



# CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

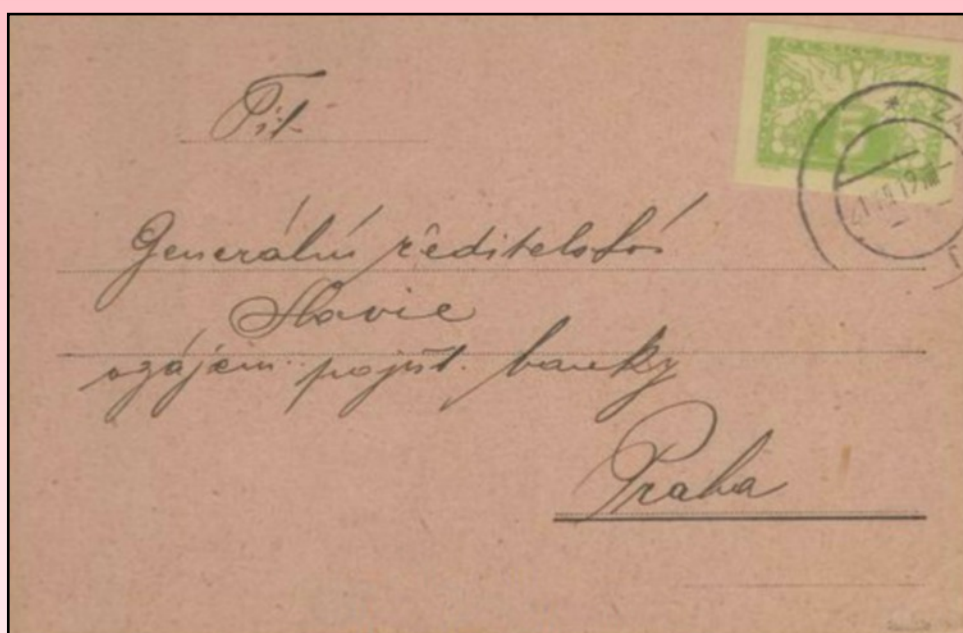
VOLUME 33/1

MARCH 2015

WHOLE NUMBER 158



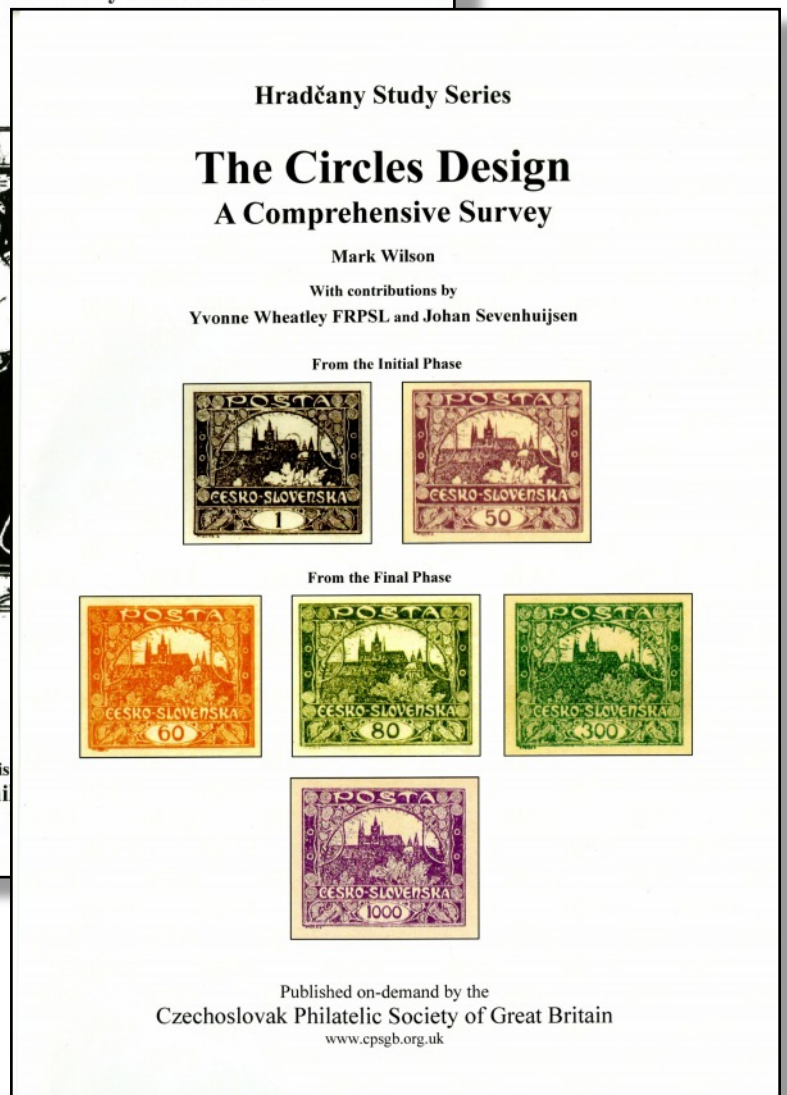
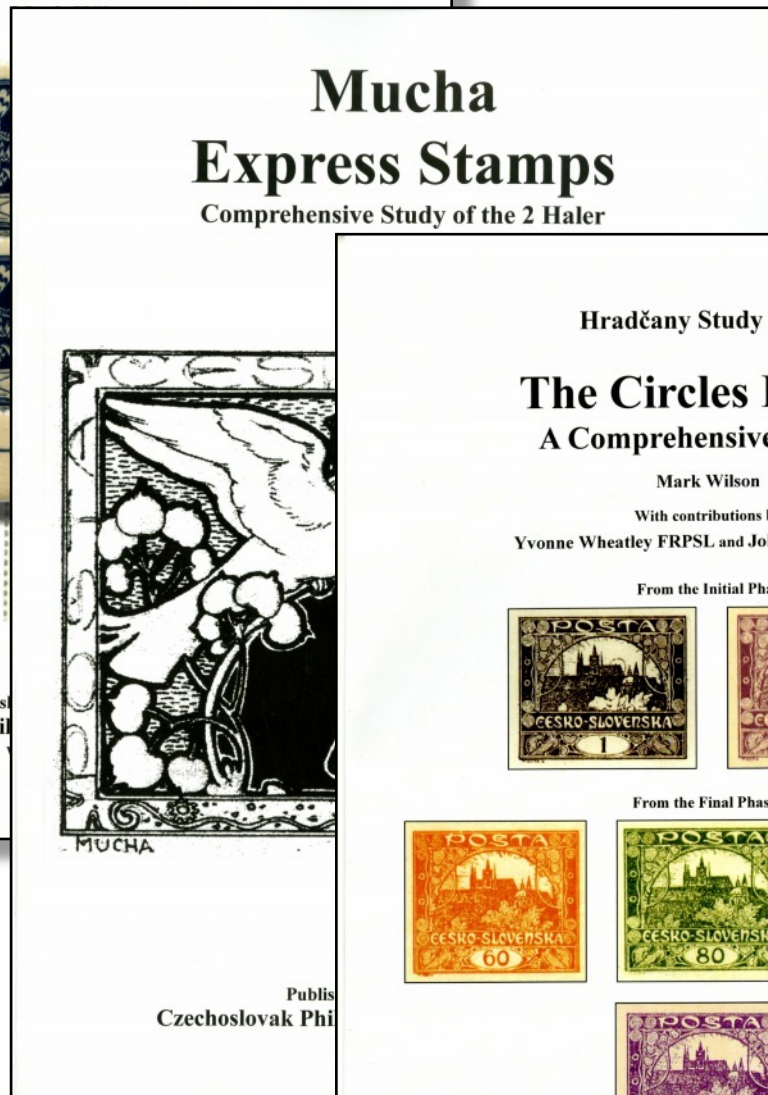
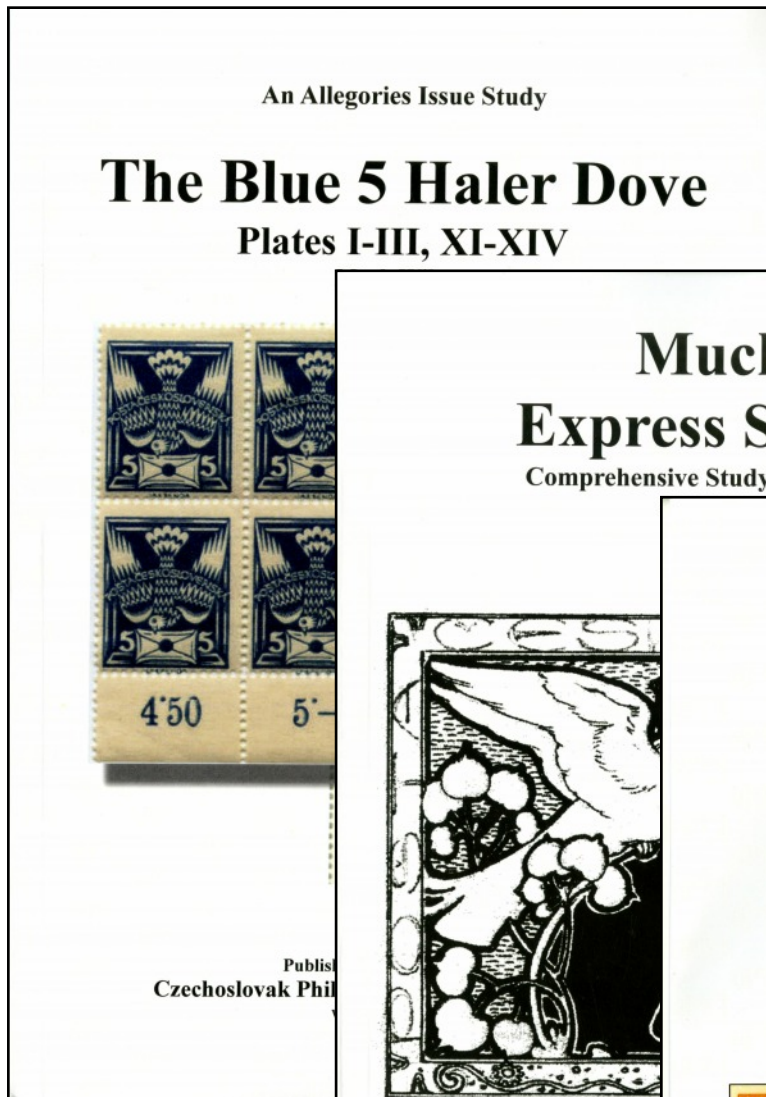
**Czechoslovakia's Oddest Postal Rate?**



**Express Stamp as Single Franking**

## CPSGB Print On-Demand Publications

For prices and postal charges for these and all other print on-demand publications contact  
Mrs Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW.  
[whyareuu@outlook.com](mailto:whyareuu@outlook.com)



## CPSGB Print On-Demand Publications Programme

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain offers a print on-demand service for material of too narrow an interest to publish as a Society Monograph. Do you have a manuscript you would like to see printed on-demand? Contact the Hon. Editor for manuscript submission details. Every print on-demand publication may be read for free by visiting:

[www.czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm](http://www.czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm)

**CZECHOUT**

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

ISSN 0142-3525

VOLUME 33/1

MARCH 2015

WHOLE NUMBER 158

**CONTENTS**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| District Court Reply Cards - Yvonne Wheatley              | 8  |
| Uses of the Express Stamp - Hans van Dooremalen           | 10 |
| Mucha's Express Stamps - Mark Wilson                      | 14 |
| One Man's War - Richard Beith                             | 20 |
| Ten Years of EXPONET - Vladimir Munzberger and Lubor Kunc | 23 |
| News & Notices  | 4  |
| Book Review   | 6  |
| Abstracts of Publications - Colin W Spong                 | 7  |
| Correspondence  | 24 |
| New Issues: Czech Republic - Lindy Bosworth               | 25 |
| New Issues: Slovak Republic - Lindy Bosworth              | 29 |

**Inside**

A perhaps unknown (or at least unmentioned) special and very odd district court postal rate will be news to many postal historians. The 1919 Express stamp receives ample attention in this issue as the subject of two articles and a book review, followed by a tribute to Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile veteran Frank Kaplan and a description of the new and improved EXPONET website. Finally, the mystery of the bluish SO handstamp asked about in the December issue's Correspondence column deepens as a member produces another example, this time on a Hradčany-franked postcard.

