



CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

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Editor: Mark Wilson

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NOTES

The Editorial Team sends best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Change in the Editor's Email Address

Please direct all email for *Czechout* or its editor to this special new address: czechout@knihtisk.org.

Joint Service Announcement by The CPSGB and The Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Because of the complexity and cost of moving funds between currencies and across national borders, the two societies have agreed to collect and forward membership fees from members of either society residing in the United Kingdom or the United States.

Members of the CPSGB residing in the US may send checks for CPSGB subscription payments in US funds drawn on US banks made out to the **SCP** to the SCP Treasurer:

Marisa Galitz, 1430 Brickell Bay Dr., #907, Miami, Florida 33131

Telephone 1-786-228-6805; e-mail mmgalitz@gmail.com.

Members of the SCP residing in the UK may send cheques for SCP dues payments in UK funds drawn on UK banks made out to **CPSGB** to the CPSGB Treasurer:

Mrs. Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW

Telephone 0113 260 1978; email whyareuu@talktalk.net.

In addition, members of both societies may now pay both membership fees in a single payment from their home country as described above. If you are not a member of both societies, why not double your fun and join both? The two societies' journals have little duplication in their articles and contents.

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

My home is seven time zones and thousands of miles west of London. As I write this first editorial for *Czechout* I see through my window not green British hills but rather the grey and very dry moonscape-like mountains of Arizona. In short, your new editor's daily life differs considerably from that of most *Czechout* readers. For that reason, if for no other, a few words of introduction are needed.



I spent the first half of my professional career in academia as a university professor and college dean, and until I retired in 2007 spent the second half as Chief Scientist and Head of Research and Development for a computer software firm. I have visited the United Kingdom several times while attending international meetings at the British Library facilities in London and Boston Spa. I also carried out the research for my PhD in Belize, the former Crown Colony of British Honduras. Those experiences represent the entirety of my encounter with British culture and customs. In time, I hope to be able to expand upon that experience and meet some of you should once again I have the opportunity to revisit Britain.

I became enchanted by stamps and a collector of them rather late in life, in point of fact, just little more than a decade ago. Perhaps that is why I focused upon a single interest so quickly: the effects of production and printing upon the typographic stamps issued during the early years of the first Czechoslovak republic. One of my two websites, www.knihtisk.org, devotes itself to that topic; the other, www.cpslib.org, provides illustrations of all Czech stamps and translations of their inscriptions.

My heritage is neither Czech nor Slovak, but I soon learned that most of the interesting bits of information about these stamps were to be found in the Czech philatelic literature. I taught myself, after a fashion, to read the Czech and Slovak languages. Doing so led me to publish some of my translations in American philatelic journals, which in turn led to another discovery: I enjoyed writing about stamps as much as I did collecting them. Thus, here I am, your desert-dwelling editor.

The very first act of my editorial career must be to call attention to all of the members of the Committee – and especially to Tony Moseley, our retiring editor – who offered so much help in putting together this issue of *Czechout*. Without that support and unflinching enthusiasm, this issue should never have gotten to press. Thank you, one and all.

My second must be to explain to *Czechout's* readers that they may encounter from time to time odd lapses of grammar and punctuation. These lapses, in the words of George Bernard Shaw, are because the United Kingdom and the United States are two countries separated by a common language. I shall do my best to meet British standards, as enforced by my word processing application, but you should expect to wince every so often at what appears to be an odd turn of phrase or peculiar instance of punctuation when I accidentally lapse back into my native American English.

And finally, I must state one the truisms of life for philatelic journals. *Czechout* is our journal, meant to report events and facts important to us and to our hobby. *Czechout* cannot and will not survive unless its readers participate in its success. *Czechout's* content originates with its readers, without whose articles, letters, and comments there can be no journal.

At the moment, the supply of material for publication is nil. *Czechout* is living hand-to-mouth. So I ask every reader to reflect upon their own philatelic experience and offer to share with other members of the Society the bits and pieces of our hobby that have provided satisfaction and joy; please contribute your articles and illustrations. If composition is not your greatest skill, worry not: the Committee and I will work to present your contribution in the best light possible. Submit your efforts by mail to my address as listed on the previous page or via email to czechout@knihtisk.org, and please, do so soon: our next issue requires your input.

Robert Kingsley

It is with sincere regret that we inform members that one of our past Chairman and Life Member who joined the Society in 1966 passed away on Friday 15 November. He will be much missed and a formal obituary will be published in the March issue of *Czechout*.

Monograph 25, *Compendium of 1944-1945 Liberation Overprints*, by Karel Houlobek translated by Bob Hill

My apologies to those members who in April ordered Monograph 25. I found the final stages of editing and printing took a lot longer than I had envisaged, but at last I have now distributed it together with its accompanying CD containing the full text in colour.

Because of the delays, the members' discount period has been extended until the end of April 2013. The member's launch price in the UK is £19 including p&p. For members abroad, inclusive costs are £21 (€26, US\$33) for Europe or £24 (US\$38) elsewhere. These prices represent a particular bargain as they were set before the full impact of April's postal rises were known, especially those for sending printed matter abroad.

Rex Dixon, Publications Officer.

Auction Update from Peter Williams

As observant members will have already noticed, the auction is back for January 2013. I will also be holding a room auction at Worthing where postal bids will be accepted – details in the next *Czechout*. The January auction has a number of new items, in particular from our own Yvonne Gren and further items from Chris Dent's estate.

Yvonne has streamlined her collecting interests. The auction includes a number of her exhibits. Those members who have seen them already know the quality of Yvonne's material and write ups. For those of you who have not, you have a treat to look forward to. I have already seen an expertised Austrian 10k Pošta overprint, with a catalogue value of at least £500 in the latest SG catalogue. There are many other gems throughout for modest budgets. Chris Dent's collecting interests were very wide as those members who have successfully bid for the first items have already seen. I have selected a number of choice items and collections for January, but it is clear that the banana box of covers will have to wait until Worthing. I have decided to offer pre-war covers and post-war covers with one price for pre-war covers and a lower price for post-war covers in addition to the 100 lot auction at Worthing. I hope to exceed the previous record of 50% lots sold at Lewes. As always, if there is an item or area that you are particularly interested in, I am happy to provide scans or further descriptions to assist your bidding experience. (That's the end of the customer service speak.)

Going through the auction lots reminds me of the wide area of stamp issuing territories covered by our Society. Other societies have auctions that cover areas that overlap the past and present-day Czech Republic and Slovakia, which members may be aware of, if not already members. Which leads onto the next article

Austrian Society Auction

Member Keith Brandon has been in touch, wearing his other hat: Hon Auctioneer of the Austrian Philatelic Society. He advises that their next auction (no. 110) includes a very high proportion of Czechoslovak-related material. Some 120 of the 500 lots are from pre-1918 Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia when they were part of Austro-Hungary. Highlights are a consignment of Bohemia / Moravia railway TPOs and a highest-quality collection of Silesian postal history, broken down into individual items. There are a few post-1918 items as well.

The whole auction is on the APS website and all lots (except mint stamps) are illustrated there. Go to www.austrianphilately.com and click on "current postal auction". (You will probably need to refresh your browser to bring up the latest Auction). Bidding is restricted to APS members, and there is a button at the top of the list for membership details. Keith reckons that collectors of Czechoslovak fore-runners will find that this one auction alone is worth the membership fee! The auction closes on 18 January 2013.

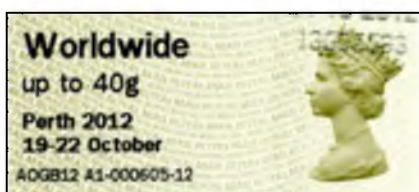
PERTH 2012 Report from Richard Beith

PERTH 2012, the ABPS (Association of British Philatelic Societies) National Exhibition was held at the Dewar Centre, Perth, from 19-20 October 2012. It was very impressive with over 300 frames of competitive material. There was a strong Scandinavian input and an international jury. Eleven Large Gold medals were awarded plus no less than 26 Gold Medals.

Exhibits dealing with Czech and Slovak themes were limited to one Open Class exhibit submitted by myself; perhaps CPSGB members were busy in the Netherlands at the POSTEX 2012 exhibition in Apeldoorn which coincided with PERTH 2012. However, I was delighted that Colin and Pat Spong were able to attend and enjoy themselves. I showed five frames on *The Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile in Great Britain from 1940* and was delighted to receive a Gold Medal. I was encouraged to consider extending this to eight frames in the future! The Dewar Centre, so-named because it was built on the site of Dewar's whisky-bottling plant (!) has a good reputation for catering and an international audience enjoyed an Awards Dinner of high quality.

From Saturday evening the centre of interest moved to the Queens Hotel in Perth, for the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The highlight of the Congress was the *Signing of the Roll* in which new RDPs add their names to a list which starts with King George the Fifth. This ceremony was held in Perth's historic St John's Kirk, where John Knox preached in May 1559 adding impetus to the Reformation in Scotland. Congress was delighted that Councillor Liz Grant, Provost (Mayor) of the City of Perth presided. She was dressed in her full robes of crimson and ermine, preceded by the City Piper and followed by the High Constables of Perth in their top hats and tails. The four new signatories were James P Gough of California, Dr Robin D Gwynn of New Zealand, Patrick Maselis of Belgium and, from the United Kingdom, Michael R Sefi, the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

Congress always includes a number of lectures given by known philatelists and one annual feature is the Kay Goodman Memorial Lecture in honour of the memory of a former Chairman and former Life President of CPSGB. The 2012 lecture



Perth Post and Go Overprint

was given by Douglas N Muir FRPSL, Curator of Philately at the British Postal Museum & Archive. His topic was 100% Czechoslovakian: *Returned from Czechoslovakia*, a fascinating study of those labels inscribed *unknown*, *return to sender*, etc, in a variety of languages. He covered all periods from Austro-Hungarian Forerunners to Post WWII. I gave the vote of thanks to Douglas and he gave *Czechout* permission to reprint his lecture. All speakers received a bottle of *Famous Grouse* as a thank you, lesser mortals received miniatures! The success of both linked events is a tribute to the strength of philately in Scotland.

Richard mailed his report franked with a Post and Go commemorative Perth 2012 overprint - Editor.



