



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 3 November**. The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 noon; after lunch **Rex Dixon** will give a display entitled *Czechoslovakia from 1938* at 2.30pm. On **Saturday 17 November** a Regional Meeting will be held at the Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds, at 2.15pm; for full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978).

The first meeting in 2008 will be held on **Saturday 12 January** at 2.30pm, where the speaker will be **Yvonne Gren**. The main part of her display will be *East Silesia*. This will be followed by a range of black prints.

BILL DAWSON MEMORIAL FUND

The Committee of the CPSGB has agreed to institute an award for authors in *Czechout*, the prize being up to £50 towards a book of their choice. It is to be awarded every other year, the winner to be chosen by a panel of five members randomly selected by the Editor. This will take place following publication of the Annual Index, which is usually in March and the winner will be presented with their prize at the next AGM after the judging.

Richard Beith, Chairman

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

Meetings held Saturday 9 June 2007 at the St Joseph's Catholic College, Swindon

The Vice-Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed 11 members to the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society, which had been announced in the March issue of *Czechout*. It was convened to consider the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:

To appoint Mr A J Bosworth as the Auditor of the Society's Auction account

The EGM was then closed, and an ordinary meeting opened. Yvonne welcomed one visitor, Alan Blunt of the Society of Polish Philately in Great Britain. Silence was observed for Henry Hahn, who had recently passed away.

The meeting was held in conjunction with Swinpex, a large stamp fair, where members had been successful during the morning before the meeting. The afternoon was devoted to short displays by members:

Reg Hounsell	<i>Prague pneumatic mail</i>
Lindy Bosworth	<i>Exhibitions from the 1891 jubilee onwards, including some very early colour lithos</i>
Yvonne Gren	<i>Winning entries for best stamp of the year</i>
David Holt	<i>The transitional period demonstrated through the 8 heller postal stationery card</i>
Reg Hounsell	<i>A miscellany</i>

Bob Bradford thanked those who had displayed, saying that the variety never ceased to amaze him. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

Midpex 2007 in Tile Hill, Coventry on Saturday 30 June 2007

There was a concern that Midpex would not occur this year. The venue, the Tile Hill Centre, was due to be demolished and the previous committee had stood down. However, the desire for this key Midlands event, promoting the specialist societies, encouraged members from the local societies to set up another committee and organise the event for Saturday 30 June. The demolition was delayed allowing the three halls to be used and accommodate 48 dealers and 44 specialist societies, including our own Society. I would like to make a special mention of the Chairman, Bryan Jones, not just because he is from my local society, but also because he had the energy and enthusiasm to encourage others to join him and deliver another Midpex. Many societies are finding it difficult to attract interest in organising and managing events. I am pleased to say that Midpex was a notable exception to this trend.

My role had started the previous day. Along with members of the local societies, I helped erect the stands and set up the chairs and tables for all the participants. The heavy rain did not distract us as we toiled for our reward – a free drink and sandwich. The day started overcast and the prospect of rain attracted a large number of eager philatelists. Midpex always attracts a wide range of dealers who know that the members of the specialist societies are seeking choice items. I was not disappointed, adding many choice items. My only disappointment was that this is only one day every other year. The dealers had a good day. Unlike many shows, dealers remained after the official end to complete sales.

Our stand was supported with displays of our literature and members' displays. Apart from myself, Yvonne and Richard Wheatley and Bob Bradford attended. Several other members made themselves known. I look forward to the next Midpex in 2009 – wherever that will be.

Peter Williams

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Joint meeting with the Austrian PS, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in GB at the Latvian Welfare Club, Bradford on Saturday 11 August

There was a change of venue for this annual joint meeting. Yvonne Wheatley arranged for the meeting to be held in the building used by the Bradford PS; consequently we were able to make use of their display boards. Despite there being no restrictions on the number of people attending because of the large capacity of the room, numbers were down on last year.

Coffee and biscuits were provided as we met old and new friends and examined the bookstall provided by Richard Beith, before the full day of displays commenced. We had a break for a good buffet accompanied by a choice of wine or beer.

Participants kept (more or less) to the time limit of 5 minutes for their talk so that we were treated to 19 very varied and interesting displays:

John Pitts	<i>Provisional issues from Carpatho-Ukraine</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>Postal agency marks from the General Government area of occupied Poland</i>
Mervyn Thompson	<i>Hungarian folk tradition in stamps</i>
Edmund Jagielski	<i>Prussian occupation of Poland from 1820s to 1860s</i>
Richard Beith	<i>Czechoslovak airmails from 1923 to WWII</i>
Keith Brandon	<i>Austrian registered post from 1788 to 1968</i>
Joyce Boyer	<i>Austrian western railway cancels from 1872</i>
John Pitt	<i>Austrian telephone cards from 1881 to modern</i>
John Pitt	<i>Special cancels on Austrian monarchy mail</i>
John Whiteside	<i>Internal and foreign mail in Poland and Central Lithuania during the inflation period October 1920 to May 1922</i>
Andrew Taylor	<i>Austrian newspaper tax from 1814</i>
Derek Baron	<i>Austrian regimental and hospital cachets associated with Olomouc</i>
Beryl Featherstone	<i>Solidarity - Internment camp covers</i>
Richard Wheatley	<i>Polish escapee mail from Holland to a charity in Stockholm, which copied and forwarded the message</i>
Malcolm Stockhill	<i>Polish Transatlantic Shipping Co mail</i>
Richard Beith	<i>Czechoslovak Independent Brigade mail in the Scottish borders</i>
John Whiteside	<i>1920s Polish postage dues, single and double deficiency</i>
Joyce Boyer	<i>Austrian Christkindl Christmas post from 1946 to date</i>
Mervyn Thompson	<i>Hungarian inflation period after WWI</i>
Keith Brandon	<i>Early Austrian and Hungarian registration labels including those on military post</i>

The meeting ended with cakes and coffee and a well deserved vote of thanks to Yvonne Wheatley from Richard Beith for organising a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying day.

Derek Baron

Meeting held Saturday 18 August 2006 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Richard Beith, welcomed 18 members and one visitor. He particularly welcomed Ian Burniston to his first meeting. Apologies had been received from three members. Richard then apologised for having to depart early and handed over to the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren.

The Society was privileged to welcome the afternoon's speaker, **Gerhard Hanacek** from Wiener Neustadt in Austria. His display was ***Czechoslovakia 1920-1923: the five typographed issues***. Gerhard explained that his grandfather had been born in Czechoslovakia, and that mail from relatives there has fostered his interest in the country's stamps. Over the last years he had concentrated on just the following five issues:

T.G.Masaryk 1920, Dove 1920, Chainbreaker (Liberated Republic) 1920 and
Agriculture and Science 1920 and 1923

The display concentrated on the development of each issue, with a large range of essays and proofs through to the issued stamps, with a just few covers of the most unusual material. The Masaryk issue had a particularly large range of proofs, including the three unissued values. The Dove issue started with the original essays with six stars, continuing through a wide range of proofs to large multiples of the

line perforations and examples of the sideways comb perforations. The Chainbreakers started with an original pen-and-ink drawing by the designer, J. Obrowský, prepared in 1920 but not accepted at that date, together with some 1920 proofs; the stamps included imperforate gutter and tête-bêche pairs from the sheets prepared for booklets, and forgeries to defraud the post office. The Agriculture and Science issues included a proof on chalky paper taken from a wood-cut.

Gerhard's exhibit is shown on Exponet, at www.japhila.cz/hof – from there click on the Austrian flag. The 128 sheets on this virtual exhibition are largely the same ones that were shown today, and members are recommended to this site to see the wonderful material they missed (or to have a second look at it).

Yvonne Wheatley gave the vote of thanks. She said that the display had taken her breath away and had left her speechless. If anybody was looking for her during Praga 2008, she'd be found in front of this exhibit. She remarked that it was very refreshing to have a display of stamps rather than postal history, and that it made her very glad to collect Czechoslovakia, there being such a wide range of material to collect. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.25 pm.

Rex Dixon

Illustrations of some of the items shown by Gerhard Hanacek



Letters/e-mails to the Editor

☒ From **Peter Williams**. I recently rang our former member **Jeffrey Kalp's** home and was sorry to learn that he had suffered a serious heart attack.

☒ From **Frederik Backeljauw D.A.** A Belgian member is looking for all kinds of Hradčany stamps (cancelled, mint and mint never hinged) for his collection. He gives in return other Czechoslovak stamps or philatelic material at request. Send stamps to Backeljauw Frederik D.A., Felix Timmermanslaan 39, B-2627-SHELLE, Belgium or contact frederik@backeljauw.com.

☒ From **Dr Vernon K Brown**: What? Where? When? (Answers). Like many fellow Englishmen my linguistic ability is sadly lacking. The use of Gothic print in German text has not troubled me much and I assumed that letter-by-letter transcription would be obvious – oh dear what a naïve mistake! Several members of our Society galloped to my aid [*Czechout* 2/2007 pp 55-56] and I am truly grateful to you all for pointing me in the correct direction. The Editor's decision to publish Rex Dixon's succinct explanation of Gothic (Fraktur) lettering will serve as a useful source for future reference as will *Alphabets of the World* recommended by the Editor, when I have located a copy. It is pertinent to admit my confusion of 'TETSCHEN' and 'TESCHEN' which was well spotted by Hans Hocke. I will not pretend that this was a deliberate mistake; thank you Hans.

Auswanderungsfonds für Böhmen und Mähren seemed to me to be something that would be easy to trace [even I was able to translate the title]. The idea of these funds seemed anomalous to me until our Editor directed me to that wonderful source of information "The Internet". The *Auswanderungsfonds* did not have quite the same connotation that I had thought and one sees a typical example of the "thoroughness" of Nazi occupational use of legal requirements to their own advantage. Thank you, Colin, for guiding me in the correct direction.

☒ **British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletters Summer & Autumn 2007**: These issues contain details of the new Machin Exhibition "A Timeless Classic" together with the book by Douglas N Muir, Curator of Philately, price £19.95 + pp. available from Post: Product Sales, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Museum Store open Wednesdays March-November details www.postalheritage.org.uk. Amberley Working Museum Rally; NPS Library move to BPMA; Restoration of the TPO & Exhibition, The Railway Heritage Crewe; Cataloguing Post 21; 118, 92, & Postal Machinery; Museum Thesaurus Conference; Website Collections section complete..

