



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

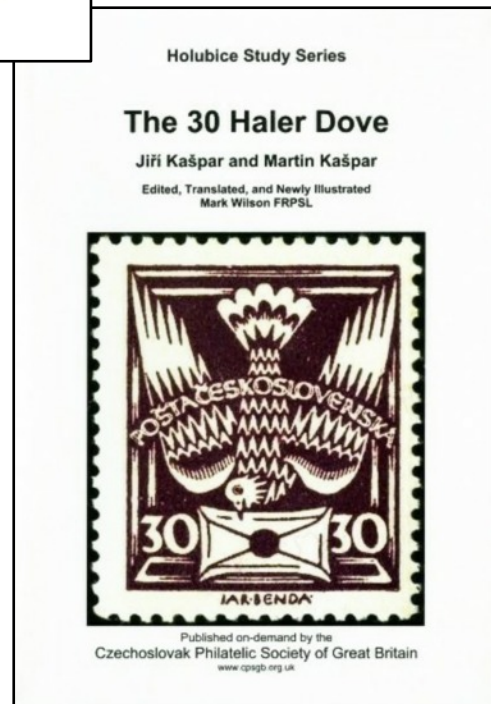
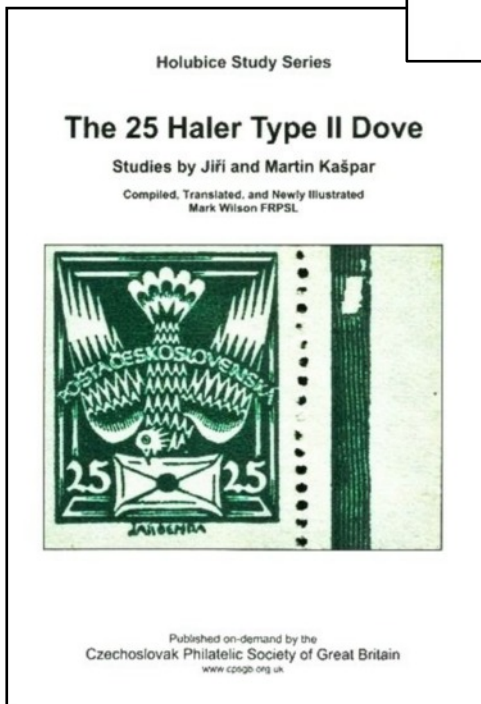
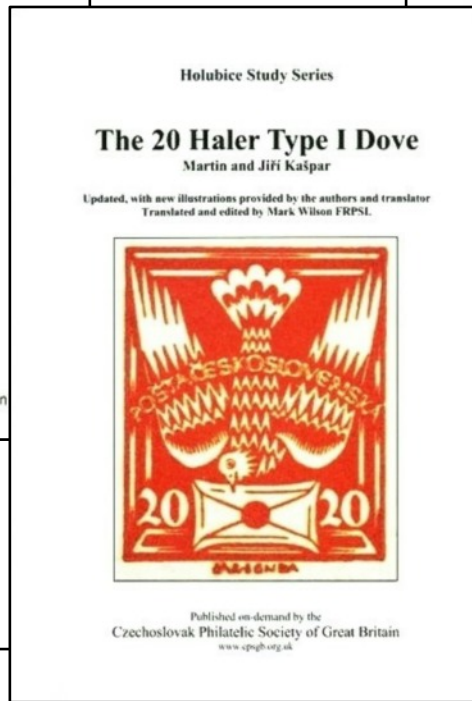
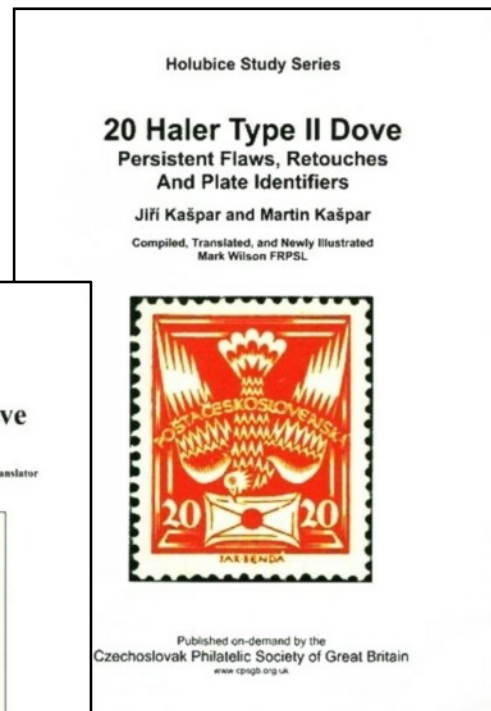
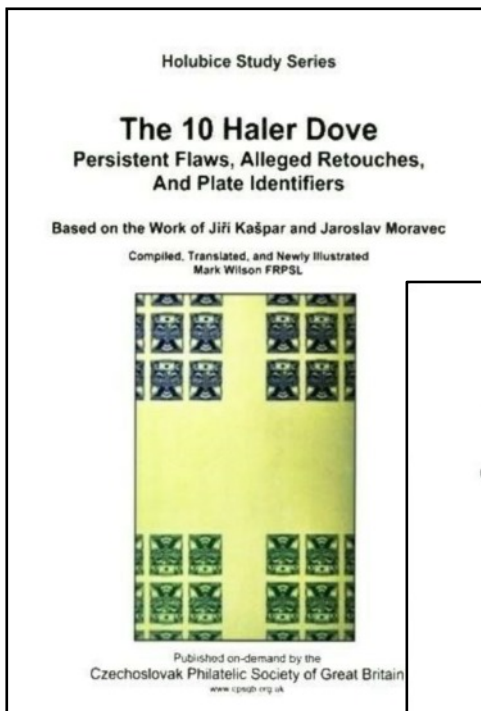
Volume 38/3

September 2020

Whole Number 180



Postage stamp issued by the People's Republic of China (1964) and a label issued by the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH) of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, supporting the people of South Vietnam. See the Query from Robert Elliot, pp. 14-15.



FIVE NEW *HOLUBICE* BOOKS by MARK WILSON
in the ***CPSGB* PRINT ON-DEMAND SERIES**
Reviewed by Yvonne Wheatley on pp. 23–24.
There are now nine Print On-Demand *Holubice* books.
Inspect the list on this web page: www.czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm.
Orders may be placed with the Treasurer, treasurer@cpsgb.org.

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Notice

Readers have mentioned the bright blue hyperlinks in the text intended for the digital edition of *Czechout* may sometimes make reading the text difficult. In this issue we have changed the colour from a blue to a light grey in the hope that readers will find the hyperlinks less distracting. Comments welcome.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The CPSGB had planned to hold its annual meetings from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 7 November, a Saturday. But they cannot take place at our new venue, the Kings Head, which does not permit adequate distancing. *Members will be notified with updates.* The previously scheduled **Rex Dixon** FRPSL display on 'The Hultschin Area' has been moved to 2021.

The Royal Philatelic Society London has been closed, holding meetings only online. This work-around, however, does not apply to the Stuart Rossiter lecture (www.rossitertrust.com/annual-lecture) which had been planned for Thursday 5 November 2020. Readers may keep up with the Trust's activities by subscribing to its Newsletter (www.rossitertrust.com/news/newsletters). Issue No. 52 contains the Rossiter cancellation announcement.

Replacement: The Autumn Stampex 2020 meeting has been cancelled. However, it has been replaced with an online event, 30 September–3 October. Go to www.stampexinternational.co.uk/covid-19.html.

Cancellation: The Irish National Exhibition STAMPA, scheduled to be held in Dublin in October 2020, has been cancelled. COVID-19 restrictions have made it impossible to use the Conference Centre. The next STAMPA is now planned to be held in Dublin, 15–17 October 2021.

Open-to-All Virtual (Online) Symposium: The American Philatelic Society, in cooperation with several other organisations, is sponsoring the 11th biennial Postal History Symposium, on 'Postal Innovation of the Classic Era: Evolution Leading to Modernization', 26–30 October 2020. Over a dozen speakers have been engaged to appear on the programme. Consult the APS website for the topics. Advance registration is required at:

stamps.org/news/c/collecting-insights/cat/postal-history/post/2020-postal-history-symposium-goes-virtual.

International Exhibitions 2020/2021: A list of upcoming meetings, with details, including some cancellations and postponements; for example, IBRA 2021 (Essen, Germany) has been moved to May 2023 starting with Övebria 2020, 2–4 October, in St. Pölten, Austria and going through NOTOS 2021, 19–22 November, in Athens, Greece is provided by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). See the organisation's newsy website, www.fepanews.com.

London 2022 International Exhibition: The London 2022 International Exhibition is now scheduled to be held 19–26 February 2022. The venue remains the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London, Islington N10QH. Members may want to insert the following dates in their 2022 calendars: the CPSGB table will be organised and manned (volunteers welcome!) on Wednesday 23 February and the CPSGB meeting is scheduled for 10.00 to 11.50 a.m. on the exhibition's final day, Saturday 26 February 2022.

Biennial 2020 Treasures of World Philately Exhibition: At the time of this writing this exhibition, to be held in Prague, will go ahead on 7-22 November 2020 in the ceremonial hall of the National Museum. Up to one hundred individual rarities of extraordinary importance from the collections of the Prestige Philately Club Prague, Club de Monte Carlo, and Viennese Vindobona will be on display. Large-scale exhibits are being prepared including the project '500 Years of Postal Service in Bohemia' and several others on classical philately, postal history, and the history of philately. The President of the Czech Republic, Miloš Zeman is among the prominent figures invited to the opening. The Czech Post is preparing a series of stamps, black prints, and other products. A series of Zero Euro banknotes will also be issued.

Changes in the CPSGB Officers and Committee

Rex Dixon, after serving gallantly in the position of Publications Officer for nearly two decades, has decided to step down. Thank you, Rex, for everything you have done for *CPSGB* in and beyond this position. And will continue to do, as Rex has taken on – better, retains and will persist in performing – the tasks of Distribution Manager. **Mark Wilson** has graciously assumed the position of (Acting) Publications Officer. Also, Committee Member **Garth Taylor** has volunteered to be the Programme Secretary. Details of these and similar matters will be discussed and acted on during the 2020 AGM; see the top of this page. *CPSGB* is seeking a new (General) Secretary. Members, please consider making a voluntary contribution to your Society.

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Members

The *CPSGB* extends a warm welcome to our newest members: **Greg Coffman**, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA and **Michal Zika**, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Congratulations

A Gold medal in the Postal History category was awarded to **Peter Chadwick** FRPSL for ‘Routes and Chargemarks of the London Country Sorting Offices’ at ESTONIA 2020, the Estonian Philatelic Exhibition, Tartu, 10–12 July.

Stanley Gibbons held a virtual one-sheet competition in May intended ‘to open a window to a historical moment’ with entries in either the Master or Apprentice Class. **Keith Brandon’s** *Nurse Albine Pecha* was pronounced Best in Show, the overall winner in the Master Class. Nurse Pecha, who died in the plague of 1898, was an appropriate subject while the world fights a pandemic and nurses are paying with their lives. (See back cover.)

Bob McLeod completed fifty splendid years of membership in our Society on 16 July 2020. Congratulations, Bob, and thanks from everyone for your long stream of contributions and fidelity.

Pat and **Colin Spong**, our Life President, celebrated on 23 July 2020 their Diamond 60th wedding anniversary. A standing ovation and best wishes for many more!

CPSGB Trade Account with Stanley Gibbons

The Society has a trade account with Stanley Gibbons for catalogues and accessories. Gibbons has informed *CPSGB* that its orders have not been sufficient for the Society to retain the top rate of discount, so the rate has been reduced to 10%. Postage for orders under £100 will be charged at £5 for *CPSGB* members in the UK (over £100, post free). Postage and insurance are charged on all overseas orders. The range of products is also being reduced. Please specify the product numbers or stock codes when using the online Product Guide and supply the data to **Yvonne Wheatley**, treasurer@cpsgb.org, when requesting that an order be placed for you.