View of the exhibition hall at POSTEX 2012.
Visible are 63 dealer tables and some 661 frames.
CPSGB members gather at member Mr Sobotka's table.

POSTEX 2012 report from Derek Walker

The Dutch Vereniging voor Tsechoslowakije Filatelie, celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary, gave an exhibition of Czech and Slovak philately within the POSTEX Exhibition in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, from 19 to 21 October. Members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, led by Chairman Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, FRPSL, also contributed, as did the German society Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei with their President, Mr Hartmut Liebermann, and the Hungarian society Mábóosz Cseh és Szlovák Szekciója headed by their President Dr György Lövei. Mr Hans van Dooremalen, President of the Dutch society, organised the exhibition.

The Czech and Slovak mini-exhibition contained 80 frames covering a wide range of philatelic displays. Every display, many already awarded medals and honours at previous international exhibitions, met the highest standards. Our member Wim Tukker served as an apprentice judge. The Society also wishes to express its thanks to Rex Dixon for acting as Commissioner for the exhibition. Hans and his team made an excellent job of organizing the Dutch Society's extremely varied display – insuring something for everyone. From the putting up of the exhibits until their take down, the well thought out arrangements worked very well. Members manned the Society's table, well stocked with literature, throughout the exhibition.

We all stayed in the same hotel in Apeldoorn, so were able to immerse ourselves in Czech and Slovak philately for our entire stay, from breakfast in the morning to a drink in the bar in the late evening. When we were not at the exhibition, Hans had arranged a full programme, including a meal in a local Chinese restaurant. On Saturday, the Dutch Society held an auction with 182 lots, most of which found buyers. The Society's dinner at an Asian restaurant followed that event. The hospitality received from the Dutch Society was outstanding. Our thanks go to them as well as to the members of our Society who acted as chauffeurs.

The catalogue contained three articles of interest to Czech collectors: *Alfons Mucha, 25 Years of Czech Philately*, and a study of newly discovered Hradčany printing form arrangements. If any of our members in the Netherlands would like to translate these articles our Editor would be most appreciative.

Members' displays:

- Lindy Bosworth *Modern Slovakia*
- Tony Bosworth *1912 Sokol Meeting, Prague*
- Rex Dixon *B & M: Internal Postal Rates*
- Gerhard Hanacek *Theresienstadt 1941-1945*
- Reg Housell *Allegorical Issues 1920-1925*
- Hartmut Liebermann *Die Nachkriegsstempel Böhmens und Mährens 1945 ff*
- Colin Spong *Slovak Cancellations in the Austro-Hungarian Period*
- Garth Taylor *Postal History of Brno*
- Wim Tukker *21 Filatelistendag Karlsbad*
- Yvonne Wheatley *The First Anniversary of Czechoslovakia / The Legionnaires Set 1919*



Garth Taylor with commemorative plate award.



CPSGB with members of the Dutch Society. From left to right:
Tony Bosworth, György Lövei, Leo van Veghel,
José van Gelderen, Mathieu Jonkergouw, Lindy Bosworth,
Rex Dixon, Yvonne Wheatley, Hartmut Liebermann,
Hans van Dooremalen, Reg Housell, Richard Wheatley.



Meeting of Philatelic Leaders:
President György Lövei - Hungary,
President Hartmut Lieberman - Germany
Chairman Yvonne Wheatley - UK
President Hans van Dooremalen - Netherlands

Garth Taylor's photo by Reg Housell; all others by Derek Walker.

Exchange Meeting

After a most successful meeting in October in Apeldoorn (Holland) and the more recent display to the Society by Wm Tukker from Holland, the suggestion has been floated to make visits like these on a more regular basis.

- It would be ideal if the visit coincided with a stamp bourse/exhibition.
- Travellers would stay in the same hotel but make their own transport arrangements.
- Members would take displays of up to, say 25 pages.
- The idea is at an early stage and those members interested should contact Richard Wheatley with their thoughts on this matter.

Coming In March

Member Kenny Morrison will be showing *Czechoslovakian Airmails* at the 12 March 2013 meeting of the Glasgow Philatelic Society, 7.30pm, Woodside Halls, 26 Glenfarg Street, Glasgow G3. (Contact Robert Gray, t: 0141 587 7892).

I Do Like to be Beside the Sea

And hope you do, too! Come to Worthing for sea views and enjoy Czech philately at the same time. Yvonne Gren looks forward to hearing that you will be coming to our Society Weekend (7-9 June 2013). The hotel will continue to reserve rooms for us for only a little while longer, so don't delay in reserving yours.

Meeting at York Stamp Fair

The Austrian Philatelic Society has invited us to join them for their meeting at York Stamp Fair on 19 January 2013. The theme is *Recent Acquisitions* – obviously, items of mutual interest will be preferred. The meeting starts at 13.00 and will be somewhere upstairs at the Racecourse. Enquire at the organisers' stand at the foot of the staircase for directions.

The New Committee

The observant among you will have noticed that there are new names on our list of Committee members.

Brian Day has decided not to seek re-election. This decision, regrettably, has been prompted by his and his wife Betty's poor health. Brian has served the Society since 1985 when he was elected Vice Chairman and became Chairman in 1987. He has been a valuable Committee member since 1990. He chaired the sub-committee responsible for organizing our most enjoyable fortieth anniversary celebrations as well as providing hospitality at his home for a summer meeting. His monograph, *Czechoslovak Field Post 1918-1921*, published in 2002, was awarded a Vermeil medal at Chester 2002. We thank you, Brian, for all the work you have done for the Society and hope you and Betty may enjoy better health.

Garth Taylor did not wish to seek re-election either. Garth joined the Committee in 2003 and has served in that capacity ever since. He organised a very successful Society Weekend in Leamington Spa in 1999 and with his wife Vivienne, has hosted two summer meetings at their home. He became part of the Editorial Team in 2010 and through his influence changes to the format of *Czechout* are being made. Thank you Garth for everything you have done for the Society.

Lastly as announced in our September *Czechout*, Tony Moseley has stepped down as Editor of *Czechout* but remains a Committee Member. Mark Wilson from USA has taken over the editorship and we look forward to enjoying the results of his hard work in settling into the task of producing our journal. Having elected a member in America to our Committee, the logical step was to increase our ties with Europe. I am delighted, therefore, to announce that Hans van Dooremalen, President of Vereniging voor Tsechoslowakije Filatelie, our sister society in the Netherlands, has joined our Committee.

I look forward to working with all our Committee Members in the year ahead.
Yvonne Wheatley

Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 3 November 2012 at the Czech & Slovak National club, 74 West End Lane, London NW6 at 2.30pm

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, welcomed 16 members to the meeting and added a special welcome to Wim Tukker and Keith Brandon.

Garth Taylor proudly displayed the award he gained for his entry of *Czechoslovak Airmails* at the recent POSTEX 2012 Exhibition in Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

Details of our latest new member, Lester Jenkin of Biggin were announced and his application for membership formally approved.

Rex Dixon announced he had copies of *Monograph No. 25* for sale.

Yvonne introduced our speaker for the afternoon, Wim Tukker from the Netherlands who showed *The Postal History of Karlsbad* – now known as Karlovy Vary. The collection showed the development of the Karlsbad district postal administration. The first half included mail from Karlsbad's three main post offices and the immediate district up until

1918. Later, we were shown material first from 1918-1938, and then from 1938-1945. In his vote of thanks, Garth Taylor expressed the appreciation of all those present for travelling such a long distance to show nearly 300 years of postal history to us. We all recognised the effort made by Wim to translate his display into English and expressed our appreciation for that effort. There being no further business, Yvonne reminded members of the next meeting on 12 January 2013 - Members' Displays, and closed the meeting just after 4 p.m.

Congratulations

Two members received awards at POSTEX 2012. Member Garth Taylor's exhibit *A Study of Routes and Rates of Czechoslovakian Airmails 1922-1939* achieved a Large Vermeil Medal and a special award, a very limited edition plate (photo on page 76), for best airmail exhibit. Garth also received a Vermeil Standard award for his *Postal History of Brno*. Member Reg Hounsell achieved a Gold Standard for *Allegorical Issues 1920-1925*.

The National Exhibition *Stampex* in London 26-29 September 2012 richly rewarded three of our members with very fine medals. For his *Postal Services in the Hapsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900 with special reference to Pozsony and its environs*, Bill Hedley received a Large Gold Medal. For her *Czechoslovakia: The Allegory Issue of 1920 and 1923*, Yvonne Wheatley earned a Gold Medal. Peter Chadwick's *Handstruck Charge Marks of the Uniform Penny Post* won a Large Vermeil Medal.

At the National Exhibition PERTH 2012, member Richard Beith's *Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile in Great Britain from 1940* received a Gold Medal.

In Need of Philatelic Accessories?

The Society has an arrangement with Vera Trinder whereby members receive a trade discount. The discount has been shared equally between the member and the Society. For the service to be of greater benefit, in future the whole of the discount will be enjoyed by the buyer. The scheme has to be operated by the Honorary Treasurer to whom you should send your order. Visit the Vera Trinder website www.vtrinder.co.uk to see what is available.

Merkur Revue

Our member Lubor Kunc is willing to deal with subscriptions for this magazine which is published six times a year in the Czech Republic. The subscription rates for 2013 are as follows: European Members CZK 1010 / € 44 / £32.; Overseas Members CZK 1250 / \$US 79 / £40. Lubor is willing to accept sterling cheques. Please contact him direct at lubor.kunc@seznam.cz. The website for the publication is www.merkur-revue.eu.

Changes to Czechout

Beginning with the March 2013 issue and in celebration of the Society's Diamond Jubilee year, *Czechout* will appear in a new format quite unlike the current single-page edition that has been the practice for such a long time. While the page size will not change (and thus no need to rearrange shelving or storage to accommodate the new format), the new *Czechout* will present itself in book-like form with pages securely fastened in the centre of the publication. Page numbering will shift to independent numbering within each issue rather than sequential numbering across each year's four issues. The Editorial Team is confident that the new format will make reading *Czechout* even more pleasurable. Members are advised to renew their subscriptions immediately to insure receiving their first issue of the new *Czechout*.

