



CZECHOUT

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Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

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NOTES

The European Stamp Exhibition [9-12 April 2010] which has FEPA and FIP recognition will be held in Antwerp, Belgium. The UK Commissioner is Yvonne Wheatley. The **LONDON 2010 Exhibition 8-15 May** opens with a full programme at the Business Design Centre, Islington – details from the philatelic press or www.london2010.org.uk.

The Joint Meeting with the Austrian, Hungarian, Polish Societies & the Yugoslavia Study Group at the Latvian Welfare Club, 5 Clifton Villas, off Manningham Lane, Bradford BD8 7BY will be on **Saturday 21 August 2010**. Please contact **Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978)**

The February issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* contains a good report of our AGM together with photographs of **Roger Morrell** receiving his Literature Award and **Richard Beith** and **Yvonne Wheatley** their Life Membership certificates. (Well done **Bob McLeod** who organises the press reports). We welcome our friend and colleague **Malcolm Stockhill** to the editorial chair of *Dylizans* [Society of Polish Philately in GB.]

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

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting held Saturday 16 January 2010 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed 16 members and three visitors. She particularly welcomed Pat Spong, half the 'Spong & Spong' editorial team, and Ian Cooling. Apologies had been received from five members. Yvonne reported that Audrey Dawson sends greetings.

The Membership Secretary, also Mrs Yvonne Gren, gave details of three prospective new members:

Alex MacIntosh	from Renfrewshire
Petr Scott Velan	from Brno
Nigel Carter	from South Australia

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Yvonne then invited **Colin Spong** to display *A Slovak Miscellany*. Colin started by remarking that this was the first time he had been honoured by being invited to give the display to one of the Society's main meetings. He gave us a historical introduction to Slovakia, going back as far as Nitra and the Great Moravian Empire. The pre-philately was Hungarian, and Colin showed us Hungarian postmarks used in what became Slovakia.

In the early twentieth century the Slovaks started to push for recognition, with the Slovak League in America being particularly active – Colin showed us some of their vignettes. The Cleveland Agreement was signed in 1915 jointly by American Slovaks and Czechs; it called for the independence of a federal Czech and Slovak state. This was followed in 1918 by the even more important Pittsburgh Agreement. Colin showed Slovak material from the early days of independent Czecho-Slovakia.

After the Sudeten debacle Slovakia gained autonomy within a new federal state. Colin outlined the steps that Hitler took to persuade Tiso to declare full independence, which the autonomous Slovak parliament in Bratislava voted for on 14 March 1939. Colin showed the immediate philatelic consequences, including the provisional issues.

In the second half Colin chose those Slovak State topics that particularly appealed to him, starting with the Autopošta mobile post office. This was followed by a range of commemorative including, the 1942 Bratislava philatelic exhibition, the Slovakatour labels on picture postcards, and the 'R in a circle' mark used on incoming printed matter together with examples of censored mail from the Vienna Office. He finished the display with a selection of 1993 items from the new Slovak Republic.

Lindy Bosworth gave the vote of thanks. She much appreciated Colin's historical introduction and the rise of Slovak nationalism. She summarised the afternoon by saying that we were privileged to have seen a display that will have appeal to us all.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at around 4.00 pm.

Letters & e-mails to the Editor

☒ **Bill Hedley:** The Hungarian Society is holding a special meeting on Monday 10 May next, and we are extending an invitation to any members of the Czechoslovak Society who would like to or wanted to pop in. The meeting will take place in the Hilton Hotel, next door to the Business Design Centre. We plan to start at about 11.00am and have two rounds of displays in the morning, followed by two more in the afternoon. The meeting will have finished by 4.00pm. It will not be huge. I understand from Susan Ellis that there will be four frames in the room so displays will be short and to the point! However, we hope to see some Hungarian visitors and a good mix of collectors with an interest in this region. We would be very glad to see any Czech members who would like to come along.

☒ **Reg Hounsell** writes, I am sad to report that Brian Parker's wife, Jean, finally succumbed to a long illness on 13th February, just after her 69th birthday. Her funeral took place at Cambridge crematorium (West Chapel) on Monday 1st March at 2.15pm. Kathy, my wife, and I attended as we have been family friends for over 40 years and have many happy memories as work colleagues and personal friends. [We send our condolences to Jean's family. CS]

✉ **Petr Scott Velan**, 72 Merhautova, Brno 613 00, Czech Republic. Tel: +420 775 377 568. e-mail: skyeman@hotmail.co.uk. New member Scott writes "If there's anything you guys need philatelic wise, I can search the local philatelic sources and look it up. There's loads of the stuff around in philatelic shops as well as at flea markets. The local philatelic club holds a weekly exchange and all sorts of interesting stuff can be seen and bought there that might be interesting and not so easy to get in the U.K. Just give me an echo!

✉ **Brian Hart**: I have been putting together a display of *Art on Czechoslovakian Stamps* and discovered that the stamp SG 2228 in the "Bratislava Tapestry Hero and Leander (Series 2)" and labelled "Hermione" in the catalogue, did not make sense. Hermione, was the daughter of King Menaleus and Helen of Troy and has no connection with the Hero Leander story. My wife pointed out [based on comparison with the dress of the characters in the previous series] that the person depicted on SG 2228 is probably not Hermione but Hero. I contacted Stanley Gibbons on this point and they confirm the error and state that the correct caption should be "Hero watching". Future editions of Part 5 (if there is ever one!) will carry the correction. PS: I would like to record my appreciation of our journal *Czechout* and the Society in general. [*Thank you for your kind remarks Editor.*]

✉ **Jon Klemetsen** writes, I'm looking for information on postal rates for air mail and parcels in the first republic. Rates for regular mail, printed matters, express and registered is no problem, but air mail and parcels is a problem. I've found some air mail rates in "Monografie no 4", but I do have a feeling that it's not complete. For parcels I have nil. Can someone help me? Language isn't a big problem as long as it is English, Czech, German or Norwegian (sic!). I don't expect to get any available information for free. Please contact: Jon Klemetsen, Kolstien 57, NO-5097 Bergen, Norway. jon@klemetsen.org Phone +4755285726/+4790504901

✉ **The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter January 2010**: Opening of the Museum of the Post Office in the Community, Blists Hill, Ironbridge; Designs on Delivery: GPO Posters from 1930 to 1960 in the Well Gallery, London College of Communication [www.postalheritage.org.uk/exhibitions]; Travelling with Stamps in Schools [www.postalheritage.org.uk/stampsinschools]; London 2010: Festival of Stamps; The last run of the Sittingbourne-Wormshill Postbus; In need of Volunteers: Bruce Castle [Bettina.trabant@haringey.gov.uk or 020 8808 8722].

✉ **Ed Fraser**: reports that the Horst Landsmann *German Civil Censorship during WWII* book that came out in 2007 has now appeared on CD, where illustrations and lots of covers appear in colour. There is also a large format paperback version of the book available and he obtained a copy from a book dealer in New Jersey USA for \$32,00 although listed at \$40.00. Whilst it about doubles the censor listing in the class 1979 Riemer, a minus is that some of Riemer's notes are not included so that one needs both books. However, overall the Landsmann is a wonderful reference book. Details can be obtained from edfraser@gmail.com.

Wanted by 2010 Annual General Meeting – New Editor

The Society needs a new Editor to take over as from the next AGM. He or she will need a computer to produce the journal for publication. The editor also prepares the envelopes and pre-stamps these, and the Publication Officer arranges for the printing and posting of the journal. There is at present a plentiful supply of articles still to be published and a number of members submit articles throughout the year.

Any member who would like to take on this post, please contact the Editor who will be happy to go into further detail. The present Editor has enjoyed his time in this post but feels it is 'time to pass on the baton'.

 **BOOK REVIEWS**

The Czech Legion 1914-20; by David Bullock, Illustrator: Ramiro Bujeiro. Published by Osprey publications Co. Volume 447 in Men at Arms series. October 2009. ISBN 9781846032363, Paperback, with colour cover & illustrations 48pp. Reviewed by Kenny Morrison.

A recent addition to my military library on the Czech Legion might be of interest to some of the members.

It gives a reasonable good coverage of the subject supplemented by photographs and eight excellent colour plates of uniforms complete with full descriptions and badges of rank.

Priced £9.99 it is great value for money.

A full range of Osprey titles can be found at www.ospreypublishing.com.

They also have two similar volumes on the Austrian-Hungarian Army 1914-1918.



Bohemia & Moravia: A Collector's Notebook, by John Hammonds, edited and additional research by Rex Dixon, based on the Ron Hollis collection, published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Bray, as Monograph No. 19, 2009, ISBN 978-0-9536555-6-4, tape-bound, v + 76 A4 pages, b/w with colour cover. Price £9 plus p&p from the Publications Officer. Reviewed by Pat Rothnie.

This Monograph fills an important gap in the areas covered by the range of CPSGB Monographs already published. Bohemia Moravia is a subject of interest to many philatelists both in and beyond CPSGB and this publication offers considerable information to help them appreciate and understand the material from this area.

The Monograph covers a wide range of topics: Historical Background, The first days of the German occupation, Anniversaries of the Protectorate, Stamps of Bohemia Moravia, The German posts, Currency control, Railway TPOs, Autopošta, Airmail, Theresienstadt Ghetto, KLV (Children's evacuation camps), the German "Victory" Campaign 1941, Hitler's Birthdays, the Centenary of the Penny Black, Continuous machine postmarks with slogans, Propaganda cachets, Postal rates, Post Offices of Bohemia Moravia and References (a bibliography). Throughout the Monograph, the text is illustrated using items from Ron Hollis' comprehensive Bohemia Moravia collection.

The subjects on offer are clearly outlined, with a great deal of detailed information being included through the use of lists of relevant information. These include Behördenpoststellen (sub post offices) names and numbers, TPO handstamps, KLV camp names and locations and philatelic items issued in connection with the centenary of the Penny Black. The Monograph ends with a list of post offices, each with its Czech and German name, (an essential tool for all Bohemia Moravia collectors) and a useful bibliography.

The range of information on offer is a great tribute to the hard work and research carried out by John Hammonds and Rex Dixon, made more vivid by illustrations made available from material in Ron Hollis'

Bohemia Moravia collection. As the Preface and Editor's Remarks make clear, others also helped in many ways to make this Monograph (surely more than a "Collector's Notebook?") possible. It is a most useful addition to CPSGB's other Monographs which make such a contribution to our knowledge of Czechoslovak philately.

21ST CENTURY INDEX TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

I should like to inform fellow Society members that I have put on my website, www.knihtisk.org, a set of interactive indices to the Czechoslovak Specialist for the years 1939-2008 and will be adding entries for the year 2009 as soon as I receive all of that year's issues. The precise URL for the indices is <http://www.knihtisk.org/library/specialist/specialist.htm>. Bookmarking the URL in a browser eliminates the tedious task of ever again having to type in that horrific address. The indices are divided into three parts: an Author/Subject index and two Catalog Number indices (Scott and POFIS). I regret that I was unable to provide entries under SG or other European catalog numbers.

