



CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
[Founded 1953]

JUNE 2004

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 115 Vol.22 No.2

Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

© Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2004

Vol. 22/2	CONTENTS	June 2004
Notes		33
News and Notices		34
Obituary		38
Book Reviews		38
Twinkle Twinkle Little Žďár		40
The National Archives		40
17 th November 1939 - Anniv.of Czech Universities Closure		42
Identification of a Hungarian Military Postcard		48
Postcard of Interest		49
Chust		50
Victory Labels		50
Praha Smichov		51
Slovak Area Missing Cancellers Post WWII		55
What? When? Where?		57
New Issues (Czech)		58
New Issues (Slovak)		62

NOTES

We were delighted to see Bob Allard with his wife Sue at the Loughborough meeting. Bob is now making progress after his recent operations.

The Society has arrangements with Vera Trinder Ltd to obtain books and philatelic accessories at trade discount. Members interested in using this service please contact Bob Bradford, the Hon. Treasurer.

The Joint Meeting with the Austrian, Hungarian & Polish societies at Heaton Royds will be on **Saturday 14 August**; please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978) for further details of this event. The next Society meeting in London will be on **Saturday 4 September** when **Lindy Bosworth** will give a display entitled *The Chairman Entertains*. On **Saturday 6 November** the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am; after lunch **Keith Tranmer** will give a display entitled *Czechoslovakia with Austrian connections* at 2.00pm.

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 13 March 2004

The Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 26 members and said that she was very pleased to see such a good attendance at today's meeting. She particularly welcomed two new members who were attending one of the Society's meetings for the first time. Apologies had been received from our Secretary, Rex Dixon, who was abroad, and from three other members.

The Chairman mentioned the new Monografie, No.11 on "Post in the Terezín Ghetto", which had recently been published in the Czech Republic. She had arranged for ten copies to be brought over, of which two remained for purchase.

She then introduced our guest speaker, **Hartmut Liebermann**, Chairman of our sister society in Germany. Herr Liebermann, with the assistance of a slide show, gave a lecture on ***Postmarks in Bohemia and Moravia during the postwar period 1945–1947***, and showed many illustrations of how the postmarks were adapted by the Czech postal authorities after liberation. He then presented an excellent display consisting of a large number of covers showing these postmarks.

In proposing a vote of thanks our Life President, Bill Dawson, congratulated Hartmut Liebermann on an excellent lecture and display. He said that he was himself a keen collector of this period and he wished he had some of the items shown in his own collection. He felt sure that the display this afternoon had been much appreciated by all members present and he thanked Hartmut for coming to London to give it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Letters to the Editor

☒ **Salvatore Rizza** writes: Re: The German Enclave of Southern Moravia. Many thanks for printing my article in your fine journal and your kind words. Mr. Lubor Kunc and I have been corresponding on this subject for a while, and finally ran out of historical research material on the 1918 German Southern Moravia. It would be nice to have some feedback from members of your society.

As Mr. Dawson may have told you, I am a member of the U.S. Czech Philatelic Society, with a one and only interest in the City of Znaim/Znojmo, a city that I have never visited. I received a Silver Medal for my exhibit on the postal history of that Southern Moravian city last August at the Pacific International Exhibition in Eugene, Oregon. I am missing several good covers to put me over the top for a gold medal. Perhaps, I shall be able to accomplish this mission in the future. If any of the members of the CPS of Great Britain would care to comment on my article, I would appreciate receiving it via E-mail at: saljri@msn.com<<mailto:saljri@msn.com>>

☒ **Manfred Markus** writes: Re Withdrawal of TPOs in Austria and Switzerland. Ralf Heinz sent me this email with bad news concerning the TPOs in Central Europe "The TPO Course 300/306 Vienna - Innsbruck - Vienna will be withdrawn after the night 28th/29th May 2004. The section between Innsbruck and Wolfurt will still remain for another one or two years as TPO course 600. The sorting work in the Swiss TPO coaches/cars will be withdrawn from 7th August 2004 onwards. The TPO coaches will be used for transport of mail. The only exception will be the TPO service 4901 from Bern to Brig in which mail will still be sorted. If I receive any further news I will forward this to you"

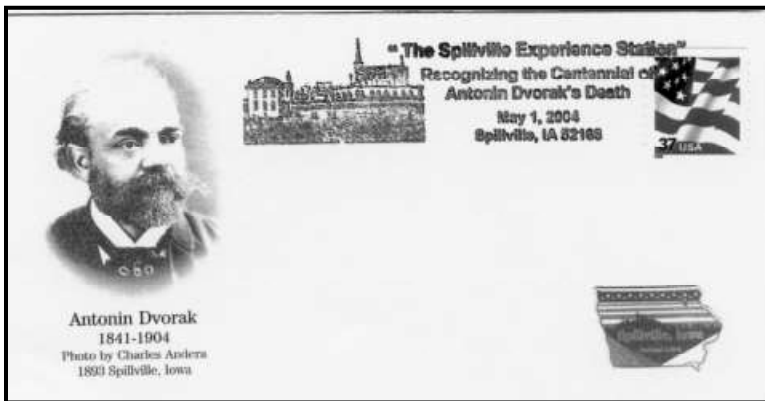
☒ **Robert Faltin Ph.D** writes: Members who are interested in the theme of the Czech Legion in Siberia may like to view archival photographs on my website www.dr.faltin.org. There was also a recent series of articles in the (U.S.) Shotgun News dated 5 April and 3 May 2004 on this topic.

☒ **Bob Hill** writes: The Czechoslovak Specialist complete 20th century subject index 1939-1999 has been compiled by Anne G Vondra and edited by Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Published by the Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc. and produced as a CD and in paper form [146 pages], paper covers spiral bound. This is very comprehensive starting with Abbeys and Monasteries and ending with Ziska, Jan. Cross referencing helps (Jewish Relics Issue see JUDAICA) and the detail needs to be seen to be believed. It is available from the Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc. attention Savoy Horvath, S8207, US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652, USA, from whom details of cost and postage can be obtained.

>

☒ **Richard Beith** writes: The Aston Abbots story. In mid-November 1940, due to the blitz, President Beneš and the Cabinet of the Czechoslovak government in exile moved out of London to two Buckinghamshire villages, Aston Abbots and Wingrave. Today, this piece of local history is being researched by Neil Rees and the Aston Abbots Local History Group to whom I'm greatly indebted. They have a most interesting web-site at www.internationalclub.org.uk/czechgovinexile.html where much interesting information can be found. The President moved to The Abbey, Aston Abbots and the Cabinet moved to the Manor House, Wingrave. Neil Rees has noted that a resident of Aston Abbots claimed that the Czechoslovak Special Defence Platoon based in the village to guard the President and his cabinet had a special stamp made that was used on letters next to the British stamp. Has any member seen any correspondence to or from this Czechoslovak enclave in Buckinghamshire? Perhaps the "stamp" mentioned was one of the well known patriotic labels? Please send any comments or illustrations to the Editor of *Czechout*.

☒ **Richard Beith** writes: In my incoming mail recently was a previously ordered cover produced by the St Wenceslaus Heritage Society of Spillville, Iowa, to honour the centenary of the death of Antonin Dvorak on 1 May 1904. Dvorak



spent the summer of 1893 with the Czech community in Spillville when on holiday from his post as Director of the Conservatoire in New York. While in Spillville he wrote the much admired String Quartet Op 96 and the equally superb String Quintet Op 97. I'm not sure if the covers can still be ordered after the event, but enquiries should be sent to Mr Steven Klimesh, P O Box 127, 105 Pleasant View Drive, Spillville, Iowa 52168, USA. Mr Klimesh comments

sadly on the failure of the US Post Office to issue a Dvorak centenary stamp! I only found out about this issue at the last moment!

Congratulations

To **Lou Svoboda** and **Anne Vondra** on their fine production of the *Czechoslovak Specialist Index*, and also **Yvonne Wheatley**, **Bob McLeod** and **Rex Dixon** for their contributions to the updated Cumulative Index to *Czechout*. These two indexes are a most useful tool of information for the Editor, as well hopefully to the members.

Publications

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

- v The Summer 2004 issue of *Austria* No 146. The articles include:
 - ▶ Vienna's Pneumatic Post, Part 4 (Tobitt & Taylor); Signets as Newspaper Tax Stamp cancellers (Taylor).
 - The March & June 2004 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.35, Whole No. 139/140. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ New printed postcards from the Slovak Post Office (-); New printed envelopes from the Slovak PO (-); Changes to the inland postage rates for the Czech Post Office (-); New stamps resulting from postage rate changes from the Czech PO (-); New printed envelopes from Czech PO (-); New postcards from Czech PO (-); Contents List of Research articles [completed] (Vouhsem); Contents List of SBS catalogues [revision] (Vouhsem); Labels and se-tenant issues from Czech PO since 1966 [Part 2] (Ramisch); Railway Cancellations from the Czech PO (Tschimer).

>

- ▶ New Postage Rates from the Slovak PO wef 1.1.2004 (Müller); A necessary correction to the article about Railway Cancellations of the Czech PO (Tschiner); The distinguishing features of the 1.60Kčs stamp in the Old Building Series of 25.2.1971 [Pofis 1876] and its appearance in the counter sheets 1 and 2 (Ziegler); Post Office Partners - the "Private" partners of the Slovak PO (Müller); The New Postal Agencies of the Czech PO cont. (Müller); Special Cancellations from the Czech PO in 2003 (Müller).

- The March/April & May/June 2004 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.66, Whole Nos. 584/585. Nos. 2/3. The articles include:
 - ▶ Czechoslovak Resistance in Italy 1944-45 (cont) (Santangelo); Announcement of the Executive Committee of SČF (Maleček); Liberation of Praha Břevnov (PRAHA 51) in May 1945 (Hill); 6.40Kč Pansy Forgery revisited (Horvath); New Web Site Provides Guide to Experts' Marks/Background (Linn's Stamp News); Theresienstadt Parcel Control Stamp (Brunstrom).
 - ▶ Sokols in Italy during the First World War (Santangelo); The Ossuary in Sedlec/Kutna Hora (Horvath); The Chust Overprint (Holoubek); Milan R Štefánik - A Slovak favourite son (Garancovsky); Horoscope Stamp Forgery (Horvath); Saint George in Czech Philately (van Zenten).

