



CZECHOUT

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Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

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NOTES

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 4 November**. The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am; after lunch **Ron Hollis** will give a display entitled **Czechoslovakia in 1945** at 2.30pm. On **Saturday 18 November** a Regional Meeting will be held at the Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds at 2.00pm; for full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978).

A National Stamp Exhibition is being held in Hradec Králové from **19 to 22 April 2007**. If anyone is interested in helping to form a small party to attend, please would they contact Rex Dixon (01628 628628) as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

We regret to report the death, after a long illness, of our Life Member **Brian Parker**. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Jean and their family. An obituary by Reg Housnell appears on page 66.

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 3 June 2006 at the Friends' Meeting House, Stevenage, from 2.00 pm

Reg Hounsell had invited members to Stevenage for the Society's annual summer meeting. The Friends Meeting House proved to be a very good venue, spacious and well lit, with a side room for the superb buffet lunch laid on by Kathy Hounsell. Reg had produced a printed programme of events.

The venue was available to members from around 11.30 am and Reg had organised a static display for members to view before and over lunch:

Brian Parker	<i>Prague postmarks and sub-offices</i>
Robert Kingsley	<i>Josef Herčík, engraver</i>
Reg Hounsell	<i>Prague pneumatic post</i>

Brian Parker, though ill and in a wheelchair, was able to join us for lunch along with his wife, Jean. He had been philatelically active despite adversity, preparing the Prague display in the weeks before the meeting.

The Chairman, Richard Beith, formally opened the meeting after lunch. He welcomed 16 members and two visitors. Apologies had been received from seven members. Richard thanked Reg for the organisation, Kathy for the sumptuous repast, and North Herts Stamp Club (Stevenage section) for the loan of the frames.

The Secretary had no prospective new members to announce.

Most of the afternoon was devoted to members' displays:

John Hammonds	<i>Bohemia & Moravia – a miscellany</i>
Brian Day	<i>The German connection in Czech Austria</i>
Richard Beith	<i>Czechoslovaks in the Middle East, including a cover from the Czechoslovak Group, PO Box 1000, Mauritius</i>
Lindy Bosworth	<i>The Prague exhibition site, built in 1891</i>
Rex Dixon	<i>Anschluß of Austria – postal rates in transition</i>
Brian Day	<i>Józsa Úprka, printer and print maker</i>
Otto Hornung	<i>The 'indestructible bishop of Munkács', a letter from the Vatican</i>
Richard Beith	<i>Box 226, London EC1 – incoming mail, including from Vichy France</i>
Bob Hill	<i>Liberation-related material, with pleas for help</i>
Lindy Bosworth	<i>Slogan postmarks</i>
Colin Spong	<i>Slovakia – an overview</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>TPOS 1918–1939</i>
Lindy Bosworth	<i>Austro-Hungarian navy mail in WW1</i>
Richard Beith	<i>North American solidarity with Czechoslovakia</i>
Reg Hounsell	<i>A Czech miscellany</i>

During the afternoon the competition for the **Kay Goodman Trophy** was held. There were just three entries, with John Hammonds and Colin Spong acting as the judges. The results of their deliberations were:

1st	Reg Hounsell	<i>Pneumatic post – Potrubní poštou</i>
2nd	Yvonne Gren	<i>East Silesia – Fryštát and Karvinná district 1918–1945</i>
3rd	Brian Day	<i>Czechoslovak forerunner pneumatic post</i>

Richard presented the Rosebowl to the well-deserved winner. He thanked all those that had come and those that had shown the wide variety of material, and again thanked Reg and Kathy for organising the

day so enjoyably. After the meeting closed around 5.05 pm most people repaired to nearby Coreys Mill for a high quality dinner.

Joint meeting with the Austrian PS, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in GB at Heaton Royds, Bradford, Saturday 12 August 2005

This, the ninth joint meeting between the four societies, was again kindly hosted by Stephen and Judith Holder at their cottage and barn set high above Bradford. It has become an annual institution that everyone looks forward to. However, Stephen announced that they were finding they were hosting too many meetings and had decided to cut back. The next one at Heaton Royds will probably be in two years' time. Meanwhile, for 2007, Yvonne Wheatley, the indefatigable organiser of these meetings, undertook to arrange some other venue in the area.

As always those stalwarts who come every year were greeted with coffee and biscuits. Numbers were a little more restricted this year, because of the new meeting room arrangements in a former cow byre at one end of the barn.

There was a full day of displays with six rounds of five frames. A break was taken for a delicious buffet lunch of cold meats, salads, cheeses and fruit washed down with wine or beer.

Joyce Boyer	<i>Austria and the Euro</i>
Richard Beith	<i>PO Box 226 London EC1, the Czechoslovak Army in GB; North American solidarity with Czechoslovakia</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>Polish meter marks from their introduction in 1927 through to 1939</i>
Andy Taylor	<i>Court letters in Austria from 1896 to the system's end in 1963</i>
Pat Rothnie	<i>Danzig and Port Gdańsk</i>
Keith Brandon	<i>Mixed frankings of Austria</i>
Roger Morrell	<i>Registered letter receipts from Austria-Hungary</i>
Derek Baron	<i>75 years of censorship in Olomouc</i>
John Whiteside	<i>Parcel cards from Russisch Polen; Continuing German postal rates in Poznań province, to 15.4.1920</i>
Yvonne Wheatley	<i>Suspension of Czechoslovak postal service abroad in March 1919</i>
Roy Clegg	<i>Early Austrian postal stationery cards</i>
Edmund Jagielski	<i>Pre-stamp covers from Galicia</i>
Andy Taylor	<i>Mozart new and old</i>
John Whiteside	<i>First Hungarian inflation – period 14: 1.4.–31.12.1926</i>
Stephen Holder	<i>Fiume; Masonic items, including an exceptionally early one from France</i>
Rex Dixon	<i>Border adjustments between Poland & Slovakia 1938 & 1939</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>Poland – provisional postage dues from 1919 to mid 1920s, mostly paying delivery charges for parcels and money orders, and mostly from the former Austrian areas</i>
Andy Taylor	<i>Some Austrian forms</i>
Stephen Holder	<i>Hradčany</i>
Yvonne Wheatley	<i>Czechoslovakia – the money transfer system</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 her organising the day and baking the cakes. Those not present missed an excellent day, both socially and philatelically.

>

Meeting held Saturday 19 August 2006 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Richard Beith, welcomed 22 members and one visitor. Apologies had been received from five members.

Richard asked Reg Hounsell to say a few words about life member Brian Parker, who had died recently. Reg recalled their very long friendship, through their shared interests in both work and stamps. (*Please refer to the obituary that Reg has written and that appears in Czechout for a fuller version.*)

The Secretary gave details of three prospective new members:

Richard Burda	from Strelice u Brna
Stuart Tolley	from Derby
Tom Brown	from Belfast

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The intended speaker for the day, **Gerhard Hanacek**, had sent his sincere apologies that the current airline crisis had prevented him and his family from flying from Vienna. All flights had been cancelled for four days and rebooking on a later flight had proved impossible. It is hoped that another occasion may be found for Gerhard to give us his display of ***The First Republic***.

On the Thursday the Secretary, Rex Dixon, had advised those members who had given him their email addresses of the change of programme. About half the members were thus contacted in advance. Rex thanked the high proportion of these email members for agreeing to receive their auction lists by email, thereby saving the Society printing and postage costs; email recipients also gained an advantage by getting their catalogues sooner.

The revised programme was ***Members' Displays***, the following members giving displays during the afternoon:

Brian Day	<i>"Independence Album" (Památník Odboje) postcards, issued 1917–19 for the benefit of the Czechoslovak legion</i>
Bob Bradford	<i>Hradčany; and forerunner pre-Hradčany covers</i>
Reg Hounsell	<i>Postcards for exhibitions</i>
Richard Beith	<i>The Czechoslovaks in France 1939–40</i>
Garth Taylor	<i>The 2nd Czechoslovak airmail issue – rates and routes</i>
Lindy Bosworth	<i>Karlsbad postcards</i>
Rex Dixon	<i>Border adjustments between Poland & Slovakia 1938 & 1939</i>
David Holt	<i>Slovak State – a miscellany</i>

Richard thanked all those who had displayed at "very, very, very, very short notice". There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.20 pm.

Letters to the Editor

✉ **Lubor Kunc**, our correspondent in the Czech Republic writes: "I am seeking assistance to perfect the English text of a monograph that I am writing on Field Posts of World War I in general. It is hoped to publish this in a publication other than the CPSGB. However, I would be grateful if one of your members could assist me in this matter." Brunclikova 7, 162 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic. lubor.kunc@volny.cz

✉ **Tom Cossaboom**, President Society of Czechoslovak Philately e-mails: "Next year, the show CHICAGOPEX 2007, scheduled for Chicago, Illinois on 16-18 November 2007, is going to be a Panslavic show. Chicago has a large Czech, Polish and Ukrainian population. The Polish population of Chicago is second to that of Warsaw. In addition to the SCP, the Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and Hungarian (honorary Slavs) will all participate. I also expect the Russian Society from Canada to participate. Some members of the SVAZ have indicated they will participate and exhibit. This should be a great exhibit of Czech and Slovak material. I would like to invite you and members of your society to

participate in the show with exhibits and attendance. I will ask the shows organizers to send you exhibit application forms when they are ready, hope to see you in Chicago next year.”

✉ **British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter:** *Moving the Mail* exhibition now at the Coventry Transport Museum from 5 August to 24 October, entrance free, contact museum for opening times.

