



# CZECHOUT

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## NOTES

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 1 November** when the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am. After lunch **Keith Tranmer** will give a display entitled *Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in the Austrian period* at 2.30pm. Advance notice that the first meeting in 2004 will be on **Saturday 17 January 2004** when the speaker will be **Denis Vandervelde** with a display of *Quarantine and the disinfection of mail in the Hapsburg Empire*.

**Richard Beith** is giving his talk and display *Free Czechoslovak Forces in Western Europe 1939-1945* to the following Societies in the 03/04 season: Thursday 30.10.03: Wombourne & District PS; Tuesday 6.4.04: Scottish PS, Edinburgh; and Tuesday 13.4.04: Heswell & District PS (Wirral); also *Czechoslovak Airmails* 4.03.04: Chester & District PS.

**Chad Neighbour** who is with the European Tennis Championships, lost out to Austria we understand from Bob Hill, but has gone on to the finals in Albena, Bulgaria. We wish him luck as he has had a bad case of flu recently. The August issue of the Philatelic Bulletin contains an article on **Pat Rothnie** who is ending his period as Secretary to the Association of British Philatelic Societies and also details of our 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

We have just heard of two deaths: Member **Peter Rooke** on 27 July, who joined the Society in November 1993; and **Mrs. Palkoska**, widow of Dr. Palkoska, on 26 December 2002. We send condolences to their families.

*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 21 June 2003 at 2.30 pm at the Newington Village Hall, Kent.

Brian and Betty Day kindly invited members to join them at their home in Newington for the summer meeting. They laid on warm, sunny weather as well as an excellent buffet lunch which was attended by 36 people. They also presented Lindy Bosworth, the Chairman, with a cake on her birthday.

So many members had indicated that they were coming that Brian switched the afternoon meeting from his home to the village hall. Lindy welcomed 27 members and one guest, with apologies received from three members.

Lindy thanked Brian and Betty for hosting the meeting. She also thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the 50th Anniversary exhibition at the Czech Embassy in May.

The Membership Secretary gave details of thirteen, yes thirteen, prospective new members:

<b>Rodolphe de Maleingreau</b>	from London SW2
<b>Richard Spennock</b>	from Manningtree
<b>Mrs Alena Pascual</b>	from Mississauga, Canada
<b>Keith Hall</b>	from Sherborne
<b>Peter Wade</b>	from Runwell, Essex
<b>Ross Wood</b>	from Mirrabooka, South Australia
<b>Douglas Gibb</b>	from Charing, Kent
<b>John Casanova</b>	from London NW2
<b>Anthony Dewey</b>	from Hartford, Connecticut
<b>David Worrollo</b>	from Surbiton
<b>Hartmut Liebermann</b>	from Ahaus, Germany
<b>John Stevens</b>	from Thatcham, Berkshire
<b>Zuzanna Sheppard</b>	from London W6

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted. The three new members present were warmly greeted.

As an experiment, the meeting started with a short, 100-lot auction, with Roger Morrell as auctioneer. Bidding was brisk, and most lots were sold. After the auction, the meeting was devoted to members' displays, in three sessions.

<b>Bob Bradford</b>	Two items from 1945 and Christmas Day 1918
<b>Richard Wheatley</b>	1945 War Heroes issue on parcel cards
<b>Reg Hounsell</b>	Cards of Bratislava; zeppelin acceptances; 1938 airs
<b>Yvonne Gren</b>	Early airmails
<b>Lindy Bosworth</b>	Austro-Hungarian WWI into the Czech lands
<b>David Holt</b>	Hungarian occupation of Slovakia from 1938
<b>Rex Dixon</b>	Souvenir sheets from May to July 1945
<b>Brian Parker</b>	1930s air issues; some Prague post offices
<b>Bill Dawson</b>	Polish and German occupations of the Teschen area, 1938 & 1939
<b>Garth Taylor</b>	'U' for Underpaid
<b>Brian Day</b>	Pneumatic post

Viewing for the final session was unfortunately curtailed, and the meeting closed at 5.00 pm sharp. Most people than repaired to the local hostelry for dinner. >

## Regional Meeting

Yvonne Wheatley will be arranging a meeting of the Society at the Leeds Philatelic Society's stamp Fair to be held on Saturday 22 November 2003. The venue is Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds, West Yorkshire, at 2.15 pm. Following the success of last year's meeting, members of the Austrian Philatelic Society, the Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain will also be invited. For full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley at Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW Tel 0113 260 1978 (home).

## Letters to the Editor

✉ **Graham Slater** writes: "Because of my interest in Czech composers, I recently acquired the 1000 crown note bearing Smetana's portrait! When it was issued, I had a superb mint copy but at a value of then about £25, decided I couldn't afford to keep it. The dealer from who I bought this note says he has thousands of notes every month from Europe. Because some of these will have been designed by artists also responsible for stamps, I thought it worthwhile passing on his name and address in case any other member of the CPSGB, wants to purchase Czech or Slovak notes. Enquiries to Michael Cartz, P.O.Box 94, TELFORD, Shropshire, TF2 9YR with s.a.e. or e-mail michaelcartz@hotmail.com."

✉ **Graham Slater** writes: "My question concerns the substantial number of perforation varieties in, say, the first six or seven years of Czech stamp production. In past years Stanley Gibbons have listed what they think is the correct number of variations of the Hradčany issue (I am sure I am not alone in disagreeing with them!) and then go on to say that any other perforations are "unofficial" - thereby by-passing the problem very neatly!

Firstly what is an "unofficial" perforation? Clearly a large commercial organisation that used many sheets of stamps a day and decided to perforate them themselves could be said to be producing "unofficial perforations". Likewise the local lawyer whose wife "runs up" a few sheets on her sewing machine - but what if a Postmaster chose to arrange locally for his stock sheets to be perforated. Unless he had been specifically forbidden so to do, then surely such perforations would count as "official"? Would members like to comment on what they consider to be the true meaning in this context of the word "unofficial". Secondly and more important is the fact that electronic measuring devices were not available to the printers of the first stamp issues. How accurate were their measurements? Even as a child I never found the use of transparent perforation gauges a simple matter where a variation of only 0.25 was concerned.

I have been using a SAFE "Perfotronic" device for some years which I verily believe to be accurate (although I wish the makers would make a "test card" available). However from time to time it shows up with remarkable consistency the apparent inaccuracy of the published details. For example, I have recently been wading through literally hundreds of Chainbreaker and Dove stamps (not mad - but just using the resultant inactivity of a virus infection to good effect!) We are informed by catalogues that we can expect 13.75 or 14 perforations. Both exist, and can be found, but the measurement of 14.25 shows up even more frequently! Other issues can also produce similar anomalies. Is it just possible that with electronic gauges we are able to find the true perforation values of these stamps, rather than what was recorded in good faith at the time of printing? Is it possible that the cataloguing of early Czech (and other) stamps should be queried and revised?

You may think that I have blind faith in modern techniques, but I did once spend an interesting day in a factory near Bedford during the 1960's where weighing, measuring and printing devices were being developed and produced. The doubly checked accuracy astounded not only me but also the makers themselves! Also when one uses an instrument frequently, it soon becomes clear whether or not it has "gone off on a frolic of its own".

Would members like to comment on the foregoing from their own experience both of variant perforations and of using electronic measuring devices?

✉ **Philippa Demetriadi-Doman** via Bob Hill writes "Thank you to Barry Horne for the suggestion of using the Mortlake Tapestry as a proposal for a joint Slovak/UK stamp issue which is being looked into." Philippa also says on another subject "Slovakia is seemingly trying to follow the EU in at least one area too many - that of offset printed postage stamps of "pretty computer pix". The quality that the Czechs and Slovaks are used to will be more and more phased out by the UK's example of cost saving! Should you, or as many of the CSPS of GB as possible think that this is a shame (or worse) kindly write your objections to: -

>

Mr. Pavol Prokopovič  
Minister of Transport, Posts and  
Telecommunications SR  
Namestie Slobody 6  
810 05 Bratislava  
Slovak Republic

R.N.Dr. Jaroslav Dobrotka  
General Director  
Slovenska Posta s.p.  
Partizanska 9  
975 99 Banska Bystrica  
Slovak Republic

Perhaps those kind enough to write would also e-mail me (intraerovia@intraerovia.sk) with a copy of their letter or write or e-mail Lindy Bosworth for me to collect from her."

### Congratulations

To **Roger Morrell** who together with his "editorial panel" has taken over *Stamps of Hungary* from Dick Frost and produced their first successful issue. We send our best wishes both to Roger and to Dick on his retirement.

### Publications

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

- The Autumn 2003 issue of *Austria*, No.143 ,
  - ▶ Dumb Cancels (Taylor);
- The June 2003 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 34, Whole No. 136 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
  - ▶ New postal rates for Slovak PO, valid wef 1.1.03 also new 1st class Airmail Labels; The journey taken by a strange delivery from Piešťany to Ebersbach (Tschimer); Postal Agencies in the Slovak Post (Bachraty); New regulations regarding country names on mail going abroad from Czech Republic. [This is a strange decision. All country names must be in English not Czech! DDB]; Railway Post from and to Olomouc (Giebel); German-Austrian Postal Administration in Aussig [Post in the Germany-Bohemia area] (Gebauer); Postal rates in Austria from 1.6.1850 to 31.12.1918 (Müller); On the track of the London Issue Part 2 (Fischer); Two types of machine-vented stamps from the Slovak Post (Müller); Clarifications and corrections to the listing of special cancellations from the Slovakia 2001 (Tischner).
- The July/August & September/October 2003 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 65 Whole Nos. 580/581. Nos. 4/5. The articles include:
  - ▶ Italian WWII POW's in the Protectorate (Santangelo); Podlepka: What is it? (Kunc); WESTPEX'03-Ups and Downs (Svoboda); Meet Jan Preisler (van Zenten); So you would like to Exhibit? (Hahn); "Character Heads" by Franz Xaver Messerschmidt (van Zenten); Comparison Survey of Catalogue Numbers of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps [cont] (Horvath); OSTROPA 2003 –Three Impressions (van Dooremalen, Cernik & Holoubek).
- The 6 & 7 /2003 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol. 53. The articles include:
  - ▶ Currency Reform 1953 [1] (Dražan & Aksamit); Czechoslovak and Czech Mobile Post Offices since 1945 [6] (Horák, Bulant & Švehla); Josef Dobroský and Philately (Feldmann); Euro and Variable Rate Stamps (Langhammer).
  - ▶ Currency Reform 1953 [2] (Dražan & Aksamit); Hindsight on Multiple Frankings (Feldmann); No Exchange Inspection (Bělina); Smoking leads to Cancer [2] (Churý & Geryk).
- The 3/2003 issues of *Merkur Revue*. The articles include:
  - ▶ New Forgery to Defraud the Post (Fritz); Dove Issue from Jaroslav Benda [4] (Stupka); Famous Postmasters Counterfeits [Siberian Fieldpost] (Majer); Perforation Frames of Czech Stamps printed with Diestamping Planography (Graman and Koupal); Supplement: Counterfeits of Czechoslovak Paper Money [5] (Moravec)
- The June 2003 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No.153. The articles include:
  - ▶ More from 1938 (Kennett).



