



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 35/4

DECEMBER 2017

WHOLE NUMBER 169



**Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich
Propaganda Postcard**

Czechoslovak Airmail Rates

Part I: Europe

Andrej Tekel

Translated by Barry Horne

Rates in Kč.

White cells 20 g. Yellow cells 10 g. Grey cells no service.

Destination	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	
Czechoslovakia	1.00									0.30	
Albania		1.50									0.50
Andorra		1.50	1.00								
Austria	1.00										
Balearic Islands											
Belgium	1.50										
Bulgaria	1.50										
Corsica	1.50										
Crete	1.50										
Cyprus								1.50			
Danzig	1.50										
Denmark	1.50										
Estonia	1.50										
Finland	1.50										
France	1.50										
Germany	1.00										
Great Britain	1.50										
Greece	1.50										
Hungary	1.00										
Ireland	1.50										
Italy	1.50										
Liechtenstein											
Latvia	1.50										
Lithuania	1.50										
Luxembourg	1.50										
Malta											
Monaco											
Netherlands	1.50										
Norway	1.50										
Poland	1.50										
Portugal	1.50										
Romania	1.50										
San Marino		1.50									
Sardinia	1.50										
Spain	1.50										
Sweden	1.50										
Switzerland	1.50										
Turkey	2.00										
Vatican City	1.50										
Yugoslavia	1.00					1.00*	1.00				
USSR	(See regional USSR locations below.)										
USSR	1930-32	1933-34	1935	1936-37	1938-39						
Leningrad & Moscow	4.00		2.50	2.00	Service suspended						
Europe east of Moscow	7.00		3.00	2.50							
Asiatic USSR	12.50	6.00	4.00	4.50							

¹*Newspaper rate per 100 g was 0.20 Kč in addition to newspaper stamp.

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Season's Greetings

To all our members the best for the new year!

Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

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

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News & Notices

The Society extends the warmest welcome to new members **Graham Bell** of Rotherham and **Ulf Widén** of Kanalvägen, Sweden.

Congratulations

At the World Stamp Exhibition in Bandung, Indonesia, in August this year our members won the following medals:

Wim Tukker: *Postcards of Australian States* – Vermeil Medal.

Peter Chadwick: *Handstruck Chargemarks of British Mails before 1840* and *Handstruck Town Marks of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century* – two Large Vermeil Medals.

Jon Klemetsen: *Czechoslovakia 1918 to 1928* – Large Vermeil.

Richard Wheatley: *Netherlands East Indies Mail from 1789 to G.P.U. (1877)* – Gold with special prize for knowledge.

The annual convention of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately was held in June at NAPEX 2017, serving Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. where the SCP was a featured society. The society represented Czechoslovak philately with numerous excellent exhibits and the society table was extremely busy, resulting in record literature sales and the addition of four new members. A motion was passed to make **Jaroslav Verner** the Honorary President of SCP for PRAGA 2018. **Phil Rhoad** assisted with the conducted guided tours of the Czechoslovak exhibits. Much success was achieved by members of our Society who entered competitive exhibits:

Phil Rhoad: won two NAPEX medals, a Vermeil for *Bohemia & Moravia: Hidden Patriotic Messages* and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award. His *The Murder of Lidice* won a Gold and SCP Gold.

Lou Svoboda: *Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1819-1920* won a NAPEX Large Silver and SCP Bronze Medal.

Alan Hanzl: *Czechoslovakia: 50 Years of Art on Stamps (1966-2016)* won a NAPEX Bronze Medal and his other exhibit entitled *Czechoslovak Revolutionary Issues: Czechoslovakia's First Stamps?* won a NAPEX silver.

In the recent competitions organised by the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, **Yvonne Gren** won two Bronze Medals in the competitions. One was for *East Silesia* and the other was *Shoreham Postal History*.

In November 2016 **Akira Tadatsu** won a Gold at JAPEX2016 for his open philately of *Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile in Great Britain*.

Jon Klemetsen has been elected Vice President of the Federation of Norwegian Philatelists.

PRAGA 2018 Dinner Planned

A Dinner has been planned for Friday 17 August 2018 at PRAGA 2018. Further details will appear in the March 2018 issue of *Czechout*.

Long Missing Rarity Submitted to Burda Auction House

One of the highlights of the firm's September auction was to be a 4 Kč granite paper Pošta Československá 1919 overprint. On the day before the auction catalogue went to press, experts determined the stamp was one of two rarities stolen from Hans Klein at the international philatelic exhibition Philanippon in Tokyo in 1991. An investigation is underway.

2017 Stamp of the Year Competition

Members are invited to submit their vote for the best stamp issued by the Czech Republic Postal authority during 2017. New issues have been listed in *Czechout*, or a list may be found on the Česká Pošta website.

All you need to do is send the title of your choice, its Pofis number, your name, and your full postal address to **Lindy Bosworth** (*address/e-mail inside back cover*) before 15 January 2018. Pofis numbers may be found on the Česká Pošta website.

In return, later in the Spring, each participant will receive an attractive and entirely free souvenir card issued by the Czech Post Office.

Joint Societies Meeting at the Latvian Club, Bradford, 5 August 2017

This popular annual event with its attendance of about 25 people representing the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish, and Yugoslav societies started on a sombre note, remembering former attendees **Brian Madeley** and **Reg Hindley** who had passed away recently. After notices and apologies, we were once again allowed to enjoy a huge range of central European topics, including stamps and postal history, with all the associated chit-chat and question answering. Aply organised by **Yvonne Wheatley** and supported by husband **Richard**, we went through four rounds of 18 frames of 10 sheets summarised as follows:

Mervyn Benford: *Hungary 1926-1933 Issues* with a focus on their use and rate changes during this period.

Richard Jagielski (presenting on behalf of his father **Edmund**): *Poland General Gouvernement Issues under Nazi Occupation*.

Chris Thornburn: *Hungary: The Post-WWI Harvester Issue*, a new take on issue dates and usage.

Joyce Boyer: *Austria: Innsbruck Mail 1980-2019*, covering the change of currency, including postcards, underpaid mail, parcels, and perfins.

Keith Brandon: *Austria: The Use of Non-standard Registration Labels*, including generic types, provisional types, FPO types, in place of the standard black-on-yellow type with printed place name used from 1885.

Roger Morrell: *Hungary: The Development of the Money Order Form from 1867 to 1907*, those with stamp imprints and those without, including telegraphic money orders.

John Colton: *Yugoslavia: The First Slovenian Issues Leading up to the Carinthian Plebiscite*.

Ron Gillard: *Czechoslovakia: Alfons Mucha, the Art Deco Artist*, his stamp designs and postcards.



The Joint Meeting provided a relaxed atmosphere and intensive viewing.

Peter Cybaniak & Roman Dubyniak: *Czechoslovakia: The Czech Army in the Ukraine*, examples of field post mail and the completion of the presenters' *magnum opus* on the subject.

Malcolm Stockhill: *Poland: 'Fighting Solidarity' Labels from the 1980s*.

Derek Walker: *Czechoslovakia: The 1938 Nicholas Winton Inspired Evacuation of Children from Prague*, with letters to Thomas Chadwick who organised the *Kindertransport* locally.

Derek Walker: *Medical Field Post Mail from WW II*.

Nick Coverdale: *Yugoslavia: Censorship of mail from NDH Croatia during WW II*.

Neil Ritchie: *Poland: The Establishment of the 'Lublin Committee' in 1944* leading to liberation and the development of propagandist stamps under Russian control.

Garth Taylor: *Czechoslovakia: Cards Produced in France for the Exiled Czechoslovak Army in 1939-1940* before evacuation to the UK.

Wojciech Kierstan: *Czechoslovakia: Revolutionary Issues from 1918-1919.*

Andrew Brooks: *Austria: Austrian Artists' Coloured Postcards used as Field Post cards during WW I.*

Peter Chadwick: *Poland: Upper Silesian Issues 1919-1920* leading to the plebiscite.

Nick Coverdale: *Czechoslovakia: Scouting from the 1930s*, and its banning by the German and Communist regimes. Commemorative covers of events.

Neil Ritchie: *Poland: Postal History*, including postage rates and routes during 1946-1947.

Andrew Brooks: *Austria: Postcards*, including those commemorating the meeting point of the three empires (German, Austrian, Russian) at Mysłowice.

Joyce Boyer: *Austria: The Innsbruck to Bergisel (Stubaital) Light Railway*, its development, postcards and postal history.

Alan Berrisford: *Poland: Airmail Services Between 1920 and 1928* operated by two private companies before the inauguration of the national airline LOT.

Martin Brumby: *Hungary: A Selection of the First Hungarian Revenue Stamps* from the Gary Ryan collection.

