



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

The Joint Meeting at Heaton Royds will be on **Saturday 16 August** and the Society weekend Conference will be held at Hinsley Hall, Headingley, Leeds from **Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 2003** (Contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978) for both these events). The next Society meeting in London will be on **Saturday 1 November** when the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am, after Lunch at 2.30pm **Keith Tranmer** will give a display entitled *Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in the Austrian period*.

The President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, Gavin Fryer has presented to the Society a copy of *Higlett Bijou Bibliography* by G.A. Higlett, which Gavin had produced for Congress at Coventry, 1977.

We thank the officers and members of the ArGe, Austrian PS, SČF Praha, Hungarian PSGB, Society for Polish Philately in GB and our confrères in the Society for Czechoslovak Philatelists in the USA for their good wishes during our 50th Anniversary.

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 8 March 2003

The Chairman, Mrs D L Bosworth, welcomed 23 members and two guests to the meeting. Apologies had been received from two members.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks, passed with acclaim, to those members who had helped and displayed material marking our 50th Anniversary at the very successful Stampex Exhibition, 26 February to 2 March 2003.

A card was signed by members and sent to the well-known Slovak engraver Martin Činovský for his fiftieth birthday and who had supported our Stampex display.

The Membership Secretary gave details of nine prospective new members:

Miloie Chastven	From Israel
Tibor Reis	From Pleidelsheim, Germany
Raymond Hart	From Thames Ditton
William Tatham	From Whittier, California
Nicholas Russell	From Brackley, Northants
Edwin Maxwell	From Edinburgh
Bernard Williams	From Harpenden, Herts
Bob Peden	From Aberchirder, Scotland
Robert Frankl	From Slough

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The Chairman then invited **Jan Verleg**, a member from the Netherlands, to display *Carpatho-Ukraine*. The display covered the Austro-Hungarian period, WWI, the Independence link within Czechoslovakia, WWII, the Russian occupation period and the incorporation by the USSR. Much of the material was seen for the first time by members and it included rare postmarks, covers and cards. Of particular note was a field post card flown during the Hungarian incursion of 1919 from Užhorod to Spišská Nová Ves.

Bill Dawson gave an admirable review of the display and led the vote of thanks from members.

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

Brian Day

Letters to the Editor

✉ **The Union of Czech Philatelists:** Their President Mr Lumír Brendl writes "On behalf of the Union of Czech Philatelists, I would like to congratulate The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary in service of promoting Czech and Slovak philately. That was the reason why the Executive Board as well as Presidium of SČF unanimously decided to award CPSGB the **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** for promoting since 1953, in a very active way Czechoslovak, and then Czech philately not only in the British Isles, but also in the world. The best examples are the excellent monographs published until the present day - sometimes, they are the unique source of knowledge for SČF members. It was our great pleasure that we were able to put on display two CPSGB monographs at the Czechs and Slovaks in Exile 20th Century International Exhibition in Brno January-March 2003, as you can see on an enclosed photograph." [see on page 45].

✉ **Mr Tibor Reis**, Achalmstr 9, D-74385 Pleidelsheim, Germany, one of our new members writes, "I would like to contact two or three members who have an interest in exchanging stamps with me. I can offer Czechoslovakia 1945-92 unmounted mint and used stamps, miniature sheets and sheetlets, all in very good quality. I am seeking Great Britain, Channel Is, Isle of Man, Ireland, Gibraltar and Malta, unmounted mint only against my wants list." Tibor can also be reached by e-mail: tibor-reis@yahoo.de.

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. >

☒ **Dr Helmut Kobelbauer**, writes to Mark Wilson with a copy to us. "With great interest I have read your article in *Czechout* 1/2003, pp. 23 to 27. In the meantime I exchanged a few e-mails with Mr. Spong; he proposed that I should forward the few bits of information that I can contribute also to you. I would not consider myself a specialist for the matters in question, but for a number of years I have been collecting postal history and especially postmarks from the first years of the Czechoslovak post.

First of all, I am very sure that the canceller shown (NÁCHOD * Č. S. P. * 4b) has NOT been in use in February 1919. This type of canceller was introduced in a few main post offices near the end of 1919, for medium post offices like Náchod you will find it only in early 1920. This coincides with the information given in the relevant part of the *Monografie Československých Známek* (vol 17II, p. 394) where it says "that this canceller is known from 1920 onwards. So the cancellation is either backdated or a complete forgery.

Then I have checked the available literature for the (manual) overprint "PORTO" between stars on Hradčany stamps. The best coverage for this grey area is given by a philatelic journal of that time, the "*Donaupost*" which appeared in Bratislava. In its number 5 of May 15th, 1919 it tells that such a provisional postage due (manual) overprint has been reported from the Prag III post office (in Mala Strana). Another reliable source is the famous book by Hirsch-Franék which says the same (p. 376). You certainly know that these provisional postage dues are doubtful anyway because the few "true" uses have caused a flood of fakes and forgeries. I doubt whether a provisional from Prague would have been used somewhere else.

Last but not least I am sending a colour copy of a letter to the famous stamp dealer Vilem Ekstein. This letter holds a tete-beche pair of the 5h Hradčany. The cancellation (PRAHA 1 * Č. S. P. * 4b) of 12.XI.1919 seems to be okay. This is what I can contribute to making this mysterious find a bit clearer. It is not much, I know." [see page 45].

☒ **Yvonne Wheatley** writes as UK Commissioner for Bmo 2005 that Bulletin No 1 is available, members interested in exhibiting please contact her - see *Czechout* 1/2003.

☒ **Bob Hill** writes: whilst in Bratislava with Martin Činovský his agent Philippa Demetriadi-Doman told me how successful are the joint stamp issues with other countries and could I think of a subject that would link the UK with Slovakia and may eventually be the subject of a joint stamp issue.

For once my brain failed me. The only thing that readily came to mind was events during World War II. I promised to ask our members and urge you to send any ideas to Colin Spong who will accumulate them and pass on to Philippa.

☒ **Bob Hill** writes: Chris Cordes in South Africa came over to the UK and they failed to get away to make the meeting at the Royal! However, his last Auction Lots went astray, our claim was late on Royal Mail but they eventually paid up. Our insurers - SIS of Exeter - paid out in record time. It is very important that members wherever they are get certificates of posting for all lots sent.

Congratulations

To **Otto Hornung** for his Outstanding Contribution Award at the Rowland Hill Awards 2002 ceremony at the Drapers Hall, London on 18 March 2003.

To **Chad Neighbour** who works for the *Scotsman* is to represent the UK in International Tennis .

Publications

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

- The Summer 2003 issue of *Austria* No 142. The articles include:
 - ▶ The enlargement of Vienna from 1850 (Taylor); Postal Communications between Imperial Austria & the Kingdom of Sardinia between 1.1.1854-30.9.1867 [Part 3-end] (Cedolini).

- The March 2003 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.34, Whole No. 135. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Index for Journals: Vol. 124-133; Index for SBS Articles & Information Vol.100-131; 16X7 = not 100 [an article about sheet layout and making up sheets with stamp sized labels. DDB] (Seebauer); On the track of the London Issue [about a set of 16 stamps produced for a liberated Czechoslovakia by the Czech Government -in-Exile in London. DDB] (Fischer); Rulers and Heads of State who lived in Olomouc (Giebel); Airmail Labels of the Slovak Republic Post Office (Müller); New information about Automation in the Czech Republic Post Office (Müller).
- The March/April & May/June 2003 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.65, Whole Nos. 578/579. Nos. 2/3. The articles include:
 - ▶ Some rare Košice items in the collection of Karel Fischer (Hahn); Mysterious cancellation (Kunc); Removing Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Stamps using Napthta (Copeland); The Sudetenland Recalled (Kuhn); Wars, Field Post Offices and Czechoslovaks-Epilogue 2 (Kunc); Baptism of a Stamp (Holoubek).
 - ▶ The CsPSGB 50th Anniversary (Beith); The Náchod Discovery:Unique Hradčany Gutters marked for Provisional Postage Due use (Wilson & Sevenhuljsen); Comparison Survey of Catalogue numbers of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps (Horvath); COROS honours to Czech Republic (Schmidt); The Sudetenland Recalled cont. (Kuhn).
- The 2, 4 & 5/2003 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol 53. The articles include:
 - ▶ Czech Post recovered after the flood (Langhammer); Czechoslovak and Czech mobile Post Offices since 1945 [2] (Horák, Bulant & Švehla); Additional Postage on Airmail (Horka); Alphabet in Philately - A [1] (Feldmann).
 - ▶ Popular Types of the Hradčany issue (Paděra); Czechoslovak and Czech mobile Post Offices since 1945 [4] (Horák, Bulant & Švehla); Letters to Africa with the 1930 Air Mail Stamps (Tekel'); Dangerous Forgeries of letters with rare Hradčany stamps (Stupka); 100 years of the Railway Tábor-Bechyně (Kuchyňka).
 - ▶ Validity of Stamps in Countries of Euro-Zone (Crha); New Forgery of a Czechoslovak Postal Stationery (Beneš); Czechoslovak Provisional Registration Labels 1945-46 (Švejnar); Stamp sheets of ČSR 1 with incomplete Perforation (Beneš).
- The 1 & 2/2003 issues of *Merkur Revue* by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ 80th Birthday of Joseph Balaz (-); Dove Issue from Jaroslav Benda [2] (Karásek); Stamps of Czechoslovak Legion in Russia [2] (Vostatek); Liberated Republic Issue 30h (Kašparovi); Adolf Hoffmeister and Postage Stamps (Fischer); A few facts about the London Issue Czech Banknotes (Daněk & Moravec).
 - ▶ The Dove issue [3] (Benda); Perforation varieties on 1997 sheet for Bruncvík-Europa (Fritz); Stamps of Czechoslovak Legion in Russia [3] (Vostatek); Perforation frames for Czech stamps printed by die stamping planography (Graman & Koupal).

OBITUARY

LADISLAV FISCHMEISTER, MD, PhD: 1923 –2003

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our good friend Dr. Lada Fischmeister, who died in Sarasota, Florida on Easter Sunday, having reached his eightieth birthday on March 12th. He had undergone a serious operation ten days earlier. He seemed to have been recovering well the first three days, but his condition worsened and he passed away in the intensive care unit of the hospital, with his wife Martha by his side.

Born in Humpolec, Czechoslovakia, Lada was the only child of Andela and Bretislav Fischmeister. In his youth he spent time in the Auschwitz concentration camp, having been judged as not fully Aryan. After WW II his undergraduate studies at Prague's Charles University were terminated by the

Communists for political activities. He quickly left for Switzerland, receiving a long sentence in absentia. He completed his studies at the University of Geneva, where he earned his medical degree, specialising in obstetrics and his PhD in biochemistry. He later emigrated to Quebec where he practised obstetrics at a Catholic hospital. Upon being discovered as not being Catholic, he was given an opportunity to study further, became a psychiatrist, and practised in a northern Canadian hospital. In the early sixties he and his first wife, Marush, came to Washington where he entered a position at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. In the eighties he joined the Veterans' Mental Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, from whence in 1988 he retired and moved to Sarasota, Florida. After the death of Marush he married his second wife, Martha who cared for him through the rest of his life.

Dr. Fischmeister spoke six languages. He was known as one of the half dozen most prominent Czechoslovak stamp collectors, primarily for his exhibits of stamp rarities, which won him numerous national as well as international awards. Dr. Fischmeister was a member of the American Philatelic Society where he served on the Expertizing Committee and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

Lada had an extraordinary love and respect for animals and would want any memorial contributions to be made to animal rescue charities of the donor's choice. He had no close living relatives, and is survived only by Martha and their five cats who live at 1419 Fleetwood Dr., Sarasota, FL 34232. A memorial service will take place in Humpolec at a later date.