## BOOK REVIEWS

***Historical Dictionary of the Czech State*** by Jiří Hochman. Cloth Cover, alkaline paper, 203pp. Published 1998, ISBN 0-8108-3338-7 and ***Historical Dictionary of Slovakia*** by Stanislav J. Kirschbaum. Hard cover, alkaline paper, 213pp. Published 1999. ISBN 0-8108-3506-1 by the Scarecrow Press, Inc 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Md 20706, USA. (& London) Obtainable from any good UK bookshop.

These two books are numbered 23 and 31 in the European Historical Dictionaries, part of the World Historical Dictionaries published under the editorship of Jon Woroff, and priced approximately in English pounds £43.70 and £45.00. These publications are a most useful tool for background information on the two Republics covering history, maps, a dictionary of personalities, the arts, geography, statistics etc and bibliography of published literature.

Colin Spang

***Slovakia - the path to Nationhood***, by Matej K Schwitzer, 256p softback, 16 x 33.5 cm, 2002. Published by the author from 33 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5QJ, at £13.00 inc UK P & P.

The author was born in Slovakia during the First World War and studied at Charles University, Prague, and University College, London. His main aim in writing and publishing this most useful text was to introduce Slovakia and the European Slovaks to the English speaking world. He has produced a comprehensive study delving back to the time of the Celtic tribes whose relics are linked with the fortress of Devin on the Danube, close to present day Bratislava. Magyarisation, the place of the German speaking communities and the threat from the Turks are all covered. The growth of Slovak nationalism in the nineteenth century and the revolution of 1848 all have their part in this story. The twentieth century saw the emergence of the Czechoslovak Legions, the creation of the first Czechoslovak Republic and the subsequent Hitler inspired agitation as the 30s passed by. Schwitzer gives a clear account of the formation and wartime history of the Slovak State under Tiso together with the Slovak National Uprising of 1944. He continues by charting the communist takeover and the ways in which this operated within the Slovak lands. Of course, Alexander Dubcek who led the Prague Spring in 1968 was a Slovak and had risen to prominence via his activities in Slovakia. The story continues with the grey days of 'normalisation' and the eventual success of the Velvet Revolution. This history of the Slovak people continues up to the present day with the background to the break up of Czechoslovakia, the creation of the Slovak Republic and the subsequent, sometimes difficult, growth of democracy. This well printed book provides a clear and readable guide to Slovak history. Its appearance is most timely as the Slovak Republic prepares to join the European Union. Strongly recommended

Richard Beith

***Postal History Of Telč And Surrounding Area*** by Henry Hahn. Published by Henry Hahn and the town of Telč - 2003 47 pages, 68 illustrations; printed by Grafický a polygrafický servis Nakladatelství TYP Č. Budějovice.

This is a very interesting booklet written in Czech, by Henry Hahn, the eminent postal historian and philatelist. He was born in 1928 in Brno, but his childhood years were spent in Telč and at the age of 13 he emigrated with his parents to the United States where he has lived ever since.

In 1983 Henry Hahn wrote the first edition of this booklet in English which was published by the Society of Czechoslovak Philately in USA of which Henry was and still remains Chairman. It was translated into Czech by Jaroslav Ježek, the well-known postal historian, however in the years that followed a number of errors and inaccuracies were found in the translation of which Henry was made aware. A committee was formed and it was decided, also in view of the celebrations associated with the anniversary of the Telč postal building, to issue a revised version of the booklet, the principal object being to supplement the literature of the history of the town of Telč and at the same time to heighten tourist interest in the town from a philatelic angle.

The booklet deals with the postal history of the South Moravian town dating back to the 18th century and describes the postal route between Prague and Vienna which passed near to Telč at that time. It also goes into some detail about the activities of Mořic Rambousek who was born in the town and in

1834 became "the collector of letters" and was instrumental in establishing the collecting station which eventually led to the creation of the postal service. He was the town's first postmaster from 1834 until 1874.

The booklet is also noteworthy for its illustration of a large number of authentic and unique documents of the time, i.e. covers, postmarks, field post items, postal stationery etc. which make it an invaluable reference work for anyone interested in the postal history of Central Europe.

The booklet consists of 18 chapters with the following headings:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Introduction to History                              | 10. German Occupation                   |
| 2. The connection with Telč                             | 11. Liberation                          |
| 3. The Rambousek era                                    | 12. Cancellations for Special Occasions |
| 4. Postal communication                                 | 13. Stamps with illustrations of Telč   |
| 5. Postal cancellations of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century | 14. Postal Stationery                   |
| 6. The First World War                                  | 15. Machine Franking                    |
| 7. Provisional period following WWI                     | 16. Post Offices                        |
| 8. Regular postal cancellations of the First Republic   | 17. Telč Postmasters                    |
| 9. The Sudetenland Crisis                               | 18. Organised philately                 |

Robert Kingsley

#### **From the Chairman**

##### **Exhibition and Seminar to be held at the Embassy of the Czech Republic.**

Following the Society's successful exhibition at the Embassy in May this year, their Excellencies the Ambassadors for the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic have requested that our Society take part in the celebrations for the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia and Czech National Day (28 October).

An exhibition of some 36 frames of material from Society members will be on show relating to the founding of the State in 1918 from Friday 24 October 2003 until Wednesday 29 October 2003. A morning seminar is being arranged for Saturday 25 October with the Embassy hosting a buffet lunch. The details of this have still to be finalised but the proposed format is as follows:

- a) a speaker arranged by the Embassy to talk about the historical background of the founding of the State.
- b) an invited philatelic speaker from the Czech Republic.
- c) an invited philatelic speaker from the Slovak Republic.
- d) a speaker from our Society to comment on the display material.

Guests will be invited by both Embassies from various organisations and individuals from the non-philatelic world. If you are interested to attend the seminar please contact:

Robert Kingsley 6 Fenn Close Bromley Kent BR1 4DX. Phone: 020 8464 5844. e-mail: [r.kingsley@lineone.net](mailto:r.kingsley@lineone.net)

Robert will be able to give more detailed information of the event nearer the time.

## 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 2/2003* page 58

### Sealing tape

Letters handled by this office in December 1939 were already receiving rolls of sealing tape, a sign of the good organisation in this office. Sealing tapes of the kind used in other censor offices are not known to have been used in Vienna.

G-50 Tape, 30mm wide. It differs from the one previously described in that it bears the word "Inspected" with the usual censor cancel. The paper is white, shiny, the print black or grey/black. It was used from December 1939 to January 1940 without a censor cancellation. The envelope was opened along the back so it could be resealed. The letter did not receive the censors mark. Illustration 391.

G-51 The same tape with the word "Inspected" replaced with "Opened". It was used without a censor cancellation from January to April 1940. The paper is white, shiny and the print black or grey/black. Illustration 392.

G-52 As above, but, in the censor cancel under the eagle is the letter "g". The paper is white, shiny, the print is black or blue/black. Used from March to April 1940. From the beginning of April it was used with the cancellation G-2. Illustration 393.

G-53a As above, but now the word "Opened" is no longer in the middle of the tape but appears alternatively at the top and the bottom of the tape. This is the most used tape at this office and is usually found at the left side of the envelope. Through its long period of use there are blurred and torn tapes, like those found in Cologne. The paper is white, grey, beige or brown. The surface is shiny, porous, smooth. The print is black, blue/black, green/black or violet/black. It was used from June 1940 to July 1944 when the paper was of poor quality and the print smudged. Illustration 394.

G-53b There are parts of the above tape where the letter "g" is missing from the badge. Found in 1941. Illustration 395.

G-53c Probably in the course of correcting the above error, a letter "e" was put in instead of a "g" so that "g" and "e" appear alternately. Illustration 396.

G-53d One more error has been observed in this tape. There are examples of tapes which show only the "e" with the word "Opened" alternately on the upper and lower edge. In the ABP (Censor Office for Foreign Mail) in Frankfurt the tapes always had the word "Opened" in the middle of the tape so they could not have been prepared for that office. They appeared in 1941. Illustration 397.

In September 1943, as a temporary measure, the ABP Frankfurt received tapes from the ABP in Cologne with the letter "c" (C-55)

→



G-54a Neutral, light brown tapes in conjunction with ordinary cancellations 1-3 with slanting or vertical rippling ( I don't know if this is a pattern on the paper or possibly on the gum). In the absence of a cancellation, the normal machine cancellation or the "ribbon" cancellation was used.

