



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 42/3

SEPTEMBER 2024

WHOLE NUMBER 196



**Home thoughts from abroad - a propaganda postcard
for the Czechoslovak army in Siberia
(page 6).**

Advertisement

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Support Your Society

Could you spare some time to support your Society?

At the York weekend, I heard of more local and specialist societies that are closing as fewer members are putting themselves forward to run them. Long-standing members of Committees are not being replaced. Even societies with significant memberships are closing as there are so few members putting themselves forward to actually run them.

We are looking for someone to take on the role of organizing our programme of speakers. Usually we have four room meetings a year, with one of the displays by the newly elected Chairman in their first year. During the year, the speakers are contacted a month or so before the due date to ensure all is in order. Often members of the Committee or the wider Society come up with suggestions for speakers, so the actual role is far from onerous. The role could be carried out completely remotely if travel is a concern.

The programme for 2025 is almost finalized already. I have a number of ideas for 2026 which would fill all of the room slots, so we are not looking for someone to magic up speakers immediately following the next AGM. If you are interested, please contact me – contact details in the inside back page of this issue, or come and have a no-obligation chat with me at one of our convivial room meetings at the George.

Peter Williams

Contact details

We still have problems, from time to time, with members' contact details – email addresses have changed, for example, without the membership secretary being notified, or perhaps we have an error in our mailing list.

If you don't receive an email with the Society Newsletter, and a link to the latest edition of *Czechout*, by the end of the first week of the issue date (March, June, September or December) please contact us at membership@cpsgb.org so that we can update our records.

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News & Notes

New Members

CPSGB extends a very warm welcome to our newest members, **Mr Lubomir Spacek**, from Ossett in West Yorkshire, and **Mr Louis Drapac**, from Idaho.

Congratulations

The Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) has awarded a Certificate of Appreciation 2023, for outstanding activities in the promotion of philately at regional or local level, to:

Klub filatelistů 04-01, Liberec, Czech Republic. In recent years, the club has significantly promoted Czech philately both domestically and internationally. Key achievements include organizing major exhibitions such as LIBEREC 2022 and LIBEREC 2019, and having members on the PRAGA 2018 board. Club members took a successful part in FIP exhibitions and exhibited philatelic literature at FEPA shows. They contribute to philatelic literature, write for national magazines, and publish for professional societies. Members are involved in digitizing philatelic literature, serve as experts for the Union of Czech Philatelists, and offer free advice on stamp valuation. The club, founded in 1887, also organizes monthly regional stamp exchanges.



Yvonne Gren has been made an Honorary Life member of the Sussex Postal History Society.

Peter Chadwick has been awarded the Tilleard Medal at the RPSL for the best One O'clock Display last season: *GB Postal History Prior to 1840*. In addition, he received a Large Vermeil Medal at the National Exhibition at York with *Down the Spey: Bye-Posts from Fochabers*.

Ted Kemp won a Silver Award and the Thematic Cup at Poole & Bournemouth Philatelic Society with *Fish on Stamps*. At the Award meeting, he also won the Bill Way Shield for the most popular entry.

At Efiro 2024, the Specialised World Stamp Exhibition held in Romania in April, the following members were successful medal winners:

Pavol Lazar: *Czechoslovakia 1918–1939* – Gold Medal, and *Austrian & Hungarian Postal Administration in Slovakia 1.8.1850 to 30.6.1875* – Large Gold Medal.

Alfons Zulueta: *Bosnia-Herzegovina Double Eagle Definitive Issue 1879–1905* – Gold Medal. Alfons was also awarded a Large Vermeil Medal for this display at Mare Balticum 2024 in Estonia.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) was one of the Convening Societies at PIPEX 2024, a stamp exhibition held in Portland, Oregon, USA. The SCP had two exhibits entered in the Competition by members of CPSGB, **James Buckner** and **Alan Hanzl**. James won a Gold and the Alfons Mucha award with *Czechoslovakia's Newspaper Stamps 1918–1939* (James gave a Zoom presentation on the same subject to CPSGB last year). Alan Hanzl's *The Partitioning of Czechoslovakia 1938–1939* won a Large Vermeil award.

LIBEREC 2025

A national stamp exhibition with international participation, LIBEREC 2025 is being organized by the Union of Czech Philatelists in cooperation with Club LIBEREC 2025, z.s. All classes are present and the exhibition is in two parts, 1st and 2nd degrees. Lubor Kunc is the General Commissioner.

The 2025 Programme

No doubt you have eagerly read through the last Czechout and noticed that I now have an extra hat, as Programme Secretary. I have been looking to put together a programme for our room meetings in 2025. Yvonne Wheatley will continue to seek out members for Zoom meetings.

The room meetings in 2024 at the George Inn included two innovations: a display from a member who could not attend due to the distance involved was printed out and shown before the main display; and a display was shown on the large screen in the room from a member's laptop, allowing key features to be clearly identified.

The George Inn is conveniently located close to the Borough Market in central London and offers fine food and drinks. The Society provides complementary coffee throughout the day.

In 2025, the Society will have just three room meetings. Our traditional April meeting will be very close to the International at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in May 2025, so we will avoid a clash to encourage attendance at the International. That leaves three provisional dates of **15 February, 20 September,**

and **22 November**. I already have two interesting displays arranged for the first two dates, so that leaves the November meeting.

Other Societies have had intriguing Members' Displays, so I would like to include one that highlights the letters that the Czech alphabet has which do not exist in the English alphabet: Ě, Š, Č, Ř, Ž, Ý, Á, Í, É, Ú, Ů and the single character CH.

The order that I have shown them is the order they appear on a Czech keyboard, if you type where the numbers 2 to 0 are on the top row, the '-', then the ']' and finally the apostrophe. The CH is simply the two keystrokes of C and H. You can get these letters if you add Czech to your Language Preferences for your keyboard. Be careful using the Czech keyboard layout, as the Y and Z are swapped due to the different frequency of these letters in Czech. To make things easy to start with, the meeting in November will be for the letter Č.

For example, this stamp shows three potential links to the letter.

1. This is the first letter of the country's name. (It is on all Československo/Česká Republika stamps, so you have a very wide choice!).
2. The view is of Hradčany in Prague.
3. The CDS is for Nový Jičín.



I am sure that you can find other ways to display just 10 sheets for one board on a subject that includes the letter Č. You now have plenty of time to put your thinking caps on and explore what you have in your collection. I look forward to seeing what you can produce.

Peter Williams

Obituary: Ludvik 'Lou' Svoboda



Lou Svoboda joined the Society in May 1994, and succumbed to an illness that he had endured for some time in May this year. He was cheerful to the end, discussing philately with his friends and surrounded by what remained of his immense Czechoslovak stamp collection. He was the driving force of Czechoslovak philately in the USA. He gave 45 years of service to the Society of Czechoslovak Philately, serving in various capacities including treasurer, sales circuit manager, and expertizing chairman. He served as President twice, was editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, the journal of the SCP, from 1996 to 2018, and was the Society librarian at the time of his passing.

We met at several International Philatelic Exhibitions and the last time I saw him was at the Society dinner at Praga 2018. He was an avid purchaser of our monographs and print-on-demand titles, particularly on the Hradčany issue, and he allowed our Society to print his exhibition entry *Trials and Tribulations: Czechoslovakia's Hradčany – an Exhibit* in our print-on-demand series. He was very enthusiastic about Czechoslovak philately and willingly shared his knowledge. He will be greatly missed.

My thanks to James Buckner, SCP President, for help with this obituary and to Keith Hart, Editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, for supplying the photograph.

Yvonne Wheatley

The Empire Strikes Back

The Europhilex International Exhibition is to be held in Birmingham from 7 to 11 May 2025 (*see advertisement on page 2 – Editor*). A 40-seat room has been reserved for the afternoon of **Friday 9 May, 1pm to 5pm**. There will be a meet'n'greet session from 1 p.m., with displays being shown from 1:30 p.m. onwards. Anybody and everybody is welcome!

The room will have two tables, electric power, and 4 double-sided, 16-A4-sheet display frames. These are standard 4×4 International frames; a row will take two A3 sheets sideways so presumably takes three 'square A4'. The meeting is free – and so is admission to the Exhibition on that day.

The meeting is intended for collectors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states. Preference in the displaying-queue will be given to visitors from outside the UK. Displays of top-quality copies of your actual sheets will be equally welcome, and might avoid Irritating Difficulties with His Majesty King Charles III's Revenue and Customs.

Book your slot by contacting me at andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk.

Andy Taylor

Society Residential in York

In a joint venture with the Austrian Philatelic Society, a total of 22 members gathered at the Pavilion Hotel in York from 19 to 21 July 2024 for a residential weekend that coincided with the York Stamp and Coin Fair. Set in attractive grounds, the hotel was originally a 17th century farmhouse, becoming an elegant Georgian home in 1785, and ultimately the property of the York businessman noted, amongst other things, for bringing the Beatles to the city. During the weekend a wealth of philatelic interest was brought to the venue in an action-packed schedule.



Mark Everiss opens proceedings on Friday evening.

Arriving hot-foot from the stamp fair on the Friday afternoon, members and guests enjoyed dinner together in the evening in a private dining room, followed by a special guest speaker – **Mark Everiss**. His presentation on *The Czechoslovak Army in Siberia and the Russian Army* was supported by a fabulous collection of material on the so-called Czechoslovak Legions. Explaining the background to the subject, however, Mark was adamant that they should really be called the Czechoslovak army – it was the French who had coined the ‘Legion’ label, concerned that ‘Army’ couldn’t be used for a fighting force that didn’t have a nation state to belong to. On size alone (some 45,000 soldiers) they

qualified to be called an army. The isolated nature of their situation, once the Russians had withdrawn from the fighting in 1917, was underlined by the Chelyabinsk incident, when two trains, carrying the Czechoslovak army and some Austro-Hungarian troops respectively, halted next to one another and the occupants came to blows. Trotsky decreed that the Czechoslovak army should be disarmed – but these were hardened troops and instead set off to Vladivostok in a train carrying howitzers, anti-aircraft guns, and even a barrage balloon!

On arrival in Vladivostok, they set up their headquarters in the consulate and, when fighting broke out with the Russians, formed a protectorate. Still there in 1918, they set up a postal service – the ‘stamps’ were really labels to advertise their presence there. The first set of stamps were full of errors and were destroyed before being issued – subsequently, a competition for designs was held – these were produced in strips of five, in different colours (red, blue, green, brown and purple). Initially, they were printed in Irkutsk, and later in Prague. The second issue featured the Lion of Bohemia, and can be found in two types.

In addition to samples of each of the strips of stamps for the first issue, and both kinds and all values of the second, one fascinating exhibit in the collection was a stamp with a ‘fairy kiss’ on the back – a complete reverse impression, caused by a sheet being pulled up towards the following sheet before it had time to dry. There were also examples of patriotic postcards used to advertise the presence of the troops in Russia, together with sample field post cancels.

Finally, Mark had a confession to make – no sooner had he written his response to a query about the USAT *President Grant* for the March edition of *Czechout*, in which he had concluded that this was, indeed, the 35th and final transport bringing the Czechoslovak troops back from Vladivostok, than he had come across a commemorative handstamp for the US *Heffron* as the 36th troop ship. If this proved to have been paid for from the central fund of \$12 millions lent by the US to the newly created Czechoslovakia, then that conclusion would need to be amended.



The intriguing ‘fairy kiss’.

Saturday morning’s schedule began with short presentations by members to introduce literature that they had found useful in their researches. **Roger Morrell** began with *The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850* by Keith Brandon, Roger Morrell and Andy Taylor (Austrian Philatelic Society). This had begun as a lockdown project in 2022 to mark the 300th anniversary of the nationalization of the Austrian Post. It was harder than expected, largely because the original document setting out the arrangements out in 1722 was too fragile to be opened. Eventually, a copy was tracked down in a German library. Then there was the 18th century legal language and the Gothic script to decipher. The book tracks the story of how all of this happened and makes for interesting reading.

Mark Wilson passed around copies of *The Hradčany* by František Kubát, a translation from Monografie Volume 1 (CPSGB Print-on-Demand), and *Falcon in Flight Newspaper Stamps: A Catalogue of Plate Identifiers* prepared by Vladimír Malovík and Michal Hauzr. Both titles had been translated into English by Mark, and he went on to explain how it all began. Initially, he’d bought a Czech dictionary and grammar and translated the

text word by word. Then Google Translate came along, though you need to take account of its lack of philatelic vocabulary – perforations in Czech translates as ‘spankings’! Mark prefers the DeepL translation program. Again, you need to be careful – negatives are sometimes ignored, for example, and Czech words often have a multiplicity of meanings, not necessarily related. Whole phrases can be left out, too – in this case it’s best to translate line by line rather than in long passages. Overall, however, translation has become a lot easier.

