



CZECHOUT

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

JUNE 2005

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 119 Vol.23 No.2

Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

© Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2005

Vol. 23/2	CONTENTS	June 2005
	Notes, News and Notices	25
	What Is In A Name?	33
	The 200 th Anniversary of the Battle of Austerlitz	34
	The Czech & Slovak Republics Postal Museums	36
	Looking Forward	37
	Postcard of Interest	38
	1925 International Olympic Congress Prague	39
	The Right Place at the Right Time – Twice in two days	45
	Bubak's Countryside Wins by a Wide Margin	46
	The Romantic Poet K.H.Machá	47
	Czech and Slovak Exile in the 20 th Century	48
	Czechoslovak Airmails from the 1930s – Airmail to Africa	50
	What? When? Where?	51
	New Issues (Czech)	53
	New Issues (Slovak)	56

NOTES

The Joint Meeting with the Austrian, Hungarian & Polish societies at Heaton Royds will be on **Saturday 13 August**; please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 260 1978) for further details of this event. The next Society meeting in London will be on **Saturday 3 September** when **Richard Beith** will give a display entitled *The Chairman Entertains*. On **Saturday 5 November** the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am; after lunch **David Holt** will give displays entitled *Teplice-Šanov* and *Transition 1918-1919* at 2.30pm. On **Saturday 19 November** a Regional Meeting will be held at the Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds at 2.15pm; for full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 260 1978).

Bob Hill has written an article entitled "Stamping a New Identity" for the *Czech & Slovak Review*, published in their February/March issue. We send our best wishes to **Robert Kingsley** and **Bill Dawson** who were both admitted into hospital recently. With this issue will be included the Anniversary CD-ROM for those members who have not already received it, together with an update of the Library List.

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 12 March 2005 at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Richard Beith, welcomed 21 members and two visitors. Apologies had been received from three members.

Richard announced that **George Firmage**, an Honorary Life Member, had died on 19 February. Although he had been arranging the Society's trip to Brno in May, Richard explained that he had now taken over this task and that all was under control. He invited Ron Hollis to say a few words. Ron described George as a good friend with whom he had travelled the world; he would be sorely missed. He explained that the death was unexpected, resulting from a complication from a routine operation. As no will had been found and as there was no family, there would be difficulties handling his estate. Ron asked for a few moments of silence as a tribute.

Lindy Bosworth, former Chairman and organiser of the Society's anniversary events in 2003, formally presented the present Chairman with the first CD-ROM recording the anniversary exhibitions. These will be distributed to members with the March *Czechout*.

The Secretary gave details of one prospective new member:

Bill Hedley from Tunbridge Wells

whose application was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Richard introduced our speaker, **Brian Madeley**. The first half was devoted to *Carpatho-Ukraine*, starting with the Austrian and Hungarian periods and continuing though to the provisionals following Ukraine's independence in the early 1990s. World War One fieldpost from both German and Austrian forces was followed by the bilingual postmarks of the First Republic. The Hungarian takeover in 1938 and 1939 was ended when Soviet forces entered the territory, which was eventually included in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The subject of the second half was *Ukrainian Galicia*, but this was extended to include Western Galicia and also Bukovina. Much of the display was of the Austrian period before WWI, with monolingual postmarks replaced by bilingual marks. Some postal stationery was trilingual: German, Polish and Ukrainian. The area became Polish between the wars and Ukrainian after WWII. The final section of the display was of the Western Ukraine, a territory centred on Stanislav that tried to assert its independence in 1918 and 1919.

David Holt gave the vote of thanks. He said that Brian had elucidated a complicated story of border changes that had given rise to many interesting overprints and postal history.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Rex A Dixon

Monograph 18 Launch at the Czech Republic Embassy in London 21.4.2005

The Czech Ambassador H.E. Mr Štefan Füle welcomed some 49 people, including Czech Veterans of WWII, members of the CPSGB and other Czech nationals to a reception to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and the launching of the CPSGB Monograph No 18: *Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945*.

His Excellency referred to the several occasions during the past years of the joint co-operation between the CPSGB and the Embassy; in particular the 50th Anniversary of the Society Displays and the Exhibition & Seminar to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Founding of Czechoslovakia and Czech National Day. This evening was likewise a special occasion when the Society was presenting their new Monograph, the first Society monograph to be published in a bilingual Czech and English edition.

The Society Chairman, Mr Richard Beith, thanked the Ambassador for his kind words and for hosting this evening. He was pleased to see many veterans and other Czech nationals present. He then went on to introduce the author, Robert J Hill, and his two co-translators, Dr Jan Dobrovolný and Mr Robert Kingsley.

Robert Hill gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled «To remember is important» outlining how this subject had interested him for many years, being introduced to it by William Dawson. Following his first

visit to Pardubice, his friend and colleague Dr Jan Dobrovolný added further information that furthered his many researches both in the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom. This eventually led to discussing the possibility of a monograph, and the help he received from many friends and his two co-translators, and the Society Secretary Rex Dixon, in bringing this to fruition

Dr Jan Dobrovolný, gave a Czech National's perspective on the Monograph, and the importance of remembering the facts and incidents that took place over 60 years ago. It gave him great pleasure to have co-operated with the author and his fellow translator.

Mr Robert Kingsley, in his closing remarks said that although he was born in Moravská Ostrava, he had lived in England for many years, and whilst keeping up with his native language, when they were considering a dual language monograph had felt it needed someone living in the Czech Republic to assist, and he was delighted when fellow member Dr Jan Dobrovolný agreed to help. They had met both in England and in Prague looking at several drafts before they were happy with the final result.

The Embassy had arranged a reception afterwards during which we all enjoyed chatting with old and new friends over wine and canapés. During this time Bob Hill and Jan Dobrovolný were interviewed by the Czech National Radio, so that all in all Monograph 18 was given a good send off and we hope that members will take the opportunity to obtain a copy.

Colin W Spong

PS: Following Bob & Jan's interview the Czech Radio broadcast this interview twice on Sunday 24 April. [Editor]

Comments on the April 2005 Auction

30 bidders bid for 137 lots out of 400. The forthcoming exhibition in Brno had diverted attention, but fortunately not funds. This compares with 39 bidders for 245 lots out of 500 in the last Auction. The average bid was just over £38, in a range from 25p to £360. For the statistically minded, the mid value was much higher than the last Auction's at £11.00 (£4.80 last Auction) and 66 bids were £10 or less (188 in the last Auction).

The two most popular items were the Grau Liberation reference book and Wilsonovo Mesto postcard, both with 6 bids. The other areas of most interest were the FDCs to 1990 and Liberation issues. No doubt you all have excellent collections of the basic Czech issues as the almost complete collection of mint and fine used attracted very little attention. They were priced in line with Czech catalogue prices, significantly below Western European prices

The next auction will be the Room Auction (on Saturday 18th June at the Regional Meeting), catalogues for which have already been sent out. The next Postal Auction will be at the end of July. This will include a further selection of Liberation issues, pre-War air covers, Slovak covers with Slovakotour stamps, engravings by the famous Jindra Schmidt and issues from the Czech Field Post in Great Britain

This quarter's reminder is that scans are always available to members. A selection is put on the web site. Sometimes there are a large number of items in the auction. As there is a short time to produce and despatch the catalogue, some items may not be scanned. Members can always request a scan by E Mail, for free colour copies. Scans can also be sent by post (at a cost of 10p plus postage please), but these will be in black and white (have you seen the cost of colour cartridges?). I prepare a preliminary sort on the day before the auction officially ends, to give me time prepare lots to despatch lots promptly at the end of the auction as I only have a short time on Saturday morning to post items. It would be appreciated if requests for scans were received in good time before the end of the auction.

Peter Williams

Letters to the Editor

✉ **Alena Pascual** writes: In "Cover of Interest" [Czechout 1/2005, p.13] Brian Day guesses that "Tomas Bata had left the home country in 1938/39". Mr. Bata writes in his book *Bata: Shoemaker to the World* [by Thomas J. Bata and Sonja Sinclair, published in Toronto by Stoddart Publishing Company Limited, 1990] that prior to 1939 he travelled to England frequently. In 1935 he took up an appointment in the head office of Bata's British company in East Tilbury, just outside London. In the winter of 1937 and spring of 1938, he spent much of his spare time in London with Jan Masaryk [they had dinner together at Easter 1938]. In 1938 Mr Bata travelled between England and Zlín about once a month.

>

Mr. Bata was in Zlin on 12 March 1939 and then left Czechoslovakia. On 15 March 1939 he was on a train from Basle to Brussels when he learned that the German army had crossed into Czechoslovakia and was approaching Prague. On 1 April 1939 he boarded the *Queen Mary* at Southampton en route to Canada.

☒ **Neil Rees** writes: The Czechoslovaks in exile in Buckinghamshire on the Internet! Aston Abbotts Festival was reported on Czech Radio: Radio Prague - in English:

<http://www.radio.cz/en/>

<http://www.radio.cz/en/current/panorama>

<http://www.radio.cz/en/article/66174>

Radio Prague -in Czech:

<http://www.radio.cz/cz/clanek/66072>

BBC Czech Section - in Czech

http://www.bbc.co.uk/czech/worldnews/story/2005/05/050502_uk_astonabbotts_pckg.shtml

Printable report

http://www.bbc.co.uk/czech/worldnews/story/2005/05/printable/050502_uk_astonabbotts_pckg.shtml

NB I have noticed a few small historical errors in these but mainly they are pretty good.

☒ **Neil Rees** writes two further e-mails: - Aston Abbotts on Czech television, go to <http://www.czech-tv.cz/vysilani/prog4467.html?ilink=Udalosti040505.14.aspx> scroll down and click the box next to: "Anglie: vzpomínka na E.Beneše" Odboj proti nacistům klíčil doma i v zahraničí - chyběla ale koordinace. go back to the top click "spustit vybrane" Then go up and click on the play button (first black triangle) to play. There are pictures of Aston Abbotts and interviews with people. Using the tabs you can watch it: pomale (slow) or rychle (quick)

Aston Abbotts Festival pictures and report are now on-line

http://www.cix.co.uk/~phils/chronicle/czech/czech_main.htm

information about Aston Abbotts is on:

<http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk/>

P.S. If there are any errors in the captions or you can name people in unidentified pictures please e-mail me to get the site updated.

☒ **Lubor Kunc** writes: with reference to John Hammonds request for information re Philatelic Exhibitions during the period of 1939-45, see my website <http://philately.webpark.cz/vystavy/> containing philatelic exhibitions on Czech territory from 19th century to 2000. An integral part of this presentation is a list of foreign philatelic exhibitions commemorating Czechoslovak stamps. Here I need co-operation from members of the Society. Please send me information about any philatelic exhibition not listed in my work to my e-mail lubor.kunc@seznam.cz.

Prague-Brno Visit. European Exhibition of Postage Stamps 2005

On Sunday 8th May I made my way to the Bilá Hora district of Prague where 20 CPSGB members had arranged to meet at 'Pension Wertheim'. We would leave early next morning to drive down to Brno for the European Exhibition of Postage Stamps which began at 9am on Tuesday.

Having spent most of my time in the Czech Republic in either Prague or Pardubice, I welcomed the chance to see more of the country. We set off to Brno making the drive to Žďár nad Sázavou for a short visit to the well known church of St. John Nepomuk on the hill above the town. Monday is often closing day in the Czech Republic for historic monuments and thus proved to be so, with our group unable to enter the church. We were able to walk around the outside of the building and examine the architecture. We then left Zdar and had a very good meal at the oddly named 'Hotel Grunt' before getting back on the coach and driving south towards Brno and the hills of Moravia.