Publications

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

- The Autumn 2006 issue of *Austria*, No.155. The articles include:
 - ▶ Postal History of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire in the Far East 1898-1920 cont: (Pirotte); The Postal Rates of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1878-1918 part 2 (Kraut & Matthijssen); The Mysterious Case of the Viennese Poste Restante (Brandon in the style of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ie, Holmes & Watson investigate a postcard obtained at a recent York Fair! – well done.)
- The June 2006 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.37, Whole No. 148. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ SČF [Society for Czech Philatelists is on the web] (-); Bar-code labels of the Czech Post Office for registered mail from abroad (-); Commercial cancellations from Sorting Office 95 with a Czech connection (-); Catalogue comparisons (Wilhelms); Stich watermarks – Ladurner watermarks (Müller); Identification marks on the “Centenary of the Prague School of Applied Art” stamp [Pofis 2683] (Ziegler); Identification marks on the “Centenary of Registration Label” stamp [Pofis 2755] (Ziegler); Special Cancellations from Czechoslovakia 1967 (Müller); Personalized Austrian stamps with a Czechoslovakian cancellation (Heijs); New information about automation in the Czech Post Office (Müller).
- The July/August 2006 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 68 Whole Nos.598. No. 4. The articles include:
 - ▶ National Artist – Maximilian Švabinský (van Zenten); Mailings of the Prague Pneumatic Post (4) [cont]. (Šmid & Schöelbauer); Jubilee and Charity issue of 1919 [cont] (Moliš); Royalty of the World-King Wencelas of Bohemia (Silvester); Franking by Bisected *Protektorát* Postage Due Stamps (Beneš).
- The 6, 7 & 8/2006 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol. 56. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
 - ▶ Colourful World of Variable Rate Stamps [1] (Langhammer); History of Car Brands in Bohemia & Moravia [1] (Horák); The Different varieties of Europa 2006 issue (Brožová & Pěnkava).
 - ▶ Colourful World of Variable Rate Stamps [2] (Langhammer); New information about the Currency Reform of 1953 (Dražan); History of Car Brands in Bohemia & Moravia [2] (Horák).
 - ▶ History of Car Brands in Bohemia & Moravia [3] (Horák); The Different varieties of Dětem 2006 issue (Brožová & Pěnkava).
- The 3 & 4/2006 issues of *Merkur Revue*, The articles include:
 - ▶ Postal forms or postal stationery? (Mezera); Postal forms in three languages after 28.10.1918 (Kypast & Štefek); Items of interest from the world of stamps of the RSFSR and the USSR (Fritz); Overview of the unofficial special postal stationery (-); The “Economy & Science” issue from 1920 [1] (Stupka); 50th Birthday of Fero Horniak (-); Literature “The Bohemian-Moravian highland on stamps (Fritz).
 - ▶ Plebiscite Markings [Part 1] (Tovačovský); Mini sheet of the Stamp Exhibition MOSCOW 1957 (Fritz); 80 Years of Bedřich Housa (Fischer); Miloš Ondráček – Unbelievable 70 Years (-);The

"Economy & Science" issue from 1920 [2] (Stupka); Jozef Baláž - Obituary (-); Fighter Pilot Otakar Hrubý DFC (Marie Hrubý); Crown Cross and commemorative decoration (Hrdý); Colour Picture Postcards of the Czech Post (-).

- The September 2006 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No 166. The articles include
- ▶ Hungary's Famous Men-Part 2 Vörösmarty Mihály (Benford); Hotel Posts of Transylvania (Morrell); Fiume: A unique postcard from the Occupation period (Gilbert); Commemorating the Imperial Crown of Hungary (Editor)

THE ESTATE OF THE LATE W A (BILL) DAWSON 1916-2006

-Robert Hill-

The last of the Bill Dawson estate (well nearly).

In 23 albums very well written up is a complete collection 1945 thru 1990: Mint, Used, FDCs; Commercial covers; Miniature sheets & complete mini sheets, related items etc. There are at least 100 pages per album. Priced at just £750. These are available for sale, buyer collects or will deliver. Ring my Voicemail on 0190 289 3600 or e-mail me on rjeldt@msn.com

Congratulations

To **Garth Taylor**, who gave an Aerophilatelic display of Czechoslovakia to his local society, Loughborough & District P.S on 8 June. Garth received a fulsome report in the local press that described his first class display of the study of "Rates and Routes" of the second and third issues of Czech Airmails. All of these were explained and developed on covers displayed.

The 88th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held at Renfrew from 6-9 July and celebrated the centenary of the Caledonian Philatelic Society of Glasgow under the able chairmanship of Mrs Margaret Morris FRPSL. Our correspondents report that the highlight of the Congress Banquet was a speech by our very own **Lt Colonel Otto Hornung RDP**, in which he recalled the warm welcome given by the Scottish people to the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade, which trained in the Scottish Borders from May to August 1944. He concluded his remarks with a spirited rendition of "*Glasgow belongs to me!*" [John Hammonds and Pat Rothnie can confirm this!] [Our correspondent, Richard Beith, does not mention that he gave the Kay Goodman Lecture, his subject being "The Importance of Air Mail in the development of Civil Aviation in Scotland".]

To **Ian Nutley** and his fiancée Diane on their marriage on 9 September. Our very best wishes to them on this happy occasion.

Comments on the April 2006 Auction

21 bidders bid for 187 lots out of 424. This compares with 41 bidders for 201 lots out of 500 in the last Auction. The average bid was just over £13.59, in a range from 10p to £350. For the statistically minded, the mid value was lower than the last Auction's at £4.25 (£5.00 last Auction) and 144 bids were £10 or less (142 in the last Auction). The five most popular items were the Czech Army in Siberia, Sudetenland envelopes, Urquell Prazdroj Anniversary, Czech Forces and a postal stationery collection, all with three bids. Interest was well spread across all periods in the auction.

Comments on the July 2006 Auction

35 bidders bid for 326 lots out of 516. This compares with 32 bidders for 187 lots out of 424 in the last Auction. The average bid was just over £13.30, in a range from 25p to £250. One member's bids covered seven pages. I have confirmed with Bob Hill that this is a record as far as we are concerned. I am always pleased to see bids, whether one or over a hundred. For the statistically minded, the mid value was lower than the last Auction's at £2.75 (£4.25 last Auction) and 286 bids were £10 or less (144 in the last Auction).

The most popular items were the Perfins books (6 bids and 4 bids). A large number of other items had four bids, including the black Christmas card, 1979 CSSR-Cuba block, Zamberk booklets, and a number of books including the Schmidt limited edition, Austrian Postal Stationery, transfer of Polish PO to Czechoslovakia, Czech Polni Posta and Czech Pneumatic Posts. Surprisingly, there were four bids for Teach Yourself Czech. We may have discovered a hidden desire for the Czech language. Interest was well spread across all periods in the auction, with the only areas not been fought over being the Czech Army in Siberia, Slovakia and the more modern Czech Republic.

Peter Williams

WASHINGTON 2006

-Yvonne Wheatley-

Washington 2006 (27 May to 3 June) lived up to its expectation that it would be a large, well organised, all-world philatelic exhibition. The Convention Centre, accessed directly from the Metro, housed nearly 4,000 frames, numerous dealers and society stands and a large kids' corner on one level. There were numerous meeting rooms for seminars and society meetings.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately had a stand that was well appointed with an eye-catching banner. Sixteen new members were signed up and an impressive amount of literature was sold. The Society hosted a membership meeting and three lectures as follows.

- *1993 Division of Czechoslovakia Post into Czech and Slovak Posts.* This was to have been a joint presentation by Prof Lubomír Floch and Miroslav Langhammer but sadly illness prevented Miroslav from attending and his presentation was read on his behalf.
- *Slovak Postal History* by Prof Lubomír Floch.
- *The Murder of Lidice* by Phil Rhode.

Some 35 members of the American Society and guests attended the Society's dinner in a local Italian restaurant and Roger Castle and his son, and Richard and I were there.

Despite the large number of frames many exhibits were rejected because of lack of space, which meant that those that were accepted were of a very high standard. The following members of our Society are to be congratulated on their awards especially considering the fierce competition:

Open Class	Geoff McAulay	Masaryk's Czechoslovakia	Gold
Traditional	Henry Hahn	Czechoslovakia 1918-1939	Gold
	Jaroslav Verner	Czechoslovakia 1918-1938	Vermeil
Postal Stationery	Milan Černík	Czechoslovakia: Use of Double Postcards 1918-1939	Large Vermeil
	Richard Wheatley	NEI: Postal Stationery	Gold

There were two complaints: the dealers wished they had taken more material, and with soaring temperatures outside the level of air conditioning had us huddled in coats for the first two days, after which it was moderated.

The Palmares closed on a high note inviting everyone to attend the next international exhibition in America – New York in 2016!

Treasurer's Announcement

Our credit card facilities are causing concern because Barclaycard has declared we are a 'small user' and therefore we have to pay more for the facility.

The surcharge, if you wish to use the facility, will be increased to 3% of the amount charged to the card. This will apply to the October Auction and all other payments you authorise the Society to charge to your card from 1 October 2006.

Yvonne Wheatley

SOCIETY HANDBOOK

Members may have noticed some minor problems with the Handbook distributed with the June *Czechout*. The clause numbering went awry when I assembled the separate chapters into a single document for printing. So please would you amend your copies so that the clause numbers in the Constitution are 1 to 23 (not 8 to 30), in the Exchange Packet Regulations 1 to 21 (not 31 to 51), in the Regulations for the George Pearson Trophy 1 to 10 (not 52 to 61), and in the Library Regulations 1 to 6 (not 11 to 16).

A further error was the omission of part of Ernst Gorge's name from the post of Joint Secretary/Treasurer for 1974–1975. The list of awards on page 5-9 omits the two won in 1986 at the Cardinal Spellman Museum: Vermeil for Monograph No.3 and Silver Bronze for Monograph No.4 (our thanks to Juan Page for drawing our attention to this).

Please note also the Society's insurers have confirmed that "G.B." should be replaced by "the U.K." in the first Exchange Packet Regulation.

Corrected pages will be distributed when the Handbook is next amended.

Rex Dixon

OBITUARY

BRIAN PARKER 1935–2006 died on Saturday morning, 22 July, at Royston Hospital, following a short illness. He had recently celebrated his 71st birthday. Brian was born at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire in June 1935. His father was an amateur radio enthusiast who spent most of the wartime listening to and recording enemy radio transmissions for the British Government. After attending the local grammar school, Brian left to join a local paint company working on experimental finishes.

Brian voluntarily enlisted with the RAF so he could study radio and electronics, rather than wait to be forced into National Service. Initially based at NUMBER 2 RADIO SCHOOL, RAF YATESBURY, after training he was posted to RAF HABBANIYA (Iraq), in the desert about 80 miles east of Baghdad, as an Air Radar Fitter, where his passion for photography and caring nature for others soon showed through. He organised a number of tourist 'trips' for his colleagues, sometimes visiting dangerous areas (probably off limits) in the Middle East, including Tehran via the Caspian Sea. He was called 'Ginger' on account of his hair colour.



