



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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## COVID-19

Only three months ago when writing Page 1 for the Winter *Specialist* virtually no one had even heard of this virus. Today it is wreaking havoc throughout the world. Stamp shows have, of course, suffered from cancellations/postponements. PHILITALIA MÜNCHEN was the first I had heard of, shut down after one day. Others have followed nearly every day since. The latest casualty is the APS Great American Stamp Show, which should have taken place in Hartford, CT from August 20-23. There are mentions of COVID-19 throughout this issue. Some stamps/postal cards mentioned in this issue have not been issued as planned. Spring is always thought of as a time of renewal and joy, but this year an insidious virus has extended Winter, at least psychologically. We all love collecting, it is important to us, but nowhere near as important as our family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. I trust you are all in good health and remain so. If we follow the new rules of social-distancing, then each day will bring us closer to the return of a more normal life. At present, however, it looks as if this current disruption to our lives will continue at some level for an uncertain period. In which case-

*Buďte dobře a pečujte,*

*Buďte dobre a opatrný,*

*Be well and take care.*

Keith Hart

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7. 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*.

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## PERFINS IN THE LANDS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Richard G. Palaschak

Perfins are stamps that have been perforated with designs, initials, or numerals by private businesses and government agencies to discourage theft and misuse. During our Society's annual Board meeting in Sarasota, FL, SCP member Jerry Hejduk proposed the establishment of a Perfin Study Group within the Society. The purpose of the Group is to provide a forum for members to share information, trade or sell stamps with perfins, and learn more about this niche of Czechoslovak philately through collective research.

As with other philatelic aspects of the lands encompassing the First Republic of Czechoslovakia, the philatelic history follows the rich political history of the country. As a result, Austrian stamps (Figure 1) and Hungarian stamps (Figure 2) are known to have perfins from businesses located within the boundaries of what was to become the First Republic. During the period of the First Republic (1918-1939) numerous companies were using postage stamps with perfins. Some were elegant (Figure 3) and some were utilitarian (Figure 4). During World War II companies continued using perfins both in Slovakia (Figure 5) and in Bohemia & Moravia (Figure 6). There are over one thousand perfin patterns that have been identified as being used within the lands encompassing Czechoslovakia.

Following up on Jerry Hejduk's proposal, we reached out to our counterpart society in the Czech Republic, *Svaz Českých Filatelistů* (SČF), to determine if a perfin club existed within their society. They do indeed have a Perfin Club with about 60 members from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This Perfin Club publishes a quarterly bulletin, *Perfíny*, which can be obtained via the internet by their members. This electronic periodical can be translated into English using Google Documents and Google Translate. We are looking to coordinate our Study Group's efforts with those of the SČF Perfin Club.

The last catalog of Czechoslovak perfins in general use was published in 1987. The Society Library has a copy available for loan. There is an



Figure 1. People's Newspaper, Brno, Austrian Monarchy.



Figure 2. J. Palugyay and Son, Pozsony, Hungarian Monarchy.



Figure 3. Adolf Jakob, Liberec, Czechoslovakia.



Figure 4. Heinika, Prerov, Czechoslovakia.



Figure 5. Bratislava General Bank, Bratislava, Slovakia.

English translation of the introduction that makes the catalog easy to use. We were recently informed by Vladimír Munzberger, Vice Chairman of the SČF Perfin Club, that a new catalog is being prepared. The catalog is expected to be available next year.

Jerry Hejduk has agreed to organize and lead our Society's Perfin Study Group. Jerry is the former President of the U.S. Perfin Club. SČP members interested in joining our Study Group should contact Jerry at [hejdukgr@gmail.com](mailto:hejdukgr@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 459, Altoona, FL 32702-0459.



Figure 6. Iron Company, Prag, Bohemia & Moravia.

**SOURCES:**

Figure 1 and Figures 3-6 are from the collection of Richard G. Palaschak.  
Figure 2 is from the collection of Vera Devlin.



## HRADČANY POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS (PART 1)

by Robert Lauer and Johan Sevenhuijsen

The Hradčany design used for the first Czechoslovak stamps was also used for the first postal stationery after the provisional issue of overprinted Austrian postal stationery cards. While there exists a veritable mountain of English-language literature about the stamps, there has been very little published in English on the Hradčany postal stationery. This dearth of accessible information became painfully apparent as we set about the task of sorting out what we had in our own accumulations of Hradčany postal stationery. The section on postal stationery in Volume 1 of the *Monografie*, translated by Mark Wilson, provides a useful introduction, but some of the variations listed in this section left us scratching our collective heads. Using the interactive indexes for *Czechout* from the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, we could only find a single article on the 20 h postal stationery cards in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* from September/October 1992. Even the Pofis cataloging of this postal stationery, which is by far and away the most detailed, leaves a little bit to be desired. The origin of the dies for the Hradčany postal stationery cards also does not seem to be particularly well understood. Volume 1 of the *Monografie* at page 96 states that: "Near the end of their printing, some of the printing plates for the First Design 10 h, the 15 h, and the Fifth Design 20 h were cut into individual printing blocks, they were used to print postal stationery." With the exception of one of the plates used to print the 15 h postal stationery cards, this was not the case.

This stationery and the imprinted stamp on it (or indicium, as it is properly called) is definitely worthy of more attention; it represents a whole separate and intriguing area of collecting. In this article, we limit ourselves to discussing the postal stationery cards (hereafter referred to as postcards) and the postal stationery lettercard issued with a Hradčany indicium. We will attempt to correct what we see as errors in the existing English-language sources, in the Pofis catalog, and provide some elaboration of the differences between and the origin of the dies for

these items of postal stationery, as well as the major variations within each item. Throughout, we will refer to the numbering scheme in the Pofis catalog.

Postcards of three different denominations (10, 15, and 20 *haler*) were issued, reflecting the tariffs for postcards in the first three tariff periods (see table below). Along with the regular postcards, double postcards (with paid-reply) were also issued, as well as bilingual postcards with Czech and French texts, meant for international use. All in all, Pofis lists 23 different cards, issued between February 1919 and May 1920. All these will be discussed below.

**Postcard Rates for Czechoslovakia 1918-1921**

Effective from:	Oct 28 1918 <sup>1</sup>	May 15 1919 <sup>1</sup>	Mar 15 1920	Aug 1 1920
Domestic	10 h	15 h	20 h	40 h
International	10 h	20 h	20 h	50 h

<sup>1</sup> In the first and second tariff periods, mail for Germany and the countries of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire (Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland and West Ukraine) was handled at the domestic rate, from March 15, 1920, mail to these countries fell under international rates.

**First Regular Issue – 10 h Cards with the ‘ČSR’ Monogram**

In the first tariff period (up to May 14, 1919), the tariff for both domestic and international postcards was 10 *haler*. The indicium on these cards is the 10 h of the Hradčany Design I (Captioned) and the cards have a ČSR monogram over the vertical line in the middle of the card. Cards for international use have French/Czech text. The cards are listed in the Pofis catalog as:

Pofis #	Denomination	Use	Date of issue listed
CDV7	10 h rose-red	Domestic (Figure 1)	February 6, 1919
CDV7A	10 h rose-red	Domestic, perforated; sold in strips of attached cards, separated by perforations, for use in typewriters (Figure 4)	February 6, 1919
CDV8	10 h rose-red	International card with Czech and French text. (Figure 2)	February 6, 1919
CDV9	10 h rose-red +10h rose-red	International, double card with paid-reply (no domestic version of a double card was issued so many of these double cards were used as domestic) (Figure 3)	February 6, 1919

The earliest date of use we have found for one of the domestic 10 h cards (CDV7) is February 17, 1919; the others are scarce in postally used condition.

The indicia found on these cards give a clear insight into the production process. There is a large variety of differences in the details of these imprinted stamps, as is the case with the stamps of the same design. In fact, the “negative flaws,” which are shared by stamps from the same positions for different plates, can be found on the postcards too. This proves that the indicia for these cards were produced from two plates produced from the same negative as the four plates used to print the stamps. Krampl and Nikl (see “Literature”) called these Plates V and VI and described many specific characteristics for the various positions. Etched plates were made using the same techniques as for stamp plates and those were then cut up into separate dies to be used for printing postcards (and also other postal stationery with the same denomination). This means these postcards can be “plated,” just as the normal stamps can be. Figure 5 illustrates stamps from

Figure 1

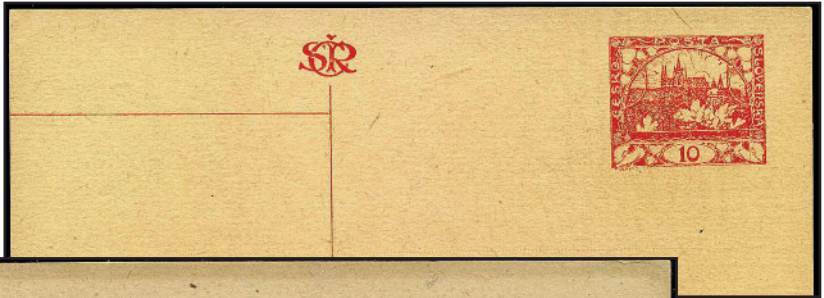


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4





Figure 5

Position 1 from Plates III and IV and indicia from cards printed with dies from Position 1 of Plates V and VI. All four images have the same “crossbar through the 3<sup>rd</sup> tower” and “gap in the frame-line below the 1<sup>st</sup> branch of the bush.”

These cards are not only slightly different in the details of the indicia, but also in the position of the monogram in relation to the line below it and by breaks in the lines. Closer study reveals that, in some cases, the same die was used in different types of stationery, which means the printing plates for the stationery were made up of separate units (indicium, monogram, lines) which could be assembled and disassembled as needed. The *Monografie* states that these cards were printed in sheets of 32 (4 across and 8 down) or 16 for the double cards (4 across and 4 down). This is supported by a *Makulatur* pane that we have seen. Several different printing plates must have been assembled for the regular postcards (for different printing runs at different times) as the number of different indicia found is much greater than 32. The present count is that CDV07 cards have been found with 93 different indicia, which would mean a minimum of three different printing plates. Separate plates must have been made for the international and double cards. The same dies were also used for various other types of postal stationery, such as parcel cards, money order cards and telegraph forms. As with the Hradčany stamps, the printing of this issue of postcards was done by the Czech Graphics Union in Prague.

