



# CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

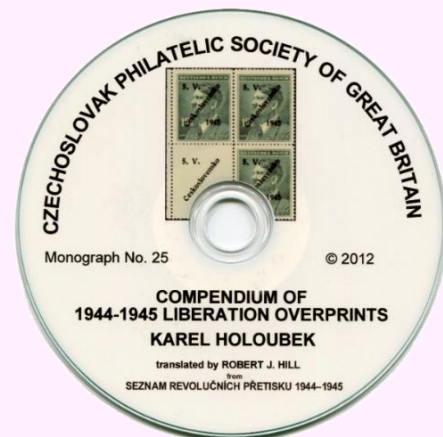
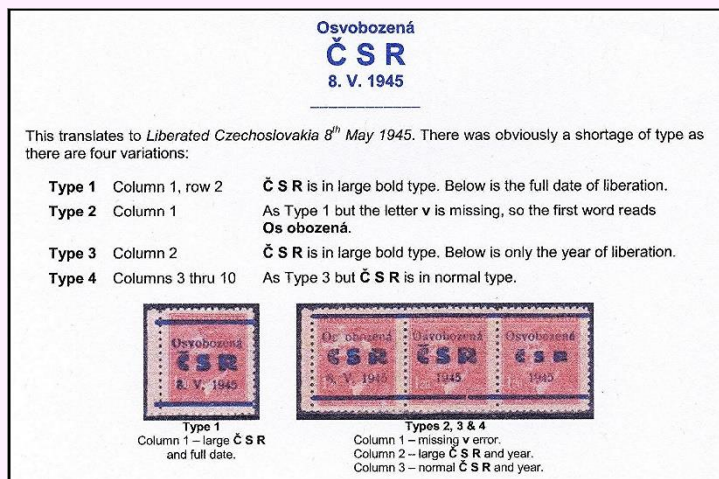
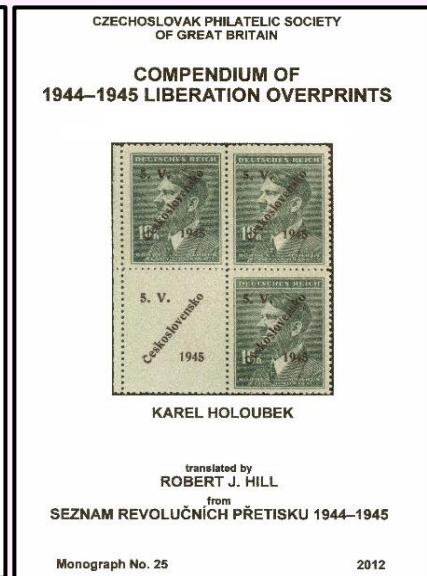
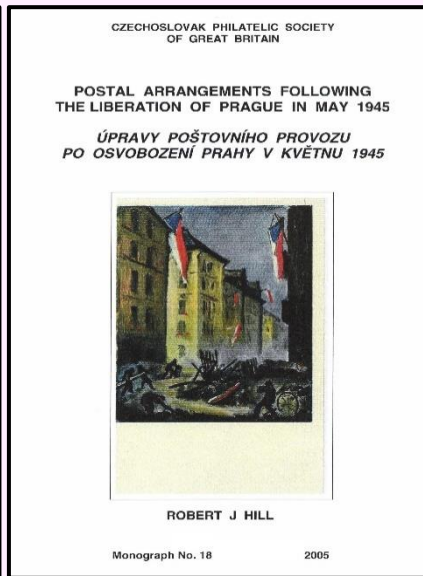
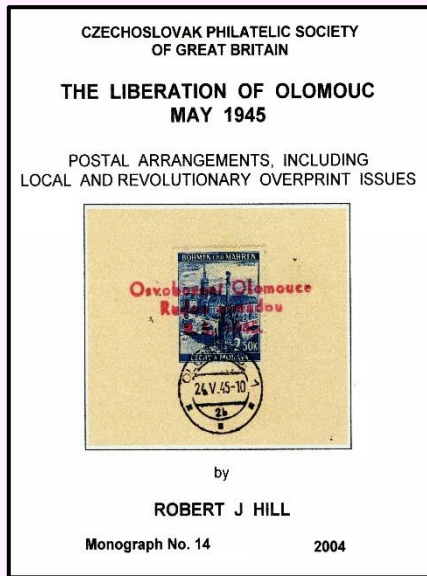
Volume 37:2

June 2019

Whole Number 175



# Monograph Sale Half-Price



From **Monograph 25, Liberation Overprints**

**No. 14:** *The Liberation of Olomouc May 1945: Postal arrangements including local and revolutionary overprint issues*, by Robert J. Hill. A4, ix + 42 pages. A study of postmarks, cachets, labels, overprints and the Orlice stamp.

Was £9.00 / €11.00 **Now £4.50 / €5.50 (inclusive of UK postage)**

**No. 18:** *Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945*, by Robert J. Hill. A4, xviii + 92 pages. Very detailed study of cancellations, overprints, postal stationery, postcards, commemorative sheets, etc. Fully illustrated, some in colour.

Was £16.50 / €20.00 **Now £8.25 / €10.00 (inclusive of UK postage)**

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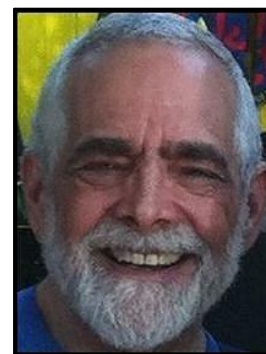
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## CONTENTS

<b>News and Notices</b>	4
<b>Display.</b> Robin Pizer's 'Mail between Early Czechoslovakia and Germany'	6
<b>Display.</b> Hans van Dooremalen's 'Postal History of Brünn/Brno up to 1875'	8
<b>ABPS Award of Merit</b> Dr Mark Wilson <i>by</i> Yvonne Wheatley	9
<b>Original Research.</b> 'How Much to Send a Postcard from the Protectorate to Slovakia?' <i>by</i> Rex Dixon	10
<b>Original Research.</b> 'Your Heller or Mine? Underpaid Mail between Austria and Czechoslovakia 1920–1921' <i>by</i> Andy Taylor	13
<b>Original Research.</b> 'Currency Reform: The Events of 25 February – 9 March 1919' <i>by</i> Yvonne Wheatley	15
<b>Original Research.</b> 'Good News from Dobruška: A Postcard to Pardubice, 17 May 1945' <i>by</i> Tony Moseley	18
<b>Milan Rastislav Štefánik</b> 1880–1919	19
<b>Stamps on Stamps</b>	22
<b>Book Reviews</b> <i>by</i> Yvonne Wheatley	23
<b>Queries</b>	25
<b>50 (Kafkaesque) Years Ago</b> – June 1969	26
<b>New Issues.</b> Czech Republic & Slovak Republic	27
<b>Officers and Committee</b>	31

### Editor's Note

Dear readers, blue words now indicate links. Click on them. Some are links to pages in this issue; other links open earlier issues of *Czechout* (e.g., [4/2008](#)) or take you to a sprinkling of images and web pages. (All members are entitled to a 'no extra cost' digital *Czechout*; write to [membership@cpsgb.org](mailto:membership@cpsgb.org).) Red font means the item requires prompt attention. This 175<sup>th</sup> issue contains four philatelic essays plus pieces on Milan Rastislav Štefánik and stamps-on-stamps in Czechoslovak philately. We also received book reviews, two provocative queries and two reports on displays at Society meetings. Another '50 Years Ago', on Franz Kafka, is included. This time there is a larger New Issues section in which we play catch up with the emissions of two prolific countries. NB: The  at the bottom of a page is a link which jumps to this page, 'Contents'.



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## News and Notices

### NEW MEMBER

The Society extends a warm welcome to our new member, Mr. Stuart Bell, New Romney, Kent.

### **CPSGB SUMMER MEETING at HATHERN – 22 JUNE**

The Summer meeting this year will take place on 22 June 2019 at Hathern, Loughborough. The day will start with a 12.30 p.m. lunch at 2 Penfold Close and then on to the Village Hall for displays and discussions at 2.00 p.m. Those intending to participate, please *immediately* provide Garth Taylor (see below) with this information: (1) Name, (2) Address, (3) Email, (4) Telephone, (5) Number of attendees, (6) Displays and (7) Dietary requirements. Directions, parking instructions and local hotels will be transmitted to attendees. **Garth Taylor**, 2 Penfold Close, Hathern, Loughborough LE12 5LS. Telephone: 01509 843575. Email: [garth.tayindcons@btinternet.com](mailto:garth.tayindcons@btinternet.com).

### **CPSGB at MIDPEX – 6 JULY**

MIDPEX 2019 will be held Saturday 6 July from 10.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m., sponsored by the Midland Philatelic Federation, at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN. A table has been booked by the Society. This is a good opportunity to meet other members of the Society so please make sure you visit the stand. Our Monographs will be on [sale](#) – come and see what is on offer.

### **CPSGB DISPLAY by MIKE DADDS – 21 SEPTEMBER**

*CPSGB* member Michael Dadds will speak on ‘Liberation Philately of Europe after WWII’ at 2.00 p.m. on 21 September 2019. The meeting will be held at the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 West End Lane, London NW6 2LX. The Club is open to *CPSGB* members at 12.00 and lunch is at 1.15.

### **CPSGB at ‘LIBEREC 2019’ – 25 SEPTEMBER**

The Philatelists Club of Liberec and Union of Czech Philatelists are organising a national exhibition to take place 25–29 September 2019, 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (except the last day, until 12.00) in Liberec, Czech Republic. It will be held in the historically famous Post Office Café, which is not ordinarily accessible to the public. The entire bulletin in full colour may be obtained at [www.filatelic-liberec.cz/Bulletin-1-Liberec.pdf](http://www.filatelic-liberec.cz/Bulletin-1-Liberec.pdf). The exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for members of *CPSGB* from the UK, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, the Netherlands and elsewhere to socialize.

### **JOINT MEETING, BRADFORD – 3 AUGUST**

Our 21<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting will take place on Saturday, 3 August 2019. This is the annual meeting of members of the *CPSGB* and the specialist philatelic societies of Austria, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia.

The meeting will be held at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas, BD8 7BY, Bradford, West Yorkshire. Bradford has two railway stations. Both are served from Leeds station where a change may have to be made, and both stations have buses to the venue.

The meeting is an all-day event. We will convene for coffee at 10.00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10.30. The buffet lunch is planned for around 1.00 p.m. and the sessions will resume at 2.00. After the sessions, we will have tea and cakes around 4.30.

The benefit of the day is that displays, which are often chosen to incorporate two of the countries represented, give a better understanding of the history of Europe. It is an occasion to bring queries which can often be answered by a member of another society. The impressive displays from the previous two meetings are nicely described in **Roger Morrell**'s reports in *Czechout* (4/2017, pp. 5–6 and 3/2018, p. 5).

Booking is necessary to plan for the catering of lunch. To register (£12.00/person), please contact the Treasurer – [treasurer@cpsgb.org](mailto:treasurer@cpsgb.org) (details inside back cover). **Yvonne Wheatley**

### Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (USA)

Check out our sister organization, the *Society for Czechoslovak Philately*, at its website, [www.csphilately.org](http://www.csphilately.org), and through SCP's Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, at [KLFCK@aol.com](mailto:KLFCK@aol.com).

The *Society for Czechoslovak Philately* publishes *The Czechoslovak Specialist* quarterly. This journal and *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 at [treasurer@cpsgb.org](mailto:treasurer@cpsgb.org) without having to worry about foreign currency or sending payment to the US. Increase your enjoyment and understanding of Czechoslovak philately by becoming a member of both societies.

