



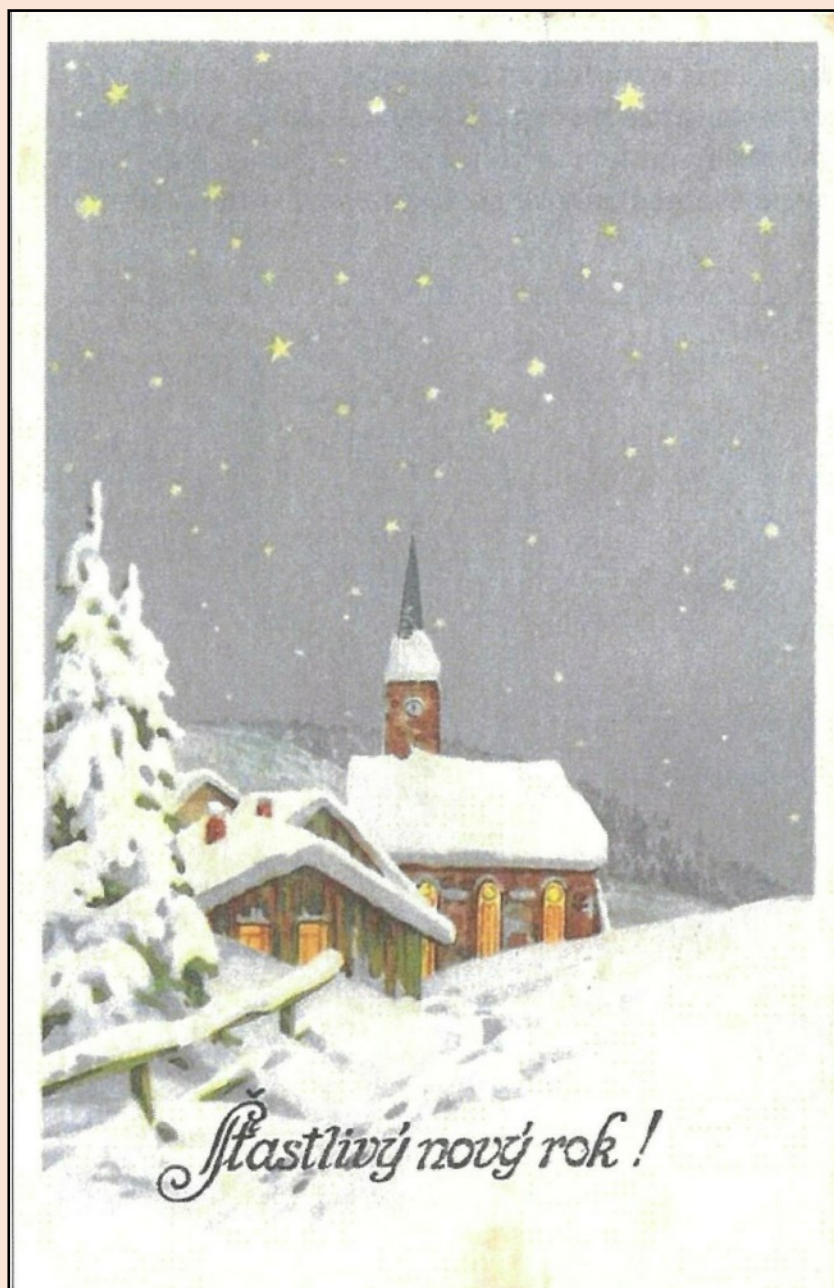
CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 38/4

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WHOLE NUMBER 181



Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Austria (Austrian Philatelic Society of Great Britain)

No. 209, Winter 2020

Brumby, M. Vienna City Railway: Value-imprinted stamps for monthly season tickets.

Hedley, EWL. German-Austrian Postal Union of 1850. (*English translation of the original.*)

Matthijssen, G. Bosnian-Herzegovian C.O.D. labels. (*Use of triangular orange labels on letter and parcel cards.*)

No. 210, Spring 2020

Anon. A-hunting we will go. (*Special cards and covers from hunting exhibitions in Austria.*)

Taylor, A. Classic editions. (*A study of eight recent miniature sheets showing classical stamp issues of Austria-Hungary and Austria.*)

Moser, H. *Schleicherlaufen in Telfs*, 02.02.2020. (*Mad celebratory goings-on in Telfs, and their philatelic depictions – it could only happen in Austria!*)

Taylor, A. Post coaches and horses, on roads and stamps.

Taylor, A. Brumby, M. Exhibitions, fairs and permissions. (*Early Austrian commercial fairs.*)

Weise, M. Austrian pass-visa stamps. (*Special stamps issued for use on external passports for travel to commercial fairs in Austria.*)

Taylor, A. Bravery, D. Gmunden. (*Prompted by the 2019 issue of the street trams of this town; an overview of tram history.*)

No. 211, Summer 2020

Kuzych, I. After Lemberg: embers of empire. (*Mail from the transiently appearing state of Western Ukraine.*)

Weise, M. Austrian visas for post-WWI border crossings. (*Special revenue adhesives used in embassies – includes Hungarian transits.*)

Brumby, M. Otto Stefferl. (*Profile of this post-war stamp designer and his stamps.*)

Boyer, J. *Bonusbriefe*. (*Postal stationery non-denominational envelopes from 2002 with the change of currency to the Euro.*)

Brumby, M. A parcel card explained. (*A 1905 card used to accompany two parcels of gold francs from Vienna to Budapest totalling 70,480 francs and resulting in an exotic franking.*)

Czechoslovak Specialist (Society of Czechoslovak Philately, USA)

Winter 2020 Vol. 82, No. 1, Whole No. 659

Wilson, M. Origin of the Holubice types. (*Describes the manufacture of the 20 and 25 haler Type II stamps*)

Soble, A. 1942 Slovenský Štát Postal Congress stamps.

Jindra, Z. Miniature sheets 'Kde Domov Muj?' (*Hints for identifying genuine versions of the sheets.*)

Hart, K. Vincent Hložník (1919-1997). (*Life and work of the stamp designer.*)

Hart, K. The Shanghai cover – an update. (*More information about the cover discussed in the Fall 2019 issue.*)

Lawrence, F P. Updates to the Classics Corner. (*Delivery of Telegrams by the 1918 Czech Scout Post.*)

Spring 2020 Vol. 82, No. 2, Whole No. 660

Palaschak, R G. Perfins in the lands of Czechoslovakia.

Lauer, R. Sevenhuijsen, J. Hradčany postal stationery cards (1).

Hanzl, A. Exhibit plan for the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate.

Summer 2020 Vol. 82, No. 3, Whole No. 661

Wilson, M. An old mystery solved by a new mystery. (*Discovery concerning the manufacture of overprints on early Czechoslovak stamps.*)

Hart, K. Hussite issue of 1920.

Lauer, R. Cancelled Czech: The Re-Germanization of six town cancellers in inter-war Czechoslovakia.

Lauer, R. Sevenhuijsen, J. Hradčany postal stationery cards (2).

Palaschak, R G. SCP perfin study group.

Palaschak, R G. The first flight that never flew. (*Initial Prague-Havana Flight Cancelled because of 1968 Warsaw Pact Invasion.*)

Kunc, L. Insured letters of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia.

Filatelic (POFIS, each issue also contains local and New issues information, stamp clubs/bourses, etc.)

12/2019 (December)

Štajner, V. Košice stamps and POFIS Catalogue 2015.

Beneš, F. Stamp printing matrices on the auction website?

Květon, R. Triangular express stamps.

Anon. More on the balloon post.

Krátký, J. 150 years since the publication of the world's first postcard.

Beneš, F. Behind the last Czech king.

Anon. Sailors on rails

(Continued on page 29)

CZECHOUT

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CONTENTS

Rex Dixon – Yvonne Wheatley	6
Postage Due in Slovakia 1939-1945 – Michael Furfie	7
Czechoslovak Cartophilately – Brian Marshall	15
Czech Engraver to the World: Bohumil Heinz – Adrian Keppel	19
Articles Elsewhere – Roger Morrell	2
News and Notes	4
Book Review: Mucha Express Stamps – John Grabowski	20
Book Review: Legionářské Study Series – Yvonne Wheatley	22
Slovakia: New Issues	23
Czech Republic: New Issues	25
Membership and Society Contact Information	31

**Wishing You The Best For The Holiday Season
And A Most Happy New Year In 2021**

Our heartfelt wish is that this will be that last holiday season dampened by the world-wide virus that has limited our ability to meet in philatelic venues. The philatelic community has responded to this crisis in many innovative ways but we are looking forward to a return to the ease and satisfaction of face to face encounters. Our resolution for the New Year: to once more celebrate together our hobby.

It is in the same holiday spirit that I humbly, after a two-year vacation, once again resume the editorship of *Czechout*. I am confident the membership will keep *Czechout* supplied with a wide range of interesting articles over the coming years. *Czechout* is your journal, your voice in the philatelic community. It needs you.

Mark Wilson

Change and a Resumption

Roger Morrell has taken up *Colin Spong's Abstracts of Publications* under a new title: *Articles Elsewhere*. A catch-up listing begins on page 2 and continues on page 29. *Lindy Bosworth* has promised to restart her *New Issues* column in the March 2020 issue of *Czechout*. Thanks to both!

Front Cover

Slovak New Year's Card, the front of Figure 7 on page 11.

Back Cover

Rare and Exotic Stamps – Czech Republic *My Own Stamps* Issue.

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News & Notices

New Member

The *CPSGB* extends a warm welcome to our newest member, **Thomas Jolliffe** of Wallasey.

Congratulations

To **Richard Wheatley** on the publication of his new monograph *The Simon Artz Story*, available from the author (see Advertising Manager on page 31). At the Praga Piccola 2020 Exhibition the Society's monograph 33, *Czechoslovak Letter Mail 1918-1939*, received a Large Vermeil. At the virtual STAMPEX one-frame competition held at the beginning of October, **Peter Chadwick** won a Gold Medal for his exhibit *Evolution of the Scottish Wheel Tax Handstamps* and a second Gold Medal for his entry in the Postal History class, *The Fifth Clause Post of Great Britain*.

Our Auctioneer Introduces Himself

I was born in Bermuda and raised in Somerset. After reading politics I spent most of my working life in retail, for the last 20 years I ran a health-food shop in Nottingham. I retired at the end of 2018 and moved to Ipswich to remarry.



My collecting areas include basic collections of France, Austria, and Poland. I collect Hungarian stamps and the postal history of the first inflation period. I am also packet secretary of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. In the *CPSGB* area I have a basic stamp collection of Czechoslovakia and also collect the stamps and postal history of Slovakia and Bohemia & Moravia. I have recently developed an interest in the Hradčany issues and pre-1939 airmails.

My other interests include cricket, I am an avid Somerset fan, racing cycling, country music, Central European and First World War history, and travelling, especially to Central Europe. I started learning French last year and go to the gym three times a week to lift increasingly heavy weights.

As auctioneer I am running things very much as Peter did, but without his level of technical sophistication. The full rules are in the new *Handbook*. Every year I would like to hold four auctions with perhaps 300 lots each. But the auctions are in your hands – I can only list what I receive. Unusual or valuable individual stamps and covers, collections, accumulations, literature – all are welcome.

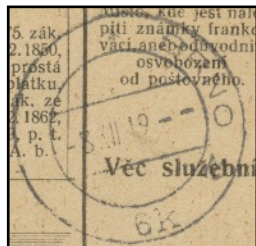
Ken Dyke

Thanks!

Dr Alan Soble became our editor in November 2018. He brought new ideas to *Czechout*, especially with the use in articles of hyperlinks to further information, images, and websites. He put a great deal of energy into his editorship and his enquiring mind led him to raise questions of contributors to get as much information as possible into their articles. Alan is a busy man as he edits another title, the *Journal of Central and Eastern European Postal History*. We thank him for his time as our editor and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Two Queries about Cancels

Jacques Hermann's website digitising all Czechoslovak cancellations between 1918 and 1938 (www.czech-cancellations.com) is an astounding piece of philatelic work. Jacques has run into some mysterious cancellations he cannot account for and is looking for information (jacques.darkfar@gmail.com) about the following four:



C155:
* **BRNO 2 6k**
(Nationalized BRÜNN)



C827:
KUCHELNÁ
u **HLUČINA** * **C.S.P.** * **a**
(Formerly **CHUCHELNA**?)



