



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 40/1

MARCH 2022

WHOLE NUMBER 186

Československá pošta
Administration des Postes
Tr. 20 h
1918
Praha 22
POŠTOVNÍ PRŮVODNÍ
BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

Počet celních osvědčení
Nombre des déclarations
en douane

Misto určené
Lieu de destination
Ulice a číslo domu
Rue et numéro
Země určená
Pays de destination

Váha — Poids
kg g
8 kg 300 g

Celní poplatky
Droits de douane
Total
Ceske Budějovice 3

Příjemcovo potvrzení.
Récépissé du destinataire.

Podpsaný potvrzuje, že přijal zásilku, označenou na přední straně této průvodky.

Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu le colis désigné les colis désignés au recto du présent bulletin.

V A dne le 13.10.1923

(Podpis — Signature)

Parcel Card: Praha 22 to Arbon, Switzerland

The price of these cards is 0.20 Kč (top left corner). Dispatched from Praha 4 October 1923. Weight: 8.500 kg. Postage written at top right (18.90 Kč) and paid in cash. Used after 1921, so rate cannot be checked against those published in the December 2021 issue of *Czechout*. Via České Budějovice 6 October 1923. Swiss green customs cachet dated 12 October 1923, with charge written in red, 3.43 Sfr to pay on delivery. On reverse Arbon arrival cds 13 October 1923. (Courtesy of Robert Lauer.)

Editorial

You Are Needed!

I put together my first issue of *Czechout* in December 2012. In December 2022 I shall put out my last. For personal reasons I cannot continue in the role of Editor after that date. In 2018 I resigned the post and a replacement was found, but unfortunately, the new editor left the position the next year and I resumed the post. I cannot do that again. I have loved putting *Czechout* together, working with so many of the membership, and in general taking an active role in preserving and growing the Society.

In the December 2021 issue I asked for a volunteer assistant; no one came forward. I will make the same plea now. If someone would like to become the editor-in-training, it is time to speak up. I will do everything in my power (if wanted) to help you make a success of the task even into 2023 if needs be and I am able.

Putting out *Czechout* is not that difficult, takes my spare time for about two weeks a quarter, and it is great fun. You meet lots of people, learn about phases of philately you never knew existed, and gain an unequalled sense of accomplishment.

CZECHOUT

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

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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 Treasurer, Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.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!

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News & Notices

Congratulations

György Lövei was a member of the jury and a national commissioner for Hungary at *Notos 2021*, the International Exhibition held in Athens in November 2021. At the same exhibition **Jon Klemetsen** received three Vermeil Medals for his exhibits in the Traditional Class, *Československá Republika 1918 to 1928: From improvising to high achievement*; *Československá Republika 1929 to 1939: The last decennium: from prosperity to disaster*; and *Italy: Effigies of King Vittoria Emmanuele III*. **Peter Chadwick** received a Gold Medal and special prize for his exhibit *Early Mail Routes of Scotland*, which was also judged the best exhibit in the Postal History Class.

Society Meeting at the King's Head, Marylebone, London, 13 November 2021

The first proper Society meeting since early 2020 was a combination of the Kay Goodman Trophy competition and a display of *50 Years of Collecting Czechoslovakia* by **Reg Hounsell**, and attracted eleven members. The four entries for the competition were judged by **Yvonne Wheatley** and **Garth Taylor**, with the winner being **Rex Dixon** with *Postal History of the Hultschin Area*. The runner up was **Wojciech Kierstan** with *Vaclav Hollar: Czech engraver*. The other entries were *The Art of Mucha, on Death and Resurrection* by **Ron Gillard**, and *Hradčany Postal History* by **Roger Morrell**.

After lunch **Reg Housell** gave his two-round display. He explained that after a business visit to Communist Czechoslovakia in the 1970s and acquiring his first few stamps of that country from JAL Franks of Fetter Lane, he was invited to come along to the Society by late member **Brian Parker**, who introduced him to the wide range of topics that the country offered the collector. He was then hooked and mentored by several people, especially by **Yvonne Wheatley**. He described how he picked up various collecting themes, including Hradčany, Masaryk, the Castles series, and airmails, then started developing these as best he could within budget. Reg showed his very first purchase, written up in white pen or 'Letraset' on black leaves, followed in the first half by a most excellent display of Hradčany with studies of the plate set-up, proofs, and printer's waste; the Allegories issue; and the high-value Masaryk issues. In the second half airmails (stamps and covers), some pre-WWI covers and cards, Prague pneumatic post, and finishing with a series of delightful postcards of traditional costumes.

Yvonne Wheatley gave the vote of thanks, saying how good it was to see real displays again, and how jealous she was of some of the items that Reg had managed to acquire. Reg was highly complimented on his display, which was enjoyed by all present.

Roger Morrell

Joint Meeting of the Austrian and Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies

York Stamp and Coin Fair, 22 January 2022

For well-known reasons, the Fair was quieter than usual, with fewer dealers and fewer visitors able to attend. Our traditional meeting also had a lower attendance than usual. Nevertheless eight members overcame the hurdle of obtaining a COVID pass and provided a fascinating afternoon of displays:

Alan Berrisford showed us the distinctive curved postmarks used by over fifty post offices in Galicia in the mid-nineteenth century. It was a treat to see such a rare assembly of these marks with such clear strikes.

Yvonne Wheatley described a selection of East Silesian material from pre-stamp times through to the resolution of the disputed area after the First World War. None of the neighbouring countries wanted the agricultural land but they all coveted the prosperous coal-mining area.

Andy Taylor displayed the miniature sheets used for the first ten years of Austria's annual *Day of the Stamp* issue which started in 1991. Each year the minisheet incorporated one letter from the word BRIEFMARKE and one from the word PHILATELIE. How clever of the designer to guarantee himself ten years work!

Barry Clark treated us to a frame of material relating to the early days of the Austrian telephone service: phone-cards from the 1880s, facilities in mountain-huts, and postcards showing early telephone equipment.

Keith Brandon displayed mail from special temporary post-offices sited at exhibitions in the Czech Lands before the First World War.

Andy Taylor returned with material related to Austrian trams, a subject close to his heart which he will show us at the slightest provocation!

Richard Wheatley showed us an interesting postcard from Port Said to Castelnuovo in the south of Austrian Dalmatia, today Herceg Novi in Montenegro.

Alan Berrisford revealed part of his collection of postcards cancelled on the railways of B&M, both by the post-conductors and by the TPOs which largely replaced them.

Andy Taylor rounded off proceedings with the story of a cover from a conscript stationed in Iglau (Jihlava) to Vienna, delivered via the pneumatic post.

Both Societies hold regular meetings around the country and details will be found on their websites: www.austrianphilately.com and www.cpsgb.org.uk.

Keith Brandon

Liberec 2022

The 2021 AGM revealed some interest in attending this European Philatelic Exhibition which is on between 13 and 16 October 2022. You can find out more information, including accommodation information, in English, at this link: <https://www.liberec2022.eu/en/aktuality-en/>

The opening ceremony will be at the Babylon Hotel and the Palmare will be at the Golden Lion Hotel. During the exhibition there will be various meetings of different philatelic groups. The FEPA Congress and FIP Jury training will also take place. There will be some non-philatelic material (the so-called three D models) as part of both the European show and the Polar Salon.

The current plan is to have stamp dealers in the Culture House, which is about 400 metres from the Babylon Hotel and can be easily reached. Should anyone have difficulty walking, transportation may be available for these persons between the facilities.

The organisers of the event are looking to arrange transport from Václav Havel Airport in Prague to Liberec for people who are interested. Of course, you could make your own way and even add additional days to your visit to the Czech Republic with a stay in Prague and visit the philatelic opportunities there.

Liberec is the fifth largest city in the country, but off most tourist itineraries. However, there are many sights and other attractions to tempt even non-philatelists. The city has not only a historical centre to offer, but also a beautiful museum and gallery, including the oldest zoo and botanical garden in the country. The event organisers also want to offer various trips around Liberec and even to Prague, such as to the Postal Museum.

If you have any interest in attending, please contact me, by e mail, post or phone, indicating how many would be in your party. I am only seeking the level of interest at present, so there is no commitment. Of course, any planning would be subject to COVID.

Peter Williams

Theft of Unique Polar Exploration Material

I regret to report the theft of an exceptional stamp exhibit about Dr. Václav Vojtech, the Czech explorer participating in Admiral Byrd's polar expedition. Please inform members of your society about this theft to prevent their buying stolen material. The owner has offered to pay a reward of € 4,000.

Lubor Kunc



Roger Castle, 30 March 1946 - 26 October 2021

Roger Castle was born in Banbury where he lived all his life. On leaving school he worked as a junior clerk at the local Co-operative Society. In 1973 he joined British Aluminium Extrusions where he worked for his last ten years at the company as security officer until he took voluntary redundancy in 1996 following a change of ownership. He felt he could still make a valuable contribution in the work force so he joined a small local electrical company working as a van driver for approximately ten years.

His main love in life was the philately and postal history of Czechoslovakia and Russia. He joined the CPSGB in 1998 but sadly he did not display his material at Society meetings. He travelled widely and joined our visits to philatelic exhibitions in the Czech Republic and Sindelfingen. His report of Praga 2018 appears in *Czechout*, September 2018, p. 9. I always enjoyed speaking with him at our meetings and at the Royal Philatelic Society London where he was also a member since 2016.

I want to thank Sue Castle, Roger's widow, for her contribution to this obituary.

Yvonne Wheatley

New Queries

Tony Holdsworth has asked if anyone can identify the cancel at the far left on the verso of this 18 September 1939 cover sent from Jihlava to Vienna? Also, was it common for Czechoslovak stamps to be accepted for postage alongside those of B&M at this stage in the war?



