



# CZECHOUT

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“A Great Rarity” – Vladimír Dražan

## CPSGB Publications

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### Monographs

- No. 3: *The Pošta Československo Overprints*, by Roy A. Dehn. 47p. 1985, reprinted 2000. £6.50.
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- No. 15: *The postal history of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain, 1940–1945*, by Richard Beith. 90p. 2002. £12.50.
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- 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 Bernásek. 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.

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**Our Sister Society in the United States Celebrates Seventy-Five Years**

This year marks the Society for Czechoslovak Philately's seventy-fifth year. A young commercial artist named Joseph W. Lowey founded the Society, known originally as the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America, in March 1939. Impetus for organizing the Society came as a result of the Munich Accords – under which England and France joined in sanctioning Hitler's dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, thus taking the first major step toward the eventual outbreak of World War II.

Czechs in America, especially those of Jewish extraction, saw the handwriting on the wall and formed the Masaryk Club in New York. Its director, Joseph Stein, was himself a philatelist, so Lowey contacted him and others in the Club who had similar interests to help frame the Society. In January and February of 1939 Lowey actively pursued his plan, by March formally established the Society, and in May produced the first issue of the Society's journal.

To help celebrate this seventy-fifth anniversary, the Society's Board of Trustees has decided that *Specialist* issues for 2014 will be in colour – irrespective of the cost. Meanwhile, during 2014, the Society will be investigating avenues leading toward continued publication of the *Specialist* in colour. The seventy-five year history of the Society will be the subject of future articles to be published in the *Specialist* throughout the year.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately hopes to have other events and features to help celebrate this special anniversary. The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain looks forward to receiving news of these events and wishes for our American sister Society a most happy and productive seventy-fifth anniversary year.

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## News & Notices

### New Members

The Society extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Richard Burda**, Prague; **Milan Cernik**, Prague; **Martin Ellam**, Plymouth; **Martin Elliott**, Okehampton; **György Lővei**, Budapest; **Rachel Smith**, Rohnert Park, California; **Dawei Wang**, Aberdeen; **David Worrollo**, Surbiton.

### Correction

Your editor so much enjoyed the **Norman Hudson** inspired rounds of conversation about the Tatra lake mystery (see this mystery finally resolved on page 6 of this issue) in recent issues of *Czechout* that it was confidently presented in December's *Czechout* as the Dawson Award article. Upon reviewing my notes, I discovered the actual article was "Václav Havel: A Personal Tribute", published in the March 2012 issue of *Czechout*. My apologies (and once more, congratulations) to Norman.

### Future Events

4 March 2014, 7:30 p.m. Stirling Philatelic Society, at the Stirling Smith Gallery and Museum. **Richard Beith** will be showing the *Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile in Great Britain from 1940*.

8 March 2014. Displays by **Tony Moseley**, **Dai Pring**, **Derek Walker**, and **Peter Williams**, at the scheduled CPSGB meeting.

27 March 2014, 7:30 p.m. Perth Philatelic Society. **Richard Beith** will be giving *A Czech and Slovak Evening*. For details, contact the Perth Philatelic Society's Secretary: [chicksmith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chicksmith@hotmail.co.uk).

22 May 2014, 1:00 p.m. Two of our members, **Bill Hedley**, Honorary Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society London, and **Roger Morrell**, our Vice Chairman, are arranging a display by the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain to be given before the members of the Royal. The display is to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the society and we congratulate them on their achievement. If you would like to attend and are not a member of the RPSL, please contact Bill Hedley, who will be delighted to send you an invitation, at [ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk).

### Colonel Frank (František) Kaplan, 1921-2013

Frank Kaplan was a good and helpful friend and a member of CPSGB from 2002–2008. He died early on Christmas Day 2013. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Hilarie, to their two sons, and their families. A detailed celebration of his life will be published in an upcoming issue of *Czechout*.

### Report of the Meeting held on Saturday 11 January 2014 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2:00

The Chairman, Rex Dixon, welcomed 14 members and two guests. Apologies were received from five members. The Chairman then proceeded with his display of Czechoslovakia in 1938.

The comprehensive display started with the border changes arising from the Treaty of Versailles and other post-World War I treaties. Hlučín, Silesia, and Hungarian border areas were all displayed. The build up to the Munich Crisis and its aftermath was followed by the postal history of the Sudetenland. Surprisingly, the German Post Office had not prepared for the annexation, so a range of adapted provisional issues were shown. Two large-scale maps showed the fast-moving border changes, with one issued in the short four-week period between the initial border allocation and final demarcation. The Poles and Hungarians also took advantage of the situation, both having planned their occupations well in advance – their post offices had cancels ready for use. The Hungarians, however, had thought that they would gain more territory than was the actual case.

Roger Morrell, Vice Chairman, thanked Rex for his display. He commented that Rex had presented a deeply focused display and, as ever, had presented many new items.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4:00.

## An Extraordinary Cover from the 1953 Czechoslovak Currency Reform Vladimír Dražan

In November 2013, together with other Burda Auction representatives, I attended the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain's Diamond Jubilee celebration at the Royal Philatelic Society London. During an interval in those pleasant sessions the Society's Chairman, Yvonne Wheatley, asked if I would examine a cover from the 1953 Czechoslovak currency reform period (*see front cover – Editor*).

I have to admit this outstanding item took me by surprise. I held in my hands what appeared to be an ordinary cover from 17 June 1953 sensationally franked with an Antonín Zápotocký 60 haler stamp in the new currency [POFIS 737; SG 781].

This commercial envelope, like many others, was at one time used by a Czechoslovak church organization for its correspondence. The original text, **Exerciční dům HRÁDE** [*Hrádek Retreat House – Editor*], has been overprinted with a wide black bar and in the lower left corner is the new user's name and address. Still another alteration announced a change in that address, a six-line violet-coloured block in the upper right corner blaring in no uncertain terms:

**POZOR ZMĚNA PODNIKU! | V důsledku reorganizace místního hospodářství byl na | místě dosavadní Služby veřejnosti OSKP MNV Místek | zřízen: | Okresní průmyslový kombinát v Místku | se sídlem ve Frýdku, Jeremenkova 837, tel. 129, 8...3.2.** [*Announcement that the firm under the new economy has moved from Stalin Boulevard in Místek to Jeremenko Street in Frýdek – Editor*]. Some of the letters in this inscription are quite faint, which might signal its frequent use.

The cover was sent to the People's Court in Kroměříž, indicating the entire's non-philatelic origin. Its attractiveness is amplified by an extraordinary franking. The District 2 Místek post office supplied a new currency postage stamp, the Zápotocký 60 haler, on 17 June 1953, some two days before the end of the currency reform's provisional period and thus *two days prior* to the stamp's official release. Occasionally one sees entires franked with stamps in the new currency *one day prior* to its official release, that is, with a CDS of 18 June 1953. I am aware of ten entires with this latter CDS and in my personal collection is only one such commercial letter.

I told Mrs Wheatley she possesses a great rarity and I offered my sincere congratulations. Hers is only the second known entire having a CDS of 17 June 1953 franked with a stamp in the new currency.

**Owner's comments:** I was delighted when I became the successful bidder for this cover. However, when I looked for evidence that such covers existed and could find nothing, I was embarrassed at having been taken in by a clever forgery. I withdrew the cover from my displays and it has not seen the light of day until I ventured to ask Mr Dražan's opinion. You can imagine my delight when an expert of Mr Vladimír Dražan's standing pronounced the cover to be genuine — Yvonne Wheatley.



*Vladimír Dražan's Diamond Jubilee display, with translator Stanislav Výtisk (centre) assisting. Yvonne Wheatley with members Roger Morrell and David Worrollo look on from the audience.*

## **Tatra Lake Mystery – Solved!**

### **Norman Hudson**

I think I have solved *The Tatra Lake Mystery*. Or, more accurately, it has been solved for me. I started something of a ball rolling when I asked in the September 2012 *Czechout* (page 56) why a 1939 Slovak stamp showed a mountain lake in Poland. The stamp in question was actually three stamps but with a common design, namely the 2, 3, and 4 Ks airmail stamps issued by Slovakia in November 1939 [SG 58-60]. The Gibbons' catalogue describes the image as a *Heinkel He116A over Tatra Mountains*. The lake in the foreground, though, has been the source of the mystery.



The specialist *ZSF* catalogue of Slovak postage stamps, published in Bratislava – I consulted the edition published in 1997 – identified the lake as *Morskíe Oko*. I was curious about this because although *Morskíe Oko* is the largest lake in the High Tatras it is on the Polish side of the international border.

Subsequent discussions in *Czechout* showed that borders in this area had been fixed in 1902, meaning the lake was originally in Austria and therefore in Poland after the end of World War I. The most recent discussions on this topic were in the June 2013 issue of *Czechout*. Rex Dixon was able to provide a very detailed map which is worth looking at again.

I recently bought directly from POFIS – trading on behalf of Slovenská pošta – from their offices in Bratislava a 2009 book entitled *Tatranské Motívy na Poštových Známkach*, which for most members I need hardly translate as *Tatra Motifs on Postage Stamps*. It was a must-have book to accompany my *Tatra Mountains* philatelic collection. The author, Rastislav Ovšonka, illustrates all three of the 1939 airmail stamps that have been at the root of the Tatra lake mystery. He identifies the lake as the *Veľké Hincovo pleso* or *Great Hinc Lake*; there is also a *Malé* [Small] *Hincovo pleso* nearby. He goes on to state – the book is in Slovak so this is my amateur translation:

Some sources identify the lake as *Morskíe Oko*, on the Polish side of the Tatras. A more detailed look at the stamps and an awareness of the facts and the relations between Slovakia and Poland in 1939 gives a clearer answer: the image shown is the lake *Veľké Hincovo*.

I googled *Veľké Hincovo pleso* images and came up with lots of photos of the lake and its surrounding mountains, all glorious I have to say. None of the photographic images I found show precisely the same angle of view as the 1939 stamp but three or four images are sufficiently similar to convince me that Jaroslav Vlček's design for the three airmail stamps are an excellent representation of the mountain chain on the northeast side of *Veľké Hincovo pleso*.

