



## CZECHOUT

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Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

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### NOTES

The next London meetings are on **Saturday 10 January 2009** when members will give displays and **Saturday 14 March** when **Geoff McAuley** will give a display entitled *Czechoslovak History*.

Please insert in your new diaries: **26-28 June – The Residential Weekend at Queens Hotel, Perth**, including the Competitions for the George Pearson Trophy and the Francis Pettit Salver, and also the Bill Dawson Lecture. **Saturday 11 July** – the CPSGB will be at **Midpex 2009** Xcel Leisure Centre Coventry (a new venue), a chance to communicate with other specialist societies.

Further to the information received from our member **Henning Qvale** in Czechout 3/2008 page 63, we note in the Dutch Society journal No 11 [see publications] there are illustrations of some of the material stolen from Henning, dated between 1759 until 1850. If any member is approached with material of that period perhaps they would consult with Henning on [hq@qbator.no](mailto:hq@qbator.no) or contact the new Hon. Secretary, Tony Hickey.

The Editorial team send best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

***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

### Prague 12-14 September 2008



The first day started with great expectations and the obligatory early breakfast for all those going to the opening day of the exhibition. This was abruptly interrupted by the long queues at the breakfast bar as twelve coach parties also staying at the hotel were also on early breakfast call. After this minor disruption we all set off to the exhibition hall, a truly impressive 19th century building where we met up with other members of the society and colleagues from the Netherlands and Germany.

The exhibition was excellent with many displays of traditional philately and postal history but unfortunately for the author no aerophilatelic displays. However, one display of Czech postal history covering the period 1938 to 1948 contained pages of Czech forces material, so not all was lost.

The bourse was exceedingly busy with some of the congestion caused by the extraordinarily long queues of visitors wishing to see the Queen's Collection; most members, including the author, were able to find some choice new items for their collections.

On subsequent days these queues were redirected through other areas of the halls but seemed to grow longer as the exhibition progressed. On Friday night we held a joint dinner party with our continental friends, which was most enjoyable, with our President giving a very warm welcoming address to everyone.

Sunday saw the awards posted with our society members Otto Hornung, Hans van Dooremalen and Jan Verleg all being awarded Gold medals. [See below for the full list of awards].

On Monday after the exhibition had closed a trip had been arranged to Karlovy Vary with a stop of en route at Lidice to view the new memorial. This was a very early start and a trial run for those members continuing on to Vienna the following day. At Lidice we visited the Museum but were unable to view the new memorial or walk through the rose garden due to the torrential rain that followed us all day. At Karlovy Vary our guide showed us all the places of interest in the town, guiding us to the various water spouts and describing the town's architecture, before we eventually found somewhere to eat and the journey back to the hotel.

Garth Taylor



### Awards

The following members received awards:

**Otto Hornung** Gold and Special prize *Postal History - City Post of Istanbul*

**Hans van Dooremalen** Gold with Felicitations *Postal History of Brno up to 1875*

**Jan Verleg** Gold *Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine 1786-1945*

**Gerhard Hanacek** Large Vermeil and Special prize *Czechoslovakia 1920-1923, The Typography Issues*

**Tønnes Ore** Large Vermeil *Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine*

**Jaroslav Verner** Large Vermeil *Czechoslovak Military Mail in Siberia 1914-1921*

**Alfonso Zulueta** Large Vermeil *Afghanistan: The Amanullah Period 1920-1929*

**Willem Tukker** Vermeil *Karlsbad: Postal History up to 1918*

**Lubor Kunc** Large Silver (one-frame) *Field Post Systems on Czechoslovak Territory X. 1918-1919*

**Hartmut Liebermann** Silver *Postmarks in Bohemia and Moravia during the Post-war Period after WWII*

### For Literature:

**Jan Verleg** Vermeil *Handbook Carpatho-Ukraine, Postal History and Stamps 1786-2000*

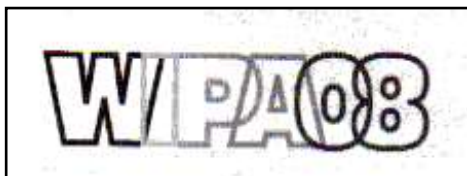
**Roman Dubyniak** Large Silver *The Czechoslovak Army in Ukraine 1914-1920*

**Ludvik Zdenek Svoboda** Large Silver *The Czechoslovak Philatelist*

**Lubor Kunc** Silver *Postal History of World War I*

**Otto Hornung** Bronze *The Early Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine*

The National Class was won by Otto Grosz of the Czech Republic with his Gold Medal entry *Czechoslovakia 1918-1939*.



**Vienna 18-21 September 2008**

**Awards:**

**Otto Hornung** Large Gold *The Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine*

### **Exhibition at the Czech Embassy, London, 1-3 October 2008**

By all measures, the Society's special exhibition in October 2008 proved to be a great success. The exhibition, arranged to mark the National Day of the Czech Republic and the 90th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, was held at the Embassy of the Czech Republic, 26 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, from Wednesday 1 October to Friday 3 October.

The Society's team of volunteers, led by Tony Bosworth, who has a wealth of experience in erecting the display frames used at exhibitions large and small, was efficient in doing everything necessary to have the exhibition ready by the public opening time on the first day. Later that day, at 6.00pm, all the hard work was rewarded when the Czech Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Jan Winkler, and the Slovak Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Juraj Zervan, attended an official reception in the room where the exhibition was being staged. Also in attendance were members of the Royal Philatelic Society and, of course, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of GB. Guests had plenty of opportunity to study, and to ask questions about, members' displays.

The exhibition itself comprised 84 frames with a total of 43 different displays. Twenty-one members of the Society provided displays, with individual exhibitors each providing between one and five displays. The total numbers of frames per individual ranged from two to eleven. There were 14 one-frame, 17 two-frame and 12 three-frame displays. The Committee had carefully selected a wide range of subjects for the displays, covering many aspects of Czech and Slovak history, postal history, geography, art and design. There was so much of interest that it would be unfair to pick out individual displays for special mention. However, everyone would have had their favourites and mine were probably Brian Day's 'Alfons Mucha (1860-1939)', Reg Hounsell's 'Hradčany Stamps' and Yvonne Gren's 'East Silesia', thereby betraying my own interests in the life and work of Alfons Mucha and in Czechoslovak geography and history. Altogether, it was an exhibition of which the Society could certainly be very proud.

The catalogue produced by the Society especially for the exhibition began with 'A Short History of Czechoslovakia', which was an effective overview of Czech and Slovak history from 1918 to date. It then went on to give a brief summary of each of the 43 displays and concluded, on the back page, with a promotional advert for the society. The catalogue also recorded the society's thanks and appreciation to the Ambassador and staff of the Czech Embassy "for their warm co-operation and support in hosting the exhibition."

At the exhibition's closing time, 1.00pm on the Friday, 'Tony's Team' of willing and able volunteers swung into action once again, this time having the exhibition dismantled and the room cleared within one hour. All that remained was to load the dismantled frames into the delivery van and to say our goodbyes to friends until our next time of meeting.

Norman Hudson

### **Meeting held Saturday 8 November at the Czech and Slovak National Club**

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed 20 members. Apologies had been received from seven members. She particularly welcomed Tony Hickey as the Society's new Hon Secretary.

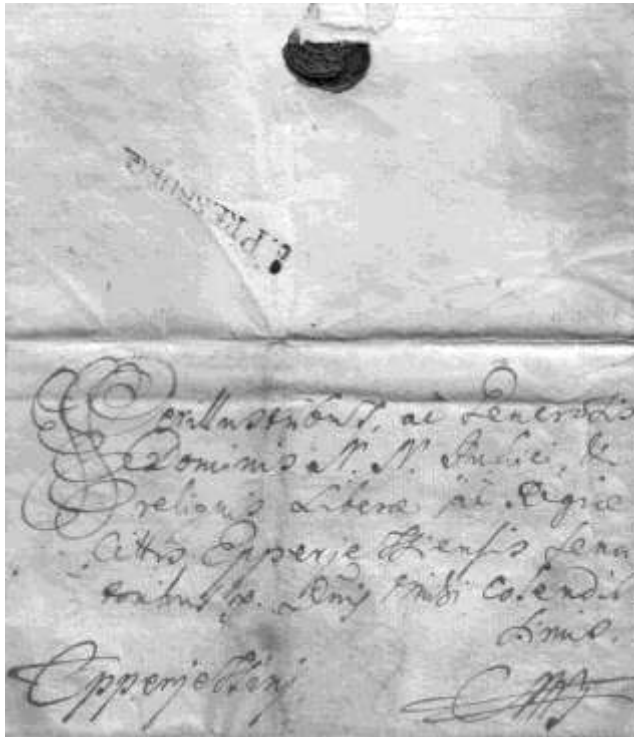
Yvonne Wheatley, the UK Commissioner to Praga 2008, awarded **Otto Hornung RDP FRPSL** his Bronze medal for Monograph No.20, *The Early Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine, with Particular Reference to the Usage of the First Postage Stamps of Austria*.

Yvonne gave details of two prospective new members:

<b>Lubor Kunc</b>	from Prague
<b>Alan Wishart</b>	from Law, near Motherwell

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The Chairman then invited **Bill Hedley** to display *The Postal History of Pressburg / Pozsony to 1919*. Bill explained that Pozsony had been the Hungarian capital for some 250 years, from 1536 until 1784. It was not until 27 March 1919 that the city was officially called Bratislava. Although the collection had started as the postal history of a single town, it had developed into a study of the Hungarian postal service as exemplified by a particular town.



It was in 1722 that the government had taken over the postal service, with the earliest letter shown being from 1729. The patent of Empress Maria Theresa in 1750 reorganised the service and led to the introduction of the first postmarks in Pressburg, initially applied on the back of letters. From the 1760s the date of arrival began to be indicated. Rates were based on weight alone and were generally half-paid on dispatch. The Napoleonic era led to several increases in postal rates, with charges based upon both weight and distance (number of post stations) from 1811. [Fig. 1 – 1758 Registered cover]

From 1817 letters were either pre- or post-paid, no longer half-paid. Since 1842 the distance was measured in Austrian miles as the crow flew, with the number of distance bands severely reduced from the previous seven.