Tony Holdsworth presented two books on Saints Cyril and Methodius – *Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica – the Acculturation of the Slavs*, by Anthony-Emil N. Tachiaos (ISBN 0-88141-198-1, published by St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York, 2001) and *1150 výročie prichodu s. Cyrila a Metoda na veľkú moravu – Cyrilo-Methodské motívy na poštových známkach* (various authors, ISBN 987-80-971379-8-4, published by Slovenska posta). He explained that these had been starting points for the article that appears on page 11 of this edition of *Czechout*.

Tony also showed members photocopies of *Autopošty, ČSR – protektoratu Č.M. – Slovenska, V letech 1937–1944* by Jiří Horák. This had been sent to him by the Postal Museum in Prague after a visit last year. He is trying slowly (and painfully!) to translate it, but the most useful thing about it so far is the list of dates and places where the Autopošta cancel was applied. An electronic copy can be sent to members if they would find it useful.

Garth Taylor presented three books he had found very helpful with his researches. *A History of the World’s Airlines* by R. E. G. Davies (Oxford University Press, 1964) – this is currently available on Amazon at £160. It had helped Garth with routes and rates for the third Czechoslovak airmail issue. *Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic Airmail Service 1934–1939* by J. W. Grau and J. Duggan (ISBN 09951411454, Zeppelin Study Group 2000, currently unavailable on Amazon) and *Commercial Zeppelin Flights to South America* by J. Duggan and J. Grau (published in USA 1995, and currently available on Amazon at £100 – Garth’s copy was bought from Vera Trinder).

Yvonne Wheatley, by way of a change, had two novels to share. The first was *Munich* by Robert Harris (Arrow Books. Part of Penguin Random House UK, 2017 available from Amazon Paperback £7.75, and on Kindle at £4.99). The novel is set over four days in the context of the Munich Agreement in September 1938. It follows Hugh Legat, a private secretary to Neville Chamberlain, and Paul Hartmann, a German junior diplomat and member of an anti-Hitler group, friends from their student days at Oxford University, to Munich and takes the reader behind the scenes as to what may have happened there.

The second was *HHhH* by Laurent Binet (published by Harvill Secker, 2013, available from Amazon – hardback £24.99, paperback £9.19, and Kindle £3.99). Labelled a novel, it is also a work of non-fiction in that it tells of actual historical events leading up to the Munich Agreement, Operation Anthropoid and the Lidice massacre. It is thoroughly researched in detail, and quotes from reports and other factual documents. Where the author has had to imagine what happened, he puts the text in italics.

Finally, **Roger Morrell** also introduced *Catastrophe: Europe goes to War 1914* by Max Hastings (2014, available from Amazon in hardback at £23.98, paperback at £10.99, and Kindle at £5.99). In 1914 Europe plunged into the Great War – the author seeks to explain both how the conflict came about and what befell millions of men and women during the years and months of strife.



Members listen intently as Mark Wilson guides them through the wealth of resources on the Society website.

After a short refreshment break, **Mark Wilson** walked us through the Society website, pointing out the many revisions and improvements, and showing the rich content available to all with an interest in Czechoslovak philately. He also went through the features of a website that is linked to the CPSGB site – his personal catalogue of all Czechoslovak and Czech stamps. This fantastic resource is explained in detail in his article on page 16 of this edition of *Czechout*.

To add further context, **Andy Taylor** outlined the efforts currently being made to amend and update the website of the Austrian Philatelic Society. This will include a complete back-catalogue of the society’s journal, *Austria*, which will be searchable. The site map showed that there would be public areas and members’ areas – and some discussion followed on the principle of full openness adopted by CPSGB. The consensus amongst members appeared to be that this was very much the preferred approach.

The next section of the day was devoted to a tribute to the late **Bill Dawson**. As **Yvonne Wheatley** explained, 'every time we have a weekend together, we remember Bill'. His widow had wanted the Society to benefit from his collections – and Yvonne had bought his pages on the Allegories, particularly because of one item in that collection, the 'missing head' variety! Yvonne displayed Bill's original pages, with his particular style of write-up, and with some fascinating material. Along with the missing head, there was a cover noted for a stamp it *didn't* have = a postage due stamp that was removed after a collector had pointed out the mistake to the post office.

Tony Bosworth presented some of Bill's pages on festivals from 1984 to 1991, plus instances where postage dues had been used for ordinary postage. Tony paid tribute to Bill – a lovely man, straight as a die, who never looked down on you whatever your level of experience.

For Tony, it was the *people* who drew him into philately and kept him there, and Bill Dawson epitomized that.

Garth Taylor had copied Bill's annotations for his blocks of the second airmail issue. This amounted to 'fly-speck philately', which Garth doesn't usually go in for – but the way Bill had written the pages up meant that all the detailed information needed to be kept.

Lindy Bosworth pointed out that Bill's principal interests were TPOs and the Sudetenland, but he had time for everyone, including those with limited knowledge of philately. For the long-standing members present, this was an opportunity to remember a sorely missed member of the Society. Yvonne pointed out that 2% of the proceeds of selling Bill's material went to CPSGB, and this paid for the Bill Dawson Memorial Prize for the best article in *Czechout* over the preceding two years.

In the afternoon there was an opportunity for members to share short presentations on a wide variety of topics. **Garth Taylor** started proceedings with the second airmail issue. Material included first day covers and examples of the different airmail labels used for different routes – mostly in Europe, but also further afield. Routes and rates were specified, though sometimes covers had been overfranked as people wanted to use the complete set of three stamps. One of the items was a postcard that had travelled part of the way by pneumatic post, and another could not really be called a flight cover – it was marked *Insuffisamment affranchie – expédiée par voie ordinaire*.



Bill Dawson's 'missing head' variety – as his write-up points out 'by chance a coloured splotch obliterated the figure's head'.



Some of Lindy's unadopted stamp designs, by Rijáček.

Lindy Bosworth then presented a collection of unadopted stamp designs produced to mark the first anniversary of the republic. These covered a variety of approaches: typography and recess printing, different papers, two different printers, different formats, and some that were even gummed. Designs from the printer A. Haas were unattributed, presumably simply the work of different employees. Those of Kupka were put forward with a range of modifications for different occasions. A design by J. Benda was produced to commemorate the Battle of Zborov in WWI. Some particularly attractive designs were produced by Rijáček, featuring St Wenceslas, in a variety of versions for different occasions. He also submitted designs featuring a range of historic Czechoslovak personalities – none of them was adopted.

The complexity of Czechoslovakia's border issues in 1938 was illustrated by **Rex Dixon's** presentation on the Hungarian takeover of southern Slovakia in the autumn of that year. Talks had taken place between the two countries resulting in the transfer of two towns to Hungary, but Hitler and Mussolini imposed a solution to the conflict. A variety of souvenir material was produced to mark the occasion, with covers marked 'Returned!' in Hungarian. Stamps were eventually issued by Hungary to celebrate the change, but considerable disruption occurred, with many Hungarian speakers finding themselves on the wrong side of the new border.

Returning to a favourite topic, **Tony Holdsworth** presented some material on the Autopošta service, launched on 16 October 1937 at the 27th Prague Motor Show. Material included a FDC and a maximum card for the commemorative issue of 2017 showing the original Škoda bus used as a travelling post office, plus a variety of examples of the distinctive orange Autopošta cancel. Tony also presented some material on the German 'Victory!' campaign in Bohemia & Moravia in 1941. This included examples of the laurel wreath type, the machine cancel and the rubber slogan handstamp.

Promotional material for Praga 1978 was the subject of **Lindy Bosworth's** second presentation. This was of particular interest to her because this was the first of the Prague international stamp exhibitions she attended – since then she has been back every 10 years for each subsequent event. An official map showed the location of the various halls – including the Riding Hall where stamps were displayed next to the original artworks that had inspired them. There was a multiplicity of publicity labels – including a cover bearing one that had been addressed to Bill Dawson. New Year cards were produced for publicity purposes, together with machine cancels for each of the regional capitals, Prague, Brno and Bratislava.

Ron Gillard then told the story of 'Good King Wenceslas' through stamps. This was the Duke of Bohemia (he wasn't elevated to kingship until after his death), whose grandparents had been converted to Christianity by Cyril and Methodius. Ron confessed that of all the Wenceslas-related stamps, his favourite is one showing the great door knocker from St Vitus Cathedral that the dying Wenceslas is said to have clung to as he was assassinated by his younger brother. Curiously, Ron pointed out that though Wenceslas was a good man, he was a poor leader – and his younger brother was the reverse!

Yvonne Gren had provided a presentation on 'a trip around Prague', which members were invited to study. Finally, **Lindy Bosworth** put on her third display of material this time looking at two- and three-colour postmarks. Two-coloured handstamps were enjoyed throughout the 1930s, and involved a special handstamp that could be pressed down twice to print each of the two colours. Different coloured inks were even used for roller cancels, and different towns adopted the two-colour handstamps. This was further developed into three-colour postmarks, but the post office did not approve, as it was considered too time consuming for staff. One enterprising postmaster in Pardubice, however, asked if he could use them as a money-making scheme – he did, and a variety of different examples were on display. A few of the two-colour handstamps survived the German invasion, but they died out by the end of the war.

Afternoon tea was followed by a presentation by **Nick Coverdale** on the flights of the zeppelin LZ 130 over the Sudetenland in 1938. This was an exercise in propaganda – 663 kg of leaflets were dropped over Liberec (or Reichenberg as it was known to the Germans), including extracts from Hitler's speeches. Nick's display included a range of different material that had been flown by LZ 130 – in the summer of 1939 it appeared at air shows and was finally dismantled in 1940.

Yvonne Wheatley then presented two frames of the Agriculture and Science series, with a focus on blocks, varieties and uses on cover. The afternoon's presentations

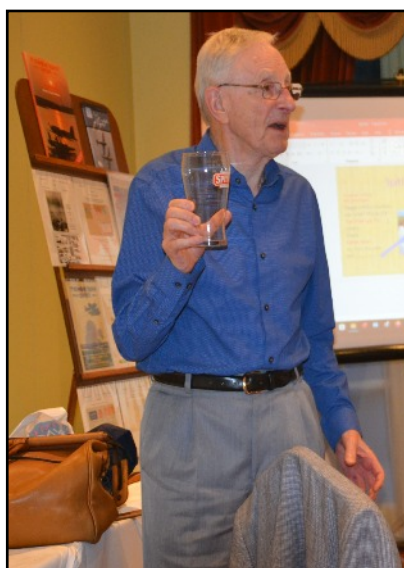


concluded with **Roger Morrell's** presentation of the 1919 overprints. A *A cover flown over the Sudetenland on a propaganda flight aboard LZ 130 on 2 December 1938.*

totally 'philatelic' enterprise, admittedly – the stamps were sold off to collectors at one-and-a-half times face value, and the practice continued up to 1929, even though they were not valid for postage by then. Monograph 3 is the bible for these stamps, but it doesn't tell you what a forgery looks like – you just have to check if your stamp matches *all* the criteria or not. Interestingly, there is a flaw between the 1 and the 9 of 1919 that means the stamp is a forgery if it's missing! These stamps are becoming quite expensive now. Roger does have one example that's commercially used on a postal stationery card.

The evening entertainment was provided by **Richard Wheatley** – a fascinating presentation on the subject of *Spitfire*. This followed the development of the plane, from its Schneider Trophy winning incarnation as the Supermarine (it was the winning aircraft in 1927, 1929 and 1931, reaching a top speed of 340 mph) to its huge contribution to Britain's war effort, minus its floats and rechristened the Spitfire, from 1936 onwards.

The talk was accompanied by a wide range of artefacts – posters, a First Day Cover signed by Douglas Bader, and even a German postcard

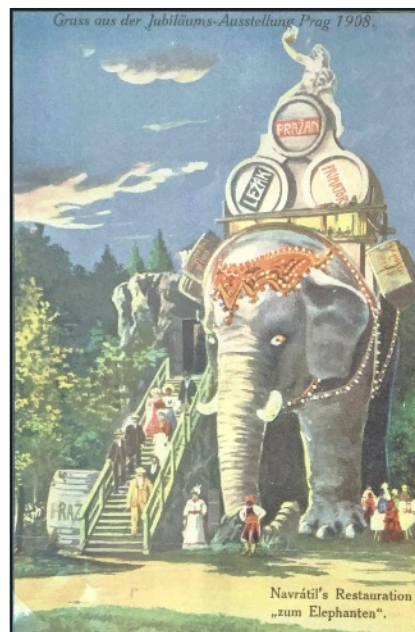


Richard Wheatley with one of his 'toys', to show the many ways in which the legendary Spitfire is commemorated.

