



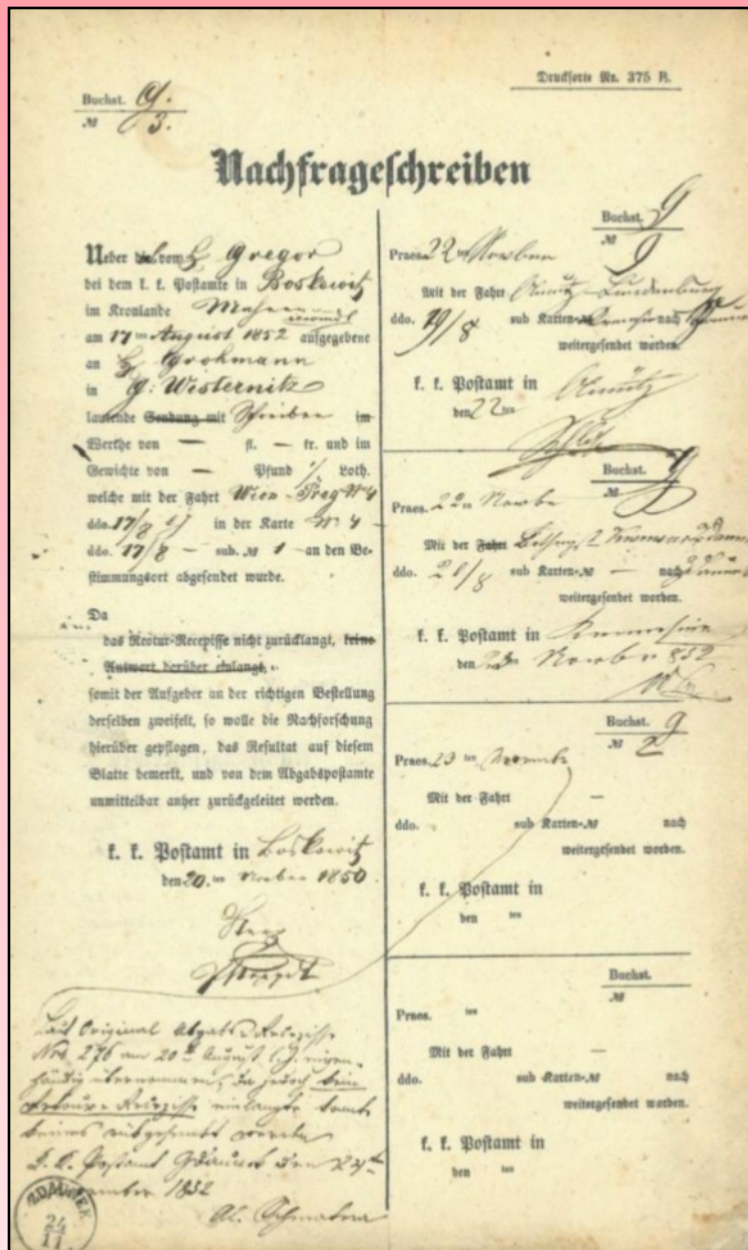
# CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 33/2

JUNE 2015

WHOLE NUMBER 159



Deciphering a *Kurrent* Nachfrageschreiben

## CPSGB Publications

For detailed catalogue and postal charges for these and all other monographs and publications contact  
Rex Dixon FRPSL, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH.  
rex Dixon@btinternet.com

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

### TRAVELLING POST OFFICES IN GERMAN-OCCUPIED SUDETENLAND

An Anthology



TONY GOODBODY and CYRIL

Monograph No. 24

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

### RAILWAY MAIL IN SLOVAKIA AND RUTHENIA



TONY GOODBODY

Monograph No. 28

2015

**CZECHOUT**

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

ISSN 0142-3525

VOLUME 33/2

JUNE 2015

WHOLE NUMBER 159

**CONTENTS**

<a href="#">Strange and Odd Goings On in 1852</a> - Roger Morrell	8
<a href="#">Olomouc 1938: Military Censorship of Civilian Mail</a> - Helmut Kobelbauer	12
<a href="#">Postal Couriers Travelling Between Paris and Prague</a> - Lubor Kunc	16
<a href="#">Understanding Experts' Marks</a> - Richard Wheatley	21
<a href="#">News &amp; Notices</a>	4
<a href="#">Abstracts of Publications</a> - Colin W Spong	7
<a href="#">Correspondence</a>	22
<a href="#">New Issues: Czech Republic</a> - Lindy Bosworth	23
<a href="#">New Issues: Slovak Republic</a> - Lindy Bosworth	28

**Inside**

Clever detective work shows a bungling Boskowitz postmaster got nearly everything wrong. Just before the WW II invasion, the Czechoslovak military began censoring civilian domestic mail in Olomouc. Stepping back to WW I, couriers carried the mail for Czechoslovak soldiers in France and Italy. We end with an explanation of the marks stamped on the back of Czechoslovak stamps.

**Articles Needed**

Your editor has only two articles in hand for the September issue. Please submit an article now!

**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 **Steven Fiedenthal**, St Albert, Alberta, **Owen Merwin**, Ashland, Montana, **Harm Sanstra**, The Netherlands, and **Lubomir Spacek**, Ossett.

### Congratulations

Three of our members had exhibits at the Spring Stampex, National Stamp Exhibition in London. The Great Britain Philatelic Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee at the event. **Ken Burr** won a medal for the best single frame entry by a member of the GBPS who had not won any society awards previously and a Large Vermeil Medal with *Mail from the UK to Italy from the late 18th Century to the Introduction of the GPU*. He also won a Large Vermeil Medal for *Postage Rates and Markings: Mail from Great Britain to the East Coast of the USA 1845-1872*. **Peter Chadwick** won a Large Vermeil medal for *Handstruck Town Marks of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century* and a Vermeil Medal for “Bezirk” *Overprints of the Soviet Occupation of Germany, June 1948*. **Wojciech Kierstan** received a Silver medal with *Czechoslovakia – Operation Anthropoid, Lidice & Lezaky*.

At the 86th Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies held in Perth on 17-18 April, CPSGB Monograph No 27, *The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in France and their return home 1944-1945*, won the Robson Lowe Salver in the Literature Class and a Gold medal.

**Bill Hedley** FRPSL was awarded the Royal Philatelic Society London medal for services to the Royal’s museum and **Edward Klempka** FRPSL won the Tilleard Medal for the best 1 PM display to the Royal Philatelic Society London for his *Great Britain Postal History 1840-1854*.

### Meals at the Czech and Slovak Club

The Society meetings in London have been held at the Czech and Slovak Club in West Hampstead for many years. It is easy to get to on the public transport and is only a short distance from both the London Underground and London Overground stations.

We are particularly fortunate that the manager has allowed the Society to have the use of a large room for our Committee meetings and afternoon displays free of charge. Other venues in London charge not inconsiderable rates, which have forced other societies to reduce the number of meetings in the capital. The manager has to make a profit, so he expects members to buy meals and drinks at the Club. *Bringing sandwiches or going for a meal outside are not quite the spirit*. He has kindly given us use of a large room for four hours on a Saturday afternoon, when other, more profitable, activities could be organised. The Committee take care to organise an interesting programme of displays and wish to support the manager in thanks for his generosity over many years. The Club has a varied menu at <http://www.czechoslovak-restaurant.co.uk/restaurant-menu/>

**Peter Williams**

### The Afternoon Meeting at the Czech and Slovak National Club London, 14 March 2015

**Lindy Bosworth** started her display to a select group of only fourteen members with a detailed examination of the SO overprints on the *Hradčany* issues and two unissued Masaryk stamps. Lindy then explained how poorly the *Hradčany* stamps had been received – the location of the sun indicating the setting of the new nation, rather than its rebirth. A competition for new designs attracted one hundred winning designs, but the judges ignored all the unknown artists and awarded just eight prizes. None were selected for the initial issue, so another contest was held, including some unknown designers as the printing works encouraged worker participation. Amongst a large range of the entries was an extensive display from the prolific Rijaček. Many of the other trials are rarely seen today. Lindy noted that a number of items were from Bill Dawson’s collection with much reference to Norman Simpson’s notes.

The second half showed the *First Anniversary and Legionnaires* sets, which used unsuccessful designs from the previous competitions. Although only valid for a short period, each value had five million copies printed. This led to a donation of unsold stock with four different precancels in four different colours to the Legionnaires Aid Society in order for it to raise money for the war wounded

and orphans. Sales were still being made well into the 1930s. Lindy showed a vast range from a complete sheet to the different varieties of perforations and colours as well as rarely seen genuinely used on covers items.

The last section showed postcards from the Czech Legions in Russia, Italy and France, most looking forward to independence, although one Austrian postcard showed the Czech troops who had been captured and were hung. Every card tells a story. Lindy showed the *MV Legie* which was bought by the Russian Legion from the Japanese to bring the Czech troops home. This vessel was sold to Greece in 1933 and was known on the Lloyds List as late as 1944.

**Roger Morell** gave the thanks for display. He noted that the subject of Miscellany had in fact been replaced by a theme of the first two year's issues. It had been a well written up display. Even the odd one or two gaps were comforting as Lindy promises she has avenues to follow to enhance this particular aspect of her collection. The meeting ended at 4:00.

**Peter Williams**



*Lindy Bosworth captures the attention of her audience.*

### **George Pearson Trophy and Francis Pettit Salver**

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 Chairman **Rex Dixon**, who is organizing the meeting. His 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 pages 29-30 of the 2014 edition of our *Handbook* for the regulations. It is hoped that several of our overseas members will enter.

### **2016 Residential Weekend**

Advance notice and a date for your next year's diary. A Society Residential Weekend is being arranged to take place from 18 to 20 March 2016 at The Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing. Full details and booking forms will be sent out with the September *Czechout*.

### **Sběratel 2016**

To "get ahead of the game", I have been looking into 2016 to plan speakers and events. September was a little tricky to tie down, but I now have a speaker on a date which is acceptable. One of the considerations was Sběratel 2016. Fortunately I have been able to avoid Sběratel's dates.

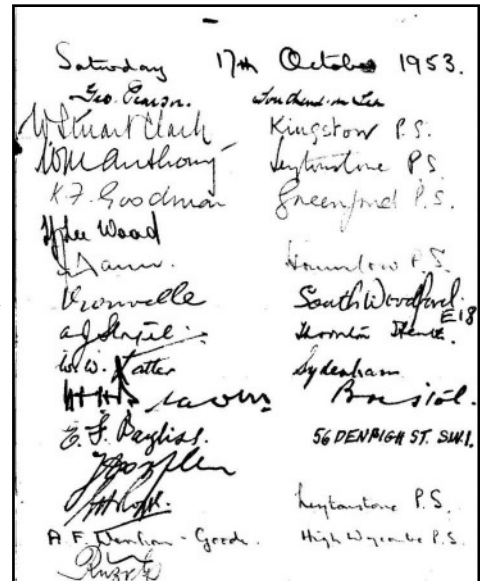
As I contacted one of the organisers to confirm the dates, I received the very kind offer of VIP tickets for Society members. The annual fair in Prague will take place 8-10 September 2016. Prague is always worth a visit any time of the year. If any member wishes to take advantage of this kind offer, please let me know numbers by the end of September 2015 and I will arrange the Sběratel tickets for you.

