



## CZECHOUT

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

JUNE 2008

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 131 Vol.26 No.2

Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

© Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2008

Vol. 26/2	CONTENTS	June 2008
	Notes, News and Notices	32
	Plzeň 1945	38
	St Cyril and St Methodius – Brothers and Apostles of the Slavs	41
	A Cover Story – Austrian Stamps Bisected to make up the 20h Rate	42
	Forgeries of 'Slovak State' Covers	44
	The Wolf v The German Shepherd Dog	45
	Czech Treatment of Underpaid German Mail	46
	An Interesting Exchange Control Story	49
	Change in a Name	50
	What? When? Where?	51
	New Issues (Czech)	53
	New Issues (Slovak)	58

### NOTES

The next Society meeting in London will be on **Saturday 2 August** when **Reg Hounsell** and **Garth Taylor** will give a display entitled *Airmails; Brno Postal History; Hradčany*. The Joint Meeting with the Austrian, Hungarian & Polish societies at the Latvian Welfare Club, 5 Clifton Villas, off Manningham Lane, Bradford BD8 7BY will be on **Saturday 9 August**; please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 260 1978) for further details of this event. On **1-3 October** CPSGB Exhibition at the Czech Embassy, and on **Saturday 8 November** the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 12pm; after lunch **Bill Hedley** will give a display entitled *Pozsony (Bratislava)* at 2.30pm. On **Saturday 15 November** a Regional Meeting will be held at the Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds at 2.15pm; for full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 260 1978).

Rex reminds members who may not yet have purchased copies of Monograph 20, *The Early Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine* by Otto Hornung, that the launch price ends on 30 June.

**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**

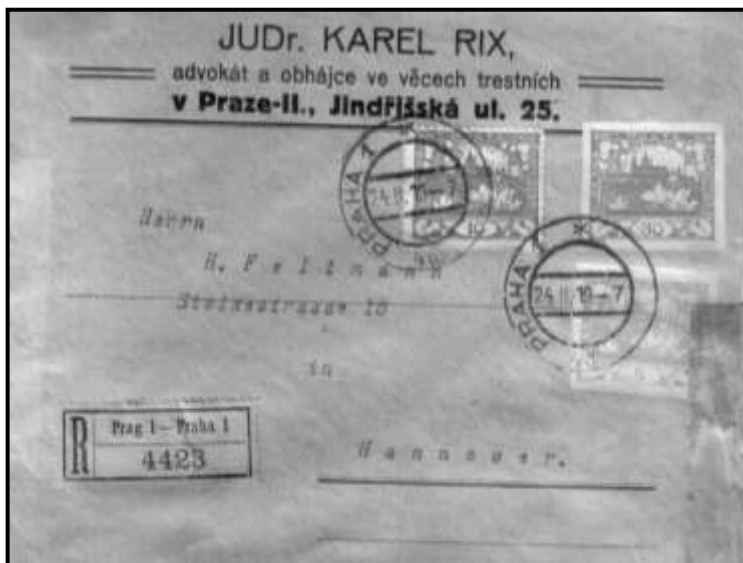
## NEWS & NOTICES

### Meeting held Saturday 15 March 2008 at the Czech and Slovak National Club

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed 13 members. She particularly welcomed Brian Day, recovering from illness. Apologies had been received from seven members. Yvonne voiced a plea from Bob Allard, the Hon Exchange Packet Officer, for material for the packet; the shortage of material is dire, and there is a distinct possibility that the service may have to be closed if there is no support from vendors.

Yvonne then invited **Robin Pizer FRPSL** to display *Mail between Czechoslovakia and Germany 1918-1925*. In the first half Robin showed covers from Czechoslovakia that had been examined by the German exchange control. 85% of this mail was examined at Dresden with 10% at Munich, 4% at Breslau and 1% at other places.

Wartime censorship in Germany ended on 15 November 1918 and was immediately replaced by examination for exchange control purposes. Robin showed the transitional arrangements with the continuing used of wartime censorship labels for exchange control purposes, and then 'anonymous' exchange control labels that did not identify the examination office. These labels were quickly replaced with ones that contained the office's number, allocated alphabetically during 1919. A complication was that an office frequently used surplus labels from another office! The Czech borders were closed from 26 February to 9 March 1919, during which period a control stamp was applied to all existing banknotes to identify those that the new Czechoslovak Republic would honour. This closure also applied to postal services and Robin showed a cover that had been caught by it, being posted just before the closure but not forwarded to Germany until just after.



*Registered cover posted in Prague on 24 February 1919 immediately prior to the border closure on 26 February and not forwarded to Hanover until after the border reopened. Examined for exchange control purposes at the Dresden*

*Postal Supervision Office and resealed with two wartime censorship labels (one missing, the other replaced to its correct position after some 'vandal' of a collector had moved it to the left hand edge).*

Even before the border was closed the Germans did not accept registered letters to Czechoslovakia (although registered postcards were permitted). After the border reopened the Germans did not permit unsealed registered letters to Czechoslovakia until May 1919 and sealed registered letters until early August 1919. Insured mail was not permitted to Czechoslovakia until May 1920. Briefly in October 1920 inspection was limited to insured mail, but because many senders used private insurance the offices had to resume inspection of all registered mail. An import licence was required to import valuables, including postage stamps. Even overfranking was regarded as a potential breach of this import control. Exchange control examination ceased in February 1923, although mail from Germany continued to be examined until at least November 1924, whilst the legislation permitting it was not repealed until 1925.

The second half of the display dealt partly with postage due mail between Germany and Czechoslovakia. Treatment of unfranked and underfranked mail was complicated by the fact that Germany had adopted the provisions of the 1920 UPU Madrid conference, which changed the basis of international mail charges, on 1 April 1921, whereas Czechoslovakia continued using the provisions of the 1906 Rome conference until 1 January 1922.

This was followed by a small section of German parcel cards addressed to Czechoslovakia bearing postage dues, which were mainly for the delivery (advice) fee. This half ended with Czech censored mail and some registered covers from 1919-1920 bearing manuscript markings added by the Czech postal clerk who confirmed that he had checked the contents before sealing the letter and putting the postmark across the back flap. Evidence from German post office sources states that registered letters to Czechoslovakia were only permitted from May 1919 if unsealed.

Rex Dixon gave the vote of thanks. He knew from his long acquaintance with Robin – they had first met at their university's stamp club – that we would be in for something special. Rarely had he seen such a comprehensive display of early Czechoslovak covers, with their attractive and colourful frankings, but to see a collection all with exchange control or postage dues was quite extraordinary. Robin has always been meticulous in his research, which could be seen in his analysis of postage due, and which has resulted in his exchange control collections winning awards in international exhibitions.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.40 pm.

### Letters & e-mails to the Editor

✉ **Hugh Jefferies**, Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, writes to let us know that **Ian McQueen**, who for many years has been reviewing *Czechout* amongst other magazines, has been in poor health recently and has decided that he can no longer continue his column. We have written to both Hugh and Ian to thank them for their publicity on our behalf over a number of years.

✉ **Ctibor Sobotka** wishes to notify members of his change of address to p/a Mrs Ans Breebaart, De Pleyt 83, 4002 GP TIEL, Netherlands.

✉ **Bob Hill** informs us that Audrey Dawson, after six weeks away in hospital with a broken ankle, is now home and improving – with a frame. We send her our best wishes.

✉ **ABPS Executive Bulletin No 9** came with details of a new leaflet "What does ABPS do for its Members", available from Geoff Longbottom, [abps.phil@elics.co.uk](mailto:abps.phil@elics.co.uk). Requests that Secretaries take along Handbook & Philatelic Lecturers & Displays to all meetings to make available to members for reference. The next Handbook & Directory will be issued early 2009. Requests reports of all meetings to the editor, Hugh Feldman [next deadline 15 July, details of other dates from [hugh@feldman.f9.co.uk](mailto:hugh@feldman.f9.co.uk).] AGM at the Royal PS London, 2pm 12 July 2008.

✉ **The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter** contains details of a programme "Wiki" a new interactive area of their website where users can create their own content and add/edit other people's pages: [wiki@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:wiki@postalheritage.org.uk); use for family history research, postal history, working with PO collections, letter boxes, war memorials in the PO. A new Philatelic Glossary also added to wiki. New "Night Mail" collectors edition DVD; tenth anniversary to Stamps in schools; new Search room exhibition to mark 50 years of Regional stamps: "Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons".

✉ **The British Library Philatelic Collections Newsletters** for autumn and spring include details of the Opening of the BL Centre for Conservation; a review of the 18-volume Fitz Gerald airmail collection now with the BL; Philatelic Collections website re-launch [[www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic](http://www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic)] – there are over fifty collections or archives held by the department; conservation work on the Board on Inland Revenue, Stamping Department archive; BL philatelic postcards; and Published Research from users of the department.

✉ **Lubomir Floch** writes that he is willing to take orders from members for the new specialised Slovak catalogue – SLOVENSKO 1939-1945 by Dr Ondrej Földes. Published 2008, price 17 Euros including postage. The catalogue also includes a blue printing sheet of the 1944 For Children stamp. Orders to [lubomir.floch@gmail.com](mailto:lubomir.floch@gmail.com).