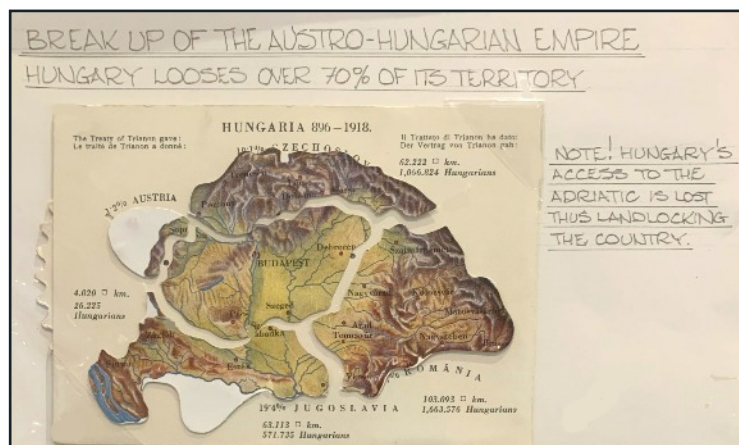
showing a Messerschmidt shooting down one of a group of three Spitfires. Richard also recounted his own memories from the war, including an occasion when he had contributed a drawing to his mother's Airgraph, sent to his father while serving in North Africa.

On Sunday morning, both societies met together to enjoy a series of presentations of interest to them all. **Keith Brandon** kicked things off with what he described as more of an 'illustrated tutorial' than a display. This was all about decoding pre-stamp covers. The interest, he believed, lay in delving down into the wealth of detail that can be derived from a cover, rather than simply writing up the bare facts. With covers from the Austrian Empire before its break-up, of course, most of them will be in German, and many will involve the old German 'fraktur' script. Key details relating to date, origin, and destination can be gleaned from the address and related inscriptions. With dates, he warned us about the numbering system for abbreviating months – the ninth month, for example, was November, as July and August were late additions to the Julian calendar when it was converted to the Gregorian version we use today. Finally, the *type* of mail can be a help – ecclesiastical correspondence is usually in Latin, and military mail often used similar terms to words we use today.

The next presentation was another by **Lindy Bosworth**, this time on postcards of exhibitions in the Czech lands in the lead up to the creation of Czechoslovakia. Starting with material from the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition to celebrate commerce in the Czech lands and to promote the Czech language, a wide range of events was covered – from pharmaceuticals, engineering, and art to a beautiful set of cards and labels issued for a Slavonic bee-keeping exhibition. There was also a wide-ranging display on the 1908 Jubilee Exhibition in Prague to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Franz Joseph's accession. One of the postcards advertised a restaurant shaped like an elephant – diners ate in its stomach!



A postcard from the 1908 exhibition.



The mechanical postcard from the late David Bravery's collection.

Roger Morrell then presented material from the late **David Bravery's** treasure trove. David was an inveterate collector of Austria, and when he died his widow had decided to present much of it to the Austrian Philatelic Society. Material on display related to the break-up of the Empire, and included a mechanical postcard of Hungary – as you rotated a wheel at the side, you could watch elements float away!

Garth Taylor presented material on the postal history of Brno from 1656 to 1918. This included what was probably the very first handstamp, from 1784–1787. There were examples of the first prepaid handstamps, then

some stamps on covers with thimble cancellations. One interesting item included a misspelled cancel, bearing the word 'statd' instead of 'stadt'.

A highly detailed account of the history of the Austrian Postal Authorities' Impressions Book from **Martin Brumby** came next – this followed the mysterious case of the official records, which started in 1882, going missing in large sections from the early 1930s to the 1990s. The records could originally be used to prevent postmasters tampering with their cancellations, by removing German names or turning the date slugs upside down, for example – a breach of the regulations for which they could be fined the substantial sum of 5 gulden. The missing sections were stolen, presumably by unscrupulous 'historians' – but copies of some have recently been discovered in a technical museum.

Keith Brandon presented a selection of Czech rarities of the pre-stamp era – this included a postmark from Eger/Cheb dated 4 November 1756, which he believes to be the earliest surviving example.

The final presentation, inevitably, was by the ever-resourceful **Lindy Bosworth**. This was all about Karlovy Vary/Karlsbad (or Carlsbad in its original spelling), starting with the first handstamp of 1789. A selection of cancels followed, together with postal stationery and postcards used for commercial advertising purposes – these included horse riding, glass manufacture, Becharovka (which is made in Karlovy Vary) and, of course, the Spa.

Our busy weekend away together concluded with a brief retrospective – an overwhelming majority deemed it a success and delegates were unanimous in their thanks for the organizers, particularly Yvonne Wheatley who had worked so hard to set it up in conjunction with the Austrian society.

Tony Holdsworth

Sts Cyril and Methodius – Missionaries to the Slavs

Tony Holdsworth

One of the great attractions of philately, to me, is that so many of the stamps are a ‘portal’ into new learning. When I acquired my first bundle of Czechoslovak album leaves, one of the early issues that drew my attention was the set from 1935 to mark the Prague Catholic Congress. Brought up as a Catholic myself, I wondered why on earth those two saints had been chosen for the stamps? Researching online, and reading an in-depth study of the saints by Anthony-Emil N. Tachiaos [1], helped to explain why.



1935 – Prague Catholic Congress: 1050th anniversary of the death of St Methodius (POFIS 292–294).

Their story is a complicated one – to begin with, Cyril was actually christened Constantine, only taking the name Cyril a few days before his death, when he was finally ordained a monk. Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born in the early 9th century as members of a large Thessalonian family (seven children in all). Constantine, the youngest, was born in 826 or 827, while Methodius was born in 815. Their parents were of noble birth – their father was a military and administrative official (a *droungarios* [2]). Living in a city which already had a significant number of Slavs, and with relatives holding administrative positions in Slavic areas, the family would have been well acquainted with Slav customs and language [3].

The city of Thessalonica was on the front line in the struggles of survival for the Byzantine Empire – just as the western Roman Empire had come under threat from the north, so the eastern portion of the Empire was threatened from the north and the east. Attacks on Thessalonica by the Slavs began in 597 and the brothers would have experienced the upheavals of similar uprisings in the reign of Michael III (842–867). By the end of the 9th century, however, the Slavs were beginning to settle in parts of Byzantium, and peaceful coexistence through developing trading relationships was becoming a priority.



Byzantium and Great Moravia in the ninth century A.D. By this stage, the Roman Empire in the west had been dismembered by the Franks, who established the Holy Roman Empire in its place.

Early in his career Methodius was appointed governor of a Slavic province within the Empire, while Cyril went to Constantinople to complete his education. Renowned for his learning, he soon acquired the title of ‘the Philosopher’ and before long was chosen by the Emperor for more political work, joining a diplomatic mission to the Arabs in about 850. Meanwhile, Methodius had decided to take holy orders and entered a monastery on Mount Olympos in the province of Bithynia (the one in present-day Turkey rather than Greece). Cyril joined him there to continue his studies, though without becoming a monk. Bithynia had a large community of Slavs.

Inhabiting what is now southern Ukraine, the Crimea and Kazakhstan, the Khazars approached Byzantium in 860 asking for help to resolve a growing religious dispute – under pressure from Jews and Muslims to adopt their religions, they needed a learned Christian to put the case for Christianity. Emperor Michael III sent Cyril, with his brother Methodius, to help these important allies (they were being used as a shield against enemies from the north and east).

The brothers travelled to the land of the Khazars, via Chersonesus in the Crimea [4], and made two important discoveries from this mission: first, the Slavs had only a rudimentary form of writing and thus had virtually no written culture at all; and second, the sacred relics of St Clement of Rome (c. 91–101) were preserved on an island off the coast of Kherson.

In 862 *another* neighbour of the Empire wrote to Michael III seeking advice – this time from the north:

By the mercy of God we are well, and many Christian teachers have come to us from the Latins, the Greeks, and the Germans, who teach us various things. We Slavs are simple people and have no one to guide us to the truth and teach us knowledge. Therefore, good Lord, send us such a man as can teach us the whole truth [5].



Rastislav, Prince of Moravia – later Saint Rastislav in the Orthodox Church. One of eight stamps issued in 1944 to mark the fifth anniversary of Slovakian independence (POFIS 111).

This request came from Rastislav of Moravia, the ruler of Great Moravia. This was the first known organized state dominated by the western Slavs: a loose federation of Slavic tribes had been established in 623 under a Frankish merchant named Samo, but it collapsed on his death in around 658. Great Moravia was under constant threat from the Germanic Franks, their neighbours to the west and north. It was via the Franks that Christianity first came to this part of Europe, based on the rites of the Latin church. As ever, politics and religion were intertwined – Rastislav was looking for full independence from his Bavarian neighbours, including a Moravian church that was free from their ecclesiastical jurisdiction. As a shrewd politician, with ambition to play on the world stage, Rastislav also asked for a teacher who could bring him the written Slavic word.



The Frankish ruler Samo – issued in 2023 to mark the 1400th anniversary of his Empire (POFIS 804). Samo fought to protect the Slavs from the Avars in the east, but then led a revolt against the Franks too.



Issued in 1993 to mark the 1130th anniversary of the arrival of Sts Cyril and Methodius in Moravia. This was a joint issue with Slovakia. The central motif includes the letter A in Cyrillic, Glagolitic and Roman letters (POFIS 10).

When the brothers set out in 863 on their mission to Great Moravia, they took with them (according to a letter from Michael III to Rastislav) ‘a gift greater and more valuable than gold and silver and precious stones and all transient riches’ [6]. This was in response to the request for ‘the written Slavonic word’. For many years – certainly since the trip to the Crimea, and probably before that – Cyril had been working at the creation of an alphabet that could be used to represent the distinctive phonetics of the Slavic language – this was the

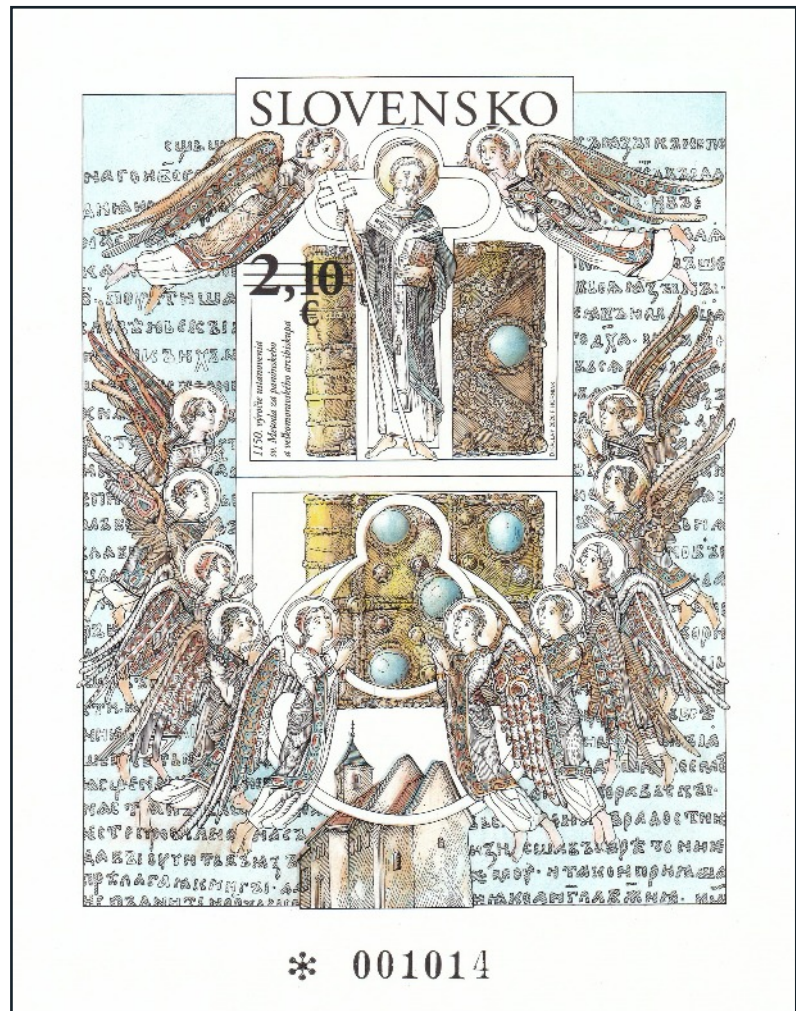
Glagolitic script. But this was not all – he and Methodius (probably supported by a group of companions) had been translating sacred texts into Slavic, and this involved creating a new scholarly language for the Slavs so that abstract concepts could be included:

Cyril, then, did not simply create an alphabet, but shaped the Slavic language in such a way as to enable it to assimilate the conceptual wealth of the Greek language; and this was much more important than devising the alphabet. Thus formed, the Slavic language became the basis for the creation of a self-sufficient Slavic learned culture, and it is precisely here that the significance of Cyril and Methodius' historic work may be found [7].