The indices are interactive in that clicking on a cross-reference takes one directly to that entry. Further, clicking on a citation opens a PDF copy of the Czechoslovak Specialist to the first page of the article cited. The copies of the Specialists themselves are located on the Society for Czechoslovak Philately's website and, at this writing, end at 2004. Issues after 2004 cannot be opened from the indices, but as the American Society mounts more issues, I shall update the indices to link to them.

The full set of indices runs to more than 400 printed pages, so I thought an electronic presentation would be more useful than a paper copy. However, every index (and its subsections) has a link to a printable copy should a paper copy of any subsection be desired. Be forewarned that the printable pages reflect American standard paper sizes which are somewhat smaller than the common British page size.

The Author/Subject index is subdivided into separate sections representing and ordered by each letter of the Czech alphabet (save for the digraph CH - those entries file in English alphabetical order within the 'C' section). Searching may be done using either a Czech or an English keyboard as entries have been provided with and without diacritics.

The two Catalog Number indices are further subdivided by catalog name. Each subdivision is ordered by catalog number, but searching by catalog number is far more problematic than is searching by words in the Author/Subject subsections. I hope to improve this shortcoming at sometime in the future, but am still at a loss as to how to provide the Catalog Number indices in a more friendly format. Suggestions for improvement are most welcome.

The indices were created in the computer markup languages XML, XSLT, and XSLT-FO. Thus, using computer programs I have written in these languages, in about 15 minutes I am able to produce and post to my website a completely updated/corrected set of indices. I would be happy to share these programs with anyone from the British Society versed in XML should they care to produce indices for *Czechout* in the same manner.

To all my colleagues in the British Society fondest wishes for the New Year

Mark Wilson, 8825 Lund Hill Lane, Cotati California 94931 USA

Publications

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

- The Spring 2010 issue of ***Austria*** No.169.
- ▶ Ways to improve our philatelic exhibit (Kuzych); The French Letter Tariff of 1827 (Jungwirth); The 1914 and 1915 War Charity Stamps (Pollak & Taylor).

- The December 2009 issue of **Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei**, Vol. 40, Whole No. 162 Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Slovak Philatelic Magazine *Zberateľ* ceases publication (-). Vincent Hložník, artist, graphic artist, illustrator, college professor (Müller); Exhibition in the Prague Postal Museum (Müller); The souvenir envelopes given to participants in the search for the most beautiful special cancellation (Müller); The post offices on the territory of present day Slovakia from 1 June 1850 until 1 January 1858 (Müller); 125 Anniversary of the birth of Franz Kafka (-); 18 December Day of the Czechoslovak Stamp – its special cancellations (Müller); Changes to post offices of the Czech P.O. in the years 2006 to 2008 (Müller); The special registration labels of the Czech P.O. (Müller).

- The September/October & November/December 2009 issue of **The Czechoslovak Specialist**, Vol.71, No. 5/6, Whole No.617/8. The articles include:
 - ▶ Czechoslovak Special Postmarks for the 1928 10th Anniversary Issue (Melamed); Charley's Corner (Chesloe).
 - ▶ Plate Flaws of the Pošta Československá 1919 Overprints (Severin, Stošek & Řezníček); A Flyspeck in European History [Sudetenland 1938] (Bendík); The Strange Attractor (Wilson).

- The January 2010 issue of **Dylizans** No 56
 - ▶ A new Editor, Malcolm Stockhill (-); PZL P11c [Poland's fighter aircraft] (-); When did the inflation period finish? (-).

- The 12/2009 and 1 & 2/2010 issues of **Filatelia**. Vols: 59/60. The English translation of the Contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ Forerunners 1918/1919-old troubles continue (Mezera); Points of interest in names of the post offices [2] (Kratochvíl); A Day of Czech philately in the Prague Postal Museum (-); Interesting printing faults on 10 Kč stationery card Český Krumlov (-).
 - ▶ Another perforation forgery of the Legionary stamps (Beneš); Forged rubber handstamp on the 1945 Slovak Rising sheet (Beneš).
 - ▶ Czechoslovak or Austrian? (Mezera); Plate faults on the Czech stamps of the first half of 2009 (Brožová & Zedník); Points of interest in names of the post offices [3] (Kratochvíl); Czech Scouts Post – myth, legends, questions (Weissenstein).

- The 6/2009 and 1/2010 issues of **Merkur Revue** Vols 14/15: Nos: 28/29 The English translation of the Contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ First trial print from the "Stickney" machine (Filípek); Newspaper Fiscal stamps [II] (Hirš); An important anniversary of Dr Šablatúra (MR); Remembering Birthdays of Radomír Kolář & Ernest Zmeták (Fischer); Interesting franking of eight stamps 1926 TATRY 5Kč (Fritz); Interesting comments of the 1930 20Kč Airmail (Fritz); Vouchers of the Zemská banka král Českého [IV] (Moravec); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [7] (Fritz).
 - ▶ Newspaper Fiscal stamps [III] (Hirš); Austria-Hungary and Europe after WWI [Part 1] (Klim); 90 Years of Masaryk TGM Issue [1920] Fritz & Filípek); Panes of the "Rimavská Sobota" 1945 issue [Part 1] (Fritz); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [8] (Fritz).

- No. 13 November 2009 issue of **NIEUWS** (Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately)
 - ▶ Express stamps (van Dooremalen); Antonin Zápotocký (Hemmes); Plating 75 heller Hradčany Type V (Trip);

- The December 2009 and March 2010 issue of **Stamps of Hungary** No.179/180.
 - ▶ Obliterations and their absence: The prolonged fate of post WWI Hungarian postmarks [Part 2] (Soble).
 - ▶ The Mystery of the Szigethvár Provisional Part I (Bándi); June 1940 Airmail to New Zealand (Kennett).

A SMALL WWII MYSTERY

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

Lubor Kunc writes: What an interesting article by Captain Oldřich Večerek, translated by Vladimír Králíček. A very surprising text for me, showing interesting area for new discovery! The beginning of the story is typical for that time; therefore we can put it into a comprehensive view of Czechoslovak resistance movement in the world. The period 1938 – 1945 was marked by need of new financial resources for war effects. In Czechoslovakia this started in 1938 by issue of a souvenir sheet celebrating 20th anniversary of Czechoslovakia with surcharge for Czechoslovak people moving out of occupied Sudetenland territories (POFIS A347).

When the Nazis tried to close the Czechoslovak Pavilions at the New York Expo and Toronto Exhibition 1939-40, a former Czechoslovak souvenir sheet was overprinted with a surcharge for maintaining the pavilions by the Czechoslovak resistance movement. The souvenir sheets were also given to donors paying larger contributions to the Red Cross and resistance movements funds supporting the idea of re-birth of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Now we know that a similar attempt occurred in Great Britain in 1941, when a group of the Czechoslovak resistance movement saw postage stamps as a way of generating money for the resistance movement. It is a logical continuation of the North America action of 1939-40, but to be honest, I have not heard about this UK action in the past.

We can easily detect also a business reason for the issue of such souvenir stamps. The American case confirmed that this material has not been issued only for the public effort, but also for payment of some stamp dealers/collectors distributing the stamps to philatelic public. As clearly shown and documented by Eckart Dissen in his excellent book on the NY and Toronto Exhibitions, there was strong co-operation between the Czechoslovak authorities and stamp dealer Alfons Stach containing also “price agreement” between them. Written confirmation of the agreement by Czechoslovak Exhibition Commissionaire dated 16 December, 1940 has been shown on page 52 of Eckart’s book.

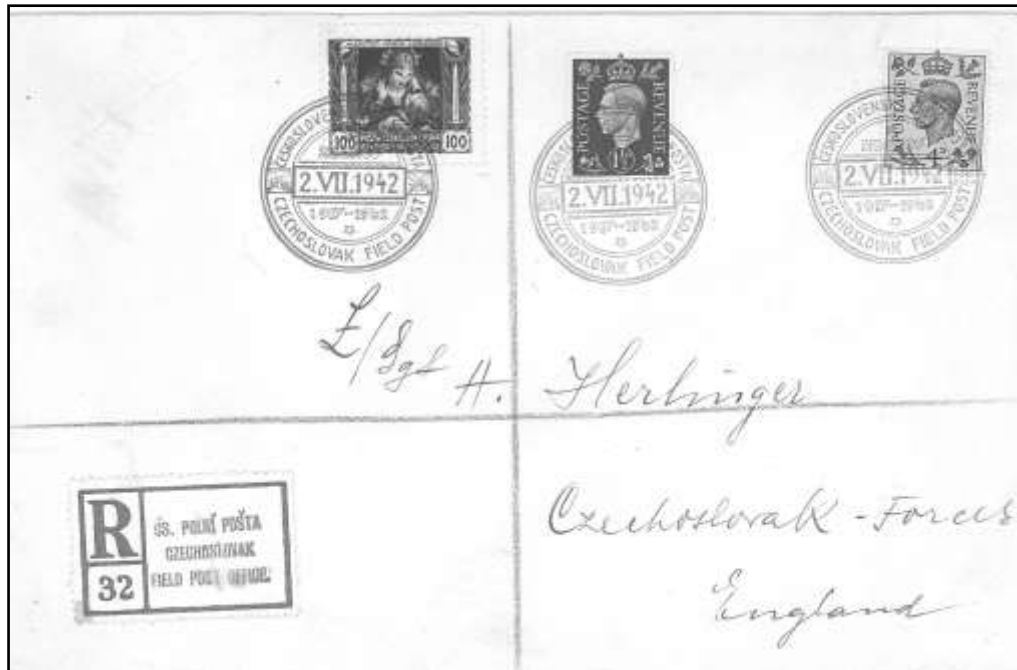
I would expect the person behind the idea in Great Britain was a similar person having large quantities of the Legionary 1919 stamps. I don’t believe the stamp come from a destroyed stamp shop. The existing press run of 5 million pieces of each of the stamps was enough for everybody. As you know, the Legionary 1919 issue was valid just few days (27 October – 3 November 1919) and this short period was not sufficient to use all the issues in postal operations.

The remaining (majority of the stamps) were sold by the dealers and postal shops for many, many years for a fraction of the face value. A lot of the stamps were sold or exchanged overseas. London was a Czechoslovak centre during WWII, and we can expect that many of the immigrants disposed of the stamps – and may be some former Prague stamp dealers moved to the UK. However this is an assumption. I can illustrate by covers from my collection that the Legionary 1919 issue was available to Czechoslovaks living in GB during WWII (see figure 1)

The stamps were used as patriotic labels on correspondence from Czechoslovak soldiers. My opinion is therefore, that somebody (individual, or groups of Czechoslovak immigrants) wanted to earn some money from philatelists / patriotic public buying the stamps, which had almost zero value. The next phase was to overprint them and to create a new source of income for both public interest and the creator of the idea. I am sorry to be so skeptical, but the information we have on other “exile” stamp issues tends to make us believe more in a combination of public and private effort than to believe in pure public effort. This reason has not been excluded by Vecerek in his text; the sound of it seems to confirm he had similar opinions.