## Publications

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

- The March 2008 issue of ***Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei***, Vol.39, Whole No. 155. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us.
- ▶ Czech & Slovak POs revise their tariffs; The Political History of Czechoslovakia [Part 7] (Kuch); The Special cancellations from the Slovak PO 2007 (Tischner); Premysl Pitter, Christian and Humanist in the post-war troubles in 1945 (Schmitt).
- The March/April 2008 issue of ***The Czechoslovak Specialist***, Vol 70, No. 2, Whole No. 608.
- ▶ The 1928 Postage Due Issue [Part 1] (Wilson); Czech Folk Targets: Hidden Aims (Highland); Jaroslav Lukavský (van Zanten); Challenging Times for Česká Pošta (Velek); A Politician and an Economist – Alois Rašín (Santangelo).
- The April 2008 issue of ***Dylizans***, No.49.
- ▶ Railway Station Letterbox Cancellations (Berrisford); Modern Polish Cinderellas Pholphilex [10] (Negus); Proofs of the 1944 National Heroes Issue (Monkos & Schmutz).
- Nos 2, 3, 4 & 5 2008 issues of ***Filatelie***, Vol 58. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
- ▶ Historical Development of Perfins on the Territory of Czechoslovakia [1] (Münzberger); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps [2] (Baldus).
- ▶ Another Forgery of a Postal Money Order Slip from Janské Lázně (Beneš); 30th Anniversary of the Flight of Soyuz 28 (Cacka); Historical Development of Perfins on the Territory of Czechoslovakia [2] (Münzberger); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps [3] (Baldus).
- ▶ Forgeries of the Stamps PČ 1919 in Foreign Auctions (Beneš); Historical Development of Perfins on the Territory of Czechoslovakia [3] (Münzberger); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps [4] (Baldus).
- ▶ Forgeries of the Perforation of ČSR 1 (Beneš); Historical Development of Perfins on the Territory of Czechoslovakia [4] (Münzberger); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps [5] (Baldus); Stamps, the highest values analogy of ČSR 1 & ČR (Švejnar).
- The 2/2008 issue of ***Merkur Revue***. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
- ▶ A unique discovery after 85 years (-); Travelling Post Office Markings in Orava and Spiš (Kypast & Štefek); Unknown meter mark from the Carpatho-Ukraine (Page); Exhibition of the Deceased Anna Podzemná-Suchardová (Fischer); The Košice issue still interesting (Fritz); The Antonín Novotný souvenir sheet (Fischer); [a special sheet is enclosed commemorating Josef Axmann].
- No. 10 of 2008 Issue of ***NIEUWS*** (Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately).
- ▶ Een Tsjechoslowaakse geldbrief van en naar een wel heel bijzondere bestemming (Verleg).
- The June 2008 issue of ***Stamps of Hungary*** No. 173.
- ▶ Detained in France (Reader); The use of the temporary datestamp M.KIR.POSTA 13 at Egeg, Oct/Nov 1942 (Whiteside); The [mysterious] “Roman VI” (Farkas).

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS



**Society visit to Prague during 12–14 September 2008: for the Exhibition PRAGA 2008 [www.praga2008.cz](http://www.praga2008.cz). The UK Commissioner: Mrs Yvonne Wheatley.**

Pofis are publishing No.9 of *Monografie Československých a Českých Známeč* listing First Day Covers 1947-1992. If any member would like a copy would they please advise Rex Dixon, as copies will be purchased whilst members are in Prague, for delivery after return from the Exhibition. Pofis have also announced there is a delay in the issue of the volume on Bohemia & Moravia due to corrections to plate numbers. Following the Prague Exhibition members may like to visit the **WIPA VIENNA Exhibition to be held 18–21 September 2008.**

**STAMPEX 2008** 19-20 September 2008 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. ABPS announce that the National Competitions will return to STAMPEX in 2009.

To mark the 90th anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 and also the 65th anniversary of the first exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps in London in 1943, the Society will be staging an **Exhibition at the Czech Embassy, London, 1–3 October 2008.**

### CONGRATULATIONS



To **Richard Beith** on signing the Book of Scottish Philatelists.  
[Photograph with acknowledgement to GSM June 2008.]

To the following members who won awards at the ABPS Harrogate Philatelic Exhibition, 2-3 May 2008: **Derek Baron**, Silver for *Olomouc Postal History Austrian Period 1818-1918*; **Rex Dixon**, Large Vermeil for *Deutsche Nothilfe 1924-1935*; **Bill Hedley**, Large Vermeil for *The Hungarian Postal Service in Bratislava 1729-1919*; and **Garth Taylor**, Vermeil for *Study of the Routes & Rates of the Third Issue of Czechoslovak Airmail*; and to **Richard & Yvonne Wheatley** for their work in organising the Exhibition.

### OBITUARY



**James William Negus 1927-2008**

One-time member of the CPSGB and author of Monograph No.7 *Index to Articles of Czechoslovak Philately 1950-1979*, he passed away on 22 February after retiring from philately for a number of years. I last met Jim on the Post Office bus to London International Stamp Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. He had bought my Slovakia collection with the intention of writing a Monograph for the Society, however, he mentioned that he was heavily involved with both the *Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps* and the *British Press Checklist*, and that all he had been able to do was research some of the stamps. Jim later contacted me to suggest I have the Slovak collection back, which I agreed to do, particularly as he was thinking of retiring.

Jim was a prolific writer of articles and books and his last book *Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources* will remain as a memorial to his scholarship and research. Jim held many offices over the years including Technical Scientific Editor to Heinemann, where he encouraged publication of a number of philatelic books; Hon Librarian NPS, and Editor of *The Stamp Lover* and the *Journal of Chinese Philately* amongst many others. He was from 1975 until 1981 involved with Stanley Gibbons Publications section as Managing Editor. We shall all miss a great friend and colleague who inspired so many of us to appreciate philatelic research and literature.

Colin Spong

[I acknowledge the photograph and some details taken from the May issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, with thanks.]



## BOOK REVIEWS

**“Военно-полевая Почта в России 1914-1918” [Field Post in Russia 1914-1918]**, a handbook-catalogue by Ardalion Vinokurov and Alexander Epštein. A softbound volume of 195 pages in 200 x 290 mm format, available from either of the two authors by e-mail at [ardalionv@yahoo.com](mailto:ardalionv@yahoo.com) or [alep@anet.ee](mailto:alep@anet.ee) (A. Epštein). Review by Andrew Cronin, Editor of the Post Rider. *We thank Andrew for this review which appeared in the last issue of his journal No 60 September 2007. A great loss to researchers, postal historians and collectors of the Canadian Society of Russian Philately. Editor.*

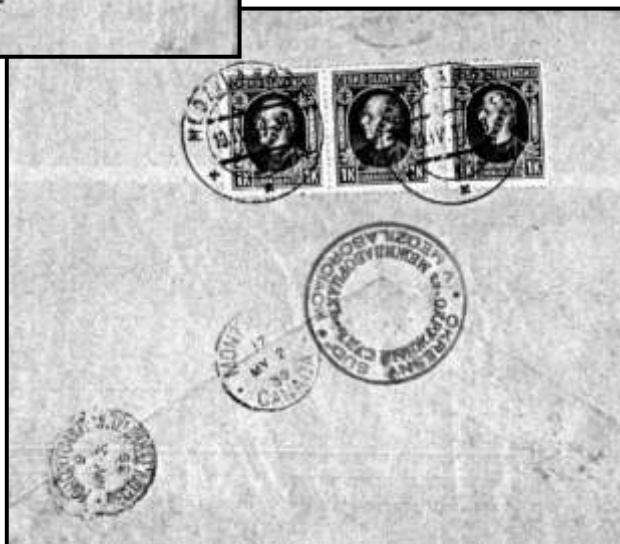
The text of this work is essentially in Russian and is helped by an explanatory foreword in English. There are also many hundreds of illustrations of postmarks, postcards and covers throughout, making it easy for collectors with a limited or lack of knowledge of Russian to follow what is going on. This work is so thorough that it will be the standard reference for years to come

In reviewing the vast amount information present in the Handbook-Catalogue, the depth of penetration into the Austro-Hungarian Empire by the Russian Armies in 1914-1915 becomes evident. This was partly due to the fact that much of the population in Austro-Hungary was of Slav ethnic origin and they mostly had no stomach for fighting their Russians opponents in WWI. An interesting example was the Russian advance into the Carpathians in the eastern tip of what is now Slovakia early in 1915 at Medzilaborce, where FPO No. 10 operated. That area is also known as the “Pryashivs’ka Rus”, with a strong Ukrainian presence. In the period between the two World Wars and following the example of Carpatho-Ukraine proper, the language referred to as “Rusinskii” (Ruthenian) was also utilized in the eastern tip of Slovakia, as shown here.



This is a registered sending from the District Court at Medzilaborce, showing also the circular official cachet in Slovak and Rusinskii. Sent on 10 April 1939 with a franking of 5 korun, it was addressed to the Consulate of the Czechoslovak Republic in Toronto, even though the republic no longer existed, as it had been destroyed by Hitler on 15 March 1939!

On a final note and looking over the Russian philatelic literature reviewed above, the sheer volume and erudition displayed by the various authors are remarkable and due in part to being now able to delve into some of the archives with the corresponding important results. Russian philately and postal history can more than hold its own internationally!



**"Muži z londýnského vydání" [Men of the London Issue]** by Karel Černý, published by Lenox Plus s.r.o. Zdax, Europrinty spal s.r.o., in 2007. Hardback covers, 112 pp with coloured and black & white illustrations. Price 220Kč [Obtainable from Filatelie Klim, Merkur, P.O.B 431, 660 31 Brno 2, Czech Republic. E-mail: risa@filatelie-klim.com.]

