



CZECHOUT

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WHOLE NUMBER 153



2013 Autumn Stampex London
The *Interactive Indexes* disc and *Monograph 25*
A Great Achievement for the CPSGB

DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR 1953-2013

CPSGB Publications

Detailed catalogue and postal charges available from the Publications Manager.

Monographs

- No. 3: *The Pošta Československo Overprints*, by Roy A. Dehn. 47p. 1985, reprinted 2000. £6.50.
- No. 4: *Carpatho Ukraine: Postal Markings, 1938–1945*, by Juan E. Page. 42p. 1985, reprinted 2000 with improved maps. £7.50.
- No. 6: *The German Occupation of the Sudetenland, 1938*, by W. A. Dawson. 71p. 1988, reprinted 1994. £9.00.
- No. 7: *Index to articles on Czechoslovak philately, 1950–1979*, by James Negus. 15p. 1989, reprinted 2000. £1.50.
- No. 8: *Occupation of Czechoslovak Frontier Territories by Beck's Poland from the Postal History View-Point*, by Jiří Neumann. 43p. 1989, reprinted 1999. £7.50.
- No. 9: *The Field Post of the Czechoslovak & Allied Forces in Russia 1918–1920*, compiled by W. A. Page. 55p. 1991, reprinted 1994. £8.50.
- No. 10: *The 25th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence: The 1943 London Exhibitions*, by V. J. Kralicek and W. A. Page. 50p. 1996, reprinted 2003. £10.00
- No. 11: *The Sokols in Philately: Postal, commemorative postmarks & postcards*, by Brian C. Day. 69p. 1996, reprinted 2003. £12.50,
- No. 12: *Military Cards of the Exiled Czechoslovak Forces in France and Great Britain, 1939–1945*, by V. J. Kraliček and W. A. Page. 30p. 1999. £7.50.
- No. 13: *The Hradčany Issue, 1918–1920*, by Robert Bradford. 34p. 2000. £7.50.
- No. 14: *The Liberation of Olomouc May 1945: Postal arrangements including local and revolutionary overprint issues*, by Robert J. Hill. 42p. 2004. £10.00.
- No. 15: *The postal history of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain, 1940–1945*, by Richard Beith. 90p. 2002. £12.50.
- No. 16: *The Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and in Russia, 1939–1941, and, Czechoslovaks in the Middle East, 1940–1943*, by Dr Vratislav Palkoska and Otto Hornung. 46p. 2003. £12.50.
- No. 17: *Czechoslovak Field Post, 1918–1921: A study of postal activities*, by Brian C. Day. 135p. 2002. £22.50.
- No. 18: *Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945*, by Robert J. Hill. 92p. 2005. £16.50.
- No. 19: *Bohemia & Moravia: A Collector's Notebook*, by John Hammonds, edited and additional research by Rex Dixon, based on the Ron Hollis Collection. 76p. 2009. £9.00.
- No. 20: *The Early Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine, with particular reference to the Usage of the First Postage Stamps of Austria*, by Otto Hornung. 34p. 2007. £12.50
- No. 21: *Carpatho Ukraine: Postal History and Stamps 1786–2000*, by Ing. J. Verlag. 230p. 2007, 2nd enlarged edition 2008. Ask whether in stock before ordering.
- No. 22: *Postmarks of the SO 1920 Plebiscite*, by Oldřich Tovačovský et al, translation by Robert Kingsley 66p. 2010. £15.00.
- No. 23: *The 1923 Agriculture and Science Issue (Hospodářství a věda)*, by Mark Wilson. 29p. 2010. £7.50.
- No. 24: *Travelling Post Offices in German-occupied Sudetenland: An anthology*, by Dr Anthony M. Goodbody and Cyril Kidd. 30p. 2010. £7.50.
- No. 25: *Compendium of 1944–1945 Liberation Overprints*, by Karel Holoubek, additional material and translation by Robert J. Hill. 314p, plus a CD with colour illustrations throughout. 2012. Large Vermeil Medal, Autumn 2013 STAMPEX. £17.50.
- No. 26. *Free Czechoslovak Forces in France, 1939-1940*, by Richard Beith. 66p. 2013. £15.00.

Other Publications

Bulletin No. 9: English translation of the text of *Monografie* No. 13 *Czech Postmarks from the Beginnings to 1918*, edited by C. Wackett. An essential companion to the *Monografie*. 39p. 1977, format revised 1985, reprinted 1996. £4.00.

Fundamental Philatelic Terminology: A vocabulary in Czech/ German/ English, by Vladimír Bernašek. Translations of almost 500 Czech philatelic terms, 15p. 1989, re-mastered with minor corrections 2001. £1.50.

DVD

Czechout Interactive Indexes: 1975 - June 2013. Gold Medal, Autumn 2013 STAMPEX. £10 including postage worldwide.

CZECHOUT

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Editorial

This issue begins my second year as editor. I have enjoyed meeting with the Society's membership twice now: at the Worthing Residential Weekend and then in London for the Society's Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

I shall never, I fear, fully understand the British use of prepositions and want to thank Rex Dixon for catching and correcting my many errors with respect to them. Nor would *Czechout* be the fine philatelic journal it is had not so many excellent authors submitted interesting and noteworthy articles. And I must not forget to mention and thank the two people who contribute a column for each issue: Colin Spong's analysis of current philatelic literature and Lindy Bosworth's up-to-date listing of newly released Czech and Slovak postage stamps and stationery; both make *Czechout* a much better publication. Too many other people have been of help during my freshman year as editor to thank individually, so I shall say to all of you collectively: thank you so very, very much for your warm welcome, your support, and your kindnesses throughout the past year.

From the Committee: The best for the Holiday Season and warmest wishes for the New Year!

Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Check out our sister organization, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, at their website: www.csphilately.org and through their Secretary, Tom Cossaboom at KLFCK@aol.com. Their publication the *Specialist* and our *Czechout* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your SCP subscription to our CPSGB Treasurer without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the US. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies!

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News & Notices

Thank You

Thank you all very much for the Garden Gift Vouchers presented to me at the AGM. It was so unexpected and will be a living reminder of your kindness. I will choose a special tree or shrub which will be known as *Jubilee*. I will treasure your card with its very generous comments regarding my term as your Chairman. It has been a privilege and honour to be in office of such a progressive and friendly Society. I wish Rex as much enjoyment as Chairman as I have had.

Yvonne Wheatley

Report of the Meeting held on Saturday 7 September 2013 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74, Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2:30

The Chairman welcomed ten members and two guests; seven members gave apologies.

Hans van Dooremalen advised members of a Masaryk sheetlet being produced by our Dutch colleagues, which members could purchase.

The following new members were agreed by those present:

Ian Markie from Dover

Juliet Thurnham from Newport, South Wales

Michael Furfie traced the use of postage due mail from the First Republic through to the postwar period. His useful hand-out set out the rates for both inland and foreign underpayments from 1918. The period after the First World War saw many increases in postal rates as inflation ravaged many economies. The period around the Second World War was carefully revealed. Bohemia and Moravia started with postage due stamps, but then reverted to the German use of cachets. Slovakia on the other hand retained postage due stamps throughout. The immediate postwar period to 1 December 1945 saw both areas continue the wartime procedures until Czechoslovak postage dues were used to bring the whole country under one system.

At the start of the second session, Michael worked through three examples of the calculation of postage due where foreign currencies were involved with foreign mail, both inwards and outwards. The use of the gold franc as an intermediate step was clearly demonstrated. In the days before calculators, the mental arithmetic was very impressive! The Czechs finally decided that deficiencies on incoming mail should just be at a single rate, initially sixty haler and then two krone.

The meeting ended at 4:15.



Everyone greatly enjoyed Michael's display.



Michael Furfie

Congratulations

The Society had outstanding success at Autumn Stampex 2013. The DVD, *Czechout Interactive Indexes 1975-June 2013*, compiled by Mark Wilson, won a Gold Medal, a first for the Society and an exceptional result for an index.

Monograph 25 *Compendium of 1944-1945 Liberation Overprints* by Karel Holoubek with additional material and translation by Bob Hill was awarded a Large Vermeil. Again this is the highest award achieved by any of our monographs.

Hans van Dooremalen has been made a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

At the Thailand 2013 International Exhibition, three of our members were awarded Gold Medals:

Bill Hedley: *Postal Services in the Habsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900*. Bill also won a Special Prize.

Alfonso Zulueta: *Afghanistan Amanullah Period 1919-1929*.

Peter Chadwick: *Handstruck Charge Marks of the Uniform Penny Post of GB 1840-1853*.

The Literature Trophy of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain was won by **Roger Morell** with his article on the *Szeged Overprints*. Roger was the co-author with **Michael Furfie** of an article on the Dutch Scheme for payment of postage due which shared second place.

The full results for CPSGB members exhibiting at *Brasiliana 2013* held at Rio de Janeiro (in alphabetical order) are:

Rex Dixon: (Gold Medal) *Postal Rates and Services in Germany - December 1923 to May 1945*.

Bill Hedley: (Gold Medal) *Postal service in the Habsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900 – With special reference to Pozsony and its environs*.

Lubor Kunc: (Single frame, ineligible for FIP award, but earning 81 points) *Field Post Systems on Czechoslovak Territory Oct 1918 - Feb 1919*.

Hartmut Liebermann: (Large Silver Medal) *Postmarks in Bohemia and Moravia during the post war period after World War II*.

György Lóvei: (Gold Medal) *Chapters of Czechoslovak Air-mail Service up to 1939 – Hungarian connection*.

Alfonso Zulueta Jr: (Large Vermeil Medal) *Afghanistan: Habibullah Period 1901-1919*.

Joint Societies Meeting, Latvian Club, Bradford, 16 August 2013

Once again, Bradford Philatelic Society hosted the Joint Societies meeting, which is becoming *the* definitive annual event for members of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish, and Yugoslav Societies to mingle and learn from each other. Aably organised by Yvonne Wheatley and husband Richard, and despite the absence of several ‘heavyweights’ (as Yvonne put it), the numbers were around twenty-five with several new faces, a full seventeen with Czechoslovak affiliation.

Once again we were treated to full day of short displays covering a wide range of themes, often with much overlap between participants’ interests – an eclectic mix. Proceedings began with morning coffee, broke for an excellent buffet lunch prepared by Yvonne and Richard, and concluded with tea and an extensive range of home-made cakes.

