



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

At the Royal Philatelic Society Meeting on 10 December **Yvonne Wheatley** and **Lindy Bosworth** displayed *Czechia* in *The Ladies Entertain* programme. The next London meeting is on **Saturday 16 January 2010** when **Colin Spong** will give a display entitled *A Slovak Miscellany*.

I would advise the membership that I have indicated to both the Committee and the Annual General Meeting that I felt the time had come to hand over the editorial chair at the 2010 AGM. During the coming year I shall have attained [d.v.] my fourth 20th birthday=80! However, I shall continue to devote time to prepare other projects for the Society. It would be helpful to the Committee if a volunteer would come forward in the next few months, and I would be pleased to assist in any way I can.

The Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei has invited the CPSGB to participate in their 40th anniversary exhibition at Munich in March 2010. For further details please contact Tony Hickey
The LONDON 2010 exhibition 8-15 May opens with a full programme – details from the philatelic press or www.london2010.org.uk.

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

Opinions expressed in articles in Czechout are the sole responsibility of the author(s), and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Society.

NEWS & NOTICES

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 12th September 2009 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30pm

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Green, welcomed 20 members and two guests to the meeting, apologies having been received from 4 members. She then thanked all of those present for their efforts in reaching the club as the Jubilee Line was suspended from Waterloo and a shuttle bus had been laid on from Finchley Road Station, causing considerable delays.

In her role as Membership Secretary Yvonne announced that we had attracted one new member, Mark Wilson of Scottsdale, Arizona, U.S.A, and apologised for not presenting him at the June meeting. Yvonne added that membership now totalled 162.

Ian Nutley, who needs no introduction to our members, was then invited by our Chairman to entertain us with his excellent display entitled *The Road to Auschwitz*. Later, after a superb afternoon's entertainment, Tony Bosworth gave a vote of thanks.

"I will not dwell on the superb and in some cases unique material, including rare mail into camps that is on display; nor on the excellent delivery, well researched, relevant and clearly explained, attributes which are of course the hallmark of Ian's presentations.

The point that I would like emphasize is the historical importance of the display. A few years ago when this collection was in its embryo Ian showed it at a German Society weekend. When he had finished a Jewish member, Peter Rickenback, approached Ian and said that this material must be shown to highlight the horrors of the Holocaust so that people will not forget. This is being done.

I agree with Ian's opening remarks when he said that there would not be a barrel of laughs, but we did have a well researched, historically important and interesting display. Thank you Ian"

Yvonne thanked Tony and there being no further business called the meeting to a close at 4.30 pm.

Tony Hickey

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 14th November 2009 at the Czech & Slovak National Club,

After the AGM the Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed back 25 members to the meeting, apologies having been received from 5 members. Once again she then thanked all of those present for their efforts in reaching the club as the Jubilee Line was suspended from Waterloo and a shuttle bus had been laid on from Finchley Road Station, causing considerable delays. Yvonne reminded those present that Mrs Dawson was ill and not to forget to sign the "Get Well Soon" card.

Without more ado **Tony Bosworth** was then invited by our Chairman to entertain us with part of his extensive collection of Bohemia and Moravia entitled *From Joy to Despair*. Later, after a superb afternoon's entertainment, Garth Taylor gave a vote of thanks.

"Tony has taken us on a comprehensive tour of Czech Philately in the turbulent years of German Occupation. We started in 1938 with the loss of the Sudetenland through the infamous "Munich Agreement", then on to March 1939 with occupation and founding of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the carving up of the rest of the former country of Czechoslovakia. We continued with the war years and the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich in 1942 and the terrible consequences of that act. We were treated to stamps, postal history and postcard through to the end of the war and the resurgence of the Czechoslovakian State. What a journey. Thank you Tony for such an interesting and informative display"

Yvonne thanked Tony and there being no further business called the meeting to a close at 4.00 pm.

Tony Hickey

Northern Meeting held at Pudsey - Leeds Stamp Fair Saturday 21st November 2009

Members present : D.Baron (Czech), K.Brandon (Austria), P.Cybaniak (UPNS Austro-Hungary), R.Dubyniak.

Derek chaired the meeting which was opened with a display by Keith of all the pre-philatelic postmarks of Prostejov, Moravia. Peter then showed a collection, which he believed to be unique, of revenue stamps and their use from Ukraine. Derek followed with a display of the postal chaos in Olomouc during two periods, at the beginning of the new state of Czechoslovakia and at Liberation. Keith gave the last display, most of which he had found in one dealer's box. It was mail to and from a Mr. Dvoryak a builder in Ostrava, one cover he received from a philately shop giving away the probable reason that this collection was in one box. Keith had researched on the internet and had managed to find a photograph of a most unusual guest house designed by the builder, still open for business, also a family tree with his name and the names of relatives he had written to and received letters from. An interesting and enjoyable 1½ hours. Another meeting will take place at the same venue next year on Saturday 20th November 2010 at 2.00pm.

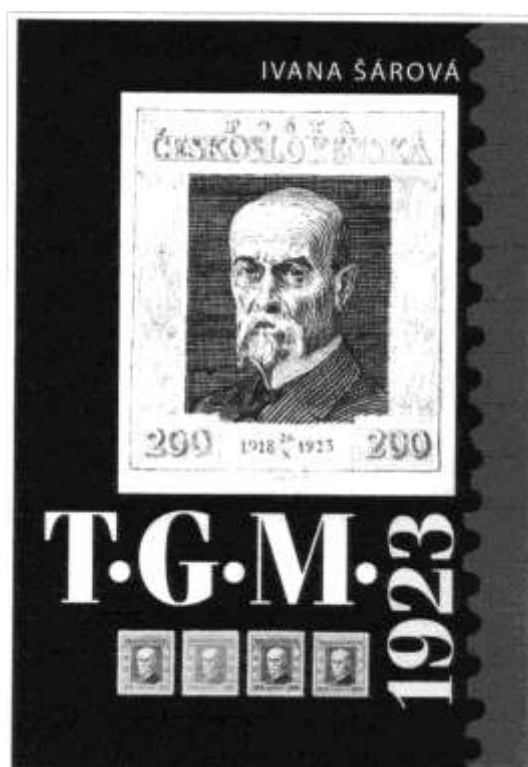
Derek Baron

Letters & e-mails to the Editor

✉ **British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter Autumn 2009:** The Search Room has reopened with new air conditioning; a BPMA Podcast initiative; Completion of series of GPO Unit dvds with "If War Should Come"; Completion of a Guide to the Museum Collection (£5), available from on-line BPMA shop; a on-line Poster catalogue; BPMA at Blists Hill, Shropshire, part of Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust. www.ironbridge.co.uk



BOOK REVIEW



TGM 1923 by Ivan Šárová, A4 112 pages, published by Top Art Studio, Prague 2008. ISBN 978-80-254-2134-5.

This hard back colour illustrated book of 100+ pages has been on my book shelf for some time and I was asked to review it earlier in the summer and forgot – my apologies.

It is a trilingual (Czech, English & German) treatment in a very comprehensive manner of the four stamps Tomáš Masaryk surcharged issue of 1923 and the later overprints applied to these stamps for the Olympics and Sokol.

Right from the start I was hit with information not known to me before – who the money from the surcharge was destined for. It follows up with how the engraver got into trouble for making the plate as well as the work of Max Švabinský related to this design.

Such detail, every factor of the design is clearly discussed and the translator's work into English is towards the upper end of professionalism. It even explained to me why thick and thin papers were used and where it came from. Fly speck detail galore will

keep the most ardent of philatelists going through long winter nights. The final section on forgeries seems most comprehensive to me. All in all this book is well produced, clearly translated to English and cram packed with detail.

