



## CZECHOUT

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### NOTES

The next London meeting is on **Saturday 14 November**. The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 pm. After lunch **Tony Bosworth** will give a display entitled *From Joy to Despair (1939)* at 2.30pm. On **Saturday 21 November** a Regional Meeting will be held at the Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Centre, near Leeds at 2.00pm. For full details please contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978). The first meeting in the New Year will be on Saturday 16 January 2010 when Colin Spong will display *A Slovak Miscellany*.

The ABPS News has a new Editor from the November issue: Dr. John Gledhill 4 Valletta Way, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9TB, Telephone: 01789 842112, e-mail: [jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk](mailto:jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk). Hugh V. Feldman has resigned to carry out research in Washington USA on a new book covering Rail Car Contracts for mail in the USA.

***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.***

### Report of the Society Weekend held Friday 26 to Sunday 28 June 2009 at The Queens Hotel, Perth

Despite 'the Fair City' of Perth being so far north, this 'philatelic centre of Scotland' attracted a good attendance, including three couples from the Netherlands. Those who failed to make it there missed an excellent weekend of philately and camaraderie mixed together in equal measures. The Queens Hotel, not far from the city centre and handy to the station, is a recommended venue that is used to philatelic gatherings and will do so again in the future – bookings as far ahead as 2012 have already been made. The spacious Balmoral Room was both the meeting room and the venue for the Saturday evening dinner.

The Chairman, **Yvonne Gren**, warmly welcomed us at the start of the Friday evening displays, with an especial welcome to **Margaret Morris**, a guest. **Audrey Dawson** sent greetings from South Carolina. Yvonne immediately thanked **Richard Beith**, who had single-handedly organised the weekend. His attention to detail ensured that the whole programme went very smoothly and kept to schedule. The lack of two planned displays, one due to illness, one to oversight, was readily remedied by others bringing material in reserve. Stirling Philatelic Society were thanked for the loan of the display frames.

These two, together with Brian Day, entertained us that first evening:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Yvonne Gren</b>   | <i>East Silesia</i>  |
| <b>Richard Beith</b> | <i>A military and musical miscellany</i> , a display in two parts: Czech independent armoured brigade in Scotland; and the 1937 and 1938 tours of the Czech Philharmonic, conducted by a young Rafael Kubelík. |
| <b>Brian Day</b>     | <i>Czechoslovak artists</i> , featuring Švengsbir, Úprka, Herčík and Mucha   |

Saturday morning continued with the following displays before coffee.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Tony Bosworth</b>   | <i>Regional slets of the Sokol</i> , with Tony emphasising the depth of the Sokol movement in Czech culture   |
| <b>Reg Hounsell</b>    | <i>The Prague pneumatic post</i> , which opened in 1885. The display showed the development of the network until 1939. Reg also showed one item from the Karlsbad system, which was opened to the public just once, from 20-23 August 1909 during an exhibition |
| <b>Yvonne Wheatley</b> | <i>Postage dues</i> , including one frame of the stamps themselves. She then showed the use of dues in conjunction with invalid stamps, commercial answer mail, and mail from abroad  |
| <b>Margaret Morris</b> | <i>General Štefaník as an astronomer</i>  |
| <b>Richard Beith</b>   | <i>American solidarity with Czechoslovakia</i> , with an emphasis on the cinderellas  |

**Brian Day** was then invited to give the second **Bill Dawson Lecture**. 'I'll show you some of my rubbish!' – Brian quoted Bill's famous opening remark whenever presenting anything. Bill had been a member for almost 40 years, and was very touched when he was made Hon Life President in 2003. Brian's first recollection of Bill was a large display of TPOs. *The Occupation of the Sudetenland*, well known worldwide, was Bill's display during Brian's tenure as Chairman.

Brian brought along a few items that showed the breadth of some of Bill's collections, an Aladdin's cave of treasures. These included: Sokols, represented by labels by Mucha for the 4th slet in 1901; pneumatic post; TPOs; military posts of 1918-20; pre-stamp items from Silesia, Brünn and the Sudeten area; provisional postmarks; Hradčany postal stationery; and the German occupation.

Brian finished by saying it had been a pleasure and honour to have presented this lecture. Yvonne Gren remarked that Bill, looking down from above, will have been highly amused, pleased and surprised.

The morning session ended with further rounds of displays:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Chad Neighbour</b> | <i>The 1993 split</i> . Chad had been there in January 1993 to observe it first hand               |
| <b>Pat Rothnie</b>    | <i>Czechoslovak Posts in 1945</i> , a rapid survey of the transition from occupation to liberation |

**Lindy Bosworth***Exhibitions at the Industrial Palace in Prague, 1891 to 2008***Kenny Morrison***Airmails 1950-1970*

After lunch, **Hans van Dooremalen** was invited to give a full 64-sheet display on **TPOs near Brünn during the Austrian period**. These started in 1850/51, the first period ending in 1883 with a major reorganisation of the routes and the TPO numbering. Each sheet included a scan of the relevant section from an old Austrian railway map. Hans showed some material from train postal guards, which in 1898 became 2nd class TPOs.

This was followed by **Alan Wishart's** full display of **WWI prisoner-of-war mail on the eastern front**, concentrating on mail into and out of the Czech and Slovak lands. Alan said that this fun collection was a poisoned chalice, there being virtually nothing written on the subject. He showed a wide range of material, including POWs in Russian camps writing home, Italian POWs in Austria, and Russian officer POWs in German and Austrian camps.

The **George Pearson Trophy** competition was held over the tea interval. The result was very close:

- |     |                        |  |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| 1st | <b>Yvonne Wheatley</b> | <i>Czechoslovak postage dues</i>   |
| 2nd | <b>Tony Moseley</b>    | <i>The Rumburg issue: official overprints by Firma Heinrich Pfeiffer</i> |
| 3rd | <b>Reg Hounsell</b>    | <i>Potrubní Poštou</i>   |

Disappointingly, the **Francis Pettitt Salver** competition could not be held, there being only one entry.

After tea, Rex Dixon launched the Society's Monograph 19, **Bohemia & Moravia: A collector's notebook**, by John Hammonds. Rex explained that so far he had only made a 'trial print', so that a few further revisions and the final proof-reading could be done before the production print-run later in the year. The monograph was well received, with the available copies eagerly snapped up.

The final period of the afternoon was devoted to a bourse, which proved popular. Another popular feature was the sales table of our dealer members **Ctibor Sobotka** and **Mrs Ans Breebaart**.

After dinner Richard welcomed guest lecturer **Dr Jim Grant** for the evening's main entertainment, an erudite and informative display on **300 Years of Perth Postal History**. Everyone was surprised at what could be shown from one town and its immediate sub-offices. The display not only included some fine examples of early marks and a good range of Victorian items but also much 20th century material, which can be notoriously difficult to locate.

Sunday morning was devoted to more short displays.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Brian Day</b>        | <i>Aspects of WWI</i>  |
| <b>Reg Hounsell</b>     | <i>Airmails 1930-1939</i>  |
| <b>Rex Dixon</b>        | <i>Mail out of the Protectorate of Bohemia &amp; Moravia, 64 sheets concentrating on mail to those European countries, including Germany, that at some stage enjoyed concessionary postage rates</i> |
| <b>Derek Baron</b>      | <i>The Territorial Regiment raised in Olomouc</i>  |
| <b>Richard Beith</b>    | <i>Czechoslovaks in the Middle East in WWII, also including PO Box 1000 in Mauritius for internees from Palestine</i>  |
| <b>Richard Wheatley</b> | <i>World War I. The first part was the correspondence of a cadet taken POW in Russia, later becoming the attaché in Paris. This was followed by further POW mail from across Russia</i>              |

A 'Show & Tell' session followed. **Richard Beith** showed Censuraváno handstamps during the Munich crisis, the subject of a query in the June *Czechout*. **Jan Verleg** wants to learn about General Hennoque.

Like all good things, the feast of philately had to come to an end. **Margaret Morris**, after her first weekend with a specialist society, shared some of her impressions with us. She had first joined us on the memorable visit last September to Prague and Vienna, remarking that Bohemia and Scotland shared a lion rampant. The degree of specialism within a specialist society was amazing. She noted two amusements: Yvonne Wheatley with her postage dues and Chad with his range of DIY philately. She summed it up as: 'Wonderful, delightful, friendly.' Yvonne Gren closed the proceedings, extending our thanks in particular to Richard Beith for a wonderful weekend. All that remained was for someone to volunteer to organise the next such event in 2011.