Captain Vecerek’s text contains a sentence being very surprising and interesting to me. Vecerek mentioned that one of the submitted sheets contained a paper with watermark imprint of a British paper mill (last sentence of fourth paragraph). This is something we should carefully check. When you read a stamp catalogue, you will quickly realize the genuine Legionary stamps have been printed on a paper without any watermark! If a watermark was contained in the paper, this must be for sure a forgery of the stamp.

Figure. 1 – registered letter with postage paid by British stamps + affixed Czechoslovak Legionary 1919 issue (perforation B, 13¾ : 11½) sent only July 2, 1942 via Czechoslovak field post office celebrating the Zborov battle of 1917.



But reading the following books on Czechoslovak stamps (see Bibliography), you will quickly realize there is no known “total forgery” of the Legionary 1919 issue. The typical forgeries of the set relate to rare perforations, shadows of colours (15 + 25 Heller), imperforated stamps, trial prints and forgery of the Legionary Fund cancels.

Have any of the *Czechout* readers heard anything about a total forgery of a Legionary 1919 stamp ? The first footprints of such activity lead to GB; might be the information be contained in the UK. Maybe probably an eyewitness of Czechoslovak Red Cross / military forces might remember something of the action.

Any information on this real mystery is welcome!

Bibliography:

- Dissen, Eckart: *New York and Toronto Exhibitions 1939-40* Monography and Catalogue on, published by E=mc2 in Amsterdam, 1998

Books on Czechoslovak forgeries + catalogues

- Team: Padelky cs. postovnich znamek, NADAS Prague, 1963
- Novotny Ladislav: *Specialni prirucka pro sberatele cs. postovnich znamek*, published NADAS Prague, 1970
- Team: *Prirucka pro sberatele*, published by SCSF Prague, 1988
- Team: *Cs. postovni znamky a jejich padelky 1918-39*, Merkur Revue, 1998
- Team: *Ceskoslovensko 1918-39*, a specialized KLIM Catalogue, Merkur Revue, 2002

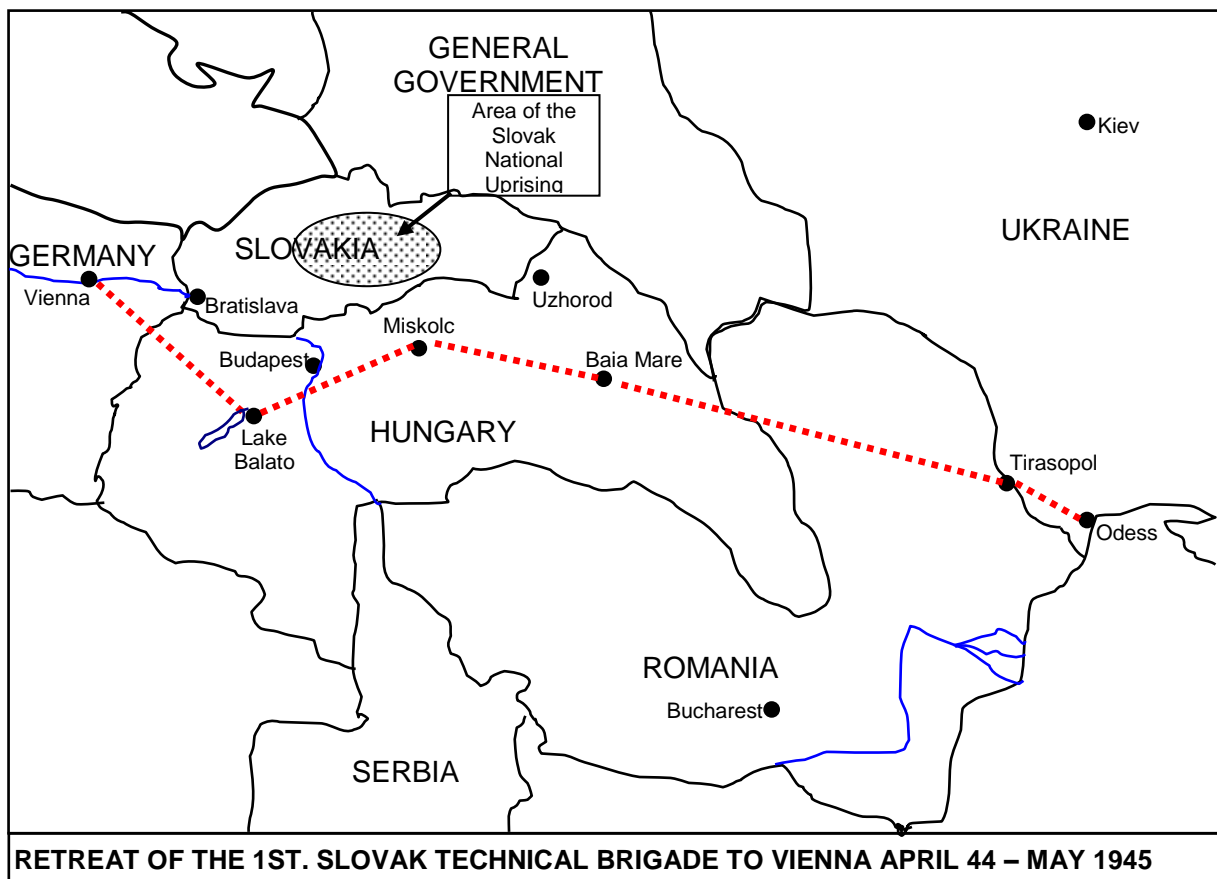
THE SLOVAK ARMY: 1939-1945

Part 3: 1944 TO THE END

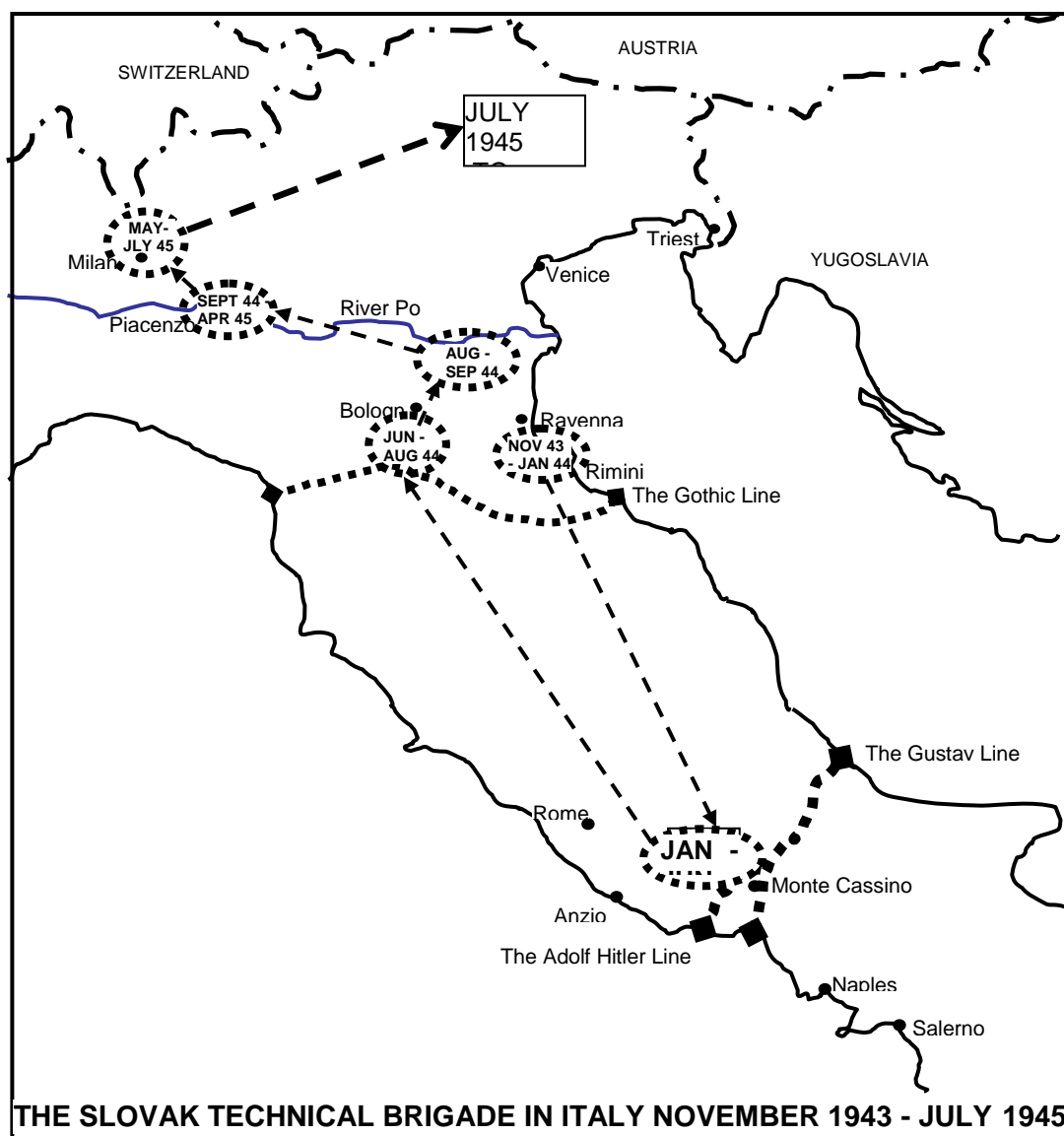
-David Holt-

This article covers the withdrawal of all Slovakian forces from the front line in Russia and their demotion to performing support services to the German war effort. At the same time the forces in Slovakia were being reorganised in anticipation of the defence against the advancing Russians before and after the Slovak National Uprising.

In February 1944 the 1st Infantry Division were moved to the north of Odessa to prepare a defensive position, where they were joined by other scattered Slovak troops. Following the capture of Odessa on 10 April 1944 they withdrew to Tirasopol in Romania where they were joined by the remaining troops evacuated from Sevastopol. By this time the reliability of the Division was poor and they were converted into the building fortifications. As the Russians advanced into Romania in August 1944 following the decision of King Michael to change sides, they retreated to Baia Mare in Hungary. On the outbreak of the Slovak Uprising the Germans disarmed them and they retreated to Lake Balaton via Miskolc. In early 1945 the Slovak policy of running down the Technical Divisions was reversed and about 5,000 men were received. In March 1945 they were attacked and most of the Division surrendered to the Russians. The remnant retreated to Vienna.



