



CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
[Founded 1953]

JUNE 2001

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 103 Vol.19 No.2

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NOTES

The Editor would like to thank those members who either phoned or wrote in response to his personal letter, their kind remarks were much appreciated.

We are enclosing with this issue a "Bumper" Auction List [except for those members who receive it direct from Bob Hill, i.e. e-mail and Zone 1 and 2] in which we hope members will find something of interest.

The Country meeting will be at Wombourne on Saturday 23 June. Details from Bob Hill. The next London meeting is on Saturday, 8 September 2001 when **Robert Kingsley** will give a display entitled "The Chairman Entertains".

Colin Spong is seeking a copy of *Slovakia and the Slovaks*, Beticne, Editor Milan Strhn, Goldpress Publications. Published by Encyclopaedia Institute of the Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava. ISBN 80-85584-11-5.

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

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 10 March 2001 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm

The Vice-Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 21 members to the meeting. She particularly welcomed David Woodhouse, a long-standing member who was attending his first meeting. The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, had sent his apologies as he had been obliged to go to Prague for personal reasons. Apologies had also been received from three other members.

The Hon Secretary gave details of five prospective new members:

David Schwartz	from London EC1
Jan Volný	from Barnet, Middlesex
Frank Jones	from Sowerby, Yorkshire
Prof. Roy Shuker	from Palmerston North, New Zealand
S Blazer	from Groningen, the Netherlands

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Lindy then called upon **Roger Morrell** to display the *Break Up of Austria-Hungary*. Roger said that the formation of Czechoslovakia would feature, but only as one aspect of a broader picture. He started the story with the many languages of the Empire as reflected in postal stationery. He then surveyed the Empire's role in the Great War, covering the Romanian, Italian and Polish fronts, the Imperial Navy, the Home Front, and the Allied breakthrough. The continued fighting in and severe dismemberment of Hungary were shown through the range of overprinted issues [he said that he could have subtitled the talk *The Overprint*]. He finished the display with the effects in Czechoslovakia, southern Poland, East Silesia and the Western Ukraine.

Bill Dawson gave the vote of thanks. He said that he had started preparing a list of special items, but it had got too long. He singled out for special mention the flown cards from the siege of Przemyśl, and the mail from an Austrian Prisoner of War held by the Serbs at Niš during the short period when the Serbs were still holding the Austrian advance. He commended Roger on giving us an educative and interesting history lesson and display.

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

Rex A Dixon

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain: Residential weekend in Chester

43 members and partners visited the historic city of Chester for a very successful and friendly residential weekend at Blossoms Hotel from 27–29 April 2001. No less than sixteen 30-minute presentations were given and there was strong interest in the Society's biannual trophy competitions. To give a break from philately on the Saturday afternoon, an excellent city guide conducted a tour of Chester's ancient walls, pointing out that the layout of the central streets can be related back to Roman times.

Presentations were given by: **Lindy Bosworth**: *Czechoslovaks in the Austro-Hungarian Navy*, **Bill Dawson**: *1938 Field Posts*, **Brian Day**: *Exhibitions, Fairs and Festivals*, **Hans van Dooremalen**: *Postal Stationery of the Slovak State*, **George Firmage**: *Švengsbir the engraver*, **John Hammonds**: *Bohemia and Moravia*, **David Holt**: *Hungarian Occupation of Carpatho-Ukraine*, **Barry Horne**: *The 1930 air stamps*, **Reg Hounsell**: *Masaryk*, **Robert Kingsley**: *Herčík the engraver*, **Ian Nutley**: *Theresienstadt Ghetto*, **Colin Spong**: *Slovakia*, **John Whiteside**: *Sudetenland and 1946 Parcel Post*, **Garth Taylor**: *Brno postmarks through the ages* and **Heinz Vogel**: *Aviation and aerophilately of Czechoslovakia*.

In the competitions, the **George Pearson Trophy** [for 1918-1939 material] was won by **Garth Taylor** for *Czechoslovak Airmail Routes and Rates* [2nd **Brian Day**: *Czech Field Post in Siberia*; 3rd **Otto Hornung**: *Carpatho-Ukraine*] and the **Francis Pettitt Salver** [for post WWII material] was won by **George Firmage** for *The Graphic Art of Josef Herčík* [2nd **Hans van Dooremalen**: *Brno Overnight Air Mail*, 3rd **Bill Dawson**: *1953 Currency Reform*]. Trophies were presented by Chairman **Robert Kingsley** during the Saturday night dinner.

Richard Beith

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España, Madrid 2000

I was disappointed by the lack of exhibits of Czechoslovakia at this International Exhibition. However, I was most impressed by an exhibit in the Youth Section. **Lene Poulsen** of Denmark displayed *Czechoslovakia 1918-1939*.

The first frame consisted of Hradčany, both stamps, including varieties, and covers. In the following frames all issues were present up to 1939. Lene demonstrated a thorough knowledge of rates, perforations and varieties. It was a display which would not have been out of place in the senior section. It attained a well-deserved vermeil medal and special prize.

Regional Meeting – 25 November 2000

The meeting in the North of England, which is now established at the Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair in November, was attended by members of the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain. In fact the visitors provided the majority of the displays as follows:

- Beryl Featherstone Solidarity
- Malcolm Stockhill Upper Silesia and Generalgouvernement 1939–45
- Alan Blunt Cieszyn and Eastern Galicia
- Bob Hill 1945 Liberation of Slavkov, Bučovice and Skalica
- Yvonne Wheatley Pre-stamp covers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

The next regional meeting to be held at the same venue will be on Saturday 17 November 2001. Full details will appear in the September *Czechout*.

Joint Meeting with the Austrian Philatelic Society, Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB and Society for Polish Philately in GB at Heaton Royds, Bradford on Saturday 18 August 2001

Once again the event has been made possible by the invitation of Stephen and Judith Holder to hold the meeting at their home near Bradford, West Yorkshire. The meeting will be from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. To ensure all the societies are represented, numbers have to be restricted to five from each society. To reserve your place please contact Yvonne Wheatley, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW. Telephone 0113 260 1978 (home). Full details will be sent to those attending.

Yvonne Wheatley

Letters to the Editor

✉ **Bob Hill** writes: "I have just been looking at the excellent book *The Russian Century* by Brian Moynahan, 1994 edition by BCA. On pages 226 and 227 it shows three photographs pertinent to Andrei Vlasov (see *Czechout* 4/2000 pp 92–96).

- 1 Vlasov in 1944 with German officers at the editorial offices of the collaborationist newspaper *Za Rodina* [*For the Motherland*].
- 2 Uniformed and bespectacled with fellow collaborators in front of Soviet Military Court in Moscow, July 1946. Vlasov had been flown back to the Lubyanka in Moscow for more than a year of interrogation before the secret trial was held.
- 3 Vlasov and his comrades hanging in the Lubyanka on 1 August 1946. Twelve were hanged in total.

Photographs 2 and 3 were taken specifically for Joseph Stalin and the high command. The last photograph is the only known picture of a hanging in the Lubyanka and comes from Vlasov's KGB file. It is said that Vlasov was the only one of over 1000 collaborators that Stalin showed an interest in.

Bob also mentions that in the Michel Handbuch-Katalog Deutsche Feldpost 1937–1945 on page 365 there is the following entry:

Russia [Vlasov's Army]. Five values in various formats and colours: 50k green, 1r red brown, 2r blue, 4r violet and 10r dark brown. Produced at the Lindacker Printing Works [Ruhr District] with job no. 412 on 12 July 1943 by the order of the Propaganda Department "W". In the job description stamps are defined as "commemorative" or "souvenirs". There was only one issue of the stamps. Those with cancellations are always false.

✉ **Roy Reader** writes: "I have a new address for the Czech Philatelic Union from a Czech collector who recently wrote to me for some information. It is as follows: Svaz Českých Filatelistů, Příběnická 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic."

✉ **Jan Ivan**, Sibirska 20, 08009 Presov 9, Slovakia, writes: "I am a stamp collector collecting stamps from your area. I am seeking a contact in the U.K. to exchange stamps of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Czech Republic or other East European countries for your similar G.B. material. I would appreciate hearing from any of your members."

✉ **Soumyajit Roy**, Church Road E4 T.Shopping Arcade, Dimapur, Nagaland, India 797112, writes: "I am an avid collector of philatelic items, and would be very much interested to exchange stamps of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh for postal stamps of your countries."

We suggest members answering any requests should not send any stamps until contact has been confirmed and a satisfactory form of exchange, etc, agreed upon. The Society cannot enter into any correspondence or take responsibility for any transactions entered into.

✉ **Lubor Kunc** writes: "I would like to ask if you would publish the following information of a new study circle of which I am one of the founder members."

"Czech Field Post Offices: In February 2001 a small group of collectors founded, in Prague, the Field Post Section of the Union of Czech Philatelists. The philatelic section is open for field post collectors world-wide; its activity is not limited only to Czechoslovak/Czech field post but includes the following sub-sections:

- 1 Field post of all military units serving in UNO, OSCE, EU and WEU missions anywhere in the world
- 2 Field post in the territory of former Yugoslavia
- 3 Czechoslovak/Czech participation in international missions since 1954
- 4 Field post of all states, being members of NATO and Partnership for Peace Programme
- 5 Postal stationery
- 6 Information desk, publication and co-operation with similar sections world-wide.

If a sufficient number of collectors express an interest in field post connected with World War I as well as World War II we are prepared to create such sub-sections too.

We are starting co-operation with Prague Postal Museum to collect and save documents relating to the Czechoslovak/Czech Field Post in past as well as present. The first general meeting of the section will be held on 19th May 2001 in Prague. This meeting will set goals of activity of the section for the future as well as electing members to the board. The membership of our section is open to all collectors without regard to nationality or membership of the Union of Czech Philatelists. We plan to establish co-operation with similar organisations in Slovakia, Austria and other countries.

We are inviting your members to join this section. Please feel free to contact Mr. Lubor Kunc (Brunclikova 7, CZ-162 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic; e-mail lubor.kunc@seznam.cz) with your questions or applications (please enclose stamp/international response coupon for return postage). If you are interested in sub-sections WWI or WWII, please let us have your name and address, indicating the journal where you obtained this information and what particular sub-section interests you. When the appropriate sections have been established, we will notify you."

Lubor writes again on 24 May with some additional information arising from the general meeting of current members on 19 May: "The Field Post Section is an integral part of Czech and Moravian Postal History Society [CMPHS]. At the moment our members come from the whole territory of the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. Based on their interest there have been formed the following study groups within the Field Post Section:

- WWI and WWII
- Czechoslovak and Czech participation in UNO missions
- Field post of military units serving in UNO, OSCE, EU and WEU missions anywhere in the world

If there is sufficient interest from collectors, the following study groups will be established as well:

- Field post on territory of former Yugoslavia
- Field post of states being incorporated into NATO and Partnership for Peace Programme
- Postal stationery

A bulletin will be published as an enclosure in the current journal of CMPHS entitled "Postilion". We should be grateful for any articles or short notes or messages arising from members' own studies. The next meeting in Prague will be held in November and an exhibition will likewise be organised in a few months time.