Derek Walker: *Czechoslovakia: Operation Albrecht* – the internment of 1000s of potentially troublesome Czech citizens by the Nazis in Dachau and then Buchenwald. Postal items to and from inmates.

Nick Coverdale: *Yugoslavia: The Srem Area of Croatia under NDH Control During WW II*, part of a former medal-winning collection.

Alan Berrisford: Poland: A second display of *Polish Airmails*.

Neil Ritchie: *First Issues of Poland, 1860-1865*, until suppressed by the Russians.

Malcolm Stockhill: *Poland: Glider Mail Covers*.

This programme, together with the friendly atmosphere, the opportunity to chat with old friends and make new ones, and not least the excellent buffet lunch prepared by Yvonne and Richard (ham-carver-in-chief) and the final tea and cakes, all made for a very interesting and thought-provoking philatelic day out that is really worth travelling to. Peter Chadwick gave a vote of thanks. Yvonne offered to host it again next year, on the same Saturday (4 August 2018) – so put the date in your diary now to avoid clashes!

Roger Morrell

CPSGB Members Exhibit at Autumn Stampex

Congratulations to CPSGB members **Garth Taylor** and **Wojciech Kierstan** who exhibited competitively at the show in the Business Design Centre, Islington, in September. Garth's entry *A Study of the Routes and Rates of the Third Issue of Czechoslovakian Airmail Stamps 1932 to 1939* was awarded a Large Silver, and Wojciech's entry entitled *Operation Anthropoid* a Silver.



Garth Taylor and Wojciech Kierstan receive their awards from Frank Walton of the Judging Committee at the Autumn Stampex Palmares.

CPSGB Annual General Meeting, Competitions and Display, 18 November 2017

On a dull damp drizzly dismal November day members gathered for Annual General Meeting at the Czech and Slovak National Club in West Hampstead. The reports from officers were all prepared in advance and distributed to members. Generally, the reports indicated that the Society was moving forward and waving the flag for Czechoslovak philately, but the financial situation was not so rosy and a small increase in subscriptions will be needed to cover increased costs, particularly of printing and distribution of *Czechout* and the removal of an ability to charge for credit card and Paypal fees. **Colin Smith** has taken over as Secretary following from the resignation of **Peter Williams**, and **Garth Taylor** has been elected to the Committee. The full minutes will be prepared and published with the March issue of *Czechout*.

This year was the turn of the **George Pearson** and **Francis Pettitt** competitions, for which there were respectively two 16-sheet and three 12-sheet entries. Using the time-honoured method of audience voting the George Pearson competition was won by **Tony Moseley** with his entry on the *German Takeover of Sudetenland* in 1938, and the runner-up was **Garth Taylor** with a study of the 1930s airmails issues, and the Francis Pettitt competition was won by **Ron Gillard** with his *Treasures of Prague Castle*, with runner-ups **Tony Moseley** *Heydrichiana* and **Wojciech Kierstan** *Coats of Arms*.

The afternoon was rounded off with a display by **Colin Smith** who provided us with a miscellany from his collecting experiences, including the Czech Army in the UK, mail from his attempts to send stamps to his Czechoslovak pen-pal during communist times, Eastern Silesia overprints in large blocks, postage due issues, and numerous other topics, finishing on the theme of hats!

Roger Morrell



Members viewing the George Pearson Trophy competition entries.



*Left: Members viewing the Francis Pettit Salver competition entries.
Right: Chairman Roger Morrell reading competition background notes.*



Newly elected Hon. Secretary Colin Smith describes his display.

Bill Dawson Literature Award Winners for 2015-2016

At the AGM the Chairman announced the winners of the award based on articles in *Czechout* over the previous two full years judged by five independent Society members. The joint winners are **Robert Lauer** and **Johan Sevenhuijsen** for their article *The Usage of Hungarian Stamps and Postal Stationery in Early Czechoslovakia* published in the September 2016 issue of *Czechout*. Hearty congratulations to them! Their certificates and books of their choice will be forwarded to them.



*Dawson Award recipients
Johan Sevenhuijsen and Robert Lauer.*

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 2017 Summer & Autumn issues of *Austria*, Nos. 199-200.

An Interesting Piece of Postal Stationery [a Trieste Wrapper] (Brandon); A Witness to History [The March 1938 Anschluss] (Muir); The Blue Postmark that Isn't (Herdbonk); A Journey on the Parenzaner - Istria's Narrow-Gauge Railway (Brandon); The Austro-Hungarian Navy in World War I Part 2 (Bosworth).

From Austro-Hungarian Empire to independent Czechoslovakia (Liebermann); The End of WWI – Collapse of the Italian Front (Morrell); Patriotic Frankings? [The Usage of Black & Yellow colours] (Brandon).

The June 2017 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 48. Whole No. 192.

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

Some ethical and legal questions about our hobby. Part 7 (Beneš); Pofis 25/Michel 33: 500 Heller Hradčany V Plate reconstruction. New revision of the known position of the stamps. Part 7: Plate II, positions 53-76 (Last); Plate flaws on Czechoslovak stamps 1945-1992. Part 12. 1981 – Pofis Nos. 2467-2518 (Norbjerg); The Sudetenland Corner. Part 16 (Bauer).

The Summer 2017 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 79, No 3. Whole No. 649.

Doubled Impression on the 5 Kč stamp of the 1932 Castles Issues (Květon); FDC Validity (Kráký); Defect and Service Interruption of Prague Pneumatic Tube Network (Šmíd); Other Philatelic Materials. Part 1 (Hart); Printing Technologies used to produce Postage Stamps (Hart).

Nos. 8, 9 & 10, 2017 issues of *Filatellie*, Vol. 67/1.

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

Forgeries of the rare watermark 'Linden Leaf' [II] (Beneš); Hradčany 120 h (Chudoba); Hradčany with cancellations [9] (VR); Soldiers from the CZ territory of the Austro-Hungarian army 1914-1918 [5] (Kunc);

Soldiers from the CZ territory of the Austro-Hungarian army 1914-1918 [6] (Kunc); Hradčany with cancellations [10] (VR); Hradčany 20 h (Chudoba); Imperial-Royal Privilege Mail Post in Prague (Krameř).

Hradčany with cancellations [11] (VR); Restoration of air traffic after the creation of the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia (Příkazský); Hradčany 300h (Chudo).

The 2017 issue of *Pošta Česko-Slovenská (formerly NIEUWS)*, No. 28.

The Masaryk issue of 1920 (Hounsell); Hradčany Inversions (Sevenhuijsen & Wilson); Postage Due Stamps used for postage (Hujer); Hradčany 60 Heller – Orange (Jonkergouw); The story behind the 20th anniversary the Battle of Arras stamps [1935 SG 339-40] (Russell).

The September 2017 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No. 210.

Collecting Hungary's World War I Post (Benford); On the Trail of the 1919 overprints. Part 16: Overprinted Hungarian Fieldpost Cards for the SHS (Morrell); The Cranes of the Plains. Part 3. Pains of Cranes (Soble). Comment on SHS Overprints on Hungarian Postal Stationery (van Weenen).

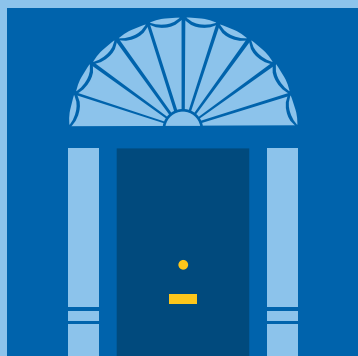
The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019. For this occasion an international exhibition will be held in Stockholm. H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be the Patron.



STOCKHOLMIA 2019

29 MAY - 2 JUNE

THE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON



The exhibition will comprise philatelic dealers and auction houses from all over the world. The exhibition will have an extensive philatelic and social program. Only Fellows and Members of the RPSL will be allowed to exhibit. The competitive classes will be judged by an international jury appointed by the Council of The RPSL.



STOCKHOLMIA 2019 will be organised at "Waterfront Congress Centre", Nils Ericsons Plan 4. It is Sweden's newest and most versatile venue for large-scale meetings and events.



Heydrichiada 1942-2017 – 75th Anniversary

Tony Moseley

2017 saw the 75th Anniversary of the parachute missions *Anthropoid* and *Silver A* successfully carried out within the German occupied territory of Böhmen und Mähren. The story of Anthropoid is well known and a new cinema film has been released. Czechoslovak soldiers sent from England, Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš, attacked and killed the German Reichsprotektor Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich as he was being driven into Prague from his villa at Panenské Břežany in his open-top Mercedes car. The attack took place on a tight bend in the Holešovice district. I will briefly outline some of the events, with a few items and photographs from my personal collection.