Robert J Hill

Publications

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

- The Winter 2009 issue of *Austria*, No 168. The articles include:
 - ▶ Amazing Acquisitions from the World's First Airmail Service (Kuzych); Form of the Quarter (Taylor); The 1919-21 Parliament issue (Taylor et al); Postmarks of the Postmarkless Period (Brandon).
- The September 2009 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 40, Whole No. 161 Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Eduard Karel (Müller); Mail on the Schneekoppe in Riesengebirge Mountain Range (Müller); New area organisation of Prague post offices (Müller); Plate faults on the 4.60 Kčs stamp from the series 80th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia (Ziegler); The special registration labels of the Czech Post Office (Müller); The special cancellations of the Czech Post Office 2008 (Müller).
- The May/June & July/August 2009 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.71, Whole Nos.615/6. Nos.3/4. The articles include:
 - ▶ 1923 Agricultural & Science Issue Type II 100h. Two Problems (Wilson); Zdeněk Burian and Pre-history (van Zenten); The First Slovak Euro-dominated Postage Stamps (Slovak PO);
 - ▶ Bridge and Water (Santangelo); Egyptology and František Lexa 15.4.1876-13.2.1960 (van Zenten); The History of the Mail in Praskolesy (Bežová & Kadeřábek); 175th Anniversary of the Czech National Anthem (Holoubek).
- The 9, 10 & 11/2009 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol.59. The English translation of the Contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ Rural Agencies of the Czech Post [2] (Bejesta); Forgeries of Group "K" [1919 overprints] [9] (Beneš); 25 Years of POFIS and PROFIL auctions (Beneš); Postal Offices liquidated some time ago (Kratochvíl); Halved stamps on clipped forms 1918/19 (Kypast);
 - ▶ Comb perforation of Czechoslovak stamps (Tekel); Forgeries of Group "K" [1919 overprints] [10] (Beneš); Rural Agencies of the Czech Post [3] (Bejesta); Points of interest in names of the post offices (Kratochvíl); Post offices in Prague – history past and the present by Jiří Kratochvíl [Book review by FB]
 - ▶ The Postal historical concept of the period 1918-19 (Kunc); Plate variety on air mail stamps L19-27 [1946-1949 issues] (Bacharatý); Forgeries of air mail covers with first issue on current market (Trnka); Addendum to catalogue of Postal museum material [Monograph 25] (-); 25 Years of POFIS and PROFIL auctions (2) (Beneš).
- The 4 & 5 2009 issues of *Merkur Revue*: The articles include:
 - ▶ Engravings by Eduard Karel for 5th drawing of Hradčany (Filipek); The exclusive letter of which we have few (Fritz); Revolutionary Overprints 1944-45 (Koupal); Identification of colour shades (Raduška); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [5] (Fritz); Vouchers of the Zemská Banka král Českého [III] (Moravec).
 - ▶ 70 years from the death of Alphonse Mucha (-); Printing errors on Czech stamps of 2009 (Fritz); Newspaper Fiscal stamps [1] (Hirš); 25th anniversary of death of Ing Mirko Valina (Moravec); Exhibition for the 60th birthday of L & J Knotek (Fritz); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [6] (Fritz); Attachment Pošta Československá 1919 [III] (Stupka).
- The September 2009 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No. 178. The articles include
 - ▶ Obliterations and their absence: The prolonged fate of post WWI Hungarian postmarks [Part 1] [includes details of Czech & Slovak cancellations] (Soble).

Congratulations

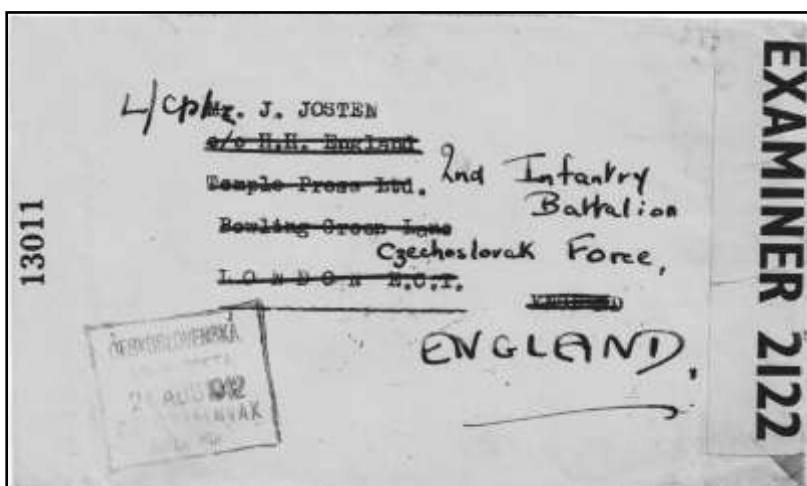
To **Otto Hornung** for a gold medal at Italia 2009, Rome for his monograph *Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine*.

At the *German Posta XVII* in Liverpool during October, **Rex Dixon** won a Large vermeil for *The annual issues for Deutsche Nothilfe*; Gold for *German postal rates and services 1923-1945*; Salver for best stamp entry; Cup for best postal history entry and Cup for best presented entry. **Tony Hickey** won a Vermeil for *British propaganda and intelligence forgeries*.

MONOGRAPH 15 ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

-Richard Beith-

One published text that I would have mentioned, if I had known of its existence at the time, is "To Anne in America" by Josef Josten. This 32 page booklet was published in 1943 with 'Text and Arrangement by J Josten, Czechoslovak Forces', and with drawings by Gnr F Bělský, the sculptor who carved the Cholmondeley Memorial in 1940 and was known internationally in the postwar period as a portrait sculptor.



Shown here is a 1942 cover from Uruguay addressed to Mr Josten in London, redirected to L/Cpl Josten, 2nd Infantry Battalion, Czechoslovak Force, England, with boxed receipt mark.



The very well illustrated booklet includes slightly disguised letters between one Corporal Jaroslav Janda (i.e. Josten) and his American correspondent Anne Thompson, real name Anne Haugwort, a censor with the US Forces in Europe. Illustrations include a fictionalised cover and V mail from the USA and an outward surface letter from the UK, featured on the cover, see illustration. Otherwise, the text is devoted to a popular account of the activities of the Free Czechoslovak soldiers and airmen in France, the Middle East and in Great Britain. A map of Europe shows the author's route from his homeland through Hungary, Yugoslavia and Beirut, arriving in Marseille and his later departure from Sete to Liverpool via Gibraltar.

Josef Josten's own autobiography and commentary on the communist takeover of his homeland in 1948 can be found in the readable "Oh my Country" (London: Latimer House Ltd, 1949)

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Vladimír Králíček for useful comments.

UNDERCOVER MAIL – BOX 506

-Ed Fraser-

I have some more nice scans to pass along for your files. They are from a recently sold cover. What I thought was particularly nice is that the usage is quite late - October 1943. Also, it has been censored three times, and apparently it has survived with the original contents. (It looks to be in German, so when I get a chance I will find out what it says.) It's interesting to see all the censor marks.

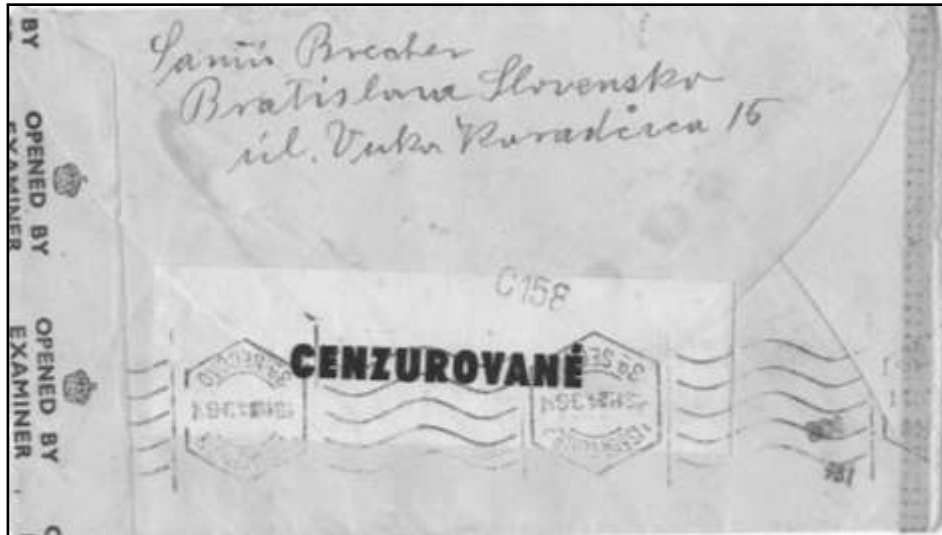


There is an example here of a small detail about British censor practice and stamps. It looks as if in the British censor procedure one of the original stamps came off or was loose, so the censor stuck it back on top of his censor tape. Anyway, this all happened by the time Thomas Cook added their postage stamp that was then cancelled in London.