A website in Czech, English and German has been established to provide information for overseas members on <<http://philately.webpark.cz/fieldpost.htm>>"

Congratulations

To **Richard Frost** on becoming the new editor of *Stamps of Hungary*, and **David Williams** who has now moved to Dick's former office of Honorary Treasurer and Membership. We wish them well in their new tasks.

Publications

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

- The March/April & May/June 2001 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.63, Whole Nos. 566/567, Nos. 2/3. The articles include:
 - ▶ A Forester's Tale (Tranmer); Scott 239 [SG 377a], An Old Friend Revisited (Garancovsky); Postal Development in the Sorbic Language Area of both Lusatias (Rauch); Airmail Covers with an OAT Handstamp (Horka); About our Automated Stamps (Crha); Twice the First One [modifying and temporary postmarks. Ed] (Holoubek).
 - ▶ Czech Field Post Section Founded (Kunc); An Introduction to Czech and Slovak Musical Philately (Beith); Masaryk Mourning Cancellations – A Dialogue (Melamed & Kunc); A Philatelic Obituary from an Old Member (Vondra); The Košice Marathon (Lacko); Postal Development in the Sorbic Language Area of both Lusatias [c'td] (Rauch); Fokker or ANT 9 or What? (Beith).
- v The 1/2001 & 2/2001 issues of *Merkur Revue* by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Hradčany Varieties? (Hamr); 2 Kč TGM 1925 (Gebauer); New Method for Discovering Forgeries [from Fakes, Forgeries, Experts No. 2 July '99] (Pitterman & Musil); The London Issue (Fischer); Bohumil Heinz, Engraver (Fischer).
 - ▶ 5h Dove – Retouches (Kašpar); B.Housa and F.Horniak – Exhibition in Žďár (-); Bohumil Heinz, Engraver (Fischer); Hradčany Issue (Škaloud); The London Issue (Fischer); Problems of Typographed Czech Stamps (Fritz).

BOOK REVIEWS

Fakes Forgeries Experts

Further details have been received since the review in the March issue of Czechout 2001:

Published in collaboration with the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) and the AIEP (Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie). 200pp in colour; written in English and in the language of the author of each article; price including postage: Eur 36; CHF 55; DM 70; UK £24; FFR 250; LIT 70.000; US \$45; details from FFE–Journal, PO Box 108, CH–6976 Castagnola, Switzerland. Fax: +41 91 9719400, e-mail: hexa@starsofti.com

Colin Spong

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The Philosophy and Politics of Czech Dissidence from Patočka to Havel, by Aviezer Tucker. 226pp. \$19.95 paperback or \$45 hardbound. Published on 29.09.2000, University of Pittsburgh Press, USA. Pb ISBN 0-8229-5728-0, hb ISBN 0-8229-4124-4.

This book examines the relationship between Patočka (1907–1977), the political thinker and founder of the dissident Charter 77 Movement, and Václav Havel who emerged as the President of the Czech Republic after the Velvet Revolution. The author seeks to explain the reasons for the weakness of Charter 77 members' understanding of the modern democratic system and the eventual distortion of the Velvet Revolution ideals, including the attempt to oust the corrupt 1997–98 government by Havel. The philosophical ideals of Charter 77 were theoretical and visionary whilst the members were dissidents, but their ability to function in a modern democratic system was flawed.

Although the book is not directly related to our hobby of philately it does help to explain the modern dilemmas and problems of post-Communist societies and gives a deeper understanding of the modern Czech nation.

Lindy Bosworth

Slovakia Specialized Catalogue 2001. The new Specializovaný Katalog 2001 has been published by the Slovak Union of Philatelists (Zväz Slovenských Filatelistov), Radlinského 9, SK-812 11, Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic. ISBN 80-85288-05-2. Its 223 pages cover the Slovak state from 1939–45, and Slovakia from 1993 until the last issue of 2000. All stamps are illustrated in colour. The book is available in Prague, where I obtained my copy from Slovfilu, Křížíkova Street, in the Karlín District, for approx. CZK 400.

The catalogue is written in Slovak but certain parts of it, including an extensive glossary of technical terms, are also provided in English (although it must be said the translation is of uneven quality).

This is in my view the best resource currently in print for the serious collector of stamps issued by independent Slovakia. For example, the Slovenský štát 1939 overprints are covered in great detail, with illustrations of the different overprint types and guidance on forgeries. Moving on to the early Hlinka definitives, the authors lay out in tabular form all the different compound perf combinations and indicate relative pricing for each. There is throughout comprehensive information on varieties, plate flaws and everything else the specialist collector could expect.

In addition to stamps, the catalogue covers postal stationery and back-of-the-book material, plus (for the 1993–2000 period) stamp booklets. As a new publication, prices appear representative of the current market.

Mark Whitehorn

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

The following queries are still outstanding; perhaps some of 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 1/00: R W Allan's Errors Corrected

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

Czechout 4/00: Ian Nutley's Concentration Camp hostages

Auction Notes: The Society Auctioneer, Bob Hill, reports that a £4,000 collection of mint First Republic material has been received from Barry Horne. This collection will start to appear from the November auction.

TRAVELLING POST OFFICE AND MAILGUARD POSTMARKS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Hassan Max Honisch -

We thank Max Honisch for permission to reproduce his articles which 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.

Continued from *Czechout* 1/2001, page 11.

Part III: Postmarks from 676

Here I should mention that many TPO route numbers from the 100, 200 and 300 series were given to shorter routes and branch lines, and have subsequently been withdrawn and not re-allocated.

Illustration	Route	Description
116	676	Olomouc-Nezamyslice. This TPO was established after 1919, and this cancellation is pre-1939, although the actual date is not clear. The line was short [only some 40km] but was an important link between two main lines; it was also used by TPOs 677 and 678.
117, 118	678	Olomouc-Brno and Brno-Olomouc used in 1990 and 1992. This TPO is the previous route [676] extended beyond Nezamyslice.
119, 120	680	Olomouc-Brno and Brno-Olomouc used in 1992. A postal stationery cover with a stamp of the current Czech Head of Government [Pres. Havel] imprinted for 1Kčs [inland rate 1991], with added postage of 90h with the portrait of Pres. Havel's communist predecessor Husak. The cover was printed to commemorate the First Plenary Assembly of the Society of Slovak Philatelists in Bratislava, anticipating Slovakia's secession from the Czechoslovak Republic. Three periods are documented on the cover: socialist state, post-communist and partition.
121	677	Praha-Olomouc and Olomouc-Praha. [While the routes for numbers 676, 678 and 680 run over the same line, No 677 seems to have been allocated out of sequence for no known reason.]
122	682	Prostějov-Česká Třebová in 1950.
123, 124	-	Two postal stationery cards from the period when Czechoslovakia was part of Austro-Hungarian Empire. The first card [for use in Bohemia] was postmarked on the Prossnitz-Triebitz TPO. Prossnitz was the German for Prostějov. The second card was posted during WWI; the postmark is only partly legible as is the date. The route is "Wisowitz-...witz". Wisowitz is the present day Vizovice, and the railway goes from there to Zlín and Otrokovice. The card is addressed to Prostějov and logically it would have been carried from Otrokovice northwards to the junction at Přerov. The rectangular mark reads 'IMPERIAL & ROYAL MILITARY CENSORSHIP/ PŘEROV RAILWAY STATION' [Can this route be identified from the number 478? R. Martin].

The table above contains the Olomouc region and includes the Olomouc-Prague TPO. Today Olomouc is a quiet provincial town in Moravia, but looking back to greater days when the town was an important railway terminus of one of the Austro-Hungarian Empire's first long distance lines from Vienna.

The Rothschild family had obtained concessions to survey and build a railway from Vienna to Kraków in Galicia [now in Poland], with branch lines to Brno and from Přerov to Olomouc. This was the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway [KFNB]. Soon after the line was opened [1841 to Olomouc], the line from Olomouc to Prague [then in the Kingdom of Bohemia] was built and opened to traffic in 1845.

The centenary of the line was at a difficult postwar period and did not receive much publicity. Nevertheless a commemorative handstamp was used on 18 August 1945. Times were different for the 150th anniversary. Related commemorative datestamps were used in several towns. I have these for Olomouc 2 [19 August 1995], Pardubice 2 [20 August 1995], remembering the arrival of the first train 150 years ago, and Praha 023 [19 August 1995, arrival of the first train at Masaryk Station].

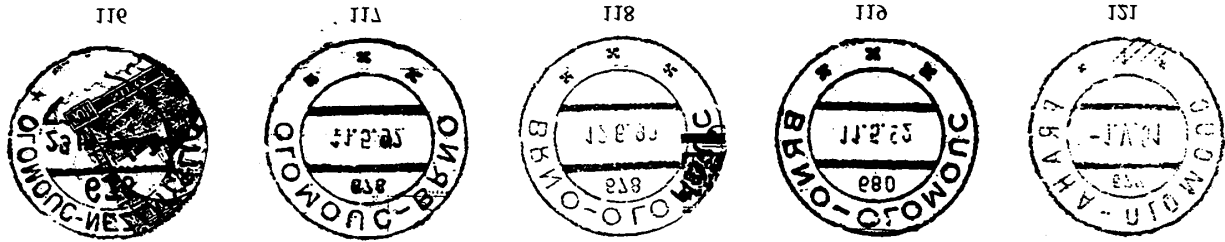
There was a handstamp also used at Česká Třebová and possibly other towns on the line. A jubilee train also carried a commemorative handstamp on its TPO. An interesting fact is that two more datestamps commemorating '150 years of TPO service 1.9.1845 – 1.9.1995' were used by Praha 023 in

the concourse of Masaryk Station from 1–3 September 1995 and in a TPO van open to the public at Masaryk Station. This means that the TPO services began some twelve days after the opening of the line.

The publicity given the Jubilee was excellent. It included a re-enactment of the arrival of the first train in Prague, greeted by a firework display which echoed the display that I suppose welcomed the first train back in 1845. Exhibitions were held in several towns between Olomouc and Prague. I missed those in Prague, but visited the one in Olomouc Museum on its last day in October 1995. Families with their children were visiting the exhibition and seemed keenly interested.

I now continue with my list of current TPO marks and show examples of the 700 series used in Moravia and some from the 800 series used in Slovakia.