If this is so, then the highest mountain shown on the stamp must be *Mengusovský štít* [2431 metres or 7976 feet]. The Slovak/Polish border runs along the top of the ridge shown on the stamp. A further look at the map shown in the June 2013 issue of *Czechout* will show that the Polish lake, *Morskíe Oko*, is just on the other side of this ridge.

*Veľké Hincovo pleso* is located 1944 metres above sea level. As it is the largest lake on the Slovak side of the High Tatras, it is probably not surprising that it should be chosen as an image for the 1939 airmail stamps.

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### **Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately**

Check out our sister organization, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, at their website: [www.csphilately.org](http://www.csphilately.org) and through their Secretary, Tom Cossaboom at [KLFCK@aol.com](mailto: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!

## Tricky Cancels of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Great Britain

Lubor Kunc (lubor.kunc@seznam.cz)

Many years ago I acquired a large quantity of field post items of the Czechoslovak forces in Great Britain. I expanded this accumulation over the time, but had in fact no time to convert it into an organized collection; all the material remained boxed, awaiting my attention. A new impulse to deal with it came over me when I acquired in a 2012 auction Adolf Bartošík's collection of WWII memorabilia.

Adolf Bartošík, a Czechoslovak soldier in Great Britain, designed numerous postmarks and patriotic folders for the 1940-1945 Czechoslovak field post. Bartošík created his collection in remembrance of his military service, but his collection also has high philatelic importance because of his inclusion of several drawings of field postmarks demonstrating the postal usage of his material.

The key part of the Bartošík collection I acquired consists of one hundred and sixty sheets, plus several unmounted covers and souvenir sheets; his other material sold in the same auction to other bidders. When I bought the collection, I decided to keep it intact and to scan all the sheets for a 2014 display in the virtual philatelic exhibition EXPONET. For reference purposes, all of the Bartošík material from that display used as illustrations in this article are marked *ex Bartošík*.

As I researched Bartošík's collection and my own material, comparing all the items by referring to Richard Beith's excellent monograph [*Monograph 15: Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain: 1940-1945* (CPSGB, 2002)], I realized there are some points not described by Richard at all, and that my material permits a slightly different interpretation. This is why I decided to write this article. Don't be surprised if it raises more questions and theories than answers, but that situation embodies our current knowledge of Czechoslovak field postmarks. I hope this article will ignite discussion, spur further research, create more information, and permit the removal of the word *tricky* from the titles of future articles.

Let's start with the first known postmark registered in Richard's book under sequence number C1. This is the Cholmondeley postmark that was in use from 26 July 1940 to 16 October 1940. The postmark is known in two versions: with (*Figure 1*) and without (*Figure 2*) the Cholmondeley name. The postmaster general of the Czechoslovak field post in Great Britain between 1940 and 1943, Oldřich Večerek, designed this postmark. It is believed the one bearing the location name was the first version and that the name was later removed for security reasons. As shown in the illustration, both versions of the postmark show the same date – 26 July 1940 – which means the location's removal was either done on that day, or the latter postmark was backdated with an improved version produced later.



Figure 1: British postcard with affixed postage stamps bearing the Cholmondeley postmark of 26 July 1940 with the location name and using the original digits design.

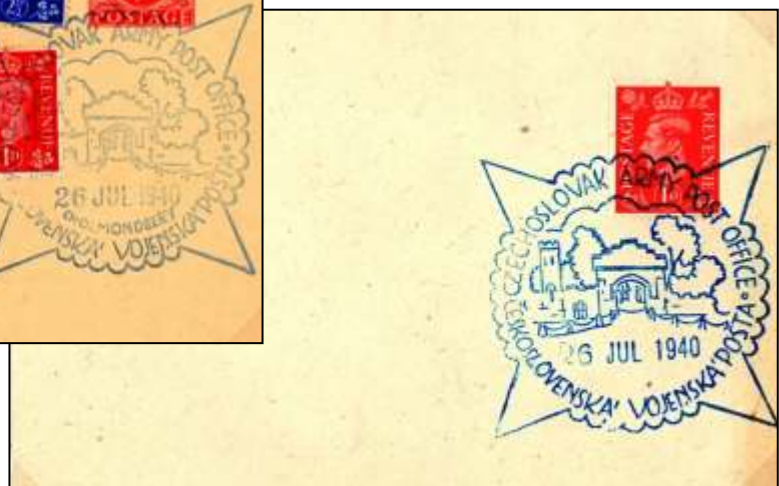


Figure 2: Envelope bearing the Cholmondeley postmark of 26 July 1940 without a location name and using the new digits design.

What is not widely known is the fact that the postmarks differ not only by the presence or absence of the location name, but also by differently designed digits. A clear difference is visible – especially with the digits 26 and 0 – as is shown in *Figures 1* and *2*. We might assume the digits were changed at the same time as the removal of the name *Cholmondeley*, but I am convinced this cannot be correct.

Look at *Figures 3* and *4* showing the same postmark but used on 14 September 1940 – *Death of President Masaryk* – and 28 September 1940 – *St Wenceslas Day*. Both imprints show the same digits as did the postmark that included the location name *Cholmondeley* but these have the name removed. This must mean that when the name was removed from the cancel the original date line remained unchanged.

The simplest answer would be to believe the postmarks showing the new digits were backdated items created with an altered canceller, but such an answer does not explain the existence of the souvenir sheet, also with the new digits, on page 62 of Richard's book showing the *Manchester Concert Programme* souvenir sheet – Patriotic Folder **F4** – signed by President Beneš and several members of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile. The only answer that addresses all of these philatelic items is that the Cholmondeley postmark **C1** was produced as two separate cancellers used simultaneously by the Czechoslovak field post office. The parallel usage of these cancellers is proven by the production date of the *Manchester Concert Programme*: 8 September 1940 (see page 57 of Richard's book) and when the postmarks in *Figures 3* and *4* were used: 14/28 September 1940.



Figure 3: Protectorate (!) postcard with original Cholmondeley cancellation of 26 July 1940 with name present and with an additional imprint of the same cancel dated 14 September 1940 but bearing no name; also present are the original digits.



Figure 4: Slip of paper with a postmark of 28 September 1940, but without the location name and using the original digits.



Figure 5: British postal stationery showing a 28 October 1940 postmark with the Leamington Spa name present; ex Bartošik.



Figure 6: Slip of paper with the same postmark, but without the location name; also dated 28 October 1940.



Another interesting postmark is the one showing the coat-of-arms of Royal Leamington Spa, **C3**. It was likely in use from October to December 1940 by the field post office in the new Czechoslovak garrison at Leamington Spa. Adolf Bartošik designed this postmark. As with the previous postmark, we know of two versions of this cancellation: with and without the Leamington Spa name (*Figures 5 and 6*). The reason for removing the name was the same as before: for security reasons. Also known is an undated trial imprint of the cancel without any date (*Figure 7*).

The mystery of this postmark is connected with the period when the cancellation was in use. There are known imprints of the postmark from August 1940 to September 1941. Although the postmark is



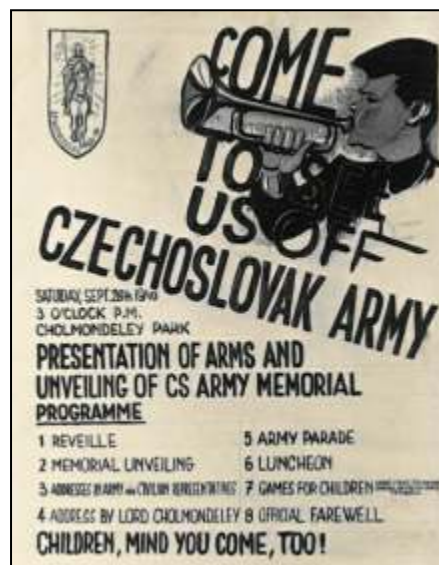
Figure 7: Slip of paper with trial imprint of the postmark bearing the location name but missing the date.



Figure 8 – Envelope showing 15 August 1940 imprint of the **C3** postmark (not a commemorative day, but it is the day the family name Hana is celebrated).

usually treated as commemorative, in my eyes this cancel was also substituted for a normal one before the regular postal markings were introduced in May 1941. The neutral Leamington Spa's seal made the postmark available for use on normal and commemorative days without any adjustment. But to be fair, we must add that majority of the existing imprints come from a commemorative usage of the postmark, (*Figures 5 and 9*). Other examples of use are shown in *Figures 8 to 12*.

Another part of the mystery is a question as to whether the postmark bearing the Leamington Spa coat-of-arms might have been used earlier than October 1940. Based on Alan Griffin's book [*Leamington's Czech Patriots & the Heydrich Assassination* (Feldon Books, 2004), page 9], the



Figures 9a (left) and 9b (right): Postcard with 28 September 1940 imprint of the **C3** postmark (Army celebration of St Wenceslas Day at Cholmondeley).

Czechoslovak troops moved into Leamington Spa during the week of 13-20 October 1940, supporting the existing registration of the postmark as a commemorative one for 28 October 1940. But the same source also noted that the decision to move to Leamington Spa was made somewhat earlier. This note fits with the discovery of an August 1940 imprint of the postmark (*Figure 9*) showing what is probably a trial cancellation. Oldřich Večerek and the other Czechoslovak officers were aware that moving the troops would require a new postmark to replace the old one that showing the entrance gate to Cholmondeley Park. Because Večerek was busy preparing the field post office for this change, the duty of designing the new cancellation was assigned to Adolf Bartošík. The September celebration of St Wenceslas Day became a perfect occasion for promoting the new garrison among the soldiers, allowing us to understand why the *CS Army Memorial Program* postcards bear the new Leamington Spa postmark. However, the celebration was organized in Cholmondeley (as is proven by patriotic folder **F7** showing the **C1** Cholmondeley cancellation).

