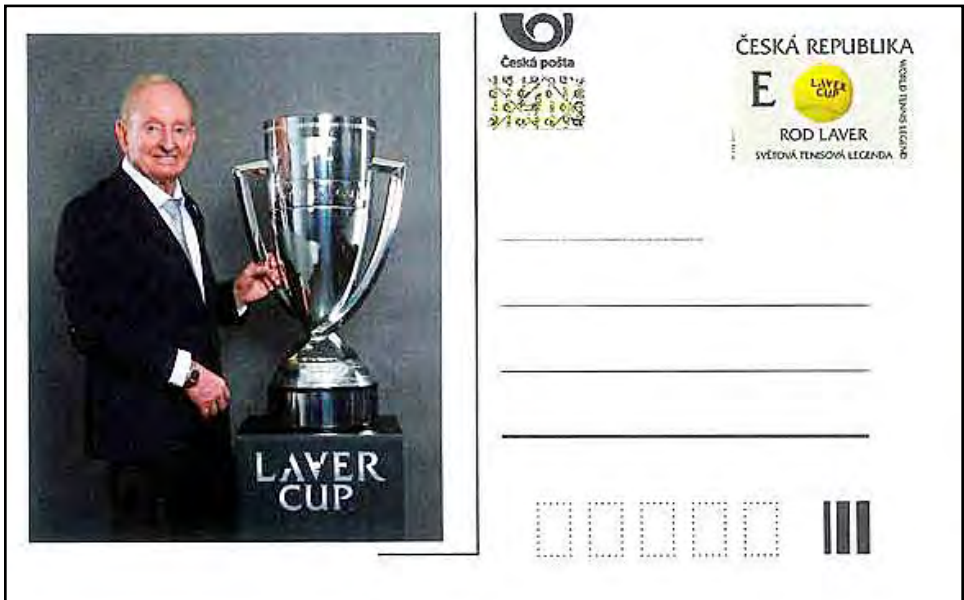


Fig. 29

has an imprinted postage stamp with the letter E (yellow tennis ball with text ROD LAVER). The additional print shows a photo of Rod Laver holding the cup to be awarded to the winning players (Fig. 29). The Rod Laver Cup is a men’s tennis tournament between teams of six players, to be held annually, except for Summer Olympic years. The tournament is named after Australian tennis legend, Rod Laver. He is the only player to have won the calendar year Grand Slam twice (in 1962 and 1969). The first tournament was held in Prague from 22-24 September this year. Selling price of the card is 37 Kč and 2700 copies were issued.

15. On October 26, 2017 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing commemorating the 35th International Sindelfingen 2017 Stamp Exhibition, which was held on October 26-28. The postal card has an imprinted stamp with the letter E (historic postal coach on Charles Bridge). The additional print, designed by Irena Vyčítalová has a composition of period scales, a vintage photograph of a nude woman, and a butterfly (Fig. 30). The selling price for the postal card is 37 Kč and 2200 cards were issued.



Fig. 30

SLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart

16. On September 4, 2017 the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 0.50€ stamp to commemorate The Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2017 (BiB), which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The stamp shows a fantasy six-tentacled blue sea creature (Fig. 31) designed by Veronika Klímová, within a graphic design by Vladislav Rostoka. The stamp was produced by PTC using offset printing in sheets of 35. The BiB is the most prestigious event for the art of children's book illustration. Two years ago the Mayor of Bratislava's award for the best young Slovak illustrator was given to Veronika Klímová, the designer of this year's stamp. Her first book *Deep Sea Fairy Tales* (Hlbokomorské Rozprávky) was published before she had finished her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. Her illustrations show a fantasy world which is lively, joyful and humorous. The FDC cachet was also designed by Klímová and depicts three more of her sea creatures (Fig. 32). The commemorative cancellation shows an unfortunate creature trapped inside a glass jar, with the text 4.9.2017 BRATISLAVA. The FDC was printed by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava using offset technology. A Carte Maximum was issued the same day.



