



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

The Society's **Summer Regional meeting** will be on **Saturday 3 June** at Stevenage, and on **Saturday 12 August** there will be the Joint Meeting at Heaton Royds. The next London meeting will be on **Saturday 19 August** when **Gerhard Hanacek** will give a display entitled **First Republic**.

The **CPSGB Weekend for 2007** will be held at the White Hart Hotel, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex from 16-18 March. More details in the June issue.

I thank those members who responded to my appeal and have provided excellent answers to the December queries, but we would still appreciate it if other members would look through their collections and see if they could reply to some of the outstanding items. It's a pity to have to write them off as "unknown!"

MEMBERS please note: I moved two years ago – my address is on the front cover; however, I am still receiving mail sent to Westlake Gardens. Many thanks. The Editor

Secondly, please do not address any member by their office on the envelope; a recent letter addressed to the "Hon Treasurer" did not contain a cheque! Also please make all payments to the Society. Our Secretary Rex now has a new E-mail address: cpsgb.secretary@btinternet.com. Please use this for all Society communications.

Editor

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

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting held Saturday 14 January 2006 at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Richard Beith, welcomed 20 members and five visitors. He extended a special welcome to Anita Grmelová, the cultural attaché at the Czech Embassy. Apologies had been received from four members.

Richard invited **Tony Hickey** to present *Munich – The Road to War*. Tony said he was indebted to Bill Dawson and his monograph on the Sudetenland. He described his display as a “window on history”, starting with the aftermath of the Treaties of Versailles and St. Germain, with contemporary cards showing the clash at Kaaden in March 1919. Tony used a rich supply of photocards and propaganda cards to illustrate the personalities, events and meetings leading to the infamous agreement signed in Munich at the end of September 1938.

In the second half, Tony showed an extensive range of liberation cachets and provisional cancellations, each sheet with an attractive map to locate the post office. He concluded with the referendum and elections held on 4 December 1938, including the publicity flight of the *Graf Zeppelin* and the mobile train exhibition of German technology.

Tony Bosworth gave the vote of thanks. He described this particular period as the “fulcrum of the twentieth century”. He said that even he was surprised by the wonders before him and that we were privileged to see some of the cards, which so well illustrated the history.

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

Comments on the January 2006 Auction

41 bidders bid for 201 lots out of 500. This compares with 27 bidders for 200 lots out of 452 in the last Auction. The average bid was just over £15.30, in a range from 25p to £200. For the statistically minded, the mid value was much higher than the last Auction's at £5.00 (£1.25 last Auction) and 142 bids were £10 or less (179 in the last Auction).

The two most popular items were the Liberation Josefov blocks and the Dvorak booklet, both with 5 bids. The other areas of most interest were the Revolutionary overprints, Sudetenland and Bohemia and Moravia. Thank you to those members who bid for the Lupus charity lots.

There are a number of changes in procedures for the next auction. Please take time to understand them, so that I can continue to provide you with the service you have come to expect

- All cheques should now be sent directly to the Treasurer. The address will be included in the invoice sent to the successful bidders
- A number of new bidders have sent cheques made out to the Auction Secretary. These have had to be returned. Could you make all auction cheques out to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
- The Committee has decided that monies due on credit cards will be taken in the week following the auction, rather than the three weeks we have previously applied
- The new postal rates, which include a further complication of size, as well as weight will cause me some extra work in working out the postage. Despatches may be delayed for odd sized items
- I have recently taken up a new position in Worcester. This is not as close to a Post Office as my previous role. This will mean that items will only be despatched in the four hours that my home Post Office is open on Saturdays.

Peter Williams

Letters to the Editor

✉ **Raymond Clegg** writes, “**Lindy Bosworth** is visiting the Worcester Philatelic Society on 31 August to give a display of *Czechoslovakia* at 7.30pm. We meet at Powick Parish Hall, Powick, Worcester WR2 4RT at 7pm for 7.30pm and any members of the CPSGB would be welcome. The Parish Hall is located just off the main Worcester – Malvern Road (A449). Directions may be found on www.multimap.com, alternatively telephone 01905 640541 or 01299 824829 for directions. >

✉ **Webmaster at postalheritage.org.uk** The Spring issue of the British Postal Museum and Archive Newsletter mentions that their oral history catalogue “Voices from the Past” is now available. Their website section for Collections News details recent acquisitions and restoration projects plus their photographic catalogue, The Institution of Post Office Electrical Engineers and Roland Hill’s Silver. The current philatelic exhibition on Victorian Innovation is on display until 7 April 2006 and will be replaced by an exhibition marking the 80th birthday of HM the Queen entitled “Elizabeth: Queen and Icon” from 18 April.

Congratulations to Chris Cordes on being awarded a Large Silver for his Hradčany exhibit and a Ruby for his one frame of the Third Airmail Issue at the October 2005 Cape Town National Stamp Show.

To **Peter Williams** on his appointment to the organisation researching the Avian [Bird] influenza.

Publications

We have received the following journals, which will be available from the Society Library. The contents include:

- The Spring issue of *Austria* No. 153 2006:
 - ▶ Postal History of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the Far East, 1898-1920 pt III (Pirotte); The Salzburg Festival (Rizza); The Tarnstempel Control Handstamps used in the Crown Land of Galizien (Berrisford).
- The December 2005 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.36, Whole No. 146. Douglas D Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us.
 - ▶ New bar-code registration labels of the Czech Post Office for registered mail abroad (-); Catalogue of articles about Czech philately & postal history (Muller); Comparative Catalogue lists (Wilhelms); Expansion of Railway links for distribution of mail between Prussia & Austria [Code of Law No.113 1765]; Polish prisoners of war in Slovakia (Schild); Distinguishing features [varieties] in the ‘Virgo’ stamp, in the Sign of the Zodiac series [Pofis No 258] (Ziegler).
- The January 2006 issue of *Dylizans* No 40. The articles include:
 - ▶ Postal Service between Poland and the Mediterranean (Kamienski).
- The Jan/Feb 2006 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 67, No. 1, Whole No. 589. The articles include:
 - ▶ Sayonara (Svoboda); Mailings of the Prague Pneumatic Post [1] (Šmid & Schödelbauer); Jubilee and Charity issue of 1919 (Molíš); Prisoners of War in Italy during World War 1. cont. (Santangelo);
- The 12/2005 and 1-2/2006 issues of *Filatelie*. Vols. 55/56. The English translation of the Contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ Classical Pearls from Carpatho-Ukraine (Hornung): Currency Reform of 1945 (Feldmann); Service Stamps on the territory of Czechoslovakia (Švejnar); Index for *Filatelie* 2005 (-).
 - ▶ Prague Revolutionary Issue of 1918 [1] (Řezníček); Do You Send Stamps Abroad? (Krečmer); Evaluation of Philatelic Exhibits (Tekel’).
 - ▶ Prague Revolutionary Issue of 1918 [2] (Řezníček); Plate Errors on Czech Stamps of 2005 (Brožová & Zedník); What Was 120 Years Ago (Horák).
- The 6/2005 and 1/2006 issues of *Merkur Revue*. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Missing ‘S’ of the SO 1920 overprints (Tovačovský); Czechoslovak Preliminary and Parellel Franked Postal Forms [6] – Postal Orders (Štefek, Schödelbauer, Kypast & Mezera); Story of Pula [Poła] seen by philatelists (Kunc); Denomination of Rumanian currency and its publicity on stamps (Šustek). Supplement: Forgeries of Czechoslovakia [III]
 - ▶ Czechoslovak Preliminary and Parellel Franked Postal Forms [7] – Postal Orders (Štefek, Schödelbauer, Kypast & Mezera); Stamping of the Notes in 1919 (Škaloud); Forgeries of the 25 and 50 kčs notes of 1953 (Moravec)

- The March 2006 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No. 164:
- ▶ Hungarian Red Cross Fund-Raising Stamps from 1944-help needed (Williams); The Local issues for Sălaj/Szilagyı County, 1945 (Morrell); Official Stamps – Some Notes on their Use (Whiteside); Response (Williams), More questions (Thornburn); The AUT Perforated 10-Fillér stamp of 1906 (Valoncs); Displaced Persons after Word War II (Benford).

Announcement from the Hon. Treasurer

You may have been concerned as I was at the high cost of providing Visa credit card facilities to members as shown in the annual accounts for the year ended 30 September 2005. The Amount was £468.82. The Society has to pay £20 a month plus VAT for the facility and a surcharge of 2.035% on all transactions.

Pleased to say the amount shown in the accounts was not the true cost as some £131 was recovered by imposing a surcharge on auction payments by Visa credit card. Other payments such as subscriptions and publications do not bear a surcharge.

The Committee has decided that from 1 June 2006, **payments by credit card will bear a 2% surcharge for all transactions.**

The Committee has an ambitious number of monographs in preparation and wishes to build up funds for their publication. In order to do this, membership benefits must be properly costed.

Some years ago the Committee opened a Girobank account to assist our overseas members. This account has not been used since the Visa card facility has been available. **The Girobank account will be closed with immediate effect.**

Yvonne Wheatley

The Estate of the late W A (Bill) Dawson 1916–2005

Some of this material has now been sold but much remains. For example if you are interested in the period 1945 thru 1992 there are tens of albums for sale.

Army in Siberia, Hradčany; Newspaper, Pneumatic, Postage Due and 1919 overprints have yet to find a good home as well as many other items from the First Republic.

What I cannot sell through the Society will go to the leading Brno auction house and you will pay more for it there, I can assure you. 98% of all purchases go to Bill's family, 2% to the CPSGB.

e-mail Bob Hill on rjeldt@msn.com or drop him a line at PO Box 1496, Wombourne, WV5 0YN United Kingdom.