He will be sorely missed by his philatelic and other friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

Henry Hahn

Colonel Stefan Dubrava 11.01.1915-17.03.2003

In *Czechout* 4/2002 on page 92 Will Wyber brought to our attention the film *Dark Blue World*, a moving tale of the young Czechs and Slovaks who fled their native land during German occupation to serve in the Royal Air Force. Returning home after the war, they were jailed as enemies of the State by the communist authorities.

Although invited to the London film premier, Colonel Dubrava decided not to go perhaps because he knew the story all too well, as one of the real-life airmen he had been forced to flee his country not only once but also twice. Born in Bratislava into a farming family, he was doing his Army National Service in 1938 when the Germans marched in. Escaping to France and serving first in the Foreign Legion in North Africa, after the fall of France he once more escaped to Gibraltar. Arriving in Britain Dubrava became a soldier in the Free Czechoslovak Army based in Warwickshire. Meanwhile the Free Czechoslovak Air Force was supporting the RAF, losses were high and there was a call for volunteers. Dubrava was accepted as a wireless operator/air gunner, flying first Wellingtons later B24 Liberators. He ended the war as a Aircrew Warrant Officer, returning to Czechoslovakia with his wife Gladys King and their two daughters Gillian and Katrinia, being welcomed as a hero and becoming a captain in the new Czechoslovak Air Force.

Unfortunately everything changed in 1948 with the Stalinist take-over in Prague. Managing to get his wife and daughters out, he made his own escape via Germany. Back in Britain he joined the RAF as Aircraftman Second Class later rising to Aircrew Flight Sergeant, flying B29 Washington bombers. He later worked in Aircraft Control. Dubrava ran a mosquito eradication unit in Cyprus before retiring from the RAF in 1964 to Leamington Spa, the home town of his wife Gladys; they had a son Paul by now, and Stefan became a Security Guard until final retirement in 1980. Following the fall of the "Eastern Bloc" his *enemy of the people* status was reversed and in his absence given the honorary rank of Lt Colonel [rtd] in the Czechoslovak Air Force. When the country divided he was promoted to a full Colonel [rtd] in the Slovak Air Force. He died a widower at Leamington Spa, leaving five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Adapted from the *Daily Express* 24 April 2003 from Simon Edge's Obituary.

THE SOCIETY CZECH VISIT 2003 - JIHLAVA & PRAGUE

Well, George Firmage has done it again! On 21 April a merry band of over 20 members set off from Stanstead for Prague, staying overnight in our usual and trusty Pension Wertheim. Next morning the coach was awaiting to take us to Jihlava (Iglau) for the German-Czech Joint Exhibition "Ostropa 2003". However, this did not open until the 24th, and we spent the day visiting the gorgeous Renaissance town of Telc with its most beautiful town square. Arriving in Jihlava that afternoon, we had time to descend upon the stamp shop, run by two charming ladies who were somewhat surprised to find their tiny shop crammed with philatelic Brits! Many of us found things to buy, so all were happy. George had booked us in for dinner at The Amazonia, a remarkably good restaurant at predictably very low prices. The



following day was free to explore the town including the fascinating catacombs, and again George had arranged dinner, this time at The Grand Hotel, which served us a splendid meal and despite the name, very cheaply.

The following day was the opening day of the 4-day 'Ostropa'. This was a very good event, with a total of 111 entries in ten categories. The one which attracted the largest number was, perhaps predictably, postal history, but country collections (Ländersammlungen), Thematics and Youth entries brought excellent numbers. The Aero was disappointing with only four entries but these included superb collections of Czech and Liechtenstein Zeppelins, Literature was well represented with 14 entries, and interestingly 10 Open Class, which contained such intriguing entries like "No more War", "Unwanted & Illegal Issues", and the work of Fero Horniak. Why the entry called "The Cycle on Stamps" was not in the Thematic section I failed to see. The exhibition catalogue was a superbly produced effort (a copy has been placed in the library), in Czech and German. For collectors of modern material there were five commemorative postmarks, special stamps, stationery, a meter mark, a machine cancellation and even a special registration label! As we had to leave Jihlava to return to Prague on Friday the 25th I could not obtain a list of awards.

On the way back to Prague we spent a few hours in Kutna Hora. My last visit there was 'off my own bat', but this time we had the benefit of a guide who pointed out all the points of interest, not least of course the magnificent cathedral. Prague is of course always beautiful and one cannot visit it too often. It was good to see the almost total recovery from the dreadful floods, and on our return some of us went into town for a meal and a stroll across the Charles Bridge at dusk} pure magic! Based again at the Wertheim, on Saturday we all went to the first day of a two-day bourse near the Flora Metro Station. This was a disappointment with many dealers tables left empty. However, the day was not wasted as some of us attended a performance of "Don Giovanni" in the city that afternoon. Not a great fan of opera (except Wagner, naturally) I was nonetheless impressed at the quality of both production and singing. On Sunday, just three of us decided to try our luck again on the second and last day of the bourse. Are we glad we did! With every table occupied, two dealers in particular, not there on Saturday, provided us with more than enough good things to buy. We all brought back some great finds, much to the chagrin of all those who didn't bother with the second day. On our last day in Prague, everyone went their own way, and it was a great opportunity not only to once more absorb the utter charm of the city, but to scour the stamp and book shops, in my own case certainly with much success. I think I can speak for all when I say that as we boarded our aircraft for the return to England on the afternoon of April 29, everyone was so pleased with their trip. Not just for the philatelic aspects, but, as I have said of these occasions in the past, for the company, indeed camaraderie generated, and the many delights that The Czech Republic has to offer. To all members who have not been on one of our little jaunts, my message is simple and clear: please go on the next one; Brno 2005 is a must! To those who normally go but didn't make this one, you missed a truly wonderful time. Thanks George, for organising it all.

Ian Nutley



BOOK REVIEWS

Jubilující Autori Jozef Balaž & Martin Činovský. Published by the Ministry of Post & Telecommunications. An illustrated colour book, 36 pages. ISBN 80 89063 11 X.

The right place at the right time - for once. I met up with the stamp engraver, Martin Činovský, together with his agents Philippa and Jan in Bratislava on Sunday 20 April to collect some of his original artwork to go into the November auction.

Over coffee I discovered that there had been a special exhibition of the works of both Jozef Balaž and Martin Činovský at the postal museum in Banská Bystrica on 17 April 2003 and in this connection a special 36 page lavishly illustrated colour book had been produced. Inside it is crammed full of information on these two men and the works of art they have produced not only for Slovakia but for Czechoslovakia and other countries as well. I knew that Martin was 50 years old this year but I did not know that Jozef was 80 and these two special birthdays plus the 10th anniversary of the Slovak Republic occasioned the exhibition.

This easy to follow book is quite interesting and I would recommend it to any member that collects modern Slovakia or is interested in the work of either of these men, as it is an official publication from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, it is more detailed than earlier works. Mine came along with a blueprint of the 10th anniversary stamp and the special exhibition logo signed by both men.

Bob Hill

Ocelotisk z Plochých Desek, Poštovní Známký a Aršíky, 1 díl, 1945-1953, Praha 2000. No ISBN.

A lovely well illustrated hardback and properly bound book that I bought from Pěnkava in Prague recently. It covers in microscopic detail those stamps and miniature sheets printed by recess from flat plates after WW2 until currency reform. In the first part of the book various printing techniques are described and the differences in design of the stamps and miniature sheets are explained. Special emphasis is put on the difference in printing plates and perforation frames. The second part goes into well illustrated nit-picking detail.

In Czech with a summary in English and German, this book is so well tabulated and illustrated that the language is not a problem. The book was compiled by a team of six authors from the Society of Collectors of Czechoslovak Postage stamps known for their research work.

Bob Hill

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND Leeds 12- 14 September 2003

Some members have asked for some philatelic content during Saturday afternoon. This has been arranged and during the afternoon we will be entertained by members' displays. The two competitions to be held on Saturday afternoon while the members' displays are in progress will be:

- The George Pearson Trophy for philatelic material from 1918 to 15 March 1939
- The Francis Pettitt Salver for material issued since May 1945.

This gives us the opportunity to have three invited displays on Friday evening and on Saturday and Sunday morning. On Saturday morning our guest speaker will be the well known railway collector, Dr Tony Goodbody. As a result the rates workshop will be reduced to one session.

It is hoped that the revised programme will tempt more people to come therefore **the deadline for application forms has been extended until 18 July 2003**. However if you require a double room you are advised to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment

If you require a booking form please contact Yvonne Wheatley at Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW. Tel/Fax 0113 260 1978 or 01274 513779 (office) or e-mail randy5@tinworld.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The final exhibition for our 50th Anniversary year has passed into history but not from our memories.

The Display given to members of the Royal Philatelic Society was well received with a good attendance from our own members and from the Royal Philatelic Society. The afternoon concluded with a small buffet and wine. The President, Gavin Fryer, presented the Society with an inscribed plaque to mark the event. This will be displayed at future Society meetings.

The Embassy Exhibition was most successful with old friends, new friends and new members admiring the displays. Several overseas members were warmly welcomed. Non philatelists were surprised to see items other than stamps and there were many comments on the depth of knowledge and variety of material. The official opening on Thursday evening by their Excellencies the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors proved popular, the ceremony taking place on the terrace in the garden to accommodate everyone. The dismantling of the exhibition was achieved in record time surprising us all and leaving time for diners to leisurely make their way to the Vincent Rooms for the celebration dinner. During the evening congratulations to the Society were received from Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakia e. V from their chairman Hartmut Lieberman who presented a marquetry picture of Karlstein Castle, which had been handmade by a member of that Society.

>

All the events were a great success and it is thanks to many members who gave of their time and expertise so willingly. Thank you to everyone who displayed their material, those who organised and those who assisted in any way. Without you the events could not take place.

As a permanent record of the three displays a CD is being produced which will be sent to all members. It will be a reminder of the events and a way to revisit the exhibits at leisure. Thank you Brian Parker for suggesting such a wonderful idea as a record of members' achievements.

Lindy Bosworth

LIST OF CZECHOSLOVAK/CZECH/SLOVAK PHILATELIC WEBSITES

-Lubor Kunc-

Lubor writes, as promised I am enclosing the following list, which I hope your members will find useful.