**Peter Williams**

### Eric H. Rogers

It is remarkable for a society founded over 60 years ago that we can still count one of the founding members amongst our current membership. Eric Rogers attended the historic, inaugural meeting on 17 October 1953 as can be seen from the attendance book. He served as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer from then until 1963. He remained on the Committee until 1969, returning to it from 1972 to 1975. **Yvonne Gren** remembers that in the early days he and his wife compiled a short Dictionary of Philatelic Terms in both English and Czech languages, a copy of which she still uses! In 1983 he donated a long run of early copies of *Czechoslovak Specialist* journals to the newly created Society Library, then held by Fred and Yvonne Gren. He was granted Hon. Life Membership in 1985.

Eric lost his wife about nine years ago. He still lives on his own but he has a daughter who lives in the same village. He no longer collects, having sold his collection some time ago. But he is still keen to receive *Czechout*, amazed that our editor lives in Arizona. He sends his kind regards to all those who remember him. We sent Eric a certificate as a token of the Society's appreciation.



### Your Society Needs You (with apologies to Lord Kitchener)



Can you spare one or two hours a month and a day or so every couple of months?  
Do you like meeting fellow philatelists and travelling around the country?  
Do you want to contribute to your Society?

If so, perhaps you would like to become the Society's Secretary. It is not an onerous position, with a friendly atmosphere in each meeting wherever it is held. You will be surprised at how quickly you will meet and get to know those "distinguished philatelists" you read around in the stamp magazines. Even better, your philatelic knowledge will increase! If you are interested, please contact me (details on the inner back page of this issue).

**Peter Williams**

# Dave Foster (Philatelics) European Stamps & Covers

**Specialising in:**  
**Czechoslovakia & Related areas**  
**Europe, Railways, Shipping & Airmail**  
**Particular strength in German Philately**

**J. D. Foster**  
**4 Carisbrooke Avenue, Gedling**  
**Nottingham NG4 2RD**  
**Tel: 0115 9614528**

**Major Debit & Credit Cards Accepted**

10% discount with CPSGB membership proof always and at the York Stamp Fair 17-18 July 2015

**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 2015 issue of *Austria*, No 189.

The 1905 Austria-UK Money Order Agreement (-); A Survey of Austrian Postal Stationery (Pollak); Privately produced Postal Stationery 1903-1916 (Watkins).

*The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter*, February 2015.

Anthony Trollope: Pioneer of the Postal Service (Stray); The Literary Postman: How Anthony Trollope's career in the Post Office directly influenced his writing (Williamson); The Mystery of the Tolhurst Envelopes (Espin); My Favourite object: Mid 20st Century Royal Mail Pillar Box (Dafter).

The December 2014 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol 45 Whole No 182.

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

Philately meets history: Centenary of the Town of Jířřikov [Georgeswalde] and a stamp exhibition (Sonntag, Schiller and Geral); Jozef Baláž, academic artist, designer of stamps and illustrator (Müller); Karel Franta, academic artist and illustrator (Müller); The Plate flaws on Czech stamps 1945-1992 Part 2, Year 1991 – Pofis Nos 2966-3000. (Norbjerg representing a Danish Collector Group); The Sudetenland Corner part 12 (Bauer & von Klemm); Special Cancellations from the Czech Republic July-December 2013 (Kokta).

The Winter 2015 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol 77, No 1 Whole No 639.

Printer's Waste (Kunc); Definitive Stamps with a 10 Kč value from ČSR 1 [1922-1939]: The Landscapes, Castles & Towns 1936 issue 10 Kč – Bratislava (Květon); The ČSR Revenues & Railway Stamps (Kramer); How I came to collect Czechoslovak Stamps (Havel).

Nos 2, 3 & 4, 2015 issues of *Filatelie*, Vol 65.

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

The magic of engravings by Karel Seizinger and Bohumil Heinz [3] (Chudoba); The private postal stationery of Austrian origin [2] (Krátký); Postal services in Great War 1914-1918 [7] (Kramář); Romanian field post in our territory in the years 1944-45 [1] (Weissenstein); Some ethical & legal issues [1] (Beneš).

Some ethical & legal issues [2] (Beneš); Romanian field post in our territory in the years 1944-45 [2] (Weissenstein); Postal services in the Great War 1914-1918 [8] (Kramář); From business correspondence to the history of factories (Řiha).

Some ethical & legal issues [3] (Beneš); Romanian field post in our territory in the years 1944-45 [3] (Weissenstein); Postal services in Great War 1914-1918 [9] (Kramář); Forgeries group "P" Research completed [5] (Beneš).

No 1, 2015 issue of *Merkur Revue*.

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

Interesting facts about the definitive CSR Airmail issue II: The 20 Kč Line perforation 12¼ value (Květon); Hradčany 10 h Green with SO 1920 overprint – Frame type (Filípek); Curiosity of the Airmail issue 1918 I. Discovery of two types of overprint on the 2.50 Kč value (-); 225th Anniversary of the greatest victory of Marshal Laudon (-); Czechoslovak Revolution Stamps 1944-45 (Valdner); The Czechoslovak Legion in World War I (Švejnar).

The March 2015 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No 200.

PRZEMYŚL: The Tragedy of the Beleaguered Fort, Part II (Nagy); The Telegram Sheets of Hungary – St. Stephen's Crown imprint type – Part 1 (De Jong & Van Weenen).

# Some Odd Goings On in 1852

## Roger Morrell

This is curious tale that seems to defy proper explanation; readers a bit more in the know than myself may be able to assist. We are in the middle of Moravia, in 1852, and a return receipt appears to have gone missing. Mr Gregor of Boskowitz sent a registered letter on 17 August 1852 to Mr Grohmann of Gross Wisternitz requiring a return receipt as an acknowledgement of delivery; that receipt never arrived. Mr Gregor then asked the Boskowitz post office to try to trace what happened. The post office clerk filled out the *Nachfrageschreiben* (enquiry sheet) shown in *Figure 1* and sent it off in the hope that a satisfactory explanation would come back.

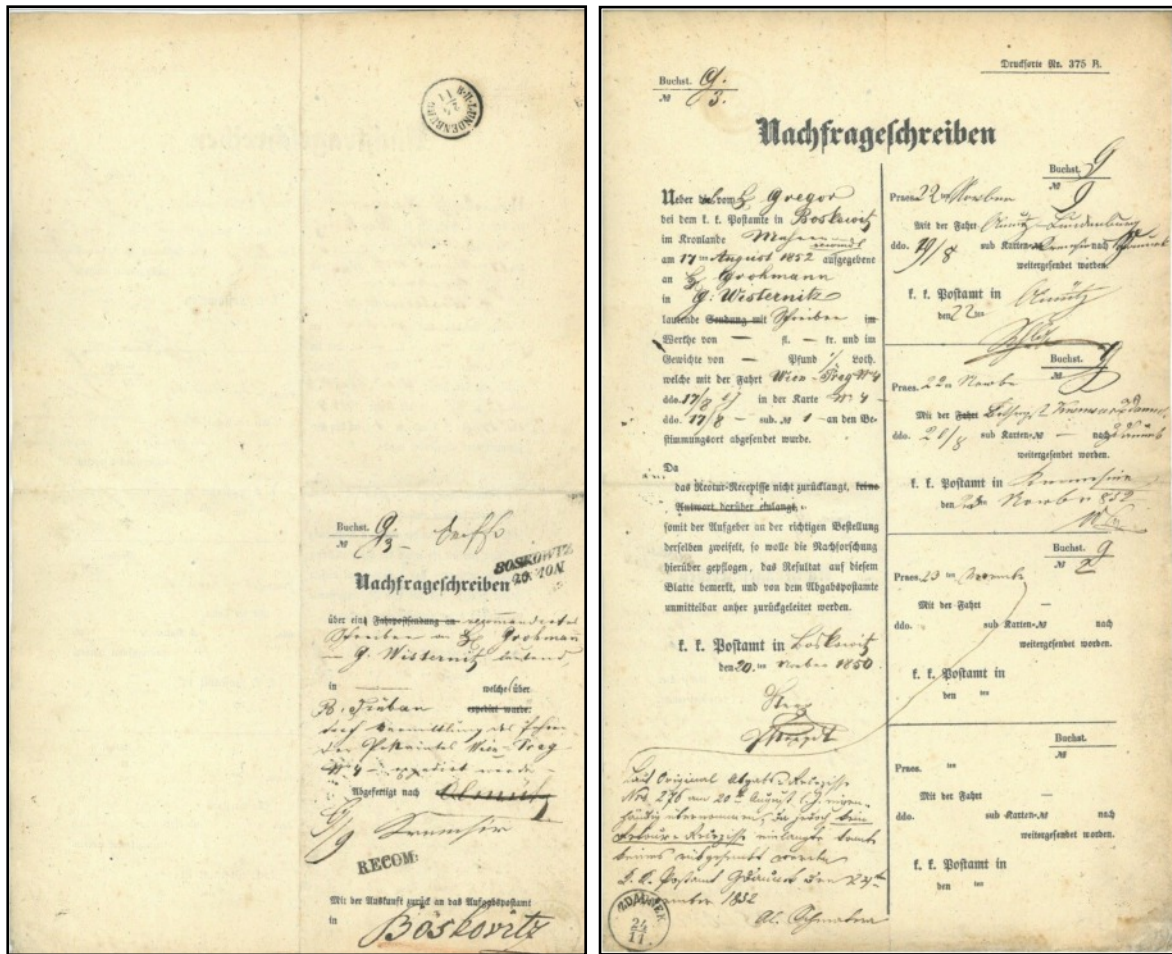


Figure 1.  
Left – The outside when unfolded. Right – The inside of the unfolded *Nachfrageschreiben*.

Armed with the explanatory sheets handed out by Keith Brandon when he recently gave his excellent talk to the Society about decoding the spidery *Kurrent* German writing style found in old letters, I set about trying to read and then to interpret what was going on. Here’s what I learned.

Figure 2 shows the front page as it appears when the document is folded for transmission. The first part reads *Nachfrageschreiben über ein recommandirtes Schreiben an Hr Grohmann in G. Wisternitz lautend welches über B. Trübau [?] Den [?] Wien-Prag Nr 4 [?] nach Olmütz* – the ‘[?]’ indicate words that defeat me – ‘Enquiry about a registered letter to be sent to Mr Grohmann in Gross Wisternitz which was dispatched via Böhmisch Trübau and put on the Vienna-Prague TPO N° 4 for passage to Olmütz’.

It is marked *Ex offio* at the top and thus does not have a postage stamp to pay the fee (if it did I could not have afforded to buy it!). It is postmarked *Boskowiz 20 Nov.* with the month slug inverted – not easily detected – and the *t* in Boskowitz is missing. There is a *RECOM*: cachet at the bottom,



suggesting that this document was sent registered. The final line of text asks for the response to be returned to the issuing post office in Boskowitz (spelt *Boskovitz*).