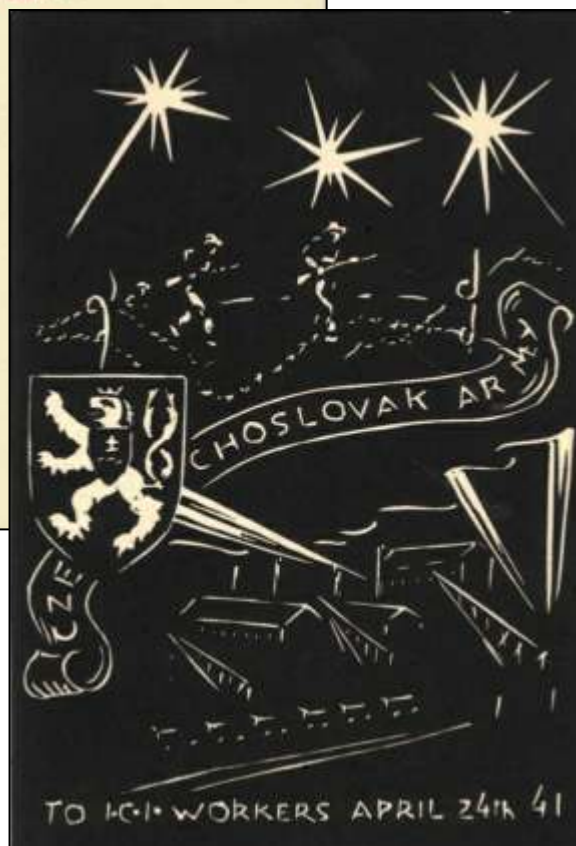
There is a question as to what was the original design of this postmark – whether it contained the name or not. The imprints with the Leamington Spa name are known only from 28 October 1940



*Figure 10: Slip of paper showing the 17 November 1940 imprint (Execution of Students' Leader).*



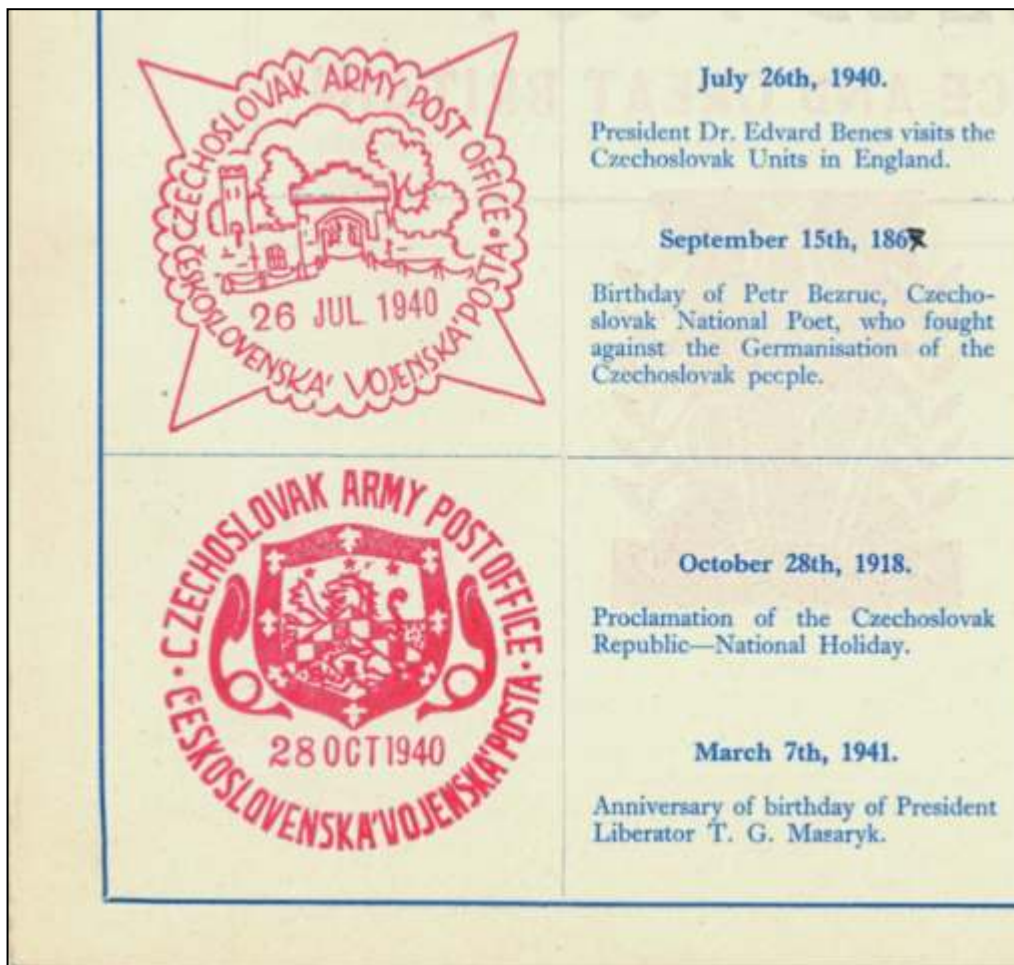
*Figure 12: Slip of paper showing 14 September 1941 imprint of the C3 postmark (President Masaryk's Death).*



*Figures 11a (left) and 11b (right): Propaganda postcard of ICI Workers, dated 24 April 1941. The handwritten Č.j. 1149-D is a registration number used as a file reference by the Czechoslovak military authorities.*

(Czechoslovak National Day) and 24 December 1940 (*Christmas Day*); the postmarks used on all other days lack the name. My personal opinion is that the postmark was produced with a removable name line for standard use without a location identifier, but allowed insertion of the name when needed. This would also correspond to our findings concerning the Cholmondeley postmark. To close this topic, I will show a cutting from the 1943 patriotic folder with imprints of both the Cholmondeley

and the Leamington Spa postmarks – both without the name line and where the Cholmondeley example shows the newly designed digits (*Figure 13*).



*Figure 13: A detail from the F28 patriotic folder showing the Cholmondeley and Leamington Spa postmarks as presented in 1943.*

The first postmark of the Czechoslovak Field Post applied to actual postally delivered mail was the *St Barbara* one (C4 in Beith). The designer of the postmark was again Adolf Bartošík. Prior to 1 December 1940, the Czechoslovak field post operated without the approval of the British authorities. In fact, as a private courier service of the Czechoslovak Army, the postmarks were used mainly for propaganda purposes and only occasionally for marking incoming mail. The *St Barbara* was the first cancellation that could be applied on outgoing mail – but not directly on the postage stamps; the stamps were still reserved for the postmarks of British civil post offices until 28 October 1941.

There is a known imprint of the *St Barbara* postmark without a date line (*Figure 14*) which is probably a trial imprint. It is not widely known that this postmark exists in three different versions:

- With a dash close to the date line; the date line's length is 23-25 mm (*Figures 15 and 16*);
- With a dash far away from the date line; the date line's length is 27.5 mm (*Figure 17*);
- And without any dash; the date line's length is only 19.0 mm (*Figure 18*).

But these are not the only differences in the design of the postmark. Initially, the *St Barbara* cancellation was to be used on 4 December 1940 to celebrate St Barbara's Day and Artillery Day. The Bartošík collection also contained a slip of paper showing the postmark in an untypical blue colour dated 6 December 1940. This imprint shows digits and letters clearly different from the previous postmarks – for example have a look at the 0 digit. The height of the letters and digits normally used for the *St Barbara* cancel was 4 mm, but the 6 December item shows 3 mm high letters and digits. I have no explanation for this item; it may be that it was a test of the new date line later used for other

postmarks. One potential application of this trial might have been the first regular postal marking **RI** introduced in 1941 using 2.5 to 3.5 mm high letters and digits. [*To be continued.*]



Figure 14: Slip of paper with St Barbara postmark, no date.



Figure 15: St Barbara postmark with a dash close to the date, dated 4 December 1940; ex Bartošík.



Figure 16: St Barbara postmark with a dash close to the date, dated 6 December 1940; ex Bartošík.



Figure 17: St Barbara postmark with a dash some distance from the date, dated 4 December 1940; ex Bartošík.



Figure 18: St Barbara postmark without any dash, dated 4 December 1940.

## Misdirected Mail from the Future Czechoslovakia

### Keith Brandon

Have you ever formed a collection without realising it? I'm sure you have, but maybe you haven't realised it yet! I'm a collector of the Austrian Empire up to its dissolution in 1918. One day, while looking for something else, I realised that I had quite a few examples of misdirected mail although I had never set out specifically to acquire any. What's more, most of these were from Bohemia, Moravia, and northern Hungary, the Austrian provinces destined to become Czechoslovakia after the Great War.

Mail can be misdirected either through an error by the sender or an error by the post office. Sometimes the sender could have been more helpful in their addressing; some times the post office was a bit sloppy in its sorting.

In this 1839 example, the sender is clearly at fault. The sender has confused *Neustadt* in Olmütz district with *Neustadtl* in Iglau district. A postal official has corrected Neustadt to Neustadtl, and has also increased the charge to the addressee from 2 to 4 kreuzer to reflect the longer journey. In line with approved practice, this correction is endorsed by the Iglau office's adjacent postmark IGLAU | 13 Dece.



*Military correspondence from the EH Ludwig Infantry Regiment no. 8, third field-battalion to the local government at Neustadt in Iglau kreis (in the Jihlava district). With a date of 1839 and Postmarked TELTSCH | 12 DEC. (now Telč in the Czech Republic).*

It's a similar story for this cover from Pressburg (today Bratislava in Slovakia) to *Bruck*. There were two places with this name in Austria: *Bruck a/M* (Bruck an der Muhr, in Styria) and *Bruck a/L* (Bruck an der Leitha, in Lower Austria). The sender carelessly addressed the mail to Bruck a/M instead of the intended, and much nearer, Bruck a/L in Lower Austria. The postal clerk made the same mistake, marking it only 2 kreuzers to pay, but this was subsequently corrected to 10 kreuzers for the longer journey via Styria.



