



## CZECHOUT

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### NOTES

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 5 November**. The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am; after Lunch **David Holt** will give a display entitled *Templice-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 2601978).

We were all delighted to see Bob Kingsley at the September meeting following his recent illness and hospitalisation.

With regret I heard of the death of Dr. Ing. Jozef Tekel' whose company I enjoyed in Bratislava. Both he and his brother Andrej have contributed several articles to our journal. [Editor]

*Opinions expressed in articles in Czechout are the sole responsibility of the author(s), and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Society.*

## NEWS & NOTICES

### Report of the Society Weekend held Friday 17 to Sunday 19 June 2005 at Moseley Park Beefeater, Broadlands, Wolverhampton

Some twenty-five members together with their spouses attended a packed weekend ably organised by Bob and Jane Hill and Tony Moseley. The meeting room was above the Beefeater bar and restaurant, with the accommodation in the adjoining Travel Inn. The display frames had been kindly loaned by Wombourne Philatelic Society.

The gathering before dinner on the Friday started on a sad note, with the news that our Life President **Bill Dawson** had passed away the previous day, and that **Robert Kingsley** had been admitted to hospital.

The Friday sessions before and after dinner were devoted to displays on the **Sokols** by **Brian Day**. The earliest item shown was a letter to Jindřich Fügner two years before the Sokol gymnastics movement was founded in 1862. Not only was there a wide range of material related to the main Sokol organisation and their periodic *slets*, but also to separate organisations formed by the Catholics, the Jews and the workers.

The first session on Saturday morning was given over to displays by the current and past Chairmen, under the title of *Why I collect Czechoslovakia*. **Richard Beith** kicked off, saying that he had been a recent convert some 15 years ago. He reminisced over his early days when his father was President of Hull PS. At a North East Philatelic Weekend, he had given a paper on "The importance of allowing oneself to be side-tracked in philately", and that is what his love of Czech music had done. He had for a long time been a collector of airmails, with his first book being on Scottish airmails from 1919. He showed all his publications, including a long article on Czech music through stamps in the journal of the Dvořák Society.

**Lindy Bosworth** said "it happened way back, at the beginning of the 1900s, with her grandfather a chef in Karlsbad." She spent her honeymoon staying with her uncle, a philatelist, near Karlsbad, and started to exchange stamps for FDCs. It was music that brought her to the Society, through Charles Galloway and his wife Irene, a member. In 1970 a professor at Charles University was looking for a correspondent. Visiting him for Praga 1978, she met another philatelist from Brno, from whom she eventually bought his Prague 1978 collection. It was through her late husband Alan Knight that she now collects Austro-Hungarian ship mail.

**Brian Day** said that his interest in the area started when an office colleague got over 200 replies to an ad for an eastern European correspondent. Brian took on 3 or 4, soon narrowing it down to a Czech, joining the Society in the 1970s. He showed a miscellany from his many areas of interest.

**Reg Hounsell** had left his display (and his notes) on the sideboard at home, so he proceeded to extemporise. He had been collecting since the age of 7, with a gap when courting Kathy. He was then collecting King George VI Commonwealth, but being sent to Ostrava by his company in 1969 changed all that. He joined the Society through Brian Parker. He had always had an interest in planes, hence his airmail collections. His launch into a real specialisation came in 1977 when he purchased the first Masaryk in the Kay Goodman auction.

Following the passing of Bill Dawson and the illness of Robert Kingsley, both past Chairmen, **Tony Bosworth** stepped in and showed *Bohemia and Moravia*. His "Bacchanalian lust and sheer desire to collect" exuded from his every pore as he waxed lyrical on the history and postage rates of the Protectorate. **Otto Hornung** recounted a recent conversation with Dr. Rauch concerning his recent articles. And finally before lunch **Barry Horne** explained why the short answer to why he collected Czechoslovakia was "Because I collect Belgium." Asked at a Belgian society weekend what else he collected, he said the French art stamps, and this led to the Czechoslovak art stamps. Barry then showed his proposed Stampex exhibit on the *1953 currency reform*.

Meanwhile the non-philatelists had been taken by Jane Hill to Moseley Old Hall, a nearby National Trust property. For reasons beyond their control they were back late for the delayed buffet lunch, with the caterers inadequately making amends for the shortages. After lunch Jane took them to the Halfpenny Green vineyard.

>

The Secretary gave details of three prospective new members:

<b>Peter John Liskutin</b>	from Southampton
<b>Gerhard Janacek</b>	from Wiener Neustadt, Austria
<b>Tony Lane</b>	from Beaconsfield

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The **George Pearson Trophy** competition was held next, followed by the **Francis Pettitt Salver**. The results were as follows:

1st	<b>Yvonne Gren</b>	<i>East Silesia: the Fryštát and Karvinná district 1918-1939</i>
2nd	<b>Bob Bradford</b>	<i>The Hradčany issues</i>
3rd	<b>Barry Horne</b>	<i>1953 currency reform</i>
1st	<b>Bob Hill</b>	<i>Prostějov</i>
2nd	<b>Barry Horne</b>	<i>Allegories of Republic</i>

The following members gave displays during the afternoon:

<b>Rex Dixon</b>	<i>Hultschiner Ländchen / Hlučínsko</i>
<b>Yvonne Wheatley</b>	<i>Provisional newspaper labels</i>
<b>Les Pearcey</b>	<i>Czech forces in Britain during WWII</i>
<b>Derek Baron</b>	<i>Registration marks and labels used in Olomouc</i>
<b>Alan Berrisford</b>	<i>Austrian Silesia, including TPOs and Postablagen</i>
<b>Roger Morrell</b>	<i>1871 postal card of Hungary</i>
<b>Roger Morrell</b>	<i>Danube flotilla, including a tugboat</i>
<b>Jan Verleg</b>	<i>Second issue of ČSR: the Legionnaires' issue</i>
<b>Hans van Dooremalen</b>	<i>Hradčany postal cards, including interesting usages</i>
<b>Lindy Bosworth</b>	<i>Recent acquisitions</i>
<b>Barry Horne</b>	<i>A query</i>

The dinner was held early, too early for some, to accommodate the evening programme. This started with a 100-lot auction, with **Roger Morrell** conducting brisk business as the auctioneer, ably assisted by **Louise Williams** as runner, with **Bob Bradford** keeping the accounts. The Chairman then presented various awards: to the winners of the afternoon's competitions; medals and diplomas to **Bob Hill** and **Otto Hornung** for their three literature entries at Brno 2005; and a glass paperweight to **David Woodhouse** for his sterling work on the CD-ROM for the Society's 50th anniversary.

Richard then welcomed **Roy Summers** and his wife Val for the evening's main entertainment, a superb two-session presentation on the *Postal History of Wolverhampton*. The earliest item was from 1678. The straight-line marks of 1726-1796 were followed by the mileage marks: initially 133 but 123 after the rerouting in 1823 via Coventry instead of Oxford. The Victorian period included a reversed horseshoe mark, the penny posts, the 905 numerals, two experimental spoons, and a wide variety of duplexes. The suboffice marks were followed by a very extensive range of parcel post labels and various unusual 20th century material. Richard Beith gave the vote of thanks and presented a bouquet to Val.

Sunday morning was to have been largely devoted to the postal history of Plzeň and Ostrava, chosen for and led by Bill Dawson and Robert Kingsley. In their place **Bob Hill** showed the various *Liberation overprints of Plzeň*. Bob explained that Grau used to list 19 overprints, later reduced to 12, but recent research by Karel Holoubek has reduced the number of recognised overprints to five. Bob then displayed *The postmarks of Moravská Ostrava following liberation*, including marks from what were to become offices 1 to 22.

Other displays during Sunday morning were:

<b>Bob Hill</b>	<i>Kladsko / Klodza: 1945 overprints on General Government for "independent" Czechs in this Polish location</i>
<b>Barry Horne</b>	<i>Red Cross issue; and various essays</i>
<b>Richard Beith</b>	<i>Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in around Plzeň</i>
<b>Otto Hornung</b>	<i>Cz. Slania proofs; Russian field post office in Trebizond</i>

The meetings were formally closed before Sunday lunch. On behalf of those who had enjoyed the weekend, Richard expressed all their thanks to Bob Hill, Tony Moseley and Jane Hill.

Rex Dixon

### **Impressions of a Summer Weekend Meeting held 17-19 June 2005 at Wolverhampton.**

The CPSGB Summer meeting took place on the weekend commencing Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, at the Moseley Park, [no family connection with myself!] situated just north of Wolverhampton City centre in the heart of the West Midlands. Our meeting took place during a heatwave on what may have been the hottest weekend of the year so far. We had a good attendance with around thirty members and partners staying over the weekend or attending on Saturday.

Events began on Friday evening with interesting displays on the various 'slets' which included a lot of material new to me. Later in the evening members joined in the hotel restaurant for a meal and very welcome drinks in the bar.

Saturday's early session saw invited displays from our Chairman and ex-Chairmen on 'Why I collect Czechoslovakia' and we heard several anecdotes and tales of how various people had become involved in collecting their particular subject. During the morning Bob Hill's wife Jane organised a successful visit for the ladies to nearby National Trust property 'Moseley Old Hall' a building connected to King Charles II, and later in the day to 'Wightwick Manor' one of the first buildings locally to have electricity and owned originally by the Mander Family known locally for their paint manufacturing business in Wolverhampton.

Back at the hotel, after a short break for refreshment, Tony Bosworth gave an invited display on Bohemia and Moravia, a subject which I find fascinating and have a particular interest in, which was very well received by those present. Tony explained the historical events through Munich and the Sudetenland crisis and how Bohemia and Moravia came into being, with a comprehensive display of postal history from 1939-45.

During the afternoon competitions were held for the Francis Pettitt Salver and the George Pearson Trophy. Several entries were submitted and judging decided by members present who voted by ballot. After counting the slips, congratulations were given to Bob Hill who won the Francis Pettitt Salver and Yvonne Gren who won the George Pearson Trophy.

Following a 'Show and Tell' session by members that included Border Changes in the Hlúcin area by Rex Dixon, the various lots for the evening auction were put on display for inspection by members. After our evening meal the auction took place officiated by Roger Morrell who had travelled especially from the London area to take part, Peter Williams helped by Louisa and Bob Bradford collecting cash. This ran very smoothly and 100 lots were soon offered to members present. Most of the items were sold and everyone seemed pleased with their purchases.

A full day of events concluded with Roy Summers of Wombourne Philatelic Society describing postal history over a period of many years from Wolverhampton and surrounding area. Following a vote of thanks from the Chairman the members retired to the bar in search of cold refreshment.

Sunday was again a very hot day, which began with a display of Moravská Ostrava 1945 material from Bob Hill. Bob also brought along some very rare overprints in Czech on German stamps from occupied Poland that originated from Kladsko an area with strong Czechoslovakian connections. Barry Horne displayed Red Cross material and some interesting proofs before we moved on to postal history of Plzen from Bob Hill and Richard Beith. Our final material on display was shown by Otto Hornung who produced some unique items that have never been seen before. These included the only known correspondence sent to Baku [Russia] by a Russian Military Surgeon from Trabzon a Turkish town on the Black Sea occupied by Czarist Russia during the First World War. This concluded a very enjoyable weekend and after the Chairman's closing speech we brought a close to our meeting. The weekend had been organised by Bob Hill, with help by myself, Tony Moseley, and Bob's long suffering wife Jane. The organisers would like to thank everyone who attended the weekend meeting and who helped in any way with the running of the weekend.

