



CZECHOUT

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WHOLE NUMBER 155



Marek Unnumbered Card No. 3.

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 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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Editorial

The inaugural delivery of the digital edition of *Czechout* went so well in March that the Society has elected to offer still more material in digital format. While a disc of the Jubilee displays will become available shortly, in the meantime all the displays may be viewed on the web by visiting www.czechout.org and clicking on the left-hand button labelled *Diamond Jubilee*.

Still more digital items have been made available to members. As is mentioned in the *Reviews* section of this issue, the Society has begun a programme of on-demand publication. These publications, while of interest to some, are typically of a more narrow interest than are the *Monographs* published by the Society. By printing copies only for readers who desire the information on paper the cost of printing and warehousing is kept to a minimum. The on-demand publications may be viewed and read – but not downloaded or printed – by clicking on the *On-Demand Books* button above the *Diamond Jubilee* button on the www.czechout.org website. To purchase a paper copy of these publications contact the Hon. Treasurer whose details are available on the inside back cover of *Czechout*.

The purpose of the on-demand publication scheme is to provide as broad an access to Czechoslovak philatelic information as possible. The Society invites any member who has a topic of narrower interest than might be considered for a monograph to explore publishing their material in this on-demand format. Please contact the Hon. Editor for more information and, if required, editorial assistance.

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News & Notices

New Members

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

Allan Lefer, Hilton Head, South Carolina, **Eugene Friedrich**, Newport, Rhode Island, and **Dr Charles E Samec**, Carol Stream, Illinois.

Future Events

The summer meeting of the CPSGB is scheduled for 14 June 2014 at St. Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2AN. There will be a tea/coffee and buffet lunch at 11:30 before the meeting. The Kay Goodman Trophy Competition and members' displays will take place at 13:30. If you require lunch or for any other information please contact **Lindy Bosworth** (her contact details are inside the back cover).

On 16 August 2014 the joint meeting with the Austrian, Hungarian, Polish, and Yugoslav specialist societies takes place at the Latvian Club, Bradford. Contact **Yvonne Wheatley** for details.

At the CPSGB meeting on 13 September 2014 **Hartmut Lieberman** will give a display on the first part of his exhibit *From the Kingdom of Bohemia to the Czechoslovak Republic 1198-1939*. A preview of his display will appear in the September issue of *Czechout*.

Kay Goodman Trophy Competition at our Summer Meeting 14 June 2014

If you would like to enter the competition but will not be attending the meeting, please send scans of your entry, either by post or electronically, to **Lindy Bosworth**, our Librarian, who is organizing the meeting. Her details are on the inside back cover. Printed copies will not be returned unless the return postage is paid by the submitting member. Please refer to page 5-3 of the 2012 edition of our *Handbook* for the regulations. It is hoped that several of our overseas members will enter.

Congratulations

The Afternoon Meeting at the Czech and Slovak National Club London 8 March 2014

Despite line work on both national rail and local underground routes, thirteen members and three guests were entertained with four different displays from members.

Derek Walker showed Russian POW Mail from the First World War. He discussed how the mail came from the camps behind the Russian lines, taking up to nine months via various routes to reach their destinations. While a journey along the Siberian railway might have been expected, an Italian censorship mark certainly was a surprise. Translations of the messages on the postcards were a poignant reminder of the difficulties faced by the prisoners. This display could easily have been expanded and shown as a stand-alone given Derek's intimate knowledge of the subject.

Tony Moseley's interest in the Sudetenland was well set out with many items new to members. His display ranged from the First World War to just after the Second World War. Tony noted rare items such as a plate block of four where only 150 stamps are known of this particular overprint. His display featured the short use of the Austro-Hungarian Háyda cancel for Haida in the early days of the occupation (*see also* Czechs in the Post *on page 15 in this issue – Editor*).

Dai Pring displayed perfins from the territory of the present day Czech Republic. Many were thrown away, but there are many to be found from the Austro-Hungarian period, the First Republic, and even up to the 1950s before meter mail removed the requirement for this security feature. One sheet demonstrated various errors as many perfins were hand-punched onto individual stamps. Early perfin machines were also illustrated.

Peter Williams showed a selection from his collection, starting with an expanded display of Jablonec nad Nisou from the nine-sheet display seen as part of the static display for the Jubilee celebrations at the Royal, followed by some Pošta overprints, a 2007 Austrian Airlines postal stationery card cancelled in the Czech Republic, and various items from the back of book in the POFIS catalogue.

Roger Morrell thanked all the participants for their diverse displays that proved how interesting members' displays can be. He commented that he thought that Dai's perfins were perhaps a first for the Society.

Peter Williams

Gerhard Hanacek at the Övebria Stamp Exhibition in Gmunden, Austria, won a large gold medal for his *Theresienstadt* display and a gold medal for his *Postal Stationery of Bohemia & Moravia 1939-1945*.

Make at Least Three People Happy

Why don't you get out your duplicate material and make up at least one booklet and send it to our Packet Secretary, **Bob Allard**? His contact details are on the inside back cover. Bob will be delighted to hear from you, the buyer or buyers will be happy with their purchases, and most of all you will have money to spend on other material you want.

World War One Display in Prague Postal Museum

Lubor Kunc is mounting an exhibition on the theme of World War One at the Prague Postal Museum to be on display through the summer starting in May. It will still be on display during the Collectors' Fair at the Letňany Exhibition Centre, Prague, 4-6 September 2014: www.sberatel.info/en. Please contact Lubor for further details: lubor.kunc@seznam.cz.

Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Some 75 years ago in the US, a small group of collectors in New York City formed our American sister society, The Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Celebrations are planned for NOJEX (30 May to 1 June 2014) in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Zdeněk Prokop

I recently learned of the sad death at the age of about 98 of my friend Zdeněk Prokop who lived in Prague. He was a very private sort of person and although I enjoyed many happy hours with him and the late George Firmage during my various visits to Prague, I never felt I really got to know the man. He spoke perfect English and was a very keen and knowledgeable philatelist having been employed for many years at POFIS. Little is known about his personal philatelic interests.

It was through him that members of our Society were granted a rare invitation to meet Jan Herčík at his studio during our visit to PRAGA 98. Those of us who were lucky enough to be present on that occasion will never forget the happy morning we spent in their company. The Society granted Honorary Life Membership to Zdeněk in recognition of his valuable assistance during that visit to Prague. Rest in peace, my friend.

Ron Hollis

Gerald van Zanten

I have known Gerald and his family for many years, almost as many as I have lived in NZ. Shortly after our arrival here I developed an interest in Czechoslovak philately, mainly in the WW Two field post of the Czechoslovak Army in Exile. During that time I came in contact with Gerald van Zanten and we became to be firm friends. My wife and I visited Gerald and his family on a number of occasions. These visits were always very interesting since we shared a common interest in philately.



I found Gerald to be a true friend and his passing has made me very sad, and my world has become a great deal sadder and less interesting. I hope that if there is an afterlife I will have the pleasure of meeting him again.

I learned much from Gerald as he was very interested in Czechoslovak philately and had written innumerable articles concerning Czechoslovak philately and the history of the country itself. He will certainly be missed by myself and the members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

Vladimir J Kralicek

Gerald van Zanten was a 20-year member of the CPSGB (February 1978 to April 1999) when he resigned through failing health.

Correspondence Requests

Tony Moseley is seeking the 60 haler from the 8 June 1957 *Pardubice Junior Philatelic Exhibition* issue as a single franking on cover and offers to buy or trade for the item (SG 988; POFIS 949).



SG 988; POFIS 949.



No numbers.



SG 729.

New Query

Mark Wilson asks about two Czech stamps that were late additions to the 2013 Czech Republic issue schedule but never received POFIS numbers (the stamp on the left in the pair above also never received a SG number). They appeared in the June (page 28) and September (page 26) 2013 issues of *Czechout*. The two stamps are in the same series. Does anyone have any information?

Response to a Previous Query

From **Barry Horne**:

With respect to **Richard Beith**'s Smetana proofs in the March issue of *Czechout*, I have two essays or proofs that differ from his. Their sizes are 28 × 22.5 mm and 72 × 95 mm. I think the intention was to issue a stamp 50 years after his death (in 1884) and this was not taken up. The design was amended and utilized 15 years later (125 years after his birth in 1824) with the dates amended to 1824-1949.



Reviews



Hradčany Study Series: The Circles Design is a collection of seven books in A4 format and in colour by Mark Wilson. The titles are as follows:

The Circles Design: A Comprehensive Survey (32 pages).

From the initial phase of the circles design:

Original position descriptions by Evald Larsen and Jan Kolár:

- *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 1 Haler* (48 pages).
- *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 50 Haler* (52 pages).

From the final phase of the the circles design:

Original position descriptions by Jiří Krňák:

- *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 60 Haler* (48 pages).
- *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 80 Haler* (52 pages).