- The October 2003/January/April 2004. Nos 31/33. *Dylizans*,
 - ▶ Eastern Silesia [1918-20] Part 1. (Kunc); Vienna-Lwów Flights (-).
 - ▶ Eastern Silesia [1918-20] Part 2. (Kunc);
 - ▶ Eastern Silesia [1918-20] Part 3. (Kunc)

- The 3, 4, 5 & 6/2004 issues of *Filatellie*. Vol 54. The articles include:
 - ▶ Several Notes on Prices in the Catalogue POFIS Czechoslovakia 1945-1992 (Dražan); More Contemplation on Mint and Cancelled Stamps (Krečmer); Plate errors on Czech Stamps of the 2nd half of 2002 (Brožová & Zedník); Rounding of Postal Rates after Withdrawal of small coins (Černý).
 - ▶ Entry of the Czech Republic into the European Union and Czech Post (Angelis); Entry of the Czech Republic the EU (Rotport); Short Excursion to Philately and Czechoslovak Postal Administration [1] (Beneš).
 - ▶ Government Troops in Italy 1944-45 [1] (Santangelo); Moscow Issue of 1945-46 [1] (Graman & Koupal); Short Excursion to Philately and Czechoslovak Postal Administration [2] (Beneš); History of the European Football Championships in Philately [1] (Kamenický); Russian Postmark of the Space Mail of Soyuz 28 (Cacka).
 - ▶ Government Troops in Italy 1944-45 [2] (Santangelo); Moscow Issue of 1945-46 [2] (Graman & Koupal); Short Excursion to Philately and Czechoslovak Postal Administration [2] (Beneš); History of the European Football Championships in Philately [2] (Kamenický); Ten Years of the APOST Labels (Langhammer).

- v The 1 & 2/2004 issues of *Merkur Revue*. The articles include:
 - ▶ Czecho-Slovak Forerunners and Parallel Valid Stamps [1918-19] on the Territory of Slovakia [1] (Tekel); The Dove issue from Jaroslav Benda [8] (Stupka); VIII International Olympic Congress Prague 1925 [2] (Petrásek & Schödelbauer); Philatelic Market in the Czech Republic (Dražan); Question Marks concerning Czechoslovak Aluminium 5 kčs coin of 1952 (Šouša & Šůla); Variable Rate Stamps [Veveří Castle] Oppolzer & Řezníček).
 - ▶ Czecho-Slovak Forerunners and Parallel Valid Stamps [1918-19] on the Territory of Slovakia [2] (Tekel); The Dove issue from Jaroslav Benda [9] (Stupka); VIII International Olympic Congress Prague 1925 [3] (Petrásek & Schödelbauer); Systematics of Franked Czechoslovak Preliminary Postal Forms (Štefek); Drafts for Czechoslovak Crown Vouchers from 1944 [1] (Šuistek).

- The June 2004 issues of *Stamps of Hungary* No 157. The articles include:
 - ▶ On the '1919 overprint' trial, part 1: Slovak Lands (Morrell) >

Letter to the Executive Committee of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF)

Some of our members may have seen references to forgeries in recent editions of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* and *Filatelie*. Our Society, in conjunction with other foreign Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies, has written to the Secretary, Mgr. Jaroslav Maleček as follows:

"The Officers and Committee of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain are seriously concerned at the news of the SČF's suspension of their Commission of Experts as revealed in *Filatelie* 12/2003 and in the English translation of this text in the *Czechoslovak Specialist* for March/April 2004. We also note with concern the detailed article by Redakce in *Filatelie* 4/04.

This concern is equally shared by other "foreign" Czechoslovak philatelic societies:
Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc. (USA)
Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie (The Netherlands)
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e.V.(Germany)

We understand that the SČF has a board meeting in May. We hope that your Board will be able to effect a speedy solution to this serious problem which has already done harm to the study, promotion and reputation of Czechoslovak philately throughout the world.

Expertisation is an important activity and collectors rely on accredited expertisers particularly where values, competitions and international markets are concerned. If expertisers have made mistakes these should be acknowledged and full details made available to the SČF for action. We feel that the governing body should control both the authorisation of experts and be directly responsible for handling problems as they occur. There is much properly expertised material which may or may not be affected by mistakes or complaints. We suggest that the SČF take on the task of widely broadcasting such information; separating properly expertised material from erroneous items. A further suggestion would be to mark as fraudulent such material when submitted for expertisation.

You will be aware that Czechoslovak philately has long been plagued by fraudulent material. Could the SČF address the problems arising from exchanging, displaying and marketing at auctions, perhaps by establishing close liaison between your Committee and Czech/Slovak related auction houses to help minimise these problems? Such a service would be internationally well received. Auction houses may need more direct support in identifying fraudulent material and the SČF might consider giving such support.

In our journal, *Czechout*, we occasionally publish articles relating to forgeries old or new. We are of course happy to share this information with you for the benefit of all philatelists.

You have the full support of all "foreign" Czechoslovak philatelic societies in your efforts to combat the problems of forged material, experts' faults and auctioneers' gullibility. Do keep in contact with all our societies as to the resolution of this issue and let us know how we can help in this effort."

E-mail from Henry Hahn to Lou Svoboda and others

I am attaching the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the SČF in Žďár nad Sázavou. Here is a translation of the last part of the minutes:

The Executive Committee directed as follows. The Executive Committee directed that the Chairman of the SČF, Ing. Lumír Brendl and Secretary Mr. Mgr. Maleček inform Mr. Ludvik Pytlicek and Ing. Pavel Pittermann of the decision by the Executive Committee that by their actions they have lost the confidence (of the Executive Committee) and are urged to resign their membership in this organization. The Chairman and Secretary of the SČF are directed to write a letter to the Chairman KF05-16 of Semily to call a general assembly of the Club and on the basis of Paragraph 18 of the Bylaws of the SČF. Letter c. to determine the future membership of Mr. Ludvik Pytlicek in the SČF (Union of Czech Philatelists)

Mgr. Jaroslav Maleček Secretary of the Union of Czech Philatelists

This will appear in the next issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

OBITUARY

Major-General Rudolf Krzak [6.4.1914-22.4.2004], Bob Hill drew our attention to the death of this former Czech intelligence officer and parachute specialist whose obituary appeared in *The Times* on Friday 20 May 2004. Rudolf Krzak was one of the last survivors of the Special Group D that planned the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich in 1942. Krzak's entire family paid a terrible price for the success of this operation, something he only discovered at the end of the war. He went on to plan many other missions.

Returning to Czechoslovakia at the end of the war, he continued as a senior army parachute instructor until the communist take-over when he was dismissed on trumped-up charges and had to wait for the velvet revolution before being rehabilitated. Promoted to Major-General, he worked hard to bring together former colleagues to ensure their memory of what they had done would not be forgotten. His daughter and son survive him.



BOOK REVIEWS

ALEKSANDER STOCKI Enigmatic Philatelist: By Roy E Reader & George K Kay. Paperback with illustrated cover with laminated covers and plastic clip binding. ISBN 0-9547115-0-5. A4, 64pp published 2004 by Roy E Reader, 3 Stanhope Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7HA (UK). Price £9.50 +p/p [UK £1.50; Europe £2.50 and Other destinations £4.00. The sum of £10 must be added to cheques from abroad to cover bank charges. Cheques payable to R.E.Reader. Order will normally be sent within 10 days of receipt.]

It was whilst the author was researching for his third book covering the Polish Forces in France, [previous publications *The Legion of French Volunteers 1941-44*, FCPS brochure No 4 and *Czechoslovak Army in France WWII & Supplement*, Czech PS, Monograph No 5.]; that Aleksander Stocki came to his attention.

Roy was intrigued by the character of this army officer, philatelist and stamp dealer, who was involved with the perforation of French stamps with the initials of 'WP', and later with other colourful labels. He decided to research further, temporarily putting on one side his main subject, and sought the advice of the doyen of Polish philately, George Kay. They both joined forces to seek out information on the activities of Stocki, not only in pre-war Poland, but war-time France and Great Britain, and after the war in Scotland.

The research has not been easy either in the United Kingdom or Poland and possibly there are still one or two questions in Stocki's life that remain unanswered; one I would like to know is what happened to his wife Marja, after he was re-called from Army reserve in 1939; but both Reader and Kay have come up with a most readable publication, containing as it does numerous illustrations, and a catalogue of Stocki's labels produced in Scotland. They have examined many documents difficult or impossible to find in this country, on this former army officer who seemed to court controversy throughout his life. These include events in Warsaw in 1926 over the Warsaw-Tokyo Flight, the 'WP' overprints in France and also the labels and date-stamps produced for the Polish and other Allied Forces. During this period he had contacts with 1st Lieutenant Oldřich Večerek, head of the Czechoslovak Field Post at Leamington Spa (see pages 22-23). The publication also deals with his post-war partnership with the Stamp Dealer Mildred Hodson, and finally the mystery over his supposed disappearance abroad.

The bibliography of Sources and References both published and unpublished is excellent. It has been my privilege to proof-read this book, which I found so fascinating and I have no hesitation in fully recommending this impartial survey of Stocki's life to all philatelists, postal historians and those interested in the events that began to take place over some sixty years ago. My congratulations to the authors on this excellent publication.

Colin Spong

>

The Postal Rates of the Yugoslav Territories by Geoff Barling, Prices inclusive of postage and packing are:- UK £15; Europe (airmail) £16 (or 30 Euros); Rest of the World (airmail) £17 (or US\$35) Payment may be made by cheque drawn on a UK bank or in cash - Orders please to : G M Barling, 9 Victoria Terrace, Borstal, Rochester, Kent ME1 3US England.

The publication produced as a CD-ROM, encompasses the postal history and postal rates of Yugoslav territories from 1700 to the end of 2000, the territories being defined as Yugoslavia as it was before the break-up in 1991. This comprehensive work, put together in over five years of painstaking research, is in three parts, has about 850 illustrations (of which 700 are in colour) giving provenance to the thousands of listed rates in easy to read tables, and has a useful historical overview amply illustrated with clear maps. This work is destined to become a standard reference work for all future studies of Yugoslav rates. A must for the bookshelf of the serious philatelist.