CZECH FORCES IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1917

GENERAL SERGĚJ INGR, the Czechoslovak
Minister of National Defence and C.I.C. Czechoslovak
Forces

requests the pleasure of your company at a

Service in Winchester Cathedral

On JULY 4th, 1943, at 3.30 p.m.,

*by kind invitation of the Dean and Chapter
of Winchester*

in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the
arrival of Czechoslovak troops on British soil and
their stay in Winchester.

*The Czechoslovak Army Choir
will sing Czechoslovak hymns.*

*R.S.V.P. by June 25th,
to VACLAV VLČEK,
Fursecroft, George Street,
London, W. 1.*

N.B.—Seats will be reserved in the front of the nave for
those accepting this invitation.

I have recently acquired a copy of the above commemorative service at Winchester Cathedral in 1943. Following enquiries to the Winchester Local Studies Library I have received the following reply

“A week before the service, the local paper published a letter from General Ingr which noted that a transport [ship] arrived at Newcastle from Archangel on 29 October 1917, carrying 1,200 Czechoslovak volunteers, on their way from Russia to France. Ingr mentioned ‘a brief sojourn’ here before they continued to France. Ingr was in that group as a sub-lieutenant!”

The librarian has offered to see if there was any record in 1917! However, if any member has information about this event I should be grateful if they would write to me.

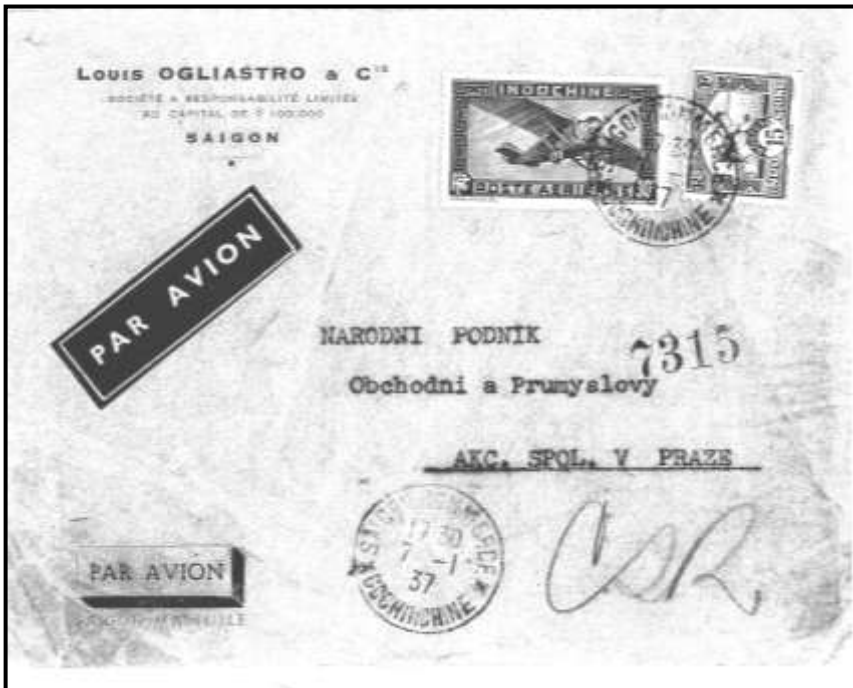
Richard Beith

COVER OF INTEREST

-Ian McQueen-

The 1937 Saigon cover is of great "jusqu'à" interest for me, because of the Saigon-Marseille direction – printed, for sure, though we enthusiasts for handstamps can widen our studies when something rather special, like this, turns up.

The envelope is grey and the printing is black. The 15c foreign letter rate and 30c air fee to France are of course correct, and I regret the lack of an air cancel at Marseille, though there is a Paris transit marking. I wonder, in fact, whether in 1937 France was sending letters to Europe by air, anyway, for it reached Prague in only two days, and there is no air cancel.



AUSTRIAN STAMPS OF 1916/19 ISSUE USED ON CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY - PART 2

-Lubor Kunc-

(Continued from *Czechout* 4/2005, pages 97-99)

The Czech philatelic terminology describes the stamps by three different terms:

- Forerunner stamps (předchůdci) – all stamps of the set being used by 27 October, 1918
- Preliminary stamps (předběžné známky) – all stamps used from 28 October to 17 December, 1918
- Parallel stamps (souběžné známky) – all stamps used from 18 December, 1918 – 28 February, 1919 .

I am sorry, if the English names of the individual groups are incorrect, but as far as I know, there are no similar terms in English terminology. The difference between the above groups of stamps is as follows:

- the first group consists of stamps used during the period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy
- the members of second group are Austrian (Hungarian) stamps used in Czechoslovakia, prior to the first Czechoslovak stamps issued
- the last group consists of the same Austrian (Hungarian) stamps being used in period, when both Czechoslovak / Austrian (Hungarian) stamps were valid .

Examples of all groups you will find on next illustration – I chose always the same stamp of 2 Crowns of the Austrian set which is being displayed as forerunner, preliminary stamp and parallel stamp.



Figures 1-3

But the division is not exhaustive. After splitting of the stamps into three groups we will find a small number of stamps, which don't belong to any of above groups. Why? Because they

were used in October – December 1918 in territories of German provinces established in Bohemia and Moravia. We know four of such provinces : Deutschböhmen (Northern Bohemia) , Böhmerwaldgau (Southern Bohemia), Sudetenland (Northern Moravia) and Deutschsüdmähren (Southern Moravia). The governments of the provinces refused to co-operate with the Czechoslovak government and tried to join either Austria or Germany. The Czechoslovak government protested against the provinces proposed action and got permission from WWI main Allies (USA, Great Britain, France and Italy) for the Czech Army to occupy these territories. You can read more about the situation in Brian Day's Monograph No. 17, *Field Post 1918-1921: A Study of Postal Activities*. For us it is important that the preliminary/parallel stamps were used only at post offices accepting Czechoslovak government authority, which was not the case of offices situated in the provincial territories. The postmasters of these provincial post offices were still loyal to the Austrian & German governments, so therefore the first military occupation of the areas allowed for the replacement of postal staff thus changing the situation.

Figures 4 & 5

The majority of collectors say these stamps should not be part of a Czechoslovak collection or be counted as forerunner stamps. My opinion is different, I am sure we should incorporate them into our collections as proof of division of Czech lands in 1918, which later caused the 1938 territorial problems. I also proposed to create a separate group for such stamps called "provincial stamps". More information about this proposal you can find on the web site <http://philately.webpark.cz/deutschsudmahren/proposal.htm>.



You can find examples of such stamps in *Figures 4 & 5*: the first stamp was used at Liberec / Reichenberg post office (capital of Deutschböhmen Province), the second one at Opava / Troppau (capital of Sudetenland Province).

I would also like to call your attention to interesting postal stationery franked with the stamps of the Austrian 1916/1919 issue after establishment of Czechoslovakia. The lowest value of 3 Heller we can often find on postal cards being upfranked to correct postal rate (*figure 6 – shown right*). Such cards are overfranked by 1 Heller, which is accepted as a correct franking.



Exceptionally we can find the stamps on printed matter letters (*figure 7 shown left*); this example comes from 1917, but the same is valid for 1918-9 period, however such stationery is exceptional). The full printed matter postage of 5 Heller could be also paid by normal postage stamps (and not by combination of normal postage stamp and special delivery like *figure 7*) – example you can find on *figure 8*.

Figure 8



Two of 5 Heller stamps were used for paying the postage for a postal card, the same was valid for one 10 Heller stamp (*Figure 9*). These frankings are probably the most common ones in use

Sometimes you can find a card franked with two 6 Heller stamps or 1 piece of 12 Heller stamp (*Figure 10*). These items are slightly overfranked (12 Heller instead of 10 Heller), but they are also accepted by collectors.

Figures 9 and 10 shown on next page.

Figure 9



Figure 10

Everybody knows of letter-cards sent by express mail. Not widely known is the fact that it was possible to send money orders by express mail, as well. Example of such franking is illustrated by on Figure 11 (Shown below) – cutting of money order sent from Čistá u Rakovníka (its franking consists of 60 Heller express delivery fee + 3 Crowns postage for the sum of between 2700 and 2750 Crowns). The money orders were provided with a special label with text “Express” or “Dringend”, you can see part of the label in lower left corner of the cutting.



You can also find cards highly overfranked as Figures 12 & 13 show. The cards were non-philatelic origin, but they are overfranked too much (15 and 20 Heller), so such items are not suitable for collections, however they were postally used.

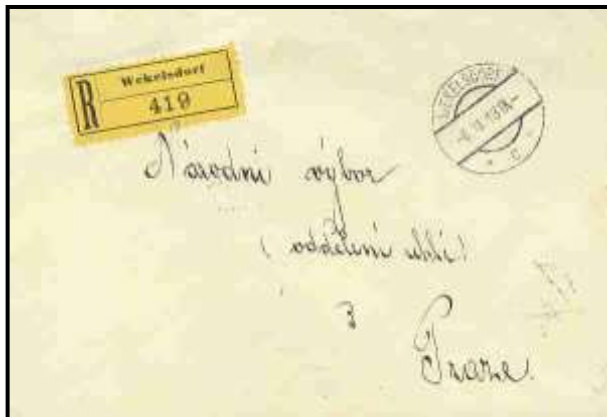


Figure 12



Figure 13

The 20 Heller stamp was usually used for letters (see Figure 14) and the 40 Heller stamp for franking of registered letters (Figures 15 a and b); letter sent to Narodni vybor in Nov. 1918 franked with 20 Heller for letter up to 20 grams and 25 Heller for registration fee).