**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!

© CPSGB 2015. Reproduction of contents forbidden without the consent of the editor or the author.

Founded 1953. Published quarterly. Free to members. Membership enquiries to Membership Secretary.

On-line membership: UK £9 per year. Overseas £6, €8 or US\$10.

Regular membership: UK £17 per year. Europe and the rest of the world surface mail: £23, €29, or US\$39.

Air mail to the rest of the world: £27 or US\$45.

Price £2 + postage from Publications Officer.

**Advertisers:** Contact Advertising Manager for details. **Authors:** Contact Editor for submissions.

**Society Website:** [www.cpsgb.org.uk](http://www.cpsgb.org.uk); **Journal Index:** [www.czechout.org](http://www.czechout.org).

**Opinions expressed in articles are the sole responsibility of the author(s)  
and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society.**

*Czechout* is printed by Leodis Print Ltd. 07791 530962. [info@leodisprint.com](mailto:info@leodisprint.com).

## News & Notices

### New Members

The Society extends a warm welcome to new members **Johan Sevenhuijsen**, Schiedam, The Netherlands, and **Mogens Norbjerg**, Bjaeverskov, Denmark.

### Double Identity

The astute reader will have noticed that the name **Dave Foster** appears twice in the December 2014 issue, once as a new member and again as taking part in the Joint Meeting. In fact it is not the same gentleman. Our new member lives in Nottingham and, as he is a dealer, has very kindly given details of the Society to anyone taking an interest in Czech material. This has resulted in several new members and we are very grateful to him. The other Dave Foster lives in Middlesbrough and he came to our Joint Meeting as a member of the Yugoslavia Study Group. It was good to have him with us but sadly he does not collect Czech material.

### Congratulations

**Roger Morell** won both the foreign stamps and the postal history classes at Twickenham & District Philatelic Society with *The Yugoslav Occupation of Istria* and *Hungarian Telephone Postcards* respectively. **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins** won the Open Class Philately trophy with *Russian Postal Worker and his work 1750-2000* at Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies.

### Meeting with the Austrian Philatelic Society at York Race Course

This was a well-attended meeting, the idea being that the displays should be of interest to both Austrian and Czech collectors; I counted nine of our members in attendance. The Czech collectors were not disappointed. **Colin Tobit**, Chairman of the Austrian Society, showed *Dual-Language Pneumatic Postal Stationery* which could be used in either Czechoslovakia or Austria. **Barry Clark** and **Alan Berrisford** both showed *Czech Postablagen* (postal agencies). Barry concentrated on Moravia and Alan showed the agencies between the wars. **Keith Brandon** found three postcards, two of which had been bought at the York Stamp fair the previous day, which all had a Czech connection. Our thanks to the Austrian Philatelic Society for inviting us to join with them at what is becoming, judging by the number attending, a very popular meeting.

**Yvonne Wheatley**

### The Afternoon Meeting at the Czech and Slovak National Club London, 10 January 2015

The New Year started with an impressive display by **Ron Hollis** on the *History of Czechoslovakia from 1918 to 1939*. In point of fact the earliest item was a post card from 1912 of Austro-Hungarian troops in the 1912 Balkan War and the period covered extended into 1945.



*Ron Hollis presents History of Czechoslovakia.  
Photo by Bob McLeod.*

The display explored many aspects of the era's Czech history, from the earliest negotiations with President Wilson, Masaryk, Stefanik, and the Treaty of Trianon, to the end of World War II. Many philatelic items were supported by rarely seen material such as a leaflet about a film of Masaryk and a Ukrainian newspaper sent from Prague to Riga.

As many members have a particular interest in the events leading up to the 1939 occupation, here Ron showed examples of Hitler's involvement with the Sudeten Germans, Mussolini, and Admiral Horthy, not to mention the Polish claims in Karvina and other areas on the border. A range of material from wartime Slovakia included many rarely seen items. The Bohemia & Moravia section included moving items such as postcards calling in *undesirables*, a prelude to deportation and worse, as well as a flimsy certificate from a Catholic priest confirming a Czech's baptism so that he could prove that he was not Jewish.

For items from the end of the war, Ron showed a dark coloured postcard from the 1945 rising. His research revealed that paper was so short in supply that any available coloured paper was used, even purple. The whole display had many rare items to savour. This represented only half of this particular collection, so there may well be more to enjoy at a future date.

**Tony Hickey** gave the thanks for the display. He noted the impact of the treaties of Versailles, Trianon, and St Germain on the inter-war years as the conflicting desires of many nationalities were not resolved. Czechoslovakia had many claims on numerous parts of its territory and Ron's extensive display had shown aspects from many sides. The meeting ended at 4:00.

**Peter Williams**



*Photo by Jiří Rolínek.*

The Society presented **Yvonne Gren** with a glass bowl from the Mucha Museum in Prague as a small token of the Society's appreciation of her long service to the Society. She joined the Committee in 1981 as Librarian, becoming Secretary a year later, a role that then included membership. After fourteen years as Secretary, for which she was made an Honorary Life Member in 1996, she then continued as Membership Secretary for a further eighteen years. She combined this with being Chairman from 2007 to 2010. This is altogether an amazing record for which the Society will be eternally grateful.

**Rex Dixon**

Thank you all so much for such a beautiful gift and one I shall always treasure.

**Yvonne Gren**

### Book Review

**Mucha Express Stamps: Comprehensive Study of the 2 Haler.** Mark Wilson. CPSGB Print On-Demand, 2014, in colour, 125 p.

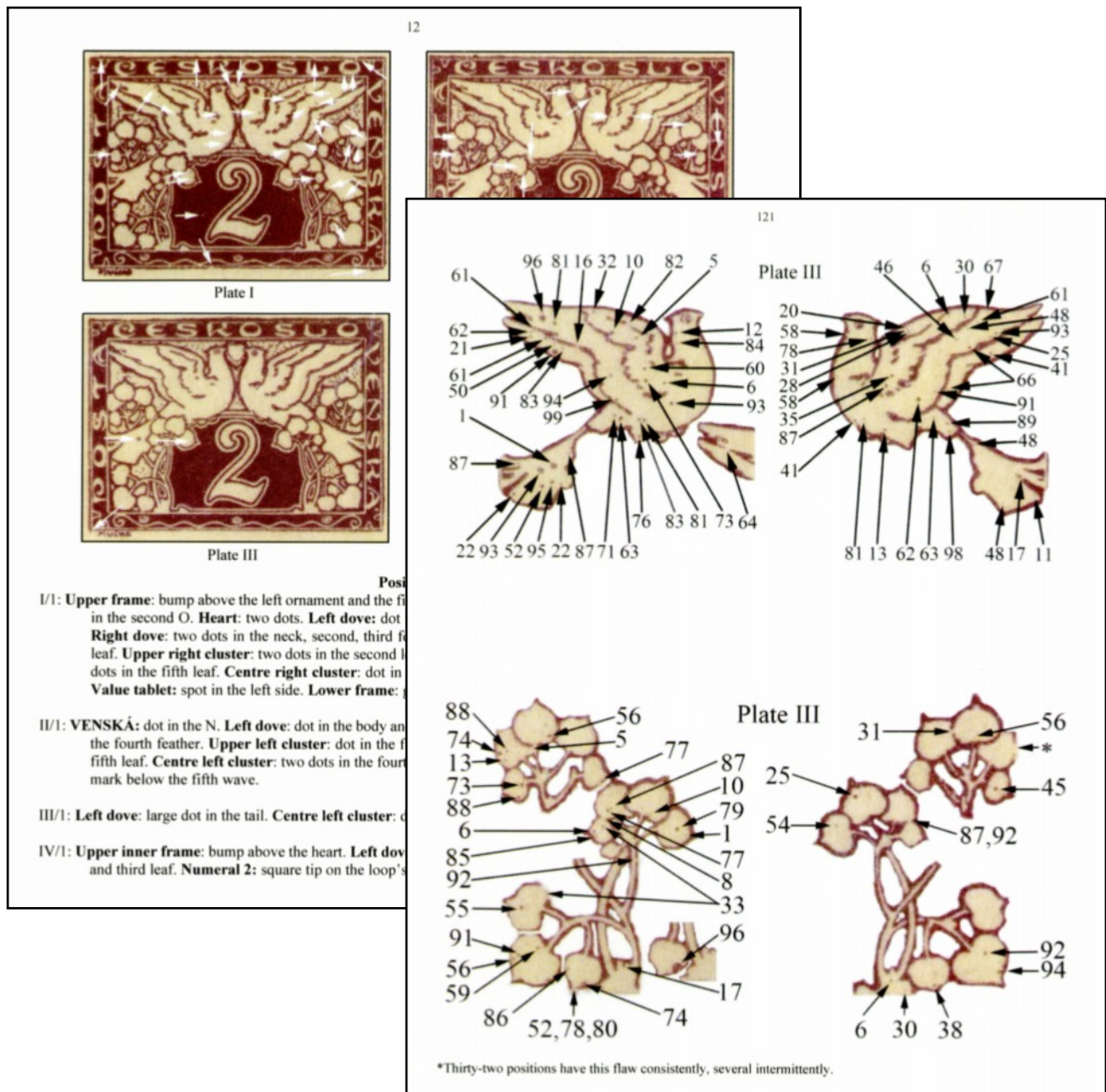
This is an original study of Alfons Mucha's 2 Haler Express Stamp. The book, in A4 format, has 125 pages in colour. The express service is explained together with usage followed by a plating study of the 100 stamps in each plate. Each page illustrates with four stamps the same position from the four plates used to print this denomination. Indicators draw attention to the differences that enable a correct identification to be made. With each illustration is a verbal description of the points of reference.