A J Bosworth

Leamington's Czech Patriots & the Heydrich Assassination, by Alan Griffin, Leamington Spa, 2004. 64 pages, £6.00 including UK P & P from Feldon Books, Braybrooke, 2a Victoria Street, Leamington Spa CV31 3PU. [Cheques payable to Feldon Books]

Local historian Alan Griffin has created a well illustrated and well printed volume of considerable interest. The book is arranged in two parts. The first part describes the political and historical background to the arrival of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain in July 1940, their brief stay in rural Cheshire and their arrival in Warwickshire in October 1940. Their many locations in the area are well described and due attention is given to the happy relationships with the locals - relationships which often ended in marriage! The musical activities of Corporal Tauský, the Army bandmaster, well known after the war as the conductor Vilem Tauský (1910-2004) are also mentioned.

Part Two covers the recruitment of secret agents from the Czechoslovak Brigade during their time in and around Leamington Spa, paying particular attention to their specialised training so that they could be dropped into their homeland by parachute. The story of the project codenamed Anthropoid, designed to eliminate the infamous Reichsprotektor, Reinhard Heydrich, is given in some detail. The author also notes the terrible price extracted from the Czech people after Heydrich's death.

The wide range of illustrations have been sourced from a variety of archives and family holdings. Useful appendices include the disposition of Czechoslovak Brigade units around Warwickshire in 1941

Richard Beith

Český a Slovenský Exil, 20 Století (Czechs and Slovaks in exile in the 20th century), 224 page large format hardback, Spolechost pro Kulturu a Dialog K2001, Brno, 2003. (No ISBN) Brno bookshop price Kč 390.

A major exhibition on Czechs and Slovaks in exile throughout the 20th century took place in Brno in early 2003. This was briefly mentioned in *Czechout* for June 2003 and a photograph printed showing CPSGB monographs on view. On a visit to Brno in January 2004 it was found that at least three hardback volumes had been printed covering aspects of this story. The volume reviewed here is the only one of three to be printed in a bilingual Czech and English edition and it would appear to be the one of most interest to members.

The book covers a wide range of topics and eras but includes significant sections on the Masaryks, M R Štefánik and the Czechoslovak Legions in France, Italy and Russia in the Great War. From WWII topics include the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain, flyers in the RAF, the parachutists and the removal of Heydrich and Czechoslovak Forces in the USSR. From the post-WWII period topics include the flyers who returned to the RAF after 1948, the plight of refugees and repression in the homeland. Architecture, literature and film are also considered. While this is not necessarily a book to read from A to Z at one sitting, it is a valuable reference source to be dipped into as required. The book is well printed with countless illustrations and the English text is a complete translation, not just a précis. Do look for it when next travelling in the Czech lands.

Richard Beith

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE ŽĎÁR

In a slight variation to our usual practice, George Firmage left everyone to arrange their own transport to Prague for the May trip, all meeting up at our usual Pension Wertheim. This seemed to work remarkably well, although due to the proximity of a trip to Budapest we were only nine. Most arrived on 14 May, and visited the bourse at Strašnická the following day. This was a good event once more, and I think we all found some worthwhile material. On Monday 17th George, who unfortunately could not be with us, had organised a day-trip to Pardubice. Not a very inspiring town, although we quickly tracked down the sole stamp dealer. He turned out to be just that, with no postal history at all. There was plenty of time for lunch, a wander round the town, whose coat of arms appears to be half a horse, and a good look at the very attractive old town square, vaguely reminiscent of that in Telč but not as beautiful.

After a free day on Tuesday, another trip by mini-bus, this time to Karlovy Vary. I am sure many of you know this town, but I think it was a first for this party. It is difficult to overstate the sheer charm and beauty of this spa town. Nestling in a valley with a river running through it, the 19th century architecture is a delight, and in beautiful sunshine we whiled away a delightful day strolling through the streets. Bliss! On Thursday began the real reason for the trip, a four-day visit to Žďár nad Sázavou for the three-day stamp exhibition. This turned out to be in the Culture Centre, only some five minutes walk from our very comfortable hotel on the town square. The hotel had a problem inasmuch for the first night there was no hot water, but the management kindly did not charge us for dinner that night. The exhibition was of some 200 sixteen sheet frames, and whilst there was of course a great deal of Czech material and thematics, I was not terribly impressed with the overall standard of the material. I am sure that everyone found something to interest them, and I certainly did as there was one good exhibit of Concentration Camp Post. On the second day, Saturday, the dealers arrived, I would estimate about 50 or more, with the emphasis of course on Czech material. Again, I believe everyone found something to buy.

After sunning ourselves on the town square on Friday, Sunday morning brought, would you believe it, snow! A fairly heavy fall had a devastating effect on the dealers, and a quick visit to the fair before we had to leave for Prague saw only about six or seven present. The fall melted fairly rapidly and did not interfere with our drive back to the capital.

Some left for home on Monday, others held on until Tuesday 25th, but I am sure that all enjoyed the visit immensely. Apart from the philatelic aspect of these trips, new friends are to be made and old friendships renewed; this was certainly the case for me this time. We missed you George, but our thanks to you for organising everything with your usual verve, we do appreciate it. I have said it before and probably will again, but any members who have never been on a Society visit to the Czech Republic really should seriously consider it. The next good opportunity, surely not to be missed, is the big one in Brno in 2005. Do come, and contact George Firmage for details.

Ian Nutley

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

This article originally appeared in the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society Newsletter No. 209 March 2004 and we thank the Editor, Brian Sole FRPSL, for permission to reproduce this

From April 2003, the Public Record Office (PRO) officially joined with the Historical Manuscripts Commission (HMC) to form a new organisation The National Archives. The one main change will be that the HMC search rooms in Chancery Lane, central London, will be transferred to Kew, West London, before the end of the financial year, March 2004. The HMC search rooms include lists of the contents of private archive collections held in record offices, universities and other organisations throughout the U.K.

Visitors and readers Orientation tours will show new readers how to use the combined information sources of both PRO and HMC.

Writers, researchers and publishers If you are using PRO or HMC sources, either documents or images, for publication of any kind then you will have to credit the PRO or the HMC in footnotes or as sources. For information about the right way to credit the National Archives please visit the online catalogue at www.pro.gov-uk/leaflets/Riindex.asp

Records managers and archivists For information about how the National Archives will work with the records management and archive profession subscribe to our free newsletter at archivista@pro.gov.uk

What is The PRO? The PRO looks after state and central court documents from the Domesday Book to the present, making them available at its reading rooms in Kew for anyone who wishes to see them. The PRO also provided access to certain documents online. The PRO works with the central government to help select documents now, which will be opened to the public in 30 years time and also provides advice for central government records officers, certain archives, and increasingly for local government to ensure these records are looked after in a way which will guarantee their preservation for future generations.

The National Archives (PRO), Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU; Tel. 020 8392 5200 e-mail enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk Website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

What is the HMC? HMC is the UK's central advisory body on archives and manuscripts relating to British history. Established in 1869 it is the principal source of information for researchers on the nature and location of particular records. It maintains the National Register of Archives, the ARCHON directory and portal, giving direct links to record repositories and archival research projects in progress, and the Manorial Documents Register. HMC also offers advice to owners, custodians and users of non-Public records, as well as to central and local government and grant-awarding bodies. The National Archives (HMC) E-mail nra@nationalarchives.gov.uk and website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Visiting on site The National Archives (PRO) and (HMC)

	Opening times	Document ordering times
Monday	9.00am to 5.00pm	9.30am to 4.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am to 7.00pm	10.00am to 4.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am to 5.00pm	9.30am to 4.00pm
Thursday	9.00am to 7.00pm	9.30am to 4.30pm
Friday	9.00am to 5.00pm	9.30am to 4.00pm
Saturday	9.30am to 5.00pm	9.30am to 12.00pm and 1.30pm to 3.00pm.
Closed Sundays, bank holiday weekends and the first week in December for stocktaking.		

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 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
- Czechout 3/03: Barry Horne's 1919 1st Anniversary Sheet perforations
- Czechout 1/04 Barry Horne Max Švabinský
- Czechout 1/04 Bob Hill Mr Kriz
- Czechout 1/04 Ron Hollis The Border Regiment

17TH NOVEMBER 1939 - ANNIVERSARY OF CZECH UNIVERSITIES CLOSURE

-Vladímír J. Králíček-

To commemorate the Anniversary of the Czech Universities Closure and the Massacre of Students by the Nazis in 1939 the Czechoslovak Army Field Post used a number of commemorative cancellations as well as the daily canceller in black. A number of commemorative sheets, cards and other items also exist. Those illustrated come from my collection, though I feel that there must be more of them awaiting discovery. The events leading to the Universities closure were as follows: On 28th October 1939, the Czechoslovak Republic Foundation Day, there were students' demonstrations and clashes in Prague between the Czech population and the German occupiers. During one of these clashes Jan Opletal, a medical student was seriously injured and as a consequence of his injuries died on the 11th November 1939. His funeral took place in Prague on the 15th November. There were large demonstrations in Prague by the Czech population and the Germans took forcible action against them. Numbers of demonstrators including students were arrested.

The demonstrations were a signal for the Germans to carry out acts of barbarism so far unknown in Czech history. On 17th November armed Gestapo and the SS assaulted the University Student Hall in Prague, with similar action taking place on the same day in Brno and other places. In Příram 15 students were arrested in the Mining College.

The Prague students were taken to the Ruzyn Army Barracks, where they spent the following night and day. Next day they were taken by train to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where they met up with the students from Brno and Příram. Altogether there were about 1200 of them. In the Sachsenhausen extermination camp there were mainly German political, anti-social and criminal prisoners. The Czech students were dispersed in several of the camp barracks. In January 1940 about forty of them were moved to the Mauthausen, Dachau, Gussen [Gusen] and Flissburg [Flossenburg] concentration camps. Between April 1940 and Christmas 1942 almost all the students were released, less 15 who have lost their lives inside the camp.

In 1942 to commemorate the Czechoslovak Universities Closure and the interment of the Students, the International Student Assembly in Washington, USA proclaimed, in the presence of fifty nations representatives, the 17th November to be the International Students day.

1940 - The Czechoslovak students and the closure of the Universities was remembered for the first time by the Czechoslovak Army on 17th November 1940 using the Leamington Spa Coat of Arms (fig.19 Monograph 1) handstamp with the date 17 NOV 1940 in black. It was not postally used.