Figures 15 a and b

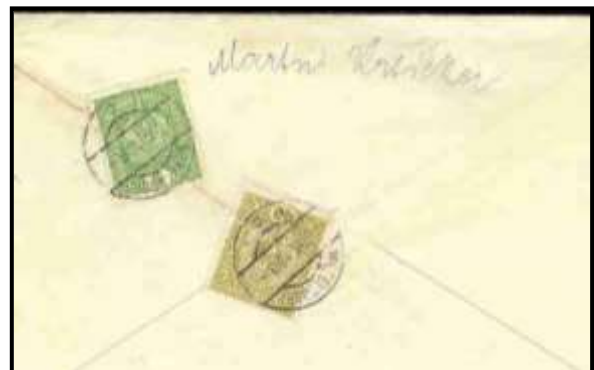


Figure 16

The other values of the set were usually used for franking of parcel dispatch notes or money orders; parcel dispatch note for a parcel sent from Czechoslovakia to Poland), their face values were not useful for "normal" stationery.

You can find the stamps also on postal stationery - see 5 Heller stamp being affixed on Austrian lettercards to up-frank them to value of 20 Heller (Figure 17 shown right).



There is a difference between Austrian/Hungarian stamps and postal stationery. The stamps were valid only up to 28 February 1919, but the postal stationery was valid until 14 October, 1919. Figure 18 then shows original Austrian lettercard up-franked in April 1919 by Czechoslovak Hradčany stamp of 5 Heller.



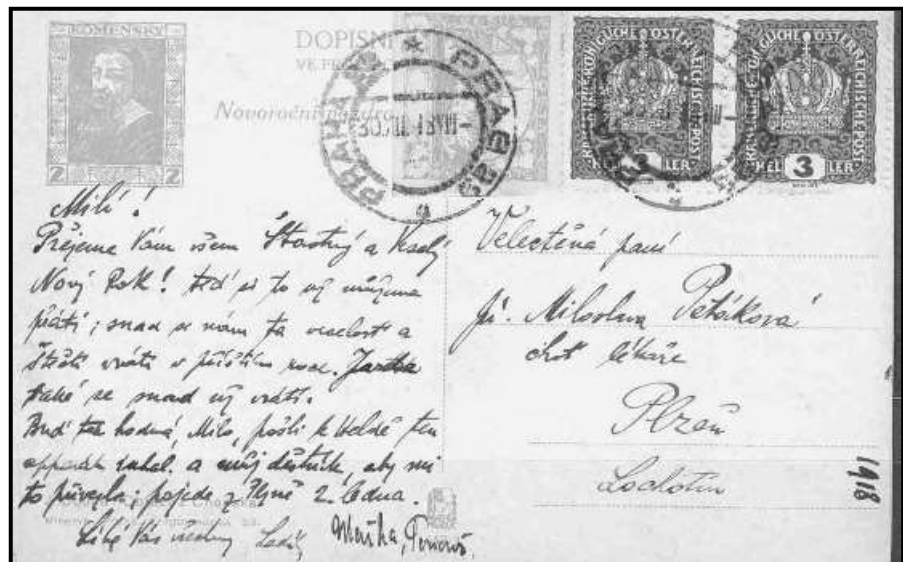
Figure 18 [left] and Figure 19 [right]



The mixed frankings of Austrian (Hungarian) and Czechoslovak stamps were allowed from December 18, 1918, a day, where first Czechoslovak Hradčany stamps were issued (see Figure 3) showing an Austrian stamp being used on the day + Figure 19 showing strip of 2 of Czechoslovak Hradčany stamps being cancelled on the day).

Figure 20

Very exceptionally are mixed frankings of December 1918. Figure 20 – shows nice example of such mixed franking between Austrian and Czechoslovak stamps. I should only add, that the New Year card was mailed without any philatelic influence on 30 December, 1918.



Very unusual is finding an Austrian-Hungarian stamp with the first Czechoslovak cancellation type (Č.S.P. = Czechoslovak Postal Administration). The cancels were introduced in February 1919 in a few post offices, so in the last few days of the month they could be used together with the Austrian stamps. An example you can see on Figure 21, unfortunately there is no chance to find, what is post office name



>

Sometimes you can find covers that have been delivered with non-valid stamps. An example of usage of the 15 Heller stamps of the set (*Figure 22*), which were only valid for February 1918, but the sender of the business card mailed it in February 1919 ! The postal employee did not cancel the stamp but marked it as invalid (as per postal regulations), but didn't ask postage due from addressee, because it was a Tax Office.



You can sometimes find 1918/1919 overprinted with "revolutionary handstamps" created by patriotic Czechs. An example you can see on *Figure 23* [shown left]. The stamps were of private origin; the official postal administration soon rejected postal validity of these issues. However our example bears the slogan "Czechoslovak State Postal Administration", it still remains a private issue. The stamps are now recorded in catalogues under the heading "Revolutionary Issues".

The postal service sometimes required the usage of temporary stamps. Some post offices had insufficient quantities of stamps and they were forced to divide the stamps they had to produce the missing values. An example you can find on *Figure 24a*. The card was sent in January 1919 from Opava (Troppau) and it was franked with half of 20 Heller stamp, that means face value of the divided stamp was 10 Heller, which corresponds to the postal card rate.



The letter shown in *Figure 24b* is a business letter sent from Český Krumlov (Krumlau). It has been franked with half of 30 Heller stamp + one piece of 6 Heller stamp; the total postage amounted to 21 Heller (slightly overfranking with 1 Heller, which is acceptable).

When stocks of all stamps were exhausted, the post offices started to accept letters paid in cash, which was also supported by Czechoslovak Postal Administration.

Figure 24c shows: a registered letter sent by "Slavic Firemen of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy" from Opava (Troppau) in February 1919. The letter has been paid in cash, which was confirmed by post office notation "**45 B(ar) f(rankiert)**" in left upper corner (very faint). You will realize that the postal stationery or covers nos. 24a & 24c) come from the same town. My observation is, that much of the shortage of stamps and temporary franking of correspondence occurred within the



areas of the former German provinces of Czechoslovakia (see *Figures 4 & 5* of this article). All examples of 24a – 24c confirm the observation: Opava (Troppau) was capital of Sudetenland Province and Český Krumlov (Krumlau) was capital of Bohemian Forest Province. The reason might be that the areas were affected more than the rest of the country because of WWI and fighting between Czech and German troops in November/December 1918 and the communication among German postmen with Czech Postal Directorship was not ideal.



Formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 caused usage of postage stamps from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the time of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy the Austrian stamps were valid only at post offices in the Austrian part of the kingdom and Hungarian stamps in Hungarian part of the state. Slovakia belonged to the Hungarian part of the former Empire, so the Hungarian and later Czechoslovak stamps were also valid in that country. But a few post offices in Slovakia in February 1919 used Austrian stamps for unknown reasons. One of them was Sered (Szered) post office using the Austrian stamps e.g. for franking of money orders (see *Figure 25*).

The only exception is usage of Austrian stamps with “Deutschösterreich” overprints on Czechoslovak territory (see *Figure 26*).

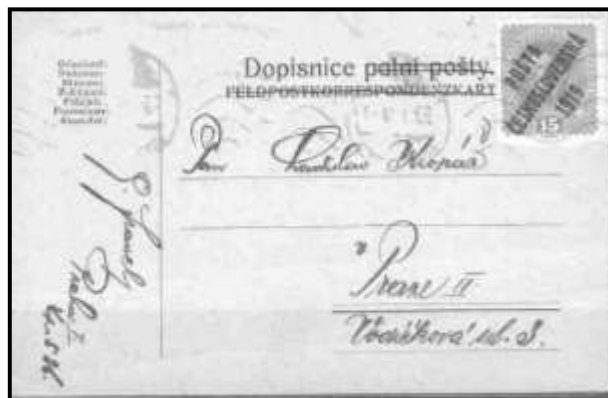
All known pieces come from one source: an action organized by City Hall of Vienna asking different local authorities to provide it with information. The official senders enclosed a pre-franked reply cover. Because of high status of sender (local city hall) and addressee (City Hall of Vienna), the Czechoslovak post offices accepted the franking and delivered the letters, however the overprinted stamps were never valid in Czechoslovakia.



The old Austrian and Hungarian stamps were withdrawn from circulation in February 1919 and were re-used by the Czechoslovak Postal Administration, overprinting them with POSTA CZECHOSLOVENSKA 1919 and re-issuing them in December 1919 (see *Figure 27*: a strip of three II+I+II of the “Large Emblem” stamp (coat of arms) on

granite paper). It should be said, that the issue was not postally required and that it just served for some postal officers and stamp dealers to earn money. This can be confirmed by the fact, that all the stamps were sold with a surcharge to face value and that stamps issued in smaller numbers were sold only in comparison with huge quantities of other stamps.

The collectors buying such stamps had a problem finding used values of these “additional stamps. An example of such usage is shown in *Figure 28* a card franked with 15 Heller Austrian stamp with the overprint (correct franking, postage rate of card was increased to 15 Heller on May 15, 1919). It is a non-philatelic item, which is a big difference to the majority of existing covers franked with this set, which were prepared by philatelists to obtain “nice” letters for their collections.



The definitive stamps were also used as temporary postage dues. It was again for the same reason (the shortage of stamps) as i.e. the bisecting of stamps or paying postage in cash. The easiest solution was to use available stamps as postage due – as depicted in *Figure 29*. This is reverse side of parcel dispatch note. It was so heavy, that the postman had to affix stamps on both sides of the form (note the number of the 20 Heller stamps having to be used). As the addressee had asked for the parcel to be delivered direct to his home (and he didn't wish to pick it up at his local post office), he was charged with a 5 Heller fee, which is usually collected by affixing a 5 Heller postage due stamp. In this case, the postman affixed a 5 Heller definitive stamp and wrote on it “Porto” meaning “Postage due”.

Preparation of postage due stamps from definitives was sometimes done by overprinting see *Figure 30*. This is an unfranked card sent from Kamenický Šenov (Steinschönau) in February 1919. The post office delivering it to the addressee franked it with Austrian and Hradčany stamps overprinted with “Porto” to a total value of 20 Heller, that means double the standard postage. However we feel a stamp collector's influence on the card, it corresponds to valid postal tariffs and rules, so we can accept it.