One immediate change: the current issue begins an enhancement to Lindy Bosworth's *New Issues* column. In addition to its familiar illustrations and technical details, the column now features expanded background information. Thanks, Lindy!

Prague Pneumatic Post to be Reactivated

The *Prague Daily Monitor* reports in an article copyrighted by the Czech News Agency (ČTK) that the world's only operational pneumatic post has been purchased in Prague by Zdenek Drazil of Windcom. He hopes to make the pneumatic post a tourist attraction and an instrument of education. Mr. Drazil, the *Daily Monitor* reports, bought the system for an undisclosed amount and intends to reactivate the Prague Castle post office terminus of the pneumatic post as a tourist attraction where, he said, "Tourists could inspect it and send a postcard or letter through it". He also expressed hope the pneumatic post could be used in teaching physics to students.

LETTERS & EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Solving Norman Hudson's "Tatra Lake Mystery" in Czechout's September 2012 issue provoked members' memories of times long past.

From Peter Jenkinson:

I read with interest the puzzle put forward by Norman Hudson on page 56 of September's *Czechout* – "The Tatra Lake Mystery" – and his references to descriptions in two catalogues. Looking closely at the lake in the illustration I could not but help notice the aeroplane described variously as a Heinkel HE111C and a Heinkel HE116A.



HE 111C



HE 116A

As a boy I lived through the London blitz and every lad of my age was into aircraft recognition. Whatever the aeroplane is, it is not the Heinkel HE111C. That had two engines, the nose was not so far forward, and the tailplane was different. I offer the thought that it is just an artist's impression of an aircraft - and maybe the rendition of the lake is also.

Editor's note: Google searches resulted in images for both aircraft. The first validates Peter's assertion about the two-engine HE111C. Although the HE116A had four engines, the Heinkel firm built only fourteen of these airframes for Germany to put to use on the Japanese mail run. The only image found of it is not detailed enough to compare against the stamp. Anyone else?

From Henning Qvale:

I also recognised the obvious similarity between this Slovakian stamp and lake Morskie Oko in Poland. Some forty years ago (!) as a student in geology I happened to participate in an excursion in the Tatry area and we "climbed" Rysy, starting out from the lake. I can actually point out on the stamp part of the route we followed and so confirm that it really is Morskie Oko and Rysy that are shown. So, the catalogue is in my opinion quite correct. Since my photos from that trip were not digitised, I instead Googled the lake's name and one of the first images (of the more than 600,000!) that came up was exactly the same view as on the stamp. It is enclosed for comparison.



Lake Morskie Oko and Mt Rysy.

Abstracts of Publications - Colin W Spong -

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

The Winter 2012 issue of **Austria** No.180.

Stamps of the 1st Republic [Part 2] 1925-1933 (-); A Franking from 5131 Franking (Brandon); Your Holiday Postcard (Boyer); Gustav Klimt's 150th Anniversary: 14 July 2012 (-); The Gulden-Krone Currency Change in 1900 Bosnia (Matthijssen & Weber).

The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter Autumn 2012.

Conserving the Mail Rail Trains (Bell); Stamp Artwork Project - Phase II-1975-1980 (Devereux); Getting our Collections ready to move (Dafer & Harper); Put your Stamp on the New Museum Exhibition Space (Richmond); Memories of a Boy Messenger (Miller); A Passion for Postcards (Atkins); McDonald Gill 1884-1947: Mapmaker & Designer (Harnett).

The Summer 2012 issue of **The Czechoslovak Specialist**, Vol 74. No.3. Whole No.629

Lidice in Czechoslovak Philately (Rhoades); Smutek Česka Republika - a Philatelic remembrance of the Life of Václav Havel (Cossaboom); The 25h Chainbreaker, Part IV - Position Descriptions [cont.] (Wilson).

The October 2012 issue of **Dylizans**, No 67

Excerpts from the late Alan Blunt's work on Poland's Forgeries (Stockhill); Polish Navy in Great Britain 1939-1945 (Stockhill).

Nos 9/10 2012 of **Filatelie**. Vol 62. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

Personalised stamps – revolution in our stamps production (-); The Postcard with the first imprint of the Postal Museum (Beneš); Postal Services on the territory of the German provinces 1918-1919 [Part.5] (Kunc). Postal Services and Postal Banking in Czech countries (Kramář); 15h Hradčany stamps from 7th printing plate (Beneš).

The October 2012 issue of **NIEUWS** No 17/18.

New Library Catalogue.

Returned from Czechoslovakia: The Kay Goodman Memorial Lecture

94th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Perth, Scotland, 21 October 2012

- Douglas N Muir –
Curator of Philately, British Postal Museum & Archive

Introduction

Czechoslovakia was a country dear to Kay Goodman's heart. Czech airmen were billeted in the family home in Huntingdon and she kept up a correspondence with them when they returned home.

Lying in Central Europe Czechoslovakia suffered all the trials and vicissitudes of that area. From being separate parts



of the Austro-Hungarian Empire it was created at the end of the First World War in 1918 on a language basis. But remaining German and Hungarian minorities resulted in dismemberment and invasion before the Second World War. Although restored after that under communist rule the artificial union finally separated after the Velvet, or Gentle, Divorce in 1993. Its postal history reflects these turbulent political and social times.

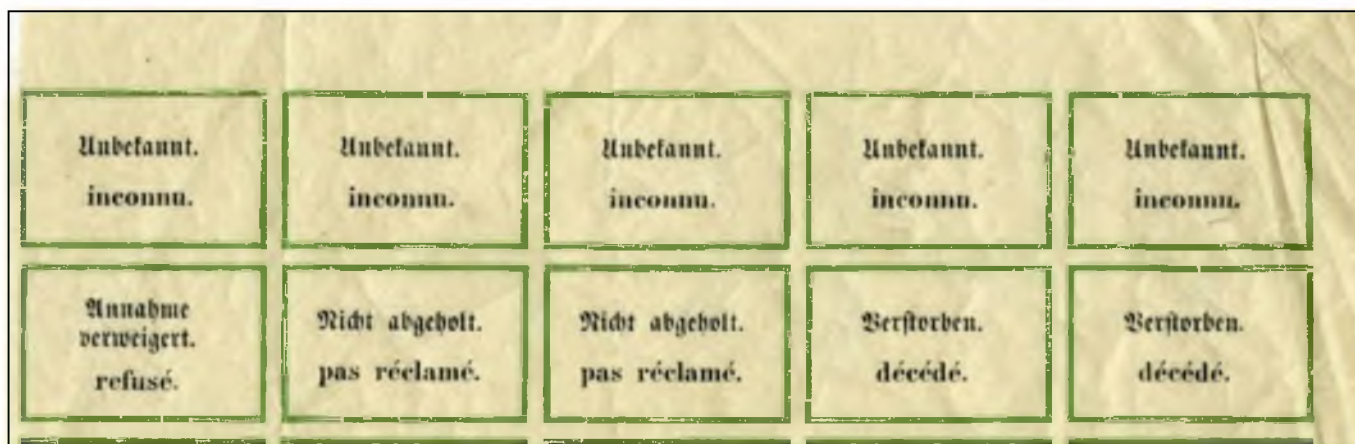
War and such political change imply great, forced movements of people, deaths and changes of circumstance. This can be seen, in particular, in mail having to be returned to sender. For this type of mail various labels giving different reasons in both French and the local language had been introduced in 1887.

Background

Sketch drawn at the Paris Peace Conference indicating the creation of Czechoslovakia from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Heinrich von Stephan was the great Postmaster General of the united German Empire in the latter part of the nineteenth century. In January 1886 his administration made a proposal to the UPU secretariat. It was pointed out that there was no consistency in the way returned letters were marked. Some had indications as to why, some did not, some only in their own language. The moment had now come to introduce some uniformity.

Short phrases in French such as *inconnu, refusé, non réclamé, parti* (or *parti sans [laisser]. d'adresse*), and *décédé* (unknown, refused, unclaimed, gone away, and deceased) would represent the most frequent causes of non-delivery. These could be printed as labels on gummed, transparent paper or impressed by a handstamp (*imprimées comme étiquettes, sur papier gommé et transparent, ou apposées au moyen d'un timbre*). Not only French, but also the local language, could be used.



1886 Labels as proposed by the German Post Office.

Attached to the circular was a remarkable illustration of what the labels might look like. Here, all on the first two rows of one sheet, were a series of different labels, all in the boxed format that was later to be introduced in most of the countries which used them. Even the texts and typefaces are virtually the same as those used later by Imperial Germany, and the size was identical. Printing was on thin, translucent, gummed paper with the outer rules or frame lines in light green and the text in black. Translucent paper was proposed so that no writing on the item of mail would be obscured. This proposal was then agreed by UPU member countries and implemented from 1 April 1887 though not all used labels.

Austrian & Hungarian Forerunners

The new state of Czechoslovakia was formed in October/November 1918 out of the Austrian provinces of Bohemia and Moravia and the Hungarian province of Slovakia. Prior to that, labels used in these territories were obviously those of Austria or Hungary. Austrian labels had been introduced in 1887; those for Hungary did not follow until 1892.



1911 Map of the Austro-Hungarian Empire showing "races".



Left: April 1887 postal circular from Austria announcing the labels; Right: 1892 postal circular from Hungary.

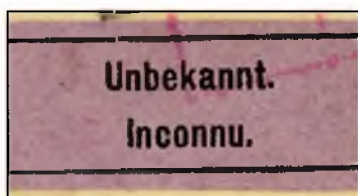
Austrian labels did not follow the pattern suggested by Imperial Germany. Rather they took their style from previous *Cash on Delivery* or *Nachnahme* labels in Germany – black type printed letterpress on a purple ground, landscape in format, imperforate. Texts used initially were:

Unbekannt./ Inconnu. [Unknown]; *Annahme verweigert./ Refusé.* [Refused];
Abgereist./ Parti. [Gone away]; *Nicht behoben./ Non réclamé.* [Not claimed];
Gestorben./ Décédé. [Deceased].

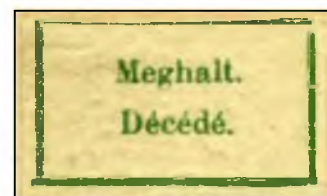
Later, three more were added:

Adresse ungenügend./ Adresse insuffisante. [Insufficient address];
Besteht nicht mehr./ N'existe plus. [(Firm) does not exist any more];
Nicht zulässig/ Non admis [not permitted].