This book tells the story of the London Issue of Czechoslovak postage stamps. When, in early 1945, it became clear that the German Nazi regime was beaten and that there would soon be an end to the war, the Czechoslovak government in exile, based in London, began to make preparations for the resumption of conditions in the postal service that would operate in liberated Czechoslovakia after the war. On 13 August 1945 it was officially announced that a series of 16 stamps had been printed earlier that year in London.

Many subjects for such stamps were discussed, including themes used in prewar stamps, but in the end it was decided to honour and use the portraits of eight Czech heroes, service personnel who had given their lives in the struggle for freedom and democracy against the Nazi occupiers. However, at the time these portraits were anonymous and the stamps bore only the country's name ČESKOSLOVENSKO and the stamp's value, which was shown twice.

The issue endeavours to include, as far as possible, all branches of the armed struggle: the army in Russia, the foreign legion, the Czech Army in the Middle East, parachutists, the soldiers in France, Czech airmen and the units in Great Britain. A distinguished Army doctor who died after a motor accident represented the civil branches. This anonymity lasted for some time until the names of the war heroes depicted on the stamps became known.

The book includes life stories of the eight heroes who gave up their lives for their country and this includes Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš. They had been flown from England and parachuted over Czech territory and given the task of assassinating the feared Reich Protector Heydrich, which mission they successfully accomplished and, hiding in a church, were betrayed and eventually committed suicide to avoid capture.

The London Issue remains an important part in the history of postwar Czechoslovak stamps and in particular in the evolution of these stamps, which persisted in the period between conditions in war and peacetime.

Robert Kingsley

**"National Cleansing: Retribution against Nazi Collaborators in Postwar Czechoslovakia"** by Benjamin Frommer, Assistant Professor of History at North Western University. Cambridge University Press ISBN 0521008964 (paperback), 0521810671 (hardback).

A well researched and thoroughly detailed representation of the fate of nazi collaborators. It deals separately with the work of the six Central National, 156 District National and no less than 11533 Local National courts that dealt with cases that needed to be heard. There are some interesting snippets of statistics on the likely outcome of a trial as well as some of the backbiting that was going on between the communists in the government and other parties. 'Wild retribution', as it is termed, is followed by the decrees and then court activity and there is also some detail on ethnic 'transfer'. Perhaps the most chilling for me to read was the section on 'offences against national honour' – it shows you how easy it was to be denounced.

This book contains an excellent appendix and index that drills down to individual locations (Ostrava has 13 references, Chomutov has 1, for example). What really assists me is the list of abbreviations in use at the time (for example I now know the difference between MNV, ONV and UNV; this lets me relate to the hundreds of postage-free covers I have from this period and permits me to understand them more).

Robert J Hill

## PLZEŇ 1945

-Karel Holoubek-

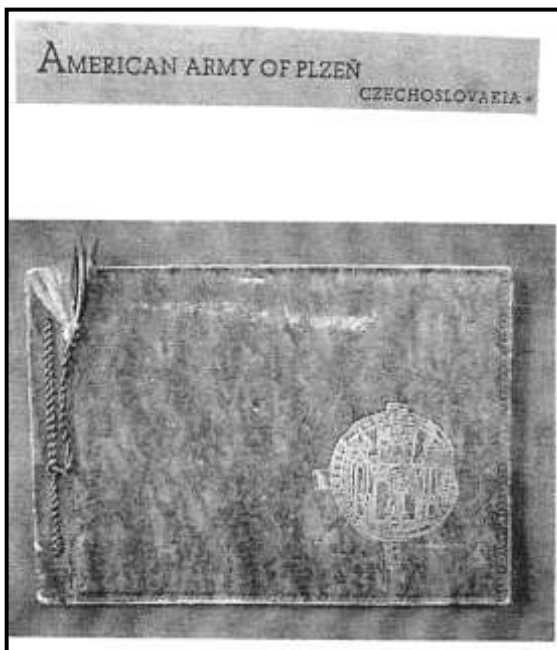
*Further to the article that appeared in Czechout 1/2008 additional postcards and photographs from a commemorative book have been submitted by Ronald Hollis.*

### Czechoslovak Tribute to US Army of Liberation 1945 PLZEŇ

A commemorative plaque reads

ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1945 THE AMERICAN ARMY ENTERED THE TOWN OF PLZEŇ, OVERCAME AND DISARMED THE PARTS OF THE GERMAN GARRISON STILL RESISTING AT THAT TIME. THE AMERICAN ARMY WAS HEARTILY WELCOMED BY THE INHABITANTS OF PLZEŇ WHO HAD BEEN FIGHTING WITH THE GERMANS THE DAY BEFORE.

GRATEFUL AND WITH ALL OUR LOVE WE OFFER YOU, OUR DEAR AMERICAN FELLOW SOLDIERS, THIS SOUVENIR TO STRENGTHEN OUR FRIENDSHIP. YOUR ARRIVAL TO OUR TOWN SO DEAR AND MEMORABLE TO US ENLIGHTENED OUR FACES WITH SMILES AND PEACE AGAIN. WE SHALL NEVER FORGET YOU IN THE COMING TIME OF REGAINED PEACE AND LIBERTY.







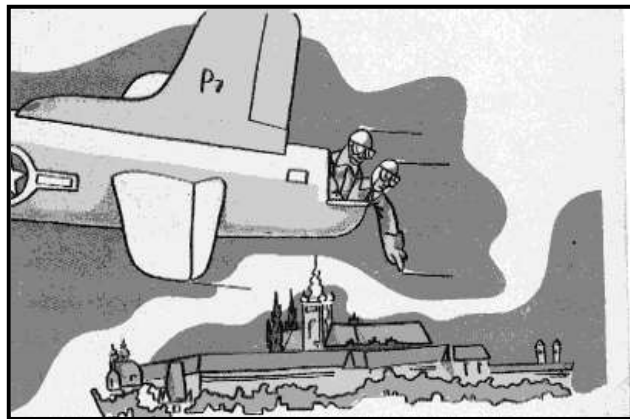
American soldiers being welcomed in PLZEŇ



Cards drawn by a Czech local artist of American Forces in Plzeň, May 1945



Czech artists produced the two cards illustrated below for the visit of General Dwight Eisenhower to Praha on the 11 October 1945.



These cards show Americans in Prague, a little misleading as only a reconnoitre party arrived in Prague

## ST CYRIL AND ST METHODIUS – BROTHERS AND APOSTLES OF THE SLAVS

-Dai Pring-

Almost a thousand years after the brothers were charged with spreading the Christian faith, Dr Samuel Johnson argued that “languages are the pedigree of nations”, knowing that language is at the core of any nation’s identity and independence. No doubt Rostislav, the ruler of the Greater Moravian Empire, was equally aware and it was unlikely to be for reasons of piety but more to assert his independence from the growing influence of his Germanic neighbours and their missionaries that in 863 he requested that the Byzantine emperor send him missionaries who were familiar with the Slavonic language.

The brothers Methodius and Constantine were already experienced missionaries and when the Byzantine Emperor Michael III decided to honour Rostislav’s request, he selected them. The brothers were well suited, not only for their experience but also because they had a good knowledge of the Slavic language. They entered a political maelstrom and their efforts in translating liturgy into the everyday language of the local people rather than using Greek or Latin, as was the later custom in the West, was met with resistance and distrust by the German clergy and hierarchy, who feared an erosion of their influence.



The brothers retreated to Rome but not before Constantine had created the first Slavonic alphabet known as the Glagolitic. The alphabet consisted of 38 letters, 24 of them resembling Greek letters. Later, a follower simplified the alphabet and named it Cyrillic after Constantine.

Constantine became a monk, adopted the name Cyril and died in 869. Methodius returned to Greater Moravia and was made archbishop of Sirmium, the ancient city of Pannonia, which is near the modern town of Sremska Mitrovica in Serbia. There, despite having the Pope’s support, he was imprisoned for two years at the instigation of the German bishops. He was released but his effectiveness had been weakened. He died in 885 having spent his last years translating the Bible and other ecclesiastical works into Slavonic. He was not to know that the people of what would become the Czech lands would have to wait until the end of the fourteenth century to hear again their own language being used to preach the gospel.

Nevertheless, their influence lives on in Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and Russia where the Cyrillic alphabet is still used and the southern Slavonic of the brothers remains the liturgical language of both the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.



Bulgarian Bible – Psalms.  
Written in Church Slavonic  
(late 15th century)



The stamps were printed to celebrate the Prague Catholic Congress in Prague 22 June 1935.

Initial design by J. Kohler, showing St Cyril and St Methodius holding a religious text, which has been written using the Glagolitic alphabet. Layout and engraving by B. Heinz.

Rotary recess printed. Line perforation 9¾.

50h green, 1Kč claret, 2 Kč blue.

**A COVER STORY**  
**AUSTRIAN STAMPS BIASECTED TO MAKE UP THE 20h RATE**  
 -J. Barry Horne FRPSL-



Whilst I was looking through the various dealers stands at the ABPS Harrogate Exhibition I came across the first bisect cover from Budweis (now České Budějovice) in Bohemia to Ischl (Upper Austria) with the 15h and 25 heller stamps, depicting the Austrian Emperor Karl bisected to make up the 20h rate.

This rate was from 28.10.1918 to 14.05.1919 for up to 20g.

Later on I came across another cover made up from an official document [see next page] addressed to an Importer & Exporter of Stamps in Chlumín (Bohemia).



Note that the bisects show the national colours – Red, White and Blue!

Reverse side of cover to Chlumín

K. k. Direktion für die Böhmisches Nordbahn. Verkehr zwischen den österr., ungar. und böhm.-leuz. Bahn.

Anschlußverkehr.

