



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Volume 37:4

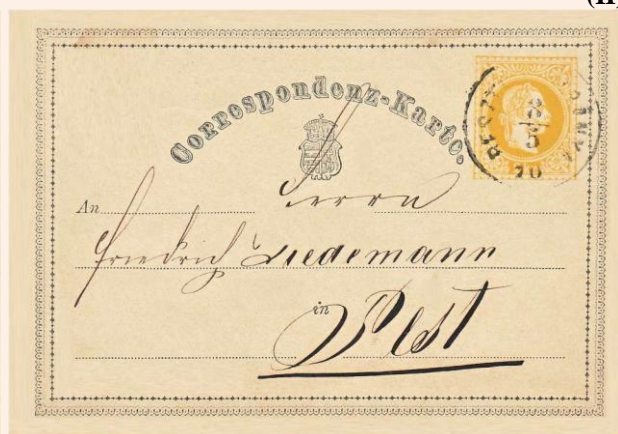
December 2019

Whole Number 177

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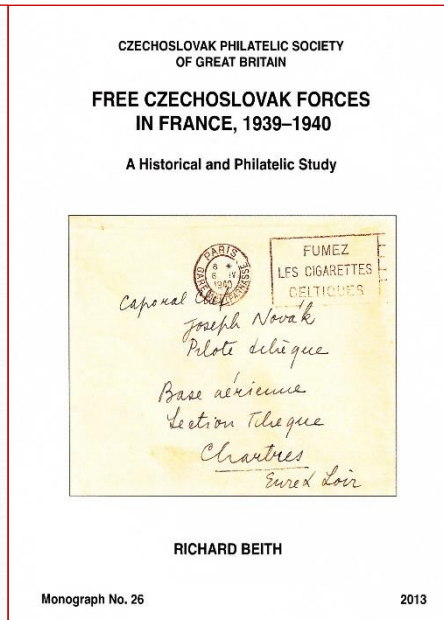
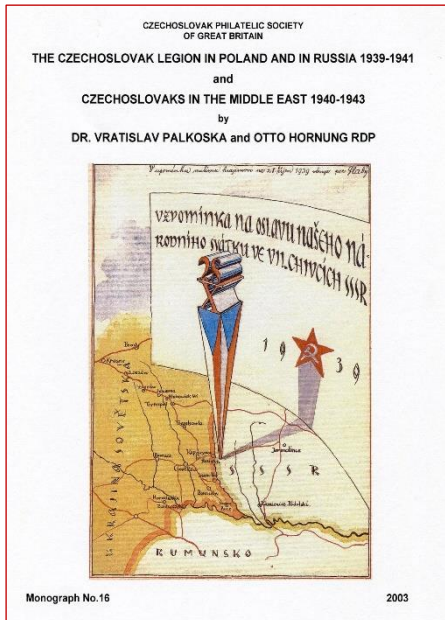
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(I) Freiberg (Příbor), Moravia, 21.3.70; (II) Beszt[ercze]bánya, Hungary (Slovakia), 3.5.70; (III) [Br]assó, Hungary (Romania), 13.12.[7]0; (IV) Prag, Bohemia, 1.5.75. Card (I) is the original stationery design from 1869, issued for use in the Austrian Empire, bearing the Eagle emblem. Cards (II) and (III), also 1869, bear the Hungarian insignia and were used in its Kingdom. Card (IV), issued 1872, has a modified design: it is bilingual – in this case, German/Czech rather than, say, German/**Polish** – and inscribed ‘(Böhm.)’ in the lower right corner to indicate its area of intended use (hence the Eagle emblem); the German inscriptions on the *verso* of the 1869 issue are gone; and ‘An’ (to) has been replaced by the bilingual ‘Adresse/Adresa’. More on [page 25](#).

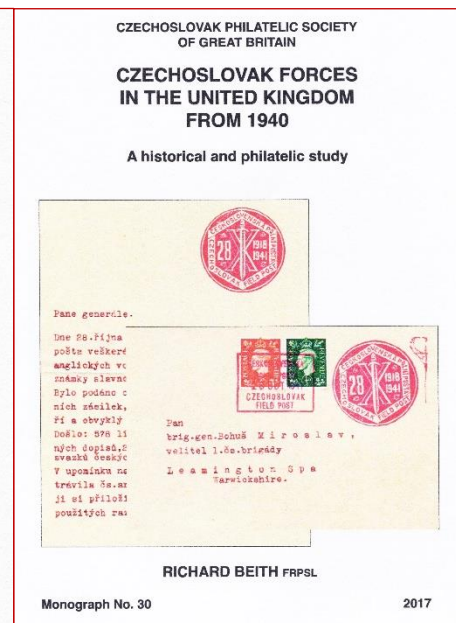
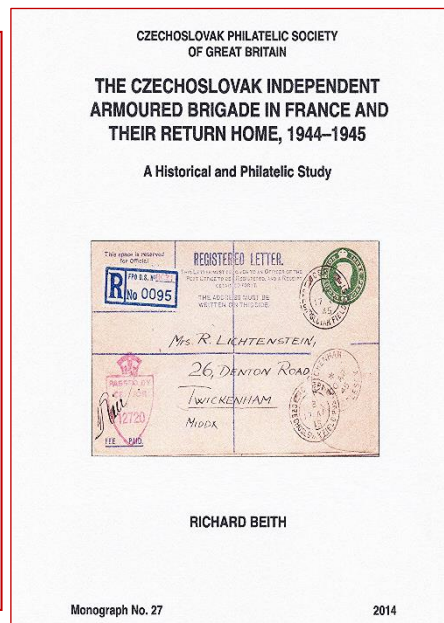
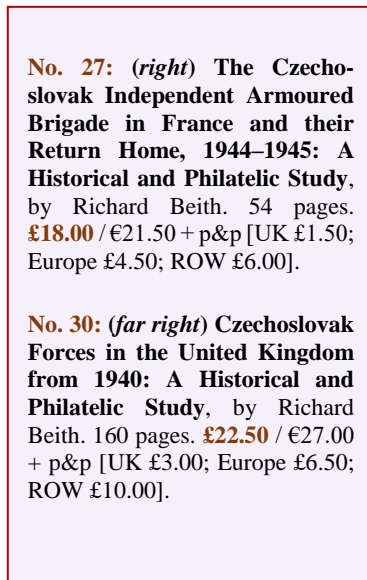
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CZECHOUT

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

ISSN 0142-3525

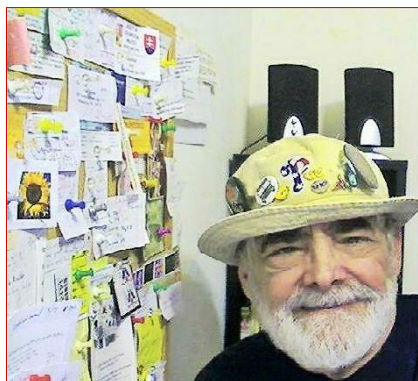
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Editor's Note

The editor's mug in this issue is again off-centre. The bulletin board seems crammed with an unmitigated mess of *CPSGB*, *HPSGB*, *SCP*, *SHP*, and *MAFITT* clippings. But appearances are often deceiving. In this case, everything tacked is actually well organised and regularly reorganised to emphasise priority matters. Y'all know from my issues of *Czechout* that I am not prone to disorganisation.

I am happy with the book reviews printed in *Czechout* this year. I anticipate more, in particular a review of **Mark Wilson's** new *Monograph 33* (in March, No. 178, 1/2020). We're also expecting Original Research articles by several *CPSGB* members. I would be delighted by the absence of obituaries for giants of Czechoslovak philately or other members of *CPSGB*.

Valuable advice I received from friend Matthew at the start of my tenure as Editor of Volume 37 (2019) of *Czechout* was that I should be wary of 'burn out'. This year I poured myself nearly 24/7 into four issues and experienced a life-distracting exhaustion not often felt in my preceding half-century of overlapping periods of university teaching, scholarly publishing, full-blown parenting and man-about-towning. I'm older now, of course. But it was enjoyable, so I persisted in No. 177 to provide labour-intensive blue links to images, texts and previous issues of *Czechout* as well as internal links. Y'all should click only on links which match your interests—and skip the rest.

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Online membership: UK £10 per year. Overseas £7, €10 or US \$11.

Regular membership: UK £20 per year, Europe and rest of the world surface mail: £26, €31 or US \$36.

Air mail to the rest of the world: £30 or US \$42, except Australasia £32 or US \$44.

Single issue price: £3.50 + postage. Contact [Publications Officer](#).

Advertisers: Contact the [Advertising Manager](#) for details.

Authors, Contributors: Contact the [Editor](#) (articles, reviews, queries, news).

Society Website: www.cpsgb.org.uk

Czechout Index: www.czechout.org/pages/a.htm

Czechout Back Issues/Archive: www.czechout.org/pages/issue-list.htm

Opinions expressed in the articles are the sole responsibility of the author(s). They are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor, the Society, its Officers or Committee.

Printed by Leeds Graphic Press, 0113 248 9262, www.lgpprint.com

News and Notices

LETTER TO CPSGB MEMBERS

I have just celebrated a wonderful Big 90th Birthday and would like to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes. You have all been so kind. I also greatly appreciate Yvonne Wheatley's generous tribute, 3/2019, p. 10.

Yvonne Gren

AUCTIONS to be RESUMED

Details about the 750 auction lots to be offered, the availability of descriptions and images, the mechanics of bidding and so forth will be circulated with the December hard copy *Czechout*. To land on the 'Auctions' web page of the Society's website, navigate to the [home page](#) and click on 'Auctions' in the menu, or click [here](#). **Ken Dyke**, the *CPSGB* Auction Secretary, is receptive to emails requesting information about buying and/or selling (via auction-secretary@cpsgb.org). Auctions are treated in the *Handbook*, Section 6, 'Society Auctions', pp. 39–42.

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, to be held at the [Business Design Centre](#), 52 Upper Street, London, Islington N1 0QH. Volunteers to sit at the table are welcome. A room has been booked from 10.00–11.50 a.m. on the final day, *Saturday 9 May*, for gathering and a display on 'Mucha' by **Norman Hudson**. Details will appear in *Czechout*.

COMMUNICATION from CANADA


Randy Rogers, who raised 'Query (II)' several months ago (*2/2019*, p. 25; *below*, p. 26), brought to our attention his local club, the *Owen Sound Stamp Club* (from 1985), a member of the [Royal Philatelic Society of Canada](#). The club's website, www.owensoundstampclub.org, has information about circuit books, newsletters, events and meeting dates. The club convenes once a month and has about thirty-five members. Canadian members of *CPSGB* and our adventuresome US members with heated Winnebagos may want to drop by with their duplicates. Owen Sound is three hours NW of Toronto via King's Highway 10. The Grand River Valley Philatelic Association provides a hefty [list](#) of other stamp clubs in Ontario. Randy's email address is rrogers@devuna.com.


Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (USA)

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

The *Society for Czechoslovak Philately* publishes quarterly *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, edited by Keith Hart (kdhart46@icloud.co). 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 without having to worry about foreign currency or sending payment to the USA. You will certainly increase your enjoyment and understanding of Czechoslovak philately by becoming a member of both societies.

CONGRATULATIONS to OUR MEMBERS

 At the Czech Republic National Stamp Exhibition, [Liberec 2019](#), 25–29 September, *CPSGB* was awarded a Vermeil (Literature class) for its [Monograph 32](#), *The Dove Issue: A Handbook for Collectors of Stamps and Covers*, translated and assembled by **Mark Wilson** FRPSL. See a review by **Johan Sevenhuijsen**, *3/2019*, pp. 22–24; a new article on the Dove by Mark, *below*, pp. 19–21; and a report on Liberec 2019 by **Hans van Dooremalen** FRPSL, *below*, pp. 29–30.

 On 28 September, in [Trenčín](#), Slovakia, Dr **Pavol Lazar** was elected the new [President](#) of the Union of Philatelists of Slovakia (*Zväz slovenských filatelistov*, [ZSF](#)) for the term 2019–2023.

At Autumn **Stampex** 2019, 11–14 September, **Wojciech Kierstan** received a Silver for his ‘Česká pošta Most Beautiful Stamp’ and a Large Vermeil for ‘Poland 1918 Locals’. Also at Stampex **Bill Hedley** FRPSL (of the **ABPS**) gave a **special talk** explaining how to exhibit competitively. The next Stampex will be held 30 September – 3 October 2020 at the Business Design Centre.

Peter Chadwick FRPSL won the Grand Prix International at the Continental Stamp Exhibition, in Cairo, for the 90th Anniversary of the Philatelic Society in Egypt, 9–15 September. His exhibit was ‘Charges and Charge Marks of British Mails before 1840’. The exhibition was sponsored by **FEPA** with six Arab countries and the Egypt Study Circle, London, participating.

Several **CPSGB** members attended the Internationale Briefmarken-Börse in **Sindelfingen** Germany, 24–26 October. An international postal history exhibition was also held. **Peter Chadwick** received a Gold Posthorn, coming first in Collections and Cancellations for ‘Charges and Charge Marks of British Mails before 1840’. Second place in Postal History exhibits (before UPU including the pre-stamp period) went to **Richard Wheatley** FRPSL, receiving a Silver Posthorn for ‘Netherlands East Indies Mail – 1789 to GPU (1877)’. In a Regional Exhibition **Hartmut Liebermann** received a Vermeil for ‘Postal Agencies in the Bohemian Lands 1900–1958’, which qualifies him to enter the National Exhibition in Berlin (**Ostropa** 2020).

On 10 October over 120 Fellows and Members of the **RPSL** [new website] attended the display by **Edward Klempka** FRPSL, ‘Foreign Military Activity in the Russian Civil War 1917–23’. Sadly, Edward could not be with us on account of a health issue. One daughter, Isobel, brought the display to London, so we were not disappointed. The exhibit showed postal history from 12 armies, Belgium to Yugoslavia. An excellent section on Czechoslovakia comprised covers from Česká družina, the Czech Army in Siberia and Manchuria, cachets of the army units and field post offices, including President Grant cachets and the Czechoslovak army in Ukraine. Accompanying the display was a 377-page ‘Handbook’. It contains 30 pages about Czechoslovakia, including tables of Field Post Office cachets with the number, location and dates of use. **Yvonne Wheatley** has donated her copy to the **CPSGB** library. **Richard Wheatley** gave the vote of thanks for a magnificent display.

As decided at the **CPSGB**’s AGM on 2 November, **Wojciech Kierstan**’s ‘The Most Beautiful Stamp’ won the Francis Pettitt Salver. **Ron Gillard** was runner-up with a display on Alfons Mucha.

On 7 November **Richard Wheatley** FRPSL presented ‘Egypt: The Hotel Post Offices’ at the **RPSL**. Richard’s display was the first at the new City of London premises of the *Royal Philatelic Society, London* to feature a PowerPoint display and talk. The presentation, to a capacity audience, was accompanied by a 128-sheet display plus ephemera and a comprehensive booklet. (Photo below.)



