



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 39/3

SEPTEMBER 2021

WHOLE NUMBER 184



Garth Taylor and Yvonne Wheatley
CPSGB Table, MIDPEX 2021.

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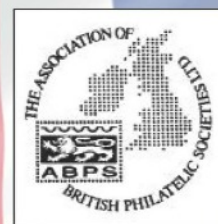
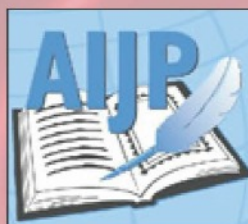


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ISSN 0142-3525

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An Important Message from the Editor

The fact that *Czechout* appears every three months in your email inbox and letter box is not magic. Hard-working Society members solicit articles, get them to the Editor, put together digital and print copies, and send out the finished copy via the *Newsletter* and post, all so that our membership is the best informed philatelic body we know. The Society was recently voted the best specialist society in Europe and its publications – including *Czechout* – have received awards and well-earned acclamations.

This issue of *Czechout* in your hands is notable because its articles all represent original research carried out by CPSGB members. This is not an accident. Our membership is active, engaged, and willing to share with the world hard-won knowledge or privileged peeks into the fascinating world of Czechoslovak philately.

Everyone's contributions are welcome. If you can put together an outstanding written piece, more power to you! But if you, like many contributors having something of importance or interest to say but are unsure as how to express yourself, have no fear. Except for plagiarism, there are no prohibitions on contributions.

Czechout has an editorial staff ready and willing – actually excited – to help you turn your contribution into what may eventually become a prize-winning article. We stand ready to help you inform others about your niche and interests. Articles need not be world-shaking. Think about what you have enjoyed in past articles, about what you would like to say regarding your own philatelic activities and – this is most important – let us know about it so we can help you succeed and join the ranks of *Czechout's* admired and published authors.

Our membership has made *Czechout* great. Every member has something valuable to contribute to that greatness. We are standing by to hear from you.

Mark Wilson

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Founded 1953. Published quarterly. Free to members. Membership enquiries to Membership Secretary.

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

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

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

Price £3.50 + postage from the Distribution Manager.

Advertisers: Contact Advertising Manager for details. **Authors:** Contact Editor for submissions.

Society Website: www.cpsgb.org.uk; **Czechout Archive and Index:** www.czechout.org.

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Czechout is printed by Leeds Graphic Press. 0113 248 9262. www.lgpprint.com.

News, Notes, and Correspondence

New Member

The CPSGB extends a warm welcome to new member **Michael Thompson** of Huntfield Heights, South Australia.

Congratulations

Stamps of Hungry (June 2021) announced that **Peter Williams** had received the 2020 Lászlo Gróf Literature award. A sister society, *ČeskoMoravská Společnost pro Poštovní Historii* [the Czech Postal History Society in the Czech Republic], has received a FEPA *Certificate of Appreciation* for outstanding activities to promote philately. Are any of our members also members of that society? Julius Hofstatter of Regina, Canada found the December 2020 *Czechout* on our website and was quite taken by the article on cartophilately. He wrote asking permission to use the information there for a presentation to his local society. He was kind enough to share the presentation with your Editor who was most impressed, as were the members of his local society.

Notices

The **Typographic Study Group** announced in the June issue has more news. The group entered into a cooperative agreement with the *Společnosti sběratelů československých knihtiskových známek* [Society of Collectors of Czechoslovak Typographic Stamps], a Czech society with similar interests, to publish that Society's *Bulletin* in English on both groups' websites. Along with the translated Bulletin, a topical index will appear on the study group's website. Interested parties may read and download these documents at www.knihtisk.org/09-group/group.htm. Study Group sign-up information: mark@knihtisk.org.

Czechout Needs Scans of Parcel Cards Sent to Foreign Nations

The translations mentioned above revealed an article published in Czech that may be of great interest to many readers. The article describes the rapidly changing rates for parcels sent to foreign nations from the First Republic. While clippings from domestic parcel address cards are fairly common – the Post Office sold them as kiloware – address cards for parcels sent abroad are all but unique. To illustrate an article about foreign parcel rates planned for the December issue of *Czechout* members are asked to scan at 300 DPI any such cards in their possession. We do not expect this request to be successful – because the cards are so rare – but are hoping against hope that among our members there may be one or two. Scans may be sent to editor@cpsgb.org.

CPSGB at MIDPEX 3 July 2021 (see front cover)

MIDPEX is the biennial event which brings together specialist societies and dealers covering all aspects of philately. The Society had its usual table which **Garth Taylor** and **Yvonne Wheatley** manned and also added some items to their collections. They were able to chat with **Peter Williams**. Were other members there?

A Rose by Any Other Name is Still A Rose

Ludvik Svoboda noticed an odd inconsistency on the covers **James Hooper** and **Michael Furfie** discussed on page 5 of the June 2021 issue. On Michael's cover the Czechoslovak railway is identified as ČSD but on James's cover it is ČSD (Štátne vs Státní). Turns out that štátne means *national* and státní *state*. Now does anyone know why the same Czechoslovak entity appears to have two quite different names?

New Queries

Yvonne Wheatley writes that while researching colour changes (see Colour Changes in the Allegories Issues in this issue of *Czechout*) she noticed a discrepancy in the withdrawal date for the 5 haler violet Dove stamp. POFIS has it as 15 March 1932 – the date that all Dove stamps were withdrawn (POFIS *Československo 2015*, page 75) but the *Merkur Revue* gives the date as 15 August 1928 (*Československo 1918-1939*, volume 2, page 104). She chose to use the latter date in her article as it appeared more specific to the violet stamp. Can anyone authoritatively confirm the correct date?

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 an 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!

Peter Williams writes that another non-member has asked for details of what looks like a Cinderella label. A quick request to the Committee raised only a few comments, but no definite answer. Can you do better? The comments so far are:

- (1) Prerau TPO postmark? Definitely a charity label, and possibly ecclesiastical?
- (2) No doubt it is one of the myriads of Cinderellas which appeared between 1890 and 1918 (and beyond).
- (3) It was probably stuck on the front of a card or envelope. The postmark is an Austrian-type TPO, so it looks like it has to be dated before 1918.
- (4) It certainly looks Czech in origin with the stylized linden leaves and the Hussite type chalice symbols.

The full date cannot be seen, but it looks like the second decade of the last century. I can only add that it is not on any cover or piece and had been described on eBay as Austrian, which I suspect it may not be, but what do I know? If anyone can provide more information, please let us all know or contact the questioner at riaaddollie@yahoo.com. The same query appeared in our USA sister society's newsletter this month, so the gentleman is seriously seeking an answer.