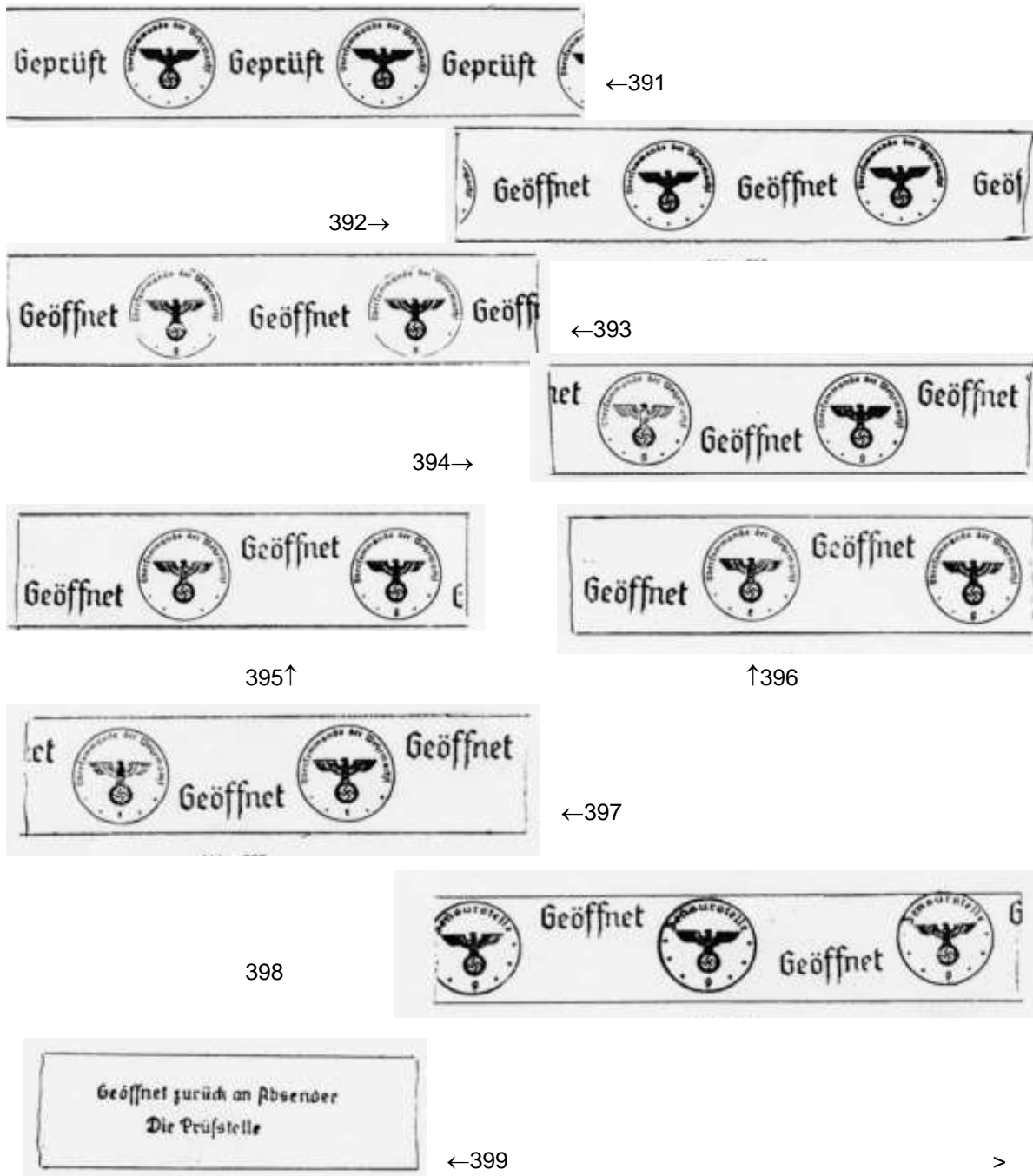
G-54b In the absence of the sealing device, use was also made of brown tapes with light coloured stripes. Width - 30mm.

>

G-55 After changes in the management of counter-espionage work, the sealing tapes show a change in wording. The word "Censor Office" now appears in the badge. "Opened" remains as it was. The paper is grey, porous. The print is messy, showing the difficulties posed by war. The tape appeared in November 1944, mostly for sealing registered letters. Illustration 398.

G-56 Probably the most interesting sealing tape of all from any ABP is the 30mm broad and 100 to 110mm long label with the words "Opened, return to sender./ The Censor Office". These words are in the middle of the tape. The paper is pale beige, the print is black/violet, also grey/black. It appears at the end of 1944 or the beginning of 1945 on mail to German prisoners of war in allied hands. The letters usually have the labels G-94 to G-96. The censored items bear almost no censor cancellation. Instead they bear the small, 4 digit censor's cancellation and the 6 digit reference number in green which makes possible a clear connection with the Censor Office in Vienna. Illustration 399.

As a result of the successes achieved by the Russians early in 1945, the states were occupied by them. Among these were the postal services controlled by Vienna. The last censored items from this office are dated March 1945. On April 7<sup>th</sup> the Russian forces entered Vienna.





**The Handling of German Field Post by the office in Vienna**

German Field Post items, which were destined for the states whose mail was overseen by the censor office in Vienna, came here for checking. Likewise, mail from relatives living in these states to soldiers of the German Army of the Waffen-SS. In the latter there were many Germans living abroad, so the volume of mail was considerable. Likewise, this office dealt with mail handed in at Field Post Offices by civilians working in these states, whereas normal Field post was not handled here. Despite this, it can be assumed that a Field Post Censor Office was attached to this foreign mail Censor Office.

In April 1944 a new regulation was introduced concerning SS-Field Post originating in the Reich and destined for non-enemy foreign countries. It was brought to a special Field Post Censor Office. The SS-Field Post Censor Office South East was responsible for the following states - Hungary, Slovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Italy and Switzerland, and had its premises in VII Vienna. The mail was transferred to the Field Post Censor Office in bulk and only here did it receive its Field Post cancellation, not where it was posted.

**Handling of German Prisoner of War mail**

The Foreign Mail Censor Office in Vienna was given another job when, from 1 July 1944, mail to German prisoners of war and internees, which up until then had been censored at the centralised counter intelligence office in Berlin, was parcelled out to other offices. Mail from the postal districts 7a, 9a/b, 10, 11a/b, 12a/b, 13a/b, 17a/b, 18, 22 and Official Mail districts Adria and Alpenvorland (foothills of the Alps) came to Vienna to be processed from then on. Only airmail items went to Berlin to be processed.

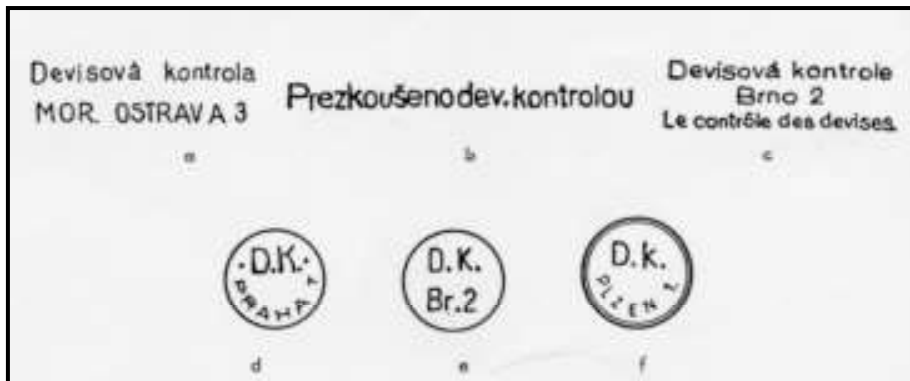
Presumably the cancellation G-7 was produced for this censoring, even though it is rarely found on these items. Strangely the censored items received no censorship cancellation, it is only the censor's cancellation that points to Vienna. In the case of rejected items, the enclosure label G-94/G-96 and the sealing tape G-56 are found. The heaviest workload with this kind of mail was in 1945. It is an interesting fact, with the available material, that alongside civilian mail there are also Field Post letters sent directly to prisoners of war.

**Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia**

This area was what became of Czechoslovakia and it had its own civilian administration. Internal mail was usually not subject to any scrutiny. After the beginning of the war, foreign mail passed through the Foreign Mail Censorship Offices. It is generally unknown that the Protectorate was not included in the German Customs Area until 1 October 1940 {RGI 1 S.1238 of 16 September 1940 = Reichsgesetzblatt / German Law Gazette.} Only with cessation of the customs border could the exchange limitations and decrees of 23 June 1939 between the Protectorate and the rest of the Reich be lifted.

The restrictions in foreign exchange also vis à vis the Reich, were controlled by certain customs officers together with the postal authorities which also controlled postal traffic to the German Reich (and the rest of the customs areas abroad.) This control is falsely looked upon as censorship. A check of the text of a letter was not carried out. This is borne out by the fact that such foreign mail was again handled by the German Foreign Mail Censorship Office. Only mail, which after 1 October 1940 has this cancellation and no censor's mark from a German Censorship Office, can be seen as revealing censorship measures. Money exchange cancellations, line cancellations and circular cancellations, from the time from June 1939 to the end of September 1940 have the following designs, which could be complemented by others. Apart from a few examples, these cancellations are not rare. Illustration 542.

542





543



544

When one finds these foreign exchange cancellations on postcards, one inevitably asks the question, as to how they could have been looking for foreign currency.

For sealing letters that have been opened, bi-lingual labels were used. They referred to exchange controls in Czech and French. Illustration 543

"Opened by the Office for the Control of Foreign Exchange"

After 1 October 1940 another mark is seen on foreign mail coming into the Protectorate even though it had already been processed by German Censorship Offices or even on German Official Mail, a mark for which, so far, no explanation has been found. It is a circular cancellation, 20mm in diameter with a capital "R". It is black and appears in 1942 to 44. It is usually badly smudged and is always found on the front of the letter. Illustration 544.

### General Government Poland

Internal mail was not subject to any check by military offices. However, there is mail with censor marks of certain Gendarme or Police stations. Mail to foreign countries was checked by censorship offices of the German Reich.

