



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

The Society's regional meeting, hosted by Dr Garth Taylor, will be on **Saturday 19 June** at **Hathern, Loughborough: Members' Displays**.

The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place as usual on **Saturday 6 November** at 11am, followed by a display by **Keith Tranmer** on **Czechoslovakia with Austrian connections** at 2.00pm. The Room Auction will now be a postal one only.

We have received a nice letter from past member **Roy Dehn** who will be 89 in July. He enjoyed his early years with the Society and sends his best wishes; at present he is concentrating on translating into English, parts of Paolo Vollmeier's two-volume work on the Postal History of the Venetian Republic from 800 to 1800.

The Chairman reminds members that we still have available the Martin Činovský booklets plus a limited number of all the signed proofs (1,2,3,4 & 5) as well as the numbered anniversary cards as per Richard Beith's flyer sent out with *Czechout*.

By the time members have received this journal, we hope to have moved to our new home. Once contracts have been exchanged we can notify our new address. There will be a period when we shall be "off the air" as far as e-mails are concerned. Editor

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 17 January 2004

After a delayed start following slow service at lunchtime, the Chairman, Mrs D L Bosworth, welcomed 26 members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from three members. A card was signed by those present and sent to Bob Allard, who was recovering from a hip operation.

The Secretary gave details of three prospective new members:

W F M Tukker	from Tilburg, the Netherlands
Jim Hamlin	from West Hampstead, London
Joop Wibier	from Roosendaal, the Netherlands

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The Chairman then invited **Denis Vandervelde**, the Secretary of the Disinfected Mail Study Circle, to present his display on ***Quarantine and the disinfection of mail in the Habsburg Empire***. Commenting on the delayed start, Denis said that the National Club had the best food but the worst service in London.

Denis described the various documents he had laid out on tables. These were mainly from the Germanic countries: Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The earliest 'health passport' was of 1711 from Prag Kleinseite. There were several 'ship's passports', also known as 'bills of health'. Earlier ones just gave the number in the ship's complement, but to detect malpractice later ones became more detailed, with the names and heights of everyone on board.

The first half of the display concentrated on the period up to 1830, when 95% of the disease being guarded against was plague (the other 5% was yellow fever from the West Indies). Mail had been disinfected since the 15th century. Europe would place a 'cordon sanitaire' around the Ottoman Empire, as the main areas of infection were Constantinople and Smyrna. Mail received at plague posts on the frontier would be heat-treated, fumigated or disinfected with vinegar. Denis remarked that, as all the diseases (except smallpox) require animal vectors, the various measures taken were all, in practice, ineffective.

By 1831 plague was on the retreat, but that year a new disease arrived from India – cholera. Denis said that this waterborne disease really changed the world. It was very virulent, and as its cause was not understood most of the treatments exacerbated the symptoms and hastened death. Austria revived their cordon sanitaire. Denis showed the only Polish language disinfection cachet, from the period of the very serious outbreak in 1892 in Russia.

Denis completed his display with more modern material, including mail from infectious diseases hospitals in WWI, and from a smallpox scare in Hanover in 1972, after the disease had been eradicated.

Roger Morrell gave the vote of thanks. He said he had been 'gobsmacked' by the display, the presentation and the story. Denis had held his audience spellbound, and had truly sparked their interest.

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

Rex Dixon

Auction News

The retiring auction secretary would like to thank all of the members who have contacted him by phone, e-mail, fax and letter to express their gratitude on the way the auctions have been run. As a committee member he tried to represent members interests - even when that was unpopular and attempted to run the auctions the way he would have liked them to be done. All members now need to get behind the new auction secretary, Peter Williams, and give him all the help and assistance he needs as a new chapter in the life of our auctions opens.

Bob Hill

Introduction from the New Honorary Auction Secretary

My name is Peter Williams. I have now taken over the responsibility of Honorary Auction Secretary from Bob Hill. I am looking forward to the challenge of even approaching Bob's extensive knowledge of Czech and Slovak philately.

>

I started many years ago with an interest in Poland, as my mother had a pen pal in Poland and this page filled up in my album even before Great Britain. My next step into Eastern Europe was to Czechoslovakia, via the issues from Eastern Silesia. My Czech interests now include postal stationery cards. My company had the insight to provide me with a three-year assignment as Finance Manager in Jablonec nad Nisou from October 1996. Living in the country (the Czech Republic by then) and attempting to learn the language and the culture was very enjoyable.

My E Mail address is rozpocet@yahoo.co.uk, or if you prefer to talk, 01564 773067. My address is P O Box 11825, Solihull B93 9ZQ. If you would like to send me lots to this address, please could you let me know in advance so that I can confirm receipt.

Peter Williams

Congratulations

To Geoffrey McAuley on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Letters to the Editor

✉ **Graham Slater** writes: I am grateful for Ludvik Svoboda's kind reply to my query re "Hradčany" Perforations and Electronic Gauges, and would assure him that I too possess an "Instanta" gauge which I use for verification on occasions, because, quite rightly I do not completely trust any one method of measurement. I am sure I am not the only victim of an enthusiastic dealer's misreading of a transparent perforation gauge!

Most importantly what he does not say is where one can obtain a template for calibrating electronic gauges (possibly plastic or metal to be used within certain temperature ranges). In the case of electronic scales certified weights are obtainable and measuring in fractions of grams presents no difficulty. Does anyone know what the manufacturers recommend or themselves use?

Secondly it is all very well to say that modern continental catalogues include all the known "official" perforations - but they are NOT primary sources, such as would be acceptable in a Court of Law. Hopefully one of our members knows the sources [circa, say 1918-1924] from which the catalogue publishers obtain their information. One then has to consider if in these pre-electronic and computing days, the measurements of perforation recorded were accurate.

Whilst accepting what Mr Svoboda says in the case of individual stamps about damp etc affecting measurements, there has surely to be some reasonable cause for doubt when a higher proportion of stamps give the "wrong" measurements as compared with the alleged "correct" ones?

I think philatelists need to re-examine what they have been led to believe in the past - and check carefully. I have spent a substantial portion of my life dealing with fraud and discrepancies etc., and know how dangerous the complete reliance on secondary records can be. To give one instance only - a set of records, involving many thousands of pounds, accepted by the War Office and a major manufacturer of armoured vehicles, transpired, in origin, to be reliant solely and exclusively on what one man wrote on the back of his cigarette packet when he stopped his shift. When I asked him what happened if he threw away an empty packet away in the pub that night, he said "I can usually remember where I was with the serial numbers; anyway it isn't important is it! The perforations used on stamps cannot have seemed very important at the time, I feel sure - they were very arbitrary to say the least of it.

Publications

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

- The Spring 2004 issue of *Austria* No. 145. The articles include:
 - ▶ New Time-Zone cancellations (White); CsPSGB 50th Anniversary; Proposed 2003 issues & rates; Postal Communications between Imperial Austria & the Kingdom of Sardinia between 1.1.1854-30.9.1867 [Part 2] (Cedolini).

- The December 2003 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 34, Whole Nos. 138 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Information: [582] New definitives with the portrait of President V. Klaus (-); [583] New rates for inland letters and cards from the Czech Post Office (-); [584] New special registration labels from the Czech Post Office (-); [585] Newly programmed range of values for Slovak machine-issued stamps (-); [586] New special postcards from the Czech Post Office (-); [587] New printed postcards from the Czech Post Office (-); [*Translator's note: I cannot see the distinction between the cards of 586 and 587, they all sold at a premium price and commemorate special events. DDB*]. Articles: Iglau through the eyes of the jury (Pittermann); Labels and se-tenants from the Czech Post Office since 1966 (Ramisch); The 30h airmail stamp [CSR Michel; No.407] (Minder); On the trail of the London Issue (Fischer); New information about automation in the Czech Post (Müller); The special registration labels from Czech Post (Müller).
- v The Jan/Feb 2004 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 66, No. 1, Whole No. 583. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Monetary Reform of 1953 (Holoubek); Czechoslovak Resistance in Italy 1944-45 (Santangelo); Valuable "APOST " Labels (Vostatek); The Vitorazsko Region (Vostatek); The Czech Scout Collector Events (Hahn); Master Pavol (van Zenten).
- v The 12/2003 and 1 & 2/2004 issues of *Filatellie*. Vols. 53/54. The articles include:
 - ▶ Forgeries-once again authenticated by our Experts? (Beneš); Once Again Additional Franking of Airmail (Rais); Car Mail Transport [2] (Horák); Football in Philately [4] (Kamenický); The Front cover announces the publication of Monografie Československých a Českých Známeek a Poštovní Historie No 11: Pošta v ghettu Terezín, by Pofis.
 - ▶ Validity of Postage Due Stamps in June 1953 finally clarified (Dražan); Exclamation Mark instead of a Question Mark unfortunately (Beneš); Car Mail Transport [3] (Horák); Fight against illegal issues continues (Langhammer).
 - ▶ Forgeries of Covers from the Ghetto Theresienstadt (Dražan); Cash on Delivery - Queen among covers/stationery (Švejnar); Echoes of Bukowina (Feldmann); Commemorative Labels for Registered Mail and APOST Labels in 2003 (Fenc); Illegal and Harmful Issues (Schiller).
- v The 6/2003 issues of *Merkur Revue*: The articles include:
 - ▶ New findings Zditz/Zdice postal cancellations (Klim); Dove issue from Jaroslav Benda [7] (Stupka); VIII International Olympic Congress Prague 1925 [1] (Petrásek); Foreunners of Perfins (Münzberger); Protectorate covers and stationery prepaid with stamps portraying T.G. Masaryk (Bláha & Schödelbauer).
- The December 2003 & March 2004 issues of *Stamps of Hungary* No 155/6. The articles include:
 - ▶ Semantics 'Occupation' vs 'Local Issues of 1918-1921' (Kohalmi); WWII Slovakian Airmail, A Question from Richard Beith.
 - ▶ Collecting through the Internet (Barb); The Postal Stationary Cards issued in Northern Transylvania [Romania] during the Soviet administration November 1944 to March/April 1945 (Dragoteanu); WWII Slovakian Airmail, Comments by the Editor [Roger Morrell].

The Society has purchased a limited number of the latest Czech Monografie No.11 (II part) - Pošta v ghetto Terezín by František Beneš and Patricia Tošnerová. It is all in Czech language but there are many illustrations of postal items. {Part 1 is a book available from the Czech Postal Museum - Pošta v ghetto Terezín 1941 - 1945} The Monografie 11 compliments the earlier publication (part 1) and comes with a numbered "black print" of the Old -New Synagogue, Prague from the 1967 stamp issue Jewish Culture. The cost is £10.50 plus £2.50 postage and packing and can be ordered from Lindy Bosworth



BOOK REVIEWS

Stempel-Handbuch der K.u.k. Feldpost in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918 (Postmark handbook of the K.u.k. fieldpost in Austria-Hungary 1914-1918) by Herwig Rainer, second edition, A4 hardback, 372 pp., published by and available from Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914/18, A-8042 Graz, Breitenweg 21c, Austria, price 60 Euro (reduction for bulk society orders).

My Christmas reading was to browse through this second expanded edition of the world-renowned compilation of WWI field post information. This is an excellent volume, well-produced and clearly laid out with much new information collected and collated by the members of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft. I think it is a must for any serious collector of the subject. It's smart enough to put on your coffee table to impress your guests, too. OK, it's mostly in German, apart from multilingual introductory chapters, but you don't need to be an expert in the language to understand the tables of data and the numerous examples of mail, including some in colour. Particularly useful are the diagrams of how the mail was collected, sorted and despatched to its final destination.