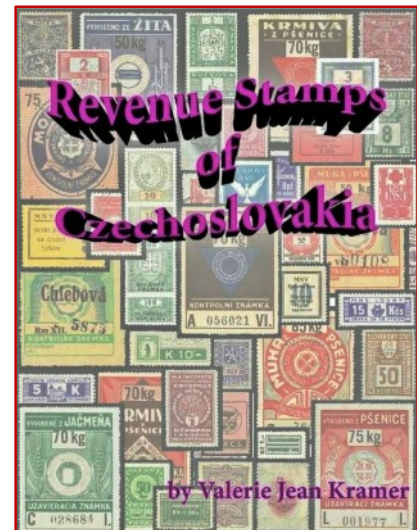
Available for Free: Czechoslovak Revenue Stamps

Valerie Jean Kramer’s excellent book, *Revenue Stamps of Czechoslovakia* (429 pages, colour, 2017), is available free from the publisher, the *Society for Czechoslovak Philately*. Click on the link or copy and paste the URL into your browser: www.mediafire.com/?ws58s42asms1sy1. The size of the file is 86,383 KB; be patient while it loads.

The text of Valerie Kramer’s *Revenue Stamps* is a pleasure to read and the book is thickly populated with images of multiple denominations of revenues of different types. Her bibliography includes clickable links. I am sad to write that Valerie Kramer passed on 2 October 2015. Save her beautifully illustrated revenue web pages while they can still be accessed at www.mydfz.com/crs/vkcsr.htm.

Look through *Czechout* and the *Czechoslovak Specialist* for revenues. There is Valerie Kramer’s brilliant article in *Czechout*, mildly named ‘Cats on Czechoslovak Stamps’ (3/2014, pp. 11–15). This essay exhibits how she progressed from a cats-on-stamps philatelist to a serious student of Czechoslovak revenues.

See also two versions of **Ludvik Svoboda’s** review of Roger Witts’s catalogue of Czechoslovak revenues (Barefoot, 2001): *Czechout* (1/2002, p. 7) and *The Czechoslovak Specialist* 64:3 (No. 573, 2002, pp. 15–16).



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**, KLFCCK1@aol.com. The *Society for Czechoslovak Philately* publishes a quarterly journal, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, edited by **Keith Hart**. *The Czechoslovak Specialist* and *Czechout* have little duplication in content. In addition, the two societies have arranged that payment of your SCP subscription may be accomplished with *CPSGB* Treasurer **Yvonne Wheatley**, treasurer@cpsgb.org, without having to worry about foreign currency or sending payment to the USA. You will increase your enjoyment and understanding of all aspects of Czechoslovak philately by maintaining membership in both societies.

ROBERT BRADFORD

by Colin W Spong FRPSL

It was with sadness that I heard of Bob's sudden death, 12 May 2020, and I recall when we first came to correspond regularly during the period I was serving as the Editor of *Czechout* and Bob was residing in Saudi Arabia teaching Information Technology (IT). They had recently formed a philatelic society in Saudi Arabia and he kept me up to date with its formation and the displays they presented. His wife Beth had also been staying out there and on her return she visited the Czech Club to give us an update, plus good wishes from Bob.

On 1 June 1980 Bob joined the *CPSGB* and was a great supporter of our meetings. At one time when we were meeting in members' homes, he and Beth offered to do this and they also hosted a number of regional meetings. It was at the First Weekend in 1997 at Maidencombe, Torquay that Bob told me Beth had contracted multiple sclerosis, which affects the limbs. Beth herself mentioned the MS to me; she went swimming each day at the hotel.

In 1995 Bob became the Treasurer of *CPSGB*, succeeding Robert Kingsley, and remained in this position until 2005, when they moved to Scotland to be near Beth's family. As Rex Dixon has mentioned to me, it was during this time that Bob designed the Access membership database which remained in use until Hans van Dooremalen became Membership Secretary.

In 2000 Bob produced a fine Monograph for *CPSGB*, #13, *The Hradčany Issue, 1918–1920*.



Bob Bradford during the 2004 Summer Meeting at Hathern, Loughborough.

Yvonne Gren mentioned to me that he did a lot of sorting out of computer problems for her. She said he was an IT consultant who was also involved in teaching students and lecturing, which ties up with Alan Wishart's observation that Bob had a connection with Strathclyde University. Alan and Bob had been friends over twenty years, both being longstanding members of the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society. Bob had also been editor of the journal of the Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL).

Beth managed to put some information together, with great difficulty, for me and brought to my attention two important things: Bob, wherever they had lived, had supported the local philatelic clubs, plus that he enjoyed classical music and was a musician, playing a brass instrument in wind ensembles and bands at numerous places they had moved to with his work.

I would like to thank his wife Beth, Rex Dixon, Yvonne Gren, and Alan Wishart, who made valuable contributions to this eulogy for Bob. Yvonne Wheatley kindly provided the photograph.

Melbourne–Czechoslovakia 1956 Catastrophic Mail

by Lubor Kunc

Mr. Václav Hromádka of Prague showed me a very interesting postcard sent in 1956 from the Melbourne (Australia) Olympics to Czechoslovakia.

The airmail postcard was mailed at the Olympic Village post office on 20 November 1956 (receiving a special cancel over the franking, a Melbourne XVIth Olympiad stamp), two days before the games, which were held 22 November–8 December. The card was carried by the Australian post from Melbourne to Sydney, where it was transferred to Australia's Qantas Airlines flying the 'Kangaroo Route' (the name is trademarked) from Sydney to London via Darwin-Singapore-Calcutta-Karachi-Cairo-Rome-Zürich-Frankfurt (hopping like a kangaroo). The distance travelled was about 12,000 miles.

Mail for Czechoslovakia left the aircraft at Zürich, where Czechoslovak Airlines carried mail to Prague. Unfortunately the 24 November flight of the Czechoslovak Airlines was a disaster: the Soviet-built twin-engine Ilyushin Il-12 aircraft crashed soon after leaving Zürich, going down 7.5 miles from take-off in a field near Eglisau/Wasterkingen, Switzerland. All twenty-three passengers and crew perished, making the event the worst air crash in the history of the Czechoslovak Airlines.

Mail which was saved was transported from Switzerland to the Praha 120 Foreign Mail post office, where it was cancelled on 1.XII.56 and was labelled:

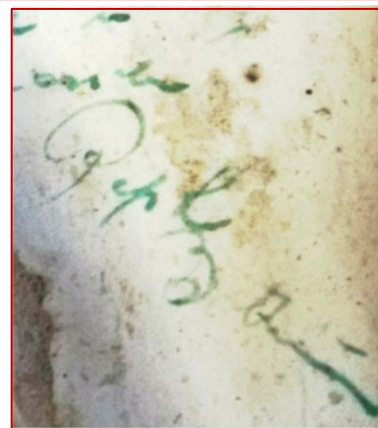
*damaged in the catastrophe
of the aircraft OK 548 on
24.XI.1956 in Switzerland*

and was to be delivered later to recipients.

The card with its message was sent by Josef Doležal (12 December 1920, Příbram 28 January 1999, Prague), an athlete participating in the Olympics in race-walking competitions.

Doležal set twelve world records, which made him the most successful Czechoslovak race-walker. He began race-walking in 1946 and in merely six years won a silver medal in the 50 km competition at the 1952 (XVth) Olympics in Helsinki, Finland.

Doležal won a gold medal in the 10 km and a silver in the 50 km competition at the 1954 European Athletics Championships in Bern and was one of the athletes aspiring to the gold in Melbourne. He failed. On 24 November he did not finish the 50 km competition and on the 28th he was disqualified in the 20 km event. At least his not too badly damaged postcard arrived in Prague.



Top: Franked and addressed side of the postcard (note 'Zsechoslovakei').

Centre: Photograph of the Olympic pool, verso.

Bottom: Doležal's signature on the postcard, under the label. 'Josef' is replaced by the nickname 'Pepik'.

The 400 Haler Hradčany: Types and Subtypes

by Robert Lauer

Over the course of December 1918 and January 1919, the initial values of the Hradčany series were issued: the 3 h, 5 h, 10 h, 20 h, 25 h, 30 h, 40 h, 100 h, 200 h and 400 h. The first seven denominations comprise the First Design and the 100 h, 200 h and 400 h make up the Second Design in the terminology of classical Czech philately. Together they make up the ‘Initial Form’ of the Hradčany series or, to use Mark Wilson’s nomenclature, the ‘Captioned Design’.

For my money, the most interesting of these ten Initial Form stamps is the 400 h, which was the last one to be issued (29 January 1919), as it is the only one with more than one recognised ‘type’. The 400 h was also overprinted for two values of postage due stamps (200 h, 1922; 100 h, 1926) and ‘SO 1920’ for the East Silesian plebiscite. Moreover, the dark violet ink shows up plate flaws very nicely and the high value means one frequently finds it on parcel card or money order card cuttings with clear, complete cancels (Figure 1).



Fig. 1: Parcel card cutting with a 400 h from position 22 on Plate I. The nick in the left frame just after ‘K’ in ‘ČESKO’ is a negative flaw found at the same position on both Plate I and Plate II. Postmarked 2 November 1920 by a bilingual Slovak/Hungarian Dunajská Streda/Dunaszerdahely canceller.

Fig. 2: Type I.



Fig. 3: Type II.



The two types of the 400 h are distinguished by the bottom of the right-hand panel containing ‘SLOVENSKÁ’. These are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. In Type I, the bottom of the coloured frame around the white background of the panel is broken on the bottom and on the left side by the curved line that runs through both the 7th and 8th spirals and then through the horizontal frame line that flows into the 7th spiral (similar to the way the bottom of this panel is finished in the 100 h and 200 h denominations). In Type II stamps, these two breaks in the bottom of the coloured frame of the panel have been ‘repaired’ so that there is a complete coloured frame to the panel. This repair was only done to the dies on Plate I, so that Plate II is composed entirely of Type I dies and the Type II dies are only found on Plate I. Both Type I and Type II 400 h stamps can be found overprinted as the postage due stamps and East Silesian plebiscite stamps mentioned above.

This distinction between the stamps from Plate I and Plate II was first noticed by E. Krupa (Prague) in 1962 and is set out by František Kubát in *Monografie, I Díl: Hradčany* (p. 143) and ‘Two Types of Hradčany 400 h Stamp’. The *POFIS Československo 1918–1939* and *Merkur Revue Československo 1918–1939* catalogues detail the difference between the two 400 h types. While *POFIS* and *Merkur Revue* identify only two main types, Kubát in both publications also identifies two subtypes of Type II (Figure 4).

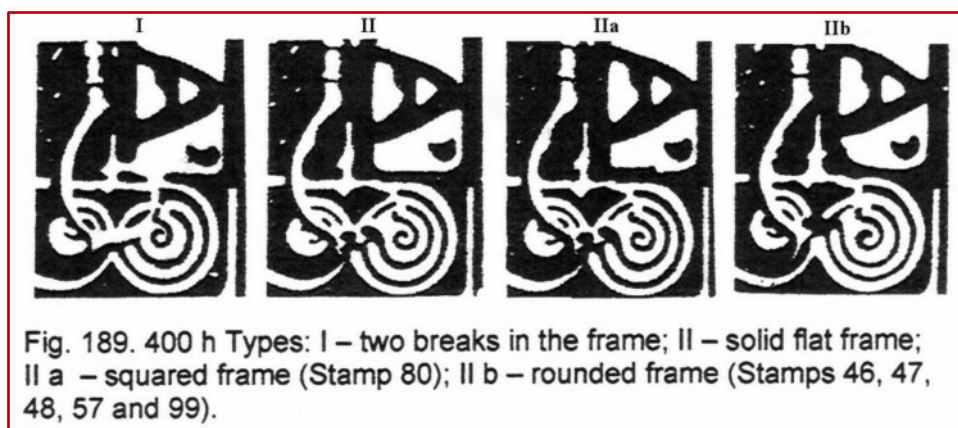


Fig. 189. 400 h Types: I – two breaks in the frame; II – solid flat frame; II a – squared frame (Stamp 80); II b – rounded frame (Stamps 46, 47, 48, 57 and 99).

Fig. 4: Types and subtypes of the 400 h in Kubát’s *Monografie* (his Figure 189, p. 143; the labels across the top have been added).