The revolution of 1848 led to direct rule from Vienna and another change in the number of distance bands. 1850 saw prepayment becoming the norm, facilitated by the introduction of postage stamps, but otherwise the rates were unchanged. The introduction of the new Austrian kreuzer in 1858 led to a revaluation of the rates. The next significant change came in 1866, when at last the concept of charging by distance was abolished (except for a reduction for local letters, which had been introduced in 1842). The first half of the display ended in 1867, the end of direct Austrian rule.

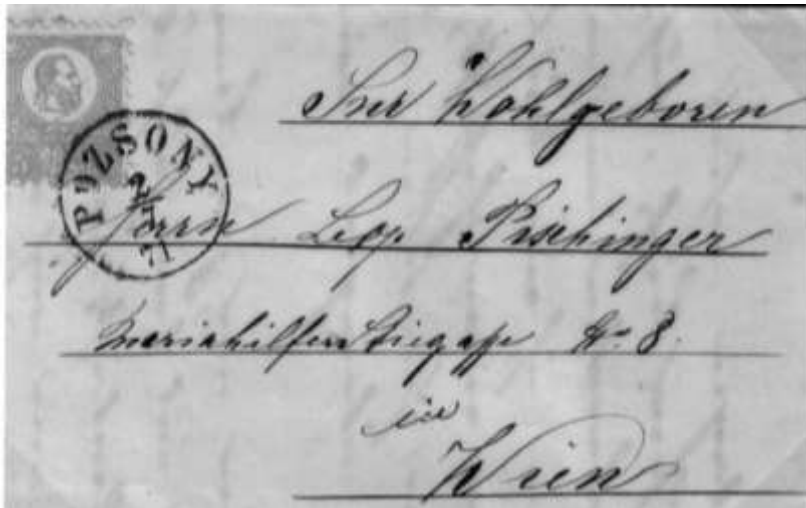
The revolution of 1848 led to direct rule from Vienna and another change in the number of distance bands. 1850 saw prepayment becoming the norm, facilitated by the introduction of postage stamps, but otherwise

As part of the Ausgleich arrangements the Kingdom of Hungary gained postal autonomy. The most obvious change was the use of the Hungarian language on postmarks and forms, replacing the previous German: postally Pressburg became Pozsony. The 1867 Austrian issue (coarse printings) is now generally regarded as the first issue of Hungary. Postcards were introduced on 1 October 1869, with Bill showing one dated just nine days later. With the currency change in 1900, Hungary asserted its independence by setting the postcard rate at 4 fillér rather 5 fillér, the equivalent of the Austrian 5 heller rate, a short-lived move frowned on by Vienna.



[Fig. 2 – 1858 registered cover]

In parallel with the letter post, the Fahrpost was an essentially separate coach post for the transmission of parcels and money letters. Bill showed various receipts from this service, a boxed 'Kutsch Post' mark on a money letter, and some parcel cards from the period after 1888 when in Hungary this service was fully merged, for all practical purposes, with the letter service and postage stamps were used to pay for it.



In the final section of the display Bill showed the transition in 1918/19 to the new successor state.

[Fig. 3 – 1871 Lithographed cover]

Rex Dixon gave the vote of thanks. He praised Bill for giving such an erudite presentation of this difficult subject. All present were amazed that Bill had managed to assemble this impressive collection in such a short timespan.

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

[Fig. 4 – 1919 Postcard with Hradčany castle 10 heller stamp]



At the Annual General Meeting in the morning the Chairman, Yvonne Gren presented Rex Dixon with his Life Membership Certificate.

[photo by Bob McLeod]

### Northern Meeting held at Pudsey –Leeds Stamp Fair 15 November 2008

Members present: D. Baron (Czech), C.J. Dent (Czech), I. Agett (Malta), P. Cybaniak (UPNS Austro-Hungary), R. Dubyniak

Derek opened the meeting with an apology. He had had such a successful visit to Olomouc and the Prague Exhibition that he had spent his time scanning and drawing the numerous cancels, cachets and labels and hadn't managed to mount one item. He provided five A4 sheets full of colourful examples of his work, to be added to his book. The numerous military and hospital cachets provoked comment and discussion. Peter then explained how five gold medal winners at Prague had met and decided to form a study circle for the postal history of Carpatho-Ukraine. They have produced a newsletter which is being distributed as pdf to those interested. Peter had printed this out and showed a letter he and Roman had sent in reply with further information on the statue used to illustrate the first page.

Another meeting will take place at the same venue next year on Saturday 21 November 2009 at 2.00pm.

Derek Baron

### Letters & e-mails to the Editor

☒ **Bob Hill** reports that **Karel Holoubek** has advised him of an excellent web site for Czechoslovak material - it's in Czech but Bob can navigate it, stamps are under collecting (sběratel or similar). Give it a look.

*We suggest members answering any requests should not send any stamps until contact has been confirmed and a satisfactory form of exchange, etc, agreed upon. The Society cannot enter into any correspondence or take responsibility for any transactions entered into.*

☒ The **Association of British Philatelic Societies [ABPS]** Bulletin arrived with details of exhibitions and I note that our Yvonne Wheatley is the Commissioner for the Belgium Antverpa 9-12 April 2010. The AGM and Council will be at Midpex 09, and Congress 09 is at Manchester where it was first held in 1909. Society Nominations for the ABPS Awards & Congress Medal are invited. Closing date 1 March.

☒ **British Library Philatelic Collections Newsletter Issue 14 Autumn 2008**, contains details of the free exhibition 'Taking Liberties' including examples of National Health & Unemployment Insurance stamps. It runs from 31 October 2008 until 1 March 2009. Robert Johnson has donated his collection of postcards of humorous postal themes.

☒ **Alena Pascual**: In reference to the 17 April 2008 Slovakia stamp commemorating Eugen Suchoň (*Czechout* 3/2008 p.90), this is to let you know that the notation fragment shown on the stamp is an excerpt from his opera *Krútňava*, which had its première in Bratislava on 10 December 1949.

☒ **Chris King**, British Commissioner for the FIP World Philatelic Exhibition at Lisbon from 1-10 October 2010, advises that he has the exhibition application forms and the second bulletin now available for stamps to the value of £1.00. The closing date for entries is 30 May 2009 and he will need these by 30 April 2009. This is a full FIP show with all the traditional classes, youth, literature, open class and one frame entries with approximately 3000 competitive frames. Chris's address is: PO Box 37460, London N3 1TN, United Kingdom. E-mail [chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net), Phone 020 8346 1366, Mobile 07768 422 840 and Fax 020 8343 3090.

☒ **Czech Embassy Initial learning project** – admission to the on-line course in the Czech language for compatriots. In accordance with government resolution No. 1622/2005, amendment No. 329/2007, incorporating the establishment of learning the Czech language and literature in overseas schools and other educational establishments, the Institute for technical learning of Charles University in Prague has instituted a learning programme of the Czech language that is useful for compatriots and their families overseas.

For those who wish to participate the course is available from 1 November 2008 until 30 June 2009 on Internet Explorer, version 6.0 and higher. The course proceeds on-line by means of communication with a tutor or possibly with other members of the course on a level of A1-A2 in accordance with European practice.

In the event of interest of any of your compatriot members for this on-line course, please send by return names of interested parties to the Embassy of the Czech Republic (by e-mail to "klara.kadlecova@mzv.cz" who will be admitted free of charge to the course. We would point out that the number of places in the course is limited. We thank you for your co-operation.

## Publications

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

- The Winter 2008 issue of *Austria*, No 164. :
  - ▶ A brief introduction to the postal history of Sibiu (Hermannstadt) and the Siebenbürgen (Studholme); Austro-American Shipping Company (Sandrik); Austrian-related mails from the second Mexican Empire, 1864-1867 (Kazych); Miramare-Maximilian's castle by the sea (Brandon).
- The September 2008 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.39, Whole No. 157. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
  - ▶ New Postal Agencies of the Czech Republic (-); The Political History of Czechoslovakia, Part 9 (Kuch); Voluntarily or coerced – documents relating to resettlement in 1938 (Liebermann); Johann Amos Komensky [*Comenius*] 1592-1670, Part 2 (Schmitt); The special machine-vended postal labels of the Czech PO (Müller); Plate flaws in the 5.00Kč '80th anniversary of Czechoslovakia' stamp" (Ziegler).
- The September/October 2008 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.70, Whole No.611 No.5. The articles include:
  - ▶ A Guide to the Types and Subtypes of the 1923 Agriculture & Science Issue (Wilson); Zborov 1917, 1937 & 2007 (Fritz); Stanislav Sucharda 1866-1918 (van Zenten); The First Airmail Provisionals – Fakes of the Trial Prints of the Overprint and Complete Fakes of the Issue (Kračmar); The František Palacký Monument (van Zenten); Refresher Course – Confessions of a Happy Hinger: How to use Stamp Hinges to Mount Stamps (Klug).
- The July 2008 issue of *Dyliżans*, No.50. The articles include:
  - ▶ Introduction to the Philately of the Kingdom of Poland [Part 2] (Bojanowicz); The Lublin Issue of September 1944 (-).
- The 9, 10 & 11/2008 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol 58. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles:
  - ▶ Post and Railways (Kratochvíl); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps [9] (Baldus); 15 Anniversary of Czech postal Agencies (Bejsta).
  - ▶ Postcards of Slovakia 1945 – Myths, Legends, Facts [1] (Weissenstein); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps [10] (Baldus); Forgeries of ČSR1 cont (Beneš).
  - ▶ Postcards of Slovakia 1945 – Myths, Legends, Facts [2] (Weissenstein); Will the Czech Olympic Dream come true? (Kamenický); A Needle in a Haystack [50h Dove stamp] (Káňa).
- The 4 & 5 2008 issues of *Merkur Revue*: The articles include:
  - ▶ The Tešín plebiscite area – August 1920 [Part 1] (Kypast & Štefek); The 75h Hradčany Stamp (Škaloud); Revolutionary Overprints 1944-45 [1] (Koupal); Unissued Miniature Sheet: General Ludvík Svoboda (Fischer); The Skalica [Blahovo] Issue (Hallon & Fritz); Rare documents with Austrian stamps (Klim);
  - ▶ New version of the 'Gate with Peacock' design [Pofis 544] (z fz); The Tešín plebiscite area – August 1920 [Part 2 & end] (Kypast & Štefek); The Crosses for World War I (Hrdý); Fortresses and Castles on stamps from ČSR Territory [1] (Fritz); The Wilhelm Pieck stamp by Cyril Buda (Fischer); The 80th anniversary of the 1928 Jubilee issue (Fritz).
- No. 11/ November 2008 issues of *NIEUWS* (Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately)
  - ▶ Praga 2008 (van Dooremalen); Literature (Verleg); Dr Beneš (Hemmes); 1st Republic (Verleg).