Figure 6

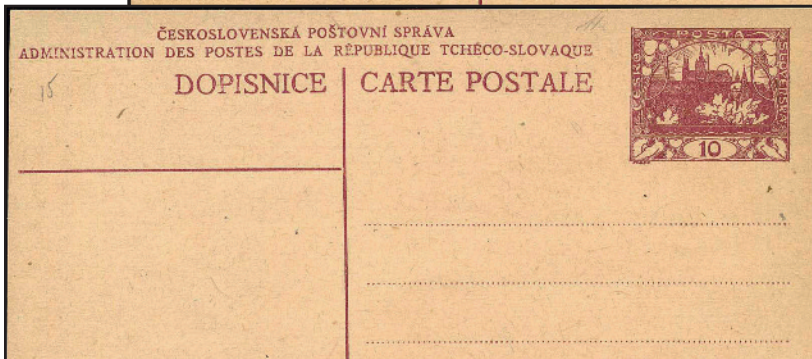


Figure 7

Second Regular Issue: 10 h without the ČSR Monogram

A second similar set of postcards, also with a 10 h denomination, was issued a few months later. At first glance the difference is clear in that the color of printing is different (more lilac-red) and the monogram is missing (Figure 11). An associated lettercard was also issued. These cards are listed in the Pofis catalog as:



Figure 8



Figure 9

Pofis #	Denominations	Use	Date of issue listed
CDV10	10h lilac-red	Domestic (Figure 6)	April 1919
CDV11	10 h lilac-red +10 h lilac-red	Domestic double card with paid-reply (cards bear no indication of being part of a double-card)	April 1919
CDV12	10 h lilac-red	International card with Czech and French text (Figure 7)	April 1919
CDV 13	10h lilac-red +10h lilac red	International double card with paid-reply with Czech and French text, also indicating "with paid response" and "response" in text on the card (Figures 8 and 9)	April 1919
CZL1	20h blue-green	Domestic lettercard (Figure 10)	February 1919

The earliest date of use we have found for one of the 10 h domestic cards (CDV10) is April 12, 1919; the others are scarce in postally used condition. For the lettercard, the earliest one we have found is used March 27, 1919.

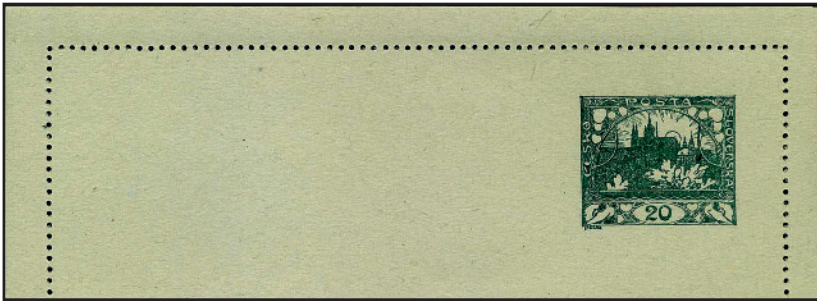


Figure 10

In addition to the different color, the indicium on these cards is not the same as that used in the First Regular Issue; the most easily identified difference is the placement of the *háček* between “S” and “T” in “POŠTA” (see Figure 12).



Figure 11

Unlike the 10 h cards with the ČSR monogram, the printing of this issue took place in the State Printing Works in Vienna. The dies are in the Prague Postal Museum (Figure 13). These dies are much more uniform in detail and were most likely produced differently, not from a negative, but probably reproduced from one original cast. As an aside, this same type of indicium was also used to print parcel cards CPP1, CPP11, and CDP1.



Figure 12



Figure 13

These postcards were only issued in April 1919 and the first tariff period ended on May 14, so use of these cards without additional franking is quite scarce. All post offices were ordered to affix extra stamps to all postcards still in stock to comply with the new tariffs; postcards could only be sold at these new rates. This also affected stocks of the first issue (with Monogram), which are also mostly found used with additional franking in the second tariff period. (*Vestník ministerstva pošt a telegrafů* #17 [1919].

**Special Issue: The Hutchinson Cards**

In July 1919, a special set of three 20 h postcards was issued, the so-called “Hutchinson cards.” These were made especially for Czechoslovak citizens to contact relatives in the USA in order to receive aid under the provisions of the Act of Congress of February 24, 1919 establishing the American Relief Administration to provide post-war support to Europe. The cards have relevant text and show a small size ČSR monogram. The indicium on the card has a value of 20 *haler*, the rate for international postcards in the second tariff period. These cards are listed in the Pofis Catalog as:

Pofis # listed	Denomination	Texts	Dates of issue
CDV16A	20 h red	Czech and English (Figure 14)	July 1919
CDV16B	20 h red	Slovak and English (Figure 15)	July 1919
CDV16C	20 h red	Czech, English, and German (Figure 16)	July 1919

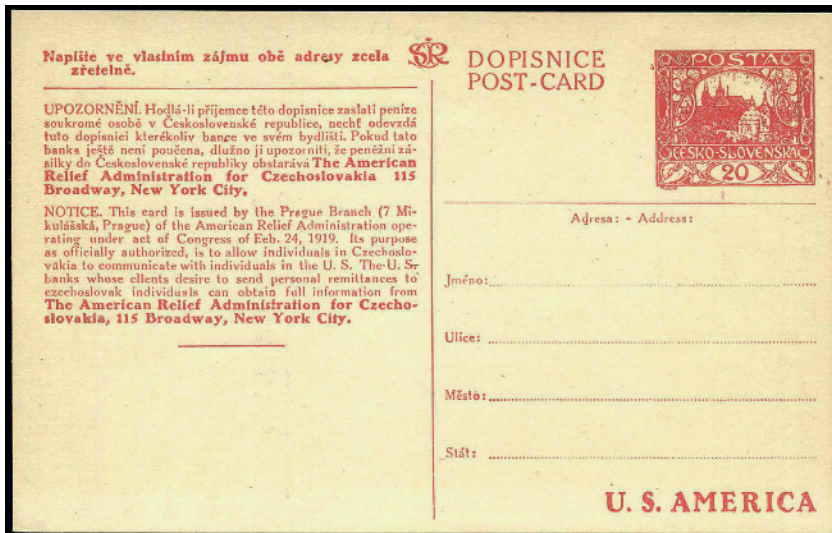


Figure 14

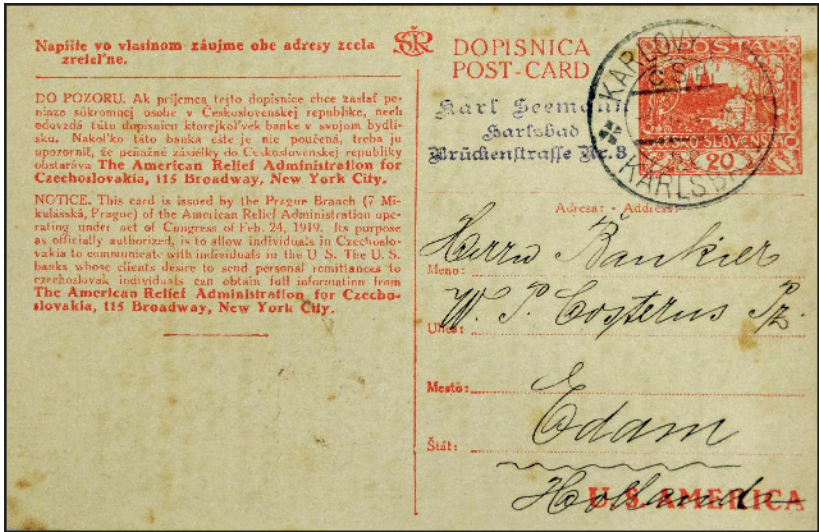


Figure 15

These cards (at least A and C) can be rather easily found in mint condition. Used for their intended purpose, they are very rare, probably because recipients in the USA had to turn in their cards to the bank if they remitted money to Czechoslovakia through this program. Some of these cards have been seen used for regular international correspondence.

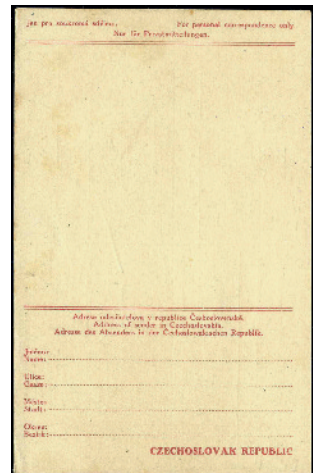
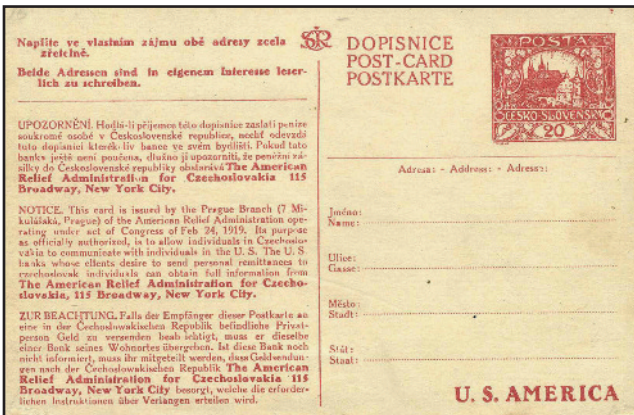


Figure 16

At first glance, the indicium on these cards looks like the 20 h stamps of the Fifth (Abstract) Design. However, on closer inspection, the indicium differs in a number of significant respects from that of the regular 20 h stamps of this design (Figure 17). The differences are clear once you look for them, but harder to describe. The size is marginally larger, 27x23mm vs. 26.5x22mm for the regular stamps. While the 4<sup>th</sup> spirals are both Type II (closed), the flaw (the incomplete white line) at the top of the right side of the right dove's tail in the Fifth Design is clearly absent. The most noticeable difference in the design is the shading in the right dove, which is blotchy in this design. The numerals are closer together and the



Figure 17

shape of the letters in “ČESKO-SLOVENSKÁ” is also slightly different. The variations in the details of the indicium in this design indicate that here again a plate was cut up, but that this plate must have been made from a different negative from that used for the 20 h stamps.

The *Monografie* refers to the design for the indicium for these cards as the “Third Modification of the Second Mucha Draft”, shown in Figures 118 and 118a (page 85) in Volume 1. This was in fact a stage in the design process which ultimately led to the Fifth (Abstract) Design stamps.

