



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 171



Verso View: Forgery C, 20 Haler Blue, 1918 Scout Issue

Czechoslovak Airmail Rates
Part III: Middle and Far East

Andrej Tekel

Translated by Barry Horne

Rates in Kč.

Grey cells indicate no service.

When heading is for another tariff by weight: **Red – 10 g; Blue – 20 g.**

Destination	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Tariff by Weight	20 g		10 g			5 g				
Aden		3.00		1.50		1.50		3.00		3.50
Afghanistan	15.00	10.00	7.00	3.50		4.50				2.50
Andaman Islands		10.00	9.00	5.00	5.50					2.50
Armenia	12.50									
Bahrain		10.00	7.00	3.50		3.00		4.00		
Baluchistan		10.00	7.00	3.50				2.50		
Burma		10.00	9.00	5.00	5.50			2.50		
British Borneo		10.00	14.50	6.50		4.50		3.00		
Brunei		10.00	9.00	5.00	5.50			3.00		
Castelrosso Island		3.00					1.00			
Ceylon	10.00		9.00	5.00			2.50			3.00
China	12.50			7.50	4.00		6.50 *			6.00
Dutch East Indies		10.00		6.50		4.50		3.50		
Dutch New Guinea		10.00	14.50	6.50		4.50		3.50		
Formosa/Taiwan	12.50			7.50	4.00		4.50			6.00
Hong Kong							3.50	5.50		4.00
India - British	10.00		9.00	5.00	5.50			2.50		
India - French	10.00		9.00	5.00				2.50		
India - Portuguese	10.00		9.00	5.00				2.50		
Indochina	10.00	14.50		7.50				4.00		
Iraq		5.50				2.50		2.00		
Iran (Persia)	10.00		7.00	3.50		3.00		2.50		
Japan	12.50			7.50	4.00					6.00
Korea	12.50									6.00
Kuwait		10.00	5.50			2.50		3.00		
Lebanon	3.00		5.00			2.00				
Malaysia	10.00		14.50	6.50		4.50		3.00		
Mongolia	12.50									
Palestine	3.00		4.50				1.50			
Philippines		12.50		7.50	4.00		4.50	6.00		5.00
Rhodes								1.50		1.50
Saudi Arabia**		3.00				1.50				1.50
Alaouites	3.00									
Hejaz & Nejd			3.00							
Latakia			5.00		2.00					
Siam	10.00		14.50	6.50	3.50	4.00		2.50		
Straits Settlements	10.00		14.50	6.50		4.50		3.00		
Syria/Levant	3.00		5.00				2.00			
Trans-Jordan	3.00		4.50				1.50			

* Southern part only: Yunnan, Guangxi, Fujian, Hunan, Jiangxi, Si Kiang.

** Alaouites renamed Latakia in 1932, later with Hejaz & Nejd, Saudi Arabia. This table contains several errors of fact on the part of the original author, particularly with regard to Saudi Arabia.

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From the Editor

A recent change in my personal circumstances has prompted my resignation as Editor. The past six years have been an adventure, one I would not have missed for the world. The experience of interacting with the authors, the Committee, and so many members has been wonderful. When I took on the position I remember wondering if I could possibly satisfy what is perhaps the most active membership of any society of its size in the world. That is for you to judge. For me, I am content remembering the many happy exchanges, the new friends, and the excitement of engaging with all of you.

While I am grateful to the Society as a whole for the warm reception it gave me, I am especially indebted to three people: Yvonne Gren, Yvonne Wheatley, and Rex Dixon. Thank you one and all!

***Czechout* Requires a New Editor**

The Committee is searching for a new Editor for *Czechout*. Please contact a member of the Committee (see inside back cover) if you are willing to take on some or all of the duties of this position.

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News & Notices

New Members

The Society extends the warmest welcome to new members Alan Soble, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Chris Jackson, St George, Ontario.

CPSGB Recognised for its Outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately in Europe

Each year the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) awards certificates to societies which have given a significant service or support to European Philately. The awards for 2017 have just been announced and the Society is one of four societies to receive one.

In order to be nominated by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) the Society had to supply a profile giving its reasons for nomination. This included details of our journal, *Czechout*, and our publications: both our monographs and print-on-demand titles. We also had to state the major exhibitions we had organised, other achievements, and awards obtained by the Society. Perhaps the most difficult question was the impact of the Society on the local community. Although the profile was meant to be short ours covered both sides of a sheet of A4 paper plus three appendices listing our publications and awards.

The Society is the first in Great Britain to receive the award although several societies in the Czech Republic have been recognised with a certificate. The award is for every member of the Society including past members as their contributions were all noted in the nomination.

Martin Ellam, 1942-2018

Born in Cornwall, Martin entered the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as an apprentice. After a distinguished naval career he became Chief Engineer Officer being in charge of a number of important projects. Martin gained an Open University degree whilst at sea and was a member of a number of professional bodies. He was very much a family man, proud of the achievements of his three children and four grandchildren.

He was a man of many interests that he shared with his wife Sally – model railways, mineralogy, refurbishing a house in France, and of course philately. A firm believer in ‘taking stamps to the people’ he organized displays around Plymouth as well as promoting philately as a hobby to youngsters. Martin was a tower of strength in the Plymouth Philatelic Society as well as being chairman of the West of England Thematic Society and past chairman of the Wessex Federation. He was a member of both the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society and the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. Specializing in German postal history and Bohemia & Moravia, Martin was always pleased to give presentations to clubs. He will be missed in philatelic circles in the South West and beyond.

Mike Dadds

Prague Transport

Last year when Derek Walker and I went to Prague, we went to the bus/tram ticket booth at the airport to get a 28-day ticket as we had decided it cost about the same as buying a ticket for every journey, but without the inconvenience. The lady at the booth looked at both of us and asked our age. On finding that I was 76 and Derek was over 80, she told us that as long as we have our passport as proof of age, bus, tram and metro transport was free within Prague. It might be worthwhile checking this either on arrival at the airport or in advance. I don't know if this applies at 60, 65, 70 or 75 years old.

Robert McLeod

Travellers are advised to read the Prague public transport website before travelling. This website seems to imply that Bob is correct, but only within the Prague area. The free concession is for the those over seventy provided you wave your passport (and this may only be for EU citizens), but you may still have to buy a ticket for your luggage if it is oversized (25 × 40 × 65 cm) - not very large. I certainly recommend checking on arrival. See <http://www.dpp.cz/en/fares-in-prague/>.

Roger Morrell

Czech and Slovak Embassies *Majáles* Displays, London, 18 May 2018

The Czech and Slovak embassy buildings in London are adjacent to each other in the same grounds, with a nice large area of grass easily accommodating two to three hundred people. They are not far from the north-east corner of Kensington Gardens. Each year they hold a *Majáles*, which you might almost guess is a spring celebration, perhaps even a hang-over from Communist May Day celebrations, but this year was special. It also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Czechoslovak Republic, albeit a few months early, but at the end of October a garden party would not be quite as appropriate. The Czech and Slovak related communities in the UK were invited, and it was as one of such that the CPSGB was welcomed to show what it was doing and explain its links with the Czech and Slovak republics.



Lindy Bosworth setting up the CPSGB display.

Colin Smith, Lindy Bosworth, and I coordinated a display of 96 sheets from nine Society members covering an introductory board about the Society and then 15 boards covering the history of the region, from the Habsburg empire days, Czechs and Slovaks in World War I, the formation of a Czechoslovak government, Alfons Mucha's stamp designs, the Eastern Silesia plebiscite, President Masaryk, the Sokol Movement, Czech airmail development, wartime Bohemia/Moravia and Slovakia, Czechoslovak restitution 1945, Treasures of Prague Castle, stamp designer and engraver Josef Herčík, and the 1993 split into Czech and Slovak republics and their joining the EU.

The proceedings were formally opened (in English!) by the ambassadors of both countries, and numerous certificates of appreciation were dispensed to those that work hard for Czech and Slovak culture, schooling, and trade. There were further presentations later for the individual organizations present. Both embassies had provided buffet food and drink, and the roast ham and chili-flavoured sausages were something to write home about!

Our display, which had been mounted on the available boards the day before, seemed to go down extremely well with non-philatelists, and quite some interest was developed. We also made connections with other organisations which may be helpful to us in the future. Our contact at the Czech Embassy, Mr Ondřej Hovádek, was thanked for accommodating us, and allowing a good number of members and partners to attend.

Roger Morrell



Roger Morrell explains the CPSGB display to attendees; host Ondřej Hovádek looking on.



Ron Gillard presented with the Francis Pettitt Salver.



Ron Gillard explaining the display.