How is this second edition different from the first, which built on the 1935 publication of Majetic? The following listings have been updated:

- Numbered postmarks with valuations
- Registration labels and handstamped cachets
- Naval base post office in Pola
- Base post offices with named locations
 - Camp post offices, including those in Hungary

The following are additions:

- A chapter on pre WWI manoeuvre field post offices
- Control marks (so-called Tarnstempel or anonymous marks)
- Type differences in the numbered postmarks (usually as a result of replacements for lost or damaged datestamps)
- Agencies without their own date-stamps
- Postmarks of the Royal and Imperial Navy (dated ship postmarks with or without incorporated censor indication)
- Systematic documentation and classification of miscellaneous marks, such as sorting stations, mobile post offices
- Identification marks such as 'From the army in the field'
- Official duty marks of individual field post offices

Valuations are given in terms of 'points', 10 points being about 1 Euro or 1 US\$. It is noteworthy that some valuations for the more common material are a tiny fraction of what some dealers are now trying to charge collectors. Many of the marks are not rare. As the book points out, approximately 1500 million items of mail were handled by the Feldpost during WWI, or roughly 30 million per month (many more than by the civilian post in the years prior to the war!). Add to this the fact that much of the mail would have been treasured by soldiers or their families, and not thrown away, so a high proportion probably still exists. It is suggested that 85-90% of the items on the market have the more common markings. The game, of course, is to track down those that are scarce.

What's missing? It is clear that the author has restricted himself to **postal markings**, and not to cachets of a solely identification (unit, etc.) rather than a postal nature, the exception being the inclusion in Chapter 16 of cachets of the field post offices themselves, and in Chapter 17 of military censor cachets (complementing the civilian censor mark listing by Thielk*. Thus, one will find nothing on army units, aeroplane units, balloon units, air mail, or the siege of Przemsyl (with the exception of the circular

control mark), since in all these cases conventional field post datestamps were in use. There is also > remarkably little from named offices in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thus while the base offices in Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Italy are well covered, presumably B-H, being considered at that time to be an integral part of the empire albeit under military control, was not considered to be 'field post' as it was stationary and mostly manned by civilians.

Despite the passage of time from the First World War period and the number of serious collectors who have studied the huge number of surviving examples available, the treatment of mail via the Austro-Hungarian field post is still not completely documented and understood. The biggest lack of knowledge is the location of many of the FPOs. Although they tended to move with the troops, in the majority of cases it seems that we still do not know even which front they were on. This is the subject of a continuing appeal for more information given in the introduction.

Roger Morrell

50 Thielk, H., *Zivilpost-Zensur in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918, Handbuch und Katalog*, published by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Zensurpost e.V. und Österreichisches Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-1918, Kiel, Germany, 1989

CINDERELLA STAMPS OF BOHEMIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PART I BOHEMIA, VOLUME I by Ch Blasé. A4, card cover, 48 pp. Price: UK £15 + £1 p&p; elsewhere price on application. Published by World Poster Stamps, PO Box 13, Alton, Hants GU34 4DW.

This catalogue is the first volume of a series to be published in two parts, both containing five volumes. Part I covers Bohemia up to the proclamation of Czechoslovakia in October 1918; Part II, by T Morovics, will be concerned with the period of the first Czechoslovak Republic until 1939 (excluding the stamps printed during the years of German occupation 1939-45 and stamps published in Slovakia). Volume I consists of a general introduction and two chapters covering commemorative Cinderella stamps (exhibitions and jubilees), and poster stamps relating to philately. The text is in English; all types are illustrated in black and white and valuations are given by a points system. The introduction outlines the historical and political setting of what is today known as the Czech Republic and gives a very useful German-Czech and Czech-German index of geographical names. The print and binding quality of the work are well up to the high standard that we have learned to expect from World Poster Stamps, and the catalogue is a joy to use.

CINDERELLA STAMPS OF BOHEMIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. PART I BOHEMIA, VOLUME 3/1 "WEHRSCHAZT" STAMPS by Ch Blasé. A4, card cover, 69 pp. Price: UK £18 + £1.50 p&p; elsewhere, price on application. Published by World Poster Stamps, PO Box 13, Alton, Hants GU34 4DW.

This catalogue, the second to be published in the series mentioned above, will bring great joy to the hearts of those stalwarts who have persisted in collecting the Wehrschatzmarken (aka the Fund Raising Stamps of the German Societies Abroad) despite the almost total absence of readily available literature on the subject. One as to go back to 1916 to find (if it can be found) the Winterstein catalogue (and supplements) which was the most recent attempt to cover the whole geographical field. Wemer Schonweiss, in 1983, produced his Katalog der Deutschvolkischen Bundesmarken, Part 1, which covered only those societies based in Germany itself. I once enquired, of an eminent German authority, what had happened to Part 2 and the answer was that it was too difficult a task to tackle the "Abroad" societies and it had been abandoned. All the more credit therefore to Ch Blasé (a CSC member) for producing, in English, such a useful account of the Bohemian Wehrschatzmarken (which include those of North and South Moravia and Silesia). The catalogue includes 337 different Wehrschatz stamps, not counting type, colour or size variations, or the different perforations that can be found on some types. Moreover, the author has 'stretched' the strict definition of Wehrschatzmarken to include the Turnerschaft stamps published by national and local German gymnastic clubs, and the charity stamps printed by a range of other social, cultural and religious organisations. The work is all the more valuable for that 'stretch'. The catalogue is copiously illustrated, in black and white, and gives a valuation in points and three rarity grades of R to RRR. In sum, a most welcome addition to the corpus of Cinderella literature.

P.F.R.

COVERS OF INTEREST

-Ian Nutley-

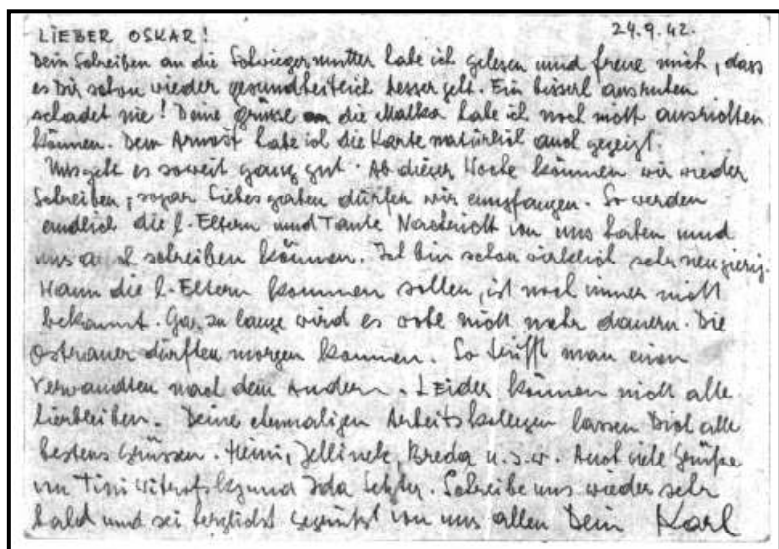
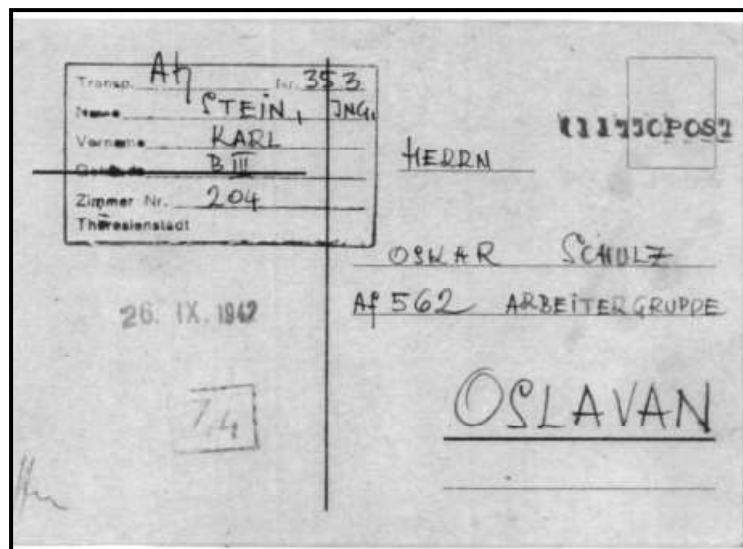
A Rare 'First Day Cover' From Theresienstadt

The fortress town of Terezin was built in the late 18th century, some 25 miles north of Prague, by Emperor Franz Josef II of Austria, and named after his mother, Maria Teresa.

At a meeting in Prague on 10 October 1941 which included SS Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich and SS Standartenführer Adolf Eichmann, the decision was made to establish a ghetto in Terezin [Theresienstadt], mainly for Czech and Austrian Jews. The ghetto was administered by Germans and guarded by Czech police.

In German propaganda Theresienstadt was a retirement ghetto where elderly Jews could retire in safety. In reality it was a collection centre for deportation to the east, beginning in 1942. The first transport from Prague with 342 men arrived on 24 November 1941. The total number deported to Theresienstadt was 139,654. Some 86,934 were transported to the east, and 33,430 died there. The administration was handed over to the Red Cross in May 1945, and the Red Army arrived on 8 May to find 16,832 prisoners still there.

The story of the postal system in this ghetto is a complicated one. Until May 1942 only postcards were allowed, bearing only 30 words in German, in block capitals. The allowance was stopped in May when illegal post was found. However, permission to write postcards was again granted in Order 213 dated 16 September 1942, and postcards were handed out from 20 September. The number of words was now unlimited, and could now be in normal script, but still had to be in German. This provision was made in an Order dated 24 September. A cachet in red was applied listing Transport, Transport No., Name, Forename, Building [Gebäude], Room No. and the last line was simply 'Theresienstadt'. A small framed 'Z', i.e. 'Zensiert' was applied, in which the censor placed his number. The cards were handstamped 'Gettopost' in red, no stamp was necessary and after registration the cards were taken in bulk to the Central Office of Jewish Emigration in Prague for distribution.



Illustrated is a postcard written on the first day of the new regulations, 24 September 1942; registered on 26.IX.1942, and bearing the Censor No 4's cachet. The red cachet bearing the sender's details is at top left. The card is addressed to a forced labourer in Oslavan, some 15 miles WSW of Brno.

POSTAL EVENTS AFTER THE LIBERATION OF KUTNÁ HORA MAY 1945 ONWARDS.

50 Robert J. Hill-

A unsolicited e-mail from member Les Percy of Matlock in Derbyshire alerted me to a lot of 14 post war covers in an Australian auction. I phoned him and we discussed it then, being the good chap he is, he entered a bid for me and when we were successful paid for it (I did settle up with him later). When I eventually got the lot I was delighted and it set me on the path of finding out what other material I had from this nice location. My visits to Kutná Hora have been limited to six in total and I remember each of them well. Put simply it is a nice place to take my R & R on a summer Sunday and it is not too far from Prague. The result of my research is the article that follows, it is not perfect and I actively ask other members to criticise and add comments from their own collections.

For the record Kutná Hora is shown as being liberated by remnants of 1st Československy armádný zbor under the control of General Ludvik Svoboda, this formed part of the 4th Ukrainian front. Eventual liberation of the location was not achieved until Friday 11 May 1945 although it had started days before. This was because the bulk of the General's forces had gone straight through Kutná Hora en route to Prague.