In order of presentation:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peter Chadwick | <i>The Eastern Silesian plebiscite 1920</i> , covers and stamps from the Czech and Polish sides, with anecdotes and a request for more information on the Polish side. |
| Derek Walker | <i>The Czech Army in the UK, WWII</i> , following their migration around the UK, with covers and special cancellations. |
| Alan Berrisford | <i>Inflation in Poland 1918-1924</i> , giving examples of internal and foreign rates during this period, including complex frankings. |
| Richard Wheatley | <i>The 1945 Czech War Heroes issue</i> : foreign rate covers to the different zones in Germany and Austria, with a study of censorship. |

Hans Smith	<i>The Kingdom of Croatia</i> : pre-stamp mail from Agram/Zagreb and Essegg/Osijek, both north of the Austro-Hungarian military border zone.
Edmund Jagielski	<i>‘Poczta Polska’ overprints on Austrian and German stamps, 1918-19</i> including some scarce use on cover.
Keith Brandon	<i>Hungarian pre-stamp mail</i> : specifically, negative town marks and combined marks with town name and <i>franco</i> or <i>recommandiert</i> .
Mervyn Benford	<i>A little light relief from Hungary</i> : a display of illustrated sheets depicting ethnic themes shown on Hungarian stamps and postal stationery.
John Colton	<i>Hungarian occupation stamp issues 1918-1920</i> : including Baranya, Arad, and Romanian areas.
Derek Baron	<i>Olomouc in Czechoslovakia</i> : TPO cancellations during the Austrian period, and mail reflecting the expulsion of Nazi influences after WWII.
Reg Hindley	<i>Russian-related aspects</i> , including labels for the Franz-Jozef Land expedition, Czech Army in Siberia, Russian re-occupation of Ukraine, & other areas.
Roger Morrell	<i>Hungarian pictorial postal stationery 1931-39</i> , including overprinting of remainders for post office.
Rex Dixon	<i>The Polish occupation of East Silesia 1938-39</i> , showing how it was occupied at the same time as the takeover of Sudetenland.
Joyce Boyer	<i>Austrian stamp exhibitions, WIPA 1965 and 1981</i> , including publicity labels, special postmarks and stamp issues.
Andy Taylor	<i>Tramcar mail in Hamburg</i> , including cachets and special postmarks.
Peter Cybaniak	<i>Ukraine temporary handstamps and cachets during the 1991 liberation</i> , including free post given to military personnel.
Garth Taylor	<i>Brno, Czechoslovakia</i> : commemorating the 1930s Grand Prix motor racing circuit and the drivers taking part.
Mervyn Benford	<i>Hungarian first inflation</i> : covers and cards illustrating the progressive rise in rates in the period 1919-1925.
Alan Berrisford	<i>The Russian postal system in Poland from 1865</i> : postal history of the formerly Russian-controlled part of Poland.
Malcolm Stockhill	<i>The 1950 currency reform in Poland</i> : mail with handstamped overprints of the new currency.
Roger Morrell	<i>Paying for a telephone call at a Hungarian post office</i> : so-called ‘telephone tickets’, including Croatian and Italian language versions. From John Whiteside’s collection: <i>Hungarian parcel cards from 1927-41</i> , including the postal officials’ concessionary rate for food parcels.

There was also ample time to discuss detail with experts, to trade stories about purchases, to view publications and auction lots, and simply to immerse oneself in the hobby and to learn. What better way to spend an indifferent August day? As Peter Chadwick put it in thanking Yvonne on behalf of everyone, ‘it’s one of the best meetings around’, and many thanks to Yvonne for organising it. For those of you who missed it, there’ll be another next year, same time, same place, so get it in your diaries *before* you start booking holidays!

Roger Morrell

Invitation to Overseas Members to Enter Society Competitions

The Committee is keen to extend participation in as many of the Society’s activities as possible to our overseas members. Although our competition regulations do not state that entries must contain the actual philatelic material, until now that had always been assumed to be the case.

As a clarification to this regulation: if a member, overseas or otherwise, cannot arrange for the original material to be displayed at the meeting during which the competition is to be judged, printed scanned copies of that entry will be accepted. These printed copies will be judged in the same manner as exhibits containing original philatelic material. The printed copies will not be returned unless the return postage is paid by the submitting member. The Society’s trophies will not be sent overseas.

Our next competition, the *Kay Goodman Trophy*, will be held on 14 June 2014. It is hoped that several of our overseas members will enter.

1938 Field Post Information Wanted

Eagle-eyed readers of the last auction catalogue will have noticed that there is an online questionnaire for information about the 1938 Field Post as the second item under *Links* in the Society's web site. The link also includes some background and examples of what I am looking for. I am pleased with the number of members who have already contacted me. If you have any problems accessing the site, or you do not have access to the Internet and/or would like me to send you the information by post, please feel free to contact me. My details are in the back cover of Czechout. – Peter Williams

CPSGB Highlighted in the *Stamp & Coin Mart's* Society Spotlight

To help celebrate the Society's sixtieth anniversary, *Stamp & Coin Mart* put CPSGB in its *Society Spotlight* section and invited Society members to submit a short article about their favourite stamp. Each of the articles will be reprinted in future issues of *Czechout*, but for the record the contributors were:

Richard Wheatley:	<i>Czechoslovak Mail to Austria after World War Two.</i>
Derek Baron:	<i>Early Railway Delivery.</i>
Wojciech Kierstan:	<i>First Day Cover from Lidice.</i>
Derek Walker:	<i>Easter Card from a Russian Family to a Prisoner of War in Theresienstadt 1917.</i>
Tony Moseley:	<i>German Occupation of the Sudetenland 1938 – Hajda.</i>
Richard Beith:	<i>Undercover Addresses for Free Czechoslovak Forces in the UK during World War Two.</i>
Hans van Dooremalen:	<i>Three Colour Franking.</i>
Roger Morrell:	<i>Austro-Hungarian Censorship of Civilian Mail in the Czech and Slovak Lands During World War One.</i>

Book Reviews

The 5 Haler Dove: A Preliminary Technical History, by Mark Wilson (A4, colour, 20 pages) is a detailed study of the negative and matrix flaws in the fourteen plates of the blue and violet printings of the 5 haler Dove. It is set out in a logical and comprehensive manner. Commencing with the paste-up and its two flawed template prints, the work goes on to deal with the first negative and the flaws it produced in Plates I and II during the first printing. The study continues by describing the second negative's original and subsequent flaws in the six groups of plates in which the flaws appear. These defects are illustrated graphically and schematically throughout, which makes this highly technical work easy to follow. The work concludes with the booklet stamps.

The postscript to the book states that the 5 haler Dove offers countless opportunities for new research. This is amply borne out by the second work in the series.

The Blue 5 Haler Dove: From the First Negative, Plates I and II, by Mark Wilson (A4, colour, 32 pages). The study begins with a detailed description of the two negatives used to create the fourteen plates from which the stamps were printed, but the first negative is its main focus. The author divides the Dove stamp's design into twenty-four features, then verbally describes the flaws in terms of those features. These are followed by an illustration of each of the flaws.

The author states 'the study of this stamp offers avenues and bypaths for research unparalleled by any other issue or denomination.' Having studied both volumes, I had my doubts, but I understand three more volumes to complete the series are in preparation.

The author is to be congratulated on the depth of these studies and for making the information readily accessible. These books are essential reading for an understanding of the printing process and for plating the stamps. The clarity of the writing makes them easy to understand and because of the perfuse diagrams, especially in the second book, they can be understood by collectors who are not proficient in the English language.

Mark Wilson kindly donated copies of both books to our library. They are also available as print-on-demand titles. Enquires should be made to the Honorary Treasurer. – *Yvonne Wheatley*

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 Autumn 2013 issue of *Austria* No 183

Telegraph stamps (Ferchenbauer translated by Dickenson); Vienna to Frankfurt am Main (Schweighofer); An interesting question about Airmail (Boyer); Stamps of the First Republic [4] (Taylor); What's a signet? (Taylor et al); Austria in transition, 1918-1921 (Taylor & Pitts).

The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter Autumn 2013.

Bringing records into light (Tantony); Calthorpe House: then and now (Flood & Helenius); History of the parcel post (Jenkins); Mail rail: a photographic Exhibition (Bradley); From pillar to post (Gardner).

The June 2013 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol 44 Whole No 176. Member Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us.

Rudolf Cigánik, Academic, painter, illustrator, graphic artist, sculptor and stamp designer (Müller); Special fair flights: Leipzig, Prague, Leipzig [part 2] (Müller); Adapted cancellations 1945 – a speciality within the speciality “postwar postmarks” (Liebermann); The Sudetenland Corner [Part 7] (Gebauer).

The July 2013 issue of *Dylizans*, No 70.

General Lucjan Żeligowski and Central Lithuania (Stockhill); Bolesław the Brave, King of Poland 992-1025 (-).

Nos 8, 9, and 10, 2013 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol 63. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

Forgeries group “P” research completed (Beneš); Known and unknown facts about the postage due stamp 50/50 (Chudoba); Rare trial prints of Hradčany issue from the Eduard Herout's exhibit (-); Czechoslovak forerunners [2] (Weissenstein).

20 years in the House of Philately in Prague (Fronc); Forgeries group “P” research completed [3] (Beneš); Czechoslovak forerunners [3] (Weissenstein); The postal history of Cerhovice (Kramář).

New findings on 100h type 1 of Economy & Science issue 1923 (Látal); Forgery of trial print of unissued surcharge (Beneš); Difficult dark 2K Coat of Arms PČ issue 1919 [2] (Beneš).

The No 4, 2013 issue of *Merkur Revue*. English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

Eighty years of the issue Nitra [1933] (Bylavdána); Telegram of rare arrival of “TGM” (Filipek); Crash airmail in Austria-Hungary 1918 (Květón); Genesis of the Czechoslovak Order of the White Lion [Part 2-end] (Jedlička).

The September 2013 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* 194.

Forgery alert: the strange story of the handstamp “K.K BILKER QRNT AMT” (Czirók); Hungarian airmail covers to Australia and New Zealand 1940 and 1941 (Kennett); Hungary's telegraph development during the K.u.K period 1847-1918, with particular regard to philatelic viewpoint with coverage of formular use. Part 2: Forms (Pieper); Hazatérés Issue, 1938 – an exhibit (Kennett).