- The December 2008 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No 175. The articles include:
  - ▶ Postal stationery envelopes 1871 – lithographed or letterpress? (Endrödi); The Profila auction and the Nagy collection – an Australian perspective (Kennett); Unique modern covers ... (Benford); ... And Hungary's modern illustrated stationery postcards (Benford); Reply paid cards returned from abroad after 1900 (Endrödi).

### Congratulations

To the three members of the Society acting as Commissioners for **PRAGA 2008: Seppo Laaksonen, Geoff McAuley, and Yvonne Wheatley.**

To **Jan Klim** for his Large Silver for *Merkur Revue*; **Andy Taylor** Large Silver for *Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society*; and **Karel Holoubek** Silver for *Revolutionary Overprints 1944-45*;

To **Garth Taylor** for recently winning the Huston Trophy for his display of the third issue of airmail stamps on cover receiving a gold award. This is a competition each year for societies in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The Huston trophy was awarded to Loughborough Philatelic Society's first President at the fifth New York International Exhibition in 1956 for his display of Cape of Good Hope.

To **John Hammonds** for winning the Aerophilately Class at the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies' South of England show at Ardingly with *Airmails of New Caledonia*.

To **Lubor Kunc** for his articles in *Filatelie* 11/2008 on the Czech Society Exhibition at the London Czech Embassy, and on the History of Czech FPOs in GB in *Polní Pošty* journal.

To **Mike Brindle** on being made a Life Vice-President of the ABPS.

To **Rex Dixon**, our Publications Officer, for also being the Librarian and co-editor of *Germania* in the Germany & Colonies PS.

## OBITUARY

**Vladimir Markus:** This obituary is of the great Viennese philatelist Vladimir Markus, an Austrian member of the ArGe and personal friend of Bob Hill and so many others. The heart of this obituary is translated from the notice written by Vladimir's 'best friend' Gerhard Hanacek (GH) for the ArGe. As Bob worked on the translation his mind went back to three events:

An ArGe meeting in Antwerp where Vladimir made some very apposite humorous remarks about different national traits.

A hot Viennese night when Maria and Jane chatted as Bob sat amazed looking at Vladimir's Carpatho Ukraine material, some of which he knew only a very few examples existed

In a hotel in Brno where Bob listened and learnt as Vladimir discussed the events he witnessed in 1945.

Vladimir was a real gentleman and Maria is a true lady. Bob is honoured to have known them.

"Those of us of that knew and appreciated **Vladimir Markus**, who died after a short serious illness at the end of September 2008 in the 89th year of life, remember him with affection as an extremely quiet, sympathetic and direct man. We need to remember the man as he had been, not as he was in his last days.

Vladimir was a stalwart of the ArGe, an active member for 30 continuous years and jointly with his wife Maria a regular at the annual meetings. In his last years the travelling became more onerous because of his advanced age; nevertheless they did not miss a meeting and with GH acting as chauffeur they were in safe hands. These meetings were so important to Vladimir and Maria as it helped them maintain a set



of mutual contacts. Once in a hotel GH was dubbed, to his honour, 'his son' and it is because of that he feels to have lost a fatherly friend.

Born in a country which no longer exists and in the course of the decades was repeatedly changing hands to other countries, it was no wonder that Vladimir choose Carpatho-Ukraine as his area of speciality. He was practically on the spot when the first issue of the country went out and this love for the area was with him until his death. As a specialist for this zone, he not only knew the material, he could tell so many stories about it – and as a polyglot could do this expertly in a number of languages. An example is that he would chat with GH on the way to a meeting in Czech, talk to a waiter in Italian and could then discuss philately in Russian.

Fly-speck differences appealed to him and to see his highly extraordinary specialised collection at his home was a treat. The next meeting will be empty without him.

So a further significant philatelist has left us, the space which he leaves will not be easy to fill. In this difficult time, our sympathies are above all with his wife, Maria, who supported and accompanied him all the years of joy at the ArGe gathering. GH knows that others will miss him as well as himself.

Vladimir, we will not forget you and will hold your memory in honour; your memory lives, Markus.”

## BOOK REVIEW

**Mark Cornwall and R J W Evans (eds), *Czechoslovakia in a Nationalist and Fascist Europe, 1918-1948*, (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008 ISBN 978-0-19-726391-4. Price £35)**

This 258-page hardback contains a series of English-language essays given at a seminar at Dundee in 2002 and published on behalf of The British Academy. The essays cover a broad range of topics, many of which would provide valuable background information for members.

Relevant topics include: 'Czech–Slovak Relations in Czechoslovakia, 1918-1939'; 'Economic Nationalism in the Sudetenland, 1918-1938'; 'Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks: Some Mutual Perceptions 1900-1950'; 'The Manoeuvres of the Henlein Movement in Czechoslovakia, 1933-1938'; 'British Policy towards Czechoslovakia, 1938-39 and 1947-48'; 'The German Advisers in Slovakia, 1939-1945'; 'The Sokol and Czech Nationalism, 1918-1948'; 'The Czechs versus the Slovaks, 1944-1948'; 'The Transfer of Czechoslovakia's Germans and its impact on the Border Region after the Second World War'; and 'Britain and Munich Reconsidered'.

Richard Beith

<b>QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS</b>
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: Dezejna's Nachod stamp
Czechout 1/07: Richard Spennock's B&M Souvenir sheet
Czechout 3/07: Frederik Backeljauw's cancellation Hrušov ve Slezku
Czechout 4/07: Yvonne Wheatley's Blind Literature Rates
Czechout 4/07: Tony Moseley's Sudetenland cancellation
Czechout 1/08: Derek Baron's Oloumoc to Vienna postcard
Czechout 2/08: Bob Hill's Andreas Haase printing house for 1919 overprints
Czechout 2/08: Tony Moseley's Pardubice Golden Helmet postcards
Czechout 3/08: Shirley Kemp's Austrian postcard addressed to Angela Mucha

It would be a nice 'New Year Resolution' if members would kindly see if they could answer some of the above queries.

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY FIELD POST AND THE BBC

-Vladimir Králíček-

During WWII the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was very active, in various ways, in promoting the interest of the Allied Nations. One way was to have representatives of the Allied Nations give radio talks to the individual occupied countries. The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was one of these countries having a regular radio programme broadcasted to by the BBC.

Captain Oldřich Večerek (at that time with the rank of Lieutenant) was invited to give a talk on Wednesday 30 July 1941 during that day's 'CZECH PROGRAMME PERIOD: Military Broadcast'. Of course, this would have been done with the approval of the Czechoslovak Government in exile. The subject chosen by Lt. Oldřich Večerek was the Czechoslovak Army Field Post in England. The talk and the wartime conditions under which it was carried out are illustrated as follows:

- 1a. Letter dated 12 August 1941 was addressed to Oldřich Večerek inviting him to give a talk (with glued label giving additional instructions).
- 1b. Same letter, but with label folded over to show the message underneath.
2. The conditions referred to in the preceding letter.
3. Leaflet with instructions what to do during an air raid warning.
4. Actual speech given by Oldřich Večerek, in Czech, during the broadcast.
5. Original reused envelope posted on 13 August 1941, arrived at the Field Post Office on 14 August 1941.

