



## CZECHOUT

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Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

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We enclose with this journal the annual Membership interests and subscription form, AGM minutes, annual accounts, auction list [except for those members who receive this by e-mail] and programme card for 2001. The annual index for this volume will be sent out with the March issue of *Czechout*, together with the revised Library List. The next London meeting is on Saturday 13 January 2001 when **Ron Hollis** will show ***Rates of Bohemia & Moravia*** and **Bill Dawson *Miscellany***.

We hope that you have all liked our Anniversary issue cover designed by Rex Dixon, for special occasions in colour, otherwise in black and white. We thank and congratulate him on his expertise and the time spent in perfecting this for our Anniversary issue. We shall change over to this design for 2001.

*The Daily Telegraph* for 7 October contained the following useful suggestion, especially for those of us who have to send cash abroad now that the banks have ended eurocheques. The Post Office confirms that cash sent by international registered post is insured. To France, the charge is £3 for sums up to £500, £4 for up to £2,200, in addition to the cost of airmail postage. This service is available to most European countries and selected countries world-wide. Costs vary with destination.

The Editorial team send their best wishes for Christmas and 2001 and thank all the contributors and translators for their help during the past year.

*Opinions expressed in articles in Czechout are the sole responsibility of the author(s), and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Society.*

## NEWS & NOTICES

### Meeting of Saturday 2 September 2000

The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed a disappointingly low 12 members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from three members.

He announced the unfortunate cancellation of the forthcoming exhibition at the Czech Embassy, due to the unforeseen unavailability of the room at the Embassy where the displays would have been mounted. He thanked all those who had volunteered, both with displays and for manning the exhibition.

The Hon Secretary gave details of two prospective new members:

<b>Milan Černík</b>	From Prague
<b>Brian Madeley</b>	From Levenshulme

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Robert welcomed **Michael Furfie**, the Editor of the *Postage Due Mail Study Group Journal*, and called upon him to display **Postage Due Mail of Czechoslovakia**. Michael started by drawing a distinction between international mail, where the UPU provided the charging framework, and domestic mail, where practice was a bit more individual country by country.

The first half of the display was devoted to domestic postage due mail from 1918 to 1992, including the changes brought about by occupation and the subsequent liberation. For the second half, covering international mail both to and from Czechoslovakia, Michael used flipcharts to highlight the regulations of successive UPU Congresses, using examples from the displays to illustrate the calculations that ensued. These could be particularly complex following the 1924 Stockholm Congress, where deviations were permitted in the conversion between the gold franc and the local currency. He brought members' attention to a book devoted to postage due mail in Czechoslovakia: *Doplatné na území československo 1894-1985* by Jozef Čížek, published by ZSF Bratislava.

The final part of the afternoon saw postage due mail displays and queries from **Bill Dawson, Richard Beith** and **Rex Dixon**.

Roger Morrell gave the vote of thanks. He said that we had been given a most unusual display of tasty bits and pieces, "full of unfathomable maths and complicated calculations."

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.15 pm.

Rex A Dixon

### Meeting of Saturday 4 November 2000

The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 21 members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from five members.

There being no Society business he handed over the meeting to the Society Auctioneer, Roger Morrell, conducting his third auction for the Society. He was assisted at the top table by Robert Hill, the Hon Auction Secretary, and Bob Bradford, the Hon Treasurer. David Pearce and Garth Taylor acted as "runners". The auction was a success, with 63% of the lots sold and sales netting 72% of the total reserve. The computer assistance has been developed to the point where room purchasers were given a printed invoice detailing their successful bids when they came up to pay at the end.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

Rex A Dixon

### Congratulations

- To our Austrian colleagues as they commence the millennium under their new name -The Austrian Philatelic Society.
- To Dick Frost as he takes over the Editorship of *Stamps of Hungary* in 2001 and sincere good wishes to David Williams, who retires after some 16 years – a job well done. >

- At **Glasgow 2000** the Society was awarded Silver Bronze Medals for Monographs 12 and 13. Members: **Richard Beith** obtained a Vermeil for *Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Western Europe, 1939-1945*. **Ian Nutley** a Silver in the Social Philately Class for *WW2 Forgeries*.

### Letters to the Editor

✉ **Vladimír Králíček** writes: "re Czech Relief - part 1, *Czechout* 3/2000, page 68. The source is as follows: MOSBAUGH'S U.S. all funds seal catalogue; Section 7: Ethnic Seals. Sponsored by the Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society and published by Henry Irwin, Chicago, 1979. Alec obtained the information from pages of the above catalogue that I had supplied him with."

**NOTE:** *Alec had included in the illustrations supplied to Chris Miller [on page 70] five stamps from the Slovak National Alliance of America. I had identified these as published by the Slovak League of America in 1932 and can now make the following corrections: Editor.*

1] The Slovak National Alliance of America (Slovenske Národně Sdruzenie v Amerike) 2446 S.Pulski Road, Chicago, Illinois published these stamps. Mosbaugh's reference 2320.01 [1932] Booklet pane, five designs each with name; 25x50 (a: 50x25 women and child). Multicolour, serrate roulette 12. Designs: (a) woman and child; (b) Masaryk; (c) Statue of Liberty; (d) dove & torch; (e) bust of Štefánik this seal in five colours blue & pink, red & pink, brown & pink, green & yellow and purple. A pane 5x1; RM4S.

2] The Slovak League of America. Mosbaugh's reference 2310.01 [1902] produced a single seal depicting a Slovak girl; dark blue colour; 30x22, perforated 12. Some notes were contributed by the then President on this stamp in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* July/August 1991, stating that a die of this stamp was engraved by The American Bank Note Company of New York in 1907. The die was finished on 1 August 1907 and like the stamp is in dark blue colour and was engraved by Messrs Savage and Gunn. The sale of this 1c value raised over one million dollars and the Slovak League decided to turn over the receipts of this sale to President Masaryk for use in creating the Republic after World War One.

### Publications

We have received the following journals which will be available from the Society Library. Items of interest to members are:

- The Winter 2000 issue of *Austria* No. 132. The articles include:
  - ▶ The River Danube (Godden).
- The June 2000 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 32, Whole No. 124 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
  - ▶ Corrections to Journals 118 and 123. [Re Journal 123 - Page 721/003 needs to be replaced by pp 721/003-004 in this current issue.] Information: Unknown cancellation from Brünn. Articles: Hradčany Contact Group established; The Pigeongram Stationery of Czechoslovakia 1962-68 (Osthues); Order form for Stationery Catalogue from Osthues/Sobotka/Kokta; Philatelic Library, Hamburg - Extracts from Catalogue, titles relating to Czechoslovak Philately; Library of the Museum for Communications, Berlin. Extracts from the Catalogue - titles relating to Czechoslovak Philately; The first vending machine stamps from the Czech Post Office (Müller); Railway Post in the Czech Republic. A document from employees of the Railway Post Office in Plzeň (-).
- The September/October and November/December 2000 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 62, Whole Nos. 563/4, Nos. 5/6. The articles include:
  - ▶ Silesian Territory Occupied by the Czechoslovaks in 1919 (Kunc); K.u.K. Censor Station Vojtanov – Rarity or Forgery? (Thielk); Introduction to the Machine Cancels of Austria and Czechoslovakia (Small); Czech Airmail Stamps from 1930 used in Postal Transfers of Airmail Covers to Asia (Tekel'); Happy 80th Birthday-Flag of ČR (Horvath); Umění a Známký Art on Stamps (van Zenten); Issue of Postal Card with Cachet Internet for Philatelists (Janík); Automated Handling of Letter Mail in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic (Langhammer). >

- ▶ An OAT Cover from Czechoslovakia (Miskevich); A 310g Letter to Buenos Aires – Justification for the 20Kč Airmail Stamp (Beith); Sky of Balloons – Hradec Králové Follow Up (Horvath); Postage Stamps of Carpathian Ukraine 1945 (Holoubek); Fokkar or Tupolev? One stamp's mystery (Steidler); Not only Pošta Militaire 52 (Santangelo); Respected and Honoured Round Mountain (Maleček); Dr Emil Holub – Traveller and Philatelist (Maleček).
- The 4/2000 issue of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
  - ▶ Guernica c'td (Fischer); 1966 Fish issue c'td (Fritz); Letters of Czechoslovak Members of the R.A.F. (Ustohal).
- The September and December 2000 issues of *Stamps of Hungary* Nos. 142/3. The articles include:
  - ▶ The Austro-Hungarian Navy in WWI [Part 2] (Morrell); Collecting Hungarian Railway Philately (Benford).
  - ▶ Update on the Second Inflation's Air Mail Service (Szilagyi); The Story of the Turul Issue (-).

## BOOK REVIEW

***Vzácnosti a Zajímavosti Československých Známek*** [Rare and Remarkable Czechoslovak Postage Stamps] by Jan Karásek A.I.E.P., A.I.J.P. A4 hardbound, illustrated laminated covers, 127+ 8 colour advert pages, with black print enclosed of Brno 1593. Published by Nakladatelství MERKUR REVUE spol. s r.o. Brno v roce 2000. Czech Republic; price believed around 500 Kč or £10 approx. ISBN 80-238-5172-1.

- A review by William A Dawson -

This highly interesting volume was compiled by the world renowned F.I.P. expert on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. It was published and produced in connection with the philatelic exhibition "BRNO 2000".

The book is a first class production on paper of the highest quality, with the colour illustrations adequately accurate, crisp and clear. Text is in three languages, Czech, English and German throughout and includes descriptions of each individual item illustrated and runs to 127 pages with 272 items of subject matter. The descriptions include such details such as catalogue reference, catalogue valuation and recent auction realizations where applicable, these valuations being in Czech currency naturally. Entries are set out in seven groups, the first being items of Hradčany issues, with a further five sections that cover the First Republic period to 1938-39. Finally group seven is concerned with items of the post World War II period. Included throughout are exceptional trial prints and unadopted designs, these mostly in small sheet form. And for postal history buffs, there are no less than 17 covers/cards in the Hradčany section alone with a further 13 such pieces in later groupings. Here mention should be made of a registered cover to Vienna franked with Hradčany type "a" 5 haléřů block of four plus a single with 10 haléřů pair used 18 December 1918, the first day of issue. Quite recently this cover was sold at auction for Kč145,000, the highest valued cover in the book.