Illustration 1 - Leamington Spa Coat of Arms



1941 - No special handstamp was produced for the Czech Student Day and perhaps because the 17th November fell on Sunday it is not seen on regular mail though it is seen, in black, on a sheet of specimen strikes of cancellations prepared by Capt. Oldřich Večerek, Officer in Charge of the Czechoslovak Army Field Post.



Illustration 2 - Specimen strikes, signed by Capt. Oldřich Večerek

1942 - Special Commission was set up during 1942 to determine the special and commemorative days which should be commemorated with special cancellations. It also invited the Czechoslovak Army members to participate in the design of them and which were then evaluated by the Commission.

Capt. Oldřich Večerek's design for the 17.IX.1942 competition was based on his successful design for the 2.VII.1942 Zborov cancellation; it was not accepted, that of Dolfa Bartošík being preferred.

Illustration 3 - Capt.Večerek's design

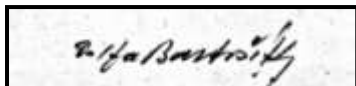


Illustration .4 - Dolfa Bartošík successful design. Artist signed proof taken from the original wood block, from which the rubber handstamp was then manufactured.

Illustration 5 - Invitation card to the Requiem Mass for the victims of Nazi oppression in Czechoslovakia. It took place at Westminster Cathedral in London. Commemorative handstamp in black.



Illustration 6 - Privately produced commemorative sheet to mark the Anniversary of the Czech Universities Closure and the massacre of Czech Students. It shows the commemorative handstamp applied in black.



1943 - Extract from a letter addressed to Capt. Oldřich Večerek. At this time Capt. Večerek had already resigned from the Field Post and his duties as head of the Czechoslovak Army Field Post were taken over by Capt. Josef Sommer.

S.V., 8.10.43

Mily příteli,

Děkuji Ti za dopis ze dne 30.m.m.; aršíky pro Ing. Jetele jsme obstarali.

Navrhy na razítka včas došly a také se soutěže sučastnily. Zasílám Ti výstřižek z N.N. o tom. Myslím, že Ti O.N. také psal o nové soutěži vypsané na razítko k 17.11.43.

Naše pošta uz funguje definitivně a to: v pondělí, v úterý, ve čtvrtek a v sobotu ji dodáváme do proviantního skladu asi 5 km odsud, ve středu, v pátek a v sobotu jezdíme po utvarech se 3mi vozy. Čekal jsem Tě stále, že se přijedeš na nás podívat a Ty nic. Co je s těmi předpisy co jsi mi? slíbil?

Srdečný pozdrav od nás ode všech,

Tvůj oddaný

[Signature]

>

Translation

Dear friend,

S.V. 8.10.1940

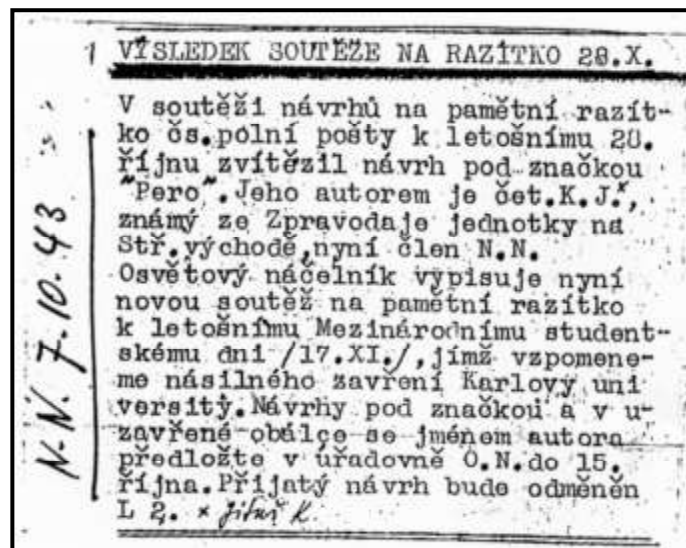
Thank you for your letter of 30th last month; regarding the sheets for Eng.Jetele, they were attended to. Designs for the cancellers arrived in time and participated in the competition. Enclosed is a cut out from N.N. about it. I believe that O.N. wrote to you about the new competition called for the 17.XI.1943 canceller. Our postal service is now functioning as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday we deliver the post to the Quartermaster store about 5km from here. On Wednesday, Friday and Saturday we travel to the Units with our three vehicles. I have been waiting for you to visit us, but of you nothing. What happened to those regulations you have promised me? Please send them onto me.

Greetings from us all, Yours sincerely, Capt. Josef Sommer

Illustration 7 - Cutout from N.N. announcing the new competition

Translation: Result of competition for the 28.X. cancellation. In the Cz. Field Post 28.X.1943 commemorative cancellation competition the winning design was won under the pseudonym "Pero" Its author is Sergeant K.J., known from the Middle East Unit newspaper Zpravodaj, he is now a member of N.N.

The Chief Welfare Officer is now announcing a new competition for a commemorative cancellation for this year's International Student Day (17.XI.), through which we remember the forced closure of the Charles University. Marked designs inside sealed envelope with the designer name may be handed in the office of N.N. up to the 15th October. The accepted design will be awarded £2.



N.N. = Naše Noviny, the Czechoslovak Army daily newspaper

O.N. = Osvětový Načelník, the Chief Welfare Officer

N.T. = Nahradní Tělo, i.e. the Czechoslovak Army

On the 7th October 1943 Capt. Oldřich Večerek received the following letter from the Chief Welfare Officer regarding the referred to competition in the previous letter from Capt. Sommer.

CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENT BRIGADE
CHIEF WELFARE OFFICER
OSVĚTOVÝNAČELNÍK

S.V., dne 7. Října 1943

Kpt. Oldřich Večerek

Pane kapitáne,

Oznamuji Ti, že v soutěži návrhu na pamětní razítko čs. Polní pošty k letošnému 28. Říjnu, byla přičena první cena návrhu pod značkou "p e r o", jehož autorem je čet. Karel Jituš. Komise byla složena z přednosta pol. Pošty a dvou důstojníků velitelství brigády [I. a IV. Oddělení] Podle Tvého přání, vysloveného v dopise zaslaném pu náčelníkovi štábu, Ti vracím v příloze Tvůj návrh. Ponechávám u sebe návrh na pamětní razítko k 17.XI. Soutěž na toto pamětní razítko byla právě vypsána v čísle 277 Našich Novin. Nežlob se, že Tě upozorňuji, že všechny tyto soutěže mají být anonymní.

Se srdečným pozdravem.
[Signature] >

Translation

Mr. Captain, This is to advise you that the result for the 28th October of this year commemorative cancellation competition was awarded to the design under the pseudonym "Pero", whose author is Sergeant Karel Jituš. The jury consisted of representatives from the Field Post and two Officers from the Brigade Headquarters (I and IV Detachments) According to your wish, as expressed to the Chief of Staff, I am returning your design. I shall retain your design for the 17.XI commemorative cancellation. Competition for this cancellation was just announced in Naše Noviny, issue No.277. Please don't be offended for reminding you, that all competitions must remain anonymous. With cordial greetings,

The winning design for the 17.XI.1943 competition was also won by a design prepared by Jindřich Křeček, who as a member of the Czechoslovak Forces in the Middle East worked on the Zpravodaj the Czechoslovak Forces in M.E. daily newspaper. There he assumed the cover name Karel Jituš in order to protect his family living in the occupied Protectorate.

Illustration .8 - the 17.XI winning design by Karel Jituš



Front and back of a leaflet produced by the International Student Council, handed out at the Meeting held at the Grammar School in Huntingdon in support of the 'International Student Day'. At the end of August 1944 the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade moved to France and with them also went the Czechoslovak Army Field Post. With that ended the era of using the commemorative and special cancellations on incoming and outgoing post.

Illustration .9

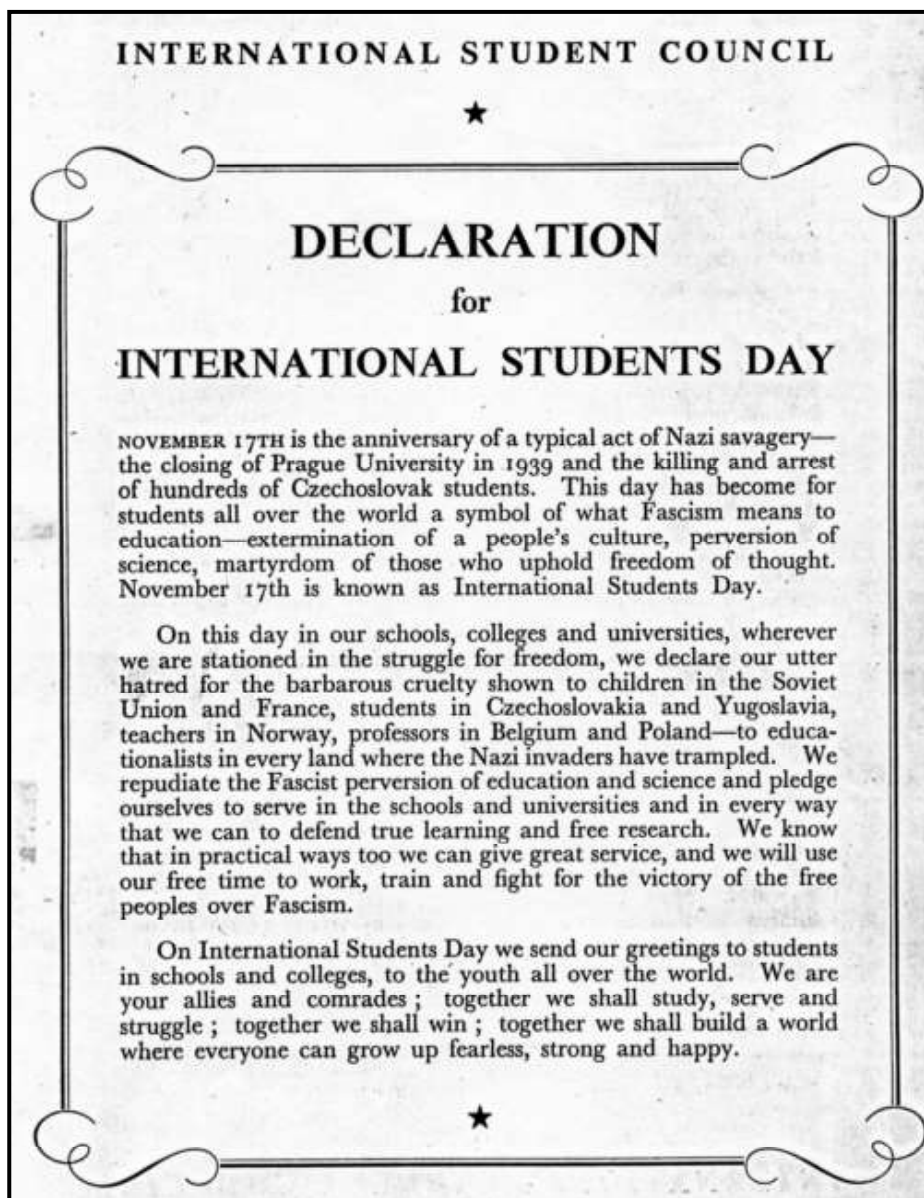


Illustration 10

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY

LAST YEAR, at the London meeting, students of allied and neutral nations declared November 17th "International Students Day". The response of the Universities of almost all the free world was unanimous and resulted in manifestations stressing the solidarity of the students and other youth of the free nations.