This year a large block bearing a 46 Kč stamp has been released by the Česká Pošta commemorating the mission. The sheet was issued on 17 May 2017, designed by Karel Zeman, and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň.



Anthropoid souvenir sheet cancelled at Pardubice.

The missions began on 28 December 1941 at Tangmere airfield where a Halifax Bomber prepared to leave at 2200. On board were several teams of parachutists, Anthropoid, Silver A, and Silver B, who had separate orders to carry out. We will see later that the paths of Anthropoid and one of the

members of Silver A were closely linked. Anthropoid should have been dropped near to Plzeň, but difficulties with navigation meant that they landed many miles away to the east of Prague, at Nehvizdy.



Top: Postcard commemorating Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš at the drop zone in Nehvizdy.

Lower left: Photo of the memorial taken on the 75th Anniversary of the parachutists landing in Nehvizdy 29 XII 2016.

Lower right: The church at Nehvizdy where Jan Kubiš asked for help from the parish priest, František Samek.

After months of planning while hiding at several Czech resistance safe houses in Prague, Gabčík and Kubiš decided Holešovice was the best place to carry out the attack. On 27 May 1942 as Heydrich's car slowed down to negotiate the bend Gabčík would open fire with his sten while Kubiš waited as backup with his modified grenades. A third parachutist, Josef Valčík, gave the signal as Heydrich approached. Valčík was a member of the Silver A group operating in Pardubice. He had

been working at the famous Hotel Veselká, Pardubice, but had to leave to escape attentions of the local Gestapo.

At the crucial moment of the attack Gabčík's sten jammed so Kubíř threw his grenade. It exploded against the side of the car wounding both Heydrich and Kubíř with fragments. The injured Heydrich was taken to the nearby Bulovka hospital, eventually operated on, but died from his wounds several days later on 4 June. The parachutists made their escape and went into hiding, helped by local Czech resistance patriots.



Top: July 2016 photograph of Reinhard Heydrich's villa Panenské Břežany.

Bottom: Period postcard of Bulovka Hospital.

Dated 1939 and sent to Teplitz Schönanau, occupied by Germany the previous October.

After the death of Heydrich the Germans carried out swift and drastic retribution whilst searching Prague for those responsible. Although not connected to the parachutists the mining village of Lidice near Kladno was singled out. The village was razed to the ground. The villagers including many children were either killed or sent to concentration camps. A few children who had been placed with German families returned to Czechoslovakia after the war as did some of the Lidice women. All of the Lidice men were shot at Horák's farm and buried there in a mass grave. The village was later rebuilt a short distance away from where the original village stood.

Few people know the name of Ležáky, a small hamlet of quarry stone workers (eight houses), to the southeast of Pardubice and Chrudim. This village had links with the Silver A group: Alfred 'Freda' Bartoš, Jíří Potůček, and Josef Valčík in Pardubice. The radio transmitter *Libuše* was hidden here and used by Jíří Potůček to reestablish contact links with London. On 24 June 1942 Ležáky was surrounded. The adult inhabitants were removed to Pardubice and later executed, along with local

resistance workers at Larischová Vila Zámeček, Pardubice (currently under major reconstruction; exhibitions about Silver A and Ležáky regularly take place there).

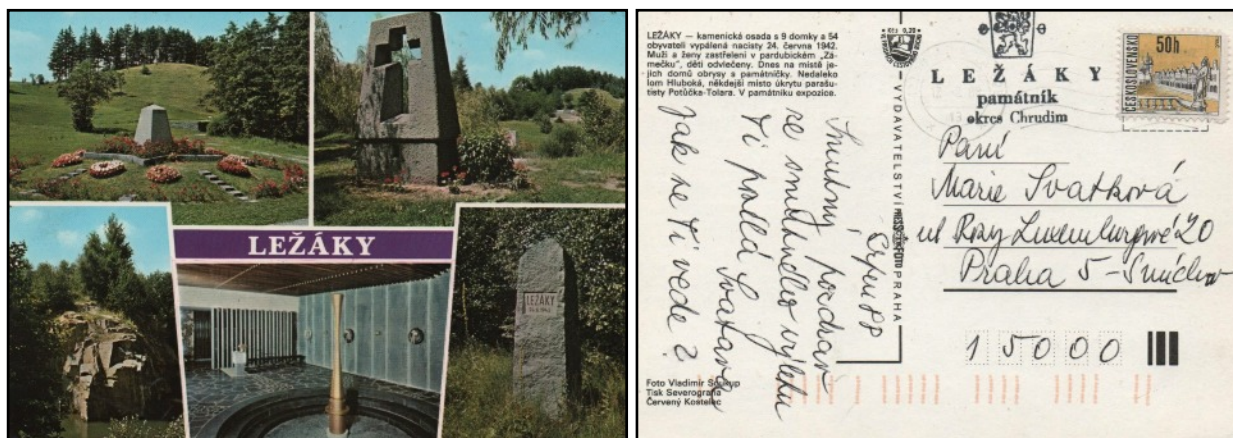
There were also 13 children who lived in Ležáky. Two sisters were selected for Germanisation, the other 11 and one girl from Lidice were murdered in mobile gas vans at Chełmno-Kulmhof.

Unlike Lidice, Ležáky was never rebuilt but has an interesting museum on the site and beautiful scenery. It is a great pity that more people do not know about or visit Ležáky, as it is well worth a day exploring.

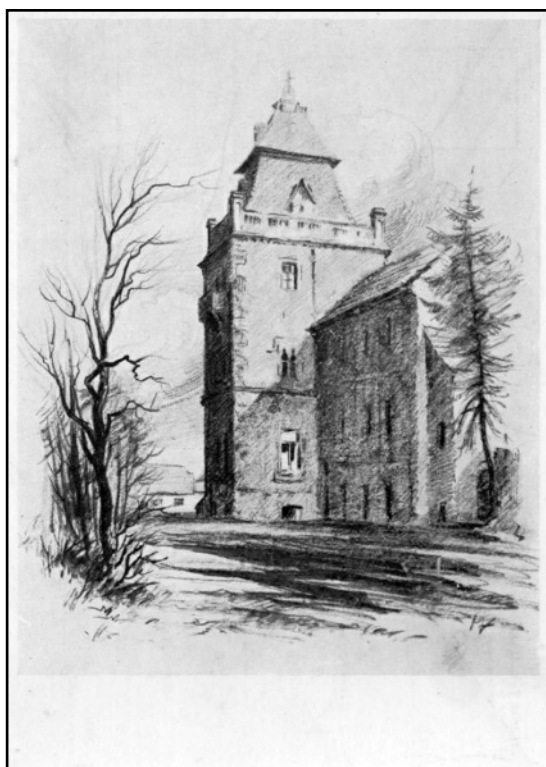
None of the members of the Silver A team survived. Freda Bartoš died in Pardubice following a chase and street gunfight pursued by Gestapo men. With his escape route cut off, he took his own life. Josef Valčík died at the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Cyril and St. Methodius in Prague. The last surviving member, Jíří Potůček, was shot dead while sleeping by a Protektorat gendarme at Trnová north of the river Labe, Pardubice, on 2 July 1942. This was also the same date as the executions at Pardubice Zámeček. One of the casualties of the Silver A resistance group was the famous prewar Czech motorcycle speedway racer and founder of the Zláta přilba race, František Hladěna, who died in mysterious circumstances on 20 June 1942 while in Gestapo custody.



Top: 1947 registered censored cover from Olomouc 6 to Linz, Austria, franked with Lidice issues.
Bottom: Memorial to the children of Lidice by Marie Uchytlová.



Postcard of Ležáky with special 1980 cachet, to Praha 5 – Smichov.



Top: Hotel Veselká, Pardubice, where Josef Valčík of Silver A worked.
 Lower left: Larischova vila, Pardubice. Lower right: Zámeček execution site memorial grounds, Pardubice.

Following the completion of Anthropoid the Germans could find no trace of the parachutists. A substantial reward was offered. Karel Čurda, a parachutist from the group Out Distance walked into Prague Gestapo HQ, Petscheck Palace, and volunteered information about the men involved and their helpers. Because of Čurda's betrayal the flat of the Moravec family was raided. Under interrogation, their young son, Aťa Moravec, was brutalised and revealed the hiding place of the soldiers: the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Cyril and St. Methodius on Resslova Street.

The ancient crypt underneath the cathedral had become a hiding place for a total of seven parachutists. Gabčík, Kubiš, and Valčík had been joined by others seeking refuge: Adolf Opálka of Out Distance, Jan Hrubý and Josef Bublík of Bioscope, and Jaroslav Švarc of Tin. On the early morning of 18 June the church was surrounded by German troops. The parachutists were hidden in two separate locations within the building. Opálka, Kubiš, and Bublík in the upper levels of the church; they fell, one by one, fighting against the Germans.