Rex Dixon replied that the Vienna receiving postmarks on the reverse were applied as follows. “1 WIEN 1” is the Head Post Office, which would have received the bagged mail from off the train. As this letter was sent Express it was handled in Vienna by “the most expeditious means available”, so it was transferred to that office’s *Rohrpost* (pneumatic tube) department, which applied the “WIEN 1” datestamp with code letter “Rb”.

They also wrote the red “73” on the front as a *Rohrpost* routing instruction, the number of the office to which it was to be sent. Telegraph office 73 applied its datestamp (the cancel in question) to confirm the time of receipt: “TELEGR. AMT 73 WIEN IX/2 | R/a 19.IX.39-9- | DIENSTSTELLE DES P.A.71”. This has unusual wording, reflecting that office 73 had been relocated and was now co-located with post office 71. As an express letter it would have gone by messenger direct from office 73 even though office 66 was the addressee’s ‘home’ post office. (My thanks to **Andy Taylor** for sorting out what happened in Vienna.)

The franking of 7.90 K is a convenience overfranking of the 7.70 K rate: 1.20 K for the letter, 2.50 K registration fee and 4.00 K express delivery fee. These were the rates on mail to the German Reich for the period 17 July 1939 to 30 September 1940. The handwritten address “Wien, 66” means the “Postamt Wien 66”, the post office serving the addressee. “Nussdorferstr. 4, II-P/21” means the flat 21 in “Stiege 2” (block 2) in the big building of Nussdorferstr. 4.

Czechoslovak stamps without the B&M overprint, though possibly off sale in September 1939, remained valid until 15 December that year, so one often sees people using up stamps before they became invalid. Most of their replacements, such as the B&M 1.20 K stamp top right, were issued piecemeal in mid to late August; the three most used values had been issued on 29 July, the 3 K not until 4 November. The continued use of bilingual Czech/German datestamps and registration labels was also normal in September 1939.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

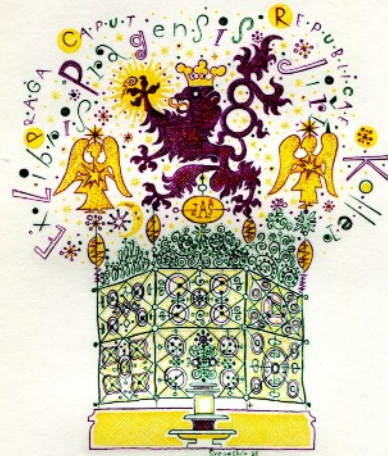
In the conclusion, we have prepared a pleasant surprise for all friends of stamps and philately. Jiří Švengsbir is a many-sided artist, but his relation to stamps, philately and philatelists is given by his engraving skill. Consequently, the Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Corporation ARTIA decided to give a small present to their philatelic friends abroad which, we hope, will please them.

Jiří Švengsbir, the engraver of Titian's „Toilet of a Young Woman“ is well-known in Czechoslovakia as the author of enchanting ex-libris. ARTIA therefore asked the artist to engrave - specially for the visitors of this exhibition - a small graphic sheet which you will find enclosed in this booklet. It has been accomplished by the same technique as the „Toilet of a Young Woman“, i.e. it is a steel engraving in three colours.

ARTIA

takes this opportunity to bestow upon their friends as a token of consideration this three-coloured steel engraving by Jiří Švengsbir

signed by the author.



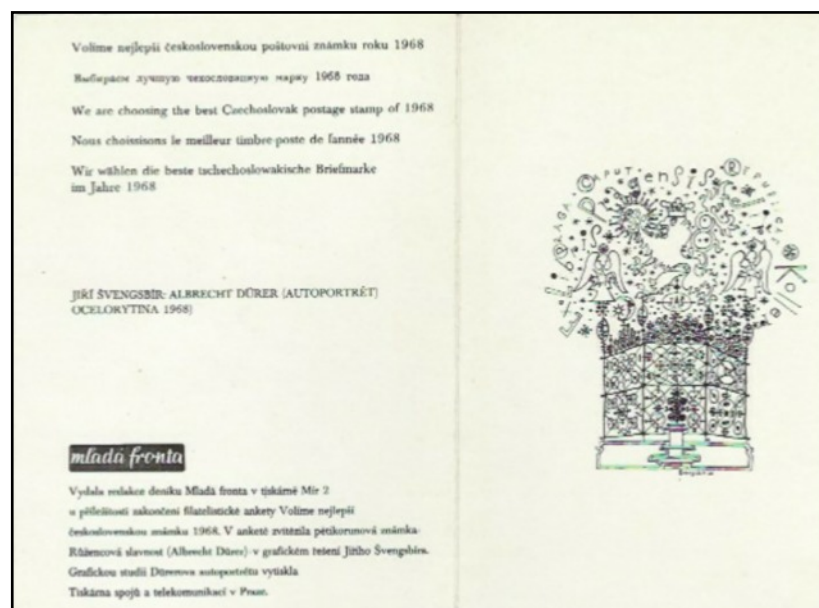
Jiří Švengsbir

Wojciech Kierstan writes that he has acquired a souvenir folder produced by ARTIA (the foreign trade corporation during the Communist control of Czechoslovakia) in which the text says there should be a small graphic sheet enclosed. I do not have this sheet so I am wondering if anyone recognizes the folder and is aware of what it contained? It refers to the techniques used to produce the 1965 stamp *Young Woman at Her Toilet* and seems to indicate that the folder was given away at an Exhibition. Does anyone know anything about it?

Lindy Bosworth offered another clue but left the mystery open: I think Wojciech's thoughts are probably correct – that it was a souvenir printing by ARTIA given to foreign visitors to Praga 68 but I can find no information about it. The design was also printed in black on the cover of a folder issued to participants in the *Mladá fronta* annual poll to find the best Czechoslovak postage stamp for 1968. I recognized the picture as the Old Town renaissance fountain from the PRAGA 68 issue. Still, what was in this folder?



POFIS 1689 (1968).
SG 1750.



Mlada Fronta Version.

Czechoslovak *Hindenburg* Covers

Garth Taylor

The flights of Zeppelin LZ 129 *Hindenburg* to New York are listed in the table below. Mail was carried on all its flights and it may be assumed that this included mail originating in Czechoslovakia.

Hindenburg Flights to New York, 1936-1937

Flight Number	From	To	Departure Date	Arrival Date	Flight Time	Flight Distance (km)
H12	Löwenthal	Lakehurst	6 May 36	9 May 36	61 h 40 m	7050
H14	Frankfurt		17 May 36	20 May 36	78 h 57 m	7238
H22			19 June 36	22 June 36	61 h 30 m	6837
H24			30 June 36	2 July 36	52 h 49 m	6877
H28			10 July 36	13 July 36	63 h 27 m	6820
H33			5 August 36	8 August 36	75 h 56 m	8100
H35			16 August 36	19 August 36	90 h 10 m	7753
H41			17 September 36	20 September 36	62 h 54 m	6700
H43			26 September 36	29 September 36	63 h 1 m	6899
H45			5 October 36	7 October 36	55 h 35 m	6799
H63				3 May 37	7 May 37	77 h 8 m

The published postal rates for the period 1936 to 1937 [1, 2] do not seem to follow the actual rates for letters from Czechoslovakia as can be seen from the covers shown. These state that the Air Fee to the USA commencing on the 1 May 1936 was 7.00 Kč per 5 g. However, in *Zeppelinpost LZ 129* by J Duggan [3] the rates to the USA were quoted as: to New York 7.00 Kč per 5 g to the City itself, and 8.00 Kč per 5 g for places outside of New York City. This can be seen from the following covers:



Letter on Flight H12 from Prague to Glen Ridge, New Jersey:

Letter fee: 2.50 Kč.

Air Fee: 8.00 Kč.

Total: 10.50 Kč.



Letter on Flight H14 from Marienbad to Montrose, Pennsylvania:

Letter fee: 2.50 Kč.

Double air fee (5-10 g) 16.00 Kč.

Total: 18.50 Kč.

This third cover was flown to New York and here the rate again does not follow the published rules. The rate is 7.00 Kc for the first 5 g and 3.00 Kc for each subsequent 5 g. This rate was only applied during May 1936, so would only have applied to letters sent to New York on flights H12 and H14 [4].



Letter on Flight H12 from Prague to New York:

Letter fee: 2.50 Kč

Express Fee: 5.00 Kč

Registration Fee: 2.50 Kč

Air Fee: 10.00 Kč

(7.00 + 3.00 Kč for 10 g letter)

Total: 20.00 Kč;

The replacement for LZ 129 following the disaster at Lakehurst was the Zeppelin LZ 130. It was launched on 14 September 1938 but never undertook commercial flights to New York.

References

- 1 *Ceskoslovenská letecká pošta, 1918-1939.*
- 2 *Ceskoslovenské letecké známky z roku 1930-1939.* Ing A Tekel.
- 3 *Zeppelin Post LZ 129 Hindenburg.* J Duggan (2004).
- 4 Private communication with R Hounsell.

Parcel Cards

In the December 2021 issue of *Czechout* the rates for parcels to foreign destinations were examined but not illustrated. I asked readers to submit images and received several. **Johan Sevenhuijsen** provided the following five that fell within the timeframe of the rates given in the December issue. Other correspondents sent cards that predated the First Republic or fell outside the time frame covered in the December issue. One each appears on the front and back of this issue of *Czechout*.

