



CZECHOUT

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

MARCH 2009

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 134 Vol.27 No.1

Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

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NOTES

As advertised in the December issue and the programme card the **Society Residential Weekend** will be at the Queens Hotel in Perth from **26–28 June**, and the Society will be at **Midpex** on **Saturday 11 July**.

The auction on 23 May of the **Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei**, our sister society in Germany, has been generously opened to members of CPSGB. The catalogue and illustrations can be found by following the 'Aktuelles' link on the Arge's website at www.arge-tschechoslowakei.de.

Antverpia 2010, the European Stamp Exhibition with FEPA patronage and FIP recognition, will be held 9-12 April 2010 in Antwerp, Belgium. The UK Commissioner is Yvonne Wheatley and she has a supply of the Bulletin and Entry Forms and will be pleased to send them to intending exhibitors for £1 in fully gummed postage stamps. The closing date is 31 May 2009.

We congratulate **Ludvik Svoboda** on his tenure as editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* and send best wishes to **George Cuhaj** as he takes over the editorial chair.

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 10 January 2009 at the Czech and Slovak National Club

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed 15 members to the meeting and wished everyone a happy New Year. Apologies had been received from nine members.

Yvonne, in her capacity as Hon Membership Secretary, announced that current membership stood at 169. Lindy Bosworth advised the members that Monograph 25 Part 1, *90 Years of the Postal Museum*, is now available at approx. £18. The Society will be purchasing a copy for the library.

Yvonne then invited **Brian Day** to start our *Members' Displays* afternoon. Brian stated that this was a miscellany of material which included early 1st Republic provisional postmarks, postal stationery and Sokol items. **Bob Bradford** followed with Czech field post in Siberia, Sokol postmarks, covers sent from Czechoslovakia to Turkey and two very interesting proof miniature sheets of the Anniversary of Battle of Zborov in 1917. **Yvonne Wheatley** was next with a superb display of postal history of the 1st Republic. **Bob McLeod** name-dropped with a cover sent in 1917 from Switzerland to Paris by Masaryk and another cover sent by Beneš to his wife; he also displayed material from the 1st Republic and Bohemia and Moravia.

Rex Dixon was next with foreign postal rates of Bohemia and Moravia, which included some material that is very difficult to find. **Roger Morrell** showed us Austro-Hungarian Empire postal receipts, which Roger said that in his opinion were very pretty items; the earliest item seen was from 1793. **Lindy Bosworth** displayed stamps of Slovakia from the year 1999 showing us all a wealth of designs and included some bromides. **David Holt's** collection of Gestapo 'R' censor cachets on printed matter into the Protectorate was very interesting; he stated that due to the variation in design and colour he needed to get more information on the subject.

Jim Hamlin showed us covers from Czech hostages that were held in Buchenwald Concentration Camp to guarantee good behaviour during the occupation, also material from Czechs in Theresienstadt. Last but not least **Ron Hollis** treated us to a display of postcards, election leaflets, souvenir sheets and other related material from 1927 to 2007; his display showed all present a glimpse into the social history of Czechoslovakia since its foundation.

Tony Hickey gave a vote of thanks to all of those that displayed with all agreeing that we had had a superb afternoon of Czech philately. There being no further business Yvonne Gren called the meeting to a close at 4.20 pm.

Anthony Hickey

PERTH 2009: CPSGB Weekend at the Queens Hotel, Perth 26–28 June. I am pleased to report that, at the time of writing, bookings for this weekend total 29 members, friends and partners. I am currently holding reservations on one single room and four twin-bedded rooms which remain available to other members.

Members can extend their stay either side of the weekend if they wish to explore the area. The weekend starts with dinner on the Friday evening and concludes at 1.00pm on the Sunday. The programme will include the Bill Dawson Memorial Lecture to be given by Brian C Day, the Francis Pettitt and George Pearson Competitions and a guest display of local postal history after the Saturday night dinner.

All members are encouraged to bring up to three 32-sheet displays. Time will be allowed for a members' bourse; Mrs Breebaart and Mr Sobotka will have a sales table at the weekend. The historic city of Perth has good museums, walks beside the River Tay and a wide range of shops. Visitors from the South East should note there is a daily through service from Kings Cross to Perth, which currently leaves London at noon on the Friday.

I will be delighted to accept additional bookings for the rooms we are holding. Please write to me at the PH4 address or send an e-mail, my details are given inside the front cover of *Czechout*.

Richard Beith

Letters & e-mails to the Editor

☒ **Derek Walker:** I recently watched a German film called *The Counterfeiters*, English sub-titles of course. It's about some Jewish forgers printing British banknotes in Sachsenhausen Camp during WWII, very interesting if you get the chance to see it. There is also a very good site which has articles about the camp and its forgeries at www.psywarrior.com, under articles about WWII. In the same batch of articles, lavishly illustrated, there are articles about stamp forgeries. Well worth a quick glance.

☒ **Lubor Kunc:** I would like to inform members about the change of my website Czech Philately on Line, which has been moved to <http://www.czech-stamps.org/>.

☒ **Rex Dixon:** An e-mail has been received from Jindřich Jirásek, Manager of the Fair, informing us that the 12th International Trade & Collectors Fair [Sběratel] in Prague will be held in the new fairgrounds in the northern part of the capital on 3 September until 5 September 2009 (Thursday to Saturday). For further information please see: http://www.ppa.cz/?page=sberatel_en.

☒ **Barry Horne:** Birmingham Philatelic Society celebrates its 125th year at the end of 2009. I have been asked to show Czechoslovakia to the Society on Wednesday 11 November 2009. They meet in the John Peek room at Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street at 6pm for 6.30pm. All members living in the area [and from further afield if they would like to come] are very welcome to come along to the meeting and display. It would help if they would please indicate their attendance to me so that I can give the numbers to the club beforehand: home email: benroh@tiscali.co.uk; business email: barry@sis-exeter.co.uk; office email: barry@stampinsurance.co.uk.

☒ **ABPS E- BULLETIN No. 13 for January and the ABPS NEWS for February** contain details of the Centenary Congress of GB being held in Manchester (Cophorne Hotel) from 16-19 July; for further details see www.pcgb.org.uk. The 2009 edition of Philatelic Lecturers and Displays will be available soon. The 2009 ABPS Directory will be published in the summer. Workshops and Seminars are available contact johnc.sussex@btinternet.com. The ABPS AGM and the 2009 THEMATICA competitions will be held alongside MIDPEX in the Xcel Centre.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the sudden death of the Czech Ambassador, H.E. **Jan Winkler**, at the early age of 51. Our Chairman, Yvonne Gren writes, 'Those of you who were at our Exhibition in October will remember how appreciative he was of our displays and spoke very kindly about them. I have sent a message of condolence to his colleagues on behalf of the Society.'



A message received from Klará von Kriegsheim Kadlecová of the Political Section: 'Dear all, following the sudden death of the Czech Ambassador H.E. Jan Winkler on Monday 16 February 2009, a Book of condolences was opened at the Czech Embassy on 19 and 20 February.' Robert Kingsley signed on behalf of the Society.

[Photograph of the Ambassador taken at the recent CPSGB Exhibition by Robert McLeod.]

 **BOOK REVIEWS**


I enclose a review from January's issue of *Scale Aviation Modeller* which may be of significance to members who are interested in the Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain. These are really detailed and of use in identifying pilots and locations.

Kenny Morrison

Casemate's Squadron Histories

BOOKS

Casemate UK have passed on to us a number of books from a new range they are carrying covering individual squadrons' wartime records in the kind of detail that modellers eat for breakfast. The books all follow a similar format and include not only the basic squadron history, but a mass of invaluable appendices, including operational diaries, lists of aircraft losses, monthly lists of sorties flown, aircrew biographies, claims, and a wealth of other details. If you are trying to add a story to your model, then these well presented and illustrated books will certainly be of use.

during the summer of 1940. Almost 170 pilots were either posted, or attached, to this unit including five British, one New Zealander, one Rhodesian and one Pole. This book is a complete history of the squadron.

X No. 312 (Czechoslovak) Sqn 1940-45

Author: Tomas Polak

Publisher: Phaedria

ISBN: 978 295263 815 2

Format: Softback 98pp

Formed at Duxford in 1940, 312 operated Hurricanes and Spitfires, and took part in the Operation Jubilee raids on Dieppe in 1943. The Squadron was transferred to the Czech Air Force in 1945.

X No. 310 (Czechoslovak) Sqn 1940-45

Author: Tomas Polak

Publisher: Phaedria

ISBN: 978 295263 815 2

Format: Softback 98pp

310 was among the first of the foreign volunteer squadrons to be formed

No. 457 (RAAF) Sqn 1941-45

Author: Jim Grant and Phil Listeman

Publisher: Phaedria

ISBN: 978 295263 812 8

Format: Softback 80pp

Formed on Spitfires at Baginton in 1941, 457 transferred to Australia, and

The latest Midland Counties Publications catalogue [4 Watling Drive, Hinckley, Leics, LE10 3EY 01455-254-450 www.midlandcountiessuperstore.com] contains on page 7 details of a book *Czechs in the RAF in Focus*, a collection of archive photos, illustrating each Czechoslovak squadron operating in the RAF during WWII. 8pp colour artworks, 305 b/w photos, 96 pages A4 softback.

Colin Spang

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE NEWSLETTER

The January and March 2009 issues include the following items that members may find interesting.

1. Arising from a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund an education pack entitled *The Penny Black Changed the World* has been produced.
2. The BPMA online shop has a new website <http://shop.postalheritage.org.uk>.
3. On 16 September 2008 the Board of Trustees chose the site of the former Chain Testing Works at the Churchyard Village site in Swindon as the intended site of the BPMA's new site.
4. The cataloguing of POST 73, regional administration and operations has been completed.
5. On Monday 8 January nearly 800 records describing the commemorative stamps in the reign of King George V were released for viewing via our online catalogue.
6. Further items from the BPMA's collections recently made available on the online catalogue include Valentine Cards and other ephemera from the Museum collection. Also released were over 300 descriptions of military medals awarded to Post Office employees.
7. Recently released the second box of DVDs including *Night Mail*, *We Live in Two Worlds*, and *Penny Journey* and other little known works. Also the Last Post Postcard Pack accompanying the exhibition *Last Post*.