C1204:
RUDELTICE * | **RUDELSDORF**
* **C.S.P.** * **a**
(Mentioned in *Monografie 17*)



C2696:
* **VIMPERK c**
(Nationalized Winterberg)

James Hooper is in possession of an odd piece. It is a double-sided sheetlet commemorating International Women's Day on the front (not shown) with everything proper and correct. As for the verso, illustrated below, although the text indicates the sheet is intended to commemorate the Vienna International Conference on Child Welfare and the stamps applied support this theme, the cancellation commemorates Universal Youth Week. James wonders if this is an error, a one-off, or if anyone else has seen this sheetlet?

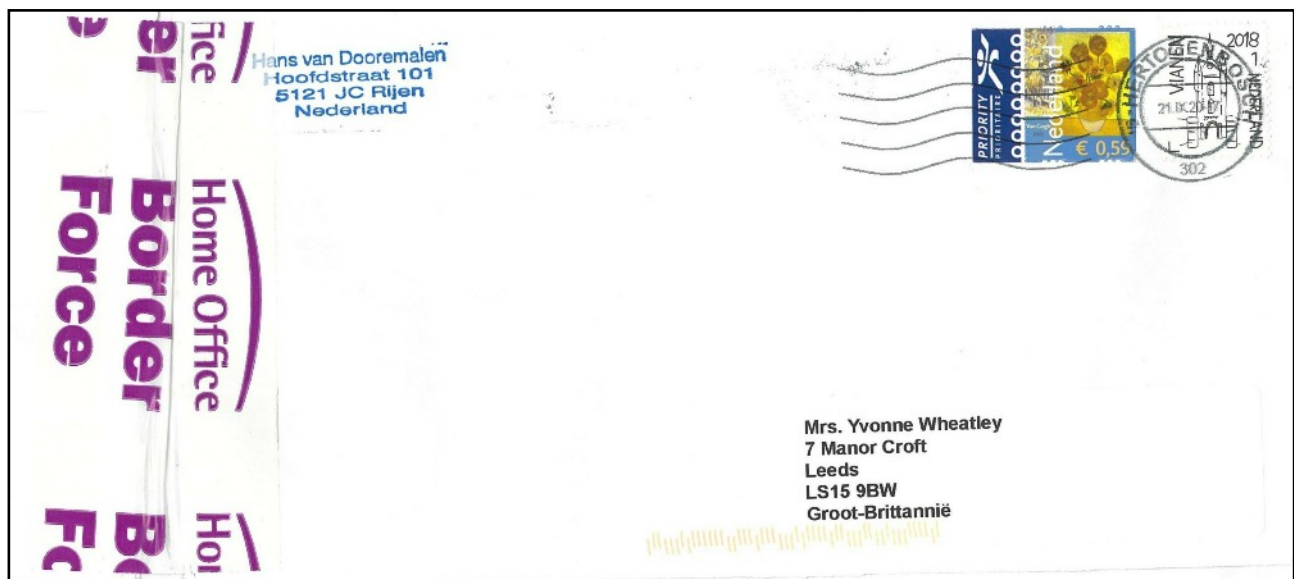


Home Office Border Force Resealing Tape

This ordinary piece of Society business arrived at our address early in October 2020. As you can see it has been opened and resealed with gummed tape with **Home Office | BORDER | FORCE** printed in bright mauve. The letter was from the Netherlands and has a machine cancellation s'Hertogenbosch 300, dated 21 IX 2020.

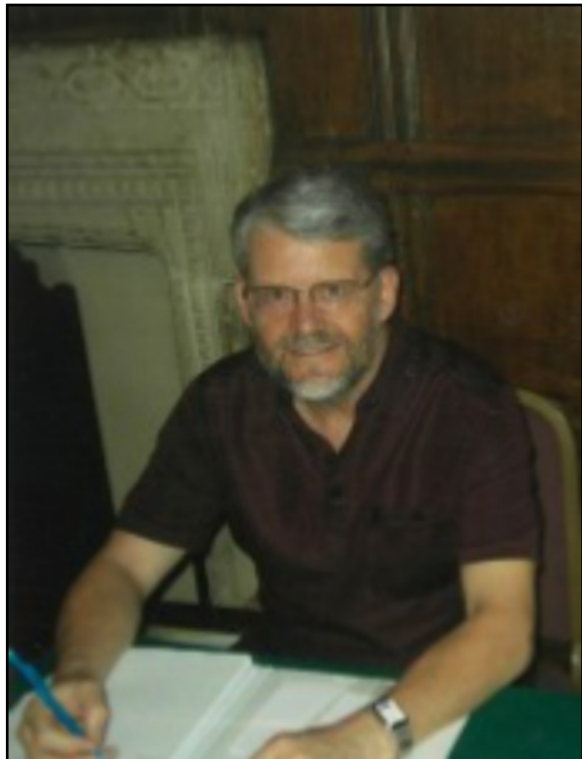
My understanding is that British Customs opens letters looking for illegal substances, such as drugs. On this occasion they were disappointed.

Richard Wheatley



Rex Dixon Yvonne Wheatley

For someone who does not collect Czechoslovak stamps, Rex Dixon has given remarkable service to the CPSGB. In 2008 the Society awarded Rex Honorary Life Membership for his devoted service to the Society, amounting now to some twenty-six years.



Rex carrying out his Secretarial duties at the Society's Residential Weekend at Lewes in March 2007

He became a member of the Society in January 1989 and joined the Committee as Assistant Secretary in 1994, taking the minutes of meetings. This led to his becoming Secretary two years later, a position he held until 2009, having become Publications Officer in 2007. In fact, he was charged with distributing and reprinting the Society's range of monographs as early as August 2000. At that time, he was already arranging the printing and mailing of *Czechout* during Colin Spong's editorship. This involved making the round trip from Maidenhead to Worthing each quarter to collect the disc with the journal together with the envelopes which Colin addressed.

I appointed Rex as my Vice Chairman in 2010 and he assumed the Chairmanship in 2013-2015. In 2011 we were faced with a vacancy in the office of Secretary. Although he was already heavily committed with the Society, he volunteered with Yvonne Gren to act with her, as Joint Secretary, which he did for two years.

Before and during his time as Publications Officer he dealt with the publication of seventeen monographs. His painstaking proofreading and attention to detail has resulted in many of our monographs receiving awards in national and international exhibitions. It is through his ability to produce such high-quality publications that the Society's reputation has been so greatly enhanced. His last service to

the Society in that role was to prepare the list of our monographs in print, priced with the postage cost.

Rex has decided he would like to retire from the Committee and concentrate on his other interests. Finding a new Publications Officer was a daunting task considering the immense workload Rex had navigated. The Society was very fortunate when Mark Wilson volunteered to become our new Publications Officer. As Mark lives in North America it was obvious that he could not take on the distribution duties as well. Rex stepped in *once again* to reprise his former role as Distribution Manager, a task he is happy to continue although not as a Committee member. He will still be sharing his home with our many publications awaiting sale. He has also agreed to continue his role as proofreader *extraordinaire*.

We will miss you in our Committee, Rex, and cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for the Society. We wish you every success for the future.

What does he collect? Rex is an Honorary Life Member of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society and is the editor of its journal, *Germania*. He has written knowledgeable articles in *Czechout* relating to Bohemia & Moravia, as well as Slovakia.

He has a fine collection on the border changes which affected Europe in the twentieth century. It is always a pleasure to attend a display presented by Rex. We look forward to many more when in-person meetings finally resume once again.



Rex with his display – *Polish Occupation of the Teschen Area – 1938-39*.
On the occasion of the meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London during the Diamond Jubilee celebration in November 2013.

Photograph Bob McLeod.

Postage Due in Slovakia 1939-1945

Michael Furfie

This article has been reprinted from the Postage Due Mail Study Group with the permission of the author and Steve Wells, the Editor. All images have been reduced in size. The representation of historical events in the article is the responsibility of the author and does not necessarily represent the view of the Society - Editor.

Historical Background

Since 1993 Slovakia has been an independent country. That its people chose to break from the larger and more prosperous Czech lands was perhaps surprising to outsiders. Very little accurate information about the history of the Slovak people is available in the west. These notes were taken from reference [1].

In the middle of the 19th century Ľudovít Štúr codified a literary Slovak language and there followed a considerable outpouring of writing. After 1867, Hungary imposed Magyarisation, requiring the use of Hungarian for all official (including postal) purposes. To resist this, Slovaks formed many social and cultural groups in which their own language was used.

During WWI, Tomáš Masaryk was active in America and Britain promoting a joint Czech and Slovak state but not mentioning Slovak opposition to it. In October 1918 the Slovaks were in no position either to argue or to participate other than passively, leaving Masaryk a free hand to create a country run by and in the interests of the Czechs. Intolerance of other views was shown when Andrej Hlinka, leader of the Slovak People's Party, sought but was refused a hearing at the Paris Peace Conference. He was then arrested and interned when he returned to Czechoslovakia.

The Slovaks were a religious people, the majority Catholic but with also an active Lutheran church. The Czechoslovak government attacked their religiosity. When they could not avoid appointing Slovaks to local government positions they preferred Lutherans. They attacked the Slovak language, first with a Language Law including the fiction that Czecho-Slovak was the official national language, then by having Czech scholars prepare a new Slovak grammar. A general improvement in education meant that by the 1930s there were plenty of educated Slovaks, but the government continued to appoint predominantly Czechs: even in 1938 fewer than two per cent of civil servants in the Czechoslovak government were Slovaks.

German aggression and the Munich Agreement of 1938 changed the situation. The Prague government had been forced to cede the Sudetenland to Germany. If it could not protect the territorial integrity of the Czech lands, Slovaks felt it could no longer be trusted to protect Slovakia. Calls for autonomy grew. The hyphen was restored to the country name, as in 1918-1920. Matters came to a head in February and March 1939. Slovak leaders met Hitler in Berlin. Independence was clearly a possibility, though it was then of no interest to Germany. When the Prague government heard of this, it sent the Czechoslovak army into Slovakia, dismissed its government, and declared martial law. The Germans met the deposed Slovak leader, Jozef Tiso, suggesting it was time for Slovakia to decide what it wanted. On 14 March 1939 all but the Hungarian members of the Slovak Provincial Assembly voted for independence, with Tiso as Prime Minister, later President.

Czechoslovak stamps, including postage dues, and Czechoslovak postage rates continued in use in Slovakia after 14 March 1939. The main inland rates between then and 25 March 1945 were as follows:

Rate Table (currency in Ks)

Effective Date	Letters			Local Letters			Postcards	Printed Papers	Registration Fee
	20 g	100 g	250 g	20 g	100 g	250 g		50 g	
14 March 1939	1.00	1.60	2.50	0.60	1.10	2.00	0.50	0.30*	2.00
1 January 1942	1.30	2.00	3.00	0.80	1.40	2.50	0.70		2.50
1 September 1942			2.50			1.50			
13 December 1944	1.50		3.00	1.00		2.00	1.00	0.50	

*The rate for wholly printed matter was 0.20 until 8 December 1940.

More than three-quarters of the postage due mail found is official mail, sent unpaid, with single rate postage collected on delivery. Court mail is particularly common, usually sent in special envelopes which had a return receipt as an integral part of the sealing flap. This article will not consider other uses of postage due stamps, such as on parcel cards and money order documents.

Official Mail

The range of organisations entitled to send mail unpaid was considerable: courts, tax offices, educational organisations, and government offices generally. My first example, Figure 1, was perhaps a borderline case, as it bears none of the inscriptions commonly used to identify such mail. It is a postcard sent to a printing house

for teaching supplies in early August 1939. The 20 haler prepaid was the rate for wholly printed matter, but the lengthy order details on the reverse meant that the 50 haler postcard rate was required. The charging of single rather than double deficiency postage due shows that the educational connection qualified it for the concession. The surcharge was accounted for using a Czechoslovak postage due stamp. The town to which the card is addressed is now known simply as Martin.



Figure 1.

Registration of official mail is an interesting question throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states. How was it paid for? In most times and places there is no evidence of payment by sender or addressee on the mail itself. That is the case for the letter shown as Figure 2, sent by the State Land Office in Bratislava in August 1940. The underlined inscription at bottom left means *official matter, simple postage*. *Doporučene* means registered, as confirmed by the label. At first a crude **T 1** handstamp was struck in black ink at the top, but it was corrected to 60 haler in red pencil because the letter is addressed locally. The 60 haler postage was collected using a 10 haler postage due stamp and a 50 haler postage stamp depicting President Tiso. There is a pencil note to the left of the stamps which seems to be an explanation for this combination.