We arrived at our destination, the 'Hotel Grand' during the afternoon and several of us set out to explore the streets of Brno and the impressive cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul. Next morning most of our group were up early and on the tram to the exhibition halls by 8.30. The bourse seemed to be the first stop for many people and much interesting material changed hands at reasonable prices. Plenty of dealers attended with a wide variety of products on sale. Later I walked around the main hall and saw many scarce and valuable exhibits, with a high security presence visible to visitors. Next day, Wednesday, was spent at the exhibition and walking in the town. I took the opportunity to climb the steep hill to Špilberk and walk through the casemates - a very atmospheric experience. Walking around the dimly lit corridors by myself I wondered what it would have been like to be incarcerated in such a

cold dark place. As I came out of the fortress to walk back down the hill, a thunderstorm broke out and the sky began to darken. Was this an omen? In the evening a group of members met for a meal arranged by Bob Hill on the other side of the town centre, where we enjoyed some good Czech cuisine.



Thursday morning we were off early by minibus to visit Telč and Slavonice near the border with Austria before returning in time for the Society dinner at 'Hotel Grand' in the evening. This proved to be a very popular event with members from the British, Dutch and USA Czech societies, plus several other countries present. Our Chairman, Richard Beith, gave everyone a warm welcome and we stood and joined in a toast to friendship and international philately. Many of us talked until late at night and it was good to see so many people with similar interests from so many countries.

Richard Beith, Henning Qvale, Rex Dixon and Bob Hill at the dinner

Before long Friday morning had arrived and time to drive back to Prague via Velke Mezerici where we stopped for an hour or so. The castle which we had hoped to visit was not open, so most people visited the fifteenth century synagogue museum or grabbed a bite to eat.

We returned to Bila Hora and Prague during the afternoon. Some members visited various stamp dealers, while others took in the tourist sights. I went with Marc Anthony to search for the Czech Postal Museum which proved harder to find than we had expected. In the evening we retired to the hostinec Bila Hora where we battled with their 600 gm T-bone steaks!

The weekend passed very quickly as it tends to do when people are enjoying themselves. I had a day out of Prague travelling to the Military Museum at Lešany from Prague Branik railway station. There were several exhibits from the Heydrich assassination that I wanted to see. For those who have not been along this railway line it is very scenic and follows the river Sazavou, through pine forests and rocky outcrops. It is possible to get good views of the river below with locals canoeing and walking the trails. After an hour on the train I got off at the little village of Karanice, a short walk of less than a mile from the museum. I really should have telephoned first, because when I got there, you've guessed by now, the museum was closed until 28th May. Preparations were being made for a special day to celebrate Red Army artillery and the liberation. I walked back along the riverbank and waited for the next train back to Branik.



Rex, Roger, Richard and Bernard Reynolds outside of the original Forester's house at Bilovice, which provided the inspiration for the Cunning Little Vixen story

Most members began leaving Prague on Sunday or Monday to go home. I had arranged to fly back on Tuesday evening so I spent time around the Mala Strana and Waldstejn gardens before flying home. The trip had been a great success and I hope to be at the next exhibition which I am told will be at Prague in 2008.

Tony Moseley

Congratulations

Awards at Brno 2005

-Rex Dixon-

Congratulations to **Hans van Dooremalen** for winning the GRAND PRIX CITY OF BRNO for his exhibit *Postal History of Brno up to 1875*.

Invited exhibits

A402		Henry Hahn	<i>Pre-philatelic mail from future Czechoslovakia</i>
A405		Henry Hahn	<i>Pneumatic Mail of Vienna and Prague (1875-1918)</i>
A406		Otto Hornung	<i>The City Post of Istanbul</i>

Traditional philately

B112	V	Gerhard Hanacek	<i>Czechoslovakia 1920-1923, the typographed issues</i>
B115	LV	Jaroslav Verner	<i>Czechoslovakia 1918-1938</i>
B181	V	Juan E. Page	<i>Carpatho-Ukraine</i>
B188	V	Richard Wheatley	<i>Netherlands East Indies: The 19th century stamp issues</i>

Postal history

B228	LV + SP	Jan Verleg	<i>The Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine 1786-1945</i>
B266	V	Tonnes Ore	<i>Bánát and Bácska</i>
B279	LV	Otto Hornung	<i>Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine</i>
B282	G + SP	Hans van Dooremalen	<i>Postal History of Brno up to 1875</i>

Postal stationery

B308	LV	Milan Černík	<i>Czechoslovakia 1918-1939: postal use of reply postal cards</i>
------	----	---------------------	---

Philatelic literature

B1020	SB	Colin Spong	<i>Czechout – Quarterly Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain</i>
B1021	SB	Yvonne Wheatley	<i>Index to "Czechout" Volumes 1-20</i>
B1023	LS	V.Palkoska/ O. Hornung	<i>The Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and Russia (1939-1941) + Czechoslovaks in the Middle East 1940-1943</i>
B1024	LS	Robert J. Hill	<i>Postal Arrangements following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945</i>
B1025	S	Robert J. Hill	<i>The Liberation of Olomouc – May 1945</i>
B1027	S	Richard Beith	<i>British South American Airways 1946-1949</i>
B1028	S	Richard Beith	<i>The Postal History of the free Czechoslovak forces in Great Britain 1940-1945</i>
B1032	SB	Henry Hahn	<i>Postal History of Telč and Vicinity</i>
B1125	LS	Jaroslav J Verner	<i>Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France</i>

Open class

C212	V	Geoffrey McAuley	<i>Masaryk's Czechoslovakia</i>
C213	B	Norman Hudson	<i>The Tatra Mountains of Slovakia</i>

G = Gold, LV = Large Vermeil; V = Vermeil; LS = Large Silver, S = Silver; SB = Silver Bronze; B = Bronze; SP = Special Prize.

Publications

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

- The Summer 2005 issue of *Austria* No 150. The articles include:
 - ▶ The 60th Jubilee postal cards of 1908 (Rizza); The German Enclave of Southern Moravia (Rizza).
- The March 2005 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.36, Whole No. 143. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Collection of articles and Czechoslovakian philately and postal history (Then); On the trail of the London Issue [De La Rue] Part 4: (Fischer & Lahr); Compulsory Tax Stamps for Picture

Postcards in Slovakia 1939-1945 (Müller); Post from the Motor-ship *Lednice* (Müller); Railway post with limited operation (Tschimer); New information about Automation in the Czech Post Office (Müller); Varieties in the 3Kč definitive in the Town Architecture series 1.7.1993 – Pofis 14 (Ziegler).

- The March/April & May/June 2005 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.67, Whole No. 590/1. No. 2/3. The articles include:
 - ▶ Centenary of National Anthem “Kde Domov Můj (Hoffman); Father & Son Purkyně (van Zenten); Hradčany 50h – Its Postal Use (Hamr); Postal History-Czechoslovakia Currency Reform 1953 [cont] (Dražan & Aksamit).
 - ▶ The Road to Plzeň (Holoubek); Dukla; Did the Soviets sacrifice the Czechs? (Tomanová, Gális & Prokešová); Postal History-Czechoslovakia Currency Reform 1953 [cont] (Dražan & Aksamit). The Mystery of the Blue Lion (Wilson); Perforated Champions-Czech stamps are amongst the best in the World (Plachetka); Josef Liesler (Svoboda); Bamberg Liberation Overprint (Horvath); Flyers Remembered (Kubela).
- The April 2005 issue of *Dylizans*, Nos 37
 - ▶ Warsaw Address Search Bureau (Warr & Kossoy); Foreign Newspaper Censorship or Address Search Bureau? (Skipton).
- Nos 3, 4 & 5, 2005 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol 55. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
 - ▶ 80 Years of the Food Tax Stamps (Švejnar); The right curve of the 25h Hradčany Stamp [5th drawing] (Olšina & Paděra); Lovrenc Košir-One of the Postage Stamp Pioneers (Langhammer); Kosice Miniature Sheet [6] (Čtvrtečka).
 - ▶ Use of Postal Stationery in the Transitional Period of 1945 (Soukup); Plate Errors on Czech Stamps [13] (Punčochář)
 - ▶ Once more the Currency Reform of 1953 (Dražan); Czechoslovak Airmail Stamps of 1930 Postal Use Really (Tekel); Ordinary and Uninteresting Stamps? (Langhammer).
- The 2/2005 issues of *Merkur Revue*. The articles include:
 - ▶ Retouch on the Newspaper Stamp Falcon 50h [NV7/SGN4] (Kolesar); Czechoslovak Preliminary and Parallel Franked Postal Forms [2] (Štefek et al); Liberated Republic 150h [1] (Kašpar & Moravec); Preparation of the Copperplate Printing Notes 100 & 50Kčs 1953 [1958] – 1959 [1961] (Šouša & Šůla); Successes & Losses, Czech stamps of 2004 (Fritz).



BOOK REVIEW

The Pneumatic Post in Vienna, a publication by the Austrian Philatelic Society, written by Colin Tobitt and Andy Taylor. © APS 2005 ISBN 0-900118-04-0

130 years ago, the *Ordinances for the Austrian Telegraph Offices* announced the starting of the pneumatic pipe system and the introduction of pneumatic letters in Vienna on 1st March 1875. This book describes this pneumatic postal system, which operated in Vienna between 1875 and 1956.

The Vienna pneumatic post is one of the most fertile and rewarding aspects of Austrian philately. Its 80 year history gives rise to a veritable cornucopia of stationery, cancellations and other markings that can provide ongoing interest for collectors and postal historians.

For new collectors, the book sets out the historical and technical background, and provides listings of the known types of stationery and cancellations to enable them to quickly identify an item in their or a dealer's or auctioneer's possession. For the expert, the book attempts to collect together all the existing knowledge of the subject, whether previously published or new. Many of the relevant official documents are included in facsimile, transcription, or translation.

An historical introduction leads to a description of the initial system and its steady expansion. A list of the offices is followed by lists of their cancellations. Special postal stationery was issued; this is illustrated and listed. The rates charged and the operational and political difficulties encountered are explained, the final rundown and closure are outlined.

Supporting technical details include details of technology and organisation; the containers that carried the mail; the various Pneumatic Office numbering systems; and specific service details such as Pneumatic Railway-Station Correspondence. "Botenlohn" messenger fees, triple cancellations and many more.

Appendices explain the enlargement of Vienna from 1850; reproduce [and translate] the founding Ordinance for Vienna's Pneumatic Post, the renumbering of Vienna's Post Offices in 1892, and the "Instradirungs-Behelf" Street Index of Vienna. Discoveries about [and indeed of] various pneumatic stations are followed by reproductions of all available maps of the Vienna Pneumatic Post. References and further reading conclude the book.

The book consists of 320 sides of A4, written in English and arranged in three comb-bound volumes and printed in B/W. The cost is £40; 20% discount to members of the Austrian Philatelic Society and dealers plus for both post and packing at cost. Orders should be sent to the APS c/o A Taylor at 10 Eastfields, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5EJ, Great Britain or emailed to APS@kitsbuhel.demon.co.uk specifying the desired method of despatch and payment. An invoice will be sent; payment may be made in sterling, Euro notes, or with most credit cards [small handling fee].

OBITUARY

George Firmage

George, who died on 19 February, was an active committee member and a Honorary Life Member of the Society. He specialised and collected modern issues and engravings. George was popular and he organised many philatelic visits to Prague and Bratislava, cities he knew well.

In private life George owned the rights to the famous American poet Cummings, publishing many books of his work. Just before Christmas he published his last book – a volume of poems that Cummings wrote for his own children.

During his life George travelled extensively, he spent much of his life in America and Canada, but remained thoroughly British. He will be sorely missed by the Society members who knew him.