Publications

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

- The Autumn 2007 issue of *Austria*, No.159. The articles include:
 - ▶ Franked Official Forms and Postal Stationery for Money Transfers (transl: Lovell); Parcel Post to A-H Station-ships in China after the Boxer War (Pirotte); The Beginners Guide to Decoding Austrian Pre-Philatelic Covers Part III (Brandon).
- The June 2007 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.38, Whole No.152. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Sorb Labels in the First Czechoslovak Republic (Rauch); Planned issues of envelopes, cards and booklets from the Slovak PO 2007 (-); New Tariffs from the Slovak PO, valid from 1.1.2007 (-); New special registration labels from Czech PO (-); New special postcards from the Czech PO (-); New printed & publicity postcards from the Czech PO (-); The political history of Czechoslovakia [Part 4] (Kuch); The cemetery for Czechoslovak Legionnaires in Vladivostock (Cermak); Austrian Postal Stationery used in Czechoslovakia in 1919 (Cermak & Kobelbauer); Completions to Volume 17 of the Czech Monografie (Kobelbauer); Special cancellations for International Students Days (Cermak); Vending machine stamps from the Slovak PO and their postal use (Müller); Distinguishing features on the 5.40Kč definitive in the President Vaclav Havel series (Ziegler); Special cancellations from the Czech PO 2005 (Müller)

>

- The May/June & July/August 2007 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 69, Nos. 3/4, Whole Nos.603/4. The articles include:
 - ▶ T.G.Masaryk 1920 issue (Wilson); The Dark side to Jachymov – a Postscript (Horvath); The Czech Legion Post in Siberia (Jones); Oldest Christian Settlement in Central & Eastern Europe – Nitra, Slovakia (Horvath).
 - ▶ Detecting Stamp Forgeries and Frauds (Krause); Slovak League in America – 100th Anniversary (Floch); Extended Arch Types on the Fifth Design 25h Hradčany (Olšina); After Five years, Czech Republic still searching for short name (Rocks); “A Poet and a Street” Jan Neruda (van Zenten); 1st Olympic Games American Army in Czechoslovakia (Horvath); 120th Anniversary of the Prague Pneumatic Mail System (Hahn).
- The July 2007 issue of *Dylizans*, No. 46
 - ▶ Censorship of Mail in Poland 1981-1982 (Cariuk); Censorship and Customs cachets 1914 (Blunt).
- The 6, 7 & 8/2007 issues of *Filatellie*, Vol.57. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
 - ▶ History of Wagons, Carriages, Stage Coaches [1] (Horák); Where to put them, or what to collect? (Strnad); Supplement Košice Miniature Sheet [13] (Čtvrtečka).
 - ▶ History of Wagons, Carriages, Stage Coaches [2] (Horák); Stamps with overprint KÖZTÁRSASÁG used in Slovakia (Weissenstein); Revelation that never appeared on a Commemorative Stamp (Feldmann). Forgery of the gutter pair of Hradčany 30h yellow (Beneš).
 - ▶ History of Wagons, Carriages, Stage Coaches [3] (Horák); Centenary of the International Reply Coupons (Bednář); Modern Forgeries of the Photogravure Overprints (Beneš); Way to the Descents of Vikings (Zedník); Supplement Pofis Catalogue FDCs 1947-1992.
- The 3/2007 issue of *Merkur Revue*. The articles include:
 - ▶ Postmarks of the Plebiscite area [6] (Tovačovský); Legion of Merit (Hrdý); Jan Kavan, Graphic artist (Kavan); Outstanding cover with Newspaper stamps (-); Travelling post offices in Carpatho-Ukraine [1] (Vostatek); Project design of 1000Kčs Banknote using 1953 portrait of Klement Gottwald (Moravec & Šustek); Agriculture & Science 1923 [2] (Štupka); Forged 15h Dove stamp, line perf 13¾ (Kračmar).
- The September 2007 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No. 170. The articles include:
 - ▶ The ‘Adria’ Sea Navigation Co, Fiume – A brochure of 1929 (Gilbert); Mail of German Mercantile Submersibles 1916-1917 [carrying also mail from Austro-Hungary] (Reinhardt).

Congratulations

To our members **Lindy Bosworth & Ian Nutley**, on becoming respectively President & Vice President of Lewisham Philatelic Society for the 2007/08 season. At the St Petersburg World Stamp Exhibition the following members were awarded: **Tønnes Ore Trieste**; [Large Gold]; **Milan Černík Czech Double Postcards in Postal Use from 1918-1939** [Large Vermeil]; **Richard Wheatley NEI Pre-stamp Mail** [Vermeil].

SOS FROM THE PACKET SECRETARY

Bob Allard urgently needs saleable material for circulation if the packet is to continue at its current levels and standards. Especially requested are covers (not modern or 25p ones) and mint stamps. Most members probably have enough spare material to make up at least one booklet so why not help to keep the packet going or else you could lose the service.

Comments on the July 2007 Auction

Back to a more regular sized auction this time, with 32 bidders bid for 214 lots out of 500. This compares with 31 bidders for 194 lots out of 400 in the last Auction. The average bid was £9.14, in a range from 10p to £30. For the statistically minded, the mid value was lower than the last Auction's at £2.50 (£4.75 last Auction) as more lower priced items were included, for the benefit of the Society with 192 bids £10 or less (157 in the last Auction).

The most popular items were the Czech Forces in England pamphlets and the Hradčany Vzorec, which attracted up to four bids. For once Bohemia and Moravia did not clear most items. Modern Czech Republic issues also stayed on the shelf.

The next auction will be smaller, but, exotic animal diseases willing, I may be able to include items from a large collection to tempt you after Christmas

Peter Williams

OBITUARY



Henry Hahn: Sadly our member Henry Hahn died on 7 June 2007 of a heart attack. He joined our Society in 1998.

My friendship with Henry began through correspondence in the early 1970s and when Henry visited London we met for the first time and spent an enjoyable day sightseeing. He encouraged and helped me with my collection, which was typical of the man.

Henry was born in Telč and escaped Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia with his family finally arriving in the United States. He never lost his love for his birthplace and wrote a booklet on the postal history of Telč and its region. He returned there whenever he was in the Czech lands for a philatelic exhibition. He was a successful scientist and a leader in his religious community.

Henry started collecting aged eight. His collections of Czechoslovak 'classics' and postal history earned him numerous gold medals at international level. He was also a national and international judge. The mention of Czech philately in America always brought Henry to mind as he was an enthusiastic worker for the Society of Czechoslovak Philately, editing its journal, writing and translating articles and was president for a number of years. Philately has lost an ambassador for the hobby. We send our condolences to Marilyn and family.

Yvonne Wheatley

[photograph from *The Czechoslovak Specialist* for July/August 2007]

NOTICE FROM REX DIXON -- SEEKING A VOLUNTEER

At the last AGM Richard Beith announced that he will be standing down as Hon Publications Officer at the AGM this coming November. The only response so far has been myself, who fancies taking on the challenge of a new role; also it would fit nicely with one of my current roles, that of organising the Society's printing and storing the publications. However, to give me the time to take on this post, I feel I would need to step down from being Hon Secretary. I have held that post since 1996, and before that I was assistant for two years to Yvonne Gren, taking the minutes.

Therefore, I am seeking someone to volunteer to step forward and become the new Hon Secretary. The main commitment is to attend most if not all the Society's meetings, so that a proper record can be made as to what happened. General correspondence is not onerous, especially in these days of email. Arranging the future programme is another facet, but I would be willing to continue doing that if the volunteer doesn't fancy this task. If you are the type of person who never has enough time, then you are probably the one best qualified to take it on. If you have any interest, however slight, please feel free to contact me to discuss what's involved. My contact details are inside the front cover.

Rex A Dixon, Hon Secretary



BOOK REVIEWS

Undercover Addresses of World War II [third edition] by Charles Entwistle, 2006. A5. 46pp.pb with card cover; published by Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW. Price £13.50 incl p&p.

This is the third edition of Charles Entwistle's excellent publication of wartime addresses for communication to and from Europe. Since this publication first appeared in 1990 the information received from collectors and dealers has grown to such an extent resulting in this latest edition. It has been divided into two sections, the first for external addresses, covering communications between the Axis powers and their areas they had occupied and the Allies. The second section covers internal addresses, those designed to conceal the identity and location of military establishments etc. I strongly recommend the *aide memoire* to anyone interested in the period of 1939 to 1945.

Colin W Spong

The Czechoslovak Army in Ukraine 1914-1920 [Book 1] by Roman Dubyniak and Peter Cybaniak. Published 2007 by the Roman Dubyniak Ukrainian Museum Foundation, 16 Bexley Avenue, Leeds, LS8 5LU. This book is FREE to members of the Austrian, Czechoslovak and Ukrainian Societies but p/p £5.00 would be appreciated. Price on application to the Foundation for non-members.

The Czechoslovakian Army in Ukraine, Book 1 covers the period 1914-1920, when independence was being sought and fought for by the Czechs and Slovaks in several theatres of war. In particular the events leading up to the forming of the new state of Czechoslovakia incorporating Carpatho-Ukraine and the border clashes with Hungary are covered in some depth.

The first Czechoslovakian battalion called Czechoslovak Druzhyna was raised in September 1914 in Kiev within the Imperial Russian Army, with 540 Czech colonist volunteers, soon to be joined by many others including Czech prisoners of war and deserters from the Austro-Hungarian Army, all nicely illustrated with pictorial and field postcards, and relating to battles against Austro-Hungarian and German armies. Other postcards show how the Czechoslovak Legion units, initially raised in France, fought in the homeland. Following independence in 1918, the Legion's Battle Groups in and the Unification of Carpatho-Ukraine together with the Hungarian invasion which cut off the Eastern Army, have broad coverage. Field posts, unit cachets and civilian postal services sometimes used in the region and nearby Slovakia are extensively covered.

The book is partly written in Ukrainian Cyrillic but otherwise in English. The illustrated field postcards have the military units' Czech names' equivalent in both English and Ukrainian and the writers' texts where they are of some interest are translated into English. Printed on 100 pages liberally containing full size colour reproductions should please readers, and collectors of the material will find invaluable a listing and translation of lesser known military terms, ordinarily not found in some dictionaries or lexicons. All in all well researched and 'a good read'.

Brian C. Day

BAUTZEN (BUDYŠIN)

-Douglas D Baxter-

The Sorbs of Bautzen and the Sorbs were mentioned in an article in the June issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, and I thought the following extract from the *Rough Guide to Germany* would be of interest to members.

Some 60km east of Dresden is Bautzen, the cultural capital of the Sorbs, Germany's only indigenous Slav minority, whose homeland is divided between Upper Lusatia in Saxony and Lower Lusatia in Brandenburg. They settled in this area as far back as the 6th century and have remained ever since; the bilingual signs and the two official forms of the city's name impart a touch of exoticism, though in Bautzen itself (as opposed to some of the outlying villages) you are unlikely to hear the language spoken in the streets.