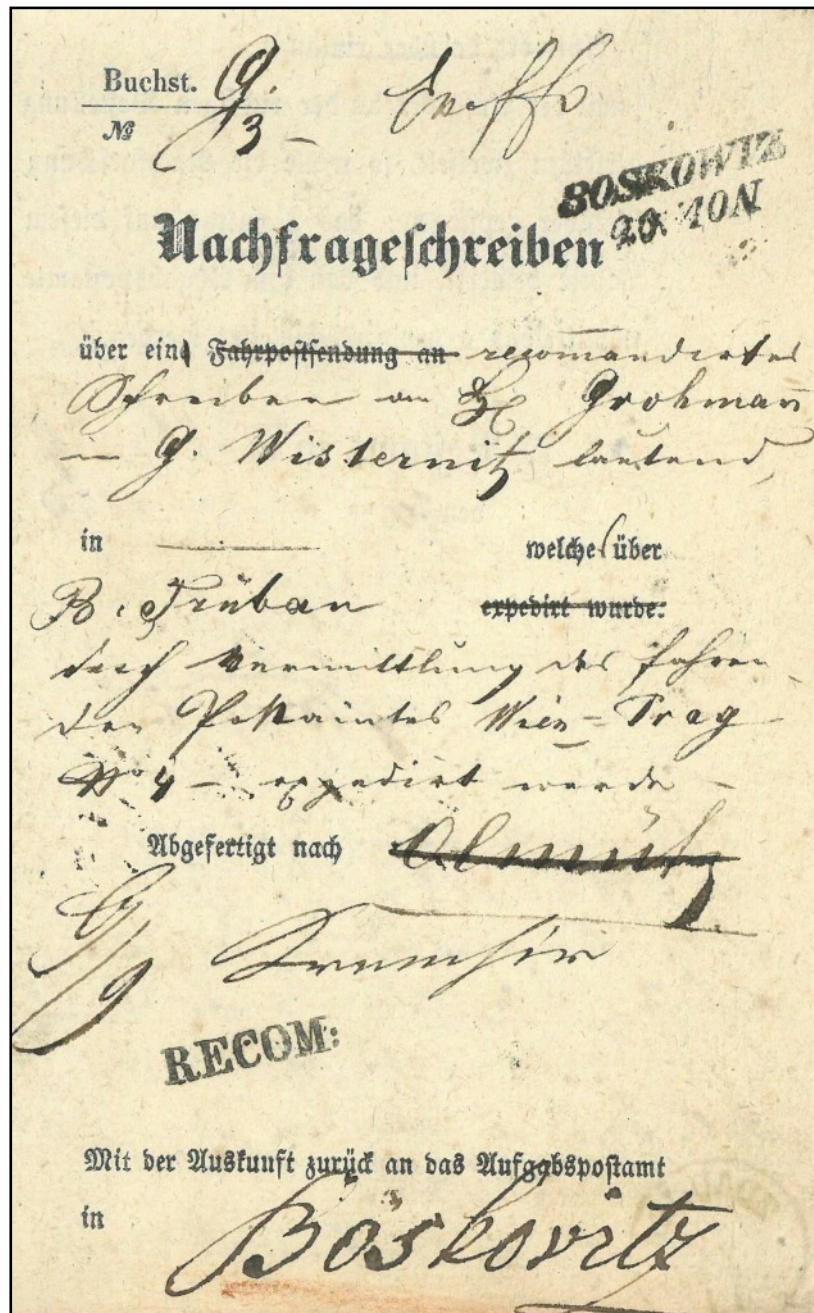


Figure 2.  
The front part when folded.

On the main form, upper left, Figure 3 shows some more detail of the missing item. Combining the Gothic printed text and the *Kurrent* handwriting we have: *Ueber das vom Hr Gregor bei dem k.k. Postamte in Boskowitz im Kronlande Mähren recomd. am 17ten August 1852 aufgegeben an Hr Grohmann in G. Wisternitz lautende Schreiben im Werthe von — fl.— kr. und im Gewichte von — Pfund ¼ loth welche mit der Fahrt Wien-Prag Nr 4 ddo. \* 17/8 l J in der Karte N° 4 ddo. 17/8 — sub. N° 1 an den Bestimmungsort abgesendet wurde.* ‘Concerning a registered letter from Hr Gregor presented at the post office of Boskowitz in the Crown Land of Moravia on 17 August 1852 of value — fl — kr and of weight — pounds ¼ *Loth* which was sent on the Vienna-Prague N° 4 on 17 August in bag N° 4 [?] to the destination place.’

The next paragraph says that the return receipt was not received back, that the sender has doubts about its correct delivery, so for assurance wants an investigation, the result to be written on this sheet

\**ddo.* appears to be an abbreviation for the Latin *de dato*, meaning of the date.

and immediately returned. It is signed off by the postal official in Boskowitz, dated 20 November 1850 – he did not even get the year right! The boxes on the right hand side of the sheet are filled out by each receiving office *en route*. In the first box (Figure 4), on 22 November, the office in Olmütz reports that on 19/8 [the return receipt] was forwarded on the Olmütz-Lundenburg sub-Karten Kremsir [*sic. Kremsier*] to Zdaunek. In the second box, on 22 November, the office in Kremsir reports that on 20/8 it was forwarded on the Kremsir-Zdaunek route to Zdaunek.

Ueber ~~dem~~ *L. Gregor*  
 bei dem k. k. Postamte in *Boskowitz*  
 im Kronlande *Mähren*  
 am *17<sup>ten</sup> August 1852* aufgebene  
 an *L. Grohmann*  
 in *G. Wiesternitz*  
 laufende Sendung mit *Schreiben* im  
 Werthe von — fl. — kr. und im  
 Gewichte von — Pfund  $\frac{1}{2}$  Loth.  
 welche mit der Fahrt *Wien-Prag*  
 ddo. *17/8* in der Karte *Nr 4*  
 ddo. *17/8* sub. *Nr 1* an den Be-  
 stimmungsort abgeseudet wurde.

Da  
 das Retour-Recipisse nicht zurücklangt, keine  
 Antwort darüber einlangt,  
 somit der Aufgeber an der richtigen Bestellung  
 derselben zweifelt, so wolle die Nachforschung  
 hierüber gepflogen, das Resultat auf diesem  
 Blatte bemerkt, und von dem Abgabspostamte  
 unmittelbar anher zurückgeleitet werden.

k. k. Postamt in *Boskowitz*  
 den *20<sup>ten</sup> November 1850*.

Druckorte Nr. 375 B.

## Schreiben

Buchst. *J*  
 Nr. *J*

Praes. *22<sup>ten</sup> November*

Mit der Fahrt *Olmütz-Lundenburg*  
 ddo. *19/8* sub Karten-Nr. *1* nach *Zdaunek*  
 weitergeseudet worden.

k. k. Postamt in *Olmütz*  
 den *22<sup>ten</sup>*

---

Buchst. *J*  
 Nr. *J*

Praes. *22<sup>ten</sup> November*

Mit der Fahrt *Kremsir-Zdaunek*  
 ddo. *20/8* sub Karten-Nr. *1* nach *Zdaunek*  
 weitergeseudet worden.

k. k. Postamt in *Kremsir*  
 den *22<sup>ten</sup> November 1852*

Figure 4 (above).

The top boxes at the right side of the main form with the responses from the first two transit offices.

Figure 3 (left). The upper left part of the main form.

In the third box we are redirected to a screed at the bottom left of the sheet (Figure 5) with the signature k.k. Postamt Zdaunek, 24 November 1852: *Laut Original Abgabe-Recipisse Nr 276 am 20 August l. J. mijne händig übernommen, der jedoch kein Retour-Recipisse einlangte konnte keines rückgesandt wurde.* ‘The original issue receipt Nr° 276 was received on 20 August, for this there was no return receipt.’

The interpretation appears to be that a receipt issued on posting the letter (*Abgabe-Recipisse*) did not function as a return receipt (*Retour-Recipisse*) – which cost more – and because strictly speaking there was nothing to send back, he forgot about it! Finally, there is a Lundenburg transit cancellation

dated 24 November on the back of the folded document (Figure 6). Thus it appears as though the wrong piece of paper was sent with the original letter and it got part way back, but then someone actually read the document and did nothing because it wasn't a return receipt!

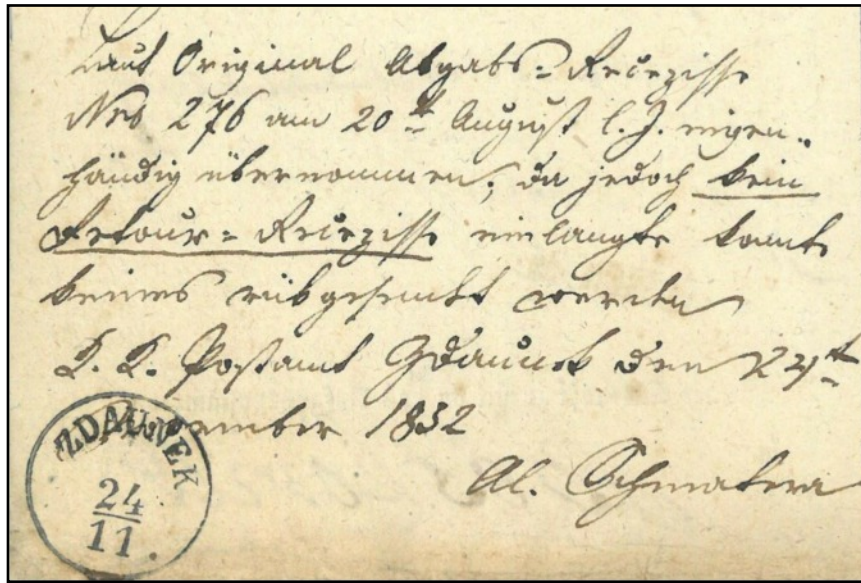


Figure 5.  
The Zdaunek postmaster's response.

Now the routing (Figure 7) is a puzzle. The original letter was sent north from Boskowitz to Böhmisches Trübau to pick up the Vienna-Prague TPO going eastwards to Olmütz, and then eastwards again a few km to Gross Wisternitz. This enquiry form also went to Olmütz, but we don't know the route. It came back via Kremsier, Zdaunek, and then Lundenburg before travelling a long way north-west to get back to Boskowitz.

Why was the receipt sent this way? I do not have enough knowledge about postal routes of the time, but I have a suspicion that because the original letter was registered it went by the most secure route. One would expect a registered return receipt to have followed the same route out. After that the *Nachfrageschreiben* seems to have followed a devious route taken by the supposed return receipt and went round the post houses using men on horseback rather than back via the TPO. Another interesting point is that Gross Wisternitz is not mentioned – perhaps it did not have a mail delivery office at the time and incoming post was delivered directly from Olmütz?

Please send any comments to the Editor, especially if you can make more of the spidery writing than I can, or have knowledge of the posting routes at the time.

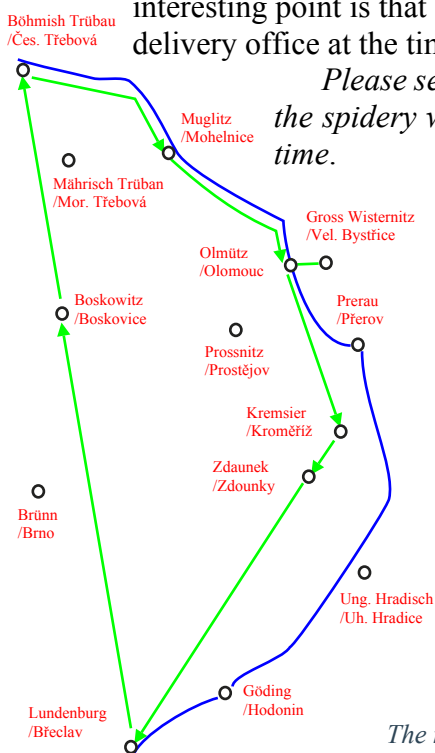


Figure 6.  
Lundenburg.