Ron Hollis

ASTON ABBOTTS VE-DAY WEEKEND- 30th April & 1st May 2005

-Bob McLeod-

Many of you may already know that during the second world war the village of Aston Abbotts near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire was the temporary home of Dr Eduard Beneš, the exiled President of Czechoslovakia. Jan Masaryk, the son of Czechoslovakia's first President, also lived in the area as the government's offices in London had become too dangerous due to bombing.

This year's VE day celebrations in the village centred on the roles that the Czechoslovaks played during their stay in this country.

On the Saturday a display was set up in the church hall showing historical photographs of the Czechoslovaks both on and off duty, a large selection of books in both Czech and English covering the war period, and a display by Bob McLeod showing covers and cards which passed through the Czechoslovak Field Post Office in Great Britain, several addressed to Aston Abbotts. Bob admits to scrounging one or two covers from villagers to give the display a more local flavour! Also on show was a display describing the events leading up to the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the 'Protector' of Bohemia and Moravia. The assassination was conceived and planned in Aston Abbotts under great secrecy. A large globe of the world, presented to the local school by President Beneš, was also on display. This globe is normally kept in the Buckinghamshire Museum in Aylesbury and is rarely loaned out. In the evening, films with Czech war-time connections were shown in the hall. The display was open for the whole weekend.

Neil Rees, an historian specialising in the Czechoslovaks in Buckinghamshire, gave visitors a rare opportunity to see some of Buckinghamshire's buildings and abbeys used during the war to house the

Czechoslovaks. He arranged a visit to several villages pointing out where military personnel stayed, and in some cases had arranged to see inside what were now private homes. Some owners were surprised at the history attached to their house.

The Sunday celebrations were a major success, starting with a parade led by flag-bearers from both the British and Czechoslovak Legions, as well as boys from the local scouts, marching from the village green to the church where a service was held, many parts of the service being spoken in both English and Czech. The service was attended by the Czech Ambassador and the deputy Slovak Ambassador, both of whom spoke at the service of the ties and lasting friendships made during the war, and the importance of events like this which help create an understanding between people and countries. The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire was also present. There were a few veterans, complete with medals, from both the UK and the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as many elderly villagers who recall the friendliness of their war-time visitors. A touching moment was when all three National Anthems were played in the church and were broadcast outside through loudspeakers. Roses from the village of Lidice were planted in the church lawn and a lime tree was planted in the village green, the leaf of the lime tree (linden leaf) being a Czechoslovak national symbol.

It was pleasing to see several members of the society attend these events, some having travelled considerable distances to be there. I am sure they will agree that it was well worth the effort.

A buffet lunch was provided in the garden of local resident Peter Shorrocks courtesy of the Czech and Slovak Embassies. This was followed by what many describe as the highlight of the weekend – the Czech Ambassador was insistent that this took place – a football match between the local Aston Abbotts team and a team consisting of staff from both the Czech and Slovak Embassies! During their war-time stay, there were many friendly matches between the Czechoslovaks and the villagers. The match was played in Wingrave, an adjacent village where Jan Masaryk stayed at weekends during the war. The result, as one commentator put it, was a diplomatic 3 – 3.

At exactly 4pm the roar of a Lancaster was heard, and the low-flying bomber flew over both Aston Abbotts and Wingrave, gave a wide circle, flew over the villages again and disappeared towards Bedfordshire. How a village of around 300 inhabitants managed to organise that I'll never know!

Another buffet was arranged in Peter Shorrocks's garden, originally to revive and refresh the football teams, but most of the village and visitors were made welcome. I don't think there was much Czech beer or wine to take back to the Embassy!

In the evening, Richard Beith gave a slide show and talk which described the events leading up to the arrival of the Czechoslovaks in Great Britain and the setting up and use of the Czechoslovak Field Post Office in France and the UK. Richard's wide knowledge of this subject was evident, and the audience asked many questions afterwards. After Richard's talk, two films were shown in the hall, both with a Czech flavour.

British and Czech media were there to cover the event, and I have seen Czech Television coverage (using the internet) as well as listened to Radio Prague broadcasts in both Czech for their local area and to English speaking countries. BBC radio also covered it, as did the local press. I can only commend the organisers for putting it all together. The national and international media coverage given to the weekend is just reward for their hard work. I am still amazed that such an event went so well in a village of around 300. I am proud to have had the honour to take part in it.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

-Robert Hill-

Jablonné Podjestedem known in German as Německé Jablonné. (synopsis of replies received):

Following the end of World War II the inhabitants of the town led by the local *Narodní výbor* (NV) did not want to have the word *Německé* (translates into English as German) in the place name. This was common at a number of other locations as well and was quite understandable considering what the inhabitants had suffered under the hands of the German occupying forces. The local NV decided to change the name to *Jablonné pod Jestedem* and the post office used this name for the provisional straight line cancellers they produced.

In the first few months after the war there was some confusion as to who had the authority (national or local) and many political decisions taken were partly vested in local NV's. The new name was not

officially accepted by the Prague postal administration as the decree issued on 15th May 1945 stated that the office name was to revert to the Czech name valid on 1st January 1938 (it was then *Německé Jablonné*). This is why the double circle rubber cancellers issued to the post office used the name *Německé Jablonné*.

It was not until 1st March 1964 that the local authorities got their way and the name was changed so that the outcome was quite close to the original proposal: *Jablonné Podjestedem* instead of *Jablonné pod Jestedem*. Why the slight change? It is not known but one suggestion mooted is that maybe the National government did not want to loose face by acceding to the local's request in full. Jablonné Podjestedem means Jablonné below Jested and derives from the name of a 1012 metre high mountain called Jested which is about 4 kilometres south west of Liberec and 7 kilometres south, south east of Jablonné.

The term Podjestedi, meaning a district or region surrounding the Jested mountain.

**ISSUE OF THE COMMEMORATIVE POSTCARD
EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION BRNO 2005
THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ**

-Otto Hornung-

On 4 May 2005 the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic will issue a commemorative postcard with imprinted postage stamp in the denomination of 7.50Kč dedicated to the promotion of the European Postage Stamp Exhibition, BRNO 2005. The picture of the stamp is created by a graphical composition of the coat-of-arms of the town above the inscription BRNO, the Brno dragon and a wooden wheel similar to those from the postcard issued for the exhibition on 5 November 2003.

The picture part of the postcard is the hill Santon which appears near the village of Tvarožná ca. 10km from Brno. It got this name in 1805 from the soldiers of Napoleon who used it as a strategic point. Before the battle, the French soldiers pulled down the chapel on top of the hill, which was built again in 1832. Near it there is now a replica of a French cannon from the time of the battle of Slavkov. The postcard is completed by the texts 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Austerlitz, the hill Santon, EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION BRNO 2005 in Czech and its logo.

The author of the graphical arrangement of the postcard is the graphic artist Karel Dvořák. The postcard has been printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by coloured offset. Under the logo of the Czech Post is placed a hologram serving as a protective component.

The selling price of the postcard is 12.50Kč, the postcard is valid for inland and international postage from 4 May.



AND THE SUN OF AUSTERLITZ

A cutting supplied by Michael Chant from *Timbres* magazine and translated by Roy E Reader,

Less than two months later, Napoleon’s army took its revenge on the coalition but this time on terra firma.

After occupying Vienna, Napoleon early in December 1805 found the Austro-Russian army in the area around a little Moravian village by the name of Austerlitz. Hoping for a rapid victory the high command of the coalition army, the Emperors Alexander I of Russia, and Francis II of Austria, launched an attack on Napoleon’s army despite advice to be cautious from their respective general staffs. Napoleon had dispersed his troops, though making it possible for them to regroup very rapidly. The coalition did not see the danger. That was a fatal error. At 8.30 Napoleon reassembled his army and launched the final attack. At the end of the day victory was definitely Napoleon’s. A success all the more appreciated as it coincided with first anniversary of the coronation. For an exceptional event, an exceptional issue.

Together with the Czech Republic, in which Austerlitz [now Slavkov] is situated, France is issuing a stamp illustrating the Peace Memorial erected on the site of the battle and a bust of the French emperor. These two stamps will be issued in May. It is to be noted that the Czech Post Office is accompanying this stamp with a superb miniature sheet taking up a picture by Louis-François Lejeune kept at Versailles and showing a bivouac visited by the Emperor on the eve of the battle.



2005 CENTENARIES

-Robert J Hill-

Banská Bystrica 750th anniversary – celebrated all year

This is a major anniversary of the founding in 1255 of this remote settlement. There will be festivities all through the year and a special stamp issued.

Centenary of Trafalgar Day, late October 2005

On a weekend date yet to be advised at the end of October in the Shropshire village of Acton Rounds there will be a “re-enactment” of the sinking of three “French” war ships by guns from the Churchyard in the village. The reason for this is that in the Churchyard is buried a survivor of the battle. Many miles from the sea as it is, it will be a popular event. Interested? Contact Bob Hill >

Bi-centenary of the battle of Austerlitz, 2 December 2005

I visited the chateau in Slavkov u Brna and the monument Mohyla míru just south of Prace in early April 2005 and they are certainly gearing up for this event. Already there are many "commemorative" items on sale but more importantly from the philatelic point of view are the two special cachets being applied on request:

- Slavkov – Austerlitz with a central view of the Chateau from the south side.
- *BITVA TŘÍ CÍSAŘŮ* (Battle of the three emperors).

THE CZECH & SLOVAK REPUBLICS POSTAL MUSEUMS

-Robert J Hill-

1 Prague Postal Museum

I visited Prague postal museum on Thursday 31st, March 2005 and was surprised at the changes. It appears that the guides have been "contracted out" to a security company and a reception desk is obvious in the room on the left hand side when you enter the museum. For all the changes they are still the same helpful, patient and tolerant staff to this foreigner.

2 Banská Bystrica Postal Museum

I visited Banská Bystrica postal museum for the first time at 0800 on Tuesday 5th, April 2005. It is situated at the base of the postal tower block on *Partizánska cesta 9* not far from the railway station and only a few minutes walk from the Lux hotel where I was staying.

As it was so early, nothing was open, but an enquiry at reception brought the curator *Dr Štefan Kollár* down to reception to meet me, we had previously been in correspondence concerning 1944 liberation matters and the welcome was warm as we made our way up to his 2nd floor office. Having made the necessary arrangements we went down to the ground floor and left the building for the short walk to the secure part of the museum where I deliberately turned my back as Dr Kollár went through the security routine to gain access.

The museum itself is a room approximately 4 x 20 metres and has display cases on the south and east wall as well as down the middle of the room. These showed a variety of typical postal museum displays including:

- History of the mail from the times of Taxis, Wallenstein and Liechtenstein
- Old radios and a truly antique television
- Telephone equipment and a primitive exchange
- Examples of old cancellers
- Photographs of ancient post offices
- A magnificent oval wooden office shield
- Old postal uniforms

On the north wall in secure vertical filing cabinets are pull out displays behind glass including:

- Modern art work including rejected and modified drafts all signed by the concerned parties
- Slovak stamps, especially complete sheets of the 1939 overprints including the various plates
- Some of the early Czechoslovak issues
- Covers with genuine use of the Štefanik un-issued 1939 stamps
- The late Paul Jensen's fabulous collection of Slovak postal history that he bequeathed to the museum.

Back to the main building and I had a guided tour of the current display that featured all forms of communication, of especial interest to me was a complete Czechoslovak Postal Air Service uniform, including monogrammed cap, the overcoat had an excellent real fur collar.

