



CZECHOUT

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

DECEMBER 2001

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 105 Vol.19 No.4

Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

© Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2001

Vol. 19/4	CONTENTS	December 2001
Notes		87
News and Notices		88
Czechoslovak College - Part II		90
Circa 1919 Essays		94
Slavkov u Brna - April and May 1945		96
Perforation Varieties on Czech and Slovak Stamps		100
Covers of Interest		101
Book Review		103
What? When? Where?		104
Auction Notes		106
New Issues (Czech)		107
New Issues (Slovak)		110

We enclose with this journal the annual Membership interests and subscription form, AGM minutes, annual accounts, auction list [[except for those members who receive it direct from Bob Hill i.e., e-mail and Zone 1 and 2] and programme card for 2002. The annual index for this volume will be sent out with the March issue of *Czechout*.

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 12 January** when **Brian Day** will give a display entitled "The Work of Alfons Mucha, Józsa Úprka and other Czech Artists."

Richard Beith gives *An Evening of Czechoslovak Musical Philately* to the Chester & District PS, 7.30pm, S.Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, Parkgate Road, Chester on 31 January 2002. Also on 12 March shows *Free Czechoslovak Forces in Western Europe* to the South Manchester PS, 7.45pm S.Mary's Methodist Church Hall, Handforth, Wilmslow.

The Editorial team send their best wishes for Christmas and 2002 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

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 8 September 2001 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm

The Chairman Robert Kingsley, welcomed 21 members and three visitors to the meeting. He particularly welcomed Peter Williams, a recent member who was attending a London meeting for the first time, along with his wife. Apologies had been received from three members.

The Hon Secretary gave details of three prospective new members:

W J Wyber	From Christchurch, New Zealand
Graham Harvey	From Northampton
Robin Upton	From Arundel, West Sussex

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The Vice-Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, then called upon **Robert Kingsley** to display to the Society under the title of *The Chairman Entertains*. Robert said that he had previously displayed little to the Society in his 35 years as a member, explaining that business had left him with little time to write up his collection, and that as other members displayed quality material he had felt a little inhibited.

The first half was devoted mainly to the Sokol, in which Robert felt he was trespassing on the preserve of the Society's chief expert, Brian Day. Robert explained that the Sokol was much more than a gymnastic organisation; it was at the heart of Czech nationalism. Being of Czech birth, the Sokol had always had a special meaning for him. He remembered being taken up to Prague as a youngster for the 1938 Slet, which captured the mood of the country at a time of national crisis and its preparedness to defend the country against aggression. After the war, the first Slet was set for 1948 as it needed a long lead-time to organise. Preparations were too far advanced for the Communist government of February 1948 to cancel it, so it went ahead despite their misgivings. Robert recalled that of his class of twenty-five, twenty-three participated, the other two being sons of Party members who had forbade them from joining their class.

Robert chose two themes for the second half, Prague Castle and the Spas of Western Bohemia. He illustrated both by cards and stamps, including the long series for Pražký Hrad issued from 1965. The cards had been selected for being postally used, with colour copies of the stamp-side being shown.

Brian Day gave the vote of thanks. He said that Robert had been hiding his light under a bushel. He had been most impressed with the Sokol, there being many items he had not seen - in particular he had drooled over the Hejdek maximum card. The Castle and Spas had been well displayed. Tongue in cheek, he concluded, "For first effort, not bad!"

Colin Spong rose to give a second vote of thanks, saying that in the past Robert had said he was overawed by our philatelist members. Colin told Robert that the material had been well presented and well put together. He told others not to be put off and to show what you've got. [All those of you who have never displayed, please form a queue by the Hon Secretary. RAD]

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

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 3 November 2001 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.00 pm

The new Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 26 members to the meeting. She also welcomed Roy Summers, a visitor from the Wombourne Philatelic Society who would serve as today's guest auctioneer in the absence on business of Roger Morrell. Apologies had been received from five members.

There being no Society business she handed over the meeting to the Roy. Roy warmed to the occasion, but warned that he had no experience of pronouncing Czech placenames. Robert Hill, the Hon Auction Secretary, bid on behalf of postal bidders, and Bob Bradford, the Hon Treasurer, recorded successful bids on his laptop computer. David Pearce and Garth Taylor acted as 'runners'. Lot 1401 was the first lot under the hammer, and brisk bidding took it to £2200 'on the book'. Another highlight was £660 for the pair of National Anthem sheets.

Some three hundred lots were offered in the room, but there was another large tranche of lots up for postal auction only. A few lots had unfortunately to be withdrawn. The initial results indicate that overall 787 lots were sold for a total of £9356.70.

Lindy thanked all those who had contributed to the auction's smooth running and success. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.05 pm.

Rex A Dixon

Congratulations

To **John Hammonds** on being made an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Association of British Philatelic Societies and to **Pat Rothnie** on assuming the office of Honorary General Secretary at the previous AGM. To **Otto Hornung** on being awarded a Gold medal at Philanippon '01 for his *Branch Post Offices of Istanbul*. To **George Firmage** on being made a Life Member for services to the Society.

Letters to the Editor

✉ **Frederick Backeljauw** writes: "My friend Jan Klypast has just informed me that in January 2002 a new catalogue will be published by Filatelie Klim in Brno. The co-authors will be Messrs Schödelbauer, Tovacovsky and Kypast. The catalogue will deal with all issues of Czechoslovakia 1918 to 1939 on letters."

Publications

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

- The Winter 2001 issue of *Austria* No.136. The articles include:
 - ▶ Newspaper Postage Stamps (Taylor); Austrian Pre-franked [Postal Stationery] Postcards [Chapter 1] (White).
- The November/December 2001 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 63, Whole No. 570, No. 6. The articles include:
 - ▶ FOKKAR or ANT-9 or What [Addendum No.2] (Beith); Early Usage of the Hradčany Issue (Kunc); The Prague *Klapperpost* or *Kleine Post* (Hahn); Post-WWII Cancellations (Holoubek); Philatelic Exhibition "Euregia Egrensis" in Karlovy Vary (Hahn).
- The 4/2001 issue of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Surcharge 1919 on Hradčany issue (Vostatek); 1920-22 Liberation issue (Stuka); 1939 Slovak Parliament issue (Chesloe); The London Issue cont; (Fischer); Order of Golden Fleece (Franěk); Bohumil Heinz, Engraver, concluded (Fischer); Numbering of Czechoslovak banknotes after 1958 (Moravec).
- The June and September 2001 issues of *Stamps of Hungary* Nos. 145/146. The articles include:
 - ▶ Twenty One Different Examples of Postage Due in Hungary Between 1850 and 1950 [Part 1] (Gudlin); The First Krajcár Tax Notice Forms 1884- (Vamos).
 - ▶ Twenty-One Different Examples of Postage Due in Hungary Between 1850 and 1950 [Part 2] (Gudlin); Hungarian Postal Stationery Tax Cards (Benford).

CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEGE -PART 11

-Lubor Kunc-

I would like to add some new information to Mr. Colin Spong's reply to my query published in *Czechout* No. 2/2001 Pages 47/48). Mr. Spong summarised a lot of information about the Czechoslovak College in Bishop's Stortford, which he discovered in British archives.

It is tradition to discuss a matter with all involved parties. So let's refer to Czech archives and philatelic material! They give us a lot of information about political background of the school as well as a tragicomic story from Czechoslovak history.

The Czechoslovak College was founded in accordance with the Anglo-Czechoslovak Cultural Convention signed in London on 16 June 1947. Article 2 of the Convention enables establishment of cultural and education centres of one party on territory of second party (see Appendix 1 - front page of the Convention translated from the Czech language - the article 2 you will find as "Clánek 2" in the Czech edition).

As result of the Convention, the British government founded British schools in Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak government established the college at Bishop's Stortford in 1947. I was not able to discover whether any other Czechoslovak school in Great Britain or any other country existed or not - it is possible, but not confirmed.

The British Council and Ministry of Education of the Czechoslovak Republic chose the Czechoslovak boys. The first two years of the programme were successful, but in 1948 important changes in the Czechoslovak political scene occurred which had a large impact on this programme.

In February 1948 the Communists took over the government of the Czechoslovak Republic. The year was tragic for democracy in Czechoslovakia. The Communist leader Klement Gottwald as prime minister started to build a "new society" as per the Soviet concept. The non-communist President Dr Edvard Beneš as well as Jan Masaryk, son of first Czechoslovak President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, died (see the mourning cancels on figures 1 and 2 commemorating death of both men). Klement Gottwald become "the first President representing the workers" and the newly formed Czechoslovak government consisted of Communists only.