### Occupied Territories of Russia

Whether a postal service for the populace was in fact allowed, needs to be looked into. In practice, we have no examples before us. One single card, sent to Charkov in the Ukraine, its text is family news, show a censorship cancellation, 23mm in diameter with the inscription "Checked/Charkov" and in the middle "Stkdr" probably meaning "Municipal Garrison Headquarters". It dates from 1942 and is coloured black/violet. Probably, further censorship cancellations from this area will come to light in the course of time.



Illustration 545.

### QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

Czechout 1/00: R W Allan's Errors Corrected \*

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

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

Czechout 2/01: Barry Horne's Masaryk Sheet perfs

Czechout 3/01: Roman Dubyniak's Carpatho-Ukraine cover

Czechout 3/01: Richard Beith's Anglo-Czech Friendship Club cover

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

Czechout 2/02: John Hammonds' American Aid for German POWs card

Czechout 2/03: Richard Beith's 24Kčs 1946 Airmail Stamp

\* Answers awaiting publication

## PNEUMATIC TUBE MAIL OF VIENNA AND PRAGUE

-Henry Hahn-

*We thank Henry for letting us have his original article, which appeared in the Collectors Club Philatelist, Volume 77 No. 3, and 4 [May/June and July/August 1998] and the Editor, Dr Peter A S Smith for gladly giving his permission for reproduction.*

**Part 1:** We are rapidly approaching the 100th Anniversary of the initiation of pneumatic mail service in Prague, which occurred on 4 March, 1899. Unfortunately, we noticed no mention of the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Vienna pneumatic service on 1 March, 1875, in any US publication. If, indeed, no article was published, we would have missed an important date in the history of philately. Let this not happen with Prague!

It would be highly presumptive and in fact unnecessary to attempt detailed coverage of this entire subject. This has already been accomplished rather comprehensively by A. H. Godden<sup>1</sup>, who cites a half dozen references and acknowledges the assistance of over a half dozen researchers and collectors. A more recent study by Smid<sup>2</sup> dealing with the pneumatic system in Prague, soon to be updated by this author, are excellent guides and provide the basic information needed by students of this fascinating subject.

The objective of this paper is primarily to present some interesting material not shown elsewhere, and to arouse interest among collectors. This interest has, in our experience, declined somewhat in the past decade. Gone are two of the truly great collectors - Mr. Zdenek Kvasnicka of Prague and Dr. Ernst Theimer of New Jersey, both of whom were responsible for generating my interest in this subject.

Postal stationery for use in pneumatic tube mail was issued by Austria-Hungary, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. While the system operated in Prague during the period of the Protectorate, no postal stationery was issued. The invention of the pneumatic tube for mail transport is attributed to the Czech Josef Ressel, who is better known and commemorated as the inventor of the screw for ship propulsion. Credit for the construction of the Vienna pneumatic mail system is given to Franz Felbinger, who went on to construct similar systems in Munich and Hamburg. Later in life Felbinger turned to painting, studying art in Brno and Munich. He died in the Moravian town of Trebic in 1906.

While the Vienna system, referred to as the "Rohrpost," was not the world's first such system, Austria-Hungary was first to issue pneumatic mail postal stationery when operations opened to the public on 1 March, 1875. The first system consisted of ten (10) stations. During its eighty years of operation it was continuously expanded to where it eventually included well over 100 stations.

Service in Prague was opened to the public almost a quarter of a century after the opening of the Vienna Rohrpost - on 4 March 1899. The initial system included just three stations: the Main post office on Jindrisska Street (Prague 1), the post office on Maly Rynek in the Old Town (Prague 2), and a station on Malostranske Namesti (Prague 10). This was later extended. In 1904 a line was laid between the post office in Jindrisska and Kralovske Vinohrady, and in 1908 the station at Hradcany was established. By 1908 the Prague system extended 3½ miles. As in Vienna, red mail boxes were installed to collect pneumatic tube mail.

The Vienna pneumatic-letter rate in 1875 was 20 Kr compared to just 3 Kr for ordinary local letters. When postcards were introduced in 1879, the pneumatic card rate was 10 Kr, compared with the ordinary card rate of 2 Kr. The 20 Kr letter rate was reduced to 15 Kr when letter cards were introduced in 1887. Letter cards also required 15 Kr franking. Nearly twenty rate changes occurred in Vienna between 1875 and the demise of the publicly accessible system. These are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Godden, A. H. "The Pneumatic Posts of Austria," AUSTRIA (#14) July, 1969, Published by the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain, pp.6-31.

<sup>2</sup> Smid, A. "Provoz Potrubni Posty v Praze", 2nd Philatelic Study, Periodical of the Friends of Territorial Promotion, Union of Czech Philatelists, 1995.

From	Postcards	Letters	Lettercards
1 March, 1875	10 Kr	20 Kr	-
2 October, 1887	10 Kr	15 Kr	15 Kr
1 January, 1900	20 Heller	30 H	30 H
16 January, 1907	25 H	45 H	35 H
1 October, 1916	38 H	45 H	45 H
1 September, 1918	70 H	80 H	80 H
15 January, 1920	85 H	100 H	100 H
15 April, 1920	170 H	200 H	200 H
1 February, 1921	4 Kronen	3.5 K	4 K
1 August, 1921	12 K	13 K	13 K
1 December, 1921	25 K	27.5 K	27.5 K
1 May, 1922	62.5 K	70 K	70 K
21 August, 1922	250 K	280 K	280 K
18 September, 1922	500 K	560 K	560 K
1 November, 1922	1000 K	1120 K	1120 K
1 August, 1923	2300 K	2600 K	2600 K
1 December, 1923	2500 K	3000 K	3000 K
1 December, 1924	2700 K	3500 K	3500 K

Postage rates in Prague were identical to those in Vienna up to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic. These were as follows:

From	Postcards	Letters	Lettercards
3 March, 1889	10 Kr	15 Kr	15 Kr
1 January, 1900	20 Heller	30 H	30 H
16 January, 1907	25 H	45 H	35 H
1 October, 1916	38 H	45 H	45 H
1 September, 1918	70 H	80 H	80 H
15 May, 1919	+60 h (CSR)	+60 h	+60 h
1 August, 1920	+1 Kc	+1 Kc	+1 Kc
15 December, 1932	+40 h	+40 h	+40 h
1 November, 1940	+1 K (Protectorate)	+1 K	+1 K

Up to 15 May, 1919, the rates represent the full rate. From that date on the rate represents the surcharge for pneumatic delivery above the regular postal rate.

The last pieces of postal stationery for pneumatic service were issued by Austria in 1933 and by the Czechoslovak Republic in 1932. Nevertheless, the Vienna pneumatic mail system remained available to the public up to 2 April, 1956, while the Prague system unofficially ceased operating as such when rates were no longer published in 1945.

While letters were sometimes not folded on insertion into the pneumatic mail canisters, being rolled along the outer edges of the cylinders, postcards and letter cards were generally folded once or twice for placement in the centre of the canister. Hence a fold in such postal stationery is not considered to render an item defective; it is in fact additional proof of pneumatic transport.

For the sake of completion, we must mention a third pneumatic postal system in Austria-Hungary, that of Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) which linked the main post office with a branch office - a distance of only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. The purpose was to accelerate the dispatch of telegrams during the summer months from the branch office to the main post office from whence they were forwarded by wire. The system was not available to the public except during the course of a philatelic exhibition, which lasted from 20 August to .23, 1909. Privately produced postcards embodying the 1908 diamond jubilee portrait of the Emperor were produced and mailed. In addition purple commemorates postmarks were used and cancellations reading ROHRPOST KARLSBAD were applied to mail sent from the branch post office to the main post office during the show. The system was used by the post office until the summer of 1945.

As indicated earlier, the regularly issued pneumatic postal stationery, the postmark types and postal markings are well documented.<sup>[1. 2. 3. 4 - see footnotes and also references at the end of Part 2 in December Czechout].</sup> I shall limit myself to describing some of the less common varieties of these.

>

Letters and Envelopes

The first is a folded letter. Figure 1, representing the first postal stationery in the world issued exclusively for pneumatic mailing. While such letters generally bear a postmark of any one of the first ten stations in Vienna, this one is pen cancelled. The postal markings include a green crayon marking "30," which is a postal sequence number, and a Roman "III," which is the office of destination, also referred to as the "Intradierungs-Chiffre." The letter was posted at 8 am on 12 February, 1876, and was delivered to the addressee at 9 am.



Figure 1



Figure 2

A typical early envelope is shown in Figure 2. Envelopes of this issue had two flap designs, one with tongue and one cut straight. The one illustrated has a straight cut flap. It is postmarked WIEN BORSE, which then was the provisional stock exchange on the Schottenring. It was posted on 15 February, 1876, in the afternoon. The pencilled sequence number on the upper left is "577," and the destination is Station V, which was the telegraph office on the Kärntnerring.



The last of the 20 Kr envelopes bearing the Telegraph Stamp was issued in 1892. The following year there was issued a new envelope bearing the Double Eagle design, shown in Figure 3. This cover bears the sequence number "46" in blue crayon, and the destination as "1" in red crayon. It was posted at FLEISCHMARKT on 15 September, 1887, and received at TELEGRAPHEN-CENTRALE between 1 and 2 pm. The N in the postmarks stands for Nachmittags (afternoon).

← Figure 3

The lowering of the rate from 20 Kr to 15 Kr. is reflected in the envelope of the issue of 1887, shown in Figure 4. The letter shows a pencilled sequence number "8," a blue crayon destination number "9", and is dated 10 October, 1888. It was posted at KÄRNTNERRING and received at TABORSTRASSE, both between 6 and 7 pm. "A" designated Abends (evening)

Figure 4→





← Figure 5

A new imprinted stamp design showing Emperor Franz Josef's profile was introduced in 1890 and is shown in Figure 5. The letter was posted at TELEGRAPHEN CENTRALE on 18 May, 1891, at 1:40 p.m. and receiving postmark at LANDSTR. HAUPTSTR. between 1 and 2 pm. Its pencilled sequence is "40" and its blue crayon destination is marked "10".