Illustration	Route	Description
125		Commemorative handstamp used on 18 August 1945.
126, 127		Commemorative handstamps used at Olomouc and Pardubice respectively.
128		Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first train at Masaryk Station in Praha.
129		Handstamp from Olomouc-Praha 'Vip' [TPO] attached to the train celebrating 150 years of the railway between the two cities.
130	723	Postwar provisional handstamp for the route 'Studénka-Veřovicé. [Also recorded used on 19 March 1946.]
131	747, 748, 749	Postwar provisional [10.4.1946] 'Dolní Lipová-Javorník'.
132	776	Ostrava-Praha in 1993.
133	801	Bratislava-Praha in 1995.
134	807	Mailguard mark from Žilina-Bratislava on a registered Reply paid postcard in 1963.
135	807	Bratislava-Žilina TPO in 1991.
136	809	Bratislava-Košice TPO in 1969.
137	965	Košice-Bratislava TPO in 1991
138	965	Bratislava-Košice TPO in 1991
139	968	Košice-Žilina TPO in 1974. [During the First Republic, 1919-39, route 968 was on the line to Bohumín in northern Moravia.]
140	968	Košice-Bohumín TPO in 1919 on a postal stationery card.
141		Košice-Bohumín mailguard in 1937.
142	970	Praha-Žilina TPO in 1992.
143	970	Žilina-Praha TPO in 1992
144	981	Medzilaborce-Košice TPO on a 1932 postcard. Recent attempts to get a current mark have failed. The line seems important for mail to the northern border region; perhaps the TPO service has ceased.
145	992	Košice-Čierna nad Tisou TPO. In 1972 Čierna was the border crossing with the USSR [now the Ukraine]. During the First Republic, 992 operated beyond to Halmei in Romania, thus making the connection between Prague and Bucharest.
146	192	Košice-Tchop. This is the first station over the border in the Ukraine. The postmark, the result of writing to 192 to see if it was still in operation. Originally spelt Čop until 1945, when ceded from Slovakia to the USSR. NOTE: TPO 192 was originally allocated to Jilemnice-Roketnice in northern Bohemia from 1919 to 1938. Is the Slovak Republic going to change its TPO numbering system in order to distance itself from the Czech Republic?
147		A circular standard type datestamp reading 'VLAKOVÁ POŠTA/BRATISLAVA 2' appears on mail posted in December 1945. 'Vlaková Pošta' means Travelling Post. The date is preceded by a code, e.g. 14T, 14Z and UDT. NOTE: Czech collectors do not doubt that they are genuine TPO marks but have no idea which route they have been used on or the meaning of the codes. My guess is that the regular datestamps had been lost or destroyed in the war and were replaced by an emergency or reserve handstamp. FOOTNOTE: From Tony Goodbody, with reference to route 478 [TPO 248]. This is an Austrian route 'OTROKOWITZ-WISOWITZ' and vv. [OTROKOVICE-VIZOVICE]. These are listed in Volume 14 of <i>MONOGRAFIE ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH ZNÁMEK</i> by Emil Votoček, published Prague 1978.



OLMOUC-BRNO 680 115.52

ČESKOSLOVENSKO 30 1.5.92

OLMOUC-PRAHA 18.8.1995

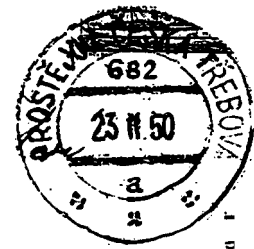
1878

180 Kč

PARAVION LETECKY

I. VALNÉ ZHROMAŽDENIE
ZVÄZU SLOVENSKÝCH FILATELISTOV
BRATISLAVA
18. MÁJ 1991

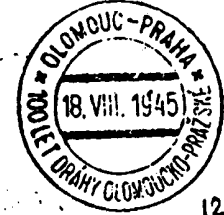
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MA-21800 CASABLANCA 04
MAROKO



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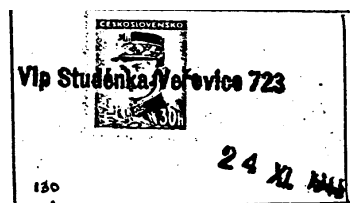
123 & 124



126



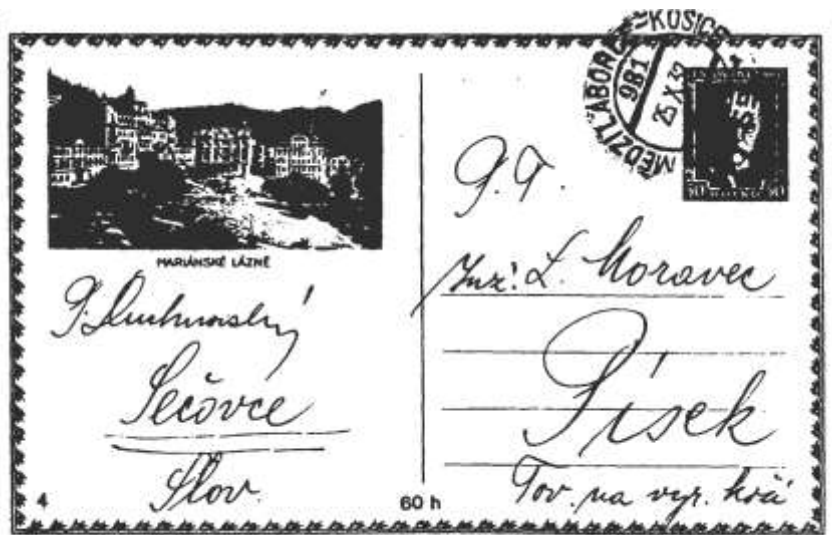
129



130



131



REINHARD HEYDRICH PROTECTORATE MINIATURE SHEET

- František Beneš -

We thank František Beneš for permission to publish his paper that appeared originally in the Czech journal *Filatelie* No 11/1998, and elected by the readers as the article of the year. The author is a well-known Czech philatelic expert, the author of many interesting articles and also of the new "Specialised Catalogue-Czechoslovakia 1918-1939" (Pofis-Filatelie Praha, 1999). We also thank our member Jan Dobrovolný and Miss Snežana Vukčević for translating this paper for us.

Continued from *Czechout* 1/2001, page 16.

The Stamps in the Sheet and the Miniature Sheet

The picture of the stamp, proportion of its perforation and the printing technique by which it was done, are the same in sheet and miniature sheet edition. Differences in paper, gum and type of perforation and also some slight plate flaws can be found in the miniature sheets but not in the sheets (and vice versa). Now we will take a closer look at both types.

The Sheet

The stamp in the sheet edition was printed on white smooth paper with white shiny gum on the reverse. The stamps were printed by photogravure in black, in sheets of 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps) with a dimension of about 285x325mm. There is a comb perforation 13½:13¾. The comb goes from right to left so that three margins of the sheet – the top, right and left – are unperforated, but the left margin is perforated. One perforation hole in each vertical row extends into the top and bottom margins. In the bottom margin of the sheet, in the right corner, there is under the 100th stamp printed: "Bildhauer F. Rotter" (sculptor F. Rotter).

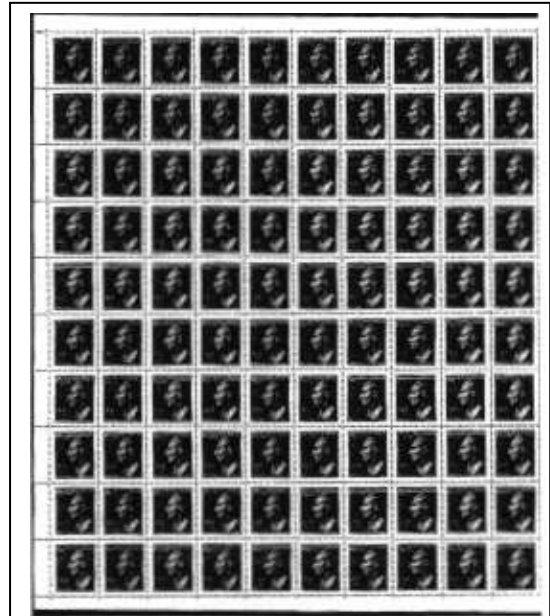


Figure 4 - The sheet of stamps



Figure 5 - Right bottom corner of the sheet with printed text under the 100th stamp

In order to prevent the gummed paper from 'curling', before the print run the paper was flattened (by hand or by machine) which in some cases is shown as a cross in the margin of the sheet. In the entire issue of the stamp there are five stamps in the top half of the sheet in the 9th column (sheet positions 9, 19, 29, 39 and 49) with a plate flaw. This is a white spot on the top of the head, so called "egg on head", which was described soon after the printing of the stamp.



Figure 6 - Right upper corner of 2 stamps with "egg on head" in the last but one column



Figure 7 - Two details of the date of birth and death. Correct dates 1904 and 1942 on the left, wrong dates 1804 and 1842 on the right

Various literature describe another plate flaw, i.e. the year of death is shown incorrectly as 1842 instead of 1942. Engel's specialised catalogue even positions the flaw. Left top and right bottom block of four should contain one stamp only with this defect. The figure 9 is white and it is placed on the black background and its height is 0.6mm. The shape of the mentioned figure in the date is executed in such a way that the ending of its bottom curve nearly touches the top oval. I have seen five sheets of the stamp and the mentioned flaw figure 8 instead of figure 9 was found in all of these stamp positions, not only the year of death (1942) but also the year of birth (1904). I have even found stamps containing

figure 8 in both cases at the same time (e.g. stamp position 90 in one of the observed sheets). On the other hand, I have to point out that at the same stamp position of other sheets this flaw did not appear, but in many cases it appeared again on these sheets in different stamp positions.

I conclude from this that it is not a repeated plate flaw but it is an accidental defect. With the printing technique employing an extraordinarily fine screen, it is easily possible that the surface between the ending of curve and oval of figure 9 is not filled with colour, and it appears that the curve reaches the oval. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that there are also other incompletely printed areas at that part of the legend. Some of these areas are even larger than the small section at figure 9, e.g. three vertical lines marking the month of birth.

When examining complete sheets, I found a number of stamp positions regularly repeated small plate flaws, usually dots and lines in the picture of the stamp or at its margin. For example, at sheet position 4 is a line leading from the margin of the letter E in the word BÖHMEN, across under the letter N to the margin of the stamp. At sheet position 31 there are two dots under the left part of the letters M and E in the word BÖHMEN placed under the bottom line surrounding the picture of the stamp. The appearance of little plate flaws in stamps printed by photogravure is frequent and it is likely that further mistakes of this kind will be still found.

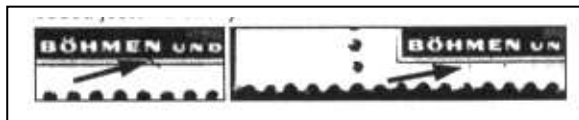


Figure 8 - Two details of the stamp from sheet position 4 with plate flaw "oblique line at the bottom legend" and sheet position 31 with "2 dots under the bottom line of the legend"

At the top and bottom of the design of each stamp in the sheet there appears a grey stripe in the shape of a narrow rectangle, horizontally placed with clear raster. It extends a little over the margin of the stamp design and appears as a grey shadow framing the upper and lower part of the stamp. These grey stripes are not the same shape on all stamps in the sheet and are variously marked. So far it would appear that all known stamps on the miniature sheet edition, do not show these grey stripes.