Abgabe-Nr. \_\_\_\_\_ **Frachtkarte** No. 1038 5

von **CHLUMÍN** nach \_\_\_\_\_ der \_\_\_\_\_ Bahn

über \_\_\_\_\_

XIII

ausgefertigt am \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ im Frachtbrief Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

Empfänger \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Absender \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Weg- oder Abfertigungsbeschriftung des Absenders:		Gewichtsanzeige des Absenders: kg: _____ Bahnämtliche Gewichtsfeststellung beantragt? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Der verwendete Wagen	Nr. und Serie:	Eigentumsbahn	Ladegewicht: Lastkraft: _____
Station n. Adresse und St.	Anzahl Art der Verpackung	I n k a l t	Wertiges Holzprodukt? <input type="checkbox"/> Klasse
			Tarifart: _____ Heller
			Kilogramm (aufgerundet): _____
			K   A
Frankiert	Durchschuß		
K   A	Nachnahme nach Eingang		
	Fracht		
	Gebühr für die Angabe des Interesses an der Lieferung		
Nebengebühren der Versandbahn	Anfahrbescheinigungs- u. Anfahrermittelgebühren		
	Provision für bare Anlagen und Nachnahmen....		
	Ablagegebühr..... Wägenzoll.....		
	I. Anschlußbahn		
	II. Anschlußbahn		
	Summe der Fracht und Gebühren....		
Interesse an der Lieferung	K		Zusammen....
Abgelegt u. verändert am _____ durch die _____			
Nachnahmebegleichschein Nr. _____			
Frachtrichtung Nr. _____			
Kollpapiere Nr. _____			
Viehplatz _____			
Eventuelle Beilagen _____			
Station- und Datumstempel der Bestimmungsstation:			
			Unterschrift: _____
			(Stempel der Übergangstationen siehe Rückseite)

K. D. Form. Nr. 166 a. XIII. Hanfpapier. Auflage 1913. (Deutsch-böhmisch.)

## FORGERIES OF 'SLOVAK STATE' COVERS

-Svätopluk Šablatúta-

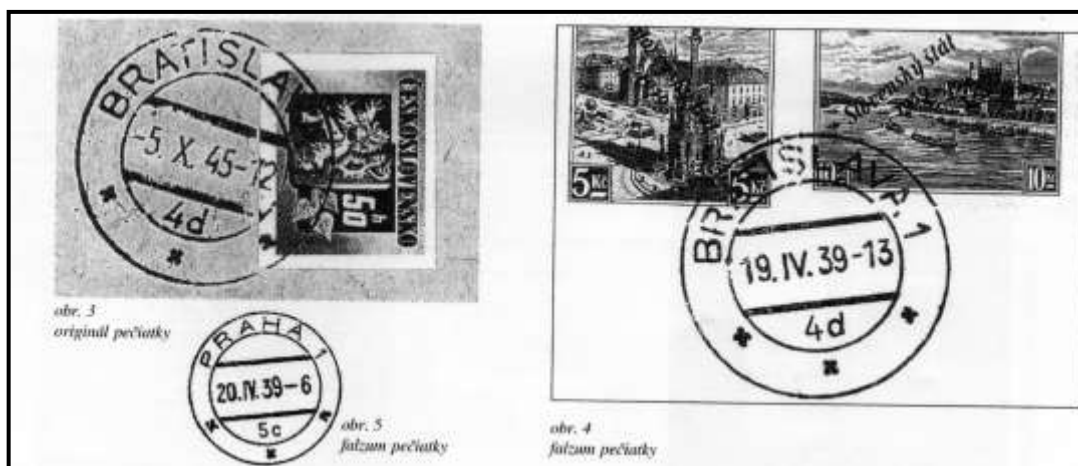
Translated by Vladimír Králíček from *Merkur Revue* 5/2006

Not long ago I received two covers for expertising – they were covers franked with the highest values of the stamps overprinted “Slovenský štát 1939”. Already at first sight I was sure that the stamps on the covers had forged cancellations. To explain: the overprints on these stamps were well produced and I call them the ‘Prague overprint’, since some years ago I had already established that these overprints were produced in Prague. Understandably they were found not only in the Protectorate, but also in Slovakia, where these stamps realised good financial value during the wartime, so that the movement from the Protectorate to Slovakia was understandable.

From my records I have ascertained that I had seen similar covers previously over twenty years ago. The forgers must have been really proficient in their ‘art’, since they not only produced the stamps with a forged overprint, but also produced and supplied (or more precisely sold) covers with such overprints. It was for certain a good business for them, when from a ten-crown stamp they produced a stamp with an overprint valued in hundreds of crowns, and after producing a cover with these stamps the value went up into thousand of crowns. After closer investigation of the two covers, I came to the conclusion that on the covers the RECOMANDO and EXPRES labels were genuine, but everything else was forged, even the cancellations [see illustrations below].



To describe the forged overprint is totally pointless – those who collect “Slovenský štát 1939” will immediately notice the difference between the genuine and the forged overprint. Of greater interest are the cancellations, which the forger tried to forge from actual cancellations, but on which there are still some visible differences [after enlargement], never mind how good the forgery. On the illustrations you can see what the differences are between the genuine and the forged cancellation – even though it is necessary to take accurate measurements! Cancellation BRATISLAVA 4d did exist and from it the forged one was produced [illustrations 3 and 4] even the cancellation on the back of the PRAHA 1 ‘5c’ cover is forged [illustration 5].



Because the value of such covers is comparatively quite high (I believe that for such a genuine franked cover the buyer would pay in the region of 10-15 thousand crowns), it would be risky for anyone to buy such a cover without having it checked by an expert. Woe to the collector who, when he comes across such a cover, approaches the seller who offers it for a disproportionately low price and at the same time offers some tale about an inheritance. The collector falls for it and buys – only too late he finds out that he has been cheated and that he bought a forged item of no value for several thousands and the seller is not to be found! Therefore, esteemed collector, beware of what you buy. Have the more costly stamps expertised and only then buy them.

## THE WOLF v THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

-Susan Hopson FRPSL, FSPH and Lubor Kunc-

[I thank Susan Hopson for giving us permission to use her correspondence as an article on the Sladký-Kozina stamp issue. Editor.]



Sue writes: I am in the process of endeavouring to put together an offbeat thematic: 'Man's Best Friend: The evolution of the German Shepherd Dog [GSD]'. The GSD evolved from the wolf (not the jackal, wrong denotation!) and along the way wolves have become the subject of many myths and legends: Turkey and Boz Kurt [who founded modern Turkey – did you know a wolf did that!], Red Riding Hood et al. There is a Czech stamp issued in 1945 [SG 465-466] commemorating the *Execution of Jan Sladký-Kozina*, the monument

has also a wolf-like animal sitting beside him. What I need to know please is the reason for the wolf and the legend/myth or whatever for why he is there.

Lubor replied: The animal next to Sladký-Kozina is no wolf, but the GSD [in Czech language 'německý ovčák' or "vlčák"; see stamp Pofis 1449, issued 1965]. Sladký-Kozina was a Chodsko man living in the Chodsko area of Western Bohemia. The people of the area lived on the Czech-German border and because of their security service on the border (military defence of the area, fighting smugglers etc) the group of Chodsko people were exempted by a Czech king from payment of taxes, serving in the regular army etc. Sladký-Kozina was head of the people fighting a new overlord of the Chodsko area called Lomikar, who didn't accept the exemption and pushed the people to pay him taxes. His fight was not successful and Sladký-Kozina died by hanging. You can find the story in Alois Jirásek's classical book *Psohlavci* [Men with sign of dog's head].

The Chodsko men used GSDs for their security service, which became their sign. This dog is still used by our army and police for security service at the borders, looking for people in a terrain or in ruins. The dog's head became in the 1920s a symbol of Czechoslovak units watching the borders [see stamp Pofis 899, issued 1956], especially in the Communist era because the uprising of Chodsko men was one of highest moments in Czech history in the period of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the Communists used it later to show the communist orientation of the people. The story was also popular after World War Two because Lomikar was a German and Sladký-Kozina a Czech, so the story was at that time used to show the long-term attitude of Germans to Czechs.

Sue replied: Please thank Lubor for the explanation. However, on reflection I think the animal could be a local herding dog as GSDs didn't evolve until 1908 and Sladký-Kozina is too early for a GSD companion. Stanley Gibbons says that the statue is depicting the death of Sladký-Kozina in 1695 so the animal couldn't be a GSD, even though it looks like one. The local herding dogs were descended from the wolves of the Gobi desert area that came west and were domesticated for herding, hunting and companionship purposes very early in man's evolution, probably whilst he was still living in caves, although unproven. The actual GSD dog evolved from 1899 by an intense breeding programme undertaken by Max von Stephanitz, a German cavalry captain, who saw in the sheep-herding dogs of Thuringia, Württemberg and Saxony (who were descended from the Gobi desert wolves), the 'ingredients' of a fantastic breed. So he set to and by 1908 the GSD was 'born'. So, it would appear the animal is a domesticated sheep-herding wolf-dog – yet another example of the 'power' of Man's very best friend. Incidentally the American wolf is different from the European wolf inasmuch as it is higher on the leg and has different colouring, although it is thought the American wolf arrived in America from the Gobi desert wolves that moved eastwards and crossed the Bering Strait into the Americas.