Figure 6→

The letter shown in Figure 6 is of the first issue introduced for use in Prague in 1898. The letter bears the pencilled sequence number "33" and is destined for Station "1," marked in blue crayon. Posted at PRAGUE 2 (Old Town) it was addressed to Kgl. Weinberge (Kralovske Vinohrady), where at the time the pneumatic tube did not extend. It arrived at PRAGUE 1, the MAIN POST OFFICE at Jindrisska Street at the same hour as it was posted, at 10 am. From PRAGUE 1 it was delivered by courier, arriving at KRAL. VINOHRADY at 12 noon.



←Figure 7



Figure 8↓

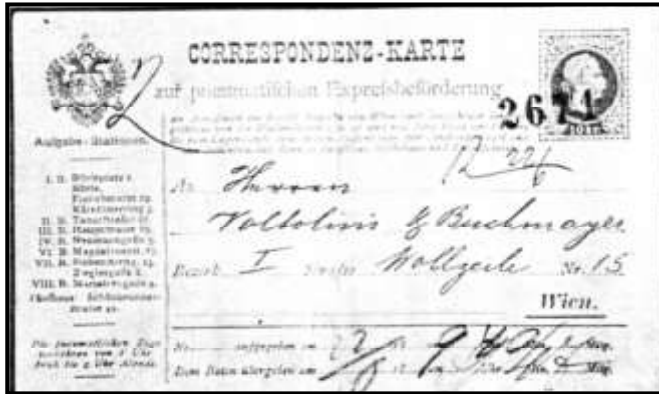
With the change in currency on 1 January, 1900, the pneumatic letter rate was changed to 30 Heller. With separate printings for Vienna and Prague, the issues of 1900, 1902, and 1904 reflect that rate. The rate was increased to 45 Heller in 1907, at which time a single envelope for use in Vienna and Prague was issued in orange-brown. The last envelope issued by Austria-Hungary appeared in 1908. Its imprinted stamp represented a change in design, showing Emperor Franz Josef as shown in Figure 7. This letter was postmarked on arrival in Vienna Station 62 on 1 January, 1917 at 4:50. It shows no sequence marking, but its destination is shown in blue crayon as "62".



>

Postcards

The first pneumatic-tube postcard, issued in 1879, is shown in Figure 8. It is identified by having the 10 existing stations listed on its left side, and having the word Bezirk (district) located on the line below "Wien." The card was posted at Station 2, located in the 1st District at FLEISCHMARKT 19 on 22 September, 1879 at 8:10 am. It was dispatched by courier at 8:27 am in the 2nd District, Station 3, located at TABORGASSE 27.



A rather curious postmark, shown in Figure 9 occurred in 1882, when pneumatic tube mail was postmarked with sequential numbers. Whether this postmark was used in other years is not known. The card is of the altered issue of 1880, Type A with ZIEGLERGASSE (Station listing VII.B.) spelled with long "s's." It was posted on 22 June, 1882 at 9:40 am and dispatched to Station 2.

←Figure 9

Pneumatic tube postal stationery with supplemental franking is found for many reasons, the most prevalent of which is upfranking to meet new postal rates and mail going from one city to another, where the supplemental franking is to pay for the regular inter-city postage. Only later, in the Czechoslovak Republic, was supplemental franking applied for personal delivery service. The postcard illustrated in Figure 10 (shown right) is of the issue of 1893, of the ultramarine/gray-blue shade. Posted in Vienna 1/1 (First District/First Postal District) Pneumatic Mail Office 2 on 1 October, 1894, at 4:10 pm (N = Nachmittags). Postmarked in transit in Vienna 2/2, Pneumatic Mail Office 28, at 4:20 pm, and postmarked on arrival in Breslau on 2 October. The postage (treaty rate) to Breslau was 5 Kr. Pneumatic Mail Office 28, indicated by blue crayon as well as transit postmark, was located at the Nordbahnhof (North Railroad Terminal) where the card was transferred to the train.



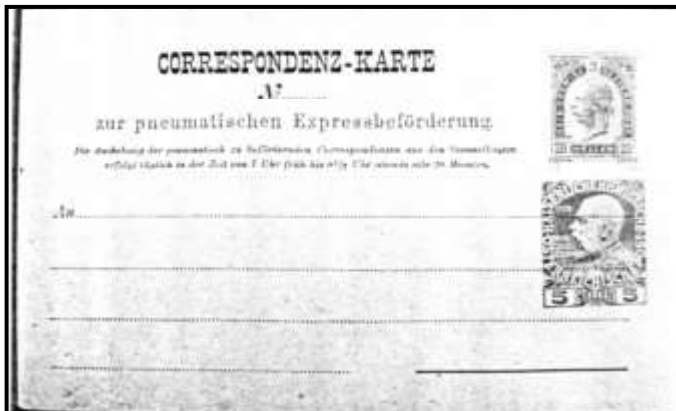
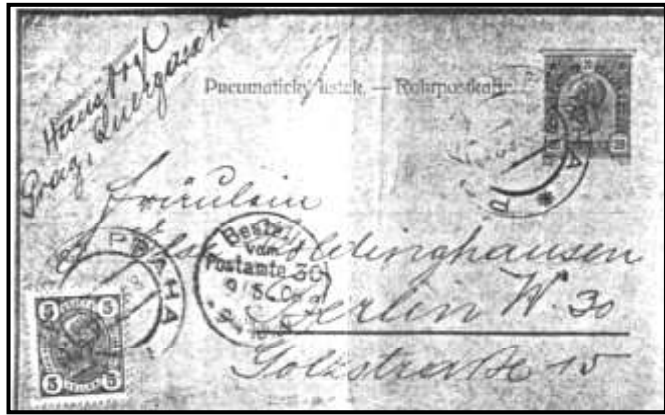
Cards wandering through the Vienna Pneumatic Mail System are not common, but do exist, as illustrated in Figure 11 (shown left). The card, issue of 1900 (first card issue in Heller denomination) was posted at Vienna 2/7, Station 129 on 29 July, 1901 at 9:20 am. The card was dispatched (black crayon marking) to Station 68 where it arrived at 10:40 am. It was then dispatched to Vienna 9/4, Station 69, arriving there at 10:50 am, from there to Vienna 19/1, Station 117 arriving at 11:10 am. And finally arrived at its correct destination, Vienna XIXth District, Station 118 between 12 noon and 1 pm. All

that apparently due to an error by the original postal dispatcher who did not notice the sender's marking for the XIXth district at the lower left.



Another card with supplemental inter-city franking dispatched from Prague to Berlin is shown in Figure 12. Since mail to Berlin was treated as domestic mail per Austro-German Postal Treaty, the supplemental franking applied is only 5 Heller, to pay the difference between the Prague Pneumatic Mail rate and the domestic rate. The card was mailed in Prague on 8 May, 1906. The arrival postmark shows delivery in Berlin on 9 May, 1906.

Figure 12→



Up-franking by privately imprinting the 5 Heller old Franz Josef design or the new KFJ (Kaiser Franz-Josef) Jubilee design was carried out both in Vienna and Prague to meet the increase in rate from 20 Heller to 25 Heller, effective on 16 January, 1907. The imprinting was done over the postcard issues of 1900 and 1904, both the single and double cards. The imprinting of the KFJ Jubilee 5 Heller stamp over both portions of the 1900 Prague issue of the double card is shown in ← Figure 13.

Up-franking due to another rate increase, that of 1 October, 1916, from 25 Heller to 38 Heller, was accomplished by supplemental franking by adhesives to the postcard issue of 1906. The 13 Heller supplemental franking (10 Heller + 3 Heller) was added to the card, shown in Figure 14 (shown left) posted in Vienna's IVth District, Station 50 on 2 November, 1916. The card is postmarked on arrival in Vienna 18/1, Station 110 at 10:30 am. The note on upper left translates "If delayed - will make claim." The postal dispatcher originally marked the card in blue crayon on to Station 110, which he crossed out and marked for Station 114. However, Station 110 was the final destination as evidenced by the receiving postmark.



The last rate change in Austria-Hungary occurred on 1 September, 1918 — too late for the new card issue to be distributed in Prague. The change was from 38 Heller to 70 Heller. Subsequent rate changes in post-war Austria included a rate increase to 85 Heller, reflected in the card issue of 1920 and to 25 Kronen with issue of Austria's last card of 1922. Up-franking was accomplished both by private imprinting of supplemental franking or by application of adhesives. Shown in Figure 15 (left) is a card of the issue of 1920, with supplemental adhesive franking of 10 Kronen + 1 Krone +15 Heller to meet the rate effective 15 April, 1920 and valid

