



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 2 November** when the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am, with the Auction commencing at 2pm. The Regional meeting at Leeds will be on Saturday 16 November – it will take the usual form with members bringing material. For further details ring Yvonne Wheatley on 0113 260 1978 (evenings). Advance notice that the first meeting in 2003 will be on Saturday 11 January 2003 when the speaker will be Mervyn Benford of the Hungarian PSGB. The display is entitled "Hungarian Miscellany".

We would draw members' attention to the fact that the year **2003** is the **50th Anniversary of this Society**. As part of the celebrations there will be **three events**: a display at **Stampex** from Wednesday 26 February to Sunday 2 March; the **Royal Philatelic Society, London** has invited us to give a display at 1.00pm on Thursday 20 March, and a full exhibition at the **Czech Embassy with support from the Slovak Embassy** will take place on Thursday 22 May until Saturday 24 May 2003. The Society weekend Conference will be held at Hinsley Hall, Headingley, Leeds from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 2003. Please make note of these dates in your diaries and support your society in its anniversary 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

Regional Meeting held Saturday 25 May 2002 at Lan Lash, Broad Oak, Carmarthenshire at 2.30 pm



Charles Stirton and his excellent daughter Elishka Kara Marie, who was acting as hostess on behalf of her mother Jana, who was in Corfu, welcomed three members and their spouses to their home in Wales. We started with a traditional Czech lunch – the beer soup was an acquired taste. Everyone enjoyed a really good time. The following members exhibited whilst the ladies went to view the Gardens:

Left to right: Charles, Elishka, Bob Hill, Jim Ansell and Barry Horne

Jim Ansell	<i>Forerunners, 1919 Essays and Postage Dues</i>
Barry Horne	<i>Postwar watercolour First Day Covers</i>
Bob Hill	<i>1945 Liberation issues</i>
Charles Stirton	<i>Postcards by Šetelík; covers & postmarks of Havlíčkův Brod; 1945 War Heroes; Russian POW covers in WWI</i>

A really good time was enjoyed by one and all.

RJH/CS

Meeting held Saturday 22 June 2002 at Shoreham-by-Sea at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 19 members and one visitor to the meeting. Apologies had been received from two members. She commented on the enjoyable lunch at *The Royal George*, organised by Yvonne Gren, that most had just attended. Yvonne then welcomed all to Shoreham.

Lindy called for a minute's silence for the late **Ernst Gorge FRPSL**. It had been nice for Hazel to join us for lunch.

The Hon Secretary gave details of one prospective new member:

P Jenkinson from South Ferriby, Lincs

whose application was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

New pins, with the Society logo, were launched, at a price of £2.

The afternoon was devoted to members' displays. The following members exhibited:

David Holt	<i>What to do with the Emperor Charles 8 heller postcard</i>
Barry Horne	<i>Currency reform; First anniversary of independence; etc</i>
Brian Day	<i>WWI miscellany</i>
Bob Hill	<i>Four postcards from 1945</i>
Ian Nutley	<i>Czechoslovak-related South American airmails</i>
Yvonne Wheatley	<i>Red Cross 1920 overprints; Currency reform</i>

Colin Spong	<i>Parcel cards from Hungarian-occupied Slovakia</i>
Yvonne Gren	<i>Black prints from the Czech Republic</i>
Rex Dixon	<i>Bohemia & Moravia: transition of stamps and internal postal rates</i>

Lindy thanked all those who displayed, and Pam and Yvonne for providing tea and cakes. Lindy also took the opportunity for thanking George Firmage for his hard work in organising the forthcoming visit to Bratislava.

There being no further business, the meeting closed around 5.00 pm.

Joint meeting with the Austrian SC of GB, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in GB at Heaton Royds, Bradford, Saturday 17 August 2002

This was the fifth in an annual series of joint meetings between these four societies. Stephen and Judith Holder kindly hosted it again, at their cottage and barn near Bradford.

Around twenty people were greeted with tea and coffee as they arrived in fine sunshine. The meeting started soon after 10.30 am, with six rounds of five frames. The five-minute time limit for each speaker was not imposed so rigidly this year. A break was taken for a goodly buffet. Most took the opportunity to eat outdoors and enjoy the warm garden.

Rex Dixon	<i>Postage due mail in Bohemia and Moravia</i>
John Pitts	<i>Austria in the Far East</i>
Brian Madeley	<i>Austria used in Hungary 1867–71</i>
Bernard Lucas	<i>Vienna Rohrpost</i>
Hans Smith	<i>Early Croatia, including the Illyrian Provinces</i>
Stephen Holder	<i>Trieste – classical Austrian covers</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>Polish provisional postmarks 1944–46</i>
Joyce Boyer	<i>Oetztal Postablagen</i>
Edmund Jagielski	<i>Silesia</i>
Richard Wheatley	<i>Czechoslovak War Heroes issue</i>
Peter Maybury	<i>18th century French military mail</i>
Andy Taylor	<i>"All Change": the changing Austrian currencies</i>
Stephen Holder	<i>Illyria</i>
John Whiteside	<i>Genesis of the parcel card in the Austrian empire</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>Pre-adhesive postmarks from Galicia</i>
John Pitts	<i>"Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Führer"</i>
Yvonne Wheatley	<i>Rates on the Allegories issue</i>

Yvonne Wheatley had made Linzertorte (Austrian) and Babovka (Czech) for our tea.

There were warm votes of thanks to Yvonne Wheatley, for organising and leading the day, and for the cakes; to Stephen Holder, for hosting the meeting; and to Judith Holder, for keeping us fed and watered.

Rex Dixon

Regional Meeting

Yvonne Wheatley will be arranging a meeting of the Society at the Leeds Philatelic Society's stamp Fair to be held on Saturday 16 November 2002. The venue is Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds, West Yorkshire, at 2.15 pm. Following the success of last year's meeting, members of the Austrian Philatelic Society, the Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain will also be invited.

For full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley at Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW Tel 0113 260 1978 (home).

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Letters to the Editor

✉ **Bernard Reynolds** writes: I understand that Richard Beith has already submitted a report on the "Antonin Dvořák & Philately" exhibition in Prague. However, I understand that Richard's modesty made him not mention that he instigated the exhibition following a discussion with Dr Markéta Hallová and also contributed to it. I enclose a copy of the speech made at the opening:

"Ladies and gentleman welcome to the opening ceremony of the exhibition 'Antonin Dvořák in philately'. I would like to greet Mr Richard Beith of the Dvořák Society, London, to whom I am indebted for the idea of the exhibition. He suggested it some time ago to Dr. Hallová, then the Director of our Museum (now Director of the Czech Museum of Music); she has asked me to realize it, so I am now making this speech as a commissioner of the exhibition. Mr Beith gave us not only the idea but he contributed to the collection of our Museum by three valuable stamps, one from Guinea and two others from Slovenia, all connected to Antonin Dvořák. I have to thank the Czech Postal Museum also, namely Ms Reichová for her invaluable help and to the Museum's authorities (represented here by director Dr. Čtvrtník) for lending many of the exhibited stamps. Grateful thanks to Ms Herbstová who arranged the presentation of the stamps; as well as to all my collaborators.

The exhibition contains all stamps of Czechoslovak, Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and Czech Post that depict Antonin Dvořák and also includes also one from Guinea and two from Slovenia. The 1992 stamp from Guinea should commemorate the 90th anniversary of the composer's death. Its design includes the illustration entitled *Le Diable et Catherine*; it is clear from a rather horror picture that the artist was unaware of the comic character of the opera *Čert a Káča*. The two Slovenian stamps celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Laibach Philharmonic Society, whose honorary member was also Dvořák. I added the stamp featuring the building of our Museum as well as two stamps with a portrait of František Ondříček, a prominent Czech violinist, who premiered Dvořák's Violin Concerto, and one stamp depicting the famous Czech composer Josef Suk who was a Dvořák student and later became his son-in-law. Among the exhibits are also drawings of some projected stamps, first day covers and the commemorative postmarks connected to the places of the Dvořák cult (Příbram, Zlonice, Sychrov, Nelahozeves). Prominent Czech artists like Karel Svoboda, Max Švabinský and Jiří Švengsbír designed Czech stamps on display. The Ondříček stamp from 1974 is part of the beautifully printed regular series showing fine works of Czech art; this one is a reproduction of a splendid portrait painted by Václav Brožík, owned by the National Museum. The artistic levels of these stamp designs contrast sharply with those of Guinea and Slovenia. Thus far my remarks, I hope you will enjoy our exhibition."

✉ **D Keith Jones** writes, "May I refer to Lubor Kunc's article on censorship in the Czech lands 1938-1945 in the June issue of *Czechout*. In particular, I must take issue with the statement that the small numeral censor cachets in figure 5(1259 and 7757) and figure 6(596 and 825) belong to Slovak censorship officers. Although the 1259 is in a less common size, the other numbers are those of the Foreign Letter Examining Office at Vienna. They are identical to those which commonly appear on mail passing between Germany and Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Hungary, Turkey and Croatia.

Some sources (Wolter and Weylandt) indicate that there was a branch office of Vienna at Prague in the Protectorate using identical devices as the head office and I accept that the censorship may have taken place there rather than Vienna. Ing Mirko Bachratý in his articles on Slovak censorship (*Slovenský Postilión* 1 and 2, Bratislava 1990/1) makes no mention of such numbered cachets and it would be interesting to know of any evidence to support Mr Kunc's theory."

We have received a similar letter from **John Whiteside**; he encloses three cards from Greece censored at Vienna and mentions that the definite work on censorship of mail coming into Germany in World War II is: *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen*, by Karl-Heinz Riemer, pub. 1979 by Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" e. V. We are having the appropriate pages 127-149 and 210-212 translated and when that is completed, an article will appear in a future issue of the journal, to which no doubt our correspondent Lubor Kunc will respond in due course. Editor.

✉ **Robin Upton** writes "In response to Ian Nutley's comments on 'members who never bid', I'd like to have a little say. I have only been a member for nearly a year and have not bid once in the auctions, although there are many lots that interest me. This July auction I did obtain three lots and have just started to raid the library. I work on a farm, but for the last seven months have been off work injured and other medical problems, and it is not easy supporting three philatelic societies, the two others >

being the GBOS and the Scandinavia Philatelic Society. I have not attended any meetings as yet, as most farm work and other commitments clash, but Stampex and the Embassy exhibitions are a must.

I do not have comprehensive collections, of CZ, Scandinavia, GB overprints, Austro/Hungarian Empire, Swiss or German, but interesting material, not so much as collecting the stamps but Postal History and postmarks. It does not matter if you have one hundred or more of one stamp if everyone has a different place cancel or different date stamps. This is what I find a more interesting aspect of stamp collecting, especially when found at a dealer's shop, and when you get first refusal. Next answer, "why read the Czechout" oh I forgot to tell you I am also interested in archaeology and history, and have been for forty or more years, and collecting stamps for about forty-five. Now, the journal, it's about history and educating at the same time, also the means of others to pass on their knowledge in a manner that can be read again and again over time, with new information being add as it surfaces from the dusts of time."

Robin continues his letter with an example of how when visiting a Brighton dealer he was presented with a winebox of dusty B&M parcel and other postal stationery cut-offs and told to pick what he liked at ten pence a piece. "Now to the 'dusts of time', cough cough (yes I did.) After about ten minutes I said "no way can I sort through this lot", I could not let this musty box of fifty-five to fifty-eight year old material being sold off in small lots in a stamp magazine, no way. I asked how much was required for this find, we worked it out there must be over three thousand plus pieces and I bought it for three hundred pounds, plus a bag of Austrian thrown in." The result of purchasing this material has enabled Robin to present us with four items to be published at a future date in Czechout.. Editor.

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.