Library Additions

Kratochvíl, Jiří. *Historical Development of Postal Names in the Czech Lands* (Monografie No 20, Part 2). Czech with a brief English summary. A5, 368 p. (H)

Karásek, Jan. *Monografie II: The Dove* (Holubice) Part 1: History. A4, 20 p.; Part 2: Plate and Other Flaws. English. A4, 16 p. (L)

Wilson, Mark. *The 5 Haler Dove: A Preliminary Technical History*. English. A4, 20 p. (L)

Wilson, Mark. *The Blue 5 Haler Dove: From the First Negative, Plates I and II*. English. A4, 32 p. (L).

Žampach, F, et al. *Agriculture and Science 1920*. English A4, 26 p. (L)

Žampach, F, et al. *The Agriculture and Science Issue 1923* Part 1: Technical History. English. A4, 32 p; Part II: Plate Flaws. English. A4, 40 p. (L).

The Society's Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrations Roger Morrell

Over a chilly, breezy, but bright three days, the Society came together to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary with a fabulous set of meetings organised by our Chairman, Yvonne Wheatley, starting with our exhibition at the prestigious venue of the Royal Philatelic Society London in Devonshire Place.

On Thursday 21 November, twenty-three Society members contributed a total of fifty-two frames of material (over 580 sheets) on a wide variety of topics from pre-stamp mail and pre-WWI franked mail of the Czech and Slovak lands, through the First Republic period, the German annexation, and post-war Liberation, through to some more modern material representing the Second Republic period. A booklet detailing all the frame contents in the exhibition, which will be made available to all Society members, had been admirably prepared by the Society's editor, Mark Wilson, so details of the display are not included in this report.



The display was open to RPSL members and guests from one o'clock with an overall attendance in excess of eighty-five members and thirty guests. It was particularly pleasing to welcome as a guest to the event Mrs Shirley Knight, a niece by marriage of George Pearson, our first Honorary Life President. The event was very well received, it being widely commented that the scope and variety of material on display from a Society was often more interesting than a single theme show from an individual.

A vote of thanks was made on behalf of the RPSL by our member Bill Hedley, Honorary Secretary. He highlighted some of the more unusual items, and thanked the Society, and Yvonne in particular, for assembling such an interesting set of short displays. He also commented on the welcome addition of the static frame display, to be shown from 2 to 23 December (see below), to the display handbook, a departure from previous practice. Contributors to the display then received their certificates of participation from the President of the RPSL, Chris King. Our Chairman, Yvonne Wheatley, thanked the RPSL for the opportunity to hold the display and to take part in the Society's Anniversary celebrations. She presented the Royal library with a copy of Mark Wilson's study of the Allegory issues. The day concluded with a meal in the local hostelry at the invitation of the RPSL.

The following day, members assembled again at the RPSL, this time for an invited presentation from Vladimír Dražan on the 1953 Currency Reform, which Yvonne had seen in full in the Court of Honour at *Praga 2008* (her intense prolonged study leading to her being ejected by a security guard!). Mr Dražan brought three frames to show, including an introduction, postage due, unusual frankings and meter marks.

He explained through translator Stanislav Vytisk how the currency reform process came about, the suddenness of its introduction (announced at 10 p.m. on 31 May 1953, to commence the following day), the various rates of exchange for cash and bank deposits, and the effect that that had on postal rates. Many historians refer to this as 'the greatest robbery' in Czech history, based as it was on the Soviet 'reform' of 1947. Up to 300 Kčs, the cash exchange rate was 1 *new* = 5 *old*, but for larger sums the rate was 1 *new* for 50 *old*. Bank deposits made before 16 May were calculated at more advantage rates: up to 5000 Kčs, 1:5, up to 20000 Kčs at 1:10, and up to 50000 Kčs at 1:25, or for



Stanislav Vytisk (left) translates for Vladimír Dražan.

higher amounts 1:30. The postal rates increased overnight by a factor of ten, with a period of grace of just a few hours on 1 June, mainly to cover letters posted the night before at the old rates. The change led to the rapid using up of stamp stocks, franking mistakes, and frequent postage due charges, with some complications concerning underpaid mail from outside Czechoslovakia. In some cases huge numbers of postage due stamps had to be applied, including whole sheets of stamps.

Examples in the second displayed frame included the use of revenue rather than postage stamps, up-rated stationery envelopes, parcel cards, and the use of airmail stamps for inland mail. Because new stamps were not available until 19 June, unfranked mail was marked as *paid for in cash* after stamp supplies ran out. Private holdings of mint stamps, particularly by collectors, became to be



*Lubor Kunc presents Certificates of Merit to Society members.
Absent: Yvonne Gren, Richard Beith.*

thought of as worthless, so to use them up many philatelic combinations are known. A total of 248 different stamps were valid at the time, leading to complicated high-value combinations during the eighteen-day period. A particularly interesting aspect shown in the third frame was the use of franking machines. The requirement to increase the rates by a factor of 10 led to the need to frank items several times at the maximum offered by the machine, often only 9.90 Kčs, to make up the new rate.

The vote of thanks to Mr Dražan was given by Barry Horne, who added a comment that cash payment continued until mid-August 1953 in some small villages because of late delivery of supplies of the new stamps.

Following this display, Lubor Kunc made some surprise presentations on behalf of the Union of Czech Philatelists to recognise the important contribution to Czech philately made by members of the CPSGB, including Yvonne Wheatley, Yvonne Gren, Lindy Bosworth, Colin Spong, Richard Beith, Brian Day, Mark Wilson, Bob Hill, Tony Bosworth and, posthumously, Otto Hornung. He also presented to the Society Library a copy of the proceedings of a conference on the history of Slaný: *Zapomenuté osudy, zapomenuté udalosti: Slaný a Slánsko ve XX století, 2013*, proceedings of a conference held in November 2012 at which he gave a postal history paper.

Chairman Yvonne then presented the Bill Dawson Literature Award to Norman Hudson for his article on the Tatra Lake mystery. Norman had chosen a volume on the artist Alfons Mucha which was too heavy to bring to the meeting, so the audience had to make do with a picture of the front cover.

The meeting finished with short presentations about the static frame displays by some of the contributors present, including Wojciech Kierstan, Mark Wilson, Rex Dixon, Lubor Kunc, and Norman Hudson. These displays were of different material to those shown the previous day and were to be available until 23 December for viewing by visiting RPSL members. The day was concluded with a dinner at a local restaurant, with friendly philatelic chat, particularly with those from overseas.



Norman Hudson receiving the Bill Dawson Literature Award.

The Society's AGM was held on Saturday at our usual venue of the Czech and Slovak National Club. Following the usual Society business, attending members (I counted at least 30) were treated to another view of the June 1953 currency

reform problem, this time by György Lővei from Hungary, president of *Mabéosz Cseh és Szlovák Szekciója* (the Hungarian Czech-Slovak Society).

Although the subject was the same as shown by Mr Dražan the previous day, it was complementary in many respects, showing examples of mail he had acquired mostly in Hungary. He showed items from immediately before 1 June 1953, and immediately after when stamps were available again. He also showed a number of items that could be deemed to be philatelic from the stamp combinations. (*An article based upon Dr Lővei's material appears on page 18 – Editor.*)

Rex Dixon, newly promoted to Chairman, gave the vote of thanks, complimenting him on such an excellent display put together over a relatively short period of time. Dr Lővei then presented the Society with some copies of a maximaphily book on Slovakia (*Slovakia: Country of History, Culture and Natural Beauties in Maximaphily*, by Julius Molnár and William Schmidt, in Slovak and English.). To round off the afternoon, short displays were given by



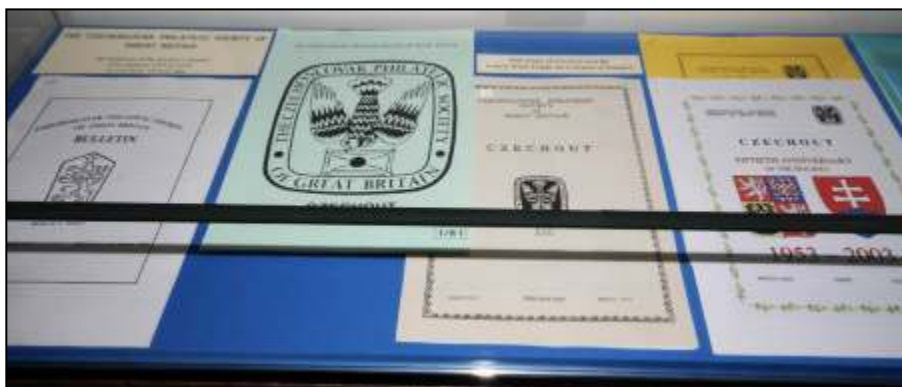
Dr György Lővei at the Saturday afternoon meeting.

Jon Klemetsen on the First Republic and Barry Horne on some illustrated covers.

Formal celebrations of the Society's anniversary concluded with a jubilee dinner at the Victory Services Club near Marble Arch in London, ably arranged by our President, Colin Spong. Members travelled *en masse* from West Hampstead to the Club. The lounges were comfortable for some tea or coffee to fill in the intervening time. Thirty-three sat down to an enjoyable dinner, efficiently and unobtrusively served. It was good to see Hazel Gorge, the widow of long-standing member Ernst Gorge, former Secretary and Treasurer, who was able to join us to meet old friends.

The toast to the Society was proposed by Hans van Dooremalen, Chairman of the *Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatolie*, who kindly presented to the Society a memento containing a sheet of Dutch stamps personalized with our Society's jubilee logo. As Hartmut Liebermann, Chairman of the *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, was unable to be with us (he was in Rio de Janeiro for the *Brasiliana 2013* international stamp exhibition), Hans also presented us with a memento from our sister society in Germany; this incorporated a sheet of Czech stamps personalized for their meeting held in Soltau in May (*both sheets appear on the back cover – Editor*).

Rex Dixon, the CPSGB's new Chairman, replied to the toast citing the international nature of our celebrations, with participation from South Africa, Germany, Hungary, Norway, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and the USA. He finished by thanking Dr Mark Wilson for producing the jubilee brochure, and Yvonne Wheatley, ably assisted by husband Richard Wheatley, for organizing such a splendid three-day festival of Czechoslovak philately, and presented each with a certificate.



Display of historic issues of Czechout at the RPSL.

At the Royal Philatelic Society London

Photos by Bob McLeod.



Yvonne Wheatley presents President Chris King with a selection of books for the RPSL library.



Member Bill Hedley, Hon. Secretary thanks the Society on behalf of the RPSL



Participants in the Display and Static Display for the RPSL.



Shirley Knight, niece of George Pearson by marriage, inspects a display at the RPSL.