Figure 9 - Grey raster strip at the upper and lower margins of the stamps, which with various intensity appears only in the sheets of stamps

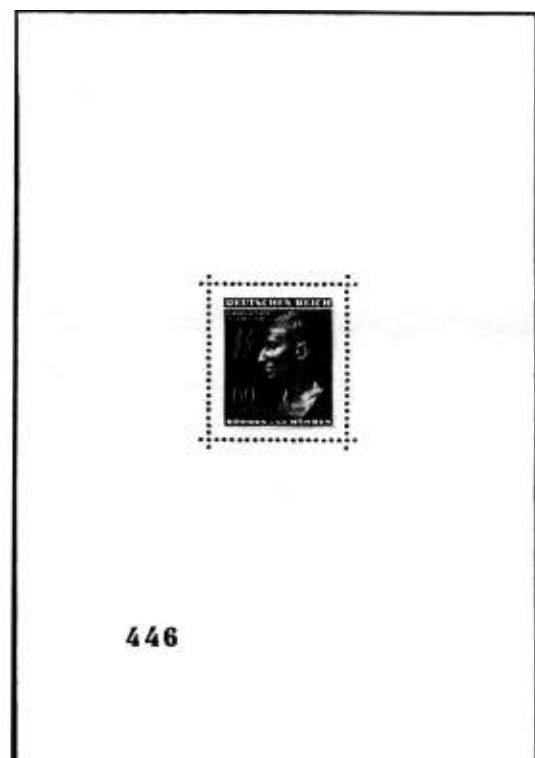
Regarding the appearance of repeating plate flaws it is possible to litigate that printing plate for printing the stamps.

The Miniature Sheet

The miniature sheet is printed on smooth paper of yellowish colour of approximately 101x146mm. (The size varies, as we will show later). There is a very shiny yellowish gum on the reverse. One perforated stamp in black is printed in photogravure from a flat plate. A serial number in the same colour is printed by typography at the left bottom corner of the miniature sheet.

The Size of the Miniature Sheet

The sizes of some miniature sheets are not regular; some margins are cut slightly obliquely, e.g. the size at the upper part of the miniature sheet is not the same as the lower part. Similarly this occurs with the measurements at the left and right sides. In the corner of some sheets there are apparent measuring marks printed in black. They are in the shape of a



horizontal or vertical dashed line composed from dots of average 0.1mm and lines of length 0.2 to 0.4mm. For example in the miniature sheet No. 382 there is a mark in the bottom left side created by a dot and four horizontal macrons and at the bottom right then by two horizontal macrons leading closely to the margin of the miniature sheet. On sheet No. 597 the mark at the upper left is created by a dot and two vertical macrons leading to the end of the sheet. Concerning the position of these measuring marks, it is possible to conclude that their purpose was to adjust the indentation during cutting the miniature sheet to its final form.



Figure 10 - Details of MS corners with the measuring marks. Left and right bottom corners of No. 382 and right upper corner of No. 597

Table 1 - The size of the measured miniature sheets

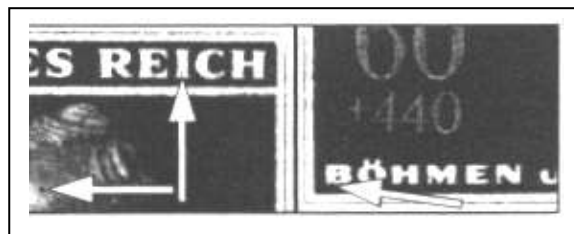
Serial no. of MS	Width x height (mm)	Measuring mark
283	101.0x148.0	-
380	100.3x148.6	horizontal upper right
382	101.9x148.1	horizontal bottom left and right
446	101.5x149.0	-
597	101.0x148.3	vertical upper left
613	102.0x146.1	horizontal bottom right
679	103.0x146.0	horizontal bottom right

The size in the Michel catalogue is 101x146mm, and in the Trojan catalogue 101x145mm.

Plate Flaw in the Design of the Miniature Sheet Stamp

The stamp taken from the miniature sheet could be recognised by the yellowish paper and the gum (if it possesses any); the design of the stamp is not framed top and bottom by the grey raster rectangles and there are also little plate flaws in the design of the stamp. These comprise for example, a little black dot at the foot of the letter I in REICH, a black dot on the forehead below the hair and temple and a dot or macron in the shape of a hook at the foot of the letter B in BÖHMEN. While the aforementioned dots – in the letter "I" and the forehead seem to look the same in all miniature sheets seen so far, the dot, or actual macrons in the shape of a hook in the letter B seemed different in each of them. In miniature sheet No. 382, there is a thicker arched continuous macron, in sheet No. 446, the macron is weaker and in sheets Nos. 380 and 597 there are two different dots.

Figure 11 - Details of MS No. 382 with small plate flaws. The evidence of little plate flaws on all miniature sheets which I have had the opportunity to examine, leads one to suppose that the miniature sheets with the one stamp were produced from one printing plate



Numbering

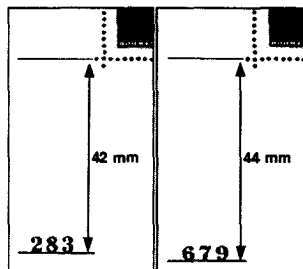
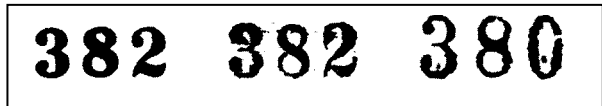
The miniature sheets, envelopes and also the invitations are all numbered. If there is an envelope and invitation attached to the sheet, they always have the same number. Three different types of numerals were used, one by machine for the sheets and two by hand for envelopes and invitations.

The numbering of the sheets is done by letterpress in the left bottom corner of the sheet. The numbering is printed perfectly, the colour of the numbers is rich black and shiny, the height of the numbers is 3.6mm, the width of the whole number (of measured specimens) is roughly 9.2mm, the numbers are shorter and thicker, and their contours are clear.

The numbering of the envelopes was most probably done by hand in the left bottom corner of the front of the envelopes. The printing is imperfect, the colour is grey-black, the height is 3.8mm, the width of the whole number (of measured specimens) is 8.9mm, the numbers are slightly taller and weaker, and the contours are unclear.

The numbering of the invitations was most probably done by hand in the right bottom corner of the reverse. The printing is imperfect, the colour of the numbers is black, the height is 4.5mm, the width of the whole number (of measured specimens) is 10.4mm, the numbers are taller and thinner, and the contours are unclear.

Fig. 12 -
Numbering of the MS, envelope and invitation



When exploring the position of the number printed on the miniature sheets and comparing it with the position of the stamp, I found two varieties in the location of the number. If we draw a line through the middle of the left vertical perforation holes, the distance of the right number from the margin horizontally is about 6.0 to 6.5mm. But if we draw a line through the middle of the bottom horizontal perforation holes then the bottom margin of the number is vertically distanced from it by either 42mm (on measured specimens Nos: 283, 380, 446 and 597) or 44mm (on measured specimens Nos. 613 and 679). This would mean that at least two indents defining the position of the number on the sheet were used.

Fig. 13 - Two different distances of
MS number from the stamp design

Perforation of Miniature Sheet

The sheets are perforated by harrow perforation $13\frac{1}{2}:13\frac{3}{4}$. One hole of the perforation frame extends beyond the margin at each corner. Including the extension holes the vertical rows were always made by 24 perforation pins and horizontal rows always by 21 perforation pins.

All vertical perforation rows are significantly uneven. The holes are often deflected to the left or right. Most of the sheets I had an opportunity to examine have the 3rd and 10th perforation holes from the top at the right vertical perforation significantly diverted to the left and 11th hole to the right (e.g. sheets Nos. 309, 360, 446, 597, 613, 679). Of the smaller number of sheets I have had the opportunity to examine, there is obviously the same deflection on the opposite left vertical row, but counted from below (e.g. Nos. 207, 283). This shows that the perforation was executed with the stamp in the normal position and also "upside-down". In order to be able to distinguish these positions, I have shown the first of them – with deflected perforations in the right top corner – to show position A of the perforation frame, and the second – with deflected perforation in the bottom left corner – to show position B.



Figure 14 - Two different positions of
the perforation frame. A and B

Although we have just shown the variation of the perforations, all the stamps on the sheets known to me were perfectly centred. This indicates the fact that either the original format of the sheet was such that the distance of the top and bottom margins of the paper from the top or bottom margins of the stamp were equidistant, and it did not matter which way the sheet was inserted into the perforator, or there were gradually set up two indents in this machine. One indent indicates putting the sheet in the perforator in the standard position and the second in the opposite position. In both cases the sheets were cut after the perforation was completed.

The fact that the final cutting of the sheet was not done before the perforation process indicates that the distance of vertical and horizontal margins of the stamp from the margins of the sheet varies for individual sheets. If they were put into the perforator before being cut this would result in variations in the position of the stamp.

The Envelope

Before being distributed each sheet was inserted into the numbered rectangular-shaped envelope. Some of the sheets apparently were not distributed but given to Heydrich's family without the envelopes. These sheets were supposed to be the ones with higher chronological numbers. This assumption is not confirmed though by any reliable source. On the other hand it is a fact that sheets with the higher numbers (above 700) do not appear in the Czech Republic.

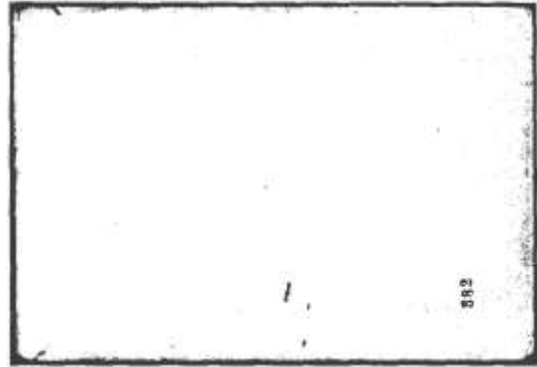


Figure 15 - Numbered envelope

The envelope is 111x162mm with a gummed flap at the top. Paper is of average thickness, light yellow-brown colour, smooth on the outside and with a rough interior. The number of the envelope is printed on the front as shown in the illustration. The position and distance of the number from the margin is not the same on all envelopes. This resulted from hand numbering and the figures are also printed at a slight angle.

The Card Protectors

The miniature sheets in envelopes were placed between card protectors. These are two rectangular sheets of cardboard paper size 107x156mm (the size varies slightly) and thickness of 0.5mm, light beige colour, one side smooth and the other rough.

The Invitation to the Memorial Celebration

A large number of miniature sheets were distributed to the participants at the celebration on the first anniversary of Heydrich's death. The invitation to the celebration, which entitled the participant to receive one miniature sheet as well, was printed on a sheet of card paper of light beige colour, with decorative cut margins, size 180x126mm, thickness 0.35mm and with the Reich's eagle and swastika in the heading. Both sides of the invitation were printed in German text in black.