## CZECH TREATMENT OF UNDERPAID GERMAN MAIL

- Robin Pizer FRPSL -

*We felt members would like to see the explanation sheet on the postage dues mentioned in Robin's recent display to the Society.*

### Czech treatment of underpaid German mail 1918–1921

The UPU laid down postal rates for various types of mail. These were:

UPU Congress Date effective	Rome 1906	German equivalents		
	1907	1907	1 Oct 1919	6 May 1920
letter to 20g	25c	20pf	30pf	80pf
each extra 20g	15c	10pf	20pf	60pf
postcard	10c	10pf	15pf	40pf
printed matter each 50g	5c	5pf	5pf	20pf
minimum postage due charge	----	----	----	----

The UPU published tables of equivalent amounts (Tableau des Equivalentes) in Annexes of their Circulars (Circulaire du Bureau international). Note that for Germany the equivalents were not in proportion to the UPU rates, so that in 1907 one had **20pf = 25c** for 20g letters, **20pf = 30c** for higher rate letters and **20pf = 20c** for postcards and printed matter. The Germans dealt with this by issuing instructions to Post Office staff which included a single table of equivalents based on the 20g letter equivalents of 1907. So provided the Germans noticed the deficiency, this table of letter equivalents was used for letter, postcards and printed matter. However, if the receiving country noticed the deficiency, they would use the UPU equivalents so that for postcards and printed matter an exchange rate of **20pf = 20c** would be used whereas for letters an exchange rate of **20pf = 25c** would be used. Sometimes errors occurred when the receiving country used the wrong equivalent, e.g. the postcard equivalent when they should have used the letter equivalent.

The equivalents used by Germany up to 31 March 1921 for letters, postcards and printed matter were:

1907 – 30 Sept 1919	<b>20pf = 25c</b> (20g letter equivalent)
1 Oct 1919 – 5 May 1920	<b>100pf = 75c</b> (instead of 30pf = 25c as 20g letter rate would suggest)
6 May 1920 – 31 Mar 1921	<b>100pf = 25c</b> (instead of 80pf = 25c as 20g letter rate would suggest)

An independent Czechoslovakia was formed on 28 October 1918. At this time the UPU formulae for postage due for 20g letters were:

$$\text{Tax in centimes} = \frac{\text{double deficiency in pfennigs} \times \text{UPU 20g letter rate in centimes}}{\text{German 20g foreign letter rate in pfennigs}}$$

$$\text{Czech postage due in haléřů} = \frac{\text{tax in centimes} \times \text{Czech 20g foreign letter rate in haléřů}}{\text{UPU 20g letter rate in centimes}}$$

There were similar formulae for postcards and 50g printed matter.

In the period 28 October 1918 to 14 March 1920, internal rates were used for mail between Germany and Czechoslovakia rather than foreign rates. It appears that these **internal rates** were used in the UPU formulae above by Czechoslovakia but Germany used its internal rule of **deficiency plus 10pf** for letters and **double deficiency** for postcards. The **UPU maximum** postcard size was 14 x 9 cm, but Germany allowed larger cards as did Czechoslovakia.

### Czech treatment of underpaid German mail 1921–1930

Significant changes in the UPU rates for various types of mail were introduced as follows:

UPU Congress Date effective	Madrid 1920	German equivalents	Stockholm 1924
	1921	1 Apr 1921	1925
letter to 20g	50c	120pf	25c
each extra 20g	25c	60pf	15c
postcard	30c	80pf	15c
printed matter each 50g	10c	30pf	5c
minimum postage due charge	30c	----	10c



The 1920 UPU Congress in Madrid stipulated the use of the Gold Franc corresponding in the countries with Franc currency to the legal weight and standard of the gold currency. This was specified more precisely at the 1924 Stockholm Congress as having a weight of 10/31 gramme and a fineness of 0.900 (90% gold, 10% base metal). This was identical to the **1803 French definition of the 20 Franc Gold Napoleon** of which 155 were made from 1kg of gold of a fineness of 900 (ex 1000). The Madrid changes were introduced by Switzerland on 1 February 1921, by Germany on 1 April 1921 and on varying dates up to 1 January 1922 by other countries; Czechoslovakia introduced the changes on 1 January 1922. As some countries were using the new 50 centimes letter rate but other were still using the old 25 centimes letter rate, the UPU was asked what should be done. They decreed that the rates of the country of origin and their equivalents were the determining factor and circulated a paper on the subject to UPU members. On 26 March 1921<sup>1</sup> the Czechs issued a table of foreign rates showing both old and new UPU rates in centimes and marking those countries whose rates were equivalent to the new UPU rates.

As can be seen from the display, between 1 April 1921 and 31 December 1921 the tax calculated by the Germans was different from the tax calculated by the Czechs. It appears that the Czechs ignored any tax amounts written on the envelopes by the Germans. For letters the Czechs used the old Rome UPU rates until at least September 1921 and used the Madrid rates from November 1921, while for postcards they used the Madrid rates including some cases where they used the letter rate instead of the postcard rate.

The equivalent used by Germany between 1 April and 31 December 1921 for letters, postcards and printed matter was:

1921 1 Apr – 31 Dec                      120pf = 50c (20g letter equivalent)

This rose rapidly with inflation, stabilising on 1 December 1923 at **30rpf = 50c**, reduced to **25rpf = 50c** on 1 January 1925 and to **25rpf = 25c** on 1 October 1925.

The equivalents used by Czechoslovakia from 1 April 1921 for letters, postcards and printed matter were:

1921 1 Apr – 31 Dec	125h (1906 20g letter equivalent)
1922 1 Jan – 1923 30 Apr	250h (1921 20g letter equivalent)
1923 1 May – 1925 30 Sep	250h = 50c inward taxed items, 350h = 50c outward taxed items
1925 1 Oct – 1934 31 Dec	250h = 25c inward taxed items, 175h = 25c outward taxed items
1935 1 Jan – 1936 31 Dec	250h = 25c inward taxed items, 200h = 25c outward taxed items
1937 1 Jan – 1939	250h = 25c inward taxed items, 232½h = 25c outward taxed items

### Czech charges on parcels from Germany

**Rate period 1 : 28.10.18 to 14.5.19**

**Rate period 2 : 15.5.19 to 14.3.20**

**Rate period 3 : 15.3.20 to 31.7.20**

31.5.20                      5kg                      15h

**Rate period 4 : 1.8.20 to 31.12.21**

31.3.21                      5kg                      30h

charge notice attached in Czech & German, similar to Austrian charge notices. This lists two charges 30h for Bestell (Aviso) gebühr [delivery (advice) charge] and 25h for .....at. Geb. [..... charge]. There could have been another postage due stamp for 25h on the back of the card [only a third of the card now remains]

<sup>1</sup> Private communication Michael Furfie 2005

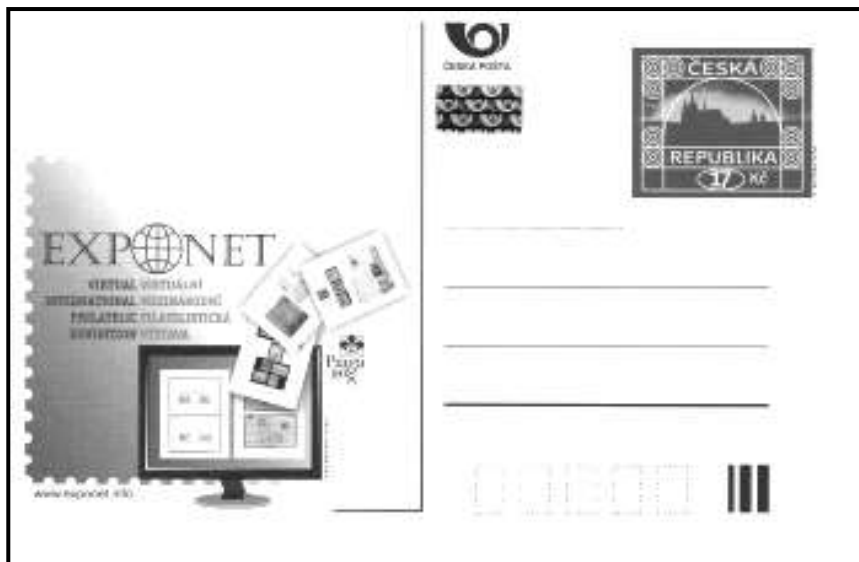
**Rate period 5 : 1.1.22 to 15.4.39**

1.3.22	10kg	40h	insured for 300Fr
19.5.22	5kg	115h	must include more than the basic charge but what ?
16.8.22	5kg	50h	
21.3.23	20kg	110h	
22.3.23	5kg	110h	
23.3.23	5kg	110h	insured for 10Fr
17.4.23	20kg	110h	
28.4.23	5kg	110h	
13.11.24	15kg	110h	
12.1.28	15kg	110h	
2.5.28	10kg	170h	is this a rate change ? Or is a second charge included ?

These charges do not correlate with Czech inland letter or postcard rates.

The basic charge appears to be Bestell (Aviso) gebühr [delivery (advice) fee] but clearly other charges are sometimes involved. During this time parcel cards were sent to prisons where the prisoners were employed to cut off the part containing the stamps, which was then sold to stamp dealers.