The actual date of November 17th is the anniversary of the closing of the Czechoslovak Universities and the arrest of hundreds of students in 1939. It is a mournful anniversary, but at the same time it is the anniversary of a proud resolution to resist aggression even at the price of one's life. It is the anniversary of the resolution of young people to prove by deeds their hatred of the barbarian methods of the Fascist régime.

November 17th, 1939, became a call for the resistance of the students and all young people of the occupied countries of Europe. For this reason, in the midst of the second world war this day was declared "International Students Day," and for this reason it will be celebrated every year by the students and youth of the free world, who will thus commemorate the unbreakable spirit of those who lost their lives in a fight against overwhelming odds.

The response evoked by November 17th shows the strength which lies in unity. The free youth have realised the weight of this weapon and have formed a solid line in the present fight. November 17th is the expression of this unity.

In London on November 16th, 1942, at the Albert Hall, in other university towns on November 17th, there will be big meetings at which eminent scholars from different nations will speak. For these meetings we call for the support of every single organisation of teachers, professors, students, schools, of every nationality all over the world. Mass demonstrations on this day must show the solidarity of the students and all freedom loving youth in our struggle against the common enemy.

Fascism, destroying all cultural values all over Europe, misusing science and art for its aggressive purposes, still represents a might at which the Allies must strike with all their power. November 17th shall become a demonstration of the fighting spirit of the youth of to-day, firmly resolved and ready to strike.

★

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Printed in England by Kellier, Hudson & Kearns, London, S.E.1

IDENTIFICATION OF A HUNGARIAN MILITARY POSTCARD FRANKED WITH THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION ISSUE



Les Robinson purchased this item from Trencsen dated 28th October 1919 in the Society auction and at the Editor's suggestion sent it to Roger Morrell for comments. Roger writes This postcard is a standard fieldpost card for Hungarian Forces in WWI, "a leftover!". The postmark is the bilingual Trencsen-Teplice in Slovakia, now known as Trenčín [Type G422 in Monografia Vol.15]. Continued use of a Hungarian style nearly two years after the revolution.

- TÁBORI P L = Military Postal Card
- Tábori p s = FPO number
- Hivatalos f r = Official notes
- Left hand corner = Sender name unit
- Right hand of card = Budapest Printing Works with date of printing.

POSTCARD OF INTEREST

-Brian C. Day-

Czechoslovakia Catholic Mission (In France)

1934 Photocard of a WWI Memorial to dead soldiers, installed in 1924. in a church at Villeneuve-les Cerfs, bearing Sower 20c. mauve stamp cancelled with Paris - 41, Av. Duquesne, postmark dated 19.XII.1934: addressed to a correspondent at a bicycle magazine (or shop) in Chalette on the Loire.

Cachet of the Mission Catholique Pour Les Tchecoslovaques En France: thought to be related to the Czechoslovak Legion's fatalities suffered in France during WWI and buried there.



CHUST

-Robert J Hill-

I recently acquired in the Czech Republic a collection of Chust 1944 overprints that seemed too good to be true so I immediately sent them to Vladimir Markus in Wien for an opinion. With his usual wit and helpful nature he told me that they were indeed too good to be true and sent me other forgeries for comparison.



- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Genuine stamp | 4 | Forgery with distinctly wrong Hacek |
| 2 | Budapest forgery | 5 | Latest forgery |
| 3 | USA forgery | | |

Hope this helps other members.

"VICTORY" LABELS

-Tom Morovics-

In *Czechout* 4/2002 I read an interesting article on "Victory" cancellations of Bohemia and Moravia by John N. Hammonds. And I have some additional information about these "V" labels together with illustrations of those in my own collection :

Fig.1 printed in red colour on white paper, there are two types which differ in details in the lower part.

Fig. 2 printed in red colour, here are also two types with difference of details in the lower part. The same label was also pictured on page 108 of the above mentioned article.

Fig. 3 printed in red colour on a white paper.

Fig. 4 printed in red and black on yellow paper with perforation (I do not know whether this label was in use in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia).



Fig.5 printed in red colour, with label on white paper, and perforated.

Fig.6 printed in red and black on white paper. This label was in the illustration on page 107 of the article. There are two different issues in either bilingual version (Fig 7) or in German (Fig.8).

If anyone else knows of other labels, I would be very pleased if he or she would write about it in this journal.

Praha Smichov

1945 liberation overprints

Grau type II, Holoubek type P 230 - Stibůrek overprints

-Robert J Hill-

The following Hitler head stamps of Bohemia and Moravia were overprinted in red: 10, 30, 40, 50, 60 & 80 h values (SG 77 - 82). The 1.50 k value (SG 85) was overprinted in black.

The overprint was prepared by two Prague philatelists as early as 1942, Novotný and Stibůrek. 1,000 series were overprinted on 29 April 1945 in both red and black, they were distributed to local and national philatelists. Covers are known to have passed through Praha 33 post office on 5th May 1945.

The overprint is simple and in 5 lines it reads:

SVOBODNÉ
ČESKOSLOVENSKO
VE
SVOBODNÉ
EVROPE

Liberal translated meaning "Free Czechoslovakia in a free Europe". The top line defaces DEUTSCHE REICH, the middle three lines obliterate Hitler's face and the bottom line covers BÖHMEN U MAHREN / CECHY MORAVA.

The amount of traffic on 5th May at the Praha 33 office was obviously quite large. The first example shows registered letter R 19 (note German legend still on label) and the complete set of overprinted stamps make up the 4 k 20 postage to a Praha address. Three strikes of the type "g" canceller, that already has the German PRAG 33 removed from the top of the arc, tie the stamps to the cover. The only other mark is the number 19 on the reverse.



The second example shows registered letter R 314 (note German legend still on label) and the complete set of overprinted stamps make up the 4 k 20 postage to Plzeň. Three strikes of the type "h" canceller, that already has the German PRAG 33 removed from the top of the arc, tie the stamps to the cover. The only other mark is the number 896 on the reverse.



Lastly and only just acquired is the following cover.



At first it is obvious that the 30 h stamp is missing and there is a red manuscript note to that effect, it was obviously on the cover when franked but has since come off. Another registered letter R 213 (note German legend still on label) and the complete set of overprinted stamps made up the 4 k 20 postage to Hlinsko. Three strikes of the type "e" canceller, that does not have the German PRAG 33 removed, tie the stamps to the cover. There are no marks on the reverse. What made this extra special was that there was a yellowing typed letter inside. I opened it and was met with the following on watermarked paper.

Vážení přátelé. V Praze, 12. června 1945.

V obnovené Československé republice Vás nejprve co nejsrdeč-
něji pozdravuji. Domníval jsem se, že budu moci Vám vše vypsát v
časopise, ale zatím to není možné. Proto používám této cesty.

V sobotu 5. května v 8.30 ráno jsem Vám odeslal doporučené
dopisy, které jsem podal na pošt. úř. Praha 33. Tento úřad dopisy o-
razítkoval a polepil rekon. nálepkami, načež je předal úřadu dal-
šímu. Tam je zastihly boje a tak zůstaly dopisy ležet. Mezitím byl
vydán zákaz dopravy a tak mi je pošta 19. května vrátila.

Štůčky k přetiskům byly zhotoveny v týdnu před smrtí velehrabě
Heydricha a vytištěny společným nákladem v Tiskárně Stiburek, s níž
jsme se také dohodli, že dopisy pošleme všem známým zcela zdarma.
Několik jednotlivých serií pak bylo osobně předáno známým filat.
pracovníkům. Tyto známky nemohou být tedy předmětem obchodu. Je
nutno se také na ně dívat poněkud s jiného stanoviska, než na ony
jež hotoveny až po 9. květnu, kdy již nebezpečí nehrozilo. Přesto, jak
jsem uvedl ve vloženém dopise, běží tu jen o památku na 5. květen.

Jsou také přetisky, jež vydány pošt. úřady na popud nár. výboru.
O těch bude rozprava v časopise, který snad konečně uvidí světlo
světa ještě v letních měsících.

Dnes, kdy válka již dozněla, považují za svoji povinnost co
nejserdečněji poděkovat abonentům novinek za jejich pomoc, kterou
mě poskytovali po dobu války. Jsou to pp: J. Zubík, Příštpo, J. Grubhef-
fer, Oldřiš, Jos. Jareš, Dobříš, Fr. Chaloupka, Skuteč, Ed. Richter, Mšeno,
Vl. Chvátal, Mšeno, Jos. Dvorský, Zlín, St. Aočí, Zlín, Karel Sysel, Benešov,
Jindř. Karpíšek, Přeštice a A. Černý, Vizovice. Zvláštní díky patří
p. B. Peclovi z Jaroměřic, který anonymně vydatně přispěl těm, kdož
při náletu na Prahu přišli o vše.

V příloze naleznete novou známku hodnoty 80 h. Není možno jinak,
než se podiviti, že byla vydána známka podle návrhu malíře Schaumanna.
Další známky jsem do dnešního nedostal. Poněvadž běží jen o hodnotu
80 h, nepřikládám složenku, ale dnešní poštovné a hodnotu 80 h za-
účtuji příště. Příložené dopisy posílám zdarma.