On 12 November **Roger Morrell** (above) presented at the **Croydon Philatelic Society** ‘The World War I Salonika Campaign’, about the British, Serbian, French, Italian, Greek and Russian forces taking on the Germans, Austro-Hungarians and Bulgarians. He included mail and cards to and from all participants on both sides, on 192 sheets in two halves. (Photograph by John Ray.)

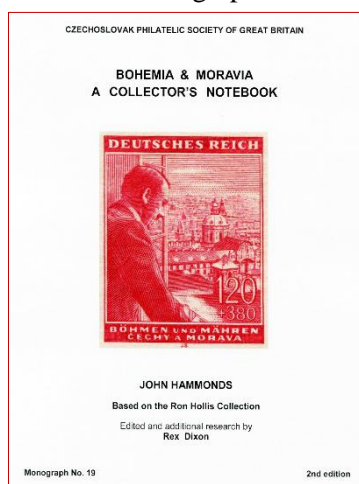


Richard Wheatley (right) with Richard Stock, President of the RPSL. Richard is holding, above his certificate, a special medal bestowed on those who present a display in this 150th year of the RPSL. (Photograph by Michael Pitt-Payne.)

The ‘Congratulations’ were compiled by Yvonne Wheatley and the Editor.

New Edition of Monograph No. 19, *Bohemia & Moravia*

CPSGB Monograph No. 19, 2nd edition, is now available: *Bohemia & Moravia: A Collector's Notebook*,



by John Hammonds, edited and additional research by Rex Dixon, based on the Ron Hollis Collection. The main trigger for a new edition is that Rex Dixon has recorded many more cachets for KLV camps since the 1st edition was published in 2009. Gerhard Hanacek updated the information on Theresienstadt and supplied new images; Petr Gebauer suggested further updates. Typographical improvements and corrections have been made. As in the 1st edition, there are 19 chapters on separate topics, with detailed tabulations including lists of Dienstpost offices and suboffices, railway TPOs, KLV camps and the 'V' for Victory campaign. Postmarks and souvenirs for the centenary of the Penny Black. Detailed listings of postage rates. Bilingual list (Czech/German) of all post offices. Fully illustrated, some colour. A4, pp. v+76, 240 gm, £12 + p&p. Write to our [Publications Officer](#) Rex Dixon. The new information on KLV camps will be made available in *Czechout* for those who possess the 1st edition and do not wish to purchase the second.

JOINT MEETING with AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

18 January 2020

On Saturday 18 January at 1.00 p.m. a meeting will be held with the Austrian Society at [York Racecourse](#), Knavesmire Road, York YO23 1EX. Please bring sheets to display at the meeting. Details: [Yvonne Wheatley](#).

CPSGB MEETING and JAMES HOOPER DISPLAY

1 February 2020

On Saturday 1 February, 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., the Society will meet at a new experimental venue, which has a good pub lunch and bar, the [Kings Head](#), 13 Westmoreland Street, Marylebone London W1G 8PJ. James Hooper's display on 'Bohemia & Moravia' will start at 2.00 p.m. This February gathering will not include a Committee Meeting. A flyer with directions will be circulated with the December *Czechout*. The 1 February date may be provisional. Please get in touch with [Yvonne Wheatley](#) for details.

TWO JOINT SPECIALIST SOCIETIES MEETINGS in 2020

New April Date and Venue

The Joint Meeting of the CPSGB with the Austrian, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav specialist societies, which has been held in Bradford for the past twenty-two years, has proved so popular that a new, additional Spring date of Saturday 18 April 2020 (10.00–4.00) will be included in our programme. The August Joint Meeting will remain in the schedule (Saturday 8 August 2020). Both the additional Joint Meeting in April 2020 and the August meeting will be held (on a trial basis) at a new venue, the Brown Cow, Selby Road, Whitkirk, Leeds, LS15 7AY (www.emberinns.co.uk/nationalsearch/yorkshireandthehumber/the-brown-cow-whitkirk#). Next door is a Premier Inn (www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/west-yorkshire/leeds/leeds-east.html; telephone: 08715 278586) if you wish to stay overnight. Bring your sheets – for display! The Joint Specialist Societies is an all-day meeting so booking is essential for catering purposes. If you haven't been to a recent Joint Meeting and want full details, please write to Yvonne Wheatley, treasurer@cpsgb.org, in January 2020.

BILL HEDLEY DISPLAY at RPSL

21 May 2020

Bill Hedley FRPSL and colleagues Adriano Bergamini (Switzerland) and Dénes Czirók (Hungary) will display 'A Hungarian Rhapsody' at the RPSL on Thursday 21 May 2020, 1.00–6.00. They will bring a range of materials from their collections and Bill will show some of his Pozsony (see [4/2008](#), pp. 94–95) and Hungarian Hotel Posts collections. Guests are welcome. Nonmembers, please request an invitation from Bill (ewlhedley@gmail.com) or Yvonne Wheatley (treasurer@cpsgb.org).

CPSGB SUMMER MEETING

27 June 2020

The CPSGB Summer Meeting will take place on Saturday 27 June 2020, in the Porter Room of the Southwick Community Centre (Southwick Station). It will occupy a full day commencing at 10.00 a.m. Displays by members – up to 20 sheets of material are permitted – will take place in the afternoon from 2.00 until 4.30 p.m. Yvonne Gren, who is arranging the meeting, has proclaimed that attendance is compulsory. Details about the bourse, abundant refreshments, lunch, travel and parking will be distributed with the March *Czechout*, No. 178, 1/2020. Write to Yvonne Wheatley, treasurer@cpsgb.org.

Obituary: Richard Beith FRPSL 19 September 1935 – 8 October 2019

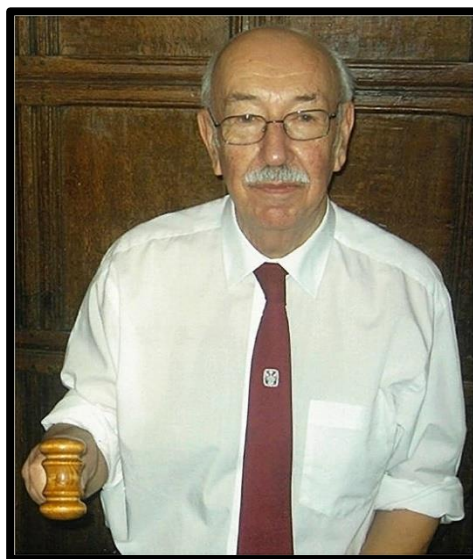
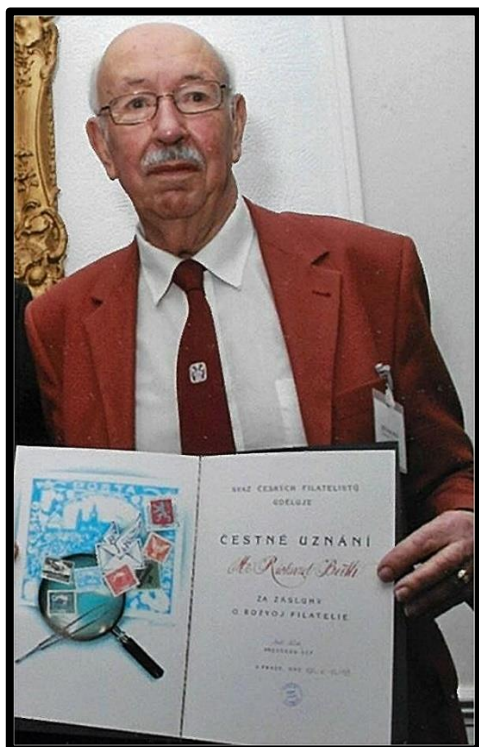
Richard Beith joined the *CPSGB* on Tuesday 7 April 1992, and went on to make major contributions to the Society and Czechoslovak philately, becoming Honorary Life Member in 2009. He was Vice-Chairman of *CPSGB* 2001–2004 and then Chairman 2004–2007. He was also Publications Officer 1998–2007. Many more activities carried out for the Society are recorded in the *Handbook*. This tome contains the official ‘History’ of *CPSGB* (pp. 1–11), of which Richard was the major author. Some of his achievements came before this era and some went beyond Czechoslovakia—see the covers of four books on page 8, *next*.

Richard’s last success was the Vermeil he received for his book *Czechoslovak Forces in the United Kingdom from 1940: A Historical and Philatelic Study* (*CPSGB* Monograph No. 30, 2017). The award came in Sweden at *Stockholmia 2019*, 29 May–2 June, an International Celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society London. For a review of the book by Keith Hart of the *Society for Czechoslovak Philately*, see *Czechout* 2/2018, p. 8. Before Stockholm, another award was a Gold medal Richard received at the Association of British Philatelic Societies National Exhibition *Perth 2012*, 19–20 October, for his exhibit ‘Czechoslovak Army-in-Exile in Great Britain from 1940’ (4/2012, p. 75). Browse the September 2019 *Cavendish* auction catalogue to examine several related Beith collections. At an earlier exhibition, *Brno 2000*, Richard won a Large Vermeil for ‘The Italian South Atlantic Air Mail Service 1939-1941’ (2/2000, p. 26; see the book’s cover, p. 8, *next*). This award came right after his winning the Society’s George Pearson Trophy in 1999.

Georgia O’Keeffe, Loughborough University’s *Alumni* Relations Office (Leicestershire), has informed us that Richard ‘studied for his Industrial Chemistry Diploma at the then Loughborough College of Technology, graduating with a D.L.C. in 1957. During his time at Loughborough [near Hathern], he was co-editor of the student newspaper “Venture”. In July 2009, Richard returned to Loughborough to receive his honorary degree at the Centenary celebrations.’ We further note that Richard studied at the University of Chester for the M.A. in Military Studies. It makes all the sense in the world that his dissertation focused on Czechoslovak soldiers in the United Kingdom (*Cavendish* catalogue, p. 48).

Richard’s last two articles in *Czechout* were published in 2018: ‘The Story behind the Stamp: General Heliodor Píka, 1897–1949’ (3/2018, pp. 23–24) and ‘The Story behind Two Covers: Mail to Jiří Mucha in 1941 and 1945’ (4/2018, pp. 20–23). These were preceded by another instalment in the series, ‘The Story behind the Stamp: Vítězslava Kaprálová, Composer and Conductor, 1915–1940’ (1/2017, p. 22). We know of his love for music. For another example, see ‘Dvořák and Philately’ (2/2002, p. 39). An editor’s intuition senses that there were articles, finished (and polished) or almost finished, accumulating on his desk during this past year.

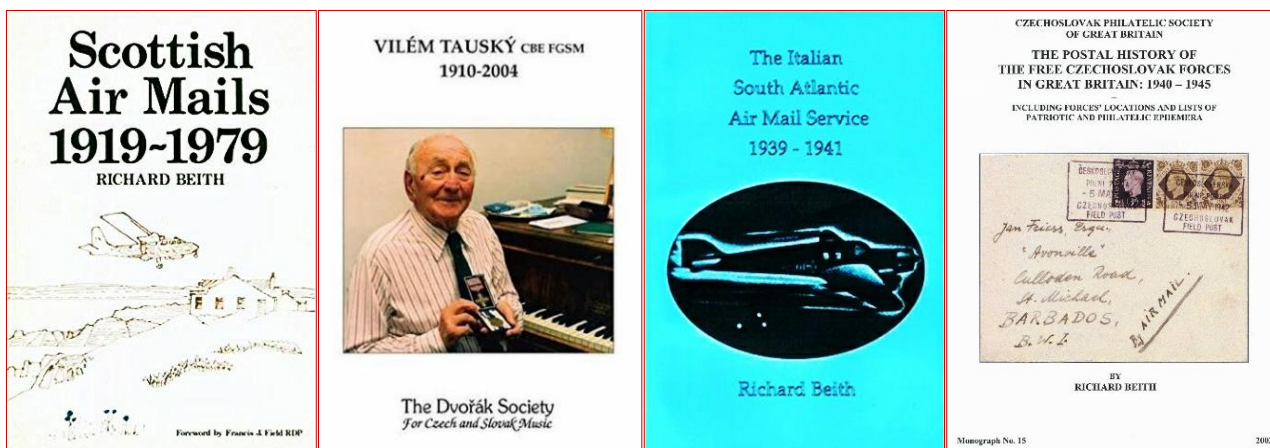
The sentiment of the *Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music*, which will also proffer an obituary, is that Richard will be ‘Very much missed by a legion of friends’. The members of *CPSGB*, especially those from the three-decade Beith era, naturally feel the same. **Ed.**



Richard Beith is the author of *CPSGB* Monographs Nos. 26 (2013), 27 (2014) and 30 (2017); see the outside *back* cover for images from Monograph 30. Richard’s complete *Czechout* bibliography – over two pages of articles starting in 1992 – can be clicked on and retrieved from the *Czechout* *Index*.

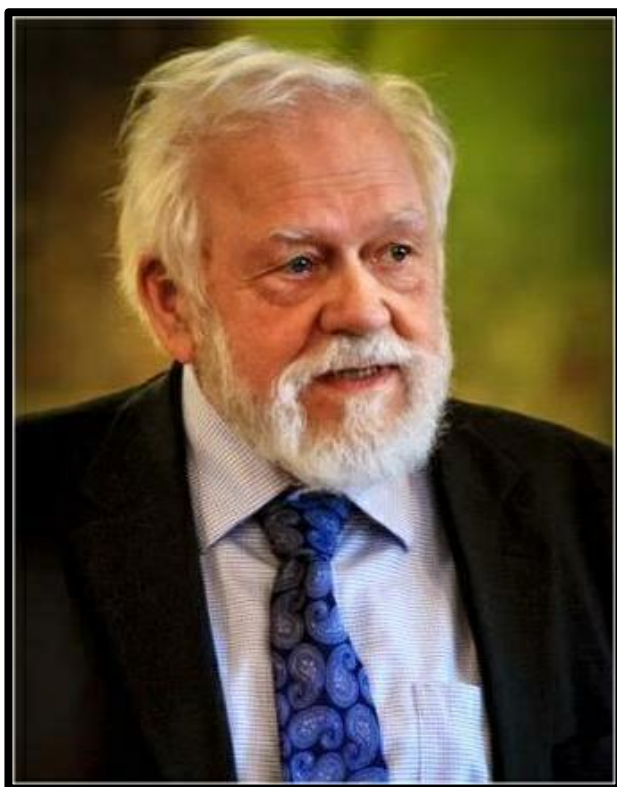
Left: Richard Beith at *CPSGB*’s 2013 Diamond Jubilee celebrations with his certificate from the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists; see 4/2013, pp. 9–14.

Right: Richard wielding the gavel as chairman at the 2007 Lewes residential weekend. Photos provided by *Yvonne Wheatley*.