### CPSGB TRADE ACCOUNT with STANLEY GIBBONS

The Society has a trade account with Stanley Gibbons for catalogues and accessories. Gibbons has informed the *CPSGB* that its orders for the past year were not sufficient for the Society to retain the top rate of discount. As a result, the rate will be reduced to 10% this year. Postage for orders under £100 will be charged at £5 for members of the *CPSGB* in the UK. Over £100 they are post free. Postage and insurance are charged on all overseas deliveries.

The range of products is also being reduced. Please make note of the product numbers (or stock codes) when using the on-line [Product Guide](#) and supply them to the Treasurer ([treasurer@cpsgb.org](mailto:treasurer@cpsgb.org); details on inside back cover) when requesting an order be placed for you. **Yvonne Wheatley**

### JUBILEE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 'C-S SALON 2018', BRATISLAVA

An inspirational philatelic exhibition on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia, focusing on the historical development of Slovakia as a county and Slovaks as a nation, was held in Bratislava Castle, Slovakia, 27 October – 4 November 2018.

Two members of *CPSGB* presented exhibits in Bratislava: Ing. **Milan Černík** of Prague displayed his 'Registered Stationery Postal Cards in Slovakia 1918-1921' and Dr **Pavol Lazar** of Bratislava showed gems of Czechoslovak philately in his exhibit 'Czechoslovakia 1918–1939' (visit his website, [www.palophilo.com](http://www.palophilo.com)).

A stamp depicting the castle with the Slovak national emblem and flags was issued 2 January 2018 to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovak Republic (*Czechout* 1/2018, p. 26). A commemorative postcard was issued with the text 'CS Salon 2018' on 26 October 2018 with a similar view of the castle (*4/2018*, p. 30).

**Yvonne Wheatley**




**Left:** Slovak postal stationery card inscribed 'CS SALON 2018' issued by the Slovak Post. See the article by José Ramón Moreno in *FEPA News*, 30 November 2018. **Inset:** The stamp version of the scene.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

 Award at the *Italia International Philatelic Exhibition*, Verona, Italy, 23–25 November 2018: **Helmut Kobelbauer** Large Gold, ‘Nach dem Grossen Krieg’ (After the Great War)


 Awards at CHICAGOPEX, Itasca, Illinois, USA, 16–18 November 2018:

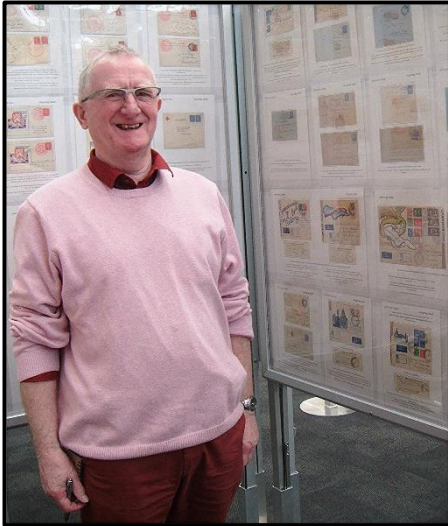
**Alan Hanzl** Gold, ‘The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (1939–1945)’

**Ludvik Svoboda** Vermeil, ‘Trials and Tribulations with Czechoslovakia’s Hradčany 1918–1920’

**Keith Hart** and **Ludvik Svoboda** Large Vermeil (Literature), *Czechoslovak Specialist*

**Steven Friedenthal** Vermeil (Literature), *Czechoslovakia Machine Advertising Cancels: The First Republic Period* (co-author Peter Schubert) [the text is [here](#)]

 Award at the British National Stamp Exhibition, Spring Stampex International, London, 13 February–16 February 2019: **Garth Taylor** Large Vermeil, ‘Postal History of the Free Czech Army in WW2 1939–1945’. (Left: Garth Taylor, photograph courtesy of **Roger Morrell**.)



## AUCTIONS RESUMED

*CPSGB* member **Ken J. Dyke** has kindly volunteered and as of early April has occupied the position of Auction Secretary for the Society. His contact information is now included in the list of ‘Officers and Committee’ on the inside back cover. Many thanks to Ken for taking on this important role. Members will be notified as details about our rejuvenated auction procedures become available.

## Display: Robin Pizer’s

### ‘Mail between Early Czechoslovakia and Germany’

*At the 12 January 2019 meeting of CPSGB, held at the Czech and Slovak National Club in London, Robin Pizer exhibited mail between early Czechoslovakia and Germany. The following notes about the display, which have been edited and abridged by the Editor, were contributed to Czechout by the speaker, Robin Pizer, who submitted the images as well. (See also Czechout 2/2008, pp. 32–33.)*

The first part of the presentation consisted of mail from Czechoslovakia which bore unusual markings, labels or notices concerning the German exchange control of 1918–1923. Mail coming into Germany from Czechoslovakia was examined at Berlin (for mail destined for the Berlin area, until the end of March 1919), Königsberg (East Prussia), Lindau (the Lindau area), Munich (Rhineland Palatinate, Baden and Bavaria – except Lindau), Stuttgart (the Württemberg and Hohenzollern areas) and Dresden (for mail for the rest of the country).

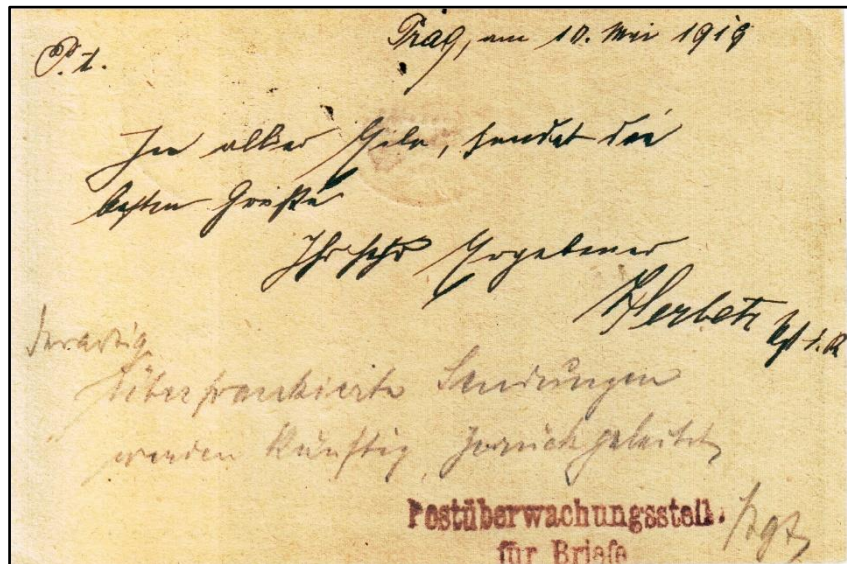
There was no postal service from 26 February 1919 to 9 March 1919 because the Czech borders were closed to permit Austro-Hungarian banknotes to be overprinted [or franked with currency stamps; see *Yvonne Wheatley’s* essay on ‘Currency Reform’, *this issue*, pp. 15–17]. From November 1919 sealing labels usually bore a number





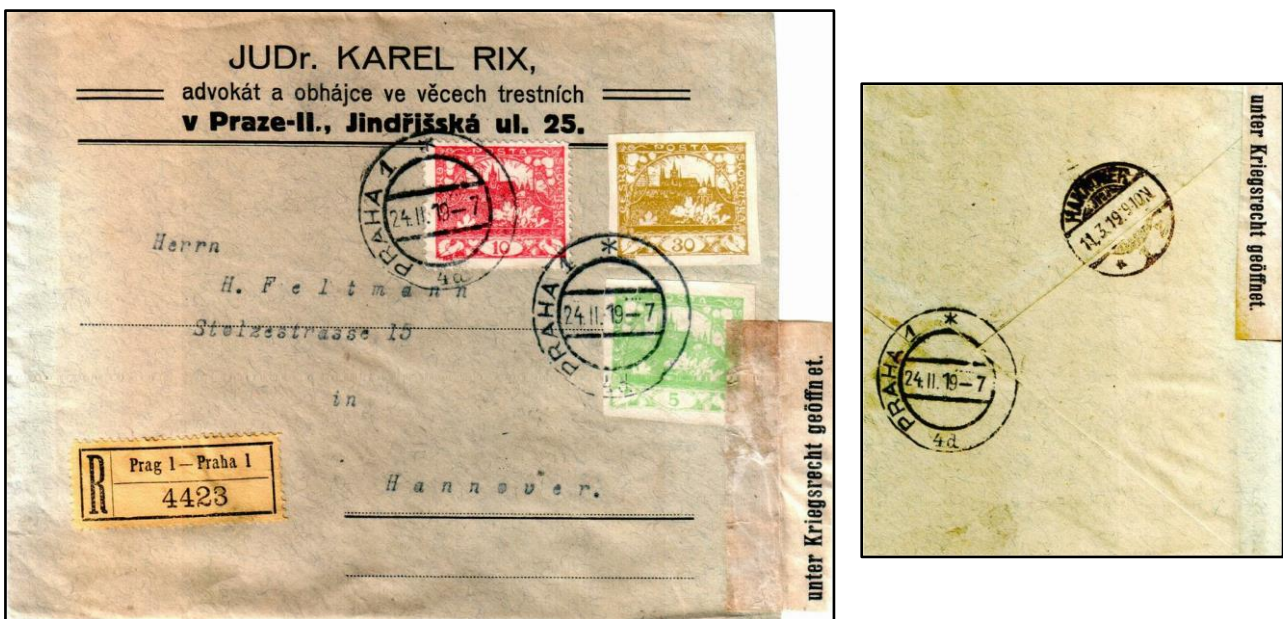
assigned to each exchange control office, viz. 4/Dresden, 13/Königsberg, 14/Lindau, 16/Munich and 19/Stuttgart.

Due to a German wartime regulation which persisted after the end of the War, the importing of postage stamps into Germany required a licence. One 'rule' was that any overfranked mail was treated as an attempt to get round the import restrictions and so was returned to the sender. Figure 1 shows an uprated postal stationery card (an overprinted Austrian Charles postcard) sent registered from Prague, 10 May 1919, to Aalen in Württemberg, franked with an extra block of 4x1 h Hradčany for a total of 39 h instead of the required 35 h. Using a pencil, a lenient Stuttgart exchange control inspector wrote (in German) on the back of the card, 'such overfranked mail will in future be sent back'.



**Figure 1, top:** Front of card is franked with 10 + 25 + 4 = 39 h and cancelled 10.5.IX.19, Praha 9. ('Prag' is excised from the 'a' device.) Arrival strike is Aalen 14 MAI 19. **Figure 1, bottom:** Back of the card. The inspector's handwritten warning in German is 'derartig überfrankierte Sendungen werden künftig zurückgeleitet', which is translated in the text.

The second part of the display dealt with the closing of the Czech border in early 1919; German underfranked mail to Czechoslovakia with postage due; and German parcel cards to Czechoslovakia with postage due. Figure 2 exhibits a registered letter posted in Prague on 24 February 1919, two days before the border was closed and mail cessation went into effect. It was addressed to Hannover, where it arrived two weeks later on 11 March 1919, after the border was again open. The letter was caught up in the border closure which caused its delayed arrival. The letter was opened by the Dresden exchange control, using wartime resealing labels (one is missing; see the left edge of the cover, *recto*).



**Figure 2:** An envelope delayed by the closing of the border, 26 February – 9 March 1919. **Left:** Recto, registered cover from Czechoslovakia to Hannover, Germany, cancelled 24.II.19, Praha 1 ('Prag' excised from the '4d' device). A three-colour Hradčany franking, total 45 h. **Right:** Verso (flipped and cropped). The Hannover receiving strike is dated 11.3.19, several days after the border was opened.



## Display: Hans van Dooremalen's 'Postal History of Brünn/Brno up to 1875'

At the 23 March 2019 meeting of CPSGB, held at the Czech and Slovak National Club in London, the Chairman of our Society, Hans van Dooremalen, displayed material from his exhibit which won a Large Gold at Praga 2018. The following edited notes were contributed to Czechout by Secretary **Colin Smith**.