As a further aid to identification, there is a visual index illustrating each part of the design with the plate and stamp position where the flaw is to be found. Many of the diagrams in the visual index are extremely complicated and Mark is to be congratulated on illustrating so much information in such a compact way that it is easy to follow.

Very little has been written on these express stamps and references to this scant information is given in the book. The fact that so little study has been done until now make this a very important book.

A copy of the book is in our library. It is available as a Print On-Demand title. Enquiries to 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 Winter 2014 issue of *Austria*, No 188.

The Kriegsministerium Pneumatic Post Facility, 26 Nov 1913 to 8 April 1922 (Taylor); Documentary evidence that Wien 25 handled pneumatic mail (Taylor et al.); The Südbahn (Waugh).

*The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter*, November 2014.

The Post Office at War [1914-1918] (-); The Home Depot (Taft); Jobs for Heroes (Dafter); The Post Office Remembers (Taft); The Importance of Post in War (Johnson); Letters from the Front (Harper, Sandbrook & Parsons); The Bravery of the Post Office Rifles: 8th Battalion City of London Regiment (Foster); Men of Letters (Barrett); Time Capsule Treasure Trove (Taft).

The September 2014 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol 45 Whole No 181.

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

Plate faults from Czechoslovakia 1945-1992, First Series 1992, POFIS Nos. 3001-3029 (Norbjerg on behalf of Danish Collectors Group); Catapult flight/Catapult mail with Czechoslovak involvement Part 2: South America (Wilhelms); Use of Postcards with perforations on Czechoslovak Territory 1918-1919 (Osthuis & Müller); Changes in the status of Post Offices of the Czech Post Office – openings & closures in 2013 (Müller); The barcode special registration labels from the Czech Post Office [cont.] (Müller).

The Fall 2014 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol 76, No 4, Whole No 638.

The SCP Commemorates its 75th Anniversary (Svoboda); Hradčany Gutter pairs (Filipek); 1964-2014: 50th Anniversary of CPFTS [Cercle Philatélique France Tchéquie Slovaquie] (Bardelli).

Nos 12/2014 & 1/2015 issues of *Filatelie*, Vols 64 & 65.

The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

The magic of the engravings by Karel Seizinger and Bohumil Heinz [1] (Chudoba); Czechoslovakia's first Newspaper Stamp – The Flying Falcon (Kolesar); Postal service in Great War 1914-18 [5] (Kramář); Another imitation of Mucha's Hradčany drawing (Vrba).

The magic of the engravings by Karel Seizinger and Bohumil Heinz [2] (Chudoba); Postal service in Great War 1914-18 [6] (Kramář); The private postal stationery of Austrian origin [1] (Krátký).

Nos 5 & 6, 2014 issues of *Merkur Revue*.

The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.

SO 1920 Overprint on Hradčany 500 h (Květon); Plate flaw on the airmail L3 28 Kč / 1000 (Květon); Colour shades on the 1936 10 Kč Bratislava overprinted for the State Opening of the Slovak National Assembly 1939 (Květon); Rarest colours on the Austrian 1850 2 Kr stamp (-); Cover of the Provisional SO 1920 stamps (Kypast).

The charm of Old Documents (Klim); Inverted SO 1920 overprint on 500 h Hradčany (Filipek); Definitive airmail stamps of interwar Czechoslovakia – Airmail FDCs (Květon); Legionnaire issue 1919: the first anniversary of Czechoslovakia (Květon); Austria 1858 Newspaper stamp No 16 – dangerous forgery (Pelicán); Exceptional 15 h Hradčany perforation (-).

The November 2014 issue of *Pošta Česko-Slovenská (formerly NIEUWS)*, No .23.

Airmail rates in the First Republic [3] (Sanstra, van Dooremalen & Taylor); Plating of the 30 h Hradčany [cont.] (Jonkergouw);

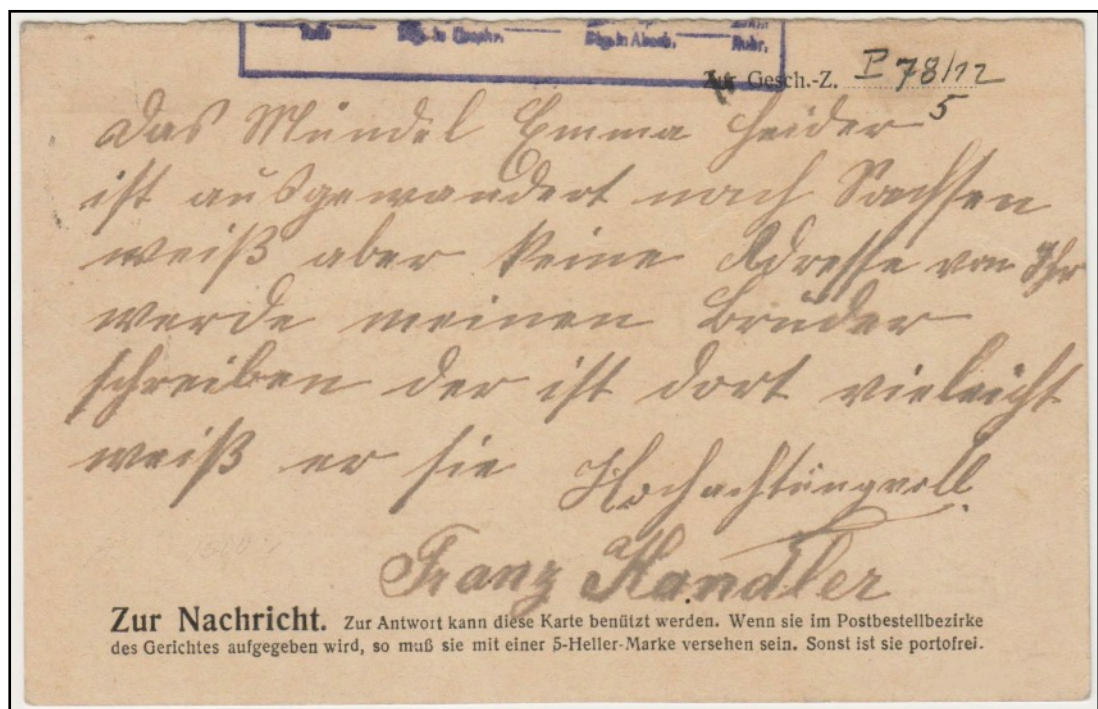
The December 2014 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No 199.

The Orient Express 1883-1900 (Elmar & Dorr); Przemysł – The tragedy of the beleaguered fort, Part 1 (Nagy); Mail received before it was posted! (Stockley).

## District Court Reply Cards

Yvonne Wheatley

A short time ago our editor sent out a plea to friends asking for scans to demonstrate usage in his new book about the blue 5 haler Dove (since published as part of the Society's print on-demand publication programme). I responded with a scan of the card illustrated below, a reply card separated from an order sent out by a District Court. Note the rough upper edge indicating where the reply card was separated from the original.



Court Reply Card 1921, Recto and Verso.

The reply card has the bilingual cancel *Cukmantl ve Slezsku* | *Zuckmantel Schles.* and is addressed to the Court in Zuckmantel. (Cukmantl | Zuckmantel is now known as Zlaté Hory and is in Silesia.) The Court clerk applied a purple boxed receipt stamp dated 13 June 1921.



Note that even as late as 1921 the District Court was still relying upon postal stationery printed by the Austrian government: the Court is addressed in German as ~~K. k.~~ *Bezirksgericht* (District Court) with the Austrian appellation crossed out. Even more interesting is the text, again in German and of Austrian origin, at the bottom of the card's verso:

Zur Nachricht. Zur Antwort kann diese Karte benützt werden. Wenn sie im Postbestellbezirke des Gerichtes aufgegeben wird, so muß sie mit einer 5-Heller-Marke versehen sein. Sonst ist sie portofrei.

It instructs the respondent to affix a 5 haler stamp if the card is mailed from within the Court's postal delivery district or to post the card without franking if from outside that area. Obviously Czechoslovakia imitated this Austrian rule because the postmark indicates the card was sent from within the town where the Court resided and the respondent has applied a blue 5 haler Dove stamp.



*Court Reply Card 1923, Recto and Verso.*

Above is a second example of a district court reply card, franked with a violet 5 haler stamp, mailed on 15 April 1923, and addressed to the District Court in Bruntál. As the franking indicates and the bilingual *Bruntál | Freudenthal* cancel confirms, the card was sent from the same location as the District Court. The card is still printed in German but has the Czech version of the town name stamped in purple, likely preaddressed by the court clerk. The Austrian *K. k.* appellation has disappeared and the instructions at the bottom of the card's verso leave the amount of postage required blank. Clearly this second card seems to anticipate a rate change.

Does anyone have any references to this odd practice of free-franking outside of a court's postal delivery district but the imposition of a postage fee if the reply were mailed within that area? Did the rates change, and if so, when? Did Czechoslovakia ever alter or end the practice?

## Uses of the Express Stamp

### Hans van Dooremalen

At a meeting of the Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie, the Dutch Society for Czechoslovak Philately, the question arose as to what actually was the purpose of the express stamps that were issued from 1916 onwards. We see these stamps very often as additional postage on postcards and letters, especially after 1918, but it is clear that they were not issued for this purpose. The domestic express rate in Austria – without additional carrier fees – was at that time 30 heller and the stamps we are talking about here have a face value of two and five heller.

Just which stamps are we talking about? The two and five heller stamps were issued for the first time by the Austrian postal authorities on 1 October 1916. At first this was a triangular stamp. The rectangular stamps were issued from May 1917 onwards because the triangular format caused many technical problems. We may well ask, why were these stamps issued?

The First World War had a profound influence on the postal system. Mail to and from soldiers was carried free of charge and the public took extensive advantage of this benefit. At the same time, the regular mail traffic, especially business correspondence, continued as usual. A situation arose where business correspondence sent as printed matter at a rate of 3 heller per weight step was delivered only when circumstances permitted. Companies began to complain and for this reason a new type of printed matter service was introduced on 1 October 1916: *printed matter with preferential treatment*. This service required the payment of an extra two heller fee. Postal authorities issued a 2 heller stamp to cover the cost of the service alone, and a 5 heller stamp to pay both the printed matter rate and preferential treatment surcharge with a single stamp.



(All larger images reduced in size.)



Cover franked with an additional 2 heller express stamp to pay the preferential treatment surcharge and a 3 heller stamp for printed matter up to 50 grams – a beautiful pure use of the triangular 2 heller express stamp.



Cover franked with an additional 5 heller express stamp which paid both the surcharge and the printed matter rate up to 50 grams. The 25 heller stamp paid the additional registered mail fee.

When the postal rates in Austria were increased on 1 October 1918, the postcard rate of 8 heller rose to 10 heller. At that time the post offices still had very large quantities 8 heller postcards on hand. However, because no normal 2 heller stamps existed to make up the difference, postal authorities used the 2 heller newspaper stamps and 2 heller express stamps for this purpose. The postcards were being sold at post office windows with the additional franking already affixed. This practice continued after the independence of Czechoslovakia on 28 October 1918.