1. Postal Administrations. Postal Museums :

Czech Postal Administration	http://www.cpost.cz
Slovak Postal Administration	http://www.slposta.sk
Czech Postal Museum of Prague	http://www.cpost.cz/postaAn/muzeum/default.htm
Searching Machine for Slovak stamps	http://www.slposta.sk/filatel/vyhiznamok.htm

2. Czech and Slovak Philatelic Organizations :

Union of Czech Philatelists	http://www.japhila.cz/filatelie/SCF.htm
Union of Slovak Philatelists	http://www.japhila.cz/filatelie/ZSF.htm

2.1. Traditional Organizations

Czech Society for Traditional Philately	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/stfscf.htm
Cuba and Latin America Section	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/latinoamerica.htm
Czechoslovak Typography Iss. Sec.	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/cknihtisk.htm
Perfin Section	http://www.perfin.zde.cz/
Polish Stamp Club in the Czech Rep.	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/polska.htm
Russia and Former USSR Sect.	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/zzruska.htm
Scandinavian Countries Phil. Sect.	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/scandinavia.htm
Pri-Baltica Study Group	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/pribaltica.htm

2.2. Topical Organizations

Czech Topical Society	http://nb.vse.cz/~rotport/cns.htm
Art On Stamps Section	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/artonstamps.htm
BOHEMIKA Section	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/bohemika.htm
Cosmos Philatelic Section	http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/cosmos.htm
Esperanto Section	http://kuk.cz/cea/
Fire Protection Section	http://www.volny.cz/fijepo/
Means of Transportation Phil. Section	http://sweb.cz/doprava_ve_filateli/

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OLYMPSPORT Section <http://web.telecom.cz/olympsport/>
 Polar Section <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/polar.htm>

2.3. Postal History Organizations

Bohemian and Moravian PH Society <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/cmsph/>
 Society for PH of Eastern Bohemia <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/phvc.htm>
 Field Post Section <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/fieldpost.htm>

2.4. The Collector's Clubs

Collector's Club of Alfons Mucha of Brno, CZ (*organizing Brno 2000 intern. stamp show*)
<http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/KF0622.htm>
 Collector's Club Jesenik, CZ <http://www.filatelie.webzdarma.cz/>
 Collector's Club Roznov, CZ <http://home-1.worldonline.cz/~cz197889/>
 Collector's Club Tmavia, SK <http://www.kf-tirnavia.host.sk/>
 Collector's Club Znojmo, CZ <http://www.kmf.wz.cz/>

3. Foreign Philatelic Organizations relating to the Czech and Slovak Philately :

ArGe Tschechoslowakei , Germany http://www.japhila.cz/Arge_Tsch.htm
 Czechosl. Phil. Society of GB <http://www.cpsgb.freemove.co.uk/>
 Czechosl. Phil. Soc. of the Netherlands <http://home.hetnet.nl/~koosvh/>
 Danish Society of Czechosl. Philately <http://www.service2001.dk/arge/>
 Society for Czechosl. Philately, USA <http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com>

4. Philatelic Literature:

Access Point to Czech Phil. Journals <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/literature.htm>
 Bibliography of Philatelic Periodical Literature on Czech Territory 1869 - 2001 :
<http://www.japhila.cz/cz/Czliter2.htm>
 Bibliography of Philatelic Bulletins on Czech Territory by 2000
<http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/foreword.htm>
 Contract Post Offices Bulletin, CZ <http://phist.webpark.cz/contract/archiv.htm>
 Czechoslovak Specialist, USA <http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com/society/specialist/index.html>
 Filatelie, CZ http://www.stamps.cz/ie_cz/Casopis/Archiv/archiv.asp
 Forschungsberichte, GER http://www.japhila.cz/Arge_Tsch.htm
 Japhila On-Line Philatelic Journal, CZ <http://www.japhila.cz>
 PH Informace Bulletin, CZ <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/zpravinformace.htm>
 Scandinavian Philately Bulletin, CZ <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/zpravssz.htm>
 Temaforum Bulletin, CZ <http://sweb.cz/temaforum/>
 Means of Transportation B., CZ http://sweb.cz/doprava_ve_filatelii_Zpravodaj%20sekce.htm
 Zberatel, SK <http://www.zberatel.sk/zberatel.htm>
 Handbooks published by the Czech Society for Territorial Philately :
<http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/STFnewhandbooks.htm>
 Handbooks published by the Czechoslovak Typography Issues Section
<http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/cknihtiskstudie.htm>
 Handbooks published by the Czechoslovak Typography Issues Section – in English language
<http://www.knihtisk.com>
 Phil. Monographs published in the GB <http://www.cpsgb.freemove.co.uk/cpsgbpubs.htm>

5. Philatelic Exhibitions and Fairs :

Brno 2000 <http://www.fides.cz/Brno2000/intro.htm>
 Ostropa 2003, Jihlava (Czech-German) <http://www.ostropa.ji.cz/>
 Zberatel – Collector 2002: Central European Philatelic Fair in Prague
<http://www.ppa.cz/gb/collectorprague/>

6. Other Interesting Philatelic Web Sites :

Czech Philately On-Line <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/>
 Chat about Contract Post Offices <http://www.pandora.cz/list/postovny/>
 Infofila <http://www.infofila.com>
 List of Philatelic Exhibitions held on Czech Territory from 19th century to 2000
<http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/exhibitions.htm>
 Postal History on Czech Territory <http://phist.webpark.cz/>
 Postal History of Vrchlabi Town <http://www.mujiweb.cz/www/hohenelbe/>
 Stamp Gallery of Czech and Slovak Graphic Art <http://home.t-online.de/home/batz.hausen/>

The following letter was received from our member Barry Horne in his capacity as an Insurance Broker and it was felt that members would find this of interest, particularly those who receive the packet which is insured by his organisation. Lindy Bosworth, Chairman

**C G I Services Limited. Registered in England No.3717046. Directors. J B Horne ACIB, L
Ferrier, J M Horne [Secretary] Member of the General Insurance Standards Council**

WHY INSURE PACKETS IN CIRCULATION ?

The Post Office -and Parcel Force [or Parcel FARCE !] has lost an unprecedented amount of mail and we have suffered a considerable loss on the packet insurance. This has forced us to increase the rates and impose further rules on the handling and sending of packets. We felt that it was better to increase the rates rather than cancel all cover under the policy for circulating packets. Cover under the scheme is all risks and a Minimum and Deposit premium is charged based on the maximum amount of each packet circulated and also the total anticipated premium for the year. It is only at the end of each year that you (the Society) will be able to declare the actual total of all packets circulated, and also tell us the numbers [average] of members sending by post and passing by hand.

The Adjustable rate charged on total circulation of all packets issued and reissued in the insurance year is made up by charging 1p per member passing by hand and 15p per member passing by post. There is also a minimum rate of 50p for General Societies and £1 for Specialist Societies. An excess is only charged (of £25) if there have been claims in the last three years of insurance -from Renewal date. Should more claims be recorded then we can increase the excess to £ 50 and increase the adjustable rate for passing by post to 20p per member.

We are now suggesting to all Societies that they arrange for members to telephone the next member on the list and get their acknowledgement before sending any packet by post. Should there have been claims in the past for lost packets then this will become a mandatory requirement. Telephone or e-mail can be used. but it is essential that the member gets an acknowledgement from that next member before posting a packet.

Yes, leave a message on the machine but only post once you have actually heard from the member. In addition to cover for Circulating packets the cover we provide also covers Booklets being held by the Packet Secretary [and assistants] at the addresses] given -each up to the stated limit-say £5,000 or £10,000 etc. and also covers booklets in the ordinary post up to a value of £500 being sent to the Society and also being returned to the owner/vendor, and always with a Certificate of posting being obtained.

While I can appreciate that the cost is increasing, packets are one of the main means of getting and keeping members, especially in a Specialist Society. Most Collectors policies exclude cover of material being circulated in Society Packets, so you may find booklets dry up if there is no insurance cover. We have had claims made for various reasons in respect of material being held, either while making up or breaking down booklets.

-In one case a water tank perforated and water came down over a large part of the members collection and over ALL of the Society stock. Specialist restorers were called in and we paid out nearly £6,000 to the Society alone after allowing for salvage which the Society retained.

-Within two weeks, three boxes, each valued at over £800 were posted to a member who had left & gone abroad without telling the Society. No trace was ever found - did the PO lose them or did the member abscond with them ? We paid out nearly £2,500 for that loss which could have been avoided by telephoning ahead and then alerting the Packet Secretary.

-How about a booklet put on one side and put out with the rubbish ? -that was £120 paid out. [yes it was Christmas and the rubbish was the paper from the presents!!]

-In another Society a member on a hand circuit decided to deliver a box in his Lunch hour to the next member. He owned a shop and for safety put the box in a locked stock room. Unfortunately it was salvage day when all cardboard was collected and the only other person with a key sent the packet off with all the other boxes. We paid out over £500. As an aside the next member on the list had died the previous day and if he had known the packet would have been delivered the previous evening to another member !!

-There was the packet that was put on the car roof while the car was unlocked. The member drove off and the packet bounced off and the contents got soaked in a large puddle. Cost - £350.

-Looking at a booklet in the kitchen and put it down onto a hotplate !! cost £25.

So YES claims do occur other than in the post and I have to say the Post is getting much worse and losing more and more letters and packets [or should that be getting better at losing ... !!!]

Can you as a Society afford the cost of continuing postal and other losses should you decide to discontinue Insurance cover. After all it is the Contributors to the Packet who pay for the insurance by refunding the Societies outlay when booklets are returned, by being with an invoiced for insurance on TOTAL Value, Commission on SALES, postage and a net amount by cheque. Commission is Society Income and should NOT be used to subsidise the Insurance cost.

Barry Horne

ILLUSTRATIONS OF INTEREST



Copy of a letter to the famous stamp dealer Vilem Ekstein (see Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer's letter on page 37)



Photo taken at the Brno Czech and Slovaks in Exile 20th Century International Exhibition showing the stand containing Monographs 5 and 15 (see page 36)



Re Bill Dawson's article on the opening of the Slovak Parliament in *Czechout* 4/2002, Ron Hollis has supplied us with a copy of the special souvenir sheet issued on 31 October 1939

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

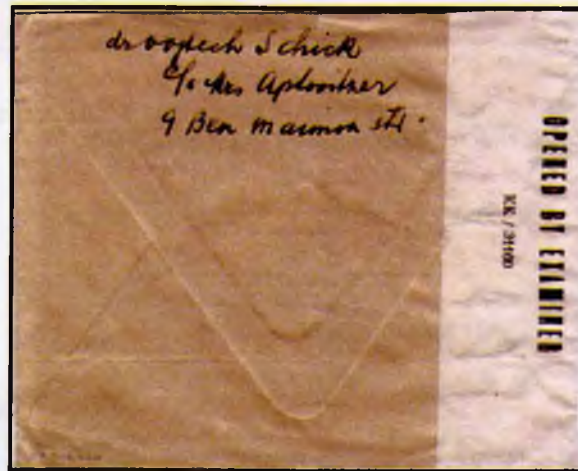
-Members' Queries-

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

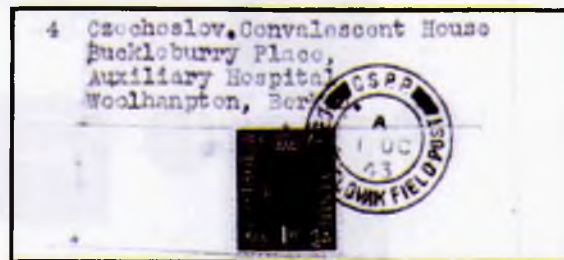
Re: Philip Lindley's query in Czechout 4/2001, page 104 Czech Forces in Windsor

We have received another reply.