On the matter of valuations, the highest valued single stamp is the "P.C. 1919" overprint on Austrian 4 Kronen light green on granite paper. An amazing recent auction realisation of Kč 2,850,000 even though only eight copies have been recorded. Amongst used stamps, not surprisingly with only 18 copies known, the 1927 postage due error "50 DOPLATIT 50" overprint on liberation 50h red realised Kč 1,500,000 at auction.

As would be expected, by far the largest of the seven sections is the first, which covers Hradčany issues and comprises 84 illustrated items. I noted with special interest 11 separate entries in respect of the type "e" 30h value featuring distinct shades of violet, five different perforations as well as imperforate. However the most featured is the 15h also of type "e" with 16 items with variations of colour, sub-types, joined sub-types and perforations. The final five items in this section are used examples of the much sought after 100h, 200h and 300h VEJPRTY/WEIPERT forgeries to defraud the post office.

Of the 45 items of the second group the subject of which are the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" overprints, a quick check shows there are 29 entries with valuations of over £1,000 Sterling. A great joy to see illustrations of so many classic rarities gracing these pages.

>

Section three covers the Legionářské issue and definitives up to 1923, with 1920 Masaryk, and all the aptly named Allegories issues. My eyes especially lighted on the five examples of the joined types of the 100h red 1923 Science and Agriculture issue, mainly because I have looked through hundreds of pairs and larger pieces of this stamp and have never been fortunate enough to discover any examples of these joined types II and III.

Postage stamps issued from 1925 to World War II are the subject covered by section four. Most items in this group are of the 1925/26 Masaryk Head issues. Mainly they are of scarce watermark variations which obviously are not brought out in the colour reproductions. My favourite, the set of ten values of 1928 Tenth Anniversary in unofficial line perf 12¼ and a set which in my opinion is very much undervalued, though no information on numbers printed are available except that they were for V.I.P's in the Ministry of Posts.

Airmail, Newspaper and Postage Due issues of the First Republic are covered in section five. This group throws up my biggest query in Czechoslovak stamps. The first airmail set value 28Kč on 1000h with line perf 13¾ has a catalogue value of Kč 19,000, but the same stamp same perforation with inverted overprint catalogues Kč 8,000. The same stamp but comb perf 13¾ x 13½ is priced by the catalogue at Kč 1,000, but with inverted overprint at Kč 8,000. Examples of both perforations with inverted overprints are featured, but there is no comment on this obvious disparity. This section includes the postage due error 50h on 50h red previously mentioned.

The penultimate grouping in section six covers the "S.O. 1920" overprints and the overprinted Scout stamps. This latter overprint, to mark the arrival of President Masaryk, is featured both as a mint pair of values and as a pair used on a fully documented Scout cover. A notable item of the "S.O. 1920" overprints is an imperf black print pair of the 1000h Masaryk stamp with se-tenant overprints types "B" and "C" – this is something that I never knew existed.

Section seven, the final grouping, covers issues from 1945. Apart from the special trial prints for final approval of the eight designs of the 1945 London (Heroes) issue, the most elusive are the trial prints in brown of the 1946 20Kč value airmail issue showing an aircraft in flight over Bratislava.

In the foreword, acknowledgements are made to a number of prominent philatelists in the Czech Republic, Netherlands and the U.S.A., all winners of gold medals whose material has been used in this compilation. However, much of the material illustrated is from the collection of the author. I would recommend this unusual book to all collectors who have a particular interest in the philately of the First Republic of Czechoslovakia. As the author states, it is not feasible nor technically possible to reproduce every "rare and remarkable" item in this field. But this is a remarkable achievement in featuring such a magnificent range of such philatelic gems.

#### **QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS**

The following queries are still outstanding, perhaps some our overseas members can help as well?

Czechout 2/98: Bob Hill's Cerekev and Glen Morgan's Printers Sample Stamps

Czechout 4/98: Chris Miller's Civil Censorship by Czech Authorities

Czechout 1/99: Richard Beith's WW2 Ships

Czechout 3/00: Bob Hill's form stub

Czechout 3/00: Lou Svoboda's Dr Beneš' whereabouts in 1932

Czechout 3/00: Lubor Kunc's Czechoslovak College in Bishop's Stortford

## Vlasov's Army

- Robert J.Hill -

The army was named after Andrei Andreivich Vlasov<sup>1</sup> (born the son of a peasant on 1st September 1900), who is described as a charismatic, tall, bony man with heavy horn-rimmed glasses.

He was conscripted into the Red Army of Workers and Peasants (*Rabochiy Krestyanskaya Krasnaya Armiya*, RKKA) in 1919 after graduating from theological seminary and was sent for officer training. A year later he became a Company commander.

At the end of the civil war Vlasov remained in the army and in 1924 was given command of the Regimental School of the 26th Rifle Regiment

Vlasov joined the Communist Party in 1930 – presumably from motives of self protection rather than ideology, as he continued to provide financial support for his wife's family who had been denounced as "*kulaks*" (rich peasants).

The great Stalinist purges appear to have passed him by and in 1938 he was sent to China as military advisor to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. He was recalled to Moscow in 1939 and promoted Commander of the 99th Rifle Division, which was made up of no less than 33 nationalities. He quickly got them "into shape" and was awarded the *Order of Lenin*.



In 1941, Major General Vlasov was in command of the 37th Army holding positions about 200 kilometers west of Kiev; he fought his way clear of encirclement and went on to gain the reputation as one of the staunchest defenders of Kiev. Even though Kiev ended in disaster for the Red Army, no blame was attached to Vlasov and on 11 November Stalin personally appointed him to command the 20th Army; with it came the guarantee of a vital role in the defense of Moscow. His part in the Moscow counter-offensive was also acknowledged and he appeared (with others) on the 13 December issue of *Pravda* – he was also deemed suitable for interview by foreign correspondents.

On 24 January 1942 he was promoted Lieutenant General and awarded the *Order of the Red Banner*. In March Vlasov was again picked by Stalin for an important task: he was named Deputy Commander of the Volkhov front, on the northern flank of the Russian line. The 2nd Shock Army (which was the southernmost element of the front) had been playing its part in the counter-offensive by pushing northward (north east of Novgorod) and trying to relieve Leningrad – but progress was slow. When Vlasov took command the 2nd Shock Army was surrounded. Vlasov's progress at relief was slow but sure, however this had to be abandoned when Stalin disbanded the Volkhov front and put it under the control of the Leningrad front.

Vlasov's 2nd Shock Army was well and truly surrounded (between Novgorod and Gruzino) and the place was a quagmire of mud littered with corpses. The Army followed orders and carried on the pointless fight. Stalin finally authorized a break out in July, but only a handful of men made it. >

<sup>1</sup> We acknowledge illustration from a painting by Peter Dennis in *Military Illustrated*

A peasant betrayed Vlasov to the Germans as he approached a village in search of food; he was captured by Dutch Waffen-SS troops.

He was utterly disillusioned with both Stalin and the Communist Party and, following discussions with brother officers and sympathetic *Wehrmacht* officers, he denounced Joseph Stalin three weeks after his capture. He formulated the idea of a Russian Liberation Movement and then helped the Germans mobilize 1,000,000 Russian prisoners into Hitler's service – mainly by the means of a passionate open letter that was followed up by a number of personal visits to prison camps.

Vlasov's intent was not to further National Socialism but to obliterate Communism. His espoused intentions caused the Führer, Adolf Hitler, to be constantly suspicious.

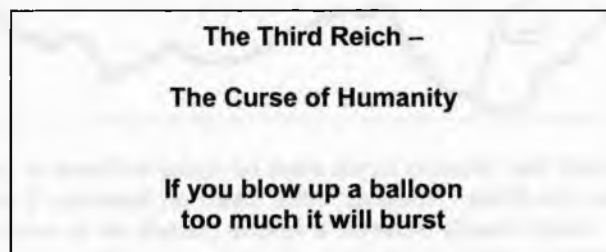
Reichführer-SS Heinrich Himmler eventually agreed to the formal recruiting of a force of 50,000 men and on Monday 20 November 1944, 60,000 men tried to enlist. Due to continued skepticism on Hitler's part – and lack of equipment – only two units were activated: the 1st and 2nd ROA divisions (*Russkaya Osvoboditelnaya Armiya* – Russian Army of Liberation). The officers of the 1st ROA (also known as *600th Panzergrenadier Division*) came mainly from the disbanded 29th and 30th *Waffen Grenadier Division der SS* under Bronislav Kaminsky (who had well earned the sobriquet "the Butcher of Warsaw").

Discussions took place at the Führer's regular meeting in the early hours of Saturday 24 March 1945 as to the practicalities of fully arming Vlasov's men and this eventually occurred.

Hitler's worries were confirmed when, fighting against the Red Army on Busse's front, the 1st ROA were withdrawn after a day of pointless attacks. The General, Sergei K Buniachenko, reasoned the war was nearly over and it was better to meet up with the 2nd ROA in the former Czechoslovakia. The men ripped the swastikas from their uniforms and 30,000 leaflets were produced denouncing Hitler. This had a laxative effect on the German high command, who pleaded and sent truckloads of food to the south for the men – to no avail. The 1st ROA did not stop until it reached an area just south of Beroun a little over 30 kilometers south west of Praha.

On Friday 4 May 1945 things in Praha were desperate to say the least, the impatient citizens removed German signs and defaced bilingual signs with patriotic messages and opposition to the occupying forces became more and more open. Radio Prague threatened heavy penalties for anyone caught in the act of vandalism but the warnings went unheeded.

By the Saturday morning, street vendors were offering black-framed death notices reading:



the second statement being an old Czech proverb.

The rumour that General Patton was only 30 kilometers away spread like wildfire. A tram festooned with Allied flags rolled into Wenceslas Square with its conductor yelling out liberation slogans. By noon the Czechoslovak flag was to be seen flying from many windows and some stores displayed pictures of Tomáš Masaryk, Eduard Beneš and Joseph Stalin. The Minister for Bohemia and Moravia, Karl Hermann Frank, ordered the streets cleared but, for once, the SS were less than half-hearted in the execution of the order.