Guests viewing the display at the Royal Philatelic Society London.

AGM



For the first time in memory, the entire Committee responded 'Present' at the AGM.

Jubilee Dinner Party



*Yvonne Gren
Hazel Gorge*
Rex Dixon
Yvonne Wheatley
Richard Wheatley
Vic Punter
Richard Beith
Hans van Dooremalen
Gemmy van Dooremalen**

**Denotes guest.*

Robert Potter
Deborah Potter*
J Barry Horne
Janet Horne*
György Lővei
Hans Smith*
Jon Klemetsen*



Kathy Hounsell
Reg Hounsell
Vivienne Taylor*
Garth Taylor
T James Hooper
Felicity Hooper*
Tony Bosworth
Lubor Kunc
Lindy Bosworth*



*Mark Wilson
Tony Moseley
Derek Walker
Pat Spong*
Colin Spong
Roger Castle
Norman Hudson*



Ustron – Ustroń – Ustroň - Johan Sevenhuijsen -

From time to time carefully observing the cancellations on Hradčany stamps issued between 1918 and 1920 yields extraordinary discoveries which require further investigation. Several years ago I came across the 20h Hradčany shown in *Figure 1* (POFIS 8; SG 7). The stamp bears a very clear *Ustron* cancel and a separate 19 Feb 1919 date stamp struck in violet. At the time, I put this intriguing curiosity aside. Recently I decided to find out more about it.



Figure 1.

Ustroń turned out to be a village in the Silesian part of Poland, well known as a spa, just 20 km southeast of Cieszyn and close to the Czech (Moravian) border. What would a Hradčany stamp be doing there? Information supplied by the *Monografie*, Part V, solved the mystery. In the chaotic period after WWI, the borders between the different emerging countries that formerly comprised the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1867–1918) were not yet clearly defined.

The story of a proposed referendum – The Plebiscite – to resolve the Silesian border dispute in 1920 is relatively well known if only because both early Czechoslovak and Polish stamps were overprinted for the occasion. But there was a prelude to that event. Soon after the war, a territorial dispute between Poland and Czechoslovakia erupted over this region containing iron and textile works, crucial railway lines, and, most importantly, a sizable portion of the Silesian coalfields. From 23 January to 30 January 1919, Czech troops occupied a part of Silesia around the city of Teschen – Těšín – Cieszyn (*Figure 2*). This phase ended in with an armistice on 5 February. A treaty signed in Paris on 3 February turned the land over to the Polish authorities on 25 February 1919.



Figure 2.

During the three-week period of Czech administration, before 25 February 1919, the postal service was handled by the Czechs. Hradčany stamps were provided for that purpose. Letters from Teschen franked with the Hradčany and cancelled by old Austrian cancellers are known (*Figure 3*). In Ustroń / Ustroń and two other places, however, undated bilingual Czech-Polish provisional cancels (*Figure 4*) were used in combination with a regular date-stamp. Unique to Ustroń was a one-line cancel with a date-stamp as shown on my stamp; it is colour-illustrated in the *Monografie*. This cancel just reads *Ustron*, perhaps to avoid conflict about the use of the Czech vs. the Polish diacritic sign on the *n*. Another mystery solved.

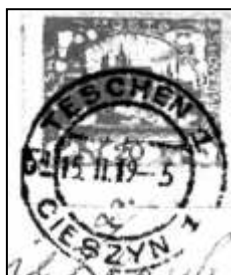


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Reference:

Oldřich Tovačovský, *Monografie československých známek SO 1920, 5. díl, Pofis, Praha 1998.*

**Provisional German Cancels Used at Hermannseifen bei Arnau
During the Early Period of the German Occupation
- Tony Moseley -**

Following the German annexation of the Czech territories known collectively as the Sudetenland during the autumn of 1938, many locations used temporary provisional cancels, normally only for a short period. There were various reasons for doing so; most often the existing pre-occupation Czech hand-cancels were simply no longer available.

One of these locations was Hermannseifen bei Arnau [Czech name Heřmanovy Sejfy, now called Rudník u Hostinné], in northern Bohemia, which fell under the control of the German Head Post Office at Breslau. This small town had a pre-war population of 2,695 and was situated near Hohenebel, modern day Vrchlabí. At least two German provisional hand-cancels were put into temporary use here for several different postal purposes, and I provide the following covers to support this fact.



Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows a Czechoslovak Army stampless fieldpost letter of pre-occupation origin, posted before the German annexation, addressed to Pěší Pluk 23, Náhr. pomocná rota [23 Infantry Regiment, Compensation Assistance Company], Trnava [Slovakia].

This letter has been treated as a postage due in Hermannseifen, which had been under German control since 8 October 1938. The handwritten Czech annotation *Send by Official Field Post* has been crossed out and the letter T [postage due] applied next to the German single-line provisional cancel which reads simply Hermannseifen in black ink with the date added separately: 16.X.1938. There is no indication that the postage due fee was ever collected. This single-line cancel had a very limited period of use and was soon replaced with an elaborate *Tag der Befreiung* circular hand stamp.

Figure 2 shows an example of a registered letter with the correct franking of 42 pfgr [12 pfgr for an internal letter, plus 30 pfgr for the registration fee] paid with German adhesives sent from Hermannseifen bei Arnau to Hirschberg [Riesengebirge]. This letter is interesting as there was obviously no supply of regular printed registration labels available at the Post Office at Hermannseifen. The Postal Officials there used their own provisional registration label which utilised a single-line locally made handstamp Hermannseifen as shown in Figure 1 to cancel mail; here we see that same handstamp used to produce a temporary registration label.

The stamps are cancelled with a 38 mm diameter fixed-date circular provisional cancel, an elaborate affair: *Hermannseifen – Heil Hitler! – Tag der Befreiung 8./10.1938* applied in magenta ink. This cancel remained in use for some time.

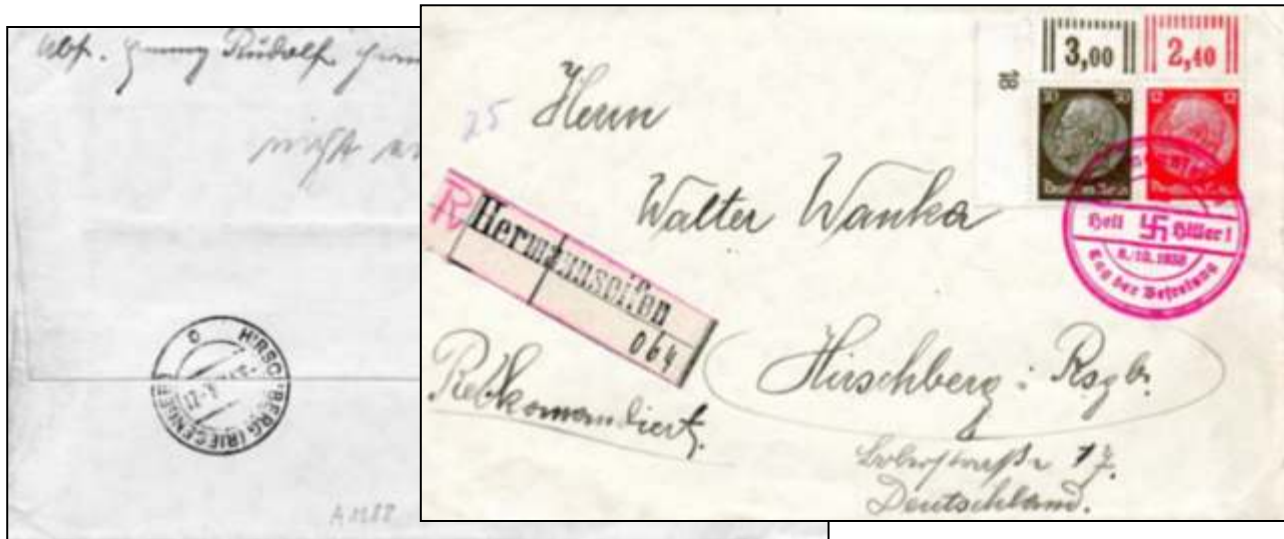


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

Figure 3 shows an incoming letter from Breslau, addressed to Leopold bei Hermannseifen Arnau to the east of Hermannseifen. Dated 4.11.38 from Breslau, the letter passed through Hermannseifen bei Arnau where the previously described circular fixed-date provisional German cancel was used as a transit mark and the date 5 Nov. 1938 added separately. The addressee was no longer in Hermannseifen, so the letter was forwarded to Hirschberg [Riesengebirge].

It has the correct franking of 12 pfgr for an internal letter within the German Reich and used adhesives from the Breslau Gymnastics and Sports Festival and the Austrian Anschluss, both events having taken place in 1938. The fixed-date provisional cancel *Hermannseifen – Heil Hitler! – Tag der Befreiung, 8./10.1938* was also applied in magenta ink as was shown in Figure 2.

Sixtieth Anniversary of the 1953 Monetary Reform **- Dr György Lóvei -**

Historical Background

The Czechoslovak Communist Party took power on 20 February 1948 and began immediately to focus upon heavy industry, especially in the area of armament production. At the same time it forcibly collectivised the agricultural sector. These policies led to shortages of consumer goods, especially foodstuffs, and were accompanied by a twenty-eight percent inflation. The government's reaction to this situation at the beginning of 1953 was to increase the prices of state-supplied goods, an act that led to short-lived strikes and a growing disaffection among the people.

The Party next implemented currency reform. Although it exempted small groups of people, it devalued salaries at a 5:1 ratio, savings' accounts at a 50:1 ratio, and abolished the state's fiscal obligations.

The Party stopped rationing food at subsidized prices and increased work quotas. After months of rumours and denials by state representatives, it announced a monetary reform policy at 22:00 on 31 May 1953.

News of the reform spread quickly among night-shift workers in the Škoda plant in Plzeň who then went on strike. The next day, in the morning, the workers decided to march to the city centre. A guard was killed, and around noon the mob attacked the city hall, started to build barricades in the streets, then set fire to the State Security building and began to destroy communist party symbols. Posters and slogans asking for the end of single-party rule appeared. Along with two thousand students, some local communists and uniformed policemen joined (or were forced to join) the rebellion. The mob attacked nearby Bory Prison and released its prisoners. Secret service members and their informers were lynched. Since the uprising had no central leadership its actions were chaotic and uncoordinated.