Original position descriptions by Zdeněk Ryvola:

- *Plating Guide for the 300 Haler Plate* (32 pages).
- *Plating Guide for the 1000 Haler Plate* (28 pages).

The design name refers to the decoration in the stamp's side panels while the phases indicate the chronology of revision within the design. The *Comprehensive Survey* will be of interest to every collector of the issue. It describes plate production, printing process, the various categories of flaws found on the stamps, and much other information. A detailed description of each denomination within the design follows. Overprinted stamps are also included.

The guides, one devoted to each of the six denomination of the design, are plating manuals making it possible to reconstruct all ten plates. The guides are translations of the original Czech studies which have been edited and newly illustrated by the author. The books contain an enlarged colour illustration of every stamp with indicators showing the positions of the distinguishing features required to identify the particular stamp.

It is a real service to the English-speaking world that these translations can be appreciated and enjoyed by a larger audience. Further books in the same format for the other two Hradčany releases, the captioned and abstract designs, are in preparation.

A copy of each of the books is in our library. They are also available as print-on-demand titles. Enquiries should be made of 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 Spring 2014 issue of *Austria*, No. 185.

The 1683 Siege of Vienna and its philatelic commemorations (Kuzych); Imitation picture non-stationery cards (Brumby)

The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter, February 2014.

Mail rail planning application submitted [late news: this has been approved] (-); Bringing records into light (Tantony); Surcharges: introduction of postage due labels (Muir).

The May 2014 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 45, Whole No. 179.

Member Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us.

A packet receipt from DEPO Chomutov 70 used as a substitute R label (-); Supplements to the examination of cancellation No. 237 Engerau in the Sudeten Corner articles (-); The Sudeten Corner [part 10], a guest contribution by Dr Peter Gebauer & Karl Bauer, edited by Hans-Georg Klemm [Study Group Eastern Territories]; Joint issues from the Slovak Post Office with other post offices [part 3] (Müller); Wholly personalised Czech Republic stamps POFIS Nos. 727-729 (Pfrötzschnr).

The Winter 2014 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 75, No. 1, Whole No. 635.

Objectionable stamps (Kašpar & Holoubek); The 1926 provisional Issue (Wilson & Svoboda); Jachymov redo (Svoboda); Castles and palaces (Fritz).

The January 2014 issue of *Dylizans*, No 72.

Historical towns (Stockhill); Kazimierz I, The Restorer, King of Poland [1016-1058], reigned from 1034 (Stockhill); Postcard of Sikorski (Beith).

Filatelie, Vol 64, 2014, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

A life in the Postal Museum (Beneš); Do the Hungarian 1 and 2 K Franz Josef I exist with overprint PČ 1919? (Beneš); 5 haler triangle express stamp PČ 1919 with all five tabs? (Dražan); Forgery of the Košice miniature sheet on yellow paper (Beneš).

How to collect “old” Austria or a new start (Kopřiva); If fake, then in all respects [1919 overprints] (Beneš); Unknown Post Office in Slovakia in the year 1919: Hová Halič (Bachratý); Notes to the Protectorate catalogue (-);

Karlštejn is the stamp of the year 2013 (Beneš); Sole provisional newspaper label from Slovakia (Beneš); Postal buses finished 100 years ago (Hoffman); Parcel post – postal packet (Švejnar).

Merkur Revue, Nos. 6, 2013 and 1, 2014. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

A new forgery to defraud the post discovered after 44 years (Džubák & Kovács); Major overprint flaws on the second airmail issue [5] (Filípek); Major overprint flaws on the second airmail issue [6] (Filípek); Forefather of the coil stamps (-); The rural agency Pustevně-Radhošť (Štěrba); Czechoslovak definitive stamps with the value of 10 Kč [1922-1939] (Květon).

The value 3 Kč TGM 1925 postal use (Květon); Major overprint flaws on the second airmail issue [7] (Filípek); New plate flaw of the overprint on the stamp L5 [1922 surcharged 100 on

200] (Květon); Austria-Hungary: gutter pairs of the 1908 issue (Pelikèn); The 1926 Praha-Tatry issue (Reichsfeld); Austria 1850-1863 issue: dangerous forgeries (Pelikèn); Heraldry also dominates police badges (Hrdý); Slovenský Štát overprints (Synek).

The March 2014 issue of *NIEUWS*, No. 22.

The Czech Foreign Legion in Russia issue (Petri); Airmail rates in the First Republic [2]. (Sanstra, van Dooremalen & Taylor); Plating of Hradčany 6: 25 haler violet (Jonkergouw); The XXI Congress at Karlsbad, August 1909 (Tukker).

The March 2014 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No. 196.

The post office postal stationery wrappers of Hungary: an analysis of supply and demand (Courtis); Field Post in World War II: Part 1: Plain cards (Benford); Censorship of civilian Mail in WW I, part 4: northeast Hungary (Morrell).

Library Additions Lindy Bosworth

A set of seven books in A4 format ranging in length from 28 to 52 pages: *The Hradčany Series: The Circles Design*, one written and the other six translated by Mark Wilson. For details, see the *Review* column on page 7 of this issue of *Czechout*.

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!

SPECIAL CZECH DAYS STAMP CANCELLATION



The 2014 66th Annual Czech Days design created by Josie Pechous of Tabor, SD which will appear on a special stamped Cachet Envelope designed by Sandy Sykora, may be purchased from the Post Office by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) #10 size and \$2.00 for each cancellation wanted to: Tabor Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21,

Tabor, South Dakota, 57063, USA. Make checks out to Tabor Chamber.

Visit our web site at: www.taborczechdays.com or visit us on Face Book at: www.facebook.com/TaborCzechDays.



This project is funded in part by a grant from Southeast South Dakota Tourism.

At Last It's Found

G A Taylor

The Society Monograph No. 12, *Military Cards of the Czechoslovak Forces in France and Great Britain* by Králíček and Page, on page 8 stated that card No. 3 in the unnumbered series of Marek cards possibly existed but at the time of publication had never been seen by the authors.

In a recent auction I was successful in purchasing eight cards in the series published by Marek. The pictorial presentation of the cards in the catalogue only showed the various designs in the top left hand corners of the cards but the write up made no mention of the numbers on the cards or the address of the printer at the bottom of the card. There were sufficient cards depicted to fill gaps in my collection for me to place a bid for the lot. Imagine my surprise and delight on obtaining the lot to find amongst the cards the one depicted below: the missing unnumbered card No. 3.

This is a Type C card, similar to all the other unnumbered cards in this series, but there are three clear lines for the sender's address, all 36 mm long. Also there is no censor authority and the publisher's address is the same as the other three unnumbered cards with the letter *e* after *Paris 6* instead of the dot as on the numbered cards.

J Marek, the publisher of the cards, placed the address *18 Rue Bonaparte, Paris 6* on the numbered and unnumbered cards. This was the address of the Czechoslovak Embassy at the time.

In the numbered series of cards there are gaps in the sequence of numbers. The highest number recorded was 25 and has a vignette of Jan Hus in the upper left hand corner. Králíček and Page assumed that the full series was intended to be 25 cards.

A subsequent email contact with Vladimír Králíček confirmed that he still had not seen an example of this card. At the time *Monograph 12* was published eight of the cards, numbers 14-20 and number 23, had not been recorded. I would welcome comments from other collectors of this material as to whether this is the first known example of this card and information about any of the other missing items as a supplement to *Monograph 12* could then be published.



Marek unnumbered card, No. 3.

The Moravský Kras and the Macocha Abyss Dai Pring

For over a hundred years a popular day trip from Brno and Blansko has been to the limestone karst region of the Moravský kras. The trip's highlight is the Punkevní jeskyně where visitors find the deepest gorge – Macocha – and the largest cave system open to the public. The nation realized the importance of this region and began protection of the area in 1956. However, not until July 1963 was the area celebrated on two stamps from a four-stamp issue entitled *Czech Scenery*.



*Moravský kras (left pair) and Slovenský raj (right pair).
Set of four stamps with first day cancels showing Czechoslovak scenery released 29 July 1963.
SG 1372-1375; POFIS 1324-1327.*

Karst is a geological term borrowed from the German meaning barren or stony ground, the sort typically found along the Atlantic coast of Slovenia and Croatia. These landscapes are formed from the dissolution of soluble rock, such as limestone or dolomite, by percolating water containing atmospheric carbon dioxide, which as a dilute acid becomes the dissolving agent. Usually these areas lack rivers and surface water but rather are characterized by underground streams, gorges, sink holes, and caverns with stalactites and stalagmites.



Postcard showing stalactites and stalagmites with MACOCHA postal marking and Blansko cancel.

The Macocha Abyss, some 138.5 metres deep, formed when a cave roof collapsed. Professor Karel Absolom (1877-1960), who also discovered the Punkva caves, was its first scientific explorer.