What was to be done? The Revolutionary National Council (RNC) was hastily convoked in an insurance office and it voted unanimously to lead the premature revolution. Its own plans had depended on an air drop of British arms which had been postponed many times.

A figurehead was appointed, Dr. Albert Prazák, a 64 year old professor at Charles University – he was anti-communist but politically naive and therefore seen as acceptable to the Communist Party members of the RNC.

At 1500 hours the RNC broadcast an appeal to citizens to build street barricades at every strategic corner; it was cold and damp but the populace attacked this task with fervour. A jeep with Americans headed by Lt. Eugene Fodor of the OSS arrived in Wenceslas Square; they were embraced and seen as the vanguard of Lt. General George S Patton's army as they were whisked off to the RNC. Major Nechansky, it was decided, would return to Plzeň with the Americans to see General Patton. He was to take a message from General Kuttelwaser, the military head of the uprising, asking the Americans to liberate the city. A communist on the RNC vehemently objected, as he wanted the Russians to arrive first, but he was out-voted.

Nechansky went to Plzeň and his pleas did not fall on deaf ears; Patton begged Lt. General Omar Bradley to let him take Praha, Bradley pleaded with General of the Army Dwight D Eisenhower, but to no avail – a deal had been struck with Moscow.

In the city, further rumour spread – two German divisions were approaching the city and one group of Czech officers, without consulting the RNC, turned to Vlasov's army for help. During the last three weeks Vlasov's army had moved from Oder (just south of Frankfurt) to within 35 kilometers of Praha. The delegation arrived at the Vlasovites' army HQ just before midnight; it was situated in the village of Suchomasty (7.5 kilometers south of Beroun). Vlasov, Buniachenko and others deliberated and then decided to "help their Slavic brothers".



The rumour machine reported that German tanks were en route to Praha to help the ground troops and help was again sought from the Allies. However, after dawn on Saturday 5 May, Vlasov's army started its march on Praha. The march nearly became a festive parade as in every village lines of cheering Czechs called out *Naz dat!* (Long life), weeping women joyously offered food to the passing men and girls strewed flowers in their path. At dusk the army entered Praha and saw action over the next two days.

Only the Vlasovites had come to the aid of Praha. Eisenhower stood firm to the agreement with Stalin and even a telegram from the Rt. Hon. Winston S Churchill would not move him. The Red Army was still "on its way". Vlasov's army soon saw conflict and was engaged in fierce street fighting with the Germans. On the evening of Monday 7 May Buniachenko learned that an SS division was approaching Praha from the south. He ordered a reserve regiment to dig in on a hill, eight miles from the city, and stop the enemy "at all costs". By mid morning the next day, the Germans appeared to be contained. A few hours later, however, the victorious ROA troops began pulling out of Praha in the direction of the American lines. Buniachenko explained to a regimental commander that the Czechs had asked them to leave as their help was no longer needed and the tanks of Marshal Ivan Konev were about to enter the city. The Vlasovites feared that their countrymen would show them no mercy and sped away from the city they had helped to save. As they left, bewildered and embittered, there was no festive procession on the miserable south westerly journey. Dr. Otakar Machotka, a member of the RNC, emphatically denied that the army had been asked to leave. >

On the morning of Thursday 10 May, M V Zakharov of the Red Army 2nd Ukrainian Front reported that many Vlasovites had been surrounded and taken prisoner in woods north west of Lutov, on the way to the cease fire line the Americans were maintaining. A considerable number of the troops had already reached the "safety" of the American lines – they were later sent back to Russia. However, Vlasov was not in the woods - he was with Buniachenko and Kaminsky.

Saturday 12 May brought reports of Vlasov 40 kilometers from Plzeň and reconnaissance troops from Major General E I Fominy's 25th Armoured Corps found them. The report of their location prompted Colonel I P Mishchenko (162nd Armoured Brigade) to be ordered to overtake the Vlasovites and, at the very least, delay them. Captain M I Yakushov, using all his wit and guile, won over a Vlasovite Battalion leader (Captain P N Kuchinsky) who "fingered" the precise location of Vlasov. Yakushov was nothing but bold: he overtook the column; blocked the road; located Vlasov's car; arrested Vlasov. Later that day the remainder of Vlasov's army were taken prisoner by the Red Army.

On Friday 2 August 1946 *Izvestia* announced the execution by hanging of A A Vlasov for treason, espionage and terrorist activities against the Soviet Union.

**Stamps:** The following stamps were prepared for use by members of the army.



They are on grey ungummed paper. The printer is unknown.

The editor of *Czechout*, Colin Spong, has seen a cover addressed to a member of Vlasov's army in a display of material given by a member of the Liechtenstein society.

Please fellow members, what gaps in this unfinished story can you fill in with regards to the use of the stamps?

#### Video:

Since writing the above article I have obtained a video entitled *Vlasov: General for Two Devils* (Russian Volunteers in Hitler's Army), VHS 758 b/w colour 59m. ISBN 1-57299-758-3, 1999. Obtainable from International Historic Films of Chicago Inc, Box 29035, Chicago, Illinois 60629, USA.

#### Sources:

Historical information	Gunther Hecht	<i>General Wlasov</i>
	General S M Shtmenko	<i>The Last Six Months</i>
	John Toland	<i>The Last 100 Days</i>
	<i>Military Illustrated</i>	No. 34, March 1991
Stamps	Tom Morovics	Praha
Additional information	Dr. Jan Dobrovolný	Pardubice
	Colin Spong	Worthing

## COVERS OF INTEREST

Bill Dawson has sent us an Intriguing Cover of the 1920 Allegories Issue. The first 50 haléřů value was in the "Osvobozená Republika" design by Vratislav Hugo Brunner. It was printed in red using four plates each of 100 clichés [10 rows of 10] without plate numbers. Date of issue was 17 September 1920 and it remained valid for postage and other postal use until 31 January 1923. During that time the total printing was 41,840,000 issued with comb perf 14, though some unissued imperf copies are known.

Plate flaws are few, the most prominent is known as the **Egg in lap** variety on unit 39 of one of the four plates. This flaw also appears in the early subsequent printing in yellow-green for which the same four plates were used. There are, however, production flaws more commonly referred to as inking flaws. Most common are the so-called **Moving sunspot** flaws, caused by some form of foreign body, probably a clot of ink, adhering to the plate during all or part of one printing run. Such imperfections moved around during that printing until the plate was cleaned before further use. [Figure 1].

One further production flaw, or inking flaw, is recorded and known as the **Headless figure** which term is self explanatory. It appeared only briefly on unit 81 of one plate, was soon noticed and corrected by cleaning the offending foreign body from the printing plate that had completely obscured the head of the female figure. Two mint examples of this quite spectacular variety are illustrated on page 80 of the book *Vzácnosti a Zajímavosti Československých Známek* by Jan Karásek published March 2000. One is a mint single copy, the other a positional block of six also in mint condition.

Illustrated here [Figure 2] is a recently acquired commercial cover sent from Bratislava, addressed to Ujpest in Hungary with correct 200 haléřů for the preferential letter rate to Hungary [plus Austria, Germany and Poland] which was effective from 1.1.1922. This franking is a block of four of this 50h red issue which includes the **Headless figure** variety, cancelled "BRATISLAVA 1 / 22.IV.22 - 7 / 41 / \* Č.S.P. \* " of type M.41 in use 1919 to 1933. It also has a handstruck "CENZUROVANE" in violet-black applied at Bratislava. The reverse bears the sender's paper seal and backstamps "BUDAPEST / 922.APR.27 / E 1 E" for transit and "UJPEST / 922.APR.27 / 4" for arrival. This must be a scarce cover since the 1988 publication *Specializovaná Příručka* lists the **Headless figure** variety used as "4R", which according to the foreword indicates 11 to 30 copies known.

The intriguing question is where has this cover been these past 78 years? Obviously it has never been recorded by any specialists in Czechoslovak philately anywhere in the world. It appeared in an auction lot of mixed European 20th century covers and was purchased for break-up into individual lots for a provincial auction with neither seller or buyer realising its true significance or rarity. >



Figure 1



Figure 2

**1945 LIBERATION OVERPRINT – CHEB**

The 6 pfg Cheb issue: Mr. Holoubek's comments [Czechout 2/99 pages 31 and 32] about "spades" being used in columns 1 thru 8 and hearts in columns 9 and 10 are evident. Please note there is at least one sheet not in the Prague Postal Museum! – see overleaf. >

0,60 1,20 1,80 2,40 3,00 3,60 4,20 4,80 5,40 6,00



## POSTAL RATES IN BOHEMIA MORAVIA PROTECTORATE (15.3.1939-8.5.1945) European Postal Union Rates

- Rex A. Dixon -

Recent issues of Czechout published a translation of Protectorate postal rates tabulated in the Michel Catalogue. Rates to Slovakia were covered in Czechout 2/2000; rates to foreign countries were covered in Czechout 3/2000.

As stated in those articles, Michel does not cover the reductions brought about by the European Postal Union later during the war, whereby internal rates were introduced for many classes of mail between the signatory countries. These included the German Reich, which represented the Protectorate. Properly sourced information for these concessions has now been obtained from the Prague Postal Museum by our member Dr Jan Dobrovolný, for which many thanks. This article analyses this information, and compares it with that for the German Reich.

During the war, the German Postal Ministry made strenuous efforts to reduce the postal rates between the German Reich and its allies in Europe. A series of bilateral treaties ensued, the first coming into effect as early as 1 January 1942.

A European Postal Congress was organised by Germany. It was held in Vienna between 12th and 24th October 1942, and was attended by delegations from the postal administrations of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, San Marino and Slovakia. (Surprisingly, Belgium and France did not attend.) Germany represented both the Protectorate and the General Government. On 19 October, a Treaty establishing the European Postal and Telecommunications Union (EPU) was signed. Four countries issued stamps to mark this Congress and/or the Treaty, namely: Germany, Norway, Slovakia and the Netherlands.

The first Union agreements were signed on the last day of the Congress. It was agreed that the basic rates for mail between the signatory countries from 1 April 1943 should be those for German inland mail, as follows.