After leaving the RAF at the end of 1956, he joined Ferranti computers at Hollinwood, near Oldham, where he developed into an outstanding Computer diagnostic and Support engineer on Sirius computers, carrying out a number of important visits to resolve complex problems in the UK, Europe and Australia. It was at Ferranti that he met his future wife, Jean. One of his engineering visits was to Czechoslovakia for which he met a Czech cultural attaché at their London Embassy. Already a stamp collector, he started forming a collection of Czechoslovakia, especially Airmail stamps and covers. >

In 1966, under Government guidance, the main British electronic and computing companies – Ferranti, Power Samas, British Tabulators and Hollerith – merged to form International Computers and Tabulators (ICT). By 1969 Brian was married, had two children and was living in Royston, Hertfordshire, working from ICT Customer Services Headquarters at Letchworth. In 1971 Brian, with his wife and two very young children, Alison and Judith, went to live and work in Australia for ICT (by then ICL), making several visits to New Zealand and the Far East. After two years they returned and took up residence once again in Royston. Until he retired in 1996, he continued to develop the latest diagnostic tools needed to fix complex computer design problems and obscure intermittent faults on all types of computers ranging from the very largest main frames to small early version personal computers, gaining a well deserved reputation for being the man who could solve the problems others couldn't resolve; also being only too willing to help and guide others to improve their diagnostic capabilities.

Brian maintained a connection with Iraq and the Middle East throughout his stamp collecting days, having a good representation of Iraq-related airmail covers and British stamps overprinted for use in Bahrain, Morocco Agencies, etc. Whilst also collecting New Zealand stamps and airmail items, GB booklets and Machin Heads, he continued improving his Czechoslovak collection, especially airmails and postal history, taking a keen interest in Prague post marks.

Having helped me take on the auction secretary role from Cyril Wackett, Brian designed, developed and wrote a computer program to handle an extended club postal auction, providing a computer printout of lots and controlling postal bids. This important service and the speed and ease of running 100s of lots allowed both postal and a room auction to be run each year. Very soon, Brian had taken over sole responsibility for running the auction. This he successfully improved for a number of years. When Brian retired as the Society's Auction Secretary, the new incumbent was impressed with the records passed over and the system of working, finding the whole changeover process far less daunting than anticipated. Bob Hill continued to use Brian as a reference point for queries for many years, always finding him approachable and willing to help. The Society owes a great debt to Brian for his stewardship and development of the Auctions.

Until the onset of Parkinson's disease Brian regularly attended London meetings and often together and with our wives would go to Society summer meetings and the special club weekends. In the last three years he was often too incapacitated to travel to London, but always wanted me to tell him about the displays and who attended. He was very pleased to get to the latest summer meeting at Stevenage, even though he was unwell and couldn't stay long. Despite failing eyesight, he had worked hard for some weeks putting the final touches to his excellent collection of Prague Postmarks on cover which he had offered for display.

I first met Brian in June 1969. Having joined ICT in 1967 I had just transferred from a central London base to customer services headquarters, but remained living in London before marrying in August 1969. I had been asked to undertake inspection work at the National Bank in Prague and was told that a man around the corner to my desk in Letchworth was working on a diagnostic tool that may be of use to me. That man was Brian. I was so impressed with what he was developing, especially as it would improve the accuracy of my work, so I and Brian persuaded the Chief Engineer to let us both go to Prague. It was on this first trip that Brian got me interested in Czechoslovak stamps and, later, into Czechoslovak airmails. He introduced me to the North Herts stamp club and invited me to come to a Czech society meeting, then held in the Old Liberal Club in Whitehall and later at members' houses – in fact I sold all my GB and commonwealth KG V1 to fund my early purchases and concentrate on Hradčany and Masaryk stamps. So it's Brian that my wife, Kathy, and I have to blame for being poor, but having a good Czechoslovak collection! I have missed the happy days we spent together at Czech club meetings; there was always something of interest for both of us. I enjoyed Brian's presentations, into which he always managed to inject a touch of humour to his talks. In personal life, away from ICL and stamp collecting, Brian was like an older brother to me, our families remaining close friends.

Finally, as Yvonne Gren said to me: His gentle humour and technical expertise will be sorely missed in the Society, of which he was a member for 36 years and made a life member for his services in 1999.

Reg Hounsell



BOOK REVIEW

Bohemia Poster Stamps, by C.H. Blase and T. Morovics, published by World Poster Stamps in five volumes to date, containing Cinderella Stamps of Bohemia, Czechoslovakia and Austro-Hungarian Czech-related lands. Available from the publisher at P.O. Box 13, Alton, GU34 4DW.

Four volumes were recently acquired for the Society's library and can be borrowed from the Hon. Librarian. Additional volumes will be added through to 2010 to complete coverage of some 10,000 poster stamps ("stamps") which are known to exist and were produced during the period from the late 19th century to 1939.

Volume 1, Part I contains an introduction to the subject and deals with stamps of Bohemia from the very beginning of Cinderella publications to the proclamation of the Czechoslovakia State in October 1918, and it accordingly spans the period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Volume 1, Part II (called Chapter 0) covers commemorative stamps of exhibitions, congresses and jubilees together with medal-shaped exhibition labels and advertising stamps for philatelic organisations and dealers. There are some 166 black and white illustrations many of which were also reproduced on postcards and can be found attached and tied to them. Retaining the original languages, detailed translations are provided which are very helpful to philatelists when describing their mounted material and these stamps can also compliment the main themes.

Volume 2 contains 34 black and white plates with over 350 illustrations of advertisement and publicity stamps for sundry commercial purposes but not related to philately.

Volume 3/I shows some 300 black and white illustrations of "Wehrschatz" or "defence fund" stamps and otherwise known as "bund stamps" which were issued by German organisations including those for cultural, religious and sporting purposes. They were mostly issued for the purposes of pressing for the German national struggle in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. However self-help and political propaganda of other ethnic peoples including slavs issued stamps for similar purposes and they were also called "Wehrschatz". Many were issued in the Czech lands and Austro-German bund stamps were produced in Bohemia in large numbers. There are some 400 black and white illustrations and a few of them could complement philatelic collections.

Volume 4 covers military stamps on 12 plates with 176 black and white illustrations with extensive coverage of the Austro-Hungarian period from c. 1910 through to WW1, including listings of Czech and mixed Czech and other languages speaking units in the army which can prove helpful in identifying those units which were transferred and transformed into Czech units on the cessation of hostilities on the Western front. Your reviewer has seen few of these stamps tied to postcards or covers. Values are stated under a points system.

This series shows that much research has been done thus making valuable additions to publications on poster stamps, worthy of study particularly where philatelic linkage exists; and there are more to come.

Brian Day

[Previous publications on *Cinderella Stamps of Bohemia & Moravia* were reviewed in *Czechout* 1/2004 p.6. Editor.]

České a Slovenské Poštovny: České a Slovenské Poštovne (1900-1958) – *Czech and Slovak Postal Agencies*, by Petr Gebauer and Jozef Tekel', published 2005 by Merkur-Revue, s.r.o., Brno, no ISBN, hard bound, 670 pages + 8 pages of colour, edition of 1000 copies.

This book is in the style of the *Monografie's* but was published independently by Merkur-Revue in time for the European stamp exhibition in Brno in 2005. It shows the same attention to detail in listing all the postal agencies in Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine together with their postal markings. It is in fact two books published as one, the first for the Czech lands by Petr Gebauer, the other for Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine by the late Jozef Tekel' assisted by Michal Zika. The first half

has a full, high quality translation of all the introductory and explanatory text into German and English, the second half into English and Hungarian. This is unlike many other books where the translation is just a synopsis.

An Austrian postal decree effective from 1 July 1900 placed postal agencies on an official footing. Henceforth their dates of establishment and closure were published in postal gazettes. Thus the listings in the book have accurate dates of operation (except for the period of German control during 1938-1945). Postal agencies ceased during 1958, many having been converted to full post offices. There had been forerunners during the later part of the 19th century, but in general they did not use handstamps.

The book describes the history and functions of the postal agencies, then categorises and illustrates the different types of handstamp. The main catalogue sections list each agency in turn, including the dates of change of name and of superior office. Each handstamp is listed with known dates of usage, with the suspected existence of as yet undiscovered handstamps included. There are separate lists for the Czech lands (catalogue numbers 0001 to 1601), private postal agencies that used handstamps (1801 to 1823), agencies now in Poland that were briefly Czech in 1919 (1901 to 1911), Slovakia (2001 to 2410) and Carpatho-Ukraine (2501 to 2579). These last two lists include the 148 agencies (99 in Slovakia and 49 in Carpatho-Ukraine) opened by the Hungarians between 1938 and 1944. Alphabetical lists of all agencies will help the reader find the entries for renamed agencies, and lists arranged by administrative district will help him when he collects a limited area.

The authors are to be praised for the scholarship that has gone into the work, collating data from official sources with known handstamps taken from a wide range of collections and various previous listings that are duly acknowledged. The book is highly recommended to anyone with the even the slightest interest in this byway of collecting Czechoslovakia.

The book may be obtained from the reviewer, **Rex Dixon**, at the address given on the inside front cover. It costs £16.00 plus postage. With packaging, it will probably weigh just over 1 kg. This means that p&p within the UK will be £5; to avoid this I can deliver them by hand at meetings if you let me know in advance. Postage overseas will be prohibitive, so readers are advised to investigate other sources.

POSTCARD OF INTEREST

Postcard showing the old mining town of Kutná Hora (German Kuttenberg), charmingly situated above the valley of the little river Vrchlice, 65km/40 miles east of Prague. This was the second largest town of Bohemia in the Middle Ages and for a time was the residence of the Bohemian kings, then among the richest monarchs in Europe. The prosperity of the town came from the silver mined in this



area between the 13th and 14th centuries which provided the raw material for the famous Bohemian silver groschens (or Prague groschens) minted in Kutná Hora.

STANLEY GIBBONS STAMP CATALOGUE
PART 5: CZECHOSLOVAKIA & POLAND
Amendments suggested

CPSGB member Norman Hudson (Ellesmere Port, Cheshire) has recently written to Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Editor to suggest that several small amendments be made to the next edition of Part 5 of Gibbons' catalogue (Czechoslovakia & Poland).

Looking at the issues of wartime Slovakia (1939-45), Norman points out that the text under illustration No.14, relating to the 1939-44 airmail issues, reads "Heinkel He 111C over Lake Csorba".