*Financial statement dated 31 December 1837 in Pressburg and addressed to a customer in Bruck a/M (rather than Bruck a/L). The letter was redirected with a red crayon A/L on the front, and arrival is confirmed by the postal-agency postmark B.S. | BRUCK | a.d.L on the reverse.*

Next, a 1908 postcard from which the message and address have faded over the years, and won't be visible in the illustration for this article, but I can just make out the destination town name *Kronstadt*. The card was delivered to *Kronstadt* in the province of Bohemia (now Kunštát in the Czech Republic). The post office there did not recognise the address and speculated that the card was intended for *Kronstadt* (aka Braşov, Brassó, now in Romania) in the Hungarian-administered province of Transylvania (Siebenburgen). On 13 October the post office marked the card KRONSTADT | IN BÖHMEN and added in manuscript *Siebenburgen?* On 15 October the Hungarian BRASSÓ postmark confirms the card's arrival in Braşov, but the addressee could not be found there either.



*Czech-language souvenir postcard from the 1908 Jubilee Exhibition in Prague, cancelled on 11 October 1908 with the Exhibition special postmark. Delivered to Kronstadt in Bohemia, and then redirected to Kronstadt in Transylvania where it could not be delivered. On the picture side of the postcard is a green-on-white bilingual Hungarian / French label Ismeretlen | Inconnu. (i.e. unknown).*

Perhaps you would have some sympathy for the sorting staff for that one. The sender could have been more helpful in indicating for which *Kronstadt* his card was intended.

The next letter, from Bartfeld (Bardejov in Slovakia) seems clear enough though. It is addressed to *Karlsbad* (Karlovy Vary in Bohemia), and the sender has even indicated the westward route: via Dukla and Tarnow – both in Galicia – but that has not prevented the post office from sending the mail south to *Karlstadt* (in the Croatia-Slavonia province, now Karlovac in Croatia) where it had to be redirected to its correct destination.

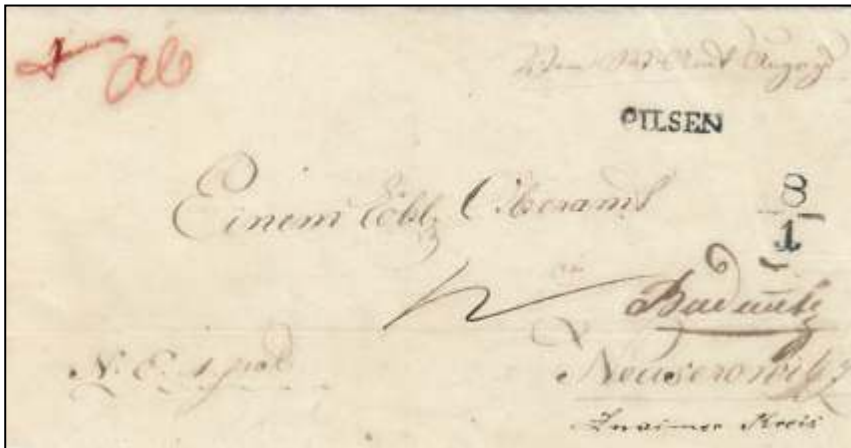


*Personal correspondence addressed in French to Karlsbad on 21 July 1843 and postmarked BARTFELD. Delivered to Karlstadt, receiving a*

*red KARLSTADT postmark with manuscript date 31/7. Redirected to correct destination with arrival mark CARLSBAD | 9 Aug.*



There do seem to be a lot of similarly spelt, or even identically spelt, places in Bohemia and Moravia, and the post-sorter sometimes picked the wrong one in his haste. This 1845 cover from Augezd (in Bohemia) is clearly addressed to Neuserowitz (in Moravia), but has been sent to Serowitz (in southern Bohemia) and then redirected to its intended destination.



Administrative mail of 1845 from the local council at Augezd to their opposite numbers at Neuserowitz. The letter was posted at PILSEN and bears on the reverse a Potschatek transit postmark. The letter has been misdirected to Serowitz in south Bohemia, explaining the postmark of nearby Potschatek. And still further information added in manuscript on the letter's front: Budwitz (Moravské Budějovice, the nearest large town to Neuserowitz) and Znaimer Kreis (i.e. Znam district) to help the letter on its way.

Similarly, the next postcard was initially delivered to Kraslice (Graslitz), rather than the similarly-named Králiky (Grulich).



1903 postcard cancelled with the railway TPO postmark REICHENBERG-PRAG | 131, and receiving a GRASLITZ arrival cds. The card was redirected, gaining a second railway TPO cancel F.P.A. | EGER-PRAG No.37, and collecting a barred GRULICH arrival postmark at its correct final destination.

Unpaid folded letter dated 17 June 1844 and postmarked blue CHRUDIM | 22 JUN. Addressed to Kanitz (near Pohrlitz, now Dolní Kounice) but delivered initially to Olomouc for the Kanitz near there, collecting the backstamp OLLMÜTZ | 24 JUN. Redirected to the intended destination, and marked 6 kr for the addressee to pay.



Finally, an 1844 letter from Chrudim in Bohemia to Kanitz. There were at least three places in Bohemia and Moravia called Kanitz, and, for clarification, the sender had added *Brünn Kreis bei Pohrlitz* (i.e. Brünn district near Pohrlitz) to the address. Undeterred, the letter-sorters sent the letter to the Kanitz near Olomouc. The post office there underlined the correct description in red, and added the note *nach Pohrlitz*.

There seems to have been an attempt to re-rate the letter for this extended trip. The 6 kreuzers has been changed to 9 and then crossed out and replaced with another 6. It would not have been right to charge the recipient extra for a post-office sorting error.

These last three examples were all correctly addressed, and a little more care by the postal clerks would have seen them correctly dispatched first time. But perhaps we should spare them a little sympathy. All the towns had an official German name as well as a Czech one (and in the Sudetenland would have had an official Czech name as well as the generally used German one). Post office staff would have been mainly Czech speaking, except in the Sudetenland. Letters were sometimes addressed in German and sometimes in Czech. Add to that the similar or identical names of many Czech locations and it's perhaps not surprising that letters were misdirected by busy clerks under pressure of work.

## Varieties on the War Heroes Stamps

### Richard Wheatley FRPSL

When I started to form my collection of stamps and covers featuring the 1945 War Heroes issue, I was a little disappointed to learn there was only one listed variety in the whole set of sixteen denominations. In a way I suppose that I should have been patriotically pleased, for the stamps were produced under great difficulty by De La Rue in London during World War II and, in the circumstances, any blemish would have been understood and immediately forgiven.

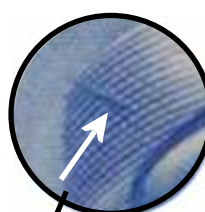
The variety, on the top-value 10 Kč blue stamp, was described as *Feather in cap*. At that time I had not seen it illustrated, so when I came across a vertical pair of these stamps with the lower stamp having a *Dash on brim of helmet* (*Detail 1*), I assumed this was the variety. Perhaps, I thought, something had been lost in the translation, for the *cap* was in fact a helmet worn by British soldiers in North Africa, so why could not the *feather* be a dash? That was it as far as I was concerned and I blissfully displayed my *Dash on brim of helmet* as the one and only variety.

In the fullness of time I did see an illustration of the *Feather in cap* variety and of course it was different from my *Dash on brim of helmet*. Then started my search for the true variety. Eventually one appeared in the November 2013 Burda auction: a lovely block of fifteen stamps with the *Feather in cap* variety being the stamp in its centre – stamp position 183 (*Detail 2*). However, imagine my joy and elation when I inspected the purchased block of stamps more closely: to the upper left of the *Feather in cap* variety, at stamp position 172, I found my *Dash on brim of helmet*!

*Detail 1: Dash on brim of helmet.*



*Detail 2: Feather in cap.*





## Czechs in the Post

*In its December 2013 issue, Stamp & Coin Mart put the CPSGB in its Society Spotlight column and invited members to write about their philatelic interests under the above collective title.*

### First Day Cover from Lidice

This Czechoslovakian FDC from 1947 is of particular significance to me as it initiated my interest in the history of the Lidice massacre and Operation Anthropoid in World War II. A couple of years ago my late father-in-law's Czech stamp collection came into my possession and, as one does, I found myself browsing through his albums while 'sort of' watching the film *Operation Daybreak* on television when I heard a character say that Lidice would be erased from the map for all time. At exactly that moment I happened to turn the page where the cover in the illustration was mounted.

Turning back to the preceding page, I found a miniature sheet from Bohemia & Moravia with a single stamp commemorating the first anniversary of Reinhard Heydrich's death. Not only did I immediately take more interest in the film, but this incident prompted a desire to learn more about the events depicted. They have been remembered in stamps and covers; not just those from Czechoslovakia, but from other countries as well, especially during 2012, the seventieth anniversary of the destruction of Lidice.

**Wojciech Kierstan**



*Lidice First Day Cover.*



*Mail to Austria after World War II*

### Czechoslovak Mail to Austria after World War II

At the end of World War II circumstances had changed with adjoining nations. This is reflected by the postal history of the day and in particular by this postcard. Here we see the following:

- A Czechoslovak postcard insufficiently franked with stamps printed in a foreign country;
- Then sent to a neighbouring nation where its post office calculated the shortage;
- And, before delivery, passed through an occupying power's censorship office.

In 1944, De La Rue printed the Czechoslovak War Heroes set at the request of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile. After Czechoslovakia's liberation, post offices in Bohemia and Moravia began using these stamps on 18 August 1945.