	German rate (in RM)	Equivalent rate in B&M
Letters		
up to 20 g	0.12	01.20
250 g	0.24	02.40
500 g	0.40	04.00
1000 g	0.60	06.00
Postcards [each part of reply cards]	0.06	00.60



Stamps for Slovakia, Germany & Norway issued on 12.10.42, and the overprinted German & Dutch stamps for the signing of the Treaty issued 19.10.42 and 15.1.43

The bilateral treaties that the German Reich had already entered into provided for much more extensive applicability of German domestic rates than these very limited classes of mail. However, the second tranche of treaties, between Germany on the one hand and Albania, San Marino and France on the other, were restricted to this limited range.

Even though most of these treaties predated the formation of the EPU, the rates they introduced are commonly referred to as "EPU rates".

The Post Office Gazettes (*Postamtsblätte, Poštovní věstníky*) issued for the Protectorate show that Germany entered into similar treaties on the Protectorate's behalf. They announced the introduction of new postal rates together with the dates that they would come into effect.

In accordance with the European Postal Treaty, on 1 April 1943 both the German Reich and the Protectorate introduced the EPU rates for letters and postcards only to the two signatory countries with which they had not already agreed more extensive reductions, these being Albania and San Marino. Searches of the Protectorate's Gazettes have failed to find an Order announcing the same limited reductions to France from 25 August 1944 that the Reichspost introduced for Germany.

Country	Date	Order Reference	Date of Reference
Italy	1.1.42	PAB Nr. 68/1941 Vfg. Nr. 240	28.11.41
Netherlands	1.1.42	PAB Nr. 70/1941 Vfg. Nr. 252	17.12.41
Finland	1.4.42 – <i>see Comment</i>	PAB Nr. 13/1942 Vfg. Nr. 63	23.3.42
Denmark	1.6.42	PAB Nr. 22/1942 Vfg. Nr. 99	18.5.42
Hungary	1.7.42	PAB Nr. 30/1942 Vfg. Nr. 121	22.6.42
Croatia	1.7.42	PAB Nr. 30/1942 Vfg. Nr. 122	23.6.42
Romania	15.7.42	PAB Nr. 32/1942 Vfg. Nr. 139	7.7.42
Bulgaria	1.9.42	PAB Nr. 40/1942 Vfg. Nr. 163	27.8.42
Norway	1.9.42	PAB Nr. 40/1942 Vfg. Nr. 164	26.8.42
Slovakia	1.9.42	PAB Nr. 40/1942 Vfg. Nr. 165	26.8.42
Belgium	1.1.43	PAB Nr. 62/1942 Vfg. Nr. 251	22.12.42
Albania	1.4.43	PAB Nr. 19/1943 Vfg. Nr. 62	31.3.43
San Marino	1.4.43	PAB Nr. 19/1943 Vfg. Nr. 62	31.3.43

[PAB = Postamtsblatt = Post Office Gazette, Vfg.=Verfügung = Order or Instruction]

As is to be expected, the effective dates are the same as for the corresponding Order made by the Reichspost for the rates from Germany proper. There is one apparent exception, that for **Finland**. For Germany, this came into effect on **1.4.42**, whereas the date printed in the Protectorate's Order was **1.1.42**. Given the March date of the Order for the Protectorate, it is certain that the 1.1.42 date is a misprint in both the German and Czech versions of the text! I have therefore included the corrected date in the table above.

Again as is to be expected, the reduced rates and associated conditions from the Protectorate were fully aligned with those from Germany. This equivalence applies even to such anomalies as the variations from one country to another in the conditions for mailings for the blind (see table below).

The effective dates and rates were also aligned with those from the General Government. There were minor exceptions, such as packets from the General Government were only permitted to Finland and Belgium. Furthermore, the source quoted for the General Government (see Reference [2]) does not mention reductions to Albania and San Marino (nor to France), though this may be an oversight.

As can be seen from the table, the reductions were limited to the primary charge for posting the item. The Post Office Gazettes make it clear that all ancillary fees (*Nebengebühren, vedlejší poplatky*), such as registration or express fees, were unchanged from the former UPU (Universal Postal Union) rates in force. The Gazettes also make it clear that it is the international UPU conditions of service that apply to all classes of mail, particularly those for printed matter, and not the internal conditions.

In the following table, "U" signifies that the UPU rates, i.e. the full foreign rates, applied to items above a certain weight.

>

		Reduced EPU rate	Albania <sup>(6)</sup>	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia <sup>(6)</sup>	Denmark	Finland	Hungary	Italy <sup>(4)</sup>	Netherlands	Norway	Romania	San Marino <sup>(6)</sup>	Slovakia
Letters	up to 20 g	01.20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	250 g	02.40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	500 g	04.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	1000 g	06.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2000 g		U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Postcards [each part of reply cards]		00.60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Printed matter	up to 20 g	00.30		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	50 g	00.40		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	100 g	00.80		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	250 g	01.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	500 g	03.00		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	1000 g	04.00		U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>	U <sup>(1)</sup>		U <sup>(1)</sup>
Reduced rate printed matter <sup>(2)</sup>	up to 20 g	00.30		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	50 g	00.40		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	100 g	00.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	200 g	01.00		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	300 g	01.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	400 g	02.00		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	500 g	02.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	600 g	03.00													
	700 g	03.50													
	1000 g	04.00		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)		(3)
Commercial papers [business papers]	up to 100 g	00.80		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	250 g	01.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	500 g	03.00		U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U		U
	2000 g	-		U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U		U
Mailings in braille	up to 5000 g	00.30			✓	U	(3)	(3)		(7)	(7)	U	U		
	7000 g	00.30		✓	U	U			✓			U	U		✓
Samples	up to 100 g	00.80		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	250 g	01.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	500 g	03.00		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mixed mailings [printed matter, commercial papers and samples packed together]	up to 100 g	00.80		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	250 g	01.50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	500 g	03.00		U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U		U
	2000 g	-		U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U		U
Packets [i.e. small parcels]	up to 1000 g	04.00		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>(5)</sup>	✓	✓	✓		✓

The following notes provide extra information recorded in the Protectorate's Post Office Gazettes.

(1) Printed matter up to 2000 g, as well as bound printed volumes up to 3000 g sent singly, incurred UPU rates.

(2) The reduced rate for printed matter applied to the following items: newspapers and magazines published in the Protectorate and dispatched directly from the publishers or their agents, also books, printed pamphlets, music scores and maps, but no advertisements or offers apart from that which is pre-printed on the external or protective wrappings. The Orders for Denmark and Norway did not mention books, printed pamphlets, music scores and maps. The Orders for Belgium and Slovakia did not impose the restriction that newspapers and magazines had to be dispatched directly from the publishers or their agents. However, for Slovakia until 1.10.42 newspapers and magazines dispatched directly from the publishers or their agents still incurred internal newspaper rates, after which they incurred the EPU reduced printed matter rates [PAB Nr. 45/1942 Vfgr. Nr. 186].

(3) Reduced rate printed matter up to 2000 g, as well as bound printed volumes up to 3000 g sent singly: 00.50 per 100 g.

(4) Including Rhodes and the Sporades, but excluding Italian colonies and overseas possessions. A subsequent Reichspost Order of 3.9.43 [see below] clarified that the Italian Post Office in Tangier was also included.

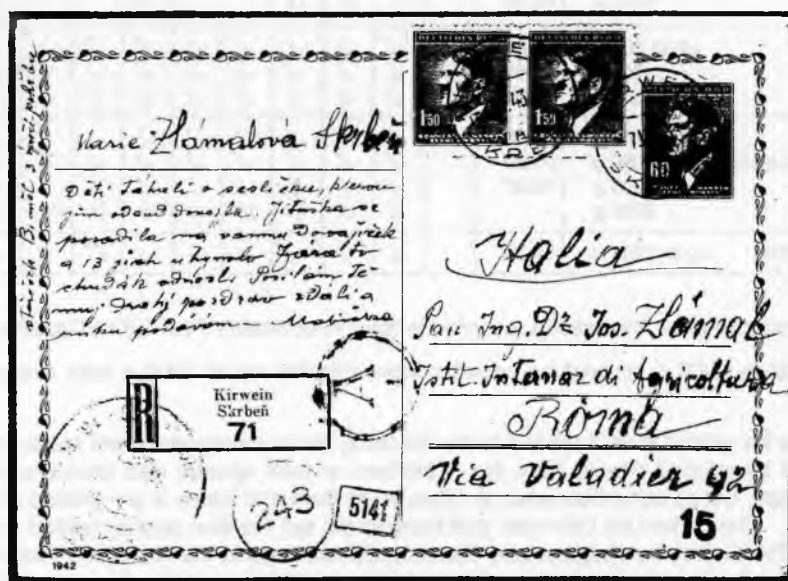
- (5) Packets to Italy were not included in the original Order as there was no service. A service for packets to 1000 g (same limit as to other countries) was opened on 1.6.42 at the EPU rate [PAB Nr. 25/1942, Vfg. Nr. 104].
- (6) UPU rates applied to all letter services apart from where indicated. The symbol "U" has not been inserted as the Order does not indicate which services were available.
- (7) Not mentioned in the Order, so presumably there was no service [as stated by Lütgens in ref. 1].
- (8) The Order also included new parcel rates to Croatia. These are not specifically EPU rates and were not aligned with the corresponding rates from Germany or the General Government. The rates were 7.20 to 1 kg, 9.60 to 3 kg, 12.00 to 5 kg, 24.00 to 10 kg, 36.00 to 15 kg, 48.00 to 20 kg.

The postal clerks must have had difficulty remembering which countries attracted the reduced EPU rates. So much so that the Reichspost issued the followed Order to its postmasters [PAB, Vfg. Nr. 484/1943 of 3.9.43]. The clerks in the Protectorate would have suffered from the same problems, and perhaps there was a similar admonition. This must be the explanation for many of the rate anomalies seen on covers. Remember that, at this stage of the war, foreign mail had to be handed in over PO counters and not posted in postboxes, so it was the postal clerks who needed educating rather than the general public.

Letter mail to France, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Vatican City, which are subject to UPU rates, are often franked with internal German rates. These are only valid for the time being for mail to Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Italy including the Italian Post Office in Tangier, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Slovakia; in traffic with Albania and San Marino they are only valid for letters and postcards.