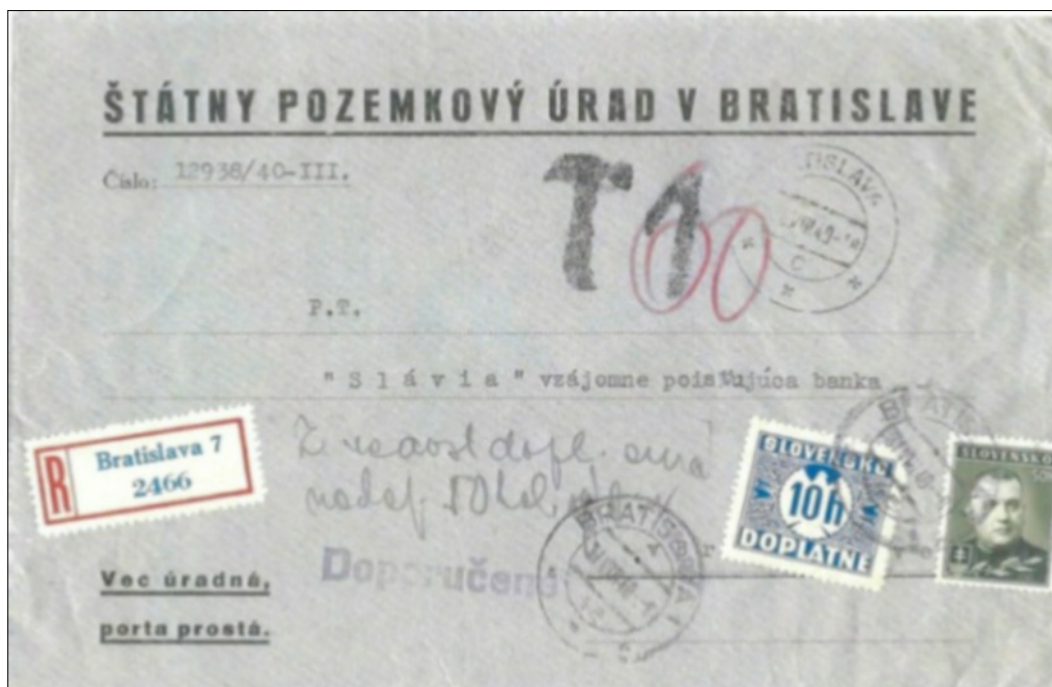


Figure 2.

Figure 3 is an official letter sent by the Economic Ministry in 1942. There is another variety of inscription at the bottom left: *poštovné hradí príjemca* (addressee to pay the postage). At the top is a boxed **T 130** handstamp

which, though probably handmade, has some style to it. (Bratislava also had a similar **T 80** handstamp contained in a horizontal oval frame, for use on local official letters.) There must have been a shortage of low-value postage due stamps in Zvolen, as a 30 haler landscape definitive cancelled with a **T** as well as the usual datestamp had to be used to make up the surcharge amount. Such use of the 10, 20 and 30 haler stamps of this set as provisional postage dues was quite common at this time, more often without the **T** handstamp. The range of denominations of the 1939 postage due issue was not suited to the main 1942 postal rates; the 30 haler supplies soon ran out.



Figure 3.

The postcard shown in Figure 4 is an official item that appears to have been charged double rate postage due by mistake. There is a heading, under the stamps, which is the Slovak for partly printed matter, corresponding with the 30 haler rate printed in the space for the stamp. The back of the card is a printed form of the *delete those parts that do not apply* type and has been used correctly by the Bratislava City Tax Office. The official text at the bottom is inconspicuous, and may have been missed. The card serves to introduce the second Slovak postage due series in a design with more character than the first. Catalogues offer only 1942 as the year of its issue date; specialised literature has nothing to add. The earliest date I have recorded is 29 August 1942 for a pair of the 40 haler value used in Bratislava (see *Czechout* March 2013, page 20, Figure 3).



Figure 4.

Figure 5 is undelivered court letter, illustrating the rates of December 1944. The Bratislava Regional Court must have used enough of these envelopes to have a special printing including its identity. A registration label is in the space designed for it but the postage due stamps for the new 1 Ks local letter rate are on the front, not the back where they were meant to go, and had the letter been delivered the postman would have had to tear round them when removing the rouletted advice of delivery slip. The postage due stamps are overstruck with a worn *Neplatné* handstamp which seems to be missing its first letter.



Figure 5 .

Private Mail

Private mail with postage due is scarcer than one might expect; I am still looking for examples of some fairly mundane features of it after more than twenty years. As in Czechoslovakia, the normal rule was to charge double the deficiency, with a minimum of 50 haler. I assume that, as previously, prepaid local letters redirected outside the local area were charged only single deficiency, with no minimum, but I have not seen proof.

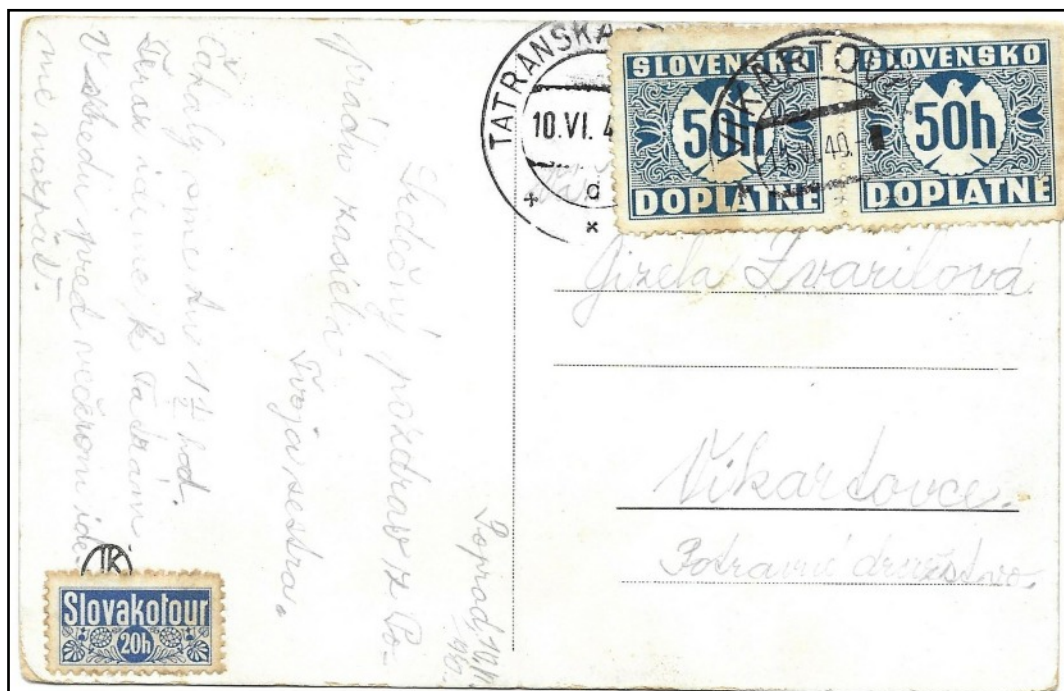


Figure 6.

The first item, Figure 6, is an unpaid picture postcard sent in June 1940. Double the 50 haler postcard rate was charged. The small *Slovakotour* label is a revenue stamp. Certain picture postcards were charged this tax, which varied according to the price of the card, 20 haler being the highest rate. There were also 10 haler stamps in red and 15 haler in brown.

Whilst the philatelic First Day Cover is usually not of much interest to the postal historian, the *bona fide* first day of rate item may well be. Figure 7 is a New Year card, sent on 1 January 1942. Unfortunately this was also the day on which the postcard rate was increased from 50 haler to 70 haler, so the addressee was charged 40 haler postage due – less than the usual 50 haler minimum.

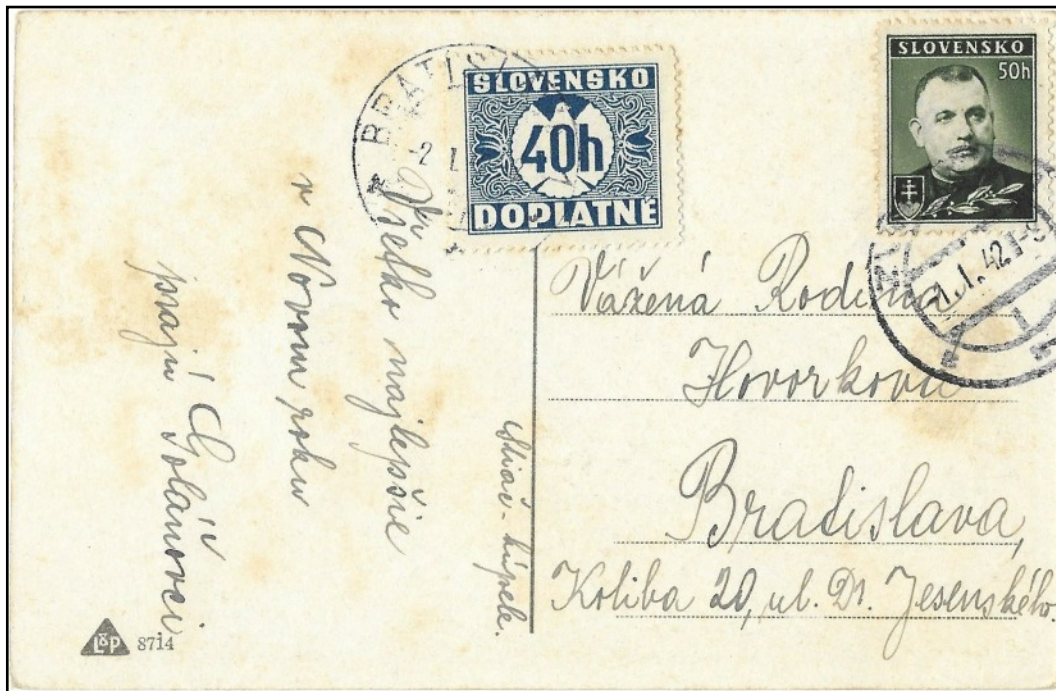


Figure 7: See Czechout's front cover for the postcard's picture.

Study of the rates table reveals there were two changes in 1942, although the second affected only letters weighing more than 20 g. From January to August there was a step of 2 Ks for letters weighing between 20 g and 100 g. Figure 8 is a letter taxed at that rate in April 1942, having been paid the 1.30 Ks rate for 20 g. An elegant **T** was struck at the top and 140, double the deficiency in heller, written next to it in blue crayon.



Figure 8.

In September 1942 the 100 g step was abolished and the rate for letters up to 250 g in weight reduced from 3 Ks to 2.50 Ks. Figure 9 is an overweight letter of June 1943, also paid the 1.30 Ks basic rate. Now the surcharge is higher: 2.40 Ks. It was accounted for using a mixture of the two postage due issues. Although this

is the only case of it included in the present article, such combinations were quite common during 1943, and I have seen them as late as July 1944.



Figure 9.

Special Inland Services

A fee for the use of the *poste restante* service had been charged in Czechoslovakia since 1922. Since 1937 it had been 50 haler and it was continued at this rate in Slovakia. Figure 10 shows a March 1941 picture postcard addressed to *Frühling* (Spring) at *postlagernd* in Bratislava. The postage was correct and the postage due was for the *poste restante* fee. *Postlagernd* is the German equivalent. In many countries, mail addressed other than to fully named individuals was not accepted at the *poste restante*. (Incidentally, the Czech and Slovak languages have adopted the French *poste restante* but pronounce it in five syllables rather than three: pos-te res-tan-te.)

Business reply mail had been available in Czechoslovakia for some years. Postage due stamps were used, and the charge was the normal postage plus a handling fee of 20 haler for letters or 10 haler for postcards. I have seen examples dating from the early months of the Slovak Republic, but none after the start of the war, and Čížek [2] does not show any. It was common for countries to suspend the service as a paper-saving measure in wartime, and it may be that Slovakia did so.



Figure 10.

Figure 12 is a 12 fillér inland rate postal stationery card with an 8 fillér adhesive added, sent to Bratislava in January 1943. This was still 4 fillér underpaid. Double deficiency was 8 fillér, equivalent to 4 gold centimes, so here again the postage due was the 50 haler minimum charge. I should perhaps mention that I have seen a few covers from Hungary to Slovakia with postage dues that do not seem to belong. Be aware of the possibility of fakes when examining such items.

The Slovak National Uprising and its Aftermath

In Britain, independent Slovakia was initially recognized to the extent that consuls were exchanged, but once war broke out western attitudes changed. For example, Whitaker's Almanack for 1944 lists Slovakia with Austria, other parts of the former Czechoslovakia, etc., as a territory annexed by Germany.

