



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

The first London meeting in the New Year will be a display by the new Chairman **Yvonne Wheatley** entitled *The Stamp Competitions: The Winners and The Losers* on Saturday 15 January 2011 at 2.30pm. The Joint meeting with the Austrian Philatelic Society will take place on Saturday 22 January 2011 at York Racecourse at 2.00pm. For full details contact Yvonne Wheatley (0113 2601978).

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

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that we have found a new Editor. At our AGM it was proposed that Mr Anthony Moseley be appointed and Tony was duly elected unanimously by all present. Tony will take over with the March issue and I know that you will give him the support that you have given me over the years. For an interim period he will be assisted by Dr Garth Taylor...I wish Tony and Garth success in their new roles.

Colin W Spong

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

EDITORIAL

The Editor regrets that in his penultimate journal [September] the Microsoft demon struck once again, although the year date was keyed in and appeared on the front page it refused to appear on the succeeding pages. Colin and Pat are sorry that the “demon” cleverly did not show up in their eyes!

Prior to the 1977 AGM I was informed by an energetic committee member “I hope you do not mind but I have offered us to take over the journal” thus began the learning curve! Apart from a ten year period when the late Alan Knight was editor (and Alan had journalist training), and Bill Dawson & Alec Page persuading me to succeed Alan in 1994. I have been privileged to be editor of this society’s journal for nearly twenty-four years, from which I have made a number of good friends both in the Society, also in the philatelic world in the UK and elsewhere. Now it is time to hand over.

I would like to thank all my correspondents who have supplied excellent articles, notes or news; my translators: members Douglas Baxter, Michael Chant, Robert Kingsley and Roy Reader, Lindy Bosworth who has supplied all the details of the new issues and to the two publications officers, the late Alec Page and Rex Dixon, who have seen the journal through the printing stage. All the officers and committee members through these years who have encouraged and supported me and finally but not least my dear wife Pat who has jointly with me typed the articles made the illustrations and particularly looked after the new issues section.

CWS

Goodbye and Hello

At our AGM in November we said ‘Goodbye’ to some of our long serving Committee Members and welcomed new ones.

We also said ‘goodbye’ to Yvonne Gren as our Chairman. Yvonne will, of course, remain on our Committee as Immediate Past Chairman and our Membership Secretary. It is reassuring that she will be on hand during our deliberations. Yvonne has been an outstanding and hardworking Chairman. She organised our successful exhibition at the Czech Embassy in 2008 and conducted our meetings in a friendly manner which has strengthened our Society.

Robert Kingsley has served on the Committee since 1968 acting as Joint Secretary/Treasurer, Treasurer and Chairman and since 2005 has been co-opted to the Committee. Robert has moved to Nottingham and finds it difficult to attend meetings. We miss him. We thank him for all the years he has devoted to the Society and wish him many more years enjoying his collection.

Colin Spong became Joint Editor in 1978 becoming Editor in 1981. After a short break, he resumed the editorship in 1994 and has produced *Czechout* ever since. He was Chairman from 1982 – 85. Colin and his wife Pat are also responsible for the production of our Monographs. Colin will continue to share his knowledge and expertise with us as he remains on the Committee as President.

Richard Beith took over as Publications Officer in 1998 and continued to serve in that capacity until 2008 after he moved to Scotland in 2007. He too has been Chairman, from 2004 – 07.

We thank all these gentlemen for the time they have so freely given to the Society. The Society would not be where it is today had it not been for their loyalty and hard work.

We also say ‘goodbye’ to our Webmaster, Ian Nickson and his assistant Neil Power. Recently they put in many hours of hard work to update our system. Both gentlemen are in full time employment and with other commitments, time was at a premium and therefore the time given to the Society has been much appreciated.

We thank our retiring members for their kind offer to assist the Society whenever the need should arise.

We now welcome Tony Moseley as our new Editor of *Czechout*, ably assisted by an editorial team of Bob Hill and Garth Taylor.

Bob McLeod will take over as Webmaster with the assistance of his son, Mark.

Yvonne Wheatley

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 11th September 2010 at the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 West End Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm

Our Chairman Mrs Yvonne Gren welcomed 16 members and guest to the meeting, apologies having been received from 10 members.

Rex Dixon advised those present that Monograph No. 24 "Travelling Post Offices in German Occupied Sudetenland" will be available in mid-October at a special members launch price of £6.00 (£7.25 inc UK P&P).

Bob Hill was then invited to give his display of "Liberation Overprints 1944-45"

Bob gave us a most fascinating and eye-opening display of 192 sheets dealing with overprinted stamps commemorating the American and Soviet liberation of the Czechoslovakia. He took us on a tour of the former occupied areas of Silesia, the Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia, Carpatho Ukraine and Slovakia, showing material that most of us had never seen before and describing in detail the euphoria and trauma of those most difficult times. We were all amazed that knowing the scarcity of this type of material that Bob even had complete sheets of some of the overprinted stamps, Wow!

Later, after a superb afternoon's entertainment, Colin Spong gave a well deserved vote of thanks. Yvonne thanked Colin and there being no further business called the meeting to a close at 4.00 pm.

Tony Hickey

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 13th November 2010 at the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 West End Lane, London NW6 at 2.30pm

The President, Colin Spong, welcomed 18 members to the meeting following the AGM and Lunch, and invested Mrs Yvonne Wheatley as the new Chairman. Yvonne Wheatley reported that apologies had been received from 8 members. Our membership secretary Yvonne Gren proposed a new member, Peter Chadwick of Eaglescliffe. This was passed unanimously and we welcomed Peter to the Society. Without more ado, as everything had been covered at the AGM, Yvonne had pleasure in introducing Pat Rothnie who was to entertain us with his display of "Czechoslovakia 1938 – 1945".

Afterwards Tony Hickey gave a vote of thanks.

I have known Pat for a good few years now and have had the pleasure of seeing some of his material previously. Each time his displays have been presented professionally, interestingly and full of items that many of us have not seen before. This display was of no exception. Pat started with the beginning of the demise of the Republic, the "Sudetenland Crisis", whereby President Beneš was forced to concede vital, mainly German speaking strategic border areas, to Germany in Munich on the 29th/30th September 1938. Here we saw some of the improvised cancellations and overprinted stamps that were used in the initial occupation period. Next we saw material relating to the German invasion of Bohemia and Moravia on the 15th March 1939, cumulating in the complete breakup of the Czechoslovak Republic with the seceding of Slovakia. Pat then showed us stamps, postal history and ephemera from both the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the German puppet state of Slovakia between 1940 and the liberation in 1945. Overall it was a fascinating display and a wonderful history lesson.

Yvonne thanked Pat for coming so far to entertain us and formally closed the meeting at 4.30pm.

Tony Hickey

Northern Meeting held at Pudsey – Leeds Philatelic Society Stamp Fair Saturday 20 November 2010

Yvonne Wheatley chaired the meeting. Although the attendance was low, those present enjoyed an interesting afternoon with plenty of time for discussion and the two hours passed very quickly.

The displays were as follows:

Keith Brandon	Postal History of Neustadt The thimble postmarks of Austria
Derek Baron	Postal History of Olomouc
Yvonne Wheatley	Postage Due covers

Also in attendance were Richard Wheatley and Brian Madeley.

These meetings, to coincide with Leeds Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair, commenced in 1994 but this was the last to be held at the venue as only a few members have attended in recent years.

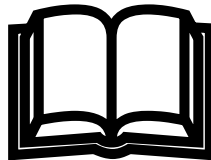
Next year the meeting will transfer to York Race Course during York Stamp Fair. Thanks to the invitation of Keith Brandon, we will be joining the Austrian Philatelic Society at their members meeting to be held on

Saturday 22 January 2011 at 2.00 pm

The meeting is held on one of the mezzanine floors above the stamp fair in the grandstand at York Race Course. Members attending are invited to bring a short display.

I hope our Society will be well represented.

Yvonne Wheatley



BOOK REVIEWS

Josef Novák: ***My Struggle for Freedom***, (Keele, Melandrium Books, 2010), published on behalf of The Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Abroad (ACLA). No ISBN. Available from ACLA, 11 Highway Lane, Keele, Staffs ST5 5AN. Price £10.00 inc UK P & P. Cheques payable to the Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Abroad. Reviewed by Richard Beith

This English language text was published to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Free Czechoslovak Soldiers and Airmen in the United Kingdom in 1940. Josef Novák was born in 1923 in the Těšín area of Czechoslovakia and in October 1938 his area was occupied by Polish forces. Chapter 2 of the book is thus headed 'In Bondage to the Poles'. On 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland and Josef's area came under direct German rule. In 1941 the family were placed on the 'Volkstlist' meaning that Josef was liable for service in the German Army. This happened a few months later and he saw service with a veterinary unit in France, on the Russian Front and back in France. His chance came after D Day when he was able to surrender to British forces. He was sent to the UK, trained there, and returned to France in time to join the Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade around the German enclave at Dunkirk. With the end of the war he returned to Czechoslovakia but was successful in escaping in 1948 and returning to the British Isles where he developed a business career.

This is a valuable volume in that it covers the Czech-Polish border problems in 1938 and in the detailed account given of fighting around Dunkirk before VE Day. It is recommended to all with an interest in modern Czechoslovak history. All profits from this publication will accrue to the ACLA.