These, with no Czech language additions, can be found used on mail returned from towns in Bohemia .



Austrian labels for Unknown and Gone Away.



Hungarian for Deceased.

The Hungarian province of Slovakia used Hungarian labels from 1892. In format these were based closely on the original German model. Reasons used for return were largely similar to those of Austria.

Ismeretlen – inconnu; Elutazott – parti; Nem fogadta el – refusé; Meghalt – décédé;
Nem kereste./ non réclamé; Czég megszűnt – maison n'existe plus;
Czím elégtelen./ insuffisance d'adresse; Szabályellenes./ Irrélementaire.

The last was an exception meaning *contrary to regulations*.

These labels, used in Slovakia, are very difficult to find. This is largely due to a smaller population and less industrialised area resulting in much reduced mail traffic.

Standard Hungarian labels were used with only two languages – Hungarian and French. For Croat speaking areas of Hungary trilingual versions were created at the outset and then bilingual types (without French). This did not happen for the less populous Slovak speakers.



Left: 1914 cover addressed to Weipert in Bohemia (today Vejprty) where the addressee had left.



Right: November 1913. Unknown in Kassa (Košice).




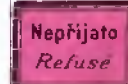
1918 Onwards

Although new stamps were immediately introduced in the newly created state of Czechoslovakia in December 1918 old forms and labels continued to be used and, in most cases, new ones were only printed after the stock of old ones was used up. This did not happen at the same time for all forms and labels and the introduction of new types was spread over several years.

But what form should the new *Retour* labels take? There were the two traditions of design, Austrian and Hungarian, the former unique, the latter based on the German international template. Interestingly, that chosen was a direct copy of the Austrian type – black type on a purple ground, the only real difference being the new language. This was because the new labels were produced in Prague, the Czech part of the republic (and thus formerly Austrian). Only versions in Czech appeared but the wording changed in some cases over the years. Printing was in letterpress in sheets of 100 (5 x 20) imperforate, on un gummed paper.

Five types, or sub-types, of label (all imperforate) can be distinguished in the years from about 1921 till 1940 but their use often overlapped. Dates here are from examples known used. No printing dates are known.

- **Type 1** as Austrian predecessor but with Czech text, on pale purple paper (August 1921 →)
- **Type 2** as Type 1, but on rich red-purple paper (September 1923 →)
- **Type 2a** as Type 2, but with full stops removed (? date range, 1930s)
- **Type 3** different typeface, bright purple paper (September 1930 →)
- **Type 4** smaller size, heavy rules (July 1935 → 1940) (sheets 7 x 13)

No.	French	Type 1	Type 2	1928 Regulations	1931 Regulations	Type 3	Type 4
							
95A	<i>Inconnu</i>	Neznámý	Neznámý	Neznám	Neznám	Neznám	Neznám
95B	<i>Refusé</i>	Nepřijato	Nepřijato	Nepřijato	Nepřijato	Nepřijato	Nepřijato
95C	<i>Parti</i>	Odcestoval	Odcestoval	Odcestoval	Odcestoval	Odcestoval	Odcestoval
95D	<i>Non réclaté</i>	Nevyzvednuto [&] Nevyžadáno	Nevyžadáno	Nevyžadáno	Nevyžadáno	-	Nevyžadáno
95E	<i>Décédé</i>	Zemřel	Zemřel	Zemřel	Zemřel	Zemřel	Zemřel
95F	<i>Adresse insuffisante</i>	Adresa neúplná	Adresa nedostatečná	Nedostatečná adresa	Nedostatečná adresa	Nedostatečná adresa	Nedostatečná adresa
95G	<i>N'existe plus</i>	Nepozůstává více	Není již	Není již	Neexistuje již	-	-
95H	<i>Non admis</i>	Nepřipustno	-	Nepřipustno	Nepřipustné	Nepřipustné	Nepřipustné
95CH	<i>En voyage</i>	Odcestoval	-	Na cestách	Na cestách	-	-

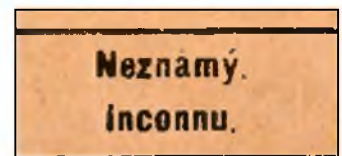
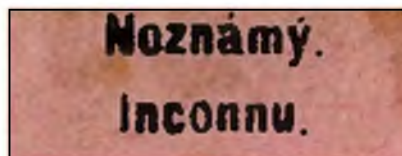


August 1921. The earliest known usage of Czechoslovak labels.

It is not clear when these labels were first introduced. At the time of writing the earliest known example dates from August 1921. However, initial printing could have been any time in 1919 or 1920. Rather surprisingly, full postal regulations were not published in Czech until 1928. There, form numbers are recorded for existing labels and changes in wording confirmed. This provides an actual date to be applied to the table of types giving an *ante post quem* for the changes in wording. Dates of use of labels can be confusing as stocks of old types continued to be used up long after a new version was introduced elsewhere.

The first texts in Czech do not seem to have been standardised. Wording was to change very quickly in four cases and for one – *Non réclaté* – there were two versions in the first type alone.

Printing of the labels on the initial pale purple paper (with several variations) soon gave way to a richer red-purple paper in the early 1920s, which with the changes of wording provides a different type. A subtype, with the removal of full stops, coincides with a change in text for the *Inconnu* label from *Neznámý* to *Neznám*. This is confirmed in the published regulations of both 1928 and 1931 which also indicate a few other minor amendments. In 1931 a list of postal forms was published in which the wording for two of the labels had changed. 95G (*N'existe plus*) became *Neexistuje již*, and 95H (*Non admis*) became *Nepřipustné*. All the others remained the same. These labels were described as being for undeliverable mail to be returned abroad.



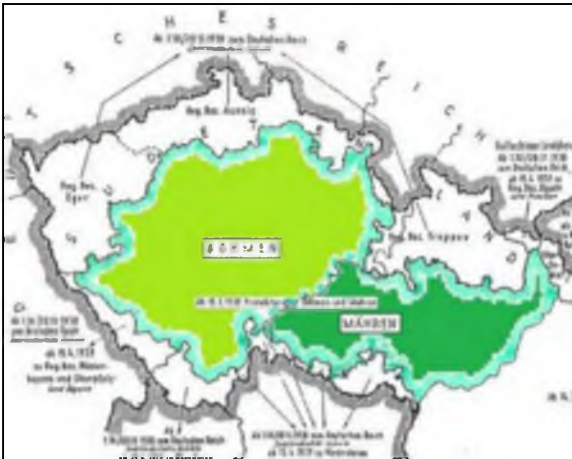
The first printing of the *Inconnu* label had the wrong Czech spelling: *Noznámý* instead of *Neznámý*.

The Sudeten Areas

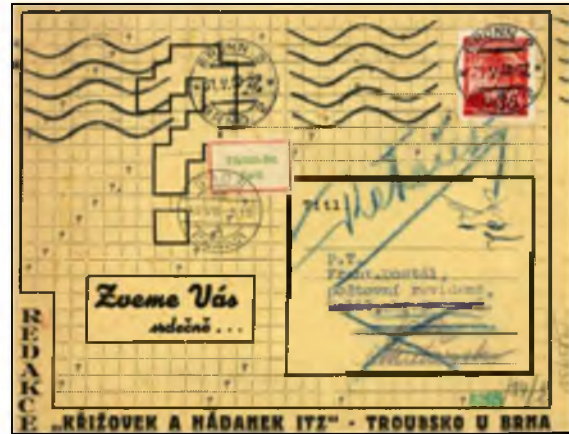
After the Austrian Anschluss in March 1938 came the occupation by German troops of the Sudetenland and other areas with German speakers and landowners, in October that year. Czechoslovakia was reduced to its Bohemian heartland plus the extensions of Moravia and Slovakia, though the latter was also reduced the following month. The German military handed over to civilian rule the Sudetenland on 21 October. In postal affairs German return-to-sender labels were almost immediately introduced in these areas as a deliberate measure to indicate their control. By November,

examples are already known on mail returned to Czechoslovakia – now regarded as abroad. Dislocation of people and business meant an increased need for return-to-sender labels. The border lands adjoining Bavaria were taken over by the Bavarian postal authorities and distinctive blue Bavarian labels were used in that part. Unsurprisingly, the most frequent reasons for return are *gone away* or *firm no longer exists*.

Then, in March 1939, the remainder of western Czechoslovakia was occupied and two new rump states were set up. One was the German “Protectorate” of Bohemia and Moravia; the other the nominally independent Slovakia, now with some of its territory reintegrated into an expanded Hungary. These were both to have their own individual labels, the one German-style, the other a derivative of the previous Czechoslovak type, reflecting the different political backgrounds.



Map of the 1938 Sudeten Areas and Bohemia & Moravia.



July 1940. Hungarian label for Parti used in Gacs (Halič) in reoccupied Slovakia.



6 December 1938. Newspaper wrapper returned from Červené Dřevo with Bavarian parti label.

Hungary was one of those nations which took the opportunity of impending war to regain some of its territory lost after the First World War. In November 1938, after the transfer of the Sudetenland to Germany, parts of southern Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia were transferred back to Hungary.

In March 1939 the rest of Carpathian Ruthenia was annexed by Hungary. Place names everywhere, naturally, reverted to their previous Hungarian forms. Nationality was established by new postmarks in the old Hungarian names, and the use of Hungarian postal forms and labels. Thus, standard bi-coloured Hungarian return-to-sender labels came into use in several occupied areas of what had been Slovakia. These can be found (with difficulty) from even the smallest places as such labels and place names were deliberately used to establish and proclaim sovereignty and control.

Bohemia & Moravia

Initially, Czechoslovak labels continued in use in the German “Protectorate”. It was not until May 1940 that a notice appeared in the postal circulars for the “Protectorate” relating to all new forms for the public which should incorporate German text for inland use or to the Reich. The German inscription was to come first in forms supplied to German speakers. For foreign mail the inscription should be in German-Czech-French. In general, new editions should have been supplied by the end of June that year. Labels were also mentioned and new versions would also be available. Return-to-sender labels in three languages, in style based upon the standard German format, were thus created and supplied.