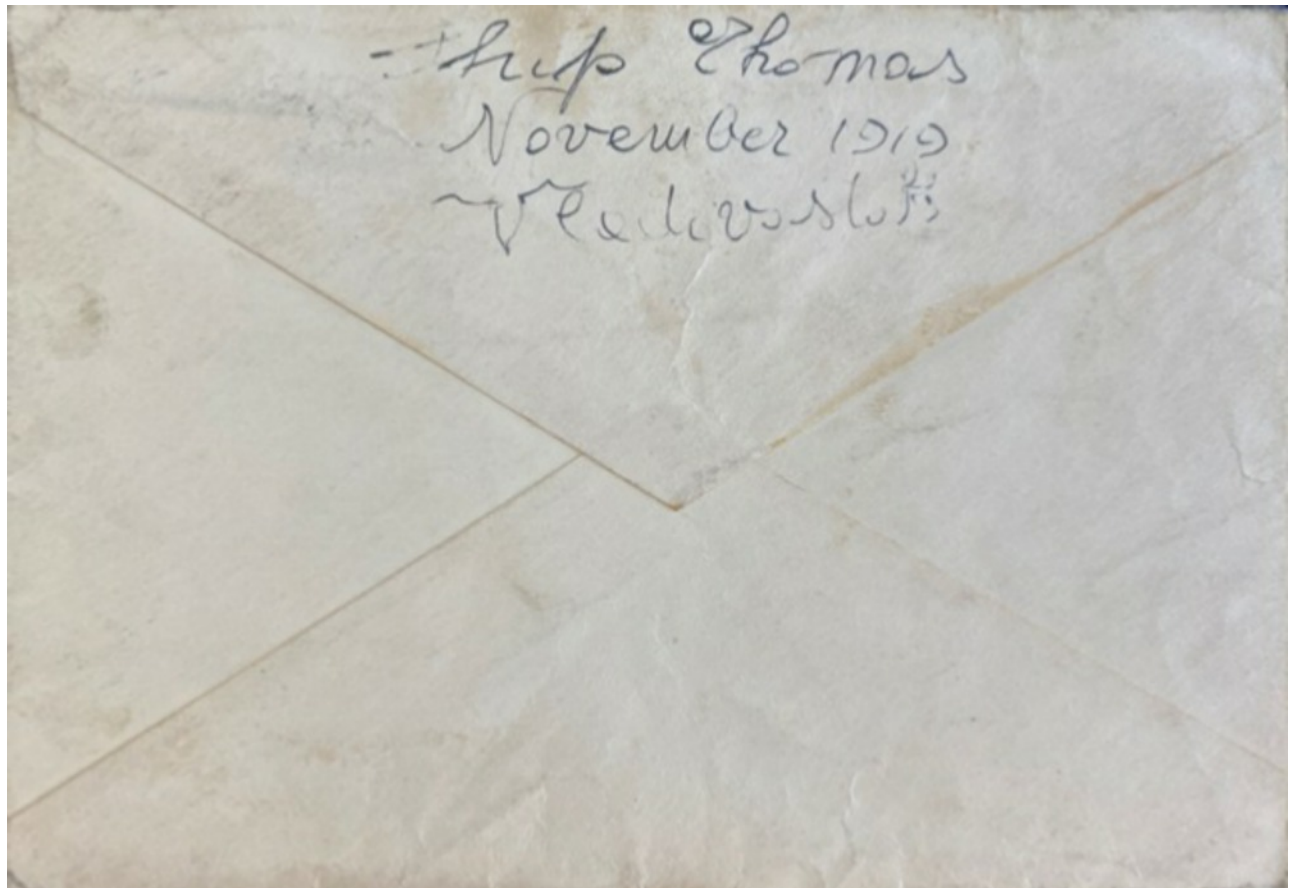
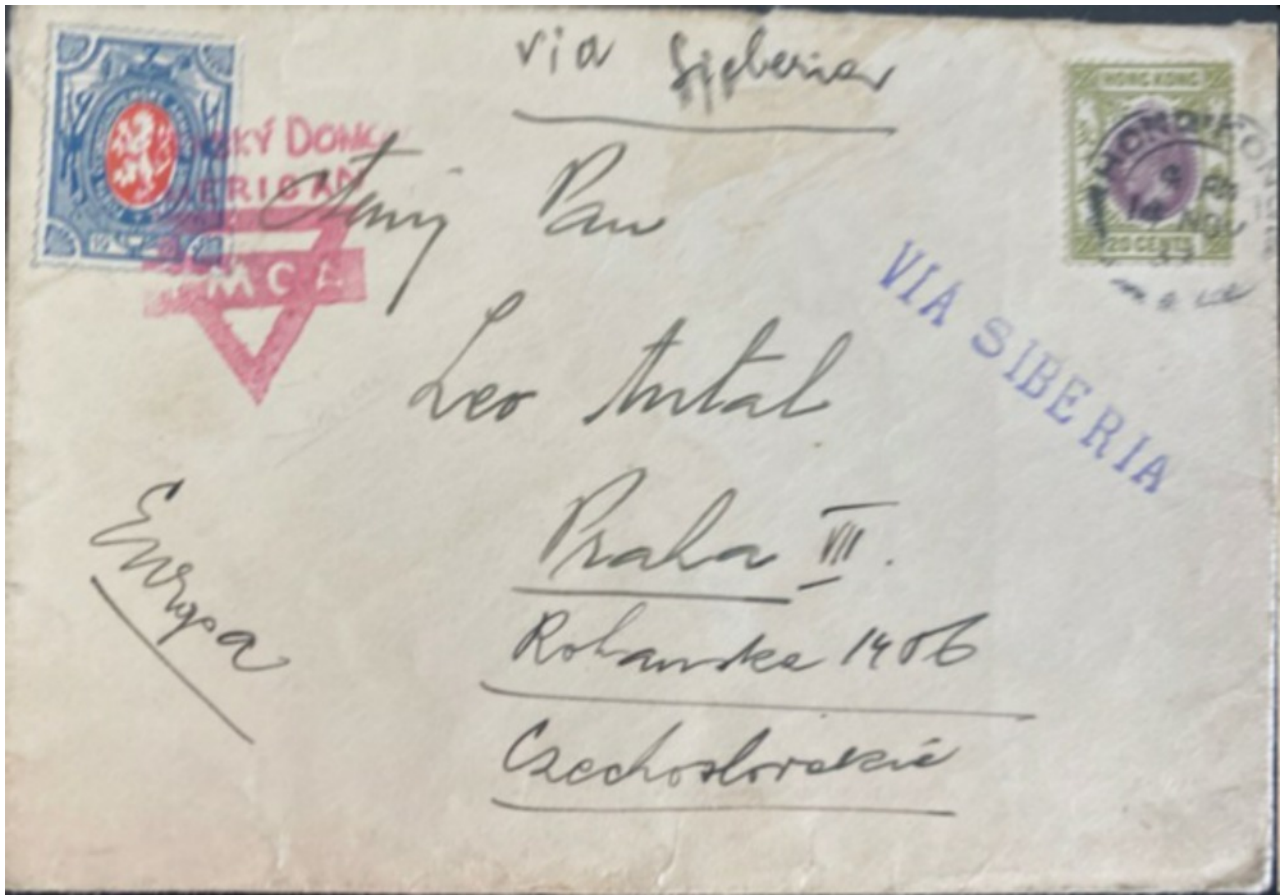
Mystery Cinderella

Peter Pugh writes: I'm trying to work out a difficult subject – the Czech Legion in Siberia 1919. I have attached a copy of the front and back of the cover which was described by the seller as 1919 Czech Legion Russia Censored Cover to Czechoslovakia Via Hong Kong (see next page). My take on this is slightly different. I am sure this cover was posted from Hong Kong 14 November 1919. The cachet VIA SIBERIA indicates that it probably left Hong Kong on 19 November 1919 by the *RMS Empress of Asia* bound for Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe. From there the mail would be sent north by rail via Nanking, Pukow, Tientsin, Mukden, and Changchun to Harbin. The Czech Legion would then take control of the mail for onward delivery to Vladivostok.

I think it was there that the Czech stamp was applied and cancelled with the VOJENSKY DOMOV [*military home*] | AMERICAN | YMCA. It left there on the *USAT Thomas* (see reverse of cover) via Kobe-Shanghai-Colombo-Suez-Trieste then via rail to Prague. The *USAT Thomas* sailed from San Francisco 16 October 1919 with Company E of the US 27th Infantry Regiment bound for Vladivostok, Siberia and arrived 11 November 1919. On 10 March 1920 the Regiment departed Vladivostok once again on the *USAT Thomas* and arrived in Manila on 17 March 1920.

The publication *The Field Post of the Czechoslovak and Allied Forces in Russia 1918-1920* lists all the ships that carried the Legion's mail home but without dates!! What I'm hoping for is that someone in your society can help with these dates which could prove or completely disprove everything I have just written.

Note: *USAT Thomas* – US Army Transport Ship.



Colour Changes in the Allegories Issues

Yvonne Wheatley

I have always been interested in the reason why two denominations of the Dove and one of the Chainbreaker underwent colour changes. The usual reason given for such a change was the postal system's adherence to the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) colour code regulations. As Czechoslovakia had joined the UPU on 18 May 1920, the stamps should have been issued in the appropriate colours from the start.

Part 1: The Chainbreaker Colour Change

The Chainbreaker denomination in question is the 50 haler which the authorities changed from red to green. I had never found any reference in the literature to this change, that is, until I read 'Liberated Republic 50 Haler – Both Colours' by Chudoba and Rákosník, a series begun in *Filatelie* in August 2020.

The authors stated:

Beginning on 1 January 1922, the Madrid Treaty of the UPU came into force and defined that a green stamp will be intended for payment of the domestic postcard rate.

This seemed to make sense, but wait a minute: the UPU colour schemes are *related to foreign mail only* – so it could not make regulations relating to domestic operations for its members. This confusing remark by the article's authors prompted me to delve further into the subject.

I knew that on 8 February 1879, following the 1878 Congress of Paris, colour coding was introduced. To find more information I turned to Gough's *The Postal History of the UPU Volumes 1 and 2: The Postal Card Worldwide*. It said the colour red was assigned to postal cards sent abroad because it was already the colour in use for the 10 gold centimes Base Rate – which happened to be the cost for sending postcards within the UPU. That is, UPU colours were related to a *monetary equivalent value*, not to the class of service. At the same time green represented the Base Rate for 5 gold centimes – which happened to be the rate for printed matter sent abroad. It also happened to be the rate for domestic postcards. It was not until the Congress of Madrid in 1920 that the UPU stopped associating colour with equivalent value and began relating it to class of service.

While delegates were keen to use green for domestic postcards because it permitted clerks to quickly determine the proper franking had been affixed, there were never any colour schemes presented by the UPU for domestic mail. Perhaps this wide but unofficial use by UPU members of green for domestic postcards led to Chudoba and Rákosník's confusion.

The 50 haler Chainbreaker, issued in red on 17 September 1920, was valid until 31 January 1923. The denomination was released in green on 23 January 1922 and remained valid until 15 January 1926. Both colours were valid concurrently for slightly more than a year.



Fig. 1: Domestic Postcard with 50 Haler Red Franking.
Postcard sent from Orlová to Smrčná nad Sázavou on 4 January 1922.

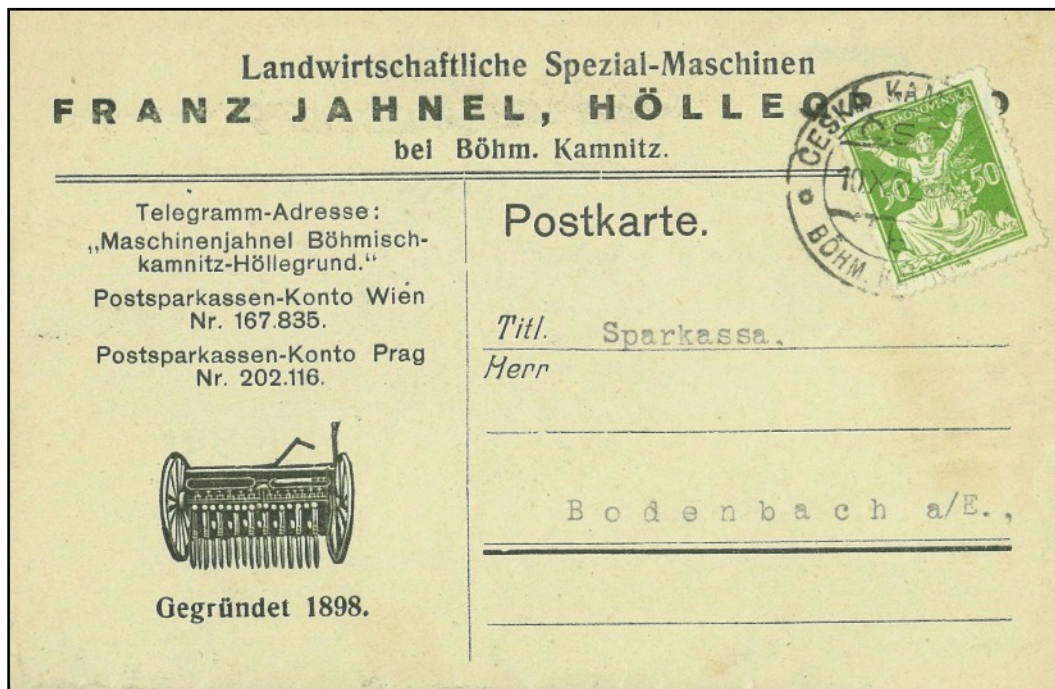


Fig. 2: Domestic Postcard with 50 Haler Green Franking.
Postcard sent from Böhmischkamnitz to Bodenbach on 10 October 1922.