Covers of books by Richard Beith. **Left to right:** *Scottish Air Mails 1919–1979* (1981); *Richard Beith* (editor, compiler, contributor), *Vilém Tauský: A Celebration of His Life and Achievements* (Occasional Publications of the Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music, 2010); *Italian South Atlantic Air Mail Service 1939–1941* (1993); *CPSGB Monograph 15, Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain 1940–1945* (2002; superseded by *Monograph 30* in 2017 but still useful). Related: see *Czech Republic ‘New Issues’* (below, p. 23), two stamps and a sheetlet honouring Czechoslovak pilots in WWII Royal Air Force units.


Obituary: Jaroslav J Verner (18 June 1932 – 12 July 2019)




Jaroslav Verner was a member of *CPSGB* since 11 May 1980. He was the author of

 *Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France* (2002). Published by the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. It contains text in both English and Czech. A review of the book by **Tom Cossaboom** appeared in *Czechout*, 4/2002, p. 118 and *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Jan.–Feb., 2003, p. 26.

 *Monografie československých a českých známek a poštovní historie, vol. VII: Pošta čs. vojsk v Rusku, 1914–1920* (2017; *Mail of the Czechoslovak Army in Russia 1914–1920*). Co-author Jiří Majer. Published by *POFIS* ve spolupráci s Českou poštou, Poštovním muzeem a Svazem českých filatelistů (*POFIS* in cooperation with the Czech Post, Postal Museum and the Union of Czech Philatelists). **Hans van Dooremalen** announced the book in 1/2017, p. 7. It was awarded a Large Vermeil at PRAGA 2018 (3/2018, p. 6). Indeed, Jaroslav won numerous awards for his exhibits of covers of the Czech Legions during World War I.

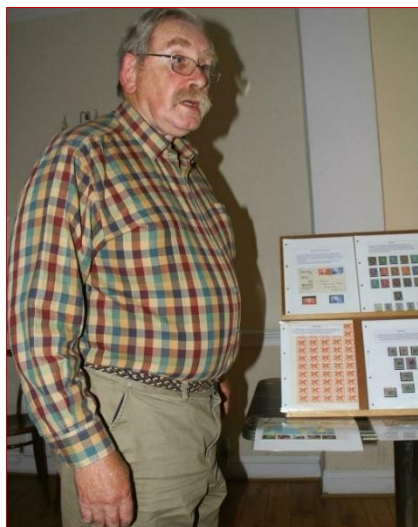
 Translator, with Henry Hahn, of *Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeček*, by J. Karásek, Z. Kvasnička and B. Paulíček (1963), *Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps*, published by the *Society for Czechoslovak Philately* (1966).

 In our pages Jaroslav, as translator, furnished Břetislav Janík's obituary of the famous engraver Josef Herčík – *Czechout* 4/1999, pp. 87–88, contains this fascinating read. (For one stamp, see Herčík's 1986 'Adam and Eve'.) The obituary also appeared in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Sept.–Oct., 1999, pp. 22–23. An extensive list of Jaroslav's many articles in the *Specialist*, which spanned a remarkable 50 years (1960–2010), is available at index.csphilately.org/pages/v.htm, the *CSP* Index.

Thanks to Ludvík Svoboda, Richard Palaschak and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

Display: Michael Dadds, WWII Liberation of Europe

At the 21 September 2019 meeting of CPSGB held at the Czechoslovak National House Club & Restaurant in London, Mike Dadds displayed his 'Liberation Philately' material. The following notes were contributed by **Roger Morrell**.



As many collectors of Czechoslovak stamps will appreciate, the popular relief over WWII coming to an end was reflected in a splurge of new philatelic items being produced, both officially and unofficially, as a new political system was established and the Czech and Slovak parts were reassembled into one state. Mike Dadds entertained his audience with a Europe-wide philatelic view of 1945 which placed Czechoslovak material into context with all the other nations again breathing as the Nazi yoke was lifted.

Keeping narrowly to 'Liberation' rather than 'Victory' philately, Mike started with the [Channel Islands](#) liberation issue, which was produced somewhat belatedly (1948) by the British Post Office. He moved on to heroism, skulduggery by the Soviets, self-interest by the French, low dealing by a few, territory grabbing by some and vicious executions by occupying forces. The proliferation was overprint heaven: stamps of Vichy France, Hitler's 'greater' Germany and its vassal states, and Mussolini's Social Republic continued to be used in a gleeful riot of

celebratory overprinting ranging from the inked thumb, through cork or rubber obliterations, the use of national symbols such as the cross of Lorraine, pre-war coats of arms or the 'Red' star, to the more formal typeset commemorations of new or revived states.

Many of these efforts are not recognized by mainstream catalogues and some are not catalogued at all.

Reliable information is often difficult to find and sources disagree. Forgeries abound, because quantities of such issues were generally small. In some cases it is not even clear if the issue genuinely happened for postal purposes, or was a Cinderella or appeared some time later as a machination. This is history with real philatelic fun, flavoured with a big dose of *caveat emptor* if one ventures to form a collection such as the one Mike displayed. The scope of this theme is unexpectedly huge.



Mike covered most countries of West and Central Europe. Because CPSGB members focus on Czechoslovakia there was general commenting to the effect of 'never seen that before' or 'didn't know that happened'. There was a decent block in the display for Czechoslovakia ([here](#), Olomouc) but it was interesting to see how that fitted in with similar happenings all over Europe, from Italy to Norway, Great Britain to Bulgaria. Many thanks, Mike, for a smashing and enlightening afternoon! Anyone not present missed a treat. (Click [here](#) to look at some publicity the display received.)



Photographs (by Bob McLeod). **Top:** Mike Dadds. **Centre:** Roger Morrell, Lindy Bosworth. **Bottom:** Mike Dadds, Charles Stirton, Yvonne Wheatley, Hans van Dooremalen and Reg Hounsell.

Right: An image from one of three CPSGB Monographs about Czechoslovak liberation overprints, which are on sale. Click [here](#).



Osvobozená = Liberated

Pages from My Collection – Commercial Advertising

by Lindy Bosworth

At the CPSGB 2019 Summer Meeting in Hathern (3/2019, pp. 11–12) I displayed sheets of my collection of commercial advertising material. These pieces had accumulated in a box over a number of years with no particular subject or time period in mind during their acquisition. It was time they saw the light of day again. The items selected for this article have been arranged in chronological order (except #14); they were chosen to show the diversity of commercial enterprises, postal rates, destinations and variety of advertising. For any commercial enterprise advertising is a way of introducing products to a wider market. The postal authorities assisted by providing cheaper services for commercial use – for example, printed papers, partial printed matter,

bulk printed matter and the use of a company's own meter mark.



#1. An Austrian period musical cover sent in 1904 from Graslitz, Bohemia to Apahida, Hungary, in territory later ceded to Romania by the Treaty of Trianon. Note the firm's accreditation to supply the Ottoman Empire and the Austrian Civil Service. In the Czech lands until the 1930s there was a thriving musical instrument industry (see also #10, below) ranging from stringed instruments to wind instruments, piano accordions and zithers.

From: Joh. Michl & Sohn, Graslitz, Bohemia (now Kraslice)
Musical Instrument Manufacture and Warehouse. Supplier to the Ottoman Emperor's War Ministry. Supplier to the Imperial and Royal Civil Service.

Letter to the School Principal, Apahida, Kolocz, Hungary (now Apahida, Cluj, Romania)

Stamp: 1 x 5h portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph (Austria) issued 1 December 1899 Postage: internal printed matter to 100g - 5h – as paid.
Cancels: a) double circle Graslitz (type G 105, canc.b) with date 27.XI.04 b) receiving mark (on reverse) Apahida 30.XI. 1904.

#2. Cards from a Prague publishing house, showing the use of perforated stamps. The design 'JO' was used by this firm 1886–1938. Two postage rates are shown. Large companies purchased stocks of postage stamps for business use; to prevent theft or fraud the stamps could be hole-punched with the company's initials or logo. Firms and governments worldwide have used perfins. (See 4/2014, pp. 12–17.) #3. Austrian period piece sent in 1912 from another paper manufacturer and printer with a colourful way of advertising its wares, on both faces of the envelope. #4, #5 & #6. Many enterprises used both front and reverse of envelopes to advertise their products. These three items were sent at the internal postage rate. (#4 advertises cheese; see also the back cover of 3/2019.) #7. Freshwater fish are commercially raised in south Bohemia and Moravia. They are either sold fresh or prepared for canning or salting. The practice of fish ponds goes back to medieval

From: J Otto Publishing House at Karlova Náměstí, Prague.
Left portion of envelopes lists the type of books published including English books. The firm also had its own retail outlet and published postcards.

Top: from Nové Město nad Metují to another address in the same town. Franked with 2h newspaper stamp issued 10 February 1908 (for one item sent directly from the publisher). Handstamp in mauve 'literami oznamovatel – literary information'

Lower: from Prague dated 4 March 1913 to Býchory, Kolín franked 10h portrait of Emperor Franz Josef issued 1 January 1908 – 60th anniversary of accession. 10h – printed matter rate 100- 250g.

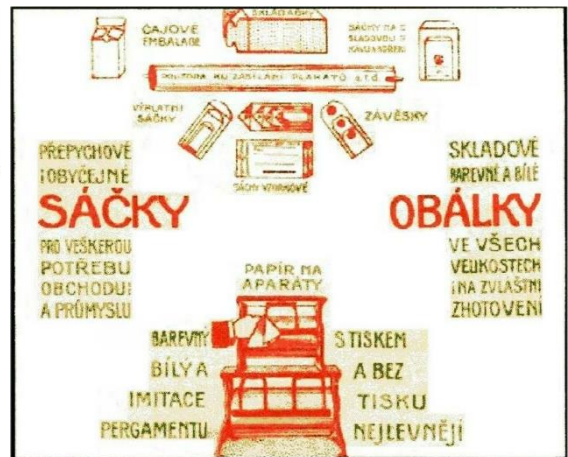


Both stamps punched with the J Otto logo – J.O.

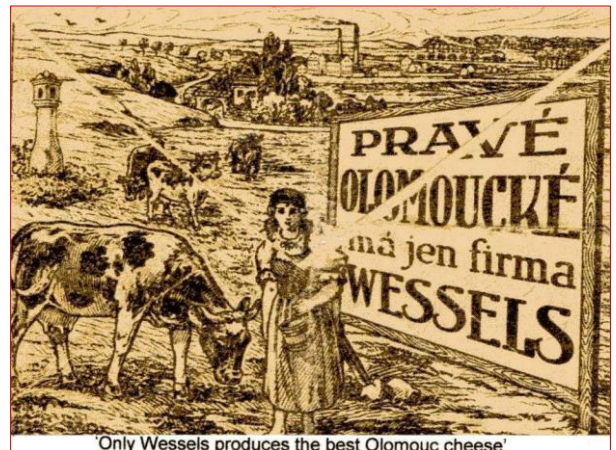
#2

times when fish protein augmented a meagre diet. The postal item is from a fish processing company advertising its offerings. The card, franked by the firm's meter mark, has been sent at a reduced printed matter rate. Each company using this service had its own number (here, 0371) registered with the postal authorities. **#8.** Registered cover posted in Moravská Ostrava in 1930, from a Security Company (notice the keys-and-eye logo) writing to Japan with instructional markings 'via Siberia'. This route for mail was the quickest at the time. A Japanese address label was applied in Yokohama to assist postal staff in delivery. **#9.** In the 1920s and 1930s Czechoslovakia had thriving coal, iron and steel works and was renowned for its high quality machines. **#10.** A meticulous saxophone logo on a musical cover sent from a second music firm in Kraslice/Graslitz (see also **#1**, above) to Sao Paulo, Brasil, by air via Germany. **#11.** A supplier of builders' tools using the business printed matter service to advertise his products. **#12.** A food processing firm using its meter mark (1633) to frank the card. The advertising and message is in Czech but the franking portion shows 'Böhmen und Mähren' (German) above 'Čechy a Morava' (Czech). This was the Protectorate period under Germany, during which the official language was German. Czech, however, was used for the advertising and meter mark. **#13.** After WWII Czechoslovakia was again independent. The obligatory language was Czech; German was expunged from all mail items. Old stationery with dual languages was still used with the German deleted. This policy applied to postal cancels; a great variety of provisionals existed before new monolingual devices appeared in post offices. Two provisionals are shown. **#14.** Finally—Philately. One way to acquire a few used stamps!

From: F Hadrbolec, Prague and Těšnov
 Paper manufacturer – handmade goods, academic and school supplies.
 Printing – stereotype, lithography and stone plates.
 Sent from Prague to Chotěboř dated 18 September 1912.
 Franking: 2 x 5h portrait of Emperor Franz Josef issued 1 January 1908 = 60th anniversary of accession. Printed matter inland rate 100g – 250g – 10h.

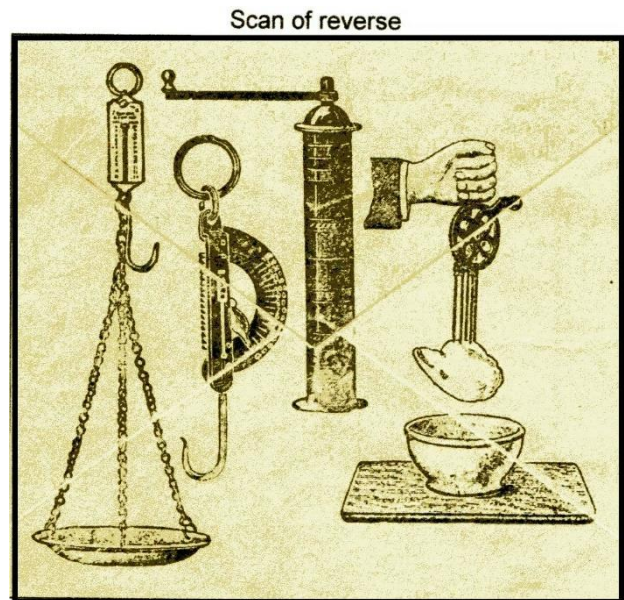


Reverse of envelope:
 packaging for puzzles, tea bales, malt, coffee and spices;
 cylinders for sending posters etc; payroll packets, bags for samples and labels for luggage etc;
 luxury and ordinary bags necessary for all trade and industry;
 stock envelopes in colour, white and all sizes and in special formats;
 white, coloured and imitation parchment paper for printing and quality printing.