Docházejí mne žádosti o opatřování razítek a různých soukromých
vydání. Upozorňuji tedy, že kromě státních známek neopatřuji ničeho.
Také přetisky Nevotný-Stiburek nemohu dodat, jak jsem již nahoře
stručně uvedl. Odmítejte platit zvýšené položky za soukromá vydání.
V Praze požadoval jeden výtečník 600 K za serií. Ten ovšem patří
jinam, jenom ne mezi sběratele.

Také filatelie dozná asi nového usměrnění a nám za to, že to
bude k jejímu prospěchu. Podle informací je B. Ševčík zajištěn a
Dr. Gilbert suspendován do valné hromady. Jsou však ještě další,
na které nutno poukázat, neboť ještě nikdy nikdo se tak nechoval,
jako tato klika. Také známý ročenkář Niederle je zatčen. To byl
výtečník svého druhu, který poškodil řadu sběratelů a více českých
lidí napřímo ohrožoval. To vše bude ještě předmětem úvah v časopise.

Prosím nereklamujte další známky. Denně se o ně starám a jakmile
je dostanu, pošlu Vám je. Naproti tomu napište, co je u Vás nového
ve filatelii.

Srdečně zdraví

F. Novotný, Praha XII. Korunní 121

I immediately sent to my good mate Jan Dobrovolný for a translation, this follows:

>

Dear friends

in Prague, on 12 June 1945

At first, I welcome you in the most heartfelt way to the Renewal of the Czechoslovak Republic. I supposed that I would be able to write everything in a magazine but it is not possible for the time being. And that is why I chose this way. On Saturday 5th May at 8.30 am I sent you some registered letters that were handed in at the post office in Prague 33. They had put on the postmarks and registered labels and then they gave them to another post office. But the letters were caught up in the fighting that was still going on so they stayed there. Meanwhile the prohibition of transport was given out and so I got the letters back from post office on 19 of May.

The process blocks for the overprints were done during a week before the death of the great murderer Heydrich and printed by collective printing in Stiburek printing office. We also agreed with him (Stiburek) that the letters would be sent free to all acquaintances. A few particular series were delivered to well-known philatelists. It is not possible to do business with these stamps. It is also necessary to think of them from a different standpoint than those others that were made after 9 of May, when there was no more danger. Nevertheless, as I mentioned in enclosed letter, it is a memory to the 5th of May. There are also overprints that were issued by post offices on national committee impulse. About these overprints will be a debate in the magazine that will perhaps be published during summer months.

Nowadays with the war is over, I consider as my duty to thank in the most heartfelt way the following subscribers for their news and help that they were giving me the whole war. These people are following:

J. Zubik, Příštpo	J. Grubheffer, Oldřiš	Jos. Jareš, Dobříš
Fr. Chaloupka, Skuteč	Ed. Richter, Mšeno	Vi Chvátal, Mšeno
Jos. Dvorský, Zlín	St. Koči, Zlín	Karel Sysel, Benešov
Jindřich Karpišek, Přeštice	A. Černý, Vizovice	

Special thanks is due to B. Peclovi from Jaroměřice, who very much contributed in anonymity to people who lost everything during air-raids in Prague.

You can find a new sixty heller stamp as enclosure. You must be surprised that the stamp was published by artist's Schaumann proposal. I did not get the other stamps till today. Because there is only the sixty heller value I did not put a paying-in slip but this postage and sixty heller value will be charged next time. The enclosed letters are free. Your demands about providing cancellations and various private issues have been sent to me. Please note that I provide only official stamps. I am not able to deliver Novotny Stiburek overprints, the reason is briefly described on the upper part of this letter. I refuse to pay higher prices for the private issues. In Prague, some rascal wanted 600 k for one set! He does not belong among stamp-collectors. He belongs somewhere else. By my information B. Ševčík is arrested and Dr. Gilbert is suspended until the general meeting. However, there are also other people who must be mentioned because nobody has ever behaved like this gang. Also the well known year book man Niederle is in prison. He was a rascal who injured rows of stamp collectors and he endangered a lot of Czech people. These events will be written in a magazine.

Please, do not make a complaint about further stamps. I daily take care about them and as soon as I obtain them I will send them to you. On the other hand, try to write me about new events in philately.

Yours sincerely,

F. Novotný, Prague XII., Korunni 121

Not only does the foregoing give an insight into the thinking of the time, it throws light on the Smíchov overprints. Examples genuinely went in the post but did not get very far and were returned. Covers are also known to have passed through PRAHA 33 and 87 on 5 May as well as PRAHA 8 and 47 on 10 May.

Acknowledgements:

Dobrovolný, Dr. Jan. Pardubice	original translation
Santauegenia Grau, Juan. Barcelona	<i>Revolutionary stamps and overprints 1944 - 1945</i> . Barcelona 1996
Holoubek, Karel. Hradec Králové	<i>Česká Republika - "Revoluční Vydání (Květen 1945)</i> . Geophila Praha 1996
Markus, Vladimír. 88 Wien	additional translation and access to his collection

SLOVAK AREA MISSING CANCELLERS POST WORLD WAR II

-Bob Hill-

I asked one of our Prague members, Tom Morovics, if he could find out anything about the cancellers that went “missing” at the end of World War II. I was pleasantly surprised when he eventually gave me an extract from a book by Dr. Vratislav Palkoska (now deceased) and Otto Bartoň (who I met when he ran a stamp shop in central Bratislava). The book was published in 1975 under the title *Pošta na Slovenska po osvobosení* and one section translates in English to “Lost Postal Cancellers”.

The preamble tells us that at liberation some offices were destroyed and others ransacked whilst there were those that suffered no damage at all. It goes on to list the cancellers known to be “missing”. In the following table:

- Ú is an abbreviation for *Úradná* and denotes the office canceller with the ornate central symbol.
- VMP is an abbreviation for the official publication *Věstník Ministerstva Pošt* (available in the Postal Museum) and shows the year published.
- Číslo denotes the issue number of VMP.

Location	Canceller	Úradná	VMP	Číslo
Bardejov	b c e g		1945	32
Belá	b	Ú	1946	18
Bohdanovce	a b		1945	26
Bol'	a b		1945	26
Brodské		Ú	1945	14
Čabaj	b		1945	10
Čaňa		Ú	1945	28
Černé nad Ondavou	a b	Ú	1945	28
Dobrá nad Ondavou	a	Ú	1945	28
Dolný Kubín	g		1945	10
Drahňov	a b	Ú	1945	25
Dúbrava	b c		1945	10
Figa	a		1945	26
Hanušovce nad Topľou	a b	Ú	1945	26
Humenné	a b c d e f g		1945	24
Kalinovo	a b	Ú	1945	17
Kamenica nad Cirochou	a	Ú	1945	26
Košarovce	a b	Ú	1945	31
Košice 2	c d e f g h i j l		1945	28
Krajná Pol'ana	a b	Ú	1945	31
Krásnohorské Podhradie	a b	Ú	1945	26
Kuzmice	a	Ú	1945	25
Ladomírová	a b	Ú	1945	32
Levoča	a	Ú	1945	28
Malcov	a		1945	28
Michalovce	j m	Ú	1945	28
Moldava nad Bodvou	b	Ú	1945	32
Nacina Ves	a	Ú	1945	28
Námestovo	b c		1945	15
Nižná Myšľa	a		1945	25
Nová Bystrica pri Čadci		Ú	1945	10
Oravský Podzámok	b		1945	10
Ostrá Lúka	a b	Ú	1945	8

Location	Canceller	Úradná	VMP	Číslo
Parchoviany	a		1945	26
Podbrezová	b d		1945	15
Poštová ohlasovňa a Úložňa Bratislava		Ú	1945	28
Rákošská Baňa	a		1945	25
Ruská	a		1945	26
Sačurov	a b	Ú	1945	26
Sečovce	a b c d	Ú	1945	25
Senne	b	Ú	1946	18
Slovenské Nové Mesto		Ú	1945	28
Slovenské Raslavice	a		1945	28
Smolnícka Huta	a	Ú	1945	28
Smrečany		Ú	1945	17
Snina	d	Ú	1945	26
Sobrance	a b c d		1945	25
Somotor	a		1945	25
Stráže nad Myjavou		Ú	1945	14
Streda nad Bodrogom	a b		1945	26
Stropkov	a b c d	Ú	1945	28
Terchová	a b	Ú	1945	29
Trebišov	a b c d e	Ú	1945	15
Tvrdošín	a b		1945	10
Ulič	a		1945	26
Veľký Kevežď	a b	Ú	1945	26
Veľký Tarkaň	a b	Ú	1945	26
Vlašky	a		1945	28
Vondrišiel	a		1946	15
Vranov nad Topľou	a b c d	Ú	1945	28
Vrútky	b c		1946	18
Vyšný Orlik	a b	Ú	1945	26
Zvolen 2	d f		1945	10

Travelling Post Office cancellers

Location	Canceller	VMP	Číslo
Bratislava – Skalica	5a	1946	18
Zvolen – Vrútky	32	1945	14
Zvolen – Utekáč	33	1945	14
Zvolen – Žilina	34	1945	14
Zvolen – Hontianske Tesáry	35	1945	14
Zvolen – Hontianske Tesáry	36	1945	14
Zvolen - Margecany	37a	1945	14
Zvolen – Margecany	37b	1945	14
Zvolen Brezno n / Hr.	38	1945	14

Some of the above will have fallen into the wrong hands and members are advised to beware when buying covers with these cancels. My usual plea, any member with further information please write to *Czechout* so that we can all share the knowledge.

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 Brian Day's Czechs in the French Foreign Legion in *Czechout 1/2004* pages 25-6

From Bill Mitchell: Further reading enables me to add a little to my note in the previous issues of *Czechout* and the *FCPS Journal*. Col.Fra [the Colonies Française society] is reprinting *Les Postes et Courriers Français en Extrême-Orient* by Jacques Desrousseaux. I have recently acquired Book 4 which deals with 20th century military mail; chapter 6 covers the post-World War II period. It includes a short section headed "BPM et SP", but, although the Bureaux postaux militaires have already been described in detail, there is no listing of the Secteur postaux. So we are no further forward as regards the mysterious five-figure SP Number 71.174, [the Vaguemestre cachet on the 1949 cover illustrated on page 25 omits the dot]; except that a later [1953] cachet of SP 78811 is illustrated a bit further on [not in *Czechout*], indicating that there was probably a whole series of such numbers. Does anyone know if they are listed anywhere?