Above – a joint issue with the Vatican in 2018, this stamp marked the 1150th anniversary of the recognition by Pope Adrian II of the Slavic liturgical language. The text, from the Codex Zographensis, is in the Glagolitic script and is a rendering of the beginning of St Mark's Gospel in Old Slavonic (POFIS 660).

Right – issued in 2020 to mark the 1150th anniversary of the Consecration of St. Methodius, Archbishop of Great Moravia and Pannonia, this miniature sheet features the oldest preserved literature written in the Cyrillic alphabet, currently held in the Assumption Cathedral in Moscow (POFIS 716).



On arrival in Moravia, the brothers worked with their team on the translation of the church services and divine liturgy into the Slavic language, much to the annoyance of their Germanic rivals, who stirred up a centuries-old controversy around 'Trilingualism', the idea that there were only three 'sacred' languages that could be used in the liturgy: Hebrew, Latin and Greek. It was decided that a group of disciples should be taken to Rome for ordination (Constantinople would have been preferred, but political upheaval there made this impossible). They set out in 866 with Cyril and Methodius, arriving just after the death of Pope Nicholas I in 867 – and were given a magnificent welcome by the new Pope, Adrian II. Partly, no doubt, because they had brought the relic of St Clement of Rome with them, along with a selection of Slavic books which were consecrated by the Pope [8]. During their time in Rome, the two brothers stayed in a Greek monastery, but by this time Cyril's health was suffering from his constant travels, and he died on 14 February 869 having been ordained a monk 50 days previously, taking the name Cyril.

Methodius had wanted to return to the monastery at Mount Olympos, but on his death bed Cyril made him promise to continue the work the two of them had started, and Methodius was consecrated Bishop of Sirmium (present-day Sremska Mitrovica in Serbia), establishing papal jurisdiction over the whole of Great Moravia and Pannonia. He returned to Moravia in 870, but pressure from the German clergy continued: he was accused of breaking canon law and imprisoned in southern Germany. In 873, in response to appeals by Pope John VIII, he was released and continued his work in Moravia. In 879, however, the Pope summoned Methodius to Rome, accusing him of celebrating the liturgy 'in the barbaric Slavic tongue'. Methodius' arguments prevailed, however, and the Slavic language was declared no less acceptable in the liturgy than Hebrew, Greek and Latin. On 6 April 885 Methodius died and handed his work over to his disciple Gorazd, a Moravian.

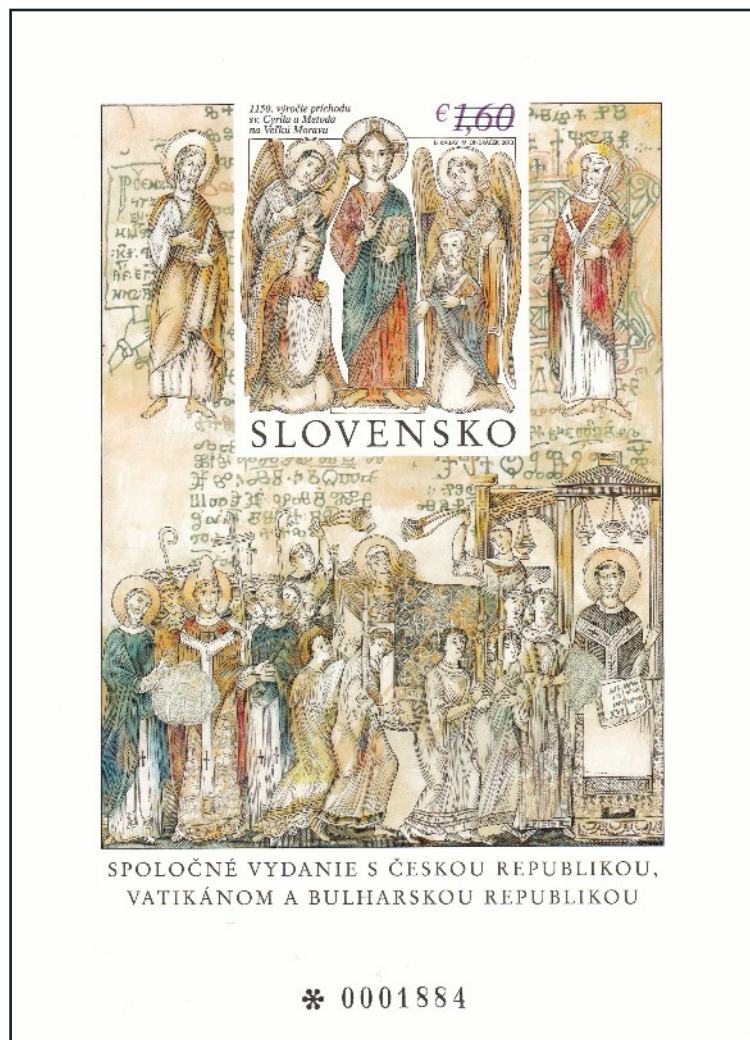


St Gorazd, appointed to succeed Methodius – one of a set of seven saints issued in 2010 (POFIS 478).

By now, however, Rastislav had been succeeded by his nephew Svätopluk I, who had betrayed him to the Frankish king, Louis the German. His alliance with the Franks was bad news for Gorazd and his followers – they became captives of the Germans, some were sold into slavery, and others imprisoned. Although the Byzantine Emperor Basil ransomed those who had been sold into slavery and brought them back to Constantinople, the team of Cyril and Methodius' disciples had now been broken up. By 907 Great Moravia had been overrun by the Magyars and the dream of a Slavic Empire in Central Europe was over. Some of the followers, however, had been welcomed to Bulgaria, a growing state that had adopted Slavic as the official language. It was here that the Cyrillic alphabet, named in honour of St Cyril of Thessalonica, was developed from the Glagolitic script that Cyril had created some thirty years before.



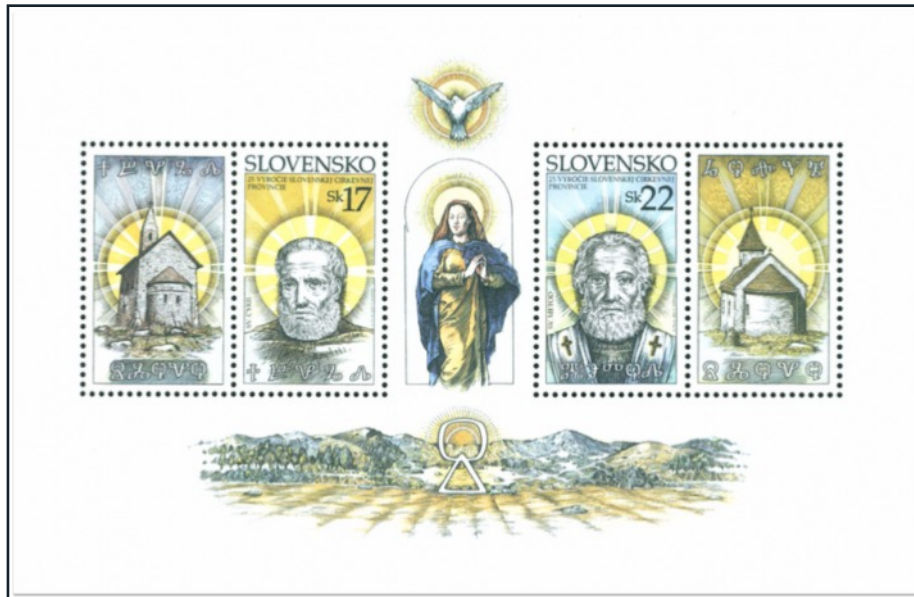
Svätopluk the Great, successor to Rastislav as ruler of Great Moravia - another in the set of eight stamps issued by the Republic of Slovakia in 1944 (POFIS 112).



The 1150th anniversary of the arrival of Sts Cyril and Methodius to Great Moravia (2013, POFIS 542) – joint issue with Czech Republic, Vatican and Bulgaria. The design is based on a 9th century fresco, 'the personal judgement of Saint Cyril', from the Basilica of St Clement in Rome. The two brothers kneel before Christ with the Archangel Michael supporting St Cyril on the left, and Gabriel supporting Methodius on the right. The sheet border depicts Saint Andrew on the left and Saint Clement on the right, while the lower margin shows the triumphal arrival in Rome in 867, carrying the relics of St Clement. Finally, the background is decorated with Glagolitic script, taken from the 10th century Codex Assemanianus now in the Vatican library.

The importance of Cyril and Methodius to the Slavs is reflected in the frequency of their appearance on stamps from Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, particularly in the build up to the 1150th anniversary of their mission to the Slavs in 863. The miniature sheet commemorating that particular event was

jointly issued by both states, along with Bulgaria and the Vatican. This fact alone shows the vital role they had at a religious and political crossroads in central Europe – nearly 1000 years after the great schism that broke apart the Eastern Orthodox churches and the Western Catholic church, several popes appear to have chosen these two saints as a focus for efforts at reconciling these two branches of Christianity [9].



25th anniversary (2003) of the creation of an independent Slovakian Church province, when The Trnava Apostolic Administration was promoted to the level of diocese and Metropolitan See. This was proclaimed in December 1978 by Pope Paul VI, before the Slovakian Republic itself was established. The stamps (POFIS 289, 290) show St Cyril (left) and St Methodius, with the first letters of the Glagolitic alphabet at the base. The labels show the churches of St Michael, Nitra Dražovce (left), and St. Štefana Král, Párovce, Nitra.

Notes

- [1] Tachos, A. N., *Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica – the Acculturation of the Slavs*, St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, New York, 2001.
- [2] Konštantín sa narodil v roku 826 (alebo 827). Starší Metod uzrel svetlo sveta asi roku 815 v rodine vojenského štátneho úradníka (tzv. drungarios, dnes je to asi hodnosť plukovníka) – Constantine was born in 826 (or 827). The elder Methodius saw the light of day around 815 in the family of a military civil servant (called *droungarios*, today probably the rank of colonel). From *1150 Výročie Príchodu Sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu (1150th Anniversary of the Arrival of St. Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia)*, Slovenská pošta, 2020 (page 7).
- [3] The extent to which the brothers spoke and understood Slavic as children is unclear – but Matúš Kučera writing in *1150 Výročie Príchodu Sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu* (page 7) suggests that their mother and grandfather spoke the language to some extent. Anthony-Emil Tachos, in *Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica – the Acculturation of the Slavs* (page 19) quotes a reference in the Slavonic *Life of Methodius* to Emperor Michael III commissioning Cyril for the mission to Great Moravia: ‘Take with you your brother, Abbot Methodius and go, for you are Thessalonians, and all Thessalonians converse correctly in Slavic’.
- [4] Sometimes confusingly known as Khersones, this should not be mistaken for the Ukrainian city of Kherson: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chersonesus>
- [5] From the Slavonic *Life of Methodius*, quoted by Tachos, *Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica – the Acculturation of the Slavs*, page 57.
- [6] From the Slavonic *Life of Cyril*, quoted by Tachos, *ibid.*, 75.
- [7] Tachos, *ibid.*, 73.
- [8] It is interesting to note that, while Pope Adrian II accepted Slavic into the liturgical language of the Roman Church in 868, it would be another century before other vernacular languages were permitted.
- [9] In chapter 1 of *Czechoslovakia at the Crossroads of European History*, Jaroslav Krejčí writes:
The memory of the two saints and brothers, Constantine (Cyrillus) and Methodius, however, was spared the consequences of the schism. They are revered in both Churches ... [The present] Pope, John Paul I, rightly appreciated Methodius’ place between the Christian East and West, when he made of the tradition initiated by the two brothers one of the cornerstones of his ecumenical policy. In his Apostolic Letter *Egregiae Virtutis* of 31 December 1980, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the brothers co-patrons of Europe – there are six co-patrons altogether (www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/es/apost_letters/1980/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_31121980_egregiae-virtutis.html).

WWW.CPSLIB.ORG
A Multi-Purpose Online Resource for Collectors of
Czechoslovak and Czech Republic Stamps
Mark Wilson FRPSL

Since my name appears as webmaster on several Czechoslovak-related philatelic sites, I often get questions from new collectors. Chief among these is *Can you tell me when this stamp was released so I can put it in the proper place in my album?* As the saying goes, you can give a person a fish to eat today or you can teach him how to fish and enjoy a lifetime's sustenance. In that vein, I direct the person to www.cpslib.org (Fig. 1).