In late 1943 the Technical Brigade arrived on the Adriatic coast in Italy near Rimini. It then moved south to work on the western end of the Hitler Line near Anzio just in time for the Anglo American landing on 22 January 1944. The strength of the Brigade at this time was just under 4,500 officers and men. It was renamed the 2nd. Technical Division on 1 June 1944. As the Allies broke out at Anzio they withdrew northward to the River Po near Ferrara where they repaired defences and bridges damaged by Allied bombing. By this time the Division was in poor condition but still remained reasonably coherent and still useful to the Germans. However, in early 1945 despite reinforcements disaffection was rife and there were significant defections to the Italian partisans and over the nearby Swiss border. As the war came to an end they concentrated near Piacenza and their mass defection was only prevented by the German surrender on 28 April 1945. In May they were redesignated as part of the Czechoslovak Army and moved to the Milan area and in late July just over 6,000 men were repatriated to Slovakia.



As the war approached the Slovak borders in 1944 it was decided to create an East Slovak Army from the reserves and fortify the Carpathian Mountains. It was composed of two Infantry Divisions and based on Presov from May 1944. Its initial strength was about 22,000 men and officers. By the end of August 1944 its strength had risen to about 45,000 men and was planned to deploy them on the eastern borders. On 29 August 1944 this all fell apart when the Slovak Uprising broke out centred on Banská Bystrica. German forces quickly disarmed those troops not directly involved in the Uprising. After a desperate struggle with the German forces the uprising was finally crushed on 28 October 1944. The troops that opposed the Germans were sent to Prisoner of War camps in Germany for the rest of the war.

Following the Uprising an attempt was made to resurrect an operational force. 3rd and 4th Technical Divisions were formed in western Slovakia to provide and build defences and support to the German Army. On the fall of Bratislava the few troops that hadn't defected or deserted retreated into Moravia.

During 1944/5 field post appears to be much scarcer and the only item I have is a cover sent to Hungary in December 1944 with the small type canceller PP53? on a mixture of Russian and Slovak stamps, probably philatelic.

Below is a summary of the card types and cancellers I have seen used. Someone must know more than I do and I would appreciate any feedback.

Where I have not seen a particular card I have taken the details as stated, because of difficult handwriting some codenames, town, etc, may not be correct. See PP8 where it is probable that codename Klato is almost certainly Zlato.

The above is an outline description of the Slovak Army between 1939 and 1945. For a comprehensive history, including details of formations, maps, diagrams, politics, etc. an excellent reference is "AXIS SLOVAKIA - Hitler's Slavic Wedge 1938 -1945" by Mark Axworthy, published by AXIS Europa Books, New York. Cover price \$55.00, but available on e bay from time to time for about £20.00 plus postage.

Field Post 4 used on 9 July 1944

Single copy reported by Dr Rauch. No details.

Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
Fosfor	4	9.6.44			

Field Post 6 used from 27 June to 30 August

This canceller was probably reused in Slovakia during the reorganisation of the army in 1944. Last date of use was the day before the uprising started.

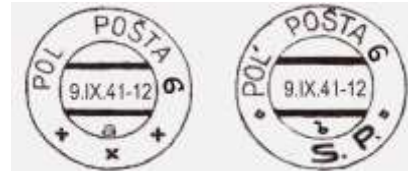


Figure 1 - 24.8.44 Envelope to Army Medical Stores, Lipt. Sv. Mikuláš, from PP No.6, Zlato 5



Figure 2 - 1.8.44 - Card from PP6, Dlaguen? to Slany BuM with new non military Vienna censor (Ag) introduced in July 1944. Card type 4.

Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
Dlaguen	-	3.8.44	Orel	11	24.8.44
Dusik	4, 5	19.7/..8.44	Zlato	5	7.6.44
Klato?	4	27.6.44			

Field Post 8 used on 20 May 1944

This canceller was probably reused in Slovakia during the reorganisation in 1944. Item not seen.

Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
Gyps	84	20.5.44			

Field Post 11 used from 20 September 1942 to 14 October 1944

For PP 11, the ni of polni and na has been added to read POLNA POSTA 11 and with one star at the foot. The Czechoslovak army originally used this cancel in 1938. Only code letter b seen. PP11 was probably based in Slovakia and in 1944 it was probably taken over by the East Slovak army. The Field post office also appears to have been used by the forces involved in the Slovak uprising, see cover dated 11 October 1944 with two line cancel shown in Dr Rauch's book. Only five copies recorded and only one seen see figure 3 below.

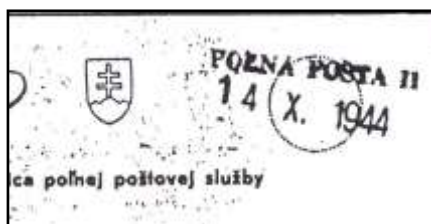


Figure 3 – 14.10.44. Provisional? PP 11, Alexandra cancel used during the Slovak Uprising to Orol 2.



Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
Alexandra	-	14.10.44	Liptov	-	20.9.42
Fosfor	-	7.6/ 9.6.44	Ocel	-	7.6.44

Field Post 51 used from 30 May 1943 to 6 October 1944

A new style of Slovak canceller number 51 was provided in mid 1943 for the Fast Division to replace the old No.6 canceller. It is possible that the card in Figure 4 was used on the first day? It was later passed on to the 1st Technical Division. Last seen usage was in October 1944 in Hungary. Codes a, b and c used.



Odosielateľ: des. Jozef Hajko
 Zmiešková adresa: 1/2 U. I. A. n
 P.P. 51



Dopisnica polnej poštovej služby

Mn _____

Kilof Müller
BRATISLAVA
Bdlova I/IV

Figure 4 – 30.5.43 Card from PP51, ZULA to Bratislava. Card type 4.

Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
Kakar	2	27.6.43	Slavnost	67	3.8/17.9/3.10/ 17.10/25.10.43/3.3.44
Kraj	6	11.8.43	Zula	51	30.5.43
Slama	5	2.4.44	-	-	7.10.43
Slovo	26	10.6/ 5.8/ 6.10.44			

Field Post 52 used from 12 July 1943 to 27 January 1945

A new style of Slovak canceller number 52 was provided in mid 1943 for the Security Division/ Technical Brigade to replace the old No.8 canceller. It transferred with the unit to Italy and remained in use until after the end of the war when the Brigade became part of the 1st. Czechoslovakian Army. Codes a, b and c used.

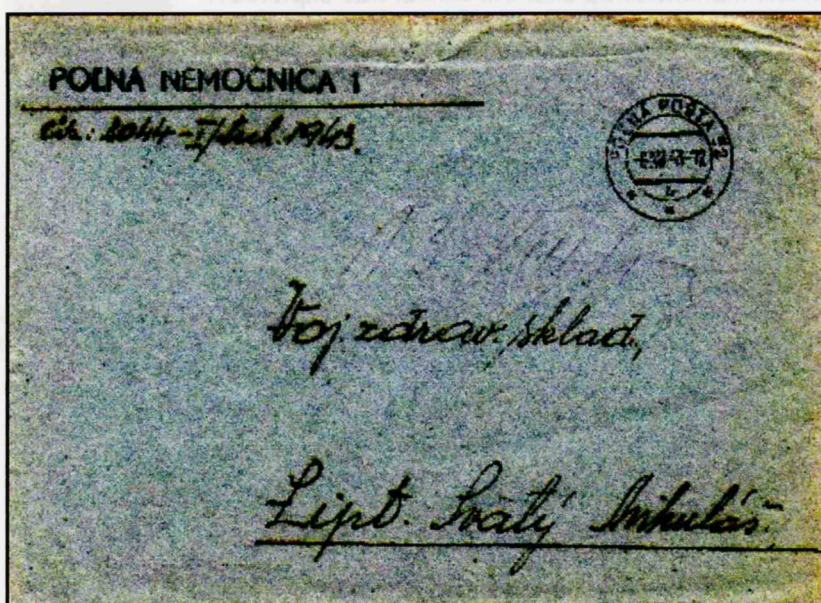


Figure 5 –6.8.43 Early use envelope from Field Hospital No, 1 to Lipt. Svätý Mikuláš

Figure 6 – 11.12.44 Hand made card from Ošenica? to Novohorky



Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
Formula	2	16.5.44	Prospech	42	26.9.43
Jecmen	5	10.1.5	Rijka	2. 5	28.12.43/ 5.5/ 24.5/29.6/ 9.9/ 15.9.44
Julta	1	19.8.43	Slama	5	10.12.44
Kalendar	-	7.10.43	Tuba	-	19.7.43
Kampuska	1	23.12.43	Uhurka	2	10.12.45/ 5.4/16.4./25.11.44/ 27.1.45
Kaolin	2	20.10.43	-	-	6.8/7.10/12.10.43/7.11.44
Klen	3	19.10.43	Cz. Army	-	3.6/18.7/18.7.45
Ošenica	2	11.12.44			

Field Post 53 used from 5 December 1944 to 18 March 1945

A new style of Slovak canceller number 53 appears in late 1944. Only two examples of this cancel known (a & c). The example used on 5.12.44 (see Figure 7) has a mixture of Russian and Slovak stamps and is addressed to Hungary. This item is almost certainly philatelic or a souvenir manufactured after the cancel was captured?. The item used on 18.3.45 (see Figure 8) looks OK, but is a late usage and again appears to be of Hungarian origin. This suggests that the canceller could have been allocated to the reinforcements sent to boost the Technical Brigade in Hungary? Codes a and c seen.



Figure 7 –5.12.44 - Printed matter envelope to Szobrancsi Jaras, Hungary (Philatelic)

Figure 8 – 18.3.45 – Picture postcard to Skalica, Slovakia



Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage	Code Name	No.s	Dates of usage
-	-	5.12.44	-	-	18.3.45

Field Post Ustredna Polni Posta

Presumably this cancel was in use throughout the period. However only one example from this period used as back stamp on Figure 1.



Type 1	a	24.8.44			
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Field Post Sberna Polnej Posty

No items seen used in this period

Anti Aircraft Regiment

There was a fairly extensive anti aircraft organisation in Slovakia during this period. It has not been possible to identify this with any Field Post, but a number of unit cachets appear on parcel cards.