To eliminate these irregularities, Post Offices are required to instruct and train the personnel who accept letter mailings so that they fully master the various sets of rates and possess the necessary skills to apply them.

Despite this, the covers seen from the Protectorate to Serbia always seem to be at EPU rates. Perhaps the Protectorate had some special rate left over from the previous concessionary rates to Yugoslavia. More research is needed in the PO Gazettes in Prague.



Registered postcard from Kirwein / Skrběn 7.6.43 to Rome, censored in Munich and Italy  
 EPU postcard rate from 1.1.42: 0.60, registration fee: 3.00  
 (Inland and UPU registration fees were identical)

Collection: Ron Hollis



Airmail, express letter from Gnadendorf / Milostin 10.8.43 to Helsingör in Denmark, censored in Berlin  
 EPU letter rate from 1.6.42: 1.20, UPU express fee 5.00, European airmail fee 1.00  
 (Note that internal express fee of 4.00 and internal airmail fee of 0.50 did not apply.)

Collection: Ron Hollis



Registered letter from Daschitz in Böhmen / Dašice v Čechách 22.9.44 to Croatia, censored in Vienna  
 Returned to sender as communication was closed  
 EPU letter rate from 1.7.42: 1.20, registration fee 3.00

Collection: Dr Jan Dobrovolný

## References

- [1] Rainer Lütgens, "Der Europäische Post- und Fernmeldeverein", *HABRIA '83 Katalog* (catalogue of the Hanoverian Stamp Exhibition 1983), published by the Briefmarken-Club Hannover von 1886 e.V., 1983. An English translation appeared as: "The European Postal Union", *Third Reich Study Group News Sheet*, Nos. 38 & 39, published by the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society, 1984.
- [2] *Übersicht der Postgebühren im Generalgouvernement 1939 - 1945*, published by the ArGe Generalgouvernement 1939-1945, undated.
- [3] *Postamtsblätter des Ministeriums für Verkehr und Technik*, in bound annual volumes in the Prague Postal Museum.

Some of the corresponding Reichspost Orders mentioned that the new rates for the German Reich also included the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and/or the General Government, others did not, an inconsistency untypical of the Germans.

The Order for Italy mentions both, that for Belgium only mentions the General Government.

**\*) Nr. 640/1941. Neue Gebühren für Briefsendungen im Dienst mit Italien**

Im Dienst zwischen dem Deutschen Reich (einschließlich Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren und Generalgouvernement) und dem Königreich Italien einschließlich Rhodus und Sporaden (ohne italienische Kolonien und überseeische Besitzungen) gelten für die nachbezeichneten Arten von Briefsendungen ab 1. Januar 1942 folgende neuen Gebühren:

A. Briefe	
bis 20 g	12 Rpfl
über 20 " 250 g	24 "
" 250 " 500 g	40 "
" 500 " 1000 g	60 "

(Briefe über 1000 bis 2000 g unterliegen den Weltpostvereinsgebühren.)

**\*) Nr. 619/1942. Neue Gebühren für Briefsendungen im Dienst mit Belgien**

Im Dienst des Deutschen Reiches (einschließlich Generalgouvernement) mit Belgien gelten für die nachbezeichneten Arten von Briefsendungen vom 1. Januar 1943 an folgende Gebühren:

Briefe	
bis 20 g	12 Rpfl
über 20 " 250 g	24 "
" 250 " 500 g	40 "
" 500 " 1000 g	60 "

(Briefe über 1000 bis 2000 g unterliegen den Weltpostvereinsgebühren.)

**Protectorate Post Office Gazette No. 13/1942, Order No. 63, dated 23 March 1942  
New charges for letter mail with Finland, effective 1 April 1942  
(with misprint saying 1 January 1942)**

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**Neue Gebühren für Briefsendungen im Dienst mit Finnland.**

Das Ministerium für Verkehr und Technik (Postverwaltung) ordnet gemäß § 7 der Regierungsverordnung vom 19. Juni 1936, Slg. Nr. 175, über die Benutzung der Post, in der Fassung der Regierungsverordnung vom 11. April 1940, Slg. Nr. 134, und gemäß § 3, Abs. 3 der Regierungsverordnung vom 10. Mai 1939, Slg. Nr. 121, betreffend die Errichtung der Obersten Preisbehörde, in der Fassung der Regierungsverordnung vom 8. Mai 1940, Slg. Nr. 189, mit Zustimmung der Obersten Preisbehörde folgendes an:

Im Dienst des Protektorats Böhmen und Mähren mit Finnland gelten für die nachbezeichneten Arten von Briefsendungen vom 1. Januar 1942 an folgende neuen Gebühren:

**A. Briefe**

bis 20 g	1.20 K
über 20 g bis 250 g	2.40 K
über 250 g bis 500 g	4.— K
über 500 g bis 1000 g	6.— K

(Briefe über 1000 bis 2000 g unterliegen den Weltpostvereinsgebühren).

**B. Postkarten**

einfache	—60 K
mit Antwort	1.20 K

**C. Drucksachen**

bis 20 g	—30 K
über 20 g bis 50 g	—40 K
über 50 g bis 100 g	—80 K
über 100 g bis 250 g	1.50 K
über 250 g bis 500 g	3.— K

(Drucksachen über 500 bis 2000 g, sowie einzeln versandte, ungeteilte Druckbände bis 3000 g unterliegen den Weltpostvereinsgebühren).

Ca. Im Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren herausgegebene, unmittelbar von den Ver-

**Nové poplatky za listovní zásilky ve styku s Finskem.**

Ministerstvo dopravy a techniky (poštovní správa) ustanovuje podle § 7 vládního nařízení ze dne 19. června 1936, č. 175 Sb., o používání pošty, ve znění vládního nařízení ze dne 11. dubna 1940, č. 134 Sb., a podle § 3, odst. 3 vládního nařízení ze dne 10. května 1939, č. 121 Sb., o zřízení nejvyššího úřadu cenového, ve znění vládního nařízení ze dne 8. května 1940, č. 189 Sb., se souhlasem nejvyššího úřadu cenového toto:

Ve styku Protektorátu Čechy a Morava s Finskem platí pro níže uvedené druhy listovních zásilek od 1. ledna 1942 tyto nové poplatky:

**A. Psaní**

do 20 g	1.20 K
přes 20 g do 250 g	2.40 K
přes 250 g do 500 g	4.— K
přes 500 g do 1000 g	6.— K

(Psaní o váze přes 1000 g do 2000 g podléhají poplatkům Světové poštovní unie).

**B. Dopisnice**

jednoduchá	—60 K
s odpovědí	1.20 K

**C. Tiskoviny**

do 20 g	—30 K
přes 20 g do 50 g	—40 K
přes 50 g do 100 g	—80 K
přes 100 g do 250 g	1.50 K
přes 250 g do 500 g	3.— K

(Tiskoviny o váze přes 500 g do 2000 g, jakož i jednotlivě zasílané nedělitelné svazky do váhy 3000 g podléhají poplatkům Světové poštovní unie).

Ca. Noviny a časopisy vydávané v Protektorátě Čechy a Morava, které odesí-

legern oder deren Beauftragten versandte Zeitungen und Zeitschriften, ferner Bücher, Druckhefte, Musiknoten und Landkarten, die, abgesehen vom Aufdruck auf dem Umschlag und den Schutzblättern, keinerlei Ankündigungen und Angebote enthalten:

bis 20 g . . . . .	—30 K
über 20 g bis 50 g . . . . .	—40 K
über 50 g bis 100 g . . . . .	—50 K
über 100 g bis 200 g . . . . .	1.— K
über 200 g bis 300 g . . . . .	1.50 K
über 300 g bis 400 g . . . . .	2.— K
über 400 g bis 500 g . . . . .	2.50 K

(Drucksachen über 500 bis 2000 g, sowie einzeln versandte, ungeteilte Druckbände bis 3000 g je 100 g 50 h).

#### D. Geschäftspapiere

bis 100 g . . . . .	—80 K
über 100 g bis 250 g . . . . .	1.50 K
über 250 g bis 500 g . . . . .	3.— K

(Geschäftspapiere über 500 bis 2000 g unterliegen den Weltpostvereinsgebühren).

#### E. Warenproben

bis 100 g . . . . .	—80 K
über 100 g bis 250 g . . . . .	1.50 K
über 250 g bis 500 g . . . . .	3.— K

#### F. Mischsendungen

bis 100 g . . . . .	—80 K
über 100 g bis 250 g . . . . .	1.50 K
über 250 g bis 500 g . . . . .	3.— K

(Sendungen über 500 bis 2000 g — unter Beschränkung des Gewichts des einzelnen Gegenstands auf die für ihn gültige Gewichtsgrenze — unterliegen den Weltpostvereinsgebühren).

#### G. Päckchen

Päckchen bis 1000 g . . . . . 4.— K  
(Päckchen sind nur bis zum Höchstgewicht von 1000 g zugelassen).

Für die *Nebengebühren* gelten die bisherigen Sätze (Weltpostvereinsgebühren) unverändert weiter.

Besonders zu beachten ist ferner, daß für alle vorgenannten Sendungsarten — namentlich für Drucksachen — die *zwischenstaatlichen Versendungsbedingungen* (Weltpostvertrag) und nicht die den inneren Postdienst betreffenden Vorschriften gelten.

Die Verfügung Nr. 117, Amtsblatt Nr. 51b/1940, betreffend die Neuregelung der Postgebühren wird hiermit geändert.

(Z. 15.813-C/1 vom 23. März 1942.)

lají přímo vydavatelé nebo jejich zmocněnci, dále knihy, brožury, hudebniny a zeměpisné mapy, neobsahují-li žádné oznámení pro veřejnost nebo reklamu, vyjmajíc tisk na obalu nebo na ochranných listech:

do 20 g . . . . .	—30 K
přes 20 g do 50 g . . . . .	—40 K
přes 50 g do 100 g . . . . .	—50 K
přes 100 g do 200 g . . . . .	1.— K
přes 200 g do 300 g . . . . .	1.50 K
přes 300 g do 400 g . . . . .	2.— K
přes 400 g do 500 g . . . . .	2.50 K

(Tiskoviny o váze přes 500 g do 2000 g, jakož i jednotlivě zasilané nedělitelné svazky o váze do 3000 g — za každých 100 g 50 h).

