



CZECHOUT

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Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

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NOTES

We would draw members' attention to the fact that this year is the **50th Anniversary of this Society**, and the display to the **Royal Philatelic Society London** will be 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. There will be an official opening ceremony of the Exhibition by the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors at 6.30pm on Thursday 22 May followed by a reception hosted by the Embassy. **We hope as many of our members as possible will attend.** 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. On 28 June Midpex will be held at Coventry – all the usual specialist societies will be present. Hope to see you there.

The Society's **country meeting** will be on **Saturday 21 June**. **Brian Day's** home in Sittingbourne will be the venue and members' displays and the new "small room auction" limited to 100 lots will be held. Betty Day will supply lunch at 12.30pm, and a carvery has been booked for 5.30pm. Sittingbourne is about one hour's drive from London and Brian **needs early notice** of members [and any guests] attending and their eating requirements, by telephone on 01795 842678, when he will supply directions by post, including the nearest railway station for those coming by train. Would members please **NOTE** a change in the programme card. The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place as usual on **Saturday 1 November** at 11am, followed by a display by **Keith Tranmer** on **Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in the Austrian period** at 2.30pm. The auction will now be a postal one only.

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

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting held Saturday 11 January 2003

The Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 24 members and two visitors to the meeting. Apologies had been received from four members. She particularly welcomed Colin Wilder, a new member at his first meeting.

She reported on the awards received by Messrs Beith, Day and Spong at CHESTER 2002, and she presented them with their certificates. [Their medals were presented at the March meeting - see June *Czechout*.]

The Hon Secretary gave details of five prospective new members:

Dr Helmut Kobelbauer	From Sinabelkirchen, Austria
Christopher Dent	From Burnley
David Christopher Moss	From Meols, Wirral
Mike Payne	From Abingdon
Brian Concannon	From Whitwick, Leics.

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Lindy then called upon **Mervyn Benford** to display his *Hungarian Miscellany*. Mervyn started by telling the assembled crowd that members of our Society are such "happy people." He then thanked John Whiteside FRPSL for his input of knowledge. The first theme displayed was the city of Kassa (Košice) through the years. He progressed to a wide range of *Visszatért* material from the towns and villages returned to Hungary in 1938 and 1939, including the provisional numeral cancellers. The final part of the first half was devoted to Hungarian TPOs and other railway material from the areas of Slovakia and the Carpatho-Ukraine.

The second half started with the inflation period after World War I, which Mervyn considered to be more interesting than the hyperinflation after World War II. He pointed out the complexities caused by not all the rates changing at the same time, and by official mail being cheaper. Finally we were enthralled by a large selection from Mervyn's award-winning collection showing the wide range of possible uses of Hungarian postage dues.

Roger Morrell, a member of the Hungarian PS of GB as well as of the CPSGB, gave the vote of thanks. Roger congratulated Mervyn on his eloquent presentation of excellent material presented from a Hungarian point of view. He had covered a wide variety of themes from the next door neighbour.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.40 pm.

Auction News

David Woodhouse is now the proud custodian of the Society's Compact Disc Writer; this will enable the Society to scan more auction images. Our thanks to David for performing this tedious task and to **Ian Nickson** our Webmaster who ties them up to the auction catalogue. The Auction dates for 2003 are as follows: 26 April postal auction; 21 June small room auction at Sittingbourne; 26 July postal auction; 13 September small room auction at Leeds philatelic weekend; and 7 November postal auction.

Bob Hill

Congratulations

The annual Founders Award of The Collectors of Religion on Stamps [COROS] has been awarded to the **Czech Republic** in view of the consistent array of superlative postal issues containing religious themes emanating from the Department of Transportation and Communications in Prague. This is the first time that this award has been bestowed on a nation rather than an individual as on previous occasions. The Founders Award was established in 2000 by the oldest topical [thematic] stamp association in the United States.

To **Barry Horne** who has been nominated for a Rowland Hill Award, the ceremony to take place at the Drapers Hall, London on 18 March; to **Jan Karasek** who has been awarded the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie [FIP] Medal for Research; and to **Chad Neighbour** who has been elected to the Presidency of the Scottish PS next year.

>

Letters to the Editor

☒ **Yvonne Wheatley** writes: The Cumulative Index is in the course of preparation. When the last one appeared in 1997 all the references were checked. Even so it does not mean it is error free. The same database will be used and it will not be checked again. If you have noticed an error please let me know so it can be corrected. There will be some amendments to the listings. Again I would like to know if you have had difficulty in tracking down an item. I can then consider moving it to another heading.

☒ **Robert Kingsley** writes regarding the **floods in Czech and Slovak Republics**: A letter of thanks has been received from Dr. Pavel Čtvrtník, the Director of the Prague Postal Museum, thanking the Society for their donation towards the cost of repairs following the catastrophic floods.

☒ **Bob Hill** writes on **newly discovered Hradčany subtypes**: Recently a member asked me to contact a vendor concerning the above phrase. With the skill and expertise with which my name is synonymous I regret to say I have lost the original query from the buyer. The phrase refers to information privately published about ten years ago and it has only been shown in catalogues within the last three years. Given the foregoing and the time delay between the lots being submitted for auction and their actually being offered I am happy that the above phrase is correct.

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.

BRNO 2005

The dates for the European Postage Stamp Exhibition to be held in the Brno exhibition grounds will be from 10 to 15 May 2005. It will be a general exhibition in all exhibition classes including literature. The application forms will be available later this year. How do I know this? I have been appointed the UK Commissioner. Anyone interested in entering can request the details from me – Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW Tel: 0113 2601978 e-mail randy5@tinyworld.co.uk

Members and partners who are interested to join a party to visit Brno and the Exhibition please advise George Firmage, 4 Morley Court, Sydney Road, London N10 2RJ. Tel: 0208 4444467.

Publications

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

- The Spring 2003 issue of *Austria* No. 141. The articles include:
 - ▶ New Time-Zone cancellations (White); CPSGB 50th Anniversary; Proposed 2003 issues & rates; Postal Communications between Imperial Austria & the Kingdom of Sardinia between 1.1.1854-30.9.1867 [Part 2] (Cedolini).
- The December 2002 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 33, Whole Nos. 134 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Types of paper used for Czechoslovak stamps from 1954 to 1985 (Wilhelms); The Official Envelopes for sending money issued by the Austrian Post Office (Hochleutner/Pollak); Rulers and Heads of State who determined the fate of the town of Olomouc (Giebel); The commemorative sheets produced for those who took part in the poll for the most beautiful Czechoslovak stamps (Winkelbauer/Müller); Combined German-Czech issue on Maximum Cards "river pearl mussel" (Hiller).
- v The Nov/Dec 2002 and Jan/Feb 2003 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 64/65, Nos. 6 & 1, Whole Nos. 576/577. The articles include:
 - ▶ Forgery an Amazing Find? (Wilson); French Overprint, ČSR Zaharanični POŠTA 1944 (Holoubek); The Invalidovna Building (Kunc); The Macha Region and Karel Hynek Macha (van

Zebten); Joint Issues (Ruzicka); Amphilex 2002 – for Europeans Only? (Hahn); Explore Slovakia through Stamps (Garancovsky); Wars, Field Post Offices and Czechoslovaks (Kunc).

- ▶ The Sudetenland Saga (Kuhn); Wars, Field Post Offices and Czechoslovakia – Epilogue 1 (Kunc, Cossaboom, von der Heydt); Considering the First USA–Czech Republic Joint Stamp Issue (Ruzicka).
- The 12/2002 and 1/2003 issues of *Filatelie*, Vols. 52/53. The articles include:
 - ▶ West Bohemian Railway and Railway Post (Špaček); Commemorative Apost Labels (Langhammer); Plate Errors on Czech Stamps in the second half of 2001 (Brožová & Zedník).
 - ▶ Postal Museum to open soon after the August flood (Čtvrtník); Czechoslovak and Czech Mobile Post Offices since 1945 [1] (Horák, Bulant & Švehla); Postage Due in the Protectorate Bohemia & Moravia [1939-1945] (Bláha).
- The 5 & 6/2002 issues of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Legionnaire stamps 1919 (Stupka); Czechoslovak mis-valued stamps, cont. (Karásek); Hradčany – counterfeited perforation (Karásek); History of the London issue, conclusion (Fischer).
 - ▶ Hradčany issue 20h (Hamr); Legion issue – 50h (Maleček); Dove issue (Stupka); Stamps of Czechoslovak Legion in Russia (Vostatek); Liberated Republic issue – 30h value (Kašparovi); Hradčany issue – perfins (Piša).
- The March 2003 issues of *Stamps of Hungary* No. 152. The articles include:
 - ▶ Some more Bits & Pieces from 1938 [including a Visszatért period card allowing use of Czech stamps for a limited period] (Frost); 50th Anniversary of the CPSGB announcement.



BOOK REVIEWS

Historical Development of the Names in Czech Post Offices (*Historický vývoj názvů pošt v českých zemích*), Monograph of Czechoslovak and Czech stamps, Vol. 20 by Jiří Kratochvíl. Published by POFIS in co-operation with Czech Post, the Czech Postal Museum and the Union of Czech Philatelists. Hard cover, 212 pages, published 2002, ISBN 80-86405-07-09, price approx. £9.50 + postage. [448Kč]

The book provides a complete list of all working post offices in the present Czech countries, in their historical development i.e. from the oldest times to the end of 2001. Part I (Directory of Post Offices) is an alphabetical list of all post offices with the historical development of their names. Given are exact dates of changes and also an abbreviation of the district for easier location on a map. Part II (Index) is a list of all names used. The index enables one to find any name easily in Part I. There are also three appendices: Special Post Offices (Temporary, Seasonal, Customs etc.); dates about resettlement of post offices into another district; and places with several different post offices. There are also several photographs of old post buildings and notice boards.

The book is very well arranged and easy to understand without knowledge of the Czech language. Several Czech expressions used are translated into English in a brief summary (such as "discontinued," "closed"). The book will certainly be very useful for collectors specialising in postal history. The quantity of facts is admirable and the author had to work hard for many years and spend a lot of time in the Postal Museum.

Dr Jan Dobrovolný

Steam and Rail in Slovakia by Paul Catchpole. A Locomotives International Publication. Published 1998 by Paul Catchpole Ltd, Kings Norton, Birmingham, England. Printed & bound by Neografia, Martin, Slovakia. Paperback, 72pp. Illustrated laminated cover. ISBN 1-900340-08-9, price £12.99 net.

I was taking some people around the National Railway Museum at York and noticed on the bookshelves *Steam and Rail in Slovakia*. There are 72 pages mainly aimed at the railway buff but containing railway maps, many black and white photographs and some interesting information. I was informed by such items as *The Hungarian North-Eastern Railway* and *The First Hungarian Galician Railway*. There is also much, more up to date, information. Quite good stuff. Robert J Hill >

I was so taken with Bob's review that my immediate reaction was to go and order a copy, which duly arrived a day or so ago. I was intrigued by the history of the early railways in Slovakia and the chapter on *The Avt-Austro-Hungarian State Railways* as well as the *Czechoslovakian State Railways* and also the present day administration. It has presented me with the desire to concentrate on this aspect of Slovak TPO mail. But where do I now find the material?

Colin W Spong

Philatelic Diary 2003 (Filatelistický Diář 2003), by Vladimír Schodelbauer. Merkur-Revue Publishing House, Brno, Czech Republic.

This 4¼ x 6, 192 page booklet is much, much more than its title would seem to indicate [it is in Czech, however, see the listing for p.139-148 below.] Inside the front cover are listed the Czech Republic national and international postal rates for 2002.

- p3-12 - alphabetical space for names/addresses/phone numbers/e-mail addresses
- p13-15 - calendars for 2002,2003,2004
- p16 tables and an algorithm for determining what day of the week any date was or will be from 1801 to 2008
- p17-18 - alphabetical list of name day holidays
- p19-84 - diary [one week per page] beginning 28 October 2002 until 1 February 2004 that includes significant holidays and historical philatelic events
- p87-107 Svaz Českých Filatelistů (Union of Czech Philatelists) - gives the purpose, benefits, history, officers names/addresses, committee chairman names/addresses, [3 pages], names/addresses of members by regions of the country [13 pages], names/addresses of points of contacts of 28 sub societies of the Svaz [one page], names/addresses of 28 experts in various speciality areas by country periods [2 pages], names/addresses Svaz juryman and their speciality area [one page], names/dates/locations of selected national and European international philatelic exhibitions for 2003-2005 [one page].
- p109-111 stamp bourses and exchange meetings by day of the week/city/address
- p113-117 address/web site/e-mail address of stamp issuing authorities for 54 European countries and 21 other world countries
- p118-119 name/addresses of 67 post offices that have philatelic counters in the CR
- p120 names/addresses of 20 places/people that sell Czech stamps in 13 foreign countries
- p121-122 Czech stamp issue plans for 2002 and 2003
- p123-131 Czech and Slovak stamp dealers of the major cities and regions giving all the possible details about them, what they sell, their services, hours etc
- p132-133 the 12 major auctions of philatelic material giving all the details about them
- p135-138 listing and details of the 6 major Czech and Slovak philatelic publications plus 3 foreign ones [Czechout, Czech Specialist and the ArGe publication]
- p139-148 translation dictionary of 400 Czech philatelic terms into German, English and French
- p149-155 113 selected Czech philatelic terms defined (in Czech)
- p157-163 postal rates for the following periods - Austro-Hungary 1850-1918; Czechoslovakia 1918-1939; Protectorate 1939-1945; Czechoslovakia 1945-1992; Czech Republic 1993-2002
- p165-168 periods of validity [date of original issue and end date of validity] of individual stamps used on Czechoslovak territory from Austria 1850/Hungary 1867 to Czech Republic 2002
- p169-171 philatelic significant historical dates
- p173 perforation and metric gauges
- p174-188 aids for collectors-including illustrations of the 8 possible perforated Hradčany stamps and their category uses, illustrations of the minimum border requirements for an imperforate Hradčany stamp, illustrations of how to identify the difference between row, comb, and border perforations, category uses and perforation varieties of the early issues until 1928, illustrations of the Czechoslovak, Austrian and Hungarian watermarks and the stamps that they can be found on, illustrations of the various spiral, bar and border types of the Hradčany stamps and possible joined types; illustrations and tables of the various 1925 T.G.Masaryk stamp types; illustrations of the various types of the 1st Republic stamps

As you can see this booklet is just crammed with a wealth of information. Although the initial allotment of booklets has already sold out, watch for this valuable aid in future Available Publications listed in the *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

The original allotment sold for \$8 and included a black print. We will have to wait and see if this price and the black print are the same in any future supplies that we can get.