While searching the church, the Germans, believing that there were more parachutists in hiding, found a trapdoor to the crypt. Below were Gabčík, Valčík, Hrubý, and Švarc. They were called on to surrender, but replied defiantly *Jsmě Češi! Nikdy se nevzdáme!* (We are Czechs! We will never give up!). Their defiance is quoted on the Anthropoid sheet. Eventually a disused stairway leading down below was discovered. As the Germans broke into the crypt the remaining parachutists took their own lives.



Top: The seven parachutists who were hiding at the church.
 Bottom left: The crypt. Bronze memorials to Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš, December 2016.
 Bottom right: Tributes left to Gabčík and Kubiš, August 2017.



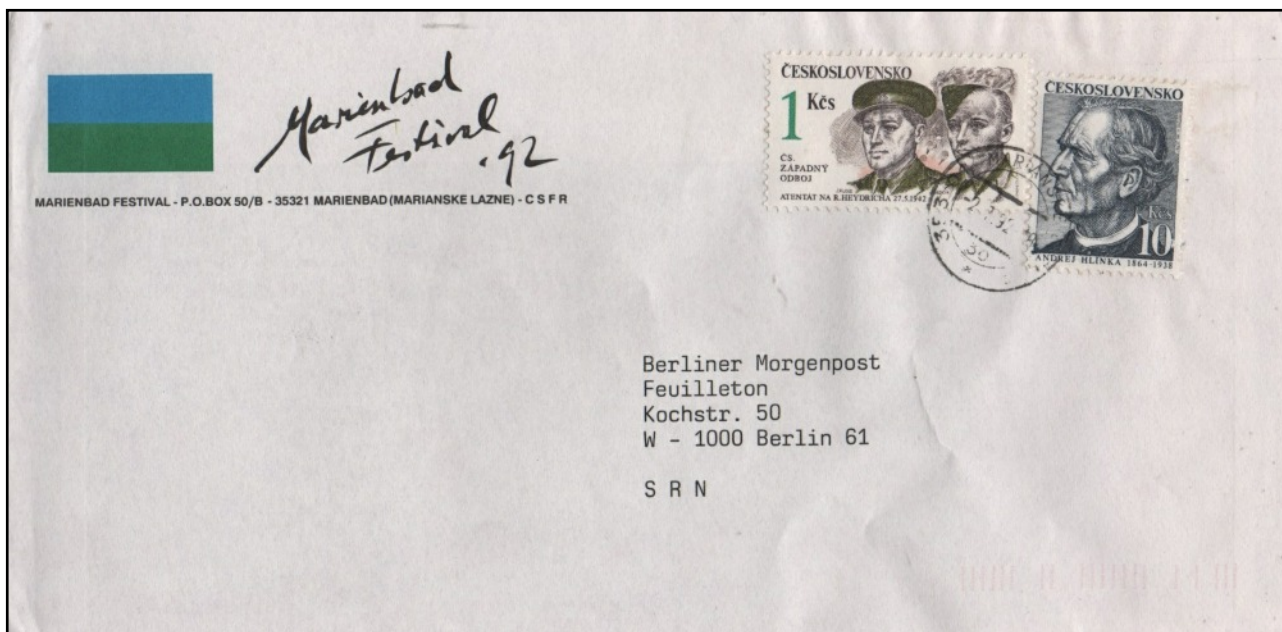
*Left: Orthodox Church of Saint Cyril & Saint Methodius, Resslova Street, Prague.
Right: Icon of Bishop Gorazd, recognised as a new martyr on 4 May 1961.*

The Orthodox Church paid dearly for their courage in helping the parachutists. Bishop Gorazd took responsibility for the events. He and several of his colleagues were arrested by the Gestapo, interrogated, put on trial, and executed at Kobylisy firing range. The church building had been considerably damaged during the fighting and remained closed. The Orthodox Church was not allowed to function again until the end of hostilities in 1945.

Recent research suggests that many of the parachutists, including those from Anthropoid and Silver A were buried in an unmarked mass grave located at Ďáblice cemetery in Prague. At the time of writing there is a possibility that future investigation will be made to identify those buried there. It will be a complex and difficult task as executed Nazis such as Karl Hermann Frank and many victims of Communism also came to rest here. A new memorial a short walk from the grave site pays tribute to the Czech and Slovak patriots of Ďáblice.



*Left: Memorial at Ďáblice, October 2017.
Right: Heydrich stamps issued in 1943 used on registered cover. Correctly franked at 4.20 K.*



1992 Gabčík and Kubiš Atentat issue used at Mariánské Lázně.

While based at Cholmondeley Castle Jan Kubiš and Josef Gabčík often stayed at the home of the Ellison family who lived in the Shropshire village of Ightfield. The two soldiers became good friends with sisters Edna and Lorna Ellison. The story of the friendship is told in the excellent book by John Martin called *The Mirror Caught The Sun* which tells the story of Anthropoid. There is also an active Facebook group with the name *The Mirror Caught The Sun* with more than 700 members. The group raised money for a memorial commemorating the friendship between the Ellisons and the parachutists as no memorial to the soldiers had previously existed in Ightfield. The memorial forms part of the Ellison family plot at the village church and was unveiled on 23 July 2017. John Martin regularly runs a tour to Czech Republic, visiting places connected to Anthropoid. The next tour is due to take place in August 2018.



The Ightfield Plaque.

Thanks to the following people for help and encouragement in putting together this article: John Martin in the UK, Marek Melša in Prague, Colonel František Bobek and Jiří Hofman, Jednota čsol Chrudim at Zámeček Memorial in Pardubice.

All photographs and images from the collection of Tony Moseley (images reduced in size).

The Hradčany Tête-Bêche Enigma – Solved?

Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson

The authors are currently engaged in writing a new CPSGB monograph centred on the technical history of the Hradčany issue. During an exchange of emails we discussed an odd variant of the Hradčany 100 and 200 haler denominations called Protichůdné Dvojice (*tête-bêche pairs*). We wondered if we should attempt to explain them in the monograph then decided for the moment to subject our theory to scrutiny by publishing similar articles in Czechout and the Dutch Society's journal Pošta Česko-Slovenská. The articles relate our joint reasoning as we tackled this puzzle. See page 26 for an exciting continuation of this exploration.

Tête-bêche Hradčany stamps are extremely uncommon pieces. Neither of us owned or had actually seen a real copy. For our research we sought out images of the strips in the literature and found auction catalogues an especially rich resource. The number of times the same piece appeared at auction surprised us as did their astounding reserve prices.

We found images of three 100 haler and six 200 haler strips. Some strips appeared repeatedly in different auction catalogues and likely make up the core of the surviving population. Of course, there may be others held privately but never brought to market such as two illustrated by the *Merkur-Revue*.

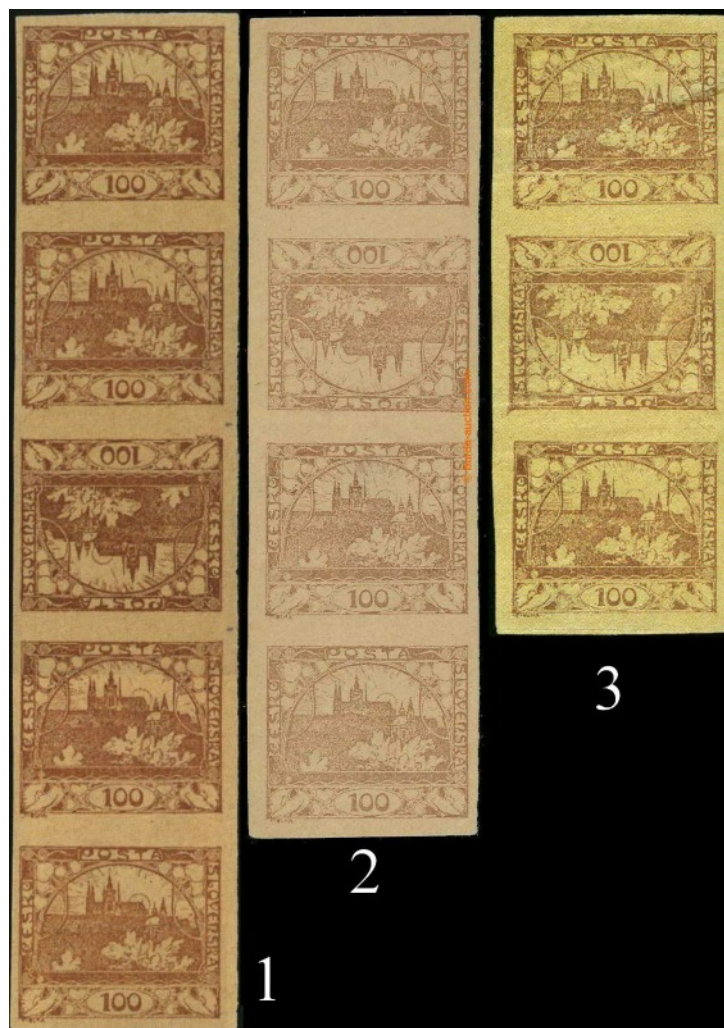


Figure 1a: The three 100 haler tête-bêche strips.
Please ignore the false colour variance induced by scanners and printers.
Merkur-Revue (1); *Burda* auction (2); *Majer* auction (3).