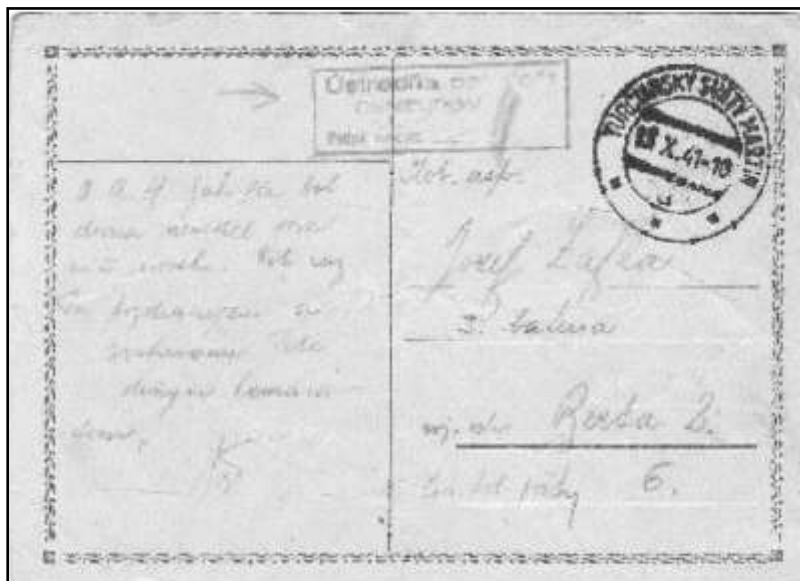
Figure 9 – 6.2.44 – Parcel card with cachet from Delostrelecký protiletadlový pluk, nahrada baterie (Anti Aircraft Artillery Regiment – Reserve Battery) Levoča to DPLP Nahr bat in Orechove



Mail to Field Post Offices

Very few examples are seen, as most items are likely to have been destroyed due to conditions on active service. Example shown below:

Figure 10 13.10.41 Postcard from Turckiansky Svaty Martin to Rysza 2, pol posty 6 in Russia



Prisoner of War Mail

Approximately 15,000 Slovak soldiers were sent to POW camps in Germany following the Slovak uprising. Dr Rauch illustrates one letter into a POW camp and one from a POW camp. The camps holding Slovak prisoners listed by Dr Rauch were:

- II Neubrandenburg
- IVA-G Hohenstein. Mühlberg/ Elbe, Bistritz bei Teplitz, Torgau, Hartmannsdorf, Post Burg, Oschatz
- VIIA Moosburg
- VIIIA-G Görlitz, Lamsdorf, Sagan, Wretzen bei Freisack
- IX B-G Bad Orb, Bad Sulza Ziegenhain/Schwelm, Schwalmstadt
- XI A,B Altengrabow, Fallingbostel
- XVII A, B Kaisersteinbruch, Gneixendorf
- XX Puppig, Danzig

Card Types

In May 1943 a new format card came into use, see details below. Earlier forms of card were in use throughout 1943/4, mainly type 3.

4. Small shield 50 mm from vertical line/ 5 address lines, 2 sender lines different smaller typeface. 148x95 mm

The information above is based on items from my collection and other collectors' items I have seen. I have tried to extend the article on the Slovak Field Post in the Czechoslovak Specialist published in 1970 and *Das Slowakische Militarwesen 1938-45* by Dr Walter Rauch. Military information is from various books including *Slovenska Armada 1939 – 1945*. by Kliment & Nakladal and *Axis Slovakia*. M Axworthy and numerous websites. I would appreciate any additional information, references and/or comments.

Bibliography

1. The Czechoslovak Specialist 1970.
2. Rauch, Dr Walter. *Das Slowakische Militarwesen 1938-45*, 2006. ArGe Tschechoslowakei. Germany
3. Kliment, C & Nakladal, B. *Slovenska Armada 1939 – 1945*. Levne Knihy, 2006 Czech Rep.
4. Axworthy, M. *Axis Slovakia*. Axis Europa books, USA.

THE INDEPENDENT ARMY TANK CREWS FIELD POSTS

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

Bob Hill writes: What an interesting article by Bohumil Bernášek, translated by Vladimír Králíček *The Independent Tank Crews Field Posts*.

It caused me to get out my Army map of the liberation as the dates didn't seem to quite tie up and for the record this is what I have:

Two sections were attached to the 4th Ukrainian Front under overall control of General Colonel I S Petrov (shown as Hero of USSR).

They comprised:

- 1 Československý armádní zbor (čsaz) under the control of General Ludvík Svoboda (shown as Hero of USSR and twice Hero of ČSSR).
- Československá tanková brigáda (čstb).

At liberation the combined forces numbered 367 (322 operational and 45 support).

Looking at the movements I have:

6 Oct 44	Crossed	Dukla Pass
27 Nov 44	Liberated	Svidník together with 38th Army.
20 Jan 45	Liberated	Bardejov
28 Jan 45	Liberated	Poprad

The forces then split:

	čsaz		čstb		
5 Apr 45	Liberated	Liptovský Mikuláš	undated	Liberated	Zory (Poland)
11 Apr 45	Liberated	Martin	30 Apr 45	Liberated	Ostrava with elements of 1st Guards Army

The forces then re-united:

8 May 1945	Liberated	Přerov, with part of the sections travelling on towards Prague
9 May 1945	Liberated	Prostějov the elements mentioned above reached south-east Prague by nightfall

Other Czechoslovak forces mentioned fighting with the Eastern Front.:

- Československá zmiešaná letecká divízia (čszld) – saw action at Pszczyna, Poland.
- Gardová jazdecko – mechanizovaná Slovakia – fought on 2nd Ukrainian Front as far as Prague.

Please, would any member with further information kindly inform us all.

THE "HAYDA" AUSTRIAN CANCEL USED IN THE SUDETENLAND 1938

-Anthony J Moseley-

During the early days of the Sudetenland occupation, there were several instances where no new Germanic cancel, or the materials to produce one, were readily available to the local postmaster. As a result, a handful of locations used old Austrian cancels for a short time.

One such Austrian cancel was from 'Haida' (nový Bok) who utilised a cancel featuring the old-fashioned spelling 'Haÿda'. This cancel is mentioned in an article published in *Filatelia* by F. S. Pešák, which appeared in 1972. Whilst, I have this article, I have, as yet been unable to translate it. The late Bill Dawson also mentioned this cancel in discussions, but did not have an example.

Most collectors will have an 'illusive' item on their wants list, which is difficult to find. In any case the goal was to find a genuine postally used example of this postmark. The search for the 'Haÿda' cancel has taken almost five years to complete, with a little detective work along the way.

My first item to show this postmark was found in Prague in 2006. This strike has been added to a propaganda postcard from Böhmischn Kammnitz, on the day of occupation 3.10.38. This did not entirely meet my needs, as the 'Hayda' cancel did not tie the stamp to the card. Later in Austria, I located an example of this cancel, used on a small piece, with a separate posting date added, 5 Okt 1938.



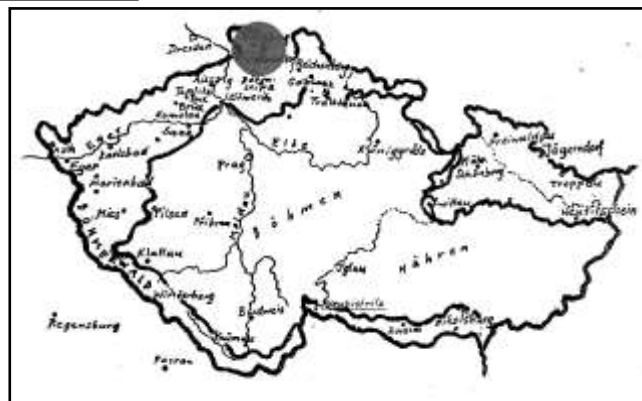
Recently, I finally found exactly what I had been searching for, with the discovery of a Propaganda card that I have not previously seen, posted from 'Hayda' to Aussig. This example shows the swastika and Sudeten Deutsches Partes logo, with a view of Haida and text ' Wir Kehrtten heim ins Reich' [We come home to the Empire]. Haida 3.10.38



These types of Propaganda cards were used quite extensively at various locations in the Northern Sudetenland. Leipa and Steinschonau have similar issues.

Postage is paid by 20 Haleru Czech adhesives [NOTE: no overprint present] and cancelled 'Hayda' 4 OKT 1938. Additional cachets 'Drucksachen' and the familiar rectangular cachet "Sudetenland kehrt heim in's Reich" are present.

The use of the 'Hayda' cancel was almost certainly for a very limited period only. The examples in my collection are dated 4th and 5th October 1938, I have found no later usage. By 6th October a rectangular cachet "Der Führer in Haida" was in use, presumably to record Hitler's visit to the newly annexed Sudetenland. This rectangular cancel was then in turn replaced by a 33mm circular provisional cancel "Glasstadt Haida" with the German Eagle in the centre and date of posting added separately. This cancel was in use by mid-October 1938.



BOX 506 CENSURE ENCLOSURE SLIPS

We thank Ed Fraser for sending us this article published in the *Third Reich Study Bulletin*, (USA) Volume XIII No 1 [Whole No.50] 1979, and their editor Jim Lewis for permission to reproduce it.

The need for an additional type of postal communication to and from enemy territories was recognised by the British Government who authorised the firm of Thomas Cook & Son to establish a liaison office in Lisbon, Portugal. This revised policy was manifested in changes to the above mention enclosure slips. As can be seen on this letter posted in England [Figures 2a and 2b], enclosure slip P.C. 85 makes reference to the Cook scheme. The P.C. 23 label on the cover measures 90 x 46.mm