Postcard view of the Macocha Abyss with the postal marking MACOCHA [JEDOVNICE] and Jedovnice cancel.

A visitor's ticket (I suggest you book ahead) includes a boat trip along the subterranean river Punkva, a foot trail through the caves, an eco-train from the parking area, and an exciting gondola ride up the sheer cliff to the top of the Macocha Abyss to the viewing platform, souvenir shops, and refreshment stalls.



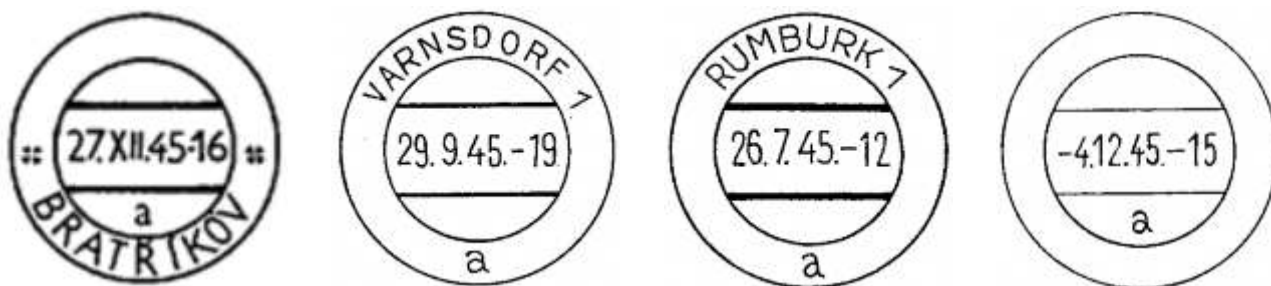
Postcard view of the subterranean boat ride on the river Punkva bearing the postal marking MACOCHA [JEDOVNICE] and Jedovnice cancel.

The name *Macocha* is said to be derived from the Czech word for stepmother (more correctly *Macecha*, but why dispute a good legend?). There are several versions of the Macocha legend but the essential elements are that a wicked stepmother tried to kill her stepson by pushing him into the abyss. He became entangled in the branches of a tree only to be rescued by a local village's woodcutters who in turn threw the wicked stepmother to her death in the same abyss.

Commemorative Postmarks of German Origin Used After the End of WW II Rarities in Czechoslovak Philately

Hartmut Liebermann (Hartmut.liebermann@t-online.de)

As soon as possible after the liberation of Czechoslovakia in May 1945, the new authorities tried to eliminate traces of German influence from every sector of public life, including the postal service. Because of difficult conditions these efforts were not always completely successful. The new postal administration was unable to immediately provide all post offices either with new postal forms and labels or with stamps and cancellers. So the central administration, as well as local post offices, undertook various provisional measures. In many cases post offices used official cancellers from the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate period or, in the Sudetenland, even from the German Post (Deutsche Reichspost). Usually these cancellers were nationalized by excising the German post office names, sometimes replacing them with Czech names. Here are some examples:



Figures 1-4.

Left – Protectorate postmark, originally bilingual, German version excised.
Centre left – Monolingual German postmark nationalized by altering Varnsdorf to Varnsdorf.
Centre right – Monolingual German postmark nationalized by altering Rumburg to Rumburk.
Right – Monolingual German postmark nationalized by excising the German text – a blind postmark.

Whilst the use of regular place-name and day-indicating cancellers of German origin was very common in the months and even years after the war, the use of special postmarks or commemorative postmarks was quite unusual. This is not really surprising after a fundamental political upheaval since commemorative postmarks in many cases included propaganda slogans. But there are some amazing exceptions which I would like to present to *Czechout* readers.



Figure 5 (above): A registered letter from Burg Karlstein (Hrad Karlštejn) to Berlin, philatelic franking, and cancelled 19.09.1943 with a bilingual special postmark.



Figure 6 (below): A picture postcard from Hrad Karlštejn to Prague cancelled on 09.09.1945 with a nationalized special postmark. The octagonal cachet is the castle's private one; it has also been nationalized by inserting in place of the German Karlstein the Czech Na Hradě (at the castle).

During the period of the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate an interesting special postmark was used at Burg Karlstein (Hrad Karlštejn): a bilingual double-circle postmark 38 mm in diameter and imprinted in a brown colour. In the centre of the postmark is the outline of the castle and the date (Figure 5). The post office at Burg Karlstein was not a permanent one: it opened only on Sundays during the summer months – from May to September – in the years 1942-1944, thus was established to serve day trippers. The township's permanent post office was Budnian (Budňany).

At the end of the war authorities excised this special canceller's German text for reuse as a nationalized canceller during August and September 1945 (Figure 6). This reuse should not be that surprising as the postmark contained no undesirable propaganda. More astounding is the period of its use: obviously tourism began again only a few weeks after the end of the war!



Figure 7: Original version of the special postmark (1939-1944).



Figure 8: Nationalized version, 10.08.1945, on printed matter.

Much more surprising than the reuse of the Karlštejn postmark is the reuse of two other special postmarks after the war. Both were issued by the Deutsche Reichspost in the Sudetenland. The first one comes from Abertamy. It is a single-circle postmark 35 mm in diameter. The text in the circle: *ABERTHAM* | *bekannte Lederhandschuhindustrie* (*ABERTHAM* | famous leather glove industry). In the interior of the postmark is the outline of the leather glove factory and a pair of gloves (Figure 7). As a slogan postmark, its reuse after the war is unexpected. But I acquired a letter dated 10 August 1945, cancelled with a nationalized version of this canceller. The *H* in the German name *ABERTHAM* was excised, the *Y* in the Czech version added by hand, and the propaganda slogan blackened out (Figure 8). In more than 25 years of collecting Czechoslovak postwar postmarks, this is the only document bearing this nationalized postmark I have ever seen.

Last but not least I would like to present another Sudetenland postmark from Eisenstrass (Hojsova Stráž). This single-circle postmark has the slogan *EISENSTRASS* | *Sommerfrische im Böhmerwald Wintersport* (*EISENSTRASS* | Summer resort in the Bohemian Forest winter sports) and a diameter of 36 mm. In the interior of the postmark is a sketch of the village. The postmark was introduced in 1940. Figure 9 shows this postmark on a delivery receipt, unbelievably used on 7 July 1945. The canceller appears without any change and a rubber hand stamp was used to add the Czech name *Hojsova Stráž*. The registered letter represented by this delivery receipt was also cancelled with the same postmark. So far, I have never seen any other entire with this postmark used after the end of the war.

These three special postmarks, reused after the end of the war by local Czech post offices, are the only ones I have seen as of today. Should anyone be aware of examples from other post offices, I would be extremely happy to learn of them. My email address is under the title of this article.

Hartmut Liebermann is scheduled to display his From the Kingdom of Bohemia to the Czechoslovak Republic: 1198-1920 during the 13 September 2014 CPSGB meeting, Be sure to make a note in your diaries – Editor.

Bitte sorgfältig aufbewahren! – Der Absender wird gebeten, nur den unramandeten Teil auszufüllen!

Einlieferungsschein 033

Gegenstand:*) Brief*) Nr.

Nachnahme:	R.M.		Ppf.		Gewicht:	kg	g
Wert oder Betrag:							
Empfänger:	Hug Jeecko Kitten						
Bestimmungs-ort:	Lha. II.						

Postannahme

EISENSTRASS 07.07.45-12
Hojsova Stráž

C 62 Din A 7 (6 c 60) Std W (t. 40)

*) Erkennen der Abänderungen

Figure 9: Registered letter delivery receipt with special German postmark and Czech local rubber stamp added.

Czechs in the Post (Part 2)

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. Stamp & Coin Mart is available in W H Smith's stores nationwide. To learn more, visit www.stampandcoin.co.uk.

German Occupation of the Sudetenland 1938 – Häyda

During the autumn of 1938, the Munich Crisis unfolded as Adolf Hitler's Germany annexed the German-speaking border areas of Czechoslovakia known as the Sudetenland. At the time of the occupation events moved swiftly, particularly where provisional postmarks and cancels were concerned. In many places existing Czech cancels were either mutilated (the Czech text deleted) or destroyed by the incoming Germans, or removed by the outgoing Czech postmasters. The situation was very fluid and produced many interesting and unusual postmarks. One of the locations that changed hands was the glass making town of Bor u České Lípy (now modern-day Nový Bor) known in German as Haida.

The regular pre-occupation bilingual Czechoslovak hand stamp at Haida was missing or unavailable to the German post office staff when they took over postal services in the town. A search of the premises at the post office produced an old cancel last used around 1850 from the time of the Austrian Empire. This cancel had the old-fashioned spelling of the Haida town name, Häyda, and was pressed into emergency use for a short period. Covers can be found dating from early October until 8 October 1938. I have searched for examples of this particular postmark for almost ten years and I have found none issued after 8 October. I am still looking for an illusive perfect strike of this cancel than had been genuinely used in the post.