INTERESTING COVERS

-Brian C. Day-

When I acquired the envelope shown in figure 1, which was sent by registered post on 22 January 1943, from J. Mucha at 19 The Drive, Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne, addressed to Mr. F.W. Lipovsky in India, I noted with great anticipation the label of the Czechoslovak Club in Newcastle, thinking that this could be from Jiří Mucha, the son of Alfons Mucha, who served as an officer in the Royal Air Force in the U.K. during WWII. I therefore read three of Jiří's books published in English and found no mention of Czech Clubs' membership. Disappointment! However, with help from Derek Walker, Richard Beith, an article in the Newcastle Journal of 19 November 1944 and from an obituary in the Daily Telegraph of 9 April 2004, an interesting story came to light.

More recently I luckily bought at auction another cover, figure 2, which further identifies this J. Mucha nicely. It was posted from France by a soldier "On Active Service" with the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade then deployed in northern France, addressed to Mr. Jan Mucha at the same address in Newcastle on Tyne; it bears regular British-style field post steel Type 2 canceller C S.P.P. 22 SP 44, Code A and initial and censor cachet No. 11693; attached to the Sappers Squadron.

The addressee, Jan Mucha, known to be an ex-naval man, was at that time the Chairman of the Czechoslovak colony in the N.E. (Newcastle, Tyneside area) and among its members were Czechoslovaks working in the war effort under the brilliant Czech engineer, Miroslav Sigmund, of the Sigmund Pumps Company in the armament industry on the Team Valley Trading Estate in Gateshead, manufacturing parts for the Bren gun and among them was a group of engineers and craftsmen who had managed to flee from the Bren factory in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

On 9 November 1944 a miniature Bren gun was presented to the King at Buckingham Palace by a delegation from the Czechoslovak colony in Newcastle, consisting of Mr. J. Mucha, chairman, Mr. J.Kucera, vice-chairman and Lieut. J. Jaluvka, secretary. The delegation asked the King to accept the gift as a token of the gratitude of the Czechoslovaks in Great Britain for the hospitality given to them by this country.

I wonder if any *Czechout* reader knows what the underlying relation was between Jan Mucha of Gateshead and Mr. Lipovsky in that remote part of India.

Figure 1 (front)

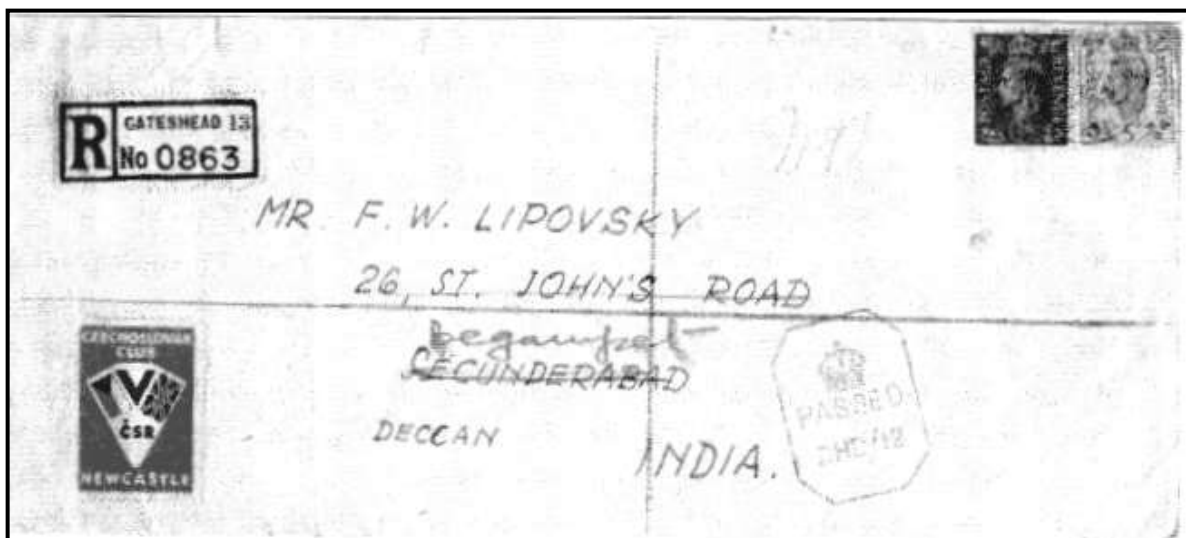


Figure 1 (back)

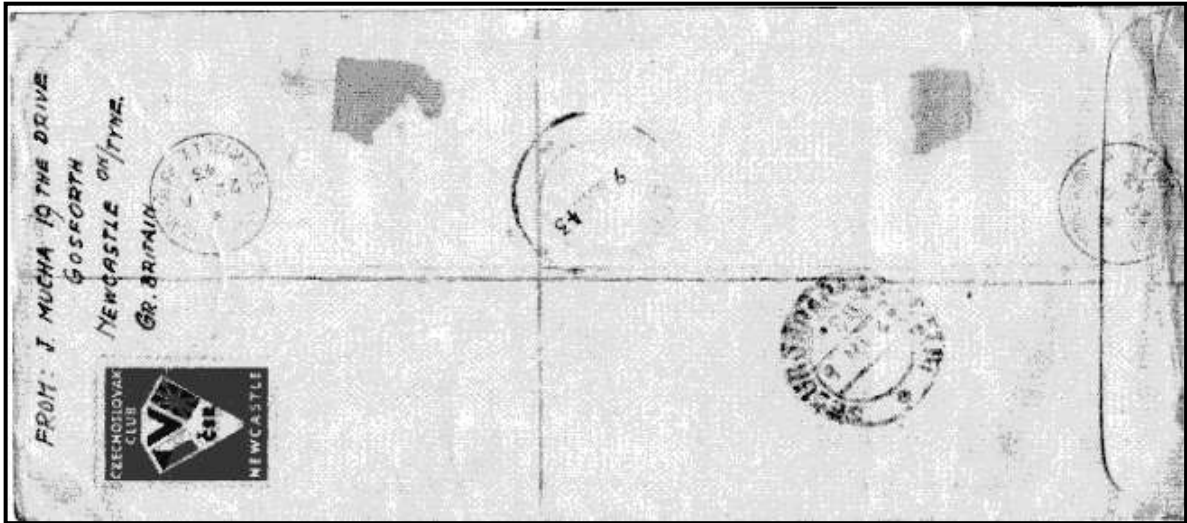
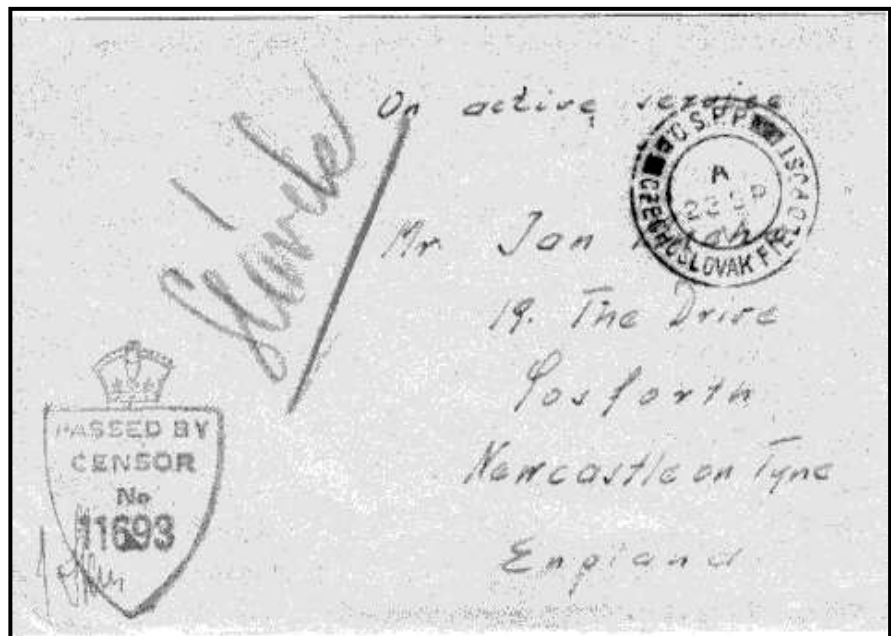


Figure 2

P. S.
 See also Brian's article in
 Czechout 4/2006 page
 100 and editorial note on
 Two Newcastle labels
 [Editor].



P.P.S. I found among my unmounted airmails a registered letter, figure 3 posted on 9.III.48 from Brno to Secunderabad, India, addressed to a Technical Director, with a Czech name, at Praga Tools. So the connection with India was nicely confirmed as an engineering one.

N.B. It would seem there was a Czech Club in India circa 1945 – see Query in Czechout 3/2004 page 87 [Editor].

PARCEL CARD STICKERS

-Richard Wheatley FRPSL-

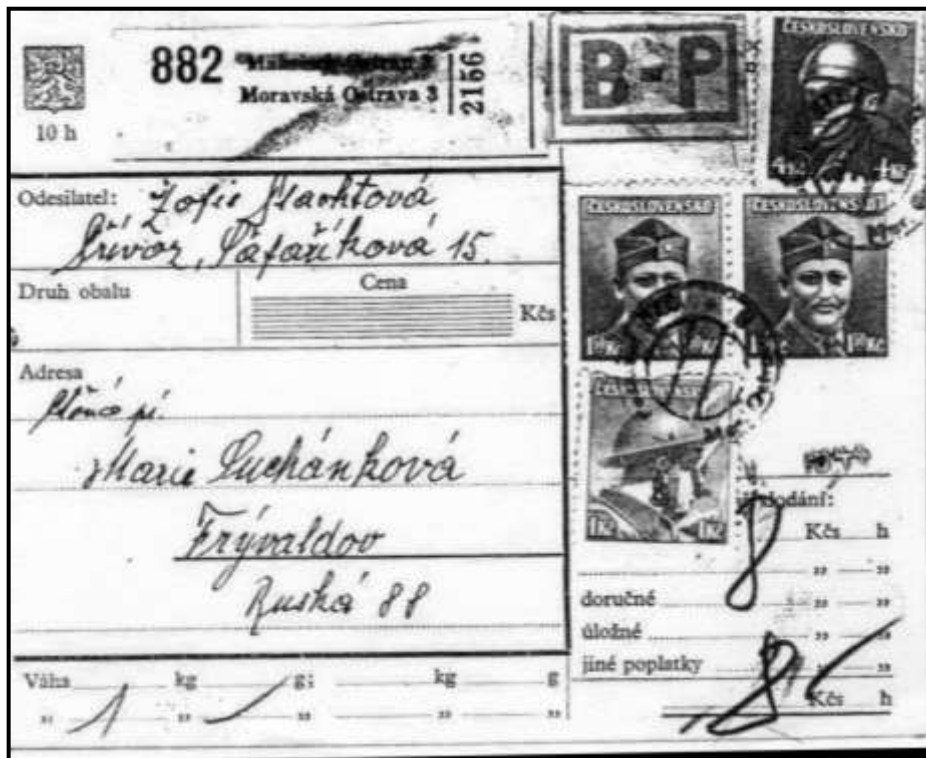
This survey covers the period from 1918 up to about 1975. It must be clearly understood that it is not complete. What it represents is a listing of the more common stickers that I have found, together with an explanation of their meaning. These stickers come in an assortment of shapes, sizes and colours and were affixed to parcel cards as an aid to charging, sorting and handling the parcels. The stickers are found in various languages, but not all at the same time! We find Czech, Slovak, German, French and English, these latter two mainly on parcel cards to destinations abroad.