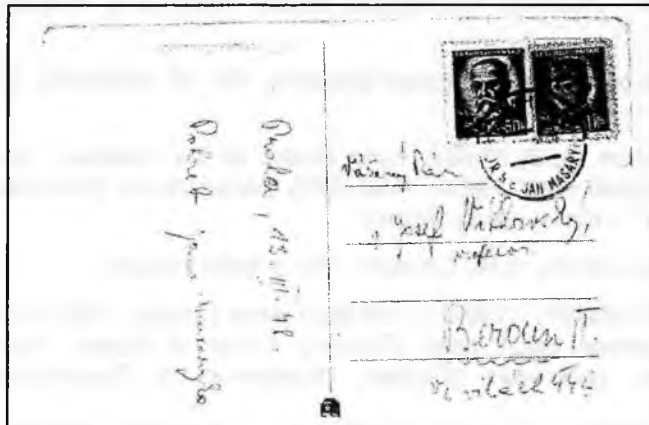


Figure 1



Figure 2

Because of their orientation to the Soviet Union, the Communists didn't support the Anglo-Czechoslovak students exchange programme. In 1948 the Czechoslovak representatives on the joint British-Czechoslovak Committee running the education programme started to boycott its work. The Communist "support" to the programme resulted in 1949 by not issuing passports for students chosen to study at the Czechoslovak College in GB. Thanks to this action no new students could enrol at the school in 1949 and after return of "old" students to their homes the school was closed.

>

Great Britain refused to accept such behaviour of Czechoslovak government by a diplomatic note dated 24 April 1950. In Appendix 2 you can see first two pages of this notification. The document mentions not only the Czechoslovak College matter, but also contains information about actions taken by communist police against visitors to the British Council office as well as visa problems.

The above situation was the main reason why the Czechoslovak College was closed in 1949. What a pity, because the students educated as per British standards with friendly connections to foreign people and with very good knowledge of foreign languages could be an important contribution to the Czechoslovakia's reconstruction after WWII. This was unacceptable to the Communists who were aware of the importance of schools for their goals, and who started to build the Czechoslovak educational system as per the Soviet one, which resulted in "firing" all non-communist teachers and students from Czechoslovak schools in 1948.

As you can see the period was not favourable for any international co-operation with Czechoslovakia, with the exception of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. So that you can understand this unfriendly period, I have chosen some typical Czech stamps from 1947 - 1951.

The stamps of 1947 - at that time the Communists were not strong enough to control life in the Republic, although they had some influence. This situation can be seen from two stamps - the first [Figure 3] commemorates the anniversary of death of the democratic President slogan on the label means "We will be faithful to your second issue of 1947 [Figure 4] celebrated 30th Communist October Revolution in Russia in 1917.



Figure 3



Figure 4

The stamps of 1948 follow the 1947 situation - Communism was the leading movement, but it was not strong enough to control the entire society. The Communist orientation of Czechoslovakia can be read from the stamp depicted in Figure 5 - this issue commemorates the 5th anniversary of signing the Czechoslovak-Soviet Treaty of 1943 (similar WWII treaties signed with other countries have never been celebrated). The Communists inability to control the whole of Czechoslovak society can be shown on the stamp issued to celebrate the 1948 Sokol Congress in Prague [see Figure 6], which



Figure 5



Figure 6

was the biggest anti-Communist event at that time. Unfortunately, the Communists later won control over the Sokol movement: the Sokol's leaders emigrated or were sent to prison and the congresses were replaced by events called "spartakiáda" (celebrating a slave's revolution which occurred in the time of the Roman Empire and its leader Spartakus).

From 1949 the Communists were in complete control as is pictured by the two stamps shown in Figures 7 and 8. The first of them celebrates the Communists taking over in February 1948 (it shows President Klement Gottwald making a public speech standing before the Czechoslovak and Soviet flags). The second one commemorates the death of the Soviet Communist leader Vladimir Ilych Lenin.



Figure 7



Figure 8

In 1950 and 1951 (and in the following years) the situation remained unchanged - you can see it on Figures 9 and 10: the first stamp depicts Czechoslovak and Russian soldiers and flags of both countries (with slogan "October 6, 1950 - Day of Czechoslovak Army"), the second one shows the Soviet leader Josef Vissarionovitch Stalin and Czechoslovak leader Klement Gottwald - the stamp celebrates "Month of Friendship of Czechoslovakia and Soviet Union".



Figure 9



Figure 10

Figure 11

Figure 12



The final two stamps shown as Figures 11 and 12 can be understood as black humour or 'bad joke'. The two stamps were part of a set of four commemorating the Second Congress of International Student's Union in 1950. The stamp with the face value of 3 Crowns celebrates "Making the education system more democratic" and the 5 Crowns stamp calls for

"International Solidarity of Students". How the Communists did the everyday work for reaching the goals, you can see in the history of Czechoslovak College in Great Britain!!!

I am sure, no other words are needed to finish this article, I would only like to express my thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic for providing me with copies of the diplomatic documents I have mentioned in this article and shown below.

Appendix 1 Anglo-Czechoslovak Cultural Convention, Article 2 (translated by Robert Kingsley)

The Governments of the Czechoslovak Republic and of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are desirous of concluding an agreement which through friendly exchanges and co-operation will assist, as far as possible, to promote in the two countries a better understanding of the intellectual, artistic and scientific activities of the other country and to get to know its lifestyle.

The representatives of the two countries who have been appointed by their governments for this purpose have agreed the following:

ARTICLE 1

Each government to this agreement will do its utmost to ensure that in its universities and other institutions of Higher Education there shall be professors or lecturers for the teaching of language, literature and history of the other country as well as other subjects which are linked thereto.

ARTICLE 2

Each government to this agreement will be free to set up in the other country cultural establishments on the condition that they conform to legal requirements in that country for setting up such establishments. The expression "establishment" includes schools, libraries and film archives intended for such purposes which are the subject of this agreement.

ARTICLE 3

The governments to this agreement will encourage the exchange of teachers of higher education as well as of other schools, students, researchers as well as representatives of other professions and occupations.

ARTICLE 4

The governments to this agreement will provide scholarships in such a way as to enable people of both countries to continue in their studies, specialised expertise and research work in the other country or to commence there on any such projects.

>

ARTICLE 5

The governments to this agreement will support the closest co-operation between educational organisations of their country so as to provide mutual assistance in the field of all intellectual, artistic, scientific and social activity.

ARTICLE 6

The governments to this agreement will examine conditions under which examinations for admission to, and upon leaving, universities taken in one country will be recognised in the second country as being of equal standing, this to include specialised examinations for certain academic requirements and in appropriate instances for admission to professions.

Appendix 2: An Extract from a Diplomatic Letter from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland [No.147] to the Czechoslovak Government

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, acting upon instructions have the honour to make the following communication:

- 1 His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have for some time past watched with growing disquiet the course of cultural relations between the United Kingdom and Czechoslovakia covered by the Anglo-Czechoslovak Convention of 1947. Until recent months it had been the impression of His Majesty's Government that the Czechoslovak Government shared their own desire that the cultural relations between the two countries should be actively promoted in the spirit of the Convention, and in this connection His Majesty's Government note with satisfaction that English musicians have been invited to take part in the Prague Spring Festival. There have, however, recently been disquieting signs in other cultural fields that the Czechoslovak Government's attitude has been undergoing a radical change
- 2 For example, at the meeting of the Mixed Commission held in London in April 1949, the Czechoslovak Section expressed the view that the audiences of the British Institutes in Czechoslovakia were not representative of the Czechoslovak people as a whole. It will be recalled, no doubt, that the British Council at once declared themselves ready to discuss with the competent Czechoslovak authorities methods of attracting a wider public. Yet no action resulted from the Council's offer, and positive attempts made by the British Council to make their programme available to Workers' Educational Groups were met with an entirely negative response.
- 3 No use has been made of the scholarships offered by the British Council for a year's study in the United Kingdom. Of the twelve students selected jointly by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Education and the British Council in February 1949, not one has been granted a passport to travel by the time the academic year opened in October; six were ultimately refused passports while the remainder even at this late stage have not been told whether they will be able to travel or not.
- 4 Concurrently, during the past seven months the Czechoslovak police have been pursuing a policy towards the British Institutes in Prague, Bratislava and Brno intended to make Czechoslovak citizens afraid to continue visiting these Institutes. Visitors have frequently been intercepted by police on leaving the Institutes, made to identify themselves, asked the purpose of their visit and left with the plain impression that further visits would be followed by unpleasant consequences. On various occasions, students have even been required to give a written undertaking that their visits to an Institute would cease. These practices, and their evident contradiction with the policy of the Czechoslovak Government as expressed in the Anglo-Czechoslovak Cultural Convention, have several times been brought to the notice of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the hope that they were being pursued without the authority of the Czechoslovak Government and would be forbidden. Not only has the Czechoslovak Government never given any assurance that this was so and that appropriate orders had been, or would be, issued, but this intimidation by the police has continued and has indeed been intensified.....