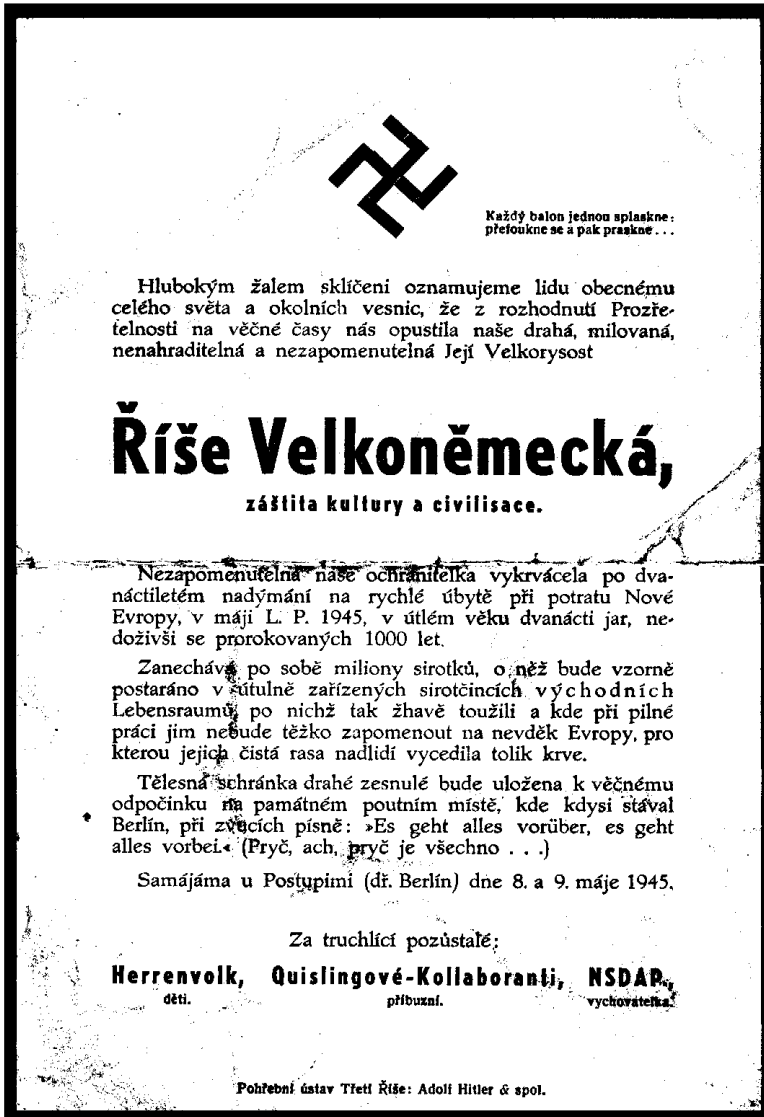
through 21 August, 1922. The card shown in Figure 15 was posted in Vienna on 12 November, 1921, at 11 am and marked in red crayon for Station 50.



## 1945 Liberation

-Robert J. Hill-

I found the following "double" death notice in with a box of material I recently bought at auction in Germany.



Každý balon jednou splaskne:  
přefoukne se a pak praskne...

Hlubokým žalem sklíčení oznamujeme lidu obecnému celého světa a okolních vesnic, že z rozhodnutí Prozřetelnosti na věčné časy nás opustila naše drahá, milovaná, nenahraditelná a nezapomenutelná Její Velkorysost

**Říše Velkoněmecká,**  
záštita kultury a civilisace.

Nezapomenutelná naše ochránitelka vykrvácela po dvacátiletém nadýmání na rychlé úbytě při potratu Nové Evropy, v máji L. P. 1945, v útlém věku dvanácti jar, nedoživši se prorokovaných 1000 let.

Zanechává po sobě miliony sirotků, o něž bude vzorně postaráno v útulně zařízených sirotčincích východních Lebensraumů, po nichž tak žhavě toužili a kde při pilné práci jim nebude těžko zapomenout na nevděk Evropy, pro kterou jejich čistá rasa nadlidi vycedila tolik krve.

Tělesná schránka drahé zesnulé bude uložena k věčnému odpočinku na památném poutním místě, kde kdysi stával Berlín, při zvoucích písně: »Es geht alles vorüber, es geht alles vorbei.« (Pryč, ach, pryč je všechno . . .)

Samájama u Postupimi (dř. Berlín) dne 8. a 9. máje 1945.

Za truchlící pozůstalé:

**Herrenvolk, Quislingové-Kollaboranti, NSDAP,**  
dětí. příbuzní. vychovatelka.

Pohřební ústav Třetí Říše: Adolf Hitler & spol.

This translates to:

**Every balloon will get fat,  
it will overblow and burst...**

With the great sorrow we announce to the folk of the whole world and the surrounding villages, that, through the God's will, our dearly loved, unreplaceable and unforgettable Her Majesty the

Third Reich  
Protector of Civilization  
has passed away.

Our unforgettable patroness has bled to death after 12 years long suffering from consumption and after the miscarriage of the New Europe in May 1945.

She has been predicted to live for 1000 years, but, unfortunately, she has died in tender age of 12 years.

She has left millions of orphans, which will be well looked after in cosy orphanages of eastern Lebensraums, for which they longed for so very much. While they will be working there very hard, it will be easy for them to forget the ungratefulness of Europe, for which their superior race shed so much blood.

The body of the dear deceased will be put to eternal sleep at the memorial place, where the city of Berlin used to stand and by the sound of the song "Es geht alles vorüber, es geht alles vorbei." (Everything has gone ... )

Allhole near Postupim (which used to be Berlin) 8 and 9 May, 1945.

The grieving relatives:

**Herrenvolk,  
children**

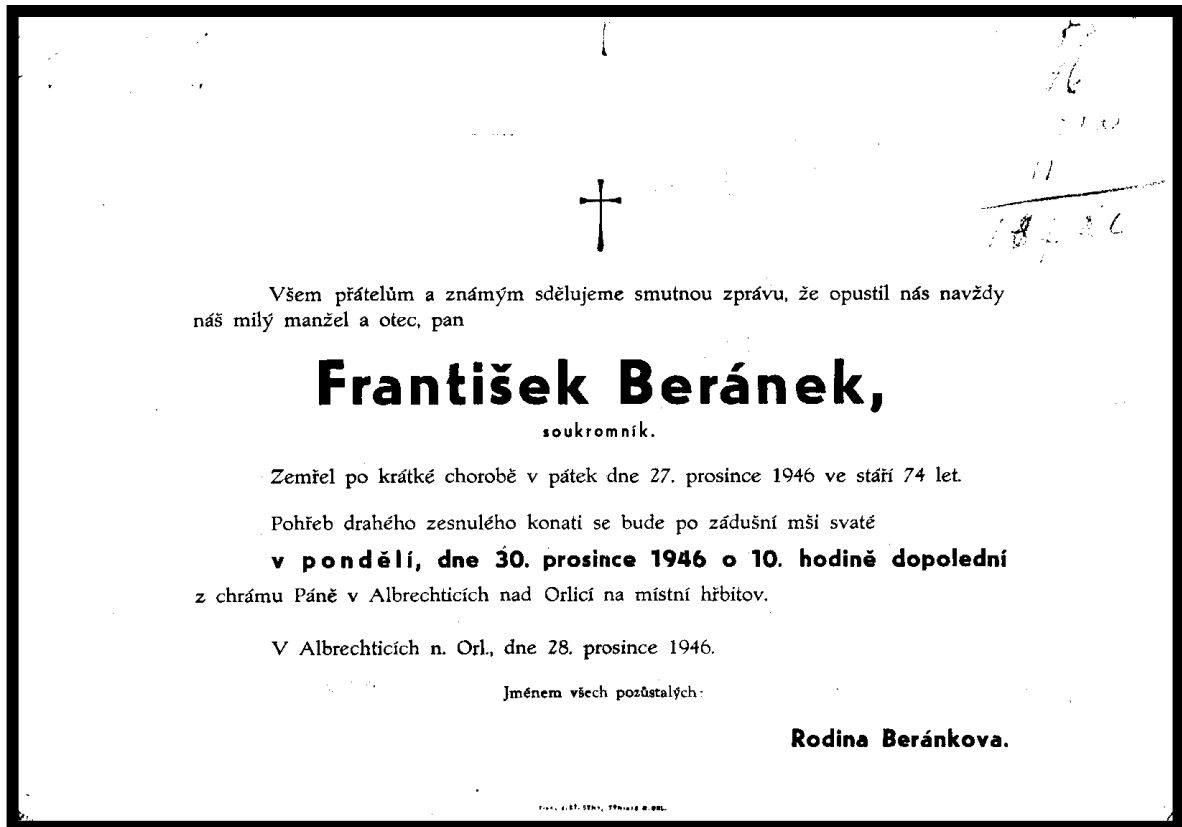
**Quislings-Kollaborants,  
relatives**

**NSDAP  
carer**

The funeral parlour of the Third Reich  
Adolf Hitler and comp.

>

On the reverse is:



This translates to:

We announce to all friends and acquaintances sad news, that our dear husband and father passed away for ever.

**Mr. František Beránek**  
**private person**

He died after a short illness on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 1946 age 74 years.

A burial of our dear deceased will be held after office for the dead on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1946, at 10 am - from the Lord's temple in Albrechtice nad Orlicí to a local cemetery.

In Albrechtice nad Orlicí, on 28 of December, 1946.

By the name of all grieving:

**Beranek's family.**

Printed by Štastný, Týniště nad Orlicí

I wonder if it came from a printers and was printer's waste to be used on the set up for Mr. Beránek death notice?

Acknowledgements:

Dr. Jan Dobrovolný, Pardubice: original translation

### COVERS OF INTEREST

-Otto Hornung-



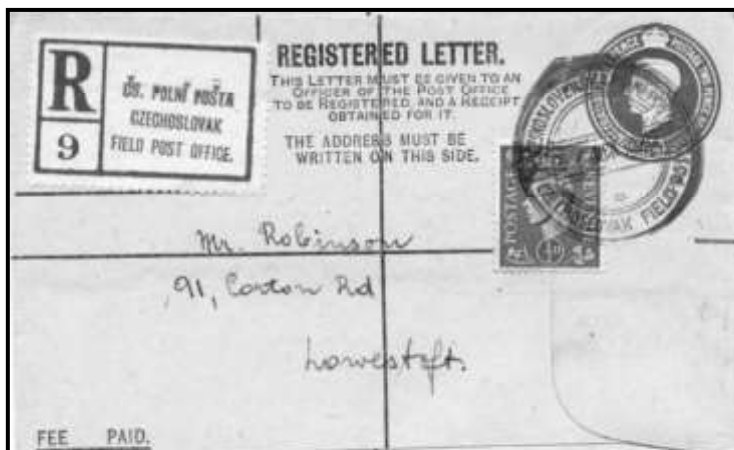
An interesting cover from Carpatho-Ukraine [Ruthania]

Airmail cover dated 9.XI.37 from Kobylecká Polana [КБЫЛЕЦКА ПОЛЯНА] cancel type M21 to Buenos Aires, Argentina. This went by train to Prague, then to airport 11.11.37. Flown to Paris on 13.11.37 and eventually arriving in Argentina on 17.11.1937.