During the war, former Czechoslovak President Beneš emulated Masaryk's actions a generation earlier. He persuaded Allied leaders to abrogate the Munich Agreement and to recognize him as head of a government in exile for the whole of Czechoslovakia as it had existed from 1920 to 1938. His radio broadcasts to Slovakia, starting in December 1942, were uncompromising: like it or not, Slovakia would be back under the thumb of Prague when the war was over. Beneš also argued that if the Slovaks continued passively to tolerate German dominance, they would be counted as a defeated enemy nation and would have no say in their future - not that he was offering them much in any event. An alliance of disparate groups in Slovakia, including communists, prepared to rebel. During 1944 partisan warfare intensified in parts of the country, and in late August Tiso asked the Germans to restore order. This was a signal to start what has become known as the Slovak National Uprising. Rebel groups, including some from the Slovak army, fought the Germans. Supplies of weapons were received from both Russians and Americans. The Germans suppressed most of the rebellion within two months, inflicting heavy losses on the Slovak rebels and their allies. They also took the opportunity to deport a further 11,532 Jews from Slovakia. This fact alone must call into question the wisdom of staging the uprising.

The ultimate defeat of Germany had long been a foregone conclusion. As the last rites were played out in early 1945, Soviet forces invaded from the east and the Slovak Republic collapsed. Tiso left for Vienna in April. The following month brought German surrender and the return of Beneš to Prague as head of a new Czechoslovak government. Tiso was not tried by the Allies at Nuremberg but later by the Czechs, on charges including treason, which they considered the act of declaring Slovak independence to be. He was found guilty and executed in April 1947.

The first Slovak Republic survived for more than five years under very difficult circumstances. Normal life continued; culture thrived; nobody starved. It proved an independent Slovakia to be economically viable.

References

1. *A History of Slovakia. The struggle for survival.* Stanislav J Kirschbaum. MacMillan, London (1995). ISBN 0-333-68102-9. Kirschbaum quotes from many Slovak and Czech sources not available in English. Unfortunately the book omits all the accents from Slav names.
2. *Doplatné na území československa 1894-1985.* Jozef Čížek. ZSF Bratislava (1989).
3. See also the subsection 'Postage Due Mail Sent to Tax Offices' in the article "Some Slovakian Postage Due Topics 1939-1945" by Michael Furfie. *Czechout*, March (2013) p. 21.

Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

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

Czechoslovak Cartophilately

Brian Marshall

Cartophilately is the study of postage stamps which include a map as part of the design of the stamp. The map may be the most prominent design element or be of minor importance. Cartophilatelists may include in their collections stamps showing the entire globe, images of the world from outer space, or of the Moon.

There are many reasons a postal authority might include a map on a stamp. One is simply to show the location of a country. A map on a stamp may instil or arouse national pride. Territorial disputes have often been portrayed on stamps. A map may indicate other countries with which the issuing country has a special relationship. International congresses often result in a map stamp being issued, commonly one showing a globe to indicate internationalism. A map may portray various cultural and economic features of a country. Historical maps may indicate past glories. As official documents, stamps reflect how a nation's government wishes the country to be perceived, both at home and abroad. Stamps therefore can be a powerful propaganda tool. Maps are particularly useful to portray themes a stamp designer may wish to express.

Czechoslovakia has issued about one hundred fifty map stamps. These range from the attractive and effective map of Czechoslovakia on the 1968 issue to small United Nations symbols on the set issued for the International Geophysical Year in 1957. Those map stamps represent four percent of Czechoslovakia's total stamp output. The same percentage holds for two of Czechoslovakia's neighbours: one hundred seventy-nine map stamps issued by Poland and one hundred seventy-eight by the German Democratic Republic. Hungary and the Soviet Union issued a far larger percentage, nine and seventeen per cent respectively (although a good number of the Soviet Union's are world maps which appear in the centre of its coat of arms). The figures for Poland and Hungary are for the same period during which Czechoslovakia existed.

A set of two stamps issued in 1968 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia was designed to engender feelings of national pride. One of the stamps had the Czechoslovak flag, the other an outline map of the country (Figure 1) in the colours of the national flag and including sketches of Prague and Bratislava, the nation's principal cities. The stamps carry the dates 1918–1968 and the boundaries shown on the map are those of 1968, not 1918.

Friendship with other countries may be shown cartographically. In the case of Czechoslovakia, the relationship with the Soviet Union might be seen as an imposed friendship rather than a mutual one. The first map stamps to show this friendship form part of the 1945 Košice issue. Four of the seven stamps show a map of Czechoslovakia and a pair of clasped hands (Figure 2) symbolising the relationship. The flags of both nations are also in the design. These were the first map stamps to be issued by Czechoslovakia; there were none during the First Republic.

A map stamp was issued in 1958 (Figure 3) to commemorate the eleventh Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress and the fifteenth anniversary of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Treaty. The wording on the map translates as *Under the leadership of the KSČ we will complete the building of socialism!* A Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Cooperation had been signed in December 1943, modifying a 1935 treaty between the two countries. The hammer and sickle represented both the Soviet Union and the Communist Party.

The relationship between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union was illustrated on a stamp issued in 1957 (Figure 4) to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Russian revolution. The global map extends from Western Europe to the far east of the Soviet Union, and includes international boundaries and drainage patterns. Stars show the locations of Prague, Moscow, and Beijing.

Another indication of international friendship on Czechoslovak map stamps appeared in 1961 with a stamp commemorating Czechoslovak-African friendship (Figure 5). The stamp showed a map of Africa, a woman's head, and the Czechoslovak flag.

International agreements and treaties often lend themselves to representation by a map stamp. Such a stamp, issued in 1990 (Figure 6), commemorated the fifteenth anniversary of the European Security and Cooperation Conference. The Helsinki Accords were signed by all European countries except Albania and Andorra, along with the United States and Canada. The Helsinki Accords were not binding as they did not have treaty status. The stamp shows a map of Europe and an olive branch.



1: SG 1781

2: SG 396

3: SG 1034

4: SG 1004

5: SG 1239

The thirtieth anniversary of the Czechoslovak signing of the Antarctic Treaty was commemorated with the final map stamp (Figure 7) to be issued by Czechoslovakia. The stamp, issued in May 1991, has an attractive map of the Antarctic continent, penguins and a Czechoslovak flag. The first Czechoslovak to spend time on the frozen continent was the geographer Václav Vojtěch, who joined the 1928/29 American Admiral Byrd expedition.

International conferences and congresses often lend themselves to representation on a stamp by either a map or a globe. In 1950 Czechoslovakia issued such a stamp to commemorate the Second International Students World Congress held in Prague. A set of four stamps was issued; the 2 Kčs value (Figure 8) shows a woman, globe, and dove, symbolising the Fight for Peace. The Prague Conference was notable for violent anti-Western demonstrations, which convinced the non-communist delegations that the International Union of Students (headquartered in Prague and financed by the Soviet Union) did not have the ability to offer impartial international student cooperation. This led to a conference in Stockholm where a more moderate International Students Conference was established.

In an avowedly socialist nation trade union congresses are no surprise. A number of World Federation of Trade Union Congresses have been commemorated with map stamps. The first such commemoration was of the Fifth Congress, held in Moscow in 1961. The stamp (Figure 9) featured a world map and the Congress emblem: two interlocking globes. There is no detail on the map. The Congress emblem remained a pair of interlocking globes and these appeared, with artistic modifications, on subsequent stamp issues. The Congress emblems are not the same as the World Federation of Trade Unions' emblem, although in each case the internationalism or global fraternity of the trade union movement is emphasized by the use of interlocking globes. The Eleventh and Twelfth Congresses, held in Berlin in 1986 and Moscow in 1990, were not commemorated by map stamps, or any other stamps either!

The World Federation of Trade Unions, established in 1945, aimed to bring together trades unions across the world. Some Western trades unions left the Federation in 1949, resulting in the WFTU becoming an organization comprised mainly of unions affiliated or sympathetic with communist parties around the world. In 1956 the WFTU headquarters in Vienna was closed and moved to Prague until new headquarters opened in Athens in January 2006. The fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the WFTU was commemorated with a 1960 map stamp (Figure 10) showing the world as two hemispheres. There is considerable distortion of land shapes around the margins of the globes. The First Trade Union Conference of Working Youth was held in Prague in 1958, for which a map stamp (Figure 11) was issued, showing a boy and girl. The world is illustrated as two interlocking hemispheres; the two halves of the globe represent the common fatherland of working youth.

Workers' and similar groups are often commemorated in socialist nations. The first anniversary of the establishment of the League of Postal, Telephone and Telegraph Employees was commemorated with a set of two identical stamps issued in 1950 (Figure 12), which show various post and telegraph symbols along with a globe centred on Europe. The Young Pioneer Movement received similar recognition in 1959 on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. The 40 haler in the four stamp set (Figure 13) shows a boy hiker with a map on which there are no details. The scene may be Strečno Castle in Slovakia. Theoretically a volunteer movement, all young people from the age of six were expected to join. Activities were based on the Scout and Soviet Komsomol movements.

Trade fairs have been commemorated with a map stamp. The Prague Sample Fair Trade began in 1920 and from 1938 was held in the Trade Fair Palace. The Palace, which burned down in 1974, took the form of a single huge rectangular building in a new style known as Functionalism. The 1949 Fair was commemorated with a two stamp issue bearing identical designs showing a globe and ornamental ribbons cascading from either side (Figure 14). The globe excludes North and South America, and New Zealand!



The International Trade Fair at Brno in 1959 was commemorated with a three stamp issue; one of the stamps (Figure 15) shows a world map and fair emblems. Brno has a long tradition of trade fairs, which in one form or another date back to the thirteenth century. The wording on the stamp reads simply *International Trade Fair in Brno*. Another Brno trade fair in 1961 was similarly commemorated. The lowest value (Figure 16) in a set of three shows a map of Europe with international boundaries and the fair emblem placed over Czechoslovakia. The wording on this stamp translates as *business cooperation*.

Philatelic activities lend themselves to portrayal on postage stamps. A two stamp set commemorated the 1960 National Philatelic Exhibition in Bratislava (Figure 17) which reproduced a Czechoslovak stamp from 1936, showing the castle and the Danube. Accompanying the reproduced stamp is a small map of the nation superimposed on a blank globe. The higher denomination of the two stamps shows the same cartographic image, enlarged. Three years after the Bratislava Exhibition, the Prague 1962 International Stamp Exhibition took place. A stamp issued in 1961 (Figure 18) advertised the exhibition. The stamp featured a globe with lines of latitude and longitude and an envelope at the centre of the globe. PRAGA 1962 celebrated the seventieth anniversary of organized philately in Czechoslovakia and had the motto *For friendship between peoples and the consolidation of peace in the world*.

The twentieth anniversary of the creation of a nationwide telephone service was commemorated in 1973 with a network map and a telephone (Figure 19). The superimposition of the telephone suggests that the country is linked, unified, by the telephone service. Postcodes were featured on a 1976 coil stamp (Figure 20). The first number of the code is shown on the stamp and indicates the region; the second and third numbers indicate the area within the region; the last two numbers indicate the city. Brno for example would have a postcode ranging from 600 00 to 649 99; Ostrava has the range 700 00 to 729 99. The postcodes current in the Czech Republic are the same as those used in the former Czechoslovakia.

Transport is an obvious theme to appear on map stamps. In 1943 Slovakia issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the completion of a railway line between Prešov and Strážske. These predate the first Czechoslovak map stamps by two years. At the bottom of each stamp (Figure 21) is a schematic map showing the termini and two major towns in between.

The Fourteenth World Road Congress was held in Prague in 1971 and commemorated by the issue of a boldly and effectively designed stamp (Figure 22). The Congress was organised by the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, which deals primarily with the technical aspects of roads and road networks.

The Prague Underground Railway–Prague Metro was featured on a stamp issued in 1985 (Figure 23) as one of a number of stamps celebrating the *Achievements of Socialist Construction*. The stamp shows the entire original network in schematic form. The Vltava River, shown on the map, allows for an orientation of the map as a whole. Part of Line B is shown in detail.

A set of stamps issued in 1959 commemorating radio inventions included one recognizing the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi (Figure 24). Commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Czechoslovak Radio Service was a 1963 stamp (Figure 25), a map of Europe within a globe, an aerial mast, and various peace symbols.

The contest between the USSR and the United States to conquer outer space led to many stamps which include images of the Earth from space and maps of the Moon and other planets. All Eastern Bloc nations issued stamps extolling Soviet achievements. Typical examples which incorporate maps into the design include



a stamp showing an automatic station on the Moon with Earth in the distance (Figure 26); another shows a satellite and a map of the back of the Moon (Figure 27).