The foreign postcard rate was 50 haler from 1 August 1920 to 31 December 1921. Thus, issuing the stamp in red on 17 September 1920 complied with the UPU colour code in force at that time.

The UPU colour code for foreign printed matter was green, so the 50 haler green also met this regulation and paid for that service for the entire duration of its validity. However, the 50 haler red, while valid for part of the same period, did not meet the UPU colour code for foreign printed matter.

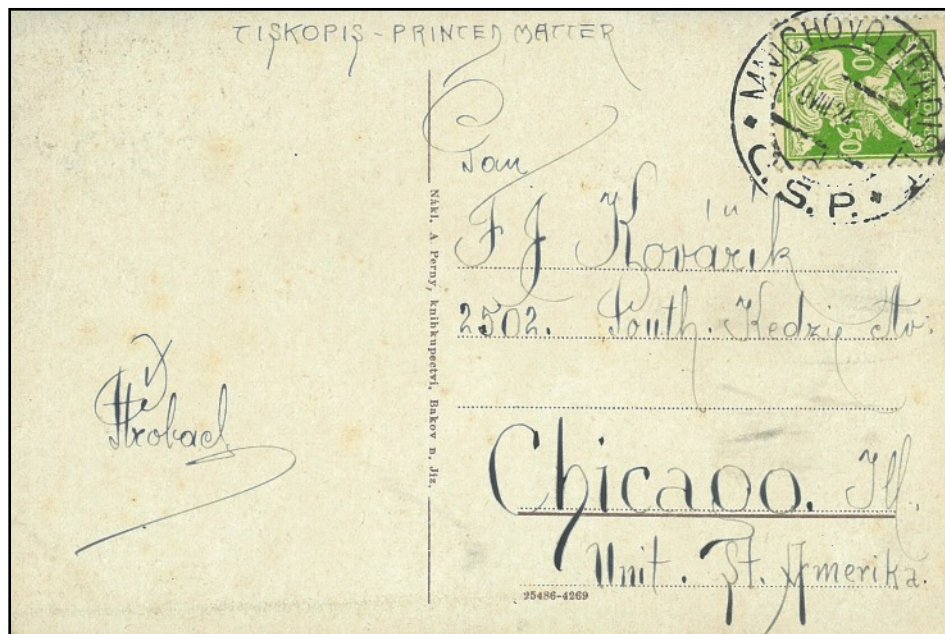


Fig. 3: Foreign Printed Matter with 50 Haler Green Franking.
Printed matter sent from Mníchovo Hradiště to Chicago on 9 August 1924.

Commencing 1 January 1922 the foreign postcard rate escalated to 150 haler. A 150 haler Chainbreaker stamp was issued on 10 April 1922 in the correct UPU colour of red. It was valid until 14 February 1923.

It must have been confusing to have two stamps with two different denominations in the same design and colour – a 50 haler for domestic and a 150 haler for foreign postcards. Postal stationery cards were imprinted 50 haler in green for the domestic rate and 150 haler in red for the foreign rate. To prevent loss of revenue through foreign postcards bearing a 50 haler red stamp – which only paid the domestic rate – it would have been prudent to demonetize the red stamp as soon as the colour was changed to green on 23 January 1922. One must wonder why both colours were valid for slightly more than a year.

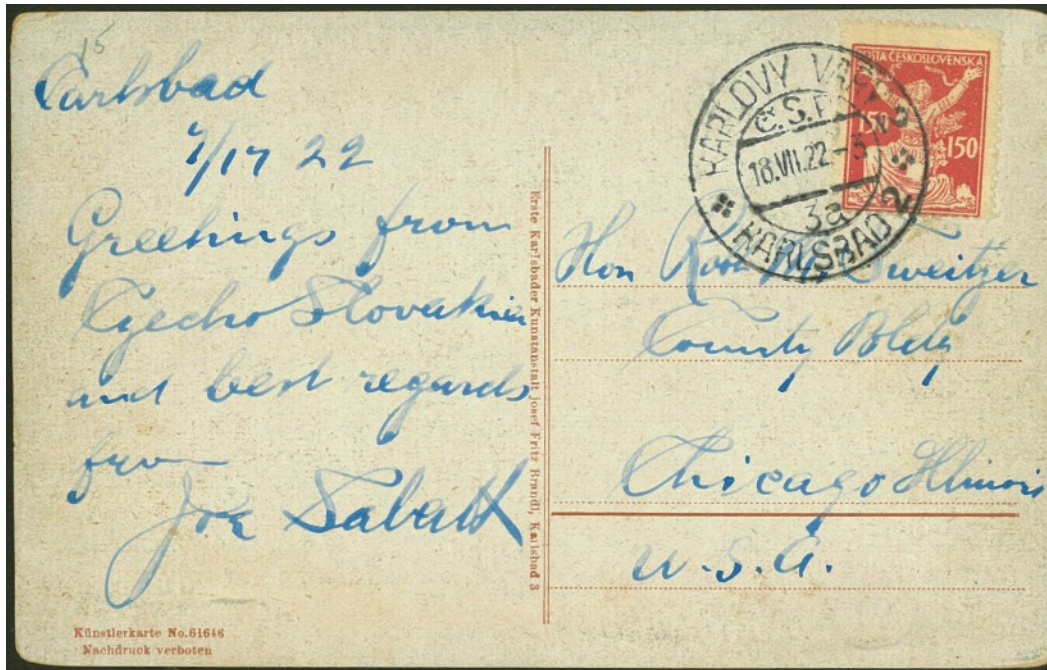


Fig. 4: Foreign Postcard with 150 Haler Red Franking
Postcard sent from Karlovy Vary to Chicago on 18 July 1922.

Part 2: The Dove Colour Changes

The UPU Madrid Treaty came into force on 1 January 1922. The colour coding changed to represent not the monetary value of the service but the first unit of weight for each service. Thus, blue for letters, red for postcards and postal cards, and green for printed matter.

I next applied this code to the Dove design's colour changes. The 5 haler blue Dove was issued on 1 June 1920 and was demonetized on 30 April 1921. Its purpose was to pay the domestic printed matter rate which lasted until 31 July 1920 – just 61 days.

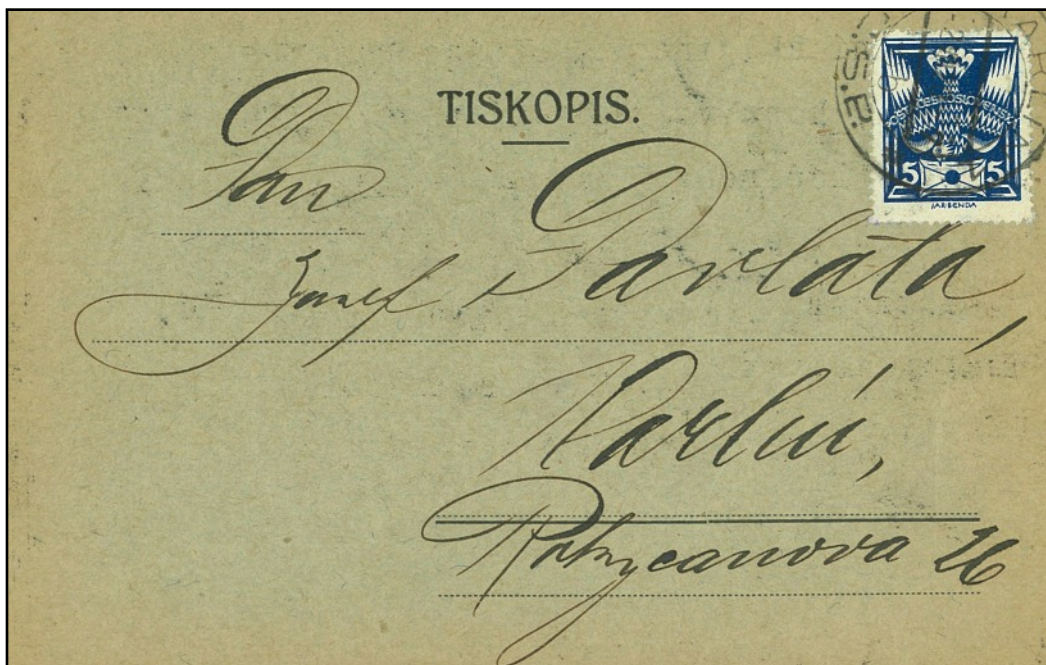


Fig. 5. Domestic Printed Matter with 5 Haler Blue Franking.
Printed matter sent within Karlin on 2 July 1920.

From 1 January 1922 the 5 haler blue could be used for the concessionary domestic rate for the blind up to 100 g. It could also be used on District Court Reply Cards (see *Czechout* March 2015 p. 8 for details).



Fig. 6: Concessionary Domestic Rate for the Blind with 5 Haler Blue Franking.
Sent from Vysočany to Nymburk on 1 December 1927 with address in raised lettering using the conventional alphabet.



Fig. 7: District Court Reply Card with 5 Haler Blue Franking.
Sent from Cukmantl ve Slezsku | Zuckmantel Schles. [now Zlaté Hory] to the court with receipt stamp dated 13 June 1921.

As blue was reserved for foreign letters under the UPU code it is likely that was the reason for the colour change to violet on 3 January 1921; the 5 haler blue was withdrawn on 30 April 1921. An unexpected re-issue

of the 5 haler blue was announced in the Ministry of Post and Telegraph *Bulletin* 45 dated 22 April 1925. Its second release occurred on 1 May 1926. The violet version remained valid but was withdrawn 5 August 1928; the blue 5 haler remained valid until 15 March 1932.



Fig. 8: Domestic Postcard (50 Haler Rate) with Concurrent Blue and a Violet 5 Haler Franking.

The postal clerk handling this card on 29 June 1926 did not realize the 5 haler blue had been re-issued, especially as the 5 haler violet was also present. The office of dispatch indicated the 5 haler blue stamp was invalid and marked the card T 10. On arrival at Brno a 10 haler postage due stamp was applied. The addressee refused to pay and endorsed the card to the effect that the 5 haler blue was valid. The post office removed the postage due stamp, cancelled the charge, then redelivered the card.