**COMMEMORATIVE POSTCARD FOR EXPONET VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION**



<b>QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS</b>
Czechout 2/02: John Hammonds' American Aid for German POWs card
Czechout 2/03: Richard Beith's 24Kčs 1946 Airmail Stamp
Czechout 3/03: Barry Horne's 1919 1st Anniversary Sheet perforations
Czechout 3/05: Ian McQueen's Shanghai Airmail via Czechoslovakia to Denmark
Czechout 3/05: Richard Beith's Undercover Letters?
Czechout 1/06: Charles Stirton's two covers with unusual "Red" stamps
Czechout 2/06: Bob Hill's Death of the Invaders overprints
Czechout 1/07: Bob Hill's Dezejna's Nachod stamp
Czechout 1/07: Richard Spennock's B&M Souvenir sheet
Czechout 4/07: Frederik Backeljauw's Hrušov ve Slezku cancellation
Czechout 4/07: Yvonne Wheatley's Blind Literature rates
Czechout 4/07: Tony Moseley's Sudetenland cancellation
Czechout 1/08: Derek Baron's Olomouc to Vienna pc

## AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE CONTROL STORY

- Robin Pizer FRPSL -

*The first half of Robin Pizer's display to the Society on 15 March 2008 showed covers from Czechoslovakia that had been examined by the German exchange control. They included this interesting matched pair of a cover and a card.*

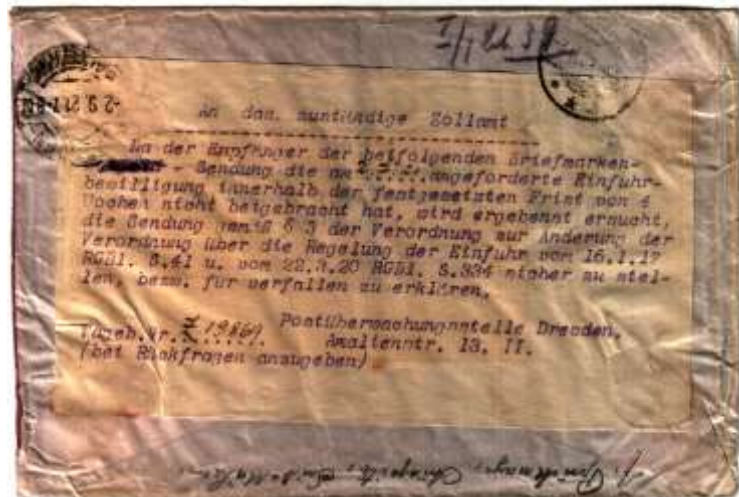
Much mail from Czechoslovakia to Germany in the immediate aftermath of World War I was subject to inspection for exchange control purposes. This replaced the wartime censorship on 15 November 1918. 85% of this mail was examined at Dresden with 10% at Munich, 4% at Breslau and 1% elsewhere. This examination ceased in February 1923, although mail from Germany continued to be examined until at least November 1924 while the legislation permitting it was not repealed until 1925.



The process is illustrated here by reference to two items. The first is illustrated in Figures 1 (front) and 2 (back). The registered letter was postmarked at Hustopeč in southern Moravia (Auspsitz in German) on 28 June 1921 and addressed to Stade-Campe near Hamburg. It was opened by the Dresden Postal Supervision Office, who found that it contained stamps which could only be imported via a special licence. They resealed the envelope with a standard sealing label with wording that translates to "4 Opened by virtue of the law of 15 November 1918 (Government Gazette page 1324)". This label and the

Dresden arrival postmark can no longer be seen on the reverse as they are covered by another larger label (see Figure 2). The number 4 is the number allocated to the Dresden Postal Supervision Office sometime in 1919 when the 20 existing offices were numbered in alphabetical order.

The second item is a postcard sent by the Dresden Office to the intended recipient, shown in Figures 3 (front) and 4 (back). This stated, "A registered package of stamps with a value of about 30 Marks which is addressed to you is stored at this place. The sender is F. Bruckmayer, Ausspitz [sic], South Moravia. Within 4 weeks you may request the necessary import licence to be sent to this place. This may be obtained from the Foreign Trade Suboffice for the Book Trade, Berlin W 66 Branch Office, Wilhelmstrasse 45. You can learn all particulars about the import and export of stamps on application to that office." A cachet was added: "Return to sender is not permitted!" The card was dated 2 July 1921 and postmarked 3 July 1921. The front bears an oval cachet of the Dresden Postal Supervision Office. These postcards are not particularly hard to find and come with various wordings depending on the circumstances.



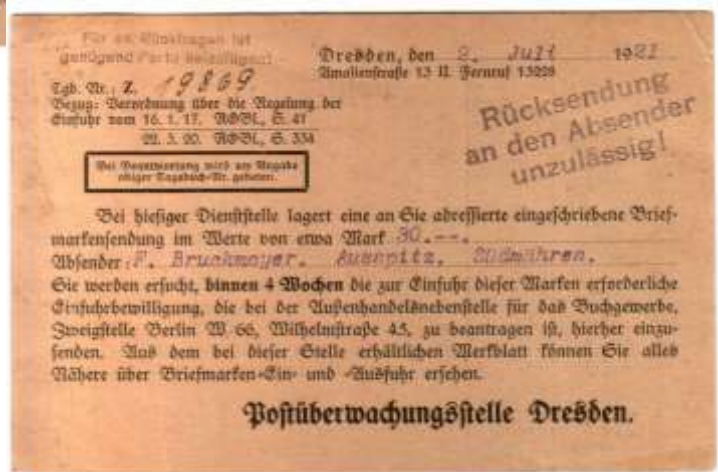
After 8 weeks no import licence had arrived, so the Dresden Postal Supervision Office added a red label to the front of the envelope, whose wording translates as: "This letter is to be delivered to the competent Customs Office nearest to the addressee's Post Office. Dresden Postal Supervision Office." For good measure they also added a typewritten white label to the reverse, which states in translation: "To the competent Customs Office: As the addressee of the enclosed postage stamp consignment has not produced the import licence demanded on 2 July 1921 within the stipulated 4 weeks, the consignment

becomes due for surrender in agreement with paragraph 3 of the law about the alteration of the law concerning the import regulations of 16 January 1917 Government Gazette page 41 and of 22 March 1920 Government Gazette page 334 and is forwarded for confiscation or to await explanation." This is tied by a Dresden postmark of 2 September 1921 and a Stade arrival postmark of 3 September 1921.



The addressee must have eventually provided the import licence, so allowing the card and the cover to be linked together again. The red label on the front and the white label on the reverse are the only recorded copies and no other matching pair of letter and postcard is known.

At that time 30 Marks was 25 times the cost of posting a 20g foreign letter, but even overfranked letters were considered to be an evasion of the import laws and examples were shown in my display. The law on importing stamps was relaxed by the Minister of Trade Dr Hirsch to permit the import of cancelled stamps without a licence and was reported in the Deutschen Reichsanzeiger number 252 dated 27 October 1921.



*We thank Robin Pizer for his article, which will also appear in the August issue of Germania. Editor*

## CHANGE IN A NAME

-Robert J Hill-

I have been researching some early sheets of stamps that have come my way and am intrigued. Looking back at *Czechout* 1/80 and 3/90, the late great Alan Knight opined that the currency nomenclature fell into eras:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1918 – 1938 | Koruna (plural Koruny) made up of 100 haléřů was abbreviated as Kč  |
| 1938 – 1945 | World War II: it was abbreviated to K in Bohemia and Ks in Slovakia |
| 1945 – 1992 | Kčs was the order of the day  |

Please will one of our erudite readers enlighten me as to why (with the exception of the first airmail set) the value of stamps was shown in haléřů from the start of the Republic (400h Hradčany for example) up until 1925 when the K value was gradually introduced. I'm sure there is a fascinating reason; I can't find it written anywhere and await members' comments with interest.

## 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 Phil Melamed's Queries 1 & 2 in Czechout 1/2008 page 25

From Roger Downing: This query re Jan Stupka has been sent to Phil Melamud & Bob Hill.

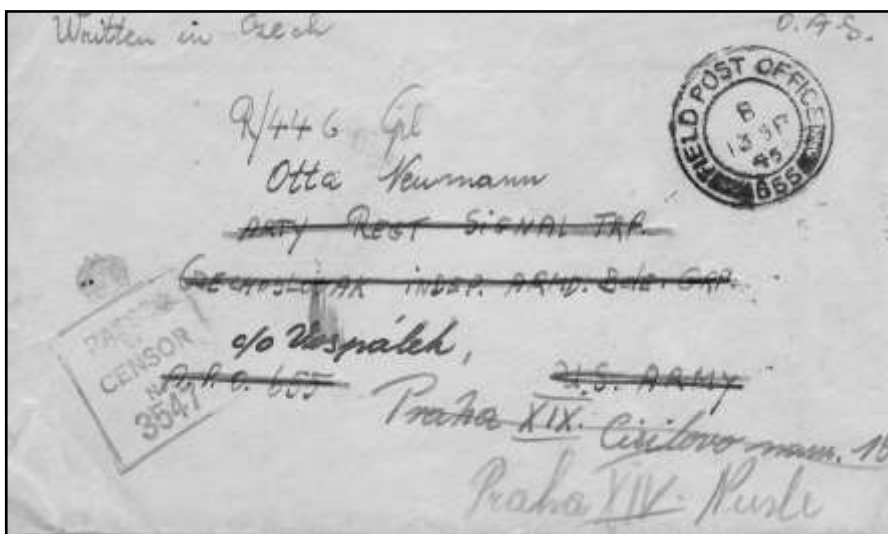
Phil Melamed replies: Thank you for getting my two stamp questions asked in the *Czechout* issue. At Chicagopex, right before I left for Florida, I unexpectedly found some of the answers to my questions.