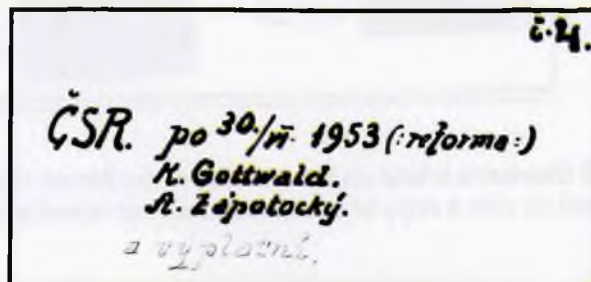
From Richard Beith: Re the old enquiry from Mr. Lindley about a hospital in Windsor, I wonder if the enclosed copies relate? I realise that Woolhampton is between Newbury and Reading but perhaps a patient was visiting Windsor? The envelope from Palestine 25 OC 43 is a recent acquisition. I liked the instruction to forward to PO Box 226 if necessary. The part newspaper wrapper [1 OC 43] has been in my bottom drawer for some time



Two new queries:



From Bob Hill: Re a Bohemia & Moravia document that I acquired some time ago I would be grateful for members help in identifying. Messrs Dixon and Morrell are minded that it is a certificate given to farmers, if it is, why? Anerbengerichts is some form of court but I can find no reference to Anerben



Reverse of top half of the B&M Certificate

>

From Richard Beith: The 24k air mail stamp issued on 12 June 1946 and used just on that day for the introduction of Pan American's Prague-New York service shows a large four-motor plane with triple fins flying (dangerously low) over the Charles Bridge (see enlargement). This design was re-used for the definitive air mail series. Stanley Gibbons (Part 5) calls it a (Lockheed) Constellation, but Scott and all the Czech produced catalogues I have seen decline to identify the plane. The Constellation did have four engines and triple fins but was far more elegant than the very solid plane shown here, see illustration below.

In the December 2001 issue of *The Canadian Aerophilatelist*, it is suggested that the plane is actually the unique DC-4E. see Illustration below. This Douglas prototype first flew, as the DC-4, on 7 June 1938, and was later evaluated by United Airlines. Some performance aspects were considered unsatisfactory and the plane considered a maintenance nightmare. Hence a smaller and less complicated plane was developed for the sponsoring American airlines and it was this version which we now know as the DC-4. The unique prototype was reclassified as the Douglas DC-4E (E = Experimental) and sold to Japan.

Question: How did this 1938 prototype become the basis for the design of a Czechoslovak stamp in 1946? Did the stamp designer think that he was working with a photograph of a Constellation, or what?



Enlarged stamp



Douglas DC4 - E



The Elegant Constellation

CZECH RAILWAY POST IN THE 1998/99 TIMETABLE

-Thomas Tschimer-
Translated by Douglas D Baxter

We thank Rick Martin, Editor of TPO [TPO & Seapost Society] for sending us this article and Herr Tomas Tschimer for permission to publish his paper which originally appeared in Tschechische Bahnpost 1/99

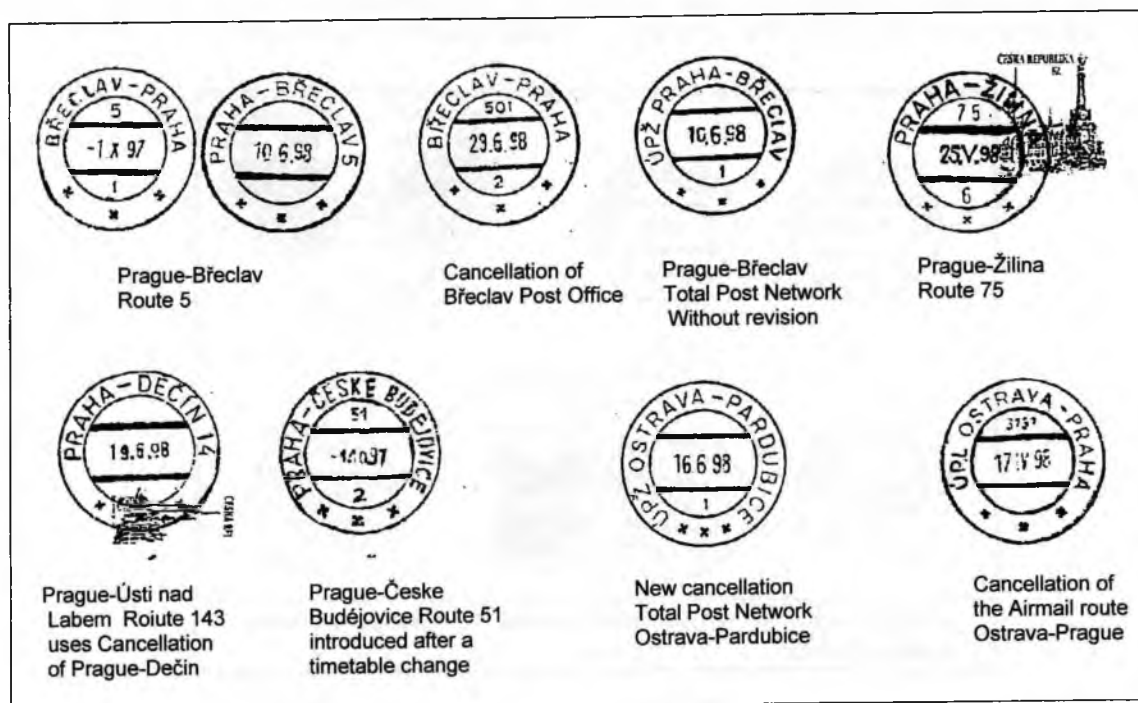
If you compare the current traffic with that of the previous timetable, it appears from the large number of new routes, that the decline in Railway Post in the Czech Republic has been halted. Unfortunately this is a false impression. The Post Offices in České Budejovice and Ostrava have handed all their activities to Brno. In West Bohemia, all the routes between Píseň and Prague have clearly been severed and the Prague connection to Cheb is something of the past. If you look more closely at where cuts have been made and at what has replaced them, the following can be ascertained: routes, which could be revised, have been significantly reduced, those which have a particular "transport character" and very little opportunity for revision have been more and more retained. This has probably caused the very sudden influx of female Railway Post employees!

Of course the separation of the Czech Republic and Slovakia has contributed significantly to this development and the transport routes in the now separately existing states have been decisively reduced, because the two states are, individually much smaller than the former Czechoslovakia. In the meantime, the exchange of mail between the two states takes place exclusively on the route between Břeclav and Bratislava; the route between Ostrava [Moravia] and Žilina [Slovakia] has been withdrawn [with a certain amount of luck, it is still possible to get the Žilina cancellation from route 75 - it is still part of their equipment.

A further remarkable thing in comparison with the previous year is to be found in the management of the remaining routes: there exist only very few communications between individual Railway Posts and in the meantime it is put on to lorry routes and therefore refused at local post offices. That is completely the case on routes 4150-4179. With these routes it is still possible to obtain cancellations like Prague-Olomouc, Prague-Přerov, Prague-Pardubice and Pardubice-Ostrava but it has to be remembered that these will cease when the electrification of the stretch between Česká Třebová and Brno is complete and the diversions and the associated delays end. For a long time a "wagon association" has again been operating in this section of the timetable on trains R1304/1305. Together with some goods wagons, this association runs the "diverted wagon" from route 75 as well as continuing to run three whole-network routes, on which extremely interesting cancellations can be obtained. For the routes Prague-Olomouc and Pardubice-Ostrava new cancellations were produced. The route Prague-Přerov uses a cancellation whose outer ring, with the details of the route is attached to the body of a hand datestamp of a Railway Post Office originating from the 30's. These hand cancellers carry of course details of the time, which leads to the adjustment of the whole year number. The outer ring originates from an earlier datestamp from route 504 [PA Přerov]. No less worthy of note is the handstamp for the route Prague-Pardubice: it bears the inscription OZ Přepřava AP [traffic to another Úpž area] and is, to my knowledge, the first Úpž canceller used on the Railway Post. On all the network routes, the route number is handwritten. As these wagons do not deal with ordinary letter mail, this is immediately handed over to route 75 and so this handstamp is often an additional one on the letter.

Route 3737 - Airmail: astonishingly there are, for this route some cancellations with their own "loading labels". On flight L-410 Ostrava 22.55 - Prague 00.01 - 00.40 - Ostrava 01.45 lead-sealed bags are used. Railway Postal staff in Ostrava-Mosnov bzw and Prague-Kbely prepares these.

The volume of mail carried by the wagons does not augur well for the future. While the wagons are, with a few exceptions completely full on all the network routes, there are more and more empty ones on the "diversion" routes. The involvement of the German Post Office in our neighbouring country is contributing to this. EMS has just firmly established that a parcel service is being built up at the moment. Alongside the here-mentioned Railway Post, there still exist throughout the country numerous Railway Parcel Post services. Alongside the purely postal trains there are some routes which have mixed trains. These consist of wagons intended only for mail, luggage vans owned by the State Railway and a carriage for the workers. To my knowledge these routes do not have a route-cancellation but have a place-cancellation of the appropriate post office. This cancellation corresponds to the>



Railway Post

Railway Post No.	Railway Post Description	Limitations	Train Number	Departure	Arrival	Controlling Office
1	Praha- Břeclav 1 1)	Z	1303/1373	12:30	19:34	OZ Pt Praha
1	Praha- Břeclav 1 2)	Z	1303/1335	12:30	21:45	
1	Břeclav- Praha 1 1)	Pt	1370/1300	00:43	07:30	
1	Břeclav- Praha 1 2)	Z	1334/1300	23:01	07:30	
5	Praha- Břeclav 5		375	22:57	03:16	
5	Břeclav- Praha 5 3)		310/29491	18:46	23:18	
5	Břeclav- Praha 5 4)		1110	18:46	22:57	
7	Praha- Ostrava 7	P	1301	23:30	06:35	
7	Ostrava-Praha 7	P	1302	16:45	24:00	
14	Praha-Ústí n.L. 14	Z	29488/876	22:10	01:25	
14	Ústí n.L.- Praha 14	Z	1375/29487	21:00	24:00	
22	Praha-Karlovy Vary 22	Z	29488/876/1690	22:10	03:37	
22	Karlovy Vary- Praha 22	Z	7005/835/29487	17:52	24:00	
75	Praha-Ostrava 75	Z	1305	22:10	03:33	
75	Ostrava- Praha 75	Z	1404	17:40	23:10	
76	Praha-Ostrava 76	Z	1303	12:30	20:01	
76	Ostrava- Praha 76	Pt	1300	00:01	07:30	
84	Plzeň-Praha 84	Pt	1651/29483	03:32	06:45	
341	Plzeň-Klatovy 341	P	7500	03:15	04:32	
341	Klatovy-Plzeň 341	Z	7533	18:57	19:58	
		S	7503	12:26	13:31	
344	Praha- Plzeň 344	Z	29488/850	22:10	01:53	
348	Plzeň- Praha 348	S	7815/29485	17:03	20:50	
349	Plzeň- Praha 349	Z	421/29487	20:14	24:00	
349	Praha-Plzeň 349	T	29480/672	09:00	12:06	
350	Plzeň-Domažlice 350	P	7400	03:44	05:20	
354	Cheb-Plzeň 354	S	7307	12:51	15:26	
355	Plzeň-Cheb 355	C	73-8	14:55	17:53	
355	Cheb-Plzeň 355	Z	7220/421	17:27	20:04	Břeclav 02
501	Břeclav- Praha 502 1)	P	1372/1302	17:15	24:00	
501	Břeclav- Praha 501 2)	P	1332/1302	15:06	24:00	
501	Praha- Břeclav 501 1)	P	1301/1371	23:30	05:47	
501	Praha- Břeclav 501 2)	P	1301/1333	23:30	08:04	
572	Břeclav-Petrovice u Kar. 572		202	23:27	02:25	
572	Petrovice u Kar-Břeclav 572		203	01:35	04:43	
573	Břeclav-Ostrava 573	Z	4626/1331	20:57	02:44	
573	Ostrava-Břeclav 573	Z	1330/375	21:50	03:16	

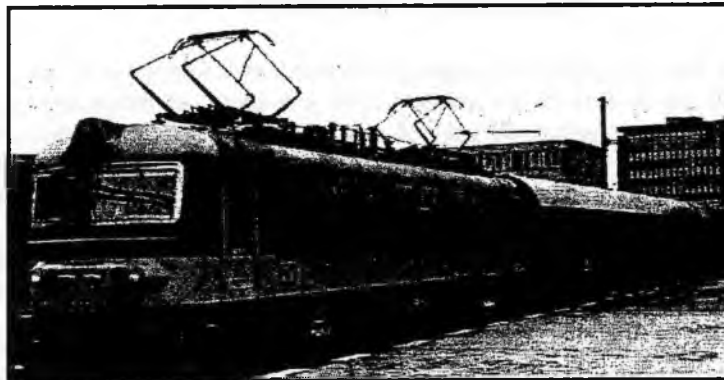
Footnotes:

Z = Monday-Friday. P = Monday-Saturday. T = Tuesday-Sunday. S = Saturday. Pt = daily, except after Sundays and holidays. No indication = daily.