In his article ‘Notes on Variations in the Hradčany Issues 1918–1920’, Mark Wilson takes a somewhat different approach to the subtypes of Type II (see Figure 5). His first three types are in effect subtypes of Type II based on the general shape of the bottom left-hand corner of the right-hand panel. He writes:

The 400 *h* stamp requires careful attention to the coloured area extending inward from the right hand side of the stamp, for it, in forming the lower and left frame lines on the right hand panel, also distinguishes the four types of the 400 *h* stamp. Not used here are either of the two somewhat arcane and convoluted identification systems used by classical Czech philately to describe the 400 *h* types. Instead, the types are described by their most salient feature: the environs of the lower left hand corner of the right hand panel.... The Rounded type displays a thick and rounded shape for this lower left hand corner, while the Square type is, well, somewhat squarer. The Wedge type describes the lower frame leading into the lower left corner and may also appear with a squared end replacing the taper at its right end where it rises out of the lower frame. The Broken type shows two breaks, one in the left side of the frame and another one in the lower frame. [pp. 4–5]

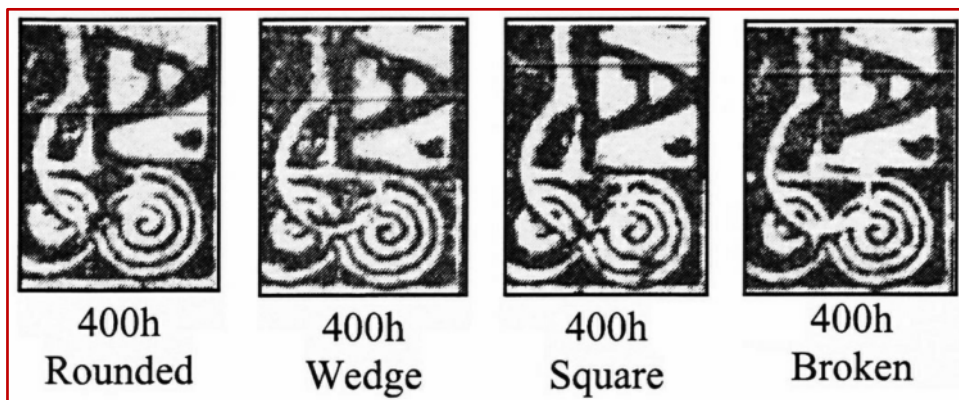


Fig. 5: Four types of the 400 *h* from Wilson’s ‘Notes on Variations in the Hradčany Issues’ (p. 4).

I have tried several times to use these categories to sort the seventy-odd 400 *h* Plate I stamps which I have in my possession and each time have failed miserably. Each time I have left the attempt just long enough for my feeble memory to erase the reasons for the last failure. The problem with both these schemes (Figures 4 and 5) is that they do not even begin to account for all the different shapes of the frame at the bottom of the right panel which resulted from ‘repairs’ done to Plate I before printing. Let’s first examine the frame around the bottom of the panel in the five positions which Dr. Kubát puts into his Subtype IIb, ‘rounded frame’. These are illustrated in Figure 6 using stamps I obtained from Mark Wilson.¹



Fig. 6: Bottom of the frame around the right panel for positions 46, 47, 48, 57 and 99 from Plate I.



Fig. 7: Position 80, Plate I

Of these five positions, position 48 (centre) is the only one where the inside of the bottom left corner of the frame looks ‘rounded’ as in Kubát’s *Monografie* illustration (Figure 4, IIb). In each of the other four positions, the shape of the inside of the bottom left corner of the frame is significantly different from the *Monografie* illustration and somewhat different from each of the other positions. A single subtype, these five positions do not make.

With respect to Kubát’s Subtype IIa, ‘squared frame’ (the position 80 stamp shown in Figure 7 is also from Wilson), the inside of the bottom left corner of the right panel does look like the illustration (Figure 4, IIa) in the *Monografie*. However, given the range of differences in the shape of the inside of the bottom left corner of the right panel of the positions in Figures 6 and 7, does the one position in Figure 7 warrant classification as a distinct subtype?

Mark Wilson's approach to classifying these 'types' or 'subtypes' of Plate I makes more sense and is significantly more useful than the scheme in the *Monografie*, as one can actually find a decent number of positions from Plate I which can be comfortably allocated to each of his three 'types' or 'subtypes' from Plate I. But, in the end, Wilson's scheme also falls apart because it does not take into account the huge variation in the shape of the bottom frame of the right-hand panel resulting from the repairs done to Plate I before printing.

Out of the mass of 400 *h* stamps which I own, I have identified stamps from forty-two positions on Plate I. Of these, nine can without difficulty be allocated to Mark's 'rounded' type, six to his 'square' type and two to his 'wedge' type, though there were many stamps which were close enough to some dividing line between two types that it was not immediately clear to me which type they were. On another half dozen stamps, the angle to the inside of the bottom left corner of the right panel was not square but manifestly acute (less than 90°), so that the corner is somewhat pointed, though the acuteness of the angle varies. These six positions (15, 26, 45, 79, 84 and 100) are illustrated in Figure 8. Do these represent yet another type or subtype?



Fig. 8: Positions 15, 26, 45, 79, 84 and 100.

On a further nine stamps the angle to the inside of the bottom left corner of the right panel is not square, but distinctly obtuse (greater than 90°), so that the corner looks kind of cut-off, though again in each case the angle and the shape of the cut-off is different. Six of these positions (20, 32, 46, 48, 57 and 99) are illustrated in Figure 9. To me, the inside of the bottom left corner of the right panel on all these stamps looks significantly different than either the square type or the wedge type in Wilson's scheme. One could perhaps argue that they should be included in the wedge type, but to do so would mean including such a wide range of shapes and angles as to render the label almost meaningless. Do these stamps represent a new type or subtype?



Fig. 9: Positions 20, 32, 46, 48, 57 and 99.

Of the remaining ten stamps, two have cancels over the bottom of the right panel and eight have bottom left corners of the right panel which do not fit into any of Wilson's types or within the obtuse or acute angle categories shown above. Figure 10 illustrates six of these positions (2, 25, 30, 42, 67 and 77).

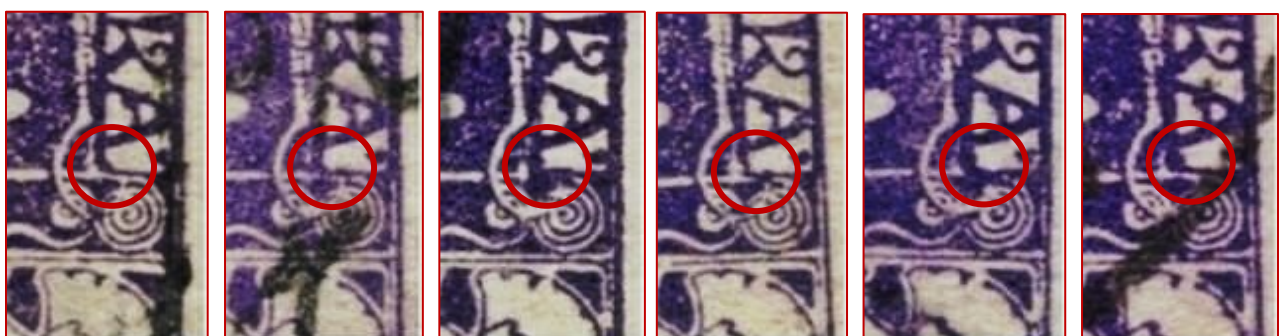


Fig. 10: Positions 2, 25, 30, 42, 67 and 77.

Should position 2 be included in the obtuse angle category in Figure 9, rather than the odd shapes in Figure 10? Should position 57 be included in the odd shapes in Figure 10, rather than among the obtuse angles in Figure 9? It's the observer's call; that is one point I am making. The positions shown in Figures 8 and 9 share a single feature – but other than that, the shapes of the bottom of the right panel which resulted from the repair are very different. Hence, I believe that neither the acute angle positions in Figure 8 nor the obtuse angle positions in Figure 9 are types or subtypes of Plate I. In fact, for each of the individual eighteen positions in Figures 8, 9 and 10, the shape of the bottom of the right panel is significantly different from all the others. The same applies for most of the remaining forty-two positions on Plate I which I have identified.

In the section on the 400 *h* stamps in *Hradčany: A Technical History*, Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson describe the likely process by which the repairs were made to Plate I:

The 400 *haler* represents the only denomination for which an entire plate underwent repair. The *CPSGB* plating guide [POD, 2014] confirms that as with most denominations the printing setup for the 400 *haler* used two plates. Apparently after etching one plate the printer noticed the broken lower edge on the left panel – directly under the A.... Before etching another plate, the printer elected to repair that broken line.... Recall from the discussion of typographic plate production that light areas in the stamp were represented by dark areas on the negative (and the negative's image as transferred to the plate). We know because of the irregular appearance of the repair on many stamps that the printer performed this repair by hand scraping the excess colour from the negative before transferring its image to the plate, or as is more commonly reported but less technically feasible, he removed the unwanted colour from the negative's image on the plate before subjecting it to an etching bath. [Part I, p. 82.]

The 'by hand' nature of the repairs made to the bottom of the right panel means that for almost every position on the plate, this area of the stamp differs to some extent from every other position on the plate. In my never very humble opinion, any attempt to put the stamps from Plate I into various types or subtypes based on the shape of the inside corner of the bottom of the right panel is impossible or meaningless.

There is, however, another way of looking at Plate I stamps: the extent to which the intended repair was successful. As I was trying to get my head around the subtypes problem, I looked at the 'Preface' to Mark Wilson's original 2003 translation of the *Plating Guide for the Hradčany 400 h* by Václav Pellant² and stumbled on the following text:

New Comments: The repairs to the right panel after the letters SKÁ on the first plate were not fully completed and some breaks in the borders remain in stamp positions 1, 5, 10, 19 and 83. With the exception of these designated stamp positions, closed frames are found on plate I. [bottom, p. 4]

I decided to test this assertion, as it might actually lead to the defining of a legitimate subtype of the Type II stamps on Plate I. Using examples for positions 1, 5 and 83 from Wilson and my own copies of positions 10 and 19, I checked these five for breaks in the left side and the bottom of the right panel. Low and behold, the frame is broken on each of these five positions. On positions 1, 10, 19 and 83 the repair to the bottom frame is incomplete, but complete on the left, and on position 5 the repair to the left side of the frame is incomplete, but complete on the bottom. Figure 11 shows the lower portion of the right panel for these five positions.



Fig. 11: Positions 1, 5, 10, 19 and 83.

Here we have two variations to the stamps on Plate I which could be legitimately labelled as subtypes of Type II based on the extent to which the intended repair to the bottom of the frame of the right panel was successful: a Subtype IIa, composed of positions 1, 10, 19 and 83, where the repair to the bottom of the frame is incomplete, and a Subtype IIb, position 5, where the repair to the left side of the frame is incomplete. This treatment of these variations would also be broadly consistent with the accepted treatment of the various types and subtypes of the Design V stamps of the 'Final Form' of the Hradčany series.

Fig. 12: Position 65.

My only quibble with Pellant's comment concerns the last sentence, 'With the exception of these designated stamp positions, closed frames are found on plate I'. Looking through Wilson's stamps and mine, I found one additional position on Plate I where the repair to the bottom of the frame of the right panel is incomplete, position 65, which is shown in Figure 12.3 The incomplete nature of the repair on position 65 can also be clearly seen in the images in Wilson's 'Plate Map' for Plate 1 of the 400 h Hradčany (www.knihtisk.org) and in the *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 400 Haler*.

My scheme is not exactly what I thought I was going to end up with when I embarked on this exercise, but a reasonable argument may be made that there are indeed subtypes to the 400 h Type II stamps from Plate I. The subtypes are not, however, based on the shape of the bottom of the frame of the right panel but, instead, on the extent to which the repairs to this area of Plate I were completed. I conclude, at this stage, that there are two subtypes to the Plate I stamps: a Subtype IIa comprised of positions 1, 10, 19, 65 and 83, where the bottom frame is broken by an incomplete repair, and a Subtype IIb comprised of position 5, where the frame is broken on the left due to an incomplete repair.