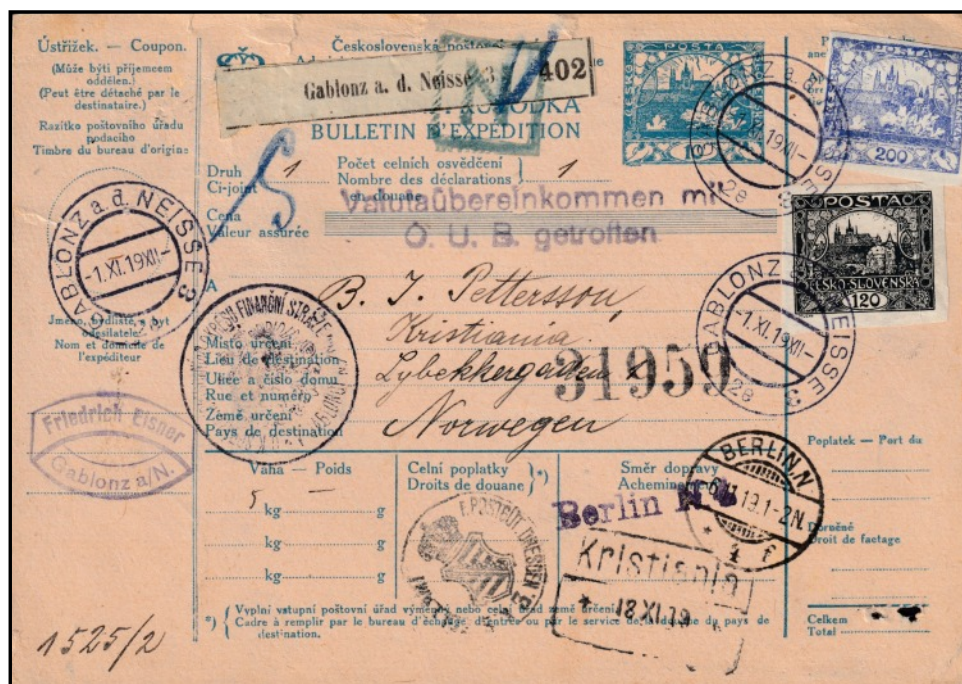
I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this article. First, to **Richard Wheatley** volunteered to work with the raw material. Next, **Rex Dixon** carefully examined the text and made numerous suggestions as to how I could improve my presentation of the material. Finally, several other members kindly reviewed the very complex information presented. Indeed, the appearance of this article is strong evidence of the fellowship and support members offer each other, proving the CPSGB is indeed a society by and for its membership.



This is a delightful parcel card for it has so many interesting facets. Smíchov is on the outskirts of Prague where there was a vast railway site which is now being redeveloped as a new modern city where 12,000 people will live or work. Despatch cds Smíchov 19 February 1920, the very day that the rates were increased! Parcel weight 4.800 kg, from the rate table charged 20.50 Kč. Declared value: typed *Neuntausend* (9000 Kč), likely 900 Francs at the local post office but converted to 937.50 Francs by the Prague office because of a change in exchange rates. At 1.60 Kč per 30 Francs (using the original valuation) plus basic fee 0.50 Kč = 48.50 Kč, bringing the total to 69 Kč. It is franked with Hradčany stamps (on both sides of the card): 10×200, 12×400, 1×100 = 69.00 Kč, the proper franking according to the original 900 Francs.

The white sticker indicates routed via Prag 7, next to that in red manuscript Malmö. The transit postmarks trace the parcel route to Sweden: Dresden (Germany) 21 February; Hamburg 7 (Germany) undated straight line in purple; Malmö (Sweden) entry mark 26 February and Lund arrival mark 26 February. Upon entering Germany at Dresden, the parcel card received the black circular customs cachet (a crown above the coat of arms shield).

Another idea that the Czechs inherited from the Austrians was the use of stickers on parcel cards. These were placed as an aid to charging, sorting, or handling the parcels. On this card there is a black on white sticker with a bold capital W. The W stands for *Wertangabe*, a German word meaning declared value.



Kristiania changed its name to Oslo in 1925. Despatch cds Gablonz 1 November 1919. Parcel weight 5 kg, rate for up to 5 kg, charged 2.70 Kč. Declared value: typed *Valutaübereinkommen mit O.U.B. getroffen*, which translates as, 'Value agreed with the O.U.B.' In this instance 50 haler was charged for the basic fee. Total charge: 3.20 Kč. Franked with Hradčany stamps in the correct amount. In Germany it went to Dresden, then Berlin on 6 November. Upon arrival in Norway, it received the rectangular dated handstamp 18 November 1919. Before leaving Czechoslovakia, it received the faint Czech black circular customs cachet at Gablonz and then the German one in Dresden.



Jičín to Rapperswill, Switzerland, January 1921. At the left-hand side in faint pencil it gives the name of the sender and the contents of the parcel, a silver clock. Despatch cds Jičín 15 January 1921. Parcel weight 2.300 kg, rate for up to 5 kg for a bulky parcel, charged 15 Kč. Declared value: 1500 Kč, which was converted to 150 Francs in manuscript, charged at 0.30 Kč per 300 Francs = 1.50 Kč, plus the basic fee 2 Kč = 3.50 Kč. Total charge: 18.50 Kč. Correct franking in Hradčany and Agriculture & Science stamps. Upon entering Switzerland, it received the green rectangular customs cachet, with the amount the recipient was to pay in red, 0.77 Sfr. With this item we have two of stickers: A pink sticker with *Wertangabe*, 'declared value,' in three languages and a red on white sticker *Sp*, the abbreviation for *Sperrgut* in German, meaning 'bulky.'

Československá poštovní správa.
Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes de la République

15 h

POŠT. BULLETIN

Liberec-Reichenberg 3

82

1 Počet celních osvědčení
Nombre des déclarations en douane

100 Francs.

Herren

Wenzl Hoffelner G.m.b.H.,

Misto určení
Lieu de destination
Ulice a číslo domu
Rue et numéro
Země určení
Pays de destination

L i n z a . D .

Váha — Poids	Celní poplatky Droits de douane	Směr dopravy Acheminement
kg g		
kg g		
kg g		

Doručné
Droit de factage

Celkem
Total

Vyplní vstupní poštovní úřad výměnný nebo celní úřad země určení.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

Liberec to Linz, Austria, 28 August 1920. Despatch cds Liberec 28 August 1920. Weight of parcel, under 5 kg, postage up to 5 kg, charged 5 Kč. Declared value stated as 100 Francs. At this time the minimum fee was 1.20 Kč, plus the 2 Kč basic fee. Total charge: 8.20 Kč. Franked with Hradčany stamps to the correct amount.

Ústřížek — Coupon.
(Může být příjemcem oddělen.)
(Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)

Razítko poštovního úřadu
podacího
Timbre du bureau d'origine

1102
Praha 22

Československá poštovní správa.
Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes de la République

13 h

POŠTOVNÍ PRŮVODKA
BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

1 Počet celních osvědčení
Nombre des déclarations en douane

2

100 Francs.

Herrn Rudolf Weber
Beinwil
Schweiz

Misto určení
Lieu de destination
Ulice a číslo domu
Rue et numéro
Země určení
Pays de destination

Váha — Poids	Celní poplatky Droits de douane	Směr dopravy Acheminement
kg g		
kg g		
kg g		

Doručné
Droit de factage

Celkem
Total

Vyplní vstupní poštovní úřad výměnný nebo celní úřad země určení.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

22 IV. 20 No. 1441

Statist.

0.58

0.65

10

20

GUSTAV HERZIG
Praha 22

Praha to Beinwil, Switzerland, 7 April 1920. The cost of the card has been increased to 15 haler. Despatch cds Praha 7 April 1920. Weight of parcel 5 kg, for which the postage was 8 Kč. Postage paid with Hradčany stamps. In the Směr box it says Budějovice. Green Swiss cachet dated 22 April says the recipient was to pay 0.65 Sfr.

Although the following card from Robert Elliot is dated after the period covered by the tables in the December article, it is interesting on its own account.

Ústředek. — Coupon.
(Mělo být příjemcem
osobně.)
(Peut être échangé par le
destinataire.)
Razítka poštovního úřadu
podacího
Timbre du bureau d'origine

30 h

Ac 231
Karlin 2

spřava.
la République

POSTA

BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION

Počet celnicích osvědčení
Nombre des déclarations 1

1 paquet colorants

Titl.

Schweizer Getränke A.G.,
Mannedorf
Schweiz

Misto zboží
Lieu de destination
Ulice a číslo domu
Rue et numéro
Země určení
Pays de destination

Váha — Poids	Celní poplatky Droits de douane	Směr dopravy Acheminement
5 kg	2.15	Plzen

Vyplní vstupní poukázku úřad vývozní nebo celní úřad země určení.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'exportation, d'entrepôt ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

Podpis — Signature

From Robert Elliot

Front

- Top left Czech coat of arms and below 30 haler – the cost of the parcel card, to be paid in cash
- Top centre White identification sticker, a duplicate of which was stuck to the parcel
- Top right Manuscript 14 Kč, presumably the parcel postage to Switzerland as postage stamps were no longer used this amount was paid in cash
- Centre left Large black handstamp with the Czech lion in the centre. The lettering translates as: Head Customs Office in Plzen
- Centre Green Swiss customs handstamp dated 17 July 1922
- Bottom right Parcel weight 5 kg
- Bottom centre Manuscript in red 2.15 Sfr, the amount the recipient was to pay
- Bottom right Route. In manuscript Plzen

Dle povolení Československého vývozního a dovozního kom.
2.10.1922. 62873
ze dne 12. VII. 22

Příjemcovo potvrzení.
Récépissé du destinataire

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Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu le colis désigné au recto du présent bulletin.