I would guess it had to be mailed unsealed, as the envelope's original gum is (confirmed to be) intact and not used to seal the envelope, and it appears that the censor then used his own glue to seal the flap before applying his censor tape.



The reverse shows the Portuguese censor in Lisbon, a machine cancellation, on a Slovak censor tape, and the British Censor sealing tape PC90, presumably applied after it was sent back to Cooks London Office. We have not included illustrations of the enclosed letter in German.



50th ANNIVERSARY OF SLOVAK UPRISING 27.8.1944 - 27.8.1994

-Richard Beith-

Dr Miroslav Vostatek's note on the 50th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising (*Czechout* 3/2009, p.80) mentioned General Rudolf Viest who was based in the United Kingdom from 1940-1944. It would seem that General Viest was very much a public figure during that period. As noted in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* for 23 May 1942, the Aberdeen Art Gallery featured an exhibition: "The Land of Ancient Civilisation and Modern Culture", which was 'presented by Czechoslovak Soldiers and Airmen' from 22 May to 13 June. General Viest, who opened the exhibition, was quoted as saying:

"A nation's greatness does not lie in the panzer divisions, the warrior hordes, or goose-stepping regiments it can send against neighbours. Its greatness lies in the spirit of enterprise of its people, their passionate love of liberty, and their unshakeable faith in themselves". The *Journal* continued: 'It was a tough, courageous Czech soldier, General Rudolf Viest, who spoke these words. General Viest, who played a leading part in the great odyssey of the Czech Army that fought its way from Siberia to Bohemia in the last war, laid stress on cultural and spiritual values'.



Of course General Viest was not a tough, courageous Czech soldier, but a Slovak one, the only Slovak General in the pre-war Czechoslovak Army. He can also be found opening a similar exhibition in Bournemouth in August 1943; see *The Bournemouth Echo* for 31 July and 2 August 1943.

As to the Slovak National Uprising, Zeman and Klimek *"The Life of Edvard Benes"* (1997) noted that Viest left London on 21 August 1944 in a group which reached Moscow four days later. Sadly he did not reach Banska Bystrica, the centre of the Uprising, until 7 October. He had spent a frustrating six weeks in Moscow. This delay may have been crucial in the failure of the Uprising. Some writers consider that this implied that the Uprising was intended to fail. Many years later, Alexander Dubcek, a Slovak, writing in his autobiography *'Hope Dies Last'* (1993), commented on reading the memoirs of the then Soviet Chief of Staff Marshall Stemenko (1974) that "I was shocked that he characterized the organizers of the Slovak Uprising as *"bourgeois putschists"*.

A SMALL WWII MYSTERY

The 1919 Legionnaire stamp issue and the Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Great Britain during WWII

Following is an extract from Captain Oldřich Večerek's manuscript 'The Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain during WWII' translated by Vladimír Králíček, Auckland, New Zealand.

Shortly after we have finished using the special commemorative cancellation to remember the anniversary of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik's death on 4 May 1919, designed by Dolfa Bartosik and dated 4.5.1941, I have received a registered letter from the Czechoslovak Red Cross Head Office in London with examples of the 1919 Legionnaires Orphans and Widows stamp issue and overprinted with a surcharge for the benefit of the Orphans and Widows of WWI Legionnaires, with a request for an expert opinion of the design which was produced by a group of Czechoslovak civilian immigrants in London and which offered the Czechoslovak Red Cross the possibility of purchasing large numbers of these stamps and issue them in England in Czech and English language.



1919 Legionnaires issue (without the Red Cross overprint)

They allegedly came from a certain London philatelic firm, which was after a bombing raid on their premises, liquidating their stocks of old stamps. The group ensured further supply of these stamps from other firms, so that it would be able to supply them for 3d a stamp. In view of the expected interest in these overprints and their eventual settling price, this would represent a substantial contribution to the Czechoslovak Red Cross Fund.

On inspection, one of the submitted sample sheets had actually traces of fire damage in one corner, while the other sheet was without any damage, except that the colour of it had somewhat different shading, even though the picture details were correct in every detail. I was not satisfied with the paper composition, which was harder and of smoother surface. The damaged sheet was, in my opinion, real, but the other was not, especially after I have found that the paper watermark was an imprint of an English paper mill.

I have therefore replied that the stamps were not suitable for overprinting because the fine textured drawing would be completely lost under the bi-lingual overprint, and that the value of the stamps would have to be in pence together with the surcharge for the benefit of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Fund. Thus a totally unsuitable label would be produced, which would not represent Czechoslovakia with dignity. Furthermore, I have pointed out that postage stamps may only be issued by the Czechoslovak Government represented by their respective accredited Ministry of Post and not a syndicate, even though semi-official and supported by the State.

Meanwhile we do not have a wholly independent Field Post or the right to use our own stamps on English soil, since we do not have a free independent country, where we function according to International Treaty, or even at least one ship sailing under the Czechoslovak flag. I have therefore recommended that the offer be declined and eventually to issue just Czechoslovak Red Cross Fund

labels which could be glued to letters and lettercards as is done customarily in the world. If we succeed to establish our own independent Field Post and if the Government decides to buy at least one ship, it will surely issue the appropriate stamps from whose revenue it would help and assist the activities of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

The Government is able to issue stamps for immediate use at home, after the liberation of at least part of our State territory. The Czechoslovak Red Cross acknowledged these reasons and the overprinted stamps scheme has not eventuated and so far no one has found out what happened to the Legionnaires stamps printed on the English paper.

Translator's Note: I would be very interested to hear from anyone who may be able to add further information about the above described Red Cross overprints on the 1919 Legionnaires issue. Also which of the London philatelic shops were destroyed during the German bombing raids of 1941. VK

THE POSTAL MUSEUM AT BANSKA BYSTRICA

-Frederik Backeljauw D.A.-

During my September holiday in Malatiny, Slovakia, I had the opportunity to visit the Slovak Postal Museum in Banska Bystrica. At the main square I found the information service which could provide me with a city plan so that I could find the Postal Museum. It was located on the outskirts of the city about 15 minutes walking from the Centre.

I entered the modern building and an armed receptionist gave me a seat after I had told her that I would like to visit the Museum. After a short time a nice lady appeared and she showed me into a place to the right of the reception area, which contained what I presumed to be some children's drawings for the design of the next children's stamps.

After a few questions the cooperative lady called another nice lady who could speak some German and English, who explained to me that the drawings were from schoolchildren all over Slovakia to find a winning design for a stamp issue. Two designs were even painted by disabled schoolchildren

After this the two ladies went with me to at a smaller building on the left side of the main building. After opening a door with keys and a number code I entered a long room that in fact was the Postal Museum.

As in all Postal Museums that I visited, there was a collection of uniforms, charts, tools, issued stamps and FDC covers. Special notation for the cancellers and especially for the proofs of the designers from former stamp issues of the Slovak Republic.