Form numbers and printing dates appeared in the sheet margins. In the printing dates the first Roman numeral referred to yearly quarters rather than months, so the first printing was in the second quarter of 1940, which accords with the information in the circular. Text was in black within a yellow-green box, as per the standard German labels. A second printing took place later in the year (III-1940) with the text reset in slightly different type and there was at least one further printing.

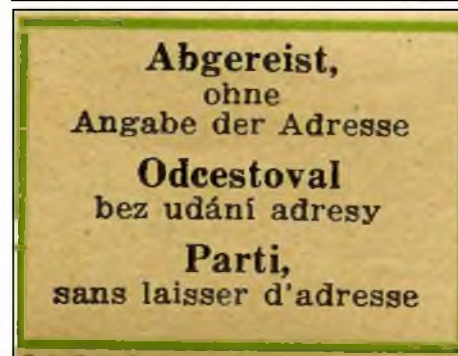
Trilingual labels produced were:

No.	Wording	Sheet format	Printings known
95 A	Unbekannt/ Neznámý/ Inconnu	50 (5 x 10)	III-1940
95 B	Annahme/ verweigert /Nepřijato /Refusé	50 (5 x 10)	II-1940 II-1941
95 C	Abgereist, /ohne Angabe der Adresse /Odcestoval/ bez udání adresy/ Parti/ sans laisser d'adresse	25 (5 x 5)	
95 D	Nicht abgeholt/ Nevyžádáno/ Non réclamé	50 (5 x 10)	II-1940 III-1940
95 E	Verstorben/ Zemřel/ Décédé	50 (5 x 10)	III-1940
95 F	Ungenügende Adresse/ Nedostatečná adresa/ Insuffisance d'adresse	25 (5 x 5)	II-1940 III-1940
95 G	Firma erloschen/ Firma zanikla/ Raison sociale/ n'existe plus	50 (5 x 10)	
95 H	Nicht zulässig/ Nepřipustné/ Non admis	50 (5 x 10)	III-1940
95 CH	Verreist/ Na cestách/ En voyage	50 (5 x 10)	II-1940

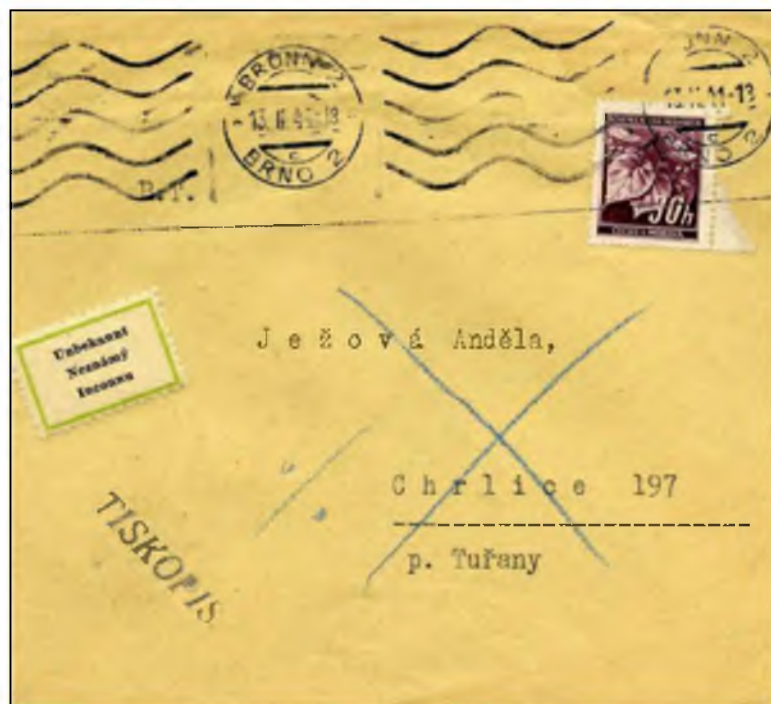
There was one markedly different label in the later printing – 95C – where the German text was now in three lines rather than two and read: *Abgereist, /ohne Angabe der Adresse*.

The subsidiary lines for all languages were in slightly larger type than before. These trilingual labels were used for both inland and foreign mail. However, they had clearly been intended for international mail only, as stated in a subsequent 1942 circular.

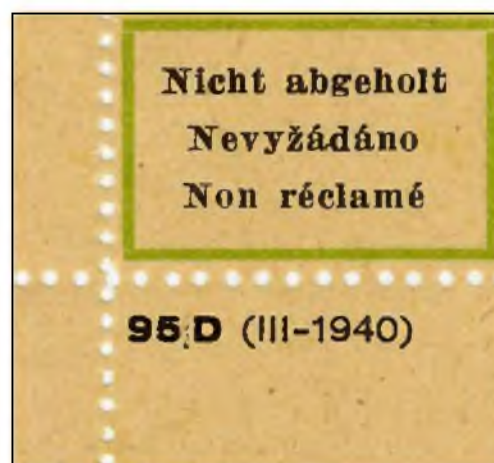
As a result new types of labels were created intended for internal use with the texts in German and Czech only. These seem to have been introduced in the early part of 1941 though cannot have



Two types of Abgereist labels.



February 1941. Trilingual label used internally.



Trilingual label with print details.

been available everywhere. Examples of the trilingual labels are known used internally during 1941 with the French text either cut off or scored through.

The bilingual internal labels were given the form number 75 and then the same codes as the previous trilingual versions. Because of the reduced amount of text all these labels were in the small format in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). The first and only printing recorded is in the first quarter of 1941 (i.e. I 1941).

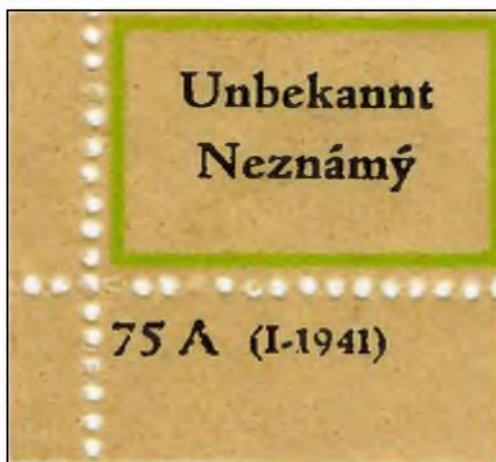
Three additional, larger bilingual labels were added in 1942 with the printing only in black on either grey or cream paper. These gave variations of *insufficient address: no street and house number; no flat number; lack of place name*. In the immediate post-war period some of the three-language labels continued to be used up but with the hated German inscription cut off or obliterated by crayon.



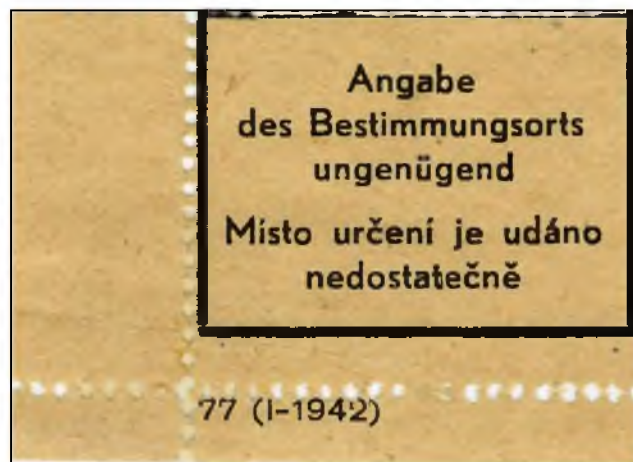
1946 usage of a trilingual label with the German text cut off.



December 1942
Card Unknown in several villages with bilingual label.



Bilingual label with print details.



Larger 1942 label (insufficient address).

Slovakia

As a supposedly independent state, the remaining area of Slovakia issued its own stamps and postal stationery. It did not, however, have return-to-sender labels incorporating German text indicating their suzerainty as did Bohemia & Moravia. Initially, post offices used up the existing Czechoslovak labels.

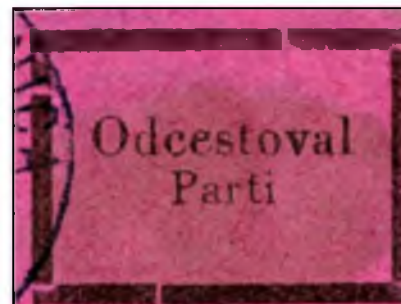
Then, in 1940, new versions, similar stylistically to the last Czechoslovak labels and deriving from them, were created but with text in French and Slovak (rather than the very similar Czech wording). As with the previous Czechoslovak labels printing was in black on a pinkish purple paper.

In a similar size printing was, according to one source, in sheets of 182, imperforate and without gum. This would be the equivalent of double sheets of the previous labels. Form numbers remained more or less the same, but there was no version for *En voyage*. Printing was also often rather poor. Initial versions had thick black rules as did the previous types.

These labels are very difficult to find. Nevertheless there are several clearly defined types and colours. Slovak versions of labels continued after World War II, initially on the same pattern, but with the French text first.

Slovak labels produced were:

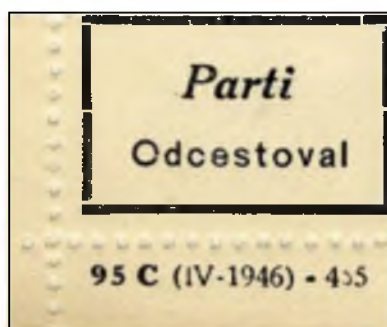
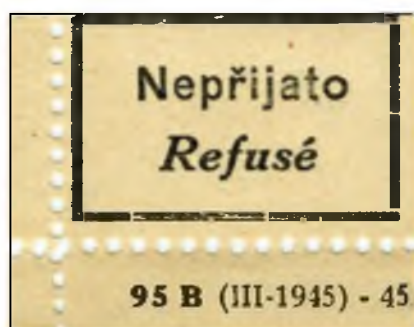
No.	Wording	Sheet	Known Printing
95A.	Neznámy / Inconnu	7 x 13	
95B.	Neprijaté / Refusé	7 x 13	II-1940-J-B
95C.	Odcestoval / Parti	7 x 13	
95D.	Nevyžiadané / Non réclamé	7 x 13	
95E.	Zomrel / Décédé	7 x 13	II-1940-J-B
95F.	Nedostatočná/ adresa / Adresse/ insuffisante	7 x 13	II-1940-J-B
95G.	Nejestvuje už / N'existe plus	7 x 13	
95H.	Nepripustné / Non admis	7 x 13	



Slovak label.