#### D. Obchodní papíry

do 100 g . . . . .	—80 K
přes 100 g do 250 g . . . . .	1.50 K
přes 250 g do 500 g . . . . .	3.— K

(Obchodní papíry o váze přes 500 g do 2000 g podléhají poplatkům Světové poštovní unie).

#### E. Ukázky zboží

do 100 g . . . . .	—80 K
přes 100 g do 250 g . . . . .	1.50 K
přes 250 g do 500 g . . . . .	3.— K

#### F. Sdružené zásilky

do 100 g . . . . .	—80 K
přes 100 g do 250 g . . . . .	1.50 K
přes 250 g do 500 g . . . . .	3.— K

(Zásilky přes 500 g do 2000 g — při čemž váha žádné věci nesmí převyšovat nejvyšší váhu pro ni stanovenou — podléhají poplatkům Světové poštovní unie).

#### G. Balíčky

Balíčky do 1000 g . . . . . 4.— K  
(Balíčky se dovolují jen do nejvyšší váhy 1000 g.)

Dosavadní *vedlejší poplatky* (poplatky Světové poštovní unie) platí i nadále.

Dále nutno dbáti zvláště toho, že pro všechny shora řečené druhy zásilek, zejména pro tiskoviny, platí *mezinárodní zasilací podmínky* (Světová poštovní úmluva), a ne předpisy pro vnitřní poštovní styk.

Tím se mění ustanovení č. 117, Věstník č. 51b/1940, o nové úpravě poštovních poplatků .  
(Č. 15.813-C/1 z 23. března 1942.)

## TRAVELLING POST OFFICE AND MAILGUARD POSTMARKS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Hassan Max Honisch -

*We thank Max Honisch for permission to reproduce his articles that appeared originally in The TPO journal of The TPO & Seapost Society in their Summer 1994 to Winter 1996/7 issues. We likewise thank Chris Bartlett, Honorary Secretary, and Rick Martin, Honorary Editor of TPO, for their kind assistance in this matter and finally our member Roy A Dehn who drew our attention to these articles.*

The Czechoslovak Republic was proclaimed on 28 October 1918 and lasted until 1939. Hitler had annexed parts of Bohemia and Moravia in October 1938, with the approval of France and Great Britain; Hungary and Poland also annexed parts of Slovakia and Moravia respectively. On 15 March 1939 the rest of Bohemia and Moravia became a protectorate of the Third Reich. Slovakia proclaimed her independence whilst Hungary occupied the eastern tip of the country (Transcarpathia). The Second World War ended for Czechoslovakia on 9 May 1945 [one day after the official end in the rest of Europe). Slovakia returned to the Republic but Transcarpathia became part of the USSR; it is now part of the Ukraine.

The Republic of Czechoslovakia disappeared, peacefully this time, to be replaced by the Czech Republic [Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia]; Slovakia once again became an independent State on the 31 December 1992.

My collecting interest centres on Czechoslovakia after 1945; and the two successor countries of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Nevertheless one should also consider the postmarks of the period pre-1918, when Czechoslovakia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; and of the 1938/9-1945 period\*.

Until 1918 TPOs operated as part of the Austrian and Hungarian postal network, and used the route numbers of these countries. After reorganisation, in 1919, of the Czechoslovak Post Office, the numbers 1 to 1011 were allocated to either existing TPO routes or held for future use. Numbers above 1000 were for use in Transcarpathia. 1011 was Jasina to Královo nad Tisou [Kiráľhaza in Hungarian]. Most of the numbers were eventually used from 1945 to 1992, up to 993, which was Košice [Slovakia] to Jasina in Transcarpathia.

The TPO route number is in the upper segment of the postmark. If the number comes after the terminal names or there is no number, or there is the abbreviation "úpž", the datestamp is from the mailguard; a number in the lower segment [1, 2 or 3] denotes the TPO team or shift.

TPO 1 was PRAHA-BRATISLAVA-KOMARNO [until 1938]. In the following list, Czech spelling is used for place names [Přeraž»Prague, Plzeň»Pilsen, etc]. The numbers in the first column refer to the illustrations of the postmarks, the numbers in the second column are the TPO route numbers.

### Part I: Postmarks between 1 and 100

Illustration	Route	Description
1	2	Praha-Brno [1970]
2	3	Praha-Bratislava [1936]
3	4	Operated as Praha-Brno-Bratislava from 1923 to 1929: shown as Praha-Brno in 1946 with German spelling removed from the upper arc.
4	5	Praha-Bratislava [Mailguard]
5	6	Přerov-Praha: used in 1945, German removed from the upper part.
6	7	Praha-Přerov [1974] by 1993 this route had been extended to Žilina in Slovakia. Přerov is in Moravia, Praha in Bohemia.
7	8	Praha-Přerov [1979]
8, 9	13	Praha-Dresden Dresden-Praha [1982]. I am also showing an oval Mark [10] Dresden-Bodenbach-Eger used during WWII, of a German TPO. Bodenbach [Podmokly in Czech] and Eger [Cheb] were at that time in Germany. The part of the route from Dresden to Bodenbach is still part of the present day TPO 13.
11, 12, 13	17	Praha-Schirnding [used in 1972, 1986, 1990]. This is a mailguard mark. The number does not appear in the mark but according to a postal staff list the line is No.17; Schirnding is in Bavaria.
14, 15	19	Praha-Jičín existed 1919-1938, stamps cancelled in 1938.

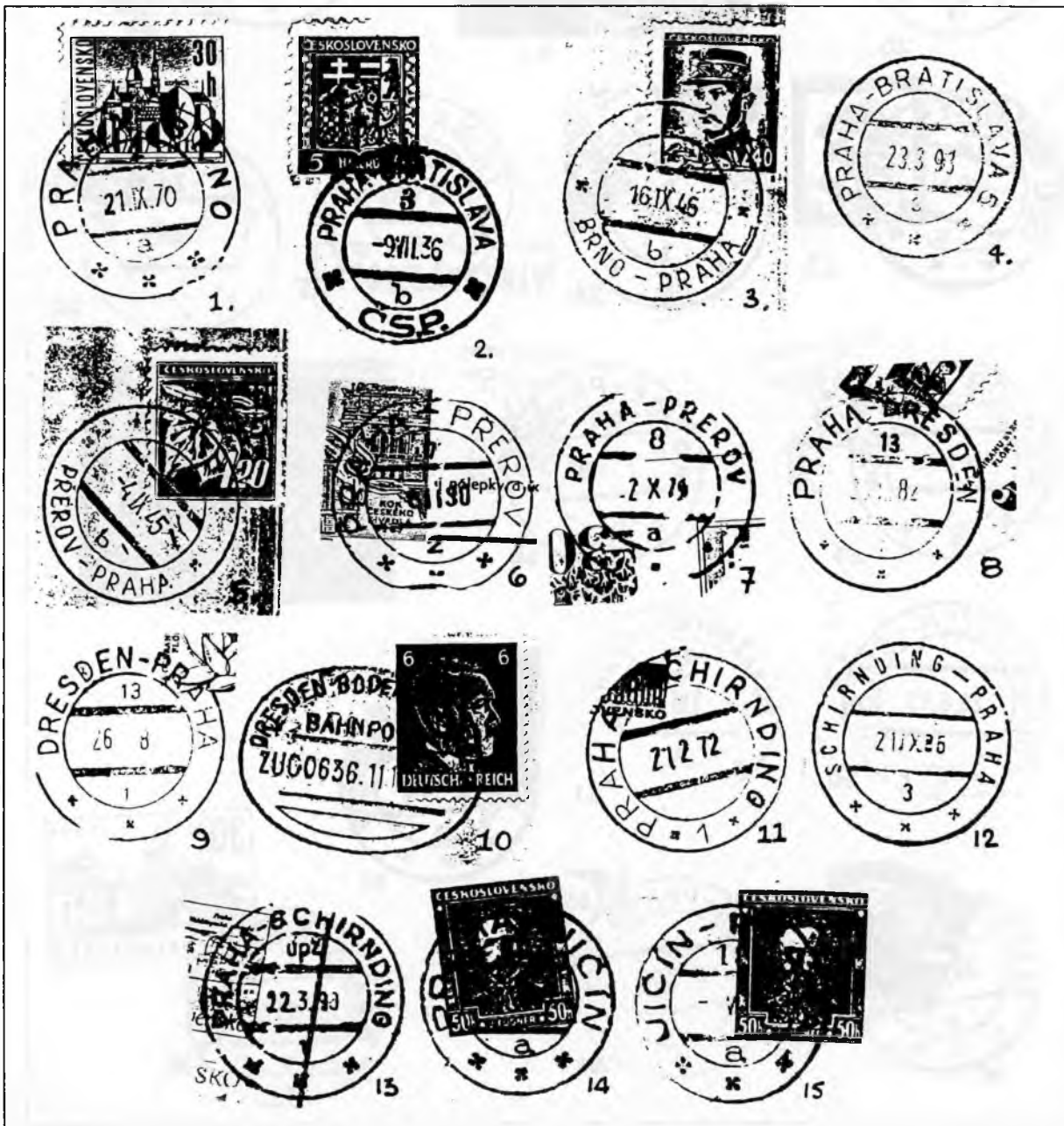
>

16, 17	21	Praha-Cheb [1972] Also the mark of the Praha-Plzeň-Cheb mailguard in 1977.
18, 19	36	Praha-Mělník; bilingual German/Czech in 1943. Czech only in 1945.
20	43	Praha-Letohrad
21, 22	51	České Budějovice-Praha: used in 1946 with German removed, and in 1970.
23	52	Same line in 1937.
24, 25, 26	76	Praha-Žilina: used in 1965, 1970 and 1972.
27, 28	77	Košice-Praha TPO mark of 9 January 1993 and mailguard mark of 1 January 1993. Czech stamps used after the end of the Czechoslovak state. Košice is in Slovakia.
29	83	Furth im Walde-Praha. Furth im Walde is in Bavaria. This interesting TPO operated from 1919 to 1934. This cancel is from 1927.
30	84	Praha-Plzeň-Cheb. Mailguard mark from 1993 [see note for route 21].
31, 32, 33	88	Horažďovice-Praha: used in 1976, also the two marks of the Klatovy-Horažďovice [&vv] mailguard also used in 1976.
34, 35		Praha-Plzeň mailguard marks of 1976.**

\* Postmarks of the 1938-45 period were the subject of an article by Cyril Kidd in TPO Vol. 42 p.33.