The government sent two police battalions (eight thousand men) and an army unit (two thousand five hundred men along with eighty tanks) to suppress the rebellion. During street fights about forty rebels were killed. The insurgents did manage to destroy nine tanks and some armoured personnel carriers with petrol bombs. On the afternoon of 2 June, the last insurgents barricaded themselves in factories and were forced to surrender. Over two thousand people were taken prisoner immediately and martial law imposed. The leaders of the uprising were promptly tried and sentenced to lengthy prison terms; later one person was executed. Communists and militiamen who had participated in the revolt were treated especially harshly.

Strikes had started in nineteen large industrial plants in Bohemia and Moravia and in some industrial cities, such as Kladno and Ostrava. Those strikes did not turn violent and ended within a week. An estimated three hundred and sixty thousand workers went on strike, and up to two hundred and fifty thousand had demonstrated in the streets.

On 8 June, save for currency reform, the Party rescinded the measures instituted on 31 May, and somewhat reduced prices. This uprising, along with others in central Europe forced the leaders of the Soviet Union to exercise greater control over these countries.

The year 1953 inflicted other tragedies for communist leaders in eastern Europe: J V Stalin died on 5 March 1953 (POFIS 716) and nine days later Klement Gottwald, president of the Czechoslovakia, also died (POFIS 732-735). Antonín Zápotocký (POFIS 736-737, 740-741) became president and Antonín Novotný elected First Secretary (POFIS 999-1000).

Postal History

Monetary reform influenced postal rates. Between 1 and 19 June 1953, the old stamps could be used; but new stamps were issued on 19 June 1953 (POFIS 736-737). According to the new regulations ten old stamps equalled one new stamp, which meant changing the basic rates as shown in *Table 1*.

I collect postal documents for the period 30 May to 19 June 1953, allowing myself a few exceptions. My approach is nearly a strictly postal history approach, focused upon traditional aspects as well as the use of old postage due and airmail stamps. My approach differs a bit from the Czechoslovak catalogues' system and is based upon the 1988 handbook published under the title *Specializovaná Příručka* which evaluated stamps on covers on pages 133-134. This handbook set up six categories according to the stamps' rarity (*Table 2*).

Table 1: Changes in Postal Tariffs.

Type	Old Rate	Provisional Rate	New Rate
Postcard	1.50	15.00	0.30
Local Letter	2.00	20.00	0.40
Internal Letter	3.00	30.00	0.60
Registration Fee	5.00	50.00	1.00
Express Fee	8.00	80.00	1.40
Letter to Austria	3.80	38.00	0.80
Letter to Hungary	3.00	30.00	0.60
Airmail: Inland & Hungary	1.00	10.00	0.20
Foreign Letter	5.00	50.00	1.00

Under this system, postage due stamps form an additional category. The handbook evaluated stamps on covers using the following: One-stamp franking; one-stamp multiple franking; mixed franking. Types of letters also formed a special category. The base price reflected the value of a single stamp, but points were added for certain items: registered letter, express letter, value-declared letter, local letter, printed matter, postcard, photo postcard with imprinted stamp, parcel, foreign mail, mail posted on 7 June and 14 June (Sundays), letter with mixed stamp and meter postage, and cash payments. I arrange my items in ten, rather than those six, categories.

Table 2: Categories of Stamps by Scarcity.

Category	POFIS Numbers
I	485-489, 502, 504, 507, 521, 666, 721
II	505, 506, 643, 679, 702, 705, 713, 717, 718, 722, 724, 725, 729
III	503, 680, 693, 700, 704, 707-709, 714, 716, 720, 726, 728, 730
IV	549, 557, 657, 668, 671, 674, 675, 681, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 695, 697, 698, 710, L19, L21, L24
V	438, 439, L20, L22, L23, L27, L35
VI	519, 520, 522-548, 550-556, 558-563, A564, 565, 642, 644, 656, 658, 665, 667, 669, 670, 672, 673, 676, 677, 678, 682-684, 690, A691/692, 694, 696, 699, 701, 703, 706, 711, 712, 715, A719, 723, 727, 731, L17, L18, L25, L26, L36, DOR3

Category I: Grace Period

Letters mailed before noon on 1 June 1953 could be sent at the old postal rate (*Figure 1*). After that, the recipient had to pay a fine with old postage due stamps.



Figure 1: Grace Period.
Postcard sent before noon on 1 June 1953 at the old postcard rate of 1.50 Kčs.

Category II. Use of Postage Due Stamps

Postage due stamps also were used as normal stamps. On 10 June 1953 the use of the old postage due stamps was suspended; any fine had to be paid in cash (Figures 2 and 3). Old postage due stamps were used again from 29 June 1953, when they started to use them in the new currency (Figure 4) New postage due stamps were not issued until 1954.

Figure 2: Use of Postage Dues.
 Printed stationery card, 8 June 1953
 imprinted at 1.50 Kčs. Rate should have
 been 15 Kčs in old currency, therefore
 the deficiency was 13.50 Kčs doubled to
 27 Kčs. Postage due stamps applied
 before authorities suspended their use.



Figure 3: Use of Postage Dues.
 Printed stationery card 24 June 1953 after
 stamps in old currency were invalid.
 Postcard rate in new currency was 30 haler,
 double deficiency of 60 haler paid in cash.

Figure 4: Use of Postage Dues.
 Local letter 17(?) July 1953 after stamps in
 old currency were invalid. New rate, 40
 haler. Double deficiency 80 haler postage
 due stamps valid in new currency.



Category III: One-Stamp Franking

10, 15, 20, 30 and 50 Kčs stamps could be used as one-stamp franking – the 50 Kčs stamp can be seen only on letters sent abroad as basic fee. The rarest is 50 Kčs, while the values of the spa set are also rare (*Figure 5*).



*Figure 5: One Stamp Franking.
Printed matter, 10 June 1953. Rate 10 Kčs using
airmail stamp.*



*Figure 6: One Stamp Franking.
Printed matter, 10 June 1953. Rate 10 Kčs.*

Category IV: Use of Ten or More Similar Stamps

Uses of the old 10 × 1.00, 1.50, 3.00 Kčs stamps, even commemorative stamps, are rather frequent.

*Figures 7, 8, and 9:
Use of Ten or More Similar Stamps:
Internal Letter rate of 30 Kčs.*



*Top: Paid by 10×3 Kčs.
Centre: Paid by 10×3 Kčs.
Bottom: Paid by 15×2 Kčs.*

Category V: Use of Airmail Stamps

The use of airmail stamps inside of the country was rare before the advent of currency reform. The high values were used only for foreign airmail letters and practically never inside the country. They were issued in relatively low quantities – two and a half million as compared to the nearly two hundred and eighty-six million Gottwald stamps. The number of Spa sets was even lower: thirty-eight thousand to a half a million. This meant that their use inside the country was quite uncommon. The use of sheets of ten may be seen on letters sent abroad (*Figure 10*).



Figure 10: Use of Airmail Stamps:
Foreign registered letter sent airmail. Here a letter to Scotland 11 June 1953. Foreign letter rate 50 Kčs, registration 80 Kčs, airmail fee 20 Kčs for a total of 150 Kčs paid by full sheet of airmail stamps, 10×15 Kčs.

Category VI: Use of Personal Delivery Stamps

The Czechoslovak post ended the original purpose of this special triangular stamp (personal delivery) and permitted its use as a normal stamp at its original value. The post office issued no further personal delivery stamps (*Figure 11*).



Figure 11: Personal Delivery Stamps.
Internal registered letter 1 June 1953. Basic letter rate 30 Kčs, registration 50 Kčs, and over-franked 100 Kčs. Superfluous 10×2 Kčs personal delivery stamps.
This may be a second-weight letter over 20 g requiring an extra 30 Kčs which, with a 10 Kčs stamp hidden on the reverse, would explain the use of the personal delivery stamps.

Category VII: Use of Meter Marks

Local companies used meter mark. Each machine had to be converted to the new currency, which took some time. Letters with multiple meter marks are rare. The reason for multiple use of meter mark was because old machines set to rates below 10 Kčs could only be used in this way. Later, meter marks were modified and may be found with grace periods cancellations in new currency, typically during the second week of reform. (Figures 12 and 13)



Figure 12: Use of Meter Marks, Second-step internal registered letter 2 June 1953.
Rate: 60 Kčs up to 250 g, registration fee 50 Kčs. Paid by 12×9 Kčs + 1×2 Kčs.



Figure 13: Use of Meter Marks. Internal registered express letter 13 June 1953.
Letter rate 30 Kčs, registration fee 50 Kčs, express fee 80 Kčs. Paid by 13×10 Kč + 1×30 Kč.

Category VIII: Cash Franking

During the second week, because post offices encountered a shortage of stamps, they permitted customers to pay with cash as indicated by the marking *Vyplaceno*. Sometimes, mail with only part of the fee paid in cash can be found, a rarer franking variation (*Figure 14*).



*Figure 14: Cash Franking.
Internal printed stationery card.
5 July 1953, rate 15 Kčs.
Paid by 1.50 Kčs card + 13.50 Kčs in cash.*

Category IX: Multiple Franking

One interesting item in my collection is a letter franked with one hundred-twenty stamps. These are twenty 0.50 Kčs and one-hundred 1.00 Kčs stamps. This cover, an internal registered letter at the second-step rate, proved very popular with the FEPA jury members in Paris as they considered it an innovative display of a large letter (*Figure 15*).



*Figure 15: Multiple Frankings.
Internal registered second-step letter (up to 250 g). Letter rate 60 Kčs, registration fee 50 Kčs.
Paid by 20×0.50 Kčs on front and 100×1 Kčs on reverse.*

As was mentioned earlier, certain types of mailings can be quite difficult to find; for instance, value-declared letters (Figure 16) and parcel notes (Figure 17).



Figure 16: Value-Declared Letter.



Figure 17: Parcel Clipping.

Covers franked for foreign delivery can be quite scarce, and, even worse, most are philatelic items. An entire franked with definitive stamps – rather than scarcer commemoratives – makes for an exciting find. Here are three sent to Hungary: a letter (*Figure 18*) and two philatelic items bearing souvenir sheets (*Figures 19 and 20*).



Figure 18: Letter to Hungary at Reduced Rate
8 June 1953. Rate: 30 Kčs. Paid by 8×3 Kčs + 2×3 Kčs on reverse.



Figure 19: Letter to Hungary by airmail 1 June 1953.
Rate: 30 Kčs, registration fee 50 Kčs, airmail fee 10 Kčs, for a total of 90 Kčs.