Publications

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

- The Autumn 2002 issue of *Austria*, No. 139,
 - ▶ Dumb Cancels (Taylor); The Last Cruise of the SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth [Part 2] (Pirotte).
- The July/August & September/October 2002 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 64, Whole Nos. 574/575, Nos. 4/5. The articles include:
 - ▶ Thematic Philately - 150th Anniversary of TG Masaryk (Brendl); A Naïve translation of *Tisková Forma* (Wilson); 1972 Písek Stamp Exhibition/Oldest Stone Bridge in Boh (van Zenten); A Note on the Partition Types of the Hradčany Stamps (Maleček); Dvořák & Philately (Beith); Early usage of the Hradčy issue II (Kunc); Wars, Field Post Offices and Czechoslovakia cont. (Kunc).
- The 6, 7 & 8/2002 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol 52. The articles include:
 - ▶ This issue awaited from its publisher.
 - ▶ Jan Hus in Philately (Feldmann); On the Plebiscite Stamps issue (Tovačovský); Covers from the year 1945 [1] (Bláha).
 - ▶ Sender and addressee in Thematic documentation (Horák); Collector for the Fifth time (Jirásek, Pítra,); View from Elsewhere (Langhammer).
- The 2 and 3/2002 issues of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Liberated Republic issue cont: (Stupky); The London issue cont: (Fischer); Czechoslovak Banknotes & stamps design 1962 (Moravec); Automatic Machine cancellations (Kašpar & FencI); Czechoslovak mis-valued stamps cont: (Karásek).
 - ▶ Dove 20h plate flaws and retouches (Kašparovi); Notable air letters (Fritz); Liberated Republic issue cont: (Stupky); Unusual perforation on Hradčany 15h (Škaloud); The London issue cont: (Fischer); Czechoslovak mis-valued stamps cont: (Karásek); Czechoslovak Banknotes 10 kč 1919 (Moravec); Czechoslovak Banknotes & stamps design 5000 kč 1920 (Moravec).

BRATISLAVA 2002

In another brilliant example of George Firmage's organising skills, 39 members and partners flew off from Heathrow on 3 July for a week in Bratislava, the visit coinciding with the International stamp exhibition "Slovensko 2002", held in the Slovak National Museum. The exhibition itself was perhaps smaller than internationals held in the west, but made up in quality what it lacked in volume. An excellent full-colour catalogue in Slovak and English was available. Only five classes were represented, namely Traditional, Postal History, Thematics, Open Class and Literature, which drew 16, 34, 29, 31 and 13 entries respectively. In addition, eight entries made up the Court of Honour, and there were three invited exhibits. The Slovak Postal Museum also had an entry. Six of our members won awards, and congratulations go to Juan E Page [Large Silver for Carpatho-Ukraine], Jaroslav Verner [Gold for Czech Legions], Richard Beith [Large Silver for Free Czech Forces in Western Europe 1939-45], Otto Hornung [Gold with Felicitations for Carpatho-Ukraine Postal History], Brian Day [Vermeil for Czech Fieldpost 1918-20] and finally to Colin Spong who entered *Czechout* and received a well deserved Silver medal. I was particularly impressed that a splendid entry of Czech Airmails to 1930 won a gold medal in the Postal History Class, which of course is exactly what it was! British organisers please note.

As is usual in Eastern European exhibitions, no dealers were present, but we were all keen to visit the independent 'dealers bourse' in the nearby Press Zentrum, opening on 5 July, the day after the Exhibition opened. This turned out to be a great disappointment. With table space for about 30 dealers, on the first day only around 20 turned up, with very little to offer, and on the Saturday, when the attendance was expected to be higher, we arrived at about noon and most dealers had already packed up and left, leaving about six. However, the Bratislava stamp shops were thoroughly scoured with varying results.

In addition to the philatelic aspect of the visit, a trip for a wine-tasting was arranged, and also a longish coach trip to Banská Bystrica, a pretty town with an excellent Museum of the National Uprising, which was of great interest and very well laid out. A guide book in English was available. Unfortunately the Postal Museum was closed, it being Sunday. Another coach trip on Monday to the Štefánik monument in Bradlo was a genuine surprise. I cannot think of a single monument to an individual in Britain that even approaches this gigantic memorial, and he isn't even buried in it! The sheer scale of it seems perilously close to deification. The coach trips gave the group a good opportunity to see something of Slovakia's rolling, agricultural countryside, happily punctuated with acres of van Gogheseque smiling sunflowers, gleaming yellow in the sunshine.

The last trip was a cruise on the Danube to Devin, with its impressive ruined castle. All-in-all a thoroughly enjoyable trip, enhanced by the excellent weather and very cheap prices. The trip was enhanced by the pleasure of the company of Bob and Bernice Kingsley, who were passing through and stayed at our excellent Hotel Dukla for three days. I really cannot recommend these Society trips too highly, and would exhort all members who have never been on one to seriously consider our next one. There is far more to philately than the acquisition of material, and the friendships made, renewed and cemented on these essentially sociable journeys are an important and integral aspect of our wonderful hobby.

Ian Nutley

List of Members and Partners who went to Bratislava

Robert Allard	John & Jean Hammonds	Ian Nutley
Frederik Backeljauw	Ian & Mavis Hay	Guy & Betty Penny
Richard & Margaret Beith	Anthony Hickey	Pat & Morag Rothnie
Anthony and Lindy Bosworth	Ron Hollis	Colin & Pat Spong
Roger Castle	David Holt	Heinz Vogel
Brian & Betty Day	Otto & Chiye Hornung	Derek Walker
Rex Dixon	Barry & Janet Horne	Derek Waugh
George Firmage	Frank Jones	Richard & Yvonne Wheatley
Geoffrey & Pat Frost	Roger & Susan Morrell	Robert & Benice Kingsley

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Bratislava from the Danube showing the home of Slovensko 2002 - The National Museum Left of centre.

→ Colin Spong, Josef Tekeľ, with Lubor Kunc and Chairman Lindy Bosworth in a weighty discussion!



←The Wheatleys, Rex Dixon, the Days and the Kingsleys partake of light refreshment



The group who attended the Palmares at the Dom kultury Centre minus the photographer (Richard Beith) who is seen outside the exhibition hall.

MORE FAKE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION STAMPS

Further to Andrew Cronin's paper in Czechout 1/2002 on pages 9-19 we have received this page from Brian C Day's collection and thank him for letting us reproduce it [to 70% of original size].

The Czechoslovak Field Post in Siberia
Forgeries of The Lion of Bohemia Issue

1919/1920				
Type 1 Forgery A	Type 2 Forgery A	Type 1 Forgery B	Type 1 Forgery B	
Blue, red centre	Blue, red centre	Blue, red centre & offset	Light blue, white centre	
Type 1 Forgery B	Type 1 Forgery B	Type 1 Forgery B	Type 2 Forgery B	
Green, red centre	Mauve, orange centre	Light green, red centre	Blue, red centre & offset	
Type 2 Forgery B	Type 2 Forgery B	Fault types: 1, forgery A 2, forgery A 		
		1, forgery B 2, forgery B 		
Buff, red centre	Purple, orange centre			

MORE FAKE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION COVERS

-Krzysztof (Chris) Ceremuga A.I.E.P.-

We acknowledge this article which appeared in Fakes, Forgeries & Experts No 5 and thank the Editor Paolo Vollmaier RDP, FRPSL for drawing our attention to it and Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, a subscriber, for providing us with a copy.

This topic was covered in great detail in the article by Andrew Cronin in FFE No 4. Here I would just like to add illustrations of a couple more fake covers and cards from my files. What has added greatly to the problem of faked and dubious Siberian Legion covers is that over the years many have been signed by various experts as genuine or even issued with certificates of authenticity. Figures 1-4 show more covers and cards with the dubious "1919" cancel which is considered to have never been used in Siberia.

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Figure one:

It is believed that large quantities of genuine covers and cards from sacks of undelivered mail were "improved" in Prague by 'adding' stamps and various postmarks especially this "1919" cancel. Unfortunately both the covers in Figures 3 and 4 obtained in 1999 certificates of authenticity from an expertising service in Switzerland and were then sold at auction as genuine. Especially galling is the fact that the cover in Figure 4 had the "25" and '35' green surcharges on the "1920"

Figure Two↓

overprinted stamps which up to now were unknown on any genuine covers. Even the Michel catalogue warns about this but the cover still managed to obtain a certificate. So even when an item has a certificate the old saying of *Caveat Emptor* still applies.



Figures Three and Four



VISIT TO PRAGUE and PARDUBICE

-Robert J Hill-

Whilst members were enjoying themselves in Bratislava, some of us were working, I was stuck in Prague over the long holiday weekend carrying out briefings. However all was not lost on 4 July I met up with Lubor Kunc – a regular contributor to Czechout - at my hotel in the evening to pay for some books the Society had bought and enjoy a long chat with him. On Saturday I met up with member Tom Morovics – and on Sunday I went to the new home of my friend Dr. Jan Dobrovolný in Pardubice, he had collected some material from a Brno auction for me to take back to the UK thus avoiding crippling courier charges.

The Sunday afternoon was gorgeous although the heat was stifling and we drove the few kilometres to Pardubice castle where a number of exhibitions were in place. We opted to visit two.

The first was a collection of 300,000 picture postcards accumulated by a lady from Časlav. The frames were of the rotating kind and we took 80 minutes to get round the three cellar exhibition rooms. These cards appear to have been donated by this lady (to the country?) and are appearing all over the Czech Republic. Very interesting is an understatement I never knew that there were so many Gruss aus types of card. The display runs the complete spectrum from first cards to the new Republic. There wasn't strength in any particular area – just a thorough coverage. I do not know where the next display will be, it would be worth finding out if you are intending to visit the Republic.

The second exhibition was more chilling and covered World War II Pardubice under German Occupation. Much of the posters, weapons and insignia from this period I have seen elsewhere but what made this special was that it is specific to the area. Why is it on exhibition, no particular reason – just a chilling reminder. The only disappointment was there was not any reference to the postal service!

Auction News-flash: I am arranging to obtain a collection from a member of the Dvořák Society, Mrs Bronja Snow of Esher. This collection left Czechoslovakia in 1939. This together with the Ernst Gorge collection will be offered in the March 2003 Auction.

COVERS OF INTEREST

The remarkable letter from Cieszyn



put it in the mail box at Orlová railway station [on May 22]. The Orlová cancel is the railway station mailbox cancellation [see Ing. Emil Votoček's 16th volume of Czech Monograph, part. I, page 384]; for more details about the type of cancels see Ing. Emil Votoček's 14th volume of Czech Monograph, pages 502-509. The postage rate for letters from Czechoslovakia to Germany in May 1919 amounted to 25 hellers – so the Czechoslovak franking was enough to mail the letter through the Czechoslovak postal system to Germany. That means the letter is not a mixed franking between Czechoslovak and Polish stamps [because the Czechoslovak postage didn't upfrank the Polish postage rate], but I have to say it is a very interesting cover.

Lubor Kunc writes: On pages 102–103 of *Czechout* 4/2001, the cover sent by the stamp dealers Markenfürst in Těšín to Freiburg im Breisgau [Germany]: My opinion about the cover is a bit different to the author's. In my opinion the sender posted the letter at a mail box in Těšín [on May 20, 1919], which was emptied by the main post office in Těšín (Teschen 1). The post office immediately found that the letter was understamped and returned it to the sender [on May 20 or 21]. The sender for an unknown reason (perhaps financial or thanks to lack of time) re-posted the letter not in Poland, but in Czechoslovakia. He probably took the letter for a trip to Czechoslovakia and

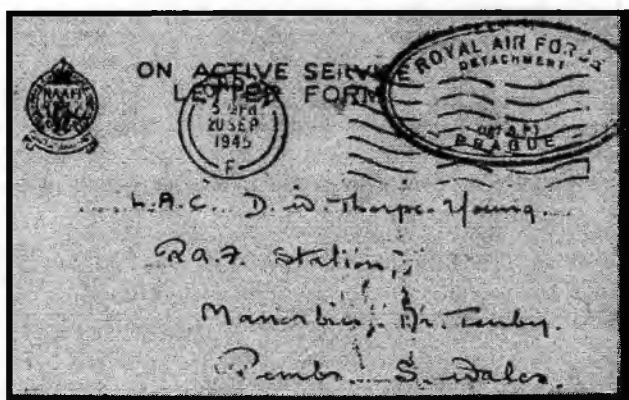
ROYAL AIR FORCE FIELD POST IN PRAGUE 1945-46

JUDr Vratislav Palkoska,

Translated by Vladimír Králíček

Not so long ago I received from a friend a copy of an article about a field post service used by a detachment of the Royal Air Force in Prague, Czechoslovakia during 1945-46. It appeared in the Spring 2000 issue of the Forces Postal History Newsletter No.243. The article "A Find after 50 Years" was written by Otto Hornung and I found it very interesting. Whilst reading it I had a feeling that I have already seen the letter card mentioned somewhere else. Sure enough, after going through my file of articles cutouts and other to me interesting items, I found a couple pages from Filatelie 10/1989 containing an article on RAF units in Prague, Czechoslovakia during 1945-46. As it contains additional information, regarding the RAF detachment, I have translated it with the hope that it will be of interest to collectors of WWII field post. [Dr Palkoska was a friend of Otto Hornung - Ed] Vladimír Králíček

It appeared almost unbelievable, but it was really so, and it is confirmed by the preserved NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institution) issue letter card, an organisation which ensured a quiet place to rest and a shop for the Military Centres and Camps in the British Empire. This letter card with the heading On Active Service, was analogous to other letter consignments sent by members of the fighting Armies within the Empire framework and carried free of charge, it also had in the upper right corner imprint of the oval Royal Air Force/detachment/167 S.P./Prague handstamp.



