



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 40/2

JUNE 2022

WHOLE NUMBER 187



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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 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

Tony Holdsworth responded to my December plea for an Assistant Editor. See his introduction on page 6 of this issue. Thank you for stepping forward, Tony!

Joe Coulbourne writes that he was pleasantly surprised to read in *Linn's Stamp News* that a postal history book in our collecting area (*Slovensko 1938-1945*) has been nominated by the RPSL as a candidate for the 2022 Crawford Medal. The book was reviewed by **Jan Bisschops** in the March 2021 (p. 22) issue of *Czechout*.

Congratulations

Rex Dixon has been elevated to Fellowship of the Society of Postal Historians. Fellowship is an honour afforded to members who have contributed to the Society for a considerable number of years and is limited to a small number of the members of the Society.

International Stamp Exhibition – London 2022

Society Awards

For the first time in its history our journal *Czechout 2019* received a Gold at an International World Exhibition, thanks to its Editor **Alan Soble**. Well done, Alan, it is no mean achievement. Monograph 31, *The Hradčany: A Technical History*, Parts 1 and 2, received a Large Vermeil. Monograph 32, *The Dove: A Handbook for Collectors of Stamps and Covers* received a Vermeil. The *Interactive Index to Czechout 1975-2019* received a Vermeil.

Members' Awards

Peter Chadwick: *Postal Routes and Post Offices in Scotland 1660-1750* – Gold, and *Charges and Charge Marks of the British Mails before 1840* – Large Gold.

Hans van Dooremalen: *USA Postal Cards 1873-1913* – Large Gold.

Steven Friedenthal: *Czechoslovakia Machine Advertising Cancels: The First Republic Period* – (Literature) Large Vermeil.

Lubor Kunc: *Austro-Hungarian Field Post 1914-1918* – Vermeil.

Pavol Lazar: *Czechoslovakia 1918-1939* – Gold.

Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins: *Russian Socialist Federation Soviet Republic (RSFSR), The 1921 Science and Arts 2nd Issue* – Vermeil, and *The Russian & Soviet Justice System 1820-1991* – Large Vermeil.

Garth Taylor: *Postal History of the Free Czech Army in WW2 1939-1945* – Large Silver, and *A Study of the Third Issue of Czechoslovakian Air Mail Stamps* – Large Vermeil

Wim Tukker: *The Predecimal Cards of Australia* – Vermeil.

Richard Wheatley: *Netherlands East Indies: Mail Routes During World War 1* – Large Vermeil, and *The Simon Artz Story* – (Literature) Large Silver.

Yvonne Wheatley: *Czechoslovakia: The Masaryk 1920 & Allegory Issues 1920 to 1923* – Gold.

Alfonso Zulueta: *Afghanistan: Amanullah Definitives 1920-29* – Gold.

Shared Award

Two of our members, **Keith Brandon** and **Roger Morrell**, with Andy Taylor, received a Gold Medal for the book *The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850*. The book, entered by the Austrian Philatelic Society, is reviewed in *Czechout* March 2022, p. 21.

European Stamp Exhibition – HUNFILEX 2022

Members' Participation

The exhibition was held in Budapest, Hungary from 31 March to 3 April. Two of our members were involved in the organisation. **György Lóvei**, President of the Mihály Gervay Philatelic Foundation was on the Organising Committee and **Bill Hedley**, President of FEPA, was the British Commissioner.

Members' Awards

Peter Chadwick: *Handstruck Charge Marks of the Official London Posts* – Gold.

Bill Hedley: *Postal Services in the Habsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900 with Special reference to Pozsony and its Environs* – Large Vermeil with Felicitations.

Jon Klemetsen: *Czechoslovakia 1929-39: The Last Decennium from Prosperity to Disaster* – Large Silver.

Pavol Lazar: *Czechoslovakia 1918-1939* – Gold.

György Lóvei: *Interim Use of Czechoslovakian Stamps During the Monetary Reform Period* – Large Vermeil.

Roger Morrell: Editor, *Stamps of Hungary*, for the 2020 issues – Large Silver.

London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition

The international exhibition finally opened on 19 February for an eight-day event. Originally planned for 2020, it had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the start of the Exhibition three storms battered the country, causing much travel disruption. As a consequence attendance was affected. Those of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed the experience of an international exhibition with the opportunity to meet up with friends.

CPSGB members welcomed the chance to exhibit as evidenced by the impressive list of awards. In addition to the Czechoslovak exhibits by Society members there were several other Czechoslovak exhibits to interest me.

The Society had a stand on the Society Day at the exhibition which gave the opportunity to chat to members and visitors. We received several invitations to write about the Society for various publications which it is hoped will result in new members joining the Society.

On the final day, 26 February, the Society held a meeting at which our member **Norman Hudson** showed



an interesting selection from his 350-page collection covering all aspects of the life and work of Alfons Mucha. The display commenced with Mucha's birth in 1860 in the small town of Ivančice and followed with his formal art education and his chance meetings which changed his life until his death in 1939. The display contained examples of his work depicted on Czechoslovak stamps as well as his designs for the stamps and banknotes for the new republic. The display was enhanced by a full-colour booklet written by Norman and given to those present.

Roger Morrell gave the vote of thanks.

Yvonne Wheatley

Norman Hudson and the first frame of his Mucha display.



*London 2022.
Photo by Rex Dixon.*

Introducing *Czechout's* New Assistant Editor: Tony Holdsworth

I was brought up in Greenwich, London, one of seven siblings (six boys and one unfortunate girl!). Although I was a grammar school pupil, I was fortunate enough to go on to read English Literature at Christ's College, Cambridge.



After university I looked for a job in publishing – starting at the very bottom as editor of an eight-page monthly newsletter published by the Institute of Personnel Management. I moved from there to the production department of various popular publishers, ending up as one of the managing editors at Octopus Books, an imprint of Hamlyn that focused on cookery, gardening, and other illustrated publications.

As my three boys grew up, I decided that commerce was not for me – my mother and father were both in the teaching profession, as well as two brothers and my wife, so I decided to follow that well-trodden path (even my sister was a school secretary at one time!). I spent twenty-seven years in teaching, retiring as a primary school headteacher in 2017.

My wife and I decided to spend a significant proportion of our pension lump sum on a narrow boat – *Phyllis May II*. Any readers who share our love for the slow, peaceful life of the canals may recognize this boat – we bought it from Terry Darlington, author of *Narrow Dog to Wigan Pier* (Bantam Books, 2012).

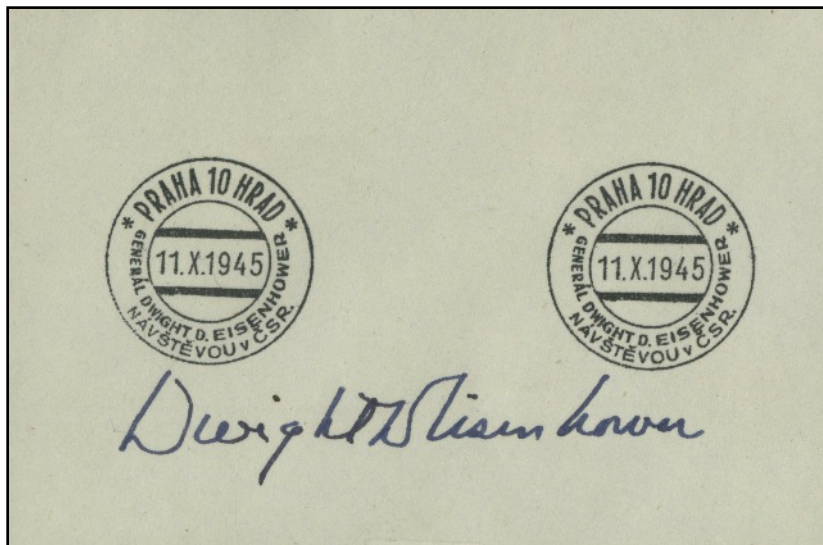
I consider myself to be more of a stamp collector than a philatelist, though joining CPSGB has developed my understanding of all things philatelic immensely. I first grew to love the stamps of Czechoslovakia when I was in publishing. I was sent to Prague, and from there to Martin in Slovakia, to pass some sheets on press. I came home with appropriate respect for Pilsner, Slivovitz, and Becherovka – and with a miniature sheet of the Charles Bridge (POFIS 2333), which I still have.



With support from fellow members (Editor Mark Wilson has been incredibly helpful thus far) what I lack in philatelic knowledge can hopefully be made up for with editorial experience.

New Query

Member **Jerry Starman** would like to know if anyone knows the history of the cancel and autograph on this clipping and if they are authentic.



Lidice: 80 Years Ago

Wojciech Kierstan

On 27 May 1942 there was an attempted assassination of Bohemia & Moravia's Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich by Czechoslovak nationals Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík, two members of Operation Anthropoid trained by the British. Heydrich was taken to hospital wounded with shrapnel and debris from the explosion. He died on 4 June 1942 from septicaemia due to contaminated debris from his own uniform and the horse-hair padding from his car. Following a lying-in-state in Prague, his body was returned to Berlin for a Nazi state funeral service at the Reich Chancellery on 8 June 1942.

Hitler, it is believed, saw Heydrich as his successor. Heydrich was an instigator of *Kristallnacht* and was the architect of the infamous final solution. Thus, in retribution, Hitler demanded the immediate execution of 10,000 Czechs, but things did not stop there. The villages of Lidice and Ležáky were razed to the ground so as to be eradicated from the maps. The male population was shot and the women were deported to concentration camps. These destructions were publicized by the Nazis as a warning to everyone and to strike terror into any opposition. However, there was a worldwide outcry that Lidice should not be forgotten.

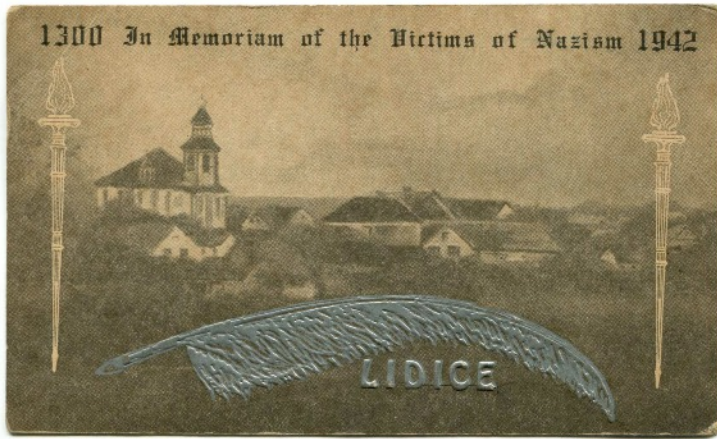


One of the first reactions was to rename villages, streets and parks in the West. An example is the postcard above, which commemorates the renaming of a (then) recently built development in the US State of Illinois as Lidice. It had been called Stern Park, but the name was changed just two days after the massacre. The area is now part of Crest Hill, Illinois, a suburb of Joliet. A large ceremony took place on 12 July 1942 to celebrate the renaming. Politicians, people in traditional Bohemian dress, and an honour guard attended.