**Joint meeting with the Austrian PS, the Hungarian PS of GB, the Society for Polish Philately in GB and the Yugoslavia Study Group at the Latvian Welfare Club, Bradford on Saturday 8 August.**

A total of 25 people attended this year's event, the biggest attendance yet, organised by Yvonne Wheatley and supported by husband Richard. As has become the normal format, a wide spread of Eastern European material was displayed, this time expanded to include representation from the Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL) and the British Society of Russian Philately. Despite this wide range, clear efforts were made by presenters to put their displays into historical context and to link them to the interests of the audience, like pieces in a philatelic jigsaw. The cast in order of appearance was as follows:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Pat Rothnie       | Montenegro (history, stamps and postal history)  |
| Philip Longbottom | Prestamp mail in the Ottoman Empire (mostly items from Turkey in Europe, including postman's mail lists)   |
| Andy Taylor       | First issues of Austria  |
| Mervyn Benford    | Hungarian railway station postmarks (noting P.U. ( <i>palyudvár</i> ), as opposed to postal agencies P.Ü ( <i>postai ügyn</i> ))                         |
| Edmund Jagielski  | Internment camps for the Polish, 1938-45 (mail to and from Polish belligerents held in other countries, notably Hungary)                                 |
| Reg Hounsell      | The pneumatic post of Prague (postal stationery and the development of the Prague network in the Austrian period)  |
| Garth Taylor      | Czech forces in England (focusing on a correspondence to the USA with decorative envelopes and cancellations)  |
| Barry Clarke      | Postal agencies in Czechoslovakia before WW1 ( <i>Postablage</i> , boxed cachets, often bilingual, on cards and letters from smaller towns and villages) |
| Keith Brandon     | Hungarian postmarks (a range of the less usual for the period 1900-1920, including maritime, postage due, etc.)  |
| Brian Madeley     | Postmarks of Budapest (Ofen/Buda and Pest eventually merging to Budapest, 1800-1870's)   |
| Reg Hounsell      | Questions about individual items (with a Czech association – many of them answered by the audience)  |
| John Whiteside    | Parcel cards of Czechoslovakia 1919-1925 (inland and foreign cards, format and usage explained)  |
| Hans Smith        | Early mail from Croatia (pre-stamp, from the earliest usage in Karlstadt and Fiume, through the Napoleonic time, and finally under Austria)              |
| Joyce Boyer       | Railway commemorations in Austria (the centenaries and 150th Anniversaries of various lines in Austria)  |
| Roger Morrell     | The Bulgarian occupation of Serbia and Montenegro (the Bulgarian operated mail service in occupied territory 1916-1918)                                  |
| Alan Berrisford   | Poland, stamps and postmarks of LOPP (the League for the Defence from Air and Gas Attack, 1918-1939)   |
| Edward Klempka    | Yugoslav forces in Russia 1919-1927 (a telegram correspondence concerning Yugoslavs trapped in Vladivostok after WWI)                                    |
| Reg Hindley       | Tannou Tuva (rarely seen stamps from the short-lived republic 1925-39)   |
| Andy Taylor       | Austro-Hungarian newspaper tax (examples of how newspapers were taxed from the earliest days to the mid 19th century)                                    |
| John Whiteside    | Hungarian Hyperinflation postage due usage (examples of cards, letters and parcels cards from May 1945 with postage due stamps)                          |
| Derek Baron       | Mail from Olomouc, Czechoslovakia (various items associated with the town)   |

Joyce Boyer                      Very recent Austrian post office issues (including 'personalised' stamps officially printed in quantities as low as 1000)

Alas, time ran out before everyone had a chance to display everything they had brought with them, but there's always next year, as Yvonne said. This wide variety made for a very interesting day, with plenty of time for chat as well, aided and abetted by an excellent buffet lunch. Many thanks to Yvonne from all those present for a most enjoyable day. Don't miss next year's event!

Roger Morrell

### Letters/e-mails to the Editor

☒ **Mervyn Benford** writes, I'd like to bring to members' attention Czech postal agencies. I have received the following message on: 06 July 2009 from Lutz Ihnken [\[mailto:Lutz.Ihnken@alice-dsl.net\]](mailto:Lutz.Ihnken@alice-dsl.net) I've now entered all my postal agency cancellation interests on to Delcampe <http://briefmarken.delcampe.net/list.php?language=G&searchString=Postagentur>: search Mode = all & searchTldCountry=net&cat=-1&searchInDescription=N user : Hawaii\_Missionar. Please pass on the link to those who are interested." Lutz.

☒ **Lindy Bosworth** writes, I have just received an e-mail from Lubomir Floch in Bratislava. A new Slovak Catalogue has been published recently. It covers stamps, postal stationery, booklets, souvenir sheets, black prints etc from 1993 - 2008. Lubomir is willing to accept orders from our members @ 20 Euros per copy (Includes P&P) if they e-mail him at: [lubomir.floch@gmail.com](mailto:lubomir.floch@gmail.com) .

☒ **Barry Horne**: The latest issue of Philatelic Trader July 2009 p17, has a note about Zeppelin Forgeries. There is a 16 page summer special issue of the "Zeppelin Post Journal" [vol 3 no.2] with one extended article dealing with these new forgeries. This issue will also be available in English, and gives pointers to identify forged material; among some listed are Aegean Islands [Rhodes] 3rd S America flight 1933. Austria 10th N America flight 1936 & Czechoslovakia 1st S America flight 1933 there is more info at [www.ezep.de](http://www.ezep.de)

☒ **Chad Neighbour**: Hi Colin, and welcome from my current abode just outside Montrose. I thought you might be interested in a few words about the recent residential weekend, which I was able to attend for the first time. "In June I was able to attend the society's summer weekend for the first time, and really enjoyed the event. While I knew only a handful of members of the society, I was made most welcome and felt I was among friends. The displays and chat were excellent, as was the host hotel so ably located and adapted by Richard Beith. I would highly recommend that society members consider attending the weekend if it is staged anywhere near them."

☒ **Yvonne Gren: Bob McLeod, Michael Chant, Mark Whitethorn** and I met at the Houses of Parliament in June for a glass of Czech beer generously provided by John Grogan, M.P. for Selby! It was a very hot evening but the beer was cool. About 60-80 people from all branches of Czech-British organisations were present and I met and chatted to the Deputy Ambassador, who spoke kindly about our recent Exhibition at the Embassy. Mr Grogan mentioned our Society especially as his father was a keen philatelist apparently.

☒ **Yvonne Gren**: The Czech Embassy is one of the sponsors for the erection in Prague of a Memorial Sculpture in honour of Sir Nicholas Winton on the occasion of his 100th Birthday, he is known as the "British Schindler". In 1938 as a British stockbroker on holiday in Prague, he witnessed the plight of the refugees from the German Occupation, and could not walk away. He arranged for eight trains to bring out a total of 669 children before the border closed. He continued to help others throughout his life. To find out more, or contribute, see details on [www.justgiving.com/wintonrescuememorial](http://www.justgiving.com/wintonrescuememorial).

☒ **Chris King** on behalf of London 2010 London Exhibition and Festival of Stamps has asked for members to note in their diaries the various events that will take place from 8 to 15 May 2010 both in London and Regional centres. [www.london2010.org](http://www.london2010.org)

☒ **Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) Magazine for September 2009**: Contains details of the CPSGB March meeting.

☒ **Lubor Kunc** I would like to inform you that my website 'Czech Philately on Line' has moved to <http://www.czech-stamps.org>.



Perth Weekend: Richard Beith's Czech Forces display



Brian Day giving the Bill Dawson Memorial Lecture



Guests at the Czech Beer Evening.

Left Mr John Grogan MP who invited everyone to the Houses of Parliament.

The Deputy Czech Ambassador is the last but one on the right.

The Bradford Joint Society meeting.

Members enjoying the displays at the Latvian Welfare Club.

Saturday 8 August 2009



## Publications

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

- The Autumn 2009 issue of *Austria*, No.167. The articles include:
  - ▶ Pre-transit mail to and from Austria (Jungwirth); The Schneeberg and the Schneebergbahn (Anthony); Asterisk as auxiliary postal markings (Schweighofer); Air Mail Rates to the USA, 1951 to 1989 (Taylor)
- The June 2009 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.40, Whole No.160. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
  - ▶ The Czech Antarctic Station is 20 years old (-); Albin Brunovsky Graphic artist, illustrator, artist, Professor (Müller); The Railway post routes in Czechoslovakia in 1990 (Müller); The 1988 Summer Flight plan for distribution of mail to Foreign Countries (Müller); Plate faults in the 1Kč from the series "30th Anniversary of the destruction of Czechoslovak Communities" (Ziegler); The World festival of young people and students had its beginning in Prague (Hummrich); Special Cancellations from the Slovak post office in 2008 (Tischner); New Airmail items from the Slovak post office (Müller); Adalbert Stifter & Božena Němcova (Stoof).
- The March/April 2009 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 71 Whole Nos.614. No. 2. The articles include:
  - ▶ A Guide to the Types and Subtypes of the 1923 Agriculture & Science Issue (Wilson); Zdeňka Braunerová (Kesner); Carpatho-Ukraine (Horvath); St Katherine's on the Mountaintop (Horvath); Indices to the 21st Century issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (Wilson).
- The 5, 6, 7 & 8/2009 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol.59. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
  - ▶ Post Offices that have disappeared from maps [5] (Kratochvíl); Forgeries of Group "K" [1919 overprints] [5] (Beneš); Czechoslovak. Stamp Booklets [6] (Šilhán).
  - ▶ Modern forgeries from the Holocaust (Hauzr); Forgeries of Group "K" [1919 overprints] [6] (Beneš); Basic types of labels for registered mail from Czech territory [1] (Kratochvíl); Halved stamps on stationery 1918/19 (Maleček).
  - ▶ To the postal history concept of the period 1918-19 [1] (Weissenstein); Forgeries of Group "K" [1919 overprints] [7] (Beneš); Basic types of labels for registered mail from Czech territory [2] (Kratochvíl); Czechoslovak. Stamp Booklets [7] (Šilhán).
  - ▶ To the postal history concept of the period 1918-19 [2] (Weissenstein); Forgeries of Group "K" [1919 overprints] [8] (Beneš); Rural agencies of the Czech Post [1] (Bejsta); Plate flaw 13A of the 2K Kosice stamp 1945 (Vychron).
- The 3/2009 issue of *Merkur Revue*, The articles include:
  - ▶ Rare stationery from the time of the SO 1920 issue (Filípek); Fortresses & Castles on stamps from CŠR territory [IV] (Fritz); Attachment Pošta Československa 1919 [II] (Stupka)