Cover franked with a 5 heller express stamp which paid the up to 50 grams printed matter rate and the preferential treatment surcharge.



Postcard mailed on Independence Day, 28 October 1918, with a 2 heller express stamp used as additional franking to make up the full postcard rate of 10 heller.

On 10 February 1919 the Czechoslovak postal authority itself issued express stamps with face values of 2 and 5 haler, followed on 20 December 1920 by a 10 haler stamp. Initially the 2 haler stamps were also used as additional postage on the remaining 8 heller Austrian postcards.





8 heller Austrian postcard with additional 2 heller Czechoslovak express stamp to meet the 10 heller postcard rate.

8 heller Austrian postcard at first affixed with an additional 2 heller Austrian express stamp to meet the 10 heller postcard rate. Austrian stamps became invalid on 28 February 1919 requiring its replacement with a 2 heller Czechoslovak stamp.



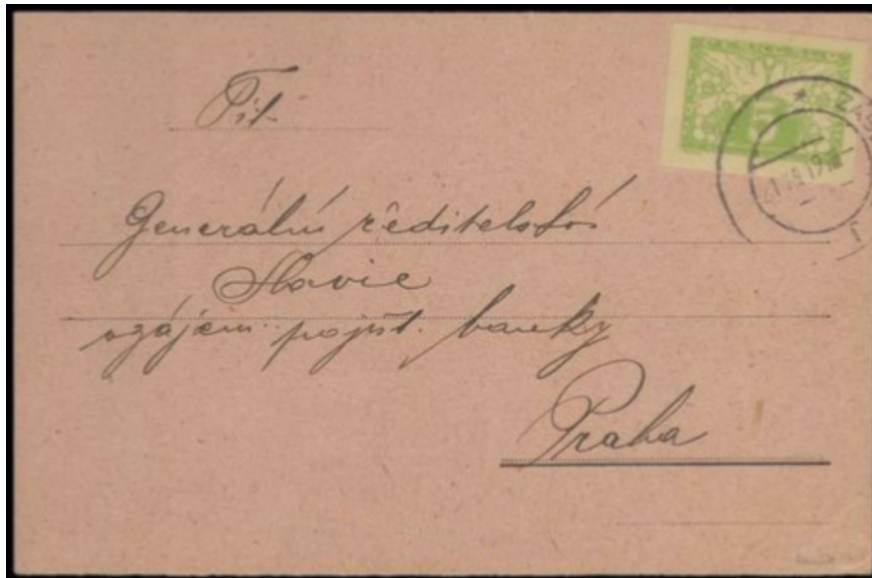
Of course, we also find these stamps used in their original role as preferential treatment franking.



2 heller express stamp paying the preferential treatment surcharge with a 3 heller Hradčany paying the printed matter rate up to 50 grams – valid until 14 May 1919.

After 15 May 1919, the printed matter rate up to 50 grams became 5 heller, paid here with a 5 heller Hradčany stamp. The preferential treatment surcharge was paid with a 2 heller express stamp.





*5 haler paying not the preferential treatment surcharge but rather applied as a single franking for printed matter up to 50 grams.*

The surcharge was increased to 5 haler on 15 March 1920. The preferential treatment surcharge again increased on 1 August 1920, this time to 10 haler. A separate stamp was issued for the 10 heller rate in 1920. Covers or postcards from this period are quite scarce and have appeared only rarely on the market in recent years.



*Printed matter from the ninth weight step (180 haler), registered (125 haler), bringing the total to 305 haler. The additional 10 haler express stamp paid the preferential treatment surcharge.*

With the rate change of 1 January 1922, the express surcharge for printed matter was abolished. However, the stamps continued to be used for a considerable period afterwards for unauthorized uses as they were not withdrawn until 31 July 1924! The remainders were then overprinted and used as newspaper stamps (1 March 1926 until 15 August 1928).

*This article was originally published in the Dutch society's journal Nieuws over ons verzamelgebied. A German version will appear this month in the German society's journal Forschungsberichte.*

## Mucha's Express Stamps

Mark Wilson

In 1919 the renowned Czech artist Alfons Mucha submitted his design for these wonderful contemporaries of his Hradčany masterpiece. They flourished at first, faltered when tariffs rose shortly after their introduction, and eventually faded away when the post office no longer needed them. They are, in their own right, as elegant as the Hradčany and deserve our philatelic notice and respect.

Cancelled examples of the Mucha express issue, while not uncommon, do not appear in the abundance characteristic of the majority of early Czechoslovak stamps. One sees with relative frequency the Hradčany and other typographic issues offered in lots measured by the thousands and the tens of thousands. I have often purchased and sold early Czechoslovak stamps by the pound, yet a few dozen large blocks and panes of express stamps represent almost my entire research stock. In my whole philatelic career I have encountered fewer than 100 loose single copies, usually in mint condition. According to some, most were discarded and destroyed with the mail they franked during their brief period of use.

The authorities often permitted or tolerated other uses for these stamps. During the first months of the Republic, for instance, since no definitive issue bore the denomination 2 haler, a single 2 haler express stamp provided the correct 10 haler up-franking for the still-valid Austrian postal cards originally imprinted with an 8 heller Hapsburg stamp. Actually, the postal service overlooked many unsanctioned uses of express stamps. Although only valid for domestic use, one may find covers sent to foreign addresses franked with express stamps (*Figure 1*).



Figure 1: International mail with a 2 haler express stamp on the recto and a 5 haler on the verso.

I leave to collectors more expert than I in validating covers to determine the nature of the item shown in *Figure 1*. Is it a complete forgery that never passed through the mail, a philatelic cover that saw postal service, or a genuine piece of mail somewhat exuberantly franked?

As kissing cousins of the Hradčany, one may with some certainty assume the printers employed the same production technique for the express stamps as they used for that more famous issue. From a copy of an original template the printer created 100 double-stamp-size prints then arranged the prints in a ten-by-ten array with tally numbers pasted under the bottom row. A camera with a special lens reduced the image of the array to an appropriate size so the printer could electrochemically transfer its negative to metal plates for etching.

Apparently the printers did not use the more common technique of pasting new numerals over the old to produce new denominations from the same base template; they instead created three completely new templates. The fact that each denomination sports its own individual difference dramatically demonstrates the use of a new template for each ten-by-ten array. The 5 haler's peculiarity is a gap between two leaves in the centre left cluster (*Figure 2*, centre), for the 10 haler it is a gap between two leaves in the centre right cluster (*Figure 2*, right), while the 2 haler bears neither flaw (*Figure 2*, left).



Figure 2: Template differences between the three denominations.



Figure 3: Printers' waste on brown craft paper.

One can easily find printers' waste and trial pieces for this issue on the market. The exemplars above appear on brown craft paper imprinted in the released colour (Figure 3, left), sometimes together with other issues (Figure 3, centre). One may even find printers' waste with favour cancels (Figure 3, right). Trials in black ink on chalk paper are somewhat more difficult to acquire (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Black trial on white chalk paper.

Instances of the presence of the same flaw at the same position on every plate for a denomination implies the use of a single negative for that denomination – three negatives in all – to produce each denomination's plates. We find for the 2 haler, at position 61, a large gap in the frame above the **SL** in **ČESKOSLO** (Figure 5, left); for the 5 haler, at position 40, a white spot at the foot of the **P** in **POŠTA** (Figure 5, centre); and for the 10 haler, at position 23, a large coloured spot in the fourth leaf in the upper left cluster (Figure 5, right). Many other examples of this phenomenon exist.

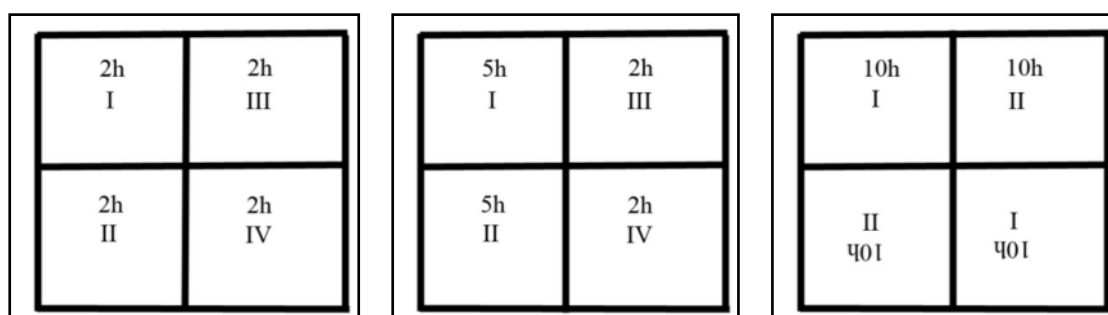


Figure 5: Flaws in a negative appear on a specific denomination's every plate.

In all, the Czech Graphics Union produced four plates for the 2 haler denomination and two plates each for the 5 haler and 10 haler values. Unlike the Hradčany, one cannot identify plates by nips and cuts in the tally numbers – one must look to plate flaws within specific stamp positions to determine the source plate for any one pane.

Sheets archived in the Prague Postal Museum illuminate some of the printing arrangements. In one, all four 2 haler plates appeared (*Figure 6*, left) while in another two 5 haler plates replaced plates I and II of the 2 haler (*Figure 6*, centre). The plates for the 2 haler and 5 haler stamps on the press always faced in the same direction – there were no tête-bêche arrangements. Gutters cut from double panes of the 2 haler and 5 haler illustrate this fact (*Figure 7*).

The 10 haler appeared only in a tête-bêche arrangement but no gutter pairs have been reported. Even stranger, the sheets archived in the Postal Museum show plates I and II of the 10 haler being used twice at the same time on the same printing press (*Figure 6*, right). Since a plate cannot be in two places at once, one must conclude that the printed sheets were taken from the press, rotated and reinserted, then a second impression taken on the same sheet. The printers used this same technique to produce sheets bearing two impressions each of the single-plate 300 haler Hradčany and the postage due 500 haler in the 1919 issue.



*Figure 6: Four-plate printing press layout.*



*Figure 7: 2 haler and 5 haler gutter pairs.*

The authorities mandated a yellow-coloured paper for the express stamps. However, a few stamps printed on white paper represent their rarest variation. The printers made 12,500 stamps each of the 2 haler and 5 haler denominations, but produced an unknown and very likely quite smaller number of 10 haler impressions on white paper. The Postal Museum archived white paper sheets of the 2 haler and 5 haler stamps printed with the single plates shown in *Figure 8*. The *Monografie* implies the use of only one plate on the press at a time. How they printed the 10 haler white paper version – the rarest of the three – is not discussed in the *Monografie*. In addition, POFIS lists **SO 1920** overprints for the 2 haler and 5 haler on white paper, but regards all white paper stamps – with and without overprints – as not officially issued.