Another example is a single stamp shown in *Figure 31* – a Charles I stamp being overprinted with “T” (Taxe = postage due). There is a huge quantity of such postage due overprints, overwriting and other markings. In these days it is unfortunately impossible to find out which of them were produced by real postal need and those which were produced for or by collectors. There is no exhaustive catalogue listing these postage due temporary issues, so be careful when you are purchasing such items.

Generally we can say, that there are post offices in the 1918/1919 period of low repute among collectors. The reason is that there is doubt about a real postal need and/or the genuine usage of covers bearing these cancels. In this category the most unreliable of post offices are **Doudlevice, Královské Vinohrady, Praha 8, Plzeň 2, Znaim 1** and **Lom u Mostu**. Of course, this doesn't mean that all covers or stationery with these post office cancellations have to be manipulated or forged, but you should pay careful attention when you buy an item with such cancellations.

There is no problem to find a Doudlevice or Plzeň 2 card with mysterious "postage due" franking, with newspaper stamps used as definitive etc., you can find them at bourses as well as in auctions. Some of the covers look like business correspondence, but my experience is (from what I observed in Prague stamp shops) similar "business correspondence" cards without any address, but with all signs of postal transportation (cancels, arrival cancels, labels). It is possible that these items could be traded as an unusual item after the addition of a message.

There are many forgeries of the 1918/1919 letters – both franked with the Austrian set or with Hradčany stamps. The forging doesn't limit itself to cards/letters, but it also deals with money orders, parcel dispatch notes, different postal forms etc. Very dangerous and not so widely known are forgeries of rare covers franked with Austrian stamps or with mixed frankings of Austrian/Hungarian and Czechoslovak stamps; an example is the **postal cancellation "Praha" with identification letter "2n"**. This cancel was originally used at Praha 1 post office, but it has been stolen and it seems it is still in the possession of a private individual. He removed the "1" numeral from the post office name to make its identification harder, but the ID letter "2n" has just one cancel in the whole of Prague. This cancel has been used e.g. for production of rare frankings of 10 Crown "Large Emblem (coat of arms)" stamp on parcel dispatch notes and always shows the correct date. It is strongly recommended anyone purchasing this material should be cautious.

I hope this article helps you to find interesting material and to detect philatelic or manipulated covers. Hopefully it will also attract your attention to one undervalued set of Austrian stamps, which are a very interesting field for collecting.

STAMP OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

- JUDr Jan Plachetka-
Translated by Robert Kingsley

Napoleon at Slavkov was not victorious!

For the sixth time the work of engraver Václav Fajt has become the most beautiful stamp of the year.

Fajt has beaten Fajt – that is how we can describe the results of the 13th year in the competition for the most beautiful Czech stamp, which has been announced by the Czech Post Office. The fancied miniature sheet issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Slavkov, reproducing the picture by the Frenchman Lejeune of Napoleon before the battle and engraved by Václav Fajt was beaten to first place by the stamp depicting the painting "Summer Landscape" by Kosárek which is also the work of engraver Fajt. Ahead of the Napoleon stamp came one of the four stamps from the Fauna and Flora of the Krkonoše Mountains miniature sheet created by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and engraved by Martin Srb. The results of last year's 37 stamps were decided by 8214 votes of the readers of the daily *Právo* and specialist magazines *Filatelie* and *Poštovní kurýr*. Besides Czech readers' votes were those cast by collectors of Czech stamps from Slovakia, Great Britain, Canada, U.S.A., Russia, Switzerland and even Bosnia & Herzegovina.

For Václav Fajt this is his sixth triumph and, in fact, the fourth running. Last year the winner was the stamp depicting the landscape picture by Alois Bubák "On the outskirts of the Český Ráj (Czech Paradise)". The engraver tells us, "Bubák was a close friend of Kosárek, he was even a witness at his wedding" and he greatly admires both artists, especially Kosárek. "Both died of consumption, but Kosárek much earlier, at the young age of 29. The Summer Landscape with its mood and light are not typical of his work. It was painted during an apparent and only temporary improvement in his health just

one year before his death. The artist painted it during his curative stay in the Krkonoše Mountains, and it acquired a happy look in which farmers load cabbages onto their horse driven trucks surrounded by a fictitious landscape. The sense of proportion, the effective representation of man and the unique depiction of atmosphere of the place and the time from which one can feel the ray of sunshine has captured me. We are talking about immense faith in life expressed by a man on death's door." It is worth noting that the beautiful North Bohemian mountains are the connection between the two most successful stamps of the year 2005.

From the painting, which measures 132 x 92 cm - it belongs to the collection of Prague Castle but can be seen at the National Gallery exhibition in the Veletržní (Trade Fair) Palace, Fajt has chosen just a part which represents one thirteenth of the whole (how appropriate – in the 13th year of the competition). He has thus demonstrated apart from his undoubted engraving abilities his artistic feel and talent.

Among the first ten stamps which our foremost engraver is responsible for, besides the winning one and the fore mentioned Napoleonic picture there is, in 8th place, the stamp from the miniature sheet of the dedicated Petr Ginz who was a boyhood victim of the Holocaust, and to the crew of the ill-fated rocket plane Columbia who took Ginz's Terezín Concentration Camp drawing of the moon landscape into outer space three years ago.

In the first ten of the list there are three of the four Krkonoše Mountains nature stamps by Mrs. and Mr. Knotek and engraver Srb, (and the fourth finished in 12th place), which is significant recognition for the authors who faithfully devote themselves to nature scientific subjects.

As expected, there are also to be found in leading positions the remaining two of last year's stamps in the series Art on Stamps into which the winning "Summer Landscape" also belongs. The historical scientific picture by Zdeněk Burian got 4th place and the landscape painting by Alois Kalvoda, 6th. The first ten places are completed in 7th place by the carefully worked classical illustration of Adolf Kašpar in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first edition of Božena Němcová's famous Czech national novel "Babička" (The Grandmother) and by one of the two stamps of last year from the set "Beauties of our Country" which depicts the Třebíč Basilica of St. Prokop (10th).

It is no surprise that 11th place has been taken by the Gastronomy, (which was the subject of the annual Europa issue last year), stamp by Jiří Slíva, nor the decent showing of the Children stamp (Křemílek and Vochomůrka are very popular heroes of TV evenings "before sleeping" fairy tales – 13th place) or the two Christmas stamps (14th and 20th places). A pleasant surprise is also the 15th place gained by the self-adhesive slot machine stamp with the view of the Castle of the South Bohemian city of Jindřichův Hradec.

Those whose performances were disappointing were the sets on Historical Tractors (25th, 28th and 37th) and Personalities (33rd, 35th and 36th) in spite of the fact that these are both the works of distinguished artists, in the first case that of B. Housa and in the second that of O. Kulhánek and M. Ondráček. Little interest was shown in two stamps depicting exotic sports (curling was 29th and baseball 33rd). The three stamps on Bells (18th, 19th and 23rd) did not do much better.

By the way, it is worth noting that stamps with a lower nominal value have a smaller chance of attaining a good position. If you compare the success of stamps from the four sets with three or four pieces (Personalities, Krkonoše, Bells and Tractors) it always seems to be the stamps with the lowest nominal values that end up in the bottom places. It almost appears as if it automatically means that whatever is cheapest has the lowest significance.

All those who voted in time and enclosed an addressed envelope can look forward to receiving a souvenir in the second quarter from the philatelic department of the Czech Post Office.

If any member would like a copy of the List of the Year's stamps and number of votes cast, would they please send me a stamp-addressed envelope and I will post them a copy. Editor

STATE CONTROL OF STAMP COLLECTING DURING THE POST WORLD WAR II SOVIET ERA

-Paul Watkins-

The seven items I have date between 1950 and 1953 – letters in to or out of Czechoslovakia, connected with the exchange or sale of stamps to collectors. Most have been opened and resealed with blue paper tape with bilingual ‘ECHANGE RÉCIPROQUE/EVIDENČNÍ KANCELÁŘ’ tied by two rubber stamps in violet – large ‘EVIDENČNÍ KANCELÁŘ /ORBISU/PRAZE’ datestamp plus small ‘ONV v PRAŽE 1 – CELNICE Praha/(number)’; the outgoing covers were all routed via this Prague office and have customs labels, all covers have blue crayon (censor?) numbers made up of 3 or 4 Arabic numerals and a Roman numeral.

The latest item (September '53) is a simple FDC ex Kremze, the only sign of checking is pink paper sealing tape with ‘Otevreno – celni kontrola’ which I take to mean ‘Opened – stamp control’ or similar.

One has been returned (to UK) with a 2-line ‘Return to sender’!. The sending does not comply with exchange rules’ with ‘Nepripustne/Non admis’ instructional label. It had been addressed directly to a collector, not to the control office.



With one of the covers, there was a photocopy of an English language leaflet outlining the system very briefly – all philatelic sendings had to be routed via the special office in Prague, only stamps acknowledged by POFIS were allowed, all collectors had to be members of stamp clubs regulated by trade unions etc. This is obviously about State control of propaganda and ‘currency’ in the form of stamps – but what else do members know about it?

I'd be interested in learning anything – particularly when the system began and finished. Perhaps Soviet control-freakery eased off after Stalin's death in '53? Perhaps members can shed light on the two covers illustrated.