Postage rate: 2.50Kč for 5gr. Airmail supplement 15Kč. Total = 17.50Kč

Backstamped at Prague 7 airport Cancel Type RM31 [1931-1939].

French Slogan Postmark "Gagnez Du Temps Répondez Par Avion" / "Save Time Reply By Air"



A Czech Forces in Great Britain Registered Envelope with a blank registered etiquette used in conjunction with a three-line handstamp Morovics' Type I [see Monograph 15, page 20]

From Cpl J. Lowenstein, HQ Coy 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn. Czech Forces



## 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 Bohemia & Moravia Document in *Czechout 2/2003* page 46

Three replies have been received.

From Heinz Vogel: My 667-page German dictionary says: "Anerben, v.a. transmit by inheritance; inherit." So I guess the Anerbengericht is an "Inheritance Court" or whatever goes through probate here.

From Ian Nutley: I should like to respond to Bob Hill's item regarding "Anerbengericht". The German word 'Anerben' best translates as "next heir", or 'heir to entailed property', being a legal term. In the period of the III Reich, under Racial Laws, many specialist courts were set up and others continued from Weimar, being quite specialised. Thus there were "Erbgesundheitsgericht", being courts where matters of racial purity were decided. Thus the "Anerbengericht" was a court where matters concerning the inheritance of goods and titles were judged upon.

From John Whiteside: With regard to Bob Hill's query I can provide a variety of information on the document itself and also something about the place involved which may be of interest. Firstly "Anerbengericht". This must mean, I think, Inheritance Court, as your other correspondents have said. However, the seal is inscribed "Amtsgericht" = County or District court and so I suspect the Anerbengericht was only a minor subdivision of the Amtsgericht. Incidentally the term Anerben- is not in the 1300+ pages of my 1983 Collins/Klett German/English dictionary. Indeed it is, in my opinion, something of a tautology, as erben means to inherit and the prefix an- usually denotes the sense of to or towards and seems to be a mite unnecessary. The four lines that come next are in Gothic and are in praise of a Bauer - or farmer. [It can also have a lesser meaning "peasant"} They read:

"Bauer, Träger völkischer Erbgesundheit,  
Bauer, Urquell der Volkskraft,  
Bauer, Sachwalter der Volksernährung,  
Bauer, Rückgrat der Wehrkraft."

And translate roughly as:-

Farmer, bearer of the racial purity of the people,  
Farmer, source of the People's power,  
Farmer, agent for feeding the People,  
Farmer, backbone of the army's power.

There is then a blank line for entry of a name, I think, followed by:- dem ersten Bauer auf dem Erbhofe Nr. which means (to?) the first (chief?) farmer on the estate number ..... in ..... There is then a space for the date to be entered, the seal, and, finally "der Vorsitzende des Anerbengerichts" - or the chairman of the court. It would thus appear to be a certificate issued to a farmer detailing his name and the estate upon which he worked. It is quite likely that when it was made out, it was liable to a tax and so had a fiscal stamp attached. This may have been a 1k. value as on a residence permit. St. Joachimsthal, Czech (Lázně) Jáchymov was a very old town to the north of Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary). In Král's guide to the Czech Republic of 1928, it is shown as having a population of 7,100 and was a Spa with famous Radium baths. These were related to the Uranium mines which were to make the town notorious in the post-war Communist era, when they became extremely important. The area immediately surrounding the town, which would be that of the Amtsgericht, appears to be scenic, but largely rural. The Amtsgericht, therefore would not have been very large, especially as to the south it would have bordered the Karlsbad area. The Anerbengericht must have been quite tiny, indeed the "Vorsitzende", or chairman probably only oversaw himself and his function was probably part-time and combined with other duties. I do hope all of this may be of some help in providing some background to the form itself.

>

Two Queries and replies:

From M/s Anna Beckmann, Holocaust Claims Processing Office, State of New York Banking Dept, 2 Rector St, New York, NY 10006, USA. M/s Beckmann has been writing to various societies re information on WWII Censorship.

From Brian Day: Your inquiry about the above has been handed to me; you may know that books have been written about this but all has not yet surfaced! But here goes. I enclose copies of articles in our journal *Czechout* to whet your appetite and which answer some of your questions. During the war much mail was ordinarily delivered via neutral countries, even by airmail and in the case of the UK was always subject to censorship. As a young man during the war I noticed regular mail deliveries from Switzerland to my office in London but can't remember how much of it was actually censored! Mail sent to undercover addresses in the UK was almost always censored no matter where it came from. Outgoing mail was of course also the subject to censorship. If from military units even to internal UK addresses, mail was censored.

Text: "Written in Czech" for example, among many other languages used, was to direct the mail to an appropriate censor /linguist. It was a requirement but it could of course not be demanded from foreign correspondents who wouldn't be aware of the rule. You will find enclosed references to suitable publications, which you might find it best to obtain. I have copied a number of pages relevant to GB and Switzerland and I can recommend the Chavril Press one to you. You will I think appreciate that it is a wide ranging subject and as it is not my specialised area I hope this brief information will suffice for your purpose. I would be interested to hear how you got on. I finally enclose a couple of scanner copies of covers in my collection.

From Bob Hill: I enclose an illustration of a Field Post [Polní Pošta] cover from Pízeň, by a member of the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade Motor Battalion to Mladá Boleslav. Cancelled CSPP CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST A 2 JY 45, passed by Censor type A600 numbered 11691. [I have two of these in my own collection]. The late Alec Page showed shield censor 11692 in his article in *Czechout* 3/1995, pages 60-69, is there any meaning in numbers 11691 and 2 and what shield numbers do other members have?



From the Editor: Richard Beith in his Monograph No 15 *The Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain 1940-1945* lists the Unit Censors Numbers on page 24; these can also be found in an earlier article by Page in *Czechout* 4/1983 pages 43-45. If any members can let us have details of their covers we shall be pleased to publish them, as well as any further information on Military Censorship.

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## Two New Queries

From Barry Horne: I bought last year one sheet [100], plus a right hand half sheet [50] of the 1919 First Anniversary of Independence 25h stamps listed as SG [Stanley Gibbons] 62d perforated  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ . BUT in fact vertical perforation is  $13\frac{3}{4}$ , which accords with the Czech catalogue. From the photocopy enclosed you will see that column 8 / 9 perforation is moved to right over column 9 stamps and then no perforation between 9 / 10 and 10 and margin. Rather a nice error and having one complete sheet plus half sheet means that there could in theory be more copies if we assume that say 5 or 7 sheets were perforated at a time.

I have seen no reference to this perforation variety anywhere. I shall probably split the half sheet into suitable strips or blocks, after putting one block into my collection and then put the blocks / strips into the Auction in due course.

From Colin Fry: 1983 saw an issue of a miniature sheet for "World Peace and Life Congress, Prague. Basically its four 'dove' stamps. Every illustration has the sheets numbered in the bottom centre. I have five of these sheets un-numbered and one now resides in Bob Hill's collection. They do not appear in Michel, Pofis, Stanley Gibbons, Trojan (2) or even Specializovana Příručka. Can any members shed light on what these un-numbered sheets are?



**ESSAYS AND LABELS - BLIND SOLDIERS SOCIETY [1935]**

-Tom Morovics-

In reply to Barry Horne's query concerning the Alfons Mucha labels issued "For Blind Soldiers" three different issues are known, all of them keeping the same central motif. They differ from each other by a distinct detail in the printed design and language. [See the magnified illustration of the design].

1<sup>st</sup> Issue, non-specified value, Czech version  
 MU 05 01 01 - red/blue  
 MU 05 01 02 - blue/red



2<sup>nd</sup> Issue, non-specified value, German version  
 MU 05 02 01 - red/black  
 MU 05 02 02 - black/red



3<sup>rd</sup> Issue, 10h value, Czech version  
 MU 05 03 01 - red/black  
 MU 05 03 02 - brown/dark green



All the three issues are printed by typography and embossing. The final impression is more relief-like than the classic typography. The stamps are separated by elevated line roulette during their printing. In all the three issues, we find differences in the drawing of wavy lines [branches] at both sides of the picture, which are caused by manual re-engraving of clichés [see the left "branches" of the 1<sup>st</sup> poster stamps]. We assume that for printing the poster stamps of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> issue there were used printing plates containing more than eight plate positions. The 3<sup>rd</sup> issue was supposedly printed by using only a four position plate, because the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue poster stamps that have been known by now divide into four groups according to the above mentioned drawing of the "branches". [see illustration]

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The 1st issue of the stamps occurs on items as early 1929, though we cannot prove their authentic use.



An example of the first issue being used on a postcard from Praha I dated 28.IX.29 to Pírovo?, Moravia

An example of the first issue being used on a registered letter from Hradec Králové dated 31.VIII.36 to Bratislava



Vignette or central inner design for the poster stamps.





The third issue using only a four-position plate depicting the differences in the drawing of wavy lines of the branches. These are indicated by hand drawn arrows at both sides of the picture.

## 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

#### 25.06.03. Czechs for Europe – Josef Dobrovský



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

**Design:** portrait of Josef Dobrovský (1753 – 1829) historian, Czech linguist and founder of Slavonic studies. He regarded language and literature as the basic expression of a nation's cultural and political development. For him the supreme period of Czech literary development was during the rule of Rudolf II (1552 – 1612). He wrote three books detailing the grammar, its history and a German-Czech dictionary. His research into Slavonic studies resulted in the book "The Foundations of the Old Slavonic Language"

**FDC:** printed DS in dark blue with a commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet drawing symbolises the roots of Czech language and literature.

#### 25.06.03. European Championship in Marksmanship



**Designer:** Kryštof Krejča **Engraver:** Pavel Kovářík  
**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, stamp size 40 x 23mm.