NOTES

1. I was corresponding with Mark while I was writing this article and he offered to sell me his 400 h duplicates, which I enthusiastically accepted. Most stamps arrived presorted in small glassines, one for each position on each plate. It is from Mark's cataloguing of his Plate I duplicates that I have taken the stamps for the images in Figures 6 and 7 as well as the illustrations for positions 1, 5 and 83 in Figure 11 and position 70 in Figure 12. I have checked every displayed stamp against the images and position descriptions in the Pellant-Wilson *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 400 Haler*. When I mention the number of 400 h which I own, these are tallies done before I acquired Mark's duplicates.
2. Pellant's 'General Information' section on the 400 h in this work deals only with Type I and Type II stamps. It does not recognize any subtypes from Plate I.
3. Initially, I thought that position 74 also fell into Subtype IIa, as the single copy I possess has a white line through the bottom of the frame (Figure 13A). However, after examining the three copies of this position from Wilson's hoard, I decided not. In the three copies I obtained from him (one is shown in Figure 13B), the white line is broken by a strand of colour making the repair 'almost incomplete'. Similarly, I am unsure about whether position 70 belongs to Subtype IIa. The stamps I obtained from Wilson contained three copies of this position. One has a white line through the bottom of the frame (Figure 13C), one is too badly cancelled to see and the third has a thread of colour through the white line (Figure 13D), making this repair also 'almost incomplete'. The image of position 70 from Wilson's 'Plate Map' (www.knihtisk.org) seems to show a complete repair, yet I have examined two high resolution scans of the right side of sheets of Plate I from Johan Sevenhuijsen on which the position 70 repair looks distinctly incomplete (Figure 13E).



Fig. 13,
left to right:
A (position 74),
B (position 74),
C (position 70),
D (position 70),
E (position 70).

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Carpatho-Ukraine – A Cholera Letter

by Yvonne Wheatley

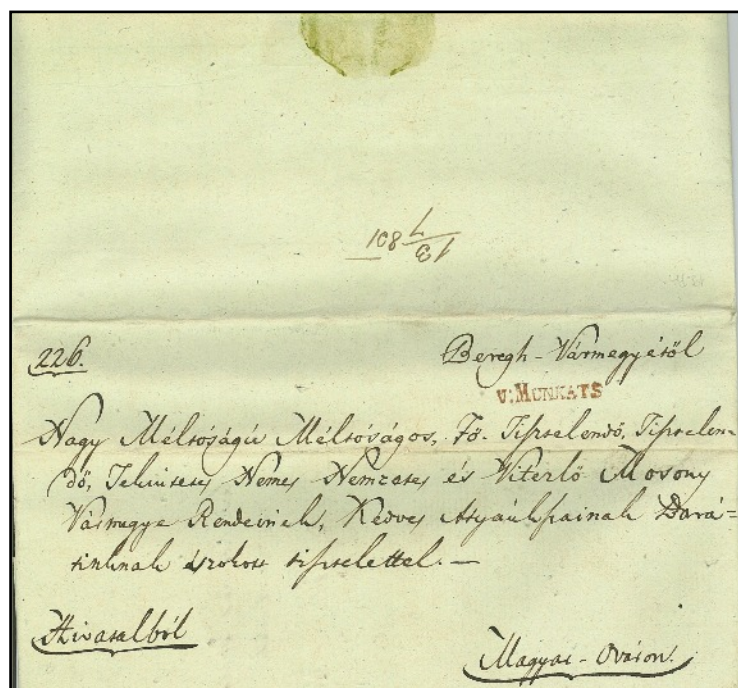
In 1831 there was a cholera epidemic in Europe. The epidemic started in India and reached Hungary via Russia and Galicia. Officials closed the border between Hungary and Galicia on 28 December 1830, reopened it on 29 March 1831 but were soon thereafter forced to close it once again.

Coachmen from Kolemnea and men transporting salt on the river Tisza brought the disease into Hungary, so closing the border had no effect. The Governor-General ordered a military blockade in an attempt to stop the disease from spreading. The cordon ran along the river Berettyó to the river Tisza and from there along the rivers Zagyva and Tarna in the towns of Eger and Mistolc until it reached the Galician border via Eperes (now Prešov in Slovakia). The cordon proved useless as the disease continued to spread. At the time the disease's vectors were not known so it was assumed it was imported by letters. Check points with fumigation stations were set up along the cordon line. Letters were sent by private couriers as well as by mail, so people were fumigated who belonged to the staffs or households of high-ranking secular and clerical dignitaries as well as some governmental authorities.

The postal authorities did not use any postmarks on disinfected punched letters and those carried by private couriers received no disinfections markings either. The date of a letter is of great importance in deciding whether it is a cholera letter.

My letter was sent from Munkats, now Mukachevo in Ukraine, to Magyarovar. Magyaroyar changed its name first to Ungarisch-Alenburg then to its current name Mosonmagyaróvár, in Hungary, 44 km south-east of Bratislava.

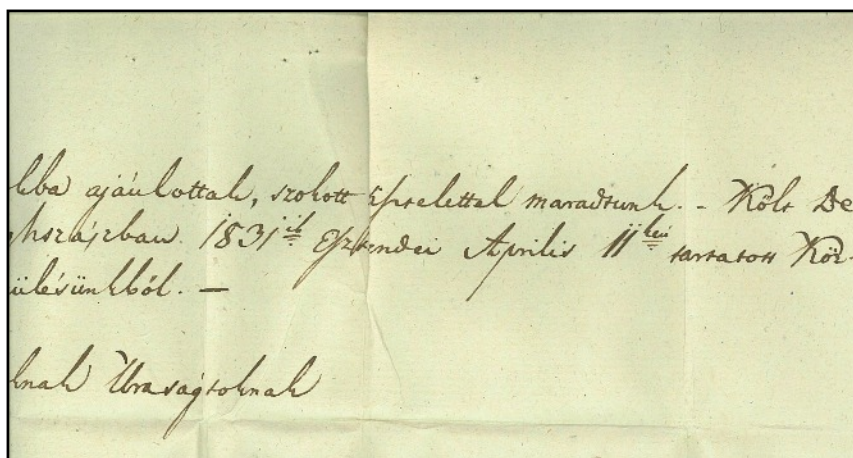
Reference: *Carpatho-Ukraine Postal History and Stamps 1786-2000*, compiled by Ing. J. Verleg.



Letter written in Hungarian sent on 13 July 1831. V:MUNKATS in red. (*Hivatalból* is 'Official'). It has no rate markings and was likely carried by a private courier.

Unfortunately its fumigation punch holes do not show in this scan.

The date on the cover is difficult to discern. Here it is repeated from the inside of the letter.



Queries and Replies (I)

NEW QUERY. A philatelically rich cover was sent to *Czechout's* Editor by member **Robert Elliot**. Various features of the cover raise questions which we hope readers will answer. The franking consists of 2,80 Kčs, made up of the 1,40 Kčs from the Czechoslovak Olympics Victories set of 16 April 1965, honouring Alois Hudec for his Gold in Rings, Berlin 1936 (*SG 1477, POFIS 1432, Scott 1300*), and the 1,40 Kčs from the Space Exploration set of 15 March 1965, showing a (Soviet?) satellite and celestial whatnot (*SG 1470, POFIS 1425, Scott 1293*). Sent registered with a 29.IV.65 Praha 1 cancel, the cover's *verso* has no stamps or airmail etiquette but was felicitously postmarked by a receiving strike applied 1 May 1965 in London.



This fascinating cover takes us in several directions. (1) It bears, as if franking the cover, a 1 Kčs label issued by the ROH (*Revoluční odborové hnutí*, Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, 1946–1990). Was this label valid for postage, or was it treated as valid on this occasion by generous postal personnel (no postage due was assessed), or was it ignored even though prominently positioned and cancelled? (See Lubor Kunc, 4/2007, p. 119.) Do readers have examples of this label or similar Czechoslovak or ROH labels used as franking?



(2) The label's design supports South Vietnam. The outside inscription is 'International Trade Union Committee of Solidarity with the Working People of South Vietnam'; inside, 'Heroic South Vietnamese People Will Win'. Matched with the Czechoslovak cover is one of Robert's from the People's Republic of China, franked with a stamp issued 20 July 1964 (the 10th anniversary of the Geneva Conference; *SG 2184*). He recognised that the ROH label bore the same design as that of the 8 fen Chinese stamp; both are shown on the front cover of this issue. The China stamp is similarly inscribed 'Brave South Vietnam People Will Absolutely Win'

and ‘The International Trade Union Committee Supports the Workers and People of South Vietnam’. Cancelled Peking 1964.10.19, using the ‘bigendian’ date format found also in Hungarian cancels, the cover was sent to a retired Swedish diplomat, Wilhelm Winther (1891–1983), who had been Swedish Envoy to Czechoslovakia in Prague, 1947–1950, and later became chairman of the Association of the Friends of the Postal Museum in Stockholm (*Föreningen Postmusei Vänner*), 1958–1967. The 8+8+8 *fen* triptych (two nearly mirror-image stamps surrounding a third stamp) which also franks the cover was issued 1 October 1964 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the PRC (SG 2213–2215).

The question arises whether other Warsaw Pact or Eastern Bloc countries also issued stamps or labels with this design or other designs supportive of South Vietnam. Mali, which was at the time a single-party state in Western Africa with economic nationalisation and ties with the Eastern Bloc, issued a partially similar stamp on 2 November 1964. A country which issued a stamp with the same design is, perhaps not surprisingly, North Vietnam (the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; SG N323). Unlike the China stamp and the ROH label, however, this stamp does not include (why?) the horizontal line near the 17th Parallel which divided North and South Vietnam, although its inscriptions sound familiar: ‘The International Citizen Committee Supports the People of South Vietnam’ and (an editorial guess!) ‘The People in the South are Most Prosperous’. Readers, please browse through your vast Czechoslovak and international holdings of stamps and covers to unearth additional items.

Common Design Elements

Top: A two-globe map of the world, white on red background.

Center: Map of Vietnam (on ROH and China, 17th Parallel North); South China Sea to the east of Vietnam (white); Hainan Island (China) and Gulf of Tonkin (NW portion of the sea); Laos and Cambodia, merged, to the west.

Bottom: 1960 Flag of the Việt Cộng (the National Liberation Front) as well as the 1969 Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, the governmental structure of the NLF (a South Vietnam in exile).



(3) Another central question is about the correct rate for the Czechoslovak letter from Prague to the UK. We do not know the weight and assuming ‘up to 20 g’ may not be safe. The green, cream and black label at the bottom right of the cover (do readers have other examples they can send to the Editor?) indicates that the sender was a registered collector. Stamp exchange shipments could be sent only through the intermediary of the Czechoslovak Postal Administration. The letter, then, may have weighed more than 20 g (0.7 oz). The label may also explain the registration, to help protect its content of stamps. Even so, maybe we can figure out the correct rate for different weights. There is a further problem, however. Even though an airmail envelope was used, no airmail etiquette is displayed and no ‘par avion’ or ‘letadlem’ is typed, written or scrawled on the cover. Indeed, the preprinted instructions ‘Letadlem’ and ‘By Air Mail’ on the envelope were obscured (deliberately?) by the registration label. Why? Yet the letter left Prague on 29 April and arrived in London on 1 May, which is consistent with air service. Finally, the rate tables published in *Czechout* (John Whiteside, ‘Czech Postage Rates’, 4/1983, pp. 38–42) and in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* (Mirko L. Vondra, ‘Schedule of Postal Rates’, 55:2, No. 518, 1993, pp. 19–22) do not provide airmail rates for 1965. Assistance is needed to determine why 2,80 Kčs was thought to be accurate or sufficient postage – or 3,80 Kčs, if the 1 Kčs ROH label contributed real value to the franking. Whether the China cover bears the proper franking is also up for grabs, given that the cover, sent to a confirmed collector, may have been philatelic.