I have placed the stickers into eight sections as follows:

S	Parcel Identity	U	Urgent
W	Declared Value	N	Oversize
V	Insurance	B	Small size
E	Express	K	Fragile

This is a typical parcel card

Parcel Identity Sticker for parcel number 882
 Weight in manuscript "1 kg"
 Termed a small parcel and "B-P" sticker affixed
 Postage charge in manuscript "8Kčs", paid by stamps



Temporary undated circular mark *Mor. Ostrava 3* and straight line date 31 V 1946

S Parcel Identity Stickers

These are in two halves, both of which had the despatch post office and identical numbers printed on them, black on white paper. One half was stuck on the parcel, the other on the parcel card. They were then easily matched up at the arrival post office. They are more or less all the same size, for they had to fit into the small panel at the top centre of the parcel card. When things returned back to normal after WW2 they were perforated. >

The number at right angles to the despatch office is the number of the despatch parcel office. This number is different to the number given by the postal service to that post office.

	<p>S1 Parcel number at left all periods</p>
	<p>S2 Parcel number at right all periods</p>
	<p>S3 Blank temporary Nov 1945 to June 1946</p>

W Declared Value Stickers

The ones that I have seen are placed sideways onto the parcel card at the top alongside the Parcel Identity Sticker. On the earlier ones the large black W is in vertical pairs. The W stands for Wertangabe, which is German for Declared Value. I have seen cards in 1919 and 1920 without these stickers, but with a large manuscript "W".

	<p>W1 Black on white Jan 1920 to Sept 1920</p>
	<p>W2 Red on white May 1921 to Apr 1924</p>
	<p>W3 Black on brown Feb 1920</p>
	<p>W4 Black on rose Apr 1924</p>

V Insurance Stickers

The V denotes Verisicherung meaning insurance

	<p>V1 Black on rose Oct 1945 to Mar 1963</p>
--	--

E Express Stickers

I have only seen one of these stickers



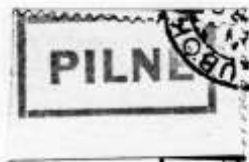
E1 Black on rose Jun 1946

U Urgent Stickers

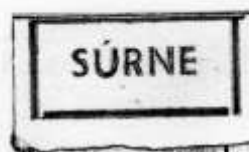
There are a few of these to be found. Both Pilné and Súrne mean Urgent.



U1 Red on white Jan 1971



U2 Red on white Jun 1974



U3 Red on orange Oct 1973
U4 Red on yellow Oct 1977

N Oversize Stickers

There was a surcharge for anything over 1m x 1m x 1m in size. The letters stand for:

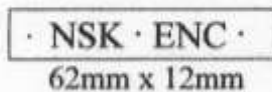
ENC = Encombrant = which means cumbersome in French.

NSK = Neskladne = literally an unstoreable package

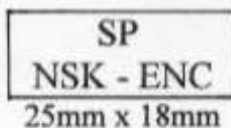
SP = Sperrgut = oversize in German



N1 Blue on white
(used at Nitra) 20 Nov 1943



N2 Red on white
(used at Košice) 7 Jun 1946



N3 Red on white
(used at Prague) 15 Jun 1946



N4 Blue on white Jun 1971

B Small Size Stickers

From my examples of these stickers on parcel cards, I find that parcels below 1.1kg received one of these and parcels above 1.8kg did not. The “B” stands for Beutel in German and the “P” stands for Pytel in Czech, both meaning “Sack”. So small parcels were placed inside a sack and the parcel card then indicated this by the sticker.

	B1 Red on white (30mm x 12mm)	Feb 1929
	B2 Red on white	May 1941
	B3 Blue on white	Feb 1944
	B4 Blue on white	Jun 1946
	B5 Red on white	May 1946
	B6 Red on white	Jul 1957
	B7 Red on white	Jun 1971 to Sept 1973

K Fragile Stickers

So far I have only seen one of these stickers and then it is only half one!



K1 Red on white Apr 1973

Apart from N1, N2, N3, B1 and B3 all illustrations are actual size.

LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

-Savoy Horvath-

Whilst most of Slovakia was liberated in 1944, what is now the Czech Republic had to wait till April 1945, from the east by the Soviet Armies and the west by the US Army. First from the east came the 2nd Ukrainian Front on 13 April near Hodonín. From the west it was a unit from the 90th US Infantry Division on 18 April near Hranice by Aš. Closest to the Czechoslovak border in April 1945 was the 3rd Battalion, 358th Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division the Tough Hombres. In the early morning of 18 April a reconnaissance platoon led by Lt. Merrill B. Rudes (of Czech ancestry) was dispatched toward the Czechoslovak border from their base in Lower Bavaria east of Hof. At 10.00 hours Lt. Rudes was the first American liberator to enter Czechoslovakia. The platoon's orders were to make a contact with the enemy. They proceeded half way into the Czech horn, encountering only small arms fire and white flags; by the time of their return trip at noon they had captured 30-plus German prisoners. As soon as they had made their report a large US infantry force accompanied by light armour re-entered Czechoslovakia and captured the first Czech town, Hranice.

On 20 April the city of Aš was liberated; this was really symbolic as just days before Aš was visited by Konrad Henlein the Nazi Gauleiter of the former Sudetenland, who gave orders to defend the city to the last man standing; also 20 April was Adolf Hitler's birthday and the only man standing in Aš on that day was its mayor with a white flag. Other US Armies were entering Czechoslovakia by this time. The only real resistance was on 25 and 26 April in Cheb, a fierce battle developed for the town and the US 1st Army suffered casualties. Fighting for Cheb's airport where the first German jets were based was still going on when the Czechoslovak Combined Armoured Brigade arrived from Dunkirk. On the Czechoslovak border west of Cheb, they took time out to symbolically raise the Czechoslovak Flag right on the border and then proceeded to take over the administration of Cheb.

Taking over administrative powers in the newly liberated towns in the former Sudetenland was done by the US command, mainly because at that moment there were not any Czechs available for the job. As replacements from the Czech interior started arriving, the US Army handed all powers to the Czechs. At the war's end I lived with my parents in Hradec Králové. My Dad, a business man and a politician, was shortly informed to proceed to Cheb by train to secure two large factories and I was allowed to travel with him. It was 28 May, Cheb was in Czechoslovak military hands and basic services like mail were already in motion. I did stop in Cheb post office, purchasing overprinted Hitler head stamps, sending a letter to my Mom in Hradec Králové.

But, going back to US administrative units, a most unique situation developed in the town of Vildštejn (during German annexation it was called Wildstein and after the communist take over changed to Skalná). The Administrative commander was Major Webb and his adjutant was Lt. Burton Doling, both were avid philatelists and while still in Germany they worked out a plan for creating a Czechoslovak Liberation issue. Visiting different German post offices they had secured a large stock of sheets of German stamps; not wanting to use anything connected to the Nazis (especially German definitive stamps with Adolf Hitler's head), they had settled on the German Postal Workers set Scott B 272-27, Fulda B 270 and Michel 888-893. Once settled in Vildštejn they had contacted a local printer and the process of overprinting was put into motion, including rarities like inverts and pairs, one with overprint, one without. About a quarter of the printing was sold to the GIs in Aš, Vildštejn, Františkovy Lázně and Cheb; for one day only was there a sale to civilians, but the majority of the issue was shipped in May 1945 to Lt. Doling's mother in upstate New York, who placed a full page ad in *Stamps* – it sold out in a few weeks. I have owned one cover mailed to Michigan and one mailed from Vildštejn to Cheb by a German local. In 1995 I traced the former Lt. Doling through a story in *Linns* to California and had a written confirmation by him on all that happened with this issue.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain has published the first monograph on Czechoslovak Liberation: Mono 14 "The Liberation of Olomouc" by Bob Hill. His second Monograph number 18 entitled "Postal Arrangements following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945" was published in 2005, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of liberation. His next work is likely to be Slovakia – 1944 Liberation. All the mentioned Monographs are or will be available in the USA through the Society for Czechoslovak Philately from our Book Sale - Publications Available.

Different versions of the Vildštejn overprint had appeared in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* in the past, I believe this was incorrect information. The originator of the overprint issue is still here, though in his nineties, still active in his California Stamp shop. I have given Robert Hill his address and Bob is already in contact with him, confirming all that happened in Vildštejn.

THE VILDŠTEJN ISSUE OF 1945

-Robert J Hill-

In this article I try to set out the complexities behind this issue by first repeating what has been published elsewhere, albeit here in one article, and going on to release newly discovered facts. The truth – well my Mother use to say there are at least three sides to every story: yours; theirs; and the truth. Further information and comments are welcome.

The traditional story

On 18 April 1945 the American Army crossed the border into the north west of the Sudetenland, reaching Franzenbad (*Františkovy Lázně*) by 23 April and establishing a Czech Civil Council (*národní výbor*). One of the desires of this Council was to immediately re-establish full postal services; there were no instructions concerning this emanating from the Government in Exile, which was many miles away operating from Košice in Slovakia.

A worry of the council was that local post offices were still being run by the old German postal officials and they had no way of guaranteeing where the revenue was going. The postal income needed regulating and the Council contacted the American army and explained a plan to control post office revenue.

Major Margolis of the American army sanctioned the proposal on the understanding that no stamps or cancellers were to be used that carried the emblems of the Third Reich. It was thought a pointless task to devise their own postage stamps as the technology required would not be available and the issue would soon be swamped by the new issues of the free Czechoslovakia. Consideration was given to using the American Military Government stamps as used in Germany but this was seen not to be fitting as it could be seen to give credence to the annexation of the Sudetenland and the stamps were priced in Reich Marks and Pfennigs. The American Army suggested putting an overprint on German stamps that did not have offending images.

The only stamps available that fitted the bill were 1000 Fulda stamps and 1250 sets of Postal Comradeship.