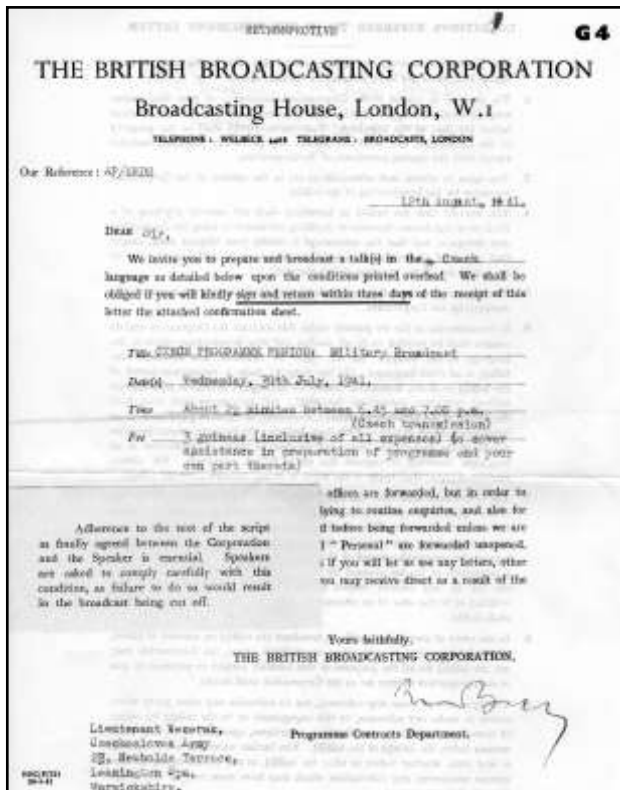


Figure 1a



Figure 1b

Figure 2

**CONDITIONS REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING LETTER.**

1. The Corporation reserves the right to cancel this offer in the event of your signed acceptance not being received by the date stated.
2. The contract is subject to the Corporation's acceptance of your final manuscript(s) which should be in the hands of the Corporation not less than 10 days before the date of the broadcast. Such manuscript(s) shall be the property of the Corporation and shall not contain any previously published material except with the express permission of the Corporation.
3. You agree to attend such rehearsals as are in the opinion of the Corporation necessary for the broadcasting of the talk(s).
4. You warrant that the talk(s) as broadcast shall not contain anything of a libellous or slanderous character or anything calculated to bring the Corporation into disrepute, and that the manuscript is wholly your original work, and/or that you hold all licences or permissions necessary to authorize the use of the talk(s) for all the purposes of this contract.
5. You warrant that the talk(s) as broadcast shall conform with the manuscript(s) accepted by the Corporation.
6. In consideration of the fee payable under this contract the Corporation and its assigns shall be entitled to (i) all wireless and wire broadcasting rights in the language of the talk(s); (ii) the right to translate and broadcast the talk(s) in all other languages; (iii) the right to make a mechanical record of the talk(s) or of any translation thereof for subsequent broadcast reproduction without restriction throughout the world; (iv) for twenty-eight days from the date(s) of the broadcast(s) mentioned overleaf, all rights of publication in all languages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (v) for three months from the date(s) of the broadcast(s) mentioned overleaf all rights of publication in all languages elsewhere throughout the world (U.S.A. excepted). The above-mentioned rights shall apply to the whole of or any excerpts from the talk(s).
7. The Corporation shall have the right at any time to cancel the talk(s) or any of them (i) if, in the opinion of the Corporation, it is advisable for reasons arising from a state of war or other abnormal circumstances, or in the event of the broadcast(s) being prevented by force majeure or by any cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the Corporation, subject only to payment of a proportion of the fee assessed by the Corporation for work already carried out (ii) for any reasons subject to payment of the full fee under this contract or to the offer of an alternative engagement as the Corporation alone shall decide.
8. In the event of your being unable to broadcast the talk(s) on account of illness, physical incapacity, or any other unavoidable cause, the Corporation may use the talk(s) for all the purposes of this contract subject to payment to you of such proportion of your fee as the Corporation shall decide.
9. You agree not to make any reference, nor to authorize any other party whatsoever to make any reference, to this engagement or to the talk(s) by means of newspaper articles or contributions, interviews, speeches, or in any other manner before the date(s) of the talk(s). You further undertake not to disclose at any time, whether before or after the talk(s), to any person in any circumstances whatsoever any information which may have come to your knowledge through this engagement.

**WORK DURING PERIODS OF AIR RAID WARNINGS**

It is very desirable that programmes and rehearsals should not be interrupted more than is necessary by frequent air raid warnings, and it is understood that many artists would prefer to be allowed to go on working during these warnings as far as possible.

Certain studios are proof as far as is practicable against splinters, which are the most common cause of air raid casualties. Staff and artists working in such studios who are agreeable to continue work during the warnings will be allowed to do so. The choice is entirely at the discretion and risk of the individual concerned.

A lookout will be posted who will give the alarm should anti-aircraft fire or activity on the part of raiding aircraft be observed in the neighbourhood, and on the alarm being given work will be stopped by the Programme Assistant, and artists will go at once to the shelters. A notice to this effect will be posted in these studios.

Artists in offices, untreated studios, etc., will go as at present to shelters on the sounding of the air raid warning.

Figure 3

Npor. Oldřich V e š e r e k .

Polní pošta československé armády v Anglii. *Radio*

Československý voják bez novin, knihy a radia a dopisů nebyl by našim vojákem. Nechci tím říci, že náš voják jen poslouchá hudbu, čte romány a zamířované psaníčka, ale chtěl bych zdůraznit, že průměrná inteligence našich hochů je tak vysoká, že prostě nesnese života bez stálého styku se světem, domovem a bez neustálého sebevzdělávání. Již ve Francii naši hochi krzy zdoucněli, našli cestu ke krajanům i do francouzských rodin. Není pro to divu, že už ve Francii měla naše pošta hodně práce, aby umožnila a zprostředkovala tento čilý styk vojáků a jejich známými.

Po příchodu do Anglie ihned prvního dne ráno, sotva jsme se poprvé probudili v této pohostinné zemi, odevzdala anglická pošta dopisy pro naše vojáky, dopisy, které spolehlivé ruce velké rodiny poštáček i v době války a všeobecného napřátelství dopravily rychleji do Anglie, nežli dorazily naše vojenské transporty ze zhroutené Francie. A tak od onoho dne v jednom starého našeho letního tábora byl zorganizován poštovní úřad, který později při reorganizaci armády byl změněn v polní poštu čs. armády v Anglii a vybaven jak prostředky dopravními, tak personálem podle skutečné potřeby našeho vojska. Práce máme denně dost, o to se starají nejen naši vojáci, ale hlavně naši uvědomělí a obětaví krajané z celého světa, hlavně z Ameriky a Kanady, kterým jsme v tak hojném počtu přišli tak trochu naproti, a kteří si vyhledali písemně v polních rotách své příbuzné a známé, nebo ~~zavázali~~ ~~navázali~~ písemný styk s rodáký svého kraje ve staré vlasti a snaží se jim nahradit aspoň v dopisech a balíčcích jejich dočasně obsazený domov. Naše armáda má totiž většinu takových vojáků, kteří vlastně nemají čemu psát a ani nemohou od nikoho dopisy očekávat. Psát domů nemohou, neboť nesmí dát na pospas Gestapovi své drahé. Použití služeb mezinárodního Červeného kříže z téhož důvodu odpadá, neboť pan Hitler se domnívá, že jest pouze on jediným pánem československého národa a nás všechny prohlásil za vlastizrádce, které nutno na místě odstřelit, kdekoli nás jeho pochozí přistihnou.

Ale na nás jest i tato klata neúčinnou. Máme své krajany v celém světě, kteří se nikdy neokloní před Berlínem a kteří se rádi přihlásili o adresy našich takto dočasně opuštěných vojáků a nedopustí, aby jen na chvíli naši chlapci měli pocit, že jsou zapomenuti a opuštěni. Přál bych vám vidět aspoň jednou ty rozradostněné oči nad dopisem polepeným řádkou ~~známých~~ ~~známých~~ exotických známek a s razítky poštovních úřadů vzdálených zemí, které se honem hledají na mapě, aby se zjistilo, kde to všude máme naše krajany. A co vám mám říkat, když s dopisem přijde balík s čokoládou, cigaretami, savařenínou, konzervami a novinami, nebo knihu - to šťastný adresát myslí, že vlastně má si na něho vzpomněla a sdělala celou tu tíhu nacistického poklopu, který už ~~trápí~~ ~~trápí~~ tři léta dusí náš národ. Stává se často, že v okamžitém nevalu radosti rozdělí vše, jak ostatně bývalo vždy dobrým zvykem v našich kasárnách, mezi své kamarády a pak si sám v koutku světnice přečte svůj dopis, který mu napsala mnohdy zcela neznámá ruka, která však přes dlouhou odloučenost nezapře českou duši a české srdce, dary to, které nám na cestu do světa daly naše české maminky. Naši angličtí přátelé však nezářívají nikdy tak pozadu za našimi krajany, jak o tom svědčí stále stoupající počet dopisů z Anglie pro naše vojáky, kteří jsou častými hosty v anglických rodinách o vánocích, velikonočních a na dovolené, aby nepostrádali svých drahých domů. Mnozí naši vojáci už si tu našli svůj domov, imu mládí má právo na plný život i za války a tak naše polní pošta má i své poste restante, milostné dopisy, telegramy i zásadní a svatební oznámení. Zároveň jsme kompletní poštovní úřad československý, který jest toho času jediným

Figure 4

na světě a udržuje při životě dobrou tradici čs. pošty, jak se denně každý může u nás přesvědčit a podivuhodných razítek a inštradačních cest našich dopisů, které budí opravdový zájem i u starých poštáček světového britského imperia, s nimiž v přátelské shodě pracujeme.

V našem malém, ale v lečkerém ohledu podivuhodném poštovním úřadě sejdou se na třídícím stole takřka denně dopisy z celého světa, opakují z celého světa, neboť občas k nám zabloudí i nějaký ten dopis z domova, pečlivě cenzurován, zaregistrován Gestapem a opatřen nenáviděným šackenkraťcem, obvinutým napsaním: Oberste Heereskommando. a přidruží se k velké řadě těch, kteří mají aktivní poměr k naší svaté věci a k československému vojákovu, nositelů živelné touhy po svobodě našeho národa. Dopisy se známkami všech národů a státi tu často svorně leží vedle sebe a naše násim vzpomínat těch, kteří si na nás vzpomněli, ale menší vděčnost patří těm neznámým, kteří mnohdy s nasazením vlastního života dopravili tyto dopisy po souši, po oceánech a ve vzduchu sem do Anglie, která pevně ovládá všechny mezinárodní spoje a benevolentně dovoluje styk se světem svým vojákům i občanům.

V závěru pozdravuji armádu československých poštovních zaměstnanců, kteří tak skvěle a poctivě sloužili plných 30 let Republice a věřím, že oni budou prvními, kteří opět oživi dnes dočasně ochromenou službu poštovní a vzkrísí československou a svým rádným a pohotovým vykoupením v pravý okamžik zachrání národu miliardové hodnoty a usplní jeho úplně osvozené. Proto věřte své práci, vydržte každý na svém místě a služte svému národu podle svého nejlepšího vědomí a svědomí.

Buďte zdraví, zaměstnanci čs. polní pošty na vás často vzpomínají.

Figure 5



## THE HOLEŠOVICE DISASTER

-Reginald Hounsell-

It is with great sadness we heard the news from Holešovice. I remember seeing the buildings of the Výstaviště Industrial Palace several times when in Prague and also when attending Praga 78. Like Lindy Bosworth, I have some colour postcards of this building used for the 1908 Jubilee exhibition. The palace was built in the Art Nouveau style in 1891 and has been used as an exhibition hall and concert venue. The Communist party held its congresses in the palace during its 41 years of rule ending in 1989.

I have found the following on the Radio Prague News web site <http://www.radio.cz/en/news/> dated 24 November 2008: 'A large part of Prague's historic Výstaviště Industrial Palace was destroyed by a major fire on Thursday evening. The fire broke out in the Art Nouveau building around 7 pm. Fire officers have refused to speculate about the cause, but arson has not been ruled out. The blaze destroyed part of the building rented by the son of Social Democrat supporter Václav Kočka, whose other son was shot dead last week. The Kočka family, which holds the concession to run a fun fair at Výstaviště, has in the past been accused of having links to organised crime.'