Publications

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

- The Spring 2009 issue of *Austria*, No.165.
 - ▶ If all else fails, read the instructions [sources of research into Austrian postal history] (Taylor);
- The November/December 2008 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 70, No. 6, Whole No.612. The articles include:
 - ▶ A 12-year Odyssey (Svoboda); The Charles Bridge in Prague (Stechschulte); A Guide to the Types and Sub-types of the 1923 Agriculture & Science issue (Wilson); Czech Wooden Churches (Horvath); Czechoslovak Postage Stamps of the First Republic (Wilson); Refresher Course: Stamp-selling tips: Choose a method that suits your stamps and your goals (Klug).
- The 12/2008 and 1, 2 & 3/2009 issues of *Filatelie*, Vols. 58/59. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ 90 years of the Prague Museum (PM); Czechoslovak. Stamp Booklets [1] (Šilhán); Slovakia converts to Euro (Münzberger).
 - ▶ Post Offices disappeared from the map [1] (Kratochvíl); Czechoslovak. Stamp Booklets [2] (Šilhán); Prague Post Offices 90 years ago (Kratochvíl); Padělky: Forgeries Type 'K', 20h Hradčany [1] (Beneš); Information behind the scenes Praga 2008 [1] (Münzberger & Aksamit).
 - ▶ Post Offices disappeared from the map [2] (Kratochvíl); Padělky: Forgeries Type 'K', 5h SO Postage Due - Nightmare [2] (Beneš); Czechoslovak Stamp Booklets [3] (Šilhán); Curious forgery of the 30h Hradčany, 5th design, trial black print (Káňa).
 - ▶ Post Offices disappeared from the map [3] (Kratochvíl); Padělky: Forgeries Type 'K', SO Overprints - Nightmare [3] (Beneš); Czechoslovak Stamp Booklets [4] (Šilhán); The Specialisation of the coil stamp Pofis No 2399 (Weissenstein); Padělky: Forgeries Type 'K', 5h Hradčany (Paděra & Olšina); 'Stamps' production in the view of the designer (Sivko); The Nachod gutter pairs (Wilson & Kunc).
- The 6/2008 and 1/2009 issues of *Merkur Revue*. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ The Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, France & Italy (Fritz); Participation of Max Švabinský in the design of the State banknote 5 Kč III [1938] (Moravec); The use of Czechoslovak stamps on US Diplomatic mail (Gebauer); Fortresses and Castles on stamps from ČSR territory [II] (Fritz).
 - ▶ The 1943 London Miniature Sheet (Hauptman); Vouchers of the Zemské Banky Království Českého [I] (Moravec); Fortresses and Castles on stamps from ČSR territory [III] (Fritz); Private postal stationery (JAS).
- No. 12, March 2009 issue of *NIEUWS* (Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately):
 - ▶ Military Censorship of Austria-Hungary [1 Wereldoorlog 1914-1918] (Verleg); New identification of the 300h Hradčany Type IV (Trip); Klement Gottwald (Hemmes).
- The March 2009 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No.176:
 - ▶ Review of *Postal History of The Austro-Hungarian Empire's Activities in the Far East 1898-1920* by Fred Pirotte, 32 rue de Villcoublay, 78140 Vezizy, France 32 € including P&P (Morrell); The Occupation of Bosnia up to the issue of Military Post Stamps on 1.7.1879 (Endrödi); The Sea Post surcharge 1875-1892 (Czirók).

From the Honorary Treasurer

Please **NOTE**: My e-mail address is changed from that on the Membership Form to – whyareuu@talktalk.net.

At the AGM the Constitution concerning the payment of subscriptions was amended.

Subscriptions are payable on 1 January each year. A further month's grace will be given, to 30 April, (formerly 31 March) before the Committee can at its discretion remove a person from the Roll of Members.

This enables payment to be made during April following the reminders sent out with the March edition of *Czechout*. Subscriptions not paid by 30 April will incur a surcharge, the amount of which will be announced at the preceding AGM. The reason for this is that it is costly to send reminders and print and send *Czechout*. The surcharge will help defray these expenses so they are not subsidised by members who pay promptly. No one need pay the surcharge. Prompt payment is in the interest of everyone.

The time scale for giving notice of intention to resign has been deleted. Notice may be given to the Treasurer, Membership Secretary or Secretary at any time, preferably by the beginning of March to save a reminder being sent.

The amount of the surcharge for 2009 will be £3.

Benefit for Members

Some time ago the Society arranged a discount procedure with Vera Trinder, sellers of philatelic literature and accessories. This is a reminder as to how the scheme works and to let you know there has been an amendment to the way discount is calculated.

If you want to take advantage of the scheme you must adhere to the procedure.

- Let me know what you want to order. I will place the order and the goods will be delivered to you. If you want to collect the goods you must order through me and I will contact Trinders before your visit.
- I will receive the invoice which the Society will pay and collect reimbursement from you.

The discount received by the Society will be 25% off the cost of the goods before VAT, if applicable. The discount will be applied to the postal charges and the balance will be divided as to 50% to the member and 50% to the Society. It will result in a worthwhile saving as shown by this example.

Goods £100, VAT £17.50, postage £5. Total £122.50.

The invoice will be £75 plus VAT £13.13 and postage £5. Total £93.13. You pay £103.13 i.e. the invoice plus half the net discount after postage namely £10, a saving of £19.37 on the original price. The Society receives £10 to compensate for the additional paperwork.

Vera Trinder 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London, WC2E 9EU, internet www.vtrinder.co.uk, tel 020 7257 9940, fax 020 7836 0873, email vtrinder@aol.com. Enquiries only – all orders to be placed by me.

Yvonne Wheatley, Hon Treasurer

UNDERCOVER MAIL

-Ed Fraser-

Ed Fraser writes to the Editor in acknowledgement of the publication of his query in the December issue of *Czechout* 4/2008.

The 'classic' articles on the topic date from the 1978–79 period when a collector, A. E. Gilbert, wrote several articles about Box 506, Lisbon. One of these was in the British magazine *Stamp Collecting* and another was in the newsletter of the Third Reich Study Group here in the U.S. entitled 'A Listing of Box 506 by Country of Origin' TRSG Vol. XII No 2 (Whole No. 47) pages 12 & 13. Jim Lewis, the co-author and current editor of the TRSG has always been interested in the topic, but has not been a collector of this material. Mr Gilbert is deceased, and as far as I know, there never was another serious update made to list covers found after around 1980. Most covers found back then were the unusual looking 'yellow label' ones, whereas more of the covers since then were the more ordinary looking ones addressed simply to Box 506, Lisbon, and no clue other than British censorship that the cover ever moved onward out of Portugal. (To do the task now is very daunting, as I would guess there are now many times the numbers of covers that have since been identified.)

I have the other Gilbert articles, but not here (I am sending this from St. Petersburg, Florida now). This Lewis-Gilbert one I had scanned into this computer a while back. I will get a chance to check those others for any additional listings, and can list perhaps 10 (?) others I have information about, perhaps later this month.

The topic has one or two more 'angles':

1. Before Holland was occupied in 1940, there was a 2-month period, I figure, where Thomas Cook used 'Box 601, Amsterdam' as their neutral country address for mail to and from England. I know of German and Polish covers addressed to Box 601, but they are pretty rare. Maybe two dozen are known, I might guess. Finding a Czech one would be quite something – very possibly none have survived (if any existed).

2. It now seems quite certain that Thomas Cook in Canada went its own way, and did not opt for Holland or Portugal Box addresses as long as the United States was neutral and convenient. All data suggests the address they used was Box 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, NY. Czech covers are known coming to this address and getting Canadian censorship on their apparently subsequent re-direction into Canada. Unfortunately, I only happen to have one example, and it is not the nicest looking cover. While Norway doesn't fit with the Czech situation, I think the members of the CPSGB may be interested in the accompanying ('imposed') article from the U.S. magazine *The Posthorn* because it gives somewhat of an overview of what collectors know about Box 252.

On a different tack, I don't know if you have seen the George Kay/Ron Negus *Polish Exile Mail in Great Britain 1939-1949* published by J. Barefoot Ltd., softbound and 250 pages. It's dated December 1997, which bothers me a little as I wonder what needs correcting and updating. (The authors are apparently deceased for some time now.) It is an absolutely amazing collection of information and data, with all sorts of detail about the 'undercover' addresses used and created through volunteering third parties in Switzerland and elsewhere – but just about Poland. Some were famous, some probably very obscure, but in total there is a big listing. I wonder if any other country (France, etc) could ever get the philatelic manpower to undertake such a task as these Polish collectors did, even if only a book half the size resulted. (My copy cost £20 post paid in 2005. I bought it as a gamble because it seemed a bit off-focus for me, but it turned out to have a lot of Box 506 related detail re Poland.)

The World War II 'Thomas Cook' Undercover Mail Service between Canada and Norway

A Link for Norwegian Seamen

- Ed Fraser -

The Posthorn, May 2008

Only in recent decades has there been much focus on details of the World War II civilian wartime mail service between Canada and Germany, or Axis-occupied Countries. These details have been elusive to find, unlike the more documented, London-based Thomas Cook undercover mail service that was widely used and openly advertised in the British press. Initially, the London service used Amsterdam, Holland, as the neutral place for sending mail into Germany and receiving mail replies from Germany. When Holland fell in May, 1940, London changed the service to neutral Portugal. That service, principally using Box 506 in Lisbon, handled a large volume of mail for the first few years of the war. The Axis tolerated allowing such mail, or did not enforce harsh laws that they had against anyone sending letters using undercover mail schemes.



Great Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, and Canada did so a week later, September 10. In a much lower profile way, Canada took steps to initiate an undercover mail service through the still-neutral United States. By November 24, 1939, an agreement had been finalized with Thomas Cook & Son in Toronto to do the job. This can be confirmed by the newspaper article from the *Montreal Gazette* of November 25, 1939, shown as Figure 1. (Author's note: The author would appreciate knowing of other concurrent public announcements or newspaper articles about this service.)

Figure 1. Newspaper Notice about initiation of Thomas Cook's service in Canada.

Why Thomas Cook & Son?

When World War II started, apparently as both a humanitarian service and a modest revenue generation effort to offset lost travel agency business, Thomas Cook & Son proposed to the British government to be allowed to offer a forwarding service for civilian mail between England and Germany via a mail drop in Holland. The same reasoning probably applied to Thomas Cook & Son in Canada, except that using the United States was more convenient than Holland.

Information about this service apparently was available through post offices and by writing to Thomas Cook in Toronto, but copies of such information has eluded the philatelic community. Nothing has been found in print showing what address – or even what city or cities – were used as undercover addresses in the United States.

The information has been deduced from fewer than 1,000 covers and some enclosed slips from Thomas Cook in Toronto occasionally found in surviving mail. The bulk of covers, regardless of what country they are from, are basically all addressed to 'Care of Post Box 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, U.S.A.' They typically have Axis

censorship, are addressed to different names, and also have Canadian censorship indicating they somehow went from New York to Canada as it would not make sense to have come *from* occupied Europe to Canada, and then onward to neutral New York.