Translation of the front:

"The Acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia / SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer and General of the Police / Daluge / invites Mr. Ladislava Šenberka [the name is typewritten – author's remark] on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich / to the memorial celebration / in the German Hall of Prague Castle / on Friday 4 July at 11a.m. / Please reply"

Translation of the reverse:

1. *Will you please reply by 1 June 1943 to the special Department of Political Culture, Prague IV, Černinský Palace, tel. 778-41, extension 3326 or 3568.*
2. *This invitation certifies the holder to collect one Heydrich memorial stamp at the entrance to the hall.*
3. *Will you please come in good time and take your seats by 10:45.*
4. *Dress: uniform or dark suit."*

The invitation is numbered serially by hand in the right lower corner. From the composition of the invitation it is apparent that the miniature sheets were issued according to the particular person's number.



Figure 16 - The numbered invitation for the memorial celebration - front and reverse

The Envelope for the Invitation

The invitation was put into a rectangular envelope size 187x138mm with a top triangle-like gummed flap, of smooth paper of thickness less than 0.1mm and of light beige colour. The opened-out envelope is roughly a square size 245x251mm. On the front of the envelope, the name and surname of the person corresponding with the name on the invitation is type written, then, there is a short underlined address which has been crossed through in such way that it is unreadable. In the right top corner is a small number "17" hand-written in brown ink (maybe an additional chronological number for expediting purposes).

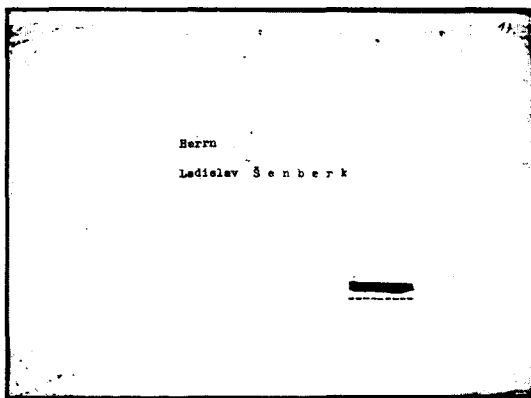


Figure 17 - The envelope of the invitation for the memorial celebration

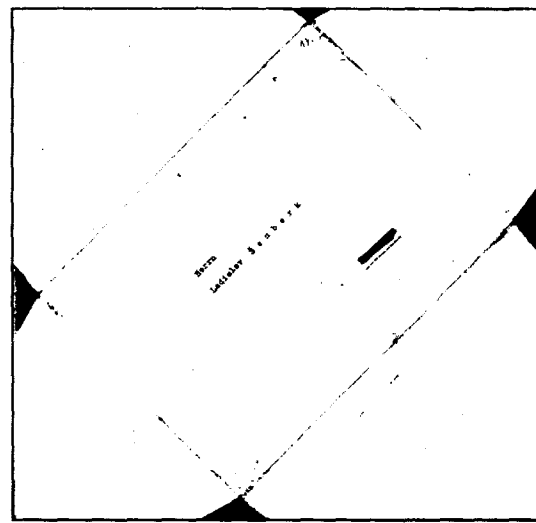


Figure 18 - Opened-out envelope

Distribution of the Miniature Sheets

From the above-mentioned facts it is possible to conclude that the sheets were distributed in two different ways: by personal collection after the numbered invitation was presented at the memorial celebration on 4 June 1943, or by post together with the accompanying letter sent in the following days. Except from these two ways – according to unconfirmed information from our collectors – some sheets was given to Reinhard Heydrich's family, from where they later came on the philatelic market. After the war Heydrich's family lived on the German Island of Fehmarn, in the western Baltic Sea near Kiel, where his widow Lina ran a pension, Gästeheim Burgtiefe. Possible verification of this unconfirmed information could be proved by German collectors and businessmen if they found any miniature sheets from this source.

A note on the letter from the Reich Protector's office addressed to František Šitta – "To the letter dated 3.6.1943" – means that he was also invited to the celebration. The day before the celebration took place he apologised for not being able to attend so the sheet was sent to him. It may be assumed by the fairly high number of his sheet (679 from a presumed issue of 1000) which reflected his not too significant status on the scale of invited people. It is necessary to point out though, that this is only a hypothesis which can be confirmed or disproved by further study of primary sources, e.g. the list of invited guests. The manner of distribution should explain a little bit the mysterious composition in the postal bulletin announcing the issue of the stamps in the sheet. In the section "The Bulletin" we quoted the sentence: "**A limited edition of stamps was issued in miniature sheets ...**" from the fourth paragraph. This is obviously in contrast with formulation "**the Protectorate Post will issue a commemorative stamp**" by which the text begins.

The two tenses used – past and future – are embarrassing. The explanation might be simple. The regulatory text was approved on 18 May 1943 as stated in the note in brackets that ended the text. At that time, the stamp in sheet form was really just being prepared for issue by the post office, while a limited edition of the miniature sheet issue had most probably already been handed over to the office of the Reich Protector, who was concerned with its distribution. From the point of view of the Ministry of Transport and Technology or officials of the Protectorate Post, who announced the issue, the miniature sheet had already been physically issued. With the accuracy of that period this exactly corresponds to the tone of the official text.

Postscript

Reinhard Eugen Tristan Heydrich. Son of Bruno Heydrich, an opera singer, composer and latterly a music teacher. A young, hopeful musician and sportsman, later a navy officer and pilot. Dismissed from the navy in 1931 because of a love affair. From the beginning of the thirties, a fellow traveller of Himmler and Hitler. Ten years of continuous advancement led to power and fame – SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Police; the real master over the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia; co-author of the plan for the final solution of the Jewish question. His rise to power was encompassed by an unimaginable number of dead people. At the age of 38, death. Three children and a wife left in the 7th month of pregnancy. And the miniature sheet with the death mask.

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- 10 Novotný, Ladislav: *Speciální katalog Československo, Čechy a Morava, Slovensko 1949*, Part 2., page 14. Bratislava, year unknown.
- 11 Engel: *Böhmen und Mähren Spezialkatalog*, page 75. Briefmarkenhaus Engel, Landshut 1990.

Video

The Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, VHS 509 b/w colour 56m. 1992. Obtainable from International Historic Films of Chicago Inc., Box 28035, Chicago, Illinois 60629, USA.

Comment from Bob Hill in April: Clyde Ziegeler informs us a Heydrich miniature sheet just sold in Australia for A\$11,000 (£4,200)!

CIRCA 1919 ESSAYS

Part I

In Czechout 2/1999 and 3/1999 we published two queries from members Chris Cordes and Jim Ansell on some essays that they had obtained. One of our overseas members Jan Verleg [Holland] has discovered an article in the Czech language, which divides into three parts, and Robert Kingsley, Vladimír Kralíček and Michael Chant have now translated these for us. Many thanks to everyone for their contribution.

Chapter 1 – From the Beginnings of Our Stamp Production (translated by Robert Kingsley)

The printing works "Czech Graphical Union", which produced virtually all the stamps of prewar Czechoslovakia, was a young business compared to Haas. Just like most other industrial undertakings of Czech capitalism that only began to compete with German capitalism towards the end of the last century, the "Union" also had its roots in the workshop.

Although the business was actually established by three Czech publishing houses, it was its production department that became its most significant part and was later considered for the printing of stamps. It owed its roots to the printing workshop of Jan Vilím. Vilím had learnt the woodblock-making trade and gained experience during a two year stay in Berlin, where he worked for leading illustrated magazines. His services were then acquired by the Prague publishers, J. Otto, to carry out the woodblock making for their up-market pictorial publications. In 1855 Vilím started his own woodblock-making firm which, after eight years, folded as a result of the greatly reduced demand for the illustrations that had been so popular before. He decided to go to the United States to try his luck there, and on his return to Prague he established in 1898 a reproduction workshop on a site near Vyšehrad on which later the "Union" printing works was to develop [now "Naše vojsko" (Our Army) printing works].

It was in the year 1900 that the three Czech publishing houses, Otto, Vilímek and Šimáček, established the new printing firm called "Czech Graphical Union", which was intended to compete with the German firm Haas. Their core business was the letterpress activities of the three firms mentioned, which, however, were not geared up for pictorial printing, especially not coloured. The publisher Otto therefore invited Vilím to join the "Union". In 1903 a Company was formed under the title of "Czech Graphical Union Limited" with a capital of 1,750,000 crowns. For the loss of his own business, Vilím was compensated with the permanent function of Chairman of the Board; he later also acquired the title of Imperial Councillor and became a typical example of industrial capitalism. Everything that came from this new Company bore the signature "Unie-Vilím".

The Czech Graphical Union had, on its inception, 400 employees and 35 printing machines. At the beginning it was geared up mainly for letterpress printing, but within a few years it achieved many successes in the field of coloured reproductions, which at that time was quite significant: for example, illustrations of Kašpar and most especially the superb printing of the "Vyšehrad Kodex" which received much acclaim abroad. Later the Union went into the printing of sheet-music and geographical maps, which had up to then only been printed in Vienna or Leipzig; and before WWI it built up a business producing security documents and banknotes with a view to marketing these in the Slavonic lands. However, it only succeeded in printing banknotes for the miniature kingdom of Montenegro.

During the war, being a Czech firm, the Union was looked upon with disfavour by the authorities and used the time of its isolation to make preparations for the future and to improve its technical equipment. At this time it also invented its own method of lined recess printing which was called "neotypie". This was the Union's name used for this perfected type of lined recess printing. So far as the printing of stamps is concerned, "neotypie" refers only to Czechoslovak stamps from the years 1919–1925 and it is not correct to use the term in connection with later or even foreign stamps.

After the formation of Czechoslovakia the Union prospered, it was well connected and supported by influential people, and amongst its activities it was entrusted with the printing of stamps. This was actually rather a hasty move as the firm was going through a period of postwar reorganisation.

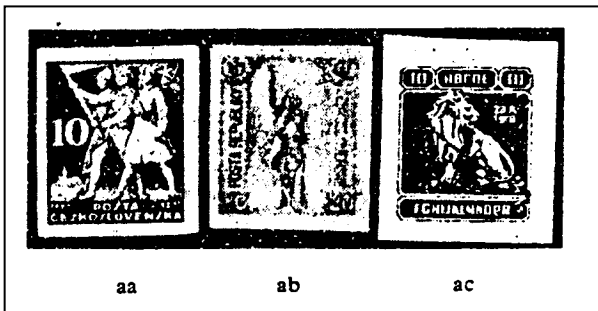
It was the department that printed securities which had the most favourable technical abilities for the printing of stamps; however, it had only a small capacity for recess printing from flat plates, whilst the postal authorities required the largest number of stamps in the shortest possible time. For the same reason neotypie, which only started to be introduced in the postwar period, was also considered unsuitable. There therefore only remained the letterpress department, which had retained its prewar reputation and which had acquired new machinery after the war; however, none of it was sufficiently specialised for the printing of stamps. The preparatory work necessary for the printing of stamps was so complicated that one would not find it in any other printing operation. It is also typical of the chaos of the times that each of the Czechoslovak stamp issues from the period 1918–1922 produced by letterpress used a different system whilst not one of them was graphically perfect.