At the beginning of the display is a letter of 1638, soon after the opening of the post office. Postmarks were introduced in 1782, soon disappearing because they were no longer needed – because from 1789 postage was calculated only by weight. When postage fees again depended on distance in 1817, postmarks reappeared. Separate postmarks were introduced for prepaid letters and registration.



Attendees in this photo (courtesy of **Garth Taylor**) are, left to right: Hans van Dooremalen, Ian Burniston, Michael Fairhead, Ted Kemp, Shirley Kemp, Rex Dixon, Reg Hounsell, Christopher Saunders (guest) & Colin Smith.

The many different items displayed included receipts and tickets to travel on mail coach, covers and fiscals, all becoming more frequently employed. The display also showed a receipt for renting a Post Box, newspapers and tracers for Lost Items.

The oldest incoming mail arrived in 1581. In 1809, there was mail of the French Army, which was occupying Brünn. Nearly sixty years later the Prussian Army also occupied Brünn. (See Hans'

article, 'The Prussian Occupation of Brünn – 1866', *Czechout* 4/1993, pp. 95–99, which shows both incoming and outgoing mail.) The display contains several pieces from the period around the Battle of (nearby) Austerlitz on 2 December 1805, sent by the French Army of Napoleon.

The post office changed location in 1839. The first railway reached Brünn in 1839, followed in 1845 by the first telegraph between Brünn and Vienna alongside the railway. In 1850 the telegraph was available to the general public, costing a small fortune of 4 *gulden* to Vienna. Also in 1850 the Austrian Empire's first stamps – 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 *kreuzer* – were issued, and used in Brünn.

The 1849 Brünn Railway Station (*Bahnhof*) was the second post office, which produced blue-green-black multicolour postmarks. A third post office at Alt Brünn ('old' Brünn; right) was located where the mail coach stopped at the bottom of Petrov hill (the horses couldn't climb to the top).

Hans exhibited altogether 128 sheets. **Roger Morrell** gave a vote of thanks for such an excellent display which was well applauded. (See also **Garth Taylor's** Brno/Brünn display, 3/2008, pp. 61–62.)



Folded letter cancelled Alt-Brünn 17 January (1865), addressed to Prague. Franking, 3-colour: Austria 3 kr green (1863), 2 kr yellow and two 5 kr red (1863/64).



## *Association of British Philatelic Societies Award of Merit*

**Dr Mark Wilson FRPSL**

by **Yvonne Wheatley**

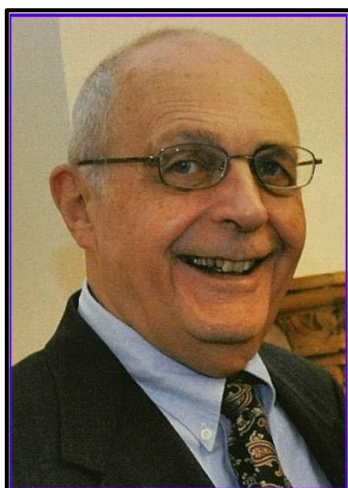
As Chairman of the *Association of British Philatelic Societies Awards Committee* I am delighted to announce that Mark Wilson has received this Award of Merit. He was nominated by the Committee of our *Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain* for his outstanding contribution to British philately.

I became aware of Mark's abilities when I read in a copy of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (65:5, September/October 2003, p. 21) that, having taken up the hobby, he taught himself Czech in order to read the handbooks. Now it is not only Mark who can read the handbooks. The English speakers have access to them thanks to his incredible ability to translate, edit and newly illustrate them for our benefit.

Mark joined *CPSGB* on 23 March 2001. I soon discovered his insatiable appetite for acquiring stamps for his plating studies as he purchased thousands of stamps of the same value done up in bundles of cotton thread and given to me to put into our auction.

During my term as Chairman of the Society we were in urgent need of an editor. Mark answered the advertisement in *Czechout* and offered his assistance to a new editor. As we did not have an editor, I invited him to fill the position. He accepted on the understanding that he could retire at the end of the year. Before the year was up, he said he was enjoying the challenge and remained our editor until June 2018. There was no holding him back. He transformed *Czechout* and it won a Vermeil at the European exhibition held in London in 2015.

The *CPSGB* was like any other specialist society but with Mark's input into the Committee we began to think in new directions. He made his website ([www.czechout.org](http://www.czechout.org)) available as a shop window for *CPSGB*. Mark then worked on an Interactive Index for *Czechout*. It won a gold medal at the National Exhibition in London in September 2013. The Index was added to the website together with *Czechout* from its inception up to the latest issue. His numerous translations of Czech handbooks and original studies in the Print-On-Demand series were also added.



*Photograph of Mark at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration (taken by Michael Pitt-Payne).*

During this decade, our Society grew in stature and the membership increased. In 2018 we entered a nomination for a Federation of European Philatelic Associations Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding activities in the promotion of European philately. The Certificate proclaiming *CPSGB* as the best European Philatelic Club of 2017 would not have been possible without Mark's energy, innovative ideas and willingness to devote so much time to writing and producing monographs and print-on-demand titles for the Society. (The certificate is reproduced on page 2 of *Czechout* 3/2018.)

Mark's work continues with monographs and print-on-demand titles which are more prolific now that he has retired as editor of *Czechout*. He retains a position on our Committee as North American Representative.

Mark had scans of all the 568 pages of material shown by *CPSGB* members to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 21 November 2013 as part of the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations added to the Royal's website. Our Interactive Index for *Czechout* is also on that website. This brought Mark to the notice of the IT Committee of the Royal for whom he has done IT work. He was given a Fellowship in the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2014.

Our Society is delighted to have Mark's efforts recognised in Great Britain for the phenomenal amount of quality work he has done for British philately through the *CPSGB*.

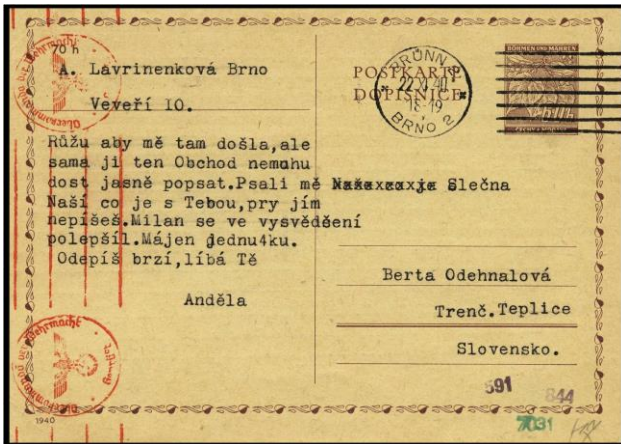


*Photograph of Mark Wilson from his first issue as editor of Czechout: 4/2012, p. 74.*

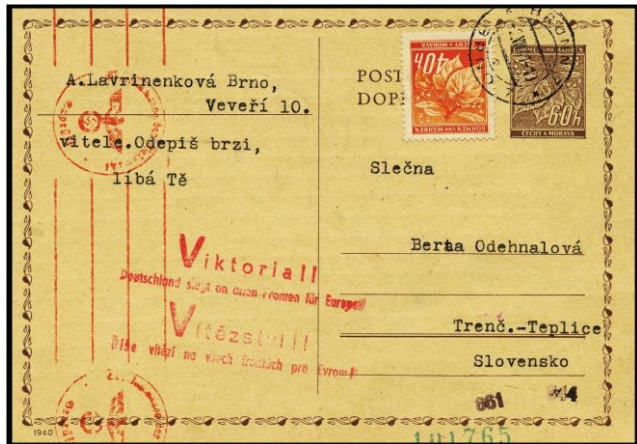


# How Much to Send a Postcard from the Protectorate to Slovakia?

by Rex Dixon



(I) 60 h



(II) 100 h (40 h + 60 h)



(III) 120 h (60 h + 60 h)



(IV) 150 h (1 k + 50 h)

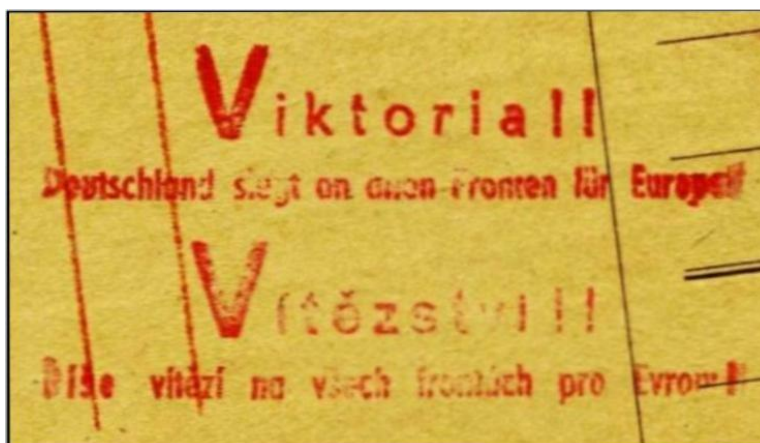
The four postcards illustrated above were all sent from the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, during its early years, to independent Slovakia, but they were paid at different rates: 60 haler, 100 haler, 120 haler and 150 haler. As the rate from 1 April 1939 to 31 August 1942 remained constant,<sup>1</sup> only one of them can be correct. The four rates are not random – there is potentially a logical explanation for each of them. The four are dated 22.XI.40, 2.VIII.41, 25(?) .VII.40 and 7.XII.39 respectively. Which one is franked correctly?



Cancellations, with dates, of postcards (I) – (IV), in the same positions.



Before answering that question, let's discuss other aspects of these cards. The 60 *h* and 100 *h* cards (**I**, **II**) have both been censored in Vienna and allowed to pass. The machine-applied censor marks are Riemer types G-21 and G-22 respectively, distinguished by the shape of the capital 'G' in 'Geprüft', changed from Antiqua to Gothic.<sup>2</sup> They each carry the small number marks of individual censors. The 100 *h* card has also received a six-digit numerator in green, introduced in mid-1941, counting the number of items handled.<sup>3</sup> This card has also received the bilingual propaganda slogan 'Viktoria!! Germany victorious on all fronts for Europe!'<sup>4</sup>



The 120 *h* card (**III**) is a pictorial greeting card. This innocuous celebration of a name day (Anička/Anna, 26 July) has fallen foul of the wartime rules forbidding the mailing of picture and



view cards abroad and has received the bilingual 'Not permitted' cachet (applied where?).<sup>5</sup> It would normally then have been returned to sender, but as there is no return address it must have been retained within the system, eventually emerging on the philatelic market.

The 150 *h* card (**IV**) was posted in Mezimostí before the outbreak of war. The 'D.K./Praha 7' (*Devisová kontrola*) mark shows that it was checked

in Prague for currency control purposes, considered by many to be disguised censorship.<sup>6</sup> On the other side is a view of 'Třeboň – Obecná škola', an elementary school. The card was sent before the prohibition mentioned above was promulgated.

### Which Rate Is Correct?

Two cards are simple to deal with. The lowest rate, 60 *h* (**I**), equivalent to 6 German *pfennig*, was the rate for a postcard within the Protectorate since 1 June 1940, the date that basic postcard and letter rates were 'Germanised'. It was also the rate for a postcard to Germany since 1 April 1939. Slovakia ceased to be regarded as internal on 1 April 1939, just over two weeks after it declared its independence on 14 March. On that date (1 April 1939), rates for all classes of letter mail to Slovakia were generally aligned with those to Hungary (there were a couple of exceptions).<sup>7</sup>

The sender of the 150 *h* card (**IV**) paid the full foreign (UPU) rate, not realising that there was a concessionary rate. Or perhaps it was an overfranking for convenience, not having the right stamps for the concessionary rate.