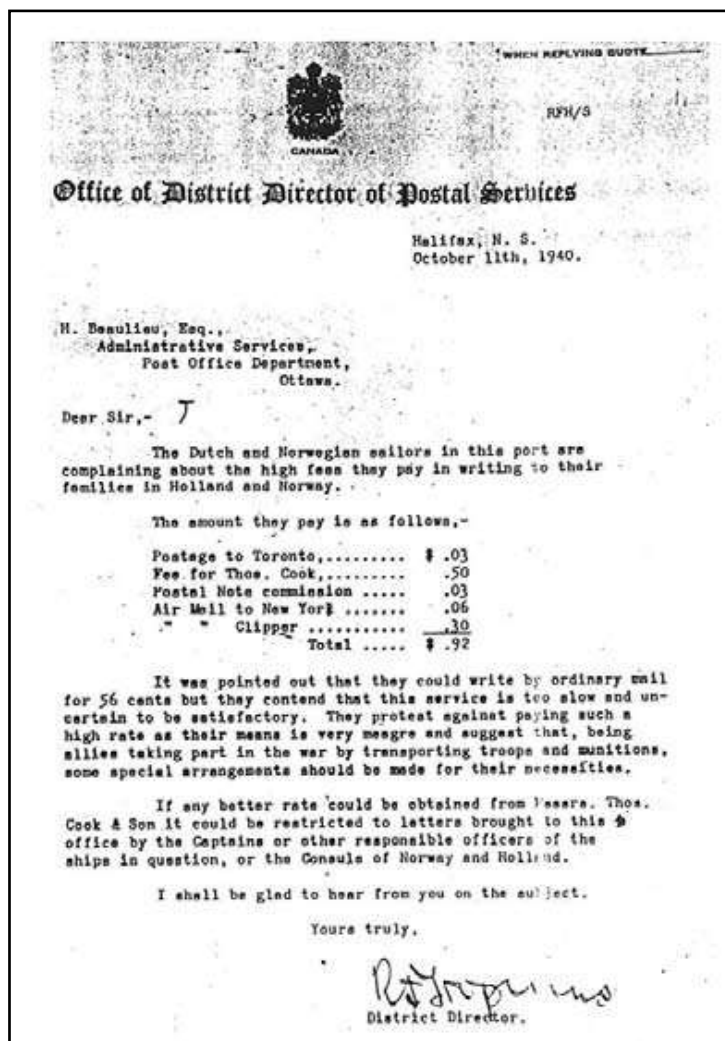
Unfortunately, neither Canada nor the United States routinely postmarked any of this mail on arrival or in transit. Additionally, most known covers are without contents. I believe that many of these covers probably were retained by Thomas Cook and only the contents were passed along from Cook's Office. At some point Thomas Cook's empty covers then wound up in the philatelic community.

While much of the functioning of this service is discussed in correspondence that can be found in official Canadian microfilm records in scattered places – and more needs to be found – one such letter involving Norwegian seamen would seem of particular interest to the collector community. That is shown as Figure 2, and is a most interesting complaint. This fortuitous letter conveys a story easily lost in history. This letter describes the situation quite well, but it does not appear that any accommodation was ever made for these seamen. The related correspondence that followed took a typical bureaucratic approach, offering nothing.

Historical Background

To review the history of the time, Germany attacked Denmark and Norway on April 9, 1940, forcing Denmark to surrender almost immediately. The Germans were unable to seize the Norwegian government, which then fought on. By early May, German control covered most of Norway, but fighting continued into June in northern areas while the Norwegian government then fled to England.

There was an effort by the Norwegian merchant fleet to get to or stay at sea to avoid the Germans. Many subsequently helped the Allied war effort. Halifax, Nova Scotia, was an important seaport in that effort.



Discussed here are several covers directed through Box 252 in New York to Norwegian seamen and others in Canada. These were all from the summer of 1940, and from the towns listed in Table 1. Other covers from Norway that may or may not have been to seamen are listed in Table 2.

It is not known where in Canada any of these addressees actually were, but Halifax was probably a popular location for seamen. Usually 'letters home' during wartime survive better, but here no 'letters home' are known or identified, and we only have these letters 'from home' to work with. Hopefully a little publicity – such as this article – will result in some of the 'letters home' turning up, even after all these years.

This forwarding service through the United States obviously came to an end when the U.S. entered the war against Germany in December, 1941. So did many other ways to contact Canadians one way or another through the U.S. There were proposals for Thomas Cook to offer a service to Americans after December, 1941. That apparently never materialized. Some mail routing between Canada and Portugal, and also between the United States and Portugal, did continue in various ways through the war, but on a smaller scale.

Figure 2. Letter dated October 11, 1940, from Office of District Director of Postal Services, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Table 1. Seamen's Mail

Postmarks on a total of 25 covers seen by the writer of places in Norway to Box 252, Grand Central Annex, New York.

Haugesund
 Helgeroa
 Hem (unclear - possibly Sem)
 Nøtterøy
 Onsøy*
 Sandefjord
 Sysle*
 Tord*
 Tønsberg

*These towns are included in five covers to names of known seamen connected with the same three ships, but no ship name is in the address. The cover from Sysle has been positively confirmed as to a seaman who was with the "Pelagos."

Table 2. Some Seamen's mail possible

Postmarks of additional five places known from Norway to Box 252, Grand Central Annex, New York

Bergen	Oslo
Fredrikstad	Vestrefjord
Myrvoll	

Covers shown here as Figures 3 through 8 are all dated before the District Director of Postal Services' letter of October, 1940 (shown in Figure 2) was sent, although I believe apparently no accommodation was made as a result of that letter. The cover shown in Figures 6 and 7 has no indication of involving seamen's mail. However, checking out additional Norwegian Box 252 covers proved interesting. Additional information was obtained with the help of Siri Lawson, who maintains a scholarly website about Norwegian seamen in general and their involvement in World War II in particular.

Figure 3. An example of a cover from Tønsberg from August, 1940, to a seaman on the Pelagos.

The Norwegian covers discussed here happen to include seamen's mail to just three ships - the *Suderøy*, the *Pelagos* and the *Sir James Clark Ross*. Is that a coincidence? Is there a common thread between the three ships? My guess is that someone advised these three about the Thomas Cook service, or they saw a notice about it, and the information was passed on to the crews of these three ships. Figures 3 and 4 show a cover addressed to a seaman on the *Pelagos*. The records indicate he was captured with the ship by the Germans, and later in 1941 apparently was returned to and released in Norway. Figures 5 and 8 show two covers addressed to seamen on the *Sir James Ross Clark*. The history is that when the thousands of Norwegian ships at sea heard of the German invasion of Norway on April 9, 1940, most sought to avoid returning to Norway. Three such ships were off England, and when they decided to contact British authorities, the *Suderøy*, the *Pelagos*, and the *Sir James Clark Ross*, - 'whale factories' apparently along with 'whale catchers' - were directed to go to Halifax for further orders.



Figure 4. Reverse of August, 1940, cover in Figure 3 showing Nazi and Canadian censor tapes.

Examining Norway Examples

The evidence from known covers suggests that Thomas Cook maintained books with the names and addresses of the Canadian senders, as well as the names and possibly the addresses of where the mail was sent in occupied Europe. A 50-cent fee covered receiving one reply. Of course, the addressee in occupied Europe would have no way to know that, so surely additional replies were sent, sometimes from other family members and friends who might conclude that the addressee was actually in New York. (How would they really know they were writing to an official 'undercover' address?)



Figure 5. An example of a cover from Sandefjord from August 30, 1940, to a seaman on the Sir James Clark Ross.

These additional replies from Europe may have been either held or sent onward by Thomas Cook, which requested payment from the Canadian addressee of an additional 25-cent fee. They may have been held when the addressee still owed 25 cents from a previous 'extra delivery'. A nice example suggesting this case is shown by the pencil annotation added to the August 19, 1940, seaman cover shown in Figure 8. That annotation

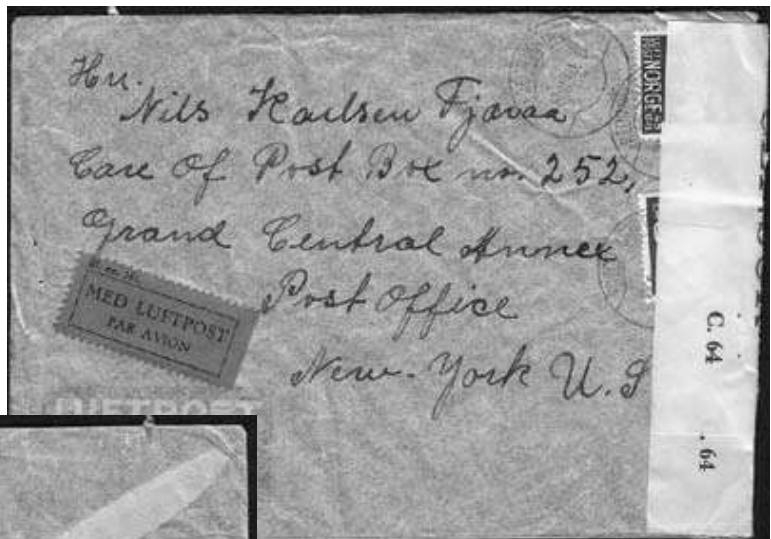


Figure 6. A typical air mail cover from Fredrikstad, August 19, 1940, to Box 252. For an unknown reason it happened to receive a backstamp, as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7. The cover in Figure 6, backstamped in New York before getting Canadian censorship (tape C. 64). There is no Nazi censorship tape or handstamp.

apparently reads 'Sent to Halifax Sept 26. 25¢ to collect.' (I read this as meaning the contents were sent to Halifax with a note to return payment to Thomas Cook, and only this envelope was held at Thomas Cook.) It is especially interesting as it indicates the addressee's address was in Halifax. A few other annotated Box 252 addressed covers are known. Again, though, even with known slips requesting 25-cent payments to Thomas Cook in Toronto, there is no official paperwork linking Box 252 in New York and Thomas Cook. The firm has maintained that this information, and any records, did not survive the war.



Figure 8. Cover of August 19, 1940, with added pencil annotation, 'Sent to Halifax Sept 26. 25¢ to collect.'

Mail Censorship

The censorship of Box 252 mail is often somewhat distinctive because it usually had both Axis and Canadian censor tapes. In a quick review of 100 non-Norwegian covers addressed to Box 252, the following was noted: Three-quarters were from Germany, and all but one from Germany had Nazi censorship, and all had Allied Censorship, almost always being Canadian censorship. The ones from France and two from Italy only had Canadian censorship. Ones from Allied or neutral countries, e.g., Sweden, Russia, had only Canadian censorship. Overall, a few had P.C. 90 censorship, e.g., two from Denmark, but all the rest had Canadian censorship. None had P.C. 90 and Canadian censorship together. In total, only three covers were without Axis censorship where it might have been expected, perhaps suggesting a 3 percent pass-through rate of uncensored mail. ('P.C. 90' refers to the form number on many censor sealing tapes. 'P.C.' was a fairly standard prefix used to identify the forms used throughout the British Empire by the 'Postal Censorship', and this is thought to be what P.C. stands for. Whether the number is '90' can depend on when and where it was used. An attempt was made, beginning in the spring of 1942, to have P.C. 90 throughout the entire Imperial Censorship operation, i.e. the British Empire and its Dominions.)