Many catalogues illustrate these stamps but offer little further explanation as to their origin. They are always found in vertical strips of from two to six stamps with exactly one stamp inverted. All of the strips are printed on craft paper without gum, the brownish paper commonly seen as makulatur or printers' waste. They are typically attributed to an after-hours illicit printing by a Czech Graphics Union employee who had access to the plates but not to any official stamp paper, hence their printing on craft paper. There is no reason to assign the work elsewhere, but that the printing took place in another print shop remains an open but very distant possibility.



Figure 1b: The four free-standing 200 haler tête-bêche strips.
 Merkur-Revue (1); Sobotka auction (2); Majer auction (3); Profil August 1988 auction (4).
 A three-stamp version of (4) appears in the POFIS 1918-1939 catalogue (likely cut-off to fit the page).



Figure 2: The two 200 haler tête-bêche strips attached to parcel cards.
 The two-stamp strip on the right-hand clipping is found in another format – see page 26.
 Source: Majer auctions.

As was said, few facts about these prints exist. The *Monografie*, Volume 1, page 106 mentions them:

Tête-bêche prints exist for two denominations. The 100 haler is known in vertical strips of three or four stamps and the 200 haler in a strip of four, all on brownish paper without gum. They were evidently produced simultaneously from purposefully cut blocks inserted into the printing plate on the printing forme. This was apparently done outside normal working hours because the printer had no access to the paper ordinarily used for stamps.

The 100 haler shows an inverted Position 58 in place of Position 43 of Plate II. The sixth row was not completely inverted because Position 53 is in its original position. For the 200 haler apparently only Position 50 was inverted. A 200 haler inverted strip is known on a parcel card cancelled Újantálvölgy dated 13 May 1919 [Figure 2, left – Editor]. This is a philatelic piece made with a cancelling device sent to Prague in exchange for a new canceller. In 1920, the piece sold for 1000 Kč; in 1928 it was bought by a Prague collector. In 1938 it went to America and later fetched \$500 in New York.

Perhaps because of a parcel card's high franking possibilities (400 and 800 haler in Figure 2) the only strips feigning postal use are found on them. One peculiarity of parcel cards is that the post office retained them after the delivery of the parcel; they were then often sold off as kiloware. As such the posted strips could not be directed to a specific person and the culprit may have meant to imply their 'accidental discovery' in kiloware. As a retired CDS device cancelled the card on the left and experts say the right card's postmark is likely forged, both parcel cards may be dismissed as constructions meant to deceive collectors.

Obviously these strips are not the result of some printing mishap nor are they from a normal plate containing clichés inverted in error. We know this because fabrication of the plates for the 100 and 200 haler began with a photographic negative containing no inverted stamps. One is challenged to imagine any scenario where certain clichés suddenly became accidentally inverted.

Here we agree with the *Monografie*: they are a fabrication carried out without authorization by a Czech Graphics Union worker likely at the behest of some dealer able to produce forged postmarks. We do feel, however, that the *Monografie* is completely mistaken as to how that worker created them.

Rather than depend upon reports in the literature, we prefer whenever possible to let stamps speak for themselves. The catalogue images were of sufficient quality to ascertain – using the CPSGB's print-on-demand Hradčany 100 and 200 haler plating guides – that the strips' stamps suffered precisely the same identifying flaws as did the same stamps from official printings. For every stamp in one of the illustrated strips we were able to determine its original plate position – again thanks to the CPSGB plating guides. As it turns out the 100 haler stamps were printed using Plate II and the 200 haler stamps using Plate I. All of the upright stamps in the strips came from the first, second, third, fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth rows of each plate and in the same order as they appeared on those plates. All of the inverted stamps came from the sixth row of their respective plates (Figure 3). Readers are invited to verify these facts for themselves by referring to the CPSGB plating manuals.

If you do not own these books, they may be purchased from the CPSGB Treasurer. Or, should you choose, you may consult them for free online at: <http://www.czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm>.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
09	69	89	79	99	59	49	39	29	19
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
09	69	89	79	99	59	49	39	29	19
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Figure 3: Schematic indicating the plate locations of known tête-bêche strips.
Left – 100 haler Plate II; Right – 200 haler Plate I.

In Figure 3 coloured clichés represent known strips. White indicates the possible sequence of printed clichés implied by positions identified within the strips. We assumed both plates underwent the same production process and so extended to the 100 haler plate first, second, and eighth row clichés confirmed by 200 haler strips but not seen in 100 haler strips. Grey represents clichés from unseen rows. No strip replicates another's position, implying the printer created a single pane (but the two-stamp and one of the six-stamp 200 haler strips each appear in an explainable alternate format).

Take particular notice of the missing fifth row (Positions 41-50) and the inverted and upright presence of the sixth row (Positions 51-60). Any explanation as to how the tête-bêche strips were created must account for the missing and doubled row anomalies.

We may immediately discard the *Monografie's* sawn-apart plate theory. The appearance of Position 58 (Figure 3, 200 haler, outlined in yellow) in both an inverted and upright state confirms the physically impossible double presence of the same cliché. There is no way cutting clichés from a plate could produce the same position twice. The *Monografie* also ignores the very real problem the worker would have faced upon the discovery of the two disfigured plates.

Printing the strips might have employed the manufacture of new plates, either in full or just the first through eighth rows (Figure 4). It is possible these were made using a mould taken from the original plates, a technique used to replicate and replace certain Dove and Liberated Republic plates. The new plates would retain all of the original plate's identifying flaws. Save for flaws introduced by the casting process, stamps printed from the new plates would be indistinguishable from the originals.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

Figure 4: Fanciful partial plate taken from a mould of the first through eighth rows of the ten-row original plate.

To insert an inverted row the printer would have to make two cuts – one above the fifth row and one below it. This would have isolated the fifth row and seemingly made it an ideal candidate for the inverted row (Figure 5). Instead, the printer discarded the fifth row and made a second copy of the sixth row (Figure 6). While one can imagine probable circumstances behind the discard, there appears to be no reason for the selection of the sixth as the row to copy. Because this scenario fails to address in any substantive manner the selection of upright rows, the absence of the fifth row, or the doubling of the sixth row, we were moved to discard it as we did the *Monografie's* theory.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

Figure 5: The partial plate cut into three pieces.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
09	6S	8S	LS	9S	SS	TS	ES	7S	IS
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

Figure 6: The partial plate ready for reassembly.

The authors of the *Merkur-Revue* article posit yet another method. Like us, they seemed to find altering or reproducing the plate problematic. Instead, they suggest the printer masked parts of the plate with pieces of paper. Doing so would prevent one row from being printed so that the pane could

be inverted and the blank area printed with an inverted row. Although it seems as though this might produce the desired results we are advised by a professional graphics designer that masking any part of the plate would likely interfere with the proper printing of the unmasked portion of the plate.