The postcard shown is a purely philatelic item sent to a collector in Reichenberg (Czech name: Liberec) from Haida on 4 October 1938 featuring Czech stamps issued before the German occupation. Here we see my favourite provisional German Sudetenland cancel from Häyda used on the 1936 *Města a Hradý (Towns and Castles)* issues – the 1.50 Kč *Banska Bystricá* and the 1.60 Kč *Kutna Hora* next to my favourite stamps from the First Republic – the 50 haler and 1 Kč – from the *President T G Masaryk Child Welfare* issues of 1938 engraved by Bohumil Heinz. The cancel ties the stamps to the card, overlapping the perforations, and is clearly a cancel rather than an overprint.



The image on the *Child Welfare* issues shows the President holding a young girl often described in catalogues as a Slovak child. Strictly speaking, this is incorrect; although the girl is wearing a traditional Slovak costume, she is not a Slovak. The engraving of these stamps was based on photographs taken in the Czech Bohemian town of Žďár nad Sázavou. The young girl is named Eva

Neugebauerová and is from Pardubice in eastern Czech Bohemia. Stories have circulated over the years that the girl on the stamps perished at Theresienstadt (Terezín) during World War Two. Again, this is an urban myth as Eva Neugebauerová survived the war and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, where she settled and married Dr L J Hanka.

Tony Moseley



Undercover Addresses for Free Czechoslovak Forces in the UK During World War Two

In common with the other free forces based in the United Kingdom (such as the Polish and Free French), mail to and from overseas locations had to use an undercover address in London. Inward mail would then be redistributed to an air force depot or field post office as appropriate to preserve the secrecy of the addressee's location.

For Czechoslovak forces, as with all other nationalities, separate numbers were used for soldiers and airmen (and for naval and merchant naval personnel, if you had any). The correct address for Czechoslovak soldiers was Service Number, Name, PO Box 226, GPO, London EC1; for airmen PO Box 281 was used. These addresses were also to be given as the return address on outward mail. The cover above shows the use of the Box 281 number for serving airmen.

Posted in Algiers on 11 July 1942, the cover has been correctly addressed to 787112, K Heřman, c/o Box 281, London EC1, Angleterre. As usually happened, the cover was readdressed to the Czech Depot – at that time located at RAF St Athan in Glamorganshire. Only then was the cover again redirected, this time to Heřman at 310 Squadron at Exeter. The 310 Squadron was one of three Czechoslovak fighter squadrons in the RAF: 310, 312, and 313. The 310 and 312 both flew in the Battle of Britain.

The sender's name on the reverse is Madame B Heřman, who could well be his wife. If Czechoslovak escapees from German-occupied Bohemia & Moravia reached France before the outbreak of the war in September 1939, they would automatically be enlisted in the French Foreign Legion and packed off to French North Africa. Only after 3 September 1939 did they have a chance to return to France to train and fight. By the end of the war, Heřman, now a Flight Sergeant, was a flight engineer in 311 Squadron, the only Czechoslovak multi-engine squadron in the RAF. Initially they flew Wellingtons in Bomber Command, but were later transferred to Coastal Command, finally flying American-built Liberators.

The British PC 90 censor seal indicates censorship by Examiner 3500. He, or she, was obviously a Czech and Slovak language specialist as this examiner's number is regularly found on mail to or from the Czechoslovak forces.

Richard Beith

Austro-Hungarian Censorship of Civilian Mail in the Czech and Slovak Lands During World War One

As is very well described by Jaroslav Hašek in his classic tale *The Good Soldier Švejk*, not all ethnic groups in the Austro-Hungarian Empire were enamoured by the rule of the Hapsburgs who, by the early twentieth century, were able to exercise only limited control. Immediately after the Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz-Joseph declared war on Serbia, in July 1914, censorship was widely introduced and applied to some mail. The workload became excessive, so more censor stations were opened and, following an order in October 1914, responsibility was taken from the police and given to the new Militär-Zensur-Kommission (Military Censor Commission) run by the army.

The organization of censorship should, of course, be seen in an evolving Empire-wide context. Mail to and from foreign destinations was mostly censored in Vienna or Budapest, but incoming mail from the east was examined in the now Romanian town of Braşov, then Hungarian Brassó, and mail between neutral Switzerland and the Empire was mostly censored in Feldkirch in the Vorarlberg near the Swiss border. Mail within the Empire was not routinely censored, except that from border and dissident areas, notably Bohemia, Moravia, Polish Galicia, the eastern flanks of Hungary, the southern areas of South Tyrol, the Istrian Peninsula, Hungarian-administered Croatia, Dalmatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. As the war progressed censorship was extended to newly occupied territories in Russian Poland, Montenegro, Serbia, and Albania. Mail to Germany was also censored after November 1916.



An incompletely boxed Überprüft cachet from Prague on a registered letter from Weltrus/Veltrusy to Zürich postmarked 22 December 1914 that has been opened, examined, and resealed with a paper label.

The categories of civilian mail that were censored also included field post mail to serving soldiers and sailors, including those in hospitals. On mail to and from foreign prisoners of war camps and on missing person enquires to the Red Cross in Switzerland or Denmark, censoring was done only in Vienna or Budapest. Although mail from serving soldiers was censored in their units, not by the civilian mail system, sometimes double censorship is found.

Focusing on the Czech lands, in Bohemia, Moravia, and Austrian Silesia, all eligible mail was initially delivered to Prag/Praha for examination by the police. In contrast, the Slovak lands were then administered by the Hungarians and mail from this region was routed via Budapest. However, the outbreak of war led to a five-fold increase in the amount of mail, much of it to and from serving soldiers, so the censor offices became overloaded. To reduce delays, workloads, and transport distances, more offices were opened, staffed by language experts to cope with the eight official languages within and numerous others outside the Empire.

At first each office commissioned its own cachet to indicate the acceptability of the mail's content, so a huge variety exists. When these wore out they were replaced by non-identical ones, so each design was in use for only a few months. There was no consistency in the style or wording. Sometimes the examiner's mark was just *Überprüft* or *Gepprüft* (examined), *Gesehen* (seen), *Weiterleiten* (forwarded), or *Zensuriert/Censuriert* (censored), which sometimes makes it difficult to identify the censor office. Others also had the office name. New regulations were introduced on 15 November 1916 which



Letter from Eger, Bohemia to Luzern, Switzerland postmarked 30 October 1916 that has been censored in Karlsbad and marked with two cachets originating from Karlsbad.

required the use of only the word *Zensuriert* plus the censor office location. At this time a number of offices, including that of Prag/Praha, were closed while the major offices elsewhere were enlarged in order to exercise better centralized control and checking of the censors' work. One suspects an element of paranoia was setting in.

Mail to and from known dissidents, internees, or otherwise confined individuals, remained subject to police censorship on an individual basis rather than under general military censorship.

Overall, this is a fascinating and inexpensive subject area to collect and provides something of an insight into what the Empire tried to do to protect itself against disaffection as it slowly fell apart during World War One. What is described here is a drop in a large ocean. The original compilation of cachets used in the whole of the Empire was performed by Horst Thielk and self-published as a handbook in 1989. Since then more has been discovered about the censorship process and sealing labels have been identified; a third and expanded edition of this handbook is now available.

Roger Morrell

Three-Colour Franking

This cover bears a 3 Kreuzer stamp issued in 1863 as well as a 2 Kreuzer stamp and two 5 Kreuzer stamps issued in 1863/64. It was sent from Alt-Brünn on 17 January 1865 via Brünn Bahnhof (on the same date) to Prague (18 January). The charge for a domestic letter travelling over twenty postal miles and to one loth (1 November 1858 to 31 December 1865) was 15 Kreuzer.

The cover is special in two ways. Firstly, it originated in Alt-Brünn, one of the smaller post offices in Brünn (today's Brno). Secondly, it bears a three-colour franking, something much sought after in Austrian philately. It has been in my possession for 25 years now and has always been one of the highlights of my collection.

Hans van Dooremalen



Tricky Cancels of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Great Britain (Part 2)

Lubor Kunc (lubor.kunc@seznam.cz)

The first regular postmark **R1** is a veritable undiscovered treasure within the postmarks of Czechoslovak field post in Great Britain. Adolf Bartošík designed the cancel in 1941 (*Figure 19*). The official introduction of the postmark was scheduled for 28 May 1941 to celebrate the birthday of Edvard Beneš, Czechoslovak President-In-Exile. This definitive postmark was produced using a typeface that differed from those previously used. Bartošík also prepared a drawing for a commemorative postmark for the President's celebration (*Figure 20*). The **R1** postmark was in use from May 1941 to September 1942.