Fig. 31



Fig. 32

17. On September 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a 1.00€ stamp to celebrate Sports Personalities of the Czechoslovak era. The stamp shows Andrej Kvašňák (soccer), Václav Nedomanský (ice hockey), and Július Torma (boxing), all framed by the colors of a flag, with an adjacent coupon that has facial portraits of each (Fig. 33). The stamp



Fig. 33

was designed by Igor Piačka and produced by PTC using offset technology in sheets with 35 stamps and 35 coupons in a checkerboard pattern sheet of 70. During the 75 years of Czechoslovakia there was much rivalry between teams from the two nations, but when the individual sportspersons represented Czechoslovakia, they won the hearts of fans throughout the entire country. Soccer player Andrej Kvašňák was born in Košice and played as a midfielder for Sparta Praha. He was part of the Czechoslovak squad that won a bronze medal at the first European Championships in 1960. Two years later he was a member of the team that came second in the 5th World Cup tournament. He played 47 games for the national team and 248 games for Sparta Praha. He was later proclaimed the Sparta player of the 20th century. Václav Nedomanský was born in

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Hodonin and was a Slovan Bratislava player for 12 years, playing 419 games and scoring 369 goals. He played 220 games for the national team, scoring 163 goals which is the record for a Czechoslovak player. Part of the World Champion team of 1972, he was also a silver and bronze medal winner at the 1968 and 1972 Winter Olympic Games. He was not allowed to leave and play for the world's top hockey league, the NHL. Eventually he defected to the USA in 1974 and played for the Detroit Red Wings, St. Louis Blues, and New York Rangers. After being exiled for many years, he now lives in retirement in Bratislava. Július Torma was born in

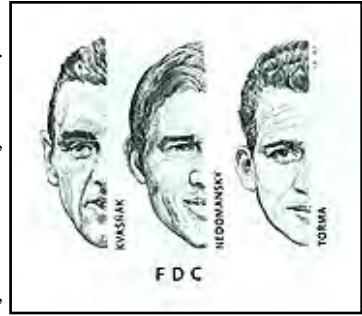


Fig. 34

Budapest, although his parents came from Štúrovo. He was trained by the legendary boxing coach Zsigmund Adler who was later hidden by the Torma family, saving him from transportation to a Nazi death camp. He was Hungarian Boxing Champion 6 times. After repatriation to Czechoslovakia in 1946 he was 10 times a Czechoslovak Champion. He became Gold Medalist at the 1948 London Olympic Games in the under 67 kilos category, which was an historic first Olympic gold medal won by a Czechoslovak boxer. After retiring with a lifetime record of 899 wins and only 7 losses he became a coach for the next generation of boxers. The FDC cachet was designed by Igor Piačka and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. It shows half facial portraits of the three sportsmen (Fig. 34) and was printed by PTC using recess printing from flat plates. The commemorative cancellation has two hands clasped in a friendly shake, with the text 7.9.2017 BRATISLAVA. A collection sheet for this stamp was issued on September 12, 2017.

18. On September 8, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative 1.65€ stamp to celebrate the 360th anniversary of the Radvaň Fair. The triangular stamp depicts a gingerbread heart-shape which is decorated by other smaller gingerbread hearts spelling out Radvanský Slovensko. There are also triangular coupons with multi-



Fig. 35

colored '360' tags. The stamp and FDC was designed by Peter Uchnár and produced using offset technology by Kasico, a.c., Bratislava in sheets of 30 stamps and 10 coupons (Fig. 35). The history of Radvaň Fair dates back to when King Leopold I of Hungary granted permission for the fair in 1655, the first fair being held in 1657. Radvaň is now a suburb of Banská Bystrica and the fair is held in the main square. Originally craftsmen came to the fair to barter their products with traveling pilgrims. Nowadays the pilgrims have been replaced by tourists and people from surrounding towns. A wide variety

of crafts are to be found at the stalls. Clothes, hats, boots, and pottery can be found alongside wood, straw, gingerbread, and wicker products. A specific custom handed down to the present is that on the last day of the fair single men purchase large wooden kitchen spoons, which they symbolically beat young women with to ensure good health. The fair admits that this custom is not in line with current gender equality values! In 2011 the fair was inscribed on Slovakia's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The FDC cachet has a stylized version



Fig. 36

of the fair's stalls and their products (Fig. 36). The commemorative cancellation shows crown, deer and lyre shapes within a circle with the text 9.9.2017 BANSKÁ BYSTRICA. A commemorative sheet with a sepia photograph of the fair and a special cancellation of the stamp was issued the same day.