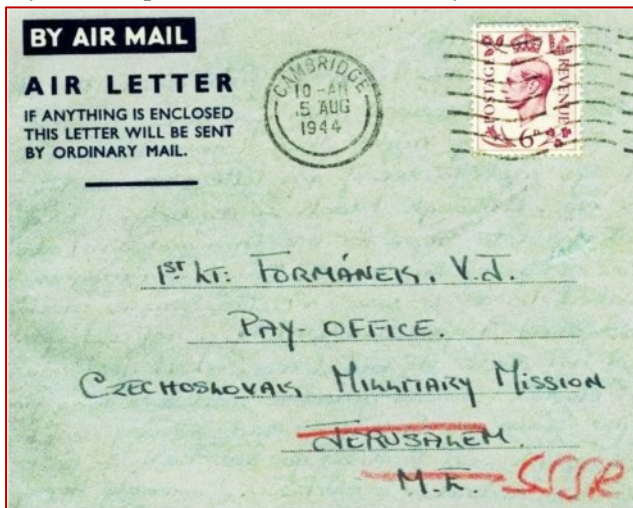
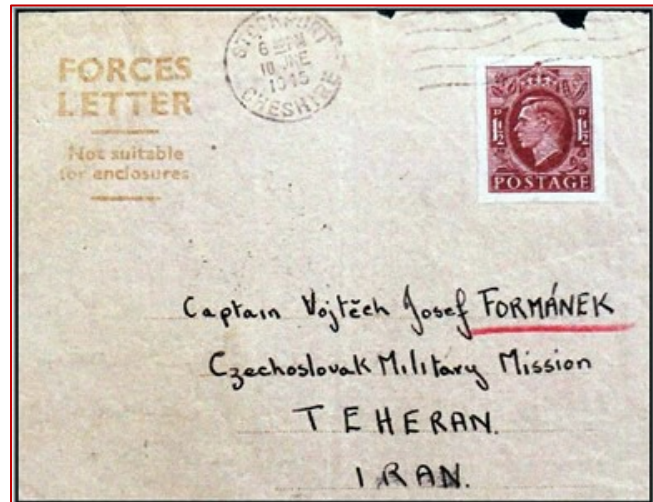
(4) Other features of the covers and stamps may well elicit welcome replies. One which absorbs a cartophilatelic Editor is the white-on-red map at the top of the three adhesives. There are curious differences between the map and the globes on a marvelous Czechoslovak stamp (15th anniversary, World Federation of Trade Unions, 18 September 1960; SG 1182, POFIS 1141, Scott 1006), designed by Milan Hegar and engraved by Bedřich Housa.



Queries and Replies (II)

OLD QUERY. In ‘New Query 2’ (No. 179, 2/2020, p. 19), Nigel Gooch requested information about a ‘Forces Letter’ (*right*) sent from Bramhall to Vojtěch Formánek at the ‘Czechoslovak Military Mission’ in Tehran, postmarked on 10 June 1945 in Stockport/Cheshire, which turns out to be a provocative date. Two members replied to the Query, taking us in different directions, and the Editor had a prolonged, fruitful correspondence with a historian in the Czech Republic, Martin Hürka, in which we investigated the life and military travels of Vojtěch Formánek. We were able to expand the contributions of our respondents, **Garth Taylor** and **Lubor Kunc**. But I wish to say, first, that your Editor overlooked, at the time of the Query, a direct although partial answer to the main question: ‘I am aware of Brits, Americans, Indians, Poles and Italians but not Czechs!’ Readers may want to consult *CPSGB’s Monograph 16: The Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and in Russia, 1939–41, and Czechoslovaks in the Middle East, 1940–43*, by Vratislav Palkoska and Otto Hornung, 2003, 2018 (reviewed by Ian McQueen, 4/2004, p. 98).

(1) Garth Taylor submitted images of seven more covers sent to Vojtěch Formánek (VF) from women in the UK (Figures 1–7). His contribution takes us in the direction of VF’s personal life, although postal details may have implications for VF’s military career and travels, the theme examined by our second respondent.



Above, **Fig. 1** (left): 5/8/1944 to ‘1st Lt.’ VF in Jerusalem from ‘J’, forwarded to ‘SSSR’, the Soviet Union.

Fig. 2 (right): 30/8/44 to ‘Capt.’ VF in Jerusalem from ‘P’, forwarded to the SU.

Below, **Fig. 3** (left): 2/9/44 to Captain VF in the Middle East from ‘K’, forwarded to the SU.

Fig. 4 (right): 11/9/44 to Captain VF in the Middle East from ‘K’, forwarded to the SU.

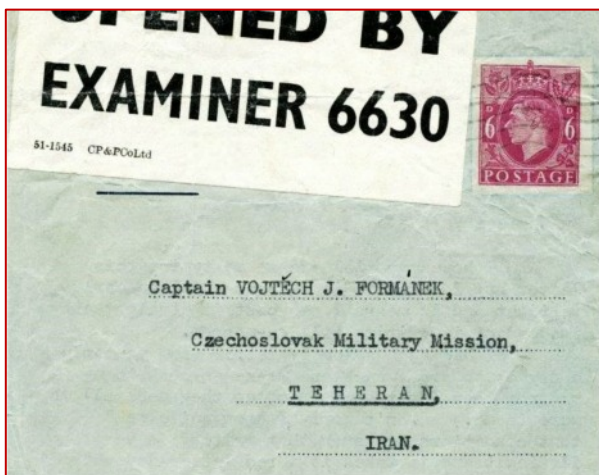




Above, **Fig. 5** (left): 11/9/44 to Captain VF in Tehran from 'W' (forwarding not requested; no forwarding order).

Fig. 6 (right): 12/9/44 [date inside, one day after the **Fig. 5** letter] to Captain VF in Tehran from 'W'.

Below, **Fig. 7**: 22/11/44 [date inside] to Captain VF in Tehran from 'W' (who also sent Nigel Gooch's letter).



As Garth points out about the six letters to VF (one cover, Figure 5, was not an aerogramme but an envelope franked 1/3; the separate letter is missing), 'they are from four different ladies, all expressing undying love for him'. One of K's letters ends with 'xxxxxxx'; her other letter ends with the abridged 'xxxxxxx'. J imagines that after thirty years of marriage, VF will be 'corpulent and bald' and she 'wrinkled and grey', but no matter. A locket holding VF's photo hangs around W's neck; she's the most exuberant about her present love for VF and their future life together. P is reserved, calling VF merely 'my fondest' and closing with the minimal 'xx'. She's aware that VF has other friends in the UK and that he looks forward to returning to his 'beloved country', although she

reminds VF that he promised 'Mum' a camel. Both K and P tell VF that in August they had enjoyed (separately!) the American film *Song of Russia*. J copies a newspaper snippet to amuse VF: *A girl received a letter addressed in her boyfriend's handwriting, on opening it, there was no letter from him, but a slip of paper enclosed saying 'Your boyfriend still loves you but he talks too much. Signed Censor'.*

(2) Lubor Kunc, who takes us in the direction of Vojtěch Formánek's military career, divulges that after the war VF 'returned home and married Ms. Vlasta Pidimová' – which occurred very soon, 18 August 1945, thereby, perhaps with a single 'Dělám', dashing the dreams of his admirers in the UK.

Lubor provided this account of VF and the wartime background: 'The Czechoslovak Military Mission in Tehran existed 1942–1945 as a branch of the Czechoslovak Military Mission in the Soviet Union. The office was a mixture of the military and diplomatic bodies representing Czechoslovak interests in Persia (especially during the 1943 Tehran Conference and at the end of the war), but also drafted soldiers for the Czechoslovak exile armies and procured raw materials and equipment for the Czechoslovak forces in the Soviet Union. Tehran was also an important logistics point in the journey from London to Moscow for Czechoslovak soldiers and diplomats, who travelled via Gibraltar, Palestine, Syria and Mesopotamia to Tehran, crossing the Soviet borders at Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. There was a large Czechoslovak community in Persia consisting mainly of the employees of the Škoda Pilsen and Baťa Shoe companies and, during the war, a Czechoslovak school. Czechoslovak citizens left Persia by evacuation transports organised by the Czechoslovak government in 1945–1946. The Czechoslovak Military Missions in Tehran and Moscow were closed in late 1945, when regular Czechoslovak embassies were established in both countries'.

'Vojtěch Formánek, born 7 June 1918 in Dolní Bousov, 50 miles NE of Prague, graduated in 1937 as Artillery Officer at Czechoslovak Military Academy in Hranice. Lieutenant Formánek left the Protectorate for France in 1939, where he applied to the Czechoslovak Exile Army. In 1940 he was evacuated to Great Britain and was incorporated into the 311th Czechoslovak Bombing Squadron as a RAF navigator (1940–1941). In 1941–1944 he served in the Czechoslovak Artillery Regiment. In 1944 VF applied for a transfer to the Czechoslovak Army in the Soviet Union and was approved. Soon after his arrival in the Soviet Union, the Slovak

National Uprising began (29 August 1944). VF was a member of the Czechoslovak troops fighting at Dukla Pass in 1944 (3rd Artillery Regiment). He survived the battle and was sent to Moscow for service at the Czechoslovak Military Mission. In 1945 he was relocated to its branch in Tehran. After the war he returned home. He was forced to leave the Czechoslovak Army in 1950 at the rank of Major. Most Czechoslovak Exile Army personnel in France and the UK were dismissed from the Czechoslovak Army after the Communist coup [February 1948]. Many were imprisoned by the communist regime. The soldiers not actively fighting against the new regime like VF were sometimes not prosecuted. He continued life as a civilian, becoming a high school teacher. He died 25 May 1985 in Tábor, 60 miles S of Prague'. Lubor provided this URL of a museum website about VF: panenske-brezany.muzeumbrandys.cz/cz/sbirky-servis/fond-mjr-vojtech-formanek, from which we retrieved the image, *below*, reproduced with permission:

Inventoried on this web page of the museum collection of VF memorabilia are a cover from K (sent in 1944 to the Middle East), two handwritten letters from W (Tehran and Jerusalem, 1944) and VF's receipts for telegrams sent to J (2), K and W from Port Said, Egypt, on 4 and 5 August 1944.

(3) Our third account of VF's life and travels is based in part on the Editor's examination, online, of material by and about VF, but primarily on the scholarship of Mgr. Martin Hůrka, Historik, Památníku národního útlaku a odboje v Panenských Březanech (Monument of National Oppression and Resistance in Panenské Břežany; see www.muzeumbrandys.cz/.

As a result, significant information has been added to what Garth and Lubor have submitted. Martin launched our investigations by informing the Editor that VF kept two diaries, both possessed by the Museum (parts available at www.idnes.cz/technet/vojenstvi/vojtech-formanek-vojak-letec-delostrelec-sokol.A190103_125043_vojenstvi_kuz), one from 1940–1942 which describes his journey to Great Britain and his life there, the second from 1944–1945, which records his trip from the UK via north Africa, Egypt, Palestine and Iran to the Soviet Union and then his way home through Dukla and Slovakia. Martin believes the diaries are interesting and valuable because VF wrote openly about his activities and thoughts.

Formánek escaped the Protectorate or, maybe better, 'legally travelled' to France, to visit his sister living in France. When the Nazis attacked France, VF joined the Czechoslovak Army. After France's defeat the soldiers were evacuated to Great Britain via Gibraltar. He had health problems which prevented him from becoming a pilot. In Great Britain he nonetheless served in the airbase background. He writes without restraint about spending his free time with British women and in bars, including details about his sexual activities. One day he had meetings by a pond in a wooded area with three women (one in the morning, a second in the afternoon and a third in the evening). The women may have invested too much emotionally in VF. Feelings they expressed in their letters to him do not exactly match his diaries. He engaged in casual encounters and slept with women in their houses or those of their parents. Sometimes he does not speak well of the girls. He is pleased that one is jealous – she knew about the others – and he would intentionally provoke her jealousy. On the other hand, VF received and saved some letters sent to him via the Tehran Mission in 1944. He kept them from 1945 until he died in 1985 (40 years). The letters, diaries, medals and awards eventually entered the collection of the Museum, gathered by serendipity from an army collectable shop. One package was labelled 'Daddy during the war: France, England'. VF apparently cherished these letters, which sentiment may have reflected a deeper attitude towards his women in the UK. Or the sentiment may have developed only later, in retrospect, after a period of absence from the UK or perhaps in response to life-threatening enemy fire.