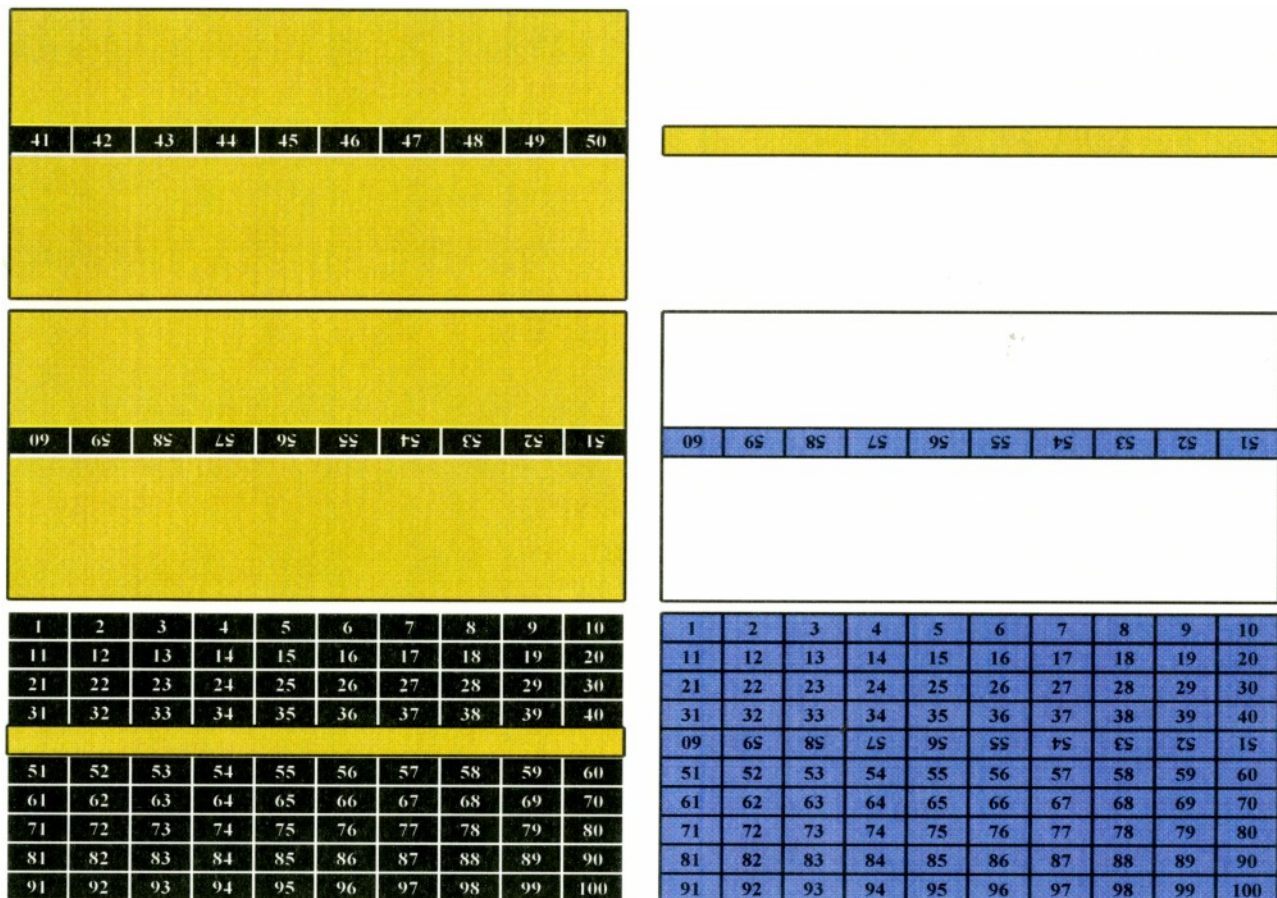


Figure 7: Mock-up of the masked printing technique.

Similar to but not an exact reproduction of the suggested Merkur-Revue technique.

(Top)

Left: Cover the plate (black) with a piece of paper (yellow).

Right: Cut a strip from the paper over the middle (fifth) row. Preserve the strip for later use.

(Centre)

Left: Invert the plate (black) and cover it with the mask (yellow).

Right: Print through the slot in the mask (yellow) to produce an inverted sixth row (blue) on the paper (white).

(Bottom)

Left: Cover the middle (fifth) row on the now upright plate (black) with the strip from the mask (yellow).

Right: Print the uncovered rows (blue) to complete the task.

We propose a far simpler technique grounded in common printing practices and taking into account the structure of the Hradčany printing plates. First, printers have much experience printing on the same sheet of paper multiple times, for instance, in producing multi-colour prints. This requires careful alignment of the plates as shown in Figure 8.



Figure 8: Four WIFAG offset plates required to produce a four-colour print.

Source: <http://www.stampprinters.info/WIFAG.pdf>

Next, if two panes of Hradčany stamps are placed beside one another with one inverted and their rows aligned, specific rows match up with only one other: row 3 with 8, 4 with 7, 5 with 6, and so on (Figure 9, left). If we then think of the panes of stamps in Figure 9 (left) as the same plate seen twice (once upright and once inverted), we can see that selecting any row to be inverted all but forces another specific row to be suppressed – to disappear if a double print is to be avoided. If the printer

chooses to print an inverted sixth row from the middle of the plate then row five, also in the middle, will disappear as the 100 and 200 haler Hradčany tête-bêche strips require.

Also, since the plate is oblong in the vertical direction – the result of the tally numbers at the bottom – the inverted plate in Figure 9 (right) must be offset slightly for the rows to align. All print shops have a collection of various-sized metal slugs to support this sort of plate alignment.

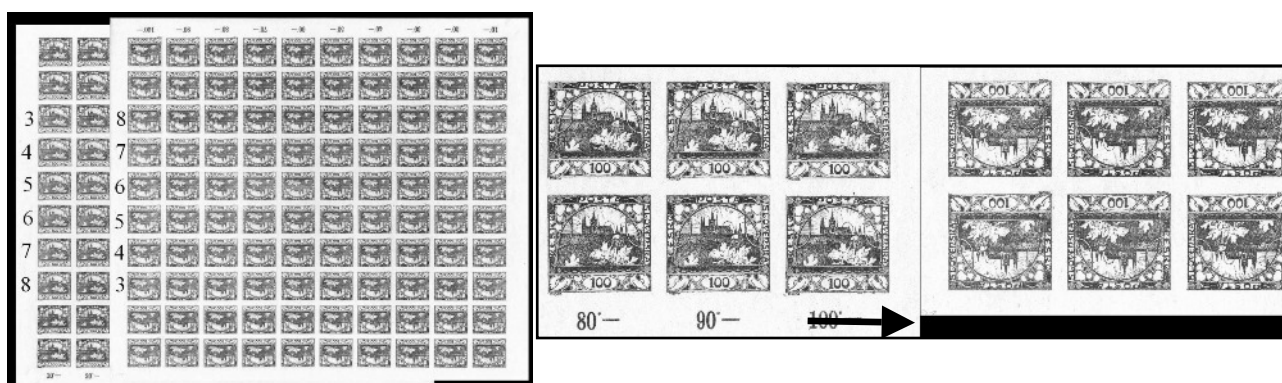


Figure 9: Left – Two views of the same plate upright and inverted on the press.

Careful alignment of the inverted plate in the press bed puts the inverted rows in line with the upright rows.

Right – The inverted plate's offset (in black) is the size of the tally number margin less the size of the plate's top margin.

The printer would begin by inverting the original plate on the press. To align it he inserted spacers below the plate equivalent to the size of the tally number margin less the size of the plate's upper margin (Figure 9, right). He carefully inked only the sixth row with a small hand-held roller while at the same time avoiding any application of ink to the other rows. When the printer activated the press an impression of the inverted sixth row appeared on the paper in the press (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Paper on the press after the first pass.

He removed the spacers and plate from the press, then replaced the plate on the press bed in an upright position. He next inked first through fourth, then at least the sixth through eighth rows – he may have even inked every row except for the suppressed fifth row – then activated the press once more to surround the inverted row on the paper with upright rows (Figure 11). The number of rows inked determined whether he produced a partial eight-row or a full ten-row pane. Note that the order of the two passes is immaterial; he could print the inverted row with either the first or second pass.

The *Merkur-Revue* article seems to suggest that the tête-bêche stamps may have been a legitimate Czech Graphics Union project. The authors posit, like the Dove and Liberated Republic tête-bêche stamps, perhaps the tête-bêche strips were intended to support a Hradčany booklet issue. However, the stamps in those later booklet issues were inverted to provide selvedge to attach the booklet panes to the booklet cover – and the Hradčany inversions serve no such purpose. Nor would these high-denomination booklets seem a very useful venture. Thus we have little confidence in that theory.



Figure 11: Paper after the second pass. The number of rows inked determined the production of a full or partial pane.

Our solution – using the original plates and replacing the fifth with an inverted sixth row – relies upon evidence presented by the stamps, requires only common printing practices and equipment, supports the reasonable disappearance of the fifth row and the doubling of the sixth row, would take very little time to accomplish, and allows for the printing of either a full or partial pane.

Our belief is that the company never authorized the production of the tête-bêche stamps. A skilled employee easily could have carried out the printing in a matter of a few minutes outside of regular working hours, perhaps on behalf of some dealer willing to bribe him; certainly their initial high prices support such a theory. One might even imagine a clever employee producing the stamps during working hours. To avoid suspicion, he might have used craft paper rather than stamp paper; one would think that, even in as free and easy a work environment as the Czech Graphics Union appeared to be during that period, some control existed to prevent unauthorized printing on stamp papers.

We put our method forward as the most satisfactory solution to the Hradčany tête-bêche puzzle. Any disagreement? Alternatives?

Resources

Monografie československých známek, díl 1. Prague, 1968.

Larsen, Pellant, Kolář. *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 100 Haler.* CPSGB, On-demand.

Pellant, Ryvola. *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 200 Haler.* CPSGB, On-demand.