\*\* In a list supplied by F Scheer [TPO Vol. 42 p.55] this mark was used on the route number 83.

To be continued.





## COVERS BY A GIFTED AMATEUR

- J Barry Home FRPSL -

Several years ago I came across an interesting cover in a bulk lot I had acquired. Addressed to Milo Barry in California, it was a Registered Airmail cover, with airmail stamps totalling 39.50 Kčs sent on 15 September 1946 from Prague. However the most interesting thing was that it had a beautiful watercolour illustration of Hradčany, Prague to the left of the address, being signed B Lehkoživ.



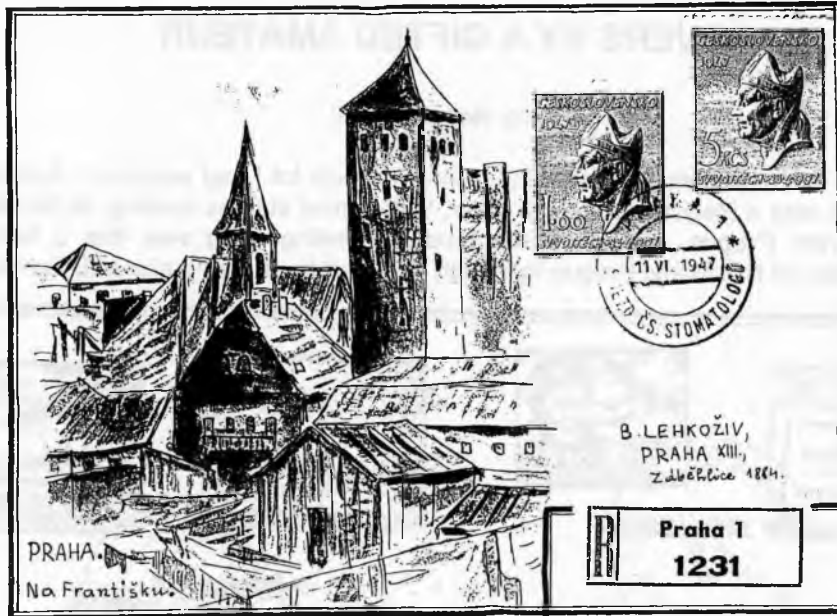
It was not until some time later that I bought a large box from a dealer friend and found a further 39 covers, all painted and produced by B Lehkoživ but this time addressed to himself. They covered the years 1945 to 1948, and most had the Registration receipt tucked inside.

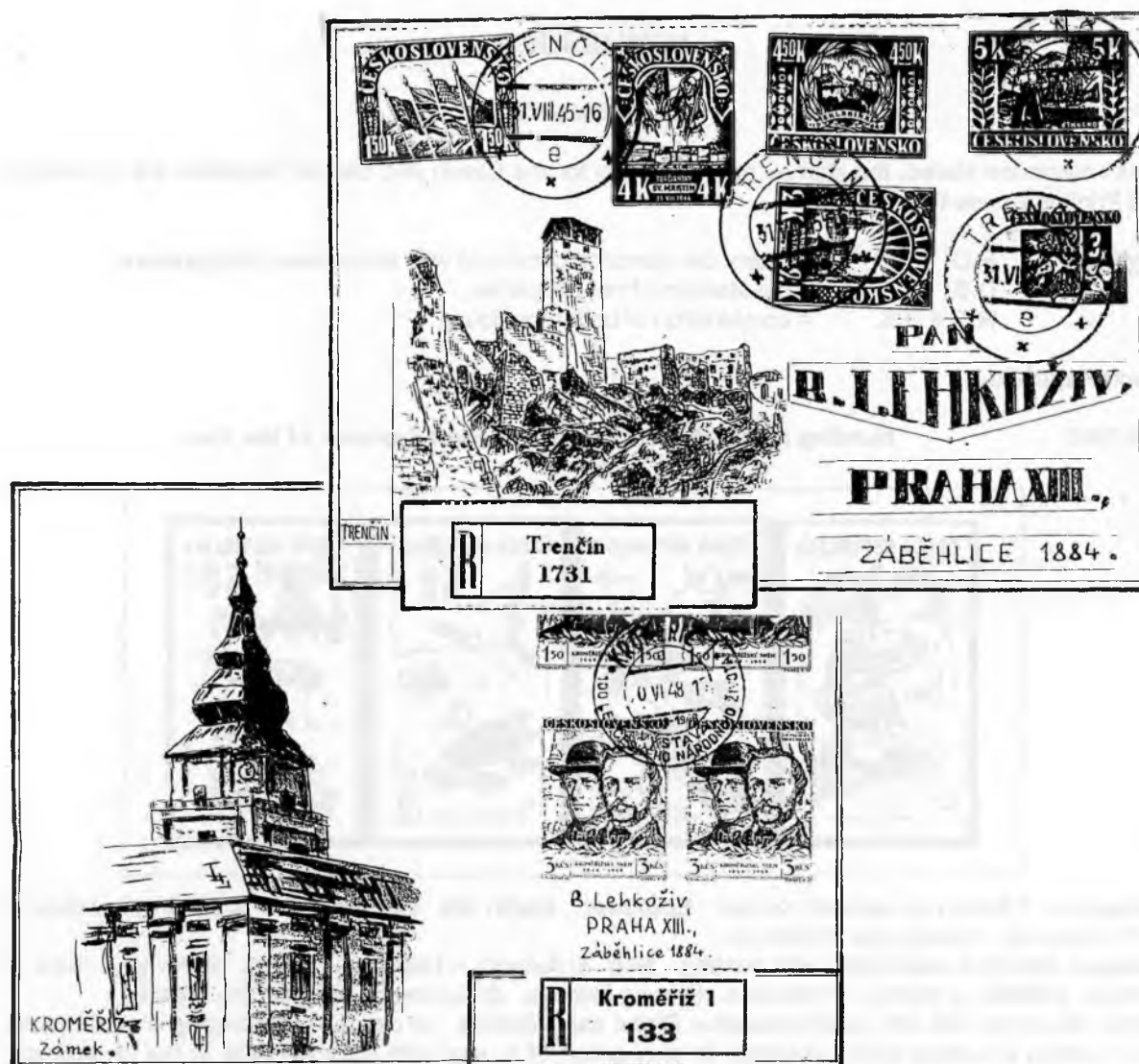
This set me thinking about the man who had produced these most attractive covers and I felt that there must be a little more to the story. Whenever I give a display of Czechoslovakia to a Society I take the album along, with the 40 covers, and they always excite great interest.

I have asked within the Society, and also one or two other people, but to no avail. Praga 1998 was the opportunity, I thought, to be able to find out a little more. My friends in Plzeň did some delving, via the Telephone Directory, and came up with a name and address. They rang and in turn they were given a further name and the address to get in touch. They then passed the details to me and on my return home I wrote to Mrs E Lehkoživova in Prague. I have now had a reply, kindly translated for me by Robert Kingsley, from B Lehkoživ's son.

It seems I had written in the first place to the widow of the elder son; the reply came from the only surviving relative, Jiří Lehkoživ, who told me that his father died in 1977 at the age of 70. It seems he was a private collector and amateur artist who only painted covers, mainly for special events and in order to obtain special cancellations. He also tells me that he still has about 150 original covers in his possession.

We have to thank Boh Lehkoživ for producing for his own pleasure such a range of covers that are delighting us even now. More covers are shown overleaf. >





### WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

- Members' Queries -

Another selection, together with some answers, for which we are sure our inquirers will be grateful. The answers first.

#### Re Philip Lindley's query in *Czechout* 3/2000 page 79 – Czech Forces in Windsor

From Richard Beith and Vladimír Králíček. Richard writes: "There was a Czech Hospital in Windsor in 1941, confirmed by a photograph in the Imperial War Museum Library." Whilst Vladimír writes: "In Windsor there was a convalescent home for Czechoslovak soldiers and W/O. It was opened by King George VI. The date I am unsure of, probably in 1941 or early 1942. This information comes from the Večerek manuscript."

#### One new query

From Ian Nutley: As I am sure many members are aware, on the outbreak of war in 1939, Germany took precautions against unrest in the Protectorate with a wave of pre-emptive arrests incarcerating the hostages, some 1,200 in all, in two Concentration Camps. I have in my collection three items of mail from these unfortunates. Whilst I know quite a lot about the general operation, I know nothing about any of the individuals. Is it possible therefore that any members can give me any details about three of these hostages? They are Walter Koch of Brno, Karl Mikolasek from Úpice and Josef Komarek from Turnov. All the hostages were "Prominenten" of one sort or another, and any information or details on any of these three would be most welcome.

## NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

Unless otherwise stated, the stamps and stationery for the Czech and Slovak Republics are printed by Post Printing House Prague.

**Printing** R.D. = rotary die stamping combined with multicolour photogravure  
D.S. = die stamping from flat plates  
R.D.+ D.S. = combination of both techniques

### Czech Republic

#### 4.10.2000. Hunting and Gamekeeping in Different Seasons of the Year



**Designers:** Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in se-tenant sheets of 2X25 (columns). Stamp size 23X40mm.

**Designs:** Activities associated with hunting. **5Kč** a) Autumn – Hunting, Falconry b) Winter – Care of animals. **5.40Kč** c) Spring – Protection of young animals. d) Summer – Tending the animals.

**FDCs:** All printed DS with commemorative Praha cancellations. a) cachet in black-grey of a falconer's hand holding a hunting bird. b) cachet in grey-green of a hare with a forage rack in the background c) cachet in dark brown of a Czech hound lying in tall grass. d) cachet in light brown of a roe deer with her two fawns.

**Booklets:** 2 each containing 5 stamps (5 @ 5Kč and 5 @ 5.40Kč). Front covers have the appropriate stamp pictures and the reverse has information about care of animals in the various seasons.

#### 15.11.2000

#### Works of Art on Stamps



**Designers:** from original art works. **Engravers:** Miloš Ondráček (13Kč), Václav Fajt (17Kč) and Bedřich Housa (26Kč). **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4 stamps. (26Kč DS+RD). Stamp size 40X50mm. FDCs printed DS with commemorative Praha cancels.