Post World War II

With the end of World War II there was an obvious requirement to drop German from existing labels for Bohemia and Moravia. The new labels were standardised with two languages now printed in a neutral black on white, or cream, paper but remaining at the German or international size. First printings are dated III 1945 (third quarter of 1945) with the local language first and French second, the latter in italics. Almost immediately, in 1946, these were superseded by versions with French first and Czech second, although it took time for the earlier stocks to be used up. These new types were perforated for the first time. Sheets were of 50 (5 x 10) printed in letterpress. More than one type of label was printed at the same time but it is not clear if it was 2-up or more likely 4-up. Form numbers remained the same.



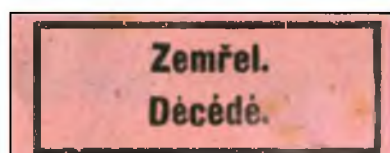
Post war Slovak Parti label on a first day cover of the Kosiče liberated issue

Examples of the first two printings of labels after the war with the position of the languages reversed.

Later printings had many variations of perforation etc. up to 1981 when the labels were withdrawn. Texts reverted to the Czech version used before the war but, perhaps unsurprisingly, the *En voyage* label ceased after 1946. At the same time, with a communist government, the *Non admis* label came into more frequent use, especially with philatelic items. About 1960, the form numbers changed from 95 to 11-023.

In the area of Slovakia within the reformed state there was no need to remove the German as this had not been included before and so from 1945 till about 1951 similar black on purple types continued to be used. From 1953 there then followed similar black on white types to the Czech area, but with the text in Slovak. These also had many variations of perforation and type.

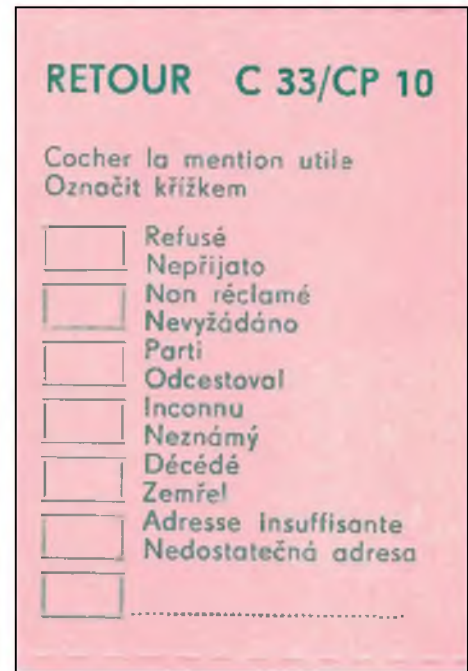
In 1981 the system of separate labels for the various reasons for returning mail to the sender ceased. Initially, remarks were in manuscript. Later, the various labels were replaced by one single label with multiple choices to be ticked, still in the local language and French. This system seems to have been first used in Austria in 1961 and is now common throughout the world, even in countries which previously only used handstamps.



Slender return-to-sender labels used over time.



January 1945. Poorly printed Inconnu label with thinner black rules.

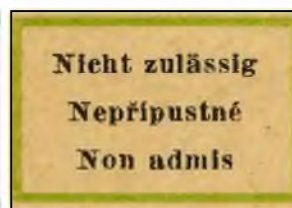


Multipurpose label introduced after 1981



Left: 1954 philatelic item sent to West Germany but not allowed, with Non admis label.

Right: 1964 philatelic cover transformed into real postal history by the addition of an Unclaimed label.



Return-to-sender labels used over time.

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4. Evinic, Dušan "Označovanie vrátených zásielok na Slovensku do roku 1993" (Marking of returned mail in Slovakia until 1993) *Zberateľ* (Bratislava) No. 4/2006 pp 28-30.
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6. Postamtsblatt des Ministeriums für Verkehr und Technik Nr 24 p.254 30 May 1942. Mitteilung 608, Formblatt 75 und 95 – Ergänzung des Verzeichnisses der allgemeinen Formblätter.
7. Muir, Douglas N. "Return to Sender! The 'Retour' Etiquettes of Central Europe up to World War II" *The London Philatelist* Vol. 120 pp 302-324, October 2011; "WWII and after" *The London Philatelist* Vol. 121 pp 86-105, April 2012

Czechout thanks Mr. Muir for permission to reprint this material. The original work appeared as a brochure distributed at the Perth 94th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in support of the Kay Goodman Memorial Lecture.

Field Post of the Czechoslovak Army in Cheb – 8 May 1945 - Tony Moseley -

Figure 1 is an interesting and unusual cover, cancelled 8 May 1945 in Eger, the German name for the Czech border town of Cheb – at the time already liberated – but oddly with use of the existing and unaltered *Eger 1* German canceller. Such was not the normal practice in the liberated Sudeten towns during this period.

The letter dates from the time when the Czechs had regained control of the posts and German Hitler head issues were no longer recognised. Under normal circumstances, such as in the case of private mail, a surcharge would be payable upon delivery of the item. Since this particular cover is addressed to another Post Office, under a decree from the Directorate of Posts, it would have been exempt from any such surcharge.



Figure 1.

The typescript at the upper left reads *Field Post of the Czechoslovak Army in Cheb*. The manuscript below states *In accordance with the Directive of Posts this item will be delivered without any surcharge*.

Addressed to Habrovany v Vyškova (via Prague), the cover is franked with a 12 pf red Hitler issue, plus two of the newly issued Cheb overprints applied to a pair of 4 pf Hitler adhesives and surcharged 1 kč. The use of the 12 pf stamp is interesting in itself as there was no supply of regular German adhesives in Cheb at the end of the war (the Post Office had been looted and ransacked). Thus, the stamps used for this overprint had to be brought into Cheb from outside the local area.



Figure 2.

The letter travelled via the Praha 60 post office where a registration label and cancel were added on 14 May. Note that German text has been deleted from the Praha cancel, but not from the dual language registration label, the latter obviously from existing German stocks. *Figure 2* shows the arrival cancel ROUSINOV 24.V.45.-16 "b" with the German text deleted.

In the chaos of May 1945, the letter had taken almost three weeks to cross the war ravaged countryside to reach its destination. Habrovany u Vyškova is located to the east of Brno, in Moravia, at the opposite end of the Czech lands.

The Czechoslovak town of Cheb was known by the German name of Eger from October 1938 to May 1945 following the Sudetenland Crisis. The Post Office at Eger came under the control of the German Regional Head Post Office at Bamberg.

My thanks go to Robert Kingsley who helped with his translation and advice when I first obtained this cover in 2007.

SHIPWRECKED MAIL TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA - Norman Hoggarth -

Norman Hoggarth, co-author of *Maritime Disaster Mail*¹ with Robin Gwynn has kindly given permission for *Czechout* to reproduce a most interesting cover he has in his possession. Our member Vladimír Kralíček agreed to help translate the Czech inscription on the label attached to the cover. As a result an interesting story emerged.



On, or about, 22 March 1946 the British Steamer *Balteako* sailed from London bound for Gdynia in Poland. Sending mail via Poland was the most direct sea route to landlocked Czechoslovakia. On 29 March 1946 the vessel struck a submerged object north of the Germany's Fehmarn Island in the Baltic Sea. Fortunately, all of the passengers and crew escaped safely from the shipwreck. Sometime later a mailbag washed up on the Denmark's Lolland Island, presumably floating in from where the vessel broke up.

Once the item reached Czechoslovakia, the postal authorities attached a label explaining the condition and delay of this piece of mail. The Czech label translated gives the entire story:

**Found on the seashore of Lolland Island.
Where apparently the consignment from London F. S. No. 27
was lost on 22-3-46 due to the shipwreck of the vessel.
No. 1204/c-46. POST OFFICE PRAGUE 7 overseas.**

Clearly the label suggests that the London Foreign Section shipped at least 27, possibly even more bags, of mail, aboard SS *Balteako* bound for Eastern Europe via Poland. This is the only surviving example recorded to date (October 2011).

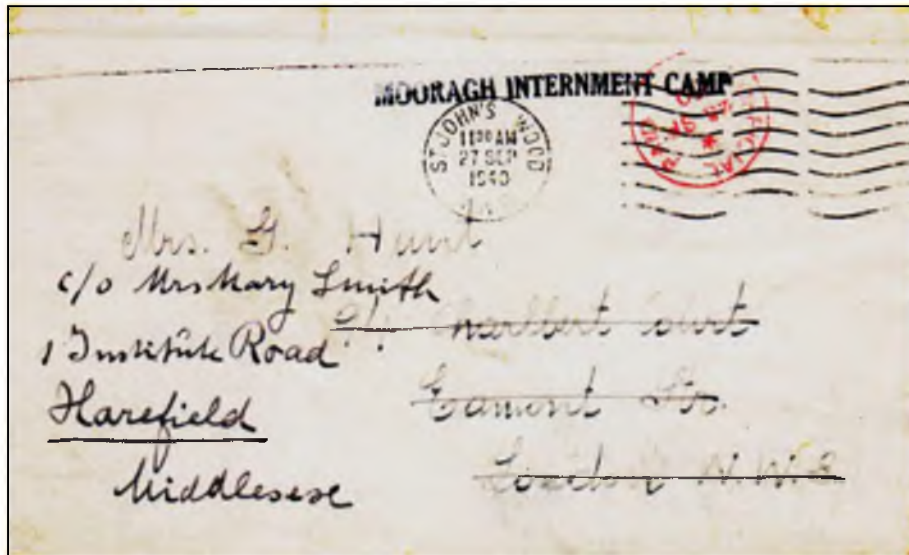
¹N Hoggarth and R Gwynn *Maritime Disaster Mail*. Stuart Rossiter Trust, 2004. p. 288.

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.

From **Yvonne Wheatley**

Richard Farman, a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians, showed me this cover and asked whether any of our members could give him any information relating to The Czech Refugee Trust Fund and Gustav Adolf Schramek.