Filépek, Vrba. 'Hradčany Tête-Bêche,' *Merkur-Revue* 4/2017, pp 6-7.

Various *Sobotka, Burda, Majer, and Profil* auction catalogues.

A Recent Hradčany Tête-Bêche Parcel Card Fabrication

Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson

In November 2017 Jan Bisschops, having read our recent article about tête-bêche stamps in his Dutch Society journal, pointed out to us the image of a mint two-stamp strip appearing on page 10 of the 2010 David Feldman auction catalogue featuring items from the estate of the well-known American expert Dr Ladislav Fischmeister (https://issuu.com/davidfeldman/docs/czechoslovakia_web). The strip seems at this remove quite genuine (Figure 1). Two years later the March 2012 Majer auction catalogue offered in Lot 52 a cancelled tête-bêche pair attached to a parcel card with a 25,000 Kč reserve – also and most significantly – attributed to the L Fischmeister collection (Figure 2).

The cancelled stamps affixed to that parcel card appear to us to be physically identical to the free-standing mint pair from the Feldman 2010 catalogue. They are from the same two plate positions, have similar edges (one edge of the affixed strip has been pared down slightly), and bear identical superfluous markings (some of which cannot be seen in the image as printed here).

We offer two more points in further support of our argument. First, we believe that every Hradčany 200 haler tête-bêche strip was taken from a single clandestinely printed pane and is thus unique. Even were this theory proven false, it staggers the imagination to believe that Dr Fischmeister owned two identical tête-bêche pairs from the same plate positions – one mint and one on a cancelled parcel card. Second, if against all odds he did own two such items, why was the parcel card not offered along with the mint pair in the Feldman auction?

Since the Fischmeister estate underwent dispersal in 2010 the parcel card's 2012 claim of Fischmeister collection ancestry raises serious doubts as to its actual provenance. These doubts are underscored by the card's apparent absence from pre-2010 literature.

We leave it to experts with access to the original piece to confirm or refute our theory that the mint pair and the cancelled pair on the parcel card are precisely the same physical stamps. If they are, it is clear that someone constructed the parcel card clipping from the Fischmeister mint pair sometime after the April 2010 Feldman auction but before the March 2012 Majer auction.

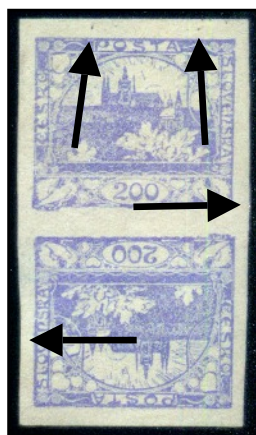


Figure 1 (with enlarged detail): Mint tête-bêche pair (Positions 33 and 58) from the Feldman April 2010 catalogue. Note the marks in the upper margin of the tête-bêche pair; these appear on this particular stamp from Position 33 but not on ordinary stamps from the same position on official panes. There are other identifying markings too minute to discern here on the printed page. Image source: Feldman Czechoslovakia Specialized & Austrian Empire catalogue.



Figure 2 (with enlarged detail): Cancelled and affixed tête-bêche pair from the March 2012 Majer catalogue. Note the marks in the left margin and the trimmed lower edge. The other identifying markings mentioned in Figure 1 also appear on these stamps. Image source: Majer catalogue.

This clipping was offered again in the September 2013 Majer catalogue as Lot 43, but this time attributed to H Klein, with a reserve of 79,000 Kč. It then appeared in the September 2017 Majer catalogue (here attributed simply to Klein) as Lot 114 with a reserve of 29,000 Kč. The *Merkur-Revue* in a March 2017 article mentioned it while also warning its cancellation might be a forgery.

New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

Printing Techniques



RD: rotary die stamping with multi-colour photogravure.

DS: die stamping from flat plates.

WAITE: flatbed recess printing by WAITE machine.

WIFAG: rotary recess press combined with photogravure.

KOMB: combination of recess from flat plates and offset.

Czech NVI Stamps with Current Rates

A: ordinary internal letter to 50 g – 16 Kč.

E: ordinary standard letter to 50 g to European countries – 32 Kč.

Z: ordinary standard air letter to 50 g to non-European countries – 37 Kč.

6 September 2017 Nature Protection: Zoological Gardens II

Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek. **Engraver:** Martin Srb. **Printing:** KOMB in a commemorative souvenir sheet of 4 stamps, 4 central coupons and illustrated surround. FDCs – 4 issued WAITE.

Design: rare animals living in zoological gardens in the Republic (*see back cover*).

16 Kč: European bison representing the zoo of Chomutov Zoo, Bohemia. **FDC:** with commemorative Chomutov cancel and cachet drawings of rare Bukhara deer.

20 Kč: a pair of white lions and a group of chimpanzees at Hodonín Zoo in Moravia. **FDC:** with a commemorative Hodonín cancel and cachet of study drawings of a Siberian tiger.

24 Kč: polar bears and two cubs at Brno Zoo. **FDC:** The cachet drawings depict the wolverine which has been successfully bred at this Moravian zoo.

30 Kč: a mature Indian rhinoceros with a calf and a blue lizard which is endemic to the Batanta Island, Indonesia at Plzeň Zoo. **FDC:** The cachet drawings are studies of flamingos.

6 September 2017 Technical Monuments – 170 Years of Public Gas Street Lighting



Designer: Pavel Sivko. **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček. **Printing:** WIFAG in sheets of 30 and booklets of 8 stamps. **FDC:** printed WAITE with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing in black is a selection of historic gas street lamps with a lamplighter. **Design:** the top of an historic three-lamp street light.

Street lighting became compulsory in Prague in 1623 with pitch-based flares on buildings. The first 200 gas lights appeared on 15 September 1847. Twenty years later Prague began operating its own municipal gas company at Žižkov when 2598 gas lamps were installed. During the late 19th century electric lighting began to replace the gas lamps but there were still more than 9000 gas street lamps in 1940, with the last ones to be converted to electricity in 1985. Since 1992 a few streets in Prague have returned to gas lighting.

6 September 2017 The Three Kings Resistance Group



Designer: Karel Zeman. **Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** WAITE in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is a circle of three pistols with a Bohemian lion motif at the centre. **Design:** Portraits of Lieutenant Colonel Josef Balabán, Lieutenant Colonel Josef Mašín, and Brigadier General Václav Morávek, members of the National Resistance group known as the Three Kings.

The name was given by the Gestapo to the three men who were members of the intelligence and sabotage group of the National Resistance movement which began its activities shortly after the occupation of Bohemia and Moravia in March 1939. By early Spring 1940 the Germans had destroyed most of the Czech resistance but the Three Kings evaded capture. Balabán was arrested in April 1941 and shot some five months later; Mašín was arrested May 1941 and executed June 1942; Morávek continued resistance activities until March 1942 when he too was mortally wounded.

6 September 2017 Definitive NVI 'A' – Mauritius in the Czech Republic



Designers: Jaromír and Kamil Knotek. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset with special imitation of the gold colour in sheets of 50. **FDC:** multi-coloured offset with commemorative Olomouc cancel. The cachet design reproduces the legendary *Blue Mauritius* stamp with a portrait of the philatelist Phillip Ferrari de la Renotière (1850–1917). **Design:** a design of the *Blue Mauritius* on a gold background. Only 12 copies of the 500 two pence blue issued by Mauritius in 1847 are known to exist. Ferrari was a French millionaire nobleman who formed large collections of the greatest stamp rarities of the world. Although some of these rarities were later found to be forgeries his collections earned him the nickname of King of Stamps.

6 September 2017 Definitive NVI 'A' – Partner Post Office



Designer: Jan Ungrád. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 100 and in booklets of 5. No official FDC issued. **Design:** a figure holding a red heart and the text *Pošta Partner*. The Post Partner project will be expanded and offers a similar service to that of the Czech Post Office. The Partner is a third party offering all basic services with some additional ones such as the sale of newspapers, magazines or lottery tickets.

20 September 2017 100th Anniversary of the Association of Czech Graphic Artists – Hollar



Designers: Jan Kavan (stamp), Pavel Sivko (FDC). **Engraver:** Martin Srb. **Printing:** WIFAG in sheets of 50. **FDC:** WAITE with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a pot with work tools of artists, engravers and graphic artists and a rose. **Design:** a portrait of Václav Hollar (1607-1677) holding a paper with the logo of the Hollar Association. The Association was formed in 1917 to promote the development of Czech free graphic art, adopting the name of Hollar to honour the Czech engraver. It published many books, articles and organised exhibitions until suspended by the Communist authorities in 1970. In 1990 it resumed its activities.