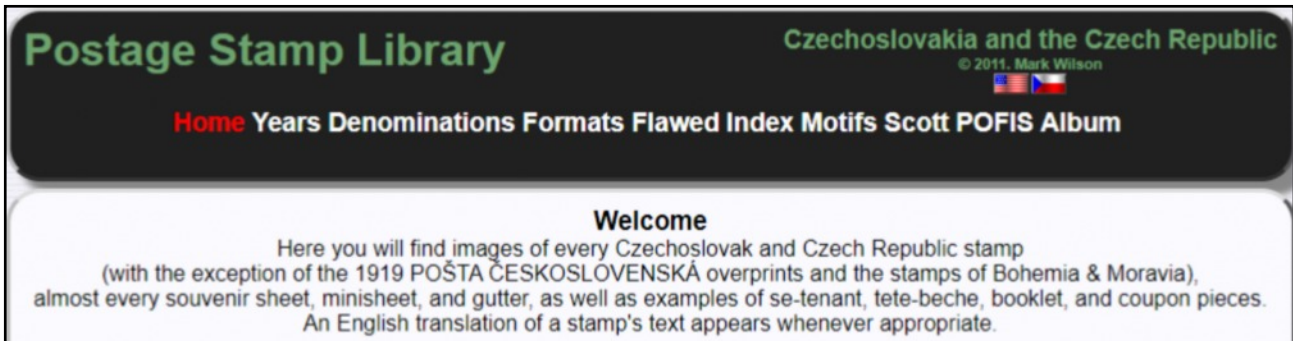


Fig. 1 – the Home page. Note that the website is bilingual. If the words are in Czech, click the American flag on the upper right.

For example, to determine the issue date of a specific stamp (say Fig. 2), I suggest the following. First, click on the **Denominations** button in the navigation bar (Fig. 3) to view the Denominations Page. Because the stamp in question is 1 Kč, click on the 1 Kč button. This will bring up a page (Fig. 4) that has images of every 1 Kč stamp issued by Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic between 1918 and 2018 – 101 years.

Once there, you will notice the images are arranged chronologically by decade. Since the stamp in question does not appear at the top of the page, scroll down until it is found. As it happens this stamp is listed at the end of the decade 1950-1959. But we can be much more precise than a mere decade.



Fig. 2 – the stamp in question.

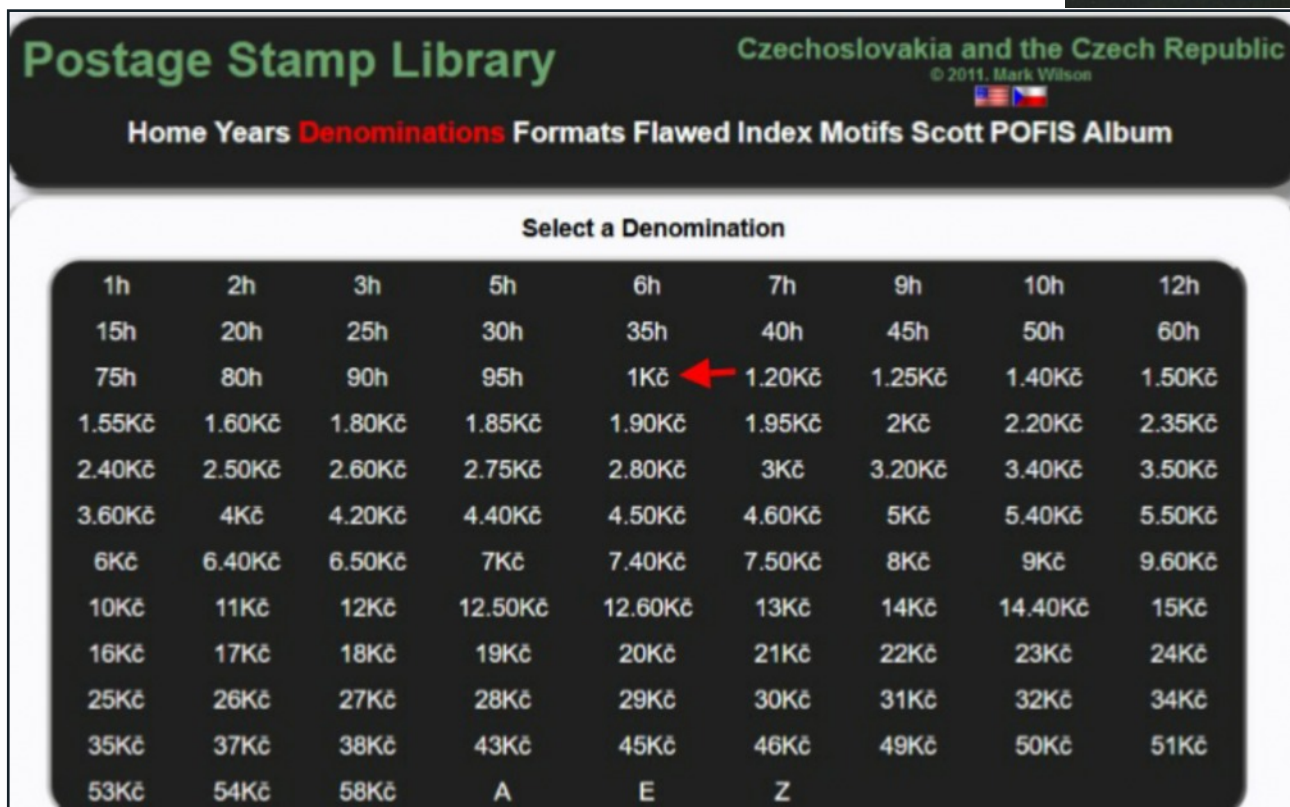


Fig. 3 – the Denominations page.

Click on the stamp's image and a new page (Fig. 5) devoted to this stamp will open. This page gives the issue date (23 March 1959), translates any Czech text on the stamp into English (*World Peace, Human Rights Day*), and provides both the Scott (902) and POFIS (1042) catalogue numbers.



Fig. 4 – the stamp is found by scrolling down the 1 Kč Denomination page.



Fig. 5 – a page devoted to the stamp in question.

Of course, even beyond devoting a page to every single Czechoslovak or Czech Republic stamp, this website offers much more. The **Years** button displays the Years Page (Fig. 6) from which you may select a year to view images of the stamps issued, and their release date, within that year. For example, suppose the year 1933 is selected.

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
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Home **Years** Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album

Select a Year

Czechoslovakia

1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
1938	1939								

Czech Republic

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				

Fig. 6 – the Years page

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Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album

1932 **1933** 1934

1933

Click stamp to enlarge image.

1 February

20 June

Fig 7 – the 1933 page.

As can be seen, (Fig. 7), Czechoslovakia issued only three stamps in 1933. Note that small navigation buttons are placed beside **1933** under the main navigation bar, **1932** and **1934**. They provide direct access the previous and following years. As before, clicking on a stamp's image opens the page devoted to that stamp.

Answering Other Questions

It is possible that a stamp's Scott number is known but a POFIS number is required*. To obtain it, click on the **Scott** button. A Scott to POFIS page appears (Fig. 8). Note the submenu below the main navigation bar and select catalogue numbers for the area of interest, Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic. Along the left side of the page are brackets of Scott numbers, while at the bottom of that list are sections of the Scott numbering system that require prefixes; all may be clicked. In addition to providing the POFIS equivalent of the Scott number, clicking on the POFIS number will take one to the page devoted to that stamp. Even better, if a mouse pointer just hovers over one of the POFIS numbers (Fig. 9), an image of that stamp will suddenly appear!

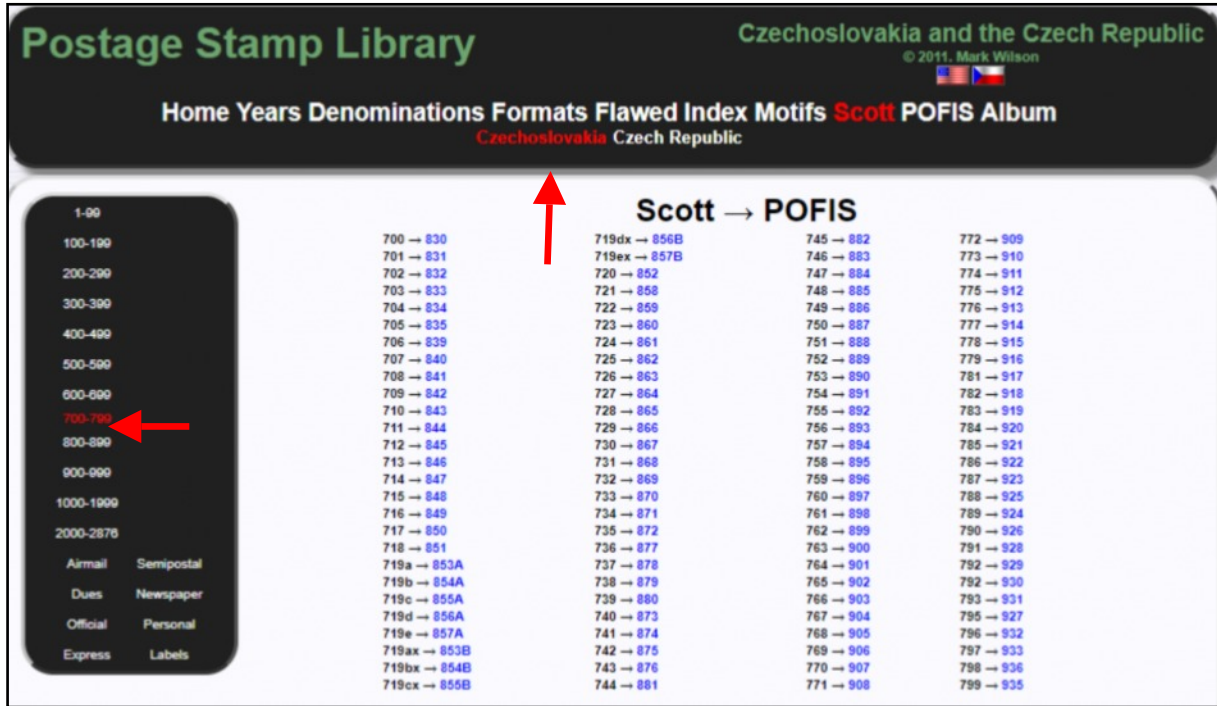


Fig. 8 – a Scott to POFIS page.

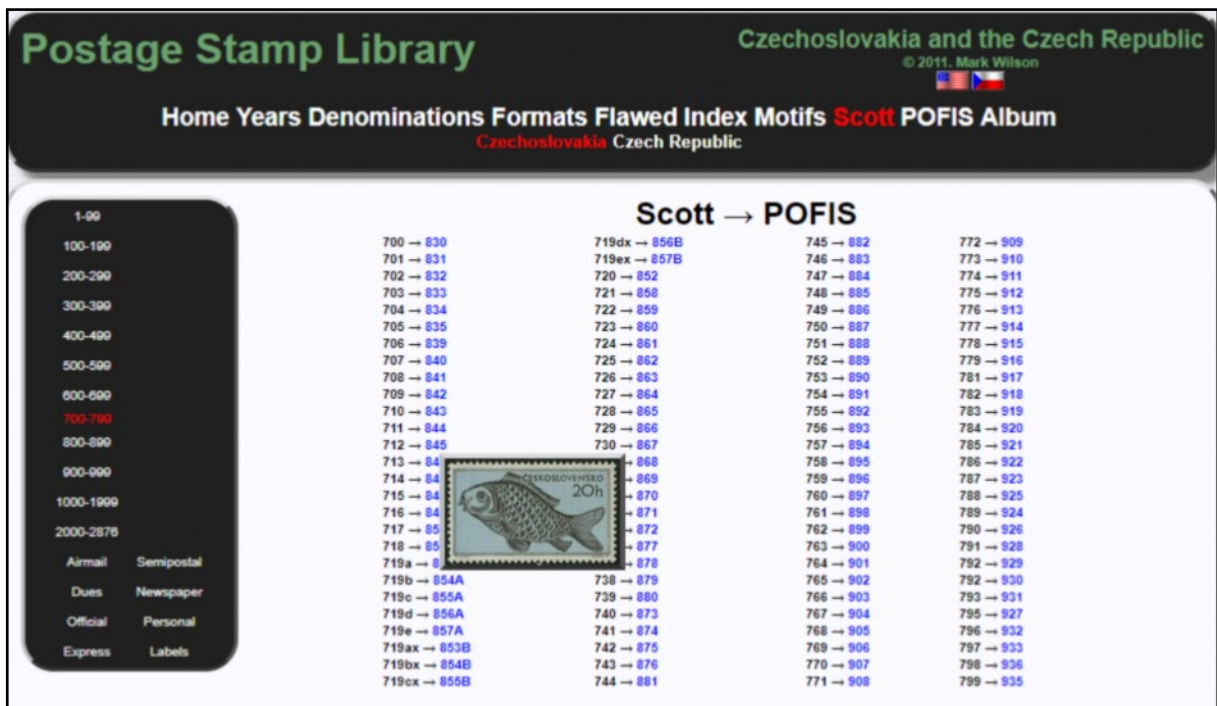


Fig. 9 – stamp image displayed when hovering over a POFIS number.