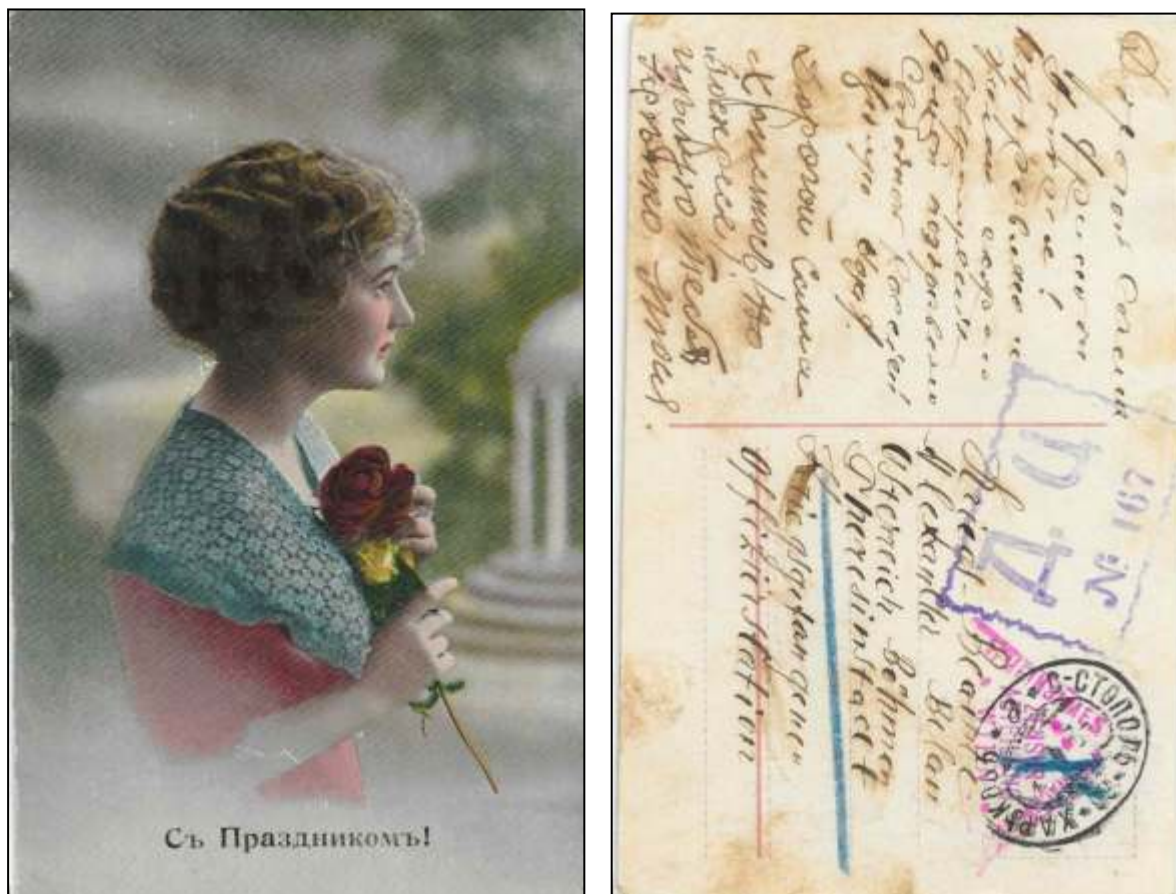
The sender mailed this postcard bearing two War Heroes stamps from Zábřeh, a small Moravian town about 25 km southeast of the Polish border. The post office cancelled its 1.50 Kč and 50 haler stamps with a circular Zábřeh datestamp on 18 February 1946.

Unfortunately, the sender applied insufficient postage. Since the UPU set the international postcard rate at 2.40 Kč, this postcard franked with only 2.00 Kč came up 40 haler short. According to UPU regulations this shortage was to be doubled and then converted to UPU centimes. So, with 80 haler due, the Austrian post office calculated the deficiency as follows: 20 haler equalled one centime, thus the 80 haler became four centimes.

However, regulations set five centimes as the minimum amount of postage due collectable. Two and one-half Austrian groschen equalled one centime, so the regulation minimum of five centimes equalled 12½ groschen. As Austria issued no half-groschen postage due stamp, the post office rounded up the amount due to 13 groschen.

Both postage due stamps were cancelled with a Wien XII | 82 datestamp on 6 March 1946. As District XII and Post Office 82 were in the British Sector of Vienna, British Censor 179 then passed the postcard, as noted by the lettering ÖSTERREICHISCHE ZENSURSTELLE inside the circumference of the purple cachet.

**Richard Wheatley FRPSL**



**Easter Card from a Russian Family to a Prisoner of War  
Theresienstadt 1917**

The front shows a lady holding flowers with a caption that reads *To the Forthcoming Feast Day*. The reverse shows that the card was posted on 2 April 1917 on the Sevastopol-Kharkov railway train, van no. 60. It has a rectangular violet Russian Army Dozvoleno Tsenzurnym censor mark indicating approval for forwarding to Alexander Belan at the camp at Theresienstadt.

The card has some historical interest in that Tsar Nicholas II abdicated on 15 March, so that from 17 March 1917 there now existed a 'Free Russia' (free of the Tsar). It is written by two separate people and reads:

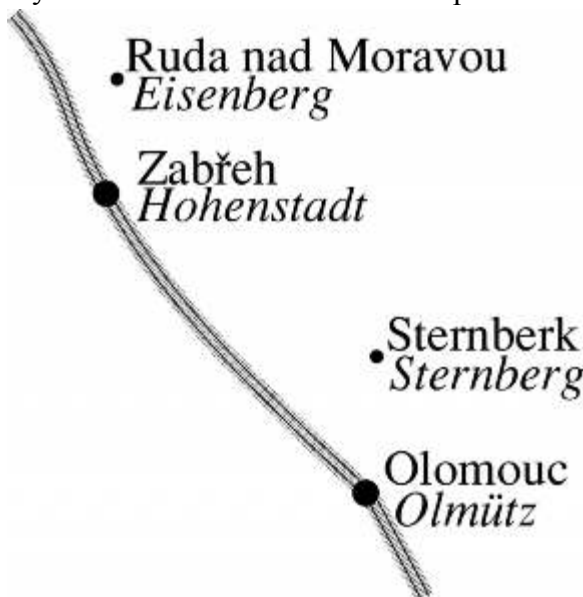
*Dear Sasik [the diminutive name for Alexander]  
Christ has risen. I wish you good health and a safe return home.  
My greetings I send from a free Russia. Kisses, Sophia.*

*Dear Sasha [another diminutive for Alexander]  
Christ has risen, My big kisses. Niusa.*

**Derek Walker**

### Early Railway Delivery

After working for a year in the beautiful Czech city of Olomouc, I became a collector of its postal history. My favourite item is an entire dated 1852 which I won in a Society auction. I bought it because it was described as being sent from Sternberg (Sternberk) to Olmütz (Olomouc) with a clear single-ring EISENB:OLLMÜTZ cancel from a railway station post office on the reverse which I did not have in my collection at the time. On receipt of the item I found the description was only partly true: it was



not addressed to Olmütz at all and there was another railway station postmark as well from Hohenstadt (Zabřeh) – EISENB: | HOHENSTADT | 10 JUN. It is in fact an entire from the Prince of Liechtenstein’s estate in Sternberg to Eisenberg (Ruda nad Moravou), both towns only 53 km apart but separated by hilly, forested country. It was faster to send it by road to Olmütz station, then by rail on the recently built railway (1845 Olomouc-Prague) to Hohenstadt, then by road again to Eisenberg. The two transit handstamps confirm this route, showing a very early use of railways.

Three kreuzer for the first weight step had a limit of ten postal miles (a postal mile equalled 7585 meters), thus 10 postal miles × 7585 meters = 75.85 km. The total distance (16 + 46 + 13 km) was 75 km.

**Derek Baron**



Other selections from this series will appear in June’s Czechout. Stamp & Coin Mart is available in W H Smith’s stores nationwide. To learn more, visit [www.stampandcoin.co.uk](http://www.stampandcoin.co.uk) – Editor.

## Correspondence Queries

From **Richard Beith**:

The 4 June 1949 stamp commemorating the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Smetana's birth is well known. The design incorporates a view of the National Theatre in Prague and the dates 1824-1949.

What is to be made of this design essay which bears the dates 1884 (the year of his death) and 1934? Did the essay originate in 1934, the fiftieth anniversary of the composer's death? The essay measures  $11.5 \times 17.2$  cm. All thoughts welcome.



*4 June 1949 First Day Cover.*



*Essay with 1934 Date.*

## Comments

From **Ludvik Svoboda**:

In the December *Czechout* article by Tony Moseley (page 16, Figure 1), the crossed out handwritten Czech reads *Več úředni porta prosta*. Tony translates it as *Send by Official Field Post*. I cannot agree. I would translate it as *Official Business | postage not necessary*.

It is often found preprinted on envelopes coming from courts or governmental agencies going to individuals, companies, or organizations. But it is referring to the court or governmental agencies not needing to apply postage; rather the recipient has to pay the normal, but not doubled, postage (thus the handwritten T and postage due stamp cancelled at the receiving post office for the fee paid by the recipient). I provide an example.

We can only speculate as to why – on the Moseley cover – this text was crossed out, why the ‘postage due’ T was applied, and then why no postage due stamp appears. Complicating our understanding is the fact that the cover originates in a Sudeten-controlled area but is addressed to Trnava, an area of Slovakia that I do not believe was under the influence of the Germans.



*Ludvik Svoboda's Example.*

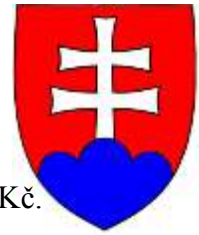


*Tony Moseley's Cover, December Czechout.*

### 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 – 30 Kč.  
 (Postage rates increased from August 2013.)

### New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

#### 27 November 2013 Works of Art on Postage Stamps



**Designers and Engravers:** Martin Srb (25 Kč); Bohumil Šneider (30 Kč); Václav Fajt (35 Kč).

**Printing:** DS (25 Kč and 35 Kč); DS with offset (30 Kč).

**FDCs:** DS.

**Designs:** from original works of art.

**25 Kč:** *View of Roman Churches* (1762) by Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778) which is in the National Gallery, Prague.

**FDC:** printed brown-black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is from one of the artist's sketches – *Vase*.