Brian Day

Our long-standing member, Brian, has decided to resign his membership of the Society. It is always a sad time when increasing age makes it more difficult to participate in our hobbies. Brian has been a stalwart and active member for many years, serving on the Committee and as a past Chairman ably assisted by his wife Betty hosted several summer meetings at their home. Unfortunately Betty died last year after several years of ill health.

Over the years Brian built up several philatelic collections relating to Czechoslovakia including the Legions, Czech Forces in Exile during World War II, and the Sokol Movement – about which he wrote a monograph published by the Society, but his favourite area was the artwork of Alfons Mucha. His wealth of knowledge and research was always generously shared broadly, not only amongst our members. He was an active member of a few local societies and gave many talks and displays within Kent and further afield

Philately was only one of Brian's many interests which included sports (he much loved cricket and golf), travel, and bridge. Travelling by car with Brian in Kent was a history lesson in the cricket/football grounds he had played on but is now part of some motorway! His knowledge of golf courses good, bad, and passable was impressive. He and Betty knew from personal experience most of those that were playable in Czechoslovakia before 1993.

The Society sends its good wishes for the future and its grateful thanks for all Brian's positive contributions in the past.

Lindy Bosworth

Book Reviews

Czechoslovak Forces in the United Kingdom from 1940, by Richard Beith. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Monograph 30 (2017). 160 pages, A4, period photographs b/w, illustrations in colour, soft cover. ISBN 978-0-9553682-9-5.

With the publication of this Monograph, Richard Beith has completed his trilogy of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in France and Britain during World War II. Monograph 26, *Free Czechoslovak Forces in France 1939-40* covered the period immediately before this study, while Monograph 27, *The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in France and Their Return Home* follows them to the end of the war.

The book is in two separate parts, the first being *The Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile in the United Kingdom*, while the second is *Czechoslovaks in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve*. The first part commences with a detailed historical background as to how the Czechoslovaks came to be in Britain. It thoroughly explains the uncomfortable position both sides must have felt when they found themselves side by side, with the Czechoslovaks essentially fighting to help save Britain, the very country that had helped stab them in the back and brought about the temporary dismemberment of Czechoslovakia only a few years earlier.

Following this extremely interesting historical discussion we come to the majority of the book, which has incredibly detailed coverage of all aspects of postal activities while the Czechoslovaks were based in Britain. The illustrations are particularly well chosen and are exceptional in quality. Postmarks, covers, cards, and censorship issues have comprehensive coverage. Of particular interest were sections on rarely discussed subjects such as mail from ‘the Spaniards’, who were actually Czechs who had fought in the Spanish Civil War and were interned in Britain at the request of Dr Beneš. The appendixes and bibliography sections are wonderfully detailed and can quite easily lead you to other avenues of research, both philatelic and historical. This is an absolutely essential volume to possess if you have interests in this area of Czechoslovak philately and together with the other two volumes of the trilogy give you a complete view of postal arrangements with the Czechoslovak forces throughout World War II.

Keith Hart

Reprinted from the Spring 2018 issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist with the permission of the author and editor.

The Hradčany: A Technical History, by Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson FRPSL. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Monograph 31 (2018). 263 pages (in two parts), A4, soft cover, illustrations in colour. ISBN 978-1-9995892-0-2.

Whew! What a read! These two volumes on the exacting technical details of the manufacture of the first Czechoslovak stamps – the Hradčany – is a difficult, demanding, but extremely necessary study for anyone who truly wishes to appreciate the complexity and ingenuity of their development.

But probably the most amazing aspect of the volumes’ creation is the extent and thoroughness of the authors’ truly extraordinary research accomplishment behind them, as well as the authors’ ability to weave fragments of fact – along with a great deal of intuition and rational guesswork – into a logical description of the production process of the stamps in this issue, stamps that seem to have a never-ending assemblage of varieties.

Nevertheless, the authors were very generous in acknowledging the work of previous researchers while including evidence found:

- From sheets, panes, and blocks of stamps.
- From gutters.
- From a census of material examined.
- From cancelled stamps.
- From statistics compiled by examining large accumulations of stamps.

In order to make the description of the process understandable they have utilized two novel and very useful concepts: digitally-numbered chapter and topic paragraphs for easy reference, and, dividing the work into two volumes wherein Part 1 provides the ‘meat’ of the description while Part 2 contains the supporting evidence – so that the reader may have Part 2 open to the referenced evidence without losing their place in Part 1.

In Part 1 (vi + 166 pages) you will find:

- Chapter 0 – Background Concepts. Contains a description of the study’s structure, the naming of the three Hradčany designs (captioned, circles, and abstract), and definitions for specialized concepts: printing runs and identifiers, layout schematics, sheets, panes, stamp positions, perforation types, the printing histories, and the CPSGB plating guides.
- Chapter 1 – The Beginnings. Describes the artist’s proposals, templates, design revisions, and alternative designs.
- Chapter 2 – Typography and Typographic Plate Production. Deals with photographic and matrix typography, the production of intermediate and auxiliary prints, paste-ups, glass negatives, prepared plates, etched plates, other typographic artefacts, printing with typographic plates, and printing the Hradčany.
- Chapter 3 – Printing History of the Captioned Design (3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 100, 200, and 400 haler). Under each denomination is found a synopsis of published information, a synopsis of the study results for the stamp in question, a discussion of each of the stamp’s printings (there were almost always a number of printings for each stamp; for example, the 3 haler underwent five printings), and a final discussion tying together all of the results found for that denomination, including quantities printed, postal use, perforations, any gutters, etc.
- Chapter 4 – Printing History of the Circles Design (1, 50, 60, 70, 300, and 1000 haler). The same information for this design as was described for Chapter 3.
- Chapter 5 – Printing History of the Abstract Design (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 50, 75, 120, and 500 haler). As in Chapter 3, but for the abstract design.
- Chapter 6 – Printing Timeline. Contains schemas that illustrate the integration of printing press activity required to produce one billion stamps in 17 months (December 1918-April 1920).
- Chapter 7 – The Hradčany as a Definitive and Its Other Uses. For the captioned design discusses gutters, tête-bêche pairs, types, retouches, and perforations. For the circles design, types, retouches, and perforations. For the abstract design, the special case of the 30 haler, the several types (spiral, bar, arch, frame, and dove), and perforations. Other sections describe unofficial and ministerial perforations, specimens, the Eastern Silesia plebiscite, airmail stamps, provisional postage dues, proof prints, and forgeries.
- Chapter 8 – Source material. Contains credits for illustrations and bibliographic sources.

Part 2: Appendix (iv + 98 pages). Here you will find the evidence supporting the Part 1 printing histories found in Chapters 3, 4, and 5. For each denomination in those three chapters you will find in Part 2 the same general format in the form of numbered topics. For example, while the printing history of the 3 haler (section 3.1) in Part 1 ended with section 3.1.4, the evidence shown in Part 2 is arranged in sections 3.1.5, 3.1.6, 3.1.7, and 3.1.8. All denominations follow the same general format:

- X.X.5 contains evidence taken from sheets, panes, and blocks.
- X.X.6 contains evidence found in gutters.
- X.X.7 is a census of the material from which evidence was gathered.
- X.X.8 contains evidence taken from cancelled stamps.
- X.X.9 contains statistics (not present for all denominations).

This monumental work is a treasure trove of information profusely illustrated in colour. If I had to mention one shortcoming it would be the lack of coverage of Hradčany stationery as this use of the Hradčany image was not discussed. Nevertheless, Johan and Mark are to be highly complemented for putting their entire hearts into this work.

Ludvik Z Svoboda

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 2018 Spring issue *Austria*, No. 202.

Captain Peterdi and the *Adria* Steamship Company (Becker); A rare and special item [a 'Botenlohn' messenger fee] (Kobelbauer); The Posthorn series of 1945 (Zimmerl & Pollak).

Nos. 2, 3 & 4 2018 issues of *Filatelie*, Vol. 68.

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

About line perforation 11½ of the Hradčany issue [1] (Škaloud); Hradčany 1000 h (Chudoba & Marčan)[1]; Hradčany with cancellations [15] (VR); 200 years of mailboxes in Czech lands [3] (Kramář).

About line perforation 11½ of the Hradčany issue [2] (Škaloud); Lincoln Hutchinson's stationery cards (Reichsfeld); 200 years of mailboxes in Czech lands [4] (Kramář); Hradčany with cancellations [16] (VR); Hradčany 1000 h [2] (Chudoba & Marčan); Private Josef Holeček – soldier of the five armies [1] (Kunc);

Commemorative stamps, sheet and the prints of the Heydrich's death issue (Dobrovolný); Hradčany with cancellations [17] (VR); Hradčany together with other angles (Chudoba); 200 years of mailboxes in Czech lands [5] (Kramář); Private Josef Holeček – soldier of the five armies [2] (Kunc); Dumb postmarks on letters of the first Austrian issue (Borůvka & Zronek).