The correct concessionary rate from the Protectorate to Slovakia was 120 *h* (**III**). For cards from Czechoslovakia to Hungary this rate had been introduced on 1 January 1922, the start of rate period V. It was set to 80 per cent of the UPU rate.<sup>8</sup>

So that leaves us to explain the 100 *h* franking (II). This was the equivalent of 10 *pf*, and that had been the concessionary rate from Germany to both Hungary and Czechoslovakia (later to independent Slovakia) since 1 January 1925.<sup>9</sup> Maybe the sender was familiar with this German rate and assumed that the Protectorate rate would match it. Note that the sender of (I) seems also to be the sender of (II).

In Germany the UPU rate for postcards was 15 *pf*, so the concessionary rate was two-thirds of the full rate. The concessionary letter rate, 20 *pf*, was 80 per cent of the UPU rate, 25 *pf*, as was the Protectorate concessionary letter rate, 200 *h* against 250 *h*.<sup>10</sup> In 1925 all postal rates in Germany were in multiples of 5 *pf* (except for the 3 *pf* internal printed matter rate) and the stamps available reflected this. The equivalent of the 120 *h* Czechoslovak rate would have been 12 *pf*; that was rounded down to 10 *pf*. The concessionary postcard rates were thus the mismatched 120 *h* and 10 *pf*. *This is the only instance* I am aware of where a Protectorate rate for letter mail, including supplementary fees like registration – once fully ‘Germanised’ from 1 October 1940 – *does not match the equivalent rate from Germany*.

#### NOTES

1. Inland rates for all classes of letter mail to Slovakia were introduced by bilateral agreement from 1 September 1942. *Věstník*, 40/1942, §165; Hammonds, pp. 56–59.
2. Riemer, pp. 130–131.
3. Riemer, pp. 135–136.
4. Hammonds, p. 31. (See *Czechout* 4/2002, pp. 105–108.)
5. ‘First order for the execution of the Directive on the Communications Service, 13 May 1940’, Section 2 A 1 a, in Houston, p. 33; translated from ‘Erste Durchführungsverordnung zur Verordnung über den Nachrichtenverkehr, vom 13. Mai 1940’ in *Amtsblatt*, 55/1940, §308.
6. Hammonds, p. 17.
7. *Věstník*, 17/1939, §88.
8. Klim and Schödelbauer, p. 613. Before that, during rate periods III and IV (15 March 1920 to 31 December 1921), Hungary had been treated as a foreign country attracting full UPU rates.
9. *Amtsblatt*, 119/1924, §801; *Michel*, p. 139, p. 143.
10. Germany introduced concessionary foreign rates to Hungary and Czechoslovakia on 1 January 1922. During the high inflation they were generally 75 per cent of the full UPU rates, with rounding (Binder, pp. 40–41). It may be that the intention from 1925 was also to use 75 per cent but rounding set the concessionary letter rate at 80 per cent, whereas it would appear that Czechoslovakia had intended all concessionary rates to be 80 per cent.

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- Riemer, Karl-Heinz, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch deutsche Dienststellen: Handbuch und Katalog*, Neue Schriftenreihe Poststempelgilde ‘Rhein-Donau’, Heft 88 (Düsseldorf, 1979).
- Věstník ministerstva dopravy v Praze*, later *Věstník ministerstva dopravy pro obor Protektorátní pošty čech a moravy* (Prague, various years).

This article is a slightly modified version of my article which appeared in *Germania* 54:4 (November 2018), pp. 258–262 and is reproduced by kind permission of the editor and author; <https://www.germanphilately.org/germania-magazine.html>.



## Your Heller or Mine? Underpaid Mail between Austria and Czechoslovakia 1920–1921

by Andy Taylor

The March 2018 issue of *Czechout* carried a most interesting article with the above title, written by Michael Furfie. Anyone can read it online (1/2018, p. 11) or can join the [CPSGB](#) and get it printed on paper! I've expanded the Austria-to-Czechoslovakia part of Furfie's table to include all the Austrian 'Inflation Periods'. I have managed to fill in some of the gaps from my Austrian sources, and am able to explain an apparent anomaly in early 1920.

The second paragraph of Furfie's article says:

Mail between Austria and Czechoslovakia continued to be charged inland rates until early 1920. Sources are not unanimous over the date or dates of the change to foreign rates. There is widespread agreement that it occurred on the 15 March for mail from Czechoslovakia to Austria – a date on which Czechoslovak inland rates were increased. I think it almost certain that the change for mail in the opposite direction also occurred on this date. Bernardini and Pfalz say it was 15 January, when all Austrian rates were increased, but the treatment of the letter shown as *Figure 1* is not consistent with their date.<sup>1</sup>

With the help of the Austrian Post Archivist (*danke*, Eva), the mystery is resolved. Briefly: until 14 January 1920 letter mail from Austria to Czechoslovakia was treated and charged as inland. *From 15 January 1920 it was listed separately as a foreign country but still charged the Austrian inland rates.* From 15 March 1920 it was charged full foreign rates. And from 1 January 1922 it was charged at a reduced foreign rate.

**Table A1. Austrian Rates from 12 November 1918**

Rates for postcard and lowest-weight letter mail to Czechoslovakia are highlighted in yellow.								
Refs & Notes	Date	Inflation Period	Inland Letter	Inland P'card	Foreign Letter	Foreign P'card	Reduced Foreign Letter	Reduced Foreign P'card
A	1.9.1919	1	20 h	10 h	25 h	10 h	N/A	
B	15.1.1920	2	40 h	25 h	1 K	40 h		
C	15.3.1920		40 h	25 h	1 K	40 h		
D	15.4.1920	3	80 h	50 h	2 K	80 h		
E	1.2.1921	4	2 K	1 K	5 K	3 K		
F	1.8.1921	5	4 K	2 K	10 K	6 K		
G	1.12.1921	6	10 K	5 K	25 K	15 K		
H	1.1.1922							
K	1.5.1922	7	25 K	12 K 50	75 K	45 K	60 K	35 K
L	15.7.1922							
M	21.8.1922	8	100 K	50 K	300 K	180 K	240 K	140 K
N	18.9.1922	9	200 K	100 K	600 K	360 K	480 K	280 K
O	1.11.1922	10	400 K	200 K	1500 K	900 K	1200 K	720 K
P	1.8.1923	11	600 K	300 K	2000 K	1200 K	1600 K	900 K
Q	1.12.1923	12	1000 K	500 K	3000 K	1800 K	2400 K	1400 K
R	1.12.1924	13	1500 K	700 K	4000 K	2400 K	3000 K	1800 K
S	1.6.1925	Kronen-groschen mix	15 gro	7 gro	40 gro	24 gro	30 gro	18 gro

**Table A2. References & Notes for Table A1**

Row	Says who? ('RGB', 'PTVBI' & 'Kroiss'—see below)	Notes
A	1918 RGB 294; PTVBI 37/1919 Nr. 107; Kroiss 27 & 31	Austria-Czechoslovakia postal treaty of 1919 confirming and continuing the 1918 rates.

Row	Says who? ('RGB', 'PTVBI' & 'Kroiss'—see below)	Notes
B	1919 SGB 527; <b>PTVBI 2/1920 Nr. 5</b> ; Kroiss 27 & 31	<b>Czechoslovakia became 'foreign' but most mail to Czechoslovakia was charged at the new inland rates.</b>
C	<b>PTVBI 11/1920 Nr. 31</b> ; Kroiss 23	<b>Most mail to Czechoslovakia now charged at foreign rates.</b>
D	1920 SGB 130; Kroiss 27 & 31	
E	1921 BGB 060; PTVBI 3/1921 Nrs. 3 & 12; Kroiss 27 & 31	
F	1921 BGB 360; PTVBI 37/1921 Nr. 23; Kroiss 28 & 33	
G	1921 BGB 620; PTVBI 56/1921 Nr. 28; Kroiss 28 & 33	
H	Kroiss 36	Reduced rates began for mail to Czechoslovakia and three other countries.
K	1922 BGB 200; Kroiss 28, 33, 36	
L	1922 BGB 406	A completely new <i>Postordnung</i> was issued (the rates we are discussing remained unchanged).
M	Kroiss 28, 33, 36	In this period, the PTVBI usually said 'the foreign rates shall be increased as set forth in the appended new <i>Postgebühren-weiser</i> '. However, it needs luck to find a copy, as they were usually recycled when the next issue arrived.
N	Kroiss 29, 34, 37	
O	Kroiss 29, 34, 37	
P	Kroiss 29, 34, 37	
Q	Kroiss 30, 35, 37	
R	Kroiss 30, 35, 37	
S	Kroiss 30, 35, 37	

- '1918 RGB 294' refers to the Austrian Law book, here Law 294 of 1918. RGB = *Reich-*, SGB = *Staats-*, BGB = *Bundes-gesetzblatt*. All are available (as images of pictures) on the ALEX web site (at the Austrian National Library, <http://alex.onb.ac.at>).
- Similarly, '**PTVBI 37/1919 Nr. 107**' is the *Post & Telegraph Verordnungsblatt*, here issue 37 of 1919 section 107. These can be consulted by visiting the library of the Vienna Technical Museum.
- 'Kroiss nn' means 'page numbers in Kroiss' book on Inflation': *Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918–1925*, published by Dipl.-Ing. Peter Kroiss in 2008.

The critical PTVBI sections, highlighted in **bold purple** in *Table A2*, state as follows.<sup>2</sup>

**PTVBI 37/1919 Nr. 107:** *Vorläufiges Übereinkommen über die Regelungen des Postverkehrs zwischen den Postverwaltungen der deutschösterreichischen und der tschecho-slowakischen Republik: Artikel V: Für Briefpostsendungen einschließlich der Zeitungen, für Wertbriefe und Pakete, die zwischen den beiden vertragschließenden Staaten ausgetauscht werden, gelten die Gebühren des inneren Verkehrs. Artikel XII: Dieses Übereinkommen tritt am 1. September 1919 in Kraft....*

That is, Austria-to-Czechoslovakia letter mail (including newspapers, value-letters and packets) would be charged at inland rates. This took effect on 1 September 1919, although the actual rates didn't change from those at the end of WWI.

**PTVBI 2/1920 Nr. 5:** *Die neuen Postgebühren Teil II* states that on 15 January 1920 new postage rates take effect. An accompanying *Beilage* contains a multi-page *Postgebührenweiser* with the details; page 2 thereof has column 3 for 'Inland', 4 for Germany, 5 for Czechoslovakia, 6 for Hungary, 7 for SHS and 8 for 'UPU Countries'. For letter mail the UPU rate is 100 *h*; for all the other countries it is 40 *h*. The layout of the table means that Czechoslovakia *et al.* are classified as separate foreign countries, *even when the rate is the same* (corresponds to Bernardini/Pfalz).<sup>3</sup>

**PTVBI 11/1920 Nr. 31:** '*Gebühren im Verkehr mit der Tschecho-Slowakei*'. *Artikel 1: Der Artikel V des vorläufigen Übereinkommens über den Postverkehr zwischen Österreich und der Tschecho-Slowakei (PTVBI 37/1919 Nr. 107) ist bezüglich der Gebühren abgeändert werden. Artikel 2: Vom 15. März 1920 angefangen gelten im wechselseitigen Verkehr zwischen Österreich und der Tschecho-Slowakei mit den unter 3. angeführten Ausnahmen die für den Verkehr mit Ländern des Weltpostvereines festgesetzten Gebühren (außer für Blindendruck-sachen, Pakete und Zeitungen).*



That is, from 15 March 1920 on, the rate for letters to Czechoslovakia became the full UPU rate. Braille, packets and newspaper rates were not changed by this instruction.