There is a reference on page 248 of the *Monografie* that confirms this link to the Hutchinson Cards:

*Postcards with Czech/English text, Slovak/English text, as well as Czech/English/German text used for a specific purpose (remittances from the USA), were issued in 1919 on the initiative of Lincoln Hutchinson, the head of the United States Mission in Prague (fig. 269). These are especially interesting as the dies used for them had the design of the third modification of the second draft (with its bold description and design); it has not otherwise been used.*

The last statement in this paragraph from the *Monografie* is not quite correct, as we will demonstrate later in this article.

In their article “Correspondence Cards – The 20 h Hradčany Type V” in the September/October 1992 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Tomáš Morovics and Jaroslav Cernohlavek designate the indicium based on this “Third Modification of the Second Mucha Draft” as “Type Vb” to distinguish it from the variation of the Fifth



Figure 18

Draft used for the 30 h, which is commonly referred to as “Va,” and the regularly issued postage stamps of the Fifth (Abstract Design). We will adopt this numbering scheme, but will refer to this design as “Design Vb.” However, this Design Vb indicium actually precedes the regular Design V image for the 20 h postage stamps in the design process. This fits with the issuance of the stamps of this design, as these cards were issued in July 1919, which more or less coincides with the earliest issue of stamps of this design (the 5 h, 15 h, 25 h, 75 h, and 120 h denominations). The 20 h stamps of this design were issued much later, in January 1920.

Figure 18 shows a marginal block of a proof print of the 20h value in this Design Vb, used on these cards, which also demonstrate at least one complete plate was made in this design. It is a speculative theory, but it might be that this plate, with the denomination 20 h, was produced somewhere around May 1919 to judge the suitability of the design for the new stamps to be issued. Some further adaptations of the design were then undertaken, leading to the definitive Fifth (Abstract) Design for the stamps (issued from June 1919 onwards). When in June or July 1919 the need came up for 20 *haler* indicium for the special postcard issue, utilizing this existing plate was a very easy way to produce them.

*(To be continued in the Summer 2020 Specialist)*



**TO THE NEW SCP NEWSLETTER**

*On May 1, 2020 the first edition of the e-newsletter was published and sent to every member's email address. Having a newsletter published monthly will allow us to keep members up to date on news between the quarterly issues of The Specialist. If you did not receive a copy, please contact Marisa Galitz at [mmgalitz@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalitz@gmail.com). Please also ensure that your spam filters allow emails originating from [scp.specialist@gmail.com](mailto:scp.specialist@gmail.com).*

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK  
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*Their publication Czechout and our Specialist have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies! CPSGB dues are \$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](mailto:sales@cspphilately.org) or by check to SCP, c/o Tom Cossaboom, PO Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302.*

## An Exhibit Plan for the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate

by Alan Hanzl

After just 20 years of existence, the Czechoslovak nation was confronted with the Munich Pact, initiated by Germany and signed by Italy, Great Britain and France on September 30, 1938. Its provisions effectively partitioned Czechoslovakia within five and a half months, resulting in the creation of the German Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia on March 15, 1939.

To tell the philatelic story of Bohemia & Moravia, I chose to present the 94 regular issues and 28 semi-postal stamps created for and used throughout the six year and two month existence of the Protectorate.

Printing formats and errors, color variations, plate numbers/symbols, and most important of all, examples of use of those issues on covers and cards were displayed according to the following outline plan.

- 1. Partitioning of Czechoslovakia, October 1938- March 1939**
  - 1.1 Munich Pact Effect
  - 1.2 Slovakia Separation
- 2. Czech Regular Issues & Provisional Overprints, March 1939- December 1939**
  - 2.1 Existing Czech Regular Issues
  - 2.2 Provisional Overprints
- 3. Czechoslovak Designs, July 1939- March 1943**
  - 3.1 Castles, Churches & Cities I
  - 3.2 Linden Leaves I
  - 3.3 Castles, Churches & Cities II
  - 3.4 Linden Leaves II
  - 3.5 Castles, Churches & Cities III
  - 3.6 Dvořák Issue
  - 3.7 Prague Fair Issue
  - 3.8 Protectorate 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary
- 4. Early Semi-Postal Designs, June 1940- December 1942**
  - 4.1 1940 Red Cross Issue
  - 4.2 1941 Red Cross Issue
  - 4.3 Mozart Issue
  - 4.4 Hitler 53<sup>rd</sup> Birthday
  - 4.5 1942 Red Cross Issue
- 5. Hitler & 1943 Regular Issues, July 1942-March 1945**
  - 5.1 Hitler Regular Issue
  - 5.2 Stamp Day Issue
  - 5.3 Wagner Issue
- 6. Late Semi-Postal Designs, January 1943- May 1945**
  - 6.1 Winter Relief
  - 6.2 Hitler 54<sup>th</sup> Birthday
  - 6.3 Heydrich Issue
  - 6.4 1943 Red Cross Issue
  - 6.5 Protectorate 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - 6.6 Hitler 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday
  - 6.7 Smetana Issue
- 7. Final Regular Issues & Liberation Overprints, November 1944- May 1945**
  - 7.1 Saint Vitus Cathedral Issue
  - 7.2 Hitler Regular Issue
  - 7.3 Liberation Overprints
  - 7.4 Czechoslovakia Reunited

The speed at which the partitioning occurred created a challenge to maintain an effective postal system. **Sections 1.2 and 2.1** cover an important transition period in which existing Czechoslovak stamps were permitted for a time, including



Figure 1



Figure 2

three adjustments (Figure 1), and subsequently overprinted while supplies lasted. Those 19 provisional overprints (section 2.2), are displayed with the typical errors, demonstrating the difficulties with a rushed overprinting process. The bilingual overprint design (Figure 2) with the German name on top and the Czech name on the bottom, along with the horizontal lines obliterating ČESKOSLOVENSKO, give clear evidence of the region's new name and the level of control. Displayed covers and postal cards show censor labels and tapes, inspection stamps and numbers, demonstrating how the new level of control effected any communication within the Protectorate and outside of it, including destinations as close as Germany proper and the new puppet state of Slovakia (Figure 3).

To help maintain local population assimilation into the Protectorate concept, Czechoslovak scenery designs (castles, churches and cities) from several 1930s issues and a new linden leaves design were used to dominate the regular issues for the first four years of the Protectorate (sections 3.1-3.5). A total of 27 scenery and 11 linden leaves stamps, all valid for use until March 31, 1943, were designed by Czechoslovak designers and engravers. Two of the 1941 scenery stamps, 1.20K and 2.50K, were overprinted with an eagle over a swastika celebrating the Protectorate's



Figure 3



Figure 4

3rd anniversary, **section 3.8** (Figure 4). Only two additional regular issue stamp sets of Czech designs, Antonín Dvořák and Prague Fair, were introduced and valid only during the latter part of 1941 (**sections 3.6 – 3.7**).

Two printing sheet formats and two plate symbols are of particular interest to the scenery design sets. For the larger issues, measuring 23.5x29.5mm, two 16 x 7 rectangular arrangements, each with 100 stamps and 12 coupon areas (Figure 5), were utilized to print the stamps. Some of the coupon areas received newly introduced plate symbols with up to three of the two different star symbols on each of the coupon areas (Figure 6). Both symbols were 8-point stars with either a 4-point cross or similar 8-point star blank interior. The color of these stars matched the single color of the stamp issue. The smaller scenery stamps above 1K denomination also received the star symbols, while smaller denominations received numbers, from 1 and 1A up to 6 and 6A, just as the similar Czechoslovak issues of the 1930s had received.

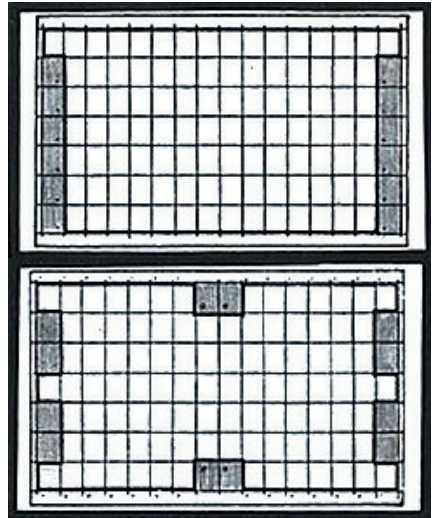


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

After Germany successfully invaded and occupied Poland during September 1939, and France in June 1940, the occupied territories often reveal examples of mixed franking that were successfully delivered within those territories. The commercial cover in Figure 7 was franked with Protectorate scenery design, German and General Government (occupied Poland) stamps. The Czech scenery and linden leaves designs were both plentiful and popular through the



Figure 8

months. They were not popular with the Czech populace because of the additional cost and Nazi dominated themes.

After the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Gestapo chief of the Protectorate, in May 1942, and the collapse of the Stalingrad campaign in January 1943, control over and treatment of the Protectorate populace and the stamp issue designs dramatically changed. The regular issue designs of **section 3** were replaced primarily by a 22 stamp set featuring Adolf Hitler's profile image (Figure 9) from a photo taken by Heinrich Hoffman (**section 5.1**). Issued July 1, 1942, the stamp set remained valid until the end of the Protectorate. I displayed 20 covers and cards because of the dominance of this set for the last 30 months of the Protectorate. Only two additional regular issue sets, one Stamp Day and three Wilhelm Wagner stamps were issued until late November 1944. Those issues were valid for only a few months during 1943 (**sections 5.2 – 5.3**).

The late semi-postal designs introduced after 1942 were dominated by punitive Nazi control themes and exorbitant surcharges (**sections 6.1 – 6.7**). The Heydrich issue

end of 1942. I chose to include over 50 covers, postcards and parcel cards using various stamp combinations in **sections 3.1 -3.5** to reflect that popularity.

Only a few semi-postal designs, primarily Red Cross and cultural subjects, appeared during this assimilation period (**sections 4.1-4.5**). The surcharge was generally less than the postal value of each stamp during this period. The checkerboard design of 50 stamps and 50 coupons from a 10 x 10 printing arrangement was used for the first three semi-postal sets (Figure 8). The only plate number, 1942, for this group was placed at the bottom left and right margin corners of the two 1942 Red Cross issues. The semi-postal issues were typically available and valid for only a few



Figure 9



Figure 10

had a 60h postal value with a 4.40K surcharge, while the 1943 Red Cross issue had a 1.20K postal value with an 8.80K surcharge! The 5<sup>th</sup> Protectorate anniversary set had surcharges of 3.80K, 10.80K and 20K on postal values of 1.20K, 4.20K and 10K stamps respectively. Most were purchased and used by German government officials and the occupying military personnel. The Czech populace generally had insufficient funds or no motivation to utilize these semi-postal issues to mail anything! In **section 6.5**, I displayed an interesting cover (Figure 10) correctly franked with five 10K + 20K semi-postal stamps and a **V label** (currency delivery) indicating the inclusion of 250,000K in cash mailed from one Prague address to another.