The concession granted to Union for the printing of stamps was made on nationalistic grounds. In truth, it was a question of rivalry between two capitalist groups, Czech and German, the former having a much better standing in the new country. What certainly also played a part were the personal relationships between members of the Union management and their political connections.

Let us now return to the design of the stamps produced by both printing works, especially by Haas. The Postal Museum has submissions of 27 designs and if we consider variations of colour, printing method and size of stamp, there would be around 100.

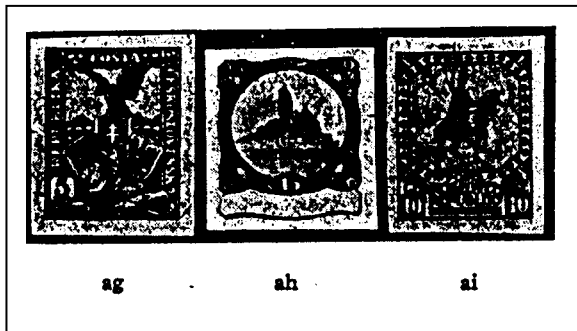
At a time when Czech philatelists bought any image which looked like a stamp, the collecting value of these stamps was inflated and adversely influenced by subsequent production simply for collectors. Since the majority of these stamps appeared at a time when it was already illegal to misuse the official marking "Czechoslovak Post" these philatelic designs are either without any mention of the country or else they are replaced by random letters (see illustration ac: "ABCDE" at top). They are also on a different kind of paper, often with a distinct narrow stripe, pale colour and printing quality which does not give a true indication of Haas printing which, in fact, was of a much higher standard.

The first three "stamps" sent to the postal authorities had allegoric designs, depicting legionnaires marching with flags (aa), legionnaires with raised arm (ab) and a lion (ac). The legionnaires' designer was Jan Jáchym, a landscape painter from the Šumava region; the designer of the lion stamp was Bedřich Carmine, artistic associate of the Haas business. A number of designs were submitted with the portrait of President Masaryk not one of which, however, from an artistic point of view, was deemed to have attained the necessary standard. The large folder with the inscription "Donated by the firm Haas 16.9.1919" contains a large quantity of examples of "stamps" in various colours, mostly in complete sheets, printed by lithography or recess printing, in some cases by letterpress. There are even some stuck singly on envelopes so that the postal authorities could see how they would look if used in the postal service.

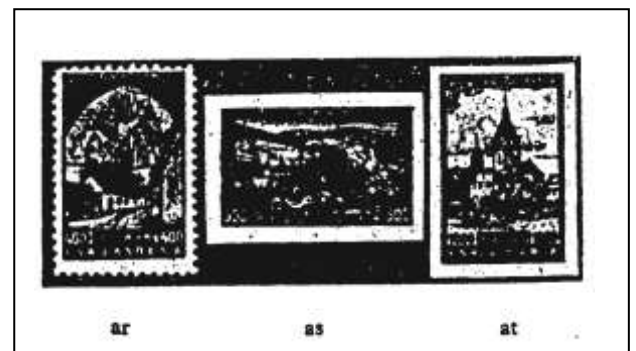
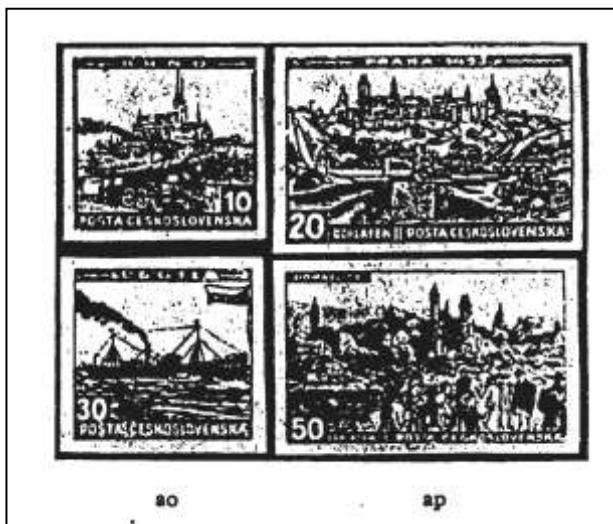


Four further designs were mere reproductions of famous and not quite so famous paintings, but they were for that period of significant importance if we observe the small sheet on which the four stamps are clearly printed in red by recess printing from flat plates. They are based on Alš's drawing "Jiří z Poděbrad" (ae), portrait of Žižka by J. Béma-Hlava (ad) and Brožík's painting "Jan Amos Komenský". The fourth design showing President Masaryk on a horse was not of the required standard. The excellent engraving, particularly of the portrait of Žižka, reminds us of the Viennese graphic school and it is not impossible that they were produced abroad. Examples exist amongst collectors of later reproductions of the small design, pale colour and without the marking "Czechoslovak Post".





The poorest, from an artistic as well as from a printing point of view, are the group of five Haas designs with an allegoric subject: four country emblems [the so-called Legionnaires emblem], the seated figure symbolising the republic, the statue of St. Wenceslas, and Jan Hus in Prague (ag–aj). To these examples of the small design one can add the symbolic painting showing the planting of a tree of the Republic (ak). This, however, is not original as we find a similar subject on Austrian stamps. All these designs were printed by recess printing and for collector purposes also by letterpress.



The Haas printing works were also our first to produce designs with a landscape motive. One of these has a picture of Karlštejn (al); it was sent to the Post Office with a Bulgarian 15st. landscape stamp which would indicate that the designs were influenced by a competition for Bulgarian stamps which the firm of Haas had taken part in. Nine landscape designs are of varying quality. The best is a beautiful reproduction of the Wohlgemuth woodcut "Prague from the year 1493" featured in the famous book *Weltchronik* by Schedel (an). Against this excellent engraving there are pictures of Pernštejn, Banská Bystrica and Orava, taken from conventional photographs and, in the case of Domažlice (ap) and Brno (am), from unsuitable photomontages. On one design we find a very exotic subject, the Czechoslovak naval ship *Legie* (ao), which was bought in 1920 and which means that these designs which form a complete series must have originated after that date. All original Haas printings from this group bear the country "Czechoslovakia" and in some cases also "surcharge" and are printed by the recess printing process.

To be continued

COVERS OF INTEREST

5.11.1942 Slovakia Registered Cover Lovasovce/Koniarovce/Szomorlovászi to Čakovec
- Colin Spang-

In 1997 I came across this registered cover from Lovasovce and after purchasing it set about checking with *Monografie Československých Známek 17/II*, where I discovered that the Slovak name in 1920 was Somorová. It was sent to Kőszeg, then forwarded to Csáktornya. Underneath the Cenzur 44 label is written in ink Se'p Kerog? It is franked 5Ks 50. I then decided to send a photocopy to John Whiteside for verification, as I was unable to trace anything further.

John replied: "Now the cover is a splendid one because it is absolutely genuine in all respects and has no trace of philatelic manipulation. It is sent by a native Hungarian with only a basic education, as shown by the writing and some of the spelling, which is rather "iffy" in places. It is an excellent illustration of the problems I am having with the foreign section of the Evinic translation, as, when I check the rate, at one point I can read that the rate should be 4.00, 2.00 each postage and registration. But this is not right, as Evinic has combined three groups of concess-



sions that are different into one section. The rate of 5.50 is correct – postage to Hungary was 2.00 and from 1.1.1942 the registration fee rose from 2.50 to 3.50.

I think it is very likely that you cannot find the sending office, Lovasovce,- on a map and that you have looked up the entry in *Monografie 17/II*, showing it had the Slovak name of Somorová in 1920 and that this was changed to Lovosovce in 1928. However, since 1945, the name has changed again to Koniarovce. You will find it on a good map about 8-10 miles north of Nitra en route to Topoľčany.

Its Hungarian name was Szomorlovászi and on the back of the envelope the sender's address ends with that name. This starts "Felado ór" – Felado means sender and ór means guard. The name Falery Imrene follows [in Hungarian fashion with surname first] and there is some more obscured by the Censor label which may be a street or perhaps a unit. The original address is "Baras Maria Kisa" [first line], then the second is "? utca, 3 szo[ba]", which is ? Street, 3rd room or flat. The third line is "I emelet, Vas megye" or 1st floor, then Vas county where the town in the fourth line "Kőseg" is. This is a misspelling for Kőszeg, which is in Vas County.

It is readdressed to Csáktornya, but I cannot make out the last two lines of this. You will not find Csáktornya on a modern map since it is in Yugoslavia, now Croatia. It was in an area taken into Hungary during 1941 following the German invasion of Yugoslavia and returned in May 1945. Its present name is Čakovec. These places can be found if you look at a modern map of Hungary. If you look at the western side of Hungary you will find the large town of Szombathely. Due north of there and almost on the Austrian border you should find Kőszeg. If you trace southwards and slightly westwards from Szombathely and across the borders into Croatia through Lendava in Slovenia, you should find Čakovec.



Finally I cannot make out the two words in the top left corner. I think the first may be Lép, which means a step or a move, but the other word looks very peculiar indeed. It is amusing that the Censor obviously felt he should act and covered it with a label."

Reverse of cover

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 Ian McQueen's in Czechout 1/2001 page 17 – Brno 2 Airmail Cover

From Richard Beith: The answer can be found in the Trojan airmail catalogue. It appears to be a sort of publicity mark: look, your letter arrived by air, how modern we are! The Glasgow Head Office had a similar idea in 1935 with a BY AIR MAIL cachet applied on arrival from the inland air mail service from the South and from Belfast.

From Jan Dobrovlný: The Czech words in the box cancellation read DOŠLO LETADLEM [with inverted circumflex above S], which is the same as ARRIVE PAR AVION. Post Office Brno 2 confirms that the letter was delivered by airmail.

From Garth Taylor: I enclose two covers in my collection that show the Brno 2 Airmail arrival and receiving cancellation on Airmail letters, these cancellations are both described on page 187 of the Trojan Katalog Československa Letecka Pošta 1918–1939. The one seen by Ian McQueen is the arrival cachet and reads DOŠLO LETADLEM. [Covers reduced by 50%. Ed.]



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

From Derek Walker: Whilst researching in the library of the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (University of London), Senate House, Malet Street, [the Czech born Librarian is very helpful] I was looking through the Lisicky Collection of letters and original documents. Amongst this material, there are many letters from prisoners in Brixton and Pentonville prisons seeking help in obtaining release, or seeking permission to move to other parts of the country. It was with regard to the recent query and correspondence regarding a Czech presence in Windsor that I thought the following might be of interest to members.

It seems that there were some Czechoslovaks based in Windsor itself as there is correspondence to and from the Czech Refugee Trust Fund, New Lodge, Windsor Forest, Windsor, Berks. Whether they had special Field Post facilities or any connection with the forces isn't clear, but the letters certainly refer to some important people who were then in England and being supported financially by this fund.