Figure 19: Sketch of the regular **R1** postmark by Adolf Bartošík (1941); ex Bartošík.

Figure 20: Envelope addressed to Bartošík bearing both postmarks on their first day; civil postmark of Leamington Spa post office applied over the stamps; ex Bartošík.

The literature usually treats this postmark as a single item and does not provide any details about the important differences in its design. We should thank Richard Beith for highlighting these different postmark designs in his excellent monograph (see Beith, page 19), but unfortunately he does so without indicating the characteristics that differentiate between the individual postmarks. In fact, the differences in this postmark may be organized using two perspectives:

- Its development over time (*Figures 20 to 23 and 27-28*): *i.e.* technical improvements;
- The identification of different cancellations (*Figures 23-26*): *i.e.* the various types of this postmark.

Using those two parameters, we may sort **R1** postmarks into the following groups:

R1 Postmark	Description (units in mm)	Period	Figure
A - Original	a. 35 × 26 frame; 23 × 3.5 date.	May-November 41	20
	b. 35 × 28-28.5 frame; 25.5 × 2.5 date.		
B - Repaired	35 × 26 frame; 22 × 3.0 date. Year digits smaller than the month letters.	October 41-May 42	21
C - Temporary	36-37 × 27 frame; 23 × 4.0-4.5 date. Of poor quality with curved frame lines.	May-September 42	22
	36-37 × frame; 22 × 3.0 date Missing English text in the cancel	June 42	22 b

R1 Postmark	Description (units in mm)	Period	Figure
D - Reconstructed	35 × 28 frame; 23.5 × 2.5 date. Nice quality postmark with F in Field aligned with the E above it.	1943 (?)	23
E - Arrival Postmark	a. 35 × 26 frame; Date missing.	1941-1942	27
	b. 35 × 26 frame; -- replaces day.	December 1941	28
Typographic Variations			
F - The letter F in Field is to the left of the letter E in Czech .	a. 23 × 3.5 date b. 23 × 3.0 date c. 23 × 4.0 - 4.5 date	May 1941 to September 1942	20/22
G - The letter F in Field aligned with the letter E in Czech .	23.5 × 2.5 date	May 1941	23
H - The letter F in Field to the right of the letter E in Czech .	a. 23 × 3.0 date	July 1941 to September 1942	26
	b. 23 × 3.5 date		25
	c. 23.5 × 2.5 date		24

Note: The time period estimates above are based only upon items from Bartošík's and my own collections. I am confident research into Czechout readers' own collections will lead to a more precise definition of these periods.

I think the above overview clearly demonstrates the manufacture of more than one **R1** canceller and opens a new collecting area. Because some of the postmarks were used in parallel and others sequentially, many of the covers preserved in collections will offer broad possibilities for new research.

One of the **R1** cancellations is quite mysterious. I mean the **R1 D** / **R1 G** postmarks which appears to be a reconstruction of the original cancel. You can easily identify this type as the letters **F** and **E** are aligned, thus distinguishing this imprint from all the others. Although I checked all the available material, I have never seen this postmark on covers sent through the post. It exists only on pieces of paper or philatelic letters (including registered mail). Anyone can spot this postmark on patriotic folder **F28**. My theory to explain this situation is that the postmark was produced especially for the patriotic folder as its cancellation instead of the very damaged original cancel. If this assumption is correct,

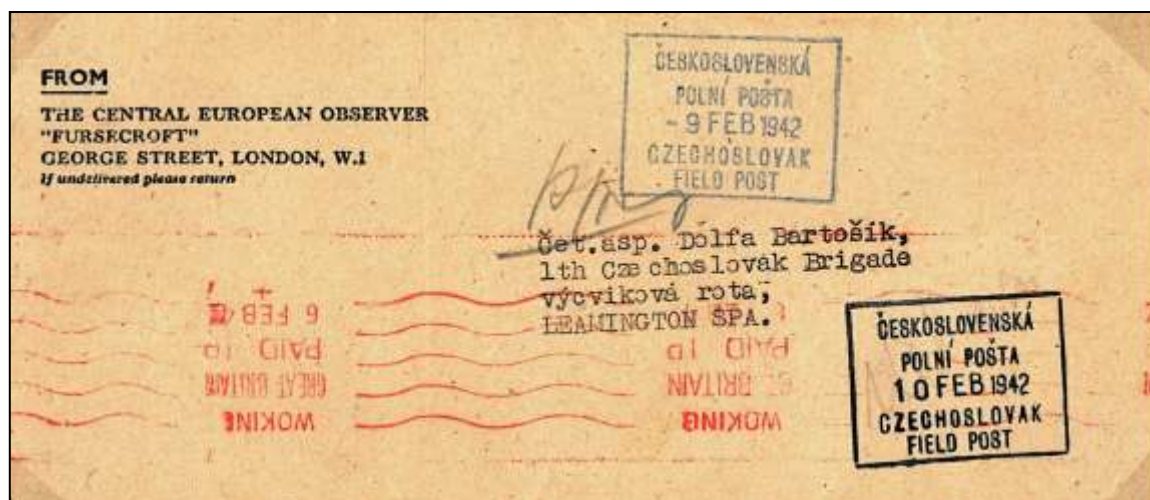


Figure 21: Newspaper wrapping addressed to Bartošík with two repaired postmarks dated 9 and 10 February 1942; ex Bartošík.

then we can estimate that the reconstructed **R1** postmark was produced in 1943 – during the time that regular mail was marked with totally different cancels, thus this specific type of the canceller would not be found on actual mail. Please could you check your collections for imprints of the postmark on an item actually mailed?



Figure 22 a: Military envelope addressed to Bartošik delivered for free by an army courier with the temporary postmark of 22 June 1942; ex Bartošik.

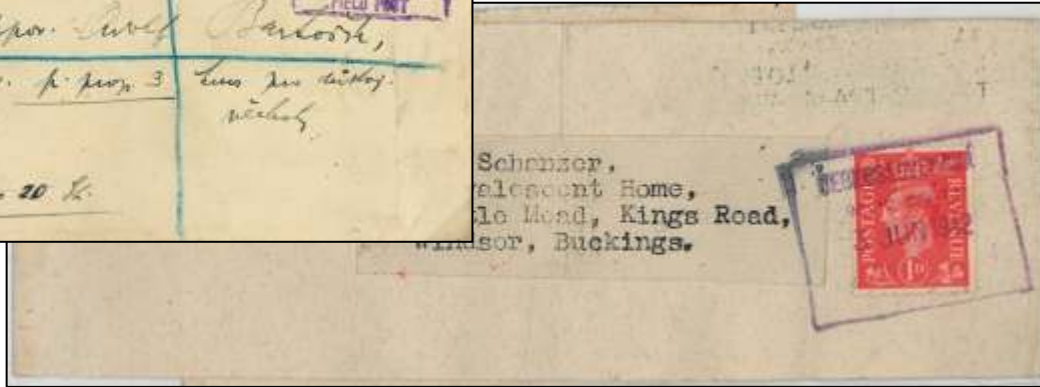


Figure 22 b: Newspaper wrapping showing the postmark without any English text (dated 3 June 1942)



Figure 23: New R1 cancel design dated 28 May 1941 (first day of usage) on a slip of paper.



Figure 25: R1 postmark to commemorate the 1917 Battle of Zborov dated 2 July 1941 on a British 1/2d. postage stamp.

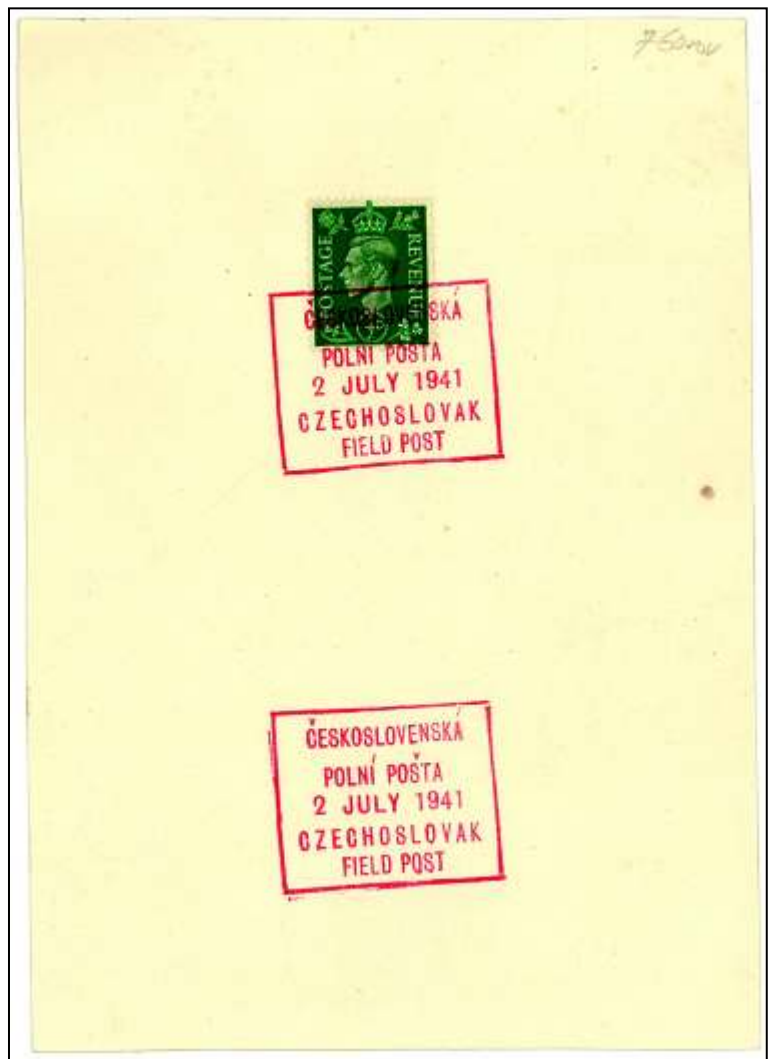


Figure 24: Slip of paper with affixed 1 1/2d. stamp showing R1 postmark commemorating death of President Masaryk.