USA-CZECH RELIEF LABELS

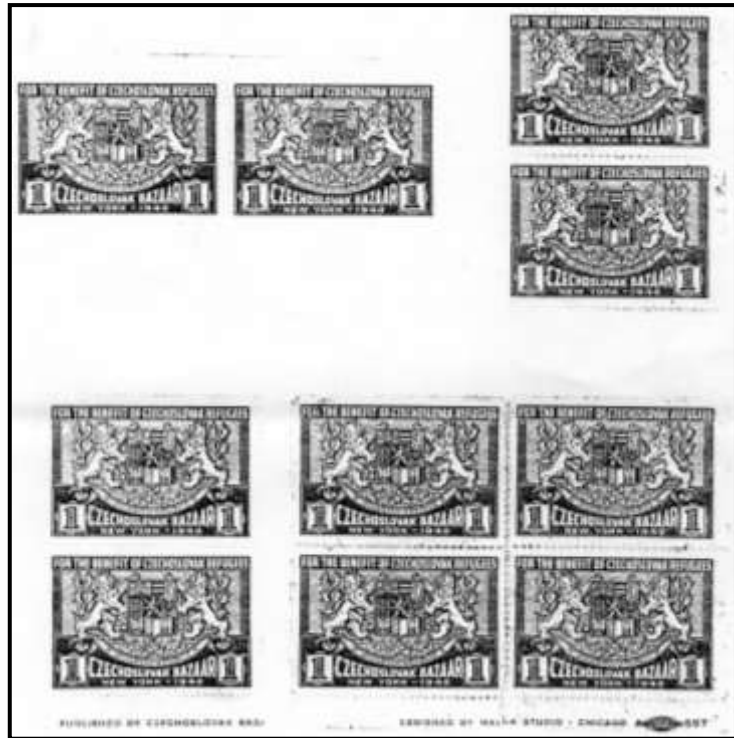
-J. Barry Horne FRPSL-

Further to the article re Labels in *Czechout* 3/2000, page 68, hopefully I can help and add to what has been published on the USA-Czech Relief Labels and others that I have in my collection, copies of which are shown below.

New York World's Fair, 1940

The Czechoslovak community in New York issued two private labels for the Czechoslovak Relief Fund, selling them at \$1 and £2 each.

Labels can be found on covers from the New York World's Fair.



1940s

American Czechoslovak Institute of Social Welfare, Inc. New York

Part sheet of 20 undenominated labels

1942

Red Cross Seals

Canada


BROTHER IN ARMS CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS
 STANDS ON ALL FIGHTING FRONTS
 AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY, HITLER

IT BACKS OUR BROTHERS IN ARMS
 THE SOLDIERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FAR FROM ITS HOMELAND THE
 CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS ASKS FOR YOUR HELP

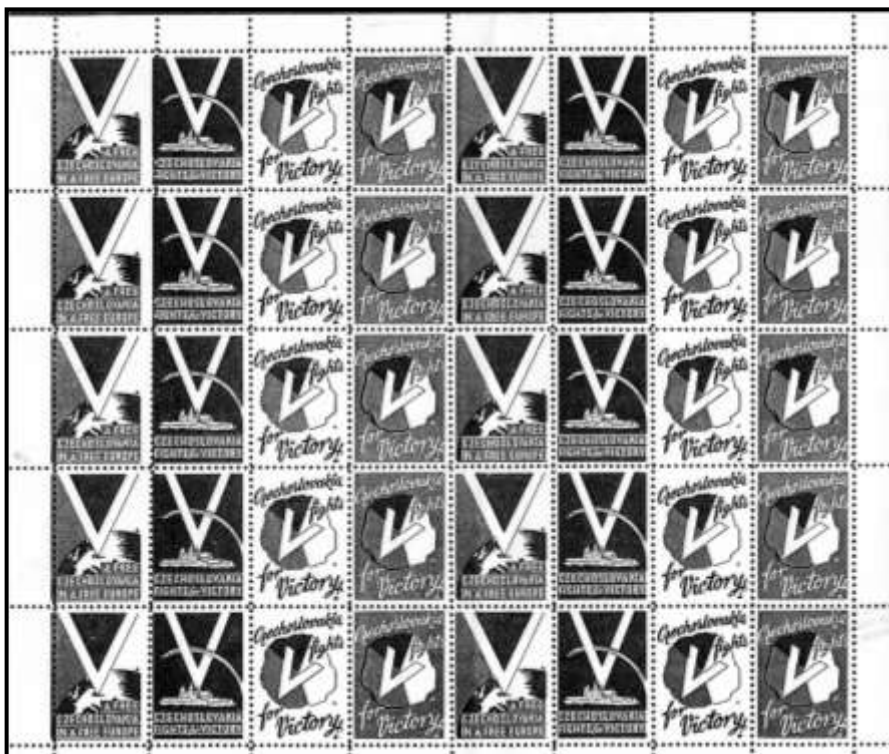
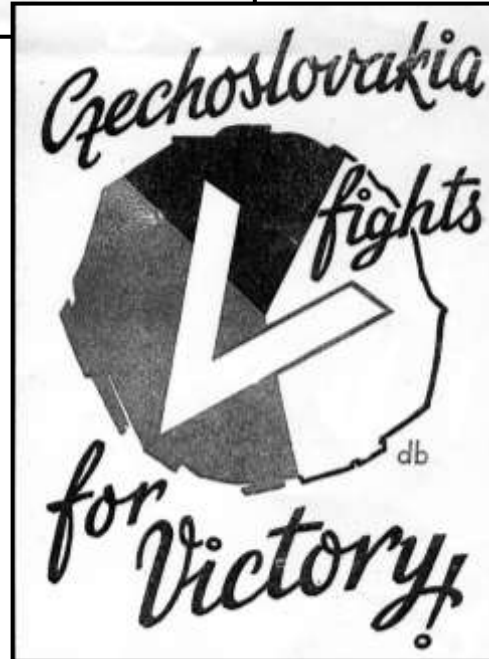
100 SEALS \$1.00

THESE SEALS ARE ISSUED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK WAR CHARITIES FUND
 AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR SERVICES, OTTAWA, CANADA
 THE ENTIRE PROCEEDS TO GO TO
 THE CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS IN LONDON, ENGLAND





1943



SECOND WORLD WAR LEAFLETS

-John N. Hammonds FRPSL-
Translated by Roy E. Reader

The Message from France to the People of Czechoslovakia

We are bringing you greetings and help from France and promise you that the inheritance of the Liberator President will be safeguarded.

You will be free again

The whole of the free world has already noted Hitler's treacherous game and is following the cruelty of his mob with fear.

We admire your proud opposition and we bow respectfully to the victims of bestial persecution.

You are not alone!

As during the Great War, we are today marching with you, weapons in hand, against oppression and force. We are strong, stronger than ever.

Believe us and be patient!

Today, as before, we have the Czechoslovakian Army by our side. We are pursuing the same aim and

We will conquer!

**Le message de la France
au peuple Tchécoslovaque**

Nous vous apportons le salut et l'aide de la France et nous vous promettons que l'héritage du Président Libérateur sera sauvegardé.

Vous serez libres de nouveau !

Tout le monde libre a déjà constaté le faux jeu de Hitler et suit avec effroi la cruauté de sa meute.

Nous admirons votre fière opposition et nous nous inclinons respectueusement devant les victimes des persécutions bestiales.

Vous n'êtes pas seuls !

Comme pendant la Grande Guerre nous marchons aujourd'hui avec vous, l'arme à la main, contre l'oppression et la force. Nous sommes forts, plus forts que jamais.

Croyez-nous et soyez patients !

Aujourd'hui, comme avant, nous avons à nos côtés l'armée tchécoslovaque. Nous poursuivons le même but et

Nous vaincrons !

**FRÈRES
de la Patrie opprimée !**

Le 7 mars, l'armée tchécoslovaque prête serment.

C'est votre armée qui a prêté serment. Elle est comme pendant la Grande Guerre aux côtés de ses grands alliés, la FRANCE et l'ANGLETERRE, dans la lutte pour le droit et la justice.

**Le monde entier
admire votre résolution.**

Nous y joignons encore nos pensées et avec les poings serrés, nous vous promettons aide.

Soyez patients, ne vous laissez pas provoquer prématurément.

La main dans la main avec nos alliés,

**nous réglerons les comptes
avec Hitler et ses bourreaux**

Nos alliés sont forts, plus forts que lors de la Grande Guerre, ils vaincront et nous vaincrons avec eux.

BROTHERS of the oppressed Fatherland!

On 7 March, the Czechoslovak Army took the oath.

It is your army that took the oath. As in the Great War, it is by the side of its great allies, FRANCE and ENGLAND, in the struggle for right and justice.

The whole world admires your resolution.

We add our thoughts too and with clenched fists we promise you help.

Be patient, do not allow yourselves to be provoked prematurely.

Hand in hand with our allies.

We will settle accounts with Hitler and his executioners

Our allies are strong, stronger than at the time of the Great War, they will conquer and we will conquer with them.

>

Translated by Robert Kingsley

GREAT BRITAIN TO THE CZECH NATION

CZECHS!

The democratic nations of the whole world follow with admiration and sympathy your magnificent fight against oppression. The frightful acts of the Nazi criminals and particularly of the monster called Karel Herrmann Frank have aroused the indignation of the entire civilised world.

Be patient! Do not allow yourselves to be provoked into premature spilling of blood.

You have shown. As indeed, you did many times in the past, that your spirit cannot be broken.

The time of reckoning with our mutual enemy, Hitler's brutal accomplices, now approached. Right is on the side of free nations and your country will soon once again be amongst these. Trust us; we are with you, just as we were 25 years ago.

TRUTH WILL PREVAIL

VELKÁ BRITÁNIE ČESKÉMU NÁRODU

ČECHOVÉ!

Demokratické národy celého světa sledují s obdivem a sympatiemi váš skvělý boj proti tlisku. Ohavné činy nacistických násilníků a zvláště obľudy, která se jmenuje Karel Herrmann Frank, vzbudily rozhořčení celého civilisovaného světa.

Buďte trpěliví! Nedejte se vyprovokovati k předčasnému krveprolití.

Dokázali jste nám, jako již tolikráte v minulosti, že váš duch je nepřemožitelný.

Naše společné sůctování s naším společným nepřítelem, kterým jsou brutální Hitlerovi pomocníci, již přichází. Právo je na straně svobodných národů a váš národ bude brzy opět mezi svobodnými národy. Důvěřujte nám; jsme s vámi právě tak jako jsme s vámi byli před dvaceti pěti lety.