Figure 7.  
The routing map (green) for the *Nachfrageschreiben*.  
The recently opened Vienna-Prague railway is shown in blue for comparison.

## Olomouc 1938: Military Censorship of Civilian Mail

### Helmut Kobelbauer

Seventy-five years ago the first Czechoslovak Republic, one of the few states in Central Europe based on parliamentary democracy, fought for its survival. Left alone by its earlier supporters, France and Great Britain, it ended up in the fangs of the German Nazi regime, first losing the Sudetenland areas after the Munich Dictate (30 September 1938) and then the occupation of its core, Bohemia and Moravia, by German military forces in March 1939.

President Edvard Beneš and his government from 17 September 1938 on used an emergency measure foreseen in the 1920 Constitution allowing them for a period of three months to abolish the right to privacy of one's communications and introduced the *temporary censorship of civilian mail*.

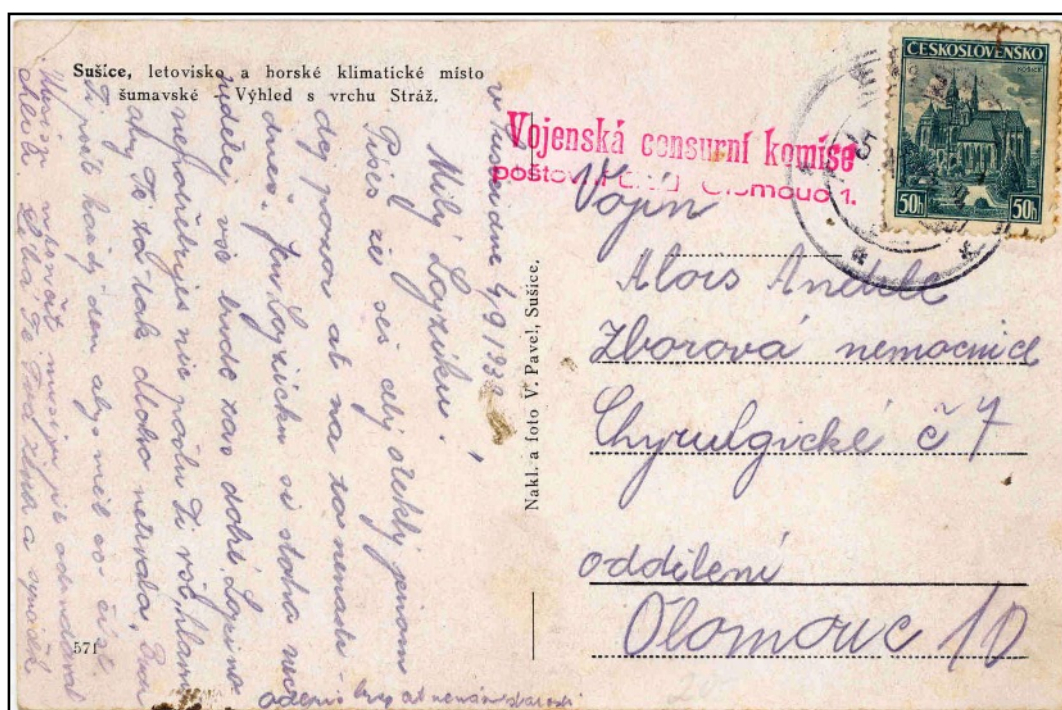
This censorship concentrated on letters to and from abroad and was mainly executed in three locations: Brno, Prague, and Trenčín. Censorship marks from these locations are well known and have been treated in a number of articles in the Czech magazine *Filatelie*.

A lesser known paragraph in the relevant government enactment permitted the military, under certain critical circumstances, to participate in the censorship measures. (This was completely separate from the military censorship of field post cards and letters of soldiers on active service between 23 September and 6 December 1938.)

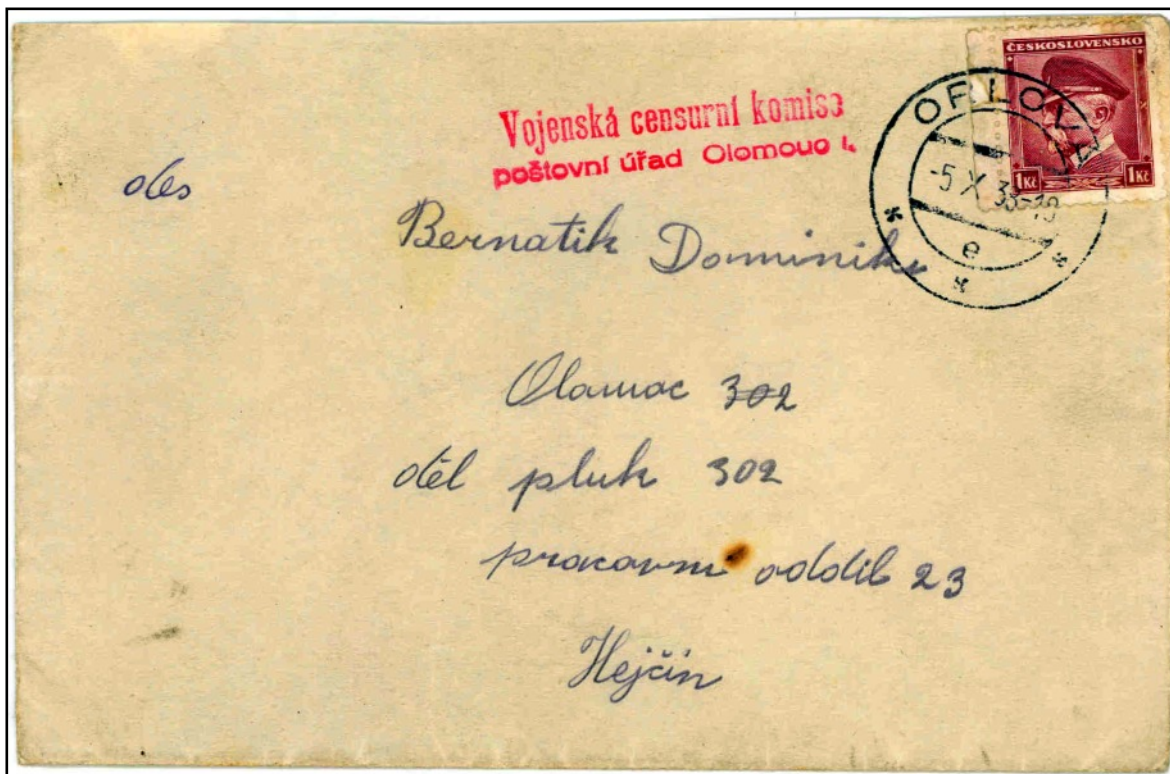
The military censorship of civilian mail from the city of Olomouc is documented for a few days in early October 1938. As you might imagine, such mail is rather elusive.



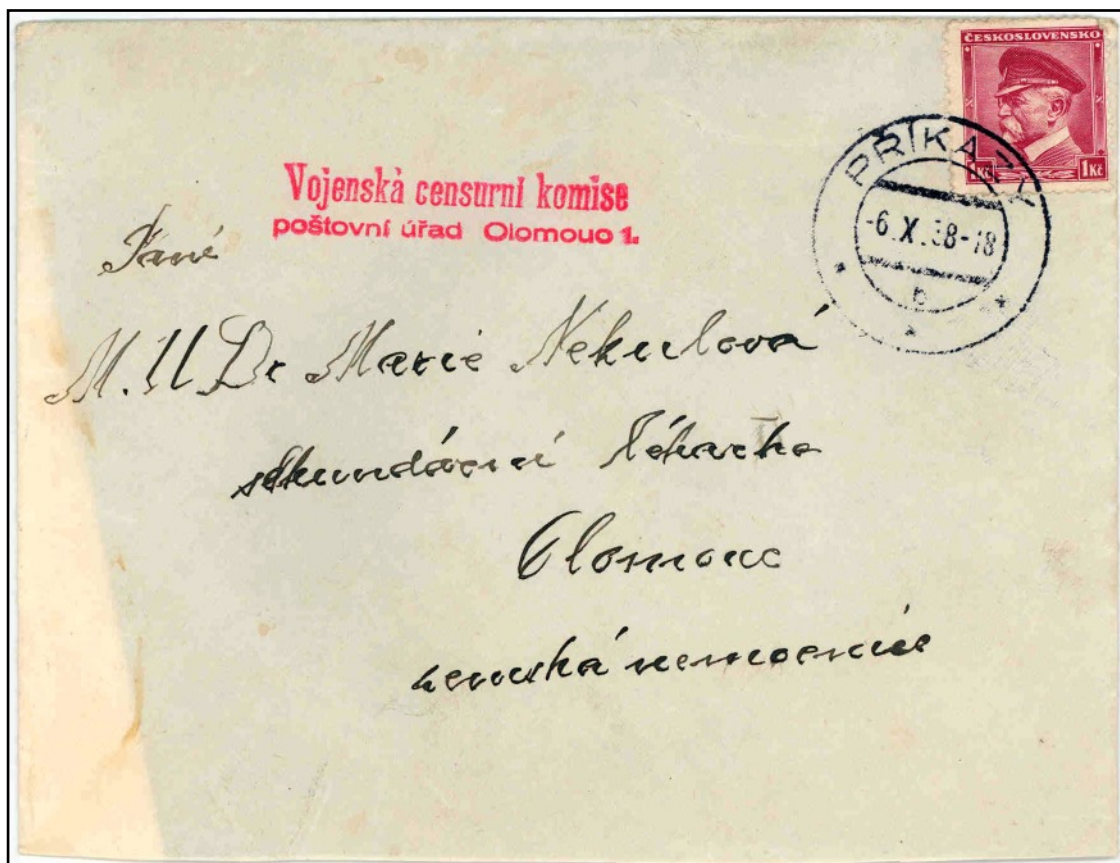
The military censorship commissions operated from two different post offices in Olomouc, Olomouc 1 and Olomouc 2. Apparently the first one took care of incoming mail whereas the commission in the second post office handled outgoing mail from Olomouc. Their marks are usually found on domestic cards and letters – foreign mail being handled in the mentioned locations by civilian censorship commissions.



Picture postcard from Sušice to Olomouc 5 October 1938.