It was written in Prague on 16.9.45 and carried to London together with the service post of this air Pardubice unit. In London it was posted onward on 20 September 1945. The writer made it known, beside other matters, that they are billeted in the Hotel Paris, one of the local first class hotels. They travel by bus to the airfield nine miles away. He admires Prague as one of the oldest cities in Europe, and as one into which the peacetime life returned very quickly.

Of the letter card authenticity there is no doubt, but what the unit was and what was its mission

that was a question worthy of detection. Here is its solution.

Essentially it concerns three units of the Royal Air Force: No.167, temporary unit 47 a group sent for a certain transitory period of time to ČSR; its advance scouts arrived in Prague on 5 September 1945 from the airfield RAF Boreham belonging to the Headquarters of the 46 Group at the airfield RAF Harrow Weald, No.311 - Cz. wing, unit of the Airforce Transport and No.4311 - auxiliary wing of the 46. Group - mechanical and repair workshops.

The units were placed at the Ruzyně airport, their task being to instruct the Czechoslovak airforce personnel in the control of the Transport Aircraft Command planes and accept incoming goods from England. The units approximate composition was as follows: 6 officers, 4 Senior N.C.O.'s and 16 men of other ranks. Their commanders were: From 5 September 1945 to 20 February 1946; Squadron Leader I.N.Roome, from 20 February 1946 to the end of their activity Squadron Leader L.J.W.P. Fountain.

Beside other duties the units ensured, for example, the transport on 20 September 1945 of the new Czechoslovak banknotes, and from 30 September, the repatriation of the Czechoslovak air units from Great Britain starting with the fighter wings. In the middle of November 1945 several hundreds of student delegates were flown to the International Student Rally in Prague, from the Western world mainly from overseas; and through its assistance on 21 September Field Marshal Montgomery flew into Prague, so that he could be decorated by the Republic President. These units finished their activities in Prague in September 1946.

Acknowledgement:

To Eng. Karel Mrázek, ex. wartime pilot, member of the 313 Czechoslovak Fighter Squadron for his help in ascertaining the above facts concerning this airforce group I offer my full thanks. VP.

Eastern Silesia 1918 - 1920

Revised and updated version of an article originally published in the
Czechoslovak Specialist No. 5/2000
 By Lubor Kunc

Introduction

We published an article on Eastern Silesia by Ton Welvaart and Jan Verleg in Czechout 4/2001 under Covers of Interest on pages 101-103. We later received a letter from Lubor Kunc in which he wrote "This was very interesting article, the theme should be discussed as much as possible. However, during the reading of this I have discovered some statements, which I find not to be correct." We forwarded his letter on to the authors and they have been corresponding, the outcome of which is that Lubor has revised an earlier article for publication in both Czechout and the Oost Europa Filatelie journal. Editor.

History of Eastern Silesia

One of "the well kept secrets" of the Czech history relates to the Czech occupation of a part of Silesia. This story is not widely known; however every collector of Czechoslovak stamps knows its outcome - the Czechoslovak and Polish stamps with overprints SO 1920. Let's look at it !

On 28 October, 1918 the Czechoslovak Republic was established. At the same time a mountainous area between Bohemia and Silesia of German population called "The Province Sudetenland" with its capital in Opava (Troppau) was founded. The goal of establishing this province was the same as the founding of other German regions in Bohemia - to save these areas for Germans and for their direct incorporation into Germany after World War One.

The Czech population established in Ostrava on 29 October 1918 their own Národní výbor with the aim of incorporating the Eastern Silesia area into Czechoslovakia. And in addition on 30 October 1918 the Polish population founded the Polish National Council (Rada Narodowa) in Těšín (Cieszyn / Teschen). All these organisations played key roles in our story.

The main problem was what were the borders between Czechoslovakia and Poland on the territory of Eastern Silesia. Národní výbor and Rada Narodowa set first preliminary borders on 5 November 1918, but both sides felt the borders were not definitive. The borders were not convenient for Czechoslovakia, because some important towns and the large coal mining areas belonged, as per the agreement, to Poland, but Czechoslovaks needed to earn time for fighting for "Province Sudetenland".

The Czechoslovak government started late in November to liberate all German areas in Bohemia and Moravia including the territory of "The Province Sudetenland". As result of this action, Czechoslovak units occupied Opava on 18 December 1918. Until the end of December the Czechoslovak troops occupied all towns and villages belonging to the Province. After this action only two players for Silesia remained.

The relationship between Czechoslovaks and Poles in Eastern Silesia was getting worst in December 1918 and January 1919. Neither side was prepared to accept the offers of the second party; both of them wanted the whole area for their own state.

On 10 January 1919 the Polish government declared the elections for the Polish Parliament, which were planned for 26 January, 1919 (see the stamp in **Figure 1** issued in Northern Polish Postal District, Michel – Polen, Nr. 125, showing Mr. A. Trampczyński, first Chairman of Polish Parliament – called Sejm – elected in the 1919 elections). The Polish voting districts contained the area of Eastern Silesia as well. The Czechoslovak government refused the incorporation of the above area to the Polish voting districts. Based on information contained in Mr Permans' book, the Těšín area was one of the Bolshevik centres, in which the Bolshevik agents called for Soviet revolution; workers were under their influence and the coal production went rapidly down, which caused large problems in coal distribution in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.



Because the negotiations between Czech and Polish governments had no positive result and the Polish government was not in position to defeat the communist movement in Silesia, which had negative impact on Czechoslovak economy, the Czechoslovak government decided to occupy the territory. This military action was called "Expedition of Colonel Šnejdárek". Colonel Šnejdárek (later General) was one of the officers of Czech Legions in France during WWI; after return from France he was one of the best officers in the Czechoslovak Army

The expedition started on 23 January 1919. Czech troops occupied an area between the preliminary border of 5 November and Wisla River and the expedition finished on 30 January, 1919, when the Czechoslovak Ministry of Defence instructed the troops to stop the expedition and to stay in the occupied territory.

On 3 February 1919 a Peace Conference was held in Paris. The result of this conference was the setting of preliminary borders between Czechoslovakia and Poland and an agreement that the Czechoslovak units will leave the part of the occupied area given by the Conference to Poland until 25 February 1919.

I. Post offices given by the Paris Conference to Czechoslovakia :

<i>Czech Name</i>	<i>Polish Name</i>	<i>German Name</i>
- Bohumín 1 + 2	Bogumin 1 + 2	Oderberg 1 + 2
- Dolní Bludovice	Bledovice Dolne	Nieder Bludowitz
- Dolní Domaslovce		Nieder Domaslowitz
- Dombrová	Dombrowa	Dombräu
- Hnojník	Gnojnik	Gnojnik
- Horní Suchá	Górna Sucha	Ober Suchau
- Chotěbuz	Kocobedz	Kotzobendz
- Karvín 1	Karwina 1	Karwin 1
- Komomí Lhotka	Ligotka Kameralna	Cameral Ellgoth
- Louky	Laki, Slask.Austr.	Lonkau in österr. Schl.
- Pudlov	Pudłów	Pudlau
- Ropice	Ropica	Roppitz
- Rychwald	Rychwald, Slask.	Reichwaldau
- Stonava	Stonawa	Steinau

II. Post offices given by the Paris Conference to Poland :

<i>Czech Name</i>	<i>Polish Name</i>	<i>German Name</i>
- Holešov ve Slezsku	Goleszów	
- Ohrazená	Ogrodzona	
- Pruchná	Pruchna	
- Puncov	Punców	
- Struměň	Strumień	
- Těšín 1	Cieszyn 1	Teschen 1
- Ustroň	Ustroń	
- Velké Kunčice ve Slezsku	Konczyce Wlk.	
- Žibřidovice ve Slezsku	Zebrzydowice	

From a philatelic point of view the stamps used at the post offices mentioned in the list No. II from 23 January to 25 February 1919 are the Czechoslovak issues. More details can be found in the philatelic section of this article.

The conference was more successful for Czechoslovakia, because they had some towns and mining areas belonging as per the agreement of 1918 to Poland. Both parties accepted this solution; the Czechoslovak units left the area by the above deadline and the Polish troops occupied the Polish part of the area set by the Conference of Paris.

Another destiny had the following post offices, which the Paris Conference of 1919 decided to give to Poland, but the Allied Commission gave them to the Czechoslovakia in 1920:

III. The post offices belonging to Poland from 26 February 1919 to 10 August 1920 :

<i>Czech Name</i>	<i>Polish Name</i>	<i>German Name</i>
- Bystřice ve Slezsku	Bystrzyca	Bistritz in Schl.
- Darkov	Darków	Darkau
- Dětmorovice	Dzieńmorowice	Dittmannsdorf
- Frýštát ve Slezsku	Frysztat, Slask. Austr.	Freistadt, österr. Schl.
- Jablunkov ve Slezsku	Jablonków	Jablunkau in Schl.
- Návsí	Nawsi	Nawsie
- Německá Lutyně	Niemecka Lutynia	Deutschleuten
- Petrovice u Frýštátu	Pietrowice	Petrowitz b. Freistadt
- Skřečoň	Skrzecoń	Skrzecon

- Těšín 2	Cieszyn 2	Teschen 2
- Třinec	Trzyniec	Trzynietz
- Vendryně	Wendrynie	Wendrin

The peace negotiations continued and in April 1919 the first proposal for Czechoslovak-Polish borders were introduced. On 22 August 1919 France refused the proposal and the negotiations seem to be ended without success. The solution should be a plebiscite in the Eastern Silesia area, which was announced by the Allied Commission on 27 September 1919. This decision incensed the Czechoslovak legions in Russia. The outrage was so great, that a company refused to take part in a review in Tomsk arranged for deputies of the Czechoslovak government.

On 7 July 1920 the next Peace Conference of Spa (Belgium) was opened. The result of the conference was a common agreement between Czechoslovakia and Poland to ask the Allied Commission to act as arbiter to set the borders instead of arranging the plebiscite. The Polish preparedness to accept the Allied's decision was caused by a need of Allied's support in Polish-Soviet conflict; the Czechoslovaks believed that they should persuade the Allied to accept their demands, so they expressed agreement with the solution as well. The Allied's decision about new borders between both countries was made on 28 July, 1920 and both states declared their acceptance of the borders. Based on this agreement, the towns mentioned in list No. III were occupied by Czechoslovak army between 6 and 10 August 1920.

I am sure you have detected that Těšín is mentioned in both lists Nos. II and III. This is no error - it was really so. The town belonged to Poland until Šnejdárk's expedition. Then the Czechoslovaks occupied the whole town. This situation lasted only one month, because the Paris Conference decided to return Těšín town to Poland. The Allied arbitration of 1920 then divided the town into two parts – Polish one called Cieszyn consisting of the centre of the town (including post office Těšín 1) and the Czech one called Český Těšín containing the railway station and post office Těšín 2. This division lasts until now – as you can see, Berlin was not the only divided town in Europe! The hard times in the Těšín town could be illustrated by provisional bank notes issued by Rada Narodowa, when the insufficient quantity of legal tenders occurred. Figure 2a) shows a Polish side of a provisional banknote of October 1919 and Figure 2b) depicts German side of another provisional banknote of April 1919.