During the final months of the Protectorate, only three regular issue stamps were introduced. A 4.20K denomination of the Hitler profile set was added to meet the registered cover rate within the German occupied territories (**section 7.2**). A more popular pair of stamps depicting St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague was issued in 1.50K and 2.50K denominations to meet the domestic and international rates for letters weighing up to 20 grams (**section 7.1**).



Figure 11

Parts of the Protectorate remained under German control until the formal military surrender of May 1945. The use of Liberation overprints to express freedom and still maintain some level of functional postal service communication was critical to transition back

to the full autonomy of a Czechoslovak led government. I displayed five sets of over 90 known Liberation overprint styles (**section 7.3**). The stamps selected for the overprinting were typically from the Hitler profile set because of their availability and the desire to obliterate any image of the despised oppressor. The number of overprinted stamps was generally very limited and were only used for a few days prior to the May 16 dissolution of the Protectorate (Figure 11).

One week after the reunification of a liberated Czechoslovakia, a nine stamp set was issued by the reestablished recognized government. The chosen design for this set was the linden leaves image, created by Czech designers, first introduced for use in the Protectorate in late August 1939 (**section 7.4**). The ČESKOSLOVENSKO heading at the top replaced the bilingual references to the Protectorate name (Figure 12). I displayed three covers without any evidence of inspection or censoring, symbolic of a liberated free nation.



Figure 12

The presentation of the Protectorate regular and semi-postal issues, primarily in chronological order, together with nearly 200 covers, postal cards, parcel cards and commemorative cards, help to tell the story of an occupied region that was Bohemia and Moravia. The tables below provide detailed information for those issues.

Sec. #	Issue (Regular)	# Stamps	Postal Value	Validity Period
2.2	Provisional Overprints	19	5h, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 1Kc(2), 1.20, 1.50, 1.60, 2, 2.50, 3, 4, 5, 10	15 July 1939 – 15 Dec 1939
3.1	Castles, Churches and Cities I	13	40h, 50, 60, 1K, 1.20, 1.50, 2, 2.50, 3, 4, 5, 10	29 July 1939 – 31 Mar 1943
3.2	Linden Leaves I	8	5h, 10, 20, 25, 30(2), 40, 50	30 Aug 1939 – 31 Mar 1943
3.3	Castles, Churches and Cities II	9	50h, 80, 1.20K, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 20	31 Mar 1940 – 31 Mar 1943
3.4	Linden Leaves II	3	60h, 80, 1K	28 July 1940 – 31 Mar 1943
3.5	Castles, Churches and Cities III	5	1.20K, 1.50, 2, 2.50, 3	28 July 1940 – 31 Mar 1943
3.6	Antonín Dvořák	2	60h, 1.20K	25 Aug 1941 – 31 Dec 1941
3.7	Prague Fair	4	30h, 60, 1.20K, 2.50	7 Sept 1941 – 31 Dec 1941
3.8	Protectorate 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary	2	1.20K, 2.50	15 Mar 1942 – 31 Dec 1942
5.1	Hitler Regular	22	10h, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80, 1K, 1.20, 1.50, 1.60, 2, 2.40, 2.50, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 20, 30, 50	1 July 1942 – 16 May 1945
5.2	Stamp Day	1	60h	10 Jan 1943 – 30 June 1943
5.3	Wilhelm Richard Wagner	3	60h, 1.20K, 2.50	22 May 1943 – 30 Sept 1943
7.1	Saint Vitus Cathedral	2	1.50K, 2.50	21 Nov 1944 – 16 May 1945
7.2	Hitler Regular	1	4.20K	1 Feb 1945 – 16 May 1945

Sec. #	Issue (Semi-Postal)	# Stamps	Postal Value + Surcharge	Validity Date
4.1	1940 Red Cross	2	60h + 40h, 1.20K + 80h	29 June 1940 – 31 Dec 1940
4.2	1941 Red Cross	2	60h + 40h, 1.20K + 80h	20 April 1941 – 31 Dec 1941
4.3	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	4	30h + 30h, 60h + 60h, 1.20K + 1.20K, 2.50K + 2.50K	25 Oct 1941 – 31 Jan 1942
4.4	Hitler 53 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday	4	30h + 20h, 60h + 40h, 1.20K + 80h, 2.50K + 1.50K	20 April 1942 – 31 Dec 1942
4.5	1942 Red Cross	2	60h + 40h, 1.20K + 80h	1 Sept 1942 – 31 Dec 1942
6.1	Winter Relief	3	60h + 40h, 1.20K + 80h, 2.50K + 1.50K	29 Jan 1943 – 30 June 1943
6.2	Hitler 54 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	2	60h + 1.40K, 1.20K + 8.80K	20 April 1943 – 30 Sept 1943
6.3	Reinhard Heydrich	1	60h + 4.40K	28 May 1943 – 30 June 1943
6.4	1943 Red Cross	1	1.20K + 8.80K	16 Sept 1943 – 31 Dec 1943
6.5	Protectorate 5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	3	1.20K + 3.80K, 4.20K + 10.80K, 10K + 20K	15 Mar 1944 – 31 Dec 1944
6.6	Hitler 55 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	2	60h + 1.40K, 1.20K + 3.80K	20 April 1944 – 31 Dec 1944
6.7	Bedřich Smetana	2	60h + 1.40K, 1.20K + 3.80K	12 May 1944 – 16 May 1945

**REFERENCES:**

- George Kobyłka, George Blizil. *Bohemia & Moravia, Slovakia Handbook*; Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America.
- Karel Holoubek. *Compendium of 1944-1945 Liberation Overprints- Monograph 25*; Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.
- Pofis catalog- *Protectorát Čechy a Morava 1939-1945 (2015 edition)*; František Beneš et al, Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00, Praha 1.
- Pofis catalog- *Československo 1919-1939 (2015 edition)*; František Beneš et al, Klubem Filatelie, Klimentská 6, 110 00, Praha 1.



## PHILATELIC NEWS AND VIEWS

### From Keith Hart

1) On February 1, 2020 The Czech Republic adjusted some postal rates to comply with the European Delivery Standards system that allows a choice to send some items either Priority Mail or Economy. Below are listed the rates for items up to 50g.

Domestic letters	priority 26 Kč (stamps with a designated value “A”) economy 19 Kč (stamps with a designated value “B”)
Domestic registered mail	priority 54Kč economy 47 Kč
International letters	European countries 39 Kč non-European countries, priority 45 Kč, economy 39 Kč

The first issues of the “B” designated stamps are reviewed in the New Issues section.

2) At the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in February the following members received awards for their exhibits:

**Ludvik V. Svoboda – Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia’s Hradčany 1918-1920.** This received a Large Vermeil, as well as the SCP’s Alfons Mucha Medal for Best Czechoslovak Exhibit.

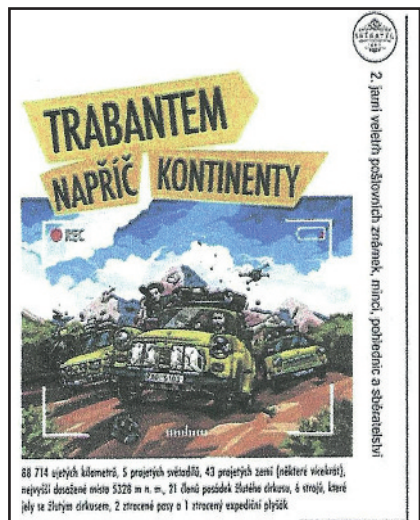
**Richard G. Palaschak - The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia.** This received a Vermeil, as well as the Silver Medal awarded by the SCP.

**James A. Buckner – Expressions of Grief: The Development and Use of Masaryk Mourning Stamps, Cancels, and Covers from Czechoslovakia.** This received a Vermeil, as well as the Bronze Medal awarded by the SCP.

**Alan Hanzl – Czechoslovakia’s Philatelic Exhibition Souvenir Sheets of 1937 and 1938.** This received a Large Silver, as well as the Gold Medal awarded by the SCP, and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Benninghoff Encouragement Award.

3) At our Annual Board Meeting, held at the Sarasota Show, it was agreed that the next Board Meeting would probably be at The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show to be held at The Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in Aurora, Colorado, in May 2021. Further details will be announced in the next issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

4) The virus COVID-19 has disrupted all of our lives at present. It has also wreaked havoc on planned philatelic exhibitions and special stamp related products. One casualty seems to have been the postal card shown here that was to have been issued at the same time as the cancelled SPĚRATEL Spring Show in Prague. It celebrates the most fa-



mous car from the communist era- **the Trabant**, which was pretty much a motorcycle motor with a ridiculously small car body around it. Czech friends once persuaded me to travel in one for a couple of miles and it was a noisy, uncomfortable (but unforgettable) experience. It was however the only vehicle that most people could acquire during that time. Details of the postal card disappeared from the Pofis website in March. There could be examples of it around, but possibly not postally used. Let me know if you see any!

5) Welcome to three **New Members**:

#2204 **Martin Kent Miller**, Greer, SC

#2205 **Mark Postmus**, Elgin, SC

#2206 **Satchel Kornfeld**, Takoma Park, MD

Thank you for joining. Please remember that we are here to help you in any way. If you have any queries about collecting please let me know.

6) I had thought that there was nothing else to say about **The Shanghai Cover**. I was mistaken. **The China Stamp Society** table was directly in front of ours at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition and I questioned them about the circular 'chop' on the back of the cover. They were of the opinion that it was a censor marking and this was also mentioned as being so in an email from member **William Sandrik**. It would seem likely that originally the chop was used for mail only delivered to the area enclosed by the Shanghai International Concession at that time. What is still uncertain is why the chop continued to be used after the Concession was overrun by Japanese forces following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Examples of the chop can be found on mail up to 1947.