In actual fact the colour blue should have been used for the foreign letter rate which became 125 haler from 1 August 1920. No stamp in the Allegories issue was released with a 125 haler denomination [but the 125 haler TGM 1920, released in blue on 23 September, met the UPU requirement]. On 1 January 1922 the foreign letter rate increased to 250 haler. While there was a 250 haler Chainbreaker issued on 15 October 1920, its colour was green, not blue. This was odd as green should have been reserved for the foreign printed matter rate.

The last of the Allegories issue to change colour was the green 10 haler Dove, valid from 1 June 1920 to 30 April 1921. It was replaced by the 10 haler Dove in olive on 23 November 1920, so once again a denomination co-existed in two colours.



Fig. 9: Domestic Printed Matter with 10 Haler Green Franking. Sent within Prague on 20 October 1920 (reduced in size 20%).



Fig. 10: Domestic Printed Matter with 10 Haler Olive Franking.
Sent from Prague to Brno on 18 September 1921 (reduced in size 20%).

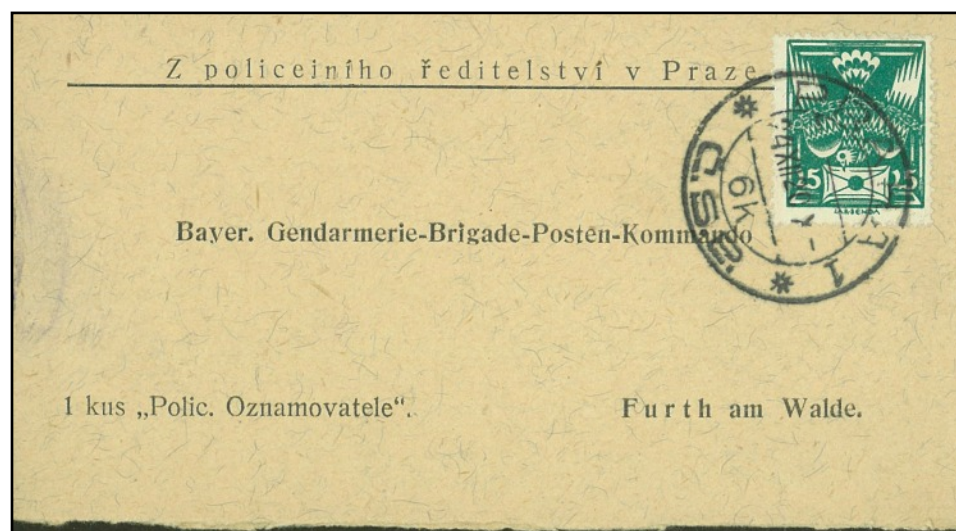


Fig. 11: Foreign Printed Matter with 25 Haler Green Franking.
Sent from Prague to Furth am Walde, Germany on 24 December 1920.
(Germany had a concessionary rate; 10 haler would have sufficed.)

However, the 25 haler Dove was the same colour green as the 10 haler. This must have caused confusion – two denominations in the same colour and design – so no doubt that was the reason for the change from green to olive. As the UPU colour coding was intended for foreign mail, the choice of whether the 10 or the 25 haler was to change colour favoured complying with the UPU's foreign mail colour. Since the 25 haler paid the fee for foreign printed matter from 1 September 1920 to 31 December 1921 its green colour complied with the code and the 10 haler was changed.

It appears that in general there was some compliance with the UPU colour code but it was not applied to all services. When the colours were changed for the 50 haler Chainbreaker and the 10 haler Dove, the effort was negated by the former colour remaining valid concurrently with the new colour for long periods. One may ask: if the 5 haler was changed to violet to avoid using blue for a non-confirming service, why was it changed back to blue? If anyone can add any information, I will be pleased to hear from them at treasurer@cpsgb.org

Chudoba, J and Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic in Both Colours, *Filatelie*, 8/20.

Gough. *The Postal History of the UPU: The Postal Card Worldwide*, vols. 1 and 2, 2019, pp. 469, 629, 842.

Tovačovský et al. *Czechoslovak Letter Mail 1918-1939*, CPSGB Monograph 33, 2020.

Post World War II Czechoslovak Airmail (Part 1)

Reg Hounsell

Preface

Most Czechoslovakia airmail collectors would expect to start their post-war collection, just like me, with the airmail stamp set issued in June 1946. But once modern airmail collecting regained popularity, more items have come to market. Amongst the increasing airmail postal history items for sale can be found pre-June 1946 dated covers that help to illustrate the recovery of postal services and air routes as World War II came to an end. Sadly this airmail would have been carried by foreign companies. The pre-war Czech companies CLS and CSA had been engulfed by German DLH. The Škoda Works, a large armaments company, had had a large interest in CLS but the airline was never resurrected. CSA, with government financial help, resumed limited services on 1 March 1946 with a Prague-Brno-Bratislava route and then international services to Paris and Zurich. By the end of 1947 most European capitals were enjoying regular schedules.

Resumption of Airmail Services in 1945 and 1946

World War II put a huge brake on what had been in the late 1930s a rapid development of air services, particularly in Europe and the Far East. Routes throughout Europe were shortened, or curtailed. BOAC continued its southern Africa route. Pan American Airways continued and improved their North Atlantic service from Lisbon to New York via the Azores and Caribbean, where connections were made with South American services. Many national sponsored airlines and other services struggled to keep going, either losing most aircraft and staff to occupation forces, left in foreign airfields, or destroyed. Some aircrews and planes flew to either neutral countries or to the Allies' countries.

In late 1944, as occupied countries such as Holland were freed, some European flying services did resume, but private and company mail was rarely flown. For most countries, it was only after the armistice that private state-sponsored companies could resume routes. Being neutral, Swissair had run some services during World War II, but then stopped, not resuming until 30 July 1945. ABA (Sweden) ran night services from Stockholm to Berlin, Moscow, and London until 1 April 1945, then resumed on 3 July that year. An Oslo, Prestwick, and Paris service began on 10 May 1945. Regular cross-Channel services between London and Paris were started on 11 October 1945 by the war-time French air transport organization (later Air France).

One important effect of the war was a huge improvement in planes and navigational equipment. Airfields had been enlarged and all-weather concrete runways laid, allowing bigger and heavier planes to land. Pilots were better technically trained, more experienced, and used to longer flight journeys.

In 1945 and 1946, second-hand converted bombers and modern civilian planes were quickly purchased by National and State recognised airlines (flag carriers), which rapidly led to more regular regional route networks across Europe and some international air services. In Europe this was particularly helped by 'pool sharing' by some companies on many routes, similar to the 1923-1938 period.

Airmail from Czechoslovakia was scarce before 1946. There is a need to be aware of best endeavours by the postal administration – not guaranteeing to the sender that the item would be flown on any leg of the journey. Infrequency of some air routes meant that mail items were only flown if air transport could improve delivery times. Recovering airline companies couldn't always provide suitable load and/or passenger carrying planes on some scheduled and regular services. Problems with weather, aircraft, and considerable damage to road and rail transport did mean that some, perhaps many, intended airmail items although correctly paid in valid stamps went surface or part surface/part air, to their destinations. When the postal authorities introduced *VMP 12*, published in Prague 28 July 1945, they confirmed that by Presidential decree, following unification of customs law in the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic on 16 July, the German-Reich postal customs bulletin published in 1940 ceased to be valid for postal services. However, letter and postcard rates for domestic and foreign services remained the same as in Bohemia & Moravia as well as pre-war rates until 1 December 1945.

Table 1a: Foreign Surface Rates (in Kč)

Period		Letter		Postcard	Registered	Express
From	To	First 20 g	+ 20 g			
	30/11/45	2.50	1.50	1.50	B&M: 3.00 Slovakia: 3.50	No Service
1/12/45	31/12/47	4.00	2.40	2.40	8.00	8.00
1/1/48	31/5/53	5.00	3.00	3.00		

Table 1b: Concessionary Rates to Austria (in Kč)

Period		Letter		Postcard	Registered	Express
From	To	First 20 g	+ 20 g			
1946	31/12/47	3.00	1.80	1.80	8.00	8.00
1/1/48	31/5/53	3.80	2.30	2.30		

Airmail Fees

For the Europe airmail fee, the weight includes the weight of postage stamps and service stickers, as well as the weight of any other labels, etc. Shipments must be marked with an air-plane sticker or stamped *Par Avion*. Like the First Republic period, the airmail fee was in addition to the surface fee.

Table 2: Airmail Surcharges Added to Surface Rates (VMP 12)

From	To	Fee in Kč	Notes
July 1945	30/11/45	1.00	Switzerland (10 g)
		6.00	North and Central America and West Indies [a]
		8.00	South America [b]
		1.00	Africa [c]
		4.50	Western Africa
		2.50	Libya and Egypt
		6.50	Southern Africa [d]
		2.50	Asia [e]
1/12/45	13/12/46	1.50	Europe – each 10 g
		12.00	North and Central America [a]
		15.50	South America [b]
13/4/46	31/12/47	7.50	South America [b] (each 5 g)
1/1/47	31/12/47	1.50	Europe – each 10 g
		5.00	North America [a]
		7.50	South and Central America

- [a] **North America:** United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, Bahamas.
Central America: Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, West Indies, plus other British, US and French Caribbean Islands.
- [b] **South America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, Ecuador and British, Dutch & French Guyana, Paraguay, Venezuela, Columbia.
- [c] **Africa:** Algeria, French Morocco, and Tunis only.
- [d] **Southern Africa:** Angola, Bechuanaland, Ethiopia, Union of South Africa, South West Africa, Kenya, Belgian Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia, British Somaliland, Sudan, Tanganyika, Uganda, Zanzibar.
- [e] **Asia:** Syria and Lebanon (Levant), Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Trans-Jordan.

The resumption of airmail services to Switzerland also had a 10 g rate and maximum weight applied. The service ran daily, except Sunday. The route was over France, Great Britain, and Northern Ireland airmail was charged at 1.00 Kč for 20 g. It is important to note that other than Europe the air fee was per 5 g.