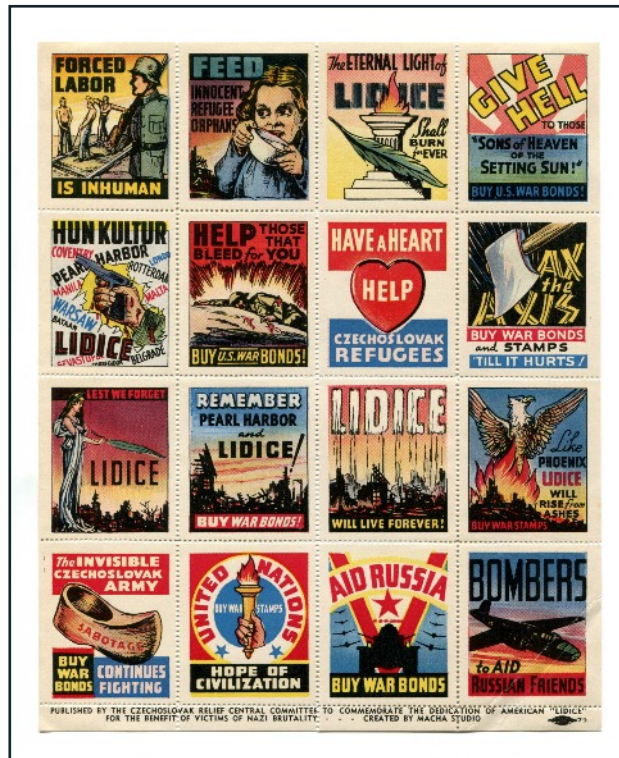
In Stoke-on-Trent, UK, at a rally in September 1942 organized by Sir Barnett Stross MP, a Polish Jewish immigrant, the *Lidice Shall Live* movement was formally launched. The movement was supported by the local miners and workers who started to collect and raise funds to rebuild Lidice. The movement's slogan began appearing everywhere, such as on a booklet (*right*) published by the Czechoslovak British Friendship Club in late 1942.

Various Czechoslovak communities issued items to help keep the tragedy in the forefront of the world's consciousness. In the United States a mourning card was produced (*next page*) with a photograph of Lidice and a white feather.





In North American Indian culture the white feather symbolizes keeping faith with the support and protection of the angels and is not a sign of cowardice, as it is in some cultures. The US's Czechoslovak Central Committee produced a sheet of labels to commemorate the dedication of this American Lidice (*below*).



On 12 July 1943 the USA issued a stamp featuring the Czechoslovak flag as part of their Overrun Countries series. At the same time there were a number of FDCs issued (*below*) remembering Lidice; 145,112 items were cancelled on the first day.



The destruction has been remembered on stamps and covers, the majority being issued by the Czechoslovak and Czech Post. These usually focused on Lidice, Ležáky, Operation Anthropoid or some combination of them. With few exceptions commemorations have been issued for every fifth anniversary, starting with an issue in 1947. These are listed below. The War Heroes issue is included as Gabčík appears on two of the stamps in the series. The same is true of the Free Czech Forces issue of 1992 which featured both Kubiš and Gabčík.

Anniversary Issues

| Date | Description | SG | POFIS | Michel | Scott |
|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 18 Aug 1946 | War Heroes | 387-402 | 387-402 | 439-454 | 272-287 |
| 10 Jun 1947 | 5th Anniversary Lidice: 3 stamps + label | 493-495 | 453-455 | 518-520 | 329-331 |
| 10 Jun 1952 | 10th Anniversary Lidice | 708-709 | 664-665 | 741-742 | 532-533 |
| 8 Jun 1957 | 15th Anniversary Lidice | 989-990 | 950-951 | 1030-1031 | 813-814 |
| 9 Jun 1962 | 20th Anniversary Lidice & Ležáky | 1301-1302 | 1253-1254 | 1346-1347 | 1118-1119 |
| 9 Jun 1967 | 25th Anniversary Lidice | 1666 | 1621 | 1715 | 1481 |
| 16 Feb 1972 | 30th Anniversary Lidice & Ležáky | 2020-2023 | 1942-1945 | 2054-2057 | 1800-1803 |
| 4 Jun 1982 | 40th Anniversary Lidice & Ležáky | 2628-2629 | 2539-2560 | 2667-2668 | 2411-2142 |
| 10 Jun 1987 | 45th Anniversary Lidice & Ležáky | 2885-2886 | 2799-2800 | 2916-2917 | 2661-2662 |
| 2 May 1992 | Free Czech Forces | 3090-3093 | 3008-3011 | 3116-3119 | 2857-2860 |
| 6 Jun 2012 | 70th Anniversary Lidice & Ležáky | 688 & 690 | 722-723 | 721-722 | 3537-3538 |
| 17 May 2017 | 75th Anniversary: Anthropoid mini sheet | MS876 | A925 | BL63 | 8000 |

Prior to 1947 there were a number of commemorative private issues and formal postmarks. For instance, as on this postcard from 1945 but with a collection of postmarks on the reverse from 1946 and 1947.

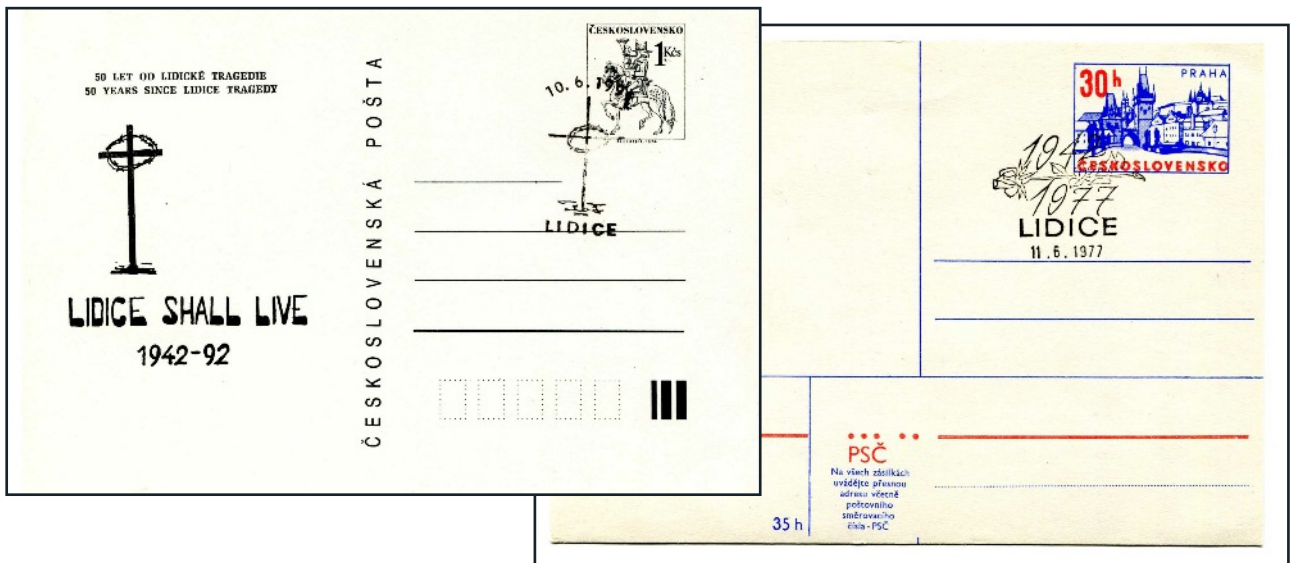


In 1947 some covers as well as stamps and postmarks were produced. Here are two examples.

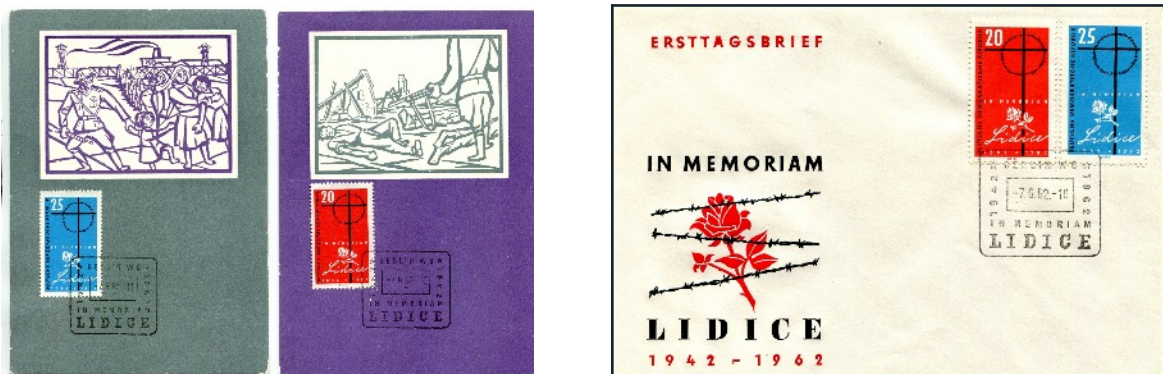




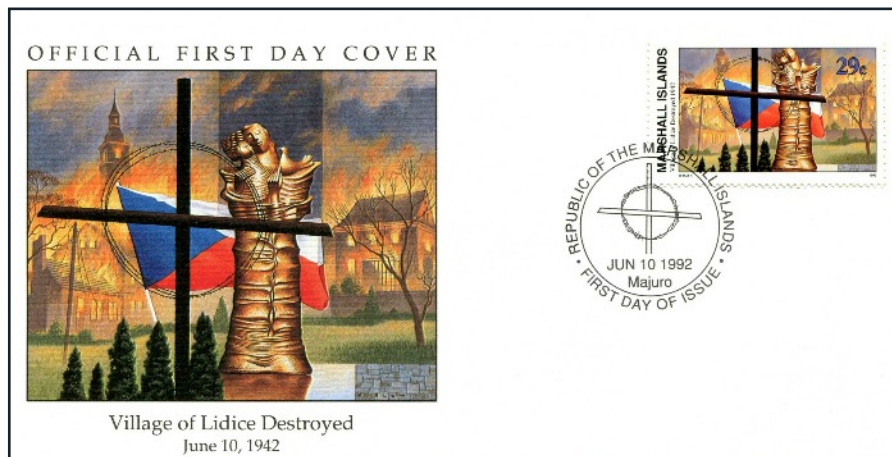
Special cancels produced on each anniversary are shown above.



Although no stamp was issued in 1977 this special cancel appeared.



East Germany commemorated the 20th anniversary of the destruction of Lidice.