7) **Alan Soble**, honorary editor of *Czechout*, informed me of two updated websites that he oversees. <https://asoble.wixsite.com/the-jof-ph-1850-1950> links you with **The Journal of Central and Eastern European Postal History, 1850-1950**. The closely related site <https://asoble7.wixsite.com/zakar> contains the full archive (49 newsletters) of **The Sub-Carpathian Messenger**, which was published from 2008-2018 and printed studies of the postal history of the Carpatho-Ukraine for the period 1850-1950. Anyone interested in postal history during the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire will find plenty of information at these two online locations.

8) Starting from this issue, philatelic items reviewed in the **New Issues** sections for the two countries we cover will include the **Czech and Slovak Pofis catalog numbers** for the stamps, covers and sheets referred to. I am doing this in part not just for current readers of this journal, but also for people who might read the information years from now. I find it frustrating sometimes when researching an article that this hasn't happened in previous journals from almost any source and I trust this will be of help. I already try to include stamp catalog references for both Pofis and Scott at the end of articles.

9) As mentioned in our President's Report the Society will have a presence at **BALPEX 2020**, which at present is going to be held as planned. The BALPEX committee will be making a final decision on whether to hold the show in late June. Look for an announcement in our July newsletter. The venue and show hotel is the **Delta Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn**, 245 Shawan Rd., Hunt Valley, MD 21031,

tel: (410) 785-7000. Dates for the show are September 4-6, 2020 with opening hours of 10am-6pm on Friday & Saturday, 10am-3pm on Sunday. Parking is free. From I-83 use exit 20 (Shawan Road). Exhibit entries have to be submitted by August 4, 2020.

10) Welcome to our new Board member, **John Grabowski**. He has many collecting interests, principally early Czechoslovak issues- Hradčany and the 1<sup>st</sup> Postage Dues. He also collects 20<sup>th</sup> century US Postal History. A member of our Society for around 25 years, he has recently joined CPSGB as well. Became interested in Czechoslovak philately through a pen-pal, and then when living in Chicago, met Charlie Chesloe who helped mentor him. He is a retired APS judge and is looking forward to meeting more SCP members and continuing to learn about Czech philately.

11) As there seems to be a renewed interest in collecting covers, this issue includes a first foray into a new section in the *Specialist- Focus on Covers*. This will always be a relatively short article and perhaps not appear in every issue. The chosen covers will probably not have particularly rare stamps on. In general I hope that they will initiate replies pointing out details I did not mention (and perhaps even shocking errors in assumptions I made!). I also encourage members to tell me about interesting or unusual covers/entires they possess, which could of course result in an article for the *Specialist*.



## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

I hope that all of you and your families are safe and doing well in these very troubled times.

We just had our convention and Board Meeting at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2020. Our participation was a success, We sold \$949 of books and signed up two new members. Our exhibits were successful – results are reviewed in the Philatelic News and Views Column.

During the Board Meeting the following information was presented:

- **Membership**. We currently have about 152 members. That number is slightly down from last year, and the numbers continue to slowly decrease. We discussed several ideas on how to rejuvenate the Society.

- **Financial**. We are in good financial condition, and there is no reason to be increasing the dues.

- **Website**. Our website was hacked this past January. As a result we will have to install an enhanced firewall. Our webmaster has been authorized to spend up to \$500 to get an appropriate system.

- **Book Sales**. Sales at CHICAGOPEX and ARIPEX were very good with almost \$2,500 received. We have arranged for a new book delivery system that should ensure reasonable prices and shipping costs. Unfortunately that system is delayed because of the current travel restrictions, but books are ready to be sent as soon as restrictions are lifted.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

- **Editor's Report.** Keith was congratulated on the terrific job that he has been doing as the new editor. Among other advancements, he has established strengthened connections with other CzSl philatelic societies, as well as new ones with the Czech and Slovak postal administrations. Discussions were held on how to reduce the costs of producing the *Specialist*, but no decisions were made, pending further investigation. It has always been the goal of having the basic dues cover the cost of producing the *Specialist*, but that is not the case at present.

- **Library.** Because the Society library is not being used very much, it was decided to institute two procedures: first, the Society will no longer expend funds to place expensive books in the library, and two, while we have been keeping two copies of books likely to be borrowed, we will now sell the second copy to our membership in a special sale. So please watch for this in the future.

- **Future Conventions/Shows.** We will hold an informal meeting at BALPEX 2020, September 4-6. We will have a table for meeting members and selling books, and will exhibit, but there will not be a Board Meeting. For 2021, we are planning to be at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS), May 28-30, in Aurora, CO, a suburb of Denver. For 2022, it is Garfield-Perry (Cleveland) and then for 2023, NAPEX (McLean, VA-near DC).

- **Auction.** The Board was disappointed with the results and participation of the trial auction held in 2019. The timing of events/auction, the small number of items, and poor advertising all contributed to this. A number of changes to future auctions are being worked out, including holding the auction from September through mid-November, opening up the item contributors, and more frequent and thorough advertising.

### Under new business:

- **New Board member.** We discussed who we might get to fill a vacancy on the Board. Subsequently, at the Awards Dinner, our member, John Grabowski, volunteered. Welcome, John, and thank you.

- **New Vice-President.** A call for a volunteer to be vice-president followed. James Buckner volunteered. Thank you, James.

- **The Specialist.** Among the ideas being investigated is to reduce the print run (since we have fewer members now) which could save us several hundred dollars, also to change the size of the *Specialist* to a larger size (8 ½"x 11"), which could save costs through the use of a more standard sized paper and allow us to use larger text and possibly a two-column format. This would lead to a 20 or 24 page issue which would equate to our normal 44 pages with the current format.

- **Rejuvenation/Technology Revolution.** We are looking for ideas on how to use technology to attract younger members. Some societies have come up with computer applications which introduce young potential members to specialized areas of stamp collecting (space exploration, art, animals, cartoon characters, etc.). We are working with this. Then, we need to make our conventions more attractive to our members. One idea is to have a room at conventions where members can bring and display their excess philatelic materials to offer for sale to other members. Also, we are planning to copy a CPSGB idea of having a monthly newsletter that will be distributed via e-mail to our members. It could have many uses – the

dissemination of timely Society news, keeping the Society in the minds of members between *Specialist* issues, advising the members of auction schedules, reminding them that they need to renew membership and how to do it, and finally, even allowing members to put up items for sale.

- **Glossary, 4th Edition.** We are almost out of our Glossary of Philatelic Technology, 3rd Edition. We are in the process of a complete update of this best seller publication.

- **Scott Catalog Evaluations.** If you have discovered any significant discrepancies in the Scott catalogs (Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Bohemia & Moravia, Eastern Silesia), please let us know for our input to them.

- **Verner/Majer Memorial.** Rich Palaschak suggested that the Society should establish a program to honor Jaroslav Verner and Jiří Majer, friends and very long-time members and contributors/exhibitors of Czechoslovak stamps and other philately. Both passed away within two months of each other last year. The idea at this time is to have a program which pays for the frames of a new Czechoslovak/Czech/Slovak exhibit to be displayed at our yearly convention, or to pay for the frames of such an exhibit that is the first exhibit being displayed by a new member.

- **Perfins Study Group.** A group to study Czechoslovak/Czech/Slovak perfins has been formed under Jerry Hejduk, Rich Palaschak and Vera Devlin. See an introductory article elsewhere in this issue on how you can get involved with this group.

– Ludvik Svoboda

**ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST**

Amount of Space	One Issue	Two Issues	Four Issues
Back cover page	\$50.00	\$85.00	\$150.00
Full Page	\$35.00	\$55.00	\$105.00
Half Page	\$20.00	\$32.00	\$60.00
Quarter Page	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$36.00
Eighth Page	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$24.00

1. All amounts are total cost. Payment must accompany the ad. Make check out to Society for Czechoslovak Philately or "SCP. Ads will not be placed until they are paid for. Members are entitled to a 15% discount, if they ask for it.
2. The actual size of a full page advertisement is 5 inches by 8 inches.
3. The back cover page must be purchased as a whole -- no partial pages.
4. Submit your advertisement copy double-spaced and typed, or legibly printed.
5. It is the advertiser's responsibility that the copy be correct since the advertisement will be printed exactly as it is received, in other words, as is. We reserve the right to correct spelling and grammatical mistakes.
6. Send copy and payment to:  
Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

FOCUS ON COVERS

The rationale for this cover is centered around a celebration of the first anniversary of the liberation of Prague at the end of World War II. Between May 5-8, 1945, as the Nazis started to evacuate the city, the populace launched an uprising against them. On May 8th a cease fire was agreed, and the following day forces of the Soviet Union's Red Army entered the city. The date of this first celebration was deemed to be May 9.



Figure 1

The design of the cachet appears to be based on a watercolor painting (by an unknown designer) and shows a view of Prague as approximately seen from the position of the National Theater. Looking across the Vltava to Charles Bridge, with Hradčany beyond. The castle looks impressively massive and formidable, as befits a proud nation with regained freedom. The scene is wreathed with two branches of linden leaves formed into a “V” shape, probably signifying victory over Germany and the Axis powers (Figure 1). The cover has four stamps. The two in the lower right corner are from the portrait series issued on October 10, 1945, a 60h with Edvard Beneš [Pofis 415, Scott 294] and a 15 Kčs Tomáš Masaryk [Pofis 427, Scott 304]. In the upper right corner are the two stamps issued on May 5, 1946 which show St. George slaying a dragon [Pofis 433-4, Scott B156-7]. These two stamps carried a fairly hefty surcharge which aided orphans from World War II. The cover was both registered and sent by airmail from the post office within Prague Castle. The red cancellation and the registered mail sticker both have the “Praha 10-Hrad” designation for this post office. The circular red cancellation has a female figure symbolizing the Czechoslovak Republic. She is pointing into the dis-



Figure 2

tance, conceivably steering expelled Sudetenlanders in the direction of Germany. The tip of her sword is pointing at the letter “V” in the cancellation (Figure 2).