CIRCA 1919 ESSAYS

Continued from Czechout 3/2001 page 60

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 3 - From the Beginnings of Our Stamp Production (translated by Michael Chant)

With this third chapter we have completed this interesting and useful reference to the various Trials and Essays that were produced in the Czechoslovak School of Applied Arts. We have received from J Barry Horne further illustrations of essays for publication and I would refer members to the following already in print in Czechout - Stamps Commemorating the Jubilee of the Death of Jan Zika by C. Wackett. CPSGB Bulletin No 6. P.2-3 & 7; Chris Cordes Query in Czechout 2/94 p.46; Bill Dawson's reply in Czechout 4/94 p.88-91; and Fred Samson's reply in Czechout 1/1998 p.15-17. The Editor.

Although in the majority of cases Rijaček's designs have the appearance of charity labels, we nevertheless often discern in them more "stamp art" than in some of the designs which emerged from the postal administration's competition. On the other hand the standard of the designs which known and unknown authors produced with collectors in mind is very variable and only a few of them merit closer attention,

It must again be pointed out that during the period of "use of chimney presses", philatelists were willing to pay for any kind of scrap of paper resembling a stamp and even if they did not know its origin. In such a situation entrepreneurs had a possibility of making extra money if they could obtain for reproduction designs by less well-known artists or pupils at the School of Applied Arts. At that time three excellent graphic artists were active at the School: Brunner, Kysela and Benda, all of whom by coincidence tried their hand at stamp design. This did not fail to have an influence on their pupils. Prof Brunner's class, in particular, developed some extremely successful stamp designs, in which predominated their teacher's favourite subject - allegories of the Republic in various forms, though we also find a work scene (illustration bh), at that time unusual as an allegory of agriculture. We show five of those designs (Illustrations be - bi). Their authors were: Guth, Pleva, Matějovská, Winternicová and Novák.



be

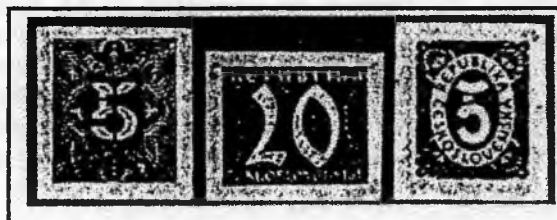
bf

bg

bh

bi

Designs were also worked out in Prof Benda's class, reproductions of, which have been included in the monograph on Czechoslovak stamps now in course of preparation. The influence of Benda's modernistic art can be seen on these, manifesting itself in some cases even by an unusual stamp shape (squares resting on a corner, narrow oblongs).



Bj

bk

bl

In 1924 pupils of Prof Kysela belatedly reproduced nearly twenty designs imprinted together on a sheet and having numerals as their common subject. Some, (Illustrations bj and bl) for example, show a distinctive approach, whereas design (bk) on the other hand is a plagiarism of a 1921 German stamp, with only the format changed.

>

Apart from those college designs, there are many creations, which can only with difficulty be described as having anything to do with graphic art. They are anonymous prints, often hiding behind the names of well-known artists who were not their creators. We print five designs (bm - br) from that rich "creative activity". The stamp with Jenik and Mařenka is a typical example of the botched productions which were not a rare occurrence in that period and the three further designs (bs - bu) exemplify the perfunctory printing technique.



Bm



bn



An essay ascribed to Mucha in sepia on carton paper

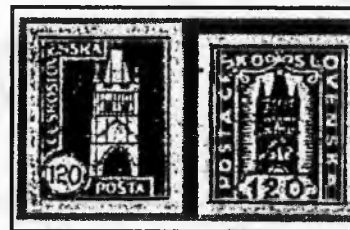


Bo

bp



br



bs

bt



bu

Hence we end the "chapters" concerned with the field of creative artists in the early stages of Czechoslovak stamp production. It remains to say something about the philatelic significance and the value of the designs. There is a simple response to both those questions, since, as follows from the description of their origin, reproductions of the designs are an internal affair of their publisher and the manufacturer of the labels and should not be material for collectors. Because of the lack of such material in the early days of our stamp production, officials of the time reacted by becoming covert suppliers of additional prints and it is necessary to regard reproduction of designs as a product of the period and to content oneself with their incomplete presence in a special collection.

It is definitely unwarranted to assemble "sets" of designs in various colours, papers and sizes, with perforated and imperforate specimens, with and without gum etc. Anyway, no philatelist knows when such a set is "complete" or which offprint was really prepared as a first check on the suitability of the design and which was an extra one for collectors. It is therefore sufficient to include in one's collection one or two specimens of a given design, in order to demonstrate its artistic appearance.

The value of the designs to collectors has never been expressed in the specialised catalogues in terms of price, though it has often been indicated that one design or another is rare or very rare, as used to be stated in dealers' sales advertisements at which today's collector can only smile indulgently. We even find in *Tribuna* a photograph of "Žižka" by Haas as a sample of auction material from an international Brunner sale, although now it is possible to buy that reproduction for around three crowns. This is indeed a striking example of the toll which collectors of the time through credulity paid to dealers for various peripheral prints and printer's waste.

The philatelist who concerns himself in detail with Czechoslovak stamps of the 1918-23 period will soon gauge from the quantity of material turning up which reproductions inspire confidence and which have a dubious background. He will make his own "valuation" accordingly. It is true that Mucha's design of a Hussite with the [French] inscription "Droit à la coupe" [Right to the chalice] or unusual reproductions of "agriculture" are in collecting terms rarer than any kind of offprints of designs by Haas and maybe that reproductions of the more effective designs from the first competition have more significance for collectors than Rijaček's designs.

It is necessary to warn against overvaluation of all these prints, whose significance is mainly artistic/historical and only secondarily philatelic. Whilst they do add variety to a collection from the perspective of the development of stamp design, they are nevertheless merely its marginal complement, for we all collect primarily finalised stamps and after that only the prints relating to them.

SLAVKOV u BRNA - APRIL AND MAY 1945

- Robert J.Hill -

The town of Slavkov u Bma is 19 kilometers east of Bmo and only 10 kilometers west of Buvčovice, the river Litava flows to the south of the town as does the railway line from Bmo to Veseli nad Moravou.



The town, which is better known as Austerlitz, was liberated by 53rd Army of the 2nd Ukrainian Front on 26 April 1945. Immediately, all officials who had collaborated with the Germans were relieved of their posts and political power was devolved to the National Committee. One of the Committee members was Karel Snášel (born 1897), by trade he was a type setter and fate decreed he would be the designer and originator of the stamps to be used immediately after the liberation.

At this time, because of the upheaval, there was no regular or official contacts with other local post offices and the National Committee had no idea how to restore the infrastructure to the pre-war standard. Postally, stamps of the Protectorate were still in use.

On 10 May 1945, the Soviet Garrison commander ordered that stamps with Hitler's head portraits or Third Reich symbols were not to be used. This obviously caused a problem and a delegation from the National Committee, including Snášel, went to see the Red Army Commander to discuss this and other difficulties. The Commander was helpful in setting up the infrastructure but was adamant about the non use of Hitler's head and Third Reich symbol stamps.

Postmaster Alois Facek suggested that the town overprinted Hitler's head stamps or even printed its own stamps. Thus the idea was born.

A picture of Slavkov Castle appears on the 3.50 Kč Violet Czechoslovakia stamp of 1 August 1936 (SG 359)



Overprint

The Local National Committee, with others, asked Snášel for help. This was because he was known to have carried out some engraving with linoleum in the past.



It was decided to use an oval motif with the Czech lion in the centre surrounded by the legend *REPUBLIKÁ ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ* to deface the portrait of Adolf Hitler. The design was made by drawing on tracing paper and using Indian ink to obtain a negative, the negative was then reproduced on a lead plate. The result was not good and the lead plate was painted white, this helped to improve the quality.

>

The overprinting was carried out, one stamp at a time, at Slavkov Post Office on 14 May 1945. It was applied by Snášel to stamps on letters and the mint stock not yet issued, this amounted to about 500 stamps in total. Citizens were informed of the availability by local broadcast.