Figure 2a

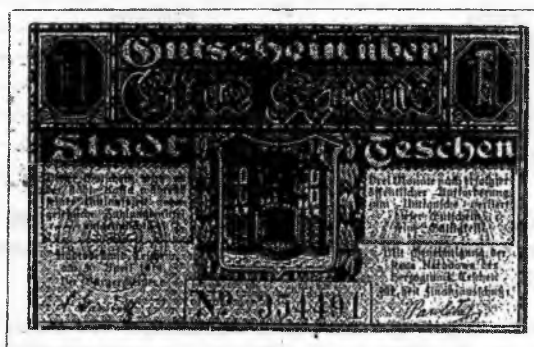
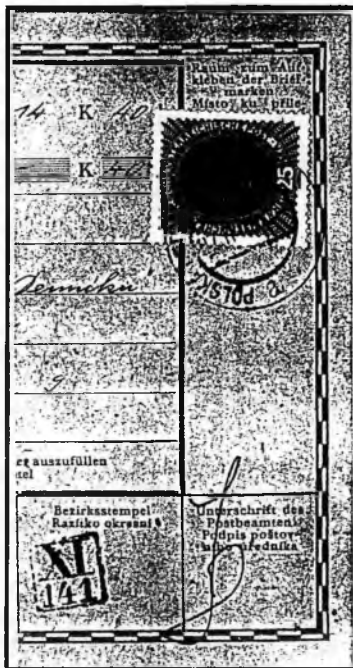


Figure 2b



Because the Polish party was less satisfied with the borders than the Czechoslovak party, Poland re-occupied this area in between 1 and 11 October 1938 thanks to the Munich Treaty. This action was celebrated by a Polish stamp of 1938 (Michel – Polen Nr. 330) shown in Figure 3 celebrating "return of Těšín area to the fatherland" (I thank to my friend Karl Ruzicka for discovery of the stamp!). But that is another story.

Figure 3



The Šnejdarek expedition had an influence on the Czechoslovak economy as well. Because the area of Eastern Silesia was the last with unknown borders in Bohemia/Moravia, it was necessary to wait for the monetary reform, replacing the Austrian currency with the Czechoslovak, before settling the borders. Because the Paris Conference set the borders in Eastern Silesia and exact date of their validity, the Czechoslovak Finance Minister Rašín was allowed to prepare the monetary reform for 26 February 1919. As you know, one of the results of the monetary reform was the ending of validity of Austrian and Hungarian postage stamps throughout Czechoslovakia on 28 February 1919.

← **Figure 4** shows a cutout of a money order franked with Austrian 25 Hellers stamp and mailed at post office in Polska Ostrava (Polisch Ostrau; situated in the Czech part of Silesia) on 27 February, 1919, i.e. during the monetary reform.

Philatelic History: Now I would like to draw your attention to the philatelic side of the above history.

Here is a table showing, what postage stamps were used in the Eastern Silesia in years 1918 – 1920. As you can see, the situation was a bit different in Czechoslovak and Polish parts of the area.

Stamp(s)	Czechoslovak part of Silesia	Polish part of Silesia
Austrian stamps (without overprints) see figure 5	28 Oct, 1918 – 28 Feb, 1919 (figures 4,15,19)	28 Oct, 1918 – 20 Jan, 1919 (figures 15,16)
Austrian stamps (with overprints)	12 Dec, 1919 – 31 Jan, 1920 (overprint <i>Pošta Československá 1919</i>) see figure 6	10 Jan, 1919 - ? (overprint <i>Poczta Polska</i>) see figure 7
Czechoslovak stamps see figure 8	18 Dec, 1918 – 1938 on Czech Territory (figure.19) 23 Jan, 1919 – 1938 in towns mentioned in list no. I (figure 17) 10 August, 1920 – 1938 in towns mentioned in list no. III	23 Jan, 1919 – 25 Feb, 1919 only on territories occupied in frame of Šnejdárek expedition (see list no. II) (figure 18)
Polish stamps See figure 9	28 Oct, 1918 – 22 Jan, 1919 in towns mentioned in list no. I ; (figure 16) 26 Feb, 1919 – 10 August, 1920 in towns mentioned in list no. III	February 1919 – 1939 on Polish territory
Czechoslovak SO 1920 stamps see figure. 10	13 Feb, 1920 – 10 August, 1920: only at the Czechoslovak post offices in the Plebiscite area	19 April – 10 August, 1920 : Post office of Cz. Prefect in Těšín (figure 12)
Polish SO 1920 stamps see figure 11	15 April, 1920 – 10 August, 1920 : in towns mentioned in list no. III	15 April, 1920 – 10 Sept, 1920 : only at the Polish post offices in the Plebiscite area



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



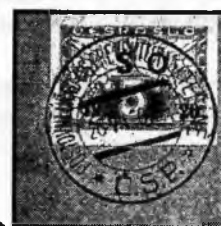
Figure 9



Figure 10



Figures 11 and 12→



Generally we can say, that Czechoslovak stamps were not valid in Polish territory and Polish issues in Czechoslovak territory, with only few exceptions. The exceptions were caused by violent acts like occupation of territory belonging to the second party (e.g. by Šnejdárek expedition) or by agreements reached at various Peace Conferences (e.g. decision of Paris Conference of February 1919 dividing the area into two portions – see lists Nos. I + II/III). In both cases the area belonged to one or both players, who started to use their own postage stamps there, which lasted until the next occupation/peace conference.

The “exceptions” relating to Czechoslovak stamps were as follows:

1. On Polish territory occupied by Czechoslovaks in Šnejdárek’s expedition, only the Hradčany stamps without any overprints could be used during 23 January – 25 February 1919. This possibility finished by withdrawal of Czechoslovak forces from the towns mentioned in list No. II in February 1919 (see figures 18 + 19).
2. Just one post office called “Poštovní úřad čs. prefektury v Těšíně” (Post office of Czechoslovak Prefect Office at Těšín) being located in Polish part of Těšín town was used in the period April 1920 – 10 August 1920 Czechoslovak SO 1920 postage stamps (see Figure 12: special delivery SO 1920 stamp on a slip of paper mailed at the post office, red cancel, date 26 July, 1920). This was a special post office used by the Czechoslovak Prefect in Těšín as well as by International Plebiscite Commission. The mail was delivered by cars on the route Těšín (PL, Cz. Prefect’s Post Office) – Mor. Ostrava (CZ)– Svinov (CZ, Rail. Station), where it was given to the Czechoslovak Postal Administration.

The “exception” relating to the Polish stamps was as follows:

Before the territory mentioned in lists no. I + III was occupied by Czechoslovaks, the Polish stamps were valid in the towns only (by Polish I mean all stamps valid on Polish territory at that time). Czechoslovak military action ended the validity of Polish stamps in the towns stated in list No. I (see Figure 16), their validity in towns mentioned in list No. III was only interrupted by the Šnejdárek’s expedition; after withdrawal of Cz. units Polish stamps remained valid there until 10 August 1920.

There is no known case enabling usage of stamps of both parties at one place at the same time or usage of the second state’s stamps on their own territory. That means, it was not possible e.g. to mix Czechoslovak and Polish SO 1920 stamps on one cover or to use Polish SO 1920 stamps on territory belonging to Czechoslovakia.

An interesting story is the issuance of Czechoslovak and Polish stamps with overprint SO 1920. When the plebiscite was announced in September 1919, both parties decided to issue special stamps for the plebiscite areas, which were under their command. On 2 January 1920 Polish body “Rada Narodowa” of Těšín approved proposal for issue of the definitive stamps. The Ministerial Council of Warsaw confirmed this proposal, only on 3 February 1920, which caused an important delay in their issuance. So the Allied commission therefore decided to stop the issue of the definitive stamps and ordered existing Polish stamps to be overprinted with the same overprint as the Czechoslovak ones were provided with. The Polish stamps should show various patriotic Těšín themes like the Těšín’s main square - see example of the unissued stamp on **Figure 13**.



The Czechoslovak SO 1920 stamps were issued continually from February to August 1920. The first issue appeared on 13 February 1920, the last (T.G. Masaryk issue of 1920) were overprinted so late, that they could not reach the plebiscite area by 10 August 1920 and they exist only in mint condition. Examples of Czechoslovak and Polish SO 1920 stamps you can find in Figures 10 + 11.

Figure 14 is a money order for an amount of 3 Crowns (!) sent from Horni Vlckovice (Ober Wölkersdorf, probably part of German state "The German Bohemia Province" at that time) on 27 November 1918 to Opava (Troppau). Opava was at the time capital of the German "Province Sudetenland" situated in Silesia.

Figures 14a and b

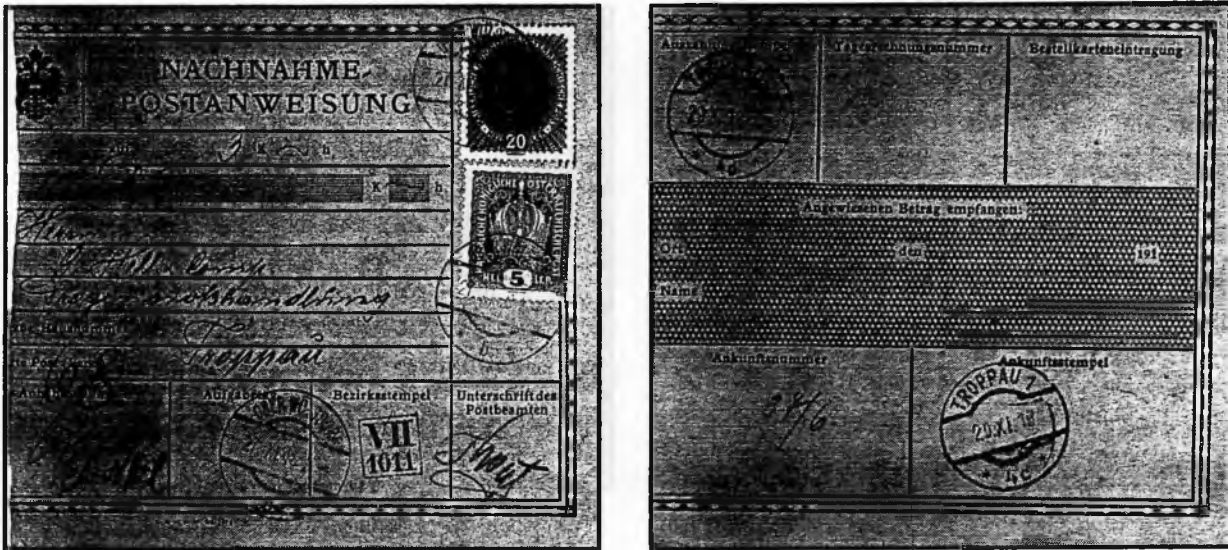
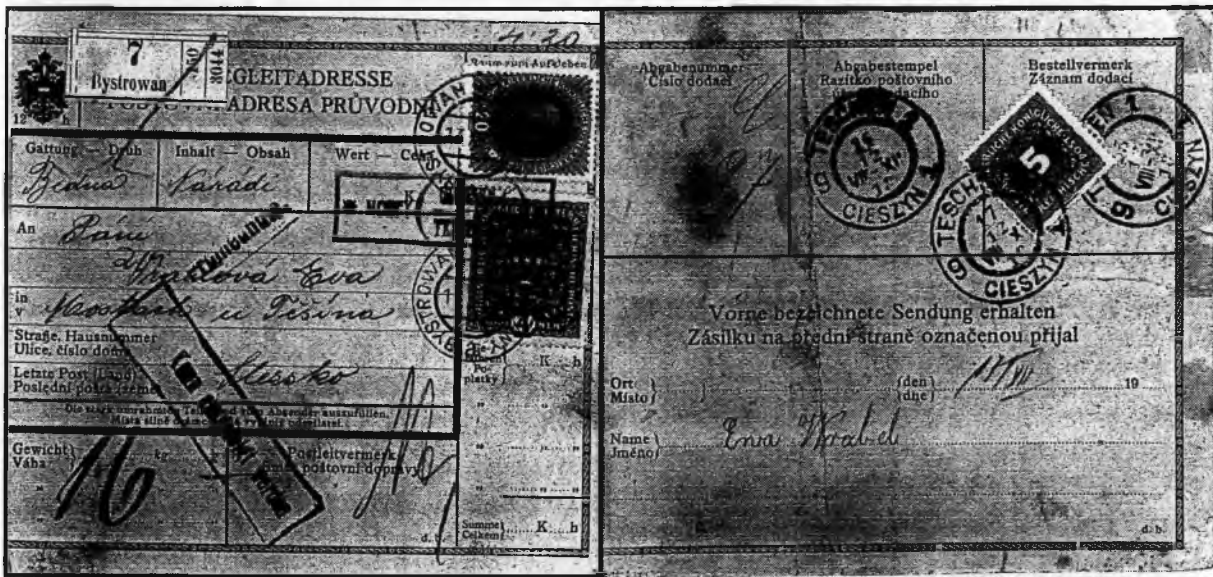


Figure 15 is a parcel dispatch note for a parcel sent from Bystrovany (at that time and now Czechoslovakia) through post office Těšín 1 (at that time and now Poland) to Mosty u Těšína (at that time Poland, now Czechoslovakia) on 13 December 1918. The postage was paid by Austrian definitive stamps (used as preliminary stamps of Czechoslovakia) and on other side you can find the Austrian postage due stamp (as Polish preliminary stamp). Because no post office was located in the village Mosty u Těšína, the parcel was delivered through a contract post office (CPO) - its cancel you can find on the front page of the document. The cancels of CPOs on the parcel dispatch notes are not often to be found. This one bears a cancel "Kann ausgefolgt werden". The cancel was used in old Austrian Monarchy for parcels to show the parcel can be given to the addressee. Because this cancel was used after the fall of the Austrian Monarchy, someone removed the Austrian Eagle and the left part of the cancel remained empty. I believe the cancel was used at post office Těšín 1.