The wording in the bottom half of the cancellation is “Výročí Květnové Revoluce” (*Anniversary of the May Revolution*), over “Osvobuzení Republiky” (*Liberated Republic*). The date within the cancellation is “9.V.1946”, which

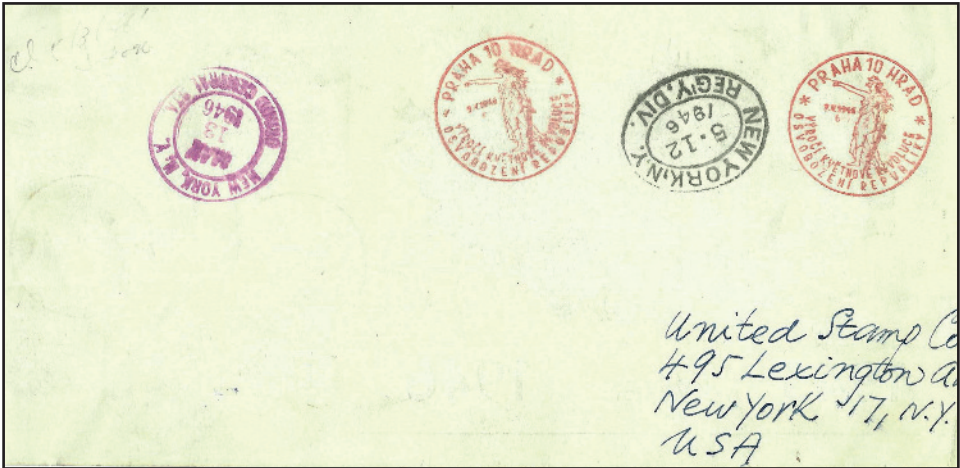


Figure 3

also has a mysterious “b” underneath. This is not something originating just from this post office as another cover in my possession, mailed at the Praha 1 post office, has the same letter under the date in the identical cancellation. As the stamps filled the entire right hand side of the cover there was no room for a mailing address, which was entered on the back (Figure 3). The letter only took three days to arrive at the New York’s registered mail division and within another day it was at Grand Central Station post office, extremely close to its final destination on Lexington Avenue. The sender is not known.

Many thanks to member Vera Devlin who kindly allowed me to temporarily pilfer this cover from her possession. It should be safely back in her own collection by now.

Keith Hart

### SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

*If you are a collector/enthusiast of that period when Czechoslovak and Hungarian philately overlaps, as well as the earlier shared postal history, you should consider joining the **Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)**. Annual membership includes four issues of *The News of Hungarian Philately*, access to member’s sections of their website, and participation in their quarterly auction. Annual dues are \$25 for N. America, \$30 Worldwide, or \$20 for online access only. You can join by following the link on the home page of their website, [www.hungarianphilately.org](http://www.hungarianphilately.org), using PayPal (adding \$1 to whichever level you require), or direct to the treasurer, Wes Learned, P.O. Box 802, Powell, WY 82435-0802.*

NEW ISSUES

SLOVAKIA

by Keith Hart

1. On February 14, 2020 The Ministry of Transport and Construction issued a 0.75 € stamp to celebrate the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations**[Pofis SK 706]. The stamp illustrates a flag made up of the flags of the 193 member states (Figure 1) and was designed by Marcel Benčík. It was produced by Tiskárna Hradištko, s.r.o. (THS) using multi-colored offset and printed in sheets of 35 self-adhesive stamps. On June 24, 1945 the 50 founding states, which included Czechoslovakia, adopted the UN Charter, the basis for the establishment of the United Nations at a conference held in San Francisco on October 24, 1945. The organization replaced the failed League of Nations, which had been established at the end of World War I. The UN still does not totally fulfil its mission as not all of its current members follow the principles set out in the original Charter, such as democratic government. The power of veto, held by five members (China, France, Russia, UK, USA) of the Security Council, often prevents courses of action that would bring a solution for critical issues. Most recently on December 20, 2019, China and Russia vetoed a proposition that would have allowed humanitarian assistance to victims of the civil war in Syria. The UN Postal Authority issues its own postage stamps from its three post offices in New York, Vienna and Geneva. The most recent issue, four stamps from each office, focused on endangered migratory species. The cachet of the FDC is a geometric abstraction created by accenting colors from individual flags (Figure 2) and the FDC cancellation shows the familiar UN globe surrounded by laurel leaves. The first permanent Czechoslovak representative to the UN was the Slovak diplomat and lawyer, Ján Papánek. He is shown on a commemorative sheet [Pofis SK 071Pa1706/20] issued on the same day (1.61 €).



Figure 1

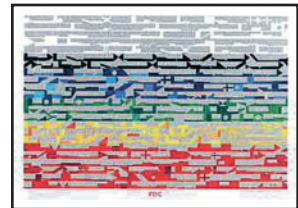


Figure 2



Figure 3

2. On February 28, 2020 the Ministry issued a 0.65 € stamp to commemorate the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Slovak National Theater** [Pofis SK 707]. The stamp, designed by Daniela Oleníková, depicts an evening view of the original historic building of the theater, with allegorical figures representing the three ensembles- drama, ballet, and opera (Figure 3). The stamp was produced by THS using multi-colored offset in printing sheets of 50. The Slovak National Theater (SND) was originally based in what was originally The Municipal Theater, situated in Hviezdoslav Square. Before 1919 performances there were only in German and Hungarian. For much of the 1920s the presentations were mostly in Czech,



Figure 4

but eventually the number of performances became increasingly in Slovak. In 2007 a new theater was opened on the left bank of the Danube near the Eurovea entertainment complex. The three companies use both buildings which allows for many more performances at these extremely popular venues. The FDC, printed by BB Print, s.r.o., has a cachet with a view from the rear of the stage (Figure 4), while the FDC cancellation has an ornamental detail from the roof of the original building. A commemorative sheet [Pofis SK 072PaL707/20], depicting an audience view from the balcony was issued on the same day (1.61 €).

3. On March 3, 2020 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet to celebrate the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovak Postal Museum** in Banská Bystrica. The T2 50g stamp was originally issued on June 2, 2017. The sheet, designed by Adrian Ferda, has eight stamps, with eight different coupons within the sheet (Figure 5). It was produced in a limited and numbered edition of 700. There is a lower coupon with an historic postal horn, also a top left coupon with the logo of *Good Idea Slovakia*. In addition, the number of the sheet from the limited edition is printed at the top left of the selvage. The coupons shown all depict artifacts from the collections of the Postal Museum. The sheet was also available to be printed with personalized coupons. This sheet was issued to coincide with an exhibit at the Slovak Postal Museum in Banská Bystrica. The exhibit was to have shown the development of the museum during its 20 years of existence and allow visitors to see parts of the museum not usually open to the public. The opening ceremony was held on March 10, 2010 but the exhibition was cancelled/postponed due to COVID-19. As the exhibit was intended to close on September 3, 2020 there does seem a chance that it will be open for a short period and that this sheet will be for sale.



Figure 5

4. On March 13, 2020 the Ministry issued a stamp in the Easter series: **Easter 2020 stamp: Traditional Slovak Blueprints** [Pofis SK 708]. The T2 50g stamp shows a fragment of a blueprint cloth (Figure 6) and was designed by Adrian Ferda. It was produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. Production of the blueprint cloth in the Slovak lands dates back to latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup>



Figure 6

century, when the use of indigo to dye cloth became popular throughout the world. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century blue-print craftspeople started to provide specific services to villages and towns, which resulted in the regional blueprint designs still known today. The patterns were applied to the cloth by hand with the help of patterned forms which were generally either pear-tree wood, or wood combined with wire and metal strips. The forms were coated with clay (*rezerva*) which prevented penetration of the dye into the area covered by it. Intensity of the blue was produced by repeated submersion of the cloth into a cold indigo solution (*kypa*).



Figure 7

The FDC cachet (Figure 7) depicts one of the wooden print forms, used to depress a blueprint pattern with a motif of oak leaves. The FDC cancellation shows a typical pattern of flowers. A stamp booklet containing eight self-adhesive stamps [Pofis SK 091 ZZ 708/20] was issued the same day, as was a pictorial postal card [Pofis SK 029 CP 708/20].

[Ed. note: My thanks to Tomáš Mikolaj from the Center for Folk Art Production in Bratislava for use of his original notes in Slovak from which this is a translated and edited form.]

5. On March 23, 2020 the Ministry issued a stamp and a miniature sheet as a joint venture with the Italian Postal Service. The 1.70 € circular stamp [Pofis SK 709] shows a cyclist (Figure 8) as a symbol of environmental protection in the field of public transport. It was designed by Adrian Ferda and produced by THS using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 30, as well as a single self-adhesive stamp on a miniature sheet with 9 coupons (Figure 9), celebrating the stamp exhibition



Figure 8

**Milanophil 2020- ACT-NOW**, which itself was co-sponsored by the United Nations. ActNow is the United Nations global call to individuals for action on climate change. Through education ActNow aims to encourage people to adjust their consumption patterns. Only by changing our habits and routines will mankind have the power to confront environment change. The ten circular emblems on the miniature sheet contain examples for people to aspire to. From



Figure 9

top left to bottom right they suggest changes that can be made- 1) limiting showers to 5 minutes, 2) turning off unnecessary lights 3) cycling instead of using powered transport, 4) unplugging electrical items when not being used, 5) increased consumption of meat-free meals, 6) refill and reuse beverage/water containers, 7) consume local produce, 8) upcycle and reuse clothing, 9) recycle everything you can, 10) bring your own bag when shopping. The FDC cachet has a landscape symbolizing untouched natural resources (Fig. 10), while the FDC cancellation depicts a globe wrapped with flowers.



Figure 10

[Ed. note: As Milan was one of the European epicenters of the COVID-19 virus, the exhibition was postponed, probably cancelled. The Exhibition Center is currently an emergency field hospital for COVID-19 patients.

*This stamp and miniature sheet were issued as planned. The Ministry determined that the underlying theme of the exhibition, protection of the environment, was worthy enough to issue the stamp to support the UN's cause.]*

6. On March 30, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate the **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Andrej Sládkovič (1820-1872)** [Pofis SK 710]. The 1.00 € stamp shows a portrait of Sládkovič (Figure 11) and was designed by Karol Felix, engraved by Jozef Česla and produced by THS in printing sheets of 50, using a combination of flat plate recess printing and offset. Sládkovič was a romantic poet, translator, literary critic and Evangelical priest. He was a leading supporter of Ludovít Štúr during the Slovak National Revival, also one of the founders of Matica Slovenská, the Slovak cultural and educational organization that revitalized Slovaks in their quest for recognition of their language, autonomy and independence from the Kingdom of Hungary. His most famous poetic works are *Marína*, a love poem that praises women, who were symbolically shrouded as the Slovak people, and *Detvan*, an idyllic epic that celebrates the beauty of the Slovak lands and the people who inhabit it. As a translator he introduced the works of Voltaire, Goethe, Puškin, and Racine to the Slovaks in their own language. The FDC cachet depicts an image of the fictional Marina (Figure 12) and the FDC cancellation is a facsimile of the poet's signature.