Stamps

The overprints were of poor quality and insufficient in number so Snášel was asked to design a simple set of stamps for local use. He produced two designs:



60h 30 x 28 mm
ultramarine

Peace Monument on
a hill near Prace

sold for IKč



120h 28 x 39 mm
Vermilion

Slavkov Church

sold for 2Kč

Material was difficult to find and Snášel had to make use of old rubber based flooring, the result was not first class, but the objective was achieved. A sheet of lead plate was used to engrave the letters, this also proved difficult.

Printing, by Řešetický and Vencelides commenced at 1300 on 17 May 1945. As will be seen, it was not achieved without difficulties. The versatile Snášel was used as the typesetter and the stamps were produced in sheets of 20, firstly on a manual press and then on a Mark Heidelberg automatic machine.



Complete sheet of 60h stamps

The manual press was time-consuming but the quality was far better than that of the automatic which suffered from feeding problems as the gummed paper curled, this meant that it required continual adjustments. Another problem with the automatic press was the lead plate, which was fixed to a wooden frame, this tended to move (as (did the paper!) and again continual adjustment was required. The quality of the printing is not uniform, the colour of the individual stamps on each sheet vary, especially when printed on the automatic machine, the 60h sheets were worse than the 120h sheets in this regard. The cliché for the 60h row 3; column 3 stamp was eventually removed because of damage and the 60h stamps were then printed in sheets of 19. The stamps were printed on a thin porous paper (nothing else was available), they are imperforate with white gum applied in horizontal stripes. Three sheets were printed on coloured paper and these sheets were used as dividers every 100 sheets. >

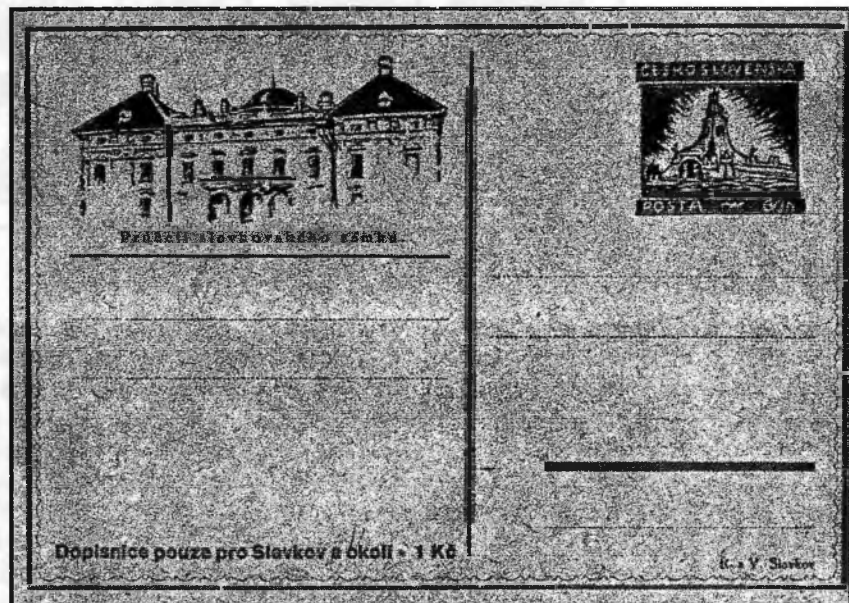


Complete sheet of 120h stamps

To keep the issue legal, the postmaster suggested the addition of the wording *JEN PRO SLAVKOV* (for Slavkov only) and this was type set as it was not part of the cliché. The lettering was produced by typewriter letters in a compositor, the ink used was black. The first attempts did not work as the stamps were not of a uniform size, therefore the plate had to be reset. The 60h sheets were over printed in two insertions (two rows, then two rows), the 120h was overprinted in one pass. A total of 300 sheets of the 60h value (nearly 6000 stamps) were produced with a similar number for the 120h.

Post Cards

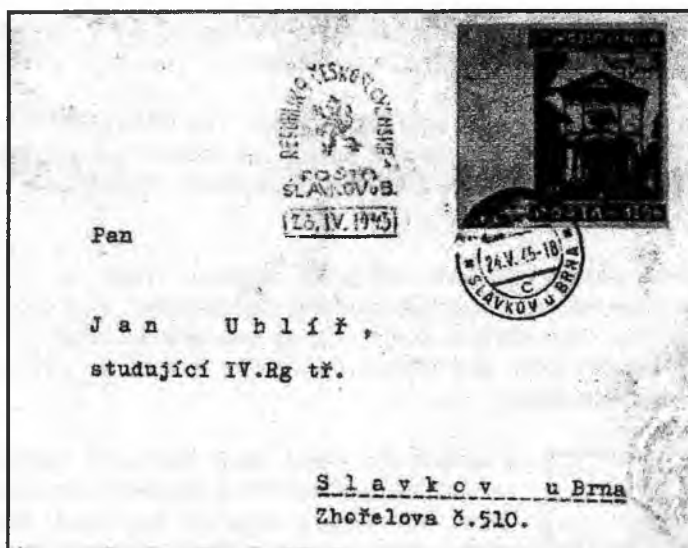
A total of 1 000 post cards were produced using a cliché from the 60h plate, 500 were in dark green the remainder in light green. The reason for the change in colour was a dilution of the dark green in order to make the ink go further. The printer's initials appear in the bottom left hand corner of the card. A sketch shows the front of Slavkov castle and the text informs that the card is sold only for use in Slavkov and its surroundings. The cards were sold for 1Kč.



Canceller

A commemorative hand canceller was also produced showing 26 April 1945 (the day of liberation) it was applied in red ink (see below).

Envelope sent to a local address with black defaced canceller SLAVKOV u BRNA 23.V.45 (illustration reduced)



Envelope sent to a local address with black defaced canceller SLAVKOV u BRNA 24.V.45. To the left of the stamp can be seen the special commemorative cancellation, which is in red.(illustration reduced)

The stamps and postcards went on sale at Slavkov post office at 0800 on 19 May 1945.

Thirty postcards were sent to members of the District National Committee, with the typed text.

Zdar Rudé armádě
[Hail to the Red Army]
Pošta svobodné republiky [The Post Office of the Free Republic]

zahajuje provoz [Inaugurates Service. Slavkov 18. V 45 [Slavkov 18. V 45]

They were cancelled with the commemorative canceller and signed by, the postmaster, Alois Facek-

Stamps and postcards were sold until 23 May 1945 when Brno post office gave instructions to confiscate the remaining clichés, the commemorative canceller and unissued stamps and postcards. The proceeds from the sale were 19,000Kč, which were handed over to the Provisional Moravian National Committee in Brno.

Summary

Thursday	26 April 1945	The locality was liberated
Thursday	10 May 1945	Soviet Army Commander issued directive
Monday	14 May 1945	Hitler head stamps overprinted
Thursday	17 May 1945	In the morning: different colours were discussed but the only inks available were used. It was decided to make the stamp issue non-speculative. At 1300, printing the "Slavkov" stamps commenced
Friday	18 May 1945	Official report from the printing house was made. The clichés were sealed in the safe at Slavkov post office.
Saturday	19 May 1945	Stamps were put on sale
Wednesday	23 May 1945	Sale of stamps and postcards ceased although they were still valid.

Acknowledgments

Jan Dobrovolný, Pardubice
 Karel Holoubek, Hradec Králové
Filatelistické listy 1946 p. 88-9
Czechoslovak Specialist XIX March 1957 p. 45
Czechoslovak Specialist XXXIX June 1977 p. 84-88
Východoceské Informace 43/1982 p. 4

Postscript

Why the reference at the start to Buvčovice? I hope to publish an article on the philatelic "goings on" following the liberation of this town, which wanted to rival Slavkov. Robert J Hill

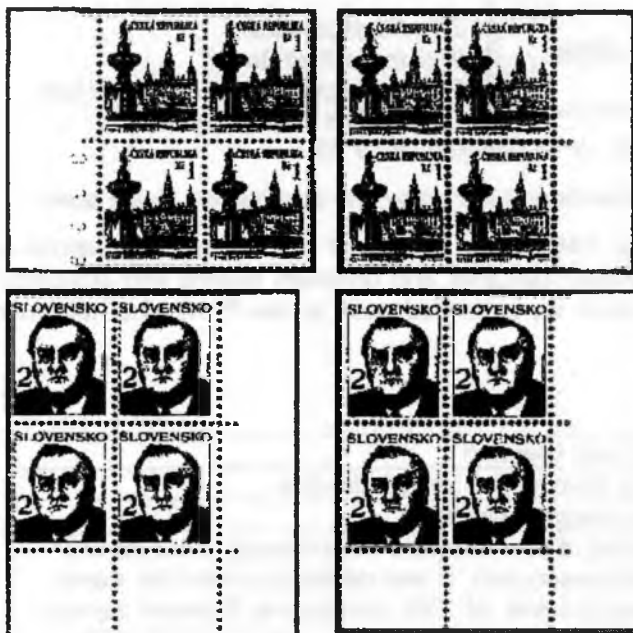
PERFORATION VARIETIES ON CZECH AND SLOVAK STAMPS

-Translated by Douglas Baxter-

We thank Schwaneberge Verlag GmbH for permission to reproduce this article from the MICHEL Rundschau magazine 1/2000 and to Rex A Dixon for bringing this to our attention.