Giovanna Piranesi was an artist who created about 2,000 prints with views of partially fictitious remains of ancient Rome together with many graphic reproductions of stone vases, tombs, and other architectural fragments. His most famous work was a series of 16 engravings with the title *Carceri d'invenzione – Imaginary Prisons*. His brother introduced him to ancient art and he then studied architecture under his uncle, Matteo Lucchesi. He moved to Rome in 1740 where he studied art engraving and etching with Guisepppe Vasi. In 1764 he began a career as an architect. He restored the church of Santa Maria del Priorato in Rome and is buried there. He was knighted in 1767.

**30 Kč:** *Still Life with Author* (1955) by Bohuslav Reynek (1892-1971) which is in the Gallery of Fine Arts, Havlíčkův Brod.

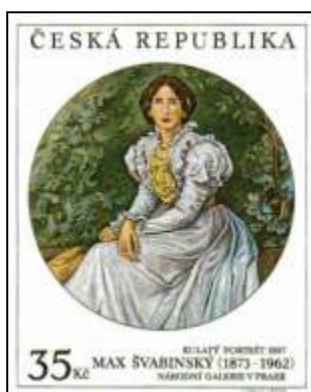
**FDC:** printed light brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is from the artist's work *Dragonfly*.

Bohuslav Reynek was born and died in Petrkov near Havlíčkův Brod. At secondary school he learnt French and German and became interested in literature and fine arts. His father encouraged him to study agriculture at university in order to take over the family farm, but he did not complete the course. He went on a visit to France and began writing his first poetry, later published in the collection *Žizně (Thirsts)*.



In 1923 he met, in Grenoble, the poet and author Suzanne Renaud and they were married in 1926. He translated her poetry, as well as other German and French poetry, into Czech. Until 1936 his time was spent between Grenoble and the family home in Petrkov. After the death of his father he returned to manage the farm. The farm was nationalized after 1948 but Reynek remained as a worker until 1957.

His writings and translations were banned by the Communists but during the 1960s and 1970s he was an icon for young dissidents and his works were published abroad. A complete collection was published posthumously in Prague in 1989. His graphic art work was dominated by landscapes during the 1930s, but changed to religious themes during the War and only gained recognition after the fall of Communism.



**35 Kč:** *A Round Portrait* (1897) by Max Švabinský (1873-1962) which is in the National Gallery, Prague.

**FDC:** printed black with a commemorative Kroměříž cancel. The cachet drawing is from Švabinský's work *Self Portrait* (1905).

Maximilián Theodor Jan Švabinský was a painter, draughtsman, graphic artist, and teacher. He is considered to be one of the founders of twentieth century modern Czech art and, most unusually, his work was accepted by the Communists. He received many prestigious awards. During his school years he became interested in art, studied at the Fine Arts Academy, Prague, where he was appointed Professor in 1910 and later elected as Chancellor.

He married Ela Vejrychová in 1900 and she inspired much of his work for ten years. Ela's brother married Anna Procházková in 1911 and Švabinský fell in love with her. Although they only married in 1930, she was the source and inspiration for much of his work from 1911 onward. His other works included murals for the Municipal House, Prague, mosaics for the National Monument on Žižkov Hill, stained glass for St Vitus Cathedral, Prague, postage stamp designs, and woodcuts. The cottage in Kozlov near Česká Třebová where he worked and spent much time before the War has been restored to its early 1900s design with many of his works on display. It is open to the public.

### Postal Stationery

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 2013*.

### Commemorative Postcards

#### 2 October 2013 Jilemnice 2013 – Philatelic Exhibition of Vladimír Suchánek's Stamps



**Designer:** Vladimír Suchánek.

**Printing:** full coloured offset.

**Design:** imprinted 'A' stamp shows Jilemnice town square. The left portion of the card shows a part of the mechanised nativity scene made by Metelka and on display in the Krkonoše Museum, Jelemnice. The exhibition took place in the Krkonoše Museum between 4 October and 11 November 2013 and honoured the artistic work of Suchánek in the year of his eightieth birthday. Morning and afternoon signing sessions were set up on the opening day and two commemorative handstamps designed by Suchánek were available.

commemorative handstamps designed by Suchánek were available.

### Pictorial Postcards

#### 12 June 2013 Architecture – Monasteries 2013

This is the twentieth set of eight postcards in the series. Each card has an imprinted 'A' stamp showing the Republic's coat-of-arms in green. The pictorial designs are from photographs by Roman Malaček and printed in multi-coloured offset. The retail price of a mint set of eight cards, 120 Kč; a set with cachet, 128 Kč; and set with cachet plus first day cancel, 136 Kč. The left side of the card has a coloured picture of the building, explanatory text in Czech, and commemorative cachet. The cards are numbered from A209/2013 to A216/2013.

This series shows the following buildings: a) Prague, St Nicholas Church in the Lesser Town; b) Hradec Králové, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit; c) Louny, St Nicholas Church; d) Klatovy, Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Ignatius; e) Brno, Church of St James; f) Ostrava, Cathedral of the Divine Saviour; g) Frýdek-Místek, Church of Our Lady; h) Doubravník, Church of the Holy Cross. Exemplars illustrated below.



### Promotional Postcards

**2 May 2013 Twenty-Third International Stamp Fair, Essen.**

Imprinted 'E' stamp showing an historic post coach on Charles Bridge. The left portion of the card has the dates of the event: 2 to 4 May 2013, a railway steam locomotive, and a postal sack label.



## New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

### 11 October 2013 Nature Conservation – Slovak Minerals

Two maximum cards were issued (*see Czechout December 2013 for stamp details*).

### 4 November 2013 Christmas 2013 – Postage Stamp with Personalised Coupon



**Designer:** Erika Korková (stamp), Michaela Ivaničová (FDC), Veronica Rapková (cancel).

**Printing:** offset (Heidelberg Speedmaster) in sheets of 8 (2 × 4) with 8 set-tenant labels.

**FDC:** printed offset by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava. The cachet design is a decorated Christmas tree with wrapped packages below. There were four commemorative cancels used.

**Booklet:** 10 self-adhesive stamps (same design as sheet) with children's drawings of Christmas scenes on the front cover and Slovak Post information on the back cover.

**Designs:** a snowy village scene, the winning entry in a Slovak Post competition *The Most Beautiful Drawing for Baby Jesus*. The labels have a red, spotted mushroom with the Slovak text: *Radošinské Folk Theatre 1963-2013*. The coloured snowy background of the sheet has the same text in the lower margin.

This was the fifteenth year that Slovak Post has organised Christmas mail for letters written to Baby Jesus (the UK equivalent is to send letters to Father Christmas or Santa Claus). The post office at Rajecká Lesná, which has an official post box for Baby Jesus, receives the mail and replies to all. More than 1,250,000 letters have been received since 1998, including many from all over the world.

### 13 November 2013 Christmas 2013 – Folk Motifs from the Work of Ľudovít Fulla



**Designer:** Marianna Žálec Varchlová.

**Printing:** offset (Heidelberg Speedmaster).

**FDC:** offset by Kasico, a.s., Bratislava with a commemorative Ružomberok cancel.

**Maximum card** was also issued with €0.45 imprinted stamp of the same design.

**Design:** from a woodcut *The Birth* (1940) by Ľudovít Fulla (1902-1980). The FDC cachet design is from his oil painting of the same year and title.

Ľudovít Fulla was a painter, graphic artist, illustrator, stage designer, and teacher. He is considered to be one of the most important figures in Slovak creative art and Modernism. His work is characterised by the use of bright red, yellow, and orange colours. Much of his work was based on a deep knowledge of folk art and iconography. During the 1940s his work was based on New Testament themes, especially portrayals of the Virgin Mary.

### 29 November 2013 Art – Martin Martinček

**Designer and Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik.

**Printing:** recess and offset in sheets of four stamps with central pictorial gutter.

**FDC:** recess by TAB, s.r.o., with a commemorative Liptovský Mikuláš cancel.

**Design:** from a photograph of an old woman in everyday clothing in her kitchen. The central gutter of the sheet is from a photograph of a pastoral theme with cattle.





Martin Martinček (1913-2004) graduated in legal studies from Comenius University, Bratislava, in 1937, initially working as an advocate and later as a judge. During the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945 he assisted with the formation of new administrative bodies and later became Chairman of the Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. After the Communist Party came to power he was evicted from Bratislava with his wife, who was a painter, and they settled in the Liptov area. During the late 1950s he took photography more seriously and won recognition for his work. From 1961 he worked as a freelance photographer but only in the Liptov area, recording the lives of people, the countryside, villages, and architecture. He was awarded many prizes for his fine art work and documentary photography, and earned the title Meritorious Artist in Slovakia.

### 29 November 2013 Art – Ján Jakub Stunder



**Designer and Engraver:** František Horniak.

**Printing:** recess in sheets of four stamps with plain gutters.

**FDC:** recess by TAB, s.r.o., with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is from the artist's portrait of Imrich Zay, part of the Slovak National Museum collection at Bojnice Museum.

**Design:** portrait of Count Jan Joseph Hadik de Futak (1755-1833).

Jean Jacques Stunder (1759-1811) was a Danish painter who had studied in Copenhagen, Italy, and Vienna. At the invitation of Ferenc Kazinczy he came to Hungary in 1793 to assist in establishing an academy of arts, but the venture failed when Kazinczy was sentenced for participating in a

Hungarian Jacobin conspiracy. Stunder found other patrons, and after marrying the daughter of a goldsmith in 1797, he settled in Levoča. His portraits and altar pictures reflect the School of European Enlightenment and Classicism. Count Hadik, who lived in Levoča, was interested in art and was painted twice by Stunder. The stamp image shows the Count painting his self-portrait. The original art work is in the Slovak National Gallery.

### 6 December 2013 Day of the Postage Stamp – Igor Rumanský



**Designer and Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik.

**Printing:** rotary recess in sheets of 30 stamps and 30 se-tenant labels (3 stamps and 3 labels x 10).

**FDC:** recess by TAB s.r.o., with commemorative Liptovský Mikuláš cancel.

**Design:** an allegorical drawing by Rumanský with the title

*Pocta (Honour)*. The label is a portrait of the artist.