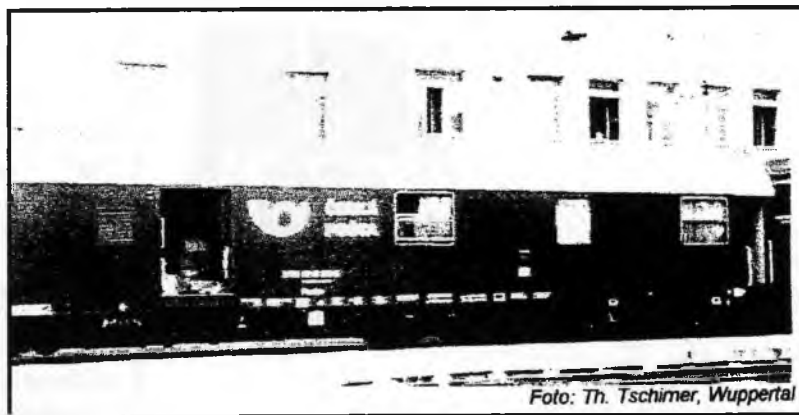
1. does not follow this timetable between Česka Třebova and Brno.
2. follows this timetable between Česka Třebova and Brno.
3. operates up to 26.09.98 and after 26.03.99
4. operates between 27.09.98 and 25.03.99

Total Postal Network

Railway Post No.	Railway Post Description	Limitations	Train Number	Departure	Arrival	Controlling Office
4101	Praha- Břeclav 4101		671	14.22	18.55	OZ Pt Praha
4102	Břeclav- Praha 4102		672	05.40	10.01	
4113	Břeclav-Bratislava 4113		271/9603	05.20	07.14	RPP Bratislava
4113	Bratislava- Břeclav 4113		9626/270	13.47	16.27	
4150	Pardubice- Praha 4150	Z	1304	21.41	23.10	OZ Pt Praha
4151	Praha- Pardubice 4151	Z	1305	22.10	23.51	
4152	Ostrava- Pardubice 4152	Z	1304	17.40	21.18	
4153	Pardubice-Ostrava 4153	Pt	1305	00.09	03.33	
4176	Přerov-Praha 4176	Z	1304	18.58	23.10	
4177	Praha- Přerov 4177	Z	1305	22.10	02.21	
4178	Praha-Olomouc 4178	Z	1304	19.24	23.10	
4179	Praha-Olomouc 4179	Z	1305	22.10	01.58	
4203	Domažlice- Plzeň 4203	Z	7421	19.55	21.18	Plzeň 02
		S	7411	11.45	13.06	
4580	Bratislava- Břeclav 4580	Z	9636/374	22.36	01.19	Břeclav 02
4581	Břeclav- Bratislava 4581	Z	279/9621	16.26	18.13	



Train 7307 on 16.09.99 in Cheb. Railwaypost Cheb-Plzeň



Loading platform at Prague 022



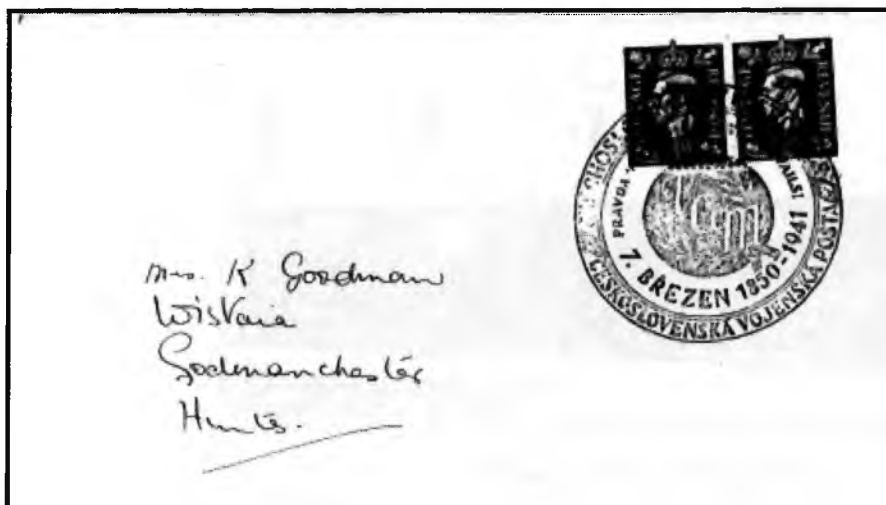
Prague-Ostrava and vv mailguard postmarks, posted on 30.12.2002, courtesy of Manfred Markus,

COVERS OF INTEREST

Letters collected by Mrs Kay Goodman regarding Czechoslovak Forces in Exile

Kay Goodman, who joined the Society on 30 January 1954 and was a member and Honorary President until 1987 had collected Czech stamps as part of her general philatelic interest and it became a specialist hobby at the time of the 1943 London Exhibition which she attended and some members will recall the enthusiasm shown by her when she recounted her experience at that historical visit. She had already struck up a philatelic friendship with a Czech soldier who had been serving at Leamington Spa, where the Czech Army was stationed from October 1940 until May 1942 and it is thought that she may also have attended at the Sokol evening, at the Odeon Palace Theatre, Bury St.Edmunds, Suffolk on Sunday 29 June 1941 when a gymnastic and musical evening was given by the Czech Army; just about 38 miles from her home. She was able to put together a very nice collection of this World War II material both commemorative and postally mailed to her home address and the three illustrations shown extend from the earliest in 1941 to the last sent "On Active Service" from France in December 1944.

Brian Day



1941 Cover with K.G.VI, ½d green stamps cancelled with special commemorative postmark dated 7th March 1941, for the birthday of the first President of the Republic, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, addressed to Mrs Kay Goodman.

1944 Cover with K.G.VI 2½d. blue stamp cancelled with civil postmark of Southend-on-Sea, dated 21 AUG 1944, where some base facilities were temporarily retained pending the Army's embarkation to France, addressed to Godmanchester, Hunts.

Signature and censor cachet No. 12736 of the Artillery Regiment

Artillery crest printed in red on reverse.



1944 Cover posted from France by a soldier "On Active Service" with the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade, then serving in Northern France, at the Dunkirk Pocket and containing the German Garrison which was cut off from its main army.

Regular field post canceller, Code A, dated 15 DE 44, addressed to Godmanchester, Hunts

Signature and censor cachet No. 12737 of the Artillery Regiment

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.

Continued from Czechout 1/2003 page 21

Transit Cancellations

Transit hand cancellations

This kind of cancellation as an indication of passage through the checking of without being processed [apart from the above-mentioned exceptions] appears in limited numbers, for example on diplomatic, consular and official's mail and sometimes on registered mail.

G-30 Circular cancellation, 20mm in diameter with the identification "Ag" used from August 1941 to December 1943. Also sometimes used when the censor cancellation was not available, in conjunction with the sealing tape and with ordinary neutral brown paper tapes, 30mm wide. Cancellation rarely in red, normally in blue or blue/black. For different purposes the border of the cancellation is partially notched. Illustration 363.

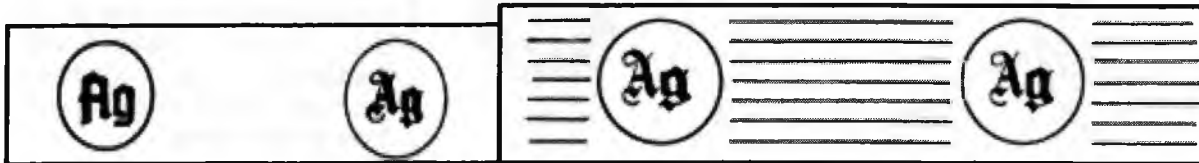
G-31 As above, 21-22mm in diameter but with a different typeface,. Colour - blue, blue/black and black. Used from March to June 1944. Illustration 364.

G-32 As above with diameter of 20mm and with very slightly altered letters. Colour is blue-black or black. Used from August to December 1944.

Machine Transit-cancellations

To achieve quicker clearance these were supposed to be used but they are rarely found.

G-40 Circular cancellation, 26mm in diameter with the letters "Ag" in the middle. The tops of the circles are 52mm apart, joined by seven horizontal lines. Used from March to July 1944, sometimes when the normal cancellation was not available. Illustration 365



363

364

365

Censor's marks

In January 1940 the checked items received a hand-written four-figure number in pencil. From February onwards cancellations with three figure numbers appeared, 4mm high, colour - blue/black and from March 1940 cancellations with four figure numbers were used, 3mm high, colour - blue/black and green. These identification marks can be seen until the office closed. They appear on the front and back of letters, up to four times on any one item. The hand-written numbers continued to be used and only these are found on the actual sheets of writing paper. They are the mark of the special checker(censor); the marks indicate the preliminary check on sender and receiver in the long procedure.

Then, from the middle of 1941 there is a six figure number imprint in green. The height of the figures is 6mm. With this mark the items were numbered consecutively as they arrived. The identical number is also found on the sheets of writing paper. From the appearance of the figures it can be seen that three different machines were in use. Here, to, registered items were handled in a special way. A changing process can be identified, starting in the autumn of 1940. These items received, in red pencil, a hand-

written number, prefixed with the letter L e.g. "L104656", which was later crossed out. In November 1940, a six figure-numbering machine with red ink came into use. The figures were 6mm high e.g. "170503". This, too, was later crossed out. In 1942, this mark was changed to a five-figure number, prefixed by the letter "L" e.g. L74373, firstly in red and later in black. These marks, too, were crossed out. Finally, in 1944, there appeared a six-figure numbering machine printed mark, again in black, with numbers 5mm high. With registered mail, therefore, the six figures numbering machine-printed mark in green is missing.

At this censor office, coloured checking marks for control according to the C.T.A. method are very rarely seen.

Marks giving information

This kind of mark on items of mail for the information of the sender or receiver was also used by this office.

G-75a a one-line cancellation "Return - inadmissible", 70mm in length, blue/black, mostly on postcards. Used in 1941/1942. Illustration 366.

G-75b The most well-known cancellation of this sort is the one-line cancel, 68mm long with the information "Return, inadmissible!" Colour - blue, blue/black and green. Used from June 1940 to December 1944. When it is found on letters it refers to a label which is attached. Illustration 367.

G-76 As above with the text "Return to sender", 61mm long, on letters which also had the appropriate label. Colour - blue/black. Appeared 1943. Illustration 368.

G-77a Two line stamp "Return to sender/Reason enclosed", 50mm long. As the hand cancel suggests the letter contained a label. Colour - red. It was used from 1944-45. Illustration 369.

G-77b Same canceller, same text but 48mm long. Illustration 370.