Figure 26: Air mail letter from the USA to a Czechoslovak soldier in Great Britain bearing R1 cancel as an arrival postmark (26 Aug 1942).

Figure 27: Newspaper wrapping addressed to a Czech soldier; arrival postmark of R1 imprinted on the original backside of the wrapping; ex Bartošik.



Figure 28: Business postcard sent from Leamington Spa Public Library (see its perfin on the affixed stamp) to a Czech soldier; arrival postmark of 20 December 1943 with cachet date indicated by dashes.

As was reported in the **R1** section, the regular postal canceller suffered serious damage in August 1942. Because the post office had not anticipated such a development, no replacement was at hand. They found a very practical solution: Oldřich Večerek had prepared a commemorative postmark for the Battle of Zborov (**C13**) that had seen service only on 2 July 1942 (*Figure 29*). After that day the canceller become obsolete; Večerek therefore elected to use it to produce the new regular postal marking. The adjustment needed was easy: Večerek simply removed the Zborov name and anniversary date from upper and lower parts of the cancel to make the new regular postmark **R2** ready for postal service (*Figure 30*). The new postmark was introduced on 1 August 1942 and used without further change until February 1943. This altered version of the canceller was put into use by August 1943.



Figure 29: Postcard's arrival at a Czechoslovak field post office on 2 July 1942 confirmed by the commemorative Battle of Zborov postmark C13.

Figure 30: Registered letter sent in 1942 from the Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain to a Bata shoe shop in Madagascar (Africa) with the initial design of the R2 postmark and British censorship marking.



The first improvement of the postmark occurred during the second half of February 1943. The swords next to the date line were partially removed and the date line letters and digits were enlarged from 3 mm to 3.5 mm. This version of postmark was used only at the end of February and is the rarest postal marking among all the Czechoslovak field post cancels used in the 1940-1945 period (*Figures 31-32*). The item in *Figure 31* comes from the famous field post collection of Dr Jaroslav Dragoun. I would like to thank him for his generous permission to use his best cover as an illustration.



Figure 31: The 'Oluška' Cover, sent by a Czech soldier to his girl friend Olga (Oluška being the family version of Olga); the rare 'semi-removed swords' postmark dated 24 February 1943; ex Dragoun.

Figure 32: Printed matter envelope addressed to Bartošik showing the rare arrival postmark dated 22 February 1943; letter mailed on 20 February; ex Bartošik



This postmark was again improved in March 1943 by completely removing the swords (*Figure 33*). A final adjustment, the removal of the lower star decoration, was done in May 1943 (*Figure 34*). Similar to the previous **R1** postmark, the **R2** also is connected to a mystery: was the **R2 D** postmark used in regular postal operation or it was produced only for commemorative cancellations on 28 May 1943 and 2 July 1943? Do any Czechout readers possess a postally used cover with a **R2 D** postmark showing any date other than the two days mentioned?



Figure 33: Newspaper wrapping addressed to Bartošik marked with fully removed swords dated 19 March; ex Bartošik.

Figure 34: Czechoslovak field postcard dated 2 July 1943 (Zborov Battle anniversary) showing the final design of the regular marking – both swords and lower star removed.



Figure 35: – Envelope addressed to a Czech soldier on 1 March 1943 showing an arrival postmark dated 2 March 1943 with full swords and small data line letters and digits.

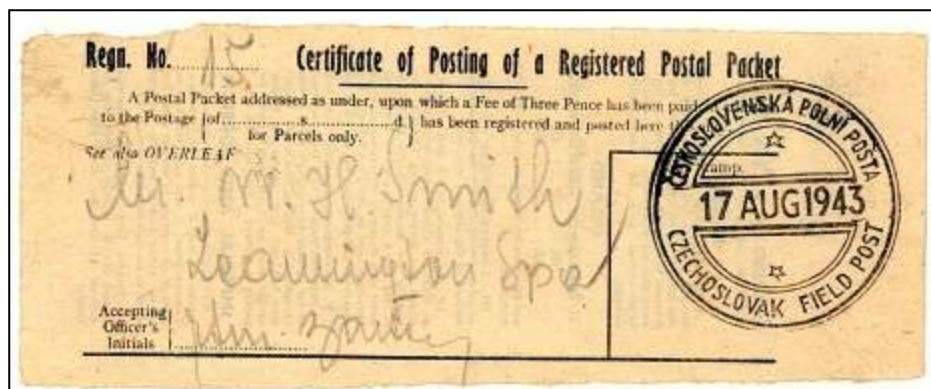


Figure 36: Parcel confirmation with the lower star decoration postmarked 17 August 1943.

R2 Postmark	Description (units in mm)	Period	Figure
C 13 Commemorative	18.5 × 3.5 mm in date line.	Only on 2 July 1942	29
A Original	17.5 - 18.0 × 3.0 mm in date line.	August 42 - February 43	30
		March 1943 - ??	35
B Partially Removed Swords	20.0 - 24.0 × 3.5 mm in date line.	February 1943	31/32
C Fully Removed Swords		March 1943 - May 1943	33
		June 1943 - August 43	36
D Lower Star Removed		Possibly (?) only on 28 May 1943 2 July 1943	34

So far, this is the **R2** postmark story as described by the philatelic literature and proven by the illustrations in the article. But we can assume this story is not complete. A cause for that belief is the cover displayed in *Figure 35* showing an envelope with arrival postmark dated 2 March 1943 containing the full swords and smaller date line corresponding to the original postmark as shown in *Figure 30*! The validity of this date is confirmed by the civil post office's Putney machine cancellation dated 1 March 1943. When we compare the cover with the rare items in *Figures 31-32*, we clearly see the postmarks were used in parallel and not in sequence. This envelope tells us that at minimum two cancellers with the regular postmark were used, otherwise the same postmark could not exist in two different designs at the same time. This is an important question: has anyone seen a similar *full sword* postmark dated in March 1943 or some other month during that year?

Another argument for believing in multiple **R2** cancellers is a parcel posting confirmation as shown in *Figure 36*. It shows the cancel with a lower star used in August 1943; however, that decoration was removed in May! Compare with *Figure 34*. Similar items have been registered by Richard Beith as well (see page 17 of his monograph).

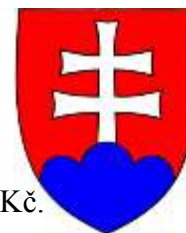
The goal of this article was to consider a few unusual covers and to familiarize *Czechout* readers with new theories expanding previous research into the area of the Czechoslovak field post in Great Britain 1940-1945. A discussion with fellow collectors would be very welcome, especially regarding the identification of new postmarks and covers supporting or disproving these theories. As you see, the topic still contains many puzzles awaiting further research.

Finally I would like to use this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain on the Diamond Jubilee celebrated last year. Wishes for all the best to the Society and its members come not only from me, but from all Czech postal historians and stamp collectors who continuously track the work of CPSGB members. We are looking forward to our philatelic co-operation for the next 60 years of the CPSGB!

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.

NB: Postage rate increases from August 2013.

New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

20 January 2014

Good Luck Charm



Designer: Jiří Slíva.

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of nine stamps and twelve labels. **Design:** the NVI A stamp shows a dog sitting on its haunches chewing a four-leafed clover.

The nine labels for personalised printing have a dog tied to a lamp post in front of an open book. The labels to the right of the sheet have a clover in



the top and lower labels, and bunches of four-leafed clover in a vase in the central label. **FDC:** printed multi-coloured offset with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design has a dog sitting on an artist's palette.