Karel Holoubek of Hradec Králové in his authoritative book *Česká Republika Revoluční Vydání* (Květen 1945) on page 49 reference N 800 shows an overprint comprising a shield (with a lion and vertical lines) over crossed hammers. It is shown as appearing in black on Hitler head stamps of Bohemia and Moravia. This overprint is of unknown origin. The late Juan Santaeugenia Grau of Barcelona in his publication *Sellos y Sobrecargas Revolucionarias Checoslovaquia* on page 51 shows three types of overprint. As well as the Holoubek stamp, he shows two other types, these two are outside the scope of this study.

Members will know that the overprints came about following a directive concerning the need to obliterate all traces of German occupation. It was also a way to celebrate freedom as well as using up surplus stocks pending the arrival of new stamps. Bilingual cancellers, in use throughout the Protectorate, were attacked with a chisel and the German legend at the top of the canceller (in this case Kuttenberg) was removed. At some locations these cancellers were in use for a considerable time until regular cancellers could be supplied.

The following table shows the cancellations known to me from my collection of 43 covers of the post liberation period.

Circular

Canceller	Bilingual German text intact Diameter	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Bilingual German Text removed Diameter	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Kutná Hora 1 a				24 mm	31/01/46	
Kutná Hora 1 b				24 mm	16/11/45	
Kutná Hora 1 ch	24 mm		08/05/45	24 mm	13/05/45	
Kutná Hora 1 d				24 mm	27/06/46	
Kutná Hora 1 e				24 mm	29/01/46	28/05/46
Kutná Hora 1 f	24 mm		30/05/45	24 mm	08/06/45	14/11/45
Kutná Hora 1 g				24 mm	28/11/45	17/07/45
Kutná Hora 1 h				24 mm	13/05/45	04/07/45
Kutná Hora 3 b				24 mm	07/06/45	
Kutná Hora 3 c				24 mm	25/10/45	01/02/46
Kutná Hora 4 a	24 mm	05/05/45	14/05/45			
Kutná Hora 4 b	24 mm		05/05/45	24 mm	18/08/45	

Straight Line

Canceller	3 line temporary cancel	Dated	3 line boxed German text removed	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Kutná Hora 1 Station canceller			34 x 24 mm	04/09/45	12/04/48
Kutná Hora 4	50 mm	14/05/45			

>

Now to the covers recently acquired from Australia:

The originator of the correspondence was František Čepelák who lived at Táborská 114, in Kutná Hora. His job is shown as *ředitel hlavní školy* translated as a director of a high school.

Sender František Čepelák, Kutná Hora Recipient self

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid	Back strike
8 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1ch	10, 30, 60 h Hitler head	1 k	
8 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1ch	40, 80 h Hitler head	1.20 k	
8 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1ch	50 h, 1, 1.20, 1.50 k Hitler head	4.20 k	

The reason that the first cover was under franked may have been that this philatelist was trying to attract a "provisional" postage due franking. The liberators were definitely in town but I do not know what area was liberated and what was still held by the Germans although it is known that St. Barbara's church was liberated by this date. These covers have one of each of the nine low value stamps.

Sender František Čepelák, Kutná Hora Recipient Václav Čepelák, Praha 14

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid	Back strike	Labels	Manuscript ink
13 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1ch	4.20 k Hitler head	4.20 k		Registered	Böhmen u Mahren on stamp deleted ČSR added
13 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1ch	2.40, 2.50 k Hitler head	4.90 k		Registered	
15 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1h	1.50 & 3 k Hitler head	4.50 k	PRAHA 14 17 May 1945	Registered	Böhmen u Mahren on stamp deleted ČSR added

The reason for over franking the last two items may have been to use a wide variety of stamps.

Sender František Čepelák, Kutná Hora Recipient Alois Čepelák, Praha 54

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid	Back strike	Labels	Manuscript ink
13 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1h	40 & 80 h Hitler head	1.20 k			
14 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1h	2.40, 3, 4 k Hitler head	9.40 k	PRAHA 54 17 May 1945	Registered Express	Böhmen u Mahren on stamp deleted ČSR added

Sender František Čepelák, Kutná Hora Recipient Jindřich Čepelák, Rataje nad Sázavou
Rataje nad Sázavou is south west of Kutná Hora

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid	Back strike	Labels	Manuscript ink
13 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1h	30h & 1 k Hitler head	1.30 k			
15 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1h	80 h, 1.50, 2 k Hitler head	4.30 k	RATAJE n. SÁZAVOU 17 May 1945	Registered	
17 May 1945	KUTNÁ HORA 1h	1, 1.50, 2 k Hitler head	4.50 k	RATAJE n. SÁZAVOU 17 May 1945	Registered	See note below *

The reason for over franking the last two items may have been to use a wide variety of stamps.

* The Hitler head stamps are not overprinted and are stuck on upside down. They have been disallowed and a line drawn under them. A rubber stamp has added Vyplaceno (paid in cash) and the figure 4.20 (k) added to denote the correct amount paid.

Sender Alois Čepelák, Praha 54 Recipient František Čepelák, Kutná Hora

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid	Back strike	Labels
9 May 1945	PRAHA 54	10 h & 1.60 k Hitler head 2.50 k St. Vitus	4.20 k		Registered

Prague Liboc area was liberated prior to this date.

Sender Unknown, Čerčany Recipient František Čepelák, Kutná Hora
Čerčany is south west of Kutná Hora and south east of Praha

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid
8 May 1945	ČERČANY	2 x 60 h Hitler head	1.20 k

This location was shown as liberated by 10 May, I do not have an exact date and it may have been liberated up to four days earlier or there may not have been any Germans stationed there.

Sender Unknown, Malesov Recipient František Čepelák, Kutná Hora

Malesov is a few kilometres south west of Kutná Hora

Date	Canceller	Stamps	Paid
11 May 1945	MALESOV	1.20 k Hitler head	1.20 k

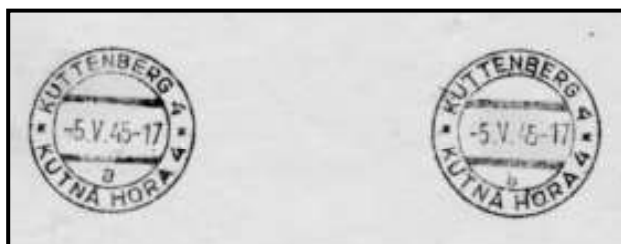
This location was shown as liberated by 10 May, I do not have an exact date and it may have been liberated up to four days earlier or there may not have been any Germans stationed there.

>

It makes me wonder, given the prolific correspondence, was František Čepelák the author of the overprints? Did he send overprinted stamps to relatives in the registered envelopes in hope of receiving covers that had been through the postal system or was he hoping they would be disallowed and the covers marked with rare "provisional" markings? What sort of person sends so much philatelic mail when the country is just emerging from war and the infrastructure is crippled?

Fellow members, please look at your material, correct the text factually and add to the knowledge base for the benefit of us all - although there is another way of looking at it. Some of our members believe that nothing happened immediately after the war and at least one senior member would argue that these covers are contrived and stolen cancellers used together with surplus labels and stamps. Well, what do you think?

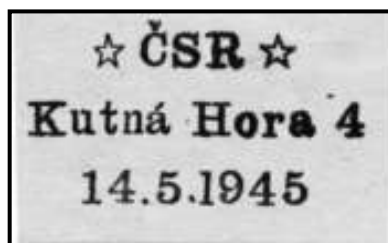
Illustrations



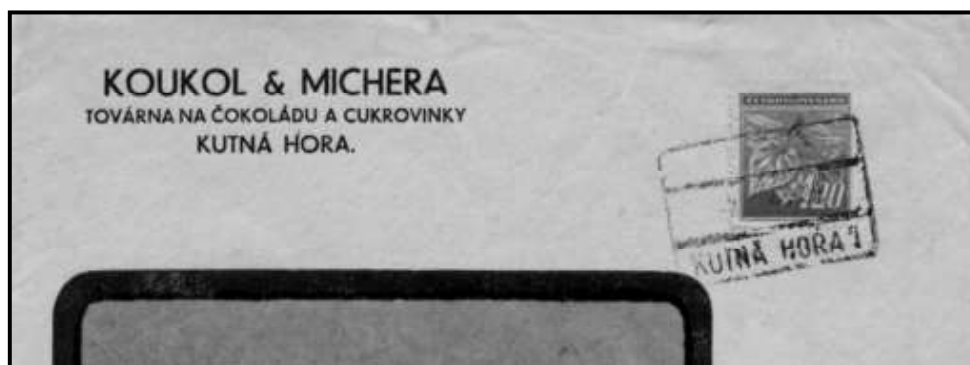
a: Bilingual canceller in German (top) and Czech
 Example of both 4a and 4b canceller
 Bi-lingual canceller KUTNÁ HORA 3 5.V.45 17a
 Bi-lingual canceller KUTNÁ HORA 3 5.V.45 17b



b: Bilingual canceller
 with German text
 from the top defaced
 KUTNÁ HORA 1 31.1.46 18a



c: Three line temporary canceller



d: Three line boxed "Station" canceller with German text removed from the top. Commercial window envelope postage paid with 1.20 k linden leaf stamp. KUTNÁ HORA 1-3.XI.45

e: Cover sent to local address, correct postage paid 1.20 k.

Bi-lingual 1ch canceller KUTTENBERG 1 KUTNÁ HORA 1 - 08.05.45 - 21 ch with overprinted 40 & 80 h Hitler head stamps

Additional impression of overprint on cover.



f: May 13 1945 KUTNÁ HORA 1ch canceller with overprinted 4.20 k Hitler head stamp. Registered to Prague. Böhmen u Mahren on stamp deleted in ink and ČSR added.

Bilingual registration label and original postal receipt enclosed

Odesílatel vyplní sítě ohraničenou čarou.

Einlieferungsschein — Podací lístek

Gegenstand (z. B. B-Bf)	(Abkürzungen s. umseitig unter A) (Zkratky viz na druhé straně pod A)		
Drah zásilky (na př. R)			
Angegebener Wert oder nennsahltor Betrag Ušná cena nebo výlacení částka	K | h (in Ziff. - číslicemi)	Nachnahme Do- birka	K | h (in Worten - slovy)
Empfänger Adressat	V. Čepelák		
Bestimmungsort Místo určení	Praha		
Postvermerk Služba/ částka	Einliefer.-Nr. Podací číslo	Gewicht - Váha kg | g	
	288		
Postannahme: Přijal:	<i>[Signature]</i>		

12 A (I-1944)

Sorgfältig aufbewahren! — Počlivě uschovávat!



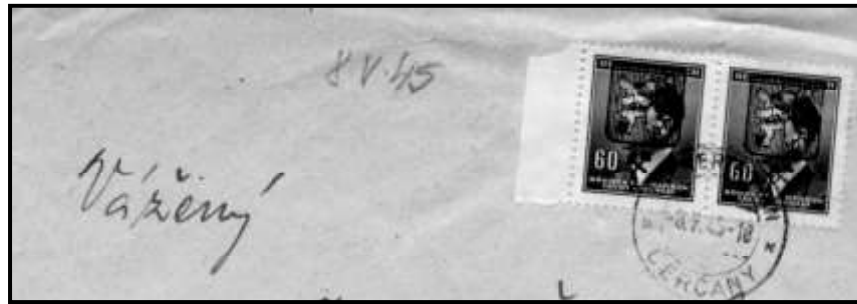
g: May 14 1945 KUTNÁ HORA 1h canceller with overprinted 2.40, 3 and 4 k Hitler head stamps making 9.40 k postage. Sent registered express to PRAHA 54 (17 May 1945 back strike). Böhmen u Mahren on stamp deleted in ink and CSR added

h: May 17 1945 KUTNÁ HORA 1h canceller with 1, 1.50 and 2 k Hitler head stamps making 4.50 k postage. Sent registered to RATAJE n. SÁZAVOU (17 May 1945 back strike). The Hitler head stamps are not overprinted having been stuck on upside down. They have been disallowed with a line drawn under them. A rubber stamp has added *Vyplaceno* (paid in cash) and the figure 4.20 (k) added to denote the correct amount paid.



i: May 9 1945 PRAHA 54 canceller with overprinted 10 h & 1.60 k Hitler head plus 2.50 k St. Vitus' making 4.20 k. Sent registered to Kutná Hora.

j: May 8 1945 ČERČANY
canceller with overprinted
2 x 60 h Hitler head
stamps making 1.20 k
postage. Sent to Kutná
Hora.