## Congratulations

To **Richard Beith** who as a Diploma holder (Chemistry) from the College of Technology, Loughborough in 1957 has just been awarded, with many others, a BSc degree, from Loughborough University, *Honoris causa*!

To **Bob Bradford** who has won the "**Williamson Trophy**" for his *Hradcany* at the Wiltshire Federation competition held at **Swinpex** on 13th June 2009 and he also shared joint first, "**The Aerophilatelic Shield**", for his *Czech airmails*.

To **Otto Hornung** on his recent televised family history.

To **Roger Morrell** who has won the first **Bill Dawson Memorial Literature Award** for his article on *The Break-up of Austria-Hungary* which was published in *Czechout* 1/2008.

## OBITUARY

### Milos Pytela MVDr. 1928 - 7.6.2009.

It is with regret, that I inform members of the death of my good friend Dr. Milos Pytela, who passed away in hospital in Pardubice, on the evening of Sunday 7th June, following a short illness. I had known Dr. Pytela for several years, having met him in Pardubice. I had the pleasure of visiting his family in Holicice and Pardubice on several occasions. Two years ago, I spent a memorable day, when he showed me his interesting and varied collection of postal history.

Milos Pytela was originally from Brno, where his family had business interests. Following the communist takeover, he completed veterinary training and was offered postings in either Karlovy Vary or Holicice. He told me, he chose Holicice to be closer to his family in Moravia. Dr. Pytela was well known to philatelists in the local area. Last summer he displayed much of his material in the "House of Culture" in Holicice. He also wrote a book published in the Czech language about Canadian issues.

I am sure that all members, will join with me in sending sympathies to the family. During the time that I was privileged to know Dr. Pytela, I could not have asked for a better friend, nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He will be missed.

Tony Moseley

### Paul Kipp 1925 - 6.7.2009

Czechoslovak collector and member of the ArGe, Paul Kipp died on 6th July 2009 at the age of 84, after a short, serious illness. He was a long time member of the ArGe (number 084) and participated actively in that Society. A published philatelic author, he is a sad loss to Czechoslovak philately.

Bob Hill

## THE SLOVAK ARMY: 1939-1945 Part 2 : 1940- 43 – The Russian Campaign

David Holt ([davidt.holt@talktalk.net](mailto:davidt.holt@talktalk.net))

-Steve Woolnough-

I read with interest David Holt's article on the Russian Campaign of the Slovak army in the most recent issue of *Czechout*. My understanding is that FP mail from the Slovak forces will have been routed via the Vienna office for checking of foreign mail, rather than Berlin.

The machine censor cancellations appear to correspond to those used in Vienna, and the large green numbers on the items are 'tracking numbers' used by the Vienna office rather than being related to the Prague pneumatic post. Reimer states that from 1941, a 6-figure number in green, measuring 6mm high was applied to items consecutively as they arrived.

Re Figure13 - Kannapin gives FP No 51169 as relating to Stab III u. 9.-12. Kompanie Luftwaffen-Jäger-Regiment 38, which at the time the card was written, Tessin gives as serving under Luftgau-Kommando Moscow. In his bibliography, David lists a book by Kliment & Nakladal, entitled 'Slovenska Armada'. A version of this book exists in English under the title '*Germany's First Ally: Armed Forces of the Slovak State 1939-1945*', published by Schiffer Publishing Ltd [USA].1997. [Schifferbk@aol.com](mailto:Schifferbk@aol.com). ISBN: 0-7643-0589-1. I hope the above may be useful.

Kannapin, Norbert. *Feldpostübersicht der Deutschen Wehrmacht*, CDRom VMD-Verlag GmbH, München, 2004.

Reimer, Karl-Heinz, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen*. Der Poststempelgilde e.V. Düsseldorf, Germany 1980.

Tessin, Georg. *Organisationsgeschichte der Deutschen Wehrmacht 1935-1945*, CDRom VMD-Verlag, München, 2000



## BOOK REVIEW

### NEW MONOGRAPH ON CZECHOSLOVAK FIRST DAY COVERS 1947-1992

By Lubor Kunc (lubor.kunc@seznam.cz)

**Aksamit, Pavel:** *Monografie Československých a Českých Známek a Poštovní Historie, 9 Díl VII. Svazek. Československé obálky dne vydání 1947-1992.* Published by Vydal POFIS, Prague 2007. HB with illustrated dust jacket. 260pp priced CZK 498,- (about £12,-) for a book including black print. The book has been marked by publisher as Monograph no. 9, volume VII

We celebrated in 2007 the 60th anniversary of the first official Czechoslovak first day cover starting the long-time tradition of FDCs prepared by Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak postal administrations. POFIS publishing house celebrated the anniversary by a new volume in the series of Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps and Postal History Monographs.

Before we start to discuss the book, I would like use this opportunity to write some words about the development of the first day covers collected on Austrian and Czechoslovak territories to give a broader background of the work. In the pioneer times of philately, the stamp collectors didn't care about the issuance date of the individual stamps – remember the issues were put into circulation on an irregular basis and the postal administrations usually didn't inform the public about their intention to issue new postage stamps. There are known early covers franked with newly issued stamps on their first day of validity, but only as the non-philatelic items created and preserved by lucky accident (remember the rare covers of the 1850 Austrian issue presented at WIPA 2008!).

The first collectors documented the first days of validity of the new stamp issues to be found (at least in Austria) in 1880s, but with few successes only. The expansion of this philatelic area was started by the 1908 Austrian "Jubilee" issue celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Monarchy government by Emperor Franz Joseph I. This was the first commemorative stamp issue in Austria promoted also by non-philatelic journals, so it becomes a proof of patriotic behavior of the public to use the stamps for franking and to keep them as a souvenir. Some people re-invented the collecting of the items cancelled on their first day of validity. Because this idea was in line with leading philatelic strategy to collect mainly the cancelled stamps, the postal items canceled on their first day become an integral part of philately in Austria. Broad popularity of the area can be illustrated by stamps of 1910 Jubilee issue (80th birthday of the Emperor) and 1917 occupational issue for Montenegro.



Figure 1 – Austrian and Bosnian 1910 jubilee stamps cancelled on 18.8.1910 ; Austrian occupational stamp for Montenegro territory cancelled at (Austrian) rear post office of Cetinje on 1.3.1917

This tradition continued after the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in the newly established states including Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak philatelists accepted the collecting of postage stamps as "standard" philatelic behaviour as we can see from the existing covers franked with early Czechoslovak issues on their first day, or from single stamps cancelled on the first day (see figures 2 and 3). Similar

development was in Austria, where the stamp collectors produced their own covers cancelled on first day very often, so the local catalogues (e.g. NETTO Catalogue) registers the (private) first day covers franked with Austrian stamps since 1922 (Austrian Composers Issue).



Figure 2 – First Czechoslovak Hradčany stamps cancelled on 18.12.1918



Figure 3 – Registered letter being franked with second Czechoslovak stamp issue (Legionary Issue) cancelled on 27.10.1919 at Brno 1 post office

The collecting becomes very popular among the non-philatelic public of Czechoslovakia in the 1930s, when the Czech postal administration started to issue many commemoratives and special cancels and when the new large stamp exhibitions attracted the attention of the public. This attitude lasted also during the time of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and continued after the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1944-45.

In the 1940s the first day covers/stamps were so popular that Czechoslovak postal administration thought how to secure the area for own products. Similarly to other countries, the decision made in this respect was to issue official first day covers being available to every stamp collector. The first attempts were launched in 1946 (unofficial first day covers and ministerial covers) followed by issuance of regular FDCs on 1st January 1947 (figure 4). To continue our comparison of Austrian and Czechoslovak philatelic world, we must mention here that the first official Austrian first day cover was issued on 16th January, 1948 (Ziehrer, Stifter & Amerling Issue).