Letters & e-mails to the Editor

☒ **Bob Hill** writes: Audrey Dawson had a fall two weeks ago [in September], hurt her back and was taken to A & E. She was admitted as she was even less mobile than normal. She then had a minor stroke. However, she has now fully recovered from the stroke and is waiting to be transferred to a rehab unit for rest and physio to get her back to speed. The plans are for her to move to one of her son's home in Broxbourne but he will have to have some alterations done to the house before that is possible.

☒ **The British Postal Museum & Archive Autumn Newsletter September 2010** contains details of a final London 2010 postcard now available, featuring unissued and issued Barnett Freedman designs available from the BPMA Museum Store. The National Philatelic Society Library at the BPMA and the Update of the proposed Swindon relocation of the Museum, together with photographs. Details of the Letter Box Study Group and their new publication *Guide to British Letter Boxes*. Finally the first of a two part report of the restoration of the blue airmail pillar box of the 1930s.

☒ **The British Library Philatelic Collections Newsletter Issue 17, Summer 2010** contains details of the new postcards available from the BL shop, a new booklet entitled the *British Library Treasures in Focus – Stamps*. *The British Library World of Stamps Diary 2011* is now available and the West Africa Study Circle has recently published a new book by Jeremy Martin & John Powell – *West Africa at the British Library* price £45 + postage at £4.30 UK; £6 overseas surface, Europe £6.50 and £11.50 the rest of the world by air. From Ian Anderson, 57 Manse Road, Edinburgh EH12 7SR cheque payable to West Africa Study Circle. Or by e-mail wasc_treasurer@aol.com. For further details go to www.wasc.org.uk.

☒ Norman Hudson writes I seem to recall an article in *Czechout* on Slovak tourist tax labels. I bought this block of four labels on eBay quite recently, from a seller in Israel and for not a lot of money. I bought them for my Tatras collection. Are they indeed tourist tax labels, as I suspect? Also are there any ideas of the likely date?



Illustration enlarged and there seems to be an underlay wording? [editor]

Congratulations

To **Bill Hedley** on his appointment as President of the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies. To **Dr Roger Morrell** who received the Social Philately Cup for *Fiume* at the Twickenham & District PS at their AGM.

Publications

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

- The Winter 2010 issue of *Austria*, No 172. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Missionary Cover (Smith); Austria-Hungary 3, 6, 12, 24...? [the 1890-1908 Emperor Franz Joseph issues] (Brumby); The Scharfbergbahn in the Glorious Salzkammergut Region (Anthony); The Raisin Cancels of Smyrna-The research reviewed (Brandon et al); Restrictions on post-WWII mail from Austria to Germany (Taylor et al); Official or Semi-Official [letters from one Imperial & Royal authority or office to office] Royal (Jungwirth); Confusing Currency-Confusing Assessments [Napoleonic period] (Jungwirth); The Last examples of Pre-philately Era (Jungwirth); Christmas Post (Jungwirth); Merrily Sounds the Horn [the Postillions] (Jungwirth).
- The September 2010 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 41, Whole No. 165. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Synod of Žilina 1610 (Müller); The Special machine dispensed stamps from the Czech Post Office (Müller); Changes in the Status of some post offices and postal agencies in 2009 (Müller); The First Postal Partner of the Czech Post Office (Müller); Printing errors in Czech Republic Michel No 45 1/11 = POFIS – 459 (Strnad et al); New Self-adhesive registration label from the Czech Post Office (Chàbovà et al).
- The Summer & Fall 2010 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol.72, Whole Nos.621/2. Nos 3/4. The articles include:
 - ▶ A Short Introduction to the Liberated Republic issue (Wilson); Czech Republic Introduced "Letter Stamps & Stationery" (Kunc); FOR BEGINNERS: The Philately of Czechoslovakia (Freer); Forgery of Czechoslovak Temporary Newspaper Stamp and Field Post Cancellation (Kunc).
 - ▶ Joined pairs of the 1945 Official Stamp (Wilson); Pošta Československá 1919 Overprint Forgeries [cont] (Kračmar); Milan Rastislav Štefánik (Valentová); A correction and New Discovery the Very First Hradčany stamp (Wilson); For Beginners: The Philately of Czechoslovakia [Part 2] (Freer).
- The October 2010 issue of *Dylizans*, No 59
 - ▶ The Grunwald Stamp That was Never Issued (Niebrzydowski); The Gdynia American Shipping Line & The Baltic American Shipping Line cont. (Stockhill); When Dixie Played for WISLA (Stockhill).
- The 9, 10 & 11/2010 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol.60. The English translation of the Contents does not cover all the articles:
 - ▶ Franked Postal Forms of the Austro-Hungarian origin after 28.10.1918 [4] (Mezera); Provisional & Temporary Czechoslovak TPO postmarks (Mezera); Has the new stage of the Czech post rural agencies occurred? (Bejsta)
 - ▶ Franked Postal Forms of the Austro-Hungarian origin after 28.10.1918 [5] (Mezera); Mysterious stamp 50 h OR [Chainbreaker]-missing head (Beneš); Czechoslovak airmail stamps on so-called Terezin and Kadaň letters (Tekel); October 28 in red colour (Feldmann); Forgotten postal projects – stamps "J2" and "Závada" [defect] [1] (Weissenstein); Temporary TPO cancels in Slovakia 1918-1920 [1] (Bacharatý); Emergency Newspaper stamps of "Národníplítka" [1] (Kunc).
 - ▶ Temporary TPO cancels in Slovakia 1918-1920 [2] (Bacharatý); Forgotten postal projects – stamps "J2" and "Závada" [defect] [2] (Weissenstein); The rarest commemorative postmark of Czechoslovakia after 1945 (Beneš); Emergency Newspaper stamps of "Národníplítka" [2] (Kunc).

- The Nos 4 & 5/2010 issues of *Merkur Revue*: The articles include:
 - ▶ The Beginnings of Austria-Hungary Airmails Part II (Hirš); Austria-Hungary and Europe after World War I Part IV (Štefek et al); TGM Part IV (Fritz & Filipek); Production Notes & “Cedulová” press in Prague Part 1 (Moravec); 60 years as Engraver, Jaroslav Tvrdoně (Fritz); Austrian postage & fiscal stamps (Fritz); 80th Birthday of designer Adolf Born (Fischer); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [11] (Fritz)..
 - ▶ Austria-Hungary and Europe after World War I Part V (Štefek et al); The SO 1920 overprint on Hradčany stamps Spiral type I (Filipek); The production of Banknotes and the printing office of the Central Bank ((Moravec); Field Post of the German Southern Army in Carpatho-Ukraine 1915 (Gebauer); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [12] (Fritz)..
- No. 15 November 2010 issue of **NIEUWS** (Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately)
 - ▶ Antonin Novotny (et al); Plating Hradčany 1 heller brown and 5 heller light green (-).
- The September 2010 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No 182. The articles include
 - ▶ Parcel Post Rates 1 January 1927-October 1944 (Whiteside); A New Postmark Find (Brumby); And Another postmark Find (Thornburn); Paying Import Duty on Goods received from Abroad (Morrell); Detained in France during German Occupation (Kennett); Cholera Station in Ungvár in November 1914 (Kobelbauer); Censorship during the Romanian Occupation 1919-1920 (Kobelbauer)

OBITUARIES

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members:

James Ansell of Wotton-under Edge. James joined the society on 18 May 1979 and died on 10 April 2010. Jim had attended our regional meetings when held in the West Country and contributed to the society journal.

Brian Tupper of Eastbourne joined the society on 12 August 2004 and died on 21 September 2010.

Condolences have been sent to both families.

Jim Horsford On behalf of the society, the Chairman, Yvonne Gren, sent a letter of condolence to Norman Hudson (Chester) on hearing about the death on 7 October 2010 of his partner, Jim Horsford. Although Jim was not a member of the society, he was well known to quite a few members having joined our group visits to several events in the Czech Republic and having provided a railway-themed display for the exhibition at the Czech Embassy. Jim established the Czech & Slovak Railways Group in 1994 and served as its magazine editor until 2008.

**Material for the March Journal should be sent to the
new Editor, Tony Moseley at the following address:-**

**52 Burrows Road, Kingswinford, DY6 8LU. Email:
tonymoseley59@gmail.com**

THE 1944 'ČSR' OVERPRINTS ON FRENCH STAMPS

-Juan E. Page-

I send something more on the revolutionary overprints on French stamps. I will not discuss now the matter of the true origin of the overprints (real or phantasies?). But that is clear is that they were produced after December 1942. You can see the cover reproduced in the file attached to my e-mail, dated 28th October, 1944 and the overprinted stamps appearing on it. They are the values of 10 and 50 cents issued 1st December, 1942 and 6th August, 1942 (text "postes francaises")

From Roy Reader

Thank you for the copy of the illustration of Juan Page's cover. Please note that it is the one already illustrated on page 25 of *Czechout 1/2010* and listed by me as No. 7 on page 48 of my article in *Czechout 2/2010*.

SLAVKOV U BRNA/AUSTERLITZ

We thank Richard Beith for this photograph of the Battle of Austerlitz Memorial



20 Kilometre/12½ miles east of Brno is Slavkov u Brna, better known under its German name of Austerlitz, scene of the 'Battle of the Three Emperors' on 2nd December 1805 in which Napoleon inflicted an annihilating defeat on the allied Russian and Austrian Armies. The armistice negotiations which began immediately after the battle in Austerlitz Castle lead to the Peace of Pressburg/Bratislava.