19. On October 2, 2017 the Ministry issued a 0.85€ stamp in the series Personalities: Božena Slančíková-Timrava. The stamp is a portrait of the writer designed by Dušan Kálley and engraved by Jozef Česla (Fig. 37). It was produced by PTC using KOMB technology in printing sheets of 50. This issue celebrates the 150th anniversary of the birth of Božena Slančíková who was

more widely known as Timrava, a novelist, short story writer and playwright. She was one of the first Slovak writers to have women as major figures in her writing. Her work from 1893 to 1946 depicted the changes in rural family life from the slow disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, through the transformation years as Czechoslovakia established itself. Born in Palichno in 1867, she was the daughter of Paul Slančík, a Lutheran pastor and one of the co-founders of Matica Slovenská (*Slovak Culture*). Besides a brief period at a boarding school in Banská Bystrica, she was home schooled. Although she made several attempts to leave home, she found it difficult to find a job. She commenced writing short stories in the 1890s. These stories introduced her lifelong theme of women's loss of illusion in maintaining a happy family life and discontent with their male partners. Her early novels during the period 1895-1905 have female protagonists that are moody



Fig. 37

and depressed about the feudal state that the Slovak lands were in. Right up until the dissolution of the empire, the Hungarians attempted to suppress Slovak culture and language throughout what was known to them as Upper Hungary. Her later work continued in the same vein, detailing the changes happening in the villages and small towns in the area she resided. Throughout her life royalties from her writing were not enough to live on, which forced her to become a kindergarten teacher from 1919-1929. The small pension she received never enabled her to live alone. In 1945 she moved to Lučenec to live with relatives and it was here she died in 1951. Her only work translated into English appears to be *That Alluring Land (Tá zern vábra)* which consists of six short stories. The FDC cachet has a stylized view of rural Slovak



Fig. 38

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family life (Fig. 38). The commemorative cancellation is an artistic pair of lips with the text LUČENEC 2.10.2017.

20. On October 12, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series: Nature Protection- Fungi. The sheet contains three copies of two different 0.65€ stamps, separated by an imperforate section containing further views of one fungus (Fig. 39). The stamp and sheet design, together with the FDCs were by Karol Felix and Jozef Česla. Printing was by PTC using KOMB technology on a sheet containing 6 stamps. The following notes are based on text by Milan Zajac, originally in Slovak.



Fig. 39

- *Caloscypha fulgens*. This fungus grows in the spring months, often right after the snow melts, growing on the decaying branches of coniferous fir trees in Slovakia. It is extremely rare and listed on the Red List of Slovak Fungi, as a threatened species. It prefers a limestone or neutral subsoil. The sporocarp (cap) is of a small spherical or cup shape, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, which is often almost fully unfolded, with wavy, cracked edges. The stem on the base cannot usually be seen. The sporocarp is edible, however, due to their rarity and small size, it has no gastronomic significance.
- *Clavaria zollingeri*. In Slovakia this species was only recently discovered for the first time. Currently only eight locations are known. These localities are all endangered by meadows and pasture gradually being taken over by woody species, or by grassland being turned into arable land. It is also threatened by excessive use of fertilizer or overgrazing. The shape of its sporocarp resembles a small coral, with individual branches $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ " high and an individual width less than $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The branches are notable for their unusual color, with various shades of violet, ranging from a pink-violet to an amethyst-violet. They are edible but are not picked for food due to their rarity.



Fig. 40



Fig. 41

An FDC was issued for each stamp. The cachet for the *Caloscypha fulgens* shows a group of the sporocarp printed in red (Fig. 40) and the commemorative cancellation has further groups of sporocarp with the text BRATISLAVA 12.10.2017. The cachet for the *Clavaria zollingeri* shows a convoluted group of branched sporocarp printed in violet (Fig. 41) and the commemorative cancellation is a smaller group of

branches with the text BRATISLAVA 12.10.2017. A collection sheet for each fungus was issued on the same day.

21. On October 23, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series: ART: Jozef Božetech Klemens (1817-1883). The 1.20€ stamp illustrates Portrait of Mrs. Juppová (1845) which is in the Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava. It was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and produced by PTC using KOMB technology in sheets of four stamps with one central coupon (Fig. 42). The stamp celebrates the bicentenary of the artist's birth. Josef Božetech Klemens was a Slovak painter, sculptor, photographer, naturalist, and inventor. He was born in Liptovský Mikuláš, the son of a carriage maker. His artistic talent was first noticed in his paintings of his father's coaches. After studying art at the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague, he became a teacher at a girls' school. He was introduced to daguerreotypes while at the school, which led to him opening a small photographic studio in the school's garden. Financial problems led to its closure after a year. Returning to Slovakia in 1843 he worked with the Slovak cultural organization *Tatrín*, painting portraits of many leaders of the Slovak National Movement. After further periods in Prague and Belgrade he returned to Banská Bystrica, becoming a professor of natural sciences and drawing at a high school. In his spare time he worked on developing a self-printing machine, a popul-



Fig. 42



Fig. 43

sive steam engine, and a large scale balloon inflator, none of which came to fruition. The FDC cachet, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, shows Klemen's composition *The Uprooted Tree* (Fig. 43). The commemorative cancellation is a sketch of a sitting child with the text *Liptovský Mikuláš 23.10.2017*.