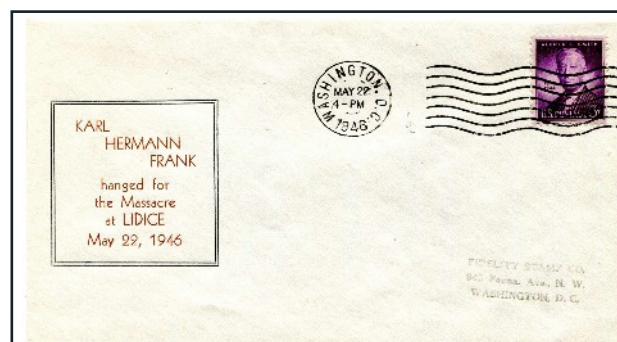
The Marshall Islands issued this 1992 commemorative.

Other stamps indirectly related to Lidice were issued, such as the Death Mask of Reinhard Heydrich (by Bohemia & Moravia in 1943). Further Czechoslovak postage stamps recognized the Lidice Children's Art Competition in 1982 as well as the *Lidice* ship in the Ships issue of 1960. These are included in the table below.

Issues Indirectly Related to Lidice or Released by Other Nations

| Date | Description | SG | POFIS | Michel | Scott |
|-------------|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| 28 May 1943 | Heydrich's Death Mask (B&M) | 111 | 111 | 131 | |
| 28 Oct 1945 | 1937 Bratislava Exhibition mini sheet with Overprint and Belgian Stamp | | A329-A330 | | |
| 22 Feb 1960 | Czech Ships | 1136-1139 | 1095-1098 | 1179-1182 | 961-964 |
| 7 Jun 1962 | 20th Anniversary Destruction Lidice (East Germany) – <i>see page 10</i> | E630-E631 | | DDR 604-605 | |
| 18 May 1982 | Children Art Exhibition – Lidice | MS2621 | 2538A | Block 47 | 2410 |
| 10 Jun 1992 | Marshall Islands – <i>see above</i> | 428 | | 430 | |

A final note: Karl Frank, the Nazi commander responsible for the razing to the ground of Lidice and Ležáky, was hanged for his crimes on 22 May 1946. The cover below was produced to mark the event.



So far the Czech Post has not released any plans to issue any stamps commemorating the 80th anniversary in 2022.

References

- POFIS Catalogues
- Czechoslovak Specialist* 629 (2012)
- CPSGB *Czechout* 102 & 103
- Scott Specialized US Catalogue*
- SG Catalogue Czech Republic and Slovakia 2017*
- www.lidice-memorial.cz
- www.unicover.com (Marshall Islands cover)
- www.cpslib.org

A POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 Forgery

Robert Lauer

In August 2021, I went down to Toronto to help fellow CPSGB member Robert Pinet put together a bunch of lots for auction at Sparks Auctions, a local auction house here in Ottawa, Canada. While I was down there, Robert handed me a small dealer's display card containing three Austrian stamps with the *POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919* overprint on them. 'Here, you take 'em, I don't collect these.'

These three stamps were still sitting on my stamp table when the September 2021 issue of *Czechout* arrived in the mail with Peter William's book review of *Hungary, 1919: Stamps and Forgeries* by P Clark Souers. Peter's book review not only had me picking up Souers' book to take a look at his section on the *POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919* overprints, but also had me taking a closer look at the three stamps that Robert Pinet had casually tossed in my direction. Much to my delight, one of those stamps, a 15 haler Karl, turned out to be a forgery.

I have had a colleague at my local stamp club come to me with a really high catalogue value stamp from this issue seeking an opinion as to its genuineness (unsurprisingly, it was a forgery – not a bad one, but still a fake), but this is the first time I have come across a forged copy of one of the run-of-the-mill denominations of the overprinted Austrian stamps of this series. Based on the material that he has examined, Souers concludes that forgeries of these stamps are relatively scarce. I would agree with him.



Top: Four 15 Haler Karl Stamps.

Bottom: Left – Type 1, Detail From the First Stamp in the Top Row; Right – Type 2, Detail From the Second Stamp in the Top Row.

The 15 haler Karl (SG 72 and POFIS 38) was one of the Austrian definitives from the 1916-1918 period that was overprinted with Overprint A. It has two types distinguished by the shape and placement of the haccak over the Š in *POŠTA*. In Type 1 (*above left*), the haccak is heart-shaped and touches or almost touches the top of the Š. In Type 2 (*above right*), the accent has a blockier, more squared-off appearance, like a crown, and is set above the Š. Both Type 1 and Type 2 have the bottom curve of the last 9 in 1919 filed off at a diagonal. Each of the denominations overprinted with Overprint A (the 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 40, 50, 60, 80, and 90 haler, as well as the 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 K from the Arms issue and the 15, 20, 25, and 30 haler Karl) have both Type 1 and Type 2 overprints in varying numbers on a 100-cliché pane (46-56 for Type 1 and 40-52 for Type 2), depending on the plate used for the overprints.

The 3, 5, 15, 25, and 50 haler also exist as subtype Type 1a and subtype Type 2a. These two subtypes are exactly the same as Type 1 and Type 2 except that the bottom loop of the last 9 in 1919 has not been filed off at a diagonal. The third stamp in the row of four stamps on the previous page is Type 2a. There were generally one Type 1a and three Type 2a clichés in each plate used to print these denominations, the one exception being one of the plates that was used to overprint the 15 haler, where there were four Type 2a clichés. [1]

The last stamp on the right in the row of four (*previous page*) is the forgery at the heart of this article. Given the heart shaped accent over the Š in *POŠTA*, the forger was obviously aiming to duplicate a Type 1a stamp, the scarcest overprint. The first thing that leaps up at one, when this stamp is put next to a genuine specimen, is that the angle of the overprint is wrong. This would definitely have been picked up using Souers' template method for checking the overprint.

What initially got me looking more closely at this stamp in isolation was the shape and placement of the hacek in *POŠTA*. The top of the accent is heart shaped but the bottom is flat rather than pointed and there is a space between the accent and the Š; this should not exist on a Type 1a overprint. The accent over the Á in *SLOVENSKÁ* is also squared-off rather than triangular in shape.

One thing that I always check for, which Roy Dehn mentions in his monograph on this issue but Souers doesn't, are the effects from the way in which the overprint was printed. The *POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919* overprints were printed by typography (or letterpress as it is also known). As a result, all of the letters/numerals of the overprint have a squeeze of ink to the outside making for a thin outline of darker ink around each letter or numeral. This is from the plate being pressed into the paper. This is illustrated in the detail from the genuine Type 2a stamp (shown below left) compared with the same detail from the forged stamp (below on the right). There is a second check to oust forgeries. On almost all mint, and even many used stamps, the use of a typographic plate also means that the letters/numerals appear embossed on the verso of the stamp.



Ink Detail from Genuine Type 2a (left) and Forgery (right).

[1] At the bottom of page 39 in the POFIS 2012 *Československo 1918-1939* catalogue there are illustrations setting out the distribution of the various Types on Plates 1a, 1b and 2, the three plates that contained Types 1a and 2a, as well as a table indicating which plates were used to overprint which denominations. Overprint Plates 1a and 1b were used to overprint the 15 haler. There is also a note with respect to the 15 haler overprints, which roughly translated reads:

A small part of the 15 haler value was printed using overprint Plate 4, which has a different distribution of types (for its scheme, see *Monografie II*). Larger blocks from Plate 4 are rare.

In the fall 2021 CPSGB auction I purchased the 5×5 block of the 15 haler *POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919* overprints illustrated on the next page. The block is composed entirely of Types 1 and 2. The first thing I did on receiving this purchase was to try to figure out which plate had been used for its overprint. There was no 5×5 block on either overprint Plate 1a or 1b that matched the distribution of types contained in this block.



5×5 Block of the 15 Haler POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 Overprints.

Not having *Monografie II* on my bookshelf I turned to Roy Dehn's monograph on this subject which does have the schema for overprint Plate 4. Sure enough, this block fits the distribution of types for the lower left quarter of overprint Plate 4 and has the plate flaws that Dehn identifies for positions 52, 53, and 63.

You just never know what gems you are going to find in Ken Dyke's auction material!

References

- Roy A Dehn, *The Pošta Československá 1919 Overprints* (CPSGB Monograph No. 3).
Československo, 1918-1939 (POFIS, 2012).
 P Clark Souers, *Hungary, 1919, Stamps & Forgeries* (self-published, 2020).

The New York World's Fair Masaryk Souvenir Sheets

Jerry Starman

The release of overprinted souvenir sheets at the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair by the Government in Exile embodies perhaps the oddest aspect of Czechoslovak philately. The items were issued after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Nazis and were never valid for postage under any circumstance, but collectors seem to find them attractive and their prices have risen rapidly in recent years.

Even though the items were designed by a prominent stamp dealer to ensure broad sales – they exist in many variations and had errors deliberately introduced – these souvenir sheets have remained popular for decades. Eckart H Dissen's *The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the New York World's Fair 1939-1940* describes their evolution and catalogues their every variation (reviewed in *Czechout* September 1999, pp. 56-57). Because so few copies of his book were printed it is difficult to find a paper copy. Interested readers may find the on-line web version at <https://issuu.com/nywf/docs/czechoslovakia1939-40> easier to locate. Since its images can be enlarged with a click of the mouse, the web version is easy to use (the CPSGB library has a copy).

One of my favourites is the overprinted Masaryk souvenir sheet from 1938 (SG MS381a; POFIS A335) released for the 1939 Canadian National Exhibition and the New York World's Fair. Its variations are striking. The top of the original was overprinted with an ornate emblem in one of six colours (black, blue, green, red, gold, or silver). The emblem consists of the Czechoslovak coat of arms embraced by two Bohemian lions with the slogan *PRAVDA VITEZI*. While a Gothic font was used for the 1939 printing, the 1940 had italic text. As with the emblem, the text on both releases appears in different colours, but only four: black, blue, green, or red.



1939 Issue



1940 Issue

It takes only a small bit of computation to reveal that there are four sets each of the 1939 and 1940 issues, each with a different text colour, and that each set is made up of six members, each with a different emblem colour. That makes a grand total of forty-eight variations – not counting the deliberate errors.

Mr Dissen claims as unique his set of six green-text sheets from 1940. That claim led me to look at my collection. To my surprise I found for the 1939 issue with blue text I lacked only the silver and black emblems. The 1940 issue with red text lacked only one item – the blue emblem. Further, for the 1940 black-text set I need only the silver emblem and for the blue-text set the green and blue emblems. Six sheets would make my collection of sets complete.