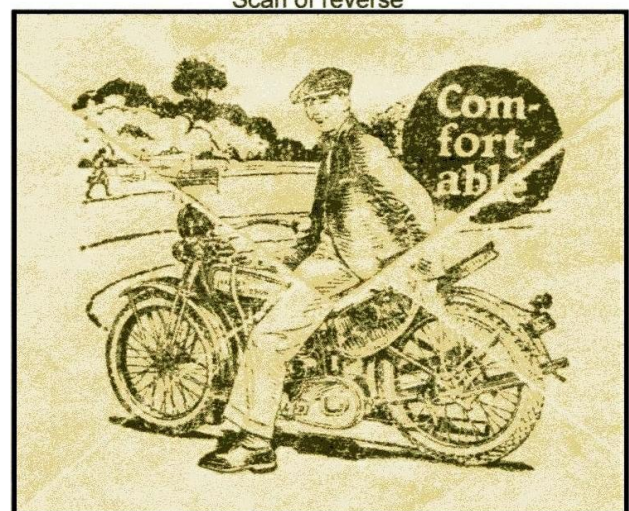
From: Alois Wessels. Loštice near Olomouc. Moravia
 Producer and exporter of Olomouc cheese.
 The advertising states 'The first, largest and earliest producer of Olomouc cheese; founded 1876; using steam and electrical engines in production; giving prompt and reliable service; railway station;

Moravičany – Loštice Sent to a firm in Prague
 Stamps: 2 x 30h 'Hradčany' type V issued 12.April 1920, officially comb perf 11¾.
 Postage: internal to 20g – 60h as paid
 Cancel: double circle, single language – Loštice (type M41 canc d in use 1920 – 1939) with date 8. XI. 20.



From: Maj. Jan Vlach trading as 'Triumph',
Boskovice. Factory producing iron goods.
Letter to: Antonin Kraus, Plumbing & Trade,
Rokycany.
Stamp: 1 x 1Kčs – portrait of President T G
Masaryk – issued 1 October 1927
Postage: internal letter to 20g – 1Kčs - as paid
Cancel: machine slogan cancel, in black, Brno 2
(canc. c) with date 6.XII.28.

Slogan 'Buy lottery tickets of the Czechoslovak,
class lottery; half the lottery tickets win.'
The slogan was used by various Post Offices in
black, between 1928 and 1934.



From: Josef Fiala, Kroměříž
Motorcycle Business
Sent to: Josef Jurtík, Kroměříž
Stamps: 2 x 50h portrait of President T G Masaryk
(to celebrate his 75th birthday) - issued 7 March 1925.
Postage: internal letter rate to 20g – 1Kčs – as paid.
Cancel: double circle, single language Kroměříž
(type M45 canc. 2d in use 1925 – 1939)
with date 22.III. 29.

#7

Haben Sie schon einen Versuch gemacht?

Hamburger Sauer-Heringe
Größe 000 Bei Abnahme 25/50 Dosen über 50 Dosen
Kč 46,- 45,-

Vorzügliche Quali-ät. – Sehr billig.

I. russische Sardinen (Kronsardinen)
Ermäßigte Preise

ca. 10 kg	Blechkdose	Kč 52,- 50,-
" 5 "	" "	" 28,- 27,-
" 10 Liter	Holzkübel	" 50,- 48,-
" 5 "	" "	" 27,- 26,-
" 3 1/2 "	Glasfassel oder Kandienglas	" 26,- 25,-
" 2 "	" "	" 22,- 21,-
" 1 1/2 "	" "	" 12,- 11.50
" 1 1/4 "	Glockring	" 23,- 22,-
" 1 1/8 "	Weinkrugel	" 7.25 7,-
" 3/8 "	Kompositgeschüssel	" 34,- 33,-
" 2 1/2 "	Goldfischglas	" 21,- 20,-
" 1 1/2 "	Bierglas	" 8.30 7.80
" 1 1/4 "	" "	" 5.15 4.90

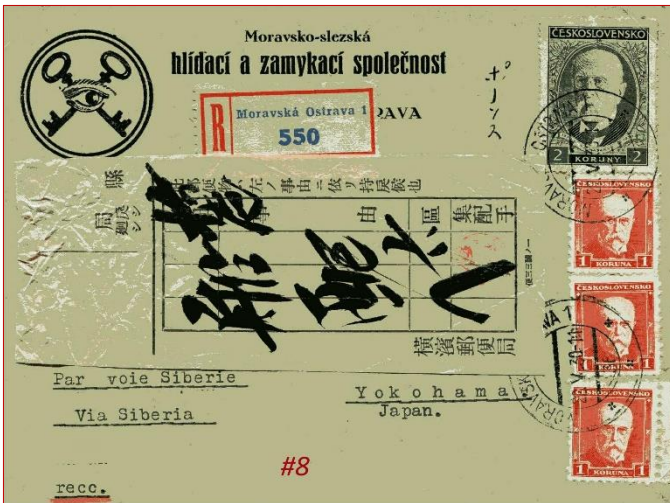
Fischallerlei (Heringsschnitzel).

1/2 Tonne	ungefähr 140/150 kg brutto	Kč 350,-
Holzkübel	" 25 "	" 155,-
" "	" 10 "	" 80,-
" "	" 5 "	" 40,-
" "	" 3 1/2 "	" 20,-
Blechkdose	" 9 1/2 "	" 36,-
" "	" 5 "	" 21,-

Drucksadie.
Herrn Firma
Schmiedeberg, 1. März 1928.

Geräucherte Bücklinge
Bratheringe
Bratrollmopse
Sulzfische
sowie sämtliche
Fisch-Marinaden
zu billigsten Tagespreisen

'Kalla' - Smeideberg. Fish Processing and Canning Company.
Outgoing half of a double card sent to a wholesaler in Tepitz (now Teplice-Šanov).
Reverse of card (copy x 70%) gives details of goods that can be supplied with prices.
Postage: reduced rate – printed paper to 50g – 20h.
Cancel: company's own meter mark with their logo, franked at 20h, and single
circle dual language Šmiedeberg 2/Schmiedeberg 2 with date 1.3.28.



Scan of reverse



Letter sent to Joseph Wechsberg, chef d'orchestre a bord S.S Porthos, Messageries Maritimes, Yokohama Japan.
 Stamps: 1 x 2Kčs – portrait of President T G Masaryk issued 1 March 1930 (80th birthday of TGM) + 3 x 1Kčs – portrait of President Masaryk issued 2 January 1930.
 Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2.50Kčs plus registered fee – 2.50Kčs ; total 5Kčs as paid. Registered label no 550 Moravská Ostrava 1. Instructional mark in French and English 'Via Siberia' Flimsy address label applied in Yokohama with address instructions written in Japanese over those written by sender.
 Cancels: a) double circle, single language Moravská Ostrava 1 (type M45, canc. 3f in use 1929-1939) with date 18.V.30
 b) receiving mark – Yokohama, Japan dated 10.6.30

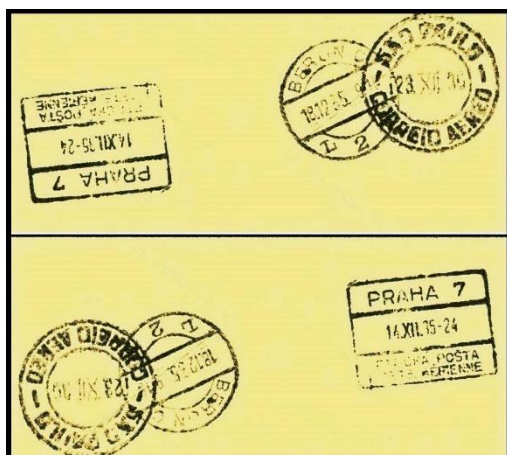
Company's sealing etiquette with their logo (logo also printed on face of envelope)



From: Brothers Paříkové, Napajedla Machine Factory, Petrol Engines 'Slavia' Iron and Metal Foundry
 Sent to: František Gruber, graduate of the Technical High School, Krašovice, near Dolní Bělá.
 Stamp: 1 x 1Kčs – view of Nitra Church (issued for 1000th anniversary of the Founding of the First Christian Church, Nitra) - issued 20 June 1933
 Postage: internal letter rate to 20g – 1Kčs – as paid
 Cancel: double circle, single language Napajedla (type M41, canc. e in use from 1920 – 1936) with date 12. VII.33.

From: F X Huller & Co., Kraslice / Graslitz Musical Instrument Factory.
 Cover sent to Sao Paulo, Brazil.
Stamps: 4 x 5Kčs –Č. Krumlov; 1 x 4Kčs –Orlík Castle; 1 x 3Kčs–Orava Castle, issue of 1 June 1926 + 1 x 50h – portrait Gen.M R Štefánek issued 18 May 1935.
Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2.50Kčs; air fee to Brazil 12.50Kč per 5g. Item over 10g; 2.50Kčs + 2x (12.50Kčs) = 27.50Kčs as franked.

Etiquettes: a) dual language Czech / French in blue applied by sender b) in French 'by German Airmail Post' in white, applied in Berlin.
Cancels: a) dual language Kraslice / Graslitz with date 14.XII.35
 b) (on reverse) boxed Praha 7 with date 14.XII.35 (used for airmail items)
 c) (on reverse) Berlin C dated 18.12.35
 d) (on front) circular 'Deutsche Luftpost * Europa – Sudamerika:
 e) (on reverse) arrival mark Sao Paulo with date 23.XII.38.



#10



Barthel 125, 1/4 litr - Cena: Kč 70.—
 Barthel č. 290, 1/2 litr - Cena: Kč 165.—
 UT-lampa - Cena: Kč 38.—
 Benzínové spájecí „Sturmachet“ Barthel č. 80 s patentním čistěním vyústky. - Cena: Kč 200.—

Kas. Merad instalatér

#11

Complete business reply card sent to a plumber in Krasnice.
 Stamp: 10h overprinted Windhover newspaper stamp first issued 18 December 1918.
 These were overprinted OT (obchodní tiskoviny – business papers) from 15 November 1934 and in use until 15 March 1939. This was a reduced rate service.
 Postage: business printed matter 10h per 50g – as franked.
 Cancel: double circle, single language Praha. (copy of reverse of double card x 75%)

Znáte přednosti Barthelových spájecích přístrojů?

Pečlivý výběr prvotřídních surovin.
Čisté zpracování školnými odborníky.
Trvalá kontrola všech hotových součástí.
Každý přístroj vyzkouší se před odesláním z továrny.

Tyto přednosti Barthelových spájecích přístrojů zaručují bezvadný chod a nejvyšší výkon. Vyzádejte si na dolejší polovině tohoto listku nezávaznou nabídku se zvláštním popisem přístroje jež potřebujete, případně adresu obchodníka u něhož si přístroj můžete prohlédnouti.

S veškerou úctou
Gustav Barthel.

Dbejte při nákupu na vedlejší tovární známku a jméno „G. BARTHEL“.

Barthel 210, 1/4 litr - Cena: Kč 143.—
 Barthel č. 230, 1/2 litr - Cena: Kč 158.—
 Barthel 280, 1/2 litr - Cena: Kč 150.—

Barthel 360, 1 litr s přehříváním benz. plynem - Cena: Kč 260.—

Elektrické spájecí Elwerko - Ceny na poptávku.

Fa.
Gustav Barthel
Dolní Poustevna
Č. S. R.

KOŘENÍ V GELOFANU
 STADTEL
 40
 MĚSTEC KRÁLOVÉ
KVETA
 Prášek do pečiva, do perníku, vanil. cukr, šumicí prášky, čaj a kakao.
FRANT. MATĚJKA.
 TOVÁRNA POZIVATIN.
MĚSTEC KRÁLOVÉ

1633
 >KVETA<
 BOHEMEN UND MÄHREN
 *050
 ČECHY A MORAVA
 prášky do pečiva, koření, šum. prášky, kakao a čaj.
 Titl. **Matějka**
 Jan B a u d y š,
 velkoobchod,
 Kutná Hora.

#12

Titl. Jan B a u d y š, velkoobchod, Kutná Hora.

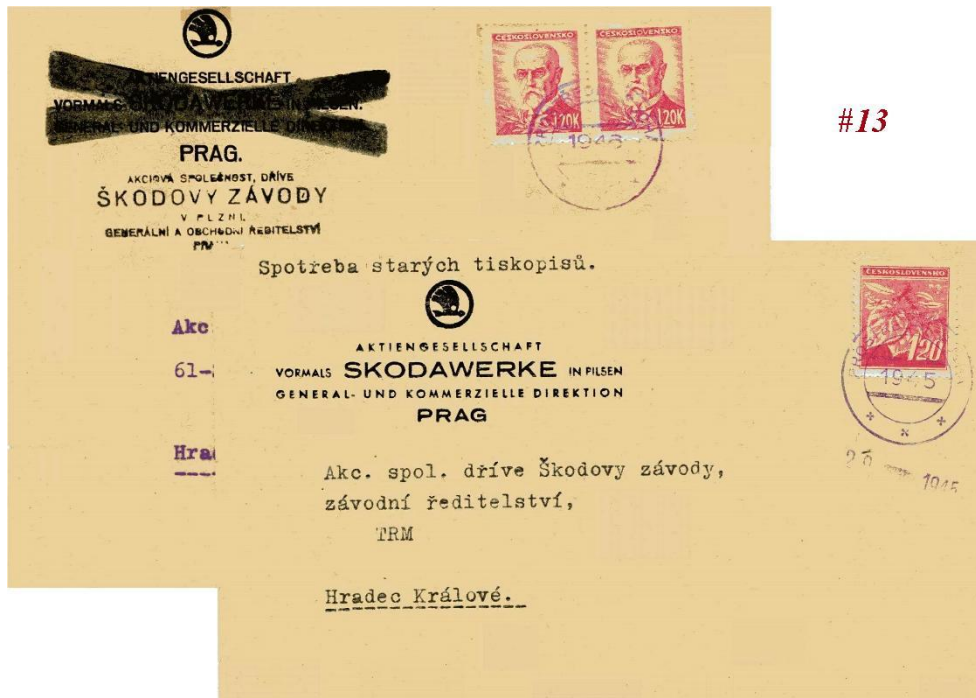
Kv. Chci vyřídít Vaši objednávku ze dne 12. března 1940, protože však mám velký nedostatek obalů, prosím aby jste si na moji adresu zaslal ihned franco. 3 velké bedny (jako od zápalek).

Po dojití beden bude Vám zboží ihned odesláno, proto očekávám vyřízení obratem a jsem

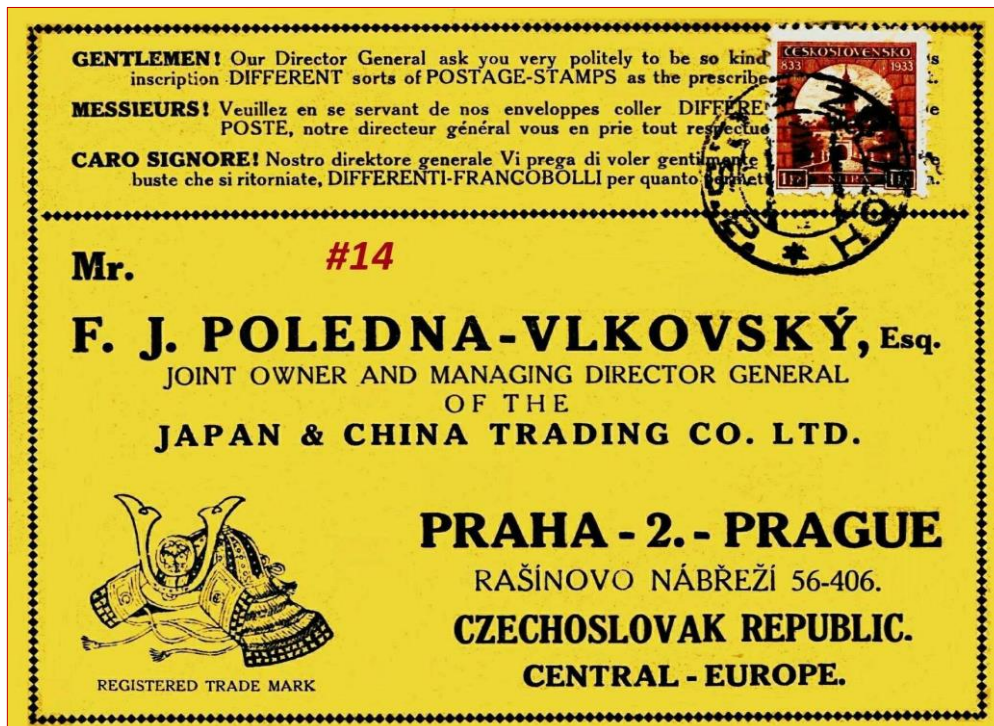
v dokonalé účtě:
FRANT. MATĚJKA.