THE CZECH REFUGEE TRUST FUND

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAMS: WINKFIELD ROW 3181

Trustees:
SIR MALCOLM DELEVINGNE, K.C.S., K.C.V.O.
EWART G. CULPIN, Esq., F.A.I.R.A., J.P.
HAROLD TURK, Esq.

Director:
SIR HENRY BONDURT, K.C.S.

New Lodge,
WINDSOR FOREST,
WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE.

Your Ref.
Our Ref. EAB/MZ/Reg.3169.

16th August, 1940.

Mrs. Dawson,
94, Charlbert Court,
Eamont Street, N. W. 1.

Dear Madam,

We have been informed by our London Officer that you intend to apply for the release of Mr. Gustav Adolf SCHRAMEK from internment.

In accordance with your request, we give you his Home Office reference which is - S. 30299.

Yours faithfully,

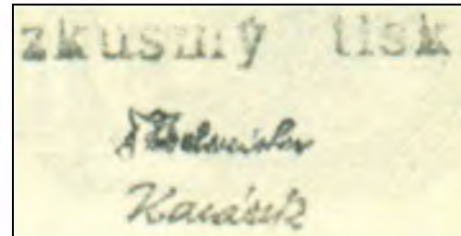
E.H. Ferguson
E.A. Ferguson.
Registration Department.

From **Mark Wilson**

My friend and fellow webmaster Peter Hoffmann maintains a bilingual website (Czech and English) *Peter's Page of Czechoslovakian Stamps 1918-1939* – www.phstamps.com – which is listed as a link on the Society's website and is of considerable interest to collectors of Czechoslovak stamps and postal history buffs.

His website provides much information not found anywhere else. In one section, he identifies and describes expert marks found on Czechoslovak material. He also provides short biographical descriptions of the experts themselves. His website is well worth a visit.

He recently came across the following expert's mark he had never seen before. On another piece, it appears above the Czech expert Jan Karásek's mark. Peter wonders if anyone in the CPSGB can help him identify this odd signature?



From **Derek Baron**

Perhaps someone can explain why the postal clerk elected to add a postage due stamp to this cover postmarked 2 January 1950. The clerk marked in blue pencil **T6**— and highlighted what appear to be two valid stamps issued only a few months earlier on 20 August 1949, and attached a 6 Kčs postage due stamp – double the deficiency, as was the rule – on 3 January 1950. The disallowance occurred long before the monetary revaluation of 1953 invalidated these stamps.



From **The Editor**

Benjamin Franklin, an editor himself, once remarked that *moving three times from one house to another equals a fire* or words to that effect. The editorship of *Czechout* has moved across the Atlantic and two-thirds the width of North America. No doubt, some treasure or another dropped off the moving van in the process. Your editor himself has also relocated since his retirement, first from Virginia to Arizona, then to handle a family emergency on to California for a year, and finally, last year, returned to Arizona and his current home. During that time I have to confess I paid little attention to this particular column.

What is meant by that is that your editor may be unaware of unanswered queries made to this column in previous editions of *Czechout*. If you have an outstanding query that you think might still receive an answer, please alert me at czechout@knihtisk.org and I'll do my best to remind readers of your outstanding query.

Helpful information to include in your reminder would be the date of its original publication, your full name, and the topic. I'll do my best to reintroduce and perhaps elicit a response to your question.

New Issues - Lindy Bosworth -

Czech Republic



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

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

NVI stamps:

- 'A' ordinary internal letter to 50g (currently 10Kč)
- 'E' ordinary standard letter to 20g to European countries (currently 20Kč)
- 'Z' ordinary standard letter by air to 20g to non European countries (currently 21Kč),
ordinary standard letter by air to 20g to non European countries (currently 21Kč)

3 October 2012 Legends of the Masaryk Circuit in Brno

Designer: Ladislav Kuklik

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Printing: rotary recess in black with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps.



Design: 18 CZK – František Šťastný riding a motorcycle.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet design depicts Šťastný racing on another motorcycle.

František Šťastný (1927 – 2000) began his career as a bicycle racer taking part in the 1st Peace Race now held annually since 1948. In 1947 he competed in his first motorcycle race but under another name as he had no driving licence. In the early 1950s he competed on a Norton machine which he named *Blesk Speciál* [Special Bolt]. From 1953 he was a member of the Jawa team

both racing and testing their machines. He won the Czechoslovak Grand Prix five times between 1956 and 1965. After the end of his racing career he became a motor racing commentator for Czechoslovak Television.



25 CZK: Louis Chiron driving a racing car.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet drawing has Louis Chiron at the wheel of a racing car.

Louis Chiron (1898 – 1979) was a Monaco Formula One driver. One of the best pre-war racing drivers he represented many of the famous cars – Bugatti, Mercedes, Delage, Alfa Romeo. He won the Czechoslovak Grand Prix at the Masaryk Circuit in 1931 and 1932 with a Bugatti and the following year with an Alfa Romeo. In 1955 he came sixth in the Monaco Grand Prix driving a Lancia.



3 October 2012 Greeting Stamp – Orchid



Designer: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek.

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels.

Design: 'A' value stamp - the orchid *Paphiopedilum venustum*. The right margin of the sheet has three labels with the orchids *Dracula bella*, *Phalaenopsis amboinensis* and *Dendrobium tobaense*. The other labels show the *Cattleya leopoldii* orchid. The top and bottom margins of the sheet have images of birds and butterflies and the right and left margins have the text 'Orchids/Orchideae'. Some sheets will be printed with blank labels for customer use.



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3 October 2012 World Post Day – Postal Museum Vyšší Brod



Designer: Prof. Dušan Kállay.

Engraver: Miloš Ondráček.

Printing: multi-coloured offset with linear drawing in sheets of 35 stamps.

Design: an 1891 Ericsson desk telephone.

FDC: printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Vyšší Brod cancel. The cachet shows an old ČSR Post and Telegraph sign with postal dwarves carrying post horns and letters.



World Post Day was first officially declared at the 1969 Universal Postal Union Congress held in Tokyo, Japan. It is celebrated annually to highlight the importance of postal services worldwide. The Universal Postal Union was established in Bern, Switzerland on 9 October 1874 and is today an agency of the United Nations that regulates international postal affairs.

The Postal Museum, Vyšší Brod is a branch of the Prague Postal Museum in a small town in southern Bohemia near the Austrian border. It is housed in a former Cistercian monastery with the largest collection of 19th carriages and coaches in the Czech Republic. There are also collections of postal uniforms, post signs, mail and letter boxes, writing utensils, franking and cancelling machines, telegraph, teleprinter and telephone machines. Maps, correspondence and postal history of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia from 1526 to date are displayed from the large archives.



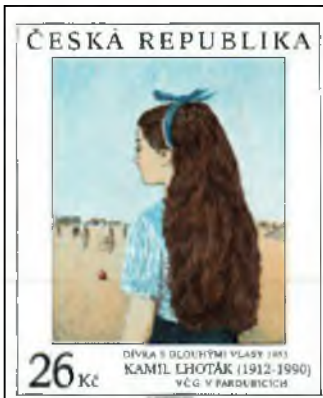
7 November 2012 Works of Art on Postage Stamps

Designers: from the original works of art.

Engravers: Miloš Ondráček (26CZK); Václav Fajt (2 x 30CZK); Martin Srb (32CZK).

Printing: DS in sheets of four (26CZK and 32CZK); DS with offset (30CZK) in a souvenir sheet of two stamps.

Designs: from original art works.



26CZK: *Girl with Long Hair* c. 1951 by Kamil Lhoták from the collection of the East Bohemian Gallery, Pardubice.

FDC: printed in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is a composition of the artist's drawings.

Kamil Lhoták was born in Prague on 25 July 1912 and died there on 22 October 1990. He became interested in art, especially modern art, during his secondary school years producing a bulletin of drawings and writings about cars. Later he assisted with the publishing of the school magazine. His hopes of studying art did not materialise as his mother expected him to study law funded by an inheritance from his father. He gained a master's degree in law but continued to study the work of modern artists and painted in his own style. His first exhibition was held in Prague in 1939. During the war he continued painting changing his signature from *seeker LK* to *Painter Kamil Lhoták*. He met the author Adolf Branald in 1954 and illustrated a book about cars which later became the film *Vintage Car*. He regarded these illustrations as some of his best work. In the 1960s he met Anna Endrštová who became his model and partner.

He continued painting until the end of his life



30CZK: *Life's Pleasures* 1901-02 by František Kupka in the National Gallery, Prague (souvenir sheet of two stamps).

FDCs: printed DS in dark-brown with a commemorative Praha or Opočno cancellation. The cachet drawings are female nudes from his painting *A Study on the Song of Songs*.

František Kupka (23 September 1871, Opočno – 24 June 1957, Putneaux, France). He became a qualified saddler but also painted signboards and images of saints. His artistic talents were noticed and a benefactor helped him take full time studies. In 1891 he enrolled at the



Vienna Art Academy for four years before accepting a temporary fellowship at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris. He also taught religion, acted as a spiritualist medium and was interested in oriental philosophies and mysticism. Another of his interests was orphism – the correlation between painting and other art forms such as music or poetry. He drew satirical sketches for the Paris magazine *L'assiette au Beurre* between 1901 and 1907 which gained him international recognition. With the outbreak of war in 1914 he volunteered for military service. He was wounded and gained the French Legion of Honour. After returning to Paris he helped organise Czechoslovak Legions in France, founded the *Czech Colony* eventually becoming President. Kupka held many exhibitions of his work, and received many awards. Between 1919 and 1938 he was sponsored by his friend Jindřich Waldes, a successful business man in Prague who bought many of his works. Kupka spent most of his life in Paris and is one of the founders of modern abstract art.



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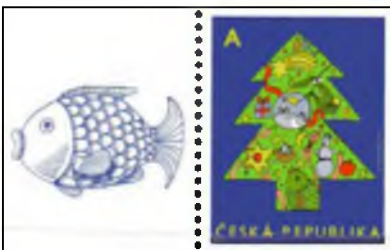
32CZK: *Self Portrait with Family* 1719 by Jan Kupecký in the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from his *Self Portrait*.