#### NOTES

1. Furfie, 'Your Heller or Mine? Underpaid Mail between Austria and Czechoslovakia 1920–1921', *Czechout* 36:1, No. 170 (March 2018), pp. 11–21, at p. 11.
2. References are web-linked in an online version of this article ([www.austrianphilately.com/furfie](http://www.austrianphilately.com/furfie)).
3. Ernst Bernardini and Helmut Pfalz, *100 Jahre Österreichische Portomarken* (Vienna 1994).

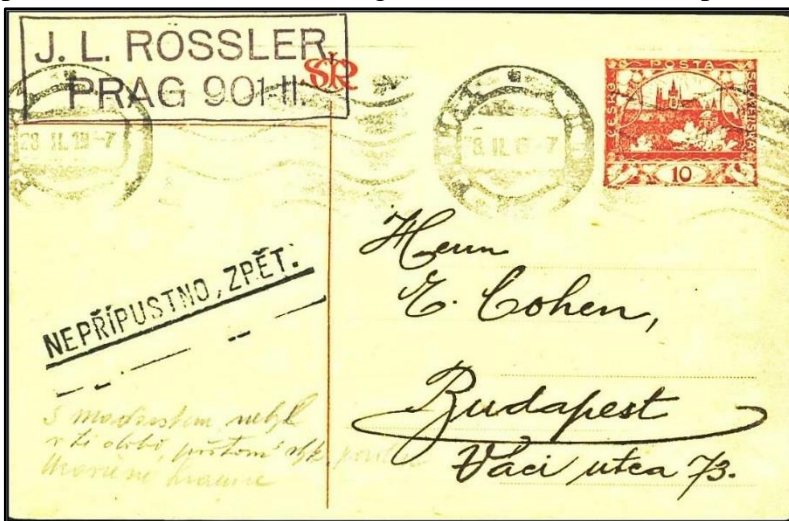
This article is reprinted, with stylistic changes, from *Austria*, No. 204 (Autumn 2018), pp. 28–29, the journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society ([www.austrianphilately.com](http://www.austrianphilately.com)), with the kind permission of the author and editor.

## Currency Reform: The Events of 25 February – 9 March 1919

by Yvonne Wheatley

Czechoslovakia did not have its own banknotes until April 1919.<sup>1</sup> Until then the *kronen* notes of the Austro-Hungarian Empire remained in circulation. In the new states formed from the old Empire at the end of World War I the *korona* began to inflate as it had been maintained at an artificially high value during the latter part of the war, but the rates of inflation were not uniform.

The Czechoslovak authorities (especially Finance Minister Alois Rašín)<sup>2</sup> decided that action had to be taken quickly. On 25 February 1919 the National Assembly passed in secret a plan for stamping all banknotes within the country with a revenue control stamp. Further, from 26 February to 9 March 1919 the frontiers of the country were closed unexpectedly – this plan was not announced to the public in advance – and foreign mail services were suspended (Figures 1 and 2).



**Figure 1 (left):** Postal card, 28 II 19, sent from Prague (Praha I) to Budapest. 'NEPŘÍPUSTNO, ZPĚT' means 'No service, return.'<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 2 (below):** Card sent from Lausanne, Switzerland to Komotau (Chomutov), 6 March 1919, marked in French 'RETOUR Service postal suspendu'.



Only notes circulating within the country could be presented for stamping. The currency of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire was dual-language for both parts of the Empire, one side of a note being in German and the other side Magyar. Each note had a stamp uniformly applied to the Hungarian side. The stamps had a value of one percent of the face value of the note. (See Figures 3 and 4.) The notes were all stamped with adhesives—except for the 1,000 *kronen* notes, on which an impressed '10 *koruna*' was struck by machine. Huge quantities of these stamps were produced in values of 10, 20 and 50 *haléřů* and 1 *koruna*.<sup>4</sup>

Reproduced with the permission of Robert Johnson





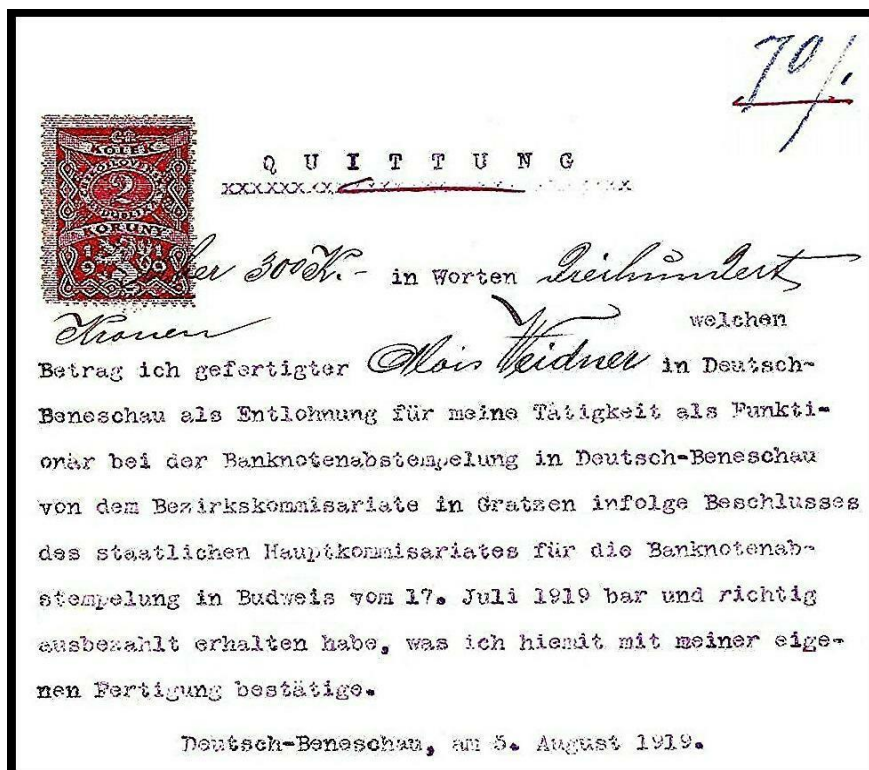
According to Thomas J. Sargent, a total of 8,000 million *korona* was stamped.<sup>5</sup> After 9 March 1919 only stamped notes were regarded as legal tender.

**Figure 3 (top):** A 1 koruna orange currency control stamp on a 100 korona note [1 k/100 k = 1%] of 2 January 1912 of the Austro-Hungarian Bank.



**Figure 4 (bottom):** A 20 haléř red currency control stamp franks a 20 korona note of 2 January 1913 of the Austro-Hungarian Bank. [1 k = 100 h; 20 h/20 k = 1%.]

Local stamping commissioners were formed from the local bureaucracy. The work was carried out under the direction of the Note Stamping Commission between 3 and 9 March 1919 at local offices all over the republic. Those undertaking the work had to wait quite a while for their pay. A receipt or payment for the work is illustrated in Figure 5. The translation from the German is:



**Figure 5:** Receipt for payment for work applying currency control stamps to bank notes. Benešov nad Černou (Deutsch-Beneschau), 5 August 1919. As this is an official record, it has been taxed according to the scale for money transfers, 2 k for 200–400 k. (From the collection of John Whiteside. The image has been cleaned by the Editor.)

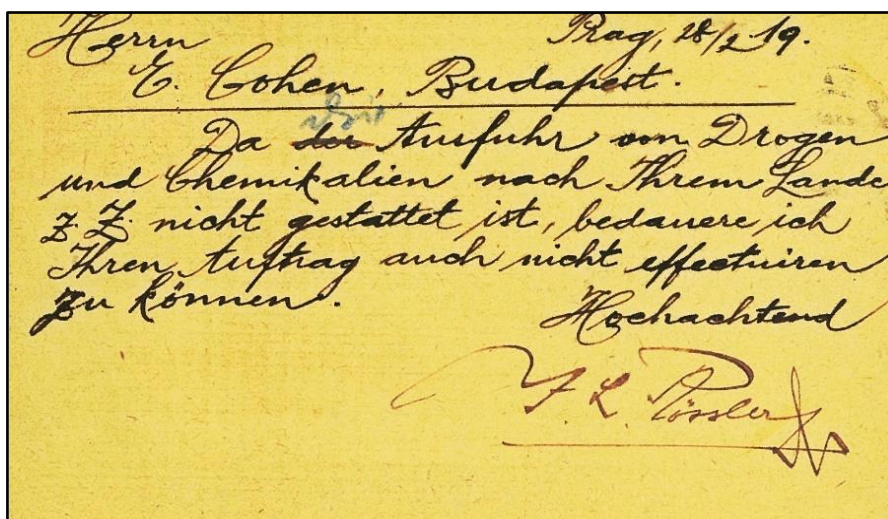


Receipt for 300 kronen, which sum I, the undersigned Alois Weidner, have received in cash at Deutsch Beneschau from the District Office in Gratzen upon the order of the State High Commission for banknote stamping in Budweis of 17 July 1919, as payment for my work as a functionary for banknote stamping at Deutsch Beneschau, and I confirm this with my own hand.

By taking this action quickly, immediately after the War – affixing currency control stamps to banknotes (along with closing the borders to mail and transport) – Czechoslovakia avoided the hyperinflation experienced by its neighbours.<sup>6</sup>

#### NOTES

1. Czechoslovak coins were not introduced until 1922.
2. This essay appears in *Czechout* on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of currency reform and the initiation of indigenous Czechoslovakian currency. Česká pošta celebrated the anniversary by releasing, on 3 April 2019, a stamp honouring Alois Rašín (*below, right*). The Finance Minister was shot by an assassin on 5 January 1923 and died 6 weeks later on 18 February.
3. This card, which was returned to the sender and so did not successfully make the trip to Budapest, was meant to transmit only bad news to the intended recipient. The *verso* is shown *below*. Translated from the German, the message is: ‘Since the export of drugs and chemicals to your country [Hungary] is not permitted, your order cannot be delivered’. See Figure 2 in R. Pizer’s ‘*Display*’, a cover posted in Prague on 24 February which arrived in Hannover, Germany on 11 March 1919, delayed by the suspension of foreign mail service.



4. See ‘Banknote Control Stamps’, based on information provided by John Whiteside, *Czechout* 2/1991, pp. 36–37. See also Whiteside’s essay, ‘Czechoslovakia: Money Suspends Foreign Mail Services’, *Postscript* (1996), p. 67.

5. Thomas J. Sargent, ‘The Ends of Four Big Inflations’, in R. E. Hall, ed., *Inflation: Causes and Effects* (University of Chicago Press & National Bureau of Economic Research,

1982), pp. 41–98, at p. 85. [Section 2.7](#) of Sargent’s article (pp. 85–89) focuses on Czechoslovakia.

6. Although Czechoslovakia did not undergo hyperinflation, ‘Between the start of the republic in 1918 and the end of 1921, there was inflation and the value of the crown fell from 10d to 1½d sterling’ (Whiteside, ‘Czech Currency’, *Czechout* 1/2009, p. 24).