M. Desrousseaux adds a point, which is not mentioned by Bertrand Sinais - the use of BPM numbers in correspondence was quickly forbidden on security grounds. [M. Sinais does however, illustrate a 1954 TOE machine cancel with slogan *L'indication/du N° du BPM/ou d'un géographique/est interdite/dans les adresses militaires*]. In another section, 'Plis des légionnaires', M. Desrousseaux adds a little to what M. Sinais says about their mail back home. The free franking arrangements entitled légionnaires to free air mail as far as France, but if they required onward transmission by air the airmail surtax from France to the home country had to be paid for. Curiously, he illustrates this by a cover to Canada franked by a strip of three 15 francs Marianne de Gandon [probably Yvert 813] and a one franc Arms of Savoy [Yv 836]; meeting the 46 francs France/Canada surtax cancelled [notwithstanding security considerations] by the POSTE AUX ARMÉES cds of the BPM 406 (Hai'phong) dated 26 September 1950; plus a further 15 francs Marianne cancelled in Paris at the BPM 222 on 29 September. [15 francs was the then "frontier rate" for surface mail to Canada. See page 42 of Derek Richardson's *Tables of French Postal Rates*, second edition. Since the Hai'phong BPM cancelled the stamps paying the airmail surtax it seems to follow that letters intended for onward transmission by surface mail were franked by the légionnaires (stamps supplied free?), but for some reason the stamp was not actually cancelled until the letter reached Paris.

New Queries

From Chris Cordes: Re the 1919 Overprints; I have been sorting out my "Charity Stamps" according to Pofis 1999 catalogue. When I came to Hungary Postage Dues - Red Numbers - SG 176-184, I hit a snag. Instead of Pofis type G, six of the values had a Pofis type F overprint. I must confess when I bought them, I assumed they were forgeries - is this assumption correct?

From Bob Hill: Looking through my official and stampless covers for just one location - Cukamnti ve Slezku - for June thru August 1945, I came across the following manuscript (hand written or typed) additions:

- úřední věc porta prosta
- Služebně
- Věc služební porta prosta
- Věc úřední porta prosta
- Věc úřední poštovné paušalováno
- Poštovné paušalováno
- Věc služby porta prosta
- Úředné
- úřední věc poštovného prosta

Why are there so many? What do they all mean? What is the difference between them? Believe me, I await responses with interest.

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

In the March 2004 edition the issue date of stamps for both Republics was unfortunately omitted.

Czech Republic:

20 January 2004 - Tradition of Czech Stamp Production

Slovak Republic:

18 September 2003 – Definitive – Pezinok

17 November 2003 – Priceless Artefacts

17 November 2003 – 100th Anniversary of the First Flight by the Wright Brothers

28 November 2003 – Art series

28 November 2003 – Day of the Postage Stamp

Czech Republic

18 February 2004

The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Brno (for Brno 2005)



Designer: Karel Zeman **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** DS with coloured offset in sheets of four stamps and two labels.

Design: view of the Church in Brno. The church of the Cistercian Nunnery at Mendel Square in Old Brno was established in 1323 and built mainly in brick. During the 19th century the monastery was the centre of education and culture in Brno and where the abbot J.G. Mendel (1822-1884) carried out his genetic experiments.

One label shows a decorative woodcarving from the monastic library and the other has the Brno town coat of arms with the logo of the Brno 2005 Exhibition and the text in Czech "European Postage Stamp Exhibition"

FDC: printed DS in black-brown with a commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet drawing is part of the monastic library – botanic section which Gregor Mendel used.

18 February 2004

Technical Monuments



Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps.

Designs: 6.50 Kč – Bušek's water forging hammer in Lniště. This tool making hammer operated until 1955 and had been owned by several generations of the Bušek family. The mill is driven by three wheels using water from the 1km long mill run. The site has been restored including

the family house, the mill building and outhouses. The **FDC** cachet in grey green depicts a set of old blacksmith's tongs and has a Trnhové Sviny commemorative cancellation.

17Kč – the iron furnace at Stará hut' u Adamova. This is in the National Preservation area in the Josefské Valley, north of Brno. It was built in 1732 and operated until 1877 and today is the oldest maintained foundry in Central Europe. It is used to test obsolete technologies. The **FDC** cachet in brown-red is a design of a reconstructed building on the site and has a commemorative Adamov cancellation.

Both FDCs printed DS.

>

17 March 2004

European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005 – Art



Designer and Engraver: Vaclav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4 stamps and 1 label.

Design: from the painting by Antonin Procházka (1882-1945) entitled Prometheus, which can be seen in the Moravian Gallery, Brno. The label has the logo and text in Czech and English relating to the Exhibition.

FDC: printed DS in dark green with a commemorative Brno cancellation. The cachet design is taken from the artist's work Mother with Her Child (c 1920).

17 March 2004

Easter



Designer: Ladislav Hojný **Engraver:** Pavel Kovářík **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps.

Design: Mr. and Mrs. Egg and family enjoying a walk through the flowering countryside.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet drawing is a stylised hen.

14 April 2004

World Ice Hockey Championship 2004



Designer: Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps.

Design: four players in action on the ice. The Championships took place in Prague and Ostrava from 24 April to 9 May 2004. With football it is the most popular sport in the Republic

FDC printed DS in blue-black with a commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet drawing shows two competing players.

1 May 2004

Accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union



Designer: Jan Solpera **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of 35 stamps.

Design: an outline map of Czech Republic encircled with 12 stars on a dark blue background, with the text in Czech "Czech Republic – A Member of the European Union." The Republic applied for membership of the EU in 1996 and the Treaty of Accession was signed during April 2003 in Athens. On 1 May 2004 10 new member countries joined the EU making a total membership of 25 countries.

FDC: printed DS in yellow with a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet is an outline map of Europe with a circle of 12 stars.

>

1 May 2004 Ten New Member Countries of the European Union (Joint Issue)



Designer: JP Advertising Agency Ltd for the Malta Post. **Printing:** coloured offset in sheets of 10 with labels.

Design: a relief map of Europe with the flags of the new member countries surrounded by 12 gold stars. The upper marginal labels have the text "Spojená Evropa, United Europe" and the lower labels have the Czech Post hologram. The side labels have the names of the new member countries in English. The position of the national flag varies according to the issuing country of this joint issue (Czech Republic,

Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia. Poland did not participate in the issue.)

FDC: printed offset by Varius Praha, a.s. with a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet is a three colour map of part of Europe with the member countries in blue, the 10 new member countries in yellow and the non member countries in grey. The names of the 10 new member countries appear in Czech.

5 May 2004

Europa 2004 - Holidays



Designer: Pavel Hrach **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 6 with the Czech Post security hologram on the bottom of the sheet.

Design: a picture of a summer holiday published as an illustration from the children's book "Spectacular Views" written by F. Nepil and the Europa logo. The illustrations were by Miloslav Jágr (1927 – 1997) who was a teacher at the Institute of Applied Arts, illustrator of books and a costume, poster and graphic designer.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet drawing is another illustration by M. Jágr, from the same book showing a boy holding a model ship followed by a dog.

5 May 2004

Czech Music - Characters from Czech Operas



Designer: Renáta Fučíková **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 .

Designs: sketches of the composers with characters from their operas.

6.50Kč – Bedřich Smetana (1824 – 1884), with the characters Dalibor and Milada, from his third opera *Dalibor*.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Litomyšl cancellation. The cachet drawing depicts Milada bringing a violin to the jailed Dalibor.

8Kč – Antonín Dvořák (1841 – 1904),

with the characters Bohuš and his wife Julie and the scheming Filip, from the opera *Jakobín*. **FDC** printed DS in black with a commemorative Nelehozeves cancel. The cachet drawing shows Bohuš and Julie entering the castle park of his father.

10Kč – Leoš Janáček (1854 – 1928) with the characters Jenůfa and her lover Števa from the opera *Její Pastorkyňa (Jenůfa)*. **FDC** printed DS in black with a commemorative Hukvaldy cancel. The cachet drawing is Jenůfa with her step-mother, the sacristan known as Kostelníčka.

26 May 2004

2004 Beauties of Our Country



Designer: Antonín Odehnal **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8.

Designs: 12Kč – the buildings of the Holy Mountain above the town of Přebram. This is one of the most famous places of pilgrimage in the Republic. The early Czech Baroque Shrine of the Virgin Mary gradually became surrounded by other buildings which in 1728 was connected to the town by a 400 metre covered stairway. The statue of the Virgin Mary which is of pear wood and is 50cms high stands on a silver altar. **FDC:** printed DS in red-brown with a commemorative Přebram cancel. The cachet drawing shows the statue of Our Lady dressed in one of the robes used on special occasions.



14Kč Svatý Hostýn (Hostýn Hill) which is a place of pilgrimage overlooking the Moravian town of Bystřice pod Hostýnem. According to legend refugees fleeing from the Tatar hordes in 1241 were saved by a miracle. The hill is said to be the resting place of a sleeping army ready to defend Moravia from its enemies. There is evidence of prehistoric

fortifications on the site. The coronation of the Virgin Mary and Infant Jesus took place in 1912 and in August 1982 Pope John Paul II granted the shrine the title of basilica. One of the foundation stones of the National Theatre Prague came from Hostýn. **FDC:** printed DS in grey with commemorative Bystřice pod Hostýnem cancel. The cachet drawing is Our Lady with the Christ Child who allegedly saved the refugees from the Tartar raiders.

26 May 2004

For Children



Designer: Jindra Čapek **Engraver:** Pavel Kovářík **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30 stamps. Booklets of 8 stamps and 2 labels.

Designs: a saluting, laughing Toad from the book *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Graham. The book was first translated into Czech in the 1930s as *Toad's Adventures* with illustrations by Josef Čapek. Jindra Čapek is the fifth illustrator of this children's book. **FDC:** printed DS in black-brown with commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet drawing is from the same illustrated book and shows Toad's best friends – Ratty and Moley.