The **POFIS** navigation button works in exactly the same way, save it gives the Scott equivalent of a POFIS number (Fig. 10). Like the Scott display, buttons for brackets of numbers and back of the catalogue areas are presented on the left, POFIS to Scott equivalents on the right.

* The website was built in the USA, so Scott numbers are included rather than SG.

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Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
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Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott **POFIS** Album
Czechoslovakia Czech Republic

1-99

100-199

200-299

300-399

400-499

500-599

600-699

700-799

800-899

900-999

1000-1999

2000-2999

3000-3029

Airmail
Dues

Newspaper
Comercial

Official
Personal

Express
Labels

POFIS → Scott

1 → 23	10 → 5	18 → 33	26 → 40
2 → 1	10A → 5	19 → 34	27 → B124
3 → 2	11 → 29	20 → 8	28 → B125
4 → 25	12 → 6	21 → 36	29 → B126
5 → 3	13 → 43	22 → 9	29A → B126
6 → 43	14 → 7	23 → 38	30 → B127
7 → 44	15 → 30	24 → 10	31 → B128
8 → 4	16 → 21	24A → 10	32 → B129
9 → 45	17 → 32	25 → 39	

Fig. 10 – a POFIS to Scott page.

Another popular page (Fig. 11) is reached by clicking the **Album** button. The Album Page provides information about how I use the album pages that you may download from the website and print, all free of any charge. As with the Scott and POFIS pages, there is a submenu divided by collecting focus: First Republic, Post War Czechoslovakia, and the Czech Republic. Figure 12 is an example of an album page.

The remaining navigation buttons are devoted to specialized collecting. For instance, collectors of minisheets and stamp booklets might find the **Formats** button of interest. The submenu indicates the formats illustrated. Please note that the illustrations are not exhaustive but were built from my personal collection.

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Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
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Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS **Album**
First Republic Post-War Czechoslovakia Czech Republic Album Information

Album Information

These albums when complete will cover all the stamps of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic but not the Pošta Československá 1919 series, Bohemia & Moravia, or Slovakia.

I print a page from the album on one side of acid free 110 lb ivory cardstock.

The stamps are mounted to the page using Hawid clear mounts.

I then insert two pages, back to back, into an archival quality page holder.

These I mount in a special three-ring binder that protects the edges of the page.

I house the unit in a Safe slipcover (712), available from most philatelic supply houses.




Fig. 11 – the Album page.

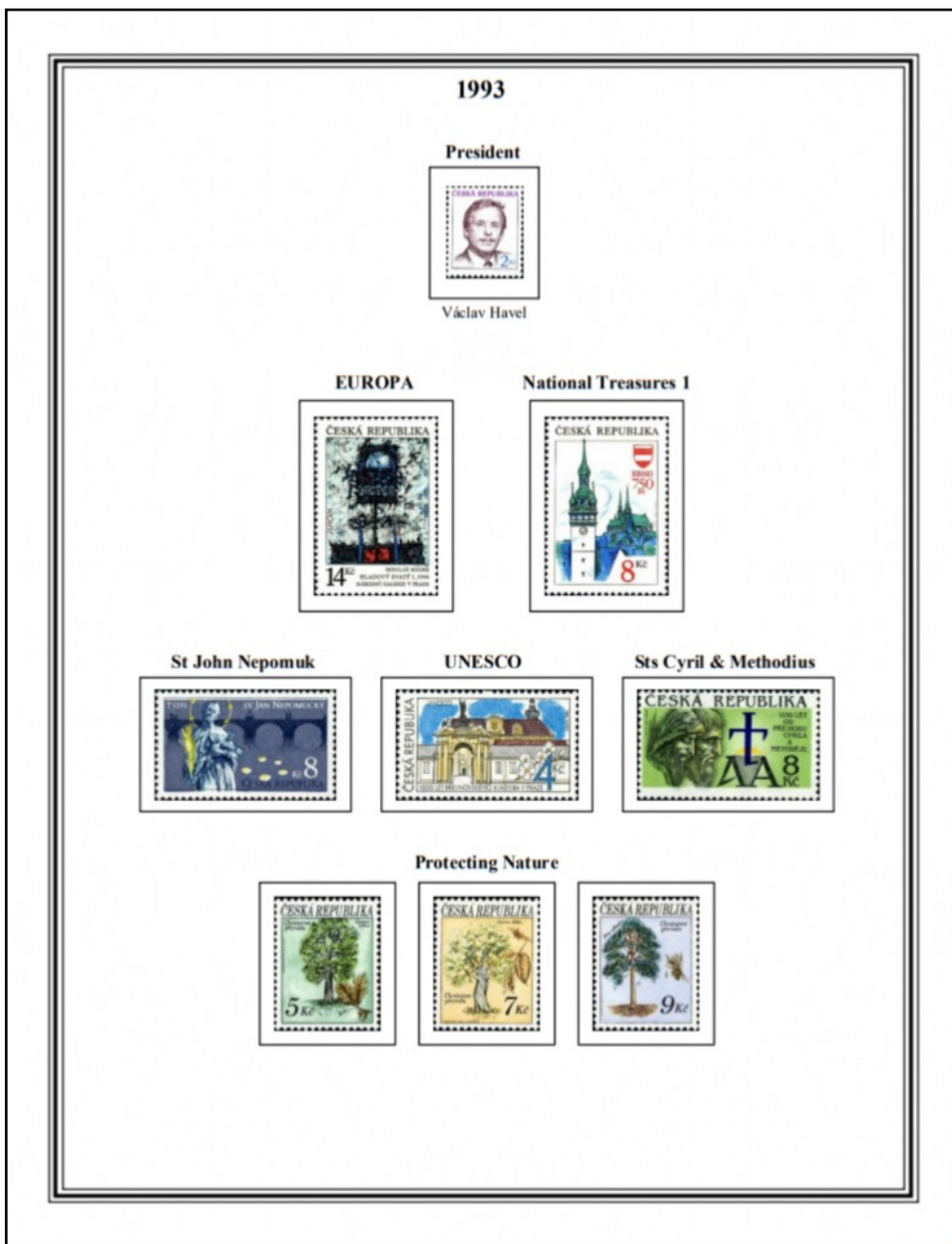


Fig. 12 – an example of an album page.

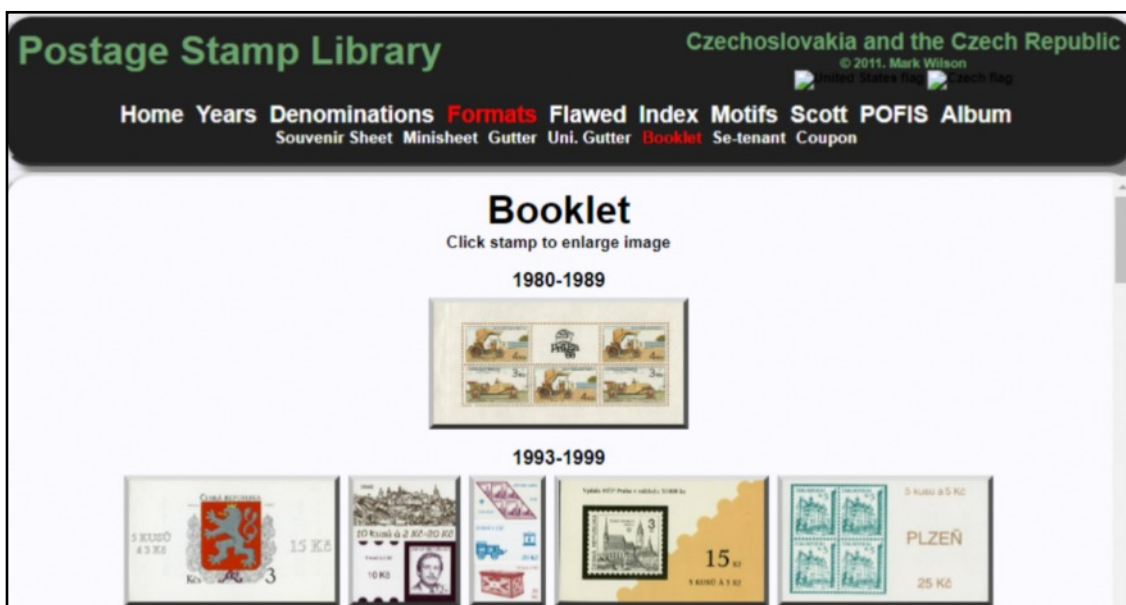


Fig. 13 – the stamp booklet page.

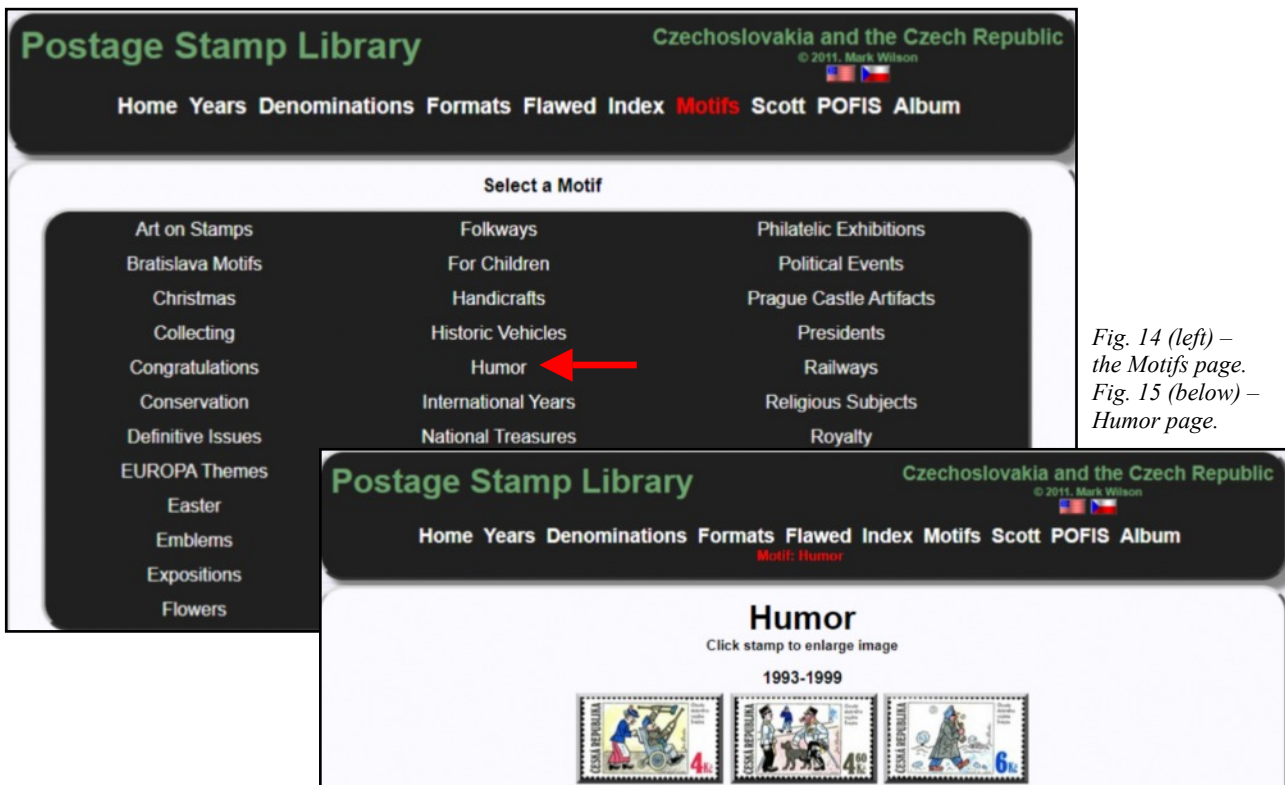


Fig. 14 (left) – the Motifs page.
Fig. 15 (below) – Humor page.

The **Motifs** button organizes images around themes. These collections are based on my intuition, not formal categories. Clicking on a name in the motif list displays stamps related to that theme, for instance Humor.