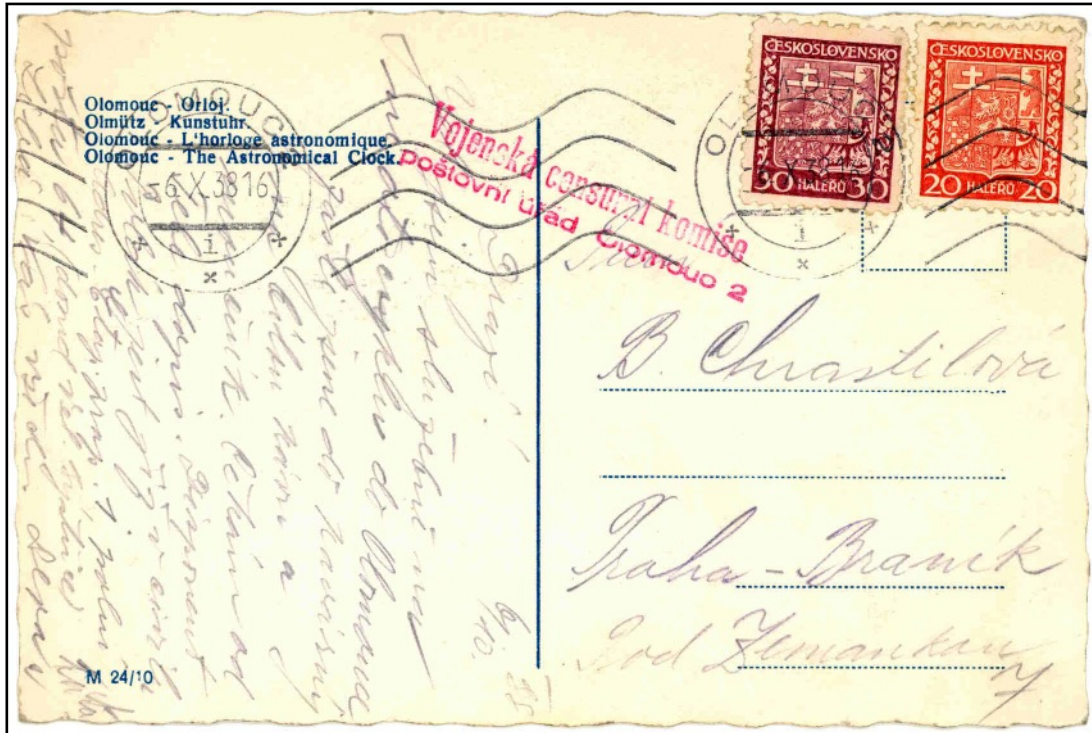
Civilian's letter to a soldier, from Orlova to Olomouc, 5 October 1938.



Personal letter from Příkazy to Olomouc, 6 October 1938..

One can see that there exist some tiny differences in the applied censorship marks. This points to a number of military officers doing censorship duty. All strikes of the respective marks are in red, some a bit brighter than others.

The cards and letters are ordinary enough and have been franked with the definitive stamps of the time, 50 haler for a domestic card, 1 Kč for a letter. The mark *Vojenská cenzurní komise | poštovní úřad Olomouc 1.* is known to have been applied on 5 and 6 October 1938 [note the dot ‘.’ after the numeral ‘1’]. A similar censorship mark is documented for the military censorship commission operating in the Olomouc 2 post office, but now without the dot ‘.’ after the numeral 2.

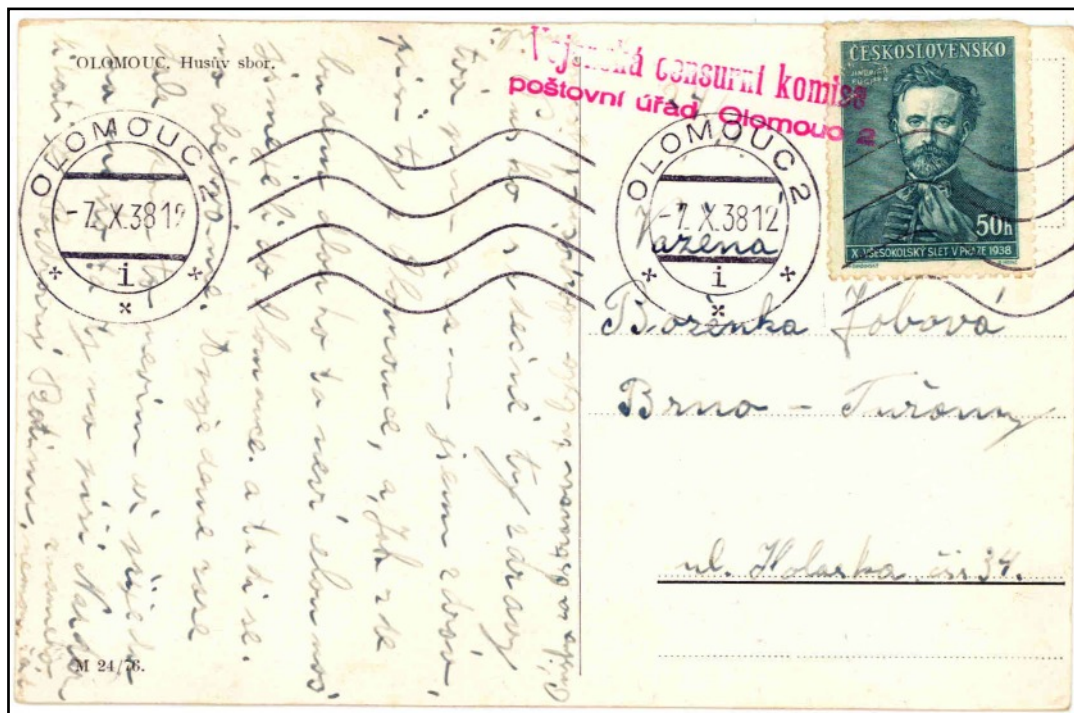


Picture postcard from Olomouc to Prague, 6 October 1938.



Picture side of the above postcard (reduced in size):  
The famous original astronomical clock.

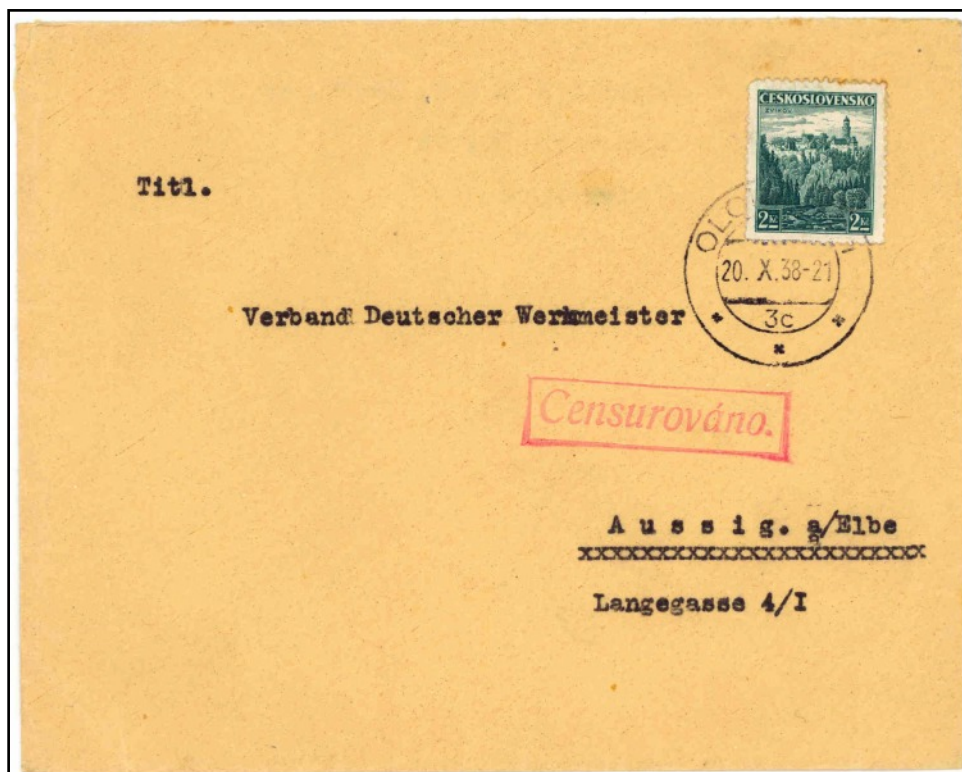
It is still the largest astronomical clock in the Czech Republic but sadly disfigured by Communist artists during that regime.



Picture postcard from Olomouc to Brno, 7 October 1938.

The censorship mark *Vojenská cenzurní komise | poštovní úřad Olomouc 2* is known to have been applied on 6 and 7 October 1938 [note the absence of the dot ‘.’ after the numeral ‘2’]. All strikes of the respective mark are in darkish red.

Please remember that mail from Olomouc to from abroad to Olomouc was usually handled by the Brno civilian censorship commission. An example is shown below:



Letter Olomouc to Aussig  
(already in German hands)  
20 October 1938.

(Reduced in size.)

Additional information would be very welcome, especially if you can document the marks of the military censorship commissions in Olomouc with further dates. Please contact the Editor.

## Postal Couriers Travelling between Paris and Prague

Lubor Kunc ([lubor.kunc@seznam.cz](mailto:lubor.kunc@seznam.cz))

Paris became one of the key Czechoslovak resistance movement sites during World War I. Tomas Garrigue Masaryk in 1916 created the *Conseil National Tchecoslovaque*, a formal authority representing Czechoslovak interests with respect to the Allied countries. The official seat of the organization was located at 18 rue Bonaparte in the Latin Quarter (1916-1918). Its main tasks were the diplomatic and political representation of Czechoslovak war interests, support for Czechoslovak prisoners, and to draft soldiers into the Czechoslovak exile armies (*Figure 1*).

The creation of 21st Rifle Regiment in France (12 January 1918) added a new role for the Council: maintenance of a postal system for Czechoslovak military troops in France. When the Czechoslovak Legion was established in Italy (April 1918), the postal system managed by the Council expanded into that country as well (*Figure 2*). The Council hired couriers to travel regularly between Paris and Rome as well as between Paris and the garrisons of the Czechoslovak troops in France.



Figure 1.

Postcard sent by the Council to a Nevers camp prisoner in thanks for contributions from Czech prisoners to the Council's charity fund (1917). The addressee later became a member of the 21<sup>st</sup> Rifle Regiment.

The postal system ran until 1919 when the Czechoslovak Legions of France and Italy returned home. On 18 December 1918, on the same day as the issue of the first Czechoslovak stamps (the Hradčany), the Czechoslovak military authorities established a special entity to maintain military postal routes within Czechoslovak territories and abroad – the Courier Service (*Správa kurýrů čs. hlavního stanů*) with its headquarters in Prague, established branch offices in Bratislava and Košice, commanded by Captain Bedřich Spálený. The military courier authority lasted for only three months (from January to March 1919) because on 1 April 1919 the operation of all the courier routes was assigned to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Due to the short time of its existence, covers showing the postmark of the *Správa kurýrů* are very rare; happy is the collector who has an example in his collection (*Figure 3*).

Items from this service may be divided into two groups: covers coming from the period when the courier system was managed by *Správa kurýrů* (*Figures 3 and 5*) and those transported by the system run by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Figure 4*).





Figure 2.

Postcard delivered via the Czechoslovak National Council in Paris.  
Sent by a member of the Czechoslovak Legion in Italy to a friend serving in the Legion in France.