Above: 47.50 Kčs on reverse;
Right: 44 Kčs on front, thus over-franked by 1.50 Kčs.





Figure 20: Letter to Hungary by Airmail 9 June 1953. Miniature sheet – rate as in Figure 19. Over-franked by 1.50 Kčs.

Category X: New Stamps

At the time of the reform the Czechoslovak Postal Administration had, of course, several stamps planned for release using the old currency: a pair of youth stamps and two Prague Music Festival stamps. The unissued youth stamps were sold at a national youth exhibition, as discussed in a postcard destined for The Netherlands (Figure 21).

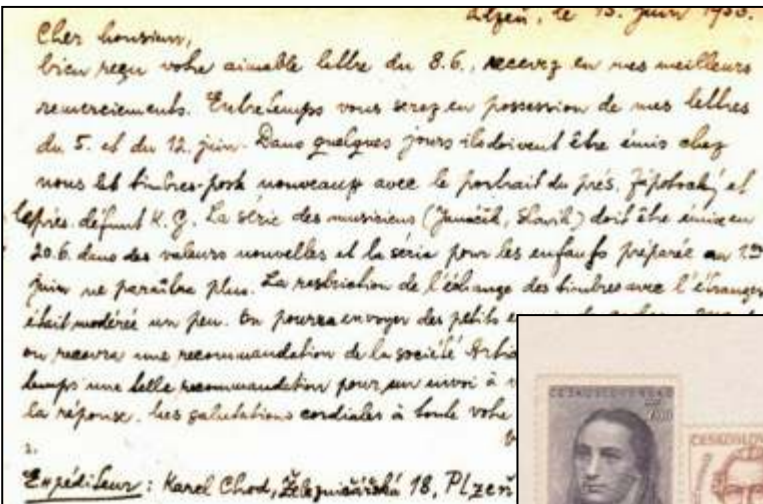


Figure 21: Foreign postcard to Netherlands. 15 June 1953. Rate 30 Kčs. Paid 20 + 3 + 1.50 Kčs (only 24.50 Kčs) but no postage due markings.

The message explains that the two youth stamps planned for 1 June 1953 were never issued. Other new stamps planned for 20 June were released 19 June 1953 with portraits of presidents Gottwald and Zápotocký.



Four Klement Gottwald (15h, 20h, 1Kčs, and 3Kčs) and two photogravure stamps of Antonín Zápotocký (30h and 60h) were issued on 19 June 1953 (*Figures 22 and 23*).



Figure 22: Internal Registered Letter 19 June 1953.

Letter rate 60 haler, registration fee 1.00 Kčs. Paid by 1 × 1 Kčs and 2 × 20 haler. Under-franked by 20 haler but no postage due markings applied.



Figure 23: Internal Postcard (?) June 1953.

Rate 30 haler paid with new 30 haler stamp issued on 19 June 1953.

Editor's Note: Dr Lővei exhibited his Monetary Reform collection in Paris in 2012, where it was well received. In other exhibitions the display raised praise as an exciting postal history collection based upon events that transpired less than sixty years ago.

Dr Lővei began collecting monetary reform items about fifteen years ago. His first notice of this period came as a child when he saw only a short sentence in the Zumstein Catalogue. He first viewed monetary reform covers at the 1978 Prague World Exhibition and obtained his first covers from an unnoticed collection housed in a chocolate box.

What? Where? When?

Mark Wilson in the June 2013 issue asked why the Czech stamp *World Ice Hockey Germany 2010* did not have an Stanley Gibbons number. **Yvonne Wheatley** contacted the editor of the Czech section of SG, **Clare de la Feuillade**, who apologized for the publication's oversight and assigned a number to the stamp: 616a. The number appears in the latest SG update.

Wojciech Kierstan asks: I have in my possession, what I believe to be a type B forgery of the 20 haler Boy Scout issue, however it is in blue rather than red. As I've not been able to find anything about it in the reference books in my possession, I was wondering if anyone had any ideas of where I could find out more about its origin?

Are there any other forgeries of this issue in non-issued colours? And is it known who actually made these forgeries?

Steven Friedenthal of St Albert in Alberta, Canada, has a cover with a Brno return address that travelled from Prague to Shanghai in the 1930s and wonders where he can learn about its route between the two cities. Note the commemorative 7 March 1935 Masaryk cancellation.



Wilson



Friedenthal



Kierstan

Printing Techniques

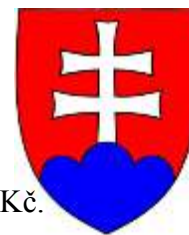


RD: rotary die stamping with multi-colour photogravure.
DS: die stamping from flat plates.

Czech NVI Stamps with Current Rates

A: ordinary internal letter to 50 g – 13 Kč.
E: ordinary standard letter to 20 g to European countries – 25 Kč.
Z: ordinary standard air letter to 20 g to non-European countries – 26 Kč.

NB: Rate increases from August 2013



New Issues – Czech Republic - Lindy Bosworth -

31 July 2013 **Definitive: St Wenceslas**



Designer: Jan Kavan

Linear Drawing: Václav Fajt

Printing: full colour offset in sheets of 100 stamps

Design: the monument of St Wenceslas by J V Myslbek with a ribbon in the national colours of white, red and blue.

FDC: no official one issued.

St Wenceslas (907-935) is the main patron saint of the Czech people and a symbol of the Czech nation. He was brought up by his grandmother Saint Ludmila as a Christian to become ruler of the Duchy of Bohemia. He was the founder of the rotunda consecrated to St Vitus which later became St Vitus Cathedral, Prague. Wenceslas was known for his piety, care for the poor, slaves, and prisoners, and founded several churches. He was murdered by his brother Boleslav who succeeded him as Duke of Bohemia.

Josef Václav Myslbek (1848-1922) came from a poor family living in Prague. At an early age he was interested in sculpture finding several jobs with different Czech sculptors. After studying art at the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague he opened his own studio. He is credited with founding the modern Czech style of sculpture. The statue of Wenceslas was begun in 1887 with the idea of depicting Wenceslas as a Dark Age warrior but this changed to a more serene and noble leader seen today.

4 September 2013 **Beauties of Our Country: Nový Jičín Seven Hundredth Anniversary**



Designer: Eva Hašková

Engraver: Jaroslav Tvrdoň

Printing: DS in sheets of 8

FDC: printed DS in dark green with a commemorative Nový Jičín cancel. The cachet drawing is taken from a sculpture of a dancing farmer with his wife.

Design: the town square.

Nový Jičín is now the district capital in the Moravian-Silesian region between Olomouc and Ostrava. The town dates back to 1267, growing below the castle (Starý Jičín) which today is Žerotín Castle. The layout of the town on a grid system with a square town square is evidence that it was established by Přemysl Ottakar II, King of Bohemia. In 1313, the King, John of Luxembourg, granted the town the privilege of collecting tolls on the local trading route. The title to the town passed through several families but it did not flourish until the first part of the sixteenth century. The Žerotín family became bankrupt in the rebuilding of the original castle and the estate and town were sold to the town itself. The town square is particularly fine with wide whitewashed arcades under late Baroque facades. There is an extensive Hatter's Museum based on the industry of the town.

4 September 2013 Nature Conservation: The Karlštejn Region



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek
Engraver: Martin Srb

Printing: coloured offset with black engraving

FDCs: printed DS with various commemorative cancels.

Design: commemorative sheet with four stamps and four labels to illustrate the flora, fauna and terrain of the region.

10 CZK: *Dracocephalum austriacum* (dragonhead plant) which is critically endangered and *Chorthippus vagans* (heath grasshopper). **FDC:** printed in blue with a commemorative Svätý Jan

pod Skalou cancel. The cachet shows a view of the village with a green needle grass plant (*Stipa joannis*) in the foreground.

14 CZK: *Oenanthe oenanthe* (northern wheatear) a migratory bird spending the winter in Africa. **FDC:** printed in dark green with a commemorative Mořina cancel. The cachet drawing shows pits at Barrande with a detailed drawing of several *Aulacopleura konincki* (trilobite fossils from the Middle Silurian period).

18 CZK: *Polioptila caerulea* (chalkhill blue butterfly), *Colias crocea* (clouded yellow butterfly), and *Pulsatilla pratensis* (small Pasque flower), with a typical river valley of this Karst region in the background. **FDC:** printed in green-blue with cascades of the Bubovice brook and the plant *Aconitum lycoctonum* (northern wolfsbane) in the foreground.

20 CZK: Karlštejn Castle with a raptor flying overhead and the plant *Rosa gallica* (Gallic rose) in the foreground. **FDC:** printed in brown with commemorative Karlštejn cancel. The cachet has a drawing of another view of the castle with two *Lucanus cervus* (stag beetles) on an old oak log.

The Karlštejn National Reserve (1547 hectares) was established in 1955. It is the largest protected area within the Český Kras (Bohemian Karst) Protected Landscape area. It is a predominantly forested area to the north of the Berounka river and is divided by two smaller rivers. There are limestone rocks with jagged karst canyons, ravines, and numerous caves in the area. Evidence of prehistoric human settlement dating back forty thousand years has been discovered. These caves are hibernating sites for several bat species. Several plant and small animal species are unique to the reserve. Archaeologists in the 1950s found a 'Robber's Cave' which was the fifteenth century workshop of forgers minting false Hussite hellers called *flutky* with a full set of weights, miner's lamp, and even the remains of food. Some of the caves are now tourist attractions for their limestone drip formations.

4 September 2013 ICF Canoe Slalom Championships 2013



Designer: Jan Ungrád

Engraver: Jaroslav Tvrdoň

Printing: rotary recess with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps

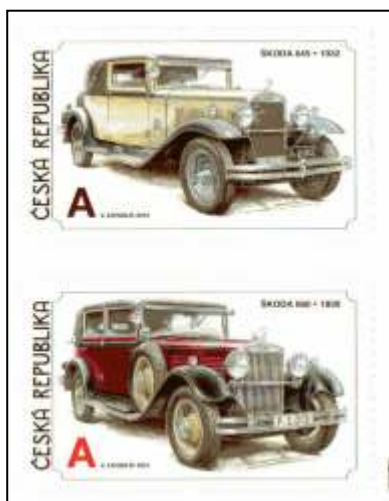
FDC: printed DS in dark blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design shows an old canoe with two paddlers and a map of the Czech Republic and rivers. Below, in Czech text, *One hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Czech Canoe Union.*

The 2013 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships took place in the Troja Centre, 11-15 September 2013 in Prague. The Czech Canoe Union celebrated its one hundredth anniversary at the same time. The Czech Republic gained three gold medals and three silver medals out of the ten awards events and were overall winners. The next Championships take place in USA and in 2015 will be competed

for in London. The Championships have taken place every year in non-summer Olympic years since 2002. From 1949 to 1999 they were held in odd numbered years. The International Canoe Federation was inaugurated in 1946 with its headquarters in Lausanne Switzerland and is the umbrella organisation for all national organisations. It administers all aspects of canoe sports and is affiliated with the Olympic Committee. Canoeing sports first appeared in the 1936 Olympic Games, Berlin.