After this guided tour we entered again the Main building and went to the 1st floor. Here they showed me in a room which they called "The children's Post Office". In the room was a post counter where school children could do all postal activities as in a normal Post Office; they could sort postal items in different bags, sort postal items by towns and streets and were also shown a 15 minute video presentation about the activities of the Slovak Post.

What was interesting and also important for us collectors, was that they have in this children's post office a special cancel which gave the opportunity to the children to mail a card or a letter from this post office Post Free to an inland address. The ladies were kind enough to prepare for me a letter with a day cancel and they included the special hand cancel which was used for the opening of this Children's Postal Office at the Slovak Postal Museum on 9 October 2001.

Because the letter was addressed to an inland address the franking (Free) was correct and it could run through the normal Postal channels. On the next page is an illustration of the letter with the two cancels.

I enjoyed my visit and was delighted with the kind reception that I received at the Slovak Postal Museum in Banska Bystrica.

P.S. By the way the more-than 2 hour visit cost me an entrance fee of only 0,83 € / 0,76£



Letter with cancel of the "Children Post Office" at the Slovak Postal Museum in Banska Bystrica



The Editor discovered he had a brochure of the Postal Museum and thought that Freddie would like the additional illustrations of the building and one of the exhibits.

STAMPS OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC THE HIGH TATRAS

-Dai Pring-

'Mountains of an Alpine character in Czechoslovakia? Surely not!' My curiosity had been aroused by the frequency with which the High Tatras were celebrated on the stamps of the First Republic (1926, 1928, 1929, the Sokol set with its ski related label and the miniature sheet 1937). Was it artistic licence for the purpose of tourism? A glance at figure 1 will attest to both their alpine character, stunning beauty and confirm the artists' accuracy.

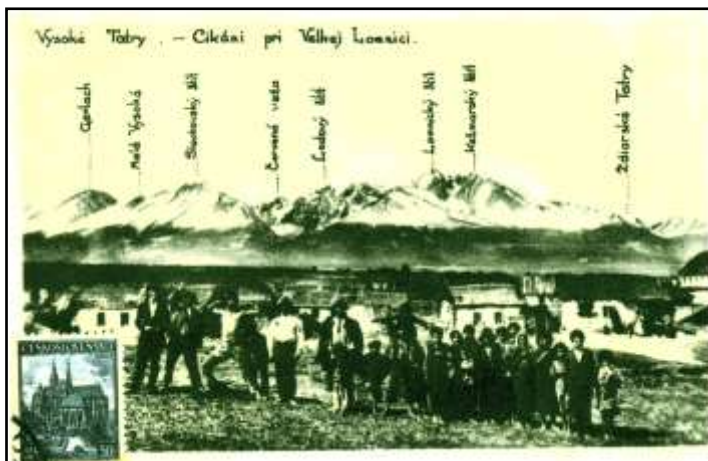


Figure 1
The High Tatras Viewed from
Veľká Lomnica

Card sent from Presov to Buenos
Aires 1938

My tennis coach is a Slovak. He is a fine coach but more importantly he comes from Poprad, a town of 44,000 people served by a developing airport, which he informed me, hosts twice weekly budget flights from Stanstead. This was an opportunity not to be ignored and my

desire to explore the High Tatras, coupled with an opportunity to ski, made a visit one January inevitable.

The High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry) are the highest and most northerly part of the 1200km. long Carpathian bow. The ridge, which runs from west to east and rises to over 2500m, is a mere 78km in length and the longest stretch of mountain North to South is 17km. They are the only mountains of genuinely alpine character in the bow. The state boundary between Poland and Slovakia runs along the main mountain ridge. In 1949 the area was declared to be the first Slovak National Park and in 1993 its importance together with the Polish part was recognised by UNESCO as an International Biosphereric Reserve. It is the home of over 1300 species of plants, 40 of which are unknown elsewhere, chamois, brown bears, lynx, eagles, wolves, boars, marmots and two of my favourite butterflies – the Apollo and Swallowtail.

The climate of the Tatras is characterised by long cold winters and short summers. However the southern slopes claim a sunshine record which is comparable with the most favourable localities in the Alps. The winter weather ensures a reliable snow record and winter sports participants have been taking advantage of this since before the turn of the last century. Resorts were developed, the main being Štrbské Pleso in the West, Starý Smokovec in the centre and Tatranská Lomnica in the east. Grand hotels were built, financed by both Hungarian aristocrats and companies such as Wagons-Lits-Cook. A Belgic-French company, who had an interest in the recently refurbished Grand Hotel Praha in Tatranská Lomnica. Transport was improved with the building of an electric tram service linking Poprad with all the main resorts.

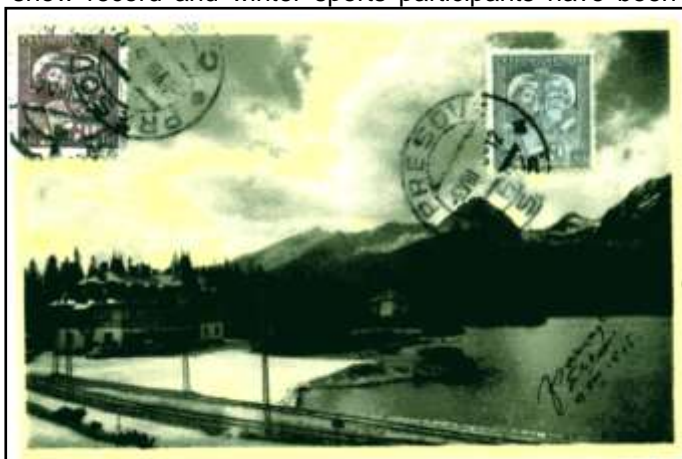


Figure 2 The Grand Hotel Štrbské Pleso with
the Railway in foreground

Postcard sent from Prešov to Buenos Aires 1935

The First World War swept much of the growing wealth away and relative affluence had not reached many of the inhabitants as a glance at the feet of the Roma villagers *Figure 1* will show. Nevertheless, participation in winter sports continued to grow and the Slovak Ski Association was founded in 1925. Ski-ing's popularity was acknowledged by the addition of a label inscribed with skis to the stamps celebrating the 10th International Sokol Display in Prague 1938.

10th International Sokol Display Prague 1938

Peregrine Falcon and ski related label

50h green

1k claret

12½ line perforation

Design: C. Bouda

Printing and engraving: K. Seizinger



Unfortunately, on 19 November, 2004, a severe windstorm destroyed up to a third of the High Tatras National Park forest. Large areas have been left looking like a First World War battlefield and it is estimated that 2-5 years will be needed to repair structural damage and 20 years for the reforestation.

The ski-ing? It is limited but enjoyable, despite temperatures commonly falling to minus 20 and lower! Hospitality – fine.

The High Tatras Stamps of the First Republic

Part of Prague/Tatras Set 1926-28

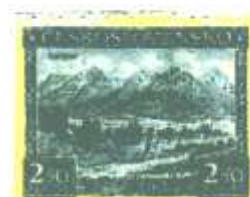


3K deep purple
5K deep blue-green
13¾ line perforation
Designer: O. Staf
Printing and engraving:
K. Seizinger



Part of 10th Anniversary Set 1928

2K deep ultramarine
13¾ line perforation
Designer: K. Fliedra
Printing and engraving: K. Seizinger



Part of City and Countryside Set 1929

4K deep blue

13¾ line perforation

Printing and engraving: K. Seizinger



Miniature Sheet

Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition 1937

50h deep ultramarine Poprad Lake

1K crimson Štefánik Memorial

12½ harrow perforation

Design: K. Vik

Printing and engraving: K. Seizinger



THE INDEPENDENT ARMY TANK CREWS FIELD POSTS

-Bohumil Bernášek, translated by Vladimír Králíček from *Merkur Revue* 5/2005-

The formation and battles of the 1st Czech Independent Tank Brigade in USSR.