While the text of the *Monografie* and the archived sheets in the Postal Museum imply the printers employed Plate I of the 2 haler to print the white paper stamps, the information provided by the



*Monografie* in tabular form indicates the use of Plate II for this purpose. The 2 haler on white paper in my collection comes from position 57 on Plate I (*Figure 9*, left), so I suspect the *Monografie*'s text is correct and the *Monografie*'s table wrong.



*Figure 8: Single-plate (white paper) printing press layout.*



*Figure 9: White paper exemplars, although the cancel on the 10 haler render it dubious at best.*

Some reports indicate a long-wave ultraviolet lamp causes white paper stamps to glow bright lavender (the normal reaction of bleached white paper to ultraviolet light). My personal experience has been that this lavender glow can be quite subdued, but that the more common yellow paper glows not at all. One may easily believe some soft yellow papers are white, but placing a genuine white paper stamp next to the imposters quickly puts that idea to rest: the visual contrast is startling.

The late Czech expert Jan Karásek wrote in *Monografie IV* that the white paper of the 10 haler has a distinctive minute-sized lozenge pattern and adds that this is also true for a very small number of the 2 haler and 5 haler stamps; my copies of the two lower white paper denominations do not have this feature. Since my one copy of a favour-cancelled white paper 10 haler value also lacks the lozenge pattern, I strongly suspect it is a forgery (*Figure 9*, right).

Readers may be able to compile more evidence as to the source of the white paper 2 haler stamp. Try locating the flaws on your white paper stamps in my 2 haler plating guide published print on-demand by the CPSGB. Determining which plates were used to print the white paper stamps would add another validity test (that plate's flaws) for this issue. I would be very interested in hearing about the results. My postal and email addresses appear on the inside back cover of *Czechout*.

One may identify three separate printings of the two lower denominations from additional markings made alongside their printing plates, typically on either side halfway down the plate or at either end of the bottom row of stamps. Some marks – especially those located to the right of position 100 – differ between plates from the same B printing, but one must always remember that for printing A the plates have no markings at all.

*Figures 10* and *11* show the distinctive coloured spots characterizing printing B placed at end of the bottom row to the right of position 100. As the illustrations indicate, I do not own stamps with these markings for plate II of the 2 haler. *Figures 12* and *13* show the printing C markings for the 2 (Plate I) and 5 (Plate II) haler. The 10 haler, unlike the two lower denominations, had no markings to distinguish its printings; indeed, it may have only gone through a single printing.



*Figure 10: 2 haler printing B markings: Plates I, II, III, and IV respectively. Plate II is from Monografie IV.*

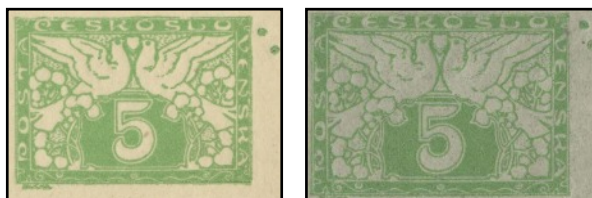


Figure 11: 5 haler printing B markings.



Figure 12: 2 haler Plate I printing C marking.

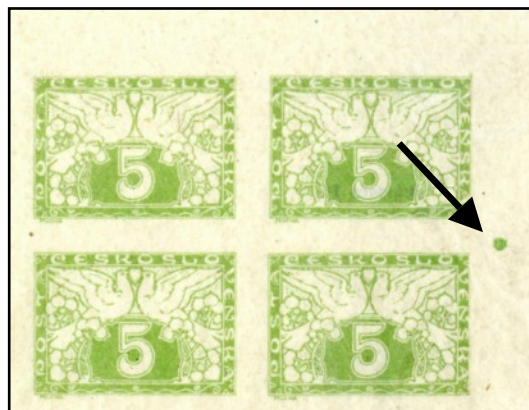


Figure 13: 5 haler Plate II printing C marking.

The First Republic frequently overprinted the remainders of withdrawn issues for other services or to reflect new tariffs. As shown in *Figures 14 and 15*, the express stamps were no exception. Even before the stamp's withdrawal, authorities overprinted express stamps with **SO 1920** to support the express service under the short-lived Eastern Silesia plebiscite. This overprint is in either blue or black for the lower values – the 10 haler, because it was printed later, did not receive the overprint. Postal authorities also overprinted and surcharged express stamps for the newspaper service. In this instance, they used an art deco font to overprint the stamps with the word **NOVINY** in dark blue.



Figure 14: **SO 1920** overprint.



Figure 15: **NOVINY** overprint and surcharge.

With respect to overprints on the 2 haler, although the *Monografie* reports **NOVINY** overprints only for Plate I and absolutely no overprints for printing A of plate II, I have in my possession two unmentioned overprints – Plate I printing B and Plate II printing A – both overprinted **SO 1920** in light blue. I assume these two panes of the 2 haler are genuine and the *Monografie*'s typesetters omitted this information in error. I have not yet explored the overprints on specific plates and printings of the 5 haler and 10 haler denominations.

The stamps may be found perforated in several gauges, but they were never released in that form. Some were privately perforated, others as favour issues for high ranking postal and other government officials. POFIS lists the perforated types, but Stanley Gibbons does not.



Figure 16: Unofficially perforated stamps.

Even after almost 100 years, the early Czechoslovak stamps pose questions we may still be able to answer. Earlier, I challenged readers to examine their white paper issues to determine the plates used to print them. Below are still more questions to consider.

Did postal authorities choose yellow paper to foil counterfeiters or because the stamps appear far more attractive on that paper? Or, did coloured paper – as might the pink paper of the Legionářské – simply signify domestic use only? Why do some white paper 2 haler stamps display the lozenge pattern of the white paper 10 haler when such a long period separated their printings? Why does every copy of the Plate I panes of the 5 haler I have ever seen have a diagonal slice taken from the lower left selvage (Figure 17)?

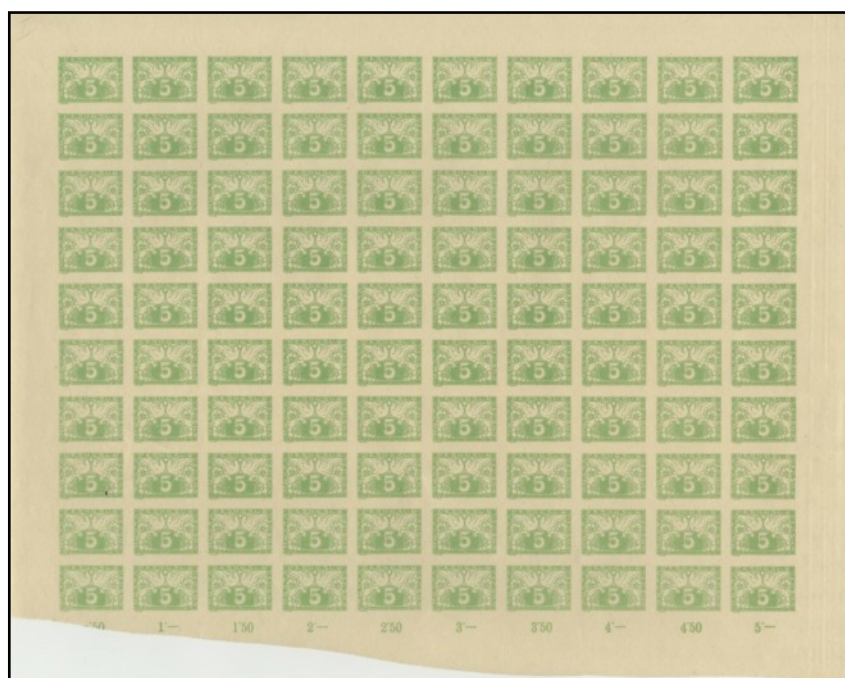


Figure 17: Plate I with diagonal cut from the lower left edge.

These vibrant stamps promise rewards for those brave enough to become philatelic explorers. They invite you to pose still more interesting questions, put forward exciting and insightful theories of your own, or simply try to respond to the questions presented here.

*A slightly longer version of this article appeared some time ago in the Czechoslovak Specialist. A German version will appear this month in the German society's journal Forschungsberichte.*

## One Man's War: Colonel Frank (František) Kaplan, 1921-2013

Richard Beith

Frank Kaplan was a good and helpful friend and a member of CPSGB from 2002-2008. As Chairman of the Cholmondeley Branch of the Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries (ČsOL) he contributed a detailed foreword to our Monograph No. 15. In this he praised CPSGB for its efforts in recording Czechoslovak military history over two world wars. He died early on Christmas Day 2013.

Frank was born in The Netherlands on 11 September 1921. His father, Josef, was employed in the Czechoslovak Consulate in The Hague. Later the family moved, first to the Consulate in Marseilles, and then to the Consulate in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, where Frank attended the *Lycée Français* until February 1940. As his father had returned to German-occupied Bohemia & Moravia, Colonel Heliodor Píka became Frank's mentor in Bucharest.

(As an aside, Colonel, later General, Píka served as President Beneš' Military Attaché in Moscow. Píka was executed in 1949 in post-war Prague on false charges; he knew too much about the Soviets from his time in Moscow. Many years later, in post-Velvet Revolution Prague, Frank attended the trial of those responsible for this judicial murder.)

Frank's first anti-Nazi action took place in Bucharest in Spring 1939 when the staff of the German Legation wanted to raise their flag over the Czechoslovak Legation in Bucharest. Early on the morning of the day of the flag-raising ceremony the teenaged Frank climbed to the roof of the Consulate. He attempted to cut the rope on the flagpole so that there would be no means of raising the Nazi flag. It turned out that the rope was reinforced with wire, but he still managed to sever the wired rope before returning to school. When the ceremony was due to start, the Czechoslovak Consulate's Romanian employee who looked after the building and grounds arrived with the flag but found no rope. He mounted a ladder, joined the two parts of the rope together and started to pull. The flag only moved a few inches. Eventually the Nazi flag reached half-mast from which position it could go neither up nor down. The German Minister had to move on to another event long before this impasse was reached. Colonel Píka later wrote Frank a letter commending him as the first Czech outside Czechoslovakia to offer resistance to the Nazis. [From 'Frank Kaplan's assault on the Nazi flag' in *Newsletter of the Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Abroad*, No. 4, November 2011, p. 2.]

In February 1940 Frank made his way via Turkey to Lebanon to sign up for the French Foreign Legion, knowing that on arrival in France he would be transferred to the Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile. He reached Marseille on 6 March 1940 and was allocated to the signals section at Montpellier. He commented that this was a much better billet than the main camp at Agde.

With the collapse of French resistance Frank was in a group of 40 or so soldiers who made their way to the Atlantic coast looking for a ship to Great Britain. They arrived in Bordeaux to find that the dock gate had been locked as the Franco-German armistice had just been signed. Together with a similar-sized group of Czechoslovak airmen they proceeded to Le Verdon where they were able to board the Belgian steamer *Ville de Liège* bound for Canada. At sea the ship's radio picked up a broadcast by President Beneš stating that the Free Czechoslovak Forces would be reformed in Britain. The Captain changed course and they reached Belfast on 26 June 1940. The Czechoslovaks' status

was confirmed and they were eventually landed in Liverpool on 28 June to a warm welcome.