Tony Moseley >

**Joint meeting with the Austrian PS, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in GB at Heaton Royds, Bradford, Saturday 13 August 2005**

This, the eighth joint meeting between the four societies, was again kindly hosted by Stephen and Judith Holder at their cottage and barn high above Bradford. It has become an annual institution that everyone looks forward to. The weather forecast had been for heavy rain, but all we suffered was the odd light shower with the sun emerging strongly towards the end.

More people than ever, some two dozen of us, were greeted with coffee and home-made biscuits. There was a full day of displays with seven rounds of five frames, three before lunch and four after. A break was taken for an excellent buffet of cold meats, salads, cheeses and fruit washed down with wine or beer.

<b>Richard Beith</b>	<i>Czechoslovak government-in-exile; Czechoslovak Red Cross</i>
<b>Richard Wheatley</b>	<i>Some Polish items from the next PHS auction</i>
<b>Stephen Holder</b>	<i>Austrian inflation – postcard rates</i>
<b>Derek Baron</b>	<i>Olomouc TPOs</i>
<b>Joyce Boyer</b>	<i>Vorarlbergbahn; Karwendelbahn</i>
<b>Mervyn Benford</b>	<i>Various aspects of Hungarian railways and TPOs</i>
<b>Edmund Jagielski</b>	<i>Oflag IIC, internal camp post</i>
<b>Pat Rothnie</b>	<i>Fieldpost with Czechoslovak connections</i>
<b>Roger Morrell</b>	<i>Hungarian censorship in WWI</i>
<b>Hans Smith</b>	<i>Austrian occupation of Poland – the military post offices</i>
<b>John Whiteside</b>	<i>Polish – the German currency area of Upper Silesia</i>
<b>Keith Brandon</b>	<i>Austrian postmark errors</i>
<b>Alan Berrisford</b>	<i>Austrian Galicia from 1850</i>
<b>Rex Dixon</b>	<i>Hultschiner Ländchen / Hlučínsko</i>
<b>Martin Brumby</b>	<i>Austrian inflation – parcel cards</i>
<b>Charles Grainger</b>	<i>Germania overprints in Poland; various Hungarian overprints</i>
<b>Keith Brandon</b>	<i>The Austrian Empire by moonlight – the Mondschein cards</i>
<b>Andy Taylor</b>	<i>Music in Austria</i>
<b>John Whiteside</b>	<i>Temporary Hungarian postmarks in 1945 from west of the Danube</i>
<b>Richard Beith</b>	<i>Czechoslovaks in the Middle East</i>
<b>Mervyn Benford</b>	<i>Hungarian postage dues – some special items</i>
<b>Roger Morrell</b>	<i>Local issues in Hungary after WWI – the oddities</i>
<b>Stephen Holder</b>	<i>Miscellany of cards from the Austrian Empire</i>

There were warm votes of thanks to Stephen Holder, for hosting the meeting; to Judith Holder, helped on the day by Pat Clegg, for the catering and hospitality; and to Yvonne Wheatley, for organising and leading the day (not forgetting the cakes she baked for tea). The party began to disperse around 5.30pm well pleased with the day and their purchases from the 'tomato boxes'.

**Meeting held Saturday 3 September 2005 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm**

The Chairman, Richard Beith, welcomed 17 members and one visitor. He extended a special welcome to North Wales member Bernard Reynolds, who was attending his first London meeting. Apologies had been received from five members.

Richard showed the medal that the Society had unexpectedly and belatedly received for the exhibit that was displayed at the Brno 2005 exhibition – in the same room as the Queen's collection. Lindy Bosworth was warmly thanked for organising the display.

The Secretary gave details of four prospective new members:

<b>Reginald Fell</b>	from Eastbourne
<b>Linda Fell</b>	from Eastbourne
<b>Neil Power</b>	from Sale
<b>David Wakeman</b>	from Norwich

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Under the title ***The Chairman Entertains***, **Richard Belth** gave us a display of Czechoslovak airmails, organised by the principal airline that had carried the mail. The first half was of transcontinental and transoceanic acceptances to 1943, with the following airlines featured:

Air France	South Atlantic
DLH, Deutsche Lufthansa	South Atlantic
Deutsche Zeppelin-Reederei	North & South Atlantic
Imperial Airways	Africa, India, Australasia
KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines	Far East
LATI	South Atlantic from Rome, 1939–1941
Pan American Airways	North Atlantic from Lisbon

Richard noted that the Czechoslovak post office did not have an agreement with the German post office for the North Atlantic catapult service, so no treaty mail exists.

Items that your reporter noted included: an Air France postbox from Prague inscribed for airmail to Africa and South America, now in the postal museum at Vyšší Brod; a 310-gram registered cover of 25.II.36 to Buenos Aires correctly franked 957.50 Kč; a B&M cover of 1.IX.39 to Australia, censored in Melbourne as by then war had broken out; and a B&M cover of November 1943 to neutral Argentina routed via Lisbon and the USA.

The second half concerned airmails within Europe, including internal flights. The main airlines covered were:

CFRNA / CIDNA	These forerunners of Air France established the first airmail routes in Czechoslovakia in 1920
ČSA, Čs Státní Aerolinie	Czechoslovak State Airline, from 1923
ČLS, Čs Letecká Společnost	Czechoslovak Air Transport Co.

Rex Dixon gave the vote of thanks. He said that Richard had certainly entertained us, both with the display, including many ephemera, and with the way he had presented it to us. Unfortunately there were less members than often, but those who were there enjoyed it very much.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.20 pm.

### Letters to the Editor

☒ **Ronald Hollis** writes: If any member possesses copies of the following Bohemia & Moravia postcards "Hitler's Tour of Bohemia & Moravia" Numbers CS1, 2, 3, 4,7,8,15 & 18; could they kindly loan them for recording in a proposed monograph. Please send to John Hammonds, 31 Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham, RH12 5TH

☒ **Lubor Kunc** writes: I am not sure, if I told you about a positive response from the Stamp museum of Budapest to the review of their museum in *Czechout*. I sent them the copy of *Czechout* you had enclosed to me for their files and I received a very positive answer thanking you and me for the promotion and enclosing some leaflets about history of postal operations in Hungary.

☒ **The British Museum & Archive Newsletter** contains details of a new BPMA website slideshow 'World War Two in Stamps'.

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✉ **Neil Rees** writes that **Bob McCleod** has recently found an American Internet newsletter that goes out to émigré Czechs (mainly Americans) called *Dumpling News* [<http://www.thedumplingnews.com>]. Zora, the lady who runs it says (quote) "This Newsletter has a subscription list of just over 103,000 Czech/Americans" with a smattering of Czechs from Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, Africa (believe it or not) and all the countries in Europe and Russia." Its quite random. If you take a look at it please note that if you have speakers attached music blares out! Its mainly aimed at American Czechs but there might be some things that interest you. In the last issue Bob McCleod wrote a nice piece about Aston Abbots. If you wish to subscribe to it e-mail Zora at [zora9711@bellsouth.net](mailto:zora9711@bellsouth.net).

*Neil Rees' Czechs and Chequers The News Letter of the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile Research Society issue No. 2 appeared in April and covered the Aston Abbots festival held in July. Editor*

### Publications

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

- The Autumn 2005 issue of *Austria*, No.151. The articles include:
  - ▶ Postal History of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the Far East, 1898-1920 part 1 (Pirotte); A Letter from Brixen to Kufstein 1816 (Taylor et al); First Issue Frankings (Haslauer); Thematic Collecting (Boyer);
- The June/September 2005 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.36, Whole No. 144/145. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
  - ▶ List of articles about Czechoslovakian Philately & Postal History (Müller & Then); The end of the Railway Post in Slovakia (Tschirner); Special Cancellations from the Slovak Post Office in 2004 (Tschirner); Distinguishing features on the 5.40Kč definitive stamp in the "Sign of the Zodiac series (Ziegler).
  - ▶ Index of articles on Czechoslovak Philately and Postal History (Müller); Philatelic Items from OSTROPA 2003 in Jihlava (Müller); The Frontier Dispute between Poland and Czechoslovakia in Teschen (Tiede); Variations in the 30h Stamp "Inter Cosmos" Pofis No.2359 (Ziegler); Variations in the 3Kč Stamp "Clay Pots & Door Handle" Pofis No.2548 (Ziegler); Prague Scout Post 1918 (-); AUTP – The Transport of Mail by Road Vehicles in Czechoslovakia (Müller); Transitional Cancellations 1918/1920 (Bouhsem); Special Cancellations from the Czech Post Office 2004 (Müller).
- The July/August & September/October 2005 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 67 Whole Nos.592/593. No. 4/5. The articles include:
  - ▶ Czechoslovakia 1918 to 1948 (Graham); Personal Delivery Stamps Occupied Unusual Niche (Straight); Postal History The Czechoslovak Currency Reform of 1953 [cont] (Dražan & Aksamit); American & British Field Post Offices in Western Bohemia in 1945 (Kunc); The Road to Plzeň [cont] (Holoubek).
  - ▶ Liberation of Czechoslovakia (Horvath); American & British Field Post Offices in Western Bohemia in 1945 [cont] (Kunc); Telč Trip (Rhoades); Postal History The Czechoslovak Currency Reform of 1953 [cont] (Dražan & Aksamit); Heydrich Block Census (Rhoades).
- The 6, 7 & 8/2005 issues of *Filatelia*. Vol. 55. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
  - ▶ Mystery of the 'Printing Error' of the 13K stamp from the Košice issue of 1945 finally explained (Beneš); Supplement: Košice Miniature sheet [7] (Čtvrtečka & Aršik).
  - ▶ Postage-Free Mail (Hamr); Supplement: New Dangerous Forgeries and Czechoslovak Philately (Beneš)



- ▶ Varied Fate of an Ordinary stamp – Type Beneš (Feldmann); Czech stamps in the second half of 2005 – Traditional and New (Francková & Dusslová); Supplement: Plate Errors on Czech Stamps [12] (Zednik).
- The 3 & 4/2005 issues of *Merkur Revue*, The articles include:
  - ▶ Red Cross 1920 – Forgeries or Mis-used Blocks? (Stupka); Proposed Art Type of the 5<sup>th</sup> Drawing of Hradčany Stamps (Olšína & Paďera); Czechoslovak Preliminary and Parallel Franked Postal Forms [3] (Štefek, Kypast, Mezera & Schödelbauer); What to do with Damaged Notes (Dražan); Registered Mail Postmark of Cukmantl (Klim); “Liberated Republic” – Value 1.50h, CDV26 (Kašpar & Moravec)
  - ▶ “Liberated Republic” – Value 1.50h, Postal Stationery [3] (Schödelbauer); SO 1920 (Tovačovský); Czechoslovak Preliminary and Parallel Franked Postal Forms [4] (Štefek, Kypast, Mezera & Schödelbauer); BRNO 2005 Exhibits of ČSR II (Fritz); Supplement: Forgeries of Czechoslovak Notes – 100Kč 1919 [1] (Moravec).
- The July issue of *Nieuws* No 4. The articles include:
  - ▶ Alphons Mucha in Czech Philately (Jonkergouw); Postal Tariffs in Czechoslovakia [1] (van Dooremalen).
- The June & September 2005 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No 161/162. The articles include
  - ▶ Civil Censorship in post WWI, Part 1 (Gazda).
  - ▶ Civil Censorship in post WWI, Part 2 (Gazda); The 'Ziarș 1920 Ujságirók' Overprints (Ilea); On the 1919 Overprint Trail: Part 5: The Overprinted Postal Stationery of the 'New Romania' (Morrell)

**Congratulations** to Otto on being awarded the Czech Victory Anniversary Medal.



Presentation of Czech medal for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory to **Otto Hornung** by the military Attaché at the Embassy. Also for his gold medal award at Pacific Explorer Sydney Australia 2005 for his exhibit *The City Post of Istanbul*.