**Query 1:** As to the 150h chainbreaker imperf block I have, that block appears to be a printer's waste copy (scarce, but still printer's waste). A footnote in Pofis says genuine imperf copies are either on white or light yellow paper, and that collectors should beware of printer's waste being offered as genuine imperf copies. Thus my light buff paper lower left corner block of four (with full gum on the backside) would appear to be printer's waste. (Bob, I can now send you a scan of the block, if you think it would be interesting since the lower margins have some unusual text markings.)

**Query 2:** Members of the Czech Society referred me to the Ukrainian Stamp Society, which was also having its annual convention at Chicagopex. After talking to at least three members of the Ukrainian Society I was able to piece together the following information. The first cover (top cover shown in *Czechout*) postmark (27 10 74, in red) is from Uzhorod in the Carpatho Ukraine. The bottom cover postmark (24 10 74, in black) is from Vinogradov (which was previously known as Sevlus, Nagyszöllös in Hungarian) and also in the Carpatho Ukraine. The monument shown in the cachet is in Uzhorod and was built by the Soviets to honour the Soviet liberation of Carpatho Ukraine. The cachet text is in Russian and Ukrainian and says: "Celebrate 30th anniversary of liberation of Carpatho Ukraine from Fascism". [I would speculate that the different postmark dates of October 27, 1974 and October 24, 1974 are the actual 30th anniversary liberation dates for the two different towns, but this is just my speculation.]

### New Queries

From Bob Hill: Does any member have information on the printing house Andreas Haase who during 1919 painstakingly overprinted the Hungarian and Austrian stamps to give us the **POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919** overprints? I can find the odd reference on the web but nothing more.



From Dr Juan E. Page:

I have a curious Field Post letter c/o US Army to Prague, with an unknown, to me, censor mark. Maybe some of our colleagues can identify this

From Anthony Moseley: I am writing a short article for *Czechout* on the early years of the Pardubice Golden Helmet and I have made three visits to the town during 2007. The last one has thrown up two items which I have queries with. Perhaps our members may have the answers.



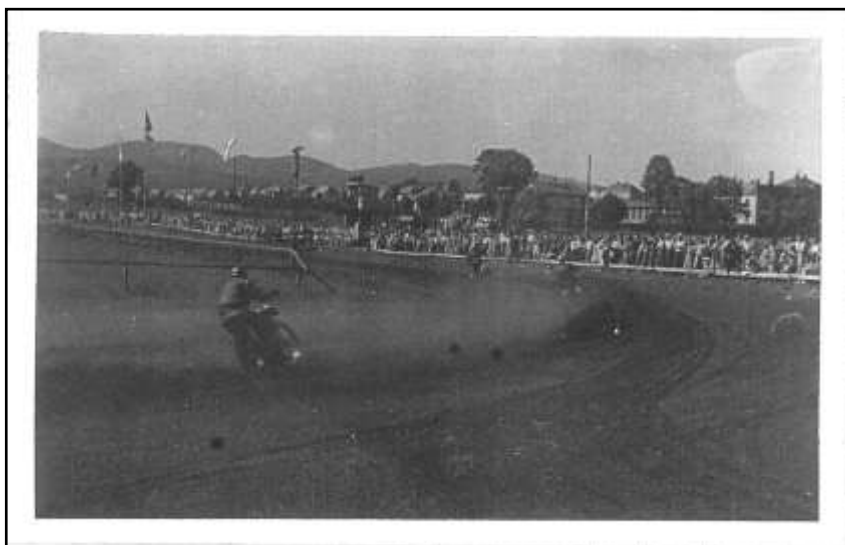
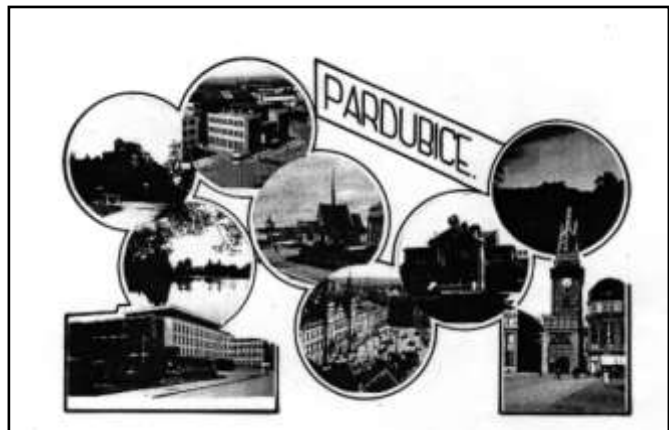
1] This postcard from the 1934 Golden Helmet bears two stamps which appear to have been disallowed.

I have seen many Golden Helmet covers and cancels, but nothing like this.

Have the stamps been crossed through because of the lime green ink used on the cancel, to prevent reuse?

There is nothing to indicate "postage due" on delivery, so the stamps may have been valid on the date of posting?

Reverse of the postcard above



2] I would be interested to know the venue of the motorcycle race shown on this postcard.

I am certain that it is not speedway related, by the machine and technique of the mystery riders.

Perhaps the mountains in the background hold a clue?

Can any members recognise the town from the buildings?

## NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

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

Stamps and stationery for the Slovak Republic are printed as indicated for each issue.

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

### Czech Republic

20 February 2008

#### International Year of Planet Earth



**Designer:** Jaroslav Chadima **Engraver:** (FDC only) Jaroslav Tvrdoň  
**Printing:** RD in sheets of 35

**Design:** the earth stylised as a leafy green tree with the trunk in colours representing the earth's interior with relevant text in Czech.

**FDC:** printed DS in black-green with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design complements the theme of the stamp.

20 February 2008

#### Jiří of Poděbrady – 550th Anniversary of Election as King of Bohemia



**Designer:** Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** rotary recess and photogravure in sheets of 8 stamps and 1 central label.

**Design:** stamp - portrait of the king wearing a crown; label - the king's seal and his facsimile signature. Jiří of Poděbrady (1420-1471) was the last Czech on the Bohemian throne. He tried to appease the conflicts between Catholics and Utraquists and stabilised the political and economic situation in Bohemia.

**FDC:** printed DS in red with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet shows the royal crown of Jiří of Poděbrady and the initial 'G'.

5 March 2008

#### Definitive: The Beauty of Flowers – Gerbera



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

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

**Design:** a fully open flower and bud of the plant.

**NB** no official FDC was issued.

5 March 2008

#### Easter



**Designer:** Otakar Karlas **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50

**Design:** 'Mourning the Death of Christ' a detail from the painting on an altar panel by an unknown artist c.1350. This canvas painting mounted on lime wood was originally in the Cistercian monastery at Vyšší Brod.

**FDC:** printed DS in silver with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is the two Greek letters of Christ's name with the Greek letters alpha and omega either side.

**5 March 2008 World Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008. From a Mural in the Prague Postal Museum by J Navrátil. 90th Anniversary of Founding of Postal Museum, Prague**



**Designer:** Otakar Karlas **Engraving:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30.

**Design:** from the mural by J Navrátil (1798-1865) with the title 'The Chambermaid Zuzana ferrying King Wenceslas IV over the River Vltava'. The logo of Praga 2008 is to the left of the picture. The mural was one of 16 painted as decoration for the Theatre Saloon in the residential quarters of a former mill that stood on the site in the 19th century. This building became the Postal Museum of Prague on 18

December 1918. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is from a self-portrait of J Navrátil that is also in the Theatre Saloon. **Booklet:** containing 8 stamps and 4 labels. The labels have the text in Czech: 'World Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008' and the ornamental motif which has been used for the FDC cancel.

**19 March 2008 Definitive: The Beauty of Flowers – Azalea**



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

**Printing:** RD In sheets of 100 with iridescent underprint.

**Design:** a fully opened flower and bud of the plant.

**NB** no official FDC was issued.

**19 March 2008 Beauties of Our Country**



**Designer:** Pavel Dvorský **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8 – 2 x (4x2) with central gutter.

**Designs:** **12Kč** – TV broadcasting tower and hotel at Ještěd, North Bohemia. The architect K Hubáček won the Perret prize in 1969 for his design, which was opened in 1973. It stands on the 1012m high Ještěd Mountain and is 94m tall. The hotel and viewing platform are situated on the ground and first floors with the remainder of the building used for communications and equipment. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Liberec cancel. The cachet drawing is the wooden tower, which stood on the site from 1889-1903. **15Kč** – Old Town Square, Hradec Králové.

This town is one of the oldest in Bohemia at the confluence of the Labe and Orlice. A royal stronghold was built in 1225 and in the 14th century the town became the residence of Bohemian queens. The stamp shows the twin 40m towers of the cathedral church of the Holy Ghost, the Renaissance White Tower and one of the two clock towers of the Old Town Hall with the Plague Column in the foreground. **FDC:** printed DS in black-brown with a commemorative Hradec Králové cancel. The drawing is a demon on a column boss from the Cathedral of the Holy Ghost.

**19 March 2008 350th Anniversary of the Issue of J A Komenský's Orbis Pictus**



**Designer:** Petr Melan **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50.

**Design:** a globe decorated with letters and small pictures. Jan Amos Komenský (1592-1670), theologian, writer and founder of modern education, published the book (*World in Pictures*) in Latin and German in Nürnberg in 1658. In 1685 a four-language version (Czech, Latin, German, Hungarian) was printed in Levoča. The book contains 150 chapters seen as a textbook and used in schools for some 200 years. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a young boy with an open book lit by the sun's rays streaming through a window.



2 April 2008

**Definitive: President of the Republic Václav Klaus****Designer:** Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100.**Design:** portrait of the President.**NB** no official FDC was issued.