A road sign-posted to the 'Mohyla Míru' runs west from Slavkov u Brna by way of the little village of Křivonovice which was the headquarters of the Russian and Austrian Armies in 1805, to Prace (6 miles) Church of the Holy Rood from which it is ¾ of a mile south to the Pratecký or Pratzen heights, a low hill which was the scene of the fiercest fighting in the battle. On top of the hill can be seen the 85ft high memorial 'Mohyla Míru', 'Peace Memorial'; 1910-11 an Art Nouveau monument in the form of an ancient Slav tomb commemorating the soldiers who fell in the battle (some 7,000 Frenchmen and 27,000 Austrians and Russians). In the base is the memorial chapel (altar of carrara marble: ossuary: 'whispering vault'). From the hill there is an extensive view of the battlefield to the north. Lower down can be found a small museum with plans, pictures, weapons, uniforms etc., and a souvenir stall, with a snack bar. There is another museum commemorating the battle at Šlapanice 3 miles north-west.

Reference: AA and Baedekers Czech and Slovak Republic Guide 1994

SELECTED PERSONALITIES & BUILDINGS OF WWI

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

When I sorted through my accumulation of Austro-Hungarian field postcards of WWI, I realized I do possess some quite interesting items in respect of WWI personalities. Accompany me in the research of stories behind the cards!

The first two personalities attracted my attention by their non-German names, however coming from the Austrian Army: Browne and Ellison. Such family names I would expect to find in the British army, and not in the Austrian one! The research confirmed this expectation: the families came from Great Britain and Ireland.

The future **General Browne** was born in Switzerland in 1705 into an Irish catholic family. Browne later moved to Austria to serve in the Austrian army. He was one of the most competent officers. His first big effort occurred during War of the Austrian Succession (1740–48), when he successfully defended the Silesian town of Ohlau against the Prussian troops. The Hapsburg Empress Maria Theresia named him commander-in-chief of Austrian forces in Bohemia in 1751. He was awarded with the title of field marshal and imperial count "*Reichsgraf*". Browne was one of the leaders of Austrian forces also in Seven Years War (1756-63). Unfortunately, he was seriously injured at the Battle of Lovosice (1756) and died in Prague only few months later (1757). His name was given to the 36th Infantry regiment with garrison at Mladá Boleslav fighting in WWI (**figure 1**).

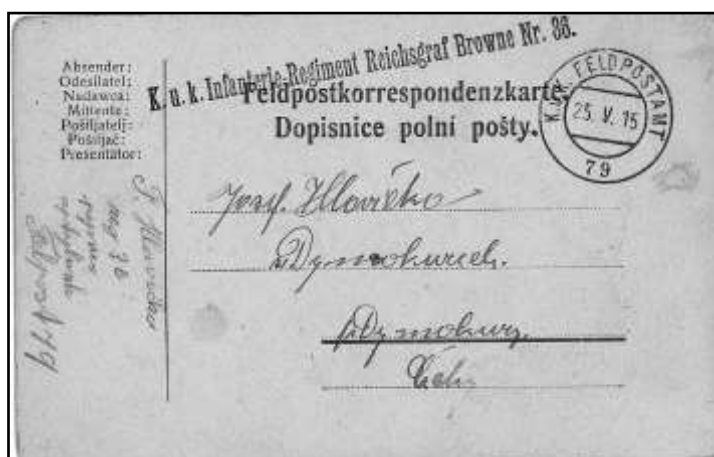


Figure 1 – Field postcard sent by a soldier of the regiment in Mai 1915 via Austro-Hungarian field post office No.79 (serving the 10th Infantry Division in Galicia)

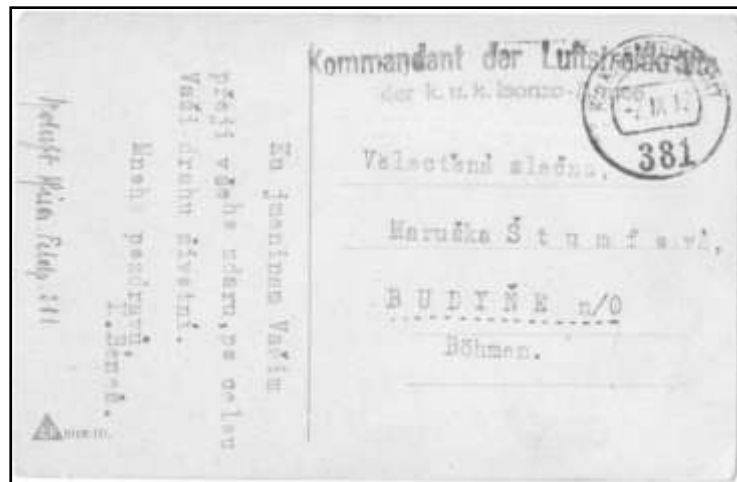
Otto Freiherr Ing. Ellison von Nidlef was born in Austria as a son of Major Ellison von Nidlef in 1868. His family moved from England to Germany about 1800 and later they decided to live in Austria. His father was the first family member to become a member of the nobility. Otto becomes an engineer after graduation at a military technical school. He joined the army and was employed in various engineering positions. In 1911 Ellison was nominated for Engineer Director at Tyrol. At the beginning of WWI, he served as Engineer Director of the Fort of Riva, which was one of the key defense points at the Austro-Italian border.

In 1915 the Ellison's Army Group was founded under the Austrian forces (**figure 2a**). Ellison was a colonel at that time. His unit consisted mainly of volunteers. In 1916 he became commander of the 43rd Landwehr Infantry Brigade (Territorial Army). In 1917 he reached rank of General Major and finally in 1918 he was appointed to the function of Commander of Austro-Hungarian Air Force (**figure 2b**). General Ellison retired in 1919. In 1938 Nazi Germany awarded him, for propaganda reasons, with the rank of (German) Generalleutnant to show the occupied Austrians how they appreciate him. Ellison died in 1947 without any damage to his reputation.



Figure 2a – Field postcard sent by member of 250th Landsturm Company incorporated into Ellison’s Group (Italian front)

Figure 2b – Picture postcard of Supreme Command of Isonzo Air Force (1918) – an Austrian air force troop fighting on Italian battle field



One of the top Austrian officers was **Marshal Oskar Potiorek** (1853-1933). He is one of the few really high officers of Austrian army coming from a non-aristocratic family. He started his military career at a time when the Austrian Empire suffered military defeats from Prussia (1866 War) leading to Austro-Hungarian Confederation. The 1870s were quite peaceful for the country, the decade was crowned with the occupation of Bosnia Herzegovina in 1878. Potiorek spent this time very successfully and he was nominated 3rd Corps Commander in 1897. His career continued with rank of Inspector General of Austrian Army (1911) and Military Governor of Bosnia Herzegovina (1912-14). This was a very high rank with influence not only in military, but also in political and financial matters – Bosnia was officially governed by Austrian Ministry of Finance, but the real power in the country was reserved for its military governor leading the Bosnian (military) authorities, managing all the civil and military affairs: (this is the reason why the Bosnian postage stamps bear the inscription of “*Militärpost*” between 1878-1918, (see figure 3a).



Figure 3a – Bosnian FJI stamp (10 Crowns value, rare) issued under Potiorek’s government & Bosnian stamp of 1917 commemorating the 1914 assassination; because of showing the Archduke’s wife Sophie Chotek, Princess von Hohenberg – she was the first lady on an Austrian stamp – the stamp caused huge political disputes, because Sophie

was not acceptable as the Archduke’s wife by the high society because of its origin from lower nobility (Countess Chotek).

Potiorek was one of the persons accompanying Archduke Franz Ferdinand during his trip to Sarajevo in June 1914, when the Archduke and his wife were killed. This assassination led to World War I. In the conflict, Potiorek achieved the rank of Supreme Commander of Austrian Forces in the Balkans consisting of 2nd, 5th and 6th Austro-Hungarian Armies. He was also Commander of the 6th Austrian Army. Because of very poor results of his offensive against Serbia in Autumn and Winter 1914, he was retired at 1st January, 1915. Thanks to the goodwill of the Emperor, Potiorek became a sponsor of the 102nd Infantry Regiment with a garrison at Benešov (near Prague). The regiment fought on the Serbian battle field during WWI (**figure 3b**).

Figure 3b – Postcard sent by member of the 102nd “Potiorek” regiment during second Austrian offensive against Serbia in September 1914 (FPO 33 served the 9th Inf. Division)



The next interesting person I can illustrate by WWI philatelic material is **Eduard Freiherr von Böhm-Ermolli**. He was born in Italy in 1856, where his father served in the Austrian military forces. Eduard studied at military schools and finally graduated as a cavalry officer (1875). He successfully continued his military service and became a commanding general of the 1st Austro-Hungarian Army in 1912. In 1914 he was named the commander of the 2nd Austro-Hungarian Army fighting in Serbia and Russia (**figure 4a**). At the begin of the war, he was not a very successful commander; Potiorek’s attacks on Serbia finished in December 1914 by a Serbian counter-offensive pushing out the Austrian troops from Serbian territory. In 1915 he beat Serbia and started to focus more on the Russian front. In 1918 Böhm-Ermolli was named a field marshal and after signing of the Brest-Litevsk peace treaty between Russia and Germany/Austro-Hungary he became supreme commander of Austro-Hungarian forces occupying Ukraine (**figure 4b**). He finished the WWI in this capacity. This military action was why the Czechoslovak Legion was pushed out of the Ukraine in 1918, because Böhm-Ermolli’s troops would kill every legionnaire they captured as a deserter, and therefore the Siberia journey of Czechoslovak Legion commenced.