4 October 2017 200 Years of Letter Boxes



Designer: Paul Sivko. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider. **Printing:** WIFAG in sheets of 30 and booklets of 8. **FDC:** WAITE with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design shows a postal worker emptying a modern letter box beside three historic post boxes. **Design:** three post boxes: in yellow from the Austrian period; in blue from inter-war Czechoslovakia; and standard orange (here shown in yellow!) box used from 1963. A decree by the Austrian monarchy stated that from 1 June 1817 there would be at least one post box in every post office. Once postage stamps were introduced (1850 in Czech lands) post boxes of metal appeared in places other than post offices and stations. From 1870 these boxes were of three sizes but identical in shape, colour and mechanism. After independence these were gradually replaced by blue boxes with a red and white line and the national emblem. Today they are an orange colour with a postal logo.

4 October 2017 Family

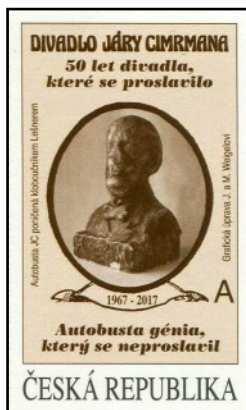


Designer: Kristýna Valtrová. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider. **Printing:** WIFAG in sheets of 50. **FDC:** in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a family having fun whilst camping. **Design:** a symbolic family riding a tandem bicycle.

4 October 2017 The 1917 Fight for Czech Statehood (No. 4 in series 1914-1918)

Designer: Jan Maget. **Engraver:** Václav Fajt (FDCs only). **Printing:** multi-coloured offset, in souvenir sheets of two stamps, three coupons and decorative surround. **FDCs:** printed WAITE in black with commemorative Praha cancels. The cachet drawings **a)** soldiers with a flag rushing into a fray; **b)** hands on the manifesto as it is being signed. This Manifesto of Czech Writers, 17 May 1917, requested the Imperial Council to stop acting against the will of the Czech people. **Designs: Stamps a)** representatives of Czech statehood – soldiers fighting and portraits of M R Štefánik, T G Masaryk, and Jan Syrový; **b)** against the background of the Manifesto of Czech Writers the portraits of Jaroslav Kvapil and Alois Jirásek. **Coupons: a)** (at left) soldiers with the first ensign of the Czech Company – Jaroslav Hejduk; **b)** (at right) portraits of Emperor Karl who succeeded Emperor Franz Josef after his death and Count Czernin the foreign minister appointed by Emperor Karl; **c)** (above) massed troops and flags of the fighting nations. The lower part of the sheet has portraits of Woodrow Wilson and Edvard Beneš (at left) and (at right) portraits of representatives of the fighting nations – Paul von Hindenburg, Victor Emmanuel II, and Raymond Poincaré. (See back cover.)

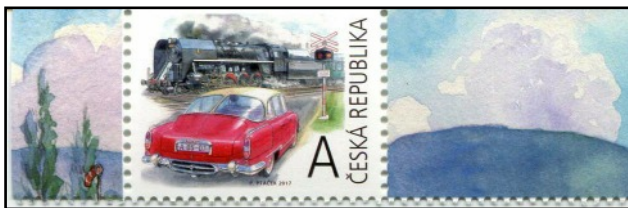
4 October 2017 Self-Adhesive Definitive NVI ‘A’ Booklet – Half a Century with Cimrman



Designers: J and M Weigel. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in booklets of 8. No official FDC issued.

Design: Jára Cimrman's defaced bust of himself. The sculpture was used as a mould by the hat maker Lešner for steaming his creations and so became damaged. The front of the booklet has a drawing of the bust with numbered details of the damage; the back cover has further details of the bust and Czech Post logo with hologram. (A stamp with a self portrait of Cimrman was issued on 26 November 2014).

18 October 2017 Definitive NVI ‘A’ for Personalised Printing – Retro Transportation



Designer: Petr Ptáček. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels for personalised prints. No official FDC was issued.

Design: stamp: a vintage Tatra car waiting at a level crossing as a vintage steam locomotive passes by. The sheet, before personalised printing, is a view of an airport with a variety of small vintage planes, a scooter, hangar, and mobile weather station.

8 November 2017 100 Years of the Czech Astronomical Society



Designer: Vladimír Suchánek. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider (FDC only). **Printing:** WIFAG in sheets of 50. **FDC:** WAITE with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is a motif of the sun and moon. **Design:** a starry night sky with an observatory. The Czech Astronomical Society was formed in December 1917 as a voluntary association of professional scientific astronomers, amateurs, and people interested in astronomy. Today it collaborates with many local and foreign scientific societies, supports the development of astronomy, organises the youth event Astronomical Olympiad, and publishes information.

8 November 2017

Works of Art on Postage Stamps

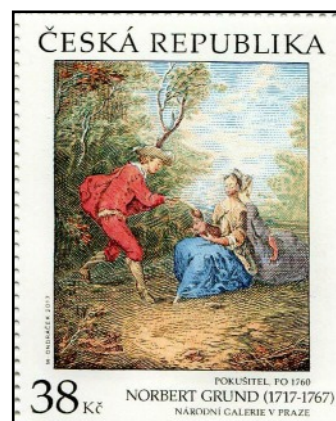


Designer and Engraver: Miloš Ondráček (from original art work) 38 Kč. **Printing:** DS in sheets of four (38 Kč); offset (32 Kč) in sheets of four. **FDCs:** WAITE (38 Kč); digital print (32 Kč); with commemorative Praha cancels. **Designs:**

32 Kč: *Cuddled* by Taras Kuščynskyj from a private collection. The FDC cachet is from another of his photographs *The Back*. Kuščynskyj was a photographer specialising in advertising, portrait photography, and nudes. After graduating from the Czech Technical University, Prague where he studied architecture he worked as a designer. In

1966 he became an independent photographer exhibiting at home and abroad. He preferred to work outdoors without artificial light and special equipment.

38 Kč: *A Gallant Scene* (1760) by Norbert Grund in the National Gallery, Prague. Grund came from Bohemia and was initially taught by his father but later travelled to Vienna, Venice, and Würzburg before returning to Prague where he joined the painters' guild at the Lesser Town. He preferred smaller genre and landscape paintings in the late Baroque/Rococo style which could be sold more easily to provide for a large family. **FDC:** from Grund's work *The Washer Woman*.



Postal Stationery Promotional Postcards

All cards printed in full colour offset with a logo of the Czech Post and security hologram. Under the stamp is a continuous line of microtext – *Česká pošta, PTC, 2017*. Retail price of a card with NVI 'A' stamp is 21 Kč; with a NVI 'E' stamp 37 Kč.

6 September 2017 Praga Piccola

Central and Eastern European Stamp and Coin Collectors gathering held 7-9 September 2017, Prague. Imprinted 'A' stamp showing the logo of the Collectors Trade Fair. The cachet design is a stamp outline with an impression of an early airfield, vintage car and two vintage airplanes with text and logo of the event to the side.

6 September 2017 Sběratel 2017

International Trade Fair for stamps, coins, minerals and collectibles held 8-9 September 2017, Prague. Imprinted 'A' stamp with a post horn motif. The cachet is from a poster for the film *Terminator 2* with the text *Arnold Schwarzenegger – 70 years; Gallery of Classics* with additional text above and to the side.

20 September 2017 Laver Cup

Annual men's tennis tournament held 22-24 September 2017, Prague. This was the first year the tournament was held and is named after the Australian tennis player Rod Laver. Imprinted 'E' stamp with a tennis ball motif and the text *Rod Laver – World Tennis Legend*. The left side of the card has a portrait of Rod Laver, the cup to be awarded to the tournament winner, and text *Laver Cup*.

26 October 2017 Sindelfingen 2017

International Stamp Bourse held from 26-28 October, Sindelfingen, Germany. Imprinted 'E' stamp with a post coach motif. The left side of the card has an old letter-weighing machine in front of a picture of a young lady posing with a butterfly and text of the event.

Officers and Committee

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

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Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four meetings each year in London, one in Yorkshire, and one elsewhere.
Publications	Members receive the quarterly journal <i>Czechout</i> which includes articles of interest on Czech and Slovak philately and helps members to keep in touch with Society affairs. The Society publishes <i>Monographs</i> on wide-ranging topics containing original research.
Library	The Society maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals, and reference items available to UK members only. Postage both ways paid by the borrower.
Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auction Secretary.
New Issues Service	Contact the Librarian.
Circulating Packets	Stamp and postal history packets available to members in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Secretary.
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Accessories at Trade prices	Members may order accessories, album leaves, and philatelic books at a substantial saving. Delivered direct. Contact the Treasurer.
Data Protection Act	Members are advised that their details are stored electronically for use on Society business only, <i>e.g.</i> , 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.