Ludvik Z. Švoboda

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

Two further replies have been received.

From Jan Dobrovolný: Bob is correct re the destination of the cover. Bystré nad Jizerou is a small village near Rybnice [where the post office is] which is east of Semily [there is written on the envelope "u Semil"] and as Bob supposed it is also near Vrchlabí. The newspaper *Lidové Noviny* of 7, 8, 9 and 10 August 1937 gave some details of the crash. The aircraft (Aeroflot DC2, URSS-M 25) was on the route Moscow-Kluž [Cluj]-Užhorod-Prague. Kluž is in Romania approximately 80km south-west from the place of accident and it can explain the place of the crash. In a strong storm the pilot announced engine trouble and witnesses saw a fire at first and shortly after two explosions the aircraft fell down at the edge of the forest near Haryna village. The back part of the aircraft was stuck on a large spruce tree and left relatively undestroyed. There were either six or seven people on board, four or five were the crew [Kurevic, pilot; Koitov, wireless operator; Ruschkov, mechanic; head pilot and maybe a second mechanic] and two passengers Macchino or Massimovici, Italian commercial or military attaché in Moscow and a unknown Belgian]. It was stated that the Italian jumped out of the aircraft without a parachute and his body was found three kilometres from the wreckage. A Commission of Czech specialists was sent to the scene of the accident [this confirms the flight was operated with Československé Státní Aerolinie].

POŠTOVNÍ ÚLOŽNA in Prague is a place where undelivered letters are stored for one year. Why was the letter undelivered? Difficult to say, the address can be read without problems. The addressee was probably of Russian origin – his name in the upper part of the letter is written in Russian and has two first names *Otakar Frantsevich Krupka* (this is normal in Russian but not in Czech). In the Czech part of the envelope there are written a first name and surname only – Otokar Krupka.

The blue crayon marks are written in Czech and using some imagination I can decipher "Poškozen za por. (áru?) ... ve ... dne ..." i.e. "Damaged at (fire), in ... at day ..." The key word is the second word in the bottom row between ve and dne. It could read as vlaku which translated is "in train at day," but why a train? One additional query; at the upper part of the cover there is written "Menčik" [Czech transcription]. It is written in Russian alphabet so it had to be written in Russia. The word is a name because it has no meaning in Russian [i.e. cannot be translated.]

From MUDr Petr Horka: I received your letter with data regarding the crash of DC-2 USSR-M 2520 at Romanian Bystrica. Without a doubt the letter is from the air crash which happened on 6.8.37 at 13.40. The aircraft struck a range of mountains in dense fog. The debris scorched extensively and nobody survived. Because the flight was a pool with ČSA three officials of ČSA were nominated to the inquiry commission and sent to the place of the crash. The course of the flight went from Moscow via Brjansk-Kyjev-Jassy-Cluj-Užhorod to Prague.

The remark "... Poškozeno při požáru ve vlaku ..." [damaged at train fire] on the envelope, was certainly made by a post office official probably in Prague Dead-Letter Office by ignorance of the case. The name "Menčik" is certainly the last row of the sender address [i.e. the sender's surname] which in Russia is written as the last. The upper part of the sender's address was burnt. That is all I can tell you about the crash.

THE CZECH LEGIONS IN FRANCE AND ITALY

- Kenny Morrison -

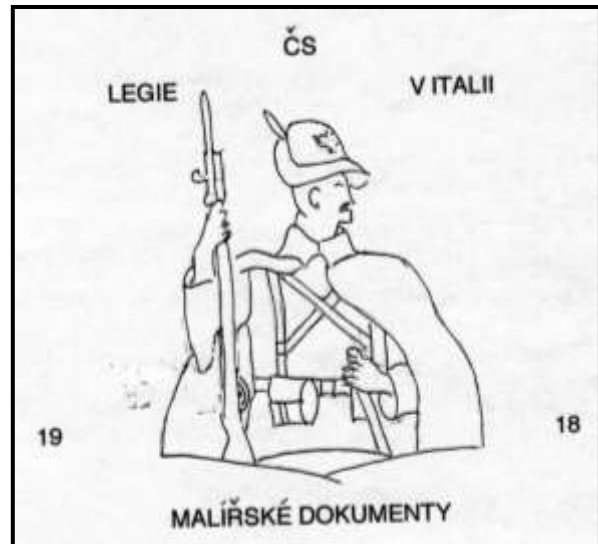
Translated by Robert Kingsley

In 2001 I purchased two books of proof artwork relating to the Czech Legions in France and Italy and feel that these may be of interest to members of the Society. Continued from Czechout 4/2002 page 111.

Part II - The Czech Legions in Italy [*Československé Legie V Itálii, 1918 Maliřské Dokumenty*, Vydal, Památník Odboje V Praze 1922, Tiskla Ceska Graficka Unie A.S. V Praze]

Czech Legion in Italy →

Card covers 240 x 350mm containing 97 cards of varying sizes mounted two per page which is of brown card with a printed number under each. Each card has a darker brown border. All the cards are in colour and have annotation and artist signature? under each in black ink. I have card 41 reproduced as a postcard possibly for the twentieth anniversary of the Legion in Italy in 1938.



List of Paintings ↑

Translation

Just as in Russia and France, so similarly in Italy was there a distinct need not only of photographic, but also that of painted, artistic and colour documentation of anything unusual, hitherto not published and historically important, which our men experienced at that time. Soon the propaganda value of a painting also came to be acknowledged.

With these factors in mind one can appreciate the themes of artistic works created in Italy, both in imprisonment and in the legion. Amongst these are: dress, accommodation, daily tasks, prisoners' recreation, views on prisoner-of-war camps, legionnaires' clothing and weapons, incidents from a soldier's life both on the front and away from it and impressions of the activities of Czech reconnaissance personnel scattered throughout the entire army and of the Czech division based in the area of M. Altissim. Finally painters were also influenced by the architecture of Italian towns and by the alpine countryside.

Wanting to retain and celebrate the memories of the struggle, there were created in the Italian legion a number of allegorical paintings, posters, propaganda material on calendars, as well as on the cover of the journal "*In Battle*" especially by the particularly active and productive painter Břetislav Bartoš. The most successful of this propaganda material by Bartoš was the painting *For Freedom* painted in Santa Maria Capua Vetere, where the foundations of the Organisation of the Czech revolutionary movement were laid. This painting, depicting the theme of unity in the national struggle achieved its propaganda objective to a truly remarkable extent. It resulted in prisoners in their masses applying to join the legion. He became a kind of fighting symbol of the Italian Legion. To mark his historical memory he was laid to rest at the head of the alba.

In addition to the works actually painted in the Italian Legion the album also contains a number of paintings by Otakar Koniček, Ladislav Šima and Angel Zeyer, which were sent in June 1919 in an album, entitled *The Commemoration of the Struggle to Italy*. The layout of the album was organised by

the painter A. Zeyer. Zeyer worked on the illustration of former Czech prisoner-of-war camps, painters Koniček and Šima, accompanied by two men who took part in the fighting, went around and painted the battlefields of the Czech legion. The album, therefore, tries to be a documentary in three directions; it records works of historical significance created in Italy during the war and it also examines all the material assembled in its various forms. (Life in imprisonment and the legion, propaganda paintings, paintings of the battlefield).

List of Paintings

C1	B. Bartoš	For Freedom
C2	A. Zeyer	Perugia, seat of Command of 1st Czech Brigade and 1st Czech Regiment
C3 -	B. Bartoš	Jan Čapek
C4	F.X. Diblík	General Andrea cav. Graziani, Commander of the 6th Division in Italy
C5	A. Zeyer	Padula
C6	- " -	Trevi, seat of 10th Company , 34th Regiment
C7	- " -	Narni, seat of 1st battalion, 34th Regiment
C8	- " -	Spello, seat of 2nd battalion, 32nd Regiment
C9	- " -	Spoloeto
C10	B. Bartoš	Certosa di Padula
C11	A. Zeyer	Bevagna, seat of 3rd battalion, 33rd Regiment
C12	- " -	Ceremonial handing over of banner to Czech volunteers in Rome
C13	B. Bartoš	Padula monastery
C14	- " -	Castelfranco, seat of 6th Czech division in October 1918
C15	- " -	Lake Garda
C16	Ferd Pisecky	Padula monastery and prisoner of war camp
C17	B. Bartoš	Spiazzi, seat of 6th Czech Division until September 1918
C18	- " -	Valdagno, seat of "Astico" Command
C19	- " -	Adige Valley
C20	- " -	Adige Valley
C21	- " -	Life in the Intelligence Company "Astico" Baths
C22	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C23	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C24	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C25	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C26	- " -	Typical Czech Volunteer
C27	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C28	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C29	- " -	Finalmarina - Life of Czech Prisoners
C30	- " -	Pastimes of look-out personnel on stand-by
C31	- " -	Spiazzi and its surroundings
C32	- " -	Engineers' kitchen
C33	- " -	On stand-by in Bocca di Navene
C34	- " -	Look-out posts in Cosmagnon Alps
C35	- " -	Reserve position on Monte Baldo
C36	- " -	The front guard at Dosso Casina
C37	- " -	Monte Cornu
C38	- " -	On reserve at Spiazzi
C39	- " -	Look-out post kitchen
C40	- " -	Valdagno – Intelligence Company "Astico" kitchen
C41	- " -	On reserve at Spiazzi
C42	- " -	Spiazzi - Czech ambulance section
C43	- " -	Spiazzi - stables
C44	- " -	Canalette - mules hiding
C45	- " -	On reserve in Spiazzi
C46	- " -	Sapper taking a rest
C47	- " -	A Czech volunteer's weapons
C48	- " -	On reserve - concert
C49	- " -	Cyclist at Command of Czech Division
C50	- " -	Canalette - barber
C51	- " -	On guard
C52	- " -	Spiazzi - cobbler in the forest

C53	B. Bartoš -	Batman - brother Fajfka
C54	O. Koniček	Monte di Val Bella
C55	- " -	View of Monte di Val Bella
C56	- " -	View of Riva from point 904
C57	- " -	Cima Tre Pezzi
C58	- " -	Bocca di Navene
C59	- " -	Pass over Piavu near Nervesy
C60	- " -	Lake Garda
C61	- " -	Road to Monte di Val Bella
C62	- " -	Shelters at Monte di Val Bella
C63	- " -	Sasso Sega
C64	- " -	Coll di Rosso
C65	- " -	Cima Tre Pezzi
C66	- " -	Shelters at point 904
C67	- " -	Sasso Sega - Shelters
C68	- " -	Nervesa
C69	- " -	Nervesa
C70	- " -	Cavazuccherina
C71	- " -	Cortelazzo
C72	- " -	Brentonico - view of Coronadel Bes
C73	- " -	Road to Monte di Val Bella
C74	L. Šima	Piava u Passarely
C75	- " -	Monte Grappa
C76	- " -	Lake Garda
C77	- " -	Monte Baldo
C78	- " -	Sasso Sega from point 703
C79	- " -	Monte Altissimo - shelters on point 904
C80	- " -	Cima Tre Pezzi - shelter at monitoring station
C81	- " -	Corona del Bes - telegraph station
C82	- " -	Trenches on Monte Grappa
C83	- " -	Altissimo - road "Praga"
C84	- " -	Delta Piave - trenches
C85	- " -	Road to Bocca di Navene
C86	- " -	Front guard at Monte Grappa
C87	- " -	Field Hospital below Monte di Vale Bella
C88	- " -	Dos Alto - point 703
C89	- " -	Front guard at Monte Grappa
C90	O. Koniček	San Dona - main street
C91	- " -	Nervesa -Berti Castle
C92	- " -	Cavazuccherina
C93	- " -	San Donà
C94	L. Šima	Monte di Val Bella
C95	- " -	Cavazuccherina
C96	- " -	Delta del Piave
C97	- " -	Monte Grappa

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

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 perms *

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 after translation

GERMAN CENSOR IN PRESSBURG/BRATISLAVA?

-Mirko Bachertý-

Translated by Hartwig Danesch and Douglas Baxter

We thank Hans van Dooremalen for obtaining this article from Hartwig Danesch with permission to publish, and Douglas Baxter who kindly translated it from the German language for us. This originally appeared in the Circular 82/95 of the Censored Mail Study Group, the March/April 1996 issue of the Czechoslovak Philatelist and the September 1997 issue of Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei. [The illustrations have been taken from the Cz Philatelist as the same originals from the German article would not reproduce.]