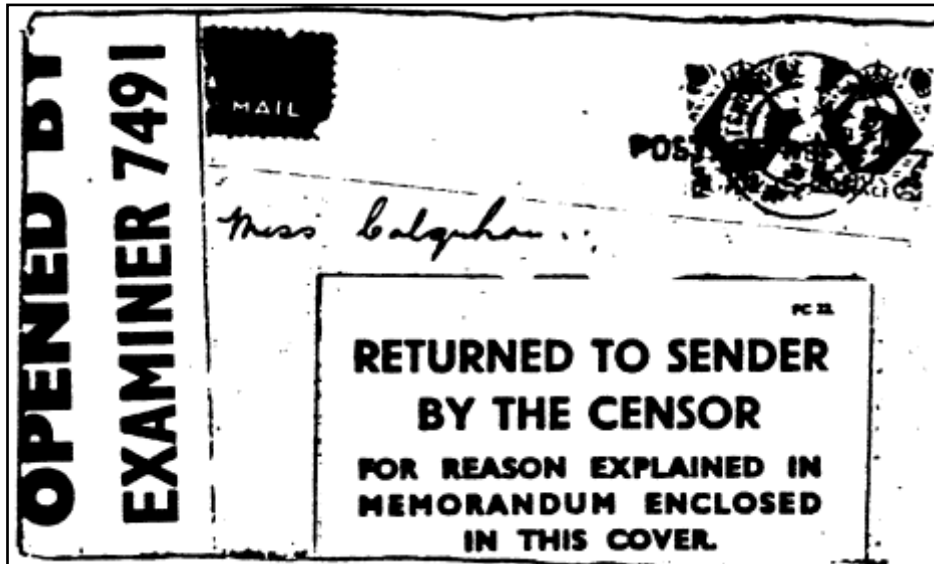


Figure 2a

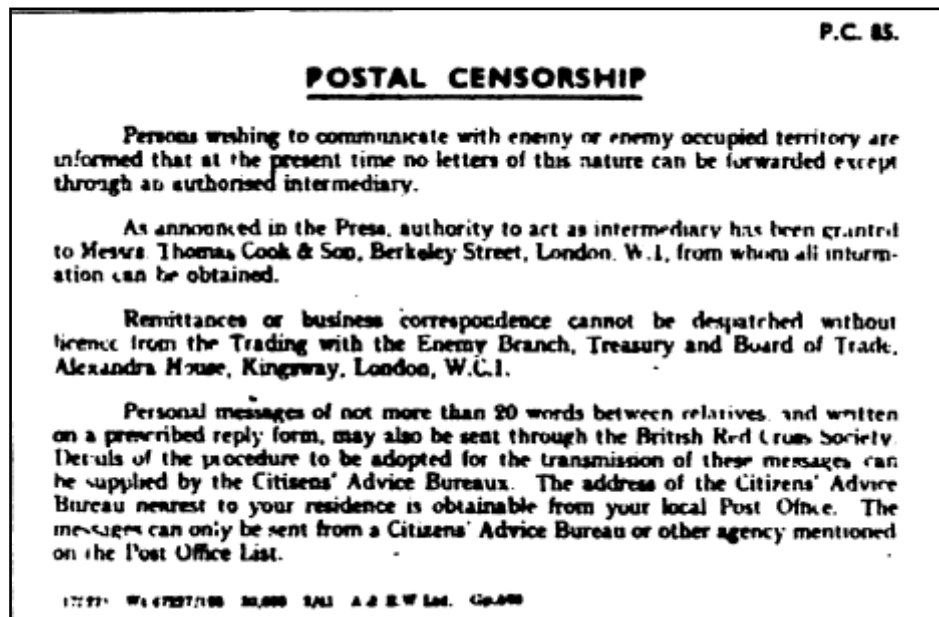


Figure 2b

Still more information is provided by enclosure slip P.C. 40 which was found in a cover [Figures 3a and 3b] addressed to Hungary and posted in Haifa, Palestine. The P.C. 23 label measures 90 x 46 mm and was printed in October 1940 as was the enclosure slip

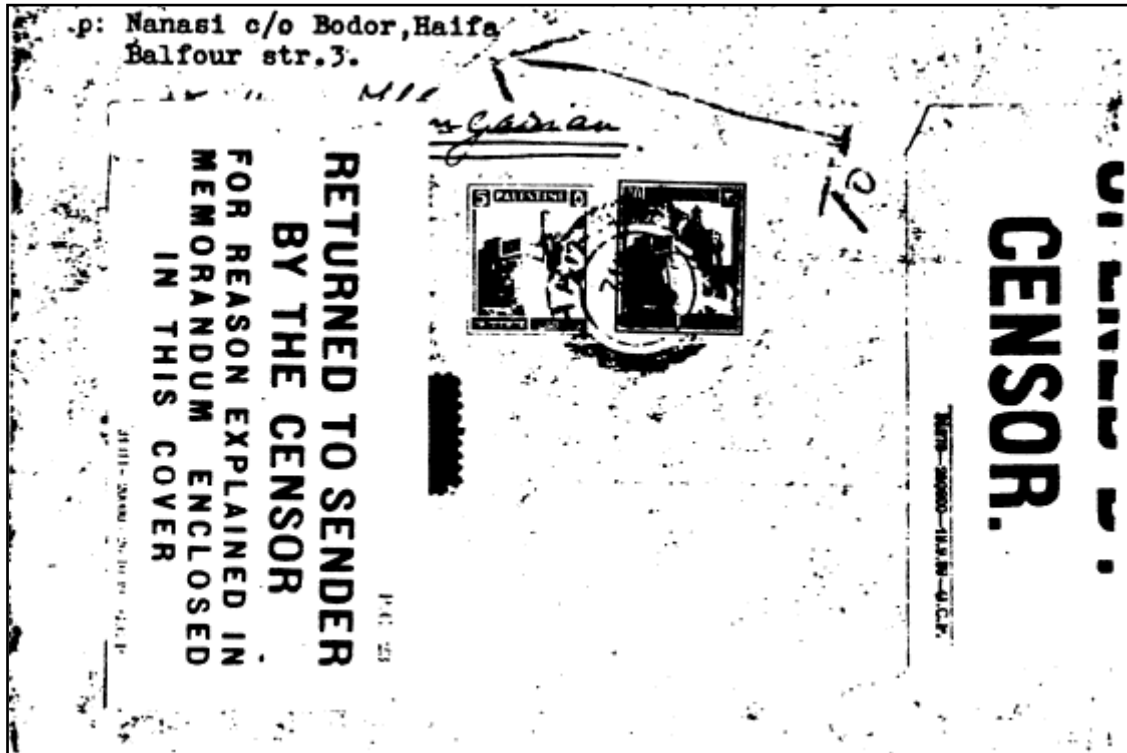


Figure 3a

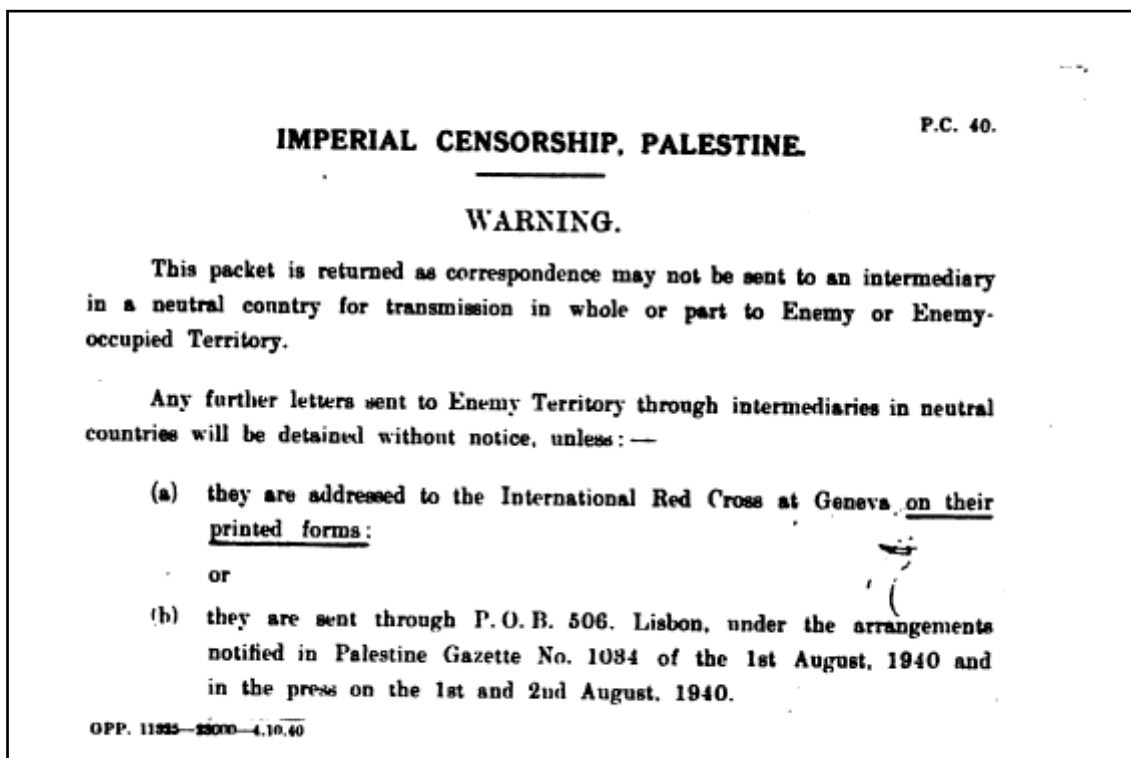


Figure 3b

Possibly the most interesting item is this cover [Figures 4a and 4b] which is addressed to the United States and posted in Tel Aviv 5 October 1940. The text on the P.C. 40a enclosure slip is in Hebrew with a printing date of 16 August 1940. The instructional label and insert slip both carry the paraph of the censor. (Translator's note: A paraph is a flourish at the end of a signature or initials to prevent forgery).

Translated by Myron Fox.