4 September 2013 Václav Zapadlík – Czech Cars – Škoda 1.



Designers: Václav Zapadlík (stamp and FDC) Miloslav Bláha (cancel)

Printing: multi-coloured offset in booklets of eight self adhesive stamps (two designs se tenant)

Designs: two different Škoda cars: a) Škoda 860 from 1930; b) Škoda 645 from 1932.

Booklet: the front page shows three vintage cars

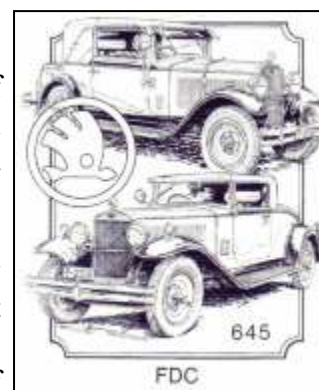
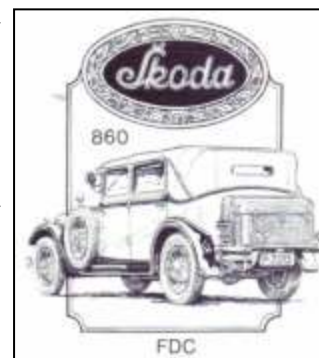
(a) Laurin & Klement B 1907

(b) Laurin & Klement 110 from 1925-1929

(c) Škoda 6R from 1930. The back page has a portrait and facsimile signature of Zapadlík with biographical text in Czech

and English. To the side are details of the Czech Post and logo with a security hologram and bar code.

FDCs: printed multi-coloured offset in blue-violet. a) Commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing has the Škoda emblem and the rear view of the model 860 car. b) Commemorative Mladá Boleslav cancel. The cachet drawing has two different views of the Model 645 car and the Škoda logo. This is a continuing series of issues on veteran vehicles from the work of Václav Zapadlík. Previous issues: 5 September 2012: *World Cars* (self adhesive booklet stamps); 12 June 2013: *Historical Transport Vehicles* (three stamps).



4 September 2013 My Own Stamps – Specimen Issue – Fill Your Fuel Tank in a Cheaper Way



Designers: Petr Foltera (graphic arrangement of typeface; Jan Hykel (stamp) Ivana Havráňková (booklet)

Printing: full coloured offset in self-adhesive booklets of eight 'A' value stamps (formats: four portrait, four landscape)

Design: 'A' value stamp with text *Tank Cheaper* and a promotional logo with the email web site for finding information. Each stamp edge has an irregular perforation.

Booklet: front cover has a facsimile of the issued stamp and the text in Czech: *We know where you can fill your fuel tank in a cheaper way*. The back cover gives information on the project and for customising the stamps, the security hologram logo of the Czech Post, and a bar code.

FDC: no official issue

Booklets can be customised to order with: (a) title of the booklet and two fields on face and back cover. The back cover will show eight alphanumeric characters: VZ (My Own Stamp) ZS (Stamp Booklet) and four numeric characters for the serial number of the order. (b) stamps – up to eight different designs per booklet. *Fill Your Tank in a Cheaper Way* is a joint project of the Czech Post and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The web site will show an interactive map with current prices of petrol and diesel at petrol stations throughout the Republic.

4 September 2013 My Own Stamps – Specimen Issue – 20 Years of the Czech Post



Designers: Petr Foltera (graphic arrangement of type face) Ivana Havránková (stamps and arrangement of booklet)

Printing: full coloured offset in self adhesive booklets of eight 'E' value stamps (format: four portrait and four landscape)

Design: 'E' value stamp with text *20 Years of the Czech Post*, a series of four wavy lines below to represent a cancellation and the Czech Post logo. Each stamp edge has an irregular perforation.

Booklet: front cover has the logo of the Czech Post and text *20 Years of the Czech Post*. The back cover has text on the history of the Czech Post and a bar code, security hologram, and details of the issue. Booklets may be customised to order.

18 September 2013 Personalities: Josef Bican (1913-2001) Footballer



Designer: Zdeněk Netopil

Engraver: Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD in sheets of 50 stamps

Design: a picture of Josef Bican in action

FDC: printed DS in brown with commemorative Praha cancel.

Josef 'Pepi' Becan (1913-2001) spent most of his football career with Czech FC Slavia Prague. His father was a footballer who had represented Austria. As a young player Josef played for Rapid Vienna but also represented Austria, scoring fourteen goals in nineteen matches. He joined Slavia Prague in 1937 and in 1938 he became the best shooter of the Central European International Cup. After the war he had offers to join foreign clubs but remained with Slavia. He

was also a good player of tennis and futnet. In 1948 he was forced to find unskilled work in the iron and steel works at Kladno. He returned to become a coach with Slavia Prague, Kladno, Liberec, and Brno Football Clubs. In the late 1960s he was a coach in Belgium. An asteroid – 10634 – is known as *Pepibican* in his honour.



18 September 2013 Horses – Chlumetzer Dun and Chlumetzer Palomino



Designer: Peter Orišek

Engraver: Václav Fajt (linear drawing and FDC)

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50.

Designs: Chlumetzer Dun (13 CZK) and Chlumetzer Palomino (17 CZK) horses.

FDCs: printed DS in brown with commemorative Praha cancels. 13 CZK – cachet drawing has the heads of two horses; 17 CZK – cachet drawing of the House of the Golden Crown where the first Chlumetzer Palomino was bred.

The Kinsky horse (*Equus Kinsky*) was Europe's original sport horse. It was bred until the middle of the twentieth century in Bohemia. The horses are versatile, multi-purpose, animals and are considered to have stamina, athleticism, and good character, with a typical gold coloured coat and white (palomino) or black (duns) mane. The Kinsky family developed their stud farm and bred horses for the Emperor's cavalry in the early eighteenth century. One branch of the family lived at Chlumec nad Cidlinou and it was Count Octavian Kinsky who developed a stud book which is still in use today and is evidence of the history of the Chlumetzer horses. After 1948 the Kinsky family emigrated and the Chlumetzer herd dispersed. After 1989 descendants of the Kinsky family returned to resurrect the breed and there is an active breeding programme. Most stallions at stud are imported and the export of foals is rare. One Chlumetzer horse (Johanka Kinsky) was a one hundredth birthday present to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and remains in the Royal Stud in England.



2 October 2013 Definitive: Folk Architecture – Salajna



Designer: Jan Kavan

Engraver: Bohumil Šneider

Printing: rotary recess in dark green in sheets of 100 stamps

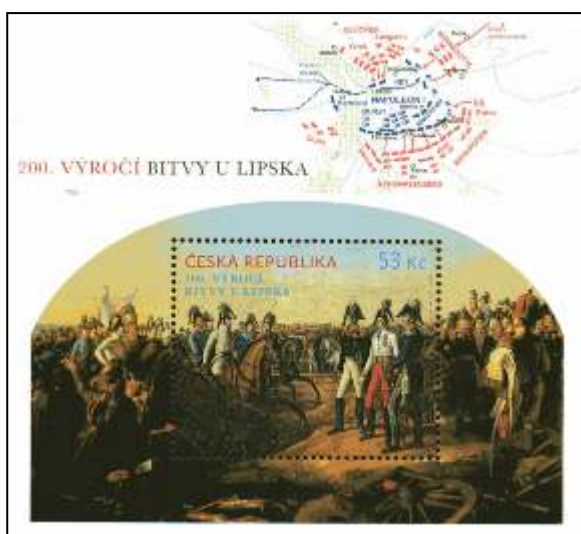
Design: a cottage in the village of Salajna

FDC: no official cover issued

The village is a Village Conservation Area part of the Dolní Žandov municipality in Cheb district. The village has a number of preserved farmsteads with timbered upper floors. The stamp depicts the timbered gable of a shed probably dating from 1805 and a gable from house 13.

Both have slanted ornamental timbering and collar beams decorated with medallions of painted flowers.

2 October 2013 Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig



Designer: Prof. Zdeněk Ziegler

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Printing: full coloured offset with black engraving in a commemorative sheet of one stamp

Design: a portrayal of the Battle with a campaign plan.

FDC: printed DS in black-brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a portrait of Karl Philip von Schwarzenberg, a field marshal, and considered a Czech prince.

The Battle of Leipzig was fought on 16-19 October 1813 between the French Army of Emperor Napoleon and the Allied Armies of Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Sweden. With over half a million soldiers and more than 2,000 cannon it was the largest battle ever fought and decisive in the eventual downfall of Napoleon. The

coalition army of over 300,000 troops was commanded by Karl Philip von Schwarzenberg, outnumbering the French army of 200,000 troops. The first day of battle ended in a stalemate. The second day of fighting saw huge losses on both sides, but then Napoleon withdrew his troops across the River Elster. The bridge was destroyed through a mistake of his commanders before the whole army had crossed. The French troops who survived fled towards France. Napoleon was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo 1815.

16 October 2013 Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Bible of Kralice



Designer: Josef Dudek

Engraver: Jaroslav Tvrdoň

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 35 stamps

Design: a young girl representing an angel holding a freshly printed title page from the Bible of Kralice, with a bookbinding press in the background.

FDC: printed DS in brown with commemorative Kralice cancel. The cachet drawing shows the Bible with its printed first page.

The Bible of Kralice is named after the fortress in South Moravia where it was printed. It is the first Czech translation of the Bible made from the original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek) instead of Latin

Vulgate. The translations were initiated by Jan Blahoslav, a bishop of the Unity of Brethren, and he succeeded in translating all of the New Testament. He introduced extensive notes and references to his texts. After his death his work was revised. The translation of the Old Testament was undertaken

by a group of Unity theologians and philologists led by a former pupil of Blahoslav. The first edition of the Bible of Kralice was published in six volumes between 1579 and 1593. It contained extensive notes and comments as well as the biblical text. For the first time a Bible published in the Czech Lands had the text divided into chapters and verses. The third edition of 1613 is a classic and the most widely used translation of the Bible still in use today.