I expect full sets of six are rather rare and would be delighted to learn if readers have managed to collect full sets or perhaps have items they might part with to complete my sets? I may be reached by email at jerry@starmanmail.com

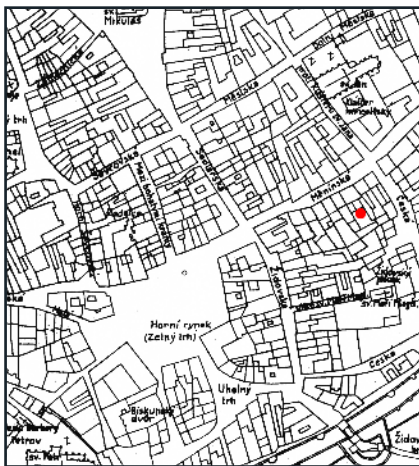
The Post Office in the Schwarzadlergasse, Brno

Hans van Dooremalen

The first mention of a post office in Brno (or *Brünn* as it was known at the time) is found in the archives of the land registry office at the provincial court. It contains a property transaction, dated 3 October 1617, in which Valentin Sartor is one of the parties involved. In the text he is called postmaster (*gewesener Postmeister*). The property was a house in the Krapfengasse, today known as Koblížná, but it remains unclear whether or not it was used as the post office. The archive of the Prince-bishops in Kroměříž (*Kremsier*) contains an entry regarding the allocation in 1621 to Valentin Sartor of a postal route with two horses (*mit 2 Rossen*) from Brno to Olomouc (*Olmütz*) with three postal stations, the first in Vyškov (*Wischau*), the second between Vyškov and Olomouc, and the third in Olomouc itself. The Court Chamber archive in Vienna contains a 1623 entry mentioning Valentin Sartor again as postmaster with three horses (*mit 3 Rosse*) between 1 January 1623 and 31 December 1624. Being a non-Catholic, he was forced to leave office and on 1 January was succeeded by Vincent Wisinger, his stepson. Wisinger's name appears several times (in 1629 and 1632) until his death in 1645 during the Swedish siege. His widow held the post until at least 1649.

Žampach mentions the existence in 1625 of a postal route from Olomouc to Vienna via Prostějov (*Prossnitz*), Kovalovice (*Kowalowitz*), Vyškov, and Brno. In 1633 Cardinal Dietrichstein proposed a change in the imperial route between Vienna and Breslau, which led through Pohořelice (*Pohrlitz*), Brno, Vyškov, and Olomouc. Entries in 1633 (25 March and 17 April) mention the appointment of a foot messenger in Brno in connection with a service between Neisse and Vienna. The next year the imperial route was changed between Pohořelice and Olomouc, leading it through Pohořelice (*Pohrlitz*), Brno, Nový Rousínov (*Neu-Raußnitz*), and Brodek. Dragoun quotes an entry made 20 June 1639 stating that the post offices in Brno, Olomouc, and Pohořelice were dependent on the Imperial Court Postmaster Count von Paar.

In 1651 Georg Kunsthe was acting postmaster, while in 1653 his function was described as mail carrier. In 1655 or 1660 Johann Georg von Metzger, who was born in 1623 in Lower Austria, was appointed postmaster.



He was a remarkable figure. Apart from being postmaster he was also active as councillor and mayor of Brno and in the diplomatic service. After he played an important role in the Austrian victory during the Siege of Vienna in 1683, he was raised to knighthood and allowed to call himself *Johann Georg von Metzburg*. He died in 1698 and was buried in the cemetery of St James's Church (*Kostel Sv. Jakuba*), where a monument to him is now displayed on the wall.

From 1660 von Metzburg (and after him his heirs and subsequent postmasters) owned the building which is believed to have housed the early post office. It was located in the courtyard of a building in what was then called *Mensergasse* (*Mentzergasse*), renamed (*Schwarz*)*adlergasse* in the 19th century and called *Orlí* today. A restored version of the building can still be found at the address *Orlí 16*. In 1744 the building passed into the possession of Countess Quadaille. It is around that time that the post office moved to a different location.

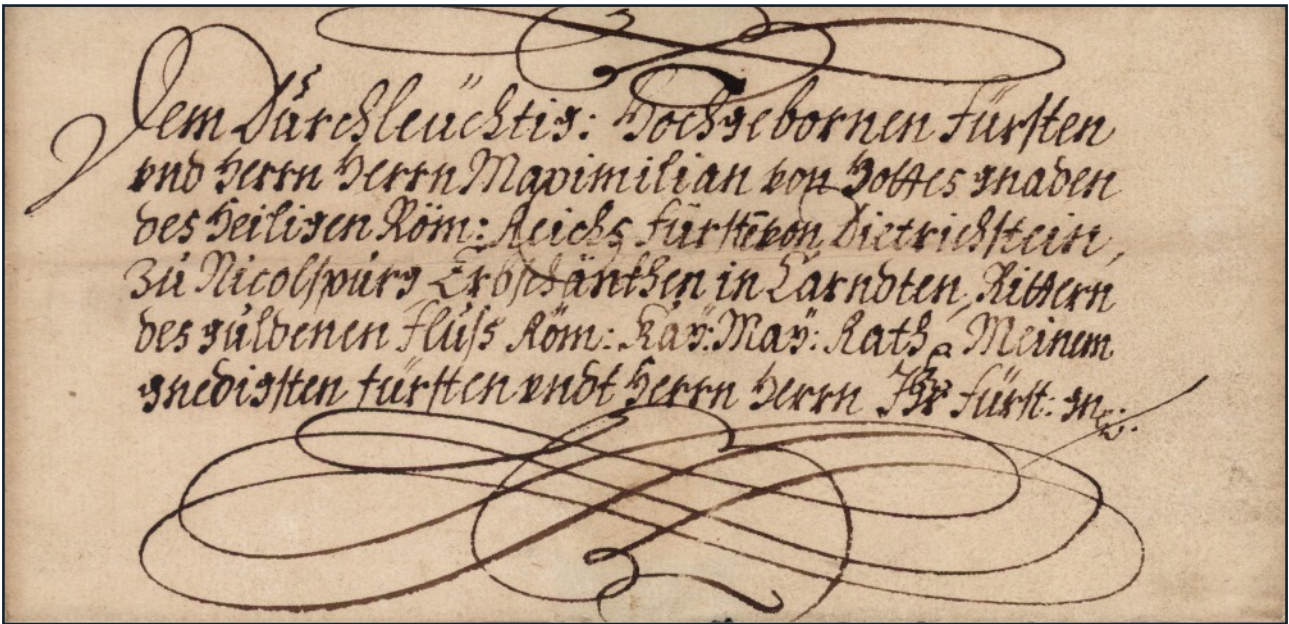
Above: (The location of the first post office in Brünn in the 17th century (sketch of Brünn made by Oldřich Vičar in 1958).



Right: 19th century photograph of the first post office building.

Far right: The restored building in 2013.





Letter of 1638 sent from Brunn to Fürst Dietrichstein in Nikolsburg, southern Moravia.

In 1663 the town of Pohorelice was reduced to ashes in a fire and the mail between Vienna and Silesia could no longer travel via Brno. It was diverted via Prague and Glatz. A mail route between Brno and Trenčín (Trentschin), leading via Hostěradek, Bzenec (Bisenz), Uherské Hradiště (Ungarisch Hradisch), and Uherský Brod (Ungarisch Brod) was mentioned in 1664.

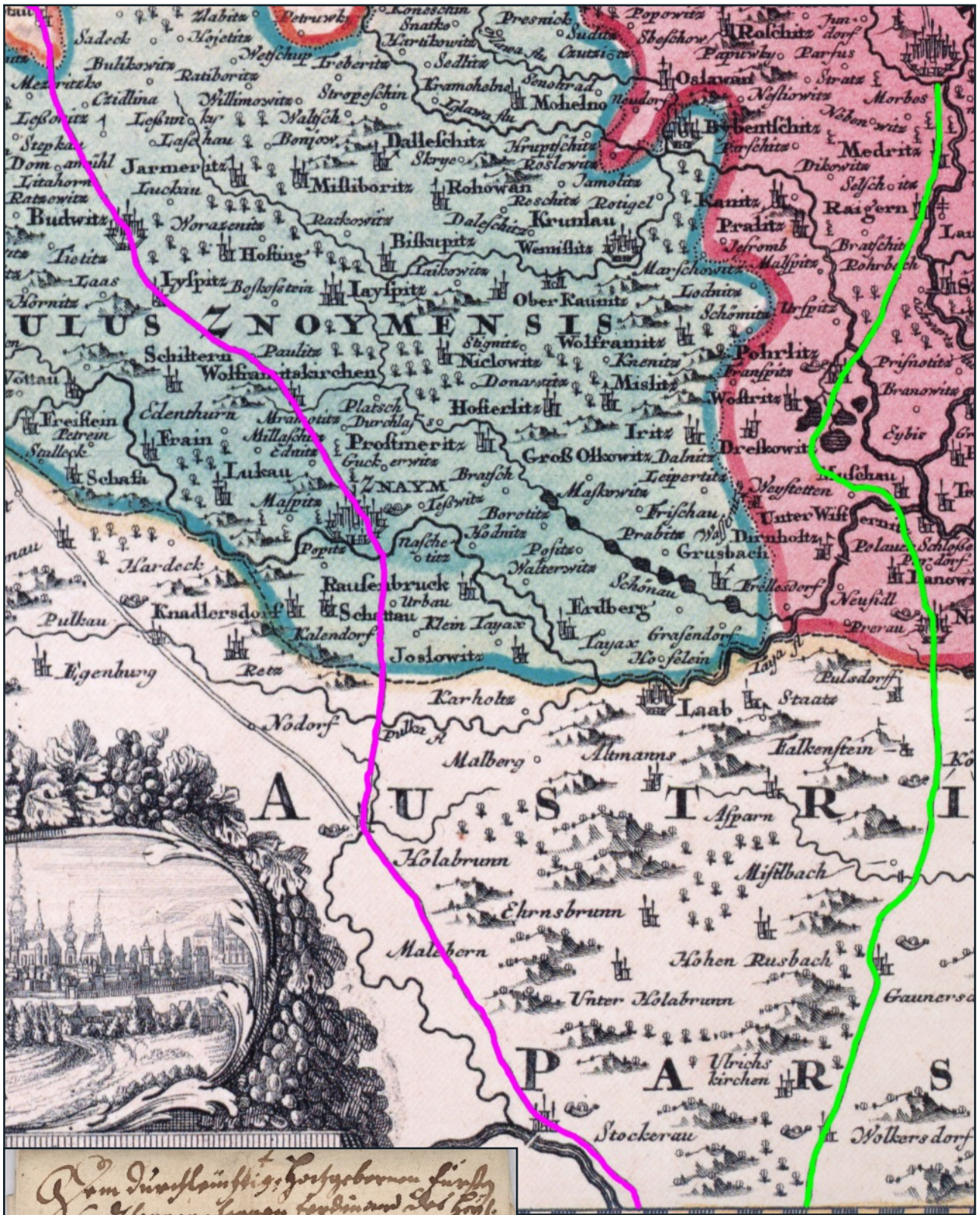


Left: Remnants of the coat of arms of the Family von Metzburg at Orli 16.



Right: The monument to Johann Georg von Metzburg in St James' Church, Brno.

In those days there were only two major post roads in the Czech lands: one from Vienna to Prague, the other from Vienna to Breslau. The two routes connected only in Vienna. As early as 1686 Count Carl Joseph Von Paar proposed to reroute that part of the Vienna-Prague post road between Hollabrunn and Slavonice (Zlabings) via Znojmo (Znaim) and to establish a route between Brno and Znojmo, so that there would be a quicker connection between the two routes. His proposals, however, were not taken up and the situation stayed much the same.