It is noteworthy, therefore, that the undercover mail from Norway is often without Nazi censorship. Looking at the small sample here, it seems only about one in six or about 17 percent show Nazi censorship. It is known that the Nazis appealed to the merchant seamen to return home to Norway and perhaps took minimal action against them when they were on a ship seized by the Germans. Could it be that they wanted it to appear that there was no real repression and censorship in Norway? Were letters to seamen required to be mailed unsealed at Norwegian post offices so they did not have to be cut open and show censorship? In any event, it seems curious how few show Nazi censorship. Can any reader add detail to this?

Also, very few covers addressed to Box 252, regardless of origin, have the usual Allied censorship – for example, P.C. 90 censorship. The first suggestion here is that the Allied censors were aware that Box 252 mail was for Canada and that it would receive Canadian censorship down the line. The Allied censors, therefore, may not have bothered to censor this mail. The Canadian censorship for this time period is shown by the 'C. 64' or the 'C. 53' on the censor tapes used on all of these covers from Norway. (Typical Canadian censor tapes found on other Box 252 covers include C. 18, 22, 24, 42, 50, 54, 57, & 73, and others.) Other censorship on some covers was sometimes American, done in New York City. For those with the P.C. 90 censorship tapes, it is more complicated to know if this was done in Bermuda, or elsewhere, before arriving in New York.

Speculation on Addresses and Handling

Instructions provided by Thomas Cook were likely printed on a slip of paper or handstamped, in English, and enclosed in mail into occupied Europe. It may have stated that, 'Your reply to this letter should be addressed to me care of post box No. 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, U.S.A.' I say this because covers are known from Europe with this entire text written on them as the address! It is odd

that Thomas Cook's instructions might be given that way to a recipient who might not read English, but perhaps this happened where the seaman or other person sending those instructions from Canada didn't know English either. Were instructions available in Canada in different languages? We do not know. It is also odd that they did not use the proper American form for the address, which would have been 'Post Office Box 252' or 'P.O. Box 252' and the city and state 'New York, N.Y.', and not just the city and 'U.S.A.' I have seen only a few covers addressed to 'New York, N.Y.' or specifying 'New York City'. The rest have the same poorly constructed address format.

As further speculation, I wonder if the address might originally have been proposed as a post office box in Buffalo, New York, which would have been most convenient for Thomas Cook in Toronto. It could have been that U.S. postal authorities objected and advised that a New York City address would be better for them. A late change in the address might cause the sloppy address directive.

Additionally, it is possible that mail to Box 252 at the Grand Central Annex post office was never picked up by the local Thomas Cook office people in New York but simply bundled at the U.S. post office and sent on to Canadian censorship. This is based on personal conversations years ago with Thomas Cook office personnel that used the Grand Central Annex post office for their mail and with conversations with their then-retired mail clerk who picked up their mail daily from that post office during the war. He was quite certain he never saw quantity of mail that was then passed on to Canada, and did not remember having seen any such mail, although specific box number information was not remembered. Business mail would likely have been picked up from a postal clerk rather than out of a lobby post office box.

Of course, how the mail to Occupied Europe, including Norway, was handled is still unknown and different ways may have been used. In summary, there are still mysteries to be revealed regarding World War II undercover mail.

(The author collects WWII Thomas Cook-related undercover mail and would appreciate any additional information, comments, or questions. Contact Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735, U.S.A., or email edfraser@gmail.com.)

(Acknowledgements: Thanks to Paul Nelson, Alan Warren, Siri Lawson, the late Art Lind, and Paul Albright for their help with this article.)

References:

Articles about the Thomas Cook undercover mail forwarding during WWII generally are about the British service through Lisbon. The classic overview article is 'Post Box 506, Lisbon – Correspondence in World War II', by A. E. Gilbert, *Stamp Collecting*, 21 December, 1978. While he did a diligent job, Gilbert was working with a universe of only 166 reported covers at the time. (No Norwegian, 13 Danish, and 5 Finnish.) There are at least 100 articles in many philatelic publications on undercover mail in the past 30 years.

The original articles reporting Box 252, Grand Central Annex mail as an undercover address for Canada were written by Kenneth Rowe, available online as 'The Mystery of Box 252, a World War II Accommodation Address', *BNA Topics*, March-April, 1976, and 'Post Box 252, New York', *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 30, No 6: Nov-Dec, 1979. At that time, no Norwegian covers were reported.

A. E. Gilbert and Jim Lewis co-authored an article on Box 252 covers in the *Third Reich Study Group Bulletin* No. 47, in 1978. A follow-up article is 'Box 252', *TRSG Bulletin* No. 58, by Art Hecker.

References to covers involving Norway are rare. The comprehensive treatise by Svein Andreassen, *Norge – Postveier og sensur under den annen verdenskrig* (Utgitt av Norsk Filatelistforbund og Filatelistisk Forlag a/s, Bergen 1995, 259 pages) shows one Box 252 cover from Bergen on 16 June, 1941, and references the Thomas Cook Lisbon service. In addition, he discusses some Thomas Cook history and illustrates some Box 506 Lisbon covers, including one Norwegian example. He also discusses several other mail schemes used during the war. The book is only in Norwegian.

Siri Lawson maintains a Web site on Norwegian seamen at <http://www.warsailors.com/oddsvar/frameoddslinks.html>. Information on the *Suderøy*, *Pelagos* and *Sir James Clark Ross* can be found at <http://www.warsailors.com/singleships/suderoy.html> and at <http://www.warsailors.com/freefleet/nortraship.html>. There is also a review of how the Norwegian government-in-exile arranged for control of the huge Norwegian shipping industry in the war and assisted the Allied war effort. Crew lists are apparently incomplete, but some like the *Pelagos*, which was captured by the Germans in Antarctica in January, 1941, list captured Norwegian seamen in fair detail. It is also not clear which seamen were officially the crew of the whale factory, or may have been strictly whale chaser ship crew, or if this changed back and forth.

A Box 506 cover is discussed in 'Gertrude van Tijn and the Rescue of Dutch Jews' by Larry Nelson, *American Philatelist*, September, 2006.

See also '1941 cover sent from Vilnius to Tel Aviv contained slip about using Lisbon Box 506', by Ed Fraser, *Linn's Stamp News*, September 17, 2007.

FOOTBALL AND PHILATELY: A DANGEROUS MIXTURE!

-Lubor Kunc-

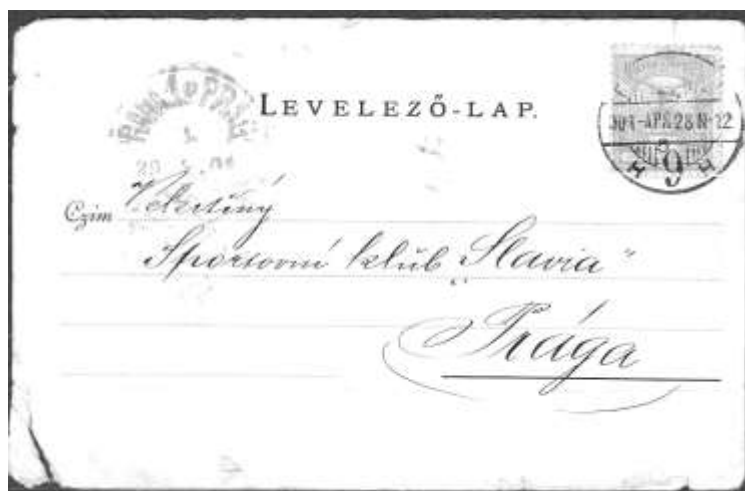
I have been inspired to write the text by the current European Championship 2008. I must say I don't collect the football topic very deeply, I just come across my accumulated stamps and was surprised how many of them illustrate the top periods of Czech football history. I was lucky to find also some interesting football covers in last 2 to 3 years. When I saw all the material, I decided to write this article. There is for sure no comprehensive list of existing philatelic material, just a relaxation of a stamp collector normally dealing with totally different philatelic material (I am postal historian focused on Cz. field post). Please relax with me by reading this text!

Football is a very traditional sport in the Czech Lands. Josef Rössler-Orovsky, who is known to us as father of the Scout stamps and some revolutionary issues of 1918, was also a very active sportsman and football promoter. He was chairman of the Czech Amateur Athletic Union (Česká amatérská atletická unie), established in 1897 in Prague. This organisation united not only athletes but also football players. Very nice proof of this athletic-football unity is the abbreviation 'AC' being still now an integral part of football club names (e.g. AC Sparta Praha). The 'AC' letters means 'Athletic Club'. In 1901 the football players separated from the athletes by creating the Czech Football Association (Český fotbalový svaz); the association joined FIFA in 1906.

We can illustrate the pioneer times of Czech football history by card shown in *figure 1*. Slavia Praha Club was one of the earlier clubs founded in Bohemia and one of the first playing international matches – e.g. in March 1899 a Slavia-Oxford match was played with score 0–3. Just small notice: it is unbelievable that the 1899 Slavia-Oxford match has even today not been forgotten: in 2008 Slavia Praha opened in Prague the new Eden stadium and the kick-off match was played by Slavia Praha and Oxford teams. The Oxford players decided to return this gesture by paying back a fee Slavia originally paid to the British club for the 1899 match. The fee amounted to £50 and it was officially paid by the captain of the Oxford team before the match!

Slavia played a good match with Southampton in Prague in April 1901 (0–3). A fan living in Budapest (but of Czech origin, he wrote the card in Czech) sent a written congratulation to the football club just four days after the match, because such score achieved with a leading English team was seen as a great success for the Czech players (*figure 1*). The match was important also for Czech football terminology: the most celebrated member of the British team was goalkeeper Robinson, who developed a revolutionary style of catching the ball. This was appreciated by Czech fans so much, that catching the ball by jumping of the goalkeeper is still now called 'robinsonada' in Czech football language.

Figure 1.



Football became an Olympic sport in 1908 (London), but since the first Olympic Games of 1896 unofficial matches were played. I found a nice card sent from Stockholm just a few days before the Olympic Games 1912 started (figure 2). The Czech team didn't participate in the 1912 football tournament; the first Olympic football tournament with the Czech participation was the 1920 one (Antwerp) – figure 3.