The liberation of Czechoslovakia at the end of World War II has received scant cartophilatelic attention. In 1983 a set of stamps was issued commemorating three Soviet commanders, Yeremenko, Malinovsky, and Konev (Figure 28) who was the first Allied commander to enter Prague. Behind each portrait is a military map. The plans of battle are not identified and may simply be an artistic device. The Battle of Sokolovo, which took place in March 1943 in Ukraine, was commemorated with a twentieth anniversary stamp in 1968. The map (Figure 29) shows the plan of battle in which Czechoslovak troops (the First Independent Czechoslovak Field Battalion), under the command of Ludvík Svoboda (President of Czechoslovakia, 1968–1975), played a significant role by delaying the advance of the German army.

Sport is often commemorated on stamps and maps are sometimes used in the design. An example from Czechoslovakia is a commemoration in 1986 (Figure 30) of the year's World Cup football tournament in Mexico City – even though Czechoslovakia failed to qualify for the tournament.

A national census held in 1980 indicated a population of a little over ten million people. An effective map stamp (Figure 31) advertised the census held on 1 November.

The history of a nation is often commemorated on stamps. In 1963 Czechoslovakia celebrated the eleven-hundredth anniversary of the Moravian Empire with a two stamp issue. One of the stamps (Figure 32) shows an ancient ring and a map showing ancient Moravian settlements. Of note is a 1995 Slovakia stamp (Figure 33) commemorating the eightieth anniversary of the Cleveland Agreement. The stamp shows the predecessor Czechoslovakia.

Most countries have issued stamps which incorporate the United Nations emblem as part of the stamp's design, and these are of interest to some cartophilatelists. An example of a Czechoslovak stamp showing the United Nations emblem was issued in 1965 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter (Figure 34).

Not all Czechoslovak map stamps have been covered in this article, but it will be evident from this broad overview that a variety of topics have been conveyed in sometimes unusual ways by using maps as a design element.

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26: SG 1289



27: SG 1607



28: SG 2680



29: SG 1723



30: SG 2831



31: SG 2542



32: SG 1359



33: SG 224



34: SG 1499

Czech Engraver to the World: Bohumil Heinz Adrian Keppel

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Many artists break into the rarefied world of stamp engraving because they have been tutored by the best of the previous generation. Very few manage to force their way to the attention of postal authorities and security printers as unknown quantities. An exception to the rule, however, was Bohumil Heinz, who engraved issues for his native Czechoslovakia after demonstrating his talents on stamps of the British Empire.

Heinz (1894-1940) was born in Rakovník, west of Prague, in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire and is now the Czech Republic. He attended the School of Ceramics in Bechyně, but had to cut his studies short to fight on both the Russian and Italian fronts during World War I.

After the war he attended the School of Applied Arts in Prague, and eked out a living as a designer of advertisements and posters. He dreamed of becoming a professional engraver, but he could not afford the training. All he could do was hone his skills by engraving portraits in his spare time. He applied for a job as a banknote engraver at the Czechoslovakian National Bank, but was rejected because he was a complete unknown.

His work did get noticed by some of the elite engravers of the day. Ferdinand Schirnbock invited him to work with him in Vienna, but unfortunately Schirnbock died before this came to anything.

Heinz's luck finally changed in 1932 when the London printer De La Rue gave him the opportunity to complete a test engraving, a portrait of King Pradjadhipok of Siam. As a result he was offered a permanent position, but he did not want to move away from home so he accepted work as a freelancer.

Over the following years Heinz produced some thirty engravings for the British company. Attributing work



to specific engravers at De La Rue is usually difficult, but De La Rue proofs back-stamped with *zkusmý tisk* (proof printing) found in Heinz's estate made it possible to compile an authoritative list.

It started with a portrait of Ch'en Ying-shih for the 1 and 50 cent values in *China's Martyrs of the Revolution* series, issued in 1933. Work continued with a profile head of King George V which was used on definitives for Ceylon, Nigeria, and St Lucia.

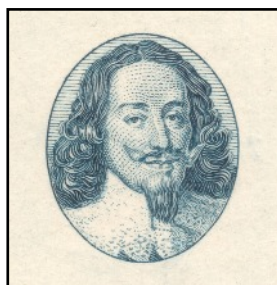
He was also responsible for the vignettes of all three designs in Sudan's 1935 issue marking the fiftieth anniversary of the death of General Charles Gordon: a portrait for the low values, a view of the Gordon Memorial College for the middle values, and an illustration of the memorial service in Khartoum for the higher values (where he surreptitiously inscribed his name on the trunk of a tree). His

final work for De La Rue was a portrait of King Charles I, which appeared in the 1939 Barbados set commemorating the *Tercentenary of the General Assembly*.

In his home country, Heinz's breakthrough came in 1934. Although an essay he submitted for a stamp commemorating the composer Bedřich Smetana was not adopted, he was invited to engrave a following issue saluting another composer, Antonín Dvořák. For someone with a passion for classical music, this was an ideal commission. The stamp received great praise, and Heinz had finally made his name in his homeland.



After Czechoslovakia was invaded by Germany in 1939, Heinz found himself obliged to work for the occupying forces, creating a number of stamps for the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. Patriotically, and rather bravely, he hid the letters **D**, **r**, and **B** in his engravings of the 50 haléř, the 1 Kč, and 1.20 Kč values in the 1939 definitive series, thus noting his allegiance Dr Edvard Beneš, Czechoslovakia's president in exile. Furthermore, if you arrange the 40, 50, and 60 haléř with 1 K in a certain way, the combination of the images is said to show an outline of pre-war Czechoslovakia! Heinz didn't live to see his country's liberation, as he died in May 1940. As a belated tribute, his Smetana essay of 1934 was used for a stamp issue in 1949.



Book Review: Mucha Express Stamp Series

John Grabowski

Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 10 Haler with Details of the Provisional Newspaper Overprint by Mark Wilson FRPSL. CPSGB On-Demand Publication 132.

This is the third and likely final publication regarding plating of the 1919 series of three Express stamps for printed matter designed by Alfons Mucha, all printed by the typographic process. The previous two publications in this series, also by Mark Wilson, were the *Comprehensive Study of the 2 Haler*, CPSGB On-Demand Publication 130, and *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 5 Haler*, CPSGB On-Demand Publication 131.

If you have an interest in identifying plate positions of the 10 haler express stamp, Mark Wilson's newest publication is an essential reference work. The publication is primarily a plating guide. Background discussion is limited to two pages as the author assumes the reader is familiar with typographic printing plates, photo negative transfers, etc., as adequately explained in previous two publications.

Forty of this publication's fifty-two pages are devoted to each of the one hundred individual plate positions with five stamps shown per pair of pages – the right page for pictorial displays of each stamp with arrows highlighting printing defects and the left page offering a corresponding detailed explanation of these printing defects. Please see Figure 1 on the opposite page.

After these forty pages, six more are devoted to what Mark terms a Visual Index, where a stamp's plate position is determined by a global view of all possible flaws and accompanying reference notes to the stamp's plate position. Please see Figure 2 (opposite page) for an illustration of how this process works.

An additional discussion concerns this denomination's **NOVINY** overprinting as a newspaper stamp, starting in 1926. The author identifies two distinct types of **NOVINY** overprints, Types A and B, distinguished by the bar blocking out the tally numbers at the bottom of the pane (Figure 3). The Type A bar extends almost the full width of the pane, while the Type B overprint bar ends beneath position 100. No attempt is made to distinguish position characteristics of the individual **NOVINY** overprints as that would be a different area of study.



Figure 3: Type A (top) and Type B (bottom).

The **NOVINY** overprint process appears to have produced two small puncture holes on each pane – one such hole near the lower right corner of the stamp in position 30, the other hole in the bottom part of the pane, located near the lower corners of Position 92 or 93, which is more clearly illustrated in detail on page 40 rather than the brief illustration on page 3 (see Figure 1, lower left). Of note is that this remarkable production feature was first reported in this publication! The author has subsequently published a more detailed examination in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Summer 2020 issue, published by the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

There are a few minor shortcomings of note. For instance, three common template flaws are mentioned:

- (1) A gap appears between the third and fourth leaves of the centre right cluster on every 10 haler stamp.
- (2) In almost every position, but not all, there is a dot at the base of the left branch.
- (3) The left end of the right (bottom) spiral often has a full or partial coloured gap.

This latter flaw seems more variable than the other two and should be so noted. As most readers know, typographical printing is more variable than engraved, or intaglio, printing. Clarity and distinctiveness of printing flaws is highly dependent on the amount of ink and plate pressure applied, as well as the quality of the paper and the press operator.

To illustrate these points, I undertook a careful examination of a 10 haler Plate II **NOVINY** pane in my possession. My examination showed a respective frequency of the first two template flaws of 95 and 90 per cent, but the third only appeared in 30 per cent of the full pane's one hundred stamps.

Also, the colour of the 10 haler stamps is stated as *dark brown*. The Scott catalogue lists the colour as *reddish brown*, which seems a more accurate evaluation to me. As such, black arrow pointers, those used in Mark's previous works, might have been more effective in pointing out flaw locations than his choice of red arrows.

Despite these minor points, this publication represents an enormous amount of painstaking labour. We can be grateful that Mark Wilson devoted his time and effort to produce it.

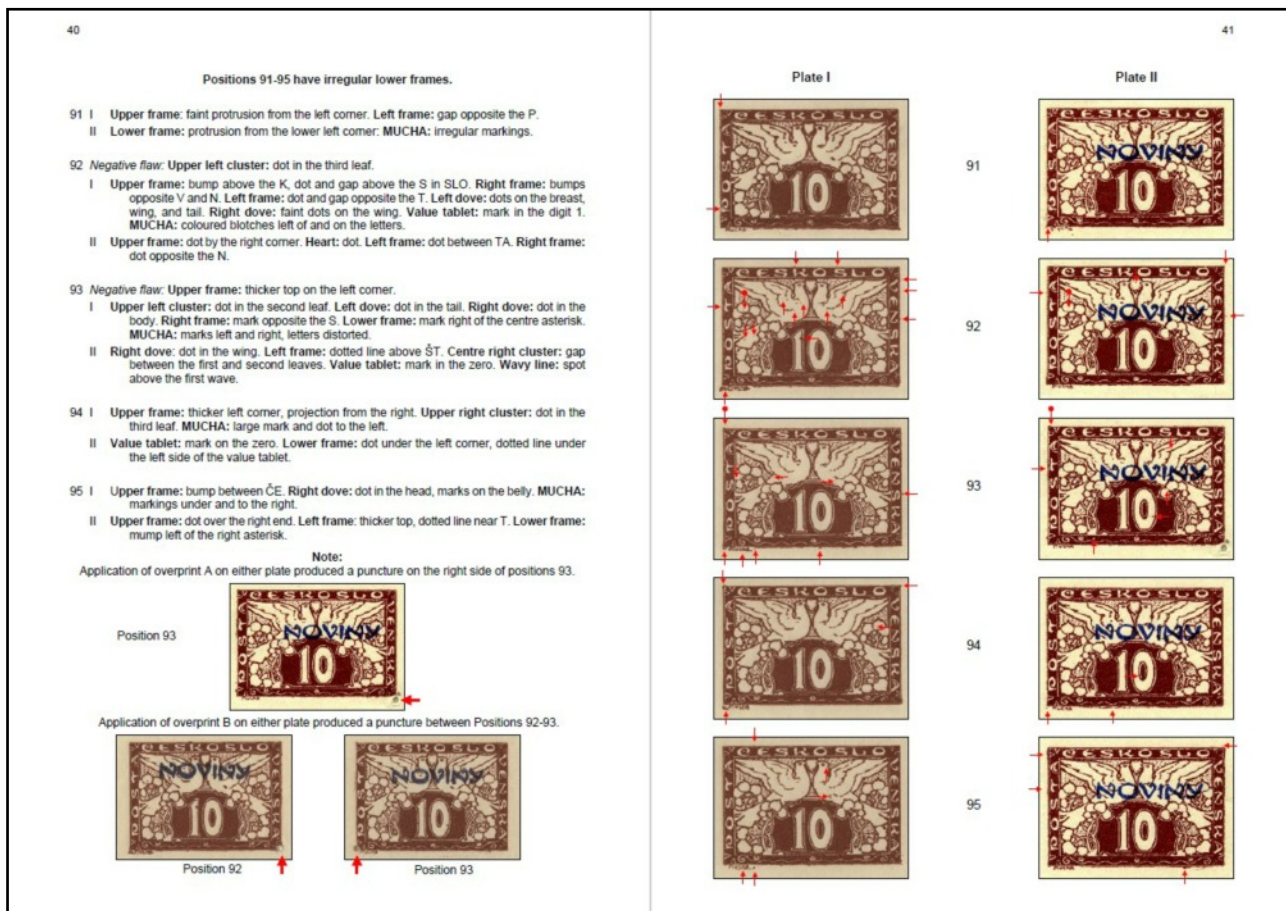


Figure 1: Written Descriptions and Their Illustrations. Note the description of the *NOVINY* overprint-induced holes at the bottom of the left-hand page.