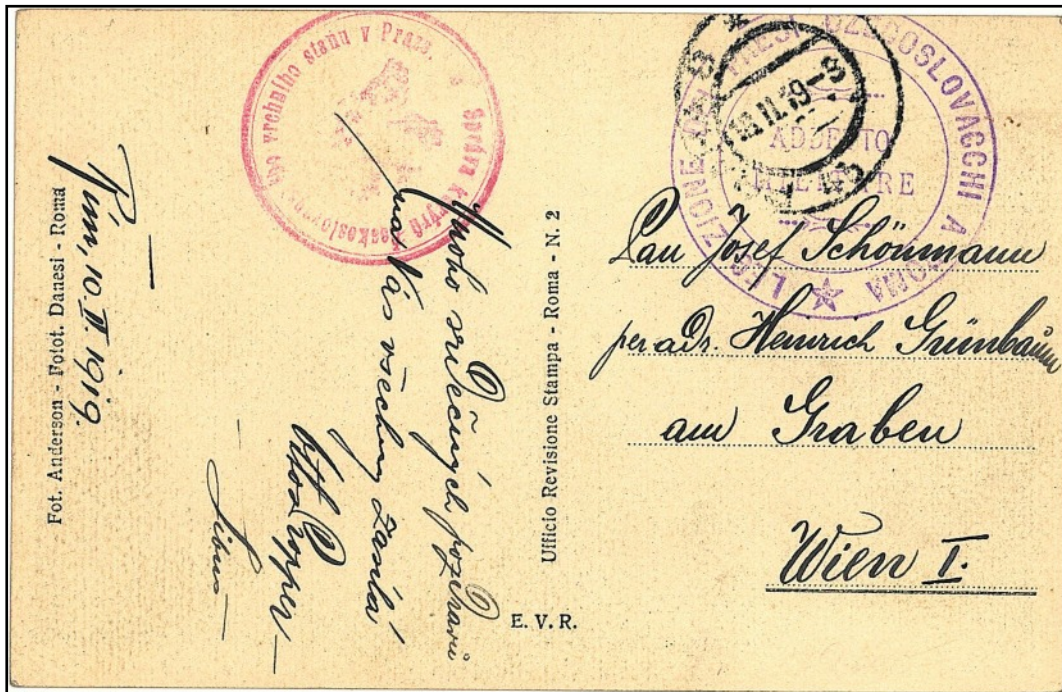


Figure 3.

Personal postcard sent in 1919 to Vienna by a member of the Czechoslovak Military Office in Rome bearing the cachet of Courier Headquarters in Prague.

Even after the Prague authorities took over management of the courier service, the office of the Czechoslovak National Council remained involved as a mail collection point for France, Western Europe, and the USA. The Council moved to a new building located at 34 rue Bonaparte in Paris and this address appears on the diplomatic body's new cachet applied during 1919 (Figure 4). The couriers travelled by normal civilian trains operated on the route between Prague and Paris. The courier crew usually consisted of an officer and a few soldiers (later ministerial employees) with their mail bags declared as a diplomatic baggage.

The courier service was open to both official and private correspondence. Official and military mail enjoyed free franking (Figure 4), but private correspondence required valid postage stamps. Courier mail franking is an interesting collecting topic as stamps from several countries were used.

Covers with French stamps are the easiest to find (Figure 5). Only exceptionally was correspondence franked with US postage stamps (typically 10 cents) – as would be case when a sender living in the USA addressed his mail to a Czechoslovak soldier in France or Czechoslovakia. To complicate the field, the Czechoslovak Council in Paris was supplied with the first Czechoslovak stamp issue, so we can find those on covers as well, especially when the mail for Czechoslovakia was posted directly at the Council office (Figure 6). Such franking constitutes a very unusual item because it displays franking impossible under normal circumstances – Czechoslovak stamps have never been valid in France except for the Council premises in Paris.



Figure 4. (1919)

Postcard sent via the Czechoslovak military courier service from one soldier in France to another in Czechoslovakia.



Figure 5.

Personal correspondence sent from Paris to Prague (1919).



Figure 6.

Letter censored by the Council sent from Paris to Prague franked with a 25 haler Hradčany stamp (1919.)

Sometimes senders attempted to misuse the system by mailing personal messages for free. Of course, the mail was checked and if such an event occurred, the item was delivered by the courier but the Czechoslovak Postal Administration demanded double the domestic postage rate (Figure 7).



Figure 7.

Personal correspondence without franking penalized 20 haler in postage due stamps by the Prague civilian post office.

A final cover confirms the Czechoslovak military courier system also carried foreign mail. The Paris office of the Czechoslovak Council delivered mail not only in France, but also to Great Britain, Belgium, and occasionally other countries. This registered letter mailed from British APO S43 post office (Western Front) in July 1919 was addressed to a Czechoslovak soldier serving in 23rd Rifle Regiment of the Czechoslovak Legion in France. The sender correctly stated the address of the Council on the envelope. The Council then delivered the letter to the designated regiment, whereupon it was discovered that the recipient had moved in the meantime to the Czechoslovak War Ministry's Prague Legionary Office. The letter was forwarded to him through the military courier service. The regiment applied the French cachet shown in the left lower corner of the envelope (*Figure 8*).



*Figure 8.*

*Registered British field post letter delivered by the Czechoslovak military courier service.*

This article introduced the topic of the Czechoslovak military courier service and attempted to demonstrate the breadth of this area. The author hopes that the article attracts more collectors to this topic and will inspire them to search out surviving covers. Perhaps even now one is hiding unnoticed in your collection of field post items.



*Left:*  
*Original Paris Council Headquarters*  
*18 rue Bonaparte*  
*(1916-1918).*

*Right:*  
*Later Paris Council Headquarters*  
*34 rue Bonaparte*  
*(1919).*

*Both photos circa 2011.*



## Understanding Experts' Marks

### Richard Wheatley

Collectors may sometimes find names or symbols stamped on the gummed side of postage stamps. These fall into three categories. Dealers may mark stamps in their inventory with a special symbol, at other times collectors do the same for the stamps in their albums to verify ownership. These marks can vary and may be symbols or alphanumeric characters; no formal system exists. Experts' marks form a third and more important category.

Present-day experts' marks signify much by their placement and orientation. This was not always the case. Around 1919, experts began to certify Czechoslovak stamps but followed no specific rules as to their mark's placement. In 1941, because forgers had started to alter unadorned stamps already bearing genuine expert marks with false overprints, experts struck back by codifying the position and orientation of their marks. As can be seen in the chart, the placement and orientation of an expert's mark (with MINT and USED replaced by the expert's mark) indicate perforation, condition, and the presence of overprints. You may wish to photocopy the chart for ready reference.

Other countries also use expert marks, but there is little correlation between the Czech system and German, French, Italian, or Dutch practice in terms of placement and orientation. As for the United Kingdom, the idea never really caught on here.

Two more vital points. First, experts can be wrong. More importantly, there are well-known examples of experts' marks themselves being forged.



*Three early Dove trial designs bearing Gilbert's expert mark.  
His mark, centred at the bottom of each, indicates their genuine but unissued state.*

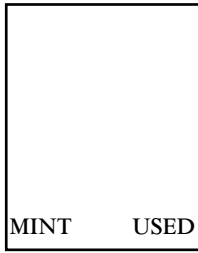


*Perforated mint Dove stamp bearing Gilbert's expert mark.  
His mark, reading downward at the lower left edge, indicates its perforated and mint state.  
The extraneous markings may be an earlier expert's uncodified certification or indicate past ownership.*

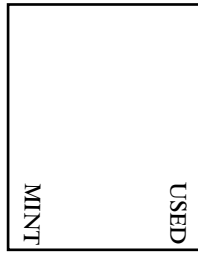
### Guide to Expert Mark Placement and Significance

#### Ordinary Stamps

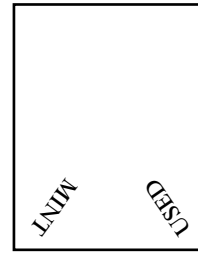
Imperforate



Perforated

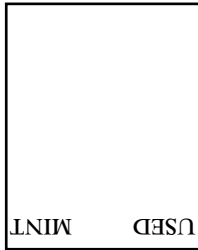


Rouletted

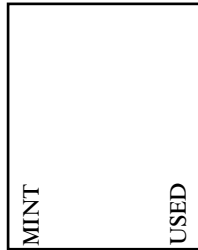


#### Stamps with a Single Overprint

Imperforate



Perforated

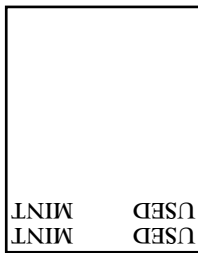


Rouletted

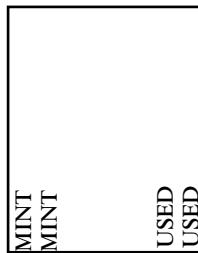


#### Stamps with Multiple Overprints

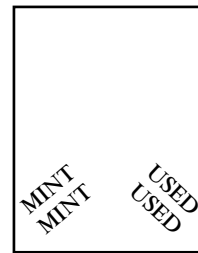
Imperforate



Perforated

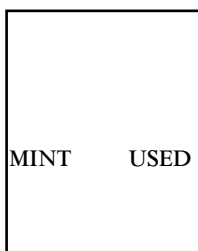


Rouletted

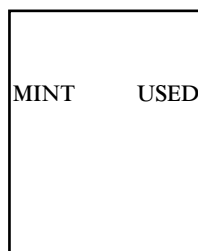


#### Damaged Stamps

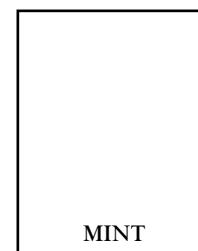
Slightly Damaged



Heavily Damaged



Unreleased Stamps



## Correspondence

### Response

**Tony Moseley** remarks that he has found amongst his unmounted material a cover from the the very Heydrich-Strasse mentioned in **Tony Bosworth's** article "It never happened" on page 15 of the September 2013 issue of *Czechout*. He suggests that the street only existed for a short period, perhaps less than three years, and following the liberation the street name was one of the first things torn down.

### Remark

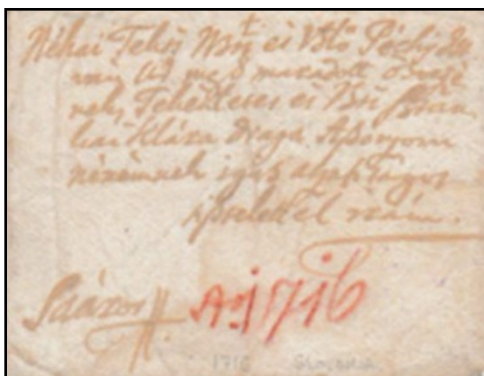
**Colin Spong** writes that in his display from the Society's Jubilee Displays to the RPSL in 2013 he showed a cover attributed as "Ecclesiastical Letter to Saxony 1716". **Bill Hedley** thought the name looked more like Sáros in Transylvania and suggested forwarding a copy to the Hungarian Society. Their member **Dénes Czirok** confirmed the destination was indeed Sáros near Tokay, on the Tisa river and the centre of the wine growing area.

### New Query

Non-member **Mark Everiss** sent images of Siberian proofs asking for help with them. They were forwarded to Siberian post expert **Jerry Verner** who believes they are likely forgeries but has not yet confirmed. The dealer is still active on EBay, so as always, buyer beware.



*Moseley*



*Spong*



*Everiss*



*All images altered in size.*

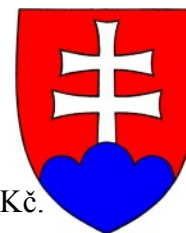
### Printing Techniques



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

### Czech NVI Stamps with Current Rates

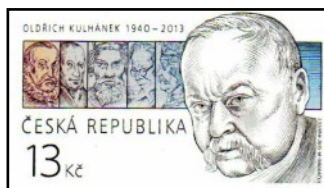
**A:** ordinary internal letter to 50 g – 13 Kč.  
**E:** ordinary standard letter to 20 g to European countries – 25 Kč.  
**Z:** ordinary standard air letter to 20 g to non-European countries – 30 Kč.