16 April 2008

**100th Anniversary of the Founding of the National Technical Museum****Designer and Engraver:** Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. The FDCs printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancels.**Designs:** **10Kč** – an astronomic theodolite made by Reichenbach-Ertel c.1830.**FDC:** the cachet drawing shows a microscope made by J Goerner in 1776. **14Kč** –

sports car Jawa 750 designed for the 1000 Czechoslovak Miles Competition in 1935. **FDC:** cachet drawing of a Premier motorcycle made by Jawa in 1931. **18Kč** – petrol combustion engine of the Siegfried Marcus system made by Märky, Bromovský-Schulz works in Adamov c.1889. **FDC:** a benzol mine engine Ruhrtal from 1912. The National Technical Museum in Prague was founded in 1908 with the first public exhibition in the Schwarzenberg Palace in 1910. The present building in neo-functional style dates from 1938-41 and has recently re-opened to the public after extensive renovation.

16 April 2008

**100 Years of Czech Ice Hockey****Designer:** Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50**Design:** an ice hockey player in contemporary playing outfit with an ice hockey player in an outfit from the early days of the sport. The Czech Hockey Association was established in 1908 and was one of the founding members of the International Ice Hockey League. Czech ice hockey teams have been successful in winning Olympic gold, world titles and European championships.**FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts an early ice hockey player.

7 May 2008

**Europa: Letter Writing****Designer:** Marina Richterová **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 8**Design:** the opening lines of a love letter in Czech. The theme of Letter Writing was chosen as this year's common Europa theme to promote the art of letter-writing when correspondence is increasingly in a technological form.**FDC:** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design shows a woman writing a letter.

28 May 2008

For Children



**Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30.

**Design:** The couple Doggie and Pussy from the cover page of the children's book. The book *The Doggie's and the Pussy's Tales, How They Kept Their House and Many Other Things* (1929) was written and illustrated by Josef Čapek (1887-1945) for his daughter. His facsimile signature also appears on the stamp. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from the illustration for the story 'Doggie and Pussy Baking a Cake.' A booklet of 8 stamps and 2 labels was issued. The labels

have a drawing of the author with the two animals.

28 May 2008 World Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008 – Ledeburk Garden in Prague



**Designer:** Adolf Absolon

**Engraver:** Martin Srb

**Printing:** DS in a commemorative sheet of one stamp.

**Design:** the souvenir sheet shows the Gardens and the stamp has one side of the parterre with a fountain with a wrestling Hercules. The Gardens were created in the early 18th century but were redesigned in 1787 by I J Palliardi in middle Baroque style. The Gardens and the adjoining Little Pallfy Garden were extensively reconstructed in the 1990s, reopening to the public in June 1995.

**FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts the small pavilion from the upper part of the Garden.

28 May 2008

Nature Protection: Třeboňsko – An Area of Ponds and Pools,  
a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve



**Designers:** Libuše and Jaromír

**Knotek Engraver:** Martin Srb

**Printing:** recess from flat plates with coloured offset in a souvenir sheet of 4 stamps and 3 labels. FDCs printed DS.

**Design:** the souvenir sheet shows the typical landscape of the area with indigenous plants and animals with their names in Czech and Latin.

**Stamps: 10Kč** – a pair of kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) on the wing. FDC printed in dark brown with a drawing of a little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) and commemorative Třeboň cancel.

**12Kč** – a common otter (*Lutra lutra*) resting on a tree stump and a spike of the hardy deciduous flowering shrub *Spirea salicifolia*. FDC printed in red-brown with a commemorative *Lomnice nad Lužnicí* cancel. The cachet drawing shows two common crayfish (*Astacus astacus*).

**14Kč** – a pair of white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) above a pond. FDC printed DS in black with a commemorative Suchdol nad Lužnicí cancel. The cachet shows two great cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

**18Kč** – a male and female red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) swimming on a pond with white waterlilies (*Nymphaea alba*) in bloom. FDC printed DS in grey-blue with a commemorative Chlum u Třeboně cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a pair of giant dragonflies (*Libellula depressa*).

**Labels** a) poplar admiral butterfly (*Limenitis populi*) and a flock of great white egrets (*Egretta alba*)

b) three greylag geese in flight (*Anser anser*)

c) a pair of edible frogs (*Rana esculenta*)

The lower and right margin of the sheet show eight other named species of animals and plants found in this area.

## Postal Stationery

### Commemorative Postcard

**5 March 2008 – Architect, Master Builder and Patron Josef Hlávka. Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný  
**Printing:** coloured offset **Retail Price:** 15 Kč **Design:** imprinted 10Kč stamp with Josef Hlávka's portrait, birth and death dates and text in Czech 'Jubilee Year 2008'. To the left of the imprint is a security hologram and the logo of the Czech Post. The left hand, promotional portion of the card has a picture of the mansion in Lužany which he bought in 1866 and reconstructed between 1886-87 and the text in Czech 'Josef Hlávka 1831-1908, Architect, Master Builder, Patron of Czech Science, Art and Culture' with his facsimile signature.

**28 May 2008 – Exponet – Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition. Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný  
**Printing:** coloured offset **Retail Price:** 22Kč **Design:** imprinted 17Kč stamp in blue with a silhouette of Hradčany. To the left of the imprint is a security hologram and the logo of the Czech Post. The cachet on the left of the card is a composition of philatelic exhibits, a computer screen display, the logo of the exposition, its internet address, the logo of Praga 2008 and text in English (blue) and Czech (red) 'Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition'. Exponet is a non-profit, non-government organisation that supports the development of youth philately. It is also part of the official programme for Praga 2008.

### Postcard for Promotional Usage

**NB 20 January 2008.** A typing error was made – the imprinted stamp should be in the denomination of '17' and not '11' as published in Czechout 1/2008 page 29.

### 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) d) 17Kč (see above).

**14 September 2007. 10th Jubilee Collectors' Fair.** The event was held in Prague 14-16 September. The promotional portion shows a sailor dog rowing a young lady cat on the Vltava with a colourful montage of Prague buildings in the background, logo of the event and text. Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp.

**20 September 2007. Philatelic and Coin Expo, Köln.** The event was held 20-22 September 2007. Promotional design shows a young woman writing a letter. Imprinted 11Kč stamp.

**5 October 2007. International Stamp Fair, Berlin 2007.** This was held 5 –7 October 2007. The promotional design has a postal carriage drawn by four horses and text of the event. Imprinted 11Kč stamp.

**26 October 2007. International Stamp Bourse, Sindelfingen.** This was held 26-28 October 2007. The cachet design shows an early postal carriage and an early postal worker in uniform. Imprinted 11Kč stamp.

**26 October 2007. Postal Employees of Hrusicích Honour Our Native National Artist Josef Lada (1887-1957).** The cachet is taken from one of Lada's drawings – a postman delivering mail to a pig, goat and goose. Imprinted 7.50Kč stamp.

**20 February 2008. 550th Anniversary of King George of Poděbrady.** The cachet has a portrait of the king, royal regalia and the dates 1458-2008. Imprinted 10Kč stamp.

**13 March 2008. International Stamp Bourse, Munich.** This was held 13-15 March 2008. The cachet shows three postmen looking into the distance at an early steam train. Imprinted 17Kč stamp.

## Slovak Republic

**28 February 2008**

**Easter**



**Designer:** Katarína Vavrová **Engraver:** Vierošlav Ondrejčíčka (FDC only) **Printing:** offset, by Post Printing House, Prague (stamp) and recess from flat plates by TAB. Ltd., Bratislava (FDC).

**Design:** a young boy carrying a braided wicker whip with a young girl holding a lamb. The lamb symbolise Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God. There are many folk traditions both Christian and secular still practised in Slovakia.

**FDC:** printed in blue with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. Booklet: of 10 stamps was issued. **Maxicard:** shows the head of a wicker 'whip' and decorative ribbons.

**6 March 2008**

**Definitive: Towns – Krupina**



**Designer:** Marián Čapka **Engraver:** Juraj Vitek (FDC only) **Printing:** stamp offset by Post Printing House, Prague and FDC printed DS by TAB Ltd., Bratislava.

**Design:** the rebuilt Baroque style basilica with the town coat of arms dating from the 13 century. Krupina dates from the 12th century and in the 13th century precious metal deposits were found. After the deposits ran out the town declined but in the 16th century it became a fortified stronghold against the Turks. With the coming of the railway the town regained some importance and today has engineering and food industries.

The FDC cachet is a drawing of the vartovka (watchtower) from the period of the battles against the Turks.

**3 April 2008**

**The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic 1993-2008**



**Designer:** Štefan Kubovič **Printing:** stamp Post Printing House, Prague in offset. FDC – TAB Ltd., Bratislava – intaglio etching from flat plate.

**Design:** the Roman Goddess of Justice, taken from a Baroque-style decoration of the Courtroom at the Old Town Hall in Bratislava by Johannes Jonas Drentwett, a 17th century Augsburg painter.

**FDC:** with a commemorative Košice cancel showing the Roman Goddess of Justice taken from a Roman coin. The cachet design is a drawing of the Constitutional Court House, Košice, formerly the garrison building of Jan Jiskra with the archangel Michael holding a sword and pair of scales.

## Post Cards

### Promotional Card

**4 April 2008 (150 CDV 148/08) Exhibition at the Postal Museum.** **Designer:** Ľubomír Krátky **Stamp:** imprinted T2 50g (see *Czechout* 1/2008 p30). Cachet design shows a metal cancel and appropriate text. The exhibition takes place from 4 April to 3 October 2008.