Sharp-eyed collectors sometimes find something special even with new issues. The assumption is, of course, that the stamps that you get from the Post Office or from a dealer are looked at a bit more carefully and not blindly put into the album and forgotten about. But, who does that? Certainly not the Philatelist.

I have now realised that with Czech and Slovak stamps there are perforation varieties. These, however, are a matter only of the size of the holes, not the measurement between the perforations. That means that the varieties are all "11 $\frac{3}{4}$: 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " or vice versa, according to format, just as they are described in the catalogue. The sizes of the holes varies between 0.9mm and 1.1mm in diameter, something which is particularly noticeable on larger items or in complete sheets.



It should be made clear that such varieties cannot be dealt with in a standard catalogue. From the varying size of the holes there arises, however, a "pointed perforation" [large holes] and a "blunt perforation" [small holes], which can sometimes be quite interesting to specialists although in principal, the varieties are the result of chance. These varieties arise from the fact that the hollow pins on the perforating machine are not exactly cylindrical but are conical. So that, in the perforating process, the sheets near the bottom of the pile are pierced only by the pointed end of the pin whereas those sheets near the top are pierced by the thicker, upper end of the pin. It follows, therefore, that there is a gradual, continuous transition from small to large holes and a clear cut-off line between the two extremities is not possible. In other words, too much value must not be placed on what is a result of chance.

The case is a little bit different when it comes to the miniature sheet "Christian Art" of Slovakia issued in 1998, Michel No 321. Here the difference lies not in the size of the holes but in the overall layout of the perforations. Normally, the central, vertical line of perforations runs unbroken from top to bottom so that the unprinted gutter in the middle of the sheet is divided vertically by the line of perforations. This produces two tabs, each the width of one stamp.

There are, however, examples of the sheet on which this central line of perforations is not continuous, so that there is an undivided tab, the width of which is two stamps. The illustrations show this clearly.



COVERS OF INTEREST

An Interesting letter from Cieszyn, in a historical context
-Ton Welvaart and Jan Verleg-

We thank the authors for offering us this article which appeared in the Dutch Philatelic Society journal Oost Europa Filatelie. This Society of some 200 members covers the philately of Eastern Europe.

A. The historical context on the history of Austrian Silesia

Up to the end of World War I the area around the now divided (Polish/Czech) town. of Cieszyn - Teschen/Těšín] was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was known as "Österreichisch Schlesien" (figure 1).

This former duchy of Teschen covered about 220 square kilometers and in 1919 it was inhabited by approximately 400,000 people. The population of Cieszyn was no more than 15,000. Under Austrian rule the area was divided into four districts. In one of those, Frýdek (Freistadt), the larger part of the population was Czech, while in the other three areas it was the Poles who were in the majority. 'Österreichisch Schlesien' was an important coal district. In 1919 almost 8 million tons of coal were mined. In this way the mines of Teschen produced the main part of the coal used in the cities of Vienna, Prague, and Budapest. The area was also significant because of a number of important railway lines. There were, as there still are today, good railway connections with Košice, Bratislava, Prague, and Vienna. The line from Teschen to Oderberg connected this area with the German part of Silesia. It is not surprising, therefore, that shortly after World War I Czechoslovakia and Poland, which had become sovereign countries, began quarrelling over this ethnically divided area of great economic importance.



As early as 1914 several plans were devised in Czechoslovakia for establishing an independent nation. Masaryk managed to realise his plans; he wanted the area of Austrian Silesia to become partially Polish and partially Czech. Towards the end of the War representatives of Poland and Czechoslovakia

reached an agreement on dividing the area along ethnical borders; Czechoslovakia was to have the district of Freistadt and the other three districts were to become Polish territory. After Polish and Czech soldiers had disarmed the Austrian garrison on 15 November 1918, the two countries indeed divided the area according to their agreement. However, the Czech leaders soon realised that Poland had benefited far more from the division of the districts. In addition to now owning one third of the coalmines the Poles also controlled the rail network. This the Czechs were not prepared to simply accept. Consequently, a story was fabricated about a communist takeover being imminent, and in January 1919 the Cieszyn area was occupied by 15,000 Czech soldiers.



The Allied forces in their turn did not accept this fabrication and the military actions that had followed it, and they demanded a cease-fire and the withdrawal of all Czech troops from nearly the whole area. An allied military delegation was sent to Cieszyn to supervise the execution of this demand and to ensure that both parties observed the established line of demarcation. Next, the allied forces deliberated for months on finding a final solution to the conflict at hand. At the instigation of Beneš the

Allied forces declared, in September 1919, that the inhabitants of Cieszyn had to decide about their own future by means of a referendum. Beneš reckoned that organising such a referendum would take up so much time that in the end it would never take place. He was proven right. In the area controlled by Czechoslovakia there were 12 post offices, from which, in February 1920, stamps were beginning to be distributed with an "SO 1920" overprint. On 15 April the Polish post followed this example (figure 2). According to Fischer, the Czech "SO 1920" stamps were also used in the Polish area. Possibly, using both Polish as well as Czech stamps was allowed in that area, for example in Teschen.

B. The remarkable letter from Cieszyn (figure 3)

On 20 May 1919, Markenfürst [stamp dealers] sent this letter to Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany). The letter was stamped 25 heller, at the time the correct domestic postal charge for letters up to 20 grams. All mail between Austria and Germany could indeed be sent at the domestic rate, and it could be argued that this agreement was still valid since it had never been discontinued, as it was certainly still valid in the period preceding the Versailles Peace Treaty. Such an agreement had never existed between Poland and Germany. In Poland the postal rate for letters to foreign countries had been 50 heller ever since 25 February, 1919. In May 1919 the bilingual Austrian postmark was still in use,



The letter was probably intended to be taken by train from Cieszyn to Oderberg (Bohumín) and from there on towards Görlitz. However, during an inspection carried out in the Czech town of Orlová, the first stop on the way, the letter was found to be understamped, by Polish as well as Czech postal regulations. It so happened that the foreign postal rate in Czechoslovakia had been raised by 25 heller, to a charge of 50 heller, on 15 May, 1919. So the letter was returned to Cieszyn, as is shown by the red line in pencil around the stamps and the words 'return to sender' written under them. The letter was then in all likelihood taken by the sender to Orlová where it was stamped with the additional 25 heller and postmarked with the Czech canceller. of Orlová. This postmark was originally bilingual [German/Polish] from the period of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The Czechs deleted the German name Orlau from the upper segment and changed the Polish name (Orlowa) in the bottom segment into Orlová, replacing the W by a V and altering the Polish Ł into L. The postmark can also be seen as one of the Austrian type.

Literature:

Watt, Richard M.: *Bitter Glory - Poland and its fate*, New York, 1982, pp. 160 - 164
 Perman D.: *The Shaping of the Czechoslovak State - Diplomatic history of the boundaries of Czechoslovakia, 1914 - 1920*, Leiden 1962, pp. 8-27, 97-120, 228-257
Monografie Československých Známek, part 5. SO 1920. Tovačovský, Oldřich. Pofis, Prague 1998; pp. 296.
 Fischer: *Katalog znaków pocztowych 2001*, Bytom, Kraków 2001, part 2, pp. 118-119

According to the Fischer catalogue it was the post office Cieszyn 2 (probably the railway post office) which had been allocated to Czechoslovakia.



BOOK REVIEW

Foreign Legions of the Third Reich by David Littlejohn, MA, AIA. Volume 3: Albania, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary and Yugoslavia, 320 pages plus illustrations. Price £24.95, hard bound, published by R. James Bender Publishing, P.O. Box 23456 San Jose, CA 95153, USA, obtainable from Naval & Military Press, Unit 10, Ridgewood Industrial Park, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5QE at a special price of £12.95. ISBN 0-912138-29-7.