PRAVDA ZVÍTĚZÍ.

267.



ALLIIERTES OBERKOMMANDO
(Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force)

Bekanntmachung

Deutsche! Unter Euch befindet sich eine grosse Anzahl Menschen in Zwangsarbeits-Bataillonen und in Konzentrationslagern.

Deutsche! Befolgt keine Befehle, von welcher Seite auch immer, zur Schikanierung, Misshandlung und Unterdrückung dieser Menschen, welcher Nationalität oder Religion sie angehören mögen.

Die alliierten Armeen, die bereits auf deutschem Boden festen Fuss gefasst haben, erwarten auf ihrem Vormarsch, diese Menschen lebendig und unverletzt vorzufinden.

Schwere Strafen werden Jeden treffen, der mittelbar oder unmittelbar, in grossem oder kleinem Mass, sich ihrer Misshandlung schuldig gemacht hat.

Jeder, der gegenwärtig Befehlsgewalt ausübt, soll sich diess zur Warnung dienen lassen!



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,
General, Oberster Befehlshaber
der Alliierten Streitkräfte.

7. November 1944

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force

ANNOUNCEMENT

Germans! Amongst you there are a large number of people in labour camps and concentration camps.

Germans! Do not obey orders, from any quarter, for the persecution, mistreatment or subjugation of these people, whatever nationality or religion they may belong to.

The allied armies who have already set foot on German soil expect on their advance to find these people alive and unharmed.

Severe penalties will be imposed on any person who, wittingly or unwittingly, to a small or large extent, is found guilty of mistreatment of such people.

This is a warning to any person who in the present situation, carries out any such orders.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies 7th November 1944

>

TO ALL SLOVAKS IN GERMANY

The following is a translation of an official announcement made to Germans on the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies.

(See previous page for Announcement from Dwight D Eisenhower.)

The words of the Commander-in-Chief are clear. All Germans, of whatever rank or position, have been warned of the penalty which awaits them if they persecute or mistreat you.

The Commander-in-Chief and every Allied soldier have you in mind at this time when the final attack on Germany approaches. You must hold together with your countrymen and others who have been forcibly dragged to Germany. Listen to the broadcasts of British and other allied radio stations and collect and distribute leaflets. Act in accordance with instructions given out by these means. Become agent-provocateurs. Remember any Germans who contrary to the warning given to them have in any way harmed you or your colleagues.

SLOVÁKOM V NEMECKU

Toto je preklad úradnej výstrahy, danej Nemcom z rozkazu Vrchného Veliteľa Spojeneckých armád :

„Medzi vami je veľka časť ľudí, ktorí sú v pracovných oddieloch a koncentračných táborech. Nech je náboženstvo alebo národnosť tých ľudí akéhokoľvek, Nemci, vyzývajú vás, aby ste neposlúchali žiadny rozkaz z akéhokoľvek prameňa, ktorý by vám prikazoval aby ste ihodili lebo ubližovali týmto ľuďom, alebo aby ste prenasledovali kohokoľvek z nich. Vláde kde postupujú Spojenecké armády, ktoré už pevne stoja na nemeckej pôde, očakávame, že najdeme týchto ľudí živých a zdravých. Prísne bude potrestaný každý, kto by bol zodpovedný priamo lebo nepriamo vo väčšej lebo menšej miere za zlé zaobchádzanie týmto ľuďmi. Všetci z vás, ktorí teraz máte výkonnú moc, majte sa na pozoru.“

Vidíte, že slova Vrchného Veliteľa sú jasné. Nemci každej hodnosti a postavenia boli upozornení na trest, ktorý ich očakáva keby vás prenasledovali alebo s vami zle zaobchádzali.

Najvyšší Veliteľ a tak tiež každý Spojenecký vojak myslí na vás vo chvíli keď sa blíži konečný útok na Nemecko. Musíte držať dovedna s vašimi krajanmi a ostatnými Spojeneckými príslušníkmi odvelečnými do Nemecka a zorganizovať sa. Počúvajte zprávy Britského radia a iných rozhlasových Spojeneckých staníc, zbierajte a rozdávejte Spojenecké letáky. Riďte sa dľa pokynov, ktoré dostanete touto cestou. Stážte sa agentov-provokatérov. Zapamätajte si Nemcov, ktorí by napriek tejto dôraznej výstrahе ublížili akýmkoľvek spôsobom vám, alebo vašim spolurobotníkom.

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

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

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

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

Czechout 3/03: Barry Horne's 1919 1st Anniversary Sheet perforations

Czechout 2/05: Maurice Tyler's French Cover with Czech stamps

Czechout 3/05: Ian McQueen's Shanghai Airmail via Czechoslovakia to Denmark

Czechout 3/05: Vernon Brown's Bohemia & Moravia cover

Czechout 3/05: Bob Hill's American Army 1st Olympic Games in Klatovy

Czechout 3/05: Richard Beith's Undercover Letters?

Czechout 4/05: Clyde Ziegler's Mail to USA & Postage Due

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

-Ing Pavel Šveinar-

A Critique by

-John L. Whiteside FRPSL, FSPH-

We would like to thank Ing Pavel Šveinar for giving us permission to publish his article that appeared in Czechout 3/2005 and was originally published in Filatelie No 8/2004 and translated by Robert Kingsley.

Part 2 continued from Czechout 4/2005 [We thank John Whiteside for providing illustrations and information from his collection.]

Illustration 15



Card for a Foreign Parcel. Stamp Design changed to 10 heller Hradčany V. 1922: Price of card reduced to 20h. Shield and price 20h. Bilingual text: Czech and French. 13 March 1924. JABLONEC nad NISOU to CHIHUAHUA, Mexico. For a parcel of glassware, weight 9.3kg. Postage paid 44.45Kč. NB From 1921, stamps ceased to be used on parcel cards for postage paid. The amount paid is written at upper right.

Illustration 16

Customs declaration form.

(Accompanying the parcel card shown above.)

Listing the contents and nett weights.

Value of contents.

1,281 Kč or 183 francs or \$36.62.

Země původu: — Pays d'origine: République tchéco-slovaque. — République Mexico

Země určení: — Pays de destination: Mexico

Celní prohláška. — Déclaration en Douane.

GABLONZ A. N. Chihuahua Chih.

Podst. uplatň. balení a obsahův obsah	Průměr váha obsahův	Číslo balení	Podst. obsahův obsahův obsah	Číslo obsahův obsahův obsah	Průměr váha obsahův obsah
Průměr, obsahův obsahův obsah	Poids brut des objets	Valeur totale	Désignation exacte du contenu des objets	Poids net par objet ou par emballage	Valeur par objet ou par emballage
kg	g	Kč	g	g	fr
1 korb			broches et vaisselle et verre à martell	717	20
4 7715			broches et vaisselle et verre à martell	961	125
	9300		broches et verre à martell	100	
	3662		broches et vaisselle et verre à martell	417	
	263		broches et verre à martell	417	
				571	

13 März 1924

Gablonz a. N., Zimmer & Schmidt, Gablonz a. N., Böhmen.

>



Illustration 17

Card for a Foreign Parcel.
 Stamp Design changed to 10 heller Hradčany V.
 1922: Price of card reduced to 20h. Shield and 20h at left.
 Bilingual text: Czech and French.
 4 February 1925.
 KARLOVY VARY to KRISTIANSAND, Norway.
 Parcel weight 5kg, insured for 200 crowns, equal to 28.57 gold francs.
 Postage paid 22.10 crowns in pencil.
 Norwegian Sea T.P.O. of transit: BUREAU DE MER DE NORVEGE, KRISTIANSAND – FREDRICKSHAVN A, 16 February 1925.

Illustration 18

Card for a Foreign Parcel.
 Stamp Design 10 heller Hradčany V.
 1922: Price of card reduced to 20h. Shield and 20h at left.
 Bilingual text: Czech and French.
 21 February 1925.
 KRASLICE to TAMPERE, Finland via STETTIN and HELSINKI.
 Weight 9.6kg: insured for 1,000Kč (= 142 Gold Fr). Postage paid 51.85 Kč.



Illustration 19

Cards for Foreign Parcels.
 1922: Stamp now 10 heller Hradčany V.
 Shield and card price 20h.
 Bilingual text: Czech and French.
 On 8 May 1925 the parcel card stamp duty was raised from 10 to 50 heller.
 10 and 30 heller postage stamps to pay the increase.
 23 August 1925.
 PRAHA VYSOČANY to BASLE.
 For a parcel weight 3.5kg: Postage paid 10.50Kč.



Illustration 20

Card for a Foreign Parcel.
 1925.
 50 heller fiscal stamp
 impression.
 Shield and card price 60h.
 Bilingual text: Czech and
 French.
 Printing letter D at lower left.
 3 April 1926.
 PŘEROV to MARSEILLES.
 For a parcel, weight 1.5kg.
 Postage paid 12.60kč.



↓ Card price

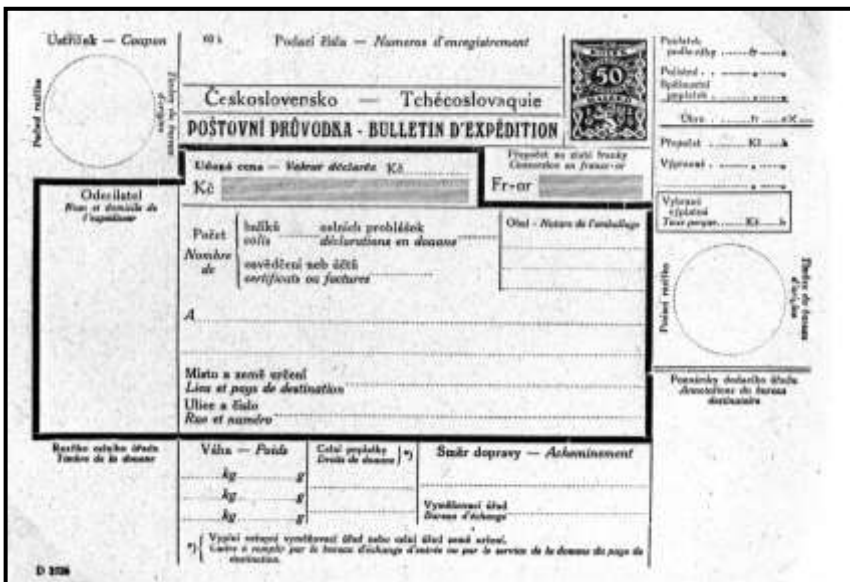


Illustration 21

Card for a Foreign Parcel.
 1926.
 50 heller fiscal stamp
 impression.
 Printing date D1926 at base.
 Card price 60h top left.
 Bilingual text: Czech and
 French.
 Printing letter D at lower left.