Booklet: of 8 stamps with 2 stamp sized labels in black. The labels show Toad sculling in a boat.

26 May 2004

European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005 – Sculpture of Radegast



Designer: Pavel Dvorský **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps. **Design:** statue of Radegast by Albín Polášek in Beskydy. Radegast, the god of the Slavic pagans the Ratars, was worshipped as the god of the sun, fire, harvest and hospitality. From the early 18th century the legendary hill Radhošť was linked to the cult. The sandstone statue of Radegast was erected in 1931 and is the work of Albín Polášek (1879-1965), who worked in USA but came from Frenštát pod Radhoštěm. The statue which can be seen on the path between the crest of Radhošť and Pustevny is a copy from 1998. **FDC:** printed DS in black-grey with a commemorative Horní Bečva cancel. The cachet drawing is the chalet Maměnka in Pustevny built by the architect Dušan Jurkovič based on

traditional Moravian folk buildings of the area.

Postal Stationery

Official Commemorative Postcards

26 May 2004. European Football Championships 2004. Designer: Luboš Grunt **Printing:** multicoloured offset by Post Printing House Prague. **Design:** - stamp – imprinted 9Kč with a portrait of the legendary goalkeeper František Plánička (1904-1996) who from 1923 played for Slavia Prague and captained the Czechoslovak team for many years. The cachet drawing is a stylised drawing of a goalkeeper and two forward attackers with the logo of the Czech-Moravian Football Association completed by the text in Czech – Czech Republic Participant in the European Football Championship 2004. The championship takes place in Portugal from 12 June to 4 July 2004. The card retails for 14Kč.

26 May 2004. European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005 – 100 Years of the City Museum of Brno. **Designer:** Karel Dvořák **Printing:** multicoloured offset by Post Printing House Prague. **Design:** - stamp – imprinted 6.50Kč with Brno town coat of arms (see *Czechout 4/2003* p.127. Postcards issued 10.9.03 and 5.11.03.) The cachet design shows part of the Špilberk castle with the logos of the 100th anniversary of the museum and Brno 2005 Exhibition. Texts advertising these events complete the design. The City Museum, Brno was opened to the public on 18 September 1904 in the building New City Hall in Dominican Square (previously Nation House). In 1960 the museum was transferred to Špilberk Castle. The card retails for 11.50Kč.

Promotional Postcards

19 January 2003. Czechs and Slovaks in Exile in the 20th Century. Imprinted 6.40Kč stamp (postcard first issued 1 September 2002 – see *Czechout 4/2002* p 117). The cachet shows civilians and an armoured carrier with texts in Czech above and below. A commemorative cancel was in use from Brno on 19 January 2003.

11 October 2003. Exhibition at the Postal Museum Prague – Keeping in Touch during Exile in 20th Century. The Exhibition took place from 11 October 2003 to 18 January 2004. Imprinted 9Kč stamp (postcard first issued 20 January 2001 – see *Czechout 1/2001* p.22). The cachet design shows a Czech banknote in the foreground, a photograph of Czech soldiers and behind part of a Preissig recruiting card from World War 1. A commemorative cancel was also in use on 11 October 2003.

18 December 2003. 85th Anniversary of the first Czechoslovak Postage Stamp. Imprinted 6.50Kč stamp. The cachet design is 10h red Hradčany issue with the dates 18.12.1918 – 18.12.2003 above and a decorative design below.

December 2003. 100th Anniversary of the Wright brothers First Flight. Imprinted 9Kč stamp. The cachet design shows the aeroplane in which their first successful flight was made on a blue background with accompanying text in Czech.

30 January 2004. Hong Kong 2004 – Stamp Expo. 30 January to 3 February 2004. Imprinted 9Kč stamp. The cachet has a city skyline view of Hong Kong with an orange orb and a small outline drawing of a traditional small sailing craft.

1 March 2004. 100th Anniversary of the Post Office Karlovy Vary. Imprinted 6.50Kč stamp (see *Czechout 4/2003* p127). The promotional cachet in red-brown shows the Post Office building with text in Czech. A commemorative Karlovy Vary cancel was used on 1 March 2004.

Slovakia

30 January 2004

Valentine – Heart



Designer: Ivan Schurmann **Engraver:** Juraj Vitek - FDC cachet only
Printing: coloured recess with double relief by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. England.

Design: a blue background with a red embossed heart and an embossed red rose on it. The issue commemorates Lovers' Day and St. Valentine. He was a Roman monk living in the 3rd century AD during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who had decreed that marriage was forbidden to those in his army or wishing to join it. Valentine did not agree with this edict and married young couples in secret. His actions led to imprisonment and a death sentence. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers and 14th February the symbolic date.

FDC: printed DS by TAB Ltd Bratislava in blue-grey with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is a bunch of roses with two butterflies. A Maxi-card was issued.

30 January 2004

Definitive – Liptovský Mikuláš

Designer: Marián Čapka **Printing:** offset by Walsall Security Printers, England.
Design: the Church of St. Nicholas – the oldest building in the town – and the Renaissance mansion which is now a museum with the town coat of arms depicting St. Nicholas in a white coat, carrying a golden crosier, a book and three purses. The first known written record of the town dates from 1286 with mention of the church in 1299.

FDC: printed offset by TAB Ltd. Bratislava in red-brown with a commemorative Liptovský Mikuláš cancel. The cachet drawing is an outline of the town buildings with a circle of ancient artefacts from the region.

12 February 2004

Flower with Personalised Coupon

Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Arnold Feké – FDC cachet only. **Printing:** offset by Walsall Security Printers England.

Design: a group of tulips – Tulip *Kaufmanniana* – in shades of yellow, orange and red. The coupon advertises the exhibition Slovolymphila to be held in Bratislava during 2004. The coupon can be personalised by application to the Slovak Post.

FDC: printed DS by TAB Ltd Bratislava in grey with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet has a drawing of two varieties of tulips – *Kaufmanniana* and *Tarda* – and these are also the subject of the cancel.

12 February 2004

Definitive - Flower

Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Arnold Feké – FDC cachet only. **Printing:** recess by Walsall Security Printers England.

Design: the flower *Lilium Royal Parade* which produces pleasantly scented, white and pink flowers with small dark pink spots in August.

FDC: printed DS by TAB Ltd Bratislava. The cachet drawing is the hybrid variety of *Lilium Royal Parade* x *Lilium Ascari*.

10 March 2004

Easter

Designer: Júlia Piačková **Engraver:** František Horniak - FDC cachet only
Printing: offset by Walsall Security Printers Ltd, England. In booklets of 10 self adhesive stamps.

Design: a hand decorated egg. The egg has been a symbol of rebirth in many cultures from earliest times. There are many folk traditions in Slovakia associated with Easter, including the decoration of eggs with each area having its own patterns and colours.

FDC: printed DS in blue-grey with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows a youth and a girl in folk costume taking part in one of the many Easter traditions. A maxi card was issued.

23 March 2004

Europa 2004 – Holidays

Designer: Tomáš Krčméry **Engraver:** František Horniak – FDC cachet only **Printing:** recess by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. England.

Design: a castle, dove, butterfly and flowers with the Europa logo.

FDC: printed DS by TAB Ltd Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is a girl with a dove.

>

16 April 2004

Splendours of Our Homeland – Wedding costumes

Designer: Katarína Ševellová-Šuteková **Printing:** Walsall Security Printers Ltd. England.

Designs: traditional folk wedding costumes.

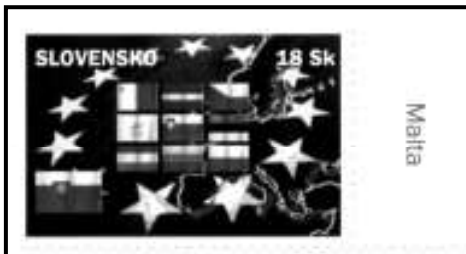
15Sk – a young man dressed in the traditional costume from the Pata area. The richly embroidered linen shirt is worn underneath a blue damask waistcoat decorated with silver laces and buttons. Black felt trousers are tucked into high boots with blue lace. The headband of the hat holds a spray of rosemary and another with shiny beads, coloured ribbon

and threads is pinned to the bodice. **FDC:** cachet has an older couple and young girl in traditional costumes.

28Sk – a young bride dressed in traditional costume from the Pata area. The bride's costume is richly embroidered with bobbin lace, bows and shiny ornaments. The black apron is today embroidered with colourful flowers but in the past was decorated with lace at the hem. A white and later green skirt was substituted for the flowered and pleated skirt decorated with bows and lace. The white blouse is made from damask, brocade or embroidered linen and has from one to five chequered embroidered patterns on the sleeves. The high heeled boots are also embroidered. The bride's head-dress represents the transition from young girl to married woman. The upper and back parts are decorated with coloured and silver pearls, mirrors and garnets. The front of the head-dress has flowered bows and above, a silver ornament with a spray of rosemary and long colourful ribbons hang from the back. A few weeks before the wedding the bride wears her head-dress to church and sits in the front pew as an announcement of the coming ceremony. **FDC:** cachet has an older woman holding a young boy by the hand, both in traditional folk costumes.

FDCs printed offset by TAB Ltd Bratislava in red-brown.

1 May 2004

Ten New Member Countries of the EU – Joint Issue

See description above as for Czech Republic.

The Slovak stamp has the Slovak flag in the lower left corner. The Slovak stamp issue was printed offset by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. England

The FDC was printed offset by TAB Ltd Bratislava.

Postal Stationery**Postcard for Current Postal Usage**

January? 2004 CDV 106/04. Imprinted 8Sk stamp in the design of a bunch of purple grapes encircled with a wreath of green leaves on a pale mauve background. The security hologram of the Slovak Post appears in the upper centre part of the card. At lower left corner the Slovak Post logo is printed with details of the retail price – 9Sk – and catalogue number (106CDV).

April? 2004 CDV 107/04. Imprinted 8Sk stamp in the design of a white flag flying against a grey background with the year “2004”. The flag has the Slovak cross, in black, above the five coloured Olympic Rings and below the text in Slovak “Slovak Olympic Committee.” The security hologram of the Slovak Post appears in the upper centre part of the card. At lower left corner the Slovak Post logo is printed with details of the retail price – 9Sk – and catalogue number (107 CDV).