JAN BAUDYŠ, KUTNÁ HORA
 Městec Králové, dne 17. května 1940.
 Splatno: Zplaceno 18. V. 1940
 Deník: Dovozné:

Frant. Matějka trading as 'Kveta' Food Processing Factory in Městec Králové. 17 May 1940.
 Postcard sent to a wholesaler in Kutná Hora. Reverse of card (copy x 75%) bears a blue and silver sticker, in Czech, announcing 'Kveta – 20 years of trustworthy trading.' Postage: internal postcard 50h as franked.
 Cancel: Firm's own machine cancel incorporating the trademark and name (in Czech) with the town and franking portion in German and Czech. From 15 March 1939 when Czechoslovakia became the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia the official language became German and Czech the second language.



From: Škoda General and Commercial Offices, Prague.
 formerly at Škoda Works, Píseň - a General Stock Co.
 Both items sent to the manager of the Škoda establishment in Hradec Králové.
 Stamps: (upper) 2 x 1.20Kč portrait of TG Masaryk from Portraits issue of 28 October 1945.
 (lower) 1 x 1.20Kč Linden Leaves issue of 23 May 1945.
 Postage: (upper) internal letter to 20g – 2.40Kč as paid. day? month? 1946.
 (lower) internal letter to 20g – 1.20Kč as paid 29 August 1945.
 (Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate rates were applicable until 30 November 1945)
 Cancels: double circle in violet - Prostřední Sucha with year date only.
 The envelope sent in 1945 has the text in Czech; an old envelope has been used.
 The firm's title etc is in German.
 After the war German was forbidden, Czech was obligatory. The 1946 envelope has German titles expunged and the Czech equivalent inserted with a hand stamp.



Letter to Mr FJ Poledna – Vlkovský Esq. trading as Japan and China Trading Co Ltd., Prague with his registered trade mark – a Samurai martial head dress (lower left).
 Stamp: 1Kčs – Church gateway, Nitra issued 20 June 1933 (1100th anniversary of the Foundation of the first Christian Church. Nitra. Slovakia).
 Postage: internal letter rate – 1Kčs – as paid.
 Cancel: double circle, single language Zbiroh (type M41, canc. c in use 1920 -1939) with date 20.VI.33?
 NOTE – see request, in English, French and Italian, for franking mail to the company.

Cancelled Czech: The Re-Germanisation of Six Town Cancellers in Inter-War Czechoslovakia

by Robert Lauer

Starting in mid-1919, the new Czechoslovak postal authorities began replacing the cancelling devices issued by the Austrian administration with newly issued Czechoslovak cancellers. In this process, the Czechs took the opportunity to replace most of the unilingual German cancellers with either bilingual Czech/German cancellers or, in some cases, unilingual Czech devices. Many of the previously bilingual cancellers were also replaced with unilingual Czech cancellers. The new bilingual Czech/German cancellers had the Czech name for the municipality in the top of the canceller with the German name in the bottom portion. This differed from the Austrian convention, which initially was to give prominence to the German version of the town name (either in the top or to the left), but then increasingly to the language of the linguistic majority of the population of the place in question.¹ Given the deep, historically rooted political, ethnic and cultural conflict between the Czech and German communities prior to Czechoslovak independence, none of this should be surprising; now that the Czechs had control of the government apparatus, they were going to enforce the primacy of the Czech language over German.²

At Czechoslovak independence, there were roughly 970 post offices where there were only unilingual German cancellers.³ After the new Czechoslovak postal authorities had finished the task of replacing the old Austrian cancelling devices with newly issued cancellers, there were only 53 towns left with unilingual German cancellers. The process of emphasizing the primacy of the Czech language did not stop here. Over the 1920–1938 period, 20 of these unilingual German cancellers were replaced by bilingual Czech/German cancellers. Further, another 20 bilingual Czech/German cancellers were replaced by unilingual Czech devices during the inter-war years. None of this is surprising given the political dynamics of the new Czechoslovakia.

However, what is surprising is that there were in fact a small number of towns where the reverse of this general process occurred. There were three towns—Georgswalde, Weigsdorf, Wölmsdorf—where unilingual German devices replaced initial bilingual cancellers issued by the new Czech postal authorities, as well as three towns—Moldau, Tepl, Markt Türnau—where the initial unilingual Czech cancellers were replaced by bilingual Czech/German devices. In Figure 1, I have done my best to try to locate these six towns on a 1930 map of the Czech lands which indicates the German-speaking proportion of the population. All six towns were located in areas of the country where at least 75% of the population was German-speaking. Georgswalde, Weigsdorf, Wölmsdorf, Tepl and Moldau were very close to the border with Germany; Markt Türnau was in a heavily German-speaking district in northern Moravia. They were all small towns.

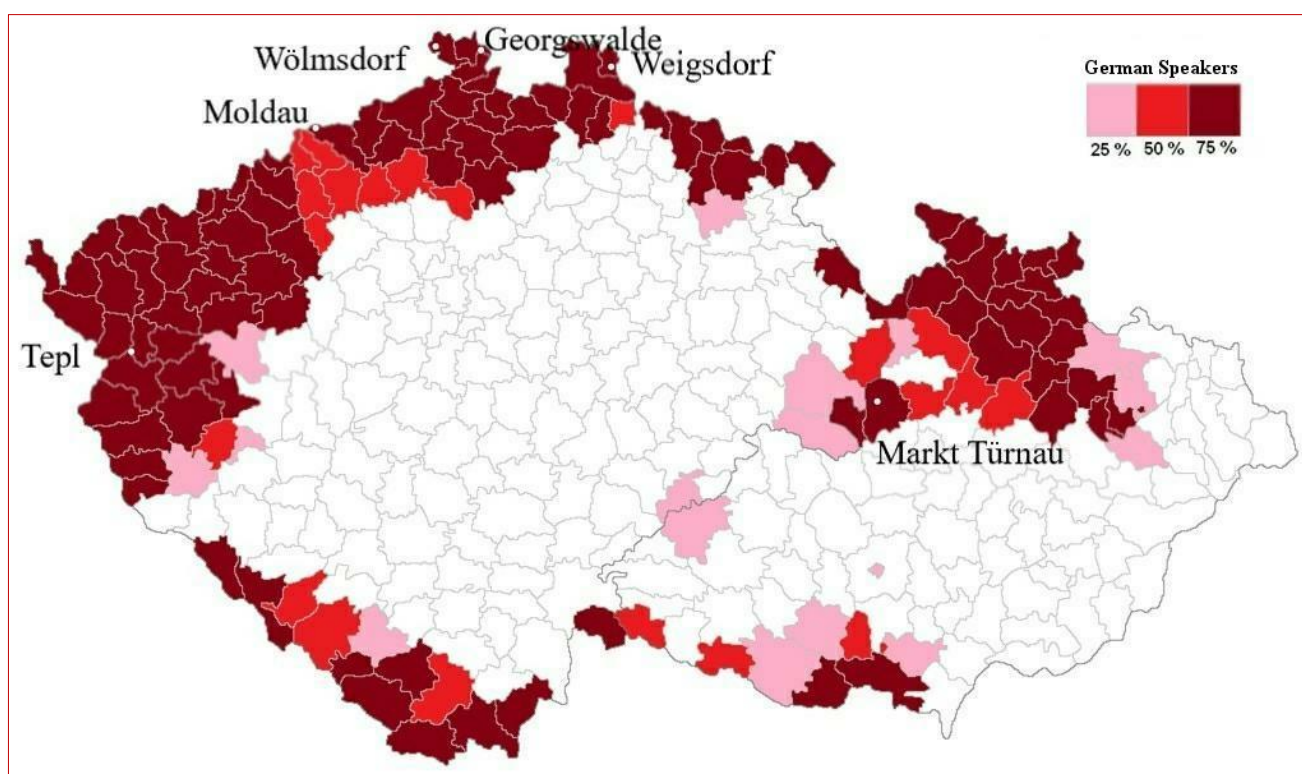


Figure 1: Distribution of the German-speaking population in the Czech lands, 1930. Small white circles (near the names in black) mark the six towns. Source of the original, unmodified map: Wikipedia Commons.

At the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, five of these six towns had unilingual German cancellers; only Markt Türnau had a bilingual German/Czech canceller. Strikes from Austrian ‘survivor’ cancellers for Georgswalde, Tepl, Weigsdorf, Moldau and Wölmsdorf which were in use at Czechoslovak independence in 1918 are illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Strikes from Austrian ‘survivor’ cancellers for Georgswalde, Tepl, Moldau, Weigsdorf, Moldau and Wölmsdorf (all, except for Moldau, are from Robert Pinet).

In 1920, the Austrian cancellers for Georgswalde, Weigsdorf and Wölmsdorf were replaced by new bilingual Czechoslovak cancellers having a Czech version of the town name in the top of the cancel (‘w’ was replaced by ‘v’), the letters ‘Č.S.P.’ were placed in the space over the date line and the German town name was put in the bottom. Strikes from two of these new bilinguals for Georgswalde are illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Strikes from new ‘a’ (left) and ‘b’ (right) bilingual Georgswalde cancellers issued in 1920 (the ‘b’ is from Pinet).



In 1924, when many of the original Czechoslovak cancellers with the Č.S.P. identifier above the date line were replaced by cancellers without it, these three towns received new devices with just the original German name in the top of the canceller and three small ornaments in the bottom arc of the canceller. For strikes from these new unilingual German cancellers, see Figure 4.



Figure 4: Strikes from the unilingual Czechoslovak cancellers for Georgswalde, Weigsdorf and Wölmsdorf (the version of Wölmsdorf on the right is colour-modified) issued in 1924 (Georgswalde from Alan Soble; Weigsdorf and Wölmsdorf from Pinet).

The unilingual German cancellers for Georgswalde had three different arrangements of ornaments in the bottom arc of the cancellers, depending on when they were placed in service during the years 1924–1938. The three different types of these unilingual German cancellers are exhibited in the drawings of Figure 5; two types are shown on cancelled stamps in Figure 6.

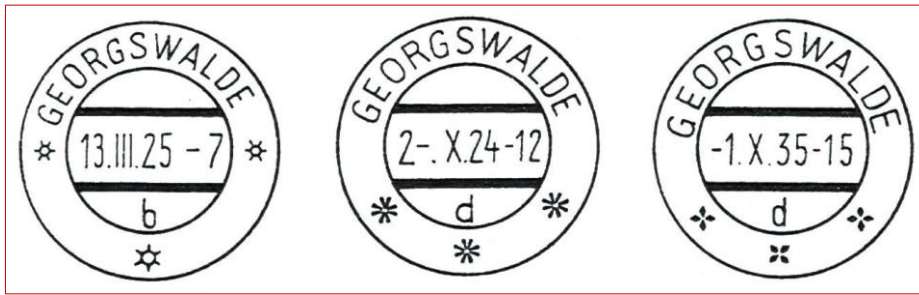


Figure 5: The three types of the unilingual Georgswalde canceller (*Monografie, Vol. 17, Part I*).⁴



Figure 6: Strikes from the first two types of the unilingual Georgswalde canceller (from Soble).

The histories of the cancelling devices for Moldau, Tepl and Markt Türnau are slightly more heterogeneous. Despite the German linguistic makeup of the areas in which these towns were located, all three towns were issued unilingual Czech devices when the initial Č.S.P. cancellers were distributed in the 1919–1920 period. These cancellers contained the Czech names ‘Moldava’, ‘Teplá’ and ‘Městečko Trnávka’, respectively, in the top arc of the canceller and Č.S.P. in the bottom arc.

In 1921, the unilingual Czech Moldava Č.S.P. canceller was replaced first with a bilingual canceller with ‘Moldava’ in the top arc, ‘Moldau’ in the bottom arc and Č.S.P. above the date line, and then a new bilingual Č.S.P. canceller with ‘Moldava v Čechách’ in the top arc. In 1934, a second canceller (the ‘b’ device) was issued with the same renderings of the town name but without the Č.S.P. identifier. Finally, in 1937 the original bilingual Č.S.P. canceller (the ‘a’ device) was replaced by one without the Č.S.P. identifier.

Tepl did not have to wait until 1921 to get a new bilingual canceller. In what must have been late 1919, the town’s new unilingual Czech canceller was replaced by a number of Č.S.P. cancellers with ‘Teplá v Čechách’ in the top arc and ‘Tepl’ in the bottom arc (Figure 7). In 1924, these cancellers were in turn replaced by a series of devices without the Č.S.P. identifier. Further, ‘Město Teplá’ was in the top arc and ‘Tepl Stadt’ in the bottom. These new bilingual cancellers came with two different types of ornaments on each side of the date bridge (Figure 8). The upper-right corner of a postal stationery card cancelled in 1925 with the first type of this last pair of cancellers is shown in Figure 9.

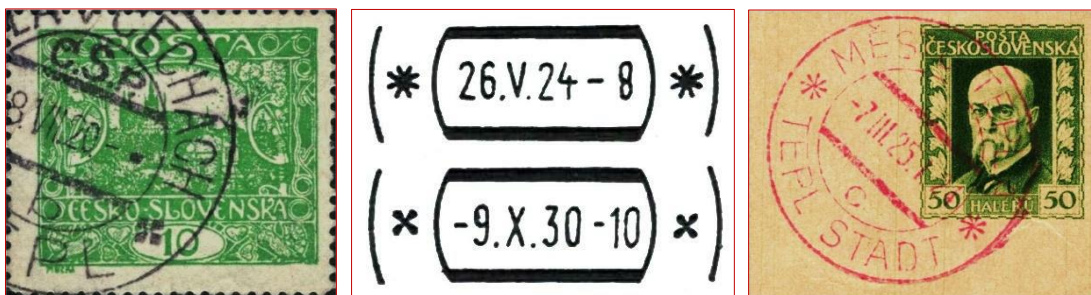


Figure 7 (left): A strike from a bilingual Teplá v Čechách/Tepl canceller issued in 1919.