Dr Kollár then took me to the children's section on the first floor. There in a well designed class room was a display area, lecture section and a mock up of two postal counters where the children could 'play' post offices as part of their learning of how the infrastructure works. It was here that I met two of Dr

Kollar's assistants, one in charge of child training and the other, *Monika Kupcová (technická pracovníčka)*, who in my parlance is the archivist with control of the considerable reference library. Then back up to the second floor and the library where Ms Kupcová looked after my research needs getting me countless reference books from the modern compressed reference filing system as well as coffee and a refreshing lemon drink.

The reading room is well ventilated and quiet with the window facing west. Ms Kupcová was especially helpful in photocopying extracts from *Úradný Vestník Číslo 1 – 6* (Košice 10 March 1945 thru Bratislava 9 June 1945) and *Poštový Vestník Číslo 1 – 3* (Bratislava from final liberation until 13 June 1945).

Overall impression was that this postal museum was difficult to get to (those who remember the write up on my first visit to the Vyšší Brod museum in the Czech Republic will remember that it involved a train crash!) in that it is remote and until the new roads are built (some are currently being constructed) there is a lot of up and down terrain where trucks cannot be overtaken. Door to door time from the Holiday Inn Brno to the Hotel Lux in Banská Bystrica was just over four hours with one comfort stop. It would of course be a shorter journey from Bratislava. All of the personnel at the Banská Bystrica were phenomenally friendly, really helpful and I look forward to my next visit.

The museum is open from 0800 until 1600 but is often closed over lunch and of a weekend so please ring first 00 421 484 146 107 (048 414 6107) from inside Slovak Republic or e-mail museum@slposta.sk

LOOKING FORWARD

-Peter G. Williams-

Many of us have lavished great care and attention in building up our collections. Our collections are well loved and give us much pleasure. There is only one certainty in life – it will eventually come to an end. It is all too easy to assume that writing a will and forward planning the disposal of our collections is somehow morbid and that these things “will sort themselves out” fairly after death. The stark fact is that unless a collector writes a will, his wishes for the destiny of his collection cannot be truly honoured. A collector who dies leaving no will and no immediate family faces an intrusive prying through of his papers by civil servants and the collection being disposed of by non-experts for the benefit of the Crown.

A will is an opportunity to deal with collections as well as other assets and make sure they go where you want them to go to. You can also use a will to plan other activities – charitable donations and other gifts, which the intestacy rules do not allow for. Wills can be prepared quickly and cost effectively by most solicitors' practices. Many solicitors will visit a client at home or in hospital if travel to the office is impracticable.

It is important that once you have written a will, you make sure that the original is kept in a safe place and that your family and the people you appoint to be your executors know where it is being kept. Every week, the solicitors professional journal contains advertisements from solicitors trying to trace will whereabouts. This causes unnecessary delay in dealing with your wishes. If a will cannot be found, you will be assumed not to have left one.

Please resist the temptation to write a will yourself, unless you understand the requirements of a valid will. Solicitors see many cases of home made wills that are invalid, including wills made using the DIY packs that can be bought from W H Smith and other stationers. Leaving a will, which is not valid is the same as not leaving one at all. This may leave a lot of trouble and disappointment to your loved ones.

When you have written a will, you should not forget about it. Review the will regularly. Check it takes into account changes in your family circumstances – births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Include a review of your will in the regular reviews you would make of your finances

You can then relax and concentrate on developing your collection.

POSTCARD OF INTEREST

-Brian C. Day-

C.1917



Photocard of the interior of the offices of the London Czech Committee & Czech National Alliance, Piccadilly Circus, London W.1. an alliance formed during WWI to further the cause for independence from Austria after the end of hostilities.

Late use in March 1920 from a correspondent in London N.W.1 to Blovice, Czechoslovakia, who penned a personal message.

VIII INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC CONGRESS PRAGUE 1925

-Jaroslav Petrásek-

Translated by Robert Kingsley

This article originally appeared in Merkur Revue 6/2003



"It is only fair that we should pay homage to that wonderful city, Prague certainly one of the world's most beautiful cities, a city in which historically many dramatic and human changes have taken place. For me, who has from the very beginning associated the Czech nation with the Olympic movement, never ceasing to defend its legitimacy, it will be particularly appropriate to finish there my term as its Chairman. And to be able to express my grateful thanks to my collaborator and friend, Jiří Guth-Jarkovský, the only surviving representative of 'the old guard'."

With these words Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, announced the decision to hold the VIII Olympic

Congress in Prague. So let us look at the situation which then existed and the repercussions for us, philatelists.



The possibility of holding the VIII Olympic Congress in Prague was offered by Pierre de Coubertin to Dr. Jiří Guth-Jarkovský [shown left] in a letter dated 7th January 1923. Guth obtained support of the idea from the Czechoslovak government and in particular from the Foreign Minister of the day, Dr. Eduard Beneš who achieved valuable publicity for the idea in the then young country.

Pierre de Coubertin also personally discussed the idea of holding the Olympic Congress in Prague with President Masaryk while he was visiting Montreaux. From the 6th to 10th February 1923 another significant sporting event took place in Prague and in Harrachov.

It was the VII Skiing Congress which was very successful for those taking part and became one of the reasons that at a meeting of the IOC held in Rome from 7th to 13th April 1923 Dr. Guth-Jarkovský presented an official invitation of the Czechoslovak Government to hold the VIII Olympic Congress in Prague. The invitation was accepted and already here in Rome a rough programme for the congress was agreed.



Preparations for the congress in more detail were discussed at a conference which was held during the Olympic Games in Paris on 28.7.1924. Czechoslovakia was represented at that conference by a member of the IOC and Chairman of the CSOC, Dr. Guth-Jarkovský, the general secretary of the CSOC Josef Rössler-Ořovský and a representative of the Ministry of Health and Physical Culture Dr. J. Horvorka. The conference determined that the congress in Prague would consist of two parts, namely an educational and a technical congress. The theme of the programme of both parts was clearly laid out and preparatory work on the details was begun.



Immediately on their return to Prague the CSOC started its work. The government would provide financial subsidies and further finance would be provided by various ministries. On 6th November 1924 an initial meeting was held of the organising committee which was independent of the CSOC. Z. Kruliš was elected Chairman of the committee, but the driving force of all the preparations was the general secretary Dr. Guth-Jarkovský. An honorary presidium was appointed consisting of at its head the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Tomas G. Masaryk and other representatives of the Czechoslovak Government. An extravagant cultural programme was arranged for the participants

of the congress.

>

In May 1925, that is a short time before the Olympic Congress, two other congresses took place in Prague. One was the FIFA Congress [football], the other FINA [swimming]. Just before the opening of the Olympic Congress to be held from 26th to 28th May 1925 there was a meeting of the IOC in the Old Square Town Hall and its purpose was to vote on all matters which were being presented for approval to the technical part of the congress. For the first time since the end of WWI there were representatives present from Germany and Austria. There were two main subjects on the agenda for that meeting; one was the definition of amateurism and the other the election of a new Chairman of the ICO.

Pierre de Coubertin also submitted his, for some time rumoured, resignation and despite pressure from other members of the IOC, declined to accept any other position. At the Gala Reception and Dinner, held at the White Hall of Hradčany Castle, hosted by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Eduard Beneš and his wife, Dr. Beneš told Coubertin that even he himself had been approached to try and persuade him, but that of course he had refused so to do. The election of a new Chairman took place on the next day, 28th May, and in the second round the Belgian Count Baillet-Latour was elected. On the proposal of General Sherill, Pierre de Coubertin was elected Honorary Life President of the Olympic Games and in that capacity he did still influence the IOC's activities right up to the time of his death in 1937.

Here we should explain the difference between two concepts mentioned above. That is between an Olympic congress and a meeting of an Olympic committee. According to the statute of the IOC, accepted at the VII Olympic congress held in 1921 in Lausanne, an Olympic congress is the highest authority of the international sporting organisation. Up to now there have only been 12, as follows:

I Olympic Congress	Paris	1894
II	“	Le Havre
III	“	Brussels
IV	“	Paris
V	“	Lausanne
VI		Paris
VII		Lausanne
VIII		Prague
IX		Berlin
X		Varna
XI		Baden-Baden
XII		Paris

Meetings of the IOC tackle current Olympic questions between Olympic congresses. Amongst other things it accepts new members, decides on the organization of individual Olympic games and their programmes, elects officers of the IOC, determines the ICO commission etc. Meetings are held much more frequently than those of congresses. The one which preceded the Prague Olympic Congress was the 23rd. The last one was the one held last July in Prague's Hilton Hotel, and was number 115. Prague entertained members of the IOC on one other occasion, that was in 1977 and was number 79.

Let us return to our Olympic Congress in the year 1925. The official opening took place on 29.5.1925 once again at the Old Town Square Town Hall where functionaries of both sections met. The participants of the congress were officially welcomed by the Minister of Health and Physical Culture Šrámek and the Mayor of Prague Dr. Baxa. The opening address was given by Pierre de Coubertin. After the official opening both sections of the congress began their meetings separately. The technical congress was led by the Swede Edström. The questions discussed were chiefly those of amateurism, that the duration of the summer games should be limited to 15 days and a basic programme for the games was laid down. The most significant part of the meeting of the technical section was the proposal by the general secretary of the CSOC Josef Rössler-Ořovský for retrospective acceptance of the week's Winter Games held in Chamonix in 1924 and that these Winter Games are to be held regularly. The proposal was adopted and so Czech sporting diplomacy made a significant contribution to Olympic history.

The Czech representative Prof. Dr. K.Weigner was elected Chairman of the educational section of the congress and amongst other Czech delegates were Dr. F.Smotlacha, Prof. J.B. Svojsík, Dr. P. Bureš, Dr. M. Klinger and representatives of the CSOC, Ministry of Health and Physical Culture and the Association of Handball and Women's Sports. One of the most active participants was also Pierre de

Coubertin on whose initiative the educational congress was actually formed. Important questions were discussed, such as Women's sports, teaching of sport and medical control of sportsmen.



While the congress was being held there were a number of other celebrations and activities. The Sokols were just then opening the finished Tyrš House on Újezd, President Masaryk arranged a Garden Party for the participants and a gala performance was held at the National Theatre. Dr. Guth-Jarkovský and his wife, the Minister of Health and Prague Mayor organized a matinee and dinner in Valdštejn Palace. Other activities were also organized by the Czechoslovak Autoclub and the CSOC.

The congress had a profound effect on the international Olympic movement. After the departure of Pierre de Coubertin the conservative forces led by Baillet-Latour fought to retain the status quo and refused to entertain any progressive changes, proposed by some federations. This conservatism was demonstrated during the time of the rise of Nazism when the Olympic games were entrusted to a dictatorship and also the fact that after the congress held in Berlin in 1930 the IOC did not arrange another congress until 1973.

The organizers of the Prague congress issued a written report on both parts of the congress and the activities of the organizing committee were finalized at a liquidation meeting in January 1926 when it was decided that from any money left over an Olympic fund should be created which would serve as a starting fund for the holding of a future Olympic Games in Prague. It would be interesting to know what happened to this money, if only because of the declared intention of the CSOC to apply for the holding of the games in 2016 or 2020.

But let us return to the year 1925 and let us look at the events from the philatelic point of view. It is well known that the Czechoslovak Post issued three stamps and five cards in honour of the Olympic Congress. A publicity machine canceller as well as a special hand canceller were used which exist in three types.