Re Lubor Kunc's query in *Czechout 3/2000* page 80 – Czechoslovak College in Bishop's Stortford

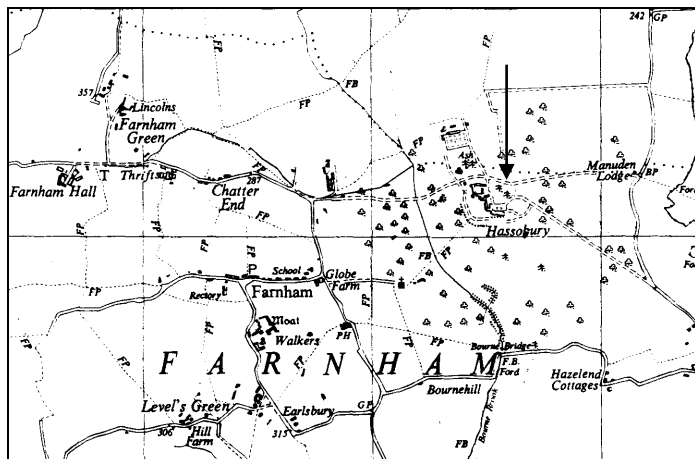
From Colin Spong: After pursuing this query via the Bishop's Stortford Public Library Reference Librarian who did not find anything in their local studies collection, I was supplied with the address of the Honorary Curator of the Bishop's Stortford and District Local History Society. Mr W.J. Wright, the Curator, found a reference to a Czechoslovak College housed at Hassobury in Hazel End, which is just outside Bishop's Stortford and Miss Jo Wood, Reference Library Assistant, enclosed a copy of a map indicating Hassobury House.

The B.S & D.L.H.S searched their archives and found three photographs and stated that the Czech Government had leased the house as an Overseas School for Czech teenage boys during the period of 1946–48. Mrs Doreen Wright, the wife of the Curator, remarked that one of their members, when a teenager at the local grammar school, remembers seeing the students at dances at Hassobury. There was much consternation when the college was abruptly closed, ending blossoming romances!



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HASSOBURY HOUSE, FARNHAM, NR. BISHOP'S STORTFORD Sketch by Jan Hiller c.1970

1594	First documented evidence of a house built by Henry Glasscock (barns pre-date this – circa 1350).
1868–70	Present house built by father and son, R.G. Gosling. Previous house demolished.
1940–46	House used as a Convalescent Hospital for injured servicemen.
1946–48	House used as an Overseas School for Czech. teenage boys. Leased by the Czech. Government.
1951–76	Essex County Council Home for Educationally Disadvantaged Girls.
1976–94	Waterside School.
Photograph:	Mrs. Rosemary Gosling outside Hassobury House when it was a hospital.



Extracts from Ordnance Survey map supplied by Bishop's Stortford Reference Library, and local newspaper report dated 15 September 1988 supplied by Bishop's Stortford and District Local History Society.

Ambition come true - Eva Rehakova meets the mayor

WHEN Czechoslovakian Eva Rehakova arrived in England last week, her top priority was to visit Bishop's Stortford where her brother was a student some 40 years ago. Tears were in her eyes as she wandered around the building and grounds of Hassobury School, now Waterside Prep School, remembering all the stories she has been told by her brother Vaclav.

Student: Vaclav Cichovsky was studying English at Hassobury as a student of the Czechoslovak College in 1947–1948 and told Mayor of Bishop's Stortford, Councillor Keith Barnes in a letter, that he still treasured his days in England. "I have been so much interested ever since in the progress of your town, in the castle at Hassobury and many other things."

Tour: Eva's stop at Bishop's Stortford was part of a European tour she had saved up for and she brought with her a treasured postcard of North Street to compare it with 40 years on and she had also a brochure including photos of Hassobury as it was when Mr. Cichovsky was there. Councillor Barnes said, "I was surprised to see that the building has changed very little since Mr. Cichovsky was studying there. Eva was almost in tears as she went round and saw the college and the grounds where her brother studied."

Bohemia: He had told the Mayor in the letter, "Of course though being a father of a trio of children and already a grandfather of two granddaughters I had never given up the hopes to cross the English Channel once again and see Bishop's Stortford." Mr. Cichovsky, a civil engineer, lives in the heart of Bohemia which is the same distance from Prague as Bishop's Stortford is from London. Hassobury College was set up for Czechoslovakian students by the English and Czechoslovakian Governments to enable them to understand English culture and industry but after two years of the 25 year project there was political unrest in the East and the college was forced to send the students back home. Following the tour of Hassobury Eva was taken round Bishop's Stortford before she left to stay with a friend in London.

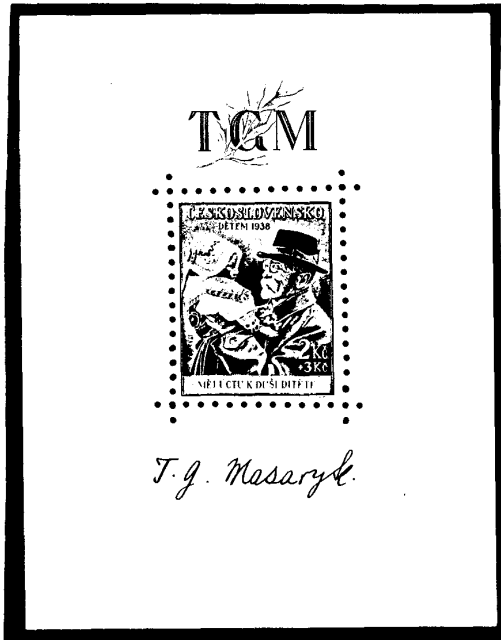
After Lubor had received the above information he made contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Czech Republic to obtain further information about the Czechoslovak teaching programme in Great Britain and in other countries as well [if they existed]. Lubor states, "What a pity this history has been forgotten," and when he receives a response from the Ministry he will prepare an article for the Czech Postal History journals, in the hope this will attract attention from other students and teachers and lead to further discoveries of postal history items. He is most appreciative of the help he has received from the various people concerned.

Three new queries

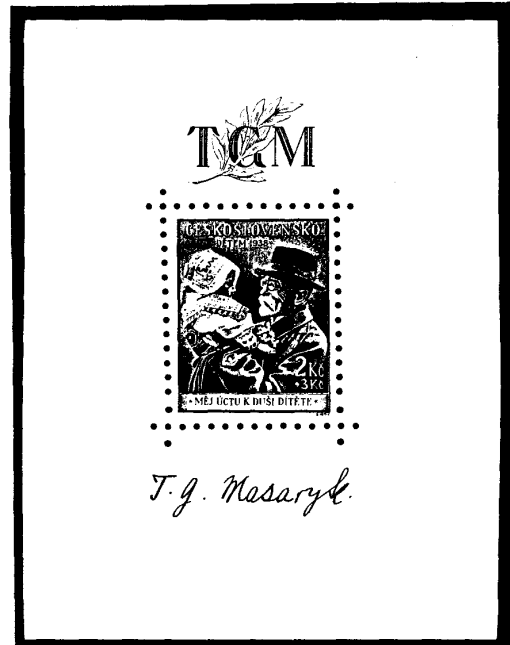
From Geoff Fuller: A Grey-Zone! Please can any member interested in the Hradčany design help me regarding the Grey colour changeling of the 1h Brown. During a recent search through many varied brown shades I grouped a few into a Deep Reddish Brown group, one of which was two-thirds Grey and one-third Deep Reddish Brown, with a distinct vertical break between the colours. The Grey section matches the shade of two grey unused, no gum, stamps in my collection. One other point of note – many of the stamps in question have a red colour bleed through to the back as though the dyes in the ink used are fugitive. Could these stamps be the origin of the greys and is the colour an Aniline dye, which runs leaving the faster constituent greys in place, hence the greys in my collection, being without gum. Have they been washed clean? I have always read of different inks being used in the production of the Hradčany, but nothing specific. Is there anything published in English?

From Bob Hill: Do the names of František Němec and Jan Becho of the Government-in-Exile during WWII mean anything to members? Please let me know.

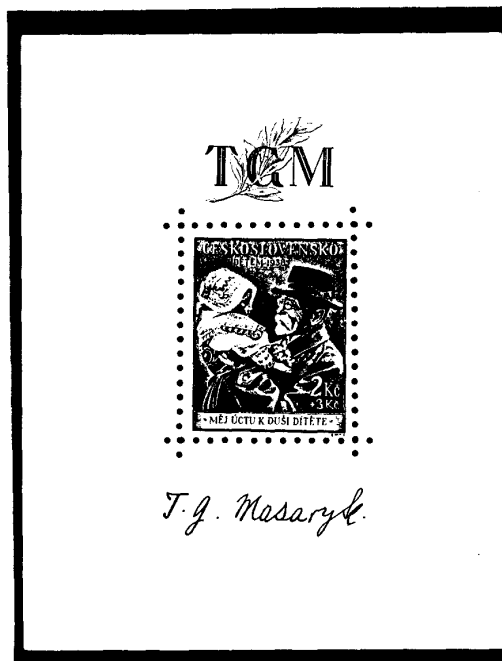
From J Barry Horne: I have recently had a large collection passed to me by a dealer friend and included amongst the items I found the Masaryk 2Kč + 3Kč miniature sheets with a perforation of 9.25 as illustrated below, together with a registered cover to Germany opened by? Control. When I took the cover off I discovered a third copy of this sheet underneath, with a similar perforation.



Sheet 1 with an elongated hole at bottom left



Sheet 2 appears to be normal.



Sheet 3 with an even larger oval hole at bottom left

I must at present presume that these are a private perforation although it does look quite a professional job. I should like to know whether these perforations have been seen before or recorded anywhere or is it a new find?

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

28.03.01

1000 Years of Architecture in the Czech Lands



Designer: Jan Kavan **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in sheets of three stamps se-tenant. Block size 113x85mm, stamp size 26x40mm.

Designs: Sheet – three stamps se-tenant as described below with the text in Czech "1000 Years of Architecture in the Czech Lands". Underneath this is a drawing of ground plans of a church and architect's instruments.

13Kč – the Romanesque Church of St. Jacob, Kutná Hora built in 1165 of a single nave construction with a western tower and triple Romanesque windows on two levels one above the other. The stamp shows part of the decorative sculpture of the south face, amongst the oldest in the Republic, and an overall view of the church. **FDC** – cachet is a drawing of Romanesque columns from the interior of the church

17Kč – the Renaissance chateau of Bučovice near Vyškov built for the Moravian nobleman Jan Šembera Černohorský of Boskovice during the second half of the 16th century. The Italian-style four-winged castle has an arcaded courtyard and an extensive garden which was all enclosed by walls and a water filled moat. The stamp shows an overall view of the castle and part of the decorations of the arcades. **FDC** – cachet is a drawing of the Renaissance columns from the castle arcade.