The overprint in black took the format

2 Kč 2 Kč
 U. S. ARMY
 v Č. S. R.
 18. IV. 1945

Whilst only a small number was overprinted it was realised that the amount of post would be minimal to start with and the incoming Prague authorities would have a long term plan to deal with the shortage of stamps. The overprinting was done under military supervision at a printing shop in Franzenbad using American-supplied ink. The printing blocks were destroyed. There is a marked shift in overprints from left to centre to right seen on the stamps and there is a plate fault on the 7th stamp of each sheet with a **V** instead of a **Y** in **ARMY** (Lieutenant Doling {see end of article} states that this was done on purpose).

1200th anniversary of Fulda issued March 1944

12 + 38 pfennig, brown
 Fulda monument
 overprinted 5 Kč



Postal Comradship issued May 1944



6 + 9 pfennig, ultramarine
Post woman
overprinted 60 h

8 + 12 pfennig, slate green
Mail coach
overprinted 80 h

12 + 18 pfennig, magenta
Field post on eastern front
overprinted 1.20 Kč



16 + 24 pfennig, blue green
Motor car race
overprinted 1.60 Kč

20 + 30 pfennig, blue
Postal police march
overprinted 2 Kč

24 + 36 pfennig, violet
Glider workshop
overprinted 2.40 Kč

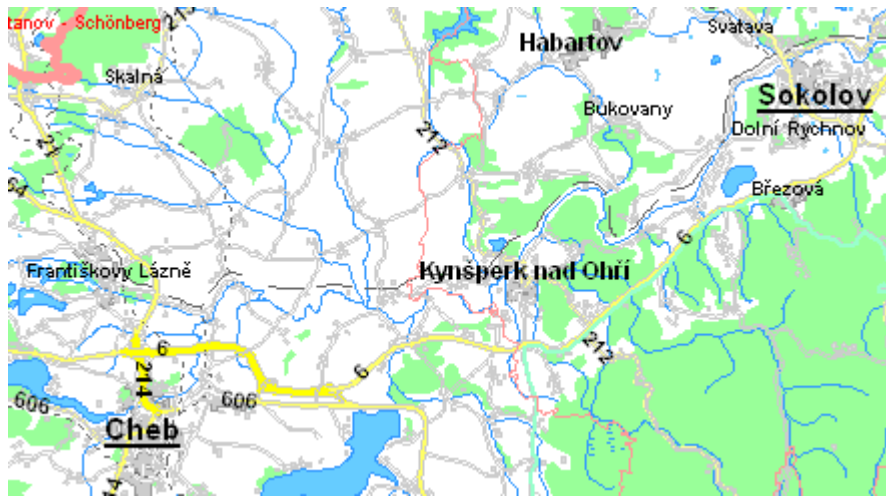


Five copies of each stamp were printed with inverted overprint.

With the exception of the Fulda stamp, the surcharges were at the correct ratio of 1 pfennig = 10 halerů. A protocol was made about the issue in English and Czech that was signed by the Chief of the Civil Administration, Mr Slawik, and a representative of the army.



On 25 May 1945 the stamps were handed over to the Civil Government and distributed to the post office at Wildstein (*Vildštejn*, now *Skalná*) and the type of canceller to be used with them was specified. Franzenbad, Eger (*Cheb*) and Falknau (*Falknov*, now *Sokolov*) US Army postal stations also received supplies.



Map showing *Františkovy Lázně*, *Cheb*, *Sokolov* & *Skalná*

The sale of the stamps started on 26 May, as the sale was not officially announced only a few were sold and the system of control implemented meant that there could be no large scale purchases.

During 26 May phone calls were received at Franzenbad, Eger & Falknau post offices telling them to stop the sale of stamps other than to occupying forces and that they were to be used as the official stamps of the army.

By mistake Wildstein was not told of this embargo (some say the phone line was down, others that they were not rung) and the sale of these stamps continued to civilians until the afternoon of 27 May.

Genuine postmarked items only exist from:

- Wildstein dated 26 or 27 May
- All four offices addressed back to USA dated 26 May thru 4 June 1945 (see later in article)



Cover to Eger (*Cheb*) with WILDSTEIN b canceller for 27.5.45 at 11.00 hours

The remainder of the stamps from all four offices were issued to members of the US Army as official stamps and they were used as such for the next ten days.

The publication *Stamps* printed in the USA ran a full-page advertisement for the stamps in the summer of 1945. This is not included in the following clippings from that year.

<p>U.S. Army Overprints Reich Stamps to Relieve Czechoslovakia</p> <p>According to a photostat from the Penny Black Stamp Co., the above German Reich stamps (shown from a cover) overprinted were authorized to be used in Czechoslovakia. The notice reads:</p> <p>"Because Czechoslovakian postage stamps were not available, permission was granted by the local Government authorities on 28 May 1945 to use German Reich stamps locally with a special overprint as follows:</p> <p>"Kameradschaftsblock 1944 i Stadt Fulda.</p> <p>"These stamps with the special overprint were issued in the following quantity:</p> <p>"Kameradschaftsblock— 6 Rgt 1250 pieces to 60h.</p> <p>8 Rgt 1250 pieces to 60h. 12 Rgt 1250 pieces to 1.20 Kc. 10 Rgt 1250 pieces to 1.00 Kc. 20 Rgt 1250 pieces to 2.00 Kc. 24 Rgt 1250 pieces to 2.40 Kc. Fulda 12 pf. 100 pieces to 3.00 Kc.</p> <p>"The printing blocks, after re-printing, were destroyed in the presence of the undersigned to prevent any printing of similar stamps."</p> <p>The signature of the person signing is illegible on the photostat.</p> <p>The overprint seems to be "U. S. ARMY" and "C. S. R." Does anyone know anything further of these stamps?</p>	<p>Czechoslovakia—An overprint believed to commemorate the entry of American forces into the Sudetenland has been found on the six values of Germany's 1944 semi-postal issue (overprinting postal employees). The overprint reads: "U. S. ARMY / v. C. S. R. / 18. V. 1945" (U. S. Army in Czechoslovak Republic, April 18, 1945). Each value also bears a surcharge in Czech halera and koruny. The new value markings appear (each one) in each case on 10 times the original postal denomination in florians. On the seventh stamp in each sheet appears the error "V" for "V" in "ARMY" except on the 1.20K on 12 + 18pf.</p> <p>Some of these stamps were brought to New York by an American officer who reported that 1000 sets were surcharged. Penny Black Stamp Co.</p>
<p>From the Penny Black Stamp Company of New York, we have a set of six stamps which were issued to celebrate the entry of the U. S. Army into Czechoslovakia.</p> <p>The stamps are surcharges on issue of 1944; a set of six stamps. The German stamps are surcharged "U. S. ARMY / v. C. S. R. / 18. IV. 1945" and with a new value in Czech currency.</p> <p>The original German values are given first and the new values in Czech currency follow: 6 plus 9pf blue, 60h; 8 plus 12pf black, 30h; 12 plus 18pf claret, 1.20 Kc; 16 plus 24pf green, 1.60 Kc; 20 plus 30pf light blue, 2 Kc and 24 plus 36pf violet, 2.40 Kc.</p> <p>The original stamps were a very attractive issue with scenes from German postal service. It is stated that but 1000 sets were overprinted. A major error occurs on each sheet, the seventh stamp has a "V" in place of a "Y" in "ARMY," on all values except the 12 plus 18pf, 1.20 Kc.</p>	<p>Czechoslovakia—Marking the entry of United States forces into Czechoslovakia the German Postal Employees set of six stamps was overprinted and given new values, according to Penny Black Stamp Co. Only 1,000 sets are stated to have been released. The overprint reads: "U. S. Army / v. C. S. R. / 18. V. 1945" in black.</p> <p>CZECHOSLOVAKIA—Overprint. Marking the entry of United States forces into Czechoslovakia the German Postal Employees set of six stamps were, for some reason, overprinted and given new values. The overprint reads: "U. S. Army / v. C. S. R. / 18. V. 1945" in these faces, in black. (Overprint may not be affixed.)</p>
<p>United States Army In Czechoslovakia</p> <p>Pictures of the six Czechoslovakia stamps overprinted for the U. S. Army were printed in the November 8 issue of this paper. In the issue of the 15th, our Postage Stamp Parade Columnist mentioned the stamps and stated that they may not be official.</p> <p>"We now have from the Penny Black Stamp Company in New York a copy of the Official Decree authorizing these stamps and this decree is stamped with a hand-stamp of the Allied Expeditionary Forces Military Government and properly initialed by the Military Government Officer.</p> <p>The decree authorizing the stamps states that 1250 pieces of each were issued.</p> <p>Regardless of any decree, the issue of stamps in such limited number is definitely a very unfair and unsound policy, that should meet with disapproval by anyone.</p>	<p>Czechoslovakia—This overprint ("U. S. ARMY" / C. S. R. / 18. V. 1945) applied to Germany's 83-stamp postal employees' issue of 1944, and described in this column last week, was also applied to 1,000 copies of the 12pf + 36pf Fulda stamp, with a surcharge of 5 Czech crowns. As the surcharged values are repeated on each of these seven stamps, it is thought they may have been intended as semi-postals.</p> <p>An officer of the Allied Expeditionary Forces Military Government signed a statement saying: "Because Czechoslovakian postage stamps were not available, permission was granted by the local Government authorities on 26 May 1945, to use German Reich stamps locally with a special overprint. . . . The printing blocks, after reprinting (surcharging?), were destroyed to prevent any printing of similar stamps." This statement was signed by M. G. Officer "R. B. K." and by a Czech official whose name is illegible.</p> <p>According to the statement, 1,250 of each of the postal employees' stamps were overprinted.</p> <p>—Penny Black Stamp Co. General Stamp Co.</p>

The pomposity, naivety and selfishness of the philatelist who wrote the last paragraph of the article "United States Army in Czechoslovakia" is beyond belief.

Some arguments

So far, so good. However, a series of articles on the issue had appeared in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* in the *News & Views* column by J W Lowey (founder Secretary of the American society) during 1946 – another self-opinionated observer from many miles distant. He set out with the premise that the issue was bogus and left no stone unturned in order to find facts to prove his opinion. After all, why let the truth get in the way of a good story that no one could (at that time) defend. His summary of the situation was as follows:

1 Why should the US Third Army have exactly chosen Wildstein – an insignificant community. It would have taken quite some time for the local population to make use of these stamps for mailing purposes. Why were not these stamps sold also at some post offices at larger towns or cities in the vicinity of Wildstein where an equal shortage must have existed, for instance Aš, Cheb or others. The “Third Army” did not choose Wildstein; it was done on the initiative of a junior officer who had control of the area. The issue was sold at other offices including Cheb; the town of Aš fell under the control of another detachment. Directly senior command found out about the issue it was stopped. The Army then did what armies have done throughout time - denied all knowledge.