After a few days under canvass at Haydock and then Aintree Racecourses, they were then billeted in tents in rural Cheshire on the Cholmondeley Castle grounds until the end of September. Astonishment was expressed that their travel by train was in actual carriages with seats, not cattle trucks as in France. Astonishment was also voiced when first confronted with a British Army



breakfast at Aintree – bacon, egg, and sausage were all available – which to choose? They could have all three!

The welcome at Liverpool and the sight of pill boxes by roads seen from train windows convinced Frank that, unlike the shambles in France, the British would not lose the war. Frank moved from Czechoslovak camp to camp as the years passed, honing his skills as a signaller. He still found time to qualify as a parachutist. At a wireless school in Derby he met his future wife Hilarie; they were married a week after the war ended.

When the time came for the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade to return to France as a fighting unit at the end of August 1944, Frank was one of four wireless mechanics serving with their electrical and mechanical engineers. Frank returned to a UK post in April 1945 at the Czechoslovak Training Centre at Great Shelford, four miles south of Cambridge, where their clients were mainly former Bohemia & Moravia ‘Government Troops’ who had defected to the Allies via the partisans in the north of Italy. He returned overland with the newly trained troops firstly to Plzen, then to Prague, arriving in September 1945. He finished his WWII military career with the rank of second lieutenant and started working at the Foreign Ministry at Prague Castle as a communications specialist using his wireless and cipher skills.

With the Communist takeover in early 1948 it was time to leave, but not before he had turned up for work one day to find an ambulance at the entrance of the Ministry. Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk had fallen from his window. The doorman advised him ‘not to hang around’. Having a superior form of passport as a Ministry staffer, Frank was able to leave legally without having to use his Plan B, which would have involved the Dutch Embassy issuing him a passport and accompanying him to Vienna in an Embassy car. Frank’s wife Hilarie and their first-born son Mirek had already returned to the UK. When his Pan American Airways plane reached Frankfurt from Prague he was welcomed by an in-the-know stewardess with the words ‘Welcome to the West, Mr Kaplan’.

Thereafter Frank and Hilarie made their home in the UK, Frank working for English Electric in Liverpool and then GEC in Manchester. A second son, Richard, was born in the UK. From the 1970s onwards he became involved with other former members of the Army-in-Exile who had also settled back in the UK.

By the time I first met him at a concert in the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool he was Chairman of the Cholmondeley branch of the ČSOL. He and Hilarie were greatly involved in the annual commemorations at Cholmondeley, the landscaping of the site, and the restoration of the 1940 memorial stone, all revealed in 1999. Some of these Cholmondeley celebrations are recalled in the photos that follow.



*Veterans celebrating the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Czechoslovak forces-in-exile in the United Kingdom.*

*Frank orating at the July 1999 celebrations marking the restoration of the 1940 memorial first unveiled by Jan Masaryk.*



*Group of veterans in July 2000 with a Royal British Legion standard-bearer and Czech (left) and Slovak (right) officers from their London embassies. Frank is in a blazer next to the Slovak representative.*



*Frank translating a citation from Prague awarded to Lady Cholmondeley at the July 2004 celebrations.*



*Frank speaking from in front of the memorial stone at the July 2005 celebrations.  
All colour photos by Richard Beith.*

His enhanced rank as colonel was a product of the President Havel era. In July 2013 Frank was awarded the *Golden Linden* by the Czech government for his work with veterans. The Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic awards this decoration only in rare cases and to people who contributed exceptionally to the basic principles of the democratic state.

At his Nottingham funeral service on 8 January 2014, a wreath was laid by Colonel Siwek, Defence Attaché, and Lieutenant-Colonel Klpac, Military Attaché, on behalf of the Czech Embassy in London.

#### *Acknowledgements:*

Thanks to John Kolbert, Honorary Secretary, Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Abroad, Keele, Staffs, and to the website of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic for details of the Golden Linden decoration.

## **Ten Years of EXPONET**

### **Vladimir Munzberger and Lubor Kunc**

EXPONET, a virtual philatelic exhibition, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. From only a few exhibits displayed in 2004, it has today grown to more than 900 exhibits. These exhibits are from many countries and cover various philatelic topics.

EXPONET is an Internet space designed for storing, exhibiting, searching, and studying digital versions of philatelic exhibits. One will find any number of interesting presentations introducing and documenting various areas of philately, together with competitive and award-winning exhibits prepared according to FIP rules.

EXPONET itself is a non-competitive site dedicated to promoting philately by inspiring and instructing visitors as how to create their own exhibits. At the same time it offers the means for exhibitors to present their collecting and research results to a wider philatelic audience. In contrast to physical stamp exhibitions, displays are permanently mounted without any danger to the actual material. A virtual exhibition provides ready access from home to visitors from around the world. EXPONET contains current exhibits as well as older exhibits no longer physically available.

The site's recent growth required a change in its programming to keep visitors from becoming lost among the exhibits. This spring, EXPONET switched to a database solution easier to navigate and ready for future expansion. EXPONET's new design is tailored to support user-friendly searches. Currently, visitors may elect to search in the Czech, English, or German languages. The Home Page also offers immediate access to the newest or most recently updated exhibits.

Typically, one would search the exhibits by philatelic interest supplemented by up to four basic criteria: territory, subject, historical period, or EXPONET exhibition class. These criteria are further divided into three levels enabling winnowing out items of lesser interest. The selectors form the left edge of the Home Page and are:

- Search by territory – the territory significantly treated in the exhibit, in terms of continents, countries, and regions. Territories with larger numbers of EXPONET exhibits may be further subdivided.
- Search by subject – a basic classification by philatelic subject including postal history and thematic topics.
- Search by period – classification according to the time period covered by an exhibit.
- Search by EXPONET Exhibition Class (used to prevent confusion with standard or former exhibition classes) – designates exhibits in such a way as to expose their original classification under different exhibiting rules or their non-competitive nature. These may be subdivided by exhibit size or designation (e.g., Youth).
- By the exhibitor's name, home country, exhibit registration number, or by the most recent and most popular exhibits.

A strategic EXPONET goal is to preserve philatelic exhibits over time. Most physical exhibits are eventually dispersed for any number of reasons. But once placed on EXPONET, an exhibit will endure forever and be available to future philatelic audiences. EXPONET promises to become an excellent source of information and inspiration. Here collectors may study various forms for arranging and presenting philatelic materials.

EXPONET offers an inexpensive alternative to presenting philatelic research in printed books, an expensive process that frequently keeps new research from reaching a wide audience. By constructing an exhibit of one's research and posting it on EXPONET, one ensures an appreciative audience will eventually enjoy the fruits of one's labour.

Parties interested in a very narrow subject might be so widely scattered around the world that the possibility of organising a bricks-and-mortar specialized exhibition verges on the impossible. EXPONET offers specialists an opportunity to organize and present their topic in a virtual exhibition.

Another possibility is a display of stolen philatelic material. Publicizing stolen collections means a wider opportunity for discovery and recovery of such items.

Want to give it a try? You may explore EXPONET in English at [www.exponet.info](http://www.exponet.info). Contact the authors at [Lubor.Kunc@seznam.cz](mailto:Lubor.Kunc@seznam.cz) or [jav.munz@volny.cz](mailto:jav.munz@volny.cz) (Vladimir Munzberger).

## Correspondence Response

**Derek Baron** was able to provide a much earlier example of **Wojciech Kierstan's** odd bluish SO marking from the December 2014 *Czechout* and suggests that as neither he nor Wojciech have found any reference to this overprint, and since it is clearly not a forgery (what genuine overprint does it pretend to be?), it is most likely a private handstamp, perhaps produced by a philatelist or an enterprising postmaster. If more examples come to light then we might have some clue as to its source or meaning. Seeing it used in Olomouc 2 at such an early date and then much later in 1935 Prague lessens any pretence at an official role.



### New Query

**Derek** adds yet another mystery of his own: a postcard from Sternberg, clearly dated 1903 by the sender (*see inset*), yet Votoček places the canceller in Volume 16/II as RM 5, some 15 years later than this example. In case the date on the Vienna handstamp is not clear (this canceller was not in use in 1918), he has included a scan of the verso with the sender's manuscript date. What is going on?





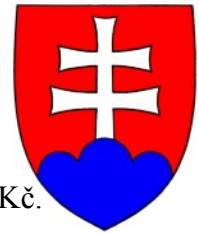
### Printing Techniques

**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.



## New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

### 3 September 2014 Nature Protection – The Beskid Mountains.

**Designers:** Libuše and Jaromír Knotek. **Engraver:** Martin Srb. **Printing:** brown-black engraving with coloured offset. **FDCs** printed Waite with various commemorative cancels. **Design:** souvenir sheet of 4 stamps and 3 labels to illustrate the flora, fauna, and terrain of the region (*see back cover*). **Maximum cards:** 4 cards to show flora and fauna of the region.



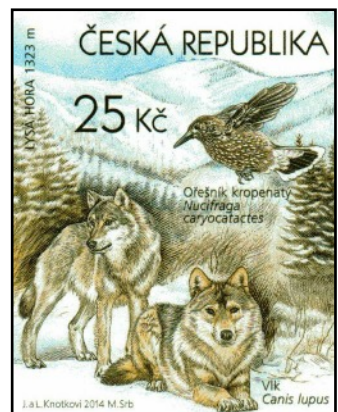
**13 Kč:** *Meles meles*, a badger, an omnivorous nocturnal mammal of the weasel family living in communal groups. **FDC:** printed in dark green with a commemorative Nový Hrozenkov cancel. The cachet shows a badger in a woodland setting.

**17 Kč:** *Felis silvestris*, a wild cat, slightly larger than a domesticated cat with a long bushy tail living singly in deep forests and eating small vertebrates and insects. **FDC:** printed brown-violet with a commemorative Horní Bečva cancel. The cachet shows a cat at rest on a tree branch in a pine forest.



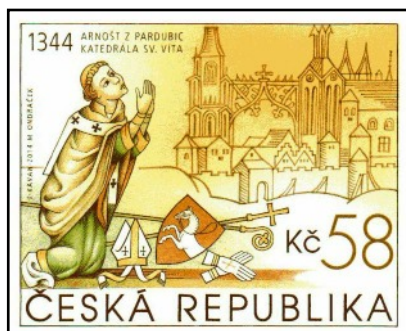
**21 Kč:** *Ursus arctos*, two brown bears and a black beetle. Bears live in wooded, mountainous regions at altitudes up to 2,600 m. They are omnivorous, eating practically anything, and usually sleep for the winter (November-March). This is not true hibernation as their body temperature does not fall during that time. **FDC:** printed in brown-black with a commemorative Velké Karlovice cancel. The cachet has two young cubs playing and watched over by their mother.