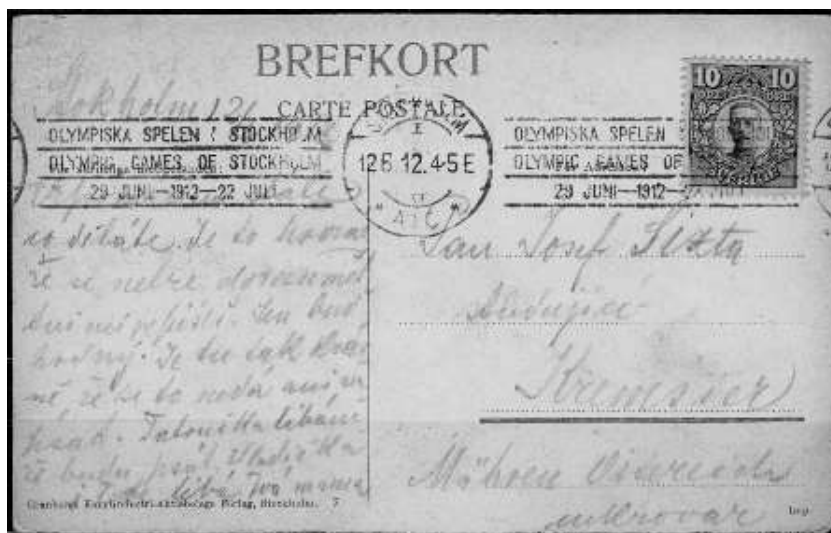


Figure 3 – Belgian stamp commemorating the 1920 Olympic Games.

Figure 2 – A card sent only a short time before Olympic Games 1912 (Stockholm) started.

Czechoslovak teams undertook some foreign trips to play with the best European and overseas clubs. Very popular were trips to Austria, Germany, France and England, but some of them were a bit longer – e.g. the Prague-based club FC Bohemians went to Australia in 1927. The result of this trip was excellent reputation of the Czech club and a new emblem showing a kangaroo. The kangaroos were a gift from Australia to President Masaryk transported by the football team to Europe. Masaryk donated the animals to the Prague Zoo and gave permission to FC Bohemians to use the kangaroo as the club logo (this is valid until now). Unfortunately, I don't have any philatelic item illustrating the Australia trip, but I found a nice card sent by Czech players from a journey to France in 1929 (figure 4). The card is very valuable not because of its franking, but thanks to signatures of the famous football players of Slavia Praha Club.



The best of them was Mr Puč (see his signature next to the stamp). The team played a friendly match with a selection of the best Paris football players; the result was 3–3. In May 1929 both teams played new match won by Slavia 6–3.

Figure 4 – Card of 1929 sent immediately after arrival to Paris by Slavia players.



The 1930s were the most successful period of Czechoslovak football before the second war. This was the first time when the Czechoslovak team played in the final of a World Championship. This happened in 1934, when Italy beat Czechoslovakia 2–1 (figure 5). The above mentioned Mr Puč was one of the players taking part in the final!

Figure 5 – Nicaragua stamp showing the winning Italian team, but also some Czechoslovak players of 1934.

In 1935 Sparta played in the final of the Central European Cup (Středoevropský pohár) against Ferencvaros Budapest. The first leg, organised in Budapest, Ferencvaros won 2–1, but the second leg at the Masaryk Stadium in Prague was easily won by Sparta 3–0 and Sparta becomes the cup winner. The Prague match was celebrated by a machine cancellation shown in figure 6. By the way, Sparta was also winner of the first Central European Cup of 1927, beating Rapid Vienna in the final.



Figure 6.

During the WW2 the football was a bit sleeping. The sport was allowed by the Nazis, but the organisation of international cups, championships etc. was interrupted and only the domestic leagues were running. In the Czechoslovak case the time was marked with the division of former Czechoslovak



Football Association, football leagues and other bodies, because the Czechoslovakia was divided into the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Slovak Republic in 1939. That movement meant that during the war separate Czech and Slovak football leagues existed. From the second war period we have only a few philatelic items relating to the football. The only football postage stamp was issued in Slovakia in 1944 to celebrate the opening of the new stadium of the famous football club SK Bratislava (in the future the club would be known as Slovan Bratislava, winner of UEFA Cup Winner's Cup in 1969 – figure 7).

Figure 7.

The wartime division of the former Czechoslovak football authorities is clearly seen in the next figure. This is a letter addressed to the Slovak Football Association in 1947 (figure 8). The 1950s were not very successful for Czechoslovak football clubs. The Communists changed the sport system from independent clubs to a unified sport system serving the working class. The clubs become often part of trade unions (the same was done with philatelic clubs as well) or they were subordinated to large industrial plants given the task to serve as an instrument of relaxation for the employees. The Sokol organisations were dissolved and some of the players were no longer acceptable for political reasons. This development put the clubs into a dark period.

Figure 8.



The positive change occurred in the 1960s, when the Czechoslovak football again became a respected and reputable member of the international football movement. The change was started by Dukla Praha Club. This club was established in 1948 as an army club used for players serving their military service.



Figure 9 – Spanish stamp celebrating Euro 1960.

Dukla won the American Summer Cup in New York in 1961–64 beating the best football teams of that time. The Dukla squad was the root of the successful Czechoslovak national team of the 1960s. The first success was third position gained by Czechoslovakia at the first European Championship 1960 (in France). The Czechoslovak team beat the French one 2–0 in match for the Bronze medal, which was a big shock for the domestic French football public (figure 9).

The Czechoslovak players took part in the final of the World Football Championship of 1962 (in Chile). We lost the match against Brazil 3–1, Josef Masopust shot the only goal of the Czechoslovak team (figure 10). The icons of Czechoslovak (and Dukla) team were Josef Masopust and goalkeeper Ivo Viktor.

I want to make here a small mention about comparison of the rewards received by the players in the 1960s and now. Each of the Czech players got remuneration of CZK 5.000,- plus a radio for the Silver medal at the World Championship 1962. The Silver medal won on the Euro 1996 (in England) was rewarded by amount of CZK 1,8 - 2,8 millions for each of the players. Very strange development of the salaries, is it not?

Figure 10 – Czechoslovak stamp celebrating the Czechoslovak participation in the final of the World Football Championship in Chile 1962.



Very successful were the next Olympic Games of 1964 organized in Tokyo, Japan. The Czechoslovak players beat strong teams such as France, Brazil and Japan. They finished their ride in the final, losing it to Hungary 2–1 (figures 11 & 12).



Figure 11 – Romanian perforated and imperforate stamps celebrating the Olympic football tournament.



Figure 12 – Czechoslovak stamp celebrating the 1964 Olympic football team.

However the 1960s belong to the best periods of Czechoslovak football, and the next decade was yet more successful. The greatest success of our history was becoming the European champions at Euro 1976 (Belgrade, Yugoslavia). The Czech team beat England, Portugal, Cyprus, the Soviet Union and finally it drew 2–2 with (West) Germany. The final was decided by penalty kicks, 5–3 for Czechoslovakia. You might remember excellent the penalty kick performed by Antonín Panenka directly to the place in the middle of the goal where the German goalkeeper Maier was originally standing. Unfortunately, the event is one of few for which I don't have any philatelic material.

Very fruitful for Czechoslovak football was the year 1980. Two great football events were scheduled for that year: the European Championship in Italy (figure 13) and the Olympic tournament in Moscow (figure 14). The Olympic tournament was influenced by the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympic Games thanks to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan resulting with the absence of the best Western teams. On the other hand, the high quality of the Czechoslovak football was confirmed by its successful participation in Euro 1980, so I must reject a statement I sometimes hear that we were successful at the Olympic Games only because the best teams didn't play there.



Let's look at the facts: Czechoslovakia occupied the 3rd place at Euro 1980 after pitting the strengths with (West) Germany, Greece and the Netherlands. In the match for 3rd place Czechoslovakia drew with Italy 1–1 and won 9–8 on penalties.

Figure 13 – Italian stamp celebrating EURO 1980.



Czechoslovakia won the Olympic football tournament in Moscow, playing Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Columbia, Nigeria, Kuwait, Cuba and Yugoslavia. The final between Czechoslovakia and (East) Germany finished with the score 1–0.

Figure 14 – Soviet stamp showing the Misha the Bear (mascot of the 1980 Summer Olympic Games) and a Bulgarian stamp commemorating the Olympic football tournament.

Unfortunately, this year was end of all the Czechoslovak football successes. The 1980s and the early 1990s ran without any important success of Czechoslovak and Czech football players. This period lasted until Euro 1996 (in England). The return of the Czech football team to among the best ones was grandiose. The Czech team was drawn in the ‘deadly group’ consisting of Germany, Italy and Russia. By a lucky goal against Russia the Czech team moved on the quarter-final match. The Czechs beat Portugal and fought with France in the semi-final. After normal time the score was 0–0, but the Czechs managed to win thanks to the penalty kicks 6–5, and on 30 June they played the final at Wembley Stadium. The opposition was Germany. After 90 minutes the score was 1–1, but in the 95th minute the German team shoots a goal and wins the European Championship. The only British issue I know is the ‘Football Legends’ one (figure 15). Does any of the members of our Society have any philatelic material relating to Euro 1996? If yes, please send a scan to me or to *Czechout*, as I am missing this one.



Figure 15 – Stamp showing Bobby Moore.



The latest success of the Czech national football team was the 2004 European Championship in Portugal (figure 16). This championship was a bit geographically crazy: the Czechs played only with teams coming from northern Europe: Latvia, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. When we got the first southern team (Greece) in the semi-final, we lost 1–0 and the Czech and Dutch teams got Bronze medals.

Figure 16 – Portuguese souvenir sheet celebrating the Euro 2004.

The post-2000 period was crowned not only by success of the Czech national team, but also by the efforts of individual Czech players. In 2001 the Czech football players Vladimír Šmicer and Patrik Berger won the UEFA Cup as players of FC Liverpool, when the Liverpool beat Deportivo Alavés (Spain) 5–4. The greatest success was in the 2005 Champions League when FC Liverpool beat AC Milan (Italy) 3–3 and the penalty shoot-out 3–2. The first Czech winners of the Champions League became Vladimír Šmicer and Milan Baroš, who played in the squad of the Liverpool team. In addition, Vladimír Šmicer shot the goal deciding the victory of FC Liverpool!



Euro 2008 was organised in Austria and Switzerland. For both the Czech and English teams this was not a successful event. But we philatelists can be satisfied with stamps and other material issued for the championship. Unfortunately, the Austrian postal administration issued sometimes very crazy issues (e.g. a stamp produced from the Adidas material used for original football balls). The Austrian Postal Administration was one of the partners of the championship and it proudly promoted this partnership on its official envelopes (figure 17).

Figure 17 – official envelope of the Austrian Post Office cancelled at post office Wien – Sonderpostamt (Vienna – Special Post Office) dealing with philatelic matters.

But there is also Austrian material of interest for collectors. I mean the special flight Vienna – Zurich opening Euro 2008 (figure 18). Collectors could send their letters to a post office in Vienna and their mail was delivered by plane to Switzerland. I sent my letter from Prague to Vienna (for this stage the Czech stamp was valid) and the Austrians delivered it for payment of the Austrian postage (by the affixed Austrian stamp) to Switzerland and back to Prague.



Figure 18 – Airmail letter sent from Prague to Vienna and Zurich in 2008 franked with mixed franking of Czech and Austrian stamps.