#### CPSGB at the LONDON 2020 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

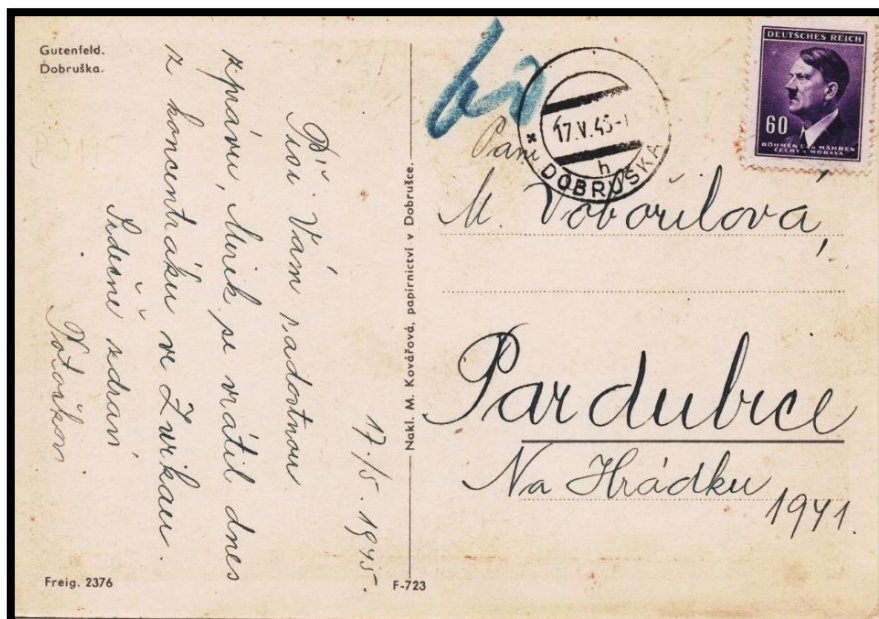
The Society has reserved a table on Wednesday 6 May at the London 2020 International Exhibition, 2–9 May. Volunteers to run the table are welcome. A room has been booked from 10.00–11.50 a.m. on the final day, Saturday 9 May. We hope to meet many members there. Details will appear soon in *Czechout*.

## Good News from Dobruška: A Postcard to Pardubice, 17 May 1945

by Tony Moseley

‘Protektorát’ stamps could be used until 16 May 1945 after which they were disallowed, although the 1943 newspaper issue remained in use until the end of December, due to high quantities of stock held. This postcard originates from the small town of Dobruška in the Orlické hory (Orlic mountains) valley and was posted to Miss Vobořilová in Pardubice (German, ‘Pardubitz’), twenty-eight miles to the SW in eastern Bohemia, on 17 May, the day following invalidation. Pardubice had been liberated from German occupation by the Red Army a week previously, 10 May 1945.

The sender’s message is: ‘I write to you with joy. Mirek has returned from the concentration camp



at Zwickau. Cordially free. Patočka’. Note that the postcard was franked with a purple 60 h Hitler adhesive, which was no longer valid on the day of cancellation. As a result, the card attracted a fee-to-pay ‘60’, handwritten in crayon to the left of the stamp and cancel. ‘Gutenfeld’, which was the German exonym for Dobruška, has been removed from the upper arc of the bilingual canceller.



*Editor’s postscript.* In the article it was observed, ‘[T]he postcard was franked with a purple 60 h Hitler adhesive, which was no longer valid on the day of cancellation. As a result, the card attracted a fee-to-pay’. Tony suggests, now, that it is not certain that the ‘60’ fee-to-pay marking was a response to the card being wrongly franked with a demonetized Protectorate stamp. Tony kindly sent to me, from the ‘Introduction’

to [CPSGB Monograph No. 25](#) by Karel Holoubek, postal edicts according to which the fee for letters and cards was not to be prepaid – there were no stamps to be used – but paid upon delivery.

Tony proposes that the ‘60’ fee-to-pay was added in Pardubice, the delivery town; the amount due was collected on receipt by the addressee. As he says, ‘The temporary plan [until new Czechoslovak stamps could be made] was to send letters without any franking. The sender of the Dobruska card attached a Bohemia and Moravia stamp anyway. Even stamps from the old regime were perceived to have value and the sender decided to use what she had available. I would not have been surprised if it had been sent without a stamp at all.’ (An inquisitive editor then wonders who affixed it, when and why. He has similar questions about some frankings in [Rex Dixon’s](#) essay, [this issue](#), pp. 10–12.)



## Milan Rastislav Štefánik 21 July 1880 – 4 May 1919

*This commemoration of the life of Milan Rastislav Štefánik was made possible by contributions of members of the Committee of CPSGB. This 175<sup>th</sup> issue of Czechout is appearing 100 years after Štefánik's death.*

Milan Rastislav Štefánik was born in Košariská, which had been a village (Hungarian: *Kosaras*) within Nyitra Vármegye in the 'Upper Hungary' region of the Kingdom of Hungary. It is now a town in Slovakia—between then and now, it was located in Czechoslovakia, then in Slovakia (1939–1945), and again in Czechoslovakia post-WWII until 1993. Košariská is near Štefánik's burial place, the tomb in Brezová pod Bradlom (back cover, *bottom*). Štefánik died during the early days of the new Czechoslovak Republic at the end of an airplane trip from Italy; the craft crashed in Ivanka pri Dunaji near Bratislava. He died young, not yet having turned 39, but had accomplished a great deal.

Štefánik has been justifiably described as a 'Renaissance Man'. He was an aviator, soldier, diplomat, politician, astronomer and physicist. He served as both a general in the French Army and as Minister of Defence for Czechoslovakia. In 1916 Štefánik, Edvard Beneš and Tomáš Masaryk founded the Czechoslovak National Council, which led to the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Several stamps of the First Republic honored Štefánik, for example, the 50 h green, below. On the back cover (*top*) is another stamp bearing the well-known portrait of Štefánik in a French General uniform. This design was repeated on stamps for decades. The display of the uniform, symbolic of a military foe of Germany at the time, was the reason four Slovenská Pošta Štefánik stamps, released 4 May 1939 on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death, were declared not valid for postage. Although the stamps can be found on cover, they were sold only as souvenirs. The stamps depict his tomb at Bradlo and Halley's Comet. In 1969 a stamp was issued which shows two contrasting portraits of Štefánik: the bearded civilian and the clean-shaven soldier. A Slovakia celebratory stamp and sheet, issued 3 May 2019, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and repeats the French General portrait.

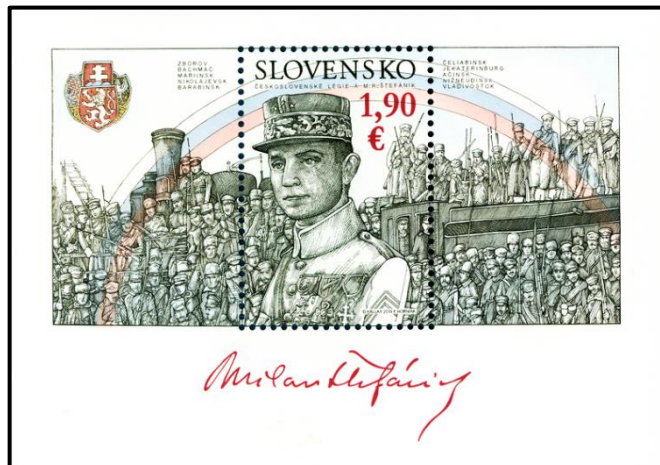


*Left: The 1935 50 h green Štefánik, SG 341.*

*Right: SG 11, the 'Slovenský štát 1939' overprinted version of the 1939 60 h on the back cover. Far right: A post-WWII (1945) 30 h Štefánik, SG 452.*



*The bicolour high value in the Štefánik set issued 4 May 1939 by independent Slovakia. The other same-design stamps, monocolour, are a 40 h blue, a 60 h green and a 1 Ks violet.*



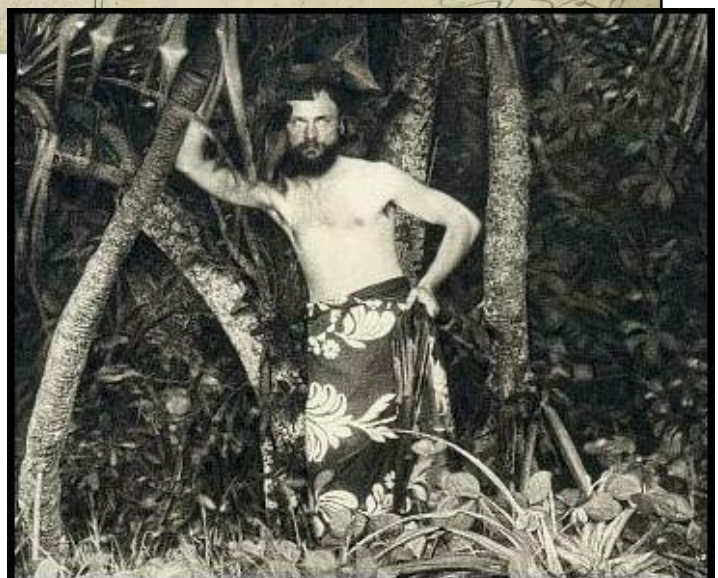
*The 2019 sheet, showing Russian legionnaires (>60,000 soldiers) on train wagons, part of the WWI Czechoslovak Legion, organised by Štefánik, composed of volunteers, hostages and deserters of the Austro-Hungarian army.*





*Left: This stamp (SG 1826) issued on 4 May 1969 (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Štefánik's death) displays two faces, one of a bearded intellect ('Dr. '), the other of the Generál. A Bohemian lion (!) on Štefánik's collar is an addition to the customary portrait.*

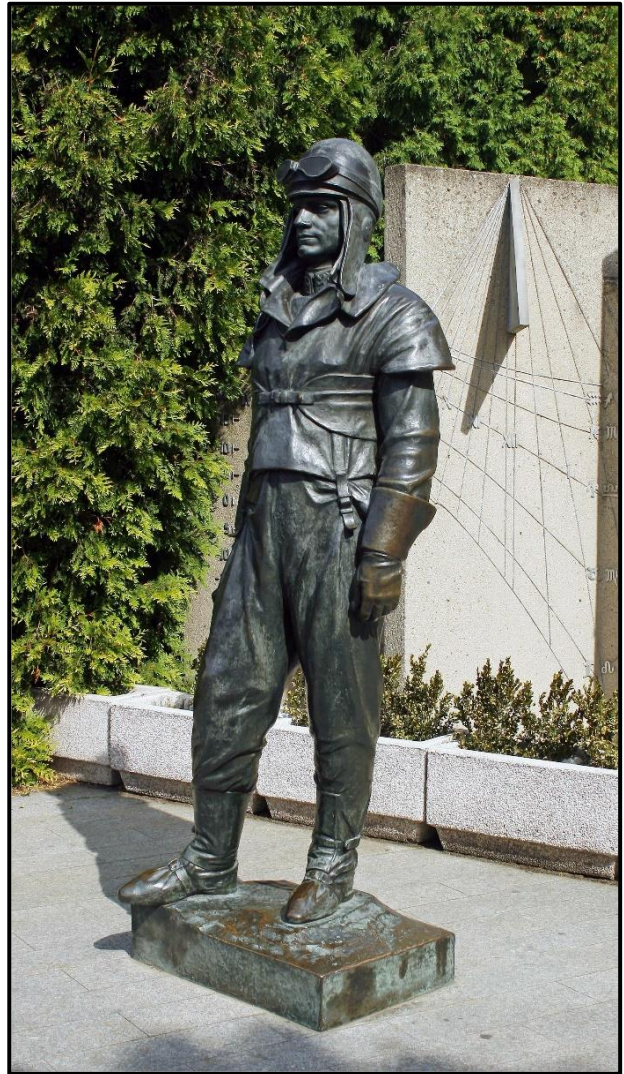
While carrying out his astronomical projects, Štefánik was an around-the-world traveller, from the snow of chilly Mont Blanc to the warm sands of the South Pacific. During his two trips to Tahiti he observed Halley's Comet and built telegraph and meteorological stations. Štefánik found on the island and took back to Europe some woodcuts made, and left behind, by Paul Gauguin, who died in nearby Atuona in 1903. In 2006, an [exhibit](#) in Bratislava, 'Štefánik, Gauguin and Tahiti', included these blocks. **Robert McLeod** provided the postcard, below, which Štefánik sent to Paris from Papeete, Tahiti. It is dated by hand 1/V 1910, cancelled 'San Francisco, Cal.,' 13 May 1910 and franked with a 1906 yellow-green 5 centimes 'Peace and Commerce' issue (SG French Oceania 14). 'Les Beautés Polynésiennes' is the inscription on the picture side of the card. Another image (*bottom right*) is a photograph 'Štefánik na Tahiti v domorodém kroji' ('in native costume') from the eclectic website <http://www.tfsimon.com/stefanik-note.htm> – another portrait of a multifaceted person. **Ed.**







ERECTED BY  
THE CLEVELAND SLOVAKS  
IN MEMORY OF THEIR NATIONAL HERO  
GENERAL MILAN R. STEFANIK  
BORN AT KOSARISKA, SLOVAKIA,  
OCTOBER 26, 1880  
DIED AT VAJNORY, SLOVAKIA,  
MAY 4, 1919  
KILLED IN AN AEROPLANE ACCIDENT



*Left: Štefánik statue and memorial tablet, Cleveland, Ohio, USA (1922). Vajnory touches northwest Ivanka pri Dunaji. Right: Štefánik statue at the Observatory on Petřín Hill in Prague (1928). Photograph by Robert McLeod.*



*Képi. Les Généraux Charles de Gaulle, Milan Rastislav Štefánik et René-Henri Oly. Compare with the képi in the WW2 film 'Casablanca'.*



## Stamps on Stamps

On the front **cover** of this issue of *Czechout* are three adhesives in the philatelic genre called ‘Stamps on Stamps’ (*známka na známce/známke*). In each case, the pattern is *stamp-1-depicted-on-stamp-2*. When franking a letter with such a stamp, the denomination of stamp-2 is the applicable value and is usually the amount you pay the clerk for a copy. A society, the Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club (*SOSCC*), maintains a website and occasionally publishes a journal devoted to these stamps.