## New Issues – Czech Republic

### Lindy Bosworth

#### 20 January 2015 The Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Oldřich Kulháněk



**Designer:** Jan Kavan.

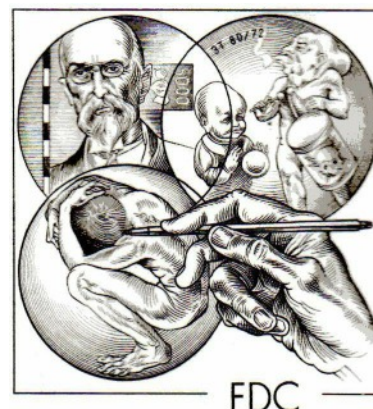
**Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček.

**Printing:** WIFAG in sheets of 30 (labels and stamps).

**Booklets:** 8 stamps and 4 labels.

**FDC:** printed WAITE in black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is a hand holding a pencil over three circles each with a different motif to represent the extent of Kulháněk's art work. **Design:** portrait of the artist. **Labels:** a deformed image of Stalin – referring to Kulháněk's persecution; from his sarcastic lithography *Funny Money*; intertwined hands often used symbolically by the artist; the slogan *Theatrum Mundi* (Latin for theatre or rule of the world) as a metaphor for the condition of the world today.

Oldřich Kulháněk (1940-2013) a Czech painter, graphic designer, stage designer, pedagogue, designer of stamps and current banknotes circulating in Czech Republic. He studied with Karel Svoboda at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, Prague. In 1971 he was arrested by the Czech Secret Police and imprisoned for one month for 'defamation of allied socialist states'. For the next two years he was interrogated regularly and banned from publishing any work. During



the period 1967 to 1971 he had created a graphic cycle which included a distorted image of Josef Stalin and the faces of 'joyful' socialist workers turned into hideous grins. The cycle was 'ideologically dangerous' and destroyed. In the 1980s he created lithographs inspired by the development of the human body. After the Velvet Revolution

he was like a phoenix reborn producing copious works. He travelled to America and made many trips to Belgium to study Old Masters. He was President of the State Jury of Postage Stamp Designs.

#### 20 January 2015 Personalities: Vitězslava Kaprálová



**Designer:** Marina Richterová.

**Engraver:** (FDC only and linear drawing) Miloš Ondráček.

**Printing:** multi-coloured offset with linear drawing in sheets of 50.

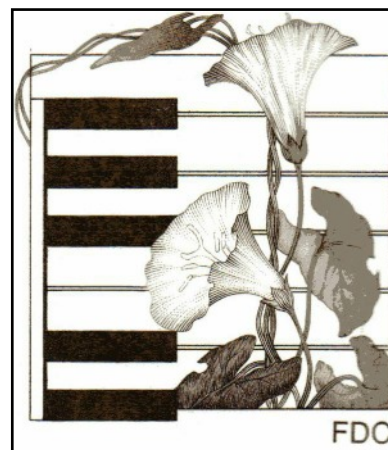
**FDC:** printed offset in dark brown with a commemorative Brno cancel. The cachet design is a piano keyboard with two flowers of bindweed as a symbol of her dedication to music. **Design:** portrait of the musician.

Vítězslava Kaprálová (1915-1940) was born into a family of musicians. Her father was a composer and founder of a private music school in Brno and her mother was a soprano singer and music teacher. Kaprálová composed her first compositions between the ages of 9 and 12. After completing her primary education she studied at the Brno Conservatory and became the first girl to be selected to study courses of composition





and conducting. Her graduation piece caused a sensation in Brno with the spectacle of a young woman conducting an orchestra – something unheard of in those times. Her studies continued at the master school of Prague Conservatory. In early April 1937 she met Bohuslav Martinů and she was invited to study in Paris with him and Charles Munch. She also went to London to perform one of her works with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the International Society of Contemporary Music Festival in 1938. Kaprálová was diagnosed with tuberculosis at the time when Paris was threatened by German troops. Her husband, Jiří Mucha, evacuated her to Montpellier in the south of France but she died leaving behind more than fifty compositions.



## 20 January 2015 They Brought Freedom – Definitives

**Designers:** Václav Zapadlik (tank, motorcycle and car); Pavel Sivko (aeroplane).

**Graphic arranger:** Pavel Sivko.

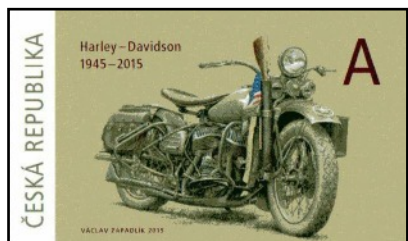
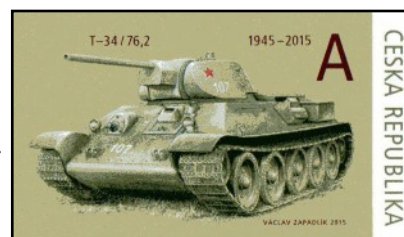
**Printing:** multi-coloured offset in booklets of 8 self-adhesive ‘A’ stamps (2 of each design).

**FDCs:** printed offset in black. **Designs:** four different military vehicles. The front page of the booklet has the same military vehicles as the stamps. The back page has texts about the two designers and their portraits with facsimile signatures. To the left, a bar code, security hologram, and Czech Post logo with postal information in Czech and English.



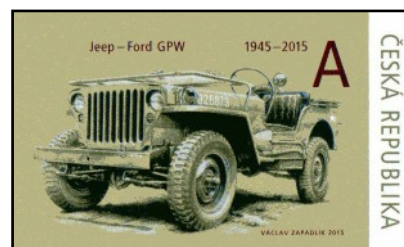
Supermarine Spitfire LF Mk. IXE aircraft. **FDC:** with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design shows three of the Spitfires and the badge of the Czechoslovak Squadron 310 of the Royal Air Force. This was a single seater fighter and reconnaissance plane produced for the RAF 1942-1945. The prototype first flew in 1936 and about 40 versions were produced until 1947 – about 20,300 in total. They were the RAF's front line aircraft throughout World War 2.

T-34/76, 2 tank. **FDC:** with commemorative Ostrava cancel. The cachet is another view of the tank. The T 34 was a heavily armoured Soviet tank introduced in 1940 and the mainstay of Soviet forces in World War 2. It was named T 34 by the designer Koshkin after the year (1934) in which he formulated his ideas. Some 35,120 tanks of this type were produced and by the end of the war 55% of all Russian tanks were T 34/76s. Between 1951 and 1958 about 3,180 were produced under licence in Czechoslovakia.



Harley-Davidson Motorcycle. **FDC:** with commemorative Plzeň cancel. The cachet is another view of the same motorcycle. Harley Davidson Motorcycles was founded in 1903 in the US (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). During World War 2 more than 90,000 military motorcycles were produced by the company for the US Army and Allies. The military version won several awards during the war for excellence. The brand name is still iconic.

Jeep Ford GPW car. **FDC:** with commemorative Plzeň cancel. The cachet shows the rear view of the jeep with its canvas hood in place. Jeep Ford GPW was produced by the Ford Motor Company as a small four wheel drive utility vehicle. From the prototype in 1940 more than 277,896 of this model were produced for war service. The name Jeep is said to have evolved from several sources. 1) Jeep was used by US Army mechanics as a generic term for any untried/untested vehicle. 2) Jeep was a bastardisation of the acronym GP (Government, Passenger). 3) informally named after *Eugene the Jeep* – a character in the Popeye Comic Strip.



## 18 January 2015 Historical Vehicles: The Walter 6B Car and Metoděj Vlach Airplane.

**Designers:** Vaclav Zapadlík (car) and Pavel Sitko (airplane).

**Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider.

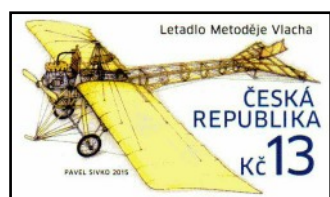
**Printing:** multi-coloured offset in se-tenant sheets of 50.

**FDCs:** printed Waite. a) Walter 6B car with commemorative Praha cancel. Cachet drawing in black with a side view of the car and the company marque above. b) Vlach airplane with a commemorative Říkovice cancel. Cachet drawing in red-brown is a front view of the airplane at rest. **Maximum Cards:** one for each stamp design. **Designs:** a) the Walter 6B car b) the wooden monoplane in which Vlach made his first public flight.



The Walter 6B Car. The firm Walter was founded in Prague (Jinonice) in 1911. Josef Walter began his career as a trained engineer fitter learning his trade from his father. In a small workshop in Smichov he began to build bicycles, then motorcycles (1902) and afterwards three wheelers (1908) before moving to Jinonice where he built his first passenger car. Before the World War his cars won several motor racing prizes. The cars were known

for their reliability, speed, and driving stability and were exported to Europe, including Russia. During the 1920s his engines were used in aeroplanes with licences purchased by Rolls Royce and other overseas companies. The production of the Walter 6 models – both open and closed body work types – began in 1928 followed by the Walter Regent, Walter Standard, Walter Super, and Walter Royal. The Walter Regent was the most luxurious and expensive to be manufactured in Czechoslovakia.



Metoděj Vlach (1887-1952) was the first Czech builder of a functional airplane of his own design, built of wood and with a Czech engine. He worked as a mechanic for the Laurin and Klement car makers between 1908 and 1922 but built his own airplanes as a hobby by financing the projects from his salary. The first airplane built in 1908 was a biplane on skis but remained unfinished as a suitable engine was not found. The second biplane

of 1909 was able to make short 30-50 metre jumps but was not stable enough for longer flights. The more successful third attempt made between 1910 and 1912 was in a monoplane of local wood having a wingspan of 10 metres, weighing 720 kg with an engine power of 28 kW. The first public flight took place on 8 November 1912 at a height of 20 m, travelling some 300-500 m at a maximum speed of 100 km. A crash as a result of Vlach's inexperience as a pilot ended the display at the sixth flight. Vlach suffered a minor injury. The World War ended Vlach's attempts. Vlach also worked as a mechanic for several successful racing drivers contributing to the improvement of racing cars.



## 18 February 2015 Definitive NVI 'A' - Bedtime Story (Večerníček)

**Designer:** Otakar Karlas.

**Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets 40 self-adhesive stamps.

**FDC:** printed multi-coloured offset with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows Večerníček driving a car. **Design:** Večerníček handing out newspapers.

The cartoon character Večerníček, a small boy with a paper hat, is celebrating 50 years of continuous television appearances on television. He opens and closes an animated bedtime story with his theme song which became the symbol of the programme named after him. The tradition of an animated bedtime story began in 1963 on a Sunday evening, then in January 1965 Večerníček, scripted by the graphic artist Milan Nápravník, appeared with his theme song. It is the oldest television theme song in the Republic and was composed by Ladislav Simon. Several



new series of stories are produced by Czech Television every year, which since 1973 are broadcast every day in colour.