Figures 15a and b



Another example is Figure 16 - money order for 80 Crowns sent from Bohumín (Oderberg / Bogumin) to the village Andělská hora ve Slezsku (Engelsberg, österr. Schles.) on 16 December 1918. Today the money order would be domestic mail, but at that time Bohumín belonged to Poland and Andělská hora was located in Czechoslovakia.

Figures 16a and b

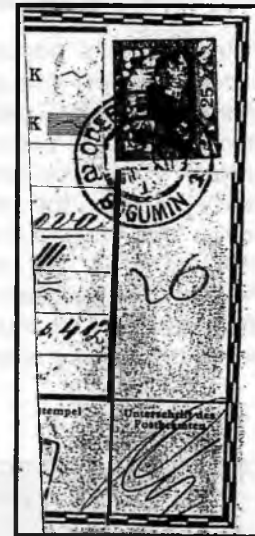


The money order in Figure 17 was sent from Bohumín to Prague on 19 June 1919. You can see the bilingual German - Polish cancel (coming from Austrian Monarchy), however at that time Bohumín was part of Czechoslovakia - see list No. I.

Thanks to the fact, that the Šnejdárk expedition was performed in January and February 1919, the Hradčany (and probably the Czechoslovak postage due) stamps were valid on the occupied Polish territory about one month only!

Until now, we know of two Polish post offices using the Hradčany stamps: the post office Těšín 1 and the post office Ustroń. The Hradčany stamps with the cancels of the two post offices (and if it exists also with other post offices mentioned in the list No. II), from the period 23 January - 25 February 1919 are very rare, because they were valid only for a very short period and we know only small quantity of covers were franked with them.

Figure 17→

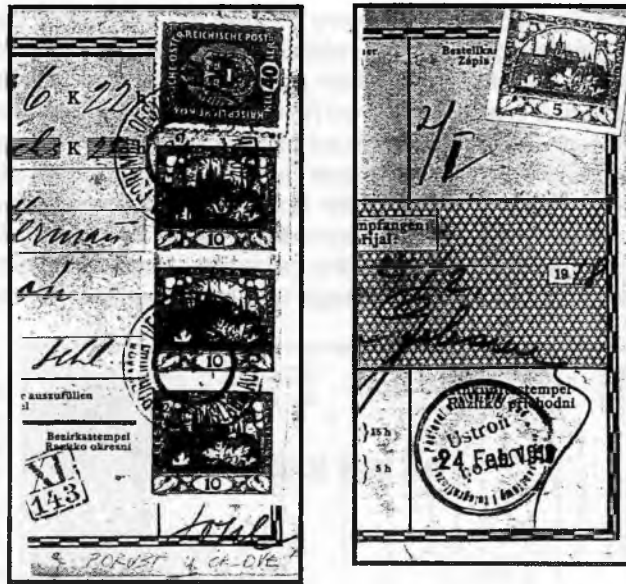


Figures 18a and b

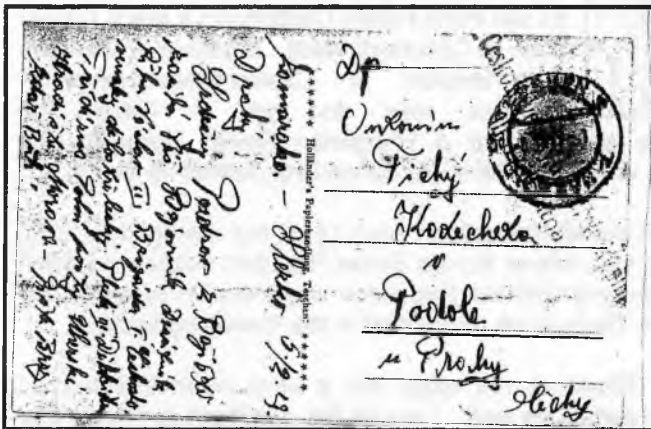
Figure 18 is a money order sent from the occupied territory (post office Těšín 1) on 20 February, 1919 to Kunštát (Kronstadt in Böhmen) franked with the Hradčany stamps and in addition with the Czechoslovak postage due stamp affixed in Kunštát. This is a very interesting franking, because the Czechoslovak postage due stamps were issued for the first time in February 1919 and the postage due stamps or covers with them sent in February 1919 are not often to be found. A mixed franking between Hradčany stamp used on occupied Polish territory and Czechoslovak postage due stamps is very unusual!



Czechoslovak postal officials used, in a few post offices, the Czechoslovak stopgap cancels because the Polish postal employees moved the equipment of the post offices including cancels to Poland before Czechoslovak occupation of the towns. An example is Figure 19. This is the money order sent on 22 February 1919 from Poruba u Orlové (Poremba) in Czechoslovak territory to Ustron situated in the occupied territory. The money order was stamped with a mixed franking of Austrian and Czechoslovak adhesives. It reached Ustron on 24 February - see the stopgap cancel from Ustron.



Figures 19a and b



Now a short review of the correspondence of Czechoslovak soldiers in the Těšín area. ←Figure 20 shows a post card sent by one of the Czech soldiers to Podolí (now in Prague) from the post office Těšín 1 on 5 February 1919. The first very interesting thing is that the cancel bears the letter 5d, which is not mentioned in Votoček's Monograph No. 16, vol. II, page 24. The second interesting thing is the full address of the sender: *II. brigáda I. československý dělostřelecký pluk III. dělobitna třídírna polní pošty Uherské Hradiště Morava*. This card is proof that the field post sorting office served

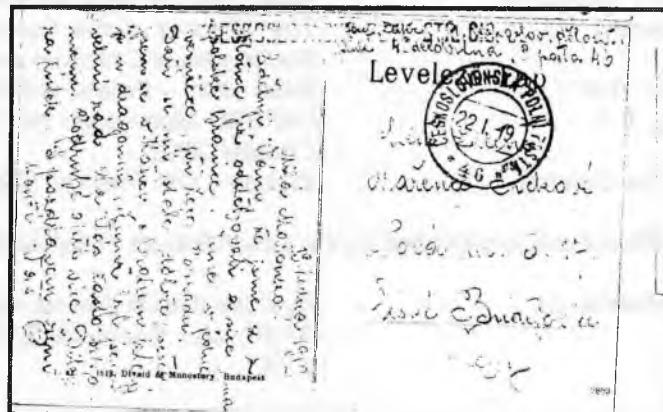
not only the Czechoslovak army in Slovakia, but also the Czechoslovak troops in Silesia.

We have to add, that the majority of correspondence sent by Czechoslovak soldiers from the occupied territory was mailed at Těšín 1 post office; only a small amount was sent through other post offices of the region. There are no special field post cancels for the Czechoslovak troops in Silesia.

Richard Watt mentions in his book, that Czechoslovak troops occupying Těšín area consisted of 15,000 men. Unfortunately, he doesn't mention, where he has found the figure. In my opinion the figure is much overestimated. For comparison I can mention, that the total number of Czechoslovak soldiers and officers serving in the whole of Slovakia amounted to 10,000 men at 31 December 1918 (see page 26 of Brian Day's book).

Figure 21 →

is a postcard sent on 22 January 1919, a day before the start of Šnejdárk's Expedition, through Czechoslovak Field Post to České Budějovice. Its sender was a Czech soldier belonging to a Czechoslovak military unit situated on the Slovak-Polish borders. The name of his unit was *I. československý dělostřelecký pluk IV. dělobitna*. As you can see, this military unit was part of the same regiment as the sender's unit of figure 20's postcard. However in my opinion the IV. Dělobitna didn't take part in the Šnejdárk



expedition, because they were located too far distant from the Eastern Silesia area; the card bears a very interesting message relating to this military action. Here is free translation of its part: *Dear Mařenka, I would like to inform you that we have moved from Košice to the Polish borders. We are now situated in a village at Poprad River.* The remainder of the text is a private message unimportant for us. The message is clear: because of Šnejdár expedition, the Czechoslovak military units moved from all other areas to the territory near the Polish border to be able to defend Czechoslovak territory in case of a Polish attack. I only wonder that censors allowed delivery of the card, when the sender mentions the area he moved to. But by comparing dates 19 January 1919 (on this day the card was written) and 22 January 1919 (on this date the cards was posted at Field Post office) we can deduce, that the censors froze the card until the message was not dangerous for the expedition.



← **Figure 22** Finally this postcard was sent by a Czech soldier serving in Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment No. 93 from Slovak town Nové Zámky (Ersekujvar) early in March 1919. The sender wrote in the message, that they had moved from Silesia to Slovakia and that he posts together with the card, a letter he had written just before his departure from Těšín. The message means, the soldier belonged to a unit operating in the Těšín area, which was as per Paris Peace Conference's result moved back to Czechoslovakia. Because at that time the tension in Czechoslovak-Hungarian relations rose and yet in March the

Communists took over government in Hungary and set up a Hungarian Soviet Republic, the Czechoslovak government immediately moved the units from Silesia to Slovakia to defend its territory.

Czechoslovakia and Romania attacked Hungarian Soviet Republic in April 1919, but during Hungarian counter-offensive important parts of Slovakia were lost, where Slovak Soviet Republic under Hungarian protection was established. The Slovak and Hungarian Soviet Republics were beaten in early July 1919. More detailed information you can find in Mr. Day's book mentioned in the resources section.

As you can see, the postal history of Eastern Silesia is not easy, but a very interesting part of Czechoslovak postal history connected with other events as well. I would like members to find similar philatelic items in their collections and I hope that they will share them with other collectors like Ton Welvaart of the Netherlands, who provided me with very useful information about diplomatic aspects of the theme, did. Thank you, Mr. Welvaart !

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INVASION, POLITICAL PERSECUTION

We publish an extract from Two Years of German Oppression in Czechoslovakia, Chapter 2, pages 29-32, by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Information in 1941, and printed by Unwin Brothers Limited, Woking, UK. We thank Rex Dixon for the loan of this publication and for his suggestion that members might like to see the Terms of the Protectorate.

At the same time [15 March 1939] the German Government provoked riots of the German minorities in certain Czech towns, on which it declared on 14 March that Germany must intervene in Czechoslovakia to restore order, which the Prague Government could not maintain. On 14 March, the President, Dr. Hácha, was summoned to leave immediately for Berlin for an audience with Hitler. As to the course of this audience, at which Hácha's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chvalkovský, also took part, the world public has also been informed from the account of the French Ambassador, Coulondre, in the French Yellow Book. At the moment when Hácha was forced by mental and physical torture to abandon the independence of his country, the German Armies had already marched into Czech territory at various points, so that the occupation of Bohemia and Moravia would have taken place even if Hácha had resisted. His signature was merely intended to add a false semblance of legality to the international crime, which had been committed against the Czechoslovak nation at that moment.