VMP 12 also stated that shipments must be submitted at the post office counters with the sender's address. Letters were to be handed in open. The post offices will verify the sender's identity. Interesting is that mail belonging to German and Hungarian nationalities and persons of equal status are not accepted for transport.

Airmail items for the above countries are inserted in special containers at the Prague 7 airmail post office. They will be flown from Prague by aircraft thus:

To America route: Prague-Paris-Foynes-New York; and from there by domestic American routes;

To Africa and countries in the Middle East route: Prague-Paris-Marseille; and from there by French and British air routes.

Between 1/12/45 and 10/2/46, mail was only flown where possible. Between 11/2/46 and June 1947, only letters and postcards were accepted as airmail to Switzerland.

The American Connection 1945

The United States liberation forces that entered Czechoslovakian territory were prevented from moving on to Prague by political agreement amongst the Allies. Until they withdrew, mail home from soldiers was transferred

through the US Army Post Office division (APO) stationed at Wallern near the German/Austrian border, now Volary in Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, then flown to the US.



Example of American APO CDS 26 (34 mm), dated AUG 2 1945 and addressed to New York. 6 cent airmail stamp applied.

Historical note: Volary is the place where up to 350 survivors of the original 1,100 women sent on the German 'Volary Death March' from Upper Silesia (106 days in the winter of early 1945) were liberated by the American Army on 5 March 1945.



Registered envelope from Horní Černošice (5 km south-west of Prague) by air to the US on 5/9/45. On reverse (see next page) are the New York and Bayville oval registration arrival cancels, both dated SEP 14 1945. Note the German expurgated Horní Černošice 5.IX.45 | c. c.d.s. cancelling stamps - three 5K front & five 50 h on rear. Unknown, returned, surface, resulting in arrival CDS, an expurgated Horní Černošice 17.1.46 | b.



Surface fee: 2.50
 Registration: 3.00
 Air fee (5-10 g) 12.00
 Franking (front and back) 17.50 K.

National Air Show 1946 (Letecký Den)

On 15 September 1946 a one-day air show was held at Prague Ruzyně airport. Over 300,000 people attended. For this event an Autopost bus with a special illustrated canceller was available on the day for posting mail.



Local, not Flown

Letter posted from the Prague Air Show on 15.IX.1946. Two 1.20 Kč Masaryk stamps paying the 2.40 Kč internal surface rate and cancelled by a special LETECKÝ DEN CDS.

An Old Mystery Solved by a New Mystery

Mark Wilson

In an article for the *Specialist* (Summer 2013, page 8) about the Mucha newspaper stamps I asked: *When creating the 1934 OT overprints, why did they choose to print new four-pane sheets rather than using existing stocks for the overprint?* I repeated the same question in *Czechout* (June 2013, page 11) in another version of the same article. Until now I had not found an answer, but today, by quite a circuitous route, it revealed itself to me. To explain.

I recently completed a task I began several years ago – the writing of plating manuals for all three denominations of the 1919 express (spěšné) stamps. The final instalment in the series describes the two plates of the issue's 10 haler stamps. Although I had completed the 2 and 5 haler plating manuals some time ago, I had put off dealing with the 10 haler because I had been unable to find a copy of its Plate II that had not received a 1926 provisional newspaper overprint – the word **NOVINY**. I finally decided I had no choice but to use the overprinted Plate II pane to illustrate the 10 haler book, a decision that led directly to this article.

As I wrote up the description of Plate II flaws, I was struck by something very odd near Position 30. At the lower right edge of the stamp – the rightmost stamp in the pane's third row – I noticed a hole punched in the pane. At first I thought someone had damaged the sheet. But when I looked for an undamaged stamp on the other three panes in my possession, I discovered exactly the same situation: a hole on or near the lower right corner of every Position 30 stamp (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Punctured Express Stamps.

Figure 1: On three different panes a hole appeared at the lower right corner of Position 30.

The mysterious presence of these holes provoked my curiosity. Along with the three complete panes I also owned the bottom half of another. I decided to see if there were holes elsewhere on these pieces. Sure enough, on each another hole appeared in the bottom row of stamps. But the four new holes were not placed as regularly as had been the case with Position 30. Two of the stamps had a hole punched, just like Position 30, in the lower right hand corner of Position 93 – the third stamp in the bottom row (Figure 2). However, for the other two panes the holes were in very different locations. One had a hole in the lower right corner of Position 92 – the second stamp in the bottom row – and the other in the lower *left* corner of Position 93 (Figure 3).



Figure 2: Punctured Express Stamps.

Figure 2: Position 93, in the lower right.



Figure 3: Punctured Express Stamps.

Figure 3: Position 92, in the lower right; Position 93, lower left.

In search of an answer I first looked at the description of the 1926 **NOVINY** overprint in *Monografie IV*, pages 199-202. The holes were not mentioned. The *Monografie* also reported that the overprint plate was archived by the Postal Museum. I thought if the holes were related to the plates, by examining them I might find the answer. Unfortunately, as I am writing this article at the height of the pandemic, the Museum is closed, so I could not ask.

Instead, I went back to my album of newspaper stamps to examine a few other panes. I found a large block, the left half of a pane of express stamps overprinted **SO 1920**. I wondered if perhaps the holes were an artefact of overprinting and carefully examined the stamps. I found no holes in the bottom row of stamps or anywhere else. On an impulse I turned the half-pane over to look at the gummed side. Imagine my surprise when I immediately saw that the paper had been punctured, not near a stamp, but in the decimal point of the tally number under Position 91. (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Punctured SO 1920 Express Stamp.
Hole located in the decimal point!

Now I was truly curious. What were these holes and why had I not noticed or heard of them before today? Thinking about what I had found so far, I decided to discard my theory that the holes might be related to the overprint plates. After all, their placement in three different positions in the bottom row of the express **NOVINY** overprints would have required at least three overprint plates. I was confident that fewer than three overprint plates had been used. There had to be something else at work.

I decided to ask to a Czech expert I had worked with on other projects. I emailed my question about the holes. The first expert asked another, who in turn asked another. Eventually four Czech experts became involved. The first three were unaware of the punched holes but the fourth expert had an answer. He was interested in the 1925 newspaper surcharge overprint that preceded the 1926 release that launched my particular mystery.

He quoted *Monografie IV*, page 197 (only two pages earlier than the **NOVINY** section I looked at that had given me no useful information at all). I translated his quote as:

To aid in the overprinting of 100-stamp panes [the printer] used pins which naturally defaced the impacted stamps. These puncture points may be found in the bottom row of stamps and alongside the right edge of the pane next to Positions 20 or 30.

The particular stamps being described by the *Monografie* are illustrated in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Punctured 1925 Newspaper Overprint.
Left – Positions 30 and 93 of the 2 haler surcharged.
Right – Position 30 and 93 of the 6 haler surcharged.

Since I had now found these holes in stamps overprinted and surcharged for newspaper use in 1925 and 1926, as well as in an express stamp overprinted **SO 1920** (Figure 4), I began to suspect that all of the overprinted stamps of the period had these holes. I started to investigate and was amazed by what I found.

I began with **SO 1920** stamps. I found, just as in Figure 4, most of the stamps had punctured decimal points in the tally numbers below Positions 91 and 100 (Figure 6, left and centre). An exception was the first postage due issue where the holes were located on the left side of Positions 1 and 91 (Figure 6, far right side).



Figure 6: Punctured SO 1920 Stamps.
Some were punctured at the left and right sides of the bottom of the pane.
Left – 1 haler Hradčany, Positions 91 and 100.
Centre – 6 haler newspaper stamps, Positions 91 and 100.
Some were punctured at the top and bottom of the pane's left side.
Right – 5 haler postage due stamps, Positions 1 and 91.

I have in my collection a couple of panes from the 1922 provisional postage due issue consisting of overprinted and surcharged Hradčany stamps. Sure enough, these also had holes punched in them. For the overprinted 10 on 3 haler Hradčany overprint the holes were located at Positions 20 and 93, and for the 60 on 50 haler they were at Positions 30 and 93 (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Punctured 1922 Provisional Postage Due Stamps.

By now I was convinced that the printer had set up some sort of a single-pane printing contraption with pins to align the panes for overprinting. Because the various issues and their denominations have holes in different places, it seems the contraption was set up anew as each was overprinted. What this device looked like or how it was used escapes me.

I do suspect it was much like the machines used to perforate panes. For that process pins were attached to independent arms which could be pressed against a pane to hold it in place. (For a complete description of the perforating process and those machines, see pages 12-15 in *The Dove Issue*. The accurate punctures in the decimal points of the **SO 1920** stamps suggest the pins entered from above the pane and that the operator could see the decimal point on the tally number as the pins descended.

Obviously, unlike perforating multiple panes simultaneously, only one pane could be overprinted at a time, so some means of removing an imprinted pane had to be used. Does anyone have an idea as to how such a device would have been configured? I am completely baffled.

However the overprint was carried out, it must have been this complex and labour intensive process that finally provided the answer to my 2013 question, the one I raised in the first paragraph: *Why did the firm produce brand-new four-pane sheets of stamps for the 1934 OT overprint when there were undoubtedly plenty of single panes of the same stamps at hand?*

Clearly the printers wanted to avoid the extensive labour they had experienced in overprinting the single panes of the issues just described. It was just easier and cheaper to print completely new four-pane sheets of stamps that could be overprinted in a standard four-pane printing press forme.

One might ask why so little has been said about the holes in the literature since once noticed they are quite prominent. I think the answer is rather simple.

First, the most detailed descriptions of stamps are in plating manuals. Just as I was reluctant to use an overprinted pane in my 10 haler study, most other authors of plating guides avoid using overprinted stamps as well. The holes just did not come to the attention of most experts and collectors.

Second, and this is likely even more to the point: the stamps are ill-suited as collection pieces. Think of it: they are by definition disfigured and any ten-year old could easily counterfeit them.

Finally, even after noticing them, why would anyone, unless they were as mystified as I, spend any time thinking, never mind writing, about these holes?

References

Mark Wilson. *Plating Guide for the Two Plates of the 10 Haler with Details of the Provisional Newspaper Overprint*. CPSGB On-Demand Publication 132 (2020).