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We congratulate our Dutch colleagues of the Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije Filatelie on the splendid production of their *NIEUWS* journal and wish them every success.

\*\*\*\*\*

And to **Rex Dixon** for obtaining a large silver for his display of Deutsche Nothilfe 1924-1935 at Narposta 2005 Hanover 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June





## BOOK REVIEWS

***The secret history of the Czech Connection. The Czechoslovak Government in Exile in London and Buckinghamshire during the Second World War***, compiled by Neil Rees. Published by the author, 2005. Landscape format: 9 x 6 inches. ISBN 0-9550883-0-5.

Availability: The book can be obtained from the author at a cost of £7.50 plus an additional £1.50 for post and packing. Cheques on a UK bank should be payable to "Czechs in Bucks". Write to Neil Rees, 1 Eskdale Avenue, Chesham, Bucks HP5 3AX. (neil.rees@czechsinexile.org) Customers outside Europe can pay £10.00 by cheque on a UK bank or send 18 Dollars in US \$ bills. Alternatively, contact the Chapter One Bookshop in Chesham who can handle credit card orders: web site [www.chapter1books.co.uk](http://www.chapter1books.co.uk), e-mail [epayne@btconnect.com](mailto:epayne@btconnect.com).

This fascinating 64-page booklet contains 136 photographic illustrations with informative captions, which tell an almost forgotten story. When, at the height of the London blitz, it was thought unwise for President Beneš and other senior members of the government-in-exile to remain in London overnight, quiet country homes were found for them deep in rural Buckinghamshire, about 90 minutes by road to London. In November 1940 the President moved to a house called The Abbey, in the village of Aston Abbots about five miles from Aylesbury. This was his domestic base until he left for liberated Slovakia via Moscow in March 1945. He would travel to London on a daily basis to his office, but The Abbey was where he wrote his speeches and books. In the nearby village of Wingrave, The Old Manor House was a residence for the staff and families of the Presidential Chancellery. Jan Masaryk was a regular visitor here. A few miles further away from London, Czechoslovak Military Intelligence under Colonel Moravec was based at Addington House, near Winslow.

Neil Rees has accumulated a splendid selection of historic illustrations, some formal, many informal to help tell this story. All the main players from Winston Churchill to the Presidential Guard are shown. There is even an illustration of the Aston Abbots village postmark, dated 28 October 1941. Useful additions include a list of the addresses of the different branches of the exiled government in London. The illustrations are well reproduced on good quality paper and Neil Rees is to be congratulated on a very worthwhile publication.

Richard Beith

## OBITUARY

### W A Dawson - 29 July 1916 - 16 June 2005

It is with deep regret that we learnt of the death of our Life President Bill Dawson just after midday on 16 June 2005.



Bill had suffered a terrible year health wise and had confided during February that this was his and Audrey's *annus horribulus*, although his pronunciation of *annus* summed up his true feelings. At the last meeting he attended at West Hampstead in March this year he arrived having driven himself from home even though he was only recently discharged from hospital. "What yer mush" was his greeting "Ring Audrey and tell her I'm okay and I'll get the beer in". When he was reproached about drinking and driving this was met with a stern "When you get to my age you can take a few chances". Bill looked frail and was certainly ill but his sense of humour was as sharp as ever.

As his health declined we got him to the Embassy in April for the launch of Society Monograph 18 that was dedicated to him. He looked weak but was determined to attend and he left early with his chaperone, member David Woodhouse, for the journey home.

When Audrey rang shortly before his death to say he was taken as an emergency to the King George hospital in Ilford it did not come

as too much of a shock. His anaemia had worsened and his inability to eat meant that a "peg" had to be introduced into his stomach to feed him directly. He then suffered a stroke and passed away two days later.

A potted history of his Bill's membership shows:

Joined CPSGB	1961	third longest society member
Committee member	1986 – 1990	
Vice Chair	1990 – 1993	
Chair	1993 – 1996	
Committee member	1996 – 2003	
Honorary Life Member	2003	
Life President	2003	

#### Publication

Monograph 6, 1988      The German Occupation of the Sudetenland (now reprint 3)

#### Competitions

George Pearson Trophy	1985	1987	1989
Francis Pettitt Salver	1987	1995	
Kay Goodman Trophy	1994	1998	

What was Bill like? Well he was erudite (error what? He would have said), friendly, fun, encouraging, self-deprecating, placatory and so very knowledgeable on his topic.

To illustrate:

- After a committee meeting that seemed never ending "We're here for stamps, not politics."
- On being asked about cancellers for a particular location - "I know the answer, I'll look it up in my collection and ring you back."
- On attending a meeting as a guest of the ArGe - "That's how committees should be run."
- On describing part of his collection - "Would you like to see some of my rubbish."
- On his health - "I'm getting old, what do you expect?"
- On his knowledge - "The more I see the less I know."
- On being asked by a new member why he collected Sudetenland material - "I'm buggedger if I can remember."

Bill, or "the big man" as his beloved wife Audrey referred to him was a good friend and an inspiration to me, I will miss our regular phone conversations which always seemed to feature his comment "well mush, this has got me out of the washing up."

Bob Hill

#### A Message from Audrey Dawson

I would like to thank all Bill's wonderful friends, in fact all the members of the 'Czech Stamp Club' who sent my family and me such heart warming cards and letters of sympathy on Bill's death. I am trying to answer as many letters as possible but Bob came up with the brilliant idea of having a letter printed in the Journal.

Bill began his interest in stamps while still at school, with Great Britain, this was passed on to our son, Peter, who didn't show the slightest interest! Next came Australia; this collection was sold to buy our first dining suite after we were married [for the princely sum of £40!].

Quite a bit later he stumbled cross a small collection of Czechoslovak stamps and this was the beginning of a 'great love affair' which grew and grew, eventually taking over one room in our bungalow and any other spaces there happened to be.

I feel very blessed to have had so many happy memories of our life together and also the legacy of good friends of Bill, who know I hope I can call mine as well. God bless you all, my thanks once again, and carry on 'stamping'.

**Doc. Ing. Jozef Tekel, PhD, AIJP, MAFITT**

On Monday 22 August I received the sad news that our philatelic world had lost one of her most important specialists; Dr. Jozef Tekel from Bratislava had died, after a long illness, on Sunday 21 August aged 51 years. Most of us will remember Jozef Tekel as an excellent expert on Czechoslovakian philately, President of the Slovakian philatelic Society (ZCF - Zväz slovenských filatelistov) writer of several philatelic books and articles and as a good companion at several national and international exhibitions.

Dr. Jozef Tekel worked as a lecturer at the Pharmaceutical faculty of the Komenského University at Bratislava. I met Jozef Tekel for the first time in 1998, when he was staying a year in Belgium to study a speciality at the University of Ghent. I spent several days with him and we had many very pleasant hours together both as philatelists and also visiting the important cultural places in Belgium. I learned that Jozef Tekel was a very nice man without any egoism and never thinking of his own interests.

One of the moments I will remember as long as I live was my meeting with him in Bratislava during our Society visit at the last Bratislava International Exhibition. As president of the Jury Jozef Tekel was very busy when I met him very briefly in the afternoon and he told me to meet him during the evening after his tasks for the exhibition would be finished for the day. This resulted in a nightly visit to the most important places of Bratislava, because he found that, in spite of his many tasks, it was wished to repay me for my guiding in Belgium. Due to the fact that our evenings ended after public transport ceased running he had to walk a long way on foot to his home on the outskirts of Bratislava. My suggestion that I would bring him home by taxi was unacceptable, that's the kind of friend he was. Our Philatelic world has lost a great expert and colleague and for many of us a great friend.

Frederik Backeljauw D.A.

## VELKÉ MEZIŘIČÍ

-Robert J Hill and Sir Peter Titterton-

The town of Velké Meziříčí is 60 kilometres north west of Brno on the river Ostava.



The revolutionary overprint for this town is not very well known amongst collectors. It rarely appears at stamp bourses or auctions as very few of the overprints were produced.

The following information is based on the testimonies of those who were around at the time. One of the witnesses, Mrs. Pavelková, was the wife of one of the originators and she remembers that her husband,

Mr. Pavelka brought home the overprints to show her. She is not sure if the overprints were given to her husband by the postmaster or by the proprietor of the printing works. Both these assumptions are possible because her husband was acquainted with both of them. Mr. Pavelka was the owner of a hotel and he helped to distribute the overprints amongst other local people and for some time he was one of the sources of distribution of these overprints.

The overprint took the form of a gargoyle's head (quite fittingly obliterating Hitler's head) above the text KVĚTEN 1945 (May 1945) and was approved by the local Revolutionary Action Committee. The overprint was produced at the printing works of Mr. Šašek in Velké Meziříčí towards the end of the occupation, probably between 5 and 7 May 1945, not before and no later.



As the town post offices began to supply outlying post offices the number of stamps increased. The final overprinting of Hitler head stamps was:

	Overprint colour 1 <sup>st</sup> printing in red	Overprint colour 2 <sup>nd</sup> printing in green	Overprint colour 3 <sup>rd</sup> printing in black
10 h	1000	500	200
30 h	1000	500	200
40 h	1000	500	200
50 h	1000	500	200
60 h	1000	500	200
80 h	1000	500	200
1.20 k	1000	500	200
2.40 k	1000	500	200

Additionally, more overprints of green and black were to be made to meet demand - however tragic unexpected events prevented it.

The overprinting was made just before liberation when the boundary between the occupiers and the liberating Red Army was not easy to delineate. The Revolutionary Action Committee set up in the town was taken captive by the German Army and condemned to death according to martial law. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Nováček was hanged from a lamp post in the town square as a warning to others.

At the time Mrs. Pavelková worked for the post office at Horní Bory and can clearly remember taking 50 stamps of each value by hand to that post office. She also remembers that the post offices at Tasov, Rudíkov, Osová Bitýška and Radostín also received stamps in a similar manner, she does not know if other offices were supplied with the stamps. These facts are confirmed by others who remember the events at liberation.

At the Horní Bory post office only the overprinted stamps were used as postage on letters. There were not many of these letters and the addressees are not known, Mrs. Pavlíková kept some of the sets of stamps as a memento.

Working at the Tasov post office was Mr. Milostný who clearly remembers receiving the overprint. He relates that the post office in Rudíkov also sold the overprints. As to the post offices in Radostín and Osová Bitýška no witness can be found who remembers those days as few cared about the distribution of stamps – they had enough troubles of their own. It is known that at the post office in Velké Meziříčí these stamps were not on sale for very long and it is possible that all the remaining stamps were either confiscated or destroyed – possibly so that no legal action could be taken.

Further overprints were not made and Mrs. Pavlíková also confirms that other values were not overprinted.

In his book on Revolutionary overprints the late Juan Grau stated that the first 14 Hitler head stamps, up to and including value 3 k, from this location were overprinted in the three listed colours.

In his more authoritative publication of 1996 Karel Holoubek states some of the above detail but omits the 10 h and 2.30 k values.

## VALUABLE ITEMS SENT THROUGH THE POST IN SIX TARIFF PERIODS OF THE FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

-Pavel Švejnar-

Translated by Robert Kingsley from *Filatelie* No 8/2004

Among the services provided by the Post Office is the sending of cash or other valuable items in insured letters or parcels with a stated value. Since the Post Office is responsible for delivering postal items undamaged and complete, special conditions and tariffs apply for this service. My article deals with these questions during Tariff Periods 1-6 of Czechoslovakia, i.e. from 1918 until 1939.