The upper-left stamp-2 on the front **cover** is a 2000 Slovak Republic emission whose stamp-1, announced (by *POFIS*) to be one stamp in the first set of stamps used in Slovakia, is presented as coming from Austria’s Issue I, 1850. The stamp depicted is an exhibition-quality specimen. Its color is bright; its details are clear; it has four straight-clipped jumbo margins; the Pressburg (Hungarian, *Pozsony*; Slovak, *Bratislava*; see **Bill Hedley**, 4/2008, pp. 94–95) cancel is complete, dark, legible. But there was no 2 *kreuzer* red among the five stamps included in Issue I; the 2 *kr* is black, while the red stamp is denominated 3 *kr*. See Figure 1, (a)–(c). Of course, the stamps of Issue I were valid for postage also in Bohemia, Galicia, Slovenia, and other territories within the Austrian Empire.



**Figure 1:** Clockwise from upper left: (a) A 3 *kreuzer* red 1850 Austria (Issue I) bearing a Pressburg cancel. (b) Another 3 *kr* red with a Germanic cancel, Winterberg (Vimperk, in Bohemia). (c) A 3 *kr* red with a town cancel spelled ‘Trenčín’. (d) A 10 *kr* brown 1860 Austria (Issue III), town name spelled ‘Trenchin’, no accents. These two spellings are predecessors of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century Slovak ‘Trenčín’, seen on stamp (e), a 100 *h* brown Hradčany issued January 1919, with both accent marks. The Hungarian is ‘Trencsén’.



The upper-right stamp-2 on the front **cover** is an emission (1995) of the Czech Republic whose stamp-1 is apparently one of the Mucha-designed 1918–1920 newspaper stamps of the First Czechoslovak Republic. The 2 *haler* originally issued, however, was green (*left*), not the blue of this stamp-1.

The third stamp-2 on the cover is a 1960 (Fourth) Czechoslovak Republic stamp celebrating an exhibition held in Bratislava that year. Stamp-1 is an interwar (1936) First Republic stamp showing the Danube at Bratislava Castle. Again, the colour of the original stamp (blue) is not matched by the colour of the reproduction (black). Shown (*right*) is an overprinted version of the blue stamp which was issued 18 January 1939, announcing the ‘Inauguration of the Slovak Parliament’ (type I, cancelled).



Other ways the stamp-1 of a stamp-on-stamp design is not a veridical representation of the original stamp are illustrated and discussed in my essay ‘Underpaid Covers and Vertel’s Parliament’, *The News of Hungarian Philately* 46:2 (April–June 2015), pp. 13–24, especially section III. **Ed.**



## Book Reviews

### Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic.

#### Essays from the *Monografie*

by Yvonne Wheatley

#### (I) 1919-1920. *The Lost Issues*

*1919 Jubilee and Charity Issue (Legionářské); Masaryk 1920; Husita; Red Cross. Monografie československých známek*, Díl 2, pp. 7–33, 146–184, 351–361, & 387–397. Authors: Jan Karásek, Antonín Michele and Bohuslav Svoboda. Translated by Mark Wilson. A4, 55 pages, both colour and black and white illustrations.

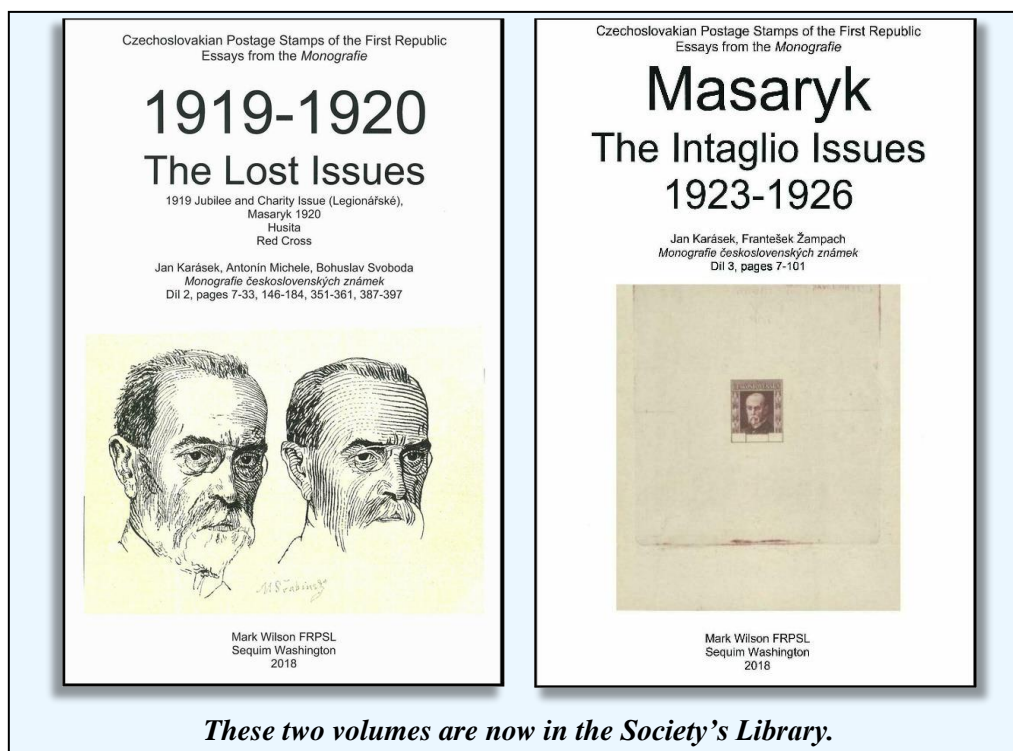
Mark Wilson refers to these issues as ‘The Lost Issues’ because not one issue achieved the full purpose postal authorities intended for them. The two semi-postals, the 1919 ‘Jubilee and Charity’ and the 1920 ‘Red Cross’ overprint issues, were unpopular and failed to raise the funds expected from them. The 1920 ‘Masaryk’ was replaced by the Allegory issues and its 50 h, 1200 h and 2000 h denominations never materialised. The two ‘Husita’ values were little used and public and powerful political influences caused them to be demonetised within a year of issue.

The treatment of these four issues, along with Dr Wilson’s extensive works on the Allegory issues, completes the *Monografie* Díl 2 translation, with the exception of the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 issues. The original work has been enhanced as the images have been replaced, whenever feasible, by the same or similar images from private collections and auction catalogues.

#### (II) *Masaryk. The Intaglio Issues 1923-1926*

*Monografie československých známek*, Díl 3, pp. 7–101. Authors: Jan Karásek and František Žampach. Translated by Mark Wilson. A4, 61 pages, both colour and black and white illustrations.

These stamps were the first Czechoslovak issue to be printed using intaglio processes and one was the only issue ever to be printed by a firm other than the Czech Graphics Union. (For details, see the passage from the book, next page.) The translation covers the 1923 ‘Jubilee’ issue and its overprints, the 1925 ‘Photogravure’ and ‘Engraved’ issues and the 1926 ‘Altered Design’. The work includes additional information supplied by the translator. As with all the translations which Dr Wilson has done, the work is very thorough and it is a joy to be able to read the research by the early students of these issues, although some of the information has been disproved by later scholars.



*These two volumes are now in the Society's Library.*

### A Passage from *Masaryk. The Intaglio Issues 1923-1926*

The period between 1918 and 1923 may be characterized as the cradle phase in the development of the new Czechoslovak state. Printing stamps for the country was carried out, initially, in a considerable rush without the necessary technical experience and with the use of relatively uncomplicated typographic technology with all its negative accompanying phenomena. A more secure printing method, photogravure (sometimes called raster gravure or *neotypie*) and with which the Czech Graphics Union had produced high quality printing, was found unsuitable for general production because of its low reproductive capacity and rapid plate wear. The printer did experiment with this technology and made trial prints using it for almost every issue, but it was in fact only used twice: for the *Jubilee and Charity* issue of 1919 and the *Hussite* issue in 1920. [*The authors underestimate the use of photogravure in the First Republic. The May 1925 issue of the 40, 50 and 60 h Masaryk stamps were also printed by photogravure.*]

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph in Prague was well aware of the typographic technology's deficiencies and yearned for stamp production methods that matched that of technologically advanced states – and to prevent the simple typographic forgeries that were beginning to plague the post. A prerequisite to the solution was to equip the printer with modern intaglio presses – recess printing. The current printer, who held monopoly privileges with respect to printing stamps, had to negotiate a new contract dealing with some of these conditions. Before the contract negotiations had been completed another firm, A Haas, was commissioned to print the forthcoming *Jubilee* issue intaglio. This printer had a great deal of experience, the presses, and the machine tools needed to implement the intaglio printing. The 1923 *Jubilee* issue thus became a landmark in Czechoslovak stamp production. It represents the transition from the then current simple typographic technology to the moderately difficult to imitate steelwork. In the initial phase electroplated matrices were used, followed later by steel engravings and steel printing plates. [*Page iv*]

**Right:** The Tomáš G. Masaryk 'Jubilee' stamps which were issued on 28 October 1923, the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of Czechoslovakia. The semi-postals were sold at twice their face value in *haléřů*. Produced by the Haas printing firm, the 'Jubilee' stamps were the first intaglio stamps issued by the First Republic. (SG 230–233; POFIS 176–179; Scott B133–136.) For a complete account of the details of, and rules for how to identify, all the 1923–1926 Masaryks, see **Mark Wilson's** article, 'The Masaryk Linden Leaf Issues' (*Czechout*, 2/2016, pp. 15–20). **Ed.**





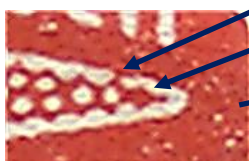
QUERIES



(I) **James Hooper** is seeking information about the 1939 Bohemia and Moravia newspaper stamps (SG N38–46). He writes, ‘I have recently bought a large collection of Bohemia & Moravia. There are hundreds of stamps in blocks and singles. In the margins a previous collector wrote notes in German and type numbers which go up to XXIV but aren’t consecutive. I can find no catalogue about these types’. James sent these images of unusual features he observed in the 10 h (N42). He would like a list, if one exists, of the various types, or insights about the types which collectors may be able to offer. He remarks, ‘Every stamp I have seems to be different’. Please contact *Czechout*, [editor@cpsgb.org](mailto:editor@cpsgb.org).