No. 11 April 2018: *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, Vol. 48.

Czechoslovakia 1919 Charity Issue (Wishart).

The March 2018 issue of *Stamps of Hungary*, No 212.

The use of the porto provisionals of 1918, Part 2 (Semmler, Caswell & Williams); Where post and railways cross (Benford); The industrial revolution in Hungarian philatelic farming (Soble).

No. 2 April 2018 *The Stamp Lover*, Vol. 110.

On your marks! Charge: instructional and explanatory marks (Hill).

We have for some time not received copies of the *Merkur Revue*. I have asked that the Committee investigate the problem.

Library Additions Lindy Bosworth

USB Stick:

Digitised copies of the *Postal Bulletins* for the Czechoslovak Republic issued between 23 November 1918 and 11 March 1939.

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!

Forgeries of the Czech Scout Issue: A Simple Guide

Wojciech Kierstan

Although the Czech Scout issue of 1918 is a back-of-book entry in Czechoslovak catalogues, stamp catalogues such as Stanley Gibbons consider the 10 and 20 haler as the first two stamps of the newly formed nation. The stamps were used to distribute correspondence between the various locations of the Prague National Committee. Their period of use was from the end of October to 25 November 1918. The total produced was 20,000 each of the 10 and 20 haler.

As with many early issues around the world it wasn't long before forgeries appeared. The two definitive publications, *Padělky československých poštovních známek 1918-1939* by Jan Karásek, Zdeněk Kvasnička, and Břetislav Paulíček (1963) and *Československé poštovní známky a jejich padělky* by Jan Karásek (1998), carefully describe the three forgeries of the 10 haler and the two of the 20 haler in great detail. However, you may determine by examining only two or three specific features if you have an original or can confirm that you've found a forgery. This article describes these major features.

The 10 Haler Blue



*Figure 1: Genuine.
Key features numbered.*

For the genuine 10 haler the design is 22 × 27 mm (*Figure 1*).

1. The three horizontal lines are of the same length.
2. The lion's crown has sharp outer points and a rounded (clover leaf) centre.
3. The left front leg is extended by a lengthy cut into the lion's chest.
4. Shading on the lion's leg is clear cut.
5. S and D of the lower inscription are in line and the Í lies below and between the U and Ž.

There are three forgeries of the 10 haler blue: A, B, and C.



Figure 2: Forgery A.



Figure 3: Forgery B.



Figure 4: Forgery C.

For Forgery A the design is 22 × 26 mm (*Figure 2*).

1. The left front leg is extended by a short cut.
2. There is a small cut in the right hind leg.
3. In the lower inscription **D** is located to the lower left of **S**; **Í** is under the left side of **U**.

For Forgery B the design is 22×26 mm (*Figure 3*).

1. The left front leg has a smaller cut.
2. There is poor shading on the right hind leg and white protrusion from the stomach above it.
3. In the lower inscription **D** is located to the lower left of **S**; **Í** is under left side of **U**.

Forgery C is the crudest of the three. The design is 21.2×26.5 mm (*Figure 4*).

1. The middle horizontal line is longer.
2. The crown on the lion's head has five ornaments; the genuine one three.
3. The word **NÁRODNÍ** is shifted far to the right.

The stamp is perforated line $13\frac{1}{4}$ with the tops straight rather than pointed, and the openings between perforations are rounded. The lion is rendered quite differently. Also the lion is embossed, best seen from the back (*see front cover*).

20 Haler Red

There are two forgeries of the 25 haler red: A and B.



*Figure 5: Genuine.
Key features numbered.*



Figure 6: Forgery A.



Figure 7: Forgery B.

For the genuine 20 haler the design is 22×26.5 mm (*Figure 5*).

1. The three horizontal lines are of the same length.
2. The outline of the crown is sharp.
3. Second lock of lower mane ends with a line. The left front leg is extended by a short cut into the lion's chest.
4. Short incision appears below the knee of the right rear leg.
5. **B** of **SLUŽBÁCH** is normal.

For Forgery A the design is 21.5×26.5 mm (*Figure 6*).

1. Second lock of lower mane ends in a long point; there is no line between rib cage and leg.
2. There is no short incision below the knee of the right rear leg.
3. **B** of **SLUŽBÁCH** is of a different font and has a small lower loop.

For Forgery B the design is 21.5×26 mm (*Figure 7*).

1. The middle horizontal line is longer.
2. The word **NÁRODNÍ** is shifted to the right.

As with Forgery C of the 10 haler, this 20 haler red has a poorly formed lion.

To round off these forgeries there is the Forgery B of the 20 haler but in blue.



Figure 8: 20 Haler Blue. Forgery B.

This forgery is 21.5×26 mm (*Figure 8*).

1. The middle horizontal line is longer.
2. The word **NÁRODNÍ** is shifted to the right.

I'm only aware of four copies of this forgery; two are in my collection and the other two have been offered on eBay as 'signed colour proofs'. Surely there must be more out there.

By the way, some call this the Boy Scout Issue, others say the couriers who carried the mail were Sea Scouts from the Prague Yacht Club. See <http://sossi.org/articles/czech.htm> for the answer – the Editor.

Removal of Czech Markings from Postal Cancellers in the Slovak State

Alan Soble

(In most cases the illustrations have been considerably reduced or enlarged – Editor.)

In 1939, the new country Slovakia had to perform a task which other countries in the tumultuous twentieth century were invited and impelled to undertake: the nationalisation of the post. This essay illustrates specific Slovakian nationalising modifications made to Czechoslovak cancellers – which were currently obsolete, for in 1939 the country no longer existed. I focus on two sufficiently repeatable (i.e., not incidental) variations of these nationalising changes. The canceller alterations also confirmed the break-up of the 1918 merger between the Slovak and Czech lands and supported Slovakia's stature among European nations.

One change has been remarked upon in *Czechout* but, for understandable technical reasons, insufficiently displayed; the other has also been broached in *Czechout* and deserves more analysis.[1] A good number of articles in *Czechout* and *Czechoslovak Specialist* studied the post-WWI transition: Austrian and Hungarian cancellers temporarily used in early Czechoslovakia and their nationalising alteration, followed by replacement by indigenous cancellers.[2] Features of cancellers used in the WWII Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate have also been studied.[3] Here I treat the WWII canceller transition in Slovakia.

I. Background

After the collapse, by the end of WWI, of the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary, a handful of territories in Central and Eastern Europe, often referred to as successor states, were concerned to distance themselves postally from their national, political, and ethnic predecessors and, at the same time, to employ the post to announce their birth and promote their independence.

Well-known cases occurred by the division of the Kingdom of Hungary, accomplished *de jure* by the Treaty of Trianon (1920), into a handful of pieces which eventually manufactured their own panoply of nationalistic postal accessories. In late 1918 Croatia overprinted Hungarian postage stamps and postal stationery with 'S.H.S.' and 'Hrvatska' to blot out the old regime and proclaim the new.[4] Croatia soon emitted newly designed (local) stamps inscribed 'S.H.S.' and 'Hrvatska'. Despite having new adhesives, Croatian (ex-Hungarian) post offices possessed only currently obsolete Kingdom of Hungary cancellers (*survivors*) which had to be modified to mask (*obliterate*) their origin. Some survivors were obliterated by the removal of a historically significant Magyar insignia, the Szent István Korona (*Figure 1*, left). The excision was instant deMagyarisation. Other cancellers were modified by changing the date format from Hungarian to the local format, a change in the spelling of a town name, or the replacement of an exonym by an endonym. The S.H.S. Kingdom (composed of Croatia-Slavonia, Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia) eventually produced its own Kingdom-wide stamps. Engraved by the American Bank Note Co., they were being cancelled in 1922 (two years after Trianon) by Hungarian survivors.



Figure 1. A 2 K Postal Card Cutting.

Right: A Brünn 1/Brno 1 cancel 6 October 1898.

Left: An OKT 7 receiving Hungarian strike, Pöstyén, Slovakia.