The censorship of mail belongs among the least explored areas of Czechoslovakian and Slovakian postal history. As the postal authorities did not carry out the act of censorship, the censor's stamps, notes and resealing tapes have for a long time been on the fringes of philatelic interest. Then the general growth in interest in postal history in the 70's caused some collectors systematically to embrace this area. The biggest obstacles to the study of postal censorship are the scanty information to be found in the available sources [official papers] and also the insufficient quantity of study material. These circumstances lead to an area of serious philatelic investigation and also to the most diverse hypotheses, opinions and errors. Among the latter, we can include the question of the existence of a German Censor Office in Bratislava/Preßburg during the Second World War.



This office is supposed to have used a single circle stamp with the letters "Nc" in the middle. These letters were taken to be an abbreviation of "Nemecká censura" i.e. "German Censor". This theory was first put forward by Dr Vratislav Palkoska in his article "Cenzurované na Slovensku" in *Filatelia* [Prague 1973/14]. His theory was based on the striking similarity of the "Nc" stamp with similar handstamps, which were used by offices in all parts of the German-occupied areas of Europe and also in Germany itself. ←[Figure 1].

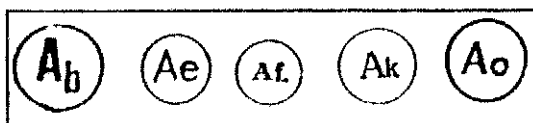


Figure 2

The characteristic feature of these single circle handstamps is the upper case "A" [meaning Foreign Letter Examination Office] followed by a lower case letter indicating the situation of the office [e.g. c = Cologne, d = Munich, x = Paris, g = Vienna].

This handstamp was used to mark those items which were handed in at the Censor Office but which it was not considered absolutely necessary to check and which were therefore sent on immediately without wasting any more time. This related mainly to official and business correspondence, in which there was only a very small possibility of suspicious information or unacceptable content. In the literature relating to this - for example in Karl-Heinz Riemer's *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen* [The Supervision of Foreign mail through Germany in the Second World War] handbook and catalogue - these handstamps are called Transit Stamps.

Items with these handstamps usually have no other censor marks and also show no sign of having been opened. In isolated cases, the Vienna Censor Office used these handstamps if the censor stamp machine had broken down or if the impression made by the machine was insufficient. The Vienna Office used two types of handstamp. Ag and examples of both types are found in considerable >

numbers. They are distinguishable because they had notches at different points on the circle. [Figures 3 and 4]



Figure 3 (Bulgaria to Slovakia)

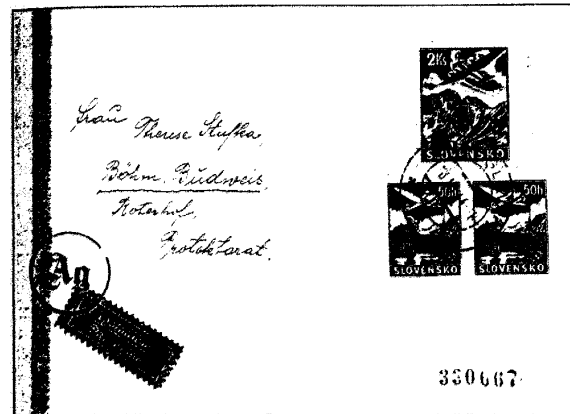


Figure 4 (Slovakia to the Protectorate)

The apparent similarity of the "Nc" handstamp with these handstamps of the German censor was the only argument on which the theory of the existence of a German Censor Office in Bratislava/Prßburg rested. Dr Pacholska took this line of thought in his work "Posta na Slovensku po oslobodeni" which was published in Hlohovec in 1975 and in which he assumes that the stamps were taken over by the Slovakian Censor Office after the battle front had moved forward. Uncritically, I incorporated this interpretation in my study "Kontrola postových zásielok v období Slovenskej republiky 1939-1945", published in 1990 in the *Slovensku postilión*. Recently there appeared, in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* 3/4 1995, an article which deals with this handstamp [in fact, two types exist]. Without any proof, John S. Miskevich tries there to link the German Reich's regulations about checks on postal items with censorship laws in Slovakia.

To ascribe the "Nc" handstamp to a German Censor Office in Bratislava/Preßburg is, in our opinion, unsound for the following reasons:

1 The Control Offices for foreign mail was established exclusively in Germany or in German-occupied regions, which had lost their sovereignty along with other aspects of the postal service. Their structure is described in the above-mentioned handbook and catalogue where Karl-Heinz Riemer includes the "Nc" stamp as a handstamp of the German Censor Office which operated at the time in Preßburg, but he nowhere proves this theory and, elsewhere, he himself doubts the existence, even the short-lived existence, of a Censor Office outside the territory of the Reich. One cannot consider, as an occupied territory, Slovakia, even if its sovereignty was restricted as a result of its "vassal status" with Germany.

2 Items which carry the print of the "Nc" handstamp show no other signs of a German or Slovakian Censor. As is the case with other items which can be proved to have been subjected to thorough censorship and on whose envelopes there are no traces of their having been opened. We therefore conclude that the "Nc" handstamps served the same purpose as similar handstamps of the German Censor Office and that the abbreviation "Nc" can possibly be explained by, for example, "Necenzurované" which means uncensored. Its similarity to the German handstamps is, therefore, in the end not accidental. One can, therefore realistically assume that the Slovakian Censor Offices worked closely with the nearby Censor Office in Vienna from which it could have taken over this kind of indication for transit items and also, for example, the system of individually numbered handstamps for the censors. Furthermore, Vienna was at the forefront of numerous innovations concerning the easing and speeding up of the censoring of postal items.

3 The imprints of the "Nc" handstamp appear mainly on Official mail like, for example "Matriculation Announcements" [a literal translation DDB]. In Miskevich's publication there is an illustration of an item sent by the Ministry of the Interior to the Red Cross in Geneva, on items whose contents had already been checked and entered on an export licence or on items sent to Slovakian agencies abroad or sent from them. This fact supports the assumption that the "Nc" stamps would confirm receipt by the censor but not censorship itself.

>

4 As direct proof that the Slovakian Censor Offices used the "Nc" handstamp we have the discovery of the cover in Figure 5a/5b. It is a registered letter posted on 15 July 1942 at the Ziliana 2 Post Office [apparently by a post office employee] and addressed to R.K. "Letter Post Inspector," Bratislava 1 Censor. The front of the envelope is stamped seven times with the "Nc" handstamp and on the back are two censor tapes stamped with 24 imprints of various cachets used by the Slovakian Censor. From the title given to the addressee and from the overall appearance of the item [the envelope had not been opened despite the tapes]; one can assume that it is a prank by employees, who [perhaps on the occasion of a birthday] wanted to play a trick on one of their colleagues. This fun-item of censored mail gives proof of the array of cachets used by the Preßburg Censor Office among which was the "Nc" handstamp. One can hardly assume that the German Censors also took part in this prank. All the handstamps on the envelope are printed in the same red/violet colour.

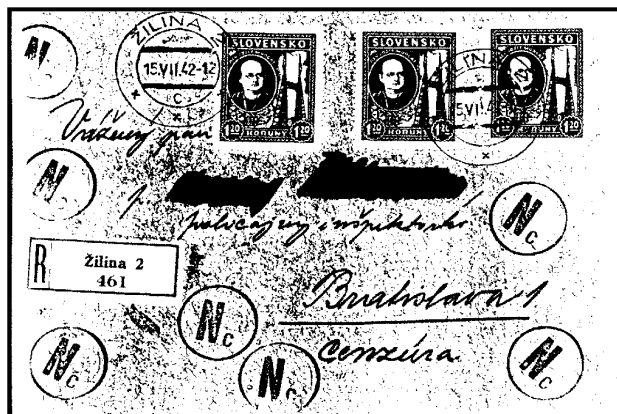


Figure 5a

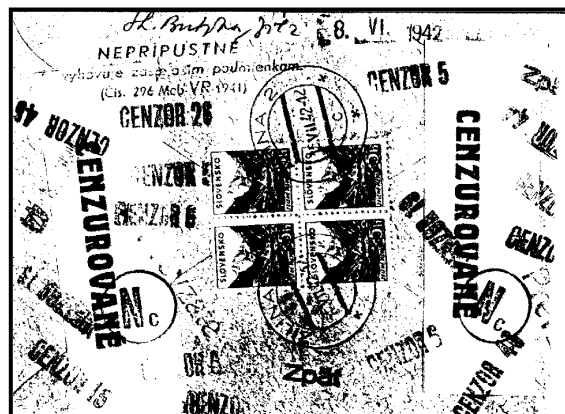


Figure 5b

As a result of the above facts, I am of the opinion that the question about the origin of the circular "Nc" handstamp has been settled.

GERMAN CENSORSHIP IN BRATISLAVA

-John Miskevich-

This article appeared in the Czechoslovak Specialist No 5 September/October 1996 and we thank Lou Svoboda, the editor of the Czechoslovak Philatelist for permission to reproduce this.

John Miskevich is a member of the CsPS USA, a practising attorney with an interest in the postal history of Czechoslovakia 1939-45 as well as of Bohemia & Moravia. He has contributed over 50 articles for the GPS Study Group as well as several for the German Specialist. This is a reply to Ing. Mirko Bachraty's article.

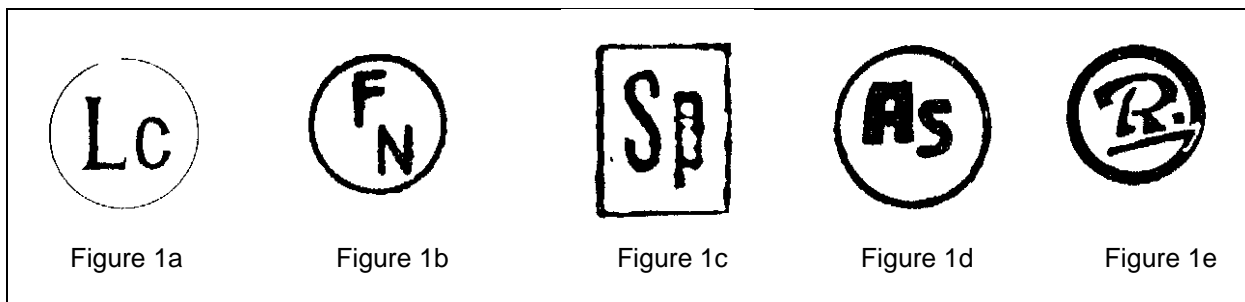
I was pleased to see Ing. Mirko Bachraty's article, "A German Censorship Office in Bratislava?" included in the March/April issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. The article appeared last year in the German language in the *AGZ Rundbrief* 82/95, at pages 35-38. It was written, apparently in part, as a response to an article I had contributed on the subject, "German Censorship Handstamps in Slovakia 1941 - 1944", printed in the March/April 1995 edition of the *Specialist*. Publishing Mr. Bachraty's article allows me, for the first time, an opportunity to offer a rebuttal.

The purpose of my earlier article was to document and detail the existence of two distinct and different "Nc" censorship handstamps of a German office located in Bratislava. It was not my purpose to debate the very existence of such an office. The philatelic literature is replete with references to a German facility. I cite two sources within the text of my article. All five References cited by M. Bachraty in his recent essay (including an article penned by himself in 1990) are in accord with the viewpoint that there was a German censorship office (at least at one time or another) located in Bratislava between 1941 and 1944. Nevertheless, I am willing to debate the subject.

Without giving us any proof in the form of documents, the author concludes that the "Nc" was a Slovakia censorship office marking and not German. He shows us one very strange cover upon which he rests the bulk of his case. He concludes his article with the statement: "On the basis of the evidence presented, I consider that the question of the origin of the Circle "Nc" Stamp to be resolved." If only I were so sure about anything besides death and taxes!

>

There is a resemblance between the handstamps "Nc" and various devices used by the Germans to censor or route mail. Shown at Figure 1a is an "Lc" within a circle. Mail of official government bodies and the Nazi Party were exempt from the German Directive on Communications Service of 2 April 1940 as amended. When this mail found its way to a censorship examining office due to routing procedures, it received a special transit marking "L" (Leitstelle) followed by a lower case code letter of the particular office.¹ In this case it was Cologne. Illustrated at Figure 1b is a German control and the German Feldpost.² The "Sp" in the square at Figure 1c stands for "Servicio Publico". It is a German "Leitstempel" (control handstamp) used on mail sent to or from members of the Spanish "Blue Division" serving with the German Army against the Soviet Union.³ The "As" at Figure 1d is a transit censor marking of the "SS-Feldpostprüfstellen" (SS Feld Post Censorship Offices). The "A" in this device should not be confused with the "Auslandsbriefprüfstellen" (Foreign Letter Examining Offices) processing civilian mail.⁴ The "R." in the circle at Figure 1e is a routing (possibly censor) handstamp of the Deutsch Reichspost in Bohemia & Moravia.⁵ Only the Germans utilized systems of censorship or routing of mail that involved Circle handstamps approximately 20 to 25 mm in diameter containing code letters. -



Overlooked in Bachratý's discussion of the subject is the fact that Slovakia had a significant German minority prior to 1945. Ethnic Germans settled or had been settled on the land for centuries. Prior to the Second World War it is estimated that in the vicinity of Bratislava (Pressburg) as much as 30% of the population was German.⁶ German "language islands" existed all over Slovakia. Most notable was an area around Kremnica (Krnitz) where as many as one in two of the population was German. Important enclaves also existed in the regions surrounding Poprad (Popper) and Gelnice (Gollnitz). A German commemorative postmark issued at Stuttgart for use on 4 and 5 August, 1951 even manages to celebrate "800 Jahre / Slowakeideutschtum" (800th Year / Slovaks of German Ancestry)⁷.