G-78 The most interesting hand cancel from this office is of four lines with the text "Return to sender/In accordance with document Vf.482/1943 of the RPM*/normal mail to foreign countries/must be handed in at the counter." Appears so far only on postcards; colour - black. Because of its size the imprint is rarely legible. Used 1944-45. Illustration 371. (*I presume this stands for Reichspostministerium - Reich Postal Ministry. DDB).

G-79 One line cancellation on checked items with the text "Postal traffic discontinued - return" 105mm long. Colour - violet, appeared Autumn 1944. It is unknown whether this stamp originates from the censor office or from the head post office. It is also found 95mm long. Illustration 372.

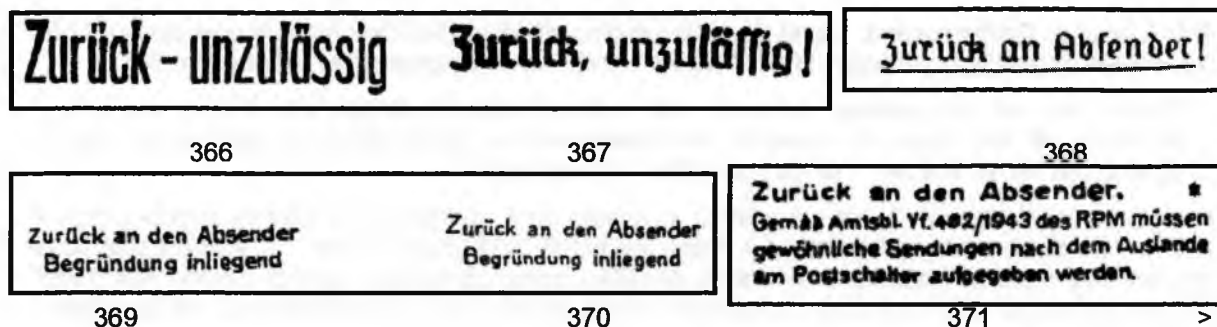
G-80a A cancel with the text "Import of stamps forbidden!". 50mm long. Colour - green. Used in 1940.
Export Illustration 373

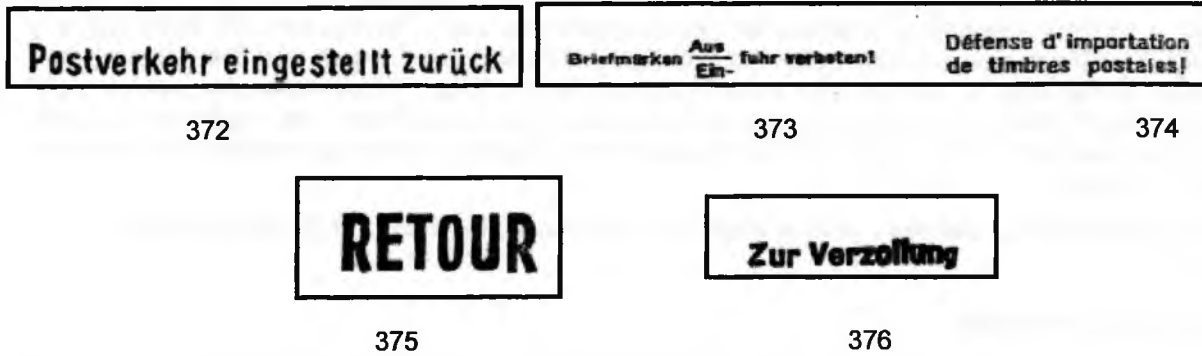
G-80b Similarly, a cancel with the (French) text "Import of postage stamps forbidden." 39mm long. Colour - green. Used 1940. Illustration 374.

G-80c A handstamp "RETURN", 40mm long, also in green. Used 1940/42. Illustration 375.

The green colour of the above cancellers indicates their use by the office's Foreign Exchange Control Department.

G-81 A handstamp with the text "Duty payable", 42mm long. Colour - green. Used on mail which had to be forwarded to the Customs Office. Illustration 376.



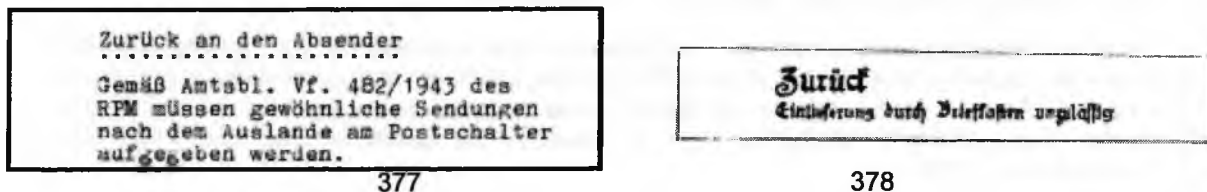


Information slips

Occasionally, this censor office used labels, which were stuck on rejected items of mail.

G-85 Here, too, it is clear that the adhesive information label is the forerunner of the information stamp which was used later. It is a typewritten reproduction of handstamp G-78, again with the same text. It measures 110x40mm. The label was stuck on the front of the envelope, covering the destination address and cancelled with a censor mark, half on the label and half on the envelope. Illustration 377

G-86 Although the use of the above label was certain, the use of the following is uncertain. It is found on items of mail which were going to States whose links with the Reich were dealt with in Vienna, but could be applied by a Post Office. It is a two-line handstamp "Return/delivery through letter box not allowed". It is 53mm long on a label 103x30mm and was stuck over the destination address. Colour blue/black. Used in 1944. Illustration 378



Enclosure slips

To inform the sender of contravention of regulations regarding transfer of news to foreign countries, the rejected, returned mail had a slip enclosed that gave the reason for its rejection.

G-90 A label measuring 210x700mm, typewritten and duplicated, which referred the sender to the ban on the exchange of postage stamps. It appeared in the summer of 1940. The provisional label is the first of the following series. Illustration 379

"Exchange of postage stamps with foreign countries during the war is undesirable. Any future sending of stamps will be met with a ban." Illustration 379

G-91a A label of similar content with the threat of possible confiscation of such mailing., Measurement 110x55mm. Appeared 1941. Illustration 338

"During the war the sending of stamps and the exchange of stamps with foreign countries is forbidden. If this offence is repeated. The stamps will be confiscated." Illustration 380

G-91b A label of similar content. Apart from the warning about confiscation there is now the possibility of the start of criminal proceedings! Measurement 110x62mm. Appeared 1941. Illustration 381

"During the war the sending of stamps and the exchange of stamps with foreign countries is forbidden. If the offence is repeated, the stamps will be confiscated and criminal proceedings against you will be started. The Censor Office." Illustration 381

G-91c Even now, this topic is not exhausted. A further label, measuring 100x50mm appears on pink paper. It has the following printer's mark "Form 24.30000 V.42-Q/0337 2734". It appears that some order has now come to the system of what were called forms. Later they carry the mark "ABP Form" (see B-94 and B-96). The mark also indicates the total numbers of the labels (forms) that were used. Illustration 382

G-92 Also provisional, typewritten and duplicated is the label, measuring 104x62mm which announces that any reporting abroad of air-raids and their consequences should be omitted. It appeared in summer 1943. Illustration 382a

"Any report which relates to enemy air-raids (time, place, number of bombs dropped, resulting damage, loss of human life etc.) Must be omitted from letters, which are destined for countries abroad. Foreign Mail Censor Office." Illustration 382a

G-93 This label has the same design as the one above, measures 112x48mm. It refers to the order No.268/43 of the Reich Post Ministry of 11.5.43, which forbids the re-use of used envelopes. Illustration 383.

G-94a The most well-known label of this sort, which lists no fewer than ten reasons for rejection, which can be underlined as appropriate, measures 89x66mm. The heading is "Returned according to regulations dated 24.4.40, governing transmission of news items." It was in use probably from 1940 to 1943 and was then replaced by the so-called "form sheet" after the publication of a second order. Illustration 384.

"Returned according to the regulation of 2.4.40 governing transmission of news items (Reich Law 1 of June 1st 1940, No.85) Braille - shorthand - Hebrew script - chess problem - crossword or other puzzle - artificial language - posted in a pillar box - name of sender not provided - photos stuck on picture postcard" Illustration 384

G-94b Because of the long period that this label was in use, and the great frequency with which it was used, reprints were necessary, which sometimes vary in the layout of the reasons. This label was used in 1942. Illustration 385.

G-94c By 1942 the given reasons for rejection were insufficient. The label received an additional handstamp which named five further reasons. Colour - blue/black. Illustration 386.

" - typewritten - printed matter - *? - format exceeded - postage stamps - more than four pages". Illustration 386 [it is impossible to read this part of the word. DDB]

G-95 A label with black print on dark red paper. It is therefore difficult to reproduce. It has the text "Not delivered, the Soviet Union, from experience will not allow any enquiries about missing persons through official offices or private intermediaries from neutral, foreign countries. In the case of enquiries about the battles in Stalingrad, contact should be made with the appropriate military registration office."

It bears the printer's reference "ABP Form 54n 70,000.IV.43Q/Q0337.306". The label resembles label B-96 Illustration 99 apart from slight differences. It appeared in April 1943.

G-96 After the incorporation of the German prisoners of war into censoring outgoing mail, an enclosure label was produced in Vienna to explain the reasons for rejection. It measured 105x65mm. Its text was "Returned according to the regulations relating to post to German prisoners of war." There followed 27(!) detailed forbidden communications. Interesting is the printer's mark ABP Form 84.10000.XI.44.-Q//0337. 3009". There cannot have been many more than 84 different enclosure labels so only the tip of the famous iceberg has been seen. Illustration 387 (see below).

"The following are forbidden: Communications relating to Military matters of all sorts (also communications relating to injured, killed or missing persons, frostbite, amputations). Air raids and damage (details), Political news (communist ideas, weariness of war, conditions in Germany which the enemy could not gather from newspapers or the radio, abuse of the enemy). Economic information (reports on the harvest, shortage of materials, strength of the workforce). Epidemics (also among animals). Letters with a religious content (bible quotations). Re-used envelopes (including those with paper stuck on the back). Use of the language of an enemy country. Picture postcards, greetings cards, New Year cards, pictures and drawings of any sort, printed matter, newspapers." Illustration 387

Finally, the labels had Customs references written on them by the relevant department in the censor office, which allowed the letter to be forwarded to the local customs office of the recipient.

G-100 Here too, the importation of postage stamps plays an important role. The label for this purpose measured 90x344mm, cut by hand, on green paper with black print and bearing the text "To the main customs office/...../For handling postage stamps." It was stuck on the front of the envelope. Handwritten in the space in the middle was the name of the customs office. Used in 1940. Illustration 388.>

G-101 The next label measures 70x39mm and was probably part of a roll from which a piece this long was cut. It is on dark coloured paper with a black printed text "To be presented at the customs office." It was also stuck to the front of the envelope. It appeared in 1941/42. Illustration 389.

G-102 Finally, in 1944 there was a hand-cut label, green paper with the text "Produce at the relevant customs office". It measures 80x18mm. Illustration 390.

2. Feldpost bei hiesigen Feindpost
 Der Briefmarkentausch zwischen In- und Ausland ist während des Krieges unerwünscht. Es muss mit einer Beanstandung etwaiger künftiger Briefmarkensendungen gerechnet werden.
 Die Prüfstelle.

Während des Krieges ist der Versand von Briefmarken und der Briefmarkentausch zwischen dem In- und Auslande verboten. Im Wiederholungsfalle würde eine derartige Briefmarkensendung beschlagnahmt werden.
 Die Prüfstelle.

379

380

Während des Krieges ist der Versand von Briefmarken und der Briefmarkentausch zwischen dem In- und Auslande verboten. Im Wiederholungsfalle würde eine derartige Briefmarkensendung beschlagnahmt und gegen Sie ein Strafverfahren eingeleitet werden.
 Die Prüfstelle.