Publicity machine canceller

In order to create publicity for the VIII Olympic Congress in Prague, Post Office PRAHA 25 used a machine double canceller with the distinguishing number "2" in the lower part of the circle. The daily circular cancel which are its part were cancellers of Type II and are the first of its kind on machine cancellers [the letters Č.S.P. are now omitted]. Both publicity slogans are the same with the text "MEZINÁRODNÍ KONGRES OLYMPUSKÝ / CONGRÈS OLYMPIQUE INTERNATIONAL / 24.5 – 6.6.1925 / PRAHA" On the side of the word PRAHA are the Olympic rings which, in fact, is the first time that they appear on any postal material. There are wavy lines on each side. The canceller was used in the period from 8.4 to 9.5.1925. After that date it was not used and cannot therefore appear on any congress stamps or cards.



*Machine canceller for the International Olympic Congress 1925, used by at Post Office Prague 25.
Example shows local letter up to 20g in weight*



Machine canceller for the International Olympic Congress 1925 Letter up to 20g in weight, sent 20.4.1925 from Prague to Brno [Publicity canceller still undamaged.]

If we look at cancels A and B, at the beginning of their use, we cannot detect any difference between them. It is possible, however, to differentiate between the two. It suffices just to compare the two daily cancels. There are small differences of which

the most marked is the difference in the numeral "2" and the small star under it. In one case the star and number are in one line and the star does not contain any vertical lines. This cancel on the left we know as type L. In the second case the number is moved very slightly to the right and the star has one of the lines almost vertical. This, on the right, we know as type P. The basic sequence of the cancels is always in this order. L A P B L A P B L A P B. On individual covers we may find any number of possible combinations of the daily cancel, but always in the sequence shown.



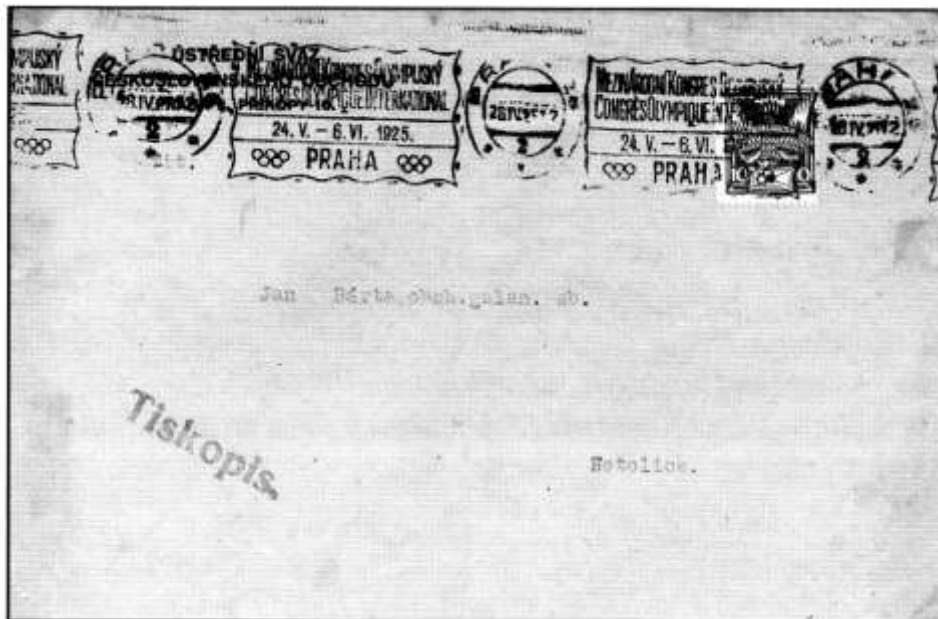
It is possible to differentiate between the daily cancels according to the numeral "2" and the middle star. On the left "L", on the right "P".

Sometime in the period between 20-22.4.1925 cancel "B" was damaged whereby the upper and lower vertical lines were broken on the left side and the lower one on the right side. Cancel A remained undamaged during its use, evidence of which is proved by the undamaged print of the original in the Prague Postal Museum. Unfortunately B was not preserved.



Publicity cancel A with the complete drawing [left] and B used later with broken lines on the edge of the cancel [right].

Machine cancel for International Olympic Congress 1925. Printed matter up to 50g sent 28.4.1925 from Prague to Netolice [publicity cancel B is already damaged].



The above mentioned machine canceller was used only to frank normal mail sent in envelopes, not in anything else. This means that so far we do not know of any examples of this canceller on any letter cards or postcards or on any mail sent registered, express or air mail. There exist only one example on current ordinary and Printed Matter mail sent within the country or abroad.

Postage stamps and their use

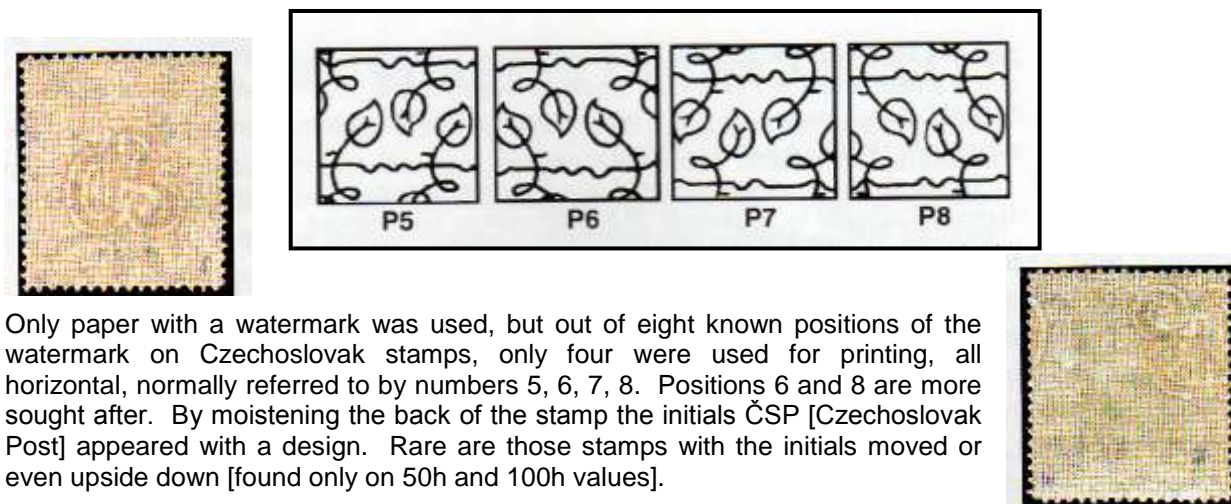
At the request of the CSOC the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs issued on 11 May 1925 on the occasion of the VIII Olympic Congress in Prague an issue of three stamps for which the unsold stock of the Jubilee stamps of T.G.Masaryk were used. These stamps were overprinted with a special overprint "CONGRES OLYMP.INTERNAT. / PRAHA 1925".



In describing the stamps it is therefore one needs to pay attention to the origin of the stamps and to the overprint. The stamps were designed by Max Švabinský and the engraving was by Karel Wolf. The printing was recess printing from flat plates by A.Haase of Prague. Of the four values only three were used as follows:



50h	Grey/Green	Blue overprint
100h	Red	Blue overprint
200h	Blue	Red overprint



Only paper with a watermark was used, but out of eight known positions of the watermark on Czechoslovak stamps, only four were used for printing, all horizontal, normally referred to by numbers 5, 6, 7, 8. Positions 6 and 8 are more sought after. By moistening the back of the stamp the initials ČSP [Czechoslovak Post] appeared with a design. Rare are those stamps with the initials moved or even upside down [found only on 50h and 100h values].

The stamps can be classified by the line perforation which vary from 13¾ to 14¾. Precise measuring will show that horizontal and vertical perforations on individual stamps have a different dimension. Most often combinations of 14, 14¼ or 14½ are to be found. The well known Italian collector, Maurizio Tecardi in his publication *Il Congresso Olimpico Di Praga 1925* states that during his time of activity in Olympic philately he found the following perforation variations.

Table of known perforation sizes on Olympic Congress stamps

Size of perforation	50h	100h	200h
13¾: 14½	?	?	+
14: 14¼	?	+	?
14: 14½	+	?	+
14¼: 14¼	+	?	?
14¼: 14½	?	?	+
14½: 14	?	?	+
14½: 14¼	+	+	?
14½: 14½	?	+	+

It is interesting that the largest number of different perforations was thus found on the 200h value of which the smallest number was issued. However, the more heads there are, the more we know, and we would be very grateful if you would advise us of any other combinations which you may discover in your collections. It is therefore quite likely that the above table is not complete and that collectors will find a perforation on some of the values, which are shown with a question mark. It is also possible that other combinations, so far not described, will be found. This issue would certainly deserve a detailed study of the perforation sizes [just as the “sister” Jubilee issue of 1923 and the Sokol slet issue of 1926 would] and if this study reaches its final conclusion, we can hopefully expect its publication in the specialized catalogue.

Of perforation faults that we know of there is on the 50h value a double perforation on one side of the stamp.

50h, 100h and 200h stamps shown The paper used is of various qualities [thin, medium and thick] in yellowish and brownish yellow colour. Plate marks, shown by Roman numerals, are in the bottom right-hand corner of the sheet. On the 50h and 100h values plate numbers I, II and III are to be found, on the 200h value only Plate I exists, but this is much smaller than on the lower value stamps.



Abbreviations used: IOC - International Olympic Committee - CSOC Czechoslovak Olympic Committee

THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME - TWICE IN TWO DAYS

-Bob Hill-

I thought I knew Vienna well, but now it transpires not well enough. Close by the South Station is the Arsenal and at the very front of this truly impressive complex sits the museum to the military achievements of Austria [*Heeres-geschichtliches Museum*]. I went there because I wanted somewhere to go away from the city centre and all the tourists. It only costs a couple of Euros to go in and I wish I had been there years ago. I will definitely visit again. Entering the museum the decoration and statues of famous military men from the past building looks even more magnificent than the exterior. Nothing is shown prior to 16th century and it covers the period up to 1945. The contents can be summarised as:

Hall 1	From the 30 years war to Prince Eugene of Savoy
Hall 2	Maria Theresa era
Hall 3	Revolutions
Hall 4	Field Marshal Radetsky's era
Hall 5	Franz Joseph and Sarajevo [including THE car]
Hall 6	World War I and the end of the Hapsburg dynasty
Hall 7	Republic and Dictatorship
Hall 8	Sea Power
Adjunct to Hall 6	Artillery Hall
External	Tank collection

Details of the battles of Bilá Hora, Chlum and Kolin were instantly accessible and the staff so friendly and helpful I wish I had planned exactly what I wanted to see. At last the patience of my Czech friends has been rewarded as I now understand the battles from a different perspective.

Eventually, after another coffee in the café, I made it to the museum shop and browsed, what caught my eye was a book *Österreichs Marine und Küste auf alten Postkarten* [ISBN 3 - 900310 - 25 - 4] by Georg Pawlik and Lothar Baumgartner, H. Weishaupt Verlag, Graz. The front colour postcard *Gross von der Marine* sets the scene for what is inside.

Hardback 146 pages with far more pages devoted to pictures than words it sets out to illustrate all the postcards from this evocative era starting with the very first issues of the 1890's and continuing with Commercial, Military, Danube and even Submarine forms of shipping. If the postcard was issued in colour then it is reproduced in colour otherwise in monochrome.

The section depicting life on board is sometimes poignant and other times humorous [especially the food menus] and the cards issued for the men to tick off their 48 months of compulsory service must have been really dog eared at the end. Language on board with the different ethnic backgrounds [31% Croatian; 20% Hungarian; 16% Austrian; 14% Italian, 10% Czech, etc.] is described as *Ein deutsch-italienisch-kroatisches Gemisch, ein Marine-esperanto, l;ingua di bordo*.