The abbreviation "Nc" is said to mean "Nèmecká censura" (German Censor).⁸ The place where the "Nc" turns up is on the mail of Slovakia sent to or received from Switzerland and Hungary. In addition to Slovakia, these two were the only countries in Central Europe during the period 1941 to 1944 not to be under some form of German military occupation. A German Censorship Office at Bratislava would have been a good way to gain some modicum of control over communications between Slovakia and the other two. If the "Nc" means "not censored", as Bachratý contends, then why haven't we encountered it on Slovak mail addressed to, or foreign mail addressed from, countries other than Switzerland and Hungary? It is not far-fetched to believe that the "Nc" examiner's handstamp emanated from a German Censorship Office located in Slovakia.

Let me now turn to the four reasons at pages 7 and 8 why the writer considers the "Nc" not to be of German origin:

1. The author asserts that German centers for the inspection of foreign mail were established in Germany and in occupied lands that lost their postal services. This is not the case. German censorship offices were opened at Oslo and at Trondheim in Norway, as well as at Copenhagen in Denmark. The Norwegians and Danes retained their own postal systems even under German military occupation. There are other examples I could cite. What the Germans often did in countries that they occupied during the Second World War was to introduce an additional postal system -- their own Deutsche Dienstpost (German Official Post).⁹

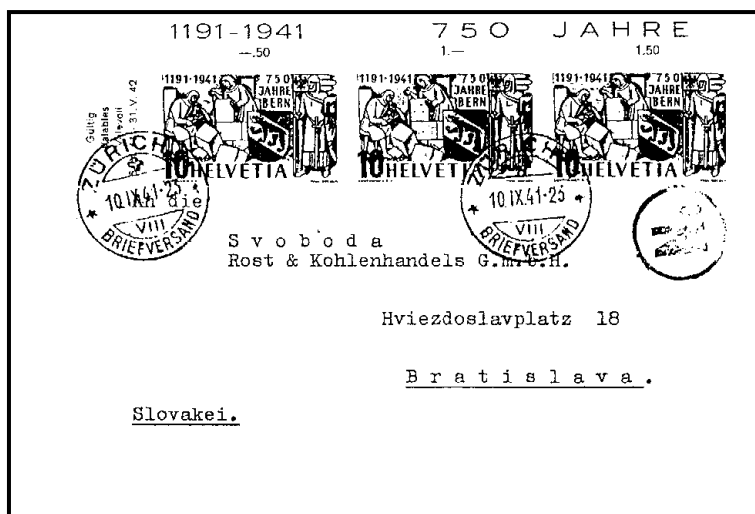
It is true that Karl-Heinz Riemer in his 1980 catalog, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs des Während des II. Weltkrieges Durch Deutsche Dienststellen*, cited in my article, does not offer specifics

that prove that a German examiner's office was located in Bratislava. But at the same time, Bachratý offers no evidence in the form of writings of postal documents that prove the "Nc" is a Slovak marking.

2. That the mail with the "Nc" shows no indication of either additional German censorship is a valuable observation. If a letter were passed by the German examiner at Bratislava, it was probably good enough for the Germans at Vienna. Mail, more suspicious in nature, needing to be opened and read, could be forwarded to the German Censor at Vienna without marking it at Bratislava. Bags of mail, for example, sent from Switzerland direct to Slovakia, could have been processed in such a manner. The German office at Bratislava may have operated as a substation for Vienna particularly when the latter's volume was high. Sorting and clearing part of the mail that, on its face, was believed to be of an innocent nature destined for Slovakia or sent from Slovakia may have been its sole function. The Germans are known to have operated a substation of the Vienna office in Belgrade.¹⁰ This substation in German-occupied Serbia is known to have also used the "g" censorship examiners code.

With the above in mind, see the cover at Figure 2 posted at Zürich, Switzerland, to Bratislava on 10 September 1941. The "Nc" handstamp in use on the envelope is in black. The reverse of the cover is blank except for a printed return address, "K.H. Zürich, Rennweg I".

Figure 2→



3 Despite what M. Bachratý says, the "Nc" handstamps are not found mainly on official correspondence. The cover (not a parcel) which I illustrate at Figure 3, and in my article of March/April 1995 in the *Specialist* is the exception rather than the rule. It would serve little useful purpose for a German censor to openly examine mail sent to a neutral country (Switzerland) from a government Ministry of one of its brothers-in-arms. Such a pattern of interference might provoke a diplomatic protest. By September 1944, Germany needed all the allies it could muster. It is rather more likely that this letter was passed by a German transit censor at Bratislava. Otherwise, the cover surely would have found its way into the hands of the German Censor at Vienna.

Figure 3↓

There is no evidence of censorship of the cover at Vienna. It is unlikely that the official mail of a Slovak government ministry would have been routed to one of its own foreign examining censorship offices to be marked "not censored" and not also intercepted at Vienna where it would have received at least a German transit censor handstamp "Ag" indicating that the piece was passed but not read. If the "Nc" mark were that of a German transit censor, there would be no need to duplicate it with an "Ag" at Vienna. In 1944 the Germans would have insisted on making a decision as to whether the contents of this envelope addressed to the Red Cross in Geneva were to be read or not.



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4. I have some serious questions about the registered cover(?) at Figure 5 in M. Bachratý article. He offers it as "direct proof" that the "Nc" handstamps were used by Slovak censors. The cover is a veritable archive of censorship markings. The handstamps were the tools of the Slovak foreign letter examiners; yet, they have been applied to a cover in the internal mail. The cover appears to be a registered mailing from Zilina, but it does not bear the backstamp of the post office of delivery, Bratislava.

It is the author's conjecture that the envelope was part of a "student prank". All the handstamps are in the same color ink so I tend to think that they were applied by one person using a single ink pad. Bachratý thinks that German censors, if they were using the "Nc" would not have been party to this prank. Therefore, the "Nc" must be a Slovak examiner's device.

A report, written by the United States Censorship Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico in late 1943, was declassified by the National Archives on 16 October 1991 through a Freedom of Information Act application. It is based in large part on a British report of 23 December 1942. With regard to Slovak censorship it reads in pertinent part as follows:

"Slovakia enjoys the privilege of having her own distinctive censorship, which is reputed to be more lenient than the German Censorship. Although mail from Slovakia is often given a second examination at Vienna, it is frequently permitted to proceed without a second check. Presumably the censorship in Slovakia is under rigid German control."¹¹

I do not think the Slovak censors would have been party to any prank either.

An important question I have concerns the date on which this "censorship fantasy" was created. Was it in 1942, the date on the cover, or was it later? M. Bachratý knows the name of the addressee. He refers to the person as "R.K.", "Police Inspector, Bratislava 1, Office of Censorship". It would be helpful to find out more about "R.K."

The cover does not show the "Nc" handstamp used "in the regular course of the business" of a censorship facility. That the "Nc" and known Slovak censor handstamps appear on the cover is not definitive. It is the only example of the occurrence that has come to light and it is not a very good one.

Who is to say whether these censorship handstamps and tapes used in Bratislava were not collected by someone for some purpose after the war? The cover may be the creation of a person who gained access to an accumulation of handstamps and tapes. It would not be a unique circumstance. In the field of German philately, collectors are plagued by the dangerous use of actual post office cancellations falling into private hands during and after the Second World War.

I look forward to the presentation of a cover that does not have so many drawbacks. A search of the historical archives in Bratislava might provide a more definitive answer regarding the existence of a German Censorship Office in the City. I leave open the possibility that the "Nc" handstamp is the product of Slovakia's Censorship Office.

FOOTNOTES

1 Houston, Robert J., *Mail Surveillance Under the Third Reich*. A Handbook of the Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc., Arnold, Maryland U.S.A. (1980) at Page 21.

2 *Michel Handbook-Katalog Deutsche Feldpost 1937-1945*. Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH, Munich, Germany, First Edition (1983) at page 83.

3 *Id.* At page 82.

4 Moxter, H.g., "SS Censorship", *The Bulletin of the Civil Censorship Study Group* Cheshire, U.K., Vol 9, Nr. 1 (October, 1981) at page illustrated in Petersen, Heinrich, *German Military Mail Cancellations 1937-1945*, A Handbook of the Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society. Inc., at page 18.

5 Reimer, Karl-Heinz, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen*, Düsseldorf, Germany (1980) at page 212.

6 Wiskemann Elizabeth, *Czechs & Germans* St. Martins Press, New York, N.Y., 2nd Ed., (1967) in the chart found after page 118.

- 7 Bochmann, Julius, *Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel*, Poststempelgilde "Rheini-Donau", Düsseldorf, Germany (1956), Vol. 15, page 719.
- 8 Rieme, at page 210.
- 9 Schultz, Dr. Hermann, *Deutsche Dienstpost 1939-1945*, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau", Düsseldorf, Germany (1945) Volumes 1 to 8.
- 10 Houston, at page 5.
- 11 Fox, Myron, "San Juan Postal Censor's Evaluation of German Censorship" *The Bulletin* (Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc.) Vol. XXIX, Nr. 4, Whole Nr. 117 (October, 1995) at page 18.

CENSORSHIP OF MAIL ENTERING THE GERMAN REICH, 1939-1945

-John L Whiteside-

The definitive work on censorship of mail coming into Germany in World War II is: Reimer, Karl-Heinz, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen*, Düsseldorf, Germany (1980) [see the following article Ed].

Mail coming into the German Reich was dealt with at seven centres only, which were eventually given an identification letter, as follows:

a = Königsberg; b = Berlin; c = Köln; d = München; e = Frankfurt; f = Hamburg; g = Vienna; [There were others in the occupied countries of Denmark, France and Norway, but these do not concern us here.]

Of these, mail to what had been the Czech areas was overwhelmingly censored in Vienna. The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was a part of the German Reich and after the Devisen-Kontroll ceased, there were no censorship offices anywhere in the Protectorate. Mail from the controlled state of Slovakia to the Protectorate was always censored in Vienna.

Thus Richard Beith's card on page 64 of *Czechout* 3/2001 is censored in Vienna, as are figures 5 and 6 of Lubor Kunc's article on page 38 of *Czechout* 2/2002. The small numbers, 1259, 7757, 596 and 825 are not Slovakian censor numbers, but characteristic Vienna numbers. The numerator numbers, 10590 and 321622 and the pencilled annotations 7510/V and 6025 are also of the Vienna office.

The red machine cancellers with seven bars in figure 5 and with four bars on Richard Beith's card were also struck in Vienna [two-bar and six-bar versions were also used there], as was the hooded manual red canceller in figure 6. This latter form was used, as here, on registered mail.

The various devices used by the Vienna office are listed in Rieme's book between pages 127 and 149. The few devices used in Slovakia and the Protectorate are also listed on pages 210-212.

By way of illustrating this, I include photocopies of three cards from Greece, all censored in Vienna, and showing similar numbers to those considered above.





THE OFFICE FOR CHECKING FOREIGN MAIL - VIENNA

-Karl-Heinz Riemer-

Translated by Douglas D Baxter

As mentioned in the September 2002 issue of Czechout we are now able to publish the translation of pages 127-149 and 210-212 from Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen [The Supervision of Foreign mail through Germany in the Second World War] handbook and catalogue.

We thank Postempelgilde e.V. for giving us permission to publish this extract and the complete handbook is available at the Postempelgilde e.V., PO Box 1951, D-59479 Soest, Germany for the price of €18.00 plus dispatch.

The Vienna Office for censoring foreign mail was set up to check the traffic of messages between the German Reich and Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Hungary, Turkey and Yugoslavia [later Serbia and Croatia]. It also dealt with transit mail from Italy, the Vatican, France and Switzerland into those countries as well as, for a while, Italian POW mail from Egypt to Italy. Judging by the number of foreign states involved and the resulting amount of postal traffic it must have been a very big office. Capable organisers worked here, because many of the measures first adopted here were later introduced in other censor offices. Subsidiary offices of these centres are so far not known.

>

The first examples of a systematic check of mail can be seen in the opening of 100% of letters from December 1939, which happened in geographical areas which were under the control of Vienna. These letters, which were resealed with the sealing tape G-50, bore no other marking. Early on, up to the middle of 1940, the letters were opened at the back, but later, mostly at the side. Cancellations showing that the letter had been checked and identifying the checker came into use only later. The colour of the cancellation is, with few exceptions, red and from now on will not be specifically mentioned.

Censor Cancellations

Hand cancellations

These were used first of all for identifying postcards that had been checked because letters that had been checked were identified by the sealing tape. Their external design remained the same right to the end. Later they appeared only on registered mail because, at this office, machine cancellation was used.

G-1 The cancellation used here for the first time had a diameter of 34mm with the text "High Command of the Armed Forces". In the middle was the eagle and above in a separate curved segment "Checked". Under the eagle was a small cross. The distance between the beginning and the end of the text measures 20mm. Used from Jan. [in blue] to Aug. 1940. After that, always in red. See illustration 339.