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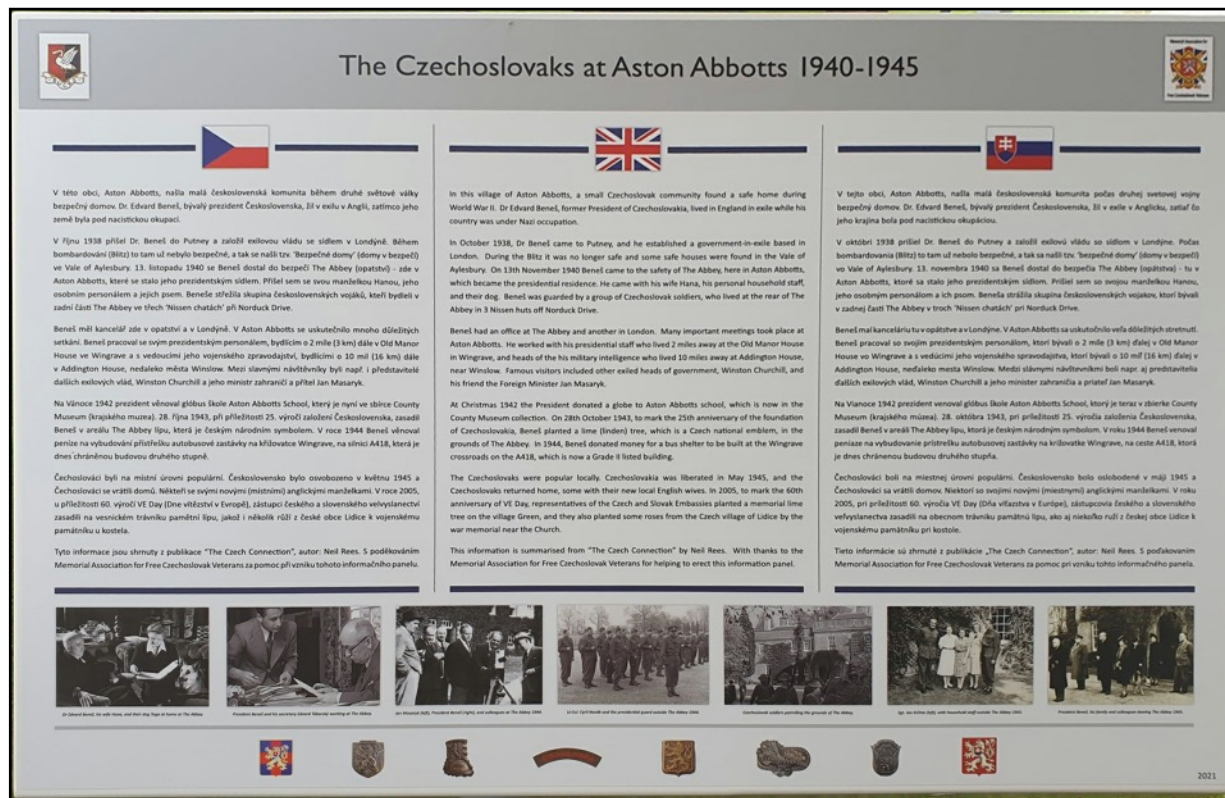
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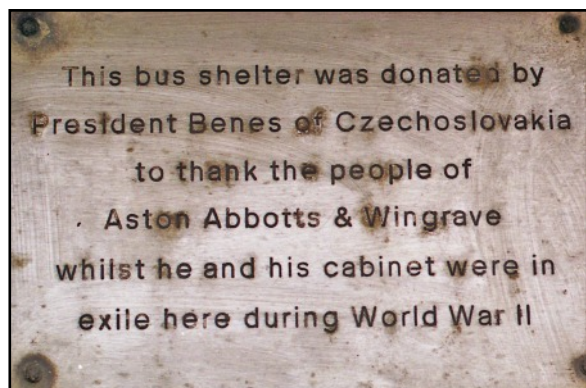
- Karlin despatch cds 12 VII 22
- Czech transit cds Plzen 13 VII 22
- German transit cds Fürth, close by to Nuremberg, 13 VII 22
- Swiss arrival cds Mannedorf, a village on the shore of Lake Zurich, 18 VII 22

Aston Abbotts Bob McLeod

The Aston Abbotts village fete is traditionally held on the last weekend of July offering a mixture of food, refreshments, stalls and family activities and every so often has a Czechoslovak flavour. On Saturday, 24 July 2021, Czech Republic Deputy Ambassador Aleš Opatrný and Slovak Republic Defence Attaché Vladimír Stolárik visited Aston Abbotts fete to unveil a new World War II information board on the village green. The board has the information in three languages, Czech, English and Slovak.



Since World War II there has been a long-standing history between this Buckinghamshire village and the Czech Republic, as Aston Abbotts was where the Czechoslovak President Edvard Beneš and his family found refuge after being forced to flee their homeland during the war. During his stay, the President noticed that the local children had to catch a bus into Aylesbury for school, so he arranged to pay for a bus shelter to be built at the bus stop on the main Aylesbury Road. This brick-built structure still stands and is now a listed building.



Whilst the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia the then President lived in London until it became unsafe due to bombing, at which point he moved to an Aston Abbotts safe house, the village becoming the home of the Czechoslovak government in exile. Local hospitality meant the President was safe to meet with Winston Churchill, General Sikorski of Poland, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, King Haakon VII of Norway and Charles de Gaulle of Free France.

Greg Smith, Buckingham MP, opened the July fete and commented, "It was a pleasure to formally open Aston Abbotts fete and chat to local residents. It felt very much like life was getting back to normal, seeing everyone coming together and enjoying the wonderful array of stalls and cream teas and flowers in the church."

The highlight of the afternoon was the unveiling by Slovak Republic Defence Attaché Vladimír Stolárik and Czech Republic Deputy Ambassador Aleš Opatrný of a new information board on the history of Czechoslovak President Beneš' exile to the village in World War II. It's great that the link between the three countries and all the local connections are being celebrated and that future generations will be able to learn all about them.



Left: Colin Higgins (Aston Abbotts local).
 Middle: Slovak Defence Attache Vladimír Stolárik.
 Right: Gerry Manolas, Chair of the Memorial Association for Free Czechoslovak Veterans.



Left: Aleš Opatrný, Acting Czech Ambassador.
 Centre: Vladimír Stolárik, Colin Higgins.
 Right: Jane Plested, Aston Abbotts Parish Council.

Czechoslovak Plate flaws 1945-1992

Mogens Norbjerg

Once upon a time – that is how the fairy tales of the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen begin. My ‘once upon a time’ started in 1981 in connection with a visit to the wonderful city of Prague. During this first visit (and many to come), I attended some Bourses/stamp dealers, and my heart was completely sold to Czechoslovak philately. Within few years, I managed to build up a beginners’ collection of Czechoslovak stamps.

In the mid 1980s, I became member of an informal specialized Danish Society for collectors with the common interest of collecting stamps from Czechoslovakia. This Danish Society (established in 1974) was part of the German Society Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei (ArGe) as an independent foreign section, Sektion Dänemark. A purely Danish Society was established in 1998 – the Tjekkoslovakiet Samlerne Danmark (TSD).



Logo of the TSD

The most important contribution of the Danish Society was the plate reconstruction of some of the values of the Hradčany issue. As early as 1969 Evald Larsen (one of the Danish Society founders) described the two plates of 1 halér Hradčany completely, but this achievement was not published until 1975. He was the first to elaborate a methodical form for describing and illustrating Hradčany plating manuals, a design followed by nearly all plating guides since then. In 1980, Larsen presented his plate reconstruction of 100 halér, and in 1988 he issued a complete plate guide to the circles design 50 halér

Hradčany stamps. I was lucky to have him as a mentor and I spent a great deal of time helping him with text and drawings for his latter plate descriptions.

In the 1990 I was primarily interested in the Czechoslovak classical period, 1918-1939, and especially the Hradčany issue. I built up complete plate reconstructions and exhibited them several times in Denmark, and later, in Brno and Prague. I was delighted when fellow collectors completed plate reconstructions for every Hradčany denomination in the following years.

I wondered what I was going to do with work on the classical stamps completed I discovered that very little had been written about the plate flaws on stamps from the post-war period, 1945-1992. So, at the beginning of this century a small group was formed of four (today only two) TSD collectors to address this problem. The group decided upon two criteria necessary to establish a stamp’s plate flaws. First, the flaw had to appear on a minimum of three copies of the stamp. Next, it had to be visible to the naked eye or by using a small magnifying glass.

After examining an enormous number of stamps (it felt like millions), the first edition of a Special Catalogue (in Danish and in paper form) was published in 2003. As our research progressed, the number of plate flaws identified increased rapidly over the next ten years. After publishing the seventh edition of the Special Catalogue in 2013, this non-digital form was abandoned.

I started to digitise all the plate flaws in 2013. This gave us a fantastic opportunity to preserve (more easily) philatelic studies for the benefit of future collectors. I decided to treat only plate flaws on stamps printed with rotary recess printing combined with photogravure (OTr+HT) after the release of the books *Ocelotisk z plochyých desek*, volumes 1-3. Since 2014, the most distinctive plate flaws have been published in *Forschungsberichte* (FB, the journal of the Society ArGe). As of today only flaws from the years 1970-1992 has been published in FB because of the journal’s limited space. Since 2017, my findings from 1945-1992 have been mounted on one of Mark Wilson’s websites. If you want to have a look, go to www.cpslib.org and click on *Flawed*:

Postage Stamp Library

Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
 © 2011 Mark Wilson

Home Years Denominations Formats Flawed Index Motifs Scott POFIS Album

Stamps with Flaws
 Presented by
Mogens Norbjerg
 of the
Tjekkoslovakiet Samlerne Danmark
 Select a Year

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		

Home Page of WWW.CPSLIB.ORG

Clicking on *Flawed* brings up a list of post-war years. Select one to see flaws from that year.