Figure 4a – Letter sent by member of court of justice of the 2nd Army under B.-E. command

The Emperor Franz Joseph I was so satisfied with his service, that he gave Böhm-Ermolli the right to become sponsor of Galicia cavalry regiment “Ullanenregiment von Böhm-Ermolli Nr. 13” (**figure 4c**) in 1913. After the war, Böhm-Ermolli moved to Opava/Troppau in Czechoslovakia. He retired, but in the coming months he attained the rank of General of Czechoslovak Army (the army has never had a rank of field marshal, so this was the highest possible rank he could get). In 1928 Böhm-Ermolli was awarded with rank of Army General – without any service in

Czechoslovak military forces. In 1938 the German military authorities named him as General field marshal of German army. He died in Vienna in 1941 after he became cold during a military parade organized by Nazis. Böhm-Ermolli was the only Czechoslovak General sponsoring a regiment – no other one got such a privilege !

Figure 4b – Postcard sent from occupied Ukraine in 1918 (FPO 423 situated at Odessa)



Figure 4c – Postcard sent in 1917 by a cavalryman serving in his regiment

A colleague of Böhm-Ermolli was **General Borojevič von Bojna** coming from a Serbian aristocratic family living in Croatia (born 1856; figure 5a).

Figure 5a – Rare fieldpostcard sent by Borojevič in 1916, when he commanded 5th Army at Isonzo; he addressed this card to famous Prague stamp dealer Alfons Sternschuss, known under name of Alfons Stach ; the field post office 515 was established only short time before mailing the card



He studied at military schools and participated in the Austrian-Turkish war for Bosnia Herzegovina in 1878 in the rank of lieutenant. Later he married a daughter of a colonel of the Austrian army and executed various functions in the imperial army as well as regional Croatian troops (Croatian Home Defense). Finally, he becomes a Corps Commandant in 1912. When WWI started, Borojevič commanded a 6th Corps for a short time. In Sept. 1914 he was nominated Commander of the 3rd Austro-Hungarian Army (**figure 5b**) fighting on the Eastern Front with Russia. His troops liberated the Fort of Przemysl in 1915. In May 1915 Borojevič became commander of the newly established 5th Army (**figure 5c**) moving to Italian borders to fight with Italy which had just joined the war. He served as commander of the army until August 1917 fighting mainly on the Isonzo Front – during this time more than 10 big battles occurred on the front followed only with minority changes of army positions, but also with the huge quantities of death and injured soldiers on both sides. To prepare the troops for the next step, the 5th Army was divided into 1st and 2nd Isonzo Armies in 1917. This new structure was successful; the Austrian troops overcame the Italian positions and occupied the territory of North Italy and Venetia. At this time, Borojevič served as commander of Gruppe Borojevič integrated into the 1st Isonzo Army (**figure 5d**). This function was his definitive rank during WWI. Borojevič was awarded with field marshal rank in February 1918. After the war he tried to serve in the newly established Yugoslavian army, but was rejected and died in Austria in 1920.



Fig. 5b – Postcard addressed to a soldier serving in 3rd Army under Borojevič’s command only two days before his moving to 5th Army (May 1915)



Fig. 5c – Postcard sent by member of command of 5th Army commanded by Borojevič (August 1915) via field post office 81 (Isonzo)



Figure 5d – Postcard sent by an artillery man serving in Gruppe Borojevič in April 1918 via field post office 369 (occupied Venetia)

The next person I would like to discuss is the **Count of Paar**. The reason is that **Field Marshal Eduard Graf Paar** (1837-1919) became in 1890 sponsor of the famous 2nd Cavalry Regiment originally established in 1673 and consisting mainly of soldiers from Bohemia. The regiment fought in WWI on Eastern / Balkan fronts (**figure 6a**). Paar came from traditional aristocratic family. His "top" function was the General Adjutant to Emperor Franz Joseph I. By the way, this was not the first "Paar" cavalry regiment – the above Böhme-Ermolli's 13th Cavalry Regiment was sponsored by Alois Graf Paar in the period 1898-1913...!



Figure 6a – Postcard sent by member of the cavalry regiment from Romania in 1917

The Paar family originally came from Lombardy, where they acquired a *Parre Estate* near Clusone in the 12th century. The Paars were not only the military commanders, but also early postmasters in Austro-Hungarian Empire. Jan Kryštof of Paar becomes the Postmaster General in Austria (1628; **figure 6b**) by privilege given him by Emperor Ferdinand II. Later, the Paar Family was named the hereditary postmasters of Austria; this title was always given to the oldest man of the family. The privilege lasted until 1722, when it was bought out by Emperor Karl VI, but the Paars continued to manage the postal matters in the Monarchy. The nationalization of the postal services in Austria was finished in 1743 by decree of Empress Maria Theresia giving the Paar Family just the virtuous title of the Postmaster General, but without any real influence on postal operations. After this reform, the Paars become the state employees.



Figure 6b – letter sent from Olomouc in 1713 via a post office controlled by Paar's postal administration

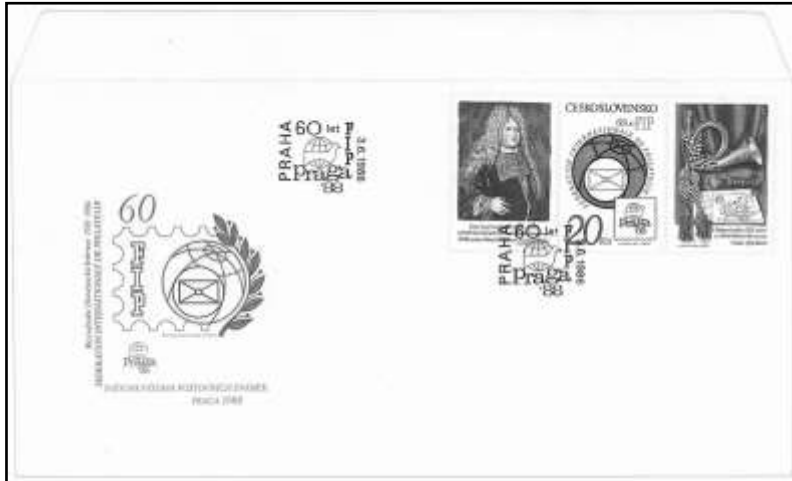


Figure 6c – Czechoslovak FDC of 1986 showing Karl Joseph Count of Paar (1654-1725), when he served as Postmaster General

The prominent position among the Austrian aristocracy was occupied by the **Lichtenstein Family**. The Lichtenstein Castle is situated in Lower Austria; there the family started its top career in 12th century. The Lichtensteins were excellent diplomats and had a good assessment of the parties participating in the wars and which disputes should be supported. This ability nominated them for key partners of many Austrian kings and rulers paying the family with estates for their services.

During their history, the Lichtensteins controlled more than 100 large estates in Austria, Moravia and Silesia. In 1699 / 1712 the family acquired the estates of Vaduz and Schellenberg creating the current Dukedom of Lichtenstein. In 1719 the Dukedom was included in a prominent group of the *Imperial Dukedoms* controlled by Austria. In 1866 the Lichtenstein Dukedom became an independent state, but by signing a partnership treaty with Austria reserved the foreign affairs, military and finance for the Hapsburgs. The same arrangement was applied on postal matters; in period 1850 – 1912 the Austrian stamps were valid in the Dukedom. The co-operation between Lichtenstein and Austria ended in 1920, where the original partnership treaty was cancelled and replaced by a new agreement with Switzerland (in 1921).

Reading this, you will not wonder, that the Lichtenstein Family was sponsor of many Austrian regiments recruiting soldiers from their existing estates in Austria (**figure 7a/7b**). But the troops were under Austrian command and therefore participated in WWI on the German-Austrian side. In contrast to the Hapsburgs, the Lichtensteins survived the Great War defeat and kept their estates in Austria and newly established Czechoslovakia.