I hope you enjoyed the philatelic football trip giving us a bit different view of the greatest successes of the Czechoslovak and Czech football teams!

Year	Event	Position	Picture
1927	Central European Cup Sparta Praha	Winner	---
1934	World Championship	Silver Medal	Fig. 5
1935	Central European Cup Sparta Praha	Winner	Fig. 6
1960	European Championship	Bronze Medal	Fig. 9
1961-1964	American Summer Cup N. Y. – Dukla Praha	Winner	---
1962	World Championship	Silver Medal	Fig. 10
1964	Olympic Games	Silver Medal	Fig. 11 / 12
1969	UEFA Cup Winner's Cup Slovan Bratislava	Winner	---
1976	European Championship	Winner	---
1980	European Championship	Bronze Medal	Fig. 13
1980	Olympic Games	Winner	Fig. 14
1996	European Championship	Silver Medal	---
2004	European Championship	Bronze Medal	Fig. 15

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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 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: Richard Spennock's B&M Souvenir Sheet
Czechout 3/07: Frederik Backeljauw's Hrušov ve Slezku cancellation
Czechout 4/07: Tony Moseley's Sudetenland cancellations
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 addresses to Angela Mucha

After my Christmas appeal sadly only one answer received!

A REQUEST

-Robert Bradford-

I am writing to ask if any member can help. A friend in the Bath PS has asked if I could get a copy of the attached label.



Prague 1934 – 10 years of work of Czech Gardeners in France. Dates 1924–1934 at bottom centre of the label and 1908–1914 to the left.

The picture shows gardens, fields and stylised trees. The Eiffel Tower is on the left and Hradčany on the right. The text below is in Czech. The colour is brown.

TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE CIRCLED 'R'

-David Holt-



Most collectors interested in the postal history of Slovakia and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in the Second World War will have come across the circled 'R' cachet on printed-paper items, normally from Slovakia. This is a summary of my discoveries about this fairly scarce cachet. If you consult Reimer¹ the cachet is noted at the back of the book with very little information.



Figure 1 – 1941 Printed rate letter from Amsterdam also censored in Frankfurt.

The first examples I acquired were on various printed-paper items – newspapers, leaflets, advertising material, death notices, etc. – and my initial assumption was that it was a Slovak mark. Then in the Society auction I bought a wrapper from Bratislava to Prague with not only the circled R, but also a geprüft roller cancel of the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo) with a small 'g' code indicating it was applied in Vienna. The next discovery was that it also was applied to printed-paper items originating from various countries throughout Europe. It would appear that all such items destined

for the Protectorate passed through the Gestapo office in Vienna. Then I bought a group of large covers sending office papers from a firm in Bratislava to its office in Prague. These sometimes had the circled R, but others have no marks or normal censor marks indicating that not all printed-paper items were examined. The latest acquisition was two Ukrainian-language newspapers from Cracow in the General Government 1944 to Prague. The unusual thing about one of the papers was that the circled R was applied in red rather than the usual black.

Figure 2 – 1943 Journal wrapper from Bratislava with Gestapo roller cachet.

My most unusual and unexpected find was in a second-hand bookshop in the north of the Czech Republic. I was sorting through various boxes of postcards when I came across some stamps on paper folded up in another sheet of paper. On closer examination I noticed that the outer sheet was a complete opened magazine wrapper and that many pieces had the circled R cachet and that some even had the Gestapo roller cancel. It would appear that someone had carefully cut the stamps from more than fifty wrappers, many with the complete set of markings, but had fortunately saved one to wrap the others in!



When we visited the bourse on the Society trip a few years ago I purchased a Slovak wrapper from Bratislava with a very indistinct R that didn't appear to have a circle round it. Just recently while trawling eBay I saw a wrapper from Bulgaria to Prague with an uncircled R, which I subsequently purchased.

¹ Riemer, Karl-Heinz. Die Überwachung Auslandsbrief-Verkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch deutsche Dienststellen – see translation in *Czechout* 1/03 to 3/03.

Figure 3 – 1940(?) Wrapper from Bulgaria with R without circle



To summarise

The R cachet was applied by the Vienna office of the Gestapo to most printed-paper items entering the Protectorate from 1940 to 1944. The Gestapo roller was only applied to a small number of these items. This is curious for two reasons: firstly, why examine material that had often been already censored locally, and, secondly, it implies that all such material was routed via Vienna regardless of place of origin, e.g. Warsaw? All items seen from 1939 have no cachet.

The only dated example of the R without circle is dated in March 1940 and the other example has stamps of that date. This suggests that the R without circle was the forerunner of the circled R. Both examples show the plain R showing signs of wear. Because of the thinner letter the cachet was probably made of metal.

The circled R examples date from March 1941 to July 1944. The R is significantly fatter and was cast in hard rubber. There would appear to have been a number of copies as some strikes have a squashed appearance but later dated examples look quite new. The strikes are always in black except for the July 1944 example, which is in dirty red implying that no black ink was available and that the black cachet had been using a red inkpad due to shortages?



Figure 4 – 1944 Two newspapers from Cracow with red circle R.

The Gestapo roller was only occasionally applied, normally in black, although I am sure I have seen an example in another colour, red(?).

CZECH CURRENCY

- From information supplied by John Whiteside FRPSL, FSPH -

According to Dr Král's *Guide to the Czechoslovak Republic* of 1928 the currency unit of Czechoslovakia is the koruna or crown. One Czechoslovak Crown (Kč), equalling approximately 1½d, is subdivided into 100 haléřů [h]. The following are the coins: the 2 h piece, made of zinc, the 5 h and 10 h pieces made of copper, and the 20 h, 50 h, 1 Kč and 5 Kč pieces made of a copper and nickel alloy. Gold coins are the ducat and the double ducat, which are not, however, in general circulation; the exchange rate for these fluctuates with the world price of gold. Currency notes are issued in the following denominations; 10 Kč, 20 Kč, 50 Kč, 100 Kč, 500 Kč, 1000 Kč and 5000 Kč.

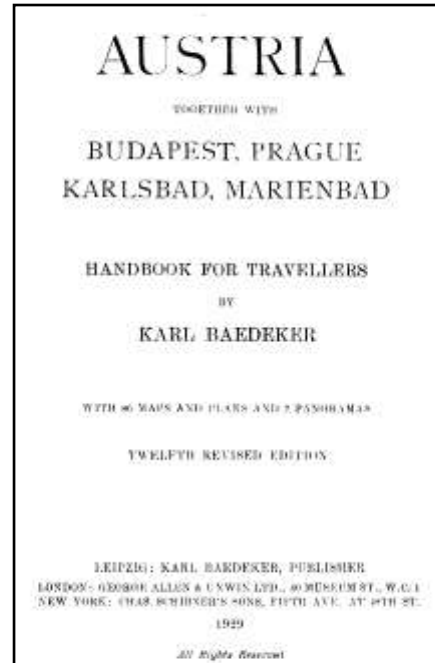
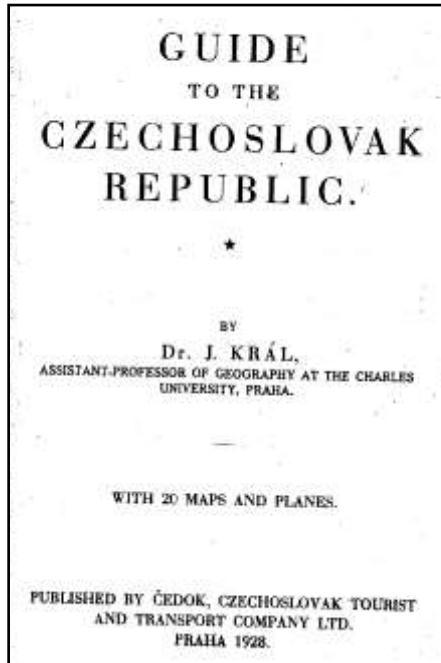


Table taken from Dr Karl Baedeker's *Handbook for Travellers to Austria*, 1929. To be on the safe side, the figures quoted in these can be taken as valid from 1.1.1922 to the end of the First Republic in 1939. Between the start of the republic in 1918 and the end of 1921, there was inflation and the value of the crown fell from 10d to 1½d sterling.

Money Table.
Approximate Equivalents (comp. p. xiii).

American		Austrian		English			American		Czecho-slovakian	English			American		Hungarian		English			
\$	c.	S	g	l.	s.	d.	\$	c.	Kč	l.	s.	d.	\$	c.	P	f	l.	s.	d.	
—	3 ¹ / ₂	—	25	—	—	13 ³ / ₄	—	3	1	—	—	1 ¹ / ₂	—	4 ¹ / ₃	—	25	—	—	2	
—	7	—	50	—	—	3 ¹ / ₂	—	6	2	—	—	3	—	9	—	50	—	—	4 ¹ / ₃	
—	10 ¹ / ₂	—	75	—	—	5 ¹ / ₄	—	9	3	—	—	4 ¹ / ₂	—	13	—	75	—	—	6 ¹ / ₂	
—	14	1	—	—	—	7	—	12	4	—	—	6	—	17 ¹ / ₂	1	—	—	—	8 ¹ / ₃	
—	28	2	—	—	1	2	—	15	5	—	—	7 ¹ / ₄	—	35	2	—	—	1	5	
—	42	3	—	—	1	9	—	18	6	—	—	8 ³ / ₄	—	53	3	—	—	2	2	
—	56	4	—	—	2	4	—	21	7	—	—	10 ¹ / ₄	—	70	4	—	—	2	11	
—	70	5	—	—	2	11	—	24	8	—	—	11 ³ / ₄	—	88	5	—	—	3	7	
—	84	6	—	—	3	6	—	27	9	—	—	1	—	1	5	71	—	4	1	
—	98	7	—	—	4	1	—	29	10	—	—	1	2 ¹ / ₈	1	5	8	—	4	4	
1	—	7	10	—	—	4	1	—	59	20	—	2	5	1	23	7	—	—	5	—
1	13	8	—	—	4	8	—	89	30	—	—	3	8	1	40	8	—	—	5	10
1	27	9	—	—	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	1	58	9	—	—	6	6
1	41	10	—	—	5	10	—	1	19	—	—	4	10	1	75	10	—	—	7	2
2	52	20	—	—	11	8	—	1	48	—	—	6	—	3	50	20	—	—	14	5
4	23	30	—	—	17	5	—	1	78	—	—	7	4	4	87	27	82	1	—	—
4	87	34	58	1	—	—	—	2	08	—	—	8	8	5	—	28	56	1	—	7
5	—	35	50	1	—	7	—	2	38	—	—	9	9	5	25	30	—	—	1	7
5	68	40	—	—	1	3	3	2	67	—	—	11	—	7	—	40	—	—	1	8
7	4	50	—	—	1	9	1	2	97	—	—	12	3	8	75	50	—	—	1	17
8	45	60	—	—	1	14	11	4	87	—	—	1	—	9	74	55	64	2	—	—
9	74	69	16	2	—	—	—	5	34	—	—	1	4	5	10	—	57	12	2	—
9	86	70	—	—	2	—	9	8	91	—	—	1	16	7	10	50	60	—	2	3
10	—	71	—	—	2	—	10	9	74	—	—	2	—	—	12	25	70	—	2	10
11	27	80	—	—	2	6	6	10	—	—	—	2	—	10	14	—	80	—	2	17
12	67	90	—	—	2	12	4	11	87	—	—	2	8	9	15	75	90	—	3	4
14	10	100	—	—	2	18	2	14	84	—	—	3	1	—	17	50	100	—	3	11

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Another selection of Members Queries; 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. First the Answers:

Re: Richard Beith's Undercover Letter query in *Czechout* 3/05 page 86

From Colin Spong: Further to my published comments in the above issue, I now have a copy of the Third 2006 edition of *Undercover Addresses of World War II* by Charles Entwistle, and on page 41, under Switzerland, Zurich addresses there are entries for the following, with a slight difference in the spelling of the surname:

Prof Dr Stefa Buchner, Hadlaubstr 57: Mail forwarded to Czechoslovakia

Prof Dr Stefa Buchner, Kaserstrasse 51: Mail forwarded to Czechoslovakia – earliest recorded 7 Oct 1939.