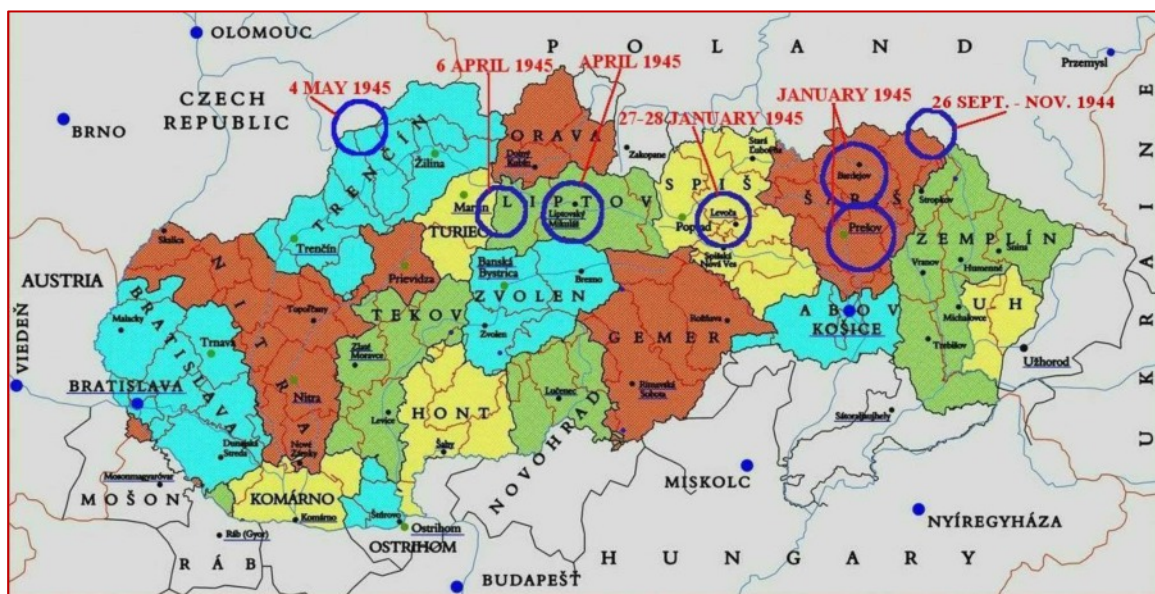
In his second diary, starting 21 July 1944, VF relates the events in his travels from the UK to the Middle East and then home through Ukraine and Slovakia. During the first days on the ship he describes the sea and weather. By 26 July he is in Gibraltar, arriving in Port Said on 1 August. He stayed until the 5th and sent telegrams to J, K and W. On 3 August, with other soldiers, VF had dinner in the French club 'Plage d'Enfants' and the next day they went to a cabaret, 'Western Exchange', where VF spent a lot of money 'to say goodbye



to the life we lived for the last four years'. He passed through Gaza, Haifa, Jerusalem, Damascus and Baghdad: 'On 7th of August 1944 in the morning at quarter to seven we crossed the Palestine border. Breakfast at eight in Gaza, Haifa around noon. We had a fast lunch. After waiting an hour and a half, we went through Haifa on three lorries to Staging Camp 141. Part of the group was housed in tents but most were in barracks. Everything is improvised.... Sleeping is bad; I had to have a mosquito net over my bed. In the morning Arabs, who serve us well and do everything for us, brought tea.... On the 10th of August 1944 we got up at 5 in the morning.... At 5:45 we went by taxi to Jerusalem.... We visited the prison of Christ, the Wailing Wall, the Jewish and Arabic districts, Via Dolorosa, Calvary and the tomb of Christ. After lunch (roast pork with dumplings and sauerkraut) we went to Bethlehem, where we visited the town where Christ was born.... On the 16th of August 1944 we finally came to the camp near Baghdad. Again accommodated in tents but at least with a stone floor. There is not only sand around us but also dust which covers everything. The Canteen is good, with ventilators. Terribly dry wind blows directly from the desert. It is 42°C in the shade'.

VF arrived in Tehran on 21 August and left on the 25th 'in a column of lorries driven by Russians'. None of the letters sent to him (Figures 1–7) could have reached him while he was in Tehran and had to be forwarded to the Moscow Mission. He did not return to Tehran; VF says nothing about doing so in the detailed reports in his diary. There was no reason to go back – Tehran was only a station on his way to the USSR, as it was for other soldiers. In particular, VF was not in Tehran in June 1945, the date of Nigel Gooch's letter from W to Tehran with which we began the Query. VF, as written in his diary, had already crossed the border into Moravia by May 1945. That Nigel's (W's) letter was addressed to Tehran does not mean VF was at the Mission there.

From Tehran VF headed to the Caspian Sea and on 27 August arrived at the port of Baku, Azerbaijan. He reports, 'After being checked by Russian officers we got to the ultramodern Intourist Hotel. Huge dinner. After such a long time, also a hot bath in a bathtub.... On the 31st of August 1944, Mr. Wolf and I were destined to transport heavy cargo by train. The others will fly by plane directly to Chernivtsi. The transport will take approximately two weeks.... 1st of September, the cargo is in the train car up to the roof.... It seems that people here seldom have white bread, or it is only for the army. There is an empty hospital train with nurses next to us. We became acquainted with two, I was with Sylvia from Leningrad'.... 3rd of September 1944. We should come to Rostov today before midnight. During the trip we saw destroyed buildings and not a single bridge remained intact.... Along the railroad, an infinite chain of destroyed trains (Russian, German, French).... On the 4th of September about 5 in the morning we woke up in Rostov.... In town, in the afternoon. It is massively destroyed. It seems that there is not one house which is whole. At 5 in the evening the departure for Charkov'.



Formánek's trek, as outlined in his diary, across Slovakia, September 1944–May 1945, from Dukla in the east to Vsetín in the west, just beyond the Slovakia-Moravia border. The map is not 1944–1945 but composed after 1993.

VF then made his way to the Dukla region, where he arrived on 26 September 1944 and left at the end of November. In the following days, Formánek was involved directly in the fighting. 'On the 26th of September 1944, in the morning, working with people through terrible mud. In the afternoon, a 5 o'clock departure.... Designated for the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Artillery Regiment as commander of the 1st Battery.... September 29 1944, I am all day in the observatory, only at noon in a firing position. The radio connection does not work.... I had targets and shot at 4 batteries at night and more shooting at 7 in the morning.... We fired about 500 rounds. Another attack at 5 p.m. The village had been burning since morning. Fight for elevations 587 and 573 on our

borders and for the village of Zyndranow. Our tanks were hit, quite large losses.... On 1 October 1944 in the morning at 6:45 we made preparations but the attack did not work. Thick fog, nothing to see. Finally a radio connection. We are heavily shelled by artillery and mortars all morning and in the afternoon.... On the 6th of October 1944 at 3 a.m. in the morning I passed through Dukla Pass to Slovakia. The roads are immensely mined. I proceeded first, two cannons behind me, the third cannon drove on a mine near the frontier and was destroyed.... On the 7th of October I escaped death three times. It will be, I hope, still so with the help of God. A mine destroyed the car I sat next to.... In the morning I was at the observatory, although later we learned that the observatory is mined.... I drove on a mine on the way to the frontier. In the afternoon we shot 55 cannon shots in the direction of the village’.

Formánek continues by describing the daily movements of his unit towards the west. In January 1945 they were near Bardějov and Prešov (as was the Red Army): ‘On the 27th of January 1945 we entered a beautiful manor house of a gráf [earl/count]. All indoor equipment and art objects had been destroyed by civilians but mainly by Russian soldiers.... To get to Levoča [in Spiš], which is 6 km, we travelled for 13 hours! Bridges and roads blocked. Russian supply and support units are undisciplined.... On the 6th of April 1945 at 7:30, I was in Gombáš [now Hubová]. It is raining. Mist. Soldiers behind the village are fighting trying to reach the hill there. In Lubochňa we captured ... an officer who was sleeping in a cottage. Others on a hill, who didn't want to give up, were shot dead.... We are building a pontoon bridge. I got the idea to go north through the valley to make an exploration. I overtook a few cannons of our 1st Brigade and suddenly we were stopped by machine gun fire and other automatic weapons. We went down into a meadow behind the river but we were stuck in the mud. We had to fall back out of fire.... During the third attempt our driver was wounded. I bandaged his injury and took him to our infirmary’. Advancing through the Trenčín region, the soldiers crossed the Slovakian-Moravian border on 4 May and went through Vsetín on their way deeper into Moravia.

VF stopped fighting on 9 May 1945 north of Brno around the villages Protivanov, Vratíkov and others in this region. He describes his last combat, with both German and Hungarian soldiers. In the morning of 12 May, while he was in Letovice, VF asked his commander for permission (which was received) to visit his home in Pardubice. On the same day he set off via Skuteč, Chrást and Chrudim and around noon got to Pardubice. ‘I found everything all right. The whole family is together’. He was back in Letovice the next morning. On 17 May he was in Prague in the parade in the presence of President Beneš.

During the war VF progressed from the rank of lieutenant to staff captain (in mid-October, 1944; he was not yet captain when the women addressed letters to him as ‘Captain VF’ earlier in 1944). Shortly after the war he was elevated to the rank of major. He was dismissed from the army in 1950 but in 1989 was ‘morally rehabilitated’ and was bestowed the military rank ‘Colonel in Memoriam’.



Captain Vojtěch Formánek was awarded the Czechoslovak Medal for Bravery. This Presidential decree states: ‘Conferred. For personal bravery against the enemy, proven in combat. For the liberation of the Czechoslovak Republic from enemy occupation’.

Queries and Replies (III)

OLD QUERY. In ‘New Query 1’, *Czechout* 2/2020 (No. 179, p. 19), **Ron Gillard** asked for help identifying four Bohemia & Moravia liberation stamp overprints (stamps #1–#4).



(1) **Mark Whitehorn** contributed this reply, which provides some good answers:

I possess a sizeable collection of this material, including several stamps with these overprints, and Grau's handbook*. Stamp #1 looks very much like *Choceň II* to me, although I've previously only seen this overprint on Hitler Head stamps. [Ron had suspected Choceň, but was unsure.—Ed.] Stamp #2 is as listed in Grau under *Praha 12*. Stamp #3 is as listed in Grau under *Tábor II*. Finally, stamp #4 is as listed in Grau under *Bouzov I*. Note that this last overprint exists both horizontally and diagonally (my collection contains only the horizontal variant). I stand to be corrected by other members. To the best of my knowledge the Grau handbook is long out of print and difficult to obtain. The catalogue of the Society's library indicates that it holds a copy of the 5th edition (1996). But I believe that only the 6th edition (1998) is in colour. I continue to find this a key resource.

*Juan Santa Eugénia Grau, *Checoslovaquia Sellos y Sobrecargas Revolucionarias, 1944/1945. Emisiones Locales. VI Edición* (Barcelona, 1998). *Czechoslovakia Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints, 1944/1945. Local Issues. 6th edition (Revoluční Známky a Přetisky)*. A review by Robert Hill with a detailed table of contents appeared in 4/1998, p. 86:

This 225 page hardback book, in five languages and with mainly coloured illustrations, is a vast improvement on the previous five editions as it has been thoroughly revised in order to correct the many typographical and few grammatical errors'. For another brief review and obituary, see Peter Rickenback, 1/2001, p. 4. Grau died on 5 December 2000.

(2) Robert Hill also contributed a reply to Ron's Query. Bob is the translator of *CPSGB Monograph 25: Compendium of 1944–1945 Liberation Overprints* by Karel Holoubek (2012; A4, pp. viii + 314; the book comes with a CD containing the full text in colour). Reviewed by Andries Tiesinga, 2/2013, p. 25. See also Bob's review of *Česká Republika – Revoluční Vydání (Květen 1945)* by Holoubek (*Geophila* XI/1996, Praha), 1/1997, pp. 5–6. Bob's take on Ron's four stamps both agrees and disagrees with Mark's.

Bob wrote:

Remember, please, that if it doesn't appear in the *Compendium* we have no evidence of its bona fides. It is known that many records were destroyed and I have personally exhausted the Postal Museum documents in Banská Bystrica. It is also certain that in some locations stamps were overprinted in subsequent years (1946–1948) to mark the anniversary of liberation. These were commemoratives, never intended to deceive and are now treated as fake.

Stamp #1: I do not know from where this emanates. Nothing obvious comes to mind. I have treated it for now as unknown and have a hunch that the type of ink is quite modern. Stamp #2: This looks like an amalgam of *Kadaň* and *Louny*. We need a sophisticated microscope to determine if it is a photographic reduction of the *Kadaň* shield. The diagonal country name looks like it comes from *Plzeň*, but it doesn't. Stamp #3: *Tábor*, southern Bohemia. Stamp #4: *Bouzov*, Olomouc region. My sources include Grau (1998); Holoubek, *Česká Republika – Revoluční Vydání*; and *Americká Armáda v Plzni* (Západočeské Muzeum v Plzni, 1990).

I am now 97.5% convinced that the overprint on stamp #1 is spurious. It may be that it was produced after the liberation to commemorate the event at one of many summer fetes. It may have been produced many years afterwards in an attempt to defraud. Or it could be genuine, just never recorded. The interesting thing is I have not seen it before; this suggests that it was produced after Grau's trawl of the Czechoslovak philatelic societies.