The regulations for sending valuable items in insured letters, insured boxes or parcels with a declared value were adopted after the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 from the postal authorities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Insured letters, over a certain value, had to be sent in special envelopes [sold by the Post Office] stamps had to be affixed by the postal clerk at the counter and the envelope had to be stuck down with tape and signed by the sender [these regulations, in fact, apply to this day].

A parcel with a declared value was accompanied by a Dispatch Note showing the declared value. If it was sent to an overseas address, a pink label was also affixed containing Czech and French text [declared value – valeur déclaré]. The envelope, the price of which under Austria-Hungary, as well as in the newly formed Czechoslovakia, was 2 hellers, stated the amount of cash enclosed in bank notes as well as coins, and normally the Post Office also added the weight of the item and the postage paid. During the early stages of the First Republic Austro-Hungarian envelopes with the eagle were used up, later the Post Office introduced envelopes with the abbreviation ČSR and from 15.5.1921, when payment for insured items was made in cash, envelopes with the national coat of arms, and with spaces for the weight and postage and costing 20 hellers were used.

In cases where a valuable item was sent abroad, the value was declared in Gold Francs so that examples of this postal service are also useful to determine the rate of exchange between Kč K(č) and the Gold Franc in a given period [this rate of exchange was also used to work out Postage Due in the overseas postal service]. The tariff for insured letters or parcels consisted of the fee for the service [depending on the weight plus the fee for additional services, such as express, return receipt etc.] The amount of the fee depended on the sum insured.

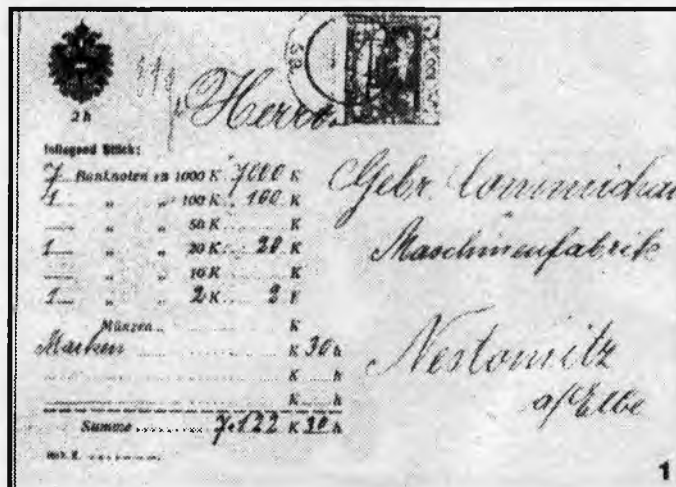
In spite of the fact that this service was used by private individuals, as well as businesses and especially banks [insured letters used by banks had to be open on three sides], one does not find many good quality examples of this postal service. Good quality covers of insured letters with nice cancellations, attractive franking and undamaged seals attract prices at auctions, that is if they are ever offered, of several thousand crowns.

In the text that follows I give details of the fee for insured items and details of the postal service in individual tariff periods from 28.10.1918 to 15.3.1939. However, attention must be drawn to the fact that it is not always possible to determine on the basis of available documentation, the postage precisely, especially where items sent abroad are concerned, where the rate of exchange between the Gold Franc and the Crown played a part.

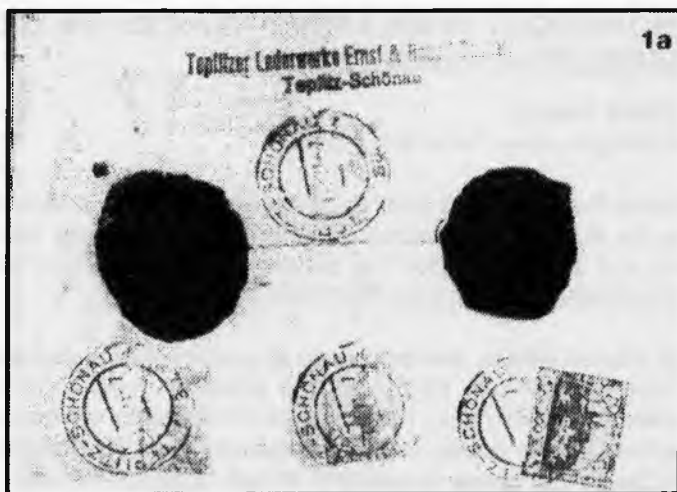
### Tariff Period 1. 28.10.1918-14.5.1919 Postage paid by means of stamps stuck on insured letters or dispatch notes.

- insurance fee for valuable item sent inland
- 10 h for every 300 Kč of insured value
- insurance fee for valuable items sent abroad – amounts graded for every 300 Gold Francs [10h, 15h....etc.]

Illustration 1, 1a Insured letter sent from Post Office Teplice-Šanov 1 on 1.4.1919







Insured value: 7122 Kč. Weight: 31g. Postage 2.90 Kč paid with Hradčany stamps [2 x 100 h + 3 x 30 h] is made up as follows: letter over 20g – 25 h, plus registration fee 25 h, plus insurance fee 24 x 10 h.

Illustration 2. Dispatch note accompanying parcel with declared value sent from Post Office Prague 4 on 17.2.1919. Declared value: 455 Kč. Weight: 2kg. Postage 1.20 Kč is paid with 3 Austrian 40 h stamps [state emblem 1916 series] and is made up as follows: Parcel below 5kg. – 1 Kč insurance fee 2 x 10h.



**Tariff Period 2. 15.5.1919-14.3.1920 postage paid by means of stamps stuck on insured letters or dispatch notes**

- insurance fee for valuable item sent inland – 20 h for every 300 Kč of declared value, in the case of parcels with a declared value plus 50 h so called documentation fee.
- insurance fee for valuable item sent abroad – 20 h for every 300 Gold Francs of declared value when sent overland and 40 h if sent by sea and in the case of parcels with a declared value + 50 h so called documentation fee.



Illustration 3 Insured letter sent from Post Office Buchbergsthal [Železná ve Slezsku] on 11.3.1920 [3 days before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tariff Period] with a declared value of 3200 Kč and weight 27g. Postage of 2.90 Kč paid by 4 Hradčany stamps 5, 10, 75 and 200 h. Letter over 20g – 30 h. plus registration fee 50 h. plus insurance fee – 11 x 20 h. [Note: it is interesting that the total of the fees when added up comes to 3 Kč. We can probably explain the difference of 10 h by the fact that 300 Kč is contained in 3200 Kč 10.7 times and that the post office rounded down, rather than up, charging 10 h and not 20 h.



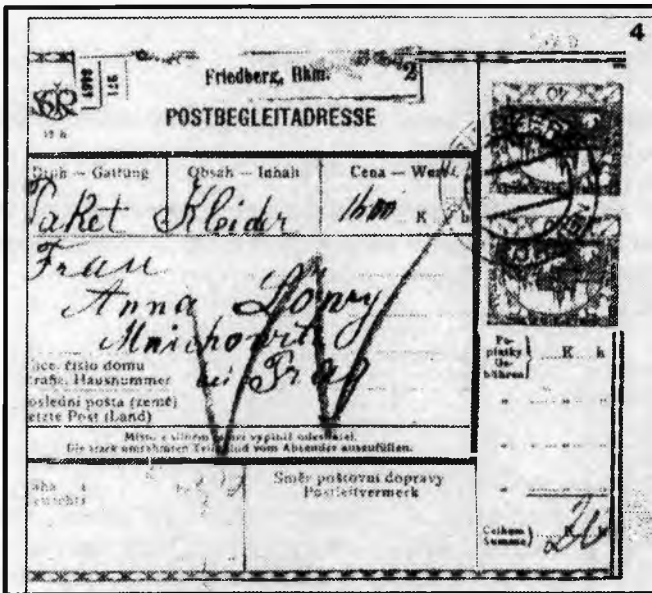


Illustration 4, 4a Dispatch Note with declared value of parcel sent from Post Office Friedberg in Böhmen [Frymburk] on 15.5.1919 [First day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tariff Period]. Declared value: 1100 Kč, weight: 5.8kg. Postage of 3.80 Kč paid by Hradčany stamps [2 x 40 h + 100 + 200 h]. Parcel up to 10 kg: 2.60 Kč, plus 50 h documentation fee, plus insurance fee 3.5 x 20 h [see note relating to Illustration 3]

**Tariff Period 3. 15.3.1920-31.7.1920 postage paid by with stamps stuck on insured letters or dispatch notes**

- insurance fee for valuable item sent inland – 20 h for every 300 Kč of declared value, in the case of parcels plus 50 h so called basic insurance.
- insured letters to overseas destinations could only be sent with special bank approval. From 10.5.1920 it was permitted to send insured letters to Austria and Germany at inland rates. Valuable boxes were not accepted in the postal service.

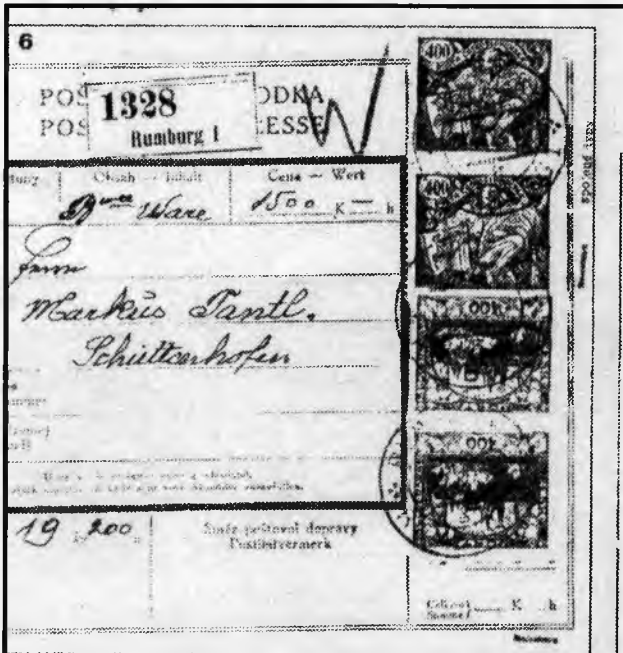
Examples of valuable items sent through the postal service [even inland ones] from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tariff Period are extremely rare!



Illustration 5 Dispatch Note with declared value sent from Post Office Josefthal b. Kosmonos [Josefův Důl u M.B.] on 26.4.1920. Declared value: 5100 Kč, weight: 11.0kg. Postage of 11.60 Kč is paid by Hradčany stamps [100 + 60 h] and 1920 Masaryk stamps [500 + 500]. [Parcel up to 15kg – 6 Kč, plus basic insurance fee 50 h, plus insurance fee 17 x 30 h].

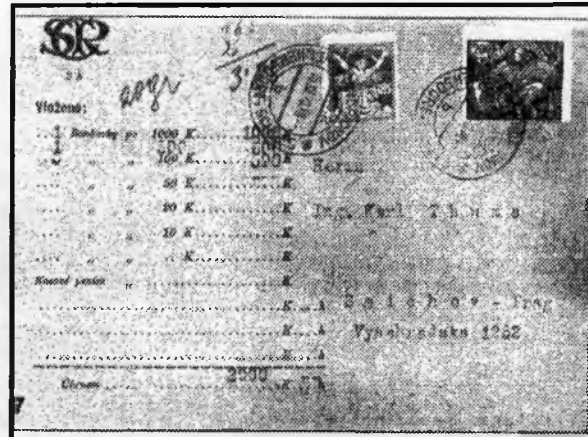
**Tariff Period 4a. 1.8.1920 – 14.5.1921****Postage paid by means of stamps stuck on insured letters or dispatch notes**

- insurance fee for valuable item sent inland – 1 Kč for every 1000 Kč of declared value, in the case of parcels plus 2 Kč so called basic insurance.
- insurance fee for valuable items sent abroad – 50 centimes [converting to actual rate of exchange to Kč] for every 300 Gold Francs, in the case of parcels plus 2 Kč so-called basic insurance.