From Lubor Kunc: I don't know what camp Richard refers to, but I know that many soldiers of Vládní vojsko (The Governmental Army of the Protectorate) deserted to Switzerland from its troops stationed in northern Italy; but the army was sent to Italy later in 1944, so it is not very likely that the Vládní vojsko soldiers are the source for the prisoners registered in January 1944. The solution might be found in a *Filatelie* article written by Jiří Nekvasil (*Filatelie* no. 24/1983, page 753) stating that some soldiers of the Czechoslovak Forces in France had not been evacuated to Great Britain but escaped to Switzerland, where they were interned. He also shows examples of the internees' correspondence in the article *Undercover Mail* (page 112): there were independent systems run by different parties abroad to initiate mail exchange between the Nazi territories and Great Britain. The reason for this was the Nazis' punishment for people receiving mail from 'enemy' countries, especially when sent by soldiers fighting against Germany. This was the destiny of Czech and Slovak members of the Czechoslovak Forces in GB, whose mail might be a threat to their relatives in the Protectorate. Order No. 12 of 8 February 1940 forbids correspondence of Czechoslovak soldiers with relatives in the Protectorate and Slovakia. The following addresses were used for exchange correspondence of Czechoslovak soldiers with relatives in the Protectorate and Slovakia in the *Filatelie* magazine:

Filatelie 21/1973, p. 662-4. Hickling, J. W. Post Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal (used mainly by soldiers in the Middle East). Messrs Thomas Cook and Son, Berkeley Street, London W.1. British Red Cross Society, St. James Palace, London W.1.

Filatelie 2/1974, page 37: R.H ZÜRICH 6, UNIVERSITÄTSSTR. 41/II., Switzerland

Re: Ed Fraser's Undercover Letter query in *Czechout* 4/08 page 112

From Yvonne Wheatley: I reached page 112 in my indexing now completed and I noticed your note regarding the Thomas Cook mail scheme. I can confirm that the Cumulative Index has under Post Office Box 508 Lisbon four articles and additionally under Undercover Addresses in the new Cumulative Index.

Thank you Yvonne – I was looking for Undercover Addresses and I will let Mr Ed Fraser have this additional information. Colin S.

Re: Bob Hill's Overprint Query on the 1945-46 Moscow Issue

From Colin Spong: A rough translation of 'Pravda vítězí - A true Victory'. This could be a private overprint commemorating the Russian Army's entry into Czechoslovakia. I am sorry the stamp designs did not reproduce well, although the overprint was the query.

Re: Yvonne Wheatley's Query on Blind Literature Rates

From Colin Spong: It would appear Blind Literature universally is sent postage free unless it contains additional contents. However the Universal Postal Union *Letter Post Manual* published Berne 2005 will answer all the regulations. This can be viewed on the website.

New Query

From Ron Hollis: I bought these two sheets last year. They appear to commemorate a deceased Cardinal or Archbishop of Prague and are dated 21 April 1941. Can anyone identify these for me please?



From Norman Hudson: ALFONS MUCHA GRAPHIC, 1988. Can any member shed light on an item which, before its recent acquisition from an eBay seller in Prague, I knew nothing about?



The item is a special print – or a blackprint or an art card (I've seen them called various things) – measuring 10.3 × 14.3 cms. The central image, measuring 2.2 × 5.6 cms, reproduces Alfons Mucha's art nouveau work entitled 'Ruby' (from the 'Precious Stones' series of 1901). The same image was reproduced on one of the four stamps (SG1835-38) issued in July 1969 to mark the 30th anniversary of Mucha's death. The image on the 1969 postage stamp was engraved by Jiří Švengsbír.

The special print, in dark blue, shows the engraver's name to be 'M.Němec' and the date of issue '1988'. The date suggests that it might have been issued to coincide with the single 5 Kčs stamp, issued as a miniature sheet (SG MS2946), showing a portrait of Mucha and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak postage stamps. The special print has been signed, in pencil, but the signature looks like 'Jan' (?) rather than M.Němec.

The item doesn't look like any of the special prints issued by the Czechoslovak Post Office. For instance, the central graphic is not designed to look like a postage stamp. And it is not listed as a special print in any of the catalogues in my library. Does

any member know anything about this special print and, in particular, how, why and when it was issued? It's a lovely item to add to my Mucha collection but I'd like to know more about it.

NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

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

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

Czech Republic

2 January 2009

Personalities



Designer: Pavel Dvorský **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50.

Designs: 10Kč: portrait of Louis Braille (1809-1852) and hands reading Braille script. Braille was born in Coupvray near Paris and became blind as the result of an accident when he was three. It was whilst he attended the Royal Institution for Blind Youth, Paris that he developed a system of raised dots which could be read as well as written. It was based on a military system for 'night writing'. He also developed separate codes for music and maths. **FDC:** printed DS in black-blue with commemorative Praha cancel. the cachet drawing is a portrait of Karel Emmanuel Macan (1858-1925) a blind composer who established a Czech Library and Printing House for the Blind in Prague; He also published magazines in Czech and Esperanto for the blind.



12Kč: portrait of Charles Darwin (1809-1882) with a marine iguana and the expedition vessel *Beagle* in the background. Darwin was a British naturalist, geologist, palaeontologist and author of scientific books in which he developed his ideas about the theory of evolution. **FDC:** printed DS in black-brown with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a Galapagos tortoise and the heads of a number of Galapagos finches. The text, in Czech, 'The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection – 150 years' is below the drawing.

20 January 2009

The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production: Anna Podzemná



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

Design: 'A Little Girl with a Cake' from the artwork of Anna Podzemná (1909-1996), the subject of the stamp issued 5 May 1960 for the 15th Anniversary of the Liberation of Czechoslovakia. The engraver of this 1960 stamp was Jiří Švengsbír (1921-1983) who designed and engraved many Czechoslovak stamps.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing of a small Pasque flower is taken from the 60h stamp issued 9 June 1962 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Razing of Lidice and Ležáky.

Booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels were issued. The labels have a small flower motif. The front cover design shows the stamp and the FDC Pasque flower drawing.

11 February 2009

Nordic World Ski Championships – Liberec 2009



Designer: Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Václav Fajt – FDC cachet only. **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 50.

Design: a ski jumper. The championships were held from 18 February to 1 March 2009. **FDC:** printed DS in green-blue with a commemorative Liberec cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a ski jumper.

11 February 2009

Protection of the Polar Regions and Glaciers



Designer: Josef Dudek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** DS in a souvenir sheet of 1 stamp. **Design:** a group of Emperor penguins on an ice floe. The sheet depicts the shrinking of icebergs and glaciers through global warming and the fishing boat represents the impact of human activity to these regions. The crystal design (at left) by the Finnish designer Saku Heinänen, is a common symbol of a joint 40 country postal administrations project initiated by Chile and Finland to draw attention to the problems of the Polar regions. **FDC:** DS in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a pile of discarded items left by people against a Polar background.

18 March 2009

Easter Traditions



Designer: Adolf Born **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50.

Design: Easter symbols – a hare, decorated eggs, a newly hatched chick and a traditional decorated whip in the setting of the Czech countryside. **FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design depicts a young man with a whip and a young girl throwing water.

18 March 2009

Art – Asian Art



Designer and Engraver: Martin Srb **Printing:** DS with multicoloured offset in sheets of four.

Designs: 18Kč: The Immortal Lü Tung-Pin by an unknown Chinese artist of the 14th - 15th century. The original work of coloured inks on silk is in the National Gallery, Prague. Lü Tung-Pin is one of the Eight Immortals of Taoist tradition.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is taken from a three-coloured ceramic figure of a Ferghana horse bowing its head dating from the 8th century during the Chang Dynasty.



24Kč: a detail from the mythological painting of the Hindu epic Ramayana by an Indonesian artist from Bali c. 1920. The original is in the National Náprstek Museum. The Ramayana and Hinduism were brought to Indonesia from India.

FDC: printed DS in black-violet with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a female dancer touching a tree from an original wood carving probably dating from the first half of the 20th century.

Postal Stationery

Commemorative Cards

18 February 2009: six postcards to promote the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships, Liberec 2009. The event was held from 18 February to 1 March 2009. The cards were printed offset by Post Printing House, Prague and retail at 79Kč and with a commemorative cancel 85Kč (set of 6). The address side of five cards has an imprinted 10Kč stamp (stylised linden-leaf design) and the sixth has an imprinted 17Kč stamp (modified Hradčany design). Each card has the Czech Post logo and a security hologram.

The left portion gives details of the face photograph and at the lower part the logo of the Championships – a skiing lion – and text of the event in Czech and English.

All photographs for the face of the cards were taken by Milan Drahoňovský.

- a) Liberec – Ještěd mountain, Tipsport Arena, swimming pool, town hall, cable car and the dam.
- b) Liberec – Ještěd, the centre, North Bohemian Museum, the Dr. E Beneš Square and Botanical Garden. (2 versions – 10Kč and 17Kč.)
- c) Liberec – the TV transmitter and mountain hotel Ještěd.
- d) Liberec – the Town Hall in the Square.
- e) Liberec – Ještěd Mountain (1012m).

Promotional Cards

3 October 2008. 109th German Philatelic Day. The event was held in Weiden from 3 to 5 October 2008. The drawing shows an old map of the area with a posthorn, old mail coach and the text 'Golden Road'. Imprinted 17Kč numeral stamp in blue.

10 October 2008. International Stamp Fair, Berlin 2008. This was held from 10 to 12 October 2008. The drawing shows a mounted postman in uniform. Imprinted 17Kč numeral stamp in blue.