Figure 4 – First official Czechoslovak first day cover of 1.1.1947 celebrating the “Two years plan” including an information slip informing what the FDC is for

The 1946-1992 years is the period covered by the newly issued Monograph (however the official name of the book states the 1947!). Therefore let us now discuss the new book.

First of all, I must express my high appreciation to Pavel Aksamit, who created this excellent monograph with support of other stamp collectors. Books like this were needed for many many years, and its deep and wide compilation can be used as a example for the other Czech monographies.



Figure 5 – The last Czechoslovak FDC issued on 18.12.1992

The author has divided the book into two main parts:

1. Introduction
2. Catalogue .

The first part discusses types of envelopes used for Czechoslovak first day covers, their watermarks, first day cancels (differences in dates, applications, etc.), different stamps used for production of first day covers or usage of stamps with different perforation or printing errors, FDCs errors and differences (e.g. wrong date of cancel, wrong destination in the cancel, affixing of wrong stamps on a cover, non-cancelled first day covers etc.). Pavel Aksamit deals with specimens of first day covers and with issued, but not reported FDCs, too. There is a section containing a detailed explanation of the printing process of Czechoslovak first day covers (the die stamping from flat plates) accompanied by interesting photos.

Important information relates to the postal usage of the official first day covers. There is a big difference between Czechoslovak first day covers and similar products of other countries, in that Czech postal administration always officially announced the issuance of FDCs and accepted them in domestic and international delivery for a specified period (usually 15 days – 3 months after the day of issue), which gave them the status of an official postal product.

Nobody else was authorized to prepare FDCs in Czechoslovakia, the only exceptions were the Ministry of Post, POFIS and Artia (state) undertakings, who prepared some special first day covers (e.g. for definitive stamps without official ones, the ministerial FDCs etc.), but this activity was always supervised by the Czech postal administration. Thanks to this procedure, these covers were also incorporated into Aksamit's book.

The catalogue part of the Monograph lists all official and non-official issued first day covers, the ministerial covers, FDCs produced on different envelopes, bearing different cancels, different stamps etc. The individual covers to be registered as per their date of issue and they are always numbered within a year (so the next year means starting the catalogue number again from 1). Very useful is the inclusion of the POFIS catalogue numbers for affixed stamps, enabling the cross linking of the monograph with other POFIS catalogues.

The book records, among others, the covers produced for presidential elections 1946-85 as well as the covers produced in 1973-78 for "The Best Postal Cancel of The Year" Competition run by the journal Filatelie. I personally believe these covers don't belong to it, but we can treat them as a bonus for the readers.

A special chapter of the book has been reserved to the authors of the Czechoslovak first day covers. Each of them is mentioned in alphabetical order with FDC catalogue number(s) of the covers he/she created. This is excellent work, because the authors of many covers were unknown – but few covers still keep this secret, so this is an open area for researchers !

Generally, I must say the book is very good and I can only recommend it to every collector of Czechoslovak stamps. But I detected few problematic points I want to share with you.

The first of them is pricing. However the book doesn't explicitly indicate that the values are stated in Czech Crowns (CZK). I assume they are, because the author always uses the word "price". The minimum value I found was 2 CZK, which roughly corresponds with the minimum prices of stamp dealers applied on the FDCs. This minimum value might be sometimes very questionable, because the FDCs are not so popular at the moment, and trading with them is a bit limited. If you look for a cancelled stamp, you can sometimes get a FDC with the stamp for the price of the used one, when the dealer has no single stamp in stock. On the other hand, the pricing can always be questionable, especially when a limited market does exist. Hopefully this book starts a broad discussion about prices of the Czechoslovak FDCs and brings new collectors of Czechoslovak first day covers.

A more important criticism relates to the fact that the monograph deals with mint FDCs only and totally ignores evaluation of the mailed covers. The general notice "The covers went through the postal operation are much more valuable" (page 37) is not very useful. What does it mean – does the "much more" value of a CZK 2,- cover amount to CZK 10,- or to CZK 100,- ? Unfortunately, Pavel Aksamit leaves this question unanswered. Explanation of this can be also seen in limited market factor, but the absence of pricing for mailed covers lowers the benefit of the book.

An advice for every reader: when you check a FDC with the catalogue part of the book, don't stop your research with the basic catalogue of the FDCs (pages 39-222), but continue with the other sub-sections of the catalogue. The catalogue part unfortunately doesn't contain the cross references among the individual variants of the same first day cover registered in different sections.

A nice example is the first day cover A. S. Puskin of 1949 (catalogue no. 6/49) registered as follows:

| <b>FDC type</b>         | <b>Page</b> | <b>Catalogue Price</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Basic cover             | 43          | CZK 3,-                |
| Ministerial cover       | 225         | CZK 300,-              |
| Cover with mach. Cancel | 247         | CZK 3.000,-            |

If you stop your reading at page 43, you will miss the more valuable variants of the cover !

At the end of this review, I would like to attract your attention to the new way, how this Monograph was created. The Filatelie magazine enclosed with one of its issues a small catalogue of the Czechoslovak first day covers asking if the readers can mark the covers they have in their collection and add the non-registered covers and their variants. I was one of them sending the filled out catalogue with my address to the POFIS publishing house. After processing of the individual reports, we received our catalogues back. A pleasant surprise was a private postcard of 2007 prepared by POFIS for every catalogue contributor thanking for his/her information (figure 6). The card was mailed at a franchised post office "Dolni Nove Mesto" (situated in POFIS/PROFIL stamp shop) subordinated to Praha 06 post office

(situated at Masaryk Railway Station; see its cancel with station silhouette). I find this as a great way how to attract attention of philatelic public and collecting information from many collectors in an effective way. Hopefully, the authors of the other philatelic books will follow this idea !



Figure 6

**A CARD OF INTEREST**

-Yvonne Wheatley-



I thought this card with a facsimile of Alfons Mucha's thoughts on the Hradčany stamp design, which Robert Kingsley has kindly translated, would be of interest to members.

"Every national; has its palladium to which it entrusts the destiny of its future.

From early childhood I have seen and felt the majestic shapes of St. Vitus Cathedral on Prague Castle and the physical embodiment of this symbol. Therefore I could not choose anything else for our first postage stamp. After all, this represents the first free steps of nation."

Signed Alfons Mucha

## SO 1920

-Zdeněk Filipek-

Translation by Robert Kingsley (from *Merkur Revue* 3/2009)

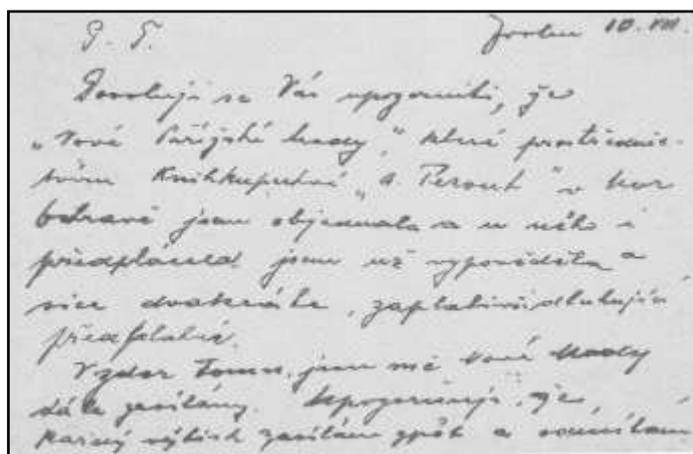
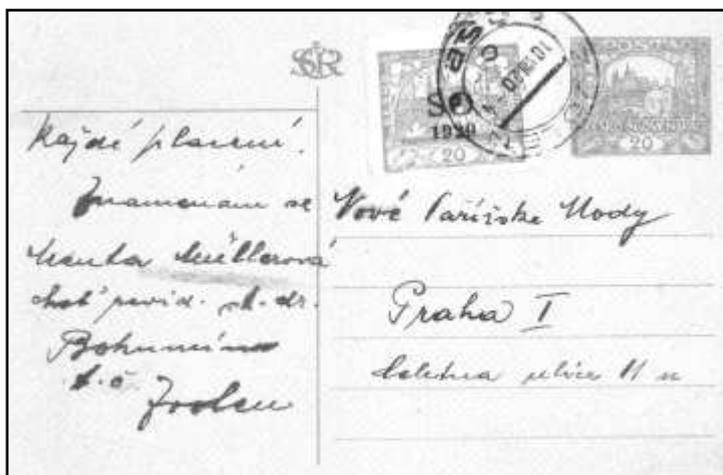
### An obscure, yet exceptional and rare cover from the period of validity of SO 1920 stamps

As an important addition to the recent serialised articles dealing with Czech stamps, cancellations and covers from the plebiscite period of 1920 (featured in MR 2007 & 2008) we present to our readers a unique item, namely a printed card with a 20h Red Hradčany stamp on Yellow/Brown paper with the addition of a 20h plebiscite Blue/Green Hradčany stamp with overprint SO 1920. Thanks to whom is this card so unique? For at first glance it looks like a large number of similar items in collections of many collectors of plebiscite stamps and covers.