G-2 Design as G-1. The text is spread out further. The space between 'O' and 't' now reduced to 16mm. Instead of a cross under the eagle there is now a dot. Used from March-Dec. 1940 on letters and postcards. In April there are examples in blue. Illustration 340.

G-3a As above, but the space between the 'O' and 't' now only 9mm; under the eagle is a dot; this cancellation appears almost exclusively on registered mail.. These items were probably handled differently from normal mail. It was used from Aug.1940 to Dec. 1943. Illustration 341.

G-3b As above but the letters in the text are somewhat bigger; the cancellation, including the segment with "Checked" measures 44mm vertically (G-3a measured only 42mm). Used from Sept.1943 to Aug.1944. Illustration 342.

C-3c Same as G-3a; but here there is a firm vertical dash under the eagle instead of a cross. Appears in 1942 mostly on registered mail. Illustration 343.

G-4 Same layout, diameter 33mm but with a completely different text "Foreign mail censor checking office, Vienna". Above is the word "Checked". This cancellation is presumably the first from this office, but, when offices were opened elsewhere, it was not used any more because of the mention of Vienna. If normal cancellation cachets were not available for any reason or if there was a large amount of mail, this cancellation would be used. So far, it has been found used in July and Aug.1940. Illustration 344.

G-5 As above, but with diameter 35mm and the same text but spreading further round the circle. Used in Sept.1940 and Feb.1943 on letters and postcards, especially of registered mail. The reasons for its use at these particular times are not known. Illustration 345.

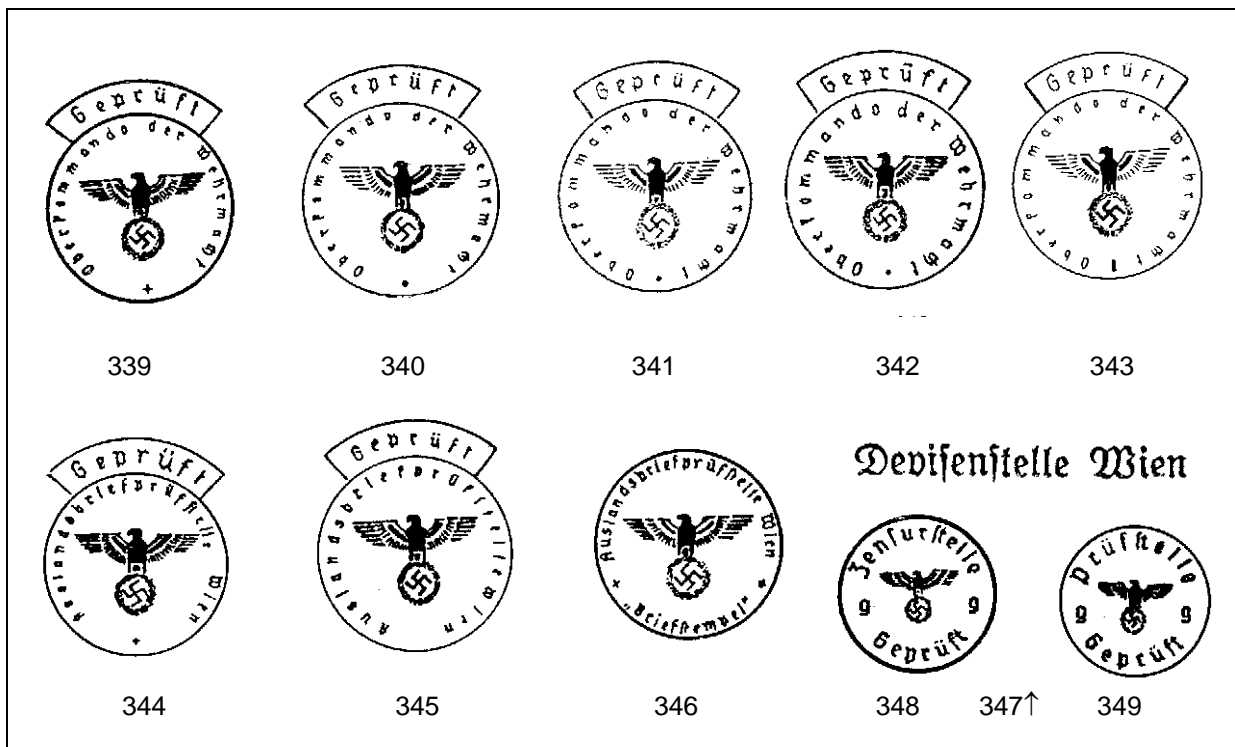
Illustration 346 shows the normal cancellations used by these authorities on outgoing mail. It was not used to cancel censored items.

Interesting and indicative of the core work of this office is a horizontal line cancellation 62mm long, still used on postcards early in 1940 with the text "Foreign Exchange Office, Vienna" in blue. Illustration 347. The censor cancellations on foreign mail with this mark are the same as those used by the foreign mail censor office, so they must have been applied at the same office.

Similarly, letters from the Generalgouvernement, Poland are found which are directed to Vienna. They are opened here and then sealed with the familiar Foreign Exchange sealing tape (Illustration 31). They show the date cancellation of 1 Vienna 1 with the distinguishing mark 6i. Examples found are from March1940. These items do not have a censor's cancellation.

G-6 After the removal of the censor's offices from the aegis of the High Command of the Armed Forces, new cancellations came into use.. It was 28mm in diameter and had the text "Censor's Office/Checked"; in the middle was an eagle, with a "g" on either side. It is the first cancellation which has identifying letters. Used from Oct.1944 to Feb.1945. It appears so far only on registered mail. Illustration 348 >

G-7 After this office also took over the task of handling of POW mail, a special cancellation was used. It also had a diameter of 28mm and its text was "Checking Office/Checked"; the eagle is in the middle flanked by the letter "g". In rare cases it is also found on normal mail. Illustration 349.



Machine censor cancellations

Whereas the number of types of censor hand cancellations of the Foreign Mail Censor Office in Vienna, which were used from June 1940 almost only on registered mail, was small, machine cancellations are numerous. Virtually all the checked items have such cancellations.

G-20 This machine cancellation was introduced when every other office was working only with hand cancellations. Circular cancellation of 25mm diameter, 74mm apart at the top, joined by four slightly wavy lines of different lengths. The upper line often did not print, so that the impression of a cancellation with only three lines results. Text is "High Command of the Armed Forces/Checked". Used on postcards and letters from May to Nov.1940 and in a few cases to April 1941. Illustration 350

G-21 Same cancellation, but joined by four straight lines of equal length. Used from Oct.1940 to April1941. Illustration 351.

G-22 Same as G-21 but the design of the initial letter of Oberkommande and Geprüft is changed from Antiqua to Gothic. Used from Oct.1940 to Oct.1944, mainly in 1942. Illustration 352.

G-23a Circular cancellation now 21mm diameter. Usual text. Tops of circles 70mm apart and are joined by two parallel lines 11mm apart. Used from Oct.1940 to Oct.1941. Illustration 353.

G-23b Circular cancellation slightly oval, diameter 21/22mm. Tops of circles 70 or 76mm apart. Joined by two parallel lines, now 13mm apart. Used from Oct.1941 to Oct.1944

G-24 Circular cancellation 26mm in diameter. 75mm apart, joined by six lines. Text as in G-22. Used from Feb 1942 to March 1943. Illustration 354

G-25 As above, cancellation now joined by seven lines. Found mostly on postcards, rarely on letters. Used from June 1942 to May 1944. Illustration 355.

G-26a After a change of name to Censor Office, the circular cancellation is now 28mm in diameter, 76mm apart, joined by seven lines. Text is "Censor Office/Checked". Used from Sept.1944 to Feb. 1945. Illustration 356.

G-26b Circular cancellation 22mm in diameter. Tops of circles 73mm apart, joined by two parallel lines 13mm apart. It is similar in design to G-23b. Text reads "Censor Office/Checked". Used from Jan. to April 1945. Illustration 357.

G-27 The basic cancellation 1 in conjunction with the sealing tape. This method is also known from the other censor offices. The text here is GEÖFFNET/(g) "OPENED" it is also sometimes found inverted. Illustration 358 (normal). Horizontal rippling on the tape - Feb.1942 to June 1943. Vertical rippling on the tape - July 1943 to Nov.1944.

The cancellation machine introduced in February showed such signs of wear by July that it had to be replaced with a new one. The cancellation has the same design, but the curve of the "g" is bigger.

From the ABP Vienna there are five variations of this cancellation - see Illustrations 59/62

- a) The bow on the wreath is square - Feb.1942 to Jan.1943
- b) The bow on the wreath is rhombic - Feb.1943 to Aug.1944
- c) The bow on the wreath has two dashes - June to Aug.1944
- d) The bow on the wreath has six dashes - Sept. to Nov.1944
- e) This is a new cancellation used only in Vienna. The eagle now has much larger wings. Used from Jan. to May 1944. Illustration 359.

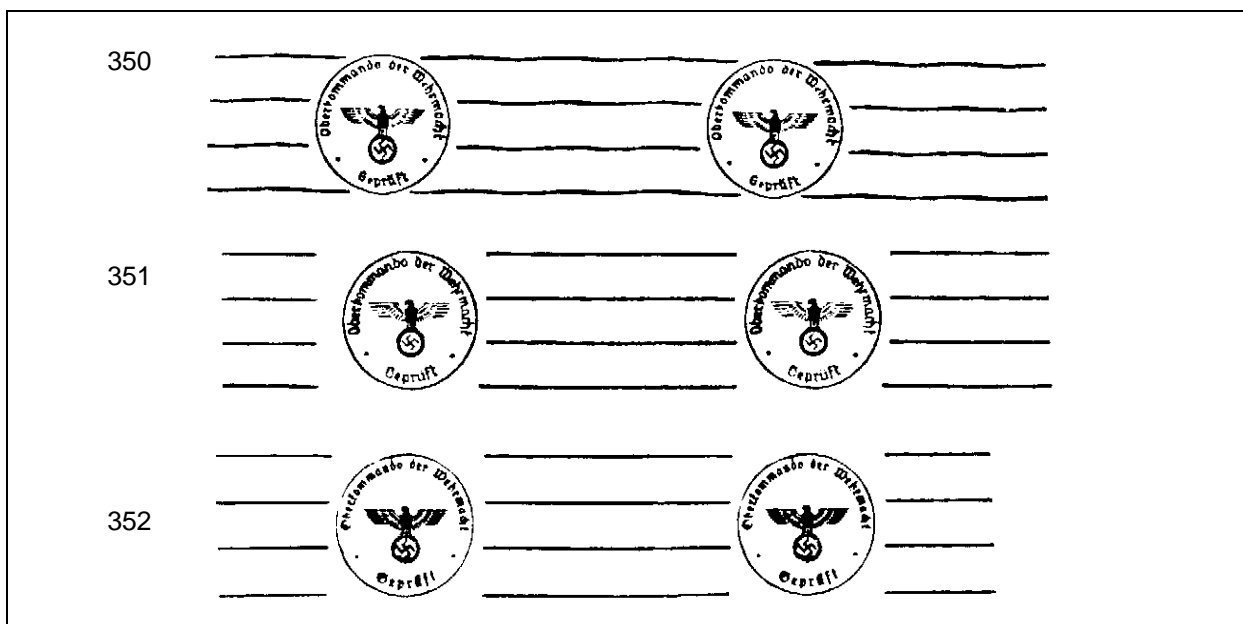
In December 1943 this cancelling machine is again defective; the cancellation itself had become completely illegible before that and was temporarily replaced by one with the identifying letter "c".