K: May 11 1945 MALESOV canceller with overprinted 1.20 k Hitler head stamp making 1.20 k postage. Sent to Kutná Hora.



L: Examples of the
overprint

Only the most significant portions of each item are shown in the illustrations.

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PRIORITY POST IN SLOVAKIA

-Werner Müller-

We thank Hans van Dooremalen for obtaining this article from the author with permission to publish and Douglas Baxter for translating it from the German language. This originally appeared in the March 2000 Vol. 32, Whole No 123 issue of Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei.

Since 1 September 1997 the Slovak Post Office has been offering its customers a new service - the priority delivery of items of mail.

The idea for this new postal product arose from the postal service, which the Slovak Post Office commissioned in 1995 in co-operation with Canadian postal experts. In coming to a decision, use was made of the experiences of countries in which this delivery method was already successfully operated. In most of these countries, such items were designated by the letter 'A', mostly in conjunction with the airmail service.

Here is a selection of labels from countries, which use the same label as the Slovak Post Office.



USA



Sweden



Germany

The priority item in Slovakia looks like this: in the top left hand corner, the item must be designated "prioritna zasiel'ka". In the bottom left hand corner there must be a self-adhesive label, size 24 x 35mm. These are produced on waxed paper A4 sheets of 30 [5 columns of 5 stamps]. (Something wrong with the mathematics here!! - Translator)

Instead of the adhesive label, the item can be identified with a rubber stamp in red. Its design is slightly different. The size is 22 x 32mm



The items are forwarded in special bags with green tags. The Post Office guarantees delivery on the day after the item was posted [D+1], provided that the item has the appropriate stamps on it, which may vary according to local regulations, before it is despatched. Because a postal employee puts on the label or rubber stamp, it is clear that the item must be handed in at the counter rather than put in a pillar-box.

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There are other conditions:

- The address must be legible
- The details on the address side must be written horizontally
- Address labels must be a minimum of 35 x 70mm.

The Slovak Post Office guarantees the delivery of priority items within Slovakia from Monday to Friday on the basis of D+1. During the pilot period this goal was achieved in more than 98% of cases.

At first these items attracted a surcharge of 4Sk, which was raised to 7Sk on 1 January 1998. In 1997 priority delivery could not be used in combination with other special services [Registration, delivery to the recipient's hand etc]. Only after 1 January 1998 was that possible. Since September 1998 it has been possible to send priority items abroad. The Slovak Post Office guarantees in this case a delivery time, within Europe, of D+2 or D+3, and to the USA D+4

On 16 March 1998, it was also decided that all airmail and express items, which arrived at the Bratislava Post Office 090 from abroad, would be treated as priority items. Seven months after the introduction of this service, the first audit was made of the delivery times for priority items. The total number of items has continued to rise, as the following figures show:

Month	Number of Items	Of which registered items numbered
September 97	19 020	-
October 97	29 352	-
November 97	35 385	-
December 97	45 321	-
January 98	45 932	8 277
February 98	58 562	14 731
March 98	68 930	19 177
Total	302 502	42 185

The increase in the number of these items, even after the fee increase in January 1998 proves the attraction of this service. It is particularly favoured by firms, which have branches throughout the country like Slovak Insurance. Among non-commercial customers, the biggest users are young girls writing to their boyfriends in the army.

In September 1997 a big advertising campaign for the Priority Service was begun. There were adverts in machine cancellers and handstamps, which were at, among other places, Bratislava 15, Levice 1, Nitra 1, Senica n.M., Topoľčany 1 and Trenčín 1. As the following examples show, the campaign was still running in April 1999.



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HIDDEN PICTURES (Skrý Vacky)

-Ing Antonín Gazda-

We thank Lubor Kunc for drawing our attention to this article from Filatelie 12 and 13/1985 and Michael Chant who has kindly translated it for us.

Generally brief reports of hidden pictures on stamps never fail to appear from time to time in our philatelic press, usually in a context of so-called Anti-Fascist propaganda. Thus some years ago the periodical '*Young Philatelist*' contained an illustration of a set of Protectorate scenic view stamps, which allegedly produced a hidden picture of the Czechoslovak Republic [11]. The author of the article states that he found out about the instance in question at the Socfilex Stamp Exhibition through a remark by an East German exhibitor. The article goes on to state that our soldiers' abroad in the Second World War knew of such a hidden picture. Even though only marginal philatelic details are involved, I would like to supplement and clarify some of these reports in the light of previous information in our philatelic press. I would also like to survey some other examples of hidden pictures that have in their time been reported on older Czechoslovak stamps and similarly on a number of foreign stamps.

I. Anti-Nazi Hidden Pictures

We can read about a map of the Czechoslovak Republic in the contours of its original 1937 frontiers, before the Munich Agreement and the subsequent Occupation, in periodicals published as early as 1945 or soon after that. Brief details of the sources appeared later in an article [10].

Ervín Hirsch, the author of the 1945 journal articles [2,3], already then noted that the case of the hidden map of the Czechoslovak Republic involved unintended coincidences and "in reality was only a fantasy". He nevertheless points out that immediately after the Protectorate view stamps were issued, philatelists began to scrutinise them for some hidden pictures. Indeed, there really were some on the stamps - a hidden letter from the initials of Dr. Beneš, then the President in exile. At the time the designer of the stamps, Bohumil Heinz, and others feared that the initials would be discovered accidentally. D on the 1K value; r on the 1.20K; B on the 50h information in [2], [3] and [9]. But let us return to the problem of the 'hidden map'. Was there one or was there not?

We must take into account that E.Hirsch, the co-author of the definite hidden picture, continues to dispute the existence of other possible examples on the scenic view stamps. Yet the case of the so-called 'hidden map' was already known among philatelists during the Occupation and in fact had a real basis! Here we can cite a philatelic source, namely the German-language Bratislava journal *Donaupost* (edited by Weinert), which even in October 1939 [1], only just after the issue of the first view stamps of Bohemia and Moravia, drew attention in a short note to the hidden map of Bohemia on the 50h Karlštejn stamp. But that is not all. It was pointed out that in the detail of the rocks the heads of Cyril and Methodius and of Czech political personalities of the time - Masaryk, Beneš, Kramář and Švehla - could also be discerned. When we look at the stamp, we realise that finding the portraits depends on a really large dose of imagination. Much else can be added as well. Above all, the fact that it was precisely the journal *Donaupost* that in 1924 published a lengthy article about hidden pictures on stamps based on a foreign source [12], stating on that occasion that "with a little imagination something can be discovered on every stamp".

We could close the episode of the 50h stamp depicting Karlštejn by referring to imagination. But we cannot overlook the very fact that at the beginning of the Occupation a report of the map and the portraits appeared in a German-language journal. The publication of that 'discovery' could not have been at all pleasing to either the designer of the stamp or the issuing authority. Perhaps it was fortunate that *Donaupost* was not at all widely distributed in Bohemia but even so. Other trifles were enough for a savage intervention by the Germans. Even the concealment of mere 'forbidden books' was a ground for repression.

Czechs nevertheless saw and patently wanted to see many things on the stamps. The map of Bohemia was [even] spoken of but never the map of the whole Republic. In addition to hidden maps, St. Václav was sought on the 1K Prague stamp, as mentioned after the War in *Zpravodaj naší filatelie* [Bulletin of Our Philately][7]. The minor catch here was that the original design for the 1K stamp was reworked because the positions of the inscriptions had to be changed, by order of the Germans. According to the

designer, J.C.Vondrous, the silhouette of St. Václav is clearly visible on impressions from plates 1 and 1A[8]. Above the towers of St. Vitus cathedral that outline can probably only be guessed.

We have further post-war reports about knowledge of hidden maps of the whole Republic in the *Journal of Czech Philately* (ČČF)[4], from which it can be deduced that the example in question was known about during the War. A collector from Zamberk sent the editor of the ČČF a picture of four values (40, 50, 60h and 1K) appropriately arranged and wrote that "the German censors soon found out about this propaganda opportunity of ours and changed the design of the 50h for a different one. I assembled the map at the time, though doing such a thing invited a serious risk of prosecution"[5]. The report was accompanied by a specimen of a small card bearing the stamps, framed in the national colours and with the Czechoslovak tricolour across the right-hand corner. During the Occupation even such a small demonstration could bring retribution upon its creator.

Compared with the published example [II], the disposition of the same stamps is scarcely different. Then we have other sources available, which we can regard as reminiscences. The arrangement of stamps producing a map of the whole of the Czechoslovak Republic is - let us admit it - somewhat artificial and the little map is extremely imprecise (especially the distinctive northern frontier but we can conclude that the example was known to philatelists, at least from press reports (see [1]), and it is particularly interesting that the design of the 50h stamp shows the shape of Bohemia very accurately. From there it was but a short step to looking for others in the same vein...

In all those examples of reported anti-Nazi propaganda there is one fact that is the most interesting. Although various stories of hidden pictures circulated (see above), the real hidden picture, that is the letters of the initials of Beneš, was - fortunately for the designers and issuer - not revealed. Yet such a fine and so well-concealed case of disobedience and resistance did not have a useful or concrete effect at its time or when most necessary. Nevertheless, it must be given due credit, as was pointed out by E. Hirsch in 1945:

"For the first time in centuries of history three stamps will be proof of the unswerving belief of an enslaved people in victory, for the first time in history a stamp has spoken of feelings which had to be carefully concealed from the occupiers but which were yet expressed so publicly. My friend Heinz did not live to see the present joyous time but his courage will always remain alive in the philatelic world... "

Let us remember even today the courage of Bohumil Heinz, whose portrait appeared on a centenary stamp in 1984 for Czechoslovak Stamp Day. And what about the hidden initials? As I have already mentioned, a precise description of the details is given in certain articles [2 and 3]. In a further report in *Czechoslovak Philately* the list of the stamps is inaccurate! [9]. The case of the hidden initials is not however unique, even if it was the first chronologically. A further example is the initials on the stamps of the German-occupied island of Jersey, about which we heard only later.

If we wished to evaluate the significance of such displays of resistance, we could for example consider the appeals of the Norwegian Underground during the German Occupation as far more effective and significant (at the relevant time). After stamps were issued with the head of the then Norwegian head of state, Quisling, a puppet of the occupiers, the Underground displayed the following slogan at post offices: "If by any chance you use a Quisling stamp on your mail, don't forget to spit on the back as well". Two reports of the wording of the notice were published in our journals and differ to some extent: let us suppose it is due to the translation [*Czechoslovak Philately* 1946/20/284; *Journal of Czech Philatelists* 1946-47/3/53]. Of course, this is not a case of hidden pictures on stamps but rather a witty use of stamps themselves for anti-occupier propaganda. Incidentally, though, the use of those Quisling stamps for postage was quite complicated, as they were generally issued in small printings and with a surcharge, with the obvious result that few were postally used [Michel 265, 266 and 271]. It is however possible that, thanks to the notorious slogan the 'beloved head' did not appear on definitive stamps, who can tell?