In the early hours of the morning of 15 March, the consent of the Czechoslovak delegates was finally enforced, after which the following declaration was signed by Hitler, Hácha, Ribbentrop and Chvalkovský: "The Führer to-day, in the presence of the Reich Minister for Foreign Affairs, Herr von Ribbentrop, received the Czecho-Slovak President Dr. Hácha, and the Czecho-Slovak Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Chvalkovský, at their request in Berlin. At the meeting the serious situation which had arisen as a result of the events of the past week on what was hitherto Czecho-Slovak territory was closely and frankly examined. Both sides gave expression to their mutual conviction that the aim of all efforts in this part of Central Europe should be the safeguarding of calm, order and peace. The Czecho-Slovak President declared that in order to secure final pacification, he placed the destiny of the Czech people and country with confidence in the hands of the Führer of the German Reich. The Führer accepted this declaration and expressed his determination to take the Czech people under the protection of the German Reich and to guarantee to it an autonomous development of this national life in accordance with its particular characteristics."

Shortly after 9 a.m. on the same day, the first detachments of the German Army entered Prague. On the same evening Hitler arrived in Prague and defiled the historic royal Castle of Prague by spending one night there. It was in this royal Castle, which since 1918 had been the seat of the President of the independent Czechoslovak Republic, that Hitler on 16 March signed the decree "on the Protectorate over Bohemia and Moravia." The text of the decree is as follows:

Terms of Protectorate

Article I. (1) The territories of the former Czechoslovak state occupied by the German troops in March, 1939, belong henceforth to the territory of the Great German Reich, and enter under its protection as the 'Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

(2) In so far as the defence of the Reich demands it, the Führer and Reich Chancellor makes arrangements which diverge from this rule for isolated portions of territory.

Article II. (1) The German inhabitants of the Protectorate become German nationals [*Staatsangehörige*] and, in accordance with the Reich Citizenship Law of 15 September, 1935, Reich citizens (*Reichsbürger*). The regulations for the protection of German blood and German honour therefore hold valid for them. They are subject to German jurisdiction.

(2) The other inhabitants of Bohemia and Moravia become nationals (*Staatsangehörige*) of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Article III. (1) The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia is autonomous and administers itself.

(2) It exercises the prerogatives, which fall to it within the framework of the Protectorate in accordance with the political, military, and economic importance of the Reich.

(3) These prerogatives are exercised through its own organs and its own authorities, with its own officials.

Article IV. The head of the autonomous administration of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia enjoys a protection and the rights of the head of a State. The head of the Protectorate must have the confidence of the Führer and Reich Chancellor for the discharge of his office.

Article V. (1) As the Protector of Reich interests, the Führer and Chancellor appoints a 'Reich Protector in Bohemia and Moravia.' His seat of authority is Prague.

(2) As the representative of the Führer and Reich Chancellor, and as the delegate of the Reich Government, the Reich Protector has the task of seeing that the lines of policy laid down by the Führer and Reich Chancellor are observed.

(3) The members of the Government of the Protectorate are confirmed by the Reich Protector. This confirmation can be withdrawn.

(4) The Reich Protector is authorised to inform himself about all measures taken by the Government of the Protectorate and to give advice. He can object to measures which are calculated to injure the Reich, and when delay seems dangerous can himself take measures necessary in the common interest.

(5) The promulgation of laws, decrees, and other orders, as well as the execution of administrative measures and judicial decisions, is to be stopped when the Reich Protector objects to them.

Article VI. (1) The foreign affairs of the Protectorate, and in particular the protection of State subjects abroad, are managed by the Reich. The Reich will direct foreign affairs in such a way as to consort with the general interest.

(2) The Protectorate is to have a representative accredited to the Reich Government with the official title of 'Minister' (*Gesandte*).

Article VII. (1) The Reich provides for the military defence of the Protectorate.

(2) In carrying out this protection the Reich keeps garrisons and military establishments in the Protectorate.

(3) For the maintenance of internal security and order, the Protectorate can set up its own bodies. Their Organisation, strength, number, and armament are determined by the Reich Government.

Article VIII. The Reich takes direct charge of communications, as well as of the post and telephone system.

Article IX. The Protectorate belongs to the Customs territory of the Reich and is subject to the Reich Customs authority.

Article X. (1) Until further notice the crown will be legal tender along with the mark.

(2) The Reich Government fixes the ratio of each money to the other.

Article XI. (1) In so far as the common interest demands it, the Reich can promulgate orders applicable to the Protectorate.

(2) In so far as there is a common need for it the Reich can take administrative branches into its own administration and set up the requisite Reich authorities.

(3) The Reich Government can take measures necessary for the maintenance of law and order.

Article XII. The law now in force in Bohemia and Moravia remains valid except in so far as it contradicts the spirit of the protection undertaken by the German Reich.

Article XIII. The Reich Minister of the Interior promulgates, in agreement with the other competent Ministers, the legal and administrative rules necessary for the execution and amplification of this proclamation.

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

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: 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

Czechout 1/02: Brian Parker's Austro-Czech Postcard

* Answers awaiting publication

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Society Badges.

Lapel badges with the Dove design as on the front cover of Czechout but in brown and gold are available to members and can be ordered from our past Chairman Robert Kingsley. The cost price is £2 plus 50p for postage and packing. Robert also has a few Society ties for sale at £7.50 each.

Trojan Catalogue

The Society has purchased a few copies of a new catalogue by Jan Klim and Vladimír Schödelbauer "Československo 1918 - 1939" and produced in 2002. This is a comprehensive 624 page catalogue with forerunner material and many postal stationery illustrations as well as stamps and overprints. The text is in Czech but there is a short glossary of English and German philatelic words. The price is £13 plus £3.50 for postage and packing. Please contact Lindy Bosworth.

Reminder - Society's 50th Anniversary Displays.

If you have not yet completed the slip enclosed with June Czechout and returned it to Lindy Bosworth please do not delay any longer. There has been a good response with a wide variety of subjects offered but the more material we have for display to promote Czechoslovak philately (and our Society) the better.

ESSAYS AND LABELS

-J. Barry Horne FRPSL-

Among the many essays and labels that I have acquired, the following examples appear to have been issued "For Blind Soldiers" in 1920. They were designed by Alfons Mucha and are printed by Lithography and Embossing. These labels are in two colours with a value of 10 haléřů. I would be interested to know whether any other members have come across these labels and have any further information concerning this issue for blind servicemen.



Frame red and centre black

Frame brown and centre pale green

STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA; MEDICINAL PLANTS

-Tom Wilson, Pharmaceutical Chemist-

During the years that followed the end of World War II Western medicine became more and more dependent on synthetic medicines produced by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Czechoslovakia however, like other eastern European countries, was reluctant to spend hard currency unless no alternative was possible. For centuries in Europe physicians had relied on medicinal herbs which could be cheaply cultivated on their rich farmlands and the governments of these countries chose to publicize their importance. There are a number of sets of stamps which depict medicinal plants from the Czechoslovak postal service. In addition, the researcher can find other plants depicted which can be said to possess healing properties.

Plant medicines have their dangers as well as their uses. Like any other medicines, they should never be used unless on the recommendation of a qualified practitioner.

In 1945 two series of definitives appeared. The Bratislava designs [SG 403-411] showed a Linden leaf and buds, while the Prague series [SG 412-420] had a Linden leaf and flowers. Linden or Lime Flowers, *Tilia cordata*, made a stimulant tisane. They were and are a popular remedy for indigestion, coughs and to promote sweating for fevers.

A set of four "Natural Resources" from 1956 included "Women gathering grapes" and "- gathering hops" (SG 942/3) Raisins, which are dried grapes (*Vitis vinifera*), are a useful adjunct to the diet; they are demulcent, nutritive, and a mild laxative. Wine from the grape, was for centuries used as a medium for tinctures in the pharmacy. The flower of the Hop, *Humulus lupulus*, is used as a bitter tonic and sedative for insomnia.

A set of five to publicize the Tatra Mountains National Park in 1957, featured Gentian and Edelweiss (SG 995/6). The root of *Gentiana lutea* contains bitter glycosides. It has long been of value as a bitter tonic for debility, and loss of appetite. A favourite liqueur among Central Europeans is Enzian or schnapps, flavoured with gentian. Edelweiss, *Leontopodium alpinum*, is now protected by law. The whole plant was used as a tisane for inflammation of the lungs and intestines. Gentian can also be found on the 20th anniversary set for the Tatra National Park, 1967 SG 1846/7, as well as on SG 1428 SG 1964 SG 1195, SG 1960; SG 2678. Edelweiss occurs on a number of Czech stamps including 1971, SG 1958; it reappears in 1981 on SG 2589, among others.

In 1960 a set of six wild flowers appeared, SG 1191/6. Like most of the Czech flower stamps as well as many others, these were designed in characteristic style by the tireless team of engravers, K. Svolinsky and L. Jirka. All these artists' flower engravings are both exquisite and accurate botanical drawings. The 25h. has *Doronicum clusium*, or Leopards Bane, a tonic for depression. *Cyclamen europaeum* (30h.) is the basis of a homoeopathic liniment. Cyclamen used to be employed for the treatment of rheumatism and gout. Primula on the 40h. has been used as a sedative, expectorant and diuretic. 60h, the juice of the genus *Sempervivum*, the Houseleek or "Hen-and-chickens", has long been a country remedy for warts. The 1k. has Gentian and the 2k. has the Pasque Flower, *Pulsatilla slavica*, which according to Valdimir Vicklicki, "is used for gout, rheumatic pain, wet eczemas, and bronchitis". Other sources declare that it is toxic and irritant.

"Agricultural Produce" is the name of a set of six from 1961, SG 1243-1248 which includes hops and beer and Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and the Cow Clover has tonic properties and is used to treat gastric and intestinal disorders. The other plants in this set are sugar beet, wheat, maize and potatoes.

Another set of engravings of "Flowers", 1964, SG 1424-1429, features Creeping Bellflower, *Campanula*; the flowers have been used as an emetic. Roots of the Musk thistle, *Carlina acaulis*, are tonic and diaphoretic. Wild Succory, *Cichorium intibus*, is a useful herb. It is diuretic, tonic and laxative (see also SG 1983). In addition the root has culinary uses; for example it stretches sugar, increasing its sweetness up to 300 times! The tubers of the Yellow Flag, *Iris palustris*, (see also SG 1540) were formerly widely used in the cosmetic industry for its delicate perfume and as an absorbent dusting powder. In my apprenticeship, I sold sticks of "Orris Root" to mothers for teething babies. Gentian appears here, as well as Red (Flanders) Poppy, *Papaver rheoas*, whose scarlet tincture was used as a colourant for cough syrups and as a sedative for infants. (see also SG 1540)

In 1965 there appeared the first set to be named as "Medicinal Plants (SG 1538-1544), starting with Coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*. A syrup prepared from the flowers was for a long time popular for sore throat and coughs (see also SG 1979). A favourite garden flower is the Autumn Crocus, otherwise known as Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum autumnale*. The seeds and corms, although dangerously toxic, were highly valued for many years as remedies for gout, rheumatism and asthma. Nowadays, synthetic anti-inflammatory drugs have almost entirely displaced colchicum. Colchicum can also be seen on a stamp of a 1967 set SG 1848.

The Flanders Poppy is here again on the 80h value (see SG 1540). The 1k. features Foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*. This was the discovery of an 18th century English physician, William Withering MD, 1741-1799, who had learned from an old Shropshire woman that Foxglove leaves were a secret remedy for dropsy. The leaves of the plant contain digitalis glycosides which are still used today as a heart tonic. Arnica Flowers, *A. montana*, make a tincture which was formerly used for sprains, bruises and swellings. The Cornflower, *Centaurea cyanus*, is the basis of an eye lotion, *eau de casselunette*, a tincture for inflamed eyes. Whilst the autumn fruits of the Dog Rose, *Rosa canina*, are a valuable source of vitamin C, ascorbic acid.

"Botanical Garden Flowers" is the title of a set of seven stamps from 1967 (SG 1675-1681) but is disappointing, none of them having any medicinal uses.