In the final months of 1918, after the declaration of a joined Czechoslovakia, branches of the new postal service had stocks of leftover Hungarian and Austrian stamps as well as freshly designed indigenous stamps, the Hradčany of Alfons Mucha. Post offices in Bohemia and Moravia (*qua* Czechoslovakia) continued to use, for several years (depending on location), obsolete Austrian cancellers, i.e., survivors. In the Czech lands, surviving Austrian cancellers were modified in various ways to deHabsburgize them. One straightforward way to deHabsburg the cancellers and to nationalize

the cancels as Czech – which cancels were destined to be seen far and wide and hence were propagandistic slogan or ideological advertising cancels [5] – was to excise *en masse* German names from bilingual cancellers, to abolish a linguistic representative, the exonym, of the old regime. Of course, German names were often sustained or reinserted (*Figure 19*). In Slovakia, the obliteration of surviving Hungarian cancellers did not occur with as much frequency, urgency or dedication; untouched survivors were used in 1920–21. The failure of the Č.S.P. in the country's eastern part to deliver a crushing blow to the postal apparatus of the Hungarian regime, while in the western part German names were being noticeably jettisoned, is somewhat puzzling.[6]

An example of the Czech obliteration of bilingual cancellers is helpful.[7] *Figure 1* displays a German/Czech Brunn/Brno cancel. In the circular centre are found, top to bottom, numerical day, numerical month, time of day, and the year's last two digits (1898). *Figure 2* shows two examples of cancellers made by obliterated Austrian survivors. 'Brunn' is missing, leaving a palpable gap. Germany annexed the Sudetenland on 29-30 September 1938, by the terms of the Munich Agreement. It then created the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate on 15 March 1939, when its army entered and occupied Praha. Also on March 15, in Bratislava, the Slovakian Parliament, playing its own role in the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, declared the independence of Slovakia, i.e., the budding of Slovenský štát, later the Slovenská republika, the [First] Slovak Republic.



*Figure 2: Brunn Excised Monolingual Cancels.
Left: 14 February 19??. Right: 18 June 1919.*

Postage stamps for use in the Protectorate soon replaced adhesives inscribed Československo. The bilingual design of the new issues included Čechy a Morava and Böhmen und Mähren (*Figure 20b*), which made the death of Czechoslovakia postally obvious and confirmed the distinction between Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia. Similarly, monolingual Praha cancellers were replaced by Prag/Praha bilinguals (*Figure 20b*) – thereby (coincidentally?) returning to a fin de siècle pattern of town names on German/Czech cancellers, as in Brunn/Brno (*Figure 1*).[8]

The disintegration of Czechoslovakia and the appearance of Protectorate stamps were accompanied by the issuing of hitherto nonexistent Slovakian stamps. My topics are not the Czechoslovakian stamps overprinted *Slovenský štát* or the emission of newly designed Slovakian stamps.[9] Instead, I consider Slovakian cancellers used in/after 1939 to which the concepts *survivor* and *obliteration* apply, i.e., the two or three types of nationalizing alteration made to obsolete Czechoslovakian cancellers by the Slovakian post.

II. Type 1

In many cancellers used in Czechoslovakia 1918–1938, the country identifier Č.S.P. appears in the design, either squeezed into the semi-circular space above the bridge under the town name (*Figures 24b, 25, 28, 29*), or situated comfortably in the bottom arc of the canceller's ring. The latter format (*Figure 3*) is, for now, the important one.

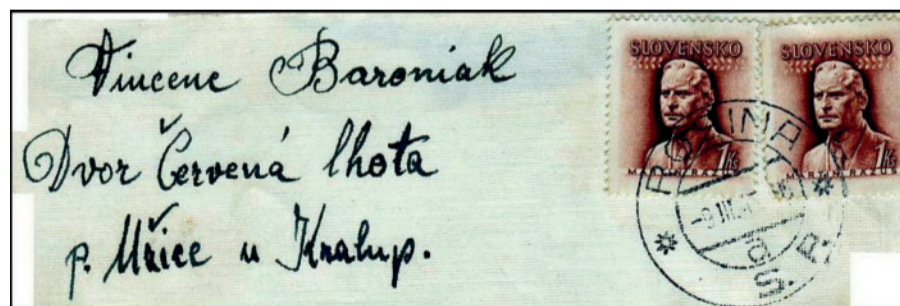


*Figure 3: Slovak Interwar Cancels.
Č.S.P. fills the bottom arc, stars at roughly:
Left: 3:00 and 9:00 (Parkan, now Štúrovo, 19 September 1931). Right: 3:30 and 8:30 (Tisovec, 17 May 1930).
Keep star positions in mind for Section III.*

Suppose you were postmaster in a Slovakian town in mid-1939 and had a sudden need for new cancellers. We know from events in late 1918 and in 1919 (Czechoslovakia, the S.H.S. Kingdom et al.) that new stamps, even if not gems, can be quickly obtained. Hence they come first while assembling a nationalised postal menagerie. New cancellers, by contrast requiring demanding and expensive labour, come later. That explains the usefulness of survivors, which lent themselves to uncomplicated modifications to bring them close to national snuff. As postmasters did in 1918, you'd use survivors (left over from dead Czechoslovakia, and which you had been using all along), obliterating them to carry out their duties. See *Figures 4 & 4a* through *13a & 13b*, which illustrate Type 1 obliterations: the Č for Česko in Č.S.P. has been excised, leaving an asymmetrical, but on-message, S.P., i.e., Slovenská pošta. You'd be excising the Č not for convenience; the Č has become a false and offensive feature of the canceller and must be convincingly dealt with.



Figures 4, 4a, 5, 5a, 6, 6a: Type 1 Obliterations.
 Stars at 3:00 and 9:00, S.P. in the 5:00-6:00 slot.
 Top: Rakovice to Velká Bytča, 21 July 1939.
 Centre: Čachtice to Chemnitz, Germany, 24 August 1939.
 Bottom: Velké Uherce to Praha, 29 November 1940.



Figures 7, 7a, 8, 9, 9a, 10, and 11: Type 1 Obliterations.

S.P. in the 5:00-6:00 slot.

Top: Staškov to Radvanice (Protectorate), 12 November 1942.

Upper centre left: Incomplete excision in right-hand stamp; period remains in front of S.P. Herľany, ?2 July 1941.

Upper centre right: First stamp—the S is at 6:00, Smižany, 22 July 1943. Second stamp – Ghost of Č remains.

Lower centre: Two stars at 3:30 and 8:30, S at 6:00, Sliac kúpele to Wien, 28 September 1942.

Bottom: Rosina to Užice u Kralup (Protectorate), 9 March 1945.

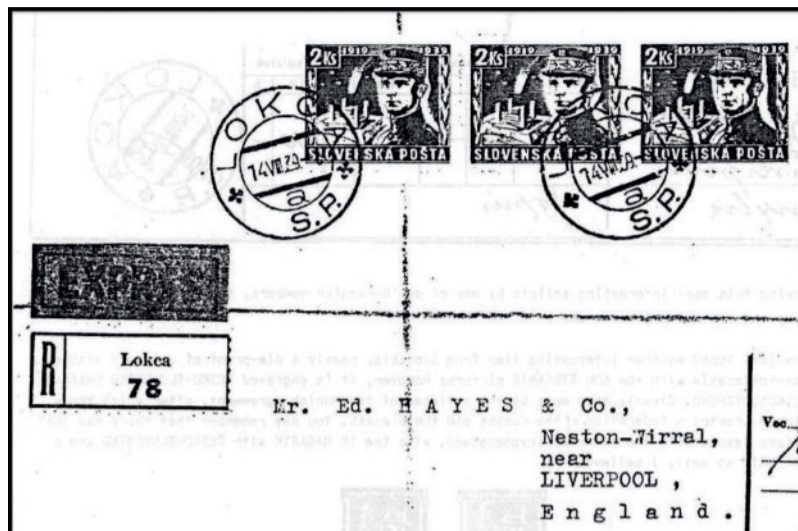


Figure 12: Type 1 Obliteration.
Stars at 3:00 and 9:00, S.P. at 5:00-6:00.
Lokca to Liverpool, 14 August 1939.

An interesting example of a Type 1 obliteration was displayed thirty years ago by Paul Jensen in his 1987 *Czechout* article, 'The Unissued Štefánik Stamps of Slovakia' (see endnote 1). Both sides of Jensen's cover are franked with Štefániks and both sides exhibit the S.P. cancel. (*Figure 12* shows the front, greyscale.)[10] The canceller identification letter is 'a'. Jensen's purpose was to explain why he considers this cover to be a genuine postal use of the Štefánik stamps, which is not here in question. Fortunately for his audience many years later, the fascinating Štefánik cover which he came across also exhibits a superb Type I obliteration. (My own four-denomination Štefánik cover is philatelic in origin, contains a full Č.S.P. cancel, and bears an illogical or impossible date line.)

Summary: First, in Type 1 obliterations, the Č in Č.S.P. is excised, leaving an off-centre S.P., with the S at 6:00 and P at 5:00. Second, the two ornamental stars which had surrounded the Č.S.P., one on each side, persist when the Č is removed (*Figures 4–13*). It would have served no purpose, and would have been wasted effort, to fool around with the decorations. Third, in some excisions the full stop (period) which follows Č has not been excised, neither for the sake of grammar nor for aesthetics. Fourth, all the S.P. cancellations I have seen (except one, *Figure 13a*) were struck by the post office's 'a' canceller. The canceller ID letter is located in the semi-circle below the bridge; examine the ID letters in *Figures 4–13*.