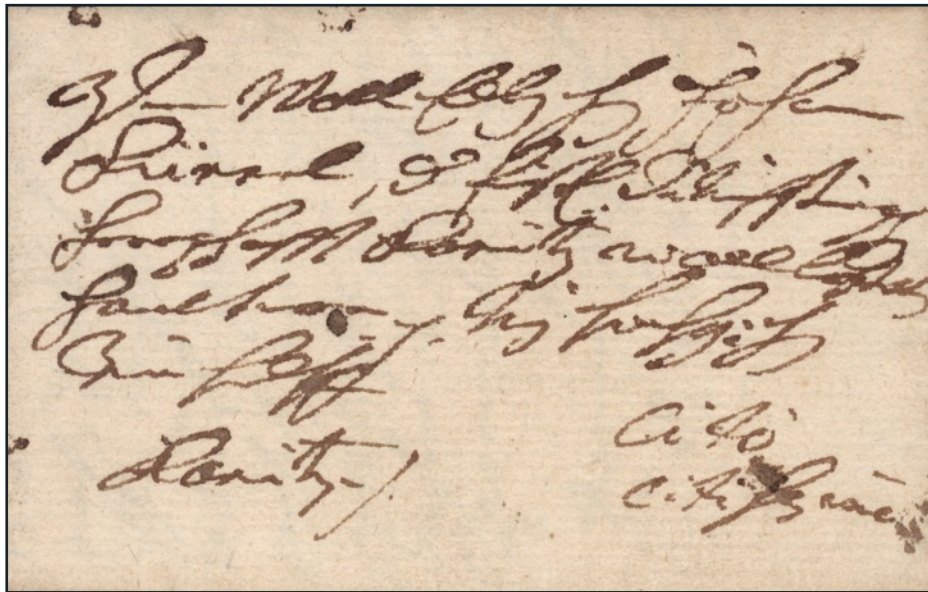


Above: Map of 1716 by Müller showing in green the post road between Vienna and Brünn and in purple the road between Vienna and Prague: there is no road connecting them.

Zum Durchlauchtig. hochgebornen Fürst
 und herren, Johann Ferdinand deß heil.
 Röm. Kaiserlichen Erbprinzen in Österreich,
 zu Nicolsburg, Erbprinzen in Böhmen,
 in Ungarn und goldener Küniglicher Erb-
 Röm. Kön. Majestät. würdlich. go.
 samten Rath, Lammern, und Herz
 Majestät. deß Römischen Kaiser und Ober-
 sten hochwürdigsten u. Mähren Küniglich.
 hochwürdigsten Erbprinzen in Wien.

Left: Letter from Brünn to Vienna, 12 January 1686.

After the death of Johann Georg von Metzburg in 1698, his son Karl was appointed as postmaster by Count Von Paar, for which he received an endowment of 500 Gulden annually. In 1708 Johann Wilhelm Appelmann became postmaster. He had to buy town citizenship for the sum of 24 Gulden. In 1710 he bought a house in what was then known as *Bürgergasse* and today as *Janská*. This house was going to play an important role in the development of the postal services in Brno.



Express letter (inscribed cito citissime at bottom right) sent from Brunn on 26 August 1691 to Dolní Kounice (Stadt Kanitz). At that time, express letters were limited to court and government officials and hence not subject to any surcharges.

The following list of arriving and departing mail, dated 1711, was found by Dragoun in the Provincial Library in Brno.

Arriving Mail:

Sunday: at 6 am the mail from Silesia. At 7 pm the mail from Vienna.
 Monday: nothing.
 Tuesday: nothing.
 Wednesday: nothing.
 Thursday: at 6 am the mail from Silesia. At 7 pm the mail from Vienna.
 Friday: nothing.
 Saturday: nothing.

Departing Mail:

Sunday: at 7 am the mail to Vienna, Hungary, Italy, all of Austria, Regensburg, and all of the Holy Roman Empire. At 8 pm the mail to Silesia, Neisse, Glatz, Troppau, Prague and all of Bohemia as well as to Leipzig and Hamburg
 Monday: nothing
 Tuesday: nothing.
 Wednesday: nothing.
 Thursday: at 7 am the mail to Vienna, Hungary, Italy and the Holy Roman Empire as well as to Prague, all of Bohemia. At 8 pm the mail to Silesia and Bohemia.
 Friday: nothing.
 Saturday: nothing.
 N.B. The letters for the mail to Vienna need to be handed in on Wednesday and Saturday at 10 pm, while the mail for Silesia at times leaves earlier or later.

In 1714 there were again plans to establish a route between Brno and Znojmo, where it could connect with a rerouted postroad between Vienna and Prague. Again, these changes were not implemented.

Johann Wilhelm Appelmann was still mentioned as postmaster in the archives in 1715 and 1716. Little is known about the period up to 1731. In 1732 Johann Wilhelm Appelmann was succeeded by his son Leopold Wilhelm, who in 1726 had been raised to knighthood and allowed to call himself *von Appelmann*.

When Johann Wilhelm von Appelmann died in early 1741 he was succeeded in 1742 by Karl Leopold Khautz, who was knighted in 1754 and took the name *Khautz von Abenthal*. After the death of von Appelmann, his house in the *Bürgergasse* stood empty and the Ministry of Finance archives contain a lively correspondence regarding attempts to acquire it for the postal service. From these archives we can't tell whether the house was already used as the post office, but the idea is supported by the fact that in those days the post office was usually located in the house of the postmaster. This would mean that it must have moved to its new location shortly after Johann Wilhelm Appelmann acquired it in 1710. Another thing that speaks for a relocation in the early 18th century can be found in the *cadastral* archives of the city of Brno. An extract of these can be found in a publication by the Archives of the City of Brno.



In 1732 the post roads between Vienna and Brno and between Vienna and Prague were finally connected. A new road between Brno and Vratěnin (Fratting) via Znojmo was established. For the first time mail between Brno and Prague no longer had to travel to Vienna first, but was exchanged between the two routes in Vratěnin. The map of 1750 by Müller (above) shows the post road between Vienna and Brünn (in green) and on left the (rerouted) road between Vienna and Prague (in purple); there is now a post road connecting them (shown in blue).

The house in the *Schwarzadlergasse* was listed in 1743 as being owned by Count Ondal, and the former residential house of Count Werdenberg. Both owners had nothing to do with the post office. The same goes for subsequent owners. An entry in Dragoun's archive, quoting the *Karl Goedl Collection*, listed Carl Metzburg as the last owner connected with the post office. The dates (1709 and 1718) suggest that the house stayed in the family. What is certain is that the post office had definitely moved to its new location in the *Bürgergasse* by 1750 according to Obršlík.

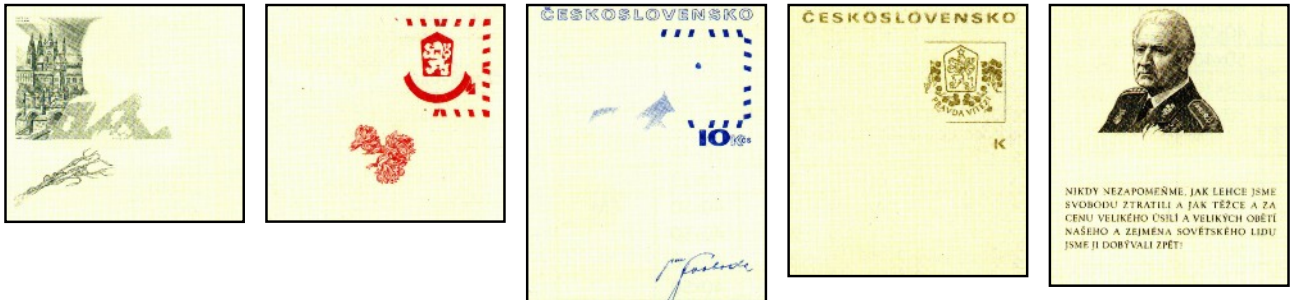
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This article is a chapter from the author's planned publication about the postal history of Brünn. Czechout thanks the author for his generosity in sharing this preview of his work – Editor.

Unissued President Ludvík Svoboda Souvenir Sheet from 1975 František Beneš

President Ludvík Svoboda was born 25 November 1895. In 1975 the Post Office prepared to release a souvenir sheet to celebrate his 80th birthday. Over time, the sheet took two forms. The first had the presidential standard behind his portrait, and when Svoboda ceased to be head of state, the standard was replaced by a map showing the route of the WWII Czechoslovak Army Corps he led from Buzuluk in the Soviet Union to Prague. The alteration was done by the engraver, Ladislav Jirka.



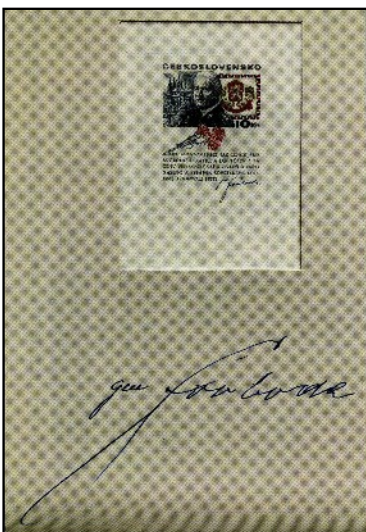
Impressions of all five individual colours, on sheets of paper without gun, made from the original engravings.



Left: A trial print made by the engraver L. Jirka, which he adapted into a mourning form (right) at a time when, after a series of strokes, it could not be ruled out that President Svoboda would die. The date 30 October 1974 suggests that the sheet was prepared long before its publication. The outer frame made in pencil is intended to indicate where the perforations will be placed.