The 1st Czech Brigade was formed during May 1943 in Novochoopersk in USSR with, as a part of it, a Tank Battalion. The crews were trained to operate the tanks in the towns of Tambov and Saratov. The tank battalion took part, during the winter of 1943/44, in the Czech Legion expedition on the right flank of Ukraine. The first battle engagements, in collaboration with Soviet units, was carried out by the battalion on 5 November 1943 in Kyjov. On the following day the banks of the river Dnieper were reached. Later the battalion fought for Malou Vyšamku and Čerňachov. Towards the end of 1943 the tank crews took up defensive positions at Vasilkova. From there, as part of the Žitomirskoberdičevske operation, the Czech Brigade moved towards Bílou Cerkev.

As part of the Korsuň-ševčenkovské operation during January 1944, the tank crews defended the village of Busovka on the river Horní Tikič. During February 1944 the unit was positioned into a defensive position.

In March 1944 the Czech Brigade was transferred to the Volyn region and built into an Army Group. Into the Czech Army abroad in USSR, at least 10,526 Volyn Czechs have registered. Volunteers arriving from Czechoslovak units coming from Great Britain complemented the Command Corps. In April 1944 the tank battalion was enlarged into a Tank Regiment. By 1 August 1944 the 1st Czech Independent Brigade was reorganised with three tank battalions and a machine-gun battalion.

The tank crews were placed into operations from September 1944 to the end of November 1944 in the Carpathian-Dukla region. A place in history have found the battles for Hill 534 (bloody hill, also death hill), the town of Dukla, trigonometrically point 694 (so called Hyrowa hora) and also the battle at Zyndranowa. In the Carpatho-Dukla operation the Brigade suffered heavy losses in lives and equipment.

In December 1944 the 1st Tank Battalion fought at Ondavy. In January 1945 the tank crews participated in the offensive at Jasla. The motorised machine-gun battalion participated, in January 1945 and February 1945, in the campaign through East Slovakia. At the same time the Brigade proceeded with training of new recruits and new techniques.

Battle plan of the Czech Tank crews



Legend



- Movements of the Czech Tank units
- Battle path of the Czech Tank units
- Location of the Czech Tank battles
- Soviet schools where the Czech Tank crews trained
- Location of the Czech units organising
- Attacks of the Red Army

In March 1945 the Tank Brigade entered into the 2nd phase of the Ostrava operation by the 4th Ukraine front. Their battles progressed firstly on the Polish lands, from the town of Žory (Sorau) along the Twórkowské outskirts (Tunskirch). On 15 April 1945 the tank crews crossed, as the first Czech Unit, onto the land of today's Czech Republic. After the battles for Velkou Polom, Dolní Lhotu and Čavisov, the tank crews have battled their way into Ostrava on 30 April 1945. During the first days May the tank crews progressed from Ostrava in the direction of Olomouc. On 9 May 1945 the tank crews reached Dolních Měcholup near Prague. In 1945 the Tank Brigade secured the borders in the territory disputed with Poland over Těšín.

The Field Posts of the Tank Battalion and the Regiment

In May 1943 Soviet Field Post was set up at the Czechoslovak Legion in the USSR, it was given the Field Post No. 38032. With the Order No.2 dated 28 May 1943 the individual units were given special card letters. The address inclusive of the card letters had to be written in the Cyrillic alphabet. The tank units were given the following card numbers:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Staff of the Tank Regiment | 38032 Г (Czech letter G) |
| 1. Tank Battalion | 38032 Д (Czech letter D) |
| 2. Tank Battalion | 38032 Е (Czech letter E) |



Figure 1. Correspondence card sent by tank Commander Rudolf Jasiokem during the winter Expedition on the right flank of the Ukraine. Field Post canceller dated 26.11.1943. Arrival canceller Voroshilovské locality. Note: Card letter C (Czech S) was allocated to The Brigade Staff Company.



Figure 2; Field Post Card, sent from the front by the Commander of Machine gun tank Battalion Lieutenant Antonin Sochor to his wife In Buzuluk; canceller of the Field Post dated 24.12.1943.

Figure 3. Correspondence card sent in June 1944 by a participant of the artillery school to a member of the Tank Regiment, date stamped at the town of Irbir, red canceller of the military sorting centre,+ a three line censor hand stamp.





Text and photographs for the historical part of this article was given by Vladimír Palička, born 27.1.1923 in Zdobunové on Volyn. Driver and Commander with the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Czech Independent Brigade, he fought in the Dukla Pass and in the liberation of Ostrava. During that time he twice escaped from a burning tank. At the present time Colonel Palička works as the Chairman of Historical Documentation Commission of the Czechoslovak Legionnaires Council. He is one of the chief organisers for the Czechoslovak solders Abroad Memorial in the Victory Square in Prague.



Figure 4. Triangular letter sent by a member of the Tank Battalion to Kursk; Field Post canceller dated 28.2.1944, and handstamp of the military sorting centre dated 13.3.1944.



Figure 5. Triangular letter sent on 23.8.1944 to a Volyn member of the 2nd Tank Regiment; canceller of the Field Post dated 23.8.1944 (mistake in placement of the handstamp), with a three line censor handstamp.

Field Post of the 1st Czech Independent Tank Brigade

The Soviet Field Post Office was set up with the 1st Czech Independent Tank Brigade according to Brigade Order No.5 dated 5.8.1944; it was allocated number 93442. The Brigade individual units were allocated the following numbers.

Tank Brigade Staff	93442
H.Q. Company	93442 A (Czech letter A)
1st Tank Battalion	93442 Б (Czech letter B)
2nd Tank Battalion	93442 B (Czech letter V)
3rd Tank Battalion	93442 Г (Czech letter G)
Tank Service Company	93442 Д (Czech letter D)

Figure 6. Triangular letter addressed to a member of a tank crew from Field Post 24125 (No. 147 Field evacuation unit 38. Army; Field Post canceller dated 3.4.1945, three line censor hand stamp.

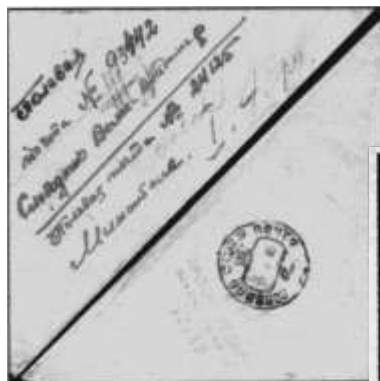


Figure 7. Triangular letter sent by a member of the 3rd Tank Battalion VI, Doležalem to Mlynov; Soviet Field Post canceller dated 29.10.44, arrival canceller Mlynov, three line censor handstamp.



Figure 8. Soviet propaganda card sent November 1944 to the HQ Company of the Tank Brigade by a member of the Reconnaissance Company 3rd Czech Infantry Brigade. (No. PP 01387 K – Czech letter K); canceller FP, three line censor handstamp



Figure 9. 20 kop Soviet R-card sent on 2.1.1945 from the Hulec Ceska in the Volyn region to a tank Commander Jiří Porazik, arrival Field Post canceller. Note: ЗАКАЗНОЕ (registered) as well as marked by hand 'registered'.



Figure 10. Triangular R-letter from a member of the 3rd Tank Battalion to the village Noviny České in the Volyn gubernate, R-surcharge paid by 60kop stamp, Field Post canceller No.63017, Volyn arrival canceller and censor handstamp Marked 'ЗАКАЗНОЕ' (registered) also the registration No. 359/63017. Cancellor with the Field Post number was used only with Registered consignments.

The Soviet FPO No. 3035 allocated to the 1st Czech Army Group had the FP No. 63017.



Figure 11. Picture Postcard sent to a member of the HQ Company Tank Brigade to a Volyn village Moskovščina; Field Post canceller dated 4.5.1945 illegible arrival canceller and three line censor handstamp.



Figure 12. Picture Postcard dated 1.6.1945 sent from Volyn to Lumír Písarskému, who during the war carried out the function of Commanding Officer 3rd Tank Battalion; Huleč daily canceller, military sorting centre handstamp.