Igor Rumanský (1946-2006) was an artist, painter, graphic artist, illustrator, and a university professor. During the 1970s he also designed stamps for Czechoslovakia, mainly with a sporting theme. He designed the Slovak stamp in 1995 for the *Europa* issue with the theme *Peace and Freedom*, and the 1997 stamp for the *World Year of Slovaks*, cooperating closely with the engraver Rudolf Cigánik. An exhibition was held at the Rumanský Art Centre, Liptovský Mikuláš, with the theme *Rumanský Cigánik – Postage Stamp Creation* to commemorate the cooperation of the two artists.

## Postal Stationery

### Commemorative Postcards

The following postcards have one of two imprinted NVI stamps:

(1) T2 50 g Historic Post Station. (2) Gold background with six circles each depicting various sports: cycling, canoeing, skiing, football, and ice hockey; the final circle has the denomination T2 50 g. The retail price of each card is €0.55 unless otherwise indicated.

#### 19 March 2013 215 CDV 192/13 Folk Costumes of Different Nations on Postage Stamps

Imprinted NVI (1) stamp. The cachet is a globe with facsimile stamps in different colours with the world's continents outlined. The card was issued to publicize an exhibition held at the Postal Museum, Banská Bystrica, from 19 March to 31 May 2013.

#### 19 May 2013 217 CDV 216/13 Tenth European Cup Race – Walking

Imprinted NVI (2) stamp. The cachet in golden brown has an outline map of Europe and footprints with text of the event. The championships were held on 19 May 2013 at Dunince, Slovakia. The men's race was over a distance of 50 km and the women's over 20 km. The women's and men's junior events were 10 km each.

#### 7 June 2013 218 CDV 192/13 Bratislava Collectors' Day

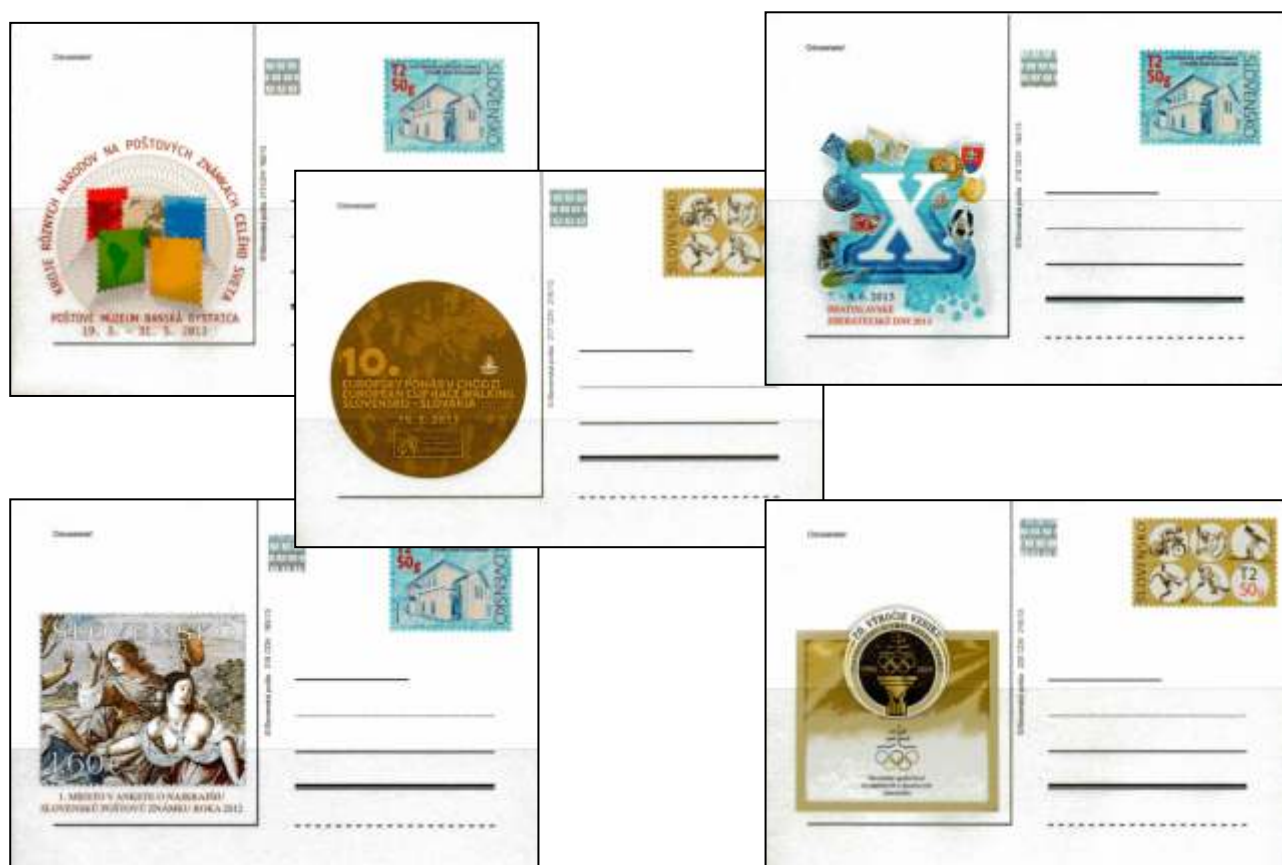
Imprinted NVI (1) stamp. The cachet shows various collectable items, including stamps, around a large 'X' and text of the event held on 7 and 8 June 2013.

#### 7 June 2013 219 CDV 192/13 Most Beautiful Postage Stamp for the Year 2012

Imprinted NVI (1) stamp. The cachet is a reproduction of the stamp, a detail of a fresco by Carpoforo Tencalla in the Sala Terrena, Červený Kameň Castle. The stamp was issued 23 November 2012.

#### 7 June 2013 220 CDV 216/13 Twentieth Anniversary of the Slovak Olympic Committee

Imprinted NVI (2) stamp. The cachet has a golden brown Slovak Committee logo with relevant text.



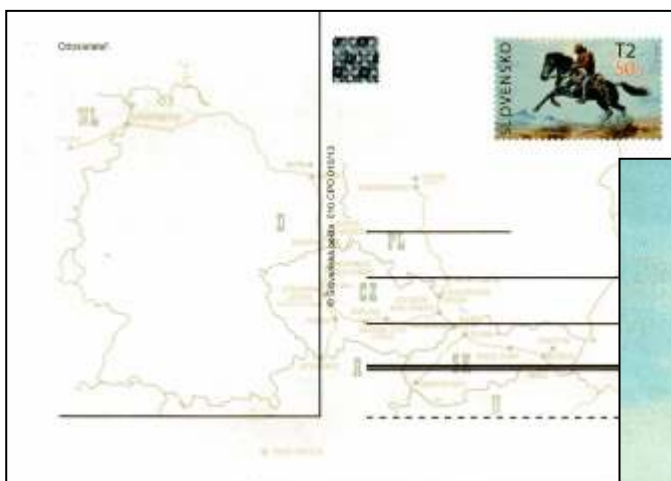
### Pictorial Cards

#### 4 July 2013 09 CP 527/11 1150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of Sts Cyril and Methodius

Imprinted with an €0.40 stamp, the Nativity, a Christmas stamp issued 16 November 2012. The cachet shows an open book with large hand-written characters. Below is text promoting the Exhibition of Postage Stamps with a theme of Sts Cyril and Methodius held 5 July to 18 August 2013 at the gallery in Nitra. The face of the card is taken from the original art work depicted on the stamp. Retail price €0.95.

#### 25 July 2013 10 CPO 10/13 Pony Express

Imprinted T2 50 g stamp with the motif of a galloping horse and rider with a view of mountains in the distance. This motif is enlarged on the face of the card. The reverse of the card has an outline map of Europe showing old routes between marked postal towns. Designer: Igor Plačka. Retail price €0.85.



### Promotional Cards

Except where otherwise indicated, all the following cards have T2 50 g imprinted stamp (historic post station).

#### 18 December 2012 214 CDV 192/12 Day of Slovak Postage Stamp

A selection of stamps bursting from a light blue background with two doves in flight. Below is the Slovak text *The Day of the Slovak Postage Stamp and Philately 2012*. Retail price €0.55.

#### 19 April 2013 216 CDV 216/13 Sport

Designer: Peter Buček. (See *Commemorative postcards, page 26 for description*). The card retails at €0.48. To the left of the stamp imprint is the Slovak Post security hologram. The left half of the card is blank for promotional imprinting.

#### 3 July 2013 221 CDV 192/13 First Slovak-Czech Philatelic Exhibition, Nitrafila 2013

The cachet design has the state arms of the two republics and text of the event. It was held 3 to 6 July 2013.