Figure 13 and 13a: Type 1 Obliterations.
Stars at 3:00 and 9:00, S.P. at 5:00-6:00.
Left: Novot', 8 December 1941 by an 'a' canceller.
Right: Vondrišli, 31 December 1940 probably by a 'b' canceller.

I have come across one Type I obliteration in which the cancel was struck by the post office's 'b' canceller. *Figures 13 & 13a* allow a comparison of an 'a' (left) and a 'b' (right) canceller identifier in cancels made by obliterated survivors. *Figure 3* allows a comparison of the 'a' and 'b' ID letters in cancels made by non-obliterated cancellers. The point of these comparisons is to block the suggestion that the apparent (and under-inked or ill-struck) 'b' in *Figure 13a* is a dramatically broken 'a', perhaps nicked by a slip while the Č was being chiseled out.

II. Type 2

There is evidence for a second type of obliteration: the entire label Č.S.P. was eliminated from some Slovakian cancellers which were derived from Czechoslovakian survivors. To begin the empirical, observational case for this second type of obliteration, I display some Slovakian cancels (look at *Figures 14 & 14a* through *18 & 18a*) in which exactly *two* ornamental stars are separated by a large gap, an empty space. The characteristic of a Type 2 obliteration is that this gap formerly contained an excised Č.S.P.



Figures 14, 14 a, 15, 15a, 16, and 16a: Type 2 Obliterations.

Stars at 4:00 and 8:00 (3:30 and 8:30 in the bottom piece).

Note empty space between the stars, nothing in the 5:00-7:00 position.

Top: Bratislava to Praha, 27 April 1940.

Centre: Bratislava to Třebechovice p O (pod Orebem), Protectorate, 4 December 1940.

Bottom: Leopoldov to Landsberg am Lech, 3 September 1939.



Figure 17, 17a, 18, and 18a: Type 2 Obliterations.

Stars at 4:00 and 8:00, nothing between them.

Top: Starý Smokovec to Budapest, 12 August 1940.

Bottom: Starý Smokovec to Moravská Ostrava (Protectorate), 20 July 1943.

My immediate reaction, seeing – repetitively – a gap between two distant stars was that in some cases the Slovakian chisel excised the entire Č.S.P. from the canceller. Large gaps of this sort in ring cancellers occurred decades earlier in obliterated Austrian survivors used in Czech lands (Figure 2). They occurred in Austrian survivors used after WWI in Galicia, Slovenia, and elsewhere. They also exist at the start and end of WWII in Czechoslovakia (Figures 19 & 20c). Gaps are not unusual and it is no reason for shock when seen in WWII Slovakian cancels.



Figure 19. Czech Endonym Excised.

This had been a Karlovy Vary/Karlsbad bilingual cancel.

Cancelled a week after the Munich Agreement by a canceller with a shadow of the Czech endonym, 7 October 1938.

Stars at 3:00 and 9:00 separated by an upper empty arc, no star in the ring's bottom occupied by the German exonym.

To Quedlinburg, Germany.

The considerations which lead to the conclusion that Č.S.P. has been deleted from gapped two-star Slovakian cancellers are different in kind from the evidence for Type 1 obliterations. For the latter, the *presence* of a directly observable S.P. country identifier provides sufficient warrant. But the thesis that the country identifier is *absent* requires a different approach, which is why I defend the existence of Type 2 obliterations by a process of elimination.



Figures 20a, 20b, and 20c: Excised Cancel Names.

Left: Praha in upper arc before the Munich Agreement, 2 August 1938.

Centre: Protectorate, Prag 3/Praha 3 cancel 31 December 1940; Praha moved to the bottom under German exonym.

Right: Post-WWII Praha cancel with Prag removed, 3 June 1946.

If we assume that something has been removed from the bottom ring of Slovakian two-star gapped cancels, there are five possibilities for what was removed:

- a. Č.S.P.
- b. A town name in bilingual cancels.
- c. An ornament or decoration.
- d. Cancellor ID marks.
- e. A third star.

Let's contemplate, first, the possibility of a third star. Examine the three-star cancels (seven Slovakian, two Bohemian) shown in Figures 21a–24a. Depending on several factors – for example, the length of the town names across the top arc of the ring or along the bottom – the positions of the two outer or terminal stars are not always 3:00 and 9:00. Also found are 2:00 & 10:00, 3:30 & 8:30, 4:00 & 8:00, and 5:00 & 7:00 (Figures 24a & 24b). Regardless, a third star would be at 6:00. Imagine that a canceller has three stars at 3:00, 6:00 and 9:00. Could there be any sensible reason to eliminate the star at the 6:00 position in order to produce stars at 3:00 and 9:00 with a gap between them? None that I can think of, *except* that the star at 6:00 was removed because the intention was to insert, eventually, an S.P. at 5:30–6:30, which would turn out to be balanced. I wish that had happened, but every S.P. which I have seen is imbalanced. I conclude that the Slovakian two-star gapped cancels in Figures 14-18 did not arise by [e], the elimination of a single star at 6:00.



Figures 21a, 21b, 21c and 21d: Three-Star Czechoslovak Cancels.

Top left: Michalovce, 27 September 1932. Top centre: Beroun, Bohemia, 8 February 1937. Top right: Nitra, 24 September 1934.

Bottom: Košice, 14 July 1938.

Eliminating bottom-arc town names also fails to explain two-star gapped Slovakian cancels. Although cancellers in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia were frequently Czech/German bilingual, relatively few Slovak/Hungarian bilingual cancellers existed, and some were used sporadically.[11] (Figure 25 shows a bilingual entire.) Indeed, cancels made by bilingual cancellers are difficult to find. Hence removal of a bilingual name from the bottom arc would produce few two-star gapped cancels. Bratislava/Pozsony bilinguals never existed but this city, by far the largest in Slovakia, introduced

into the mailstream a hefty percent of Slovakian cancels. Arriving at two-star Slovakian cancels by [b], removing a bottom-arc town name, is therefore even less likely.



Figures 22a, 22b, and 22c: Three-Star Slovak Cancels.

Left: Lučenec (Losonc), 7 March 1935.

Centre: Two backstamps – Zvolen, 4 February 1942 and Losonc, 10 February 1942 with different date formats.

The Hungarian canceller was newly-made for this Visszatért town transferred to Hungary in 1938.

Right: Bratislava, 1 October 1941.

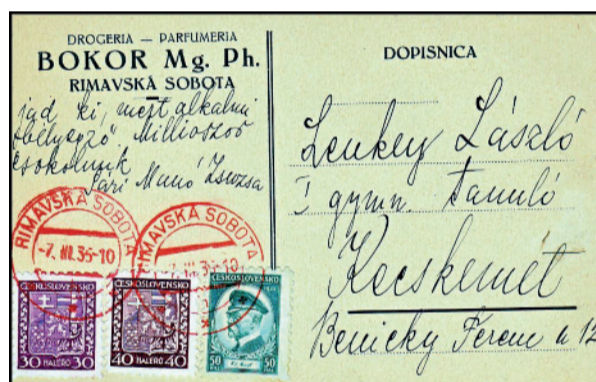


Figure 23: Three-Star Slovak Commemorative Cancel.

7 March 1935 – Masaryk's Birthday.

From Rimavská Sobota to Kecskemét, Hungary.



Figures 24a and 24b: Three- and Two-Star Cancels.

Left: Stars at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00, TPO cancel, Tanvald-Šumburk n D.-Liberec, 20 October 1930.

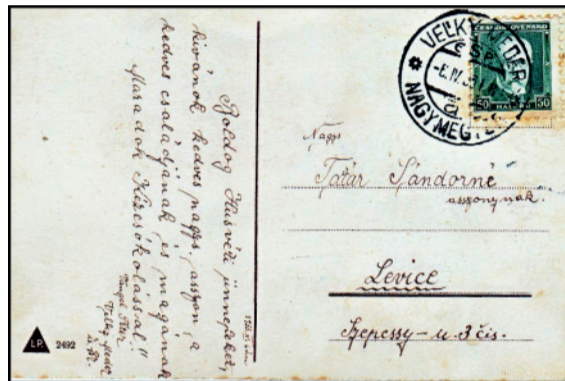
Right: Two-star (at 2:00 and 10:00) non-gapped bilingual cancel from Děčín/Tetschen a.d. Elbe, 26 August 1925.