This third volume of a series covers foreign forces fighting with Germany in World War II. Of special interest to readers of Czechout are the chapters covering the collaborating political parties in Czechoslovakia (Sudetenland, Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia). Whilst this is a non-philatelic work, nevertheless it is of interest for reference purposes when confirming details on war-time military mail as well as of historical events of that period. A useful addition for your libraries.

Colin Spong

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

The following queries are outstanding, perhaps an answer is tucked away in members files?

- 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
- Czechout 2/01: Geoff Fuller's Hradčany 1h Grey colour and Barry Horne's Masaryk Sheet perfs
- Czechout 3/01: Roman Dubyniak's Carpatho-Ukraine cover
- Czechout 3/01: Richard Beith's Anglo-Czech Friendship Club 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: W Alec Page's Query in Czechout 3/1983 page 32.'

From J. Barry Horne: Amongst the various illustrations of Trials and Essays that Barry has submitted there is a pair of the General Milan Stefanik essays. They are both perforated and were designed by Rijaček and printed by Lithography on white gummed paper. In his query Alec had mentioned that his two specimens had the dates of 1927 and 1928 below the design. However these two illustrations have the year 1929 below the design.'



Re Philip Lindley's query in Czechout 3/2001 page 72 - Czech Forces in Windsor

From Lubor Kunc: Lubor has sent in two extracts from the Czech Postal History Journal *Informace* which Heinz Vogel has kindly translated for us.

Informace Journal No.142 January 2000, page 17

The Refugee Trust Fund London

The formation of the Trust Fund originates from Czechoslovak-English (!) negotiations of 21 January, 1939, as a result of which Great Britain granted the outgoing ČS government a "gift" of £4 million and a loan of £6 million, partly towards the reconstruction of the ČSR, partly for the support of fugitives and to provide work opportunities for them. The Trust Fund, whose branch in Poland was managed by Herman Field, was not in actual fact an English charity. This was ČS money set up under the guise of an English charity.

This was intended to support fugitives as defined in two categories: partly refugees from the occupied ČS territories and partly emigrants from Germany and Austria who had taken political asylum in the ČSR. Further groups were recognised - to them belonged people who were in danger from racial or political reasons. Preference would be given to the first two categories. The Fund was concerned not only with the evacuation of people in danger from the occupied territories [*viz. the Sudetenland*] and, later, from the later occupied ČSR, but also, as a consequence, looking after these people and as a consequence securing the visas for their future well-being.

I was fortunate enough to have met three men who, with the help of that Organisation, managed to get to the west in 1939. The first was Franz Schanzer, 2nd Postmaster, of Austrian origin, who escaped for racial reasons to Czechoslovakia after the occupation of Austria. He succeeded in getting to England in 1940 under the auspices of the British Expeditionary Force [*viz. B.E.F.*] as a member of the Pioneer Corp activities in France. At that time it was not permitted for foreigners to carry arms, so they were enrolled as members of technical units. The unit in which Fr. Schanzer served contained about 1000 men, predominantly Jewish. That unit belonged to FPO number 69 and the censor stamp of the unit had the number 1389. Fr. Schanzer moved to the USA after the war and died there a few years ago.

The second was Dr Štainer from Prague, who managed to reach Katowice on the strength of issued affidavits, where he reported to the ČS Consulate and straightaway told them that he wanted to go to the west, that he didn't need anything and went to see Herman Field [who worked at the British Consulate]. Here he obtained the required permits for his journey to England. He served in the ČS Army in Great Britain and after the war returned to Prague. He died there a few years ago.

The third was a Dr Rosenstein from Ostrava, who reached England in a similar manner. He ultimately became general manager of the agency for the Franco-English Gentransco Ltd. On his business card he went by the name of Rose. He had a nice villa in Hampstead and, if he is still alive, may be living there to this day.

Vratislav Palkoska >

Informace Journal No. 144 / May 2000, page 69

Note on the article The Refugee Trust Fund London.

In the last issue (*Informace Journal no. 144 / May 2000*) I was interested read the article by Dr Vratislav Palkovska about the fund which was established abroad for the support of fugitives from the ČSR, as agreed as early as 21 January 1939 between the government of the UK and the ČS government in exile. To this statement I would like to point out that at that time (January 1939) there existed no government in exile of our republic [e.g. Dr Edvard Beneš was at that time professor at the university of Chicago). One was established in June 1940 in London and recognised de facto by Great Britain from the start. In January 1939 the ČSR existed as Czecho-Slovakia, i.e. the Second Republic [with its own government and President Emil Hacha] although conditions were dictated by the relationship with the Third Reich and the start of political and racial persecution. Neither is it possible to say anything about actions to encourage British philanthropic help. Also the state of Britain was one of the four powers [viz. *Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain*], which was instrumental in the setting up of the second republic. After 15 March 1939 and in particular after 1 September 1939, everything changed.

It would be interesting [to find out] where and how this foreign fund operated in the end. Oldřich Hušek

Comments to correspondence in *Informace Journal* Nos. 142 & 144

Oldřich Hušek is quite correct in pointing out that there was no Czechoslovak Government in Exile in being as early as January 1939. For the record, however, Compton Mackenzie [ref. 1] gives the following sequence of events leading up to the recognition of the Czechoslovak Government in exile.

- In July 1939 Dr Beneš and Mme Beneš left the United States to take up residence in a small house at Putney (London).
- 13 October 1939: M Edouard Daladier, French Prime Minister, recognised the Czechoslovak National as "qualified to represent the Czechoslovak people and in particular to execute the Agreement of 2nd October regarding the reconstitution of the Czechoslovak Army". 20 December 1939: Dr Beneš notified Lord Edward Halifax to the same purport, and in his reply Lord Halifax accorded His Majesty's Government's recognition.
- 21 July 1940: the Provisional Czechoslovak Government was recognised by His Majesty's Government.
- 18 July 1941: Great Britain accorded full recognition of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic and of the Czechoslovak Republic and his Envoy Extraordinary and minister Plenipotentiary. On the same day the Czechoslovak Republic entered into alliance with Russia, and steps were taken to form a Czechoslovak army on Russian soil.
- 16 December 1942: the Czechoslovak Government declared itself in a state of war with all enemies of Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union.

On a second point, in the original article on the Czechoslovak Refugee Trust Fund, Vratislav Palkoska states that foreigners were not permitted to carry arms in UK forces during WW2. The actuality was that this ruling applied only to enemy aliens, who were originally defined as anyone born or originating from an enemy country. This thus applied to anyone born in Germany, Austria etc, including Jews who had been forced to flee their countries. In fact many such men found themselves interned with real enemies for a time, on the Isle of Man, after the fall of France. This anomaly was readily rectified, but not before a significant number of refugees had joined the Pioneer Corps. Heinz Vogel

Reference 1 *Dr. Beneš* by Compton Mackenzie, published by George G. Harrap & Co.Ltd.

Two new queries

From Brian Madeley: recently acquired this cover from Iran dated 10.XI.43, written in Czech and on the reverse has a Russian censor mark. On the front is a British type Airmail Etiquette/Label and a Terehan handstamp.

It is addressed to General B. Miroslav, Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defence, POB 226, London. Can any member identify who General Miroslav was?



From Chris Miller: Honorary Secretary of the Civil Censorship Study Group who asks if any member can identify the censorship and other markings on this Red Cross letter dated 25.VIII.48 from Prague 25..

It is backstamped at Prague on 29 August 1948.



From Bob Hill: Unless this has already been done and I can't find it. Who produced it and Where?

I've also checked with the essays and trials we have received over the years, without any success although it is familiar. So over to the members who collect these interesting items. The Editor.

AUCTION NOTES

-Robert J Hill-

An eagle-eyed vendor has spotted that SG82, the 1K red/yellow Austrian stamp, [overprinted POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ] has had black inked over the original blue of the overprint.



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

05.09.2001

Nature Conservation - Animals in the Zoo.



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek.
Engraver: Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. 2 values x 25 in chessboard arrangement. Stamp size 40 x 23mm.

Designs:

- a) Fennec fox
 - b) Red panda
 - c) Amur or Siberian tiger
 - d) Orang-utan
- (a and b) printed se-tenant.
 (c and d) printed se-tenant.

All these are endangered mammals. The only species not easily bred in captivity is the orang-utan, which is the only Asian great ape.

FDCs: Printed DS in varying shades of brown with the text in Czech "70 years of the Zoological Garden in Prague". Each cover has a different Prague commemorative cancel. Each cachet depicts a female mammal with its young.

a) Rothschild's giraffe b) Bongo antelope c) Przewalski horse d) lemur.