**25 Kč:** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* and *Canis lupus*, a nutcracker and two wolves in a snowy mountainous landscape. The nutcracker is a central European bird living in conifer woods in mountainous regions and eating insects, seeds, acorns and other nuts. Wolves live in large forests and shrub-grown steppes up to 2,500 m in altitude. They are nocturnal and can travel 60-70 km in search of prey, hunting in packs, especially in autumn. In spring and summer they live in family groups. **FDC:** printed in blue with a commemorative Rožnov pod Radhoštěm cancel. The cachet depicts a six wolves in a coniferous wood clearing.



The Beskids is a traditional name for a series of mountain ranges in the Carpathians running from the Czech Republic in the west along the border with Poland and Slovakia to the Ukraine in the east – a distance of 600 km in length and 50-70 km wide. Iron deposits in the foothills led to the establishment of iron and steel works in the Ostrava district. The Beskids have a mountain climate with dry summers suitable for pasturing sheep and have ample snow in winter for sporting activities. The region is home to typical mountain and forest animals such as deer, wild boar, foxes, martens, lynx, badgers, bears, and wolves. There are many types of other animals, birds, and plants – some of which are illustrated on the souvenir sheet.

## 15 October 2014 St Vitus' Cathedral

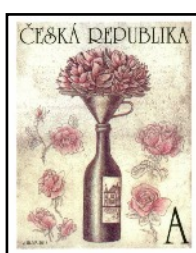


**Designer:** Jan Kavan. **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček. **Printing:** coloured offset with black engraving of one stamp in a miniature sheet. **Design:** the stamp shows a kneeling Ernest of Pardubice, the first Archbishop of Prague, with the first known picture of the cathedral taken from Schedel's World Chronicle (Nuremberg 1494). The sheet surround shows a stylised view of today's cathedral with two angels. **FDC:** Waite printing in brown-green and bearing a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a composite of images of the first benefactors of the cathedral.

The foundation stone of the cathedral was laid on 21 November 1344 by Charles IV, then Prince and Margrave of Moravia, together with his friend Ernest of Pradubice, his father John of Luxembourg, and his brother John Henry, on the occasion of the elevation of the bishopric of Prague to an archbishopric. The main architect was Matthias of Arras, but after his death in 1356 Peter Parler took over the construction. The east presbytery was begun first, with the chancel in the shape of a horseshoe, eight chapels, and finally the choir. The whole cathedral is a three-nave Gothic structure with three towers and is the residential church of the Archbishop of Prague. It was built in several stages with the western part finally completed between 1873-1929. Until 1920 it was dedicated to three major Czech saints: St Vitus, St Wenceslas, and St Adalbert, but it has always been known by the shortened form of St Vitus. In 1997 the then Archbishop – Cardinal Miloslav Vlk – restored the cathedral's full name on the occasion of the 1000 anniversary of St Adalbert's death.

The most important chapel in the cathedral is the St Wenceslas Chapel built over his grave, consecrated in 1367 and adorned in 1373. A southern hall was completed in 1368 to include a Crown Chamber housing the Czech Crown Jewels. The cathedral remained unfinished for 500 years until the years 1873-1929 when work began on the western part of the nave and facade with two 80 m towers. In September 1929, on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of the murder of St Wenceslas, the cathedral was completed. Many prominent artists contributed to the adornment of the western part of the cathedral including Alfons Mucha, Max Švabinský, František Kysela, and Karel Svoboda. The state funeral of Václav Havel was held in the cathedral in December 2011.

## 15 October 2014 Definitive: Bouquet



**Designer:** Jiří Slíva. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset, panes of 9 stamps and 12 labels for personalized printing. The nine main labels and two side labels depict a flamingo drinking from a glass of wine. The upper right label has the head of the Gorgon Medusa and glasses of wine. **FDC:** printed multi-coloured offset with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a man carrying a large bunch of grapes on a stick over his shoulder.

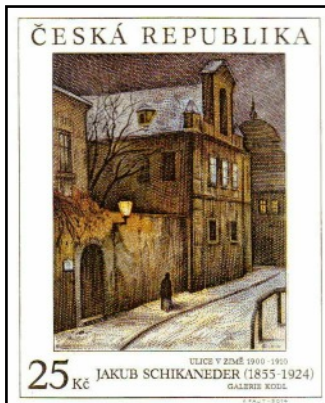
## 5 November 2014 Personalities: Andreas Vesalius



**Designer:** Zdeněk Ziegler. **Engraver:** Václav Fajt. **Printing:** rotary recess in black with photogravure in red and yellow in sheets of 50. **Design:** a portrait of Andreas Vesalius. **FDC:** Waite in red-brown with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design – a sketch of the human muscles of the back, legs, and arms – is taken from a page from his book *Anatomical Tables*.

Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) was an anatomist, physician, and the author of a series of books on human anatomy – *De humani corporis* – which had a profound impact on the future development of the subject. The seven volumes published in Latin were based on his observations and dissections of different parts of the human anatomy. He also created an autopsy procedure which is still in use today.

## 5 November 2014 Works of Art on Postage Stamps



**Designers and Engravers:** Václav Fajt (25 Kč and 29 Kč) and Martin Srb (37 Kč). **Printing:** recess from flat plates combined with offset in sheets of four. **Designs:** from original works of art. **FDCs:** printed Waite, all with commemorative Praha cancels.

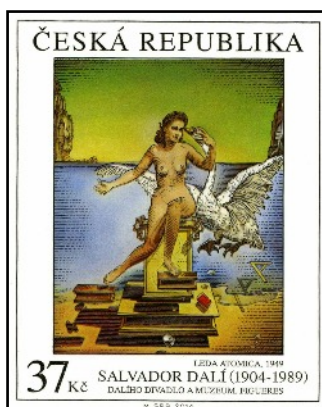
**25 Kč:** *Street in Winter*, 1900-1910 by Jakub Schikaneder which is now in the Kodl Gallery. **FDC:** printed brown-black from Schikaneder's 1885 painting *Seated Woman in a White Bonnet*.

Jakub Schikaneder (1855-1924) studied in Prague and Munich and made an extensive tour of Europe. From 1891 until 1923 he taught at the Art College in Prague. His paintings, mainly outdoor, feature poor or outcast figures. He favoured autumn and winter scenes, corners and alleyways of the city, and banks of the Vltava, often in early evening light or shrouded in mist.



**29 Kč:** *Solitude and Spectacles*, circa 1924 by Jaromír Funke; coupon *The Nude*, photograph 1927, and the text *1896 Funke 1945*. **FDC:** printed black-grey from a 1923 photograph, *Plates*.

Jaromír Funke (1896-1945) was one of the most important Czech photographers and a world pioneer of avant-garde photography. Between the wars he was a member of the Czechoslovak modernist movement and, with Josef Sudek and Adolf Schneeberger, in a breakaway from the influence of graphics founded the Czech Photographic Society.



**37 Kč:** *Leda Atomica*, 1949 in the Dalí Theatre and Museum, Figueres. **FDC:** printed in brown and taken from a drawing by Jaromír Knotek of Dalí's Theatre in Figueres, Spain.

Salvador Felip Jacint Dalí i Domènech (1904-1989) was a skilled and prolific artist best known for the striking and bizarre images in his surrealist artwork. His interests included film, sculpture, photography, theatre sets and costumes, and writing. This highly imaginative and eccentric artist attributed his love of everything that is gilded and excessive and his passion for luxury and oriental clothes to an Arab lineage, claiming that his ancestors were descended from the Moors. From 1940 until 1948 he lived in New York but returned to Spain after the end of the war.

## 5 November 2014 Anniversary of the 17th of November



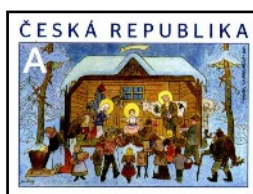
**Designer:** Jan Kavan. **Engraver:** Václav Fajt (FDC only). **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **Design:** symbols of statehood: the State colours and the State emblem with the dates 1939 and 1989 and text *We do not Forget*. **FDC:** printed Waite in blue-grey with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows policemen with shields and a rose – a reference to the events in Národní Třída street and also a symbol of the confrontation between violence and love. 17 November is an important date in the history of the Republic with several events happening on that date.

17 November 1939: all Czech universities and higher secondary learning establishments were closed by the Nazis with nine student leaders executed and 1,200 students sent to concentration camps together with a number of professors and teachers. This was a reprisal for the anti-occupation demonstrations taking place against the German occupation. During the demonstrations on the 21st anniversary of Czechoslovakia (28 October 1939) a medical student, Jan Opletal, was shot and later

died, with his funeral on 15 November attended by about 3,000 students singing the Czech National Anthem and other patriotic songs. The peaceful gathering turned into a demonstration against the Occupiers resulting in the closure of all the universities. These events led to the declaration in London in 1941 for 17 November to be kept as International Students Day. It is still a national holiday in the Czech Republic and the only internationally recognised holiday originating in the Republic.

17 November 1989: the Velvet Revolution. In the afternoon students in Prague gathered at the Faculty of Medicine to commemorate the tragic events of 17 November 1939. The peaceful demonstration gathered in other people until it turned into a struggle for freedom, democracy, and political reforms culminating in the eventual overthrow of the Communist regime.

## 5 November 2014 Christmas – Josef Lada



**Designer:** Ivana Kavránková. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** printed offset in dark blue with a commemorative Hrusiče cancel. The cachet is a drawing of the Infant Jesus – a detail from the subject of the stamp. **Design:** *Bethlehem in Winter*, 1942 by Josef Lada, now part of the National Gallery collection in Prague. The design was previously used for the 2013 New Year envelope issued by the Czech Post.

Josef Lada (1887-1957) was born in the small village of Hrusiče, where his father was a cobbler. Josef was frail and it was intended that he become an interior decorator but instead he learned the craft of book binding. In Prague he attended evening classes in drawing and was admitted to the College of Applied Arts in 1906. He left college when he realised he could make a living by creating cartoons for newspapers and periodicals. In 1907 he met and became friends with the writer Jaroslav Hašek (*The Good Soldier Švejk*). Lada illustrated many of Hašek's stories with sketches. For the first weekly parts of *Good Soldier Švejk* his sketches were approved by Hašek but never published. Only after Hašek's death in 1924 were these now familiar illustrations commissioned. Lada's style is typified by thick unbroken lines, simplicity, and bright colours with many scenes of daily rural life. He wrote and illustrated children's books, was an editor and illustrator for newspapers, and created scenery for the backdrops to Smetana's opera *The Bartered Bride*. Many of his illustrations have been produced as postcards and have appeared on several stamp issues.

## 26 November 2014 My Own Stamp

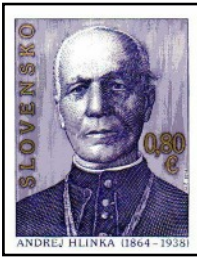
**Designer:** Jaroslav and Michal Weigelovi; typeface: Petr Foltera. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset of 25 impressions on an A4-sized sheet. **Design:** for the initial issue of *My Own Stamps* ordered by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the customisable vignette contained a text field and one of 136 possible images of *Jára Cimrman*, an imaginary inventor of the round stamp. The so-called obligatory field required by the UPU has the name of the country, a letter identifying the face value of the stamp, and under that a microline with text repeated several times reading: *CZECH POST • MY OWN STAMP*.