2 It was stated that a United States officer had bought the “unsold remains” of the issue to this country (USA). Now who was this officer and why was his name withheld. We now know the name of the officer, Major Margolis (but see later in this article). The Army then did what armies have done throughout time - denied all knowledge.

3 It was further stated that a few covers exist which were properly cancelled at Wildstein. This means exactly nothing! During the entry of General Patton’s army into Bohemia that particular territory was no man’s land. A “postmaster” or “Czechoslovak official” (though here also names are withheld) were only too willing to oblige when the request came from a man in the uniform of the liberating army. Why let the truth get in the way of a good story! It wasn’t a no man’s land; the area was still populated with people of German descent and Czechoslovak citizens who had been forced to work for the German government.

4 To sum up – there was no need at all for an issue of this kind. We are dealing here with one of the old age stunts in which case the collectors of this country (USA) pay the bill. The procedure used in all communities of Czechoslovakia in which an actual shortage of stamps existed was this: the sender took his letter to the post office and there the postmaster or a clerk noted the fee paid on the cover adding signature or initials. Here the writer misses the basic points: the need to account for transactions; the desire to return to normality; the need to deface all things German; the wish of the liberators to leave their mark. It is true that one way of accounting for mail was in the manner described; there were many others.

Latest facts

There is no doubt that the unsold remainders were spirited away and sold on the open market. This issue is now a rarity and commands very high prices, as confirmed in a letter from Burton Doling in 1997 (a Lieutenant in 1945). A transcript of his testament follows:

During my Army stint I met a Major Webb (my Battalion Commander) who was an avid stamp collector. He had instituted the issuing of an occupation set of stamps in Wildstein, Czechoslovakia by overprinting the set of German stamps that were in the post office our forces had captured.

The set of German stamps was Scott No. B270 & B272 thru B277, the overprint read **U. S. ARMY**
v Č. S. R.

(v meaning in) and Č. S. R. the initials of the Czechoslovak Republic. He produced covers, inverted and so {on} and had them cancelled and un-cancelled. He asked me the best way to market them in the U. S. and I suggested a full page ad in “Stamps” magazine. I prepared the ad and sent it to New York, with my parent’s home as the mailing address for orders.

The ad probably resulted in an all time record for orders from a single ad. In addition to almost 1000 mail orders, almost 30 phone orders drove my Mother crazy! She called me at Fort Devens (I was still in the army) to get leave and come home to help fill the orders. We had to refund thousands of dollars as our supply was limited and that really hurt! These stamps are listed in Michel now, although Scott does not list them, and they are not cheap!

In subsequent private correspondence he claims:

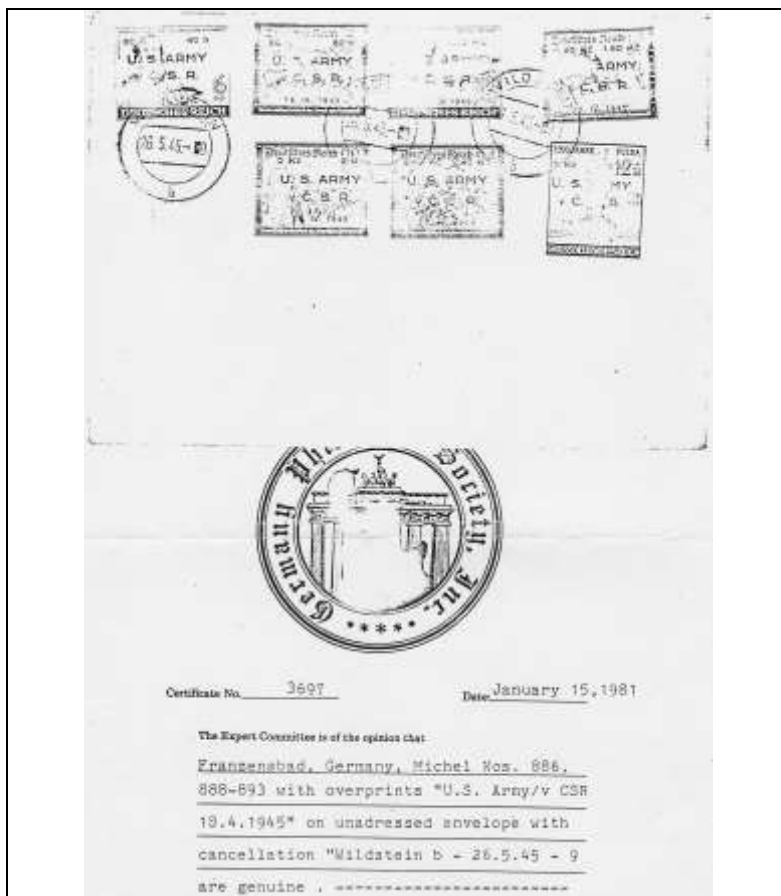
1. That over 3000 sets were printed, of these:
 - 150 sets were deliberately printed inverted
 - the same number of pairs - one overprinted, the other not - were produced by leaving every other line free from overprint.
2. That this location was used for the production because the area was the most stable.
3. It was not Major Margolis who brought the stamps to the USA but Lieutenant Doling who sent them to his Mother in New York.
4. That neither Major Webb nor Lieutenant Doling became rich from this venture.

>

The latest correspondence from Burton Doling in August 2004 from his home in California re-iterates some of the aforementioned and is reproduced verbatim:

The Third Army, 97th Division of the U. S. Army occupied half of Wildstein. The Major of my battalion was a philatelist and "liberated" the stamps from a post office and had them overprinted in a local print shop (making some inverts, covers, sets etc.). We marketed them back in the U.S. with a full page advertisement in "Stamps" when we returned. The Russians were in the other half of Wildstein and we could not consult with them. We sold them very cheap; I believe short sets without the "Fulda" stamp at \$2.95 per set and with the "Fulda" stamp at \$5.95 per set. The covers (we did not have a large amount of them because of a shortage of envelopes in Wildstein) at \$9.95 per cover.

Part of this is in conflict with known facts. There were no Soviet troops west of the demarcation line. The only uniformed Russians in the US Zone of ČSR were political commissars from the GPU; it is a known fact they had "offices" in both Cheb and Falknov. The US command allowed them to hunt down deserters, former Russian POW's who refused repatriation and segments of Vlasov's Army. Wildstein was a sleepy little village that did not command a Russian presence .



Scan of a photocopy of a Germany Philatelic Society Inc. expertisation certificate.
The cover is addressed to Michigan USA but the address has been erased.
The original is in the collection of Vladimir Markus in Wien.

Acknowledgements:

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- Keiler, E, "War Emergency Issue of U. S. Army in Czechoslovakia", *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, January 1952, pp 4-5
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- *Linn's Stamp News*, Ohio U. S. A., September 1971
- Bohne, W M, "U.S. Army Emergency stamps for Czechoslovakia in 1945", *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, January 1972, pp 124-126
- Page, W A, "American Army in Czechoslovakia from April 1945", *Czechout 3/1995*, pages 60-69
- Holoubek, Karel, *Česká Republika – Revoluční Vydání Květen 1945*, Prague, 1996
- Doling, Burton, California U. S. A. 1997-2004
- Holoubek, Karel, Personal papers, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, 2004
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- Beith, Richard, Discussions, Chester, UK, 2004

650 YEARS OF THE GOLDEN BULL

- Thomas Just, Austrian State Archive -

We thank Otto Hornung RDP for sending us this interesting article and Douglas Baxter for translating.



The name “Golden Bull” is derived from the method of sealing, whereby golden bulls were very commonly used on imperial or royal documents. Emperor Karl IV described the “Golden Bull” as “our imperial book of justice”. The term “Bulla Aurea” for this particular document first appeared in 1400.

The “Golden Bull” of Emperor Karl IV is a law book with thirty-one chapters in Latin. Above all it regulates the election of the Roman-German Kings and future Emperors by the Electoral Princes, right up to the end of the Old Empire in 1806. Therefore, it is part of the oldest laws of succession in Europe. The election process joins the form of the elected monarchy to that of a hereditary principedom; the regulations about the electoral system (protection on the way to elections, announcements of the election, dates of meetings, majority voting by those present, voting for oneself) were there not only to prevent double voting, but also served to prevent periods without a king by means of skilful use of legal guarantees and repeal of laws.

Part One, which contains chapters 1 to 23 was issued in the Reichstag in Nürnberg on 10 January 1356 and Part Two containing chapters 24 to 31, in the Reichstag in Metz on 25 December 1356. The “Golden Bull’s” most familiar regulation is in chapter 7. It declares that – alongside the three Archbishops of Mainz, Trier and Cologne – the Kings of Bohemia, the Count Palatine of the Rhineland, the Duke of Saxony and the Margrave of Brandenburg were the legitimate Electoral Princes.

In 1356 Emperor Karl IV acted from a secure position. He had survived the first difficult years as ruler and, accordingly, he could think about establishing the regulations relating to the election of a king. However the “Golden Bull” did not represent a single law but was the result of negotiations between the Emperor and the Electoral Princes.

Seven original copies have been preserved, of which five are for Electoral Princes (1356) and two which were issued later but were sealed by Karl IV and were for two cities which were privileged by the “Golden Bull”, namely Frankfurt on Main, as the place where Kings were elected (1366), and Nürnberg, as the venue of the first Court Meetings (1366-1378). Much consideration has been devoted to the question of who the author of the “Golden Bull” was. It appears certain that the Emperor played a large part in the formulation of the law, although opinions vary as to who formulated the individual statutes. It was not until the 15th century that the importance of the document was properly realised. There exist a large number of copies and early imprints dating from this time. In 1474 it was published as the first

State Law Book. In 1400 King Wenzel, the son of Karl IV commissioned a magnificent copy of the document, which today is housed in the National Library in Vienna.

The golden bull from which the document gets its name is made of gold plate and is about 6cm wide and 0.6cm thick. The obverse shows the Emperor sitting on a throne and holding the sceptre and imperial orb. The inscription KAROLVS QVARTVS DIVINA FAVENTE CLEMENCIA ROMANO(RUM) IMPERATOR SEMP(ER) AVGVSTVS continued further into the design with the words ET BOEMIE REX. The reverse shows the greatly stylised picture of the city of Rome, with the words AVREA ROMA on the portal. The inscription reads ROMA CAPVT MVNDI REGIT ORBIS FRENA ROTVNDI. The handwriting on the document is a gothic script used in such documents, which was at the time not considered to be cursive, but which already contained certain cursive elements. Four of the seven copies originate from the Imperial Chancellery because the scribe's handwriting can be traced in other Emperor Karl IV documents of this time. The copy for Karl IV was particularly beautifully written and is kept today in the Home – Court – and State Archive in Vienna.