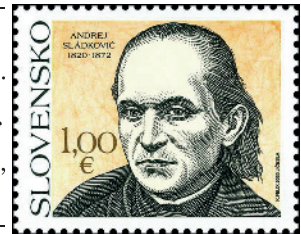


Figure 11



Figure 12

7. On April 15, 2020 the Ministry should have issued a 1.55 € stamp to commemorate the **XXXII Summer Olympic Games - Tokyo**. The main motif of the stamp depicts runners in a relay race (Figure 13), together with the insignia of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee. The stamp was designed by Nana Furiya. As the Tokyo Olympic Games have been postponed until 2021 the Ministry decided to store the 20,000 sheets



Figure 13

already printed and issue them as and when a revised date is decided upon, which will be approximately April 15, 2021 as hinted by the Ministry.

8. On April 30, 2020 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series **EUROPA 2020: Ancient Mail Routes - The Magna Via** [Pofis SK 711]. The 1.20€ stamp shows two medieval horsemen with the Magna Via on an antique map in the background (Figure 14).

The stamp was designed by Lubomír Palo and produced by THS using offset technology in a miniature sheet of eight. The first roads go back to pre-historic times when small villages became connected to nearby larger towns. Gradually this system of rutted thoroughfares became more sophisticated. The Roman Empire built the first extended European road system to connect Rome with its vast territory. The lands which are now Slovakia were at the edge of this area. Roman Legions used it for supplies as well as the scrolls which directed their regional leaders to comply with the latest directives from Rome. At this time the Roman fortress city of Carnuntum lay halfway (20 miles) between the modern cities of Bratislava and Vienna. After the empire collapsed the road system remained and was further improved during the reign of the Emperor



Figure 14

Charlemagne starting at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The Frankish knights used it to communicate with trading areas far beyond Europe. This became a major focal point on what became known as the Magna Via. Travelling west from this point the road connected with Frankfurt, a hub with connections to the furthest cities of western Europe and the island of Britain. Going north the road system linked with the Via Regia near Lublin and onwards to the major Baltic port of Gdansk. In the south west direction were Venice, Florence and Rome. To the south east lay Constantinople with its major trade routes into Asia. The modern pan-European road system still largely follows these original routes. The FDC cachet shows a 17<sup>th</sup> century mail carrier (Figure 15) and the FDC cancellation depicts a postal horn. A booklet with six self-adhesive stamps [Pofis 095ZZ 711/20] was issued on the same day, as was a collection sheet.



Figure 15

[Ed. note: A stamp issue planned for later this year will tell the story of the Danubian Limes, the lengthy defensive barrier on the northern edge of the Roman Empire. Carnuntum was part of that protective border.]

9. On May 13, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp in the series **Personalities: Maximilián Hell (1720-1792)**. The T2 50g stamp [Pofis SK 712]



Figure 16

celebrates the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the astronomer's birth and shows a portrait of him (Figure 16) based on an engraving by János Blaschke. The other motif of the stamp and adjacent coupon is a map of the moon published by Hell in 1764. The stamp was designed by Vladislav Rostoka and produced by THS using offset technology in printing sheets of 25, with 25 coupons. The motifs of the coupon are from Hell's published studies of the transit of Venus (1770), and his calculation of Earth's distance from the sun (1773). Maximilián Hell was an important Slovak 18<sup>th</sup> century astronomer who was also an ordained Jesuit priest.

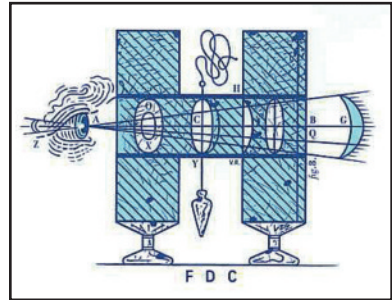


Figure 17

In 1755 he was appointed Director of the Vienna Observatory, a position he held until his death. His greatest quest was an expedition to the Norwegian island of Vardø on the edge of the Arctic Circle, where he observed the transit of Venus across the sun and also studied the Aurora Borealis and the Earth's magnetic field. He additionally researched the fauna and flora of this arctic region. He published many scientific studies and has a Moon crater and the minor planet 3727

named for him. The school in his home village of Štiavnicke Bane also bears his name. The cachet of the FDC is a cross-section of the telescope he used while in Norway (Figure 17) and the FDC cancellation is a sextant used for astronomy observations.

[Ed. note: My thanks to the Maximilián Hell Civic Association for their original notes in Slovak, from which this is a translated and edited form. A Czechoslovak stamp from 1970 celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hell's birth [Pofis 1814, Scott 1670].]



Figure 18

designated value T2 50g shows a vintage postal horn. The additional print, designed by Adrian Ferda, shows a portrait of Baksaiá Sohára Pála, a Director of Telegraphs in Bratislava during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 18). 1800 cards were issued.

## NEW ISSUES

## CZECH REPUBLIC

by Keith Hart



Figure 1

1. On February 1, 2020 the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B” (19 Kč). The stamp, celebrating the **Favorit bicycle**, [Pofis 1059] shows a vintage green racing bike (Figure 1). It was designed by Petr Ptáček and produced by Poštovní tiskárna cenin Praha, a.s. (PTC) using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. In the late years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century bicycle production had commenced in Rokycany in western Bohemia. Before World War II there were two manufacturers in

the town, Tripol and Tudor. Nationalization in 1948 merged the two companies and renamed the company Favorit. At that time cycling was rapidly becoming a preferred mode of transport. From 1950 all parts for every bike were manufactured in Rokycany and production of the TJ Favorit bike was commenced. This soon became a phenomenon and by 1978 the millionth Favorit was produced. Favorit F1S racing bikes became commonly used by international teams during the 1960s. After privatization in 1989 Favorit reacted to modern trends by concentrating on three types of bikes – Urban for the everyday user, F1 for road racing, and F3 for off-road enjoyment and competition. Today all bicycles ordered are custom-made to suit each owner’s size and preferred riding position. Bikes can only be ordered online and are hand-delivered to each customer’s address when within the Czech Republic.

[Ed. note: My thanks to the Favorit company website, [www.favorit.cz](http://www.favorit.cz) for providing me with the majority of the information provided above].

2. On February 1, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B”. The stamp commemorates **Vintage Postal Uniforms** [Pofis 1060, booklet ref. VZS31] and shows a mounted courier in a red uniform, announcing their arrival by sounding a postal horn (Figure 2). The stamp was designed by Karel Zeman and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in booklets of 10 self-adhesive stamps which are separated by a serrated cut. As early as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century uniforms had become the main identifier for postal personnel. They cultivated a sense of professional pride and exclusivity among employees of the postal service. Today uniforms serve as historic evidence of the material and cultural history of the postal service, as well as defining period fashion, and the social, economic and spiritual environment during the Austrian monarchy, as well as during the time of Czechoslovakia, and today’s Czech Republic.

3. On February 26, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B”. The stamp celebrates **Easter** [Pofis 1061] and shows three colorful eggs whose nest is flower wreathed fresh spring grass (Figure 3). The stamp was designed by Ladislava Pechová and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. Easter is a major Christian Holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also a period of celebrating spring-related

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Česká pošta

8 592746 008782

Poštovní uniformy



Figure 2

folk customs, only loosely related to the religious holiday. In the Czech and Moravian lands colorful decorated eggs are given by girls and women to boys and men, who nowadays thank them by virtually air whipping them gently with freshly braided twigs, which symbolically allows them to remain youthful and fresh for the remainder of the year. The date of Easter changes from year to year, with Easter Sunday falling on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.



Figure 4



Figure 3

4. On February 26, 2020 the Ministry issued a miniature sheet featuring a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B.” The stamp, designed by **Vladimír Suchánek** [Pofis 1062], shows a Harlequin whispering in the ear of a young woman (Figure 4). It is supplemented by coupons representing other prints from his series *Temptation*. The sheet was produced by PTC using multi-color offset in sheets of nine stamps and 12 coupons. The cou-

pons were also available for personalization by individual customers. Vladimír Suchánek, born 1933 in Nové Město nad Metují, is one of the foremost Czech graphic artists. He has a masterful command of color lithography, which is his preferred technique. He is also well-known as a designer of bookplates, more than 300 have been specifically designed for collectors across the globe. He is also an occasional designer of postage stamps, his most famous being a joint issue from the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and the Vatican, which commemorated the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Adelbert in 1997 [Pofis 141, Scott 3012].

5. On February 26, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate **100 years of The Constitutional Court** [Pofis 1063]. The stamp, with a value identified by the letter “B”, depicts two pillars of the constitutional system- Democracy and the Rule of Law, seen through the columns standing at the entrance to the Constitutional Court in Brno (Figure 5). The stamp was designed by Jan Kavan and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. The original Constitutional Court of Czechoslovakia was established soon after independence. It is distinct from the Supreme Court of the country and functions to protect the people against violations of the Constitution by either the legislature, the government, or by any other issue that violates constitutional rights and freedoms. Decisions of the Court cannot be overturned except by themselves. The Court is composed of 15 Justices who are appointed by the President of the Czech Republic for a period of 10 years, which can be renewed. A plenary session of the Court is quorate when at least 10 Justices are present. A majority of 9 must be attained to repeal any law, to impeach the President, or to adopt a legal opinion differentiating from one previously held. The cachet of the FDC shows part of the decorative entrance to the Court’s building in Brno (Figure 6) and the FDC cancellation is based on a section sign (§) that symbolizes the commencement of a section or paragraph of a law.



Figure 5

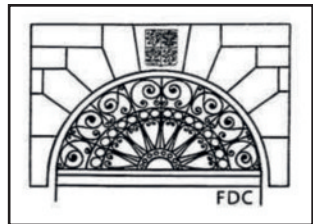


Figure 6

6. On March 11, 2020 the Ministry issued a 27 Kč stamp to commemorate **Castle Kašperk** [Pofis 1064]. The castle is shown from above with the castle towers framed by the picturesque hills of Šumava National Park (Figure 7). The stamp was designed by Adolf Absolon and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 8. The castle is situated near the small town of Kašperské Hory in south western Bohemia, close to the border with Germany. It is positioned on an ancient trade route that connected Prague with Bavaria. The castle was established in 1356 by King Charles IV to retain control of the surrounding gold-rich region. Its windowless towers protected the residential part of the castle and made it less susceptible to attack.