Figure 7a – postcard of Lichtenstein's Cavalry Regiment no. 10 fighting in May 1915 in Galicia under the Kövess Army Group



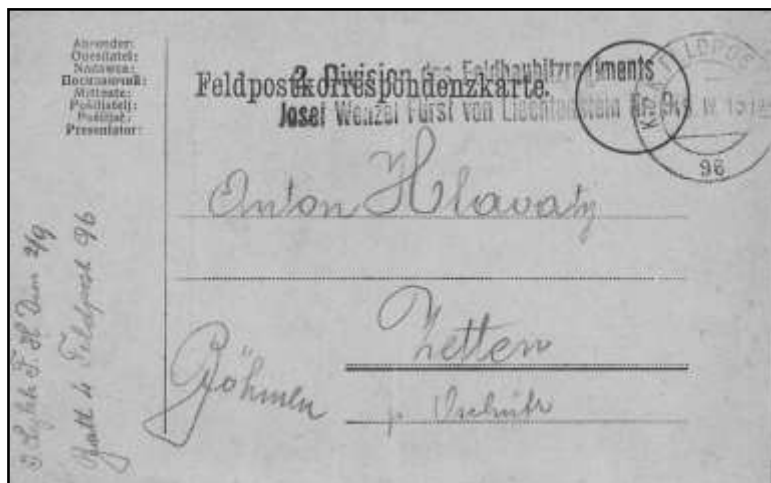
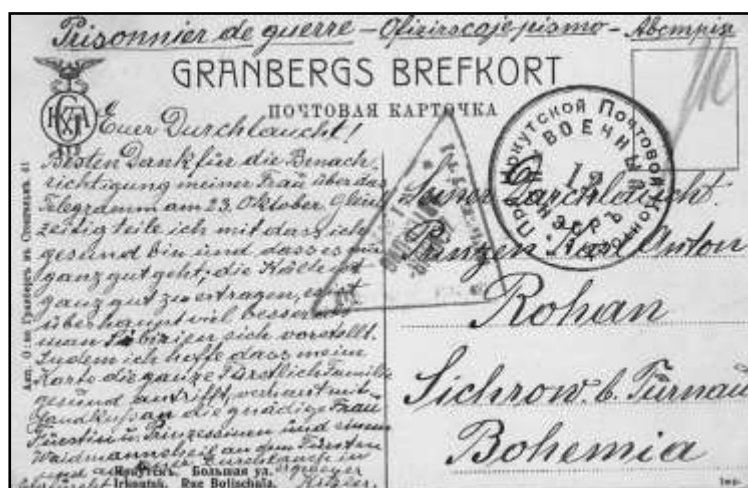


Figure 7b – postcard of 9th Artillery Regiment bearing name of Josef Wenzel I Prince of Lichtenstein (an Austrian Marshal, born in Prague, living 1696-1722)

The next man had an interesting, but inconsistent destiny. **Prince Karl Anton Rohan (figure 8)** was born in 1898 to a famous Rohan Family. The family uses name of Rohan Estate in Brittany, where they had the title “Duke of Brittany” (12th century). In the coming centuries, the family members executed high functions in France (cardinals; relatives of Henry of Navarre, also known as King Henry IV of France 1589-1610). During the history, Rohan family was divided into seven main lines. Some of the Rohan lines were made to leave France after the French Revolution (1789), when they moved to Austria to restore the French Kingdom (lines *Rohan-Guemene* and *Rohan-Rochefort*). The second family line owned large estates in Bohemia (Lysa / Labem , Sychrov etc.).

Prince Rohan was a member of the Rohan-Rochefort line. He was born in Austria and later he served in the army during WWI, but far away from the battlefields (1916-18). After the war, he supported cultural life in the country, he wrote books, poems, published journals etc. His dark side was joining the NSDAP after Nazi’s occupation of Austria (1938) which was much admired by him. After WWII he continued his cultural mission until 1975, when he died in Salzburg.

Figure 8 – Prisoner of war card sent to Prince Karl Anton Rohan living at Sychrov Castle in 1917 from officer’s camp at Irkutsk (Russia); following the polite text, the sender was Prince’s servant or a subordinate person



The last person is **French General Joseph Joffre**. He was born in 1852 in France. After competition at a technical high school, he joined the army and participated in French-German War 1870. He served in French forces in Indo-Chine (1880s). After his return to France he was nominated to high military functions finally reaching the rank of Commander-in-Chief of all the French Army and Chief of the General Staff (1911, **figure 9a**). This position was occupied by General Joffre by 1916, when he was replaced because of heavy French losses suffered in WWI battles, but to make this withdrawal less embarrassing he was awarded with the rank of Marshal of France. He continued his career as a military diplomat serving in French military missions in the USA and Romania (1917-18). In 1918 Joffre became chairman of the Supreme War Council. He died in Paris in 1931. To illustrate the armies Joffre commanded, have a look at the next card showing the key military bodies: infantry, cavalry and air force (**figure 9b**).



Figure 9a – Joffre’s coloured postcard of 1915 with his personal dedication and signature to a friend; this card I bought it in Paris at an old bookshop for a few Euros !

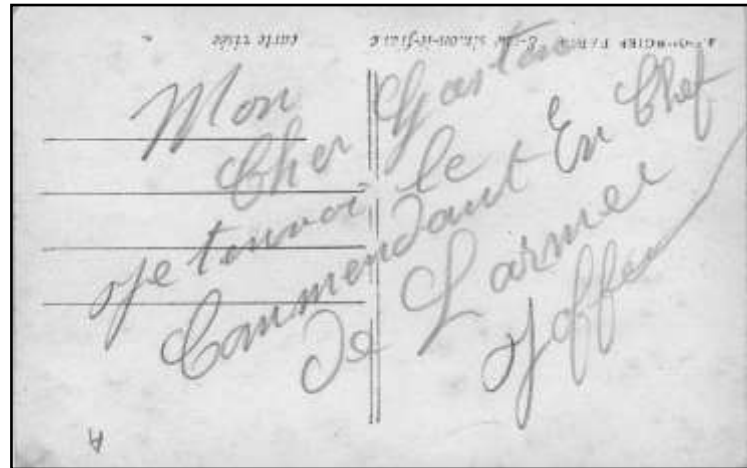


Figure 9b – Postcard showing French 5th Army in 1915

At the end of this article I would like to draw your attention to two interesting Prague buildings. The first of them is the **Governor’s Palace at Prague Castle** occupied by Count Coudenhove-Kallergie. Heinrich Coudenhove-Kallergie was an Austrian diplomat and Emperor’s governor for Bohemia living in the palace. His wife was a Japanese girl, who married Count Heinrich when he served as Austrian diplomat in Tokyo. The following postcard was mailed in 1917 to one of the woman servants of Lady Coudenhove-Kallergie. Because the postcard was insufficiently franked, the addressee paid the minimum postage due amount of 5 Heller for under-payment of 2 Heller of postage (**Figure 10**). The most popular member of the family was Heinrich’s son, Richard Count of Coudenhove-Kallergie, the founder of Pan-Europa peace movement in 1922 and influencing also the European politics after WW2. Among his supporters we find leading European politicians including Czechoslovak President Edward Beneš. The Coudenhove-Kallergie family lived in Prague until 1945, when they moved to Vienna.

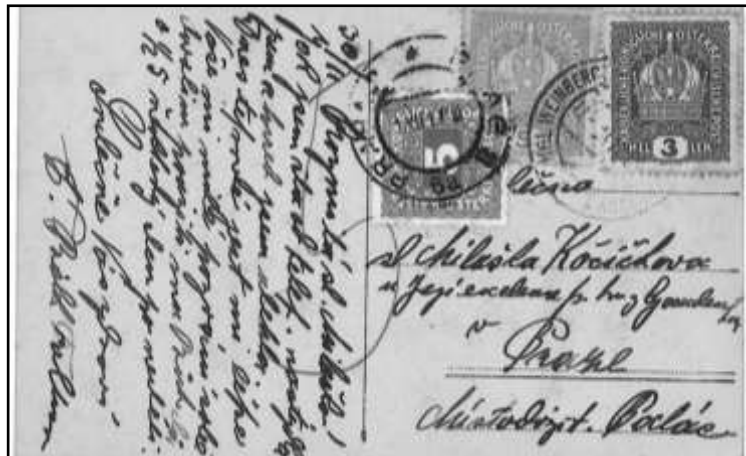


Figure 10 - Postcard of 1917 addressed to Governor's Palace at Prague Castle

The final item is a postcard sent from Switzerland to Prague in 1916. The addressee was a nun living in **St. Gabriel Convent** in Prague – Smíchov (figure 11a). The convent has been constructed in rare “Beuron” architecture style celebrated by Czech souvenir sheet issued in 1999 (figure 11b). Now, the convent is used by Czech Postal Administration and you will find here the headquarters of Union of Czech Philatelists, too.



Figure 11a – postcard addressed to St. Gabriel Convent



Figure 11b – Czech souvenir sheet of 1999 celebrating the building

Figure 11c – Czech postcard with imprinted stamp showing the convent (2005)



I hope you enjoyed the trip to WWI times. As I mentioned earlier, these items have been just selected from my accumulation of WWI covers beside my regular postal history collection. If you want to see my WWI exhibits, visit the virtual stamp exhibition of EXPONET at http://www.japhila.cz/hof/index_exhibitor23.htm .

THE COLLECTORS FAIR PRAGUE 2010

-Ron Hollis-

With my grandson and his partner we departed Gatwick on 2nd September, arriving around 9pm and made our way to the hotel – double booked – so over the road to another hotel for the night. Both hotels had hard beds, it was difficult to sleep and the hotel was more expensive than in the past at £66 a night B&B. Next morning visited my favourite dealer in St. Stephen's Square and found about 20 pieces I wanted, including a very nice propaganda card against Hungarian Claims 1914-1920 the "Trion Treaty". Changed money only 27 to 29 Kč to the pound. Material at least 50% dearer than 2 years ago. That evening we found a very nice National Restaurant round the corner from the hotel, beer 90p a pint – grandson

managed five pints to my one - food excellent. Next morning set out to visit Collectors Fair and arrived at its usual destination – fairground deserted. Back to favourite dealer who put us right, took taxi – thought we would never get there. 700 Kčs to Letňany, Prag 9. Found material scarce and more expensive – I only discovered five pieces. However, on the way an antique dealer supplied me with ten pieces at a very reasonable rate.