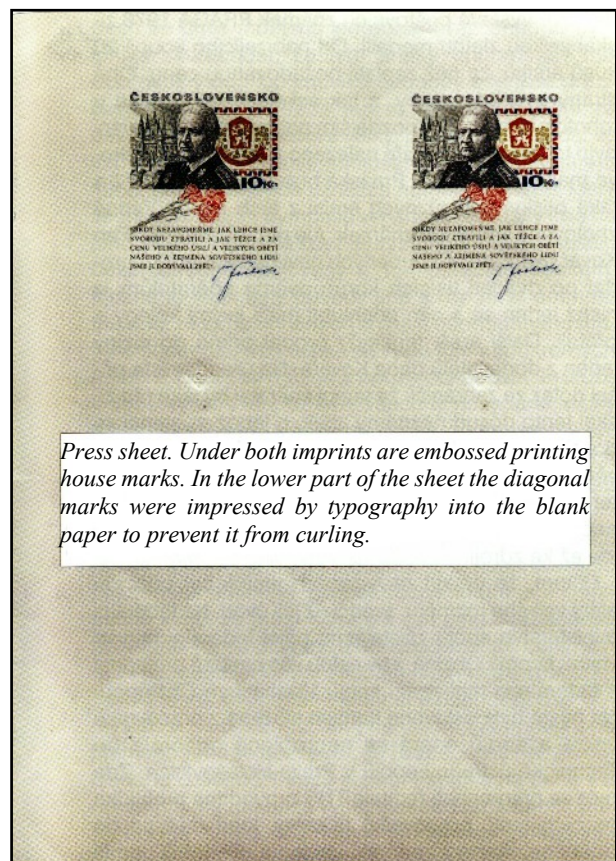


During the preparation of the sheet there was a real danger that President Svoboda would die, to which Jirka reacted by proposing a funeral arrangement of the prepared sheet. We know for a fact that the final form of the sheet with the presidential standard was approved by Svoboda himself while he was still President. In fact, a photograph from Prague Castle has been preserved, showing him sitting at a table, together with employees of the then Federal Ministry of Communications, looking at the prepared sheet. To indicate his approval, he then signed the submitted proofs and the sheet was finally approved for printing. The sheets, prepared by a printer in Holešovice using five flat steel plates (one for each colour) contained two souvenir sheets.



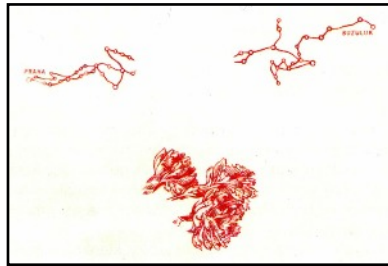
Proof with Svoboda's approval.

After the involuntary departure of Ludvík Svoboda from the President's office, the question arose as what to do with the prepared (and apparently already in production) issue. In the Postal Museum there is a design created by reworking the original trial print of the unissued sheet, on which the

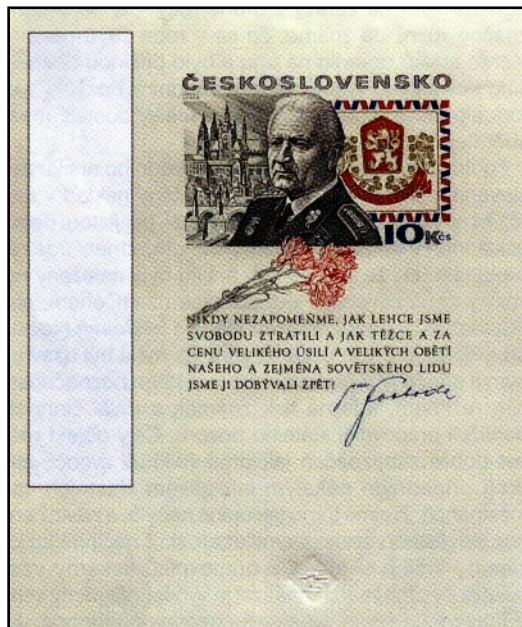


Press sheet. Under both imprints are embossed printing house marks. In the lower part of the sheet the diagonal marks were impressed by typography into the blank paper to prevent it from curling.

presidential standard was replaced by a depiction of the standard of the Czechoslovak military unit in the USSR and inscriptions were added. However, this proposal was not accepted and the prepared sheet was replaced by another sheet with a redesigned background, without the presidential standard.



Left: Rejected design with Army Corps Standard.
Centre: Trial of the red colour for the accepted design.
Right: The accepted and released design.



The surviving original design souvenir sheets (singly and on paired printing sheets) are on an unusual yellowish paper, as seen in the image to the left, compared to the attached strip of normal white paper. This would suggest that these were trial prints (paper with an embossed TUS was sometimes used for these).

But what happened to the original sheets? Unfortunately, no official information about them has been released, so we are left with second-hand reports – which vary widely. It is known that several of these sheets appeared on the market in 1978 and were the cause of a later police investigation with legal repercussions – but more on that in a moment. But how did the sheets get to collectors?

According to one version, the production of the original souvenir sheet was stopped and partially or fully printed versions in uncut printing sheets remained in storage at the printer for some time. This storage is said to have been carried out by loading the sheets onto trolleys parked in a locked but accessible area of the facility. This practice was apparently not unusual, as the stamp printing plant was supposed to be a closed and guarded establishment with a special security regime, where the printing of stamps and other activities were supervised by State surveillance personnel. The entire facility was to be well secured against both outside intrusion and possible unfair initiatives by its own employees. Apparently this was not entirely the case, and there is nothing like the proverbial Czech ingenuity. From the idle stock of sheets, one of the workers of the printing house took several dozen pieces and managed to take them out of the printing house. The pieces known from the batch of unissued sheets were apparently cut from the printing sheets with scissors rather than professionally separated, which is consistent with this version.

The second version says that the loss of the sheets occurred during their shredding when one of the workers prepared a packet of paper that did not differ in appearance from the to-be-shredded packets of sheets. In an unguarded moment, he switched his packet for a printed one and his worthless paper went into the shredding machine.

Both these versions probably have some real basis – probably the actors in the affair did obtain some stamps or sheets in the above-mentioned ways (as we will mention below, they were not satisfied with this alone, but that is a different issue). Since the whole affair was kept strictly secret and information about it was not made public, there was considerable room for popular speculation to combine the above-mentioned methods with the name of the main object of the affair – the unissued L Svoboda sheet with the presidential standard – and the rumours were born.

A third version says that the production of the sheets was stopped due to the departure of L Svoboda from his post. A worker took away several unfinished pieces before they were cut into their final format.

Finally, a fourth version says that the sheets that appeared on the market were in fact test prints made at the printer, with the final print to be (or even to have been) made on different paper. This last version seems to us the most likely on the basis of the information known so far. Whatever the case, a certain number of unissued sheets ended up in private hands and some of them were offered on the market in 1978.

The unissued sheets were brought to the Prague Philatelic Exchange by one of the then employees of the stamp printer sometime in 1978 and offered for sale to a dealer (this was under Communism, so there were no private stamp dealers, of course). But what else were these men actually doing? They stood every day at their billiard or café tables in the Prague or non-Prague exchanges – then called exchange centres – under the guise of facilitating the exchange of philatelic surpluses from other members of the SČSF?

The person approached more than forty years ago at the Prague exchange was a well-known philatelic dealer, collector, and exhibitor – Vladimír Kovář; by the way, his exhibit *Czechoslovakia I* won a large gold medal at the recently concluded PRAGA 1978. He bought twenty sheets from the seller, for which he paid the asking price. Both parties were satisfied and so probably other dealers were approached. During a later police investigation, several sheets of printing waste paper of the 1977 issue of the Prague Historical Windows were found in Mr Kovář's possession, as well as impressions of engravings of various issues from those years, irregularly taken from the stamp printing house. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Mr Kovář sold two of the unissued sheets he had just bought for twenty thousand crowns each to different collectors, one of whom boasted about it among his colleagues and friends. Another sheet was sold directly abroad by one of Mr Kovář's suppliers. An enquiry from abroad was received by postal officials that another collector there would also like to acquire this hitherto unknown sheet, the existence of which he had learned from his colleagues in Czechoslovakia. The officials referred the whole matter to the competent authorities, and Security got involved. It was only a matter of time before the investigation reached the source.

The fact that the appearance of the unissued sheets was the cause of an affair of great proportions is evident from what followed. Out of the blue, the Federal Minister of the Interior, Jaromír Obzina, arrived at the Federal Ministry of Communications to discuss the matter personally with the Federal Minister of Communications, Vlastimil Chalupa. A commission was set up on the spot, consisting of Interior and Communications staff, which immediately went to the Technical Headquarters of Communications in Holešovice. Here, in the presence of the Director of the TÚS, the desks of the printing works staff who were dealing with the shredding of stamps were inspected. One of the clerks refused to make his desk available, but after a short discussion it was officially unlocked and in the very first drawer several stamps with heavily displaced printing were found, apparently originating from waste paper. The worker defended himself lamely by saying that he had bought these stamps at the corner newsagent for his own use and justified the different denominations by saying that he was writing to relatives abroad. However, when several full sheets of stamps with displaced printing were found in the bottom drawer under the paper lining its bottom, he was arrested on the spot by Security. Two other workers at the stamp printing plant – a production manager and a printer – who, it turned out, were implicated in the matter, were caught in the police net. The road led directly from the trio to Mr Kovář. A part of the unissued standard sheets was then found at the cottage of one of the participants in the affair.

At the beginning of January 1979, Mr Kovář was arrested, taken into custody and, after a year and a half, sentenced to five years' imprisonment without parole for alleged commercial speculation; the unissued sheets found were, of course, confiscated. He served his imprisonment and sentence in Pilsen. After less than two years, in December 1980, he was paroled early for health reasons.

What was the cause of the unprecedentedly vigorous, even hysterical, reaction by the state authorities in this case? Why did even the Federal Minister of the Interior himself become personally involved? After all, these were just a few stolen sheets, which, moreover, were not leaked to the public. Today we can only guess at the reasons. Perhaps it was the sensitive fact that these sheets commemorated the involuntary departure of Ludvík Svoboda as President of the Republic. After all, he was a hero of the struggle for liberation during World War II, the last figure in the leadership of the state associated by the public with the Prague Spring of 1968, and at that time a seriously ill old man who could not defend himself. Public sympathy was therefore certainly on his side, especially when he was ousted by Gustáv Husák, who was directly associated with the normalization oppression. However, there may have been other reasons, and we will only find out from the archives of the Ministry of the Interior.

How many unissued sheets are in private hands? We can only guess. Since at the time of the investigation all the unissued sheets had long since been shredded, and the printer claimed that none had actually been lost, Security could only reconstruct the number of copies printed from the testimony of those involved in the case.

There is widely varying information among collectors about the numbers of unissued sheets, sheets later confiscated, and those undiscovered by Security. We know for certain that 18 of them were confiscated by the Security Service from Mr Kovář, but only 10 were handed over by the Security Service to the State Archive of Postal Stationery in 1983. Finally, from a usually well-informed source we learn that a total of 27 sheets were not traced by Security. A note in the margins: Security investigators are said to have even found out who owned the missing sheets, but were not allowed (both by political interventions and by the then State Security) to demand them back from those persons.

But back on topic. Of course, it is not for us to judge the circumstances under which the whole deal took place. However, it should be noted, at least in passing, that the history of strange philatelic material (e.g. unissued stamps, sheets, postal stationery, various deviations, misprints, offsets, unfinished prints, off-centre reprints, etc., etc.) is most suspicious. Beginning with the flood of various so-called trial prints of the Hradčany and other typographic issues from the 1920s, Czechoslovak stamp production has been under a cloud since 1918. The POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 issue, which in reality should rather be put under the name of Lesetzky's Prague issue at the back of the catalogue, somewhere next to Šrobár's Žilina issue, with the printers' waste of the City 1929, TGM 1930, Letecké 1930, the un gummed 30 and 50 haler 1945 Leaves, the unissued 1946 airmail 20 Kčs brown, an unbroken 12-block of Prague 1950, and dozens and dozens of other examples, down to the 10 Kčs Folk Architecture and 60 haler Slovak Folk Wire Craft, both 1972 and both on Oz paper with tropical gum (both obviously privately removed from the printer), or the unissued 1984 Los Angeles Olympics stamps, apparently pulled straight from the shredding facility (because all known pieces are without gum and creased).