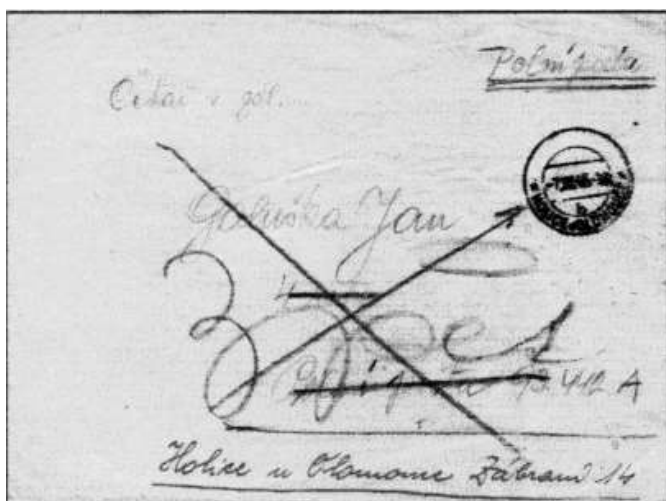


Figure 13. Letter dated 7.7.1945 from Holic to a member of the HQ Co. Brigade, nationalised Holic near Olomouc canceller, letter was returned. On reverse Soviet censor handstamp No. 43/M

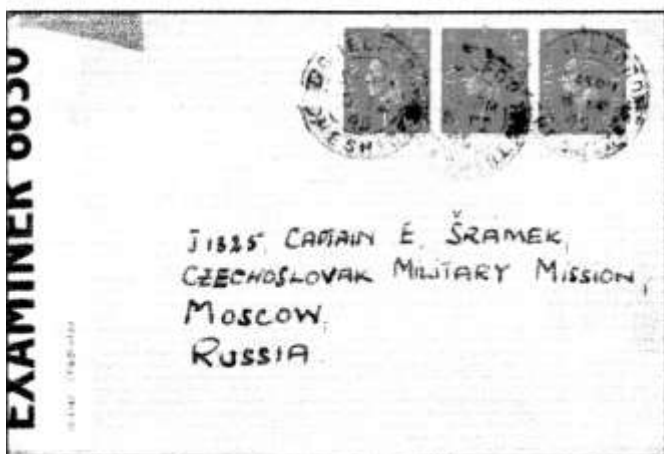


Figure 14. Letter sent to Captain Emanuel Šramka (at that time the Commanding Officer of the Motorised Battalion , Machine Gun Tank Brigade) from his wife Joan Šramkaová in Great Britain; Moscow arrival canceller dated 17.6.1945, censor label.

(Note: The Editor apologises for the poor reproductions of this correspondence which were taken directly from the magazine

References:

Fiala, Pavel *Field Posts of the Czechoslovak Forces in the Soviet Union during 1943-45*, Prague: SČF 1989

Lenoch, Antonín *Field Posts of the Czech Forces in USSR, Filatalie* 1990, No. 19.

Kopecký M. *1st Czech Independent Tank Brigade in USSR*, Prague 2001

Hofman, Širc, Vaculík *Volyn Czechs in the 1st and 2nd Resistance*, Prague 2004

Military personnel in the Czechoslovak Resistance 1939-1945, Prague 2005.

Palička, V. *Nezabáté časem*. Prague 1995

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

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

Answers to Queries

Re: Derek Baron's Handstamp on a postal card in *Czechout* 1/2008 page 26

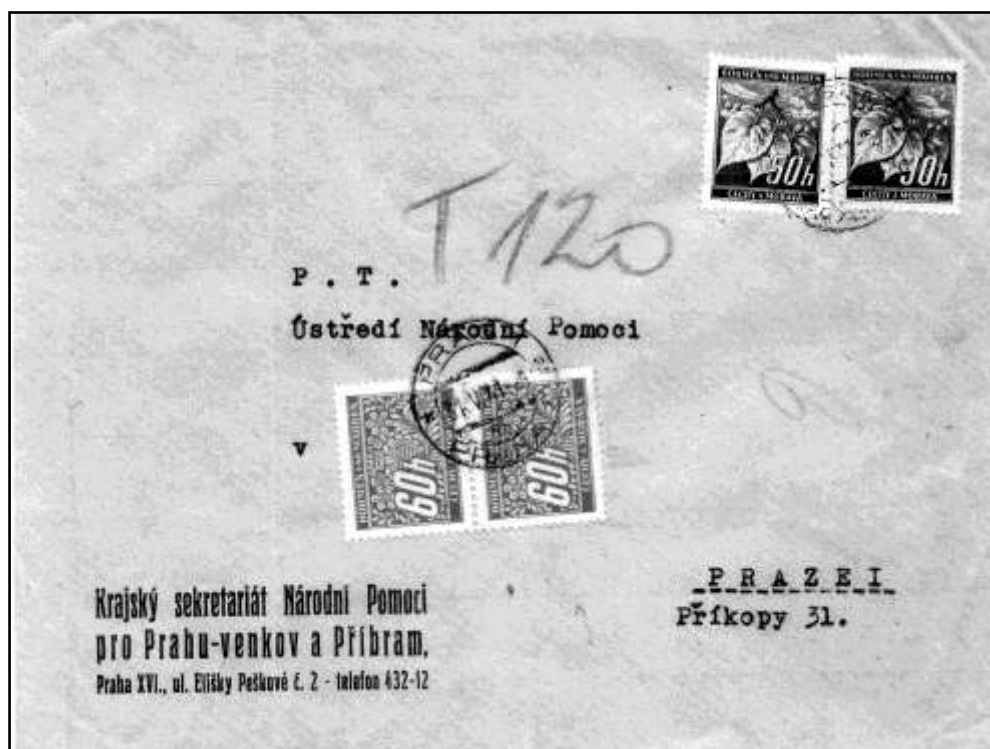
Derek writes: I now believe this is someone's name, probably the clerk in the office who dealt with the item. Keith Brandon [Austrian Philatelic Society] has shown me several items with similar handstamps.

New Query

From Dr Vernon Brown: The enclosed 1941 cover from the Protectorate that I have recently acquired poses some problems for me, and I hope that one of our members may be able to help.

It is addressed to a place shown as Prazei and I have speculated that this might be a typo-format for Praze 1, but then it may not! I cannot trace a place with the name Praszei or Prasze in any of my reference books, atlases, gazetteers etc; with one exception, that the Internet shows Univerzita Karlova v Praze [N.B. Not Prasze.]

The cover is franked with postage stamps valued at 80h (1 x 50h + 1 x 30h). However, postage due was assessed at a further 120h and tied by two postage due stamps - 2 x 60h = 120h. This seems a bit steep unless Prazei was in another country albeit untraceable by me. So my question is where is or was PRAZEI.



NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

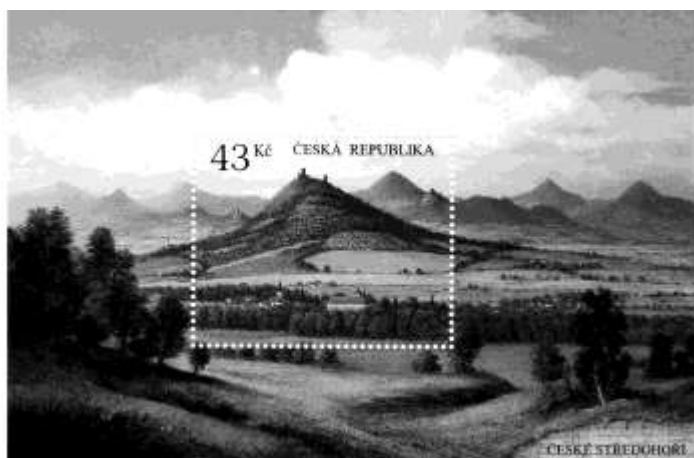
Unless otherwise stated, Post Printing House, Prague prints the stamps and stationery for the Czech and Slovak Republics.