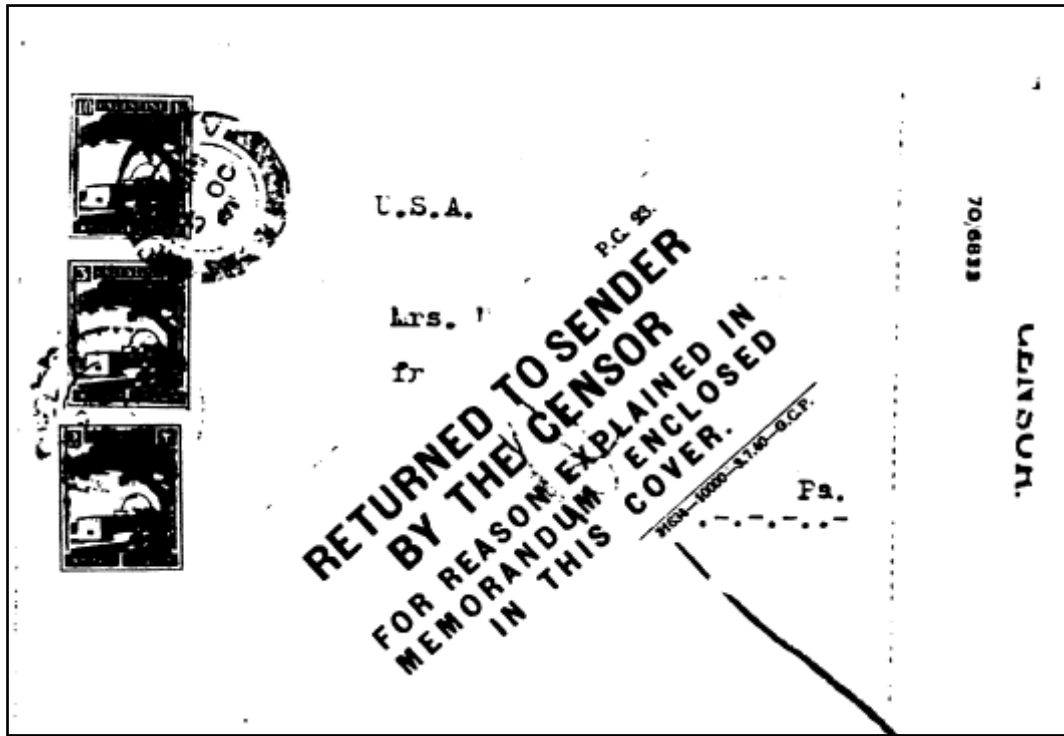


Figure 4a

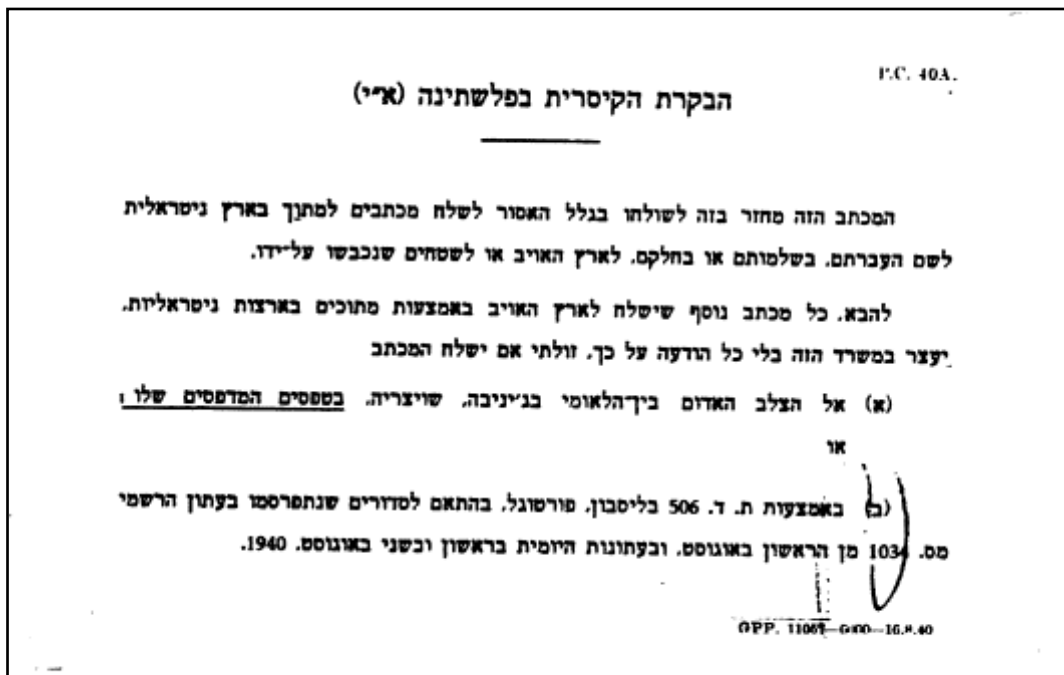


Figure 4b

THE ANTONIN DVORAK EXHIBIT

-Ron Hollis-

This postcard of the Dvorak Clock came into my possession recently and I was greatly intrigued as to its location. A search on the web – http://www.billyclocks.org/Billy_Clocks/Dvorak.html and I discovered something of its history.



Dr Antonin Dvorak, world-famous musician and composer, came to spend the summer of 1893 in Spillville, Iowa, USA. Through a resident of Spillville he had learned of the village, and with his family he arrived from New York City by railroad early in June.

It was said that the following morning, before many of the townspeople were astir, Dvorak arose and proceeded to the site of Riverside Park, along the Turkey River, to commune with nature and enjoy the sound of birds and feast his eyes on the beauties of the region.

While in Spillville, Dvorak composed the widely-known “American Quartette” and found the inspiration for “Humoresque”, which was written after he left Spillville.

The Dvorak Exhibit, located on the second floor of the museum, has historical artefacts as well as written material on Dvorak and the time he spent in Spillville. Also on display are harmoniums (pump organs) like Dvorak played and composed music on during his visit.

The brothers Frank & Joseph Bily, natives of the Spillville neighbourhood, carved and built clocks of unique design that have attracted people from all over the world.

Spillville, a predominately Czech village came into existence in 1854 when Joseph Spillville came from Europe in 1849. Many of those who followed Spillville were from Bohemia.



WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

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

Re: Dr Vernon Brown's Query on a 1941 Protectorate Cover in *Czechout 4/2009* page108.

A most heartening response from the following members: Keith Brandon Rex Dixon, Jan Dobrovolny, Vladimír Králíček, Lubor Kunc, Hartmut Liebermann and Clyde Ziegler. Below is a précis of the answers, including all the relevant information.

PRAHA as majority substantives in Czech grammar has several possible endings depending on the situation in which it is used. Nowadays only Praha is used in addresses but earlier it was quite often to use in an address "v Praze" which means 'in Prague'. We can also see the letter "v" on the left from the postage due stamps. [NOTE: another form of Praha is on the bottom of the letter where the sender's address is printed. "pro Praha" means 'for Prague'.]

PRAHA 1 is a central part of Prag, and the sender used a large letter "1" [not 1] and forgot to do a space between the name of the town and number i.e., PRAZE1. It corresponds also with the cancel on the postage due stamps "Praha 1" from the post office at which the letter was delivered and also with the name of the street "na Příkopy" which is one of the main shopping streets in central Prague. There are airline offices and a hotel at No. 13 now.

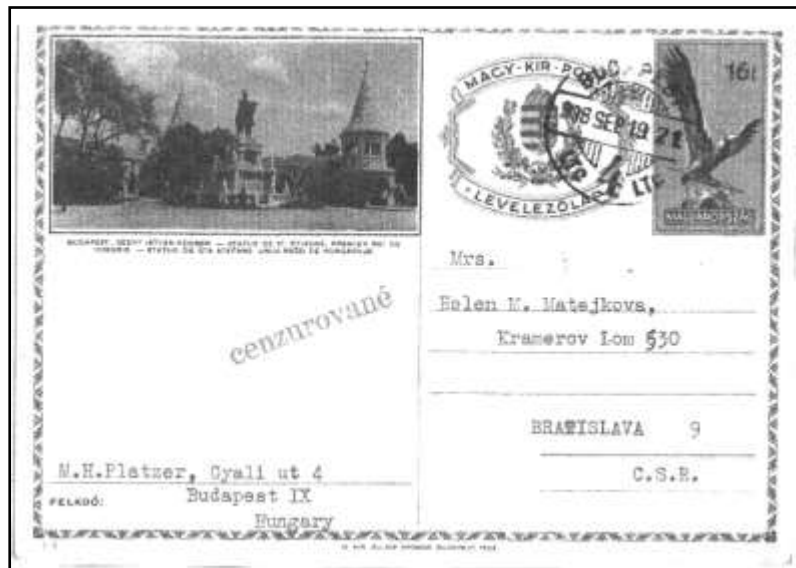
The letter is addressed to a receiver in Prague, indeed: "Ústředí Národní Pomoci **v Praze I**" means "Central office of 'National help' (or 'People's help') at Prague I".

The postage due is easily explained. The postmark appears to be Prag/Praha. A local letter to 20g would cost 80h, which is what the sender has prepaid. However, the letter must have been over 20g, for which the local letter rate was 160h. The deficiency of 80h was charged 120h, 1.5 times the deficiency, the German multiplier introduced on 1 October 1940 for internal mail (the previous Czech multiplier had been double deficiency).

Re: Richard Beith's CENSUROVÁNO handstamps in *Czechout 2/09* page 59 & 3/09 page 84.

Richard writes: Referring back to my query on the CENSUROVANO handstamps of the Munich crisis period, thanks to CPSGB member Jim Hamlin, I have been shown a third variety, a Slovak language, lower case 'censurované', see attached illustration of Jim's cover.

According to Miroslav Bachraty [*Filatelie 9/1998*] this was used in Trenčín. Presumably Bratislava was considered too close to the German (Austrian) border to be chosen as censorship



New Query

From Robert Hill (RJH) and Richard Beith (RB): The 1944 'C.S.R.' overprints on French stamps. As early as the 1970's, under the heading '*Post Foreign Czechoslovakia in France 1944*' the late Juan Grau (JG) listed in his book on 1945 Liberation overprints a number of French stamps that had been overprinted in both black and violet as follows:

A shield containing the key three parts of the Czechoslovak flag, each part bearing one of the initials: Č S R (*Czechoslovak Republic*); franked with the words *Zahraničí Pošta 1944 (Foreign Post 1944)*.

In CPSGB Monograph 5, Roy Reader (RR) also noted these stamps. One cover, franked with overprinted stamps of the 'Great Men' issue, was illustrated with the stamps cancelled with a Paris cds of 13.10.44. RR assumed that these were 'philatelic souvenirs'.

Writing in the *Czechoslovak Specialist* for November/December 2002, Karel Holoubek (KH) again raised the question of the nature of these overprints, quoting Reader's earlier study. KH asked "where could the members of the Czechoslovak Brigade write to at that time?" – i.e. why did they need stamps. One of us (RB) wrote a letter to the Editor of the *Specialist* which was published in the March/April 2003 issue. RB pointed out that the Brigade operated within the British Field Post Office system and that when stamps were required to pay say registration fees or air mail rates, to any location in the free world, British stamps were always used. RB considered that the overprinted French stamps were just 'philatelic inventions'.

Up to February 2004 no other response was printed in the *Specialist* to KH's article and nobody commented in print on RB's letter. However, RJH regarded the phrase 'philatelic inventions' as something of an unproven statement so more information was sought. With the kind help of CPSGB member Frank Kaplan, RB placed an enquiry in the Veterans Newsletter, but sadly this did not evoke any response.

RJH contacted Vladimir Markus in Wien who supplied a list of stamps that had been overprinted that were known to him and a scan of the cover shown here posted in Paris on Czech national day 28.10.44. Frank Kaplan confirmed that the address of the Czechoslovak Legion was correct. (The cover appears to be the same illustration as that used in KH's article.)

So we have two covers (13 and 28 October 1944), a list of stamps and many unanswered questions including

Is the postage rate right for France in October 1944?
Can any member throw extra light on the status and origin of these overprints?

Extract from Monograph 5





HELP REQUIRED

A request to members at home and overseas who may possibly be able to help. The Editor has prepared for print the first six issues of the Bulletin published by the Wartime Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and edited by their then secretary J. Tauber. It would appear from issue No, 6 that further editions of their bulletin must have appeared but to date none have been discovered. One main item in the Bulletin was the preparation for the 1943 Stamp Exhibition that took place between 8th and 20th November at the British Council Czechoslovak Institute Hall, 18 Grosvenor Place, London SW1. Although in Monograph No.10 by Page and Králíček there is detailed information concerning the exhibition and the miniature sheet produced for this event, we have been unable to find any brochure or programme listing the many exhibits provided by British collectors and others. We would be grateful for any help in finding copies of either Bulletins from No,6 or a programme covering the exhibits at this Czechoslovak Stamp Exhibition.

NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

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

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

Czech Republic

20 January 2010

The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production



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

Design: commemorates the stamp designer Vladimír Kovářik (1921-1999) who created more than 100 designs. This stamp design is the 30h value taken from the June 1977 issue 'Tradition of Czech Porcelain' depicting a gold decorated 'Medici' vase from the Slavkov Factory. Bedřich Housa was the engraver of the 1977 stamp.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is an 1820 vase from the Horní Slavkov Factory as shown on the 40h stamp of 1977.

Booklets: of eight stamps and 4 labels were issued. The label has a picture of a sauce boat.

20 January 2010

Magdalena Dobromila Bettigová (1785 – 1845)



Designer: Antonín Odehnal **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50.