**Design:** a marksman with a rifle. The stamp promotes the championships which took place in Plzeň from 17<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July and Brno from 30<sup>th</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**FDC:** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Plzeň cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a rapid fire sport handgun.

#### 30.07.2003 Definitive – President Vaclav Klaus



**Designer:** Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

**Printing:** rotary recess and photogravure in sheets of 100. Stamp size 19 x 23mm.

**Design:** portrait of the President.

**NB** There was no official FDC.

10.09.2003

**Animal Breeding – Aquarium Fish**



**Designers:** Libuš and Jaromír Knotek **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** bi-coloured recess from flat plates in black and ochre combined with multi-coloured offset in sheets of 4 stamps and 4 labels, sheet size 175 x 115mm.

**Designs:** the sheet represents an aquarium with water plants, fish and gravel.

**12Kč:** the fish *Betta splendens* from Thailand which is about 6cms long and has a special organ under the gills enabling it to breathe atmospheric air. **FDC:** in blue shows *Macropodus opercularis*.

**14Kč:** *Pterophyllum scalare* – one of the most popular kinds of aquarium fish which has been bred into many colour varieties and forms of fins. **FDC:** in black-brown shows *Pterophyllum altum*.

**16Kč:** *Carassius auratus*, which appears in many colours and shapes. It can be kept in garden ponds and does not require warm water. **FDC:** in grey-green shows *Brachydanio rerio*.

**20Kč:** *Symphysodon aequifasciatus* originates from South America and has particular requirements for quality and temperature of water to flourish. It appears in many colours. **FDC:** in brown shows *Astronotus ocellatus*.

The Czech pioneer of this hobby was the scientist Jan Evangelista Purkyně. The hobby is popular in the Republic and the fish represented for this issue are the most popular breeds.

Labels on miniature sheet depict *Colisa lalia*, *Poecilia reticulata*, *Synodontis multipunctatus* and *Coryoras virginiae*. **FDCs:** printed DS with commemorative Prague cancels.

**Postal Stationery**

**Official Commemorative Postcards**

**23.04.03. Czech Historical Buildings.** This is the 10<sup>th</sup> issue in the series and numbered from A129/2003 to A136/2003. Each card has a 6.40Kč imprinted stamp of the modified Great State Arms of the Republic. The designs are from Foto Studios Skala and printed by Victoria Security Printing. The second line for recipient's address is a continuous micro printing of Česka Pošta. The left side of the card has a coloured picture of the building and explanatory text in Czech. Each card is issued in two formats a) a commemorative cachet in black of the building below the text and b) without cachet below text.

This series shows buildings at Plasy, Teplá, Vyšší Brod, Zlatá Koruna, Velehrad, Sedlec, Osek and Strahov. Previous sets in the series were printed annually from 1994. >

**25.06.03. 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the Olympic Committee in Prague. Designer:** Jaroslav Fišer. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset. **Design:** imprinted 9Kč stamp – portrait of Bedřich Šupčík (1898-1957) who won the first gold medal for Czechoslovakia in 1924 (gymnastics) and a bronze medal in pentathlon. He won further Olympic medals in 1928 and other world titles in 1926, 1930 and 1931. To the side of his portrait is the Olympic rings, the state flag and the Eiffel tower with the text in Czech “Bedřich Šupčík. The first gold medal – Climbing, OG Paris 1924.” The cachet design depicts a javelin thrower with the globe in the background and appropriate texts. The card retails at 14Kč.

**25.06.03. 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Police nad Metují. Designer:** Václav Kučera. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset. **Design:** imprinted 6.40Kč stamp – coat –of-arms of the town with the dates 1253-2003. The cachet shows the front of the town hall and logo of the celebration. The card marks the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first historical record of the town. The card retails at 11.40Kč.

### Promotional Postcards

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

**11. –15.06.03. Nitrafila 2003.** International Philatelic Exhibition. The promotional portion has the arms of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia with the text in Czech “Post and Telegraph Office”. A commemorative cancel was in use.

**26.06.03. European Meeting of Young Philatelists.** This was held in Svitavy on 26 June 2003. The cachet drawing is a collection of historic buildings, a blue coloured horse and seven stars with text in Czech and English “European Meeting of Young Philatelists.” A commemorative cancel was in use.

### Slovakia

#### 16.05.03 St. Andrej Svorad and St. Benedict.



**Designer:** Igor Benca **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** RD. **Design:** portraits of the two saints. St Andrej Svorad (980?-1034?) was a monk and hermit from Poland. He adopted the name Andrej whilst in the monastery in Zobor near Nitra, but left to live as a hermit in a cave in the Skalka mountains. He was joined by a follower – the monk Benedict ? -1037?). After Andrej’s death, Benedict continued living as a hermit but was attacked by highwaymen, trussed and thrown into the Váh River. His body was recovered about a year later and was buried in the basilica at Nitra with Andrej. In 1083 Pope Gregory VII canonised them and they became patrons of the Hungarian Kingdom.

**FDC:** printed DS in grey by TAB, Bratislava with commemorative Nitra cancel. The cachet drawing shows the two saints.

#### 01.06.03. For Children – Story Tale Characters – Mat’ko and Kubko



**Designer and Engraver:** Martin Činovský from original artwork of Ladislav Čapek. **Printing:** RD

**Design:** the characters Mat’ko (Matthew) and Kubko (Jacob) riding a brown bear. The book Mat’ko and Kubko was written by Marianna Grznárová with humorous illustrations by Ladislav Čapek and tells the amusing happenings of the two shepherds. The tales were made into a successful SlovakTV series for children in the 1970s. **FDC:** printed offset by TAB, Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows the two shepherds with three sheep and a dog.

A booklet of 10 stamps was issued and a maxi card.

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**25.06.03. Nature Conservation – European Wild Cat**

**Designer:** Vladimír Machaj **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** recess from flat plates combined with offset in sheets of four stamps (one of each denomination) with decorative margins.

**Designs:** various portraits of the wild cat with the WorldWide Fund logo of a panda near the top of each stamp. *Felis silvestris silvestris* is extinct in most parts of Europe and is now only found in a few areas of Scotland, Germany and Slovakia. Its natural habitat is thick forest and staple diet is mice, voles, rabbits, hares and small birds. Litters of between one and eight kittens are born in May.

**13Sk** – the face of an adult cat.

**14Sk** – an adult cat with a captured bird.

**16Sk** – two young kittens.

**18Sk** – an adult cat showing the distinctive thick bushy tail of the species.

**FDCs:** - printed DS in blue grey by TAB, Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancels. Each of the four covers has a different motif to depict the cat's natural habitat.

**03.07.2003. World Swimming Championships 2003.**

**Designer:** Igor Rumanský **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** rotary recess. **Design:** a symbolic drawing of a competing swimmer. The first World Championship was held in Belgrade in 1973 under the auspices of La Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA). Events included in the championships are diving and water polo which were held this year in Barcelona. The stamp issue commemorates the championships and the Slovak swimmer Martina Moravcová from Piešťany. **FDC:** printed DS in grey-blue by TAB Ltd. Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows a competing swimmer.

**15.07.2003. Technical Monuments – The reservoirs of Banská Štiavnica and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.**

**Designer:** Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** DS **Designs:** **9Sk** - the Klinger reservoir. **FDC:** printed in dark grey shows a wheel from the Mining Museum in the town. **12Sk** - the Rozgund reservoir. **FDC:** printed in dark grey shows Hell's water pumping machinery. Both FDCs printed DS by TAB Ltd. Bratislava. The mining town of Banská Štiavnica has a unique system for the management of water dating back to the early 1700s. A complete system of "tajchy" or reservoirs with interconnecting racing channels was built for the accumulation of surface water and as a source of energy to drive the underground water pumps in the local mines. The town was an important precious metal mining centre in the Habsburg dynasty. The inventors of the system were Matej Kornel Hell, Jozef Karol Hell and Samuel Mikovíni. By the end of the 1800s there were 60 tajchy of which 23 still exist today. The mining town and the tajchy are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The coupon commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which has 41 affiliated scholarly societies.

## Postal Stationery

### Commemorative Postcards

All the following cards have a 7Sk imprinted stamp with a view of Zobor. The cards retail at 10Sk each. The dates of issue are not known but Slovak Post catalogue numbers are shown.

**May? 2003. 095CDV 093/03.** Slovak Agricultural Museum Nitra. A steam locomotive produced by Umrath, Umrath & Co. Prague 1898.



**May/? 2003. 096 CDV 093/03.** The Philatelic Association V4. The flags of Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland with the logo of Nitrafila.

**13 June? 2003. 097 CDV 093/03.** Stage Coach Post. The heads of four horses with the Nitrafila logo and facsimile cancel "Nitra 13.6.2003."

**June? 2003. 098 CDV 093/03.** Day of Slovak Postage Stamp. Background of Tatra mountains with an envelope within the coil of a posthorn.

**June? 2003. 099CDV 093/03.** World Ice Hockey Championship Helsinki 2003. A puck on a blue background and the dates of the medals won by the Republic in 2000 (silver), 2002 (gold) and 2003 (bronze).

**June? 2003. 100CDV 093/03.** Youth Philately. A child's drawing of a fantastic animal and the Nitrafila logo.

**June? 2003. 101CDV 093/03.** Rudolf Cigánik – free creative drawing with the date 6.6.2003 and the Nitrafila logo.

**June? 2003. 102 CDV 093/03.** Children's Stamps. A symbolic design with the Nitrafila logo.

**June? 2003. 103CDV 093/03.** GBOD Na výstave Nitrafily. Various sized coloured dots with the letters GBOD in black.

**.July? 2003. 104CDV 093/03.** The winner of the most beautiful Slovak stamp of 2002. A reproduction of the two stamps issued for the joint Slovak –Chinese issue of 2002.

### ERRATUM

Hartmut Liebermann advises us that the e-mail address for the German Society given in Lubor Kunc's list of websites on page 43 should be [www.ArGe-Tscheshoslowakei.de](http://www.ArGe-Tscheshoslowakei.de)