Jan Kupecký (1667 Pezinok – 1740 Nuremberg) He was born into a Moravian Church family who had fled to Slovakia to avoid religious persecution. He studied in Italy where he met the son of the Polish King John III, who helped him to become well known. His main genre was portraits for wealthy clients. After 22 years in Venice and Rome he returned to Vienna in 1709 until 1733 when he moved with his family to Nuremberg.



7 November 2012 The Christmas Stamp



Designer: Marie Kohoutová.
Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels. Part of the print run will have blank labels for customer use.
Design: a decorated Christmas tree on a dark blue background. The label on the upper right of the sheet has the motif of a Christmas decoration and the remaining labels have a

Christmas carp design.

FDC: printed multi-coloured offset with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is a collage of Christmas motifs in the shape of a comet.



7 November 2012 Čtyřlístek in the King's Service

Designer: Jaroslav Němeček.
Printing: multi-coloured offset in a booklet of two different self-adhesive stamps in strips of five.
Designs: booklet cover has the same motif as one of the stamps with the words in Czech, *Čtyřlístek in the Service of the King* (face) and portraits of various characters from the stories for children by Jaroslav Němeček (reverse). The inside of the booklet has a security hologram, some of the characters from the stories and a short information piece about Čtyřlístek.

Stamps: A) the four friends flying on a griffin; B) Myšpulín, the cat, taking a photograph of the other three friends with the lion and the king.





FDC: printed multi-coloured offset with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet shows a film clip of the four friends in an alchemy workshop.



FDC: with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet shows all the characters from the stamp driving in a car with Ffinka, the dog, holding illuminated treasure.



Postal Stationery - Commemorative Postcards

The following postcards have the logo of the Czech Post and a security hologram to the left of the imprinted stamp. The first line for the address is a continuous micro-print *Czech Post, PTC 2012*.

7 November 2012: 125 Years of Philately in the Czech Lands.



Designer: Bedřich Housa.
Printing: multi-coloured offset.
Design: imprinted 'A' stamp showing the lion of Bohemia. The cachet shows an allegorical figure holding an open book with the dates 1887 and 2012 above a garland of lime leaves with the silhouette of Prague Castle in the background. The caption in Czech *125 Years of Czech Philately* is below the cachet.

The stamp design represents the first philatelic club logo in the Czech lands and the cachet design was used in their early days of philatelic activity. A small group of friends regularly met in a Prague restaurant to share information about their philatelic interests. Eventually it was decided to set up a Czech club as a balance to the established German Club and their inaugural meeting was held on 8 August 1887. Members were not restricted to those living in Prague. The first Czech Postage Stamp Album was published in 1887, by Zikmund Reach one of the founder members.

7 November 2012: 155 Years of Prague Rescue Service.

Designer: Petr Foltera.
Printing: multi-coloured offset.
Design: imprinted 'A' stamp with a range of modern emergency vehicles with the logos of the rescue services and the city of Prague. The cachet design has the rescue service emblem with modern vehicles, a reproduction from a photo of an early ambulance with stretcher and patient and the logos of the rescue services and the City of Prague with the text in Czech *155 Years of Prague Rescue Service*.

The first attempts to provide emergency services within the city were for the coronation ceremonies of Francis II in 1792 but the first organisation was not founded until 1798. It was called *The Humanitarian Society for the Rescue of People Apparently Dead or Facing a Sudden Life Threatening Situation*. In 1857, on the recommendation of the Director of



Police, the *Prague Voluntary Protection Service* was founded with a board of 36 volunteers from different professions. The purpose of the organisation was: to protect what deserves protection; to rescue both human lives and the property of fellow citizens in any kind of danger; to do so on a voluntary basis without fear and without any financial profit. All district police commissioners were to support members of the organisation who could be identified by a white and red ribbon on the left arm. This was later changed for the emblem of the organisation.

Slovakia



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

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

14 September 2012 Beauties of Our Homeland: Basilica of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows in Šaštín



Designer: Edita Hertl Balážová.
Engraver: Ľubomír Žálec.
Printing: rotary recess.
Design: the twin towered front of the church.

FDC: printed DS in bright blue with a commemorative Šaštín – Stráže cancel. The cachet drawing is a detail of an angel looking down from heaven from one of the frescoes in the Basilica.

Countess Czobor donated a wooden Pieta in 1564 which became an object of local worship. In 1732 the Pieta was blessed for public worship and the Pauline order charged with caring for the small chapel in which it was housed. Later they built a Basilica in the Late Gothic style and an adjoining monastery. Empress Marie Theresa donated a marble altar to the Basilica and the Pieta was moved on to it in 1762. The interior of the Basilica was richly decorated with murals and ceiling paintings by the Imperial Court painter Jean Joseph Chamant between 1754 and 1757. After the Pauline Order left the area in 1786 the Basilica remained a popular pilgrimage site. It grew in popularity as a pilgrimage destination after the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows was proclaimed the Patron of Slovakia by a decree from Rome on 22 April 1927. Today the Basilica is still of religious importance but is also an historical monument.

3 October 2012 Personalities: Anton Bernolák



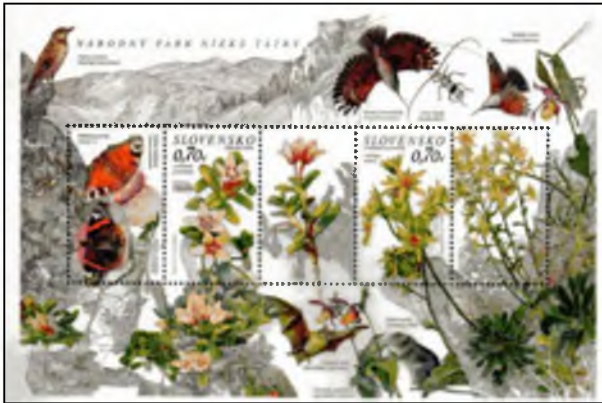
Designer: Marián Čapka.
Engraver: František Horniak.
Printing: recess with offset in sheetlet of one stamp with decorative surround.
Design: - **stamp** – portrait of Bernolák with an open book on a sprig of linden to symbolise the beginning of a new codified Slovak language.
Design: - **sheet margins** - show places related to his life – his birthplace, the General Seminary in Bratislava, the parsonage in Nové Zámky and three open books representing his greatest works.

FDC: printed DS in grey with a commemorative Námnestova cancel. The cachet drawing depicts the house where he was born.

Anton Bernolák (1762 – 1813) studied at the Gymnasium in Ružomberok and later in Trnava and Vienna. After graduating in theology from the General Seminary, Pressburg (Bratislava) in 1787 he was initially a curate in Bernolákova, then secretary to the Archbishop of Trnava until 1797. From then until his death he was the priest for Nové Zámky. Throughout his life he was interested in language and etymology and published many books on the subject based on the Slovak dialects spoken in western Slovakia. He published a treatise in 1787 to codify these western dialects and this form of the language became known as *Bernolákovčina*. This

was not adopted as the national standard language but was a step in the formation of the modern Slovak of today. His most significant work, a five volume dictionary in Slovak - Czech - Latin - German - Hungarian was published after his death. He was a founder member (1792) of the Slovak Educated Brotherhood which used *Bernolákovčina* as the language for its activities.

12 October 2012 Nature Protection: The National Park of the Low Tatras



Designer: Martin Činovský with stamp drawings by Kamila Štanclová.

Engravers: František Horniak (stamp); Rudolf Cigánik (FDC)

Printing: recess and multi-coloured offset in a miniature sheet of 2 stamps with 3 labels (see tenant) with decorative surround.

FDCs: printed DS in dark grey with commemorative Ružomberok cancels. a) cachet drawing shows a saxifrage plant in its typical mountain habitat b) cachet drawing depicts the Alpine azalea growing in its natural habitat.

Designs: [from right to left on sheet] a) three sprigs of flowering *Saxifraga mutata* [label] b) detailed spray of the flower heads [stamp] c) a branch with flower of *Loiseleuria procumbens* – Alpine azalea [label] d) detailed view of the flowers [stamp] e) butterflies – *Inachis io* [Peacock]; *Vanessa atalanta* [Red Admiral];

on the flower heads of *Cirsium eriophorum* [mountain thistle] (label). The sheet surround shows the typical terrain of the Low Tatras with other named birds, animals and plants to be found in the area. Both the saxifrage and Alpine azalea are rare in Slovakia and on the Red List of Endangered Plants.

The National Park of the Low Tatras (Nrodný park Nízke Tatry – NAPANT) was established in 1978 to protect the unique area. It lies in central Slovakia between the Váh and Hron river valleys. Within the Park there are 10 national reserves as well as many protected areas and monuments. For the tourist there are marked hiking and bicycle paths in summer and in winter cross-country ski tracks as well as down-hill and alpine skiing facilities. The flora and fauna of the area are endangered by the numbers of tourists throughout the year but the biggest problem is the air pollution from industrial areas outside the Park brought by wind currents.

Maximum Cards: two cards showing two different endangered plants were issued (094CM 524/12 and 094CM 525/12).

Postal stationery - Prepaid envelopes with imprint

18 September 2012 Popradfila (115 COB 113/12)

Imprinted T1 -50g stamp. Cachet drawing has a stamp outline with mountains and buildings. The event took place from 28 September to 6 October 2012. Retail price Euros 0.77.

6 November 2012 Igor Piačka: Illustrations and Postage Stamps (116 COB 106/12|)

Imprinted Euro 0.40 stamp. Cachet multi-coloured modern allegorical design. The exhibition takes place at Banská Bystrica Museum from 6 November until 31 December 2012. Retail price Euros 0.57.

Promotional Cards

All the following cards have T2 -50g imprinted stamp (historic post station), retail for Euros 0.50 and were designed by Adrian Ferda.

12 October 2012 212 CDV 192/12 90th Anniversary of Pavel Horov Gymnasium, Michalovce.

Cachet drawing shows the modern school building and text.

25 October 2012 211 CDV 192/12 Sindelfingen 2012 International Stamp Fair.

The event was held 25 – 27 October 2012. Cachet drawing has a hand posting a letter and text of the event.

3 November 2012 213 CDV 192/12 Peace Poster Contest – Imagine Peace.

The cachet design depicts the smiling face of the sun surrounded by flowers with appropriate text.