In the dove's wing, dots below the left leg of 'M' in 'Mähren' are joined.



There's no dot in the end of the wing. The outline of the wing's top is broken.



The accent marks above the 'o' and 'a' touch the letters; the stop at the right of 'u' touches that letter.



Dot above 'h' touches outline.

(II) Randy Rogers sent an image of a 1984 stamp (SG 2713) which is missing the red star from the lower right corner and the red bottom stripe of the Czechoslovak flag. The stamp celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal Socialist Republic, 1 January 1969 – 20 April 1990. Features of the stamp we'd like to hear about include: Is this a genuine color-missing error? Is it common? How pronounced is the floating of the blue '50' denomination—to the left/right and up/down? Randy also noticed that his stamp is not tagged; *SG* reports that it was printed on phosphorescent paper. Can anyone make sense of the 'IN – STR' (or 'SYR') cancel? Write to *Czechout*, [editor@cpsgb.org](mailto:editor@cpsgb.org). (Two plate flaws in copies of this stamp are shown by **Mark Wilson** at [www.cpslib.org/pages-flawed/2627.htm](http://www.cpslib.org/pages-flawed/2627.htm).)



**Left:** A red-missing stamp. No red star, lower right corner. No red stripe, flag's bottom. **Centre:** The 'é' in the inscription touches the blue '5' in the denomination, which is here placed left relative to the castle above it. **Right:** The denomination's '5' (lower) clears the 'é' but the 'h' touches the leaves.



Microscope photographs (1x) of the red-missing stamp. **Left:** Part of the (empty) area next the leaves, lower right corner. **Right:** Letters in the cancel, 'ST' or 'SY'.







### 50 (Kafkaesque) Years Ago – June 1969

As the highest value in its 1969 ‘UNESCO’ set of six adhesives, Czechoslovakia issued a stamp (above, left) honouring Franz Kafka: SG (Československo) 1834, 2 *kčs*, 17 June. Kafka, frequently described as a Germanic-Bohemian-Jewish writer of novels and short stories, was born 3 July 1883, in Prague, and died of the complications of tuberculosis, 3 June 1924, in Kierling, Austria. The design of this stamp does not reveal clearly his character or achievements; ponder the struggle of a Communist regime praising the author of the surrealist (not socialist realist) novel *The Trial*. Another Kafka stamp (above, right) was issued forty-four years later by Česká pošta: SG (Česká republika) 734, ‘E’ Franz Kafka; 26 June 2013. The intricate symbolism of the design of this stamp less obscurely conveys the nature of Kafka’s ideas (see Lindy Bosworth, ‘New Issues’, 3/2013, p. 28). Consult the website of Prague’s ‘Společnost Franze Kafky’, whose worthwhile pages are rendered in Czech, English and German. **Ed.**



*Kafka family gravestone in the New Jewish Cemetery, Prague*



## NEW ISSUES



## Czech Republic

**Rudolf Tomáš Jedlička – 14 February 2019**

Born into a medical family in Lysá nad Labem in 1869, Rudolf Tomáš Jedlička studied medicine in Prague, graduating in 1892. He founded the Jedlička Institute in 1913, created for the medical attention of disabled children, and he established the Prague Sanatorium in 1914. (Both are depicted on the stamp.) After World War I, Jedlička was appointed a professor of surgery and X-ray imaging at Prague's Charles University. He promoted the use of this new technology for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. He died in 1926 as the result of X-ray exposure. Wilhelm [Röntgen](#) died in 1923 from intestinal carcinoma (whence?) and Marie [Curie](#) died in 1934 from aplastic anemia due to radiation exposure – both were Nobel Prize winners for their studies of X-rays and radioactivity.

**Les Království Dam – 6 March 2019**

The construction of this dam on the Labe River (German: *Elbe*) began in 1910 and continued until 1919 on account of the War. It was the largest reservoir in Czechoslovakia in terms of volume of water and the longest dam in terms of the length of the physical brick structure. From 1920 to 1923 a hydroelectric power plant was built on the right bank under the dam. It was declared a National Technical Monument in 1964. The location of the dam is at the far NW corner of the town Dvůr Králové nad Labem.

**The Sugar Cube, a Czech Invention – 6 March 2019**

In 1843, Jakub Kryštof Rad, Swiss-born director of a beet sugar refinery in Dačice (SW Moravia), created sugar cubes. By pressing wet 'loaf' sugar into a 400-slot mould and letting it dry overnight, the factory produced uniform units of sugar. With a staff of women and girls the yield of the refinery was ten tons of cubes a day, much of it sold to Vienna's coffeehouses. Henry Tate – grocer, sugar magnate, art patron and philanthropist – introduced Britain and the cube to each other in 1875. Cubes proved to be an industrially efficient shape. They are modular, stackable and easily transported. Further, as Regan [Hofmann](#) opines, 'cubes embodied the all-important Victorian values of order and rationality.... [T]he cube was a visual indicator of sugar obeying the laws of science'.





## Slovak Republic

### Minerals – 12 October 2018



(*Left*) Libethenite is a rare copper-phosphate hydroxide mineral with the composition  $\text{Cu}_2\text{PO}_4\text{OH}$ , most frequently taking the form of dark green orthorhombic crystals. Ľubietová (Hungarian: *Libetbánya*; German: *Libethen*) has the world's most significant deposits of this mineral. (*Right*) Euchroite is a hydrated copper arsenate hydroxide mineral which has the formula  $\text{Cu}_2\text{AsO}_4\text{OH}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Its orthorhombic crystals are various shades of green. The most significant deposits are found in Svätoduška and Ľubietová, which are west of Brezno (*Breznóbánya*) and east of Banská Bystrica (*Besztercebánya*; the Hungarian word *bánya* means 'mine').



### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Czecho-Slovakia – 26 October 2018

In the advertising information provided by *POFIS* (and its title, above), as well as on the stamp itself, a hyphen is employed in the spelling of the name of the country which existed 1918–1939 and 1945–1992. The stamp's 'Slovak girl in her national costume', we are told by Anton Hrnko (who writes advertising copy for *POFIS*), 'symbolises the hope that the new state, formed in late 1918, would become a genuine home for both nations. This unfortunately did not happen'.



### Mail to 'Ježiško' – 9 November 2018

Beginning in 1999, the Slovak Post has annually sponsored a 'Christmas Mail' programme for children from around the world who are invited to send drawings, gift requests, 'secret wishes' and greetings to Baby Jesus. (Tell the kiddies that the address is '999 99 Ježiško' – in the village Rajecká Lesná, 10 mi. south of Žilina.) This 2018 Christmas stamp is based on a drawing of an angel by a female student who attended an elementary school in Komárno. Almost 2 million letters have been received in nearly two decades.



### Ottoman Manuscript from the Bašagić Collection – 27 November 2018

JOINT ISSUE WITH TURKEY

Safvet beg Bašagić (1870–1934) was a historian and linguist from Sarajevo, Bosnia, who inherited a library from his father and continued to amass more material for it. The items, from the various areas of the Balkans, represent Yugoslav-Muslim literary heritage. In 1924 the University Library of Bratislava (100 years old in 2019) bought most of the collection, which includes manuscripts from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Among the Turkish manuscripts, there is a work on Alexander the Great and a 1558 Arabic-Turkish dictionary. In 1997 the Bašagić collection was included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. The stamp's illustration is taken from an encyclopaedic work *Book of Gnosis* by Ibrahim Hakki (ca. 1756), which discusses, well, everything: God, faith, creation, geography, geometry, anatomy, health, botany, ethics, marriage, etc.







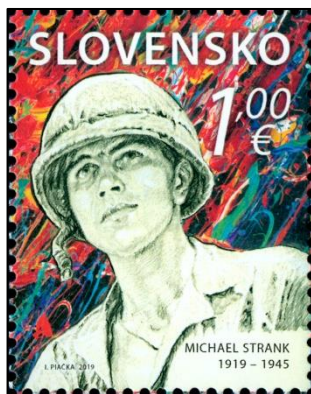
**Stamp Day: Hradčany & Alphons Mucha – 3 December 2018**



**Left:** A rendition of the Hradčany (and A. Mucha’s face) issued in a **stamp-on-stamp** design on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original release of the famous set. **Right:** 1919 typographed 50 h blue, SG 30.

**Michael Strank – 01 March 2019**

Michael Strank was born in Jarabina (Oriabyna), in the Prešov region of Slovakia, on 10 November 1919. His family emigrated to the United States when he was a young child. Having joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1939, he was, in 1942, promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was killed in battle on 1 March 1945 on



the island of Iwo Jima in the North Pacific near Japan. Earlier, on 23 February 1945, he was one of the six soldiers who raised a U.S. flag on Iwo Jima, photographed in the act by Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press. The 3 cent green *Scott* U.S. 929, 11 July 1945, reproduces the Pulitzer Prize photograph. (See also *Scott* 2981a, 1995.) A bronze statue based on the photo can be visited in Arlington Ridge Park, McLean, Virginia.

**Tinsmithing – 15 March 2019**



Tinsmithing as a supplementary vocation for people inhabiting infertile lands in NW Slovakia arose 300 years ago. (London, 1630; America, 1720.) Some tinsmiths established prosperous workshops and became successful entrepreneurs. Products include practical items such as mouse traps, pipe picks, ladles, pot and iron holders, bowls, cookie cutters and hangers. As shown by a bird (*left*) and a kiss in an egg (*right*), tinsmiths also create *objets d’art*.





*Astronomical Clock in Stará Bystrica & Sun Clock in Pleterje – 22 March 2019*


JOINT ISSUE WITH SLOVENIA



The two stamps on the left illustrate Slovakia's astronomical clock located in Stará Bystrica in the Žilina region. In addition to conventional time, data displayed include the date, solar time, the position of the Sun in signs of the zodiac, the position of the Moon and lunar phases. Built in 2009, it is the world's newest and most accurate astronomical clock (with astrolabe). Prague's astronomical clock dates from 1410. The two stamps on the right show a much older time piece: a bronze and silver sundial at Pleterje Charterhouse in the village of Drča in Slovenia. The library and many fixtures of this charterhouse came from charterhouses in France, including this sundial from a monastery at Sélignac. It bears an inscription according to which it was crafted by a priest, Antonian Berthiaud, who served at Péronnas commune, 1873–1881.

*This instalment of 'New Issues' was prepared by the collaboration of Lindy Bosworth and the Editor, assisted by the websites mentioned below – but also going well beyond them.*

Stamps and stationery – new 2019 issues & 1993–2018 issues – may be viewed and purchased at:

 **Czech Republic** <https://www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelie-a-postfila/znamky/prehled-znamek>

 **Slovak Republic** <https://www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products>

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**Stamp Lines (Washingborough) Aug 24**

**Morley (Leeds) Aug 31, Oct 26, Dec 28**

**Stafford Nov 1 & 2**

**Pudsey Nov 16 & 17**

**For venues and times check the relevant websites**

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<b>Publications</b>	Members receive quarterly (hardcopy and/or electronically) the journal <i>Czechout</i> which includes essays on Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak philately and informs members about Society affairs. <i>CPSGB</i> also publishes original-research Monographs; see <a href="#">page 2</a> .
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**100 Years Commemoration**

Death of

**Milan Rastislav Štefánik**

4 May 1919

Airplane crash

Ivanka pri Dunaji,

Slovakia. Age 38.

The stamp is *Stanley Gibbons* 391:

'60 h. blue (30.3.39). No. 391

could only be used in Slovakia'.

(*Memorial, page 19*)



***Tomb of M. R. Štefánik, built 1927–1928 on  
Bradlo Hill, Brezová pod Bradlom, Slovakia***

*SG Slovakia 173, 17 December 1993*

*See also the [1937 Bratislava Exhibition Sheet](#)*