Suppose you selected the year 1952. You will then be presented with a page displaying all of the stamps from that year which have at least one plate flaw.



If you then click on one of the stamps displayed, another page opens. On it you will see a large image of the stamp selected and illustrations of the flaws found on that stamp. If your cursor hovers over one of these illustrations, its flaw number appears. Note that the plate position of the stamp with the flaw may be known (first row below) or unknown (second row below).



I have found more than 14,500 different plate flaws. I have been able to decide the plate and position on approximately 10,500 stamps using blocks, strips, and complete sheets. There is still about 4,000 plate flaws on stamps whose plate and position remain unknown. It is my hope that some fellow collectors with complete sheets will help locate their plate and position.

The Bratislava Tapestries

SG 2176, 2177, 2227, 2228, 2281, 2282

Lindy Bosworth

The tragedy of Hero and Leander from Greek mythology is portrayed through six tapestries now displayed in the Primates Palace, Bratislava. The tapestries, worked in wool and silk were, from a 1625 design by Francis Cleyen the chief designer of the Royal Mortlake Tapestry Works, London, which opened in 1619 and closed in 1704. Several sets of the Hero and Leander themed tapestries were produced but the Bratislava set is the only known complete work in existence. Each tapestry is roughly 3.5 × 3 m in size. It is not known how the tapestries came to be in the Primates Palace Bratislava. The stamps show only a portion of each tapestry.



Hero of Sestos met and fell in love with Leander of Abydos, a town separated from hers by the Hellespont strait. As a priestess of Aphrodite Hero was forbidden marriage and must remain a virgin.



The two lovers agreed to meet secretly. Each night, guided by a lamp Hero lit in the tower where she lived, Leander would swim the Hellespont to be with his love.



One night, as Leander swam across, a storm arose and blew out the lamp. Leander lost his way, and drowned. (See next page full a full view of the entire tapestry.)



Hero stood waiting and watching for her love, but Leander never reached shore.



The next morning Leander's body washed up on the shore. The distraught Hero flung herself from her tower in anguish at the loss of her lover.



In the final tapestry Cupid mourns the loss of the two lovers.

The Primates Palace was built for the Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungary in 1778 at a time when Bratislava (Pozony/Pressburg) was the capital of Hungary due to the occupation of Buda by the Turks. In 1805 after the Battle of Austerlitz the Peace of Pressburg was signed by Napoleon and Emperor Francis I of Austria in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace. After 1848 Bratislava declined in importance with Buda and Pest becoming influential Hungarian centres. Eventually in 1903 the Primates Palace was purchased by the city of Bratislava. During reconstruction works the six tapestries were found rolled and folded behind lathes of a wall in the vestibule of the Hall of Mirrors. The mystery of how, why, and who placed them there has never been solved. Today the Palace is the seat of the Mayor of Bratislava. Meetings of the City Council, concerts, and other events are held in the Hall of Mirrors and the whole building is open to the public.



Tapestry as Displayed in the Hall of Mirrors, Primates Place, Bratislava

Image under licence: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:17th-century_tapestries_in_the_Primate%27s_Palace,_Bratislava,_Slovakia_-_20140723-03.JPG



First Set Covers

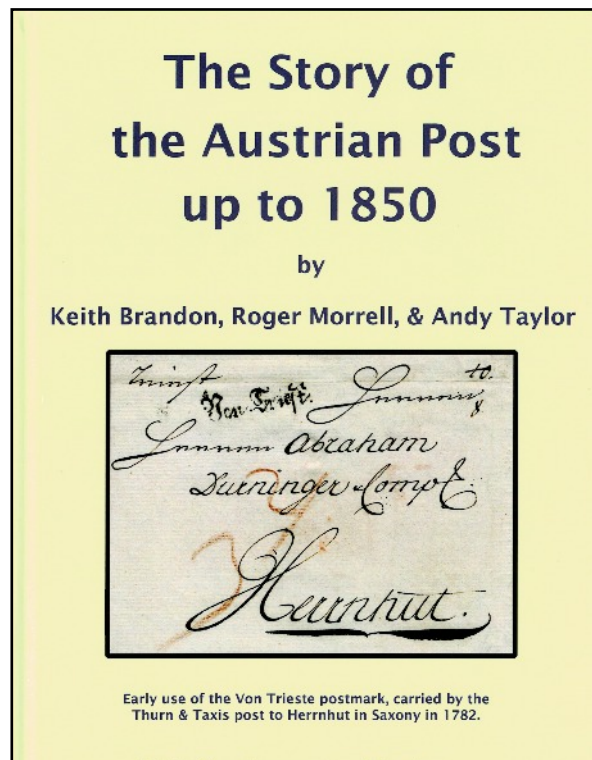
Third Set Covers



Book Reviews

The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850 by Keith Brandon, Roger Morrell, and Andy Taylor. Austrian Philatelic Society (2021). 380 pages. £39 (£32 for APS members) + P&P. president@austrianphilately.com.

This book is a game-changer that will open up the field of Austrian postal history in the pre-adhesive period to many postal historians who have long found it obscure and perplexing. Its range is breath-taking, covering almost four centuries and touching on every major aspect of this multi-faceted subject, and it is the first book to attempt such a wide-ranging review in English. It is based on extensive research in primary and secondary sources and is particularly valuable for bringing some important 18th century sources to light with the added



convenience of providing an English translation. The range of the research reflects the vast experience of the three authors in this field and is evident in the number of explanatory maps and illustrations (all in colour) provided and the huge amount of useful information included. It also highly readable and skips along at a brisk pace that often feels like a summary but nevertheless seems to touch on all major aspects of the point under discussion. Given that the Habsburg empire had a profound impact on nearly every part of Europe during its long history it will be a valuable addition to the library of any collector and exhibitor with a serious interest in European postal history.

The occasion for producing this book is the Tercentenary in 2022 of the decision by the Austrian Court to assume full control of the postal services that had for over 200 years been operated on the King-Emperor's behalf by the Taxis and von Paar families. This was indeed a very significant moment in European postal history even though it took some time for much discernible change to become apparent. It paved the way for reforms introduced later by Maria Theresia and her successors before, during, and after the Napoleonic Wars that kept the Austrian lands, usually belatedly, in touch with changes taking place elsewhere in

Europe. However, the book does not take 1722 as its starting point but goes back to the beginning of organised postal services in the Habsburg lands at the beginning of the 16th Century. Indeed, one of its most interesting sections describes the conflict that continued for many years between the Taxis and von Paar families over who should hold the rights to farm the lucrative posts. Although this form of what we might now describe as government-owned, contractor-operated service was not uncommon at that time, it is surprising – and says much about the power of the Court nobility who needed to be compensated handsomely – that it took so long for the Royal Government to take full advantage of the profits it offered.

From a historical point of view the evolution of postal services during this long period tells us much about the often-tumultuous changes that took place in the Austrian Empire before 1850 and the authors have gone to much trouble to explain the wider historical context in which postal developments occurred. The book is sensibly divided into four main sections on thematic rather than strictly chronological lines – how postal services started and developed; the range of services provided; postal developments in the Habsburg lands between 1815 and 1850; and the run-up to the issue of adhesive postage stamps in 1850. This approach enables it to deal with each aspect in the round which makes it easier to follow the story.

There is much that can be learned here and each reader will find something that adds to their knowledge on whatever aspect is of most interest to them. From a personal point of view I particularly noted sections on *Postal Organisation* (p. 29); on *City Posts* (pp. 50-62); on *Entitlement to Free Postage* (pp. 107-123); on *Foreign Mail* – always a particularly tricky subject that is neatly summarised here (pp. 136-150); on *Lombardy and Venetia* (pp. 258-287); on *Vorderösterreich* – a topic we do not often hear much about (pp. 300-302); and the translations of postal decrees from 1722-1789 (pp. 346-371). This is just a small selection from the contents, the list of which runs to seven pages.

Inevitably this book opens the door for further discussion and research and a few questions sprang into my mind as I went through it. For example:

- What was the background to the setting up of organised postal services in Habsburg lands in the first place? There were postal links between Italian States, the Low Countries, and England for commercial

and diplomatic reasons well before 1490 and it seems fair to assume that the edict creating an Imperial Post drew on this experience and took the next step to meet the new strategic need for regular communications between Vienna and the Low Countries. No doubt the impact of the Renaissance and the invention of printing also played a part.

- To what extent was the extension of postal services into Hungary a consequence of the need to confront the Ottoman threat to Vienna? This topic is touched on (*pp.* 229-231) but one would like to know more about how postal arrangements evolved to meet State needs throughout the endless Turkish Wars of the 16th and 17th centuries.
- Why did postmasters stop using handstamps in 1789? The book cleaves to Müller's rather limp line that this is unknown, but it occurred immediately after a change in postal rates that introduced a single postal rate for inland letters and it is not difficult to imagine that, as it was no longer necessary to show where a letter had come from to be certain that the right postage was being paid, postmasters breathed a sigh of relief and stopped the chore of stamping which probably also involved additional expense to produce the stamps.
- Did the 1842 reform actually reduce postal charges as stated here (*pp.* 45 and 321)? Another view is that, while distances may have shortened with the shift to straight-line calculation, in most comparable cases the rates actually went up, necessitating further tinkering in 1843 to even them out again.
- Why did Austria introduce pre-payment using postage stamps (*p.* 321)? Undoubtedly there was an international move in that direction and studies were carried out as described, but it seems at least arguable that enthusiasm in Vienna for the change was driven by a wider determination to retain Austria's standing in Germany, especially at a time when its weakness on the battlefield had just been cruelly exposed by the Hungarian army. Austria had not been included in the *Zollverein* so far and the idea of a German-Austrian Postal Union must have seemed very attractive to the Hofburg. Certainly the treaty, which required pre-payment using stamps for mail between Union states, was completed and brought into force with the minimum of delay. Was it a coincidence that the date for introducing stamps in Austria (1 June 1850) neatly met the treaty obligation to do so by 1 July?