Norman informed the Catalogue Editor that "Csorba" is the former, Hungarian name for this lake in the Tatra Mountains of north-central Slovakia. The German version of the lake's name, "Csorber", is similar. However, the area has not been part of Hungary since 1918 and, of course, has never been part of Germany. This is why he felt that the Slovak name, "Štrbské Pleso", is far more appropriate. Štrbské Pleso is both the name of the small village AND the lake, "pleso" being the Slovak word for "lake".

His second request relates to the description of stamp No.31 of Czechoslovakia. In the catalogue, this stamp, with versions issued in 1927 and 1928, is described as "Upper Tatra". The Slovak name for the mountains, "Vysoké Tatry" is best translated as "High Tatras", he suggests. The stamp in question actually shows a view of the village and lake at Štrbské Pleso, so the description in the catalogue, rather than saying "Upper Tatra", would be best as either "Štrbské Pleso, High Tatras" or simply "High Tatras".

Norman also drew attention to the fact that stamp no.285 (K2.50, 1928) is described as "The Grand Tatra". Again, a better translation would be "The High Tatras".

In his reply, Hugh Jeffries, Gibbons' Editor, said that he is "always grateful for suggestions and comments such as these as it helps us to improve the accuracy and usefulness of each new edition of the catalogue".

He continued, "I am not sure when the next edition of Part 5 will be published. My current aim is to get all the Foreign catalogues 'in print' – and we have a few more to go yet. It is unlikely to be before 2008, at least".

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

The following queries are still outstanding; perhaps an answer is tucked away somewhere in members files or some of our overseas members can help as well?

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

Czechout 3/05: Ian McQueen's Shanghai cover 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 1/06: Charles Stirton's two covers with unusual "Red" stamps

Czechout 1/06: John Hammonds' PZ cover

Czechout 2/06: Bob Hill's 'Death of the invaders' overprints

CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST OFFICE IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING WORLD WAR II

-Dr. Miroslav Vostatek-

This article appeared in Filatelista Nr.10 (960) October 2002, Warsaw, p.234 originally translated by their editor Mr B. Rejnowski from a Czech magazine. We thank Mr Rejnowski for permission to publish and Mr George K. Kay of the Society of Polish Philately in Great Britain for his translation.

The Czechoslovak Army emigrated to Great Britain during WWII and, like the Polish Army, had their own Field Post Office. At that time the Czechoslovak land army units consisted of five thousand soldiers and one thousand of their air force. Its creator and first chief of the Field Post Office was Captain Oldřich Večerek (1906-1987), hailing from Śląsk Cieszyński [Eastern Silesia]. Prior to the occupation of Czechoslovakia he was employed in the postal directorate in Opava, later in Brno. In danger of arrest by the Gestapo, he managed to escape in February 1940 over the Balkans and Middle East to join the Czechoslovak Army in Agde, France.



In Great Britain the Czechoslovak FPO was located in Leamington Spa (near Stratford upon Avon), Shakespeare's place of birth. Oldřich Večerek had artistic talent and was the author of a range of the FPO cachets (amongst others, a datestamp shown here about ZBOROV / 2.VII./ 1942 which is his work). With the establishment of the field post office he attempted to realise production of postal stamps similar to Polish stamps.

Some time ago I came across a postcard which carried an etiquette of the FPO, 1 Corps, Polish Army, with a violet datestamp measuring 38 mm. across, dated 4.7.1942. Beside it is a red impression of a cs. FPO datestamp Zborov / 2.VI. 1942. The reverse side features the emblem of the Cs. Army in Great Britain and the address of Lt. Stocki, H.Q. Polish Fieldpost Office.



Oldřich Večerek organised in London in 1942 an exhibition of Czechoslovak postage stamps, which was visited by president Dr. Edward Beneš and his wife, together with King George VI and his wife.

After the 1944 invasion the 1st Independent Paratroop Brigade was directed to France, where it participated in battles in the region of Dunkerque. The fieldpost was here as well but operated on Belgian territory. One of the field post workers was a soldier of a Polish name, Jan Rakowski.

From the Editor of Filatelista. To complete the article of Dr. Vostatek it might be added that Lt. Alexander Stocki* became famed first during the war in France and later in Great Britain as producer and publisher of a range of private pseudo-philatelic concoctions apparently connected with fieldpost activities. The etiquette shown here is also attributed to his artistic skills.

* *Aleksander Stocki Enigmatic Philatelist* by Roy E. Reader and George K. Kay was published in 2004; see review in *Czechout* 2/2004 p.38. Editor

LEAFLET RE CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1917

-Vladimír Králíček-

I was not aware of any Czechoslovak Forces being present at any time during WWI in Great Britain. It was therefore with great interest that I read Richard Beith's article on page 5 of March 2006 issue of *Czechout*. Following is some information I have obtained from a series of books titled '*For Freedom – Pictorial Chronicle of the Czechoslovak Revolutionary Movement in Russia 1914-1920*', Part III, subtitled: '*Under the Leadership of Professor Thomas Garrigue Masaryk (Czechoslovak Armed Group). 1917-1918*'. I hope it will be of interest to readers of *Czechout*.

On Monday 24 September 1917 the first 'Russian' transport of the Czechoslovak Volunteers left Zhitomir in Ukraine for Archangel in Russia, arriving there on 15 October. Aboard were 1100 volunteers selected from the 1st Division reserve battalion and 100 graduates from the Officers' school in Borispol. They were former Officers in the Austro-Hungarian Army who gave up their former rank in the 2nd Czech Division and as ordinary soldiers left to fight in France, in doing so having earned with their self-sacrifice great respect of their brothers-in-arms, as well; as recognition and accolade from the transport Commander Brother Otakar. Husak. In addition to this 'Zitomirsky' or 'Russian' unit, there were also 400 'brothers of the so-called 2nd Romanian' expedition, so that the whole party, which left on Tuesday 16 October on the ship *Kursk*, comprised 1,600 persons.

The Husak's expedition reached Newcastle in England on Monday 29 October. On 30 October all the personnel were disembarked and during the evening left in two passenger trains for the military camp in Winchester near London, where they formed into a regular Battalion and had spent a lovely week enjoying the English hospitality. On 11 November the Battalion of the Czechoslovak Volunteers, the base of the future Czechoslovak Army in France, left for Southampton and from there via Canal la Manch into France. On Tuesday 12 November the Czechoslovak expedition was finally disembarked in the French port of Le Havre and on Thursday it became a part of the Czechoslovak National struggle for Freedom in the French township of Cognac, from where began the victorious and renowned march of our French Legion against the enemy.

Note: The above-mentioned units were formed from the Czechs and Slovak POWs and deserters from the Austro-Hungarian Army fighting in Russia, as well as the Czechs and Slovaks who made their home in Russia.

Much diplomatic and political negotiations have gone on between the Russian and French Governments and the organisations representing the Czech and Slovak people, represented by their future President of the 1st Czechoslovak Republic, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, before the Czechoslovak units were allowed to proceed to France and engaged in the battles against the German and Austro-Hungarian Forces. The Czechoslovak Forces in France eventually reached about 7000 soldiers.

Richard Beith writes in response to Vladimir, "Further to the brief note in *Czechout* 1/2006, I can tell you, with the kind assistance of the Local History Librarian of Winchester, that General Ingr contributed a memorable article in the *Hampshire Chronicle* for 26 June 1943, relating his own experiences of that journey from Russia in 1917. In a report published in the *Hampshire Observer* for 10 July 1943, it was noted that General Ingr himself had been a sub-lieutenant in the transport service and had his own memories of Winchester in 1917. General Ingr noted that in 1917 they were amazed at the contrast between the basic port of Archangel and the modern facilities in Newcastle upon Tyne where the 1,200 Legionnaires arrived on 29 October. Again they were startled at travelling in proper railway carriages, that food appeared on time and that the British people were so friendly. General Ingr further revealed that the Legionnaires had first sung in Winchester Cathedral during that short stay in 1917.

No information could be found in the local Winchester papers for 1917. Turning to Jaroslav J. Verner's monograph *Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France* (2002), a photograph is shown on page 27 showing '1st transport of Czechoslovak volunteers from Russia embarking in Southampton for Le Havre on the British ship *Margharita*. Verner's text noted that "the first volunteers from the Czech Siberian legion arrived in Cognac on 17 November 1917".

J A COMENIUS 1592-1670

-J. Dai Pring-

It is hardly surprising that the life of Comenius should be celebrated in Czech philately as early as 1935, as he is rightly called one of the fathers of modern education. Although generally known by the latinised form of his name, he was born Jan Ámos Komenský on 28 March 1592 in Nivnice, Moravia. His parents were Moravian Brethren Christians who were followers of the fourteenth century Bohemian Christian leader, Jan Hus. After attending the Grammar school at Přerov, Comenius studied at the University of Herborn in Hesse and then at Heidelberg University. He subsequently became a clergyman and on his return to Moravia he became a schoolmaster at Přerov and later the pastor of the Moravian church at Fulnek in 1618.



His was not to be a peaceful existence for 1618 saw the start of the 30 years (1618–1648) when Protestants and Catholics fought over the control of territory. In 1621 Fulnek was sacked and Comenius lost his wife, children and all his property. At the close of the war Bohemia and Moravia were ceded to Rome in the Peace of Westphalia and the surviving members of the Moravian church had to become either Catholic or leave their homeland. Comenius himself led a small band into exile and settled in Leszno in Poland. He remained in exile for the rest of his life, living and working in many different European countries such as England, Sweden and Prussia. He returned to Leszno again but having supported protestant Swedish aggression he was a target for revenge and in 1656 Polish partisans burned down his house, destroying his manuscripts and the school's printing press as a consequence. His final refuge was Amsterdam, where he died in 1670.

A contemporary of Milton, Galileo, Descartes and Rembrandt, Comenius contributed greatly to what became known as *the Enlightenment*. Throughout his life he tried to improve the way students of all ages were taught, introducing many concepts that were unheard of in his day. Broadly speaking he advocated the philosophy of pansophism, which presented the goal of education as the development of universal knowledge amongst all people and all nations. To further this philosophy he was the first to publish an illustrated textbook for children – *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (1658; *The Visible World in Pictures*) – an innovation leading directly to the use of audio-visual techniques in the modern classroom. He advocated the same education for all children without regard for gender or social class and wrote a book entitled *Didactica Magna* in which he described a revolutionary educational system within which students could progress through stages from easy to hardest in schools where the teaching was to be in the local language and in an atmosphere which was as pleasant as possible. He reaffirmed a belief in the importance of personal motivation in learning and that discipline was best kept by interesting the child and explaining the rules to them. Many European Governments including Britain, Germany, France and Sweden sought his advice and it is rumoured that he was offered the first presidency of Harvard University! Four hundred years later there is evidence of a lasting legacy with many of his ideas seen as good practice in the best classrooms.