Excising canceller ornaments [c] also fails. Czechoslovakian cancellers didn't have, beyond stars, any bottom arc ornaments to speak of. Hungarian survivors were decorated with ornaments in the bottom arc (Figure 22b, Losonc), but these weren't being used in 1939 during the nationalization of the Slovakian post. Invoking Austrian survivors as a source of two-star Slovakian cancellers is similarly inadequate. True, their stars were often asymmetrical and the cancels were graced with ornaments, but these survivors were used for only a couple of years after 1918 and were not used in Slovakia. Finally, regarding [d], Czechoslovakian canceller ID marks are located in the semi-circle in the bottom half of the cancel, not in the ring. If all this reasoning is correct, it follows that the only process which explains gapped two-star Slovakian cancels is [a], the removal of the Č.S.P. country identifier – the whole thing.

A minor point: Č.S.P. could have been excised to leave a gap between two stars only if some Slovakian cancellers had included a town name, two and only two stars, and Č.S.P. between the stars in the bottom arc. This is elementary, but nothing displayed here, other than the two cancels in Figure 3

(which were employed for a different purpose), fulfils this requirement. Three more examples are shown in *Figures 26a & 26b*. These cancels, which are legion, could be turned into two-star gapped cancels by removing Č.S.P.

One direct piece of evidence may confirm the existence of Type 2. Recall the ghost or shadow Č that is visible in an obliteration that was incompletely carried out (*Figure 9a, the 10 Ks postage due; perhaps 19*). A gapped two-star Slovakia cancel that contained no full-bodied Č.S.P. but only a ghost would be a candidate Type 2. *Figures 27a-27b* may exhibit a shadow of the identifier. I leave it to the reader to judge. I also leave the task of finding another shadow produced by the same canceller.



*Figure 25: Two-star with Hungarian Exonym.
Easter postcard sent from Velký Meder/Nagy Megyer to Levice, 6 April 1933.
Levice (Léva) and Nagymegyér were temporarily returned to Hungary in 1938.*



*Figures 26a and 26b: Two-Star Cancels.
Potential two-star gapped Slovak cancels by excising Č.S.P.
Left: Hnúšťa, 24 December 1930.
Centre: Smrečany, 16 January 1933.
Right: Udavská, 19 December 1934.*



*Figures 27a and 27b: Philatelic Cover cancelled in Turčianský Svätý Martin, 2 June 1941.
Left: The cover. Right: Enlarged views of the upper-left cancel.*

IV. Type 3

Another type of nationalising obliteration is possible, by removing the Č.S.P. (or only the Č) which appears in the semi-circular space above the bridge and under the town name. We have already seen this feature of canceller design (*Figures 24b [Děčín] & 25 [Velký Meder]*). *Figures 28 & 29* show more examples, both from Zakarpattya. Removing the high Č.S.P. may be called a Type 3 obliteration. I do not know of any empirical, observational method (i.e., just looking at stamps and covers alone,

and ignoring shadows) to prove that a particular postal item underwent a Type 3 obliteration, except to find a letter-identified canceller in a Slovakian town prior to March 1939 which had a high Č.S.P., and also find a use of this same letter-identified canceller sometime after March 1939 in which the high Č.S.P. has been replaced with a blank under the town name. (That semi-circle may contain any substitute for Č.S.P., including S.P.) This before-and-after, constant-identifier technique could also be used to demonstrate the occurrence of Type 2 obliterations. This method, whether used to show Type 2 or Type 3 obliterations, is difficult to carry out: it depends greatly on the luck of the lot. But it provides powerful empirical evidence if accomplished. [12]



Figures 28 and 29: High Č.S.P. Cancels.
Left: Kiral'haza/Kuralgaza, 4 July 1922.
Right: Rákošín/Ракоцију, 6 June 1925.

Notes

1. See Ron Hollis, 'Slovakia. Query Corner', *Czechout* #59 (June 1990), pp. 40–41; Seppo Laaksonen, 'Reply to Hollis', *Czechout* #60 (September 1990), pp. 50–51; E. Skovbo Jensen, 'Reply to Hollis', *Czechout* #60 (September 1990), pp. 52–53; and Paul Jensen, 'Reply to Hollis', *Czechout* #60 (September 1990), pp. 53–55. See also Paul Jensen, 'The Unissued Štefánik Stamps of Slovakia', *Czechout* #47 (Summer 1987), pp. 19–20. (Mr Jensen is deceased. Yvonne Wheatley wrote his obituary, *Czechout* #117 [December 2004], p. 97.)
2. Chronologically: Zdeněk Kvasnička, 'Stamps, Postal Stationery and Cancels of Austria-Hungary in Czechoslovakia', *Czechoslovak Specialist* 14:8 (October 1952), pp. 120-26; continued in *Czechoslovak Specialist* 14:9 (November 1952), pp. 133-42; *Czechoslovak Specialist* 14:10 (December 1952), pp. 148-57; *Czechoslovak Specialist* 15:2 (February 1953), pp. 6-15; and *Czechoslovak Specialist* 15:3 (March 1953), pp. 32-34 & 40-42; Kvasnička, 'Austro-Hungarian Postmarks Used in Czechoslovakia', *Czechoslovak Specialist* 15:9 (November 1953), pp. 138-39; continued in *Czechoslovak Specialist* 15:10 (December 1953), pp. 151-54; and *Czechoslovak Specialist* 16:1 (January 1954), pp. 11-14; Kvasnička, 'Cancellations', *Czechoslovak Specialist* 17:7 (September 1955), pp. 108-10; continued in *Czechoslovak Specialist* 16:8 (October 1955), pp. 118-26; Kvasnička, 'Commemorative Cancels of Austria-Hungary Used in Czechoslovak Areas', *Czechoslovak Specialist* #271 (March 1967), pp. 33-38; Otto Hornung, 'A Glimpse at Old Carpatho-Ukraine's Mail', *Czechout* #56 (Autumn 1989), pp. 57-66; Tadeusz Wincewicz, 'Dual-Language (Czech-Polish) Postmarks of East Silesia', *Czechout* #82 (March 1996), pp. 5-10; Alan Soble, 'Obliterations and Their Absence: Elaborations, Emendations, Extensions (Part 4)', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 41:4 (October-December 2010), pp. 3-24; Johan Sevenhuijsen, 'A Rare Backwater', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 45:2 (April-June 2014), pp. 20-21; Sevenhuijsen, 'A Rare Backwater', *Czechout* (September 2014), pp. 18-19; Sevenhuijsen, 'Nationalized Circular Date Stamps in Early Czechoslovakia', *Czechout* #159 (June 2015), pp. 17-18; Robert Lauer and Johan Sevenhuijsen, 'The Usage of Hungarian Stamps and Postal Stationery in Post-Independence Czechoslovakia', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 47:1 (January-March 2016), pp. 20-29; Lauer and Sevenhuijsen, 'The Usage of Hungarian Stamps and Postal Stationery in Early Czechoslovakia', *Czechout* #164 (September 2016), pp. 11-17.
3. See K F Pesak, 'Czechoslovak Postal Cancellations During Nazi Occupation', *Czechoslovak Specialist* #398 (March 1985), pp. 8-10; and Ernest G. Taylor's study, which begins in *Czechout* #34 (1984), pp. 54-56, continues through #35 (pp. 64-66), #36 (pp. 69-74) and #37 (pp. 79-85), and which focuses on 'Special and Commemorative Postmarks of Bohemia and Moravia'.
4. See these recent articles: Robert Lauer, 'The Overprinting of Hungarian Postal Stationery in the S.H.S. Kingdom', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 48:4 (October-December 2017), pp. 26-28; and Roger Morrell's series in *Stamps of Hungary*, including 'On the Trail of the 1919 Overprints, Part 15 – Overprinted Hungarian Stamped Postal Stationery' (June 2017, #209, p. 6) and 'On the Trail of the 1919 Overprints, Part 16 – Hungarian Fieldpost Cards for the SHS' (September 2017, #210, p. 8).

5. See 'Editorial', *Czechout* #47 (Summer 1987), p. 11; and Rex Dixon, 'Review', *Czechout* #161 (December 2015), p. 9.
6. See Lauer, 'Hungarian Survivor Cancels in Slovakia: Further Evidence', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 43:3 (July-September 2012), pp. 32-35.
7. I have been writing about survivors and obliterations since 2009. The articles cover Fiume, Croatia/Slavonia, the S.H.S. Kingdom, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Vojvodina, Romania, Ruthenia/Carpatho-Ukraine, Slovakia, Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary. See *The News of Hungarian Philately* [= *NHP*] 40:1 (January-March 2009), pp. 17-32; *NHP* 40:2 (April-June 2009), pp. 3-11; *NHP* 41:3 (July-September, 2010), pp. 2-17; *NHP* 42:1 (January-March, 2011), pp. 4-15; *NHP* 43:1 (January-March 2012), pp. 14-29; *NHP* 45:4 (October-December 2014), pp. 10-19; *NHP* 48:2 (April-June, 2017), pp. 11-26; *Stamps of Hungary*, issue #178 (September 2009), pp. 11-28; *Stamps of Hungary*, issue #179 (December 2009), pp. 10-22; and *Philatelica*, issue #14/2 (2014), p. 37.
8. For an account of the town-name placement vicissitudes of Czechoslovakian cancellers, see Karel Vsetecka, 'Postal Cancellations and the Language Question in the Czech Lands', *Czechoslovak Specialist* #291 (March 1969), pp. 33-39.
9. One study is George A Blizil, 'Early Postal History of Slovakia', *Czechoslovak Specialist* 10:3 (March 1948), pp. 28-32.
10. Now you may comprehend why I wrote in the first paragraph, 'for understandable technical reasons, [the truncation S.P. has been] insufficiently displayed' in *Czechout*. I paste here some hand-drawn images which appeared in the *Czechout* issues cited in Note 1.