Jan Karásek et al., *Monografie československých známek*, Díl 4, Praha (1971).

Jiří Kašpar, Jaroslav Moravec, Martin Kašpar. *The Dove Issue: A Handbook for Collectors of Stamps and Covers*, with additional illustrations and translation by Mark Wilson. CPSGB monograph 32 (2019).

This article originally appeared in The Specialist and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the editor. The holes themselves were incidentally mentioned in the Czechout book review of the plating guide listed above (December 2020, pp. 20-21).

Book Reviews

Titles of Translations from the *Monografie* :Volumes II and IV

The Dove (Holubice). Translated by Vladimír J Kralíček (266 pages).

Liberated Republic. Jan Karásek, Antonin Michele, and Bohuslav Svoboda (28 pages).

Agriculture and Science Issues of 1920 and 1923, Including Provisional Postage Due Issue 1926 and Provisional Airmail Issue 1922. Edited by Jan Karásek (24 pages, b&w, colour illustrations).

Mucha Newspaper Issue. Jan Karásek et al. (26 pages).

Newspaper Stamps 1925-1926. Jan Karásek (3 pages).

1920 Postage Dues. Jan Karásek (39 pages).

1928 Postage Dues. Jan Karásek ((20 pages).

The Express Stamps. Jan Karásek et al. (26 pages)

Personal Delivery Stamps 1937. Jan Karásek et al. (13 pages).

Critique of the *Monografie*'s 1919 Postage Due Essay.

Corrections to Monografie Díl 4: 1919 Postage Due Issue. Johan Sevenhuijsen (20 pages, b&w, colour).

Review of the Above Material

All of the books are in A4 format. Except where indicated otherwise they have been translated by Mark Wilson and have b&w illustrations. The *Corrections to Monografie Díl 4* is a new title by its author.

The books are laid out as closely to the original works as possible; some use the same page numbering. All illustrations have retained their original number in order to support references to the *Monografie* found in other books and articles.

The information in *The Liberated Republic* is more of historical than practical interest. That said, much can be gleaned from this work that made it worthy for translation, but other sources should be used to verify its information. For a more modern account of the issue readers are referred to the Society's on-demand publication, No. 146, *The Chainbreaker*.

The *Mucha Newspaper Issue* translation has been substantially reorganized and edited to arrive at, what the translator hopes, is a more useful general reference. Pages of plate flaws are missing and topics separated in the original have been brought together.

These books complete the translations of the majority of the text from *Monografie* volumes 1-4. There are earlier translations in this series. From volume 1 is the print-on-demand title *The Hradčany* (No. 101, reviewed on page 8 of the March 2016 *Czechout*). From volume 2 under the title *The Lost Issues* are essays about the 1919 Jubilee and Charity Issue (Legionářské); the Masaryk 1920; the Husita; and the Red Cross issue. The translations from volume 3 are included in *Masaryk, The Intaglio Issues*. Both of these latter books were reviewed in the June 2019 *Czechout* on page 23.

With all of this information now in English the first four volumes of the *Monografie* have become accessible to many more students of the First Republic's stamps. Mark Wilson has done a wonderful service for everyone who has ever wished they could read the books that form the foundations of Czechoslovak philately. However, some of the research published there has been disproved by later scholars. Our Society has published a number of monographs and print-on-demand titles updating and correcting this information – the majority written by our own members. Johan Sevenhuijsen has, in his *Corrections* title, updated and corrected some information.

With the exception of *The Hradčany* the translations from the *Monografie* are not for sale. They have been deposited in our Library to preserve Mark's translations for future research. Much of it is also available to be read on the Internet by clicking on the Publications button of the website www.czechout.org and selecting the Library menu button.

Yvonne Wheatley

Agriculture and Science Issues of 1920 and 1923

Including the sections
Provisional Postage Due Issue 1926
and
Provisional Air Mail Issue 1922

From
Monografie Československých známek
Volumes II and IV
Jan Karásek, Editor

Translated by
Mark Wilson FRPS

Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

1920 Postage Dues
(Doplatní známky 1919-1920)
Jan Karásek


Monografie Československých známek Díl IV
Pages 269 – 299



Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

1928 Postage Dues
(Doplatní známky 1928)
Jan Karásek

Monografie Československých známek Díl IV
Pages 326 – 361




Translated for
The Society for Czechoslovak Philately
by
Mark Wilson

Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

Personal Delivery Stamps 1937

Jan Karásek, Karel Bláha, Jan Frolík, František Zampach

Monografie Československých známek Díl IV
Pages 453 – 465




Translated for
The Society for Czechoslovak Philately
by
Mark Wilson

Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie, No. 7
Allegories I

The Dove
(Holubice)

Ing. J. Karásek, A. Michele, MUDr. B. Svoboda


Monografie Československých známek Díl II
Pages 186 – 266



Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

Newspaper Stamps 1925-1926
Jan Karásek

Monografie Československých známek Díl IV
Pages 196 – 198




Translated for

Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

Masaryk
The Intaglio Issues 1923-1926

Jan Karásek, František Zampach
Monografie Československých známek
Díl 3, pages 7-101




Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

Allegories III

Agriculture and Science
(Hospodářství a věda 1920)

Jan Karásek, Antonín Michele, Dr. Bohuslav Svoboda

Monografie Československých známek Díl II
Pages 362 – 369




Translated for
The Society for Czechoslovak Philately
by
Mark Wilson

Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

Agriculture and Science
(Hospodářství a věda 1923)

Jan Karásek, Antonín Michele, Dr. Bohuslav Svoboda

Monografie Československých známek Díl II
Pages 398 – 408




Czechoslovakian Postage Stamps of the First Republic
Essays from the Monografie

The Express Stamps
(Spěšné známky)

Jan Karásek, Jan Frolík, František Zampach
Stratopelk Zampach

Monografie Československých známek Díl IV
Pages 427 – 432



Translated for
The Society for Czechoslovak Philately
by
Mark Wilson

WINNERS
Windsor 1930
2021

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Essays from the Monografie

Mucha Newspaper Issue

Jan Karásek et al
Monografie Československých známek díl 4
Pages 64-130




Mark Wilson FRPS
Edwin Washington 2021

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Essays from the Monografie

Liberated Republic

Jan Karásek, Antonín Michele, Bohuslav Svoboda
Monografie Československých známek díl 2
Pages 267-300



Mark Wilson FRPS
Edwin Washington 2021

Hungary, 1919: Stamps and Forgeries by P Clark Souers (self-published). Illustrated (colour).

This book has recently been reviewed by one of our fellow societies, the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, so even if you have already read that review please continue reading as I will concentrate on the six pages that cover the *Pošta Československá* overprints on both Austrian and Hungarian stamps.

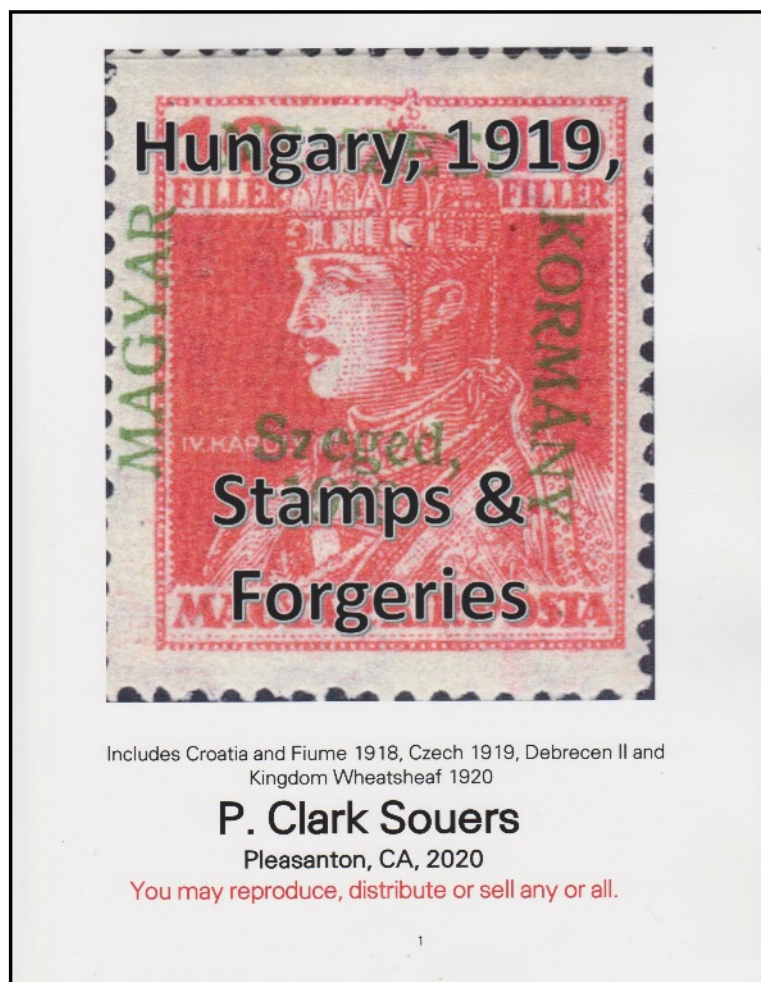
Copies of this publication can be found on eBay and on <https://www.buyhungarianstamps.com> (The Hungaria Stamp Exchange). The book has no ISBN and, as the front cover states, *you may reproduce, distribute or sell any or all*.

The author's approach is an interesting use of overlays. For the *Pošta* overprints, he shows a method of blocks showing the length of the text in the overprints as well as the angle. He explains how to get a good template on his second page, including hints on how to refine the exact detail. I would certainly agree with the author's assertion that it is difficult to distinguish between such small measurements as 0.3 mm and 0.4 mm, particularly as plates become worn and inking varies.



The section on the *Pošta* overprints refers to Roy Dehn's *Monograph* published by this Society. (If this topic is new to you, that monograph is an ideal place to start as it is in English. Other Czech language publications also cover this subject. Many are available from our Librarian). The book illustrates examples of the overprints on actual stamps, often using the overlay to identify genuine and forgeries.

A range of the key features are shown in magnified colour scans including the *chipped final 9*, alignment of the letters, and the position of the hacek over *S*. Many other texts on this subject merely show the overprint, so this is a pleasing innovation.