Names and numbers of vessels are shown together with tonnage. A top view of World War I is given with key dates. My favourite card shows SM Donau Monitor Maros chugging along the river, but there are so many to see there is undoubtedly something I have missed. Strong in pictures, concise in facts and with a map of the Adriatic under Austro Hungarian control this is a riveting good read. It will certainly tell you the cards missing from your collection. Not cheap at €58 but well worth it.

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

BUBAK'S "COUNTRYSIDE" WINS BY A WIDE MARGIN.

-JUDr. Jan Plachetka-
Translated by Robert Kingsley

In the poll for the most beautiful stamp of 2004, the miniature of a painting wins once again.

My report on the results of the 12th annual questionnaire of the most beautiful stamp issued by the Czech Post Office begins, as usual, with another win for the latest example in the series of large painting stamps which have been regularly issued for many years. The most successful engraver of paintings depicted on stamps is Václav Fajt. For miniatures of classical paintings this is already the eleventh win, (even though on two occasions the paintings were not grouped into a specific issue), and for Fajt it is the third win in a row and makes a total of five wins which makes him the most successful engraver in the history of independent Czech philately. In the 12th year of the questionnaire there were 9,014 votes cast which were received on time and in accordance with the rules. These were readers of the daily newspaper "Právo" and journals "Filatelie" and "Poštovní kuryr", and apart from Czechs there were votes from quite a number of Slovaks. Votes were also received from Germany, Canada, Great Britain and Switzerland.

It is noteworthy that the winning stamp received over a quarter of the total number of votes and beat the second stamp by more than 1,000 votes, (every participant in the questionnaire had one vote). The second winning stamp is also a miniature of a painting and a further two paintings were placed 7th, (Prometheus by Procházka), and 11th, (The Long, the Broad and the Sharpshot by Schwaiger).

Similarly well did, as last year, the further zoological sheets by Mr and Mrs Knotek, the most successful being the Parrots which came third; the others got 12th, 18th, and 25th place. (Last year's "Aquarian Fish" stamps were placed in 4th, 7th, 21st and 24th positions, but out of 41 stamps.)

Another very successful issue was the "Protected Trees" by A. Absolon and M. Srb, (placed 5th and 9th), and also the stamp commemorating the introduction of compulsory school attendance in our lands (8th), by J. Kavan and B. Šneider. All these three were smaller size stamps, but with a distinct pictorial motif. Another group of highly placed stamps are those in 4th, 6th and 10th positions depicting our architectural heritage. However, this is no surprise since these stamps have always proved popular. This is undoubtedly due to the engravers of these stamps. The churches of Svaty Hostyn and Svata Hora were engraved by Václav Fajt, the most successful Czech engraver, who has four works among the most successful 10 stamps of the last year.

A surprisingly high placing was attained by the European stamp on a Maltese design devoted to the ten new members of the European Union which even beat our own stamps, graphically cleaner and more colourful EU stamp, by seven places. However, it has to be said that from the 20th position downwards the differences in the number of votes is measured in tens rather than hundreds, as is the case on the higher positions.

Of stamps with a sporting theme one could say, (to use an appropriate terminology), that they "put up a good performance" in 19th, 21st and 24th places, (as against 2002 when they reached 11th, 13th and 24th placings out of 33 issues).

Of the remaining usual themes the Christmas stamp worsened its position by five places (72 votes), against the previous year, the Children's stamp by nine places (89 votes) and the stamp on the tradition of Czech stamp design by four places (49 votes), whilst the Easter stamp improved its position by seven places (10 votes).

One can only describe the results of two 3-stamp issues as failures – the Historical Prams and Composers of Czech Opera issues, (Janáček, Smetana and Dvořák by Fučíková and J. Tvrdon) which out of 9,000 participants in the poll gained only 16 votes and ended up at the bottom of the table. Immediately above them in the table was the Prams issue in spite of being very accurately designed by B. Housa. In both cases the results were probably influenced by the blandness, and subtlety of the stamps. In the case of the Composer stamps one might say also by their unpleasant shading and graphic detail.

However, looking on the bright side, we can claim that no stamp remained without any votes and that Czech stamps, (from last year issued only in values rounded up to 50h), in spite of the general decrease in correspondence, continue to capture the public's attention, not only by laymen, but that also in the opinion of experts, they are amongst the world's best when it comes to artistic and technical production.

THE ROMANTIC POET KAREL HYNEK MACHÁ (MACHY 1810-1836)

-Dai Pring-

By eschewing the temptation of the funicular railway and following the winding footpath up through the Petřín Park, the walker is rewarded with some spectacular panoramas of Prague, both from the slopes and at the top. However, there is a particular interest for philatelists and by keeping to the left of the slope the walker will soon pass the statue of K.H. Machá whose death centenary was celebrated by the issue of two stamps 30 April 1936.

Machá was born in Prague on 16 November, of less than affluent parents. He studied law and briefly became a lawyer's assistant with the law firm of Filip Duras in Litoměřice, North Bohemia, where he hoped to settle for some years, believing that he had found the sort of environment in which he could prepare for the demanding exams of law school in Prague.

Sadly, it was Saturday, 5 November at 11pm, 38 days after his arrival when he died. It seems that his death can be attributed in some ways to a fire in Litoměřice, which he had helped to extinguish. On 2 November he had written letters to his parents and brother and to his fiancée, Lorna. The contents of the letters gave no indication that the end of his life was fast approaching. But two days later he was suffering with diarrhea then vomiting and despite medical treatment he died in the early hours of 6 November. He had not reached his 26th birthday.

The cause of his death is still vague but it seems unlikely that the soaking he received when fighting the fire resulted in anything more than a slight chill. More likely is that drinking contaminated water, intended for fighting the fire, infected him.

Machá's early poetic attempts were in German but he soon switched to Czech the language he used for his best-known work, a lyrical epic poem *Maj* [May], which tells the story of the tragic love of two young people. On its publication in 1836, it was judged by his contemporaries as immoral and a threat to society. It is now regarded as the classic work of Czech Romanticism and a symbol of romantic rebellion against society.

In the time of Communist control his statue became an important national symbol; and instead of attending the 1 May Communist celebrations, many young people went to the statue as a protest. Further, his tomb in the Slavín Cemetery, Vyšehrad was the assembly point for the 17 November 1989 demonstration which triggered the Velvet Revolution.

The stamps



50h Green



1Kč claret

Design: The statue of Machá' in Petřín Park

Designer: Bohumil Heinz

Perforation: 12½

Issued in sheets of 100 stamps and ten blank labels

Date of issue; 30 April 1936

CZECH AND SLOVAK EXILE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

-Lumír Brendl-

-Translated by Vladimír J. Králíček-

First published in *Merkur-Revue* 1/2003

From 18 January 2003 Brno hosted an exceptionally interesting and socially important exhibition. It concerned a project by Jan Kratochvíl and the 2001 Society for Culture and Dialogue under the title "Czech and Slovak Exile in the 20th Century". The Exhibition whose individual exhibits were on display in the Moravian Provincial Museum was held until 31 March.

It was held under the patronage of the former President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel, and the then President of the Slovak Republic, Rudolf Schuster. The importance of the Exhibition and its meaning was enhanced by the presence of, and their addresses on the opening day, Government Ministers M.Šimonovský and V.Mlynář [responsible for the Czech Post from 1.1.2003], also present were the ČR Ambassador to the NATO Council K.Kovanda, General Manager of the Czech Post J.Příbyl, Manager of the Postal Museum in Prague P.Čtvrtník, Manager OZ for South Moravia Czech Post M.Pavelka, and others. The Manager of the Moravian Provincial Museum welcomed those present.

For the philatelists the most interesting part of the Exhibition was, without a doubt, the exhibit with the title "Exile Post of the 20th Century", located in the Bishop residence two halls. The authoress of the postal history part P.Tosnerová and author of the philatelic part L.Brendl gave the introductory speech regarding its contents and aim.

The exhibition by the Postal Museum of Prague is located in the first of the halls, in which are shown contemporary documents and entires of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, France and Italy, documents signed by T.G.Masaryk and E.Beneš and other personalities of the first, and later also of the second resistance movement. Letters delivered by the Scout Post in November and December in 1918, and many other objects of interest. A place is here also for attractive three-dimensional objects.

In the second hall in eight exhibition frames and two display cabinets, is the SČF exhibit. It consists of two displays, the first one introduced a thematic representation of the path taken to the Republican Foundation in 1918 and the re-establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1945 [shown here are examples from L.Brendl's exhibit], and the second is the, for the first time publicly shown, collection "Correspondence from Czechoslovak Prisons after the year 1948" by the Brno philatelist B.Zicha. Beside other documents from this tragic period, there is also displayed a letter addressed to General Heliodor Píkov in the Pankrác prison, as well as a letter addressed to his also imprisoned son, Captain Milan Píkov. In essence the whole of these exhibits documents the third resistance movement, testimony to the political prisoners and their families' fate in Czechoslovakia of the 1950's.

The visitor may also see in the display cabinets the recent book by Jaroslav Verner dedicated to the Czechoslovak Legionnaires or the new Monograph by the British author Richard Beith about the Czechoslovak soldiers in Great Britain during WWII, together with photographs of the commemorative celebrations to fallen Czechoslovak soldiers at the monument in Cholmondeley.

Free Europe propaganda leaflet



Message to Czech and Slovaks

New wind blows!

And a new hope glows!

Advocates for Freedom abroad found a new way to you.

They know that you also yearn for Freedom.

Millions of men and women have joined, to convey to you

Words of friendship, carried on freedom waves in the sky,

Which still in spite of everything joins west with east.

Tyrants have enslaved your heroic Motherland!

They try in every way, to isolate you from,

Friends in the free world.

But their endeavour is in vain.

We are in contact with you every day on the radio waves.

We have found a new way, through which we reach you.

There are not deep enough prison cells, which would be able to

Suppress the truth, and there are no high enough walls

Over which the messenger of freedom cannot reach.

Barbarians and tyrants cannot control the air ocean and

Are unable to enslave your heart.

Freedom will again burst into flame.

Crusade for Freedom [16 million of USA Citizens]
 Inter-American Regional Workers Organization [19 South American States]
 International Organization of Free Journalists
 International Federation of War Veterans [co-operating countries: Bulgaria, France, Holland, Italy]
 Federation of Womens Clubs [11 million of Members in 22 countries]
 Canadian Labour Unions and Workers Congress, American Labour Federation, Congress of Canadian Workers Organizations,
 Congress of Industrial Originations
 Underneath the illustrated bell is text "The Freedom Bell".

The Free Europe 1954-56 leaflet will for sure attract attention. It is not philatelic material because they were not – such as the secret messages from communist’s jail [see B,Zicha’s exhibit] – carried by post. They were carried by the wind in small air balloons from the American Zone in Germany over South Western Bohemia. They were found most frequently in the forests around Pilsen. One of them is unique – it contains the “Message to Czech and Slovaks”. Such a meaningful historical document would be undoubtedly an ornament to any exhibit in the Free Class”, which allows inclusion of non-philatelic material.



Amongst the exhibited entires is found the name of a member of the Czechoslovak Army in Exile in Great Britain, Staff Sergeant Josef Přichystal [see illustration left]. His fate was similar to the fate of many hundreds, even many thousands of his comrades-in-arms after February 1948. He had, beside other things, been involved in training a group of Czechoslovak parachutists led by J. Gabčík; in 1945 he returned home with the rank of Staff Captain; in the 1950’s he was a member of the Czechoslovak Army in the West arrested and imprisoned, lost his

rank and the right to wear military decorations; after his return from prison he was allowed to work only as a labourer, later on as a Domestic Supplies Plzen storeman in Beňov near Klatov.