(Eds. note. Klemen's portrait of P.J. Šafárik was the subject of a Czechoslovak stamp in 1980, Pofis 2461, Scott 2335)

ART: St. James Altar, Basilica of St. James The Apostle, Levoča. The 2.60€ stamp shows the Madonna and Child at the center of the altar, while the sheet shows the main parts of the entire altar. The graphic designer of the sheet was Vladislav Rostoka, it was engraved by František Horniak and printed by PTC using KOMB technology in sheets of 1 stamp with 2 coupons flanking the stamp (Fig. 44). The altar shown is a unique masterpiece within a basilica full of other master works. At a height of 60ft. it is thought to be the tallest Gothic altar in the world. It was made in the woodcarving workshop of Master Pavel of Levoča, who is acknowledged as a pre-eminent woodcarver in both the Gothic and Renaissance styles. The smallest details of the altar are executed to the highest level of quality. The altar was created between 1508-1517 and the issuing of this sheet celebrates the 500th anniversary of its completion. The entire altar creates a perfect harmonic balance between the woodcarving, painting and gilding within a relatively small presbytery. It is extremely fortunate that the altar survived several catastrophic fires within the church. It nearly succumbed to the wood boring beetles in the mid-20th century. The cachet of the FDC illustrates the three central figures from the "Last Supper"

22. On October 23, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet in the series:

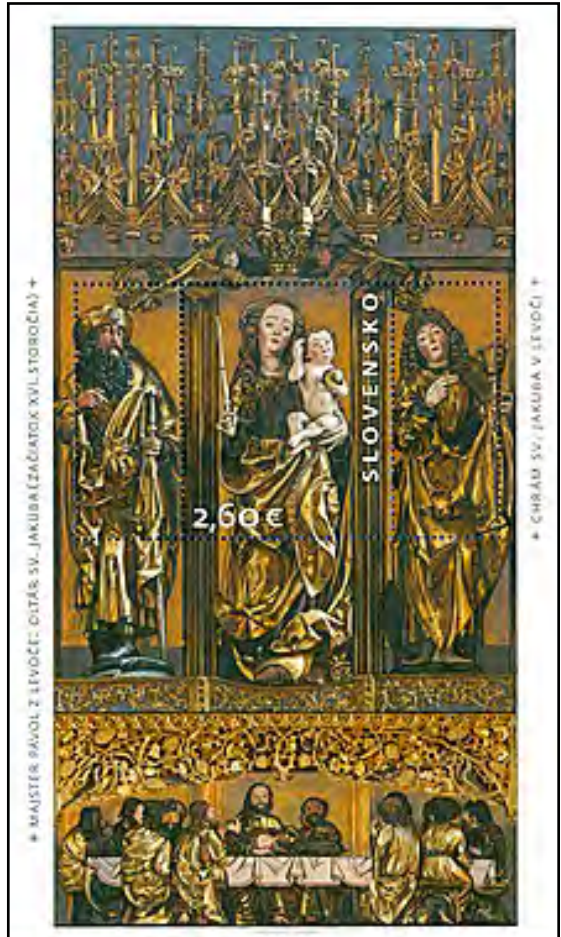


Fig. 44

grouping immediately below the Madonna and Child on the altar (Fig. 45). The commemorative cancellation depicts a flying cherub with the text LEVOČA 23.10.2017.

[Eds. note. As befits one of the most famous altars in Europe the Madonna and Child has been issued as a stamp twice before. In 1968 Czechoslovakia issued a similar 3 Kčs stamp engraved by Jindra Schmidt (Pofis 1733, Scott 1593). In 2010 Slovakia issued another similar stamp, although this Madonna and Child seem to be freestanding rather than within the altar. This 1.20€ stamp was also engraved by František Horniak (Pofis 485, Scott 606). Two thousand copies of a black proof of this stamp were also issued on the same day.]



Fig. 45

23. On October 31, 2017 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet to celebrate

the 500th anniversary of The Reformation. The 1.15€ stamp shows part of the organ at the wooden Lutheran church in Kežmarok which is celebrating 500 years since its construction. The miniature sheet has one coupon placed above the stamp and shows further detail of the organ (Fig. 46). The stamp and sheet were designed by Dušan Kállay and Martin Činovský, engraved by Činovský and produced by PTC using KOMB technology in sheets with one stamp and one coupon.