Left: There are three noteworthy things about Laaksonen's drawings of post-modification Slovak cancellers other than they seem to be copies only of 1946 strikes. First, the single S cancel is astounding – I wish I had one on cover; second, the gapped two-star cancel in the lower right pushes us forward to Type 2 obliterations; and third, all the cancellers are identified as 'a'. Right: Hollis' Ratková. Note the 'a' canceller.

Six interesting Slovakia covers are displayed by Rex Dixon in his 'Slovak State Inland Mail Exemplars', *Czechout* #166 (March 2017), pp. 14-16; eight more are displayed in his 'Slovak State Foreign Mail Exemplars', *Czechout* #167 (June 2017), pp. 23-25. None of these 14 covers contain the S.P. cancel. Two S.P. cancellers are displayed (but not pointed out) by Michael Furfie in 'Some Slovakian Postage Due Topics: 1939-1945', *Czechout* #150 (March 2013), pp. 20-24. The cancellers are from Piarg (see Laaksonen), February 6 and 11, 1943; both were struck by the 'a' canceller (Furfie's *Figure 4*, p. 21).

11. A Slovak/Magyar bilingual cancel is an illustration in Alec Page's comments (on a different subject), *Czechout* #87 (June 1997), p. 43. On bilinguals, see Soble, 'Obliterations and Their Absence: Final Words, with Special Reference to "The Slovakia Question"', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 42:2 (April-June 2011), pp. 14-37; Soble, 'Postscript to "Obliterations and Their Absence". A Note on Slovak-Hungarian Bilingual Cancels', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 42:3 (July-September 2011), pp. 2-3; Sevenhuijsen and Soble, 'Hungarian Names Used in Slovak Cancels', *Czechout* #151 (June 2013), pp. 22-24; and Sevenhuijsen, 'Hungarian Language Maimed in Slovak Cancels', *The News of Hungarian Philately* 45:4 (October-December 2014), p. 4.
12. Many thanks to Roger Morrell for suggesting I write an article on this topic.

Correspondence

James Hooper writes: Can you help to make out this cancellation? I think it is something like ARIMOTHEL ADAMOV. I have found four places with the name ADAMOV in the Czech Republic but none tie to the German name of the town that is the other half of the post mark. I think the most likely is the ADAMOV just north of Brno. Does anyone know where this 1914-18 censor cachet was used.



Hooper: Location and Censor Mark?

Robert Pinet writes: I was wondering if you could help me. I want to research the sub post offices of Prague during the First Republic. I have a list of opening and closing dates, but I would like to track where these post offices were located. Do you know if any such map exists and, if so, where I can find it?

Johan Sevenhuijsen responded: I think Robert would need to get his hand on the publication by Jiří Kratochvíl – *Z historie Pražských pošt*. Praha (1989) 105 pages. It lists post offices, the development of their names, and numbers from early times up to 1988. I did look at this book, but do not remember if it contained a map. The Dutch library has a copy (if you cannot find it elsewhere).

Mogens Norberg also responded: One of our TSD members, Verner Nielsen, has a collection regarding this subject. I am sending you in another email some photocopied pages from his collection where the development of the sub post offices is shown on maps. Unfortunately, the text is in Danish, but maybe it can be helpful.

Hartmut Lieberman added: There is an update of Jiří Kratochvíl's opus: *Pražské pošty: historie a současnost*. Praha (2009) 478 pages, ISBN: 978-80-7277-405-0. The book includes a lot of historical maps, even if not a town map with recent or ancient post offices. But every single post office is described carefully, pictures and addresses are included. So I guess in this book Robert will find what he is looking for.

Heinz Vogel writes: Without wanting to start a long correspondence, and appreciating your reasoning for using Heydrich's picture on the front cover of the December issue of *Czechout*, I just want to add my own response to the use of that picture. I am sure Michael Chant and I are not the only ones to be offended by a picture on our excellent *Czechout* of a Nazi who was responsible for the ill-treatment and deaths of so many of our closest relatives. Had the caption said something like The Notorious Reichsprotector, that would have gone some way to limiting the offence to those of us who remember that invasion. Let me also add my own best wishes for your continuing excellent editorship of *Czechout*.

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 – 19 Kč.

E: ordinary standard letter to 50 g to European countries – 35 Kč.

Z: ordinary standard air letter to 50 g to non-European countries – 41 Kč.

21 February 2018

Definitive: Easter



Designer: Kryštof Krejča. **Printing:** full coloured offset in sheets of 50.

Design: making willow braided whips. No official FDC issued. This is one of the many folk customs associated with Easter and Spring traditions. The Easter Monday whips are braided willow twigs decorated with bright ribbons. The men then whip women into good health whilst carols and songs are sung.

21 February 2018

National Symbols

Designer: Filip Heyduk. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in booklets of 8 different NVI 'A' self-adhesive stamps. **Design:** Front cover; the flag of the Republic as background with the title of the issue and the Bohemian two-tailed crowned lion and titles of the stamps. Back cover: at left – postal information with security hologram and Czech Post logo; seven of the national symbols, details of which are reproduced on the stamps. No official FDC issued.

The individual national symbols are: a) Large National Emblem: shield of four fields referring to the historical Czech lands of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and the whole Czech Republic. b) Small National Emblem: a red shield with a silver, two-tailed, upright lion wearing a gold crown. c) National Colours of white, red and blue. d) National Flag: in white, red, and blue. e) Banner of the President of Czech Republic: the Large National Emblem on a white field with alternate white, red, and blue flame-like ornaments and red ribbon held by gold linden twigs bearing the text *Truth Prevails*. f) National Seal: the Large National Emblem with linden twigs and text *Czech Republic*. g) National Anthem: *Where is My Home*, words by Josef Kajetán, music by František Skroup.



14 March 2018 Historical Vehicles: Paddle Steamer – Vltava (NVI ‘A’ stamp)



Designer: Milan Bauer. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider (FDC cachet only). **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** Waite with commemorative Praha cancel; a ship's bell within a lifebuoy. The cachet drawing is a partial view of the paddle steamer as viewed through a curtained porthole.

The *Vltava* and *Vyšehrad* are the last two vintage steamers on the Vltava River. The *Vltava* was launched from the Prague shipyards in 1940 as a passenger vessel and since then has been refurbished several times. In 1991 it was transformed into a restaurant steamer. Today it hosts weddings and corporate events but retains its historical charm.

14 March 2018 Beauties of Our Country: Dlouhé Stráně Hydro Power Plant



Designer: Adolf Absolon. **Engraver:** Martin Srb. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 8 stamps. **FDC:** printed Waite with commemorative Loučná nad Desnou cancel. The cancel depicts the endangered, protected species of perennial bellflower growing near the Stones. The cachet drawing is a view of St Peter's Stones with a communications mast in the background. **Design:** a view of the Dlouhé Stráně Hydro Power Plant.

Construction of the plant began in May 1978 but in the early 1980s the project was halted until 1985 when a modernised design was put forward. However the decision to complete the project only came in 1989 and the plant was commissioned finally in 1996. It is the largest reversing, water turbine plant in Europe. The two turbines, each producing 325 megawatts, together with transformers and other equipment are in subterranean chambers. Above ground are the administrative buildings, switching station, sewage and water treatment plants. There are two reservoirs, the upper one is at the top of Dlouhé Stráně mountain.

14 March 2018 Coaches from the Postal Museum Collection (NVI ‘E’) Praga 2018

Designer: Karel Dvořák. **Printing:** coloured offset in sheets of 25 (5 each of 5 designs). No official FDCs were issued. **Design:** Five different historic coaches in a grid pattern, each with the text *Praga 2018*. The top of the sheet (at left) stands an early postilion in uniform holding a whip; (at right) text in Czech with heading of the issue and a brief description of the coaches. a) a landau belonging to Johann Adolf II. b) a passenger coach. c) a *Berlin* belonging to Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria. d) a *Victoria* belonging to Princess Pauline Clémentine von Metternich-Sándor. e) a mail coach from Žamberk. (See back cover).