In this article, we certainly do not intend to praise or condemn these products, we simply state that they are here. In the past hundred years, people of various positions have had a share in their creation and appearance on the market, from ministerial officials (Lešetický) and even ministers (Čepička), through well-known philatelic officials and traders (Sula) or experts (Gilbert), to ordinary workers in a stamp printing house (one of the convicted in the described affair) or in a paper mill carrying out shredding. Some of them, in their position, had the various extras made directly and brought to the table, some received them as a favour, others simply took advantage of an unguarded moment, others hunted for the soggy remains of the shredding process. There are many more cases that could be cited, but that is a topic for another article. For now, we just want to say that, of course, far from all such materials with similarly dubious provenance caused scandals or were investigated and tried in their time. On the contrary, many, or even most, of them have become, years later, commonplace and respectable parts of catalogues and collections, and their presence in an exhibit greatly increases its chances of medal consideration. In such an atmosphere, which has lasted for a hundred years, it can easily happen that someone gets the feeling "it's always been like this, so why shouldn't I take advantage of it?"

The 80th Birthday of Army General Ludvík Svoboda 1975 souvenir sheet, the creation of which was shrouded in mystery for years, is probably the best known work of Ladislav Jirka in the philatelic public. This native of Třemošná near Plzeň, who rose from humble circumstances to become one of the absolute top engravers, created hundreds of other engravings of stamps, sheets, stationery, and FDCs for the Czechoslovak post office and for the postal administrations of many countries around the world (e.g. Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Iraq, but also the United Nations and others), some of which have won high awards both in this country and abroad.

In his estate there are a few surviving copies of the Svoboda with standard sheets, made on plain paper, which can be said to have come from a legal source and their owners need not fear that the Post Office might demand them back. The same cannot be said of the sheets on paper with gum, which have been stolen, and since it is common knowledge that those who have them are not in fact their owners, but mere holders (the institution of possession is out of the question in this case – there is no "good faith"), and so even after decades the Czech Post, as the successor of the Czechoslovak Post, could demand their return (this will probably not happen, but it is good to know).

A one-shot print of the unissued L Svoboda sheet with standard, from the estate of the engraver Ladislav Jirka, is now offered by the Profil mail order service. Those who obtain it can display it without fear.

This article appears with the permission of the author and was originally published in Filatelie 1/2021 and was translated by M Wilson. The illustrations are scans of images from the original printed article and, unfortunately, sometimes display dotted artefacts originating from the journal's printing process and occasional bleed-through text lines from the page's verso.



New Issues – Slovak Republic

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

19 January 2022

XIII Paralympic Winter Games, Beijing 2022 (POFIS 757)

Beijing is the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Games as well as the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games. The XIII Paralympic Games were held from 4 to 13 March 2022 when 564 athletes took part in six sports for the seventy-eight medals. Slovakia sent a team of twenty-two men and six women to compete in three sports with high hopes of achieving gold. Slovakia won three gold medals all for women's alpine skiing events and one bronze for the women's slalom. Another two bronze medals were achieved in the men's slalom and giant slalom events. Overall Slovakia was placed tenth in the medal table with the winning team from China gaining sixty-one medals followed by Ukraine with twenty-nine and Canada twenty-five.



XXIV Winter Olympic Games, Beijing 2022 (POFIS 758)

The two stamps for the Winter Paralympic and Winter Olympic Games were issued as a linked pair with the central portion showing the face of a tiger representing the Chinese Year of the Tiger celebrated in 2022. The New Year was celebrated at the beginning of the Games. Both Winter Games events were subjected to restrictions because of the world wide COVID pandemic resulting in the absence of any spectators at events and continual testing of all athletes.

The Winter Games were held from 4 to 20 February 2022. There were one hundred and nine events over fifteen disciplines with several new events introduced including women's monobob, synchronised skating, and mixed team events. Haiti and Saudi Arabia competed for the first time. Norway gained the most medals (thirty-seven) of the ninety-one competing teams, followed by Germany with twenty-seven and China with fifteen medals. Slovakia gained one gold medal in the alpine skiing (Women's) event and the bronze medal for ice hockey.



21 January 2022

Expo 2020 Dubai World Exhibition (POFIS 759)

Expo 2020 was originally to be held from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021 but was postponed because of the COVID pandemic and held from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. Although the date changed it was decided to keep the original EXPO 2020 title. After the closure of the exhibition more than 24 million visitors had toured the site. The theme and motto chosen was *Connecting Minds, Creating the Future* with three sub-themes each having a main pavilion with the titles: *Opportunity*, *Mobility*, and *Sustainability*. The Slovak pavilion under the title *Mobility* displayed a hydrogen powered car, space mobile robots, and a flight simulator. Several countries issued postage stamps for the Dubai Expo. Acknowledging the futuristic theme for the Exhibition the Slovak Post issued a stamp using new technology – nano-relief embossing. The motif is the reverse of a copper fals coin of Harun al-Rashid, Caliph of Baghdad (763-809 AD). It was found near Bratislava Castle in 1992 and a piece of rare evidence confirming that long distance trading routes existed in the 8th century between Arabia and the Carpathian Basin and that Slavic Bratislava was an important Danube trading centre.



4 March 2022

Easter 2022: Motifs of Easter from works of PM Bohún (POFIS 760)



Peter Michal Bohún (1822-1879) was a portrait painter mainly of Hungarian nobility and important people but he also painted religious figures. These religious themed works date from the 1850s and include altarpieces for several Slovak town and village churches. The stamp design is a detail from an 1873 work for an altarpiece showing Christ ascending to heaven forty days after His resurrection. The full work shows the apostles gazing towards Heaven in the lower margin. A booklet of ten stamps was issued together with a coloured card with imprinted € 0.65 stamp.

18 March 2022

150th Anniversary of the Košice-Bohumín Railway (POFIS 761) Joint issue with Czech Republic

Today this line is still one of the main arteries of the Slovak rail network. During the early to mid 19th century there was no rail service in upper Hungary (Slovakia) although entrepreneurs and politicians pressed for this transport link. By the mid-19th century Archduke Albrecht discussed a rail link to connect his Třinec ironworks in Silesia with Jablunkov, Žilina, Poprad, and Košice which could also carry iron ore to the works and coal from Silesian mines to north and east Hungary. It was argued that a railway line would speed the transport of other goods within the area: wood, agricultural products, and passengers. The Košice-Kysak-Prešov section was completed in September 1870, Spišská Nová Ves to Kysak in March 1872, and the whole Bohumín to Košice line was in operation from 12 March 1872.

The stamp is issued in the same miniature sheet format as that for the Czech Republic (*see back cover*).



31 March 2022

Sports Achievements: Stamps with Personalised Coupon – NVI T2 50g (POFIS 762)



The stamp commemorates the first Slovak gold Olympic medal for alpine skiing, won by Petra Vlhova, and the first bronze Olympic medal by a Slovak team in the ice hockey tournament. The stamp shows gold, silver and bronze medals on ribbons in the national colours of white, blue and red.





New Issues – Czech Republic

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

16 February 2022

Personalities: Miloš Forman. (POFIS 1150)

Miloš Forman (1932-2018) was an acclaimed film director. He was born in Čáslav where his mother ran an hotel. After his parents perished in a concentration camp he was cared for by his wider family but sent to a boarding school where he met and made friends with Václav Havel and the filmmaker Ivan Pesser. After studying at the Film and Television School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, he worked as assistant director at the Laterna Magika in Prague, meeting many other professionals of the Czechoslovak New Wave. He made his first colour film *The Fireman's Ball* in 1967 – a biting satire on East European Communism and became one of his best known films although it was banned for many years by the regime. During the Prague Spring era of the late 1960s he left Czechoslovakia for America to continue his career as a film director. He became a naturalised USA citizen in 1977. Among the many films for which he gained awards were: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus*, and *The People vs. Larry Flint*. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Columbia University, the Czech Medal of Merit, and a Lifetime Achievement for his contribution to Czech cinema. An asteroid, 11333 Forman, was named after him in 1996.



Art on Stamps: Czech and Moravian Gothic Murals (POFIS 1151-1152)

The two stamps are issued together as a souvenir sheet. The art work of the background to the stamps is from the 14th century and attributed to the Master of the Třeboň Altar; it comes from the former St Anna's Church, the Old Town Prague. It depicts the Assumption of Mary with the apostles Philip and James in the pre-Hussite *Beautiful Style*. Murals and panel paintings in churches, palaces, and town houses were an important form of communication in those times. The 34 Kč stamp is a detail of an altar mural in the Chapel of St Catherine in Karlštejn Castle, painted about 1356 by the Master of the Karlštejn Apocalypse. During the extensive restoration of the chateau of Velké Meziříčí during 2010 a cycle of murals relating to the life of St Margaret was discovered. A detail from one of the panels is the subject of the 40 Kč stamp.



8 March 2022

Emil Filla – Definitive NVI issue (POFIS 1154)



The stamp, showing Filla's frescoes on the ceiling of the restaurant in the Mánes Association building, was issued in a sheet of seven stamps, eight labels for customised printing, and a further six labels forming a composite graphic motif.

Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Emil Filla (POFIS 1153)

Emil František Josef Filla (1882-1953) was a painter, sculptor, and graphic artist who studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. In 1945 he was appointed professor at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design, but his style was not appreciated by the new post-1948 regime. The 1905 exhibition of work by Edvard Munch in Prague affected Filla's future art work. He became a member of the Mánes Association in 1910 editing their magazine for a short while but left to form a Cubist oriented group *Skupna výtvarných* (Group of Visual Artists). Just before the First World War he was in Paris studying modern European art including the work of Picasso and Braque, but then moved to the Netherlands concentrating on Dutch 17th century paintings. During this time his own work was mainly of still life, experimenting with Cubism. He returned to Prague in 1920 to become the leader of avant-garde artists and an early Cubist painter. On the first day of World War II he was arrested by the Gestapo to spend the rest of the war in Dachau and Buchenwald Concentration Camps. His post-war work has a more naturalistic style including large landscapes.



18 March 2022

150th Anniversary of the Košice-Bohumín Railway (POFIS 1155) Joint issue with Slovakia

The area around Těšín was important for its significant coal and iron deposits and the industries reliant on these deposits. The strategic importance of this rail link was seen during the First World War and after with the territorial disputes between Czechoslovakia and Poland. It was in private hands until 1921 but now is part of the national Czech Republic railway network. The stamp and two labels have symbolic representations of locomotives on a background of an historical map of the area (see Slovak issues and back cover).