Figure 7

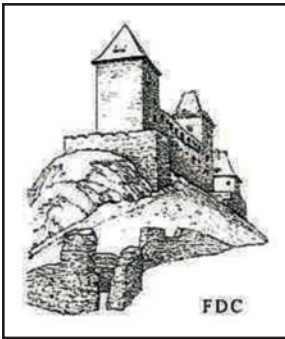


Figure 8

For 250 years it was owned by pledge-holding nobles of the king, but eventually deteriorated due to lack of funds for upkeep. In 1616 the abandoned castle was sold to the town and it has remained in their possession ever since. The FDC cachet, engraved by Martin Srb, shows the castle from the base of the entrance road (Figure 8) and the FDC cancellation is a silhouette of the castle.

7. On March 11, 2020 the Ministry issued a commemorative miniature sheet to celebrate the diversity of the work of architect **Josef Gočár** and **architecture of the city of Hradec Králové** [Pofis 1065, 1066, sheet ref. A1065]. The sheet contains 23 Kč and 45 Kč stamps

and a coupon of the same size. Margins of the sheet depict a map of the city which was created by Gočár (Figure 9). The sheet was designed by Jan Kavan and produced by PTC using multi-color offset. The **23 Kč stamp** is dedicated to some of **Gočár's Hradec Králové buildings**. Gočár's influence on the city is immense. In the 1920s he developed a zoning plan for the city center which is still in place a century later. He also designed several important buildings for the city which are shown on this stamp. Upper left of the stamp shows the J.K. Tyl Grammar School, the frontage of which is designed to look like an opening book. Lower left shows a sculpture that adorns Masaryk Square in the city center, and in the lower right is a depiction of the remarkable Church of Ambrož, a Czech Hus-site church whose outline mirrors the mills that originally surrounded the city. The FDC cachet, engraved by Václav Fajt, celebrates his virtuosity in urban planning (Figure 10) and the FDC cancellation depicts a line drawing of a city center map. The **45 Kč stamp** has a **portrait of Gočár** in front of his famous zoning plan for Hradec Králové. Besides this inner city plan he provided a waterfront flood protection plan, an outer ring road with connecting roads into the city along with alternating residential and parkland areas. His most famous building, from his early Cubist period is the House of the Black Madonna in Prague. His later works embraced the use of reinforced concrete and were in the Rondocubism style. The cachet of the FDC is



Figure 9

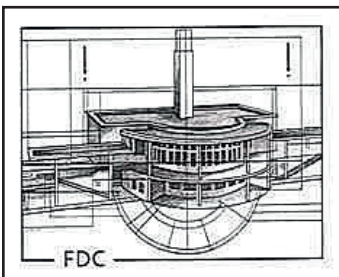


Figure 10

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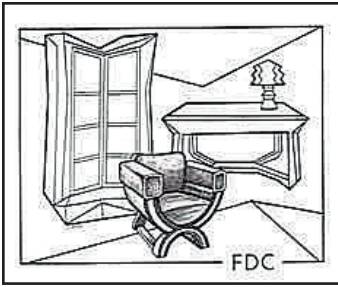


Figure 11

dedicated to his interior designs, showing examples of furnishings from his own dining room (Figure 11), while the FDC cancellation is based on a business stamp from Gočár's office.

8. On March 11, 2020 the Ministry issued two commemorative stamps to celebrate **Songbirds Around Us** [Pofis 1067 and 1068]. Both stamps have a value identified by the letter "B". They were designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 50. The first stamp has depictions of

**Goldfinch, Chaffinch and Hawfinch** (Figure 12). These birds are all from the Finch (*Fringillidae*) family which together with other birds from the Passerines species form the largest group of birds found in the world. Many of these birds, once commonly found in Europe, have found that densely populated areas are rapidly encroaching on their habitat. This has led to abrupt declines in most populations. The European Goldfinch, shown at the top of the stamp, is found throughout Europe. It was often depicted in Italian Renaissance paintings featuring the Madonna and Child. Their song is a pleasant tinkling medley of twills and twitters. The Common Chaffinch, shown in the central portion of the stamp, is almost certainly named after its habit of picking through heaps of discarded chaff

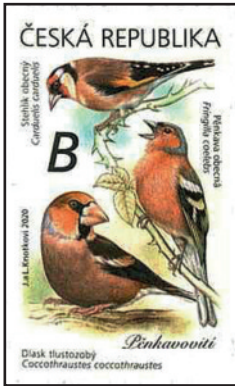


Figure 12



Figure 13

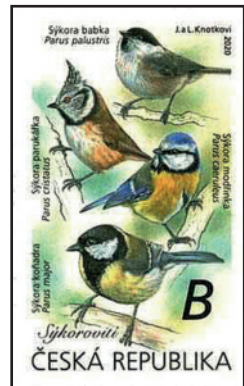


Figure 14

after farmers thresh their crops. The Hawfinch occupies the bottom of the stamp. It has a powerful bill, which is used to crack open seeds and fruit kernels. Its favorite food by far are cherries. The digitally printed FDC cachet depicts two flying finches, with a Common Chaffinch above a Hawfinch (Figure 13). The FDC cancellation has an outline of two finches. The second stamp has examples of **Marsh Tit, European Crested Tit, Eurasian Blue Tit and Great Tit** (Figure 14). The tits are from the *Paridae* family. They are extremely widespread throughout the northern hemisphere. The Marsh Tit, at the top of the stamp, is omnivorous and its food includes caterpillars, spiders, and seeds. It nests in tree holes, sometimes enlarging them to provide room for the 5-9 eggs expected to be laid. Second from top is the European Crested Tit which is easy to spot because of its crest, the top of which is extremely prominent. It keeps up an almost constant



Figure 15

talkative birdsong sounding like ‘zee, zee, zee’. Third from the top is the Eurasian Blue Tit. Despite its name this tit has an extremely large range, covering all of Europe except for the far north of Scandinavia. They are famed for their ability to hang upside down when searching for food. The lower bird on the stamp is a Great Tit, which adapts extremely well to changes in its environment caused by humans. This makes it a commonly seen sight in gardens and urban parks. An exceptionally vocal bird, it has around 40 types of songs and calls. The FDC cachet is a digital print featuring a Great Tit flying above a Eurasian Blue Tit (Figure 15) and the cancellation is an outline drawing of two tits.

9. On March 25, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive stamp with a value identified by the letter “B”. The stamp celebrates the **Honey Bee** [Pofis 1069] and shows bees on two different flowers (Figure 16). The stamp was designed by Jaromír and Libuše Knotek and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 40 self-adhesive stamps, which are separated by a serrated cut. Honey bees are essential crop pollinators, which may possibly become a serious problem if the decline in their numbers continues. It was only in 2008 that scientists identified a complex culprit called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The causes are not yet fully known, but it is probably a combination of several factors, including disease, invasive species, pests, pollution, pesticides, and stress. Hive collapse is sudden, as nearly all the adult bees abandon the hive, leaving only the queen and a few drones. At present only a few of the many bee species have become endangered, but it is only with continued study and vigilance that bees will be able to continue to aid the essential pollination of our plants and flowers.



Figure 16

10. On April 16, 2020 the Ministry issued a stamp in the series: **EUROPA - Ancient Mail Routes** [Pofis 1070]. The stamp, with a value designated by the letter “E” (39 Kč) depicts transportation of mail on a horse-drawn carriage (Figure 17). The stamp was designed by Jan Maget and produced by PTC using multi-color offset in printing sheets of 6. In the Czech lands development of mail services had commenced with the service provided by Frederick I of Bohemia in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Habsburgs rulers had an extremely sophisticated network that took mail throughout Europe and beyond. From Prague the main mail routes went northwest to Dresden where the Via Regia route provided communication with destinations to the east and west. In a



Figure 17

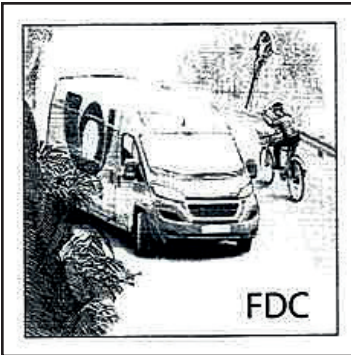


Figure 18

southern direction mail passed through Tabor and on to Linz where the Magna Via route provided links eastward to Vienna and southward into Italy. The FDC cachet depicts a modern mail van passing a mail carrier riding a bicycle (Figure 18), cleverly mimicking the same bend in the road shown on the stamp, and the FDC cancellation shows a globe surrounded by two envelopes.

**Postal Stationery**

11. On February 1, 2020 the Ministry issued a definitive postal card. The imprinted stamp, a **Vintage Postal Uniform** [Pofis CDV188A], has a value identified by the letter “B” (Figure 19). Selling price for the card is 20 Kč. The indicium is the same image as the stamp mentioned in item 2 above.

12. On March 6, 2020 the Ministry issued a postal card with additional printing to celebrate the international stamp exhibition **PHILATELIA MÜNCHEN** [Pofis P235] which was held from March 6-8, 2020. The imprinted stamp, a postal coach on Charles Bridge, has a value identified by the letter “E.” The additional print motif is a woman trying to catch falling postage stamps with her dress (Figure 20). Selling price for the card is 44 Kč. [Ed. note: This exhibition was closed after the first day due to COVID-19. The cards were available on that first day and at the main post office at Prague 1].



Figure 19



Figure 20

13. On March 25, 2020 the Ministry issued three postal cards with additional printing that should have celebrated the **Spring Sběratel Collectors Fair**, which would have been held from March 27-28, 2020. Unfortunately the Fair was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. A competition, organized by Česká Pošta and called *Learn the Stamps* had been held for children to design their own personal postage stamp, the prize being that their designs, with assistance by Pavel Sivko, would appear as imprinted stamps identified by the letter “B.” The stamp design was also used as the additional print on the cards. Separated into three groups, the 3-6 year-old section was won by Gaia Helebrandová and shows her with their dog [Pofis CDV191]



Figure 21



Figure 22

(Figure 21). The 7-10 year-old section was won by Gabriela Divišová and depicts her with her dog [Pofis CDV190] (Fig. 22). The 11-15 year-old competition was won by Alžběta Kopkášová and shows a carousel (merry-go-round) with balloons [Pofis CDV189] (Fig. 23). It would appear at this time that the cards were still issued for sale at the main Prague 1 post office.



Figure 23

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