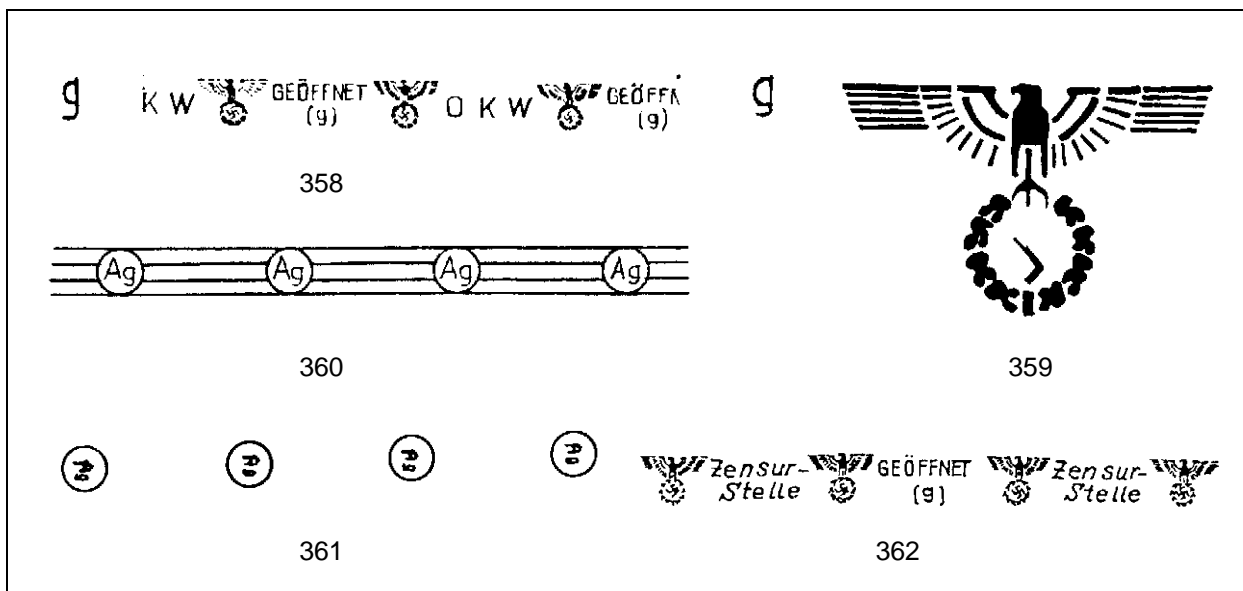
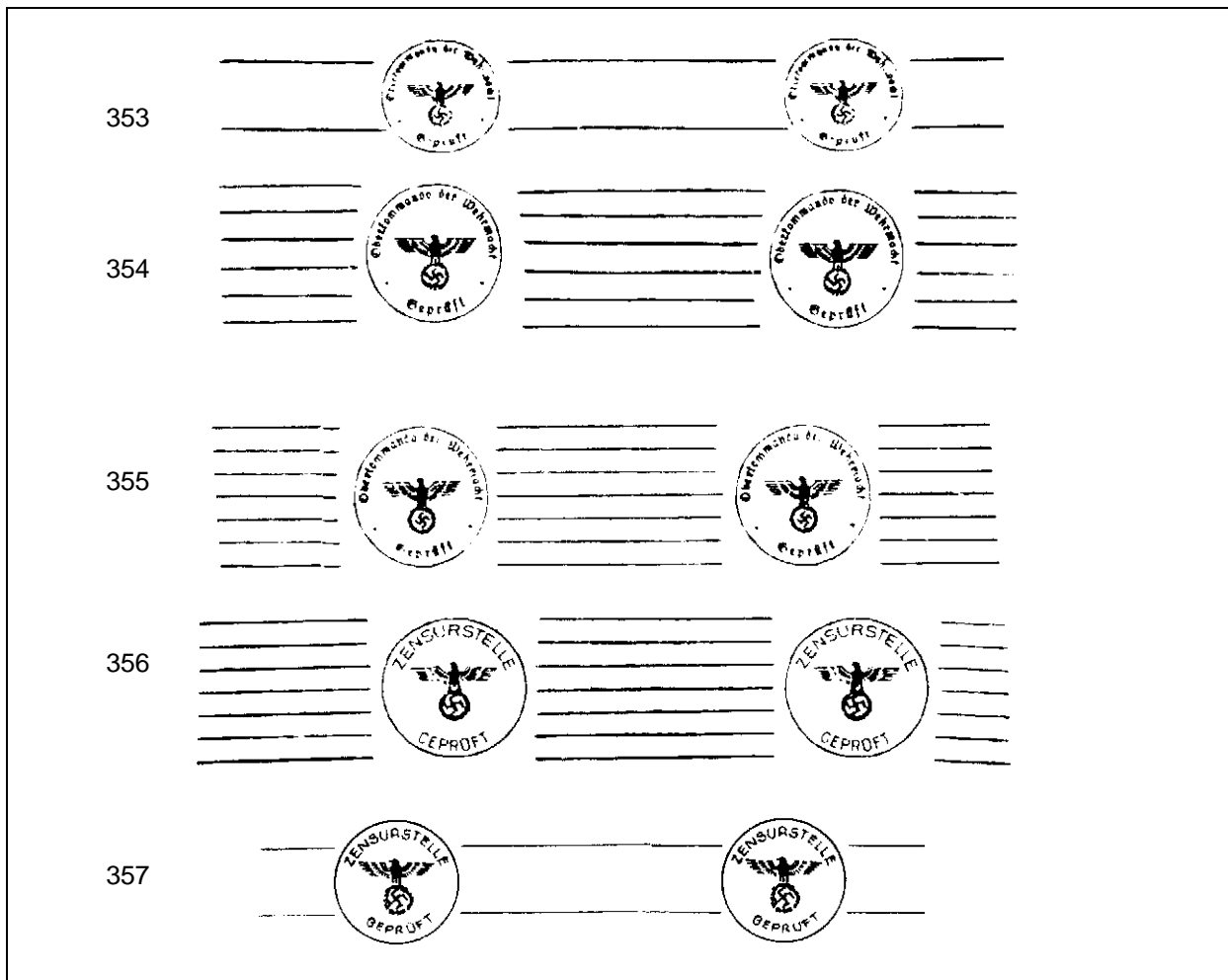
In March 1944 the cancellation failed again. Letters which were closed with the sealing tape were cancelled with the transit cancellation. Moreover the former machine cancellations were brought into use for identification

G-28a Basic cancellation 2; the circle has a diameter of 8mm with the identification "Ag", joined by four parallel lines. The cancellation was in use with the usual sealing tape from Feb. to July 1944. Illustration 360.

G-28b A forerunner of this cancellation exists, known so far only in a destroyed state! Again, the diameter is 8mm, but without joining lines! The identification "Ag" is in gothic script. It appears in Dec.1944 in conjunction with the sealing tape. Illustration 361

G-29 Basic cancellation 3 with the text "Censor Office/OPENED/(g)" used in conjunction with the usual sealing tape from Oct. 1944 to Jan. 1945. Illustration 362





to be continued.

Postscript: We have just received the remainder of the translation of the Vienna Office from Douglas, which we hope to publish in the June Czechout, however, with the interest being shown in the position of Censorship and Slovakia, we include the first section covering this State from page 210, together with two illustrations of covers from John Whiteside and myself. Editor

CROATIA

Special Sealing tapes from Croatia have not been seen so far. Any letter, which has been opened, has been sealed with plain brown tapes, apparently cut by hand. The opening is usually on the left side.

SLOVAKIA

This state, which arose from the disintegration of Czechoslovakia, had placed itself under the protection of the German Reich. During the war it remained nominally neutral. A German Censorship Office apparently worked temporarily in Bratislava. Foreign mail was censored there. Later the censorship stopped and the mail then went through the German Foreign Mail Censorship Offices.

SL1 Already known is a circular cachet 20mm in diameter with the letters "Nc" meaning Nemacka censura [German Censorship]. Used from 1941 to 1943, colour black. With letters, no opening has been observed. Illustration 541→



Examples are not numerous, because a Slovakian Censorship Office was independently censoring mail and provided the letters, it handled with its own censorship, cancellations and sealing tapes.



Slovakia

?4.6.1941 Bratislava to Switzerland with Nc cachet [Colin Spong collection]

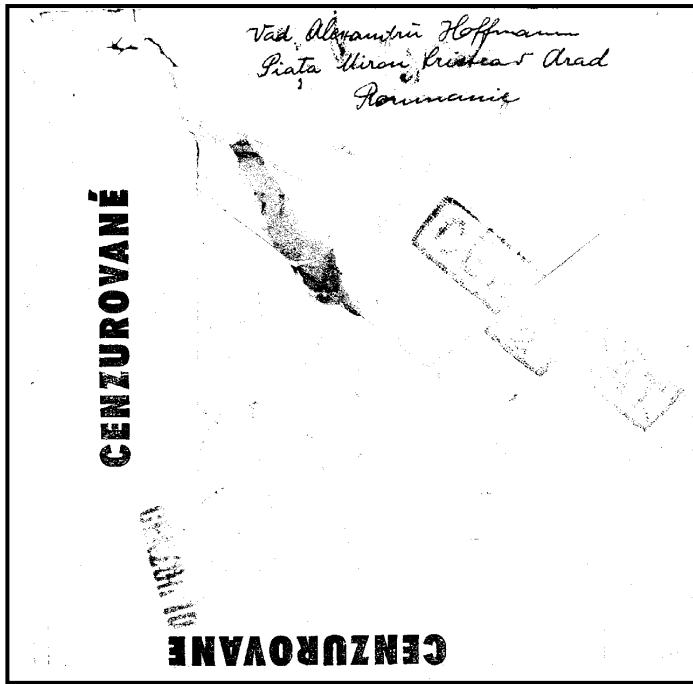
Roumania

Foreign Rates: 1 July 1941 to 30 April 1945. Registered Letter (up to 20g) - 40 lei [Postage and Reg. 20 lei each.]

Airmail to Slovakia Supplement 10 May 1940 to 14 April 1943 - 9 lei. Total: 49 lei.

10.Nov. 1942. Arad to Bratislava 2 x 10 lei, 30 lei (overpaying by 1 lei). Roumanian CENZURAT 2 + censor No 95. Slovak closure tape + CENZOR 10 in red.





Reverse of cover

Slovak CENZUROVANE
Handstamp and tape

Cenzor 10 handstamp

This cover is from John Whiteside's collection

FORGERY OR AN AMAZING FIND?

-Mark Wilson-

We thank Mark and Lou Svoboda for offering this article to us which originally appeared in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* issue for November/December issue 2002.

Discovery

On 1 September 2002, for the first time in nearly a year, I pointed my web browser at EBay and did a quick search for *Czech* in the category *Stamps*. Those of you familiar with the EBay Internet auction know that the first page presented after a search is a list of items matching the search terms for which the auction is about to expire.



Figure 1: First screen.



Figure 2: Second screen.

The second item on this list, due to expire within minutes, had the title **Czechoslovakia Unusual unlisted stamps; error** and a current bid of \$36.00. Curious, I clicked on the link. I was rather disappointed to see displayed a small piece of printer's waste consisting of multiple impressions of the Hradčany 20h and 30h stamps (see *Figure 1*). A typical EBay auction, I thought: some mislabelled printer's waste being sold as a true error to the unsuspecting at a very high price.

I started to move on to the next auction. As I did, part of another picture scrolled up onto my screen. It was just below the printer's waste

but had been hidden during my initial view of the auction page. This bottom picture showed a home-made album page containing four gutter pairs from the first Hradčany issue (see *Figure 2*). I suspect that very few potential buyers actually saw this lower half of the auction page because after six days, there were just two bidders and the bid had reached only \$36.

>

I enlarged the picture and could see that all four gutters appeared unfolded and were marked **PORTO**. Since I had never seen gutter pairs used as provisional postage due stamps, I became even more interested. Suddenly, and to my shock, I realised that the 5h stamps were not reciprocal. *Both stamps faced in the same direction!*

There was no doubt in my mind that these items must be forgeries. After all, the 5h unidirectional gutters are so rare they hardly show up in the literature. *POFIS 2002*, on page 16, describes the 5h unidirectional gutters as unissued varieties. By email I quickly contacted a far more experienced collector who advised purchase only if I wanted to collect forgeries. I decided I wanted these items as unusual examples of forged materials. I entered the auction and won the bid for a little over \$115, paying, if one disregards the piece of printer's waste, about \$20 each for my uncommon forgeries.

Provenance

When the stamps arrived a few days later, I examined them in earnest. The seller shipped them to me still mounted on the original collector's home-made page. The collector had mounted the printer's waste seen in [Figure 1]. The commentary, at the top of the page (with original punctuation, spelling and capitalisation), said:



Figure 3: Unidirectional 5h gutter pair used as provisional postage dues.

In the years; 1918-1919 several armies occupied what is now Czechoslovakia. The AUSTRIAN army ran out of or had no access to Fieldpost stamps therefore local stamps were Over Printed "PORTO" and used as postage dues to be paid by the person receiving the letter. Many excess stamps were CTO'D or are found mint.

The below examples were used at NÁCHOD a rather small town located in North Czechoslovakia near the German border, about 100 miles from the Austrian northern border.

The notes were printed using a low-resolution dot-matrix computer printer font, so it is safe to assume the page was created sometime during the last two decades of the past century. This marvelous piece of philatelic and historical misinformation was credited in handwriting to the *Michel Katalog, Europa*. It is unclear why the note was printed while the attribution was in script; perhaps a different person wrote each of them. I have not yet verified the geographic information, but assume Náchod is probably where the note says it is. In any event, it is clear that the author of these comments did not know what these items were or how they came into existence.

When I contacted the dealer who sold me the gutter pairs, I learned that the items had come from an Oregon estate sale of a general world-wide collection and that the dealer still had the source album. Although the dealer willingly provided this information, he did not provide any other details. He agreed to sell me the Czech pages for very little, which I purchased in hope of finding some additional clues.

When the loose pages arrived, they contained a very pedestrian and incomplete collection of quite common First Republic cancelled stamps. There were no other home-made pages: all of the album pages were labelled *A Vintage Reproduction Page*. I suspect the album originally may have contained other pieces of printer's waste, because the dealer, before he shipped the album to me, sent me an email picture of several pieces of printer's waste which he asked me to identify and price for him. He said the estate agent was offering him these items separately. Since there is a hinge remnant on the back of the home-made page below where the [Figure 1] printer's waste was mounted, I tend to believe that some additional pieces of printer's waste were removed from the page before the sale.

>

Were I to venture a guess on the provenance of these items, I would say that in all likelihood the collector obtained the provisional postage dues and the printer's waste at the same time, perhaps already mounted. It is clear that both the estate agent and the selling dealer believed the printer's waste to be more valuable than the gutters. Perhaps the collector thought the same, relegating the postage dues to insignificant back-of-the-book status.

Description

Let me describe the stamps. The stamp paper appears white, very old, and bears a clear to yellowish gum. Some of the pieces have small creases, are lightly soiled, and are in unfolded condition. Every item on the page is diagonally hand stamped, sometimes inverted, with the word PORTO framed at either end with a silhouetted star. The cancelled pairs bear a round cancellation from NÁCHOD 4b with a date that appears to be 19-II-19-2 (see Figure 3). Although the month and year are quite clear, the day indicated on the cancellation tends to have parts missing or to be very faint in most of its impressions. It was clear that whoever mounted these pieces on the home-made page also applied their first hinges, as there was no sign on any of the pieces of the disturbed gum or hinge remnants that would indicate repeated mounting.