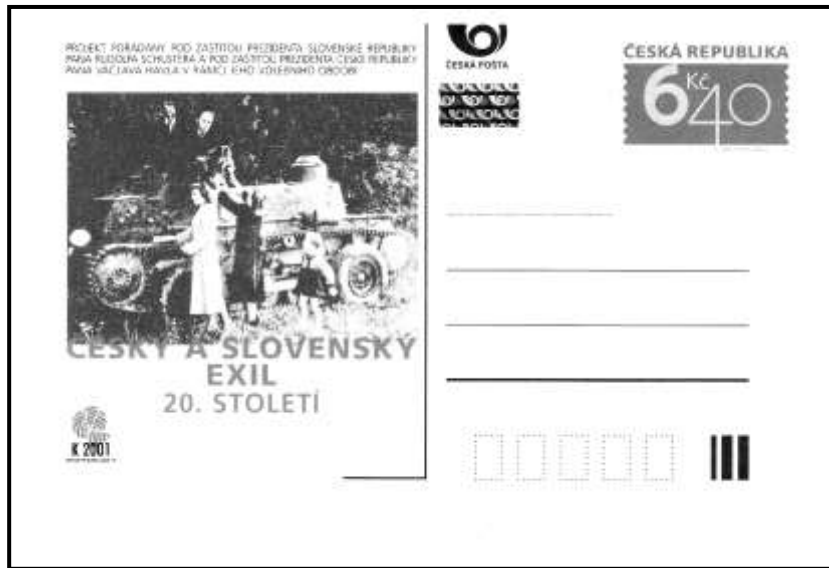
The Czechoslovak letter post censoring was also directed against consignments paid for with foreign

postage stamps with “undesirable” motifs. Thus were found, by the workers of PRAHA 120 postal censor workers, inadmissible USA stamps with the motif ‘fighters for freedom’, our first President – T.R.Masaryk, who was according to the Czechoslovak constitutional law “Merited of State” [see illustration left] – reconstructed envelope]. For the state censor of that period it was a matter of course that the addressee did not know that the letter or card addressed to him was held up by the censor and returned to the sender – often after many weeks, with a label marked “inadmissible”



and with a supplementary canceller or handwritten note “Retour”, together with the PRAHA 120 daily canceller on the back of the envelope. Even that was a part of the life in Czechoslovakia during 1948-1989. Interesting covers from the concentration camps in Nazi Germany and occupied countries and including examples of verdicts given by the Nazi law courts are exhibited by the Chairman of KF 06 – 22 Alones Mucha, Valentin Schiebl from Brno. In this connection I would like to thank him and other dedicated members for their versatile help with installation of the Exhibition. Without their endeavours and help the thus visible presentation by the SCF in the Exhibition would not have been possible. The

Exhibition was not great in scale, but rich in content, and thus surely attracted not only the eyewitnesses of the documented events, but also the younger members of philatelic clubs, who may by means of the graphic documents understand something of the eventful period of our recent past.



On sale was a lettercard with the private imprint “Czech and Slovak Exile in the 20th century” (see above), also used was a special; cancellation P.O. Brno 1 with the same text [in black and occasionally in red colour].

CZECHOSLOVAK AIR MAILS FROM THE 1930s – AIR MAIL TO AFRICA
 -Tony Moseley-



The article in March Czechout, page 15 about Czechoslovak Airmails to Africa during the 1930a mode very interesting reading. I enclose photocopies of a cover bought in the Society's auction from GABLONZ {Sudetenland} dated, as far as I can see, [cancel is not very clear] 20.10.38



on two 20pfg, one 12pfg and one 3pfg Hindebergs. The cover has Czech text deleted in the top left hand corner and addressed to ELIZABETHVILLE in the Belgian Congo. However for some reason this item could not be delivered and was re-directed to Hopfenstrasse II, Prague. On the reverse of the cover are three rather interesting cancels. The first one dated 29 Oct 38 BROKEN HILL Northern Rhodesia. A very clear cancel dated 31.10.38 ELIZABETHVILLE complete with post horn and finally the PRAHA 1 cancel on return to Czechoslovakia dated 23.XI.38. I wonder after traveling all that distance if the letter found its way to the person to whom it had been sent?

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

-Members' Queries-

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

Re Bob Hill's Martin Klim's usage of UK Envelope in *Czechout 1/2005* page 19

From Lubor Kunc: This letter was forwarded from Brno 1 post office to Prague for Custom checking and mailing to UK via Prague airport [see Prioritaire label meaning mail has to be sent by air mail]. The Customs authorities checked and marked it with their business cancel and with handstamp Beza cla [without Custom Duty]. However, before final dispatch a problem was detected, and a Customs message attached by a label, which appears to have been torn away [i.e. the area next to the stamps], and the letter was returned to Brno. The Brno post office dealt with it as a registered item, notifying the sender by a notice delivered by the postman, that he had to collect the registered letter from the post office. At the same time the postal clerk cancelled the letter with a cachet Oznamene, on the reverse stating that the addressee had been notified of the arrival of the letter on 13 May and this would be retained until 28 May [14 days is the regular period of keeping registered letter at post offices]. Mr Klim picked up the letter on the same day and re-mailed it again on 13 May 2004. Because he sent the letter together with the post office document stating what was wrong with it, he did not need to pay any more postage, thus the post office clerk accepted the returned letter without any additional fee or postage.

Re Andy Taylor's Verrechnungsmarken in *Czechout 1/2005* page 20

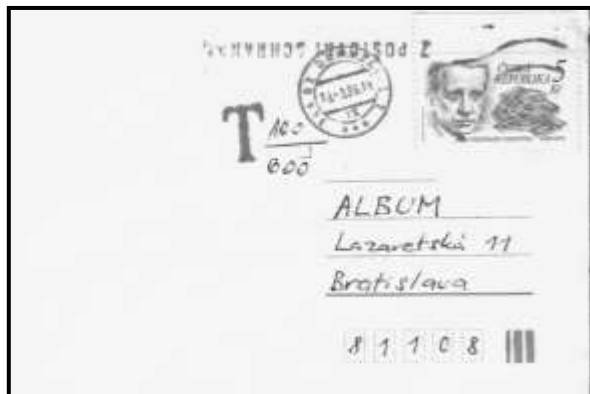
From Lubor Kunc: There are two explanations of the function of Verrechnungsmarken [the English translation might be something like Resettling stamps, in Czech they are called zuctovaci znamky. The first function was mentioned in Netto Specialized catalogue of Austrian stamps, Vienna 1992/3, page 170. They should be used for the resettlement of a Courier fee for home delivery of Postal Savings Bank money orders. This was certainly not the case of the example shown by Mr Taylor, since the stamps were affixed to the special forms of the Postal Savings Bank for this service. I am not aware of any similar service in Czechoslovakia. The second function stated by the Michel Specialized Catalogue, Munich 1990, page 226, as well as by Mr Taylor for resettling of postage prescribed by Franking Machines, and in my opinion this example in *Czechout* is the case.

In the Austro-Hungarian Empire it was a common practice to resettle collected fees by postage due stamps; e.g., when the post office collected a fine or any other fees, it prepared a list of such cases [called Verrechnungsbogen in German or zuctovaci in Czech] and affixed on the reverse postage due stamps in value calculated in the list. This was the only reason why Austrian postal administration issued Postage Due stamps of higher values like five or ten crowns that had no other use in regular postal operations. This system was really applied by Czechoslovak postal administration in 1918-19, but later it was discontinued [at least I know of no other example being seen after 1919] (my comment, as I have example of documents in my own collection.) It might be that the Austrian postal administration continued to use them and the example depicted is usage after the war, the smaller perforated stamps are Austrian postage dues.

Since publication of this query, members may have noted two long articles on this subject appearing in *Austria* No 149, Spring 2005. Editor.

New Queries:

From Bob Hill: A Taxed cover from 344 02 Domažlice 2, Czech Republic to Bratislava, Slovakia – why taxed ? also the single line above the datestamp – z Poštovní - ?



From Maurice Tyler (Editor France & Colonies PS Journal):



This cover from St Briac to Geneva has a slogan in Czech "Pozdrav z Ameriky".

The 25c type Sower represents the correct rate for a letter sent abroad i.e. France to Switzerland. I do not know what the right hand flag is, nor the crown and shield in the emblem. I do not recognise the name of the President and am not sure of the spelling – Krvalius? The cover is addressed to Rus'kneva and the backstrike confirms that the second part of the name at least refers to Geneva. I found a reference to Rus'Geneva somewhere on the web but no details, and I have not found it in my atlas. I have no idea what the manuscript addition after Suisse indicates, so that I would be grateful for any answers also whether this is a Czech cover.



From Bob Peden: I have recently purchased a pair of covers with bilingual Užhorod postmarks dated 1933 to Olomouc. On the back of each cover is a pair of labels as illustrated below, featuring: EL(ISKA) KRASNOHORSKA 1847-1926; BOZENA NEMCOVA 1820-1862; JOS(EF) KAJ(ETAN) TYL 1808-1856; KAR(EL) HYN(EK) MACHA 1810-1836. A quick browse through the Internet identifies them as all Czechs important in various fields of literature. I would welcome any information as to the origin, purpose, geographical extant of use, scarcity and value of these labels and details of any others that exists.



NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

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

From 2004, many of the stamps of the Slovak Republic are printed by Walsall Security Printers WSP – CARTOR, France, indicated below as WSP.

<u>Printing</u>	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

2 March 2005 Definitive Postage Stamps for Vending Machines

Designer: RNDr. Adolf Absolon **Printing:** Colognia Press a.s. by flexoprint in rolls of 1000 self adhesive stamps. Size 40 x 25mm.

Design: A view of the castle at Jindřichův Hradec and the lake. The automat machine - SIMA 1351 for dispensing the stamps will take coins and banknotes. The machine prints the following denominations on the stamp: 7.50, 9.00, 12.00, 14.00, 15.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 22.00, 26.00, 28.00, 32.00 and 38.00Kč. There was no official FDC.

2 March 2005 Definitive – The Beauty of Flowers: Fuchsia



Designer: Anna Khunová **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of 100. The drawing is underprinted with iridescent colour to give a shimmering effect.

Design: flower and bud of the fuchsia with the Czech name of the plant.

There was no official FDC.

23 March 2005 Beauties of Our Country



Designer: Pavel Dvorský **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvardoň **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8 stamps (2 x 4) with centre margin.

Designs: **14Kč** – St. Prokop's Basilica in Třebíč. This three nave basilica (originally the church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary) dates back to the beginning of the 12 century when it formed part of a Benedictine monastery. In 1486 it was burned down by the Hungarians but was rebuilt into a renaissance chateau in the 16 century. From 1924 -1935 the final restoration of the basilica was undertaken. The buildings together with the old Jewish town and cemetery were added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites in 2003.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Třebíč cancel. The cachet drawing is the central rose window at the end of the basilica.

16Kč – Villa Tugendhat, Brno. The central margin has the logo and inscription to promote Brno 2005 European Exhibition. The villa, a functionalist building, stands on the side of a hillside of the Brno residential quarter. It was completed in 1930 and designed by Ludwig Miese van der Rohe (1886-1969), who was a director of Bauhaus from 1930 to 1933. The furniture and interior details were also designed by the architect. The building is included on the UNESCO list of World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet drawing is a portrait of the architect. >

13 April 2005

Personalities



Designer: Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček. **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps.

Designs: portraits of the personalities and their birth/death dates.

7.50Kč – Bohuslav Brauner (1855-1935). He was a Czech inorganic chemist and professor at the Faculty of Science of Charles' University. His main study was rare earth metals determining their atomic weights and classifying them in the periodic table of elements.

FDC: with a commemorative Prague cancel and the cachet in red-brown is a detail from the periodic table of elements.