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 Frederik Backeljauw's Hrušov ve Slezku C.S.P. cancellation in *Czechout 2/2007* page 58

From John Pojeta Jr: The following information may be helpful. In volume 5 Monografie Československých Známeč, SO 1920, page 8, the village of Hrušov is shown in the northwest of the map of Těšín, and in the paragraph above the map there is a list of post offices including Hrušov. Page 110, figure 22 shows a Hrušov (Slez) cancel. Page 126 shows various cancels for Hrušov, including Hrušov ve Slezku C.S.P.

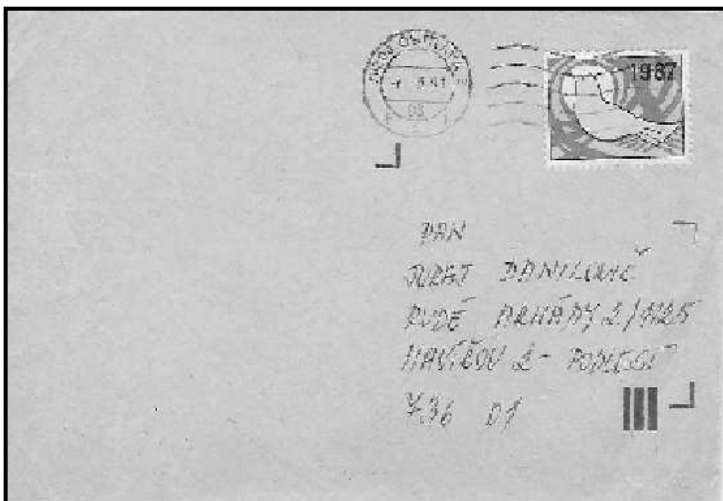
Re Bob Hill's 1st Olympic Games American Army in Czechoslovakia in *Czechout 3/2005* page 86

From Colin Spong: No doubt Bob will have seen the latest *Czechoslovak Specialist* for July/August 2007 where on page 17 an article by Savoy Horvath describes the event that took place in Klatovy between 21 and 28 July. To reply to Bob's query the Special Remembrance Sheet was issued by the Klatovy Dragoons who with the 8th Armoured Division sponsored the Games; besides the 8th Armoured Division cancel, another exists bearing an APO 305 cancellation. The sheet is collected as part of the Liberation/Revolutionary Issues of post-war 1945.

Query

From Bob Hill: Cover with sender's address on the reverse and cancelled 70200 OSTRAVA 2 / X X X / 6.3.91 /83. Received 17.4 and acknowledged 17.4.1991.

What was the purpose of the label that has been illegally used as a stamp on this cover?



NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

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

From 2006, many of the stamps of the Slovak Republic are printed by Állami Nyomda Nyrt., Hungary indicated in the text as ANN.

Printing RD = rotary die stamping with multicolour photogravure
 DS = die stamping from flat plates

Czech Republic

20 June 2007 World Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008: Charles Bridge – 650 Years.



Designers: Adolf Absolon (sheet and stamp) Pavel Dvorský
Engraver: Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in a souvenir sheet of one stamp. **Design:** Charles Bridge, Prague. The souvenir sheet has the texts in Czech 'World Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008', 'Prague, Charles Bridge 1357–2007' and the logo of Praga 2008. The bridge, originally called Stone Bridge and later Prague Bridge is the oldest in Prague and was renamed Charles Bridge in 1870. The original Romanesque Juditin Bridge was destroyed by floods in 1342. Emperor Charles IV laid the foundation stone of the new bridge on 9 September 1357, which was completed by Petr Parléř in 1402. The bridge, made of sandstone with 16 arches is about 520 m long and up to 10m wide with protective towers at both

ends. The 30 Baroque sandstone statues by M B Braun and FM Brokoff have gradually been replaced with replicas. Until the 20th century the bridge was a major traffic route over the Vltava but since 1965 has been used by pedestrians and is a major tourist attraction.

FDC: printed DS in grey-black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing of Charles IV is taken from the statue from the Old Town Bridge Tower.

20 June 2007

400th Birth Anniversary of Václav Hollar



Designer and Engraver: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** DS with 3 colour (red, ochre, grey-green) offset in a souvenir, commemorative sheet of one stamp and 2 labels. **Design:** stamp: portrait of V Hollar by Jan Meyssens; labels: allegories entitled 'Spring' and 'Winter' by Hollar; sheet margin: text – Wenceslas Hollar Bohemus (above) and a panoramic view of Prague from a drawing by Hollar in 1636 with four coats of arms (below). **FDC:** printed DS

in brown-black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawings of a butterfly and bumble bee are taken from Hollar's etching 'Five Butterflies and a Flying Bumble Bee' with the Latin text 'W Hollar fecit, ex collectione Arundeliana 1646'.

Vaclav Hollar (1607–1677) was born in Prague but later went to Germany and Holland to further his artistic studies. In 1636 he entered the service of Earl Thomas Howard of Arundel and became drawing master to the Prince of Wales. He travelled widely with Howard making drawings of towns, maps, portraits, flora, fauna and book illustrations.

>

20 June 2007

Crafts: Historic Stoves

Designer: Michal Vitanovský **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider
Printing: RD in sheets of 50 **Designs:** reconstructed Gothic and Renaissance tile decorated stoves. Very few authentic stoves survive from the medieval and Renaissance periods but the decorative tiles have survived although they were often used on later stoves. The stoves depicted on the stamps are reconstructed from contemporary graphic designs and written documents.

7.50Kč: reconstruction of a Gothic stove from Olomouc with an unglazed tile featuring two duelling swordsmen.

FDC: printed DS in blue-black with commemorative Olomouc cancel. The cachet drawing shows a typical two-tiered medieval stove with a figure in historic costume.

12Kč: reconstruction of a Renaissance stove with a polygonal top from Říčany u Prahy and a green glazed mantel tile depicting an aristocratic couple. **FDC:** printed DS in blue-green with a commemorative Říčany u Prahy cancel. The cachet drawing has a Renaissance style stove and a young lady in contemporary costume.

5 September 2007

350th Anniversary of J A Komenský's 'Opera Didactica Omnia'

Designer: Petr Melan **Engraver:** Vaclav Fajt **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** a teacher and his pupil with a town in the distance and a skyscape above. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a still life composition with a globe, book, candle and writing tools.

Jan Amos Komenský (1592 – 1670), born in Nivnice, Moravia was a teacher, philosopher, church minister, social and religious thinker. In 1628 he was exiled to Poland for his religious beliefs. He advocated

the 'direct' method of teaching languages, the use of pictures and equality of educational opportunity for girls. His work 'Opera Didactica Omnia' comprised four volumes published in Amsterdam. The epilogue explained his lifetime work to improve education.

5 September 2007

100th Anniversary of the First Cinema by Viktor Ponrepo

Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdouň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** Ponrepo's Blue Pike cinema projecting a film about bull fights.

The first full-time cinema in Prague opened on 15 September 1907 in the Blue Pike House, Karlova Street in the Old Town. It had 56 seats, opened daily except Friday and was run solely by Ponrepo. This was a pseudonym – his real name was Dismas Ferdinand Šlambor (1858–1926), which he used when touring with his magic theatre and juggling productions which were disapproved of by his father. After

the invention of cinematography he showed short films and toured with his Live Photograph Theatre, then established a summer cinema in Košíře. It was not until 1907 could he obtain a cinema licence for Prague. He showed images of the world, life, nature and acted theatre scenes. The Blue Pike Cinema operated until 1945. **FDC:** printed DS in black-violet with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design has a portrait of Ponrepo and behind him an advertising sheet for his Live Photograph Theatre.

5 September 2007

Nature Protection: White Carpathian Mountains and Orchid Meadows. UNESCO Biosphere Reservation

Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 4 stamps and 4 labels. **Designs:** plant and animal species of the White Carpathian Mountain region.

Stamps: 9Kč – *Ophrys holosericea* – Late Spider Orchid. **FDC:** printed DS in dark red with commemorative Luhačovice cancel. The cachet drawing shows *Orchis militaris* – Military Orchid. >

10Kč – *Colias myrmidone* – a butterfly of the clouded yellow family and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* – Pyramid Orchid. **FDC:** printed DS in red-violet with commemorative Valašské Klobouky cancel. The cachet drawing shows *Cephalanthera rubra* – Red Helleborine.

11Kč – *Ophrys apifera* – Bee Orchid. **FDC:** printed DS in violet with commemorative Bojkovice cancel. The cachet drawing depicts *Himantoglossum adriaticum* – one of the Lizard Orchids.

12Kč – *Coracias garrulus* – European Roller and *Gymnadenia densiflora* – one of the Fragrant Orchids. **FDC:** printed DS in green with a commemorative Strážnice cancel. The cachet drawing shows *Epipactis palustris* – Marsh Helleborine.

Labels: 1. *Zerynthia polyxena* – Southern Festoon butterfly and *Cypripedium calceolus* – Lady's Slipper Orchid.

2. *Oriolus oriolus* – Golden Oriole, *Sylvia nisoria* – Barred Warbler, *Juniperus communis* – Juniper and *Cephalanthera rubra* – Red Helleborine.

3. *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* – Common Spotted Orchid and *Dactylorhiza sambucina* – Elder-Flower Orchid.

4. *Crex crex* – Corncrake, *Mantis religiosa* – Praying Mantis and *Orchis tridentata* – Toothed Orchid.

The margin of the sheet shows other flora and fauna found in the area.



The White Carpathian Mountains (715km²) was declared a protected landscape in 1980 and in 1996 became a UNESCO biosphere reservation. The souvenir sheet shows the diversity of the flora and fauna to be found in the region, which has for centuries been cultivated by man.

5 September 2007 Definitive – The Beauty of Flowers – Indian Cress



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

Printing: RD with iridescent underprint in sheets of 100

Design: a flower and bud of the plant.

NB no official FDC was issued.

Postal Stationery

Official Postcard

23 May 2007 – Czech Historical Buildings. This is the 14th issue in the series and is numbered from A161/2007 to A168/2007. Each card has a 7.50Kč imprinted stamp of the modified Great State Arms of the Republic. The designs are from Foto Studios, Skala and printed by Victoria Security Printing. The second line for the recipient's address is a continuous micro printing of Česká Pošta. The left side of the card has a coloured picture of the building, explanatory text in Czech and commemorative cachet in black of the building. This series shows buildings of Prague, Svatý Jan pod Skalou, Police nad Metují, Rumburk, Brno, Vranov u Brna, Třebíč and Uherský Brod. >

Commemorative Postcard

30 May 2007 – 400th Anniversary of the town of Žďár nad Sázavou. **Designer:** Oldřich Pošnumý **Printing:** coloured offset **Retail Price:** 12.50Kč **Design:** imprinted 7.50Kč stamp with the coat of arms of the town granted in 1704 by Emperor Leopold I, dates and town name. The left portion of the card shows a view of the town with dates and town name. The settlement of Žďár was built when a Cistercian Monastery was established in 1252 but was not granted town status until 1607.