Ron has written that he expresses his gratitude to Mark, Bob and the late Señor Grau, for the benefit of their research and enlightenment. The Editor concurs with this sentiment. He also wishes to acknowledge that we have not, at this time, quite reached closure about stamps #1 and #2. Readers are invited to send their opinions and additional contributions to editor@cpsgb.org.



REVIEWS

(I) *Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919*

by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL

The CPSGB Print On-Demand series now includes the *Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919* by Zdeněk Molíš, which has been translated, edited and newly illustrated by Mark Wilson FRPSL (2020, pp. 17, A4, colour).



An issue where the first prize in a stamp design competition and the runner-up were deemed not to be suitable designs to commemorate the first anniversary of the new Czechoslovak state in 1919 and to raise money for the orphans of legionnaires, the Jubilee and Charity issue never fails to be of interest. The six stamps in two designs to fulfil their joint purposes are frequently referred to as the 'Legionářské' issue. (Top, left: 120 h Legionnaires' Orphans, SG 66, POFIS 32, Scott B129. Top, right: 50 h First Anniversary, SG 63, POFIS 29, Scott B126.) With a validity for only eight days from 27 October to 3 November 1919, the stamps were restricted to internal use and yet 5,000,000 sets were printed (p. 3). It is apparent that about these stamps there is plenty to write and display; both the author Zdeněk Molíš and the translator and editor Mark Wilson have covered much of the territory.

The purpose of the *Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919* is to record the history of the stamps. The production of the stamps – the Jubilee by typography and the Charity by neotype, a form of photogravure (p. 5) – merits the full description it receives. Plate marks and plate numbers, types and subtypes, perforations and postal use are a few of the many interesting topics covered.

The information on the precancelling of the stamps (pp. 13–14), to raise money for the Legionnaires' Aid Fund, includes a comparison of genuine cancellations with forged cancels so that the forgeries can be easily distinguished. Apart from the rare perforations (see the impressively detailed discussion on pp. 8–10), these stamps are easy to obtain at a reasonable cost, with so many stamps having been printed. This new publication demonstrates why these abundant Jubilee and Charity stamps are rewarding to study.

Once again Mark Wilson has made an excellent job of the translation to make the original study of these stamps available to English speakers. It is translations like this one which enable so many books to be enjoyed afresh by new audiences. This is what author Molíš would have wanted, because he wrote, 'collectors show little affection for these neglected stamps' (p. 1). Mark's translation and his thorough editing make possible and encourage the study of this frequently ignored issue.

CPSGB Print On-Demand 'Legionářské Study Series'

***Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919
Plating Guide for the 15 Haler Jubilee
Plating Guide for the 25 Haler Jubilee
Plating Guide for the 50 Haler Jubilee***

***A complete list of Print On-Demand titles is
available at***

www.czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm

***All may be ordered from the Treasurer,
treasurer@cpsgb.org***

Legionářské Study Series

Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919

Zdeněk Molíš

Translated, Edited, and Newly Illustrated
by Mark Wilson FRPSL



Published on-demand by the
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
www.cpsgb.org.uk

***Cover: Single 25 haler Jubilee semi-postal franking.
Letter to 20 g sent on 29 October 1919 from Brno to
Vienna, Austria. Stamp without precancel tolerated
for foreign use without penalty. Concessionary rate.***

(II) *Holubice Study Series*
by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL

Mark Wilson FRPSL has now completed the studies of all the denominations of the Dove issue. There are five new titles: **(I)** *The 10 Haler Dove. Persistent Flaws, Alleged Retouches and Plate Identifiers* (based on the work of Jiří Kašpar and Jaroslav Moravec; pp. 18). **(II)** *The 20 Haler Type I Dove* (by Martin and Jiří Kašpar; pp. iv + 34). **(III)** *The 20 Haler Type II Dove. Persistent Flaws, Retouches and Plate Identifiers* (by Jiří Kašpar and Martin Kašpar; pp. 30). **(IV)** *The 25 Haler Type II Dove. Studies by Jiří and Martin Kašpar* (pp. 46). And **(V)** *The 30 Haler Dove* (by Jiří Kašpar and Martin Kašpar; pp. 34). The front covers of these five titles are shown on the inside front cover of this issue of *Czechout*.

The other three books in the series are **(VI)** *The 15 Haler Dove. Original Descriptions by Jaroslav Moravec* (pp. iv + 30), **(VII)** *The 25 Haler Type I Dove* (by Jiří Kašpar, Jaroslav Moravec and Martin Kašpar; pp. ii + 28), both reviewed by **Johan Sevenhuijsen**, *Czechout* 3/2019 (pp. 22–24), and **(VIII)** *The Blue 5 Haler Dove. Plates I–III, XI–XIV* (pp. ii + 181), which I reviewed, 4/2015 (p. 10). All these titles, in addition to **(IX)** *The 5 Haler Dove. A Preliminary Technical Study* (which I reviewed, 4/2013, p. 7), are among the *CPSGB Print On-Demand* publications. Together with **(X)** *CPSGB Monograph No. 32, The Dove Issue. A Handbook for Collectors of Stamps and Covers* (see Sevenhuijsen’s review), an enthusiastic philatelist has all the information currently available on the subject.

The On-Demand publications describe the collectable pieces for all the Dove values. *The 10 Haler Dove* takes into account its green and olive colours. The studies provide information about the Dove issue’s plates and flaws for the various denominations. The original authors, Martin and Jiří Kašpar, worked in concert with Mark Wilson as he translated, edited, and newly illustrated each publication. They have coloured illustrations detailing every identifiable piece, each marked with an arrow pointing out the features of interest. (See, for example, the figure on the top of the next page.) The illustrations are accompanied by written descriptions. All are on A4 pages with multiple illustrations.

The *20 Haler Type I Dove* is in the same format as the earlier titles *15 Haler* and *25 Haler Type I*, which discuss their two plates. The descriptions of both plates appear together with scanned enlargements of the portion of the stamp showing the flaw clearly. The other denominations were done from multiple plates. Again, the written descriptions are arranged by position number. If the flaw’s source plate is known, its plate number is given; otherwise, it is identified by a letter. The scanned images next to the descriptions are easy to follow.

Every title has a visual index tying the flaws to the plate position. (An example is shown on the bottom of the next page.) With the exception of the *10 Haler* and the *20 Haler Type II*, all the titles identify, if possible, the source plate. For those two denominations, which had 50 and 55 plates respectively, the flaws are identified by the production method, as either from the etched or electroplated plates, rather than by plate number. The *25 Haler Type II Dove* incorporates but reorganises several articles and what results is a new, distinct publication. The original authors and the translator interacted far more than with the previous translations. In fact, the observations of the translator led to the discovery of three previously unreported negative flaws.

As with all the Monographs and Print On-Demand titles which Mark has produced, a mass of research has been made available to English speakers. They are laid out effectively to make them easy to follow and they encourage in-depth study of the flaws and plate positions. We are most fortunate that Mark has an appetite for embarking on such painstaking work. The enormity of the task has never inhibited his enthusiasm!

ORDERING THE CPSGB PRINT ON-DEMAND TITLES

All ten publications mentioned in this review may be ordered from
the Treasurer, treasurer@cpsgb.org.

Print On-Demand titles may be previewed online
(www.czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm)

in a presentation format which is beautiful and powerful – explore the
buttons provided.

Richard Beith’s ‘Czechoslovak Specialist’ Collection Is Now Unavailable
An enthusiastic Czechoslovak philatelist has claimed this treasure.

From the section 'Flaw Descriptions and Illustrations', in '20 Haler Type I Dove', pp. 14–15.

14 20 Haler Type I Dove 20 Haler Type I Dove 15

46 1 Mark in the lower bar (1).
2 Mark in the small quill above the S in NSK; see also Position 66 (2). Mark between the rightmost feathers on the lower left wing (3).

47 1 Mark on the right frame (4).
2 No flaws observed.

48 **Negative flaw:** Mark on the envelope's upper horizontal line (5). This flaw does not appear on Plate 2 but is found on all Type II stamps.
1 Sometimes a white bump at the top of the right upper bar (6).
2 Longer pin feather in the lower right wing (7). Sometimes a white mark in the left end of the letter slot (8).

49 **Negative flaw:** Mark at the lower right of the right zero (9).
1 Only the negative flaw.
2 Mark above the envelope's upper horizontal line (10).

50 1 Notch in the right frame (11). Sometimes a nail mark in the lower right margin (12).
2 No flaws observed.

51 1 Mark above the small quill over VE (13). Mark in the first feather above the dove's head (14).
Negative flaw: Mark in the feathers above the dove's head and white marks in in the lower wing to its left (15). This flaw does not appear on Plate 1 but does appear – together with a new flaw – on all Type II stamps.
2 Only the negative flaw.

52 1 No flaws observed.
2 Mark in the lower bar (16).

53 **Negative flaw:** Bumps on the right end of lower frame (17).
1 Sometimes a mark at the left end of the lower frame (18).
2 Mark in the left side of the envelope (19). Sometimes a mark in the envelope's right side (20).

54 **Negative flaw:** Slice from the upper frame (21).
1 Mark on the envelope's lower right diagonal (22). Mark on the lower frame (23).
2 Mark on the lower left of the right zero (24).

40 25 Haler Type II 25 Haler Type II 41

Plate 1
Significant Plate Flaws
Negative and induced flaws are not shown

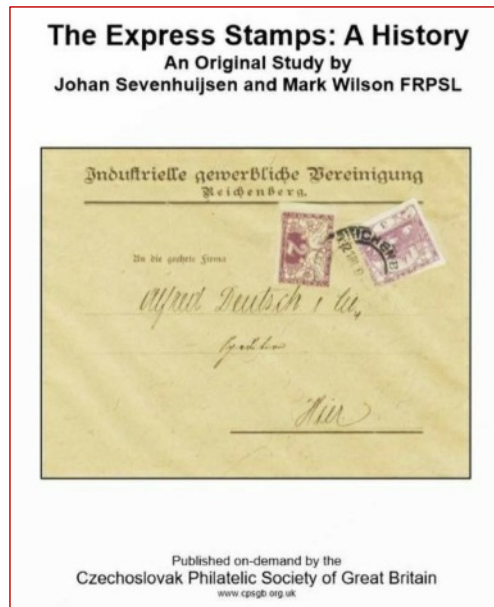
Plate 2
Significant Plate Flaws
Negative and induced flaws are not shown

Visual index of flaw locations for Plates 1 and 2, in '25 Haler Type II Dove', pp. 40–41.

(III) *The Express Stamps: A History* by John Grabowski

For density of useful information per page, it would be hard to do better than the newly-issued *The Express Stamps: A History* (2020, pp. ii + 28, A4, colour) by Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson FRPSL, offered by the CPSGB in its Print On-Demand series.

This publication did not appear out of thin air. It was written by two very experienced, diligent and knowledgeable researchers of early Czechoslovak philatelic material. They have a long history of researching and writing about the Hradčany and the short-lived and somewhat philatelically neglected three ‘Express’ (*Spěšné*) stamps of 10.II.1919 – the 2 haler, 5 h and 10 h denominations. Furthermore, Mark Wilson is the author of the 125-page *Mucha Express Stamps: Comprehensive Study of the 2 Haler* (CPSGB, On-Demand, 2014), as well as two plating studies, one on the 5 h value and one on the 10 h.



The use of the ‘Express’ stamps is widely misunderstood, hence the quotation marks around their name. The authors correctly point out (p. 1) that these stamps were not used to speed up 2nd class mail (printed matter, tiskopis) but rather to avoid slowing it down, by uprating it to 1st class service! They propose a better description, ‘Service Without Delay’ stamps. But try telling that to *Stanley Gibbons* (E24–E26, ‘Newspaper Express’) or *Scott* (E1–E3, ‘Special Delivery’). Even in POFIS we find the misleading ‘*K úhradě zvláštního příplatku za spěšné dopravení tiskovin*’ (i.e., ‘to pay a special surcharge for the express transport of printed matter’).

Express Stamps: A History should be considered for acquisition not only by students and collectors of these stamps but all collectors interested in early Czechoslovak emissions, particularly the Hradčany and postage dues of 1918–1920 (also designed by Mucha). General collectors may also find this latest book valuable to gain a better understanding of the production of stamps 100 years ago.

The Preface states the authors’ objective: to ‘trace the printing history of the express stamps’. They lead readers through the stamps’ design by Alphons Mucha, the typographic printing process, production history, plate identification and postal history uses. Separate chapters are devoted to each of the three values.