↑ D1926

Illustration 22

Cards for Foreign Parcels.
 1925.
 50 heller fiscal stamp
 impression.
 Text layout completely revised.
 Card price 60h (without shield).
 Bilingual text: Czech and
 French.
 D1925 at lower left.
 Charges section first in fr. and c.
 Foreign parcel rates were set in
 U.P.U. gold francs, then
 converted to kčs.
 4 March 1926.
 CVIKOV to CHIASSO,
 Switzerland: Weight 10kg. Charge 2.70 Gold francs, which, at 7 kčs per franc = 18.90 kčs.



>



Illustration 23

Card a for Foreign Parcel.
 1926.
 50 heller fiscal stamp impression.
 Printing date D1926 at base.
 Card price 60h at left.
 Bilingual text: Czech/French.
 9 November 1926.
 KRASLICE to ROVANIEME, Finland
 via PLAUEN, STETTIN and
 HELSINKI.
 Weight 9.3kg. postage paid
 33.60kčs.
 Finnish Customs charges of
 514.70mk.

Date	Weight	Value Fr	To	Paid (Kč)	Paid 7 (Gold Fr)
7/ 1/20	4.6	872.5	SWI	5.60	
16/ 3/21	7	-	GER	10.00	
22/ 3/21	1.1	17	SWI	13.50	
30/ 6/21	2.6	-	FIN	22.50	
13/ 9/22	3.8	-	SWI	11.20	1.60
23/ 6/22	9.3	66.67 sp	SWI	57.10	
21/ 7/23	1.6		SWI	9.30	1.40
13/ 4/24	9.3		MEX	44.45	6.35
4/ 2/25	5	28.57	NOR	22.1	
21/ 2/25	9.6	14.2	FIN	51.85 2.50 49.35	7.05
? / 3/25	17.3		JUG	27.65	3.95
16/ 6/25	17.5		SWI	33.60	4.80
25/ 7/25	5		TUR	17.85	2.55
14/ 5/25	2.8		SWI	9.8	1.40
29/ 5/25	4.7		JUG	9.45	1.35
30/ 6/25	20		JUG	27.65	3.95
23/ 8/25	3.5		SWI	10.50	1.50
2/ 8/ 25	11.2		JUG	23.45	3.35
17/ 8/25	9		JUG	15.05	2.15
3/ 4/26	1.5		FR	1.70) 11.90) .80	
24/ 3/26	0.9		FR	1.10) 7.70)	
9/11/26	9.3		FIN	4.80) 33.60	
4/ 3/26	10		SWI	2.70) 18.90)	
27/ 1/27	6.96		SWI	18.90	2.70
18/ 6/29	4.9		SWI	11.20	1.60
13/ 9/29	2.2		DEN	12.60	1.80
14/ 9/29	0.9		DEN	8.40	1.20
14/10/31	7.1		JUG	26.25	
25/ 9/30	1	Cod 163.2	SWI	7 4	
25/ 6	0.4	1.88	JUG	8.80 4	

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

- Members' Queries -

Another selection, together with some answers, for which we are sure our inquirers will be most grateful. It would be helpful if inquirers having covers with further details on the reverse also photocopy that side to assist with any replies. First the Answers:

Re Clyde Ziegler's Postcard to a Camp in *Czechout 4/2005* page 110

From Ian Nutley who writes: With regard to Clyde Ziegler's query about his postcard, the address is Lager III Film Stube 29, Wolfen, Kr. Bitterfeld. This clearly identifies it as going to the Wolfen Camp, three miles north of Bitterfeld. This was a sub-camp of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, working for I.G. Farben-Industrie, Filmfabrik, known as camp Vistra. It was established in July 1944, the Kommando having a strength varying between 250 and 400 women. In the address, 'Stube' is a prisoner's room, and Kr. is short for 'Kreis' or district. As the camp was not founded until July 1944 I would suggest that the c.d.s. is of 17.1.45. The addressee was clearly not a concentration camp inmate, as the card is written in Czech, whereas mail to KZ inmates had to be written in German. I hope that this tells Mr Ziegler what he wanted to know.

Jim Hamlin also confirms the details of this camp being a sub-camp of Buchenwald KZ, having mainly women for the chemical firm, and the addressee was in Room 29 (Stube 29).

From Lubor Kunc: In my opinion the postcard is going to a Czech man working in Germany. As you know the Nazis used young people from European countries under their control or influence, for work in German Industry and agriculture (it was called *Totaleinsatz*), and the workers were sometimes concentrated into camps. The card describes where the man lives (Stube 29) and the message just says holiday greetings.

Re Clyde Ziegler's Surface mail to USA via Russia in *Czechout 4/2005* page 110

From Jim Hamlin: The © was in use by the Berlin Censor in blue, black, green and red from 1940 to early 1941. Karl-Heinz Riemer's book* on German WW2 Censors records this cachet but is unsure of its purpose. I have several covers to the States with the © one of which has the cachet 'Über Siberien-Japan' and much German mail to the States went this way to avoid interception by the British. The Soviets were very helpful to the Nazis until "Barbarossa" in June 1941, with the Trans-Siberian railway taking mail to the States, buying embargoed rubber from them, etc. Once the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union this route was no longer available. Either the letter is a fake or the date was misread and it probably is 23/X/40.

**Die Überwachung des Auslandsbrief-Verkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen*. This handbook is still available from Postempelgilde e.V., P.O. Box 1951. D-59479 Soest, Germany, price €18.00 plus despatch. A revised edition is in preparation. Editor.

Re Clyde Ziegler's Letter with the postage due label to Vysoke Myto in *Czechout 4/2005* page 110

From Lubor Kunc: Mr Ziegler's description that the letter is a local one is not correct, in my opinion the letter was sent from Ranna u Hlinska to Vysoke Myto. The Ranna postal clerk didn't cancel the stamp therefore it was done at the Vysoke Myto office. The postman at Vysoke Myto also affixed the label with text "To Ranna u Hlinska / please ask the sender to pay / 60 heller and / return the cover immediately to us". This was done and the Ranna post office really obtained the postage due, which was confirmed by the stamps.

Now as regards the postal rate, because it was a letter sent between two towns the correct postal rates were in 1941 80 Heller for letters up to 20 grammes or 160 Heller for letters up to 250 grammes. We see the rates are not applicable on this cover. It might be that the cover contained a bill or other business papers, which was charged at that time with 150 Heller. The sender affixed 120 Heller stamp, so 30 Heller was missing and the post office asked properly the double rate.

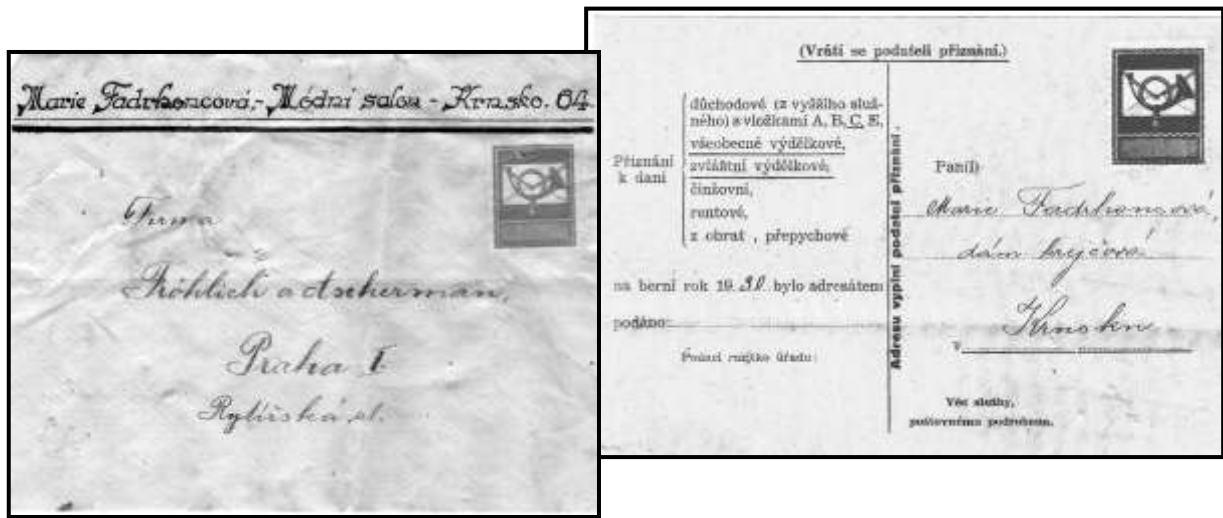
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Re Chris Cordes cover Brno-Teplice with postage due in Czechout 4/2005 page 111

From Lubor Kunc: A court of justice of Brno has sent the illustrated letter to Teplice (Teplitz-Schönau), in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and later in the Czechoslovak Republic. The official correspondence of courts of justice was sent without franking, but the postage was collected from addressee and postage due stamps to that value were affixed on the cover. The collected amount, was the basic postage (as shown, 1 Crown for normal domestic letter), no additional fees were required. I am not sure when the special system for courts of justice was cancelled, but I know of similar letters from the Protectorate period, it might be that the WWII is the point of change. The cover in Mr. Cordes' possession was not delivered to the addressee (see reverse with many handwritten notices) and it was returned to the Brno Court so finally the court of justice paid the postage. The court excluded forwarding of the letter to addressee (see word "NEDOSILAT !" on first figure).