In the first place it needs to be stressed that this card was not, in fact, handled in the disputed area by the Czech Postal Service in the said period. From the beginning in the plebiscite area, cards were to be found with printed 10h and 15h Hradčany stamps, of course with no overprint since this was before announcement of the plebiscite. On 13.2.1920 when the plebiscite was announced in the disputed area and plebiscite stamps were introduced, a card was produced with a 15h Hradčany stamp bearing a SO 1920 overprint.

A card with a 20h stamp was only introduced in the course of the plebiscite period (15.3.1920), but did not contain an overprint and was not used in the disputed area, as has already been stated. Nevertheless, as our sample shows, **it was postally used**, and namely in tariff period IV (1.8.1920 – 31.12.1921) with a 20h Blue/Green Hradčany stamp with a **SO 1920 overprint**, by which it fulfilled the Czech rate of 40h for a card sent inland. **What is, however, most important and remarkable is that the card was sent from Zvolen Post Office, as is shown by the two-ring bridge cancellation with the date of the last day of validity of plebiscite stamps "ZVOLEN / 10.8.1920 – 4/c- ČSP "** by which it was officially accepted, even though this post office did not come into the plebiscite area. The use of plebiscite stamps was clearly not justified.

There is only one logical explanation for this anomaly. The card which we are showing could only have come about by the sender **coming from the plebiscite area to somewhere that was outside it**. And indeed, this is confirmed on the left side of the card's address side from which we learn that the sender, a Mrs. M. Müllerová, wife of a railway inspector from Bohumín (plebiscite area) is **at present in Zvolen (that is outside the plebiscite area)**. This is also confirmed on the right hand top corner of the rear of the card, "Zvolen 10.VIII". The sender undoubtedly brought a 20h plebiscite



stamp with her to Zvolen (many people do this – they keep a reserve stock of stamps for possible immediate use), in Zvolen she bought a card and added **her SO 1920 stamp**, without realising that current postal rates did not warrant this. **However, Zvolen Post Office was tolerant and recognised the card.** I would just add that this generosity was not that unusual, as in outlying areas outside the plebiscite area, post offices accepted plebiscite stamps, especially in the Slovak areas of Orava and Spiš.

### UNDERCOVER MAIL – BOX 252

-Ed Fraser-

I show below two examples of Box 252, New York City covers [the Prague one is in my collection]. There is another one recorded to Pavel Reiner from 3 February 1941.



17.II.1941 Prague by airmail to USA--

On the right of the cover:  
Canadian Censor Sealing tape C.64

→ Reverse of cover Censored in Vienna "g" with Sealing tape Type 394 and a handstamp with the wording "Checked – High Command of the Armed Forces" 'Oberkommando der Wehrmacht'.



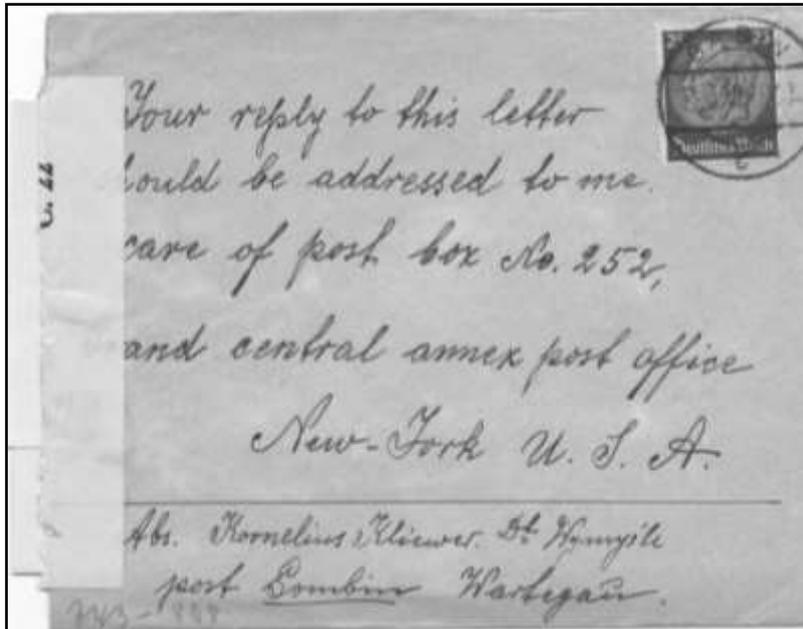
07. II. 1941. Registered Airmail Vyhne to New York

Arrived 6 March 1941 at NY Registry Division

Canadian Censor Sealing Tape C47

I thought you might find this often referenced cover of possible interest, now that it is available, [illustrated below]

When Ken Rowe's early article "The Mystery of Box 252, a World War II Accommodation Address" appeared in the *BNA Topics* March-April 1976 magazine, pages 14-17, seeking information, his "Figure 5" cover illustration apparently stated the instructions. As referenced in my article about the use of Box 252 by Norwegian seamen, and what we have since found from Canadian archives records, this cover still is about all we have found about the specific postal instructions given to people writing into Nazi Europe. One day, of course, we expect to find copies of the original instructions given to the public, and perhaps even find out if they were available in different languages. Initially we would expect to find French and English, since Canada officially uses both.



Considering the cover, there would be people in Canada - both those living there and those recently arrived - who did not speak English, or didn't speak it well. I could imagine them making inquiry at a post office if there were a way to write to friends or family in Germany, and getting an explanation to follow some specific printed instructions. Perhaps the instruction sheet was even marked for them, with the conclusion that the part "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." was passed along verbatim to the addressee in Germany, who also understood to use that as the

reply address, and who also didn't read English to understand exactly what it said.

01.03.1941 GABF-- Censored in Vienna "g" with Sealing tape Type 394 and a handstamp with the wording "Checked - High Command of the Armed Forces" 'Oberkommando der Wehrmacht'. Canadian Censor Sealing tape C.22



## 50th ANNIVERSARY OF SLOVAK UPRISING 27.8.1944 - 27.8.1994

-Dr Miroslav Vostatek- Translated by Vladimír J Králíček-



To commemorate its 50th anniversary the Slovak Post issued two stamps. The 6Sk value depicted the Slovak National uprising military leaders. They are **General Ján Golian** and **General Rudolf Viest**. The 8Sk depicted the French volunteers memorial obelisk. The following could be said about General Viest: During the 1938 September Mobilisation he was made the Commander of Group VI with HQ in Soběslav (Southern Bohemia). Within the frame of the 4th Army their task was to defend Southern Bohemia, from the Czech borders with Moravia to the river Vltava. Later he emigrated to France, where he became a Member of the Czecho-slovak National Committee in Paris. In 1940 he became Commander of the Czecho-slovak Forces.

Arriving in England he became a Member of the Czecho-slovak Government in Exile. From there he was sent to Slovakia where on the 7th April 1944 he took up his military duties and on 7th October 1944 he succeeded General Golian as a Commander of the First Czecho-slovak Army in Slovakia.

General Ján Golian was born on 26.1.1906 in Dombovár in Hungary. His parents were of Slovak origin. He followed the military career in prewar Czechoslovakia and for almost ten years served with the No.3 Artillery Regiment in Litoměřice. Because he was very fond of horses, he took care of a horse battery (apparently it was a training unit for gun carriage draught horses). After that he served for some time in Čáslava, where he met his future wife Jarmila. Later they were for a short time in Pardubice and České Budějovice. Shortly before the war he graduated from the Military College in Prague. From there he was drafted for service with the 10th Infantry Division in Banská Bystrica. Then he experienced the May Mobilisation and at the time of the second Mobilisation in September he was with Command Tomašík, FP No.22, which was situated in Krupina, Southern Slovakia; an illustrated card was sent to his wife in Čáslava at the beginning of December 1938 – only three days before the liquidation of all remaining FPO's – and was sent from the Command Medard. It was the cover name of HO40 – that is the Border Region 40 (Hraniční oblast 40) – whose task was to defend the Southern Slovakia borders from the Novohrad mountains up to Rimavska Sobota. For this military body, cover name Rokytník, later Pampelška), FP No.10 was responsible. It is worth mentioning that its Commander was Sen.Lt.František Rón from Jablonce nad Nisou and his deputy was Lt.Josef Fiedler. As far as is known to me, he is the last surviving observer I was able to trace. He is now living in Opava, in good health and doing well.

On a Forces Post Card he was given the rank of Captain, which Golian had at that time. After the breakup of the Republic he remained in Trenčín. He used to meet up with compatriots and prepared for the time of reversal of fortunes. In January 1944 he was transferred to Banská Bystrica as Chief of Staff of the Ground Forces. During the uprising he commanded, jointly with General Viest, the Czechoslovak Army of that time. After the uprising collapsed they were arrested by the Germans on 3rd November 1944 in Pohronský Bukovec. They were taken, together with many others (e.g. Major Souhrada) to Bratislava, then to Prague and it is said to Berlin and the concentration camp Flossenbürg. In the Spring months of 1945 there is no more news of them and their end is unclear to the present day.