*Illustration 6. Dispatch Note for parcel with declared value sent from Post Office Rumburk I on 18.10.1920. Declared value: 1500 Kč. Weight: 19.2kg. Postage of 16 Kč is made up of two Hradčany stamps of 400 h and two 1920 Economy & Science [joint type] of 400 h. Parcel up to 20kg -- 12 Kč plus basic insurance – 2 Kč plus insurance fee – 2 x 1 Kč.*

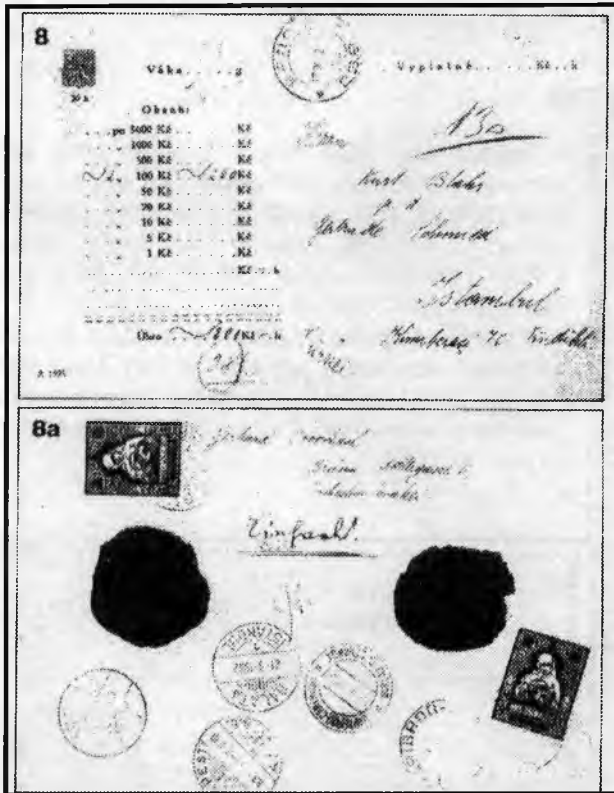
*Illustration 7. Insured letter sent from Post Office Jindřichov [Jindřichov u Knova] on 15.12.1920. Declared value: 2000 Kč. Weight: 20g. Postage of 3.85 Kč is paid with a 1920 Economy & Science 200 h and 185 h Allegories stamp. Letter rate – basic weight 60 h, plus registration fee 1.25 Kč, plus insurance fee – 2 x 1 Kč.*

**Tariff Period 4b. 15.5.1921 – 31.12.1921****Postage paid in cash [express fee paid with stamp]**

- insurance fee for inland and foreign valuable items same as for Tariff Period 4a.

**Tariff Period 5. 1.1.1922 – 28.2.1937**

**Postage paid in cash [express fee paid with stamp]**



- insurance fee for valuable item sent inland – 2 Kč for every 1000 Kč of declared value [from 1.5.1923 – 1 Kč]

- insurance fee for valuable item sent abroad. There were many changes due to the frequently changing rate of exchange between the Gold Franc and the Czech Crown and also depending on the destination. In the case of valuable boxes and parcels where the postage depended on the weight – 1 Kč for every 0.5kg. But a minimum of 5 Kč [from 1.10.1925 - 1.40 Kč for every 0.5kg [with a minimum of 7 Kč].

*Illustration 8. Insured Letter sent from Post Office Brno 1 on 16.9.1932 to Istanbul [receipt cancel 21.9.1932]. Declared value: 200 Kč. Weight: 21g. Postage 10 Kč paid in cash. 2.50 Kč basic letter rate, plus 1.50 Kč for weight over 20g. plus 2.50 Kč registration and 3.50 Kč insurance fee.*

*Illustration 9. Parcel Dispatch Note with declared value sent from Post Office Brno 8 on 26.7.1925 to the Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. Declared value: 730 Kč [104 Gold Francs], weight: 12.7kg. Postage 29.45 Kč paid in cash. 25.40 Kč was the postage, based on the weight of the parcel, plus 4.05 Kč insurance fee [a 40 h Masaryk stamp was used in respect of a fiscal surcharge which was increased from 10 h to 50 h on 8.5.1925].*



### Tariff Period 6. 1.3.1937 – 15.3.1939

#### Postage paid in cash [express fee paid with stamp]

- insurance fee for valuable item sent inland – 1 Kč for every 1000 Kč of declared value
- insurance fee for valuable item sent abroad – 4.65 Kč [2.80 Kč in respect of countries with a reduced rate] for every 300 Gold Francs of declared value. In the case of valuable boxes and parcels 1.85 Kč for every 0.5kg. with a minimum of 9.30 Kč

Illustration 10. 10a Parcel Dispatch Note with declared value sent from Post Office Zlín 2 on 29.9.1938 to Slatinské Doly [Carpatho Ukraine] arrived 2.10.1938 [cancel incorrectly reads 2.9.38]. Declared value: 400 Kč, weight: 4.3kg. Postage 4.50 Kč paid in cash.

At the time of dispatch of the parcel there was an additional surcharge payable of 40h [paid with two 20h [1928 issue] Postage Due stamps] and a local surcharge of 30 h which, of course, had to be paid in cash.

Illustration 11. Parcel Dispatch Note with declared value sent from Post Office Humpolec on 12.10.1927 to Zagreb. Declared value: 984 Kč [100 Gold Francs] weight: 15.7kg. Postage 63.95 Kč paid in cash [insurance fee 4.65 Kč parcel of 15.7kg weight – 59.30 Kč.]

In this article I have tried to detail the fairly complicated problems in assessing the correct postage on items containing cash or other valuable matter. I would add that this was a task which took up many long winter evenings. However, any examples of postal activity in this sector which collectors may possess will form a fine collection not only for the reason stated but also because of their philatelic desirability.

#### Literature

- [1] Beneš, F. Specializovaná příručka pro sběratele poštovních známek Československo 1918-1939, Pofis, Praha, 2001 [Specialised catalogue for collectors of postage stamps – Czechoslovakia 1918-1939]
- [2] Klim, J., Schodellbauer, V. Specializovaný katalog známek a celistvosti, Československo 1918-1939, Merkur-Revue, Brno 2002 [Specialised catalogue of stamps and postal stationery – Czechoslovakia 1918-1939].

John L. Whiteside has written a critique of this article, which will be published in the December Journal. Editor



## CZECHOSLOVAK AIR FORCE AFTER 1918

-RNDr Miroslav Vostatek-  
Translated by Robert Kingsley

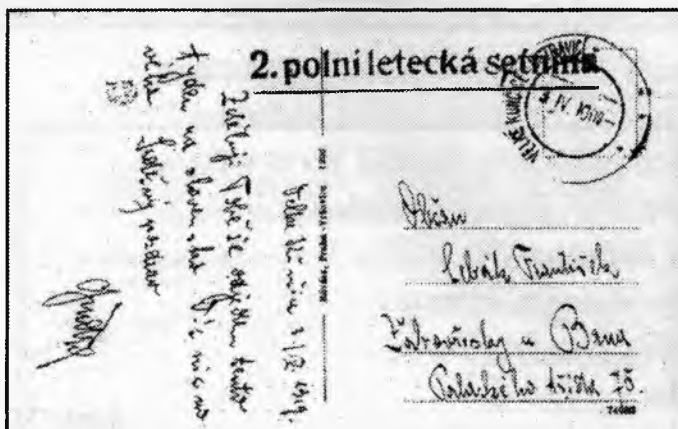
*We thank Dr Vostatek for his permission to publish his articles. This article originally appeared in Merkur Revue 3/2003*

Even though the last shots of World War I were fired in November 1918 peace had not yet arrived for the young Czechoslovakian Republic which had to solve the problems of its borders both from the military and political point of view. Neither did the situation in Slovakia augur well for the future. Soldiers again felt as if they were in a warlike situation and once again field posts began to operate. Postcards from this period bear not only field post cancellations but also ones of the units. There were many of these; some are common, others quite rare. And amongst those that are rare are cancellations on covers and postcards of air force units (see illustration below).

The situation of the Czech Air Force at that time is not very well known. In the 1937 publication by Colonel Zdeněk Ježek on the fighting in Slovakia and in the Těšín area we read that at the end of 1918 our forces possessed only three aircraft. I found other relevant documentation of this period in the Central Military Archive of the Czech Army in Prague from which I will quote some of the most important information.

As early as 19 November 1918 the command of the Czech Army appointed Captain Jindřich Kostrba Commanding Officer of all Air Force units in Slovakia and sent him to its headquarters in Uherské Hradiště. On 23 November Staff Sergeant-Major Fořt flew into Napajedla from the front, but refused to hand over his plane. Correspondence exists which confirms this. A few days later there were intelligence flights over Trenčín, over the valley of the river Váh and over Nitra in the course of which pilots also threw out leaflets. From the records which have been preserved we learn that for these intelligence flights over Slovakia they had "two aircraft, of very limited performance". They really needed Fořt's plane. The record even mentions the number of the aircraft [276.11] and its crew – pilot Karel

Hrubín. Other members of the crew included; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Vojtěch Pašek, Sergeant-Major Novák, Lieutenant Zdenko Kruliš, Lieutenant Josef Hamšík and others. A telegram dated 4 January 1919 addressed to the Commanding Officer of the Czechoslovak Army in Slovakia, Colonel Schöbel [a native of Jindřichův Hradec] states that "Polish aircraft have been flying over the Čadca area and these flights given the impression that the Poles have designs on Čadca". Perhaps it is also worth mentioning that one of the pilots was Jaroslav Rošický whose son Evžen was a well known sportsman.



*Field Post postcard from 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Air Company sent on 3.4.1919 from Velké Kunčice nad Ostravicí to Zabovřesky near Brno. The observant collector will notice the customary style of address used at that time "občan" [citizen] and the message in the card from an unknown airman Jindra saying that they were leaving for Slovakia.*

### QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

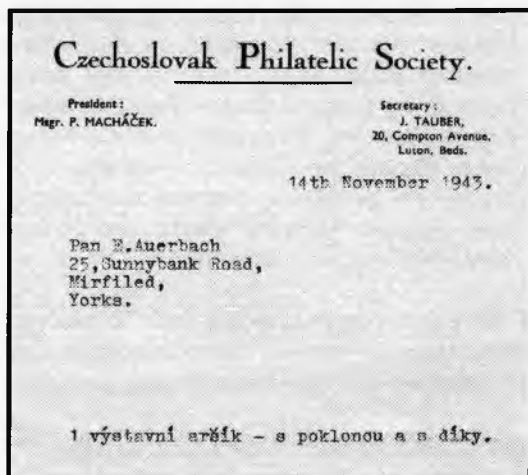
- Czechout 1/02: Brian Parker's Austro-Czech Postcard
- Czechout 2/02: John Hammonds' American Aid for German POWs card
- Czechout 2/03: Richard Beith's 24Kčs 1946 Airmail Stamp
- Czechout 3/03: Barry Horne's 1919 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Sheet perforations
- Czechout 2/05: Maurice Tyler's French cover with Czech slogan

## AN INTERESTING ITEM FROM THE AUBER COLLECTION

Some items from the past were discovered by Bob Hill as he was preparing the Auber Collection for a Society sale in 2003 and he and Rex Dixon did some research on this material.