Während des Krieges ist der Versand von Briefmarken und der Briefmarkentausch (auch Zuadressierungswunsch) zwischen dem In- und Auslande, falls keine Genehmigung vorhanden, verboten. Im Wiederholungsfalle würde eine derartige Briefmarkensendung beschlagnahmt werden.
 Die Prüfstelle.
Formbl. Nr. 3000 v. 41. Genst. 2734

381

382

Jede Mitteilung, die auf feindliche Fliegerangriffe Bezug nimmt (Zeit, Ort, Zahl der Bombenwürfer, entstandene Schäden, Verluste an Menschenleben usw.) ist in Briefen, die für das Ausland bestimmt sind, zu unterlassen.
 Auslandsbriefprüfstelle.

Gemäß Nr. 45 des Amtsblattes des Reichspostministers v. 11. 5. 43 Verfg. Nr. 268/43 ist die Wiederverwendung bereits benutzter Briefumschläge als Hülle für Briefsendungen jeder Art nach dem Ausland verboten.
 Die Prüfstelle.

382a

383

Zurück gemäß Verordnung über den Nachrichten-Verkehr vom 2. April 1940.
(Mitteilungsbl. I vom 1. Juni 1940, Nr. 97)
 Blindenschrift - Kurzschrift - hebräische Schriftzeichen - Schachaufgabe - Kreuzwort- u. a. Rätsel - Kunstsprache - Einwurf in den Briefkasten - Ableser nicht angegeben - aufgeklebte Fotos - Ansichtskarte.

Zurück gemäß Verordnung über den Nachrichten-Verkehr vom 2. April 1940.
(Mitteilungsbl. I vom 1. Juni 1940, Nr. 97)
 Blindenschrift - Kurzschrift - hebräische Schriftzeichen - Schachaufgabe - Kreuzwort- u. a. Rätsel - Kunstsprache - Einwurf in den Briefkasten - Ableser nicht angegeben - aufgeklebte Fotos - Ansichtskarte.

384

385

386↓

- Druckzeichen - Drucke - Buchstaben
Formbl. überliefert - Briefmarken - Seite 10 u. 11

Zurück gemäß den Bestimmungen für den Postverkehr mit deutschen Kriegsgefangenen.
 Verbaten sind:
 Mitteilungen betreffend:
 Militärische Angelegenheiten aller Art (auch Mitteilungen über Verwundete, Gefallene, Vermisste, Entlassungen, Amputationen), Fliegerangriffe und Schäden (Einzelheiten), Politische Nachrichten (kommunistische Einstellung, Kriegsmüdigkeit, Zustände in Deutschland, die der Feind nicht aus Zeitung oder Rundfunk schöpfen kann, Beschimpfung des Feindes), Wirtschaftliche Nachrichten (Ernteberichte, Mangel an Waren, Arbeitskräften), Epidemische Krankheiten (auch Tierseuchen), Briefe religiösen Inhaltes (Bibelprübe), überklebte Briefumschläge (auch Klebestreifen auf Rückseite), Gebrauch einer Feindsprache, Gefangenschaftsberichte, Glückwunschkarten, Neujahrskarten, Bilder und Zeichnungen aller Art, Druckzeichen, Zeitungen.
 Die Prüfstelle.
NdJ. Form. Nr. 12.000. Nr. 46 - G 6337, 3000

AN HAUPTZOLLAMT
Franke/West / Klein
ZUR BRIEFMARKENBEHANDLUNG

388

387→

to be continued.

NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

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

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

Czech Republic

26.03.2003

Easter 2003

Designer: Eva Natus-Šalamounová **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 23 x 30mm.

Design: a humorous picture of symbols of Easter. A surprised baby hare emerges from a painted egg tied with a bow, to view the coloured butterflies with an artist's brush. **FDC:** printed DS in green with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is another humorous drawing of the egg, baby hare and a bird.

26. 03. 2003

Folk Traditions – Lace Making

Designer: Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 20, stamp size 33 x 33mm. **FDCs:** printed DS, both with commemorative Praha cancel. **Designs:** examples of lace produced at the end of the 19th century from the Ethnography Department collections in the National Museum. Lace was a traditional adornment for folk and ritual costumes. Individual regions had their own patterns, techniques, colours and materials.

The quality and quantity of lace on a garment reflected the prosperity of the individual and region.

6.40Kč a sample of netted lace. **FDC:** cachet design in red-violet of a woman from Blata, southern Bohemia wearing a mid-19th century embroidered shawl trimmed with lace.

9Kč: a sample of bobbin lace. **FDC:** cachet design in blue-violet of a woman (c. 1900) from the Vamberk area, eastern Bohemia making bobbin lace.

Booklets: - (2) of 6 stamps and 4 labels for each denomination. The labels have the logo of the Ostropa exhibition with the text in Czech "The 2nd Czech-Germany Postage Stamp exhibition Ostropa 2003 Jihlava."

26. 03. 2003

Definitive: A Rose Above Prague

Designer: Karel Zeman **Printing:** multi-coloured offset by Victoria Security Printing, a.s., in sheets of 9 stamps and 9 labels. Stamp and label size 23 x 30mm. (There was no official FDC).

Designs: the stamp has the astronomical tower of the Clementinum and the statue of Atlas with the Church of Our Lady of Týn and other Prague buildings in the background. Three rose sprays dominate the foreground. The design was inspired by J Seifert's verses of Prague and his favourite flower – the rose.

The labels have the text in Czech "Label for You" in black and a star like decoration in blue above and below. The three right hand labels have a) an ornamental balustrade b) a star like decoration and c) in Czech "The New Service of the Czech Post". Some sheets of the print run were with blank labels for additional printing by customers. [For Ostropa 2003 commemorative sheets were available with three different designs of label.]

>

07.05.2003

Europa – The Art of the Poster



Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 8, stamp size 23 x 40mm.

Design: a poster created in 1962 by Karel Vaca for the Italian film "Dolce Vita" by F. Fellini.

The pioneer of the poster was the Frenchman Jules Chéret in the early second half of the 19th century. The early 1890s saw the rise of Czech posters and by 1900 were recognised all over Europe – mainly the works of A. Mucha, L. Marold, J. Preisler and V. Preissig. After World War II there was another rise in the production of poster and publicity pictures.

FDC: printed DS in grey black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is taken from the poster for the film "Roma" by Zdeněk Ziegler.

07.05.2003

Beauties of Our Country



Designer: RNDr Adolf Absolon **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8, stamp size 40 x 26mm.

Designs: 12Kč – Dragon Rocks from the Hrubá Skála region of the Czech Paradise (Český ráj) with the Trosky Castle in the background.

FDC: printed DS in grey with a commemorative Turnov cancel. The cachet design shows a group of sandstone rocks with trees.

14Kč: the Masaryk Dome in the Punkva caves in the Moravian Karst region. **FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with a commemorative Blansko cancel. The cachet drawing shows the rock formation Hřebenáč at Sloup.

28.05.2003

Technical Monuments – The oldest Czech Viewing Towers



Designer: RNDr Adolf Absolon **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 23 x 30mm.

Designs: a) stone viewing tower Klet'. This is the oldest surviving viewing tower in the Republic built in 1852 by Prince Josef Schwarzenberg on Klet', the highest peak in Blanský Forest in the Český Krumlov district. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Český Krumlov cancel. The cachet drawing is taken from the original 1824 architect's work.

b) metal viewing tower Jablonka. The tower, situated above Hrabětice in the Jablonec nad Nisou region, was made by the firm Waagner, Vienna in 1887. It stands on a 3m base and is nearly 12 m high. In 1999 a preservation society was founded and the tower declared a national technical monument. It has been extensively refurbished and is open to the public. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Lučany nad Nisou cancel. The cachet drawing is a modern technical plan of the tower.

[NB. The stamps have the year of issue as 2002 as they were to have been originally issued on 16 October 2002. The floods affected the Post Printing House and the issue date was postponed without change to the year of issue.]

28.05.2003

For Children



Designer: Adolf Born **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30, stamp size 23 x 30mm.

Design: the school friends Mach and Šebestová with their dog Jonathon Mach is holding a magic telephone receiver from which they hear messages and go on many adventures. The characters are well known through children's TV programmes and the book written by Miloš Macourek with illustrations by Adolf Born. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows the three friends on a scooter.

Stamp booklet: 8 stamps and 2 stamp size labels. The labels show the three friends and Míca the cat.

28. 05. 2003

100th Anniversary of Křižík's First Electric Railway from Tábor to Bechyně

Designer and Engraver: Jiří Bouda **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 40 x 23mm.

Design: a carriage from this rail link. The two original carriages made the first electric inter-city rail link in Bohemia on 21 June 1903. The maximum speed on the line was set at 25 kph and the 23km journey with 12 stops took over an hour. The line linking the two towns was sponsored by the Country Committee of the Kingdom of Bohemia, by the two towns and headed by the Czech electrical engineer, inventor and business man František Křižík (1847-1941)

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Tábor cancel. The cachet drawing is a map of the railway area.

Postal Stationery

Official Commemorative Postcards

26. 03. 2003. Ostropa 2003. Designer: Oldřich Pošmurný (card), Marie Svobodová (stamp) **Printing** : offset **Design:** stamp – the logo of the exhibition with denomination 6.40Kč below. Card – left portion is a reproduction of a painting by Antonín Chittussi and the text in Czech "The 2nd Czech-German Postage Stamp Exhibition Ostropa 2003 Jihlava" and "Antonin Chittussi: Jihlava, 1885-6, District Gallery of Vysočina in Jihlava" The card retails for 11.40Kč. The Exhibition was held from 24 – 27 April 2003 and was the second Ostropa exhibition. The first one was held in Münchberg, Germany in 2000.

26 03. 2003. 80th Anniversary of the Start of Regular Radio Broadcasting in the Czech Lands. Designer: Jiří Rathouský **Printing:** offset **Design:** the imprinted 6.40Kč stamp is the logo for the anniversary produced by Men on the Moon Entertainment, spol. sro Prague. The cachet shows diffusing broadcasting waves and the text in Czech "80th Anniversary of the Start of Regular Radio Broadcasting in the Czech Lands" and the date 18/5/2003. The retail price is 11.40Kč.

07.05.2003. 10th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation. Designer: Václav Kučera **Printing:** multi-coloured offset. **Design:** stamp – the logo of the ETUC, and its name in English and Czech with the years 1973 and 2003. Card – left portion is the logo of the Confederation, the congress and stylised symbol of Prague with appropriate texts. The retail price of the card is 14Kč. The Congress took place in Prague from 26th-29th May 2003 and marked the 10th Congress and the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organisation.