But let us return home, as we can still bring to mind a further and amusing example of anti-German propaganda, relating to the specific designs of the Protectorate Red Cross stamps of 1940-43. Increasingly on those stamps there was a preoccupation with hospital nursing and caring for a German warrior for the new Europe. The picture on the stamp did not anticipate his real-life liquidation by much. We have a report about this in the *Journal of Czech Philatelists* [6] just after the War. Further details were given in [10].

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In any event we can say of this category of hidden pictures that they were in essence quite isolated instances in Occupied Europe.

II Other Hidden Pictures On Czechoslovak Stamps

During the years of independent Czechoslovak stamp production there have been only two basic instances of (alleged) hidden pictures in stamp designs and reports of them in philatelic journals.

In the first case the 'suspects' were - as early as 1924 - the Liberated Republic stamps. The heads of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and English politician Lloyd George were allegedly concealed in the folds of the dress of the allegorical figure. This information was published in *Donaupost* [12] in a general report citing foreign sources, to which I shall refer only in the third part of the present article. At this point we can again recall just the sentence from that same report which I have already quoted above, namely that "with a little imagination something can be discovered on every stamp".

However, in a further report in our philatelic press concerning that riddle, once again taken from a foreign source, doubt was cast on the existence of the hidden portraits. This was an article by Frederick J. Melville, who was in his time one of the most respected and frequently quoted [foreign] commentators on twentieth century Czechoslovak stamp design and whose opinions influenced our own philatelic community. It is in Melville that one can look for the original source of negative views of some themes of Czechoslovak stamps. With regard to the hidden pictures he wrote amongst other things in his article 'Designers of Czechoslovak Stamps' that: "It is claimed that the heads of Lloyd George and President Wilson are hidden in the folds of the dress on Brunner's stamps. If we turn a stamp on to its left-hand side, we see the folds, which do perhaps have an odd shape, but to claim that they look like human faces is the height of absurdity."

So ends one of the instances, exactly as it began: imagined abroad and there also later dismissed. After all, a glance at the stamps suffices for anyone to be convinced about the strong dose of imagination.

But we have one further case, the last for many years. It is 'the Slovak in national costume' on the 4 and 5 Kč Tatra stamps. Again, *Donaupost* was the first to come out with that hidden picture, in 1928, quoting foreign sources [14]. The Brno expert in Czechoslovak stamps, Bohumil Heinz, is also cited in this instance. Less than a year later, *Tribuna filatelistů* published a similar report [15], mentioning the French publication *Echo de la Timbrologie* (no.793) and continuing "We leave it to our readers to decide whether to look for this. We just point out that in the past fantastic motifs have often been sought on stamps, which the author of the design did not have in mind at all. It is unnecessary to emphasise that the Slovak discovered by the French belongs in that category."

It only remains to add that the invention obviously did not originate in France, as we are already aware of it through *Donaupost*. This also shows how little the philatelic press was followed in our country. Or was it read more attentively abroad?

III Hidden Pictures On Stamps Of Other Countries

Revelations of hidden pictures and reports about their 'discovery', often with a dash of sensationalism, were from time to time published in philatelic journals abroad and then, following those same sources, here as well. Sometimes in our press we find references to "a foreign source", even if with little detail.

The first and so far in fact the only consistent and comprehensive information about these fantasies is the article entitled 'Philatelic Hidden Pictures' [Philatelistische Vexierbildern in the original German] published in the Bratislava journal *Donaupost* [12] citing Ing E. Mueller's article in the Viennese publication *Postmarke*. Since then we have learnt just a few small details from our own press. But let us return to the *Donaupost* article [12].

The article recounts a long series of instances of concealed pictures openly reported up to that time in the foreign press, including the above-mentioned Liberated Republic as our only representative among the mysterious stamps. Among foreign stamps are mentioned Poland [the Konarski stamp] and Bavaria [Prince Regent Luitpold - a hidden skull]. More interesting is the case of the Germania stamps of Germany, on which the number 14 is said to be hidden, allegedly showing that the stamps, issued in

1900, were already drawing attention to 1914, a fateful year for the German Reich, as it was the year in which the First World War broke out... Similarly, the letter L (for Leopold) hidden in a moustache was sought on Belgian stamps issued in 1884 and the figure 7 on Brazilian stamps (1894-1906). A portrait of 'a lady with a hat' was supposed to be concealed in the engraving of the head of King Edward VII (Great Britain).

An advertisement for the OXO company is looked for on a United States stamp (the 2c parcel stamp of 1912), whilst hidden portraits of Peter I and Karadjordje are discerned on stamps of Serbia (issued in 1904). In the latter case the article also includes the text of a letter from Louis Mouchon, the French engraver of the design on the stamps, in which he apologises, etc.

If nothing else, even the search for such curiosities increases interest in postage stamps, around which a group of riddles and stories was created or maybe is in course of creation. These are far less harmful than bouts of speculation of whatever kind. In any case they are also cheaper.

But in the last twenty years we can note in the Czechoslovak philatelic press only a few additional and minor details of concealed riddles and fantasies. Some are very interesting, as in fact are all of these trifles.

Thus in 1938 it was reported that Hitler's head could be found on one of the last Austrian stamps (24g nose-gay. Mi 659).

Much more interesting for us is the German stamp issued "to commemorate the annexation" of Austria (Mi 662 and 663). The flag on the stamps has an outline map of Germany, but including the Czech lands. This was reported in 1946 [17], though that writer had already been alerted to it by a Sudeten German in 1938. It was virtually a public declaration of German occupation plans, without protest from the Czechoslovak government of the day. It would fit with the plans that the Nazis had, involving not only philately and stamps, as immediately after the rise of Nazism in Germany "new paths" were invoked which strove for a "great and responsible reality". The post, stamps and philately were among Goebbels' weapons in the cause of Nazism, which in 1943 and 1944 was still stressing their effectiveness and educational intent. This applied not only to German periodicals but also even to the compliant journal *Český filatelista* in the Protectorate.

We encounter a Nazi hidden picture again after the war, on a Saar stamp of 1947. According to a report in our press, a portrait of Adolf was said to be concealed on that stamp [15pf, Mi 212], which was however retouched, and on the same stamp with a new value overprinted [Mi 230] the portrait is no longer apparent... More details were published in *Filatelista* [18] and *Českoslovaneká filatelie* [19 and 20]. At first dismissive but then giving additional information.

In 1947 *Zpravodaj naší filatelie* [21] provided new information, quoting the Yugoslav periodical *Filatelija*, concerning the hidden picture of King Peter and Karadjordje on Serbian stamps, already known to us from a 1924 article [12]. In 1953 *Filatelie* published a report about a Greek stamp [Mi 599; 1300dr, 1953 issue] promoting the export of wine. Two female figures can be found on the man's face, one playing a flute and the other holding a goblet of wine. "It is said that the hidden picture expresses the intoxicating effect of wine" [22]. We have precise information from 1971 about the anti-German significance of letters in the corners of ½d and 1d stamps of Jersey issued during the occupation of the Channel Islands [23].

And finally I mention something of interest on the Swedish stamp issued for the centenary of the birth of H. Soderberg [450; Mi 653; design by M.Lamm and engraving by A.Wallhorn]. In a short report in *Filatelie* [24] it was noted that the hidden picture had been speedily exposed and that disputes and comments had arisen as to its authenticity: "The designer of the stamp certainly drew an amusing hidden picture. He let Soderberg, who was known for his naturalistic analyses of human relationships, embrace a naked woman. It remains an open question whether the competent authorities had advance knowledge of the designer's allegory. However, after short, sharp controversies the stamp remained valid and on sale".

In this article I wanted merely to draw attention to the most interesting cases of hidden pictures on stamps. In conclusion I give a summary of the basic sources. Even trifles and curiosities can be considered part of philately.

>

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- [21] Foreign Press Review [*Zpravoda Naší Filatelie* 1947/9/222].
- [22] š : A Hidden Picture on a Stamp [*Filatelie* 1953/23/365].
- [23] Pražak F.J.: A Hidden Picture [*Filatelie* 1971/24/766].
- [24] Mr. Soderberg's Lady [*Filatelie* 1970/12/378]

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

- Czechout 1/99: Richard Beith's WW2 Ships
- Czechout 3/00: Lou Svoboda's Dr Beneš' whereabouts in 1932
- Czechout 4/00: Ian Nutley's Concentration Camp hostages
- Czechout 2/01: Barry Horne's Masaryk Sheet perms *
- Czechout 3/01: Roman Dubyniak's Carpatho-Ukraine cover
- Czechout 3/01: Richard Beith's Anglo-Czech Friendship Club cover
- Czechout 1/02: Brian Parker's Austro-Czech Postcard
- Czechout 2/02: John Hammonds' American Aid for German POWs card
- Czechout 2/03: Richard Beith's 24Kčs 1946 Airmail Stamp
- Czechout 3/03: Barry Horne's 1919 1st Anniversary Sheet perforations

THE GERMAN ENCLAVE OF SOUTHERN MORAVIA

-Salvatore J. Rizza-

We thank Bill Dawson and Salvatore Rizza for sending us this article for our Journal.

Amid the turmoil and chaos that prevailed in Austria-Hungary as the First World War neared its conclusion, Emperor Karl, in an effort to stave off the downfall of his regime, signed his "People's Manifesto" on 16 October 1918. It was published on the 18th of October and made known to all of the country's varied provinces. This Manifesto granted the different ethnic populations of the Austro-Hungarian Empire the right to determine their own future through "National Councils." These councils would represent their constituents and, in turn, would do so in conjunction with the Imperial Government in Vienna. Thus, there would have been created the United States of Austria-Hungary. The politicians of the far-flung provinces of the monarchy accepted this offer of autonomy; then went their separate ways.

All the German parliamentary deputies, representing their respective areas in Northern Bohemia, the Sudetenland* in Northern Moravia, German Southern Moravia, and the Bohemian Waldgau [Forest District] in Southern Bohemia, met in the new Provisional National Assembly of independent German-Austria in Vienna on 21 October 1918. There they introduced and *[In 1918, the "Sudetenland" was located only in Northern Moravia. This term came into general use at a later time to indicate the land area populated with a majority of German language speaking Czech citizens] enacted resolutions stating that the Bohemian and Moravian areas which they represented were to be considered as regions belonging to the German-Austrian State; thereby ignoring the fact that this state was on the verge of losing the war and, as a defeated nation, would no longer have any authority to make such laws. Znaim town authorities, on 27 October 1918, issued a Proclamation of Nationality, affirming that Southern Moravia was now in fact united to the Province of Lower Austria [Figure 1]. [This resolution was accepted and approved by the Parliament of Lower Austria on 5 November 1918.]