If any further incidental evidence to support the high esteem in which he is held may be found in that he appears on both the pre-1990 20 koruna banknote and the present 200 koruna Czech banknote and that he is depicted as *Faithfulness*, one of the eight virtues, in Mucha's ceiling fresco in the Mayor's Hall of the Municipal House.



Comenius on a Czechoslovak 20 koruna banknote

The stamp:
40h Prussian blue part of a series of portraits 1935-6
Line perforation 12½
Layout and engraving: K. Seizinger
Rotary recess printed: in sheets of 2 x 200
(20 printing plates and 10 plate positions)

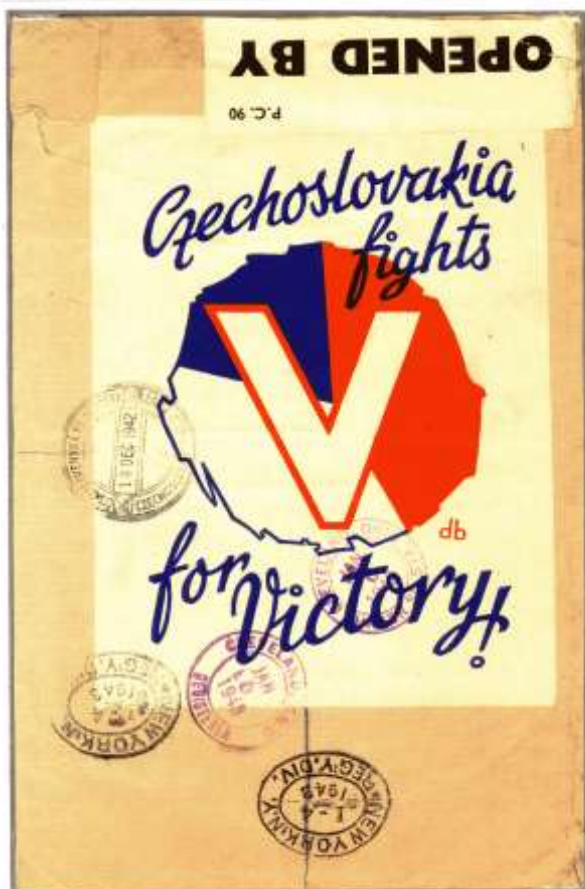


LABELS

-Garth A Taylor-

I am illustrating details of two items not, so far as I am aware, previously published in *Czechout* or any of the Society's monographs.

The first is a large label that appears to be searchlights over Prague specially produced for the workers at B.T.H. Rugby. B.T.H. is short for British Thomson-Houston based in Rugby making Gas Turbines etc., which after the war became GEC and finally Alstom. The label measures 160mm x 112mm on a cover to Cleveland, Ohio, posted on 7 March 1942 and arriving in Cleveland on 26 March.



The second large label is based on the design of one of the small patriotic labels (Monograph 15, *The Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain: 1940-1945* by Richard Beith, page 80 Type L2) but with the red and white segments interposed. This label measures 145mm x 112mm and is on a letter again to Cleveland, Ohio posted on 14 December 1942 arriving in Ohio on 14 January 1943.

It will be interesting to find out if other members have similar examples of these labels and were they intended as parcel labels that have been used here on letters.

THE HRADCANY ISSUE

-Robert J Hill-

I have been doing some research into first issues and having solved, for the time being, all of my 1945 problems I decided to look at when news of the Hradčany issues was first publicized. This proved to be quite interesting as Stanley Gibbons did not issue any regular publications until 1919 and even then it was a small circular called *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular* priced at 1½d. The first of these listed members of staff returning from the Great War and those lost in the conflict as well as statements about not trading in “enemy” stamps.

I needed to get to the fourth issue dated December 1919 before I found any reference to things Czechoslovak. There sat the advert:

CZECHO SLOVAKIA

“Hradschin Fortress” Type etc.

Small “Posta,”	<i>Imperf.</i>	3, 10, and 20 h.
“ ”	<i>Perf.</i>	5 and 25 h.
Large “Posta,”	<i>Imperf.</i>	1 and 15 h.
Unpaid	<i>Imperf.</i>	2 and 5 h.

Set of 9, unused,

1s. 6d. post-free.

(See article on page 9).

Turning to page 9 and set in about 6-point type (paper shortage after the war, as the reader was oft reminded:

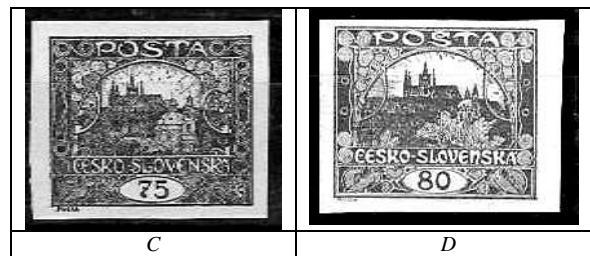
The chroniclers of the recent issues of Czecho-Slovakia (who these are and where it appears I have yet to discover) have, in the majority of cases, failed to give clear details of the four types of the “Hradschin Fortress” design or of the values to be found in each type, so perhaps a brief description may be of interest to readers of the *Monthly Circular*.



In the type that first appeared (illustration a) the word “POSTA” is in small letters at the top of the stamp, whilst the inscription “CESKO- SLOVENSKA” occupies the vertical labels at the sides. The sun appears behind the right hand corner of the fortress, and the tree in the foreground is in white with hardly any shading. The foliate ornaments in the bottom label, and in the upper corners of the design are also white. The values, which are known in this type, are the 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 100, 200 and 400 Heller.

In type b, we find the word “POSTA” is in much larger letters, while “CESKO- SLOVENSKA” is placed horizontally below the design. The tree and sun are as Type a, but all the foliate ornaments are filled with horizontal lines or shading. Only two values come in this type, the 1 and 50 Heller.

>



Types *c* and *d* together appear to have been decided upon as the designs of a complete series.

In type *c* the circle of the sun is no longer visible, only the rays showing behind the fortress. The tree, too, has vanished. The foliate ornaments are irregularly shaded with lines and dots, and the spirals in the labels at top and side consist of two curls. Inscriptions as in type *b*.

Type *d* shows no sun, but the tree reappears, this time fully shaded. The foliate ornaments are shaded horizontally, and the spirals are complete. Inscriptions as before.

There is considerable variation of impression and shade, particularly in the small "POSTA" series. Sometimes the colour is very deep and the design resolves itself into masses of solid colour relieved by the white tree and ornaments. This is, however, only due to a lack of care in preparing for printing, as very light and very heavy impressions, with corresponding variations of shade, exist in opposite corners of the same sheet.

It is safer to include in the following list only the perforated stamps, which we have actually seen, though all values are reputed to exist thus.

CHECK LIST
"Hradschin Fortress" Design.

		Price				Price	
		Un.	Used.			Un.	Used.
		s. d.	s. d.			s. d.	s. d.
	<i>Type (a) (i) Imperf</i>				<i>Type (b) (i) Imperf</i>		
3 h.	lilac	0 1		1 h.	deep brown	0 1	
5 h.	yellow-green	0 1	0 1	50 h.	dull purple	0 9	0 4
10 h.	rose	0 2	0 2		<i>Type (b) (ii) Perf 11½</i>		
10 h.	bright rose	0 2		50 h.	dull purple		
20 h.	blue-green	0 3	0 3		<i>Types (c) & (d) (i) Imperf</i>		
20 h.	pale blue green			5 h.	blue green (c)		
25 h.	dull blue	0 4	0 4	15 h.	vermilion (c)	0 3	
25 h.	deep blue			25 h.	purple (c)		0 4
30 h.	olive-bistre	0 4	0 4	50 h.	deep blue (c)		
40 h.	orange	0 6	0 6	60 h.	yellow (d)		0 8
40 h.	orange-brown	0 6		75 h.	grey-black (c)	0 9	
100 h.	brown	1 0	1 0	80 h.	olive-green (d)	0 10	
200 h.	ultramarine	2 0		120 h.	black (c)		
200 h.	bright-ultramarine			300 h.	dull green (d)	3 0	
400 h.	violet	4 0		500 h.	brown (c)		
	<i>Type (a) (ii) Perf 11½</i>			1000 h.	bright purple (d)	10 0	
5 h.	yellow-green	0 2	0 2		<i>Types (c) & (d) (ii) Perf 11½</i>		
10 h.	rose			5 h.	blue green (c)		
20 h.	blue-green			15 h.	vermilion (c)		
25 h.	blue		0 6	25 h.	purple (c)		0 6
30 h.	olive-bistre		1 0		<i>Types (c) & (d) (ii) Perf 13½</i>		
40 h.	orange		1 0	25 h.	purple (c)		0 6
100 h.	brown		2 0				
	<i>Type (iii) Perf 13½</i>						
20 h.	blue-green						
25 h.	blue	0 6	0 6				

N.B. The prices quoted in the above list are those at which the stamps can be supplied, if in stock, by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

"T DA GUERRA"

WHO IS GOING TO WIN IN VANCOUVER?

-JUDr Jan Plachetka-
Translated by Robert Kingsley

Czech Winter Olympics Golds, Postage Stamps and Mr Petrásek

Would you like to know who of the Czech competitors is going to win a gold medal at the next Winter Olympics ? You think that Vancouver 2010 is a long way ahead? That really it does not interest you at all? That may well be but at a time when betting is a favourite pastime the right answer to my question could result in a handsome profit because betting odds normally shorten as the event approaches.

So, if you should want to know the name of the next Czech winter sports champion, get in touch with Mr Petrásek. Jaroslav Petrásek is the Head of a Prague Secondary School and is also the head of Olymsport, the Czech association for Olympic and sporting philately. And it is just his latter function which most interests us since he has a marked influence on which sport is represented on Czech stamps. And consequently also on which sport will be featured on the stamp to be issued on the occasion of the Olympic games.