16 October 2013 Personalities: Otto Wichterle (1913-1998)



Designer: Oldřich Kulhánek

Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Printing: rotary recess in violet combined with photogravure in red, plum-blue and blue in sheets of 50 stamps

Design: portrait of Otto Wichterle and biographical details.

FDC: printed DS in violet with a commemorative Prostějov cancel. The cachet drawing is an eye and contact lenses.

Otto Wichterle (1917-1998) was a Czech chemist best known for his invention of modern soft contact lenses. His father was co-owner of a farm-machine factory but Otto wanted to study science. He studied chemical technology engineering at the Czech Technical University, Prague, graduating in 1936 and then remained to study for a further degree in biochemistry. With the closure of all higher educational establishments in 1939, Wichterle joined the research institute at Baťa's Shoe works in Zlín and worked on the development of the synthetic polymer Nylon 66. This led to the industrial production of silon, a synthetic fibre. After World War II he returned to university teaching, writing chemistry text books, and carrying out research projects. In the early 1950s he began experimenting with new materials and production methods for contact lenses. In 1961 he was successful in building a prototype machine and his invention attracted large US companies to produce the lenses abroad. He gained many national and international honours and awards and was President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences until 1993. An asteroid in our solar system was named after him.

Postal Stationery Commemorative Postcards

29 May 2013 Balloon Post

Designer: Jiří Bouda

Printing: multi-coloured offset

Design: imprinted 'A' stamp shows a balloon and a crew preparing it for a flight. The left portion has a balloon flying above the town of Vyšší Brod.

The card is issued for the promotion of the first South Bohemia and Upper Austria Land Exhibition. The Exhibition aims to reinforce the common links between the regions. Various events were staged between 26 April and 3 November 2013, including exhibitions in the towns of Český Krumlov, Vyšší Brod, Bad Leonfelden, and Friestadt, explaining life in the border regions, their cultural and artistic treasures, together with trade and economic development. Czech Post operated one balloon post flight from the football pitch in Vyšší Brod in mid-August. The balloon has the registration number OK-1925. The Czech Post carried domestic and foreign mail conforming to 'A', 'E', and 'Z', ordinary letter regulations received at the Postal Museum Vyšší Brod by 14 August 2013. The retail price of the card is 15 CZK.

12 June 2013 Fiftieth Anniversary of the 1962 FIFA World Cup Final versus Brazil

Designer: Zdeněk Netopil

Printing: multi-coloured offset

Design: imprinted 'Z' stamp shows four football players on a pitch. The left cachet design has portraits of Josef Masopust (Czech) and Edson Arantes do Nascimento otherwise Pelé (Brazil) and text in

Czech Fiftieth Anniversary of the FIFA World Cup Final versus Brazil, and the two national flags. Brazil will commemorate the event with the issue of two stamps to promote the 2014 World Cup to be held in Brazil. The retail price of the card is 26 CZK.

26 June 2013 Eightieth Anniversary of the Birth of Olga Havlová

Designer: Petr Minka

Printing: multi-coloured offset

Design: imprinted 'A' stamp has a hand holding a rose of the variety *Olga Havlová*. The left portion has a portrait of Olga Havlová with her birth/death dates and the initials *VDV*.

Olga Havlová (1933-1996) was the first wife of the former President Václav Havel and First Lady of the Czech Republic. For her charitable work she was recognised both at home and abroad. In 1997 she was posthumously awarded the Order of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk for outstanding service to democracy and human rights. The *Olga Havel Award* set up in 1995 is awarded annually to disabled people who help others in spite of their own handicaps. The retail price of the card is 15 CZK



New Issues – Slovak Republic - Lindy Bosworth -

28 June 2013 Personalities: Gorard Zvonický



Designer: Peter Uchnár

Printing: offset on Heidelberg Speedmaster

Design: portrait of Gorard Zvonický

FDC: printed offset in green by Kasico,a.s., Bratislava, with a commemorative Michalovce cancel. The cachet design shows two large buildings under a starry sky.

Gorard Zvonický (1913-1995) was a poet translator, priest, and missionary. His given name was Andrej Šándor. He grew up in a poor peasant family. After leaving primary school he had the opportunity to study at the Salesian seminary in Šaštín and was ordained in 1948. He was an active priest in Trnava and Michalovce until he was held in an isolation camp for clergymen, but in 1950 managed to escape. He was in Italy for a short time and then spent twelve years in Argentina working as a Salesian priest in Buenos Aires. After the foundation of the Slovak Institute of Sts Cyril and Methodius in Rome in 1963, he returned there. This most productive period of his life was spent teaching, writing poetry, and translating. For his services to Italian culture he was awarded the Knightly Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. In 1992 he visited the Slovak Republic. He died in Rome but his remains were transferred to the Slovak National Cemetery in Martin.

2 August 2013 One Hundred-Fiftieth Anniversary of Matica slovenská Foundation



Designer: Igor Benca

Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik

Printing: recess and offset

Design: on a red background, the State emblem and at left a bouquet of coloured flowers

FDC: printed recess in grey by TAB, s.r.o. with a commemorative Martin cancel.

Matica slovenská is a Slovak scientific and cultural institution focusing on topics around the Slovak nation. The anniversary of its 1863 establishment on 4 August is known as Deň Matice Slovenskej, a Remembrance Day. The Matica concept of volunteer cultural, artistic, and scientific associations became popular in several Slavic countries during the early nineteenth century. The first such group in Slovakia was the Tatrín Association of 1844-1849. Slovakia, at that time, was part of the Kingdom of Hungary which was in turn part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. A Memorandum of the Slovak Nation was sent to Emperor Franz Josef in 1861, and as a result the Slovaks were allowed to found a national cultural institution. At an assembly of some 5000 Slovak patriots on 4 August 1863 at Turčiansky Svätý Martin (today Martin), Matica slovenská was founded. It was based in the town and financed by voluntary donations from Slovaks and the Austrian Emperor. Although forbidden to be involved in politics, it became the symbol of Slovak independence. In 1875 Matica was abolished by a Hungarian decree and its property confiscated. There was a process of enforced Magyarisation lasting until the end of World War I. Matica slovenská was re-opened and re-dedicated at a ceremony attended by President Tomáš Masaryk on 5 August 1919. The institution flourished with many local branches and even a significant publishing house, Neografia. During the Communist regime the Matica came under the control of the Party who discriminated and persecuted its members. After the collapse of the regime in November 1989, the institution has again played an important role in Slovakia and has support from Slovaks living abroad.

2 September 2013 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava



Designer: Tomáš Klepoch

Printing: offset on Heidelberg Speedmaster machine

Design: an illustration by Tomáš Klepoch from the book *How I Became a Wise Man* by Rudo Sloboda

FDC: printed offset by Kasico,a.s., Bratislava, with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a further illustration from the book. A **maximum card** was also issued with a further illustration by Tomáš Klepoch.

Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava is an international competition and exhibition held every two years in Bratislava for contemporary illustrators of children's books. It was founded in 1967 and 2013 saw the twenty-fourth such event. The main award is the *Golden Apple*, which was presented to Tomáš Klepoch in 2011. He is one of the younger generation of Slovak illustrators.

20 September 2013 Beauties of Our Homeland: Tatra Motifs



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský

FDC Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik

Printing: rotary recess

FDC: printed DS by TAB s.r.o. with commemorative Vysoké Tatry cancellations.

Designs: 1.25 Euros: The Small Cold Valley covered with cloud. **FDC:** cachet in grey green is view of the Litorová Valley. **1.45 Euros:** chalet at Zelené Pleso with the Jastrabá veža peak (2137m) behind. **FDC:** cachet in brown shows the chalet Plesnivec. **Maximum Cards:** two were issued.

From the nineteenth century tourism and mountaineering in the High Tatras became popular. The first settlement of the Tatras – today Starý Smokovec – began as a hunting lodge built in 1793. In 1833 Johann Georg Rainer (1800-1872) who developed tourism in the Tatras constructed the first shelter at Starolesnianska poľana. It is still in use today and is the oldest chalet in the High Tatras. The Hungarian Carpathian Society, established in 1873, had the goal of making the Tatras accessible to tourists, and to this end constructed chalets and tracks. They built the first predecessor of the chalet at Zelené pleso. The High Tatras form part of the Tatra National Park in Slovakia (TANAP). It was formed on 1 January 1949 and protects the western and eastern Tatras, covering an area of 738 square km. There are 600 km of hiking trails, with sixteen marked and maintained bike trails. In recent years the number of tourists all year round have increased and areas of the Park are now off limits to preserve the natural flora and fauna.



11 October 2013 Nature Conservation: Slovak Minerals



Designer: Karol Felix

Engraver: František Horniak

Printing: DS in sheets of six stamps (3 x 2)

FDC: printed DS by TAB, s.r.o. with commemorative Bratislava cancels.

Designs: (a) sceptre quartz from Šobov **FDC:** printed in purple-grey shows a crust (druse) of ore minerals (b) a lump of opal bearing rock

FDC: printed in blue shows a geode split to reveal crystals of aragonite.

Quartz is one of the most common minerals in nature, forming hexagonal columnar crystals and found in various colours. Many of its forms are semi-precious stones. The sceptre quartz found in the area of Banská Štiavnica is a curiosity as the crystals are joined along their longest axis.

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All officers and Committee members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

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Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four meetings each year in London, one in Yorkshire, and one elsewhere.
Publications	Members receive the quarterly journal <i>Czechout</i> which includes articles of interest on Czech and Slovak philately and helps members to keep in touch with Society affairs. The Society publishes <i>Monographs</i> on wide-ranging topics containing original research.
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Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auction Secretary.
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Data Protection Act	Members are advised that their details are stored electronically for use on Society business only, e.g., for address label printing.

Payments

Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank payable to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB); current bank notes in pounds sterling, US dollars, or Euros. Payments may also be made by US dollar cheques or paid to a Euro bank account, by credit card or PayPal (a small surcharge applies). Please contact the Treasurer for details.



Sheetlet of nine Czech Post stamps and twelve coupons.

Produced for the May 2013 Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei.

Face value: 'E'; standard 20 gm letter rate from the Czech Republic to European countries.

Incorporated into the Society's memento congratulating the CPSGB on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee.



Special Dutch postage stamp initiated by the Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie.

Issued to commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Quantity issued: four sheetlets of ten stamps each. Face value: €0.60, Netherlands domestic letter rate.