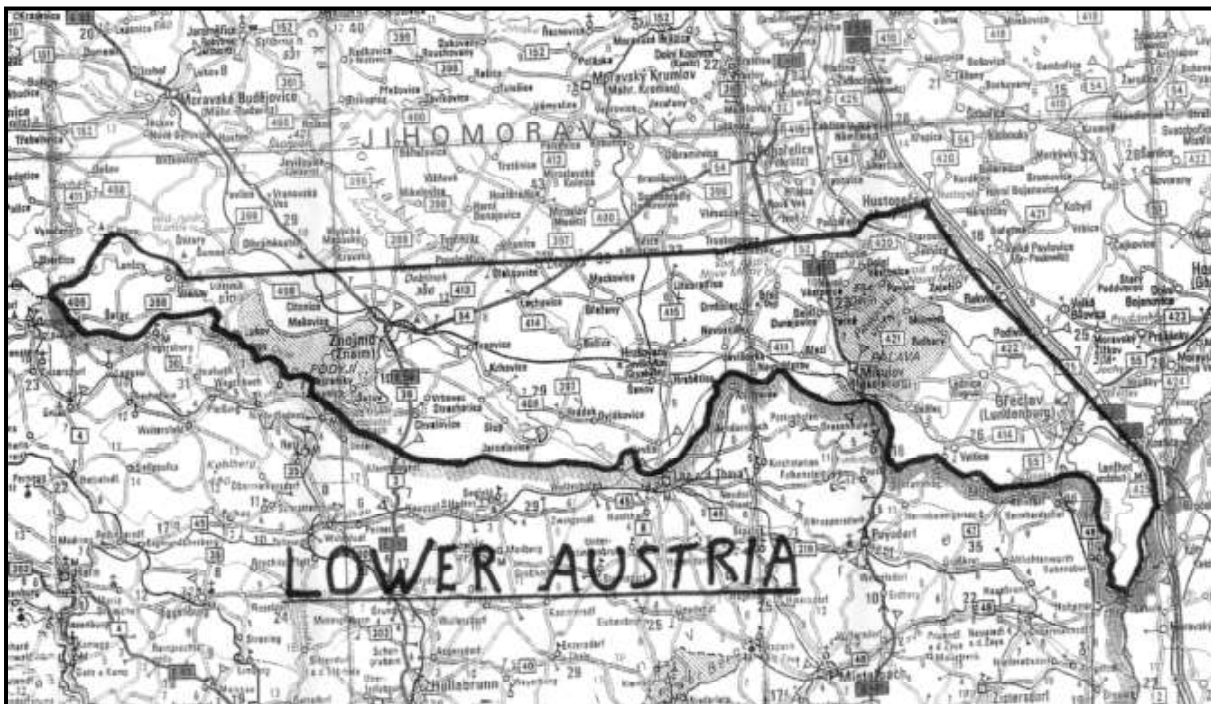


Figure 1 German Southern Moravia

The Czech National Committee in Prague enacted and ratified, on 28 October 1918, a resolution calling for an independent state. That evening Bohemia was virtually free of Austrian rule (except for some contested areas). Two days later other Czechoslovak provinces followed suit.

>

Personnel of the Austrian Navy were sent to protect the area of German Southern Moravia on 27 October 1918. This was a rather large region, nearly 710 square miles, with a population of 173,000, living in some 195 towns and villages, with 68 post offices. The Czech National Committee in Brno/Brunn sent members of the Czech military legion to enforce their new national borders. Armed militia, made up of local nationals, joined the forces on both sides. The united Czech military brought pressure to bear on the Austrian defenders and won their first victory on 9 November, when Hustopece/Auspitz was occupied. Confrontations continued for the next approximately seven weeks until all Austrian resistance ended on 17 December 1918. Znaim itself had been occupied on the previous day. German Southern Moravia no longer existed. Thirty years later this German enclave would revert back to the then Lower Donau Province, as it was known in Hitler's Germany of 1938.

Mail cancelled and dispatched during the 51-day siege is considered relatively rare, as it could only be delivered to what was left of defeated German-speaking Austria. The two parcel post receipt cards illustrated at Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5, are examples of postal usage during the short existence of German Southern Moravia.

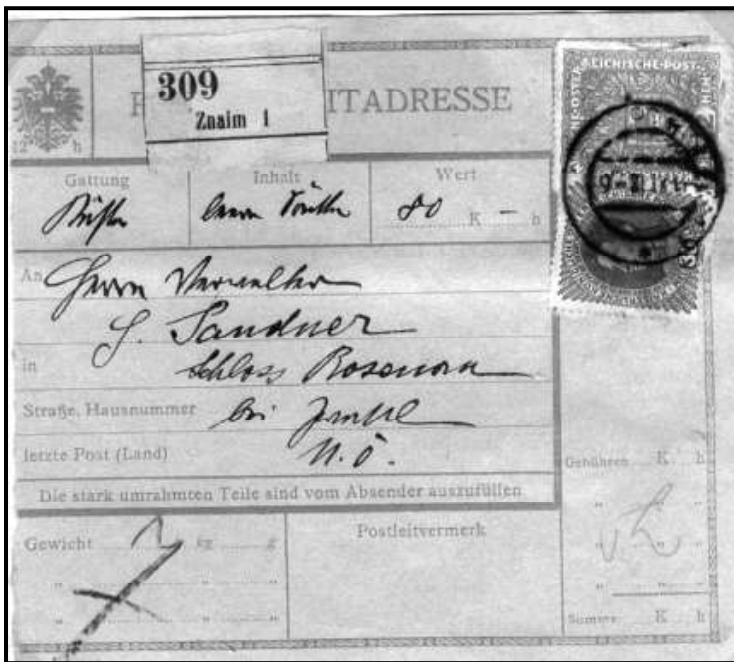


Figure 2 - Austrian parcel post card, Schneiderbauer No.251, German language only, dated 21 November 1918 from Znaim 1 to Schloss Rosenau, in Lower Austria. Note that "Znojmo 1" has been deleted from the cancelling device. This dispatch parcel post card was for a parcel weighing 7 kilograms [postage 2.20 Kronen], insured for 80 Kronen with an insurance fee of 10 heller. This was a crate or a trunk with contents.



Figure 3 - Reverse side of Figure 2. Austrian parcel post card No, 251, showing a receipt date at Schloss Rosenau, Lower Austria, of 23 November 1918. The card has a 5 heller postage due stamp that was a fee paid by the addressee for notification of the arrival of the parcel, which then had to be picked up at the local post office.

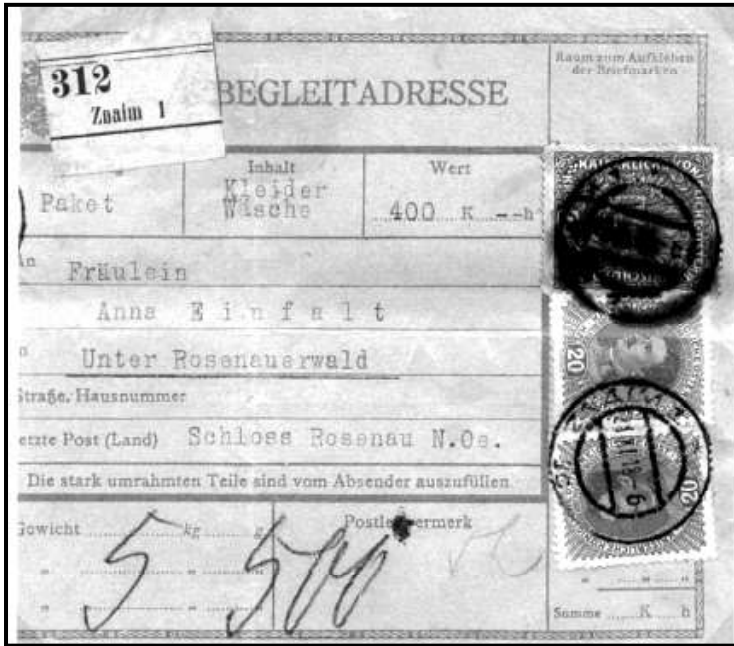


Figure 4 - Austrian parcel post card, Schneiderbauer No.251, German language only, dated 21 November 1918 from Znaim 1 to Schloss Rosenau, in Lower Austria. Note that "Znojmo 1" has been deleted from the cancelling device. This dispatch parcel post card was for a parcel, which weighed 5½ kilograms [postage 2.20 Kronen], insured for 400 Kronen with an insurance fee of 20 heller. The package contained clothing.



Figure 5 - Reverse side of Figure 4. Austrian parcel post card No, 251, showing a receipt date at Schloss Rosenau, Lower Austria, of 23 November 1918. The card has a 5 heller postage due stamp that was a charge paid by the addressee for notification of the arrival of the parcel, which then had to be picked up at the local post office.

References;

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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 Yvonne Wheatley's Pofis 2520 Sheet in *Czechout 2/2003* page 46

From Peter Williams: Pofis 2520 sheet is the sheet issued for the 70th Anniversary of the Sixth Russian Workers' Party in Prague, issued 18 January 1982. The sheet includes four stamps showing the head of Lenin. According to my Stanley Gibbons catalogue, 5th edition, the SG number is MS2608. In the 2000/2001 edition of Michel, it is Block 46.

I do not have the edition of *Czechout* you mention, but my specialist Pofis catalogue shows two versions of the sheet. One version has a single line for the top of the building above the stamps, while the second version has what the catalogue calls a doubling or duplication, but looks like a thicker line. The price is the same for both.

Re R W Allan's Errors Corrected in *Czechout 1/2000* pages 19-21

From Lubor Kunc: Mr. Allan is right, the cloud formation on the stamp really shows borders of former Czechoslovakia, but not only this stamp! You can see it on figure 7a. I put the Protectorate's stamps 40 Hellers Zvíkov, 50 Hellers Karlštejn, 60 Hellers Kutná hora and 1 Crown Praha (all issued in 1939) so, that they show a complete map of Czechoslovakia prior 1938 [including Carpatho Ukraine]. On all of them the clouds become Czechoslovakia's borders. There is another more interesting item - the 40 + 60 Hellers stamp were engraved not by Bohumil Heinz, they were done by the German engraver Karl Seizinger, who was almost "monopoly producer" of Czechoslovak stamps in the 30s and who emigrated to the Netherlands before Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia. The 40 + 60 Hellers were originally issued in Czechoslovakia in 1936 and their drawings were re-used in 1939 for the Protectorate stamps. When I checked the Czechoslovak stamp set of 1936/37 I detected that the clouds again make the Czechoslovakia's borders in values 1,60 + 2 + 2,50 Crowns (see figure. 7b).

1982, 18. 1. VI. všeruská konference SODSR 1912
 a): V. Kovářik; b): J. Mráček; OTp; RZ 11 3/4; rozměry aršíku 108x83mm

c) (v) V. I. Lenin c) (v) aršíková úprava známky c) (v)

2519	2 Kčs	vícebarevná	.....c) (v)	2,-	1,-
A2520	4x2 Kčs	vícebarevný	.....c) (v)		
		Typ I	.....	30,-	25,-
		Typ II	.....	30,-	25,-

TYPY
 U aršíku A2520 lze rozlišit dva typy.

Typ I - jednoduchá linie kresby atiky vyvýšené části mezi sochami a střechy levé a pravé části domu.
 Typ II - dvojnásobná linie kresby atiky vyvýšené části mezi sochami a střechy levé a pravé části domu.

PL2519(8) 100,- 60,- FDC(1) 1,-; NL(1) 1,-
 Náklad: 2519 1 294 000 A2520 162 000



Figure 7a



Figure 7b

>

Heinz probably knew about the clouds that make the Czechoslovak borders and made the 50 Hellers + 1 Crown stamp so, that they in combination with the Seizinger's engravings, show the Czechoslovak varieties. But who knows the true story!

Now to Bohumil Heinz: He was never in a concentration camp. He died in 1940 from an illness - his death was announced e.g. in *Tribuna filatelistu* on the front page. Further information about Heinz can be found in the set of articles published in the *Merkur Revue* 2001.

But the above Protectorate stamps were not the only ones aimed against Nazis. Another example is the stamps shown on figures. 8a - d. They were issued for the German Red Cross in years 1940 - 1943. Their authors didn't know what they caused. The Czech people in the Protectorate said that the stamps show what is the real situation of the German army on the battlefields. The first was issued in 1940 and shows a lightly injured German soldier. The "b" stamp was issued in 1941 and shows a heavily injured soldier lying in a bed. The third one was issued in 1942 and shows a dying soldier in the German army at the Russian front?). And finally the last stamp was issued in 1943 and shows a German soldier's tomb. In 1944 and 1945 no more German Red Cross stamps were issued!