Before the Olympic games in 1998 a stamp was issued showing a hockey puck – and the only gold that the Czechs got in Nagano, Japan, were the hockey players. (Subsequently a miniature sheet was issued depicting the jubilant keeper Hašek on the stamp.) In the year 2000, two years before the next winter Olympics Mr Petrásek suggested that the commemorative stamp should be devoted to acrobatic skiing. In that time this was an almost unknown branch of the sport in Czechia. But it happened – Zdeněk Netopil designed a square 12-crown stamp showing a skier performing a somersault. And then the skiing acrobat Aleš Valenta won at Salt Lake City, U.S.A.! It was again the only gold medal for the Czech Republic at the 2002 winter Olympic games. (The Czech Post Office promptly added to the rest of one million unsold stamps the overprint “Aleš Valenta / Gold Medal”.)

All good things come in threes – thanks to Mr Petrásek this year cross-country skiing was featured on the winter Olympics stamp. Or to put it more precisely – ladies cross country skiing. Of course, Kateřina Neumannová was one of the favourites. Only that she had (rightly) raised hopes of top placing in the two previous Olympics – and it did not work out (altogether only 3 silvers and one bronze). And this time we had higher hopes for gold, once again the hockey players and Valenta, and the newly discovered ski-jumper Janda. But chiefly – at a time when Mr Petrásek had to decide which sport he would recommend and which the designer Netopil would in the end work on, Neumannová after maternity leave had only just returned to competitive skiing and no-one dared to suppose that her comeback would be successful, let alone that she would get an Olympic gold. On 8 February 2006 the stamp showing the red-blue-white skier in the forefront of the competitors was issued and on 24 February Kateřina Neumannová streaked ahead to come first in an unforgettable finish in the race of 30 km. It was her last Olympic race. And it was, just as twice previously, the only Czech gold in Turin, Italy. (So far the unsold 9 crown stamp was withdrawn from sale so that it could be overprinted similar to the one which had been used 4 years previously showing the acrobatic skier).

So, Vancouver 2010 is ahead of us. And what says Mr Petrásek? He says that there is still time for him to make up his mind, but that speed skating has never been featured on a Czech stamp.

Well, it is not a traditional sport for us and the omens for its cultivation are not very favourable, only that. I would bet that it will come down to speed skating and that it will be another woman, a speed skater. Martina Sáblíková who in Turin finished fourth in the 5 km. race will only be 19 years old this year.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN EXILE – UK CENSOR MARKS

-Vladimír J. Králíček-

In response to the Editor's postscript to Bob Hill's query in "What? When? Where?" in *Czechout* 3/2003, page 87, for members to supply details of covers with the Czechoslovak Army Units censor numbers, I am enclosing photocopies of those numbers in my collection. I have also made up a table listing the colours used with these censor marks. These I believe have not been listed before and, of course, the list is not complete. I hope that this additional information will be of some interest. There seems to be very scant information regarding this subject. Perhaps Bob Hill's query will now produce some further results.



Register of covers with censor marks

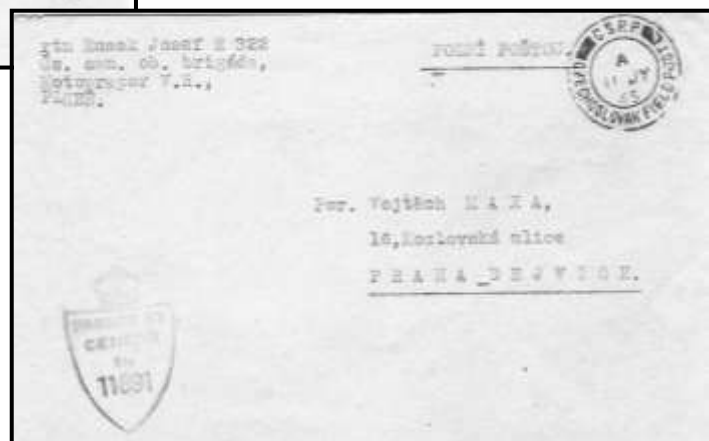
11688 – Brigade Headquarters.
Origin: Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade.
Sender's address – APO 655 US Army.
Cz. FPO canceller code 'A', mailed via US
APO 305 Pilsen. Dated 4 July 1945

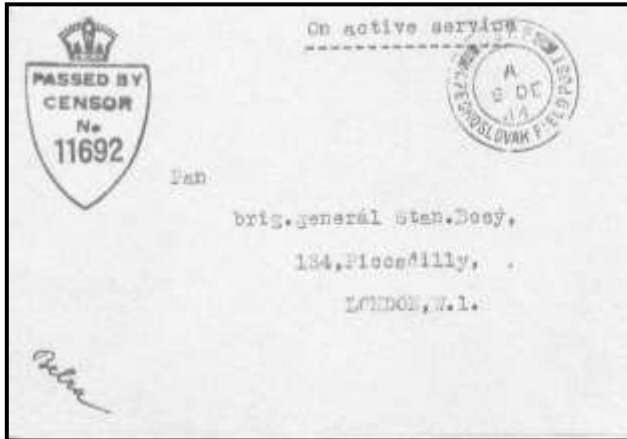
11689 No.1 Tank Battalion
Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the
Dunkirk perimeter. Cz. FPO canceller
code 'A' address to Czechoslovak
Red Cross in London. Dated 11
March 1945



11690 No.2 Tank Battalion
Origin: Used at Galashiels Scotland Cz. FPO
canceller code 'A'. Dated 15 July 1944

11691 Motor Division
Origin: Czechoslovak Armoured Division.
Processed at the Cz. FPO at Nemice u
Klatova canceller code 'A'. Dated 11 July
1945

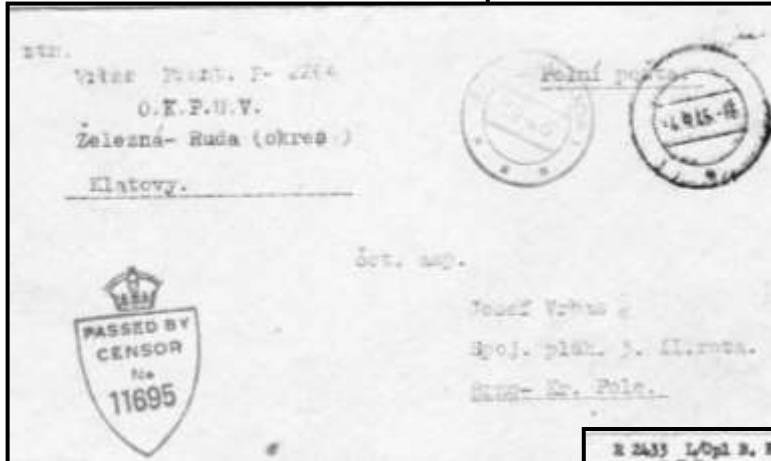




11692 Artillery Regiment
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cz. FPO canceller code 'A'. Dated 8 Dec 1944

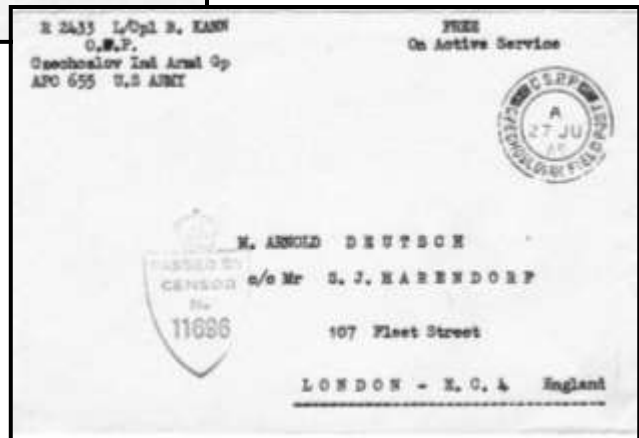
11693 Sappers Squadron, missing from my collection

11694 Transport Unit
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cz. FPO canceller code 'B' used with registered letters mail. Dated 16 Dec 1944



11695 Antitank battery
 Origin: O.K.P.U.V., Železná Ruda, Klatovy. Cz. internal mail canceller Železná Ruda 1 plus nationalised date stamp dated 4 Sept 1945

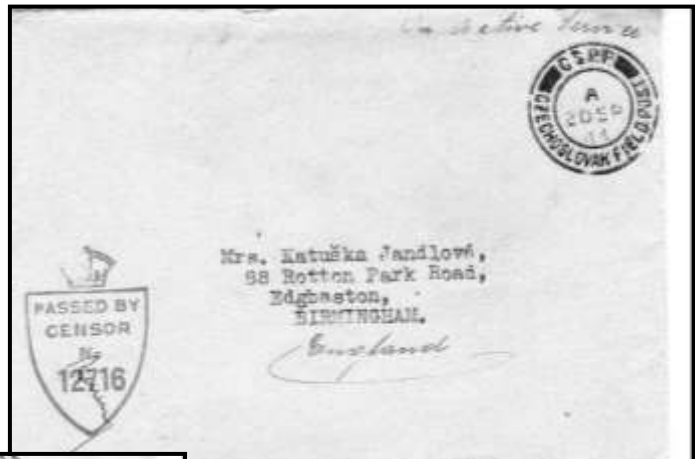
11696 Company of Heavy Workshops
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from Cz. FPO at Nemice u Klatova. Cz. FPO canceller code 'A' dated 27 June 1945





12715 Motorised Scouting Unit
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Cz. FPO at Nemice u Klatova. Cancellor code 'A' dated 12 July 1945

12716 Telecommunications Squadron
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'A' dated 20 Sept 1944



12717 Battery PL
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'A' dated 3 Aug 1944

12718 Not used by the Czech Army



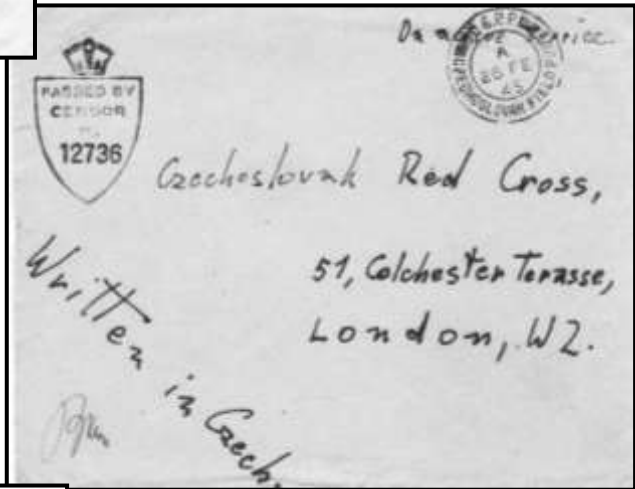
12719 Light Brigade Ambulance.
 Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'A' in red dated 28 Oct 1944 – Cz. Republic Anniversary day