Promotional Postcards

The following cards have imprinted stamps: a) 7.50Kč (see *Czechout* 1/2005 p23), b) 10Kč (see *Czechout* 1/2006 p33), c) 11Kč (see *Czechout* 1/2007 p31).

15 November 2006 – Regional Stamp Exhibition at Trutnov. The event was held 16–19 November 2006. Promotional portion shows the opening of the Post Office building on 16 November 1906 and text promoting the 2006 event. Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp.

16 November 2006 – World Championship of Youth Philately – Belgica 2006. The event took place in Brussels 16–20 November 2006. Imprinted 10Kč stamp. Left portion of card shows a young woman in an early postal uniform with text promoting the event.

1 December 2006 – MonacoPhil 2006. The event was held 1–3 December 2006. Imprinted 10Kč stamp. The left portion shows an early yellow postal box on a blue background.

14 February 2007 – 100th Death Anniversary of Josefa Náprstková. Card acknowledges the patronage to the Náprstková Museum by the American Ladies Club. Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp. The left portion has a portrait of Josefa Náprstková (1838 –1907) with a treadle sewing machine in the background.

21 February 2007 – 120th Birth Anniversary of Josef Čapka and 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the Čapka Society. Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp. Left portion has three reproductions of unadopted designs for a 1937 stamp issue 'For Children' by Čapka below texts promoting the anniversaries.

1 March 2007 – International Stamp Bourse, Munich. The event was held 1–3 March 2007. Imprinted 11Kč stamp. The promotional portion shows the basket of a hot air balloon and promotional text.

3 May 2007 – 17th International Stamp Fair, Essen. The event was held 3–5 May 2007. Imprinted 11Kč stamp. Left portion shows a group of young children receiving a letter.

1 June 2007 – Regenia 2007. This Bavarian–Bohemian Regional Exhibition was held in Zwiesel 1–3 June 2007. Imprinted 11Kč stamp. The left portion has text promoting the event decorated with oak and linden sprigs with the Bohemian and Bavarian lion symbols.

20 June 2007 – Mladá Boleslav 2007. Exhibition of Youth Philately. Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp. Left portion has promotional text on a grey background. A commemorative cancel was available.

Slovakia

21 March 2007

Sports – Tennis



Designer: Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Juraj Vitek (FDC cachet) **Printing:** offset (stamp) FDC: DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Design:** two female tennis players on court. The first tennis courts in Slovakia were built in the 1880s. In 1988 when tennis was first include in the Olympic Games, the gold medal singles winner was the Slovak player Miroslav Mečíř.

FDC: has a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet printed in grey-black shows two male players.

>

18 April 2007

Nature Conservation – Dogs



Designer: Vladimír Machaj
Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik (FDC cachet)
Printing: DS and offset (sheet of 2 stamps, 1 label and decorated lower margin) by Post Printing House, Prague.
Designs: portraits of two dog breeds on the two stamps separated by a label of a mountain scene and hut with a dog. The lower margin of the sheet has a bunch of blue gentian with decorated mountain hats on either side.

31Sk – portrait of a Slovensky čuvač dog. This breed is descended from the Big White Polar breed. It was a popular

breed in Slovakia at the beginning of the last century, used mainly by shepherds, cattlemen and border guards. It has also been used for mountain and avalanche rescue work. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows a flock of mountain sheep guarded by a Slovensky čuvač.

31Sk – portrait of a Slovensky kopov dog. This hound has a fierce character and used mainly for hunting boar, wild vermin and wounded animals. It has been bred and used in Slovakia for centuries. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows a forest scene with wild boar and a Slovensky kopov dog. A maximum card for each stamp was issued.

15 May 2007

100th Anniversary of the Slovak League of America



Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Vierošlav Ondrejčka (FDC cachet)
Printing: offset by Post Printing House, Prague **Design:** a drawing of the original logo of the League and the motto in Slovak 'For the Slovak Language' on a blue and red and white background to represent the national colours of both Slovakia and the USA. The Slovak League of America was formed in 1907 as an umbrella organisation from the many smaller groups in America with the aim to help their oppressed countrymen in Slovakia.

Emigration from Slovakia to America began in the 17th century. By 1910 nearly a third of the population had emigrated. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing has a portrait of one of the founders and first chairman of the SLA, Štefan Furdek with the headings of two Slovak documents.

30 May 2007

Europa – 100 Years of Scouting



Designer: Peter Uchnár **Printing:** offset by WSP-Cartor, France. FDC – offset by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Design:** a Scout camp with scouts and the logo of the movement. The organisation was founded by General Robert Baden-Powell in 1907 with the first Czechoslovak group meeting in 1911. Scouting was banned in Czechoslovakia in 1939, 1949 and 1971 but re-established in 1990. Today there are more than 35 million members of the Scout Movement world wide. Representatives meet every four years at a World Scout Jamboree.

FDC: has a commemorative Bratislava cancel incorporating the Scout symbol. The cachet design is the numeral '100' formed by young people.

>

30 May 2007

For Children



Designer: Peter Cpin from original art work of Štěpana Cpina.
Printing: offset in sheets of 50 by WSP-Cartor, France.
Design: an illustration of the fairy tale figure Janko Hraško.

A booklet of 10 stamps and a maxi-card were issued. The booklet cover has the issued stamp on the front cover and details of the Slovak post on the back. The inside cover promotes the use of personalised stamps.

6 June 2007

Beauties of Our Homeland



Designers: Igor Benca (30Sk) and Karol Felix (34Sk)
Engraver: František Horniak **Printing:** rotary recess with gravure by Post Printing House, Prague (stamps). FDC – DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Designs:** **30Sk** – the Jasov Monastery. After the defeat of the Turks and the anti-Habsburg uprising in 1711 the Catholic Church and religious orders began to build churches and monasteries in Slovakia. The Baroque Jasov monastery and church dates from this time and was built between 1750 and 1766 on the site of an older fortified monastery. The church dedicated to St John the Baptist is linked on both sides to the monastery buildings. The complex has the only preserved Baroque garden in Slovakia. **FDC:** has a commemorative Jasov cancel. The

cachet depicts the 1920 coat of arms of the Jasov monastery.

34Sk - the Hronský Beňadik Monastery. This was one of the largest and most affluent Benedictine abbeys in Slovakia, located in the Hron valley on the ancient road linking the mining communities of Nitra and Zvolen. The first basilica was consecrated in 1075 but later during the 14th century a twin towered Gothic church was built on the site. During the 16th century it was rebuilt as a fortress against the Turks. During the following centuries various rebuilding and refurbishment works were undertaken. **FDC:** has a commemorative Hronský Beňadik cancel. The cachet drawing shows a view of the monastery cloisters.

27 June 2007

21st Biennial of Book Illustrations, Bratislava



Designer: Vladislav Rostoka **Printing:** offset by WSP-Cartor, France (stamp) and offset by TAB Ltd, Bratislava (FDC). **Design:** a book illustration by the Slovak illustrator Ľuboslav Paľo, which won the Golden Apple Award at the BIB event in 2005. The Biennial of Illustrations, Bratislava (BIB) is an international competition held every two years of original children's book illustrations. In 2005 there were 411 illustrators from 48 countries competing.

FDC: has a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a smiling animal formed from a coloured dot matrix.

Postal Stationery

Envelopes for current use

28 February 2007 (COB 080/07) – To incorporate the increase in postal rates the envelope issued 15 July 2005 (COB 070) has been further imprinted with an additional 1Sk stamp in the lime sprig and buds design. Retail price 11Sk.

Promotional envelopes

The retail price of the following envelopes is 15Sk and the imprinted stamps as COB 080/07 except where stated.

>

3 November 2006 (079 COB 074/06) – Meeting of Presidents Gašparovič and Putin. Cachet design by Rudolf Cigánik has portraits of the two presidents. Cover has one imprinted 10Sk stamp of lime sprig design and retails at 11Sk.

4 April 2007 (081 COB 080/07) – Exhibition of Works by Bedřich Housa. Cachet design is a reproduction by Knihlač, Zohor of the 17Kč stamp issued by the Czech Republic 11 December 2002 – Collecting Period Furniture. The original designer and engraver of the set was Bedřich Housa. The Exhibition can be seen at the Postal Museum Banská Bystrica from 4 April to 28 September 2007

20 April 2007 (082 COB 080/07) – National Stamp Exhibition Hradec Králové. Cachet design by Štefan Kubovič shows a collage of the town's church towers.

3 May 2007 (083 COB 080/07) – Essen 2007. Cachet design by Mgr Art Štefan Kubovič is a drawing of the buildings where the stamp fair was held.

11 May 2007 (084 COB 081/07) – The Consecration of the Chapel St Jan Nepomucký at Velké Kosihy. Cachet design of two views of the chapel by Jozef Štefankovič.

9 July 2007 (085COB 081/07) – 80th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Congregation of the Brothers Tešitelia in Mariatal. Cachet design of a religious statue was designed by Mgr Art Eva Plotzeková Lazuri.

Postcards

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

16 November 2006 (139CDV 078/06) – Belgica 2006. Cachet design by Štefan Kubovič. The event including a world class for youth philately was held in Brussels 16–20 November 2006.

18 December 2006 (140 CDV 078/06) – Day of the Stamp. Cachet design by Peter Augustovič shows a post horn and a collage of stamps.

8 June 2007 (141 CDV 078/07) – Collector's Fair, Bratislava. Cachet design by Štefan Kubovič shows a variety of collectibles with dates of the event.

8 June 2007 (142 CDV 078/07) – The Most Beautiful Slovak Stamp 2006. Cachet is a reproduction of the 37Sk Art stamp issued 20 October 2006.

15 June 2007 (143 CDV 078/07) – Overbriá 2007. Cachet design with dates of the event by Štefan Kubovič.

STOP PRESS

Richard Beith will be showing CZECHOSLOVAK AIR MAILS to the Liverpool and Merseyside PS, at 4.00pm on Monday 12 November 2007, Roscoe Room, Central Library, Liverpool. All are welcome.

Needed: A Webmaster's Assistant!

There is a vacancy for an assistant to help maintain the topicality of the CPSGB Website. Our Webmaster, Ian Nickson, would greatly appreciate help in this area. Would any potential helper kindly contact Ian to discuss this interesting opportunity. Ian's e-mail address is; ian@inickson.freemove.co.uk

Richard Beith, Chairman CPSGB