8a 8b 8c 8d

Finally, some further information - I would recommend reading an article published in the *Filatelie* journal in 1985 on pages 370-371 + 402-403. *Hidden Pictures* (Skrý Vacky) by Ing Antonín Gazda. It contains information about other "hidden pictures" incorporated into Protectorate stamps. [See pp 16-20 of this issue].

A Query and Answer: We thank Maurice Tyler, Editor of *France & Colonies Journal* for permission to reproduce this item which appeared in *Journals* 229 [p 113]/30[p 154] Nos 3/4 September/December 2003.

Czechs in the French Foreign Legion: I have come across three items to Bratislava which look as though they are from Czechs serving in the French Foreign Legion, perhaps in Vietnam. I have illustrated one of them in the hope that a member of the *France & Colonies Philatelic Society* will be able to help by giving me further details. Brian Day (Czech PS.)



Front of cover with date stamp POSTE aux ARMÉES 9-9 1949 T.O.E. and violet cachet S.P.71174 Le VAGUEMESTRE EXTREME-ORIENT

From Bill Mitchell: The answer to Brian Day's query about the location of Czechs serving in the French Foreign Legion in 1949 can be found in Bertrand Sinais' 1987 catalogue of of French Military Cancellations, 1900-1985. Unfortunately it is not clear-cut. He writes [pages 176 and 177] that POSTE aux ARMÉES cancels with

the initials T.O.E. [Théâtres d'Opérations Extérieures] at the base of the circular date stamp were brought into use in Indochina, and also in Madagascar, in 1946. Later, they were also used in Korea. The Korean War did not break out until 25 June 1950, so that location can be ruled out. If I have understood M. Sinais correctly, as far back as 1944 a Corps Expéditionnaire Français d'Extrême-Orient had been created, and this was assembled in Madagascar. The position is complicated by the fact that from 1947 to 1949 French troops were also stationed in Madagascar to deal with the aftermath of an insurrection of the local population (Sinais, page 197.)

I can make nothing of the sender's details, giving a location of "S.P. [*Secteur Postal*] 71.174". In his chapter on the Indochina War, M.Sinais lists the relevant *Bureaux Postaux Militaires*, and his list includes neither 71 nor 174, and certainly nothing remotely like 71.174; so far as I can tell from these unfamiliar place-names, only BPM 181, later 414, operated in Madagascar. As far as the 1947-1949 Madagascar troubles are concerned, here again only two BPMs are recorded - N° 5 and 5A, closed in January 1950 and late 1949 respectively. It is most likely, I think, that Mr Day's cover, and the two other like it, did indeed originate in Indochina, although possibly not in Vietnam [the Vietnam War did not break out until December 1961.]

Closer examination of the cover illustrated by Mr Day draws attention to another interesting point. There are in fact two POSTE aux ARMÉES cancels, one with T.O.E. and the other with a BPM number, 222, at the base of the circular date stamp. This is explained by M.Sinais on page 185 of his catalogue. He writes that soldiers, especially Legionnaires, writing to foreign addresses to which the free franking concession did not apply were understandably anxious that their letters home should not be taxed on arrival so their letters were sent to Paris where they were stamped, the stamp being cancelled by the circular date stamp of the BCM - C (*Bureau Central Militaire C*) from 1944 to 1947 and BPM (*Bureau Postal Militaire*) 222 from 1947 to 1953. It is clear from Mr Day's cover that the date stamp of the originating office was also applied before despatch.

One final point. For both the Indochina and Madagascar campaigns, M.Sinais illustrates T.O.E. date stamps with either a Cross of Lorraine or an asterisk above the date, but none with a blank space as in the case of Mr. Day's example.

From Brian Day: I'm really very pleased to have the information kindly supplied by Bill Mitchell and with the help of Sinais' book 1 have now been able to mostly write up my covers. B.P.M. number 409 is on one of my other covers which I missed out on because I didn't see the weak Poste aux Armées cancel when making the original enquiry. So having found number 409, on page 180, as located at NHA TRANG in Indochina, I am very happy. S.P. 71174 remains a mystery. Thanks again for your help Colin and please tell Bill Mitchell how much I appreciated his help. I've copied my sheet and enclose one for both you and Bill together with a copy of the rogue cover for Bill.

Re Frederik Backeljauw's Postcard query in *Czechout* 4/2003 page 123.

From Lubor Kunc: I would like to comment upon your query in the last issue of *Czechout*. The card you bought seems to have been mailed at a Military Hospital. The cancel applied on the Hradčany stamp is not a postal one, it is just a military cachet saying "VOJENSKÉ...probably ODDELENI ? / ZÁLOŽNÍ NEMOCNICE" = Military Department? / Reserve Hospital. The cancel is not included in Votocek's books, because he doesn't list cachets of various military units. The cancel on the stamp is not valid; it could be an error or just trying not to cancel the text of the message, because of the large size of the cachet it was needed to cancel with it the stamp as well.

The card bearing a postage rate of 10 hellers had to be sent by May 15, 1919, when new domestic postal rates were introduced. However the card has been sent from a military organisation, it was not postage free, because "field post privilege" was given only to units serving in Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine and not to the one in Bohemia/Moravia.

The message on the card is very interesting. Its translation is: Happy and Merry Feast wishes to you and your brother plus signature. Unfortunately, the message is a bit unclear, because the word "svatecky" (Feast) can be translated as Holiday or Name Day. In the first meaning this card must be mailed in December 1918, which would make it rare. In the second meaning this card can be used anytime between December 18, 1918 - May 14, 1919 as it would be treated as a normal card. My personal opinion is, that it should be the first meaning, because the sender used the plural of the word

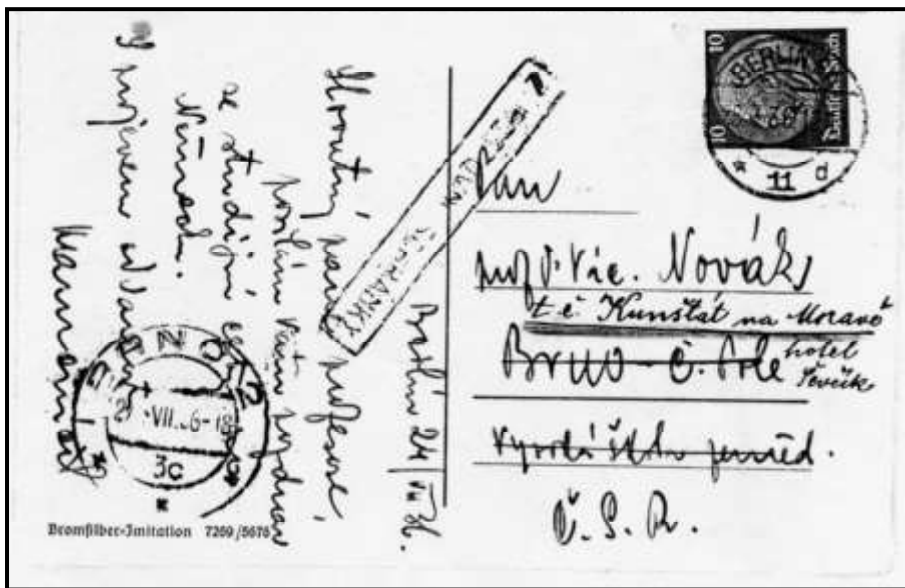
svátek (=svatecky), which is in the Czech language common for (Christmas) Season greetings and not for congratulations on a name day. Unfortunately, the sender and the postal administration didn't mark any day, so nobody can decide with definitive validity, when the card has been mailed. I hope this is helpful.

Re Chris Miller's Red Cross Letter query in Czechout 4/2001 page 106

From Lubor Kunc: Further to Bob Hill's answer to this query about censorship of the Red Cross Letter in *Czechout 2/2002* page 46, I don't believe that the cancel "Zasilka z postovni schranky" was used for marking of letters going into PO Boxes. First reason is the fact, that the slogan used word "z" = from and not "do" = to. I have also never heard about any letter sent to a PO Box before the end of WWII. Where and when were PO Boxes introduced in Czechoslovakia for the first time - I don't know - but I am almost sure, that it didn't occur before 1945.

During the period of the Monarchy and First Czech Republic another service was offered (and it is still being offered): sending of mail to "poste restante" (in American English it is called "General Delivery"). That means your friend will send a letter with address "John Smith, poste restante, MPO London" and Mr. Smith can pick up his mail at a special postal window of MPO London against showing his ID card.

I am pleased to inform you, that with the free forwarding of correspondence put into pillar boxes philatelic documents have been found from Bmo as well. In last issue of Czech bulletin *Informace* such a cover from the 60s was illustrated. Later I found a card from the 30s, which is shown below. It was send from Berlin to Bmo to a university teacher, who spent his holidays in the town Kunstat na Morave. Someone wrote his address in Kunstat on the card and put it into a pillar box. The Bmo 2 railway post office employee emptying the pillar boxes then found the card and handstamped it with the rounded postal cancel and with the boxed "Z postovni schranky" one as well as forwarding it to Kunstat.



Re Bob Hill's Red Cross Letters in Czechout 2/2002 page 46

From Lubor Kunc: Regarding the three covers illustrated shown on pages 47 and 48 I would like to add my comments, as follows:

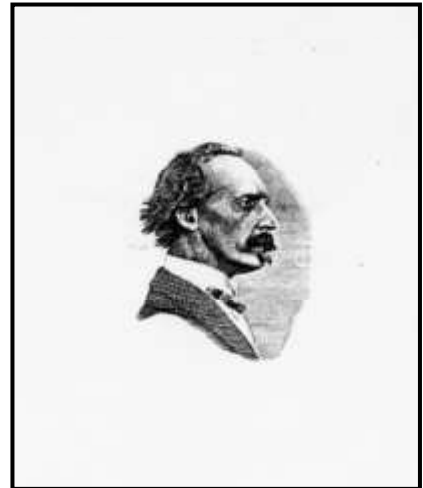
- first cover sent to Drahovice : the message on the reverse means "Nobody lives at 6 Pestalazi Str. The house is closed". The letter was sent from Prague to Karlovy Vary's district Drahovice to an unknown addressee and than returned to the sender.

>

- second cover sent from Praha to Teplice-Sanov : as above, the message on the reverse doesn't state new address of the addressee, it just repeats the address written by sender and explains that addressee is unknown at 9 Drazdanska Str. .
- third letter sent from Praha to Sebužin: also as above, but the hand-written note "Zpet, evakuovan" means .."Returned, the addressee has been evacuated". Evacuation was at that time the diplomatic term used for movement of people of German origin from Czechoslovakia to Germany/Austria. In my opinion all three cards were addressed to the people who had left or were forced to leave Czechoslovakia for Germany in 1945. None of the letters had been forwarded to their new address, they were just returned to sender.

New Queries

From J. Barry Horne: Max Švabinský was born in 1873 and had his 85th birthday honoured by a stamp issued on 20 August 1958 - [his Poet and the Muse.] As far as I can tell the last stamps he designed were 26.2.1962 Cultural Celebrities and a self-portrait issued 25.3.1963 (SG 1347). For his Centenary of Birth a set of stamps with his designs were issued on 17.09.1973. Now I have an engraved head, unfinished; I understand that it is by Bohumil Heinz and is an unadopted die proof of Max Švabinský? It is a much younger portrait than the self portrait issued in 1963 and certainly if it is by Heinz then I would expect it to date from an earlier period say late 1930s/1940s.