Prague's mayor, Pavel Bém, said he would push for the complete renovation of the building. So far, damages have been estimated at between 800 million and 1 billion crowns, the equivalent of around 50 million US dollars. On Friday afternoon, the firm leasing the Výstaviště site, including the industrial palace, announced it had been insured for 2.5 billion crowns. The impressive steel and glass Výstaviště Industrial Palace officially opened in March 1891. In recent years the Art Nouveau palace and its grounds have again fulfilled their original purpose as a venue for exhibitions and trade fairs as well as cultural events.

In related news, the fire which destroyed part of the site on Thursday has raised questions about the future exhibiting of the Slav Epic, a famous series of paintings by the Art Nouveau painter Alfons Mucha. It has been planned that the paintings would be moved from their location of 45 years at Moravský Krumlov, in southern Moravia, and housed at the Křižík Pavilion in Prague. The pavilion on the exhibition grounds was undamaged by the blaze. But some have criticised the site as a poor choice on account of renovation needed and the fact that it lies in a flood-danger zone. Moravský Krumlov has made clear it will seek reassurances over the site; a contract over the Slav Epic has been negotiated between Prague and the Moravian town but has not yet been signed.' There were concerns raised about the proposed redevelopment of the whole of the Holešovice district in 2005, especially regarding worries of future floods.

## THE SLOVAK ARMY: 1939-1945

### Part 1: 1938-40

-David Holt-

This is a brief history of the armed forces from the formation of the Slovak State in March 1939 until its demise in the spring of 1945. In addition, known information on details of the field post system has been included.

Before we look at the Slovak forces it is necessary to understand the situation in Slovakia and the structure of the interwar-period forces of Czechoslovakia.

The history of the Czech people meant that their lands were more developed than those of the Slovaks, who until 1918 had been dominated by the Hungarians for over a thousand years. In addition, there were approximately twice the number Czechs than Slovaks in the new nation. This meant that the government and national institutions, including the armed forces, tended to be dominated by the Czechs.

The result was that in 1938 in the Czechoslovak army the Slovaks made up only 395 (4.5%) of the warrant officers, 435 (3.4%) of the regular officers and 3 (1.1%) of the general staff. Out of 139 generals only one was a Slovak. There were roughly sufficient Slovak troops to form four active divisions, but with barely enough officers to command one. This situation was also reflected amongst the reserve forces.

The supporters of a separate Slovak state had been active almost from the first days of Czechoslovakia. In addition the Slovak Germans formed the Karpathendeutsche Partei (KD), which in October 1937 joined with the much larger Sudetendeutsche Partei of Konrad Henlein.

During and following the Sudeten crisis Germany, Hungary and Poland pressed their territorial claims on the Czechoslovak government, resulting in an agreement to set up autonomous governments for Slovakia and the Carpatho Ukraine. The Prime Minister of the new Slovak government was Father Jozef Tiso, who had succeeded to the leadership of the Hlinkova Slovenská Ľudová Strana (HSL'S or Hlinka's Slovak People's Party). Tiso quickly consolidated the power of the HSL'S. Encouraged by the Germans the newly elected Slovak Diet met on 18 January 1939. The Germans suggested that the Tiso government could seek independence from the Czechs with German support or it could take its chance with the Hungarians and Poles. In March 1939 the Czechs attempted to control the situation in Slovakia, but as events elsewhere overtook their efforts the Slovak Diet declared independence on 14 March 1939 and asked for German protection.

The result of this was the chaotic dissolution of the Czechoslovak army and the urgent need to set up a Slovak army. The Hungarian and Polish forces that were threatening to occupy Slovak territory exacerbated this. The new Minister of Defence was Lt Col Ferdinand Čatloš, who acted quickly to appoint Slovaks to take over the formations based in Slovakia. This was complicated by the fact that the German forces occupying Bohemia and Moravia did not stop at the Slovak border and, using the pretence that the Poles were preparing to occupy parts of Slovakia, proceeded to occupy an area up to and initially beyond the River Vah (the 'Schutzzone', Protection Zone). The German field post operated in this area for some time using the same cancellers as used in Bohemia and Moravia.



Fig. 1 – 22.4.39, dumb Feldpost (c) card from Žilina in the Schutzzone to Radolfzell in Germany

### BORDER WAR WITH HUNGARY – MARCH 1939

Despite Hungary recognising Slovakia on 15 March 1939 they resolved, following the occupation of the remainder of the Carpatho Ukraine, to occupy parts of the eastern area of Slovakia with German connivance. This continued until after the Treaty of Protection of Slovakia by the Germans was signed and they halted the Hungarian advance. The resulting limited fighting was the bloodiest of the fledgling Slovak army and air force, a situation not helped when all non-Slovak officers and men were ordered home.

In addition to the army the Hlinka Guard were active in the front line for the one and only time.

### THE NEW SLOVAK STATE

The Treaty of Protection signed with Germany, while guaranteeing the existence of the Slovak State, surrendered exclusive rights to exploit the Slovak economy and required full cooperation on foreign policy and defence. The 'Volksdeutsche' were given full autonomy and while the Schutzzone remained under full German military control their troops were withdrawn from towns on the east bank. Prior to September 1939 only Germany, the Vatican, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Japan, Sweden and Romania recognised the new state.

In May 1939 it became compulsory for all males between 6 and 60 to join the Hlinka Guard 1st and 2nd class or the Hlinka Youth. At its peak there were about 100,000 members. In 1941 the POHG (Pohotovostné Oddiely Hlinkovej Gardy – Elite Storm Troopers) was formed. These were trained on SS principles and were armed by the SS during the Slovak Rising in 1944.

Initially the Slovak Volksdeutsche were recruited into the Slovak army but after the invasion of Poland they were drafted into the Wehrmacht.

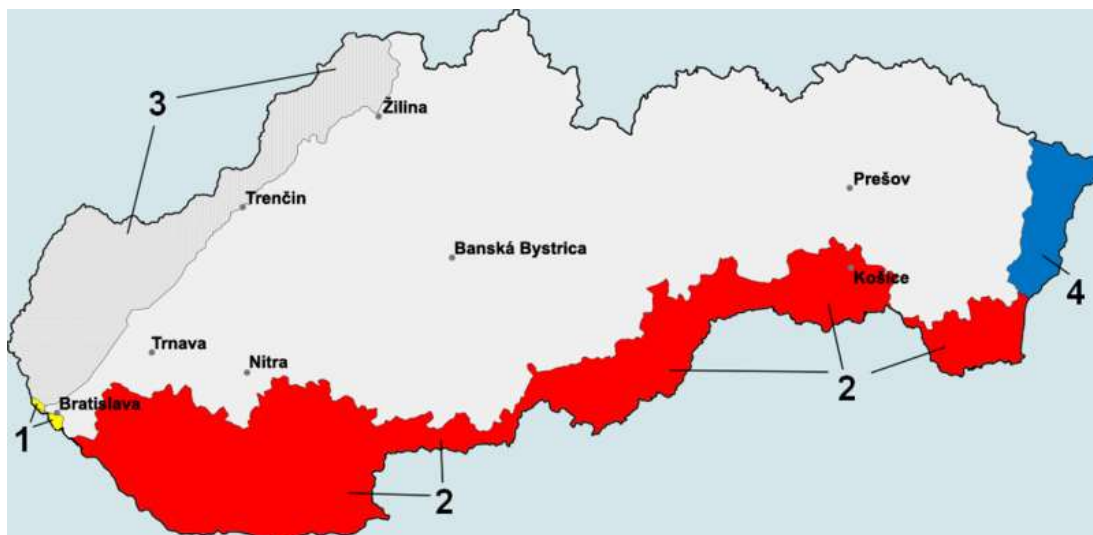


Fig. 2 – Slovakia border changes to April 1939

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Areas taken by Germany                            | 2. Areas taken by Hungary in November 1938      |
| 3. The Schutzzone where German troops were stationed | 4. Area occupied by Hungary in March/April 1939 |

The loss to Poland in November 1938 of small areas containing four post offices is omitted

### ORGANISATION OF THE SLOVAK ARMY – APRIL TO AUGUST 1939

In May 1939 the Slovak Army was reorganised using the resources available. It comprised of:

- Five Infantry Regiments (1-5)
- Six independent Infantry battalions (I-VI)
- Six Artillery regiments (1-4,51,53)
- 153 AA Regiment
- Armoured Battalion
- Cyclist Battalion
- Anti-tank Battalion

To meet the shortage of trained officers, retired and reserve officers were reactivated and warrant officers promoted. These were of variable quality and reliability. General Rudolf Viest failed to be reconciled to the new regime and defected in August 1939 to join the Czechoslovaks in exile in France. The Slovak air force suffered similar problems with defections to the Allies.

#### THE INVASION OF POLAND – SEPTEMBER 1939

As the German preparations progressed for the invasion of Poland they realised the advantages of the cooperation of the Slovak government and forces. The Slovaks, however, were not informed of the invasion until early August 1939. Then the Germans used the pretext that the Poles were about to attack Slovakia in order to deploy troops on the southern Polish border; there was also the Slovak resentment over territory lost to Poland in 1920, 1924 and 1938. The Slovak army formed a new field group on the border and arrangements were made to put it under German control, transferring troops from the Hungarian border. These troops were replaced by mobilising Hlinka Guard units.

#### OPERATION BERNOLÁK

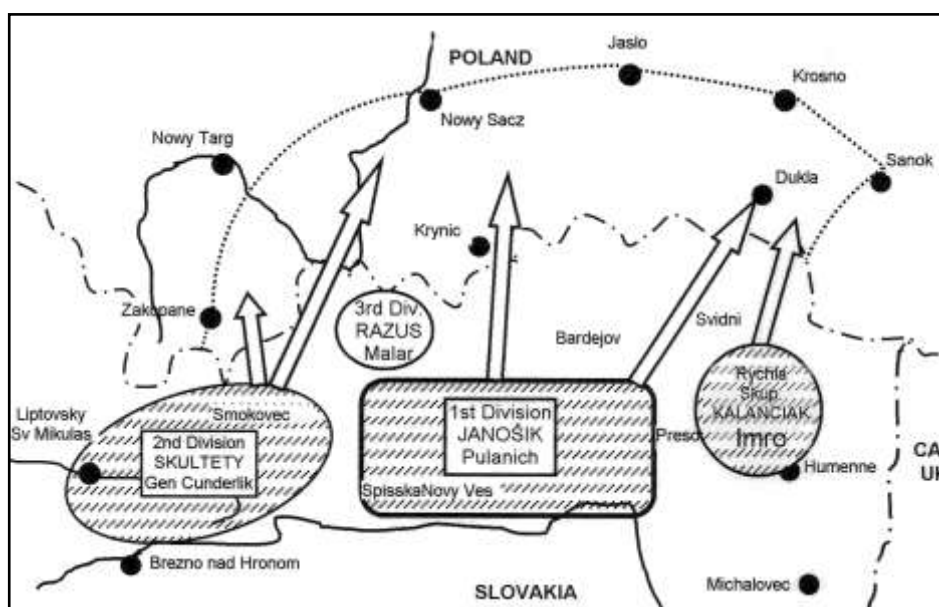


Fig. 3 – Operation Bernolák September/October 1939

Each Division initially was made up of three infantry regiments. This had to be modified to incorporate 1, 2 and 3 Independent Battalions.