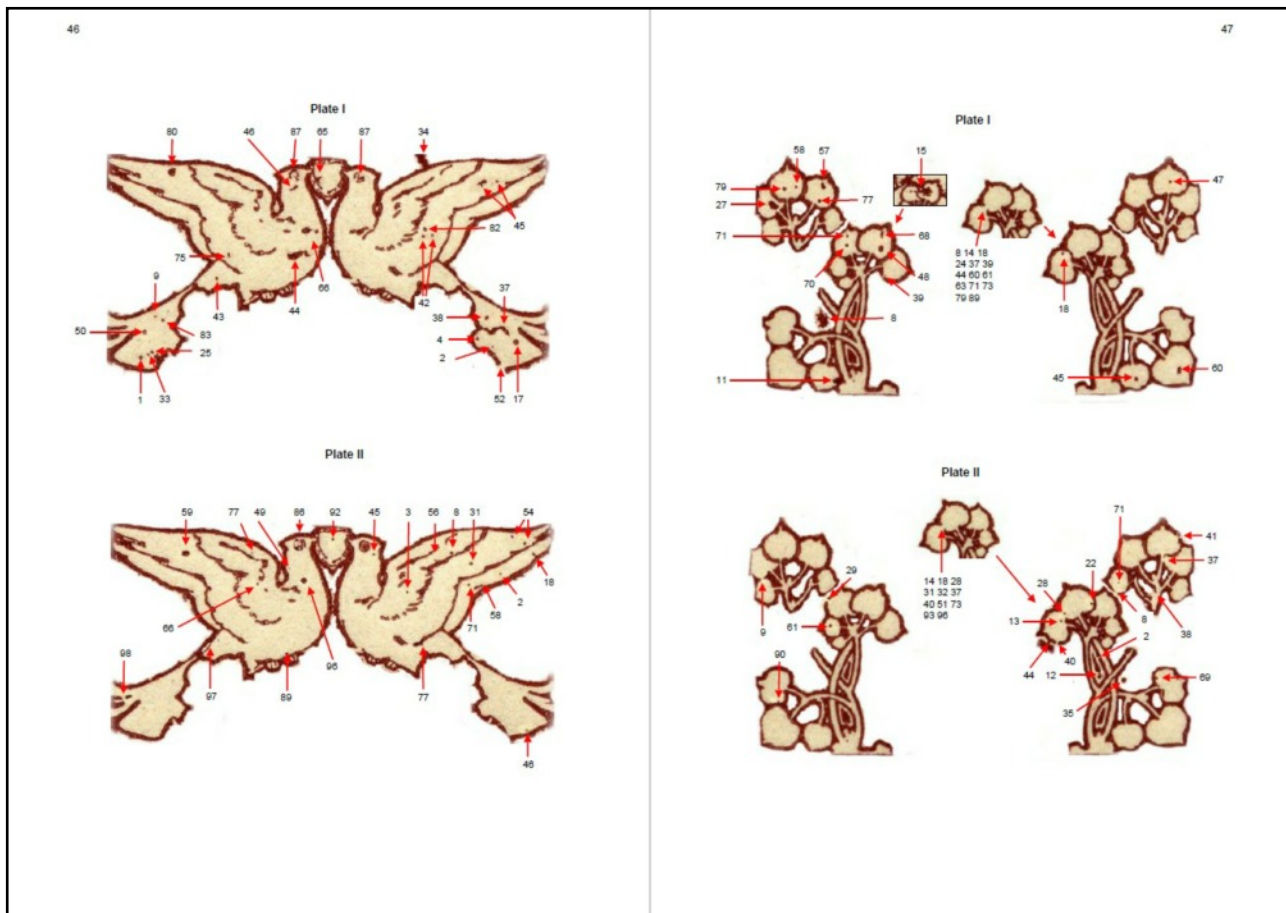


Figure 2: Visual Index.

Book Reviews: Legionářské Study Series

Yvonne Wheatley

Plating Guide for the 15 Haler 1919 Jubilee by Zdeněk Ryvola. CPSGB On-Demand Publication 134. *Plating Guide for the 25 Haler 1919 Jubilee* by Zdeněk Ryvola. CPSGB On-Demand Publication 135. *Plating Guide for the 50 Haler 1919 Jubilee* by Zdeněk Ryvola. CPSGB On-Demand Publication 136. All three titles have been translated, edited, and newly illustrated by Mark Wilson FRPSL. Each one is A4, 52 pages and in full colour.

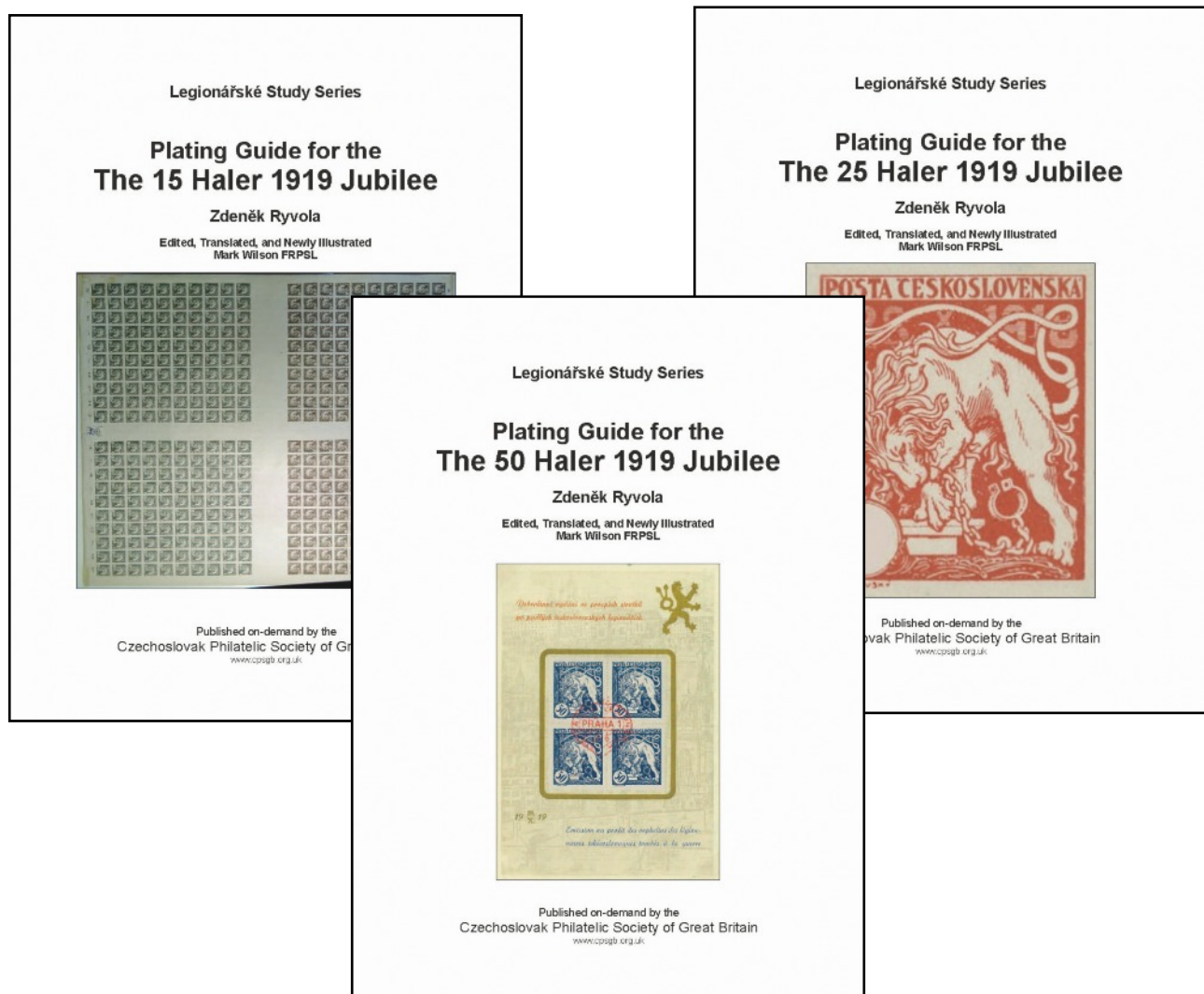
The 1919 Jubilee issue comprises the first three denominations of the Jubilee and Charity issue, which is well explained in the *Jubilee and Charity Issue of 1919* by Zdeněk Molíř translated by Mark Wilson. This was the first book in the Legionářské Study Series (CPSGB On-Demand Publication 133, reviewed in the September 2020 issue of *Czechout* on page 22).

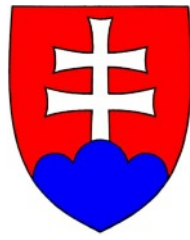
The three values depict a lion breaking its irons. The printing by typography make it an ideal stamp for plating. The object of the study is to make possible the identification of the original position of every stamp on both plates of each value.

The page layout is similar to that of the *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 10 Haler* as illustrated on the previous page. The identifying marks can easily be seen because they are indicted by red arrows on the stamp image. As the 15 haler value is dark brown and not red brown as in the Mucha Express Stamps referred to in the review on page 20, the red arrows do not suffer the same fate by being indistinct. So they show up well on the brown image.

The last section of each book from page 42 illustrates the negative flaws: a diagram of the flaw with the stamp position for each plate. Finally, there is an enlarged stamp image again with arrows pointing to the various parts of the design with the name given to it in the description of the identifying marks.

This issue is not studied as much as the Hradčany and Allegory stamps so these books will provide a new challenge to collectors who enjoy plating stamps and will assist collectors, like myself, who wish to identify the plate position of various flaws on the stamps in this issue. The guides are very easy to follow and once again Mark Wilson is to be congratulated for producing further books which the English speaker can enjoy.





New Issues – Slovak Republic

Images and text adapted from
www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products

4 September 2020

Beauties of Our Homeland — The Water Castle of Šimonovany (POFIS 720)



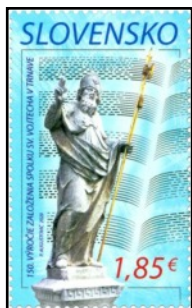
One of the oldest castles still standing in the territory of Slovakia is located in the northeastern outskirts of the city of Partizánske, in the suburb of Šimonovany, which in the past was a village separate from the city – one with a rich history. The present-day outline of the Gothic-Renaissance castle dates from the 15th century, when in 1426 King Sigismund permitted the local lords of Šimonovany, the Simonyis, to rebuild the defences of their fortress. However, for a long period of time the site had been occupied by a small Late-Romanesque castle that consisted of a bastion that was strategically located in a meandering loop of one of the branches of the River Nitra. It is this that gave the site its name: *The Water Castle* or *Vodný hrad* in Slovak. In addition to the river forming a natural obstacle, the building was also protected by a number of artificial embankments and ditches.

Such a bastion would have had local strategic importance as the River Nitra region was crossed by an important trade route. After the bastion was torn down, having served its defensive purpose from the twelfth to the fourteenth century, the Simonyis rebuilt with the approval of King Sigismund. In the fifteenth century the building was expanded with a massive entrance tower and a two-storey palace that contained living quarters. This original Gothic construction was modified over the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to take on a more Renaissance appearance.

The last great reconstruction of the castle took place at the end of the 19th century. It was done in the spirit of Romanticism and made an effort to approximate to the form of the castle from the Renaissance period. Between 1985 and 1988, archaeological research into the Šimonovany *Water Castle* premises took place under the auspices of the Institute of Archaeology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. This research provided new information about the history of the castle and important pottery finds. In the late 1990s the first significant restoration took place throughout the whole castle which was showing damage from the destructive forces of time. Thanks to the Municipal Office in Partizánske as well as the Centre for Historical Monuments in Topoľčany, the whole castle was repaired and returned to its appearance as a Gothic-Renaissance seat for the nobility.

18 September 2020

150th Anniversary of the Establishment of St. Adalbert's Society in Trnava (POFIS 721)



St. Adalbert's Society (SAS) is the largest and oldest association of Catholics in Slovakia. In the 150 years of its existence the society has overcome many hardships related to its emergence: oppression due to Magyarization, two world wars, reprisals by the communist regime, as well as obstacles created by restoration after 1990.