Let the discussion continue. In the meantime, I can thoroughly recommend this book as a good read and an invaluable handbook for reference.

Bill Hedley

125 Haler TGM 1920 by Mark Wilson. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Print-on Demand #156 (2022). 52 pages, A4, coloured illustrations. Part 1: £15 + P&P. Part 2 is available as a free, downloadable A4 or letter-size PDF at <https://czechout.org/pages/on-demand.htm>.)

This book, which joins the ranks of the works published on-demand by the CPSGB, is the embodiment of the discoveries set out in Mark's article on page 22 of the last issue of *Czechout* (December 2021, Volume 39/4) 'Recent Research: The 125 Haler TGM 1920'.

First off, I must disagree with Mark's characterization of this stamp as uniquely unattractive. There is something about the design of this stamp that has always drawn me to it, and to the other denominations in this design, the 500 and 1000 haler.

Being a hopeless fly-speck philatelist, I was initially intrigued by the note in the POFIS catalogue about the two types of this stamp. I then stumbled across Mark's 2007 article in *The Czechoslovak Specialist* 'T. G. Masaryk 1920 Issue', which detailed ten persistent flaws that occur in each quarter of the 100-stamp plate, in addition to the two types. Needless to say, I set about pouring through as many of these stamps as I could get my hands on to put together a collection of all 10 persistent flaws. This new work of Mark's not only adds one more type and another persistent flaw to the collecting knowledge of the English-speaking world, but also a whole new level of fun in being able to plate all 200 positions of this stamp!

This is a stamp that can be collected on three levels: the three types, the eleven persistent flaws, and the 200 individual positions on the plates. Mark's guide to this stamp is pleasingly organized with this in mind. The General Information section at the front of *Part 1* identifies the three types, discusses the printing mechanics of the stamp, and elucidates some of the peculiarities with respect to the recurrence of the persistent flaws. This is followed by the position descriptions for each of the eleven persistent flaws. Next are two more sections: the position descriptions for the Type 1 and 1a stamps without persistent flaws, and then the same treatment of the Type 2 stamps.

Part 2 is an index that illustrates individual flaws according to the area of the stamp on which they are located. This allows the reader to take an individual flaw, locate it in the index, and then go back to the position descriptions in *Part 1* to establish what position a stamp is from.

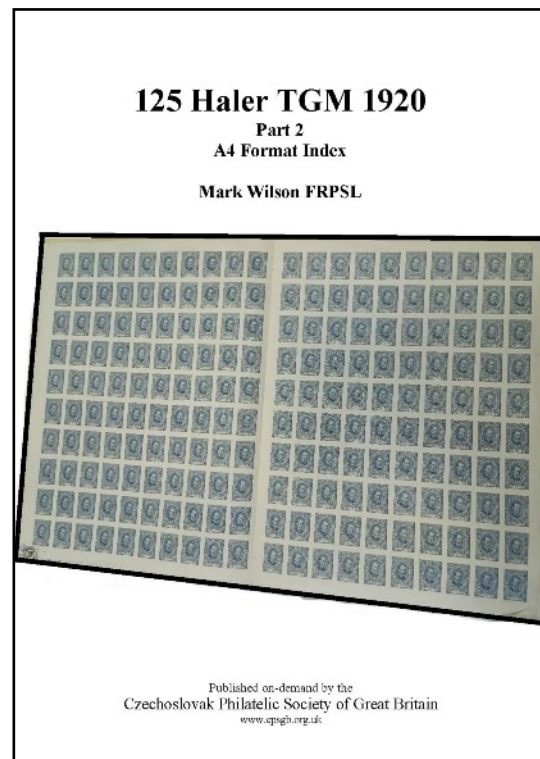
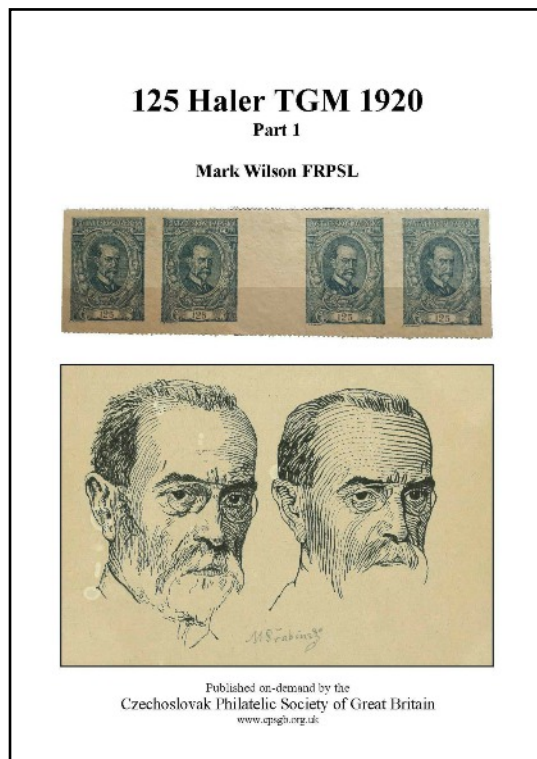
While I would not recommend plating novices start with 125 haler TGM (I would recommend torturing your eyeballs on a couple of Hradčany denominations first), *Part 1* of Mark's guide does make it remarkably

easy to plate these complicated stamps even without the index in Part 2. Once you have ascertained what type a stamp is (either Type 1, Type 1a, or Type 2) you know which persistent flaws to check for. If it does not have a persistent flaw, you know which section of position descriptions to look in.

I have only two minor quibbles with the way the guide is laid-out. First, I would have separated the position descriptions of the Type 1 and Type 1a stamps into separate sections and second, I would have identified the illustrations in the sections of position descriptions by plate number, position number and perhaps a letter, rather than numbering them sequentially from 1 to whatever number is the last one. However, these quibbles may be a reflection of my own intellectual limitations rather than any deficiency in the layout of Mark's work. Readers can make that judgement for themselves. However, these are very minor complaints about what is nothing short of a brilliant piece of work.

There is no one who has done as much as Mark Wilson has to make knowledge about the early typographically produced stamps of Czechoslovakia accessible to the English-speaking world; the *125 Haler TGM 1920* is the latest instalment in the long list of excellent guides to these stamps put together by Mark. I am personally indebted to Mark for getting me addicted to this absolutely fascinating area of Czechoslovak philately and for providing me with a plating guide to yet one more of these stamps and moreover one to which I have always been attracted.

Robert Lauer





New Issues – Czech Republic

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

10 November 2021

Christmas – Definitive NVI B (POFIS 1141)



The stamp shows traditional Christmas decorations on a fir branch with iced gingerbread biscuits of assorted shapes. Although Christmas is the second most important Christian festival it is widely celebrated as a holiday in many countries. The Christmas festivities and rituals begin with Advent and end with Epiphany or Three Kings Day.

Karel Stýblo and TB Control (POFIS 1142)



The stamp has a portrait of Karel Stýblo (1921-1998) and an image of tuberculosis bacteria in a Petri dish. For his work he is known as the father of modern TB epidemiology, and received the Robert Koch Gold Medal. He was nominated for the 1998 Nobel Prize but died before receiving it.

Towards the end of the Second World War he was imprisoned at Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp where he contracted TB. It was this experience which changed his life. After the end of the war and his release from the camp he studied at Charles University, Prague then worked in Prague at various TB and lung research centres. During the 1960s he met Sir John Crofton, of the University of Edinburgh, whose methodology influenced him. A new TB control research unit was opened in the Hague in 1966 and Stýblo was appointed scientific director. He became a Dutch citizen in 1971 after the unsuccessful Prague Spring events in his homeland. The TB therapy that he pioneered revolutionised the fight to control TB throughout the world and this was recognised and promulgated by the World Health Organisation. In 1979 he became scientific director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUAT)

Personalities: Jan Kotěra (POFIS 1143)



Jan Kotěra (1871-1923), the founder of modern Czech architecture, was born in Brno but began his career as a building designer in Prague. He studied architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and in 1897 received the Prix de Rome scholarship to study in Italy for a year. Returning to Prague, he set up his own studio and was appointed a professor at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design, Prague. His first work, in the Viennese Art Nouveau style, was Peterka House, Wenceslas Square Prague. Although it received a lukewarm reception he used it as a modified design in later works.

Some of his most notable works were the design of the National House, Prostejov, the City Museum Hradec Králove, and his own villa at Vinohrady, Prague. The Baťa Villa in Zlín was another commission, as was the Baťa Shoe Factory, East Tilbury, England. Kotěra's last design, the Law Faculty Building of Charles University, Prague, remained unfinished but was completed after his death by Ladislav Machoň. The stamp, within a souvenir sheet, shows this uncompleted work together with his portrait. The two coupons show various design details for the Prostejov and Hradec Králove commissions with further enlarged details as a background border to the sheet. These details show some of Kotěra's other work as an interior designer, focusing on furniture, wall paper, porcelain and glassware, and as an illustrator and watercolourist.