Amongst this material was a letter from the wartime Secretary, Mr J. Tauber, dated 10 November 1943, to a Mr W.F. Mahong. Mr Mahong had ordered 50 Miniature sheets issued for the 1943 Exhibition of Czechoslovak Stamps. [CPSGB Monograph No 10: The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence: The 1943 London Exhibitions by V.J. Kralíček and W.A. Page].



Inside the envelope were five remaining sheets from the original order, as well as a note to the owner of the collection Pan E Auerbach [presumably anglicized to Auber.] At that time Mr Tauber could be contacted c/o Keens, Shay, Keens & Co, Bilbao House, New Broad Street, London EC2. It may be later that he started dealing in stamps, as a young office boy, I remember going into his shop in Old Broad Street.

Colin W Spong



**JÓŽA ÚPRKA**  
**Painter and printmaker 1861-1940**  
 -Brian C Day-

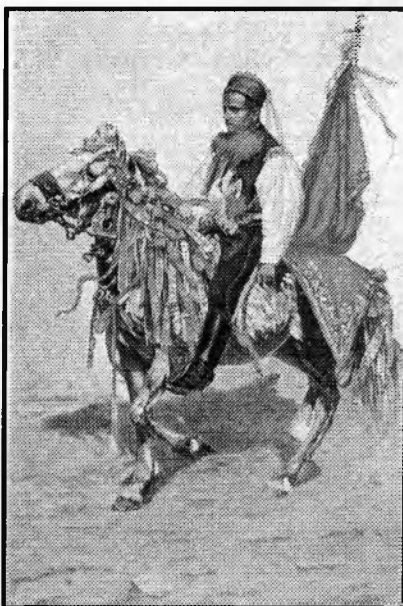
Jóža Úprka was born in 1861 at Kněždub near Strážnice [Moravia]

He inherited his artistic gifts from his father, a self taught spare time painter. After attending the local primary school and gymnasium he went on to the gymnasium at Olomouc where he met a pupil of the Prague Art Academy, Jindřich Bubeník. Inspired by Bubeník he eventually passed the entrance tests and joined the Prague Academy in 1881 where he first studied under Professor F. Čermák. After two years he joined the school of Professor Antonín Lhoty, but was not happy with the old fashioned and restrictive instruction received. He then left for Munich where he enrolled first under Professor Gizine and later under Professor Seitzov. He became very active there and met up with M. Aleš and Alfons Mucha. It was in 1885 that he held his first exhibition but returned to Prague in 1887 on the death of his mother. After returning home to Velká Blatnice, his friends in Prague obtained a commission for him to paint the altar piece at the Blatnický church. From there he often visited Svatý Antonín, a centre for pilgrimages. Here he studied the local folk costumes, later used for his painting the 'Pilgrimage at St. Antonín'

In 1880 he went to paint the Mt.Olive tableau for the church near Strážnice but continued his paintings in the folk costume style. By 1904 he had settled in Hroznová Lhota a small village in Moravia where most of his paintings and prints were created. He was fascinated by the local folklore and customs and his subjects ranged around peasants, their work, their habits and their folk-art. They are shown in profile, either as individual figures with their working tools or in groups gathered for festive occasions and dressed in traditional costumes. Recognised as one of the founders of Czech printmaking he was represented in many major shows in Prague, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Cologne, Dusseldorf and in St.Louis.

In 1918 the Arts Union in Hodonín produced a series of 17 postcard reproductions called Šatky a Šátky [Costumes and headscarves]. In 1920 Jos.Pithart published 30 coloured plates with a theme 'Mens Furcoats' which illustrated a history of the fur coat. 'Women Furcoats' was the subject of a series of 20 reproductions of drawings published by Bilík [1919-1921]. 'Pout u Sv. Antonínka' [Pilgrimage to St. Antonín] was also the subject of a postcard collection published by Jos.Pithart.

Jóža Úprka died in 1940 in the village of Hroznová Lhota where he had settled in 1904. A 60h stamp was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1961, commemorating the centenary of his birth in 1861; one of the Cultural Anniversary Series.



Festival: The Ride of Kings [Jízda Králu] 1907

Postcard portraying costumes worn for the festival in Lanzhot [Lomnice u Falknova nad Ohří] franked with Franz Josef 5h green stamps of 1905/6 cancelled with bi-lingual Uherské Hradiště 1/Ungarisch Hradisch 1, postmark dated 13.11.07; addressed to London.

Printer: R. Promberger, Olomouc, Series 1, No.3

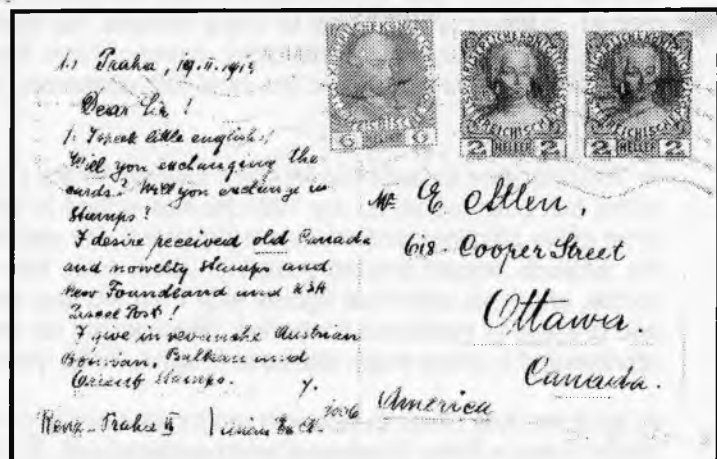


### Pilgrimage to Svatý Antonín 1914

The artist's ethnological studies included the material gathered on his visits to Svatý Antonín [St. Anthony's south Moravia] and at the Pilgrimage there at the turn of the twentieth century. Postcard in the Moravia/Slovakia series of a young girl at prayer, franked with sundry Austrian stamps value 10h, cancelled with bi-lingual Praha 1/Prag 1, postmark dated 19.11.14, addressed to Ottawa, Canada.

Publisher: R. Promberger, Olomouc, Ř.1. No.2

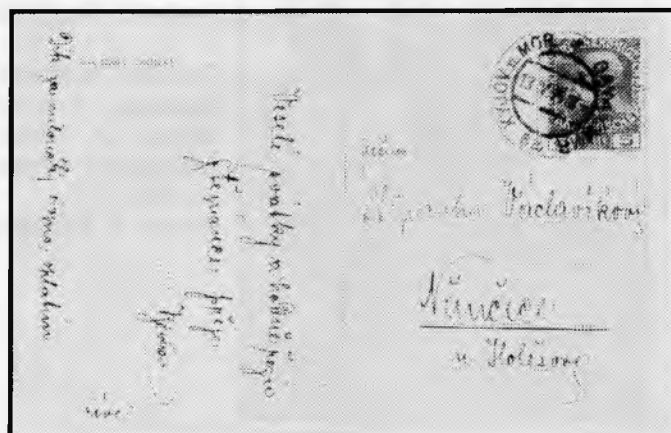
It was written by a philatelist and the text states that he wanted to exchange Austrian, Bosnian, Balkan and Orient stamps for old Canada and novelty stamps and Newfoundland and U.S.A. parcel post.



### Local Folklore and Customs 1914

Postcard entitled 'Bridesmaids' franked with Franz Josef 5h green stamp cancelled with bi-lingual Kyjov n. Mor./Gaya in Mahren, postmark dated 13.IV.14; to Němčice n. Holešov.

Publisher: Rudolfa Fenela, Hodonin



Regional Folk Festivals in Slovácko 1915

Local folklore and customs were celebrated in the Slovácko region of Moravia and national costumes were and, to some extent, still are worn at weddings, harvest festivals and public performances. There are twenty seven identifiable styles of costume in the region.

Advertising labels for the 1915 Festival held in Uherské Hradiště; produced from paintings by artists;

Jóža Úprka – Girl in National Costume [artist's initials at bottom left hand]:

Full perf

Part perf.

With offset



M.J. Obrátil – Girl with Headscarf

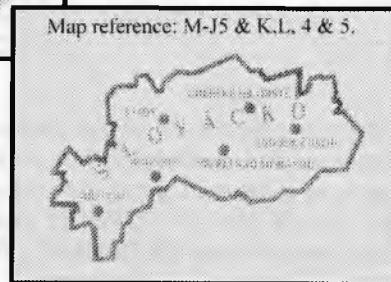
Ord

Ord

with offset



Map reference: M-J5 & K.L. 4 & 5.



Costumes and Headscarves 1921

The artist was fascinated by local folklore and customs and his subjects ranged around peasants, their work their habits and their folk-art.

Postcard entitled 'Bride from Kunovice' [Moravia], franked with Chainbreaker 50h stamp cancelled with Brno 2 postmark dated 3.V.21; to England.

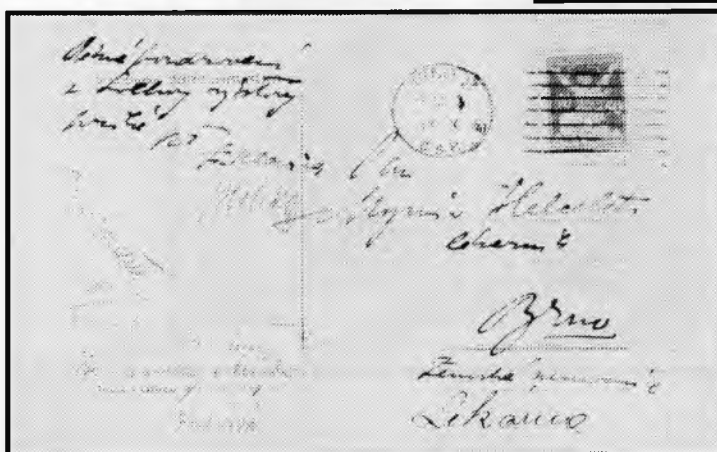
Publisher: Josef Pithart, Kroměříž, No.J.P.E.91

The writer's text states 'The country is beautiful and the Czechs seem prosperous.'

## Local Folklore and Customs 1924

Postcard entitled 'Decorating', franked with Chainbreaker 50h green stamp cancelled with Brno 2, postmark dated 2.VI.24; addressed locally.

Publisher: Rudolfa Fencla, Hodonin



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hartmut Liebermann of the German Czech Society has noted that the Sindelfingen Stamp Fair is expected to become another amazing event this year [28-30 October 2005]. He is interested in booking a room in a pub or restaurant for a dinner with the Dutch and German Czech collectors and would like any CPSGB members attending to join them. This will probably be on the Saturday evening [29 October]. Who is going? And would anyone like to organise names?

Tom Cossaboom, President of the American Society has informed our Chairman that they are hosting a dinner during the WASHINGTON 2006 International Exhibition [27 May to 3 June]. They will be delighted to see any of our members at Washington join them for the said dinner. Perhaps those visiting Washington would like to register their interest with Rex Dixon.



## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

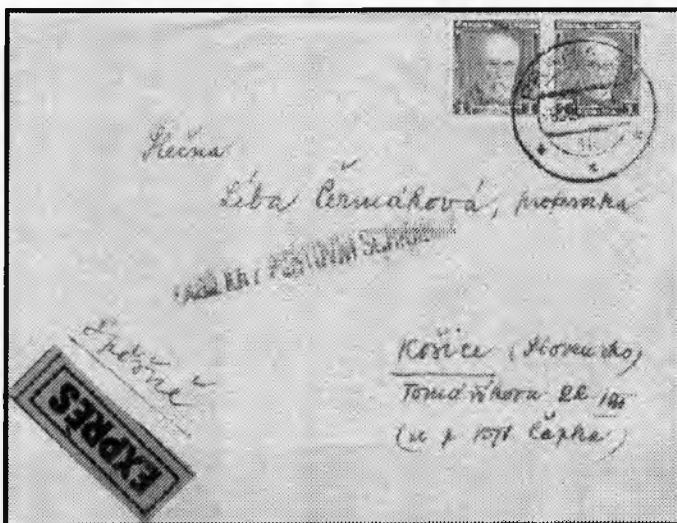
### - Members' Queries -

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

#### Re Bob Hill's Taxed "T" cover in *Czechout 2/2005* page 51

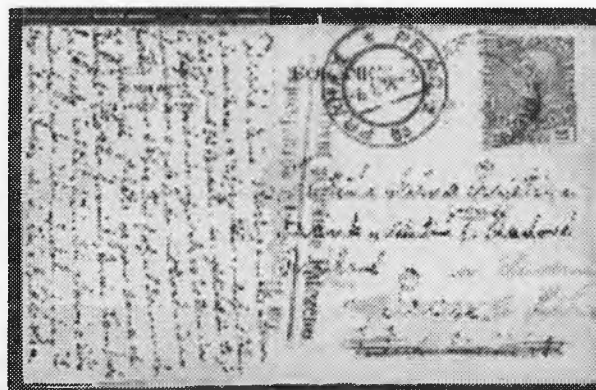
From Lubor Kunc: I am replying to Bob queries. The cancel on the cover addressed to Slovakia means "Z. postovní schranky" = mail from a pillar-box. This hand stamp has been applied because of an incorrect franking of the letter to mark that the error has not been caused by a postman; but by the sender of the letter. As you know, the postal administration pays fines for incorrectly franked letters, if the error is detected by other postal administrations. That is why the cancel was applied in Prague on this international cover. Such cancellations were introduced in the time of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy [see also Ing Emil Votoček's *Monografie Československých Známek No 14*]. They were useful for three reasons:

- For marking of incorrectly franked letters (as Bob's example).
- For mail being forwarded from original address to a new one (e.g. because addressee travelled for holiday – see illustration 1)
- For registered/express mail being put into a pillar-box instead of mailing at a post office (see illustration 2).
- This was also discussed in *Czechout 2/2000*.



*Illustration 1:* This cancel comes from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy period. The letter was forwarded to the new address. The postman delivered to the original address and someone [member of the family] wrote the new address and put the letter into the nearest post-box. The postal administration then delivered the letter without asking for any additional postage

*Illustration 2:* This is an Express letter being put into a Prague pillar-box. It was found by an employee of Praha 25 post office [caring for the pillar-boxes in the City] – now this is the duty of Praha 025 post office, as Express mail this marking was important to avoid mail being possibly delayed. This cancel explains the situation.



**Re Bob Peden's Labels in Czechout 2/2005 page 52.**

From John Pojeta, Jr: In regard to Bob Peden's query I can provide a bit of information. I have copies of the Krasnohorska [pinkish red], Tyl [light blue] and Macha [dark blue] labels. All of these have a date in the lower left, and the name of the author 'RIJACEK' in the lower right, the dates vary. In addition, I have many other Rijáček labels of historical figures and personalities of various sorts, e.g. Samo, Svatopluk, Masaryk, Wilson, St Vaclav, etc [some of these are in strips]. The earliest date I have is 1927 and the latest 1936, I also have a red imperforate pair of St Vaclav labelled "Die Fr. Kupky, 1919,J.R.1945." I have not been able to find much literature dealing with the Rijáček labels – almost all of it is from CPSGB-Czechout 4/1994 page 88; Czechout 1/1998 page 15; and Monograph No.18 page 41. Like Bob Peden I would like to know more about Jaroslav Rijáček's labels.

From Barry Horne: I purchased some proofs and essays in 2001 and amongst the many designs, the following are by Jaroslav Rijáček. I too would like further information on these.



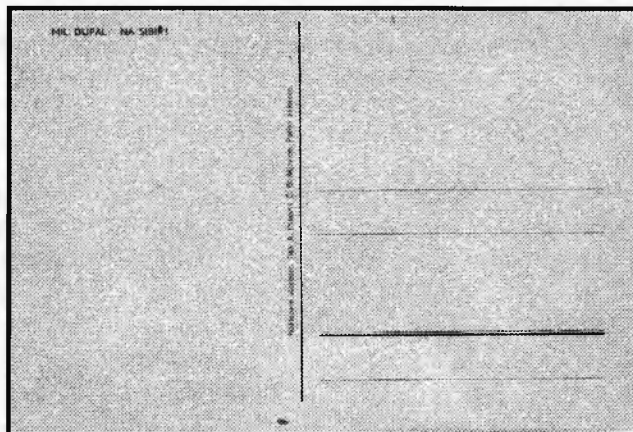
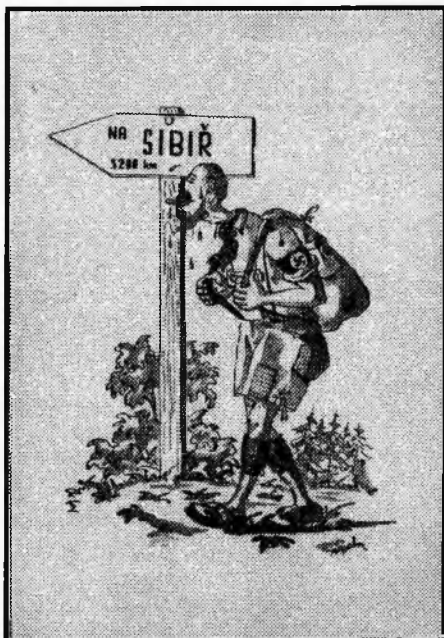
1935 Imperforate strip of five stamps on white un gummed paper

1919 Trial print in Red on white glossy paper printed by Lithography. 75h showing Jan Žižka [1360-1424] the Hussite General.





From Tony Moseley: My attention was drawn to a caricature postcard, which appeared, on page 107 depicting a 'Sudeten German' family. I have another card [not postally used] obtained last year, which is in a very similar style, perhaps by the same artist? It is entitled "NA SIBIR" showing a Nazi walking past a signpost pointing East to Siberia, 3,200 Km away. I would be very interested to know how many different versions of these cards exist. Were they all by the same artist or several different people? Any information would be a great help. I enclose a photocopy showing both sides.



Four New Queries

From Ian McQueen: I have acquired an unusual bi-lingual *Via Czechoslovakia* Directional Handstamp on a cover from The East Asiatic Company Limited in Shanghai to its office in Denmark, so perhaps "Czechoslovakia was the furthest point in Communist Europe to be reached by air, and there is no indication whether it was flown onwards to Copenhagen or sent by surface. Lack of any backstamps is rather a pity.



Address on reverse of envelope



From Dr Vernon K Brown: I have acquired a cover addressed to the Tax Office [Steueramt] at ROKITZAN [presumably ROKYCANY now?]. The cover originated from:

**Auswanderungssohns sür Böhemen und Mähren,**  
PRAG XVIII, Schillstrasse 11.

and was tied to two 60h Hitler head Protectorate stamps [SG No 82]. The bi-lingual PRAG cds was dated 27 November 1942.

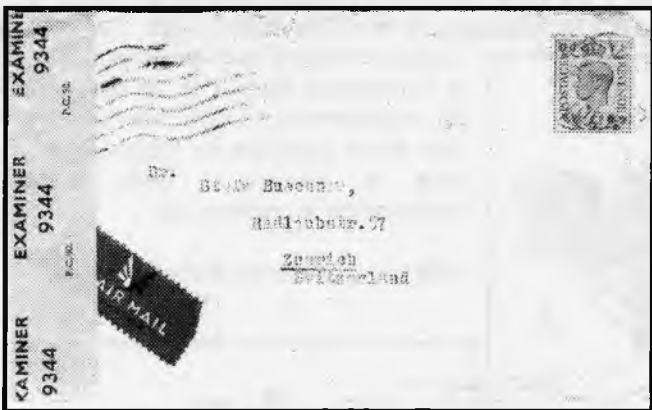
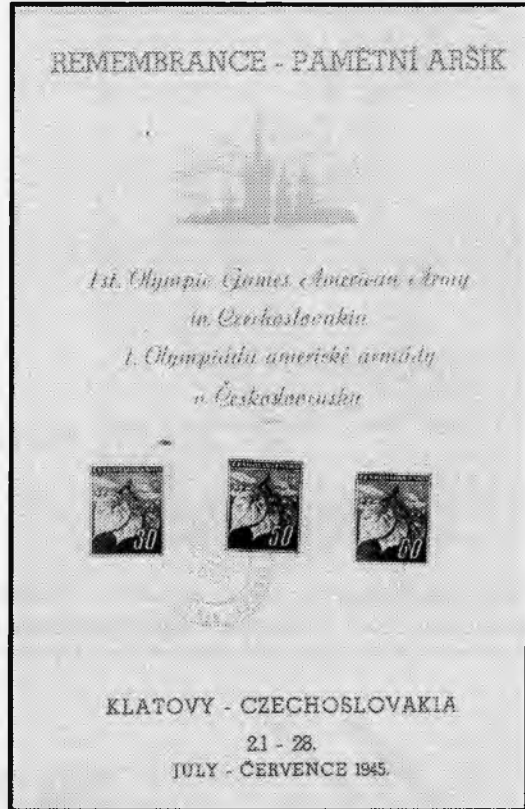
My questions are as follows:

- i. Was this organisation an official [ie. Nazi] approved function.
- ii. If answer to (i) is "yes", then why were ordinary postage stamps used when OFFICIAL stamps were available?
- iii. Presumably emigrants, in this context, were people moving voluntarily; it is difficult to imagine funds being given to people moved by the occupiers!

Comments on all of the above will be most appreciated./

From Bob Hill: Can anyone tell me why the American Army were holding a First Olympic Games in Klatovy, Czechoslovakia over 21-28 July 1945! The cancel is New York Forces Postal Services APO 385. Any details will be most welcome.

From Richard Beith: A Dealer has been suggesting that Dr Stefa Buechner, or Mrs Buechner, at Hadlauber Strasse 57 or Wasserstrasse 51, Zurich, Switzerland, was WW2 "undercover address" for mail to Bohemia and Moravia from the UK, see illustrations. Can any member confirm this?



I have checked with Charles Entwistles' handbook *Undercover Addresses of World War II* (Revised Edition) 1992, but there is no mention of either of the "Buechner's" This booklet is now Out of Print.

Hopefully, someone may have further information to help us. The Editor.



## 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

## 22 June 2005 Protected Flora and Fauna in the Krkonoše Mountains



**Designers:** Libuše and Jaromír Knotek  
**Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in black with coloured offset in decorated sheets of four stamps and four labels.

**Design:** protected species and their habitats with the highest Czech mountain peak – Sněžca – in the background.

**Stamps:** 12 Kč – Viola žlutá sudetská, /*Viola lutea sudetica*/ Kopyšník Tmavý /*Hedysarum hedysaroides*/.

14Kč – Skorec vodní /*Cinclus cinclus*/, Bledule Jarní /*Leucojum vernum*/ (Spring Snowflake).

15Kč – Mlok skvrnitý /*Salamandra salamandra*/ (Fire Salamander) Rejsek horský /*Sorex alpinus*/, Prvosenka nejmenší, *Primula minima*.

22Kč – Slavík modráček tundrový /*Luscinia svecica*/ (Bluethroat), Hořepník tolitavý /*Pneumonanthe asclepiadea*/ Sídlo horské /*Aeschna coerulea*/ (Hawker Dragonfly).