SAS was officially established at its first general assembly on 14 September 1870. The Catholic priest and linguist Andrej Radlinský was a crucial figure in the birth of the society. His goals included the spread of education, to deepen religious life and to revive the idea of a national identity among the Slovak people. Therefore, one of the first activities of SAS was the publication of cheap and good books for all strata of society. Membership of the society was based on a principle of participation. Every year its members received good-quality literature and the *Pútnik svätovoješský* (The St. Adalbertian Pilgrim) calendar for a symbolic fee. The society also published Slovak textbooks and, shortly after its establishment, it began the publication of the *Katolícke noviny* (The Catholic Newspaper).

Probably one of the greatest hardships suffered by the large family of St. Adalbert was at the hands of the communist regime. In 1953, when the membership of the SAS had reached 250,000 members, the highest ever, the communists forbade membership of the society, limited its publishing activities and transformed it into a special-purpose facility of the Church. Celebrations were restricted when in 1970 SAS commemorated its centenary.

A new era for the SAS began in 1990 with the restoration of its membership and publishing activities. Today, there are more than 85,000 members of SAS in Slovakia and abroad, and the society is a recognized Catholic publishing house that receives domestic and international awards.

On the important occasion of the 150th anniversary of its foundation Slovak Post has issued a postage stamp with the motif of the statue of St. Adalbert from the nineteenth century located before St. Nicholas church in Trnava. The background of the stamp is created by a calligraphically rendered open book symbolizing the publishing activities of the SAS. The motif of the FDC is a portrait of Martin Kollár, who was one of the most important representatives of the SAS in the 1870s.

2 October 2020

Falconry — A Joint Issue with Mongolia (POFIS 722)



This postage stamp, issued on the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia (and now independent Slovakia) and Mongolia, depicts archaeological findings from the eighth century related to falconry. This specific way of hunting was popular with the Turkic aristocracy that lived in that period in Mongolia and also on the territory of Slovakia. Falconry is the Mongolian national sport and from 2016 has been included in the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage lists. Slovakia has also been successful in international competitions devoted to falconry usually dominated by Asian champions.

In 1891, the Russian scientist N. M. Jadrntsev discovered a stone monument from the eighth century in the Bulgan Province in the northern part of Mongolia devoted to the emperor of an unknown Turkic tribe: the Khagan Altan Thamgan Darkhan and his two sons, Torgul and Jelek. The monument had been commissioned by a relative of the Khagan, Tekesh Kuli-Tudun, who was identified from an inscription engraved on the stela in Orkhon Turkic, an archaic script that the Turkic tribes derived from the Sogdian alphabet which is from the Eastern Iranian language group.

The monument is exceptional as it bears a falcon in the right top section as a reference to the falconry of the Turkic tribes of the eighth century. The detail from the right-hand section of the monument (which is depicted on the postage stamp) is supplemented by an analogous motif of an Avar falconer from the eighth century from the reverse of a bronze belt-fitting discovered in the residential area of the municipality of Moravský sv. Ján. This area was the westernmost part of the Avar Khaganate, which was established by a nomadic Turkic tribe from Central Asia in the sixth century.

Several historiographers, including Ján Steinhübel, assume that the westernmost territory of the Khaganate was managed by a Tudun who resided in the area of Devín Gate. Although we do not know his name, during the Avar campaigns led by Charlemagne at the end of the eighth century, as noted in the Royal Frankish Chronicles, the Tudun made use of a change in the political situation and was baptised in Aachen in 795. This helped him wrest power over a region, solely inhabited by Slavs at the confluence of the Moravia and the Danube, from the Avars. This paved the way for the establishment of the independent Slavic state known as Great Moravia. In addition to taking power, the Moravian ruling elite also took over several Avar traditions, including falconry, as has been proven by several archaeological artefacts.

20 October 2020

Art – Ferdinand Katona (POFIS 723)



The harsh but beautiful countryside of the High Tatras and the surrounding Spiš region was the area where Ferdinand Katona (Nathan Kleinberger) grew up. Born in Spišská Stará Ves, he spent his childhood and teens in Kežmarok but throughout his life he kept returning to the Spiš region. He hoped that Kežmarok might become the site for his museum. However, his dream finally came true in 2013 when the Gallery Ferdinand Katona was opened in Spišská Stará Ves. Katona owed his education and fine art experience to Ladislav Mednyánszky, who he met and stayed with in Strážske. He studied at the Hungarian Royal Drawing School, the Art Teachers' College in Budapest and the Académie Julian in Paris. He focused on landscape painting, in particular the High Tatras, typically portrayed in a melancholy and gloomy style. He tenaciously and systematically examined the characteristics of the countryside below the Tatras, capturing its full spectrum of colours and atmosphere with an almost mathematical precision. From his realist depictions of the countryside he moved on, even as far as experiential painting.



New Issues – Czech Republic

Images and text adapted from
www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request_locale=en

9 September 2020

Neighbourhood Songbirds — Bunting, Bushtit, and Sparrow Families (POFIS 1083-1084)



The stamp on the left features the bunting family (*Emberizidae*): the corn bunting (*Emberiza calandra*), the yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), the common reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), and the ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*).

The other stamp shows a member of the bushtit (*Aegithalidae*) family, the long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*). From the Old World sparrow (*Passeridae*) family: the Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Space Architecture — Mars Base 10 as Designed by Ondřej Doule (POFIS 1085)



Ondřej Doule graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Czech Technical University in Prague and subsequently began his doctoral studies in the field of architecture theory. During his full-time studies at the Faculty of Architecture, he cooperated with several studios in Prague and also worked at the Renza Piano studio in Paris during a six-month internship. In August 2007, he graduated from the Summer School of Astrobiology in Alpbach with the support of the Czech Space Office, and in September 2007, he joined the one-year programme at the

International Space University (ISU) providing interdisciplinary space education in an intercultural environment in Strasbourg, France. He graduated from the ISU in September 2008 after completing a three-month internship at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in California.

Ondřej Doule was employed at the ISU as a Teaching Associate specialising in space architecture. His research at the ISU was presented in the historically first lecture on Architecture of Space Habitats for Space Tourism at the ISU in November 2008. After an internship at the NASA ARC, he founded the virtual studio Space Innovations. He worked as a hardware expert for the NASA KSC.

Ivan Mládek Banjo Band — 50 Years (POFIS 1086)



This booklet with Ivan Mládek's artwork commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Ivan Mládek Banjo Band. After a surprising success at the 1970 Folk and Country Festival in the Prague's Lucerna Hall, the band formed of a group of musicians brought together at the last moment started getting their first orders from record, radio, and television companies. At the request of the concert agencies that gave the band their name, Ivan Mládek began composing the music and lyrics

(and later also singing) for preferably cheerful songs. He did so out of sheer desperation after a futile search for a suitable composer, lyricist, and singer. This is how the poor ardent instrumentalist, with an ambition to become the best banjo player in the world – and a somewhat less than ardent painter – became a songwriter, singer, and entertainer.

Albatros Trainer Aircraft (POFIS 1087)



The Aero L-39 Albatros is a subsonic jet trainer aircraft developed by the Czechoslovak firm Aero Vodochody in the 1960s. The main designer was Jan Vlček. The L-39 was used by all Warsaw Pact air forces (with the exception of Poland) as their principal training aircraft. In the 1970s and 1980s, about 2,800 L-39s served with thirty air forces around the world. It is still the most commonly used jet trainer in the world. It is a versatile aircraft designed for basic, advanced, and combat flight training. Its great flight characteristics and easy handling also make it suitable for aerobatics.

Alfons Mucha Personalized Stamps (POFIS 1088)



Released in sheets bearing nine stamps with 12 blank coupons, the issue is intended to bear personalized messages. The stamps is freely adapted from the design of Mucha's famous Hradčany issue. Sheets are also available with the coupons imprinted with Mucha's Flying Falcon (not valid for use as postage) and stylised emblems taken from the Hradčany stamps.

23 September 2020

Treasures of World Philately – The 50/50 Postage Due and The Red Mercury (POFIS 1089-1090).



The Liberated Republic stamp with a 50/50 Doplátit overprint is one of the rarest Czechoslovakian stamps. Only a few pieces are known to exist. In the 1920s the Czechoslovak Post decided to overprint remainders of the Liberated Republic stamp and use them as postage-due stamps. Only the 10 and 150 haler, both red, were intended to be overprinted. In error, the red 50 haler stamps from the Liberated Republic series were mistakenly overprinted, thus creating this rarity (POFIS 1089).

The Austrian newspaper stamps known as the Mercury issue appeared in 1851 and were the first newspaper stamps released in the Czech territories. Designed by the engraver Josef Axmann, they depicted the Greek messenger god Hermes (Mercury) framed by text and had a rose in each corner. They were quite small and not denominated: their colour indicated their value. The more common blue stamps were stuck directly to newspapers and were quite often preserved. The yellow and pink stamps were used for larger numbers of copies. The Red Mercury, also known as the Scarlet Mercury, were glued to tapes used to frank a bundle of ten newspapers. The tapes were discarded after delivery making the Red Mercury one of the ten most expensive stamps in the world (POFIS 1090).

In addition, a *My Own Stamps* sheet (POFIS VZ TL106) by the Prestige Philately Club of Prague continues and extends the series with images of exceptionally rare stamps. The sheet contains thirteen copies of the 4 Kč yellow-green Austrian stamp on granite paper stamp with the overprint POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 alternating with twelve copies of the red Mauritius stamps issued with the inscription POST OFFICE. The latter was the first British colonial stamp issued outside of Great Britain. (See back cover.)

7 October 2020

Czech Actors – Jiří Sovák and Vlastimil Brodský (POFIS A1091-1092)



Jiří Sovák was born in a Prague innkeeper's family in December 1920. Becoming an actor was his childhood dream, but he was trained as an innkeeper in Kladno until he decided to join an amateur acting group. His first years as a guest actor at the Living Stage were followed by engagements at the E F Burian Theatre, the Vinohrady Theatre, and the National Theatre. He was popular as a film and television actor with more than 140 credits in films such as *Dařbuján a Pandrhola*, *Uspořená libra*, *Král Králů*, *Bohouš*, *Světáci*, or *Pane, vy jste vdova*).

Vlastimil Brodský was born in Hrušov nad Odrou in December 1920. He was a long-time member of the Vinohrady Theatre. He made his debut at the E F Burian

Acting School. In the 1940s he performed at the Větrník Theatre, the Independent Theatre, the Satire Theatre, and finally at the Vinohrady Theatre. His first and episodic role was a viewer of the panoptics in the 1937 film *Svět patří nám* (The World Belongs To Us), but had to wait until the late 1940s for further opportunities in film. Brodský's filmography includes 300 film, theatre, and television roles.

Butterflies (POFIS 1093-1094)



The common blue butterfly (*Polyommatus icarus*) is found throughout Europe including the United Kingdom. It is the local most common blue butterfly living on all kinds of meadows. It is missing only at higher locations above 800 m. It also lives in cities around gardens. The butterfly shown on the stamp is male, the female is brown. As one of our few gossamer-winged butterflies, the common blue butterfly is not yet endangered.

The clouded yellow butterfly (*Colias croceus*) occurs permanently only in the Mediterranean and flies to the Czech Republic irregularly. It is a migratory butterfly, with a very variable occurrence in this country. In some years, only isolated specimens can be found, while in other years, they are abundant. Sometimes, the clouded yellow butterfly flies high into the mountains that it migrates over. The stamp portrays a male butterfly with a continuous dark border on the edge of the wings. The female has orange spots in the dark edge. As a migratory species, it does not require special protection.

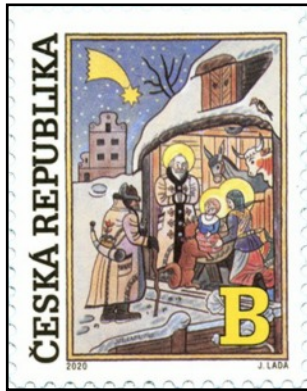
21 October 2020

Aero 750 Sport Coupé Booklet (POFIS 1095)



The specialist racing car Aero 750 Sport Coupé driven by Otto Nimshaus competed in the Czechoslovak 1,000 Miles race in 1934. The aerodynamic model with a glass top was built by the car builder Oldřich Uhlík in the Prague district of Strašnice. Although everything was to be prepared and tested well before the race, the builder delivered the car only three days before the start and the crew had no time to test it and detect possible defects. The car proved to be insufficiently equipped and prepared for the race, and the crew had to give up the race right in the middle of it. After the race, the disappointed Nimshaus handed the car over to the Aero company. It could be seen at various car racing events until 1936.