Conclusion, not a very good Fair, only 10 Philatelic dealers, three being German, and Mr. Pateman from England. Evening at the restaurant in the Florence area, grandson put away the beer and remarked "This is the Life".

THE HIGHLAND HEROES

-Carl Whitewater, Falkirk-

This interesting question, reply and photograph was published in Mr. Charles Legge's 'Answer to Correspondence' column of the Daily Mail on Tuesday 16th September 2010. We thank both Mr. Legge and the Daily Mail for their kind permission in allowing us to publish this and also the writer of the letter, Mr. Whitewater.



Question: What is the story behind the beautiful granite memorial to the Czech and Slovak soldiers in Arisaig in the Highlands of Scotland?

ARISAIG House, and many other houses in the area, were used as training schools by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II. SOE began in July 1940, when Winston Churchill ordered its head Hugh Dalton to 'set Europe ablaze'.

Dalton commandeered country estates from the Highlands to the New Forest, and agents were trained in the methods of silent killing, how to use explosives, sabotage railways and disguise themselves – even how to get out of a pair of handcuffs using just a piece of thin wire and a diary pencil.

Once this training had finished, volunteers judged suitable for clandestine operations received parachute training at Ringway, near Manchester, then special agent instruction. They were then parachuted behind enemy lines to carry out a secret war against Nazi Germany.

About 300 of these trainees were Czech and Slovak nationals, who had escaped the Nazi invasion, and they were billeted mainly at Traigh House, Camusdarach and Garramore. Morar and Lochailort was the temporary home for other nationalities.

During the 'critical period' of 1941-1943, many of these soldiers were parachuted behind enemy lines and very few survived. Among their many operational successes, however, the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the 'Butcher of Prague' is the best known.

The idea for a permanent memorial was put forward by Paul Millar, honorary consul-general in Edinburgh of the Czech Republic. The memorial, created by noted Czech artist Josef Vajce, depicts a fallen, but not completely deflated, parachute, executed in Czech granite and inscribed: 'In memory of all Czech and Slovak soldiers who trained here in 1941-1943 as SOE agents.'

It was unveiled at a moving ceremony service at 11am on November 11, 2009, when 200 people gathered on the waterfront in Arisaig and, following the two-minute silence, the Hon. Jan Fulik, Deputy Defence Minister of the Czech Republic, gave the opening speech.

Also present were Czech dignitaries and veterans, including Col. (retired) Jaroslav Klemes, one of the last two living Czech parachutists who was dropped into East Bohemia in February 1945, and veterans Czech Army Gen Tomas Sedlacek and Slovak Lt Col Jan Bacik, who'd also trained in Arisaig, and Maj. Gerhard Singer and Sgt Josef Svarc.

The Rt. Hon George Reid, former Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and Lord High Commissioner 2008-2009, unveiled the monument by pulling away the silk parachute draped over it.

FRÝDEK 1



-Original article: Karel Holoubek, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic-
Translated by: Robert J Hill

The office was known in German as Friedeck 1 and is now known as Frýdek-Místek 13

Frýdek-Místek (Polish: Frydek-Mistek; German: Friedeck-Mistek) is a city in the Moravian - Silesian region of the Czech Republic close to the Polish border. It is the administrative centre of Frýdek-Místek district and comprises two formerly independent towns, Frýdek and Místek, divided by the Ostravice River. Frýdek, east of the river, is a part of the historical region of Těšín Silesia.



Modern map with the city in the centre. Frýdek to the east and Místek to the west.

The city of Frýdek in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was in the conflict zone by the end of April 1945 until liberation at the beginning of May.

The aim of the Soviet Army was to maintain intact the manufacturing industry capacity in the immediate area and it was therefore decided that Ostrava (to the north) needed to be circumvented. Therefore whilst one part of the 1st Guards Army of the 4th Ukrainian Front encircled Ostrava from the north, the other brought the conflict to the Frýdek area from the south.

Frýdek was actually liberated twice. Firstly it was liberated on Wednesday, 2nd May during the morning when the forward units of the Red Army entered the city. With their new found freedom the populace showed great joy and celebration, and this event was also celebrated at the Post Office.

The Postmaster at the Frýdek 1 Post Office, Gustav Hejna, applied the overprint to the Protectorate postage stamps with the design of a circle which enclosed the word OSVOBOZENÍ (freedom) and the motif of the Soviet star, then in a second option this was supplemented by the inclusion of the emblem of the Czech lion. The work on the overprints had begun towards the end of April when it became clear that liberation was approaching and the agreement and approval was sought of several people who

were to become members of the *národní výbor* (revolutionary national committee – a sort of interim political management team) in Frýdek. The main Red Army's first priority was to pursue the Germans and they set off after them, however before the remaining 1st Guards Army units arrived to ensure freedom for Frýdek, the 4th German Division SS started to fire heavy artillery. The Germans were planning to retreat from the city as they wanted to head west and surrender to the Americans. The small Soviet unit was no match for the heavy artillery which had to remain in place until support arrived. The following day with reinforcements called in, and the army strengthened by rocket launchers, they forced the German units to flee and for the second time Frýdek breathed a sigh of relief.

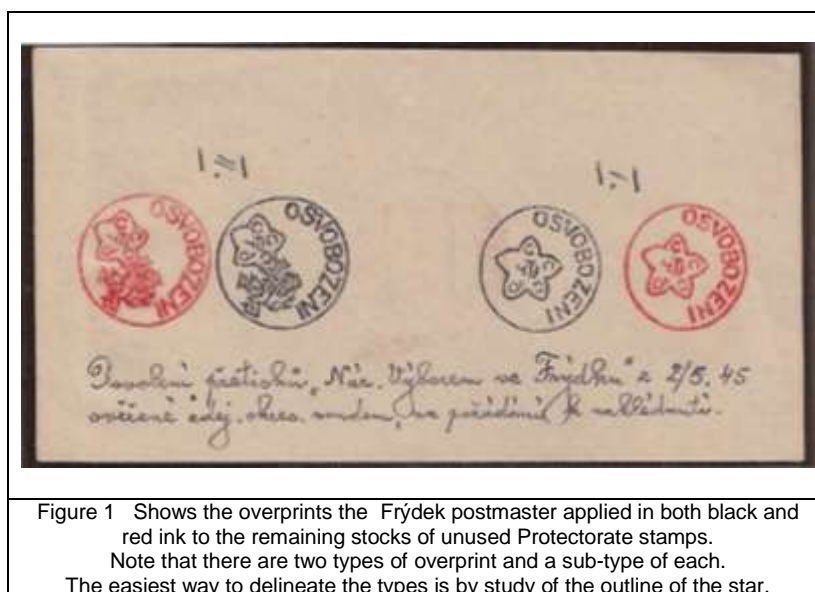


Figure 1 Shows the overprints the Frýdek postmaster applied in both black and red ink to the remaining stocks of unused Protectorate stamps. Note that there are two types of overprint and a sub-type of each. The easiest way to delineate the types is by study of the outline of the star.

There exist various combinations of both overprint types and ink colours on sheets and part sheets. All of the four different overprints were made by V Gojny (Gijny?), during the course of the occupation, who lived in Vsetin. Not only definitive stamps were overprinted, the Saint Vitus' Cathedral set, blank coupons and newspaper stamps also received the same treatment as did letter cards and correspondence cards (postcards). In other words everything of monetary value in the Frýdek 1 post office at that time was overprinted. The author of the overprints also produced envelopes bearing the overprints and then affixed definitive stamps.



Figure 2. Example of the type I & II Overprint side-by-side on 4.20 k-Hitler head stamps



To this act Gustav Hejna said as follows: "..... it was in fact a response to the German hand-stamp *Wir sind frei!* We had to cancel all mail with this slogan for three days at the start of the occupation. So by the time of the second liberation on 4th May all overprints were completed and these were applied by means of a rubber stamp between 2nd and 4th May, 1945, both dates being when Frýdek was liberated. During the first days the canceller had the local German name "Friedeck". It was only later this was popularised by removing letters "e and c" so that there is, even if imprecise, local name FRI DE K. What surprised the author when he was first offered these documents was that after so many years of interest in this field of philately they should come to light. The author does not have the smallest reason to doubt their authenticity and it is now time that the Frýdek overprint is given a top place in the hierarchy of the revolutionary overprints from the year 1945. It also confirms authorship of the overprints to the Postmaster Gustav Hejna as it shows directly acknowledged links to the postal authority and that the original stamps were released from the security of the Post Office at Frýdek 1 for overprinting. Where else could this volume of stamps come from? It is even now known that authorisation was given for some values to be sold through the tobacconist G Lipovčanovi who had about 10 sheets of the 60 h (postcard rate) value and 5 sheets of the 1.20 K (letter up to 20 g rate).



Figure 3. This typewritten document bears testament to the confirmation of the National Committee who condoned & authorised the overprint at the top, whilst below is verification by the District Court of First Instance, being *prima facie* evidence of what happened - not many such legal statements exist when looking at the murky world of liberation overprints. The revenue stamp (3 k) tied by the typing on the document with the court seal and signature of the clerk confirming that there is an original certificate issued by national committee with the date 2nd May, 1945 and that the overprint was at the request of the authority. The signature is illegible, yet entirely adequate - if it had been legible it would be better course. Image reduced to 80% of original.