31Kč – the Dancing House (Tančící dům) on the Rašín Embankment Prague which was begun in 1994 and opened to the public on 20 June 1996. The contemporary building, designed by the Croatian architect Vlado Milunič and the Canadian Frank O Gehry, is named after its tower which is reminiscent of the dancing figure of Fred Astaire. **FDC** – cachet drawing shows columns at the entrance to the building.

FDCs – all three printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Praha cancels.

28.03.01

Easter



Designer: Zdenka Kabátová-Taborská **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: a brightly coloured cockerel and in the background a farmer's wife holding a bowl of red coloured eggs.

FDC: printed DS in green with commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet drawing is of a farmer's wife with a pannier full of Easter eggs on her back.

18.04.01

Czech Baroque Art – V.V. Reiner

Design: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček
Printing: RD + DS in single sheet. Stamp size 50x40mm, sheet size 146x117mm. **Design:** sheet shows the ceiling fresco "Allegory of Art" from the sala terrena in the Vrtbov Garden in Prague's Lesser Town (Malá Strana) with the text in Czech "Allegory of Art – Fresco (1720–1721) – Vrtbov Garden in Prague, Czech Baroque Art". The stamp has a detail of the fresco and the artist's name. Václav Vavřinec Reiner (1689–1743) was one of the leading Czech Baroque artists of portraits, altar paintings, landscapes and battle scenes, but his most memorable works are frescoes and ceiling paintings. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is a detail from a garden decoration of the palace in Prague.

9.05.01.

European Men's Volleyball Championship in Ostrava

Design: Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: volleyball players and text in Czech "European Men's Volleyball Championship 2001"

FDC: printed DS in grey-green with commemorative Ostrava cancel. The cachet depicts a player lifting the ball with a "dig".

9.05.01

Europa – Pond Construction in the Czech Lands

Designer: Jan Solpera **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of eight. Stamp size 40x23mm.

Design: the muddy surface before dredging of the largest pond in south Bohemia, Rožmberk, with the logo of "Europa" and text in Czech "Pond Construction in the Czech Lands"

FDC: printed DS in red with commemorative Třeboň Cancel. The cachet is a drawing of one of the oldest maps of the pond system in south Bohemia attributed to Mikuláš Ruthard of Malešov. In the lower part are the signatures of Štěpánek Netolický and his successor Jakub Krčín of Jelčany and Sedlčany. The third signature is of Josef Šusta who renovated and expanded the fish farming in Třeboň.

30.05.01

For Children

Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler from the original work of Jiří Šalamoun
Engraver: Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of thirty. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: the large dog Maxipes Fík riding a bicycle from the Večerníček cartoons. The author of the stories is Rudolf Čechura with illustrations by Jiří Šalamoun.

FDC: printed DS in black-grey with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is a cartoon drawing of the dog with Ája his child owner looking at a mouse.

Booklet: printed in eight stamps and two labels. The label is a further drawing of Maxipes Fík as a puppy with Ája.

30.05.01

Personalities



Designer: Hana Čápková **Engraver:** Václav Fajt
Printing: RD in sheets of fifty. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: 5.40Kč – portrait of František Škroup (1801–1862), who was the composer of the first Czech original opera and of the national anthem – Kde domov můj. **FDC:** printed DS in red-violet with commemorative Osice cancel. The cachet design shows part of the score of Kde domov můj and the Estate's Theatre Prague where Škroup was conductor from 1827 to 1857.

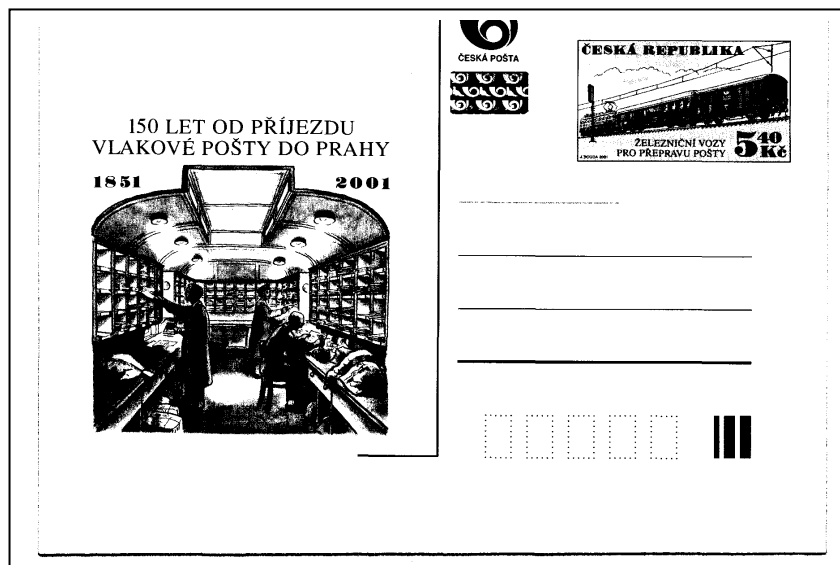
16Kč – portrait of František Halas (1901–1949), who was a poet, essayist and translator and served an apprenticeship

as a bookseller in Brno. He later moved to Prague working as an editor. **FDC:** printed DS in dark-green with commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet is a drawing of flowers.

Postal Stationery

Commemorative Postcard

28.03.01 150 Years since the Arrival of Railway Post in Prague. **Designer:** Jiří Bouda **Printing:** Multicoloured offset **Design:** Imprinted 5.40Kč stamp depicts a drawing of an engine with a mail sorting carriage and another carriage for transporting packages and the text in Czech "Railway Carriages for the Transport of Post". The Czech Post logo and security hologram are to the left of the stamp design. The left part of the card shows the interior of a postal carriage with the sorting of mail taking place and the text in Czech "150 years since the arrival of railway post in Prague". The card retails at 6.10Kč.



Promotional Postcards.

18.12.00 60th Anniversary of the Czech Field Post in Great Britain. Imprinted 5Kč stamp (see *Czechout 1/2000* page 24 for details) with left portion of card showing a postal item addressed to someone serving in the Czech Forces and in the background a reprinted daily order of the Cs Brigade stating that the Field Post Office was opened on 1.12.1940. A commemorative cancel from the Prague Postal Museum was used on 18.12.00 to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the museum.

24.01.01 Grand Prix WIPA 2000. Imprinted 5.40Kč stamp (see *Czechout 1/2001* page 22 for details) with left portion showing the two award-winning stamps – one from the Czech Republic and the other from the Slovak Republic.

01.02.01 Hong Kong 2000. Imprinted 9Kč stamp (for details see *Czechout 1/2000* page 22). Left portion has logo of the stamp exhibition and various texts to promote the event.

08.02.01 Berliner Briefmarkentage International. Imprinted 9Kč stamp (details as for previous card). Left portion has the logo of the event and promotional texts.

Slovak Republic

1.01.01

Historic Clocks



Designer: Marián Čapka **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD, stamp size 24x30mm **Design:** a clock circa 1780, Slovak maker unknown. The timepiece is from the collection in the Slovak National Museum, Bratislava. This is the first of a series to be issued with the theme "From Slovak Museum Exhibits".

FDC: printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a clock face with the symbols of sun, moon, stars, sky and water. The sun rising behind the clouds depicts the new millennium and optimism for the future.

15.01.01

Personalities – Janko Blaho



Designer: Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD, stamp size 23x30mm. **Design:** Portrait of Janko Blaho and in the background the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava. He was born 15.01.1901 in Skalica and died in Bratislava 24.04.1981 beginning his opera singing career in the Slovak National Theatre in 1924. During his career he sang more than 150 roles but specialised in the operas of Smetana and Mozart. **FDC:** printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Skalica cancel. The cachet shows the singer dressed in costume and a further impression clothed in manuscript.

16.01.01

European Figure Skating Championships, Bratislava 2001



Designer: Ivan Schurmann **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD, stamp size 23x30mm. **Design:** a female skater on the ice.

FDC: Printed DS in dark blue with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a pair of skaters on the ice.

22.02.01

Folk Costumes from Detva



Designer: Júlia Piačková **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD, stamp size 23x30mm. **Designs:** 5.50Sk – a man in folk costume of the Detva area. **FDC:** cachet design is a man in folk costume playing a pipe. 6Sk – a woman in folk costume holding a young child in costume from the area of Detva. **FDC:** cachet drawing is a couple in costume. Both FDCs were printed DS in dark blue with commemorative Detva cancel.

22.02.01.

50th Anniversary of the Institute for Research and Central Control of Agriculture



Designer: Alexej Vojtášek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD, stamp size 40x23mm. **Design:** a female figure holding an apple with ears of corn. The text in Slovak marks the anniversary of the Institute and the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the International Agreement for Plant Protection and the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO). **FDC:** printed DS in grey-green with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a portrait of Guco Fandy with his facsimile signature.

commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a portrait of Guco Fandy with his facsimile signature.

Postal Stationery

Commemorative Postcards

The following cards have an imprinted 4Sk stamp which is a collage of modern and old Slovak buildings. Retail price is 6.50Sk unless otherwise stated.

11.11.00 Bell Ringing for United Europe. Left part of card has the statue of a mounted swordsman with text below "Slávnosť Zvonov Posolstvo, Zjednotenej Európe Bratislava". To the side is a church bell with colours of various saints.

19.11.00 World Jubilee 2000. Left portion of card has logo for the event with texts in Slovak.

?12.00 Modernisation of Bratislava Old Town. Left portion of card has a view of a pedestrianised street (Postovej ulice) in the old town area.

18.12.00 Day of the Slovak Stamp and 50th Anniversary Pofis. Left part of card has the Pofis logo and the outline of a stamp with a dove emerging from it. Surrounding the illustration are various texts in Slovak.

?12.00 Slovak Medal Winners at the Sydney Olympics 2000 and Medals gained at Olympilex. Promotional section shows the Slovak athletes competing in their respective events with texts in Slovak.

21.01.01 European Figure Skating Championships Bratislava. Left part of card has a pair of competing skaters with the logo of the event and texts in Slovak.

8.02.01 International Stamp Days Berlin. The logo of the event and outline map of Slovak Republic with Slovak Post logo is in the left portion of the card together with texts in German and Slovak.

Jan/Feb 2001?? 50th Anniversary of European Declaration of Human Rights. Promotional section has a modern group of buildings at night with a pointing hand lit up emerging from a darkened sky. This card retails at 4.50Sk.

Issue Plan of Slovak Postage Stamps for remainder of 2001

26 March	Definitive – Komárno	1 value
10 April	Splendours of Our Homeland	2 values
5 May	Europa – Studenovodský waterfall	1 value
25 May	Definitive – Piešťany	1 value
5 June	Personalities of Greater Moravia	4 values
10 July	Nature Protection – bear, wolf and lynx	3 values
1 August	"Dobro" guitar	1 value
15 August	Biennale of Children's Illustrations	1 value
7 September	The Just among Nations	1 value
18 September	Personalities – Alexander Dubček	1 value
9 October	Victims of Political Oppression	1 value
9 October	Postal Museum	1 value
15 October	Art on Stamps – Joint issue with Ukraine	3 values
15 October	Christmas	1 value