The order of battle of the Slovak Army in the September 1939 invasion of Poland, which was roughly equivalent to a Corp, was as follows:

1st Division, CO. Col. Anton Pulanich, HQ at Spišská Belá (circa 6000 officers and men) (code name **JANOŠÍK**) (Field Post Office No. 12)

4th Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

6th Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

35th Inf Reg. (I Freiwillige Schutzstaffel Batt, II and III Battalion)

1st Art Reg. (I, II and III)

Attached Art. Batt. II/4

2nd Division, CO. Gen. Alexander Čunderlík, HQ at Bardejov (circa 1800 officers and men with artillery and armour) (code name **ŠKULTÉTY**) (Field Post Office No. 8)

3rd Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

5th Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

21th Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

2nd Art Reg. (I, II and III)



3rd Division, CO Col. August Malár, HQ at Medzilaborce (circa 4700 officers and men) (code name **RÁZUS**) (Field Post Office No. 41)

1st Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

2nd Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

18th Inf Reg. (I, II and III Battalion)

3rd Art Reg. (I, II and III)

Attached Art. Batt. I/4

Mobile Group (code name **KALINČIAK**) (Field Post Office No. ?)

I Cavalry Group (1, 2 Cavalry Squadrons, 4, 5 Cavalry Support Squadrons)

II Cyclist Group (1, 2 Cyclist Companies, 4th Cyclist HMG Company, 3rd, ? Cyclist support Company)

III Motorised Group (Tank Company, Armoured Car Company, AT Company)

Slovak Air Force (code name **ĽALIA**) (Field Post Office No. ?)

This leaves the allocation of Field Post Offices Nos. 6, 11 and 16 to be identified.

The 21st and 35th Inf Reg. were raised from reservists.

The 1st Battalion Freiwillige Schutzstaffel of 35th Reg. was a unit raised from the Slovak Volksdeutsche.

The 1st Infantry Division was the only group ready at the outbreak of war and it was deployed to attack the area seized by Poland in 1938 around Javorina and Zakopane.

After initial problems the 2nd Infantry Division advanced to Szczawne via the Lupkov Pass.

The 3rd Infantry Division were deployed defensively in the area near the Dukla Pass.

By 11 September 1939 fighting was dying down and the Slovak forces were involved in mopping up the area.

From 10 to 18 September the three Slovak Divisions were reorganised and a separate Rapid Group of Cavalry, Cyclist and Motorised Companies was formed. Part of the artillery remained under central control. Each Infantry Division now had nine infantry regiments, four Artillery Battalions, two Engineering Companies and an AA company.

By the end of September 1939 all the Slovak forces had withdrawn back into Slovakia.

As the conquest of Poland was completed the Field Post closed down on the 4th (or 16th) October 1939.

The code names given to units were commonly used on field post cards – an example for Škultéty is shown in Figure 7. Subunit code names have yet to be identified – I have identified Karol as a subunit (Regiment?) within the 2nd Division.

### Field post cancellers

For the attack on Poland the field post organisation was in place on 1 September 1939 for the first time and specific Slovak field postcards were made available. Field post office nos. 6, 8, 11, 12, 16 and 41 were allocated and the appropriate Czechoslovak cancellers were issued with the 'Č.' of 'Č.S.P.' removed.

It is reported that the cancellers with 'Č.S.P.' were used unaltered before 8 September and that the 'Č.' was removed on that date and on 9 September the 'NÍ' was removed. Examples seen suggest that this doesn't appear to be always correct, for example with field post office no. 41. Details of possible cancellers are given on page 111 below based on the original and altered Czechoslovak cancellers.

The Slovak sorting office in Turčianský Svätý Martin used a 'TRÍDÍRNA POLNÍ POŠTY 4 / -S.R.' handstamp (see Figure 4 for a philatelic usage; postally used copies exist).



Fig. 4 – 8.IX.39 'Třídírna Polní Pošty 4 / -S.P.', card type1b, philatelic use

In addition to the existing Czechoslovak cancellers new cancellers were prepared for the Collection (Sberňa) stations in Prešov 1 and Ružomberok 1. These cancellers had the Slovak arms in the centre.



Fig. 5

As the Slovak forces occupied the disputed areas of Poland up to the pre-WWI Hungarian–Austrian border (the areas lost to Poland in 1920 and 1924), special rubber temporary cancellers were issued to each post office. The offices concerned included Dolná Lipnica, Fridman, Horná Zubrica, Jablonka, Jurgov and Nedeca. They were used to cancel the stamps and the date was provided by using the old Polish cancellers. This situation was in place for a short period until new Slovak cancellers were available. It is reported that field post cancellers were also used on civilian mail during this period.



Fig.6



Fig. 7 – 17.IX.39 Pol(ní) Pošta 8 (Č.)S.P., Škultěty (2nd Div) to Radvaň u Hronon, card type 1a



Fig. 8 – 18.IX.39 Pol(ní) Pošta 12 (Č)SP from Fitno(?) to Bratislava, card type 1a with Slovak two-line unboxed censor cachet

Fig.9 – 12.IX.39 Polní Pošta 41, card type 1b, philatelic use

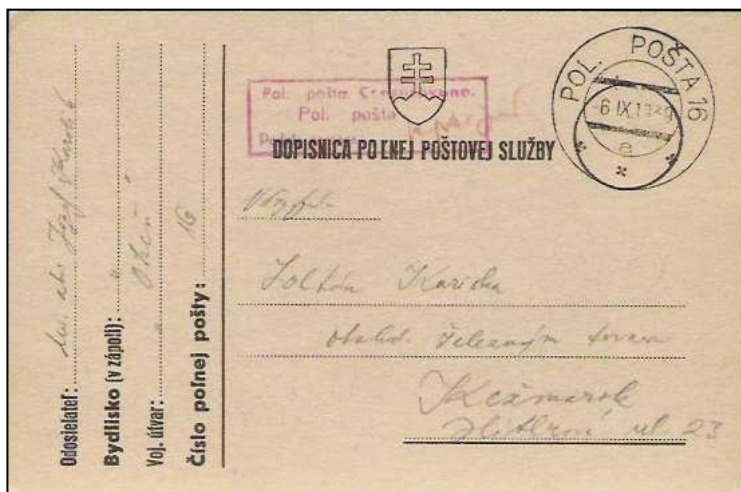
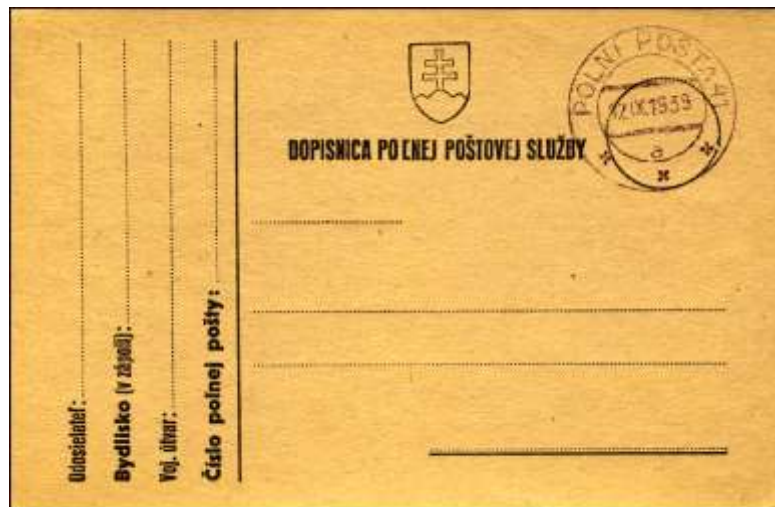


Fig. 10 – 6.XI.1939 Pol(ní) Pošta 16 from Oher (?) to Kežmerok, card type 1b, with violet Slovak boxed three-line censor cachet

Following the action against Poland the Germans decided that all Volksdeutsche in Slovakia should be transferred to German units. Below is a letter from one such soldier who was based in southern Poland in 1940 to Pressburg (Bratislava).



Fig.11 – 25.XII.40 letter from FP01081 (XVII South Poland) cancelled and censored in Vienna

The information above is based on items from my collection and other collectors' items I have seen. I have tried to extend the article on the Slovak field post in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* published in 1970 and *Das Slowakische Militärwesen 1938-45* by Rauch. Military information is from various books including *Slovenská Armáda 1939-1945* by Kliment & Nakládal and *Axis Slovakia* by Axworthy and numerous websites. I would appreciate any additional information, references and/or comments.

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2. Dr Walter Rauch, *Das Slowakische Militärwesen 1938-45*, ArGe Tschechoslowakei, Germany, 2006.
3. Charles K Kliment & Břetislav Nakládal, *Slovenská Armáda 1939-1945*, Levné Knihy, Czech Republic, 2006.
4. Mark W A Axworthy, *Axis Slovakia: Hitler's Slavic Wedge, 1938-1945*, Axis Europa Books, New York, 2002.

## Cancellation types

### TŘÍDÍRNA POLNÍ POŠTY - 4 / \* -S.P. \*



The Czechoslovak canceller with the 'Č.' removed from 'Č.S.P.'  
The cancel should also occur in its original condition. It may also occur with the 'NÍ' removed from 'POLNÍ'.