Promotional Postcards

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

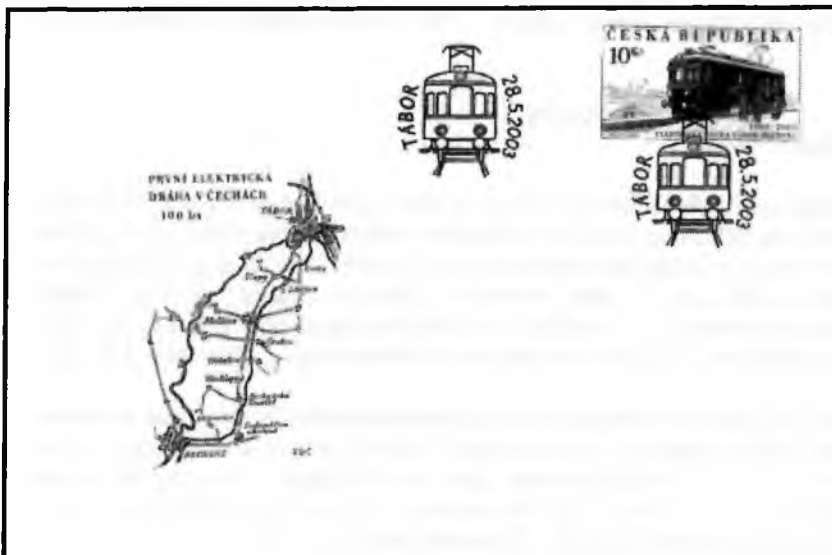
06. 03. 2003. Munich International Postage Stamp Day. The event was held 6 – 8 March 2003. The promotional portion has an early postman's feathered hat with posthorn badge. >

21. 03. 2003. Köln International Fair – Philately and Telephone Cards. The event was held 21-23 March 2003. The promotional portion has an early postman's hat with badge.

Envelope

07. 03. 2003. Inauguration of President Václav Klaus. A commemorative envelope with the State Arms in red and appropriate texts in blue above and below was issued. The envelopes had no imprinted stamp but were numbered. A special Praha Hrad cancel was used.

A commemorative cancel in red was in use on 28 February 2003 for the day of voting for the new President.



FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Tábor cancel. The cachet drawing is a map of the railway area.

Slovak Republic

05. 02. 2003

Definitive – President Rudolf Schuster



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský from a photograph by Pavol Kastl
Printing: RD in sheets of 100 by TAB Printing House, Bratislava. **Design:** portrait of President Schuster. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is the entrance gate to the Presidential Palace.

(A similar stamp – denomination 5.50Sk – was issued 15.06.2000.)

14. 02. 2003

Greetings and Congratulations



Designer: Kamila Štanclová **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD **Design:** a bunch of flowers.

FDC: printed DS in green grey by TAB, Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is several lucky four leaved clover.

10. 03. 2003

Easter – Folk Customs: Carrying the Lesola



Designer: Marián Čapka **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD **Design:** a young girl wearing a folk costume from the Vajnory area carrying the lesola as a symbol of Spring. The coming of Spring was celebrated on Palm Sunday in parts of Slovakia. In western Slovakia girls and children marched and sang carrying green twigs. These twigs or lesola were often decorated with painted Easter eggs, coloured ribbons, straw chains and bird figures. **FDC:** printed DS in grey with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing has a young girl in folk costume sitting at a table decorating eggs. The FDC was printed by TAB, Bratislava.

Booklet: containing 10 stamps was issued. The cover in dark green has a reproduction of the stamp to the left.

20. 03. 2003

Definitive – Towns: Kremnica



Designer and Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD **Design:** the castle, church and other buildings of the town with the coat of arms. The town was given civic rights as a royal and free town in 1328 by King Charles Robert. The prosperity of the town was linked to the gold and silver deposits in the area. The Kremnica mint produced ducats or florins and even today specialist items are produced in limited quantities. **FDC:** printed offset in grey and yellow by TAB, Bratislava with commemorative Kremnica cancel. The cachet design has two decorative keys and the vaulted roof of one of the town buildings.

06. 04. 2003 25th Anniversary of the Slovak Ecclesiastical Province – Sts Cyril and Methodius

Designer: Karol Felix (stamp and FDC cachet), Josef Baláž (FDC cancel) **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** recess from flat plates combined with offset.

Designs: 17Sk – portrait of St Cyril and the first letters of the Glagolitic alphabet. Coupon – the Romanesque church in Dražovce.



FDC: printed DS in grey by TAB, Bratislava with a commemorative Nitra cancel. The cachet drawing shows the head of Christ crowned with thorns.

>

22Sk – portrait of St Methodius and in the inscription in Glagolitic letters "Method." Coupon – the pre-Romanesque church in Párovce near Nitra. **FDC:** printed DS in light grey by TAB, Bratislava with a commemorative Trnava cancel. The cachet design is a portrait of a young female saint.

On 6 July 1978 the Slovak ecclesiastical province was proclaimed in Trnava. In 1989 new bishops were appointed in all Slovak dioceses. Christianity in the Slovak area dates back to the 9th century when St Methodius was appointed archbishop in 870. Sts Cyril and Methodius were invited by Prince Svätopluk to preach and spread Christianity within his realm.

24. 04. 2003

Personalities – Ludwig van Beethoven



Designer: Karol Felix **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD **Design:** portrait of the composer with his facsimile signature. Beethoven was born on 16 December 1770 in Bonn and died in Vienna on 26 March 1827. Several of his compositions have links with the Slovak Republic, including the "Moonlight Sonata" which was inspired by the atmosphere of the Brunswick family residence in Dolná Krupá in western Slovakia. His cantata "Opferlied" was dedicated to Bratislava and was given its first performance in the Bratislava

City Theatre on 23 December 1822. **FDC:** printed DS in grey-brown with a commemorative Dolná Krupá cancel. The cachet design is a symbolic drawing including a piano keyboard and manuscript score.

30. 04. 2003

Greetings and Congratulations - with Personalized Coupon



Details as for the 14.02.2003 issue but with slight colour changes to the stamp. Part of the print run will have the logo of the International Philatelic exhibition – Nitrafila 2003 – imprinted in blue on the coupon. The remainder of the print run will have blank coupons which can be customized by ordering from the Slovak Post, Bratislava. **FDC:** as for the 14. 02. 2003 issue but the cachet design printed in light brown.

03. 05. 2003

Milan Rastislav Štefánik - Joint Slovak-French Issue



Designer: Jozef Baláz and Martin Činovsky (stamp), Jozef Baláz (FDC & cancel) **Engravers:** Martin Činovsky (stamp), Juraj Vitek (FDC cachet) **Printing:** DS. **Design:** portrait of Štefánik with an observatory in the background. [France-Slovakia stamp by courtesy of Michael Chant.] Milan Rastislav Štefánik (21 July 1880 – 4 May 1919) was a scientist, diplomat, soldier and politician. He worked in Paris and the observatory at Meudon and in 1912 became a French citizen. During the First World War he was a pilot in the French Army and was made a General. It was in 1915 that he met Masaryk and made Minister of Defence in the new Czechoslovak state in 1918. Returning to Bratislava from Rome on 3 May 1919 his plane crashed shortly before landing and he was killed. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB, Bratislava in blue-grey with a commemorative Brezová pod Bradlom cancel. The cachet drawing has a pair of folded hands with flowers and the Štefánik mausoleum at Bradlo in the background.

09. 05. 2003 Europa – Advertising Posters – Vladislav Rostoka: Don Juan



Designer: Vladislav Rostoka **Engraver:** Arnold Fekete **Printing:** recess from flat plates combined with offset.

Design: from the poster designed for Molière's play "Don Juan." The Trnava Poster Triennial is an international competitive exhibition held periodically since 1991 for the prize "The Master's Eye Award." Rostoka has been awarded the prize twice.

FDC: printed DS in black by TAB, Bratislava with a commemorative Trnava cancel. The cachet drawing is from a poster, now in the Slovak National Gallery, for the play "Hamlet."

09. 05. 2003

Art – Ladislav Medňanský



Designer and Engraver: František Horniak from original art work. **Printing:** DS in six colours.

Design: from the original oil painting (c 1875-78) in the Slovak National Gallery by Ladislav Medňanský (Beckov 1852 – Vienna 1919) entitled "Stream behind the Barn, On the Stream Bank."

FDC: printed DS in grey with commemorative Spišská Bela cancel. The cachet drawing is from the artist's oil painting "Thaw" c 1875, which is also in the Slovak National Gallery.

Postal Stationery

Envelope for Current Postal Use

?January 2003? – imprinted 12Sk stamp in yellow and blue is the logo of the Slovak Post with 12Sk below.

Postcard for Current Postal Use

?April 2003? – imprinted 7Sk stamp with view of Zobor.

Commemorative Postcard

?April 2003? – imprinted 7Sk stamp as above. The left portion has the text in Slovak "2. Philatelic Ball – Nitra 2003" with an allegorical design in blue and the logo for Nitrafila 2003. The card retails at 10Sk.

Commemorative Envelopes

The following two envelopes have two imprinted stamps a) 8Sk in grey – the Slovak State Arms b) 2Sk - young woman's face in blue-grey surrounded by a circle of yellow stars.

? **January 2003?** Cachet in light brown of a young woman's face with the dates 1993 and 2003 and below the text in Slovak "10th Anniversary – Constitutional Rights of the Slovak Republic."

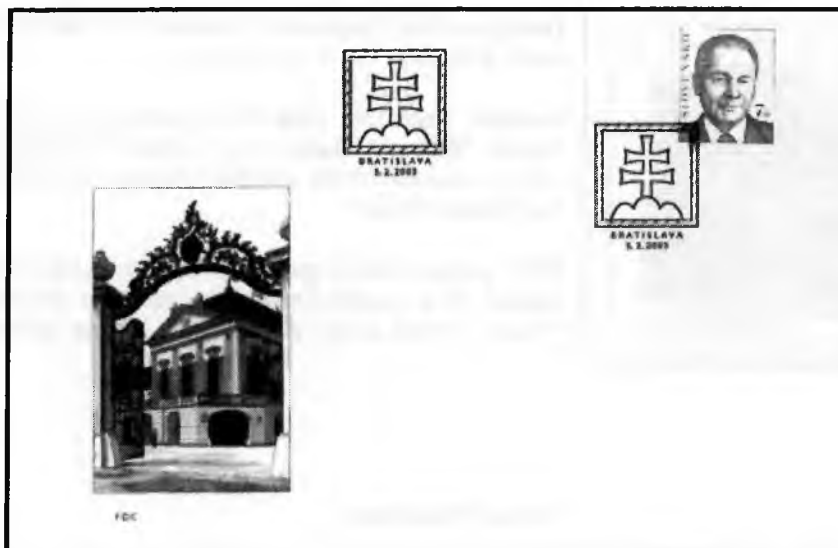
? **April 2003?** On a blue background the flags of Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary beneath a circle of yellow stars and the text in Slovak and English "Visegrad Four Group – The Common Way to the EU"

? **January 2003? –10th Anniversary of the Slovak Post.** The imprinted 12Sk stamp in yellow and blue is the logo of the Slovak Post. The cachet design is the earth from space with an outline of Slovakia highlighted in white, blue and red with a hand holding a letter and appropriate text in Slovak.

? **January 2003? – Death of Koloman Sokol.** The imprinted 8Sk stamp in grey is the Slovak State Arms. The cachet drawing in black is a portrait of the artist, his facsimile signature and part of one of his drawings. The text beneath is "Koloman Sokol 1902 – 2003."

Aerogramme

? **April 2003?** – the format and pictorial portion is the same as that issued 07.09.1998. An extra 5Sk imprinted stamp has been printed alongside the original 8Sk stamp imprint to reflect the changes in postal tariffs. The 5Sk design is a hot air balloon in the sky.



FDC printed DS in brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is the entrance gate to the Presidential Palace.

POSTSCRIPT

Query from our Hon. Indexer

Can anyone identify the Pofis 2520 sheet for me? It is referred to in Czechout 29 4/82, page 115 in a response by Mr Mirtl to a remark made by Alan Knight but no reference was given for the original source. I cannot index it because I do not have a modern catalogue, my collecting interest stopping in 1953.

Please quote the reference as above or at least the year and page number. If you take the trouble to write we want to include your item in the index for the benefit of our members.

Yvonne Wheatley