Figure 8 (centre): The two different types of bilingual Tepl cancellers (*Monografie, Vol. 17, Part I*).

Figure 9 (right): Cropped postal card cancelled 7 March 1925 with a bilingual Město Teplá/Tepl Stadt strike.

In the case of Markt Türnau, the town’s original unilingual Czech Č.S.P. canceller was replaced in 1925 by a couple of bilingual devices—‘Trnávka’ in the top arc, ‘Türnau’ in the bottom—which had no Č.S.P. identifier. In 1929, these cancellers were in turn replaced with a batch of devices with ‘Městečko Trnávka’ in the top arc and ‘Markt Türnau’ in the bottom (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Strikes from a bilingual Městčko Trnávka/Markt Türnau canceller issued in 1929 (from Pinet).

The particular reasons why the cancellers from these half dozen towns are an aberration to the prevailing process of removing German and adding Czech to the postal cancelling devices during this period are almost certainly lost in the sands of time. All six had predominantly German populations and were in overwhelmingly German-speaking areas; most were close to the German border. But these factors do not distinguish them from hundreds of similar communities in inter-war Czechoslovakia.⁵

NOTES

1. Zdeněk Kvasnička, 'Austro-Hungarian Postmarks Used in Czechoslovakia', *The Czechoslovak Specialist* 16:1 (January 1954), p. 13 (trans. George Skopeček and Richardson L. Spofford).
2. Mary Heimann's *Czechoslovakia: The State That Failed* (London: Yale University Press, 2009) and A.J.P. Taylor's *The Habsburg Monarchy, 1809–1918* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976) have good sections on the conflicts between Czechs and Germans in Czechoslovakia prior to independence.
3. I say 'roughly 970' because on a first count through Volume 16 of *Monografie Československých Známek* (Praha, 1962), I arrived at 969 towns with only unilingual German cancellers. I have not verified this with a second counting.
4. *Monografie Československých Známek, Díl XVII* (Praha, 1988).
5. Alan Soble, who has studied similar topics in inter-war Slovakia and Romania, has suggested that the elusive common denominators may be found in the biographies (e.g., personality, politics) of the postmasters of these six towns—which may well be 'lost in the sands of time'. For an introduction to unilingual/bilingual cancellers in post-Armistice Slovakia, see **Johan Sevenhuijsen** and Soble, 'Hungarian Names Used in Slovak Cancels', *Czechout* 2/2013, pp. 22–24, and the earlier, longer version which includes endnotes, bibliography and appendix, *The News of Hungarian Philately* 43:3 (July–September, 2012), pp. 27–32.

Fly Fishing in a Philatelic Pool

by **Mark Wilson** FRPSL

I am an ardent fly-speck philatelist. I find my pleasure not in postal history or exhibiting, but in the tiny flaws which mark most typographically-produced stamps with an indelible and unique character. If you are not familiar with the sport, this article is meant to introduce you to the excitement of philatelic fly fishing. In order to partake, you will need fishing equipment in the form of a plating guide such as those published on-demand by our Society and an accumulation of a specific denomination of stamps from a single issue.

My most recent engagement with the sport was wading through an accumulation of the 25 h Type I Dove stamps. I used a book recently made available through the CPSGB On-Demand publication program, *The 25 Haler Type I Dove* (by Jiří Kašpar, Jaroslav Moravec and Martin Kašpar; translated, edited and newly illustrated by myself). As the guide will show you, there are exactly 103 distinct variations of this stamp. (See the review, 3/2019, pp. 22–24, and click [here](#).)

To search through my accumulations, I mount them on loose-leaf stock pages (see *right*) and place a small page identifier in the upper-right hand corner of the stock page. I then scan the pages at 600 DPI in colour so that I can enlarge them on my computer screen and look for the flaws more easily than I might with a magnifying glass. When I find and remove a stamp, I use my computer to erase that position and save the image of the stock page again (note the empty black areas, *right*).



From a specialist's standpoint, *negative flaws* are the most important and desirable variations. These are flaws that originate in the glass negative used to manufacture the denomination's printing plates. They are identifiable, indeed defined, by their consistent appearance in the same stamp position on every plate fabricated from the same negative. In the case of stamps printed with two plates, that means that if a negative flaw appears in Position 18 on Plate I, it will appear in the same position on Plate II (Figure 1).

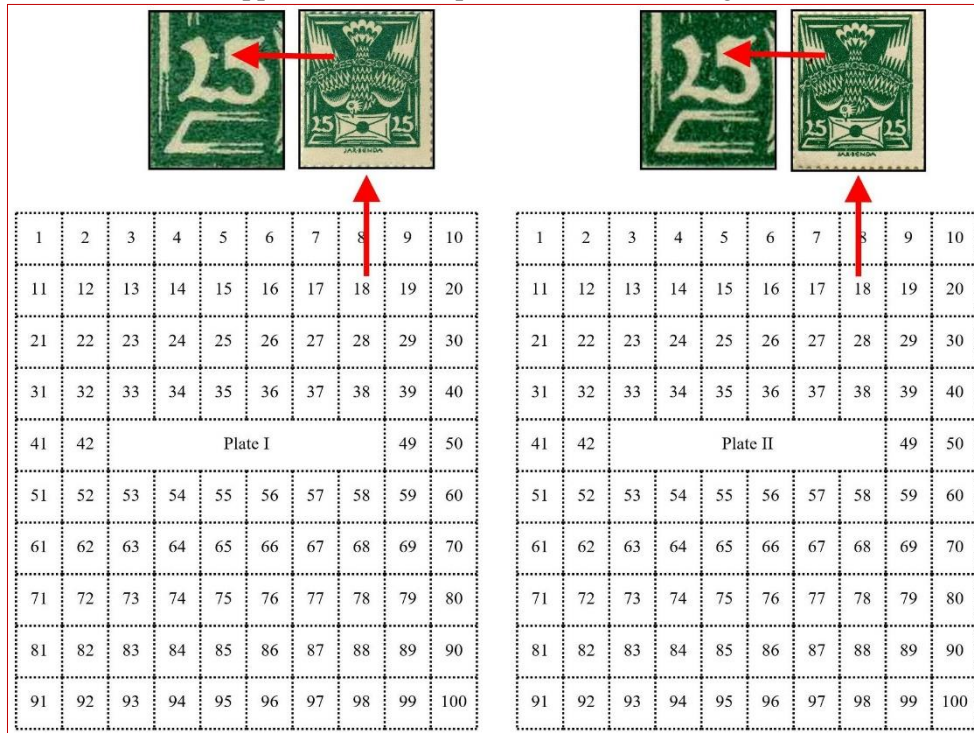
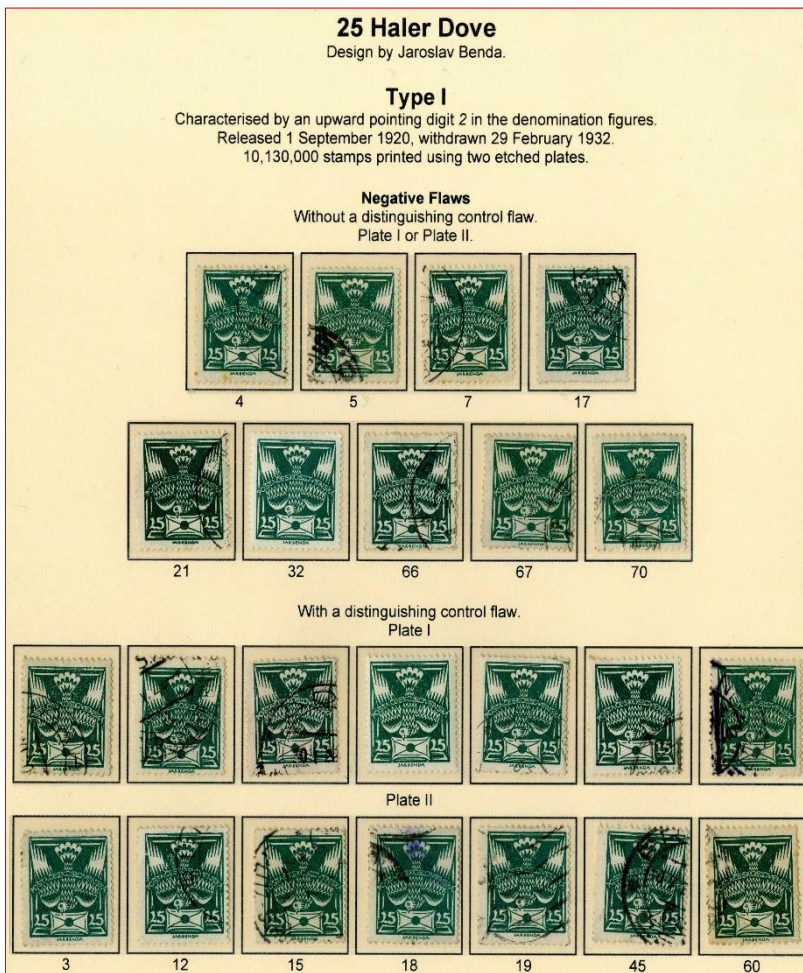


Figure 1: A negative flaw is reproduced in the same position on every pane printed from plates manufactured using the flawed negative. In Position 18, a white spur appears on the right side of the left instance of the denomination digit 2.



Negative flaws are considered important because they tie together plates and demonstrate the use of a single negative. The blue 5 h Dove, for instance, has negative flaws which clearly demonstrate that Plates I and II were made using one negative, but its other twelve plates used a completely different second negative. In the instance of the Dove 25 h Type I, the negative flaws demonstrate, first, that only one negative was used to create the plates for Type I and, second, that a completely different negative was used for the 25 h Type II plates.

We may also catch another species of fish, the *plate flaw*. Plate flaws originate during the manufacture or handling of a plate and appear in a specific position on a single plate. In fact, they are most useful in identifying plates which have no obvious identifying plate number. Thus, with respect to plate flaws, what happens on one plate—as they say about Las Vegas—stays on that plate.

Figure 2.

Plate flaws serve a second purpose. As has been explained, a negative flaw appears on both plates of the 25 h Type I. How can we know which plate a stamp with a negative flaw came from? Sometimes we cannot. If at least one of the two stamps with the same negative flaw has in addition its own plate flaw, then the two stamps may be assigned to their respective plates. Such a plate flaw is called a *control* as it permits assigning a stamp with a negative flaw to one plate or the other.

Some stamps with negative flaws lack a control; that is, having the stamp in hand we cannot with any certainty assign it to one plate or another. The 25 h Type I has 16 identifiable negative flaws. Of those, nine have no control while for the remaining seven at least one in each pair has a control (Figure 2, above).

When it comes to stamps which have only plate flaws, Plate I is substantially richer than Plate II. Plate I has 49 stamps which can be identified by their plate flaws (Figure 3) while Plate II has only 31 (Figure 4). So, if we go fly fishing in the 25 h Type I pool, we could catch (if we are lucky):

- 9 negative flaws without controls
- 14 negative flaws with controls (7 from each plate)
- 49 plate flaws from Plate I, and
- 31 plate flaws from Plate II, for a total of
- 103 collectable items (the remaining 97 stamps are essentially indistinguishable).

But not everything is a bed of roses. Position 9 on Plate II, for instance, has a plate flaw which appears in many, many positions, sometimes as a plate flaw, and sometimes because during a particular printing run similar flaws were accidentally produced (and temporarily, too, as they may not appear in the next printing). In order to be absolutely positive we have 9/II in hand, it needs to be attached to a more readily identifiable partner, say 8/II or 10/II, both of which have clearly identifiable plate flaws.

Finally, you will notice that there are five empty spots on the album pages shown (Figures 3 and 4). Those are the fish that have so far eluded me, the big ones that got away: I must go fly fishing again soon.

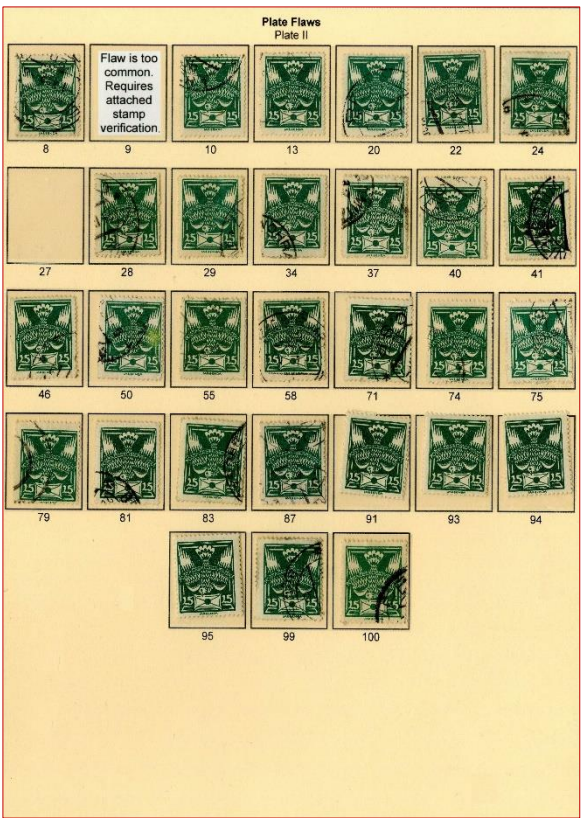
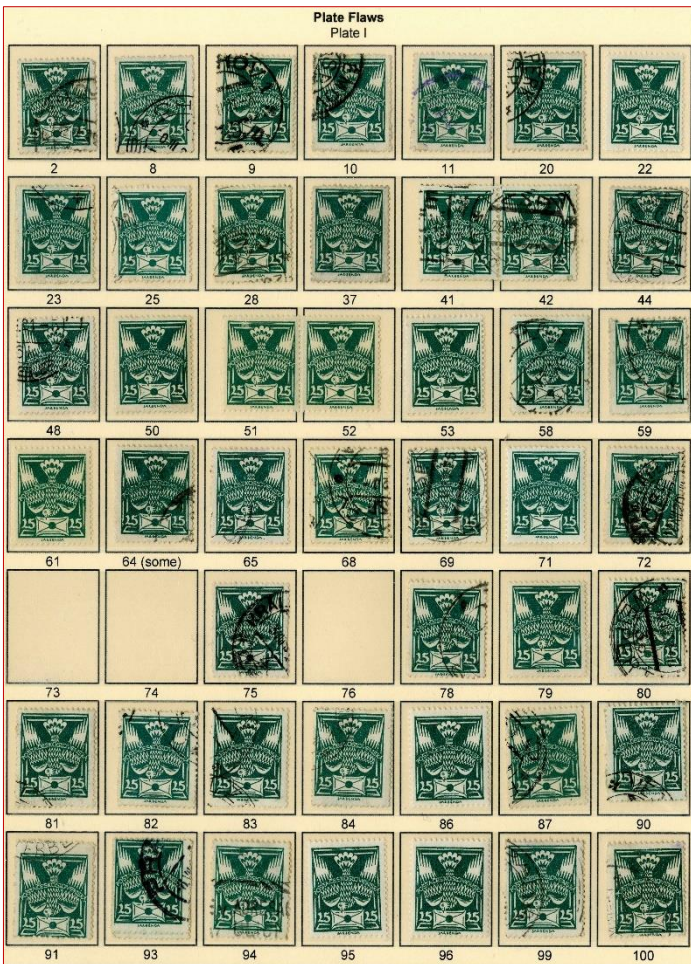


Figure 4.