### Sberňa polných pošt / \* Prešov 1 \*



Canceller produced locally for collecting office without a date inscribed 'Sberňa polných pošt / \* Prešov 1 \*'.  
Also for 'RUŽOMBEROK 1', all in capitals.

### POL.-- POŠTA 6 / \* \* \*



The Czechoslovak canceller with the 'NÍ' removed from 'POLNÍ'.  
It could also occur in its original condition with 'POLNÍ POŠTA'.

### POL. -- POŠTA - 8. / \* -S.P. \*



The Czechoslovak canceller with 'NÍ' removed from 'POLNÍ' and the 'Č.' removed from 'Č.S.P.'  
It could also occur in its original condition or with only 'NÍ' removed.

### POLNÍ POŠTA - 12 / \* Č.S.P. \* (Type 1)



The original Czechoslovak canceller. It should also occur with the 'NÍ' of 'POLNÍ' and/or the 'Č.' in 'Č.S.P.' removed.  
[Illustration is of the original canceller as used in 1938.]

### POL. -- POŠTA - 12 / \* -S.P. \* (Type 2)



The Czechoslovak canceller with 'NÍ' removed from 'POLNÍ' and the 'Č.' removed from 'Č.S.P.'  
It should also occur in its original condition or only with 'NÍ' removed.

### POL.-- POŠTA 11 / \* \* \*



The Czechoslovak canceller with 'NÍ' removed from 'POLNÍ'. It should also occur in its original condition.  
[Illustration is of the original canceller as used in 1938.]

### POL. -- POŠTA 16 \* \* \*



The Czechoslovak canceller with 'NÍ' removed from 'POLNÍ'. It should also occur in its original condition.

### POLNÍ POŠTA 41 / \* \* \*



The original Czechoslovak canceller. It should also occur with the 'NÍ' of 'POLNÍ' and/or the 'Č.' in 'Č.S.P.' removed.

### Temporary village postmarks



Locally produced without date inscribed 'POŠTOVÝ ÚRAD' and 'JABLONKA'.  
Also for 'DOLNÁ LIPNICA', 'FRIDMAN', 'HORNÁ ZUBRICA', 'JURGOV' and 'NEDECA'.

### Card types

- 0. Interim card(?) as standard card but made up using type. (For used copy, see Dr Rauch)
- 1a. Shield near to vertical line/ 4 address lines, point of shield above J, buff.
- 1b. Shield near to vertical line/ 4 address lines, point of shield between J & P, buff.



Fig. 12 – Blank interim(?) card type 0

### UNDERCOVER MAIL

-Ed Fraser-

I was just looking at your website by chance; it occurs to me to ask if you have published articles at any point about civilian 'undercover mail' during World War II, especially between Great Britain or its dominions and Nazi controlled Europe including Czechoslovakia, that involved using the Thomas Cook mail scheme? It is an area that I have collected for some time. I attach an example from just a few I have involving Czechoslovakia.

Editor: As far as I can ascertain from our Cumulative Index we haven't published any articles, but did review in *Czechout* the third edition of *Undercover Addresses of World War II* by Charles R Entwistle of Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth, Scotland [2006] .

Perhaps one of our members can help?



### WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Another selection; at present we have a fair number outstanding awaiting answers. We would be grateful if members would see if they could reply to some of these queries, as it is a pity to write these off as unknown! It would be helpful if inquirers having covers with further details on the reverse also photocopy that side to assist with any replies.

#### Answers to Queries

##### Re: Clyde Ziegler's B & M front query in Czechout 3/08 page 86

From David Holt: Further to our conversation [with the Editor] earlier at the Czech Exhibition, I think the faint circular cachet below the boxed BEZ CLA cachet looks like a Hungarian censor mark (M Kir Post Ellenorizve with the Hungarian coat of arms in the centre). This raises the question as to why a cover from B&M to Bratislava should come into the hands of the Hungarians, as it would normally go direct from Vienna to Bratislava. A possible explanation is that the front is addressed to part of Bratislava south of the Danube occupied by the Hungarians? The BEZ CLA cachet means 'Free of duty'. This was probably applied because as the money was being transferred out of the sphere of the Third Reich it would have been subject to currency control. The weight difference is trivial and I would think that the 675g was probably weighed by the sender and the "Nowell" weight at the Post Office. The 10 gm difference is only just over a quarter ounce. As there is only the front available one can only guess, but one would have expected the item to have been opened and censored in Vienna. As to the rate someone cleverer than me will have to work that out, but as it is a highish value (500RM = 5000k) the franking 56k 50?? doesn't seem that high. An interesting item.

#### New Queries

From Richard Beith: "My good friend Charles LaBlonde quoted from a book on internment in Switzerland during WWII: *Die Post der Internierten in der Schweiz 1940-1946* by George Schild. This includes the statement that on 9.1.1944 there were 279 Czech internees in Switzerland. Where had they come from; civilians or soldiers and airmen? Has anyone seen any mail relating to them?"

From Bob Hill: I acquired the attached mixed in with a lot I bought from a Prague auction. They are the 1945 and 1946 Moscow printing set of six and each has a distinct overprint. "Pravda vitězí"

The overprint is in the style of the 1945 Uherský Brod type 1 overprint (top line only). Any suggestions as to what they were overprinted for?



## 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

#### 3 September 2008 **Definitive for Vending Machines – Průhonice Castle** (No bromide/FDC/stamp yet received)

**Designer:** RNDr. Adolf Absolon **Printing:** by Colonia Press a.s. by flexoprint in rolls of 1000 self-adhesive stamps. Face value of the stamp will be printed by the vending machine as indicated by the customer from the following values: 10,12,14,17,18,21,24,26,30,34,35,37,43,50 Kč. **Design:** a view of Průhonice Castle from the lake with rhododendrons in flower.

#### 12 September 2008 **World Stamp Exhibition, Praga 2008: Express Mail 1750 – Joint Issue with Austria**



**Designer:** Karel Dvořák **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in a commemorative sheet of one stamp. **Design:** a reproduction of a painting signed by K Schnorpfeil of an express mail carriage drawn by a team of four horses. The subject of this joint issue is the 1750 Vienna – Brno Express Mail. From 1750 there was a regular scheduled service on this route. The text above the stamp is 'Czech – Austria Joint Issue' in Czech and the logos of Praga 2008 and WIPA08. The lower part of the sheet has the text, in Czech 'Express Mail Vienna – Brno, 1750' and 'The Post Museum, Prague.' **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative

Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a designer's sketch of the side view of a "Berlina" carriage and its under carriage.

#### 12 September 2008 **Karel Plicka – Joint Issue with Slovakia**



**Designer:** Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** DS in a commemorative sheet of one stamp and two labels. **Design:** stamp – a portrait of Karel Plicka (1894-1987) with his camera; left label – statues on Charles' Bridge, Prague; right label – a young bride from Očová (both subjects from photographs by Plicka). The upper margin has the text, in Czech 'Czech – Slovak Joint Issue' and the lower margin Plicka's facsimile signature. Plicka graduated from the Teacher School in Hradec Králové in 1913 and in 1928 from the Komenský University, Bratislava in music science, ethnography



and art history. He collected Slovak folk songs for Matica slovenská, recorded about 40,000 songs from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia and set up an archive of documentary and ethnographic photographs for Matica slovenská. From 1950 he worked as a photographer. **FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from a photograph 'Flax on the Meadows below the High Tatra' by Plicka.

15 October 2008

**Historical Stoves**



**Designer:** Michal Vitanovský **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider  
**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50, FDCs printed DS.

**Designs:** **10Kč:** Baroque stove from Šternberk Castle with a detail of the stove decoration. **FDC:** printed in dark pink with a commemorative Šternberk cancel. The cachet drawing shows a Baroque stove and a man in contemporary costume.

**17Kč:** Rococo stove from the Archbishop's Palace, Prague with a detail of the stove decoration. **FDC:** printed in grey with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts the stove with a seated young lady in contemporary costume. Glazed tile stoves became more common in Bohemia during the early 18th century but larger and more decorative than those of the Gothic and Renaissance era (see issue 20 June 2007 – Czechout 3/2007 page 87).

5 November 2008

**Works of Art on Stamps**



**Designers:** from original artworks **Engravers:** Václav Fajt (23Kč), Miloš Ondráček (26Kč) and Martin Srb (30Kč) **Printing:** DS in sheets of four (23Kč and 26Kč); as a souvenir sheet with one stamp, DS combined with multicoloured offset (30Kč). All FDCs printed DS.

**Designs: 23Kč** – ‘The Vltava River near Klecany’ (after 1885) by Zdenka Braunerová (1858-1934). The original art work is in the West Bohemian Gallery, Plzeň. **FDC:** printed in black with a commemorative Plzeň cancel. The cachet drawing is from a drawing in Indian ink of Prague’s Lesser Town.

**26Kč** – ‘Autumn Road’ (1918) by Otakar Nejedlý (1883-1957). The original work is in the National Gallery, Prague. **FDC:** printed in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The drawing is from a pencil sketch with the title ‘The Trees by the Road’

**30Kč** – ‘Allegory of Water’ (after 1700) by Jan Jakub Hartmann (1658?-1736/45). The original work is in the National Gallery, Prague. **FDC:** printed in dark brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is from a drawing with the title ‘Waterfall on the River Suse in Rond-Chatel in Erguel’.

5 November 2008

### Třebechovice Nativity Tableau



**Designer:** Václav Kučera **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** DS with multicoloured offset of one stamp in a commemorative sheet.

**Design:** the sheet shows the carved wooden Nativity scene created by Josef Probošt with the central theme of the cattle shed and the Holy Family forming the stamp. Josef Probošt (1849-1926) began this model in 1885 working on it with the wood carver Josef Kapucián for over 40 years. It is 7m long, 1.8m high and 3.2m wide, consisting of more than 2,000 pieces with a number of moving figures. The display depicts well known Biblical stories in a late 19th Bohemian town setting. This unique Nativity scene was designated a national cultural heritage artefact in 1999. The museum at Třebechovice contains more than 400 Nativity scenes from all over the Czech Republic.

**FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Třebechovice cancel. The cachet drawing is a detail from the central part of the Nativity scene – Joseph with the Christ Child in the crib and one of the shepherds paying homage.