24 October 2008. International Stamp Fair, Sindelfingen 2008. This was held from 24 to 26 October 2008. The drawing depicts a seated young lady with a letter and a parcel. Imprinted 17Kč numeral stamp in blue.

Slovakia

13 November 2008

Christmas 2008



Designer: Radmila Hanečková (stamp), Arnold Feke (FDC) **Printing:** Offset

Design: The Holy Family from a painting on oak by an unknown mid 16th century Antwerp artist. The original work is part of the Slovak National Gallery collection. **FDC:** printed DS in black by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is from the central panel of an altar triptych showing the Adoration of the Magi by an unknown 16th century Antwerp artist. The original work is in the Slovak National Gallery.

A maximum card and a booklet containing 10 stamps were issued.

27 November 2008

Art



Designers and Engravers: František Horniak (T2 1000g), Rudolf Cigánik (T1 1000g) **Printing:** five-colour DS in sheets of 4 with blank central gutter.

Designs: **T2 1000g:** from the original book illustration 'Seven-Coloured Flower' (1975) by Josef Baláž (1923-2006)

Baláž was a Slovak painter, graphic artist, illustrator and designer of more than 150 stamp issues. **FDC:** printed DS in black by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is taken from other original Baláž graphics.



T1 1000g: from an original pastel and aquarelle work in the Slovak National Gallery, entitled 'A Girl in White with Factory Chimneys and Flowers' (1932) by Zoltán Palugyay (1898-1935). Palugyay was one of the founders of the Slovak Modern Art movement established in Piešťany. He was also a prolific art magazine writer. **FDC:** printed DS in black by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava with commemorative Martin cancel. The cachet drawing is taken from one of Palugyay's other works.

27 November 2008

Postage Stamp Day – The First Postal Link – Bratislava-Ružomberok-Košice



Designer: Dušan Grečner **Engraver:** Arnold Feke – FDC only **Printing:** offset, se-tenant stamp and label.

Design: stamp - an early 1558 map of central Europe with a mounted post official. Label – an early letter with wax seal and two post horns. **FDC:** printed DS with offset in gold and brown with a commemorative Bratislava cancel.

The cachet drawing shows the double-headed Austrian eagle motif with a shield and posthorn. The post route Vienna - Bratislava was developed by Matej Taxis in 1530. During the 1550s this was extended towards Transylvania used by the army during 1552-1558. It became one of the most significant postal roads in the part of Hungary not occupied by the Turks.

1 January 2009

Commemorative Issue of the First Euro Stamp



Designers and Engravers: Martin Činovský (stamp), František Horniak (FDC) **Printing:** Waite + Offset (stamp) in sheets of six stamps and central gutter showing 3 of the first Slovak Euro coins.

Design: an outline map of Slovakia on a blue patterned background with the Euro symbol in the national Slovak colours of red, blue and white. The gold imprinted Euro coins in the central sheet gutter have the 3 symbolic motifs of Slovakia which appear on the new coinage – a) Tatra mountain peak Kriváň on 1,2 and 5 cent coins b) Bratislava Castle on the 10, 20 and 50 cent coins c) the Slovak double cross on three hills on the 1 and 2 Euro coins. Slovakia is the 16th member state to join the Eurozone as from 1 January 2009. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava in dark blue grey. The cachet design shows the modern Postal

Headquarters building with a new Euro coin banner.

2 January 2009

The Cultural Heritage of Slovakia

A series of 12 stamps jointly designed by Peter Augustovič and Peter Biľak all depicting early church buildings in Slovakia. The stamps were printed rotary die stamping combined with photogravure (unless otherwise stated) by Post Printing House, Prague. The FDCs were printed DS by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava.

- a) **0.01 Euro** – Chapel of St Margaret near Kopčany. The building dates from the 9th to 10th century. **FDC** has a commemorative Trnava cancel and the cachet in grey shows the front of the chapel. **Designer:** Peter Uchnár **Engravers:** Arnold Feke (stamp), Bohumil Šneider (FDC cachet).



- b) **0.02 Euro** – The Church of Mother of God in Boldog. The stamp shows a support column with a relief of Christ with His left hand raised in blessing. The FDC shows the Romanesque church, which dates back to 12th century but constructed on an older building. Commemorative Bratislava cancel. **Designer:** Peter Augustovič **Engravers:** Rudolf Cigánik (stamp), Vierošlav Ondrejčíčka (FDC cachet).



- c) **0.05 Euro** – the Rotunda of St Margaret in Šivetice. This was built by the Zach family during the first part of the 13th century. It served not only as a church but also had a defensive role. Two narrative wall paintings have been preserved in the apse and the detail of Christ's crucifixion is the subject for the FDC cachet. Commemorative Banská Bystrica cancel. **Designer:** Igor Benca **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik



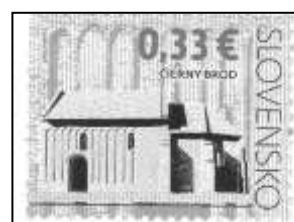
- d) **0.10 Euro** – Church of St John the Baptist in Sedmerovec-Pominovce. This is the only surviving building of the former village of Pominovce. It was built of stone in the 12th century and has the western part of the nave filled with an upper gallery used by the nobility during church services. The stamp shows this western gallery while the FDC cachet shows the exterior of the building. Commemorative Trenčín cancel. **Designer:** Robert Brun **Engravers:** Rudolf Cigánik (stamp), Juraj Vitek (FDC)



- e) **0.20 Euro** – Church in Svätuš. The original Romanesque building dates from the early 13th century but was reconstructed during the second half of the 15th century. The stamp shows the western part of the church and tower. The FDC cachet drawing is the Romanesque decorated portal. Commemorative Košice cancel. **Designer and Engraver:** Arnold Feke (stamp and FDC).



- f) **0.33 Euro** – Church of the Virgin Mary, Čierny Brod. This is a single-nave, brick building from the early 13th century but rebuilt several times. The interior brick was probably plastered and painted with murals. The FDC cachet shows the arched doorway with a round window above and a decorative stone slab with the three crosses of Golgotha. The slab had been moved from its original site to the western wall. It may have been the front of an altar table or a grave plate. Commemorative Trnava cancel. **Designer:** Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Ľubomír Žalec **Printing:** Heidelberg Speedmaster



- g) **0.50 Euro** – Church of St Martin in Spišska Kapitula. The original church was built in the early 13th century as a three-nave basilica without a cross nave and with a two-tower western front. The eastern part of the church was lost during major reconstruction in the 15th century when a new presbytery was built. The stamp shows the 'White Lion' of the church, which is now inside the northern entrance. It dates back to the earliest building of the basilica. The lion is unusual in that it has no mane, carries an open book in its front paws and was carved from travertine – a light coloured stone – hence its name White Lion. The FDC cachet shows the present church buildings. Commemorative Prešov cancel. **Stamp and FDC design:** Peter Uchnár **Engraver:** Arnold Feke.



- h) **0.66 Euro** – Church of St Giles in Ilija. This one-nave church with semicircular apse was built in the middle of the 13th century probably on the site of a much earlier church. The western doorway under a tower is richly decorated. The stamp shows some of these decorations while the FDC cachet depicts the present building. The FDC has a commemorative Banská Bystrica cancel. **Stamp and FDC design:** Igor Benca. **Stamp printed:** Heidelberg Speedmaster. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider (FDC cachet only).



- i) **0.83 Euro** – Church of St Stephen the King in Žilina-Závodie. The church was built in the middle of the 13th century, possibly enlarged later in the same century with a new spacious west nave. The eastern part of the church was found to have several layers of wall paintings including one dating back to the time of the original construction. More paintings were added in the late 13th century to the presbytery. The stamp depicts a part of the wall paintings while the FDC cachet is an architect's drawing of the building. Commemorative Žilina cancel. **Designer:** Robert Brun (stamp and FDC) **Engraver:** Vierošlav Ondrejčka. **Stamp printed:** offset Heidelberg Speedmaster.



- j) **1.00 Euro** – Premonstratensian Monastery of the Virgin Mary in Bína. This monastery was constructed early in the 13th century with its church built at the same time by the aristocratic Hunt-Poznan family but today serves as the local parish church. The church has a single nave with the west gallery dominated by two towers. Three apses are on the east side. Many of the capitals of the supporting columns have distinctive decorative stone carvings. The stamp design shows a stone carving of Atlas forming part of the inner doorway decoration. The FDC has a commemorative Nitra cancel and the cachet shows the present day building. **Designer:** Karol Felix **Engraver:** František Horniak.



- k) **1.33 Euro** – Church of St Cross in Hamuliakovo. This single-nave brick church was built about the middle of the 13th century and is typical of the period but has some well preserved interior wall paintings. The best preserved of these are in the presbytery. The painting on the barrel vaulting has a central figure of Christ surrounded by animal symbols of the four evangelists – John (eagle), Matthew (the man), Luke (bull) and Mark (lion). Other walls depict the apostles, Old Testament prophets and some of the saints. The stamp was issued as a miniature sheet – central stamp and four decorative labels. The stamp shows the church tower and the labels have images of the mural paintings from inside the church. The FDC cachet shows the painting of St Catherine holding a wheel, the emblem with which she is associated. The commemorative cancel is from Bratislava. **Designer:** Dušan Kállay **Engravers:** Martin Činovský (stamp), Ľubomír Žalec (FDC cachet). **Stamp printed:** DS + offset.



- l) **2.00 Euro** – Church of St Michael the Archangel in Dražovce. This is one of the most well known Romanesque churches in Slovakia as it stands on a small chalk hill above the village. It is a small church with a rectangular nave, a low half-domed vaulted apse and a slim tower over the western gallery. The present building was erected in the early 13th century on the site of a smaller church built in the 11th century. The stamp and FDC cachet show the outside of the church. Commemorative Nitra cancel. **Designer:** Karol Felix **Engraver:** František Horniak.



Postal Stationery

Promotional Postcards

All the following cards have the imprinted T2 50g (inland second class, weight to 50g) stamp (see *Czechout 1/2008* p30). Retail price of the cards is postage plus 3Sk.

18 September 2008 (158 CDV 148/08) WIPA 2008. The event was held in Vienna 18 to 21 September 2008. Cachet design shows a winged female holding aloft a large stamp and text of the event in German.

9 October 2008 (159 CDV 148/08) Exhibition of World War I Field Post. Issued to promote an exhibition at the Banská Bystrica Postal Museum from 9 October 2008 to 13 March 2009. Cachet design shows a postal soldier working at a Field Post Office.

24 October 2008 (160 CDV 148/08) Sindelfingen 2008. The event was held 24 to 26 October 2008. The cachet design shows an early post box with a picture of a mounted postman.

18 December 2008 (161 CDV 148/08) Day of the Slovak Stamp and Philately 2008. Cachet design is a young person riding on the back of a flying pigeon on a white square partially perforated into quarters with commemorative text in Slovak.