The Czech section ends with a short note about the ČeskoSlovenský Stát forgery. The text suggests that these were made for a short-lived Slovak Soviet Republic between 15 June and 7 July 1919. The illustrations are actually the Horner overprints which were copies of the Maneš overprints made in České Budějovce from October 1918 onwards. However, this is a small quibble that should not detract from the amount of research that has gone into this work.

In other sections the author analyses the number of genuine stamps and forgeries that he has recorded, concluding that the rarer stamps are more likely to be forged. However, that does not stop forgers, as only one of the author's twenty-one categories had no forgeries. His snapshot estimates 8% of the Austrian and 21% of the Hungarian are forgeries, so any collector of these issues would certainly gain from having a copy of this publication.

Peter Williams

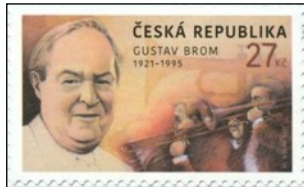


New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

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

19 May 2021

Personalities: Gustav Brom (POFIS 1119)



Gustav Brom (born Gustav Frkal in Velké Leváre, 1921-1995) was a jazz musician, big band leader, arranger, composer, clarinet player, and singer. He originally planned to be a building engineer and architect but in 1939 he was arrested by the Gestapo, narrowly escaping incarceration in a concentration camp. As a musician he used the pseudonym Brom, and later adopted it as his surname. In June 1940 he formed a Big Band which soon became one of the top bands of the time playing swing, jazz, and mainstream music. During the 1960s Brom and his band played for the State Theatre, Brno, plus Czechoslovak Radio and Television. They made many recordings in this period and also gave performances abroad in Manchester, Nürnberg, Warsaw, India, and Cuba. Brom was a natural-born jazz musician with personal charm and successfully led his band for 53 years. The stamp issue commemorates the centenary of his birth. The first day cover cancel has his facsimile signature. Today the Gustav Brom Big Band, led by Vladimír Vulovič, is a resident ensemble with Czech Radio.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (POFIS 1120)



Commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention signed in Ramsar, Iran on 21 February 1971. It is a treaty protecting wetlands of primary importance as waterfowl habitats and involves some 2396 wetlands in 170 countries. The Czech Republic has 14 areas which it protects and monitors. Wetlands cover a large number of habitats both natural and artificial with a wealth of biodiversity including rare flora and fauna. A number of signatory countries will issue stamps in 2021 centred on wetlands and the wildlife living there. The stamp depicts a black stork in its wetland habitat. The FDC cachet depicts a winding river wetland and the commemorative cancel theme is a flying grey heron.

9 June 2021

Czech Design: Bořek Šípek (POFIS 1121)



Bořek Šípek (1949-2016) was an artist, architect, designer, and university lecturer. He emigrated in 1968 studying architecture and philosophy in Germany before moving to Delft to complete his architectural studies. In the early 1970s he set up his own architecture and design studio *Alterego* but in 1989 formed a new Prague-based studio. He taught at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague from 1990 and the following year the *Ajeto* glassworks was established. From 1992 until 2002 he was the chief architect at Prague Castle restoring the castle interior and designing art works for his personal friend Václav Havel, the then Czech President. Other appointments included Professor of Architecture and Design at University of Industrial Design, Vienna from 1999 and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Architecture, University of Technology, Liberec 2005-2012 where he introduced Environmental Design as a new study. The stamp depicts one of his glass objects from Prague Castle while the FDC cachet shows a light fountain from Prague Castle. The stamps were issued in a sheetlet of four stamps in a block with blank margin surround.

Beauties of Our Country: Jezeří Château (POFIS 1122 and 1123, A1122)

Jezeří Chateau in the Krušné hory (Ore Mountains) overlooks the great North Bohemian coal basin. It was originally built as a Gothic castle in 1365 but was converted to a Renaissance chateau in 1549. The Lobkowitz family acquired it in 1623 but after a fire in 1649 redesigned it as an H-shaped building in the Baroque style with some 240 rooms, a large hall, and a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. With extensive grounds, including a game park, zoo, and Baroque ornamental garden with water features, the chateau was visited by many personalities of the day until the early 20th century. Ludwig van Beethoven's Eroica Symphony was first performed here. During the Second World War the chateau was used by the invading German Army to detain captured Allied senior officers and after the war nationalised and used as a Czech Army facility. The chateau fell into disrepair and was due for demolition in the 1980s. By this time the opencast brown coal mine had been extended and mechanised with the loss of the surrounding natural countryside. In 1988 a rebuilding project for the chateau began with plans for closing the coal mines and reforestation of the area with a large lake for leisure use. The two stamps are issued in a decorative miniature sheet format. The upper portion of the sheet shows a view of the Krušné hory today, the lower portion the mining activities of medieval miners and the text *UNESCO World Heritage Site*.

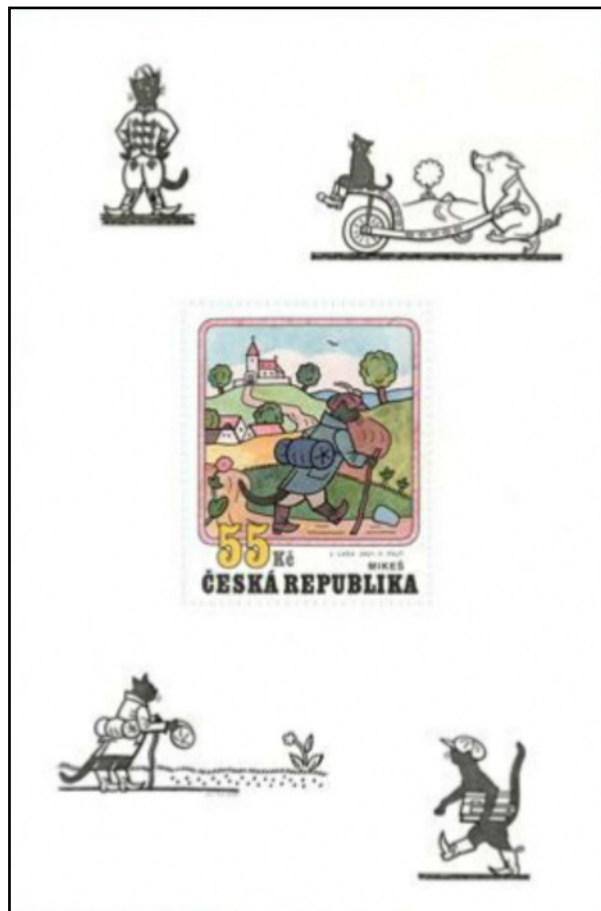


23 June 2021

Tom Cat Mikeš (Nico) (POFIS 1124)

The tom cat Mikeš was one of the main characters in a book of children's stories written and illustrated by Josef Lada (1887-1957). Mikeš is one of the animal friends of Joey, the local shoemaker's son. The stamp, issued in a miniature sheetlet, depicts this talking cat – fitted out with boots, jacket, and jaunty feathered hat – setting out from his home village on a journey of adventure. The margin of the sheetlet shows four different portraits of the cat during his wanderings.

Josef Lada was born in the village of Hrusice where his father was a cobbler. The stories of Mikeš are based on Lada's own experience of growing up in a small village and his move to Prague as an apprentice at the age of 14. After many adventures Mikeš returns to his home to be re-united with his friends. Lada's stories about animals and everyday life are full of fun, always have a happy ending and often a moral content.



The Kyjov Folk Festival (POFIS 1125)

The stamp depicts the Ride of the Kings, one of the main events of the annual Festival held in Kyjov, the capital of Moravian Slovakia (Slovácko) region. The Kyjov Festival is not based on any religious tradition. The first Festival in 1921 was organized by the local Sokol group to mark their 50th anniversary and to help preserve local customs and traditions – including the Ride of the Kings.

The Ride of the Kings originated as a summer solstice celebration dating back at least two centuries. There are many legends associated with the celebration but the most widely accepted is the flight of the Hungarian king Matthias Corvinus after he lost a battle to King George of Poděbrady. Matthias, without food and money, dressed as a woman. Disguising his voice by putting a rose in his mouth, he and his small retinue were obliged to beg food and shelter from villagers as they fled. During the Ride the king is represented by a young boy dressed in a girl's costume with a rose in his mouth riding a horse. He and his large retinue, all in costume with drawn sabres and banners, ride round the village begging for money.

This year the Festival, to be held in August, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first 1921 gathering with many folk song and dance groups, dulcimer ensembles, and brass bands from the region. The Festival concludes with a folk costume parade involving several thousand people.



A Reminder to All Members

Members of the Society are permitted to place small adverts in issues of *Czechout*. To learn about restrictions and how to place an advert, contact the Advertising Manager: advertising-manager@cpsgb.org.



New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

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

7 May 2021

Europa 2021: The Western Capercaillie (POFIS 741)



The western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) is a critically endangered species in Slovakia through loss of habitat and human activity. In the past it was hunted for sport and the table. The size of a turkey with a thick hooked beak, it prefers a solitary lifestyle in mixed open deciduous and coniferous forests that provides cover and shelter away from human activity. Mainly a vegetarian, it rakes the forest floor for berries, shoots, and buds. Its last surviving habitat in Slovakia is the Muránska Planina National Park, an area of 214 square km between central and eastern Slovakia in the Banská Bystrica region. The Park has been a noted scenic area since 1976 but was designated a National Park in 1997 to protect the flora and fauna and to manage tourism.



21 May 2021

150th Anniversary of the Observatory at Hurbanovo (POFIS 742)

Dr. Miklós Konkoly-Thege, a scientist, established a private observatory in 1871 to create a modern astronomical centre based on scientific observations. From this small beginning he eventually built a three-domed observatory focusing on solar observations. He classified and catalogued stellar objects and regularly publishing his findings. From 1899 the Ógyalla/Stará Dalá Observatory was administered by the state and continued the work of its founder. Several other observatories were founded across Hungary during this time. After 1918 the observatory was managed by the Czechoslovak state as its Centre of Astrophysics, was rebuilt, and equipped with telescope with a 60 cm diameter mirror. This telescope was used to make the first precise measurements of the newly discovered Pluto. Observations were suspended for some 25 years during World War II and the subsequent political changes. The telescope was moved to the Skalnaté Pleso Observatory and remained the largest in Czechoslovakia for the next 30 years. During the 1960s the Hurbanovo Observatory resumed its regional activities. Today it is the Slovak Central Observatory carrying out scientific and research activities mainly focused on solar observation. The stamp shows the Observatory buildings.