A set of four maxi-cards was also issued. **Booklet:** two booklets were also issued.

09.10.2001

Beauties of Our Country.



Designer: Pavel Sivko **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8. Stamp size 40 x 26mm.

Designs: monuments added to the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

12Kč: the Baroque castle at Kroměříž. Formerly a Gothic castle, the building was converted in 1686 to a chateau, as the seat of the bishops of Olomouc. Two gardens were also established – the Garden below the Chateau and the Flower Garden. The chateau complex and gardens were added to the UNESCO list in 1998. **FDC.** Printed DS in green with commemorative Kroměříž cancel. The cachet is an octagonal rotunda in the Flower Garden.

14Kč: buildings of the village of Holešovice. The village is first mentioned in 1292, when it became the property of the Cistercian monastery of Vyšší Brod. Many of the gabled buildings were built in the South Bohemian Baroque style between 1846 and 1886 but the medieval layout of the village was retained.

FDC: printed RD in dark green with commemorative Dubné cancellation. The cachet is one of the 19th century Baroque style buildings.

09.10.2001

Technical Monuments – Mills.

**Designer:** Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23 x 30mm.**Designs:** 9Kč - the Dutch style stone windmill at Kuželov which was built in 1842 and was in use until 1946. It was restored in 1973.**FDC:** printed RD in brown with commemorative Hrubá Vrbka cancellation. The cachet design is the coat of arms of the guild of Chrudim millers from the 18th century.**14.40Kč:** - the timbered water mill at Střehom (Mladá Boleslavdistrict) which was probably built in 1516. The main room of the mill including machinery still survives and represents one of the best-preserved examples of its type. **FDC:** printed RD in green with commemorative Dolní Bousov cancellation. The cachet design shows a 19th century grinding room.

09.10.2001

Dialogue between Nations.

**Artist:** Urska Golob **Designer:** Jaroslav Fišer **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23 x 30mm.**Design:** four children representing the four main races of the world with the logo of UNO and a marginal text. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2001 the UN Year of Dialogue Between Civilisations. The World Postal Union organised an international competition on the theme. Of the 29 entries submitted Slovenia produced the winning design and is the basis for a joint stamp issue in member countries interested in the project.**FDC:** printed RD in blue with a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet is a symbolic design with marginal text.

14.10.2001

Works of Art on Stamps.

**Designers:** from original art works. **Engravers:** 12Kč: Bedřich Housa, 17Kč: Václav Fajt, 26Kč: Miloš Ondráček. **Printing:** DS in sheets of four. Stamp size 40 x 50mm.**Designs:** 12Kč – The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (1740-58) by Michael Jindřich Rentz (1698-1758). The work is now in the Strahov Monastery. He was born and educated in Nuremberg but worked in Prague and later as court engraver to Count Špork at Kuks. **FDC:** with cachet in dark-grey is the line drawing for the engraving of St. Barbara.17Kč – Sans-Souci Bar in Nîmes (1934) by Cyril Bouda (1901-1984). The work is housed in the Ministry of Finance. Bouda was one of the leading exponents of Czech modern art and worked in many fields of art. **FDC:** with cachet in red taken from a still life painting of a gâteau from 1935.26Kč – The Goose Keeper (1885) by Václav Brožík (1851-1901). The work can be seen in the National Gallery Prague. Brožík studied in Dresden, Munich and Prague where he was later a professor. He belonged to the National Theatre generation of artists and painted the Three Ages of the Czech Lands in the National Theatre's royal box. **FDC:** with cachet in black-brown of a woman with a basket. All three FDCs were printed DS and have commemorative Praha cancels.

>

14.10.2001

Christmas



Designer: Olga Čechová **Engraver:** Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50.
Stamp size 23 x 30mm.

Design: a shining moon with winged feet bringing a decorated Christmas tree, a Christmas cake and a surprise gift. **FDC:** printed DS in green with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is the Holy Family with a donkey and cow in the stable.

Postal Stationery

Promotional and Commemorative Postcards.

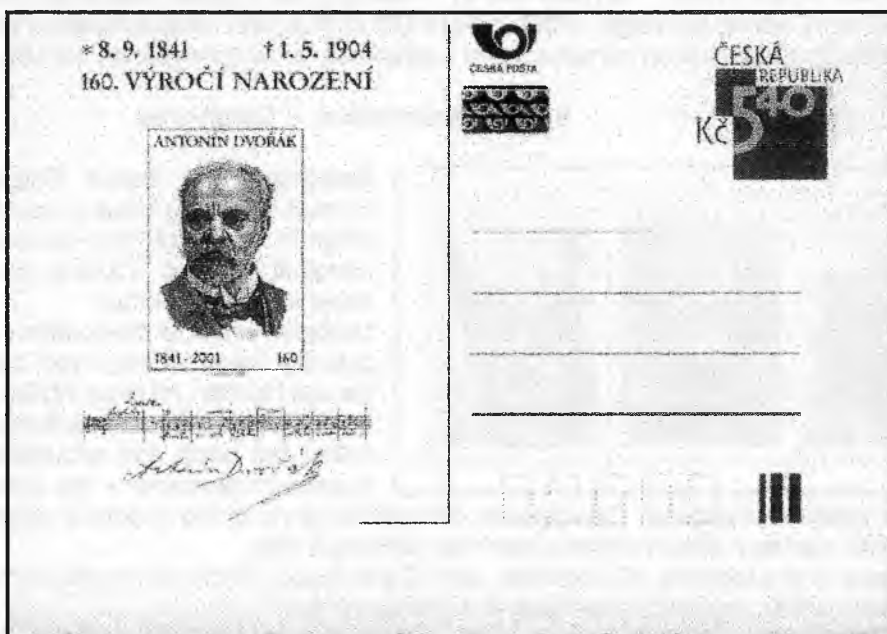
31.03.2001. Rusalka Centenary. The card has an imprinted 9Kč stamp and the left portion commemorates the first performance of Dvořák's opera Rusalka at the National Theatre in Prague on 31 March 1901.

23.06.2001 St Kateřiny Church Chomutov. The card has an imprinted 5.40Kč stamp with the left portion showing an outline drawing in brown of the church and a more detailed drawing in green of a roof boss. A commemorative cancel was used.

30.07.2001 Philanippon 2001 Tokyo. The card has an imprinted 9Kč stamp with the left portion showing a reproduction of the artwork by Utamaro entitled From the Diamondji Household (1802). This was reproduced as one of the Art on Stamps series engraved by Josef Herčík and issued 3 November 1991. The card has marginal texts and dates of the International Philatelic Exhibition, which took place between 30 July and 7 August 2001.

31.08.2001. Riccione 2001. The card has an imprinted 9Kč stamp with the left portion promoting the 35th International Stamp Fair which was held from 31 August to 2 September 2001.

08.09.2001(?) Antonín Dvořák. Two cards were issued on the 160th anniversary of the composer's birth. One card has an imprinted 5.40Kč stamp and the other a 9Kč imprinted stamp. The left portion of both cards are identical with a portrait of Dvořák and a line of music from the opera Rusalka and his facsimile signature. Above the portrait are birth and death dates.

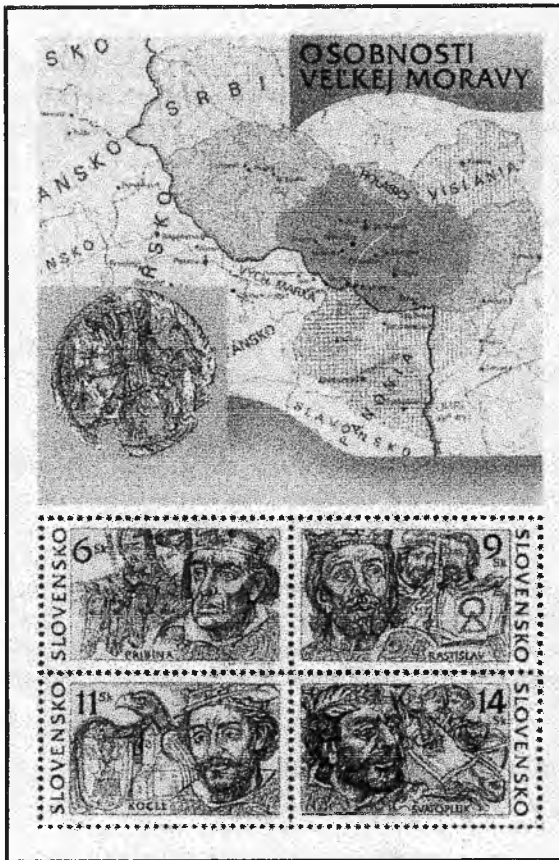


21.09.2001. Veletrh Sběratelů. (Collectors Fair) The card has an imprinted 5.40Kč stamp with the left portion promoting the fair which was held from 21-23 September 2001. >

Slovak Republic

04.07.2001

Personalities of Greater Moravia



Designer: Jozef Baláž **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik
Printing: DS in sheets of four se-tenant stamps with pictorial map. Stamp design size 40 x 23mm, sheet size 90 x 140mm.