The explanation of typographic printing by the authors is a concise summary of the standard reference work by Rudolf Gilbert, *Reproduction Techniques Used to Print Postage Stamps*, translated by Wilson (available in the CPSGB On-Demand series). Significant material has been added to Gilbert’s work from their visits to the Prague Postal Museum and years of painstaking observations and philatelic detective work. Emphasis is placed throughout on what Sevenhuijsen and Wilson call ‘supporting data’. This process involves bringing together information from new and old written sources, notably early notes from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs augmented by personal research and philatelic pieces with dated cancels. *Express Stamps: A History* is thus also worthwhile because it demonstrates clearly how to do solid philatelic research.

Seven covers franked with express stamps are displayed for those interested in their actual postal use. Such covers are difficult to find and accumulate; perhaps because containing printed matter, they were not commonly saved (something like our quickly-trashed ‘junk’ mail today), despite being franked with an ‘express’ stamp. The outside front cover (*above*) features a classic use: a 2 h express stamp which supplements a 3 h Hradčany to provide 1st class service, postmarked in Reichenberg (Liberec), 21.III.19, during the first tariff (rate) period. A spectacular COD cover, carrying a heavy 300–350 g, is shown at the top of the next page. Only an extra 2 h was required to uprate this package to 1st class – registration alone was 50 h. The cover at the bottom of the page illustrates the intended use of the stamps.

References to the Monografie connect Express Stamps with previous studies in this area. For example, distribution numbers for the stamps, after deducting for the ‘S O 1920’ (Eastern Silesia

plebiscite issue) and the 'NOVINY' overprints (newspaper stamps, 1926), are reported from Monografie, vol. IV, as 8,564,000 (2 h), 4,150,000 (5 h) and 2,750,000 (10 h).

This new publication, in conjunction with the related works mentioned, should generate collector interest in this previously neglected area.



Registered COD Printed Matter with Supplemental Express Stamp for Priority Delivery.

Sent from Prague to Náchod on 11 XI 19

Printed matter 300-350 g	35 h	Registration	50 h
COD fee (Dobírka)	20 h	Priority delivery	2 h
<i>Total correct franking of 107 h</i>			



Printed Matter with Supplemental Express Stamp for Priority Delivery.

*Showing use of the 10 haler express stamp in combination with a 10 haler Dove.
Sent from Prague to Plzeň on 22 XII 21 shortly before the end of the priority service.*

50 Years Ago — September 1970

Stamp issued on 21 September 1970 for the 50th anniversary of the newspaper Rudé právo, 1920–1970, which by 21 September 2020 will have existed for 100 years.

This commemorative 60 h stamp (SG 1900, POFIS 1839, Scott 1697) was engraved by Bedřich Housa (see 2/2020, p. 24) in collaboration with Josef Herčík (4/1999, pp. 87–88; contrast the credits provided by POFIS and SG). The de rigueur five-pointed red star accompanies a repetition of the newspaper's 'title design'.

Top: The top half of the first page of the first edition, Číslo 1, of RUDÉ PRAVO ('Red Truth'), 21 září 1920, from Wikipedia (public domain), with the original title design. The subtitle of the paper, 'Orgán československé sociálně demokratické strany dělnické', means 'Organ of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Workers' Party'. The Slovak language equivalent of Rudé právo is Pravda, which is also celebrating its centennial (www.pravda.sk). Headlines in the column are 'Upozornění' (Notice), with the address; and 'Soudruzi a soudružky Velké Prahy! . . . tábor lidu', which means 'Comrades, men and women, Great Thresholds! . . . mass meeting'.

Bottom: A more recent issue of the newspaper (5 January 1968), with the title design as shown on the stamp. This edition of Rudé právo announces the election of Alexander Dubček, First Secretary of the Communist Party, who served only to 17 April 1969, when he was forced to resign. During the brief period of his tenure, the Prague Spring, 'Socialism with a Human Face', and the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops and tanks occurred. The paper's subtitle is 'Orgán ústředního výboru komunistické strany Československa' ('Organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia'). Ed.





Above: 'THANK YOU', 24.06.2020. Masks representing the 'Front Line,' i.e., health care workers, the post office, the army, firefighters, police officers and (polka dots) all those involved in assisting other people. Two se-tenant stamps in which two masks are perforated down their centres.

See also the Slovensko 'COVID-19' stamp, 21.08.2020, issued to encourage the continued use of masks, which have helped Slovakia achieve the most success among EU countries in controlling the disease.

Below, left: 'JIŘÍ KOLÁŘ', 13.05.2020. The stamp shows a 1980 Chiasmáž (chiasmage, a collage technique; the object is composed of small fragments of torn or cut text). Below, right: A 1965 Kolář collage in which an apple is coated with used postage stamps, which seem to be Austrian, some with Franz Josef.

NEW ISSUES



Czech Republic



Left: 'The Prague Archbishopric', 13.05.2020. Portrait of Prague Archbishop Franz Ferdinand von Khünburg (1651-1731), appointed 14 April 1710. The seat of the Archbishop of Prague is the Cathedral of St. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert. The Prague Archdiocese is the oldest existing diocese in the Czech Republic. The National Gallery in Prague has a hall devoted to the works of the baroque artist Peter Johannes Brandl (1668-1735).



NEW
ISSUES



Slovak
Republic



Above, left: ‘The XVI Paralympic Games, Tokyo’, 24.08.2020. The stamp celebrates both the 25th anniversary of the Slovenského paralympijského výboru (SPV; Slovak Paralympic Committee) and the XVI Paralympic Games in Tokyo. As a result of the global pandemic, the games were postponed.

Above, right: ‘The Philatelic Olympics’, 05.06.2020. The annual Philatelic Olympics were first held in 1973. The plan was to promote this stamp at the final, National Round, of the 48th Philatelic Olympics during Bratislava Collectors Day in Incheba. The events were cancelled for well-known reasons.

Below, left: ‘Maximilián Hell (1720 –1792)’, 13.05.2020. After Jesuit ordination in 1750, Hell, an accomplished astronomer, was appointed Director of the Vienna Observatory in 1755, holding this position until he died. His greatest adventure was an expedition to the arctic island Vardø, where he observed the transit of Venus across the Sun (see the label attached to the stamp). He was born ‘Rudolf Maximilian Höll’ in Selmezbánya, Hungary (Banská Štiavnica), but changed his name to ‘Hell’. The town was mixed German, Hungarian and Slovak; he considered himself Hungarian. The portrait, an engraving by János Blaschke (1770–1822), is in front of a Moon map published in 1764 in Hell’s astronomical yearbook.

Below, right: ‘The 75th Anniversary of the Tragic Events in the Municipalities of Ostrý Grúň and Klak’, 17.01.2020. These villages in the Banská Bystrica region were destroyed and most inhabitants killed on 21 January 1945, near the end of the war. In light of the torture (e.g., dismemberment), these war crimes were among the most brutal committed on Slovak territory. Germans and anti-partisans killed 148 people, including 56 women and 38 children. The attack was repeated on 26 January 1945, when 322 farm buildings and houses were burned down; some residents were roasted alive in their homes.





‘Joint Issue with Poland: The 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Pope John Paul II (1920–2005)’, 18.05.2020

Karol Wojtyła was born in Wadowice, Poland. In 1963 he became the Archbishop of Kraków and in 1967 was appointed Cardinal. He was elected Pope and took the name John Paul II in 1978. He was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years and the first Slavic pope. (The Dutch Pope Adrian VI died in 1523.) His pontificate lasted 26 years, 5 months and 17 days. The stamp (*above, left*) shows the house where he lived with his family in Wadowice and on the label he is portrayed in Nitra, 1995, with Ján Chryzostom Korec (1924–2015), made Cardinal – after years of suffering under communism – by John Paul II in 1991. Local visits by the Pope: Czechoslovakia, 21–22 April 1990 (see stamp issued 16 April, *above, right*); Czech Republic, 20–21 May 1995 and 25–27 April 1997; Slovakia, 30 June–3 July 1995 (four stamps and booklet cover, *below*; images from Mark Whitehorn) and 11–14 September 2003.



STAMPS and STATIONERY

All new 2020 issues and 1993–2019 issues may be viewed and purchased at:

Czech Republic www.ceskaposta.cz/en/sluzby/filatelicie-a-postfila/znamky/prehled-znamek

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

Information about rates, formats, production and designers can be found on these sites.

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Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four meetings in 2020, two in London and two in Yorkshire.
Publications	Members receive quarterly the journal <i>Czechout</i> (print and digital editions are available), which includes essays on Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak philately and informs members about Society affairs. <i>CPSGB</i> also publishes Monographs of original research. May be ordered from the Treasurer.
Library	<i>CPSGB</i> maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals and reference items. Postage both ways is paid by borrowers (UK members only). Write to the Librarian.
Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors and buyers should contact the Auction Secretary.
Circulating Packets	Stamp and postal history packets are available to members, in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Secretary.
Free Small Adverts	Members are permitted free small adverts in <i>Czechout</i> . Contact Advertising Manager.
Accessories at Trade Prices	Members may order accessories, album leaves and philatelic books at a substantial saving. See page 5. Delivered directly by Stanley Gibbons. Contact the Treasurer.
Data Protection Act	Members are advised that their details are stored electronically for use on Society business only, e.g. address label printing.

Payments

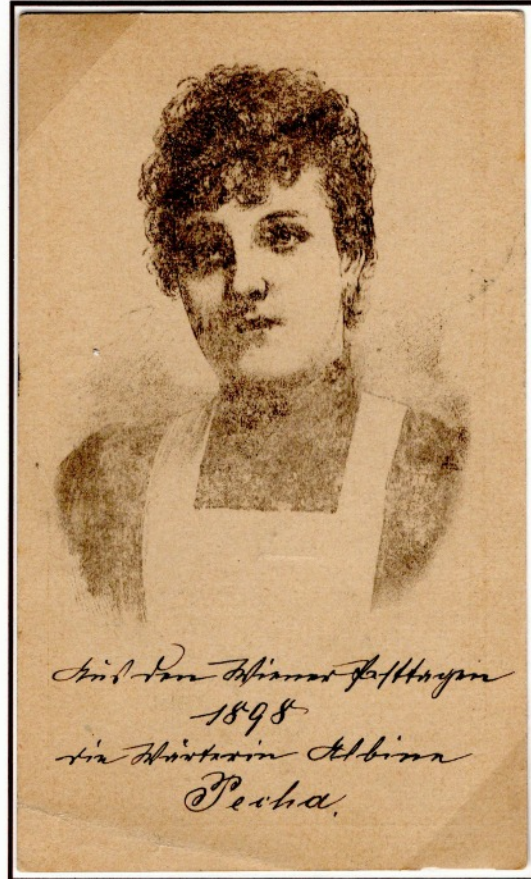
Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank payable to the *Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain*; current banknotes in pounds sterling, US dollars or Euros. Payments may also be made by US dollar cheques or paid to a Euro bank account, by credit card or PayPal. Please contact the Treasurer for details.

THE SAD STORY OF NURSE ALBINE PECHA A PARABLE FOR TODAY

The inscription on the picture-side of this privately-illustrated postal-stationery card reads: "*Andenken der Wienerin Pestträgerin, die Wärterin Albina Pecha, 1898.*" (In memory of the Viennese plague-victim, nurse Albine Pecha, 1898).

Albine Pecha (4 May 1877 to 31 October 1898) worked as a nurse at the Kaiser Franz Joseph Hospital in Vienna where she assisted the scientist Hermann Nothnagel. A member of his staff, Franz Barisch, contracted what was thought to be pneumonia but turned out to be plague. Nurse Pecha and a colleague, who were assigned to his treatment, both caught the plague and were hermetically isolated within the hospital, where they both died. Nurse Albine Pecha was the last person to die of the plague in Vienna.

The 2 kreuzer stationery-card was mailed from Vienna to nearby Mödling three days before her death. The story of the pretty young nurse suffering a lingering death had featured in the newspapers for several days, and had captured the public imagination. The postcard had been published in sympathy for her plight. *(Scan of reverse below).*



Submitted by Keith Brandon

Keith Brandon – Best in Show
Stanley Gibbons Virtual One-Sheet Competition
‘to open a window into a historic moment’.
 Courtesy of Andy Taylor, Editor, from the Summer 2020 issue of
Austria, journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society