The **Index** pages (Fig. 16) are an alphabetical listing of the text found on Czechoslovak and Czech Republic stamps. English translations, the original Czech and Slovak texts, and Latin are indexed. Select the language from the submenu. then the initial letter of interest from the alphabet listing at the upper left (here the letter ‘M’ has been selected). Like the Scott and POFIS pages, clicking on a blue link will take you to the page devoted to that stamp. A mouse pointer hovering over a blue link will cause an image of the stamp to appear.

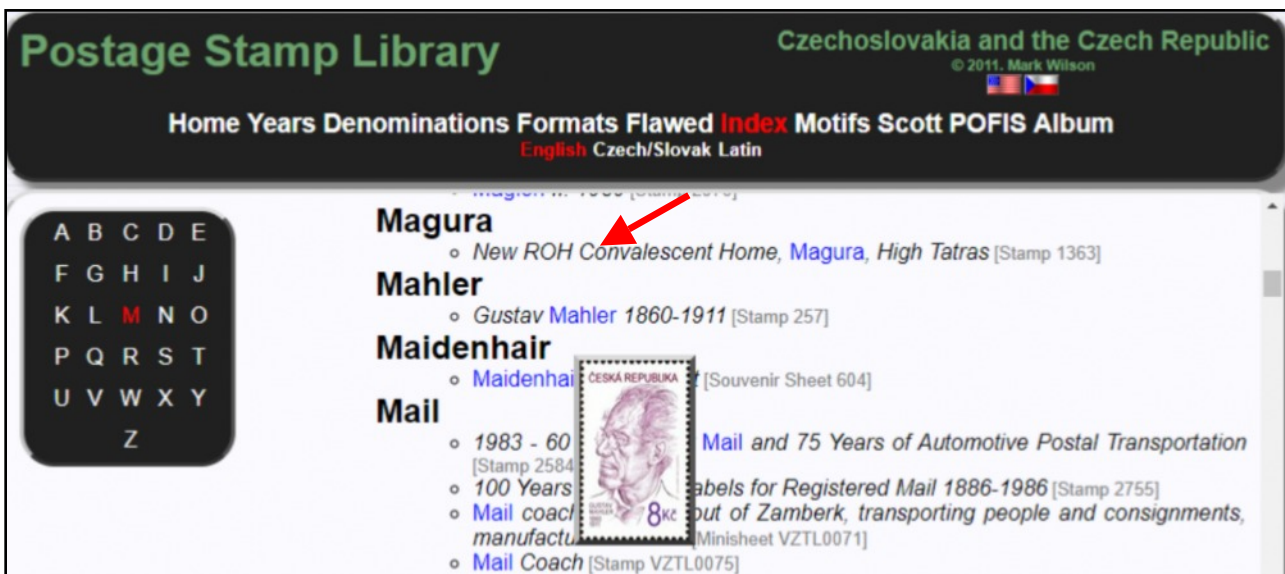


Fig. 16 – an index page.

The remaining navigation button, **Flawed**, exposes the highly specialized work of Danish collector Mogens Norbjerg (Fig. 17). He has collected images of flaws found on Second Republic stamps. Select a year and you will be taken to a page presenting all of the flawed stamps from that year. I selected 1949 and a page with all the flawed stamps from that year is shown (Fig. 18).

Clicking on an image takes you to a display of all that stamp’s flaws. Although not of interest to everyone, there is a tight-knit group of flaw specialists around the globe who find these pages absolutely absorbing.

I hope readers will find www.cpslib.org useful. Feel free to click on the webmaster link on the **Home** page to tell me how you are using the website, or what you like best (or least) about it, or if you have questions the website could not answer. I try to address every communication as quickly as I can.

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Home Years Denominations Formats **Flawed** Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album

Stamps with Flaws
Presented by
Mogens Norbjerg
of the
Tjekkosllovakiet Samlerne Danmark
Select a Year

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
								1973	1974
								1983	1984

Fig. 17 (right) –
the Flawed
Stamp page.
Fig. 18 (below) –
flawed stamps
from 1949.

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
© 2011, Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats **Flawed** Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album
1948 1949 1950

Flaws: 1949
Click stamp to enlarge image.
Put cursor on image to reveal POFIS number.

Postage Stamp Library Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
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Home Years Denominations Formats **Flawed** Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album
1949 2Kč Personalities
Stamp Flaws: 1949
PoFis: 505

Place cursor on image to see flaw information
From an unknown position/plate

Fig. 19: POFIS
505's flaws.

Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (ARGE Tschechoslowakei, Germany)

No. 220, June 2024 (in German)

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak covers 1918–39, pages 109/001–024. (Slides in English from a presentation to the ArGe Tschechoslowakei in Jičín, May 2024.)

Austria (Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 227, Summer 2024

Van Geirt, F., The stamped envelopes of 1890 & 1896.

Boyer, J., Christkindl 2023.

- Taylor, A., Where was Wien 1/1 *Postzeitungsamt* 1? (Hunting for the location of the newspaper posting office.)
 Brookes, A., Anton Hofer of the Krimml Waterfall Hotel. (WWI mail from family members to the hotel owner.)
 Moser, H., District stamp III of the former Innsbruck post office: new findings.
 Brookes, A., The Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia in 1914.
 Taylor, A., Ghosts from the past. (Acidic interactions between covers and album leaves.)

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 237, June 2024

- Thornburn, C., Five-word greetings cards. (The on-off nature of when it was allowed to send greetings postcards at the printed paper rate.)
 Weise, M., The story of the ‘lucky number’ – Hungarian lottery advertising, 1897–1950.
 Morrell, R., The humble receipt Part 5 – the *átadó-vevény*. (Receipts prepared for cash received for COD parcels.)

Filatelie (POFIS, Czechia)

No. 4, April 2024

- Beneš, F., Exhibition: People and Money; Czech National Bank, Prague, February–August 2024.
 Anon. Results of the polls for the most beautiful postmark and FDC 2023.
 Dobrovolný, J., The symbol ‘V’ during World War 2.
 Beneš, F., Sudeten overprints at surprisingly high prices.
 Kunc, L., Czechoslovak soldiers 1939–1945 (part 24).

No. 5, May 2024

- Beneš, F., Too good to be true (part 2).
 Schenk, F., Foreign post offices in the land of the pyramids and Egyptian post offices abroad.
 Anon. Poll for the most beautiful Czech stamp of 2023.
 Květon, R. *Et al.*, Airmail 1918; Czechoslovakia & Hungary; Specialized catalogue (POFIS 2024 pull-out 16-page supplement)

No. 6, June 2024

- Štajner, V., Plate faults on 1945 Kosice issue (part 1).
 Beneš, F., The legend of the Titanic: Postal clerk Oscar Scott Woody.
 Arbeit, M., Phosphorescence on Czechoslovak stamps by gravure printing from flat plates 1972–76. (POFIS 2024 pull-out 8-page supplement).
 Květon, R. *Et al.*, Airmail 1918; Czechoslovakia & Hungary; Specialized catalogue (POFIS 2024 pull-out 16-page supplement).

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn, Austria)

No. 151, 2024/2 (in German)

- Robisch, H., Kurierdienst. (Reproduction of a booklet concerning the instructions for the WWI mail courier service of the KuK army.)
 Gundfinger, H., Vor 165 Jahren. (An item of the Kuk Feldpost from Venice at the 1859 start of the Austro-Hungarian involvement in the Italian conflict that led to the loss of Lombardy to Napoleon III of France.)
 Robisch, H., Postkarten nach Bukarest. (A heavily censored 1918 8 *heller* postal stationery card from Vienna to Bucharest, returned from Hauptfeldpostamt 520 for being insufficiently franked.)
 Radovanović, M., Serbisch-montenegrinische Offensive in Ostbosnien. (Postcards and postal history from the early days of WWI when the Serbian-Montenegrin army fought back the Austrians into Bosnia.)
 Robisch, H., Zurückweisung einer Feldpostkarte. (Example of the change in requirements from the 1 August 1917 of the colour of fieldpost cards to the front to be only grey, not pink, leading to its return to sender.)
 Kalis, K., Die heilige Barbara und ihre Bedeutung für die k.k. und k.u.k. Artilleristen im 1. Weltkrieg. (Holy Barbara, an early Christian martyr, was used as a patron of protection by artillery units in WWI, as well as other dangerous non-military trades. This article shows cap badges and postcards depicting the saint.)
 Wirtl, W., Die feindlicher Streitkräfte im WWI – Splitter and Schluss. (‘Fragments and Conclusion’ of this series of articles, covering particularly some aspects of British, French and Japanese involvement in WWI.)
 Robisch, H., Briefe erzählen Geschichte... (Examination of a fieldpost card from a serving doctor to his mother in Sweden, and identification of the family history.)
 Bliersbach, A., Kulturelle Arbeit der Kriegsgefangenen. (Cultural activities of POWs, particularly in Russian camps, with an emphasis on theatre and concert productions, illustrated with announcements, programmes and tickets.)
 Robisch, H., Briefe erzählen Geschichte... (Examination of a letter from Meran to a hotel owner’s children in Bruneck, tracing the history of the hotel and the town’s links to a respite hospital for severely wounded and dying soldiers from the Italian Front.)

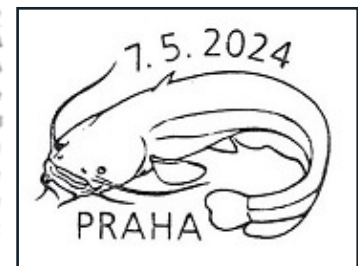


New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

Images and text adapted from
www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request_locale=en

7 May 2024

Europa: Aquatic Flora and Fauna – NVI ‘E’ (POFIS 1260)



The catfish on the FDC cancel.

The *Europa* issue is an annual joint event with a common design or theme for members of the PostEurop Association. The Czech Republic individual design portrays four fish – the native pike and its prey the perch, with the introduced carp and the rainbow trout. Carp were introduced in medieval times, to be farmed successfully as a supplement to a meagre diet, whereas rainbow trout are a more recent introduction, for sport and as a food source. The largest fish to be found in Europe is the catfish (*Silurus glanis*) which, in deep water, can grow to be 3m long and weigh up to 250kg. It is pictured on the First Day Cover cancel. Crustaceans, molluscs, insects, and amphibians are all represented on the stamp. Flora are represented by two aquatic plants: the water lily (*Nymphaea alba*), with its spectacular white flower display from July to August, and the aquatic grass, spiked water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) – which also bears flower spikes above the water, but the flowers are minute and dull red. These are just a few of the many and varied indigenous aquatic animals and plants of the Czech Republic.

Personalities: Eduard Petiška – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 261)



Eduard Petiška (1924–1987) came from a cultured family, speaking Czech and German at home. He was accepted as a student at a music conservatory, but WWII changed his plans, and he was forced to work in a factory. From early childhood he was attracted to stories from folklore told by his grandmother. His book *Daisy* was based on these German tales. After 1945 he studied comparative literature, aesthetics, and medicine; published prose and poetry; wrote articles for newspapers and children's magazines; and worked for radio and the film industry. Although his adult books were banned from publication from 1950, he continued to write for

children and translate the works of classic German authors. His most famous book is probably *Ancient Greek Myths and Legends*, which became a worldwide success. It was conceived as a novel about 'life in Bohemia, and Czech hopes and despairs' with the gods representing particular political ideologies or activities. After the Velvet Revolution he received many awards, including the naming of an asteroid in his memory.

Art on Stamps: J. E. Ridinger – The Hunting Graphics (POFIS 1262 & 1263); Miniature sheet (POFIS A1262)



Johann Elias Ridinger (1698–1767) studied in his hometown of Ulm before settling in Augsburg. He spent some years in Regensburg studying animals in the landscape, particularly horses and hunting events. Two such scenes are depicted on the stamps: the Hare Hunt (*Hon na Zajíce*), with the hare fleeing to be pursued by the eager hounds and a mounted hunter (POFIS 1262); and The Hunt (*Na Lovu*), with a dismounted rider at the conclusion of the hunt. A scene from a mallard hunt forms the sheet background, with footprints of deer at the bottom edge. Ridinger founded his own art publishing house in Augsburg. His engravings of animals and hunting scenes are thought to be amongst the finest and most realistic of the genre. Copies of his works have been used to decorate porcelain and ceramics.

Definitives: Emojis – NVI ‘B’ (self-adhesive); sheet (POFIS TL1264); Individual stamps (POFIS 1264–1269); Strip of five (POFIS CZS1264)



Emojis or pictograms originated in Japan in the late 1980s as black and white characters, then appeared on mobile phones from 1999. The Japanese word is derived from ‘e’ (meaning picture) and ‘moji’ (meaning character). The characters developed slowly but became popular worldwide during the 2010s, especially with the addition of colour and a wider range of meanings. An encyclopaedia documents the meanings, common usage, and additions to the growing list of these pictograms.