11 June 2021

Technical Monuments: The Salt Works, Prešov (POFIS 743)

The Saltworks were declared a National Cultural Monument in 1969 and today the complex is a museum showing the history of the Sol'ná Baňa area on the periphery of Prešov. In 1571 excavation started on the Leopold shaft, the oldest and deepest (155 m) in the area, through which brine was pumped, waste extracted, and was the main access and ventilator shaft for the miners. An animal-driven pump with housing was erected above the shaft in 1674. More shafts and buildings for processing, storage, and administration were erected over the years. A disaster in 1752 flooded the mine, closing the Leopold shaft, and ending the extraction of rock salt in the area. New methods using advanced technology changed the production process and the site became a large salt factory. The museum has preserved several of the original 17th century buildings, as depicted on the stamp, with many of the old hand tools and equipment on display to give a unique glimpse of pre-industrial salt mining methods (see also back cover).



30 June 2021

Nature Protection: The Demänovská Cave of Liberty, *Niphargus tatrensis* (POFIS 744)

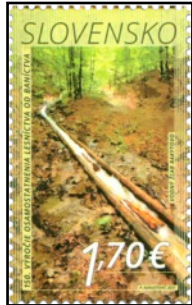
The stamp issue marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Demänovska Cave of Liberty near Liptovský Mikoláš by two young cave enthusiasts in August 1921. The cave was opened to the public in 1924 with its many fantastic stalagmites, stalactites and other cave formations of all shapes and sizes. Today 43 km of the cave system has been explored and documented, but visitors are restricted to only two tours of between 1 and 2 km. The Cave of Liberty is the habitat for several rare creatures including the crustacean *Niphargus tatrensis*, shown on the stamp, and an arachnid *Eukoenenia spelaea* depicted on the FDC cachet. The Cave is the most northerly habitat for this spider species (see also back cover).



1 July 2021

150th Anniversary of the Separation of the Forestry and Mining Industries (1871) (POFIS 745)

In 1871 the management of forests and farming of royal estates within Hungary moved to its new headquarters in Banská Bystrica. The stamp issue commemorates the beginning of the sustainable management of forests within today's Slovakia which had been ravaged by mining, metallurgy, and logging in the past. Today the emphasis of forestry management is a long term one, not only to meet the needs of society now and in the future, but to preserve and protect forest ecosystems as well. With more knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of man and nature the commercial farming of trees is viable and carried out without permanent damage to the forest ecosystem.



Forestry management extends beyond rules and regulations. In Slovakia the Muran-Noriker horse has been bred to work in the timber industry to reduce the harmful effects of the use of machinery within the forests.



Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Forschungsberichte aus der Tschechoslowakei-Philatelie (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei, Germany) **No 206, December 2020.**

Röhn, D. Czechoslovak air-post 1920 - 1938 – Philatelic dialog (3rd continuation). (Detailed discussion on routes, planes and postmarks).

Norbjerg, M., Plate errors of Czechoslovakia 1945-1992, Part 22: period 1971, POFIS no. 1869-1937.

No. 208, June 2020. ^[1]

Norbjerg, M., Plate errors of Czechoslovakia 1945-1992, Part 23: period 1970, POFIS no. 1804-1868.

Kokta, N., The commemorative date stamps of the Czech Republic, 2018-2020.

Austria (Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 215, Summer 2021.

Potts, D.R., Vienna-by-the-sea (A display of Opatija-Abbazia, 1844-1914).

Rogers, N., Florica Ciuciu's Evening Out (Tracing the history of Vienna's music scene, December 1908).

Kuzych, I., The Birth Certificate of Airmail (Details of the arrangements for the 1918 Vienna-Kiev flights).

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 225, June 2021.

Morrell, R., Timeline to Trianon, Part 10: 1 April 1921 to 30 June 1921. (A further episode of the settlement of the Hungarian borders after WWI.)

Lendon, M., On the trail of the 1919 overprints, Part 18: The 'Occupation française' issue of Arad, Part A.

van Weenen, P de L., Additional findings on the 'PORTO' postmark of the Budapest main post office. (Another reader's take on the use of this special postage due datestamp before the introduction of postage due stamps.)

The News of Hungarian Philately (Society for Hungarian Philately, USA)

Vol. 52, no. 1, January-March 2021.

Lauer, R. Ruminations of your Editor. (Discussing the infamous three-hole perforation on Hungarian stamps that appeared in February 1921.)

Kohalmi, C.L. (in collaboration with Brainard, C.), Lajtabánság / Western Hungary, A forensic analysis of the third series: The Felsőőr / Oberwart overprint. (A study of the insurgent issue during the West Hungary uprising in September/October 1921 – relates to Beneš's intervention to try to secure a 'Slavic corridor' and support the local Croat minority.)

Vol. 52 no. 2, April-June 2021.

Soble, A., The 1955 'Munka'. (A review of the 'Jobs' issue, including watermarks and overprints.)

Kohalmi, C.L., Unravelling a mystery surrounding the 1947 Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial stamp issue.

Lauer, R., Dél-Visszatér: The return of the southern provinces, 1941. (Review of the history and commemorative postmarks as Hungary claims back territory from Yugoslavia.)

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn)

No. 142, 2021/2.

Wirtl, W., The enemy forces in World War I in focus. (A summary of the declarations of war, the theatres of fighting, the armistices, and the peace treaties.)

Wirtl, W., The enemy forces in World War I in focus - Belgium. (A review of where Belgian forces were involved in the conflict.)

Radovanović, M., The post of the interned Serbs in Austria-Hungary during the First World War.

Tertschek, H., The Skoda 30.5 cm mortar. (A short history of the development of the mortar, and of a former university professor in the army reserve who commanded such a weapon on the Western Front, and later on the Italian Front.)

Bator, J., Is that the solution to another riddle of the beleaguered Przemysl fortress? (Uncovering the story of the observer on the first flight into the fortress on 1 October 1914, and what he did after that.)

Bliersbach, A., Italian prisoners of war in Russia. (Postal history of Italian speakers from the South Tyrol that were recruited in the Austro-Hungarian army, and ended up in Russia.)

Kobelbauer, H., The K.u.k. vegetable garden and seed farm. (A rather unusual unit cachet from this establishment in Psary, south-western Poland.)

Robisch, H., Because it's a pandemic right now.... (An interesting advertising letter to doctors from a Viennese company selling two versions of a rubberized protection suit.)

^[1] Issue received out of order.

Filatelie**No. 5/2021**

- Chudoba, J., Rákosník, Z., Liberated Republic 50h – postal stationery cards (Part 5)
 Arbeit, M., Discovery of a new type of postage stamp paper CZK 7.50 lilies.
 Gebauer, P., Anonymous datestamps without local data for German Field Post 1939-45.
 Beneš, F., Post - and Weapons.
 Květon, R., Austria and Lombardy-Veneto 1850 – Specialised Handbook (pull-out supplement)
 POFIS, Czech Republic: Private post stamps 2020 and List of personalised stamp issues 2012-2020

No. 6/2021

- Beneš, F., Coat of arms issue 1929 - a lot of music for little money.
 Šilhán, T., End of the printing of Czech automat stamps.
 Chudoba, J., Münzberger, V., Coil stamps of Holubice and the Liberated Republic (chainbreaker) issues.
 Květon, R., Austria and Lombardy-Veneto 1850 – Specialised Handbook (a pull-out supplement)

Czechoslovak Specialist (Society for Czechoslovak Philately, USA)**Fall 2020 Vol. 82, No. 4, Whole No. 662**

- Lauer, R. Additional identifying characteristics for printings of the 3 haler Hradčany.
 Palaschak, R. Discovering the story behind a cover.
 Svoboda, L. *Monografie československých známek – Monographs of Czechoslovak Stamps.*
 Tekel, A. Overview of airmail surcharges for airmail shipments from Slovakia during 1939-1945.
 Lawrence, F. 1918 Austria free frank – Czech Scout Post: covers to the National Council.
 Heart, K. Cancelled Olympics – 1984 version.
 Soble, A. The 1942 Slovenský Štát Postal Congress stamps: solving the problem.

Winter 2021 Vol. 83, No. 1, Whole No. 663

- Hart, K. The Liberated Republic issue – choice of design.
 Tekel, A. Airmail shipments from Slovakia during 1939-1945 (cont.)
 Palaschak, R. Romanian army units in Slovakia during World War II



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Acting Secretary	Peter G Williams , 33 Barcheston Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 9JS. 01564 773067 secretary@cpsgb.org
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Auctioneer	Ken Dyke , 38 Bristol Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 4LP. 01473 711019 auctioneer@cpsgb.org
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Editor, Publications Officer & North American Representative	Dr Mark Wilson FRPSL, 370 Lofgrin Road, Sequim, Washington, 98382 USA. +1-540-550-1940 editor@cpsgb.org
Press Officer & Webmaster	Bob McLeod , 11 Southwold Close, Aylesbury, HP21 7EZ. 01296 432905 press-officer@cpsgb.org
Librarian	D Lindy Bosworth FRPSL, 18 Raymer Road, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, ME14 2JQ. 01622 762577 librarian@cpsgb.org
Advertising Manager	Richard Wheatley FRPSL, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW. 0113 260 1978 advertising-manager@cpsgb.org
Programme Secretary	Dr Garth Taylor , 2 Penfold Close, Hathern, Loughborough, LE12 5LS. 01509 843575 programme-secretary@cpsgb.org
Competitions	Reg Hounsell , 31 Parklands, Royston, SG8 9HL. 01763 241805 competitions@cpsgb.org
Distribution Manager	Rex Dixon FRPSL, 39 Braybank, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2BH. 01628 628 628 distribution-manager@cpsgb.org



The Prešov Salt Works



The Demänovská Cave of Liberty