Christmas 2020 (POFIS 1096)

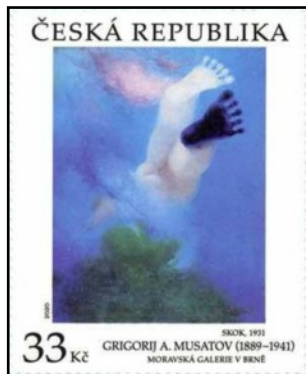


Holy Night (nativity scene with a night watchman) by Josef Lada. Josef Lada was a Czech painter, illustrator, stage designer, and author. He was born in the small village of Hrusice into a cobbler's family to Josef Lada and his wife Alžběta née Janovská as the youngest of four children. Hrusice and the surrounding area inspired many of Lada's pictures. He worked as a cartoonist, illustrator, and author. He wrote and illustrated numerous children's stories and books, such as the adventures of Mikeš, a black tomcat who could talk, or the smart fox. He is best known as the illustrator of Jaroslav Hašek's World War I novel *The Good Soldier Švejk*, Karel Havlíček Borovský's *Tirol Laments*, *King Lávra*, *Epigrams*, Erben's and Drda's fairy tales, etc. Lada also designed stage sets, scenes and costumes for plays and operas performed by the National Theatre. He was the main designer of the successful Czech film directed by Josef Mach, *Hrátky s čertem* (Playing with the Devil), adapted from a theatre play of the same name based on Jan Drda's fairy tale. Together with Karel Čapek, Vítězslav Nezval, and Vladislav Vančura, Josef Lada was a co-founder of the so-called modern fairy tale in Czech fiction. He received the National Artist award in 1947 for his work.

The stamp also comes out as part of a sheet of nine stamps and twelve coupons with two different motifs: children at a Christmas tree, and a girl with a Czech Christmas cake (POFIS 1097).

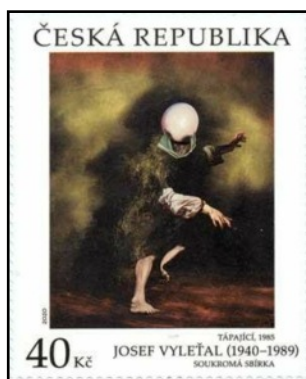
11 November 2020

Grigorij Alexejevič Musatov's *Jump*, 1931 (POFIS 1098)



Grigorij Alexejevič Musatov was a Czech painter of Russian origin. Musatov worked as a teacher and promotional designer. In the spring of 1920 he sailed on the ship *Tver* to Europe, where he settled in Czechoslovakia. After working as an actor and artist in a nomadic theatre, he found a job as a drawing teacher at the Russian Grammar School in Strašnice. In 1927 he had his first independent exhibition in Aleš Hall of the of the Czech artists' forum *Umělecká beseda*. Most of his paintings in the 1920s portrayed nostalgic scenes from the everyday life of pre-revolutionary Russia. His style gradually loosened into a lyrical imagination resembling Marc Chagall.

Josef Vyleťal's *Groping*, 1985 (POFIS 1099)



Josef Vyleťal was born in Brno. In 1957 he started to study at the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University. Three years later, he moved to Prague to continue his studies with Adolf Hoffmeister at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design. In 1962, he took up the job of a stage designer at the Theatre on the Balustrade. In 1970, he married academic painter Olga Poláčková. During his life, he made friends with painter Salvador Dali and with playwright Václav Havel. He also collaborated with film directors such as Jan Němec or Juraj Herz. In 1967, he joined the Union of Czechoslovak Fine Artists. A year later he became a member of the editorial board of the *Tvář* magazine published in the 1960s. He created 115 film posters between 1964 and 1979. He created scenes for the fairy tale *Panna a netvor* (Beauty and the Beast). He painted scenes for the fairy tale *Perinbaba*, directed by Juraj Jakubisko. In 1978–1980, he painted a mural at the spa colonnade in Mariánské Lázně.

(Continued from page 2)

1/2020 (January)

- Květon, R. Triangular express stamps (2).
 Chudoba, J. The Liberated Republic 30 h.
 Zedník, V. Plate defects on stamps - a source of pleasure and interesting discoveries (11).
 Písarčík, T. Stamps of Austrian origin used in Slovakia in 1918-19 (2).
 Vrba, M. Primitive counterfeits verified abroad as genuine.
 Kratochvíl, J. Changes in the state of the Czech Post branch network occurred in 2019.
 Anon. Sailors on rails (2).

2/2020 (February)

- Písarčík, T. Stamps of Austrian origin used in Slovakia in 1918-19 (3).
 Vopat, A. Greetings from the WIPA 1933 exhibition.
 Kramář, J. Women at the Post Office.
 Kratochvíl, J. Forgotten Prague post offices (1).
 Štajner, V. The unwanted, unpopular and problematic issue of the return of the Czechs and Slovaks to their homeland.
 Anon. Stamp exhibition PRAGA 1938.
 Beneš, F. Loyalty programs of postal operators.

3/2020 (March)

- Zedník, V. Plate defects on stamps - a source of pleasure and interesting discoveries (12).
 Kratochvíl, J. Forgotten Prague post offices (2).
 Weissenstein, J. When wishes became the father of thought, or the return of philatelic postal history to mechanical constructivism?
 Květon, R. Commencement of air transport on the route Prague-Paris from the point of view of the periodical press.
 Kunc, L. Stamps of the German Field Post in postwar Czechoslovakia.
 Kramář, J. Women at the Post Office (2).

4/2020 (April)

- Chudoba, J. The Liberated Republic 40 h.
 Zedník, V. Plate defects on stamps - a source of pleasure and interesting discoveries (13).
 Květon, R. TGM 1920 – 100 years since stamp issue.
 Šedivý, V. Agency (delivery) stamps of Białystok from 1916 - rare variants.
 Kratochvíl, J. Forgotten Prague post offices (3).
 Anon. Stamp booklets of the Czech Telecommunication Office.
 Vopat, A. Historical sticker as a mirror of time.
 Kunc, L. Stamps of the German Field Post in Postwar Czechoslovakia (2).
 Gebauer, P. Known and unknown imperial manoeuvres.

5/2020 (May)

- Chudoba, J. The Liberated Republic 40 h (2).
 Vopat, A. Unused stamps on old Austrian entires.
 Hauzr, M. The sad fate of a young man.
 Kramář, J. Half a century since the infamous robbery in the Postal Museum.
 Šedivý, V. Practically unknown overprints of SHS.
 Beneš, F. Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945 – Part 1 (pull-out supplement)

6/2020 (June)

- Chudoba, J. Liberated Republic 40h (3)
 Květon, R. Austrian Express 2h with Posta Československa 1919 overprint
 Zedník, V. Plate flaws on Czechoslovak stamps (4)
 Beneš, F. Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945 – Part 2 (pull out supplement)

7/2020 (July)

- Springer, J. Hradčany 300 h printing plate 2 - new findings.
 Beneš, F. A little about Hong Kong (2).
 Bachratý, M. Some notes on the issue: the return of Czechs and Slovaks to their homeland (1946) 4.
 Beneš, F. The sad fate of the first postcard of the Czech Republic.
 Beneš, F. Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945 – Part 3 (pull out supplement).

8/2020 (August)

- Chudoba, J, Rakosník, Z. Liberated Republic - 50 h red.
 Beneš, F. The place where new stamps are produced for the Czech Republic.
 Květon, R. Replacement of Hradčany stamps 1920.
 Beneš, F. A forgotten anniversary – 100 years since the end of Těšín/Teschen crisis.

9/2020 (September)

- Chudoba, J, Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic - 50 h green.
 Kratochvíl, J. Forgotten Prague post offices (4).
 Gebauer, P. Marine Post on Vltava river by Vltava steamers.
 Zedník, V. Plate flaws on Czechoslovak stamps (5).
 Reichsfeld, V. Surprising occurrence of used of Bohemia and Moravia postal collection cards.
 Květon, R. Austrian & Lombardy-Veneto 1850 - Specialized Handbook (a pull-out supplement).

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich),**No. 126, 1/2020**

Hamilton, W. Brünn/Brno station – An unusual cancellation on the first issue of Austria.

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feldpost)**No. 137, 3/2019**Matthijssen, G. Bosnien-Herzegowina: Nachnahme-Postanweisungen der Briefpost. (*COD money orders from Bosnia-Herzegovina.*)Gebauer, P. Die Manöverpost während der Kaisermanöver 1913. (*Post during the army manoeuvres of 1913.*)Radovanović, M. Die Besetzung von Belgrad im Dezember 1914. (*The short-lived occupation of Belgrade during the early Austrian offensives of WWI.*)Taitl, H. K.u.k. Sanitätstruppe in der Türkei. (*Mail from medical units of the army in Turkey.*)Penz, G. Das Ende der k.u.k. Fliegertruppe an der SW-Front im Oktober-Dezember 1918. (*The end of the flying corps on the south-west front.*)Ed. Rechtfertigung de Brennergrenze. (*An interesting document outlining the Italian acquisition of South Tyrol at the end of WWI, with detailed maps.*)Wirtl, W. Flugpostzulassungsmarke der italienische Waffenstillstandsmission in Wien. (*The air post connection between Padua and Vienna during the inter-allied mission period after WWI.*)Robisch, H. Kreisfürsorge – Folge 3. (*Part 3: Cards and advertising posters to raise funds for military charities during WWI.*)**No. 138, 1/2020**Wirtl, W. Falsche Seite erwischt. (*An 1866 Austro-Hungarian fieldpost cover chasing its intended recipient around Germany.*)Robisch, H. Österreichisch-Ungarisch Militärmission in Persien. (*The development of a military mission in Persia from 1879, and the assistance given to building up the Persian army before WWI.*)Sifferlinger, N. Bootsmannsmaat Funktelegraphist Hugo Karel vom Donaumonitor Szamos. (*Finding out about the radio telegraphist on the Danube monitor Szamos during WWI.*)Schilling, O. Neue Erkenntnisse zur Zensurstelle Feldkirch. (*New details of the censoring process at Feldkirch for mail entering Switzerland during WWI.*)Bliersbach, A. Erlöset uns aus der Gefangenschaft. (*Detailing the slow process of releasing Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918.*)Ed. Rechtfertigung der Brennergrenze (*Fortsetzung und Schluss*). (*Dealing with a 1918 London-produced map in a pamphlet for the proposed new border between Austria and Italy.*)Robisch, H. Kriegsfürsorge – Folge 4. (*Fourth part of an article on WWI official fundraising for military invalids and their families.*)**No. 139, 2/2020**Kobelbauer, H. Randbemerkung zu FPA8. (*Detailed differences in the FPA8 postmark used throughout WWI.*)Penz, G. Das Ende der K.u.K. Fliegertruppe an der SW-Front im Oktober und November 1918. (*The detailed history of the demise of the flying corps on the SW front (Italy) at the end of WWI.*)Sifferlinger, NA, Maschinenwärter in der Reserve Viktor Hornof. (*Mail from a Viktor Hornof, a naval machine attendant and his career during WWI.*)Ehfrank, R. Das Gemeinsames Zentralnachweisbüro abgekürzt "GZNB" in Wien. (*Details of the basis for the operation of the central censor office in Vienna.*)Kalis, K. Rückblick auf letzten Tage des Bestehens der k.u.k. Kriegsmarine. (*Review of the last days of the Austro-Hungarian navy in 1918, illustrated with mail from ships.*)**Stamps of Hungary** (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)**No. 220 (March 2020)**

Morrell, R. Timeline to Trianon, Part 5: 1 January 1920 to 31 March 1920.

De Weerd, JJ. Erase or not? - pencil markings of German censorship on Hungarian civilian post 1939-1945.

Weise, M. Identity cards issued by the National Child Protection League.

No. 221 (June 2020)

Morrell, R. Timeline to Trianon, Part 6: 1 April 1920 to 30 June 1920.

Tricot, F. Postage due calculation during the Hungarian hyper-inflation of 1945-1946 : the single deficiency.

Lendon, M. On the trail of the 1919 overprints Part 17: Forgers of the Cluj and Oradea issues.

Williams, P. The 1963 Transport and Communication issue low values.

No. 222 (September 2020)

Morrell, R. Timeline to Trianon, Part 7: 1 July 1920 to 30 September 1920.

Weise, M. More on Archduke József's Refugee Fund.

Lauer, R. On the trail of the 1919 overprints Part 18: The Temesvár postage stamp issues under Serbian and Romanian Occupation, 1919.

Ed. More on General Harry Hill Bandoltz.

Medland, R. The curious case of letters to Switzerland, 1946.

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