20 January 2014

The Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Ladislav Jirka



Designer: Libuše Knotková, **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček (FDC and line drawing of stamp).

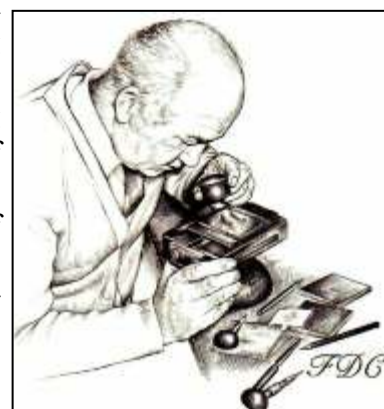
Printing: multi-coloured offset with a line drawing in sheets of 30. Booklets of eight stamps and four labels printed offset.

Stamp Design: portrait of Ladislav Jirka against a background of three of his favourite stamp designs which he engraved (*Bridesmaid* by K Svobinský – Art 1970; *Leccinum versipiele* – Fungi 1958; and *Feast of the Rosary* (detail) by A Dürer – Art 1971). **Label Designs:** two have a line

drawing of stamp *Plzeň* from World Exhibition Prague 1962 and the other two feature a line drawing of the stamp *80 years of the National Theatre* 1963. **FDC:** printed DS in black-brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet shows the engraver at work surrounded by his tools.

Ladislav Jirka was born near Plzeň in 1914, began to study engraving in 1928, and joined the Military Geographical Institute in 1936. From 1939 he worked as a bank note engraver in the Securities Division of the State Printing

Works. The portrait of Ludovít Štúr by Karel Svobinský was his first venture into stamp engraving and long term cooperation with this artist. Many of Svobinský's stamp designs on folk and nature themes were engraved by Jirka. Jirka used classical works of art as a basis for engravings although he also engraved designs by the artists Cyril Bouda and Josef Liesler. He received several awards for stamp designs and works of art. His daughter Libuše Knotková is the designer of the current stamp.



5 February 2014

Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014



Designer: Pavel Hrach. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider (FDC only).

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a snowboarder. **Design:** a snowboarder.

The XXII Winter Olympics were held from 7 to 23 February 2014 in Sochi, Russia. Sochi was selected by the International Olympic Committee during its session in Guatemala City, July 2007. It was the first Olympics held in Russia since the break

up of the Soviet Union in 1991. Events were at two venues: the coastal city of Sochi and the mountain resort of Krasnaya Polyana. They were the most expensive Games ever held, costing more than \$51 billion. There were 98 events in 15 Winter Sports disciplines with several new events introduced.

The Czech Republic team gained two gold medals (Women's Snowboarding and Women's Speed Skating events), four silver and two bronze medals, ranking fifteenth in overall results.

5 February 2014

Winter Paralympics in Sochi 2014

Designer: Kryštof Krejča. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider (FDC only).



Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** printed DS in blue with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a sledge ice hockey player.

Design: a sledge ice hockey player in action.

The XI Winter Paralympic Games were held at Sochi, Russia between 7 and 16 March 2014, with athletes from 45 nations taking part in 72 medal events across five sports. Snowboarding was introduced for the first time. Russia won 30 gold, 28 silver, and 22 bronze medals, the most by any one country at a Paralympic event.

5 March 2014

Historic Vehicles:

a) Eugen Čihák's Aircraft – *Rapid 1912*

b) Prototype of the First Czechoslovak Vehicle for the Prague Metro



Designer: Pavel Sivko (aircraft), Jiří Dufek (Metro car). **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň (FDC only).

Printing: multi-coloured offset in se-tenant sheets of 50. **FDC:** printed DS with commemorative Praha cancels. Maximum cards for each stamp were issued (*see back cover*).

Designs: a) Eugen Čihák's 1912 *Rapid* aircraft. **FDC:** printed in sky-blue with a technical drawing of the aircraft and Praha commemorative cancel. b) Prototype of the first Czechoslovak vehicle for the Prague Metro. **FDC:** printed in black with a technical drawing of the train's axle wheel spring mechanism and commemorative Praha cancel.

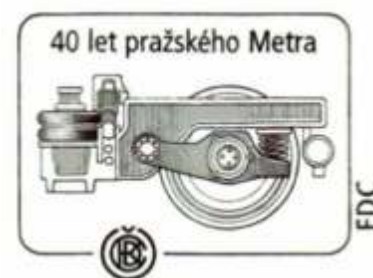
Eugen Čihák (1885-1958) graduated from business school in Pardubice after his family moved there from Croatia when he was four years old. He then worked at the Laurin & Klement factory in Mladá Boleslav as did his cousin, the aviator Jan Kašpar. They both left the machine factory to begin the development and production of their first aeroplane. Čihák made his first flight on 16 July 1911 and



reportedly made a further 33 flights up to 1914, gaining his international pilot diploma on 7 May 1913. The most successful of the 16 aircraft he constructed was the *Rapid* at the end of 1912 which reached the speed of 130 km/h. After the First World War he worked with his brother running a truck transport company and as an aircraft mechanic. Later he became the manager of Kbely and Ruzyně Airport, and then worked in a transport company during World War Two.



The first idea to build a Prague subsurface railway was made by Ladislav Rott in 1898 whilst sewers were being dug for the city. The idea was rejected as was a further proposal in 1926 by Bohumil Belada and Vladimír List as a part of the development of an integrated transport system. During the 1930s and 1940s various methods were proposed but all planning and development ceased after World War Two because of the poor economic situation. At this time the Metro lines A, B, and C had been planned. The first station building (Hlavní nádraží) began on 9 August 1967, and the first regular Metro service running on Line C opened on 9 May 1974. The stamp issue commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the Prague Metro.



The R1 train was originally developed by ČKD for the Prague Metro. The project began in 1968 whilst the redevelopment of modern Prague was underway. One of the developments was the construction of a bridge across the Nusle Valley (Gottwaldov Bridge, later Nusle Bridge) which carried six lanes of vehicles and two Metro lanes. The bridge was not designed to carry heavy weights so the R1 development had to be light. The vehicle was made from aluminium alloys and fibreglass. Two prototypes were made, passing their operating and loading tests on the track at Velim and the unfinished track at Kačerov depot, but they never carried passengers. In January 1972 both trains were destroyed when they crashed into each other after an unexplained release of the brakes. The chief designer, Antonín Honzík, was injured. Only two undamaged wagons from both trains were salvaged and taken to the Technical Museum, Brno. The project was abandoned and vehicles from the Soviet Union were used during the next decades.



5 March 2014

150 Years of Czech Fire Fighting



Designer: Adolf Born. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider.

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50.

Design: an historic fire truck with a firefighter extinguishing a house fire. **FDC:** printed DS in red-brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is an outline sketch of a firefighter.

Fire has had a significant role in the development of civilisation, but man has struggled to control it throughout history. Records of firefighting go back to tenth century BC with Ktesibius of Alexandria writing a treatise on compressed air and its use in pumps. Various types of water pumps were in use in early Egypt and throughout the Roman Empire to combat fire.

Large fires in medieval towns caused much damage because the town authorities dealt with the problem in haphazard, different ways. In 1751 Empress Marie Therese issued fire extinguishing rules for the Austrian Empire to bring some centralisation and order to the problem. With the invention of the steam engine, new and more efficient firefighting apparatus was developed. Large cities and factories could set up their own services which were expensive as they required specialist equipment and people. Gradually volunteer firefighting developed in smaller towns.

The first Czech Fire Brigade was founded in 1864 in Velvary (about 25 km northwest of Prague). Today the Czech Republic has professional firefighting force for each region with a volunteer force called upon in time of emergencies.

New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

2 January 2014 Cultural Heritage of Slovakia: Synagogue in Levice



Designer and Engraver: František Horniak.

Printing: rotary recess with photogravure. **Design:** the restored synagogue building. **FDC:** printed by Post Printing House, Prague, DS in blue-grey with commemorative Levice cancel. The cachet drawing is a detail from some of the original interior designs.

Although Jews were in Levice before 1836, it is not until that year that they settled and formed a community. Their first synagogue was built 1853/54 but with an increasing congregation a larger synagogue was built in 1883. It was reconstructed in 1902 which is the basis of the building today. It was a synagogue until June 1944 but then became part of the Jewish ghetto when the Jews were incarcerated. The building was sold to the State in 1967 and it became a furniture warehouse, but was declared an Historic Landmark in 1980. The town has owned the property since 1991 with extensive reconstruction beginning in 2010. Workers discovered the founding charter stored in a bottle in the northeast part of the lower face wall which had been placed there on the laying of the foundation stone on 24 April 1883. Other original features of the building were revealed and have been preserved. The restored building was opened 26 April 2012 and is used for various cultural events.

15 January 2014 XXII Winter Olympic Games Sochi 2014



Designer: Igor Piačka (including FDC).