Designs: Portraits of Great Moravian rulers from the 9th century from the Mojmir Dynasty. They founded the original west-Slavic state extending its territory and culture. The map above the four stamps shows Greater Moravia at the height of its power with a shield depicting a falconer reproduced from an archaeological find.

6Sk: Pribina circa 800-861. He was Prince of Nitra until 833 and gave approval for the building of the first Christian church in Slovakia. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Nitra cancellation. The cachet is a composition of the Great Moravian double cross found in Nova Macha, St. Methodius Church, archaeological relics and portraits of the four rulers.

9Sk: Rastislav circa 820-870. He invited the Thessalonian brothers Cyril and Methodius to spread Christianity throughout Greater Moravia in the local language, defended the kingdom from the Franks but was eventually betrayed by Svätopluk 1 and died in Regensburg. **FDC:** printed DS in red-brown with commemorative Devín cancel. The cachet shows Devín Castle with attacking armies in the foreground and various historical artefacts.

11Sk: Kocel was Prince of the area round Blatno circa 861-876. He was a supporter of Slavonic writing and promoted the development of Christianity. **FDC:** printed DS in green with commemorative Michalovce cancel. The cachet drawing shows various archaeological relics, church architecture and farm produce.

14Sk: Svätopluk circa 840-894. He ruled from 871 -894 and the kingdom was at its most influential and greatest in territory during his reign. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet depicts Svätopluk on horseback and a reference to his correspondence with the Popes.

10.07.2001

Nature Conservation - Carnivores.



Designer: Igor Benca **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** Rotary recess combined with offset in sheets of three se-tenant stamps and marginal drawing. Stamp size 26 x 40mm, sheet size 93 x 140mm.

Designs: sheet of three stamps in a strip, with a drawing below of the three carnivores in their natural habitat. All three **FDCs** were printed DS and have commemorative Bratislava cancels.

14Sk: the head and shoulders of the largest European carnivore – the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) on a yellow background. This species can still be found in the forests of northern and central Slovakia. **FDC:** cachet in brown shows a bear cub climbing a tree.

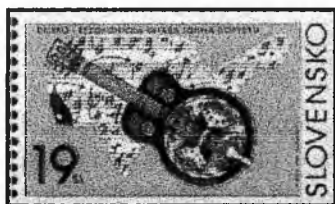
15Sk: the head and shoulders of a common wolf (*Canis lupus*) which can be found in north-east and central Slovakia. **FDC:** cachet in grey-black is a wolf on the hunt.

16Sk: the head and shoulders of a lynx (*Lynx lynx*) on a green background. It can be found in northern and central Slovakia. **FDC:** cachet drawing in black of a pair of lynx – one drinking at a pool.

Maxi-cards: a set of three were issued.

>

01.08.2001

Dobro Guitar

Designer: Róbert Brun **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD. Stamp size 40 x 23mm. **Design:** a Dobro guitar on a background of music. Each year an International festival – Dobrofest is held at the end of August in Trnava where the leading exponents of this music meet. The rezophonic or resonated guitar is associated with country, Hawaiian, blues and old-time jazz music. John Dopyera (1893-1988) whose family immigrated to California from Dolná Krupa near Trnava in 1908 patented the Dobro guitar in 1926, in America. John and his brothers opened a music shop in Los Angeles repairing and producing musical instruments. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with commemorative Trnava cancel. The cachet is the body of a guitar with lines of music above.

15.08.2001

Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2001

Designer: Martin Činovský from original artwork of Peter Uchnár **Engraver:** Arnold Fekc **Printing:** RD. Stamp size 30 x 23mm. **Design:** an illustration by the winner of the Biennial 1999 – Peter Uchnár – from the book Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a further drawing from the artwork for the book. **Booklet:** a booklet was also issued.

09.09.2001

The Righteous Among the Nations.

Designer: Ivan Schurman **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD. Stamp size 40 x 23mm. **Design:** an unhappy child's face with a leafy twig and out-stretched hand. The issue commemorates the title "Righteous Among the Nations" awarded by the Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem to those who lent assistance to persecuted Jews in the Nazi period. Since the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Slovak Republic and Israel in 1990 more than 400 Slovaks have received the honour. 9th September was designated Memorial Day of Victims of the Holocaust and Racist Violence in the Slovak Republic. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a twig with olive tree in the background.

18.09.2001

Alexander Dubček

Designer: Josef Baláž **Engraver:** Martin Činovský (stamp and block) František Horniak (FDC). **Printing:** DS with offset. Stamp size 40 x 23mm. This stamp was printed in a small sheetlet showing the Slovak and Czech Republic flags, with a decorative border of white roses with a yellow centre and the date 1968 and the facsimile signature of Dubček. **Design:** portrait of Dubček with a rose and dove with his name 27 November 1921 and from 1949 devoted his life to public and political work. The liberalisation of Czechoslovakia dubbed "Prague Spring" from January to August 1968 emerged under his leadership but was cut short by Soviet intervention. Until the fall of Communism in November 1989 he was persecuted but returned to active politics as the Chairman of the Assembly of the Czechoslovak Federated Republic. He was fatally injured in a car crash and died on 7 November 1992. **FDC:** printed by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava. DS in brown-purple with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a symbolic drawing of ideas associated with Dubček.

Postal Stationery

Envelopes

The following envelopes have an imprinted 8Sk stamp in grey-black which is the State emblem.

17.06.2001 International Transport Symposium 17-20 June 2001. The cachet in blue shows a railway track in an open landscape disappearing into the night with a starry sky. Text above and below advertises the symposium.

October 2001(?) Zilinfila 2001. The pictorial section shows part of Žilina with the corner of a stamp suspending a post horn below. Various texts in Slovak complete the design.

October 2001(?) 100th Anniversary of the Church of the Virgin Mary of Vráb'och. A view of the church is shown with text below.

Postcards

For Current Postal use

September 2001 (?) the issue appears to reflect a change in postal rates. The imprinted 5.50Sk stamp is a cycling postman (part of the design issued in the series Stamp Day on 18.12.1998.) The card retails at 6.30Sk.

Commemorative and Promotional Postcards

31.03. 2001. 20th Meeting of the Slovak Olympic Committee Bratislava. Imprinted 4Sk stamp is a collage of old and new Slovak buildings. The promotional design is a white flag on a blue background. The white flag has the Olympic rings and the Slovak flag with the inscription Slovenský Olympijský Výbor. The card has two retail prices shown: 4.50Sk and 8Sk.

09.06.2001. 500th Anniversary of Post in Europe and Belgica 2001. Imprinted 5.50Sk stamp design is a cycling postman. The pictorial part is a square of forget-me-nots with a stamp impression emerging and texts of the events above and below. The retail price is 8.30Sk.

June 2001 (?) The Best Slovak Stamp of 2000. Imprinted 5.50Sk stamp design is a cycling postman and the retail price is 8.30Sk. The promotional portion has a reproduction of the 20Sk stamp issued on 18.12.2000. History of Postal Regulations: for details see *Czechout* March 2000 page 24).

13.09.2001 7th European Fair Play Congress Bratislava. The event was held from 13-16 September 2001. Imprinted stamp design is a cycling postman and the card retails at 8.30Sk. The pictorial part has a view of Bratislava with various logos and texts of the Congress.

September/October 2001 (?) Slovak Castles and Historical Chateaux. This appears to be the first set of an occasional series. Each card bears a number from A1/01 to A9/01 and an imprinted 5.50Sk stamp design of the Slovak flag with the State emblem and retails at 8.30Sk. At the top of each card faintly in greenish-grey is the text "Hrady a Zámky na Slovensku." An aerial view (by E. Vasiliak 1970) of a castle is on the pictorial portion of the card together with its name and location. The reverse of each card has a faint outline map of Slovakia with all nine locations indicated but the relevant castle location highlighted. This series shows Beckovský Hrad, Hrad Lietava, Bojnický Zámok, Oravský Zámok, Smolenický Hrad, Spišský Hrad, Čachtický Hrad, Hrad Ľubovňa and Krásna Hôrka.