12Kč – Adalbert Stifter (1805 – 1868). He was a writer and painter born in the Šumava region but a teacher and school inspector by profession with an interest in the preservation of cultural, artistic and architectural heritage. His written works have detailed descriptions of people, places and things. **FDC:** has a commemorative Horní Planá cancel with the cachet drawing in blue-violet of a tree symbolising Stifter's native region.

19Kč – Mikuláš Dačický of Heslov (1555–1626) was a poet and chronicler who was educated in Latin, literary art, law and economy. He inherited wealth from his father and only in his mature years became a chronicler of the life and people of Kutná Hora. His writings on the mining and minting in the area, events surrounding the Battle of the White Mountain and medieval laws are important historical sources. **FDC:** has a commemorative Kutná Hora cancel and the cachet drawing in blue-green symbolise his immature life and later mature work. The FDCs were printed DS.

4 May 2005

**European Exhibition of Postage Stamps Brno 2005 and the
200th Anniversary of the Battle of Austerlitz**

Commemorative sheet [shown on page 35]

Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS with 1 stamp within a commemorative sheet. **Design:** from the oil painting by L.-F Lejeune (1775-1848) of 1808 featuring the atmosphere on the eve of the battle when Napoleon and his generals interrogate Moravian farmers. The original painting is in the chateau in Versailles. The sheet has the Brno 2005 logo and the text in Czech "European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005". Below the stamp the title of the painting appears in Czech "Napoleon on the Eve of the Battle of Slavkov" together with the artist's name.

FDC: printed DS in brown-green and commemorative Slavkov u Brna cancel. The cachet drawing is a line drawing from a study for the "Year 1805" by the French artist Jean Lius Ernest Meissonier (1815-1891). The text in Czech "200 Anniversary of the Battle of Slavkov" appears below the cachet.

Stamp: Joint issue with France [shown on page 35]

Designer: Karel Zeman **Engravers:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň (Czech) Claude Jumelet (French) **Printing:** RD in sheets of 40 stamps with 2 half size labels.

Design: a portrait of Napoleon and the Peace Monument. The Czech and French stamps differ only in the accompanying texts. The labels show a) Napoleon on the balcony of the Vice-Regency Palace (today the Moravian Gallery in Brno) and b) a drawing of a sabre, scabbard and gun. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Slavkov u Brna cancel. The cachet design has the standards of the three warring Empires.

On 2 December 1805 the allied armies of the Russian Emperor Alexander 1 and the Austrian Emperor Franz 1 met the army of the French Emperor Napoleon 1 on the hills and valleys between Brno and Austerlitz (Slavkov). An estimated 90,000 Allied and 70,000 French troops were engaged in the fighting. Napoleon watched the battle from Žuráň – a small hill, which is now an extraterritorial area of

France within Czech Republic. The battle of the three Emperors resulted in victory for Napoleon. A Brno pacifist priest – Prof. A Slovák instigated the erection of a Peace Monument in 1910 in remembrance of the victims of the battle. The Art Nouveau stone monument was designed by the architect J Fanty (1856-1954) and erected with donations from France, Russia and Austria-Hungary. The Pratecký Hill where the heaviest fighting took place is the site of annual ceremonies culminating in an enactment of the Battle of Austerlitz.

Both (Czech) issues were to promote the European Exhibition BRNO 2005.

4 May 2005

Europa – Gastronomy



Designer: Jiří Slíva **Engraver:** (FDC cachet) Pavel Kovářík **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 6. The margin of the sheet has a security hologram.

Design: a typical Czech meal of roast duck, dumplings and cabbage with a tankard of beer.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet cartoon drawing depicts a waiter carrying a tray.

25 May 2005

For Children



Designer: Zdeněk Smetana **Engraver:** Jiří Bouda **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30 stamps.

Design: the characters Křemílek and Vochomorka playing, joined by a long striped scarf. In the 1970s Václav Čtvrtek wrote “Stories from the Tree Stump Cottage of Křemílek and Vochomurka” for children. These were adapted for the popular children’ bedtime television programme “Večerníček.”

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet drawing shows the little stump cottage of the two characters.

A booklet of 8 stamps and two stamp sized labels was issued. The labels show a little butterfly girl.

25 May 2005

The 2005 World Year of Physics



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

Design: the logotype of the 2005 World Year of Physics (light cone) and Einstein’s principle of the constant velocity of light, with his name and text for the event. The year 2005 was chosen for the world event, as this was the 100th anniversary of the publication of Albert Einstein’s (1879-1955)

basic work on relativity and quantum physics. Einstein was a lecturer at Charles’ University, Prague between 1911 and 1912.

FDC: printed DS in brown with a commemorative Prague cancel with Einstein’s facsimile signature. The cachet drawing is taken from a 1955 portrait of the scientist by Max Švabinský. Below the portrait is the following text in Czech “ Albert Einstein 1905: Theory of Brownian Motion – Theory of Photoelectric Phenomenon – Special Theory of Relativity”

Postal Stationery

Official Commemorative Postcard

4 May 2005 European Postage Stamp Exhibition Brno 2005 and 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Austerlitz.

Designer: Karel Dvořák **Printing:** multicoloured offset **Design:** - stamp – imprinted 7.50Kč with Brno town coat of arms (see *Czechout* 4/2003 p127) The cachet design is Santon Hill near Tvarožná about 10 Km from Brno. Napoleon's soldiers used it as a strategic point and destroyed the chapel on the hill but this was rebuilt in 1832. Nearby stands a replica French cannon from the battle. The logo of the Exhibition with text in Czech and further text for the anniversary complete the design. The card retails for 12.50Kč.

Promotional Postcards

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

4- 5 Decemberber 2004. Numiphil 2004. The promotional portion shows a view of the Kursalon – Stadtpark, Vienna where the event was held.

3 – 5 March 2005. International Stamp Bourse, Munich. The promotional portion shows an early 20th century postman at a railway station receiving a letter from a young lady.

Slovak Republic

31 January 2005

Valentine's Day 2005



Designer: Marián Čapka **Printing:** offset by WSP.

Design: a winged cupid floating above a bunch of roses.

FDC: printed offset by TAB,s.r.o., Bratislava. The cachet design is a heart of roses. The commemorative Bratislava cancel is a lover's knot as a reminder of the main qualities of love – fidelity and devotion. A maximum card was issued.

14 February 2005

Family



Designer: Katarina Vavrová **Engraver:** Lucie Kruličková - FDC cachet only
Printing: offset by WSP

Design: young parents with their baby. International Family Day is celebrated annually on 15 May. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is from a folk sculpture of a family.

14 February 2005

750th Anniversary of Banská Bystrica



Designer: Jaroslav Uhel **Engraver:** Miroslav Strnadel – FDC cachet only
Printing: offset by WSP. **Design:** a tower of the Church of the Assumption of St Mary with the town coat of arms and town name with the dates 1225 and 2005. The town was declared a free town in 1225 and over the ensuing years was granted various privileges by its rulers. It has a rich and colourful history but in more recent times during 1944 was the centre for the Slovak National Uprising with the Free Slovak Radio based there. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative Banská Bystrica cancel.

The cachet drawing is Matejov dom (Mathias' House) which according to legend King Mathias had built in the 15th century.

24 February 2005

Slovakia Summit 2005



Designer: Enterprise Agency **Engraver:** Peter Augustovič – FDC cachet only **Printing:** offset by WSP **Design:** the flags of USA, Slovakia and Russia with the date of the event and the names “Bush” and “Putin” either side of a silhouette of Bratislava Castle. Slovakia hosted a series of international meetings including a meeting between the Presidents Bush and Putin. This was the first official visit of President Putin to Slovakia and the first ever by President Bush. **FDC:** printed intaglio from flat plates combined with offset by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative

Bratislava cancel designed by Štefan Kubovič. The cachet design shows prominent buildings of Bratislava.

10 March 2005

Zdenka Schelingová



Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Juraj Vitek – FDC cachet only. **Printing:** offset by WSP as a commemorative sheet. **Design:** portrait of Sister Zdenka Schelingová on the stamp with an ornamental surround on the sheet. Cecilia Schelingová was born on 24 December 1916 in Krivá na Orave and from the age of 15 devoted herself to the church. She completed medical school and compulsory convent education taking her vows on 30 January 1937, receiving the name of Zdenka. After working as a medical nurse she worked in the X-ray department of Bratislava Hospital. Persecution of the Catholic Church began after 1948 with the Communists in power. She was tried and sentenced in 1952 to 12 years in prison for assisting in the escape of a priest. She was released on 16 April 1955 due to ill health and died on 31 July 1955. On the third visit of Pope John Paul II to Slovakia in September 2003 she became the first Slovak woman to be beatified.

FDC: printed DS by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative

Trnava cancel. The cachet drawing shows two crucifixes before a doorway.

10 March 2005

Easter



Designer: Vladimír Machaj **Engraver:** František Horniak – FDC cachet only **Printing:** offset by WSP **Design:** a lamb, a bunch of willow twigs, a bunch of flowers and a decorated egg as symbols of the Easter festival.

FDC: printed DS by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet, in green, has a young girl and boy with symbols of Easter customs.

A maximum card was issued with a lamb resting at the foot of a tree, a decorated egg and flowering cowslips.

A booklet with a green cover and containing a strip of 5 x 2 stamps was issued.

31 March 2005

Cycling



Designer: Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Lucie Kruličková - FDC cachet only **Printing:** offset by WSP

Design: the paralympic cyclist, Radovan Kaufman, in the 1km sprint event which he won. This is the first time Slovakia has issued a stamp with a paralympic motif. Radovan Kaufman (1978-2003) was diagnosed with cancer and his right leg was amputated in 1994. He took part in many world championships in cycling, gaining his first Olympic gold medal in Sydney 2000. In his honour the Slovak Paralympic Committee have organised an annual cycle charity event “On Wheels Against Cancer.” The 2005 event is

to raise money for a Wave System used in cancer prevention.

31 March 2005

Solidarity with Asia

Designer and Engraver: Arnold Feke **Printing:** DS combined with offset by Post Printing House, Prague in sheets of 8 (2 blocks of 2 x 2 with central plain gutter)

Design: taken from a pencil drawing of 1944/45 by František Studený entitled "Poor Mother." The Slovak Post will donate part of the proceeds from sales to UNICEF, Slovakia to support the relief programs in Indonesia following the disaster of December 2004, particularly for the health of children and pregnant women.

FDC: printed DS combined with offset by TAB. s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing in brown shows a vase of flowers.

22 April 2005

Europa - Gastronomy

Designer: Karol Prudil **Engraver:** Jana Viktorová – FDC cachet only

Printing: offset by WSP **Design:** a slice of bread in the shape of an outline map of Slovakia and a salt cellar. These are the traditional basic foods of the Slovak diet and also represent symbols of hospitality.

FDC: printed DS by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava.

29 April 2005

Bratislava Peace

Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Arnold Feke – FDC cachet only **Printing:** offset by WSP

Design: the Winter Palace of the Esztergom Archbishop in Bratislava (then Pressburg) with a portrait of Napoleon above. The Peace Treaty after the Battle of Austerlitz (Slavkov) was signed there on 26 December 1805. The Archbishop's Palace is today the Town Hall of Bratislava.

FDC: printed DS by TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava.

Postal Stationery**Postcards for Promotional Use**

Dec. 2004? CDV 118 Card has imprinted 9Sk stamp. The design is a decorative white jug with blue patterns on a red-brown background. The card retails at 10Sk.

Feb 2005? CDV119 (118/05) As for CDV 118 above but the promotional portion commemorates the 750th anniversary of the granting of privileges to the town of Banská Bystrica.