The set that I like best from Czechoslovakia was designed by J Lukavski and L. Jirka for an International Pharmaceutical Congress at Prague in 1971, SG 1979-1984. Each value depicts utensils used in the pharmacy together with a medicinal plant. Considered individually they are 30h, Coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara* and drug canisters labelled with the names of their contents. The 60h value displays Dog Roses and glass drug containers. On the 1k. value we see Spring Adonis, *A. vernalis*, which contains cardiotonic glycosides and hand scales. 1k.20 shows the familiar symbols of pestle and mortar, with Valerian, *V. officinalis*, a nerve depressant used in hysteria and epilepsy. On 1k.80 are shown some crucibles for distilling essences and Succory (see also SG 1426). Finally, on the 2k.40 stamp is a hand grinder for reducing hard substances to coarse powder and Henbane *Hyoscyamus niger*, a narcotic plant used as a sedative and for the relief of pain, also by oculists as a mydriatic to dilate the pupil of the eye.

A Flower Show at Olomouc produced a set of six "Flowers", only two of which I shall mention; SG 2111, the Rose, and SG 2113, Purple Flag, *Iris germanica* (see also SG 1540). A set of notable paintings in 1976 included "Oleander Blossoms" by C. Bouda, SG2314. The leaves of Rose Laurel, *Nerium oleander*, contain oleandrin, a substitute for digitalis in cardiac insufficiency.

The 25th anniversary of the Mountain Rescue Service in Czechoslovakia was recognised with a set of six stamps. They included Bellflower, *Campanula alpina*, *Crocus scepustensis*, Pink Carnation - *Dianthus glacialis*, *Hieracium alpina* and Larkspur, *Delphinium oxyspalum*. *Crocus* contains colchicine, which was used by Arab physicians in the 11th century as the remedy for gout. All parts of the *Dianthus* were used in China for dropsy or irregular menstruation, *hieracium* is used in folk medicine as an astringent, tonic and expectorant. A tincture of the highly poisonous Larkspur is used to eradicate head lice. Bellflower is of no importance in medicine.

Flower Shows at Olomouc and Bratislava are both celebrated on a set of "Flowers" from 1980, SG 2533/6. They consist of African Daisy, *Gerbera jamesonii*; an infusion of the leaf is used by the Sotho a Bantu tribe of southern Africa to dispel intestinal worms and as a remedy for cough. Urn Plant, *Aechmea fasciata*; 1k, is of no importance; neither are Bird of Paradise, *Strelitzia regina*; 2k, and *Paphlopedium*, 4k.

Edelweiss reappears in 1981 on SG 2589 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the International Youth Climb of the Rysy Peaks. Another painting from 1981, "Paeonies" by A.M. Gerasimov, appears on the 4k. value of a set SG 2604. Alkaloids present in the leaves resemble aconitine in their action. Traditionally they are regarded as a tonic in Chinese medicine.

Both fauna and flora are represented on a set of six, "Nature Protection" of 1983. SG 2674 has *Viola sudica*, accompanied by a butterfly. The uses of Violet Flowers as an ingredient of a cough syrup were known to Hippocrates, Dioscorides and the Arab physicians. Water lilies and edible frogs, are on SG 2674. The boiled root of *Nymphaea* species is given for diarrhoea and dysentery (perhaps after eating

those frogs?). Crossbills and pine cones are on SG 2675. Pine trees are an important commercial crop. From them we obtain turpentine and colophony rosin used in liniments; and pine oil which is antiseptic and expectorant. Finally, on SG 2678 there is Gentian with a lynx.

There are four garden flowers on a set of 1990, SG 3013/6. SG 3013 illustrates the Snapdragon, *Antirrhinum majus*. The dried flowers make a cough syrup and the dried leaves were once smoked for bronchitis. On SG 3016 are the magnificent flowers of the Madonna Lily (popular as a bridal bouquet), SG 1979. The bulb is used in some countries as a diuretic and for gout and menstrual irregularity. *Zinnia elegans* and *Tigridia pavonia*, SG 3014/5, are of no medical importance

Glossary:

astrigent	- agent causing contraction of skin etc., lessening secretion
cardiac	- relating to the heart
cardiotonic	-agent that regulates the heart and increases volume of contractions
debility	- abnormal bodily weakness
demulcent	- soothing and protective
diaphoretic	- agent that promotes perspiring
diuretic	- agent that increases the flow of urine and reduces blood pressure
expectorant	- medicine that helps liquefy expel sputum from air passages
emetic	- that which will induce vomiting
glycosides	- a group of physiologically active substances occurring abundantly in plants
homoeopathic	- therapy based on the concept of similarity between disease and remedy
infusion -	- process whereby leaves, flowers etc are steeped in boiling water to extract their active principle
narcotic	- drug that relieves pain and promotes sleep
mydriatic .	- medicine employed to dilate the pupil of the eye
tincture	- solution of a drug in wine or diluted alcohol
tisane	- a tea or infusion
tonic	- a medicine to improve general health

Reference

- 1.] Vicklicki; Vladimir, *Public Health on Czechoslovak Philatelic Material*, Prague 1971
- 2.] Chiej, Roberto, *Encyclopaedia of Medicinal Plants*, Macdonald London, 1984
- 3.] Bluefarb, Samuel L. BS, MD, *Medicinal Plants on Stamps*, Chicago 1996

Prague 1871: International Pharmacy Conference



30h, Tussilago Farfara,
Drugs Canisters



60h, Rosa Canina, Glass
and Ceramic Containers



1Kčs, Adonis Vernalis,
Hand scales, Wooden spoon



1.20Kčs, Valeriana
Officinalis; Metal Mortars



1.80Kčs, Cichorium
Intybus; Alembics



2.40Kčs, Hyoscyamus Niger
Hand Grinder, Mortar

**Medicinal Plants - Czechoslovakia 1965
(Designs by K.Svolinsky and LJirka)**



Coltsfoot - Leaf is used
As a bronchial sedative



Meadow Saffron (toxic)
prescribed for Gout



Common Poppy -
petals are a cough
sedative



Foxglove (toxic)
Prescribed as a
heart tonic



Arnica (toxic)
Homoeopathic
treatment for bruises
inflammation



Cornflower - eye
lotion from the
flowers for
conjunctivitis



Dog Rose - astringent
lotion made from
petals - fruits yield
ascorbic acid

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 Geoff Fuller's Hradčany 1h Grey colour in Czechout 2/01 page 48

Robin Upton: With regard to the Grey colour changeling of the 1h Brown Hradčany, out of the copies of the 1h that I have, in amongst the imperf, perf, local perfs, used, mint, and CTO, there is one imperforate copy that is "used", I suspect CTO as it has a quarter of the postmark, being of a deep reddish brown shade, no gum, no greying but has the red colour bleed through to the back and some pinkish wash on the face. The second stamp is a 1h Grey. This stamp is perforated 14x13.5 and has a CTO cancel, on the reverse is some paper adhesion and a hinge remainder, but what is interesting is that it has never been immersed in water and has no bleed through. This stamp still retains some original gum; the paper seems softer than most other of the 1h stamps I have.



Re Bob Hill's Crash Airmail Cover in Czechout 2/2002 page 48

Three replies have been received.

From Tom Cossaboom: I believe your cover is addressed to Bystra p. Rybnitz u. Jezerou. This is the location you refer to west of Vrchlabi.

From John Whiteside: The destination of the cover is indeed Rybnice west of Vrchlabi. The full address reads something like v Bystré, p Rybnitz, u Semil (y)? This is probably, therefore, to be read as: at Bystré (nad Jizerou) post Rybnice near Semily. The writing is rather odd and may be written by someone who normally uses Cyrillic, although that above is a little unusual, but very clear. I think ÚLOŽNA means literally put-on in this case - so put-on by the post office at Prague. The effect is that of closing or sealing, but I think other words should be used for these terms.

From Lubor Kunc: I am no air mail expert, but I have tried to find some information about the illustrated cover. Thanks to kindness of Bob Hill I was allowed to see the original, and my answers to the questions are as follows:

1) The final destination was not Rybnice/Ryblitz, but a small village Bystra. The full address written on the cover means 'Mr. Otakar Krupka, in Bystra, last post office Rybnitz near Semily'. The Bystra village was so small, that no post office was located in it and the correspondence was delivered via Rybnice post office (founded in 1910). When I was looking for a Bystra near town Semily, I also found a village Bystra / Jizerou (still having no own post office) - see map overleaf.

2) The route Prague - Moscow was organized as per Mr. Horka's book 'Cs. letecka posta 1918-1939' (published by Trojan in 1997): Praha (CZ) - Uzghorod (CZ) - Kluz (Romania) - Jassy (Romania) - Kyjev (Ukraine) - Briansk (Russia) - Moscow (Russia). For more information about the route as well as picture of the airplane used for it you can find on pages 122-123 + 143 of the book. On page 171 Mr. Horka states, that transportation of mail is expected - he believed that it exists, but he has never seen it!

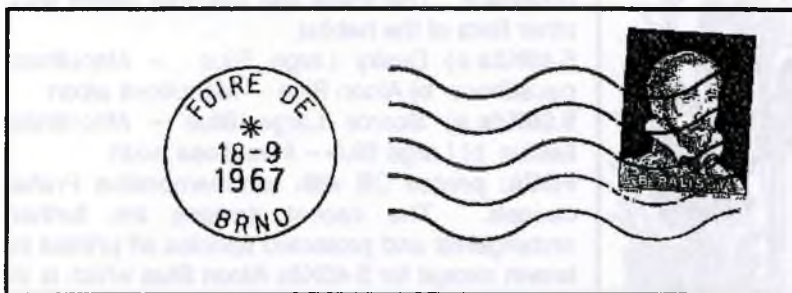


3) The 'Postovní uložna' means postal depot. It was a special branch of postal administration (only one for whole country, at that time in Prague, now in Brno) caring for 'dead letters' - letters, where addressee was unknown and the senders didn't mention their address on the envelope. In the 'uložna' such letters were officially opened to see, if the sender could be found. In such cases the letters were returned. If not, the letters were stored and destroyed there.

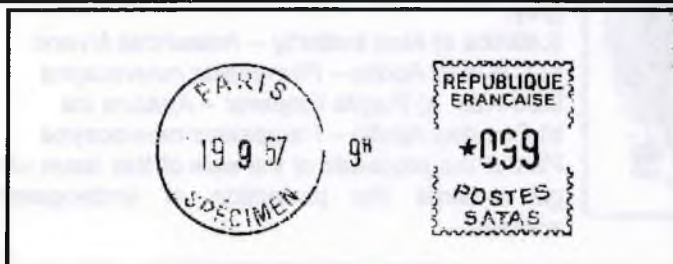
←
4) The text written on the envelope is very hard to read. It has been written in Czech language, so it was not made in Romania immediately after the crash, but later when the saved letter was transported to Czechoslovakia. In my reading the text is as follows: 'Poskozeno po požaru / ve vlaku dne.' = Damaged by a fire / in the train on (date is missing). This remark makes the situation unclear - could be the letter was not damaged during the air plane crash, but probably later, when it was transported from Romania to Prague or from Prague's postal depot to the addressee in Bystra near Semily.

There is a question posed, if the letter was sent from Romania to Prague, because it was damaged and it should be 'repaired' in "postovní uložna"; or if by the air crash undamaged letters were sent to Prague, because the International Mail Section of Czechoslovak Postal Administration (post office Praha 7) was located there. Then from Prague it was transported to Rybnice near Semily by train, but because of a railway accident damaging the letter it was returned to Prague for the 'postovní uložna' and after "repair" sent again to Rybnice. However, I am not in position to say, what is the right reason for these remarks, it should be explained by better experts.

One New Query



From Bob Hill: The front of this specimen cover contains an illustration depicting a design or essay of a portrait entitled B. Palissy. This cancelled in black. In the bottom row on the left is the name of the designer? A. Frères, and to the right is the wording d'apres Larousse.



On the reverse of the envelope is this Paris Meter mark cancellation, with the word "Specimen" at the bottom of the circular date cancel.

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

19.06.2002

Czechs for Europe: Master Jan Hus.



Designer: Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 25 stamps and 25 labels. Stamp design and label size 23x 30mm (each).

Design: stamp – portrait of Jan Hus with his name and birth/death dates.

Label – symbolic drawing representing the bravery, resolution and martyrdom of Hus. Jan Hus (c. 1371 – 6.7.1415) was a clergyman, reformer of the Christian Church and vice-chancellor of Charles University, Prague. He was accused of heresy and burnt at the stake which strengthened the revolutionary movement against the influence of the Holy Roman Empire.