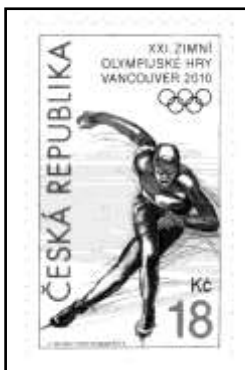
Design: a portrait of Magdalena Bettigová with an inkpot and quill pens. It was only after her marriage to Jan Rettig who was a supporter of the Czech national revival that she learnt to speak and write Czech. She contributed articles and stories to magazines but only found her mission in life when she began to advise young women how to be good housewives. Her most famous work is a cookbook,

which has been reprinted several times over the years with recipes that are still usable today. In 1834 she moved with her husband to Litomyšl where she organised cultural events for women and encouraged the education of women.

FDC: printed DS in grey-blue with commemorative Všeradice cancel. The cachet drawing has a teapot with cup and saucer beside a pen and sheet of paper written with her text appealing to the necessity of education for women and its importance in marriage.

10 February 2010

XXIst Winter Olympic Games, Vancouver 2010.



Designer: Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** a speed skater with the Olympic rings logo and text in Czech. The Winter Olympics take place in various venues near Vancouver.

FDC: printed RD in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a speed skater – an event in which a Czech girl has hopes of a medal.

10 February 2010

Winter Paralympics Games 2010, Vancouver.**Designer:** Ladislav Kuklik **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** two downhill skiers with text in Czech and the logo of the Czech Paralympic Team. These Games will take place in March after the Olympic Games, with more than 600 competitors from 45 countries. The Czech team will be represented in alpine skiing and sledge hockey.

FDC: printed RD with in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows two downhill skiers.

10 February 2010

Universal World Exhibition 'EXPO 2010' in Shanghai**Designers:** Aleš Najbrt and Petr Štěpán

Printing: multi-coloured offset of one stamp in souvenir sheet **Design: stamp** – a view of the exhibition pavilion and aerial view of the ground plan of the Old City, Prague and the four coloured logo for Expo 2010; **sheet:** the four coloured logo of the exhibition on a white background. **FDC:** printed offset with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is the four coloured logo of the exhibition reproduced six times. The international exhibition Expo is held every five years in different countries with a different theme each time. The current theme is 'Better City – Better Life'. The Shanghai Expo lasts from Spring to Autumn 2010.

10 March 2010

200th Birth Anniversary of Karel Hynek Mácha

Designer: Jan Kavan **Engraving:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS – one stamp in souvenir sheet **Design: stamp** – portrait of Mácha against a rock and the full moon; **sheet** - the area around Bezděz and Kokřín castles, Doksy and Mácha's Lake ie the so-called Mácha region. Mácha was born in Prague in 1810, studied law and worked as a legal assistant in a solicitor's office. He became involved in the theatre and joined the amateur company led by JK Tyl. He also enjoyed visiting old, ruined castles. His writings include poems, short stories and a novel. He died in 1836.

FDC: printed DS in green-brown with commemorative Doksy cancel. The cachet drawing has a flock of geese and intertwined snakes to symbolise the animals living in the Mácha area.

10 March 2010

Happy Easter



Designer: Jindřich Kovařík **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. **Design:** three young men carrying traditionally decorated whips. On Easter Monday morning the special homemade whip (pomlázka) is traditionally used by men to spank women so they will keep their health and beauty during the coming year. **FDC:** printed DS in green with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a basket of decorated eggs.

Postal Stationery

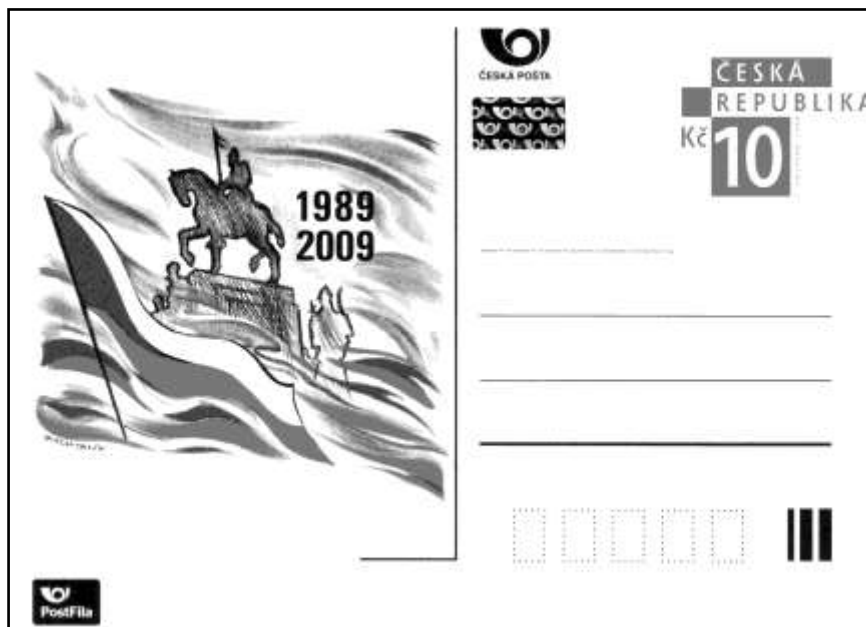
Official Postcards

6 January 2010 – 60th Anniversary of the Specialised Magazine ‘Filatelie’ The imprinted 10Kč stamp is a composition of stamps, magnifying glass, tweezers and the heading of the magazine. (also used on the postcard issued 23 September 2009). The logo of the Czech Post and a security hologram are to the left of the imprint. The left promotional design (**Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný) has various historic headings of the magazine from the years of its production from 1951 to date. The 60th Jubilee issue was issued on 6 January 2010. 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).

23 October 2009 – International Stamp Bourse, Sindelfingen. The event took place from 23 – 25 October 2009. The cachet shows a magnifying glass and a young child in turn of the century clothing holding a letter. (17Kč)



4 November 2009 – The ‘Velvet Revolution.’ The cachet drawing shows the King Wenceslas Monument surrounded by swirls of red, white and blue and the national flag. (10Kč)

4 November 2009 – Głogow 2009 International Philatelic Exhibition. The event was held from 11 – 14 November 2009. (17Kč)

Slovak Republic

FDCs are printed by TAB. sro, Bratislava unless otherwise noted.

4 December 2009

Postage Stamp Day – Louis Braille



Designer: Vladislav Rostoka **Stamp and FDC Drawing:** Ľubomír Paľo **Engraver:** Martin Činovský **Printing:** Heidelberg Speedmaster

Design: - **stamp** - portrait of Louis Braille with birth/death date 1809 – 1859 and 'Slovensko' in Braille together with a sightless face; **label** – the six dotted pattern picked out as the letter 'B'. Louis Braille devised a system of characters based on six raised dots enabling visually impaired and sightless people to read. His system is used worldwide. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The drawing represents a pair of hands reading Braille.

4 January 2010

Cultural Heritage of Slovakia – Church in Spišská Nová Ves



Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Ľubomír Žálec **Printing:** RD. **Design:** the head of the reliquary cross from the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Spišská Nová Ves. The cross from partly gilded silver dates from about 1350 with a figure of the crucified Christ on the front and a box for relics on the reverse. The empty box was originally covered with transparent mountain crystal. The cross has several engraved figures, symbols and decorations. The church is one of the largest Gothic buildings in Slovakia. **FDC:** printed RD in black with a commemorative Spišská Nová Ves cancel. The cachet drawing shows the sculptured south doorway.

15 January 2010

XXI Olympic Winter Games 2010, Vancouver.



Designer: Peter Uchnár **Engraver:** Arnold Feke (FDC cachet only) **Printing:** Heidelberg Speedmaster **Design:** a four man bobsleigh team with their sleigh, the Olympic rings and logo of Vancouver 2010. The Games take place in and around Vancouver from 12 – 28 February 2010. The Slovak team hopes for success in several disciplines including Women's Ice Hockey. **FDC:** printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet shows a four man bobsleigh running down the track.

29 January 2010

President of the Slovak Republic – Ivan Gašparovič



Designer: Ivan Schurmann **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD

Design: portrait of the President. He was elected to a second five-year term of office on 4 April 2009.

FDC: printed DS in black-brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing is an allegory of the harvest with two figures adorned with grapes and corn.

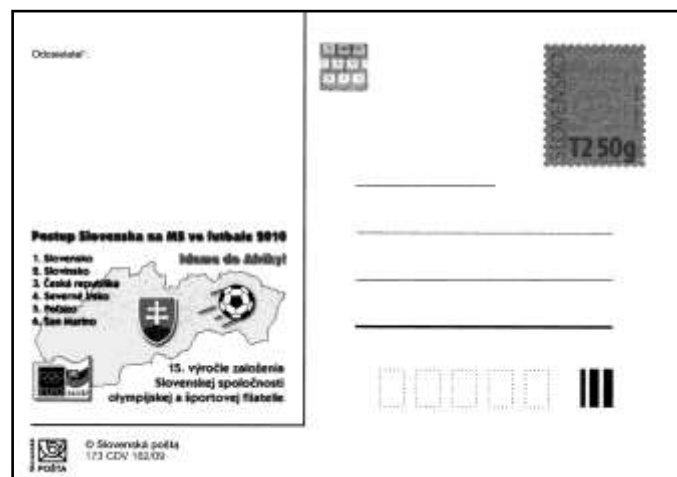
Postal Stationery

The following postcards have an imprinted T2 50g (inland, second class, weight to 50g) imprinted stamp in orange. (See *Czechout 4/2009 for December 2009 p 114 for details*).

26 September 2009 (171 CDV 162/09) Celebrating the Diversity of Tourism Designer: Adrian Ferda. Cachet is a hot air balloon surrounded by text in Slovak.

2 November 2009 (172 CDV 162/09) 240th Anniversary of the Consecration of All Saints Church, Veľke Záluží. Designer: Adrian Ferda. Image of the west face of the church.

20 November 2009 (173 CDV 162/09) 15th Anniversary of Slovak Society of Olympic and Sports Philately. Designer: Ervin Smažák. Cachet design – outline map of Slovakia with Slovak State Arms, a football and the logos of the two Societies. The card also promotes the Football World Championship 2010 to be held in South Africa.



28 November 2009 (174 CDV 162/09) 100 Years of Organised Philately in Bratislava. Designer: Adrian Ferda.

14 December 2009 (176 CDV 162/09) The End of the Validity of Postage Stamps with Slovak Crown Face Values. Designer: Adrian Ferda. Design - a stylised flower head of stamps wafting over a dark blue background with text in Slovak.



18 December 2009 (175 CDV 162/09) Day of the Slovak Postage Stamp and Philately. Design: Adrian Ferda. Cachet drawing is an outline of a stamp with Mount Kriváň, a lime spray and text in Slovak.