Printing: Heidelberg Speedmaster (offset).

Design: two participants in the shooting discipline. **FDC:** printed offset by Kasico a.s. Bratislava, with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design has three skiers against a blue snowflake background.

Slovakia gained one gold medal in the Women's Sprint Biathlon and was ranked twenty-first in the overall medal tables.

15 January 2014 XI Winter Paralympic Games Sochi 2014



Designer: Karol Felix (including FDC).

Printing: Heidelberg Speedmaster (offset).

Design: two skiers. **FDC:** printed offset by Kasico a.s. Bratislava, with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. Cachet in blue shows a skier in the slalom event.

Slovakia gained three gold, two silver, two bronze medals, and was placed sixth in the overall medal table of winners.

14 February 2014 International Year of Crystallography



Designer: Igor Benca (including FDC).

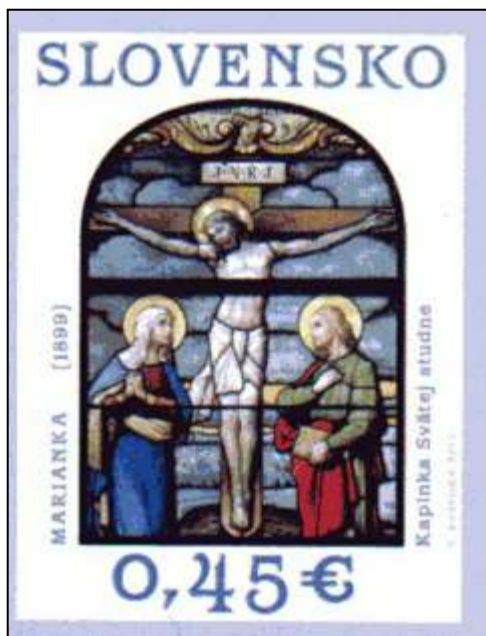
Printing: Heidelberg Speedmaster (offset).

Design: a microscopic image of crystal atoms showing how the substance can change. Se-tenant labels show a similar image with the legend 2014 – *International Year of Crystallography*. **FDC:** printed offset by Kasico a.s. Bratislava, with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet

drawing in black shows the symbolic structure of kaolin and two more simplified two-dimensional structures.

The issue commemorates the work of the Nobel Prize Winner Max von Laue who, 100 years ago, revealed the atomic crystal structure of solid matter through X-ray diffraction.

10 March 2014 Easter 2014: Crucifixion – Stained Glass Windows of Romanticism



Designer: Vladislav Rostoka. **Engraver:** František Horniak (FDC only).

Printing: Heidelberg Speedmaster (offset) **Design:** a stained glass window from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries depicting Christ's Crucifixion. **FDC:** printed recess in blue by Kasico a.s. Bratislava, with a commemorative Marianka cancel. The cachet is an outline drawing of the window subject. Booklets of ten self-adhesive stamps were issued.

A Gothic Church was built in 1377 for the worship of a miraculous Marian sculpture near the Monastery of the Order of St Paul, the first Hermit in Marianka (near Bratislava) and has been a place of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages. The most important buildings were only constructed at the end of the seventeenth century after the Turkish Wars. Since then various renovations have taken place. The Chapel of the Holy Well was renovated at the turn of the twentieth century which included the stained glass windows. One of the window scenes is the subject of this stamp issue: the Crucifixion at Calvary with the

figures of the Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist standing on either side at the foot of the cross. The city of Jerusalem can be seen in the background. The margins are richly decorated with Rococo ornaments.

31 March 2014 Personalities: Štefan Osuský



Designer: Dušan Nágel. **Engravers:** Martin Činovský (stamp), Rudolf Cigánik (FDC).

Printing: rotary recess combined with photogravure.

Design: portrait of Štefan Osuský. **FDC:** printed DS by Post Printing House, Prague, in grey-black with a commemorative Brezová pod Bradlom cancel.

Štefan Osuský (1889-1973) was born in Brezová pod Bradlom. He was a Slovak patriot and this brought him into conflict with the Hungarian authorities in his early life. Barred from all higher education establishments in the Kingdom of Hungary, he moved to relatives in the USA where he earned a doctorate in law. In the USA he was an active member of the Slovak League, became chairman, and coordinated resistance against Austria-Hungary during World War One. He cooperated closely with Masaryk, Beneš, and Štefánik on the Czechoslovak Council. Osuský was Secretary General of the Czechoslovak delegation to the Paris Peace Conference and a signatory to the Treaty of Trianon with Hungary in 1920. After the formation of Czechoslovakia he worked as a diplomat in London for a short while but then became ambassador to France for nearly twenty years and at the same time was a representative of the Czechoslovak Republic in the League of Nations before the formation of the United Nations. In 1939 he refused to give up the Embassy to German diplomats but after the surrender of France he became a Minister in the exiled government under Beneš in London. His views on the future of Slovakia after the war did not accord with Beneš' ideas, so he was dismissed in 1942. After the war he returned to the USA. During the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia he was active in the exiled Council of Free Czechoslovakia as he was against all communist and fascist ideas.

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

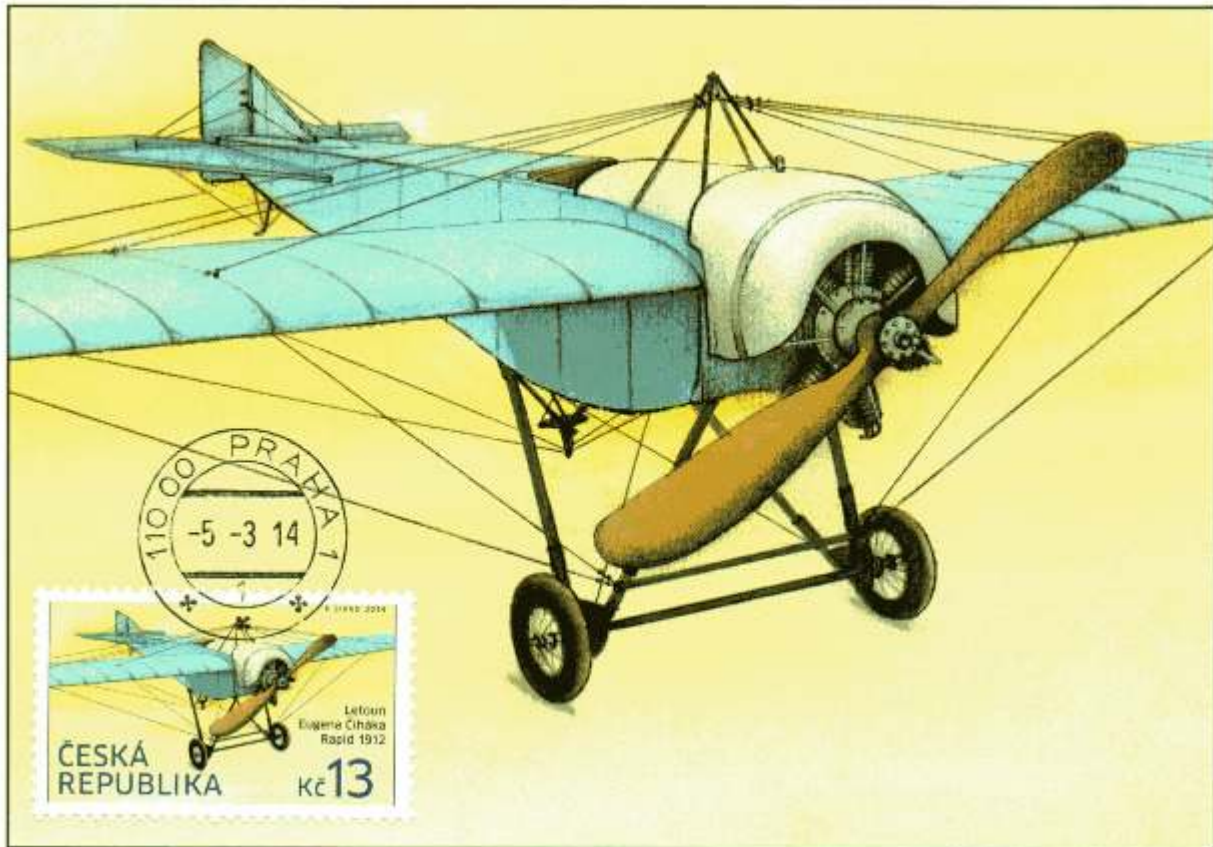
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Membership Benefits

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.
Library	The Society maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals, and reference items available to UK members only. Postage both ways paid by the borrower.
Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auction Secretary.
New Issues Service	Contact the Librarian.
Circulating Packets	Stamp and postal history packets available to members in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Secretary.
Accessories at Trade prices	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.
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.



Maximum Cards
Czech Republic 5 March 2014 *Historic Vehicles*