**Labels:** 1. – Lilie zlatohlávek /*Lilium martagon*/ (Martagon Lily), Jestřábek oranžový /*Hieracium aurantiacum*/ (Hawkweed).

2. – Linduška horská /*Anthus spinoletta*/ (Rock Pipit), Jeřáb krkonošský /*Sorbus sudetica*/, Kullík hnědý /*Charadrius morinellus*/ (Dotterel).

3. – Huňatec žlutopásý /*Torula quadrifaria*/, Ještěrka živorodá /*Lacerta vivipara*/ (Common or Viviparous Lizard), Ostružník

moruška /*Rubus chamaemorus*/, 4. – Zvonek český /*Campanula bohemica*/ Kýhanka sivolistá /*Andromeda polyfolia*/ (Bog Rosemary or Marsh Andromeda), Colek horský /*Triturus alpestris*/ (Alpine Newt).

There are four FDCs printed DS, each with a different commemorative cancel from a different location.  
 12Kč – printed grey-blue: an adult and two young Kos horský /*Turdus torquatus*/ (Ring Ouzel). 14Kč - printed grey: a spike of Kýchavice bílá Lobelova /*Veratrum albumlobelianum*/ (White False Hellebore). 15Kč – printed brown: a male Tetřev hlušeč /*Teatrao urogallus* (*Capercaillie*). 22Kč – printed dark green: Koniklec bílý /*Pulsatilla*/ alba in flower.

Three maximum cards were issued.

&gt;

The Krkonoše Mountains are a unique European example of the transition from medium to high mountains and the area became the first Czech National Park in 1963. The Park has four altitude zones with more than 1250 species of flowers and more than 320 species of vertebrates – mostly birds. A number of species are only to be found within the Park. In 1992 the Krkonoše National Park was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

22 June 2005

**European Baseball Championship 2005**

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

**Design:** a player about to strike the ball with text in Czech "European Baseball Championship 2005"

Baseball, a national game in USA, possibly derived from the English game of rounders. According to tradition it was invented in Cooperstown, New York by Abner Doubleday in 1839 with the first clubs set up in 1845. It was immediately popular and spread world wide. The first matches in Czechoslovakia were played between teams from Prague and Pilsen in 1920. The modern Czech Baseball Association and National Extra League were set up in 1992 and 1993. Since that time the Republic has organized many international competitions including the 2005 European Men's Championship. This was held between 7 and 17 July 2005 in various towns including Prague.

**FDC:** printed DS in blue-green with a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet shows a pitcher in action.

7 September 2005

**Handicraft Relics – Bells**

**Designer:** Jan Kavan **Engravers:** Rudolf Cigánik (stamps) Bedřich Housa (FDCs) **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps. **Designs:** church bells from three Czech towns.

**7.50Kč** – two of the oldest bells in Bohemia a) in the belfry in Benešov dating from 1322 and inscribed by Rudger b) from the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Havlíčkův Brod dating from the early 1300s. **9Kč** – two bells from the Romanesque Church of Sts. John and

Paul, Dobruška near Stachy in the Šumava region. They were cast by Brikcí of Cimperk.

**12Kč** – two bells from the dome of St Wenceslas, Olomouc. They were cast in 1827 in Vienna by the German Seltenhofer and have the names of "Wenceslas" and "Peter and Paul."

**FDCs:** printed DS in dark brown with various commemorative cancels. The cachet designs show drawings of the church belfries with outline drawings and Czech texts taken from a Manual on Casting by the Prague bell founder Vavřinec Kříčka of Bityška. (7.50 Kč – Havlíčkův Brod, 9Kč – Dobruška, 12Kč – Olomouc).

**Postal Stationery****Official Commemorative Postcard**

**25 May 2005: 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nový Bydžov.** **Designer:** Václav Kučera **Printing:** coloured offset. **Design:** imprinted 7.50Kč stamp – the town coat of arms and the text in Czech "The Royal Dowry Town Nový Bydžov". To the left of the stamp are the Czech Post logo and a security hologram. The cachet design shows an old students' flag from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Book of Conscience from the years 1311 – 1470 and a view of the town from 1536/7. Below the cachet is the text "The Town of Bohemian Queens and Student Parties" and above the name of the town and dates. The card retails for 12.50Kč.



## Promotional Postcards

The following have an imprinted 7.50Kč numeral value in white within a blue rectangular background.

? May 2005 – **Anniversary of the Liberation of Plzeň.** Portrait of a soldier.

? May 2005 – **800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Written Record of Hrisicích and birthplace of National Artist Josef Lada.** The cachet has a small town coat of arms above a text in Czech and a reproduction of one of Lada's village scenes.

? May 2005 – **400 Anniversary of the Freedom of Chomotov.** The cachet has a group of townsfolk in front of an old building all on a dark red background.

The following cards have an imprinted numeral 9 Kč stamp value.

? May 2005 – **120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Czech Forestry School at Piskov.** The cachet in green has a drawing of the old walled town and text below.

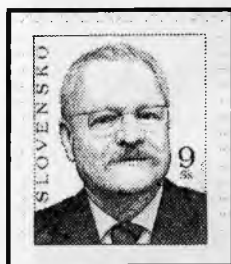
27 May 2005 – **Övebria, St. Pölten.** The event was held from 27-29 May 2005. The cachet design is a reproduction of an 1894 photo of the Příbram Post and Telegraph personnel.

10 June 2005 **Graz International Stamp and Coin Fair** held 10 -12 June 2005. The cachet has an early 20<sup>th</sup> century foot postman in front of town buildings.

## Slovak Republic

15 May 2005

**Definitive – President Ivan Gašparovič**



**Designer and Engraver:** Martin Činovský from a photograph by Ján Kuchta

**Printing:** RD by Post Printing House, Prague.

**Design:** portrait of the President. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB Printers, Bratislava.

16 May 2005

**World Year of Physics – Dionýz Ilkovič**



**Designer:** Zdeno Brázdilo **Engraver:** (FDC only) Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** stamps – offset by WSP, FDC – DS by TAB Printers, Bratislava.

**Design:** a bolt of lightning across a blue-green background. Lightning is a natural phenomenon – a strong electrical discharge between clouds or clouds and land.

2005 was proposed as the World Year of Physics to commemorate the centennial of the publication of Albert Einstein's paper "Annus Mirabilis" 1905, which changed the then prevailing perception of the world in various

fields of physics - the nature of light, space, energy and substance. The year aimed to increase public awareness of and interest in physics through Einstein's work. **FDC:** cachet design is a portrait of the Slovak physicist Dionýz Ilkovič who worked on polar diffusion currents.

23 May 2005

**Biennial of Illustrations, Bratislava**



**Designer:** Iku Dekune (Japan) – stamp; Dušan Kállay – FDC cachet; Vladislav Rostoka – cancel **Graphic Layout:** Vladislav Rostoka **Engraver:** Lucie Kruličková – FDC cachet **Printing:** offset by WSP (stamp) and DS by TAB Printers, Bratislava (FDC).

**Design:** from the Grand Prix award winning illustration at BIB 2003 by Iku Dekune (Japan). The FDC cachet is from an illustration by the Slovak artist Dušan Kállay. He was also tutor to Iku Dekune.

BIB is an international competition for illustrations of children's books. 2005 was the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive competition.

>

23 May 2005

## Children's Stamp



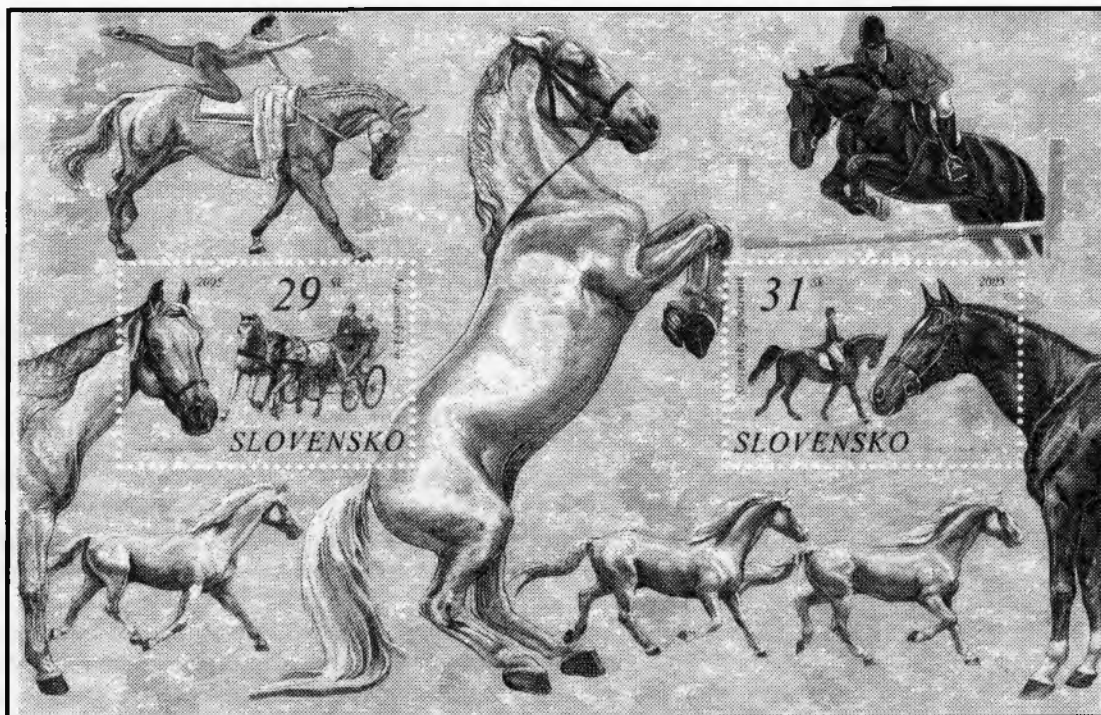
**Designer:** Juraj Kiš (stamp) Patrik Kudrik (FDC cachet) Ratislav Dudáš (cancel) **Graphic Layout:** (from original artwork) Peter Čisárik **Printing:** offset by WSP (stamp), offset by TAB Printers, Bratislava.

**Design:** multi-coloured fish swimming against a blue background. The FDC motif is a large multicoloured bird. The FDC cancel has a smiling face of the sun.

The magazine FIFAK is distributed to all primary schools in Slovakia and for the last three years has been working with the Slovak Post to raise awareness and interest in philately. Each year an art competition – The Month of Children's Works - commemorating the artist Karol Ondreičk is held. This competition is organised for physically and mentally handicapped children regardless of age. In 2005 the competition had the theme "Design a Stamp." The winner Juraj Kiš attends an elementary school for children with special needs.

30 June 2005

## Nature Conservation – Horses



**Designer:** Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** DS and offset by PPH, Prague (sheet with stamps), DS by TAB Printers, Bratislava (FDC). Two maximum cards were issued.

**Design:** 29Sk – a pair of Slovak Warmblood horses pulling a carriage.

31Sk – a Lippizaner horse and rider.

The margins of the sheet show various portraits of wild and domesticated horses.

The Slovak Warmblood horse is recognised as a distinct breed but has its origins in the inter breeding of the wild Tarpan with horses from oriental and Arabian nomadic tribes and later horses from the Turkish invasions. Breeding was influenced by the Spanish horse and the English thoroughbred towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The area between the rivers Tisza and Danube was long known as a horse breeding area. The Slovak Warmblood is of medium size, a good riding animal, will also work in a pair and has a good temperament. It is the most common horse breed in Slovakia and continues to be bred at the National Stud Farm at Topolčianky.