**Designs:** **13Kč** – St Luke the Evangelist, from a painting on wood, by Master Theodoricus c 1365 in the Holy Cross Chapel at Karlštejn Castle. The castle was built by Emperor Charles IV in 1348-1357 to safeguard the crown jewels, documents and other relics. **FDC:** cachet in grey-green is from a drawing of St Peter originally in charcoal and chalk on the plaster wall of the Holy Cross Chapel.

**17Kč** – Simeon with the Infant Jesus by Petr Jan Brandl (1668-1735). The original work is in the National Gallery Prague. **FDC:** cachet in black-green from a sketch by Brandl "Portrait of a Man"

**26Kč** – Brunette from a series Byzantine Heads by Alfons Mucha (1860-1939). The original work is in the Museum of Decorative Arts Prague. **FDC:** cachet in black is a study of a woman with ivy leaves. This is no. 13 from a collection of decorations incorporated into a text book used world wide representing the European Art Nouveau Movement.

15.11.2000.

**Christmas**

**Designer:** Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 in ochre, red, blue-green and gold. Stamp size 23X30mm.

**Design:** Mary, Joseph and the Infant Jesus on a red background.

**FDC:** printed DS in dark green with commemorative Praha cancel. Cachet design is a shepherd sitting under a tree with his flock.

22.11.2000.

**The Last Stamp of the Millennium**

**Designer:** Adolf Born **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 in black, red-violet, ochre, orange and green. Stamp size 23X30mm.

**Design:** A humorous design of a cat with a mouse on a dish with the date 2000.

**FDC:** Printed DS in brown with commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet is a further humorous drawing of a boy throwing a snowball, with the year 2000 on it, at a snowman.

**POSTAL STATIONERY****Promotional Postcards**

**9.6.2000. Agara 2000 and Agara Premiéra.** Issued for the National Thematic Stamp Exhibition and Qualifying Exhibition. Card has imprinted 5Kč stamp and there was a commemorative Klášterec nad Ohří cancel. Cachet design is a decorated porcelain beaker. The town is known for its medicinal spring and long established porcelain factory (founded 1793), which is now the Museum of Bohemian Porcelain.

**28.6.2000. Internet for Philatelists.** Card with imprinted 5Kč stamp, design by Martin Činovský on the first anniversary of the philatelic on-line magazine Japhila. The magazine gives information on Czech stamps and other related topics in Czech, Slovak, English, French and German. The cachet has a globe with stylized postage stamps, a post horn and the symbol @. The logos of the Czech Post, Japhila with the addresses of their websites complete the design. The card retails at 11Kč.

### Postcards for Current Use.

**21.6.2000. Czech Historical Buildings.** This is the 7th issue in the series and numbered from A97/2000 to A112/2000. Each card has a 5Kč imprinted stamp of the modified Great State Arms of the Republic. The designs are from Foto Studios Skala and printed by Victoria Security Printing. The second line for recipient's address is a continuous micro printing of Česká Posta. The left side of the card has a coloured picture of the building and explanatory text in Czech.

This series shows buildings at Humprecht, Jeseník, Lány, Liblice, Moravská Třebová, Moravský Krumlov, Nové Hrady, Nový Jičín, Ohrada, Praha – Convent of St. Agnes, Prohonice, Přešov, Štramberk, Trosky, Valtice and Vrchotovy Janovice. Each card is issued in two formats a) as described above b) as a) but with commemorative cachet in black below the explanatory text. Previous sets in the series printed 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.



### Slovak Republic

26.7.2000.

#### Definitive – Rožňava



**Designer and Engraver:** Arnold Feké **Printing:** RD in sheets of 100 stamps, size 23X19mm.

**Design:** The Renaissance watchtower of the town with the coat of arms above. Rožňava is in south-east Slovakia and is an old mining town (iron and gold from 12th century). It has a large medieval square with many preserved buildings.

**FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Rožňava cancel. The cachet is a drawing of the town in 1828 taken from a copper engraving.

18.8.2000.

#### Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe



**Designer:** Miroslav Cipár **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 30X23mm.

**Design:** A stylised dove in the shape of "E" and the dates 1975-2000 with the initials OBSE and Helsinki – Final Document.

**FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet is a symbolic drawing of a ring of doves with the text in Slovak at the centre "Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe".

14.9.2000.

## Nature Protection – Wild Berries



**Designer:** Vladimír Machaj **Engraver:** František Horniak and **FDCs:** Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in sheetlets of 3 stamps and 1 label. Sheet size 15.5X10.3mm and stamp size 23X30mm.

**Designs:** 11Sk – Wild raspberry and fruit. **FDC:** printed DS in dark green with commemorative Donovaly cancel. The cachet is a forest scene with a butterfly and raspberry plant.

13Sk – Common strawberry plant with ripe fruit. **FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with commemorative Blanica pri Martine cancel. The cachet is a bunch of strawberries in a jug.

15Sk – Bilberry twig with ripe fruit. **FDC:** printed DS in dark blue/grey with commemorative Dobšina cancel. The cachet shows a bird on a log with a berry in its beak.

The design on the sheet surrounding the stamps is various types of forest flora.

14.9.2000.

## Historical Bridges – Timber Bridge at Kluknava



**Designer:** Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik

**Printing:** RD in sheets of 35 size 33X33mm.

**Design:** The preserved wooden bridge across the Hornád River at Kluknava. This was built in 1832 and is the only one in Slovakia to have survived. It is 27m long and 3.4m wide and originally built to carry building materials for a factory construction in Štefanská Huta.

**FDC:** printed DS in grey-black with a commemorative Kluknava cancel. The cachet is taken from architect's drawings of 1856 for a section of a bridge on the river Orava.

13.10.2000.

Postal Agreement with the Sovereign Order of the Knights of St. John<sup>2</sup>

**Designer:** Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 size 23X40mm.

**Design:** Insignia of the Order. Stamp issued on the anniversary of the signing of a bilateral post agreement between the Order and the Slovak Post Administration. The Order is one of the oldest with a history dating back to the Crusades of 1099. They were originally a Hospital Brotherhood but their main role today is charity work. The High Master of the Order is directly subordinate to the Pope.

**FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is from a portrait of St John – the patron of the Order.

&gt;

<sup>2</sup> Stamp illustration not yet available

17.10.2000.

**Works of Art on Stamps<sup>3</sup>**

**Designer:** Martin Činovský from original art works. **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4 stamps for each denomination. Stamp size – 18Sk 40X50mm, 20Sk 50X40mm.

**Designs: 18Sk** – The Nativity taken from a Gothic (c.1460) altar panel from the church at Spišská Stará Ves. The fragment on pine wood was part of the original main altar triptych which was removed in the 18th century and replaced by a Baroque piece. The panel was found in 1969 in the church sacristy and restored.

**FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with a commemorative Spišská Stará Ves cancel. The cachet is a detail of the panel painting.

**20Sk** – The Descent from the Cross taken from mural paintings c.1400-1425 in the Evangelical church of Kocel'ovce (district Rožňava). The church dates from the beginning of the 14th century and has murals over most of its walls including scenes from the Passion of Christ from which the stamp design is taken. The murals were whitewashed over during the Reformation period but were rediscovered in 1894 and restored in 1904 by I Groh. **FDC:** printed DS in dark grey with a commemorative Rožňava cancel. The cachet is St. Hieronymus, a detail taken from one of the mural paintings.

**POSTAL STATIONERY****Postcards**

**Envelopes: July 2000 (?) Geomagnetické Observatorium.** Imprinted 8Sk stamp in grey-black is the State emblem. The cachet in black, grey and blue has an observatory building with an early telescope and texts "1900-2000" and "Hurbanova" below.

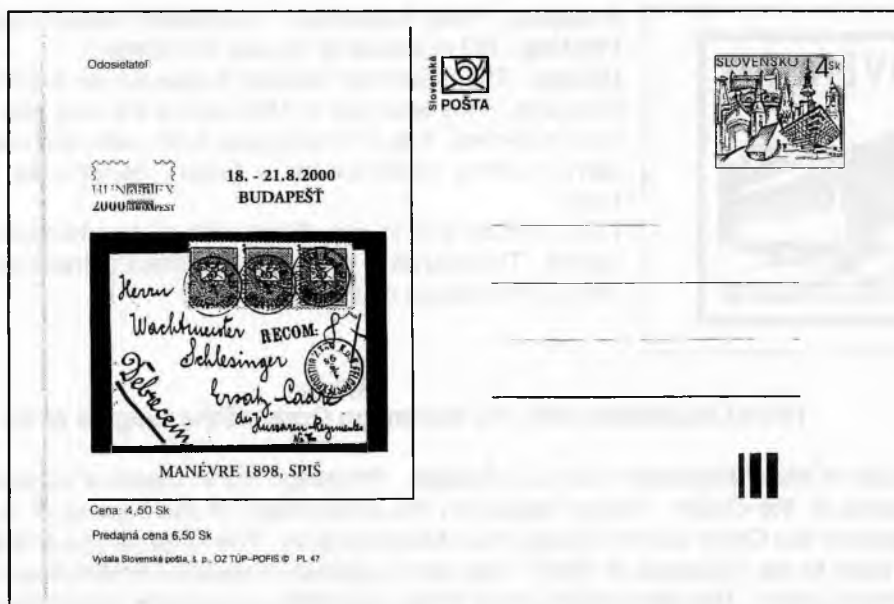
**July/August (?) 50th Anniversary UNHCR.** Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the State emblem. The multi-coloured cachet is the world globe and a pair of hands with four faces above. The texts below in Slovak and English commemorate the 50th anniversary.

**Promotional Postcards**

Both cards have an imprinted 4Sk stamp which is a collage of modern and old Slovak buildings.

**18.-21.8.2000. Budapešť 2000 and Hunphilex.** Design at left shows an 1898 Hungarian entire with relevant texts.

**15.9.-1.10.2000. XXVII Olympic Games Sydney and Olympilex 2000.** Design at left has an outline map in green of Australia with the Slovak Olympic team logo and relevant texts in green.



<sup>3</sup> Stamp illustration not yet available