I decided to do a bit of investigation. As already mentioned, POFIS discusses the 5h gutters, but does not mention any provisional postage-due use. I reviewed Karásek's *Československé poštovní známky a jejich padělky 1918-1939*. Surely the counterfeiting of such an uncommon stamp would be mentioned there. I was surprised to see on page 43 that the only counterfeits listed for the 5h were the reciprocal, not the unidirectional, gutter pairs. Nor was there any mention of these stamps in his section on postage-dues. As for the 5h mint with the wide left margin, the control number indicated that the pair had been taken from the left-most position on the sheet. I turned to the *Monografie (Díl 1)*, and reviewed the Hradčany printing forms described on pages 100-105. On page 103, *illustration 140/AI* described the plate layout for this 5h gutter pair. On the left side of the form **TD II** was placed over **TD I**, and on the right side, **TD III** over **TD IV**.

I assumed that the wide margins came from the left side and not from the centre of the printing form, which meant, according to the *Monografie* illustration, that the top stamp had to be **ZP II/91** and the bottom stamp **ZP I/I**. As it happens, I have both of these full sheets in my Hradčany collection. I retrieved sheet **TD I** first and compared its **ZP 1** with the lower stamp in the gutter pair. **ZP I/I** has a distinctive marking: just at the end of the tail of the **5** is a small, elongated dot. Both my sheet and the lower stamp of the gutter pair have the same small dot (see *Figure 4*). I next examined my **ZP II/91**, but was unable to quickly locate a distinguishing mark within the stamp itself. [*Help here from more experienced collectors would be greatly appreciated.*] However, the **-50** control number is appropriate for **TD II** in that it lacks the decimal point. In point of fact, the lack of this decimal point is the distinguishing mark for **TD II** (*Figure 5*).

All four stamps measure 26 x 22.5mm. The gutters on the mint and cancelled pairs do differ in size. The gutter on the mint pair is only 34mm, while on the cancelled pair it measures 35mm. There is yet another measurable difference between the mint and cancelled pairs. The lower stamp on the mint pair appears to be offset 1mm to the left of the upper stamp, while the two stamps on the cancelled pair appear to be somewhat more closely, but not perfectly, aligned. Clearly these differences in gutter size

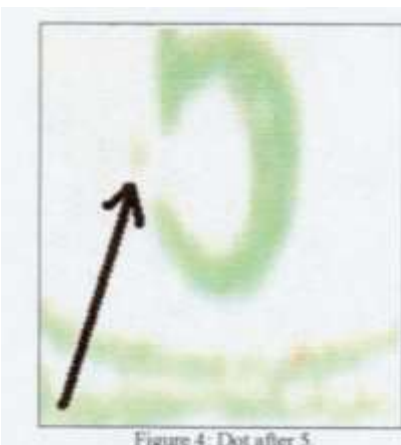


Figure 4: Dot after 5.



Figure 5: No decimal.

and alignment are important signals. The *Monografie* illustration shows the gutter to be 35mm and does not mention an offset between **TD II** and **TD I**. The only way for both gutter pairs to be genuine is for the description in the *Monografie* to be incomplete or inaccurate. Of course, I simply may have made incorrect measurements, but the most likely reason for these differences is that the forger got it wrong.

>

It also would be helpful to know if the cancellation was actually possible for these gutter pairs. Was this cancellation in use when the 5h gutters were printed? Is the date valid? Is the date appropriate for a provisional postage due? I do not own the *Monografie* volumes dealing with cancellations so do not have access to any information about cancels.

The other stamps in the set are worth description. The 10h pairs have the same provisional postage due marking and the same cancel. The mint pair has a small mark in the colour of the stamp (red) at the lower left, while the cancelled pair has part of the next stamp's inverted **Mucha** and a thin sliver of the next stamp at the lower right. As with the 5h pairs, these stamps are unfolded and appear to have been hinged for the first time when mounted by the collector (*Figure 6*).



Figure 6: 10h gutter pairs.

Figure 7: 20h pairs.

Note that the 5h and 10h cancelled pairs have the same jagged trim: a shallow indentation that extends from the bottom of the pair to just above the lower stamp. When placed one upon the other, the 5h and 10h indentations nearly coincide.

The two 20h pairs have the same provisional markings and cancellation. As before, the cancelled pair shows a slight indentation along the left margin, but in this case alongside the top stamp. Their hinges also appear to have been applied by whoever first mounted them to the home-made page (*Figure 7*).

The **PORTO** has been applied inconsistently. Most often it runs from the top left to the bottom right in a diagonal across the stamp. The 5h mint gutter has the hand stamp upright but it is inverted on the cancelled 5h pair. There are several scenarios that could account for this difference: there may have been two gutter sheets, the hand stamping could have occurred at different times, or the hand stamp device may have been inverted while being re-inked. It might even be that the person doing the stamping may have wanted variation for variation's sake.

The 10h pair shows another inconsistency. As with the 5h pair, the provisional mark has been applied differently to the mint and cancelled pairs. While the 10h mint pair provisional marks resemble those of the 5h mint pair, the cancelled stamps show the markings applied to opposite diagonals on the upper and lower stamp. The 20h mint pair is marked in the same manner as the 10h cancelled pair, while the 20h cancelled pair resembles that of the mint gutters, but is inverted.

Questions

Are these stamps forgeries? After only two years of collecting, I certainly do not have the expertise to determine whether they are or not. The odd thing is that I bought them believing them to be forgeries and have had that conviction shaken by the stamps themselves. Of course, the objective of the forger is

to do just that, to put us off guard. If they are forgeries, the forger did his job very well indeed. By making what would be a very valuable piece a little less valuable (stamping it **PORTO**), the forger beguiles us into believing the object might be real. By setting details that can be researched (postmarks, etc.), we believe even more.

The difficulty I have with the forgery thesis is that the items are too strange to have escaped earlier notice. A more likely story (if they are genuine) is that they are favour pieces done by a local postal worker for an avid collector. The fact that the cancellations were all done on the same day and in the same place supports this thesis. I do note that the set lacks the then current 3h and 25h values. May we wonder if those values, perhaps also in gutter pairs, are still out there somewhere, waiting to be discovered?

Since forgeries are far more common than amazing finds, I expect that the result of a professional examination of these stamps may well come down on the side of forgery. But no matter what the outcome, some notice needs to be taken of them. If they are genuine, they need to be reported and catalogued. Likewise, if they are forgeries, the literature needs to warn against them.

However it turns out, I cannot complain. If they are not genuine, I got just what I bargained for, some interesting additions to my Hradany forgeries. But if they are genuine, I appear to have acquired a unique set and usage of my very favourite stamps, the first design of the Hradčany issue. I commented to one of my correspondents that it would be a fine joke indeed if the forger took genuine stamps and in a misguided attempt to increase their value applied forged provisional postage due markings and cancellations. I have to wonder if these stamps eventually might be called *The Náchod Favours*, *The Náchod Forgeries*, or *The Náchod Follies*.

Does the collecting community have any information about these pieces for me? I invite correspondence via the email or postal addresses below.

Mark Wilson, Hradcany@adelphia.net 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22603 USA

Postscript

Mark writes to Bob Hill, Bob Bradford, Graham Slater and David Woodhouse on 20 December "I thought I might share with you some news received today and to thank you for the help and ideas you offered when I wrote to you in September. You remember the 5h unidirectional gutters that were the topic of our correspondence? I did extensive research concerning them in September and October, then took them to Prague near the end of November. Today I learned that two experts, Pittermann and Skaloud, have judged the stamps themselves genuine (and representative of a new, perhaps unknown double sheet) but also, as I myself had come to believe, the provisional postage-due markings were most likely spurious and the cancels mere favours. I have also received e-mail from a Czech collector who mentioned that you published news of the discovery in Czechout. [Editor]

In the January/February 2003 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Phil Melamed writes: "I also had doubts as to the genuineness of the gutter pairs, primarily because of the provisional postage due overprints. Since you noticed that the used 5h and 10h pairs had a similar notch, I just wonder if you noticed that both of these used pairs were from the 8th row of their respective sheets. To confirm this, just note the control numbers 4 for the 5h pair and 8 for the 10h pair. Your explanation of these pairs as favour cancels done by a postal employee seems reasonable. To speculate further, it would appear that the postal employee, or someone else, took full sheets [or full gutter strips of 10] of the 5h and 10h stamps and then cut the used gutter pairs you have. That would explain the identical side notches in your used 5h and 10h pairs which both came from the 8th row of their sheets.

As to the provisional "PORTO" overprint having the decorative stars before and also after PORTO - I have not seen that at all. There are some PORTO overprints listed in the *Novotny 1978 Czech Handbook catalogue*, which also identifies cities that used such overprints, but nothing is listed from Náchod. Thanks for the article, I enjoyed reading it."

NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

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

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

11.12.2002

Collecting – Period Furniture



Designer and Engraver: from original pieces of furniture by Bedřich Housa.
Printing: RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 23 x 40mm.

Designs: **6.40Kčs.** – Baroque armchair from the end of the 17th century. **FDC:** cachet printed DS in blue shows a Rococo Venetian table from the middle of the 18th century.
9Kčs: - Empire sewing table

from about 1820. **FDC:** cachet printed DS in light brown depicts a cradle in the Biedermaier style from about 1830.

12Kčs: - a toilet table from the Thonet workshop about 1860. **FDC:** printed DS in brown has a drawing of a stool from the Secession period.

17Kčs: - Bohemian Art Deco chair of 1923. **FDC:** printed DS in dark brown shows a chair from 1922 designed by Josef Gočár in the Rondo Cubism style.

All the FDCs have commemorative Praha cancels. The original pieces of furniture are in the collections of the Museum of Applied Art in Prague.

11.12.2002

Works of Art on Stamps II.



Designs: From original art works. **Engravers:** Martin Srb (12Kčs), Miloš Ondráček (20Kčs) and Václav Fajt. **Printing:** DS in sheets of four, size 50 x 40mm (12Kčs) remainder 40 x 50mm.

Designs: 12Kčs: "A Forlorn Woman" (1901) by Jaroslav Panuška (1872 – 1958). The original artwork is in the Gallery of Modern Art, Hradec Králove. **FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Hradec Králove cancel. The cachet is a drawing, crayon on paper by the artist c. 1900 of "Merman."

20Kčs: St Wenceslas (design of a window 1890) by Mikoláš Aleš (1852 – 1913) The original artwork is in the National Gallery, Prague. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is an Indian ink drawing by J Mánes from 1778/9 of a soldier with a shield bearing the St

Wenceslas eagle motif. **26Kčs:** Portrait of a Young Man with a Lute (1741) by Jan Petr Molitor (1702 – 1757). The original artwork is in the National Gallery, Prague. The stamp commemorates the artist's 300th birth anniversary. Although German by birth Molitor settled in Prague around 1730. **FDC:** printed DS in green-brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is from a figure drawing by the artist.

01.01.2003

10th Anniversary of the Czech Republic

Designer: Otakar Karlas **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD + DS in souvenir sheet form – size 78 x 116mm. Stamp size 40 x 26mm.

Design: Stamp has the statue of the Czech lion (1852) by Josef Max which was originally part of a monument to the memory of Czech soldiers who fell in Italy in 1848. The lion has been re-sited several times in Prague but now stands at the corner of Chotkova Street opposite Jelení příkop. The text, in Czech, “10th Anniversary of the Czech Republic” completes the design. The upper decoration of the sheet is the coat of arms of the Czech Republic with the text, in Czech, “10th Anniversary of the Czech Republic.”

FDC: printed DS in blue with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is the Republic's coat of arms.

20.01.2003.

The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production

Designer and Engraver: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30, stamp size – 23 x 40mm. Design: based on the original 1937 issue of 2.50Kč – St Vitus designed by Jan C Vondrouš and engraved by K Seizinger. Below the reproduction is the text, in Czech, “Tradition of Czech Stamp Production” and “J C Vondrouš, K Seizinger.” **FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is a drawing of Charles' Bridge from the design of JC Vondrouš for the 1957 issue “Historical Anniversaries of Towns.”

Booklet: of 8 stamps and 4 labels. The labels show the tower of Brno City Hall which was issued on a stamp from 1946 in the series Towns designed by JC Vondrouš and on the souvenir sheet issued for National Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 1946. The label has the text in Czech “European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005.”

12.02.2003

Personalities

Designer: Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 30 x 23mm.

Designs: 6.40Kčs – portrait of Jaroslav Vrchlický with his birth/death dates 1853–1912 and sheaf of manuscripts with writing implements. Vrchlický was a Czech poet, dramatist and literary reviewer and a professor at Charles' University. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Louny cancel. The cachet

drawing is a hand with a pen.

>

8Kčs: portrait of Josef Thomayer with his birth/death dates 1853–1927 and scientific instruments. Thomayer was a physician but also wrote novels and poetry under the pseudonym of R E Jamot. He worked as a professor at the teaching hospital of Charles' University and was the founder of the Czech School of Internal Medicine. The hospital in the Krč district of Prague bears his name. **FDC:** printed DS in black-brown with commemorative Trhanov cancel. The cachet design is a drawing of the symbols of medicine and science.

12.02.2003

Definitive – Signs of the Zodia



Designer: Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 100. Stamp size 19 x 23mm.