Saint Ludmila (POFIS 1144)



This year marks the 1100th anniversary of the murder of St. Ludmila in Tetín Castle on 15 September 921. She is venerated not only by the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches but also as the patroness of Bohemia and the oldest Czech saint. Ludmila, the daughter of Prince Slavibor, was born in Mělník Castle c. 860. At a young age she married the Přemyslid prince Borjov I, who became the first Christian Duke of Bohemia in 873. They were converted and baptised into the Christian faith by Saint Methodius. After the death of her husband, Bohemia became part of the Greater Moravian Empire again but Ludmila remained a Christian and was actively involved in the politics of the day to regain an independent Bohemia and her sons' birthrights. Her eldest son died and succeeded by his brother Vratislav who had married Drahomíra. They had two sons, Wenceslas and Boleslav, who were educated, taught Christian values – including charity and religion – by Ludmila, but this was in conflict with her daughter-in-law's idea that they should be tough, non-Christian, and uncompromising men. After the death of Vratislav, Drahomíra

acted as regent for Wenceslas but Ludmila remained an important influence. Ludmila was murdered, probably on the orders of Drahomíra. In 925 her grandson, now King Wenceslas, moved her remains to St George's Basilica, Prague, and she was officially canonised in 1144 with her saint's day celebrated each year on 16 September.

The commemorative souvenir sheet has a central stamp with a portrait of St Ludmila holding a long white veil with which she is said to have been strangled. The trunk of a strong branching oak tree in leaf is the background for the stamp with the coats of arms of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia below and a white dove of peace above.

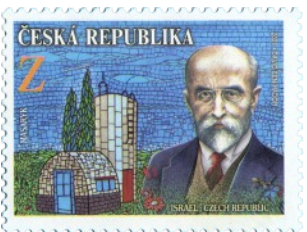
Kája Saudek: Muriel – Definitive NVI B (POFIS 1145)



Kája Saudek (Karel) (1935-2016) was a Czech painter, illustrator of comics, films, books, and magazines. His twin brother was the photographer Jan Saudek. They were born in Prague but the family was deported to a concentration camp in Poland. The boys survived but most of the family perished in Terezín. From an early age Kája was an admirer of American comics and their writers. As an artist and illustrator he was mostly self-taught as higher education studies were closed to him under the Communist regime. He became a technical draughtsman and stage designer at the Barrandov Film Studios, Prague. During the 1960s his work became more widely known and published. He worked on several successful films the most popular of which was *Muriel a andělé* (*Muriel and the Angels*). He illustrated the instructions and cover of the first officially sold computer game in Czechoslovakia *Město robotů* (*City of Robots*) in 1989. After 1989 many of his works were published and numerous exhibitions held. He had an accident in 2006 and remained in a vegetative state until his death.

30 November 2021

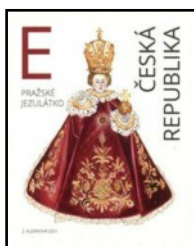
T G Masaryk in Israel – Commemorative NVI Z, Joint Czech – Israeli issue (POFIS 1146)



T G Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, in 1927 was the first head of state to visit Palestine. After Czechoslovakia gained its independence in October 1918 it was one of a few countries to recognise and empathise with the Jewish struggle for independence. After the end of World War II Czechoslovakia actively supported the establishment of the State of Israel through international diplomacy at the United Nations through Jan Masaryk, then Minister of Foreign Affairs. Israel gained its independence in 1948.

In 1938 Jewish Czech and Lithuanian immigrants formed a fortified kibbutz settlement which was moved to its current location and renamed Kfar Masaryk in memory of the first Czechoslovak president. The name for the kibbutz was chosen as a sign of respect for his personality, humanism, struggle for the truth, liberation of nations and in gratitude for his support of Israel's freedom. In 1988 the foundation stone of T.G. Masaryk's Cultural and Documentation Centre was laid at the kibbutz to mark the 70th anniversary of Czechoslovakia. Today the kibbutz is still a collective community based on farming, industry, tourism and services.

The Infant Jesus of Prague – Self -adhesive Definitive NVI E (POFIS 1147)



The Infant Jesus of Prague is a small wooden statue with surface modelled from coloured wax. It can be seen in its glass case displayed on an elaborate marble altar in the Church of Our Lady Victorious in the Lesser Town, Prague. A legend claims that Jesus miraculously appeared to a Spanish monk who then modelled the statue sometime in the early 16th century. Another legend implies the statue once belonged to Saint Teresa of Avila. Polyxena (the Spanish bride of a Czech nobleman) of Lobkowitz brought the statue from Spain and presented it to the Carmelites of Prague in 1628. Their church of Our Lady Victorious was originally the German Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity completed in 1613. After the Battle of White Mountain (1620) it was given to the Carmelites who renamed it in honour of the victory and rebuilt it.

The Infant Jesus of Prague is shown on the stamp dressed in a rich red vestment studded with jewels with a crown suspended above the head. Over the years benefactors have donated many rich and varied costumes for the Infant which are regularly displayed according to church rituals.

20 January 2022

The Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Recess Printing from Flat Plates (POFIS 1148)



The stamp shows a printing press as used for production of Czech stamps. Waite & Saville of Falcon Works, Otley, who built the first newspaper wrapping machine, was established in 1892 by Fred Waite and Jason Saville, a Bradford engineer. Their die-stamp print presses producing recess printed stamps from flat plates have been used for decades for the production of Czechoslovak, Czech, and Slovak stamps. The press is controlled by a camshaft that drives a double crank mechanism.

The stamps were printed in (a) sheets of 10 stamps (b) in booklets of eight stamps and two labels. The labels have the post horn logo plate ready for printing. A close-up view of the press is shown on the booklet cover with a more detailed view of the side of the press with text details of this stamp issue on the back cover.



Booklet Cover.

Molière (POFIS 1149)



Molière (born Jean Baptiste Poquelin 1622-1673) was a French satirical playwright. His comedies, based on the exposure of hypocrisy and cant in the church, medicine, the law, and daily life, exposed him to many attacks but he was protected by Louis XIV. *Tartuffe*, one of his satirical masterpieces was banned from 1664 until 1697. His mother came from a wealthy family but died when he was 10 years old; his father was a court upholsterer.

After studying at a Jesuit college and then law in Orleans, he abandoned this way of life to co-found and become the lead actor of *Illustre Théâtre* where he used the pen name *Molière*. He wrote more than 30 plays, many of which relied on improvisation, acted in many others, and moved the French theatre away from reliance on classical Greek themes. Molière suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis and died on 17 February 1673, after collapsing on stage during a performance of *The Imaginary Invalid*.



New Issues – Slovak Republic

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

3 November 2021

2020/21 Alpine Ski World Cup: Petra Vlhová NVI T2 50g (POFIS 751)



The stamp has a portrait of Petra Vlhová triumphantly holding the winner's trophy – a large crystal globe. This was the first time a skier from Slovakia had won the Alpine Ski World title. Petra Vlhová (13 June 1995) was born in Liptovský Mikuláš, grew up in the mountainous Tatra area, and from an early age showed a talent for skiing, gaining many prestigious victories in youth events. She made her Olympic debut in 2014 and became Junior World Champion in the slalom the same year. Since then she has competed successfully at many international skiing events and expects to compete in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing. She has the unofficial popular title of *Queen of Slovak Sport*.

The annual Alpine Ski World Cup was first held at Berchtesgaden, Germany in January 1967 under the auspices of International Ski Federation (FIS). Competitors attempt to achieve best times in four disciplines: slalom, giant slalom, super G, and downhill, with a fifth event of combined downhill and slalom. For each race points are awarded for the first 30 places. Events take place between October and the following March at various ski resorts, usually in Europe. The winner is the skier with the most points. The event is considered to be the premiere competition for alpine skiers as it demands consistent high performance in several disciplines over the season. The prestigious trophy – the Crystal Globe – weighs 9 kg with smaller Crystal Globes of 3.5 kg awarded to the winners in each individual discipline.

12 November 2021

Christmas Mail 2021 NVI T2 50 g (POFIS 752)



The Christmas Mail to Baby Jesus has become a traditional festivity organised by the Slovak Post for children to write their secret wishes and greetings to Baby Jesus using a special address – *Ježiško 999 99*. Letters from all around the world are received and each one receives a reply from Baby Jesus with a small gift in the envelope. The Slovak Post chooses the children's drawings from the previous year as the topic for the current year's stamp, cancel, and first day cover cachet. This year is the 22nd year of *Christmas Mail*. There were four special cancels: a) on 29 November with snowman motif; b) on 6 December with two decorated boxes; c) on 13 December with a decorated fir tree; and d) on 20 December with a fir branch adorned with lit candles, cones, and snow.

Folk Pottery NVI T2 50 g (POFIS 753)



The stamp shows a ceramic decorated relief of the Madonna and Child which was produced by the Majolica Folk Pottery Factory at Modra. The relief was the work of Ignác Bizmayer (1922-2019), completed in 1986, and can be seen in the Slovak National Museum of Ľudovít Štúr, Modra.

Bizmayer began his career as an apprentice at the Modra factory, initially painting plates, jugs, vases, and later sculptured figures. His ideas and innovations improved the traditional sculptured items produced at Modra to include modelled scenes. These items had many themes including biblical, wine production, folk lore, every day peasant life, and nature. In 1982 he was awarded the title of National Artist, one of a number of awards in recognition of his artistic work.

A booklet of 10 self-adhesive stamps and a postcard with a circular design of a nativity scene taken from a decorative plate were issued.