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

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

Czech Republic

2 September 2009 The České Středohoří Uplands – Tertiary Volcanic Region



Designer: RNDr. Adolf Absolon
Engraver: Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in black combined with coloured offset of one stamp per sheet. **Design:** a panoramic view of the České středohoří Uplands from the southern bank of the Ohře River. The stamp at the centre of the sheet highlights the ruined castle of Hazmburk on top of a basalt hill with the Baroque chateau in Libochovice in the foreground. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Libochovice cancel. The cachet drawing shows the rocky Mount Bořen near Bílina, which has sheer 100m walls rising from the plain. This volcanic area in north-west Bohemia is mainly basalt rock extruding

from a sandstone base with an abundance of garnets to be found in the Třebeňsko region. In 1976 these Uplands were made a protected area.

2 September 2009 Nature Conservation: The Křivoklátsko Region

Designer: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** DS in black with coloured offset in sheets of 4 stamps, 4 labels and decorative surround. **FDCs:** (4) printed DS with various commemorative cancels.

Design: the animal life at night with other endangered animals and plants of this UNESCO Biosphere Protected Reserve around Křivoklát Castle. The area was made a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve on 1 March 1977.

Stamps: 10Kč *Eudia pavonia* (Martinaček habrový – Emperor moth). **FDC:** with commemorative Skryje cancel and cachet drawing in green of *Asio otus* – (Kohoutov – long eared owl)

12Kč *Agria tau* (Martináč bukový – Emperor moth) and *Cervus elaphus* (Jelen lesní – red deer). The red deer is the symbol of the Reserve and has been kept in the forest enclosures for centuries. **FDC:** with commemorative Zbečno cancel and cachet drawing in brown of *Pandion haliaetus* (Orlovec říční – osprey)

14Kč *Bubo bubo* – (Vřý velký – eagle owl); *Ciconia nigra* – (Čáp černý – black stork) **FDC:** with commemorative Nižbor cancel and cachet drawing in grey-blue of *Catocala electa* - (Stužkonoska vrbová – red willow underwing)



17Kč *Tyto alba* – (Sova pálená – barn owl), and in the background Křivoklát Castle with a rising full moon. **FDC:** with commemorative Křivoklát cancel and cachet drawing in brown-violet of a pair of *Myotis myotis* in flight.

Labels: a) *Caprimulgus europaeus* – (Lelek lesní – nightjar); *Myotis myotis* – (Netopýr velký – brown bat)

- b) *Smerinthus ocellatus* – (Lišaj paví oko – willow hawk moth)
- c) *Muscardinus avellanarius* – (Plšík lískový – common dormouse)
- d) *Rana dalmatina* – (Skokan štíhlý – Dalmatian frog)

The decorative surround shows other animals and plants of the Reserve.

22 September 2009

Technical Monuments – Mills



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

Designs: **10Čzk:** the windmill in Ruprechtov near Vyškov na Moravě. This Dutch type mill with a wind wheel of four blades and revolving roof was built in 1873. The mill was equipped with a Halladay turbine wheel in 1884, which doubled the amount of grain that could be milled. The mill was re-opened in 1998 as a monument after a complete reconstruction.

FDC: printed in brown with a commemorative Drnovice cancel. The cachet drawing shows parts of the inner mechanism of the mill.



12Čzk: the watermill in Hoslovice near Strakonice. This is the oldest preserved watermill in Bohemia with written records mentioning the mill in 1654 with the roof timbers of the barn dating back to 1568-69. The mill building, constructed of brick and wood with a thatched roof consists of the milling room with living quarters, cattle sheds and barn. A mill pond and race, orchards and meadows are part of the property which is open to the public. **FDC:** printed in black-grey with a commemorative Čestice cancel. The cachet drawing shows part of the workings of the mill.

14 October 2009

The Czech National Anthem – ‘Where is My Home?’



Designer and Engraver: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50

Design: the Czech lion and a linden twig – symbols of the Czech nation with the dates 1834 – 2009. Above are the first few bars of the music and the title of the song ‘Kde domov můj?’ The song comes from the play ‘Fidlovačka’ written by Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808 – 1856) and put to music by František Škroup (1804-1868) and was first performed at the Estates Theatre, Prague on 21 December 1834. The song became so popular that it was later adopted as the first part of the national anthem.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a facsimile of the musical notation of the song by the composer and conductor F. Škroup.

14 October 2009

Crafts: Historical Stoves



Designer: Michal Vitanovský **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50.

Designs: **10Kč** – an Empire style stove (c 1810) from the chateau in Litomyšl. This was a more ornate style with coloured glaze and ornamentation based on ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian themes.

FDC: printed DS in blue with commemorative Litomyšl cancel. The cachet depicts a woman on a sofa playing a lute beside an Empire stove. **14Kč** – a Biedermeier stove (c 1835) from the chateau in Vyškov. These stoves were based on more austere rectangular structures and vents to maximise heat dispersion.

FDC: printed DS in green with a female harpist beside a Biedermeier stove and a commemorative Vyškov cancel.

14 October 2009

The Traveller Barbora Markéta Eliášová



Designer: Vladimír Novák **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** a portrait of Barbora Eliášová dressed in a kimono with the Japanese Mount Fujitsu in the background. Barbora Eliášová (1874 – 1957) was the first Czech woman to travel round the world. She was orphaned at the age of four years and began working as a charwoman at fourteen but graduated from a private language school to teach mainly German and English.

In 1912 she left Prague by train for Vladivostok, then ship to Japan where she worked as a language teacher and learnt Japanese. She returned to Bohemia in 1915 via the United States and wrote a book of her travels. In 1920 she was appointed to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Tokyo. On returning home she gave radio and public lectures and wrote books of her travels. **FDC:** printed DS in grey-black with a commemorative Šlapanice u Brna cancel. The cachet drawing has a smiling Buddhist monk sitting beneath a Japanese pine.

17 November 2009

17th November – The Years 1939 and 1989



Designer: Ivan Štrouf **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 50.

Design: the date 17.11 and below the years 1939 and 1989 on a blue, red and white background. 17.11.1939 was the beginning of the occupation by Nazi Germany, the Second World War and years of suffering. 17.11.1989 was the end of oppression, persecution and the beginning of a new era of freedom.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a maple leaf with three holes punched through it.

4 November 2009

Christmas



Designer: Lenka Vybíralová **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň

Printing: RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** a bell, decorated with a snow scene and a comet tied to a mistletoe twig with a decorative ribbon.

FDC: printed DS in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design depicts a snowy winter scene tied as decorative package.

4 November 2009

Works of Art on stamps



Designers and Engravers; (from original art works) Miloš Ondráček (24Kč); Václav Fajt (26Kč) and Bedřich Housa (34Kč). **Printing:** DS in sheets of four – 24Kč and 26Kč; DS with four coloured offset in sheetlet of 1 stamp 34Kč. **FDCs:** DS

Designs: 24 Kč – The Canal Lock in Moret (1882) by Alfred Sisley (1839 –1899), which is in the National Gallery, Prague. **FDC:** printed in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from another of Sisley's works – 'A Ferryman' Sisley was born in Paris but of English origin. He was exclusively a landscape painter and his work only recognised after his death.

26 Kč – An Alley (1924) by Alfred Justitz (1879 – 1934), which is in the Gallery of Fine Arts, Cheb. **FDC:** printed in green with commemorative Cheb cancel. The cachet drawing is another of his works – 'Still Life with Jug.' Justitz was of Czech Jewish origins and studied firstly as an architect but later studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague. He is one of the founders of modern Czech painting and was influenced by Cubism and the Neo-classic styles.