4 March 2015

**Definitive NVI 'A' for personalized usage – Dušan Kalláy**

**Designer:** Dušan Kalláy.

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

**FDC:** printed multi-coloured offset with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is an envelope with postal dwarves. **Design:** Stamp – Charles Bridge and postal dwarves. Labels – a) the 9 main labels (published on day of issue) show a parcel containing goslings being weighed by postal dwarves; b) a dwarf with young animals; c) dwarves on a handstamp; d) a dwarf in a post bag. Five other dwarves are displayed in the margins of the sheet. The sheets for personalised usage will be issued with blank labels. (*See back cover.*)

### Postal Stationery Commemorative Postcards

3 September 2014 **Collector**

**Designer:** Václav Zapadlík.

**Printing:** full coloured offset.

**Design:** imprinted 'A' stamp depicts the logo of the Collector's Fair. To the left of the stamp is the logo of the Czech Post with a security hologram. The first line for the address is a continuous micro-print *Czech Post PTC 2014*. The left portion of the card has the logo *Praga Piccola – The International Philatelic Exhibition* with text in Czech. The postcard is issued for the first Praga Piccola which will take place annually with the Collector's Fair. This year the event commemorated the anniversary of the First World War and break up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was held on the exhibition grounds Letňany-PVO Expo, Prague. The card retails for 18 Kč.



## New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

13 November 2014

Christmas Mail 2014



**Stamp Drawing:** Anastázia Lakatošová (aged 8).

**Printing:** offset – Heidelberg Speedmaster.

**FDC:** printed coloured offset by Kasico, a.s, Bratislava with a commemorative cancel in the form of an angel designed by Leila Alexandra Paálová. The cachet design by Viktória Kraslanová shows two snowmen. Four different cancellations were used – one for each of the four weeks in Advent. **Booklets:** 10 self-adhesive stamps. Booklet cover has the FDC cachet design **Design:** a round figure with a long nose and pointed hat running in the snow. It is based on a drawing sent by Anastázia to Baby Jesus for Christmas 2013 and chosen from about 1,700 entries.

This is the 15th anniversary of Christmas Mail in Slovakia and is a traditional Christmas activity to write to Baby Jesus. Children send their Christmas wishes to the address 999,99 *Ježiško* and for those who give their return address an answer, in English, will be received from Baby Jesus before Christmas. This has become so popular that letters are received from all over the world.

14 November 2014

Nativity – Stained Glass Windows of Romanticism



**Designer:** Vladislav Rostoka.

**Engraver:** František Horniak FDC only.

**Printing:** coloured offset – Heidelberg Speedmaster in sheets of 8 stamps and 8 labels. The labels can be customized. The lower margin of the sheet has the text in Slovak *25th anniversary of Bethlehem bringing light to Slovakia* and the Scout and Guide badge with *Slovak Scouting*.

**FDC:** printed recess in green by Kasico, a.s, Bratislava with a commemorative Chynorany cancel. **Design:** one of the glass windows in the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary Assumption, Chynorany, depicting Mother Mary holding the infant Jesus as seen in a vision by St Ignatius of Loyola as he performed spiritual exercises in the cave at Monresa. The labels have a lighted lantern on a light green background with the text in Slovak *Bethlehem Light – 25 Years*. The labels can be customized.

The set of eight stained glass windows in the church of St Mary Assumption, Chynorany were commissioned in 1933 by the then priest and canon, Ignác Wohland (1902-1955). The art of stained glass windows in churches followed the Neo-Renaissance and Neo-Classical styles from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries until the end of the 1930s. Floral motifs as well as crosses and leaves were used as peripheral decoration for the windows influenced by the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles.

25 November 2014

Art: Alojz Stróbl

**Designer and Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik.

**Printing:** KOMB in sheets of one stamp within a decorative sheetlet.

**FDC:** printed WAITE in grey with commemorative Kráľová Lehota cancel. The cachet drawing depicts another of his works – *Injured Boar*, a statue from 1902. **Design:** from the bronze statue *Dying Deer* commissioned in 1905 by Count Ľudovít Károlyi. The statue was placed in the park surrounding his house at Stupava but today can be seen in the park of the manor house at Topoľčianky. The sheetlet shows the front of Stróbl's house which he purchased in 1893 (*see back cover*).

Alojz Stróbl (1856-1926) was born in a small village near Kráľova Lehota, then in Hungary but now in Slovakia. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. In 1881 he settled in Budapest and found recognition with his statue of *Perseus*. He was commissioned to create two figures for the facade

and two sitting figures for the Budapest Opera House which made him the most popular sculptor of memorials in Hungary. Other important sculptures are of the poet Janos Arany for the grounds of Hungarian National Museum (1893) and the Matthias Fountain for Buda Castle (1904). The equestrian statue of St Stephen on the Fischer Bastion was produced in 1906. Many of his works from the 1920s are in prominent public places in Budapest. In 1885 he was appointed Professor of Sculpture and later became Head of the School of Sculpture. He taught at the Hungarian Art School (now the Hungarian University of Fine Arts). He also created many impressionist portraits and one, *Our Mother*, gained him the Grand Prix at the 1900 World Exhibition in Paris.

## 25 November 2014 Art: Peter Michal Bohúň



**Designer and Engraver:** František Horniak.

**Printing:** Komb in sheets of four with blank labels.

**FDC:** printed WAITE in black with commemorative Liptovský Mikuláš cancel. The cachet design is taken from another of his works showing a young couple in a rural setting. **Design:** a portrait (1853) of the artist's wife, Zofia, which is in the Slovak National Gallery collection.

Peter Michal Bohúň (1822-1879) was a significant Slovak painter in the 19th century of the so-called Slovak National Renaissance movement. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague and then worked for the Czech lithographer František Šír. His work included



preparing illustrations for the *General Botany* compiled by the Czech botanist J S Presl. He returned to Slovakia in 1848 after a study year abroad. His idealism with the national romanticism movement waned after the 1848 revolution and his works took on a more commercial character influenced by the Biedermeier movement. He painted many portraits of relatives and friends. He moved to Poland in 1865 settling in Lipnik. He died of pneumonia on 20 May 1879.

## 5 December 2014 Postage Stamp Day – Severín Zrubec



**Designer:** Marianna Žalec Varcholová.

**Engraver:** Lubomír Žálec.

**Printing:** WIFAG.

**FDC:** printed WAITE with a commemorative Lúčna nad Žitavou cancel. The cachet design shows a postal stationery card with a portrait of Juraj Fándly (1750-1888) from Museum of Book Culture, issued by the Union of Slovak Philatelists and sent to Zrubec's address. **Design:** trapezium shaped stamp – a portrait of Zrubec, flanked by triangular coupons. One coupon shows the first gold medal he won at Praga 62 World Stamp Exhibition and the other has the emblem of the Society of St Gabriel he co-founded in 1962.

JUDr. Severín Zrubec (1921-2011) lived, studied and worked in Bratislava. He worked as a lawyer in various organisations but his final post until he retired in 1982 was with the Ministry of Agriculture in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. He was an eminent and active philatelist for more than fifty years, viewing the hobby as a cultural and social activity. For ten years he was chairman of the Association of Slovak Philatelists, later serving as vice-chairman, was a member of the international Thematic Philately Commission (1974-1984) and International Jury of Slovak Philatelists (1973-2011). His thematic exhibit *Today Rotary Press Machines Revolve* gained many prestigious awards at domestic, European, and international exhibitions. In 1998 he donated his thematic collection *Printing and the Book* to the Museum of Book Culture, Trnava. Besides his hobby of philately he wrote lyrical poetry which was published in fourteen short collections between 2003 and 2005.

## 2 January 2015 Definitive: Cultural Heritage of Slovakia: Krásnohorské Podhradie Andrassy Mausoleum



**Designer:** Peter Augustovič.

**Engraver:** Jozef Česla.

**Printing:** WIFAG.

**FDC:** printed from flat plates in black with commemorative Krásnohorské Podhradie cancel. The cachet design is a detail from the mausoleum with the Andrassy coat of arms and motto – *Non videri sed esse* (Not to seem, but to be) with an eagle and an angel either side. **Design:** an exterior view of the mausoleum.

Dénes (Dionýz) Andrassy (1835-1913) was the last male descendant of the younger branch of the Andrassy family, one of the most influential and aristocratic in old Hungary. He met his wife, Františka Hablacová, (1838-1902) an opera singer, in the early 1860s whilst he was studying in Vienna. Františka was not of noble birth so they married in Pisa, Italy in 1866 and Dénes was disinherited. The couple lived in Munich and Döbling but travelled widely throughout Europe. Dénes inherited the family estates after the death of his younger brother and then his father but never returned to the family home at Krasno Hôrka Castle, leaving the management of the estates to a friend.



FDC

When his wife died Dénes decided she would not be buried in the family tomb so the mausoleum was built not far from the Castle. It was designed by young Munich artists of the Jugendstil movement of white sandstone with an elaborate interior of golden mosaics, coloured marbles, and agate covered windows. Andrassy was buried beside his wife after his death.



## 30 January 2015 Valentine's Day Card - NVI T2, 50g with personalised coupon



**Design:** Adrian Ferda.

**Printing:** Heidelberg Speedmaster.

**FDC:** offset by Kasico,a.s., Bratislava with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design has the silhouette in blue of a couple embracing within a red square QR code. **Design:** an illustrated QR (quick response) code in the shape of a heart.

The QR (quick response) code was originally developed by the Japanese company Denso-Wave in 1994 to monitor manufacturing processes in the automobile industry. The code became freely available world-wide and was adapted for many commercial and non-commercial uses. The code is read

by a mobile device which can be downloaded then decoded by a software program. The first QR code stamps were issued by Taiwan in 2011 for Valentine's Day. Since then many countries have issued QR code stamps with links to goods for sale, information about postage services, or significant events. The Slovak stamp is however a world first as the QR code has a link to music. The link is to a video clip sequence of a song *Čakám Ťa láska* (I am Waiting for You, My Love) performed at a public pop concert by the Elán band in Prague on 20 September 2003. The theme for the stamp was chosen by public survey with the intention of appealing to the teenage generation who are conversant with the modern world of electronic communication.



F D C



## 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. 01903 709404 <a href="mailto:c.sponge@ntlworld.com">c.sponge@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>Chairman &amp; Publications Officer</b>	Rex Dixon FRPSL, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH. 01628 628628 <a href="mailto:rexdixon@btinternet.com">rexdixon@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Roger Morrell, 39 Claremont Road, Teddington, TW11 8DH. 020 8287 0828 <a href="mailto:roger.morrell@blueyonder.co.uk">roger.morrell@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
<b>Secretary &amp; Auction Secretary</b>	Peter G Williams, PO Box 11825, Solihull, B93 9ZQ. 01564 773067 <a href="mailto:rozpocet@yahoo.co.uk">rozpocet@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer &amp; Immediate Past Chairman</b>	Mrs Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW. 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. 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. 01789 763007
<b>Editor</b>	Dr Mark Wilson, 8505 E. San Bernardo Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85258-2400 USA. 1 480 664 1786 <a href="mailto:editor@czechout.org">editor@czechout.org</a>
<b>Press Officer &amp; Webmaster</b>	Bob McLeod, 11 Southwold Close, Aylesbury, HP21 7EZ. 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. 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. 0113 260 1978 <a href="mailto:arewhyuu@outlook.com">arewhyuu@outlook.com</a>
<b>Committee</b>	Tony Moseley, 52 Burrows Road, Kingswinford, DY6 8LU. 07946 748072 <a href="mailto:tonymoseley59@gmail.com">tonymoseley59@gmail.com</a> Colin Smith, 51 Offham Road, West Malling, ME19 6RB 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.



**Alojz Stróbl**  
**Slovak Art issue 25 November 2014**



**Dušan Kalláy**  
**Definitive NVI 'A' for Personalized Usage**  
**4 March 2015**