I have also sorted out two designs of the Smetana stamp of 04.06.1949. My items had dates of 1884 - 1934 in top left and right corners respectively. This again was by Heinz, an unadopted design for the 50th Anniversary of Death stamp in 1934. The design was updated 15 years later with a change of dates to read 1824 and 1949 for the 125th Anniversary of Birth and the stamps issued 04.06.1949; [and it would appear to be the last stamps designed and engraved by Bohumil Heinz.]

From Bob Hill: One of our members asked me to try and find out about an artist who was incarcerated in a prisoner of war camp. I am afraid I have lost the name of the member but I asked Jan Dobrovlný and this is his response. Jan replied "as for the 'maler' Mr Kriz, I was not able to find a mention about him in books on painters in the Pardubice town library. I think he was too young to finish a painter's academy, do some serious work and be a known painter. There is a possibility he was not a "Maler" but 'Zimmermaler' or "Schriftmaler" and his profession was in a way shortened in camp documentation. Have any other members further information?

From Ron Hollis: I recently acquired this postcard which Robert Kingsley has kindly translated for me as follows:

"Celebrations of the presentation of the regimental banner to the Border Regiment by the District Representatives in Hlučín 10th - 11th September 1938."

Can any member identify what the anniversary was and why the Border Regiment was stationed in that area?



CAN ANYONE HELP?

The following letter from our member Mark Wilson was sent to the APS Stamp Theft Committee in connection with the theft of some very valuable items. This letter has also appeared in other associated societies' journals in the USA, Germany and the Czech Republic. Hopefully this publicity will help Mark recover his lost items.

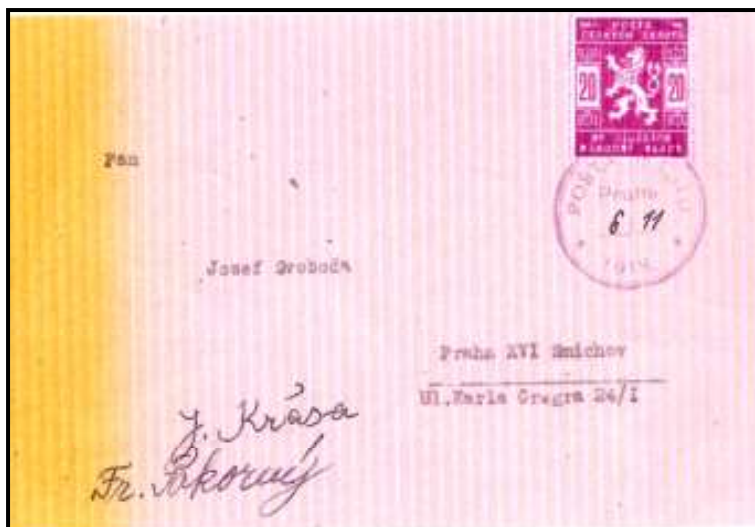
On September 21, an entire sack of registered mail was stolen at JFK. In it were two unique unfolded Czechoslovakian Hradcany gutters, one mint, the other cancelled at Nachod, both bearing provisional postage due markings. A full description of these two pieces may be found in the May/June 2003 issue of the *Czechoslovak Specialist*. A copy of the article and a large scan of the two gutters may also be found on-line at my personal web site: www.knihtisk.com. Look on the Library/Articles page at the article entitled "The Nachod Discovery."



These gutters are especially important as they uniquely demonstrate that a second, unknown and unfolded, gutter sheet reached public hands. Until their discovery in 2002, it was thought that only one sheet, which was folded, had reached public hands. As unique items, their value is of course priceless.

A reward is offered for their return. Interested parties may reach me on-line at info@knihtisk.com, or by phone: 1-304-229-0100 Office (Dr. Mark Wilson) 1-540-877-3015 Home (Mark Wilson) or by writing to: Mark Wilson, Librarian, Society for Czechoslovak Philately Library 316 Devland Drive Winchester VA 22603.

Auction Query



Bob Hill writes: Lot 89 em 1986 had to be withdrawn from the July 2003 Auction as an Austrian member complained "this is dated 6th November, that date is before the Scout Post started." Although this is not a good copy, the cachet at the bottom reads "Dopis od skauta, Drevzalt?" Have asked Tom Morovics for his comments.

Tom writes: This is a genuine stamp, a genuine cancel and the stamp belongs with the cover. The address has been added more than 50 years later as the typeface on the letter was not around in 1918 and an incorrect date has been added.

This item may have been a blank souvenir cover given to a Scout with the detail added by a new owner many years after.

NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

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

Printing

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

Czech Republic

Tradition of Czech Stamp Production



Designer and engraver: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30, design size 23 x 40mm.

Design: from the 1.80Kč stamp (at the Green Frog) of 1970 in the series House Emblems. The text in Czech "Tradition of Czech Stamp Production, Jiří A Švengsbír 1921 – 1983" appears in the margin. This stamp is a tribute to the engraver Jiří Švengsbír (1921 – 1983) who engraved more than 250 stamps and FDC for Czechoslovakia.

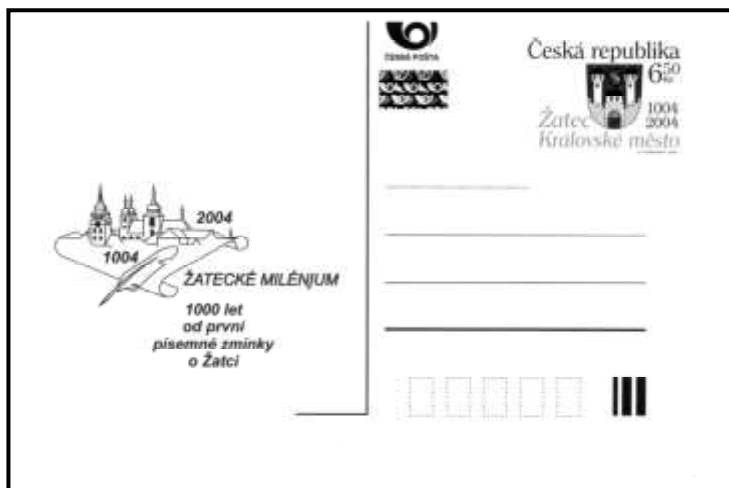
FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a self portrait of Švengsbír with his facsimile signature.

Booklet: of 8 stamps and 4 labels with two different motifs by Švengsbír. One label has a Brno house emblem of a blue lion (originally from the 1970 stamp issue) with logo of the Brno 2005 Exhibition and text. The other label has the emblem of the house "At the Three Little Fiddlers" 12 Nerudova Street, Prague which appeared on the 1.60Kč stamp from the Ancient Prague series of 1968.

Postal Stationery

Official Commemorative Postcard

20.01.04. 1000 Years of the town Žatec. **Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný **Printing:** multicoloured offset. **Design:** stamp – imprinted 6.50Kč with the Žatec coat of arms and text in Czech "Žatec the Royal Town 1004-2004". The cachet design is the logo for the celebrations with the text in Czech, "1000 years since the first written record of Žatec." The card retails at 11.50Kč.



Slovakia

Definitive – Pezinok

Designer: O. Solga **Engraver:** F Horniak



Design: various buildings of the town with the town coat of arms. Pezinok was made a royal free town in 1647 and in payment for the privilege delivered to the Court an annual tribute of 250 barrels of wine. Until the 19th century gold was mined in the area.

There was no official FDC.

Priceless artefacts – Historical Path



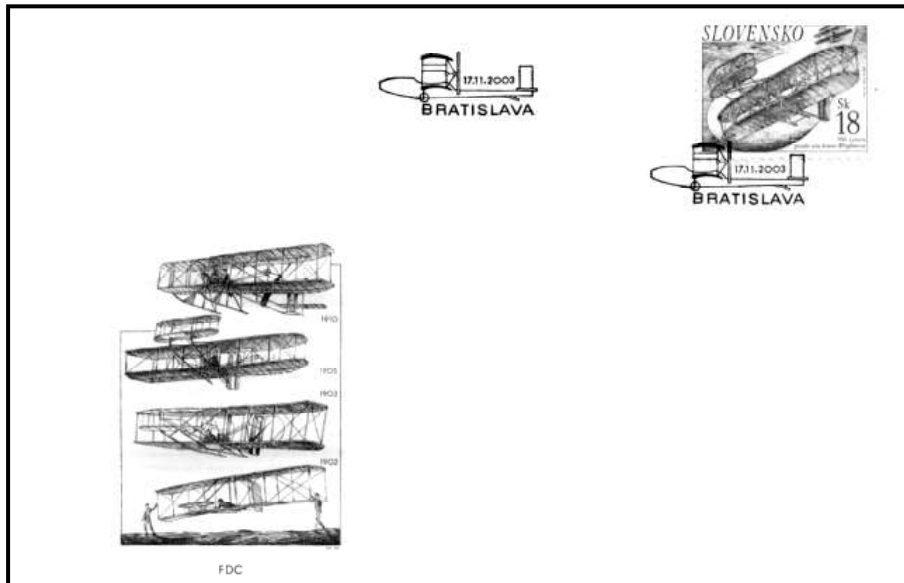
Designer: Dušan Grečner **Engraver:** Arnold Fekc **Printing:** RD
Design: artefacts from the 9-10th century found within Slovakia – a cross from Veľká Mača, the hilt from a double edged sword from Krásna nad Hornádom and bronze buttons from Nitra.

FDC: printed DS in sepia, by TAB, Bratislava, with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a detail from Monomach's crown found at Ivánka pri Nitre.

100th Anniversary of the First Flight by the Wright Brothers



Designer: Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Arnold Fekc **Printing:** RD **Design:** the aeroplane in which the brothers made their first successful flight. The flight lasted 12 seconds, flew up to 60cms above the ground and covered 53 metres. This glider with an engine weighed 338 kilos and had a wingspan of more than 12 metres. From this historic flight present day aviation started. **FDC:** printed DS in black, by TAB, Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows four examples of early experimental flying machines.



Art



Printing: RD in sheets of four. **14Sk:** Designer and Engraver – Rudolf Cigánik **Design** – a detail from the original artwork of Simon Vouet (1590 – 1649) entitled “Saint Catherine.” Vouet worked in France and Italy where he was influenced by Carravagio. **FDC:** printed RD in black by TAB, Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a detail from the painting.

16Sk: Designer and Engraver – Martin Činovský. **Design** –from the original artwork of Rudolf Krivoš (1933 -) with the title “Bagpipes.” **FDC:** printed RD in brown by TAB, Bratislava, with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is from the artist’s work “Biological Column IV” from 1988.

21Sk: Designer and Engraver – František Horniak. **Design:** from the original painting on wood from the altar piece in the Church of St George Spišská Sobota “Annunciation of Our Lady” by Master John. The altar piece is from the late Gothic period and created in the workshop at Levoča between 1460 – 1470. **FDC:** printed RD in grey, by TAB, Bratislava, with commemorative Poprad cancel. The cachet design is a detail from the altar piece – the Angel Gabriel brings the message from heaven to Mary.

Postage Stamp Day – Josef Baláž



Designer: Jozef Baláž **Engraver:** Martin Činovský (stamp and coupon) Juraj Vitek (FDC cachet)

Printing: DS **Design:** from the drawing created for the 110th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union – stamp issue 12 June 1984. The coupon is a self portrait of Jozef Baláž.

The issue commemorates his work as a graphic artist of postage stamps for 46 years. His first designs were in 1957 for the Tatra National Park issue.

FDC: printed RD in brown, by TAB, Bratislava with commemorative Pezinok cancel. The cachet design is from artwork by Baláž.