Type I overprinted stamp making correct rate of 4.20 k (for a registered letter up to 20 g.) on a cover to Kdyně. First day cover with Protectorate period bilingual registration label. Stamp cancelled with Protectorate period canceller with the German name excised from the top arc * FRÝDEK 1 * -2. V. 45 -12 F
To the left is the German language cancel FRIEDECK 1 *** -2. V. 45 -12 g
Image reduced to 80% of original.

	
<p>Three type II overprinted stamps making the correct rate of 1.20 k (for a letter up to 20 g.) on a cover to Rakovník. A first day cover. Use of German language cancel FRIEDECK 1 *** -2. V. 45 -12 f Image reduced to 80% of original.</p>	<p>Two type II overprinted stamps making the correct rate of 1.20 k (for a letter up to 20 g.) on a cover to nearby Staré Hamry. Sent on the day that Frýdek was liberated for the second time. Use of Protectorate period canceller with the German name excised from the top arc * FRYDEK 1 * -4. V. 45 -18 F Image reduced to 80% of original.</p>



From the Frýdek 3 office is this commercial cover from a metalworking company showing the modified German language canceller. Correct rate paid 1.20 k (for a letter up to 20 g.) Cancelled **FRI DE K 3 20. VIII. 45 -9 b** Image reduced to 80% of original.

Sources:

Original text

Translation

Map

All other illustrations

Karel Holoubek

Robert J Hill moderated by Jan Dobrovolný in Pardubice.

www.mapy.cz

Robert J Hill

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

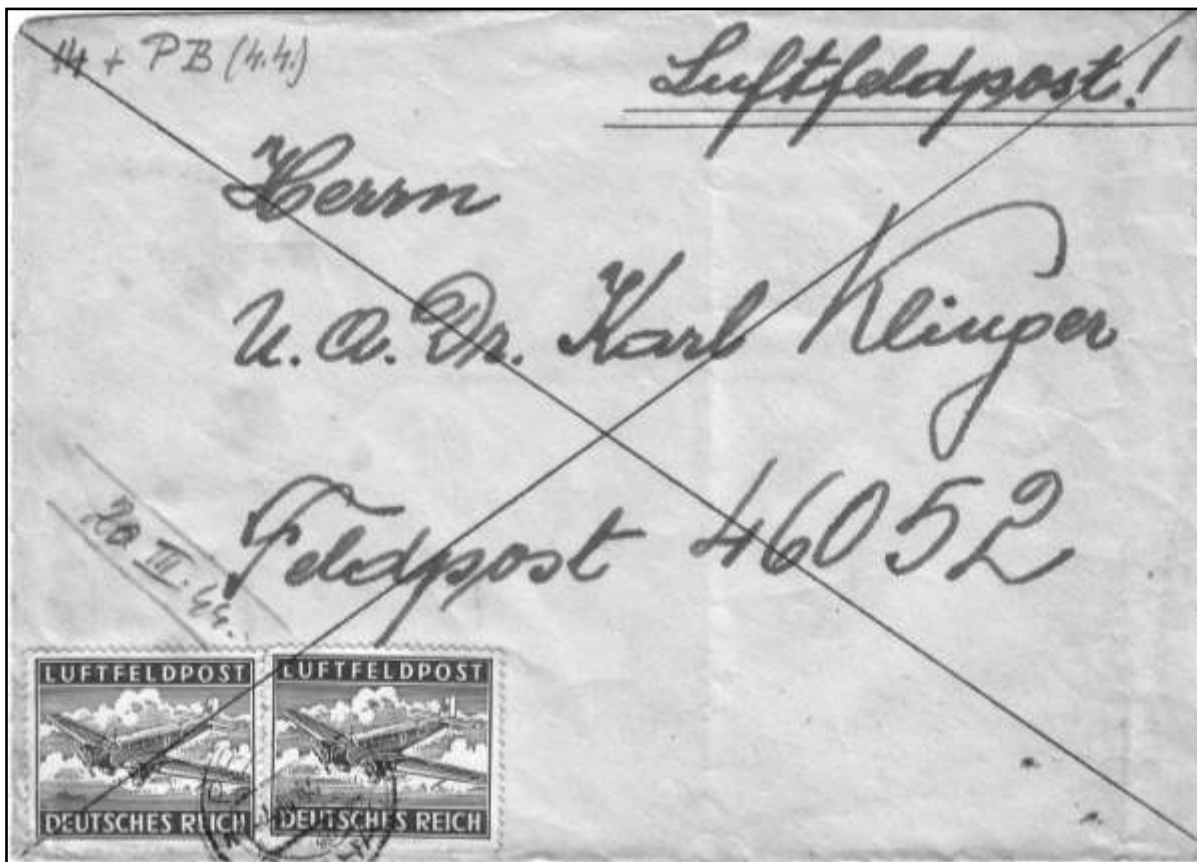
Another selection; at present we have a number outstanding awaiting answers. We would be grateful if members would see if they could reply to some of these queries, as it is a pity to write these off as unknown! It would be helpful if inquirers having covers with further details on the reverse also photocopy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

New Query

From Clyde Ziegler:: Could someone knowledgeable please answer the following :

1. Meaning of top left corner : 14 + PB (SS) - presumably the SS refers to SS Fieldpost?
2. Why are the stamps cancelled by Prag handstamp?
3. Any significance on having 2 Feldpost stamps?
4. Where was Feldpost 46052 located on 20.3.1944?

The reverse has the sender's name and address – Abs. Jiri Klinger, Prmp VIII, Priesse Dr. Long.T.81.20p



(Illustration enlarged to show detail)

NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

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

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

Czech Republic

15 September 2010 The Beauty of Flowers – Definitive series



Designer: Anna Khunová **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD in sheets of 100

Designs: 25 Kč – an iris bloom with its Czech name.
30 Kč – a tulip bloom with its Czech name

There were no official FDCs issued.

29 September 2010 The Beauty of Flowers – Definitive series



Details as above for the iris and tulip. Design: an anemone in flower. No official FDC issued.

29 September 2010

Personalities



Designer: Vladimír Novák **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD in sheets of 50. FDCs printed DS. **Designs:** portraits of a) Adolf Branald and b) Karel Zeman

10Kč – Adolf Branald (1910 – 2008) prose writer, playwright and author of children's books. FDC printed in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is an illustration from his book 'Dědeček automobil'.

12Kč – Karel Zeman (1910 – 1989) film director, graphic designer, puppeteer, animator and advertising designer. FDC printed in black with commemorative Ostroměř

cancel. The cachet design is a pastiche of his works.

29 September 2010

Postal Museum



Designer: Prof Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** multicoloured offset with black linear drawing in sheets of 35.

Design: oval metal postal shield with emblem of the Austrian postal administration with the Habsburg eagle and post horn from about 1870. Around the shield are postal elves holding a post horn, envelope and hand cancel. FDC: printed DS in brown with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a post carriage, a postilion, postal elves with envelopes and a dog running alongside. The stamp has the non-value indicator 'A' which corresponds to the inland rate for a standard letter to 50g weight, currently 10Kč. The issue commemorates the first issue of Austrian

stamps of 1850. These had the state emblem framed by laurel and oak leaves and a tablet to show the value.

20 October 2010

Technical Monuments – Bridges



Designer: Jan Ungrád **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50

Designs: 10Kč: the Mariánský Bridge, Ústí nad Labem. This distinctive and controversial 70m high bridge was built between 1993-1998 from designs by

Roman Koucký Studios. Steel cables suspend the 170m long bridge built under the Mariánská Rock to combine the three city districts. FDC: printed DS in dark blue with commemorative Ústí nad Labem cancel. The cachet drawing shows a detail of one of the anchorage points of a cable.

12Kč: the Stone (or Stag) Bridge, Písek. This is the oldest surviving stone bridge in Bohemia. Although its exact date is unknown the style is Gothic. It was mentioned in an order of 1348 by Charles IV to collect taxes for its maintenance. Towers originally stood at either end but one was destroyed by a flood in 1768 and the other became unsafe and taken down in 1825. Copies of 18th century sculptures decorate the six span, 111m long bridge. FDC: printed RD in grey with commemorative Písek cancel. Cachet drawing represents the Baroque statue of St John of Nepomuk, which stands on the bridge.

A booklet for each denomination was issued a) 5 x 10kč; b) 5 x 12 Kč. The cover of each has the issued stamp with text and the reverse has information in Czech about the bridge with a reproduction of the FDC cachet drawing.

20 October 2010

Crafts: Historic Stoves



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

Designs: 10Kč – Art Nouveau stove (1920) from south Moravia now in the Troubky-Zdislavice Museum. The glazed tiles are decorated with floral motives with the cast iron decorative door part of the overall design. FDC: printed DS in ochre with commemorative Zdounky cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a tiler completing a stove.

20Kč – the Art Deco stove (1939) from the chateau at Nové Město nad Metují designed by Helena Johnová. At this time most stoves were enamelled sheet iron and only a few brick stoves with glazed

tiles were commissioned. FDC: printed DS in dark green with commemorative Nové Město nad Metují cancel. The cachet drawing shows a workman fixing tiles to a stove.