The five issued stamps, in sheets of 50, depict the story of a letter: writing a letter; attaching a stamp; processing at the post office by cancelling the stamp; delivering the letter; and the joy of receiving the letter. A strip of the five stamps is also available.

12 June 2024

Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area – 42 Kč (POFIS 1269); 48 Kč (POFIS 1270); Miniature sheet (POFIS A1269)

This protected landscape of 37 square miles in the flood plain of the Morava River, north of Olomouc, was established in November 1990. The town of Litovel is at the centre of this area. The Morava River meanders through the flood plain with a number of permanent and temporary meanders. During the Middle Ages, farmers built dykes around the forests to protect their villages and agricultural land from the seasonal floods. Even today the forest acts as a natural sponge, helping to catch and store overflow water, and creating a habitat for aquatic plants and animals. West of Litovel, a ridge of Devonian limestone – Třenci Hill – has been eroded by water to form the Mladečské Cave complex. The village of Příkazy has an open-air museum dedicated to the traditions and historical legacy of the protected landscape area.



For Children: The Oddsockeaters – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1271–1280); Sheet (POFIS A1271)



The Oddsockeaters (*Lichožrouti* – literally ‘gluttons’), are creatures eating only one sock from a pair. They first appeared in a poetry book for children dedicated to big and little monsters, written by Pavel Šrut (1940–2018), and illustrated by Galina Miklínová (born 1970). The book was a bestseller, has been translated into several languages, and has been published abroad. Miklínová, who also designed this stamp issue, has directed an animated film on the Oddsockeaters.

The sheet of 10 self-adhesive stamps depicts some of these popular sock robbers: Vasil; Pepa Padrát; Padre (aka Big Boss); Hihlik; Tulamore and Rameses; Spike Reisser; Grandpa Lamor; Strangler Cango; Kawa; and Coyotes. Pavel Šrut studied English and Spanish at Charles University, Prague, and worked as an editor for a publishing house, before becoming a freelance writer and translator in 1972. Šrut gained many awards for his work.



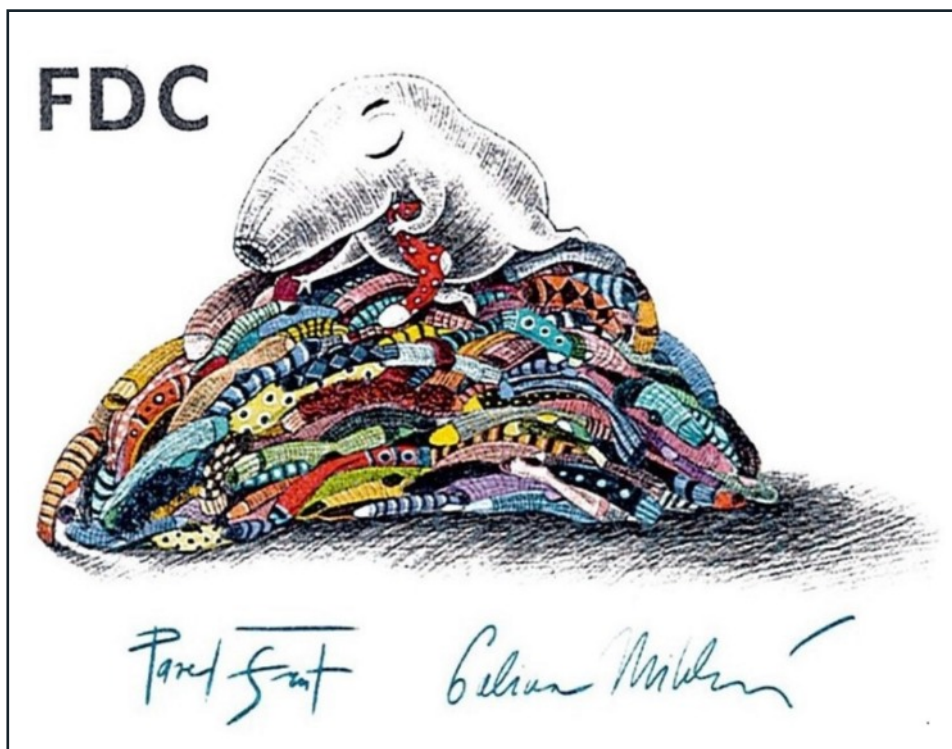


Illustration from the Oddsocketeers First Day Cover, with signatures of the author, Pavel Šrut, and the illustrator, Galina Miklínová.

Definitive: Olomouc – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1281); Miniature sheet with labels for personalized printing (POFIS TL 1281)



The stamp depicts the Holy Trinity Column in Horní náměstí, with a young, seated girl dressed in the Art Deco style of the 1920s looking towards an outline of Olomouc Town Hall. This design is enlarged over six of the fourteen labels available on the miniature sheet for personalized printing. Olomouc, on the Morava River, is the administrative centre of this eastern Moravian region, with a history dating back to the 11th century. The Holy Trinity Column was erected in the 16th century and is adorned with religious figures. The city is also famed for its six Baroque fountains. Today's Town Hall, with vaulted rooms and an astronomical clock, was formerly a merchant's house.



New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

Images and text adapted from
www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products

26 April 2024

Europa 2024: The Fauna and Flora of the Lakes of the Tatra Mountains – NVI ‘T1 100g’ (POFIS 815); Booklet (POFIS ZZ 815 /24)



The Tatra Mountains form part of the western Carpathian mountain range, a natural barrier between Slovakia and Poland, with both countries protecting the rare flora and fauna through designated National Parks. Plants living in these harsh environments have adapted to low temperatures, a short growing season and few soil nutrients. The rarest species is the narrowleaf bur-reed (*Sparganium angustifolium*), an aquatic, perennial plant of the cat-tail family, which is only found in an area of the Roháčske Lakes. The rarest animal is probably the Arctic fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta paludosa*), now only

found in one lake. Over-fishing, climate change, and acidification are the causes, and they still threaten this and other aquatic species. Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and the Alpine bullhead (*Cottus poecilopus*) which it feeds on, were introduced to the Tatra lakes in the 19th century to the detriment of native species. The Alpine bullhead is shown on the stamp.

30 April 2024

20th Anniversary of the Entry of the Slovak Republic to the European Union – self adhesive (POFIS 816)

Slovakia became part of the EU in 2004, after a positive referendum result of 92% of its population agreeing to join. Slovakia is still a net recipient of EU funds, and this has brought benefits to the economy, the infrastructure, and modernization, helping to improve the quality of life for all its citizens.



3 May 2024



100th Anniversary of the Launch of the Airline Route: Prague – Bratislava – Košice (POFIS 817)

Czechoslovak State Airlines (ČSA) began a scheduled return air service in 1924 from Bratislava to Košice, although test flights had already been made during 1923. Košice had a military airfield, with a grass runway, in use from 1920 but now the government planned for speedy communications across the country, connecting Prague, Bratislava, Košice, and finally Užhorod (in 1929), with a later extension to Brno. The first Bratislava – Košice flight was scheduled for the 5th anniversary of the Republic, on 28 October 1923, but bad weather forced a delay. The start of routine flights from east Slovakia to connect

with domestic and later international flights is considered to be 5 May 1924. The first civil airplane was a single engine A14 biplane (a modified German Brandenburg C1 developed during WWI). It was a wooden structure covered with fabric and had the serial number 09, registered as L-BARA.

24 May 2024

90th anniversary of the Foundation of Chemosvit – NVI ‘T2 50g’ (POFIS 818)

In early 1934 Jan Antonin Baťa built a new factory on a green site near Svit for the manufacture and development of artificial fibres, cellophane and related products. The venture was based on Baťa’s original ideas of caring for his workers, their well-being, and their future. The enterprise survived the difficulties of the mid-20th century to become a series of related companies. Today this enterprise is Chemosvit, which produces plastics, packaging, unlaminated film and sheet, and has a further factory in Ukraine. The stamp is the first to be printed by multi-coloured serigraphy (silk screen printing). A commemorative envelope has also been issued (without a POFIS number).



31 May 2024

The China-Czech-Slovak Friendship Farm (POFIS 819)

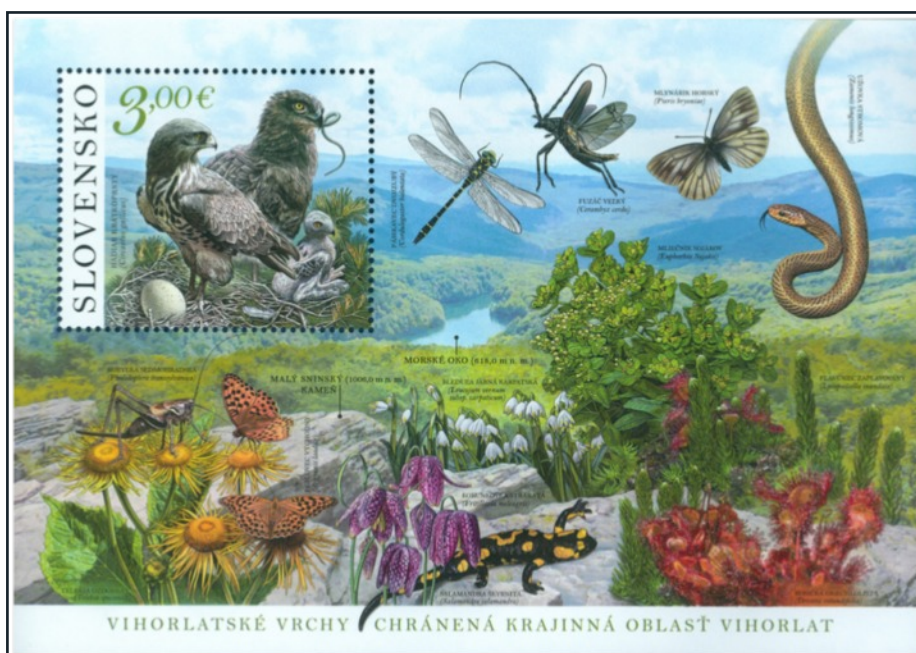
The Farm was founded in 1956, some 200km from Beijing in Hebei province, to help China develop modern farming methods. A Chinese delegation had visited Czechoslovakia and accepted a gift of some 670 pieces of agricultural machinery, together with a group of seven mechanics to instruct the Chinese farm workers on their use and maintenance. The name of this 268-square-km collective farm was known as *Zhongji*. A memorial, as depicted on the stamp, was erected in 2006 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its founding. In 2007 the area was renamed Zhongji Industrial Park. Recent additions and co-operative

ventures include the Zhongji Nitra Winery, and investment in the mass production of the AirCar flying car, designed and constructed by Stefan Klein.

7 June 2024

Nature Protection: The Vihorlat Mountains – the Short-Toed Snake Eagle (POFIS 820); Maximum Card (POFIS 131CM 820/24)

The Vihorlat Mountains are a volcanic area in part of the Carpathian range in eastern Slovakia and western Ukraine. In Slovakia the Vihorlat range is about 55km long and 11km broad, and contains a UNESCO World Heritage site – Kyjovský prales, a primeval beech forest. The stamp sheet depicts the typical landscape, including Morské Oko lake, with flora and fauna of the region. The stamp depicts a nesting family of the short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), a migratory bird arriving in April/May to breed, and returning to Saharan Africa in September/October for the winter. Usually



just one egg is laid each season (rarely two). This medium-sized bird of prey feeds on snakes, lizards and small animals, including rabbits, but is declining in numbers due to loss of habitat and its specialized diet.

Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four London meetings in 2024, two joint meetings and a society weekend in Yorkshire, and five Zoom meetings.
Publications	Members receive the quarterly journal <i>Czechout</i> which includes articles of interest on Czech and Slovak philately and helps members to keep in touch with Society affairs. The Society publishes <i>Monographs</i> and Print-on-Demand titles on wide-ranging topics containing original research.
Library	The Society maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals, and reference materials available to UK members only. Postage both ways paid by the borrower.
Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auctioneer.
Circulating Packets	Stamp and postal history packets available to members in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Manager.
Free Small Adverts	Members are permitted free small adverts in <i>Czechout</i> . Contact Advertising Manager.
Accessories at Trade prices	Members may order accessories, album leaves, and philatelic books at a substantial saving. Delivered direct. Contact the Treasurer.
Data Protection Act	Members are advised that their details are stored electronically for use on Society business only, e.g. for address label printing.

Payments

Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank payable to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB); current bank notes in pounds sterling, US dollars, or Euros. Payments may also be made by US dollar cheques or paid to a Euro bank account, or by PayPal. Please contact the Treasurer for details.

Officers and Committee

All Officers and Committee members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

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**Members
sharing their
love of
Czechoslovak
philately at
the residential
weekend
(pages 6–10)**