6 April 2022

Technical Monuments: Schwarzenberg Canal (NVI 'B') (POFIS 1156)

The Schwarzenberg Canal was built to transport timber from the Šumava Forest from the south Bohemian border region to Vienna to be used as firewood. It was designed by Josef Rosenauer with construction beginning in 1789 and log driving starting in 1793 on the 44 km waterway. The canal starts below Spičák mountain and ends in Austria by the Grosse Mühl River with a 400 m section passing through a tunnel. At Neuhausen docks were built for boats to take the timber into Vienna. Only prepared timber of good quality and straight lengths up to one metre was accepted for the canal journey to avoid log jams and blockages. Floating of the logs began end of March or early April when melting snow filled the supply channels with sufficient water. About 200 people were employed with almost 8 million cubic metres of firewood transported to Grosse Mühl and on to Vienna until 1892. The stamp was also issued in booklets (POFIS ZSL 69) of eight stamps and 4 labels. Two labels show the lower tunnel entrance at Jelení vrchy and the other two the monument erected to Josef Rosenauer at the beginning of the canal. The cover of the booklet has a portrait of Prince Jan Nepomuk Schwarzenberg, the founder of the canal, and view of the canal.



Europa: Stories and Myths (NVI 'E') (POFIS 1157)



The stamp, from a pane of six, depicts two mythical figures from Czech history: Libuše and Přemysl. Some time during the 9th century a Czech ruler, Krok, had three daughters – the youngest of whom he chose to succeed him. This was Libuše who later took Přemysl as her husband although he was only a free peasant ploughman. Several legends are told of how Libuše arranged this marriage. This was the beginning of the Přemyslid dynasty that ruled the Czechs from 873 until 1306 when Wenceslas III, the last male of the line died. Libuše was famous as a prophetess. One legend has it that she arrived on a hill overlooking the Vltava river to foretell the rise of a great city – Prague – which she founded.

Czech Actors and Actresses: Jan Werich and Stella Zázvorková (POFIS 1158-1159)

Jan Werich (1905–1980) was a Czech film and theatre actor, playwright, and screenwriter. Initially he studied law at Charles University Prague but left to pursue an artistic career with Jiří Voskovec with whom he had been at school. In 1927 they produced an amateur performance *Vest Pocket Revue*. They continued working together, first in the Liberated Theatre and then in the Handcuffed Theatre. Their works of the absurd were inspired by Dada, a reaction to bourgeois values and the First World War. In 1938 they left for the USA but returned to their homeland after the war to found the V+W Theatre. Their partnership ended when Voskovec returned to the USA in 1948. Werich worked in various theatres in Prague and from 1955 managed the Satire Theatre which he renamed ABC Theatre. In 1968 he fled briefly to Vienna but returned to Prague in 1969 but found limited opportunities for performing. He made his final appearance at the Lucerna Theatre in 1977 and died in Prague in 1980.



Stella Zázvorková (1922–2005). After studying at the Prague Theatre School E F Burian she appeared on stage at the Větrník Theatre. Later she joined the Realistic and EF Burian theatre companies. In 1955 she worked with Jan Werich at the ABC Theatre. When the theatre merged with the Prague City Theatres she remained with them until 1990. During her career Zázvorková appeared in more than one hundred films and series. She is one of the few actresses to be remembered by several generations for her theatre, film, and TV performances.



The two stamps were issued in a sheetlet (*see back cover*).

Articles Elsewhere Roger Morrell

Pošta Česko-Slovenská (Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-filatelie, Netherlands)

No. 37, Spring 2022.

- Van Dooremalen, H. Inns and city gates in the post in Brünn. (Postal routes to and from the city of Brno in the 18th and 19th centuries.)
- Sevenhuijsen, J. Stamp hunting in Prague. (A visit to the postal museum archives, and some treasures found at the Sběratel fair.)
- Sevenhuijsen, J. The production of printing plates by the matrix method. (A commentary on Mark Wilson's article in *Czechout* 183, June 2021.)
- Anon. Slovak separatists in Warsaw after WWI. (Propaganda label.)
- Heijs, J. Netherlands – Czechoslovakia: the Sudeten Crisis 1938. (Items to and from Sudetenland in October 1938.)
- Sevenhuijsen, J. Three plates used for postal stationery 10 haler Hradčany. (A summary study of the stamp clichés used for printing postal stationery.)
- Sevenhuijsen, J. Again – the Red Cross overprints. (Complete sheet trial prints of the 5 and 30 haler stamps.)
- Van Dooremalen, H. Post offices in the Bohemian lands. (Beginning with Auscha, the start of a series looking at postcards of post offices.)
- Sevenhuijsen, J. Letter – Jan Masaryk. (Political background to the 1948 issue commemorating Masaryk that was printed in Moscow.)
- Jonkergouw, M. Hradčany 1000 haler – black-violet. (Plating study based on small flaws.)

Forschungsberichte aus der Tschechoslowakei-Philatelie (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei, Germany)

No. 211, March 2022.

- Hanacek, G. Postage due in Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1945. (A study of the different rates and continued use of pre-war Czech postage due stamps.)
- Sevenhuijsen, J. A third Hradčany plate used for postal stationery. (Study of the 10 haler imprint.)

Austria (Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)**No. 218, Spring 2022.**

- Kuzych, I. *et al.* Introduction to the Austro-Russian Postal Convention of 1843.
Pollak, H. O. Some reminiscences of Edwin Muller. (Illustrated with covers.)

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)**No. 228, March 2022.**

- Nagy, G. The civil post in the service of the army post office in Hungary, 1914-1918.
Brumby, M. Austro-Hungarian post-paid postcards, Part 1: General-use cards. (Postcards for official use in Hungary and Croatia from the 1880s.)
Szűcs, K. Improving a fraud attempt for the right stamp and tariff. (Commentary on the misuse of revenue stamps.)

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn, Austria)**No. 144, 2022/1.**

- Schilling, O. New knowledge of the censor office in Feldkirch. (Application of single Gothic letters to censor marks.)
Schilling, O. W-cachets. (Unknown mark on incoming POW mail.)
Kobelbauer, H. Fieldpost cards to Mr Hugo Blaschek. (Fieldpost cards with different clear fieldpost post office datestamps, looks to be specially organised by him...)
Bliersbach, A. Dr Béla Halmay. (The story of his capture on the Eastern Front from POW mail he sent home.)
Schilling, O. Allocation of fieldpost numbers to particular units of the Serbian Salonica army.
Bliersbach, A. The Japanese intervention in Eastern Siberia 1918-1920 and their management of POW camps in the region.
Wirtl, W. Hostile armed forces in WW1 – Japan. (How to interpret fieldpost datestamps.)

Filatelie**No. 1/2022**

- Anon. Royal Printing Technology with a new process. (Booklet issued 20 January 2022.)
Chudoba, J., Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic (Chainbreaker) 100 haler, part 1. (Plate marks and perforations.)
Anon. New retouches on the 40 haler Hradčany stamp.
Kunc, L. Czechoslovak soldiers in 1939-45, part 5.
Kraus, J., Boháček, A. Czech Polar Station on Nelson Island.
Anon. Poll for the most beautiful FDC and commemorative stamp 2021.
Pofis. Catalogue of Czech Republic 2021 (pull-out supplement).

No. 2/2022

- Beneš, F. A suitcase full of overseas stamps.
Chudoba, J., Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic (Chainbreaker) 100 haler, part 2.
Bachratý, M. Forgotten Czechoslovak military.
Štajner, V. Unjustly neglected stamps. (1.50 K and 5 K, 9 May 1952)
Kunc, L. Czechoslovak Soldiers in 1939-45, part 6.
Leiš, I. Historical development of postal placenames in Slovakia. (Review of Slovak Monografie I.)
Káňa, V. On the 50 haler Liberated Republic 1920.
Pofis. Catalogue of Czech private stamps 2021 (pull-out supplement).

No. 3/2022

- Beneš, F., Hauzr, M. Wannsee Conference and a stamp of the Terezín Ghetto.
Chudoba, J., Rákosník, Z. Liberated Republic (Chainbreaker) 100 haler, part 3.
Leiš, I. Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate blue meter mark used by the firm 'Rodina'.
Beneš, F. Modern forgeries of Bohemia & Moravia commemorative sheets.
Bugoš, J. Interesting facts of use of the issue Znak 1929.
Kunc, L. Czechoslovak Soldiers in 1939-45, part 7.

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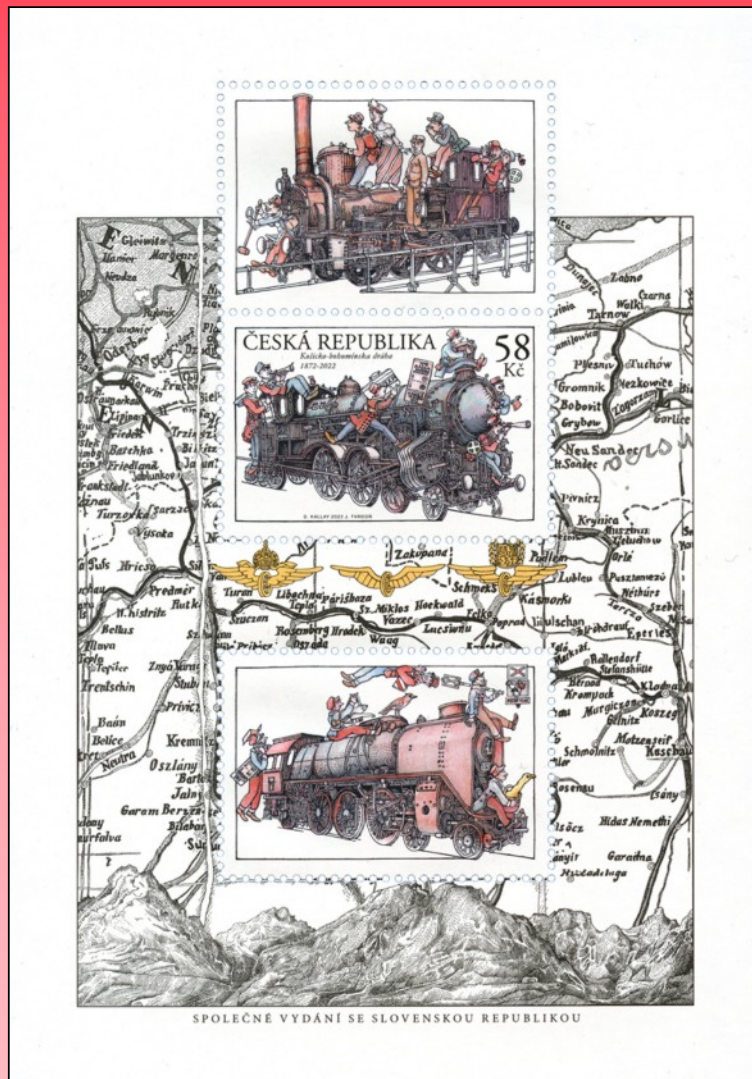
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