During the war the wives of these Commanders (and others) together with their children were flown to the USSR, where they lived for the duration of the war. After the war their relatives tried to find out the fate of them, but in vain. The communist regime had no interest assisting (stories circulated that they all finished in the Gulags) and the freedom fighters with their relatives – including Mrs J. Golianová - were even imprisoned by the regime.

During the 50th anniversary of the Banská Bystrica uprising celebrations, the relatives, including Mrs Golianová (who had lived many years in Prague) were honoured guests of the Slovak President Mochael Kováč.

## WHO IS FRANTISEK NOJMAN?

-David Holt-

I became aware of Frantisek Nojman while trawling through the postcard boxes in a Northern Czech second-hand bookshop. I had been through local postcards and the few stamps they had and had about half an hour to spare and decided to look at the modern foreign postcards. When I reached France I noticed there were some older cards and although they were written on they had no stamps or cancellations. Then a card with a large circular cachet caught my eye, which turned out to be that of the Czechoslovak National Council, 34 Rue Bonaparte, Paris. This card was from one Frantisek Nojman, vojenska v Francu, to his wife in Prague dated May 1919! Needless to say I then examined the French cards a little more carefully. I found ten cards addressed to Mrs Nojman and one addressed to Frantisek Neumann! It would appear that Franz Neumann had updated his name to Frantisek Nojman to show his faith in the new Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Of the ten cards addressed to Mrs Nojman eight had no postal markings, one had only the cachet of Czechoslovak National Council in Paris and the final card the National Council cachet and the straight line cachet "Došlo Kuryem" (delivered by courier). This card is the last card sent and is of Paris. All the other cards are picture postcards of towns in Southern France, Pau, Cognac, etc.



Figure 1. Card From Frantisek to his wife in Prague

As all the cards seem to have reached their destination, it would suggest that the cachet was only applied to a fraction of the outgoing mail from Paris to Prague and that the Straight line courier cachet was only used occasionally, possibly to the top item of a bundle? The contents of the cards is generally of a domestic nature, but does give his predictions of when he will arrive in Prague, sometime in June 1919. The correspondence only spans a short period from 17th April to the 8th of May 1919 and originates from various training bases in the South of France, Pau, Cognac and Avord. Normally Frantisek has his military address as the 35 section of the 24th Regiment.

The eleventh card is, however, quite different. It is from Lourdes and is addressed to Frantisek Neuman, Aviator Pilot, Salmon Division, Czechoslovak Aviation, Avord, Cher. It is signed by ten colleagues and appears to celebrate Frantisek's passing out as a pilot. It is likely that they were also trainee pilots? Unfortunately I have no idea what happened to Frantisek, perhaps someone may have come across him?



Figure 2, Card from Frantisek's colleagues giving his full title

### 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARPATHO-UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

-- Norman Hudson-

The news that a postal stationery envelope has been issued by the Post Office of Ukraine may at first seem of little interest to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. My own interest was aroused, however, when I discovered that Ukraine had issued a printed envelope commemorating the 70th anniversary of Carpatho-Ukraine's declaration of independence.



The often tragic history of Carpatho-Ukraine will already be well known to many members. Until the collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918, Carpatho-Ukraine had been part of Hungary. Leaders of the Ukrainian-speaking Rusyn population of Carpatho-Ukraine (often also known as Ruthenia) opted for unification with the newly-established republic of Czechoslovakia, an arrangement confirmed by the post-war Treaty of Saint Germain on 10 September 1919. Carpatho-Ukraine thus became the easternmost territory of Czechoslovakia. It was known as Podkarpatská Rus ("Sub-Carpathian Russia") to the Czechs/Slovaks. Less than 20 years later, and with international tensions mounting in the wake of the infamous Munich Agreement of 30 September 1938, a sizeable slice of the south-western part of Carpatho-Ukraine (including its three largest towns) was occupied and annexed by Hungary in November 1938. To Hungary, the territory was being "returned". The central government in Prague now granted self-government to the remainder of Carpatho-Ukraine. The new Carpatho-Ukraine parliament was due to meet on 2 March 1939 but failed to do so until the 15th. On that date, and with neighbouring Slovakia having declared its independence on the previous day, Carpatho-Ukraine also declared its independence. Celebrations lasted just a few hours as Hungarian troops immediately occupied Chust, the capital, and the rest of the territory. Carpatho-Ukraine was to remain under Hungarian rule for much of World War II. Westwards-advancing Soviet troops entered the territory in October 1944, reaching Chust on 24 October and Uhžorod, the largest town, on the 27th. Although Carpatho-Ukraine was, nominally, once more under the control of the restored Czechoslovakia, the Communist-dominated authorities which had effective control of the area soon imposed their idea of the territory's amalgamation into the Soviet Union. The territory became part of the Ukraine Soviet Republic, and thus part of the USSR, in November 1945. Carpatho-Ukraine is the westernmost oblast (province) of the republic of Ukraine, which declared its independence from the USSR in August 1991.

Four elements of the design of the commemorative envelope bring to mind some of the history – and postal history – of Carpatho-Ukraine:-

The POSTAGE STAMP (printed on the envelope) reproduces the design of a 3K Czechoslovak stamp (SG393c), printed in blue and issued in March 1939. The central design of the 1939 stamp was the same as a 60h stamp (SG281), printed in orange and showing the wooden church in Jasiňa, from the series issued in 1928 to mark Czechoslovakia's tenth anniversary. The postal authorities in Prague had intended that the stamp would be issued on 2 March, the date on which the parliament of the self-governing province of Carpatho-Ukraine was due to meet. This date ("2.III.1939") is shown on the stamp. As the parliament failed to meet on that date, the issue was delayed. When, on 15 March, Carpatho-Ukraine declared its independence, the 3K stamp was finally issued in both Chust and in Prague. The 3K postage stamp of 1939 measures 30 x 27mm and has a white border, whereas the reproduction printed on the commemorative envelope measures 25.5 x 21mm and has a yellow border.

The POSTMARK (also printed on the envelope) is a reproduction of the cancellation used in Chust on 15 March 1939, the first day of issue of the 3K stamp. It has the dual-language (Ukrainian and Czech/Slovak) place-name and a lower inscription, only in Ukrainian (in the Cyrillic alphabet), which translates as "Opening session of the first parliament". The 1939 cancellation, struck in red, had a diameter of 32mm whereas the reproduction on the envelope, also shown in red, measures just 19mm.

The PORTRAIT on the commemorative envelope is that of Avhustyn Voloshyn (1874-1945), the second prime minister of Czechoslovakia's self-governing easternmost territory and the first and only president of the short-lived republic of Carpatho-Ukraine. When, in 1939, the remainder of Carpatho-Ukraine was occupied and annexed by Hungary, Voloshyn went into exile in Romania and later moved to Prague. Mistrusted by the Soviet authorities for his nationalist aspirations for his homeland of Carpatho-Ukraine, he was arrested by the KGB in May 1945 and taken to Moscow. He died, just two months later, in a Soviet prison.

The BADGE shown on the envelope was the state emblem of Carpatho-Ukraine. The right-hand side has a red bear on a white background whilst the left side has four blue and three yellow stripes. At the declaration of Carpatho-Ukraine's independence, a trident (*tryzub*) - a Ukrainian national emblem - was added on the top blue stripe.

The commemorative envelope, measuring 162.5 x 114mm, has a postal value of 1.50 Ukraine Hryvnia, which an internet website tells me is currently equivalent to about 12p. Although the text on the reverse of the envelope is all in Cyrillic, the date of the envelope's issue appears to have been 20 February 2009.

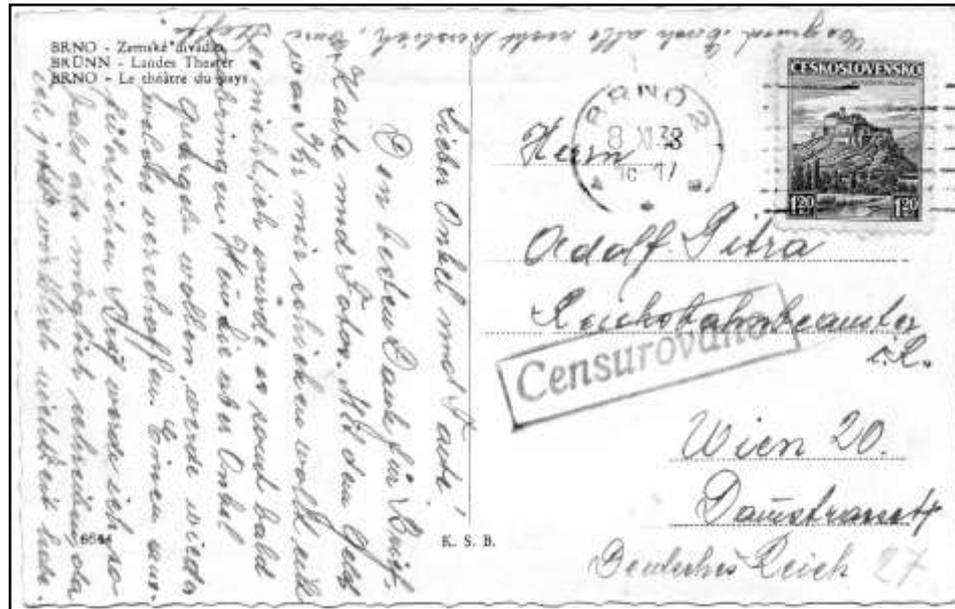
### WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

- Members' Queries -

Another selection, together with some answers, for which we are sure our inquirers, will be most grateful. It would be helpful if inquirers having covers with further details on the reverse also photocopy that side to assist with any replies. First the Answers:

**Re: Richard Beith's CENSUROVÁNO Handstamps in Czechout 2/09 page 59.**

From Rex Dixon: In response to Richard Beith's query, I attach scans of two censored postcards. The first extends the latest date to 8.XI.38, on a card from Brno to Vienna.