New Queries

From Charles Stirton: I am enclosing three intriguing covers that I am seeking advice on. 1) The first two covers are those I found in a house clearance of one of my Czech relatives. I have never seen these stamps before in a red colour and cannot find them in any catalogues. The envelopes were postally used but not cancelled. Were these stamps legal tender?



(2) The postcard with a bilingual strike for Kral. Vinohrady 1 = Královské Vinohrady [10.VI.19? VII canceller 56]. The German is Konigliche Weinberge 1. Presumably this refers to one of the Praha post offices [31-35?].

I cannot find this type of postmark in any of the monographs I have. It is certainly pre-1920s and has Ettapenpost in writing across where the cancellation is?



The address refers to Ettapenpost 197. Is Ettapenpost an official Royal stage postal service and so does not require postage? Or am I entirely on the wrong track! I would love to hear from any members or others who can help.

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 – CATOR, France, indicated below as WSP.

Printing

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

Czech Republic

20 January 2006

The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production



Designer and Engraver: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30 stamps

Design: aerial view of Prague Castle from Mathias Gate from the original 30h stamp of the airmail issue 1967 to promote The World Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 1968. The designer of the original stamp was J Lukavský (1924-1984) and the engraver was L Jirka (1914-1986).

FDC: printed DS in dark brown has a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet is taken from the 5Kč value of the same 1967 airmail set.

A booklet of 8 stamps and four labels using the design from the 2.40Kč stamp of the 1967 airmail issue and facsimile signature of J Lukavský was issued.

1 February 2006

Definitive - Congratulations Bouquet



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels by Victoria Security Printing a.s. **Design:** stamp – a bouquet of mixed flowers; labels – right upper has one flower with butterfly; the other labels have flower motifs. Some sheets have blank labels for customer printing. There was no official FDC.

1 February 2006

Definitive – The Beauty of Flowers – Hibiscus



Designer: Anna Khunová **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD in sheets of 100 stamps with iridescent under print.

Design: the flower and bud of the hibiscus with the name in Czech. No official FDC issued.

>

8 February 2006

XXth Winter Olympic Games, Torino 2006

**Designer:** Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps.**Design:** female racers ski running free style. Ski running has been recognised as an Olympic sport since 1924.**FDC** printed DS in blue has a commemorative Praha cancel and cachet drawing showing two female racers.

8 February 2006

Winter Paralympic Games, Torino 2006

**Designer:** Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** DS in sheets of 50 stamps.**Design:** two sledge hockey players. The sport was created in Sweden in the early 1960s and became a Paralympic sport in 1990. The sledge has blades with the players using two sticks for propulsion. Each stick has a pointed and blade end. **FDC** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows players and a referee.

8 February 2006

Art in the Times of Charles IV: Madonna of Zbraslav

**Designer and Engraver:** Bedřich Housa**Printing:** DS in sheets of four stamps.**Design:** from the original work in the church of St Jacob, Zbraslav, on lime wood c. 1345 by an unknown artist – Madonna of Zbraslav. The artist used costly materials including gold and powdered semi-precious azure stone for the work which is set in a gilded frame. Later c.1661 pearls and gems were set into the painting. The central gutter of the sheet has the text in Czech "Art in the Time of Charles IV". Charles IV was Holy Roman Emperor (1355-1378) and King of Bohemia (1346-1378).**FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet is a drawing of a Gothic church window.

22 February 2006

Definitive – The Beauty of Flowers – Daffodil

**Designer:** Anna Khunová **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100 stamps with iridescent under print.**Design:** the flower and bud of a daffodil with text in Czech.There was no official **FDC**.

>

22 February 2006

Personalities



Designer: Markéta Prachatická
Engraver: Miloš Ondráček
Printing: RD in sheets of 50 stamps.

Designs: portraits of the personalities with their bibliographical details.

11Kč: František Josef Gerstner (1756-1832) mathematician and astronomer, professor of higher mathematics at University of Prague. He was a member of the Court Study Committee which reorganised the technical and vocational education in the Habsburg empire. Stamp commemorates 250th anniversary of his birth. FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Chomutov cancel. The cachet drawing is an astrolabe.

12Kč: Jaroslav Ježek (1906-1942) composer, playwright, conductor and pianist. With J Werich and J Voskovec he was a leading personality of the Osvobozené divadlo (Liberated Theatre) but in 1939 all three went to America. Ježek conducted the Czechoslovak Singers and taught music in America where he died. The stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of his birth. FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Prague cancel. The cachet drawing is a piano keyboard with caricatures of Voskovec and Werich.

19Kč: Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) neurologist and psychiatrist born in Příbor, Moravia of Jewish parents. He founded the scientific discipline of psychoanalysis as a concept of personality development and a method of treatment of mental disorders. He emigrated to London after the annexation of Austria by Hitler in 1939. FDC: printed RD in black with a commemorative Příbor cancel. The cachet drawing is a labyrinth symbolizing the human soul.

22 February 2006

Definitive – Wine Still Life



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels by Victoria Security Printers a.s.

Design: stamp - still life with a tumbler of wine, bunch of grapes and flowers; labels – right upper - a branch with three ripe peaches, remainder – a bunch of grapes. Some sheets have blank labels for customer use. No official FDC issued.

Postal Stationery

**Official Postcards
 For Promotional Usage**

1 February 2006 – Designer: Jan Solpera **Printing:** multicoloured offset **Design:** imprinted 10Kč stamp is a “10” numeral in white on a red background with small Kč in red at the side. Above “Česká” in white on a red ground and “Republika” in red. To the left is the logo of the Czech Post and a security hologram. The left side of the card is blank for promotional use. The card retails at 11Kč.

Commemorative Card

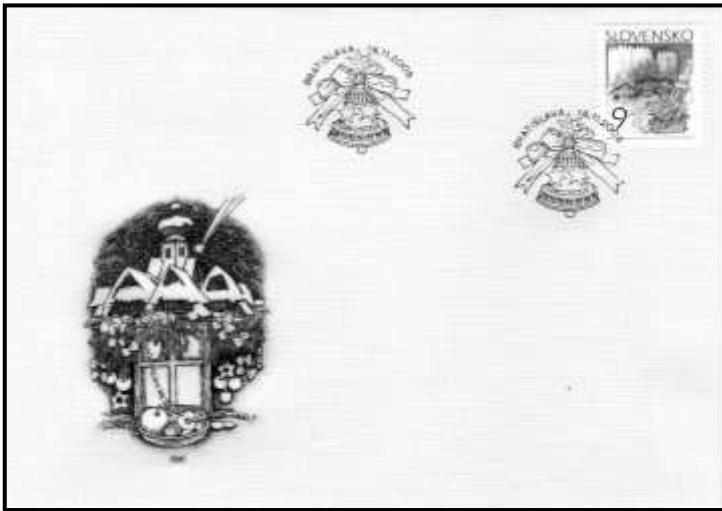
2 March 2006 – Days of Francophony in the Czech Republic. Designer: Václav Kučera **Printing:** coloured offset **Design:** 11Kč stamp – the logo for the 100th anniversary of LS Seghor, promotional portion – logo of the International Organisation of Francophony and name in French with two letters “F” and text in Czech. The card retails for 16Kč. The International Organisation for Francophony was established by charter in 1996 although an earlier organisation was formed in the 1960s. The main aims are to promote and support the teaching of the French language. The International Day of Francophony is celebrated on 20 March.

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Slovakia

16 November 2005

Christmas 2005



Designer: Vladimír Machaj
Engraver: (FDC cachet only) Miroslav Strandel
Printing: stamp -offset WSP-Cartor; FDC - DS by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava.
Design: the three Magi holding a Christmas crib from a nativity scene.
FDC: cachet in dark grey of a winter background with the bright star and decorations of fruit in foreground, with a commemorative Bratislava cancel.

25 November 2005

Postage Stamp Day



Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Miroslav Ondrejička FDC cachet only

Printing: offset

Design: a staff of office for a high ranking postal official from the early 1800s. The tab depicts an early horse drawn mail van in blue livery. FDC: printed DS by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava in dark grey with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is an early open horse drawn carriage with a small extract of the Decree of

Vienna Chamber Court of 1815 which detailed the uniforms for officers and other postal employees.

Postal Stationery

Postcards for Promotional Use

The following cards, unless indicated, have an imprinted 9Sk stamp as for CDV 118 (see *Czechout* 2/2005 page 58) and retail for 12Sk.

? **September 2005 CDV 125 (118/05) The Most Beautiful Slovak Stamp of 2004** – promotional portion has a print of the chosen stamp – Raftsmen on the Dunajec River issued 3 September 2004.

? **October 2005 CDV 126 (118/05) Sindelfingen 2005** – promotional portion has symbolic sketch of a flying horse and a church steeple with a small diamond shaped corner insert with text of the event.

? **November 2005 CDV 127 (107/05) Davis Cup 2005 Final** – promotional portion has two young tennis players with faces painted in Slovak colours. The event was held 2-4 December at the Sibamec arena, Bratislava. (8Sk imprinted stamp – white flag design – for details see *Czechout* 3/2004 p92.)

November 2005 CDV 128 (107/05) Champions League (Football). card promoted the FC Artmedia Bratislava as the league champions. (8Sk imprinted stamp – white flag design – for details see *Czechout* 3/2004 p92.)

18.12.2005? CDV 129 (118/05) Day of the Postage Stamp and Philately – promotional part has a sailing vessel with various Slovak stamps as sails and the logo of the Slovak Post as the highest pennant.