FDC. Printed DS in brown with commemorative Husinec cancel. The cachet drawing is an outstretched pair of hands with the initials J.H. and flames rising above.

19.06.2002

WWF – Nature Conservation: Endangered Butterflies.



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek
Engraver: Martin Srb **Printing:** two coloured recess from flat plates in green and brown-black combined with multi-coloured offset in sheets of 4 stamps and 4 labels. Picture size of stamps 40 x 23mm, 2 labels 40 x 23mm and 2 labels 19 x 23mm. Sheet size 108 x 165mm.

Designs: Various endangered butterfly species. Each stamp has the WWF logo – the giant panda and this is also on the right hand lower corner of the sheet. Each stamp shows a pair of butterflies seen from above and the labels show the given species from the underside. The sheet has the host plants with other flora of the habitat.

5.40Kčs. a) Dusky Large Blue – *Maculinea nausithous* b) Alcon Blue – *Maculinea alcon*
9.00Kčs. a) Scarce Large Blue – *Maculinea teleius* b) Large Blue – *Maculinea arion*

FDCs: printed DS with commemorative Praha cancels. The cachet designs are further endangered and protected species all printed in brown except for 5.40Kčs Alcon Blue which is in grey.

5.40Kčs a) Map butterfly – *Araschiria levana*.
b) Clouded Apollo – *Pamassius mnemosyne*
9.00 Kčs a) Purple Emperor – *Apatura iris*
b) Clouded Apollo – *Pamassius mnemosyne*
Part of the proceeds of the sale of this issue will go towards the protection of endangered species.

26.06.2002 Zvíkov Castle Definitive, self-adhesive for sale by vending machines.

Designer: Karel Beneš **Printing:** Multi-coloured flexography in rolls of 1000 pieces, size 40 x 25mm.
Design: View of Zvíkov Castle. The stamp has a right and left hand white strip for the printing of the face value according to the customer's requirements. Denominations available: 5.40, 8.00, 9.00, 12.00, 14.00, 16.00, 17.00, 20.00, 21.00, 23.00, 25.00, 26.00 and 30.00 Kč. The vending machines, made by the firm Amiel Electronique, will accept bank notes and coins and print the value of the value required. The stamp will be catalogued as Au 2.

Postal Stationery**Commemorative Postcards**

19.06.2002. European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005. **Designer:** Karel Dvořák **Printing:** Multi-coloured offset. **Design:** the imprinted 5.40Kčs stamp is the Brno dragon, the 14th century coat of arms and the inscription "Brno." The cachet shows the processing of grapes based on a woodcut from a calendar of 1604 and the logo of the Brno 2005 Exhibition with the text in Czech "European Postage Stamp Exhibition." The card retails at 10.40Kčs.

19.06.2002. European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005. **Designer:** Karel Dvořák **Printing:** Multicoloured offset. **Design:** the imprinted 9Kč stamp is the Brno dragon, the 14th century coat of arms and the inscription "Brno." The cachet taken from a breviary of 1356 shows a worker gathering grapes and the logo of the Brno 2005 Exhibition with the text in Czech "European Postage Stamp Exhibition." The card retails at 14Kčs.

19.06.2002 Centenary of the Birth of Priest Josef Toufar. **Designer:** Jiří Rathouský **Printing:** Multicoloured offset **Design:** the imprinted 5.40Kčs stamp has a portrait of the priest and the text "Josef Toufar 1902 – 1950." Toufar was active in Čihošť near Ledec nad Sázavou where the State Police stage managed a "miracle" in 1949 to discredit the Catholic Church. In January 1950 Toufar was arrested and died a month later as a result of his treatment. Further trials of Church dignitaries and the liquidation of monastic orders followed. The cachet design is a symbolic drawing expressing the movement of a crucifix, the Čihošť church and the text in Czech "Centenary of the birth of Priest Josef Toufar, Martyr of Anti-church Repression." The card retails at 10.40Kčs.

Promotional Cards.

29.03.2002 750th year Chomutov. Card has a 5.40Kč imprinted stamp. The promotional portion has outline drawings in brown of buildings and in maroon the town coat of arms with the figure of a knight on horseback. A commemorative Chomutov cancel was used.

04.04.2002. 14th International Stamp Fair with Telephone Cards, Essen. Card has a 9Kč imprinted stamp. The promotional part has an early 20th century postman in uniform with his letter bag and various texts promoting the Fair.

Slovakia**18.4.2002****Definitive – Levoča**

Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský **Printing:** RD, stamp size 19 x 23mm. FDC printed offset by Knihtlač Gerthofer, Zohor.

Design: Gothic and Renaissance buildings of the town with the coat of arms. Levoča was founded around 1245 on the foundations of earlier Slavonic settlements. A disastrous fire broke out in 1550 and the old Gothic town was rebuilt in the Renaissance style. The town was important as a long distance trade route and a centre for arts and crafts. It is an administrative centre and has recently become a tourist centre in the Spiš region.
FDC: printed DS in grey-blue with commemorative Levoča cancel. The cachet design is the town's coat of arms and motto.

06.05.2002

Definitive – Kežmarok.

Designer and Engraver: František Horniak **Printing:** RD, stamp size 19 x 23mm.
FDC printed offset by Knihtlač Gerthofer, Zohor.

Design: The Town Hall building and the coat of arms. The earliest written record of the town dates from 1251 and it was granted town privileges in 1269. During the 15th century it became a Free Royal Town. Today Kežmarok is one of 17 urban reservations in Slovakia, an administrative centre for the district and a tourist centre.

FDC: printed DS in brown with a commemorative Kežmarok cancel. The cachet design is a detail of the Thököly Castle.

06.05.2002

Europa Issue – The Circus

Designer: Martin Činovsky from original artwork of Emil Bačik (1929-1999).
Engraver: Rudolf Ciganik. **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8 with central gutter. Stamp size 23 x 40mm.

Design: Clown with Trumpet from the original 1990 artwork of Emil Bačik. The central gutter design is a line drawing of a clown with an accordion and the cancellation motif is a further line drawing from the artist's work of a clown with a violin.

FDC: printed RD in black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a drawing of a clown holding a dove.
 A maxi card was also issued.

24.06.2002

Technical Monuments: Winemaking.

Designer: Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS, stamp size 40 x 23mm, coupon size 19 x 23mm.

Designs: 7Sk. Old winemaking implements for laying down wine including a large wine cask. The designs were based on exhibits and woodcuts from the Museum. The coupon shows four winemakers' labels.

FDC: printed RD in brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet has the statue of a bishop in front of a vineyard with the outline of a town in the background.

9Sk. Based on Museum exhibits and old prints. The stamp shows an old wooden wine press with two workers and in the background a bunch of grapes. The coupon has 4 circular motifs with workers involved in various kinds of activities associated with producing wine.

FDC: printed RD in grey with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing has vineyards surrounding a town and a humorous drawing of a wine drinker astride a cask.

The issue commemorates the 27th World Congress of Vine and Wine held in Bratislava.

26.06.2002

Nature Conservation – Butterflies.



Designer: Karol Felix **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik.
Printing: Recess from flat plates with offset in sheets of 3 se tenant pairs of stamp and coupon. The sheet has a large lower marginal coupon. Stamp size 40 x 23mm.

Designs: 10Sk – *Zerynthia polyxena* - Southern Festoon. Coupon: *Vanessa atalanta* – Red Admiral.

16Sk – *Inachis io* – Peacock. Coupon: *Aglais urticae* – Small Tortoiseshell.

25Sk – *Papilio machaon* – Swallowtail. Coupon: *Apatura ilia* – Lesser Purple Emperor.

Lower coupon: *Arachnia levana* – Map Butterfly.

Polyommatus icarus – Common Blue.

Vanessa cardui – Painted Lady.

Argynis paphia – Silver-washed Fritillary.

Charaxes jasius - ?

Lycaena phlaeas – Small Copper.

FDCs: Printed RD with commemorative Bratislava cancels. The cachet drawings are further protected species of butterfly or moth.

10Sk. – in grey-green, *Eudia pavonia* - ?

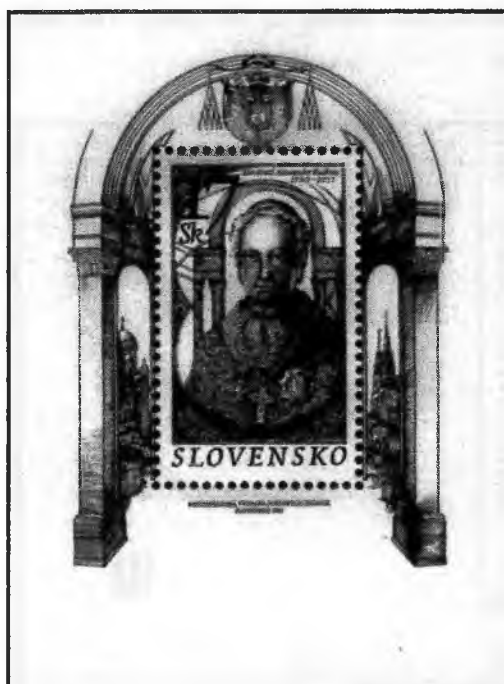
16Sk. – in brown, *Melitaea didyma* – Spotted Fritillary.

25Sk. – in blue, *Pontia daplidice* – Bath White.

Maxi cards (3) were issued.

04.07.2002

Cardinal Alexander Rudnay.



Designer: Prof. Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** RD in sheetlet form, stamp size 23 x 40mm. Sheetlet – 81 x 107mm.

Design: portrait of the cardinal with birth/death dates (1760-1831). The stamp is surrounded by a church arch with two windows giving views of buildings. Below the stamp in small lettering, in Slovak, is the text "International Stamp Exhibition Slovakia 2002."

Cardinal Rudnay was born in Svätý Križ nad Váhom on 4.10.1760 and studied in various places in Slovakia including the General Seminary, Bratislava. After several parochial assignments he became a canon at Esztergom in 1805. From 1828 he was the Hungarian Primate and Cardinal. He was a supporter of the Slovak national movement and dedicated himself to improve the church educational system.

FDC: printed RD by TAB Ltd., Bratislava.

04.07.2002

Congratulations – with Personalised Coupon.

Designer: Alexej Vojtášek **Engraver:** Václav Fajt
Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess. Stamp size 42 x 26mm, coupon size 21 x 26mm. Two printings were made a) for the Exhibition "Slovakia 2002" with logo on the coupon b) with blank coupons in sheets of 12 stamps and 12 coupons.

Design: two white doves surrounded by roses and flowers. The printed coupon, in blue, has a herald with trumpet above a rose. The lower design is the logo of the stamp Exhibition – Slovenska 2002. The blank coupons could be personalised at the Exhibition from July 4 to 10 and thereafter by application at certain post offices or the Technical Centre of Posts, Bratislava.

FDC: printed DS.

04.07.2002

World Ice Hockey Champion 2002.

Designer: Ivan Schurman **Typography and Drawing:** Martin Činovský
Engraver: František Horniak **Printing:** RD. Stamp size 42 x 26mm.

Design: a triumphant ice hockey player holding the Slovak flag above his head and two hands holding the winners trophy with the text in Slovak "Winners – World Ice Hockey 2002." The Championships were held in Gothenburg, Sweden from 26 April to 11 May 2002.

FDC: printed offset by Kníhtlač Gerthofer, Zohor.

Postal Stationery.**Promotional Postcards.**

The following cards have an imprinted 5.50Sk stamp design of a cycling postman. Issue dates are unknown.

66th World Ice Hockey Championships Gothenburg, Sweden 2002. Issued to commemorate the Slovak Ice Hockey Team as winners. The cachet design shows the Slovak team holding the trophy in the air with the logos of the Slovak team and the 2002 World Championship. Above the cachet is the text in Slovak "Slovakia World Champions." Below is a further text relating to the event. The card retails at 8.30 Sk.

10th Anniversary of the Association of Christian Philatelists in Slovakia. Issued to mark a meeting at Rajecké Teplice on 17-18 May 2002. The cachet is a large "10" in blue with an angel and the arms of Slovakia. The texts, in Slovak, promoting the event include "Archangel Gabriel – patron of the post and philately." The card retails at 8.30Sk.