26 November 2021

Personalities: Alexander Dubček, 1921-1992 (POFIS 754)



The issue, with a portrait of Alexander Dubček sitting in a car, marks 100 years since his birth. Although Dubček was born in Uhrovec he grew up in Krgyzstan where his parents worked. The family returned to Slovakia before World War II. Alexander and his brother Julian joined the anti-fascist resistance. Julian was killed during the Slovak National Uprising. After the war Alexander began his political career becoming a member of the National Association of Czechoslovakia, graduating from the political college in Moscow in 1958 and a member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. His views of a communist state

were not in accord with the reality of living in the economic and social situation imposed from Moscow. He was elected First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party on 5 January 1968 and began implementing reforms to decentralise the economy and bring some democracy to society – the Prague Spring.

The Soviets did not agree with the reforms and these were reversed when the Warsaw Pact troops occupied the country on 21 August 1968. Dubček was gradually removed from all positions of authority apart from a brief period (1969-1970) as Ambassador to Turkey until he was expelled from the party. The next 20 years were spent under severe restrictions whilst working for the Forestry Commission in Slovakia.

After the Velvet Revolution and the fall of the Communists in November 1989 he restarted his political activities and was elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly in Prague. He visited many European and other states to re-establish contacts and cooperation for a democratic Czechoslovakia. On a business visit to Prague on 1 September 1992 his car was involved in an accident, resulting in his death on 7 November 1992. Dubček had high moral values, was a respected politician with a humane approach to all people. His grave is in the cemetery of Slavicie Udolie, Bratislava.

1 December 2021

Art: The Adoration of the Magi from Zlaté Moravce c.1450 (POFIS 755)



The original painting, c. 1450, is from the Špis workshop studios by an unknown artist depicting the three Magi presenting their gifts to the Infant Jesus held by a seated Mary. In the background two shepherds with their flock hear the Annunciation from an angel with the text *Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth p[er]f[ect] peace and good will toward men*. The painting is in the modest style which appeared in central Europe during the mid 15th century. It was associated with Hussite/Lutheran worship in contrast to the ornate, decorative style of the Catholic Church. How the painting acquired the provenance from Zlaté Moravce is a mystery. It was purchased for the Czechoslovak National Collection of Old Masters in 1938 from a Vienna art market. It was on display for some decades in the Slovak National Gallery but now forms part of the National Gallery collections, Prague. This stamp issue shows the whole painting in miniature sheet format with the stable scene forming the stamp.

3 December 2021

Postage Stamp Day: Mikuláš Klimčák, 1921-2016 (Pofis 756)



Mikuláš Klimčák, born Humenné eastern Slovakia in 1921, died in Bratislava in 2016. He was a versatile artist studying in Prague and Bratislava, where he lived from 1950. His formative years were spent in the Greek Catholic community at a time when they were pressing for the liturgy to be in Slovak. These ideas influenced Klimčák's work as a painter, sculptor, illustrator, restorer, and iconographer. His work includes the tapestry *Byzantine Mission in*

Great Moravia which can be seen in Bratislava Castle, the sarcophagus for the beatified bishop of Prešov, and paintings in several Greek Catholic churches. A detail from the above mentioned tapestry is shown with a portrait of the artist to commemorate the 2021 Postage Stamp Day issue. The stamps have an accompanying tab depicting *The Birth in Bethlehem* from the line drawing of the 1997 stamp.

Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Forschungsberichte aus der Tschechoslowakei-Philatelie (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei, Germany) **No. 210.**

- Interesting cover: Printed matter from Brno to Trutnov of 27.10.1938 (commercial meter mark and censorship)
- Interesting cover: A mixed franking within a short validity period (two B&H newspaper stamps)
- Röhn, D. *et al.* Czechoslovak airmail period 1918-1938, part 4 (more outward and inward mail from other countries.)
- Hanáček, G. Postage due in the territory of the Bohemia & Moravia protectorate 1939-1945.
- Lieberman, H. New considerations on 'blind' cancellations: How did those for the Feldpost in Silesia and the Generalgouvernement come to post offices in postwar Czechoslovakia?

Austria (Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 217, Winter 2021.

- Brooks, A. Dreikaisereck (where the Austro-Hungarian, German and Russian Empires met in Upper Silesia, and where postcard souvenirs had stamps of all three Empires cancelled at Myslowitz)
- Brandon, K. The postal espionage of Prince Metternich (how over four decades from 1809 to 1848 he managed to spy on mail crossing Austrian territory)
- Kuzych, I. Austria's city and town anniversary stamp series 1971-1996.
- Boyer, J., Taylor, A. The 1946 St Stephen's Cathedral set.
- Brooks, A. 'Gloria Viktoria' (a large officially produced postcard album by the Ministry of War Welfare Office in Vienna during WW1 into which the public were encouraged to put officially issued postcards of the various war theatres).

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 227, December 2021.

- Morrell, R. Timeline to Trianon, Part 12, 1 October 1921 to 31 December 1921. (Politics, people and stamps, focusing on the Western Hungary question, final part.)
- Tricot, F. Means of claiming postage due during the Hungarian hyperinflation of 1945-1946, - Part 2.
- Soutar, A. Interesting Hyperinflation covers.
- Questions and Answers: Station postmarks or not? (concerning straightline station marks in the High Tatras)
- Questions and Answers: How are the charges made up on a COD parcel form?

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn, Austria)

No. 143, 2021/3.

- Schild, G. The first internment of war history: Internment of the Austrian occupation of Laveno, 1859.
- Nagy, G. Fortune of a Hungarian soldier, Part II Dr Halmay Béla (1881-1953) (legible postcards from a Hungarian POW in Russian, incarcerated from December 1915 to 1922.)
- Lang, H. Franz Ferdinand Erzherzog von Österreich-Este, world travel 1892/3 (the trip undertaken around the world by Franz Josef's heir).
- Feichtenbeiner, H. 'Ski-Alpin' (part of a thematic exhibit at ÖVEBRIA 2021 dealing with military skiing in WW1)
- Robisch, H. Factory censorship (an example from a copper refinery in Vienna)
- Wirtl, W. Enemy forces in the First World War – France (cachets and postmarks of the French military)
- Bliersbach, A. Italian prisoners of war in Russia – and addendum (concerning Italian nationals caught up the Russian attacks in the eastern provinces of the Austrian Empire and ending up as Russian POWs; mail to a special refugee unit in Vienna dealing with their mail)

Filatelie

No. 10/2021 (October).

- Anon. From the new Monografie 24: Perfins from Czechoslovak territory
- Folprecht, P. Hradčany printer's waste
- Kunc, L. Czechoslovak soldiers in 1939 – 1945 (part 2)
- Chudoba, J., & Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic (Chain Breaker) – 60h part II (plate marks)
- Šilhán, T. Pofis 2021 – Cz automat machine stamps (Pull-out supplement pp 17 – 24)

No. 11/2021 (November).

- Beneš, F. Jaroslav Skrivan – the Harry Jelinek of our field
 Anon, Blue meter mark: a new find from the Protektorat after 75years
 Choduba, J. & Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic (Chain Breaker) - 60h (part 3)
 Bachratý, M. Post Office Žilina 2 in the post-revolutionary period (after 1918)
 Šedivý, V. Points of interest of the kingdom of Serbia and states of SHS overprints (after end of WW1)

No. 12/2021 (December).

- Gebauer, P. German Fieldpost in Slovakia 1915.
 Vrba, M. A new type of fake gum (on 10f reapers Hungarian stamp overprinted 'Pošta československá 1919')
 Valuch, L. 'Eilnachricht' Protektorat postcard (types)
 Fencel, P. Beware of inappropriate and unwanted stamp issues.
 Šilhán, T. Pofis 2021 – Cz. Automat Machine Stamps (pull out supplement pages 25 – 132).

Czechoslovak Specialist (Society for Czechoslovak Philately, US).

Fall 2021 Vol. 83, No. 4, Whole Number 666.

- Svoboda, L. 1h Hradčany – Why?
 Aksamit, P. A few notes about *Monografie* 9 – FDC part 2.
 Hart, Keith. Bohumil Šneider – his philatelic life.

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Check out our sister organization, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, at their website: www.csphilately.net and through their Treasurer, Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.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!

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(Kann vom Empfänger ab-
gesondert werden.)
(Peut être détaché par le
destinataire.)

Stempel des Aufgabepostamtes
Timbre du bureau d'origine

12 h

Öst. Admin.

208
Prag 20

Bulletin d'expédition.

Colis postal

Hierbei
(à joindre) 1 douane

Verlangabe
Valeur assurée

En } Poste Impériale Ottomane, Stamboul
2 } Société Anonyme Ottomane pour le commerce d'articles manufacturés

Bestimmungsort
Lieu de destination } Constantinople
Straße und Hausnummer } Stamboul
Rue et numéro }
Bestimmungsland
Pays de destination } La Turquie

Name und Wohnort des
Absenders
Nom et domicile de
l'expéditeur

Albert Emmrich
Prag VII. Heleschowitz.

Gewicht — Poids	Zollgebühren Droits de douane	Beörderungswege
5 kg		Wien 77
kg		
kg		

Vom Eintrittsauswechslungsamte oder vom Zollamte des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrées ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

Ausfuhrbewilligung
Finanzministerial
Z. 211298

Total

Praha Parcel Card 1917

This is a precursor of the Czech parcel card, for this is the Austrian type, the format of which the Czechs copied.

- Top left Austrian coat of arms with below 12 heller – the cost of the parcel card which had to be paid for in cash
- Top centre White identification label, a duplicate of this would be stuck on the parcel
- Top centre right An imprinted 10 heller stamp, this being a tax on the card
- Right-hand side Three Austrian stamps totalling 2.85 K paying the parcel postage. All stamps tied by the bilingual cds 23 II 17
- Centre Addressed to Turkey
- Bottom left Parcel weight: 5 kg
- Bottom right Route. Indicated by the white label Vienna
(Courtesy of Robert Elliot.)