The second introduces a new mark, a red boxed J, on an internal (not external) card from Jaroměřice nad Rokytno to Brno on 29.IX.38, at the height of the crisis. Some text has actually been blacked out. Handstamp shown in red on original.



New Query

From Barry Horne: I am having problems with several covers, mainly airmail, from the 1930's – some internal and some to Germany, where reduced foreign rates apply. Do the reduced rates apply at all weights or do the normal rates apply after, say, the first 20g?

Cover 1. Bratislava 29.X.37 to Liberec [Reichenberg]. Cancel is from Exhibition as is the Registration label, typed "Flugpost!!! / Rekomandiert" in red. It carries seven stamps totalling 10.40 plus special delivery 50h. It is a heavy manila cover so say it was 100g + then postage 2.50, Registration 2.00 and Airmail 3.00 only comes to 7.50 or am I missing something?



Back stamp on arrival



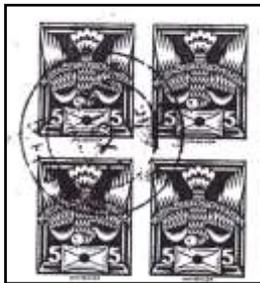
Cover 2. Brno 1. 9.VIII.38 Registered [label Brno 1 (ex offo) to Berlin - - Express Airmail and Red crayon cross on front. Stamps total 21.00, and reverse has oval Dresden-Bodenbach Bahnpost cancel 9.8.38 and circular Berlin-obershoneweide 10.8.38, so part of journey on rail. My rating on 20g comes out at 10.00.



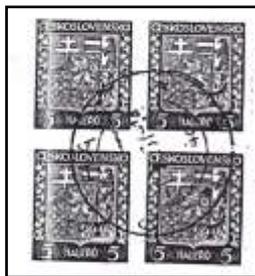
Back stamp

Covers 3 and 4, are both to Zwittau, in Germany, and Registered Express Airmail and both from Prague {Bohmische Union Bank.}

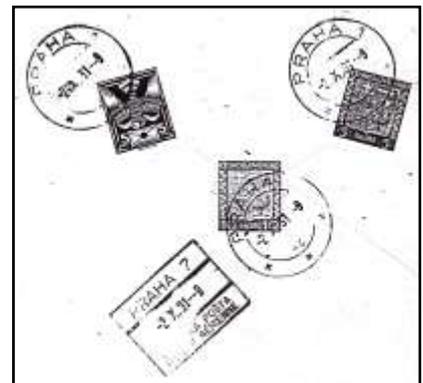
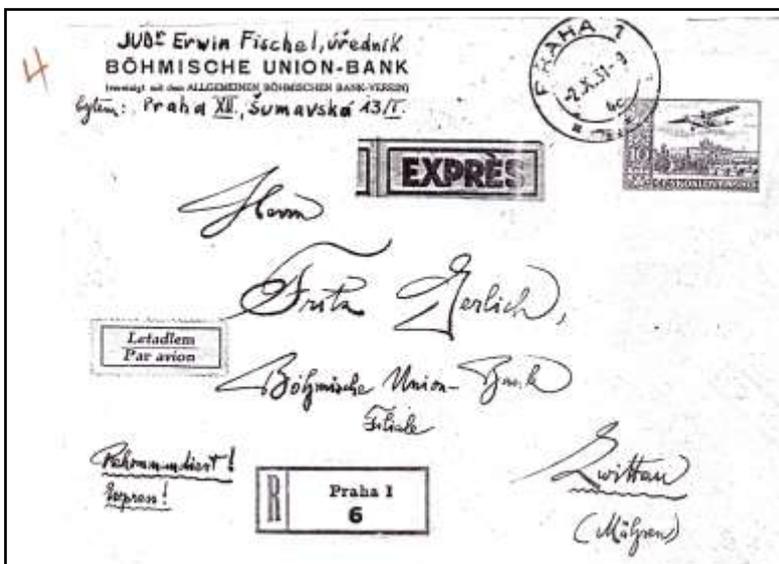
The first is dated 1.X.31 and franked 20.40 on front and reverse with no arrival cancels.



On reverse 2x20h



The second is dated 2.X.31 and franked 10.40 and on the reverse has a boxed Praha 7 airpost cancel but no arrival marks.



I have Horka catalogue 1997, but believe that has been updated ?. I find that dates for rate changes are not always accurate – I have problems with mail to South America etc.

## 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

27 May

#### 2009 For Children



**Designer:** Hana Čápková **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30.  
**Booklets:** 8 stamps and 2 labels printed in black.

**Design:** stamp - the puppets Spejbl and Hurvinek; label – three other puppets – Mánička with her Granny and the dog Žeryk. Professor Josef Skupa (1892 –1957) conceived the character and the woodcarver created Spejbl in 1920. In 1930 the professional Pilsen Puppet Theatre of Professor Skupa was established which later became The Theatre of Spejbl and Hurvinek. Further characters were added and performances took place in Prague in 1945. The theatre is still playing to young audiences with satirical comedies for adults. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows the puppets Spejbl, Hurvinek, Mánička, Mrs Kateřina Hovorková and the dog Žeryk.

27 May 2009

#### Rabbi Judah Loew



**Designer:** Karel Zeman **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň (FDC only) **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 5 stamps and 4 labels.

**Design:** stamp - portrait of Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel (c1525 – 1609) with his name and the abbreviation of his name in Hebrew and the dates 1609 – 2009. Label – a cup belonging to the Rabbi – one of his few remaining relics with the sun streaming through a round window from the eastern part of the Old-New Synagogue. From 1553 to 1574 Rabbi Loew was the leading land rabbi in Mikulov but then went to Prague where he established a talmudic school and regulations for the *Chevra Kadisha* (burial society). He was also interested in the natural sciences particularly astronomy and astrology. Between 1592 and 1597 he was the leading rabbi in Poznan (now Bratislava). From 1597 until his death he was the leading land rabbi of the Kingdom of Bohemia. He is buried in the Old Jewish Cemetery, Prague.

**FDC:** printed DS in red-brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows the western part of the Old-New Synagogue.

17 June 2009

#### International Fire Brigades Competitions CTIF, Ostrava 2009.



**Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 50 stamps.

**Design:** attacking a fire, the logo of CTIF and the text in Czech 'International Fire Brigades Competition, Ostrava 2009, CTIF'. CTIF (Comité technique international de prevention et d'extinction du feu – International Association of Fire and Rescue Service) was established in Paris in 1900. 2009 will be the XIV Competitions and XVII Youth

Competitions. More than 30 countries are expected to take part in Ostrava organised by the Czech National Committee. **FDC:** printed monochrome offset with commemorative Ostrava cancel. The cachet features a relay race.

17 June 2009

**400th Anniversary of the Royal Edict of Rudolf II**

**Designer:** Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 35 stamps.

**Design:** two raised hands on a background of the heading script of the edict and the years 1609-2009. The edict was proclaimed on 9 July 1609 as a result of the political activities of Czech non-Catholic aristocrats. It granted religious freedom to the whole population – a unique freedom in Europe at this time. The principle had been granted at Kutná Hora in 1485, refined in 1575 but codified by the edict. It permitted non-Catholics the right to have local administrative bodies, ecclesiastical courts and universities.