Figure 3.

50 Years Ago – December 1969

As Kate Atkinson (*b.* 1951, York; lives in Edinburgh) is fond of asserting and illustrating in her novels, ‘Everything is interconnected’. This feature of her writings was clear to me when I discovered her *oeuvre*, opening *Case Histories* (2004) and *One Good Turn* (2006) and currently reading *Transcription* (2018; WWII British counterespionage) during breaks from editing *Czechout*. Curiously, the only stamp released by Czechoslovakia in December 1969 turns out to have a stamp-on-stamp [thematic](#) design. I had no idea when preparing the brief piece ‘Stamps on Stamps’ (2/2019, p. 22) that it would ‘collide’ or ‘intersect’ with the subject matter of this ‘50 Years Ago’ column two issues later. Not a mere coincidence, insists Atkinson, as it would be no coincidence were Roger and I to bump into each other in Komárom. Ouch, then glee.

In December 1969, Air France Flight 212 crashed into the Caribbean Sea at Guadaloupe minutes after take-off from the Caracas airport in Venezuela. All 62 on board died. Prior to takeoff, a dynamite bomb had been placed within a wheel well. A grand jury in Los Angeles indicted Charles Manson for the ‘Tate-LaBianca’ murders four months earlier (3/2019, p. 25). The House of Commons voted to make permanent the abolition of capital punishment for murder (‘interconnected’); the House of Lords soon followed suit. A Korean Air Lines plane, with 46 South Korean passengers and crew, was hijacked to Wonsan, North Korea. Seven passengers, the pilot, the copilot and two stewardesses were never allowed to leave. Viswanathan Anand, world chess champion 2000–2002 and 2007–2013, was born on the 11th in Mayiladuthurai, India. Six Indian fans were killed in a stampede for tickets outside of Eden Gardens stadium in Calcutta before a cricket match between Australia and India. (They may have fared better playing chess.) In San Francisco, Joseph Fletcher issued the first widely-publicized announcement of global warming and climate change, warning that we had only a few decades to solve the problem. We turn now to the only December 1969 Czechoslovak stamp. (At least one Christmas stamp was issued earlier, November 1969: ‘[Crucifixion](#)’, a 1950 painting by V. Hložník, SG 1863.)



This Stamp Day issue, denominated 1 Kčs, was issued 18.XII.1969 (as inscribed on the stamp; see the [souvenir sheet](#), too). Depicted is a 6x5 sheet of 30 stamps, 21 face different and 9 the same (a [monochromatic](#) blue rectangle), all nondenominated and all lacking a country identifier. The stamp is SG 1866, which catalogue describes the design as ‘Emblem and “Stamps”’, the scare-quotes hinting that somat is fishy; see *Scott* 1663, according to which the issue shows a ‘Symbolic sheet of stamps’, and *POFIS* 1803, which also candidly and generously resorts to ‘*symbolikou*’. Hence this is not a genuine stamp-on-stamp but a lazy labels-on-stamp, cinderellas-on-stamp or *drech*-on-stamp issue, making it perhaps unique but also dull – not even one allusion to traditional stamp-making processes to engage a philatelist of the Sevenhuijsen-Wilson school (2/2018, pp. 8–9). What is particularly Stamp-Dayish about this Stamp Day emission? Needing material for the ‘Query’ column or ‘Letters’, I am receptive to an explanation from readers; write to the [Editor](#). Whether we have upset Atkinsonian metaphysical holism is debatable. Take a stab at [Alan Watts](#) (Chislehurst’s own).

What may repay study is the figure of a bird on the sheet of labels (which reminds me of squashed [origami](#)). Is this intended to be a Czechoslovak *holubice* (either a dove or carrier pigeon) or a Newspaper windhover/kestrel/falcon? A genuine Dove-on-stamp can be seen [here](#). Then we are overwhelmed by another Atkinsonian connection (3/2019, pp. 22–24). Maybe the electronic-style ‘emblem’ is a sly prediction about the effects of the coming digital age; the Internet made great strides in 1969. The stamp may be better labeled *Stamp Funeral Day*, because the rise of email is the death knell of the postage stamp. That’s the meaning of a sheet of nondenominated, imageless and sloppily perforated blue stamps. **Ed.**

NEW ISSUES



Czech Republic

‘Winner Over Time’ – 4 September 2019

Česká pošta conveys in the title the optimistic impression that humanity has been the ‘winner’, but it also describes the stamp as symbolizing ‘the struggle with time’, suggesting the more modest and accurate, albeit pessimistic, view which allows that person’s lives, whole species and continents may actually lose in the face of the power of time to eat away at the fragile foundations of existence. (The human contribution to destructive global warming cannot be ignored.) Česká pošta does mention one way humanity may win: time can be *measured* – the way science conquered, with cube technology, amorphous sugar; 2/2019, p. 27 – pointing out that sophisticated clocks keep track of seconds (the basic unit), minutes, hours and days. *Maybe*. There are also the commonplace but nevertheless basic units employed in ‘back in a tick’ or ‘a jiffy’, it’ll ‘only take a moment’ (‘momentarily’, ‘imminently’, ‘immediately’), ‘gimme just a sec’ (or ‘nanosec’), ‘two shakes of a lamb’s tail’, ‘quicker than a New York minute’, ‘allegro’ and the transoceanic cousins ‘biweekly’ and ‘every fortnight’. What must give pause is a clause in the Czech Post’s organizational ‘[Restructuring Plan](#)’ of 26 June 2019: the ‘project should result in simpler and faster operations, more reliable delivery services, and zero [sic!] waiting time at post offices’. *That* is really winning over time, although I’d be thrilled with merely ‘In and out before lunch is over’.



‘Czechoslovak Fighters in the RAF’ – 2 October 2019

Czechoslovak pilots in Royal Air Force units played a significant role in the fight against Germany in WWII. Czechoslovak pilots began to form units in Great Britain even before the signing of a formal treaty with the British government. The Czechoslovak government-in-exile soon established Czechoslovak-manned RAF squadrons in which 2,500 men served. After the defeat of France, Great Britain was the next intended victim of German aggression. Czechoslovak RAF pilots successfully downed or heavily damaged 365 enemy aircraft, while 531 Czechoslovak air force members lost their lives. Deserving mention are these pilots, among others: Karel



Kuttelwascher, Josef František, Alois Vašátko, Otto Smik, Josef Stehlík, Miroslav J. Mansfeld, Leopold Šrom, Václav Cukr and Otmar Kučera. One stamp in the set shows the emblems of four of the Czechoslovak squadrons; on the other is a portrait of one leading Czechoslovak combat pilot, František Peřina. The sheetlet displays in addition the overlapping flags of Czechoslovakia and the Royal Air Force. See the studies of Richard [Beith](#), above, pp. 7–8. (The text here is modified from the [Česká pošta](#) website.)



‘The 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution’ (30. Vyročí Sametové Revoluce) – 13 November 2019 JOINT ISSUE WITH SLOVAKIA. See page 24, next, for the Slovak version of the stamp and a brief account of its significance.



Slovak Republic

'75th Anniversary of SNU [SNP]' – 28 August 2019



In explaining the issuance of this stamp, Stanislav Mičev of *POFIS* writes: 'The Slovak National Uprising was undoubtedly a highly significant political turnaround. The day on which it was proclaimed – 29th August – is a state holiday in the Slovak Republic.... [W]e must **continually return** [*bold added*] to this historical event, because to forget allows the door to historical lies and distortions to be opened. To forget means that we do not appreciate the democratic legacy of the event that allowed us to return to democratic Europe,' which is, at first blush, reassuring. Yet recall (3/2019, p. 25): Czechoslovakia issued stamps honouring the *SNU* in 1945, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984 and 1989. Post-Divorce (1 January 1993) Czechia no longer honoured the *SNU* with a stamp. Slovakia issued a stamp in 1994, faithful to the usual 5-year schedule, but none until 2014, 20 years later. After celebrating *SNU* prolifically, obsessively (every 5 years in August) during the anti-'democratic legacy' Communist reign, Czechia jettisons the practice altogether and Slovakia's 'continual return' is lackadaisical. Maybe this retreat admits that Czechoslovakia's nearly 4-decade philatelic salute to the *SNU* was compelled by dark forces having their own inscrutable agenda. So, post-1990, good riddance to the practice. Alternatively, emitting a stamp for *SNU* in 2019 after the 2014 issue may be a sign that Slovakia has again embraced a 5-year schedule. We'll see whether we should be reassured.

'100th Anniversary of the Treaties of Paris' – 10 September 2019

POFIS is referring to three treaties: Versailles, Saint-Germain and Trianon, which – *how* not to understate it? – dramatically affected the borders, economics, politics, demographics, peoples and subsequent history of Austria, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Serbia, etc.) and Czechoslovakia (Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, Silesia, Ruthenia). And *how* to depict it all on a single



postage stamp? An image of a caricatured blue bird perched insecurely on scattered, rootless sprigs, not a blossoming spray, of flowers twisted around a 'T/P' ligature is a hermeneutic disaster. I wish I knew more botany and ornithology. But the projected sense of asinine construction and vulnerable disunity may (sympathetically) be exactly the point. The formation of a new ligatured country and name, Czechoslovakia, thrown together from disparate flora and fauna, symbolizes the result of otiose deliberations called 'treaties'. Despite the vision of Josip Broz (Tito), much the same may well be said about Yugoslavia.

Roger Morrell has been writing a philatelic post-WWI history. The first instalment – its 'Introduction' explains the series – appeared in *Stamps of Hungary*, No. 216, March 2019, pp. 5–10: 'The Time-Line to Trianon – November 1918 to March 1919'. Then *SoH*, No. 217, June 2019, pp. 10–17: 'The Time-Line to Trianon – April 1919 to June 1919'. The third part is in *SoH*, No. 218, September 2019, pp. 7–14: 'Timeline to Trianon, Part 3: 1 July 1919 to 30 September 1919'. The fourth piece will come out in *SoH*, No. 219, December 2019, pp. 5–12. See also Hartmut Liebermann's comprehensive article in the journal *Austria*, Autumn 2017 (200/5), mentioned in our 'Abstracts', 4/2017, p. 9.

'Christmas 2019: Traditional Slovak Tinsmithing' – 08 November 2019

Slovakia had issued a stamp earlier this year, on 15 March 2019 (2/2019, p. 29), also devoted to tinsmithing. I suppose it proved popular, because in time for Christmas 2019 another stamp was issued featuring a cute piece of tin, a heart shape with six hooks.

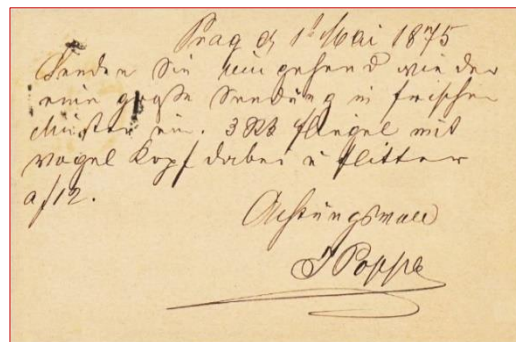
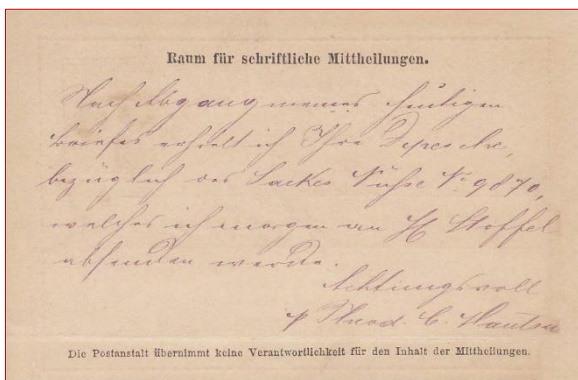


'30th Anniversary of Velvet Revolution' (30. Výročie Nežnej Revolúcie) – 13 November 2019 JOINT ISSUE WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC; SAME DESIGN, DIFFERENT DENOMINATION AND INSCRIPTION. The stamp marks the late 1989 resistance inaugurating the end of Communism in Czechoslovakia while the Berlin Wall was collapsing on 9 November.



New Czech Republic Stationery: ‘150 Years of Postcards in the Czech Lands’ – 01 October 2019

Austria issued the world’s first postal stationery card in 1869, to be used anywhere in the Austrian realm (and a Germanic version for the Kingdom of Hungary). Česká pošta could have asserted, fairly, that it was celebrating a card used ‘in many lands’. For an example of the card used in [Freiberg](#), Moravia on 21.3.70, see Card (I) on the [front cover](#). The *verso* of Card (III), with German inscriptions, is shown below (with translations), as well as the *verso* of the 1872 Card (IV), without inscriptions. The new Czech Republic card has an elegant design: Stationery Card-on-Stationery Card. In 1869 Hungary also issued its own indigenous Magyar, non-Germanic card. Shown below is a Hungarian 1969 stamp celebrating its 1869 card. The card’s header is Magyar, ‘Levelezési lap’, not the German ‘Correspondenz-Karte’. [Here](#), an article on early Hungarian cards.



Raum für schriftliche Mitteilungen.

Die Postanstalt übernimmt keine Verantwortlichkeit für den Inhalt der Mitteilungen.

[Translations]

**Area/space for written messages. ...
The post office assumes no responsibility for the
content of the messages.**



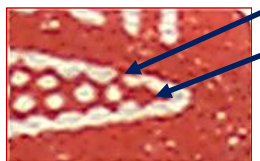
Stamps and stationery – new 2019 issues and 1993–2018 issues – may be viewed and purchased at:

Czech Republic <https://www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelie-a-postfila/znamky/prehled-znamek>
Slovak Republic <https://www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products>

Queries, Letters and Afterthoughts

OLD QUERY (I). In *Czechout* 2/2019, p. 25, **James Hooper** sought information about ‘type numbers ... up to XXIV’ and plate flaws on the 1939 Bohemia & Moravia newspaper stamps (SG N38–46).

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.

Mark Wilson replies:

James Hooper asked about the notes on his B&M newspaper stamps. These appear to be notes pointing out plate flaws. I suspect that the Roman numerals are not type numbers but represent plate numbers. *POFIS Protektorát Čechy a Morava 1939-1945* (2000) indicates that a large number of plates were used to print this issue (36 for the 5 h). Pages 75–77 list the plate numbers; my translation of the top of p. 75 is below. James’ illustrations clearly show plate flaws. For examples of this sort of philatelic study for Czechoslovak stamps, 1957–1992, see www.cpslib.org/pages-flawed/flawed.htm. Select a year and then a stamp. Some stamps will have one flaw, some as many as a dozen. I have not located information about the flaws for the B&M newspaper stamps. [For more on flaws, see Mark’s ‘Fly Fishing in a Philatelic Pool’, this issue, *above*, pp. 19–21.]