A booklet for each denomination was issued a) 5 x 10kč; b) 5 x 12 Kč. The cover of each has the issued stamp with text and the reverse has information about the stove with a reproduction of the FDC cachet drawing.

20 October 2010

Čtyřlístek – Myšpulín



Designer: Jasroslav Němeček **Printing:** multicoloured offset in booklets of 10 self-adhesive stamps.

Design: the tomcat Myšpulín with one of his inventions. On the left inner page of the booklet is a short text in Czech by the author of the comic series Čtyřlístek (Four Leaf Clover) with a security hologram above and the four friends. The back and front covers show the four friends underwater delivering mail to an octopus. FDC: printed multicoloured offset with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design shows Myšpulín sitting in a 'walking' armchair pulling a cart of postal packages with the castle Bezzub in Třeskopský in the background. The stamps have an 'A' non value indicator face value – the price of an ordinary inland letter to 50g currently 10Kč.

10 November 2010

Works of Art on Stamps



Designers and Engravers: from original works of art – Miloš Ondráček (24 Kč); Václav Fajt (26 Kč) and Martin Srb (30Kč) **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4.

Designs: 24Kč – Paris and Helena (c 1672) by Karel Škréta (1610 – 1674) now in the National Gallery, Prague. He lived in Prague from 1638 and became a popular local artist with a large studio employing a number of apprentices and journeymen painters. His works became more widely known with portraits, drawings, illustrations and altar paintings in a number of Prague churches. **FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from Škréta's work 'Bohemia glorified by History and Poetry.'

26Kč – Piskaři (Sand Bargemen) 1910 by Miloš Jiránek (1875 – 1911) to be seen in the Moravian Gallery, Brno. He was also known as Václav Zedník, a writer, translator, art reviewer and painter. He was influenced by impressionism. **FDC:** printed DS in dark brown with commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet drawing is from a self portrait of the artist.

30Kč: - Jaro (Spring) 1912 by Karel Špillar (1871 – 1939) now in the National Gallery, Prague. Špillar was a painter, graphic artist, teacher and a member of the Mánes Union of Fine Arts. His best known work is his decoration of the Municipal House in Prague and the painting in Smetana's Hall representing an allegory of Music, Dance, Poetry and Drama (1910) in the Art Nouveau style. **FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from his work 'Lady Wearing a Green Hat.'

10 November 2010

Christmas – Žlutice Hymn Book



Designer: Prof Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Bedřich Housa **Printing:** multi coloured offset in sheets of 50.

Design: The Nativity from the Žlutice Hymn Book. This is a rare 1558 Renaissance parchment folio of 471 sheets of Czech Utraquist liturgical texts for services with hymns decorated with paintings. It was ordered by Žlutice town councillors for the local brotherhood and funded by donations from townspeople, guilds and noblemen. The illuminations were by Fabián Puléř of Ústí nad

Labem showing scenes from the Old and New Testaments and life of the townspeople. The book is part of the collection of the Museum of Czech Literature, Prague. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Žlutice cancel. The cachet drawing is from the book showing a couple kneeling at prayer.

Postal Stationery

Official Commemorative Post Cards

15 September 2010 - National Philatelic Exhibition Dobříš 2010. Designers: L Krejčík and O Pošmurný **Printing:** coloured offset **Design:** imprinted NVI 'A' stamp from a poster by A Mucha 'Salon des Cent: 20th Exhibition' Left portion of the card shows the chateau Dobříš where the event was held from 16 –19 September 2010 and texts in Czech. Retail price 15Kč.

15 September 2010 – International Astronautical Congress IAC 2010. Designers: J Cacka and P Sivko **Printing:** coloured offset **Design:** imprinted NVI 'A' stamp with a night sky of stars and shooting comet with tail. The left portion gives details of the event in Czech and English with an astronaut in a space suit with the Czech flag on his right arm. Retail price 15Kč.

Post Card for Promotional Use

15 September 2010 – Historic Post Coach. Printing: coloured offset **Design:** imprinted NVI 'E' value showing an historic post coach on Charles Bridge. 'E' value is the basic rate for an ordinary letter to 20g to European countries currently 20Kč. A security hologram is to left of the imprint and the logo of the Czech Post. The left portion of the card is blank. Retail price 21Kč.

Picture Post Card

20 October 2010 – Myšpulín. Designer: Jaroslav Němeček **Printing:** multicoloured offset **Design:** imprinted NVI 'A' stamp with a portrait of Fifinka. The picture side shows the four friends flying in a red 'plane-car' over their snow covered village of Třeskopský and a reproduction of the NVI 'A' stamp issued on 20 October 2010. Retail price 12Kč. This is the final card in the Čtyřlístek series.

Republic of Slovakia

Unless otherwise stated FDCs are printed by TAB. sro, Bratislava.

27 July 2010

2010 - Year of Christian Culture in Slovakia



Designer: Karol Felix **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** DS with RD in sheets of 5 stamps and 5 labels. (top row of sheet - stamp, label, stamp, label, stamp; lower row – label, stamp, label, stamp, label)

Designs: stamps – haloed head with name in Cyrillic script of a) St Gorazd (upper row of sheet) and b) St Clement (lower row of sheet).

Labels – haloed full length portrait of a) St Cyril b) St Methodius (top row) c) St Sava, d) St Angelár and e) St Naum (lower row). The lower margin of the sheet has text in Slovak '2010 Year of Christian Culture in Slovakia'. These saints were all followers and close assistants to Sts Cyril and Methodius. FDCs: printed DS with commemorative Močenok cancel (St Gorazd) and Nitra cancel (St Clement). St Gorazd was probably born in the Great Moravian Court south of Nitra and educated in one of the monastery schools. His name, of Slavic origin, is interpreted as 'a talkative person'. He was an assistant to Methodius who named him as his successor. It is said that he was the author of the biography of St Methodius written in the old Slavic language.

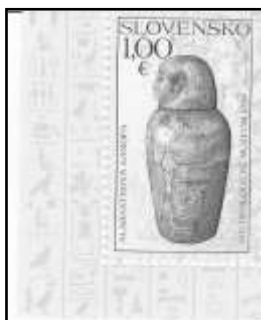
St Clement was one of the assistants to Constantine and Methodius, making the journey to Rome with them where he was ordained as a priest. On his return to Greater Moravia he spent his time in teaching and pastoral work. After the death of Methodius when his followers were persecuted Clement journeyed along the Danube toward Belgrade. Eventually he settled in Ohridm, Macedonia and became the first Slavic bishop in Bulgaria. He died in 916AD.

17 September 2010 Topol'čany Castle 70th Anniversary of the State Geological Institute


Designer: Igor Benca **Engraver:** L'ubomír Žálec (FDC cachet only). **Printing:** offset – Heidelberg Speedmaster in sheets of 8 se tenant stamps and labels with decorative right hand margin.

Design: stamp - the ruined castle of Topol'čany. The ruins date back to the 13th century and at some time the fortification was owned by Mathias Czak. There were many additions to the castle

and defences throughout the centuries. **Labels** – se tenant – the figure 70 with the logo of the Geological Institute inside the '0'. b) margin – a geological map of Slovakia with text. FDC: printed DS in grey with commemorative Topol'čany cancel. The cachet drawing is an aerial view of the castle with its defence walls as it may have looked in earlier times.

8 October 2010 Joint Issue with Arab Republic of Egypt – Canopic Jars


Designer: Karol Felix **Engraver:** František Horniak **Printing:** DS + offset in sheets of 8.

Design: one of the four alabaster canopic jars from the Archaeological National Museum, Bratislava. The sheet border is a pattern of hieroglyphs. Canopic jars were vessels used in Ancient Egypt to store the internal organs of the dead before mummification. Different organs were stored in a set of four jars. These could be made of natural or man-made materials and had several distinct lids according to the age of production. The Egyptian Museum, Cairo has the most complete collection of these jars dating back to c2500BC. The set of four jars in Bratislava were part of the private collection of Dr Daniel Schimko donated to a Slovak Protestant High School in the 19th century. Text on the jars suggest the

body parts belonged to a King's scribe called Kenamon from the New Kingdom era. FDC: printed offset with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design shows several hieroglyphs.

15 October 2010
Nature Protection – Muránska Plain


Designer: Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik

Printing: DS + offset in sheets of four stamps plus two labels on a decorative surround.

Design: The sheet shows the typical Plain landscape with a rocky outcrop and a butterfly and beetle with two flowering plants typical of the area.

Labels: *Canus lupus* (wolf) at left and *Ursus arctos* (brown bear) at right – both above stamps.

Stamps: *Primula Auricula*. This is one of seven *Primula* species found in Slovakia. It grows in limestone areas in rock fissures, flowering in early Spring and is a protected species. FDC: printed DS in grey with commemorative Muraň cancel. The cachet drawing shows a *Primula auricula* in flower.

Daphne arbuscula which is probably unique to Slovakia and found only in a small area of the limestone Plain. It has become the symbol of the Muránska Plain National Park as it is so rare and is on the Red List of Endangered Species. The shrub is 10 – 30cm tall and produces fragrant white or pink flowers during April to June. FDC: printed DS in grey-green with commemorative Muraň cancel. The cachet drawing shows a shrub in flower.