On October 31, 1517 a monk named Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, a proposal for public discussion, to the door of All Saints Church, Wittenberg, Germany. The theses aimed to hit the Roman Catholic Church where it affected them the most, their bank balance. This is because one of their major sources of income was indulgences. At that time money was required to build and enlarge St. Peter's Basilica. To raise money for this, across the whole area where Catholicism was the religion, backers of Pope Leo X were selling indulgences to people who donated money in return for the promise that the pope would release dead relatives from purgatory. Lu-

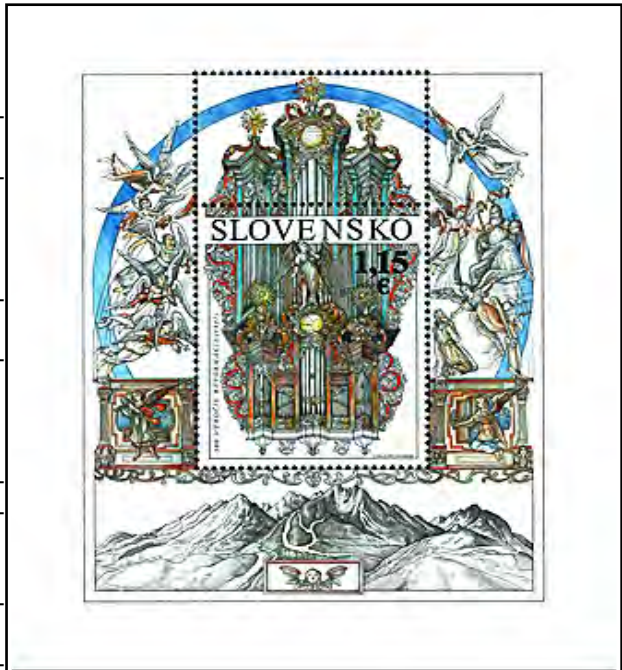


Fig. 46



Fig. 47

ther argued that the pope had no such power and that even if he did, should use it without monetary return, as an act of grace. Thanks to the newly invented printing press Luther's writings spread rapidly across Germany. Even when the pope excommunicated Luther, it turned out that Luther was more popular than the pope. More importantly a great number of feudal lords sided with Luther. Eventually much of Germany became Lutheran rather than Catholic. The 95 theses actually had very little to do with the major doctrines of The Reformation, they acted as the spark that drove the movement forward. The FDC cachet has Martin Luther preaching from a pulpit (Fig. 47). A special

FDC was also issued, the miniature sheet

replacing the stamp, with a different cancellation showing Luther's head. The commemorative cancellation is an angel's head and wings with the text BRATISLAVA 31.10.2017. 2,200 copies of a black proof of the miniature sheet were issued on the same day, as was a commemorative sheet.

Postal Stationery

24. On August 16, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Slovak Philatelic Academy (SFA). The imprinted T2 50g (0.50€) stamp shows a historic post horn. The additional print (Fig. 48), designed by Adrian Ferda, is a stylized postage stamp with the number 20. The zero is formed by a magnifying glass with an eye looking through it. The SFA has about 65 members and publishes a series of philatelic studies. Information about their activities and operation can be obtained at Slovak Philatelic Academy, South trieda 15, 040 01 Košice, Slovakia. 1800 cards were issued.



Fig. 48

25. On September 7, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to commemorate the Sbératel Collectors Fair in Prague which takes place this year on September 8-9. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows an historic post horn. The additional print (Fig. 49) designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a collage of Prague's famous architecture with a background of Slovak and Czech philately.



Fig. 49



Fig. 50

26. On October 23, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to celebrate the winner of the Most Beautiful Stamp of 2016. The imprinted



Fig. 51

T2 50g stamp shows the 'Good Idea Slovakia' logo. The winner was the stamp issued to commemorate the 450th birthday of Jan Jessenius (Fig. 50), which was a joint Slovak/Czech/Polish/Hungarian issue. The stamp designer was Vladislav Rostoka and it was engraved by František Horniak. The additional print was designed by Adrian Ferda and 2600 cards were issued.

27. On October 26, 2017 the Ministry issued a prepaid postal card with additional printing to commemorate the 35th International Sindelfingen Stamp Exhibition, which took place from October 26-28, 2017. The imprinted T2 50g stamp shows the 'Good Idea Slovakia' logo. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, has the text SINDELFIN GEN 2017 framed by blank autumnal colored stamps and falling leaves (Fig. 51). 1800 copies were circulated.

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