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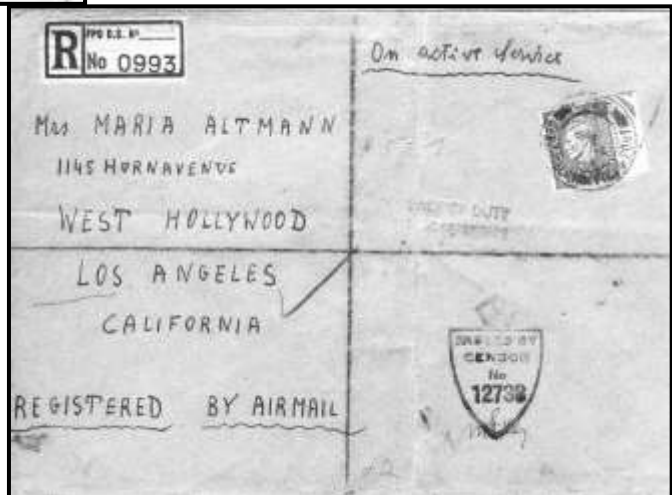
12720 Brigade Staff Squadron
Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'A' dated 11 Sept 1944 (also seen is the 11688 censor mark)

12736 Artillery Regiment
Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'A' dated 26 Feb 1945



12737 Artillery Regiment
Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'A' dated 12 Dec 1944

12738 – Quartermasters
Origin: 'Active Service Mail' from the Dunkirk perimeter. Cancellor code 'B' (for registered mail) dated 2 Dec 1944



The following table indicates colours seen used for the censor marks:

Censor Mark	Colour Red	Blue	Black	Censor Mark	Colour Red	Blue	Black
11688	+	+	-	12715	+	+	-
11689	+	+	-	12716	+	-	-
11690	+	+	-	12717	+	-	-
11691	-	+	-	12718	not used by Cz. Army		
11692	+	+	-	12719	-	+	-
11693	missing from my collection			12720	+	-	
11694	-	+	-	12736	-	+	-
11695	+	-	-	12737	+	+	-
11696	+	-	-	12738	-	-	+

This summary is made up from my own collection. I would be interested to hear from fellow FP collectors if they have any further information to add to the above table.

If anyone has a duplicate censor No. 11693 – Sappers Squadron and would like to exchange, I have some duplicate numbers of above censor numbers.

References:

Page, W Alec, *Czechoslovak Army in Exile – U.K. Type Censor Marks*. *Czechout* 4/1983, pp.44-45

Taylor, Garth, *Query*, *Czechout* 1/1998 pp.18-22

Beith, Richard, CPSGB Monograph No 15: *The Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain 1940-1945*, 2002; page 15

Day, Brian C, *Covers of Interest from Mrs Kay Goodman's collection*. *Czechout* 2/2003, pp. 52-53

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 Bob Hill's Label in *Czechout* 2/2006 page 54

From Tom Morovics: Re the May 1945 label, it was issued in Prague. The inscription on the bottom reads "Die Fr. Kupky z 1919 J.R. 1945" means "Inspired by work of Master Frantisek Kupka painted in 1919 Jaroslav Rijacek 1945." Kupta, Matous and Rijacek offered 21 drawings (paintings) for postage stamps in 1919. This picture was among them, but with different inscription and it was designed by Kupta. Staff Captain Rijacek used this picture more times, but as he was not the author, he just changed inscriptions and that is why he writes it is Kupta's work. As far as I know it exists in red only and it was issued in a set of three with other different labels. As far as I remember you have some strips from me.

Re Bob Hill's Three-language postcard in *Czechout* 2/2006 page 55

From Tom Morovics: The Orientální Fair was in Bratislava on the bank of the Danube, under this name it was held in 1921 and 1922, and then they changed the name into "Dunajeský veletrh" Danube Fair which continued every year from 1923 (the number of years this continued is not known). It seems to me that books of postcards including cachets and labels were printed and sent in the autumn before the fair to advertise it. That is why someone from the States can send it to Australia; as you know in Chicago there is a strong Czech and Slovak community with permanent contact with the old homeland. For the Orient fair they issued 4 sets of publicity labels in 1921 and 90 labels in 1922 (10 pictures in 9 languages) – one of them is on your card. There are also machine slogan cancels with text "Orientální trh".

One Query with answer:

From Dr Vernon Brown: Re Expertise Marks for Sudetenland. I have a piece tied to four stamps, these are Reichenberg Michel Nos: Mi 11 and Mi 65 (two of each) with circular date stamps. Importantly the individual stamps have been expertised on the back of the piece by the late Dr Mähr. My Query is that on the front of the piece is what look like an expert mark – Reibg and within a box the initials LP or HP, shown above. It is easy to deduce that Reibg is an abbreviation for Reichenberg but who or what is represented by the monogram? It does not seem to fit with any person listed with Bundes Philatelistischer Prüfer and in any case this would be “belt & braces” [“unnecessary or over the top” for those who do not understand an English expression] if Dr Mähr has put his name to the stamps.



From Hartmut Liebermann: As to Dr Vernon Brown’s question concerning the strange looking mark on the back of the Reichenberg document: I don’t think that it is an expert’s mark. Probably it is a mark of the former owner to document his property. I asked our expert in Czechoslovak stamps, Peter Darmietzel. He agreed with my assumption. To be sure I would have liked to ask our Sudetenland expert, Robert Brunel, too. So far, I haven’t succeeded in contacting him. Whenever I know more I will write again.

New Query:

From Tony Moseley: I purchased this sheet in the Czech Republic last year [October 2005]. It shows Prague Castle and is described “Tag der Wehrmacht, Prag, Kriegsjahr 1942” – this I believe translates into ‘Day of the German Army, Prague, War Year 1942.’ There are 31 stamps of Bohemia and Moravia including all the Hitler heads, with various cancels ranging from 1942 through to 20 April 1945, a short time before the liberation of Prague.

I am interested to know if any other members have seen this sheet. It does not seem to appear in any of my reference books. Also I have shown photocopies to members of both our society and Germany and Colonies. No one seems to have seen this before. Is this a one off? The paper is cream in colour, no obvious watermarks and all print is black. Any information would be a great help.



Illustration reduced to 60%

NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

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

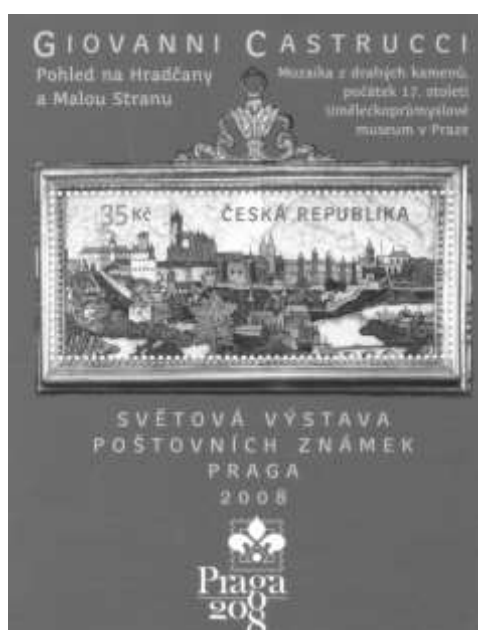
From 2004, many of the stamps of the Slovak Republic are printed by Walsall Security Printers WSP – CATOR, France, indicated below as WSP.

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

13 September 2006

Giovanni Castrucci: View of Prague Castle



Designer: Václav Kučera **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** RD + DS

Design: Castrucci's mosaic picture of a view of Prague Castle, with text above and below, the logo of the International Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008. (The event will be held from 12-14 September 2008.) Florentine mosaic work became popular in the 17th and 18th centuries as a decoration for cabinets, boxes and general furniture. The technique involved precision cutting of gems so no gaps were left between the pieces of the design. Cosimo and Giovanni Castrucci were invited to Prague by the collector and patron of the arts Emperor Rudolf II. The mosaic depicted on the stamp is the property of the Museum of Applied Arts, Prague.

FDC: printed DS in black-red with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing by Guiseppe Arcimbold (c.1527-1593), is taken from a portrait of Rudolf II wearing the St Wenceslas crown. The portrait is in the Museum of Applied Arts, Prague.

13 September 2006

Flower Growing: Cacti



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 2 x 25 se-tenant pieces in chessboard arrangement. **Designs:** various species of cacti.

7.50Kč: a) *Gymnocalycium denudatum* and b) *Obregonia denegrii* both with flowers. FDCs: a) cachet drawing in grey green of *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* b) cachet drawing in blue black of *Myrtillocactus f. cristata*.



10Kč: a) *Astrophytum asterias* and b) *Cintia knizej* – both in flower. FDCs: a) cachet drawing in black-brown of *Melocactus matanzanus* b) cachet drawing in black-green of *Opuntia robusta*. All four FDCs have commemorative Praha cancels and were printed DS.

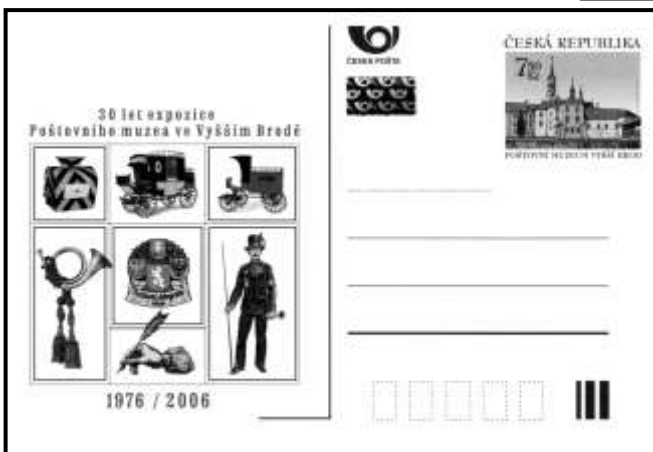
Cacti were brought to Europe from America in the mid 16th century but the first collections were not begun until the 18th century. The plants became popular in the Czech lands from the early 19th century when travellers and botanists began to catalogue and grow them.