5 November 2008

## Christmas Traditions



**Designer:** Pavel Sivko **Engraver:** Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 stamps.

**Design:** a saucer of nuts, apples and sweets decorated with spruce twigs and mistletoe.

**FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design shows a pastry board, rolled out pastry and cut out pastry shapes with a Christmas theme ready for baking.

5 November 2008

## Definitive – Children in Winter



**Designer:** Václav Kučera **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels by Victoria Security Printing a.s.

**Design:** stamp is from a 1955 drawing by Josef Lada entitled 'Children in Winter'. The right upper label shows children building a snowman, the right lower label has a boy with a small snowman on a sledge and the remaining labels have a circular 'postmark' with the text 'The post commemorates its 90th Anniversary 1918 – 2008' in Czech with its logo at the centre. The labels can be personalised. There was no official FDC.

25 November 2008

## Czech Republic's Presidency of the EU Council



**Designer:** Tomáš Pakosta **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 30 stamps and 30 labels.

**Design:** stamp – the logo of the Czech presidency of the EU Council and its motto 'Europe without barriers' in Czech. Label – a diagrammatic map of Europe in the form of two letter codes of the member countries.

**FDC:** printed multicoloured offset with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is the same design as that used for the label.

## Postal Stationery

## Commemorative Cards

## 3 September 2008: J Navrátil – Murals in the Postal Museum, Prague.

A series of postcards imprinted with a) 10Kč b) 17Kč stamp impressions printed by coloured offset. The stamp designs are from murals in the Postal Museum, Prague. The 10Kč impression is the same as the stamp issued on 5 March 2008 (see Czechout 2/2008 p54) 17Kč stamp is from the 1847 work of J Navrátil with the title 'Summoning Přemysl to the Throne'. The postcards have a security hologram and logo of the Czech Post left of the stamp impression. The lower right corner has the Praga 2008 logo beside a 'post cancel' logo to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Post Museum. Each card gives brief details of the picture on the card.

*Number of cards in this series not known but I have received the following:*

1. Photocard of the Industrial Palace and Fountain, Exhibition Park, Prague.
2. Photocard of Charles Bridge, Prague.

Both cards have imprinted blue 17Kč stamp – silhouette of Hradčany.

3. Picturecard of the Industrial Palace, Prague 1891.
4. Photocard of Ledeburk Garden, Prague.

Both cards have imprinted red 10Kč stamp – silhouette of Hradčany.

5. Navrátil's mural (as imprinted stamp)
6. A view of Karlovy Vary to celebrate 650th anniversary of the town
7. Celebrating the 1750 Express Mail Route Vienna – Brno.

The above three cards have imprinted 10Kč stamps – 'Zuzana carrying King Wenceslas IV across the Vltava River' by J Navrátil.

8. Navrátil's mural summoning Přemysl to the Throne.' which is the subject of the imprinted 17Kč stamp

## Promotional Cards

**3 June 2008. Stamp Exhibition 'Premiéra'.** The event was held 26-29 June 2008 at Hluboš Castle which was the residence of T G Masaryk from 1920 to 1921.

**26 June 2008. 90th Anniversary of Founding of the Republic and various other 90th anniversaries.**

**3 September 2008. 11th Collectors Fair, Prague.** Sběretal was held 12-14 September during Praga 2008.

The above three cards have imprinted 10Kč numeral stamp impression in red.

**18 September 2008. WIPA08, International Postal Exhibition, Vienna.** The event was held 18-21 September 2008. Card has imprinted 17Kč numeral stamp impression in blue.

## Slovak Republic

5 May 2008

### Europa 2008 – Letter Writing



**Designer:** Dušan Polakovič **Engraver:** Arnold Feke

**Printing:** stamps – offset in sheets of 4 x 2 stamps by Post Printing House, Prague. FDC: DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava.

**Design:** a cat sitting in front of a lap top computer writing on a piece of paper.

**FDC:** with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The humorous cachet drawing shows various ways of sending letters by air and sea.

29 May 2008

### For Children – Pavol Dobšinský



**Designer:** Peter Uchnár **Engraver:** Vierošlav Ondrejčka **Printing:** stamp - rotary recess combined with recess by Post Printing House, Prague; FDC – offset by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Design:** the multi-headed dragon, which often appeared in the stories told by Pavol Dobšinský (1828-1885). He was an avid collector of Slovak fairy tales, which were published as collections. Many of the stories have dragons with heads in multiples of three. The dragon in Slavic mythology probably represented Svarog, the god of heavenly fire and flame symbolising good. **FDC:** has a commemorative Bratislava cancel and the cachet drawing in black has the magic helpers of Long, Stout and Sharp Eyes. A booklet of 10 stamps and a maxi-card were issued.

30 June 2008

### Finds from Bojná – Nitrafila 2008



**Designer:** Igor Benca **Engravers:** František Horniak (stamp) Juraj Vitek (FDC) **Printing:** DS with offset in sheets of 3 stamps, 3 labels and pictorial margins. FDC – DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Designs:** stamp – a gilded copper plaque (No 1) from a series of six of the 9th century found at the Great Moravian hill-fort Bojná 1. The plaque shows a winged Christ as 'the Angel of Great Council'. The labels and decorative margin to the sheet show the other five plaques. The upper sheet margin has the text (at left) 'XIII World Congress of the Society of St Gabriel' and logo (at right) of the event. Images of St Gabriel and another angel complete the sheet margin decoration. **FDC:** printed in dark brown with a commemorative Nitra cancel. The cachet drawing is taken from a Byzantine coin with a portrait of Emperor Michael III holding a labarum. The cancel uses the obverse design of the coin – Christ with a halo cross.

25 September 2008

## 550th Anniversary of the Coronation of Matthias Corvinus



**Designer:** Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Arnold Feké **Printing:** - stamp – offset by Post Printing House, Prague. FDC – siderography with offset by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Design:** a portrait of Matthias from a painting by an unknown 18th century Austrian artist. The original work is in the City Gallery, Bratislava. Matthias Corvinus (1443-1490) was King of Hungary from 1458 and founded the first university on Slovak territory. Today the building is the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. He also established an extensive library in his castle at Buda. **FDC:** has a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows the Renaissance tombstones of Imrich and Stephen Zápolya who were contemporaries of Matthias.

12 September 2008

## Karel Plicka – Joint issue with the Czech Republic

(See Czech Republic New Issues for 12 September 2008 above for details.)

**FDC:** cachet drawing in black-brown taken from a photograph by Plicka of the head of young girl in traditional folk costume. The theme of the commemorative Bratislava cancel is a reminder of Plicka's work recording traditional folk music.

9 October 2008

## Beauties of Our Homeland – Wooden Churches



**Designer:** Karol Felix **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** stamps – in sheet of four stamps and five labels printed DS combined with offset by Post Printing House, Prague. FDC – DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Designs:** stamps – the wooden churches at Dobroslava and Hervatov; labels – 2 labels show the church at Ladomírová, 2 labels show the church at Príkra and the central sheet label shows the church at Hunkovce.

Wooden churches were typical for eastern Slovakia and the Carpathian area, mainly conducting services in the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The churches were all of log-house construction without any iron nails – these would remind the builders of the crucifixion of Christ. The earliest preserved churches at Hervatov and Tročany were built in the 15th and 16th centuries and the other churches date from the 17th and 18th centuries. Many of these buildings have been designated as National Cultural Monuments and eight were added to the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List in 2008.

**FDCs:** a) with stamp of the church at Dobroslava has a commemorative Kapišová cancel and the cachet drawing in dark brown of the church at Bodružal. b) with stamp of the church at Hervatov has a commemorative Kľušov cancel. The cachet drawing in grey-black shows the church at Tročany.

23 October 2008

## Nature Conservation – Orchids



**Designer:** Vladimír Machaj **Engraver:** Martin Činovský **Printing:** stamps – rotary recess with recess by Post Printing House, Prague; FDCs – DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Designs:** a) a flower and leaf stalk of the Lady's Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*). It is the only orchid of the genus to be found in Slovakia and protected by law. It is listed in the Red Slovak List of Plants and Animals. FDC: has a commemorative Bratislava cancel and the cachet drawing in brown shows a clump of the orchids growing under fir trees. b) a flower, bud and leaf stalk of the Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). Five species of this genus can be found in Slovakia but they are amongst the scarcest species of orchid. The plants are on the Red List of Endangered and Scarce Plants of Slovakia with individual locations of growth protected by law.

**FDC:** has a commemorative Bratislava cancel and the cachet drawing in green has a group of the orchids in flower.

## Postal Stationery

### Promotional Postcards

All the following cards have the imprinted stamp T2 50g (inland second class, weight to 50g) (See *Czechout* 1/2008 p30). Retail price of the cards is postage plus 3Sk. From 1 January 2009 the currency in Slovakia will be in Euros.

**4 June 2008 (151CDV 148/08) Day of Slovak Olympians.** Cachet design shows two Slovak gold medal winners of the 1988 Olympics. The card promoted the stamp exhibition Slovolympfila.

**6 June 2008 (152 CDV148/08) Day of Slovak Paralympians.** Cachet design has a paraplegic female competitor holding her two prosthetic legs. The card was issued to promote the Slovolympfila exhibition.

**6 June 2008 (153 CDV148/08) Bratislava Collectors Fair.** The event was held on 6 and 7 June 2008. The cachet shows a young collector with a magnifying glass examining a stamp.

**2 July 2008 (154 CDV148/08) Nitrafila 2008.** Cachet taken from an oil painting of 1926 by František Gyrkovics now in the Art Gallery at Nitra of St. Cyril preaching to a crowd of people in front of a church.



**4 July 2008 (155 CDV 148/08) 13th World Congress of Guild of St Gabriel, Nitrafila 2008.** The cachet is a detail from an 18th century decoration depicting the Annunciation in the Cathedral and Basilica, Nitra.

**5 July 2008 (156 CDV 148/08) The Most Beautiful Slovak Stamp of 2007.** The cachet is a reprint of the stamp issued 27 June 2007 – Bratislava Castle.

**12 September 2008 (157 CDV 148/08) Slovfila – 15 Years of Co-operation.** The cachet is a view of buildings from the Charles' Bridge looking towards Hradčany. The logos of Praga 2008 and Slovfila appear above the drawing.