Newspaper stamps 1939 (first release) - plate numbers

Newspaper stamp plate numbers were placed in both lower corners of the pane.



Plates manufactured in 1939 and the first part of 1940 have the plate’s serial number in the lower left corner (each denomination has its own set of serial numbers) and in the lower right hand corner the last two digits of the year (identifiable because of differences in the shape of the digits and their frame).



For plates made in the latter part of 1940 and in 1941-1942, the serial number and last two digits of the date appear together in each lower corner separated by a dash (the serial number continues in sequence for each plate manufactured).

OLD QUERY (II). In *Czechout* 2/2019, we showed a colour-missing 1984 stamp (SG 2713, without the red) submitted by Randy Rogers. (*Here* is his detailed account of the stamp, in an Ontario, Canada [stamp club](#) newsletter.) We asked, *en passant*, readers to identify the unseen portion of its ‘ÍN – STR’ partial cancel. One possibility considered was ‘STR’ standing for the [Strakonice](#) District in south Bohemia or its capital [Strakonice](#). But, of course, a bunch of town names in Czechoslovakia begin with ‘STR’. Some readers suggested that the dash indicates a TPO or railway cancel, but no specific line has so far emerged. ([Strážske](#) has a train station.) In the meantime, I stumbled across the Slovakian town name ‘[Šaštín-Stráže](#)’, which fits the data without being a railway cancel.



NEW QUERY (I). About his award at the National Exhibition *Sydney 2019* (13–16 June 2019, Hurstville NSW, Australia), **Clyde Ziegeler** writes: *I have been a collector and exhibitor of Bohemia & Moravia postal stationery for many years and have just shown a 5-frame exhibit for which I was awarded a Large Silver medal. I thought it deserved better, but that is not for me to say. Among the comments were ‘Add more details, for example, date issued [I only know the year], numbers printed, validation period, numbers sold/destroyed, etc.’ Does this information exist, and where can I find it? I use the ‘Katalog Celin’ which is the most specialised catalogue I have been able to find, and this does not have the information. Hoping someone can help me.—* Please reply to the [Editor](#).

Nota bene: A version of *POFIS Protektorát Čechy a Morava 1939-1945* is available at www.frantisekbenes.cz/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/PCM_mini-.pdf. The 1939 newspaper stamp plate numbers are covered on pp. 18ff. Plate flaws are scattered throughout. Illustrations of Bohemia & Moravia postal stationery are provided on pp. 31ff. **Ed.**

NEW QUERY (II). While sorting through his hoard of Doves, **Mark Wilson** came across an odd partial AUG 1921 cancel on a 25 h Type II. He writes, ‘*I am very curious as to what the entire cancellation looked like*’. [Here](#) is Jacques Hermann’s reply. See his cancel [catalogue](#) (also [3/2019](#), p. 7).

LETTER. We have heard more from **Peter Williams** about the Jablonec nad Nisou monument he discussed in his Hathern display ([3/2019](#), p. 11). **Roger Morrell** had reported, ‘*Jablonec has the largest WWI monument in the Czech Republic from which German names were excised in 1938 (but may in future be reinstated)*’. Peter writes, ‘*I have just returned from the Czech Republic and I did manage to find the monument in Jablonec. The names have now been added to the reverse*’. Shown here are the front (*left*), back (*right*) and three added panels of names (*bottom*). At the top of the right panel ‘*Nezvěstní*’ means ‘*missing*’. This list contains no death dates.

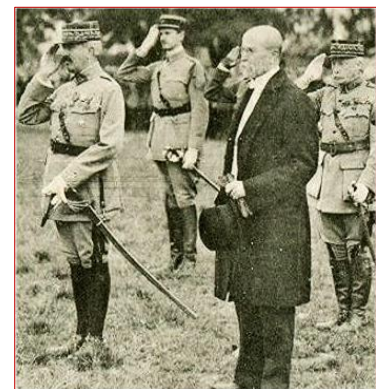


Editor’s reply: I was intrigued by Peter’s letter and his photographs because I had studied the fate of a monument (Hősök-empléke, Heroes Memorial) in a village in southern Hungary which suffered the defacement of German names after WWII names were finally installed in 1989. See ‘Bóly: Postal History and Orthography’, *The News of Hungarian Philately* 45:3 (July–September, 2014), pp. 9–28, especially pp. 19–22, Figures 23–27 and Note 26, p. 27.

AFTERTHOUGHT 1. Regarding the *POFIS* misspelling of the Latin name of the European Roller (a bird in Slovakia): the official web page has now been corrected, which was done after the publication of *Czechout* (3/2019, p. 27). The hatched [web](#) chicks persist. *Mea culpa*, not for the critique but the haste.

AFTERTHOUGHT 2. *Képi* aficionados may have appreciated the *képi* in the customary portraits of Milan Rastislav Štefánik, the images of de Gaulle and Orly and the film ‘Casablanca’ (2/2019, pp. 19–21). Browsing past issues of the journal (mixing work and pleasure), I discovered more *képi* in an article by **Roger Morrell**. See his ‘Two Masaryk Postcards’ in 3/2016 (pp. 18–20, Figure 1; cropped image, *below, right*). I was struck, when reviewing this piece on Renaissance-man Štefánik, that his various attire matched his various roles: aviator gear, military uniform, white laboratory coat, tropical wrap. Also, the philosopher in me fears that the referent of the inscription ‘Les Beautés Polynésiennes’ on **Bob McLeod**’s postcard is ambiguous, maybe deliberately—the flowers, the native, both, even (self-referentially) the entire card itself?

AFTERTHOUGHT 3. One Czechoslovak ‘smokestack’ stamp (3/2019, p. 19)—the Gottwald foundry adorned with an enormous 5-pointed star—appears on a FDC next to the other stamps in the 1953 ‘Building Socialism’ set (SG 766–768; *below*). I don’t think the 150 Kčs *dam* is Les Království (‘New Issues’, 2/2019, p. 27).



AFTERTHOUGHT 4. In ‘New Issues’ for Slovakia, 2/2019, p. 28, two mineral stamps were announced. **Lindy Bosworth** had announced two earlier Slovakia mineral stamps (quartz, opal) in ‘New Issues’, 4/2013, p. 38 (*left*). There are no others in the series.

AFTERTHOUGHT 5. A ‘Query’ submitted by **Ron Hollis** thirty years ago (2/1990, pp. 40–41; see his obituary, 3/2019, pp. 8–9), especially paragraph #2 and its figure on p. 41—an image of ‘[]SP’ on a WWII Slovak postmark (see *below*)—made an important contribution to my article ‘Removal of Czech Markings from Postal Cancellers in the Slovak State’ (2/2018, pp. 13–24, Notes 1

and 10). Recently I bought on eBay a cover which confirms my claim that a ‘gapped’ two-star Slovak State cancel which contains no full-bodied Č.S.P. but only a ghost of its excision is a Type 2 obliteration. In Figures 27a & 27b (p. 22) I showed a ghost identifier, hoping readers would find another. I now know they exist.



Nový Smokovec cancel (28.X.40) with a ghost country identifier between two stars (red circles). Sent to Canton, Massachusetts, USA. The verso return address is ‘Prague XII’.



From Ron Hollis (right)



The ghost of the country identifier appears in the same locations in each Nový Smokovec strike. *Flyspecks!*

The Czech National Philatelic Exhibition, Liberec 2019

by **Hans van Dooremalen** FRPSL

This year's National Philatelic Exhibition in the Czech Republic was held in the north Bohemia town of Liberec, 25–29 September. I decided to travel (by automobile) to Liberec 2019 because I wanted to see how philately was developing in the Czech Republic and because the exhibition was being held in an area of the Czech Republic which I did not yet know.



Distance from Rijen, Netherlands, to Liberec, Czechia, is 856 km on route A38 (1 km in Poland!). Automobile travel time is around 8 hours.

From 1845, the town was known as both Liberec and, in German, Reichenberg. [See the history of the town's cancels, [pp. 29:I–29:IX](#).] In the 1930s the population was about 80% German. With few exceptions, these people were expelled from Czechoslovakia in 1945 through the [Beneš decrees](#). Nowadays Liberec is a fairly modern Czech town. It has several nice buildings and places, of which the town hall, *Radnice*, is well known. (See *below, left*.) However, in sections of the town a large number of dilapidated houses and mansions seem to be waiting for their expelled German owners to return.

Liberec has an active philatelic society, led by several eminent philatelists, which organized the National Philatelic Exhibition. (For details, see their striking Bulletins: the [long #1](#) and the [short #2](#).) The exhibition was held in the historic rooms of the former Kavárna Pošta (Post Office

Café, *below right*, framed by a beautiful blue sky), which is located opposite the *Radnice* in Liberec. The building itself is an attraction, although open only when scheduled for an event.

Entrance to the exhibition was free-of-charge. At the entrance table visitors could buy the exhibition catalogue. There were no dealers, nor was there a special post office. The exhibition consisted of two special



groups: the National group and the so-called ‘Premiera’ group, for first-time exhibitors. The exhibition material was divided according to FIP exhibition classes. Within each FIP class the National and Premiera exhibits were mixed together. A badge on an exhibit’s first frame indicated whether it was National or Premiera.

No surprises arose in the Postal History class. Several Large Golds were given to well-known exhibitors. Miloš Červinka received a LG for his Děčín exhibit in the National group and Peter Severin, who got a Large Gold at [PRAGA 2018](#) for his Slovakia exhibit, showed a new, attractive exhibit on Slovak cancellations, for which he received Gold in the Premiera group. No Large Gold was given in this group. Several exhibits on local postal history (German, *Heimatsammlung*) were displayed. I was particularly intrigued by these exhibits because I have a similar collection.



The biggest surprises were in the Traditional class. Looking at the [Palmares](#), one is inclined to think that the exhibits must have been rather poor. This was absolutely not the case. It was the judging in this class which was poor. In general, exhibits got 10–15 points less than they should have received. The exhibit assembled by Josef Chudoba, on the Liberated Republic Issue,

was awarded Gold at PRAGA 2018 but only a Large Vermeil here. This is just one example. In the Premiera group an exhibit on Hradčany by Richard Flaška, which looked very promising, received Gold with 78 points. Using some *CPSGB* monographs would surely improve his exhibit. The judging problem also applied to non-Czech exhibits; unique material on Afghanistan and North Yemen achieved only lower awards. The literature exhibits, among which was *CPSGB*’s [Monograph 32](#) on the Dove, were probably judged by the same team, with this excellent handbook getting only a Vermeil. A task lies ahead for the Czech Federation—bringing the team of judges up to current international standards.

The highlight of the exhibition was in the last room, next to the presentations of the Prestige Philately Club

Prague, a Czech version of the [Club de Monte Carlo](#). Jiří Kraus, who is a member of the exhibition’s organizing committee, put together with his international collector colleagues a never seen array of displays on polar philately. They contained the best material on this theme, among which were even pre-philately items! They were judged, oddly, in the ‘Postal History’ and ‘Open’ classes, which indicates that there is an urgent need for a separate ‘Social Philately’ class. That label represents more clearly what the exhibits actually consist of.



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It is always satisfying to see large crowds between the frames in the Czech Republic. Philately is certainly not dead there, although membership in the Czech Federation continues to decline. The event was completed by a bourse on Saturday, which was also visited by a large number of people. Some good material was offered.

My visit to Liberec 2019 was worthwhile. I am looking forward to the next event.

The two photographs on this page were taken by Hans van Dooremalen.

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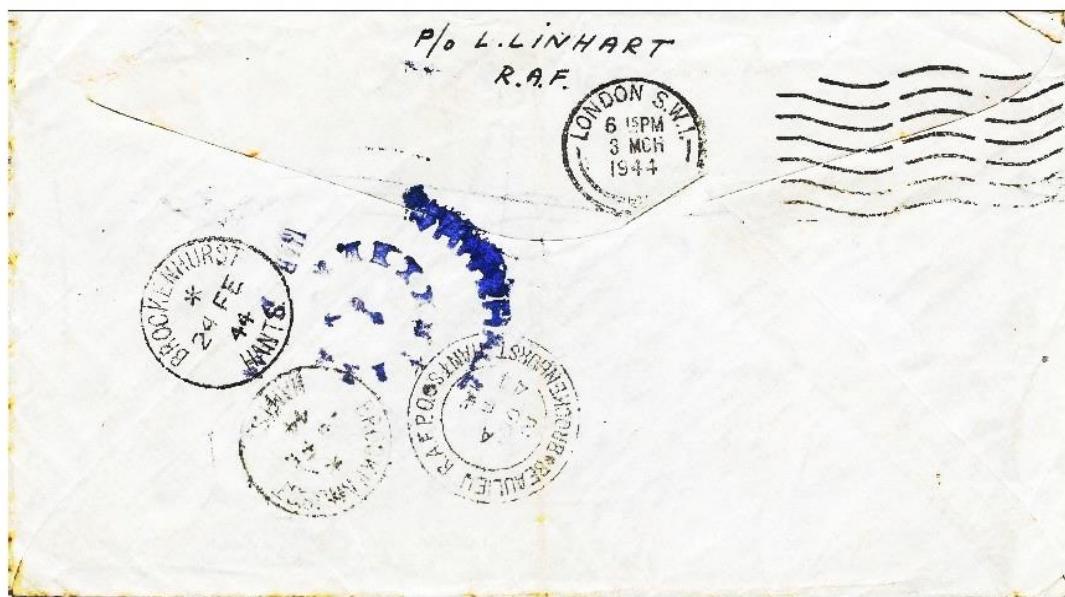
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31 January 1944, registered air mail, Nassau, Bahamas, to a Flight Lieutenant at RAF Beaulieu, the sender, PO L. Linhart, ignoring the use of the required P.O.B. 281 address
 Redirected to the Czechoslovak Inspectorate in London (note their boxed cachet at the left) and then to RAF Predannack, the current home of 311 Squadron
 Franking 1/8d = 1/6 transatlantic air mail + 2d registration fee



The reverse showing cds for Brockenhurst, Hants, for 24 FE 44 and 26 FE 44, Beaulieu RAF PO Brockenhurst Hants for 26 FE 44 and a London machine cancel for 3 MCH 1944

PO Leo Linhart was a pilot in 311 Squadron
 The addressee, Flight Lieutenant Arnošt Havlik, was a stores officer in 311 Squadron – mail not censored

RICHARD BEITH

From CPSGB Monograph No. 30. Richard Beith, *Czechoslovak Forces in the United Kingdom from 1940: A Historical and Philatelic Study* (2017), p. 90.

See pages 2, 7–8 and 23.