**Postal Stationery
Commemorative Postcards**

14 June 2006 – Water Slalom World Championship, Praha – Troja 2006

Designer: Zdeněk Netopil

Printing: coloured offset **Retail price:** 15Kč.
Imprinted 10Kč stamp with text promoting the event depicting canoe competitors. The left part of the card has a similar design with the logo of the championships.



14 June 2006 – 30th Anniversary of the Exhibition in the Post Museum at Vyšší Brod.

Designer: Karel Dvořák **Printing:** coloured offset **Retail price:** 12.50Kč.

Design: Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp shows the buildings of the Cistercian monastery in Vyšší Brod which houses the museum. The left portion of the card has illustrations of the exhibits from the museum with text and dates 1976/2006.

14 June 2006 – 3rd Philatelic Exhibition Euregia Egrensis, Karlovy Vary 2006

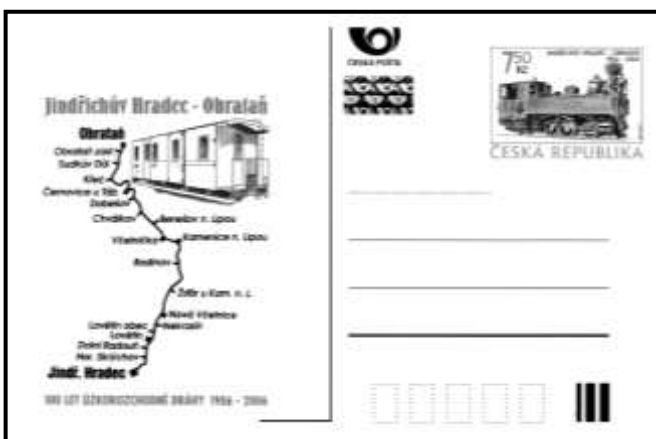
Designer: Oldřich Pošmurný **Printing:** coloured offset **Retail price:** 12.50Kč.

Design: Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp with a design of stamps, tweezers, magnifying glass and the title of the magazine "Filatelie" (modified from the 1996 commemorative postcard with imprinted 3Kč stamp for the 100th anniversary of the philatelic press). The left portion shows the hotel Thermal in Karlovy Vary with the logo of the event and appropriate text.



13 September 2006 – 100 Years of the Narrow Gauge Railway Jindřichův Hradec – Obrataň.

Designer: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** coloured offset. **Design:** Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp shows the narrow gauge engine – type U41 made in 1906 for this line. (The drawing was first used for the label of the 4Kčs value sheet label issued 12 May 1987 Technical Monuments). The left portion of the card has a plan of the narrow gauge line and the carriage DF/u647 made in 1906 for the railway. The carriage was taken out of service in 1962 but in 2003 was again in service after restoration. Above and below the cachet relevant text in red.



Slovakia

24 March 2006

Definitive Greetings – Narcissus



Designer: Dušan Nágel **Printing:** offset by WSP

Design: a yellow daffodil bloom. There was no official FDC.

31 March 2006

Easter 2006 – The Celebration of Spring

A booklet of 10 stamps was issued. The orange front cover has a facsimile of the issued stamp and text. The back cover has the logo of the Slovak Post and information about its addresses. (for details of the stamp see *Czechout* June 2006 page 60).

21 April 2006

Nature Protection – Geological Areas

This issue was printed in sheet format of the two stamps (32Sk & 35Sk) with central label and marginal drawing below the stamps. (See *Czechout* June 2006 page 60).

5 May 2006 Europa 2006 – Immigrants Seen Through the Eyes of Young People



Designer: Martin Mistrík (stamp & FDC motif) Júlia Piačková (FDC cancel) **Printing:** offset in sheets of 10, by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary (stamp) FDC – offset by TAB, sro., Bratislava. **Design:** a four coloured flower of twelve petals with central disc spiral of the Chinese symbol of harmony and balance. The design was the winning entry in a competition for young artists. The colour of the petals – white, red, yellow and brown represent the races of the world. The Chinese symbol for balance and harmony is reproduced as the FDC motif. A maximum card was also issued.

19 May 2006

Sights of Our Homeland – Renaissance Belfries



Designer: Igor Benca **Engravers:** Arnold Feke (27Sk stamp and FDC) Lucie Bandiková (29Sk stamp) Rudolf Cigánik (29Sk FDC) **Printing:** rotary recess with gravure by Post Printing House, Prague in sheets of 50. FDCs – recess from flat plates by TAB sro., Bratislava. **Designs:** the Renaissance belfries at Kežmarok and Podolínec.

A unique style of architecture emerged in the mid 16th century in the towns of the Spiš region recognised as East-Slovak Renaissance. The “stand alone” belfries with gable attics are an example of this and unique in Europe. Most belfries are attached to and used by churches. These belfries were used as watch and observation towers.

27Sk: - Kežmarok Tower was built between 1586 and 1591 within the area of the parish church, by Ulrich Materer, a local architect. Beneath the attic gable there is sgraffito decoration by an unknown artist. FDC cachet in brown shows details of the sgraffito work.

29Sk: - Podolínec Tower was built in 1659 within the area of the parish church and houses a bell from 1392. Next to the belfry staircase is a cross with a statue of the crucified Christ which is the subject of the FDC cachet in grey green. The ground floor of the building was uniquely used as a town hall. >

31 May 2006

Children's Stamp



Designer: Robert Hromec from original art work by Jozef Šuskala.

Printing: offset in sheets of 50 by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary.

Design: a tulip flower and three insects representing the young artist's idea of Spring. This was the theme for this year's annual competition for physically and mentally handicapped school children. A maximum card and booklet of 10 stamps was issued.

9 June 2006

Definitive: Slovak Folk Handicrafts – Shepherd's Long Pipe



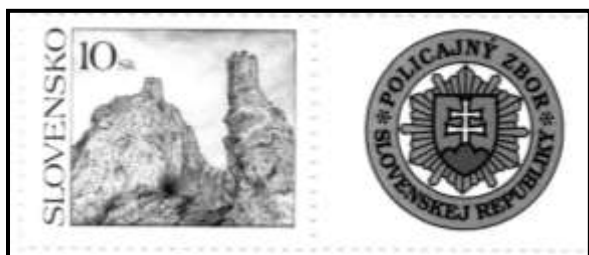
Designer: Igor Benca

Printing: offset in sheets of 100 by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary

Design: a man in folk costume playing a decorated long pipe. There was no official FDC.

9 June 2006

Castle Devín – with personalised coupon



Designer: Karol Felix **Printing:** offset in sheets of 8 se-tenant stamps and 8 labels with marginal text. ([stamp +label x2] x4) by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary. **Design:** view of the ruined castle Devín. The label has the arms of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic. The marginal text on the sheet has the dates 1991-2006 and in Slovak: 15th Anniversary of the Slovak Police Force. There was no official FDC.

23 June 2006

Technical Artefacts from Museum Treasuries – Glass and Copper Production



Designers: Rudolf Cigánik (28Sk and FDC cachets) Igor Rumanský (31Sk) **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** recess from flat plates with offset by Post Printing House, Prague in sheets of 8 [(2x2 @ 28Sk] + [2x2 @ 31Sk)]. FDC printed DS by TAB sro., Bratislava.

Designs: **28Sk** – a glass vessel from the 16th century. The Slovak glass making industry was influenced by the Venetians from the 14th century although the first Venetian glassmakers probably did not settle in Slovakia until the 15th century. Distinctive styles of colourless glassware were produced often with painted decoration. The tradition of glass making continues today. FDC cachet in dark grey represents patterns created with unfinished glass fibre on the stem of a goblet with glassmakers' tools.

31Sk – a copper measuring cup with the coat of arms of Banská Bystrica in relief and the date 1576. Copper has been exploited in the area from the earliest times but from the 14th century the metal was exported to many parts of Europe. The town declined in importance during the 17th century as the mines became exhausted. FDC cachet in black portrays the coat of arms of the free royal mining town as shown on the town seal dated 1576.

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Postal Stationery

Current Envelopes

15 July 2005 (COB 070) Imprinted 9Sk stamp in green has a lime sprig and buds design by Lucie Kruličková.

2 May 2006 (COB 074) Imprinted 10Sk stamp in brown shows a lime tree twig designed by Lucie Bandíková.

Promotional Envelopes

21 March 2006 (073 COB 070/06) 750th Anniversary of the First Written Record of Senica. Imprinted 9Sk stamp design as COB 070. Cachet design in brown by František Horniak shows a façade of new buildings of the town.

The following envelopes have imprinted 10Sk stamp as for COB 074. The retail price is 15Sk.

8 July 2006 (075 COB 074/06) The Day of the Tree. Cachet design by Peter Augustovič based on the outline of a tree in winter.

14 July 2006 (076 COB 074/06) Jozef Baláž 1923–2006. Cachet design taken from original art work of Baláž by František Horniak.

18 July 2006 (077 COB 074/06) Igor Rumanský 1946–2006. Cachet design from the artist's original work by Rudolf Cigánik.

15 September 2006 (078 COB 074/06) 800th Anniversary of the First Written Record of Malacky. Cachet design by František Horniak of the main street of the town.

Official Postcards

20 May 2006 (131 CDV131/06) Ceramics of Modra. Design of 10Sk stamp impression by Vladislav Rostoka. The design has a dark blue background with a round decorated ceramic flask at the centre. To the right is a red stripe with "Slovenska".

Promotional Cards

The following cards have an imprinted 10Sk stamp designed by Dušan Grečner showing Castle Devin with the river Danube and wooden vessel. The retail price is 13Sk.

4 May 2006 (130 CDV 078/06) Stamp fair Essen 2006. Cachet design by Karol Ondrejčka of buildings with text.

17 June 2006 (132 CDV 078/06) National Philatelic Exhibition Nitra 2006. The event was held 7 – 10 June. The cachet design has a ribbon and arms of the Slovak Republic with autumn leaves and text.

18 June 2006 (133 CDV 078/06) The Day of Matica Slovenská. Cachet design is a decorative emblem of the organisation with text.

9 June 2006 (134 CDV 078/06) Bratislava Collectors' Days 2006. Cachet design of spires of the city by Peter Augustovič with accompanying text.

10 June 2006 (135 CDV 078/06) The Most Beautiful Stamp of 2005. Cachet is a reproduction of the 28Sk art stamp – Supper at Emmaus by Rembrandt von Rijn (1606-1669), which was voted the most beautiful Slovak stamp of 2005 in a popular poll.