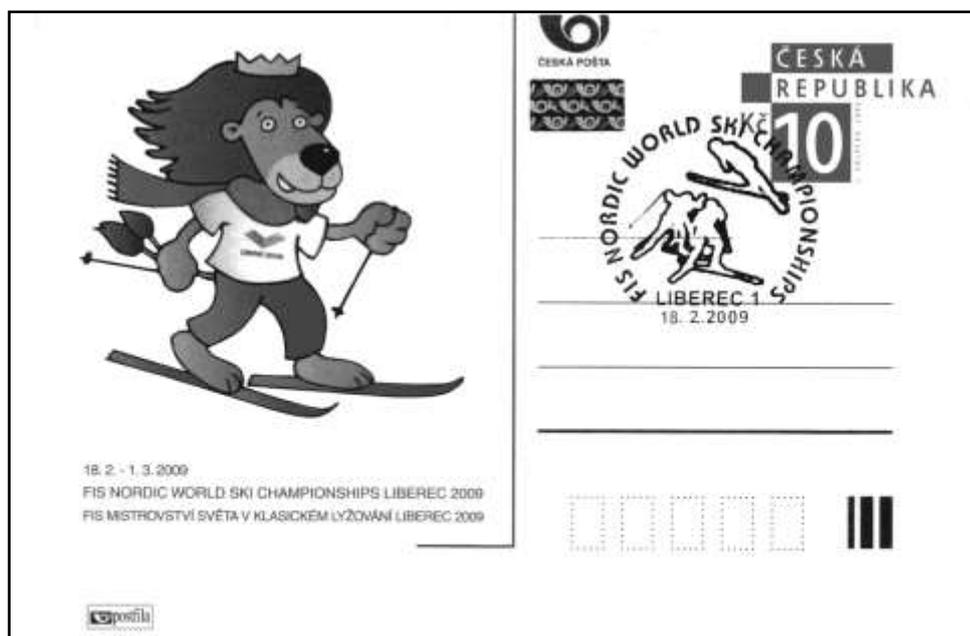
**FDC:** printed DS in brownish-red with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing has the profile of the Emperor with the text in Czech 'Edict of Rudolf II.'

**Postal Stationery****Official Postcards**

**24 June 2009 – Church Monuments of the Czech Republic.** This is the 16th issue in the series numbered from A185/2009 to A192/2009. Each card has an imprinted 10Kč. The designs are from Studio Skala from photographs, printed offset by OPTYS Ltd. Retail price a) mint set of 8 cards – 120Kč b) mint set with cachet – 128Kč c) mint set with first day cancel – 136Kč. Left side of card has a coloured picture of the building with explanatory text. Cards with cachet also have a drawing in black below. This series shows i) Prague: former Augustinian monastery with Church of the Virgin Mary and Charles the Great. ii) Slaný: former Franciscan Monastery and Holy Trinity Church. iii) Havlíčkův Brod: Augustinian Cloister and Church of the Holy Family. iv) Jablonné v Podještědí: Dominican Monastery and Hospital. v) Brno: Monastery of the Franciscan Order and Church of Mary Magdalena. vi) Dačice: Franciscan Cloister. vii) Klášterní Hradiško u Olomouce: the area of the former Benedictine Cloister. viii) Valtice: former Monastery of the Order of Merciful Brothers with the Holy Augustin Church.

**Promotional Cards**

**18 February 2009. The Nordic World Ski Championships Liberec 2009.** The event was held from 18 February to 1 March 2009. The drawing shows a lion wearing a crown on skis and text of the event in English and Czech below. A commemorative cancel was available. Imprinted 10Kč numeral stamp.



**5 March 2009. International Stamp Fair Munich.** The event was held 5 – 7 March 2009. The promotional portion has a picture of the changing of horses for a stage coach in the yard of a post house with text.

**6 May 2009. 19 International Stamp Fair Essen.** The event took place from 6 – 10 May 2009. The cachet drawing is an imaginary dirigible craft in flight with text of the event below.

## Slovakia

29 April 2009

### 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Union of Slovak Philatelists



**Designer:** Dušan Grečner **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček (stamp) Rudolf Cigánik (FDC) **Printing:** RD with coupon.

**Design:** map of Europe with Slovakia seen through a magnifying glass. The coupon has the initials ZSF (Zväzu slovenských filatelistov – Union of Slovak Philatelists) in the Slovak national colours and text commemorating the anniversary in the margin.

A convention of club delegates was held on 17 May 1969 in Silač and is the basis of the ZSF today, which has about 1700 members in 93 clubs. The Union is a member of FIP and FEPA promoting philately as a professional, cultural and educational activity. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB s.r.o. Bratislava with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design has a perforation gauge with a portrait of JE Gray – the publisher of the first catalogue of postage stamps.

7 May 2009

### The Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic

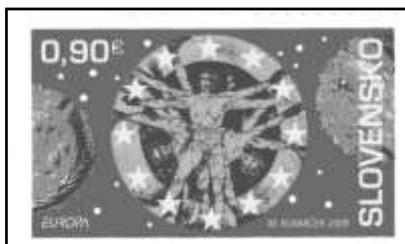


**Designer:** Vladislav Rostoka **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** RD  
**Design:** the heraldic emblem of the SAO SR (Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic) and its motto below in Latin – *Parsimonia Effectivitas Commodum* (thrift is an advantage). The Office guarantees impartial control over public funds. It has been in existence since the times of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria.

**FDC:** printed DS with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet in black has the heraldic eagle with the motto.

28 May 2009

### Europa 2009 – Astronomy



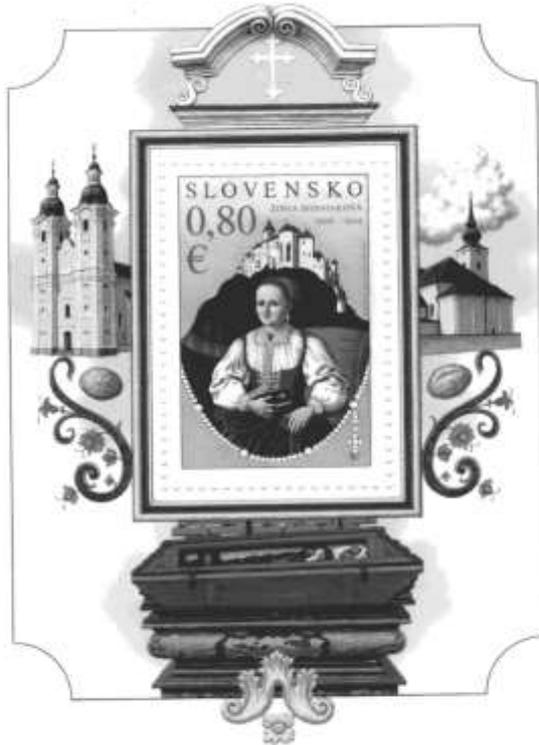
**Designer:** Marián Komáček **Engraver:** L'ubomír Žálec (FDC cachet only) **Printing:** Heidelberg Speedmaster

**Design:** a ring of stars with symbolic figures reaching out to the universe. The UN has designated 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) to celebrate the first astronomical use of the telescope by Galileo in 1609. The central theme of IYA 2009 is 'The Universe – Yours to Discover.'

**FDC:** printed DS by TAB s.r.o. Bratislava with a commemorative cancel. The cachet drawing has a celestial globe, an open book and other instruments associated with astronomy with an allegorical young woman's head.

2 June 2009

## Personalities – Žofia Bosniaková



**Designer:** Marián Čapka **Engravers:** Martin Činovský (stamp) L'ubomír Žálec (FDC cachet) **Printing:** DS and offset sheetlets of one stamp with decorative margin. **Design:** the stamp has a portrait of Žofia Bosniaková (1609-1644) in contemporary costume with the castle of Strečno in the background. The margins of the sheetlet show the parish churches of Šurany and Teplička nad Váhom with decorative patterns beneath and two small bread loaves – 'bosniaky'. Above the stamp is part of the portal of the Loretan chapel in Teplička. Below the stamp is the glass-lidded coffin with her remains. An arsonist destroyed the remains on 1 April 2009. Žofia was born in Šurany where her father was captain of the castle but the family later moved to Fil'akova. She married at the age of 17 Baron Michal Serényi and moved to Světlov Castle, Moravia. Upon the death of her husband in 1622 she returned to her family. Her second husband, František Wesselényi, lived in Teplička nad Vahom. Here she was noted for her deep sympathy for the poor and those that suffered. She founded and funded a Poor House. She died in Strečno Castle and was buried in the castle chapel. Her body was exhumed in 1729, put in a glass-lidded coffin and taken to the church in Teplička. **FDC:**

printed DS by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava with commemorative Teplička nad Vahom cancel. The cachet drawing shows the Šurany Castle where she was born together with her facsimile signature and traditional embroidery motifs she worked on church vestments.

15 June 2009

## President of the Slovak Republic - Ivan Gašparovič



**Designers:** Ivan Schurmann (stamp) Radmila Hanečková (graphics) **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik (FDC cachet only) **Printing:** thermo-embossing with offset in sheetlets of 1 stamp and two labels. **Design:** stamp (in gold colour) - portrait of the President. The label at left has the State Arms and the label at right the Presidential Standard. The top margin has the name 'Ivan Gašparovič' and the lower margin, in Slovak, 'President of the Slovak Republic'. Ivan Gašparovič (born 1941) studied at the Law Faculty of Comenius University

Bratislava where he later lectured and in 1990 became Vice-Chancellor. In 2002 he founded and became leader of the political party Movement for Democracy (HZD). In 2004 he successfully ran for the presidency and was inaugurated on 15 June. He was again successful in the presidential elections of 2009 and was inaugurated for a second term on 15 June 2009. **FDC:** printed DS by TAB s.r.o., Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The symbolic cachet drawing shows two standing figures holding horns of plenty with linden leaves and flowers below.