#### 5 September 2013 222 CDV 192/13 Sbĕratel 2013, Collectors Fair, Prague

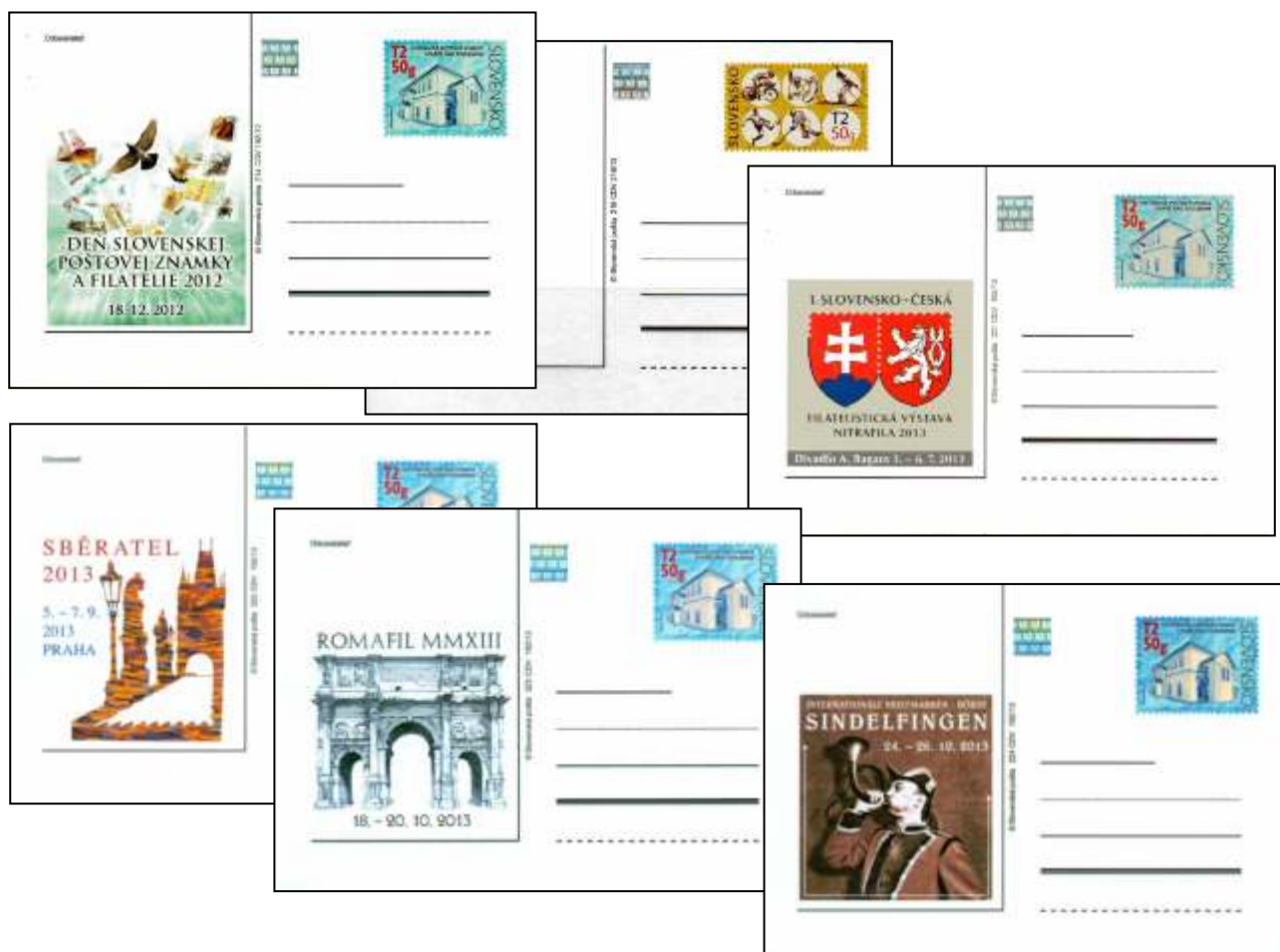
The cachet shows Charles Bridge and Gate Tower with text. The Fair was held 5 to 7 September 2013.

#### 18 October 2013 223 CDV 192/13 Romafil

Cachet design is an ancient Roman Gateway. The event was held 18 to 20 October 2013.

#### 24 October 2013 224 CDV 192/13 Sindelfingen 2013

Cachet design is an early uniformed postman blowing a large posthorn with text details of the Fair. The Fair was held 24 to 26 October 2013.



## 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 2013 issue of *Austria*, No. 184.

Multiple-franking vocabulary (Taylor & Friends); An interesting British connection to the Treaty of St Germain-en-Laye (Morrell); Varnish bars revisited (Brumby & Taylor); A card to Kronstadt (Brandon); Robert Elizabeth Stolz, the composer (Taylor); Trieste double-circle postmarks, 1837-52 (Brandon).

The *British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter*, Christmas 2013.

Christmas through the Post (Gardner); Post Early [Parcels] (Lewitt & Him).

The September and December 2013 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, 44, Whole Nos 177 and 178. Member Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the contents for us. Special fair flights: Leipzig-Prague-Leipzig [Part 3] (Müller); The Sudeten corner [Part 8] (Bauer); Changes in the statutes of the Czech post offices 2012 (Müller).

The German philatelist's days of the German philatelic societies in Czechoslovakia (Müller); Notes on the cancellation No. 237 ENGERAU in the article "The Sudeten corner". (Liebermann); The Sudeten corner [Part 9] (Bauer); 1150 years of evangelising of Greater Moravia by SS Cyril and Methodius [a joint issue from Slovakia, Czech Republic, the Vatican, and Bulgaria] (Osthues); Hiking in the Riesengebirge range – good also for stamp collecting (Pfrötzschnier); Special cancellations from the Czech Republic 2012 [Part 2] (Kokta); Special cancellations from the Czech Republic 2013 [Part 1] (Kokta).

The October 2013 issue of *Dylizans*, No. 71.

Groszy surcharges (Stockhill); Mieszko II, King of Poland [990-1034], reigned from 1025 (-).

Nos. 11 and 12, 2013 of *Filatelie*, 63. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

Review of new *Monografie* No. 40 [bibliography 1918-1939: postal history]: (-); Unrecognised postal stationery from the period after the establishment of the Czech Republic (Říha); 15 h Hradčany – colour resolution and procedure for detection of fakes (Vrba); Forgeries Group "P" research completed (Beneš); And once more 50/50 [overprints 50 Doplátit 50] (Lazar); Autopošta (Feldmann); AERO = aircraft and cars (Horák).

Four certificates and still not genuine: 10 h Austria Coat of Arms 1919 overprint (Beneš); Forgeries Group "P" research completed (Beneš); How the Post reported on its services during the First Republic (Jahoda); Twenty years of Czech football (-).

The No. 5, 2013 issue of *Merkur Revue*. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

Our philatelic experts & officers: Jaroslav Šula, Jaroslav Lešetický, Professor Matěj Wágner, Klement Ptačovský, Miloš Müller, Vladimír Paprstein. (-); Unrecognized overprint flaw of the Second Airmail issue [4] (Zdeněk, Filípek, Břeclav); 10 Kč regular postage stamps of prewar Czechoslovakia (Květon); Postal use of the T. G. Masaryk 1920 issue (Květon); About marking of expertised stamps (Fitz).

The November 2013 issue of *NIEUWS*, No. 21.

Airmail rates in the First Republic (Sanstra, van Dooremalen & Taylor); Franz Grillparzer [1791-1872] (Stoop); Czech issues from Michel catalogue (Petri); Plating Hradčany 25 heller blue (Jonkergouw); 1925 views series (Tripp); From Shanghai to Prague and back – a five-year journey [1941-46] (Kremer); Ustron (Sevenhuijsen); Slovak postmarks with Hungarian names (Sevenhuijsen); Sokol festival in Brno (van Dooremalen).

The December 2013 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No. 195.

On the 1919 overprint trail, Part 11 – Baranya Postal Stationery (Williams & Morrell); Hungary's telegraph development during the K.u.K. period 1847-1918, with particular regard to philatelic viewpoint with coverage of formular use – Part 3: Telegram cards (Pieper & Endrödi); Admiral Horthy's daughter-in-law (Stockley).

## Book Review

*The Chainbreaker (Liberated Republic) Osvobozená Republika, Part I: General Section* (A4, black and white, 24 pages, 31 illustrations), and *Part II: Catalogue Section* (A4, black and white, 40 pages, multiple illustrations), both authored by Josef Chvalovský and Jiří Kašpar who published the original Czech version in 2000. Mark Wilson produced his translation in 2006; this is the revised UK edition.

The title is in the same series as the *Dove* and the *Agriculture and Science* books reviewed in the September and December 2013 issues of *Czechout*. The handbook has more detail than the second volume of the *Monografie československých známek* published in 1971 because further study since then has extended knowledge and corrected some erroneous information.

Part I is an overview with summaries of the characteristics common to all denominations. The printing of the stamps is covered in detail, including the *tête-bêche* booklet panes. Among other topics is a comprehensive section on perforations. Covers, postal stationery, and postcards are all discussed.

Part II addresses the denominations individually. The stamps are each dealt with in the same order: POFIS and SG numbers, basic information, release date, number of plates, perforations, marked variations in the design, and plate identifiers. There is a price estimation in US dollars converted from Czech Republic krone at 2006 exchange rates. All of the flaws are illustrated separately.

Both books are easy to follow. Mark is to be congratulated and thanked for such a fine translation which enables many more collectors to appreciate the work of the original authors. The two self-contained sections of the handbook provide separate books tailored to the needs of the collector who wants only the general information or only the plating details.

Mark Wilson has kindly donated both handbooks to our library. They are available as print-on-demand titles. Enquiries should be made to the Honorary Treasurer.

**Yvonne Wheatley**

## Library Additions

*The 5 Haler Dove: From the First Negative – Plates I and II*. Mark Wilson (A4 L 30 p).

*The Chainbreaker (Liberated Republic)*. Josef Chvalovský and Jiří Kašpar, translated by Mark Wilson.

Part I: General Section (A4 L 24 p); Part II: Catalogue Section (A4 L 40 p).

*Slovakia: Country of History and Natural Beauties in Maximaphily*. Julius Molnár and William Schimdt (in English and Slovak with colour illustrations. A5+ H 208 p).

*Stamp and Coin Mart*, December 2013, which contains several short articles by CPSGB members in celebration of the Society's sixtieth anniversary (A4 L 110 p).

CPSGB Booklet: *Display to the Royal Philatelic Society, London 21 November 2013* (A4 L 26 p).

**Lindy Bosworth**

## Officers and Committee

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

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## Membership Benefits

<b>Meetings</b>	Four meetings each year in London, one in Yorkshire, and one elsewhere.
<b>Publications</b>	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.
<b>Library</b>	The Society maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals, and reference items available to UK members only. Postage both ways paid by the borrower.
<b>Auctions</b>	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auction Secretary.
<b>New Issues Service</b>	Contact the Librarian.
<b>Circulating Packets</b>	Stamp and postal history packets available to members in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Secretary.
<b>Accessories at Trade prices</b>	Members may order accessories, album leaves and philatelic books at a substantial saving. Delivered direct or collection in London can be arranged. Contact the Treasurer.
<b>Data Protection Act</b>	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.



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