34Kč – Oldřich and Božena (1884) by František Ženišek (1849-1916), which is in the National Gallery, Prague. **FDC:** printed in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a detail of the figure of Božena from the main work. This painting was commissioned by the nobleman J S Doubek and became so popular in Bohemia that many colour reproductions were made. Ženišek was a member of the 'Generation of National Theatre Artists.' He designed the first curtain for the National Theatre, which was destroyed by the 1881 fire.

Postal Stationery

Official Postcards

23 September 2009 – Postage Stamp Exhibition Jihlava 2009. The imprinted 10Kč stamp design is a composition of stamps, magnifying glass, tweezers and the heading of the magazine 'Filatelie'. This design imprint has been used in different colours and denominations previously. The logo of the Czech Post and a security hologram are to the left of the imprint. The left promotional design is taken from the art work – Jihlava – St James (1885) by Antonin Chittussi, which is to be found in the Regional Gallery of the Uplands. The designer of the card is Martin Srb. The card retails for 15Kč.

Promotional Postcards

The following cards have either a) imprinted stamp in blue/white as a numeral 17(Kč) or b) imprinted stamp in red/white as a numeral 10 (Kč).

21 May 2009 – 40th Meeting of ARGE Tschechoslowakei. The event took place in Kladno from 21 to 24 May 2009. The cachet has details in Czech with various logos. (17 Kč imprinted stamp)

24 June 2009 – Exhibition of Czech Republic and Croatian Philately. This was held at the Mimara Museum, Zagreb from 26 June to 2 July 2009. Cachet portion has a photo reproduction of early 20th century postal workers with the flags of Czech Republic, Croatia and European Union. (17Kč imprinted stamp)

26 August 2009 – 1st Postage Stamp Exhibition in Brno and 90th Anniversary of the Czech Philatelic Club of Brno. The cachet design shows an aerial view of the city with relevant texts in Czech. (10Kč imprinted stamp)

2 September 2009 - Collectors' Fair (Sběratel) Prague. This was the 12th international Fair of stamps, coins, cards minerals and collectables held from 3 to 5 September 2009. The cachet is a humorous picture of a dog playing a double bass with a cat performing on a violin in a park with a fountain and large building in the background and texts in Czech. (10Kč imprinted stamp)

23 September 2009 – Visit by Pope Benedict XVI to Czech Republic. The cachet design includes the Papal coat of arms.

Slovak Republic

14 August 2009

22nd Biennial of Illustrations, Bratislava 2009



Designer: L'ubomír Krátky (stamp) Juraj Vitek (FDC cachet) **Engravers:** Juraj Vitek and František Horniak (stamp) L'ubomír Žálec (FDC cachet) **Printing:** RD

Design: from an illustration in the children's book 'It was Dark and Eerily Quiet' by the 2007 Grand Prix award winning German illustrator Elinor Turkowski.

FDC: printed RD in black, by TAB sro, Bratislava, with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is an illustration from the same book by the same artist.

BIB is an international competition for illustrators of children's and youth books held biennially in Bratislava.

11 September 2009 Joint Issue with Austria – 'Limes romanus, Carnantum and Gerulat

Designer: Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Martin Činovský **Printing:** RD + DS in sheets with two different stamps and decorative background. FDC printed offset by TAB sro, Bratislava.

Design: sheet – reproduction of a Roman map of 4th century – the Tabla Peutingeriana showing roads in the Roman Empire from Spain to India. The map is now in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek and is included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage Artefacts.



Stamps – a) 0.60Euros Carnantum. A Roman soldier standing in front of the Heathen Gate (Heidentor). This was built outside the town in the 4th century AD by Emperor Constantius II. Carnantum was the most significant Roman fort in Pannonia and later became the capital of the province. Today the nearest village is Petronell in Austria. FDC: with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows the Roman goddess Cybele and Attis the son of the river god Sangarius.

b) 0.60Euros – Gerulata. A Roman soldier riding a white steed and a Roman tombstone. Gerulata was the nearest Roman camp to the east from Carnantum nad today is Rusovce, part of Bratislava. The fortified camp was built in the 1st century AD and became the base for a mounted unit of the Romans. In the 4th century the camp was rebuilt as a minor stone fort. The foundations of the fort were built with many earlier Roman tombstones. FDC: with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows a Roman Army attacking local soldiers. A commemorative sheet containing the two stamps and special cancel was produced by the Slovak Post.

11 November 2009

Christmas



Artist: Kristína Pútecová **Graphic Designer:** Vladislav Rostoka **FDC Drawing:** Andrej Drgala FDC cancel: FDC Engraver: Ján Skrisa **Printing:** Heidelberg Speedmaster by Post Printing House, Prague. FDC printed DS by TAB sro, Bratislava.

Design: a young girl skating with fir trees in the background. During the Olympic Games year of 2008 and as part of the philatelic exhibition Slovolympfila 2008 the Slovak Postal Service organised a children's competition to design a stamp with the theme 'Christmas 2009 – Winter Sports Motif.' Children from the ages 7 to 13 years took part with the aim to involve and motivate children in the hobby of stamp collecting. Another of the winning entries was used as the cachet drawing on the FDC which has a commemorative Bratislava cancel.

23 November 2009 Nature Conservation – Amphibians

Designer: Róbert Jančovič **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD + DS. FDCs printed DS by TAB sro, Bratislava.

Designs: a) 1.10 Euro – European Pond Turtle. This mainly carnivorous reptile is the only representative of turtles in Slovakia. They live for about 70 years with the young maturing at 15 years. From October to March they hibernate. FDC: has a commemorative Streda nad Bodrogom cancel. The cachet drawing shows three swimming turtles in a large waterdrop.



b) 1.10 Euros – Fire Salamander. This is the largest salamander living in Slovakia growing to about 20cms. It has a black body with a number of yellow-orange spots to warn prey that it is poisonous. It is nocturnal living on invertebrates.

FDC: has a commemorative Streda nad Bodrogom cancel. The cachet design is similar to a) above but has three fire salamanders swimming in a circle.

Postal Stationery

The following postcards have an imprinted T2 50g (inland, second class, weight to 50g) imprinted stamp in orange. The design by Peter Bil'ak is taken from Pre-Romanesque and Romanesque architecture. A security hologram is to the left of the imprint and the second line of the address line is a continuous microprint of 'slovenská pošta'. The left portion is for promotional use. All cards retail for 0.50 Euros unless otherwise given.

27 February 2009 (162 CDV 162/09) Left portion blank for promotional use. Retail price 0.43 Euros.

27 February 2009 (163 CDV 162/09) Church in Černý Brod. Designer: Peter Bil'ak. Outline drawing of the church in pink with text below.

1 May 2009 (164 CDV 162/09) 100 years of Čiernahora Railways. Designer: Marian Čapka. Drawing of an engine pulling a load of timber.

6 May 2009 (165 CDV 162/09) Essen Stamp Fair 2009. Designer: Adrian Ferda. The design shows a mounted general on a plinth.

14 May 2009 (166 CDV 162/09) Slovensko 2009. Designers: Dušan Grečner and Rudolf Cigánik. The national philatelic exhibition took place from 14 to 17 May 2009 in Nitra. The design shows a perforation gauge with a stamp on which is a portrait of John Edward Gray.

14 May 2009 (167 CDV 162/09) 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Union of Slovak Philatelists (ZSF). Designer: Adrian Ferda. The drawing has a magnifying glass with text in Slovak.

16 May 2009 (168 CDV 162/09) The Most Beautiful Stamp of 2008. Designer: Rudolf Cigánik from the art work of Zoltan Paluyay. The stamp (T1 1000g) from the art series of 2008 is shown with appropriate text.

5 June 2009 (169 CDV 162/09) Bratislava Collectors Day. Designer: Adrian Ferda. The event was held on the 5 and 6 June 2009. The cachet design is a view of Bratislava Castle on a piece of hand made paper.

3 September 2009 (170 CDV 162/09) Collectors' Fair, Prague. Designer: Adrian Ferda. The event took place from 3 to 5 September 2009. The cachet design is a montage of various collectible items.