For customised orders, the vignette will be available to the customer. Each stamp is divided by a special perforation having a unique and atypical modification that is used as a security feature. The words *MY OWN STAMP* will be replaced by an eight alphanumeric character code. The first two characters will be *VZ* representing the product's name in Czech (*vlastní známka – my own stamp*), the next two characters the printing layout *TL* (*tiskový list – print sheet*), followed by four numeric characters representing the serial number of the customized order.



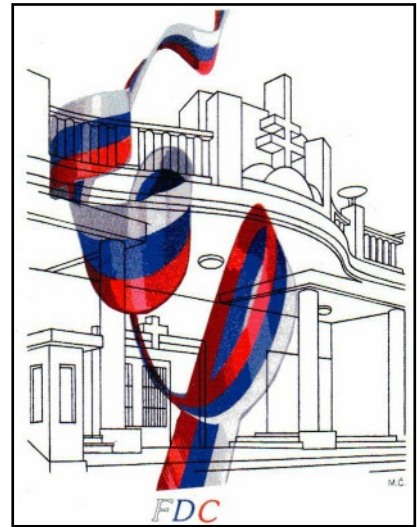
## New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

### 26 September 2014 Personalities: Andrej Hlinka



**Designer and Engraver:** Martin Činovský. **Printing:** Waite plus offset in 4-stamp sheets with a decorative lower margin and centre label. **FDC:** printed Waite with commemorative Ružomberok cancel. The cachet design shows an outline sketch of the facade of the church in Černová which he took an active part in building, with a trailing ribbon in the Slovak national colours of white, blue, and red. **Design:** portrait of Andrej Hlinka.

Andrej Hlinka (1864-1938) was born in Černová, which today is part of the city of Ružomberok, Slovakia. After graduating in theology from the Spišska Kapitula he was ordained in 1889 and became a priest in Ružomberok in 1905. He supported the Slovak nationalist candidate for the Hungarian parliamentary elections of 1906. He was an active member of the Hungarian Katolikus Neppárt (Catholic People's Party) but this Party did not support Slovak nationalist ideas. Hlinka left and in 1913 with František Skyčák founded the Slovak People's Party and remained Party chairman until his death. In 1906 he was condemned to two years' imprisonment for inciting disloyalty to Hungary but this was increased by a further eighteen months for the inflammatory nature of his farewell address to his parishioners after he was suspended as a priest for his political views. He became a member of the Slovak National Council in 1918, and signed the Martin Declaration advocating political union with the Czech nation. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918, Hlinka's Party wanted autonomy for Slovakia within Czechoslovakia. This did not materialise until 6 October 1938 less than two months after his death and the events of the Sudetenland crisis leading to World War II. During the war Hlinka was seen as a national hero by Slovakia. After the war the Communists regarded him as clerofascist.



The people of Ružomberok built a mausoleum with sarcophagus for Hlinka. In September 1944 an insurgent plane attempted to destroy the vault, so the government decided to re-inter his remains in an unknown location. That place has not been found to this day. The new Renaissance building of the Town Hall is next to the mausoleum which includes the rectory where Hlinka lived. A large scale bronze statue of Hlinka stands at the entrance.

### 5 October 2014 90th Anniversary of the International Peace Marathon, Košice



**Designer:** Peter Uchnár. **Printing:** offset Heidelberg Speedmaster. **FDC:** printed offset with a commemorative Košice cancel. **Design:** marathon runners forming the digits 90 with text in Slovak *International Peace Marathon | Košice 1924-2014*.

The Košice Peace Marathon was the inspiration of Vojtech Bukovský, who had watched the Olympic Marathon Race in Paris in 1924. Later that year he organised the first Kosiče Marathon where eight competitors took part but over the years the event developed in stature and prestige. The marathon did not take place in 1938 and 1940 because of World War II but has been held annually ever since, traditionally on the first Sunday in October. Women have taken part since 1980. The course is completely flat and run on a two-lap circuit of the city centre. The 2014 event had ten events: a half marathon, a corporate run, relay races, as well as the traditional event. Junior and beginner participants are encouraged with a mini-marathon run over 4.2 km. The Košice Peace Marathon is the oldest marathon event in Europe and sixth oldest in the world.



## 10 October 2014 Nature Protection: Sitno Nature Reserve

**Designer:** Dušan Kállay. **Engraver:** František Horniak. **Printing:** Waite plus offset in a commemorative sheet of two stamps with two labels on an illustrated background. **FDCs:** printed Waite in dark grey-blue, both with commemorative Banská Štiavnica cancels. **Designs:** a) *Oryctes nasicornis* (European rhinoceros beetle) in flight (stamp) and a mature male and a female European rhinoceros beetle (label); b) *Lucanus cervus* (common stag beetle) in flight (stamp) and a mature male and a female common stag beetle (label). The background of the commemorative sheet (see back cover) shows a variety of unnamed mature beetles, their larvae with several butterflies and their larvae and a chrysalis. **Maximum Cards:** one for each stamp design. The Sitno Nature Reserve lies in central Slovakia near the town of Banská Štiavnica.



**Oryctes nasicornis** (European rhinoceros beetle). This is one of the largest beetles, 20-40 mm long, glossy brown in colour, living in deciduous woods, mainly oak, and active after sunset. The eggs are laid in rotting tree stumps, dead roots, or leaf litter. The larva has three stages of development taking 3-5 years according to conditions. The fully grown larva, which is dingy white with a body curve like a C, can be 12 cm. long. The larva then pupates in a cocoon cemented together with soil and bits of wood the size of a hen's or duck's egg. It winters in the cocoon. The male beetle has a large outward curving horn on its head. Adults live for about two months.



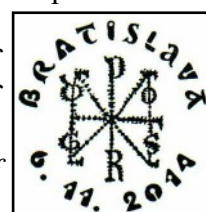
**Lucanus cervus** (common stag beetle) is the largest European beetle, up to 75 mm, dark brown in colour, living in deciduous woods but preferring oak woods where it feeds on the fermenting sap oozing from bruised broad leaved trees. The eggs are laid in rotting trees and develop for 5-8 years with three stages of the larval period. It pupates in a large cocoon made from crumbling wood with the adult emerging in late spring after wintering. The male has two large incurved mandibles; these can be variable in size according to the diet of the larva. Small mandibles imply that the diet was too dry or too decomposed. Adults live only for a few weeks.

## 6 November 2014 History of Customs



**Designer:** Robert Jančovič. **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** Waite plus offset in sheets of three stamps with two se-tenant labels and a decorative lower border. **FDC:** printed Waite in black-grey bearing a Bratislava cancel. The cachet design is a drawing of the French King Charlemagne and his son Pippin within a circle taken from a Carolingian manuscript. A smaller circle beneath depicts a scribe at his desk. **Design:** stamp – the obverse and reverse of a silver half denarius of the Frankish King Charles the Simple from 898-929; coupon – a) St Matthew as an angel; and b) the mark of Frankish King Louis the Child. The lower border of the sheet depicts scenes in a medieval town by a river with oar-propelled boats. Superimposed on the scene, in white and black, is the roundel of a scribe at his desk.

The silver half denarius shown on the stamp was found in 1965 within the foundations of St Martin's Church, Nitra, during a survey of the building. It has been taken to be proof of payment when money was beginning to replace the barter system and a rare example of the use of a foreign coin for international business during the period of the Great Moravian Empire. One of the oldest customs regulations – the Raffenstetten Customs Regulations (*Inquisitio de theloneis Raphelstettensis*) from 903-904 – was valid within the Greater Moravian Empire and shows the import and export customs of tradesmen within that area. The stamp is issued to commemorate the 1110th anniversary of these practices. The depiction of St Matthew – the patron saint of customs officers – on one of the labels is taken from an ivory carving. The mark of the Frankish King Louis the Child on the other label is taken from a 1254-1265 description in the *Codex traditionum ecclesiae Pataviensis ab Ottone de Lonsdorf* now in the Bavarian State Archive, Munich.



## Officers and Committee

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Life President</b>                              | Colin W Spong FRPSL, 3 Balmoral Court, Grand Avenue, Worthing, BN11 5AX.<br>01903 709404 <a href="mailto:c.sponge@ntlworld.com">c.sponge@ntlworld.com</a>  |
| <b>Chairman<br/>&amp; Publications Officer</b>     | Rex Dixon FRPSL, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH.<br>01628 628628 <a href="mailto:rexdixon@btinternet.com">rexdixon@btinternet.com</a>  |
| <b>Vice-Chairman</b>                               | Roger Morrell, 39 Claremont Road, Teddington, TW11 8DH.<br>020 8287 0828 <a href="mailto:roger.morrell@blueyonder.co.uk">roger.morrell@blueyonder.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Secretary<br/>&amp; Auction Secretary</b>       | Peter G Williams, PO Box 11825, Solihull, B93 9ZQ.<br>01564 773067 <a href="mailto:rozpocet@yahoo.co.uk">rozpocet@yahoo.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Treasurer<br/>&amp; Immediate Past Chairman</b> | Mrs Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW.<br>0113 260 1978 <a href="mailto:whyareuu@outlook.com">whyareuu@outlook.com</a>  |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>                        | Hans van Dooremalen FRPSL, Hoofdstraat 101, 5121 JC Rijen, Netherlands.<br>0031 161 226507 <a href="mailto:cpsgb1@gmail.com">cpsgb1@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>Packet Secretary</b>                            | Bob J Allard, 10 Riverside, Alcester, B49 6RD.<br>01789 763007   |
| <b>Editor</b>                                      | Dr Mark Wilson, 8505 E. San Bernardo Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85258-2400 USA.<br>1 480 664 1786 <a href="mailto:editor@czechout.org">editor@czechout.org</a>   |
| <b>Press Officer<br/>&amp; Webmaster</b>           | Bob McLeod, 11 Southwold Close, Aylesbury, HP21 7EZ.<br>01296 432905 <a href="mailto:rmcleod@btinternet.com">rmcleod@btinternet.com</a>  |
| <b>Librarian</b>                                   | Mrs D Lindy Bosworth, 18 Raymer Road, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, ME14 2JQ.<br>01622 762577 <a href="mailto:atonybos@btinternet.com">atonybos@btinternet.com</a>  |
| <b>Advertising Manager</b>                         | Richard Wheatley FRPSL, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW.<br>0113 260 1978 <a href="mailto:arewhyuu@outlook.com">arewhyuu@outlook.com</a>   |
| <b>Committee</b>                                   | Tony Moseley, 52 Burrows Road, Kingswinford, DY6 8LU.<br>07946 748072 <a href="mailto:tonymoseley59@gmail.com">tonymoseley59@gmail.com</a><br>Colin Smith, 51 Offham Road, West Malling, ME19 6RB<br>01732 848392 <a href="mailto:cdsmith673@btinternet.com">cdsmith673@btinternet.com</a> |

## 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. 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.



From the Czech and Slovak Republics  
Nature Conservation 2014