4 April 2018 Czech Design: Jan Kaplický (NVI ‘E’)



Designer: Alan Záruba. **Printing:** rotary recess with photogravure in sheets of 50. **FDC:** digital with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is taken from leaflets in support of Kaplický's design for the National Library, Prague. **Design:** from the original Jan Kaplický accepted design for the proposed new Czech National Library.

Jan Kaplický (1937-2009) was a successful modern architect who lived in London from 1968. Amongst other projects he designed the Media Centre at Lords Cricket Ground; Docklands Floating Bridge (both in London, 1994); Selfridges Department Store, Birmingham (1999); and Enzo Ferarri Museum, Modena (2012). A new building for the National Library Prague was proposed in 2006 with Kaplický's design accepted in 2007 and the project to be completed in 2011. However objections, delays and legal problems with EU law meant the project was aborted in 2008.

4 April 2018 Personalities: Eduard Štorch



Designer: Zdeněk Daněk. **Printing:** coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** with Ostroměř commemorative cancel. The cachet design is a mammoth in silhouette with a group of people gathered round an open fire in the distance. **Design:** The face of Eduard Štorch illuminated by the light of a fire in a cave and to the right an imaginary view to the cave mouth with the outline of a prehistoric mammoth.

Eduard Štorch (1878-1956), after graduating from the teacher training college in Hradec Kralové, taught in several schools in the Most region and also wrote educational research articles for the magazine *Nová doba*. He lived in Prague from 1903 until retiring in 1938 although he spent two years as a school inspector in Bratislava immediately after World War I. Štorch was an innovative and inspiring teacher combining lessons with outdoor activities, organizing camps for children and parents, leading a scout troop, and running ski courses for teachers and children. He was also a keen self-taught archaeologist surveying in Prague and the Mělník regions.

18 April 2018 Definitive NVI 'A' : President Miloš Zeman



Designer and Engraver: Miloš Ondráček. **Printing:** rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 100. No official FDC issued. **Design:** portrait of the President.

Miloš Zeman (1944-). After graduating from the Secondary School of Economics, Kolin he gained an external degree from the University of Economics, Prague before working for a sporting company. He held several posts as an economist until he was nominated and elected to the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly in 1990 by the Civic Forum movement. From 1996-1998 he served as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, then appointed Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in 1998. In March 2013 he was elected President by popular vote for a five-year term of office and again in March 2018 for a further five-year term.

2 May 2018 Europa: Bridges



Designer: Milan Bauer. **Engraver:** Vaclav Fajt (FDC and linear stamp drawing). **Printing:** offset in sheets of six. **FDC:** recess from flat plates with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a view of the original Empire-style Podolsko Bridge. **Design:** a view of the two bridges over the Vltava River at Podolsko.

The Stádlec Bridge, in use for 113 years, was built in the Empire style by Vojtěch Lanna in 1847-1848 as part of a trade route from Galicia to Bavaria over the Vltava River. In 1942 a new bridge was built to cope with increased traffic. This much larger bridge was constructed of reinforced concrete. The old bridge was dismantled in 1960 but reconstruction only started in 1970 with its re-opening in 1975 over the River Lužnice near Stádlec.

2 May 2018 Czech Jazz



Designer: Jiří Silva. **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider. **Printing:** multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50. **FDC:** with commemorative Praha cancel. The humorous cachet depicts a Czech monarch busking on Charles Bridge collecting donations in an upturned crown and behind him an outline of Prague Castle. **Design:** the Czech two-tailed lion with a yellow cap playing a saxophone.

Jazz is a form of syncopated music characterized by improvisation which developed in the USA in the early 20th century amongst Afro-American communities of the southern states. It spread and blended with European and other indigenous styles.

Czech Republic Postal Stationery

Lindy Bosworth

Commemorative Card

The following postcards have the logo of the Czech Post and a security hologram to the left of the imprinted stamp. The first line for the address is a continuous micro-print *Czech Post, PTC 2015*. All images greatly reduced in size.



1 March 2018 40th Anniversary of Space Mail

Designer: Petr Prušek. The imprinted NVI 'A' stamp depicts the historical Czechoslovak Communications sector logo – ČS SPOJE with an orbiting satellite. The left half of the card has text in Czech and English with a facsimile copy of a card with signatures of astronauts and commemorative cancel.

Promotional Cards



1 March 2018 Munich International Stamp Bourse

Designer: Jan Ungrád. Held 1-3 March 2018 Munich, Germany. Imprinted 'E' stamp with a post coach motif. The left side of the card is a collage of motifs representing the city of Munich within a stamp outline and appropriate text.

3 May 2018 Essen – International Stamp Bourse

Designer: Jan Ungrád. Held 3-5 May 2018 Essen, Germany. Imprinted 'E' stamp with a post coach motif. The left side of the card is a collage of motifs representing the Essen area within a stamp outline and appropriate text.



New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

Printing Techniques

WIFAG: rotary recess press combined with photogravure.

WAITE: recess printing from flat plates.



Slovak Republic NVI Stamps and Current Rates

T1: Next day internal letter to 50 g – € 0.65.

T2: Second class internal letter to 50 g – € 0.45.

Letter to 50 g to Czech Republic – € 0.80.

Letter to 50 g to rest of Europe – € 0.90.

Letter to 50 g to rest of world – € 1.00.

16 February 2018 Cultural Heritage of Slovakia: VÚB Mlynské nivy, Bratislava



Designer: Peter Augustovič. **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik. **Printing:** Wifag. **FDC:** Waite Commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing shows a view of the lower wings of the building complex. **Design:** the VÚB (Všeobecná úverová banka – General Credit Bank) building, Bratislava.

23 February 2018 XII Winter Paralympic Games, Pyeongchang



Designer: Igor Piačka. **Printing:** offset (KBA Polly 566). **FDC:** Waite with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. Cachet drawing of a wheelchair curling event. **Design:** a visually impaired skier with his guide, both wearing wings, on the piste.

27 February 2018 Easter 2018 – Decorated Robes – Liturgical Textiles



Designer: Vladislav Rostoka. **Printing:** offset (KBA Polly 566). **FDC:** offset by Rempo s.r.o. and BB Print s.r.o. with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design depicts a funeral cope (c. 1830) originally from St Catherine's Church, Kremnica but now in the Slovak National Museum of History. **Design:** a square embroidered chalice cloth probably from the 17th century of unknown origin, now in the Slovak National Museum of History (based in Bratislava Castle).

1 March 2018 Personalities: Adam František Kollár (1718-1783)



Designer and Engraver: Jozef Česla. **Printing:** offset (KBA Polly 566). **FDC:** Waite with commemorative Terchová cancel. The cachet composition includes the initials of Kollár, an image of a library on the wall of which is his coat of arms conferred by Maria Theresa in 1777. **Design:** portrait of Kollár based on his portrait of 1779 by Jozef Hauzinger.

14 March 2018 Personalities: Karol L Zachar (1918-2003)



Designer: Marianna Žalec Varcholová. **Engraver:** Jozef Česla (FDC cachet only). **Printing:** offset (KBA Polly 566). **FDC:** Waite with commemorative Bratislava cancel – two Slovak men in traditional dress. The cachet drawing has two women in theatrical attire. **Design:** a portrait of Zachar.

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

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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.
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Text: Martin Jahnoda

Kočáry ze sbírek Poštovního muzea

Kočár typu landauer Jana Adolfa II. knížete ze Schwarzenbergu od londýnské firmy Barker & Co., která dodávala kočáry i britské královně Viktorii. Později karosovala automobily Rolls-Royce, Bentley a Daimler.

Cestovní dostavník z 2. pol. 19. stol. od milánské společnosti Cesare Sala, jejíž kočáry odebíral i římský a vídeňský dvůr. Později vyráběla karoserie pro automobily Alfa Romeo, Fiat a Isotta Fraschini.

Kočár typu berlingot rakouského císaře Ferdinanda I., který jej používal po své abdikaci (2. 12. 1848) během dlouholetého pobytu v Praze.

Kočár typu victoria Pavliny Klementiny kněžny Metternich-Sándor, vyrobený v 2. pol. 19. stol. pařížskou firmou Geibel, patřil vnučce rakouského kancléře Metternicha, důvěrnici manželky francouzského císaře Napoleona III.

Poštovní dostavník ze Žamberka pro přepravu osob i zásilek, vyrobený kol. roku 1860, byl mj. používán k slavnostním jízdám při narozeninách císaře Františka Josefa I.



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Coaches from the Postal Museum Collection