Design: Drawing of the sign of Aires with the astrological symbol and the text, in Czech, "Sign of the Zodiac – Aires." There was no official FDC.

Postal Stationery

Promotional Postcards

All the following cards have an imprinted stamp – a large numeral "9" in green with small "Kc" in front and "Česka Republiká above. The logo of the Czech Post and a security hologram are to the left of the design.

02.08.2002 Philakorea 2002. The promotional portion has a design of two mounted oriental hunters with dogs. There are two versions of the card a) with the Philakorea logo and b) without the logo. Both versions have the text " Philakorea 2002 World Stamp Exhibition 2 – 11 August 2002" below the drawing.

30. 08.2002. Riccione 2002. The promotional portion has a drawing of a a house on a two-coloured background with the text " 54 Fiera Internazionale del Francobollo" and "Riccione 30 Agosta - 1 Settembre 2002" in blue. There are two versions of the card a) with imprinted logo and b) without logo.

30.08.2002. Amphilex 2002. The promotional portion has "Amphilex 2002" above a picture of a windmill – all in blue. To the side are the dates 30.8. – 3.9.2002. and "Postfila Prague." A handstamp with the logo of the event was in use.

25.10.2002 Sindelfingen – International Stamp Bourse. Held 25 – 27 October 2002. The promotional portion has an old horse drawn post wagon. Postfila produced a handstamp cancel for the event.

22.11.2002 Berlin International Stamp Day. Held 22 –24.11.2002. The promotional portion has an old open horse drawn carriage. Postfila,Prague produced a commemorative handstamp.

29.11.2002. MonacoPhil 2002. Held 29 November - 1 December 2002. The promotional portion has a drawing, in green, of the building where the event was held. A commemorative handstamp was produced by Artphila.

Slovakia

12.10.2002

Slovak – Chinese Issue. Terraces from Handam and Bojnice Castle.



Designer and Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4 x 2 se-tenant stamps.

Designs: depict ancient castle architecture.

6Sk: the Terraces in Handan (province Hebei, north China). Handan was the capital city of the kingdom during the Chou Dynasty (2300years ago). Several elevated terraces with the pavilions at their top were built during the Chou Dynasty but only one remains today. About 400 years ago the pavilions were re-built and have been renovated several times since.

12Sk: Bojnice Castle. The castle was chosen to represent historical styles of European architecture. The oldest

document about Bojnice is from 1113. It was originally a Gothic fortress, later rebuilt as an aristocratic Renaissance residence and then in the early 19th century the last owner – Count Ján Pálffy – rebuilt it in the Romantic style.

FDC: printed DS in dark grey-brown with a commemorative Bojnice cancel. The cachet drawing is a pagoda with faces looking east and west.

A maximum card was issued. The two stamps almost identical in design were also issued in China.

17.10.2002

Technical University of Košice



Designer: Doc. Jozef Haščák **Engraver:** Pavel Kovářik **Printing:** rotary recess combined with recess. Stamp size 23 x 30mm.

Design: a symbolic metal design with the text in Slovak “Technical University of Košice – 50th Anniversary of the Founding.”

FDC: printed by TAB, Bratislava – intaglio with commemorative Košice cancel. The cachet design in deep purple brown is a symbolic drawing to represent the eight faculties of the present University.

08.11.2002

Christmas 2002



Designer: Kamila Štanklová from the original nativity scene of Jozef Pekara **Engraver:** Arnold Feke **Printing:** rotary recess combined with recess. Stamp size 23 x 30mm.

Design: an angel from the nativity scene. The scene is housed in a specially constructed House of Nativity in the village of Rajecká Lesná. Jozef Pekara has worked on the scene for 15 years and expects to complete the project in another five years. It will then be 8.5 x 3 x 2 metres and around the central Nativity Scene the whole of Slovakia is mapped out with its towns, people, industry and farming.

FDC: printed RD with commemorative Rajecká Lesná cancel by TAB, Bratislava. The cachet drawing in black shows the Holy Family – a detail from the nativity scene.

A maximum card and stamp booklet was issued.

15.11.2002

Splendours of Our Homeland – Romanesque Architecture



Designers: Marián Čapka (7Sk), Dušan Grečan (14Sk) and Igor Benca (22Sk) **Engravers:** Martin Srb (7Sk), Václav Fajt (14Sk) and František Horniak (22Sk). **Printing:** DS (probably sheets of 8 with two blank labels).

Designs: **7Sk** the Romanesque Church of St Michael, Klížske Hradište dating from the 11th century. **FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Veľký Klíž cancel. The cachet drawing is a detail of a window of the church.

14Sk: the Rotunda of St George, Skalica dating from the 13th century. It was declared a national monument in 1970. **FDC:** printed DS in grey green with commemorative Skalica cancel. The cachet drawing has a decorative lozenge with St George above a view of the church and its surroundings.

22Sk: St Martin's Cathedral Spišska Kapitula which dates from 1245. **FDC:** printed DS in dark grey with commemorative Spišske Podradie cancel. The cachet drawing shows the Coronation of St Mary from the altar painting in the chapel.

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18.12.2002

30th Anniversary of Apollo Moonflight – EA Cernan

Designer: Igor Benca **Engravers:** František Horniak (stamp and coupon) and Arnold Feke (FDC cachet) **Printing:** rotary recess combined with recess in miniature sheet format of 1 stamp and 1 label.

Design: stamp – Eugene Andrew Cernan on the surface of the moon with scientific equipment; label – Apollo 17 flying above the surface of the moon. Cernan was the Mission Commander of Apollo 17 and lunar module pilot, spending three days on the moon with H H Schmitt. The mission took place 7 – 19 December 1972. Cernan, an American with Slovak origins – his grandparents emigrated from Slovakia to the USA at the beginning of the 20th century – when visiting Slovakia declared, “I am glad that I took a piece of Slovakia to the moon.”

FDC: printed RD by TAB, Bratislava in black with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows an astronaut saluting the American flag planted on the moon’s surface

18.12.2002

Postage Stamp Day – Nitrafila 2003.



Designer and Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD, stamp size – 40 x 23mm and coupon 19 x 23mm.

Designs: Stamp – a stamp with a multi-coloured bird flying out of the design, a magnifying glass over an enlarged portion of the bird and the texts in Slovak “Day of the Postage Stamp, Nitrafila.” Coupon – the ornamental towers of two buildings and the logo of Nitrafila. Nitrafila 2003 is organised on the occasion of the 10th anniversary

of the Slovak Republic and creation of Slovak postage stamps and will be held from June 11-15, 2003 with international participation.

FDC: printed RD in slate-grey with commemorative Nitra cancel. The cachet drawing is a young girl with an envelope in her hand and a carrier pigeon about to fly off with it and in the background buildings of Nitra.

18.12.2002

Art



Designers and Engravers: designs from original art works, Martin Činovský (20Sk) and Rudolf Cigánik (23Sk). **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4 stamps and two half stamp sized blank labels.

Designs: **20SK** – “The Beheading of St James the Elder” from a relief in painted wood on the altar wings in the church of St James, Levoča. The artist was Master Paul from Levoča c 1470-1542, a carver and one of the greatest medieval artists in Slovakia.. **FDC:** printed RD by TAB Ltd, Bratislava, with commemorative Levoča cancel. The cachet drawing is a detail of

the statue of Virgin Mary from the altar of the Nativity

23Sk: - “In the Studio” (1991) by Kolomon Sokol born 1902 Liptovský Mikuláš and since 1948 has lived in USA. The original work is in the P M Bohúň Gallery, Liptovský Mikuláš. **FDC:** printed DS in black, by TAB, sro, Bratislava with a commemorative Liptovský Mikuláš cancel. The cachet is from an ink and tempera work of 1979 “On Horseback” by Sokol which is also in the PM Bohúň Gallery.

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01.01.2003. 10th Anniversary of the Slovak Republic

Designers: Jozef Baláž and Martin Činovský **Engravers:** Martin Činovský and František Horniak
 Printing: DS combined with offset in sheets of 6 stamps with decorative border.

Design: a young family to represent part of the Republic's Constitution with the Slovak coat of arms above. The printing sheet drawing symbolises the present and future of the State.

FDC: printed DS in blue-grey by TAB Ltd Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows three national symbols – the national flag, national seal and the first two bars of the National Anthem.

Postal Stationery

The following items were official issues for or during Slovenska 2002 – International Stamp Exhibition, Bratislava.

[Postcards and envelopes were imprinted with the following stamp impressions:

- a) colour picture of the steamship Franz I on the Danube from 1830 with a castle on a hill in the background. 10SK.
- b) cycling postman. 5.50Sk.
- c) state emblem in grey/black. 8Sk
- d) young woman's face in blue-grey surrounded by a circle of yellow stars. 2Sk.]
- e)

? **July 2002.** Plain postcard with imprinted stamp a).

? **July 2002** Official postcard with imprinted stamp a) and pictorial portion a decorative letter "S" with two early rowing boats and two armed men.

? **July 2002** Envelope with imprinted stamps c) and d)

? **July 2002** Envelope with imprinted stamps c) and d) and cachet in blue of a mountain range with a circle of stars above.

4 July 2002 Day of the Postage Stamp and Philately

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp b) and cachet of an early letter from the archives of the Postal Museum Banská Bystrica and various texts for the Exhibition.
- ii) Envelope with imprinted stamp c) and cachet in red, blue of the logo of the Exhibition and texts.

5 July 2002 Day of European Philately and Sts Cyril and Methodius as patrons of Europe.

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp a) and cachet in light brown of portraits of the two saints and tablet in blue with a map of Europe surrounded by yellow stars and appropriate texts.
- ii) Envelope with imprinted stamps c) and d). The cachet is as for the postcard.

6 July 2002 Day of FEPA and of Youth Philately.

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp a) and cachet of a young child inspecting a stamp through a magnifying glass surrounded with various logos and texts.
- ii) Envelope with imprinted stamps c) and d). The cachet is as for the postcard.

7 July 2002 Day of Olympic and Sport Philately.

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp a). The cachet, with various texts and logos shows an ice hockey game and a small portrait of Vladimír Dzurilla 1942-1995
- ii) envelope with imprinted stamp c) and d). The cachet has various logos and texts with a light blue tablet and in silver the names of Slovak silver medal winners at the Olympic Games of 1996 and 2000.

8 July 2002 Day of the UN and the Postal Administration UNPA Vienna.

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp a). The cachet has various logos and texts with a sketch of modern high rise buildings.
- ii) Envelope with imprinted stamps c) and d). The cachet is as for the postcard.

9 July 2002 Day of Christian Philately – Society of St Gabriel.

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp b). The cachet is a collage of stamps having a Christian theme with a cross and the logo of the Slovak Society of St Gabriel
- ii) envelope with imprinted stamps c) and d). The cachet is as for the postcard but without the background of a collage of stamps.

10 July 2002 Day of Postal Museum.

- i) postcard with imprinted stamp b). The cachet has an old post box, letter scale and postally used covers with the Exhibition logo and various texts.
- ii) Envelope has imprinted stamps c) and d). The cachet in grey-green has a hand holding a bunch of flowers and engravers tools, another hand holds a magnifying glass and a third hand draws with a pencil.

The Exhibition was open from 4 – 10 July 2002 in the Slovak National Museum, Bratislava.

Official Stationery

(September?) 2002 Postcard with imprinted 5.50Sk stamp showing a forest and snow capped mountains behind with the texts in Slovak “International Year of the Mountains 2002” and “High Tatras, Slavkovsky Štit” A security hologram with the logo of the Slovak Post appears to the left of the imprinted stamp. The card retails at 6.50Sk.

(September?) 2002. set of 9 postcards (numbered OPL B1 – B9/02) each having an imprinted 5.50Sk stamp in the design of a flying Slovak flag. Each card has the Slovak Post logo and the promotional portion has a view of a castle within the Republic. [B1- Bratislava, B2-Banská Bystrica, B3- Trenčín, B4- Kežmarok, B5- Banská Štiavnica, B6- Žilina, B7- Zvolen, B8- Likava and B9- Častá] The cards retail at 8.30Sk each.

Promotional Stationery

30.08.2002. Postcard – Amphilex 2002 Card has imprinted 10Sk stamp (type a) see above), and the promotional design shows a windmill with stylised tulips and appropriate texts.

(September ?) 2002 Postcard – Winners of the FED Cup 2002 (tennis). Imprinted stamp as for the official card September 2002. The promotional part shows the winning Slovak Team with the Cup.

14.11.2002. Postcard – Summit of NATO in Prague. Imprinted stamp 10Sk (as type a) above). Promotional part has an outline map of Slovakia with the Slovak coat of arms and the NATO logo.

(December ?) 2002 – Postcard Nitrafila 2003. Imprinted 5.50Sk stamp as for the official postcard September 2002. The promotional part has a drawing in grey of a young girl with a butterfly and a church tower in the background with the logo of the event.

18 December 2002 – Postcard. Press Conference Nitrafila 2003. Imprinted 5.50Sk stamp as for the official postcard September 2002. The promotional part shows the face of a person speaking and the logo of Nitrafila and texts.

(December?) 2002 – Envelope. 50th Anniversary Pharmaceutical Faculty UK and Bratislava. Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the State emblem in grey/black. The cachet in gold and black has a medal with the medical symbols and below the years 1952 – 2002 and text in Slovak.

(December?) 2002 – Envelope. 60th Anniversary of the Dubnice Ice Hockey Club. Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the State emblem in grey/black. The cachet is a portrait of Pavol Demitra and appropriate texts in Slovak.